

212 MAIN STREET EAST

1.0 HISTORY

The house at 212 Main Street East was built 1860-67 by William Dennis Kitchen. William was the grandson of William Kitchen and Alice Beam who had come to Upper Canada from New Jersey before 1790. Alice's family had settled in Clinton Township, and William had a mill on Thirty Mile Creek in 1790. However, he also was granted land in the Grimsby Gore, and served on the Grimsby Township Council on several occasions, including a term as overseer of roads in 1791.

William Dennis was the son of Jacob Kitchen and Jane Dennis. He married Margaret Henry and built the turreted house on Regional Road 81 just west of Thirty Mile Creek. He also built the house at 212 Main Street East, and this became the family home. The house was built of frame, and had three gables, two large ones with a smaller one over the front entrance. Later in the 19th century, a large verandah was added across the front and around the east side of the house.

In 1901, the Kitchen farm on this property produced a crop of peaches, grapes, apples, pears, plums, cherries, raspberries and strawberries. When William Dennis died in 1903, his son Edgar was living in the house at the Thirty. He and his wife, Eola Belle Terryberry, wanted Margaret to come and live with them, but she did not want to leave her home at 212 Main Street East, so in 1908, Edgar and his family moved into this house with her. The last members of the Kitchen family to own the house were Olive and Fred, daughter and son of Edgar and Eola Belle. During the 1930s and 40s, they regularly took summer tourists into their home. They owned the house until 1959.

After the house had been out of the family for some time, it was purchased by William and Margaret's grandson, Jack Griffith and his wife Dorothy who made it their family home.

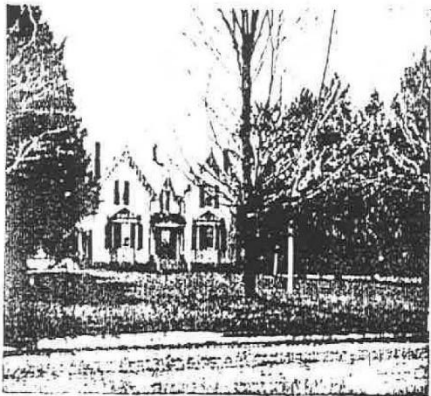
Sometime after the turn of the century, the upper storey of the house was destroyed by fire. When it was rebuilt, the three gables were replaced by the present hip roof.

Picture of the
Front of the
house

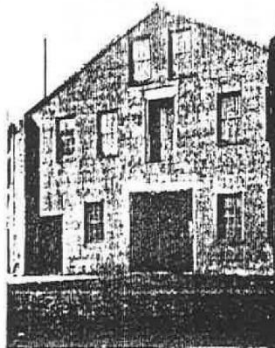


View of the back of the house

of 1900

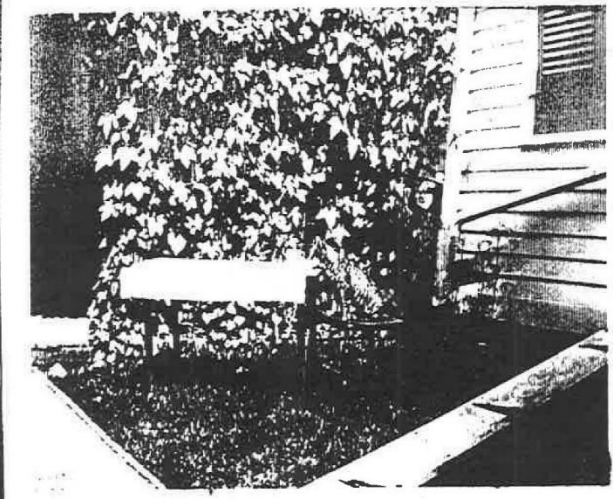
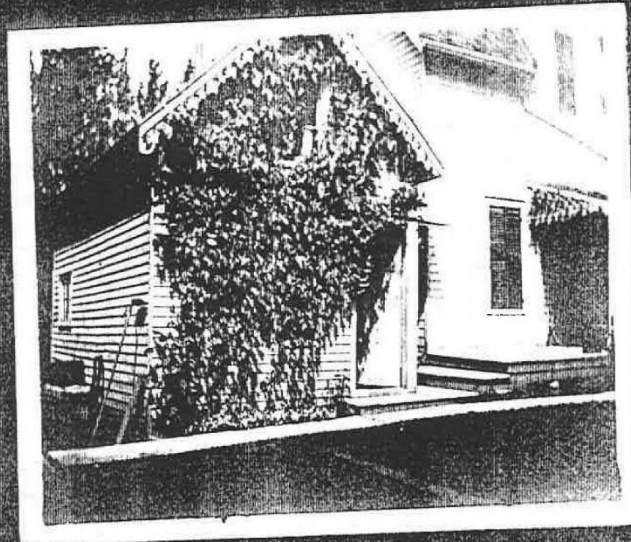


House of D. W. Litch, Grimby



L. W. Vandark's Brick and Veneer
Grimby

"view of back kitchen from
the east"



ARC ON H. G. & B. R. R., GRIMBY.

RESIDENCE OF HARRY GRIFFITH, GRIMBY.

← "View from southeast - at right is part of
hinged cover for outside cellar steps. At
left is vine in corner"

back

FROM BACK OF PHOTO

Sometime after 1960, the area over the front entrance was enclosed to make a small room. More recently, when the half-pie windows were removed from above the boys' and girl's entrances to Park School, the owners of this house purchased them and installed them in the kitchen area, creating a large round window.

There are two important natural features on the site. One is a very old black walnut tree opposite the rear of the house on the east side of the driveway while the other is an old fir tree on the same side of the driveway.

The name Ingleside is a recent one, not used by the Kitchen or Griffith families during their ownership of the house.

2.0 ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The house constructed by William Dennis Kitchen in 1860-67 displays the classical symmetry (1,2) which was the ideal design of the time. Its ground floor windows on the front are double hung bay windows (S), with four over four **glazing**, and narrow mullions. The side windows (1, 2) have a classical cornice and the six over six glazed double hung windows that are standard for most of the house.

Shutters look operable, and add to the historical correctness of the detailing. There was a skilled carpenter involved in the construction of this house, as shown by the neatness and creativity of the paneling of the front entrance and bays (7). The front door is adorned with a large stained glass window complemented by sidelights and toplight with curved mullions, and four neatly detailed pilasters.

The turned railings, graceful columns and carved moulding and dentils of this excellent example of a 19th century verandah (4-6) typify the Georgian style. A screened section on the east side is separated from the front open section by two parallel railings. The screens have large wooden frames, and are removable, as are the covers fastened over the decorative ventilating panels below the porch. These are interesting as they are in the form of panels of four "Union Jack" units (2, 4), separated by four vertical boards hiding the supports of the verandah. Symmetrically positioned benches were carefully made and inserted to fit between the door and the bay windows.

Later additions to the house are indicated by the board and batten siding, which is more roughly done, as the boards are not of uniform width. These are interesting structures, one to enclose the "front porch" of the back kitchen (18), and connecting with one (with horizontal siding) the full height of the first and second floors, one to make an unusual second storey private outhouse (19, 20), accessible through the French doors to the back porch balcony, and one extra room on the south-east corner of the porch (20). This latter room has an unusual round window (24), created by adaptive re-use of the "half-pie" windows from the Park School, across the street. Another historical element on the east side is a light fixture with a fluted reflector (25) which seems to be one of Grimsby's former street lights. The typical basement entrance is at present between two ground floor porches at the rear(22).

The room over the porch (the sixties addition) (3) has been added in character with the rest of the house, using the horizontal boards and the board and batten sidings, and the wide overhang of the main house, with a classically shaped architrave over the windows.

The roof dormers (2, 3, 25, and 19) have metal siding, probably a fire protection considering the history of the house, and are of a typical vernacular style and classical villa symmetry, facing as they do the four directions.

The proportion and style of the south wing (8, 9, 18, and 21) suggests that further research may reveal that it pre-existed the rest of the house. It is similar to many settler's first dwelling, with its characteristic central gable window (15, 18), expanded to include a second storey. Typically, people lived in the future "back kitchen while the main house was being built. Measurements of the siding indicate that the boards are not as uniform in width as those of the front section of the house. Examination of the juncture of the two structures on the west side shows that the stone foundation of the back section (11) is not as high as that of the front (10). Both are of the local redstone, with similar mortar, but the front section shows a little more uniformity. The fact that the gable is not centered suggests that the front house may have been constructed around the north end of the older house. Upper windows (13), and back windows (14, 15) of the main house are in keeping with the simpler style of the windows of the "older" section (14, 15). There may have also been a basement entrance to the north of the old kitchen entrance in the back section before the front of the house was built.

The shed section at the back of the kitchen (16, 21) was originally built at ground level, but has been raised on a concrete foundation (11). Its siding boards have a cove moulding, showing that it is a later addition, probably at the same time as the small house for servants in the backyard that has the same siding. It may be that at a future time, that little house with its two side porches, wooden ramp and stone-edged flower garden may be considered for designation, as well as the "two holer" at the back of the lot. These are both prime examples of vanishing types.

Sources

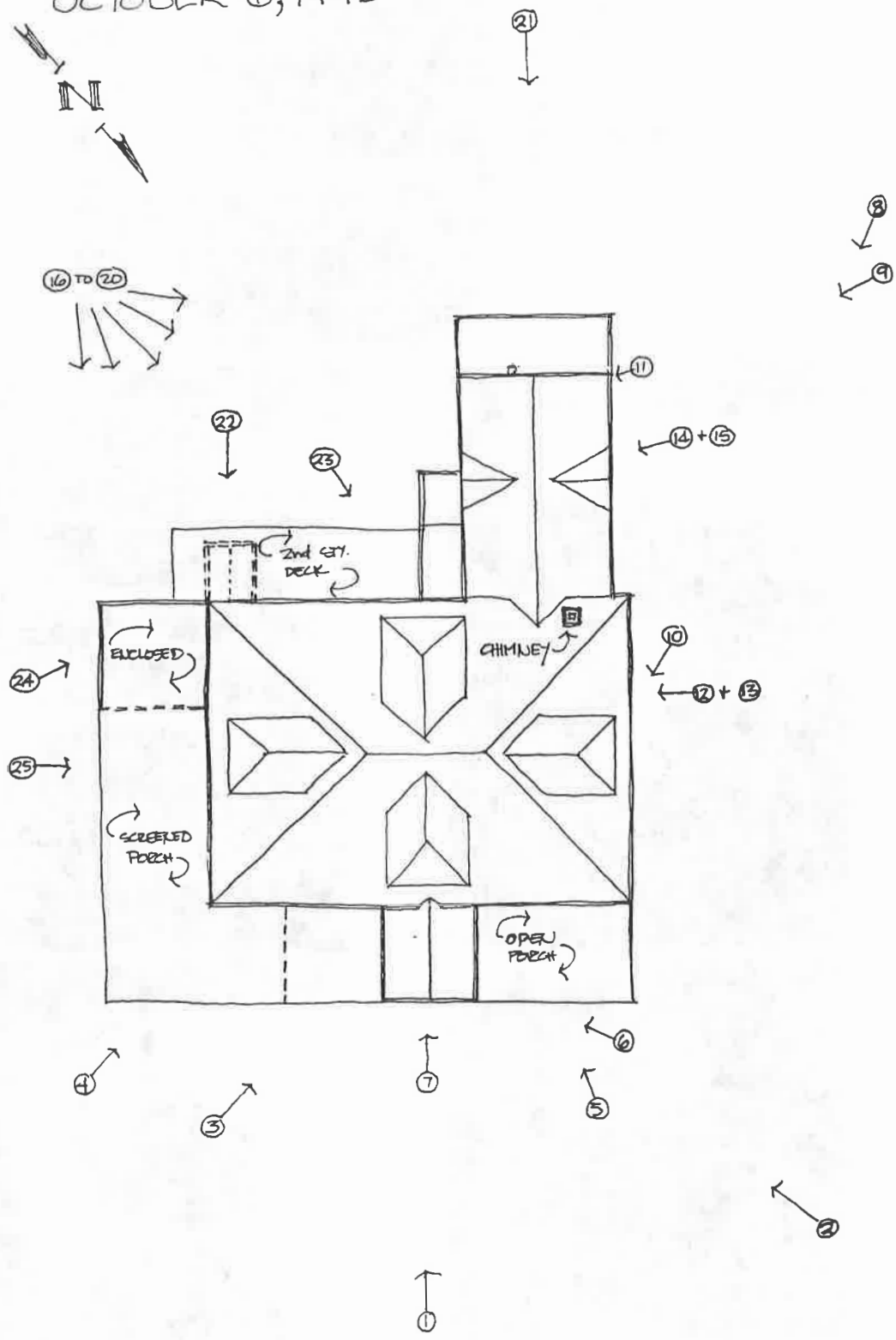
The Annals of the Forty, compiled by R. Janet Powell, Grimsby Historical Society, 1954.

Grimsby, Ontario, Canada and District including Beamsville, Winona and Stoney Creek, Illustrated and Descriptive Souvenir, June 1901.

Interviews with Jean Petersen, descendant of William and Margaret Kitchen.

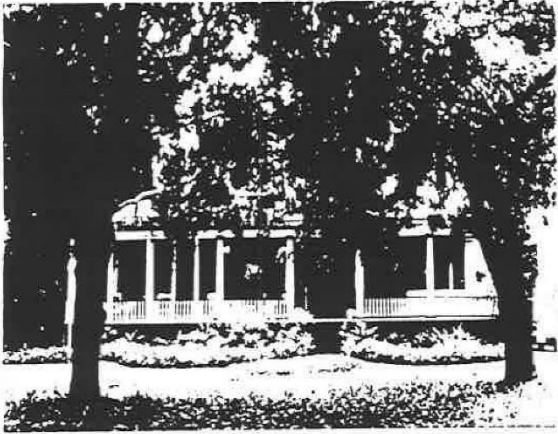
Architectural Description provided by Claire McCausland

PLAN ILLUSTRATING LOCATION AND DIRECTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN OF 212 MAIN STREET EAST ON OCTOBER 6, 1995

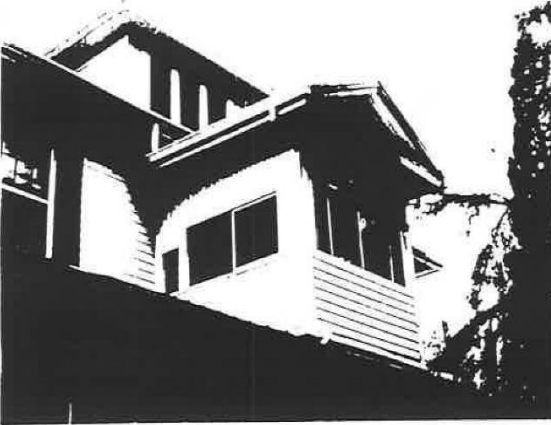


MAIN ST. E. (REGIONAL ROAD #81)

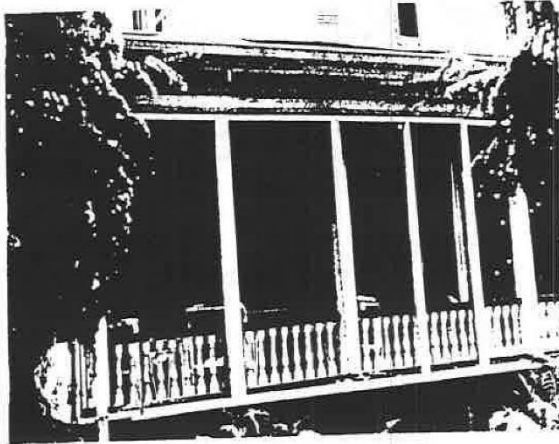
Images of the home from different angles



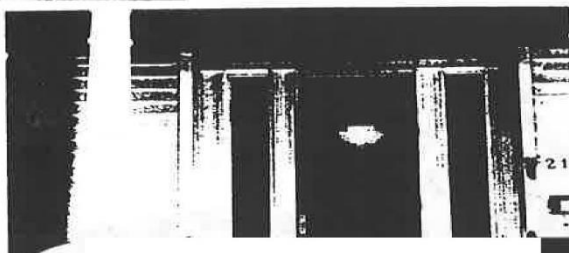
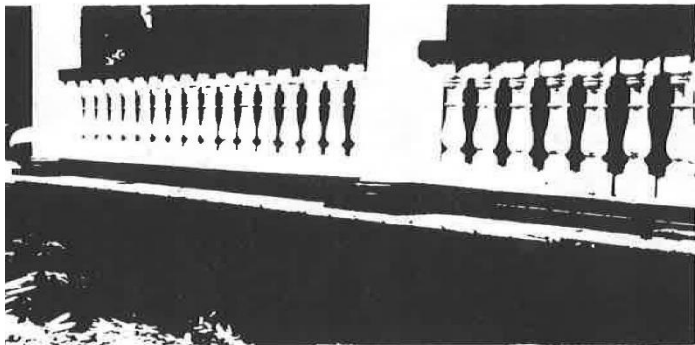
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4



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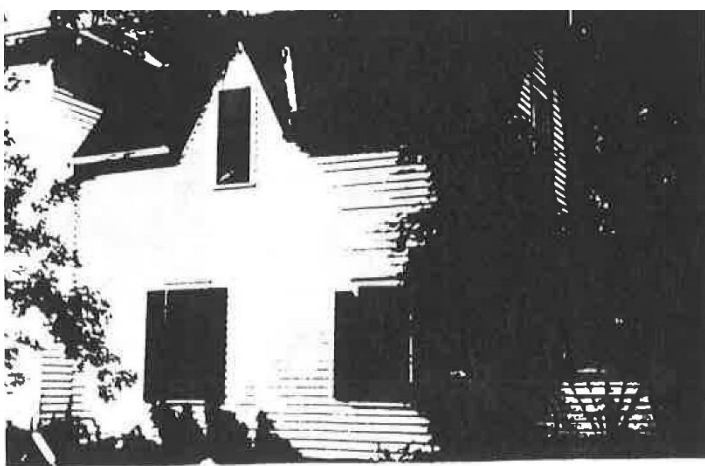


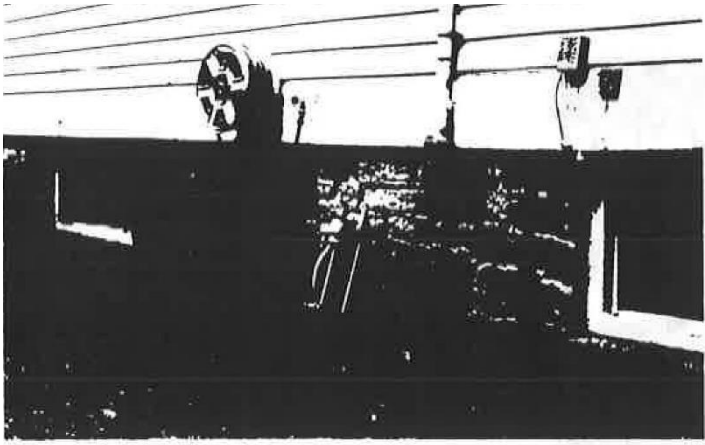
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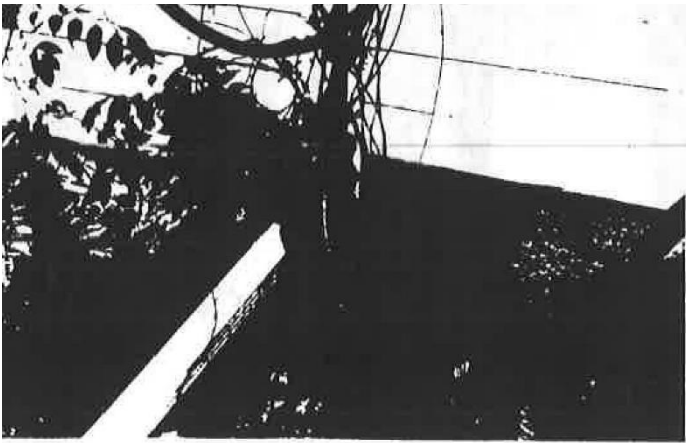




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12



11



3

13

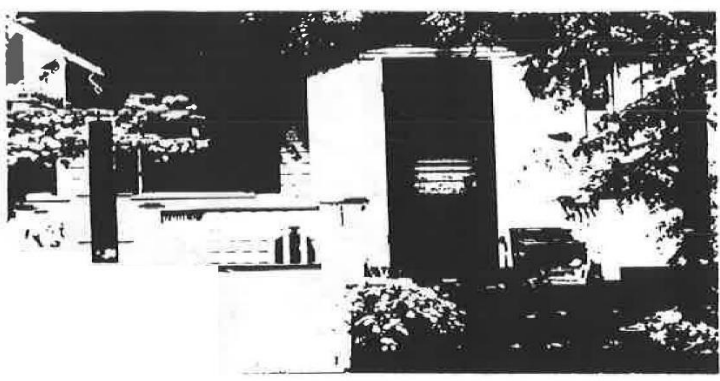
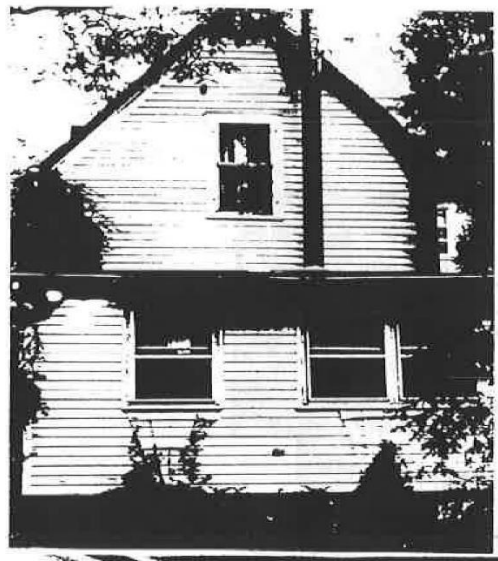


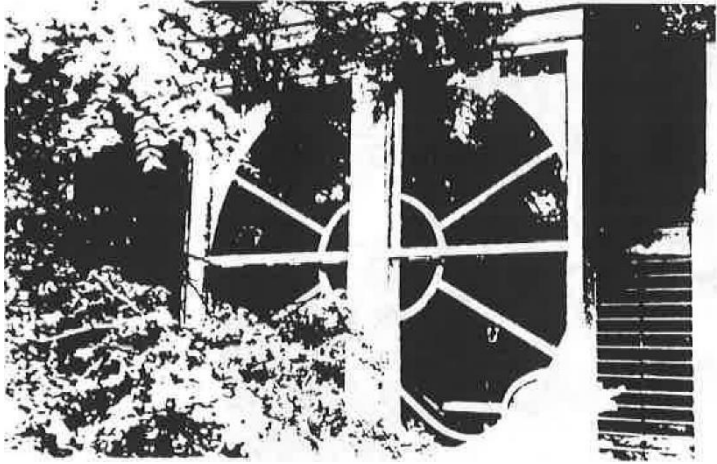
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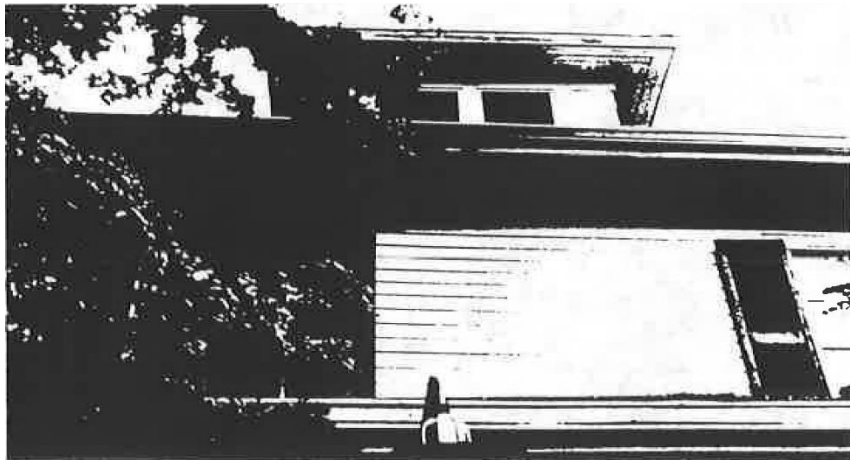








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25

