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# What's up with ceilings

Ceilings may be the high point of every room, but often the finishes they end up with are something of a decorating low point. If you tend to think of ceilings as flat, level things it's because they usually are.

They're cheaper to build that way.

But the number of ways you can dress up your ceiling are growing. From stained glass suspended ceilings to an attractive molded mineral-fibre tile with the look of molded plaster blocks, the choices are many.

Starscapes on bedroom and dining room ceilings disappear in the daytime, but glow in the dark. You can have constellations done in perfect detail, and they may be a good alternative to night lights for children.

Lightweight cornices and centrepieces imitate classic plaster styles to add an elegance to lofty ceilings.

In the kitchen you can order custom-made stained glass suspended ceilings that can transform a kitchen or bar area with a bright, modern look. Wrought iron pot racks and old-fashioned clothes hangers with pulleys can age a kitchen immediately.

Tin ceilings were once a cheap substitute for costly, carved plaster. Original tin ceilings are antiques now and greatly prized. They weren't tin at all, but thin sheets of steel or copper, stamped in squares with a repeated design. Overlapping edges were nailed to furring strips or right on to the ceiling.

A new or refurbished tin ceiling should be sealed with clear polyurethane or acrylic varnish. It should be dusted, washed if it's in the kitchen, but needs little other maintenance.

Ready made rolls of twigging can fit between vaulted cottage beams to enhance the rustic feel, or could give a country look to a city porch.

If you have a stucco ceiling you'd like to smooth out, there are products designed to take off the material - but only if it hasn't been painted. Ingredients in the stucco are reactivated and it can be scraped off.

You can usually tell if a finish is unpainted because it will flake when touched. A painted finish stays in place. If your stucco ceiling is painted and you really want to be rid of it, you may have to rip it out and re-drywall.

Stucco removal is a messy job, best done in a room that's been emptied of furniture, or at least well covered with plastic.

You can rely on paint to change the look of your rooms. A white ceiling does reflect light better, and a room will appear bigger if there's similar colour, texture and pattern throughout.

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Kindly drop in to see us at 189 Main Street after October 30, or now at 13 Charles Street, or look us up on the world wide web at: [www.comsearch-can.com/crs.htm](http://www.comsearch-can.com/crs.htm) or e-mail us at: [commonwealth@interhop.net](mailto:commonwealth@interhop.net)

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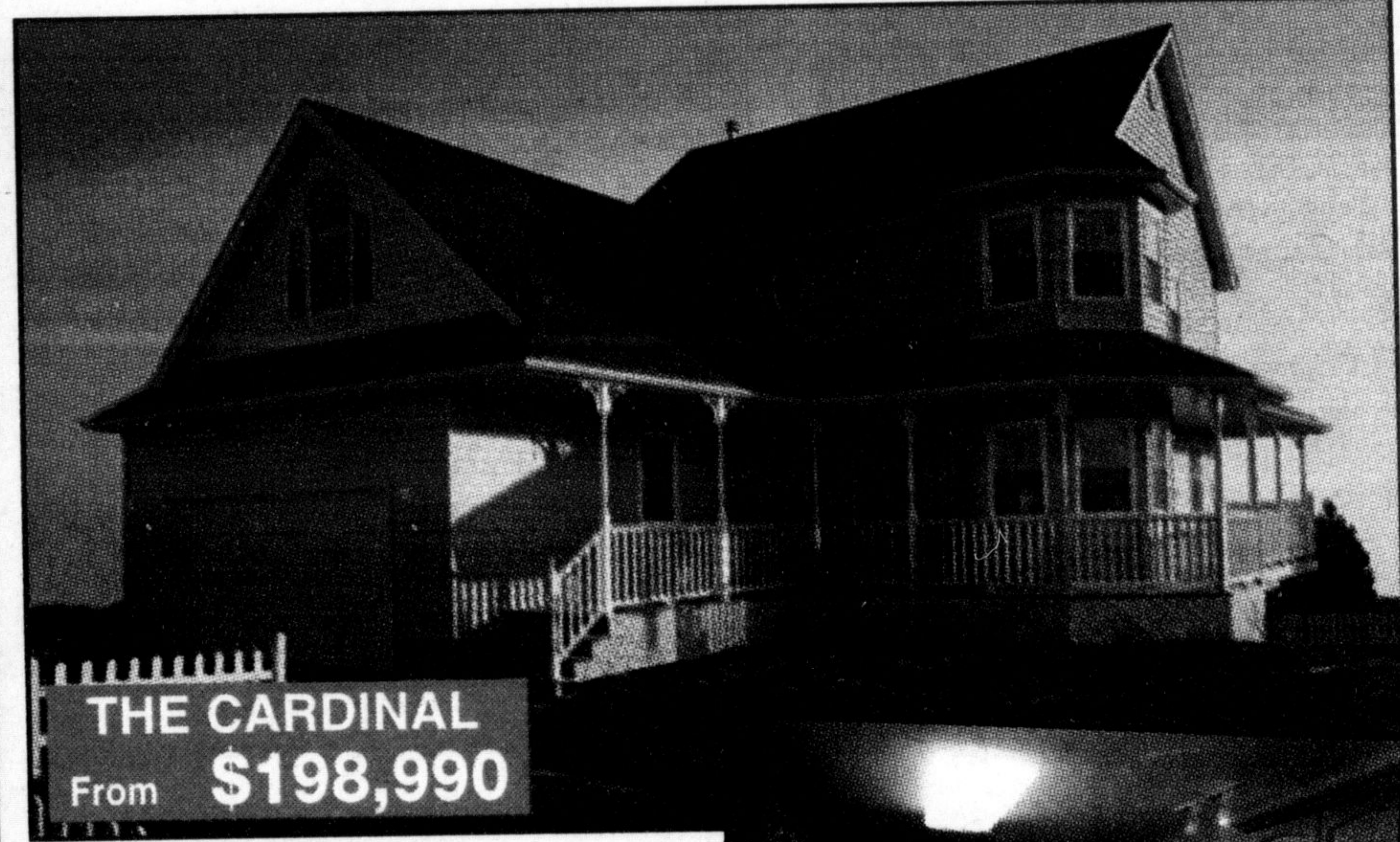
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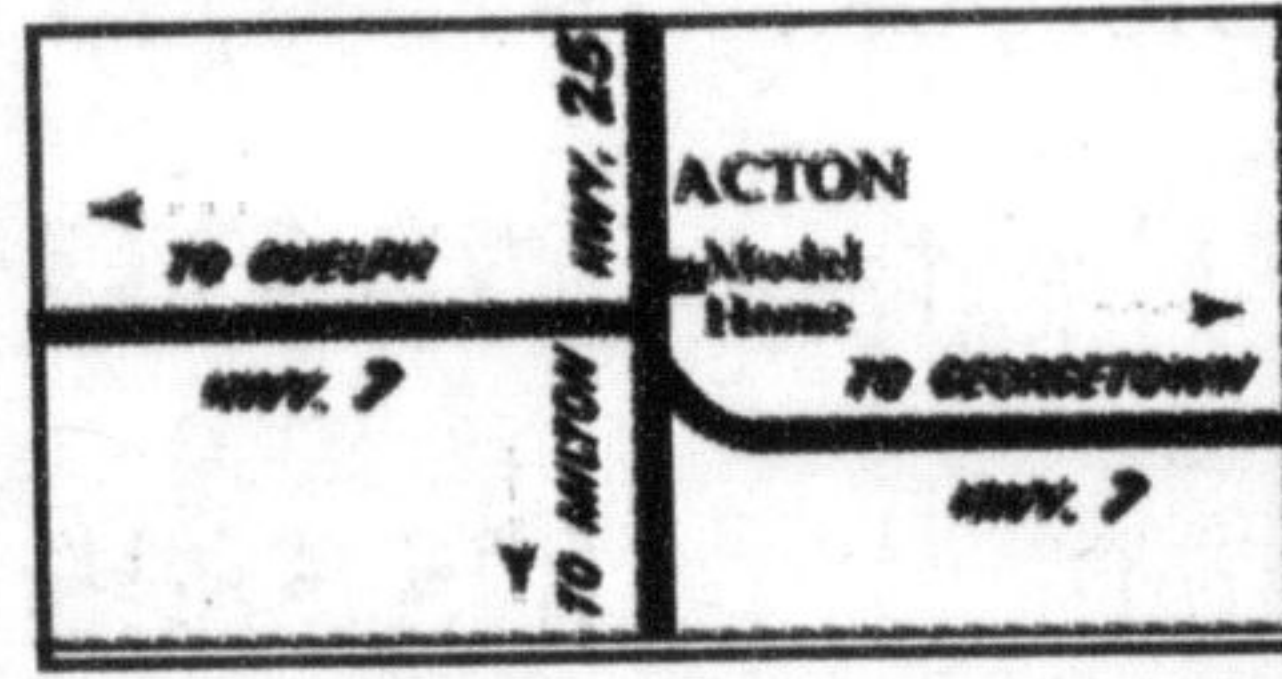
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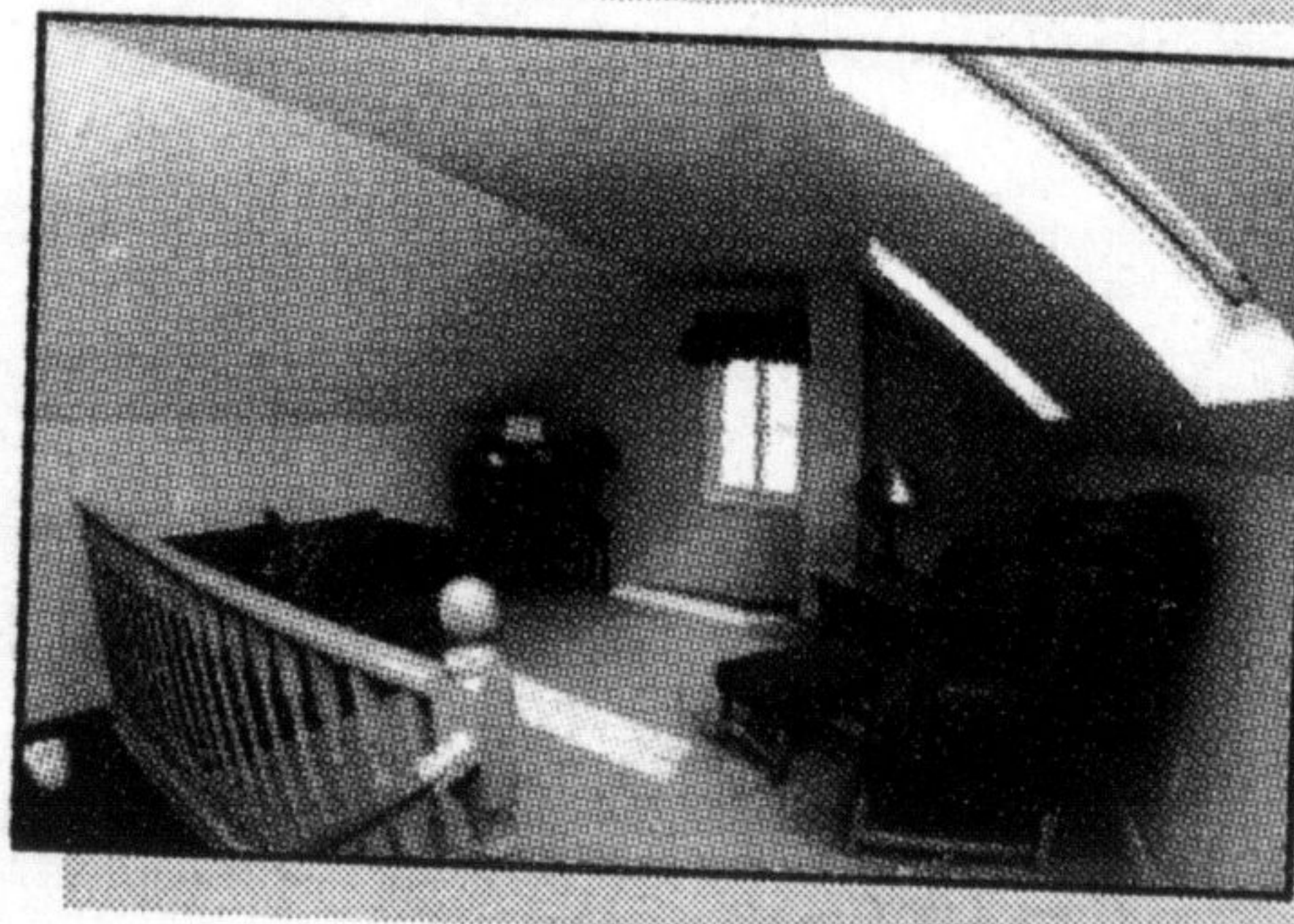
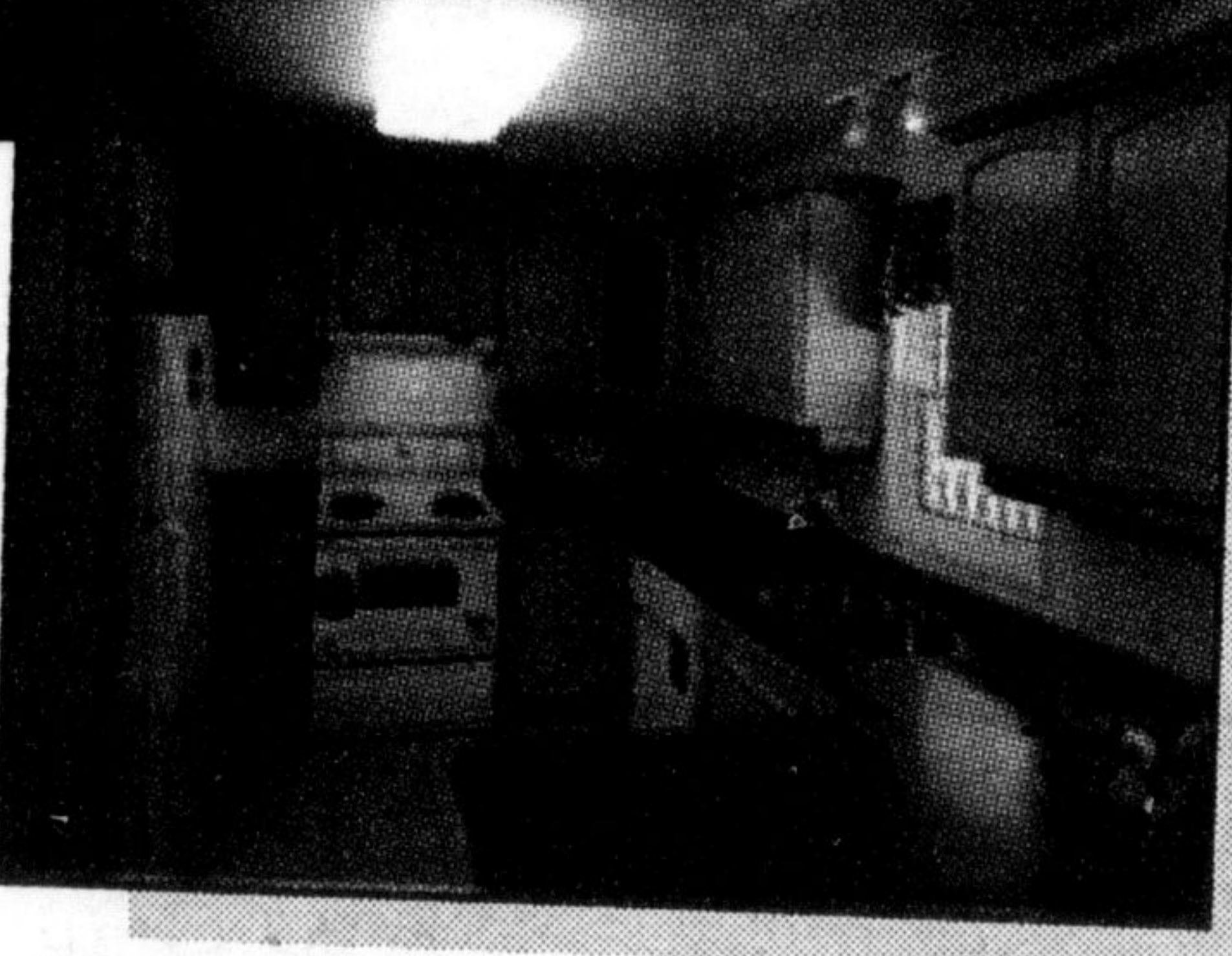
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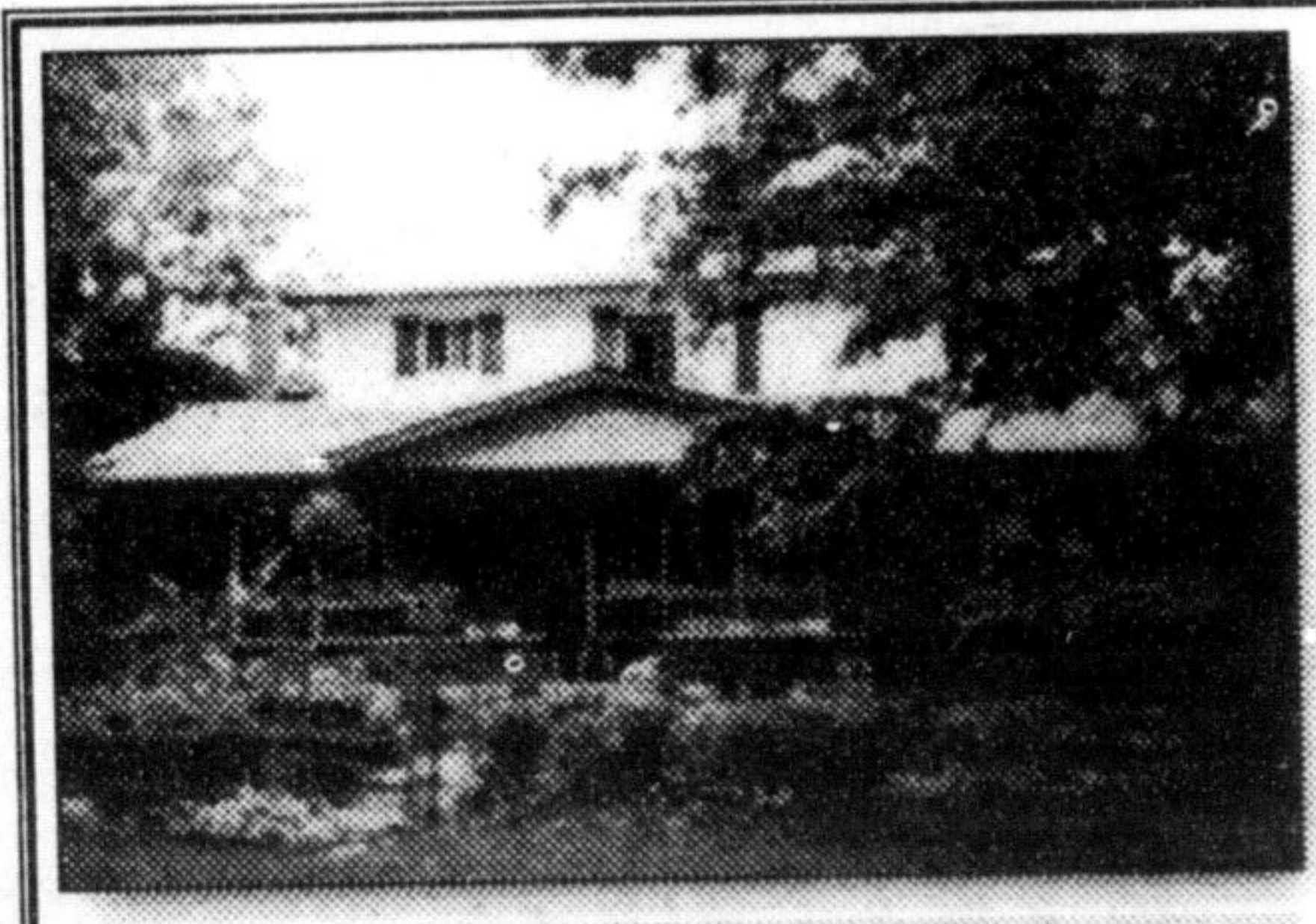


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