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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Lithonia Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 440 acres in downtown Lithonia centered on the intersection of the
CSX Railroad and Main Street

not for publication

city or town Lithonia vicinity _____

state Georgia code GA county DeKalb code 089 zip code 30058

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

William R. Hoyer 1 Aug. 2016
Signature of certifying official/Date Dr. David C. Crass/Historic Preservation Division Director/Deputy SHPO Date

Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____

Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register

other (explain): _____

Edson H. Beall 9.19.16
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
 (Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
 (Check only one box.)

Number of Resources within Property
 (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
343	140	buildings
7	1	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
351	141	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

1

Note: The Seminary (6886 Main Street) was listed in the National Register in 1978; #78003097, and is therefore subtracted from this count.

5. Function or Use

Historic Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Current Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

- DOMESTIC: single dwelling
- DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling
- DOMESTIC: secondary structure
- DOMESTIC: hotel
- COMMERCE/TRADE: financial institution
- COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store
- COMMERCE/TRADE: department store
- COMMERCE/TRADE: restaurant
- SOCIAL: meeting hall
- SOCIAL: clubhouse
- GOVERNMENT: city hall
- GOVERNMENT: post office
- EDUCATION: school
- RELIGION: religious facility
- RELIGION: church school
- FUNERARY: cemetery

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- DOMESTIC: secondary structure
- COMMERCE/TRADE: financial institution
- COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store
- COMMERCE/TRADE: restaurant
- SOCIAL: meeting hall
- GOVERNMENT: city hall
- GOVERNMENT: correctional facility
- GOVERNMENT: post office
- EDUCATION: school
- RELIGION: religious facility
- FUNERARY: cemetery
- RECREATION AND CULTURE: outdoor recreation
- HEALTH CARE: sanitarium
- LANDSCAPE: park

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RECREATION AND CULTURE: theatre

TRANSPORTATION: rail-related

RECREATION AND CULTURE: outdoor recreation

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: processing

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: storage

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION: extractive facility

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION: waterworks

HEALTH CARE: hospital

HEALTH CARE: medical business/office

TRANSPORTATION: rail-related

LANDSCAPE: park

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne; Folk Victorian

foundation: STONE: Granite; BRICK; CONCRETE

LATE 19th AND EARLY 20th CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival, Neoclassical Revival, English Vernacular Revival, Mediterranean Revival, Gothic Revival

walls: STONE: Granite; BRICK; WOOD: weatherboard; CONCRETE

LATE 19th AND EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Bungalow/Craftsman

MODERN MOVEMENT: International Style; Post-Modern

roof: TERRA COTTA; ASPHALT

OTHER: Single Retail, Retail & Office, Multiple Retail, Hall-Parlor, Saddlebag, Central Hallway, Georgian Cottage, Gabled Wing Cottage, Queen Anne Cottage, New South Cottage, Pyramid Cottage, Bungalow, I-House, Queen Anne House, American Foursquare, American Small House, Ranch House, Split-Foyer

other: _____

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Lithonia Historic District is a large, diverse district comprising the intact historic resources within the current and historic municipal boundary of the city of Lithonia. The district is composed of a central commercial core surrounded by residential neighborhoods. Main Street, the principal commercial corridor, runs perpendicular to the Georgia/CSX Railroad, which bisects the district. Commercial buildings, constructed largely of brick and locally quarried gneiss (a type of granite), are concentrated in a two-block area extending south along Main Street from its intersection with the railroad in the center of the district. Most storefronts are utilitarian in design with minimal detailing. Some noncontributing infill, including Lithonia Plaza (1968), a large commercial development surrounded by parking, is located on Main Street. The commercial core is surrounded by residential development representing common late 19th- to mid-20th-century types and styles. The use of locally quarried gneiss is prevalent in both ornament and structural elements, including stairs, foundations, columns, and entire facades. The district includes a large number of community landmark buildings, including the Masonic Lodge (1916), the Lithonia Women's Club (1928), the Lithonia First United Methodist Church (originally Lithonia M.E. Church, 1910), Antioch Baptist Church (1911), Lithonia Presbyterian Church, The Union Missionary Church (1911), the Bruce Street Elementary and High School (1955), and the Seminary (1895). Contributing sites in the district include three cemeteries, two parks, the former Georgia Railroad Quarry, and the ruins of the Lithonia Negro School (1938). The Lithonia Historic District possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

Narrative Description

Portions of the following description were written by Mera Cardenas and George Rounds of the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area, Alliance, Inc., as part of a Historic Property Information Form for "Lithonia Historic District," August 19, 2013, on file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Stockbridge, Georgia. The description was compiled and expanded by Stephanie L. Cherry Farmer, National Register and Survey Program Manager, Georgia HPD.

The Lithonia Historic District contains 441 acres within the city limits of the city of Lithonia, in southeastern DeKalb County, Georgia. The town is located approximately 20 miles east of Atlanta, Georgia immediately north of Interstate 20. The district comprises the intact historic resources within the historic municipal boundary of the city of Lithonia, which was incorporated in 1856 and largely corresponds with the current municipal boundary.

The name "Lithonia" derives from the Greek words for rock, "lithos", and place, "onia." The geography of the Lithonia Historic District is not only the city's namesake, but the nexus of its historical prosperity. Located along a natural ridge, the district is relatively flat with gently rolling hills near the Lithonia City Park to the west. Pine Mountain Creek runs roughly west to east through the residential areas on the east side of the railroad. This area includes several large undeveloped tracts, some lightly forested, along Bruce Street.

Geologically, this region contains vast amounts of granite. Lithonia gneiss, a type of granite, is composed of white quartz and feldspar layers. The stone occurs in natural ledges that not only facilitate the quarrying of the stone, but made it suitable for few other purposes than general building purposes and street curbing. Because of its hardness, color retention, accessibility, and suitability for building construction, Lithonia gneiss

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experienced high demand at the turn of the 20th century. The district today exhibits several areas of flat-surface gneiss exposure. The district's boundaries include a portion of the now-defunct Georgia Railroad Quarry (in the southeast corner of the district on Quarry Street), and there are still area quarries operating immediately outside the boundaries. In addition to scattered natural granite outcroppings that dot the district's landscape, gneiss is a character-defining building material prevalent throughout the district. Its use in residential buildings is seen in the form of foundations, porch steps, stoops, columns and façades throughout the district- there is a concentration of houses along Rock Chapel Road between Conyers and Avery streets that prominently exhibit gneiss construction. Gneiss is prominently used as a decorative element in commercial buildings. Additionally, gneiss features prominently in many of Lithonia's community landmark buildings, such as the Seminary (6886 Main Street), the 1910 Lithonia First United Methodist Church (3099 Stone Mountain Street) and the 1916 Masonic Lodge #84 (7282 Conyers Street). Gneiss is the primary construction material throughout Lithonia City Park, and is also used for curbing, retaining walls, foundations, sidewalks, and walkways throughout the district.

The Lithonia Historic District is composed of a central commercial core surrounded by residential neighborhoods. Main Street, the principal commercial corridor, runs perpendicular to the Georgia/CSX Railroad corridor, which bisects the district running northwest to southeast. The Georgia/CSX rail line is located along the historic route of the Georgia Railroad, with two lines of track running between Swift and Conyers streets. There are two at-grade crossings over the tracks: one is at Cagle Street to the southeast of the commercial area. The other at Main Street, between Conyers Street and Swift Streets, forms the cross-rail intersection that defines the historic center of Lithonia. Established as a crossroads settlement, development remained centered on the original crossroads with the arrival of the Georgia Railroad in 1845. Main Street continues today to be a major thoroughfare through the city. Immediately outside of the district's southwest boundary, Main Street becomes Evans Mill Road and serves as one of the area's primary access routes to Interstate 20.

Major roadways in the district vary between two and four lanes in width, with gneiss curbing and few sidewalks. New brick, granite, and concrete sidewalks were installed along Main Street in 2005, incorporating non-historic tree wells, parking, and street trees in the commercial core. Sidewalks are more common on secondary streets, and when present, are typically paved with either poured concrete or concrete hexagonal pavers and separated from the road by planting strips. Most secondary streets are two-lane, and mature street trees appear intermittently along some of these, such as Church Street.

Immediately south of the commercial core and west of the rail line, Lithonia exhibits a somewhat gridded street pattern, with fairly straight streets forming rectilinear blocks. In the commercial core, this pattern is interrupted by the noncontributing Lithonia Plaza shopping center (constructed in 1968). Deviations from the grid pattern are substantial farther from the central intersection of Main Street and the rail line; varied street configurations include curvilinear and straight, right angles, and dead-ends. Mid-20th century platting is evident east of the railroad, where Bruce Circle, Bruce Court, and Dean Court exemplify the loops and cul-de-sacs that became characteristic of residential development during that era.

Commercial Development in the Lithonia Historic District

Commercial buildings in Lithonia are concentrated in the commercial core, along Main Street and near the railroad, with scattered examples north along Stone Mountain Street and Rock Chapel Road.

The extant historic central business district forms the core of the Lithonia Historic District. The commercial core retains defining development patterns traditional of historic downtowns in Georgia. A dense formation of one- and two-story buildings fronts both sides of Main Street, from the rail line southwest to Wiggins Street. The buildings occupy narrow rectangular lots, generally sharing party walls, or situated within two to five feet of one another. Breaks between buildings often indicate a former street, particularly near the Lithonia Plaza shopping center. Other breaks have been created for vehicle parking and access, such as the driveway

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adjacent to the former U. S. Post Office at 6975 Main Street (constructed in 1962). Primarily commercial development also characterizes the area west of the railroad tracks fronting Swift Street immediately south of its intersection with Main Street, and similarly, fronting Conyers/Center Street to the north. As Lithonia's commercial core was largely constructed from the late 19th century through the 1940s, the area's proximity to the railroad reflects the importance of the railroad to the development and economy of the town.

Historic commercial buildings within the district are largely constructed of brick or Lithonia gneiss, and as is common in historic commercial districts in smaller Georgia towns, they are overwhelmingly utilitarian in design, with minimal ornamentation. Buildings are rectangular in massing, generally abut the sidewalk, and feature flat primary elevations that include a storefront which is rarely recessed. When they do not abut another building, rear and side elevations typically exhibit few openings and little to no ornamentation. One exception is 6980 Main Street, constructed c.1890, which features fenestration running the length of its south elevation which formerly fronted the no-longer-extant Hollingsworth Street.

Single retail, retail & office, and multiple retail building types, as defined in the statewide typology *Commercial Types in Georgia*, are all present in the Lithonia Historic District.

Single retail buildings consist of a single unit. Built either as a detached building or adjacent to other buildings, these were constructed primarily from the late 19th century to the mid-20th century in Georgia towns of all sizes. These building types have flat or sloping roofs and, typically, three-bay facades. Lithonia's oldest commercial building at 6957 Main Street can today be considered an example of this type. Constructed in 1885, Johnson's Hall exhibits several of the character-defining features of the buildings of Lithonia's commercial core, most notably, its rough-cut gneiss construction with relatively simple decoration, including a belt course and segmental arched window openings with keystones. As with the majority of the district's historic commercial buildings, it is set at zero lot line. Originally two stories in height, granite window sills on the upper portion of the façade identify former window openings infilled with granite following a fire that destroyed the building's second story in the late 1930s.

Multiple retail building types are also found within Lithonia's commercial area. These groupings of two or more identical one-story retail units were commonly constructed as speculative ventures, built for rental income. Characteristic of this type are identical facades, usually three-bay, with either flat or sloping roofs, such as the building at 6970 Main Street, constructed in 1940 and featuring mid-20th century detailing including Roman Brick façade treatment and aluminum windows.

Examples of the retail & office type, the most common commercial type found in Georgia towns, are located along both sides of Main Street in the district. Typically two to four stories in height with flat or sloped roofs, these buildings were built either as detached units or attached and separated by party walls, and accommodated office space above ground-floor retail space. An example in Lithonia can be found at 6958 Main Street.

East of the railroad, Main Street becomes Rock Chapel Road. Moving north along the railroad from its intersection with Rock Chapel Road, commercial development remains dense fronting Center Street for approximately one block. Sanborn maps from 1895 to 1932 evidence that development in this block has varied dramatically over the years, progressing from scattered stand-alone buildings to primarily adjoined commercial buildings, largely during the early 20th century. Development in this block has historically been single-story and commercial in nature. The one-story granite building at 7260 Center Street appears on Sanborn maps as early as 1909, and was once used as a cotton warehouse and later, a storage building. Additionally buildings on the block appear to have been used largely for retail purposes. One of few frame buildings in the commercial core today, a portion of the former West Supply Company building materials warehouse, remains between Center Street and the railroad- it sits on the location of Lithonia's original railroad depot. Sometime between 1923 and 1932, a new depot was constructed west of the railroad across from where this warehouse sits today. This later depot was razed in the early 1960s.

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Masonic Lodge #84 fronting Conyers Street is an outstanding example of the use of gneiss in Lithonia's commercial resources. Constructed in 1916, the building is gneiss ashlar. Its primary façade houses two storefronts sheltered by a one-story metal shed roof porch. The building also has arched window openings featuring gneiss voussoirs, and a crenellated parapet wall extending across a flat roof. Sanborn maps indicate that a Masonic hall existed further east from the railroad on this block by 1901. By 1923, that building was converted for use as the Ara Aliva Hospital, and by 1932, it disappeared from maps. Masonic Lodge #84 is the single extant historic commercial building on this block today, which hosted scattered commercial and residential development throughout its history.

Moving south along the railroad from its intersection with Main Street/Rock Chapel Road, freestanding single-story commercial development remains relatively dense for approximately one block fronting Swift Street. Sanborn maps evidence that historically, development along this block was scattered and varied, however as early as 1923, freestanding buildings noted as automobile repair and sales buildings were located here. These buildings remain extant, and remain primarily automobile and mechanical service-related today.

The previously-mentioned scattered commercial resources north of the commercial core along Stone Mountain Street and Rock Chapel Road are stand-alone commercial resources largely dating to the mid-20th century. They include banks, retail establishments, and a noncontributing post office constructed c.1975.

Architecturally, buildings within the commercial core are characterized by flat roofs and building lines abutting the sidewalks. Ornamentation is minimal; design details exhibited are those typical of small towns in Georgia from the 1880s through the 1950s. These include patterned brickwork and frieze paneling, decorative cornices with brackets, brick corbelling and dentils, low parapet walls, and transom windows. Arched window openings and granite sills are also common.

Although the gneiss commercial buildings tend to be simpler in ornamentation, they are perhaps the most distinctive. Granite ornamentation varies widely within the commercial area. Some buildings, such as Johnson's Hall at 6957 Main Street have large, highly rusticated, chamfered blocks. Others, such as 6983 Main Street, have fine tooled, smooth-faced, and semi-polished stone exteriors. Still others, such as 6979 Main Street, illustrate a stacked-stone effect with beaded mortar joints on the façade.

The district's brick commercial buildings vary in degree of ornamentation. Tapestry elements such as corbelled cornices, recessed spandrel panels, and hooded windows are common features, as exemplified by the building at 6958 Main Street. Less decorative brick ornamentation can be found on the primary façade of 6974 Main Street.

Several buildings within the commercial core exhibit alterations that date to within the district's period of significance. Storefront alterations, such as the addition of aluminum windows with a brick border to the façade of 6979 Main Street c.1958, are common in the commercial core. The building at 6981 Main Street retains its original window frames, although the glass has been replaced. The aluminum-frame glass door is also a replacement (c.1960) but the façade retains its historic 10-pane transom. 6974 Main Street has also undergone substantial modifications to its façade, incorporating recessed entryways with large-pane windows, while maintaining the zero building setback characteristic of the commercial area. These alterations, common to commercial buildings in older central business districts throughout Georgia, reflect changing trends in marketing and commerce over time, primarily during the mid-20th century.

As is typical of commercial centers developed through the mid-20th century in smaller Georgia towns, the majority of the commercial buildings within the historic district are not associated with any particular architectural style. However, there are in Lithonia two notable exceptions. First, a notable example of the International style can be found in the former post office at 6975 Main Street (constructed in 1962). The International style is characterized by simple lines that reflect the structural skeleton under the exterior

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material. The roof is flat and windows flush with the walls, usually grouped in bands. The exterior wall material is smooth and unornamented.

The Citizens Trust Bank at 3065 Stone Mountain Street is an example of the Post-Modern style within the district. The Post-Modern style uses elements of past architectural styles within a modern concept. This brick building, constructed c.1965, is long and low with narrow, vertical window openings that are recessed. An Asian-influenced shingle roof appears to float over the recessed central mass of the building, which is largely glass. Typical of branch bank development of the era, the building features a drive-through and is surrounded by minimal landscaping and surface parking. It is considered contributing to the district.

Moving west on Main Street away from Lithonia's commercial core, the dense row of commercial buildings on the north side of the street is abruptly interrupted by the eight-acre Lithonia Plaza Shopping Center, a noncontributing resource constructed in 1968 as part of an Urban Renewal-funded redevelopment project. As evidenced by Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, this project resulted in the rerouting of Stone Mountain (formerly Academy), Hollingsworth (formerly Elliott), and Church streets and the creation of Max Cleland Boulevard (and the c.1970 replacement of the rail bridge that crosses it), and effectively erased this area's historic street and development patterns, along with its pre-1968 buildings. The shopping center consists of a complex of one-story buildings with half-timbered façades and a massive faux mansard roof. The building is surrounded by surface parking lot. This area was once the site of Lithonia community landmarks including the city's second rail depot and both historic locations of city hall. According to Sanborn maps, Lithonia's city hall was located between Bond Street/Max Cleland Boulevard and Hollingsworth Street from 1895 to 1909. By 1932, it was in another building, still on the west side of Hollingsworth Street, north of Main Street. No evidence of these resources exists today.

Moving away from the historic commercial core in all directions, historic development patterns are largely maintained, but are irregular. Lots tend to be narrow and deep and are typically less than ½ acre in size, with shallow building setbacks. Additional commercial development west along Main Street is less dense, with stand-alone buildings occupying larger lots. East across the railroad, development fronting Center/Conyers Street is overwhelmingly residential, with buildings occupying larger lots set back substantially from the street. Along Conyers and Swift streets, both residential and commercial buildings retain their historic orientation toward the railroad, a typical defining characteristic of cross-rail type towns.

There is a single contributing commercial site in the Lithonia Historic District- a portion of the remains of one of several area quarries, the Georgia Railroad Quarry, is within the southeastern boundary of the district. The northern half of this parcel is entirely wooded, while the former quarry site remains evident only on a small portion close to Conyers Street. These remnants consist of vacant land marred with pitting and clearing- dirt road traces remain evident, but as the site is being reclaimed by nature, even within these remnants the land is today substantially wooded.

Residential Development in the Lithonia Historic District

The majority of the Lithonia Historic District is residential in nature. Moving away from the commercial core and Main Street, development becomes overwhelmingly residential almost immediately. In the residential areas, the street layout and development patterns become increasingly irregular and varied, corresponding with piecemeal and largely unplatted development spanning from the mid-19th through the mid-20th century. Only select areas, such as the block between Stone Mountain Street and Randall Avenue north of Ida Street, and the lots fronting Bruce Circle and Dean Court, exhibit relatively uniform lot sizes that evidence platted development.

Lithonia's residential streets are lined with late 19th and early 20th century houses spaced irregularly, and are punctuated with relatively modern infill development. As is typical of Georgia towns, houses within the earliest residential areas tend to have setbacks that are close to the street. Residential buildings that have been lost,

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either to neglect or fire, in many cases have not been replaced, resulting in a large number of vacant lots in the district.

Most houses in Lithonia are modest in size, generally one to one-and-a-half stories in height and oriented toward the street. There are two-story examples, some of which are substantial in size, scattered throughout the district; concentrations front Church Street, Stone Mountain Street, and Rock Chapel Road. Most houses sit on relatively large lots, which vary greatly in size and shape, again, corresponding with piecemeal development spanning from the mid-19th through the mid-20th century. Landscaping within residential areas is typically minimal. Plantings and circulation patterns are informal and reflect private property owner's preferences rather than an orchestrated design scheme. Most yards are informal, covered with grass. Foundation plantings and ornamental shrubs and trees are common. Some yards are enclosed with fencing constructed of varying materials including wood, cast iron, and chain link. Some fences incorporate granite or other stone construction. Some properties include outbuildings, but these are relatively small in size and have not been counted in the resource count for the district.

The majority of residential buildings in the district were constructed between 1890 and 1960. Concentrations of older residential resources can be found south of Main Street and west of the railroad and along Church Street, however, additional late 19th century resources are scattered throughout the district. Resources dating from all decades of the 20th century are found throughout the district, and there are several concentrations of exclusively mid-20th century houses found in the portion of the district that lies south of Rock Chapel Road and east of the railroad.

As documented in the statewide context *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings*, house "type" refers to the overall form (the exterior envelope) of the main or original mass of the house, and the general layout of the interior rooms. This includes the floor plan and the height. In contrast, a "style" relates primarily to the external ornament or decoration of a house and also to the aesthetic qualities of its overall form. Houses belonging to the same type may exhibit different styles, and the same architectural style may appear on numerous house types. Most houses in Lithonia have only sparse elements of or no defined architectural style and are characterized only by their type.

The Lithonia Historic District's residential sections contain examples of most of the house types that were popular in Georgia during the late 19th century and first half of the 20th century, as identified in *Georgia's Living Places*. These include:

Hall-Parlor

The hall-parlor house is a one-story house composed of two unequal sized rooms. This house has a side-gable roof and often has gable-end chimneys. Most Georgia examples were built between 1850 and 1930. An example of this type in Lithonia is located at 2403 Bruce Street.

Saddlebag

The saddlebag house is comprised of two rooms, usually square, with a central chimney located between the separate rooms. This house type was most popular in Georgia between 1910 and 1930. The two subtypes of this house type include one with an exterior door into each room on the primary elevation, and one with a single central door into a vestibule beside the chimney. An excellent example of the former variant is located at 2716 Council Street.

Central Hallway

The central hallway type is a two-room house with a central hallway leading from a centered exterior door. Each room features an end chimney on its exterior side. The roof is usually gabled. This type was very popular in Georgia, with most examples built between 1830 and 1930. 3040 Stone Mountain Street is an example of this type.

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Georgian Cottage

The Georgian cottage is a symmetrical four-room house with a central hall and a hipped roof that usually includes interior chimneys. One of the most long-lived and popular of the documented house types in Georgia's history, examples of the Georgian cottage can be found 2642 Rock Chapel Road and 6784 Church Street. 2621 Wiggins Street is an excellent example of the type.

Gabled-Wing Cottage

The gabled-wing cottage is a one-story house type found throughout the Lithonia Historic District. Popular in Georgia between 1875 and 1915, it features a cross-gable roof and a T- or L-shaped plan. Most gabled-wing cottages include full-width porches and chimneys located either at the gable end or at the intersection of the roof ridgeline. Examples of this house type include 7061 Swift Street, 6831 College Avenue, and 6860 Main Street. There is a concentration of this type in the district on Randall Avenue just north of its intersection with Ida Street.

Queen Anne Cottage

The Queen Anne cottage is a one-story, asymmetrical house type. Popular during the 1880s and 1890s, it is composed of a principal square mass with gabled projections. There is no central hallway, and chimneys are usually interior. Many Queen Anne cottages include a wide covered porch that often extends around the side of the house. An example of this house type is located at 2688 Rock Chapel Road.

New South Cottage

The new south cottage is similar to the Queen Anne cottage, in that it is composed of a principal square mass with gabled projections. However, these projections are symmetrical on a new south cottage, as the house features a central hallway plan. The hallway is flanked by pairs of rooms, one or both of which might project forward. These homes were popular in Georgia from the 1890s to the 1920s. An example of this type is 3053 Stone Mountain Street.

Pyramid Cottage

The pyramid cottage is a square-mass, four-room house without a hallway. Constructed between 1910 and 1930, pyramid cottages are defined by a steeply-pitched pyramidal roof. An example of this type can be found at 7476 Conyers Street.

I-House

The I-house is a two-story, one room deep and two room wide house that can exhibit a central hallway, hall-parlor, double-pen or saddlebag plan, defining its subtype. Most examples of this type were built between 1830 and 1890. Only one example of the type exists in the Lithonia Historic District, constructed during the late 19th century. This house is located at 6915 Born Street.

Queen Anne House

The Queen Anne house is a two- to three-story version of the Queen Anne cottage. Popular during the 1880s and 1890s, the façade is asymmetrical; multiple gables project from the steeply-pitched roof that may incorporate a tower. Many include a wide covered porch that often extends around the side of the house. Examples of this type in Lithonia are located at 6783 and 6790 Church Street.

American Foursquare

The American foursquare, popular between 1915 and 1930, is a two-story house that features a square floor plan, cubical massing, and typically a pyramidal roof. Each floor has four rooms, one of which includes the stair. There is a single example of this type in the district, located at 2546 Bond Street.

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Bungalow

The bungalow house type is very common in Lithonia, as it is in many Georgia towns of similar size. These one-story houses are long and low with irregular floor plans within an overall rectangular shape. Low-pitched front or side gabled or hipped roofs are common, while cross-gabled variants are rare. Integral porches are common. These houses were popular in Georgia in the early 20th century, typically between 1900 and 1930. Examples of this house type can be found at 2707 Rock Chapel Road and 3068 Stone Mountain Street.

American Small House

The American Small House is a compact three to five room house with an irregular floor plan and a moderately pitched end-gable roof. Popular during the 1930s and 1940s, these houses emerged during the Great Depression. Construction of this type peaked during the years following World War II as the nation faced housing shortage due to their low-cost, quality of design, and ease of expansion. There are numerous examples in the district, including 2658 Rock Chapel Road, a granite example at 2620 Johnson Street, and a brick example at 2580 Wiggins Street.

Ranch House

The quintessential suburban house type is the ranch house. This type is characterized by its single-story, long, narrow form and low-pitched roof (both gabled and hipped variants are common). Many have an attached garage or carport. A variety of window types may be found in a single house: in addition to the common picture window on the primary elevation, double-hung, sliding, fixed and casement windows are also common. Larger examples of this type may feature an over-scaled chimney. Roofs typically have moderate eaves or overhangs. The type was popular in Georgia from the late 1940s through the mid-1970s. Examples in Lithonia include 2554 Bond Street, 2601 Reagin Street, 2620 Wiggins Street, 6969 Braswell Street and 7066 Dean Court.

A newly identified house type not included in *Georgia's Living Places*, but currently the subject of ongoing analysis by the Historic Preservation Division, is the split-foyer. The split-foyer is a two-story type with its primary entrance located between the two levels. The primary entrance is at grade level, midway between the two floor levels. From this entry foyer, stairs access the main living level a half-floor up and the lower level, which is partially below-grade, a half-floor down. The exterior evidence denoting this house type is the location of the primary door opening in relation to the windows: the door does not line up with the windows for either level. Most popular in Georgia during the 1960s and 1970s, an example in Lithonia is 6939 Bruce Circle.¹

In addition to the identified single-family types, there are in the district a handful of concrete block houses that do not represent any recognized type. Constructed c.1956, they are clustered fronting Magnolia Street near its intersection with Jenkins Street. They include 6875, 6876, and 6879 Magnolia Street.

Multi-family dwellings are located in clusters throughout the district. The majority are in the form of mid-20th century duplexes or triplexes. These dwellings are typically one story in height, and brick. Some are oriented with the primary elevation facing the street, while others are transverse, with what appears to be a secondary elevation oriented toward the street. Single car driveways or small parking areas are also present. These duplexes were constructed c.1961 as part of urban renewal projects aimed at revitalizing Lithonia, and remain owned by the Lithonia City Public Housing Authority today. The largest concentration of these is found within the Bruce Street Urban Renewal Project area, which included all of Bruce Circle and lots on the west side of Dean Court, and was platted in 1960. Additional examples are scattered independently throughout the district—examples include 6878 Max Cleland Boulevard, 2657 Johnson Street, 2444 Bruce Street, and 6817 and 6827 Parkway Road.

¹ Dr. Richard Cloues. *Split-Foyer Houses*. Lecture. Georgia Department of Natural Resources: Historic Preservation Division, May 8, 2015.

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Apartment construction within the district is scattered, and is largely noncontributing to the district due to its age. Exceptions include a single apartment building located at 6986 Bruce Circle within the Bruce Street Urban Renewal Project area which was constructed c.1960. The long, low single-story brick apartment bears many of the exterior characteristics of the ranch house type. There is another single-story contributing apartment building dating to 1964 at 2596 Wiggins Street, constructed of concrete block. Three gable-roofed two story-brick apartment buildings located at 7063, 2582, and 2592 Kelly Street date to 1970 and thus, are considered noncontributing to the district. Larger multi-family developments are located between Tribble and Ida Streets and also near the intersection of Max Cleland Boulevard and Rock Chapel Road. These date from the 1990s to the 2000s and thus, are noncontributing to the Lithonia Historic District.

The district also includes representative examples of residential architectural styles popular in Georgia during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, as identified in the statewide context *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings*. These include:

Second Empire

Rare in Georgia, the Second Empire style emerged during the early Victorian era (1870-1890) after having been made popular in France during the reign of Napoleon III. This style is characterized primarily by its mansard (dual-pitched, hipped) roof. This roof is steeply pitched and almost always exhibits dormer windows. Other details of the style are similar to the Italianate style, but are more massive and heavy. These include eave brackets, windows with heavy moldings or hoods, porch columns that are often paired, and bay windows. A remarkable vernacular interpretation of the Second Empire style is located within the Lithonia Historic District at 6921 Born Street. Lithonia's example has gneiss columns supporting the porch roof, typical of the character-defining usage of this material on buildings throughout Lithonia.

Queen Anne

The Queen Anne was Georgia's most popular 19th-century style, widely used throughout the state from the 1880s to about 1910. Developed in England and based on medieval Elizabethan and Jacobean examples, the style utilizes a variety of materials to create textures and elaborate detailing. Queen Anne houses are asymmetrical, with complex roofs and walls shapes. Exterior surfaces exhibit projecting bays and textured materials such as patterned shingles. Many have a porch that is also asymmetrical and often wraps around at least two sides of the house, usually decorated with gingerbread ornamentation and elaborate, slender spindlework. Chimneys are typically prominent and elaborately detailed with patterned and corbelled brickwork. While Lithonia includes few examples of this style, 6783 Church Street is a representative one with more classically-inspired detailing.

Folk Victorian

The Folk Victorian style became popular in Georgia during the mid-to-late 19th century. Houses in this style are generally simple in form. They exhibit Victorian-era decorative details taken from more elaborate styles, such as gingerbread ornamentation including brackets and spindlework, applied to features such as the porch, roof gables, and around window and door openings. Some feature additional or irregular roof gables that have been added to break up the traditional massing of the house. Excellent examples of this style are located at 2671 Johnson Street and 6860 Main Street.

Neoclassical Revival

The Neoclassical Revival style, which combines Greek and Roman detailing, drew upon the earlier Classical Revival and Greek Revival styles. It was popular in Georgia from the 1890s through the 1930s. Examples of the Neoclassical Revival style are found in the Lithonia district, most notably at 3021 Stone Mountain Street (constructed 1910), and 6949 Main Street. The most notable feature of the Neoclassical Revival style is the dominant full-height front portico with classical columns, often with elaborate capitals. The façade is usually symmetrical and has a central entrance usually surrounded with pilasters, elaborated with fanlights, sidelights and a transom. A classical cornice with dentils and modillions is also a common feature. The roof is usually low pitched and may have a balustrade. Windows are often paired.

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English Vernacular Revival

The English Vernacular Revival style was popular in the first four decades of the 20th century and is often referred to as Tudor Revival. Borrowing heavily from medieval English houses, the English Vernacular Revival style incorporates steeply pitched gable roofs, usually with a dominant front-facing gable, and combinations of building materials such as brick, stone, stucco, and half timbering, although almost all houses of this style have masonry walls. Massive chimneys, often on the primary façade, are common. Windows are generally tall, narrow, and grouped. Arched entryways are common. Although not a residential building, the Lithonia Women's Club at 2561 Wiggins Street was designed in the residential tradition and is an example of this style, with its steeply pitched roof, asymmetrical façade, and dominant stone chimney. 6784 Main Street is also a good example of the style.

Mediterranean Revival

Italian and Spanish vernacular country houses along the Mediterranean Sea area provided the inspiration for the Mediterranean Revival style. Popular during the 1920s and 1930s, this style is characterized by masonry walls, often finished in smooth stucco, comprising an asymmetrical house. The roof is low-pitched, may be either hipped or gabled and, is covered in clay tiles. Windows are generally arched and may be grouped. An example of this style, following the Italian tradition with its overhanging eaves with brackets, is the "Yellow Brick House," found at 6903 Main Street.

Colonial Revival

A renewed interest in colonial American architecture, inspired by the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, birthed the Colonial Revival style. This style gained lengthy popularity in Georgia, from the 1890s through the mid-20th century. Most houses in the Colonial Revival style are symmetrical with a central entry framed by pilasters or columns. Broken pediments, fanlights, and sidelights are also common around the entrance. Windows are double-hung and multi-paned. The roof may be hipped or have a side-gable. A vernacular example of this style can be found in the district at 2607 Reagin Street.

Craftsman

Popular during the early 20th century, houses constructed in the Craftsman style are asymmetrical and exhibit distinctive elements meant to emphasize materials and craftsmanship: low-pitched roofs with wide unenclosed eave overhangs exposing roof rafters; decorative beams or brackets at the eaves within wide gables; and either full or partial width porches supported by square, often battered, columns on heavy masonry piers extending to ground, are all common. Windows are usually double-hung and consist of a multi-paned sash over a single-pane sash. Examples of the Craftsman can be found at 2677 Rock Chapel Road. A character-defining aspect of many Craftsman houses in Lithonia is the integration of gneiss in construction, usually in the porch construction or foundations.

Community Landmark Resources

Historic community landmark resources are found immediately surrounding the historic commercial core and scattered throughout the primarily residential balance of the Lithonia Historic District. They include buildings and sites. The buildings generally are detached and built for a variety of purposes. Almost all feature granite in their construction; most feature it prominently, as both a decorative and structural component. Granite also features prominently in most of the sites, which include three cemeteries, three parks (one noncontributing), and one ruin. Community landmark buildings in Lithonia include churches, social and fraternal organizations, schools, and a former library. These buildings and sites have served as gathering places for citizens of the city throughout Lithonia's history, and many of these continue to serve their original purpose.

Churches are the most numerous type of community landmark building in Lithonia. Most are constructed of locally quarried gneiss and were built between the early 1900s and the 1950s. The Lithonia First United Methodist Church (originally Lithonia M.E. Church) is located on Stone Mountain Street, west of the railroad,

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between College and Church streets. Built in 1910 and designed by architect and Lithonia native John Parks Almand, Lithonia First United Methodist Church is a representative example of the Gothic Revival style. The church is constructed of rusticated granite in a traditional cruciform plan, with buttressed exterior walls and a projecting front tower with a crenellated parapet. Pointed-arch openings hold both stained and leaded glass windows with tracery. The original church on the property, a large frame building with a cupola, was located approximately 200 feet to the rear of the present building.

Good News Community CME Church (originally Antioch Baptist Church) is located at the corner of Parkway Road (formerly Decatur Street) and Park Drive (formerly Ezra Street). The building was built in 1911 and according to the 1923 Sanborn map was a "colored" church. This church is a representative example of the Gothic Revival style, constructed of rusticated granite with a projecting front tower with a crenellated parapet and pointed arch window openings. The building bears a notable resemblance to the previously-discussed Lithonia First United Methodist Church, constructed just a year earlier. Both are representative examples of the central tower church type, which is defined by its projecting entrance tower on the primary façade. As defined in *Church Types in Georgia*, this church type was popular throughout Georgia's rural areas and smaller towns from the 1850s through the 1930s.

Exousia Lighthouse International Christian Ministries (formerly Lithonia Presbyterian Church), is located at 2562 Bond Street. A church was constructed on this site in 1891, and rebuilt in 1952 after a fire. The extant building was reportedly designed by one R.O. Rennie, however, no documentation on this individual has been located. Exhibiting basic Colonial Revival style, the rectangular church is an example of Georgia's most common front-gable church type with a brick exterior supported by a granite foundation. A simple wood surround delineates the front entrance on an otherwise blank primary façade- arched window openings run the length of the east and west facades and a simple spire of wood with a copper roof caps the building, which sits on a triangular lot as a result of the construction of Max Cleland Boulevard.

Union Missionary Church (formerly Union Baptist Church) at 2508 Bruce Street, was built in 1911. Constructed in the Gothic Revival style, the church has a granite foundation and walls. The church's gables are today covered in siding where historically, a mix of wooden shingle and clapboard was used. Union Missionary is an example of a corner tower church type, as defined in *Church Types in Georgia*. This type was popular in Georgia's crossroads communities from the 1890s through the 1930s.

The congregation of the St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church organized in 1879. Its first location lay at the intersection of Covington Highway and Evans Mill Road. In 1931, the church constructed the building now called the "Solid Rock," located at the intersection of Klondike Road and Magnolia Street. This building is constructed entirely of irregularly cut granite and has two pyramidal-roofed towers of different sizes flanking the main mass of the building. Historically, two primary entrances were housed in the two towers on the front façade. These infilled openings remain evident today. The projecting arched granite surround at the current primary entrance is not original, nor is the addition on the church's south façade. Although this building was constructed later, the congregation of St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church is significant in Lithonia's 19th century history in that it was one of two churches in Lithonia that offered education for African American children as early as 1884.

Current and former educational facilities also have a substantial presence in the Lithonia Historic District. The district includes one building that is individually listed in the National Register. Listed in 1978, this large granite building located at 6886 Main Street is known as the Seminary, and was constructed in 1895 on land donated by Benjamin Franklin George. The George family were early Lithonia settlers. Concerned about the education of his seven children, George built a school on property adjoining his home. The school opened in 1895 and operated on a tuition basis for white students until the Lithonia public school system was established in 1905.²

² Judge Bond Almand. *Lithonia: The First Hundred Years 1856-1956*. On file at the DeKalb Historical Society. Lithonia Subject file #1986-23.

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The Seminary then closed and in 1906, George sold the property to John Keay Davidson, head of Lithonia's Davidson Granite Company, who converted the building into the "Auto Rest Hotel." Under that name, it served as a much-needed boarding house for quarry workers until 1917 when Davidson closed it and sold the property. It was a private residence until the 1980s, and currently serves as office space.

In 1920, a two-story granite high school was built on College Street near Randall Avenue. Over the years (most notably 1939, 1948, and 1953) several additions occurred. Between 1965 and 1966, the majority of the facility was demolished when the present Lithonia Middle School (constructed as a new Lithonia High School) was built. A single wing of the previous school- a sprawling one-story random ashlar granite building originally constructed as an addition in 1948- remains today. The 1966 school and 1948 building are not connected, and are counted as separate contributing buildings for the purposes of this nomination. The two-story 1966 building is brick and concrete. While the building has lost some original elements, such as decorative screening on the primary façade, and a 2003 addition obscured some of the building's east façade, it retains its original form and the majority of its original features, including the flared arch canopy above the primary entrance.

The Lithonia Negro School, constructed for African American students during the segregation era, is currently in ruins on Bruce Street in the northeastern quadrant of the district. Despite its condition, it remains an important symbol for the community, and the property is counted as a contributing site for the purposes of this nomination. Constructed in 1938, the one-story school burned after it closed in 1955. Portions of exterior walls, all constructed of locally quarried gneiss, remain standing today.

Across the street from the Lithonia Negro School ruins, the Bruce Street East DeKalb Center currently serves as the DeKalb County Police Academy as well as a community center. This building was constructed as the Bruce Street High and Elementary School, and originally served as what's known today as an equalization school- a school built, in this case for African American students, during the late segregation era as an attempt by the state of Georgia to maintain segregated public schools. The school was one of 13 new schools that opened in DeKalb County in 1955, and it features elements characteristic of the International style, including a flat roof, large metal windows, and a lack of ornament. The one-story school is U-shaped, and is constructed primarily of random ashlar granite and concrete. A detached two-story, brick gym stands immediately south of the school building, and is counted as a separate contributing resource. It was added to the campus in 1963. The school was designed by the Marietta architectural firm of Bothwell and Nash. In addition to church and educational buildings, Lithonia has a variety of other historic community landmark resources.

The Lithonia Women's Club, at 3654 Wiggins Street, is a one-story building constructed of locally quarried granite. Constructed in 1928, the clubhouse exhibits English Vernacular Revival style elements, such as a gabled front roof projection and a massive stone chimney on the primary façade. Double doors flank the chimney and a large stone patio with apron walls extends across the front façade. At the time of its construction, the clubhouse consisted of an assembly room, kitchen, and a special wing for a library. This served as Lithonia's public library and the first lending library in DeKalb County. A handicap ramp was added in 2006 to the building's front porch. The building is currently owned by the Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance and is still used as a community gathering space today.

The Lithonia city waterworks was established in 1916. The only remaining element of the complex is a small L-shaped pump house at 6974 Ruth Street. The pump house is constructed of rough-cut granite featuring a decorative beaded mortar joint, and has a slate, hipped roof. The building appears on Sanborn maps by 1923. The property formerly included two rectangular concrete tanks and one circular concrete tank adjacent to the extant building. These elements of the property were demolished c.1981. Despite this loss, the property contributes to the Lithonia Historic District as an example of the city's early municipal infrastructure.

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There are several parks within the proposed district. The largest by far is Lithonia City Park, along the west boundary of the district off of Park Drive. The park is overall heavily wooded, situated on rolling hills that slope up to the west from Park Drive, reaching a high point in the middle of the park and then sloping downward in the rear, westernmost portion. Brenda Lee Lane, a paved drive, loops through the east half of the park, which was developed in the late 1940s. It includes play areas, picnic areas with granite tables and bar-b-que pits, pavilions, and an open amphitheater. Gneiss features prominently in the park landscape, serving as the primary construction material for everything from the park's retaining walls, to park signage, to the picnic tables and pavilions, to the amphitheater seating and stage shelter. The stage shelter has been altered with the addition of a contemporary gabled roof, infill material in former window openings, and metal roof and lighting framing. A contemporary shelter of similar framing material has been added at the top, or west, edge of the amphitheater seating. The west half of the park includes a community swimming pool with associated concrete block buildings, all dating to c.1978. For the purposes of this nomination, Lithonia City Park is counted as one contributing site, and the park amphitheater is counted as a contributing structure.

William Kelly Park is a pocket park located next to Max Cleland Boulevard. Bordered on the east by Max Cleland Boulevard, Bond Street to the north, and the Seminary to the south, the park is generally flat with both deciduous and evergreen trees. Developed after the construction of Max Cleland Boulevard in the late 1960s, and named in honor of local World War II veteran, the park features a Vietnam War memorial, a gazebo, and several benches. Due to its date of development, this park is considered noncontributing to the Lithonia Historic District.

On Bruce Street is the smaller Bruce Street Park. This park is believed to have been developed c.1961, around the time of the development of the duplexes fronting adjacent Bruce Court, and is therefore considered a contributing site in the district. Bruce Street Park consists of an open, grassed area surrounded by wooded land. The open, grassed area abuts the intersection of Bruce and Kelley streets. There are two circular play areas featuring playground equipment, and a simple frame shelter, in the grassed area, all accessed by paved paths leading into the park from Bruce Street. A paved basketball court is situated southwest of the play areas.

Lithonia has three separate documented cemeteries, each of which is counted as a contributing site to the district. The Lithonia City Cemetery is located on the northern edge of the historic district boundary at the intersection of Tribble and Stone Mountain streets. Randall Avenue bisects the cemetery, which spreads over three separate tax parcels. The cemetery is approximately 8.6 acres in size and is largely flat, with a gentle slope upward to the east. There is very little planned landscaping. Both granite and marble curbing are present, and dirt paths facilitate vehicular access. The cemetery was established in 1851, and the earliest burials occurred along the eastern boundary, with the most recent burials located along the southwest boundary. Early residents J.R. George and J.M. Born donated the initial property for the cemetery, and the first burial was that of Ann T. Born. Many prominent white members of the Lithonia community are buried in this cemetery including members of the Anderson, Born, Bond, Cagle, George, Hollingsworth, Reagan, and Swift families; several roads in Lithonia bear the names of these early families. Although there is no evidence of the cemetery having been integrated historically, it is believed that some families may have buried slaves within the cemetery. Close to the intersection of Stone Mountain and Tribble streets, burials consist largely of individual graves laid in irregular rows oriented east-west. This pattern persists throughout the southernmost half of the cemetery, with grave orientation and alignment becoming increasingly irregular to the west. In the northern half of the cemetery, all burials are located within square plots laid in rows. The majority of the plots are delineated with granite blocks or other curbing. A few plots are enclosed with cast iron fencing, including one that is dedicated to Scottish granite workers. Many of the plots are graveled. Burials are marked with traditional stone grave markers of various shapes, and sizes. Grave markers range from relatively elaborate obelisks and pedestals to simpler variations of vertical and horizontal slab markers. Many of the headstones in this cemetery are made from locally quarried granite.

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The two additional cemeteries in the district are located near Bruce Street; both are traditionally African American. Adjacent to the Bruce Street East DeKalb Center at the intersection of Bruce and Walker streets is Cemetery One. This 6.7-acre cemetery was originally part of the Jacob Chupp farm. Its earliest known burial of a man by the name of Sam Murders dates to 1911, and it remains an active cemetery today. The majority of the parcel is wooded- the southwest portion is cleared. The cemetery is bordered to the north by open/vacant land, to the east by wooded land, to the south by Walker Street and to the west by duplexes fronting Bruce Street and vacant land. A one-way unpaved loop road accesses the cemetery from Walker Street. The loop road trails through the lot with topography gradually rising from west to east, cresting near the center of the lot. There is a short granite retaining wall dividing the cemetery's southwestern edge from Walker Street. Burial plots are spread over the property. Overall, graves are generally oriented east-west. A limited number are oriented north-south. Burials consist largely of individual graves laid in irregular rows. Some are within plots delineated with a variety of materials including concrete block, granite, brick, and pavers. Some individual graves are similarly delineated. Many of these are graveled, while some are paved with bricks. Grave markers are generally simple vertical and horizontal slab markers, although some burials are marked only with a fieldstone. Common materials include concrete, brick, and granite, along with a number of marble military-issue markers. Cast concrete headstones are common, many bearing the name of the funeral home which produced the marker.

Across Bruce Street from Cemetery One is a second cemetery, known locally as Cemetery Two and referred to as Bruce Street Cemetery in some documentation. An unpaved loop path accesses the cemetery from Bruce Street, running adjacent to the Lithonia Negro School ruins. The cemetery lot, which is largely cleared, slopes toward a wooded area of mature pine and hardwood trees. Granite and concrete retaining walls, marking individual burial plots, create a series of terraces along the sloping terrain. This one-acre cemetery includes approximately 75 graves, the earliest marked dating to 1963. Burial plots are spread over the property. Graves are generally oriented east-west. Burials consist largely of individual graves laid in irregular rows. Some are within plots delineated with a variety of materials including concrete block, granite, and pavers. Some individual graves are similarly delineated, and many of these and the plots are graveled. Grave markers are generally simple vertical and horizontal slab markers. Common materials include concrete, brick, and granite.

Noncontributing Resources

Noncontributing resources to the Lithonia Historic District are those constructed after 1966 and those that have lost their historic integrity due to significant exterior alterations.

Many of the commercial resources in Lithonia have experienced some degree of alteration. Replacement storefront components are the most common alteration. Noncontributing commercial resources in the district are those that have been so substantially altered that their historic commercial form and detailing is no longer evident. Many commercial resources in Lithonia exhibit historic alterations that date to within the district's period of significance, while others have been substantially altered outside of the district's period of significance. 6977 Main Street is an example of a commercial resource exhibiting non-historic alterations substantial enough to render the building noncontributing to the district. 6977 Main Street currently exhibits a stucco exterior, a new metal-frame window and a single door, and an asphalt shingle hipped roof portico. Due to these extensive alterations dating to the early 2000s, the building has lost the majority of its character-defining features and is not considered contributing to the district. The commercial resources fronting Swift Street south of Main Street exhibit the most significant concentration of substantial non-historic alterations, including pop-up gable roofs, non-historic façade sheathings, and primary façade additions. Not all altered historic resources are considered noncontributing to the district: resources were assessed for their degree of alteration relevant to the resource's historic significance, and in the context of expected integrity within the district, in order to be determined contributing or noncontributing.

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Non-historic single- and multi-family residential resources are scattered throughout the district. The most substantial of these is a complex of multi-family buildings located at 6800 and 6890 Park Drive, constructed in 2009. Older examples include the public housing complex at 6850 Robinson Street (constructed in 1971). Single-family residential infill is scattered- these houses were built between the 1970s to the early 2000s, such as 2586/2588 Reagin Street, built in 1972; 6883 Robinson Street, built in 1987; and 2525 Park Drive, built in 1990. Newer examples are modest; they are one- and two-story, typically set farther back from the street than neighboring historic houses, and feature garages on a primary elevation. Representative examples include 7050 Pendley Street, 6814 Ida Street, and 2409 Randall Avenue, all constructed between 1990 and 2010.

Many of the houses in Lithonia's residential areas, particularly in those areas that historically served lower-income populations, have been substantially altered over time. Infilled porches, additions, replacement windows, and the application of non-historic siding are common exterior alterations in the district. 6898 Magnolia Street, 2581 Johnson Street, and 2332 Rock Street represent extreme examples of these common alterations. As with commercial resources, not all altered residential resources are considered noncontributing to the Lithonia Historic District: resources were assessed for their degree of alteration relevant to the resource's historic significance, and in the context of expected integrity within the district, in order to be determined contributing or noncontributing.

Noncontributing properties in the primarily residential areas also include non-residential resources that were constructed outside of the period of significance or that have been heavily altered in form, materials, function, and ornamentation. Examples of resources constructed after the period of significance include the U.S. Post Office building located at the intersection of Stone Mountain and Ida streets, which was constructed c.1975, when the downtown post office building was sold, and the Lithonia-Davidson branch of the DeKalb County Public Library, which moved to its present location at 6821 Church Street in 1986.

The Lithonia Historic District possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. While the district's integrity, particularly with regard to the aspect of design, has been compromised as a result of the development of Lithonia Plaza in 1968, which resulted in substantial demolition of historic resources and elimination of portions of the historic street pattern in the community's commercial core, Lithonia can still be interpreted as a crossroads town with a railroad community type, and its development as a community that has evolved from that crossroads remains sufficiently intact to qualify the community as a representative example of such. Despite some losses, the Lithonia Historic District retains most major elements that define period historic towns in Georgia, including diverse and largely intact residential neighborhoods, a rail line, a defined central business district, a substantial African American community, and diverse community landmark buildings.

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The Lithonia Plaza initiative also resulted in the reconfiguration of the city's original street patterns. Sections of Stone Mountain and Hollingsworth streets were removed for construction of the shopping center, thus disrupting the historic grid pattern. As a result, Stone Mountain Street no longer connected to Main Street and Hollingsworth Street no longer connected to Church Street. Additionally, a section of Church Street from the Lithonia First United Methodist Church to Swift Street was removed. Around 1970, the Lithonia bypass (later named Max Cleland Boulevard in honor of former Georgia Secretary of State and U.S. Senator Max Cleland, who was raised in Lithonia), was constructed north of the plaza through a portion of what was Church Street. It was also at this time that the nearby wooden Georgia Railroad bridge spanning what was formerly Church Street was razed, and a new bridge spanning the bypass was constructed.

The Bruce Street neighborhood benefitted during this period due in large part to the work of resident Lucious Sanders in advocating for better facilities for the African American community during the Civil Rights movement. A Lithonia native, Sanders, known to many as the "Dr. King of Lithonia," was born July 15, 1915. He was raised in Lithonia and enlisted in the U.S. Army on April 7, 1941. After returning from military service during WWII, he fought for voting rights and equal services for African Americans in DeKalb County. It is believed he organized one of the first voter registration drives in DeKalb County when he gathered groups of black men and women and drove to Decatur to demand the right to vote. Sanders founded the Lithonia Federal Credit Union in 1968 at Antioch Baptist Church, and the Anna Sanders Educational Fund (named for his mother), a non-profit foundation that provides scholarships and low interest loans to black students in need⁴⁴. He started the Lithonia Civic League, pushing the county to upgrade services in Lithonia's African American neighborhoods, such as paving of roads, sewer lines and the development of parks and recreational facilities, and eventually became the first black member of the DeKalb County Parks and Recreation Board--the Lucious Sanders Recreation Center on Bruce Street is named in his honor.⁴⁵ In addition, Sanders promoted black history programs, and black representation in government. African American political activism in Lithonia is an excellent example of grassroots political action of the era in medium-sized Southern cities.

Sanders also started an African American Boy Scout troop, and in his work as a Scout leader, influenced the development of a prominent politician from Lithonia, Howard Lee. Lee was born July 28, 1934 and raised in Lithonia. He attended Lithonia Negro School, and later, Clark College, and subsequently received a degree from Fort Valley University. Lee was drafted into the Army where he organized a sit-in at Killeen, TX, and his organization of another sit-in on the Ft. Hood base was thwarted. He ultimately served in Korea and moved to Chapel Hill, NC to attend graduate school. It was there that Lee became involved in public service and was elected mayor of Chapel Hill in 1969, the first black man elected mayor of a Southern city since Reconstruction. Lee would ultimately serve three terms as mayor, and two terms in the North Carolina Senate.

Although Lithonia experienced an economic decline beginning in the 1950s, its population remained relatively steady. Aside from a slight decrease in population from 1940 to 1950, the population posted an increase in every census year until 1990. Furthermore, perhaps due to its already-suburban location in eastern DeKalb County, the city, though undergoing a gradual shift in its racial composition, did not experience a drastic demographic shift during the mid-20th century, as experienced in many larger urban areas. For example, African Americans remained a minority population in the city through the 1980 census, representing 44% of 2,637 Lithonians. By 2000, African Americans made up approximately 80% of the population.⁴⁶ As of 2010, Lithonia's African American population stood at 1,639 -- roughly 85% of the population. Thus, while interstate highways pulled business from urban centers and Main streets throughout the nation, the population of

⁴⁴ Greig Guthey. "Civil rights Activist 'made a difference in the lives of a lot of us.'" *The Atlanta Journal and Constitution*, June 10, 1993. <http://ezproxy.gsu.edu:2055/universe/printdoc> (accessed April 20, 2005).

⁴⁵ Barry Brown, Allyson Combee, Laura Drummond, Tom Frank, Andrew Reisinger, Sharman Southall. *Lithonia African-American Cemetery*, (Georgia State University, 2004), 1-3.

⁴⁶ *U.S. Census of Population, 2000: Subject Reports: Summary Population and Housing Characteristics*. Final Report. Washington: Government Printing Office, September 2002.

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County and State

Lithonia continued to grow. Furthermore, although a gradual demographic shift from majority white to majority African American was already underway by the 1950s, the massive scale of "white flight" experienced in many locations throughout the country bypassed Lithonia as a whole, at least until the 1980s.

In more recent years, Lithonia has focused on revitalization. In 1993, the aluminum sheathing and awnings that had obscured portion of most of Main Street's commercial resources since the late 1960s were removed, revealing the historic appearance of the commercial core. In 2005, a Georgia Department of Transportation-funded streetscape improvement project along Main Street improved walkability and accessibility in the commercial core, although Main Street's historic granite sidewalks were removed in the process. Most recently, Lithonia was incorporated into the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area when it was established in 2006.⁴⁷ As part of the Arabia Mountain Trail, which connects Lithonia with other heritage area destinations, an abandoned rail spur line (noted as A.R.R. on the 1923-1932 Sanborn map), intersecting Johnson Street at the southern edge of the district, has been donated to the PATH Foundation by Hanson Aggregates for the construction of a concrete multi-use hike/bike PATH. This line originally served to transport stone to Lithonia's main rail line from the Arabia Mountain quarries. The historic physical location of the line itself remains evident, and supports the continued interpretation of the importance of the rail road and quarrying industry to Lithonia's history.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Church Types in Georgia. Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division. Accessed August 10, 2015. <http://www.georgiashpo.org/historic/religious>

Commercial Types in Georgia. Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division. Accessed August 10, 2015. http://georgiashpo.org/sites/uploads/hpd/pdf/commercial_types.pdf

Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings. Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division. 1991.

Roth, Darlene. *Georgia Community Development and Morphology of Community Types*. December 1989. On file at Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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 # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

⁴⁷ City of Lithonia. "Historic Lithonia: Walk About." <http://arabiaalliance.org/trails/2851/> (accessed April 1, 2015).

Lithonia Historic District
Name of Property

DeKalb County, Georgia
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 440.01
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84: N/A
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 33.719560 | Longitude: -84.108053 |
| 2. Latitude: 33.716576 | Longitude: -84.103122 |
| 3. Latitude: 33.716173 | Longitude: -84.097689 |
| 4. Latitude: 33.715486 | Longitude: -84.095952 |
| 5. Latitude: 33.706575 | Longitude: -84.098687 |
| 6. Latitude: 33.706117 | Longitude: -84.110376 |
| 7. Latitude: 33.711114 | Longitude: -84.112229 |
| 8. Latitude: 33.714447 | Longitude: -84.116649 |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The National Register boundary is indicated on the attached district map, drawn to scale with a heavy black line.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The Lithonia Historic District boundary includes the intact, contiguous historic resources within the current and historic municipal boundary of the city of Lithonia, roughly encompassing major historic roads and part of the CSX railroad corridor. The district boundary extends outside the municipal boundary when necessary to encompass the entirety of contributing parcels that are bisected by the municipal boundary, and excludes all parcels of which no portion lies within the municipal boundary. The district boundary excludes large areas of dense noncontributing infill. Much of the development immediately outside the district boundary dates to outside the period of significance.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Stephanie L. Cherry-Farmer; National Register and Survey Program Manager
organization Historic Preservation Division, GA Dept. of Natural Resources date July 29, 2016
street & number 2610 GA Hwy. 155, SW telephone (770) 389-7843
city or town Stockbridge state GA zip code 30281
e-mail stephanie.cherry-farmer@dnr.ga.gov

Lithonia Historic District
Name of Property

DeKalb County, Georgia
County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional Items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Lithonia Historic District

City or Vicinity: Lithonia

County: DeKalb

State: Georgia

Photographer: Charlie Miller, Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

Date Photographed: December 19, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- Image 1 of 67: 6958-6984 Main Street; photographer facing northeast
- Image 2 of 67: 6958-6974 Main Street; photographer facing southwest
- Image 3 of 67: 6980-6984 Main Street; photographer facing north
- Image 4 of 67: Detail of 6983-6985 Main Street
- Image 5 of 67: Rail line and 7282 Conyers Street; photographer facing east
- Image 6 of 67: Rail line, Conyers Street, and 6980-6984 Main Street; photographer facing west
- Image 7 of 67: Side and rear façades fronting Swift Street; photographer facing southwest
- Image 8 of 67: 2562 Bond Street; photographer facing northwest
- Image 9 of 67: 2554 Bond Street; photographer facing northeast
- Image 10 of 67: 6790-6812 Church Street; photographer facing north
- Image 11 of 67: DeKalb County Public Library; 6821 Church Street; photographer facing northeast
- Image 12 of 67: 3089 Stone Mountain Street; photographer facing northwest
- Image 13 of 67: 6882-6888 Max Cleland Boulevard; photographer facing north
- Image 14 of 67: Georgia Railroad bridge over Max Cleland Boulevard; photographer facing northeast
- Image 15 of 67: 6834 College Avenue; photographer facing north
- Image 16 of 67: Lithonia Middle School; photographer facing north
- Image 17 of 67: 6832 Church Street; photographer facing northeast
- Image 18 of 67: 6776 Church Street; photographer facing southwest
- Image 19 of 67: 6768 Church Street; photographer facing southwest
- Image 20 of 67: 6860-6872 Parkway Road; photographer facing northwest

Lithonia Historic District

DeKalb County, Georgia
County and State

Name of Property

- Image 21 of 67: The Seminary; 6886 Main Street; photographer facing west
Image 22 of 67: Good News Community CME Church; 2547 Parkway Road; photographer facing north
Image 23 of 67: Picnic area, Lithonia City Park; photographer facing south
Image 24 of 67: Amphitheater, Lithonia City Park; photographer facing west
Image 25 of 67: Amphitheater, Lithonia City Park; photographer facing east
Image 26 of 67: Lithonia City Park sign; photographer facing west
Image 27 of 67: Lithonia Middle School, c.1940s granite building; photographer facing northwest
Image 28 of 67: 2438 Randall Avenue; photographer facing east
Image 29 of 67: Lithonia City Cemetery; photographer facing northeast
Image 30 of 67: Lithonia City Cemetery; photographer facing southeast
Image 31 of 67: 3021 Stone Mountain Street; photographer facing west
Image 32 of 67: 3015-2997 Stone Mountain Street; photographer facing northwest
Image 33 of 67: 2664 Williams Grant Reynolds Drive; photographer facing east
Image 34 of 67: St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church; 2687 Klondike Road; photographer facing west
Image 35 of 67: 6865 Magnolia Street; photographer facing southeast
Image 36 of 67: Historically vacant lots at 6853 and 6859 Magnolia Street, evidencing the type of vacant land that is found throughout the residential areas of the district; photographer facing east
Image 37 of 67: 6876 Magnolia Street; photographer facing north
Image 38 of 67: PATH recreational trail occupying former railroad right-of-way adjacent to 2657 Johnson Street; photographer facing west
Image 39 of 67: 2657 Johnson Street; photographer facing southwest
Image 40 of 67: 2674 Council Street; photographer facing east
Image 41 of 67: 2671 Johnson Street; photographer facing south
Image 42 of 67: 2605 and 2611 Wiggins Street; photographer facing south
Image 43 of 67: 6921 Born Street (house, and outbuilding fronting Wiggins Street); photographer facing south
Image 44 of 67: 6915 Born Street; photographer facing east
Image 45 of 67: 6949 Main Street; photographer facing southeast
Image 46 of 67: Johnson's Hall; 6957 Main Street; photographer facing southeast
Image 47 of 67: Lithonia Women's Club; 2564 Wiggins Street; photographer facing east
Image 48 of 67: 6975 Main Street; photographer facing east
Image 49 of 67: 6979-6985 Main Street and 7282 Conyers Street; photographer facing northeast
Image 50 of 67: 2613 Bruce Street; photographer facing north
Image 51 of 67: 2597-2585 Bruce Street; photographer facing north
Image 52 of 67: Lucious Sanders Recreation Center (formerly the Bruce Street Elementary and High School (2484 Bruce Street)), main school building; photographer facing east
Image 53 of 67: Lucious Sanders Recreation Center (formerly the Bruce Street Elementary and High School (2484 Bruce Street)), gym; photographer facing southeast
Image 54 of 67: Lithonia Negro School ruins (2449 Bruce Street); photographer looking northwest
Image 55 of 67: Cemetery 1; photographer facing northeast
Image 56 of 67: Cemetery 1; photographer facing east
Image 57 of 67: Bruce Street Park; photographer facing northeast
Image 58 of 67: 7040-7066 Dean Court; photographer facing north
Image 59 of 67: 6939 Bruce Circle; photographer facing northwest
Image 60 of 67: Former Lithonia city waterworks building; 6974 Church Street; photographer facing southwest
Image 61 of 67: 2707-2717 Rock Chapel Road; photographer facing north
Image 62 of 67: 2688 Rock Chapel Road; photographer facing east
Image 63 of 67: 2643-2661 Rock Chapel Road; photographer facing north

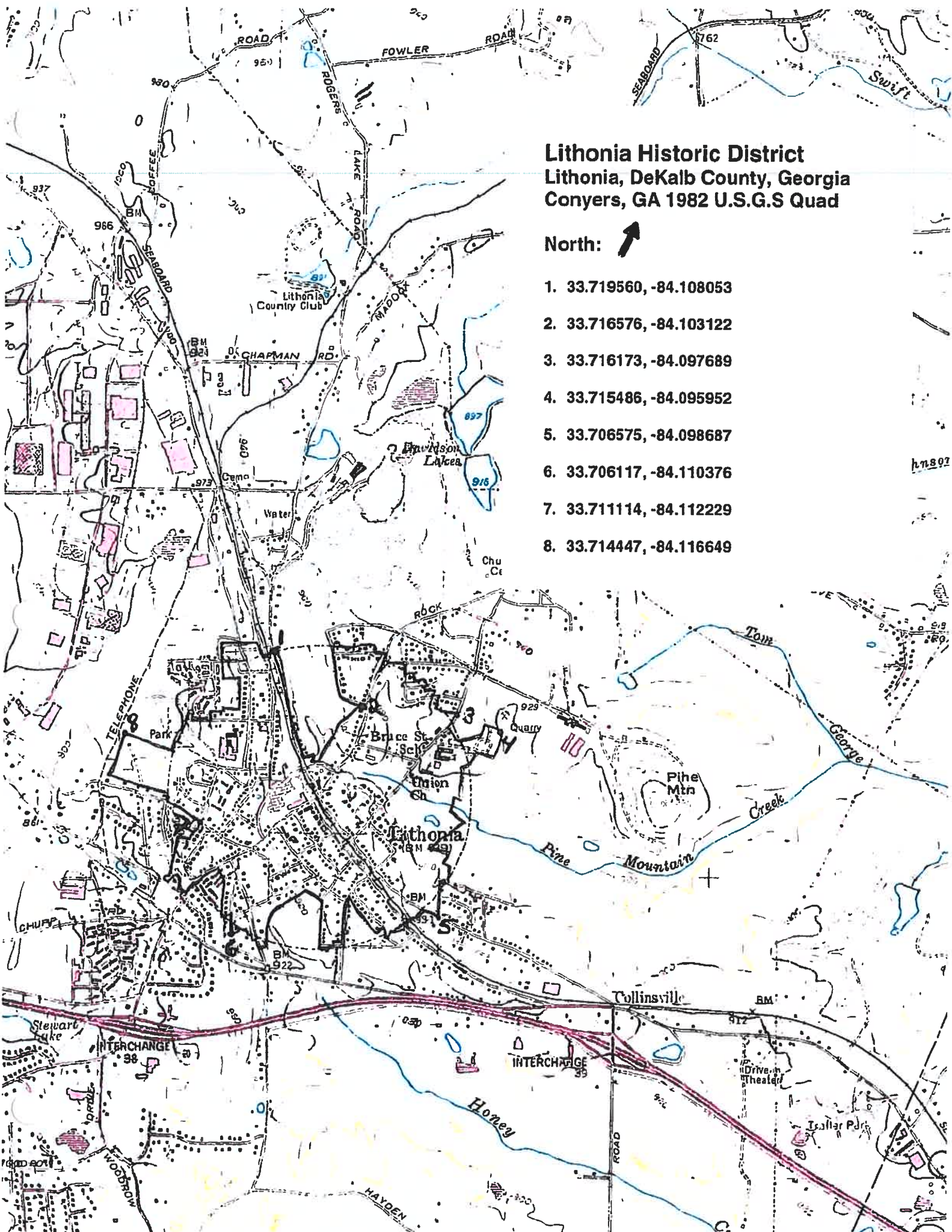
Lithonia Historic District
Name of Property

DeKalb County, Georgia
County and State

Image 64 of 67: 2601 Reagin Street; photographer facing northwest
Image 65 of 67: 2616-2624 Reagin Street; photographer facing northeast
Image 66 of 67: Lithonia Plaza shopping center; photographer facing north
Image 67 of 67: Lithonia Plaza shopping center; photographer facing northeast

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

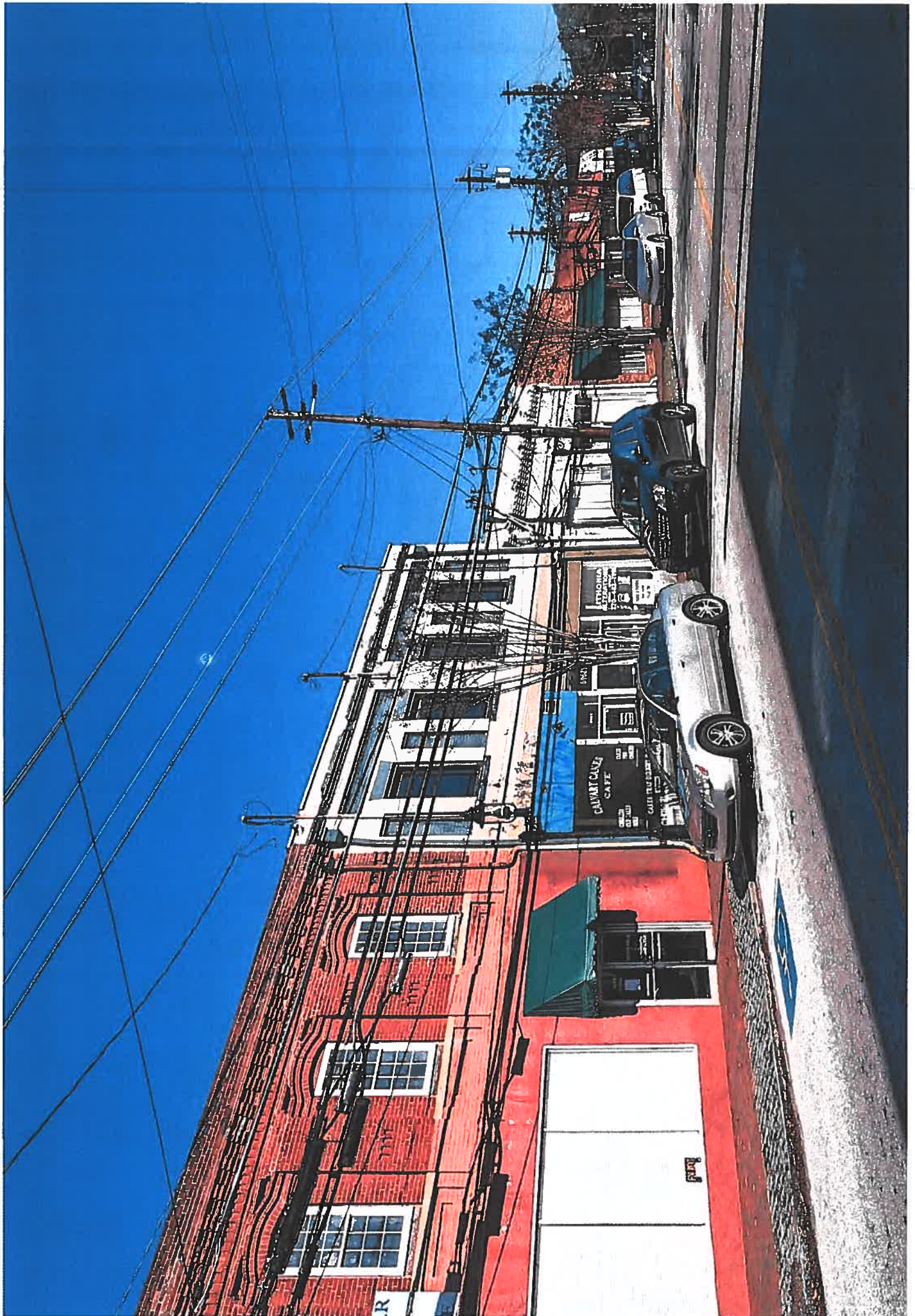
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

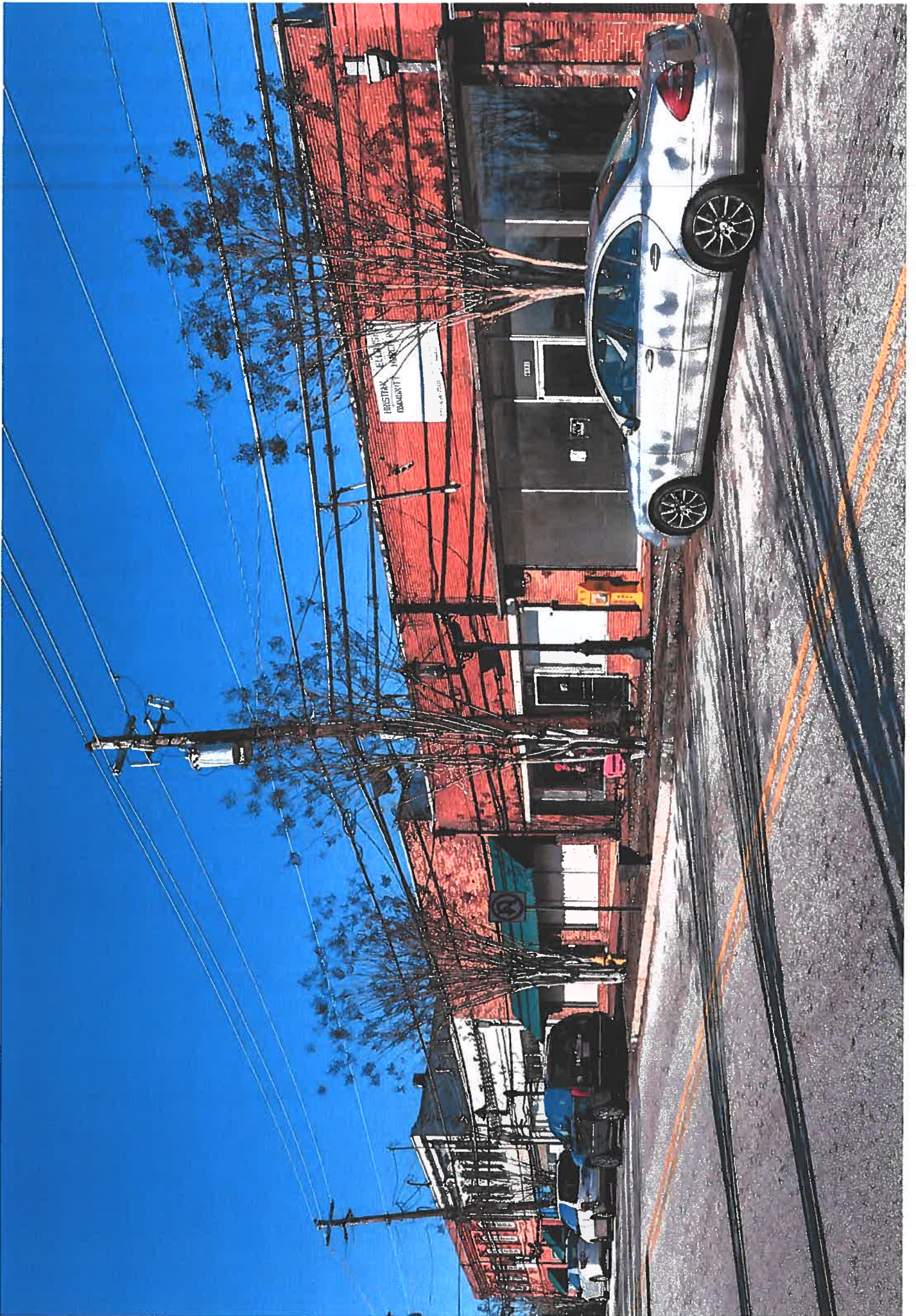


**Lithonia Historic District
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Conyers, GA 1982 U.S.G.S Quad**

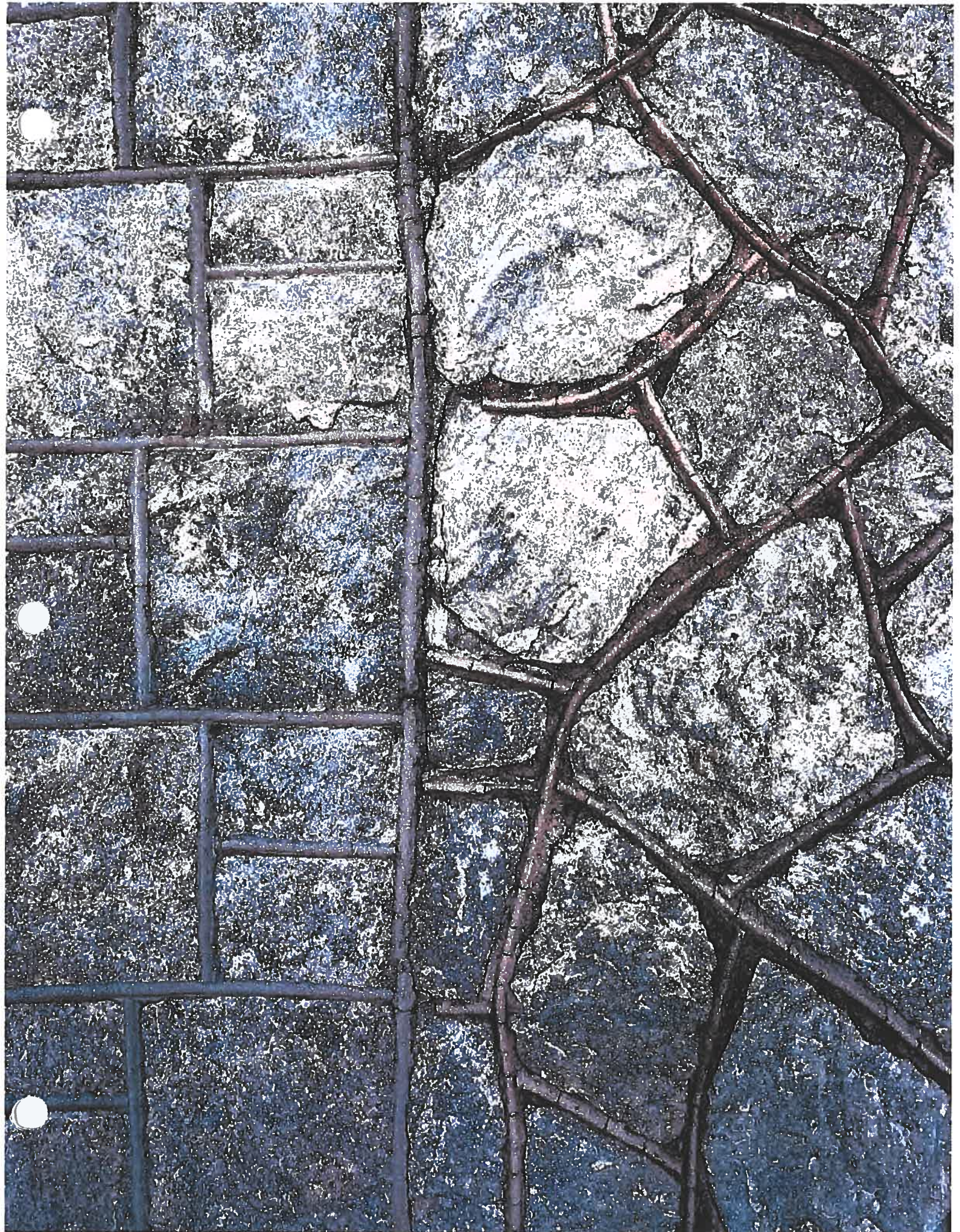
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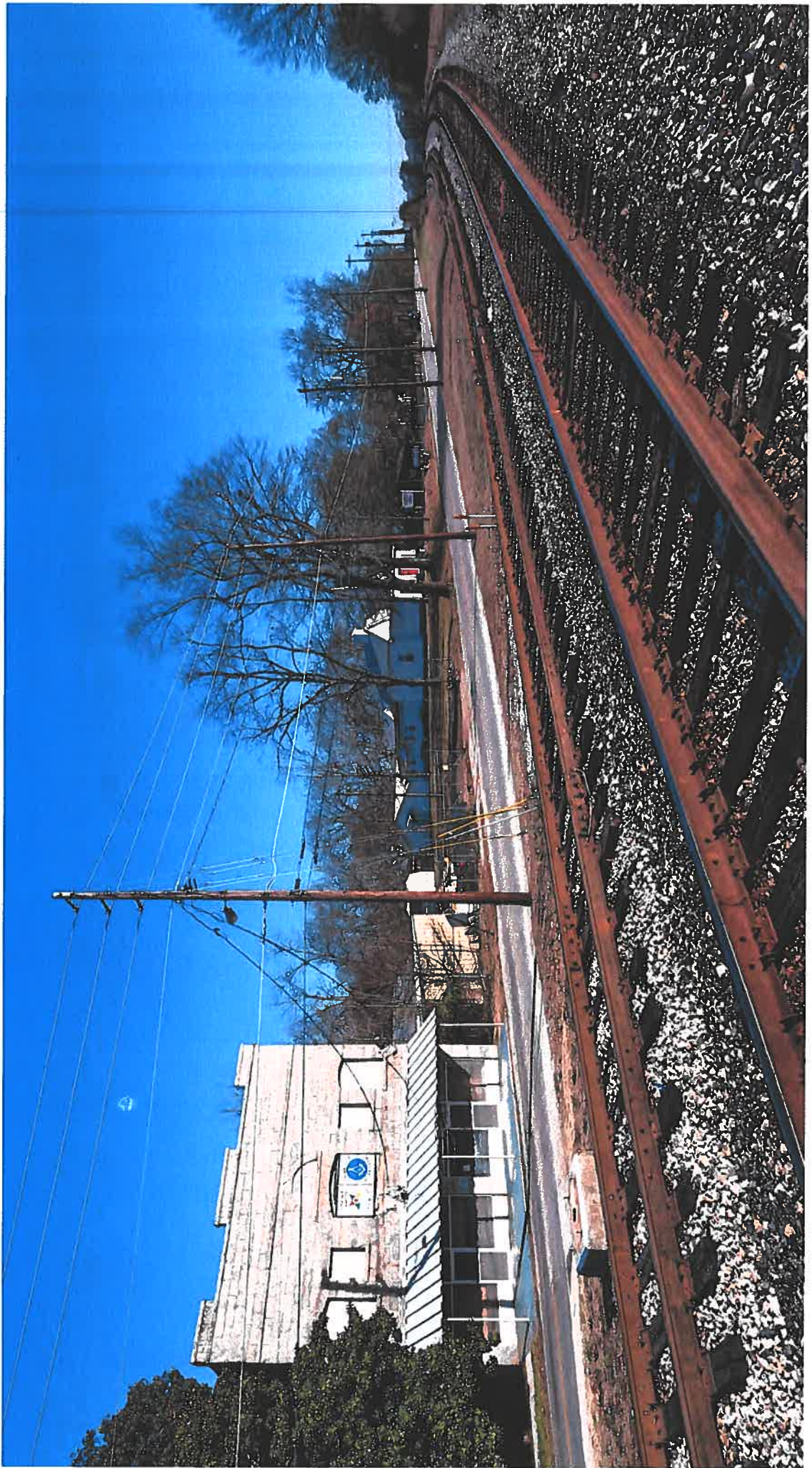
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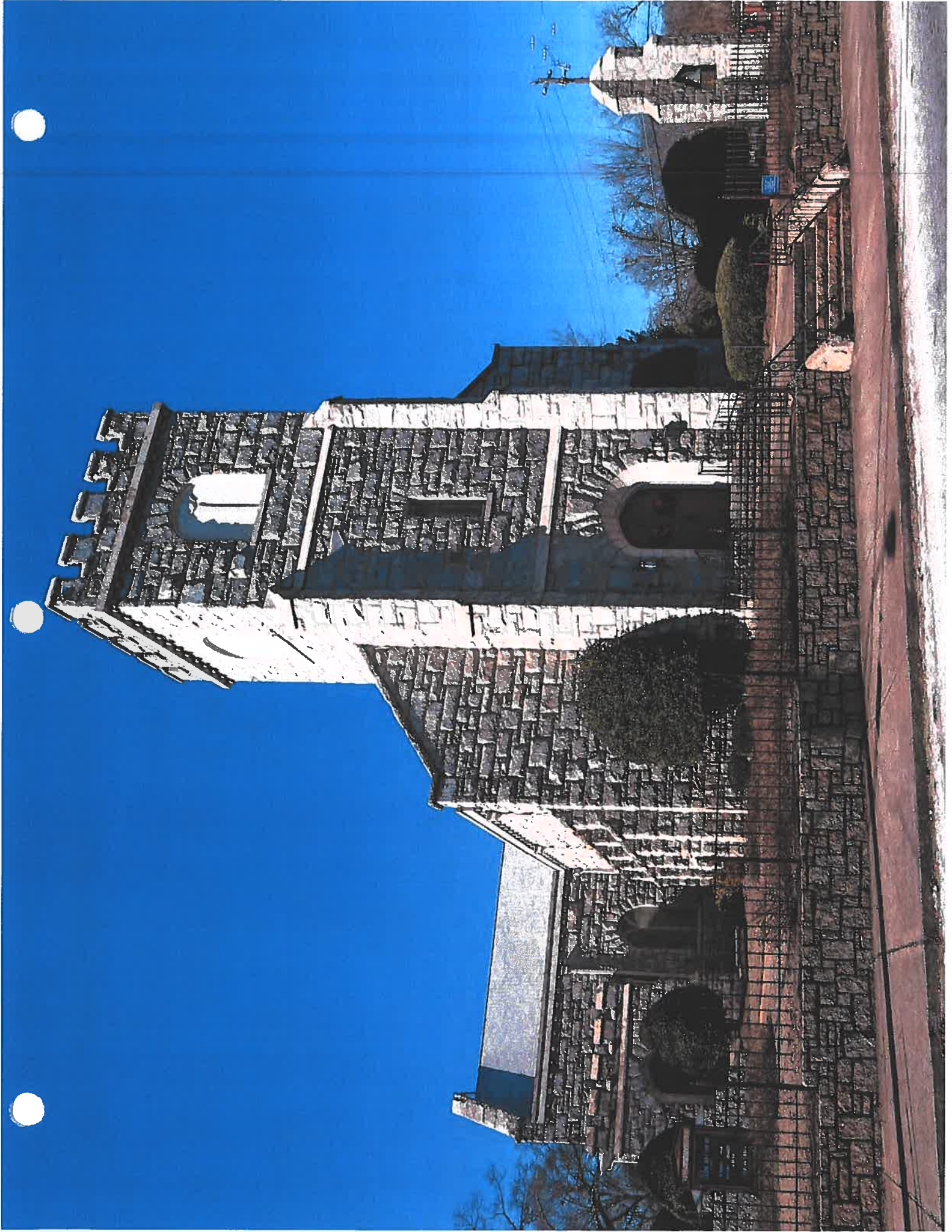




Lithonia-Davidson Branch
DeKalb County Public Library

→
PARKING
BOOK DEPOSITORY

NO LEFT
TURN





D&J SUPPLY





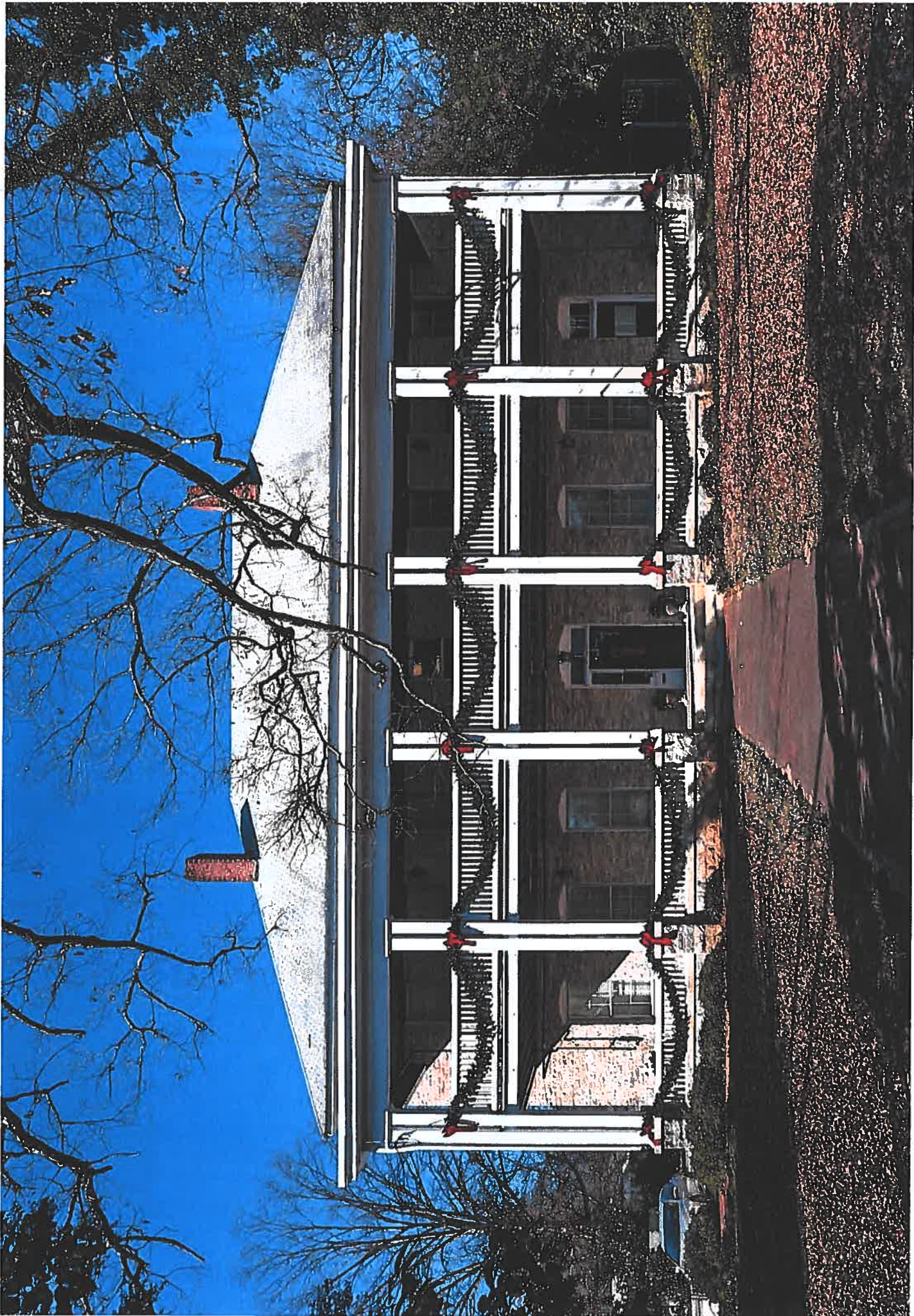










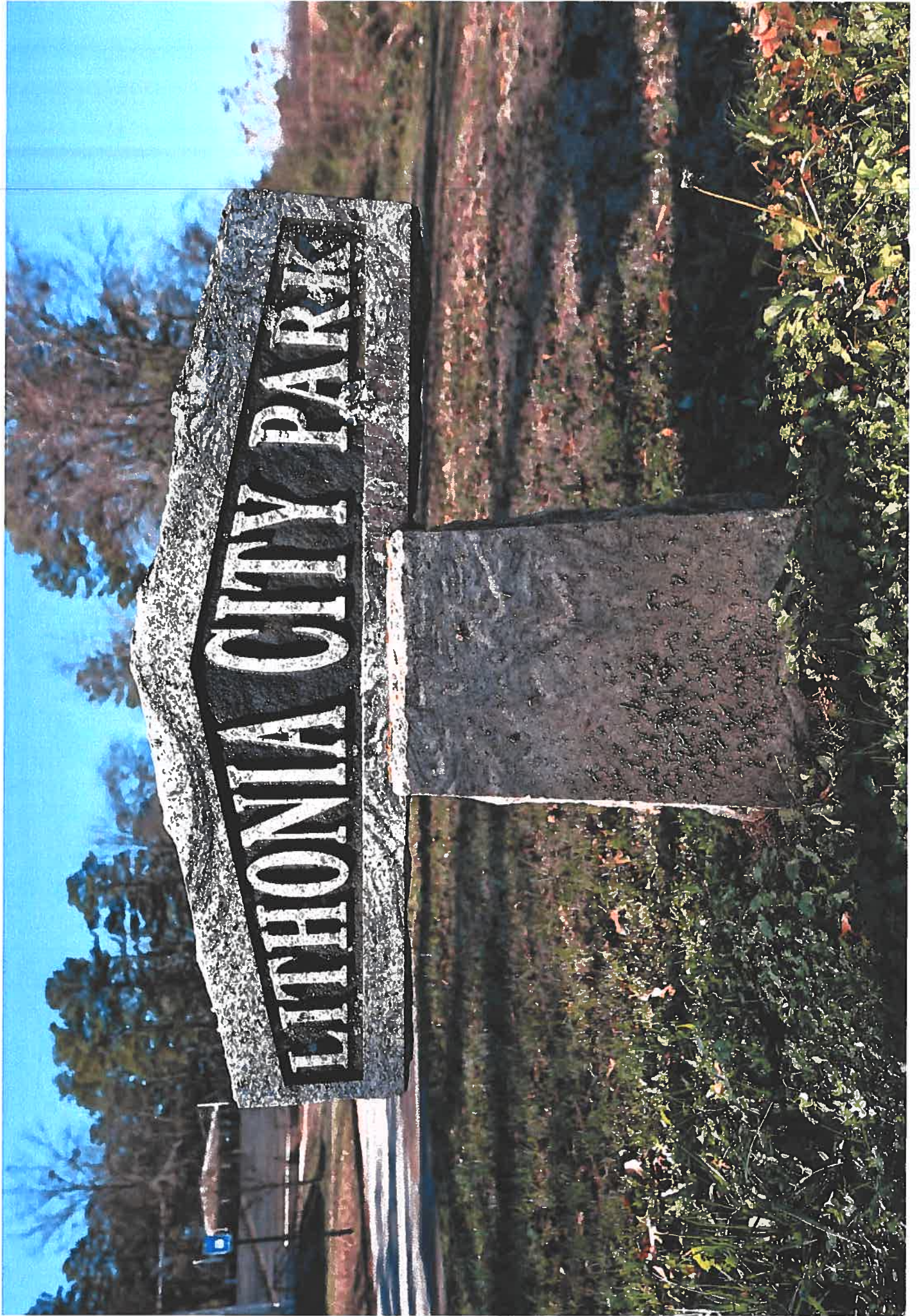


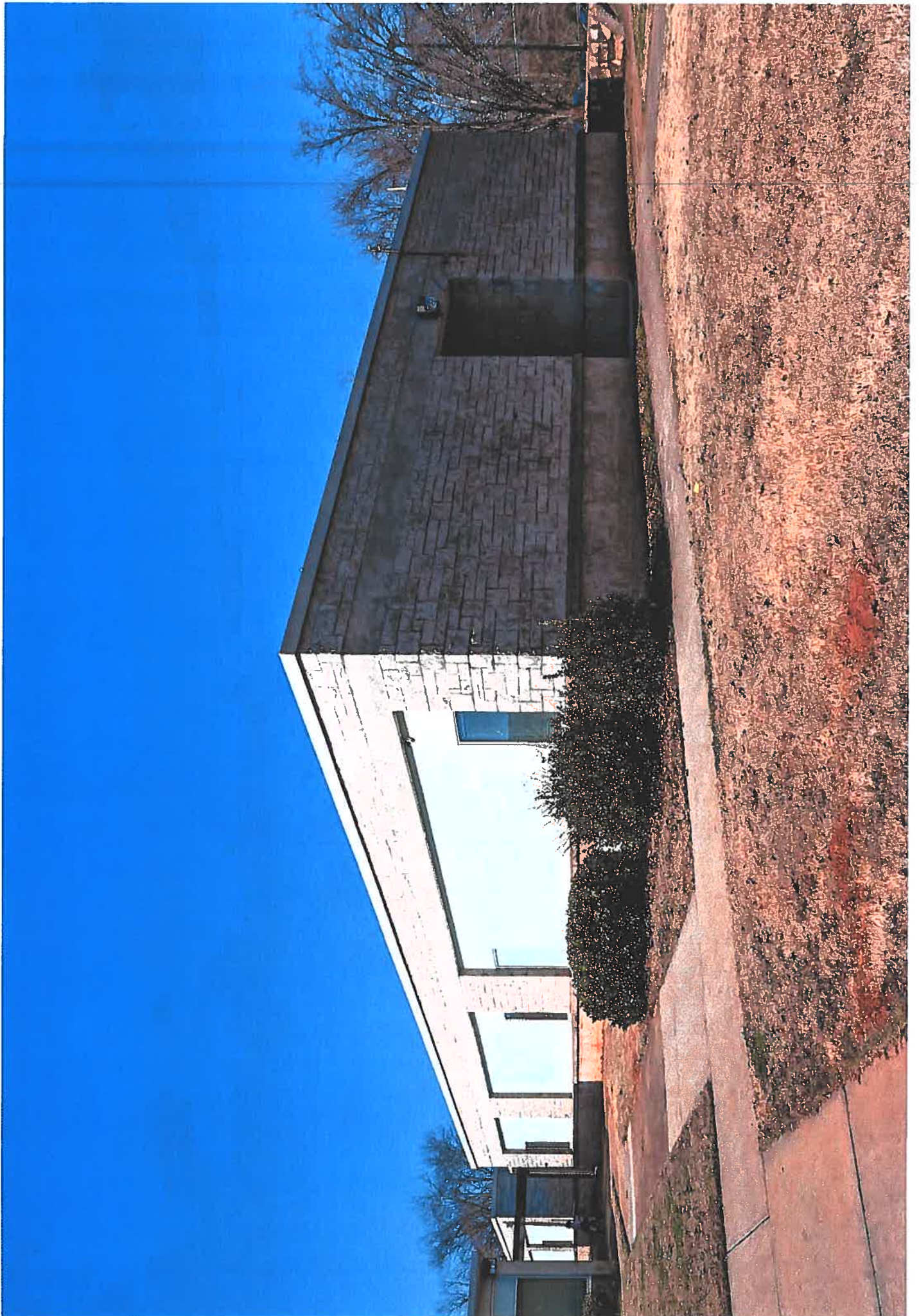












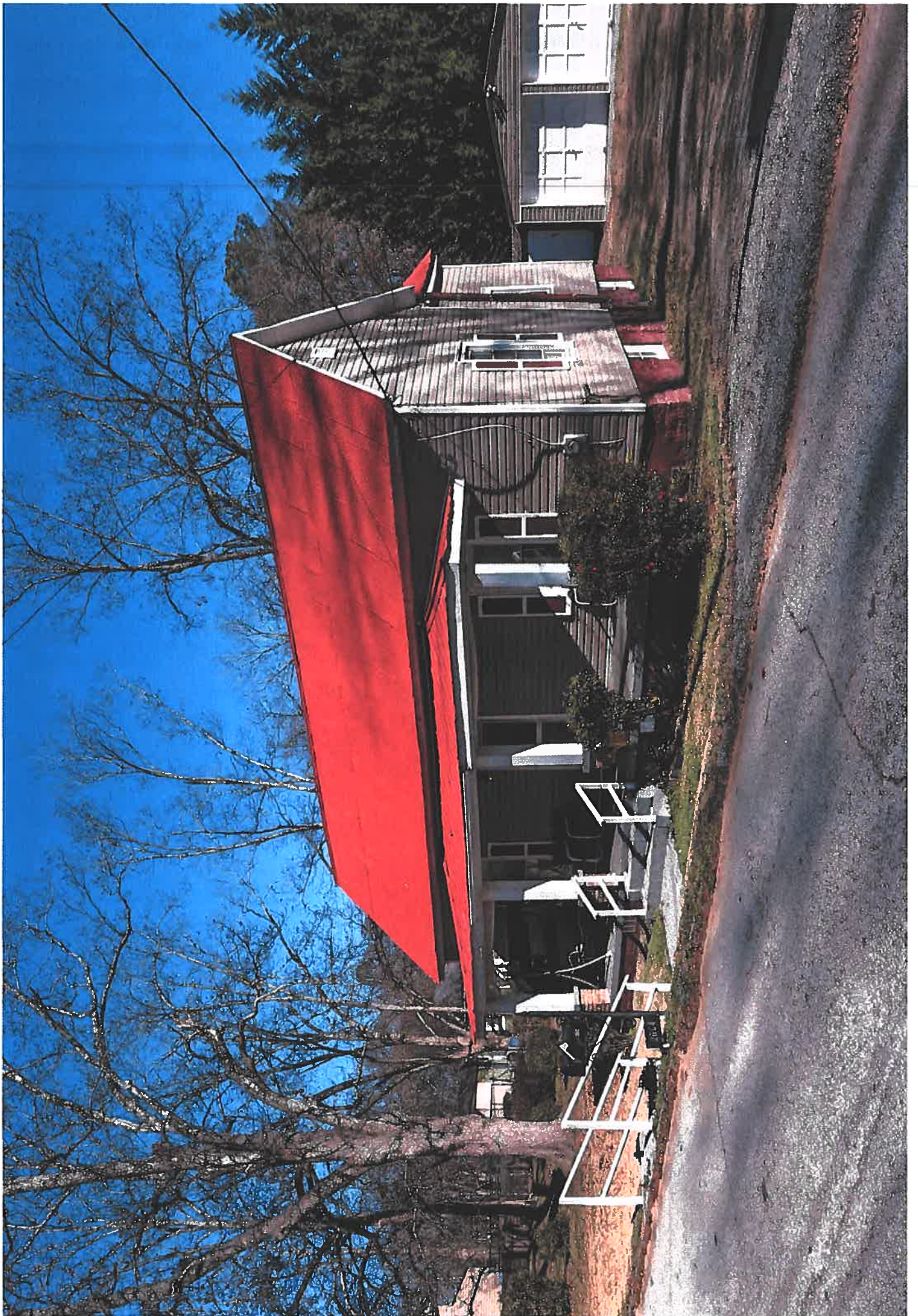


















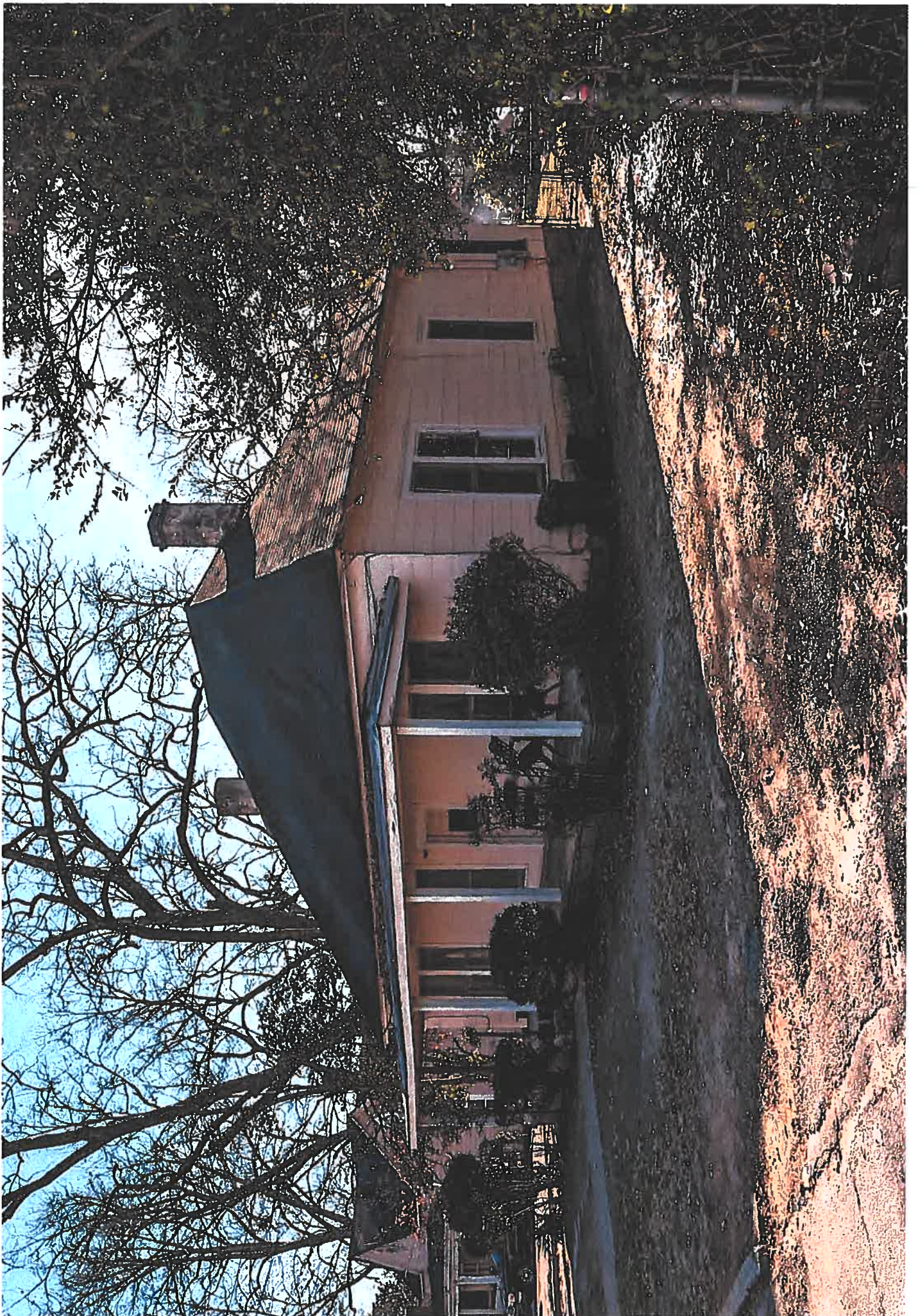








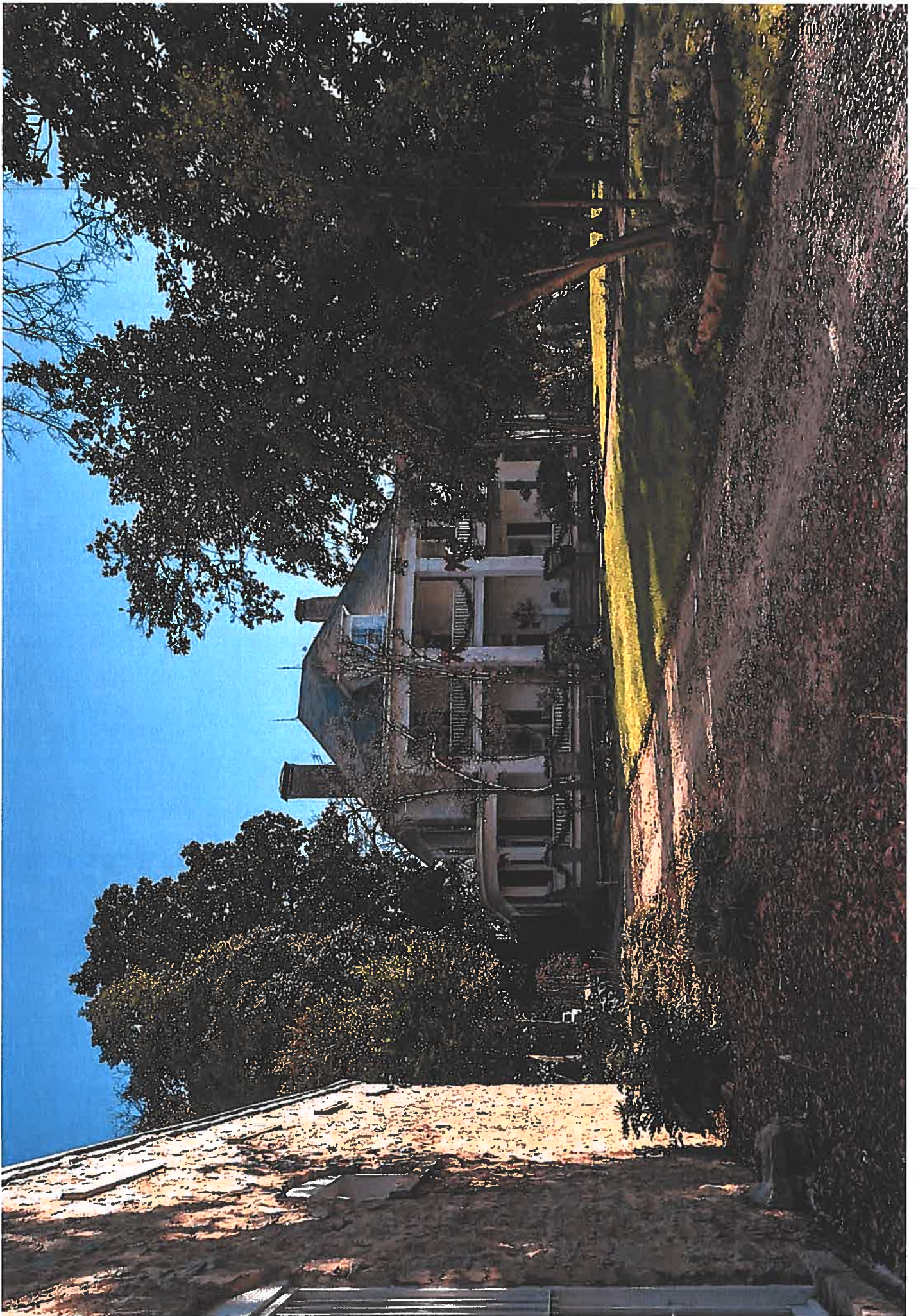






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16 Days to Go!
SELLING FAST!

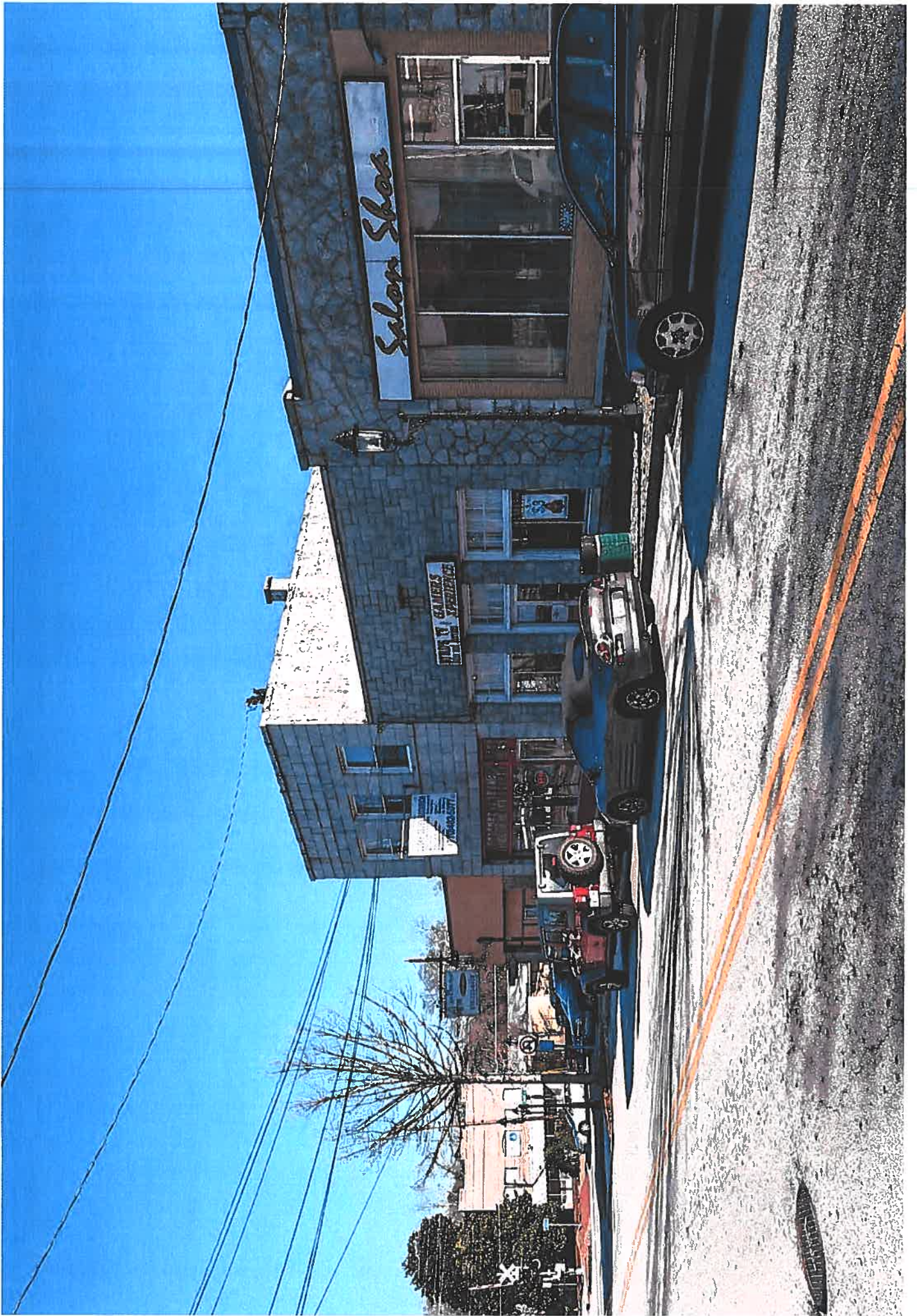












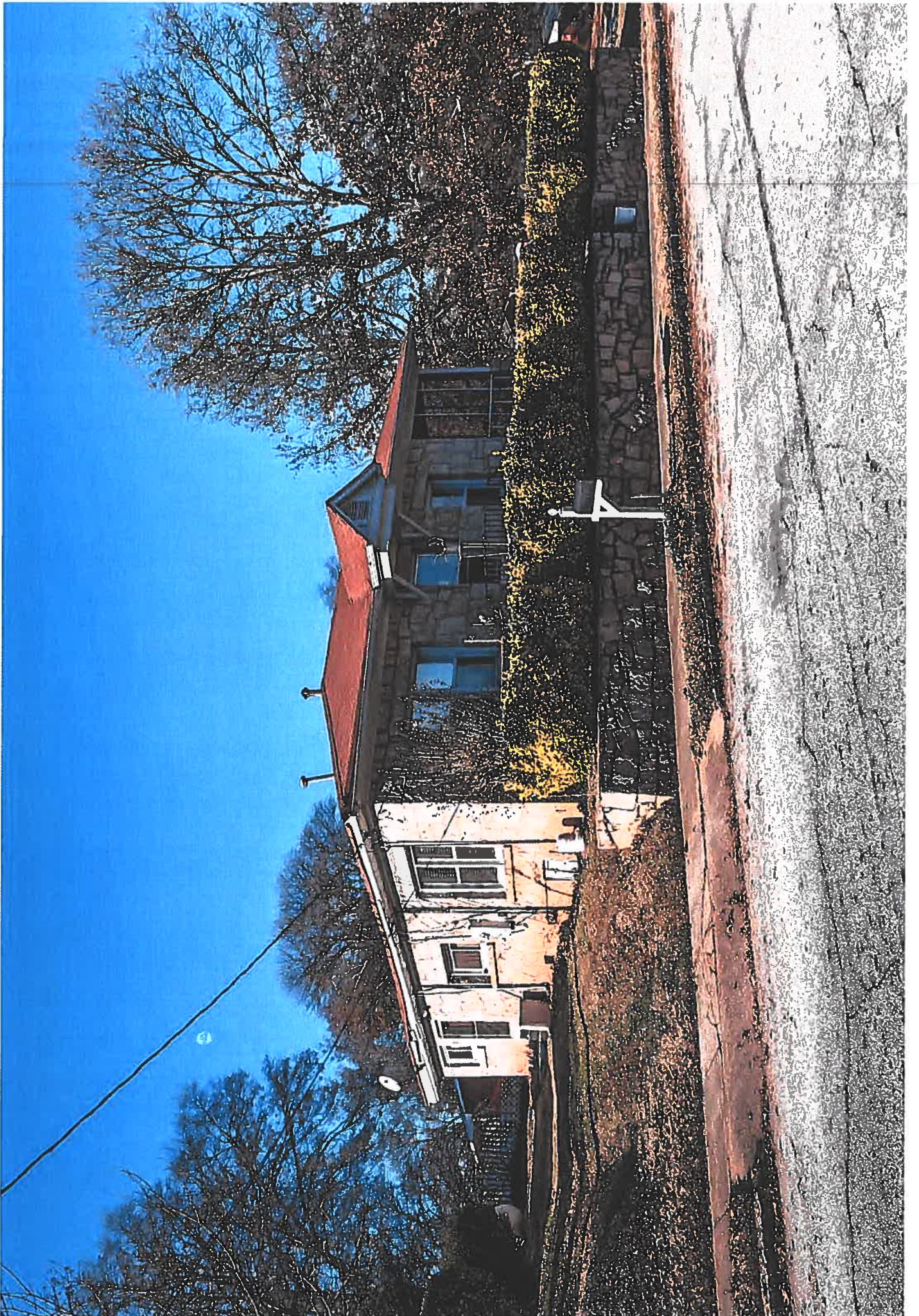
Salon Shoes

PLUM & GARDENS
LANDSCAPE SERVICE

760-40-5777

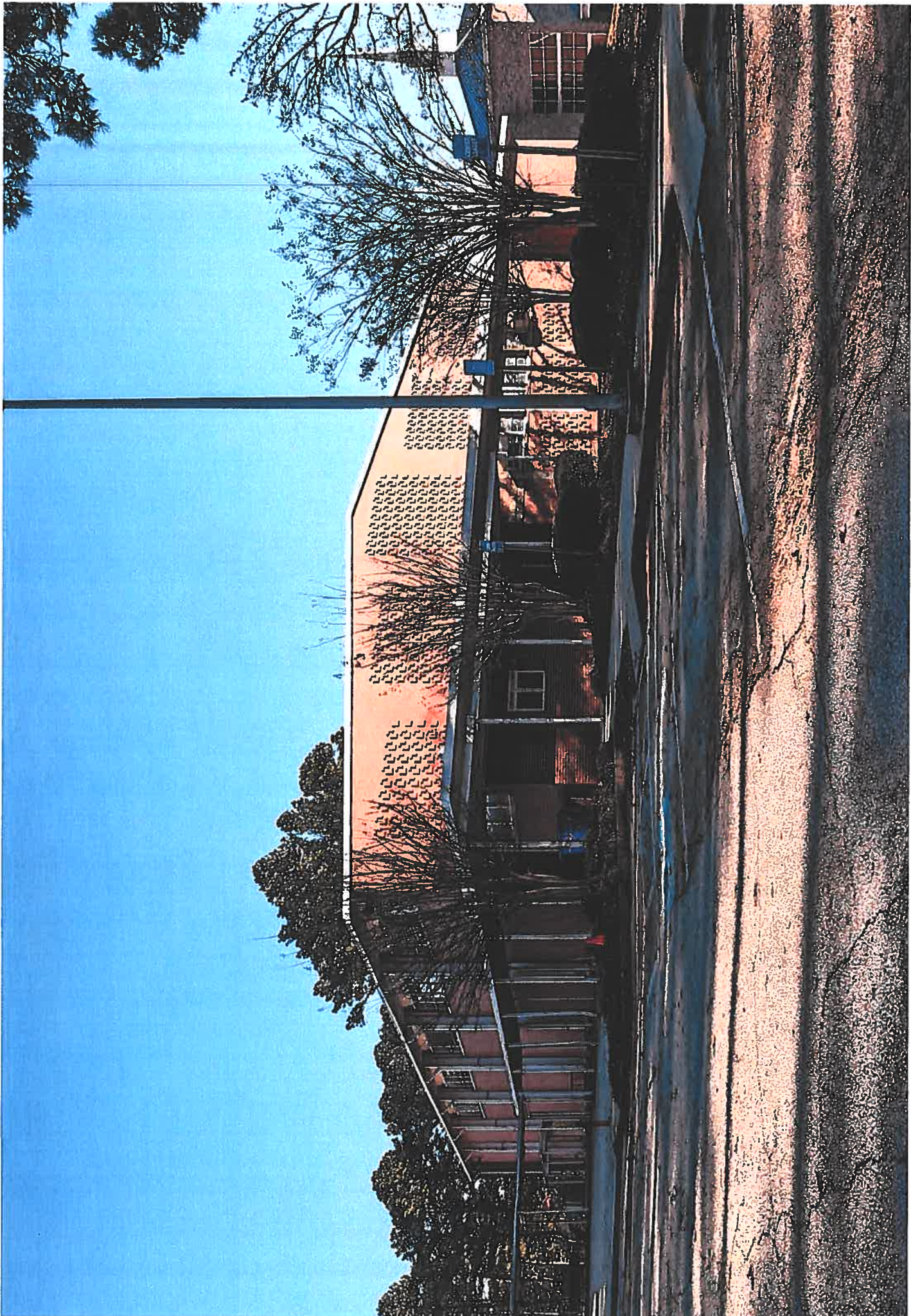
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LANDSCAPE SERVICE

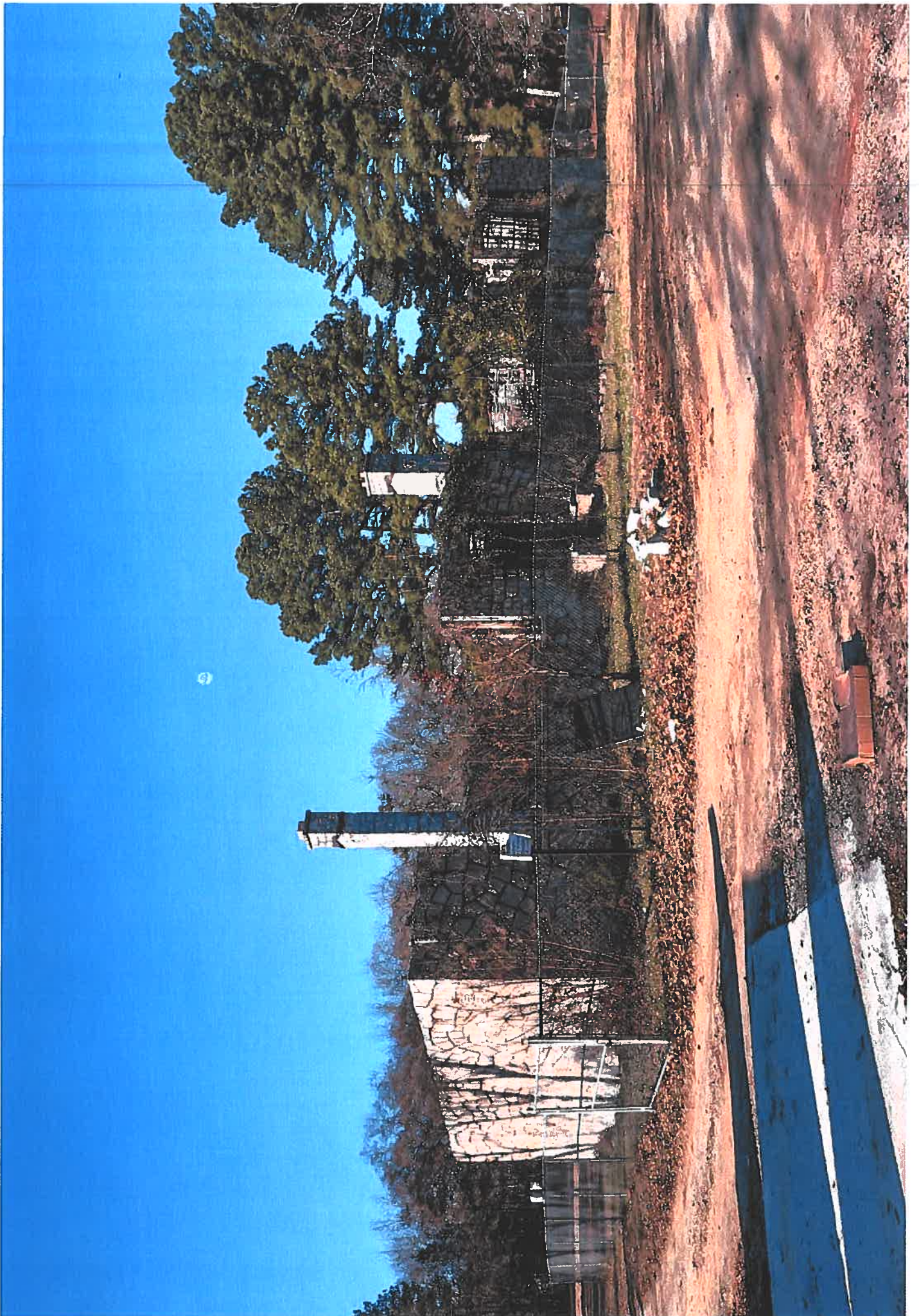
PLUM & GARDENS
LANDSCAPE SERVICE



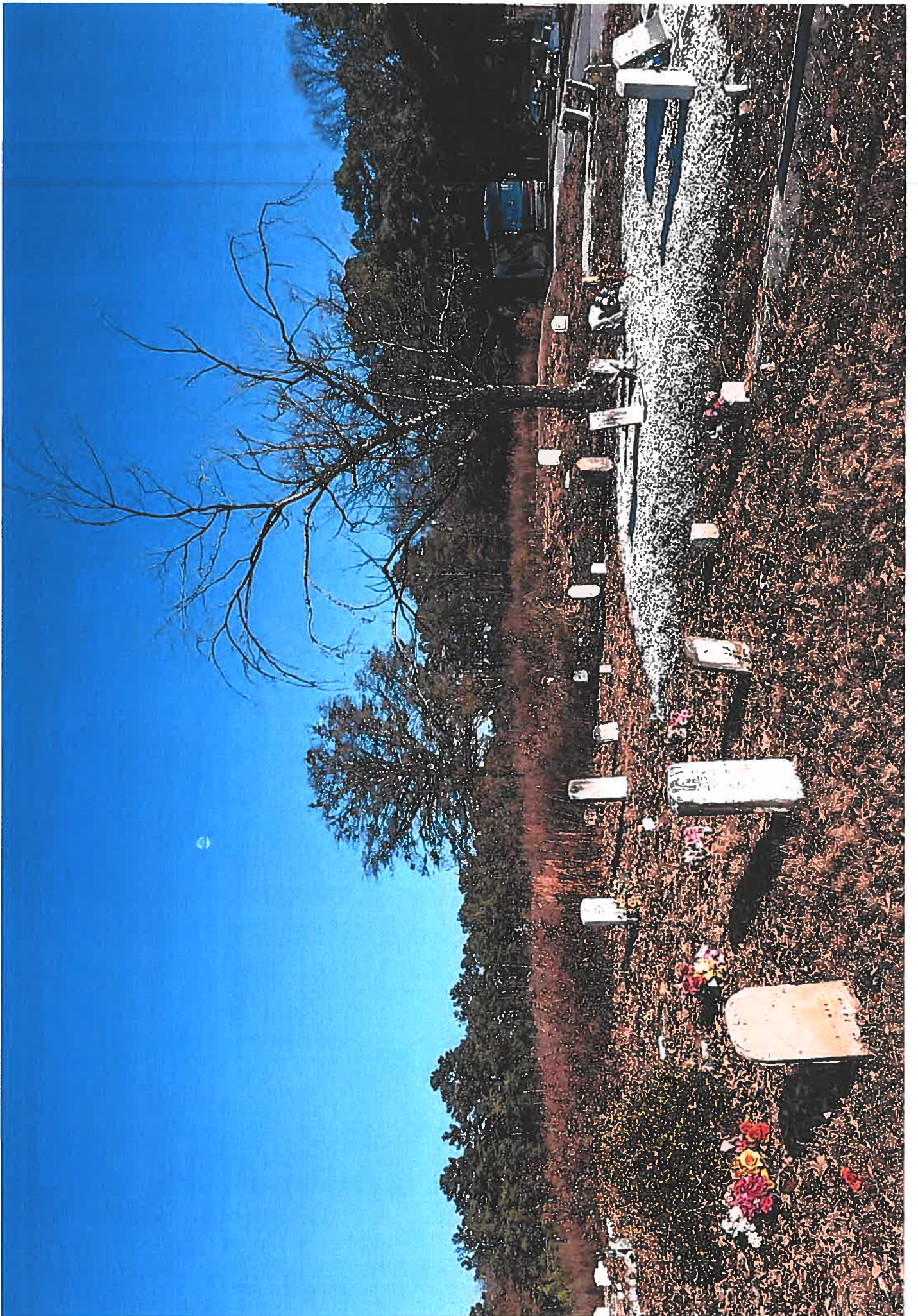


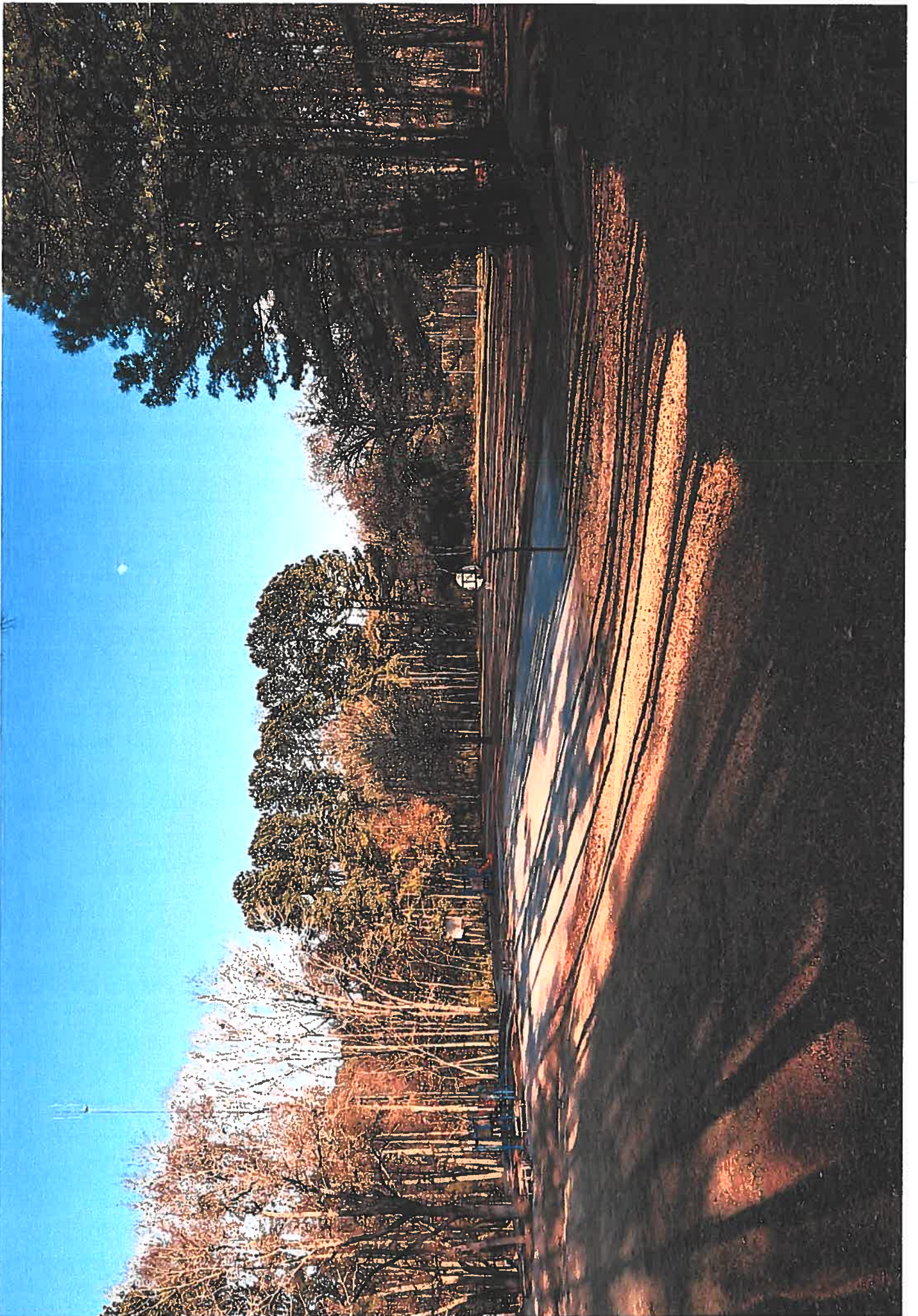




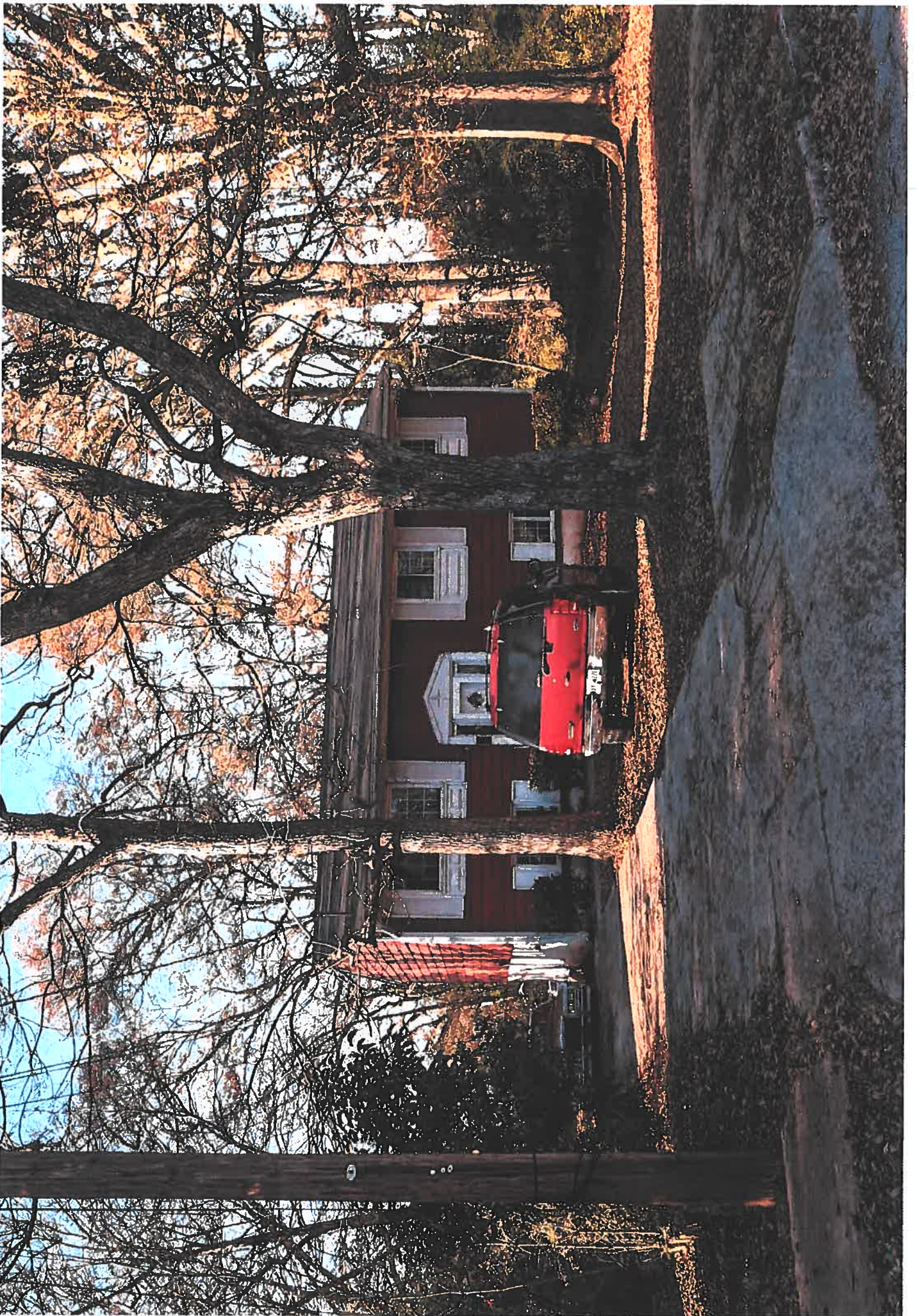


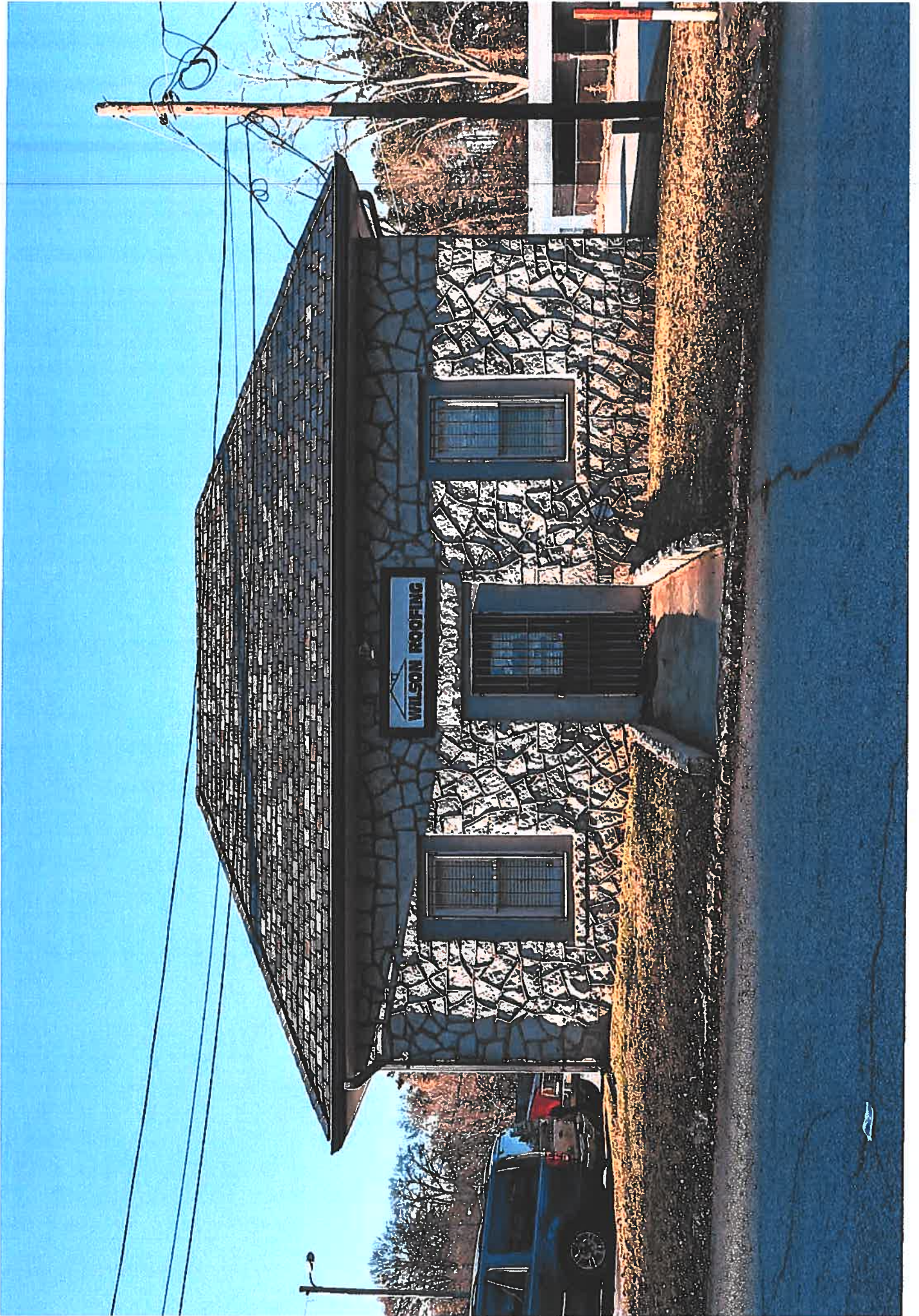




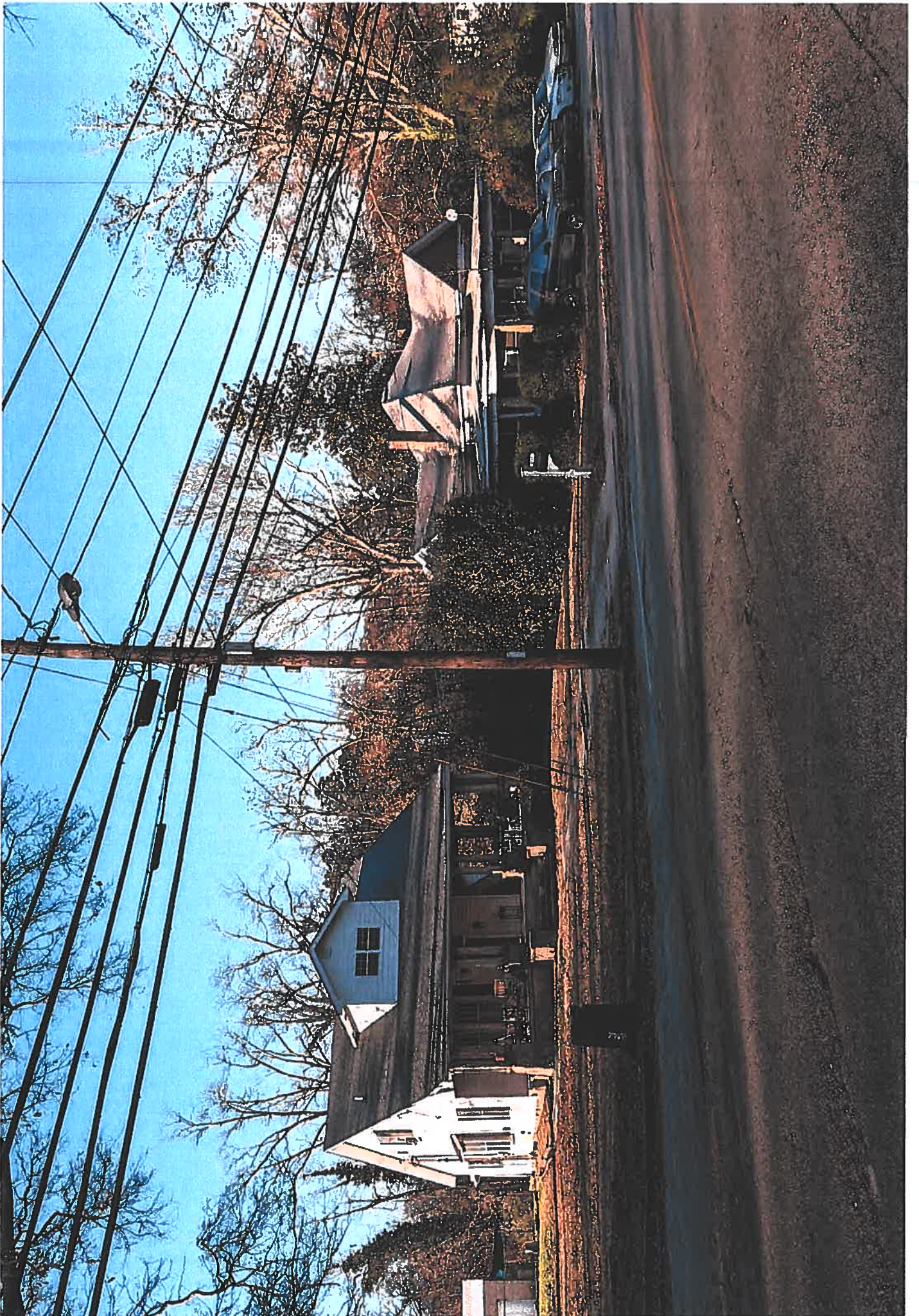








WILSON ROOFING



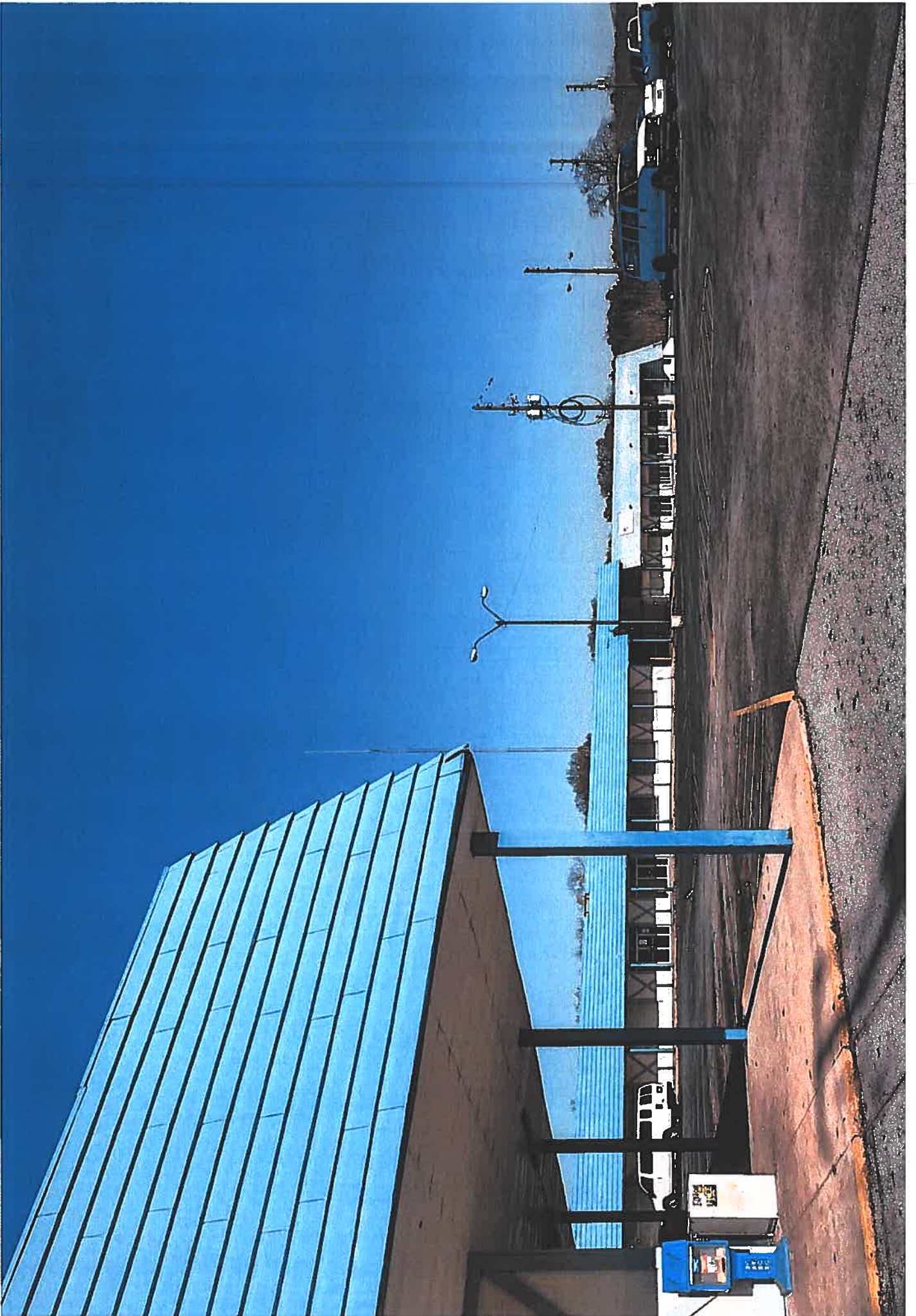












City of Lithonia is Georgia's latest entry on National Register of Historic Places

November 4, 2016 Valerie Morgan Local News 0



The city of Lithonia's name is now etched on the National Register of Historic Places, officials have announced.

Lithonia was placed on the nation's list of places worthy of preservation and recognition on Sept. 19, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources said in a recent news release.

Officials say the new designation means the Southeast DeKalb County city is now eligible for economic incentives like those utilized in the development of Atlanta's Ponce City Market.

"We are looking forward to seeing new ventures attracted to the city via the tax incentives that are available to support historic preservation projects in the districts as a result of this listing," Stephanie Cherry-Farmer, program manager for the National Register program for Georgia.

Lithonia, incorporated in 1856, turned 160 years old this year. The name Lithonia is derived from a combination of Greek words: Lithos meaning rock and Onia meaning place, in reference to the granite-gneiss abundant in the city and surrounding area.

The Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance, Inc. worked with the city, the Georgia State University Heritage Preservation Program and the Atlanta Regional Commission to prepare the nomination. More than 350 historic buildings were documented as part of the project. The historic district encompasses nearly all of incorporated Lithonia including the city's central commercial core and Main Street, three cemeteries, several parks, the ruins of the Bruce St. School (1938), an early African-American educational institution; Lithonia First United Methodist Church (originally Lithonia M.E. Church, Antioch Baptist Church, Lithonia Presbyterian Church and The Union Missionary

National Register of Historic Places Program

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation. Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources.

Property Name	Lithonia Historic District
Reference Number	16000639
State	GA
County	De Kalb
Town	Lithonia
Street Address	Centered on jct. of CSX RR. & Main St.
Multiple Property Submission Name	N/A
Status	Listed 9/19/2016
Areas of Significance	ARCHITECTURE, COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT, ETHNIC HERITAGE: Black, ETHNIC HERITAGE: European, INDUSTRY
Link to full file	https://www.nps.gov/nr/feature/places/pdfs/16000639.pdf

Originally a crossroads settlement that served the trading needs of a small community of rural farmers, the city of Lithonia, Georgia grew with the development of the Georgia Railroad (now CSX). The line, which runs southeast-to-northwest through the historic commercial center of town, connected the city with Atlanta and Augusta in 1845. The rail line allowed Lithonia to prosper beginning in the late 19th century as a center of the regional granite industry. The Lithonia Historic District is significant under Criterion C in the area of architecture for its representative collection of commercial and residential buildings that reflect design and construction traditions found throughout Georgia. House types in the district, as defined in the statewide context Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings, include central hallway, Georgian cottage, gabled-wing cottage, Queen Anne cottage, New South cottage, pyramid cottage, bungalow, Ranch house, I-House, Queen Anne house, and American Foursquare. Commercial types, as defined in "Commercial Types in Georgia," include single retail, multiple retail, and retail & office types. Stylistic influences in the district include Second Empire, Queen Anne, Folk Victorian, Neoclassical Revival, English Vernacular Revival, Mediterranean Revival, Craftsman, and Colonial Revival. The Lithonia Historic District is also significant under Criterion A. The district is significant in the area of community planning and development as a representative example of a crossroads town with a railroad, as defined in the statewide context Georgia Community Development and Morphology of Community Types. In the area of industry, the Lithonia Historic District is significant for the role that Lithonia gneiss, a type of granite for which the city is named and because of which it prospered, has played in construction throughout the U.S. since 1879. The

district contains a portion of a former quarry as a contributing site, and Lithonia gneiss features prominently in much of the district's architecture, reinforcing the importance of the granite mining industry to the city's development. In the area of black ethnic heritage, the district is significant because of the presence of an intact substantial African American community, the Bruce Street Community, with several key landmark buildings, including the ruins of a 1938 African American school, a 1955 equalization school, and two cemeteries. The district is also significant in the area of European ethnic heritage because of the influence of European immigrants, who came to the area to fulfill the quarries' need for skilled labor, on the district's development. The Lithonia Historic District is significant at the local level as a good representative example of a medium-sized Georgia town that retains its historic development patterns and a remarkable variety of intact historic commercial, residential, industrial, and community resources.

Lithonia district listed in National Register of Historic Places

The Lithonia Historic District DeKalb County has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The district is outlined by the city limits of Lithonia. The nomination was sponsored by the city and the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area Alliance.

Originally a crossroads settlement that served the trading needs of a small community of rural farmers, Lithonia grew with the development of the Georgia Railroad. The rail line, which runs through the commercial center of town, connected Lithonia with Atlanta and Augusta in 1845. Beginning in the late 19th century, the line allowed Lithonia to prosper as a center of the regional granite industry. Lithonia gneiss, which the city is named for, has played a role in construction throughout the U.S. since 1879. Lithonia gneiss features prominently in much of the district's architecture, reinforcing the importance of the granite mining industry to the city's development.

The Lithonia Historic District is a large, diverse district comprising the intact historic resources within the current and historic municipal boundary of the city. The district is composed of a central commercial core, surrounded by residential development representing common late 19th- to mid-20th-century house types and styles. Main Street, the principle commercial corridor, runs perpendicular to the Georgia/CSX Railroad corridor, which bisects the district. Commercial buildings, constructed largely of brick and locally-quarried gneiss, are concentrated in a two-block area extending south along Main Street from its intersection with the railroad. Most storefronts are utilitarian in design with minimal detailing. Some noncontributing infill, including Lithonia Plaza (1968), a large commercial development surrounded by parking, is located on Main

Street. The district includes a large number of community landmark buildings, including the Masonic Lodge (1916), the Lithonia Woman's Club (1928), the Lithonia First United Methodist Church (originally Lithonia M.E. Church, 1910), Antioch Baptist Church (1911), Lithonia Presbyterian Church, The Union Missionary Church (1911), the Bruce Street Elementary and High School (1955), and "The Seminary" (1895), which was individually listed in the National Register in 1978.

The National Register of Historic Places is the country's official list of historic buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts worthy of preservation. The National Register provides formal recognition of a property's architectural, historical, or archaeological significance. It also identifies historic properties for planning purposes, and insures that these properties will be considered in the planning of state or federally assisted projects. National Register listing encourages preservation of historic properties through public awareness, federal and state tax incentives, and grants. Listing in the National Register does not place obligations or restrictions on the use, treatment, transfer, or disposition of private property.

Lithonia seeks placement on National Register of Historic Places

August 6, 2013 Carla Parker 0 Comments



In an effort to bring recognition to its history, the city of Lithonia is working to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation, according to its website. Authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register is part of a program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate and protect historic and archeological resources.

Lithonia Mayor Deborah Jackson said getting the city listed on National Register of Historic Places is something that has been in the making for a number of years.

"At this point we've had the opportunity to get some additional assistance from interns through the Arabia Mountain Heritage Alliance and we're working with the Atlanta Regional Commission to complete the application," she said. "It is part of the whole effort to do some branding of the community and recognizing its rich history because it's a whole new trend now towards heritage tourism."

"As it relates to DeKalb County, the city is uniquely situated to be able to benefit from that," she said.



Lithonia has a few historic sites, including the old Antioch Lithonia Baptist Church, the first African American Baptist church in DeKalb; Bruce Street School, the first public school for African American children in DeKalb; and the Lithonia Women's Club, which served as the first public lending library in DeKalb.

Jackson said adding the city to the National Register of Historic Places will help the city economically and socially.

"The commercial properties will have the potential to be eligible for certain types of federal tax credits," she said. "And it will add a sense of pride for the city itself."

Jackson said city officials are working toward enhancing the sense of community pride in the city.

"We have many new people that have moved into the area and they don't have a sense of what the history has been," she said.

Last year, the city worked with the Georgia Conservancy to create the Lithonia Blueprints, which focus on providing recommendations for the redesign of Lithonia Plaza. The plaza was once a vibrant part of the community that was developed into a strip mall, but retail prospects have diminished in the past decade, according to Jackson.

Jackson said the blueprints have been completed and the city is now identifying resources to help implement some of the recommendations that were given that could help redevelop the plaza and area.

"We are working with the county in terms of being able to identify a way to demolish the city-owned portion of the plaza," she said. "And we're having discussions with the owner of the other half of the plaza in terms of ways he can help to redevelop his side."