

# BEGIN

TEDDY'S TAVERN

Use black ink and completely fill each box. Entries above the ruled line will appear on fiche labels.

CRS S-8384 •



STATE OF DELAWARE

DIVISION OF

HALL OF RECORDS • DOVER • 19901

HISTORICAL & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

FICHE TITLE FRAME

Date ordered:

\* Camera:

Date filmed:

Operator's Signature:

DOCUMENT 20-06/78/01/7

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# Nat Reg



NATIONAL REGISTER FILE PREPARATION CHECKLIST

CRS Number: S-8384

Name of Nomination: Teddy's Tavern

Nomination Form (as submitted to NPS)

- Cover (sec. 1-5):
- Function/Description (sec. 6-7):
- Significance (sec. 8)
- Bibliography/Boundary (sec. 9-11):
- \*Owners' List (old sec. 4, now at end):
- USGS topographic map:
- Other maps:
- Photographs:

✓  
✓  
✓  
✓  
✓  
✓  
✓  
✓

CLG Notice of Action (if noted in nom.):

—

- Notices for Review Board meeting
  - to owner(s)
  - to official
  - to planning agencies

✓  
✓  
✓  
✓

Copy of Review Board minutes (dated):

✓

- Notices of results of Review Board meeting
  - to owner(s)
  - to official
  - to planning agencies

✓  
✓  
✓

Transmittal letter to NPS

—

NPS notice of listing

✓

- Notices of listing
  - to owner(s)
  - to planning agencies

✓  
✓

\* = not required

(Any other correspondence is placed after nomination, in chronological order with notices.)



NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION PROCEDURAL CHECKLIST

Name of Property: Teddy's Tavern  
 Location Info: DuPont Blvd, .6 miles north of rte 16, east side; Cedar Creek Road  
 CRS Number: S-8384  
 Prepared as part of: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Prepared by: Steven Muffson  
 SHPO Recommendation: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTICES (Provide date):

	Board to consider	Board Accepts	Listed on NR
Owner:	<u>3/25/91</u>	<u>6/10/91</u>	<u>9/23/91</u>
Public Official:	<u>3/25/91</u>	<u>6/10/91</u>	<u>9/23/91</u>
Planning Office:	<u>nd</u>	<u>6/10/91</u>	<u>9/23/91</u>
Public Notice:	<u>nd</u>		
Advertisement:	<u>n/a</u>		

REVIEW BOARD ACTION (Provide appropriate info):

Date of Meeting: 4/25/91  
 Action Taken: \_\_\_\_\_ (Accept/Reject/Table/DOE)  
 Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (Provide appropriate info):

Transmitted: 6/10/91  
 Action Taken: 7/22/91 (Accept/Reject/DOE)  
 Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

CERTIFICATE (Provide appropriate info):

Transmitted: \_\_\_\_\_  
 By/At: \_\_\_\_\_ (Letter/Presentation)  
 Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

FILE CLOSED (By): \_\_\_\_\_

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property Teddy's Tavern

historic name: \_\_\_\_\_

other name/site number: S-8384

2. Location

street & number: Du Pont Boulevard, 0.6 miles north of Route 16, east side  
not for publication: NA

city/town: Ellendale, Cedar Creek Hundred

vicinity: X

state: Delaware

county: Sussex

code: 005

zip code: 19941

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
1	0 buildings
0	0 sites
0	0 structures
0	0 objects
1	0 Total

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

Name of related multiple property listing: NA

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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.

Daniel M. [Signature]   
Signature of certifying official

June 6, 1991   
Date

Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs   
 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:  Transportation

Sub:  road related

Current :  Transportation

Sub:  road related

6. Function or Use

Historic: Commerce \_\_\_\_\_ Sub: Road- Related \_\_\_\_\_  
Transportation \_\_\_\_\_ Trade- Restaurant \_\_\_\_\_

Current : Commerce \_\_\_\_\_ Sub: Trade- Restaurant \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Mission-Spanish Colonial Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other Description: NA

Materials: foundation: concrete roof: asphalt  
walls: brick other: brick

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

Teddy's Tavern is a small, rural bar located south of the Ellendale Forest lands on Route 113. Originally called the Blue Hen Garage, it was built in 1923 as a service station catering to motorists on the newly constructed Du Pont Highway. Subsequently, the pumps gave way to a restaurant and, in 1937, Teddy's Tavern was licensed as a liquor establishment.

The building is a one-story rendering of the mission style of architecture of the desert southwest. It has a low-pitched gable roof which is hidden from the road by a low parapet on the main (west) facade. Below this parapet, a flat-roofed "porch" reaches out to the road. It is trabeated with exposed rafter ends and is supported by four massive brick and concrete conical columns. Stretchers laid on-end above a small lip serve as capitals. Located near the highway, the southern most column of the porch has, over the years, fallen victim to veering motorists and been replaced. Collectively, the heavy columns, which punctuate the dark, recessed areas of the porch, the exposed rafter ends and the low, horizontal profile of this main facade are reminiscent of the mission style.

The fenestration of the west elevation contains five bays and is symmetrically arranged. The center bay contains a large glass block window which is flanked by two entrances (the tavern to the north and the package store to the south). The outer bays are barred, like all of the windows, and contain large multi-paned fixed windows.

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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7

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The exterior is clad in polychrome brick in which headers, often chipped and broken, project from the surface at irregular angles. Laid up in Flemish bond with deep mortar joints, this brickwork creates animated shadows which give the wall a very rough and rich texture. The northern part of the rear addition is also clad in this rough brickwork as is the chimney at the northwest corner. The walk-in cooler on the southeast corner is laid up in Flemish bond and is a later addition. The interior chimney in the southeast corner is laid up in common bond and painted white. The foundation consists of a concrete slab set at grade level. It is lined on the north, south and east with a course of stretchers laid on-end.

Originally, the Blue Hen Garage appeared as a well equipped service station catering to motorists traveling along the Du Pont Highway. Two sets of three "visible measure" pumps flanked a central service bay. Common in the 1920's, this type of pump drew gas into a glass graduate, which was protected with wire mesh, so the customer could see what he was buying. The gas was then released to flow into the tank of an automobile.<sup>1</sup> Curb pumps, such as these, were outlawed in fourteen American cities at the time of the Blue Hen Garage's construction because of the danger their close proximity to the road presented.<sup>2</sup> These curbside pumps, however, continued to flourish in small towns and rural areas. Drive-in porches, such as the Blue Hen Garage's, had become a common site by the time of World War I.<sup>3</sup> Originally, the supports of Blue Hen Garage's porch were square wooden posts and its broad overhang provided both service and shelter for numerous vehicles. The entire building consisted of blue and yellow painted stucco over a wood frame. Owing to the family's Swedish descent, the blue and yellow paint scheme was chosen.

The interior of Teddy's Tavern can be categorized by three types of spaces: the package store, the dining area and the labyrinth of service rooms. The package store, which is located in the southwest corner of the building, serves take-out customers and has its own exterior entrance as well as a doorway that connects it with the bar. Shelves of bottles line the walls and a cooler stores merchandise and functions as a counter. The ceiling of the package store is tin and dates to the original construction of the building.

The dining areas compose the largest space. The main dining area is entered directly from the porch and contains a heating stove and jukebox. The dado level of the walls are finished with vertical, lacquered pine panelling and the ceiling has been lowered. This area seats fifteen to

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National Park Service

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twenty people and contains the serpentine bar. The bar, like the center bay, is constructed of glass block. It accommodates eight to ten people and, having no taps, serves only cold cans and bottles.

The rear dining room is smaller than the main dining area and is separated by a partition wall that rises five to six feet. There is a large fireplace in the northwest corner which is constructed of the same polychrome brick that covers the exterior. The top edge of the fireplace opening and the base of the brick pile are lined with stretchers laid on-end in a manner similar to those that line the foundation.

The collection of smaller rooms that provide service functions to the package store and dining areas are located in the southeastern part of the building. Of these rooms, the men's and women's restrooms are the only public spaces. The wall dividing these two rooms terminates at a sash window on the south wall. These are the smallest service rooms and each measures approximately 5 x 8 feet. The three remaining service rooms are entered through the office. The office contains a chest of drawers, desk and window sink as well as the ubiquitous pine panelling. The walk-in cooler, which occupies the southern half of the rear addition, is entered through the office. A storage room to the north is also entered from the office. This storage room has a large, two door closet and offers access to a second storage room which, in turn, has an exterior entrance. The west wall of this second storage room maintains the rough brickwork found on the exterior walls.

Little of the garage interior remains. The central service bay is filled-in with glass block. The service pit, however, still exists below the floor of the bar. The office now serves as a package store and the auto service areas are now dining rooms. Electricity was brought indoors from batteries stored in a "colder shed" behind the garage. This system was used until electricity was introduced to the area.

Much of the interior detail and the basic articulation of the rooms dates from the building's service as Teddy's Tavern. The layout of the dining areas, office and storage rooms has not changed since the garage was converted to a tavern in 1937. The office also served as living quarters

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for the tavern owners and had a cook stove in addition to the sink. The chimney in the northeast corner was added in the late 1930's. Its rough brickwork is contemporaneous with that on the exterior of the structure. The pine panelling also dates from this period.

The tavern still serves a mostly local clientele though the package store accommodates travelers on the Du Pont Highway just as the Blue Hen Garage did in 1923.

- 1.Liebs, Chester H. Main Street to Miracle Mile: American Roadside Architecture (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1985), 96.
- 2.Ibid., 96.
- 3.Ibid., 97.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : NA

Areas of Significance: Commerce

Period(s) of Significance: 1923-1941

Significant Dates : 1923, 1937

Significant Person(s): NA  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: NA  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder: Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

Originally built in 1923 as a service station and converted into a roadside tavern in 1937, Teddy's Tavern is part of a vanishing example of a commercial enterprise that was once very popular in Delaware. These structures were erected after the construction of all-weather highways prior to World War I. As one of the few surviving service station/roadside taverns remaining from the pre-1940 era in Delaware, Teddy's Tavern is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A for its relationship to roadside commerce and trade during the first period of America's love affair with the automobile, highways, and travel.

Construction of the Du Pont Highway, one the nation's first modern roadways, began in 1908 in effort to ease the often difficult intrastate travel. It was originally built by T. Coleman Du Pont, operating through a private corporation; a completed portion of the highway was donated to the State of Delaware in 1917. Du Pont continued to fund the Project until it was completed in 1923 at a cost of \$3,917,000. The highway was eventually incorporated into the federal highway system as Routes 13 and 113.

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Gasoline was originally sold at existing businesses such as hardware stores, grocery stores and service stations. At about the same time, 1905-1910, oil companies began to develop their own system of gasoline distribution and chains of gas stations began to appear in urban areas.<sup>1</sup> As the popularity of the automobile soared and the quality of the roads improved, increasing numbers of gas stations began to appear. By the time of World War I, such stations were appearing at a rate of 1,200 a year and in 1922, Shell Oil Company supplied 1,841 retail stations on the West Coast alone.<sup>2</sup>

The Du Pont Highway, completed the following year, was touted along much of the eastern seaboard. Among those who relocated near the newly constructed highway were Charles and Ted Walius of New York City. In 1923 they opened the Blue Hen Garage to gas and service automobiles travelling along the highway. The drive-in structure the Walius's constructed is part of a tradition of gas station design that began with a Shell Oil affiliate in St. Louis in 1909 and has since become a ubiquitous part of the American landscape from the 1909-1941 period.<sup>3</sup> The Blue Hen Garage was a Sinclair affiliate.

In 1937, four years after the repeal of Prohibition, The Walius brothers transformed the Blue Hen Garage into Theodore's Tavern, later called Teddie's Tavern and now commonly known as Teddy's Tavern. Along with an extensive liquor and wine list, Teddy's offered salads, sandwiches and platters for under forty cents. The informality of the tavern catered to both locals and travellers alike.

The opening of Teddy's Tavern follows a trend in the evolution of the restaurant industry in this country. At the turn of the nineteenth-century, dining out for most Americans was generally limited to lunchtime eating establishments that catered to the busy urban workers such as cafeterias, delicatessens, lunch counters and luncheonettes. The greater numbers of men and women working away from the home, the end of Prohibition and the lack of availability of domestic help led to a marked increase in the number of restaurants in the 1930's. Technological advances in food storage and preparation also contributed to the growing number of restaurants.<sup>4</sup> The automobile added to this rise as well, as more people drove to restaurants and dined out while travelling to other destinations.<sup>5</sup>

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Teddy's Tavern is an example of such a restaurant that served the early travellers along one of the nations first modern highways. It is one of the few remaining facilities of its type in operation in southern Delaware. Most of the structures have been demolished or, as they have become outdated, were altered so they are no longer recognizable for their original function. This process has been accelerated in the last fifteen years as the chain restaurants and gasoline stations have expanded their hold on the market in southern Delaware.

1.Liebs; 96.

2.Liebs, 96 and Jakle, John A. "The American Gasoline Station, 1920 to 1970." American Culture 1 (Fall 1978): 521.

3.Jakle, 521.

4.Ibid., 97.

5.Ibid., 197.

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Comprehensive Planning Statement

Teddy's Tavern is located in the Lower Peninsula/Cypress Swamp zone of Delaware. Cedar Creek Hundred is mostly flat and well drained so that marsh lands are not commonly present except along the coast line of the Delaware Bay which is on the eastern edge of the hundred or along the hundred's northern boundary which is defined by the Mispillion River. Non-tidal wetlands are common throughout much of the hundred, hence drainage ditches are an important feature of the landscape.

The tavern is directly associated with the transportation theme in Delaware's history since its construction and long history was the direct result of the appearance of all-weather, hard-surfaced roads in the state and the resulting increased need for facilities to provide services to private and commercial travelers. The Tavern's construction and first use as a service station occurred within six years after the completion of the first length of the DuPont Highway and in the same year in which it was completed the length of the state. The stretch of the highway the tavern sits alongside of is the only surviving original two lane portion of the DuPont Highway as built by T. Coleman DuPont and donated by him to the State of Delaware.

The construction of the Tavern in 1923 is within the 1880-1940 period of increased concentration of Delaware's population in larger communities during an intense period of suburbanization and urbanization. In addition, the Tavern represents a new type of building which was developed during the first period of America's intense interest in automobiles during the period between the end of World War I and the beginning of World War II. The demand for highways and for automobiles and both the governmental and private response transformed the face of the State of Delaware, and especially had a profound impact on the appearance of rural Delaware.



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11. Form Prepared By  
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Name/Title: Steven H. Moffson, Research Assistant

Organization: Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

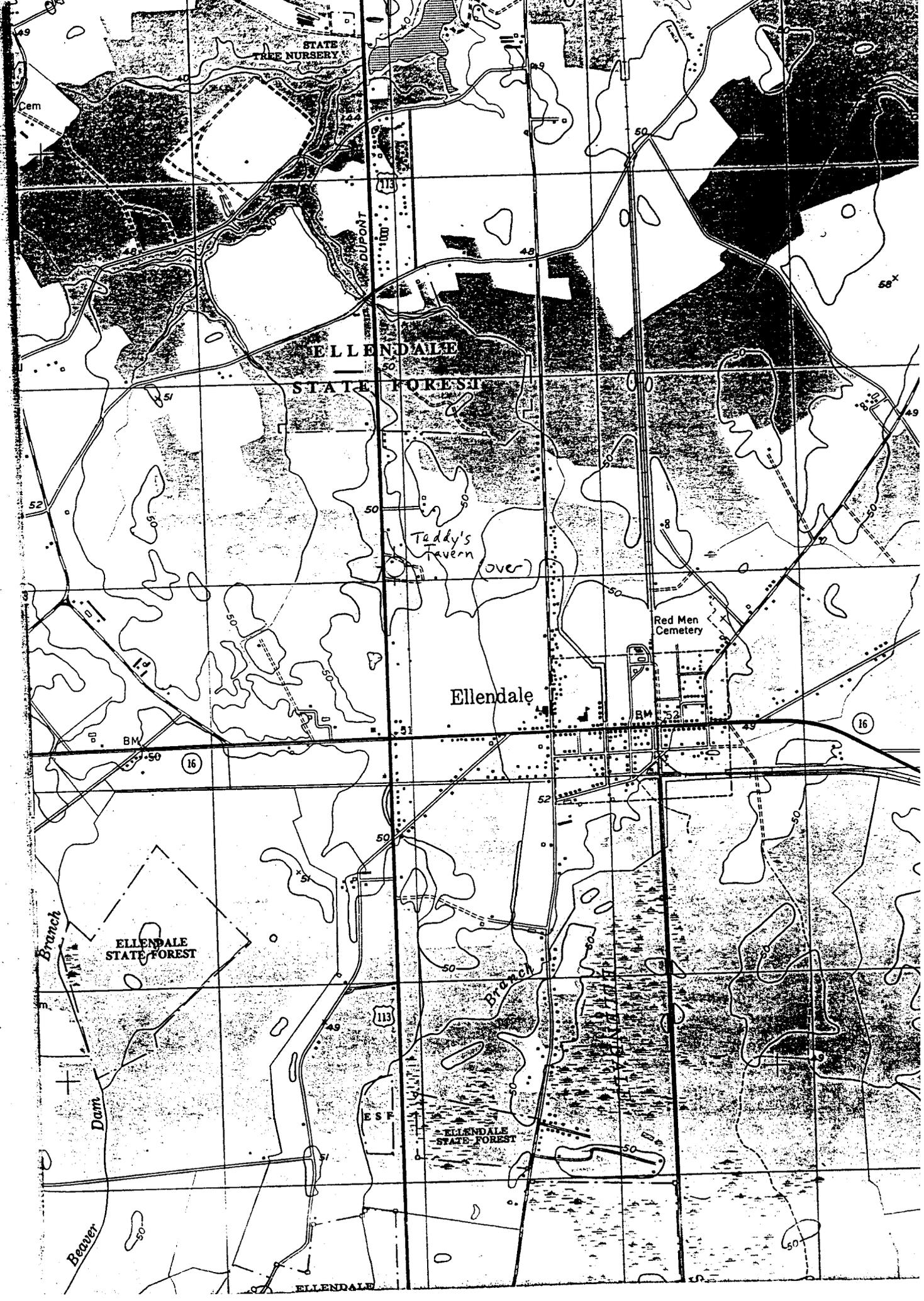
Date: April 1991

Street & Number: 15 The Green

Telephone: 302-739-5685

City or Town: Dover

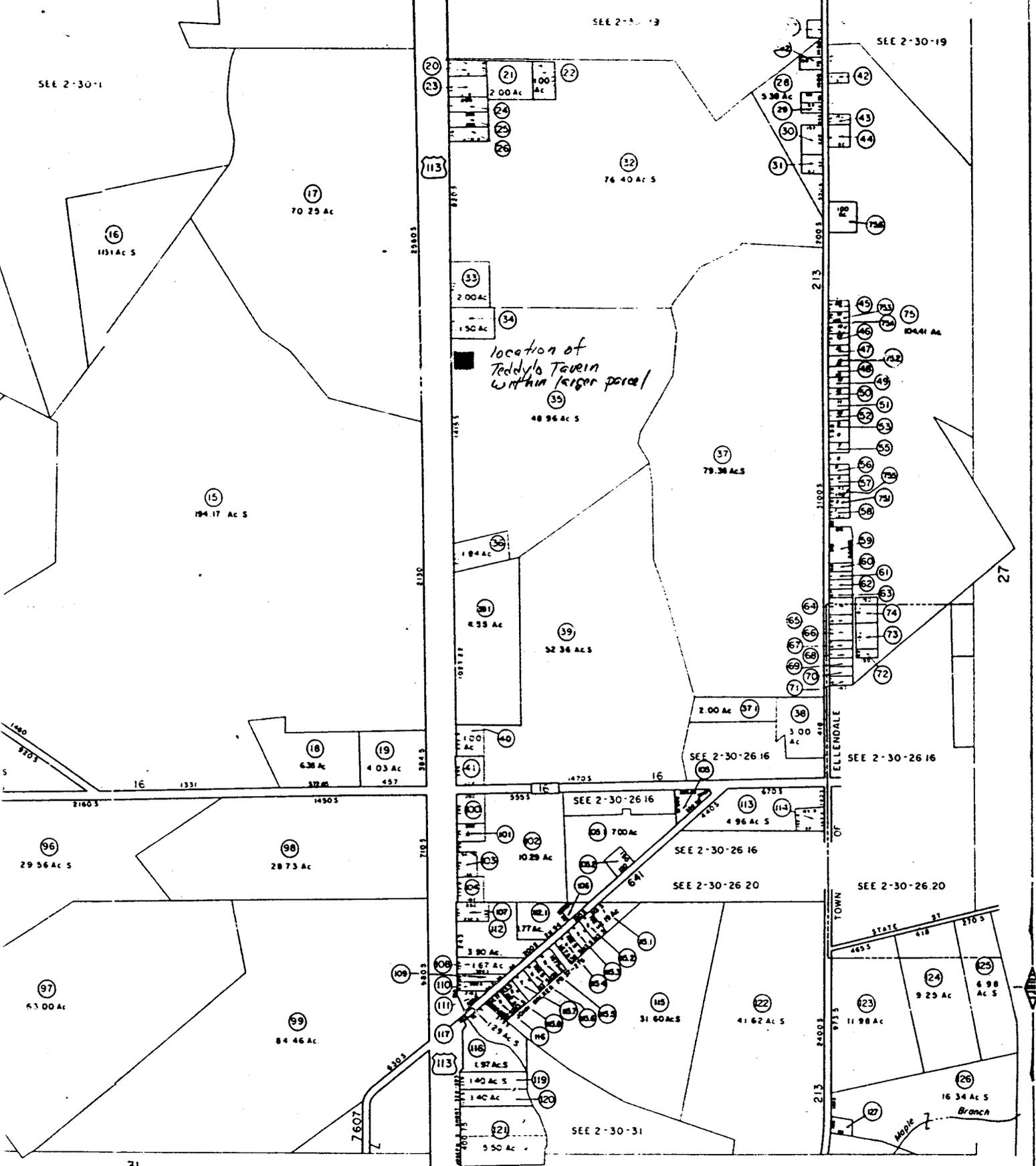
State:Delaware ZIP:19901



SEE 2-30-1

SEE 2-30-19

SEE 2-30-19



location of  
Teddy's Tavern  
within larger parcel

**SUSSEX COUNTY  
DELAWARE**  
SCALE 1" = 400 FEET

LEGEND			
	County line		Map parcel number
	Hundred line		Original lot number
	District line		Map scaled dimension
	City or Borough line		Deepest same owner
	All Purpose line		
	Original lot line		
	Property line		
			All Dimensions Shown in Feet

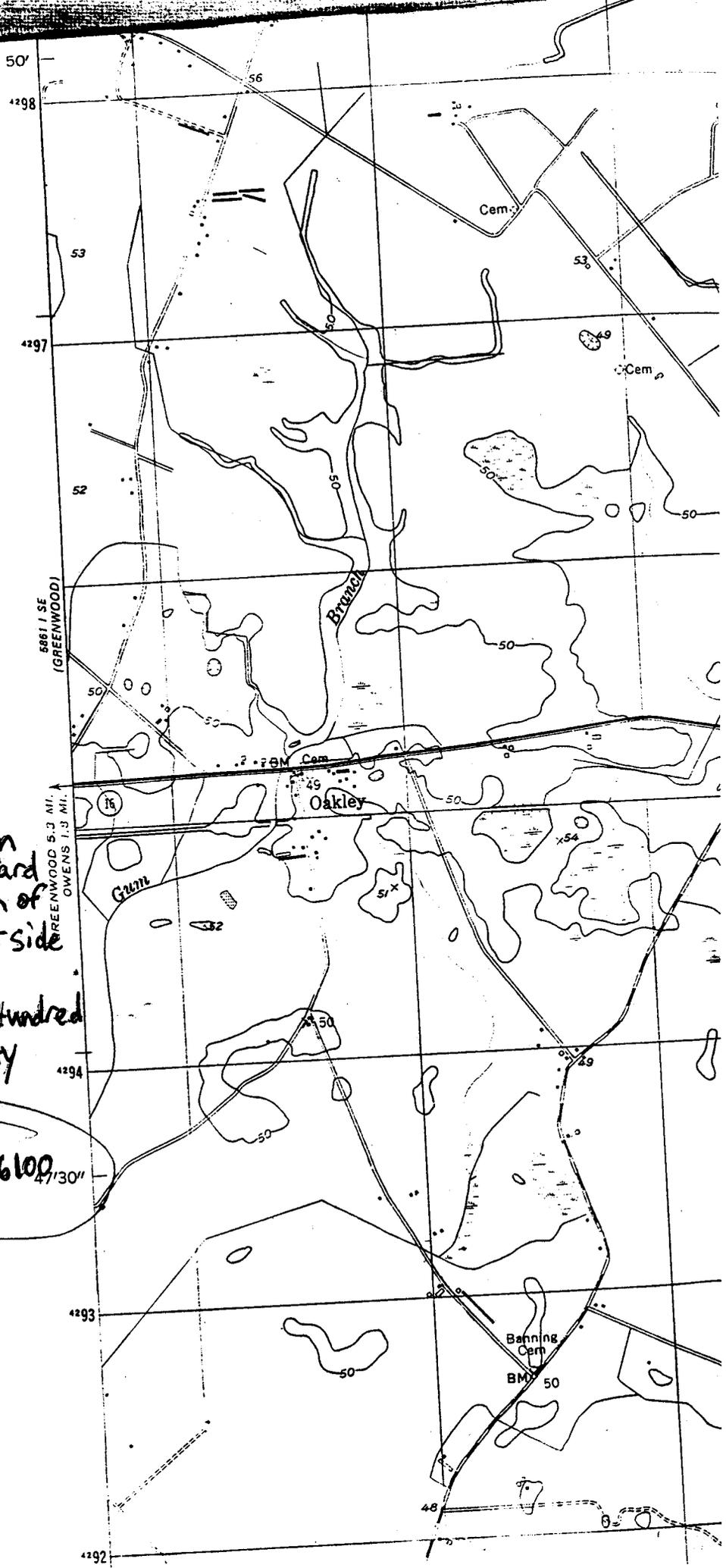


MAP 2-30-26

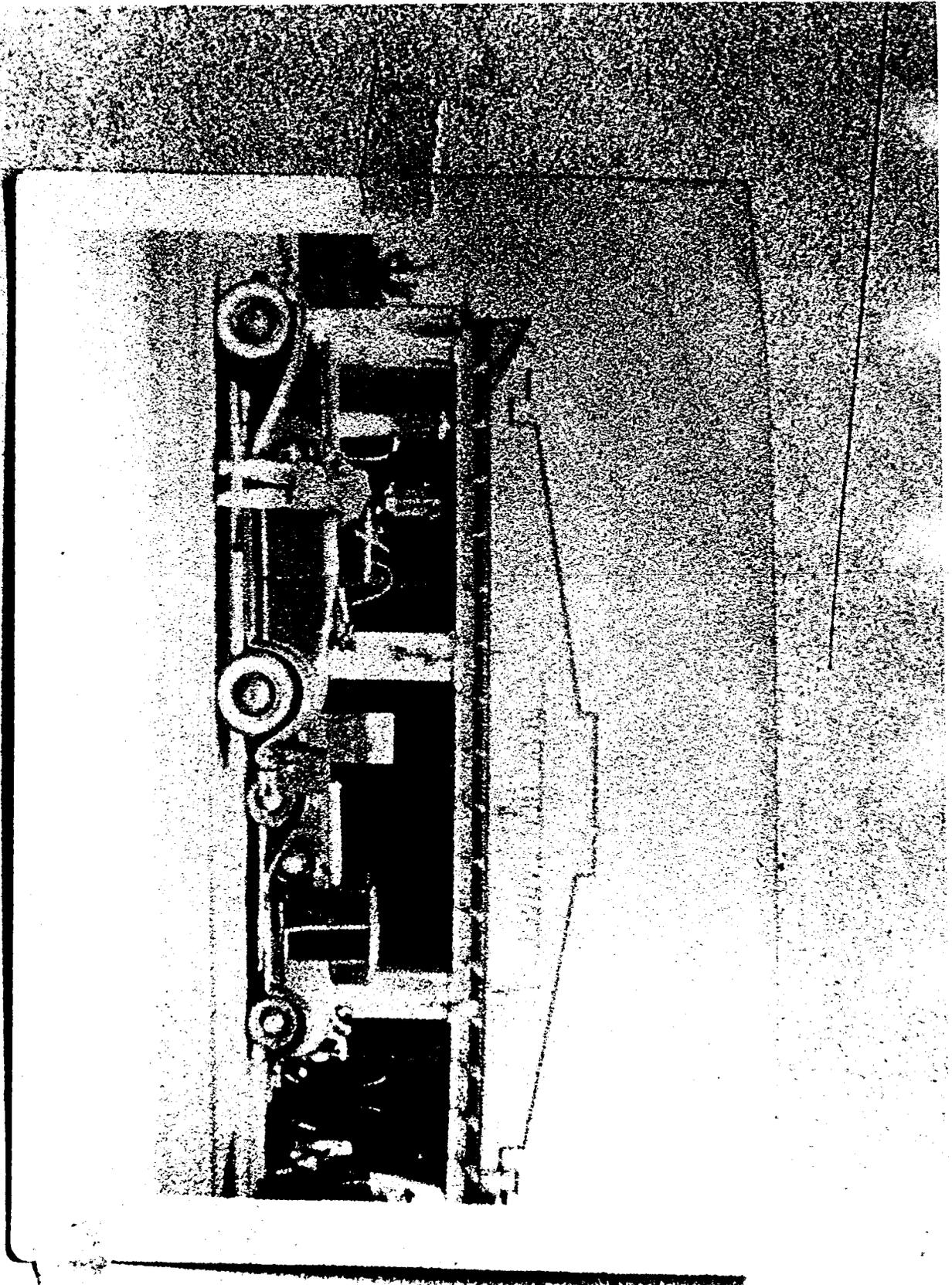
1-491A00

Teddy's Tavern  
Du Pont Boulevard  
16 miles north of  
Route 16, east side  
Ellendale  
Cedar Creek Hundred  
Sussex County  
Delaware

UTM:  
18 461930 4296100

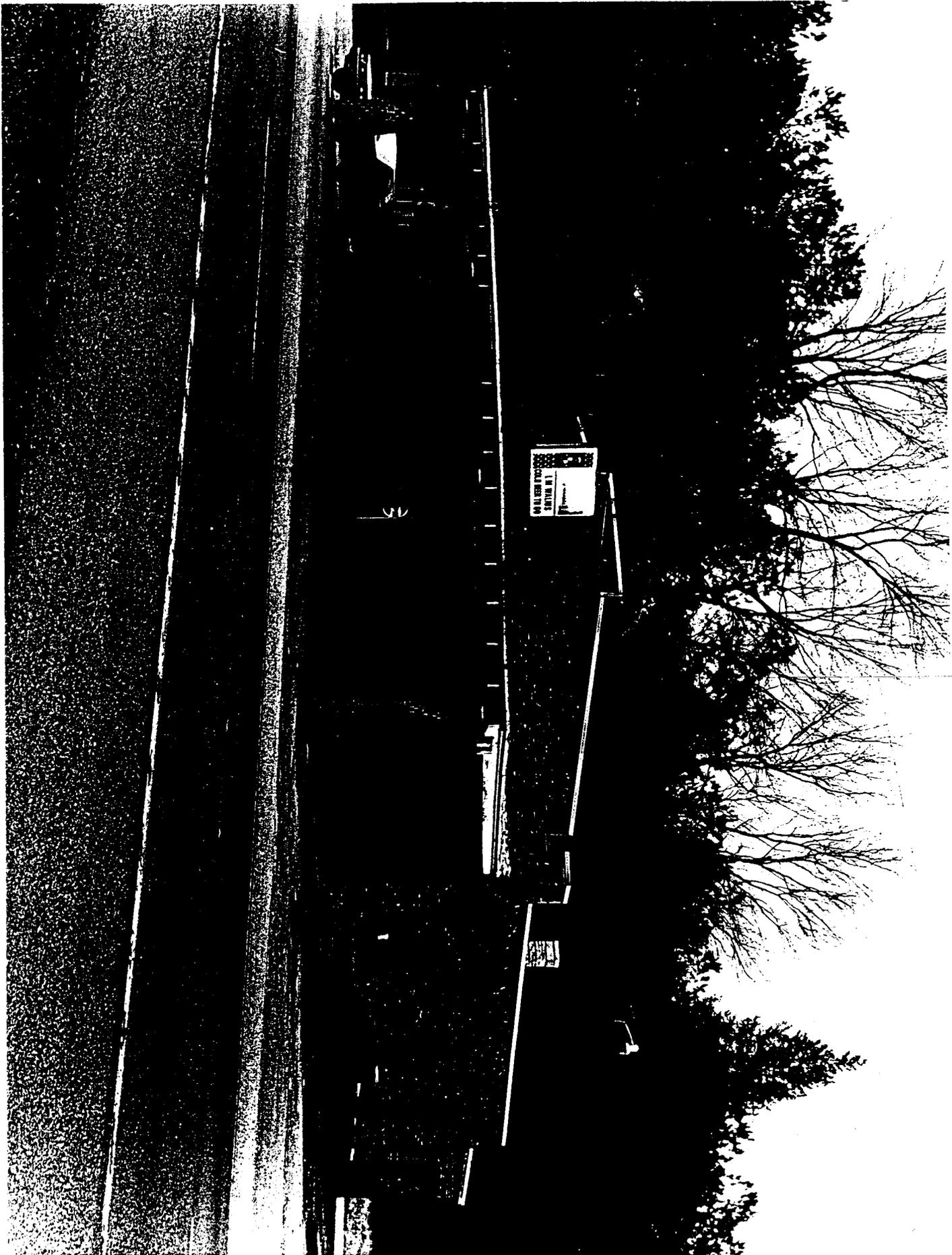








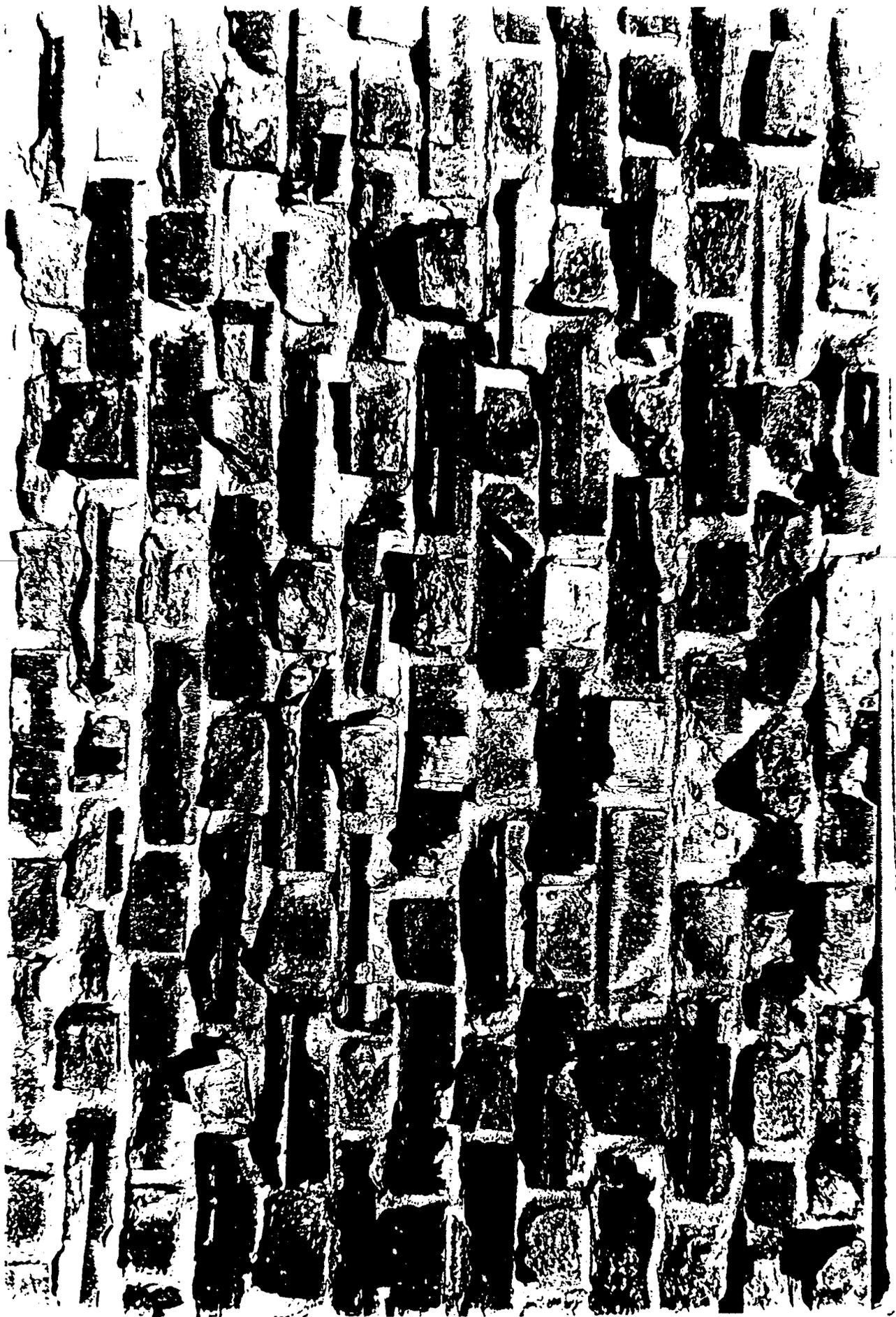




SCHOOL BUS STOP  
SCHOOL BUS STOP

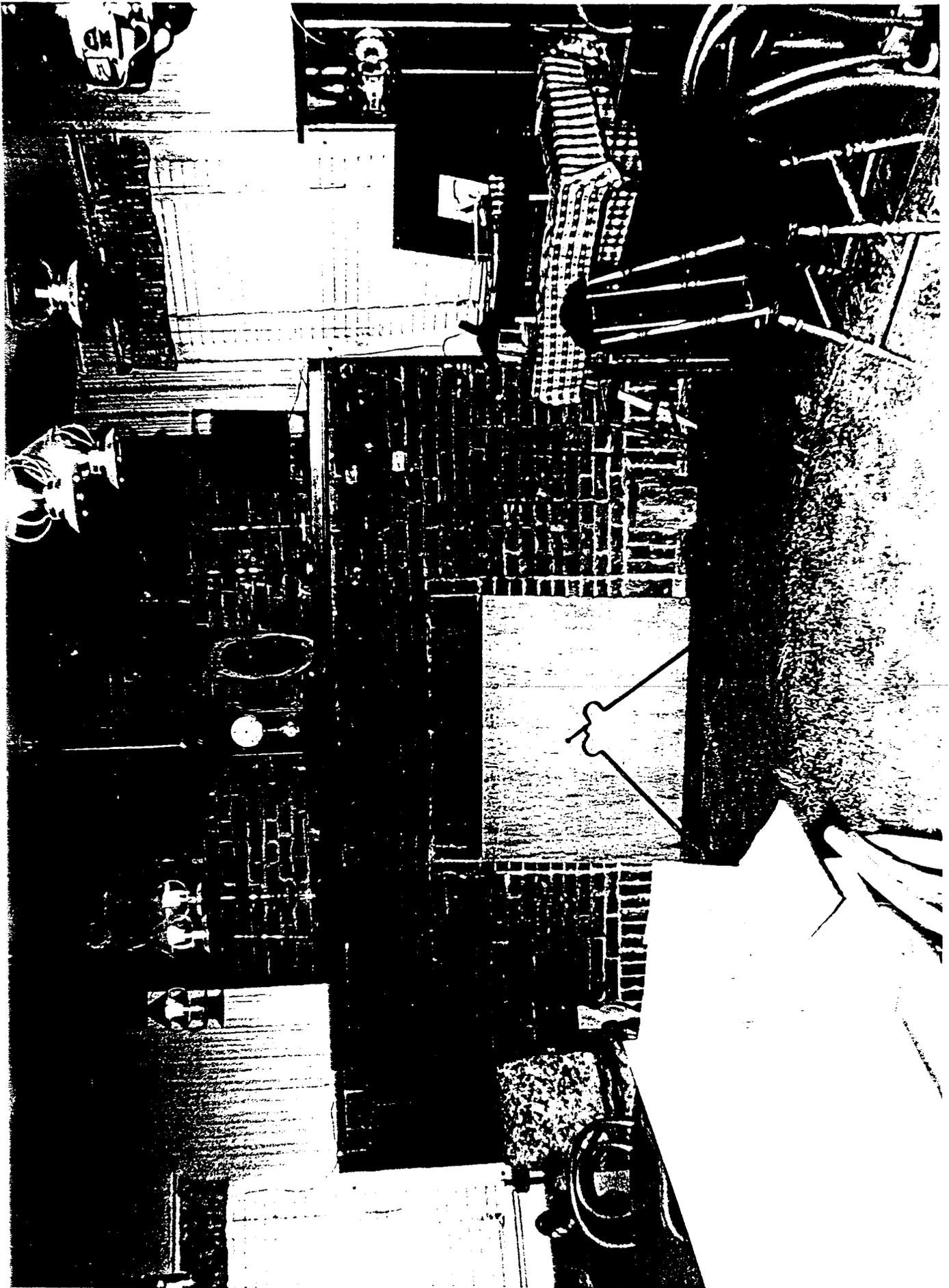
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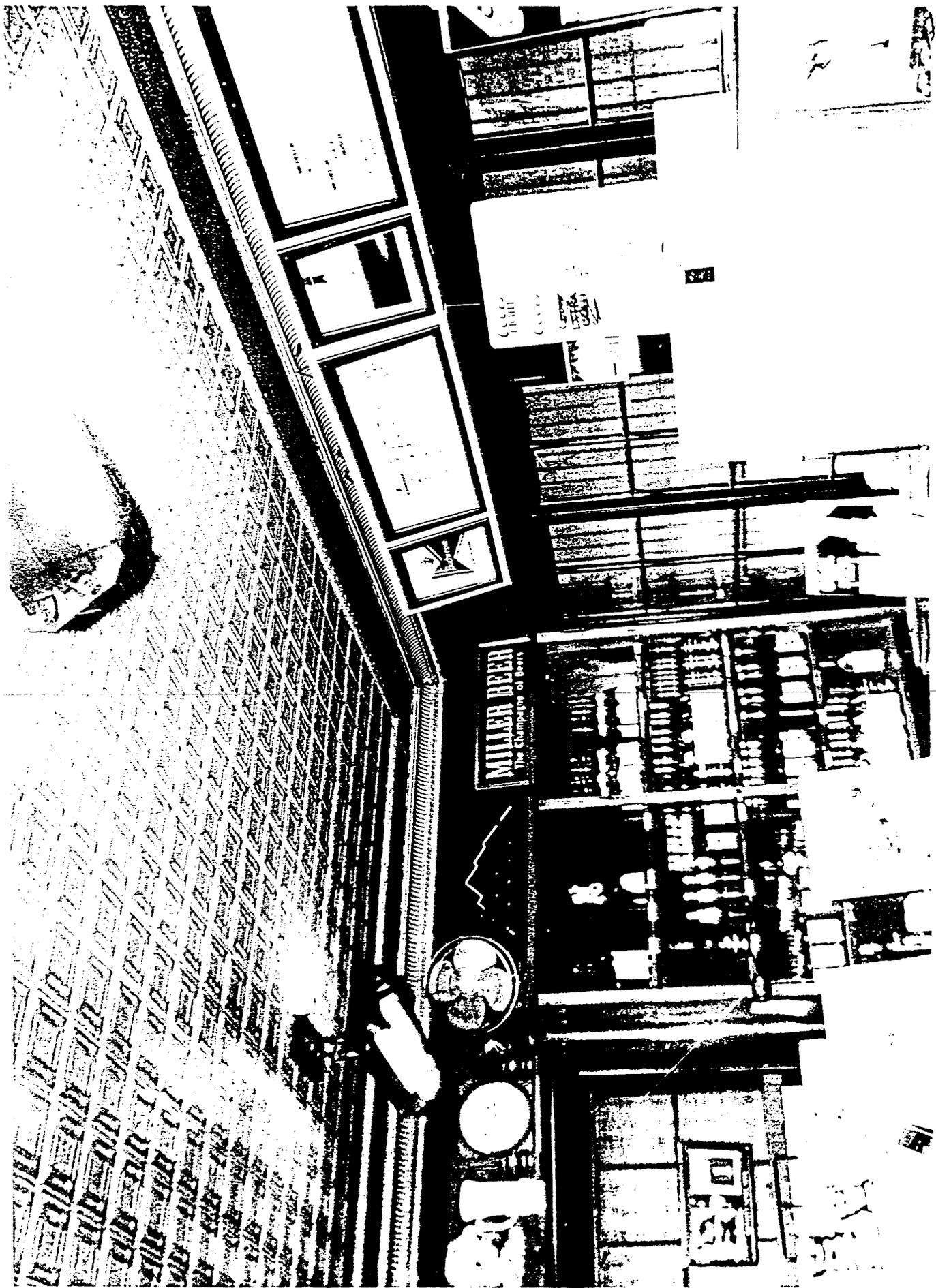






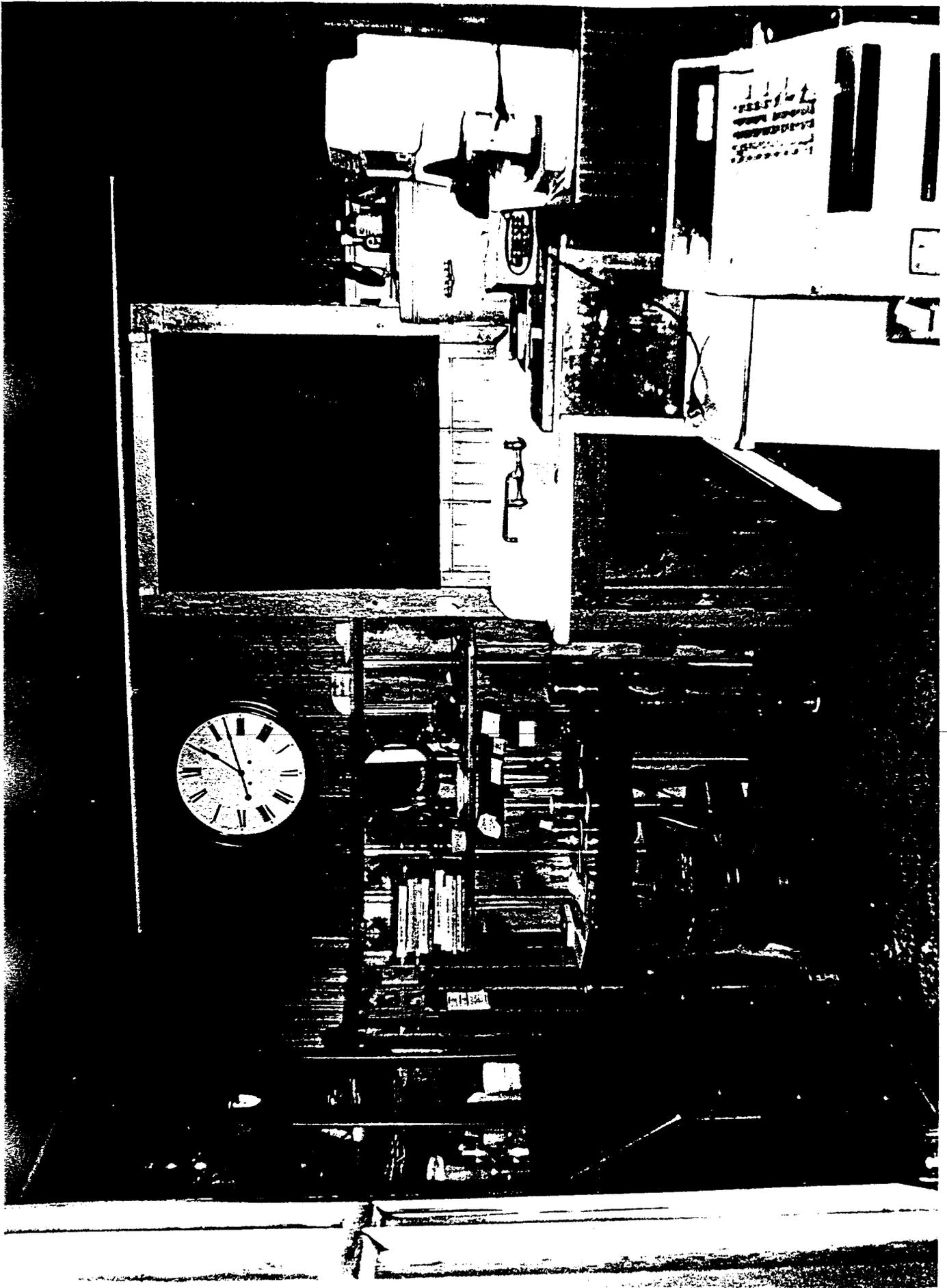






MILLER BEER  
The Champagne of Beers





*"Where Southern  
Hospitality Begins"*

**TEDDIE'S  
BLUE HEN TAVERN**

**LIQUOR &  
WINE LIST**

**DuPont Blvd., ELLENDALE, DEL.**



except by  
violence

RIDGE

22



WILLIAM  
TELL  
ROY

AN  
P. RED  
A. MORSON

24

E

EN

all food served SATURDAY  
and SUNDAY.

SATURDAY DINNER  
HOURS:  
5:30 to 8:00 P. M.

HOTEL PLAZA  
REHOBOTH, DEL.

5-9-47

THEODORE'S  
TAVERN  
ELLEDALE, DELAWARE

Delaware's Most Exclusive  
Night Club Theatre

NO COVER  
MINIMUM  
MINORS

Feature Picture Starts  
9:30 P. M.

Thurs. and Fri., Oct. 9-10

"Gals,  
Incorporated"

Grace McDonald, Glen Gray's  
Orchestra, and Harriet Hillard  
supply a musical back-  
ground to Leon Errol's riot-  
ous romancing.

Tues. and Wed., Oct. 14-15

"The Crystal Ball"

Ray Milland, Paulette God-  
dard, Wm. Bendix and  
Gladys George

Better than the "Lost Week-  
End."

Thurs. and Fri., Oct. 16-17

Bud Abbott, Lou Costello and  
Andrews Sisters

"Hold That Ghost"

Opening in a night club  
where Ted Lewis and the  
Andrews Sisters are the en-  
tertainers, the scene moves to  
a gas station where Abbott &  
Costello become entangled  
with a gangster inheriting a  
most hidden lun.

DON'T MISS THIS ONE!

Saturday, October 11  
Continuous 1:30 to 11

"He's all I've got!"  
A little orphan's fight for her  
"problem" dog!

SHARYN MOFFETT, in  
"BANJO"

with  
Jacqueline White, Walter  
Reed, Una O'Connor

Also  
ROY ROGERS  
King of the Cowboys  
TRIGGER  
Smartest Horse in the Movies  
APACHE ROSE

in Trucolor  
A Republic Production  
JACK ARMSTRONG, No. 15  
Latest Warner News  
and Cartoon

Sun. and Mon., Oct. 12-13

Mother Wore  
Tights

in Technicolor  
starring BETTY GRABLE  
with Dan Dally and  
Mona Freeman  
Connie Marshall  
Latest FOX News

Tues. and Wed., Oct. 14-15  
NOW it's the screen's gayest  
love story!

The girl friend of 10 million  
playgoers becomes the sweet-  
heart of 100 million movie-  
goers!

Paramount Presents  
WILLIAM HOLDES  
JOAN CAULFIELD  
in

"DEAR RUTH"

with  
Billy De Wolfe, Edward  
Arnold, Mona Freeman  
Mary Phillips, Virginia Welles  
Kenny O'Morrison  
Latest News and Short

COMING  
Thurs. and Fri., Oct. 16-17  
SMASH-UP

COMING-NEXT WEEK  
"I WONDER WHO'S  
KISSING HER NOW"  
PERILS OF PAULINE  
STAIRWAY TO  
HEAVEN

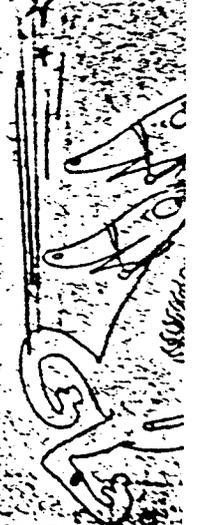


We

ADULT  
CHILD

WARNER

HER



IRENE

ELIZABETH

COMING