



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

The attached properties within the Naticoke Indian Community Thematic Resource, listed in the Federal Register as of the Naticoke Indian Community, in Sussex County, Delaware, were listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the Keeper of the National Register on 4/26/1979, as evidenced by the FEDERAL REGISTER/WEEKLY LIST notice of Tuesday, March 18, 1980, Part II, Vol.45, No. 54, page 17451.

Robert Davis Farmhouse, 79003309, Naticoke Indian Community Thematic Resource, Sussex County, Delaware, listed in the National Register on 4/26/1979

Harmon School, 79003314, Naticoke Indian Community Thematic Resource, Sussex County, Delaware, listed in the National Register on 4/26/1979

Harmon, Isaac, Farmhouse, 79003315, Naticoke Indian Community Thematic Resource, Sussex County, Delaware, listed in the National Register on 4/26/1979

Harmony Church, 79003308, Naticoke Indian Community Thematic Resource, Sussex County, Delaware, listed in the National Register on 4/26/1979

Hitchens, Ames, Chicken Farm, 79003311, Naticoke Indian Community Thematic Resource, Sussex County, Delaware, listed in the National Register on 4/26/1979

Indian Mission Church, 79003307, Naticoke Indian Community Thematic Resource, Sussex County, Delaware, listed in the National Register on 4/26/1979

Indian Mission School, 79003312, Naticoke Indian Community Thematic Resource, Sussex County, Delaware, listed in the National Register on 4/26/1979

Johnson School, 79003313, Naticoke Indian Community Thematic Resource, Sussex County, Delaware, listed in the National Register on 4/26/1979

Wright, Warren T., Farmhouse Site, Naticoke Indian Community Thematic Resource, Sussex County, Delaware, listed in the National Register on 4/26/1979

The attached nomination form is a copy of the original documentation provided to the Keeper at the time of listing.

  
Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

9/2/2005  
Date

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Nanticoke Indian Community  
AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER East of Millsboro NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CITY, TOWN Millsboro CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
STATE Delaware  VICINITY OF One  
COUNTY Sussex CODE 05

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thematic (Historic)	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Multiple Ownership (See Continuation Sheet)  
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_  
VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Sussex County Court House  
STREET & NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY, TOWN The Circle STATE Delaware  
Georgetown

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Nanticoke Indian Community (S-751; S-753 to S-759); S-165  
DATE December 1, 1977  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs  
CITY, TOWN Dover STATE \_\_\_\_\_

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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1. Indian Mission Church (S-759)

The Reverend Sterling Greene  
United Methodist Church, Peninsula Conference  
102 East Laurel Street  
Georgetown, DE 19947

2. Harmony Church (S-753)

The Reverend Sterling Greene  
United Methodist Peninsula Conference  
102 East Laurel Street  
Georgetown, DE 19947

8. Harmon School; Warwick 225 (S-165)

Dr. Jack Nichols  
Dept. of Public Instruction  
Townsend Building  
Dover, DE 19901

3. Robert Davis Farmhouse and Environs (S-754)

Mr. Robert Davis  
Route 4  
Millsboro, DE 19966

9. Issac Harmon Farm & Environs  
(S-751)

Mr. Reese B. Harmon  
Route 4  
Millsboro, DE 19966

4. Warren T. Wright Farm (S-758)

Ms. Patience Harman  
Route 4  
Millsboro, DE 19966

5. Ames Hitchens Chicken Farm (S-755)

Mr. Ames Hitchens  
Route 1, Box 54  
Millsboro, DE 19966

6. Indian Mission School (S-757)

Nanticoke Indian Association  
Route 1, Box 107A  
Millsboro, DE 19966

7. Johnson School, Warwick 203 (S-756)

Dr. Jack Nichols  
Department of Public Instruction  
Townsend Building  
Dover, DE 19901

FORM AS SUBMITTED TO OAHB.

# DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Nanticoke Indian Community is located on the north shore of Indian River, Sussex County, Delaware. It is bounded on the south by Indian River, on the east and north by County Road 297, and on the west by County Road 309 and 309A. These boundaries are generally recognized by the members of the community as separating those who live within the community from those who are members of the community but who live outside its boundaries. Most of the members of the Nanticoke Indian Association, the tribal organization, live within the community.

The area in which the Nanticoke community is located was, until recently, almost exclusively agricultural. At present, it is rapidly being developed into an area of summer vacation homes, particularly along Indian River. Even where the rural character has been retained, older homes are being replaced by house trailers and modular homes, often built over the site of the earlier structure, thus destroying the archaeological potential of the property. A number of significant properties have been lost in this way, including the homes of community leaders and the site of the Nanticoke Indian Association-sponsored pow-wows of the early-twentieth century.

The properties included in this nomination illustrate the different socially-adaptive strategies adopted by members of the community in adjusting to the racially restrictive context of the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, as well as showing the degree of economic and material assimilation into the broader culture which had occurred by the early-twentieth century. The survey was conducted by Frank W. Porter, III, Project Coordinator for the Nanticoke Indian Heritage Project. Mr. Porter is a member of the faculty of the Department of Geography, University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus. The survey was integrated into the overall heritage project. The survey methodology included personal interviews, field investigation, and the recording of structures and sites in the community, and documentary research at the State Archives of Delaware and Maryland. As a result of this survey, a series of properties have been chosen which exemplify the contrasting processes of assimilation and isolation which have characterized the social, economic, and institutional life of the Nanticoke community during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Other potentially significant properties have been destroyed by modern development.

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PROPERTY INVENTORY

NANTICOKE INDIAN COMMUNITY

1. Indian Mission Church (S-759)

Location: Intersection of Route 5 and County Road 48.

Description: Indian Mission Church is an early-twentieth century religious structure that retains its original use. It is a wood frame, clapboard-covered, gothic style, building typical of rural churches in southern Delaware. The gable front has a large lancet window with intersecting tracery. The main entrance is through the base of a two-story, hipped-roof tower with a bracket cornice. The double door and window above from a lancet opening with y-tracery. Side windows are simple lancets. All windows have stained glass borders with textured glass center panes.

Significance: The present Indian Mission Church replaced the simple chapel constructed after the strongly Indian families of the Nanticoke community separated from Harmony church over the hiring of a black minister. It continues to serve the separatist faction of the community, and illustrates the effort to maintain ethnic identity through institutional separation.

Acreage: One acre.

Verbal Boundary Description: The nominated property is all that land owned by the United Methodist Church, Peninsula Conference, and includes the church grounds and neighboring graveyard.

Longitude: 75 14' 05" W

Latitude: 38 40' 25" N

2. Harmony Church (S-753)

Location: Harmony Church is located on the north side of Route 24 about a quarter mile east of County Road 313.

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Description: Harmony Church is a late-nineteenth century gothic style religious structure that retains its original use. The wood frame building is covered with asbestos siding and rests on a rock-faced concrete block foundation. The gable front has a lancet window with Y-tracery. Entrance is through a two-story crenelated tower at the junction of the main block and a lower two-bay wing. The door and window above form a wide lancet opening. The windows along the east side are lancets. All windows have stained glass borders with textured glass center panes. On the west side is what appears to be a more modern wing.

Significance: Prior to 1888, Harmony Church served all the remnant Indian families of the Nanticoke community. After a bitter controversy over the hiring of a black minister, many of the separatist families withdrew. This property illustrates the institutional assimilation of some remnant Indian families into black society.

Acreage: One acre

Verbal Boundary Description: This property consists of a 208' by 208' piece of land fronting on Route 24, and bounded on the east by a cultivated field, and on the north and west by woods.

UTM: 18/480930/4272860

3. Robert Davis Farmhouse and Environs (S-754)

Location: South of Route 24 about a quarter mile south of the intersection of Route 24 and County Road 297.

Description: The Robert Davis Farmhouse is a five-bay, two-story, single pile, wood frame building with asbestos siding, built about 1900. There are 2/2, double hung windows, with a lancet window in the corss-gable. The original three-bay, shed-roofed porch with cross-gable has been enclosed in recent years. The roof is covered with composition shingles, and the interior end-chimneys are corbelled. Several additions, including a side porch, have been made to the building since its construction. Of the outbuildings on the property, the log corn cribs deserve special attention. The splayed log walls feature saddle-notched corners and the structures rest on brick piers. There are openings in both the gable and the end wall with hinged doors. The gables have vertical sheathing, and the roofs are covered with wood shingles. Wood floors rest on top of square hewn sills.

Significance: This property exemplifies the material and economic assimilation of the Nanticoke Community into the culture of rural Sussex County. The distribution of features and artifact categories should provide data regarding the degree of difference of similarity between separatist Indian and other farmers in the area.

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One may expect a high degree of similarity in the tools and activities related to farming (an essentially commercial activity) and lower degree of similarity in subsistence-related activities.

Acroage: 3 acres

Verbal Boundary Description: The farmhouse, log corncribs and associated structures are surrounded by cultivated fields. The nominated property includes only the house and outbuilding complex.

UTM: 18/482280/4273140

4. Warren T. Wright Farmhouse Site (S-758)

Location: North site of Route 24 about one quarter mile south of the intersection of Route 24 and County Road 297.

Description: Although recently destroyed by fire, early photographs indicate that the Warren T. Wright Farmhouse closely resembled the Robert Davis Farmhouse and may have been built by the same carpenter. The remains are partially visible. No alteration has been made to the site since the demolition of the farmhouse.

Significance: The Warren T. Wright Farmhouse Site offers the opportunity to study the degree of material assimilation exhibited by separatist Indian farmers in the early-twentieth century when the community was undergoing "consciousness-raising" as a result of the studies of Frank G. Speck in the Indian River area. Warren Wright was a leader in the nativist movement of the period. Expected data categories are the same as for the Robert Davis Farmhouse.

Acroage: One acre.

Verbal Boundary Description: A one acre plot of unplowed land surrounded by cultivated fields and private residences.

UTM: 18/481940/4273390

5. Ames Hitchens Chicken Farm (S-755)

Location: North of Route 24, approximately 200 yards behind Harmony Church.

Description: The chicken farm of Ames Hitchens is composed of a two-story, wood frame, gable-front structure with living quarters and two long, one-story, flat-roof buildings, used as chicken houses. The two-story structure is covered

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with clapboard, while the one story structures are covered with composition siding. Apparently the original two-story structure was only a single bay wide across the front, and was later expanded on one side, thereby extending the gable roof. An enclosed porch supported by columns was added to the upper front elevation, leaving the first floor section open as a garage. The main entrance, on the side of the extended section, is reached by a closed string staircase. The windows on the dwelling are 6/6 double-hung sash. The gable-shaped roof is covered with a combination of composition shingles and metal. The eaves and gable ends are covered with a fascia board. A simple, square, exterior brick chimney exists on the east side of the dwelling. The one-story chicken houses are located on the west side of the two-story section. The windows are 6/6 double hung sash and are grouped in twos. The first flat roof overhangs on the front elevation.

Significance: The abandoned Ames Hitchens chicken farm is the last of these structures still standing within the Indian River Nanticoke community. The presence of such structures indicates the assimilation of the Nanticoke community into the larger rural community of early-twentieth-century Sussex County.

Acreage: Three acres.

Verbal Boundary Description: The Ames Hitchens Chicken Farm is located at the end of a farm lane beginning on Route 24 east of Harmony Church and about 200 yards from the church. The property is bounded on the north, west, and south by woods and on the east by cultivated fields. The nominated portion of the property includes only the chicken houses and the attached domestic structure.

UTM: 18/481000/4272970

6. Indian Mission School (Nanticoke Indian Center) (S-757)

Location: Indian Mission School fronts the south side of Route 24 midway between County Roads 312A and 313A.

Description: The present Indian Mission School was designed as a one-story educational facility, and is currently maintained as the Nanticoke Indian Center. It replaced a one-room frame structure destroyed by fire in 1948. The exterior load-bearing walls are constructed with masonry units covered with stucco, surmounted by a gable roof with composition shingles and a simple cornice with returns. The main facade features a concrete block covered entrance. The windows are both 6/6 and 9/9 double hung sashes.

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Significance: The Indian Mission School was built and maintained by the separatist faction of the Nanticoke community after the school reforms of the early-twentieth century caused their children to be placed in schools with black students and teachers. It has served as the institutional focus of separatist and nativists activities throughout the twentieth century, and is now the focal point of ethnic identity through the Nanticoke Indian Association.

Acreage: One acre.

Verbal Boundary Description: The property nominated includes only that parcel of land owned by the Nanticoke Indian Association on which this structure is located, and consists of a lot 210 feet by 175 feet and fronting on Route 24. It is surrounded on the south, east, and west by cultivated fields, and on the north by Route 24.

UTM: 18/481540/4272860

7. Johnson School (Warwick No. 203) (S-756)

Location: Johnson School is located on the north side of Route 24 midway between County Roads 309 and 310.

Description: The Johnson School was built as an educational facility in the early 1920's. The frame structure is covered with wood shingles and features a gable roof with composition shingles, box cornice, and returns. The three-bay facade displays 6/6 double-hung sashes and a pedimented entrance portico supported by doric columns and plain pilasters. The colonial revival style of this building is typical of the schools constructed for minority communities under the school reforms of the early-twentieth century.

Significance: Johnson School was built in the early 1920's as a separate educational facility for blacks, and was attended by some children whose families claimed Indian descent. This property illustrates the assimilation of part of the Indian River Nanticoke Community into the black community.

Acreage: Less than one acre.

Verbal Boundary Description: Johnson School fronts Route 24 and is surrounded by cultivated fields and private residences. The nominated property consists only of the parcel of state-owned land on which the school is located.

UTM: 18/479920/4272620

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8. Harmon School (Warwick No. 225) (S-165)

Location: Harmon School is located directly south of the intersection of Route 24 and County Road 297.

Description: The present Harmon School was built in the early 1920's to replace the earlier one-room frame school built in the 1880's by the separatist Nanticoke faction under the legislation of 1881. It is a frame structure with wood shingles resting on a concrete foundation. The gable roof is covered with composition shingles and possesses a large square brick central chimney. The width of the building has been increased by a one-story facade addition that features a box cornice, with returns and wood shingles, to match the original structure. The front facade contains a central portico flanked on both sides by four 6/6 double hung sash windows. Four square columns and two square pilasters with balustrades support a pedimented portico. The arch of the portico is echoed in the semi-circular fanlight over the double front doors. Like the Johnson School, the colonial revival style of this building is typical of the schools built for minority communities under the school reforms of the early twentieth century.

Significance: The land for the original Harmon School was donated by Isaac Harmon, a member of the Incorporated Body under the Act of 1881, and the school was used exclusively for Indian students until after the new school was constructed in the 1920's. The introduction of black teachers and students caused the Indian students to withdraw, and form a new school, the Indian Mission School. This property thus reflects both the separatist movement of the late-nineteenth century and the assimilation of some Indian families into the black community, because some of the students who attended after the separatist Indian faction withdrew also claimed Indian descent.

Acres: 2.75 acres.

Verbal Boundary Description: The nominated property is restricted to the parcel of state-owned land on which the school is situated.

UTM: 18/482360/4273750

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9. Isaac Harmon Farmhouse (S-751)

Location: The Isaac Harmon Farmhouse is located on the east side of County Road 312A about one half mile north of the intersection of County Roads 312E and 312.

Description: The Isaac Harmon House is a four-bay, single-pile residence built in the 1840's, and has been heavily modified on the first floor during the twentieth century. The exterior walls are covered with clapboard and all the windows on the main facade possess shutters, panelled on the first floor and louvered on the second. The original windows are 6/6 double-hung sashes. The roof, covered with corrugated metal, is pierced by interior end brick chimneys. The roof features a box cornice that is decorated with medallions and supported by brackets. The facade porch spans three bays and is supported by turned columns. East of the house stands the only remaining outbuilding. It is a small wood frame shed that possess an overhang over the door, bargeboards, and a corrugated metal roof that is surmounted by a small ventilor.

Significance: The Isaac Harmon Farmhouse and the property on which it is located was one of the first properties in the Indian River community to be owned by an Indian family. Prior to that time, all the members of the community had been tenants of white farmers. Isaac Harmon himself was one of the leaders in the separatist movement of the 1880's. Archaeologically, this property offers the opportunity to study the material culture of the most strongly nativist faction of the community over a period of a century, during which important changes were taking place in the nature of the community's relationships, both internally and with the outside world.

Acreage: One acre.

Verbal Boundary Description: The Isaac Harmon Farmhouse is located on a one acre plot of land surrounded by cultivated fields and adjoining a property with a more modern residence.

UTM: 18/482700/4272069

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# SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Social evolution and assimilation
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Indian River Nanticoke Community is significant because it represents the only cohesive remnant Indian group on the Delmarva Peninsula, and because the social history of the community illustrates two of the socially adaptive alternatives open to the racially-mixed remnant Indian groups of the Middle Atlantic area. Within a socially and geographically cohesive community that has attained a high degree of economic and material assimilation into the broader culture, the use of these different adaptive strategies has resulted in groups which are institutionally distinct, although they continue to interact at other levels. The properties in this nomination have been chosen to illustrate the overall economic and material assimilation into the broader culture and the institutional separation of the two groups using different social adaptive strategies.

The Indian River community appears to derive from a cultural tradition that was widespread on the Delmarva Peninsula at the time of European contact, although precise tribal affiliation remains somewhat in doubt. More than one group may have actually been involved, although the Nanticoke tribe was the largest and best known of the potential contributors to the present community. The last organized tribal groups had left the Delmarva Peninsula by the middle of the eighteenth century, but remnant communities continued to exist in a number of areas. Recognizably Indian names disappear from the records about this time, and it is not until the end of the first quarter of the nineteenth century that the currently known family names begin to appear. They are generally identified as mulatto or negro. In most areas, the remnant Indian groups became assimilated into the "colored" community, although traditions of Indian "blood" may persist in individual families. It should be understood that in the context of nineteenth-century Delaware, the term "colored" meant "non-white" rather than specifically "black". The community on Indian River, however, managed to maintain a greater degree of cohesion than the others, despite its economic assimilation into the broader culture.

Through most of the nineteenth century, the community was content to maintain a tradition of Indian descent, though generally classed as "colored". By the beginning of the last quarter of the nineteenth century, however, members of the community had attained sufficient economic and political stature to press for legal recognition of their separate identity. The first efforts of the Nanticoke community to obtain recognition as a separate group came after 1875, when the Delaware legislature passed "An Act to Tax Colored Persons for the Support of Their Schools", and included Indians in the category. In 1881, the legislature passed a law which stated that a group of persons listed in the law "and their successors are hereby incorporated and constitute a body politic under the name of 'The Indian River School Districts for a Certain Class of Colored Persons'". This group was authorized to tax the members to establish and maintain two schools, both one-room schools built on land donated by members of the Incorporated Body, as the group was called. The property for the Warwick School was donated by Isaac Harmon, whose farmstead (S-751) is also included in this nomination. The property for the Hollyville School was donated by Sam Norwood. In 1903, the members of the Incorporated Body were able to obtain legal recognition of the designation descendants of the Nanticoke Indians.

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The formation of separate schools and the designation of certain families as eligible to attend these schools caused a schism in the Nanticoke community. Despite the social cohesiveness of the group, there was a degree of racial intermixture which, in the context of the late-nineteenth century, caused a variety of social and political problems. The community became divided between those who wished to be identified as Indian and to ignore or deny any other racial or cultural relationships, and those who no longer recognized their Indian ancestry as significant, and were content to accept a colored classification, although maintaining a tradition of Indian descent. Shortly after the formation of the separate school system for Indians, the families involved in the Incorporated Body also separated from Harmony Church (S-753) which had served the whole community, and formed the Indian Mission Church (S-759). The present structure was built early in the twentieth century to replace the small chapel originally constructed.

The school reform of the early-twentieth century resulted in a new crisis for the separatist faction of the Indian River community. This reform was primarily oriented toward the replacement of substandard schools with more modern facilities. Both of the earlier Indian schools were replaced, and a new school, known as Johnson School (S-756), was added to the district. All were to be administered by the State Board of Education. The new Harmon School (S-165), built on the property originally donated by Isaac Harmon, was to have served the Indian students. However, the appointment of a black teacher caused most of the Indian families to withdraw their children and establish a new school, which was called Indian Mission School (S-757). Throughout the twentieth century, this school has served as the focus of the separatist activity. The original frame structure burned in 1948, and was replaced by a stucco-covered masonry building. The teacher at the school was paid by the State of Delaware after 1935, although the building was owned by the Nanticoke Indian Association, formed in 1922 in response to the heightened cultural awareness fostered by the research of anthropologist Frank Speck in the Indian River area and to the educational crisis referred to previously. In 1937, legislation established eligibility for membership in the Nanticoke Association as a criterion for determining who belonged to the class of "people called Indians." The desegregation of the schools in the late 1950's and early 1960's caused the abandonment of the structure as a state supported educational facility, and the lessening of racial barriers during this period reduced the demand for a privately funded, separate Indian school. However, the Indian Mission School has continued to play a vital part in the continuing effort to maintain a recognizable Indian identity. It now serves as the headquarters for the Nanticoke Indian Association, which is considered a tribal organization by Federal agencies which distribute funds earmarked for Native American communities.

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Nanticoke Indian Community

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE 2

Despite the institutional separation fostered by the use of different socially adaptive strategies by different segments of the community, the Nanticoke community as a whole is characterized by a high degree of economic and material assimilation. This can be seen in the success of a number of Nanticoke farmers in both general farming and in poultry raising, an important economic activity on the Delmarva Peninsula. Farmhouse architectural styles are similar to those used by white farmers in the surrounding area. If significant material differences exist between Nanticoke and white farmers of the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, they are likely to be reflected in the distribution of particular artifact categories in refuse, and in the organization of activities in the farmstead. Three farmsteads have been included in this nomination. The Isaac Harmon House (S-751), built in the 1850's is one of the earliest Nanticoke associated structures still standing. Isaac Harmon was a leader in the separatist movement in the late-nineteenth century, and donated land for one of the two schools established under the 1881 legislation. His sons were active in the formation of the Nanticoke Indian Association. The Robert Davis Farmhouse (S-754) was built about 1900. Of some importance is the presence of two log corn cribs in the yard associated with this structure. The log corn crib is thought to be of Indian derivation, although such structures were extensively used by white farmers in Sussex County during the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. Before it was destroyed by fire, the Warren T. Wright Farmhouse (S-758) was similar to the Robert Davis Farmhouse, and was probably built by the same carpenter. Wright was a leader of the separatist movement in the early-twentieth century, serving as a councilman in the early years of the Nanticoke Indian Association. These three farmsteads are most likely to clearly illustrate the characteristics of farmsteads belonging to families in which the tradition of Indian descent was strongly upheld. As such they are valuable as sources of data for comparison with white farmsteads as well as with farmsteads occupied by families with a less strongly held tradition of Indian descent and greater assimilation into the black community or with farmsteads occupied by black farmers.

Poultry-raising was an important rural economic activity during the early-twentieth century, and the combined chicken house and residence usually occupied by a tenant was a common feature of the landscape. The development of the modern mechanized chicken house and the consolidation of the broiler industry has resulted in the abandonment of most of the small-scale structures used before World War II. The Ames Hitchens Chicken Farm (S-755) was typical of the facilities used in the early period of the broiler industry, although this farm was operated by the owner, rather than by a tenant. Its inclusion in this nomination illustrates the high degree of economic assimilation of the Nanticoke community into the culture of rural Sussex County.

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Nanticoke Indian Community

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 3

The Nanticoke Indian community thematic nomination focuses on the assimilation of part of the community into the black society of Sussex County, the institutional separatism of the strongly Indian segment of the community, and the economic assimilation of the community as a whole into the rural economy of Sussex County in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The properties included in this nomination have been chosen to illustrate these processes. Because of resort-associated development since World War II, many sites and structures associated with the history of the community have been destroyed.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See attached Continuation Sheet

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 14.75 acres (see separate listings in Description)

QUADRANGLE NAME			QUADRANGLE SCALE				
UTM REFERENCES - see separate listings in Description							
A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Description section for each property.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Cara L. Wise, Historical Archaeology, Bureau of Archaeology & Historic Pres. Frank W. Porter III, Project Coordinator, Nanitoke Indian Heritage Project

ORGANIZATION Nanitoke Indian Association

DATE December 1, 1977

STREET & NUMBER 5126 South Rolling Road

TELEPHONE 301-247-8967

CITY OR TOWN Relay

STATE Maryland 21227

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*[Handwritten Signature]*

TITLE Acting Director/Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer DATE 2/9/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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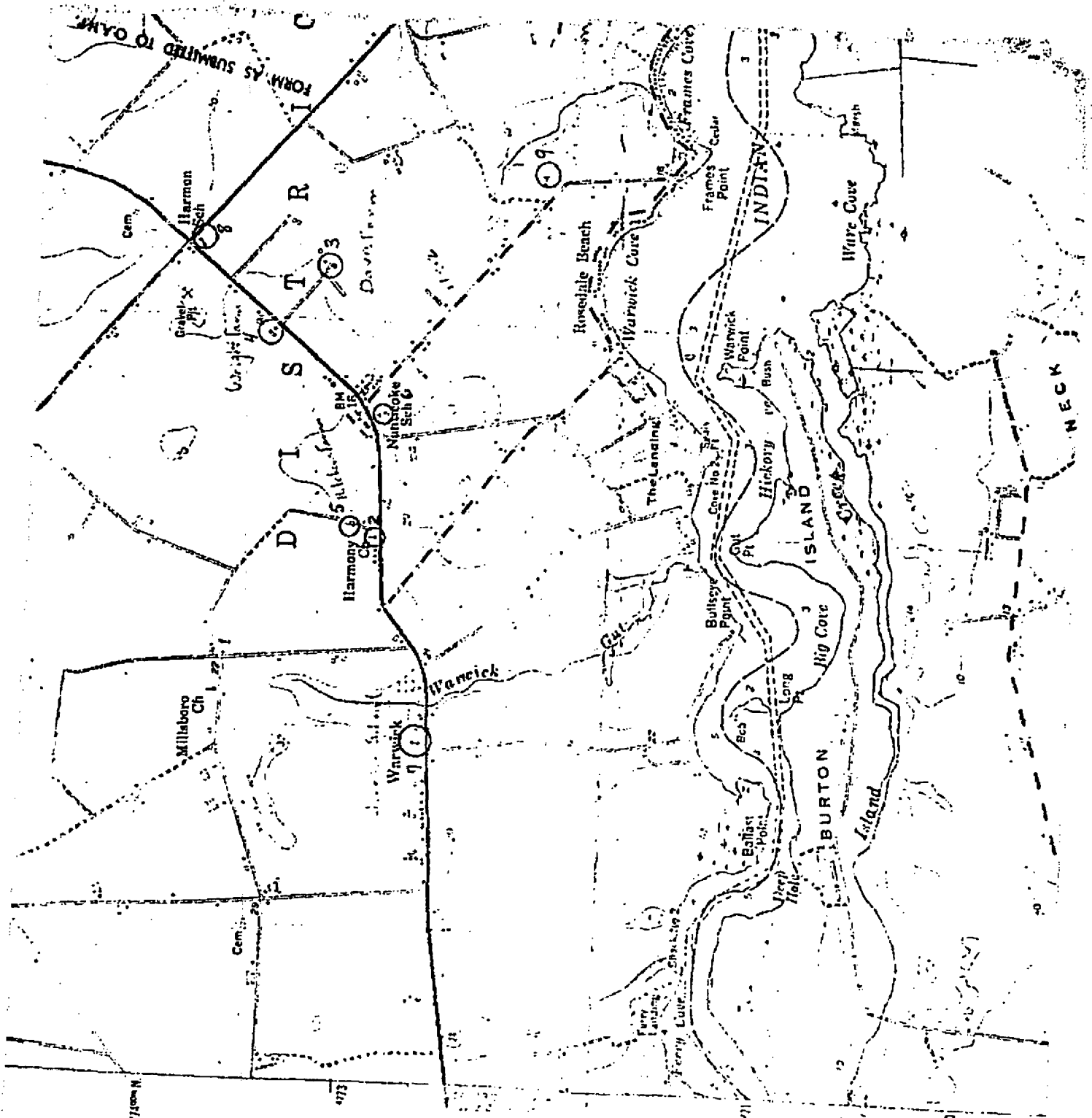
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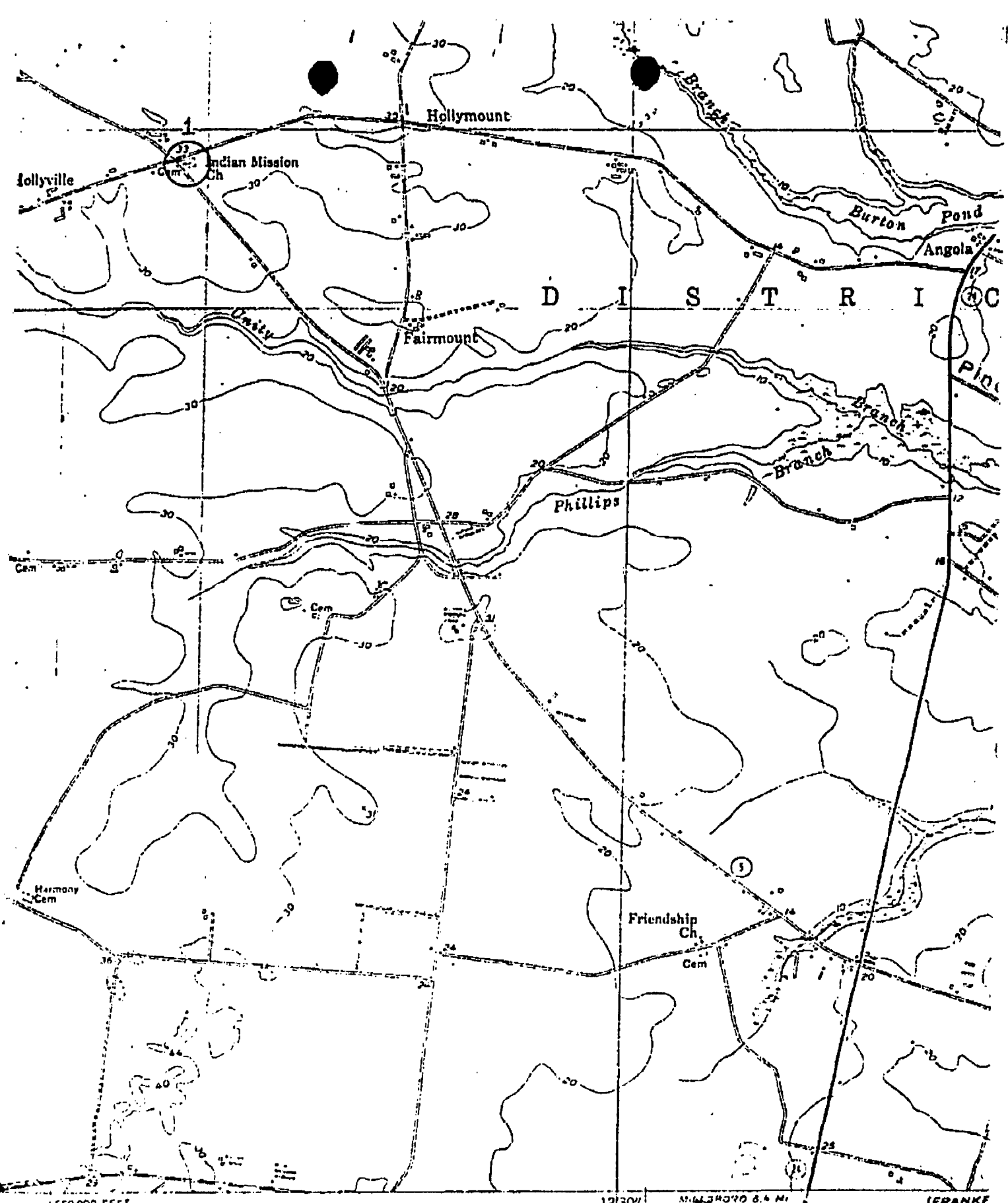
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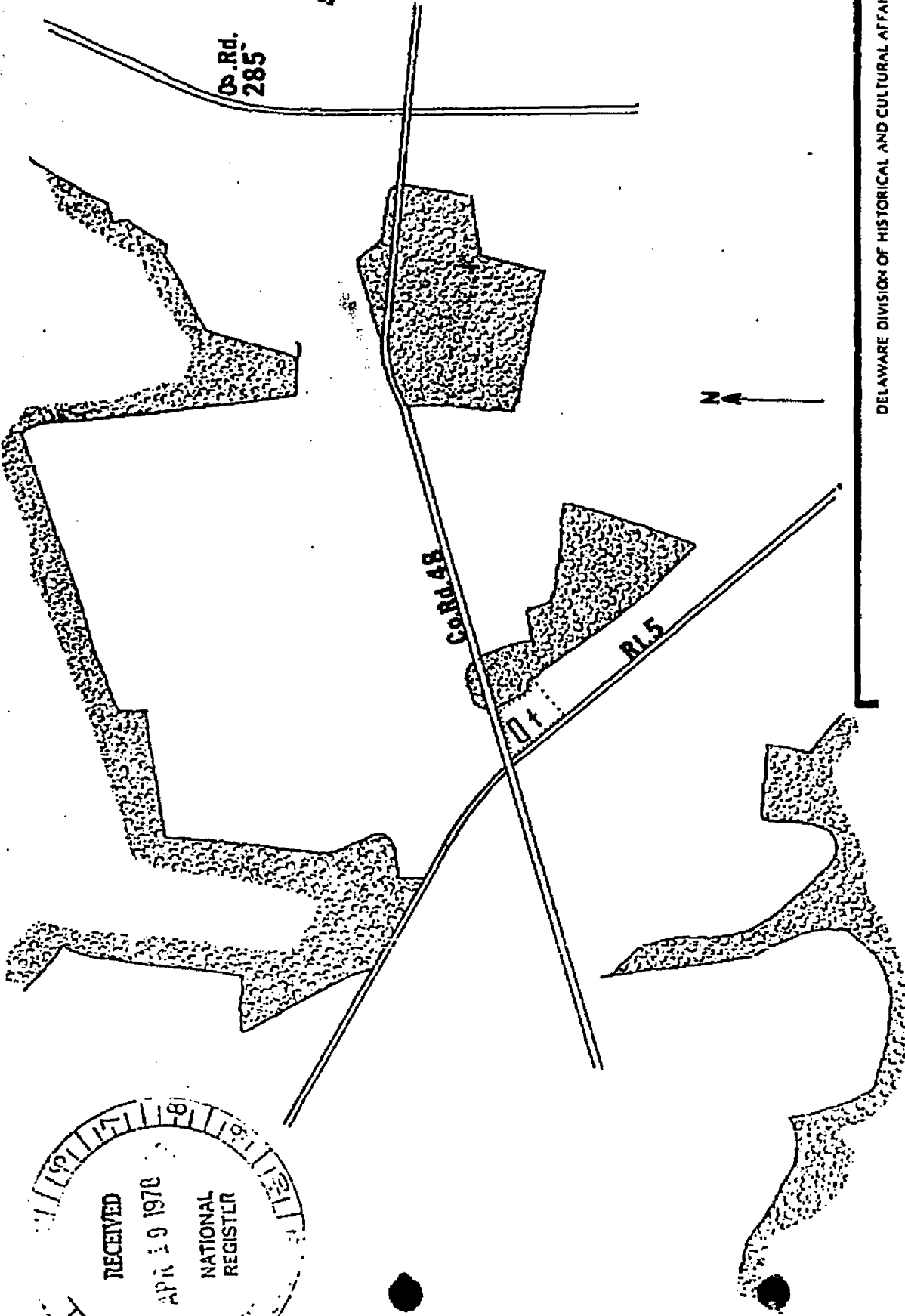
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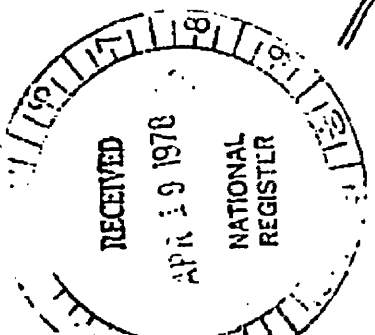


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FILE S-759 TITLE NANTICOKE



*Nanticoke River Channel  
See Page #1*

**Name:** Indian Mission Church

**Location:** Rt. 5 north of Millsboro, Delaware

**Photographer:** Frank W. Porter, III

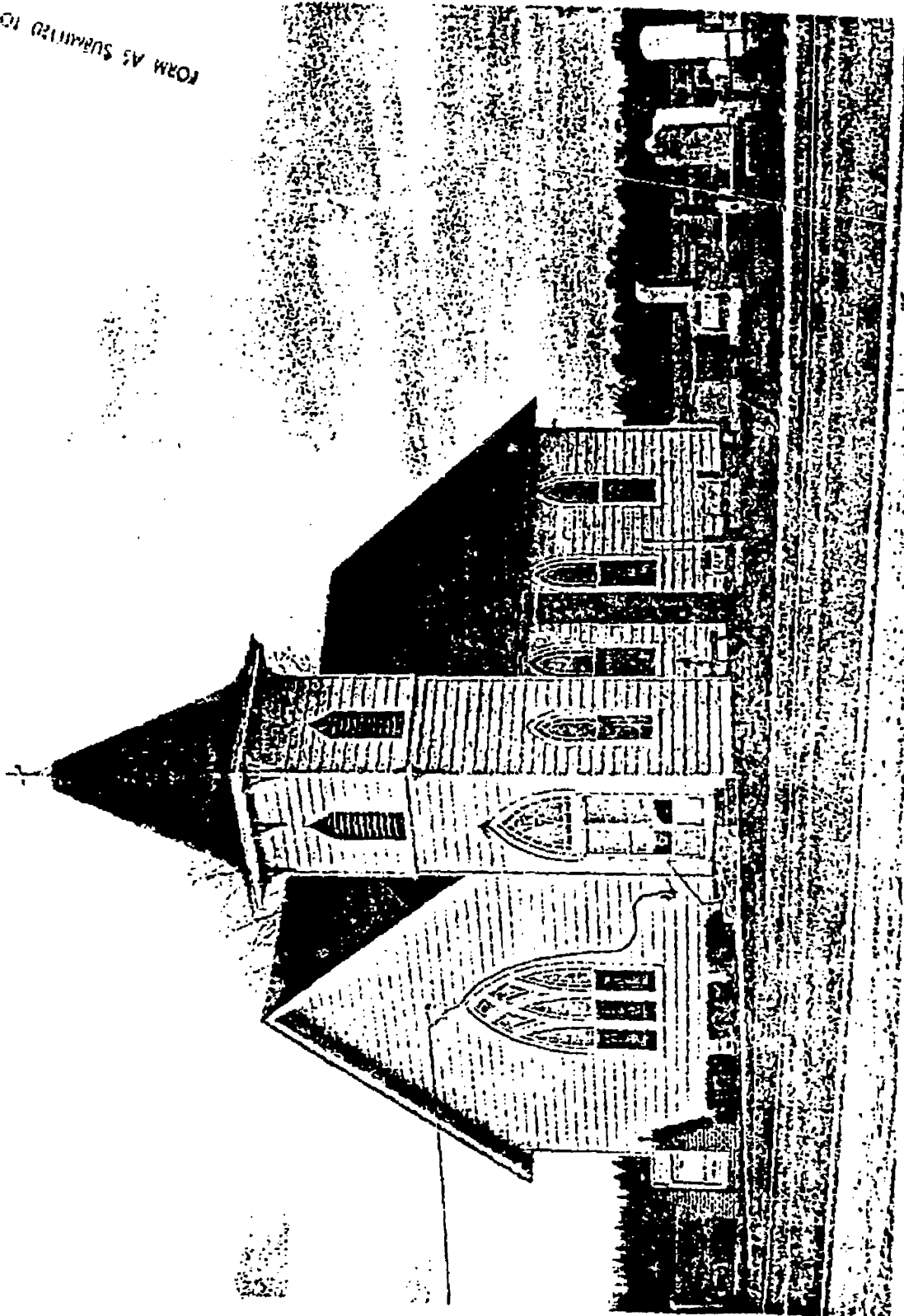
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E/ASHP, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901

**Description:** View to northeast

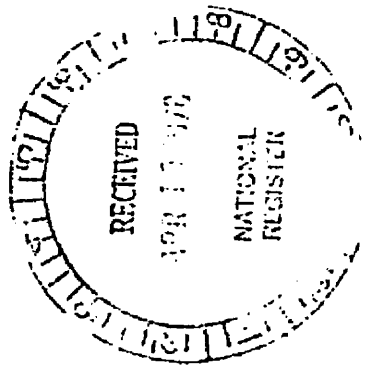
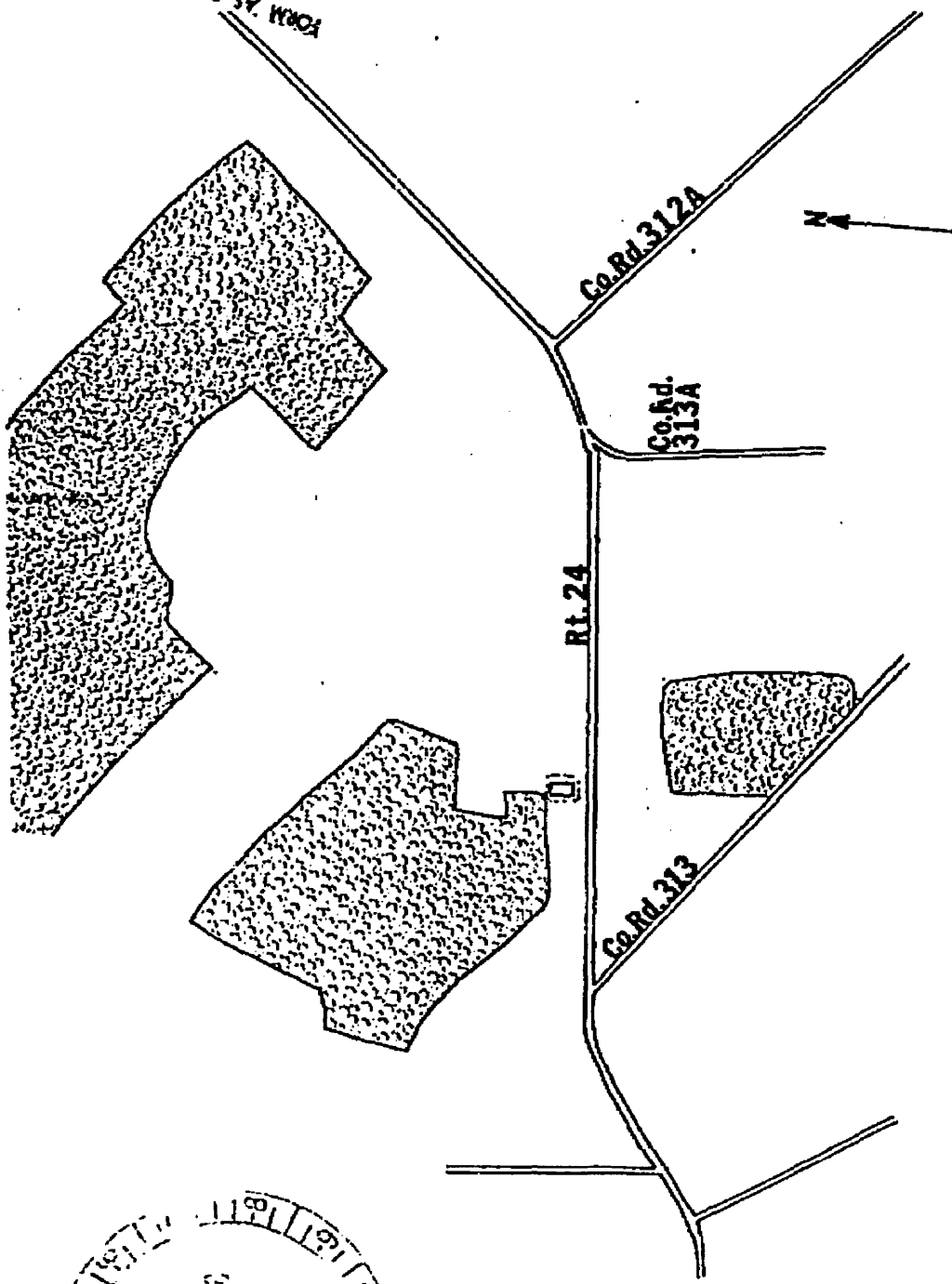
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FILE S-753 TITLE NANTICOKE

Harmony Church  
 Parish # 2

Name: Harmony Church

Location: Rt. 24, near Millsboro, Delaware

Photographer: Frank W. Porter III

Date: September 1977

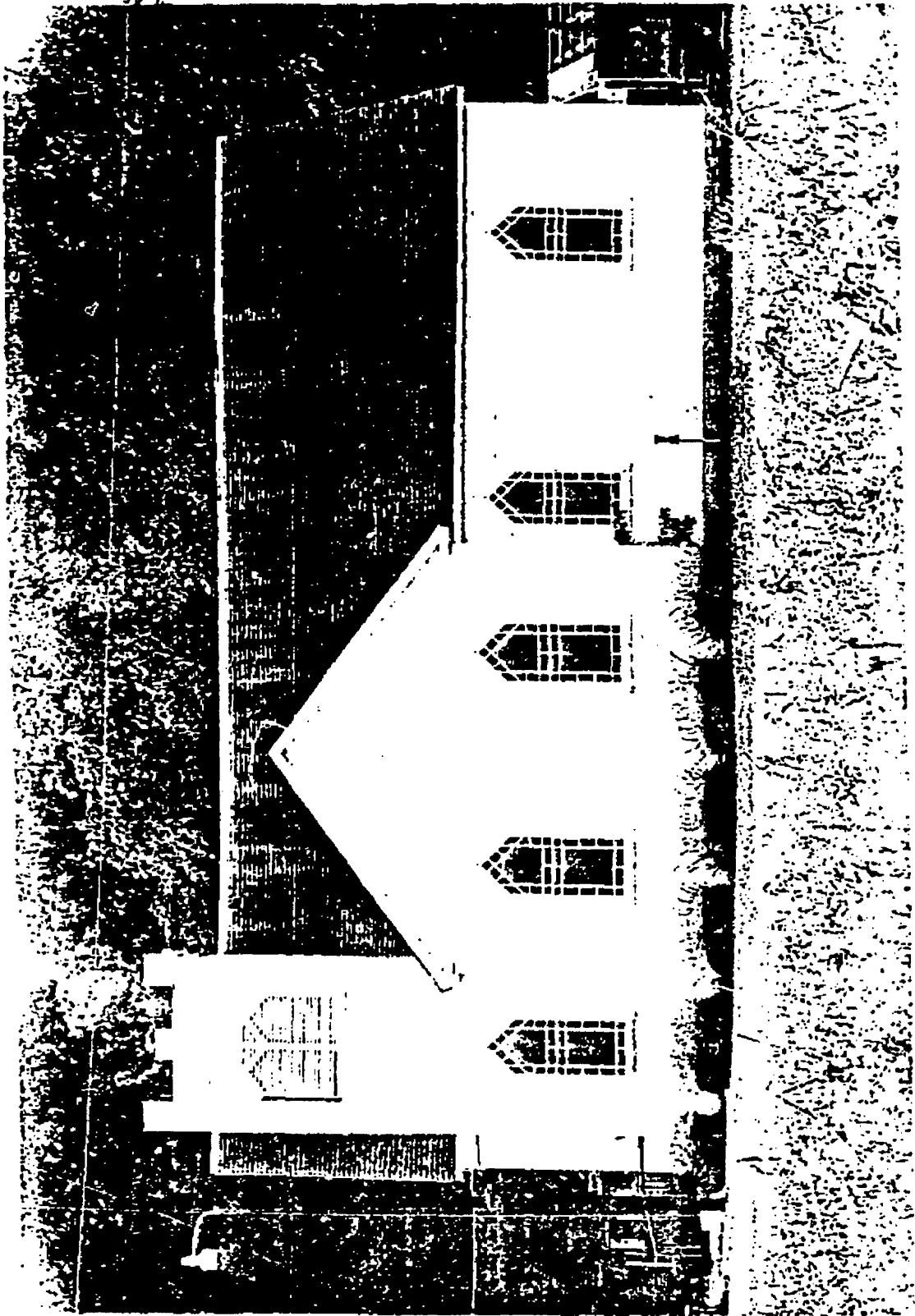
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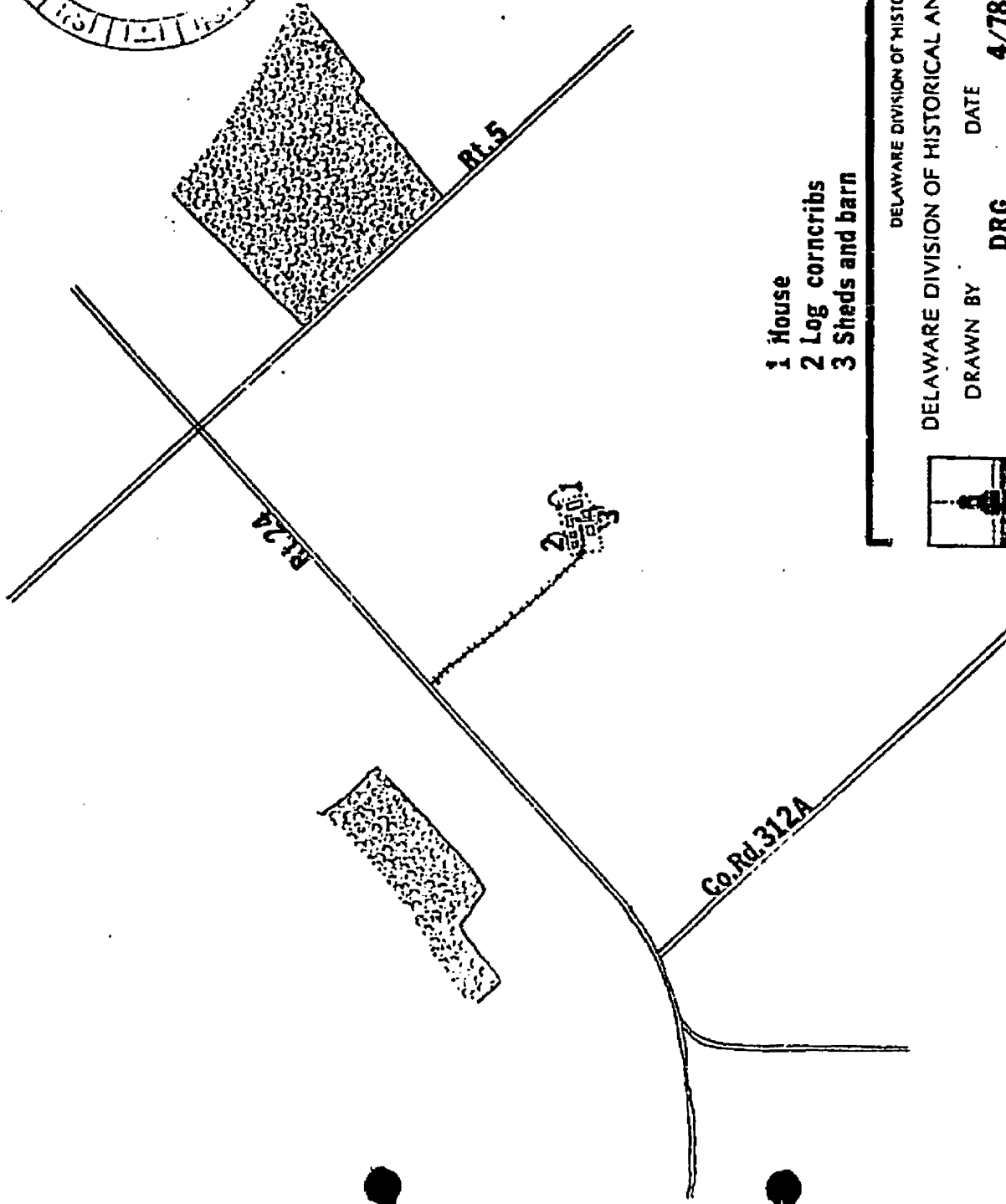
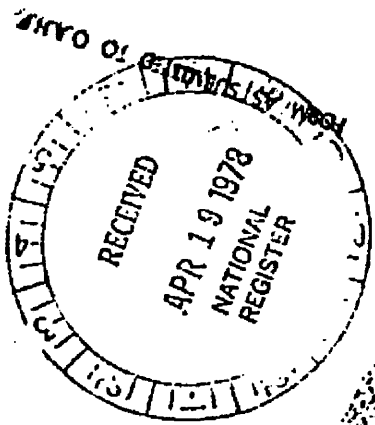
Description: View to West

Photograph Number: 2

*Harmony Church*

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- 1 House
- 2 Log cornercibs
- 3 Sheds and barn



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FILE S-754 TITLE NANTICOKE



Richard L. ...  
 Richard L. ...  
 Richard L. ...  
 (no photo of building)

Name: Robert Davis Farm House

Location: Rt. 24, near Millsboro, Delaware

Photographer: Frank N. Porter III

Date: December 1977

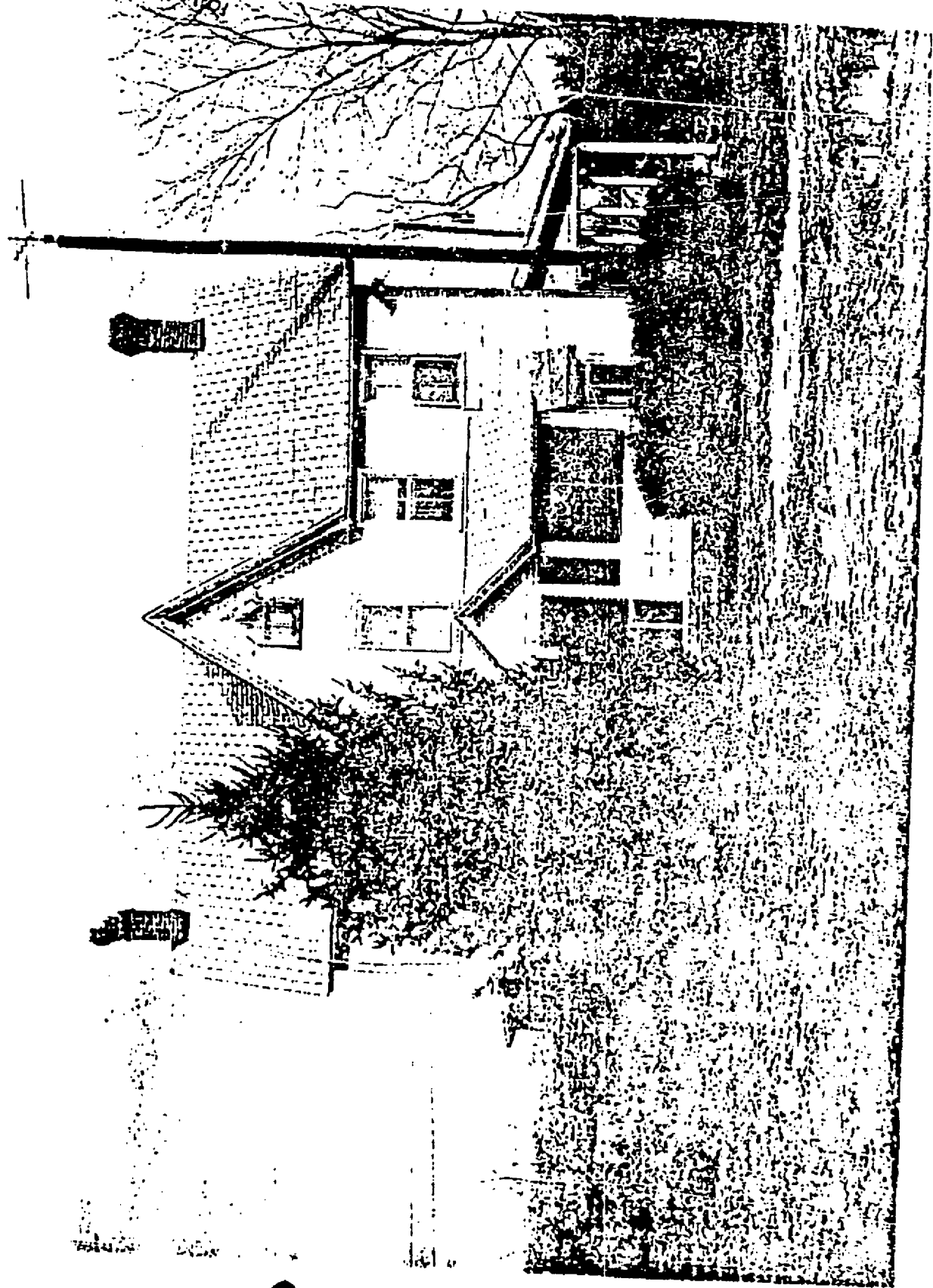
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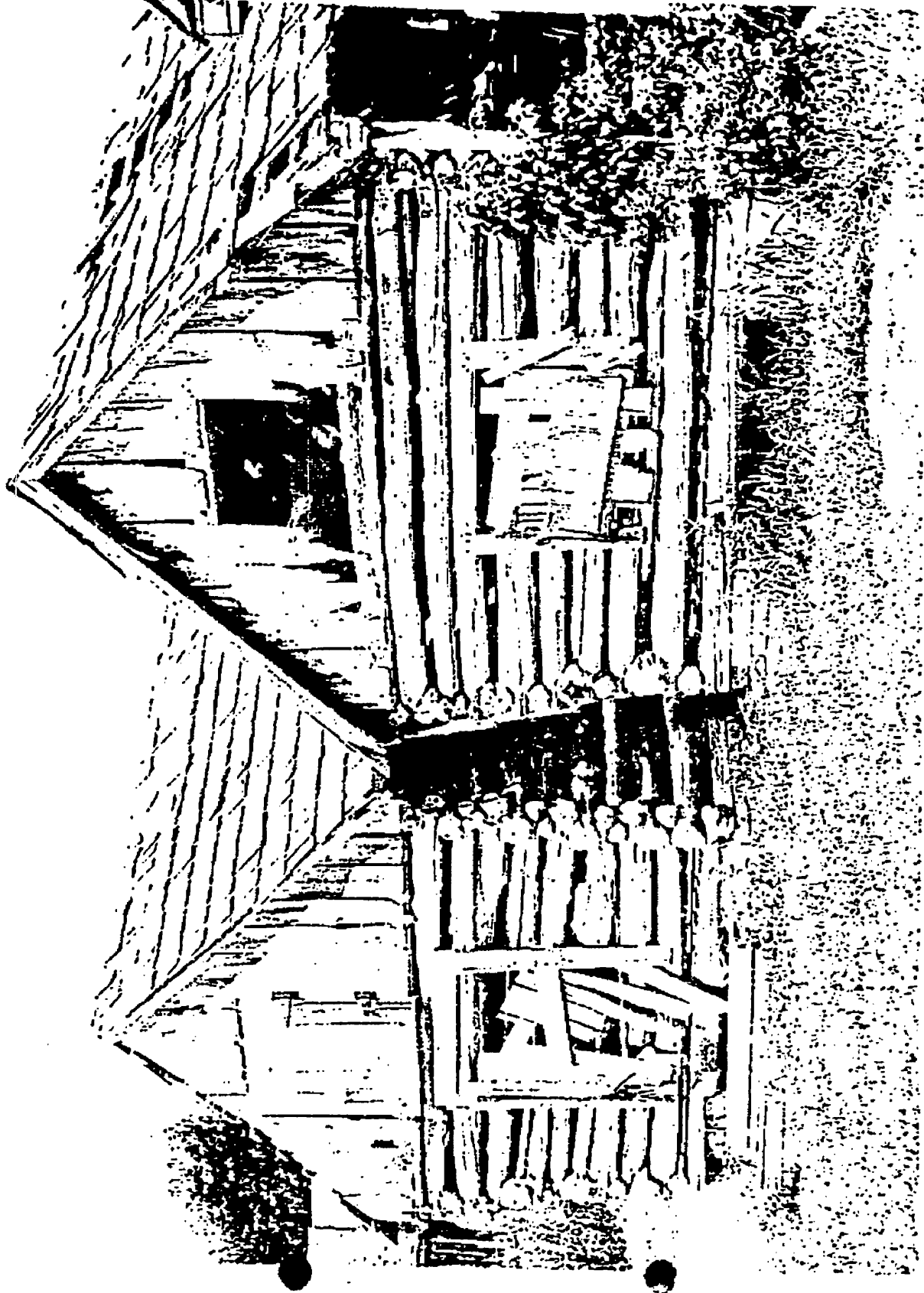
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Name: Robert Davis Farm; log corncribs  
Location: Rt. 24; near Millsboro, Delaware  
Photographer: Frank W. Porter III  
Date: September 1977  
Location of Negative: Div. of Hist. & Cultural Affairs,  
B/AHP, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901  
Description: View to Northwest

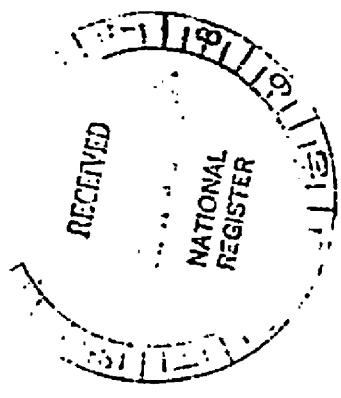
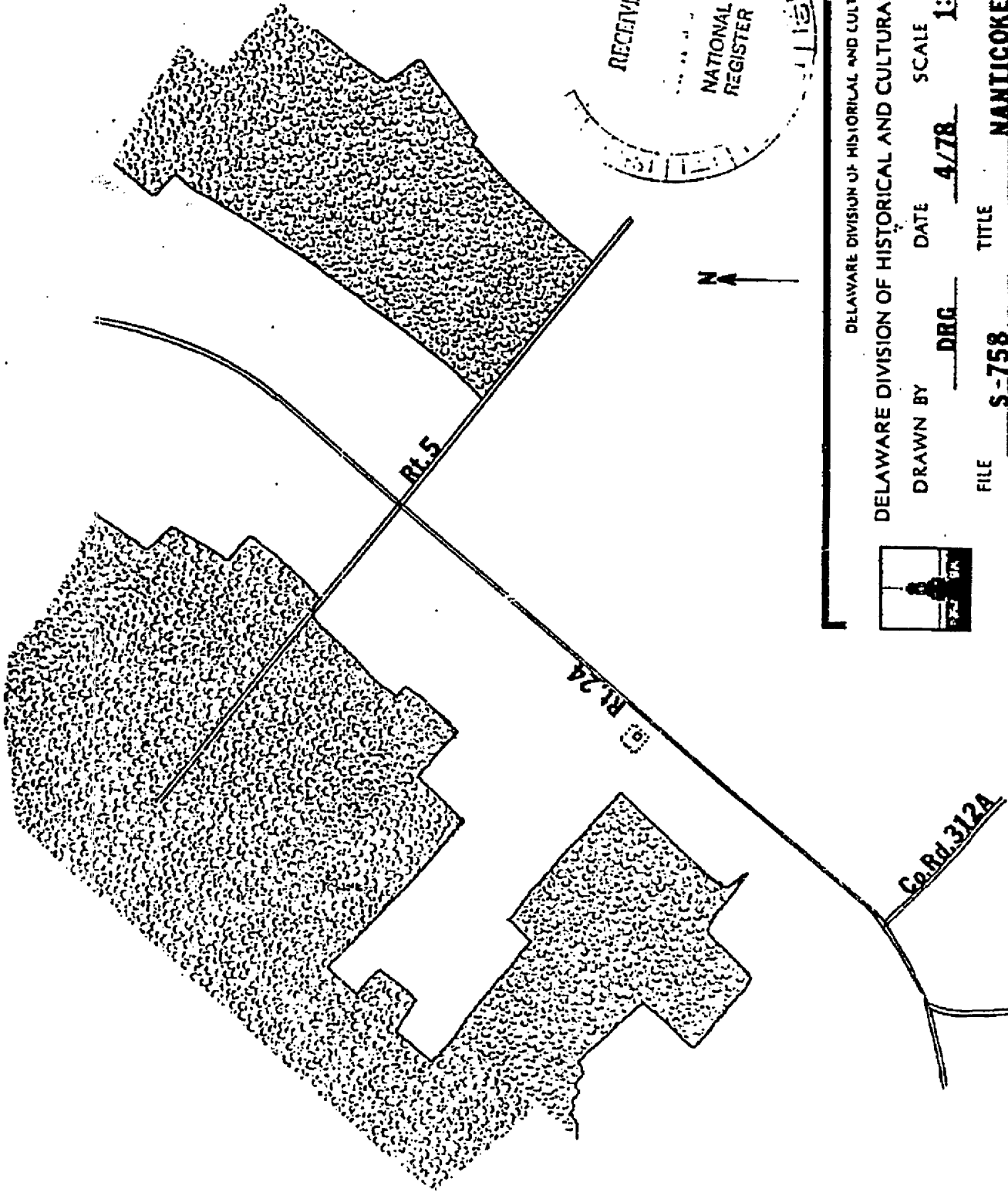
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FILE S-758 TITLE NANTICOKE



Co. Rd. 312A

1/2" = 100'

Name: Warren T. Wright, Farm (site)

Location: Rt. 24; near Millsboro, Delaware

Photographer: Frank W. Porter, III

Date: December 1977

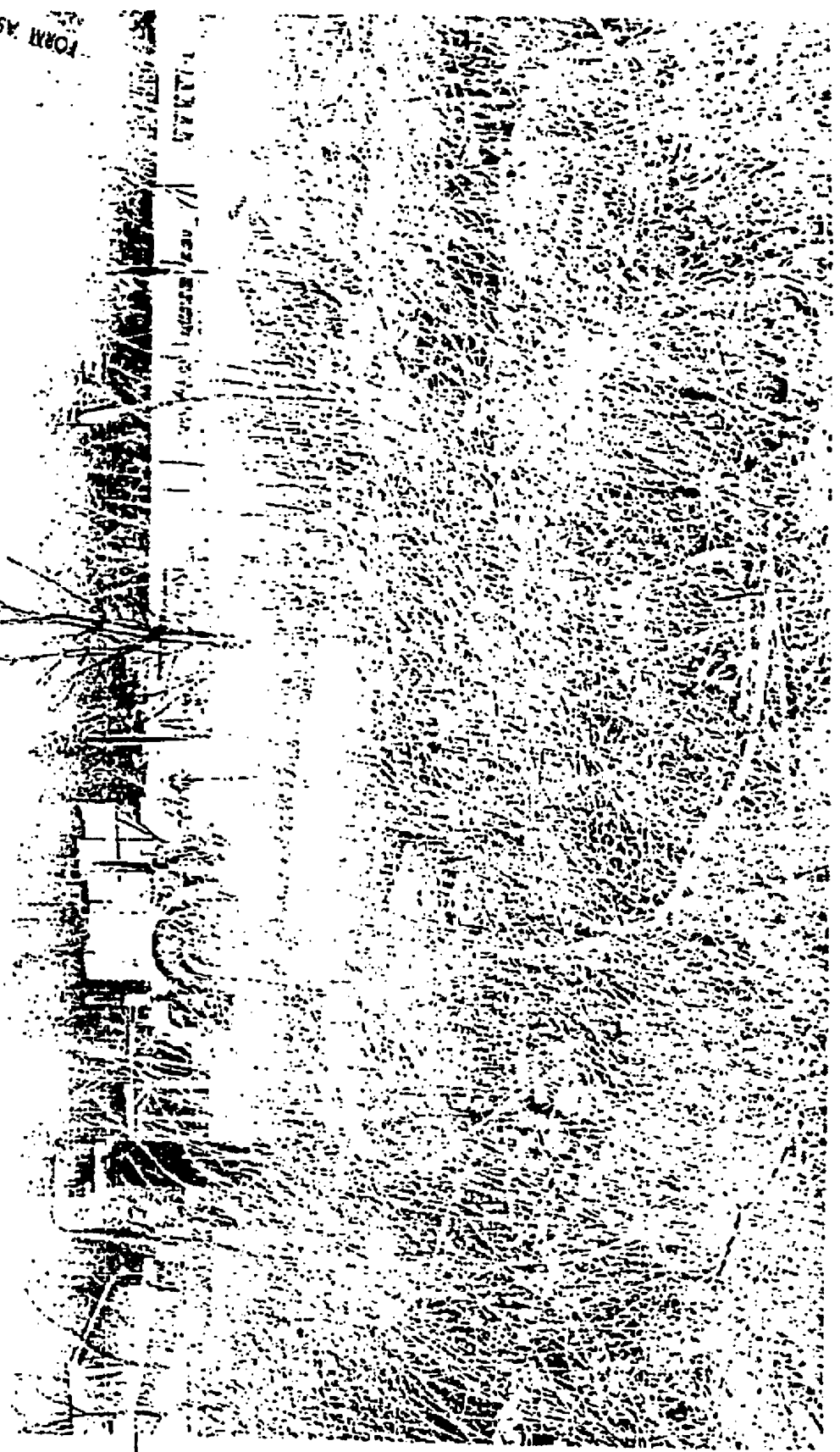
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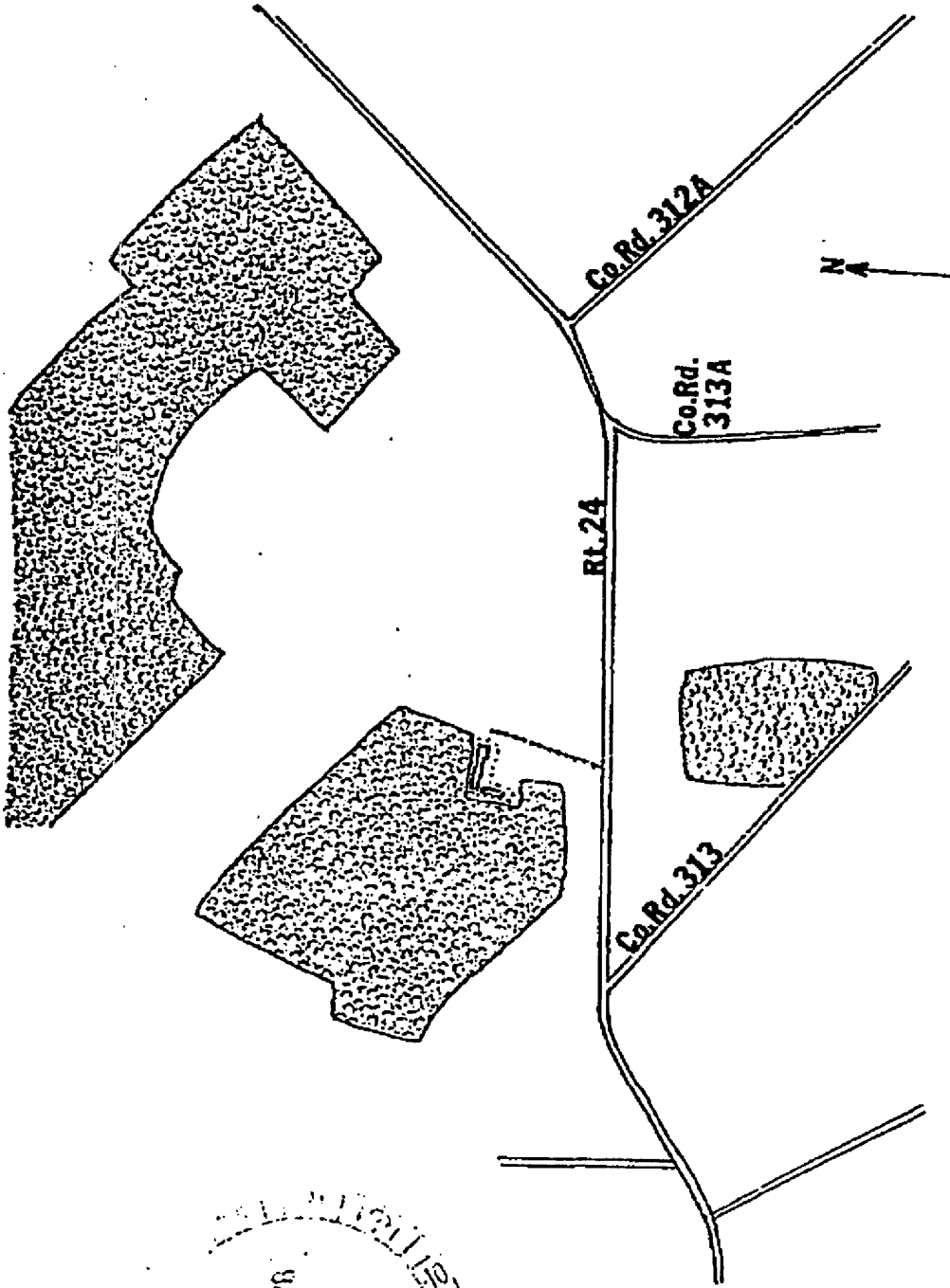
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FILE S-755 TITLE NANTICONE

1000 N. Main St. Dover, DE 19901

Name: Ames Hitchens Chicken Farms

Location: Rt. 24, near Millsboro, Delaware

Photographer: Frank W. Porter, III

Date: December 1977

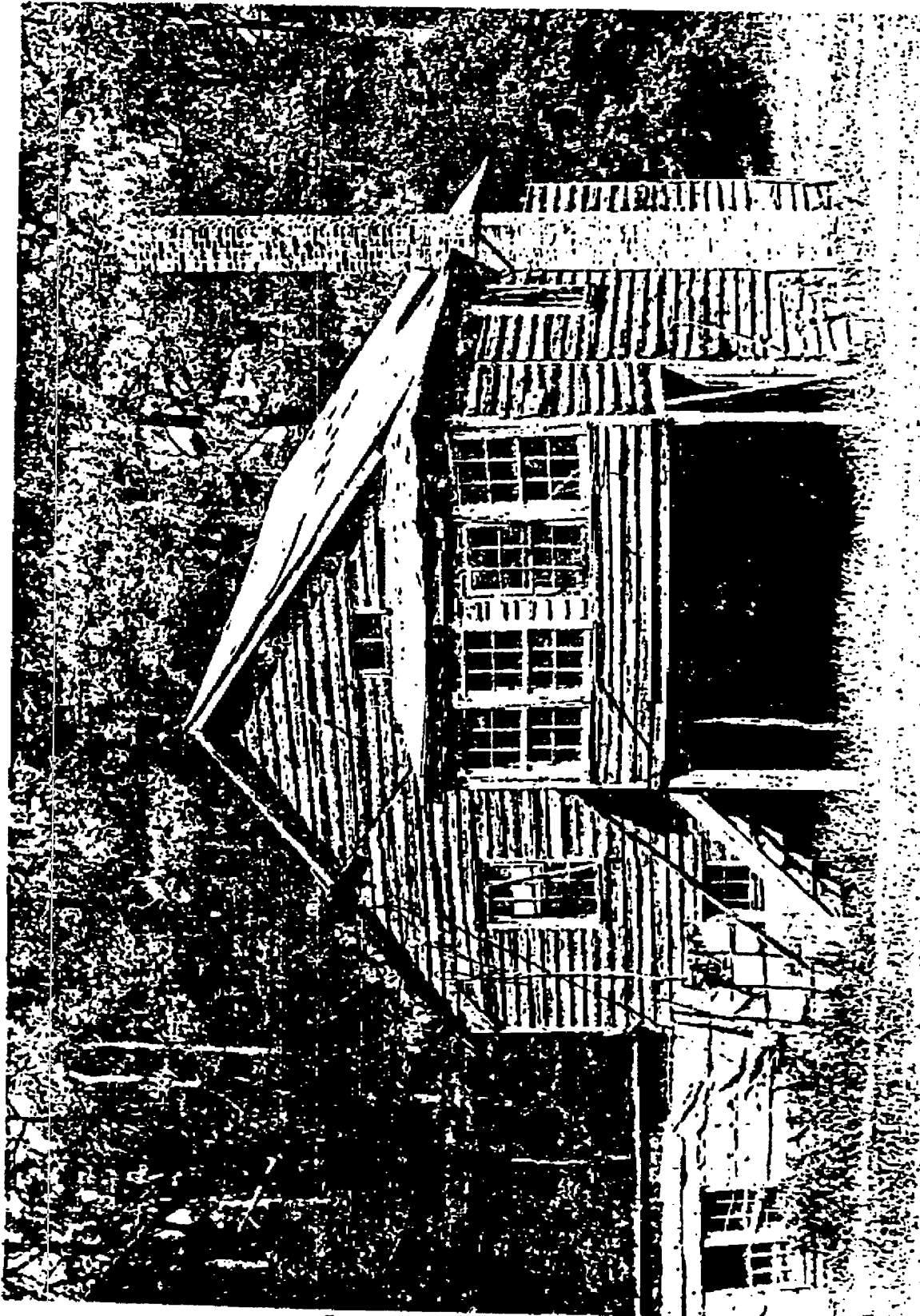
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dwelling.

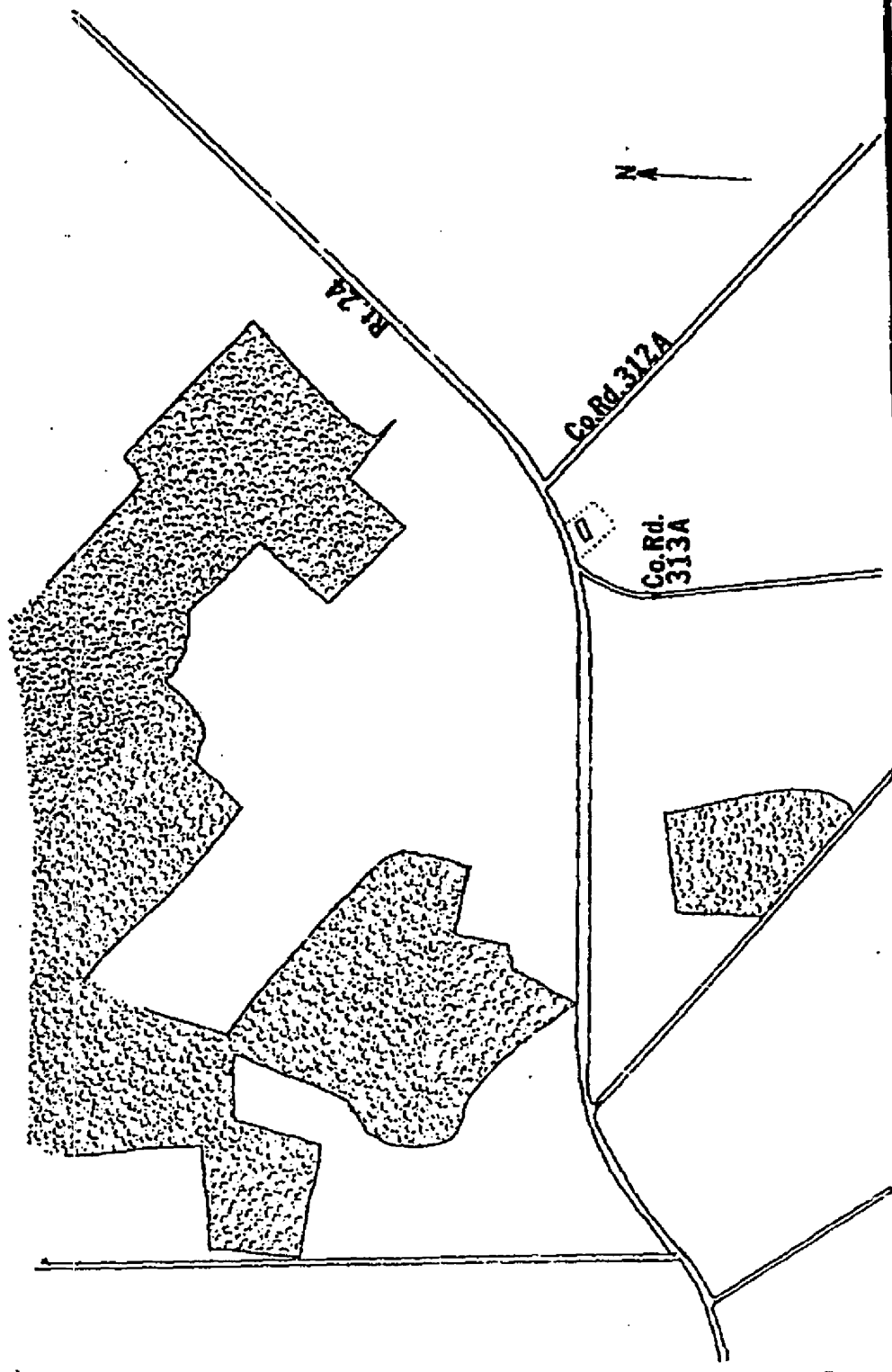
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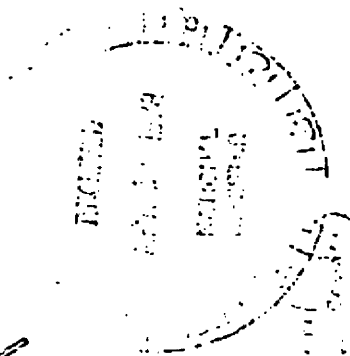


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FILE S-757 TITLE NANTICOKE



*Michael J. ...*  
*(Signature)*

Name: Indian Mission School

Location: Rt. 24; near Millsboro, Delaware

Photographer: Frank W. Porter III

Date: December 1977

Location of Negative: Div. of Hist. & Cultural Affairs,

B/AHP, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901

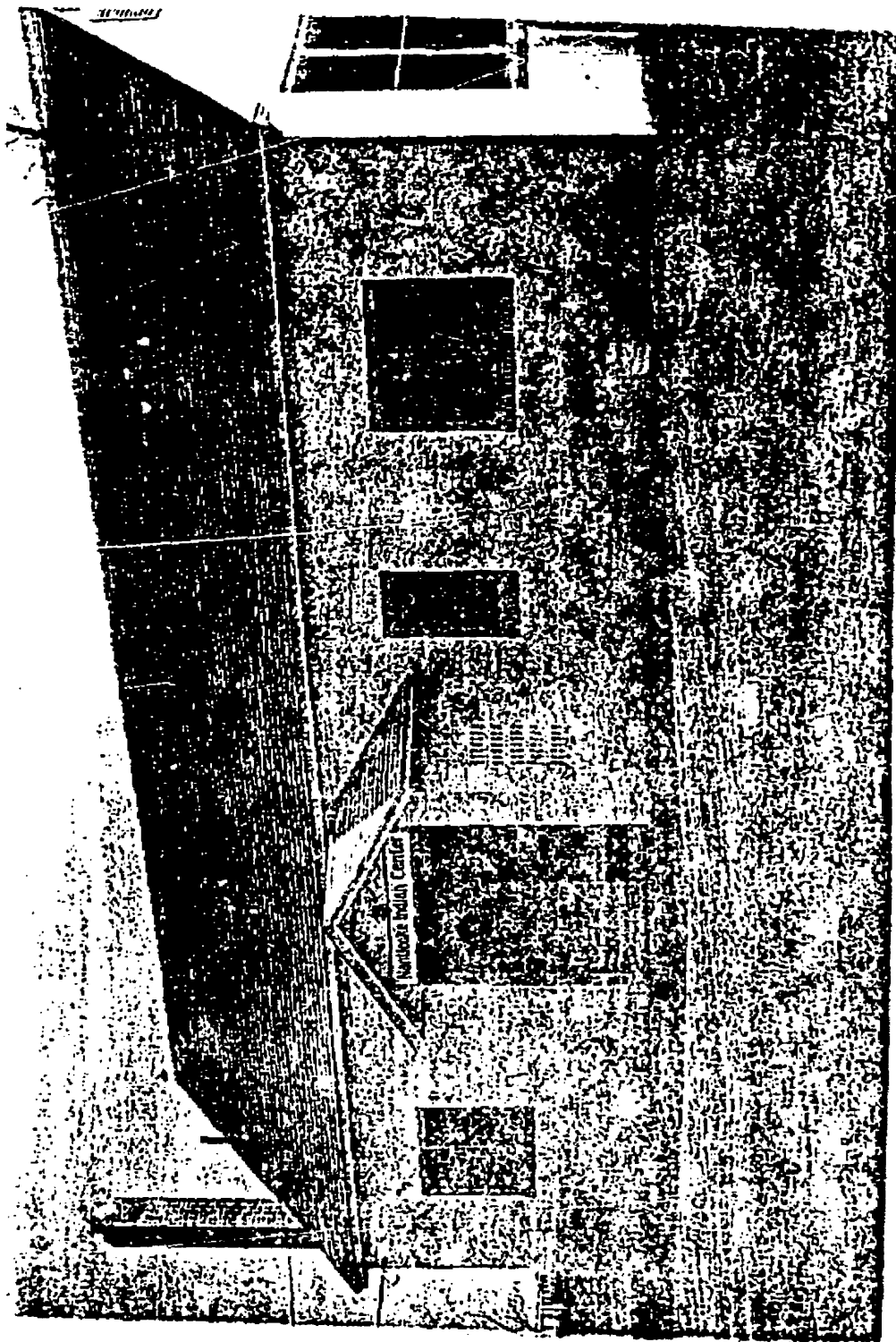
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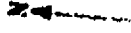
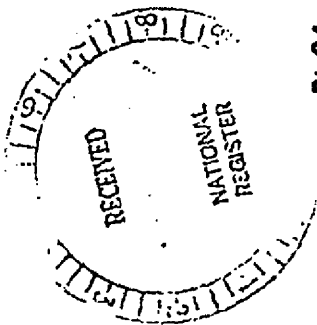
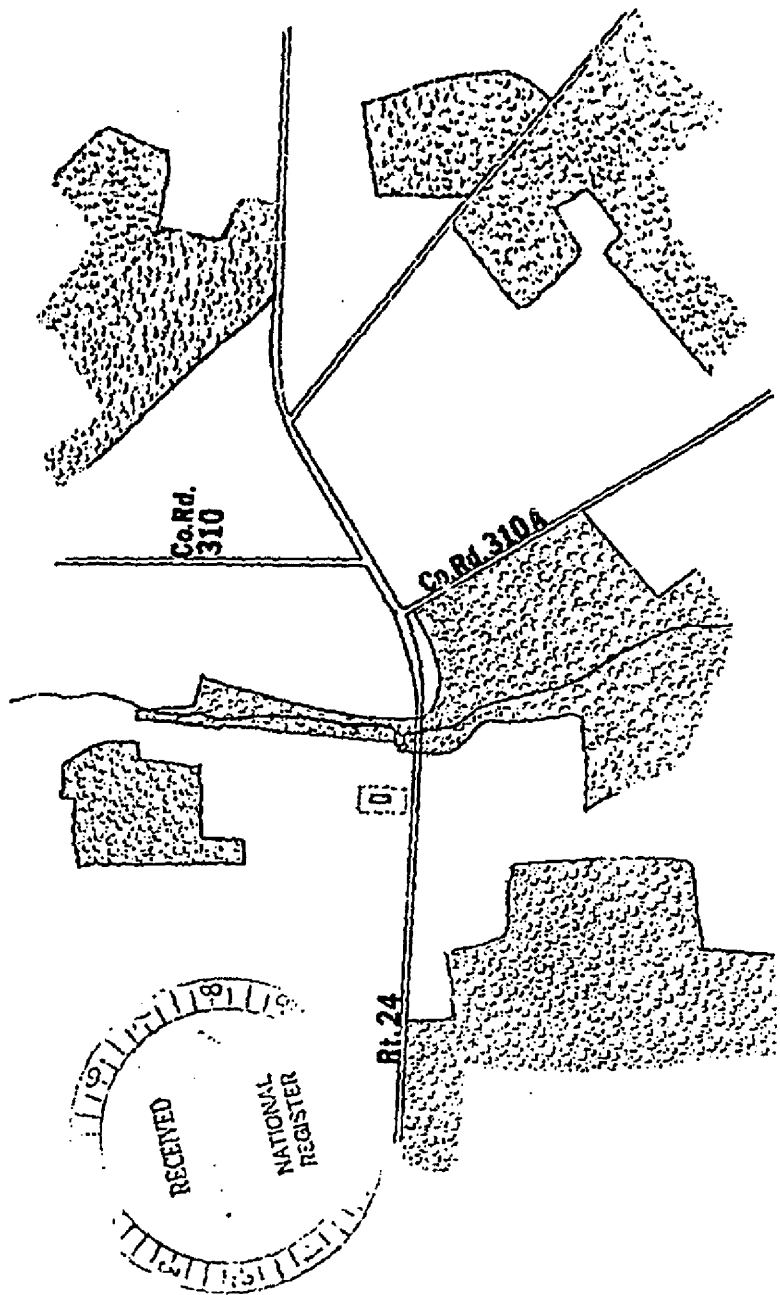
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FILE S-756 TITLE NANTICOKE



*Johnston Survey (1780-1785) (Nanticoke, Delaware)*  
 Sheet 7

Johnson School, Warwick #203

3570 page 3

Name: Johnson School

Location: Rt. 24; near Millsboro, Delaware

Photographer: Frank W. Porter III

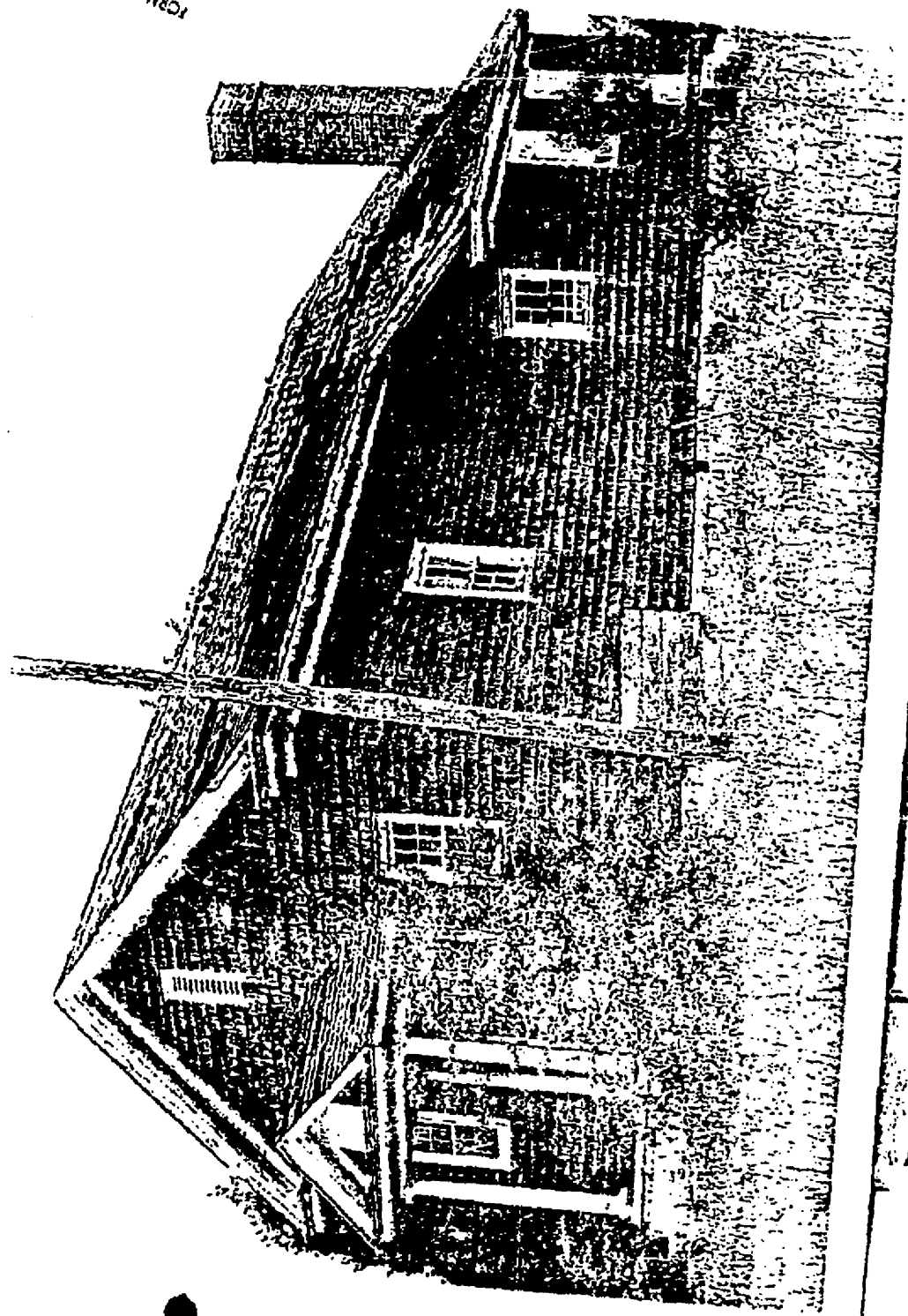
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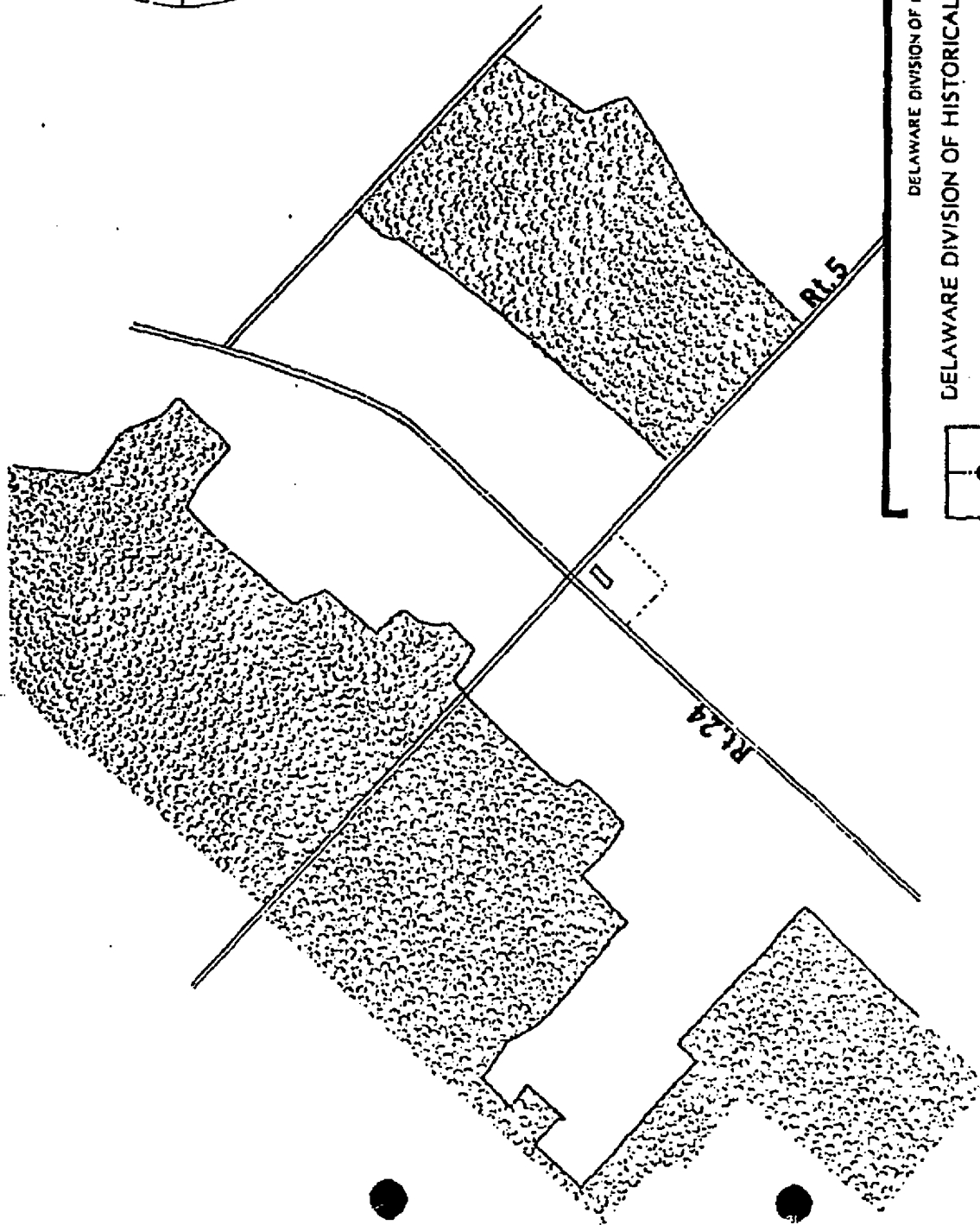
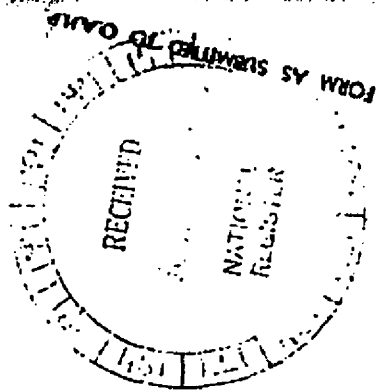
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Description: View to Northwest

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FILE S-165 TITLE NANTICOKE

*Handwritten notes:*  
Nanticoke  
Sheet #2

Name: Harmon School

Location: Rt. 24, near Millsboro, Delaware

Photographer: Frank W. Porter, III

Date: September 1977

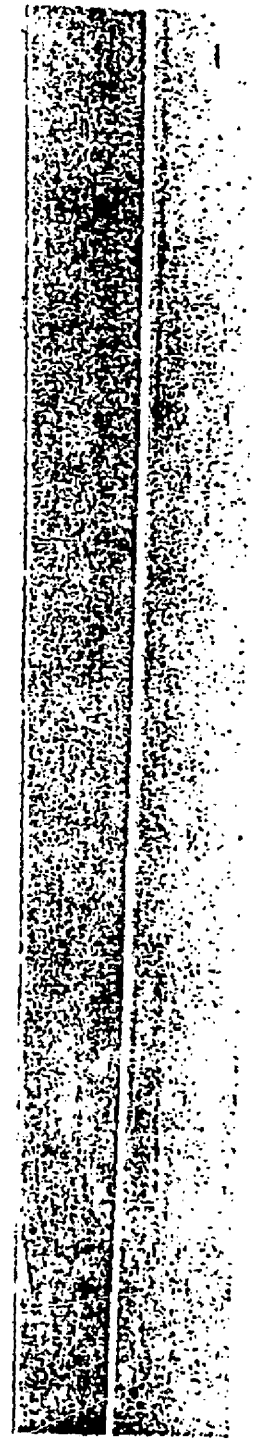
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B/ASHP, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901

Description: View to South

APR 13 1978

Photograph Number: 8

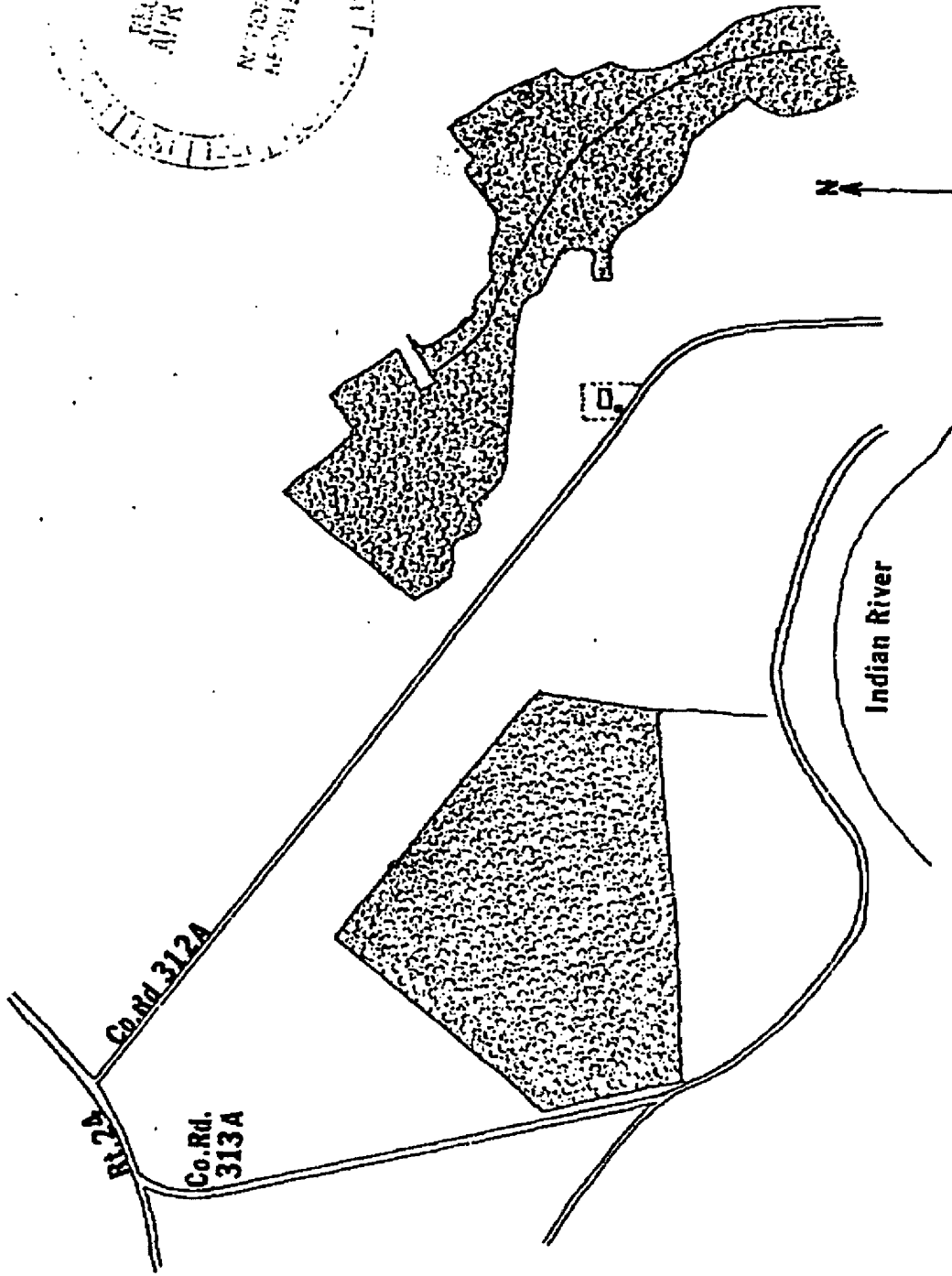
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FILE S-751 TITLE ANTICOKE

West ...  
Map 19



24  
p.6

Home of Isaac Harmon

Name: Isaac Harmon Farm

Location: Road 312A, near Millsboro, Delaware

Photographer: Frank W. Porter, III

Date: August 1977

Location of Negatives: Div. of Hist. & Cultural Affairs,  
B/A&HP, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901

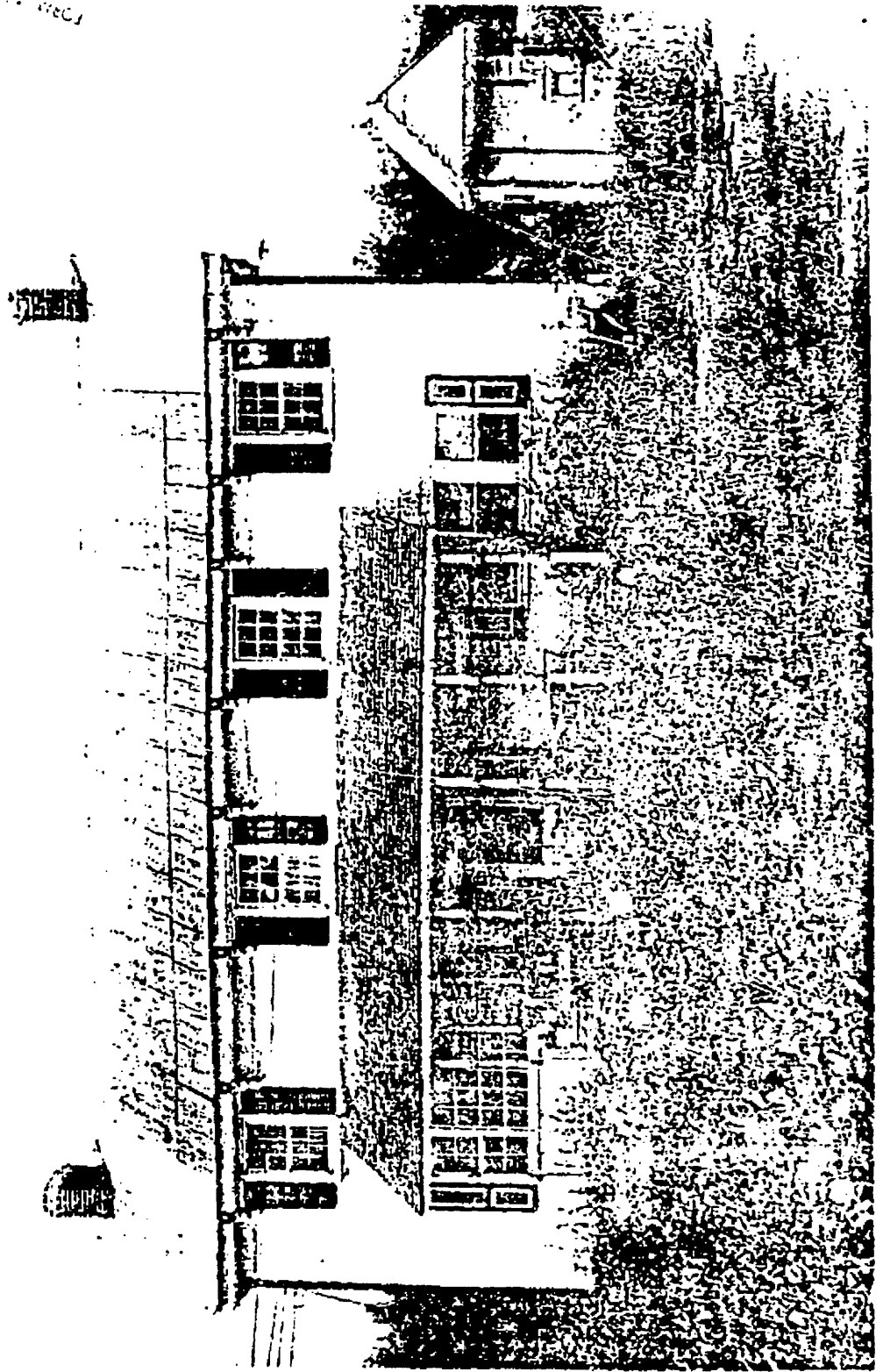
Description: View to the northeast

3578

Photograph Number

9 APR 19 1978

FORM NO. 10 (REVISED 12-1962)



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE DELAWARE

Date Entered APR 26 1979

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Harlan and Hollingsworth Office Building	Wilmington New Castle County
✓ Nan Pooke Indian Community	Millsboro vicinity Sussex County

Also Notified

Honorable William V. Roth, Jr.  
Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
Honorable Thomas B. Evans, Jr.

DIV. OF HISTORICAL  
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For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.