

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Missouri State Fairgrounds Historic District

other name/site number: n/a

2. Location

street & number: U.S. 65 and County Road Y

not for publication: n/a

city/town: Sedalia

vicinity: n/a

state: MO county: Pettis

code: 159

zip code: 65301

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: public--state

Category of Property: district

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>47</u>	<u>55</u>	buildings
<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>7</u>	<u>13</u>	structures
<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>66</u>	<u>68</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

*G. Tracy Mehan III*

5-20-91

Signature of certifying official G. Tracy Mehan III, Director Date

Department of Natural Resources and State Historic Preservation Officer  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- \_\_\_ entered in the National Register  
\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.
- \_\_\_ determined eligible for the  
National Register  
\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.
- \_\_\_ determined not eligible for the  
National Register
- \_\_\_ removed from the National Register
- \_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: <u>RECREATION AND CULTURE</u>	Sub: <u>fair</u>
Current : <u>RECREATION AND CULTURE</u>	Sub: <u>fair</u>

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Mission  
Romanesque  
Colonial Revival

Other Description: n/a

Materials: foundation concrete roof asphalt  
walls brick other terra cotta  
wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: state.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A,C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : n/a

Areas of Significance: Agriculture  
Architecture  
Social History  
Entertainment/Recreation  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: 1901-1941 \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates: n/a \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person(s): n/a  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: n/a

Architect/Builder: Bast, Thomas W.; and Schwarz, Arthur  
J.P./Johnson, Thomas H.; Heckert,  
Joseph E.; Ricketts, S. Wilson

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.  
X See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): n/a

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency (State Archives and Records Center)
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: Show-Me Regional Planning Commission

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: approximately 215 acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>477420</u>	<u>4283170</u>	B	<u>15</u>	<u>478220</u>	<u>4283120</u>
C	<u>15</u>	<u>478200</u>	<u>4282480</u>	D	<u>15</u>	<u>477500</u>	<u>4282180</u>

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description:  See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification:  See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: see continuation sheet

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Street & Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

City or Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

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Architectural Classification:

Moderne

Art Deco

Other: Exposition

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The Missouri State Fairgrounds Historic District occupies approximately 215 acres of gently rolling land in southwestern Sedalia, in Pettis County. Boundaries encompass the original 1901 fairgrounds and other acreage added during the fair's first three decades. Most fairgrounds resources (66 contributing and 68 noncontributing buildings, structures, objects and sites) are within the historic district. Several red brick exposition halls and animal barns are linked by their architecture, particularly a proliferation of round arches and Missionesque parapets. Open space includes the historic midway, machinery display and "White City" campground sites. The 396-acre fairgrounds complex includes more than four miles of streets and roads, most of which are within the historic district. Although the Missouri State Fairgrounds evolved over the past 90 years, many historic buildings are relatively unaltered and the original layout has been expanded rather than changed. Despite an influx of newer buildings, the overall appearance, feeling and mood of the district is evocative of a midwestern state fairgrounds which was conceived and initiated at the literal turn of the century.

The Missouri State Fairgrounds Historic District is an irregular-shaped area bounded on the north by West Sixteenth Street and an internal fairgrounds road which begins at Gate 6; on the east by U.S. Route 65 (South Limit Avenue); on the south by the fairgrounds road which roughly parallels the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad (Katy) right-of-way, and Elm Avenue; and on the west by Clarendon Road and a former Pettis County road (now an internal fairgrounds road) which exits at Gate 4.

There are numerous entrance/exit gates but the historic main or north entrance is on West Sixteenth Street. Most fairgrounds land added since World War Two is primarily used for camping; much of this acreage is west of the district. Near the fairgrounds are a community college, a shopping center, various small commercial enterprises such as fast food establishments, and residential neighborhoods.

#### ELABORATION

Most of the historic properties are on 160 acres of land originally deeded to the state in 1899 by the J. C. Van Riper family, when Sedalia competed for the state fair with other small cities in central Missouri.<sup>1</sup> Although the agreement provided that a few acres of this farmland on the outskirts of Sedalia could be sold as needed to help finance improvements, none was. On the contrary, a narrow strip along the eastern boundary was soon added for a campground. By 1918, the eastern camping area had grown larger and the fairgrounds totaled 206 acres, some being rented out as pasture. By the time of Missouri's centennial celebration, held in conjunction with the 1921 fair,

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the fairgrounds consisted of 236 acres. No additional land was purchased until after World War Two. Although most historic properties are within the boundaries of the original 160 acres, an important exception is the Swine Pavilion/Swine & Sheep Pavilion (#88), constructed in 1922. The director's residential complex (#104-106) and the old White City campground site (#103) are also on acreage added after 1901. (Note: In references to buildings which have been known by more than one name, the current name is given first, followed by the original or the apparent original name. Example: Swine Pavilion/Swine & Sheep Pavilion.)

In 1901, the year of the first Missouri State Fair, the Missouri State Fairgrounds was a rural area west of the southwest corner of Sedalia. Horse-drawn vehicles passed through the north entrance, but many early fairgoers arrived by steam train and electric street car. Beginning with the first fair, the Missouri Pacific and Katy Railroads carried thousands of visitors from throughout the state and ran shuttle trains directly onto the fairgrounds. Many animals were also shipped by train. Passengers arrived at and departed from depots at the west edge of the grounds. Meanwhile, electric street cars entered on an extension of the Sixteenth Street line, providing convenient access for Sedalians and visitors who stayed overnight in town. An early street car depot (ca. 1904) was southwest of the mile racetrack. In the 1920s or earlier, the street car depot was east of the main entrance. No railroad/street car facilities are extant.

A 1905 "ground plan" of the main portion of the fairgrounds shows 14 existing buildings: the Coliseum/Livestock Pavilion (#18), five cattle barns (#10, 12, 14, 22 and 25), a mule barn (#20), two horse barns (#30 and 32), the FFA Building/Poultry Building (#56), Commercial Building/Agricultural Building (#66), Varied Industries Building/Horticultural Building (#70), Missouri Building/Poultry Building (#71) and the Poultry & Rabbit Building/Machinery Building (#83). Although depicted on the 1905 sketch, the mule barn (#20) and two cattle barns (#10 and 14) would not exist until 1907. The 1905 plan also shows the lower portion of the mile racetrack (#39 and the following no longer extant properties: a grandstand, a swine and sheep building, an administration building, a "Kali" building, a fire department building, a restaurant, two railroad passenger depots, cattle chutes and a custodian's residence. Not shown (the map only shows the west portion of the fairgrounds) are 11 speed barns east of the mile track of which six (#108-113) are extant.<sup>2</sup>

Architecturally, the Missouri State Fairgrounds Historic District contains a fine collection of early 20th century fair and exposition-type buildings, most of which have red brick walls. Most of the larger historic properties are somewhat eclectic, with Mission and Romanesque Revival influences, but good individual examples of the Georgian Revival and Art Deco-Art Moderne styles

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may also be seen. In general, the larger buildings have steel frames but roofs are made of wood. Today, green asphalt shingles are used for most roofing instead of the original tile or slate. Foundations are concrete or stone. Most buildings have been meticulously maintained and several are relatively unaltered.

The oldest extant buildings are the six frame speed barns (#108-113). These buildings, erected for the first fair in 1901, show their age and are no longer used. The next oldest are the three large brick exposition halls built in 1903 (FFA Building/Poultry Building #56, Commercial Building/Agricultural Building #66 and Varied Industries Building/Horticultural Building #70). The Swine Pavilion/Swine & Sheep Pavilion (#88) is the largest historic building, constructed in 1922. The next largest is the Coliseum/Livestock Pavilion (#18), completed in 1906. The smallest historic brick building is an early fire station (#60), built in 1913. The smallest contributing resources are concrete drinking fountains (counted as objects) constructed by Works Progress Administration crews and indicated on the district map by the number sign (#). Several concession buildings, some of which are historic, are interspersed among the exposition halls and some animal barns. The oldest of these (#26, etc.) were constructed by WPA workers in the late 1930s. Most free-standing restrooms are of relatively recent construction or have been substantially remodeled, but one (#118) was built before World War Two.

Newer, noncontributing properties tend to be relatively bland, frequently all-steel prefabricated buildings. Because they tend to be of smaller scale than many contributing buildings (with such notable exceptions as the new Grandstand (#43), completed in 1968, and the Exhibition Center (#87), completed in 1989), noncontributing properties are much less disruptive than their numbers suggest. The contributing properties make a far stronger impression than the noncontributing properties both individually and as a group, being linked in many cases by their architecture (similar materials and styles) and siting which is frequently along major avenues within the fairgrounds. Most contributing livestock and show horse barns, for example, are arranged in rows on Main Street. Speed horse barns are grouped in a row east of the mile racetrack. Most exposition halls are within an area west and southwest of the track, along State Fair Boulevard, Main Street or Woods Avenue. The greater bulk of the contributing properties is especially obvious when they are viewed from the top of the grandstand or during winter when their imposing size is not obscured by foliage. The frequently isolated siting of noncontributing buildings also diminishes their effect within the historic district.

Entering the Missouri State Fairgrounds Historic District through the Main Gate, an art deco/art moderne rendering in concrete and steel built in 1939 (#1), the typical visitor follows the curving main drive (State Fair



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Boulevard) for several hundred yards through a parklike section. Passing the banked north end of the mile racetrack (#39), the visitor can see portions of several contributing resources including brick cattle barns (Jersey Barn/Cattle Barn East, #14, is closest), the Coliseum/Livestock Pavilion (#18), the Womans Building (#35), the Administration Building (#37), the Commercial Building/Agricultural Building (#66) and the Varied Industries Building/Horticultural Building (#70). State Fair Boulevard continues along the west side of the mile track past all of the above buildings, while several other contributing buildings may be glimpsed if not well observed. Several of these are along Main Street, parallel to State Fair Boulevard on the west. The Swine Pavilion/Swine & Sheep Pavilion (#88) is a major contributing building which may be seen, but poorly, from State Fair Boulevard because of the distance and location at the west end of the Midway and Machinery Display areas, along Clarendon Road. The speed horse barns east of the mile racetrack are visible, but not distinctly, from one or two points along the Boulevard. At its southern end, the Boulevard curves toward Main Street past four additional contributing buildings: the Floriculture Building (#86), the Fine Arts Building/Floriculture & Art Building (#85), the Poultry & Rabbit Building/Machinery Building (#83) and its annex, the former Hall of Religion (#82).

Noncontributing properties (common on fairgrounds that have evolved over many years) range from all-steel buildings, mobile homes and food and drink stands to the huge steel and concrete grandstand (#43) and the striking new, Modern-styled Exhibition Center (#87). Noncontributing properties are distributed unevenly throughout much of the historic district. The main concentration of food and drink establishments is along Woods Avenue, which intersects State Fair Boulevard at the grandstand and continues west past two of the three 1903 buildings (#56 and #66) before reaching the midway area (#91), which is vacant except during the fair. None of the Woods Avenue concession properties is contributing, but Main Street (once called Restaurant Avenue) has contributing concession buildings along its west side. Another type of noncontributing property is the demonstration building, with the building itself being the exhibit (U.S. Truss Steel, Inc., Model Home, #101). Most demonstration buildings are in the machinery exhibition area south of the midway and west of Missouri Avenue. The oldest noncontributing resource is a 19th century log cabin (#47), installed south of the grandstand in 1976. A steam locomotive (#73), a boxcar (#69) and a caboose (#120) are other old but noncontributing properties on the fairgrounds. The free-standing comfort stations are counted as noncontributing except for #118. With few exceptions, noncontributing properties are rather nondescript and several are some distance from the main concentration of contributing properties which they slightly outnumber.

Three ancillary property types are indicated but are not numbered on the Missouri State Fairgrounds Historic District Site Map. Included are seven

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small concrete water fountains, counted as contributing, and eight small animal wash racks of which three are counted as contributing. The water fountains are identified by number signs, #. The wash racks are identified by paired parentheses, (). The third ancillary property type--which is not counted--consists of small, essentially nonpermanent and relatively portable concession stands, ticket booths, information huts, etc. This latter type is not significant in size or scale and is not related to the period or areas of significance. Locations are depicted on the site map but because of their scale and transitory nature, such properties are not included in the county of contributing and noncontributing resources. These unnumbered, uncounted properties are marked with asterisks, \*.

In general, alterations to contributing buildings have only minimally affected integrity of design, materials, workmanship, location, setting and association. Decorative details have been removed from some buildings, windows have been altered to accommodate air conditioning units in some buildings, roofing has been changed from tile or slate to green asphalt shingles wherever tile or slate existed, and doors have been replaced in several buildings. But in the least altered buildings (some of the red brick animal barns), the only obvious changes are asphalt shingles and possibly the removal of original wooden stalls. Most contributing buildings are well-maintained, although six speed barns from the original fair (#108-113) have been off the maintenance list for years and look it. The Poultry & Rabbit Building/Machinery Building (#83) is well-maintained but has a lower roofline following an alteration. But even the Poultry & Rabbit Building is strongly evocative of its historic past, retaining what appear to be original entrance doors and windowing. The older concession stands typically have modern board and batten main facades and some have additions, but in general their form and fenestration are unchanged and they are contributing. Overall, integrity of the Missouri State Fairgrounds Historic District resources is very good. Keyed to the site map, the counted resources are as follows:

1. Main Gate. Built 1939. Contributing Structure.

This Art Deco/Art Moderne rendering in steel and concrete consists of three individual ticket booths spanned by steel archwork containing the Missouri State Seal and the words, MISSOURI STATE FAIR, in ribbon steel. The gateway is at the original north entrance, through which more than a billion people have entered the fairgrounds since the first fair in 1901. Each unit has a ticket window on three sides and an entrance in the rear. The somewhat larger middle unit was designed with a small bathroom. Gables of the rubbed concrete exteriors are decorated with radiating grooves painted in bright, contrasting colors. The booths are no longer used. The north entrance (designated by the Missouri State Fair as Gate No. 2) is open all year. Architect: Arthur J. P. Schwarz. (See Photo No. 1.)

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2. Simmental Barn. Built ca. 1960s. Noncontributing Building.

The sides of this approximately 60' x 110' wood frame building are open but the gable ends and roof are corrugated metal. There are ties for 242 animals. The floor is earthen.

3. Charolais Barn. Built 1969. Noncontributing Building.

The Charolais Barn is an all-steel building supported by tapering posts anchored in concrete. The roof is extremely low-pitched and all four sides are open. With the exception of asphalt lanes, the floor of the approximately 80' x 100' building is earthen.

4. Comfort Station. Built ca. 1960s. Noncontributing Building.

This tan brick, flat-roofed building is the first permanent building encountered upon entering the fairgrounds through the main gate. Other free-standing restrooms on the fairgrounds are made of corrugated steel, wood, or concrete blocks in various forms and combinations. Most have gable or flat roofs with parapet walls. At some locations, facilities for men and women are under separate roofs. Most appear to have been built after World War Two but some are older comfort stations which have been renovated.

5. Comfort Station. Built ca. 1940s or later. Noncontributing Building.

This gable-roofed frame building is in a parklike area at the north end of the mile racetrack. Apparently it is an older restroom which has been substantially rebuilt.

6. Draft Horse Barn. Built ca. 1960s. Noncontributing Building.

Twenty-six draft horses may be stabled in this 20' x 130' frame building. The main vertical members are round poles placed directly in the ground. Stalls (13 per side) open to the outside. Plywood covers the lower walls. The gable roof is asphalt. Although its age makes this building noncontributing, its appearance is similar to a number of contributing buildings. (See Photo No. 54.)

7. Comfort Station (Men's). Built ca. 1960s or later. Noncontributing Building.

This rectangular, gable-roofed building has corrugated metal walls and is considerably larger than a nearby restroom for women.

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8. Comfort Station (Women's). Built ca. 1970s or later. Noncontributing Building.

This rectangular concrete block building has a low-pitched gable roof.

9. Concession Building. Built ca. 1940. Contributing Building.

One of several permanent concession buildings on the fairgrounds, Branstetter's Diner is typical of the earlier (1930s-40s) concession buildings. All are rectangular, gable-roofed buildings with frame walls covered with vertical wood siding. Two aisles with individual entrances are in the main (gabled) facade. Screened horizontal windows covered by hinged wooden flaps which may be opened for ventilation encircle the front and both sides. Inside, the typical older concession building had benches along a central counter. Board and batten siding has been added to the front of this and most other older concession buildings, all of which are owned by the Missouri State Fair. The first operators of this concession stand were Lloyd and Lucille Bowers.<sup>3</sup> (See Photo No. 2.)

10. Aberdeen Angus Barn/Cattle Barn--West. Built ca. 1907. Contributing Building.

Typical of early brick cattle barns on the fairgrounds, the Aberdeen Angus Barn is a rectangular building with a steel frame anchored in concrete. Running the length of the symmetrical, approximately 65' x 160' building are two passages with round arch entrances at both ends. A projecting bay with a central entrance (for an office) is in the main facade. The main facade includes a tripartite window with a label mold in the gable. The larger windows are 6/6 double-hung. The top of the parapet repeats the line of the label mold. Pilasters are at the corners and are topped with a projecting band of decorative brickwork, flanking the arched entrances. The arches consist of three rows of header bricks, which is typical of the brick cattle barns, although some buildings have more complex arches. The coping, keystones and other trimwork is terra cotta. The foundation is concrete but lugsills are limestone. The side facades have central bays with parapets and tripartite windows similar to those on the gable ends, flanked by smaller bays defined by brick pilasters. The side facades contain 16 single-unit, nine-light windows in addition to the tripartites. The rafters and roof are wood, topped with green asphalt shingles. Each side of the roof contains two tripartite dormers for additional ventilation. Original sliding wooden doors are filled with triangle-shaped panels. This is a fine, relatively unaltered cattle barn. Architect: Thomas W. Bast. Contractor: Thomas H. Johnson. (See Photos No. 3, 4 and 5.)

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11. Donnelly Polled Hereford Barn. Built 1956. Noncontributing Building.

With the exception of two square brick columns at the south (main) end, this is essentially a flat metal and tar roof structure supported by a system of metal beams and posts. Although the 70' x 160' building lacks exterior walls of its own, it is enclosed on the long axis by adjacent brick cattle barns. It is named after former Missouri Governor Phil M. Donnelly.

12. Guernsey Barn/Cattle Barn. Built ca. 1905. Contributing Building.

The Guernsey Barn is a rectangular steel frame building containing two full-length aisles with spaces for animals along both sides (a typical configuration). End facades in the approximately 65' x 160' building have round arch entrances with pilasters connected by a subtly corbelled flat arch. Gables contain Palladian windows with hood molds. Additional Palladian windows are found in the side facades. While each early brick cattle barn has the same basic design, there are subtle differences (particularly in the parapets and gable windowing). The sliding wood panel doors are original. Relatively unaltered. Architect: Bast. Contractor: Johnson. (See Photo No. 6.)

13. Holstein Barn. Built 1926. Contributing Building.

Missouri's dairy industry was increasing and additional space was badly needed when this rectangular brick and steel building was constructed in 1926. It was designed to fill the space between two older cattle barns. Although the basic form of two wide aisles running the length of the approximately 70' x 160' building is consistent with other cattle barns, no effort was made to "blend" it with existing buildings; architecturally, it does not match the earlier buildings. The main facade has a stepped parapet and extends approximately three feet beyond the adjacent barns, sharing their side walls. The most obvious deviation is the absence of pilasters and flat (instead of round) arches above the entrances. Cut stone is used for the coping, along the base and for engraved tablets adjacent to the main entrances. The roof is flat with a central walled section containing ventilation ports. The rear facade is wood frame, covered with composition siding. Relatively unaltered. Architect: Bast. Contractor: Dean & Hancock. (See Photo No. 7.)

14. Jersey Barn/Cattle Barn--East. Built 1907. Contributing Building.

The Jersey Barn is a rectangular brick and steel building with particularly striking facades, perhaps because it was the first cattle barn encountered by most visitors. Front and rear facades contain three circular windows, each with four keystones of terra cotta. The large, round arch entrances are pilastered and topped with corbelled, decorative terra cotta brickwork. Terra cotta also is used for "rustication" of corner pilasters, as

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coping and for trim around the elaborate central windows. The apex of the parapet is rounded to echo the circular motif. Like some other cattle barns, this approximately 65' x 160' building has a projecting central bay with its own entrance into a small office. A transom window and two flanking 6/6 windows are also arched. Wooden sliding doors with triangular panels are original. Side facades have central bays with parapets and circular windows similar to those on the gable ends. The roof contains four tripartite dormers with ventilation windows. Relatively unaltered. Architect: Bast. Contractor: Johnson. (See Photo No. 8.)

15. MFA Feed & Forage Building. Built ca. 1980s. Noncontributing Building.

This is a rectangular, prefabricated metal-frame building with a gable roof. The sides and roof are corrugated metal. The foundation is wood. Each gable end has a vehicle entrance.

16. Milking Parlor. Built 1957. Noncontributing Building.

Visitors can watch cows being milked by machinery in this building just south of the main tier of cattle barns. The corrugated metal and concrete building has cattle ramps on the north and west sides. This building is shaped approximately like a mobile home.

17. Outdoor Warm-Up Ring. Built ca. 1905-06 (?) Contributing Site.

This is an oval, dirt track surrounded by a tubular metal fence with three horizontal units. While the date of its first use is undetermined, its appearance and location just south of the 1905-06-built Coliseum suggests that it is an older resource. (See Photo No. 14.)

18. Coliseum/Livestock Pavilion. Built 1905-06. Contributing Building.

Long the centerpiece of the fairgrounds, the 180' x 235' three-story Coliseum restates and amplifies several architectural motifs found in the brick animal barns nearby. All four sides of the brick, wood and steel building are arcaded, while the two-tiered portico and all four corners contain two-story archways. Common elements shared by the Coliseum and other animal barns include round arches, terra cotta trim, rusticated and plain pilasters, and a semi-Flemish bond pattern of bricklaying. The portico has a deck behind which another brick tier ascends well into the main gabled hip roof. From the side of this construction, the deck encircles the entire building at the second floor level. The upper tier contains a dentilated brick pediment, and the entire upper roof represents a stylistic departure. The brick pediment (supported by square Doric pilasters of brick) contains a blank circular window. This classical motif including tripartite arched

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windows is repeated (in wood and metal) in five dormers and in both gable ends. Inside, an angular oval arena is ringed with bench seats. The arena floor is earthen.

Numerous entertainers and politicians have performed and spoken here, but apart from its architecture, the Coliseum is mainly significant for having been the primary stock and horse judging arena at the Missouri State Fairgrounds for more than 80 years.

Alterations have been few, mostly consisting of such things as the enclosure of some arcades to create additional rooms for storage and offices, the replacement of tile roofing with asphalt and the installation of new roof-mounted exhaust fans. A concession area is accommodated in the southeast corner but only superficial changes have occurred. This is a fine, very moderately altered building containing most of its original materials. Architect: Bast. Contractor: Johnson. (See Photos No. 9-14.)

19. Youth Building & Show Barn. Built 1969. Noncontributing Building.

The Youth Building complex consists of a flat-roofed, two-story brick and steel dormitory, and a one-story cafeteria, showroom and sales area. The functional design of the Youth Building is reminiscent of dormitory-cafeteria combinations on many college campuses. Attached on the south is a rectangular, all-steel building with tapered steel posts supporting a low-pitched gable roof (similar to the Charolais Barn, #3). The facilities accommodate approximately 200 young farmers with animals to show and sell. Architect: Sammons & Buller. (See Photo No. 55.)

20. Mule, Jack & Jennet Barn/Mule & Draft Horse Barn. Built 1907. Contributing Building.

Exuberant brickwork culminating in a stairstep parapet (11 levels) highlights the front and rear facades of the approximately 72' x 164' Mule Barn, a brick and steel building with a projecting central bay. The stairstep motif is continued by groupings of five windows in the gable ends and by decorative brickwork between pilasters which flank the two round-arched entrances. Terra cotta is used for coping, keystones and accent trim. Each roof half contains three dormers with ventilation louvers and/or exhaust fans. The floor plan is typical for a brick animal barn at the Missouri State Fairgrounds, featuring two full-length aisles with spaces for animals along both sides. Alterations have been few. Windowing is mostly original except for the office, which also has a replacement door. Metal overhead doors are not original. The slate roof has been recovered with green asphalt shingles. Architect: Bast. Contractor: Johnson. (See Photo No. 15.)

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21. FFA & 4-H Barn/Donnell Building. Built 1941. Contributing Building.

Although a later addition to the fairgrounds, the approximately 70' x 165' FFA & 4-H Barn blends well architecturally with the older brick animal exhibition barns. Side walls are shared with adjacent buildings. Like one adjacent building, it has a stairstep parapet (seven levels). At both ends of the two aisles, the large entrances have round arches consisting of three courses of header bricks, flanked by pilasters topped with pre-cast stone. The name, DONNELL BUILDING (after Governor Forrest C. Donnell) appears in a pre-cast stone inset in the main facade. The rear facade lacks an inset but is otherwise similar. The roof is flat with a central walled section containing ventilation ports. Metal overhead doors are not original. This is a relatively unaltered building. Architect: Schwarz. (See Photo No. 16.)

22. Hereford Barn/Cattle Barn No. 2. Built ca. 1905. Contributing Building.

This rectangular, steel frame and brick walled cattle barn is thought to be one of five major fairgrounds buildings erected in 1905, two of which were cattle barns. Pilasters flank both large, round arched entrances of the approximately 65' x 160' building and also mark the corners where they extend above the lower edge of the gable roof. Tripartite windows with round arches (double-hung 6/6) are in the gable and cross gable ends. Smaller windows around the building have segmental arches. Four hipped roof dormers (two per side) with louver windows are in the roof. Terra cotta is used for trim. The foundation and lugsills are concrete. The floor plan is typical of brick animal barns (two lengthwise aisles flanked by animal stalls or ties). Alterations have been minimal. Original wood panel sliding doors have been replaced with metal overhead doors. The original tile roof is now asphalt. On the dormers, wood shingle siding has been replaced with fiberboard siding. Architect: Bast. Contractor: Johnson. (See Photo No. 17.)

23. Concession Building. Built ca. 1950s-60s. Noncontributing Building.

This is a 24' x 36' wood frame building with a gable roof. Sides are unwallled except for a small, enclosed storage area in the northwest corner. The floor is poured concrete.

24. Storage Building. Built ca. 1950s or later. Noncontributing Building.

This is an approximately 18' x 38' wood frame building with a gable roof and a gambrel-shaped false front. The exterior is covered with fiberboard siding.

25. Shorthorn Barn/Cattle Barn No. 1. Built ca. 1904. Contributing



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Building.

Contractor T. H. Johnson built two horse barns and a cattle barn on the fairgrounds in 1904, and this approximately 65' x 160' brick building is thought to have been the cattle barn. After fire destroyed several frame barns the previous year, "fireproof" steel frame buildings with brick walls were constructed to replace them. Pilasters which flank the two round-arched entrances to the aisles extend above the lower roofline, with a parapet containing decorative brickwork between them. The hipped and gabled roof contains cross gables and dormers with louver windows. Each side facade contains 16 small windows. Rafters and roof are wood; lugsills are stone. Alterations have been relatively few. Fiberboard siding has replaced the original wood shingle siding in gable ends and dormers. Green asphalt shingles have replaced the original tile roofing. Metal overhead doors have replaced the original wood panel doors. Architect: Bast. Contractor: Johnson. (See Photo No. 18.)

26. Concession Building. Built ca. 1938. Contributing Building.

This is a 24' x 80' wood frame building with a gable roof, known as Vic's Corral. It is a typical late 1930s concession building of the type built on the fairgrounds by WPA crews, with two entrances in the main facade flanking screened windows with hinged covers. Exterior walls consist of vertical boards and plywood with horizontal ventilation windows. Ken and Ruby Williams were longtime operators beginning in the late 1930s.<sup>4</sup> (See Photo No. 19.)

27. Donnelly Arena. Built 1956. Noncontributing Building.

Donnelly Arena is an all-metal building supported by tapering steel posts on concrete piers, with a gable roof. Walls are open on all four sides. Wooden side rails are present.

28. Concession Building. Built ca. 1940. Contributing Building.

Brockman's, one of the older permanent concession buildings on the fairgrounds, is a rectangular, wood frame building with a gable roof. Entrances to the two service aisles are in the main facade, flanking ventilation windows with hinged flaps, a typical configuration. Exterior walls are covered with what appears to be fiberboard, with vertical laths. Despite a facelift and a rearward extension with a shed roof, the original form is intact so the building is contributing. (See Photo No. 20.)

29. Concession Building. Built ca. 1930s. Noncontributing Building.

This is a small, rectangular frame building with a small mobile home

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attached to the rear. Because of its position between adjacent buildings, little more than the (altered) front is readily visible. What appears to be fiberboard covers the front. Although altered, this is a historically interesting building because it was originally a concession stand operated by and for black fair visitors.<sup>5</sup> During fairtime, it is used as a tack shop.

30. Show Horse Barn (Heavy Horses). Built 1904. Contributing Building.

This approximately 72' x 164' brick and steel building is one of two show horse barns constructed in 1904 after fire destroyed five large frame barns the previous year. The two round-arched entrances are flanked by pilasters which extend above the roofline, where they are capped with metal pyramids. Brickwork parapets between the pilasters are gabled. Small windows with segmental arches appear in all facades. The hipped roof contains 10 dormers (including large dormers at the front and rear) with louver windows, some of which are replacements for glass windows. Other alterations include replacement overhead doors, fiberboard siding instead of wood shingle siding on the dormers and asphalt roofing instead of tile. Architect: Bast. Contractor: Johnson. (See Photos No. 21, 22.)

31. Show Horse Barn (Light Horses)/Caulfield Building. Built 1929. Contributing Building.

Built in 1929 as the Henry S. Caulfield Building (after Governor Caulfield), this horse barn complements the earlier brick animal barns but differs significantly in that it has three lengthwise aisles with round-arched entrances instead of only two. It utilizes the exterior walls of adjacent, older barns but its front and rear facades extend partially into their facades. But by duplicating the pyramid-capped pilasters of the neighboring buildings, continuity is retained. The apex of the gable-shaped center parapet contains a circle with herringbone brickwork. This approximately 102' x 164' building has the widest facade of all the barns. The rear facade is rather austere, lacking pilasters and other decorative trim seen in the front (limestone keystones, inset panels and coping). The roof is flat with a raised central section containing ventilation windows. Nonoriginal doors, but a relatively unaltered building. Architect: Victor J. DeFoe. Contractor: Dean & Hancock. (See Photos No. 23, 25.)

32. Show Horse Barn (Light Horses). Built 1904. Contributing Building.

The southernmost of the historic brick animal barns, this approximately 72' x 164' brick and steel building has the usual two lengthwise aisles with round-arched entrances flanked by pilasters at both ends. This building most resembles the other show horse barn erected in 1904 (#30), but it has a projecting bay with an office in the main facade and the roof has a different

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treatment. The flanking pilasters extend above the roofline and are topped with decorative metal pyramids. The roof is hipped and gabled, with hipped dormers (three per side). Alterations consist of replacement overhead doors, fiberboard siding in the gables and dormers, and louvers instead of glass panes in some window openings. Architect: Bast. Contractor: Johnson. (See Photos No. 24, 25.)

33. Concession Building. Built ca. 1930s. Contributing Building.

This building, currently known as the Scottish Rite Club, is a permanent concession building with a gable roof. Shiplap siding covers the exterior of the approximately 28' x 62' building. The original corner entrances apparently are not used and a central entrance has been created. Numerous (sealed) window openings are in the sides. The front appears to have been remodeled, with new window openings as well as entrance modifications. But the form is nonetheless easily recognizable and the building is contributing within the district. (See Photo No. 26.)

34. Maintenance Building. Built 1962. Noncontributing Building.

This is a one-story, 32' x 62' metal frame building with a gable roof. Three vehicle entrances, two doors and a window are in the main (east) facade. The sides and roof are corrugated metal.

35. Womans Building. Built 1910. Contributing Building.

The Womans Building is a rectangular, 2-1/2 story tan brick building constructed in the Georgian Revival style. The five bay main facade of the approximately 60' x 72' building is dominated by a full-height pedimented portico supported by two smooth wooden Doric columns. Smaller wooden columns and two square brick rusticated columns support a full-width two-story porch with a classical balustrade at both levels. Rusticated end chimneys perforate the roof. The pediment has a circular window with a surround containing four keystones. The boxed cornice with returns contains modillions, and the pedimented portico is also dentilated. Rusticated brick pilasters flank the main and second level entrances, with volutes at the upper. Four classical dormers with pilasters and double-hung, round-arched 6/6 windows are on the main facade and four others are on the rear. The primary entry is double-leaf with sidelights and transom, while the entrance onto the deck lacks a transom but is otherwise similar. Main facade windows are double-hung 8/8s. Most other windows are double-hung 6/6s. There is a full basement. Roofing is asphalt shingles. Alterations include the removal of a one-story rear wing during extensive renovations in 1965, and installation of a wheel chair ramp on the south. Architect: Bast. Contractor: R.F. Sellers and S.W. Ricketts. (See Photos No. 27-29.)

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36. Farm Bureau Building. Built ca. 1970. Noncontributing Building.

This is a rectangular metal building of one-story with a gable roof. The main facade contains a central double-leaf entrance flanked by two windows. The foundation is wood.

37. Administration Building/Governor Sam A. Baker Building. Built 1926-27. Contributing Building.

The Administration Building is a rectangular two-story brick building with a symmetrical facade highlighted by a projecting temple front of rusticated brick piers and smooth stone Tuscan columns. Brickwork quoins accent the corners. The double-leaf entrance is transomed and sidelighted. Cut stone is extensively used for trim (base, columns, lintels, lugsills, cornice, caps, coping). A low brick parapet extends around the front and both sides of the approximately 95' x 56' building. In the rear (west) facade, square brick piers support a one-story portico. Atop the flat pitch and gravel roof is a low, windowed section which is parallel to the long axis. In addition to offices, the Administration Building contains bedrooms which were installed for members of the fair board of directors, and a cafeteria. In 1964, the Administration Building was remodeled (primarily inside) to bring plumbing and electrical circuits to modern standards. Relatively unaltered. Architect: Bast. Contractor: Dean & Hancock. (See Photo No. 30.)

38. "SPA" Exhibit. Built 1990. Noncontributing Structure.

This structure consists of a three-tiered platform with a canopied area at one end and a rustic privacy fence behind it, all of wood construction.

39. Mile Racetrack. Built 1901. Contributing Structure.

Constructed in 1901 for the first fair, the mile track is a long oval banked at both ends. During its construction, thousands of tons of earth were moved by horse-powered grader. The track has been regraded over the years. The track is ringed by a low steel fence and behind much of it, open weave chain link fencing. (See Photos No. 31, 66, 68.)

40. Tunnel. Built ca. 1972. Noncontributing Structure.

A concrete-walled tunnel passes through the mile racetrack embankment on the west side of the north end. A tunnel was constructed through the track at the same or virtually the same point as early as ca. 1915.

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41. Half-Mile Racetrack. Built 1936. Contributing Structure.

WPA projects during the late 1930s included this half-mile racetrack within the existing mile racetrack. This banked oval track--approximately centered in front of the grandstand--shares the southern portion of the longer track's homestretch. (See Photo No. 31.)

42. Bleachers. Built ca. 1920s-30s; installed 1950-51. Noncontributing Structure.

This wood and steel structure was acquired second-hand from the South Plains Fair Assn., Lubbock, Tex., to replace an earlier bleacher section. Beneath the Texas bleachers (no longer used for seating) are offices of the Missouri Highway Patrol and Job Service, a concession stand, press facilities, a restroom and an entrance to the track. Vertical tongue-and-groove siding has been covered with metal and other materials, mainly for signage. (See Photos No. 32 and 67.)

43. Grandstand. Built 1968. Noncontributing Structure.

Built in 1968, this approximately 400' long steel and concrete grandstand replaced the original grandstand/amphitheater. A metal canopy protects much of the seating area from the elements. Structural members (reinforced concrete) are exposed. Restrooms and other small buildings beneath and/or attached to the grandstand are not counted. Architect: Rathert & Roth; Kenneth Balk & Associates. Contractor: J. R. Seal Construction Co. (See Photo No. 52.)

44. Ticket Office. Built 1969. Noncontributing Building.

The ticket office is an irregular-shaped, one-story concrete block building with a flat roof. It is partially under the south end of the grandstand, but is a separate building. Fourteen metal sash, 1/1 ticket windows are uniformly arranged in three facades.

45. Stage/Dressing Rooms. Built 1936. Contributing Structure.

WPA workers built this approximately 60' x 80' reinforced concrete stage and dressing room facility in 1936. Beneath the stage are dressing rooms, storage space, showers and restroom facilities for the performers. Entrances are in the rear (east) facade. (See Photo No. 31.)

46. Judge's Stand. Built ca. 1980. Noncontributing Structure.

This wooden structure serves as a judge's stand/track tower. Earlier

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judge's stands have occupied virtually the same ground. (See Photo No. 31.)

47. Bicentennial Log Cabin. Built ca. 1880s; installed 1976.  
Noncontributing Building.

The main facade of this approximately 18' x 20' single pen log cabin is three-bay, with a central entrance. A stone chimney has been installed on the west outer wall. Originally built in Benton County, the log cabin was relocated on the fairgrounds in 1976. At the past fair, works by Missouri artist Thomas Hart Benton and others were displayed here. (See Photo No. 52.)

48. Show Horse Barn. Built ca. 1965. Noncontributing Building.

Although it is articulated as adjacent pole barns under gable roofs, in effect this is one building and it is so counted. The only connection is at the roofline. Sides are open. Roofing is metal. The floor is earthen. Portable stalls are inside.

49-54. Concession Buildings. Built ca. 1950s-80s. Noncontributing Buildings (6).

These postwar concession buildings exist in various forms and sizes and utilize various materials. The larger buildings typically have low-pitched roofs and open or partially-enclosed sides, with seating and tables provided. Smaller buildings may simply contain a rear door and one or more service windows. (See Photo No. 53.)

55. Concession Building. Built Ca. 1940. Contributing Building.

This rectangular frame building is the older of two concession buildings known as the T&F Bar-B-Que. Typical of late 1930s-early 1940s concession buildings, it has two single-leaf entrances in the main facade flanking horizontal windows with flaps for ventilation. The front has been remodeled with board and batten styling.

56. FFA Building/Poultry Building. Built 1903. Contributing Building.

The FFA Building is a 55' x 122' brick and steel exposition hall, one of the three oldest on the fairgrounds. Each symmetrical facade contains a central double-leaf entrance within a projecting bay. Entry and window openings have round brickwork arches. Pedimented gables fill the space between entrance pilasters (topped with finials) which extend above the lower roofline. Buttressed pilasters define the bays, with rustication at entrances. Decorative insets of terra cotta are beneath the pediments. Round-arched windows above entrances contain tracery. The water table is gray

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sandstone. The paneled doors are probably original. The casement windows are replacement sash. A rectangular structure for ventilation which extended for the distance of five bays atop the roof, has been removed. Some window openings have been partially filled with brick in two corners where restrooms are located. The original tin roofing has been replaced with green asphalt shingles. Constructed in 1903 as the Poultry Building, it was redesignated as the Dairy Building two years later when a new and larger Poultry Building was erected. During the 1920s, it became the University Building. The cost (\$10,672) was comparable to that of the large brick horse and cattle barns constructed over the next few years.<sup>6</sup> Architect: Bast. Contractor: Heckert & Ricketts. (See Photos No. 33-34.)

57. Concession Building. Built ca. 1950s or later. Noncontributing Building.

See No. 49-54 for description.

58. Comfort Station. Built ca. 1970s-80s. Noncontributing Building.  
This is a rectangular, wood frame building with a gable roof.

59. Concession Building. Built ca. 1938 or earlier. Contributing Building.  
Anderson's Cafe, a rectangular frame concession building with a gable roof, is generically similar to several other older concession buildings on the fairgrounds. Two lengthwise service aisles are entered from doors in the main facade. Horizontal ventilation windows are covered with hinged flaps. The 20' front has been remodeled with board and batten styling. The original vertical wood siding remains on the 62' sides. Overall dimensions of these older concession buildings varied, but not greatly. Most examples of this type apparently were built by WPA crews. (See Photo No. 36.)

60. Demonstration Kitchen/Fire Station. Built 1913. Contributing Building.  
This one-story, 24' x 50' brick building has a three-bay main facade with a double-leaf central entrance (formerly a vehicle entrance). Brick pilasters with stone caps and bases enhance the facade. Two single-pane windows flank the entrance. A stone beltcourse, modestly corbeled, crosses the front parapet. Stone is also used for the base, window caps and lugsills. The coping is concrete. Alterations include a shake shingle awning above the front entrance and the entrance itself (but not the opening). This building housed firefighting equipment from 1913-68. Architect: Bast. (See Photo No. 36.)

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61. Missouri Beef House/State Fair Dining Hall. Built 1913. Contributing Building.

Constructed in 1913 as a dining hall, this 40' x 70' brick building has a Missionesque parapet which links it architecturally with some of the larger exposition buildings. The three-bay main facade contains a recessed blank circular window with four "cement stone" keystones centered in the parapet. Separate entrance doors are within the middle bay, flanked by large square windows. Pilasters with stone caps and bases accent the corners and divide the bays. The cornice and parapet are topped with galvanized metal. In addition to replacement doors and windows, there is a small, frame addition. Apparently, this building has always served as a dining establishment. Architect: Bast. (See Photos No. 36, 37.)

62. Conservation Pavilion. Built 1935. Contributing Building.

In 1935, the State Fish & Game Commission (which preceded today's Conservation Commission) erected this approximately 60' x 120' building, reportedly using only Missouri materials. Pink granite was used for the piers and as veneer for some walls of this wood frame, Craftsman-influenced building. The original roof was hipped but the present roof (after extensive renovation in 1984) has a gable atop the earlier configuration. The two-story west end, which includes living quarters as well as offices, is enclosed. The one-story east portion is not enclosed. During the annual fair, the facilities are used for conservation and wildlife displays and lectures. (See Photo No. 38.)

63. Conservation Support Building. Built 1984. Noncontributing Building.

This is a rectangular one-story frame building with a hipped roof. Vertical boards are used for exterior siding. The Conservation Support Building is nominally connected to the Conservation Pavilion by a breezeway. An auditorium and animal displays are housed in the 38' x 94' building.

64-65. Concession Buildings. Built 1950s-80s. Noncontributing Buildings.  
(2)

See No. 49-54 for description.

66. Commercial Building/Agricultural Building. Built 1903. Contributing Building.

Shaped parapets with copings above the four entrances, "bell towers" on the corners and extensive archwork provide a strong Missionesque flavor for this exposition hall. The approximately 80' x 160' building is one of three red brick and steel exposition halls (each unique) constructed for the 1903



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fair. The round-arched entrances (one per side) and corner towers are projecting, with divisions between the bays defined by rusticated pilasters. Windows are recessed with round compound arches. Each Missionesque parapet contains a circular window, two of which (on the long axis) are emphasized with elaborate metal surrounds. The roof is hipped with lower cross gables and there are four hipped-roof dormers. Windows in one corner tower are double-hung 15/15s but single-frame units of 15 lights prevail; all contain additional windowing within their arch. Sandstone is used for trim and lugsills, but the water table/foundation is limestone. Rooflet brackets are scrolled wood. The four corners contain restrooms, storage and office space. Galvanized iron finials and urns have been removed. A concrete ramp has been added on the north. The metal doors are replacements of the original wood panel doors. Overall, this is a moderately altered resource. Originally the Agricultural Building, it had been redesignated as the Education Building by the 1920s. Several years ago, it became the Commercial Building. Architect: Bast. Contractor: Johnson. (See Photos No. 39-42.)

67. Home Economics Building/John Deere Building. Built 1909. Contributing Building.

The Home Economics Building is a rectangular, one-story brick and steel exposition building with shaped Missionesque parapets above four projecting (one per side) round-arched entrances. Triple flat-arched, single frame window units (12 lights) are closely spaced around the entire building, providing considerable natural lighting. Relatively austere for an exposition hall, the approximately 80' x 128' building contains flat instead of round-arched windows and lacks the pilasters and parapet elaboration of some others. The roof is hipped, with dormers. The water table/foundation is concrete. Trim is stone. The Home Economics Building was built by the John Deere Plow Co., for display of automobiles, buggies, wagons, gasoline engines and farm implements which the company marketed before concentrating on tractors a decade later.<sup>7</sup> The John Deere Building included a two-level office and sleeping room in the center plus a carriage room, according to the blueprints. Alterations include removal of a flat top roof deck, conversion of some window openings to accommodate air conditioning units, and the replacement of original doors. The brick foundation apparently was open and covered with wire mesh originally. The Missouri State Fair acquired the building in the 1920s, at first designating it as the W.D. Smith Building in honor of the fair secretary. During the 1930s, it became the Home Economics Building. Architect: Bast (?) (See Photo No. 43.)

68. Agri-Missouri Building/Consumers' Food Pavilion. Built 1967. Noncontributing Building.

This is a 50' x 72' metal frame building with a low-pitched gable roof.

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Walls and roofing are corrugated metal. The main (east) facade contains an entrance only.

69. 40 & 8 Boxcar. Built ca. 1872-75; installed in 1950. Noncontributing Structure.

This small French-built boxcar, certainly the oldest structure on the fairgrounds, was designed to haul cattle. But during both world wars, this and similar boxcars were used in France to transport troops (40) or horses (8). After World War Two, the French National Railroad donated one of the boxcars--filled with gifts from the French people in response to an American grass roots war relief effort organized by columnist Drew Pearson--to each state. Local members of Voiture 333 of the 40 & 8 Society, a group that exists within the American Legion, clean and decorate the car each summer prior to the fair.<sup>8</sup> The boxcar is under a gable roof supported by slim metal posts set in concrete. (See Photo No.64.)

70. Varied Industries Building/Horticultural Building. Built 1903. Contributing Building.

Rounded, exotic domes or turrets atop the four corner towers heighten the impact of this eclectic brick and steel exposition hall. Missionesque shaped parapets are above two of the four entrances which are recessed within arcaded pavilions. The two primary entrances contain circular windows, as do the corner towers. All other windows with the exception of dormers are round arched. Most windows are recessed within compound arches and consist mainly of double-hung 12/12 sash (in towers) and single-frame hopper units with 12 lights. The approximately 86' x 168' building is extensively pilastered. Carthage limestone is used for the foundation/water table while Warrensburg sandstone is used for lugsills and other trim. The hipped gable roof contains six dormers, including two which are continuations of the main wall above the lesser east and west entrances. Two of the corner towers contain restrooms. Octagonal turrets which were atop the towers flanking entrances in the long axis have been removed, as have galvanized urns which were around the base of the domes. Original panel doors have been replaced. Overall, this is a moderately altered building. Constructed as the Horticultural Building in 1903, it was among the earliest brick buildings on the fairgrounds. Soon after World War One, it became the Varied Industries Building. Architect: Bast. Contractor: Heckert & Ricketts. Brick, stone and concrete work were subcontracted to John Colaflower and the Dean Bros. Construction Co. (See Photos No. 44-45.)

71. Missouri Building (4-H Building)/Poultry Building. Built 1905. Contributing Building.

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The Missouri Building is a rectangular brick and steel exposition building with Missionesque parapets above the four (one per side) entrances. The entrances (double-leaf) are within slightly projecting bays. The parapets contain circular windows. Each long axis of the approximately 80' x 160' building contains 15 bays, including a central entrance bay with a round-arched window and two somewhat narrower, parapeted bays with round-arched windows and blank doorways. Pilasters define the bays. Bays without entrances alternately contain pairs of single-frame vertical and individual circular windows. The hipped and gabled roof contains two shed-roof dormers per plane; gable ends are also windowed. The water table and trim are terra cotta. The Missouri Building was built in 1905 (as the "new" Poultry Building) when the original brick Poultry Building (#56) was quickly outgrown. In the 1930s, it was designated as the Missouri Building. Architect: Bast. Contractor: Johnson. (See Photo No. 46.)

72. Agriculture Building. Built 1962. Noncontributing Building.

This is a rectangular, one-story metal-frame building with a low-pitched gable roof. With the exception of a brick-walled central portion in the main (east) facade, walls are covered with corrugated metal sheathing. The main entrance is under a metal canopy supported, in part, by a short projecting wall of coursed stone. Another simpler canopied entrance is on the south. A band of windows in the side walls is just below the roofline. A small wing with a shed roof is on the north. Architect: Norman C. Atkins. Contractor: Tempel Callison Co.

73. Steam Locomotive. Built 1943; installed 1956. Noncontributing Structure.

Engine No. 4516, a steam locomotive with a coal car and caboose, was donated to the Missouri State Fair by the Friscoe Railway in 1956. The engine was built in August 1943 by the Baldwin Locomotive Works, Eddystone, Pa.

74. Shuttle Station. Built ca. 1980. Noncontributing Building.

This small, open sided frame building was originally used as a passenger waiting station for the fairgrounds shuttle wagons. Apparently, it has no specific function today.

75. Highway Gardens. Built ca. 1920s. Contributing Site.

The Highway Gardens is a small parklike retreat of shaded brick and asphalt pathways near the southern end of the fairgrounds. The landscaped tract contains a variety of primarily deciduous trees and plants, rock walls and benches. The State Highway Department (today the Missouri Highway and Transportation Department) apparently has used this area for exhibits and as a park since the 1920s or earlier. (See Photo No. 47.)

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76. Highway Gardens Building. Built ca. 1960s. Noncontributing Building.

This is a rectangular, one-story steel frame building with concrete block walls and a gable roof with asphalt roofing. The entrance facade (in the north gable end) is recessed under the projecting roof.

77. Highway Patrol Building. Built 1968. Noncontributing Building.

This is a rectangular, one-story metal frame building with a low-pitched gable roof with an unusually wide overhang. Although sans doors and windows, the corrugated metal sides are opened when the building is used for a traffic regulations/highway safety exhibit ("Otto the Talking Car").

78. Mobile Home. Built ca. 1960s. Noncontributing Building.

This is a metal-walled mobile house trailer, adjacent to the State Fair Fire Station. Used by firefighters, this trailer is parked out of the view of most fairgoers, along the west wall of the fire station.

79. State Fair Fire Station. Built 1968. Noncontributing Building.

This is a rectangular, one-story metal frame building. A side extension of the low-pitched gable roof provides an additional, unenclosed vehicle port. Two vehicle doors are on the north. Walls of the 41' x 97' building are sheathed in corrugated metal.

80. Highway Gardens Maintenance Building. Built ca. 1940s-50s. Noncontributing Building.

This is a one-story, frame residential building with a hipped roof. Fiberboard siding covers exterior walls.

81. Highway Gardens Maintenance Building. Built ca. 1940s-50s. Noncontributing Building.

This one-story, frame gable-roofed building has a small attached greenhouse.

82. Poultry & Rabbit Building Annex/Hall of Religion. Built ca. 1920s. Contributing Building.

This one-story, 30' x 120' wood frame building is adjacent to the Poultry & Rabbit Building (#83), whose west wall it shares. Although fiberboard siding covers exterior walls, form and scale are appropriate--it was a relatively small, modest building--and it is counted as contributing. Although available for all churches that cared to use it, the Hall of Religion

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usually was used by one denomination each year. It has served as the Poultry & Rabbit Building Annex for several years. (See Photo No. 49.)

83. Poultry & Rabbit Building/Machinery Building. Built 1909. Contributing Building.

Built in 1909 as an exhibition center for machinery, the Poultry & Rabbit Building is a square, (120' x 120') brick-walled building of one story. Central double-leaf panel doors on each facade are thought to be original. Most of the original windowing (six large multi-paned openings per facade) is retained. Lugsills are stone. The west facade cannot be viewed from outside because of the adjacent Annex (#82), but the three visible facades are identical. Most brick buildings on the fairgrounds have steel frames and wooden rafters but in this case the frame is wood. Originally, this building had an open top with awnings added at fairtime. New machinery powered by steam, gasoline and electricity was displayed inside and around the building. By the 1920s, a permanent roof had been added and it was called the Missouri Building. Machinery exhibits were moved to open areas north and west. It became the Poultry Building during the 1930s. In 1961, brickwork was removed above three entrances, eliminating round-arched windows. A cross-shaped ventilation structure on the flat roof was dismantled. Although the profile has been altered, the east parapet is intact and sufficient original materials remain for it to be considered contributing. Architect: Bast. Contractor: Johnson. (See Photos No. 48-49.)

84. FFA Children's Barnyard. Built ca. 1960s. Noncontributing Building.

This is a rectangular, steel-frame building of one-story. Sides are open except for a wooden, gambrel-shaped false front. The board-and-batten treatment of the front and the barn-shaped facade add atmosphere to an otherwise austere structure. (See Photo No. 49.)

85. Fine Arts Building/Floriculture & Art Building. Built 1929. Contributing Building.

The Fine Arts Building is a two-story, 50' x 80' wood-frame structure with a full-height, pedimented portico supported by eight square wooden columns. In conjunction with the portico, frieze band windows suggest a Neoclassical influence. The entrance is flanked by multi-panel sidelights and two double-hung, 6/6 windows on each floor. Two similar windows are above the entrance. Both side facades have exterior stairways to double-leaf upstairs doors. The main roof is hipped with small gables above the upstairs entrances. When this building was completed, the first floor was for floriculture and the second floor was for art exhibits. Recently, vinyl siding was installed over the original wood siding but the form was not

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obscured. Architect: Victor J. DeFoe. (See Photos No. 49-50.)

86. Floriculture Building. Built ca. 1930s. Contributing Building.

The Floriculture Building is somewhat smaller (50' x 70') and less elaborate than the nearby Fine Arts Building (#85), which it resembles. Like its companion building, the Floriculture Building is a two-story, wood-frame rectangular structure with a full-height pedimented portico supported by square wooden columns. But it lacks frieze band windows and there is only a single exterior stairway (on the west), with a single-leaf entrance at the second floor level. The main entry has sidelights and is flanked by two double-hung, 1/1 windows. The roof is hipped. Vinyl siding was recently added. The Floriculture Building may be one of the properties constructed on the fairgrounds by Works Progress Administration crews. (See Photos No. 49, 51.)

87. State Fair Exhibition Center. Built 1986-89. Noncontributing Building.

The multi-sided brick, steel and concrete Exhibition Center is the newest and most expensive of the fairground's large, permanent exposition buildings. The flat-roofed, Modern-styled building supplements the Coliseum/Livestock Pavilion (#18), enabling a greater variety of activities to be held on the fairgrounds throughout the year. In addition to a large arena, the upper concourse of the climate-controlled building provides space for exhibits and concessions. The Exhibition Center occupies part of a former camping area known as The Village. Architect: Black & Veatch. (See Photo No. 62.)

88. Swine Pavilion/Swine & Sheep Pavilion. Built 1922. Contributing Building.

The Swine Pavilion is an arcaded, steel-frame brick building with a flat, three-tiered roof and Missionesque parapets above projecting entranceways. Square towers with pyramidal roofs are in the northeast and southeast corners of the 276' x 284' building. Atop the uppermost flat level is a cross-hipped structure designed for additional ventilation. The 51st General Assembly appropriated \$125,000 for a 276' x 384' building, but completion of the west side was deferred when the appropriation proved inadequate. The west portion, designed to be about as elaborate as the east, was never completed. But in ca. 1960, a metal building supported by tapering steel posts was added on the west. Inside the brick building, the steel pens appear to be those from the original installation in 1922. Architect: Bast. Contractor: Dean & Hancock. (See Photos No. 53; 57-59; 63.)

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89-90. Comfort Stations. Built ca. 1950s or later. Noncontributing Buildings (2).

These are simply small, rectangular wood-frame buildings with gable roofs.

91. Midway. Ca. 1920s or earlier. Contributing Site.

By the 1920s, if not sooner, the Midway or carnival area of the Missouri State Fairgrounds was more or less in its present location west of Missouri Avenue (a portion of the fairgrounds included in the original 160-acres tract but not immediately developed). There are no permanent carnival attractions on the fairgrounds. (See Photo No. 53.)

92. Concession Building. Built ca. 1940s or later. Noncontributing Building.

This is a one-story, rectangular wood-frame building with a metal-covered gable roof. In 1986, it was relocated from its previous location on the site of the Exhibition Center (#87).

93. Automated Feed Systems Building. Built 1980s. Noncontributing Building.

This is a rectangular, metal-frame building of one story with a low-pitched gable roof. The east facade contains a pedestrian entrance. Walls are covered with corrugated metal sheathing.

94. Farmco Demonstration Building. Built 1980s. Noncontributing Building.

This is a rectangular, metal-frame building of one story with a low-pitched gable roof. Walls are covered with corrugated metal sheathing. A paneled vehicle entrance in the main facade is flanked by metal sash windows with decorative shutters.

95. Concession Building. Built ca. 1940. Contributing Building.

L & J's Fine Food is a rectangular, wood-frame building of one story with a gable roof. Typical of the older concession buildings, it has doors at both corners of the main gabled end. These entrances to service aisles flank horizontal windows with wood flaps. The sides contain rows of horizontal windows for additional ventilation. Fiberboard siding has been added over the original vertical boards, but the form has not been changed. Roofing is asphalt.

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96. Comfort Station. Built ca. 1950s. Noncontributing Building.

This is a one-story rectangular building with a gable roof. Exterior walls are corrugated metal. Roofing is also metal.

97. Groundskeeper's Residence. Built ca. 1905. Contributing Building.

The groundskeeper's residence is a 2 1/2 story, two-bay wood-frame "cornbelt cube" house. A nearly full-width screened front porch is supported by three round, fluted classical columns of cast concrete on piers of rock-faced concrete blocks. A small bay window is on the east. A hipped roof dormer is in the front (south). The foundation is stone. This was a farmhouse when it was constructed on land adjacent to the fairgrounds in the early 1900s. Alterations include the addition of fiberboard siding. (See Photo No. 60.)

98. Groundskeeper's Garage. Built ca. 1950s. Noncontributing Building.

This is a pole-frame building with a gable roof. The rear half is enclosed on three sides with fiberboard siding. Vertical wood siding is present in the front gable. (See Photo No. 60.)

99. Machinery Exhibition Area. Ca. 1920s. Contributing Site.

Large farm machinery apparently has been displayed on this part of the fairgrounds since the 1920s. Prior to then, the main display area for machinery was in and around what is now the Poultry & Rabbit Building (#83). The exhibition area is crossed by four asphalt-surfaced east-west roads. Demonstration buildings also occupy this portion of the fairgrounds. (See Photo No. 63.)

100. U.S. Truss Steel Building. Built 1980s. Noncontributing Building.

This is a rectangular, metal-frame machinery storage building with a gable roof. Walls and roofing are corrugated metal. A roof extension on the east side provides a port for vehicles parked outside. Fenestration includes vehicle entrances in both gable ends. The foundation is wood. (See Photo No. 61.)

101. U.S. Truss Steel Model Home. Built 1980s. Noncontributing Building.

This is a rectangular, 1 1/2 story residential building with a gambrel roof. The main facade contains a central entrance flanked by 1/1 vertical windows; a horizontal window is upstairs. The contemporary siding resembles vertical boards. (See Photo No. 61.)



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102. Morton Building. Built ca. 1970s-80s. Noncontributing Building.

This is a one-story, metal-sheathed building with a gable roof fronted by a smaller, stone or imitation stone-walled section with a hipped roof and a double-leaf central entrance flanked by two pairs of vertical windows.

103. White City Campground. Ca. 1907. Contributing Site.

The old White City Campground is a rectangular strip of gently rolling land between the mile racetrack and the eastern boundary of the fairgrounds (U.S. Route 65/South Limit Avenue). Here visitors once camped for free as early as 1907, when additional acreage was purchased for that purpose. Many visitors camped in tents which could be rented for a nominal fee; others brought their own. Fuel for cooking, shower baths and cold drinking water were provided without charge. Today, this is primarily a parking and picnic area. (See Photo No. 65.)

104. Garage. Built ca. 1920s. Contributing Building.

This frame double garage building is associated with the fair director's residence (#106). A moderately corbeled chimney pierces the gable roof at the rear. Siding is wood. The two vehicle entrances have overhead doors. (See Photo No. 65.)

105. Comfort Station. Built ca. 1920s. Contributing Building.

This small, one-story frame building with a gable roof is also associated with the fair director's residence (#106). The entrance is centered in the east gable end, under a gabled rooflet. A moderately corbeled chimney exits the rear roof. Apparently, this building was designed as an additional restroom for women visitors to this part of the fairgrounds; a "Powder Room" sign is attached.

106. Fair Director's Residence. Built ca. 1920s or earlier. Contributing Building.

The director's residence is a two-story, frame cross-gabled house with a one-story wraparound porch supported by square wooden posts. An exterior chimney is in a cross-gable wall on the south. Typical windows are 1/1 vertical units. Cornices have returns. A one-story extension wraps around the west end. Fiberboard covers the original wood siding, but alterations have been few and it is a contributing building. Apparently, the fair secretary (today, the equivalent position is fair director) has used this building as a residence since the 1920s. (See Photo No. 65.)

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107. Speed Horse Barn. Built 1957. Noncontributing Building.

This one-story 40' x 80' frame building with a gable roof contains stalls for 14 race horses. A sliding door entrance on the east elevation opens onto a central aisle. In addition to stalls, there is a small storage area. The sides contain rows of single sash windows. Vertical siding is tongue-and-groove. The foundation is concrete, the floor earthen. Like the Draft Horse Barn (#6) on another part of the fairgrounds, this noncontributing building is in no way intrusive.

108-113. Speed Horse Barns. Built 1901. Contributing Buildings (6).

Six identical speed horse barns built for the first fair, in 1901, are the oldest contributing buildings on the fairgrounds. Each is a rectangular (22' x 62') wood frame building of one story containing 14 box stalls back-to-back, with individual exterior Dutch doors. Flat vertical boards are used for siding. Portions of the exterior walls rest on large rocks. Floors are earthen. Raised ventilator walls have been removed from the roofs, but the buildings seem otherwise unaltered. Five similar speed barns are gone. Now unused, these buildings have fallen into disrepair. Architect: Bast. Contractor: Johnson and Butler. (See Photos No. 66-68.)

114. Speed Horse Barn. Built 1937. Contributing Building.

Built by WPA workers in 1937, this rectangular wood frame building is the longest barn on the fairgrounds (40' x 230'). The one-story building has a gable roof with lower cross gables at midpoint. Vertical car siding covers the frame. Sliding doors are in both gable ends and at midpoint. Inside are 40 box stalls opening onto a central aisle, restrooms and an office/storage area. Three vertical-walled ventilator units have been removed. Architect: Schwarz. (See Photo No. 69.)

115-116. Harness Race Office. Built ca. 1960s. Noncontributing Buildings (2).

Two metal-clad mobile homes with flat roofs are positioned at a right angle. An ancillary storage shed is adjacent to the northernmost trailer.

117. Concession Building. Built ca. 1940s. Contributing Building.

Unlike other vintage concession buildings on the fairgrounds, this one-story frame example has a hipped roof. It is also wider than the gable-roofed buildings. But fenestration is typical, with entrances for customers

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at the outer edges of one facade (west) and rows of horizontal windows with wooden flaps. Siding appears to be asbestos. (See Photo No. 70.)

118. Comfort Station. Built ca. 1930s. Contributing Building.

This is the only older free-standing restroom on the fairgrounds which has not been renovated. Perhaps built by WPA labor, it is a one-story frame building with a gable roof. A ventilator unit with louver windows is on the roof. Siding is shiplap. (See Photo No. 71.)

119. Warm-Up Track. Built ca. 1960s. Noncontributing Structure.

Midway between the mile racetrack and the eastern boundary of the fairgrounds (U.S. Route 65/Limit Avenue), this small track serves as a warm-up track for race horses.

120. Tourist Information Center. Noncontributing Structure.

This decommissioned Missouri Pacific Railroad caboose serves as a tourist information center. It is operated by the Sedalia Chamber of Commerce.

Unnumbered, but indicated on the Missouri State Fair Historic District Site Map are three ancillary property types: (1) water fountains; (2) animal wash racks; and (3) relatively portable units such as small concession stands, ticket booths and information huts. Only the first two categories--both fixed in place rather than portable--are counted as contributing or noncontributing. All seven rectangular, concrete-base water fountains are counted as contributing objects. Three concrete wash racks are counted as contributing structures; four other wash racks are noncontributing structures. A typical fountain may be seen in Photos # 2 and 14. A wash rack is visible in Photo # 4. Portable, uncounted concession stands are shown in Photo # 34. Nineteen additional properties which are nonpermanent and not significant in size and scale were recorded but are not counted in the total count of resources.

The Missouri State Fairgrounds is a complex landscape and while it is possible to depict "everything" at some arbitrary point in time, it would be highly impractical to do so. Not shown, counted, or otherwise acknowledged--at the discretion of the preparer and in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office--are such things as public telephones, electrical transformers, picnic tables, free-standing signs, benches, small storage units associated with counted concession buildings, various small objects with wheels, ticket booths and information huts which are stored under roof rather than in the open. Also, a few buildings/structures/objects which were present

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when the fairgrounds was surveyed in August 1990 were removed before the nomination was completed in April 1991, demonstrating the temporary nature of much of the recent construction. The streetscape of Woods Avenue, for example (photo #53), depicts one or more concession buildings which have been removed or dismantled.

ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup>The Van Riper land donation is discussed in Sedalia Daily Capital, October 12, 1899; Sedalia Evening Democrat, January 22, 1900; and State Fair Board Minutes, October 10, 1899.

<sup>2</sup>The 1905 plan of the Missouri State Fairgrounds is in the form of a blueprint prepared by Thomas W. Bast, state fair architect.

<sup>3</sup>Interview with Mrs. Lucille Bowers, former concession stand operator, January 22, 1991.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid.

<sup>6</sup>State Fair Board Minutes, April 13, 1903.

<sup>7</sup>Sedalia Democrat, October 1, 1909.

<sup>8</sup>Information on the 40 & 8 Boxcar was supplied by E.L. Eickhoff, Chef de Gare, Voiture 333. Members of Voiture 333--a group that exists within the American Legion--are mostly World War II veterans. The members are dedicated to preserving the history of these unique boxcars, as well as the boxcars themselves, of which only about twenty-five are known to survive in the U.S.

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Architect/Builder:  
[Builders] Sellers, R.F.; Ricketts, S. Wilson; Dean, Daniel H.; and Hancock,  
Joseph B.

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SUMMARY: The Missouri State Fairgrounds Historic District at Sedalia is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C and is significant in the areas of Agriculture, Architecture, Social History and Entertainment/Recreation. The approximately 215-acre historic district encompasses the original acreage of Missouri's first and only permanent state fairgrounds, containing all of the major contributing resources plus additional historic acreage. The fair has promoted agriculture since its beginning in 1901, serving farmers and stockmen by providing them with an annual exposition to display their best products for an appreciative audience, and where advances in farm technology and practices could be described and demonstrated. Most of the early brick buildings, including exposition halls, animal barns, a Coliseum and a "Womans" Building are intact, impressive representatives of early 20th century fairground architecture. Social history is an area of significance because society was expected to benefit if fairgoers were made aware of the products and achievements of Missouri and Missourians. From 1936-38, public works projects on the fairgrounds including buildings were completed under a Works Progress Administration program; the extant examples signify the success of this New Deal relief effort and enhance the district's significance in the area of social history. Although an entertainment/recreation function was deemphasized at early fairs, amusements and sports were always present and their growth at the Missouri State Fair perhaps parallels the growth of an entertainment industry in America. Today, the district contains 66 contributing and 68 noncontributing buildings, structures, objects and sites within a setting in which a far stronger impression is made by the older properties. These buildings, in particular the red brick exposition halls and animal barns, are highly evocative of the Missouri State Fair's first four decades, 1901-41.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE MISSOURI STATE FAIR

Missouri was a relative latecomer on the state fair circuit, although lesser fairs were common during the decades following the Civil War as agriculture and livestock husbandry expanded. American agricultural fairs began as early as 1810, in Massachusetts,<sup>1</sup> and Michigan is credited with conducting the nation's first state fair, in 1849.<sup>2</sup> In neighboring Illinois, the state fair was founded in 1854 (although a permanent location was not selected until 1894).<sup>3</sup> Various other midwestern states already had fairgrounds when, in 1899, the 40th General Assembly established a Missouri State Fair at a site to be determined. Missouri's first agricultural fair was at Boonville, in 1853, and the State Agricultural Society sponsored fairs there in 1854 and 1855. Relatively large agricultural fairs were regularly held in St. Louis from 1866-1904.<sup>4</sup> Presumably, these St. Louis fairs would have continued indefinitely if a permanent state site had not been selected.

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Prior to hosting the Missouri State Fair, Sedalia also was a regional center for fairs and expositions. Some of the largest were sponsored from 1880-1883 by the Sedalia Industrial and Art Exposition Association. Horse racing was extremely popular at these September events, which lasted five days and resembled miniature state fairs. The site, Sicher's Park, featured a half-mile track and a grandstand with seating for 5,000--considerably more than the temporary grandstand at the first state fair. There were exhibition halls, machinery display areas and stables. John Homer Bothwell, a young attorney who became a state representative and helped persuade lawmakers to award the state fair to Sedalia, was a director of the Association.<sup>5</sup> For several years in the 1890s, horse racing was the main Fourth of July attraction at Sedalia's Liberty Park. In 1899, the city's first downtown street fair reportedly attracted 50,000 visitors (surely an exaggeration) on a single day; "excursion" trains came from as far as Hannibal. The sponsoring Sedalia Street Fair Association undoubtedly hoped to influence the State Board of Agriculture, whose members would select a site for the permanent fairgrounds. As the century ended, local fairs were becoming increasingly popular and St. Louis would soon host a world's fair. At Sedalia, some basic elements of a state fair were already in place and drawing crowds.<sup>6</sup>

To progressive-minded Sedalians, the advantages of being the state fair site were self-evident. "The advantages...need not now be enumerated [but] all appreciate that it would be a good thing," the Sedalia Daily Capital editorialized.<sup>7</sup> Later, the newspaper suggested that Sedalia's population would greatly increase when fair visitors discovered the city's "superior advantages in churches and schools...away from the temptations and allurements of metropolitan life."<sup>8</sup> This notion of a wholesome environment would be preserved on the fairgrounds, especially during the early years while the fair's educational aspects were highly touted.

To get the fair, Sedalia needed to persuade the State Board of Agriculture that its site was the best. During the 1890s, Sedalia's movers and shakers had sought other, even more lucrative prizes--unsuccessfully. When the University of Missouri campus burned in 1892, the Sedalia-Pettis County bid was rejected in favor of Columbia-Boone County. Then in 1896, Sedalians sought to "remove" the state capital from Jefferson City but the proposal was soundly defeated in a statewide referendum. However, the land that had been set aside for a new capital was still available three years later when Missouri legislators authorized a state fair and asked for proposals from interested cities.<sup>9</sup> Presumably, the previous efforts gave Sedalia a slight edge over any contenders who started from scratch.

In addition to Sedalia, five other cities were finalists for the Missouri State Fair: Centralia, Chillicothe, Marshall, Mexico and Moberly. Because a relatively central location was desired, neither St. Louis nor Kansas City

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could be chosen. On June 3, 1899, delegations from the competing cities traveled to Jefferson City for presentations before Governor Lon V. Stephens and the State Board of Agriculture, which would supervise the fair. Bothwell, who by this time was between terms as Pettis County's Republican state senator, spoke in behalf of Sedalia. The large local delegation also included J. C. Van Riper, a banker whose family offered to donate 160 acres on the outskirts of Sedalia for the fairgrounds. After the presentations, the 15 board members and three ex-officio members cast ballots for the city of their choice. Marshall and Mexico provided strong competition, but after 10 ballots Sedalia had the necessary majority (10 votes). "THE STATE FAIR CITY," the Sedalia Daily Capital triumphantly proclaimed in large type the next day.<sup>10</sup>

The State Board of Agriculture selected the Sedalia site as the one which "will enure to the best interests of the fair and the State in general."<sup>11</sup> In a message to the 41st General Assembly, Governor Stephens noted that the board "was largely governed by the central location of Sedalia, her splendid railroad communication with all parts of this and adjacent states, her greater population than that of competing cities, her electric railroad and two steam railroads running directly into the grounds, assuring ample facilities for handling an immense number of visitors, and conveniences in transportation of freight; a guarantee secured by bond that water mains and electric wires for light and power would be extended into the grounds; and by the beauty and adaptability of the tract offered for Fair purposes."<sup>12</sup>

The main line of the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad (Katy) already transected the southern end of the site from northeast to southwest. The Missouri Pacific (linking St. Louis and Kansas City) had only to run a spur to the fairgrounds from its main line north of the site. In addition to extending its track to the grounds, the Sedalia Electric Street Railway Co. promised to contribute five per cent of gross receipts on the fairgrounds line to the State Board of Agriculture.<sup>13</sup> All three mass transit providers constructed passenger stations at the site, and the railroads also built facilities for receiving livestock and machinery.

It was hoped that the first state fair could be held in 1900, to start the new century. But it soon became evident that both money and time were lacking. The State Fair Bill (introduced by Representative Cyrus F. Clark, a farmer and stockman from Audrain County) stipulated that no public funds be used. Instead, money to develop the fairgrounds and maintain the fair would be generated by the Horse Breeders Fund which included fees from licenses issued to bookmakers and others involved in legitimate forms of gambling. But with only \$17,637 available in 1900,<sup>14</sup> the legislature was soon urged to appropriate additional funds specifically for development of the state fair. Organizations passing resolutions for state funding included the Grange, the State Federation of Labor, the State Poultry Association, the Road Improvement



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Association, the Short Horn Breeders Association, the Improved Livestock Breeders Association, Swine Breeders, Sheep Breeders, Horse Breeders and the State Industrial Associations. In urging a generous appropriation, the latter said:

The State Fair is not for an exploitation of our industries for a day or a season, but will be a standing advertisement of our resources, a presentation of our claims to leadership in the industrial world, and in the most forcible and eloquent manner declaring our unsurpassed environment and our unlimited possibilities. . . Can [Missouri] afford to do less for her farmers, her fruit growers, her live stock breeders, her dairymen, her manufacturers, her mineral interests, and all her great and varied industrial interests, than other states have done?<sup>15</sup>

During the ensuing debate, Bothwell chided reluctant lawmakers, citing Missouri's funding of world's fairs including \$1 million for the upcoming Louisiana Purchase Exposition at St. Louis. "Surely something could be appropriated for the state fair!" he said.<sup>16</sup> Shamed, enlightened or perhaps a little of both, the General Assembly in 1901 appropriated \$50,000 for the Missouri State Fair. This was considerably less than the \$125,000 to \$500,000 sought, but with the continually growing Horse Breeders Fund, it was enough to proceed with major construction and overall development of the grounds.<sup>17</sup> (No fair was held in 1900, but workers toiled through the summer on the racetrack. As early as mid-April of 1900, the decision had been made to move back the date of the first state fair from 1900 to 1901.)<sup>18</sup>

#### LAYING OUT THE FAIRGROUNDS

Laying out the fairgrounds was a joint effort. To see how other states did it (an advantage of being a latecomer on the state fair circuit), five members of the State Board of Agriculture's State Fair Executive Committee inspected fairgrounds in Illinois, Indiana and Ohio during March 1900. This group consisted of Norman J. Colman of St. Louis, president; N. H. Gentry, Sedalia; Alexander Maitland, Richmond; George B. Ellis, Appleton City; and J. R. Rippey, Columbia.<sup>19</sup> Colman, editor of Colman's Rural World, later became the first U.S. secretary of agriculture. Rippey, the board's secretary, became state fair secretary, a position of considerable importance since it made him the key administrator on a day-to-day basis. After the tour, a surveyor and an architect were hired by Gentry, whose own assignment was that of fair superintendent.

The surveyor was T. O. Stanley and the architect was Thomas W. Bast.<sup>20</sup> Stanley's main tasks were preparation of a topographical map of the site and recommendations for placement of the racetrack. Because of their technical knowledge, both Stanley and Bast probably influenced original layout decisions. Although Stanley's job was of fairly short duration, Bast, as

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state fair architect, would design every major fairgrounds building from 1900-26, from the earliest wooden structures through the many brick buildings which followed. The district's architectural significance is enhanced by the fact that many of the contributing properties (more than two dozen) were designed by this prolific local architect during the middle and late periods of his career. As will be seen, stylistic similarities link many buildings and contribute to the district's cohesiveness.

Of the many important early decisions, perhaps none ranked higher than where to put the racetrack. Considerable space would be occupied by the mile oval and an adjacent amphitheater/grandstand, and topography was a major concern. Initially, the executive committee apparently envisioned a racetrack along the southern edge of the grounds. But after Stanley submitted his findings, it was decided to locate the track along the eastern boundary where elevations of the rolling landscape seemed less formidable.<sup>21</sup> Still, topography must have been far from ideal for a racetrack. As one observer noted, "It is unfortunate that the topography of the ground was so unfavorable that more than \$20,000 was expended in building the race track, the filled-in grade on the first turn being so great that the reckless driver who hubs the rail stands chance of landing a distance of 25 feet below."<sup>22</sup> Undoubtedly, such an early configuration of the track contributed to the excitement.

In August 1900, reporters from the Sedalia Democrat visited the site and "were surprised at the sight of a small army of laborers already at work on the grounds, getting things in shape for a fair next year." The task of grading and filling for the racetrack was vividly described in the Sunday edition:

Messrs. Menefee & Heck, the contractors, had a force of 25 men at work at the southeast end of the site, excavating and grading for the mile racetrack. An immensely large Western wagon loader and elevating grader, drawn by 16 horses and operated by four men, was moving up and down the place where the excavating is being done for the track. This machine is a wonder. It not only rolls on wheels, but it cuts a straight line into the earth, and plows and loads the dirt into the wagons at the same time. Besides the grader, ten teamsters were at work hauling away the dirt and filling in places which cover the route of the track. Mr. Heck. . . stated that the job was an immense one, and that it would take until cold weather in which to complete the race course. During that time thousands of tons of dirt will have to be removed from the race track and used to fill up places that are now below grade . . .<sup>23</sup>

This racetrack (#39) remains an integral part of the Missouri State Fairgrounds. Although designed for various forms of horse racing, it soon was being used for auto racing as well. Later a half-mile "track within a track" (#41) was added for increased versatility. In part because of the public's

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appetite for additional speed events, the fair's entertainment focus grew (without diminishing the importance of agriculture) and so did attendance.

Meanwhile, laying out the driveways and park areas was the task of George E. Kessler, a landscape architect from Kansas City. Kessler's "bird's-eye view" of the first Missouri State Fair shows a layout that remains essentially unchanged, albeit expanded. His sketch shows the oval racetrack, the north entrance and the main boulevard (State Fair Boulevard) curving southward around the track's "upper" end. Most buildings on Kessler's sketch are gone or were never actually built, but the siting west and south of the track is generally where buildings stand today. The northwestern portion of the fairgrounds appears on the sketch as a wooded area and it remains largely undeveloped and parklike. A significant deviation is placement of the present cattle, mule and horse barns in an area which, in 1901, was apparently devoid of major buildings.<sup>24</sup> The original plan was probably followed until fire destroyed five large frame barns and two smaller buildings shortly after the fair of 1903. When replacement brick and steel barns (the present buildings) were constructed, it probably seemed logical to expand the layout northward.

From these rather modest beginnings, the Missouri State Fair evolved into an institution which today draws hundreds of thousands of visitors each August. Additional early fair history follows the significance sections on Architecture, Agriculture, Social History and Entertainment/Recreation.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

The Missouri State Fairgrounds Historic District contains a significant collection of early 20th century fairgrounds buildings and properties which were added as Missouri's first and only permanent state fairground expanded and evolved during its first 40 years, 1901-41. The architectural styles range from eclectic variations of Romanesque Revival and other classical forms to Art Deco/Art Moderne, while the brick exposition buildings and animal barns are clearly linked by common elements of design and other details of materials, workmanship, setting, size, association and proximity. Blueprints and historic photographs confirm that all of the most significant resources are relatively unaltered to moderately altered. Although numerous properties are noncontributing, the contributing historic buildings with their shared features, greater scale and siting along major avenues within the fairgrounds make a much stronger impression. The noncontributing properties tend to be smaller scaled and in many cases are relatively isolated, so that their effect is lessened. (Since the Missouri State Fairgrounds is an open fairgrounds, the architecture may be appreciated not only during the annual fair but between fairs when visitors may roam freely over much of the landscape.)

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There was more than one builder, but all of the major fairgrounds buildings erected through 1926 were designed by Thomas W. Bast. As state fair architect, Bast apparently received a percentage-of-cost fee for each building. The executive committee probably accepted Bast's designs with few changes if they seemed attractive, were of the desired dimensions and could be constructed within the ever-present budgetary constraints.

But the Missouri State Fair was only one of Bast's clients. Bast was prolific, designing schools, churches, public buildings and probably several hundred residents in and around Sedalia. His Sedalia projects included Smith-Cotton High School, Mark Twain School, Horace Mann School, Broadway School, Whittier School, Washington School, Lincoln School, the Citizens National Bank, Bothwell Hospital and the United Church of Christ. His clients included John Homer Bothwell, the state representative/attorney whose efforts helped secure the state fair for Sedalia. Today, Bothwell's Bast-designed stone mansion atop a towering ridge north of the city (designed and built at least in part before his selection as state fair architect) is the centerpiece of Bothwell Lodge State Park.<sup>25</sup>

Bast was born in Wright City, Missouri, in 1863. His first architecture lessons came from his father, a carpenter and building contractor. In about 1882, Bast moved to St. Louis where he worked days as a builder and studied architecture at night. He moved to Sedalia in ca. 1890, perhaps because it had a reputation as a fast-growing city. Within five years, Bast reportedly designed more than 150 local buildings.<sup>26</sup> Originally, his selection as state fair architect was probably informal but later, Bast had to compete with other architects for the position. In 1921, for example, Bast was selected over six other architects including Barnett, Haynes and Barnett, designers of the Arcade Building in St. Louis.<sup>27</sup> He retired from the state fair post in the mid-1920s. In 1932, Bast, a Democrat, was elected Pettis County treasurer. He died a year later.<sup>28</sup>

While mindful of the agricultural community to be served, Bast probably was influenced in his designs for the Missouri State Fair by the architecture of the great world expositions--particularly the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago in 1893 and the Louisiana Purchase Exposition at St. Louis in 1904. The effectiveness of linking the buildings architecturally while making each unique--as was done at Sedalia--was demonstrated in Chicago, while such features as arcades, corner towers, domes, urns, finials and flagpoles were established elements of exposition architecture. When Bast incorporated these features into his own designs for the Missouri State Fairgrounds, he continued a tradition of both impressing and enticing fairgoers. The imposing, arcaded buildings bedecked with flags and bunting beckoned visitors to come inside and investigate. The Missionesque, shaped parapets which link some exposition halls and a few smaller buildings are hardly "midwestern," but they are highly

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appropriate for a fairgrounds since they add an exuberant, festive quality.

In addition to Missionesque parapets (all beautifully articulated), the major buildings have an overall look of the Romanesque Revival style, with their proliferation of round arches for entrances and window openings, but the style is greatly diluted. Other important architectural links include the widespread use of rusticated brick quoins and pilasters, and terra cotta trim (found on most buildings erected from 1903-07). Bast designed the Womans Building (#35) in the style of a Georgian Revival mansion, giving it a homelike quality within the bustling fairgrounds complex. Classical styling is also distinctive in the upper tiers of one especially impressive building, the 1905-06 Coliseum (#18). But if Bast had a stylistic preference, it can hardly be inferred from his fairgrounds output. At least in the beginning, he apparently expedited things by adapting the designs of buildings on other fairgrounds. In 1900, Bast obtained plans from another fair and "some ideas for the barns to be built here will be taken from them," it was reported.<sup>29</sup> Presumably, most of these were early wooden barns which are gone. Regarding the array of Bast-designed brick exposition buildings and animal barns which survive, the occasional circular windows and towers and the ubiquitous pilasters and buttresses are of course common elements of churches which the architect also designed.

Other fairgrounds architects during the period of significance include Victor J. DeFoe, of Kansas City (Show-Horse Barn/Caulfield Building #31; Fine Arts Building/Floriculture and Arts Building #85), and Arthur J. P. Schwarz, of Sedalia (Main Entrance #1; FFA/4-H Barn/Donnell Building #21; and Speed Barn #114). Although the barns designed by DeFoe and Schwarz were built after Bast retired, they maintain a continuity of styling. Schwarz's Art Deco-Art Moderne main entrance was a major stylistic departure from virtually everything else on the fairgrounds. But when the then-futuristic construction of three ticket booths with connecting steel archwork was completed in 1939, it signaled to visitors that the Missouri State Fair was in tune with changing times and evolving. This was an important statement, appropriately made at the main gateway to the fairgrounds.

Building contractors were more numerous than architects, but there were fewer than might be expected. By far, the largest number of extant historic buildings (13) were constructed by Thomas H. Johnson. Johnson-built buildings include the Commercial Building/Agricultural Building in 1903 (#66), the Coliseum/Livestock Pavilion in 1905-06 (#18), the Missouri Building/Poultry Building in 1905 (#71), the Poultry & Rabbit Building/Machinery Building in 1909 (#83), the original speed barns in 1901 (#108-#113), and all of the brick animal barns from 1904-07. He also may have built the Home Economics/John Deere Building (#67) in 1909. Johnson, a Sedalian, was repeatedly awarded building contracts because, the quality of his work

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notwithstanding, he was simply the low bidder. (Note: In references to buildings which have been known by more than one name, the current name is given first, followed by the original or the apparent original name. Example: Commercial Building/Agricultural Building.)

Other builders included Joseph E. Heckert and S. Wilson Ricketts who, in 1903, built the Varied Industries/Horticultural Building (#70) and the FFA Building/Poultry Building (#56). Ricketts and R. F. Sellers were contractors for the Womans Building (#35) in 1910, a unique property on the fairgrounds in that it served as a separate building for women and children. Daniel H. Dean and Joseph B. Hancock built the Swine Pavilion/Swine & Sheep Pavilion (#88) in 1922, the present Administration Building (#37) and the Holstein Cattle Barn (#13) in 1926 (apparently, Bast's last two designs on the fairgrounds), the Show Horse Barn/Caulfield Building (#31) and probably the Fine Arts Building/Floriculture & Arts Building (#85) in 1929. (See Table 1: "Architects and Contractors" for a chronological listing of 32 historic fairgrounds properties by present name, map key number, year built, architect and contractor.

Brickwork on some early buildings was by John Colaflower, a local bricklayer and builder who subcontracted for Heckert & Ricketts on the Varied Industries/Horticultural Building (#70). The Dean Brothers Construction Co. (Rudolph F. Dean and Daniel H. Dean) subcontracted for stone and concrete work on the Varied Industries/Horticultural Building, and quite possibly others.<sup>30</sup>

Using construction materials largely from Missouri sources, the three oldest extant brick exposition buildings were completed in time for the third fair, in 1903. These were the Commercial Building/Agricultural Building (#66), the FFA Building/Poultry Building (#56) and the Varied Industries/Horticultural Building (#70). Stone was from the limestone quarries at Carthage and the sandstone quarries at Warrensburg. Much brick was purchased from a Nevada supplier. Woodwork came from planing mills at Hannibal.<sup>31</sup> While the architecture of all three buildings is exuberant, in the spirit of fairs, it is especially so in the Varied Industries/Horticultural Building and the Commercial Building/Agricultural Building with their Missionesque parapets and square corner towers. Not only did the construction of these buildings "release" two or three large animal barns that had been pressed into service for other types of exhibits; their brick walls also helped them survive the fire that swept through several frame barns in September 1903.<sup>32</sup>

There were periodic construction surges, but eventually the level of demand and the size of the fair's physical plant reached a state of relative equilibrium. Only a few buildings were constructed from 1914-21. After World War One, the first major new building was the Swine Pavilion/Swine & Sheep Pavilion (#88), constructed in 1922 to replace the original Swine & Sheep

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TABLE I:  
ARCHITECTS AND CONTRACTORS

Building (Present Name) and No.	Year Built	Architect	Contractor
Speed Barns B-G 108-113	1901	T. W. Bast	T.H. Johnson & Butler
Commercial Building 66	1903	T. W. Bast	T. H. Johnson
FFA Building 56	1903	T. W. Bast	Heckert & Ricketts
Varied Industries Bldg. 70	1903	T. W. Bast	Heckert & Ricketts
Shorthorn Barn 25	Ca. 1904	T. W. Bast	T. H. Johnson
Show Horse Barn 30	1904	T. W. Bast	T. H. Johnson
Show Horse Barn 32	1904	T. W. Bast	T. H. Johnson
Guernsey Barn 12	Ca. 1905	T. W. Bast	T. H. Johnson
Hereford Barn 22	Ca. 1905	T. W. Bast	T. H. Johnson
Missouri/4-H Building 71	1905	T. W. Bast	T. H. Johnson
Coliseum 18	1905-06	T. W. Bast	T. H. Johnson
Aberdeen Angus Barn 10	Ca. 1907	T. W. Bast	T. H. Johnson
Jersey Barn 14	1907	T. W. Bast	T. H. Johnson
Mule, Jack & Jennet Barn 20	1907	T. W. Bast	T. H. Johnson
Home Economics Building 67	1909	T. W. Bast*	
Poultry & Rabbit Building 83	1909	T. W. Bast	T. H. Johnson
Womans Building 35	1910	T. W. Bast	Sellers & Ricketts
Demonstration Kitchen 60	1913	T. W. Bast	
Missouri Beef House 61	1913	T. W. Bast	
Swine Pavilion 88	1922	T. W. Bast	Dean & Hancock
Holstein Cattle Barn 13	1926	T. W. Bast	Dean & Hancock
Administration Building 37	1926-27	T. W. Bast	Dean & Hancock
Show Horse Barn 31	1929	Victor J. DeFoe	Dean & Hancock
Fine Arts Building 85	1929	Victor J. DeFoe	Dean & Hancock**
Speed Barn S-12 114	1937	A.J.P. Schwarz	
Main Gate 1	1939	A.J.P. Schwarz	
FFA/4-H Barn 21	1941	A.J.P. Schwarz	

\* If Bast did not design the Home Economics Building, he at least approved the plans and presumably had input when it was commissioned as a machinery display building by the John Deere Co., in 1909.

\*\* Dean & Hancock probably erected the Fine Arts Building, since they are known to have been the contractor for the Show Horse Barn (#31) which was constructed in the same year, 1929.

Names of additional contractors are readily recoverable with additional research.

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Pavilion which stood north of the FFA Building/Poultry Building (#56). No major brick buildings were erected during the 1930s, but this was a significant period because various construction projects were done on the fairgrounds by Works Progress Administration crews. The largest WPA building was an unusually long (40' x 230') wooden speed barn (#114), in 1937. WPA workers also built the half-mile racetrack (#41), the stage-dressing room complex (#45), several permanent concession stands, restrooms and a network of multiple-outlet public drinking fountains. Other WPA public works projects on the fairgrounds included additions to and rehabilitation of the water, sanitary and storm sewer systems and the construction of additional concrete walkways.<sup>33</sup>

While the Missouri State Fairgrounds Historic District is architecturally significant, the contributing buildings, structures, objects and sites must also be considered within the agricultural context that inspired their construction. How the welfare of society was promoted by the fair and how entertainment gradually became institutionalized will also be discussed as areas of significance.

#### AGRICULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Agriculture is an area of significance because, whatever side benefits may have been anticipated, it was primarily to provide an educational forum for the state's farmers and livestock breeders that the Missouri State Fair came into being in 1901. All state fairs are inherently agricultural in nature, enabling farmers and stockmen to come and display their best products, to compete for honors and to learn about new methods and machinery. Like other state fairs, the Missouri State Fair evolved over many years with an increasing emphasis on entertainment while appealing to a broader (and larger) audience. The first fair drew more than 20,000 persons (17,000 paid admissions), with agricultural and farm-related pursuits as the main attractions. The past fair (1990) drew the largest audience to date, with 342,696 paid admissions.<sup>34</sup> But although performers such as Hank Williams, Jr., stock car racing and carnival rides attract many visitors, the annual celebration of agriculture in its many forms remains at the heart of the Missouri State Fair.

After the hiatus of the Civil War, Missouri's farm population grew rather steadily as did production. Between 1860-90, the number of cattle tripled; the number of mules and swine doubled. Meanwhile, production of such Missouri staples as corn, wheat and oats increased while dairying, poultry raising and the development of fruit growing all became much more important. With the expansion of Missouri's farm population, interest in and the demand for a state fair grew until, in 1899, the lack of an official state fair became sufficiently galling that steps were taken to establish one, with Sedalia the



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successful bidder.<sup>35</sup>

Before the Missouri State Fair became a reality, local and regional fairs prevailed but Missouri livestock and produce also competed and won prizes at fairs in neighboring states. In 1901, with the first Missouri State Fair under way, the Drovers Journal noted that Missourians had "won 75 per cent of the prizes on live stock and products of her soil at the great Fairs and Expositions for the past quarter-century, and, strange to say, she has delayed launching a regularly organized State fair until the present time. This institution...will grow and prosper, and will place Missouri where she belongs in the great galaxy of States."<sup>36</sup> Even if this was a vast overstatement, Missouri farmers undoubtedly won their share of premiums on other turf and were looking forward to greater recognition from the people of Missouri. Missouri mules, of course, won prizes virtually wherever they were shown.

A breakdown of animal entries at the 1905 fair is interesting because it indicates how widespread the participation already had become. Of 384 horses, mules and jacks entered, 82 were from Sedalia, 275 were from other parts of Missouri and 27 were from neighboring states. Of 515 head of cattle, 19 were from Sedalia, 323 were from other parts of Missouri and 213 were from neighboring states. Of 644 hogs, 55 were from Sedalia, 438 were from other parts of Missouri and 151 were from neighboring states.<sup>37</sup> Thus from the beginning the Missouri State Fair was a true state fair in that participants (as well as fairgoers) represented a large region rather than only the immediate vicinity.

With the exception of the first administration building, all of the major early buildings served a direct agricultural function: They were for the housing and display of animals, produce and machinery. The speed barns housed race horses which were not really on display apart from their track appearances, but a race horse is simply another form of livestock. The agricultural function of the administration building (the original as well as the present Administration Building) was indirect but essential, since it was the fair's coordination center. Not until 1910 was a substantial, clearly nonagricultural building (the Womans Building, #35) erected on the fairgrounds. Today many additional concession stands and other nonagricultural buildings and structures are interspersed with the much greater number of agricultural structures, and some previous agricultural buildings (the Commercial Building/Agricultural Building, #66, and the Varied Industries Building/Horticultural Building, #70) are no longer remotely agricultural in their functions. Rather, these are the places one goes during fairtime to purchase such things as a likeness of Elvis Presley (or Jesus) on a polished slab of wood, to obtain anti-abortion literature, to see someone demonstrate an innovative type of can opener or to try out a set of "water beds for your feet" (water-filled insoles). But most of the major buildings,

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noncontributing as well as contributing, still are directly concerned with agriculture in its many forms.

Once the Missouri State Fair was established, the extent of participation by farmers and stockmen largely determined the sequence and type of new construction. All too often during the early fairs, there were more entries than space to accommodate them and new buildings were subsequently recommended by Secretary Rippey and his successors. Poultry raisers had no building at first, then when they got one (the FFA Building/Poultry Building, #56) it was quickly outgrown and a larger building (the Missouri Building/Poultry Building, #71) was erected two years later. These original poultry halls have been commandeered for other uses and since the 1930s, poultry has been displayed in the former Machinery Building (Poultry & Rabbit Building/Machinery Building, #83). In 1906, there was an "overflow" of about 300 head of cattle and temporary barns were constructed to accommodate them. The two exhibition horse barns (Show Horse Barns #30 and #32) also were filled to overflowing that year, with many display animals quartered in the relatively isolated speed barns east of the racetrack--to the dismay of owners and visitors.<sup>38</sup> The next year, 1907, the legislature appropriated funds for two new cattle barns (Aberdeen Angus Barn/Cattle Barn West, #10, and Jersey Barn/Cattle Barn East, #14) and a mule barn (Mule Barn, #20). While the response to demand was not always so prompt, it is evident that the fairgrounds largely evolved as Missouri's agricultural industry flourished.

SOCIAL HISTORY SIGNIFICANCE:

Social History is an area of significance because the Missouri State Fairgrounds is associated with efforts to promote the welfare of society. This is true both in a broad sense--founders saw the fair as a means of educating and therefore uplifting visitors through exhibits, demonstrations, and social commerce--and more specifically in connection with the federal government's relief effort during the Great Depression, when Works Progress Administration crews actually erected buildings and constructed other facilities on the fairgrounds.

Norman J. Colman, the first Fair Board president, may have expressed the "betterment-of-society" view as well as anyone. Like other proponents, Colman thought that first-hand exposure to Missouri's many resources within the context of a state fair would have immense value in instructing and enlightening fair patrons. In a statement printed in the Sedalia Evening Sentinel, he elaborated on his view of the fair's significance as a society-serving institution:

The public in general and the farming element in particular are educated

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fully as much, if not more, by means of the eye than by books and papers. When they come to see the superior products of soil and hand and brain that such as fair as the Missouri State Fair has brought together, ambition and emulation are aroused within them and the result is of incalculable benefit to their respective communities and to the state at large . . . I consider this fair one of the very greatest educational institutions of the state. Few of our people, even amongst our school teachers, have an adequate idea of the vast resources of our imperial state. It is intended that at the State Fair the best products of the commonwealth shall be brought together, properly classified, so that all may see and learn that which cannot be found in charts and books.<sup>39</sup>

Thus in Colman's view the state fair was, in effect, a kind of school. But best of all, according to other advocates, it allowed people from various walks of life to gather and expand their awareness; "consciousness raising." Or as future U.S. Senator Harry B. Hawes told a state fair audience in 1926, "The State Fair.....changes the viewpoint; stimulates the imagination. It brings to each class a new understanding of the vital problems confronting each."<sup>40</sup>

During the 1930s, the Missouri State Fairgrounds became a work site for one of the Roosevelt Administration's most effective federal relief efforts, the Works Progress Administration. From 1936-38, WPA crews completed several improvements in three phases including the half-mile racetrack (#41), the stage-dressing room (#45), the largest extant speed barn (#114), numerous permanent concession buildings, additional concrete walkways, restrooms, additions to the water system, additions to and rehabilitation of the sewage disposal systems, renovation of the Varied Industries Building and bubble-cup drinking fountains. These and other WPA projects on the fairgrounds were valued at \$253,240.<sup>41</sup>

The WPA was only one aspect of the New Deal's program to alleviate unemployment and help needy Americans during the Great Depression, but it changed many landscapes in the process and directly links the Missouri State Fairgrounds with a highly specific effort to promote the welfare of society.

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION SIGNIFICANCE:

The Missouri State Fairgrounds Historic District is significant in the area of Entertainment/Recreation because these aspects, although deemphasized at the start, gradually gained importance and eventually became institutionalized, attracting huge numbers of visitors to the fairgrounds although they may have

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had little or no interest in agriculture. Entertainment itself became a goal, a reason in itself for attending the fair.

Certainly a good, clean, educational fair with an agricultural emphasis and with the state's many resources on display (as had been envisioned by Colman and other founders) was achieved when the first fair opened in 1901. Entertainment per se was not part of the original plan and carnival rides, for example, were not allowed on the grounds for the very early fairs. For entertainment there was horse racing, automobile demonstrations and races, balloon ascensions and that old staple, people-watching; just being on the fairgrounds was an attractive way to pass time. And although curiosities such as Ella Ewing ("the tallest living person in the world") were sought as "outdoor attractions" as early as 1903, the directors insisted that the Missouri State Fair offer only what they perceived as wholesome, educational exhibits and entertainment.<sup>42</sup>

There was no midway at the early fairs, but in downtown Sedalia the Elks' Electric Carnival featured among other things Arabian dancers, trapeze artists, sword fights, vaudeville acts, glass blowing demonstrations, a 750-pound man, a snake eater and, of course, carnival rides.<sup>43</sup> Although many daytime visitors to the fairgrounds checked out the carnival attractions at night, the directors considered it their duty to protect the public against the "fraud, immorality and vice that frequently follow the gathering of a large concourse of people." No gambling devices were permitted on the grounds and no alcoholic beverages were sold.<sup>44</sup> Even when a beer booth was erected outside the fence, Pettis County refused to grant a license on the ground that it violated the spirit of the State Fair Act; lawmen closed it down.<sup>45</sup> Several fairs were history before Sunday became part of Fair Week, and even then amusements on that day were toned down at the request of clergymen.<sup>46</sup>

But it was obvious that more people would pay to enter the fairgrounds if the entertainment aspects were developed. Not only did the demand exist; the prospect of additional revenue was always attractive to the directors who were frequently expected to satisfy more needs than funds would permit. Eventually, the entertainment function of the fair was acknowledged, with entertainment per se increasingly challenging the educational aspects; even farmers liked to unwind. After a few years, the carnival was on the fairgrounds instead of downtown for better or worse and by the 1920s, if not sooner, a specific midway area (#91) had been designated.<sup>47</sup>

Clearly, promotion of the Missouri State Fair as entertainment helped sustain its appeal and make it a popular success. In addition, research conceivably would show that without the annual exposure in a fairgrounds setting, such crowd-dependent sports as harness racing (for example) might have faded. Even if this is not true, there can be no doubt that continued exposure such as a

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state fair can provide has enhanced many forms of recreation, and the Missouri State Fair--with annual crowds that currently exceed 340,000--has been a major contributor.

SUMMARY

The Missouri State Fairgrounds Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criteria A and C and is significant in the areas of Agriculture, Architecture, Social History and Entertainment/Recreation. The 66 contributing resources are associated with the development and growth of Missouri's first and only permanent state fairgrounds, at Sedalia. By providing farmers and stockmen with a competitive forum for the display of their finest produce and livestock, and by encouraging better farming methods through displays and the dissemination of information, the Missouri State Fair has contributed to the development of agriculture within a multistate region. The contributing buildings exemplify early 20th century fairground architecture as well as later buildings erected during the focus period, 1901-41. Several older buildings are linked by their Missionesque (with a suggestion of Romanesque Revival) architecture, an ensemble effect which provides strong unity within the district. Society would benefit, the founders reasoned, because the fairgoing populace would be enlightened and educated by exposure to the products and achievements of Missourians. The Works Progress Administration, one of the Roosevelt Administration's experiments in survival during the Great Depression, participated in fairground development from 1936-38. The Missouri State Fair also functions as an important recreational outlet, with specific entertainments reinforced in the public mind by their annual occurrence. But although the focus has shifted somewhat since the early fairs, with the entertainment aspect mushrooming, the emphasis remains on agriculture. The entire fairground has continually evolved and remains a dynamic, vital element of Missouri agriculture. The Missouri State Fairgrounds Historic District contains the original acreage plus land added as the fair expanded during its first four decades. The district contains all of the major historic buildings within an appropriate setting.

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND: SELECTED CHRONOLOGY OF FAIRS, 1901-41

The first Missouri State Fair opened on Monday, Sept. 9, 1901--three days after President William McKinley was critically wounded by an assassin's bullet. Missouri had been drought-stricken all summer but it rained on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of fair week (the first three days), turning unchatted walkways into quagmires. Due to labor problems in the steel industry, only a temporary wooden grandstand could be completed; several

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racing events were rained out in any case. The President's uncertain condition (although at first it seemed that he would recover) may have dampened the festivities as much as the weather, but it could have been much worse: The fair ended shortly before McKinley succumbed. Despite these and other adversities, however, the first fair was at least a modest success. Paid admissions totaled over 17,000, providing \$8,249 in gate receipts. While the fair apparently failed to "make money," no deficit was reported.<sup>48</sup>

As reconstructed from various sources, the first fair's physical plant consisted of the following buildings and structures: an administration building, a sheep barn (the largest of the original buildings), five cattle and horse barns (two of which were appropriated for agricultural, horticultural, mineral, textile and art exhibits), 11 speed barns, a mile racetrack, a temporary grandstand, three large show tents for cattle, a custodian's cottage, tents housing implement displays, curiosity shows, food booths and restrooms. Unloading platforms and depots were constructed along the south and east edges of the fairgrounds by the Missouri Pacific and Katy Railroads. A wire mesh fence enclosed the grounds. There was a network of roads and walkways, some graveled and some not. The 1901 fairgrounds was described as "treeless," and indeed no trees are visible in photo views of the early buildings; the trees on Kessler's "bird's-eye view" are mainly concentrated in the northwestern part of the fairgrounds, away from the buildings.<sup>49</sup> Of the 1901 buildings, only six of the 11 speed barns (#108-#113) are extant.

Norman J. Colman, president of the Fair Board, told the Sedalia Evening Sentinel that he was pleased with the outcome of the first fair considering the limited facilities, small appropriation (\$50,000) and insufficient time to properly develop the grounds. He said the first fair's modest success "goes far to show what the enterprise is capable of becoming and indicates what we may expect of future fairs, with liberal support and proper management."<sup>50</sup> Colman said that a poultry building, a fine arts hall, a textile hall, an agricultural building and a fruit hall were next in line for construction "as soon as funds will permit"<sup>51</sup> Also needed, it was reported, was a livestock pavilion for an arena-type display of cattle and draft, coach, saddle and carriage horses.<sup>52</sup> Some of these proposed buildings would be erected for the 1903 fair, under a new appropriation. Probably, Bast already had prepared the blueprints.

Visitors to the second state fair, in 1902, found two important improvements but no major new buildings. What they found was the initial section of the steel grandstand that could not be completed in time for the first fair, and more than a thousand small shade trees that, in time, would contribute to a parklike atmosphere among some of the exposition buildings. Once again the fair showed a modest profit despite at least some rain each day, with both

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gate and total receipts up.<sup>53</sup>

Three major exposition buildings which are extant--the Commercial Building/Agricultural Building (#66), the FFA Building/Poultry Building (#56) and the Varied Industries Building/Horticultural Building (#70)--were constructed with funds appropriated for 1903-04. For the biennium, legislators awarded the Missouri State Fair \$75,028 (plus \$50,022 from the Breeders Fund).<sup>54</sup>

Although proponents of the Missouri State Fair argued that it would be self-supporting once fully developed, this was a miscalculation; state appropriations have continued down through the years in Missouri much as in other states. And when there was a demand for buildings that did not exist, the fact that some other states appropriated greater amounts than did Missouri was used to justify increased state support. Generally, appropriations have always financed construction projects. Apart from capital improvements, the Missouri State Fair today generates 85 per cent of its operating revenue.<sup>55</sup>

#### CONSTRUCTION OF THE PHYSICAL PLANT, 1904-39

After completion of the first red brick buildings on the fairgrounds in 1903, expansion of the physical plant would continue for the next several years. For 1904, two brick barns for show horses (Show Horse Barns #30 and #32) and a brick cattle barn (probably, Shorthorn Barn/Cattle Barn No. 1, #25) were the main additions to the fairgrounds. Two more brick barns were built in 1905 (Guernsey Barn/Cattle Barn, #12 and, probably, Hereford Barn/Cattle Barn, #22), along with the Missouri Building/Poultry Building (#71). Construction of the mammoth Coliseum/Livestock Pavilion (#18) also was started in 1905, with completion in time for the 1906 fair. All of these red brick barns were massive, rectangular structures with 12,000 square feet or more of floor space--smaller than the three brick exposition halls erected in 1903, but nonetheless impressive because of their size as well as their architecture. But the Coliseum, which instantly became the centerpiece of the fairgrounds, was in a class by itself.

The \$70,000 Coliseum was described as "an architectural beauty, perfect in arrangement and equipment and a monster in size."<sup>56</sup> It was "a vast...but artistic pile of stone, concrete, brick, steel, tile and glass that covers more than an acre of ground, has a tan bark show arena 125 x 175 feet, and balconied seats for 9,000 people, with all of the modern accessories of offices, committee rooms, toilets, wire and press facilities, with acoustics so perfect that an ordinary rostrum tone of voice can be distinctly heard in the farthest corners."<sup>57</sup> Prior to construction of the present Swine Pavilion/Swine & Sheep Pavilion (#88) in 1922, the Coliseum was the largest

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building. Architecturally, it is truly impressive with its arcaded sides, two-tiered portico and formal classic treatment of the upper level.

Also by 1906, the first swine & sheep pavilion had been constructed and there were several miles of macadamized driveways and concrete walks. In addition to the previously mentioned buildings, there was an agricultural implement building, an administration building with hospital facilities, and a fire department building; none of these is extant. The first steel grandstand was completed earlier (it was built in sections) and provided seating for 15,000.<sup>58</sup> It is also gone, replaced by the present grandstand.

Over the years, several buildings have been renamed--usually to reflect a new usage. In the most extreme case, the FFA Building/Poultry Building (#56) has had four incarnations. Constructed as the Poultry Building in 1903, it became the Dairy Building upon completion of a new and larger Poultry Building (the Missouri Building/Poultry Building (#71) in 1905. During the 1920s, the original Poultry Building (#56) became the University Building--which it remained until several years after World War Two when it was designated as the FFA Building. Most of the name changes are charted in Table 2: "Evolution of Selected Missouri State Fairgrounds Building Names, 1901-35."

For 1907, three new brick barns appear to have been the only significant additions: two for cattle (Aberdeen Angus Barn/Cattle Barn-West, #10, probably, and Jersey Barn/Cattle Barn-East, #14) and one for mules (Mule Barn, #20). Like the earlier brick barns, these buildings are individually unique while sharing numerous elements. In 1909, the Poultry & Rabbit Building/Machinery Building (#83) was erected without a roof, awnings being installed at fairtime. Also that year, the Home Economics Building/John Deere Building (#67) was erected by the John Deere Co., for display of horseless carriages, buggies, wagons, gasoline engines and farm implements. Twenty acres were added along the eastern edge of the fairgrounds in 1909, to provide a public camping area known as White City (#103). Large crowds were attracted that year by the matchup of "the world's two fastest horses," and more space was needed. The famous pacers (Dan Patch and Minor Heir) failed to set a new world's record as anticipated but nearly 30,000 people are said to have watched them try.<sup>59</sup>

Only one major building was constructed in 1910, but it was architecturally impressive as well as socially significant. The Womans Building (#35), a tan brick Georgian Revival mansion of 2 1/2 stories, was intended to provide women with a homelike resting place on the fairgrounds while also segregating them as was customary during the period. Children were also accommodated: It contained a nursery and a playground. The Womans Building also housed art exhibits and served as a center for various cultural pursuits, for "to attain the best and to combine beauty with utility should be the lesson taught at the



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TABLE II:  
EVOLUTION OF SELECTED MISSOURI STATE FAIRGROUNDS BUILDING NAMES, 1901-1935

Yr. Builts	Name in 1901	Name in 1910	Name in 1917	Name in 1923	Name in 1932	Name in 1944	Name in 1991	Number
1901	Speed Horse Barns	Speed Horse Barns	Speed Horse Barns	Speed Horse Barns	Speed Horse Barns	Speed Horse Barns	Speed Horse Barns	108-113
1903	Agriculture Bldg.	Agriculture Bldg.	Agriculture Bldg.	Education Bldg.	Education Bldg.	Education Bldg.	Commercial Building	66
1903	Poultry Bldg.	Dairy Building	Dairy Building	University Bldg.	University Bldg.	University Bldg.	FFA Building	56
1903	Horticulture Bldg.	Horticulture Bldg.	Horticulture Bldg.	Varied Industries	Varied Industries	Varied Industries	Varied Industries	70
1904	-	Show Horse Barn	Show Horse Barn	Show Horse Barn	Show Horse Barn	Show Horse Barn	Show Horse Barn	30
1904	-	Show Horse Barn	Show Horse Barn	Show Horse Barn	Show Horse Barn	Show Horse Barn	Show Horse Barn	32
Ca. 1904	-	Cattle Barn No. 1	Shorthorn Barn	Shorthorn Barn	Shorthorn Barn	Shorthorn Barn	Shorthorn Barn	25
1905	-	Poultry Building	Poultry Building	Poultry Building	Missouri Building	Missouri Building	Missouri/4-H Bldg.	71
Ca. 1905	-	Cattle Barn	Guernsey Barn	Guernsey Barn	Guernsey Barn	Guernsey Barn	Guernsey Barn	12
Ca. 1905	-	Live Stock Pav.	Hereford Barn	Hereford Barn	Hereford Barn	Hereford Barn	Hereford Barn	22
1905-06	-	Cattle Barn - East	Live Stock Pav.	Live Stock Pav.	Live Stock Pav.	Colliseum	Colliseum	18
1907	-	Cattle Barn - West	Jersey Barn	Jersey Barn	Jersey Barn	Jersey Barn	Jersey Barn	14
Ca. 1907	-	Mule Barn	Aberdeen/Angus Barn	Aberdeen/Angus Barn	Aberdeen/Angus Barn	Aberdeen/Angus Barn	Aberdeen/Angus Barn	10
1907	-	Machinery Bldg.	4-H Cattle Barn	Mule & Jack Barn	Mule & Jack Barn	Mule, Jack, Jennet	Mule, Jack, Jennet Barn	20
1909	-	John Deere Bldg.	Machinery Bldg.	Missouri Building	Poultry Building	Poultry Building	Poultry & Rabbit Bldg.	83
1909	-	John Deere Bldg.	John Deere Bldg.	M.D. Smith Building	Home Econ. Bldg.	Home Econ. Bldg.	Home Econ. Bldg.	67
1910	-	Women's Building	Women's Building	Women's Building	Women's Building	Women's Building	Women's Building	35
1913	-	St. Fair Dining Hall	St. Fair Dining Hall	St. Fair Dining Hall	St. Fair Dining Hall	Boy Scout Mess Hall	Missouri Beef House	61
1913	-	St. Fr. Fire Station	St. Fr. Fire Station	St. Fr. Fire Station	St. Fr. Fire Station	St. Fr. Fire Station	Demonstration Kitchen	60
1922	-	-	Swine & Sheep Pav.	Swine & Sheep Pav.	Swine & Sheep Pav.	Swine & Sheep Pav.	Swine Pavilion	88
1926-27	-	-	Administration Bldg	Administration Bldg	Administration Bldg	Administration Bldg	Administration Bldg.	37
1926	-	-	Hoistein Barn	Hoistein Barn	Hoistein Barn	Hoistein Barn	Hoistein Barn	13
1929	-	-	Caulfield Bldg.	Caulfield Bldg.	Caulfield Bldg.	Caulfield Bldg.	Light Horse Barn	31
1929	-	-	Floriculture & Art	Fine Arts Building	Fine Arts Building	Fine Arts Building	Fine Arts Building	85
1934-35	-	-	Game & Fish Bldg.	Game & Fish Bldg.	Game & Fish Bldg.	Game & Fish Bldg.	Conservation Building	62

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state fair," as a Missouri Federation of Women's Clubs president told the Sedalia Sorosis Club in 1908.<sup>60</sup> The first "Woman's Building" erected on a U.S. fairground was constructed for the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. The local Womans Building bears no resemblance, but the styling was classical in each of these unique buildings.<sup>61</sup>

Also in 1910, an agent for aviation pioneers Wilbur and Orville Wright contracted with fair officials to send one of their "aeroplanes" on daily flights during the fair "at least once around the track and twenty feet above the ground." Once, pilot Clifford Turpin "with steady nerve and fearlessness, made a wild drive of the aeroplane, against a fast 45-horsepower automobile, making five miles (five laps around the track) at a speed of almost a mile a minute, covering the distance ahead of the automobile and making it in 5 minutes and 31 seconds."<sup>62</sup> This scene was probably repeated on fairground after fairground, since the Wright Brothers were trying to raise money and fairgoers were eager to be thrilled. Seeing such wonders could be considered educational, but entertainment was clearly the goal.

In effect, completion of the Womans Building in 1910 closed the first and most important phase of construction on the Missouri State Fairgrounds. Apparently, no major new buildings were constructed between 1910-22, when the present Swine Pavilion/Swine & Sheep Pavilion (#88) was built. The only surviving buildings from this 12-year period are two interesting but relatively small brick structures--the Missouri Beef House/State Fair Dining Hall (#61) and the former State Fair Fire Station (#60), both erected in 1913. Attendance also leveled off somewhat after the 1910 fair (the best attended fair of the decade), at least for a few years although of course the general trend was upward, peaking at 342,696 in 1990.<sup>63</sup>

In addition to the Swine Pavilion, extant buildings constructed during the 1920s include the Holstein Cattle Barn (#13) in 1926, the present Administration Building (#37) in 1926-27, the Light Horse Barn/Caulfield Building (#31) and the Fine Arts Building/Floriculture & Art Building (#85), apparently both in 1929. During the 1930s, the new buildings included the Conservation Pavilion/Fish & Game Building (62) in 1935, the Stage/Dressing Rooms (#45) in 1936 and a new speed horse barn (#114) in 1937, the latter two buildings among the products of the WPA. In 1939, the Missouri State Fairgrounds acquired the present Main Entrance (#1).

Throughout the period of significance, 1901-41, the Missouri State Fair never skipped a year, even during the Great Depression. (Because of World War Two, however, there was no fair in 1943-44.) While change is inevitable, the Missouri State Fair has continued to showcase Missouri's "best" in agriculture, thereby promoting the welfare of society and fulfilling the educational function envisioned by its founders, within what has become an

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historic setting. Entertainment per se has become a major focus but "entertainments," horse racing in particular, were always part of the appeal. The Missouri State Fairgrounds Historic District encompasses properties which as a group are sufficiently unaltered to evoke the appearance and ambience of the first four decades of this important, evolving midwestern state fair.

In addition to the selected areas of significance, additional research might substantiate additional areas of significance associated with the fairgrounds. From its inception, the state fair served as an annual focus for the creative, social, and entrepreneurial attention of Missourians. Although agriculture, entertainment, and social enlightenment were the primary concerns, other areas were inferred or may be appropriate for further study. Education, for example, was pursued primarily through agricultural demonstrations, exhibits, and competitions, or as a socially uplifting experience provided by attendance of and participation in the fair. Additional research might establish a more systematic or formal approach to training or instruction which would justify education as a separate area of significance. Further study might also demonstrate that the fair's espousal of decorative arts or encouragement of the participation of the state's diverse ethnic groups justified art or ethnic heritage, also, as areas of significance.

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<sup>1</sup>Fred Kniffen, "The American Agricultural Fair: Time and Place," in Annals of the American Association of American Geographers (March 1951), p. 43.

<sup>2</sup>Michael Koop, "Minnesota State Fair Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 1988.

<sup>3</sup>Edward J. Russo, "Illinois State Fairgrounds," National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 1990.

<sup>4</sup>Duane Meyer, The Heritage of Missouri: A History (St. Louis: State Publishing Company, 1963), p. 459.

<sup>5</sup>"Premium List, Rules & Regulations of the Sedalia Exposition Association," Sedalia, Missouri, 1880-1883.

<sup>6</sup>Sedalia Daily Capital, September 10, 1899. For a detailed, carefully researched and footnoted account of the development of the Missouri State Fair, see Mary K. Dains, "The Missouri State Fair: A Struggle to Begin," Missouri Historical Review 63 (October 1978): 23-53.

<sup>7</sup>Ibid., February 15, 1899.

<sup>8</sup>Ibid., October 12, 1899. But Sedalia's population never grew dramatically from this point. In 1900, Sedalia's population was 15,231. According to the 1990 census, it was only 19,800. The peak census year was 1960, when 23,874 residents were counted. Being the home of a state fair provides an area with an annual economic boost, but growth is not assured.

<sup>9</sup>Hazel Lang, Life in Pettis County, 1815-1973 (Sedalia, Missouri: The Sedalia Democrat Company, 1975), p. 788.

<sup>10</sup>State Board of Agriculture, Minutes, 1899-1905, June 3, 1899; and Sedalia Daily Capital, June 4, 1899. The decision to award the fair to Sedalia was made final on October 10, 1899.

<sup>11</sup>Ibid.

<sup>12</sup>Lon V. Stephens, Extract from Governor's Message to 41st General Assembly, in "Missouri State Fair: An Appeal from Industrial Interests," n.d. [c.1901], p. 22.

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- <sup>13</sup>State Board of Agriculture, op. cit.
- <sup>14</sup>Stephens, op. cit.
- <sup>15</sup>"Missouri State Fair: An Appeal from Industrial Interests," p. 4.
- <sup>16</sup>Sedalia Evening Democrat, March 5, 1901.
- <sup>17</sup>Sedalia Evening Sentinel, March 6, 13, 16, and 18, 1901.
- <sup>18</sup>Sedalia Evening Democrat, April 16, 1900.
- <sup>19</sup>Sedalia Evening Democrat, March 20, 1900.
- <sup>20</sup>State Board of Agriculture, Minutes, May 30, and August 10, 1900.
- <sup>21</sup>Sedalia Evening Democrat, April 17, 1900.
- <sup>22</sup>"Missouri State Fair: Reprint of the Disinterested Comment of Agricultural and Livestock Journals" (Sedalia: n.d. [c.1901]), p. 16.
- <sup>23</sup>Sedalia Sunday Democrat, August 26, 1900.
- <sup>24</sup>The Sedalia Evening Sentinel of September 9, 1910, printed a "bird's-eye" view of the Missouri State Fairgrounds. A similar drawing appears on the cover of "Missouri State Fair: An Appeal from Industrial Interests," n.d. [c.1901]. The views depicting how the fairgrounds might look when developed were prepared by landscape architect George E. Kessler.
- <sup>25</sup>Interview with Mrs. T.H. Bast, a daughter-in-law of architect Thomas W. Bast; Hazel Lang, "The History of Stonyridge Castle," in Sedalia Democrat, May 14, 1961; John Albury Bryan, ed., Missouri's Contribution to American Architecture (St. Louis: Shelly Printing Company, 1928), p. 525; and Sedalia Democrat, November 20, 1933. For several years, beginning with the first fair, Bast also was in charge of concessions!
- <sup>26</sup>The Portrait and Biographical Record of Johnson and Pettis Counties (Chicago: Chapman Publishing Company, 1895), pp. 655-656.
- <sup>27</sup>State Fair Board, "Minutes of Committee Meetings for Selection of Architect and Building Race Track," October 24, 1921.
- <sup>28</sup>Sedalia Democrat, November 20, 1933.
- <sup>29</sup>Sedalia Evening Democrat, September 11, 1900.

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<sup>30</sup>Contract awards are contained in the Board Minutes and they were also reported by the Sedalia press. The Sedalia Daily Capital, on April 16, 1903, reported that John Colaflower and the Dean Brothers were contractors on the Horticultural Building (the Varied Industries Building, #70), but this information apparently was not in the Minutes. Since both Colaflower and the Deans were prolific contractors in Sedalia, it is reasonable to assume that they worked on other brick buildings on the fairgrounds, as subcontractors.

<sup>31</sup>Sedalia Daily Capital, April 25, 1903; and Sedalia Evening Sentinel, June 5, 1903.

<sup>32</sup>Sedalia Evening Sentinel, September 21 and 22, 1903.

<sup>33</sup>"History of the Missouri State Fair," [six page handout periodically updated by the Missouri State Fair Publicity Office], 1990.

<sup>34</sup>Sedalia Democrat, September 15 and 20, 1901; and interview with Roger Alewel, Missouri State Fair Director, December 1990. The attendance growth line shows a few flat spots and valleys.

<sup>35</sup>Meyer, op. cit.

<sup>36</sup>Drovers Journal, September 12, 1901.

<sup>37</sup>State Board of Agriculture, Minutes, 1899-1905, December 19, 1905.

<sup>38</sup>Ibid., December 18, 1906.

<sup>39</sup>Sedalia Evening Sentinel, September 13, 1901.

<sup>40</sup>Sedalia Democrat, August 17, 1926.

<sup>41</sup>"History of the Missouri State Fair," op. cit.

<sup>42</sup>Sedalia Evening Sentinel, July 1, 1903. Ella was said to be 8'4" tall.

<sup>43</sup>Ibid., September 6, 1901.

<sup>44</sup>Sedalia Daily Capital, July 10, 1902.

<sup>45</sup>Sedalia Evening Sentinel, September 10, 1901.

<sup>46</sup>Ibid., March 28, 1906.

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<sup>47</sup>Sedalia Democrat-Sentinel, October 6, 1901. A carnival was on the fairgrounds at least as early as 1909. That year, Patterson's Carnival Company provided the rides.

<sup>48</sup>Sedalia Democrat, September 15 and 20, 1901.

<sup>49</sup>"Missouri State Fair Biennial Report, 1901-1902," pp. 4-5; "Missouri State Fair: Reprint of the Disinterested Comment," pp. 15-17; and "Missouri's Million and One-Half Dollar State Fair Plant," in The Bulletin 4 (February 1944).

<sup>50</sup>Sedalia Evening Sentinel, September 13, 1901.

<sup>51</sup>Ibid.

<sup>52</sup>"Missouri State Fair Biennial Report, 1901-1902," p. 6.

<sup>53</sup>Sedalia Daily Capital, August 11-23, 1902.

<sup>54</sup>"Missouri State Fair Biennial Report, 1917-1918," pp. 32-33.

<sup>55</sup>Interview with Roger Alewel.

<sup>56</sup>Missouri Ruralist, reprinted in Sedalia Democrat, June 17, 1906.

<sup>57</sup>Sedalia Sentinel, September 16, 1906.

<sup>58</sup>Ibid.

<sup>59</sup>Sedalia Democrat-Sentinel, October 3-4, 1909.

<sup>60</sup>Ibid., May 20, 1908.

<sup>61</sup>Karen Grace, "The Womans Building at the Missouri State Fair," Ozarks Watch 4 (Fall 1990): 27-28; Sedalia Democrat-Sentinel, May 10, 1908; and Missouri Ruralist, October 12, 1912.

<sup>62</sup>Missouri State Fair Board of Directors, Minutes, May 12, 1910; and Sedalia Democrat-Sentinel, October 7, 1910.

<sup>63</sup>"1990 Missouri State Fair Highlights" [Missouri State Fair publicity handout].

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UTM References:

E. 15 477400e 4282380n  
F. 15 477000e 4282400n  
G. 15 477000e 4282780n  
H. 15 477400e 4282760n

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary of the Missouri State Fairgrounds Historic District is shown as the heavy dashed line on the accompanying map entitled "Missouri State Fairgrounds Historic District, Sedalia, Missouri." More specifically: Beginning at the southwest corner of the intersection of West 16th Street and Missouri Street, at Gate No. 4, (Point A on Site Map), proceed eastward along the right-of-way of West 16th Street to the intersection of U.S. Route 65 /South Limit Avenue (Point B); then continue southward along the highway right-of-way to the north side of the entrance road at Gate No. 11 (Point C); then continue southwesterly along the north edge of an unnamed fairgrounds road past the south end of the one-mile racetrack and around the curve (Point D) into Missouri Street to the north edge of Elm Avenue (Point E); then continue westward to the east edge of Clarendon Road (Point F); then continue northward along the right-of-way of the east side of Clarendon Road to the south edge of an unnamed road which enters the fairgrounds at Gate No. 6 (Point G); then continues eastward to the east edge of Missouri Street (Point H); then continues northward along the right-of-way of the east side of Missouri Street to the point of origin.

Boundary Justification;

Boundaries of the Missouri State Fairgrounds Historic District are consistent with those of the original fairgrounds plus selected additions through the early 1920s. The approximately 215-acre district contains all of the major extant buildings, structures and sites that have historically been associated with the fairgrounds through 1941. Although the western "wing" of the district contains a high proportion of noncontributing properties, the massive Swine Pavilion/Swine & Sheep Pavilion (#88) is within this acreage and is an important resource, particularly for its architecture. Drawing boundaries around this portion of the fairgrounds also permits inclusion of historic sites for the midway (#91) and for the machinery exhibition area (#99). The mammoth new Exhibition Center, while noncontributing, is nonetheless a focal point and a logical evolutionary development within the fairgrounds complex. The other noncontributing properties within this portion of the district (primarily demonstration buildings) are of a much smaller scale and relatively isolated.

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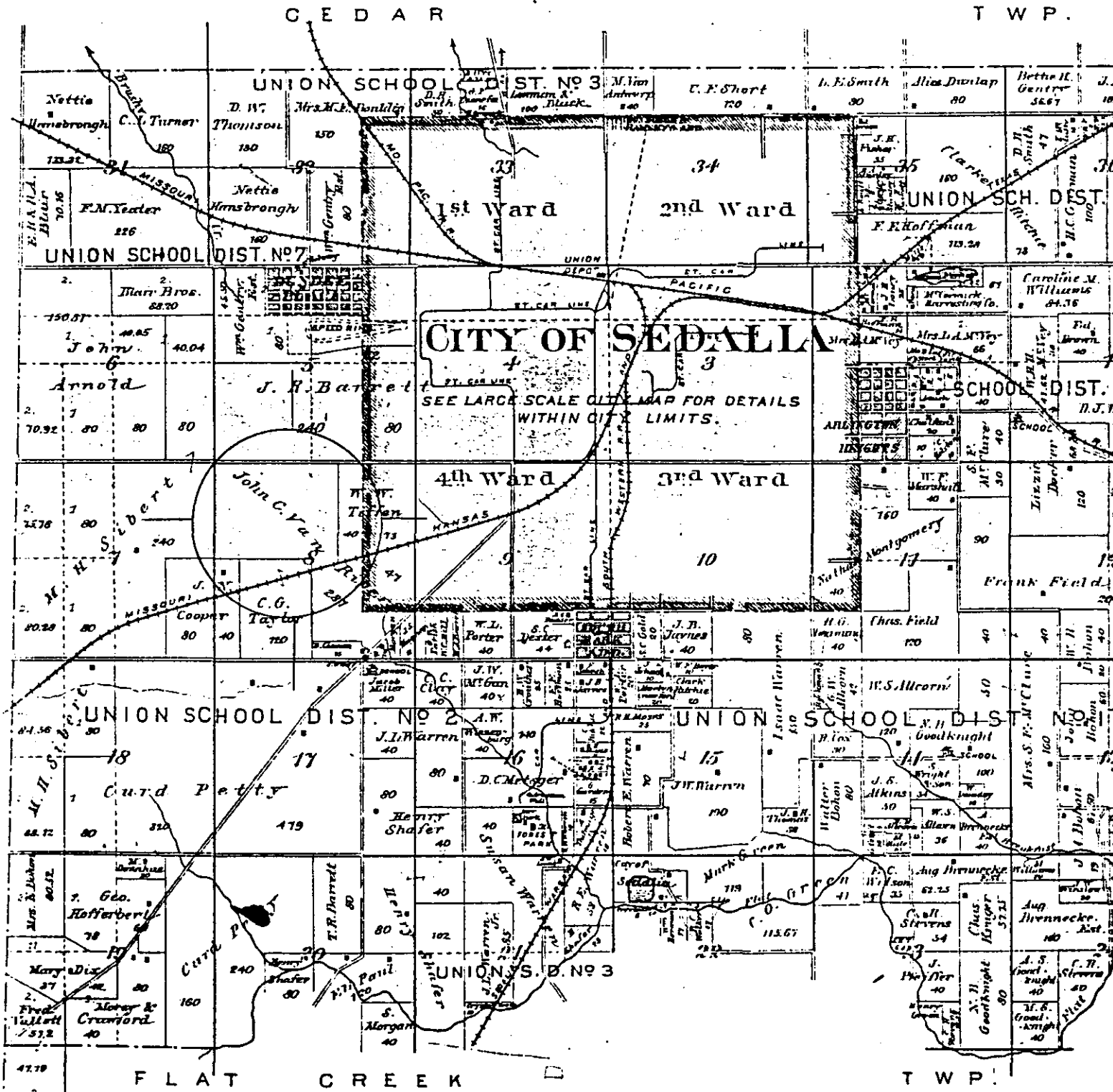
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Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102  
Phone: 314/751-5368  
Date: April 26, 1991

# SEDALLA

Scale 2 Inches to the Mile.

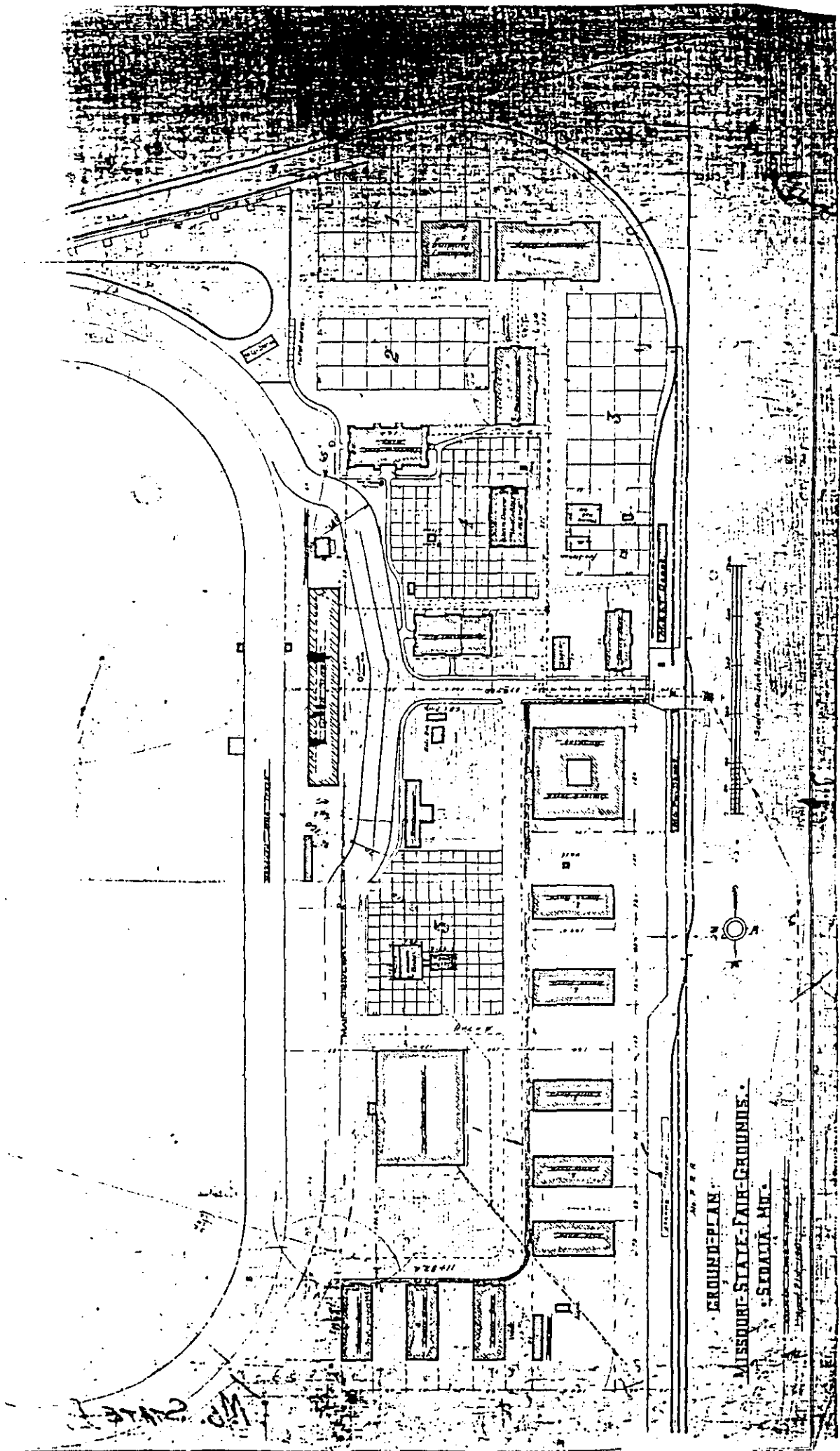
Townships 45 & 46 North. Range 21 West.

of the 5th Principal



Site prior to development of Missouri State Fairgrounds (circled)

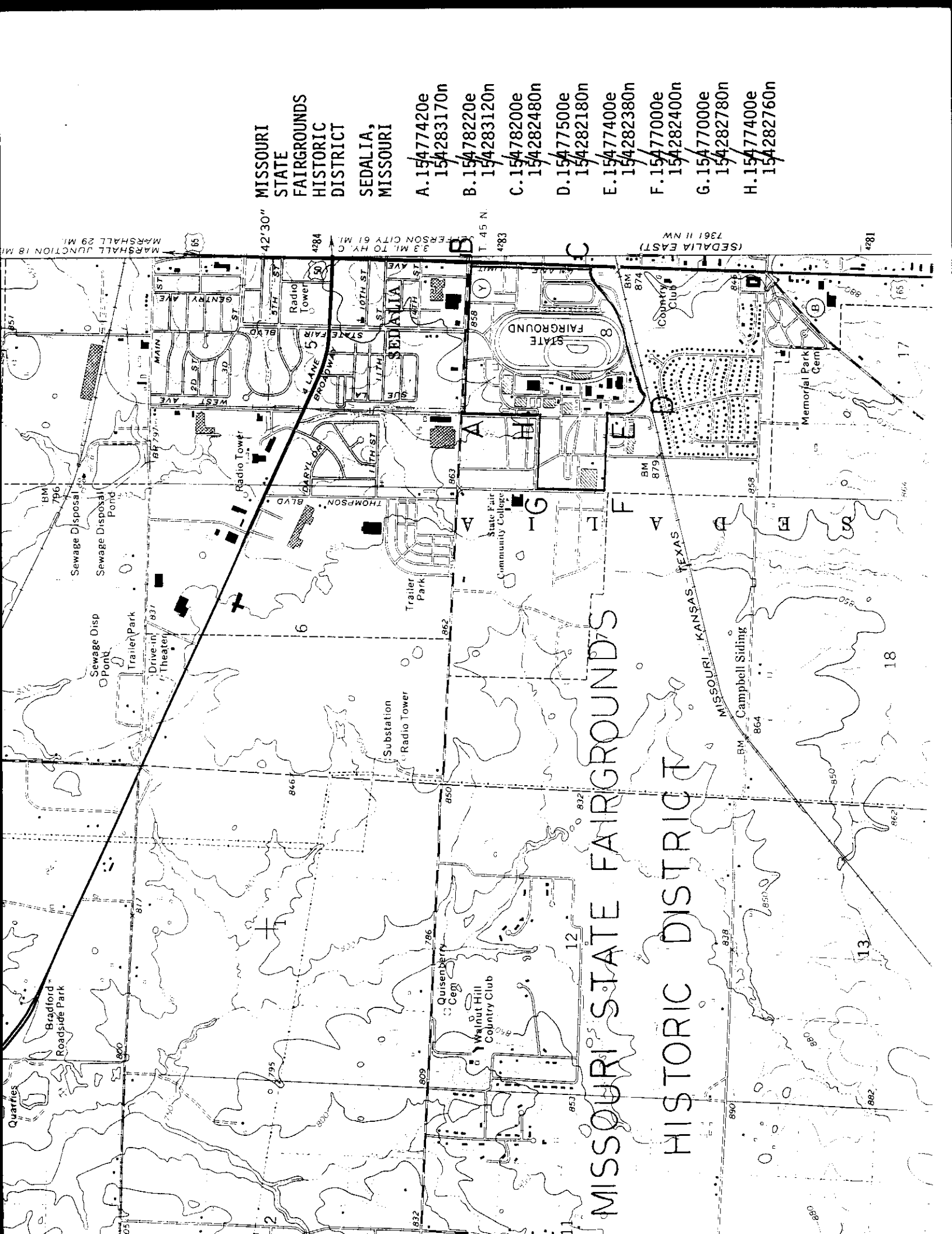
Map Source: 1896 Pettis County Atlas



GROUNDEPLAN  
 MISSOURI STATE FAIR-GROUNDS  
 SEDALIA, MO.

Ground Plan, Missouri State Fairgrounds, Sedalia, Missouri (1910)

(East portion of Fairgrounds not shown)



MISSOURI  
STATE  
FAIRGROUNDS  
HISTORIC  
DISTRICT  
SEDALIA,  
MISSOURI

- A. 15477420e  
154283170n
- B. 15478220e  
154283120n
- C. 15478200e  
154282480n
- D. 15477500e  
154282180n
- E. 15477400e  
154282380n
- F. 15477000e  
154282400n
- G. 15477000e  
154282780n
- H. 15477400e  
154282760n

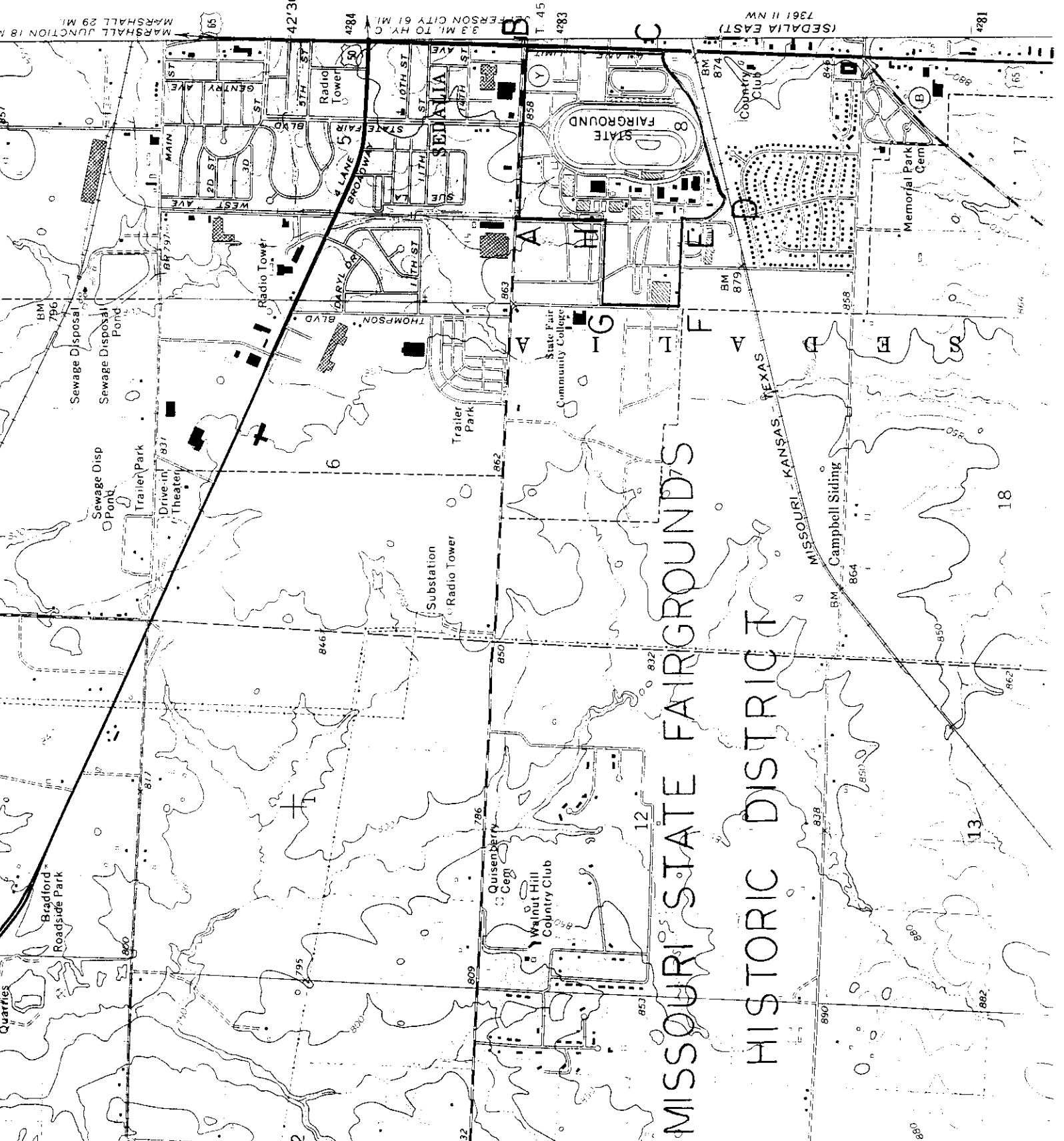
MISSOURI STATE FAIRGROUNDS  
HISTORIC DISTRICT

MARSHALL JUNCTION 18 MI.  
MARSHALL 29 MI.

3.3 MI. TO HY. C.  
PERSON CITY 61 MI.  
T. 45 N.  
4283

(SEDALIA EAST)  
7361 II NW

4281



Quarries

Bradford  
Roadside Park

Sewage Disp  
Pond

Trailer Park  
Drive in  
Theater

Radio Tower

Substation  
Radio Tower

Radio  
Tower

Quisenberry  
Cem.

Walnut Hill  
Country Club

State Fair  
Community College

Trailer Park

State Fairgrounds

Country Club

Memorial Park  
Cem.

MISSOURI-KANSAS-TEXAS

Campbell Siding

SEDALIA

SEDALIA EAST

SEDALIA

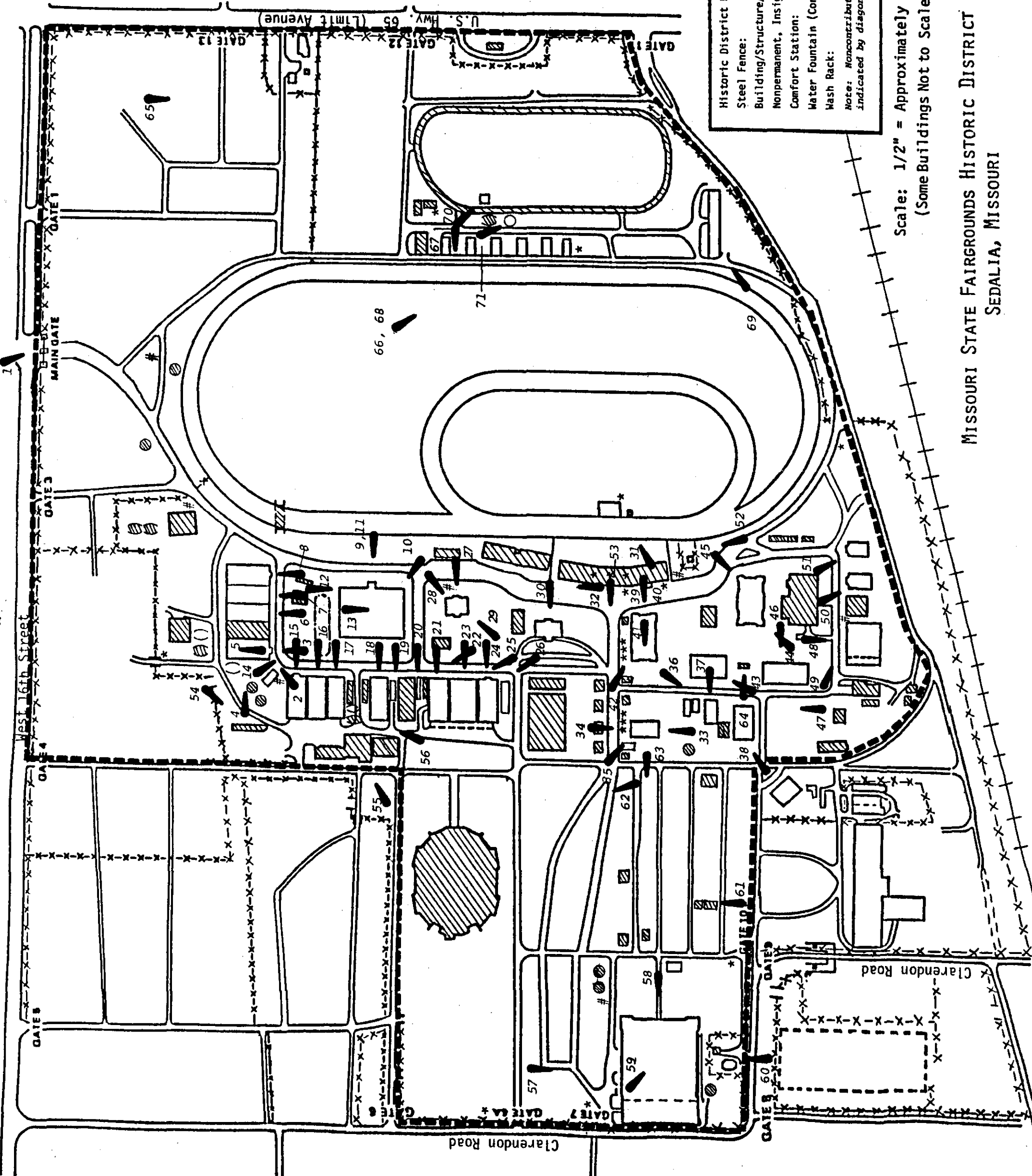
SEDALIA

SEDALIA

SEDALIA

SEDALIA

SEDALIA



Historic District Boundary: X-X-X-X

Steel Fence:

Building/Structure/Object:

Nonpermanent, Insignificant, Uncounted: \*

Comfort Station:

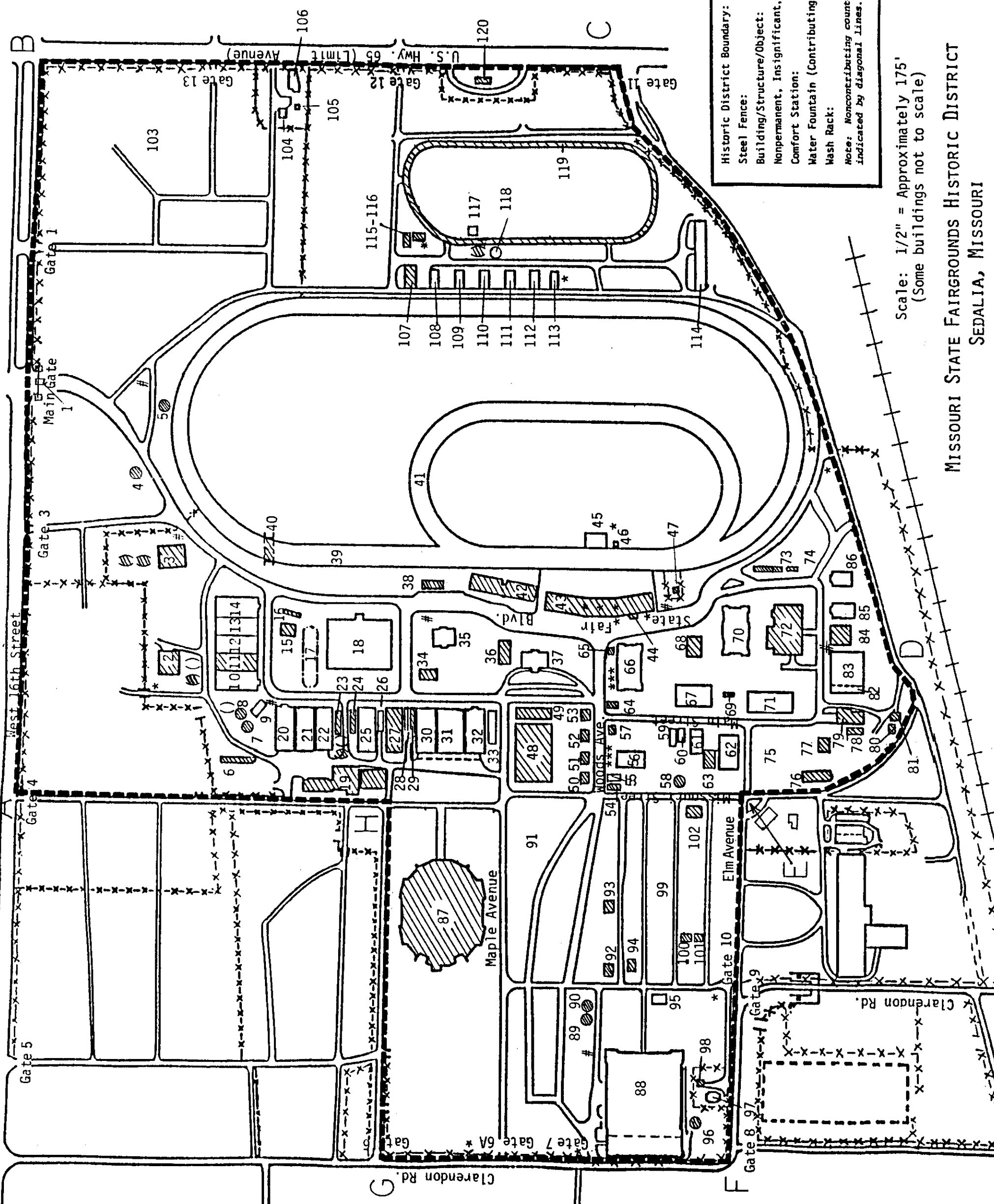
Water Fountain (Contributing): #

Wash Rack:

Note: Noncontributing counted properties are indicated by diagonal lines.

Scale: 1/2" = Approximately 175'  
(Some Buildings Not to Scale)

MISSOURI STATE FAIRGROUNDS HISTORIC DISTRICT  
SEDALIA, MISSOURI



Historic District Boundary: 
  
 Steel Fence: 
  
 Building/Structure/Object: 
  
 Nonpermanent, Insignificant, Uncounted: 
  
 Comfort Station: 
  
 Water Fountain (Contributing): 
  
 Wash Rack: 
  
 Note: Noncontributing counted properties are indicated by diagonal lines.

Scale: 1/2" = Approximately 175'  
(Some buildings not to scale)

MISSOURI STATE FAIRGROUNDS HISTORIC DISTRICT  
SEDALIA, MISSOURI



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Photographs Missouri State Fairgrounds Historic District Page 1

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PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information is the same for all photographs, unless otherwise noted:

Missouri State Fairgrounds Historic District  
Sedalia, Pettis County, Missouri  
Photographer: Roger Maserang  
Negatives: Show-Me Regional Planning Commission  
P.O. Box 348  
122 Hout Street  
Warrensburg, Missouri 64093

Main Gate  
January 1991  
Show-Me Regional Planning Commission  
Main Gate, facing SE  
1 of 71

Concession Building and south-facing cattle barns  
August 1990  
South facades, facing NE  
2 of 71

Aberdeen Angus Barn  
August 1990  
Main facade, facing north  
3 of 71

Aberdeen Angus Barn  
August 1990  
Side facade, facing east  
4 of 71

Aberdeen Angus Barn  
August 1990  
Typical cattle barn interior, facing north  
5 of 71

Guernsey Barn  
December 1990  
Main facade, facing north  
6 of 71

Holstein Barn

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Photographs Missouri State Fairgrounds Historic District Page 2

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August 1990  
Main facade, facing north  
7 of 71

Jersey Barn  
December 1990  
Main facade, facing north  
8 of 71

Coliseum  
October 1990  
Main facade, facing west  
9 of 71

Coliseum  
Photographer unknown (Photo courtesy State Historical Society of Missouri)  
Ca. 1906  
South and main (east) facades, facing NW  
10 of 71

Coliseum  
January 1991  
Portico, facing west  
11 of 71

Coliseum  
October 1990  
Northeast corner, facing south  
12 of 71

Coliseum  
August 1990  
Interior during 1990 fair, facing south  
13 of 71

Coliseum and Outdoor Warm-Up Ring  
October 1990  
North and west facades of Coliseum and outdoor warm-up ring, facing SE; WPA fountain in foreground  
14 of 71

Mule, Jack & Jennet Barn  
August 1990  
Main facade, facing west  
15 of 71

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Photographs Missouri State Fairgrounds Historic District Page 3

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FFA & 4-H Barn (Donnell Building)

August 1990

Main facade, facing west

16 of 71

Hereford Barn

August 1990

Main facade, facing west

17 of 71

Shorthorn Barn

August 1990

Main facade, facing west

18 of 71

Concession Building

August 1990

Main facade, facing west

19 of 71

Concession Building

August 1990

Main and north facades, facing SW

20 of 71

Show Horse Barn (Heavy Horses)

August 1990

Main facade, facing west

21 of 71

Show Horse Barn (Heavy Horses)

Photographer unknown (Photo courtesy State Historical Society of Missouri)

Ca. 1904

South and main (east) facades, facing NW

22 of 71

Show Horse Barn (Light Horses)

August 1990

Main facade, facing west

23 of 71

Show Horse Barn (Light Horses)

August 1990

Main facade, facing west

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Photographs Missouri State Fairgrounds Historic District Page 4

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24 of 71

Show Horse Barns

August 1990

Main facades of several horse barns, facing NW

25 of 71

Concession Building

August 1990

South and east facades, facing NW

26 of 71

Womans Building

October 1990

Main facade, facing west

27 of 71

Womans Building

Ca. 1910

Photographer unknown (Photo courtesy State Historical Society of Missouri)

28 of 71

Womans Building

August 1990

West and south facades, facing NE

29 of 71

Administration Building

December 1990

Main (east) facade, facing west

30 of 71

Mile Racetrack and Stage/Dressing Rooms

January 1991

View from grandstand, facing NE

31 of 71

State Fair Boulevard

August 1990

View from grandstand, facing north

32 of 71

FFA Building

August 1990

South facade, facing north

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

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33 of 71

FFA Building and Portable Concession Stands  
August 1990  
North facade, facing south  
34 of 71

FFA Building (Designated as Poultry Building in Photo)  
Ca. 1903  
Photographer unknown (Photo courtesy State Historical Society of Missouri)  
35 of 71

Main Street Grouping  
January 1991  
East facades of Missouri Beef House, Demonstration Kitchen and Anderson's  
Cafe, facing SW  
36 of 71

Missouri Beef House  
August 1990  
Main facade, facing west  
37 of 71

Conservation Building  
November 1990  
West and south facades, facing NE  
38 of 71

Commercial Building  
August 1990  
East facade, facing west  
39 of 71

Commercial Building  
August 1990  
East facade with roofline detail, facing west  
40 of 71

Commercial Building  
December 1990  
Interior detail, facing west  
41 of 71

Commercial Building (Designated as Textile & Art Building in Photo)  
Ca. 1910

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Photographs Missouri State Fairgrounds Historic District Page 6

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Photographer unknown (Photo courtesy State Historical Society of Missouri)  
42 of 71

Home Economics Building  
December 1990  
West and south facades, facing NE  
43 of 71

Varied Industries Building  
December 1990  
West and south facades, facing NE  
44 of 71

Varied Industries Building (Designated as Horticulture Building in Photo)  
Ca. 1910  
Photographer unknown (Photo courtesy State Historical Society of Missouri)  
45 of 71

Missouri Building/4-H Building  
August 1990  
East facade, facing west  
46 of 71

Highway Gardens  
December 1990  
Internal view, facing north  
47 of 71

Poultry & Rabbit Building  
August 1990  
North facade, facing south  
48 of 71

Poultry & Rabbit Building Annex and Other Buildings East  
December 1990  
North and west facades, facing SE  
49 of 71

Fine Arts Building  
August 1990  
North and west facades, facing SE  
50 of 71

Floriculture Building  
August 1990

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Photographs Missouri State Fairgrounds Historic District Page 7

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North and west facades, facing SE  
51 of 71

Bicentennial Log Cabin and Grandstand  
August 1990  
South facades, facing NNW  
52 of 71

Overview of Woods Avenue and Midway Area  
August 1990  
Facing west from Grandstand  
53 of 71

Draft Horse Barn  
August 1990  
East and north facades, facing SW  
54 of 71

Youth Building  
August 1990  
Main facade, facing northeast  
55 of 71

Shorthorn Barn & Other Barns (Rear Facades)  
October 1990  
Rear facades facing northeast  
56 of 71

Swine Pavilion  
August 1990  
North facade, facing south  
57 of 71

Swine Pavilion  
August 1990  
East entrance, facing west  
58 of 71

Swine Pavilion  
August 1990  
Interior detail, facing SE  
59 of 71

Groundskeeper's Residence  
August 1990

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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South facade, facing north  
60 of 71

Model Buildings  
October 1990  
South facades facing north  
61 of 71

Exhibition Center  
August 1990  
South facade facing NW  
62 of 71

Machinery Exhibition Area  
December 1990  
View from Missouri Street, facing west  
63 of 71

40 & 8 Boxcar  
October 1990  
West facade facing east  
64 of 71

White City Campground and Fair Director's Residence  
January 1991  
View from northeast corner of fairgrounds, facing south  
65 of 71

Speed Horse Barns  
December 1990  
North and west facades, facing SE  
66 of 71

Speed Horse Barns  
September 1990  
Facing west across mile racetrack  
67 of 71

Speed Horse Barns  
Ca. 1903  
Photographer unknown (Photo courtesy State Historical Society of Missouri)  
68 of 71

Speed Horse Barn S-12  
September 1990



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Section number Photographs Missouri State Fairgrounds Historic District Page 9

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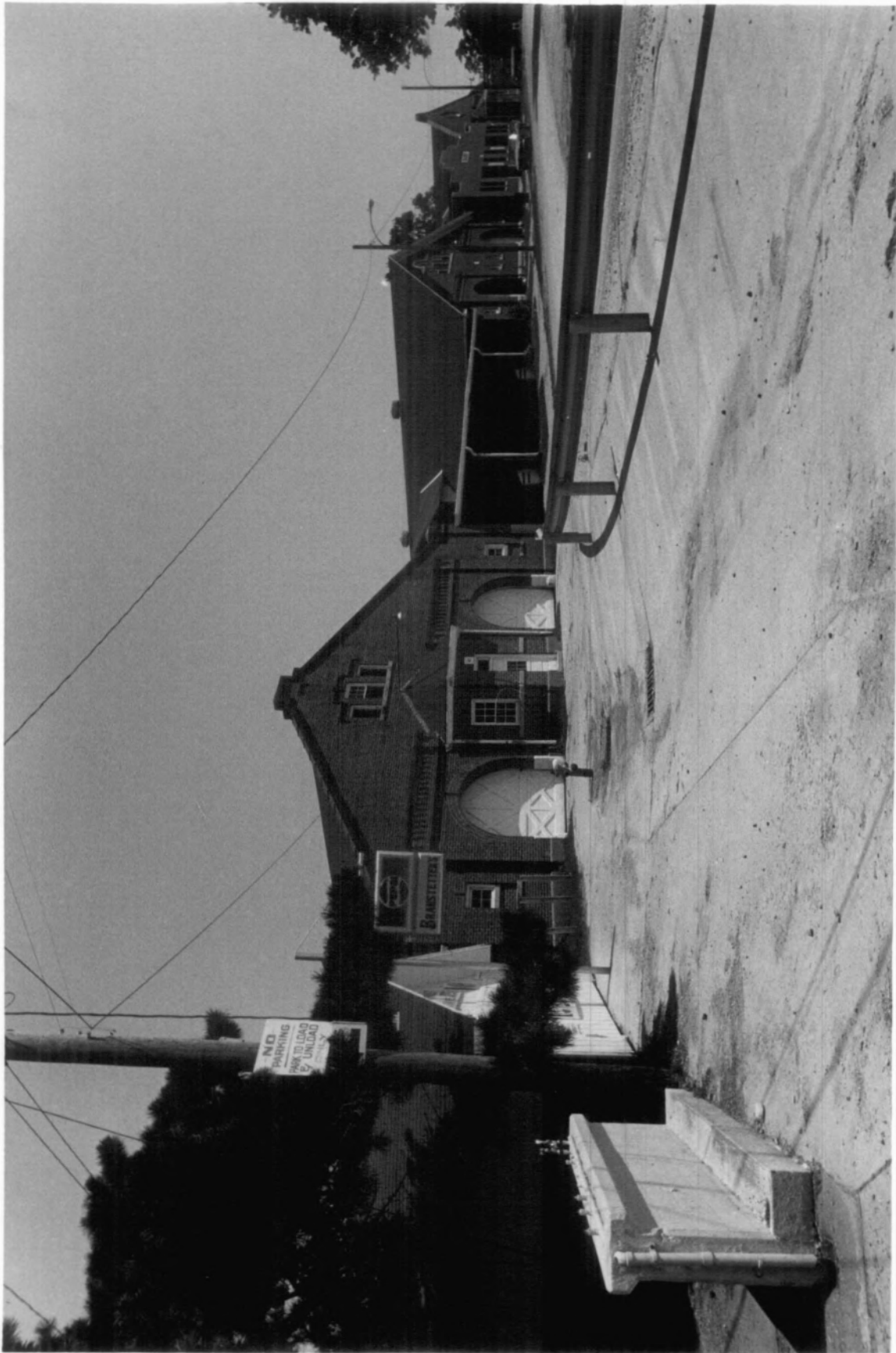
West and south facades, facing NE  
69 of 71

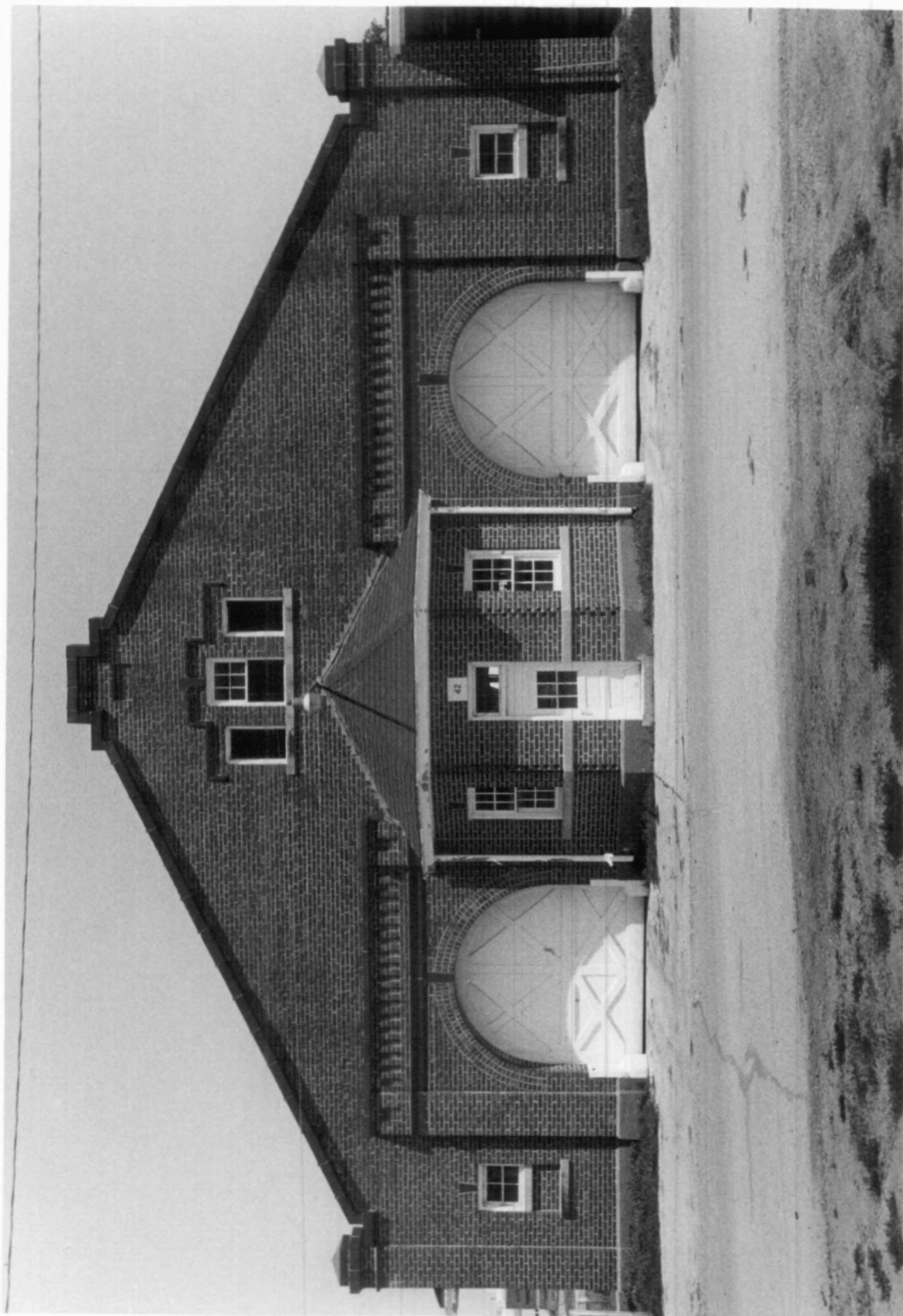
Concession Building  
September 1990  
North and west facades, facing SE  
70 of 71

Comfort Station  
September 1990  
North and west facades, facing SE  
71 of 71

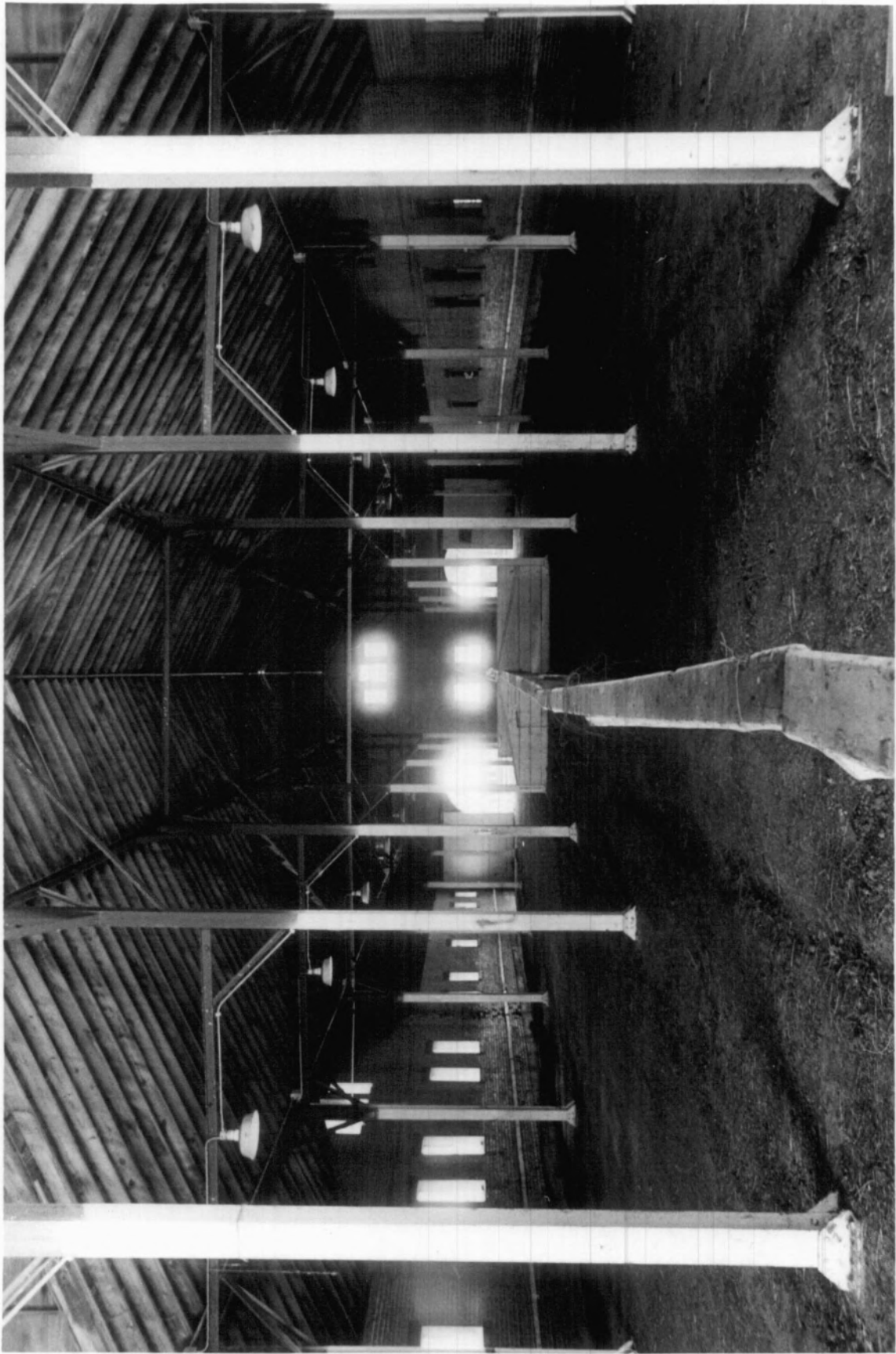
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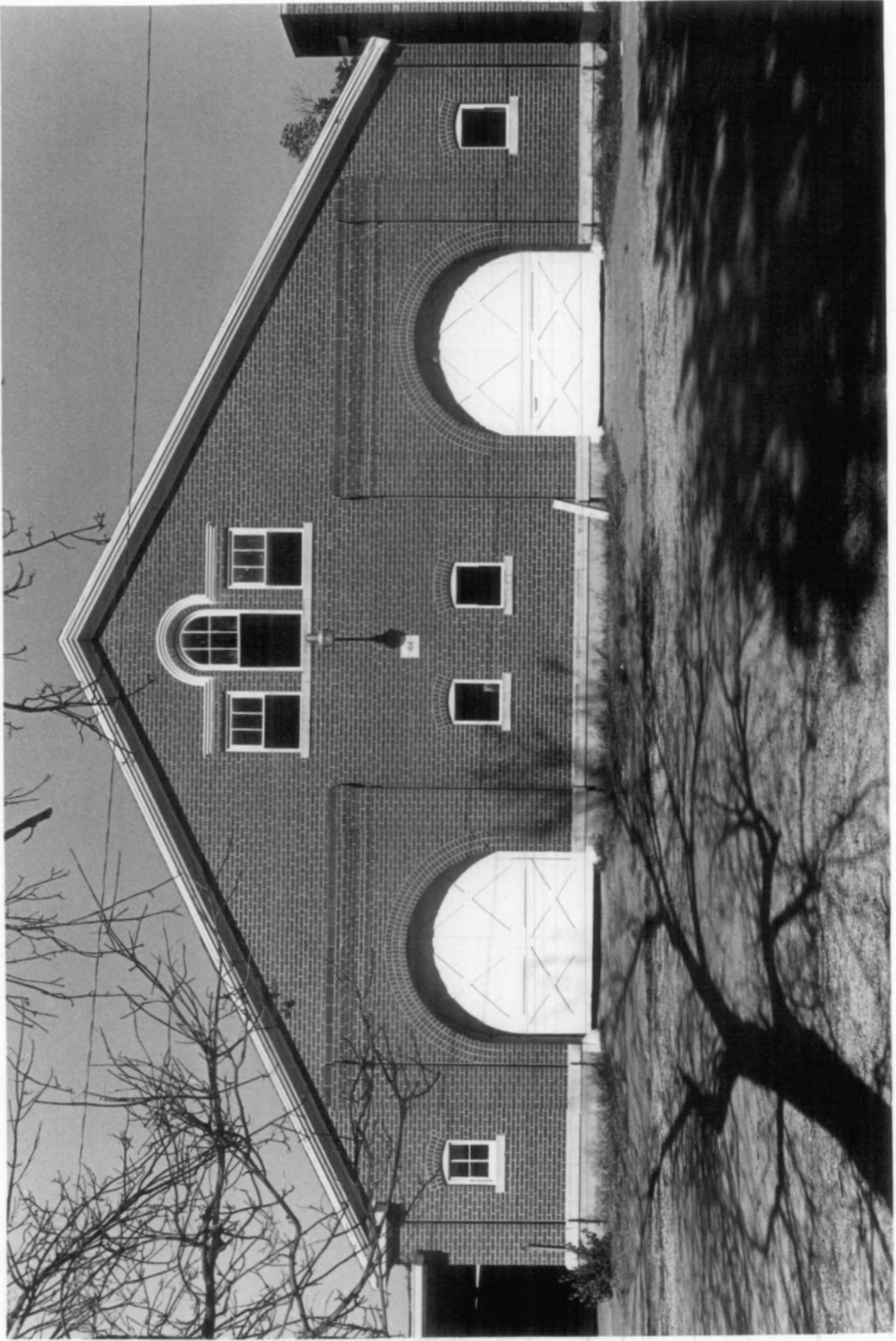










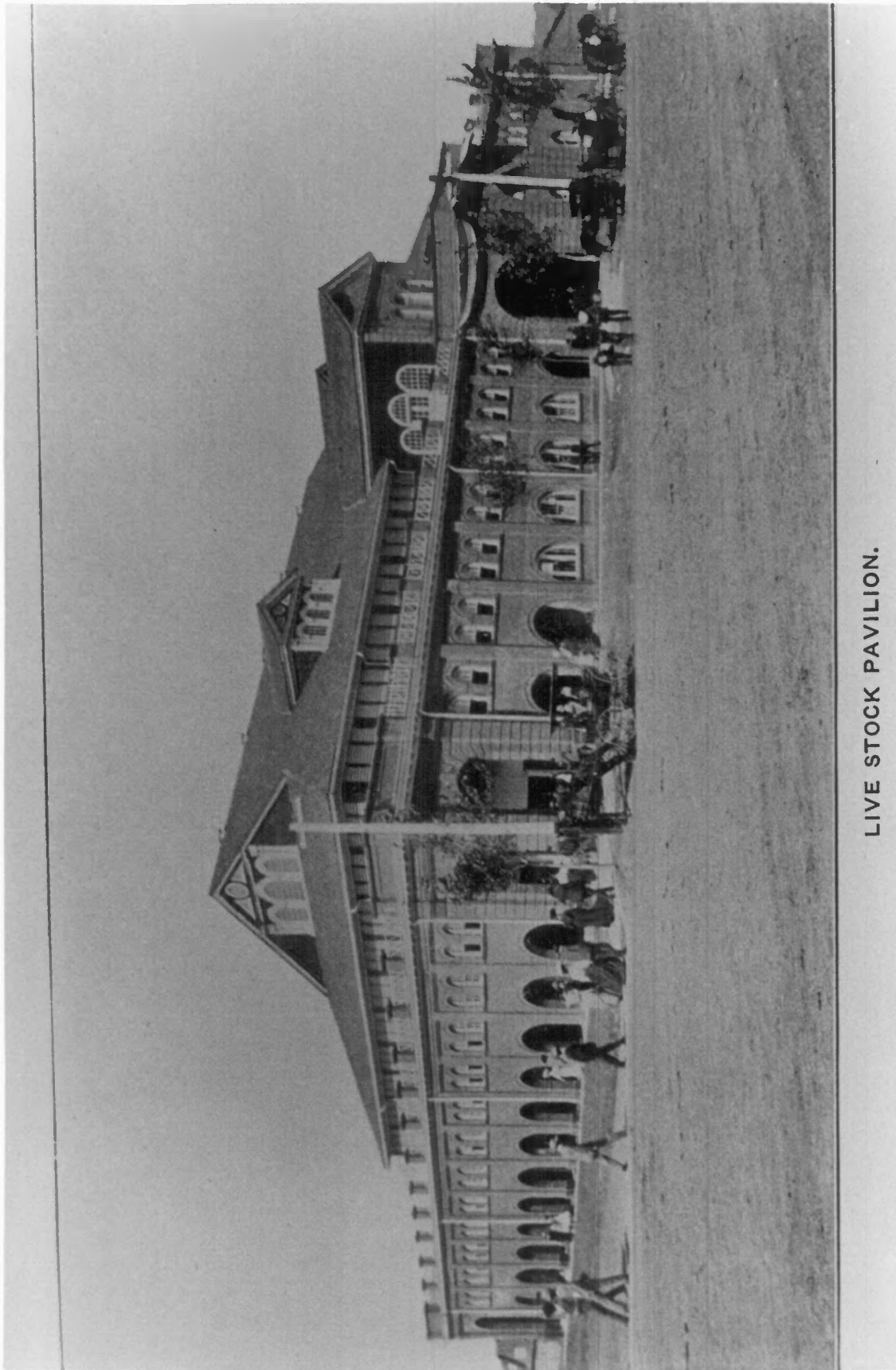








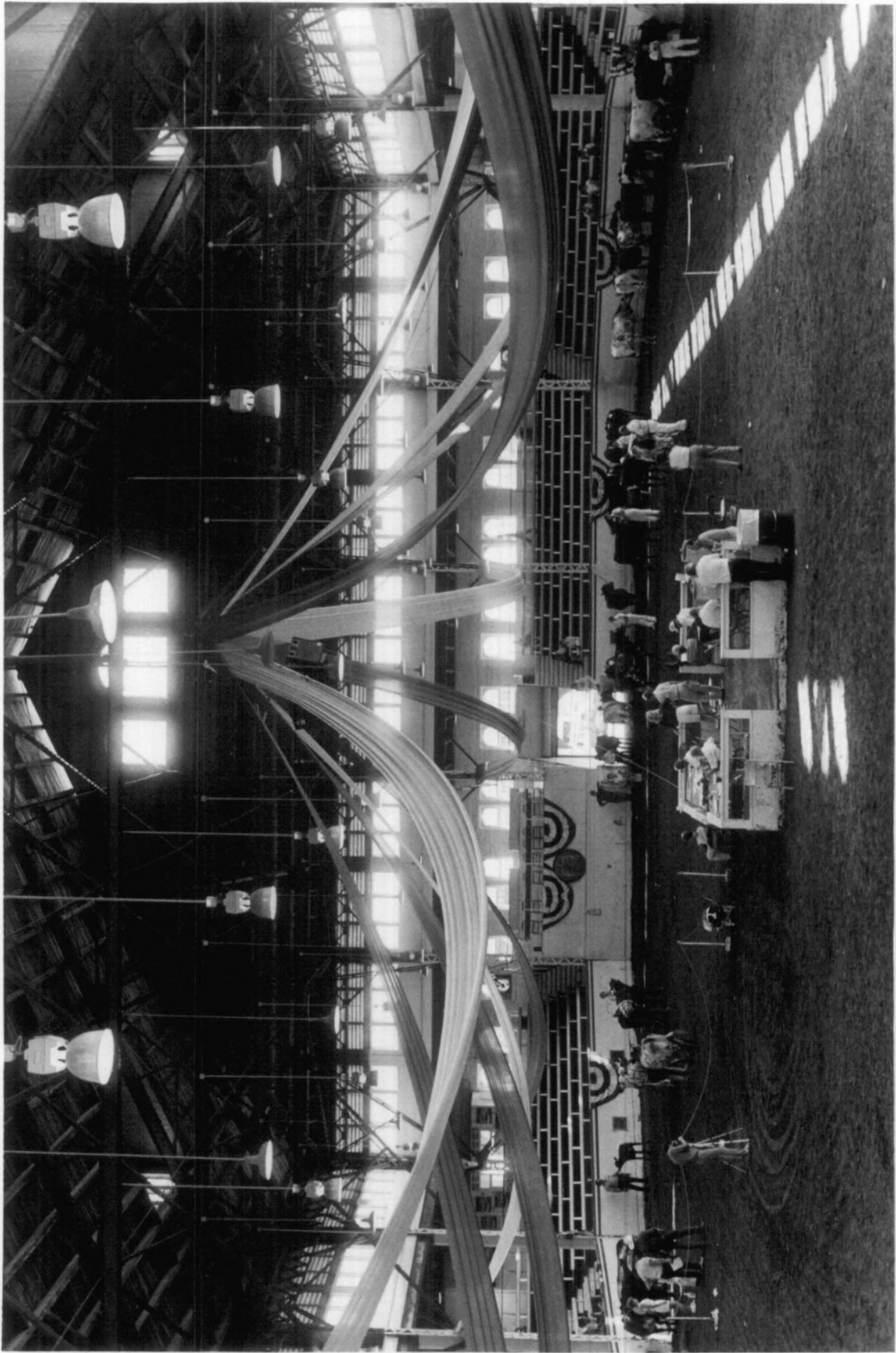




LIVE STOCK PAVILION.



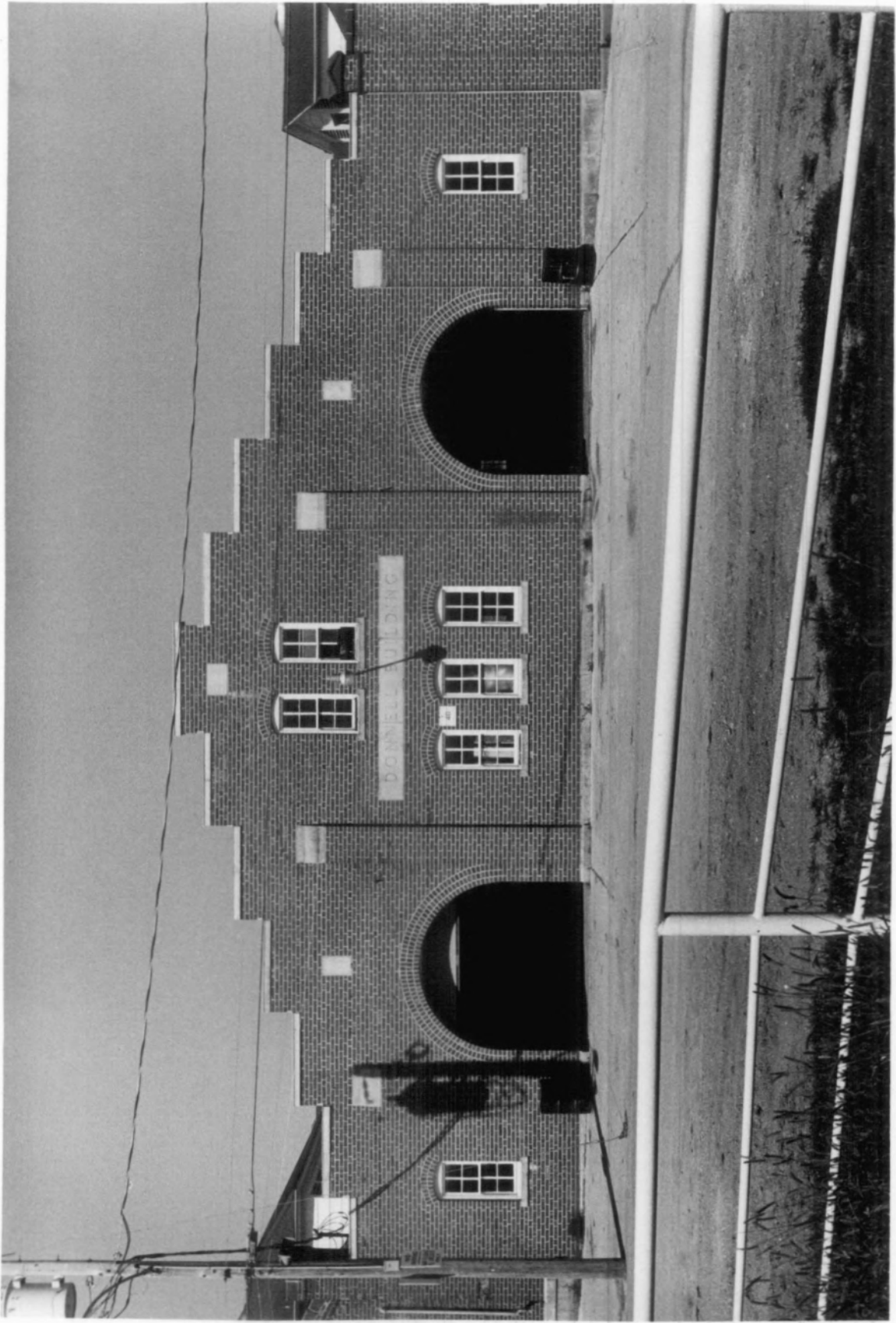


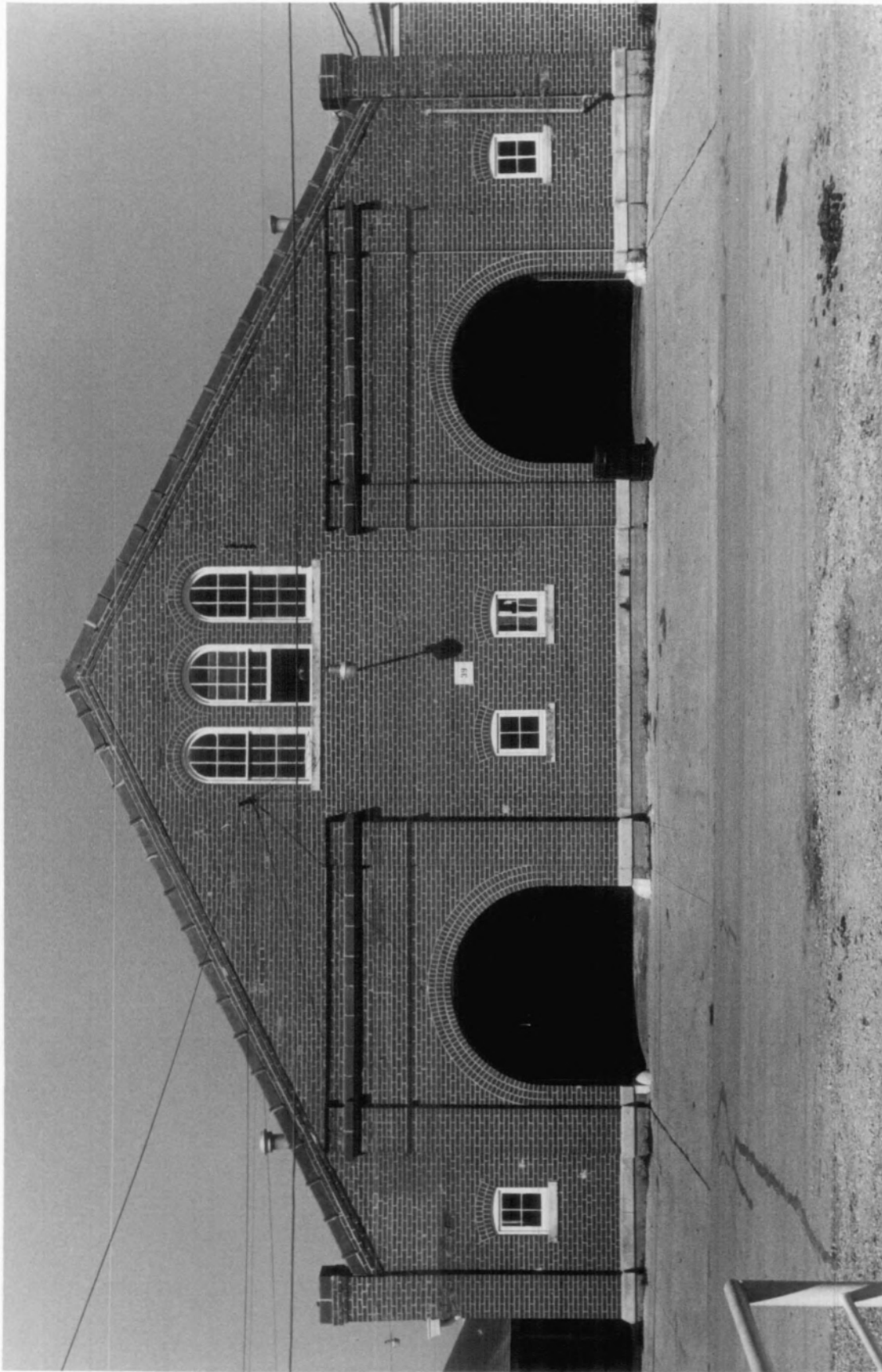


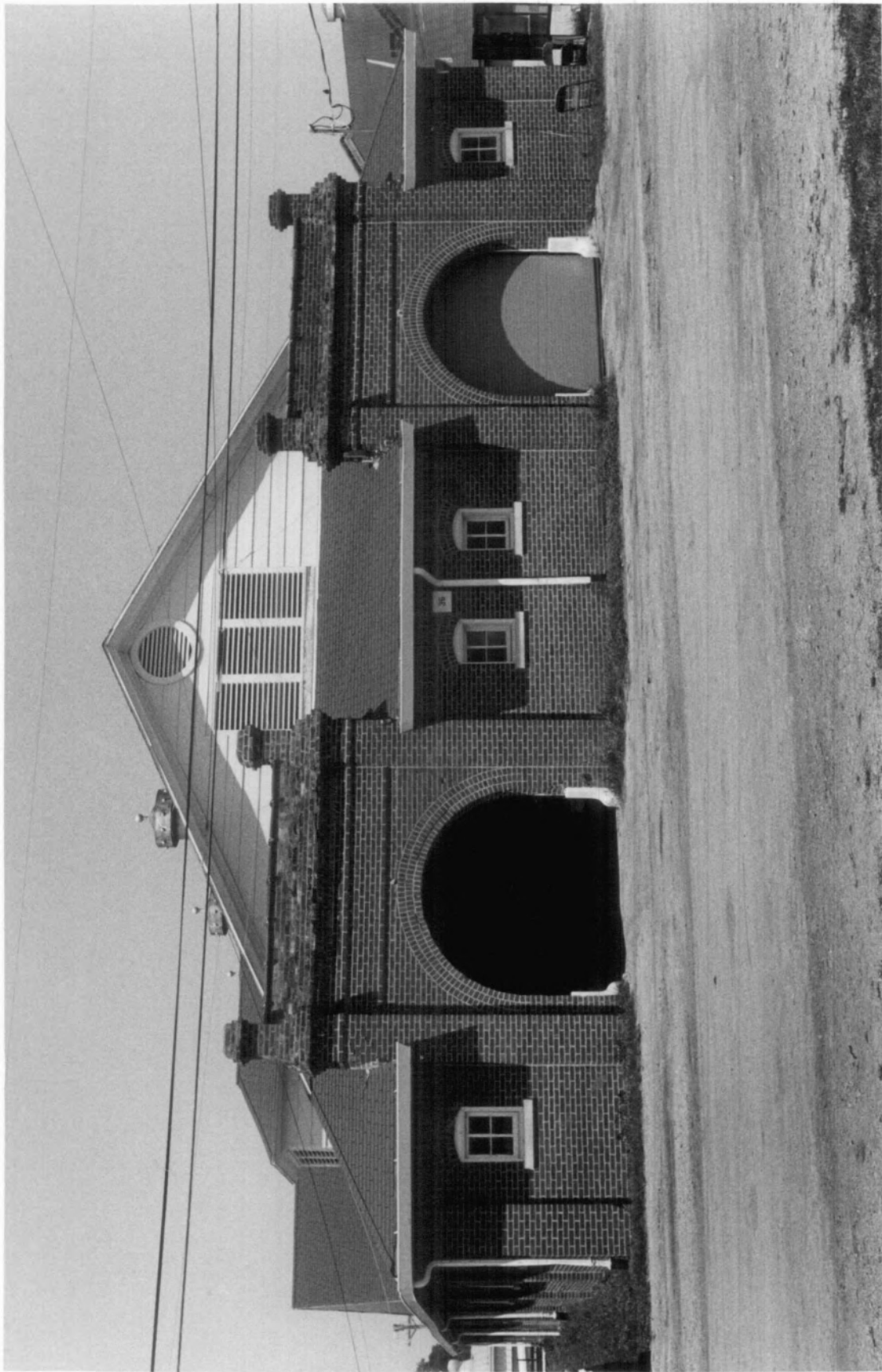






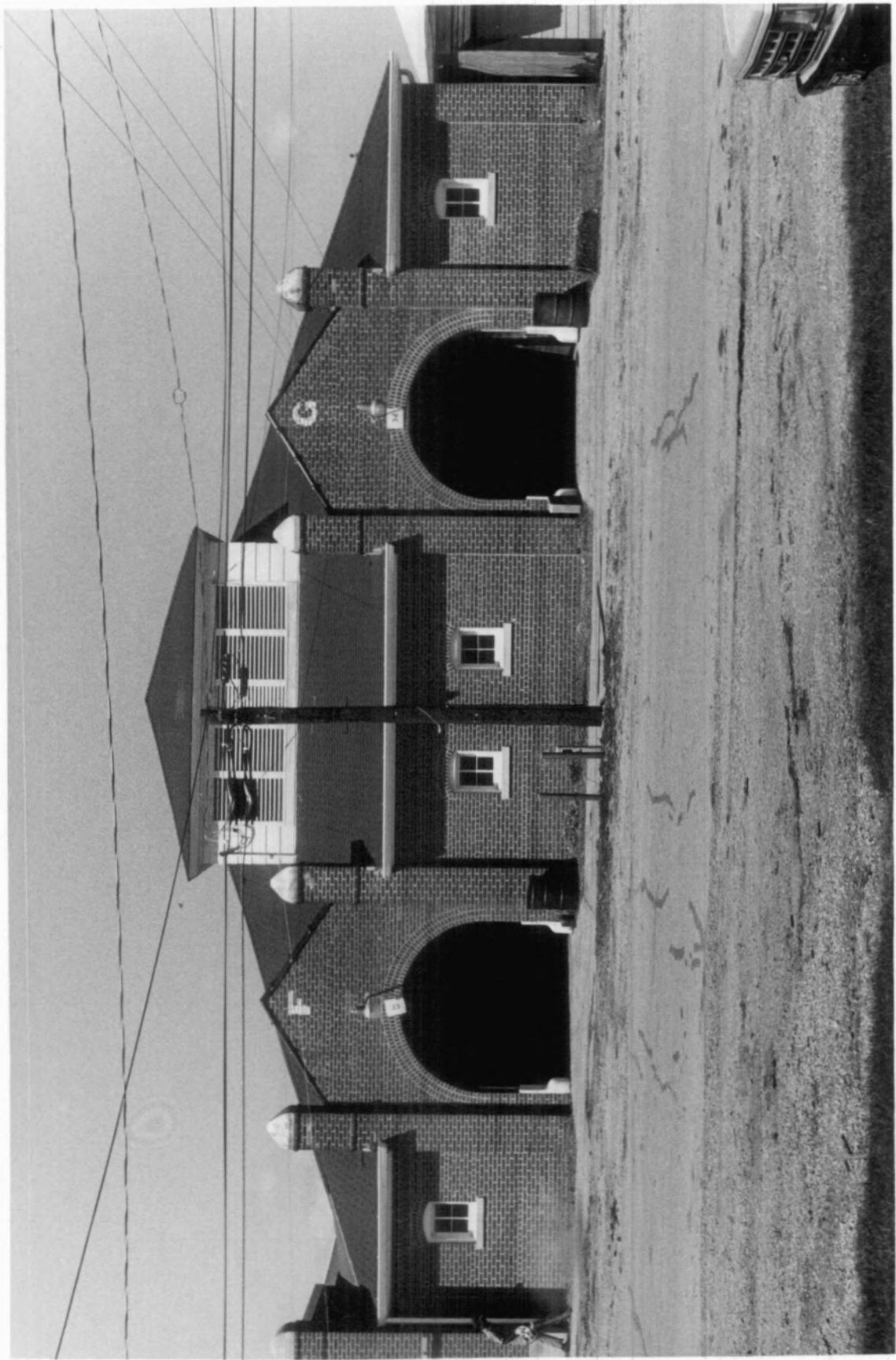


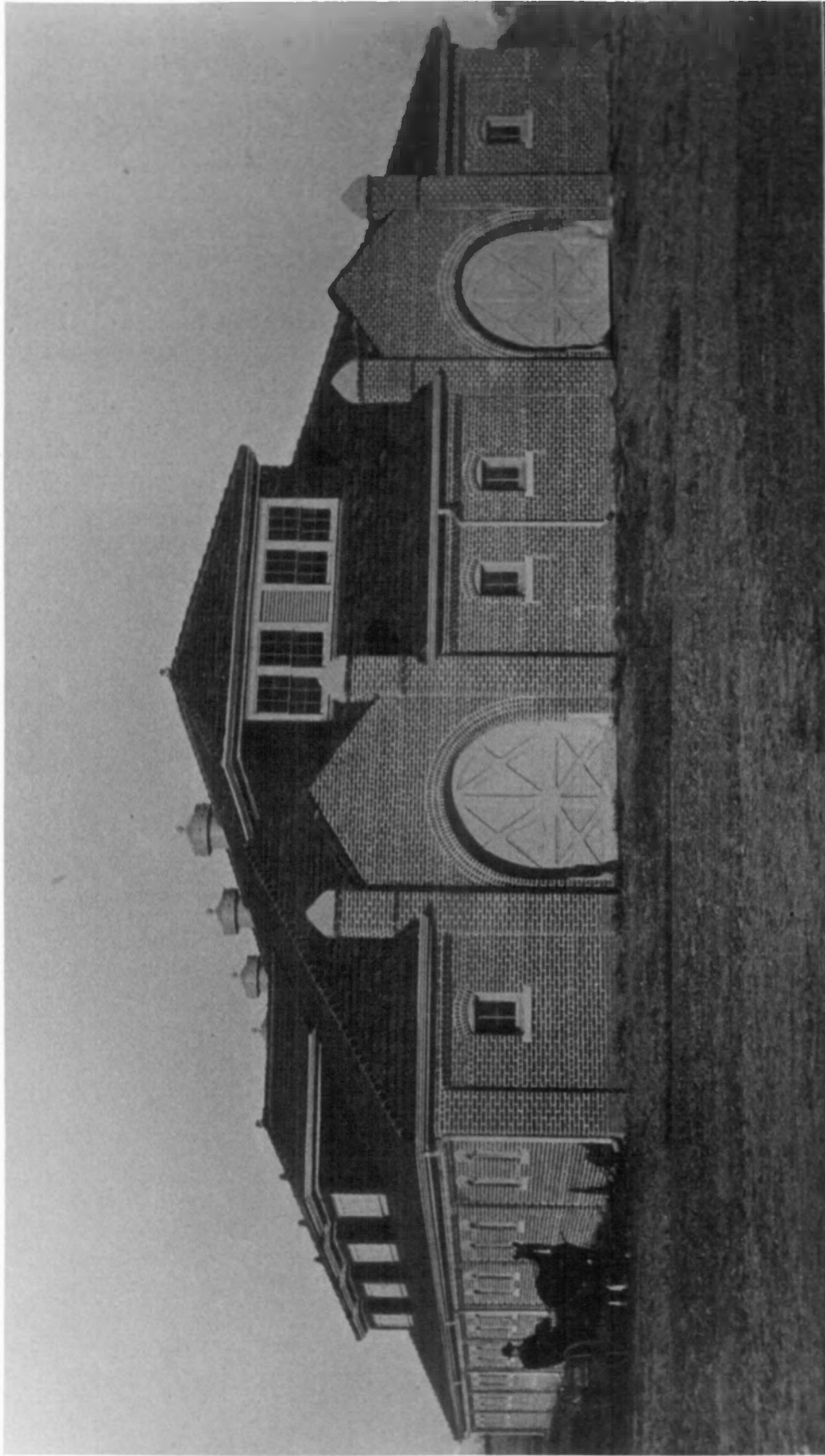




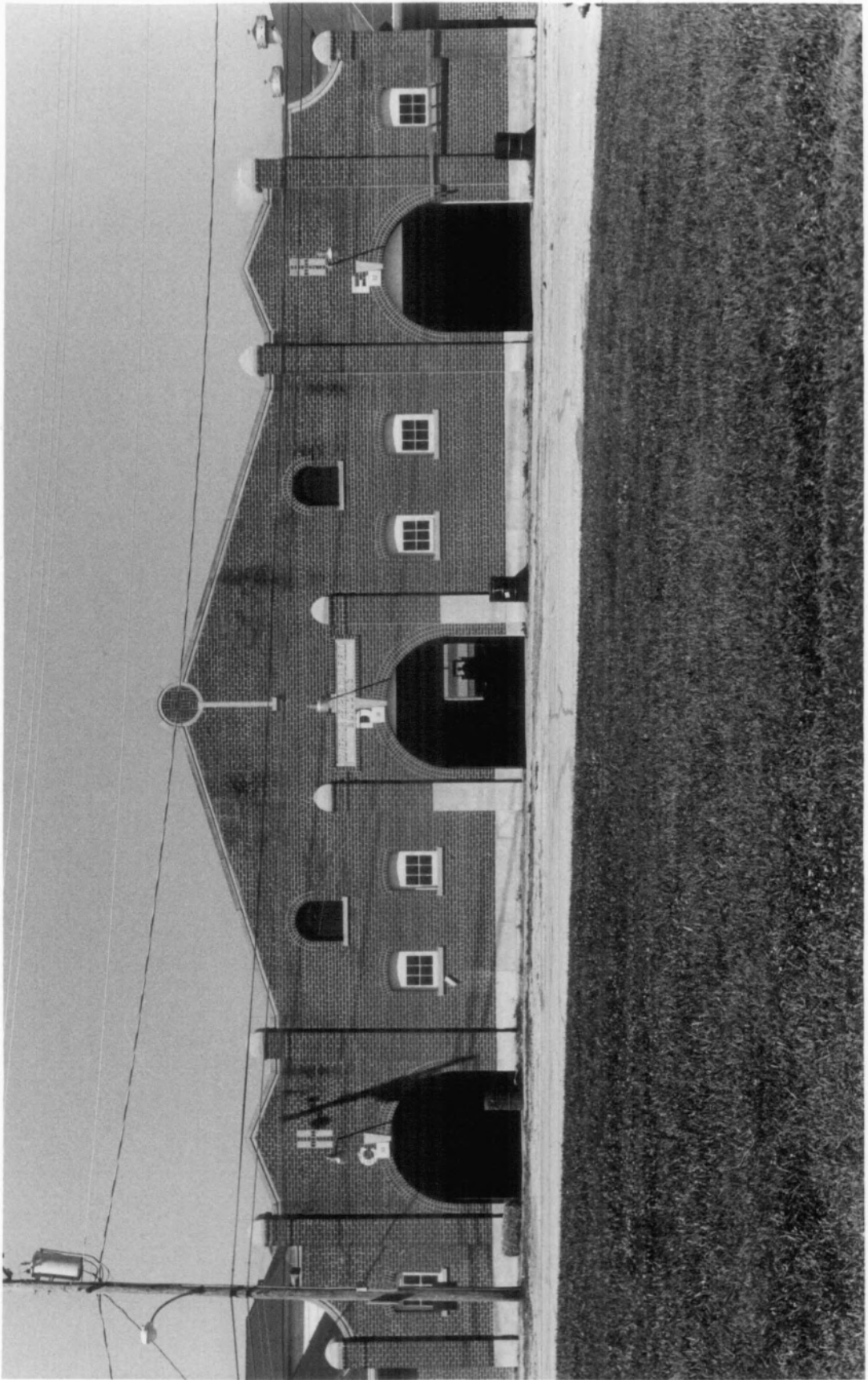








NEW HORSE BARN. STONE AND BRICK WITH TILE ROOF.

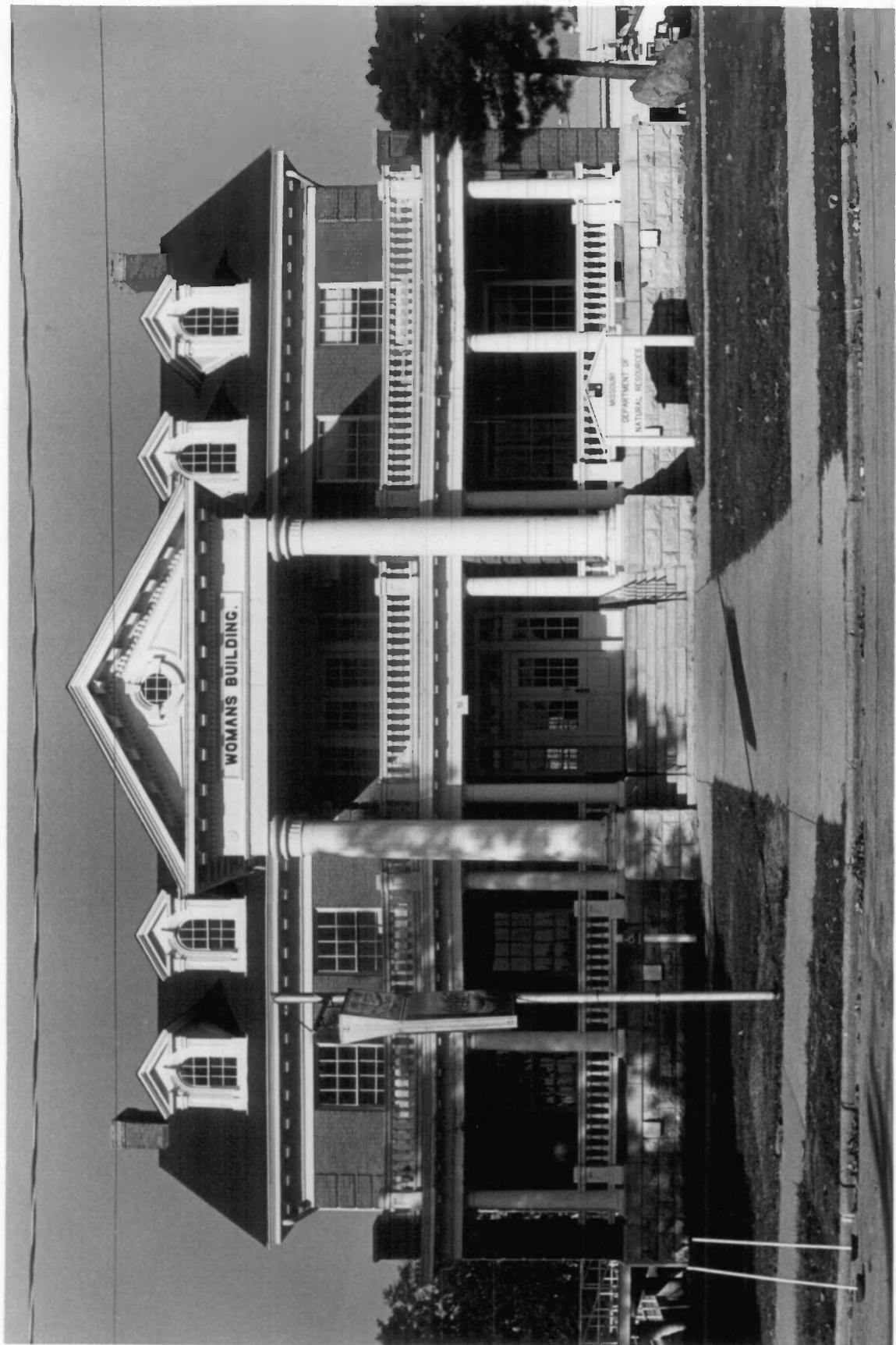


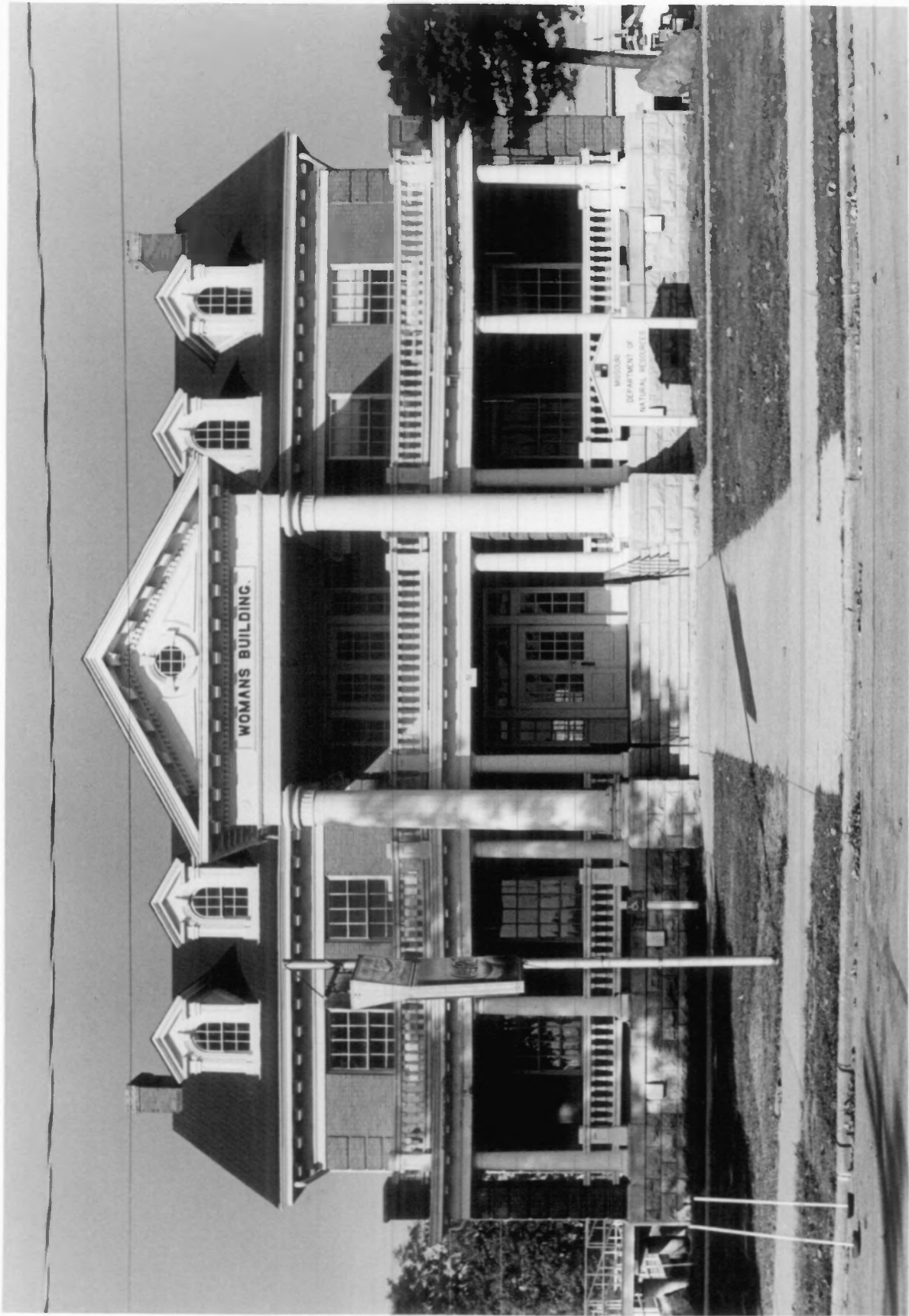










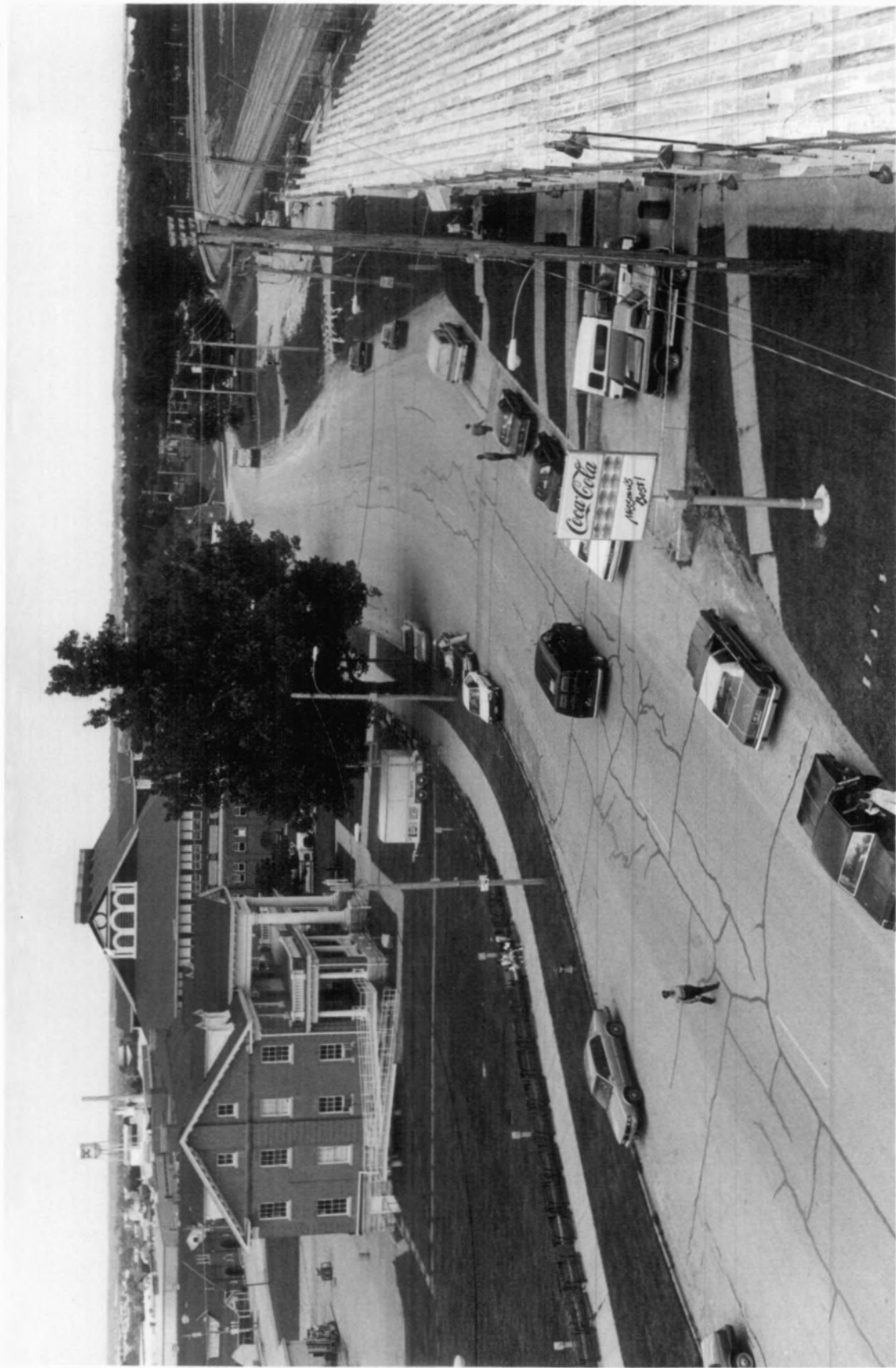




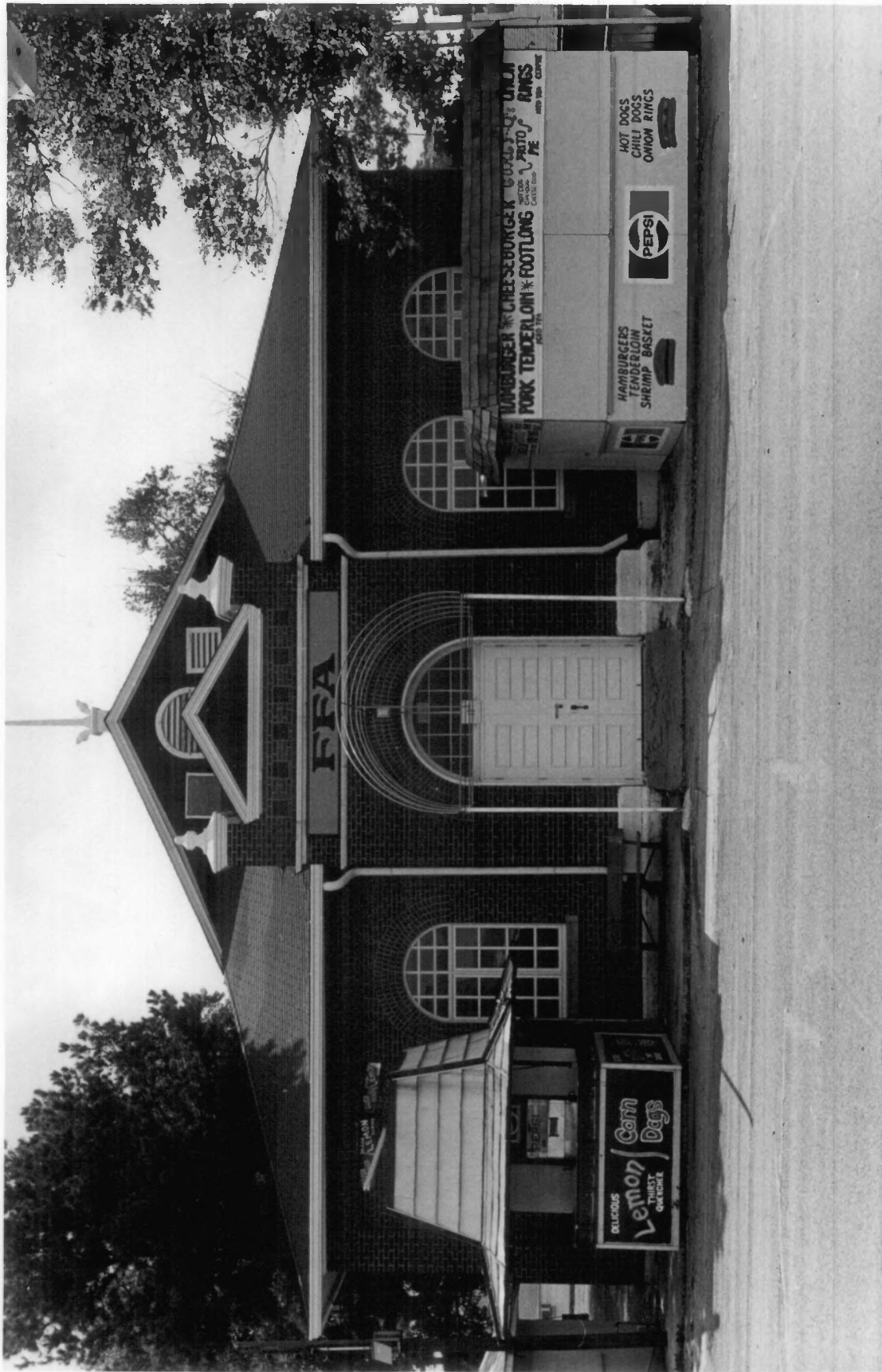


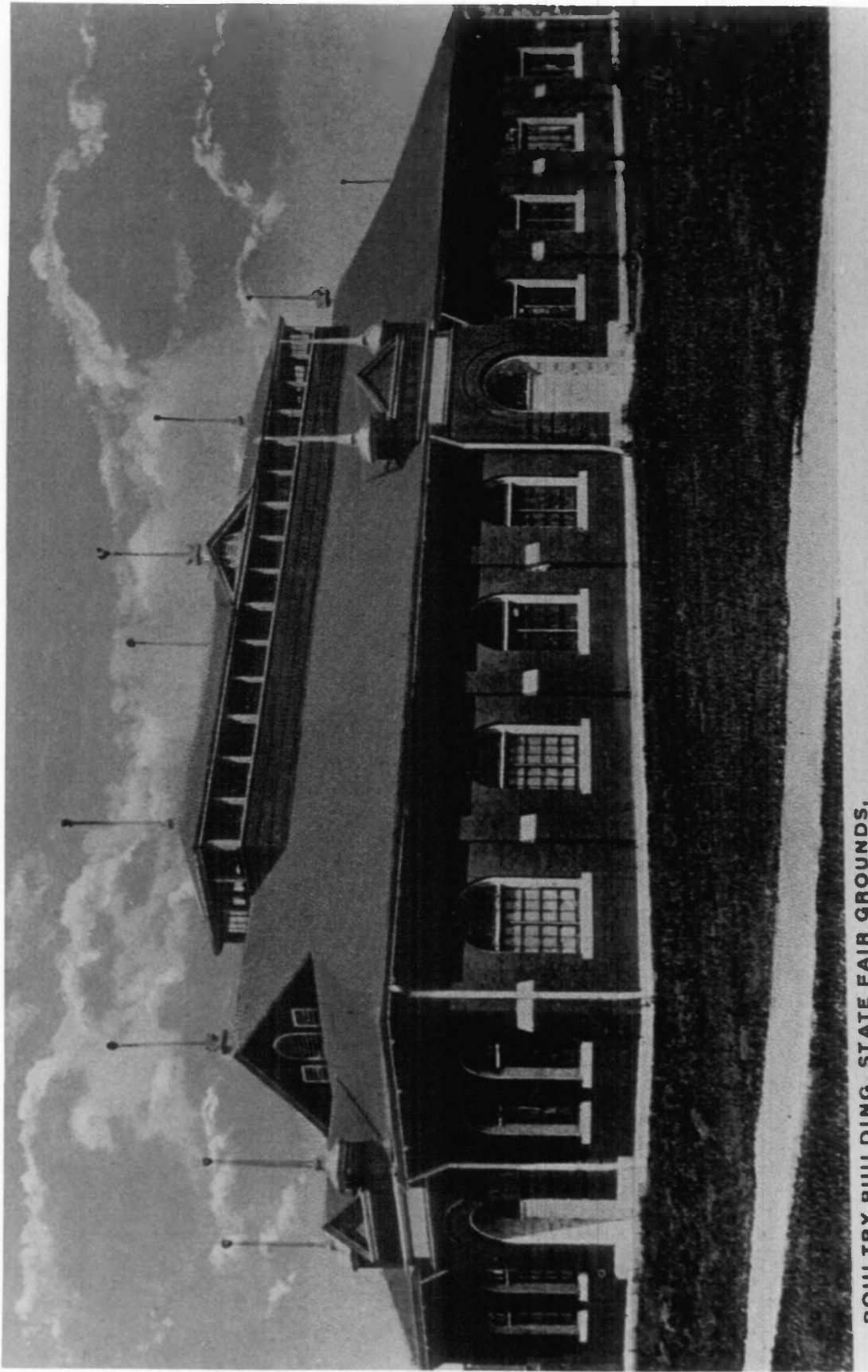




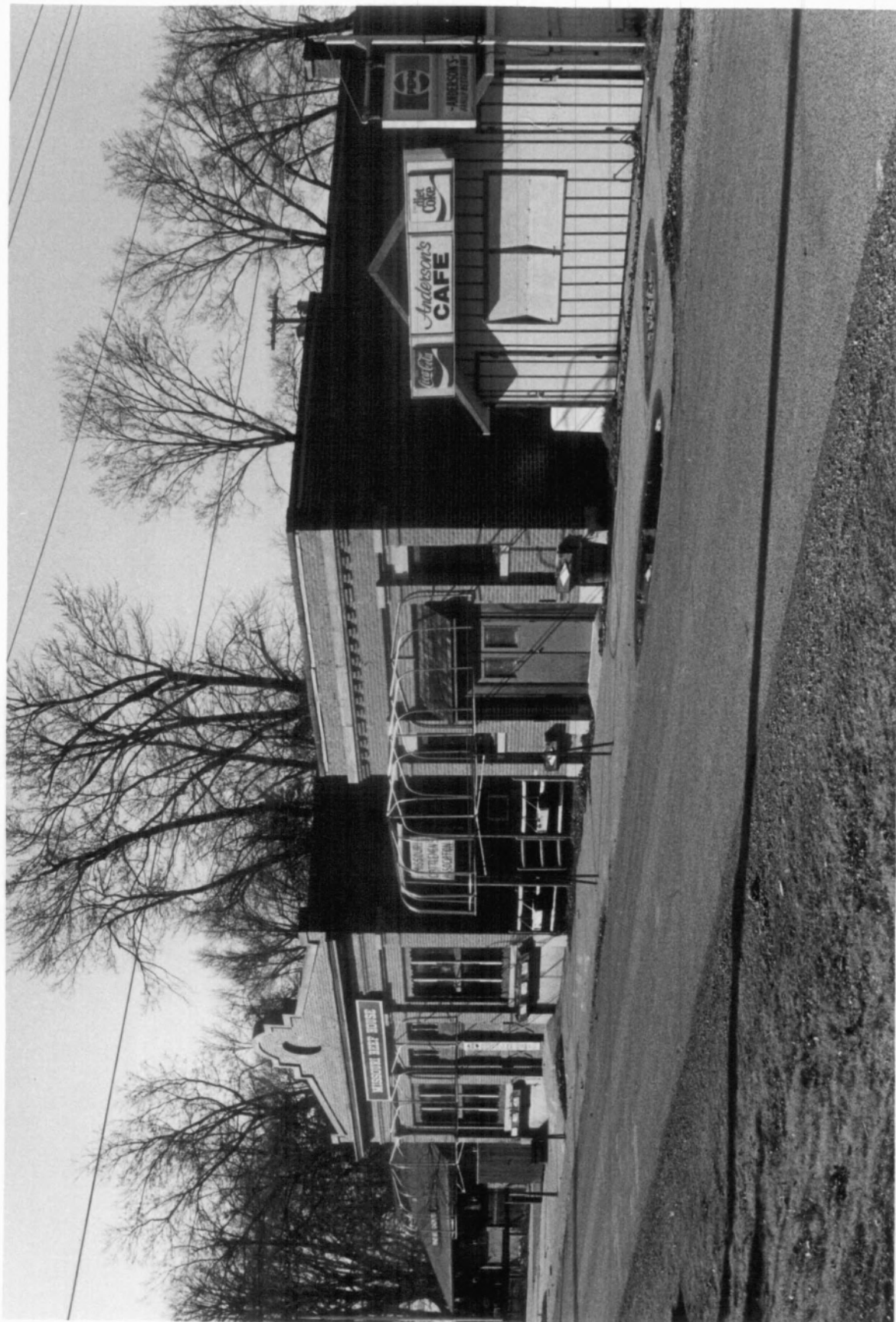








POULTRY BUILDING, STATE FAIR GROUNDS.

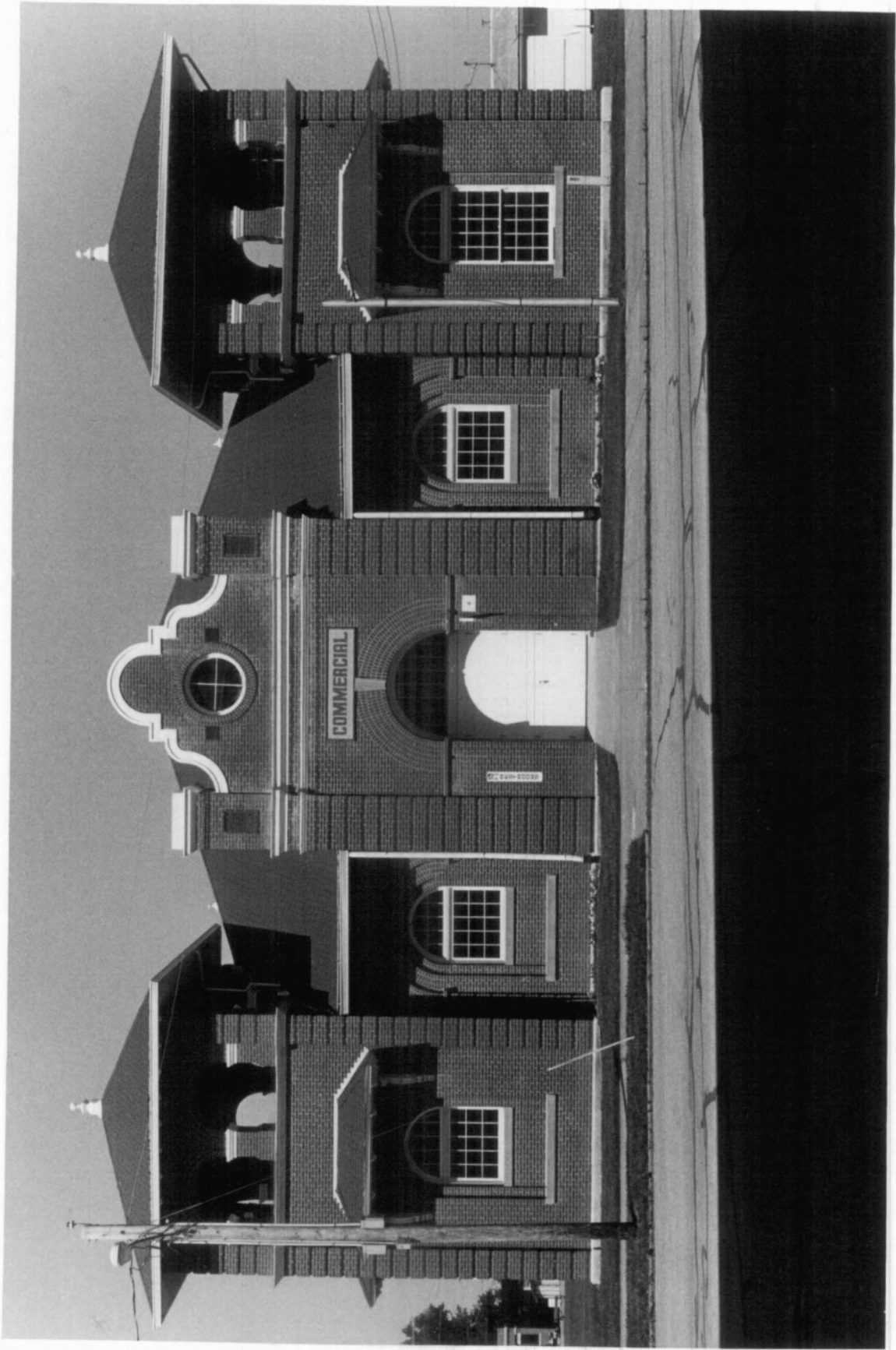




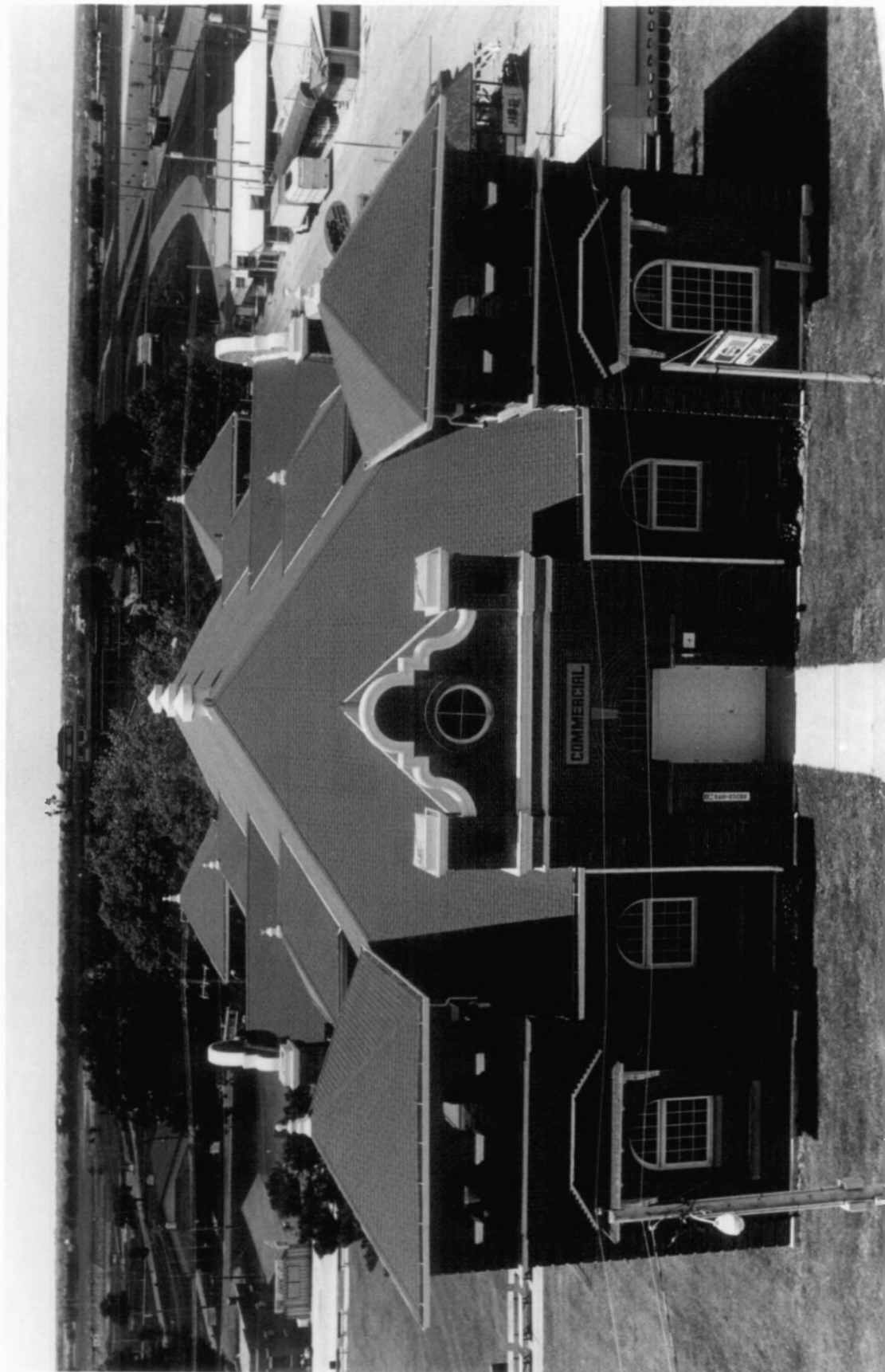
MISSOURI BEEF HOUSE

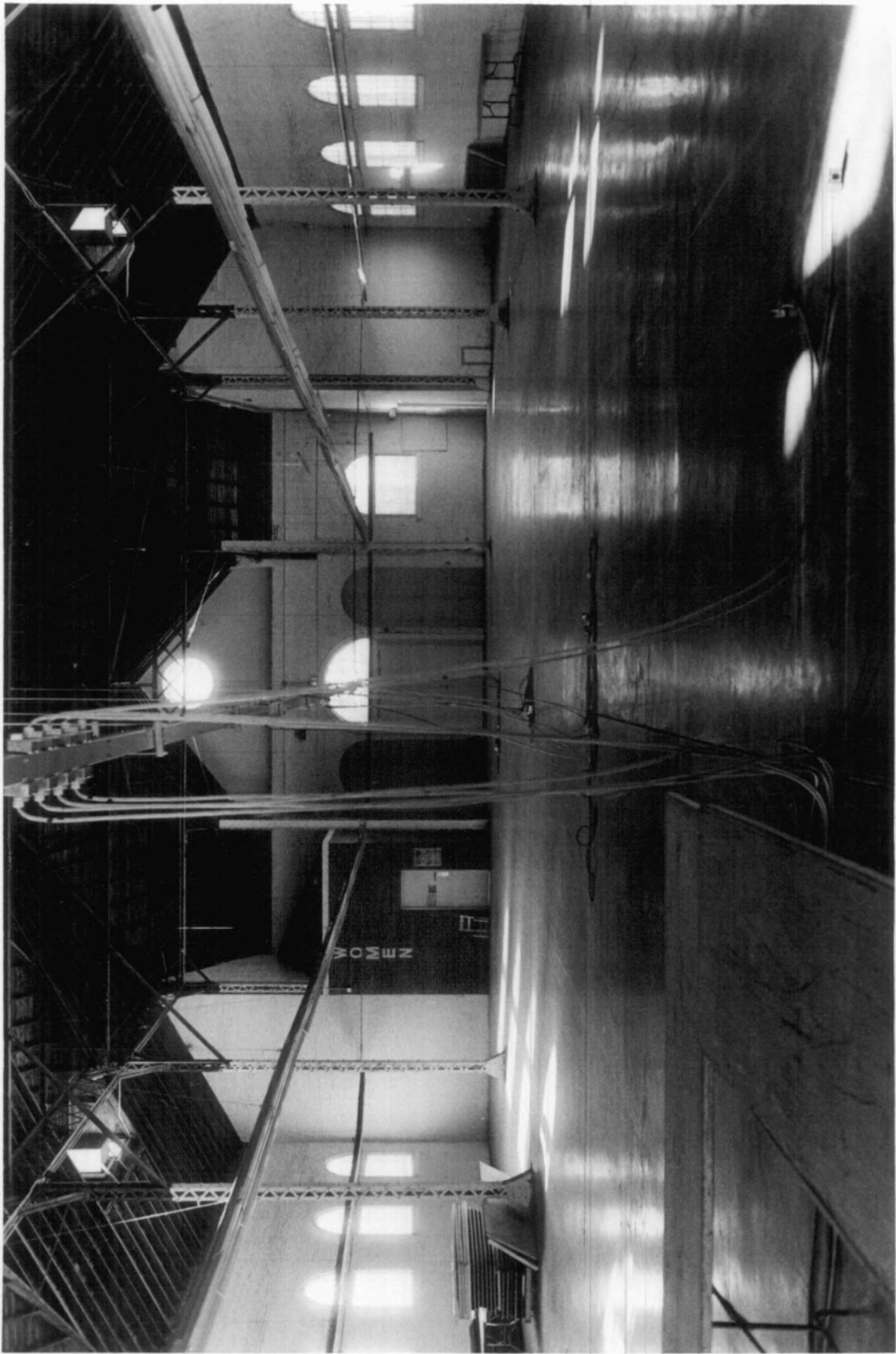
Pepsi  
SODA WATER  
BEER  
MILK  
ICE CREAM  
STEAK  
BEEF BURGERS

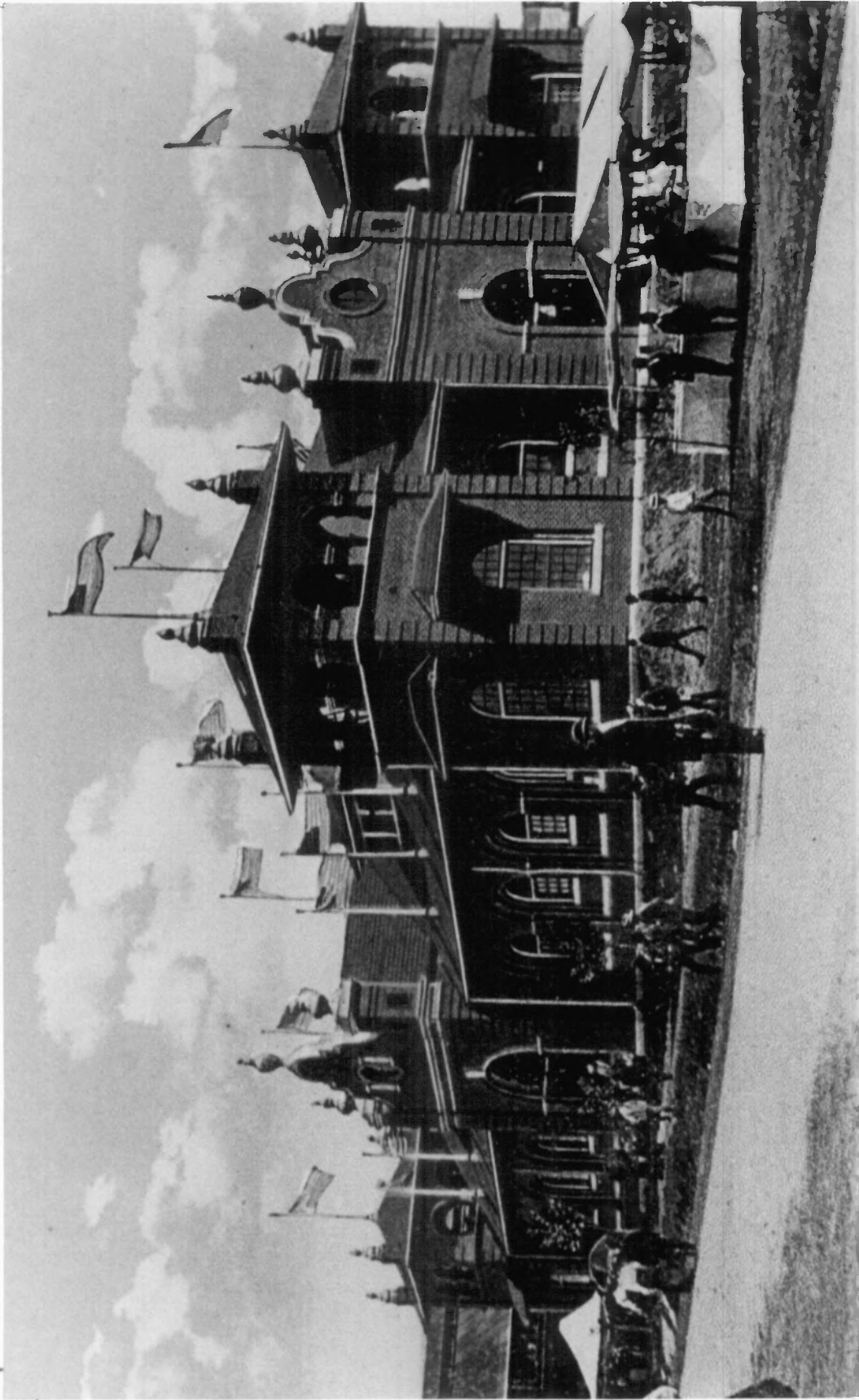






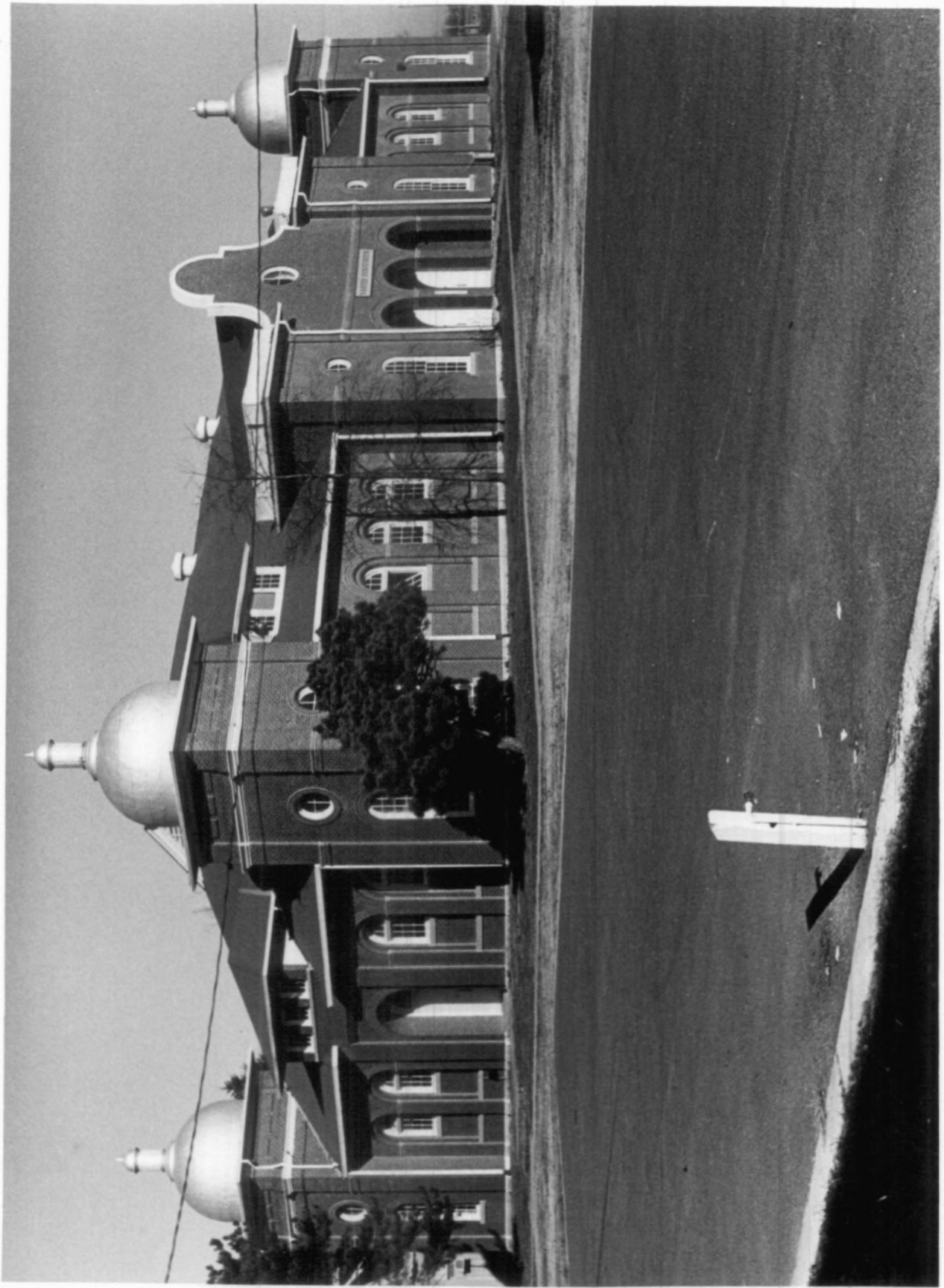






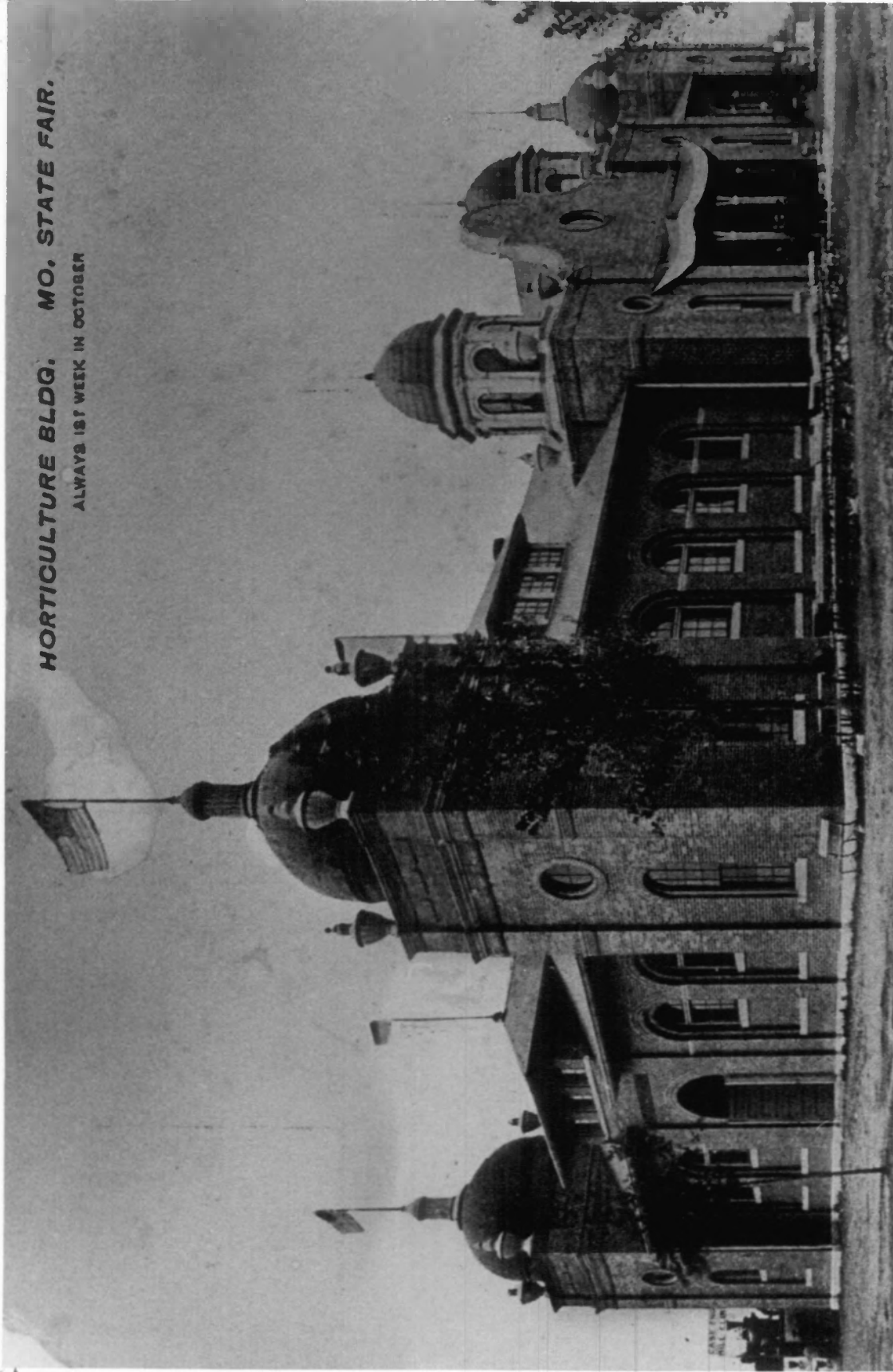
TEXTILE AND ART BUILDING, STATE FAIR.





**HORTICULTURE BLDG. MO. STATE FAIR.**

ALWAYS 1ST WEEK IN OCTOBER







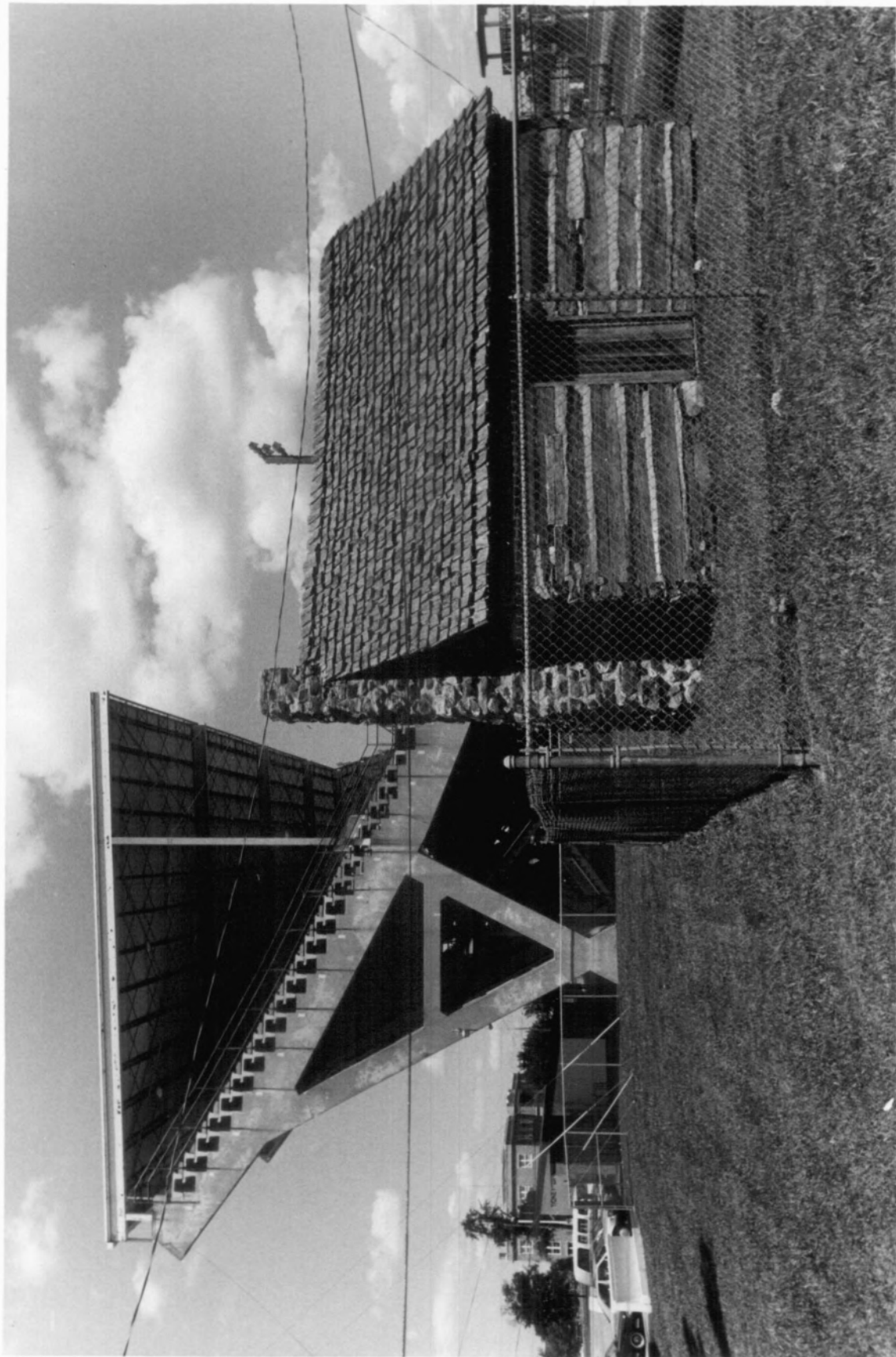


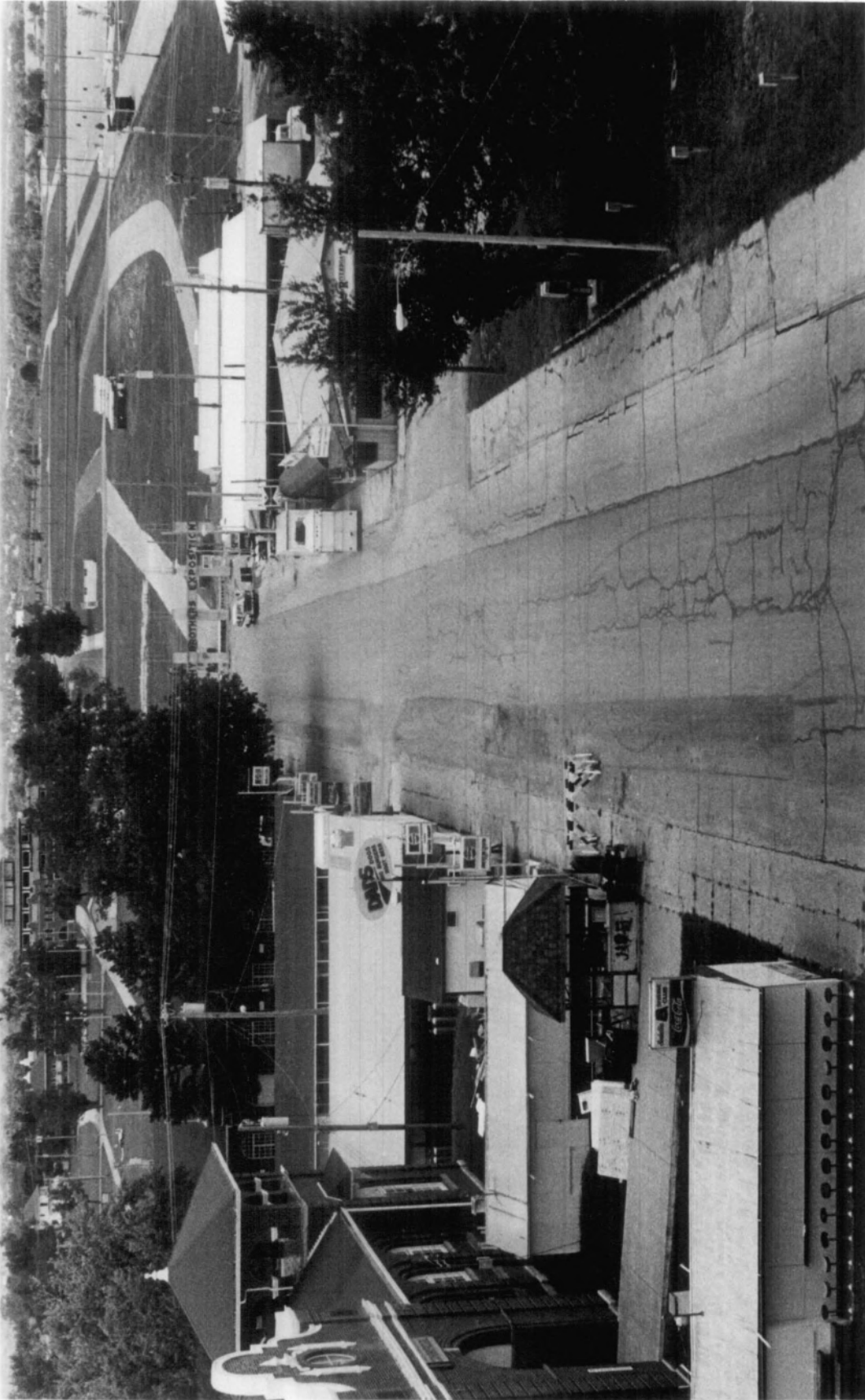


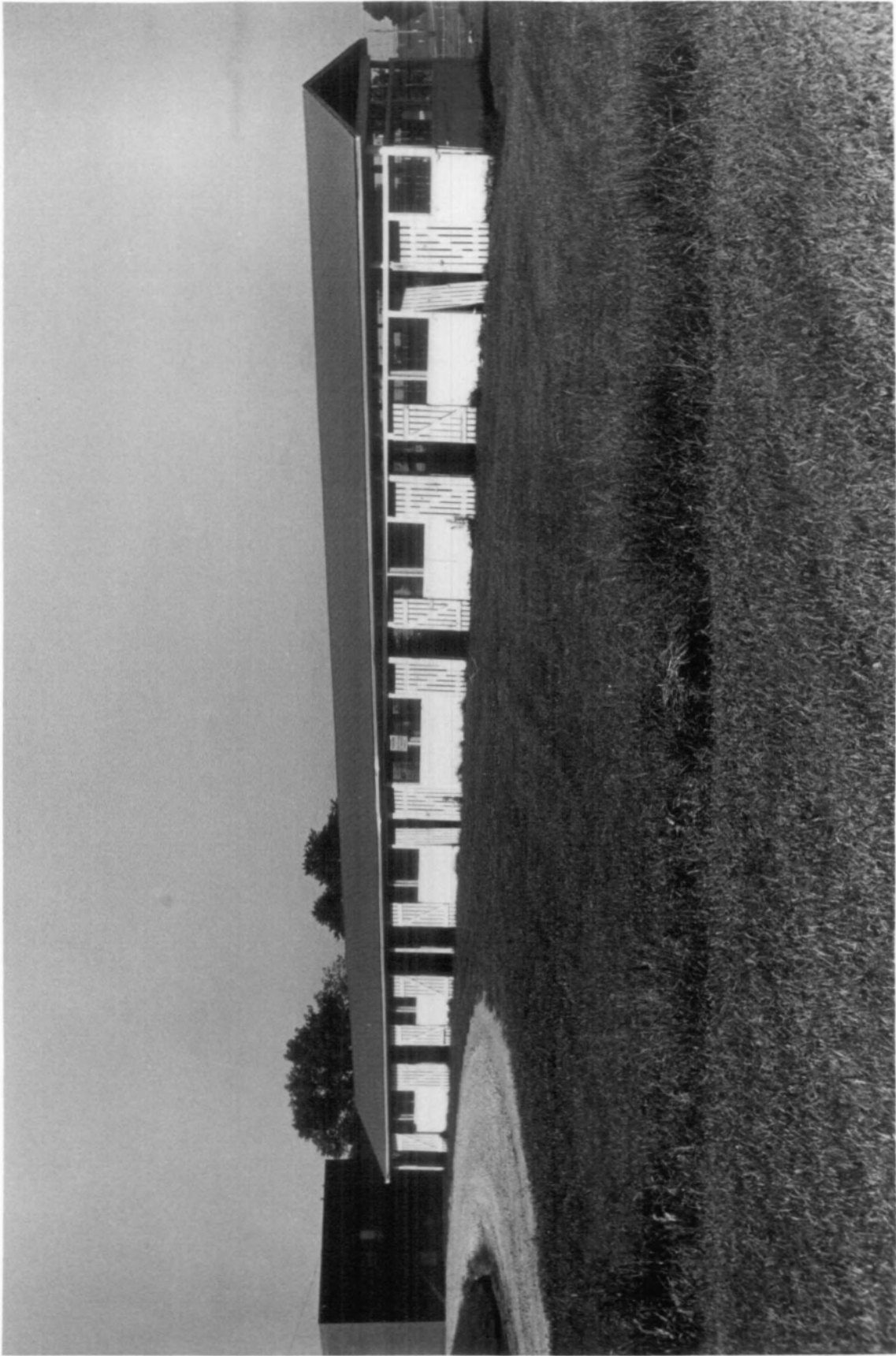


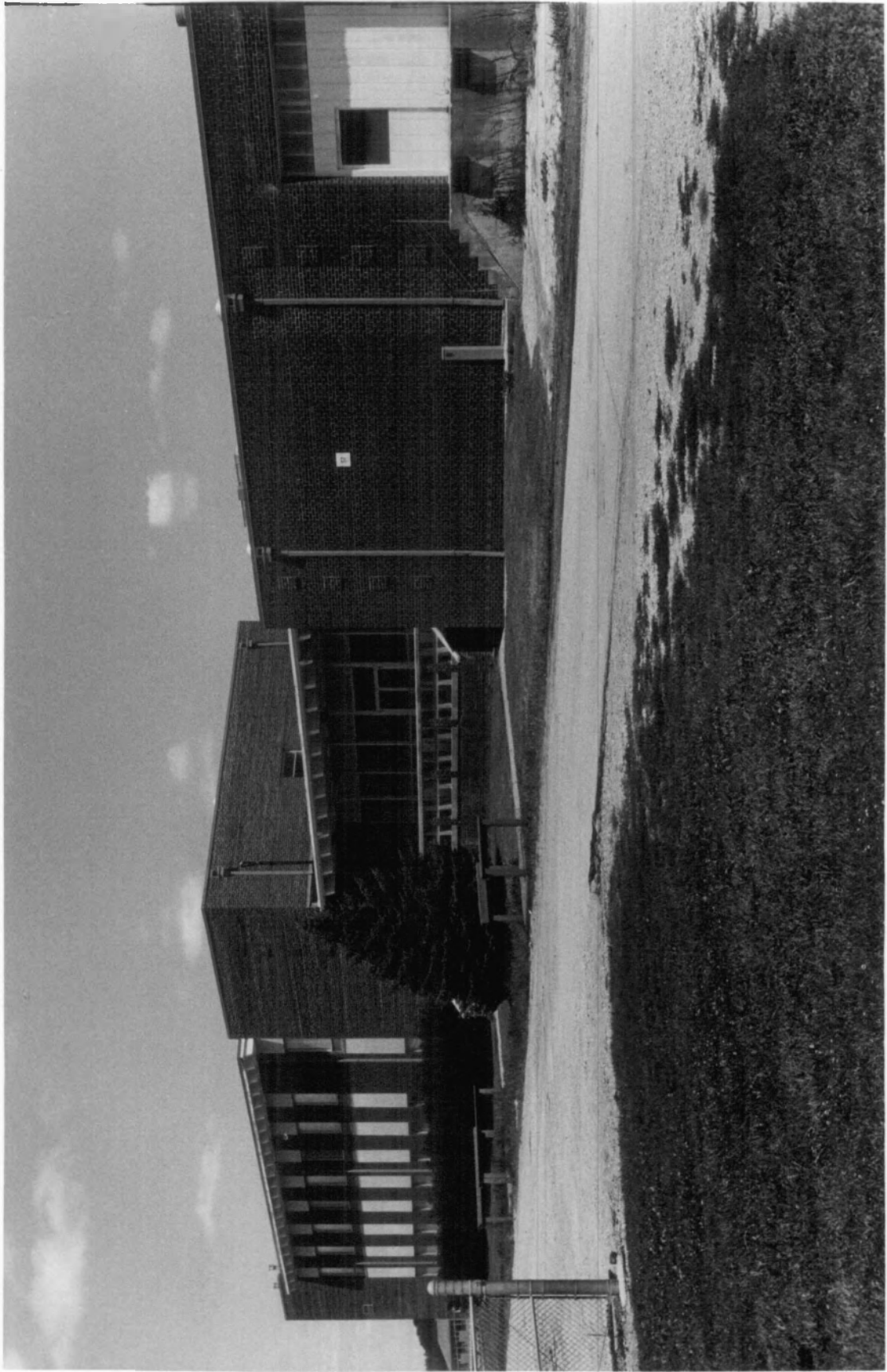




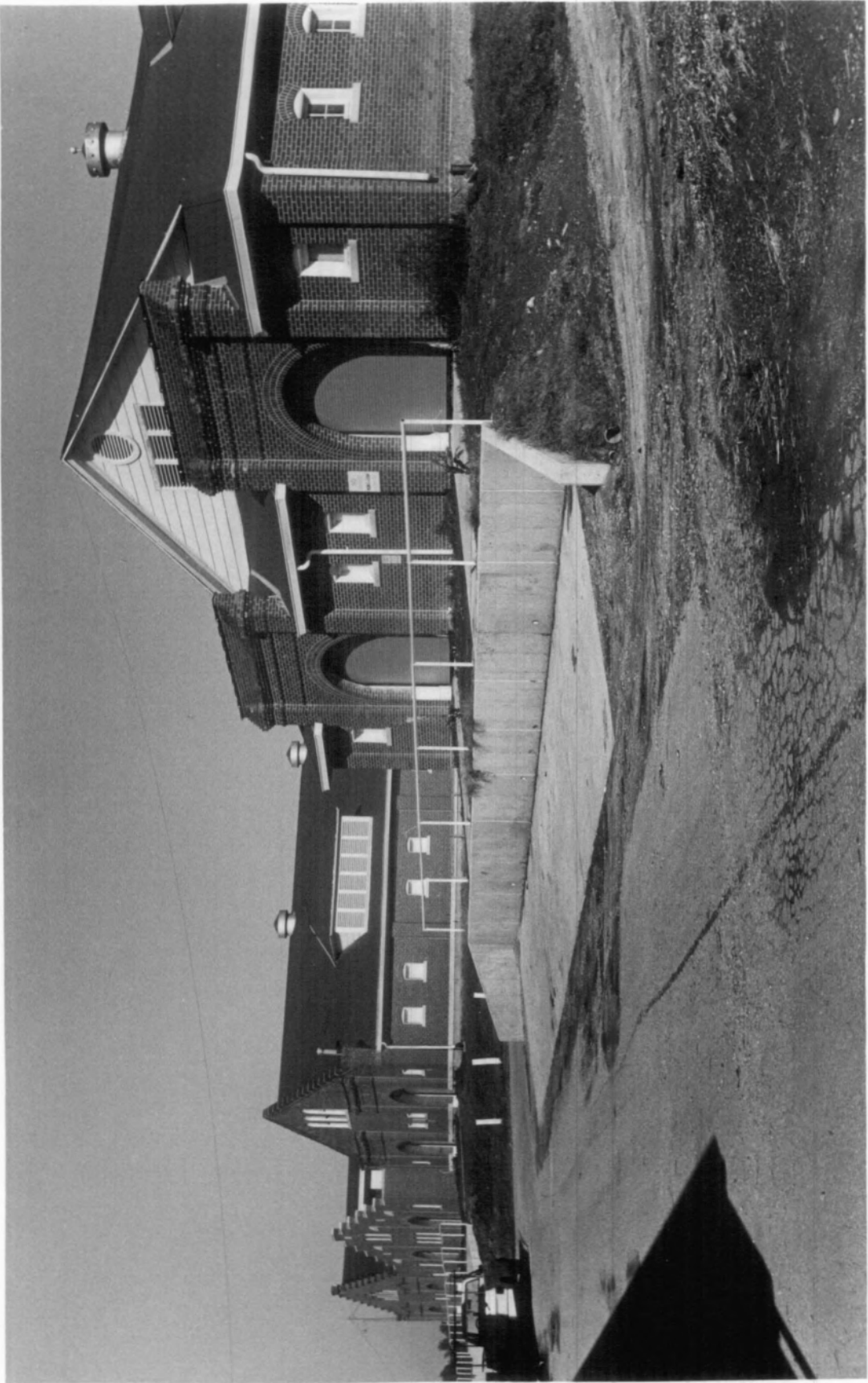


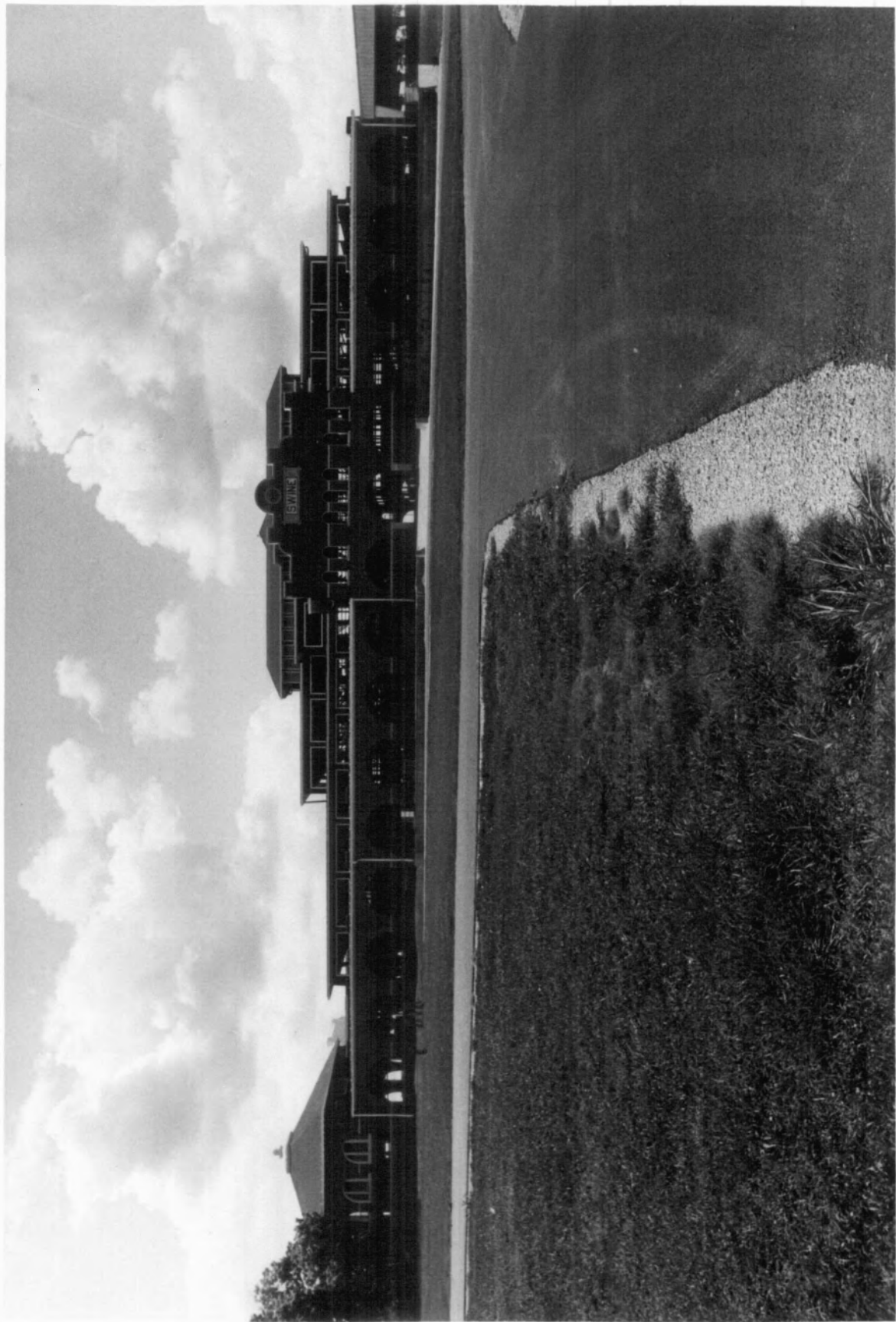




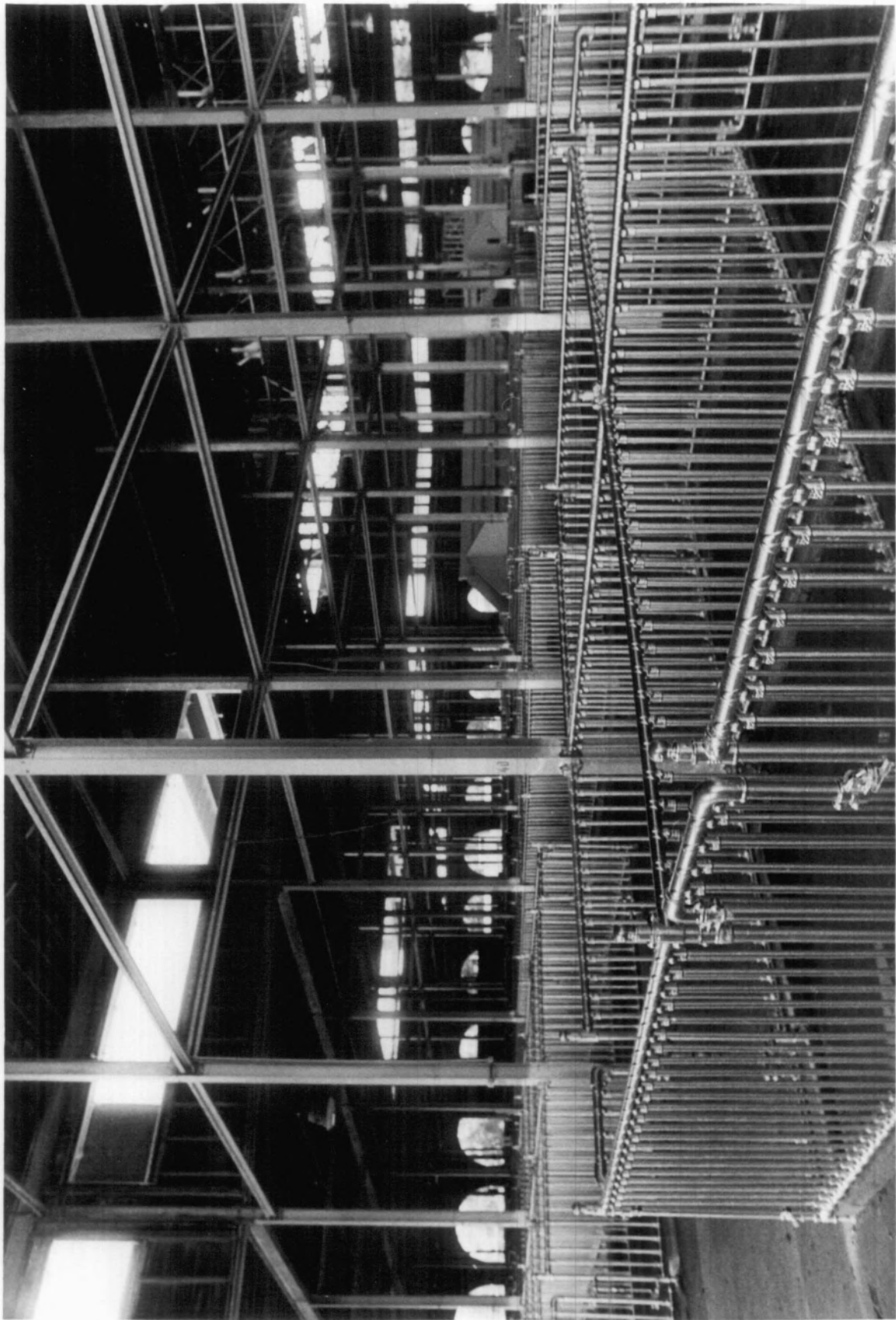


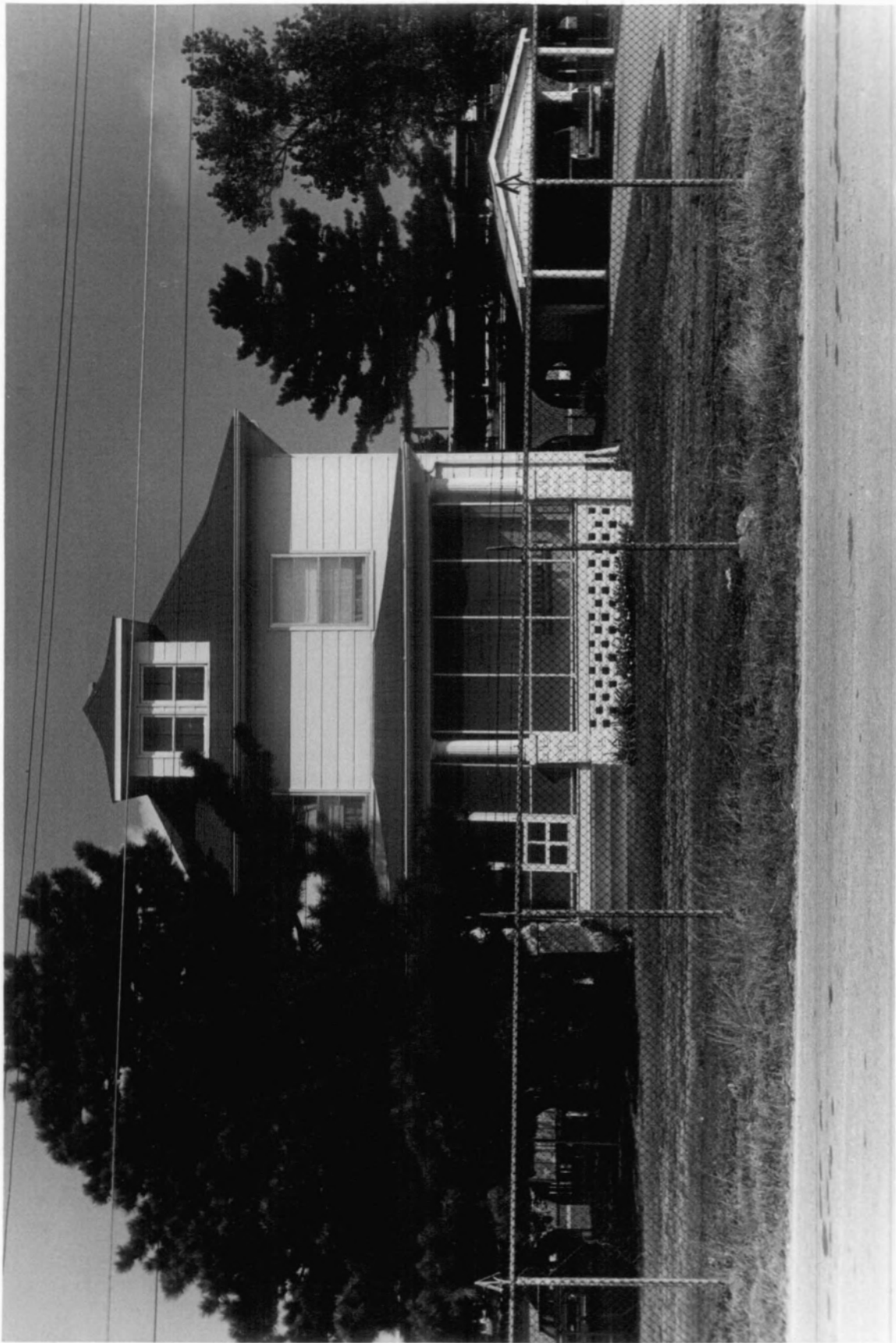














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