

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Speigle House

and or common

2. Location

street & number 406 South Dickerson not for publication

city, town Palmyra vicinity of

state Missouri code 29 county Marion code 127

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Rental

4. Owner of Property

name Drs. Patricio C. & Estrella Z. Avila

street & number 70 Pioneer Trail

city, town Hannibal vicinity of state Missouri 63401

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds

street & number Marion County Courthouse

city, town Palmyra state Missouri 63401

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Missouri State Historical Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1984 federal state county local

depository for survey records Missouri Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Speigle house is a two story brick house situated on the northeast corner of a double lot at the intersection of Dickerson and Church Streets in Palmyra, Missouri. The Style embodies transitional trends in vernacular architecture with Italianate and Greek Revival detailing.

A nearly square main block is accentuated by a broad modillioned cornice with architraved frieze. The three bay primary facade faces east with a side passage to the south. A two story, two room wing is attached in a flush manner to the north facade forming an L. The side walls of the wing are at the same elevation of the main block enabling the cornice to continue in an uninterrupted manner until the wing truncates into a gable end wall.

A simple nipped roof covering the main block, a gabled roof of a lower pitch covering the wing, and a truncated shed roof of a two story gallery porch (facing south) retain original standing seam tin roof.

Painted masonry walls of the main block are laid in unusually exacting fashion with header courses every seven courses on the south facade. (No headers appear on the north and east facades.) Rubble foundation has ashlar facing and water table above grade. Brick walls of rear wing were laid in less exacting fashion. Irregular header courses alternating between five and nine courses are found on the north and south facade. However, the header courses on the north facade alternate with stretchers and headers similar to Flemish bond. The actual header courses are nineteen courses apart. All walls are twelve inches thick (triple brick).

The two story gallery porch (now enclosed on second floor) retains bracketed cornice and has been truncated even with the rear gable wall. The gallery formerly ran even with the two story brick appendage that has since been removed from the gable end of the wing. Scored masonry under the porch at ground level indicates earlier plaster walls and an enclosure (photo documentation/oral interview).

Flat stone lintels and sills decorate 4/4 double hung sash, while first floor windows of the primary facade project to the floor. One light, casement windows on the gable end wall are in the locations of earlier openings to the removed appendage.

One set of shutters remain in place. All others have been removed to accommodate aluminum storms.

The Greek Revival front entry of primary facade has broken transom and sidelights flanked by flat columns. Flat stone lintel forms ears. Small stoop has replaced the front porch. Profile of the porch columns and the roof line on masonry indicate a fullwidth porch of simple Italianate detailing with bracket profile matching gallery porch. (Photo 5)

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1850's **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Speigle House is significant as a transitional style of vernacular architecture associated with the most prosperous period of Palmyra's early development. Throughout its history the house has served as a residence for many prominent and influential citizens including; physicians, a miller/judge, retailers, a minister, and a mayor.

The Speigle House is architecturally significant for the following reasons: it remains a well preserved example of residential architecture in a grouping of antebellum structures of unusually fine quality for a town its size and reflects important transitional trends in the vernacular style of the 1850's in the area.

Standing by 1854, the Speigle House meshes with a flourish of growth in Palmyra. From 1850 to 1856, "the population doubled, new and substantial business houses were built, and many of the spacious brick residences yet to be seen were constructed during that time."

The Greek Revival detailing of the entries and the richly appointed millwork of the interior combine with early Italianate features (broad eaves with modillioned cornice, first floor windows of the primary facade that provide access to a veranda with simple detailing) to form a conservative version of a restrained urban town house set in a "country" atmosphere.

Similar houses exist that are contemporary with the Speigle House. The Granville Keller House located at 606 S. Dickerson (ca. 1855) in Palmyra expresses strikingly similar features on the primary facade, save for 6/6 windows. In an urban setting, the Robert Campbell House in Saint Louis, Mo., (ca. 1855) expresses similar transitional tendencies to the Italianate while retaining characteristics of a Greek Revival townhouse.

During the decade of the 1850's, Palmyra, an academic hub, with an upper middle class of style conscious citizenry, left a wealth of architecture in the vernacular style.

The craftsmen/builder/owner method of designing, building, and redesigning, provides an interesting study in the incongruities of construction techniques.

The evolution of style, function, and use of the Speigle House, manifest these tendencies in several ways, and through the interesting and confusing techniques used to arrive at the present version of the house, we find an interesting puzzle that hopefully can be answered with some

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Holcombe, R.I. History of Marion County Missouri. St. Louis:
E. F. Perkins, 1884.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property .63 acre

Quadrangle name "Palmyra, Mo."

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	5
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6	2	6	3	4	0
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4	4	0	6	0	2	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The northeast quarter of Block 44, being Lots 1 and 2 of Dickerson Addition, measurint 135 feet on South Dickerson by 204 feet on Church.

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

state Missouri code 29 county Marion code 127

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title 1. River City Restorations by Kristy Trevathan

organization date October, 1984

street & number 200 South Seventh Street telephone (314) 248-0733

city or town Hannibal state Missouri

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title John Karel, Director & Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Parks and Historic Preservation date 12/20/84

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

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Side entry on the six bay north facade has been bricked in with glass block infill.

Corbelled chimney on north facade and the central chimney on the rear wing remain.

The interior floor plan remains intact with the formal foyer separated from the parlor in the main block by a broad opening and round Ionic columns in antis. Greek Revival detailing continues with shouldered architraved molding rising to the pediment in the main block and flattening in the rear wing. The second floor molding is simpler. The original first floor mantle has been removed. A simpler version of a pilastered mantle remains in the second floor bedroom. A turned walnut newel and oak balustrade form the balustrade of the stairwell. The four panel doors and panels at the base of the first floor windows remain intact. The lower sash of the first floor windows extending to the floor slide up into the wall providing a five foot walkout.

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accuracy as the present rehabilitation/restoration, being undertaken by the owners, proceeds.

The stone foundation of the main block follows conventional locations until an offset appears in the area of the side entry. At this point, the stone foundation runs directly under the ballustrade. Since conventional bearing walls carry the normal weight, this is an oddity that is further compounded by the fact that the foundation of the wing is entirely brick. The common/party wall between the main block and the wing is bearing and also brick. An unusual feature occurs on the exterior of the juncture where the main block and wing join on the north facade. The finely laid masonry of the main block cantilevers over the more commonly laid masonry of the wing approximately nine feet above grade. In addition; the masonry is butted above and below this area and is not tied in.

The middle room of the wing, originally a crawl space, leads to a room of full size with brick walls. This room has two bricked up openings the size of doors, one leading to the south, the other to the west. An earlier two story, one room deep, brick appendage to the west of the wing and of narrower width has since been removed.

Recent site excavations reveal a stone foundation under this former appendage while comparisons of similar detached structures in the area indicate a former kitchen and cellar of smoke house.

The rarity of a brick foundation leads one to infer infill between two foundations of stone. However, incongruities, as mentioned above, end up refuting even the most educated guess as to timing and reasons behind the evolutions of such structures.

Early transactions indicate structures existing on lots 1 and 2 by 1838. However, the house being nominated was standing by 1854 at which time Dr. Christian Speigle sold the property. Speigle owner of record by 1850 was born in Germany in 1801, was graduated from one of the best universities in Germany and had practiced medicine for several years in Europe before immigrating to the United States. At the time of his arrival in Palmyra, he had practiced in the states for sixteen years. Speigle, his wife, Sarah, of Ohio, and their three year old daughter, Ordellia, arrived in Palmyra in 1849 and announced the establishment of his practice in the local paper.²

One of Palmyra's first Baptist ministers, William H. Boulware and his wife, Marie (Redd) Boulward, both from Kentucky, occupied the house from 1854-58. William's father, Rev. Mordecai Boulware, also a baptist minister, settled in the Fabuis Township in 1825. He was the first pastor of the South River Church, the very oldest church organization in Northeast Missouri and the first formed in Marion County. His sons, William M. and John W. were educated at Bethel

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An inlaid cross in the millwork over the entry to the wing from the side hall may have been left by the Boulwares.

During the Civil War years, a very spirited citizen of Palmyra, Darius Wilcox, lived in the house and had two noteworthy encounters with Southern troops. On Friday, August 16, 1861, ten to fifteen armed secessionist, "came into town, and a serious affray came near taking place between them and Mr. Wilcox. Several of them surrounded him, and demanded a surrender of his arms. He threatened to shoot the first who should approach him. Citizens, however, interfered, and what might otherwise have been a fearful tragedy, was averted." Spared of any injury this time, Darius made history again during the 1862 campaign of Col. Joseph C. Porter of the Confederate army.

"There were frequent alarms in Palmyra and the garrison was often under arms. Saturday night, August 23, three soldiers of the 23d. Mo. Infantry, happening to be in town went over into Mr. D.P. Wilcox's orchard and began stealing his peaches.⁴ Asking them to desist and inquiring who and what they were and receiving no satisfaction, and finding that neither words or grass had any effect, Mr. Wilcox, a strong Union man, opened on the pilferers with his revolver, and brought one of them down with a serious wound. The long roll sounded and the militia turned out expecting an attack."⁵

Wilcox and family moved to Palmyra from Ohio. Darius was a local miller, landowner, and, at one time a judge. His middle daughter, Elizabeth A., and her husband, John C.B. Thomas, resided in the house until 1903.⁶

Thomas was born at Harpers Ferry, Virginia, September 20, 1839, and moved to Palmyra at the age of seven. Educated at St. Paul's College, Thomas, an entrepreneur in the manufacture of agricultural implements, founded several successful local businesses. In 1892, Thomas served as mayor of Palmyra.⁷

In 1903, John B. Best and his nephew, John E. Best, owners of the Best Brothers Hardware, purchased the house. The Speigle House remained in the hands of Best descendants until 1981. Included are Dr. Forrest Carlstead and his son, both dentists, who were responsible for many alterations, as mentioned, in the 1940's and 50's.

Drs. Patricio C. and Estrella Z. Avila, present owners, are in the process of adapting the house for medical offices while restoring and reconstructing exterior features.

River City Restorations, local restoration contractors, have undertaken the project.

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NOTES

1. R. I. Holcombe, History of Marion County, Missouri (St. Louis: E. F. Perkins, 1884), Chapter XXIX, "The City of Palmyra," pp. 840.
2. Information on Christian Speigle compiled from the following:
Title abstract held by Palmyra State Bank.
U.S. Census of 1850.
Advertisement from The Missouri Whig, Vol. X. December 12, 1849.
3. R. I. Holcombe, pp. 665, 856.
4. Peach orchard documented pictorally in the Bird's Eye View of Palmyra, 1869.
5. R. I. Holcombe, pp. 400, 473.
6. U.S. Census of 1860.
7. Simon's & McConnell's, Hannibal City Directory (Hannibal Printing Co., 1881-82 ed.).

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2. James M. Denny, Chief, Survey & Registration
and State Contact Person

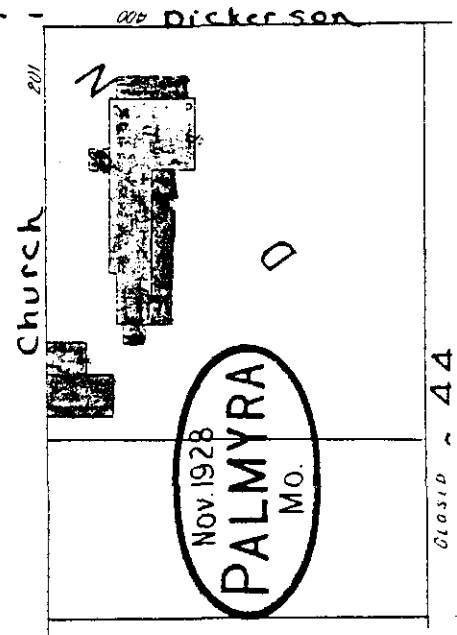
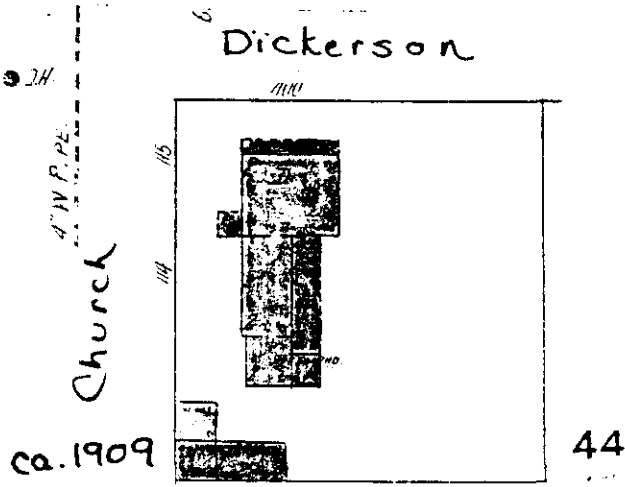
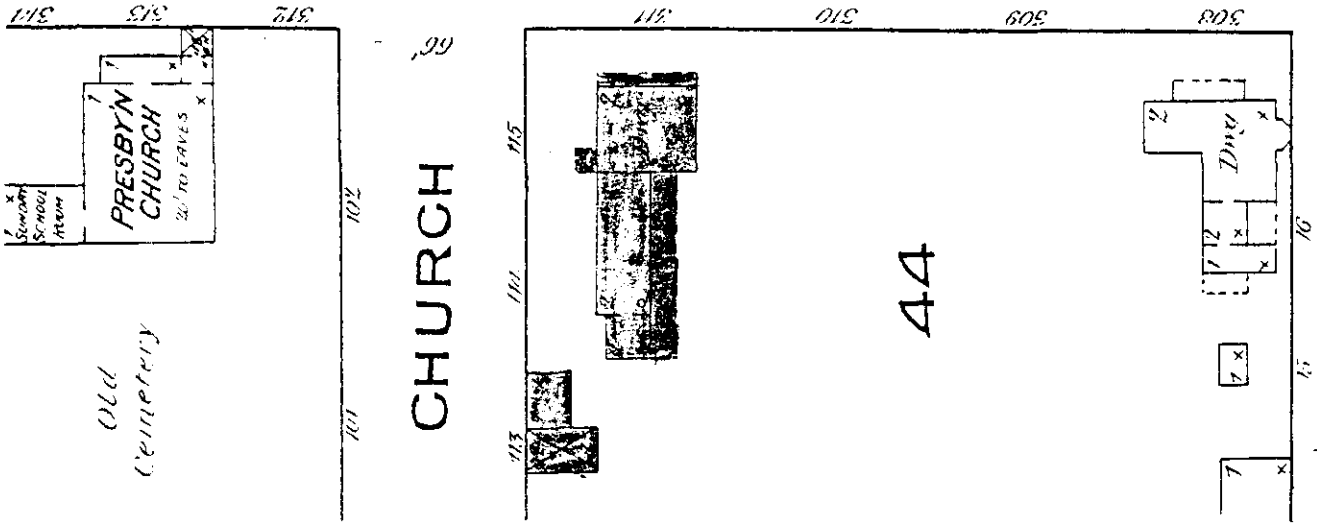
Department of Natural Resources
1915 Southridge Drive
Jefferson City

November 15, 1984
(314) 751-4096
Missouri 65102

SANBORN MAP & PUBLISHING CO. LIMITED
 1170119 BROADWAY
 NEW YORK

ca. 1886

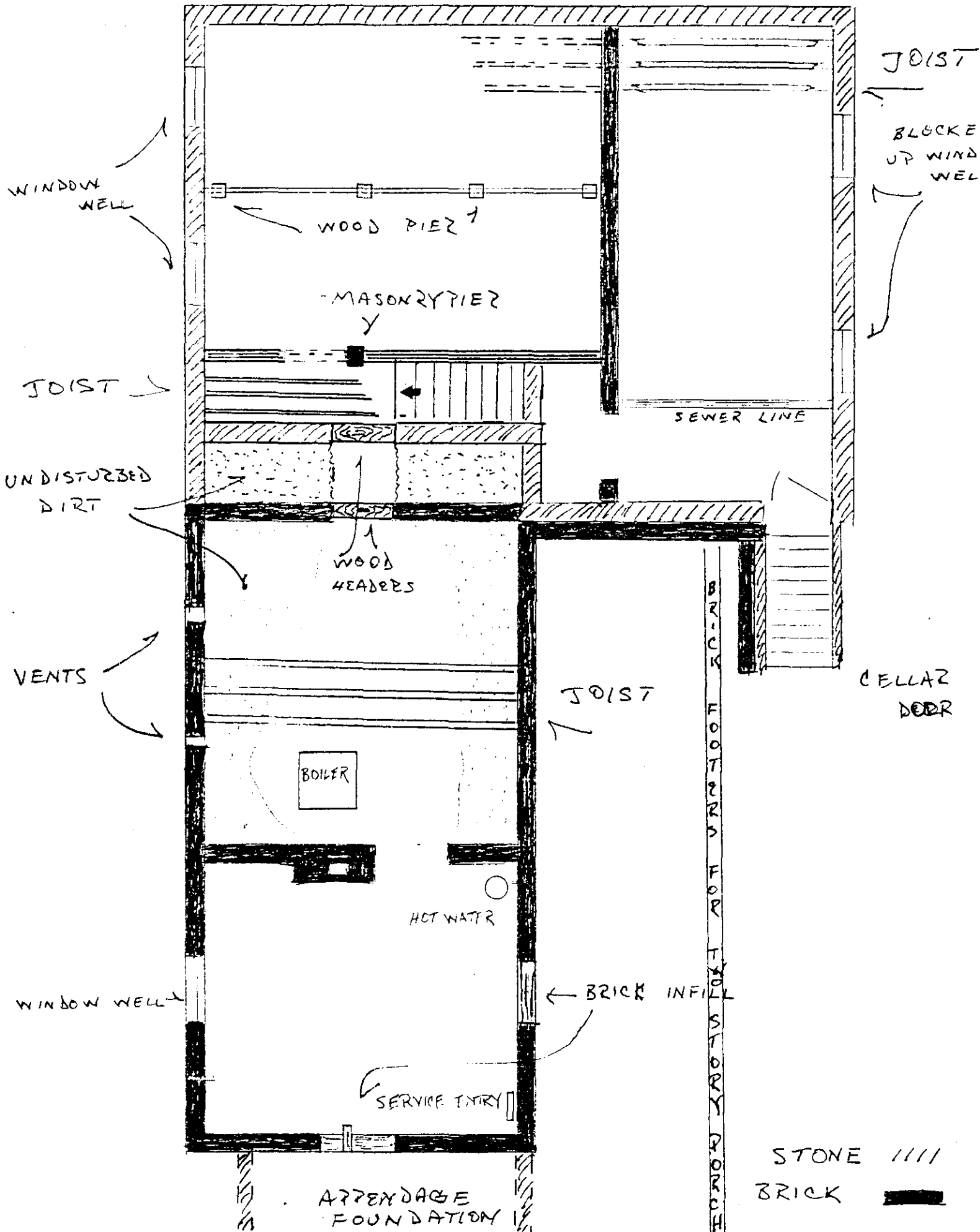
DICKINSON



Brick

N ↑

BASEMENT / STRUCTURAL



JOIST

BLOCKE UP WIND WEL

WINDOW WELL

WOOD PIER

MASONRY PIER

JOIST

SEWER LINE

UNDISTURBED DIRT

WOOD HEADERS

VENTS

JOIST

CELLAR DOOR

BOILER

HOT WATER

WINDOW WELL

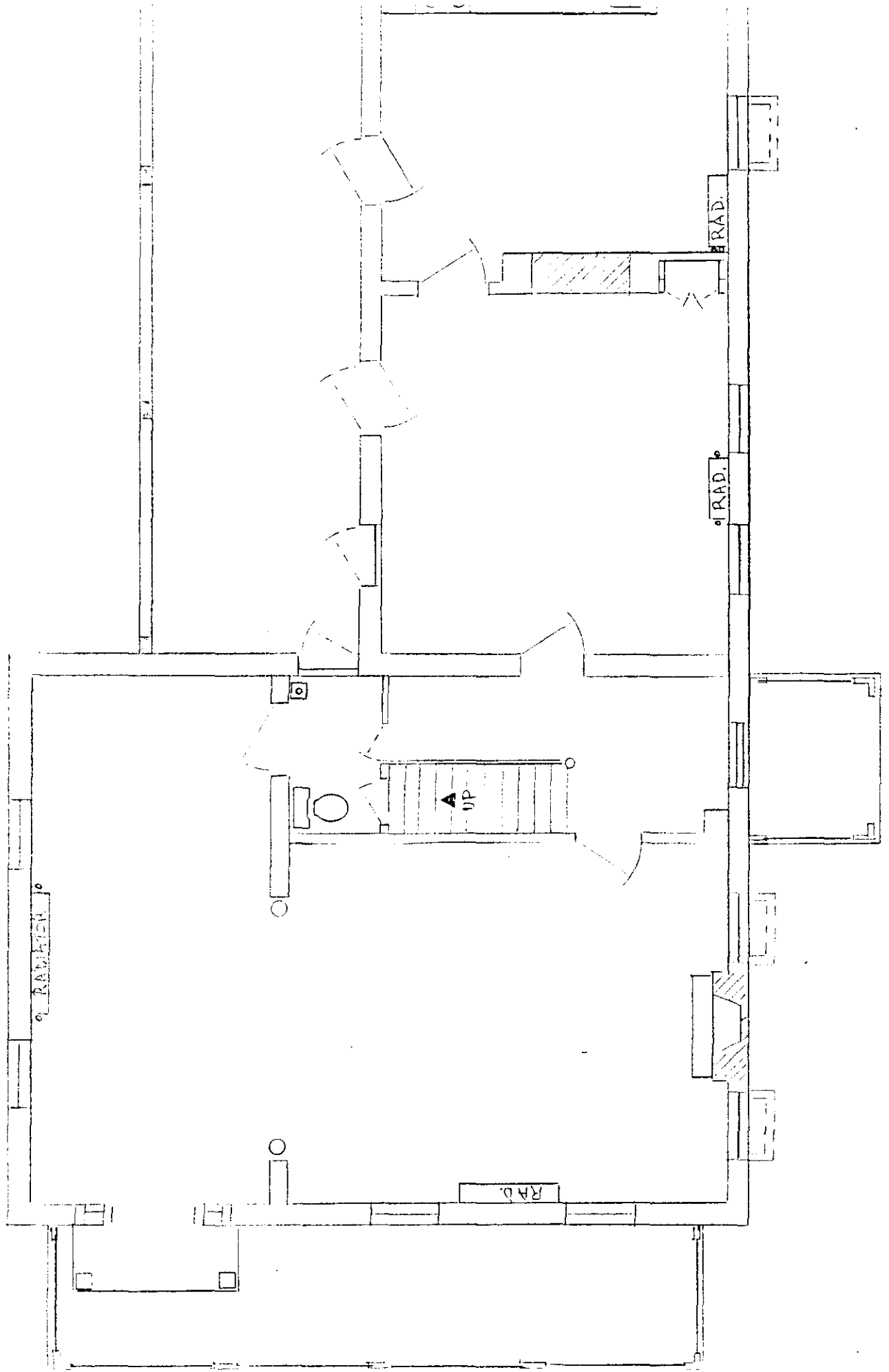
BRICK INFILL

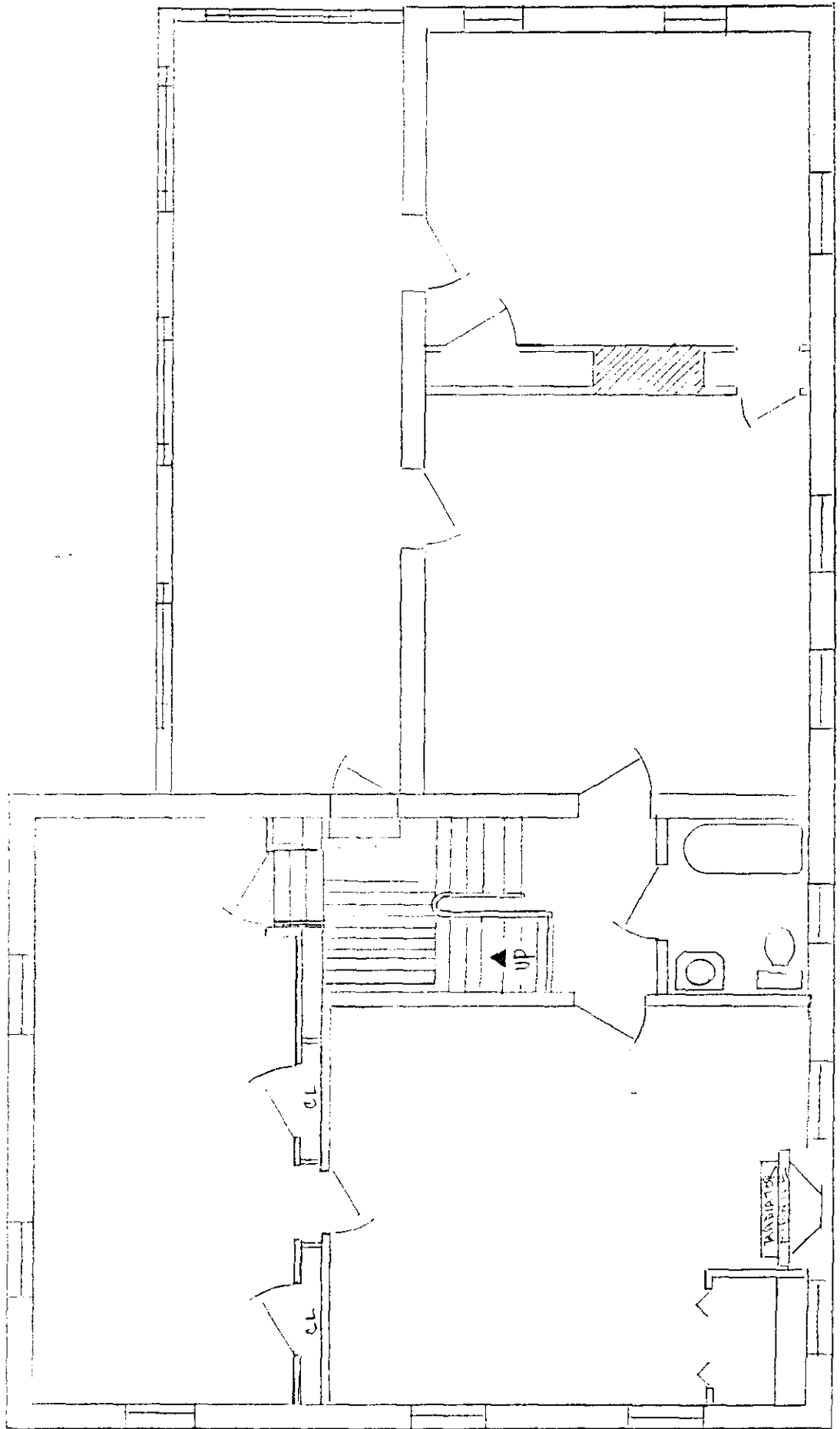
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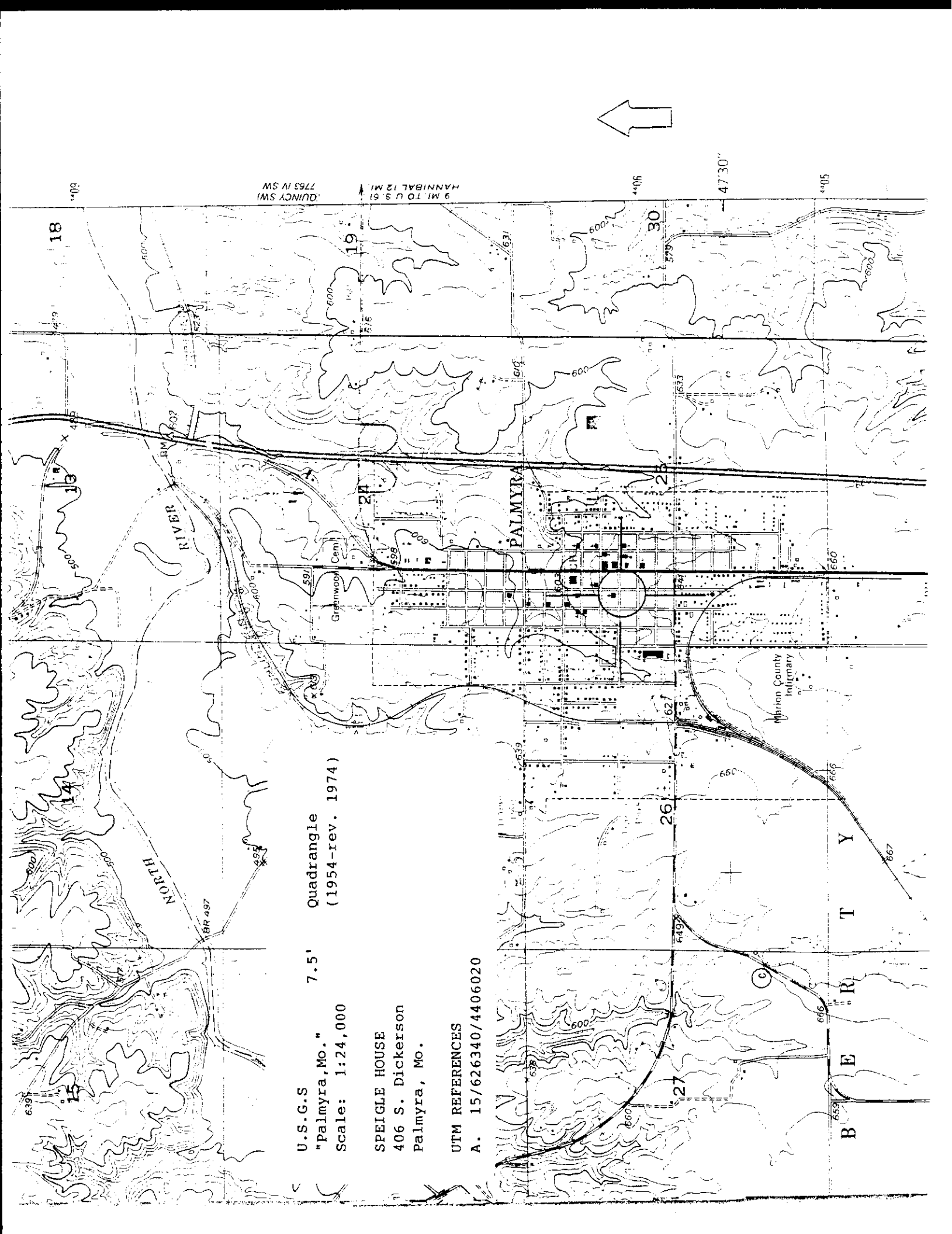
STONE
BRICK

APPENDAGE FOUNDATION

BRICK FOOTINGS FOR JOIST STAYS





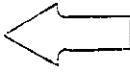


U.S.G.S 7.5' Quadrangle
"Palmyra, Mo." (1954-rev. 1974)
Scale: 1:24,000

SPEIGLE HOUSE
406 S. Dickerson
Palmyra, Mo.

UTM REFERENCES
A. 15/626340/4406020

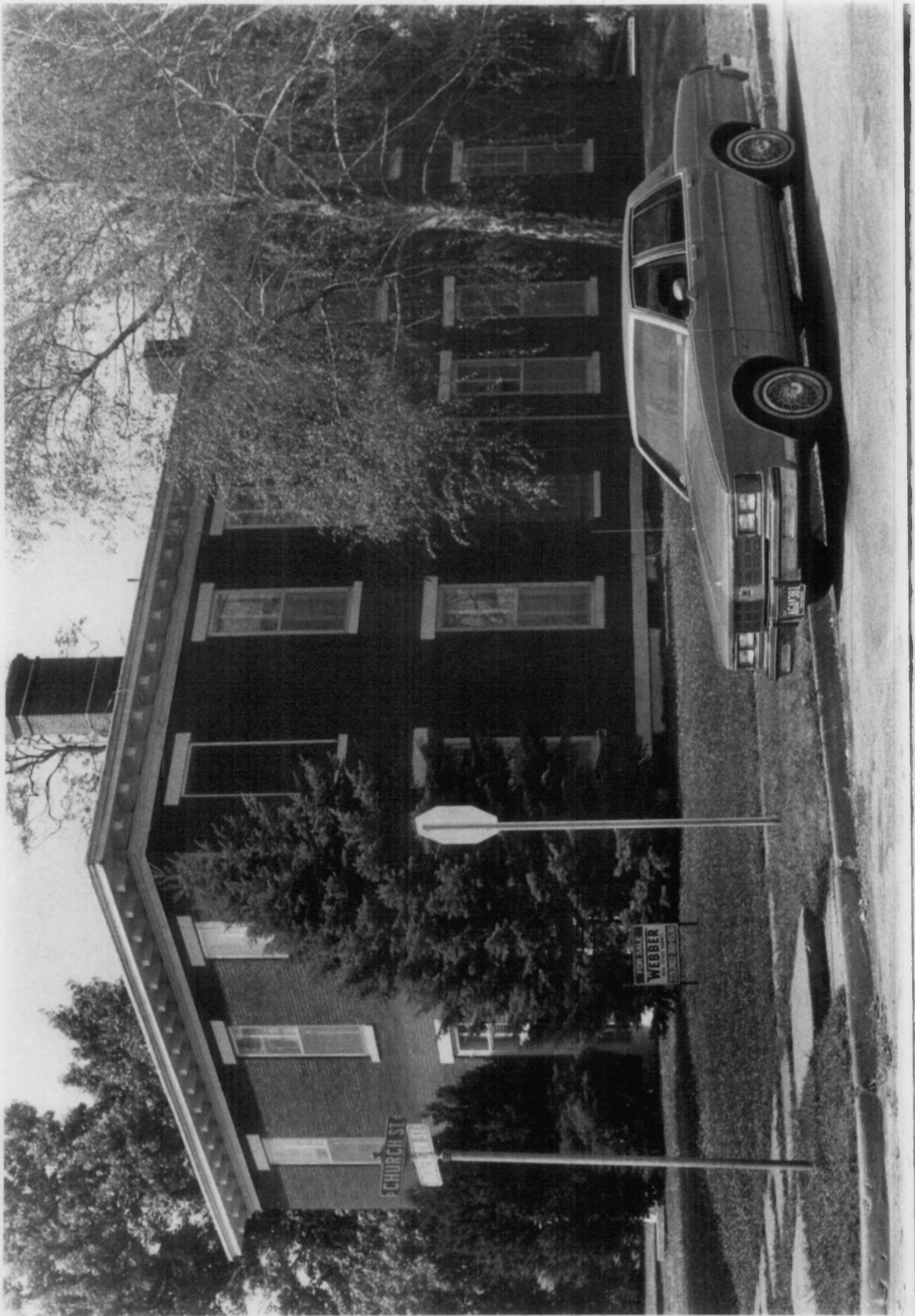
QUINCY SW 9 MI TO U.S. 61
HANNIBAL 12 MI 7763 N SW



10/9

Speigle House
406 S Dickerson,
Palmyra Marion Co.
Kristy, Trevathan
Sept. 1984

Streetscape looking Southwest;
East & South facade



CHURCH ST

WEBBER

Speigle House

406 S. Dickerson

Palmyra, Missouri

Kristy Trevathan

Sept 1984

Primary (east) facade; looking west

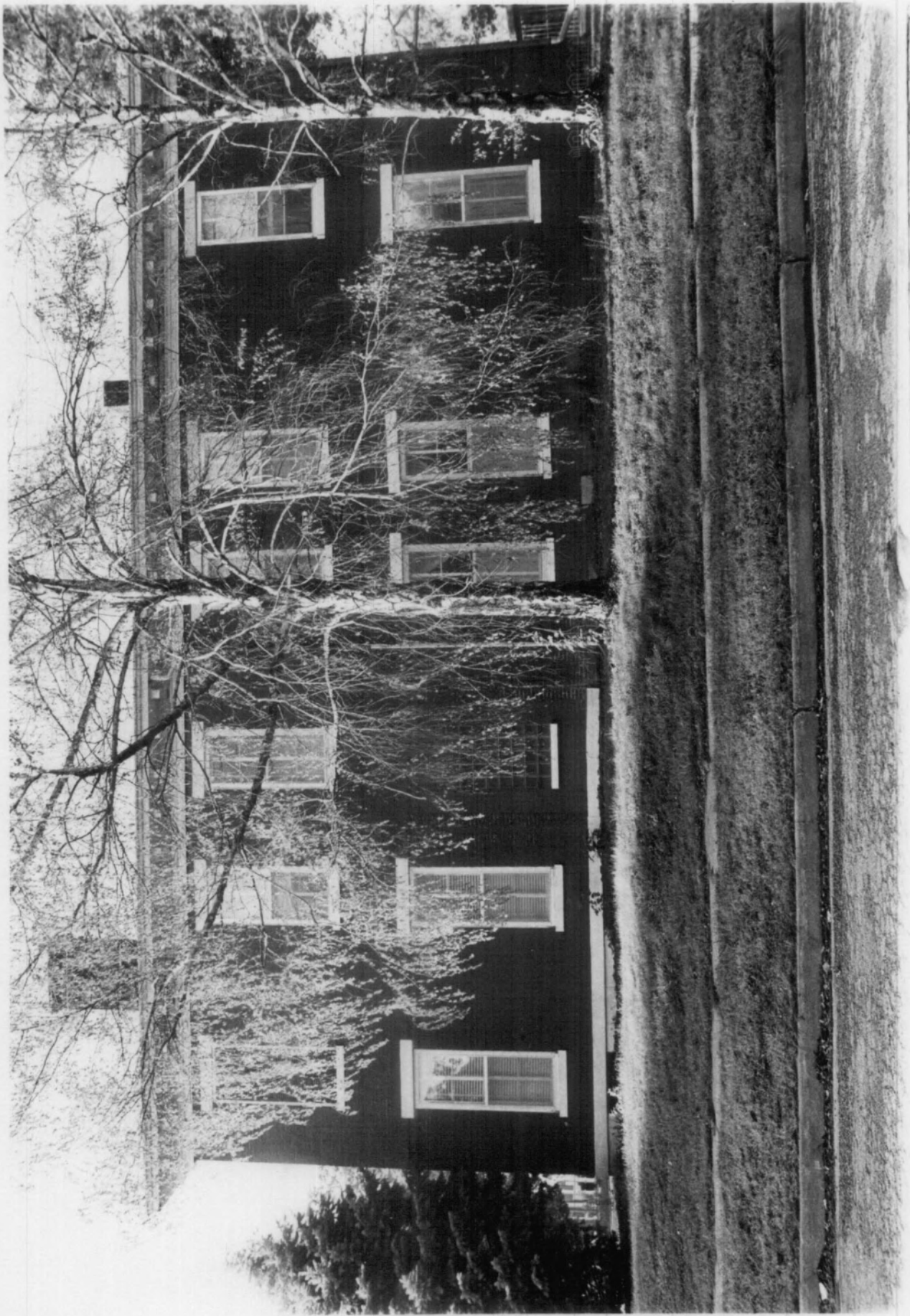
2069



406

Speigle House
406 S. Dickerson
Palmyra Marion Co
Kristly Trevathan
Sept 1984

North facade; looking South



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Speigle House

406 S. Dickerson

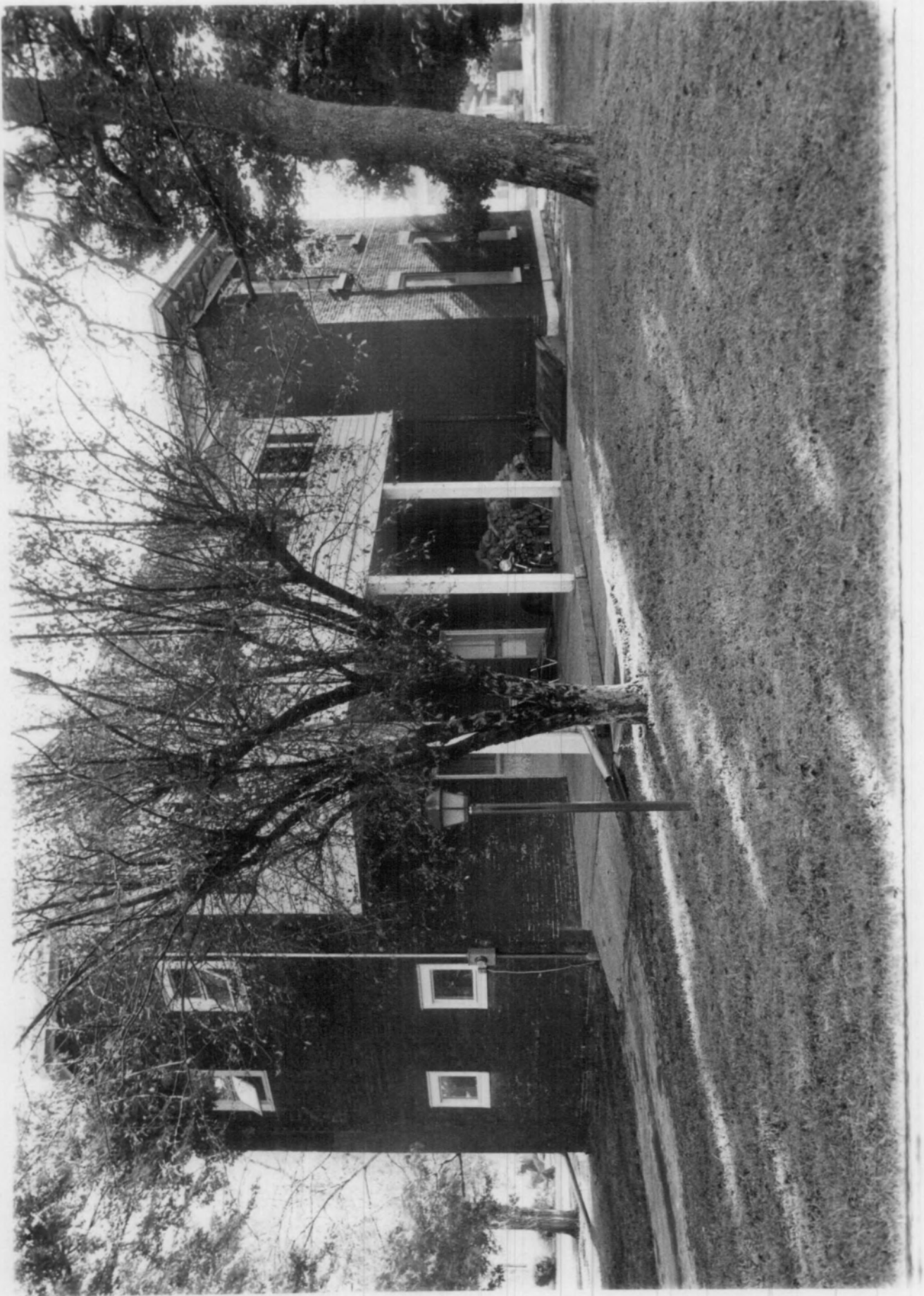
Palmyra Marion Co

Kristy Treathan

Sept 1984

West and South facades,

looking northeast



5. of 9

Speight House

406 S. Dickerson

Palmyra Marion

?

Historic View of house looking
North showing front porch detail



Speigle House

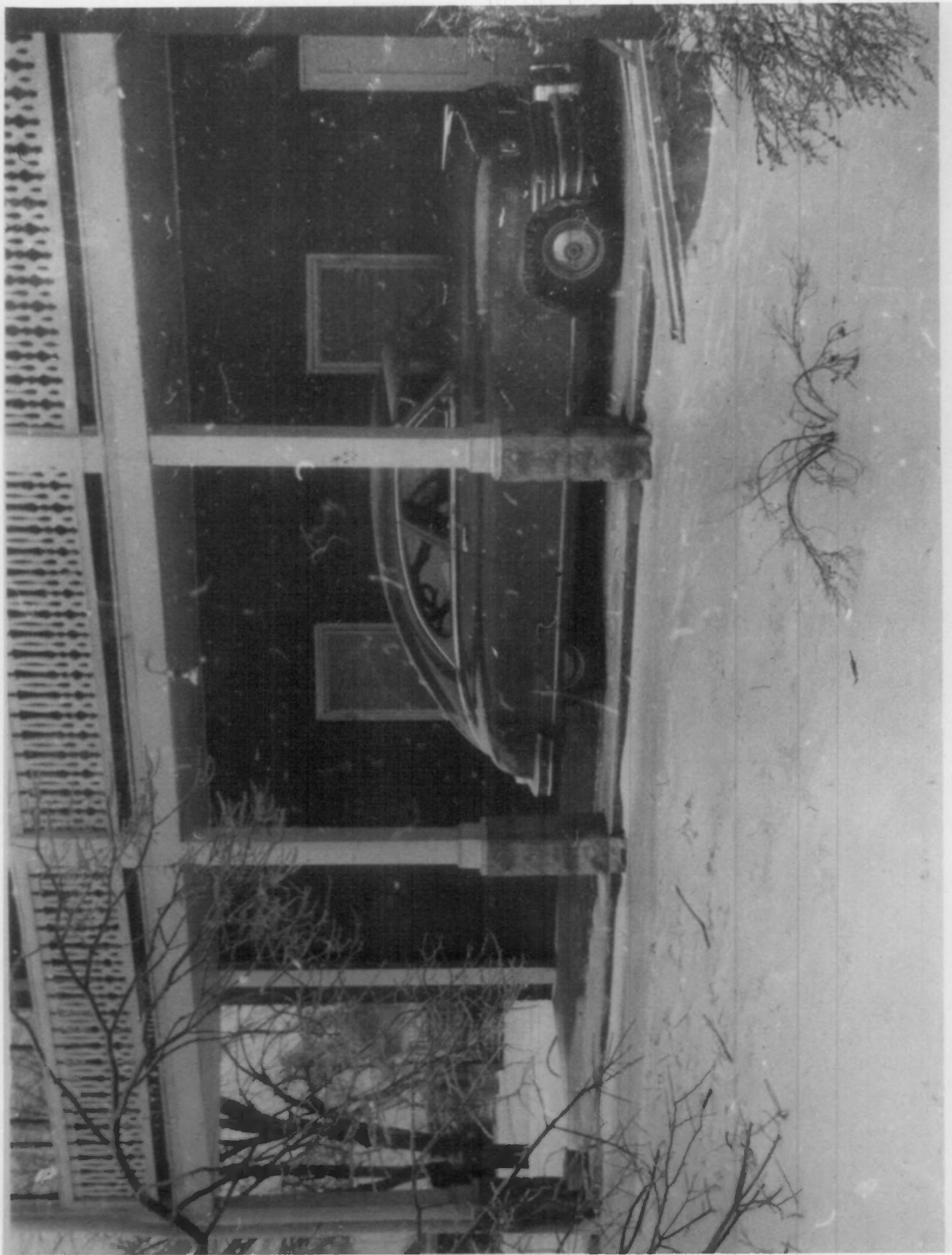
406 S. Dickerson

Palmyra, Marion Co

? (1940's)

Historic view of balustrade of 2 story
gallery porch, 1st floor altered
for carport in 1940's

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Speigle House

406 S. Dickerson

Palmyra, Marion Co

Kristy Trevathan

Sept 1984

Format Goyer looking east



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Speigle House

406 S. Dickerson

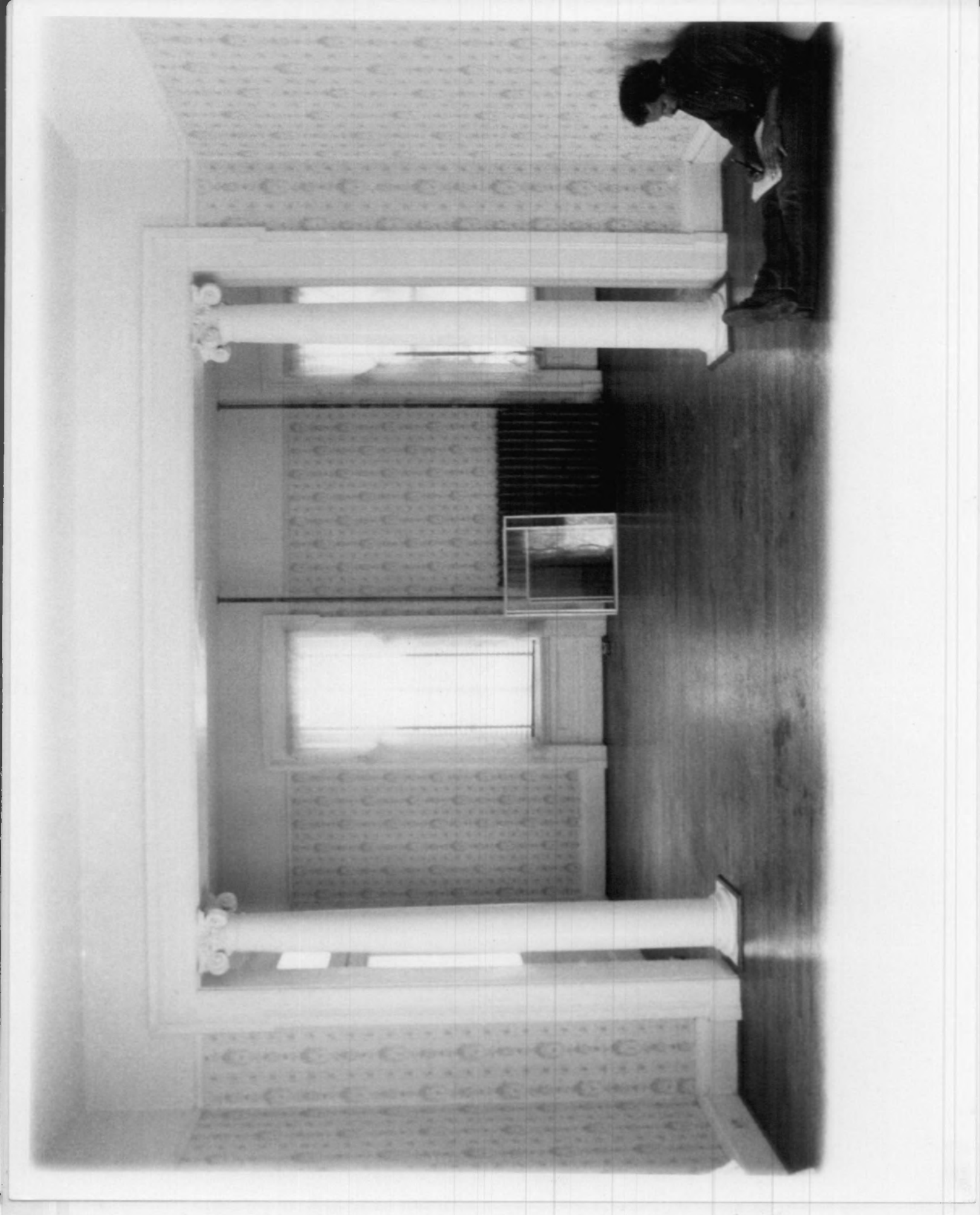
Palmyra, Marion Co.

Kristy Trevathan

Sept 1984

Main parlor looking south into

the formal foyer



Speigle House

406 S. Dickerson

Palmyra, Marion Co

Kristy Trevathan

Sept 1984

Main Stairway, side entry looking
South.

