



HARROP BARN is shown here before it was dismantled and carted off to the Ontario Agricultural Museum at Kelso. Built in 1882 by William Elliott, the barn is of English construction with a low pitched gable roof. It is 120 by 55 feet in size. The insert shows the stone Colonial-style house built in 1870. The Harrop family lived on the 200 acre farm for 57 years.

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Harrop barn re-locating

*A special feature
by Joyce Beaton*

The old Harrop barn on Steeles Ave. is coming down. It's a nostalgic moment in Milton's history to see one of the last barns within our urban boundaries disappear before our eyes. Thanks to the generosity of its owners, Peter McWilliams, and Ian Hardcastle future generations will be able to appreciate the magnificent construction of this historic structure. The barn is being dismantled by John Simpson and his crew and will be re-built this summer on the site of the new Ontario Agricultural Museum at Kelso.

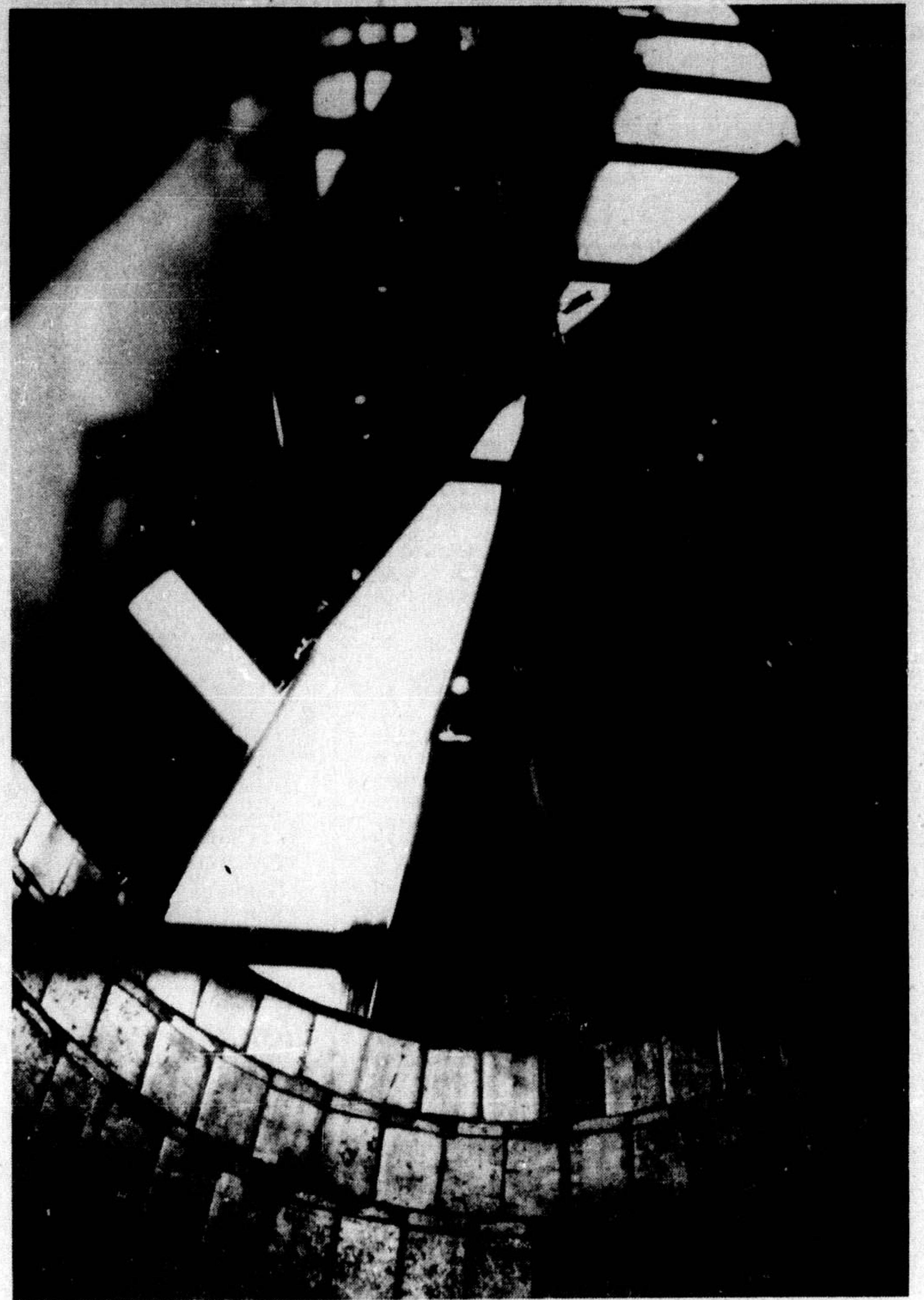
Gone are the old-time barn-builders, the men who didn't know they were designers but who instinctively knew what kind of structure they needed.

Just think of the stories that could be told of clearing the land for tilling using teams of oxen, the hauling of those huge boulders we now see as boundary walls between fields, and the fences of gnarled tree roots (evidence of the huge trees once on the land). All in preparation for the barn raising bee.

Barn raising was a neighborhood venture, an example of people working together. While the men constructed the shell and later hoisted it into position, the women were cooking in the big summer kitchen and serving the bounteous feast on trestle tables in the yard.

The houses and barns in those days were built of natural materials, often found right on the land. At the time the Harrop barn was built, 93 years ago in 1882, 85 per cent of the population of our country lived on a farm. Today the percentage is reversed, 85 per cent are in the cities.

It's possible that millions of people in North America have never seen nor been inside a barn. In Halton we're lucky, there are still barns around us even though we are living through a crisis period as far as our farming community is concerned.



ROUND SILO is unusual, being built of curved tiles. Green crops were pressed in the silo and kept for fodder undergoing fermentation. The tiles are carefully dismantled now and will be reassembled when the barn is relocated at Kelso. Picture was taken from inside the silo.

The Canadian Champion

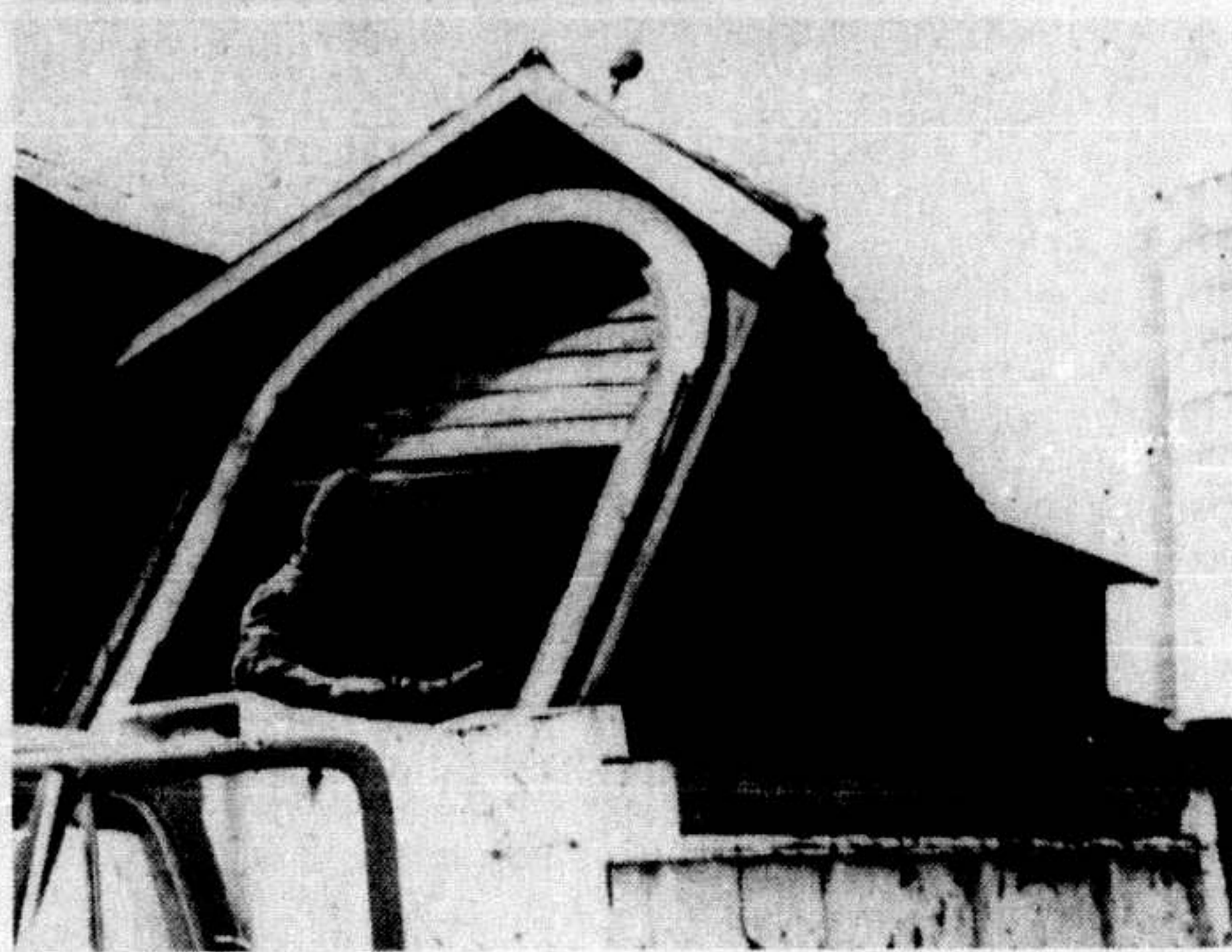
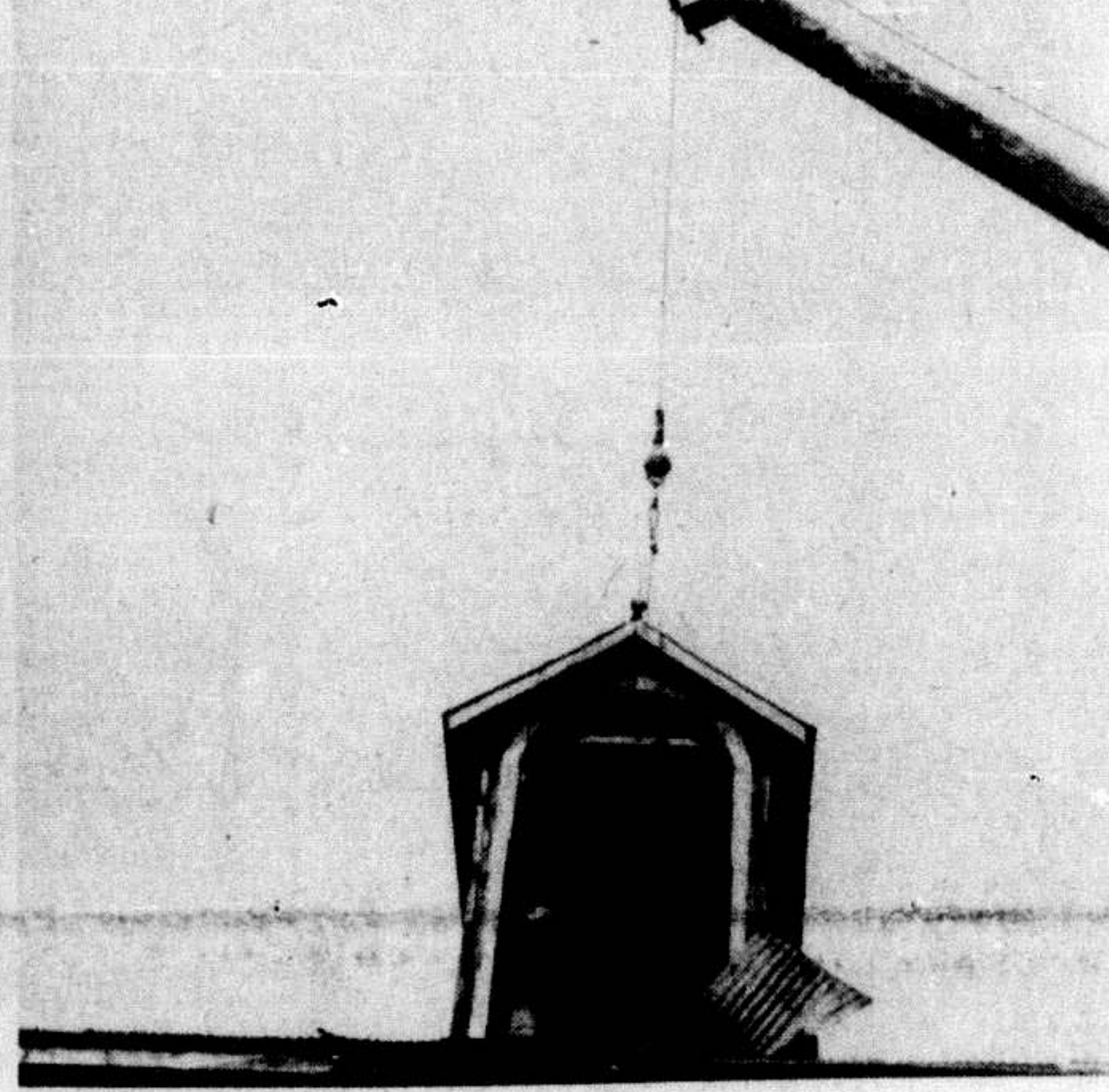
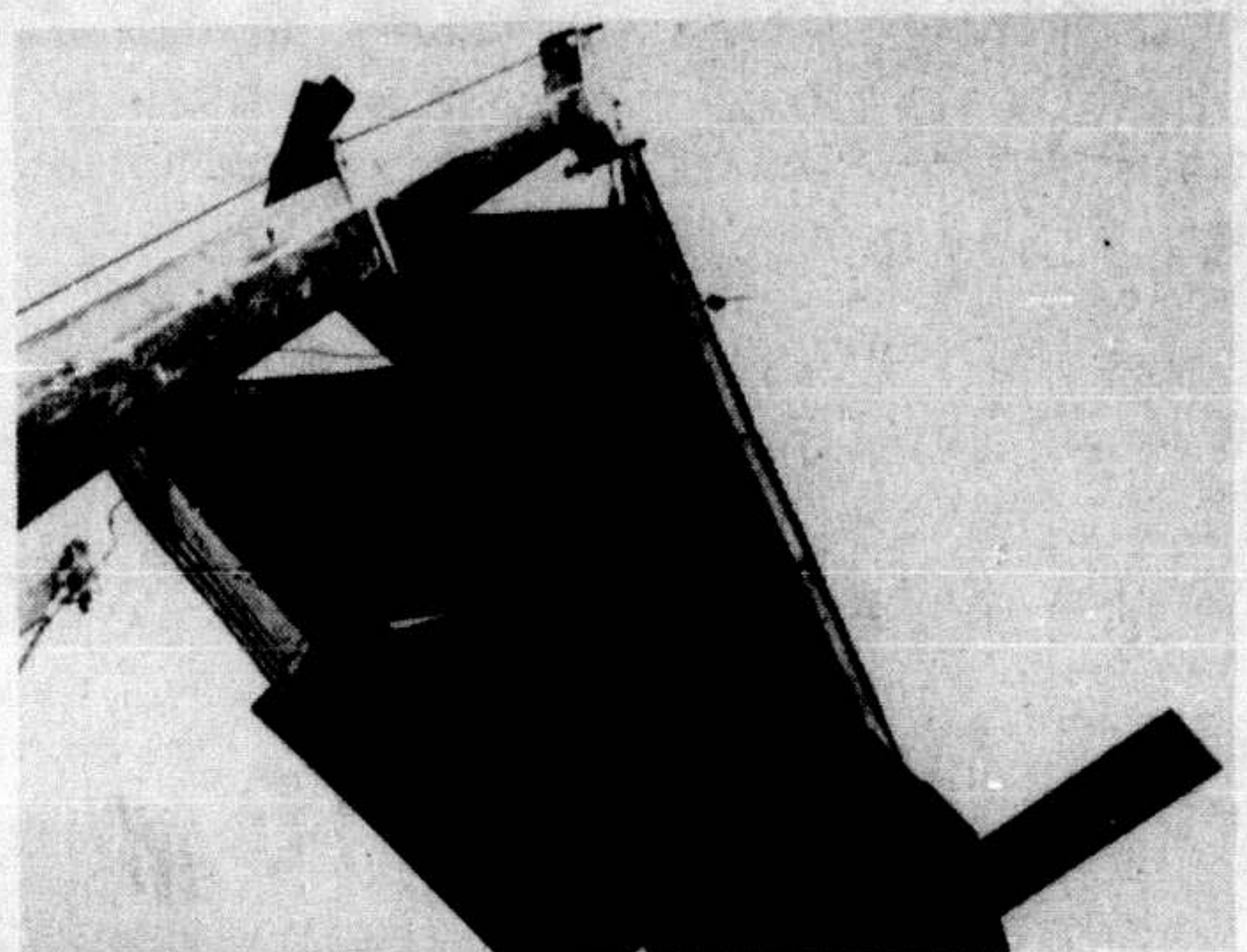
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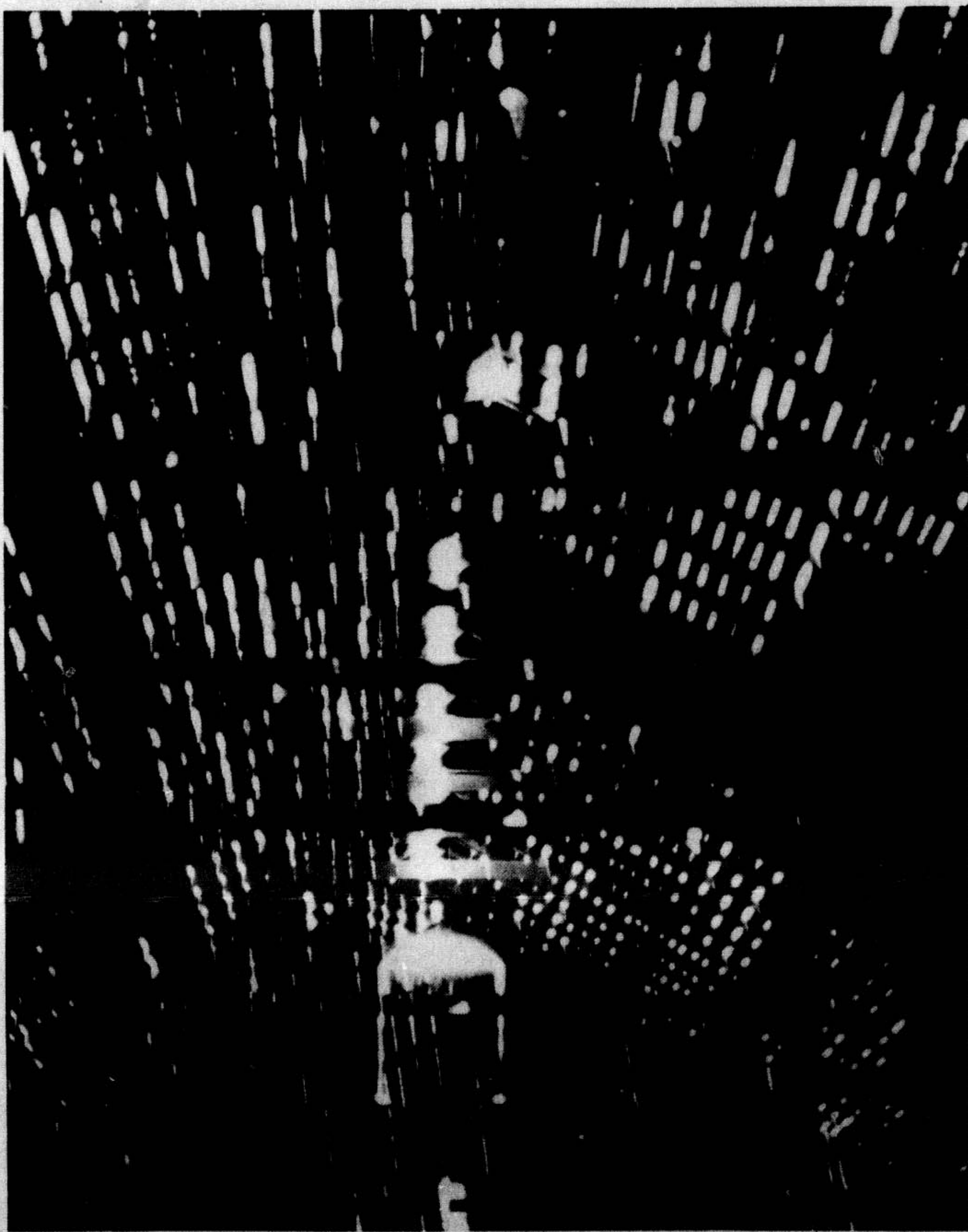
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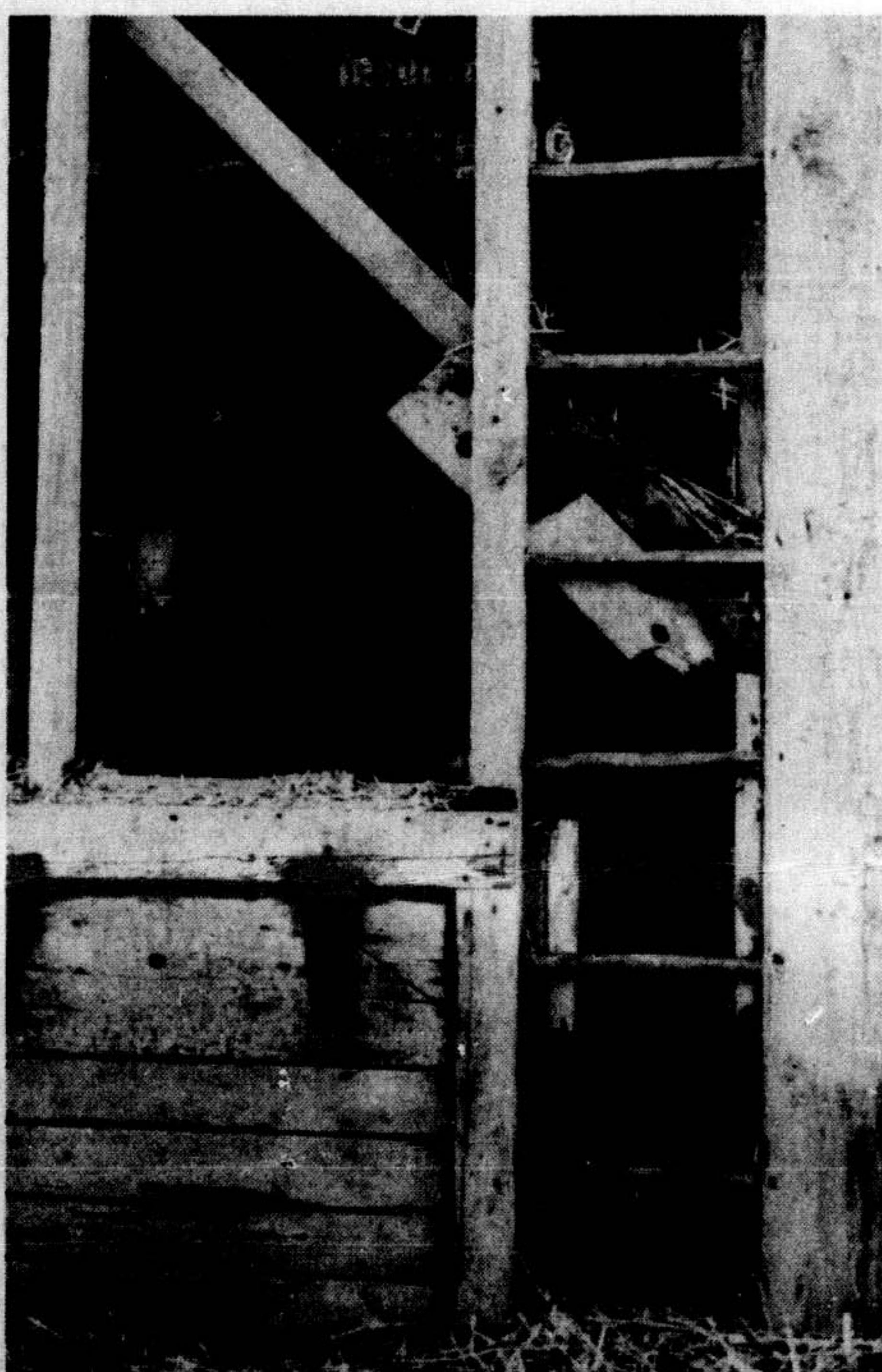
OLD STAIRS from the ground floor are well-worn. This shot shows part of the wide stone basement wall.



CUPOLA COMES DOWN carefully with the help of a large crane. Upper left, John Simpson is silhouetted inside the cupola as he frees it from the roof. Upper right Bob Clarke's crane is in readiness and finally, lower left, it hoists it high in the air. Lower right shows Jim Mullen steadying the structure in the truck for its journey to the Ontario Agricultural Museum.



SHAFTS OF LIGHT illuminate time-worn timbers of white pine. The scene is reminiscent of the time when swallows swooped and dived among the rafters and pigeons billed and cooed on the hand-hewn beams. The interior is designed in the church arrangement of the nave and aisles.



OLD HINGES are shown on this rugged door. The farmer would kick the door with his foot as he pitched the hay to the animals on the floor below.

Built by pioneer

This big red barn (120 by 55 feet) is of English construction. Known as an End Drive Barn it has a sloped entrance through the large double doors at the front and rear. Built on a cement slab, the lower section has a thick stone foundation. This is possibly the second or third barn to be built on Lot 1 of Concession 3 in Esqueping Township.

Typical of the pioneering story in Ontario in the 1830s, William Elliott came to Canada from Scotland in 1833. He settled on this land when the Base Line would be nothing more than wagon tracks. His son William Jr. followed in 1838.

A transformation took place in the following 50 years.

The Elliott family built the present stone Colonial style house in 1870 amid the bountiful orchard they had cultivated.

It was another 12 years before the present barn was constructed. To the pioneer farmer, the house was a subordinate structure to the main barn. He loved his barn and often had no indoor plumbing in his house but would spend thousands of dollars modernizing the dairy barn.

White pine
The English tradition was
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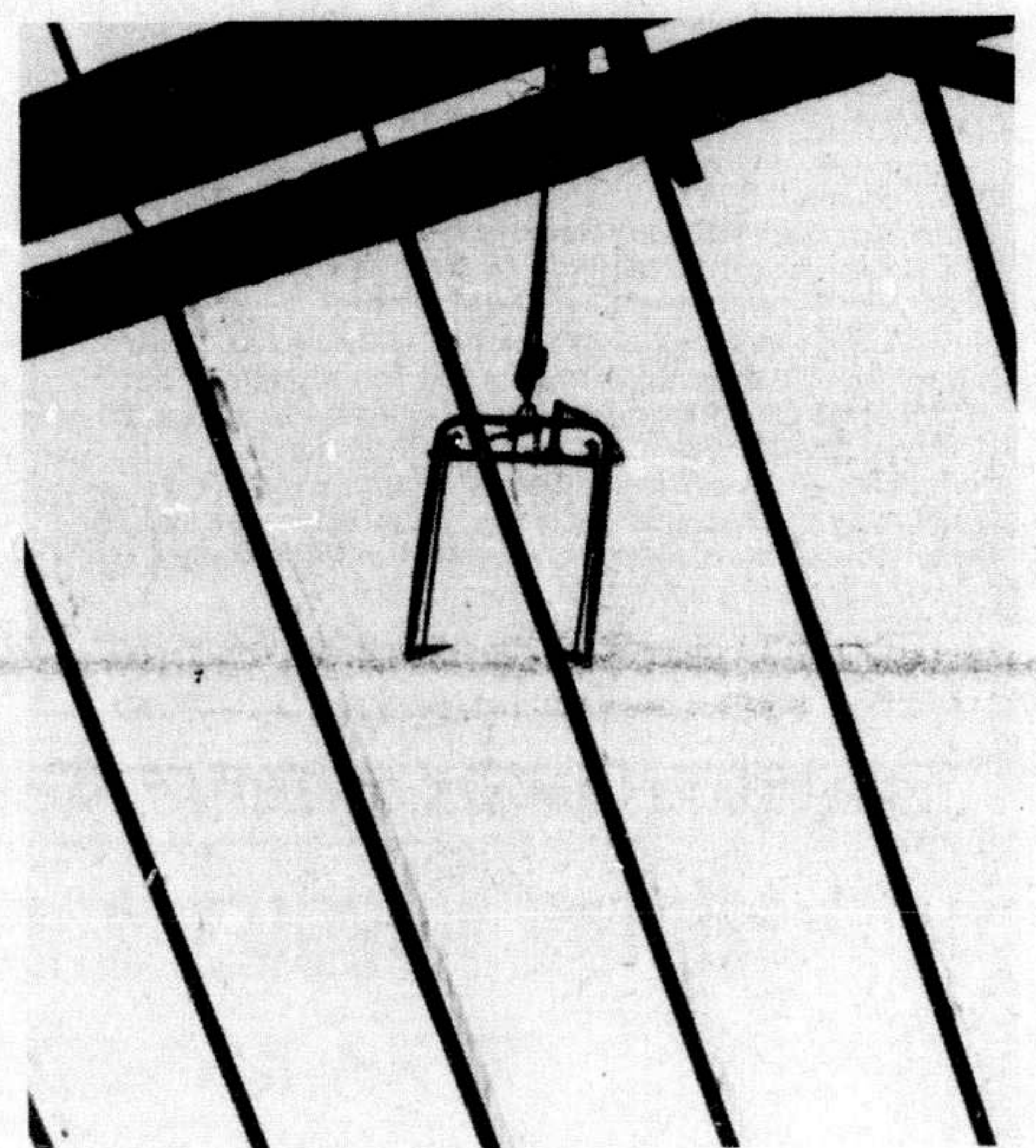
Harrop family

Although built by William Elliott in 1882, this barn will always be remembered in Milton as the Harrop barn. Edwin Harrop lived on the 200 acre farm with his family for 57 years.

There were five sons to help Mr. Harrop with his dairy farming. Cedric, David and Sam were his sons by his first wife Maude Hadley. He later married Alma Durnan and her boys Keith and Laurie joined the family.

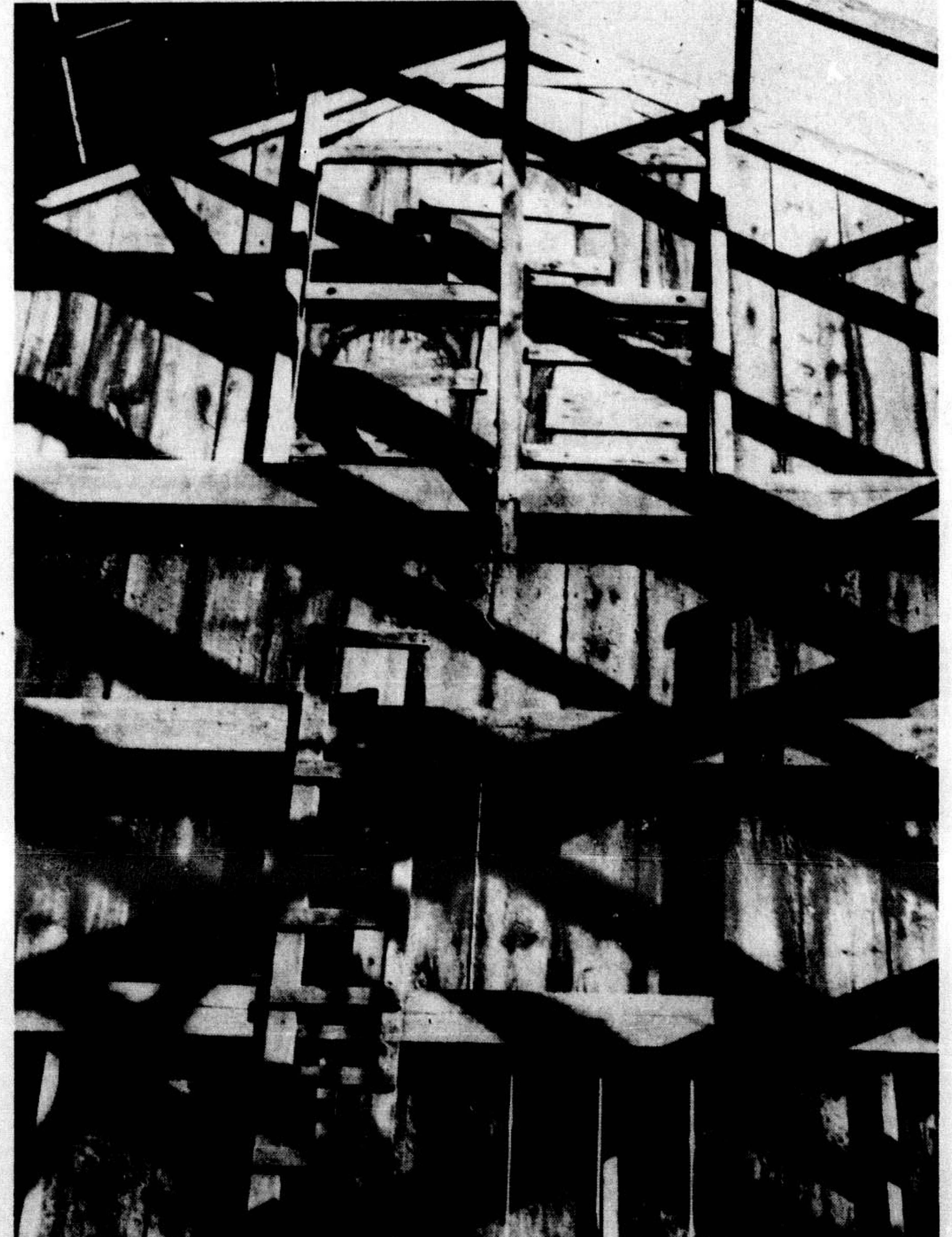
Cattle
Mr. Harrop had 100 head of cattle at one time, 35 of which were milking. His farming was done before the advent of the milking machine and Mr. Harrop kept a staff of two men as well as a woman to help in the house.

Now living with his son Sam in Fergus, Mr. Harrop is happy to hear the barn is being moved to the Agricultural Museum. "I'm glad they're taking it down as I've always had a fear of it burning down," he said. "There's a lot of valuable timber in that barn, particularly the



BALE HOOK swings forlornly as the barn is being dismantled. The low pitched roof had wooden shingles. When the barn is rebuilt at Kelso it will be used as a showhouse for old farm machinery.

beautiful white pine beams." with his four sisters for seven years. He continued on there after his marriage until he sold it a couple of years ago.



ROOF OFF on one side allows light inside, showing the wide vertical barnboard siding. Shadows criss-cross the wide beams and fall on the many ladders inside the structure.