

▲ ○ ■ Artefact, Inc.

26-28 East Third Street
Bethlehem, PA 18015-1304
(610) 861-0235

Dear HARB members:

Historic Bethlehem Museums and Sites is undertaking stabilization and renovations to the Miller's House located in the Colonial Industrial Quarter slightly northeast of Luckenbach Mill. The 1782/1832 Grist Miller's House, individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973, was constructed to provide a home for the miller and his family. It was important for the miller to live close to the Mill. The home, which included a kitchen, one large room and a basement, was one of the early private, family homes constructed after the period of the General Economy ended in the 1760s. In 1832, the house was enlarged, and it served as a residence until the 1970s. The Miller's House earliest incarnation was a 1 ½ story stone Germanic styled residence. The 1832 radical modification resulted in an addition of 1 ½ stories above the existing, enlarged floor plan, brick walls built on top of the stone walls, and Federal/Georgian styling. For many years the building has been vacant and braced on its west façade due to discovered structural inadequacies.

HBMS is planning stabilization of the Miller's House which will consist of the removal of the steel bracing, exterior restoration and renovations, and the construction of a connecting link to the Luckenbach Mill. The work will be funded in part by a state RACP grant. The exterior restoration work will consist of stone and brick repair and spot repointing, window repairs and selective replacement of several windows, installation of wood window sashes where missing, wood trim repairs and in-kind replacement where needed, a new cedar shingle roof, and painting of all wood features.

The connector planned between the Luckenbach Mill and the Miller's House will provide an accessible route to the original main level of the house. In the late 19th/early 20th century time period there was a large addition to the north of the Luckenbach Mill roughly in the location of the proposed connector. The addition was connected to or abutted a south facing porch that was located at that time on the Miller's House. The new connector is seen as a visual reference to this earlier addition, no longer extant. The appearance of the connector has evolved in the design process from a minimal functional connector to a nearly fully glazed connector/observation room overlooking the Colonial Industrial Quarter. This evolution came about when the proposed renovation of the Miller's House became the designated home for the Ralph G. Schwarz Center for Colonial Trades and Industries. In commemoration of Mr. Schwarz's connection to Bethlehem Steel Corporation the detailing of the connector is proposed to have an exposed steel frame supporting the structure and holding the glass. The steel system will have a coating or finish to protect it from rust. Ralph Schwarz had a long lasting relationship with Bethlehem and its Moravian and industrial history and was responsible, in part or in full, for many important historical transformations in the city and at the steel during from the 1960s through to the late 1990s.

The HBMS solicits the HARB's early input on this modern approach to the design of the connector which is seen as light and transparent to minimize its effect on the historic resources that it touches. The connector is designed in the spirit and intent of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards 9 and 10 which state:

*Christine Ussler, AIA, NCARB
Architecture, Preservation, and Interior Design*

SIS 9. *New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.*

SIS 10. *New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.*

The work is intended to be clearly differentiated from the historic, located on a non-character defining façade of the Luckenbach Mill and of the Miller's House, and if removed in the future would leave the historic structures largely unaffected. The connector utilizes existing doors at the east side of the Mill and on the south façade of the Miller's House. The structure will be independently supported above the remaining stone and brick walls from the early Antes Mill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Christine Ussler".

Christine Ussler, AIA, NCARB
President, Artefact, Inc.

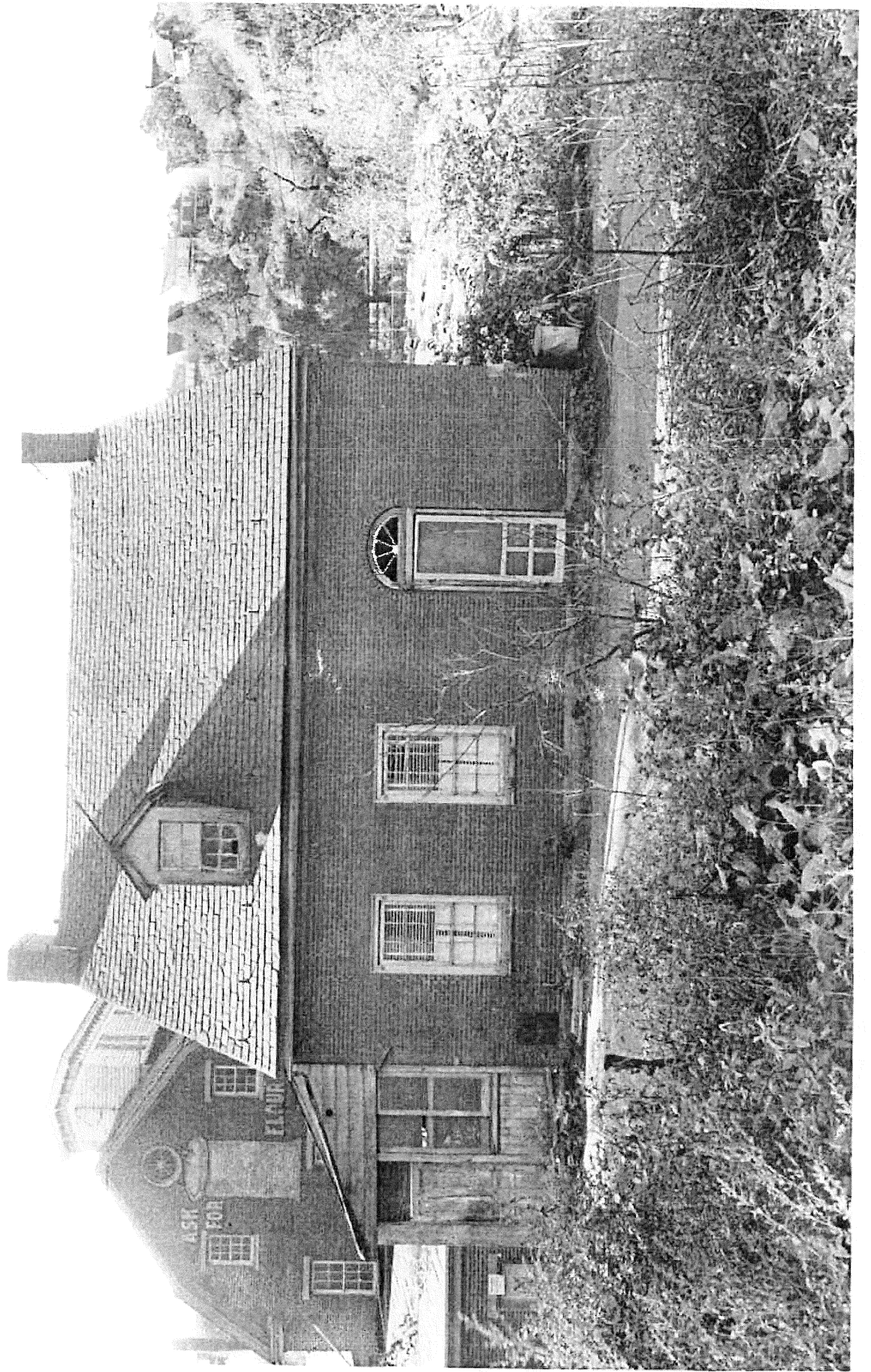
Miller's House

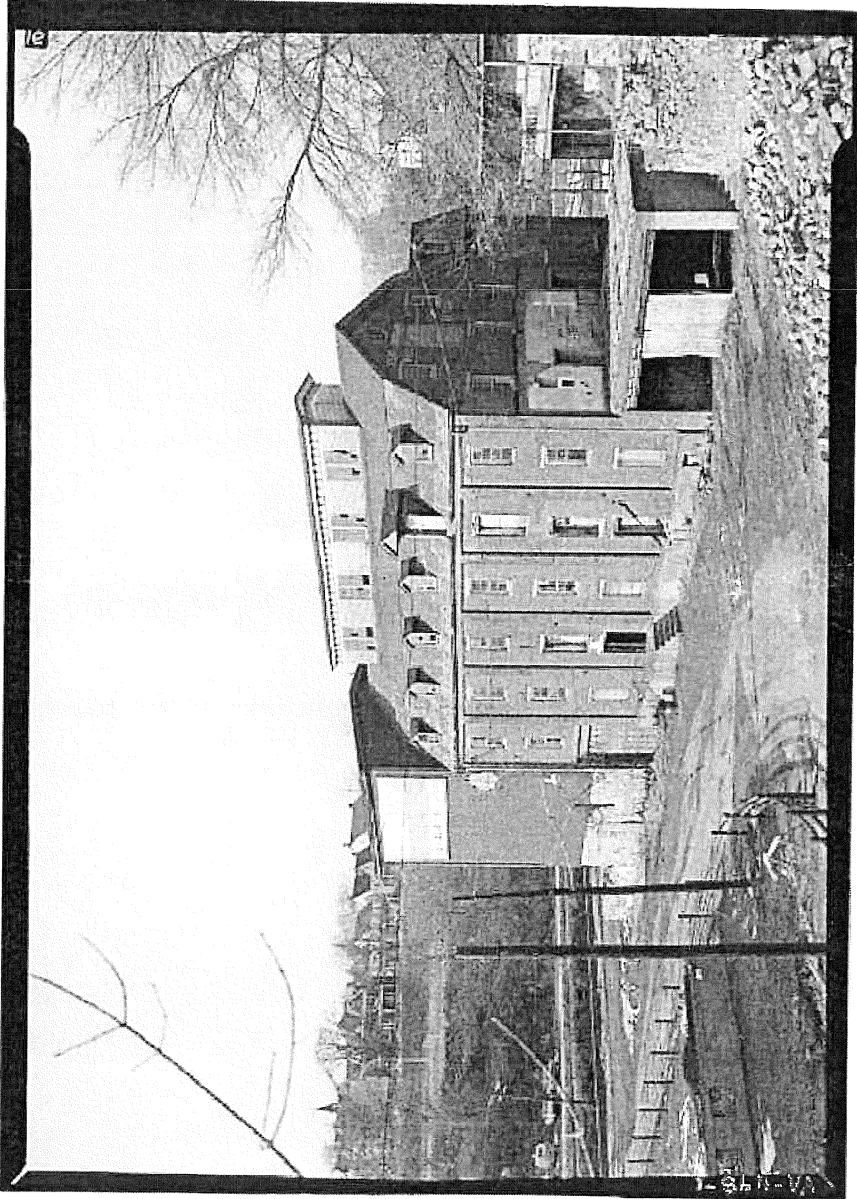
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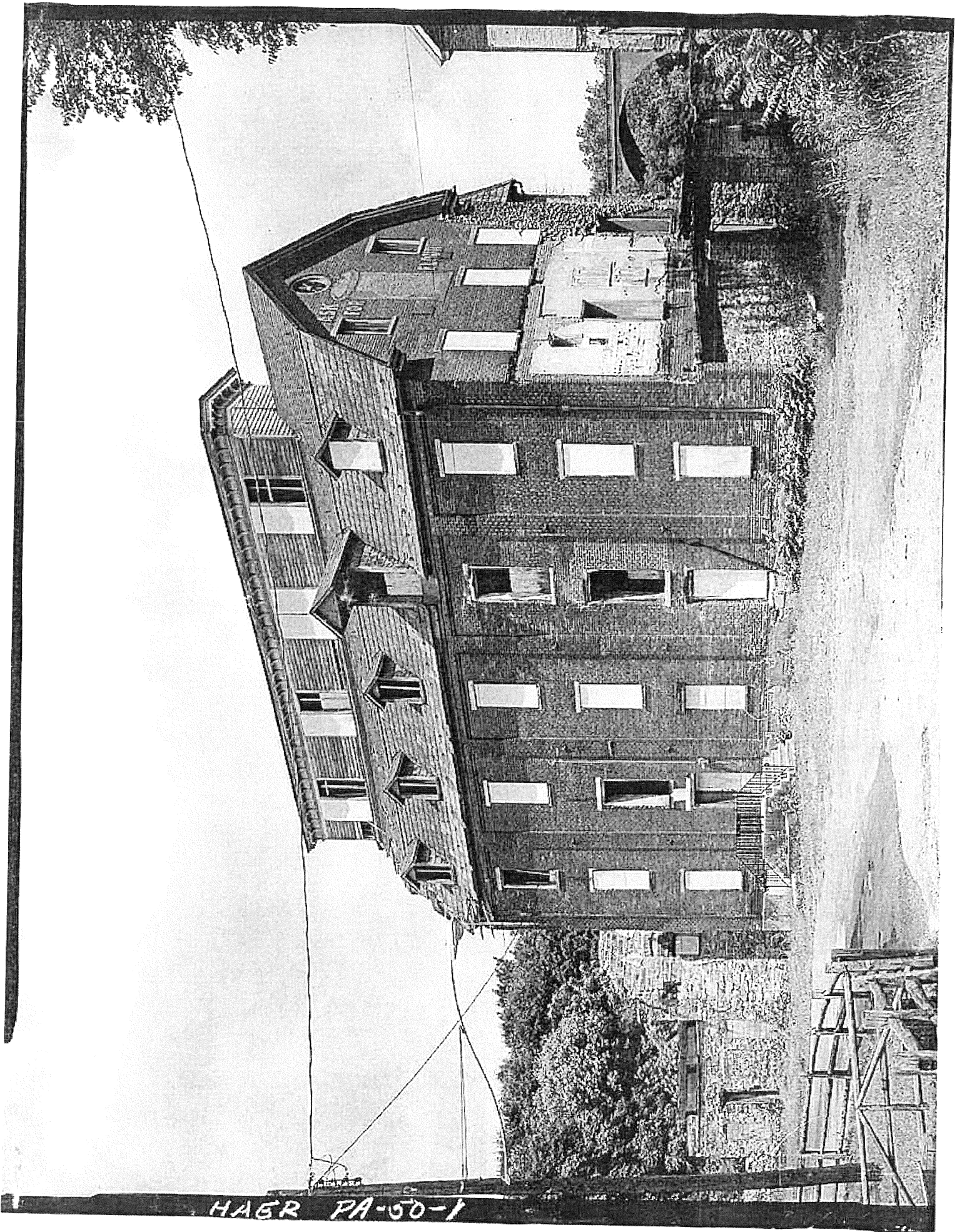


Miller's House

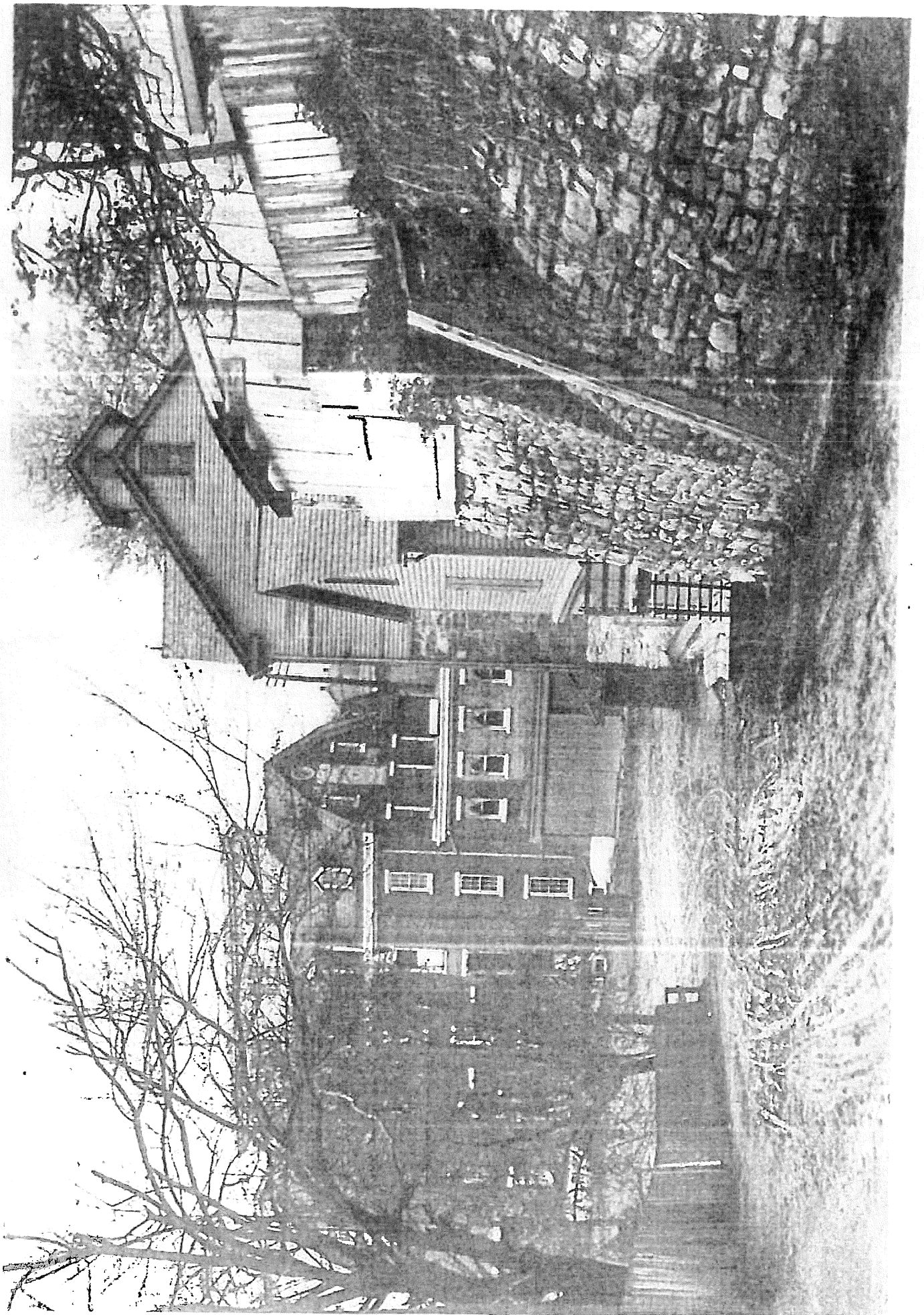








HABR PA-50-1





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FLOUR MILLS



THE
FAMILY
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KOTAROSA
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HAER PA-52-20

