

COLORADO SUPPLY COMPANY STORE NUMBER 31,
TERCIO, COLORADO: A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

by

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	ii
ABSTRACT	v
LIST OF FIGURES	vi
CHAPTER	
1. INTRODUCTION	1
2. TERCIO, COLORADO	6
2.1 The Maxwell Land Grant	7
2.2 Involvement of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company	9
2.3 The CF&I Company Towns	11
2.4 The CF&I Sociological Department	13
2.5 The Location	15
2.6 The People	17
2.7 Town Planning and Structures	22
3. THE COLORADO SUPPLY COMPANY STORE NUMBER THIRTY-ONE	36
3.1 An Introduction to Chapter 3	36
3.2 Architectural Description and Material Analysis	37
3.3 The Designers	57
3.4 Present Condition	58

4. THE COMPANY STORE	64
4.1 An Introduction to Chapter 4	64
4.2 The Company's Point of View	64
4.3 The Miner's Point of View	66
4.4 Middle Ground in Southern Colorado	68
4.5 The Stores	69
5. TERCIO'S PAST AND ITS FUTURE	88
5.1 The End of the Tercio Line	88
5.2 Conclusion	89
BIBLIOGRAPHY	100
APPENDIX A - PAY ROLL STATEMENTS	103
APPENDIX B - FREDERICK JUNIUS STERNER	110
APPENDIX C - MEASURED DRAWINGS	124

ABSTRACT

Historic buildings stand as visual reminders of the past. They are the containers of history and memories, and to preserve them is to preserve history.

The Colorado Supply Company Store at Tercio, Colorado is the only remaining structure of a once vital coal mining community. Its physical presence is largely unchanged from the day it first opened, but it has accumulated a century of heritage.

The purpose of this paper is to bring to light the factors that led to the building of the Company Store at Tercio, to study its physical properties, and to bring the memory of the place to life in the mind of the reader in a way that is honest and respectful of the coal miners and their families. This paper will show that this is a structure that is historically significant and worthy of preservation.

The Colorado Supply Company Store at Tercio is a bold reminder of the past, and needs to be preserved for the future.

LIST OF FIGURES

2.1. Locator Map for Las Animas County, Colorado	10
2.2. Coal Mining Towns in Las Animas County, Colorado	12
2.3. Italian Coke Pullers at the Coke Ovens in Tercio	20
2.4. Miners' Families at a Picnic in Tercio on July Fourth	20
2.5. Photograph of D.P. Jones, First Manager of the Company Store at Tercio	21
2.6. Photograph of W.L. Conway, M.D., Company Surgeon at Tercio	21
2.7. The Train Depot at Tercio, with Coke Ovens in the Background	23
2.8. The Mining Office, Coke Ovens, Washer and Tipple at Tercio	23
2.9. Town Plan of Tercio, Colorado, 1903	24
2.10. Row of Miners' Houses at Tercio	26
2.11. Floor Plan of a Typical Four-Room Miner's House	27
2.12. Floor Plans of Three-Room and Four-Room Miner's Houses	28
2.13. Tercio Club House, 1905	31
2.14. Tercio Club House/Bath House, 1905	31
2.15. The Beaman School at Tercio, Colorado, 1903	33
2.16. Tercio, Mexican Church at Torres, 1901	33
2.17. Torres Cemetery, 2001	35
3.1. Picture of Tercio's Company Store Appearing in <i>Camp and Plant</i> , 1904	37
3.2. Lower Floor Plan of The Company Store at Tercio, Colorado	39
3.3. Main Floor Plan of The Company Store at Tercio, Colorado	40

3.4. Upper Floor Plan of The Company Store at Tercio, Colorado	41
3.5. Upper Floor Dormer, East Elevation, South End	44
3.6. Ogee Molding and Brackets on the North Facade of The Company Store	44
3.7. Main Entrance (North Facade) of The Company Store at Tercio	45
3.8. Main Entrance Doors with Gothic Arch Openings	47
3.9. West Facade of The Company Store at Tercio	47
3.10. Lower Floor Window, West Facade, North End	48
3.11. Door on West Facade, North End	48
3.12. Roof Shelter Over Door on West Facade	49
3.13. Hopper Window on East Facade, Main Floor	49
3.14. South Facade of The Company Store at Tercio	52
3.15. East Facade of The Company Store at Tercio	52
3.16. Exterior Storage Room Doors, East Facade, South End	53
3.17. Lower Level Interior, Showing Structural Beams and Stairs to Main Floor . . .	53
3.18. Interior of the Main Store Area, Looking South	55
3.19. Rafters and Support Beams of West Side Dormer	55
3.20. Detail of Structural Beams and Supports	56
3.21. Deterioration of Wooden Steps and Lower Stone Wall at Main Entrance	60
3.22. Mortar and Stone Damage at the East Facade's Main Door	60
3.23. Fracture Along Mortar Joint Below Window on South Facade	61
3.24. Bank/Post Office Area Showing Bird Droppings and Extensive Vandalism . . .	61
4.1. Colorado Supply Company Store Number One at Sopris, Colorado	71

4.2. Colorado Supply Company Store Number Two at “Old” Rouse, Colorado	71
4.3. Colorado Supply Company Store Number Three at Pictou, Colorado	72
4.4. Colorado Supply Company Store Number Four at Spring Gulch, Colorado	72
4.5. Colorado Supply Company Store Number Five at Floresta, Colorado	73
4.6. Colorado Supply Company Store Number Seven at Orient, Colorado	73
4.7. Colorado Supply Company Store Number Eight at Cardiff, Colorado	74
4.8. Colorado Supply Company Store Number Nine at Crested Butte, Colorado	74
4.9. Colorado Supply Company Store Number 10 at Rockvale, Colorado	75
4.10. Colorado Supply Company Store Number 11 at Brookside, Colorado	75
4.11. Colorado Supply Company Store Number 12 at Coal Creek, Colorado	76
4.12. Colorado Supply Company Store Number 13 at Sunlight, Colorado	76
4.13. Colorado Supply Company Store Number 14 at Starkville, Colorado	77
4.14. Colorado Supply Company Store Number 15 at San Carlos, Colorado	77
4.15. Colorado Supply Company Store Number 16 at Walsen, Colorado	78
4.16. Colorado Supply Company Store Number 17 at Santa Clara, Colorado	88
4.17. Colorado Supply Company Store Number 18 at Pueblo, Colorado	79
4.18. Colorado Supply Company Store Number 19 at Madrid, New Mexico	79
4.19. Colorado Supply Company Store Number 20 at Placita, Colorado	80
4.20. Colorado Supply Company Store Number 21 at Gallup, New Mexico	80
4.21. Colorado Supply Company Store Number 22 at Gibson, New Mexico	81
4.22. Colorado Supply Company Store Number 23 at Catalpa, New Mexico	81
4.23. Colorado Supply Company Store Number 24 at Redstone, Colorado	82

4.24. Colorado Supply Company Store Number 26 at Coalbasin, Colorado	82
4.25. Colorado Supply Company Store Number 27 at Sunrise, Wyoming	83
4.26. Colorado Supply Company Store Number 28 at Primero, Colorado	83
4.27. Colorado Supply Company Store Number 29 at Segundo, Colorado	84
4.28. Colorado Supply Company Store Number 30 at Tabasco, Colorado	84
4.29. Colorado Supply Company Store Number 31 at Tercio, Colorado	85
4.30. Colorado Supply Company Store Number 32 at Hezron, Colorado	85
4.31. Colorado Supply Company Store Number 33 (retail) at Trinidad, Colorado	86
4.32. Colorado Supply Company Store Number 34 (wholesale) at Trinidad, Colorado	86
4.33. Colorado Supply Company Store Number 35 at Cuatro, Colorado	87
4.34. Colorado Supply Company Store Number 36 at Pueblo, Colorado	87
4.35. Colorado Supply Company Store Number 37 at Berwind, Colorado	87
5.1. Main Entrance of The Company Store at Tercio, April 18, 1910	93
5.2. Main Entrance of The Company Store at Tercio, March 7, 2002	93
5.3 Interior West Wall of The Company Store at Tercio, 1907	94
5.4. Interior West Wall of The Company Store at Tercio, 2002	94
5.5. Interior East Wall of The Company Store at Tercio, 1907	95
5.6. Interior East Wall of The Company Store at Tercio, 2002	95
5.7. Interior of The Tercio Store in 1949, its Last Year of Operatio.	96
5.8. Interior of The Tercio Store, 2002	96
5.9. Interior of The Tercio Store, Facing South, April 18, 1910	97
5.10. Interior of The Tercio Store, Facing South, March 7, 2002	97

5.11. The Tercio Post Office During its Last Years of Operation-Late 1940's	98
5.12. The Tercio Post Office, March 7, 2002	98
5.13. Advertisement for The Colorado Supply Company	99
A.1. Payroll Statement From Tercio Mine	105
A.2. Payroll Statement From Tercio Mine	106
A.3. Payroll Statement From Colorado & Wyoming Railway	107
A.4. Payroll Statement From Colorado & Wyoming Railway	108
A.5. Payroll Statement From Colorado & Wyoming Railway	109
B.1. Self-portrait by Frederick Junius Sterner	112
B.2. The Denver Club	114
B.3. The Denver Athletic Club	115
B.4. Charlene Place Apartments	116
B.5. The Holzman House	117
B.6. Residence at 1437 High Street in Denver	119
B.7. The Sykes-Nicholson-Moore House	119
B.8. The Tears-McFarlane House	120
B.9. The First Church of Christ Scientist	120
B.10. The Chapel at The Oakes Home (St. Elizabeth's Retreat Chapel)	121
B.11. The Daniels & Fisher Tower	121
C.1. Lower Floor Plan of the Tercio Company Store	126
C.2. Main Floor Plan of the Tercio Company Store	127
C.3. Mezzanine Floor Plan of the Tercio Company Store	128

C.4. West Elevation of the Tercio Company Store 129

C.5. East Elevation of the Tercio Company Store 130

C.6. North and South Elevations of the Tercio Company Store 131

C.7. Section Through the Tercio Company Store (looking South) 132

C.8. Decorative Roof Bracket Details 133

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

“A building is not something you finish.
A building is something you start.”¹

A building is much more than its technical definition of “a roofed and walled structure built for permanent use.”² A building is more than a sum of its parts. It initially represents the workmanship and planning involved in its early development. Then, over time, if a building is successful, it becomes a lasting part of the human experience. It begins to take on human traits and to develop a character of its own, and it becomes a part of our collective memory.

Memory, as it relates to architecture, is one of the major arguments championed by nineteenth century English writer and critic, John Ruskin. His most famous work, *The Seven Lamps of Architecture*, states that one of the primary duties in respect to a nation’s architecture is to preserve, as the most precious of inheritances, that of past ages.³ Architecture treated in this manner becomes a representation of a nation’s past, and its memory.

¹Stewart Brand, *How Buildings Learn: What Happens After They’re Built* (New York: Viking, 1994), 188.

²Webster’s New Collegiate Dictionary (1980), s.v. “Building.”

³John Ruskin, *The Seven Lamps of Architecture*, Dover, ed. (New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1989), 178.

But why do we need this kind of memory? According to psychologists, we begin at a very early age to record our experiences and draw upon them time and time again throughout our lives. It is an intrinsic part of being human to try to link our present to our past.⁴ Author Omar Cabezas eloquently explains the link between our memory and our past in the following paragraph:

Ideas and memories are the most intimate part of man, where nobody can scrutinize, where not even the harshness of the mountains can penetrate - the only thing nature cannot easily transform. You nourish your memories, and when you lie down in your hammock at night you hold your memories close to you . . . You might say that the only umbilical cord, the only thread that still binds you to the past, or to the present which has become the past, is idea, memory.⁵

Memory goes beyond mere feelings of nostalgia; it is our way of developing a sense of who we are. We cling to photographs and possessions of our ancestors, not simply because of the monetary value, but because of the sentimentality of our personal connection to the past. There is a quote from *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck, that summarizes this idea. The scene occurs when the women are packing their belongings for the move from Oklahoma to California. In trying to decide which possessions to take with them, one asks, "How can we live without our lives? How will we know it's us without our past?"⁶

⁴Susan Engel, *Context is Everything: The Nature of Memory* (New York: W.H. Freeman and Company, 1999), 82.

⁵Omar Cabezas, *Fire From the Mountains* (New York: Crown, 1985), 205.

⁶John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath*, paperback ed. (New York: Penguin Books, 1992), 120.

Buildings are often the stage of our memories. We can remember playing on the porch steps, daydreaming out a window or the echo of a slamming door. Cathedrals leave us awe-struck and libraries coax us into silence. Buildings can have a profound effect on people, and a special relationship exists between the two.

Authors such as Stewart Brand and Ada Louise Huxtable suggest that buildings are living and constantly evolving entities. Brand believes that human beings and buildings learn from one another. For instance, a man decides to add a porch to the southwest corner of a house to solve the problem of excessive sunlight and heat during the summer months. The porch, in turn, might invite the addition of a garde, some benches or a path. The house will evolve in a Darwinian manner, correcting its known weaknesses in order to survive and flourish. Brand calls the buildings that successfully adapt to human intervention “lovable buildings.” This means that they work well, they suit the people in them, and that they show their age and history.⁷ In other words, they are capable of gracefully accepting the demands that we place on them.

Huxtable also believes in the evolution of buildings, and that they should change as society changes. She cautions against false history, stating that to attempt to re-create a previous time in space is not preservation, but perversion. In addressing the issue of replicating historic structures, she sites the reasons that she is opposed to such actions: “Alas, we can think of many reasons why not. They have to do with the value of a lively original versus a dead copy, the integrity of a work of art as expressive of its time, the

⁷Brand, *How Buildings Learn*, 188-209.

folly of second-hand substitutes for first-rate inventions, the esthetics and ethics of duplication measured against the creative act.”⁸

The title of Huxtable’s essay, *Where Ghosts Can Be at Home*, summarizes her belief that once a building is demolished, so is its history. Ghosts and history have no place in new “historic” structures. She goes on to say that the past becomes real by its legitimate and handsome contrasts with the present, and she calls for the best of contemporary style, life and uses in the old buildings.⁹

What Huxtable is advocating is the preservation and adaptive use of historic structures. This means taking actions to prevent the deterioration of buildings, keeping them in good repair, and finding ways for the to effectively serve today’s society. Pure preservation has its place in settings such as the wilderness or house museums, but its need is somewhat limited. The demands that our ever-expanding population are placing on the earth call for us to creatively use the resources that we have available to us, including our built environment. The challenge is to use and re-use buildings while respecting their origins.

We intuitively know that buildings are viable, and that they house memories and stories of the past. An old building may be said to have a certain “feeling” to it, or to give off positive or negative energy. People say, “If only these walls could talk,” when expressing their desire to know what has taken place within them. Architectural theorists

⁸Ada Louise Huxtable, *Will They Ever Finish Bruckner Boulevard?* (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1970), 210.

⁹*Ibid.* 221.

have referred to this phenomenon as *topos* or *genus loci* - the spirit of a place. This idea was validated in a 1976 compilation of papers by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Contributor, Giorgio Cavaglieri, stated that, “The main benefit of restoration and reconstruction will always be the increase in real estate value obtained through the identifiable element of character.”¹⁰ Whether it is called character, spirit or memory, the idea is that the building is alive and is an integral part of the events that it has witnessed, and it needs human interaction in order to survive.

A successful building needs to be periodically changed and refreshed, or it will turn into nothing more than a corpse. Adaptation of a building is not an end state, but is a part of the ongoing relationship between it and the people it serves. If a building were ever truly completed, that relationship would cease to exist. The scaffolding was never taken completely down around medieval cathedrals because that would have implied that they were finished and perfect, and that would have been an insult to God.¹¹

In the following pages, the only visible memory of the once vital town of Tercio, Colorado will be studied - The Colorado Supply Company Store Number Thirty-One. The argument will be made for its adaptive use based not just on governmental guidelines, but on its character, its value within the community of Tercio, its architectural merit and its place in Colorado and American history.

¹⁰Giorgio Cavaglieri, “Plus Factors of Old Buildings” in *Preservation & Conservation: Principles and Practices* (Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1976), 57.

¹¹Brand, *How Buildings Learn*, 209.

CHAPTER 2

TERCIO, COLORADO

Up South Fork of the Picketwire
Lies the ghost town of Tercio
The third camp of CF & I
On Maxwell Grant of long ago.

You can see where the railroad ran
A cinder fill across the land
The wye curved out across the field
Where coke ovens used to stand

The ovens are a mound of bricks
Against the north side canyon wall
The blackened wasted coal mine piles
Show Tercio's rise and fall.

Tercio's ghosts sleep quietly
There's scarcely ever a sound
Until the wind sighs through the pines
And flaps a shingle around.

William H. McKenzie
August 5, 1976¹

¹William H. McKenzie, *Mountain to Mill: The Colorado and Wyoming Railway* (Colorado Springs: MAC Publishing, Inc., 1982), 154.

2.1 The Maxwell Land Grant

During the nineteenth century, ownership of the land that is now the southwestern United States was being contested by Spain, Mexico and the United States. In 1806, United States military man, Zebulon Montgomery Pike, was dispatched for the purpose of determining national boundaries. In spite of such efforts, control of this land would remain in question for many years.²

In 1841, a large tract of land in the northern frontier of the Republic of Mexico was granted to Mexican citizens Charles Beaubien and Guadalupe Miranda. The conditions required that they bring families in to settle the area and ward off outside political interests. The grant covered 1,714,765 acres that ran from present-day Springer, New Mexico northward to Trinidad, Colorado and west to the Sangre de Cristo mountain range.³

It was The Mexican American War that changed the map. After the 1848 United States victory, that placed the grant within the United States territory, Miranda moved to Mexico and sold his share to Beaubien.⁴ Lucien B. Maxwell, businessman, hunter and outdoorsman, married Carlos' daughter, Luz Beaubien. The couple acquired much of the grant land from Mr. Beaubien and began buying parcels from other parties. The new

²Duane A. Smith and Kate Shuchter, *Colorado: Our Colorful State* (Niwot, Colorado: University Press of Colorado, 1999), 11.

³Patrick L. Donachy, *Echoes of Yesteryear - Las Animas County: Things You Should Know, Places You Should Go - Volume I: Coal-The Kingdom Below* (Trinidad, Colorado: The Inkwell, 1983), 1-2.

⁴McKenzie, *Mountain to Mill*, 30.

grant was confirmed by Congress in 1860, and the Maxwell Land Grant became one of the largest acreage sites in the western states.⁵

This land was rich and ideal for grazing and farming. The mountain streams which flowed through it provided ditch water for irrigating fields of hay, alfalfa and other crops. In addition to farming, the land also supported cattle ranching, lumbering and a small amount of gold mining. However, the primary natural and financial resource of the Maxwell Land Grant was coal.⁶

The coal beds of the Maxwell Land Grant were within the Raton Basin, where immense quantities of coal remained untapped. It was the soft bituminous coal used both domestically and industrially. Its usefulness was primarily in coking and firing purposes in steel manufacturing.⁷ There were four groups of coal seams, of late Cretaceous Age, known locally as the Trinidad Formation. The intrusion of large amounts of magma from the bowels of the earth into the coal measures, or adjacent to them, increased the chemical reaction and transformed these deposits into a high grade of coking coal.⁸ Turn-of-the-century estimates indicated that about 16,000,000,000 tons were available in this area. It was said that all the coal from the Trinidad portion of the basin would last for more than 600 years at a production level requiring more than 4,000 train cars hauling daily.

⁵Donachy, *Echoes of Yesteryear*, 2.

⁶McKenzie, *Mountain to Mill*, 31.

⁷Donachy, *Echoes of Yesteryear*, 2.

⁸R.M. Hosea, "The Primero Mines" in *Mines and Minerals*, XXIV, no. 11 (June, 1904), 251.

And so at this point where the prairies rise to meet the mountains, the Maxwell Land Grant would provide southern Colorado with the bittersweet fruits of coal mining.⁹

2.2 Involvement of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company

Colorado was a young state as the end of the nineteenth century approached, and the Industrial Revolution was in full swing. A prime contributor to Colorado's economic growth in the 1870's was the Denver and Rio Grande Railway. With routes radiating in every direction from Denver, Pueblo and Colorado Springs, miles upon miles of tracks had to be produced.

At the turn of the century, the primary steel producer west of the Mississippi River was the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company's (CF&I) Minnequa Works, located in Pueblo. In the interest of keeping money recirculating through its own hands, CF&I sought the purchase of the fuel needed to power Minnequa Works.¹⁰

In 1901, CF&I purchased the portion of the Maxwell Land Grant located in southern Colorado, including mineral and other rights. Most of the land purchased, which covered approximately 258,000 acres, was situated in the southwest section of Las Animas County, in the Purgatoire Valley (Fig. 2.1).¹¹ The company was already

⁹Donachy, *Echoes of Yesteryear*, 3.

¹⁰Howard Lee Scamehorn, *Pioneer Steelmaker in the West* (Boulder, Colorado: Pruett Publishing Company, 1976), 7.

¹¹Donachy, *Echoes of Yesteryear*, 2.

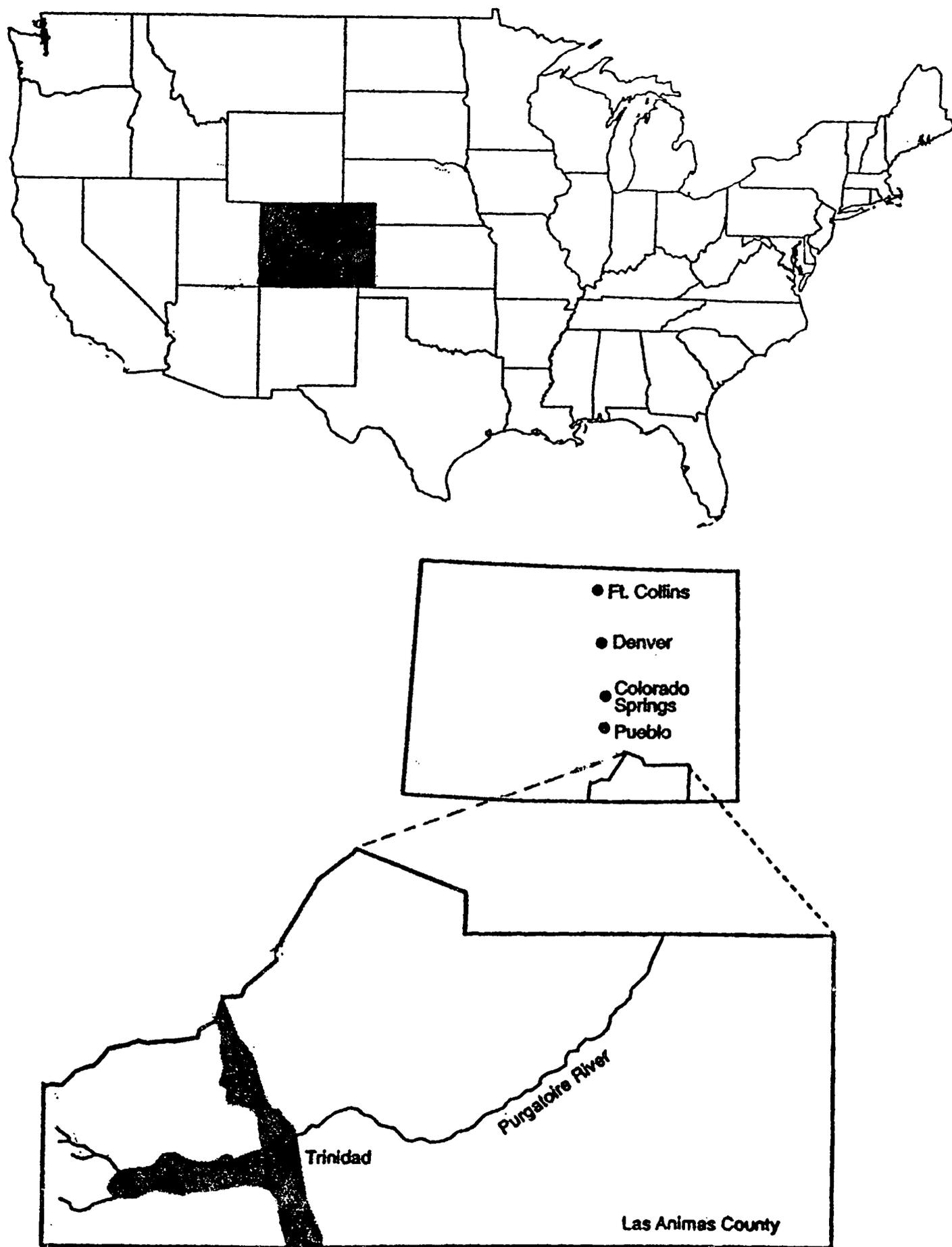


Figure 2.1 Locator map for Las Animas County, Colorado.
Source: Rick J. Clyne, *Coal People: Life in Southern Colorado's Company Towns, 1890-1930* (Denver: The Colorado Historical Society, 1999), 3.

operating six coal mining camps in Las Animas County, and with the new land acquisition, it would establish ten more over the next seventeen years (Fig. 2.2).

2.3 The CF&I Company Towns

Company-owned coal mining towns began to dot the landscape of Las Animas county in the 1880s. But these were not typical settlements that grew gradually from being in advantageous locations. These were towns that were strategically placed near coal beds for the sole purpose of accommodating coal miners and their families.

Company towns located near enough to existing non-company towns were known as “open” or “partially open.” This meant that the company did not have to supply all the necessities of life for employees living in the town. In more remote locations, it was necessary for the company to supply everything for the town’s residents. In these “closed communities,” religious worship, education, politics and virtually all social events were closely connected to or controlled by the company.¹²

Company towns in America went through three phases of development. The first was the pioneer or frontier stage that lasted from the 1880s to the start of World War I. The second, the paternalistic phase, lasted until the Great Depression of the 1930s. The final phase was defined by the decline of the American company town, ending during the 1950s.¹³

¹²Ibid., 43.

¹³Crandall A. Shifflett, *Coal Towns: Life, Work, and Culture in Company Towns of Southern Appalachia, 1880-1960* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1991), 48.

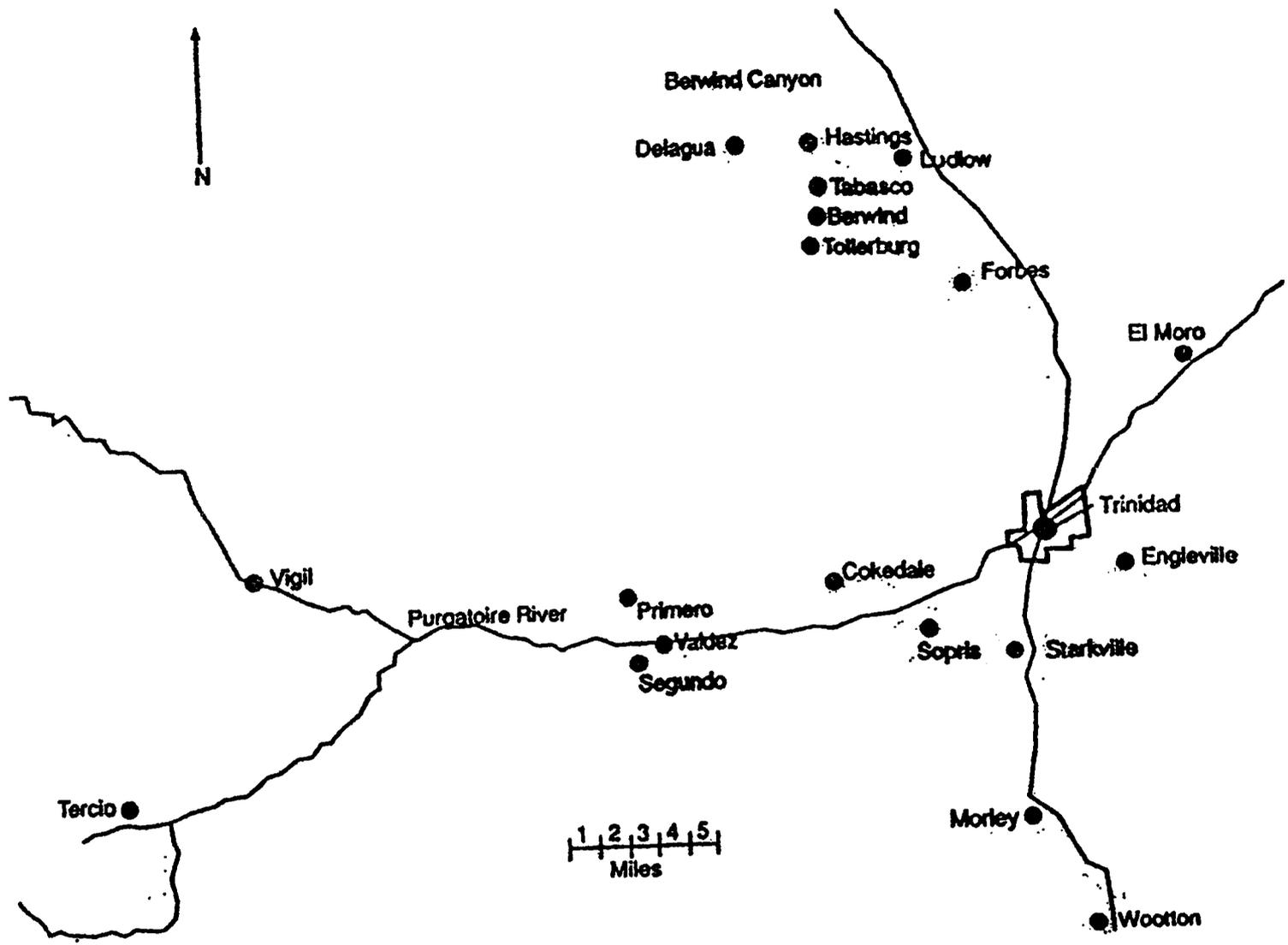


Figure 2.2 Coal mining towns in Las Animas County, Colorado.
 Source: Rick J. Clyne, *Coal People: Life in Southern Colorado's Company Towns, 1890-1930* (Denver: The Colorado Historical Society, 1999), 17.

Following the pattern, the phases of Colorado's early coal mining towns are easily recognized. Prior to 1900, the majority of the region's miners were from northern Europe, usually single males who had been removed from their culture's expectations of social behavior, and who often engaged in exaggerated outbursts of activity. These men had little reason to develop long-term community ties. But in the 1890s, the demographics of Colorado's mining towns began to change. More immigrants were coming from southern and eastern Europe, and they either brought their families with them or sent for them as soon as they were financially able to do so. With these changes came the paternalistic phase of the CF&I company towns, which was marked by the creation of the company's Sociological Department on July 25, 1901.¹⁴

2.4 The CF&I Sociological Department

The CF&I Sociological Department was designed to take "general charge of all matters pertaining to education and sanitary conditions and other matters which should assist in bettering conditions under which our men live."¹⁵ In other words, CF&I wanted to turn its tent communities and coal camps into liveable communities for its employees and their families.

In the summer of 1901 it launched programs in five specific fields: education, social training, industrial training, housing and communications. Education of children

¹⁴Colorado Fuel and Iron Company, *Annual Report of the Sociological Department, 1901-1902* (Denver: Colorado Fuel and Iron Company, 1902).

¹⁵Ibid.

and adults was a primary concern. Children were provided a well-rounded education by qualified teachers. Adults were offered the chance to learn to speak and write in English, as well as to learn skills and crafts that were of interest to them. Some skills taught to the ladies, such as basket and lace production, allowed them to supplement their husbands' incomes through home industry activities. Some programs were designed to bring people from different towns together, to enhance feelings of camaraderie. Sports competitions, dances and other activities provided social connections for the towns' members and promoted communications between them. In addition, the Sociological Department published a bi-weekly illustrated paper called *Camp and Plant*. This publication, sold mostly to employees, served the dual purpose of stimulating a constructive attitude toward the company and a stronger esprit de corps among its employees. It also provided a means of communication from the Sociological and Medical Departments to the people.

Benefiting from this new method of operation were the company's first towns to be placed on the former Maxwell Land Grant. The towns known as Primero, Segundo, Tercio, Cuatro and Quinto, taken from Spanish ordinal names meaning first through fifth, sprang up west of Trinidad. Although initially created for the purpose of providing fuel to the CF&I steelworks in Pueblo, these mining camps became viable communities through the help of the company's Sociological Department.

One town in particular, Tercio, was to be a model community for the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company. Its careful planning, picturesque location and successful mining operations turned the Sociological Department's ideal into a reality.

2.5 The Location

Traveling west from Trinidad, toward the Sangre de Cristo mountain range, travelers encounter the evidence of coal mining in this region. The enormous slag piles and the coke ovens at Cokedale, the small towns of Valdez, Primero and Segundo, and the machinery that stands silent at the New Elk Mine are all reminders of a more prosperous time. A south turn onto a dirt road at Picketwire, the anglicized name for Purgatoire, leads down into El Valle de los Rancheros, or the Valley of the Farmers (or Ranchers). Located in the extreme southwest corner of Las Animas County, the valley was settled around 1880 by Hispanic migrants from Taos, Penasco, Mora and other communities in northern New Mexico. Bringing with them their means of livelihood in their native regions, they developed the area for farming and cattle ranching.¹⁶

At the head of the valley, three streams emerge from the slopes of the Sangre de Cristo mountain range to form the South Fork of the Purgatoire River. On a flat area in the opposite end of the valley, the CF&I town of Tercio would be built. In a modern day account of Colorado ghost towns, Robert L. Brown made note of the beauty that surrounded Tercio. "Of all the coal mining camps scattered throughout southern Colorado, Tercio probably had the most picturesque location. On three sides the site is cradled by low lying, thickly-wooded hills. To the north, the Sangre de Cristos push skyward in misty rows of cracked escarpments."¹⁷

¹⁶Jose M. Romero, *El Valle de los Rancheros* (Trinidad, Colorado: Jose M. Romero, 1978), 3-4, 7.

¹⁷Robert L. Brown, *Colorado Ghost Towns, Past and Present* (Caldwell, Idaho: The Caxton Printers, Ltd., 1972), 273.

In an article celebrating the establishment of CF&I's newest town, the August 13, 1902 edition of *Camp and Plant* had the following to say about Tercio's location:

"The environment of the camp is particularly attractive, even in a state far famed for its wondrous natural beauty. It is situated in one of the prettiest parks or valleys of Las Animas County, but six miles from the New Mexico line, and it is most abundantly watered by numerous springs and branches, which gives it the appearance of a continuous green lawn, built on a generous scale. It is surrounded on all sides by hills, green and well wooded, principally with firs and aspens, which suggest the altitude of some eight thousand feet above sea level. The climate is very bracing and salubrious, and suggests what the guide books and railroad pamphlets call "Colorado's beautiful climate," neither too hot nor too cold."¹⁸

In addition to its beautiful landscape, the valley is home to a large number of wildlife species. Depending on the season and climate conditions, the valley is inhabited by deer, bears, wild turkeys, foxes and coyotes, bald eagles and one of the country's largest elk herds.

Not always peaceful and serene, the region was once known as "the badlands" of Colorado. This was not because of geology, but because of the warfare waged between scattered resident squatters and the owners of the Maxwell Land Grant. But for the most part, the land remained a quiet farming area, largely undeveloped, until it was sold to the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company.¹⁹

One of the major drawbacks of the area is also one of the things that makes it special - its isolation. It is approximately ten miles from the nearest town, and well off the beaten path. There is one ranch on the road beyond the valley, so traffic is almost

¹⁸"Tercio, Colorado" in *Camp and Plant*, II, no. 6, (August 13, 1902), 132.

¹⁹*Ibid.*, 129.

nonexistent, except for wildlife observers and ranch hands. Although it is difficult to imagine when standing on the site today, it was once home to over a thousand people.

2.6 The People

Many faces from many different walks of life made up the population of Tercio, making it as rich in cultural assets as its surroundings were in natural resources. The coal camp first came into existence about November, 1901, and the town in 1902. It was first called Torres, after the family and settlement at the north end of the valley. The name was later changed to Rincon, Spanish for elbow, due to a sharp northward bend at the head of the valley. The name Tercero was settled upon when CF&I began identifying its new mining camps with Spanish ordinal names, but due to a company clerical error, it became officially known as Tercio.

The influence of the Spanish settlers has remained evident in the area. The nearby mountain range, the Sangre de Cristo, translated into English means “blood of Christ.” The name came from Spanish missionaries impressed by the red color that the snow-capped peaks take on at sunset. Las Animas Perdidas is the translation equivalent of “lost souls.” And although the Spanish influence is the most readily recognizable, the area was built by many cultures brought together for the common task of coal mining.

In 1901, among the employees of CF&I, there were 32 nationalities, speaking 27 different languages, excluding dialects. Few of the recent immigrants could speak

English, and even fewer were able to write.²⁰ *Camp and Plant*, which was printed in multiple languages for CF&I employees, reported in August, 1902, that the population of Tercio was made up of Italians, Mexicans and Americans, in the order of numbers as named (Fig. 2.3). In addition, there were Germans, Scotch, Irish, Swedes and one African employee.²¹

In spite of this ethnic diversity, the miners and their families were able to forge strong communities. The harsh realities of coal mining and the “us against them” feelings between employees and management prompted these groups to band together. Despite the efforts of The Sociological Department of CF&I to promote social interaction among the groups, a sense of community could not be imposed by management. Instead, it evolved as a means of defense against the company, isolation, and the traumatic nature of coal mining. Their interaction with one another was one of the few aspects of camp life that was in their control, especially in a “closed” community such as Tercio.²²

Author Agnes Smedley spent a portion of her early teenage years in Tercio. In a unique look at company town life from a woman’s point of view, she described life in Tercio as a world of opposites-nature and industry, community and desolation. In a nostalgic tone she recalled:

²⁰Scamehorn, *Pioneer Steelmaker in the West*, 152.

²¹“Tercio, Colorado” in *Camp and Plant*, II, no. 6, (August 13, 1902), 133.

²²Clyne, *Coal People*, 43.

“There were Sundays when the Mexicans for miles around would gather on the rolling hills surrounding the flats at the foot of the canyon, while competing teams, stripped to their underwear, played “skinney”. We all sat with them on the hills that formed a vast amphitheater and watched . . . There were evenings when the weather was fine and the men would remain outside our kitchen door after supper, talking and singing . . . Sometimes one of the men would take out a “French harp” and begin to play. Another would get up and dance.”²³

In addition to these kinds of regular occurrences, Tercio became the center of activity for all of the surrounding communities, including Trinidad (Fig. 2.4). There was an annual school picnic held in conjunction with eighth grade graduation ceremonies. Students from Engelville, Segundo, Primero, Cuatro and Tercio were present. In 1904, there were 319 students and parents and 14 teachers. By 1913, the attendance had grown to nearly 2,000 people.²⁴

Besides the miners and their families, there were also representatives of the company in each town. Some of these people, such as the school teachers, were accepted as a part of the community. The others were “outsiders” who were placed there by CF&I for the purpose of monitoring the business of coal mining. They were bookkeepers, bankers and business managers. In Tercio’s early days, the most prominent people were the mine superintendent, William Skidmore, the superintendent of construction, Linsey Connors and pit-boss Joseph Griffith. The CF&I mining office was run by J.L. McKee and a staff of four. The store and post office were under the direction of D.P. Jones, and the town surgeon was W.L. Conway, M.D. (Figs. 2.5, 2.6).²⁵

²³Agnes Smedley, *Daughter of Earth*, 2nd ed. (The Feminist Press, 1976), 114.

²⁴Nancy Christofferson, “Tercio is for Curious” in *Huerfano World* (September 19, 1996), 3.

²⁵“Tercio Colorado” in *Camp and Plant*, II, no. 6 (August 13, 1902), 130-132.

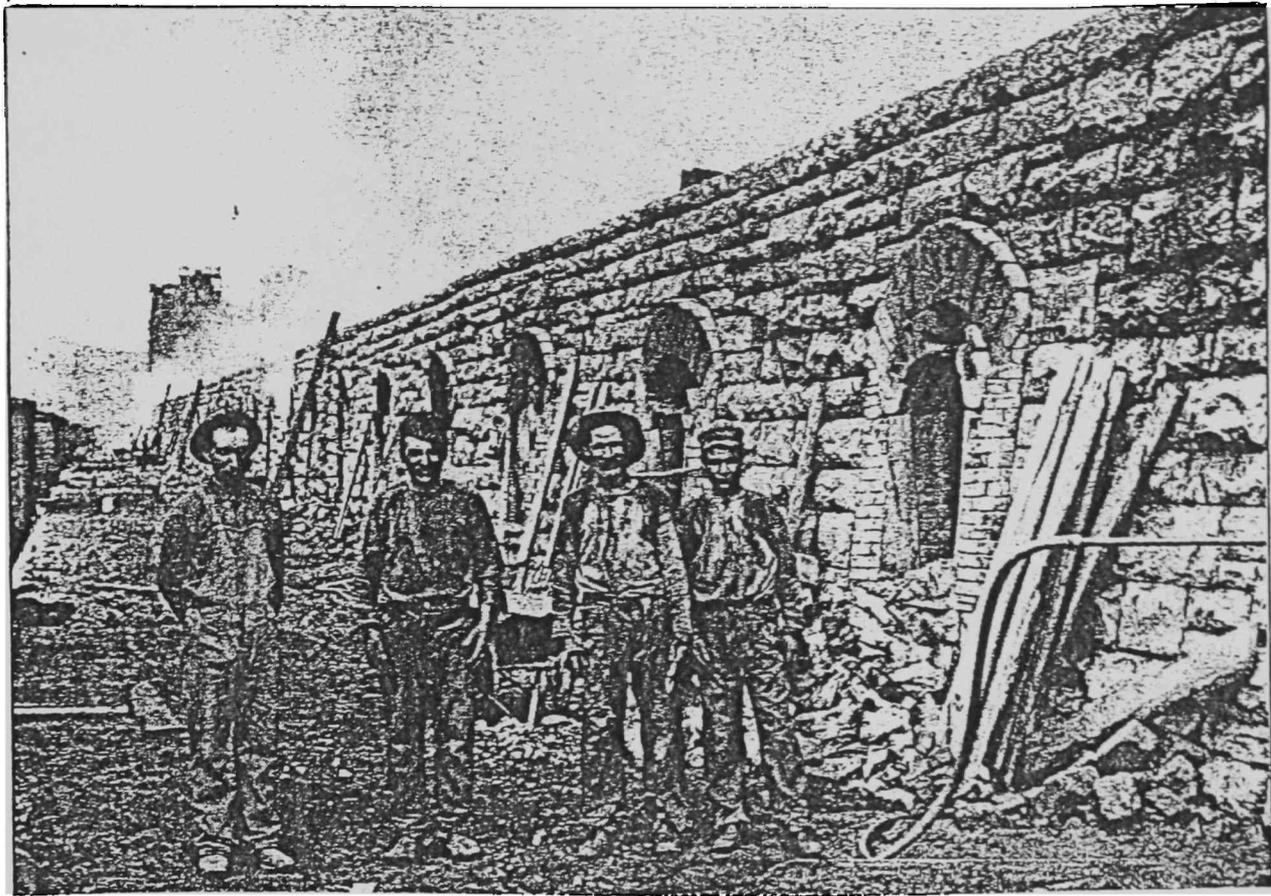


Figure 2.3 Italian coke pullers at the coke ovens in Tercio.

Source: Rick J. Clyne, *Coal People: Life in Southern Colorado's Company Towns, 1890-1930*, (Denver: The Colorado Historical Society, 1999), 35.

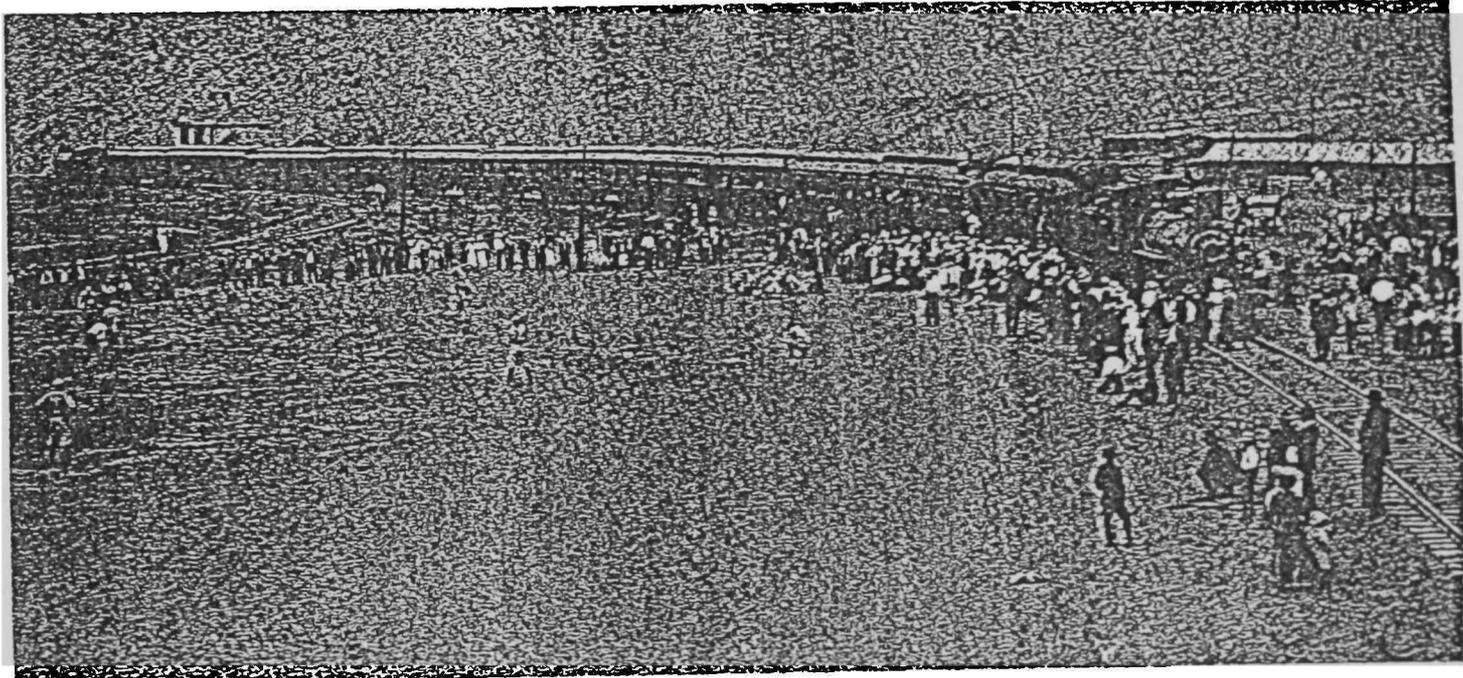


Figure 2.4 Miners and their families gather for a picnic and baseball game at Tercio on July 4. The year was probably 1912. The train from Trinidad is pulling in with a load of passengers.

Source: William H. McKenzie, *Mountain to Mill: The Colorado and Wyoming Railway* (Colorado Springs: MAC Publishing, Inc., 1982), 58.



Figure 2.5 Photograph of D.P. Jones, the first company store and post office manager at Tercio, Colorado.

Source: *Camp and Plant*, V, no. 11, (March 26, 1904), 274.



Figure 2.6 Photograph of W.L. Conway, M.D., company surgeon at Tercio, Colorado.

Source: *Camp and Plant*, II, no. 7, (August 16, 1902), 162.

In spite of their positions of power, these men were not nearly as vital to company operations or to the community as the men who performed the difficult and often dangerous job of extracting coal from the earth. To make the lives of these men and their families more tolerable, the Sociological Department of CF&I planned Tercio as one of its model towns, with careful attention to matters of sanitation and housing.

2.7 Town Planning and Structures

Tercio was connected to other coal camps by the Colorado and Wyoming Railway. The track from Weston to Tercio was completed on March 9, 1902.²⁶ The tracks entered the northeast portion of the valley where the business of coal mining took place. Here stood the depot, mining office, coke ovens, washers and tipples (Figs. 2.7, 2.8). Approximately a mile to the south, lay the town of Tercio. A town plan from 1903 shows approximately 150 structures scattered on a grid pattern, bisected by the north-south running Rincon Creek (Fig. 2.9). Closer to the railway were the CF&I Office and the Colorado and Wyoming Railway Depot. At the northern edge of town were the schoolhouse, superintendent's and foreman's houses, the barber shop and the company store and storehouse. The stables were located to the east of the community, with miners' houses making up the remainder of the plan.

Housing for miners was given little thought prior to the creation of the Sociological Department. In many cases, miners had constructed their own houses on

²⁶Christofferson, "Tercio is for Curious," 2.

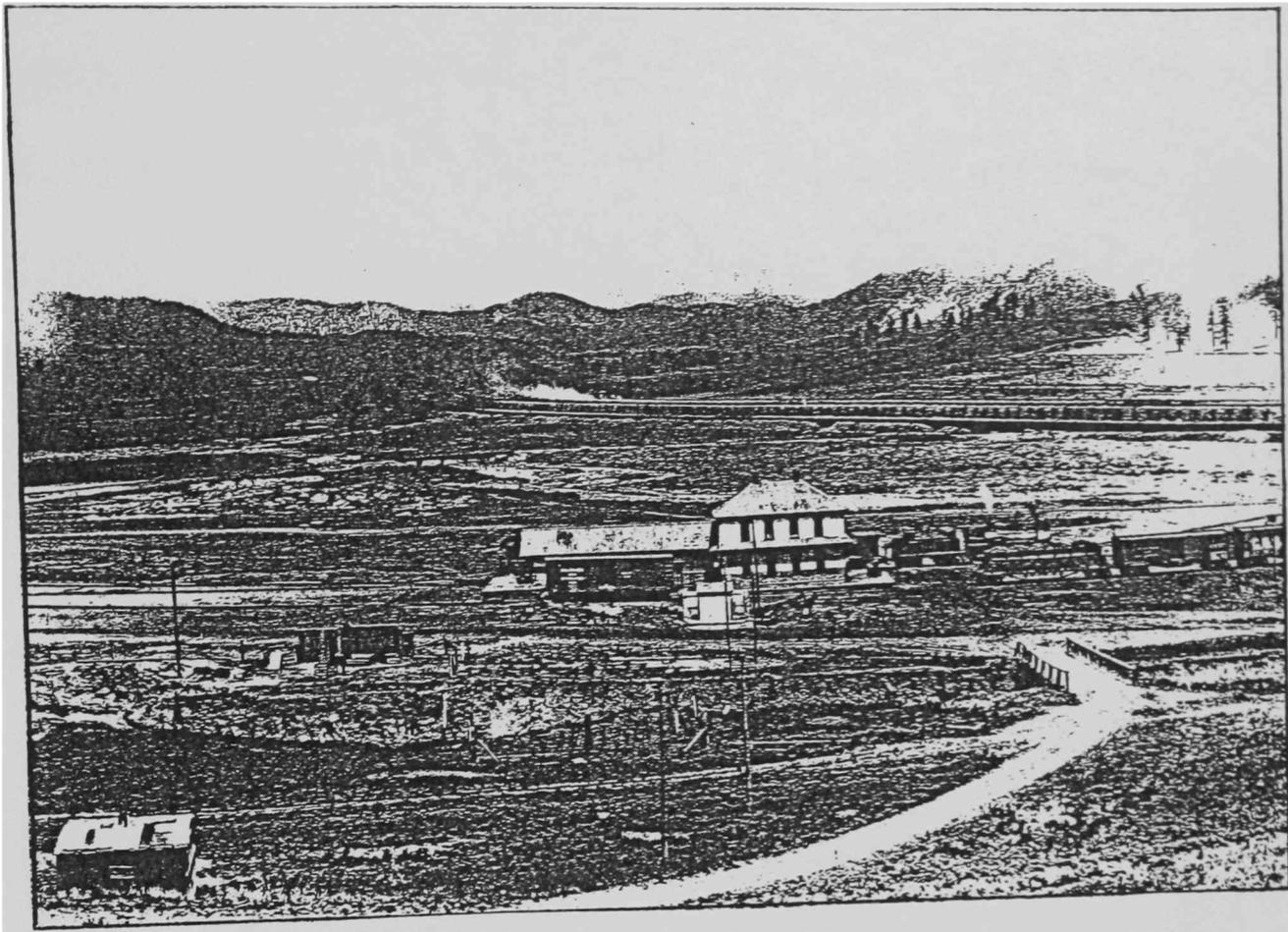


Figure 2.7 The depot at Tercio, Colorado, with coke ovens in the background.
Source: Courtesy of Abilene Christian University, Department of History.

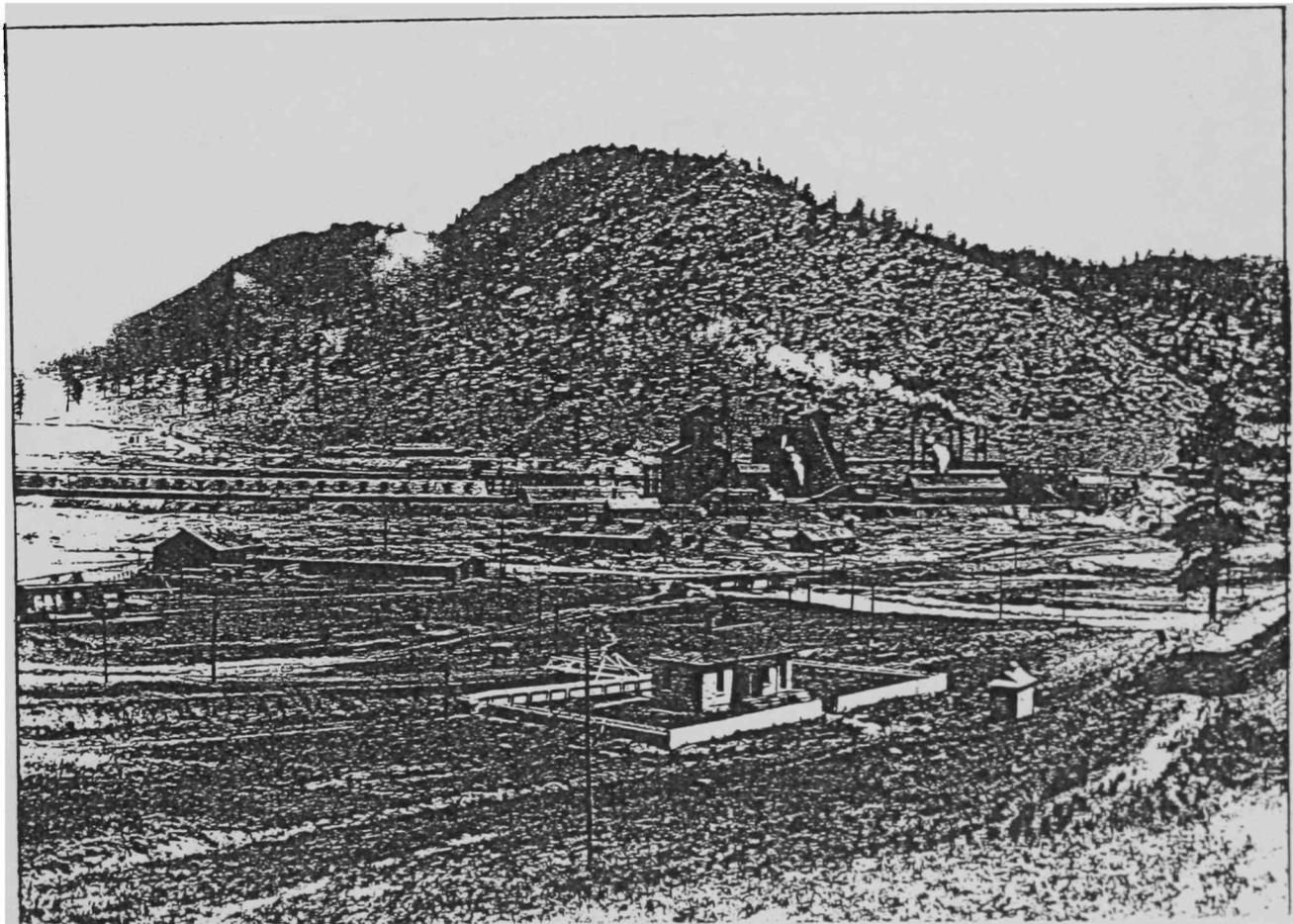


Figure 2.8 The mining office (foreground), coke ovens, washer and tipple at Tercio Colorado. (Note: The depot is located in the center of the photograph.)
Source: Courtesy of Abilene Christian University, Department of History.

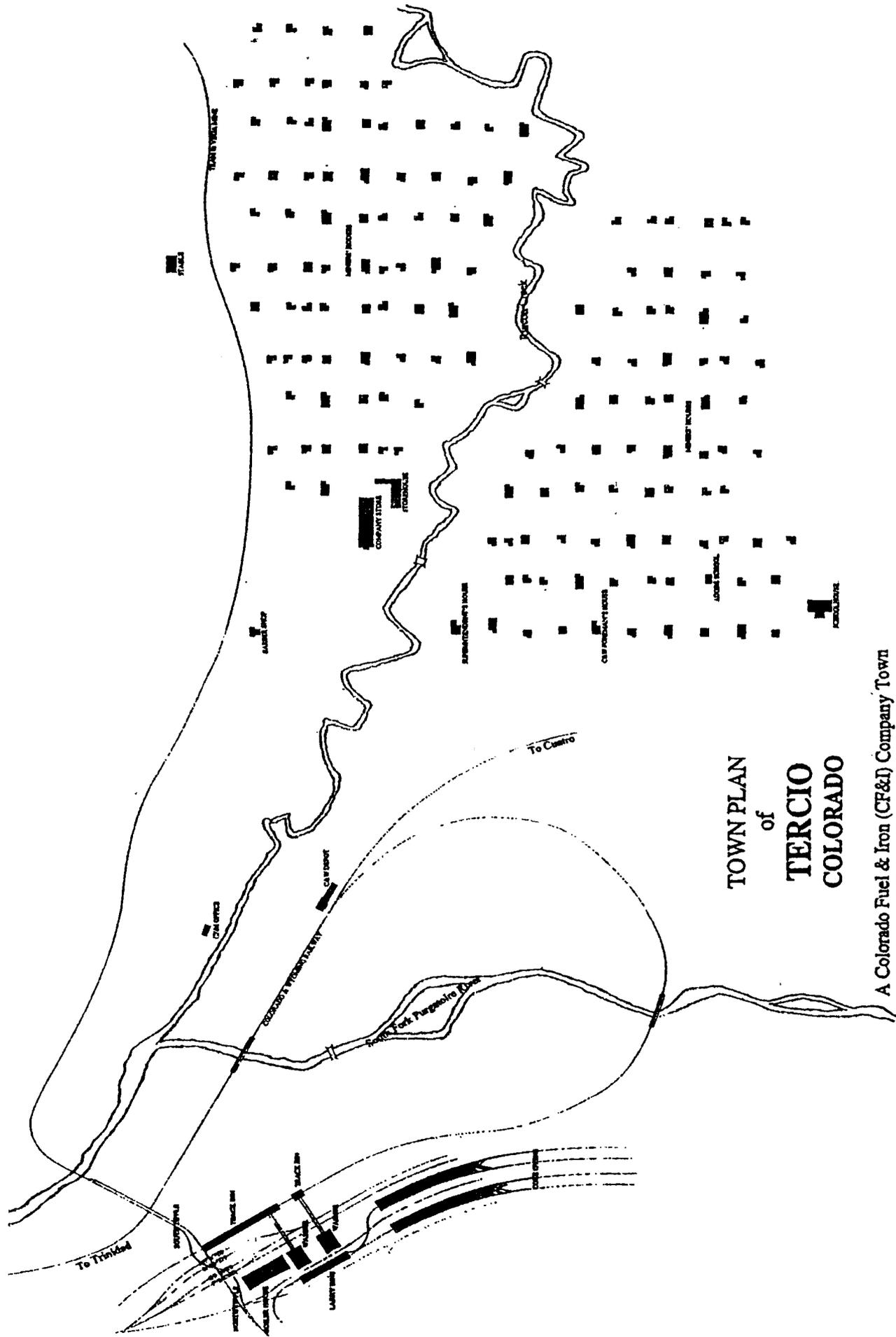


Figure 2.9 Town plan of Tercio, Colorado, 1903.
 Source: Gary L. Lindsey, *Creating Presence: The Early Twentieth Century Company Store in Three Coal Mining Towns in Southern Colorado* (Master's Thesis: Abilene Christian University, 1998), 166.

corporate property according to their own ideas of beauty and function. They were as mixed as the cultural backgrounds of their inhabitants, varying from neat, practical frame units, to log cabins, adobes, dugouts and shacks.²⁷

The later towns, including Tercio, benefitted from the cooperation of the Sociological Department and the Fuel Department in designing homes that were comfortable, attractive and sanitary. Although very similar in character, dwellings of various sizes were created on streets laid out on a rectangular pattern. Pipes were installed to carry water from a central reservoir to all parts of town for domestic use and fire protection. Homes were rented to miners for \$2.00 per room per month, and when available, electricity was provided at 35 cents per outlet per month.²⁸

These homes were most commonly square, with four rooms, a central chimney and pyramidal hip roof with gable ends and a shed porch roof (Fig. 2.10). Variations of this plan were used to design houses of different sizes (Figs. 2.11, 2.12).²⁹ The majority were built of concrete blocks or wood-framed, with a typical four-room dwelling costing \$700 to build in 1901.³⁰

²⁷"Houses and Towns Built by the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company and the Rocky Mountain Coal and Iron Company for Employees," *Camp and Plant*, V, No. 5, 308.

²⁸Scamehorn, *Pioneer Steelmaker in the West*, 154-155.

²⁹Eric Margolis, "Western Coal Mining as a Way of Life: An Oral History of the Colorado Coal Miners to 1914," in *Journal of the West* (July, 1985), 60.

³⁰Clyne, *Coal People*, 26.

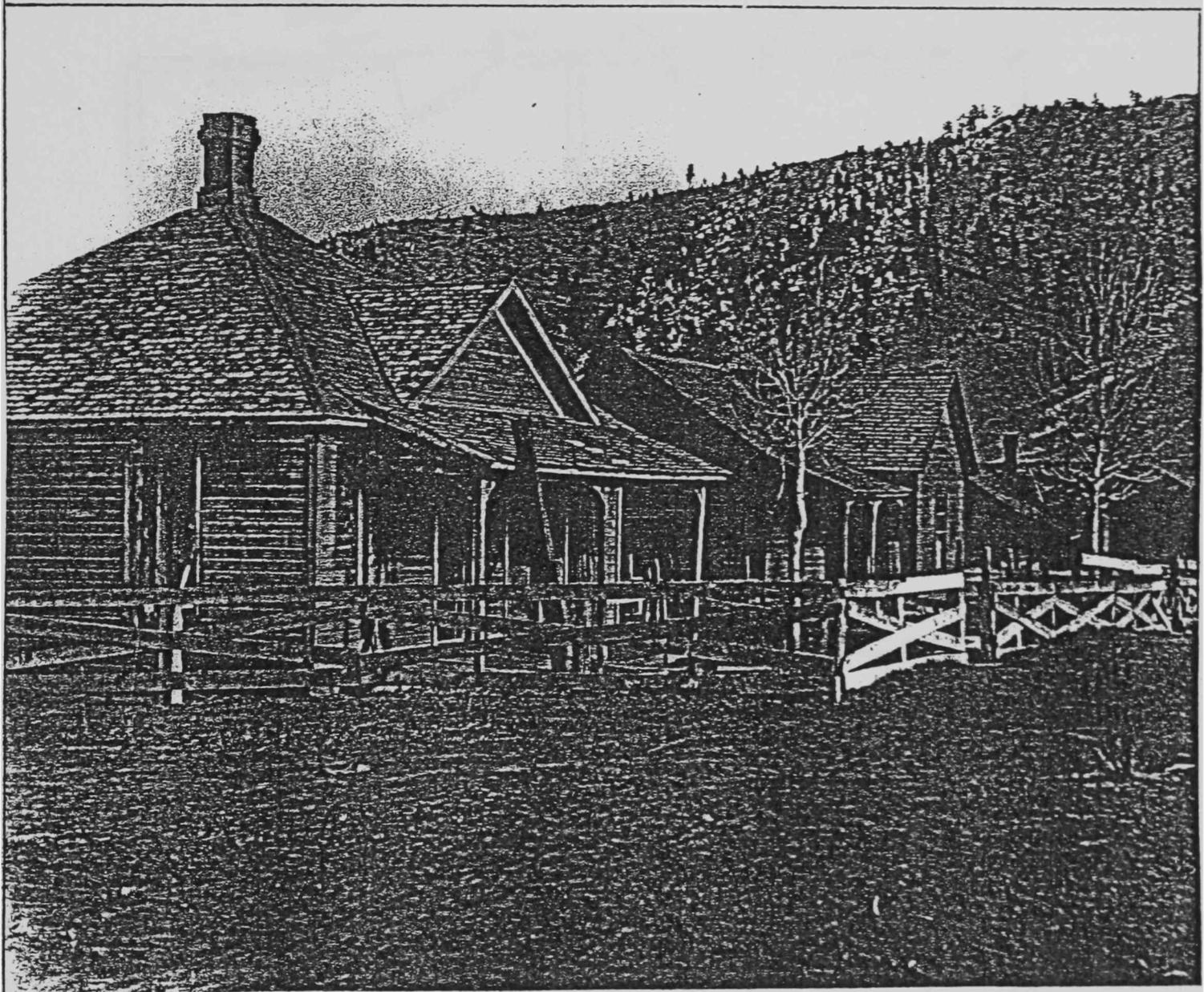


Figure 2.10 Row of miners' houses at Tercio, Colorado.
Source: Courtesy of Abilene Christian University, Department of History.

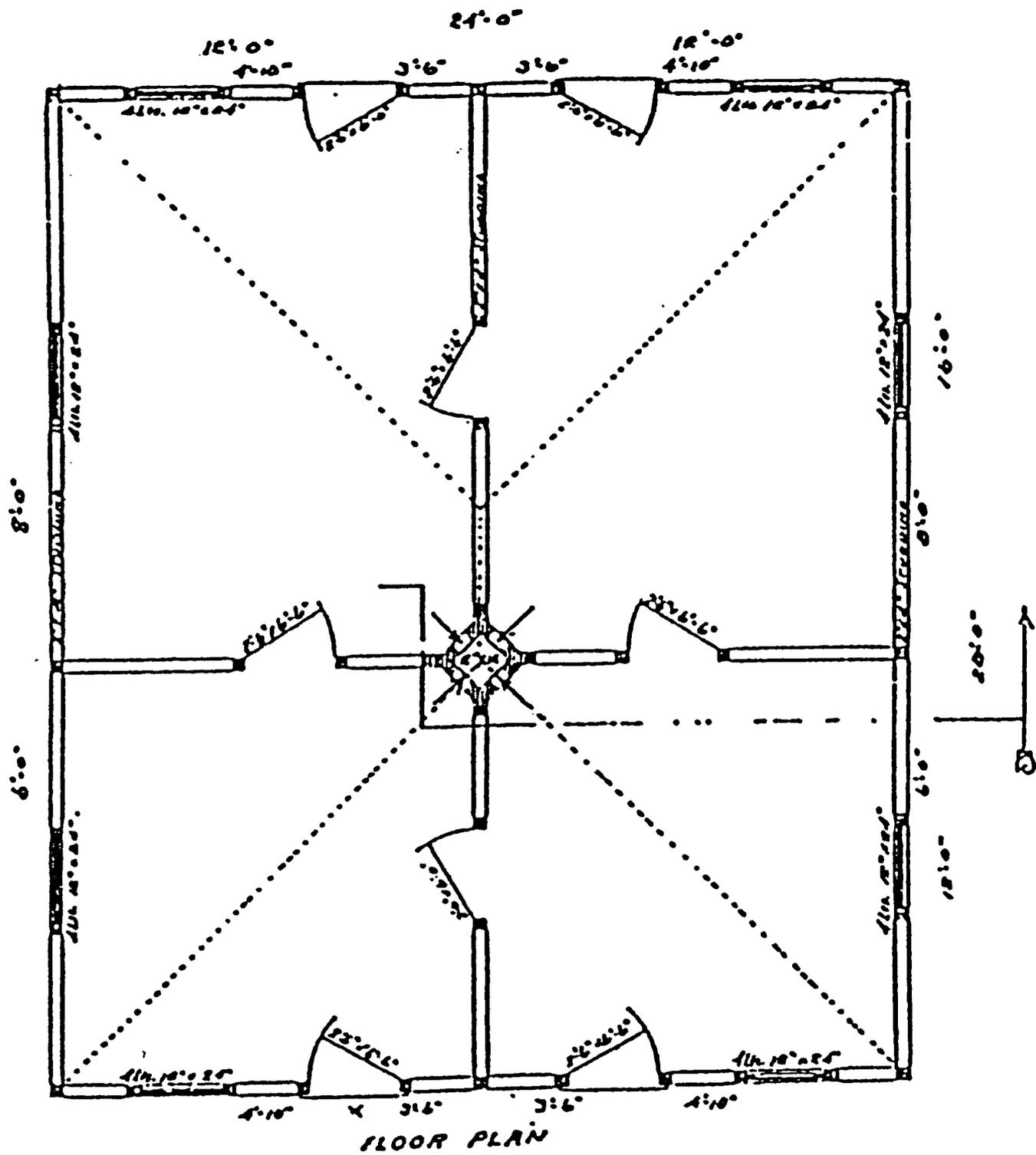


Figure 2.11 Floor plan of a typical four-room miner's house.
 Source: *Camp and Plant*, V, no. 1, (April 9, 1904), 314.

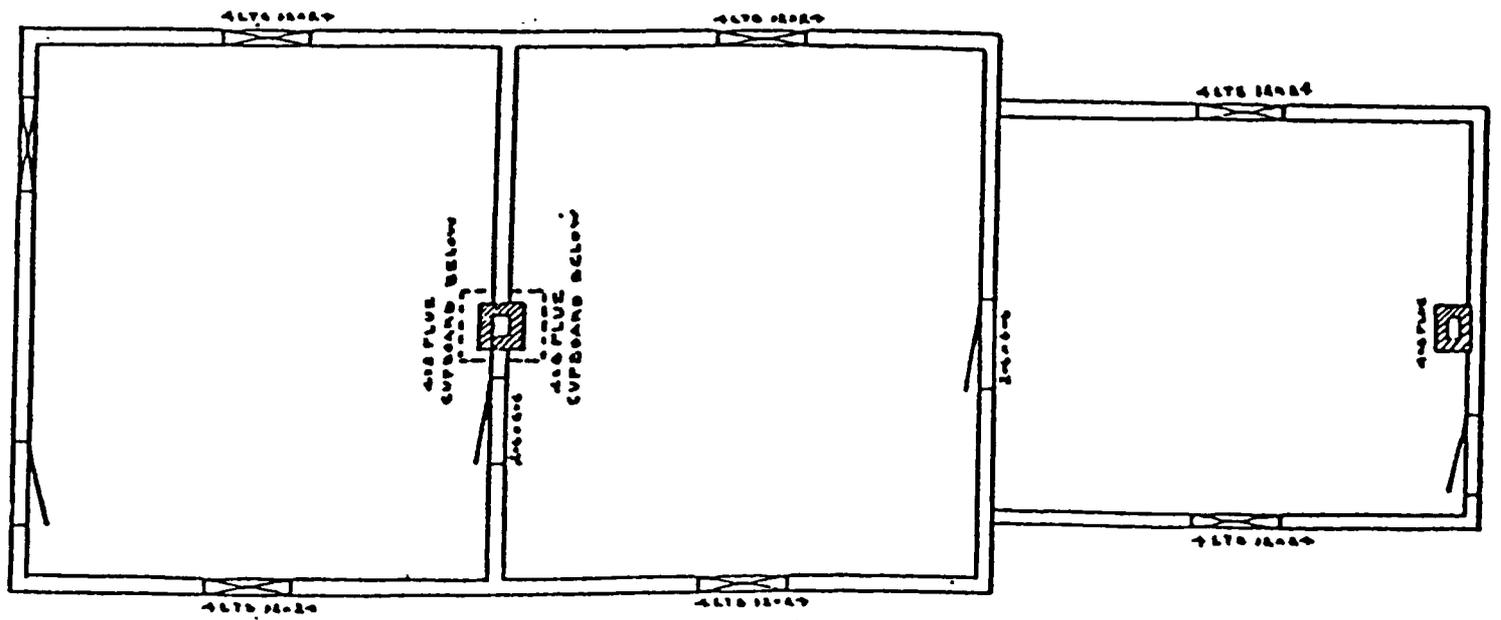
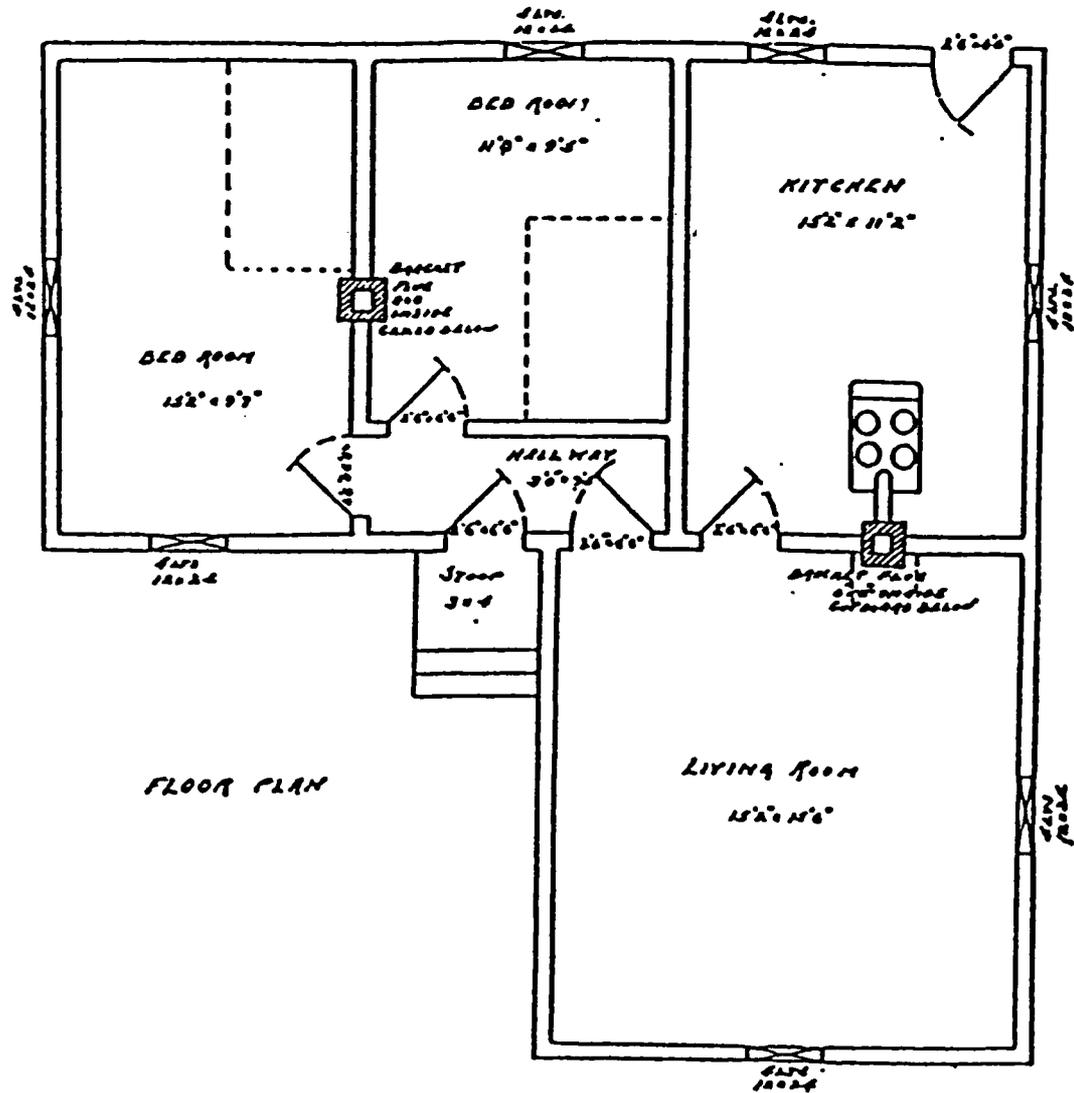


Figure 2.12 Floor plans of three-room and four-room miner's houses.
 Source: *Camp and Plant*, V, no. 1, (April 9, 1904), 314.

By April of 1904, Tercio boasted 48 three-room, 76 four-room, three five-room and 24 six-room houses, for a total of 151.³¹ *Camp and Plant* described the dwellings as comfortable modern cottages diversified in architecture, most with green lawns and gardens. Some houses had porches, and the company planned to fence every yard. In addition, each house had a garbage box that was emptied daily, and the contents carted out of the camp.³²

Most towns contained a few larger houses where company officials and mine foremen lived. Often called “Silk Stocking Row,” these homes were usually isolated from the noise and pollution of the mine work, and many had the modern luxury of indoor plumbing.

Although most of the company town houses were modest, they were well-built. Because of their durability, houses were often moved to another location when mining operations ceased in a particular place.³³

Rather than go home after a full day of working, many miners chose to frequent their town’s saloon or clubhouse. These were put in place and strictly monitored by CF&I’s Sociological Department. Alcohol consumption was an integral part of many immigrant cultures, and the company had found it difficult to retain workers when drinking was prohibited. Drinking was also seen as an important masculine activity, and

³¹Christofferson, “Tercio is for Curious,” 2.

³²“Tercio, Colorado”, in *Camp and Plant*, II, no. 6, (August 13, 1902), 132-133.

³³Margolis, “Western Coal Mining as a Way of Life,” 60-61.

the clubhouses provided the men a place to socialize and escape the stresses of a miner's life at work and at home.³⁴

In the August 13, 1902 edition of *Camp and Plant*, it was mentioned that the CF&I Sociological Department was considering plans for the building of a clubhouse at Tercio, to include reading rooms and bath rooms.³⁵ The Denver Public Library's photo archives contain images of two separate buildings; one identified as the Tercio Club House, and the other as the Tercio Club House/Bath House (Figs. 2.13, 2.14). The smaller structure was likely a drinking establishment, and the larger one a recreational area and bathhouse.

Camp schools were another center for social activity. The Sociological Department prepared a standard plan for a plain but serviceable school house which was widely used in the communities. The structures were usually of similar design, although size and ornamentation varied from one locality to the next. A spacious vestibule, doubling as a coat room, contained the staircase leading to the upper level. Swinging doors covered the entry to each classroom, which could typically accommodate about 80 pupils. If two rooms were located on a single floor, folding partitions were used instead of walls. This way, the smaller units could be easily converted into a large hall when necessary.

³⁴Clyne, *Coal People*, 68-69.

³⁵"Tercio, Colorado", in *Camp and Plant*, II. no. 6, (August 13, 1902), 133.

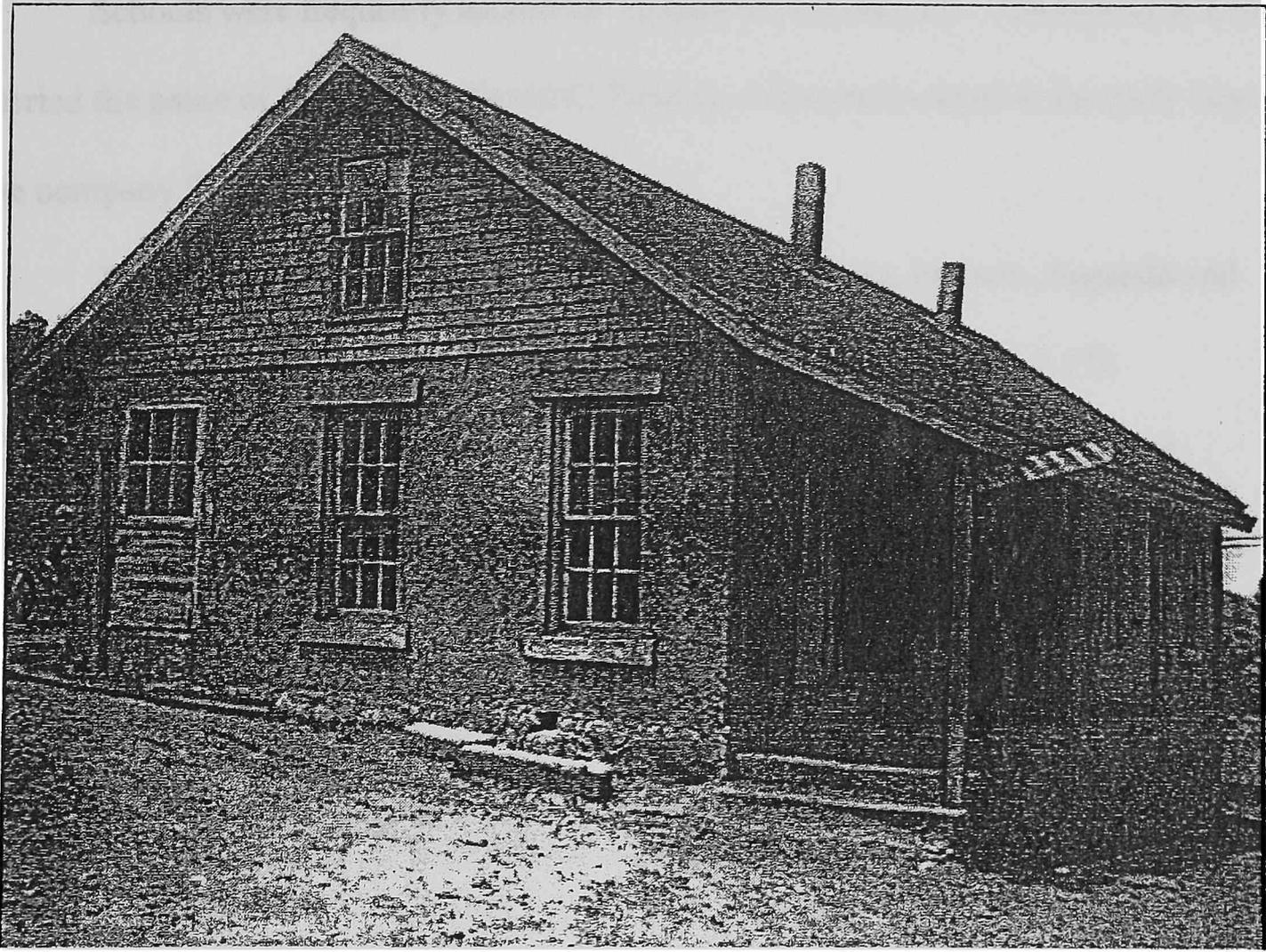


Figure 2.13 Tercio Club House, 1905.
Source: Courtesy of The Colorado Historical Society, Denver, Colorado.

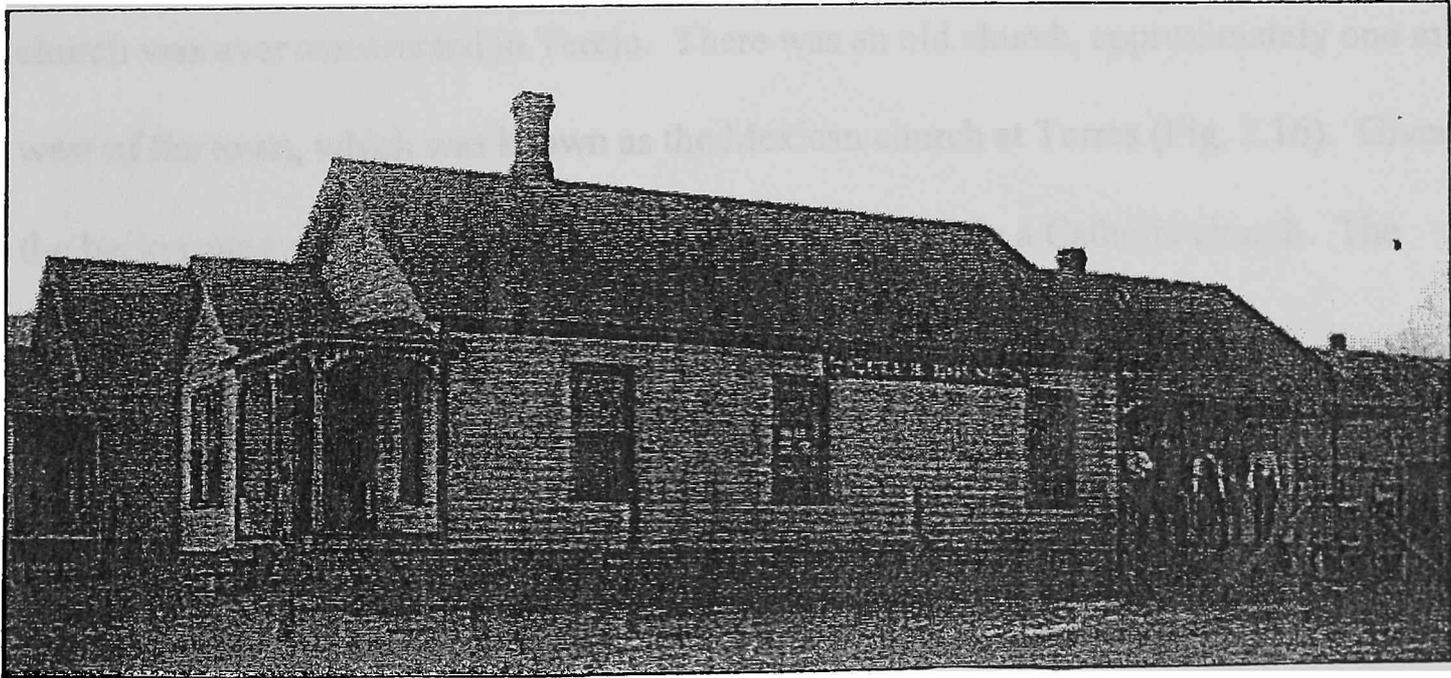


Figure 2.14 Tercio Club House/Bath House, 1905.
Source: Courtesy of The Colorado Historical Society, Denver, Colorado.

Schools were frequently named for officers of the company. The school at Tercio carried the name of Beaman, for David C. Beaman, a lawyer involved in the early days of the company.³⁶

The Beaman School, similar to those located in Pictou, Primero, Segundo and Berwind/Tabasco, was a two-story structure with four classrooms (Fig. 2.15).

Construction of the school commenced in September, 1902. The total cost of the building was \$4,696.67.³⁷ Beaman School was later expanded to teach through the eighth grade, with four teachers being employed.³⁸ Thousands of children in Las Animas County were educated in camp schools. In 1914, the CF&I company report boasted that over 35 percent of all eighth grade graduates in the county had come from CF&I company villages.³⁹

Another important part of early Twentieth Century life was a family's involvement in church attendance and activities. However, there is no evidence that a church was ever constructed in Tercio. There was an old church, approximately one mile west of the town, which was known as the Mexican church at Torres (Fig. 2.16). Given the background of the area's early settlers, it was very likely a Catholic church. The

³⁶Scmehorn, *Pioneer Steelmaker in the West*, 151.

³⁷*Camp and Plant*, IV, no. 24 (December 26, 1903), In addition, CF&I advanced \$867.81 for textbooks and \$1,845.67 for teachers' salaries. Professor George Turner was the school's first principal in 1903. He taught the 21 third, fourth and fifth grade students. Miss Wilson was in charge of 15 first graders, and the kindergarten of 22 children was taught by Miss Angie Gilbert, 568.

³⁸Christofferson, "Tercio is for Curious," 3.

³⁹Clyne, *Coal People*, 91.

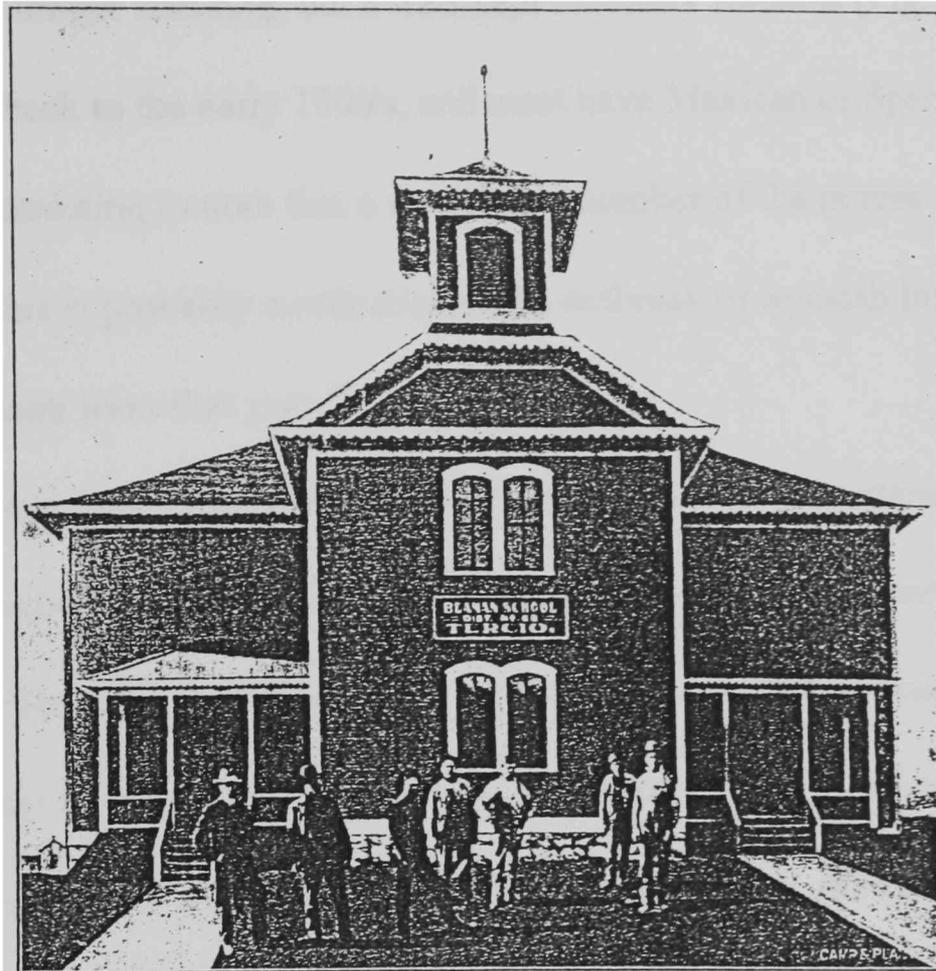


Figure 2.15 The Beaman School at Tercio, Colorado, 1903.
Source: Courtesy of Abilene Christian University, Department of History.

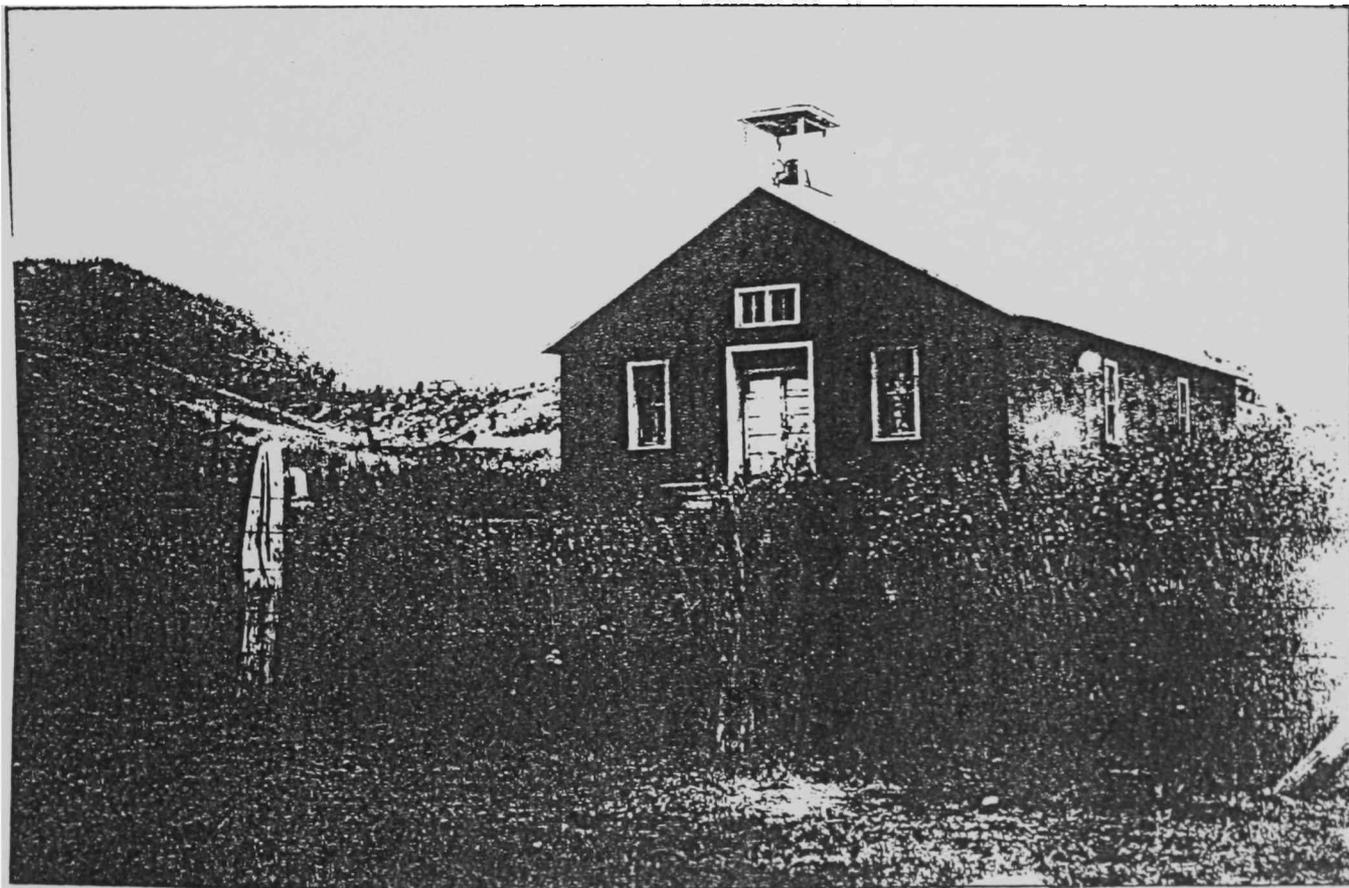


Figure 2.16 Tercio, Mexican Church at Torres, 1901.
Source: Courtesy of The Colorado Historical Society, Denver, Colorado.

building is no longer standing, but a well-kept cemetery remains (Fig. 2.17). The grave markers date back to the early 1900's, and most have Mexican or Spanish surnames on them. It is interesting to note that a remarkable number of the graves are marked with the date 1918. This is probably a reflection of the outbreak of Spanish Influenza, which claimed so many lives that year.⁴⁰

Although home life, socializing and education were important aspects of company life, there remained one entity that overshadowed them all. A former resident of the valley said, "The store, the railroad station, the company office, a saloon - but especially the store, became centers of business activity not only for those in camp, but also for those in the upper part of the valley."⁴¹ The store referenced, the subject of this thesis, was the Colorado Supply Company Store Number Thirty-One in Tercio.

⁴⁰Christofferson, "Tercio is for Curious," 7.

⁴¹Romero, *El Valle de los Rancheros*, 55.



Figure 2.17 Torres Cemetery, 2001.
Source: Photo by Author.

CHAPTER 3

THE COLORADO SUPPLY COMPANY STORE NUMBER THIRTY-ONE

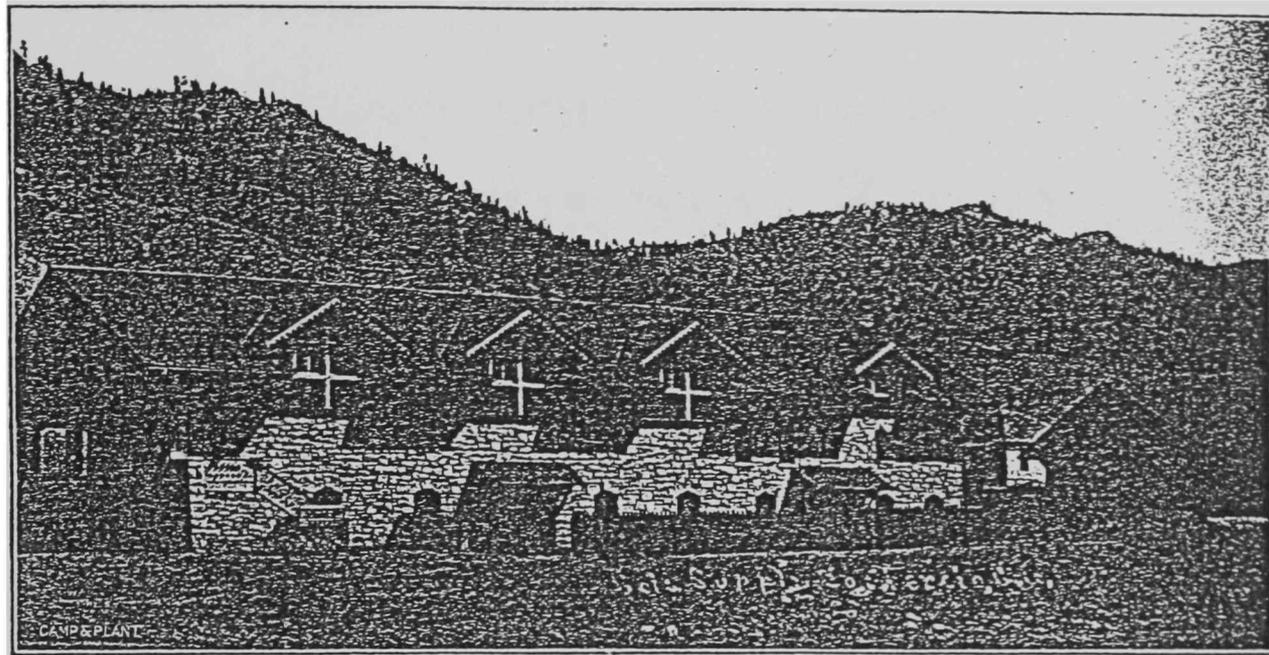
The opening of the Colorado Supply Company Store at Tercio prompted the Colorado-Wyoming Railway to operate an extra passenger train from Trinidad on Saturday night, October 25, 1902. The train left Trinidad at 8:00 p.m. with 100 passengers and picked up that many more from Sopris, Primero and Segundo. While an orchestra played on the balcony, couples swirled to waltzes and stomped to polkas under the dark wooden beams of the great hall. Between dance sets, they consumed 2,000 sandwiches and drank gallons of coffee. At 4:30 a.m., the weary dancers clambered aboard the coaches for the return ride to the mining camps.¹

3.1 An Introduction to Chapter 3

From the beginning, the Colorado Supply Company Store Number 31 at Tercio was intended to be something special. Tercio was to be the first company town created with the ideals of the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company's Sociological Department in mind. The company store within the town needed to create a presence that was representative of the power of CF&I, and be an object of pride for the town's people. While the building was still under construction, *Camp and Plant* reported, "The store building is to be of stone and is as noteworthy from an artistic point of view as from the more practical

¹*Trinidad Chronicle-News*, 30 October, 1902.

standpoint of capacious size and durability.”² In a subsequent volume of *Camp and Plant*, in which all of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company’s retail properties were featured, the following picture and caption appeared (Fig. 3.1).



STORE NUMBER 31 AT TERCIO, LAS ANIMAS COUNTY, COLORADO.

This store was opened in December, 1901, in temporary quarters. The stock of goods was moved in the fine store building now used and shown above, in October, 1902. This is the finest camp property owned by the Company. It is built of stone and is the Swiss design, forty-five feet wide and one hundred and thirty-five feet long, with an interior balcony arrangement similar to several other stores of the Company. The appearance of this property has elicited much favorable comment.³

3.2 Architectural Description and Material Analysis

As mentioned above, the Colorado Supply Company store at Tercio is a quite massive building, approximately 45' wide and 135' long. The building’s orientation is

²“Tercio, Colorado,” in *Camp and Plant*, II, no. 6 (August 13, 1902), 132.

³*Camp and Plant*, V, no. 11, (March 26, 1904), 267.

lengthwise in its valley, with the main entrance facing north. Although described as being “of the Swiss design,” it could more accurately be designated as a Romanesque structure with Gothic features and Victorian embellishments.

Overall, the building is grand, and gives one the impression that it was there to make a statement. The Company Store was the center of financial activity within a camp, and was intended to make the presence of the company evident on a daily basis. For this reason, the building was designed to be large, sturdy and imposing.

Floor plans for the building reveal that it was divided into two parts. The south end was designated for heating in the lower level, storage on the main level, and living quarters upstairs. The northern three-quarters of the structure was dedicated to the store, with storage at the ground level, the service area on the main level and a surrounding balcony on the top floor (Figs. 3.2-3.4).

The building is three stories high, with the two lower levels being rough-cut limestone construction, and the top level traditional wood frame construction. It initially appears that the walls are a single thickness of the limestone, but it is in fact two layers deep, with each measuring approximately nine inches in thickness. The stone varies in shading from ivory to light tan, with occasional pale gray stones scattered throughout. The Trinidad area was once famous for its limestone quarries. In an early book promoting tourism in Las Animas County it was stated that, “building stone of most excellent quality is found in almost every hill in the county, especially in the western portion or coal region . . . Limestone of superior quality exists in great abundance in Red

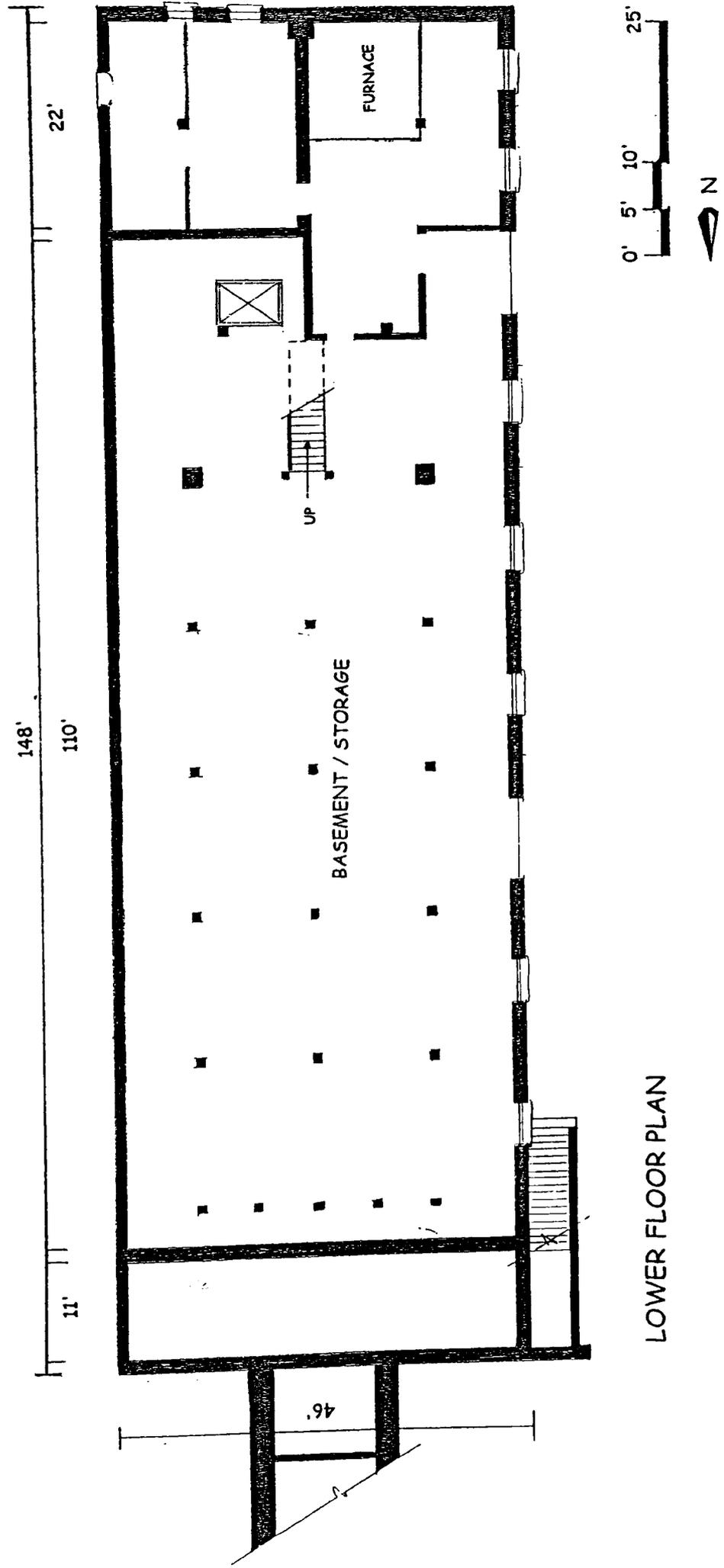


Figure 3.2 Lower Floor Plan of The Company Store at Tercio, Colorado.
 Source: Drawing by author.

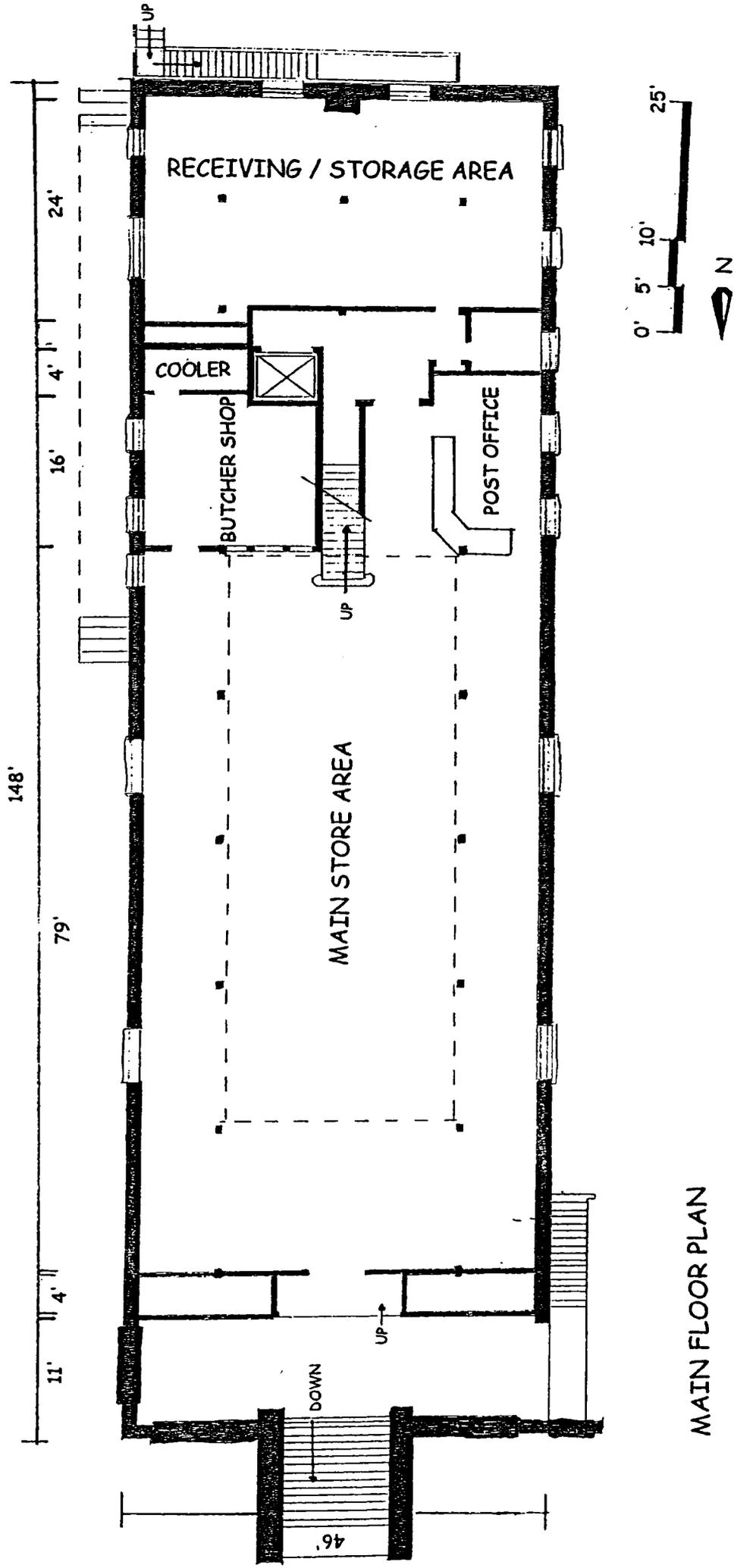


Figure 3.3 Main Floor Plan of The Company Store at Tercio, Colorado.
 Source: Drawing by author.

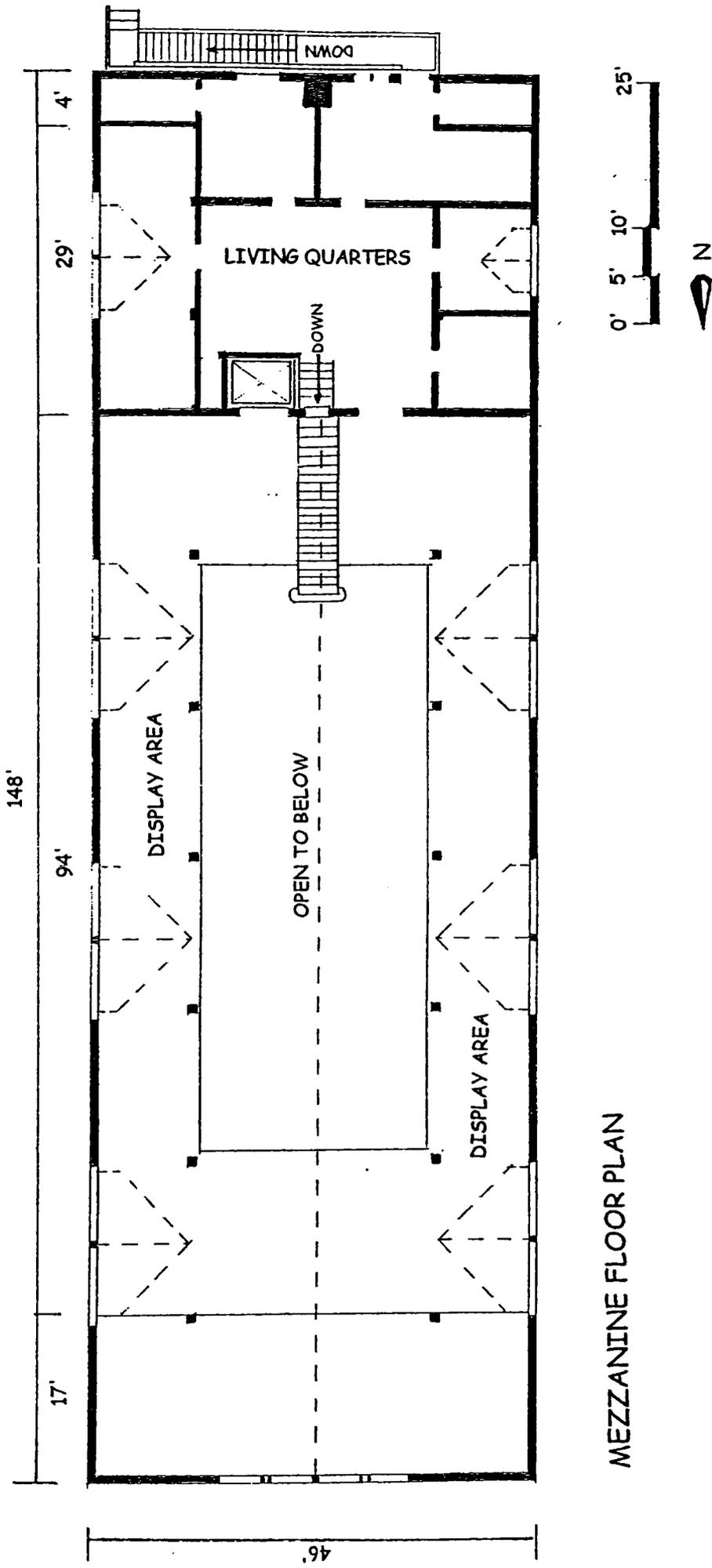


Figure 3.4 Upper Floor Plan of The Company Store at Tercio, Colorado.
 Source: Drawing by author.

Rocks, Iron Springs, Thatcher Station and Stonewall.”⁴ According to long-time area resident and former surveyor for CF&I, Stanley Barron, the stone was quarried in the valley where the store stands, and was cut and laid by Italian stone masons.⁵ Today, there remains a large pile of limestone pieces in the valley that supports this version of history.

The exterior of the upper floor is a vertically placed battened wall. Between the battens and tucked up under the roof overhang, there are decorative wood pieces that have been nailed onto the wall. Above all of the windows on the upper floor, except those on the south facade, a row of trefoils were added between the battens (Fig. 3.5). The main portion of the wood walls are painted a light green color, and the heavier and more decorative elements are painted ivory. To the recollection of Mr. Barron, the walls have always been this color.⁶ Upon close inspection, there was no evidence of any previous layers of paint. The amount of paint that remains on the building is remarkable, given that it is over 100 years old. This is likely due the quality of the paint and the ample roof overhang providing protection from the elements. A sample of the exterior wood, taken from a window mullion, was identified as pine by Bill Couture, a member of the Architectural Woodwork Institute.⁷

⁴M. Beshoar, M.D., *All About Trinidad and Las Animas County, Colorado: Their History, Industries, Resources, Etc.* (Denver: Times Steam Printing House and Blank Book Manufactory, 1882), 14-15.

⁵Stanley Barron, interview by author, 10 September 2000.

⁶Ibid.

⁷Bill Couture, interview by author, 16 April, 2001.

The roof is currently covered with v-crimp galvanized tin. When lifting up the edges of the tin, there was no evidence of any different roofing material beneath. However, in historic photographs of the store, the roof appeared to have been covered in shingles, rather than tin. The present roof is badly rusted in several places, with the most severe damage occurring near the dormer roofs on the west side. The shorter north and south sides have simple gable ends, and the longer two sides each contain four roof dormers, placed equidistant apart and topped with the same v-crimp tin. The main roof and dormer eaves are all trimmed with a narrow bargeboard of evenly-spaced fleur-de-lis. The main roof and the dormer roof overhangs are all supported by large decorative brackets. Beneath the brackets, on the fascia, are sections of ogee molding (Fig. 3.6). It is interesting to note that inconsistencies and flaws in the wood trim indicate that it was hand-cut rather than produced by machine. There is a small chimney at the far west end of the roof. It was likely for a fireplace in the living quarters, although no evidence of its location was found.

Approaching the main entrance to the store, one gets a sense of the structure's monumentality (Fig. 3.7). There are 13 wooden steps, with a rise of 6.5", flanked by a large stepped limestone banister which lead up to the porch. There is a 30.5" stone wall that extends outward from the steps to the corner of the building, then turns 90 degrees to meet the face of the building and enclose the porch. The overhang of the porch is supported by 18" square stone columns on each side of the porch and engaged pilasters at the corners of the building. The entry to the store is 13' 9", and consists of a double set of doors. Each one has a Gothic arch window opening, measuring approximately 2'5" across

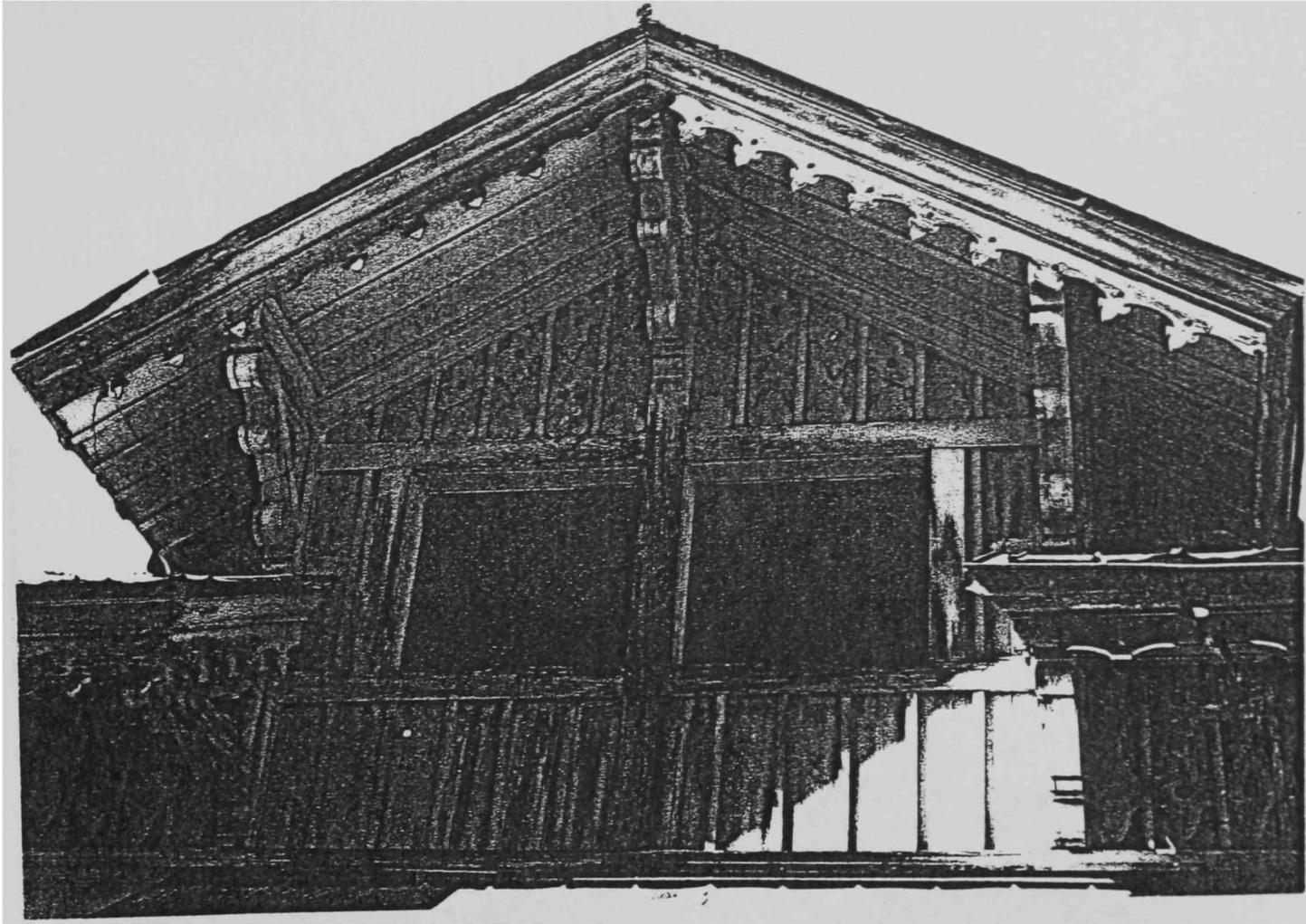


Figure 3.5 Upper floor dormer, east elevation, south end.
Source: Photo by author.

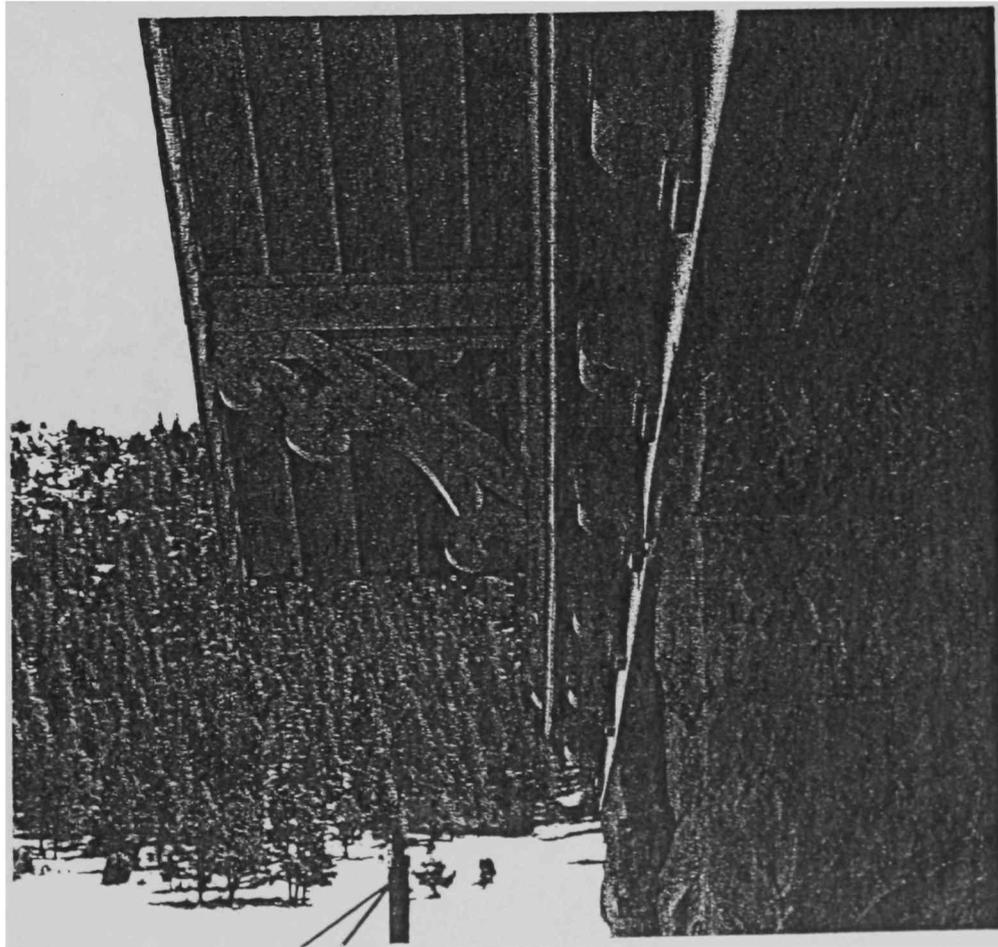


Figure 3.6 Ogee molding and brackets on the north facade of the company store at Tercio.
Source: Photo by author.



Figure 3.7 Main entrance (north facade) of the company store at Tercio.
Source: Photo by author

and 5'8" in height (Fig. 3.8). On either side of the doors are raised display windows, which used to showcase the goods carried by the company store. Above the porch roof, is the gabled north end of the building. Centered on the wall is a horizontal row of four double casement windows, each having eight lights and measuring approximately 2'5" across and 4'9" in height. On the west side of the porch is a three-foot-wide wooden stairway that leads down to the ground level of the west facade.

The side of the building that most people see is the side that faces west, toward the road (Fig. 3.9). Looking from left to right across the ground level of the west facade, there are two windows, a sliding door entry, three more windows, a second sliding door entry and two more windows. The windows are Gothic in design, with a slightly pointed stone arch at the top, and a large stone sill (Fig. 3.10). The windows measure approximately 4'6" across and are 4'8" from sill to the peak of the arch. The ground level of the store was originally used for storage, and the doors are quite large to allow ease of stocking merchandise. The openings for each door measure just over 9' wide by 8'4" tall. The doors themselves are large rectangular wooden panels that slide on horizontal metal bars above the inside of the opening (Fig. 3.11). The wood trim on the outside of the doors, that resemble stable doors, is cut and shaped to fit into the pointed arch opening. There is a sheltering shed roof over each door, held up by large double, decorative wooden brackets resting on cantilevered stone supports (Fig. 3.12). At the south end of the store, a stone retaining wall becomes shorter as the ground rises to the south.

The second story contains two very small, rectangular hopper windows, which were likely for the purpose of ventilation and a little extra light in the main part of the

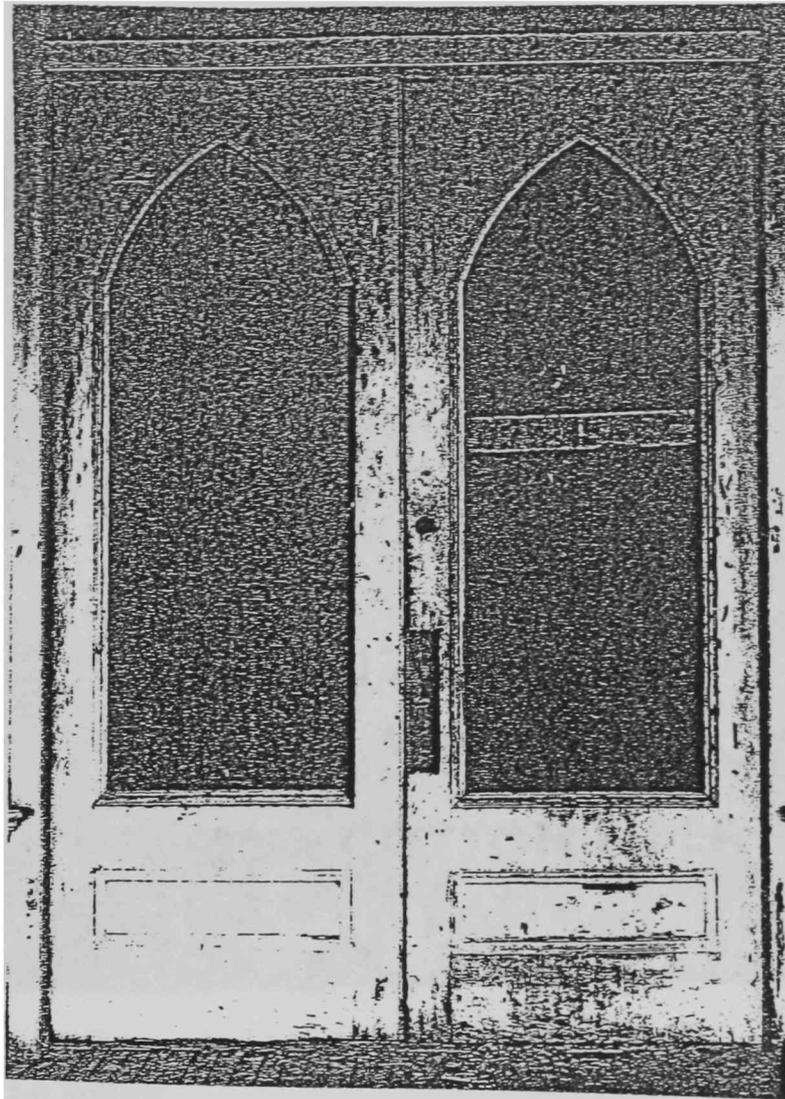


Figure 3.8 Main entrance doors with Gothic arch openings.
Source: Photo by author.

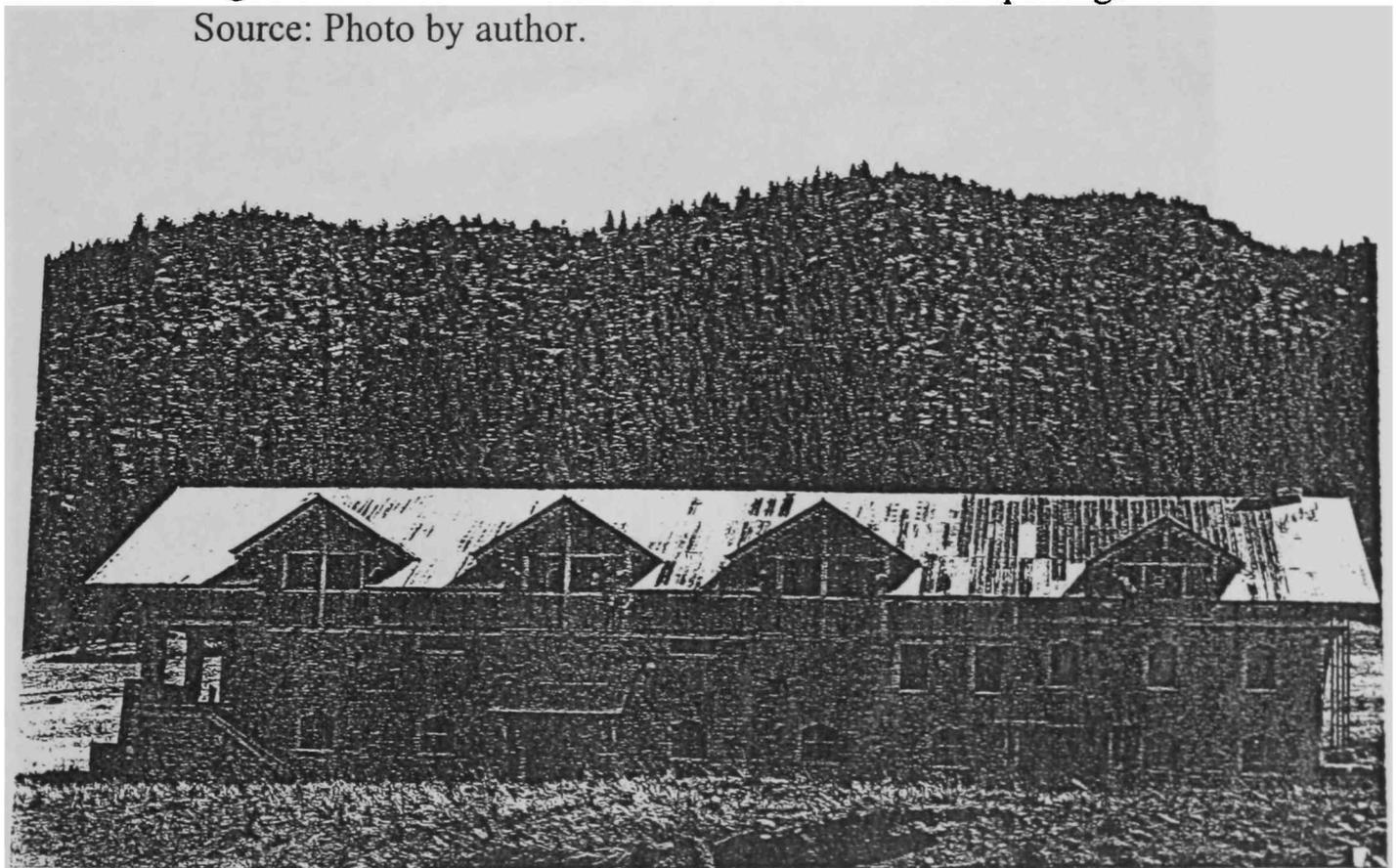


Figure 3.9 West facade of the company store at Tercio.
Source: Photo by author.

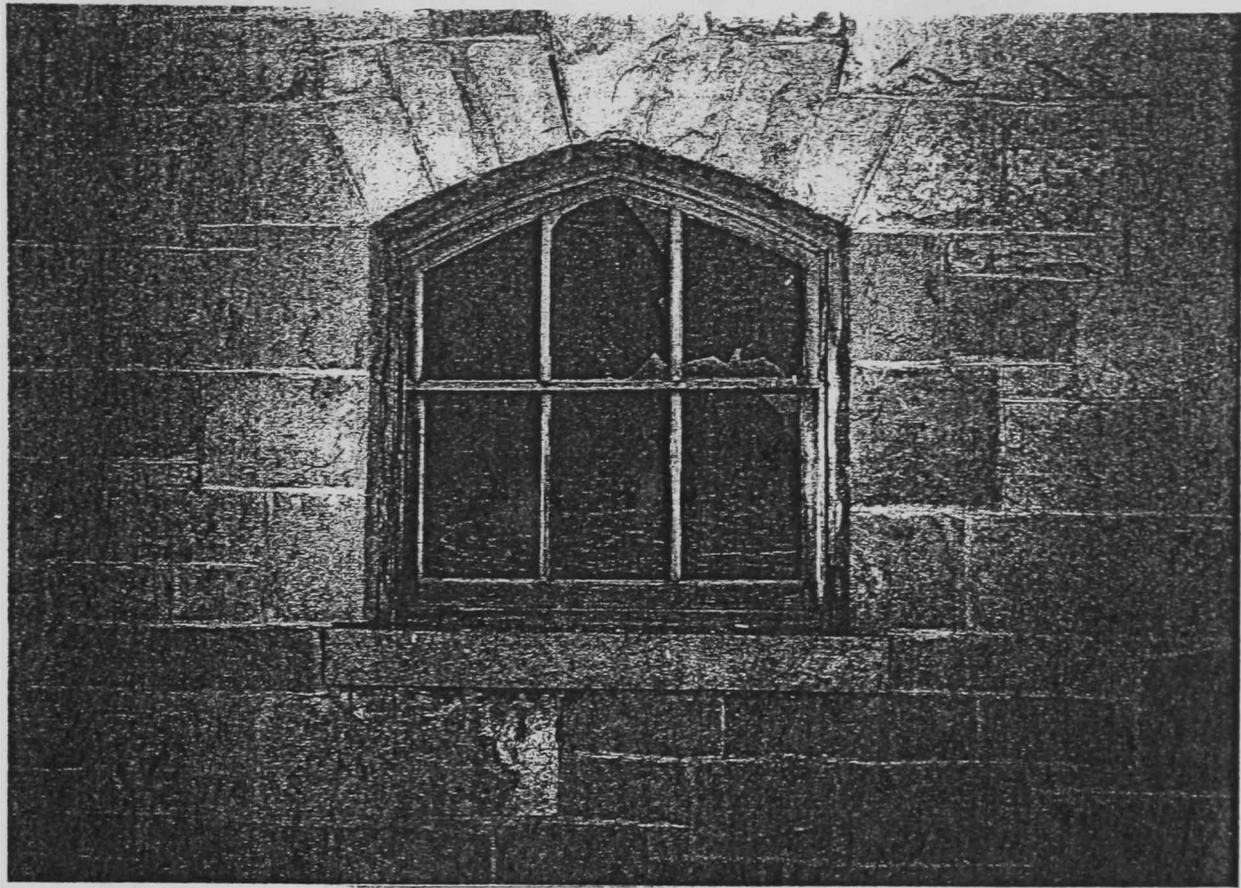


Figure 3.10 Lower floor window, west facade, north end.
Source: Photo by author.

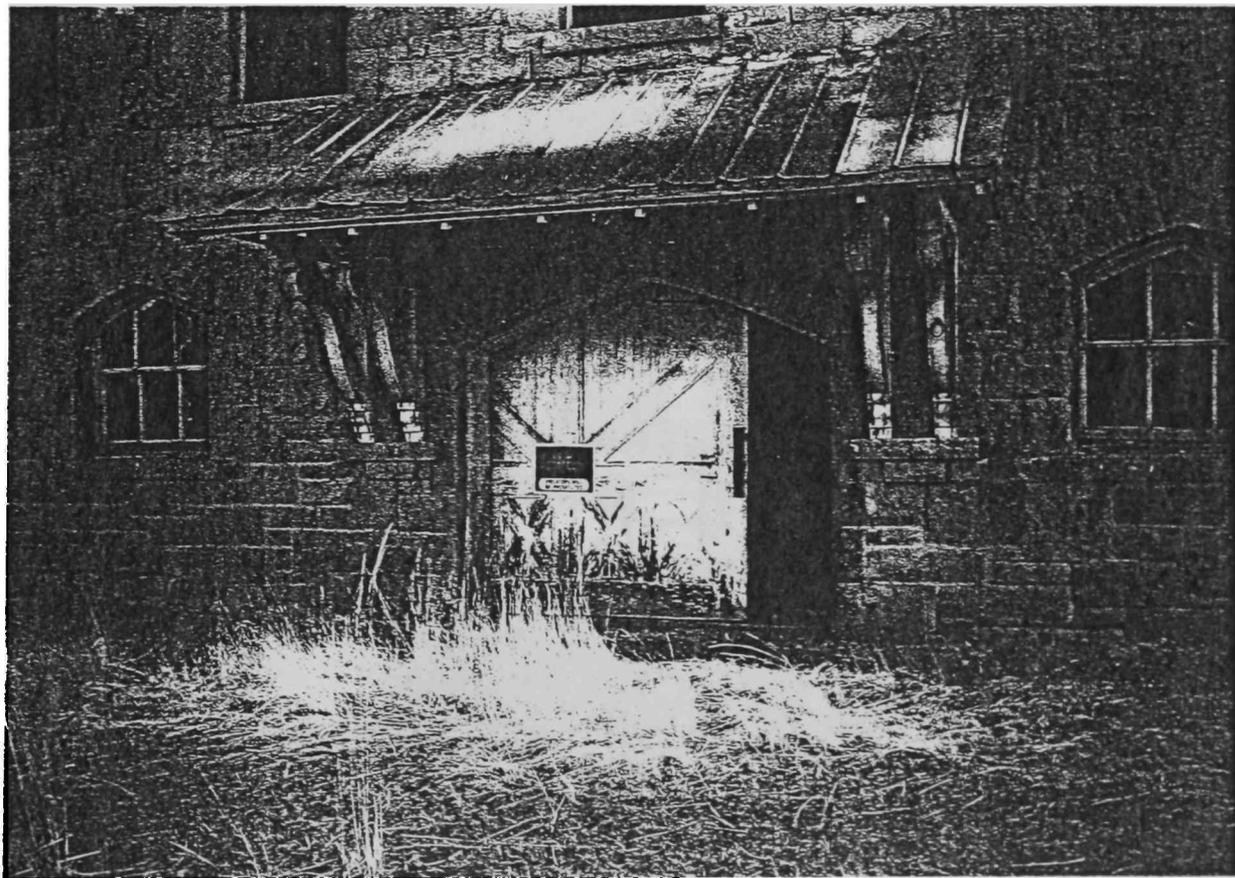


Figure 3.11 Door on west facade, north end.
Source: Photo by author.

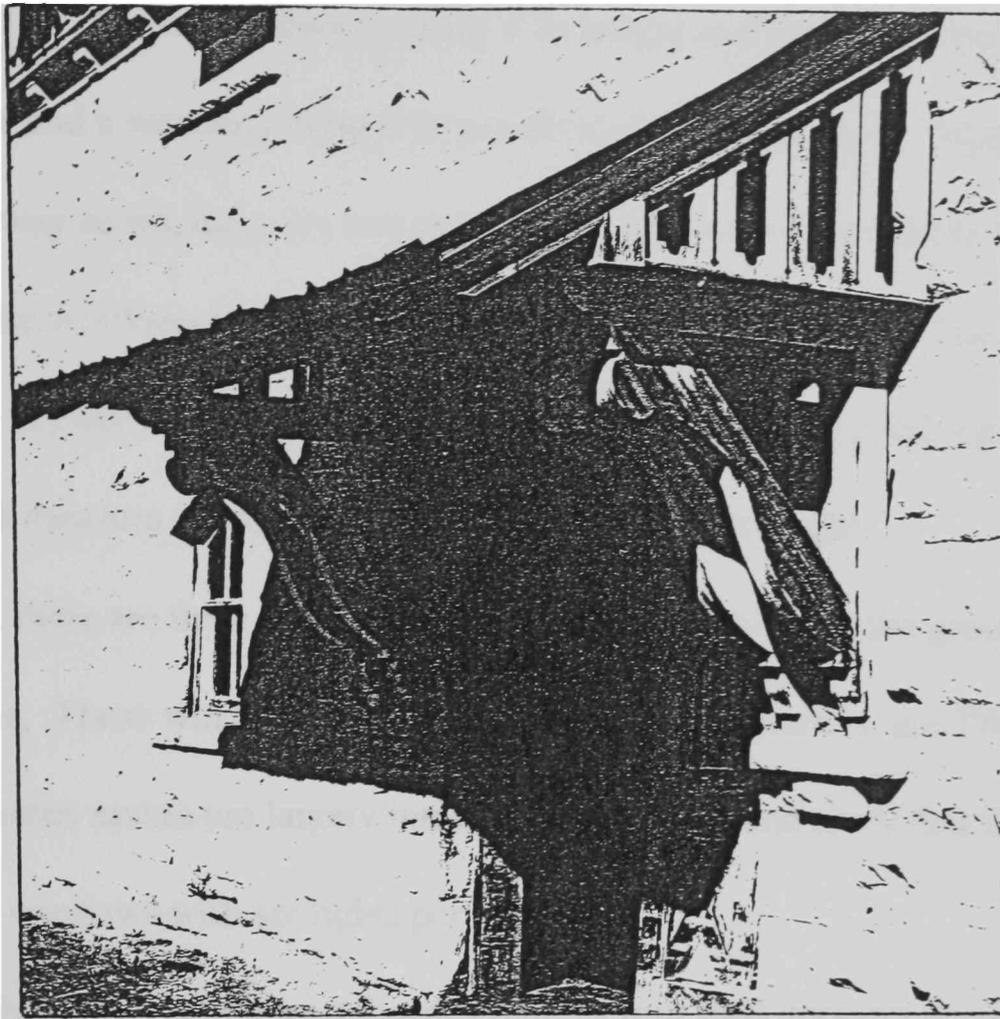


Figure 3.12 Roof shelter over door on west facade.
Source: Photo by author.

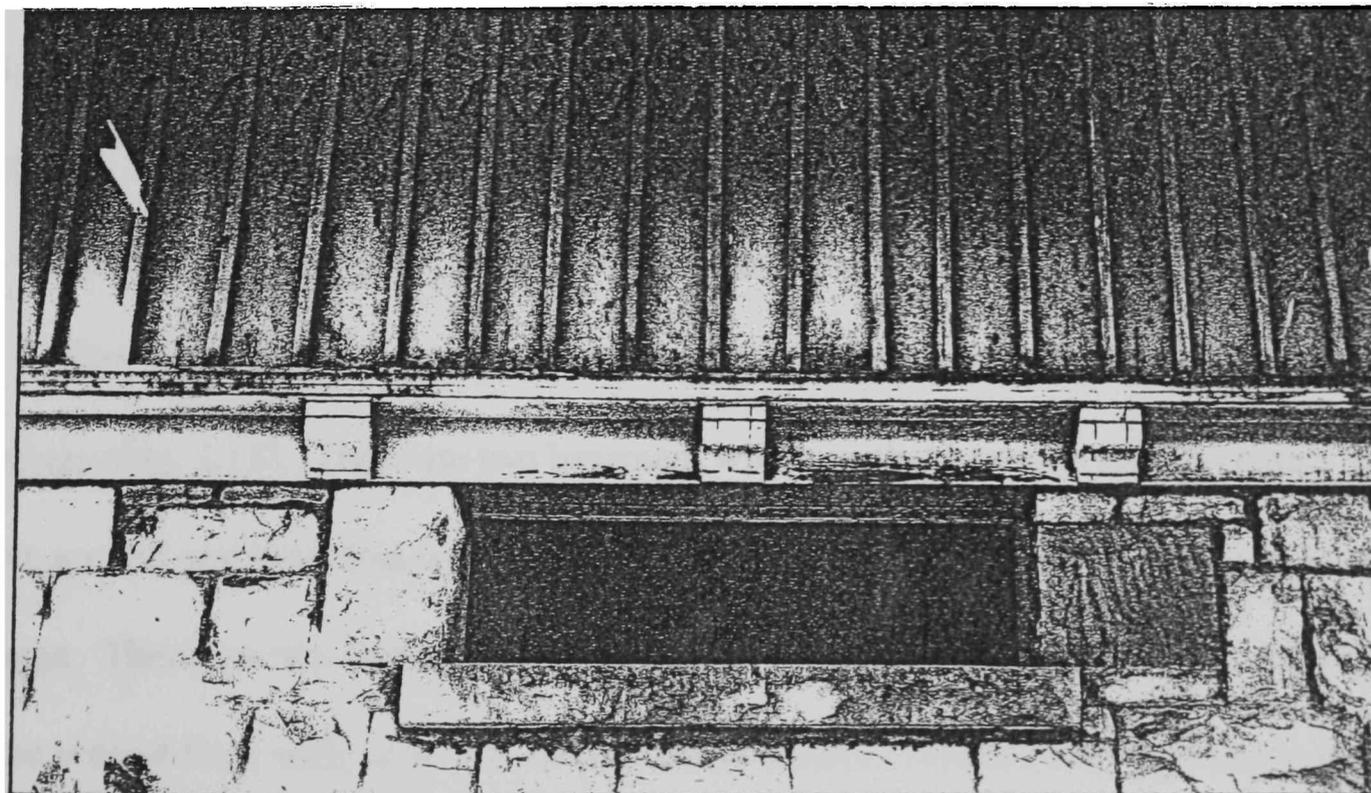


Figure 3.13 Hopper window on east facade, main floor.
Source: Photo by author.

store (Fig. 3.13). These windows measure 1' in height and are approximately 5' long. Each window had a wooden casing and was divided into four panes. Approximately two-thirds of the way down, there are two rectangular, four-over-four double-hung windows. These were the windows behind the counter of the bank/post office. The outside has been covered with plywood, but the wooden sashes are visible and in good repair on the inside. The windows measure approximately 2'6" across and 5' in height.

Next, there are three Gothic windows, similar to those on the ground floor, but slightly larger. These windows, which were in the living quarters, are 3'8" across and 5'6" tall. The wooden sashes are largely intact on the interior, and show that these were double-hung windows with six lights per sash.

The third floor of the west facade contains four roof dormers poised over windows. The three sets of windows on the north end, which would have been the store area, are twin sets of wooden double-casements with each measuring 2'5" across and 4'9" in height. The fourth dormer, which is where the living quarters were, is placed above one wooden double-casement window of the same size.

The south facade is the least complicated, as it has a plain face with very few openings (Fig. 3.14). There are two basement windows that protrude approximately 1' above ground and have area ways, likely for the purpose of controlling flooding and water damage. There are two Gothic style windows, like the ones on the west facade, centered on the second floor with about a 5' spread between them. Directly above them, on the third floor, are two square, wooden double-casement windows. To the west of the windows is the opening that was the private entrance to the living quarters. Access to this

door was provided by a steel stair case. The steel cross-hatch decking begins at the door and goes across the building to the east, just past center, and the steps go down almost to the corner of the building. The landing consists of three concrete steps. The staircase is supported by steel I-shaped columns, which are supported on concrete piers.

The east facade was the most utilitarian part of the structure (Fig. 3.15). Its ground level only has one feature; that is a coal chute at the far south end of the building. Directly above that is a Gothic style window of the same size as the ones on the south facade, which looks into the upstairs storage room. Next there is a set of raised panel double doors topped by an arched transom window, that lead into the storage room. The door opening measures approximately 6'6" across and 9' high. The door is covered by a shed roof similar to those on the west facade (Fig. 3.16). Just to the right of the double doors, and raised to the roofline, is a cold storage door. It opens into the area where ice was stored above the butcher shop. This area is inaccessible from the inside of the building, and only the small area where the ice was stored can be seen. Next is a standard-sized entry door with a transom window, and then the window into the butcher shop. There is another door with a transom window, that is an entry to the main part of the store. The remainder of the floor is finished out with two hopper windows of the same size and shape as those described on the west facade. Above this, the third floor is a mirror image of the west side.

The ground floor, or basement as it is often referred to, was used for storage. It has a poured concrete floor, and is mostly a large open space except for the coal chute and coal furnace at the far south end, with a set of stairs leading up to the second level (Fig.

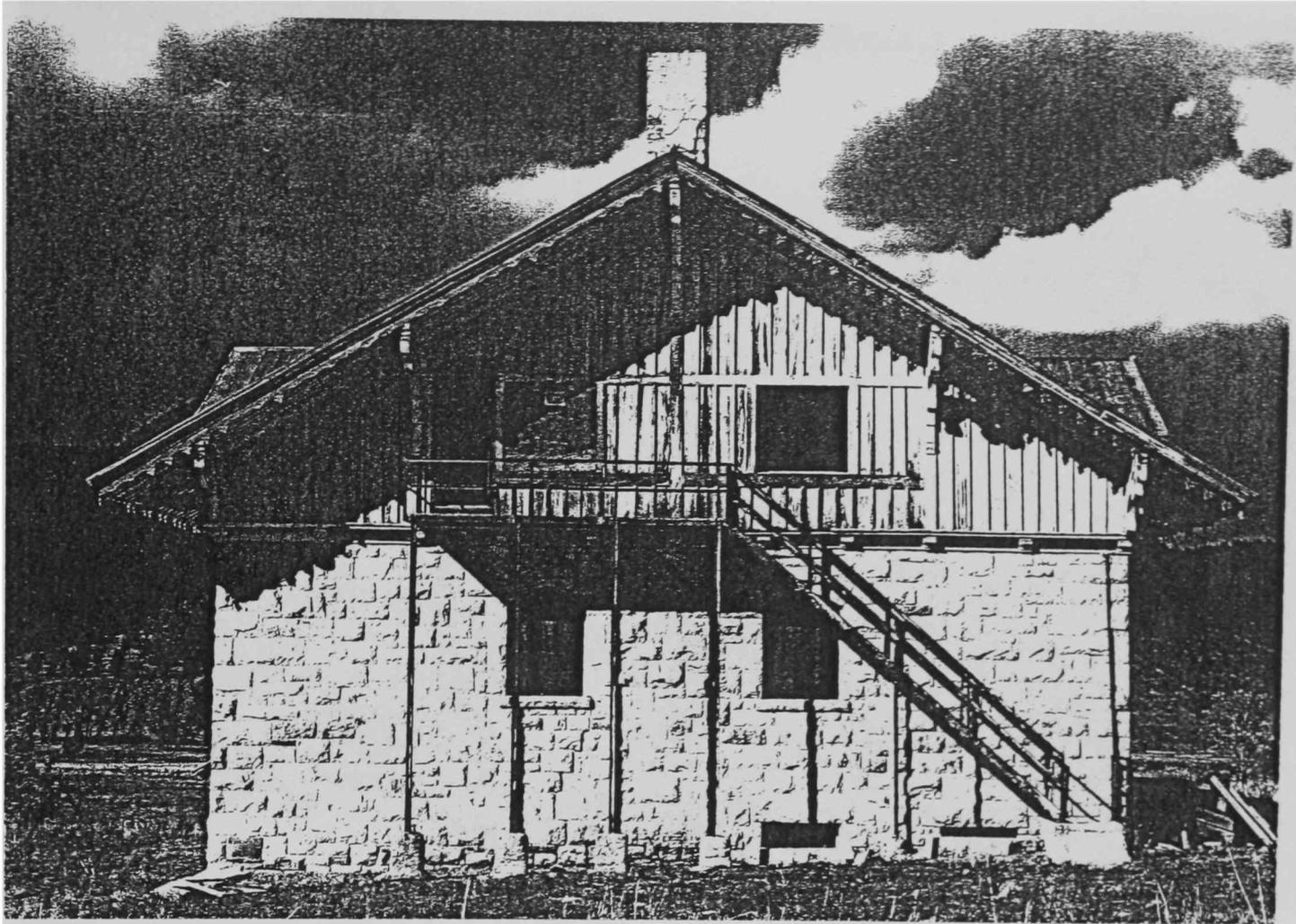


Figure 3.14 South facade of the company store at Tercio.
Source: Photo by author.

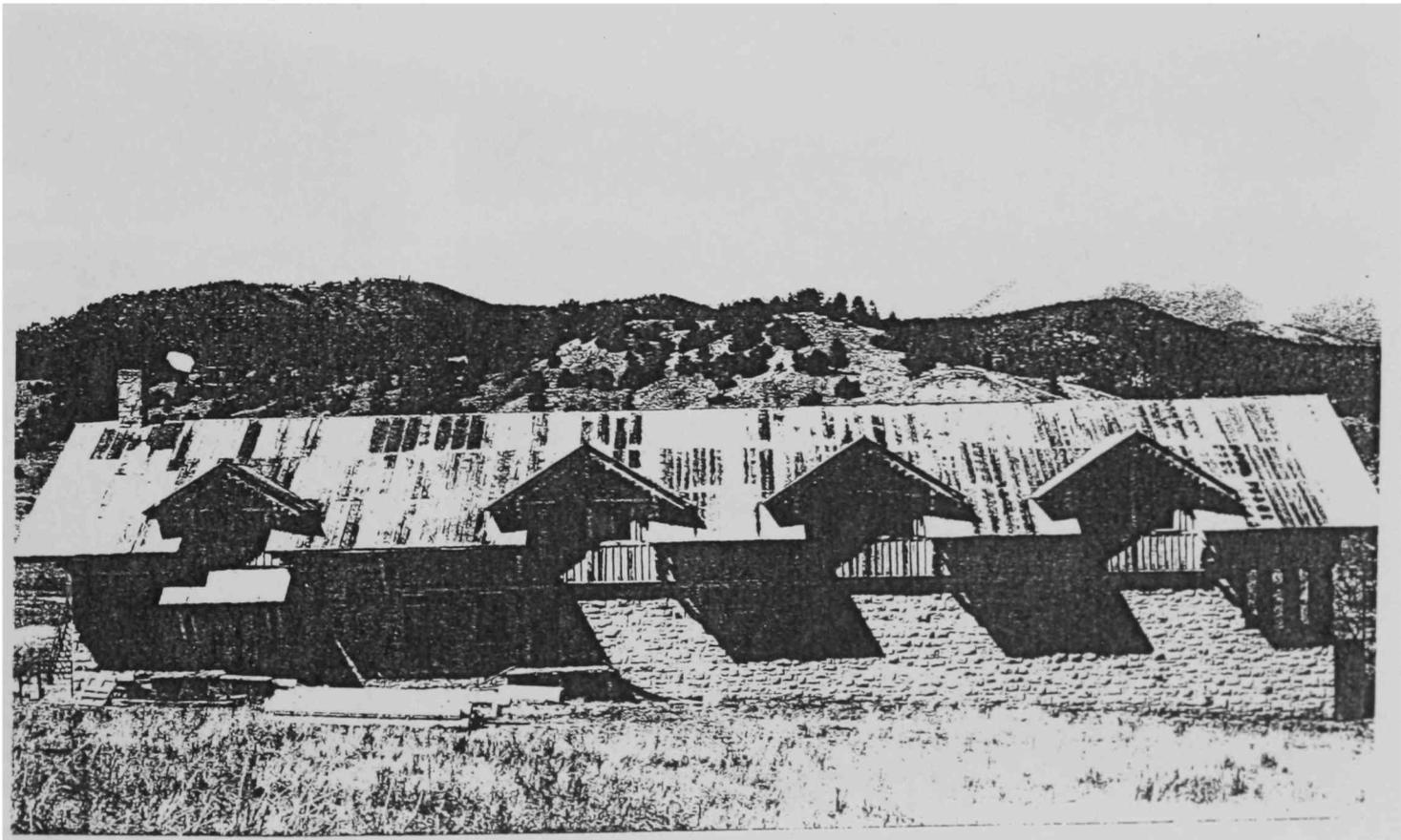


Figure 3.15 East facade of the company store at Tercio.
Source: Photo by author.



Figure 3.16 Exterior storage room doors, east facade, south end.
Source: Photo by author.

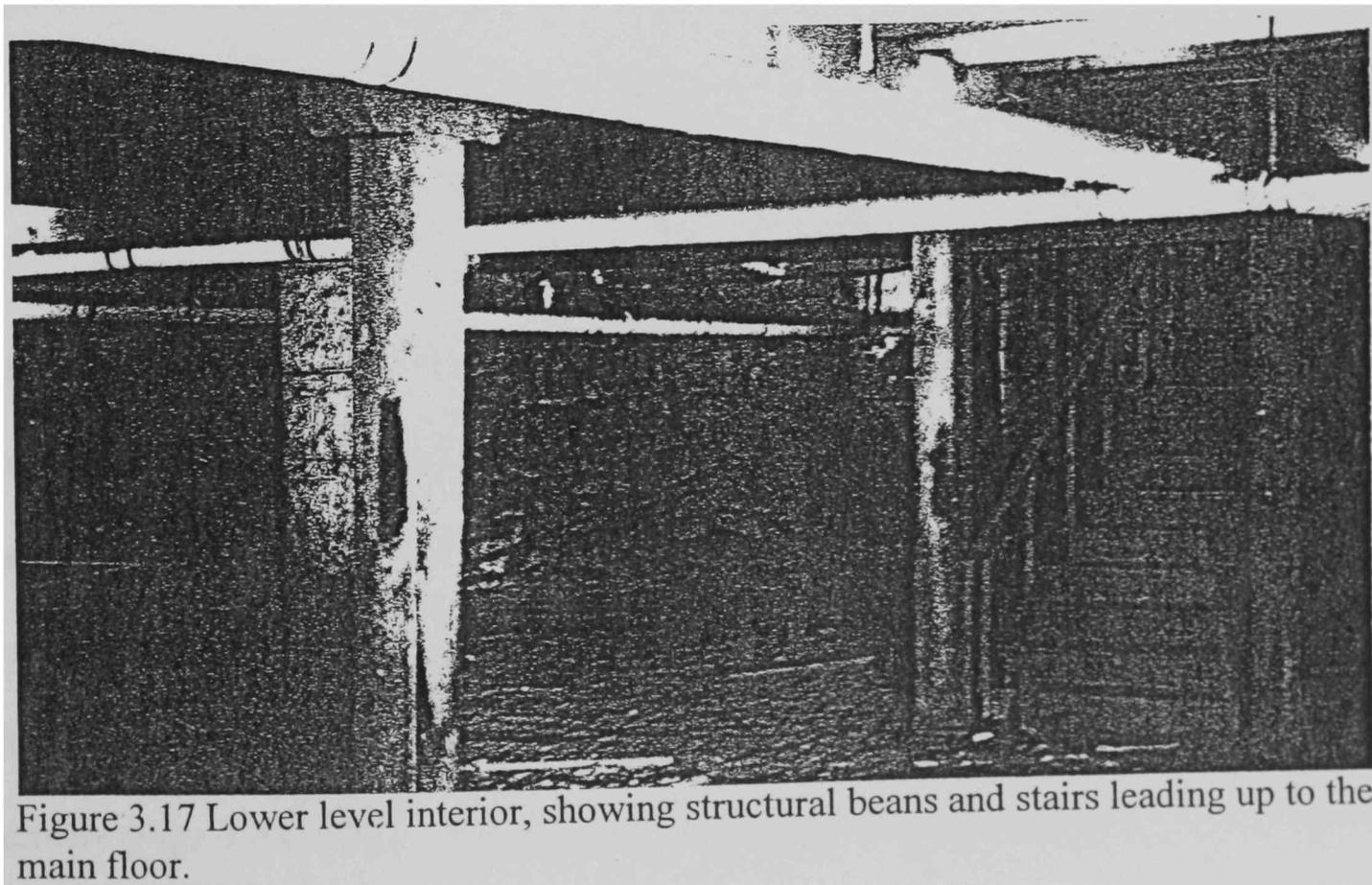


Figure 3.17 Lower level interior, showing structural beams and stairs leading up to the main floor.
Source: Photo by author.

3.17). It is evident, in the lower level, how the weight of the building is distributed and supported. There are three rows of 10" square wooden columns that run north and south. There are 23 columns in all, with one missing where the staircase goes up to the second level. There are large steel brackets atop each column, that attach it to another column above. This system is repeated until the columns reach the roof beams. In the basement, there is evidence of a steam heating system and a network of pipes.

The most impressive part of the interior is the main store area. It is approximately 90' in length and 32' wide. It is an open space with a nine-foot-deep mezzanine extending around it. The system of columns is most evident in this room, and adds to the towering expanse. The south end of the room has a central stairway, approximately 4' in width, leading up to the mezzanine. On the left side of the stairs is the butcher shop, and to the right is the bank/post office (Fig. 3.18). At the top of the stairs is the entrance to the living quarters. There is an elevator to the east of the door and an observation window to the west.

The most striking element of the main store is its exposed system of beams and rafters in the ceiling. The butt-joint boards on the main roof and dormers meet with remarkable smoothness and precision. The repeating columns on the lower and mezzanine levels, coupled with the repeating dormers and rafters, give the room a wonderful rhythm. The top portion of each column has decorative rafter supports attached to each side that extend to meet the rafters, the horizontal support beams and the dormers (Figs. 3.19, 3.20). This mix of horizontal, vertical and diagonal lines carries the eye all around the room.

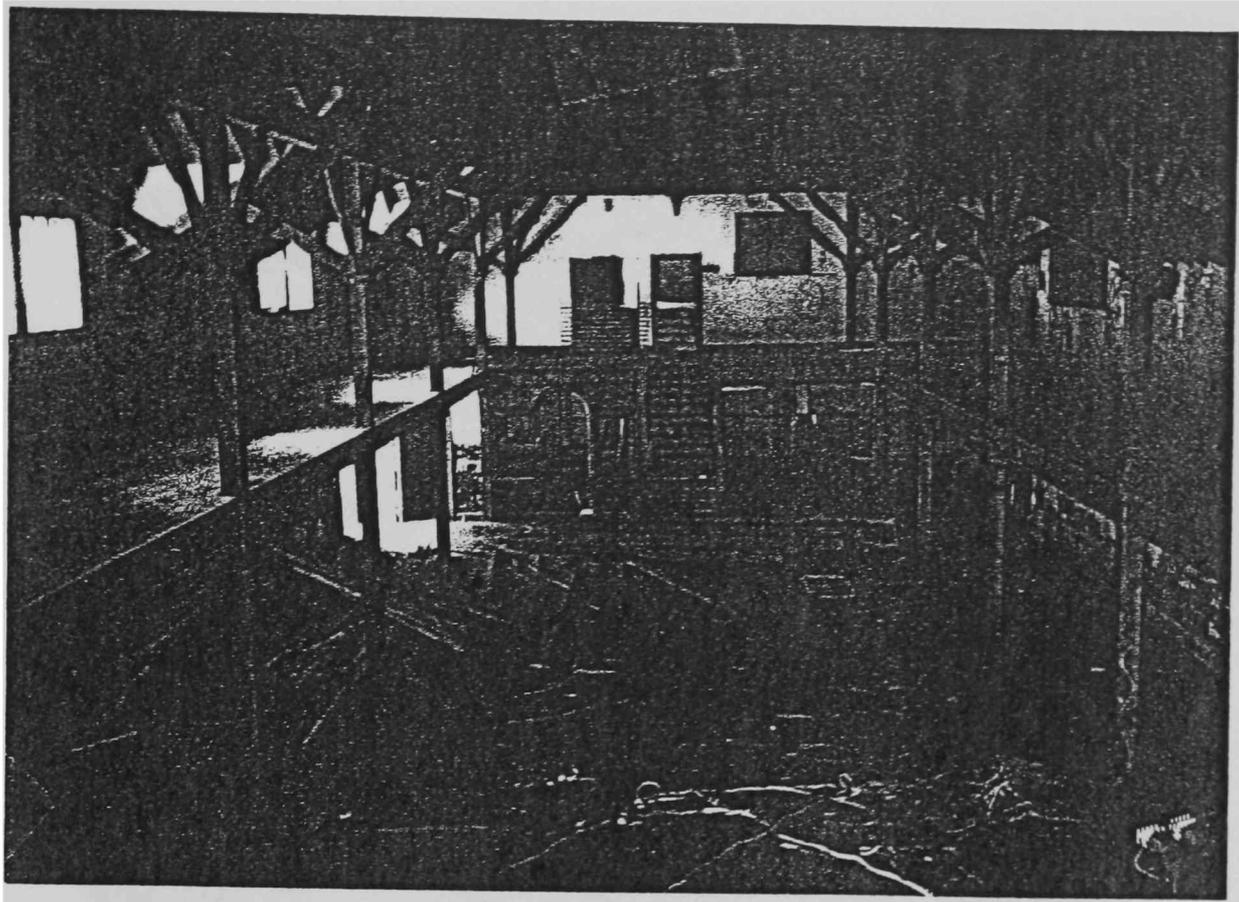


Figure 3.18 Interior of the main store area, looking south toward the butcher shop and post office/bank on the main level, and living quarters on the upper level.
Source: Photo by author.

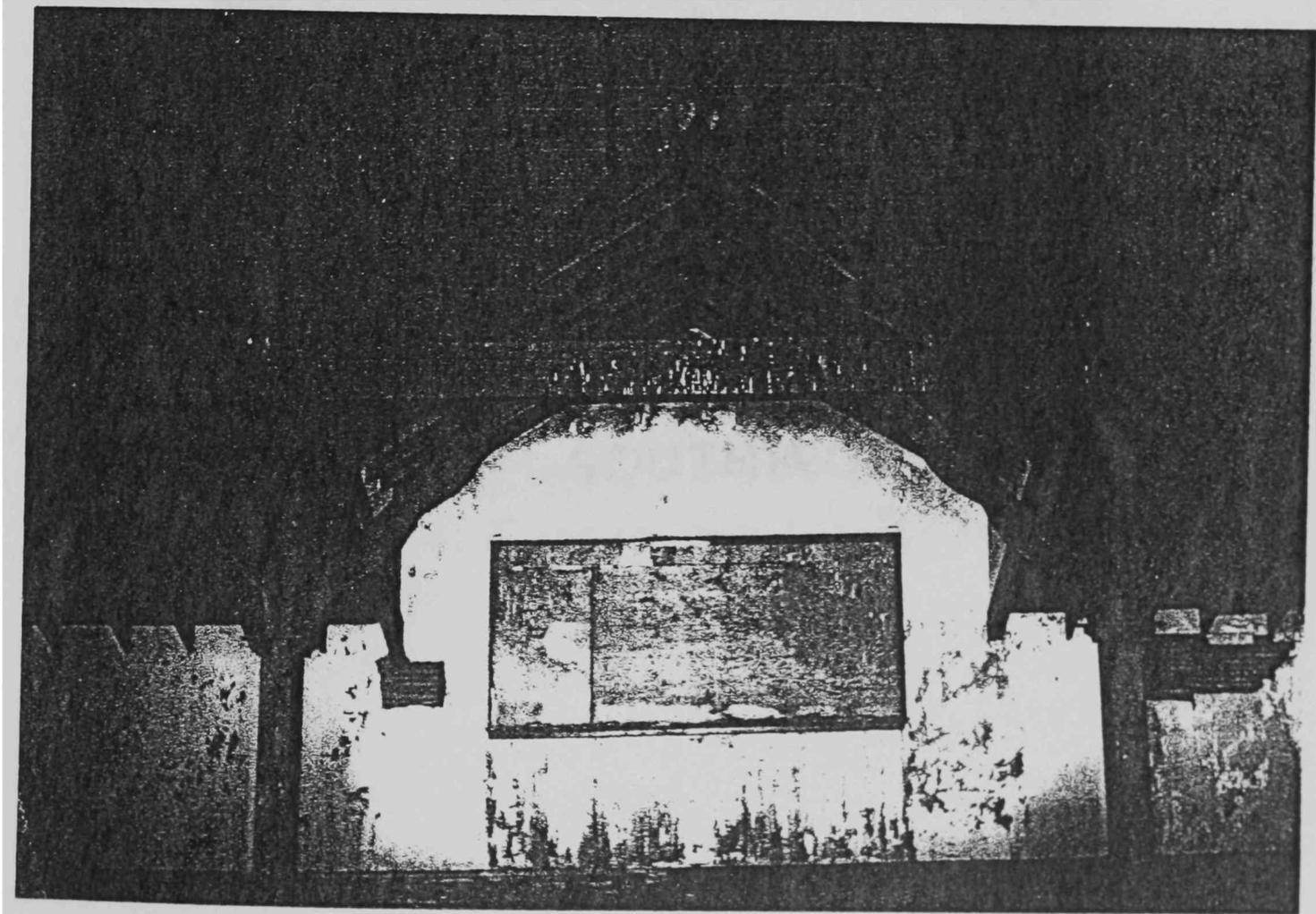


Figure 3.19 Rafters and support beams of west side dormer.
Source: Photo by author.

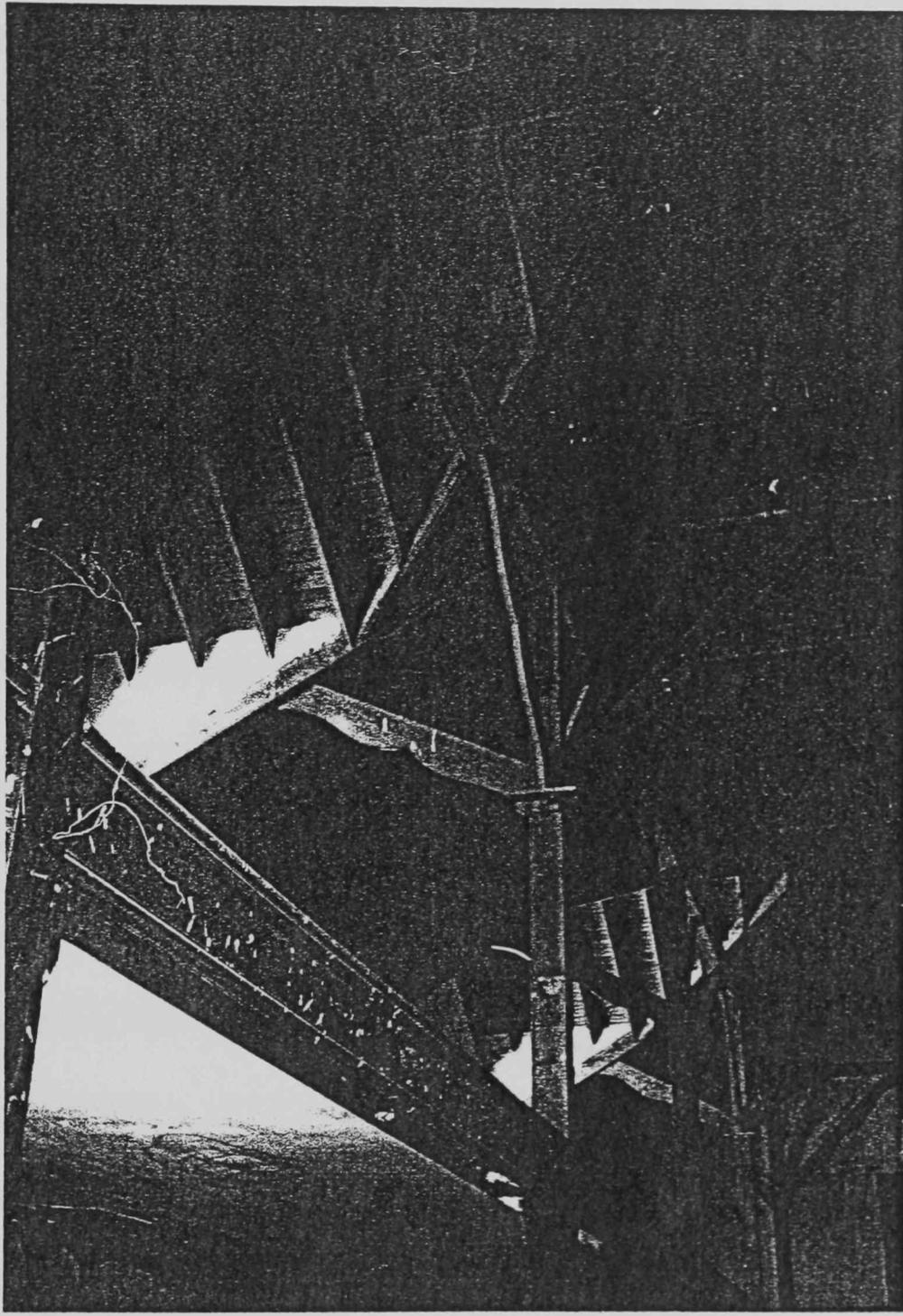


Figure 3.20 Detail of structural beams and supports.
Source: Photo by author.

The living quarters are less remarkable, as the walls and ceilings have been enclosed with a pressed cardboard facing. There is evidence of several different wallpapers having been applied to the walls over the years.

This building was obviously built with skill and care, and was considered to be one of the most modern and beautiful structures in the Stonewall Valley. Even though a century has passed since its grand opening, it is still an awesome sight and a tribute to the people who once lived and worked in Tercio.

3.3 The Designers

There are two theories regarding who was responsible for designing the Tercio store. One possibility is that it was the work of prominent Denver architect, Frederick Junius Sterner, and the other is that it was designed by the stone masons who constructed its walls.

The building had a similar layout to other stores in the area, including the ones at Primero and Cokedale. Sterner was responsible for the design of the store at Primero, as well as other CF&I buildings. The stores at Primero and Tercio were built very close to the same time, and had the same basic floor plans, and are less than 20 miles apart. Logic would lead to the assumption that the same person designed both buildings. However, in spite of their similarities, Sterner's building at Primero had a definite Spanish influence on the exterior.

A former professor of Literature and Anthropology at Middlebury College in Middlebury, Vermont, Horace Beck, has done extensive research at Tercio. In an

interview with him, he stated that he had been unable to pinpoint exactly who designed the Company Store. He added that he was aware that it was constructed by Italian stone masons, and that some of the most skillful stone cutters came to America from the northern part of Italy, along the border of Switzerland. This would account for the building being called a chalet, and described as “the Swiss design” in company literature.⁸

Research on Tercio was inconclusive as to who designed the Company Store. There is a strong case for Sterner, however it is not a proven fact that he was the building’s architect.⁹ Although no architect can be credited with designing the Tercio store, it was a very successful design, which carried out its original purpose for almost half a century.

3.4 Present Condition

The Company Store at Tercio is in amazing repair for a building that is over one hundred years old, and has been empty for the past 52 years. The wooden steps on both the north and west facades are badly damaged and quite dangerous to use. The lower stone wall on the east side of the main entrance steps has been vandalized, and is in need of repair (Fig. 3.21). In the same area, there is evidence of mortar damage at the ground level, probably due to water erosion. There is similar damage in several spots around the building, all near the ground.

⁸Horace Beck, interview by author, 7 March, 2002.

⁹Research was done based on the belief that Frederick J. Sterner was the designer of the Tercio store. The evidence was strong enough that an appendix has been added to this paper, detailing Sterner’s work. See Appendix B for more information on Frederick J. Sterner.

There is a great deal of mortar and stone damage to the right side of the east facade's main door (Fig. 3.22). Stains on the stone indicate that there was once a downspout to the right of the door, and the damage resulted from years of water washing over the stone and eroding the mortar.

Settling of the structure is only evident in one place. There is a large diagonal crack that runs along the mortar joint, beginning at the lower right corner of the west window on the south facade (Fig. 3.23).

The chimney is stone on the lower quarter, topped by red brick that has been covered in concrete. The concrete has started to chip off of the upper portion, likely due to it having no protection from the weather. At this time, the chimney is not connected to anything on the interior of the building.

As mentioned before, the paint is in remarkable repair because of the generous eaves of the building. The roofing material is badly rusted in places, but there is no evidence of leaks inside the store. Of the more than two dozen windows, there are very few panes of glass that remain intact, and most of the openings have been covered with plywood. Overall, the exterior of the building could be relatively simple to repair.

The interior of the store would be the challenging part of restoration. All of the decorative woodwork around the mezzanine is missing, and was likely stolen by vandals. All that remains of the original interior is the wood plank floor and ceiling, the structural columns and the shell of the butcher shop and post office. The wood appears to have been stained, as the surface is deep brown in color, and broken pieces reveal a lighter

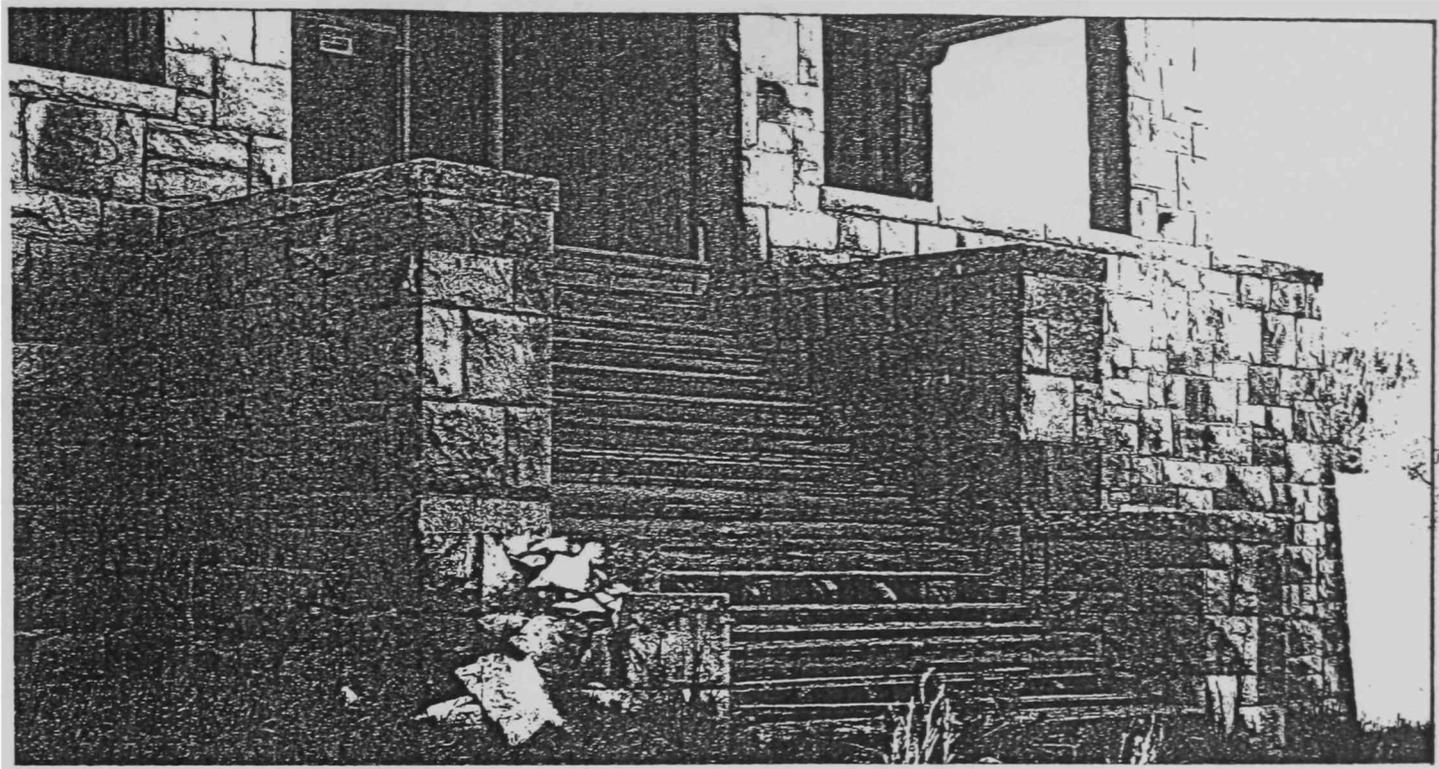


Figure 3.21 Deterioration of wooden steps and lower stone wall at the store's main entrance.

Source: Photo by author.

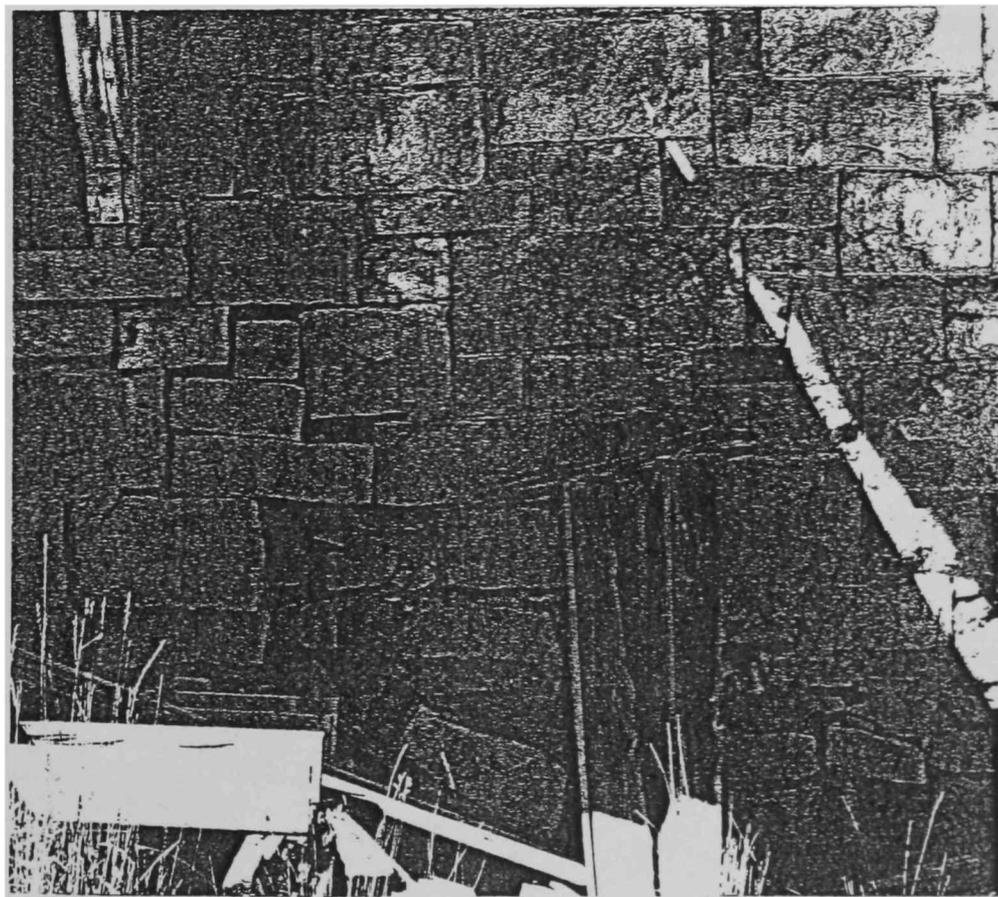


Figure 3.22 Mortar and stone damage at the east facade's main door. The dark vertical stain in the upper left portion of the picture indicates where there once was a downspout.



Figure 3.23 Fracture along mortar joint below window on south facade.
Source: Photo by author.

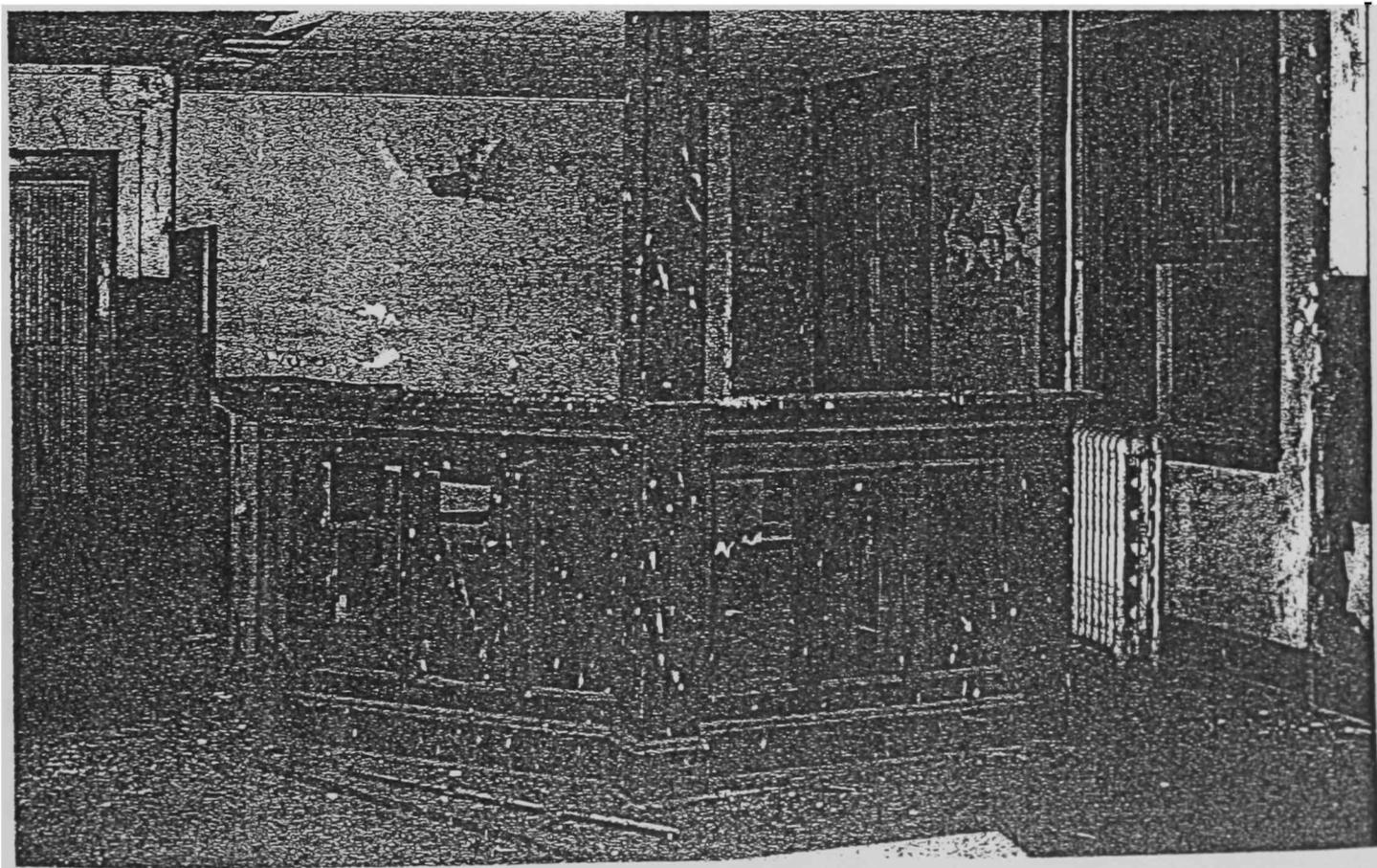


Figure 3.24 Bank/post office area showing bird droppings and extensive vandalism
Source: Courtesy of Abilene Christian University, Department of History.

interior. The only part of the main store that was painted was the beaded board paneling in the butcher shop, which was painted white.

The interior of the building has become a shelter for several types of birds and small animals. There are nests resting in many of the rafters, and the wood is broken, spattered with bird droppings and covered in graffiti (Fig. 3.24). It is likely that the cleaning of the store's interior would be one of the slowest and most costly and dangerous aspects of restoration. Special care would need to be taken so that contaminated dust would not be inhaled.

The inside walls of the main store are lath and plaster, and are mostly intact. There is a great deal of graffiti on them, so they would need to be cleaned and/or resurfaced. The walls of the storage area are exposed stone that has been whitewashed, and they are in good repair. The walls of the living quarters, as mentioned above, are covered in a pressed cardboard facing, to which several layers of wallpaper have been applied. What appears to have been the original finish was a light coating of ivory-colored paint.

Although the needs of different patrons were served over the years, the building itself has remained relatively unchanged. As automobile use became more common, there were reportedly gasoline pumps added just to the east of the store.¹⁰ It appears that nothing has been done to structurally alter the store since its opening in 1902. The only evidence of updating is in the acoustical ceiling tiles placed above the post office area.

¹⁰Stanley Barron, interview by author, 10 September 2000.

The exterior could be restored to its original appearance through repointing of the stonework, replacing the broken window panes and repainting. The interior, beyond a thorough cleaning, only needs the damaged wood on the butcher shop and post office to be repaired to the extent that is possible, and appropriate additions made to fill in the missing parts, and to have the banister around the mezzanine reconstructed.¹¹

¹¹It should be noted here that enough broken pieces of the banister were found so that an accurate tracing of the woodwork pattern could be made. The size and shape of the handrail can be determined from the outline of bare wood left on the columns where the rails were attached and stained.

CHAPTER 4

The Company Store

You load sixteen tons, what do you get?
Another day older and deeper in debt
Saint Peter don't you call me 'cause I can't go
I owe my soul to the company store.¹

4.1 An Introduction to Chapter 4

History has often portrayed the company store as a vehicle of corporate oppression, and the above lyrics became a part of American folklore. They seemed to capture the plight of the miner, his vulnerability before faceless corporate domination, his struggle to maintain his identity and his hopeless toil for a better life. Oral histories of southern Colorado are full of references to “that Tennessee Ernie Ford song”. But there are two sides to every story.

4.2 The Company's Point of View

When companies opened coal mining operations, they often had to create towns and provide community services to attract and retain a work force. The Colorado Supply Company was founded in 1888 to supply the daily needs of coal miners in such towns.

¹Merle Travis, *Sixteen Tons*, 1947.

The earliest stores stocked only groceries, but after about a year, they began carrying tools, dry goods, clothing and other items.

Besides being a service to employees, the company store also became a very profitable venture. Receipts rose from \$56,304.77 in 1889 to \$124,958.33 the following year, and reached \$210,161.61 in 1902. The Colorado Supply Company reached the million dollar mark in 1900 and \$2.7 million by 1908. It was such a lucrative endeavor that in a span of 58 years, the company averaged one new store per year.

The Colorado Fuel and Iron Company devoted an entire issue of *Camp and Plant* to the Colorado Supply Company and its workings. The business described by the company was one of benevolence and service to its employees. The *Camp and Plant* article attempted to dispel any negative image of the company store. It defended the company's use of the scrip pay system, in which vouchers could be traded at the store in exchange for goods. The company declared that in spite of its bad reputation as a means of cheating employees, that most of the miners actually preferred the scrip system of pay. The article went on to explain that miners found themselves in financial trouble when they traded outside the company store and had their wages garnished by independent retailers who extended credit to them. This paternalistic view of protecting the miners from themselves extended to other areas of the company, including controlled housing situations and social functions.

The company store managers were reportedly asked to treat their customers with respect and kindness. In general training, managers were given the following instructions regarding their customers:

“Extend the utmost courtesy to every customer. Manners and consideration are of far more importance to the Supply Company than to its customers. The latter are not obliged to submit to bad manners; they can go elsewhere to trade. Good manners mean business to the store, and success to the salesman. To the customer they mean a few minutes’ pleasurable sensation, and a determination to make another purchase at the same place at another time. Thorough observance of the above will forestall many a hurtful criticism and make your service what you wish it to be - thoroughly good and pleasing to your customers.”²

While this seemed to be a model way of conducting business, based on accounts of coal miners and their families, reality sometimes fell short of the ideal.

4.3 The Miner’s Point of View

A strong sense of camaraderie existed between men from diverse backgrounds, who were brought together for the purpose of extracting coal to fuel the CF&I plants. Pay was low and work conditions were demanding and dangerous. These workers likely lived each day in exhaustion and uncertainty. It was natural that they banded together against the entity that was perceived as the cause of their frustrations.

Since the company store was the visual reminder of the corporate presence in mining towns, it became the target of employee hostility. The company, according to most accounts, paid miners in scrip, redeemable only at the company store. By doing this, CF&I was allowed to grossly inflate prices and drive up their profits. This caused

²*Camp and Plant*, V, no. 11 (March 26, 1904) 245.

the miner to have to draw credit at the store against a future pay date, thus driving him deeper and deeper into debt.³

Agnes Smedley described the animosity between the miners and the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company, which worsened during periods of labor strike:

“Over Tercio brooded the same atmosphere as in Delagua - smoldering discontent and hatred. Here were the same complaints about the weigh boss, the hours, wages, insufficient props and other precautions against falls, the high prices and dishonesty at the Company store, the payment of scrip instead of money. The miners dragged themselves to holes in the mountainside each morning, and, black with coal smut, dragged themselves home at night . . . Hatred and hunger walked hand in hand through all the camps. There was no food except at the Company store and the store could not give credit.”⁴

To miners, the company store seemed to be a symbol of oppression and an object of their discontent. Another former coal camp resident recalled the strife between employer and laborer:

“We had to buy everything at the store . . . The pay was in scrip money, this was before the strike . . . You couldn't go to Trinidad to buy anything . . . If anybody would go down . . . and buy something at Trinidad, if the superintendent found out next morning into the mine . . . They would have to move away from there, no more work for them there. That was pretty tough for it was hard to get another job right away.”⁵

Clearly, what the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company tried to project as a paternalistic system was seen by its employees as attempts to control them.

³Rick J. Clyne, *Coal People*, 22-23.

⁴Agnes Smedley, *Daughter of Earth*, 110-111.

⁵Rick J. Clyne, *Coal People*, 24.

4.4 Middle Ground in Southern Colorado

The truth in this conflict most likely fell somewhere in the middle, especially in southern Colorado. While there was some degree of rancor between the two groups, their relationship did not readily conform to the historic archetype of corporate enslavement. In addition, power shifted between management and labor. During times of labor strikes, overproduction of coal or labor gluts, the company store could tighten its reigns on employees. Likewise, in times of labor shortages and higher demands for coal, the miners had the upper hand.

In Colorado, the store was part of the employment package that included wages, living arrangements and other means of employee compensation. With more than two dozen mining camps in the region, the store operators were in competition amongst themselves. During periods of high production, miners were more transient, and could move from one town to the next if conditions did not suit them. Since there was often a shortage of labor, stores had to compete in order to attract miners to their town.

Company stores also had to deal with competition from independent stores in nearby “open” towns. In 1914, John C. Osgood, the president of the Victor-American Fuel Company, testified to the effects of independent competitors by saying, “The maximum amount of our sales at any time has not exceeded 25 per cent of the payroll, so

that it does not look like we are forcing our men to make all their purchases at our stores.’⁶

In *Los Properos: A Forgotten People*, a former employee at Weston, Lloyd Romero, recalled that payday was an occasion for families and friends to gather at the company store to exchange news, gossip, and visit with one another. Balances were settled and purchases were made. Another employee, Jay Garcia, stated that, “You never got much cash. It all stayed at the store because by the time you got paid, you had already spent most of your money. If you were worried about your finances, they’d tell you at the store, ‘Don’t worry, don’t worry. We’ll catch you later.’”⁷

In southern Colorado, the company store was more of a necessary service to its employees than a weapon of corporate control. The relationship between the company and its employees seemed to be more amiable in Colorado than it had been back east in earlier years. Times were difficult at the turn of the century, and human nature itself leads to strife between labor and management. However, it seems that CF&I did work to make the best of a potentially volatile situation.

4.5 The Stores

In all, The Colorado Fuel and Iron Company build 58 stores in Colorado, New Mexico and Wyoming between the years of 1888 and 1946. They all had the common

⁶Ibid., 23.

⁷Diane Benavides Mason and Marsi A. Mason, *Los Properos: A Forgotten People* (Trinidad, Colorado: Trinidad State Junior College, copyright pending), 21.

goal of providing goods to miners and their families. There seemed to be no set way of building a company store, although some of them had similar layouts and facades. In already-existing towns, the local mercantile was often purchased by CF&I to house the company stores. The Colorado Supply Company stores ranged from small, one-room clapboard structures to very impressive buildings made of stone, and they often took on characteristics of the communities that surrounded them.

To illustrate this diversity, the following pages contain images of 35 of the company stores built between 1888 and 1902 (Figs. 4.1-4.35). The stores are shown in numeric order, as assigned by the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company. In following the company's custom of dismantling towns once coal production ceased, it is interesting to note that the Colorado Supply Company Store Number Two at "Old" Rouse, Colorado was moved and subsequently became Store Number 17 at Santa Clara, or "New Rouse," Colorado.

Very few of these buildings remain standing, partly due to CF&I's dismantling practices, and partly because nobody realized what an important part they played in the history of Colorado.

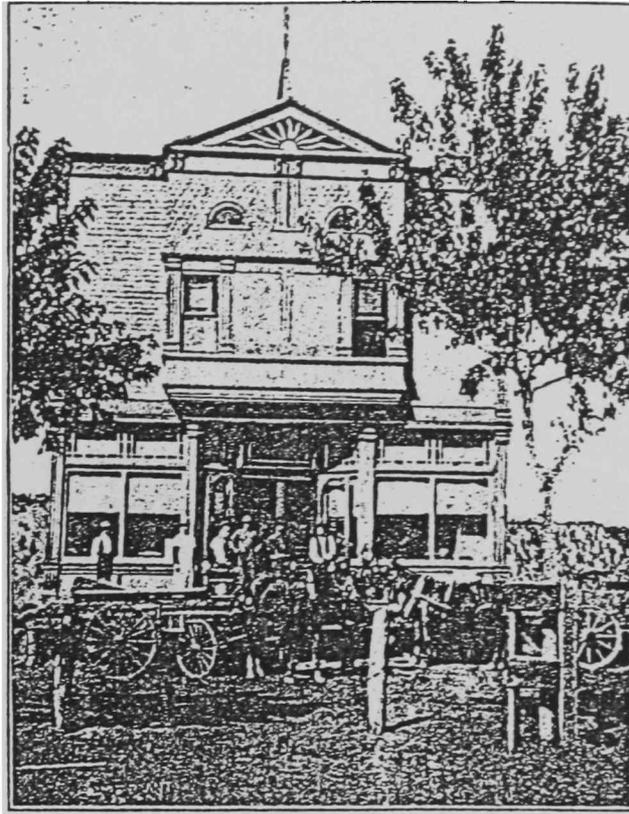


Figure 4.1 Colorado Supply Company Store Number One at Sopris, Colorado.
Source: *Camp and Plant*, V, no. 11, (March 26, 1904), 242.

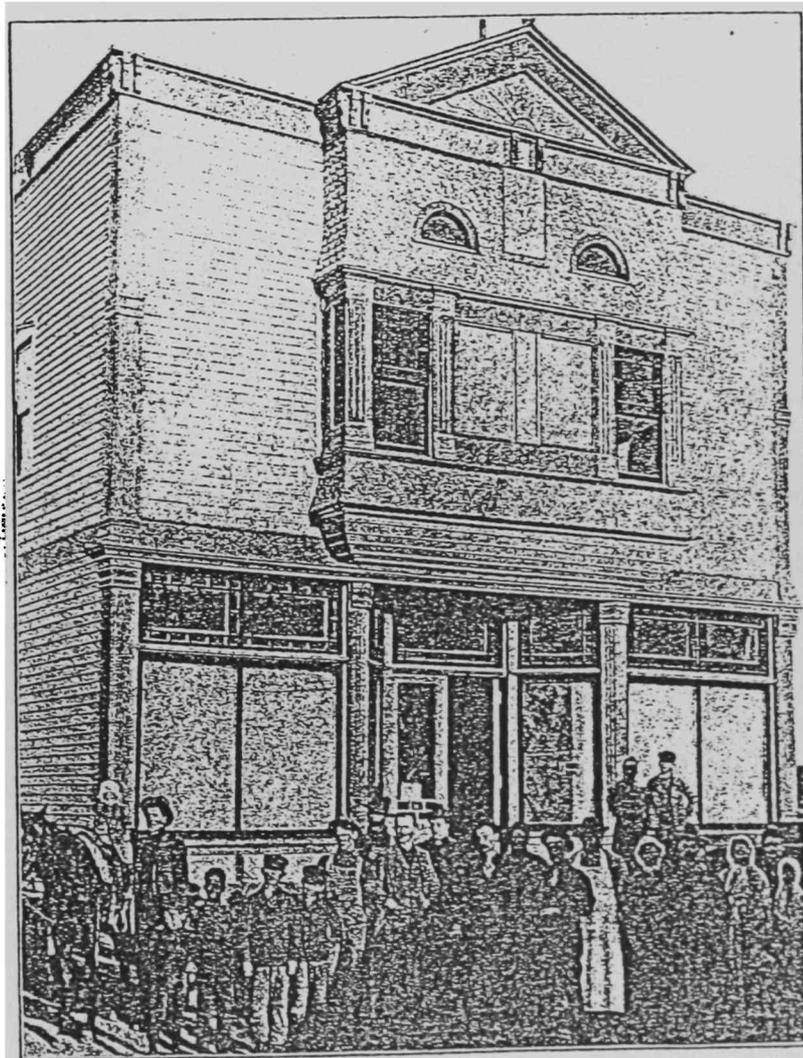


Figure 4.2 Colorado Supply Company Store Number Two at "Old" Rouse, Colorado.
Source: *Camp and Plant*, V, no. 11, (March 26, 1904), 243.

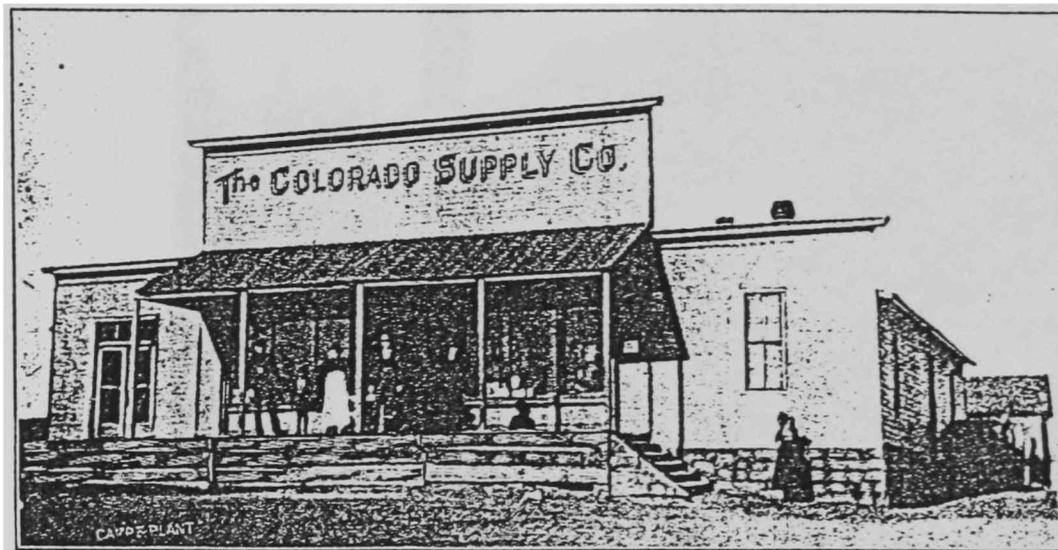


Figure 4.3 Colorado Supply Company Store Number Three at Pictou, Colorado.
Source: *Camp and Plant*, V, no. 11, (March 26, 1904), 244.

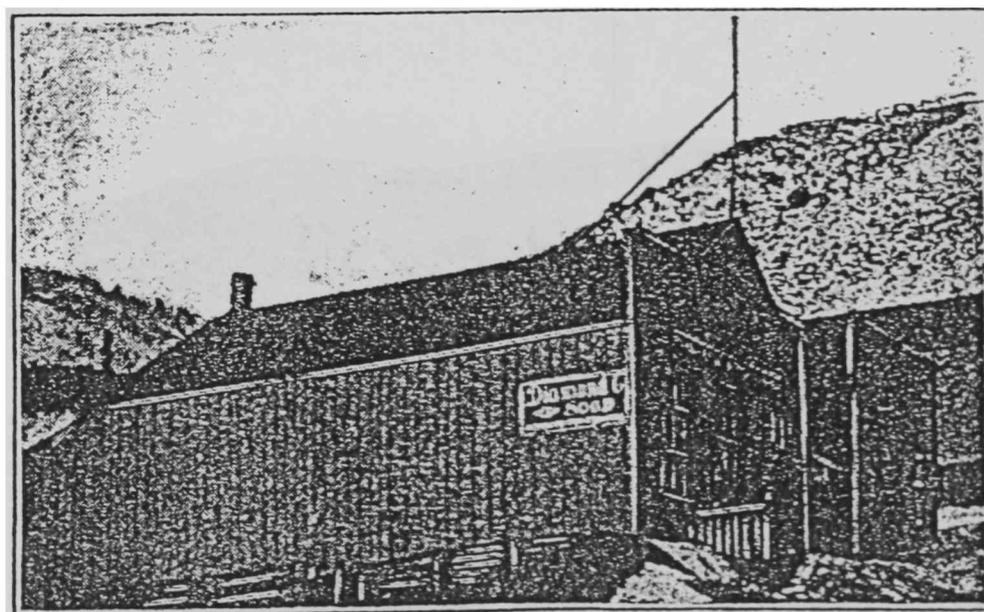


Figure 4.4 Colorado Supply Company Store Number Four at Spring Gulch, Colorado.
Source: *Camp and Plant*, V, no. 11, (March 26, 1904), 245.

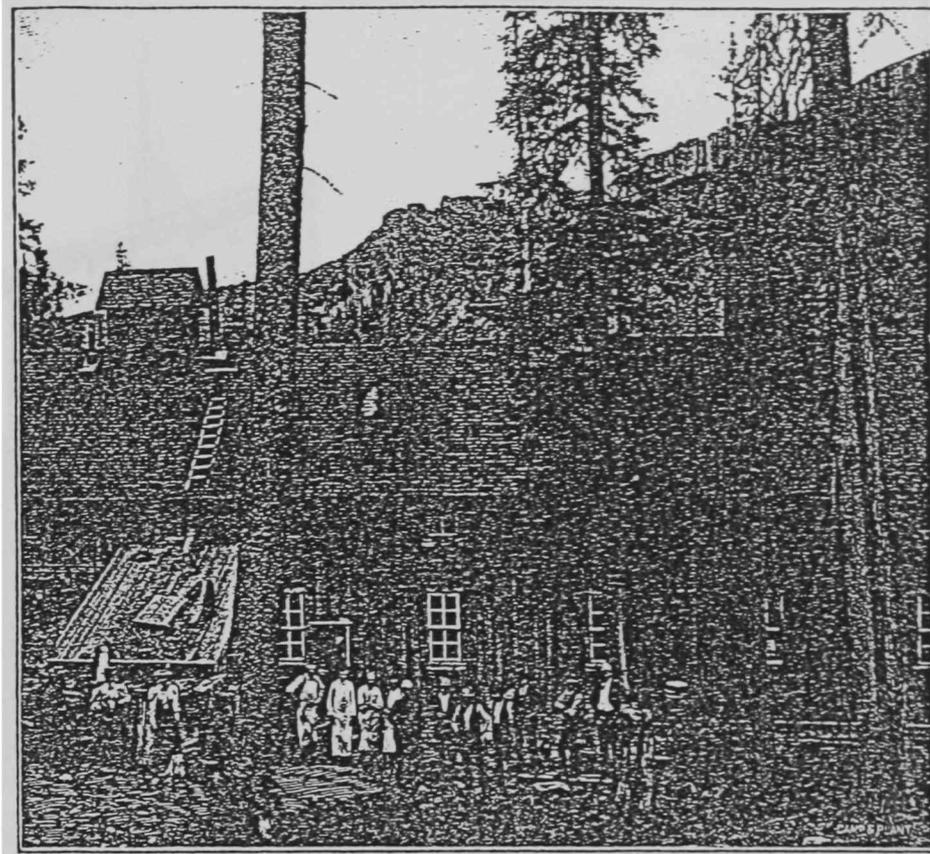


Figure 4.5 Colorado Supply Company Store Number Five at Floresta, Colorado.
Source: *Camp and Plant*, V, no. 11, (March 26, 1904), 246.

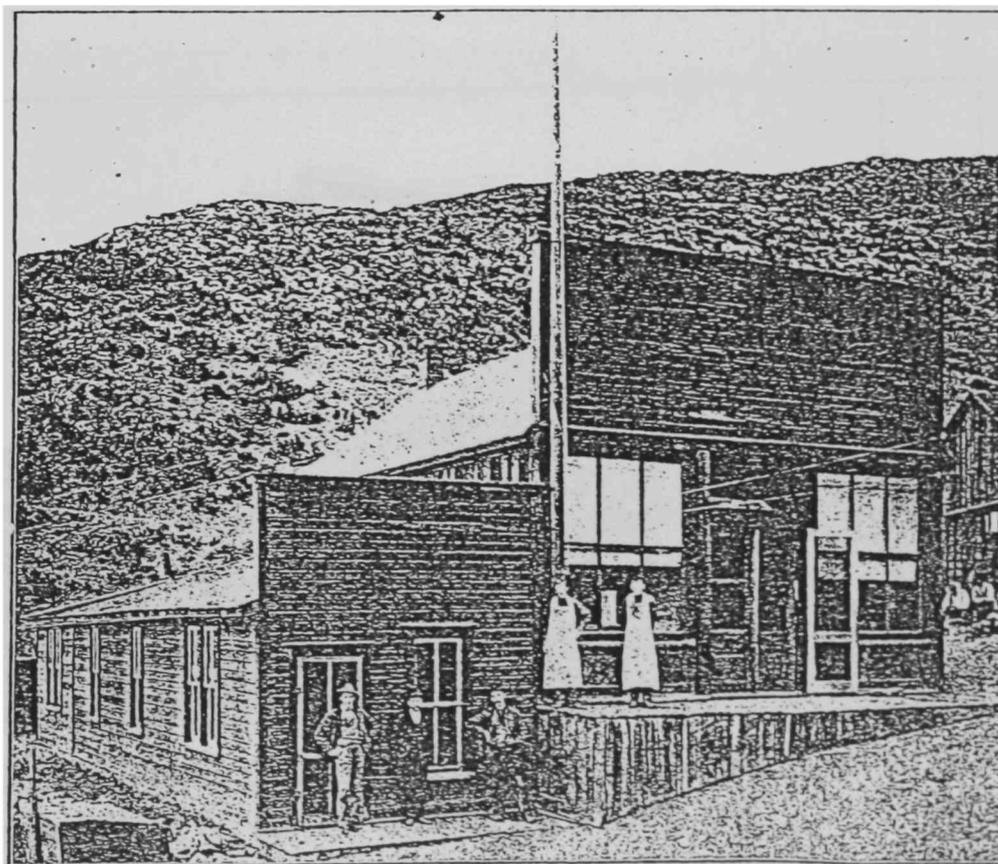


Figure 4.6 Colorado Supply Company Store Number Seven at Orient, Colorado.
Source: *Camp and Plant*, V, no. 11, (March 26, 1904), 247.

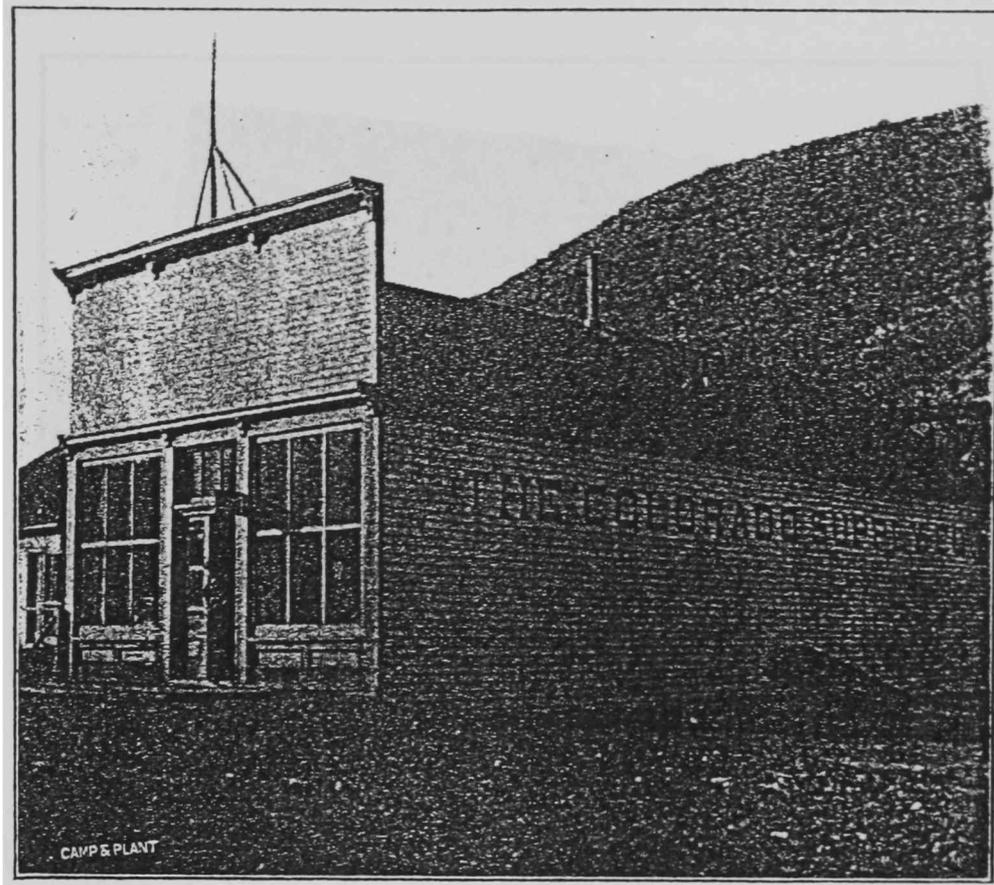


Figure 4.7 Colorado Supply Company Store Number Eight at Cardiff, Colorado.
Source: *Camp and Plant*, V, no. 11, (March 26, 1904), 248.

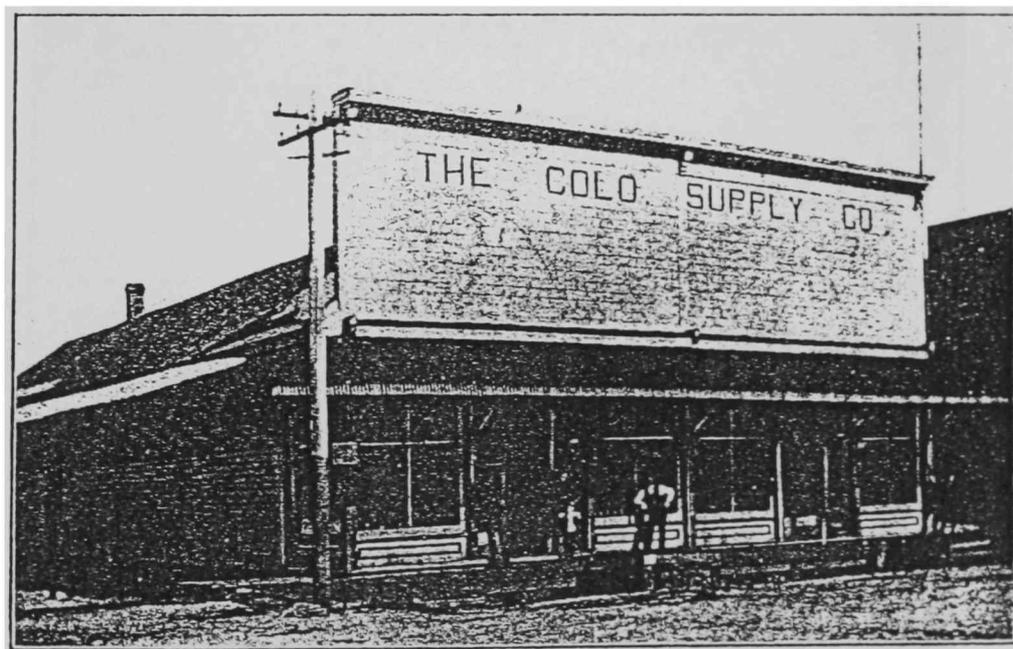


Figure 4.8 Colorado Supply Company Store Number Nine at Crested Butte, Colorado.
Source: *Camp and Plant*, V, no. 11, (March 26, 1904), 249.

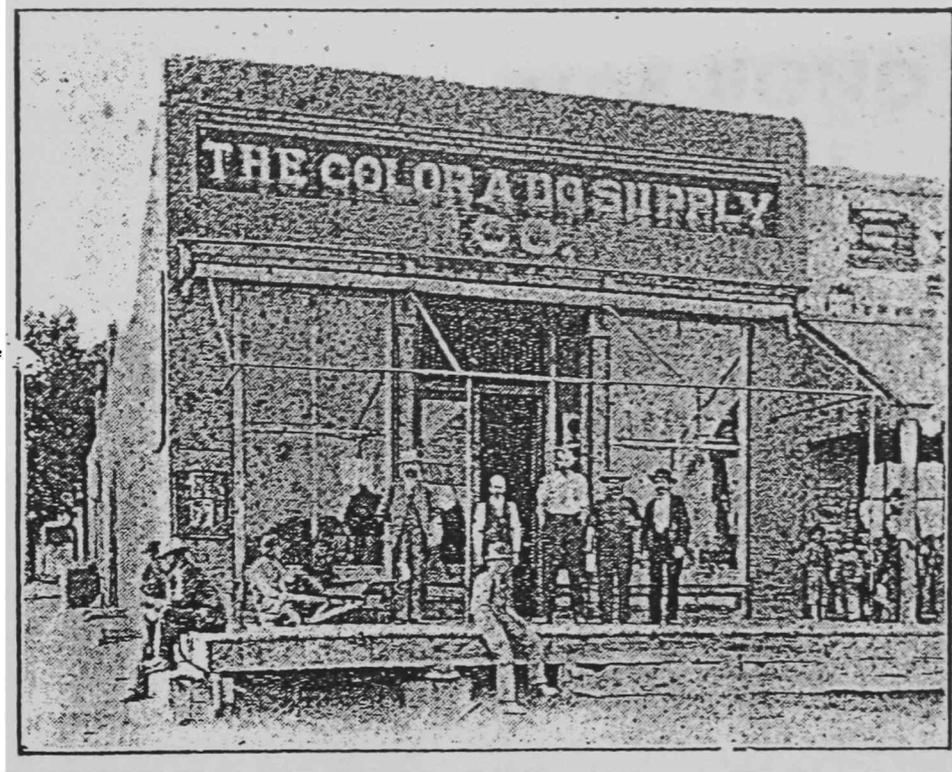


Figure 4.9 Colorado Supply Company Store Number 10 at Rockvale, Colorado.
Source: *Camp and Plant*, V, no. 11, (March 26, 1904), 248.

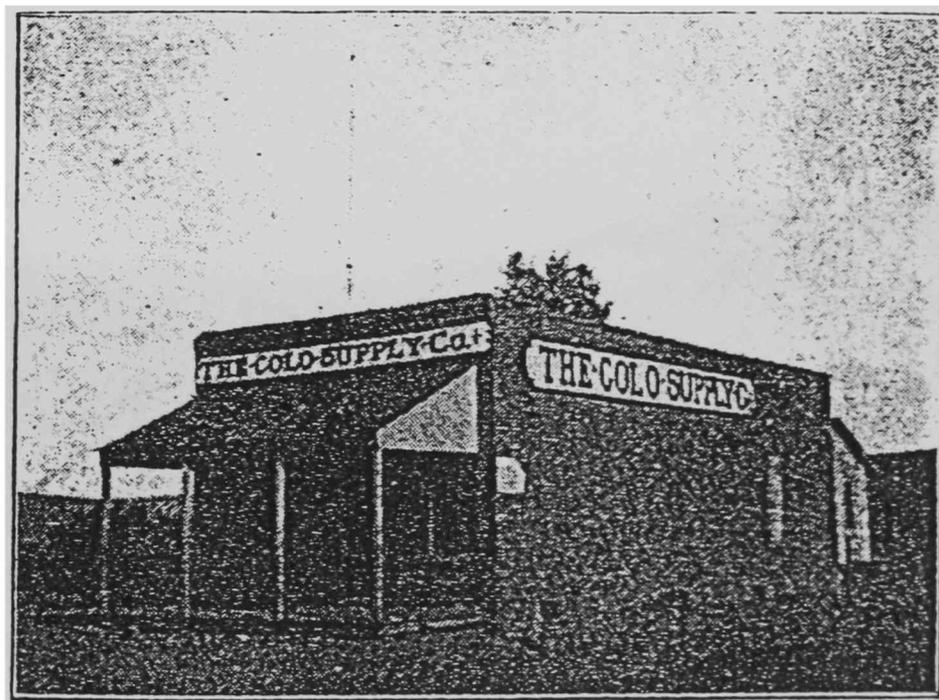


Figure 4.10 Colorado Supply Company Store Number 11 at Brookside, Colorado.
Source: *Camp and Plant*, V, no. 11, (March 26, 1904), 250.



Figure 4.11 Colorado Supply Company Store Number 12 at Coal Creek, Colorado.
Source: *Camp and Plant*, V, no. 11, (March 26, 1904), 250.

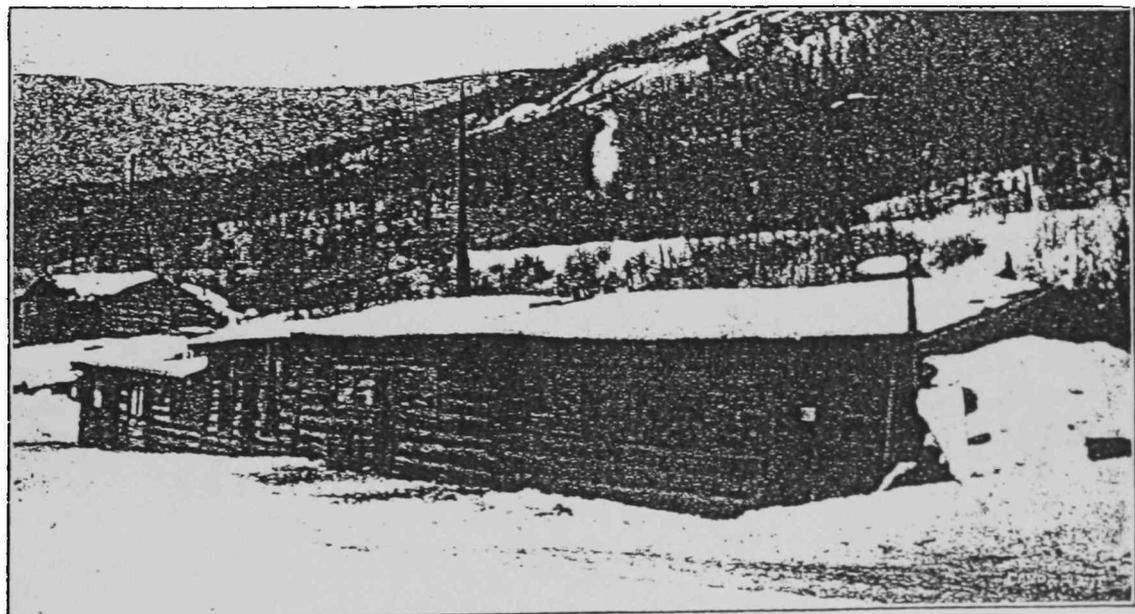


Figure 4.12 Colorado Supply Company Store Number 13 at Sunlight, Colorado.
Source: *Camp and Plant*, V, no. 11, (March 26, 1904), 251.

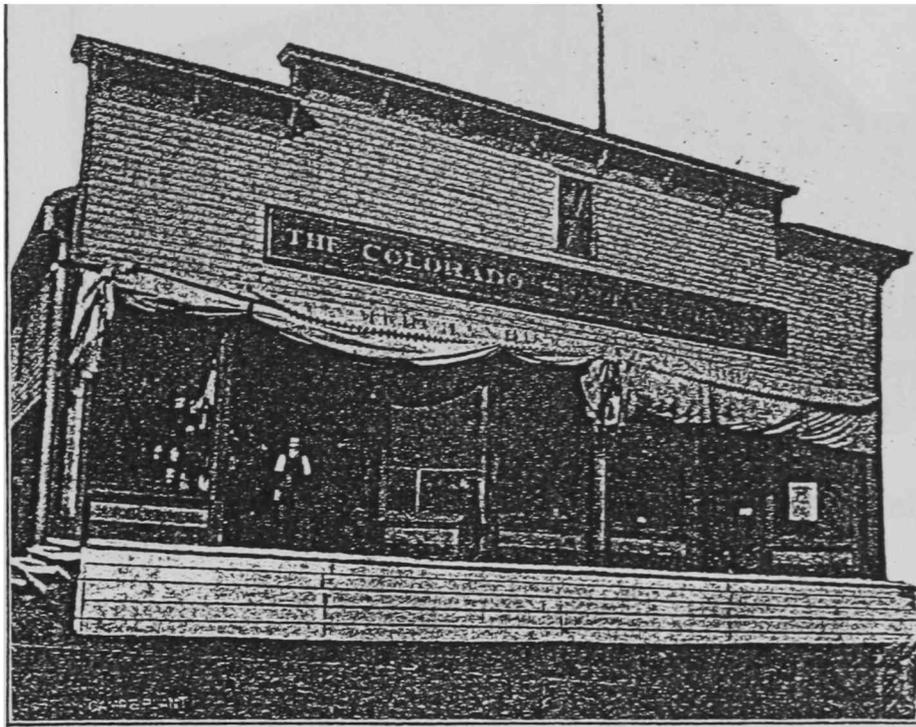


Figure 4.13 Colorado Supply Company Store Number 14 at Starkville, Colorado.
Source: *Camp and Plant*, V, no. 11, (March 26, 1904), 251.

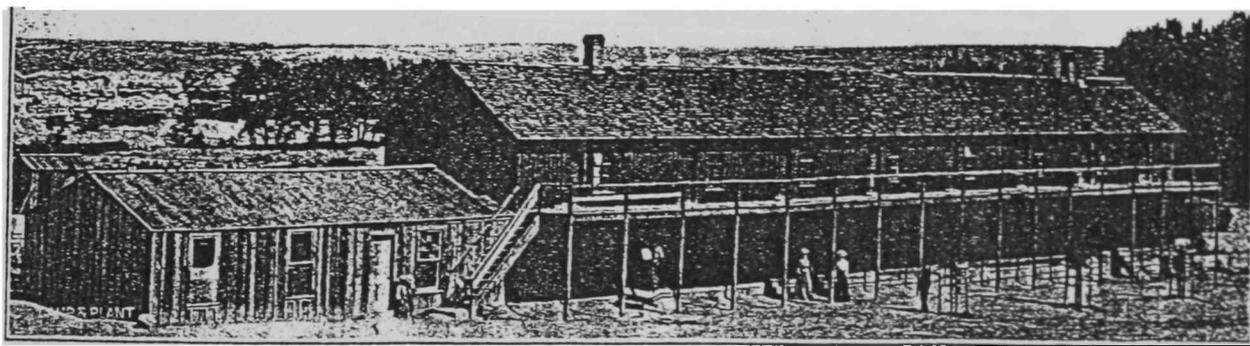


Figure 4.14 Colorado Supply Company Store Number 15 at San Carlos, Colorado.
Source: *Camp and Plant*, V, no. 11, (March 26, 1904), 252.

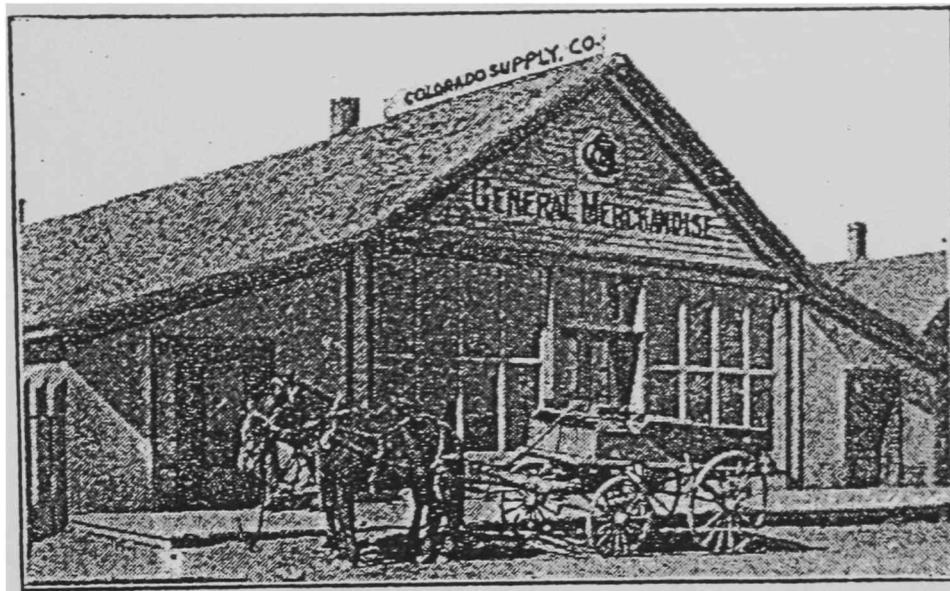


Figure 4.15 Colorado Supply Company Store Number 16 at Walsen, Colorado.
Source: *Camp and Plant*, V, no. 11, (March 26, 1904), 252.

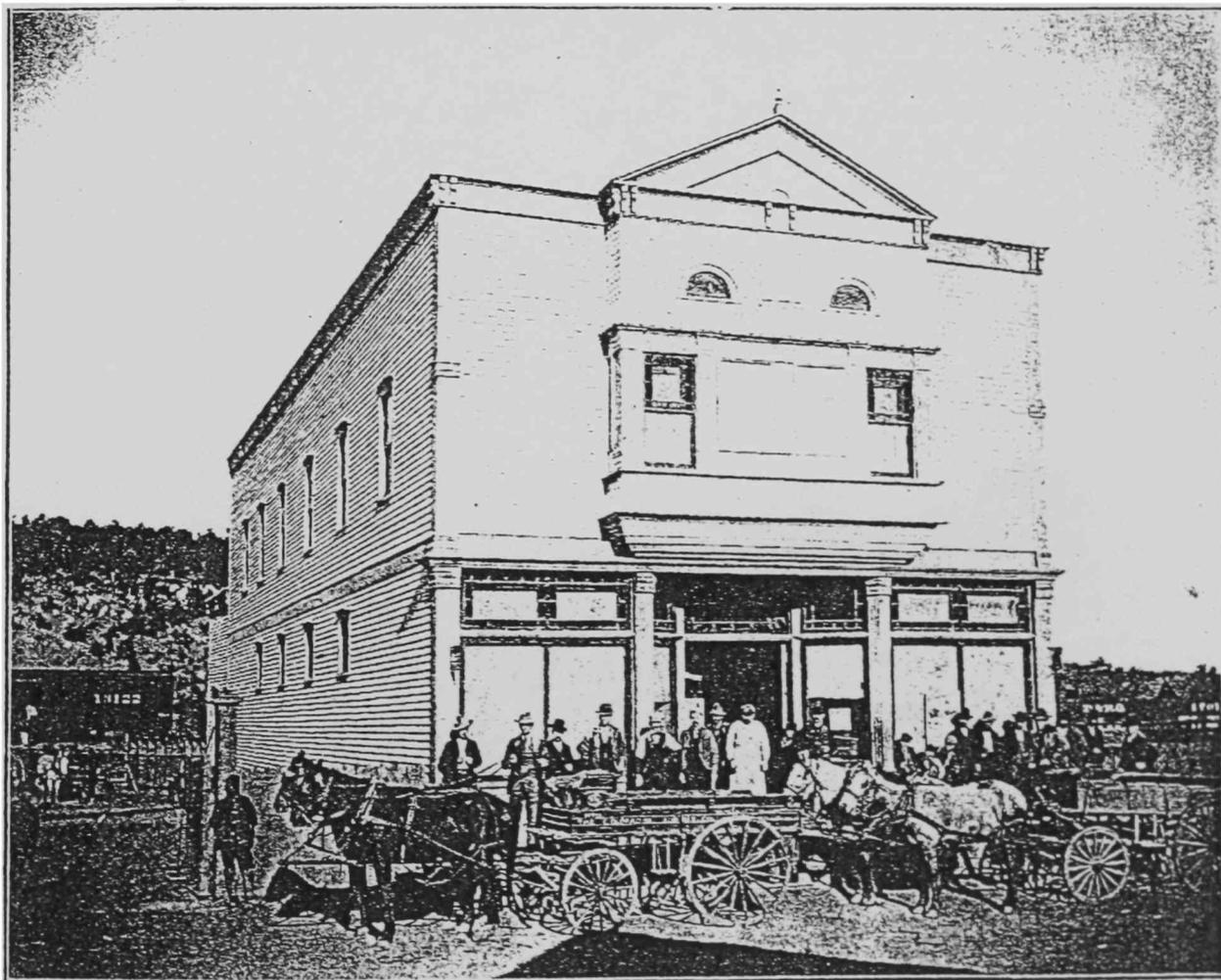


Figure 4.16 Colorado Supply Company Store Number 17 at Santa Clara ("New Rouse"), Colorado. This was the same building used for Store Number Two; it was moved to Santa Clara in 1900.

Source: *Camp and Plant*, V, no. 11, (March 26, 1904), 253.

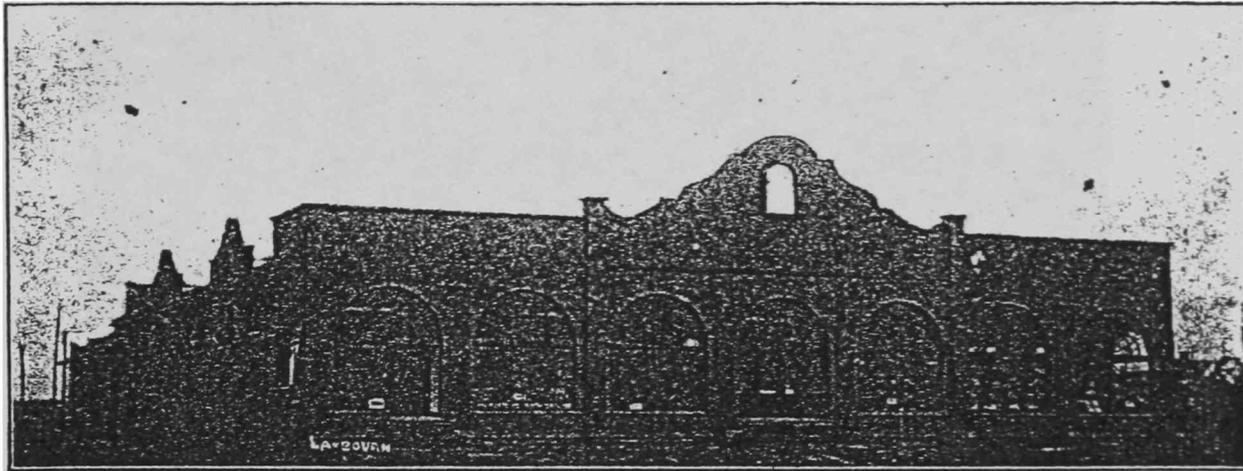


Figure 4.17 Colorado Supply Company Store Number 18 at Pueblo, Colorado. This was a retail shop, and the largest of the company stores.

Source: *Camp and Plant*, V, no. 11, (March 26, 1904), 255.

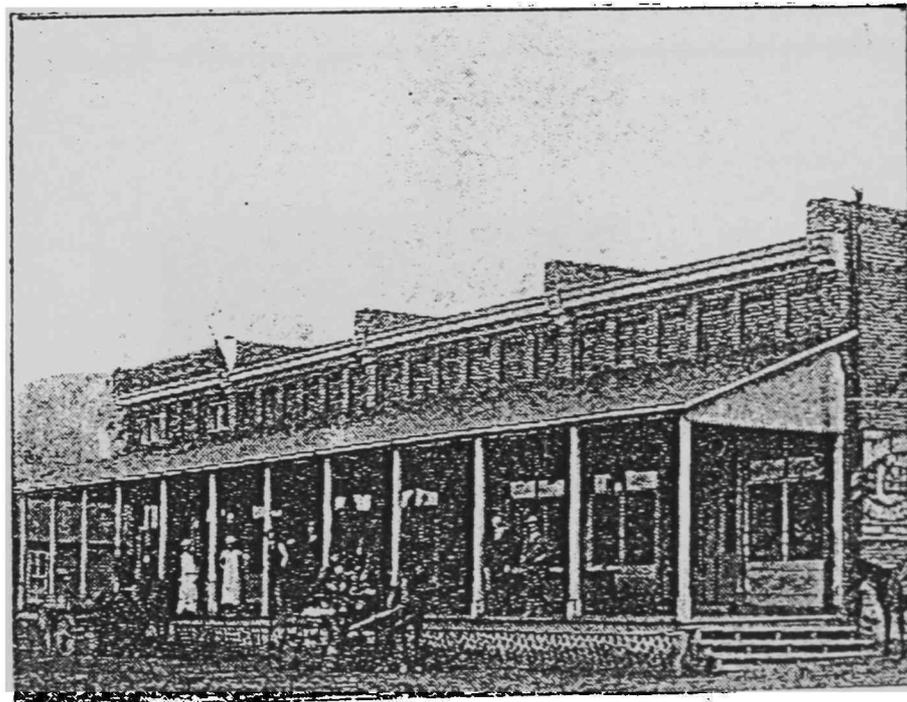


Figure 4.18 Colorado Supply Company Store Number 19 at Madrid, New Mexico.

Source: *Camp and Plant*, V, no. 11, (March 26, 1904), 256.

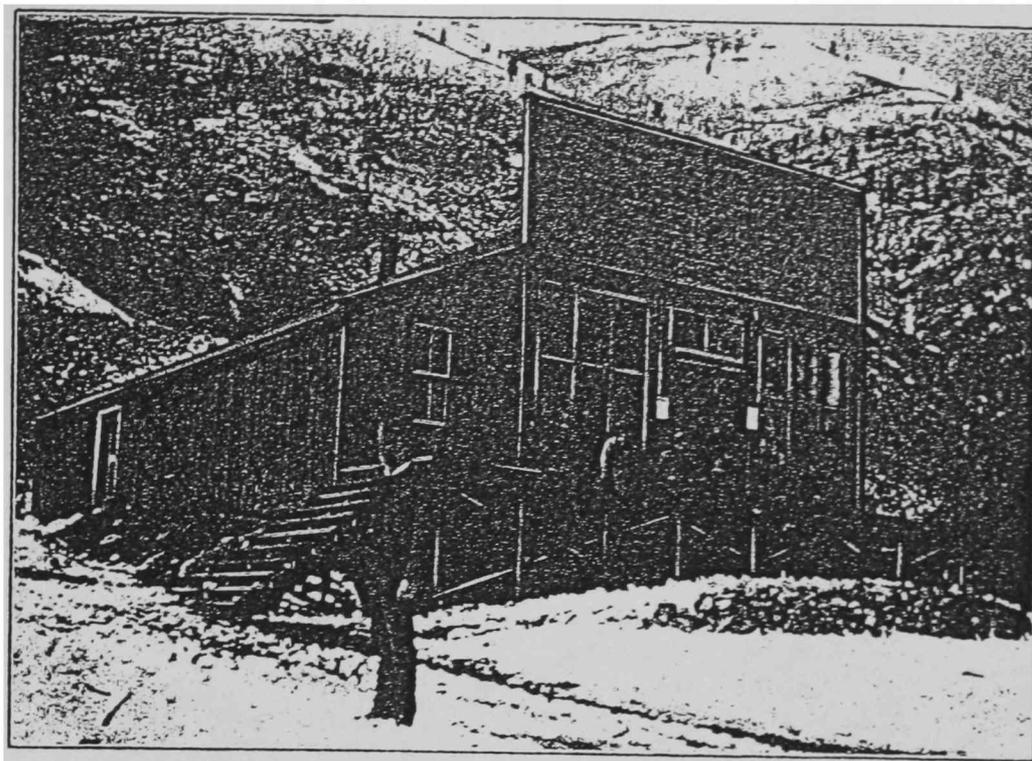


Figure 4.19 Colorado Supply Company Store Number 20 at Placita, Colorado.
Source: *Camp and Plant*, V, no. 11, (March 26, 1904), 258.

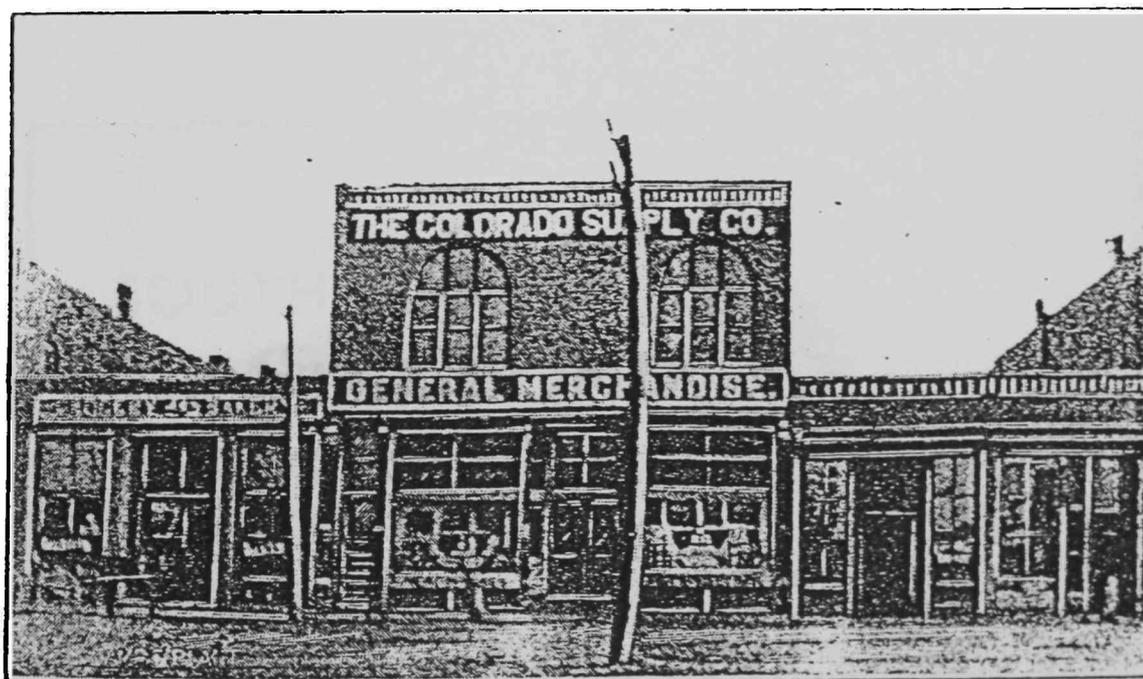


Figure 4.20 Colorado Supply Company Store Number 21 at Gallup, New Mexico.
Source: *Camp and Plant*, V, no. 11, (March 26, 1904), 257.

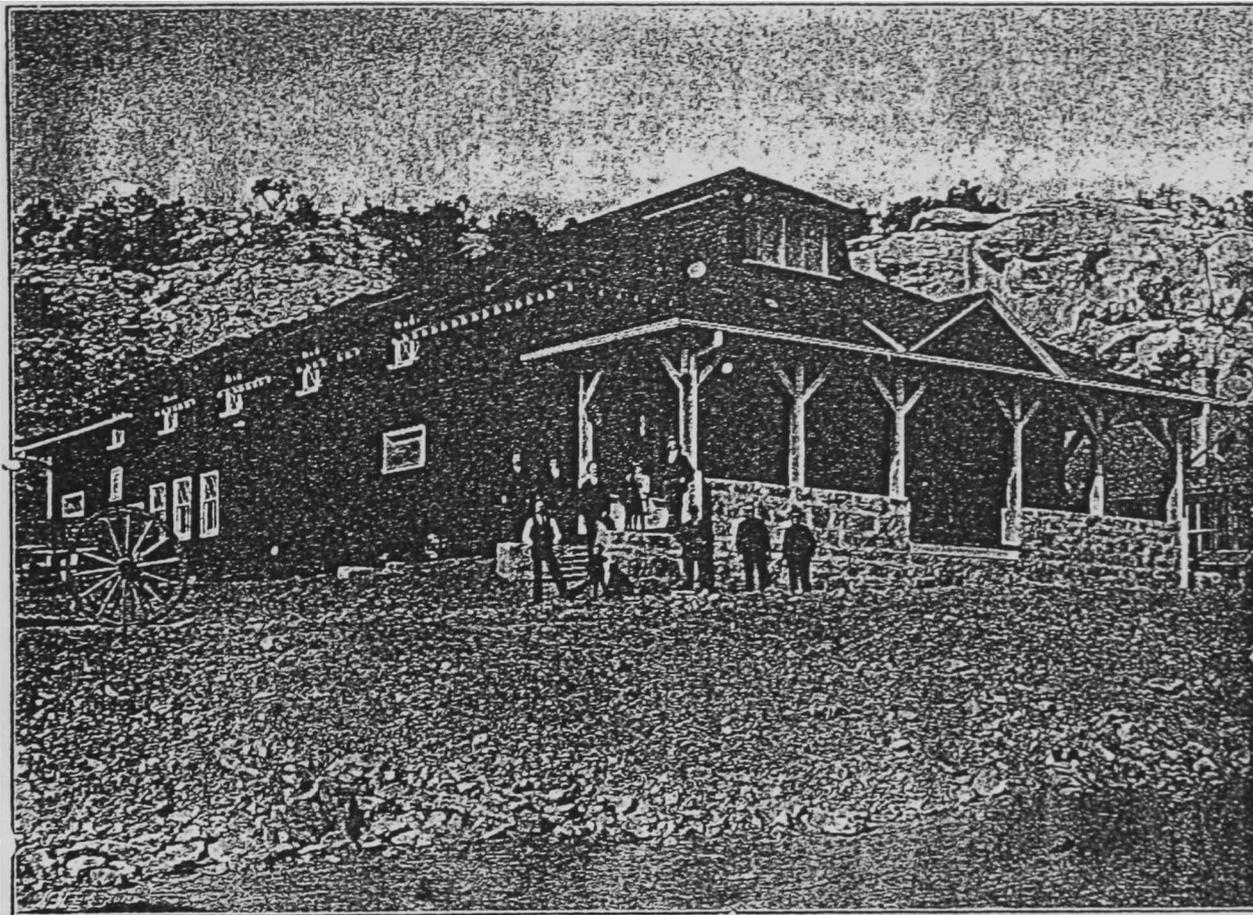


Figure 4.21 Colorado Supply Company Store Number 22 at Gibson, New Mexico.
Source: *Camp and Plant*, V, no. 11, (March 26, 1904), 259.

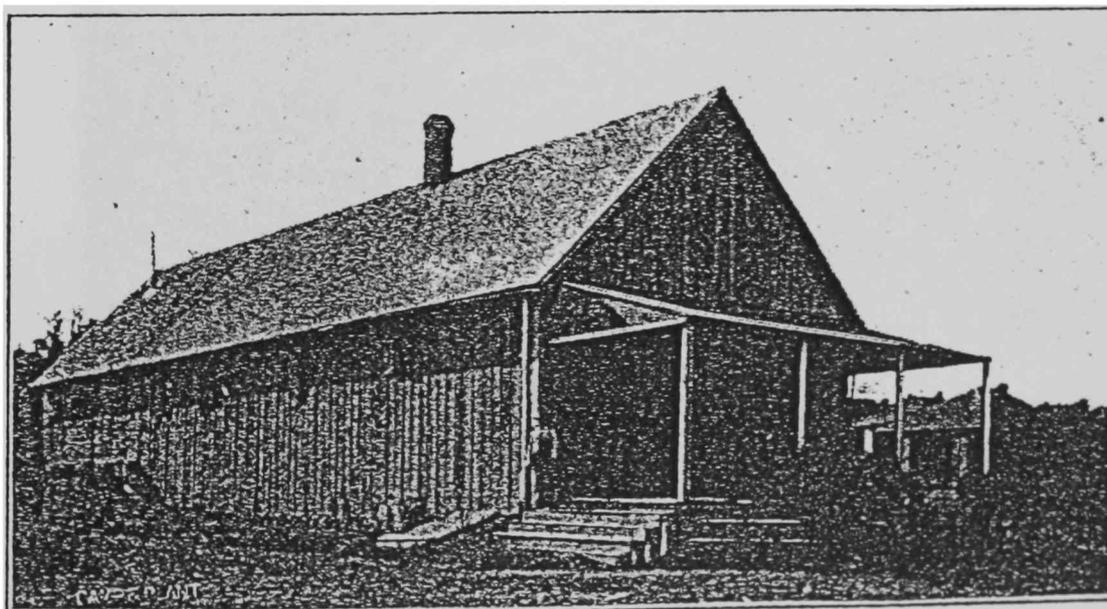


Figure 4.22 Colorado Supply Company Store Number 23 at Catalpa, New Mexico.
Source: *Camp and Plant*, V, no. 11, (March 26, 1904), 259.

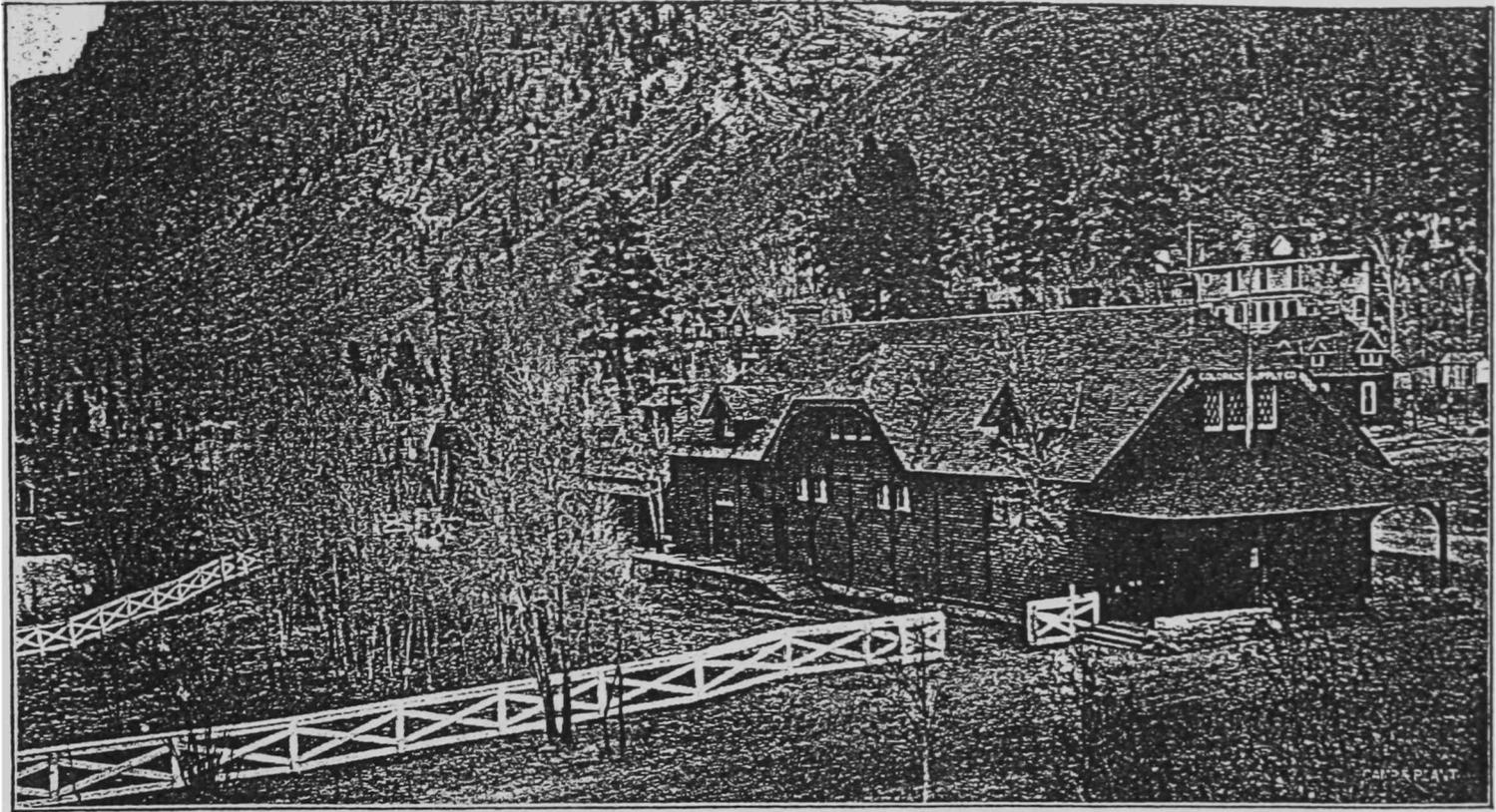


Figure 4.23 Colorado Supply Company Store Number 24 at Redstone, Colorado.
Source: *Camp and Plant*, V, no. 11, (March 26, 1904), cover photo.

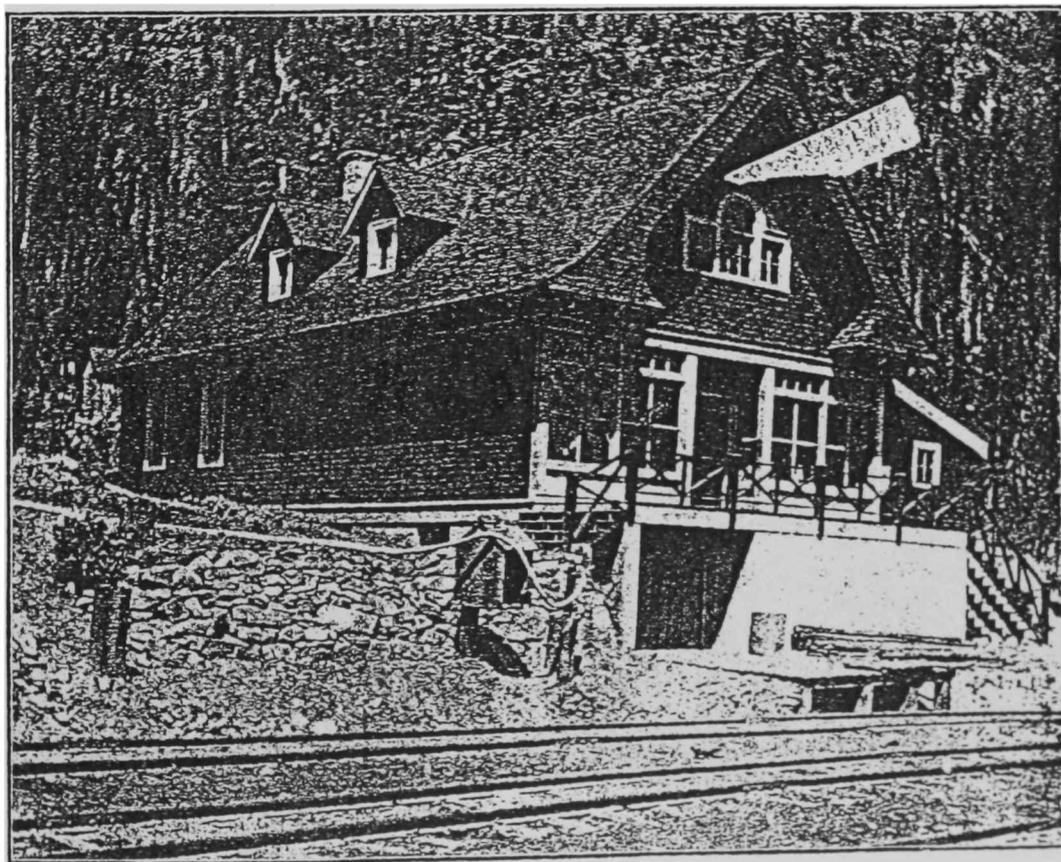


Figure 4.24 Colorado Supply Company Store Number 26 at Coalbasin, Colorado.
Source: *Camp and Plant*, V, no. 11, (March 26, 1904), 262.

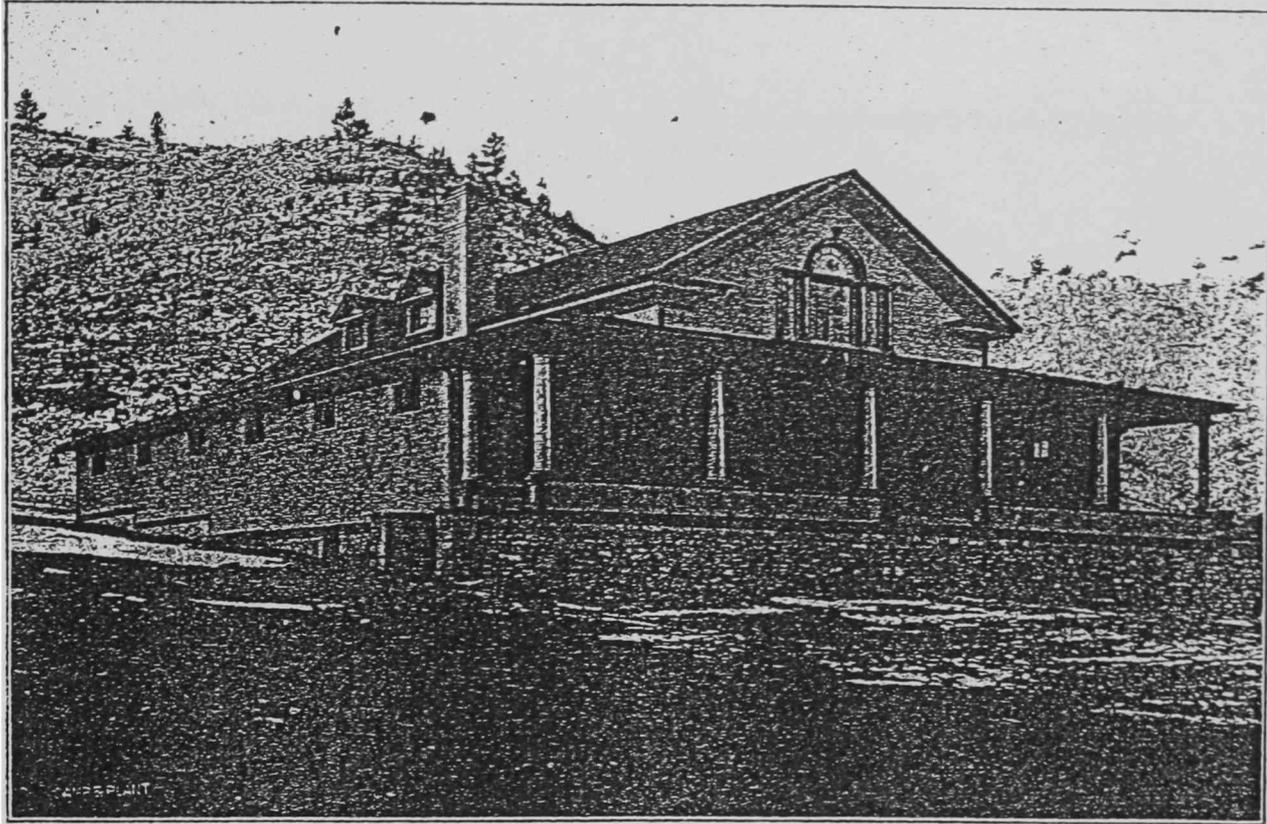


Figure 4.25 Colorado Supply Company Store Number 27 at Sunrise, Wyoming.
Source: *Camp and Plant*, V, no. 11, (March 26, 1904), 263.

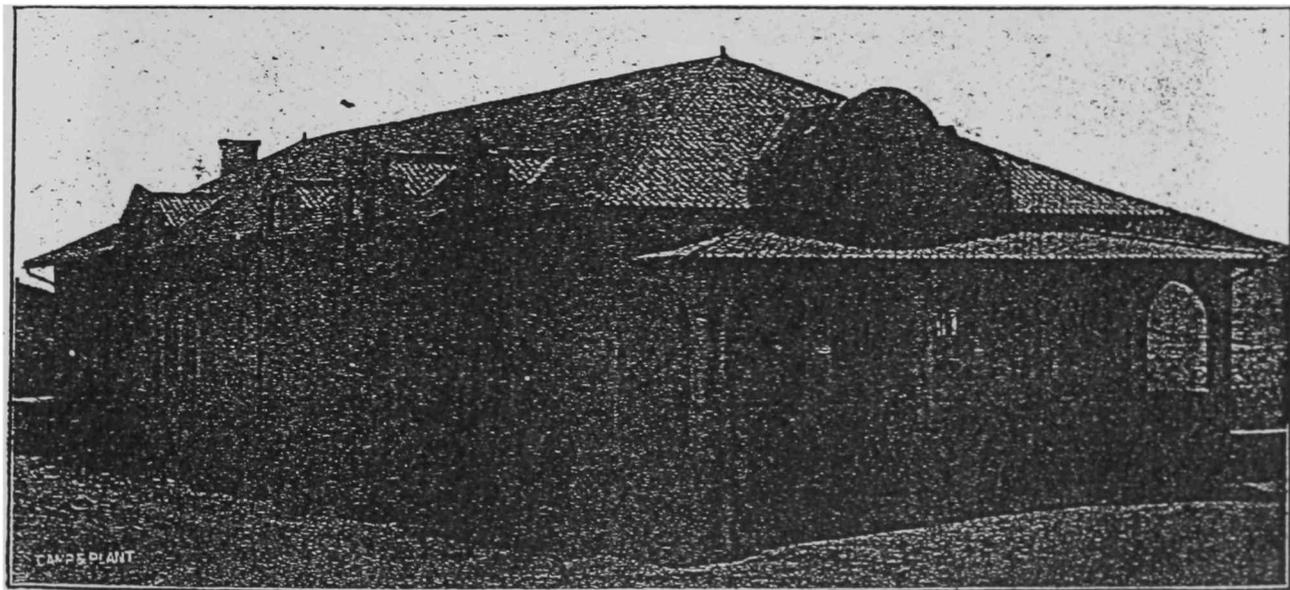


Figure 4.26 Colorado Supply Company Store Number 28 at Primero, Colorado.
Source: *Camp and Plant*, V, no. 11, (March 26, 1904), 263.

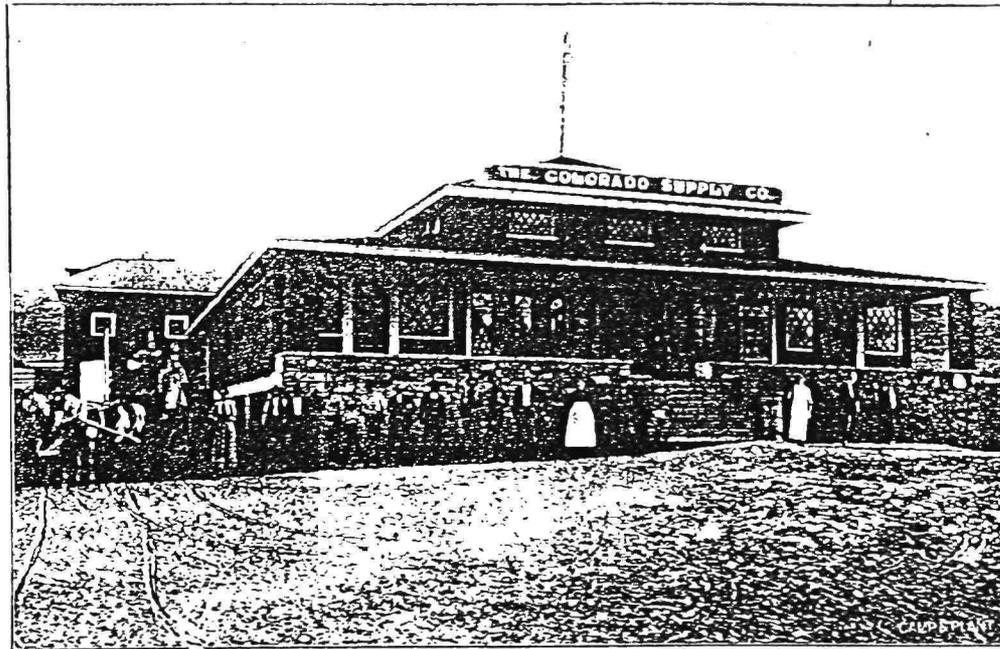


Figure 4.27 Colorado Supply Company Store Number 29 at Segundo, Colorado.
Source: *Camp and Plant*, V, no. 11, (March 26, 1904), 266.

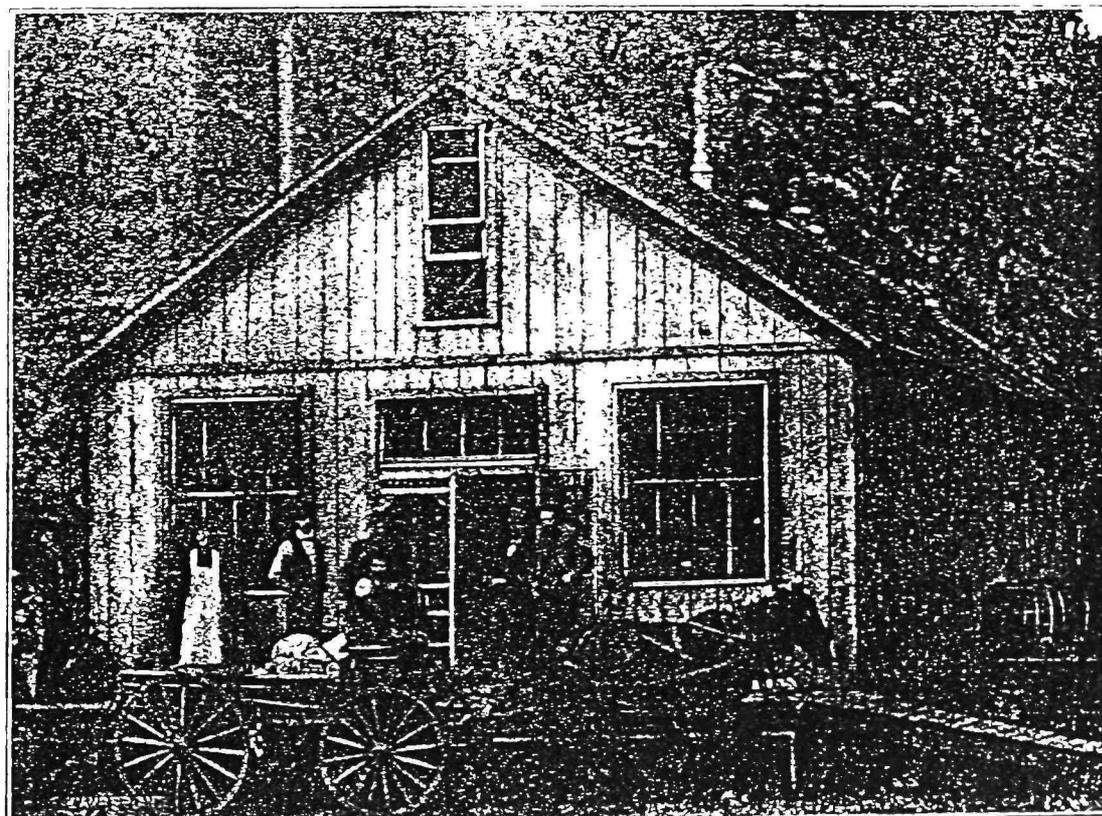


Figure 4.28 Colorado Supply Company Store Number 30 at Tabasco, Colorado.
Source: *Camp and Plant*, V, no. 11, (March 26, 1904), 266.

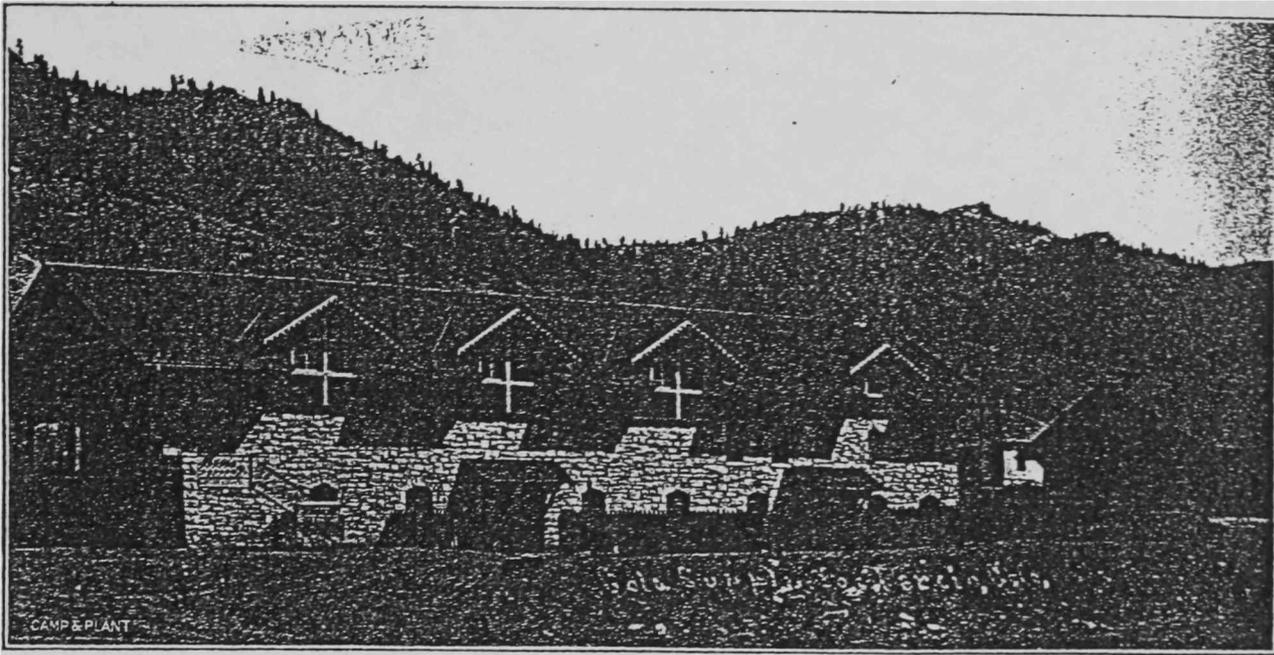


Figure 4.29 Colorado Supply Company Store Number 31 at Tercio, Colorado.
Source: *Camp and Plant*, V, no. 11, (March 26, 1904), 267.

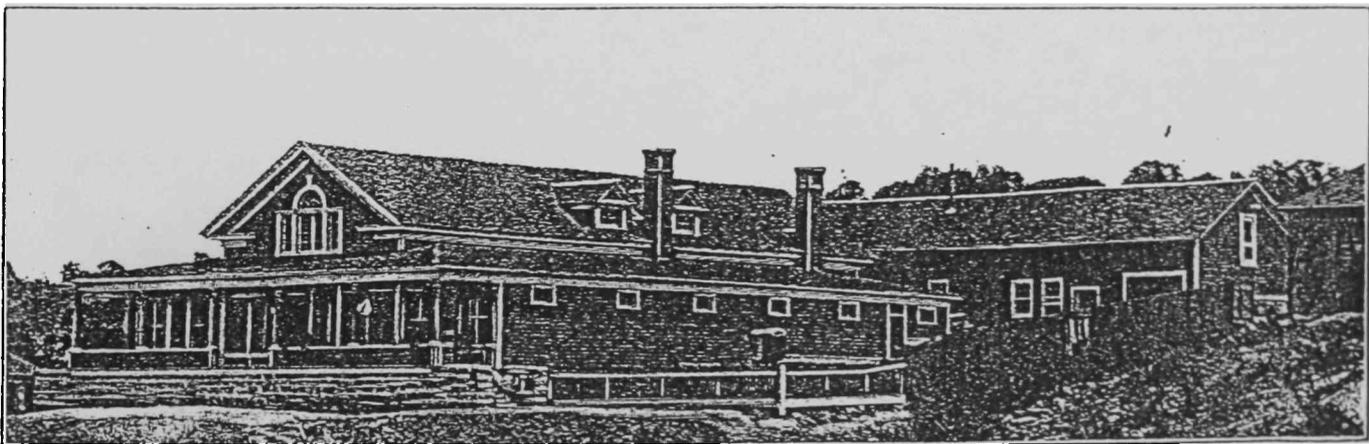


Figure 4.30 Colorado Supply Company Store Number 32 at Hezron, Colorado.
Source: *Camp and Plant*, V, no. 11, (March 26, 1904), 269.

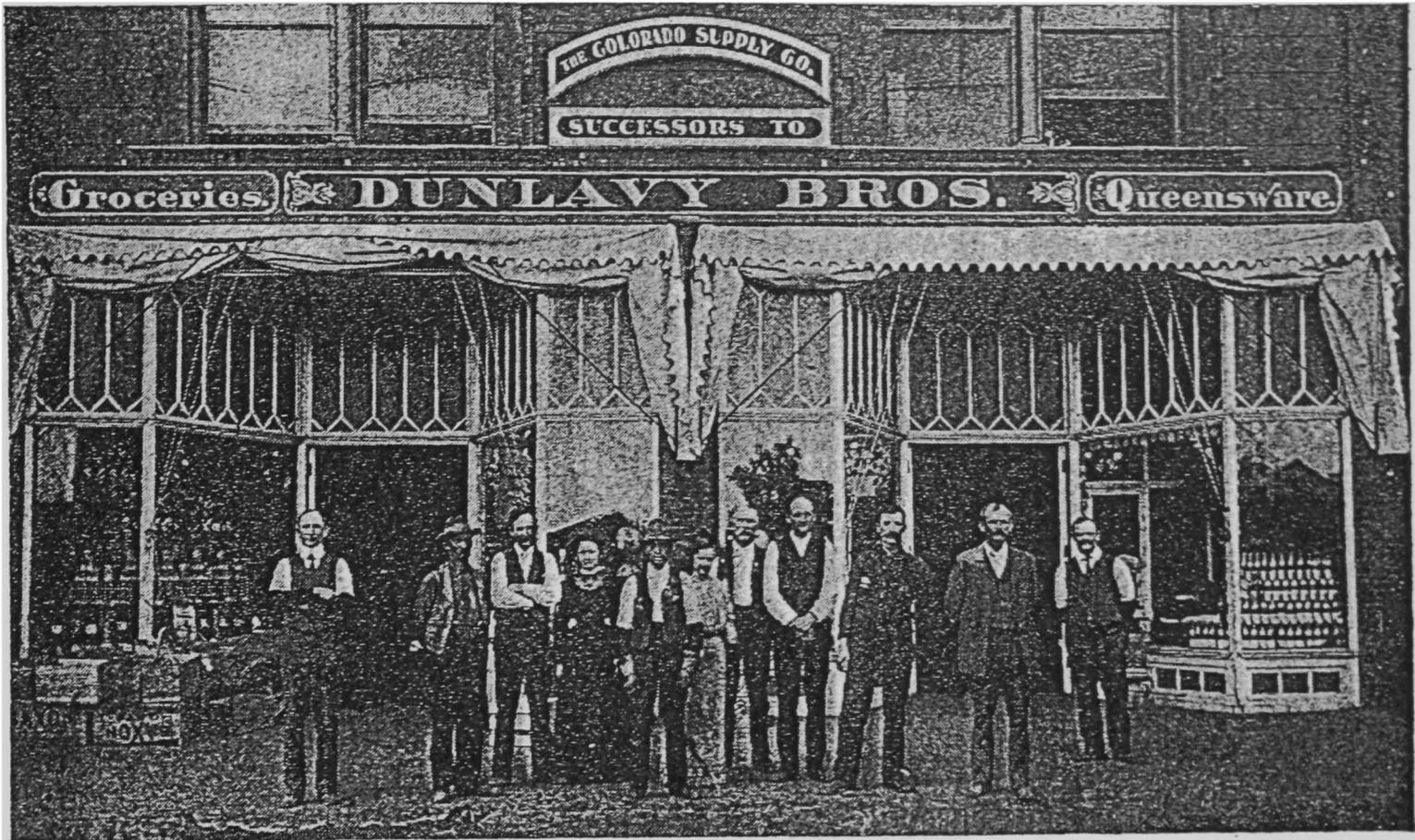


Figure 4.31 Colorado Supply Company Store Number 33 (retail) at Trinidad, Colorado.
Source: *Camp and Plant*, V, no. 11, (March 26, 1904), 268.

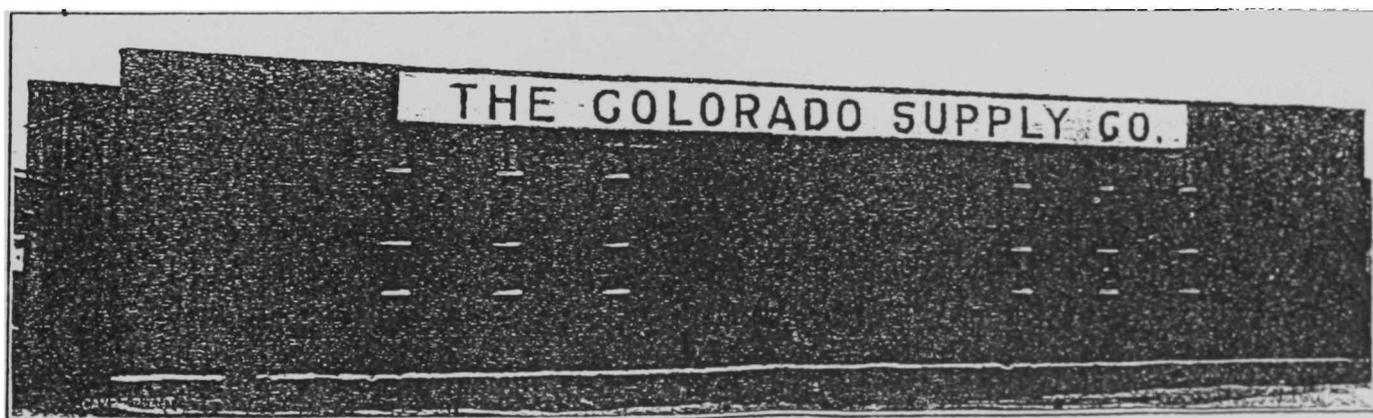


Figure 4.32 Colorado Supply Company Store Number 34 (wholesale) at Trinidad, Colorado.
Source: *Camp and Plant*, V, no. 11, (March 26, 1904), 269.

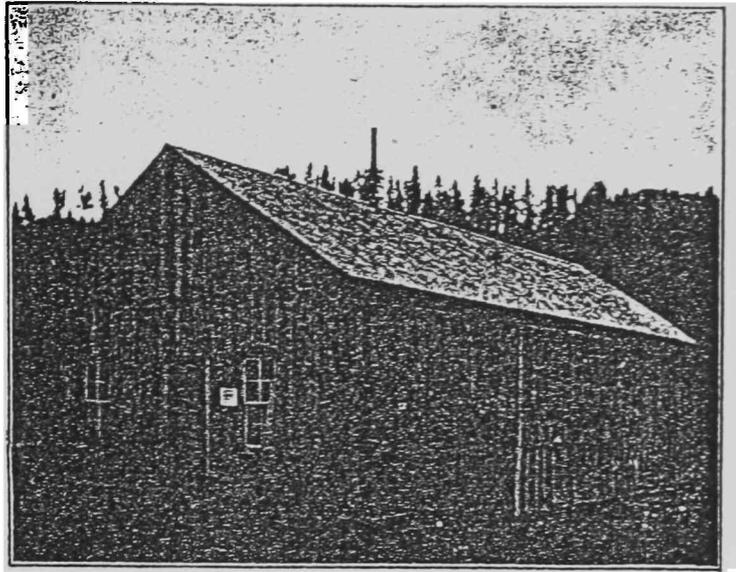


Figure 4.33 Colorado Supply Company Store Number 35 at Cuatro, Colorado.
Source: *Camp and Plant*, V, no. 11, (March 26, 1904), 269.

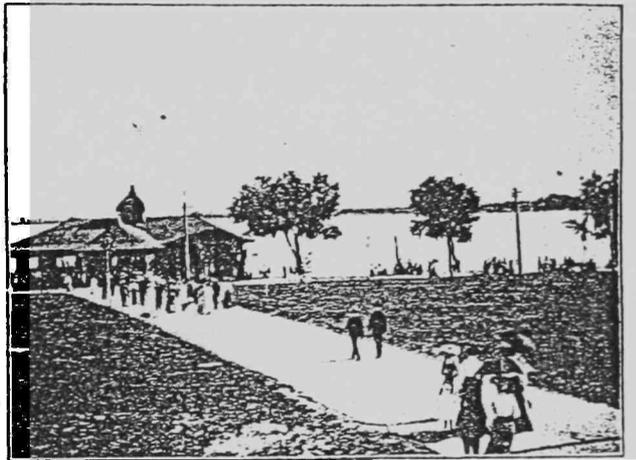


Figure 4.34 Colorado Supply Company Store Number 36 at Pueblo, Colorado. This was a refreshment concession at Minnequa Park.
Source: *Camp and Plant*, V, no. 11, (March 26, 1904), 269.

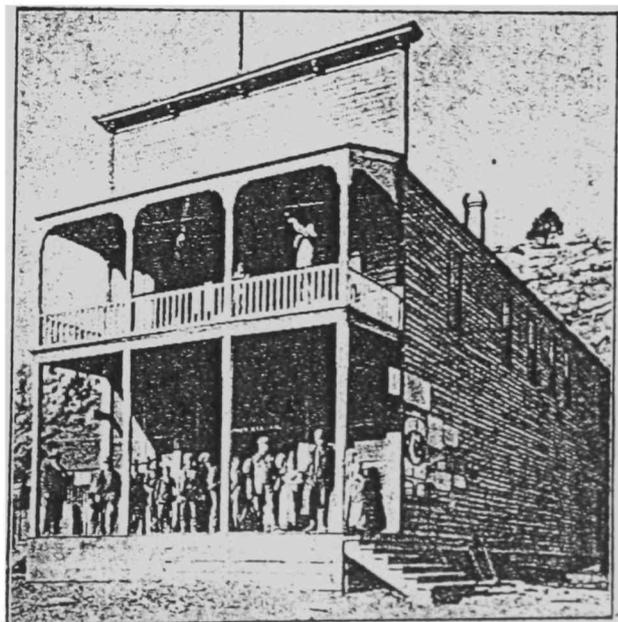


Figure 4.35 Colorado Supply Company Store Number 37 at Berwind, Colorado.
Source: *Camp and Plant*, V, no. 11, (March 26, 1904), 268.

CHAPTER 5

TERCIO'S PAST AND ITS FUTURE

My oldest memories, therefore, are a hundred years old, or perhaps a bit more.
Gaston Bachelard¹

5.1 The End of the Terico Line

What the author quoted above was referring to, was the fact that we build memories based on what others relate to us through stories, books, etc., and these become our own memories.

Through the research of this thesis, Tercio has become a part of many peoples' memories. It is a very important part of the past to those whose families lived and worked there, and at the same time, is an almost forgotten place by others.

The town of Tercio ceased to exist in 1915 when the coal mining stopped being profitable. The homes, the school, and all of the other structures were dismantled and moved to the next place where money could be made. Only the Company Store remained. It served the communities of Torres, Stonewall and Vermejo Park for another 34 years, as a supply store and livestock shipping yard. The Colorado & Wyoming Railway maintained a schedule through Tercio taking cattle to and from Vermejo Park. But by the late 1940's, it became clear that the farming and ranching operations were no

¹Gaston Bachelard, *The Poetics of Space* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1994), 188.

longer sufficient to sustain the Tercio line. In the fall of 1950, the last shipment of cattle was taken from Vermejo Park. The train tracks had deteriorated so badly that the management would not operate a train to the stock yards at Tercio. Instead, the cowboys drove the herd down the tracks to Weston to be loaded on the cars. The Interstate Commerce Commission granted the Colorado & Wyoming Railway permission to abandon the line from Weston to Tercio on December 26, 1951, and the track was removed in 1952.² Since that time, there has been little reason, other than curiosity, for many people to travel the back roads to Tercio.

5.2 Conclusion

As stated at the beginning of this thesis, a building is not something that is finished; it is something that is started. A structure evolves and changes to fit the needs of its inhabitants. Therefore, it is not “finished” until it is demolished and the interaction between it and its inhabitants ceases.

The Company Store at Tercio has stood empty for over 50 years, and is not evolving as it could. It has become a haven for many kinds of birds and wildlife, but it has seen very limited human interaction. It is suffering the deterioration of neglect, and is in need of human intervention in order to keep it from being “finished.”

The building is aesthetically appealing and structurally sound. It is in need of some exterior cosmetic work, and in dire need of cleaning on the interior. It could easily

²William H. McKenzie, *Mountain to Mill: The Colorado and Wyoming Railway* (Colorado Springs: MAC Publishing, Inc., 1982), 106.

be updated to accommodate modern conveniences. It would be a costly undertaking, but worth the investment to save this piece of Colorado history.

The current owners, Bobby and Dottie Hill of Glenrose, Texas, have plans for the building, and have begun to take steps toward preserving it. In 2001, Mr. Hill requested that Las Animas County close the road leading to the Tercio store, in order to prevent further vandalism to the building. This request was granted, and the road was closed at a point just beyond the cemetery. Mr. and Mrs. Hill would like to see the store turned into something like a hunting lodge or possibly a church retreat center. Others have expressed interest in adaptive re-use of the building, including Colorado State University, which would like to see it used as a center for wildlife study.

My recommendations regarding the property would be to first clean the interior and remove all of the bird droppings and dirt, even before weather-proofing it, so that it could have a chance to air out to some degree. Next would come the stabilization phase. This could be accomplished by repointing the stonework and weather-proofing the interior from the elements. The roof seems to be in good repair, so the window and door openings would be the primary concern. Some of these openings are covered from the inside by sheets of plywood; this is a good temporary solution, but all of the doors and window glass would eventually need to be repaired or replaced.

The soundness of the building is not a problem, so the remainder of work would be cosmetic. The wood features on the interior, including the floor, would need to be cleaned and possibly sanded and re-stained. There is enough evidence of the railing that used to encompass the mezzanine, that it could be reconstructed by a skilled craftsman.

The most memorable feature of this building is the feeling of monumentality one experiences upon entering the store. The open space that was the main merchandise area of the store is reminiscent of old world churches. The height of the rafters coupled with the vertical stretch of the columns is almost cathedral-like. This space should be preserved, as much as possible, as it was originally designed. To alter this impressive volume would detract from its beauty and compromise its historic integrity.

The building lends itself to many possibilities due to its size and its picturesque and remote location. The main store area would be ideal for a central gathering place, while the living quarters could house the more utilitarian aspects such as a kitchen, bathrooms, storage, etc. If additional space for things such as sleeping quarters was needed, satellite buildings should be utilized. In this way, the Company Store would keep its original grandeur and be serviceable to a new purpose.

At the very least, the Tercio store should be placed on the list of Colorado's Most Endangered Sites. Based on its age, architectural merit and its historical significance, it would be an appropriate nomination for the National Register of Historic Places.

As mentioned above, it would be a very costly project, and likely somewhat overwhelming to an owner considering renovation of the Company Store at Tercio. The structure is adaptable to many possibilities and possesses enormous potential. In the right hands, it could become a preserved piece of history and again be the center of activity for a new generation.

In an attempt to connect the present to the past, the following pages contain historic photographs of the Colorado Supply Company Store at Tercio. With each of these photographs, is a recent photo of the same subject.

The intent of this thesis is to provide a link between the past and the present, and to provide an account of the events that led to the formation of an entire town, its downfall, and its only remaining structure. But, at its best, this work will serve as a reminder of the untold stories of the past, encourage preservation of that past, and become a part of the memory of those who read it.

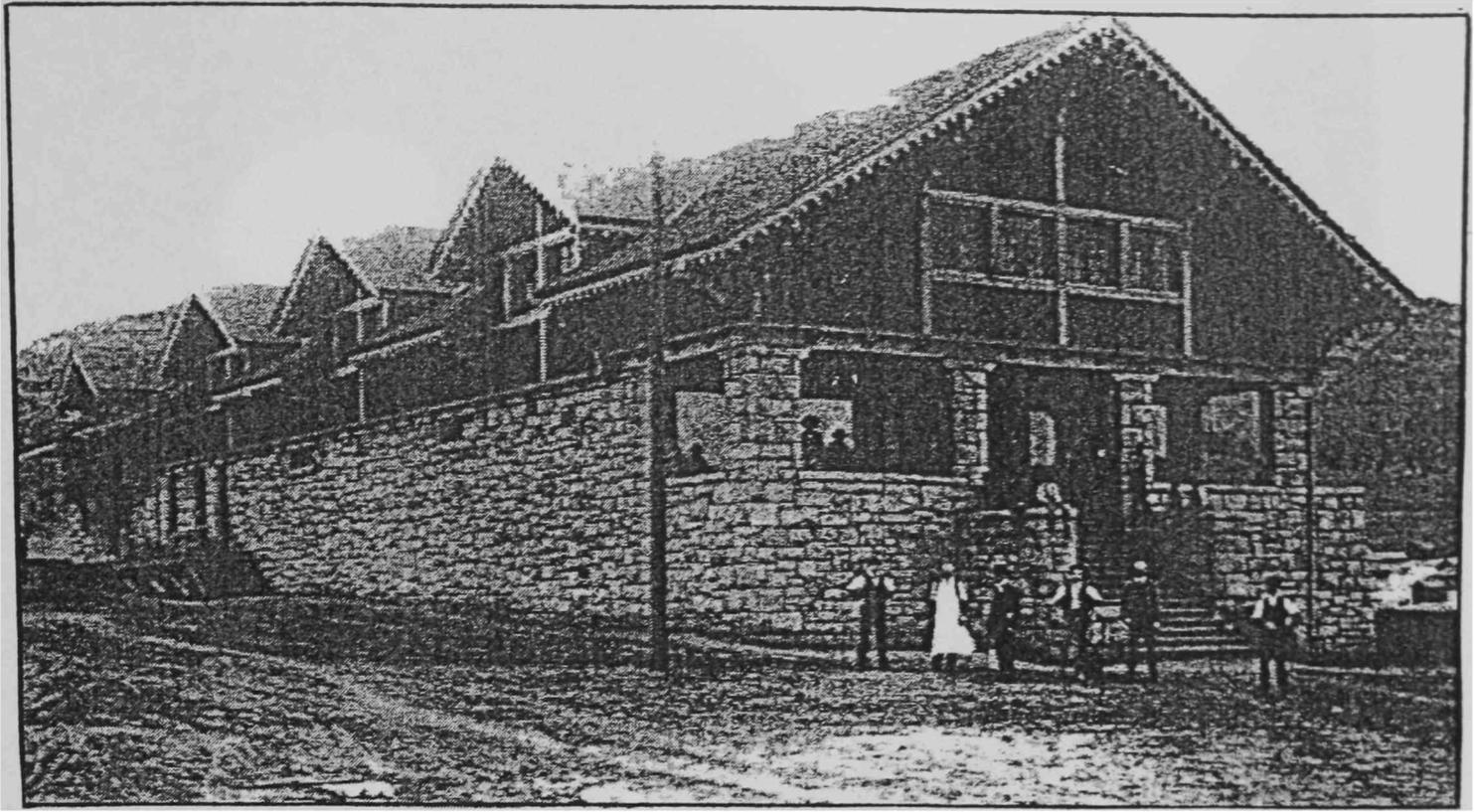


Figure 5.1 Main entrance of the Company Store at Tercio, April 18, 1910.
Source: Courtesy of Colorado Historical Society.

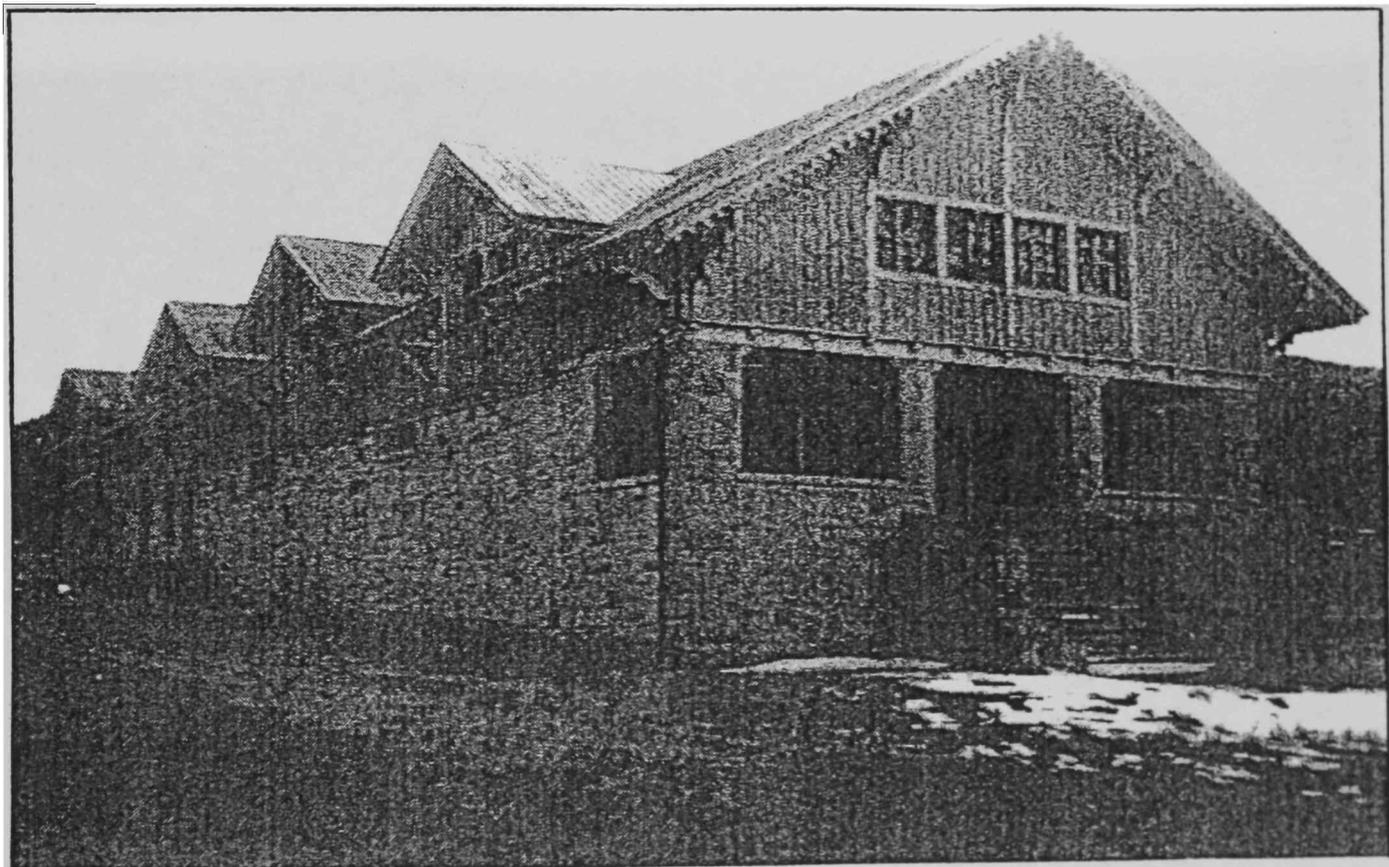


Figure 5.2 Main entrance of the Company Store at Tercio, March 7, 2002.
Source: Photo by author.



Figure 5.3 Interior west wall of the Company Store at Tercio, 1907.
Source: Courtesy of Colorado Historical Society.

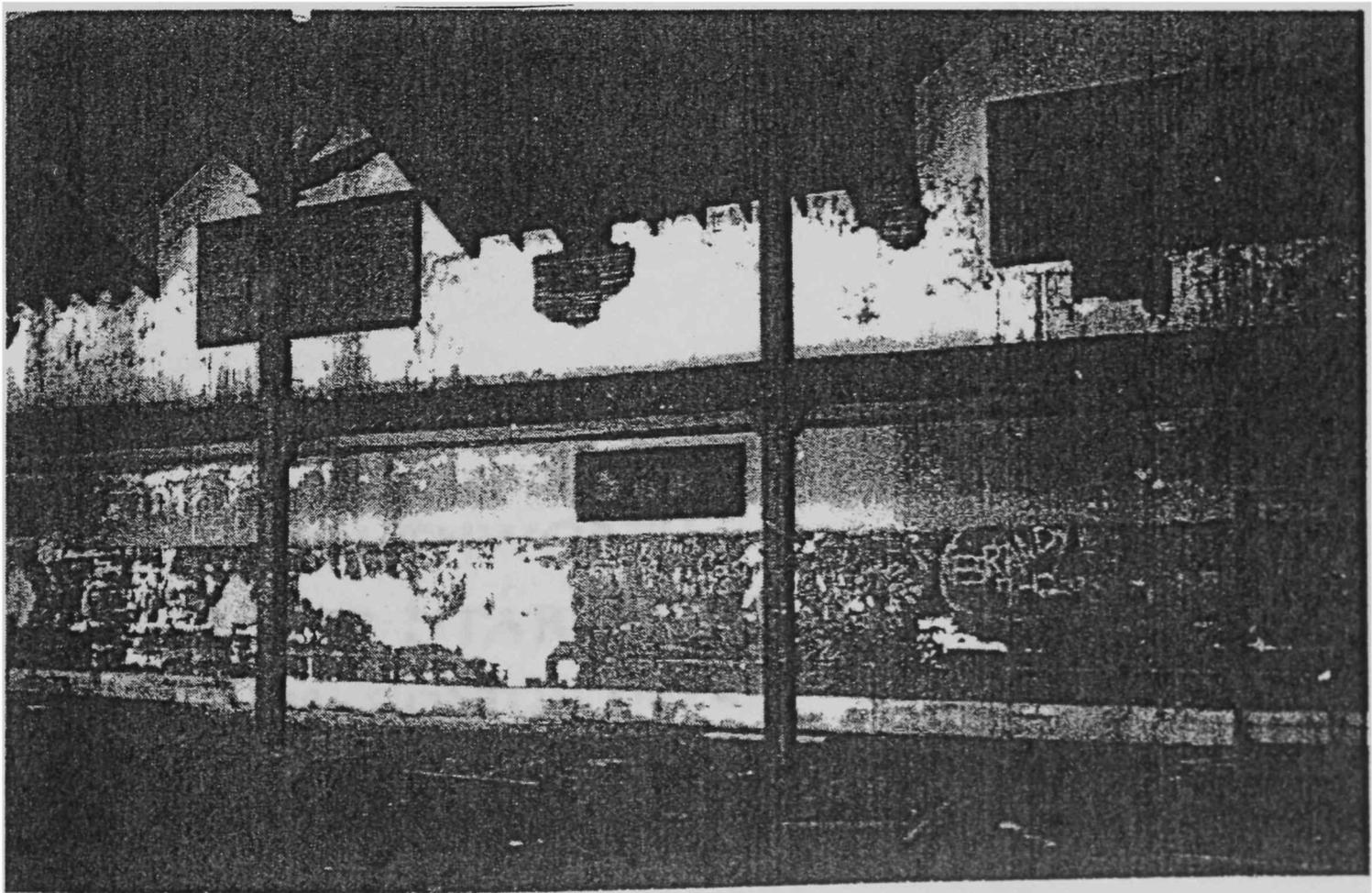


Figure 5.4 Interior west wall of the Company Store at Tercio, 2002.
Source: Photo by author.

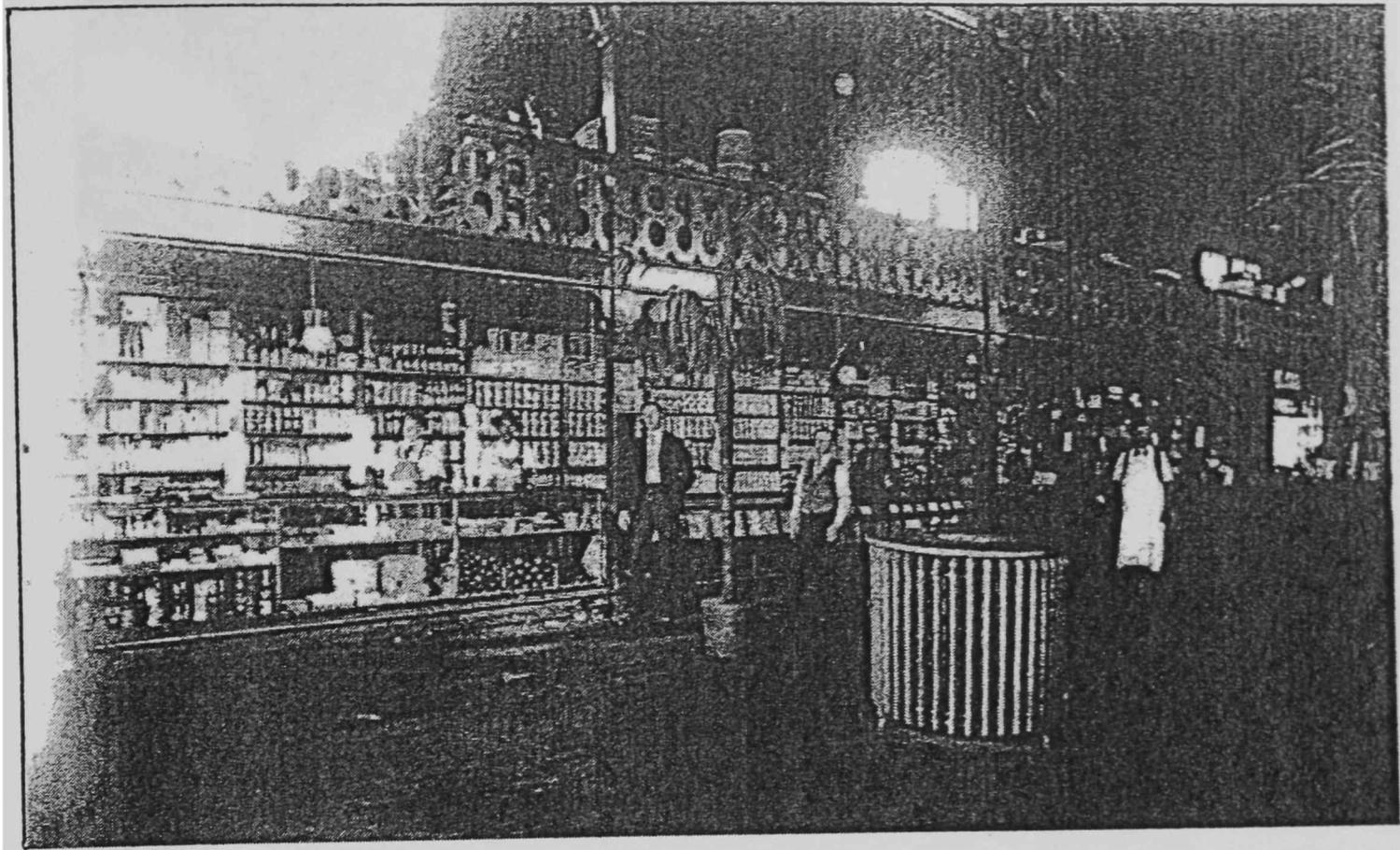


Figure 5.5 Interior east wall of the Company Store at Tercio, 1907.
Source: Courtesy of Colorado Historical Society.

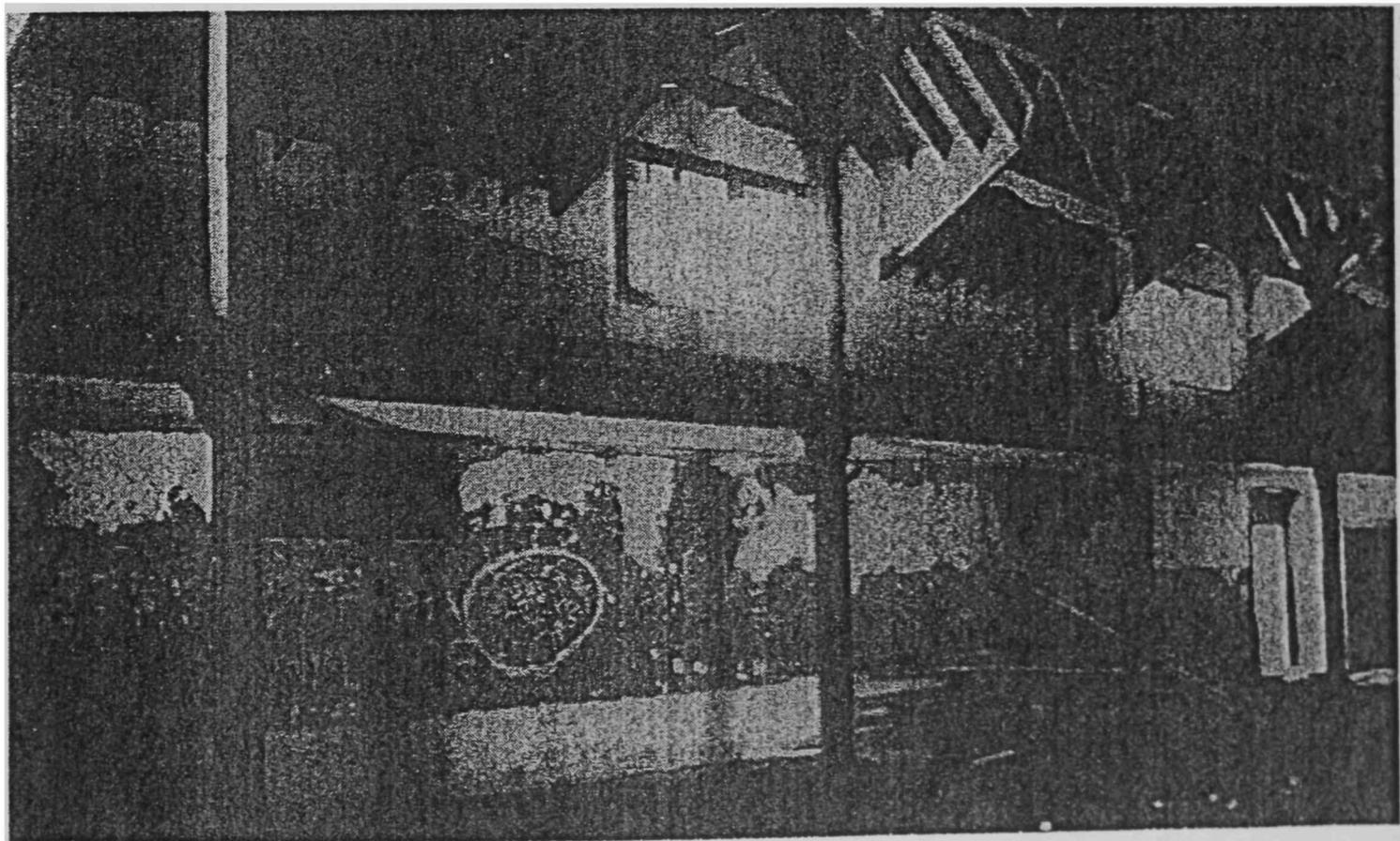


Figure 5.6 Interior east wall of the Company Store at Tercio, 2002.
Source: Photo by author.

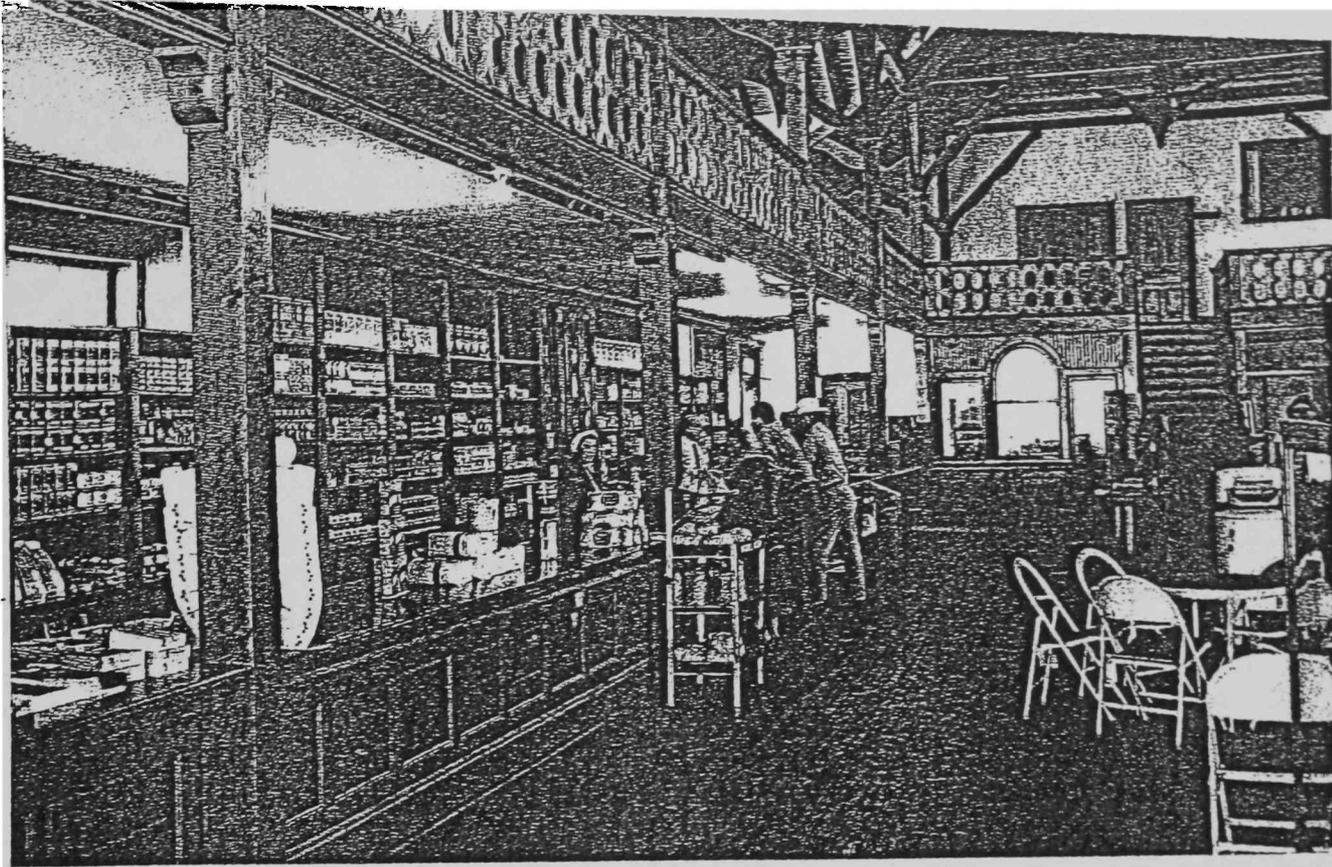


Figure 5.7 Interior of the Tercio store in 1949, its last year of operation.
Source: William H. McKenzie, *Mountain to Mill: The Colorado and Wyoming Railway*, (Colorado Springs: MAC Publishing, Inc., 1982), 107.

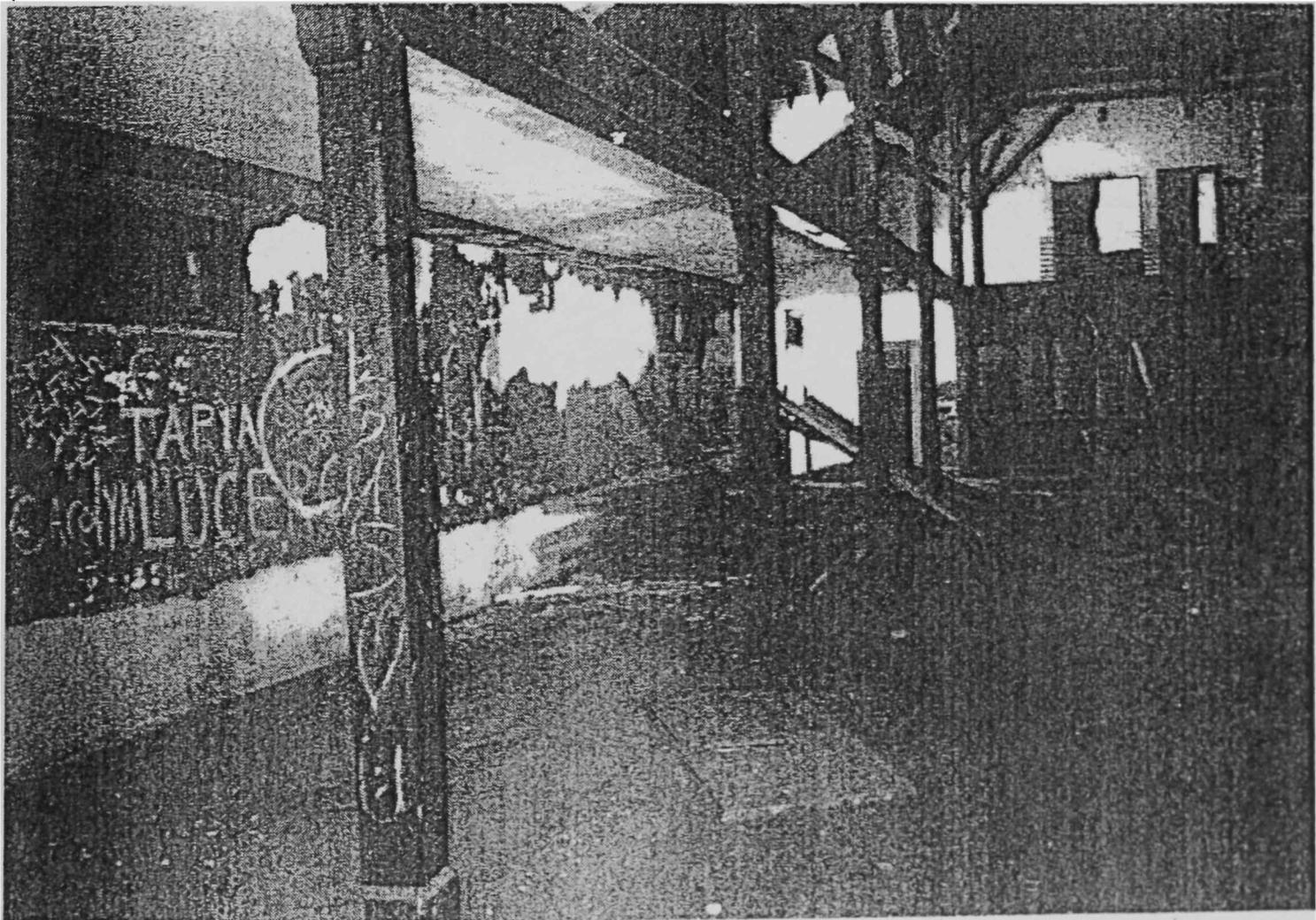


Figure 5.8 Interior of the Tercio store, 2002.
Source: Photo by author.

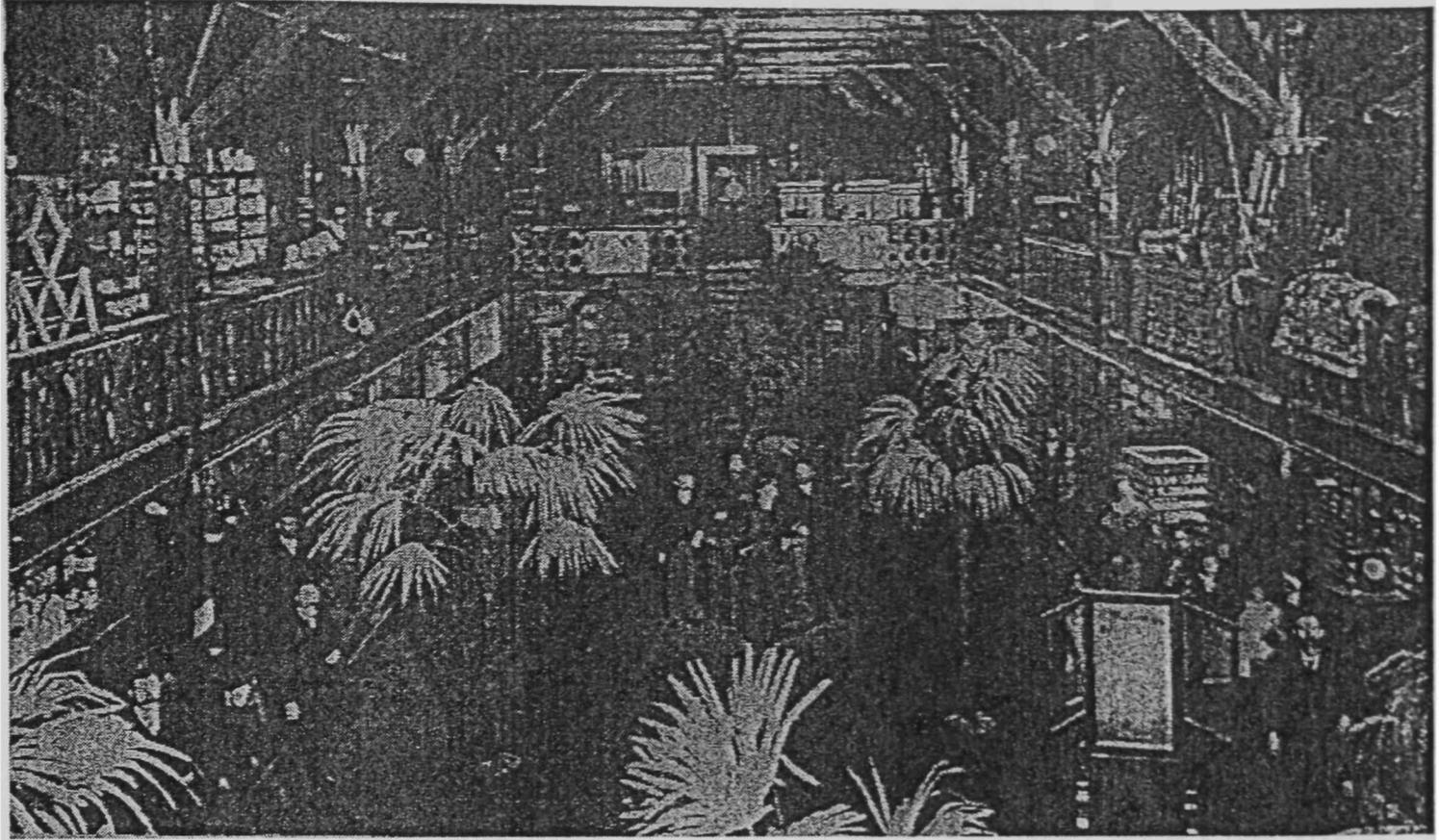


Figure 5.9 Interior of the Tercio store, facing south, April 18, 1910.
Source: Courtesy of Colorado Historical Society.

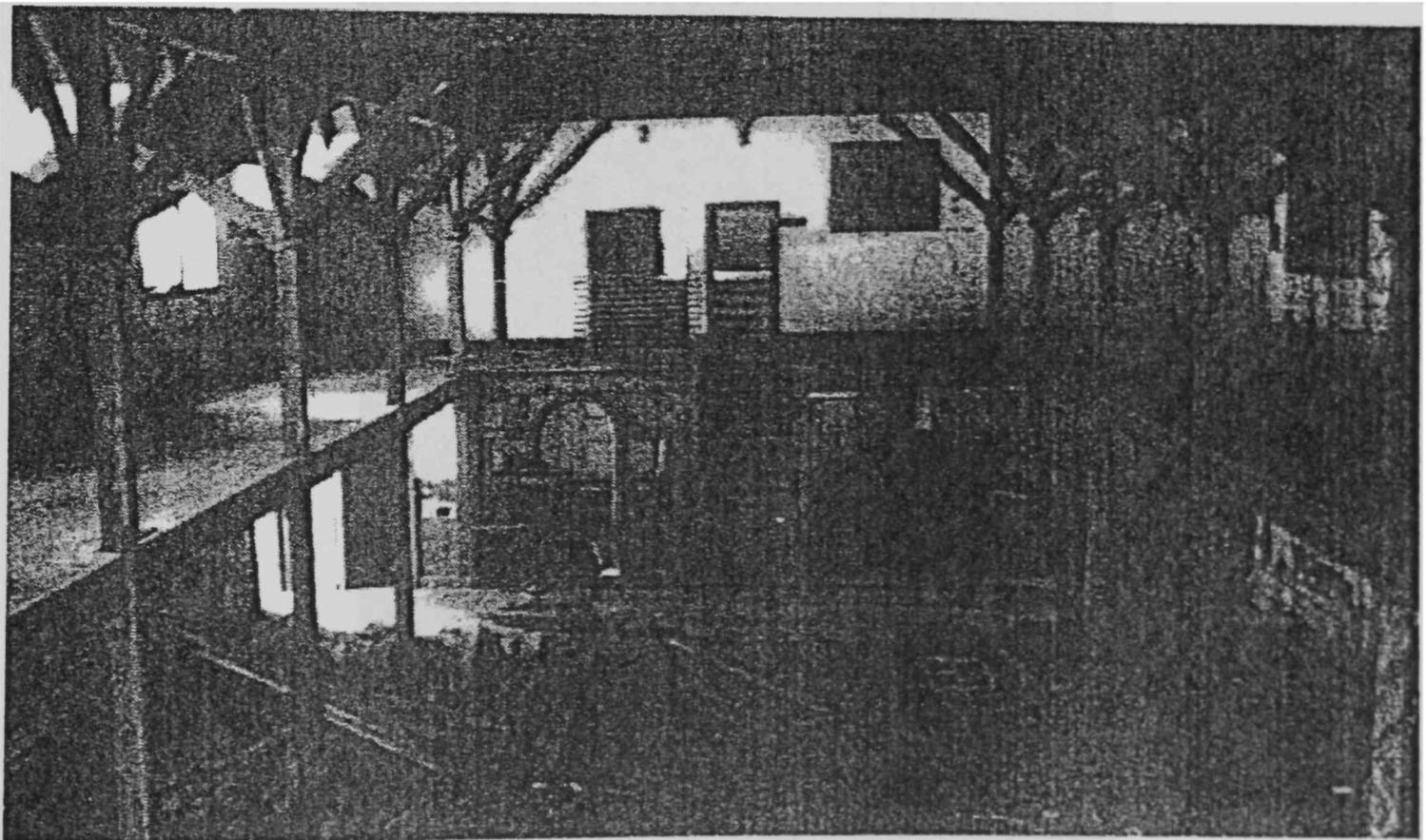


Figure 5.10 Interior of the Tercio store, facing south, March 7, 2002.
Source: Photo by author.

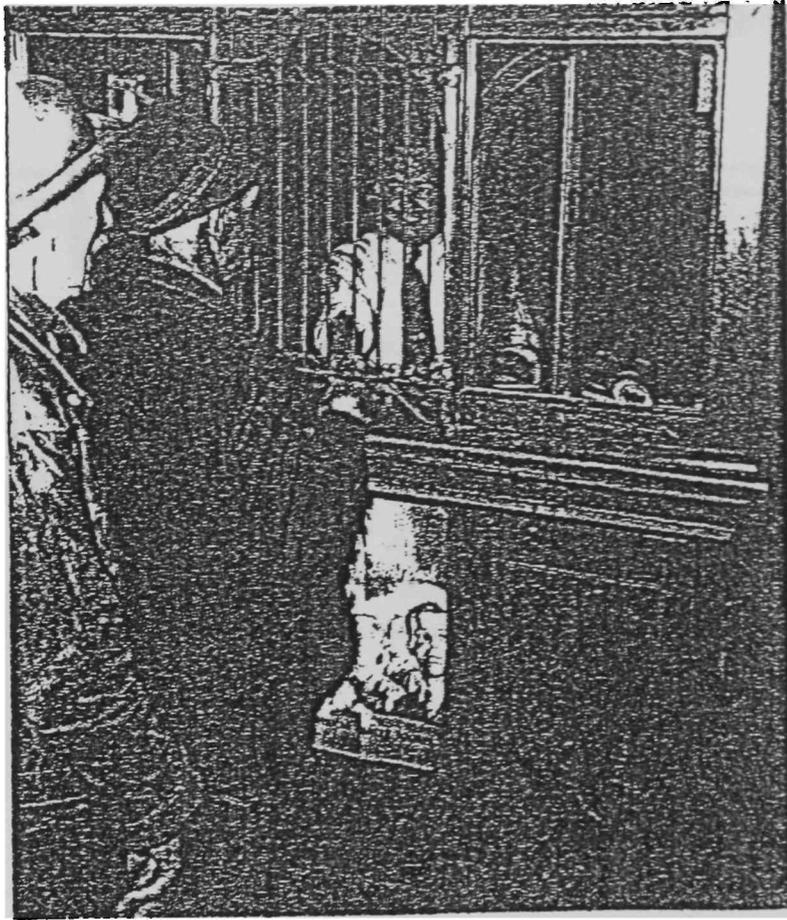


Figure 5.11 The Tercio post office during its last years of operation in the late 1940's.
Source: Courtesy of Abilene Christian University, Department of History.

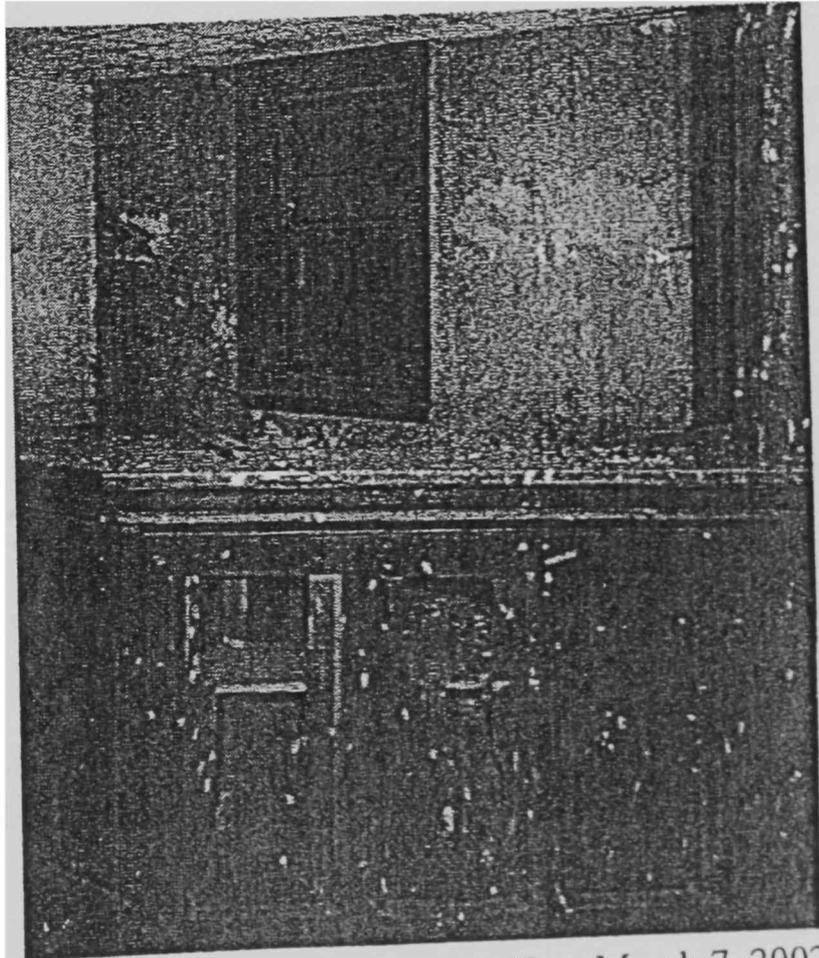


Figure 5.12 The Tercio post office, March 7, 2002.
Source: Photo by author.

WE
SELL
EVERYTHING

THE
COLORADO SUPPLY
COMPANY

PUEBLO, COLO.

22 MODERN DAYLIGHT DEPARTMENTS 22
ONE PRICE TO ALL

Mail
Orders
Promptly
Attended
To

It Is
Our Aim
To Please
If We
Fail
Tell Us



IT'S TIME TO THINK
OF PARASOLS AND
SUN UMBRELLAS

It's more than that — it's time to buy them. There is a right and a wrong place to buy these necessary summer things.

We think our present showing of ladies' parasols and sun umbrellas a "right" showing in season's very smartest and most stunning effects in White China Silk, Grenadine Kuffles, Printed Warp Taffetas, Shantung Pongee with Stripe Borders, Printed Satines and Plain Colors in Japanese Silks, Lace Trimmed.

A truly grand collection—most temptingly priced.

\$1.00 to \$10.00

Special!

Three hundred Ladies' Regular \$1.50 Gloria Silk Sun Umbrellas, 26-inch, Handsome Pearl Handles, Silver-Mounted. While they last —

\$1.10

OUR NEW
DEPARTMENT

Eastman Kodaks, Kodak Supplies, Baseball and Sporting Goods, are Now Ready. Write Us To-Day for Eastman Booklet

Figure 5.13 Advertisement for The Colorado Supply Company
Source: *Camp and Plant*, II, no. 3, (July 19, 1902), back cover.

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APPENDIX A
PAY ROLL STATEMENTS

The following pages contain two pay roll statements from The Colorado Fuel and Iron Company and three from the Colorado and Wyoming Railway Company. These items were graciously shared with me by Ernest and Julia Trujillo of Torres, Colorado. Ernest's uncle, the employee to whom these receipts belonged, was a coal miner at Tercio.

In looking at the statements from the mine, it appears that Mr. Lopez' pay was equivalent to approximately 21-23 cents per hour. In comparison, the wages paid by the railroad were 17-18 cents per hour. By today's standards, these wages hardly seem like a decent living. However, to put things into perspective, one must consider that a four-room house in a company town rented for only \$2.00 a month, or approximately 10 hours in the mines.

PAY ROLL STATEMENT

Pay Roll No. _____ Mine **TERCIO,** **APR 30 1913** 191

The Colorado Fuel and Iron Company

IN ACCOUNT WITH

EARNINGS			
..... Cwt. @	per ton		
..... Feet @	per yard		
..... Feet @	per yard		
..... Turning Room @			
..... Hours @			
..... Hours @			
..... Ovens Drawn @			
..... Ovens Levelled @			
TOTAL CREDIT,			
DEDUCTIONS			
..... Drafts			
..... Insurance			
..... Coal			
..... Powder			
..... Hospital Fund			
..... Rent			
..... Smithing			
..... Board			
..... Safety Lamp			
1st. Half Month Paid.			
BALANCE DUE,			

The above statement is only for the information of employes and is not transferable. Examine and report any errors at the office at once.

Figure A.1 Pay Roll Statement from Tercio mine, April 30, 1913.
Source: Courtesy of Ernest and Julia Trujillo.

PAY ROLL STATEMENT

Pay Roll No. 289 **TERCIO,** Mine SEP 30 12 191

The Colorado Fuel and Iron Company

IN ACCOUNT WITH

EARNINGS			
..... Cwt. @	per ton		
..... Feet @	per yard		
..... Feet @	per yard		
..... Turning Room @			
..... Hours @			
..... Hours @			
..... Ovens Drawn @			
..... Ovens Levelled @			
TOTAL CREDIT,			
DEDUCTIONS			
..... Drafts			
..... Insurance			
..... Coal			
..... Powder			
..... Hospital Fund		50	
..... Rent			
..... Smithing			
..... Board			
..... Safety Lamp			50
BALANCE DUE,			565

The above statement is only for the information of employes and is not transferable. Examine and report any errors at the office at once.

Figure A.2 Pay Roll Statement from Tercio mine, September 30, 1913.
Source: Courtesy of Ernest and Julia Trujillo.

PAY ROLL STATEMENT

PAY ROLL NUMBER

176

1912

191

The Colorado and Wyoming Railway Co.

IN ACCOUNT WITH

M. Lopez

WORK						
No.	Check	Hours. @				
No.	Check	Hours. @				
No.	Check	Hours. @				
No.	Check	Hours. @				
No.	Check	Hours. @				
No.	Check	@				
No.	Check	@				
Total Credit,						47 87
DEDUCTIONS.						
Draft and Assignments.			7			
Insurance,						
Coal,						
Hospital Fund,			/			
Rent,						
Board,						
Balance Due,						34 87

The above statement is only for the information of employees, and is not transferable.
Examine and report any errors at the office at once.

Figure A.4 Pay Roll Statement from The Colorado and Wyoming Railway.
Source: Courtesy of Ernest and Julia Trujillo.

PAY ROLL STATEMENT

PAY ROLL
NUMBER

172

JUL 1912

191

The Colorado and Wyoming Railway Co.

IN ACCOUNT WITH

M Lopez

WORK					
No.	Check	Hours. @			
Total Credit,					<i>38 50</i>
DEDUCTIONS					
Draft and Assignments,					
Insurance,					
Coal,					
Hospital Fund,			<i>/</i>		
Rent,					
Board,					
Balance Due,					<i>37 50</i>

The above statement is only for the information of employees, and is not transferable.
Examine and report any errors at the office at once.

Figure A.5 Pay Roll Statement from The Colorado and Wyoming Railway.
Source: Courtesy of Ernest and Julia Trujillo.

APPENDIX B
FREDERICK JUNIUS STERNER

FREDERICK JUNIUS STERNER

Denver architect, Frederick Junius Sterner, was possibly the man responsible for the favorable design of the Company Store at Tercio (Fig. B.1). Sterner was born in England in 1862. He came to America at the age of 16 and subsequently became a naturalized citizen. He received his academic and professional education in the United States and began the practice of architecture in Denver, Colorado.¹

Sterner began his prolific design career in 1882 as a draftsman in the office of F.E. Edbrooke & Company. In 1884, he formed a partnership with Ernest Phillip Varian.² These two men produced some of Denver's most notable architecture. Their designs have been described as internally eclectic and classified as Richardsonian Romanesque with a high quality rare in Denver's Richardsonianism.³ The partnership lasted until 1901, when Varian left the firm. One of the firm's employees, George H. Williamson, became Sterner's second partner in 1905. Williamson would eventually take over the practice in 1909, after which Sterner left Denver to move to New York.

¹<http://www.sah.org/aame/bios.html>

²Jacob Thomas Noel and Barbara S. Norgren, *Denver - The City Beautiful and its Architects* (Denver: Historic Denver, Inc., 1987), 218.

³Richard R. Brettell, *Historic Denver: The Architects and the Architecture, 1858-1893* (Denver: Historic Denver, Inc., 1973), 123, 186.



Figure B.1 Self-portrait by Frederick Junius Sterner
Source: Jacob Thomas Noel and Barbara S. Norgren, *Denver-The City Beautiful and its Architects, 1893-1941* (Denver: Historic Denver, Inc., 1978), 219.

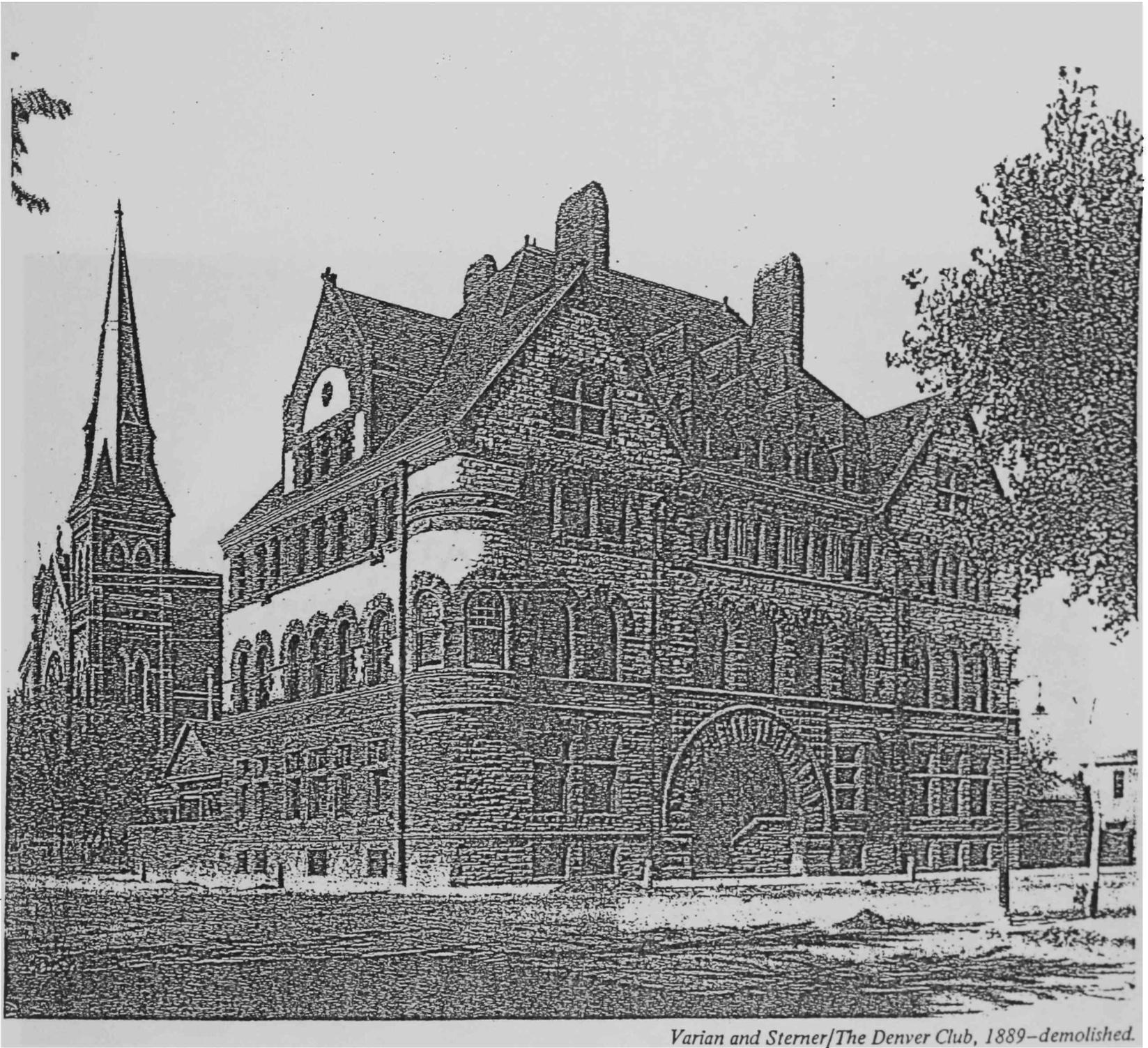
Sterner's architectural work in Denver fell neatly into two categories, both stylistically and chronologically. During the 1880s, medieval and Romanesque elements dominated his style, often used in the manner of H.H. Richardson. In the following decade, Sterner's work underwent a stylistic change and reflected the nationwide shift toward the elements of classical architecture.⁴

Two of Varian and Sterner's earliest works became two of their most important. In 1889, they were commissioned to design the Denver Club and the Denver Athletic Club (Figs.B.2, B.3). The Denver Club was the most significant of the early Colorado clubs and one of the first totally architect-designed buildings in the city. Varian and Sterner designed the interior furnishings, as well, with inspiration from Richardson's works published in *American Architect and Building News*. Prior to this, most of Denver's structures were a conglomeration of "imported" fabrics and textures. This marked a profound change in the city's culture, because Denver's influential citizens had shown interest in a local work of art. This provided recognition of the artistic excellence of Denver's architects and craftsmen. The structure itself was decidedly Richardsonian in detail, stonework, massiveness and solidity. Similarly, the Denver Athletic Club was constructed in the Richardsonian style with rusticated stone on the first two levels and local brick on the upper floors.⁵

Other notable works produced by the collaboration of Varian and Sterner included Charlene Place in 1889 and the Holzman House in 1890 (Figs. 4, 5). These two

⁴Noel, *Denver-The City Beautiful and its Architects*, 219.

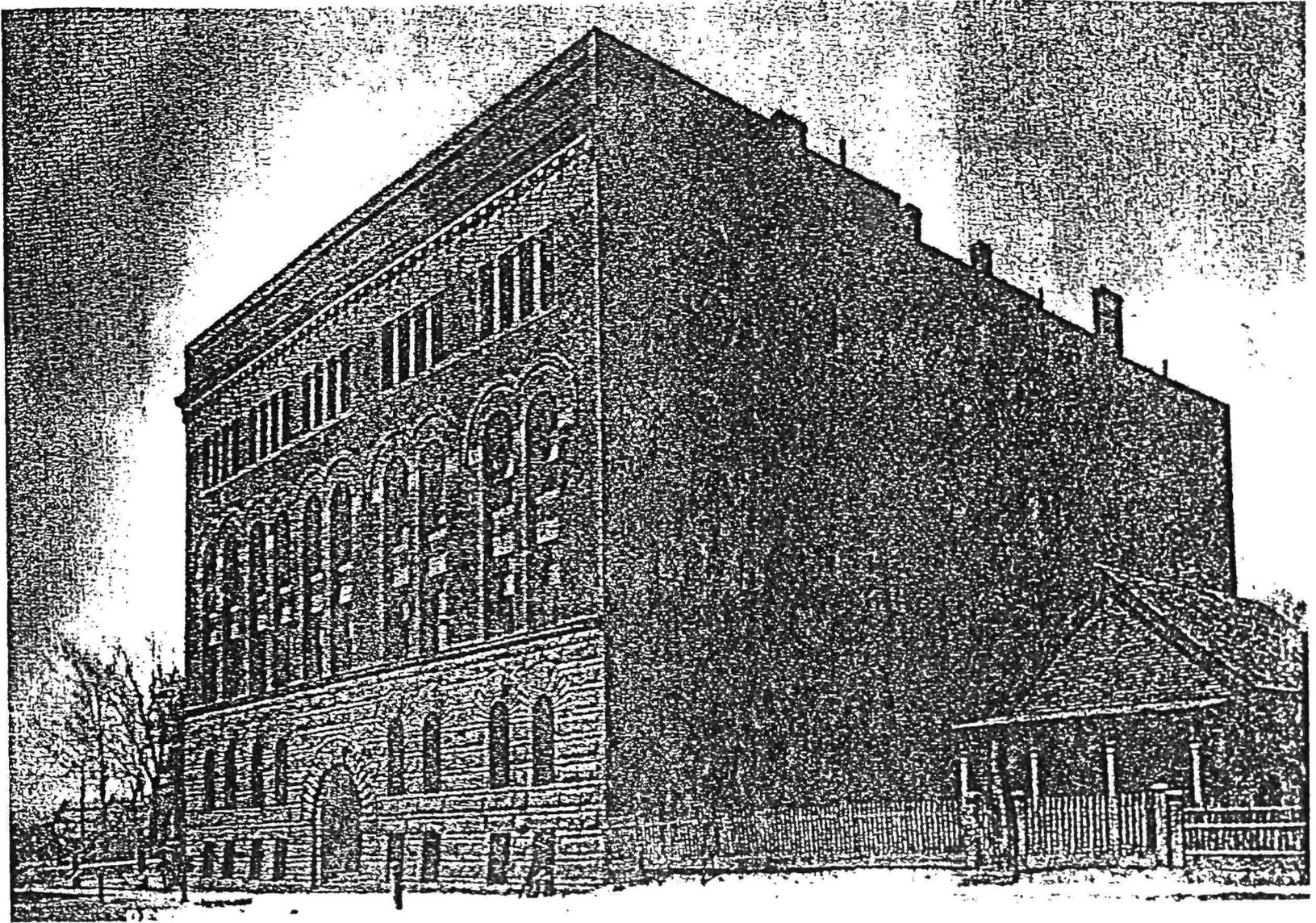
⁵Brettell, *Historic Denver: The Architects and the Architecture, 1858-1893*, 186-187.



Varian and Sterner/The Denver Club, 1889—demolished.

Figure B.2 The Denver Club

Source: Richard R. Bettrell, *Historic Denver: The Architects and the Architecture, 1858-1893* (Denver: Historic Denver, Inc., 1973), 186.



Varian and Sterner/The Denver Athletic Club, 1325 Glenarm, 1889-90.

Figure B.3 The Denver Athletic Club

Source: Richard R. Bettrell, *Historic Denver: The Architects and the Architecture, 1858-1893* (Denver: Historic Denver, Inc., 1973), 190.



Figure B.4 Charlene Place Apartments
Source: Richard R. Bettrell, *Historic Denver: The Architects and the Architecture, 1858-1893*
(Denver: Historic Denver, Inc., 1973), 193.



Varian and Sterner/Holzman house, 1890–demolished.

Figure B.5 The Holzman House

Source: Richard R. Bettrell, *Historic Denver: The Architects and the Architecture, 1858-1893* (Denver: Historic Denver, Inc., 1973), 192.

structures were similar in style to the clubs discussed in the above paragraph. The gentlemen were also involved in the design of several smaller residences within Denver.

From the mid 1890's and into the turn of the century, Sterner worked alone on a number of projects. His shift in interest to the Neoclassical Revival is apparent in such buildings as the residence at 1437 High Street, The Sykes-Nicholson-Moore House, the Tears-McFarlane House, The First Church of Christ Scientist and the chapel at The Oakes Home (Figs. B.6-B.9). Sterner's final contribution to Denver's architecture was the Daniels & Fisher Tower in 1911 (Fig. B.10). It was done in the Second Renaissance Revival style and was, at the time of its construction, the third tallest structure in the United States, at 330' in height.⁶

Frederick Sterner's work was not limited to Denver. He and Varian had earned national recognition for their design of the Greenbriar Hotel in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. This prepared them for the competition with five other architectural firms to design the new Antlers Hotel in Colorado Springs. The city of Colorado Springs was founded in 1871 by General William Jackson Palmer. He opened a grand resort hotel named "The Antlers" on January 1, 1883. For 15 years, The Antlers received both local and international acclaim. It was destroyed by fire on October 1, 1898, and Palmer vowed to build a new Antlers Hotel that would be twice as grand as the original.⁷ Its splendid site, closing off the end of Cascade Avenue with high mountains rising behind the hotel, called for monumental treatment. A pair of picturesque towers, separated by

⁶Langdon E. Morris, *Denver Landmarks* (Charles E. Cleworth, Publisher, 1979), 141.

⁷<http://www.antlers.com/text/history2.html>.

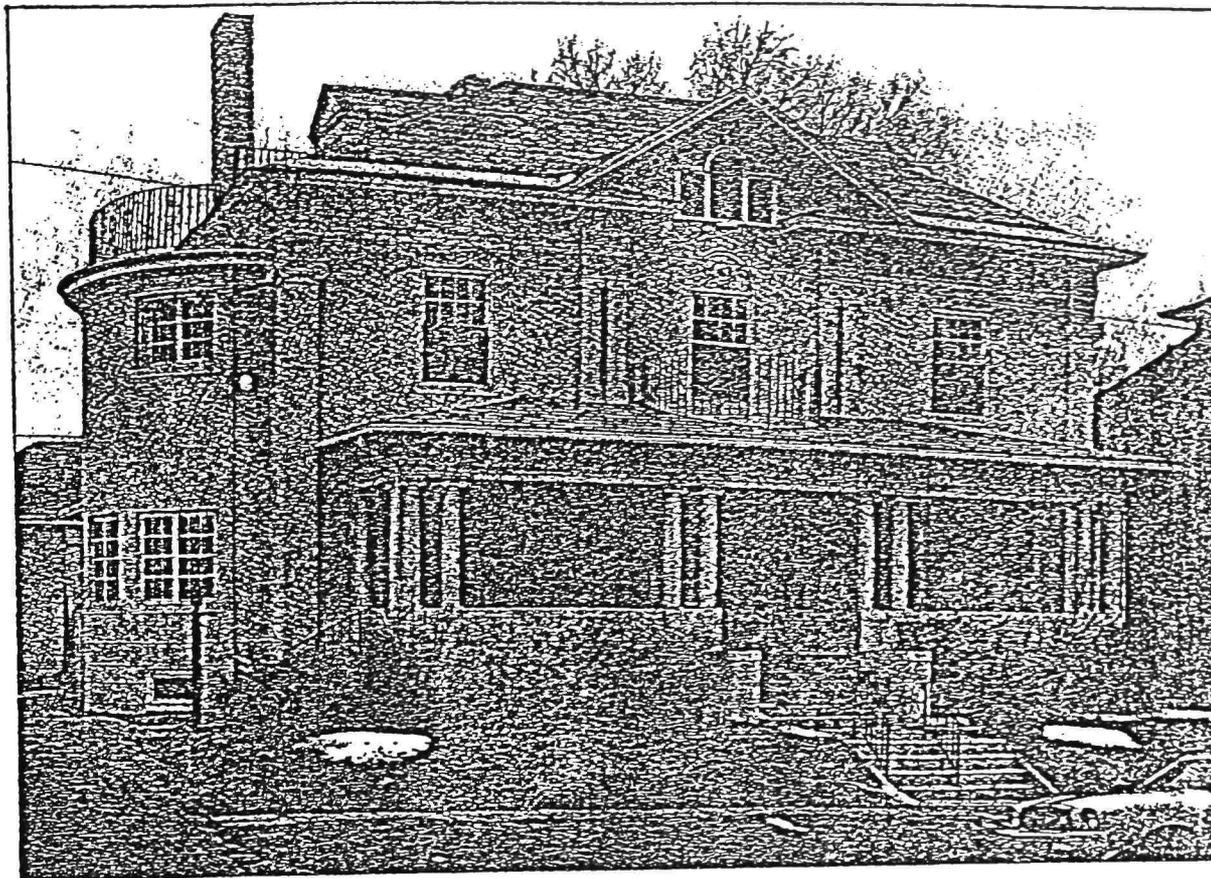


Figure B.6 Residence at 1437 High Street in Denver

Source: Langdon E. Morris, Jr., *Denver Landmarks* (Charles E. Cleworth, Publisher, 1979), 270.

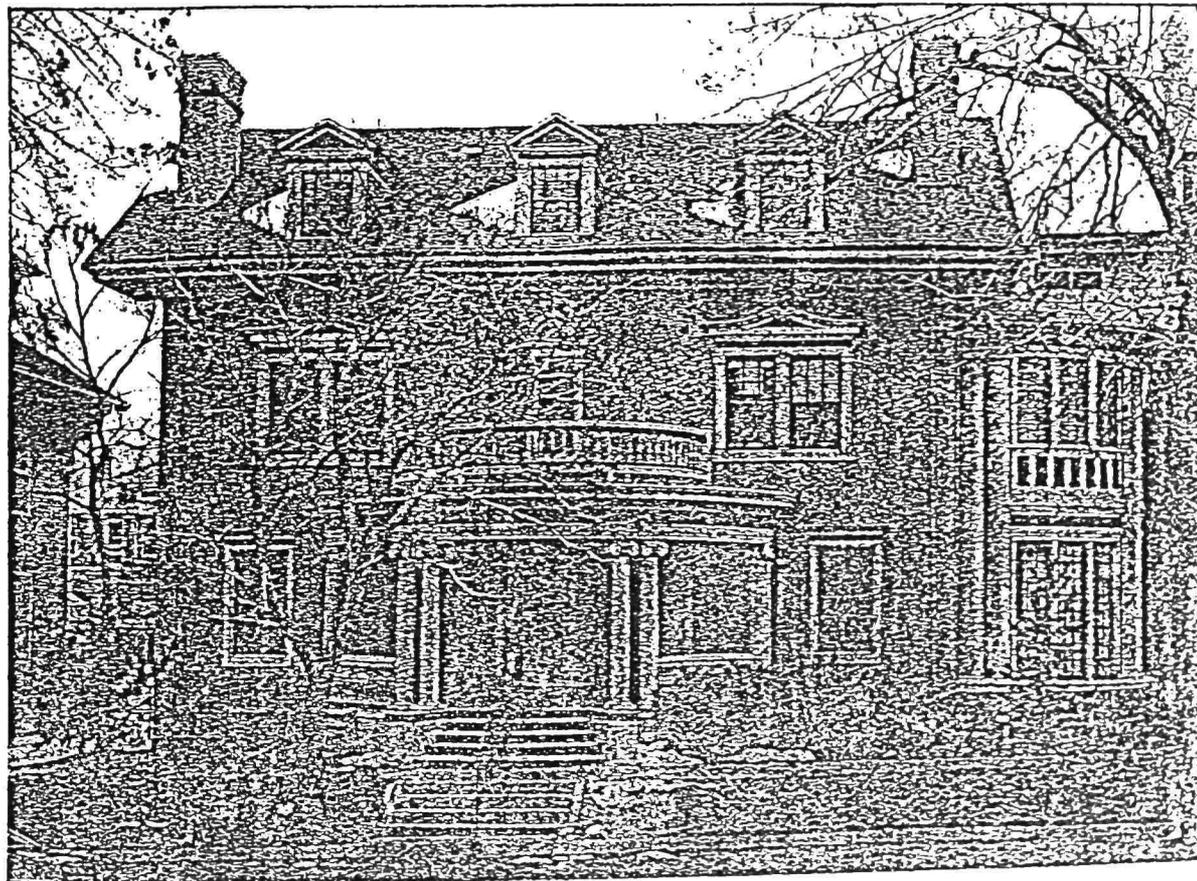


Figure B.7 The Sykes-Nicholson-Moore House

Source: Langdon E. Morris, Jr., *Denver Landmarks* (Charles E. Cleworth, Publisher, 1979), 272.

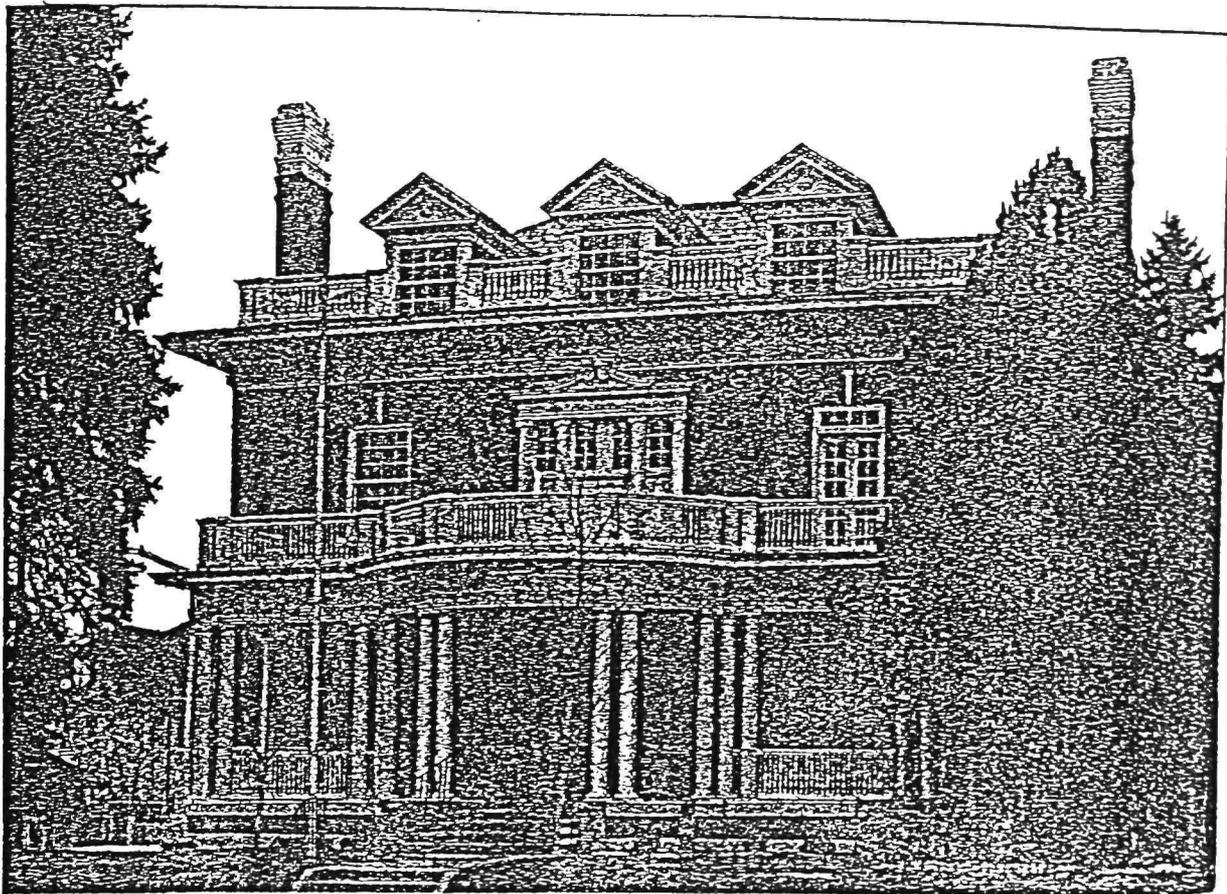


Figure B.8 The Tears-McFarlane House

Source: Langdon E. Morris, Jr., *Denver Landmarks* (Charles E. Cleworth, Publisher, 1979), 282.

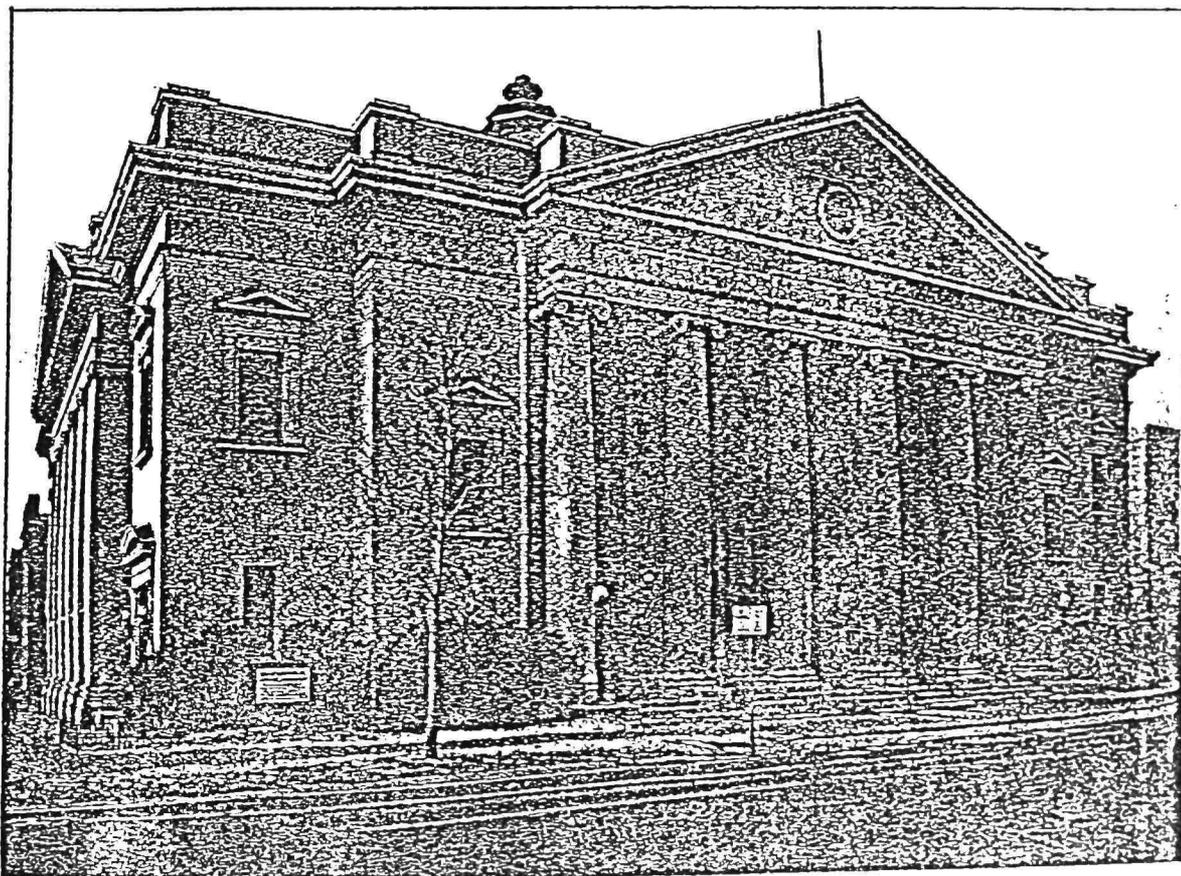


Figure B.9 The First Church of Christ Scientist

Source: Langdon E. Morris, Jr., *Denver Landmarks* (Charles E. Cleworth, Publisher, 1979), 208.

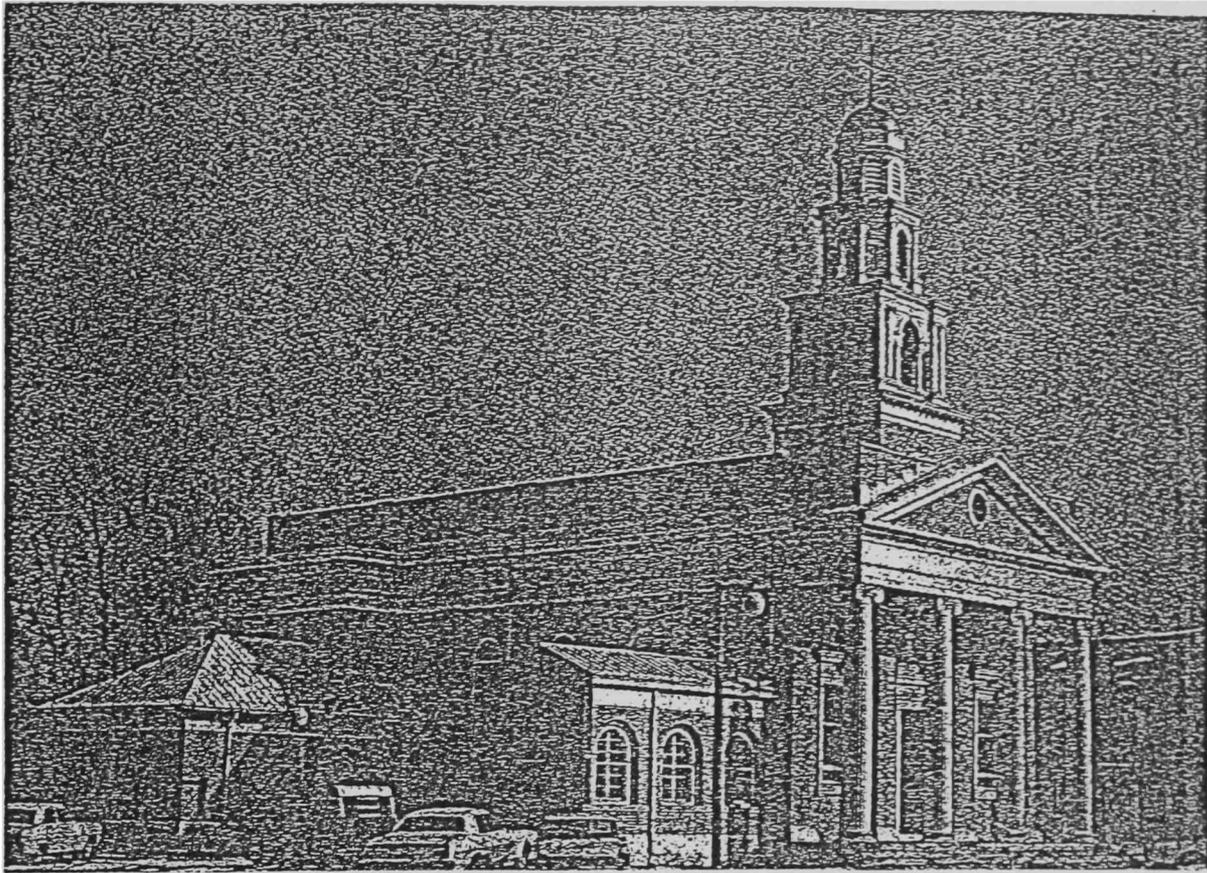


Figure B.10 The Chapel at The Oakes Home (St. Elizabeth's Retreat Chapel)
Source: Langdon E. Morris, Jr., *Denver Landmarks* (Charles E. Cleworth, Publisher, 1979), 98.

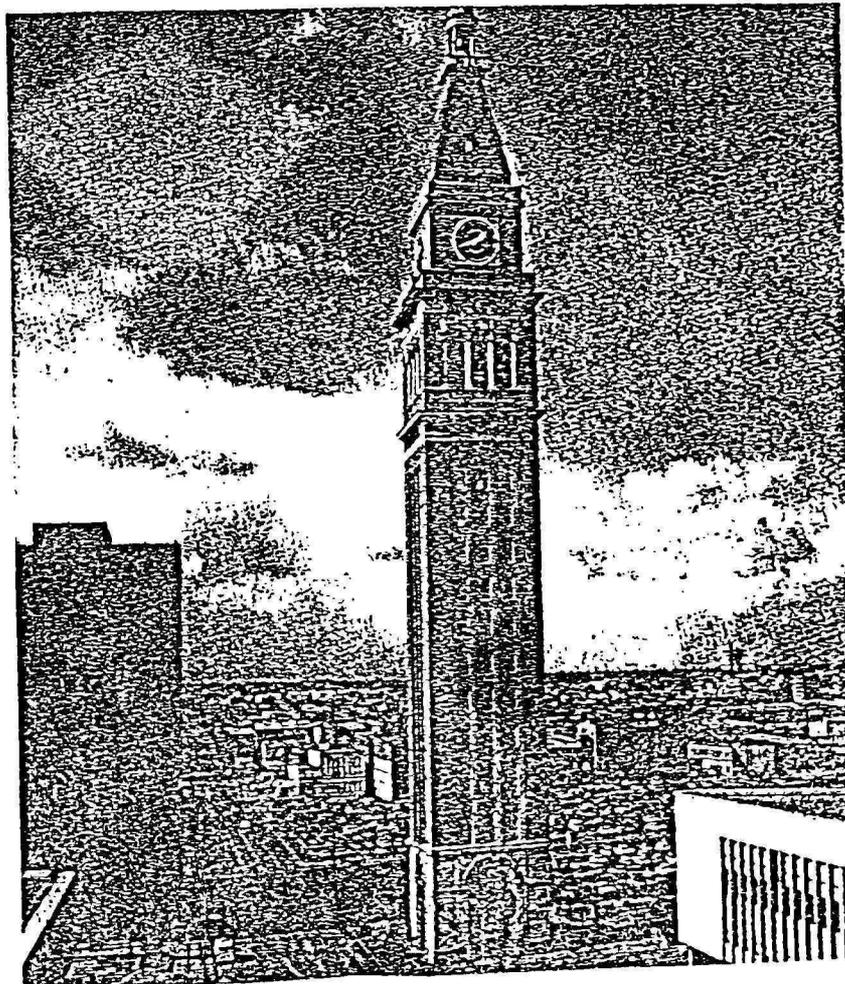


Figure B.11 The Daniels & Fisher Tower
Source: Langdon E. Morris, Jr., *Denver Landmarks* (Charles E. Cleworth, Publisher, 1979), 140.

the approximate width of the avenue, gave the impression that both the vista along the avenue and the mountain views were the property of the hotel.⁸ Clad in silver-gray brick and topped by a red tile roof, the hotel contained 230 guest rooms, with 84 decorative iron balconies projecting from the third floor guest windows . An early promotional brochure for The Antlers Hotel stated the following:

The Antlers Hotel in Colorado Springs is recognized today as one of the finest hotels in the United States. The building is absolutely fireproof and is unsurpassed in the beauty of its design and appointments. The hotel is as important an adjunct to the City of Colorado Springs as the scenery and the climate. When one is mentioned, all are included. The Antlers is as inseparable from Colorado Springs and the Pikes Peak Region as the gaming tables are from Monte Carlo. It is the abode of the wealthy, and luxury fits in with the natural environment - - a veritable pleasure palace of two continents. The Antlers entertains more notables every season than are brought together under any other roof west of New York. It is not a sanitarium nor an invalids hotel, but it does offer those seeking an invigorating climate, outdoor life and exercises, the accommodations of a first class hotel unequaled in Colorado and unexcelled in all the world.⁹

The Antlers Hotel was frequented by many distinguished guests including the Barrymores, newspaper columnist Emily Post and President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Katherine Lee Bates wrote “America the Beautiful” in her room at The Antlers after returning from Pikes Peak. In spite of its renown, this grand and historically significant structure was demolished in 1964.¹⁰

In addition to historical importance, The Antlers Hotel would provide the link between Frederick J. Sterner and the Colorado Supply Company Store at Tercio. Antlers

⁸Noel, *Denver - The City Beautiful and its Architects, 1893-1941*, 219.

⁹<http://www.antlers.com/text/history2.html>.

¹⁰Ibid.

Hotel owner, General Palmer, as also the owner of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad, a subsidiary of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company. It was during the time of his work on The Antlers Hotel that Sterner was commissioned to design the CF&I company store at Primero, and possibly the one at Tercio.

The store at Tercio was representative of an eclectic mix of Sterner's previous design styles. The use of large stone and overall massing reflected his earlier use of the Richardsonian style. The Victorian wood trim was reminiscent of Sterner's later, more ornate work in Denver. The store could have been very plain and utilitarian like many of its predecessors, but it stood out from the rest. Perhaps it was Sterner who chose to use native materials for the structure in Tercio, just as he has chosen to do in Denver many years earlier.

Following a productive career in Colorado, Sterner moved to New York, where he was best known for his work in remodeling dull brownstones into buildings of charm and individuality. Clients in New York included members of the Astor family and one of the Singer sewing machine heirs.¹¹ In 1925 Frederick J. Sterner moved to London, where until his death on November 21, 1931.¹²

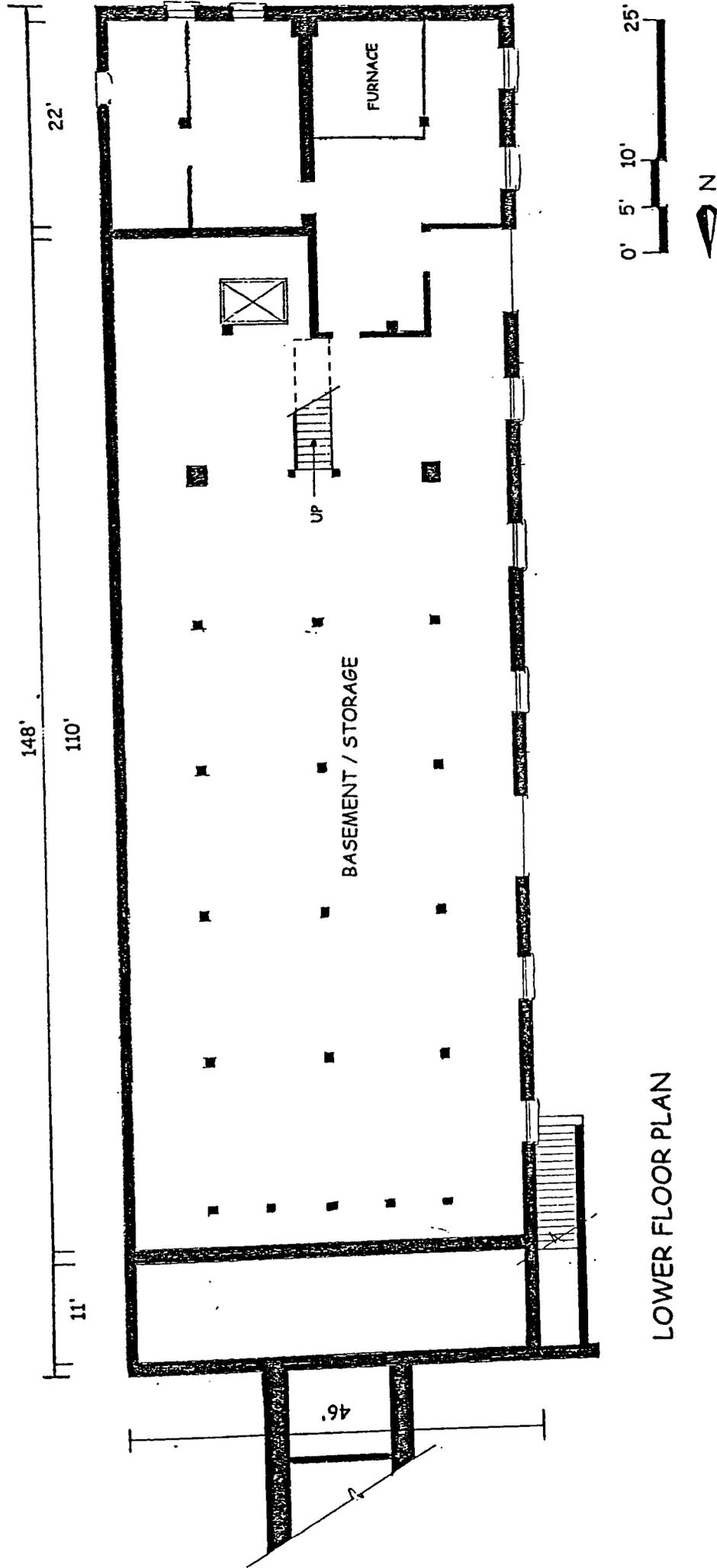
¹¹Noel, *Denver-The City Beautiful and its Architects, 1893-1941*, 219.

¹²<http://www.upenn.edu/sah/aame/bios.html#77>.

APPENDIX C
MEASURED DRAWINGS

The following pages contain measured drawings of The Colorado Supply Company Store Number 31 at Tercio, Colorado. Work at the site was conducted between August and October of 2001.

Due to space limitations, measurements are given to the nearest foot (wall thicknesses and small spaces are not included in the interior measurements-only the wall-to-wall dimensions).



LOWER FLOOR PLAN

Figure C.1 Lower Floor Plan of the Tercio Company Store
 Source: Drawing by author.

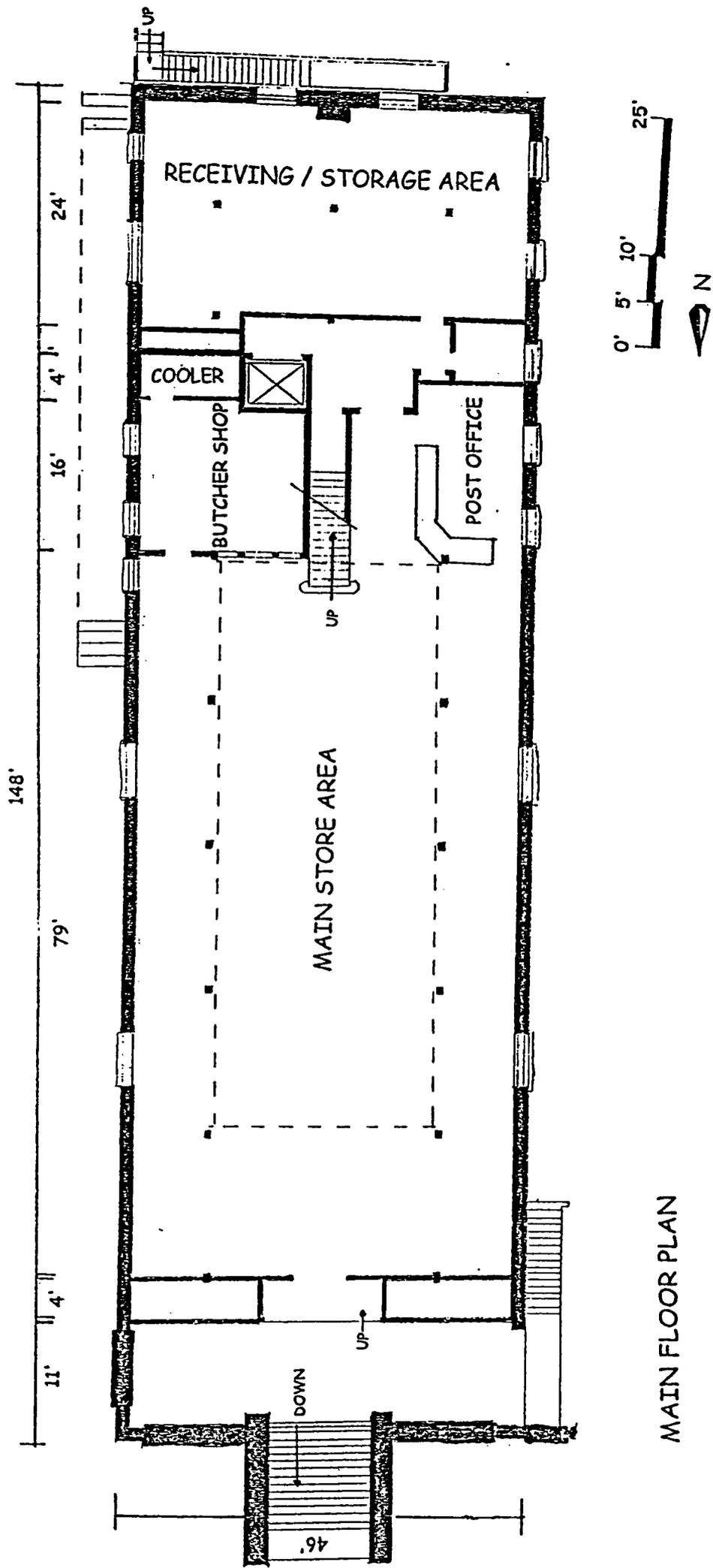
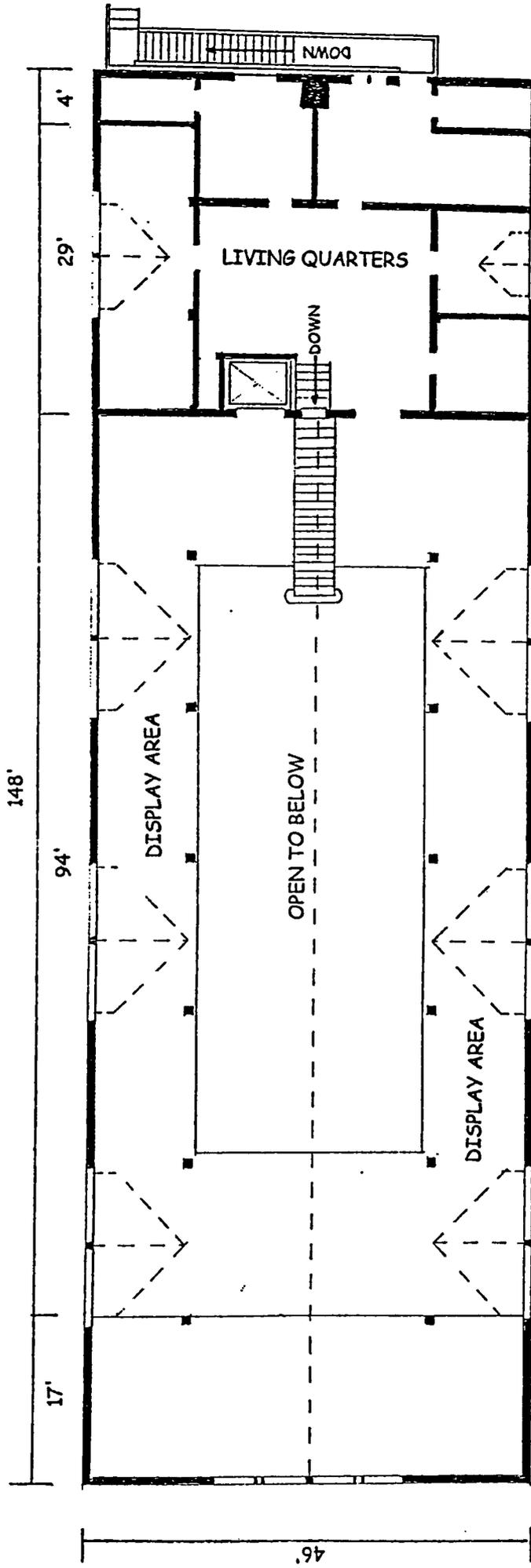
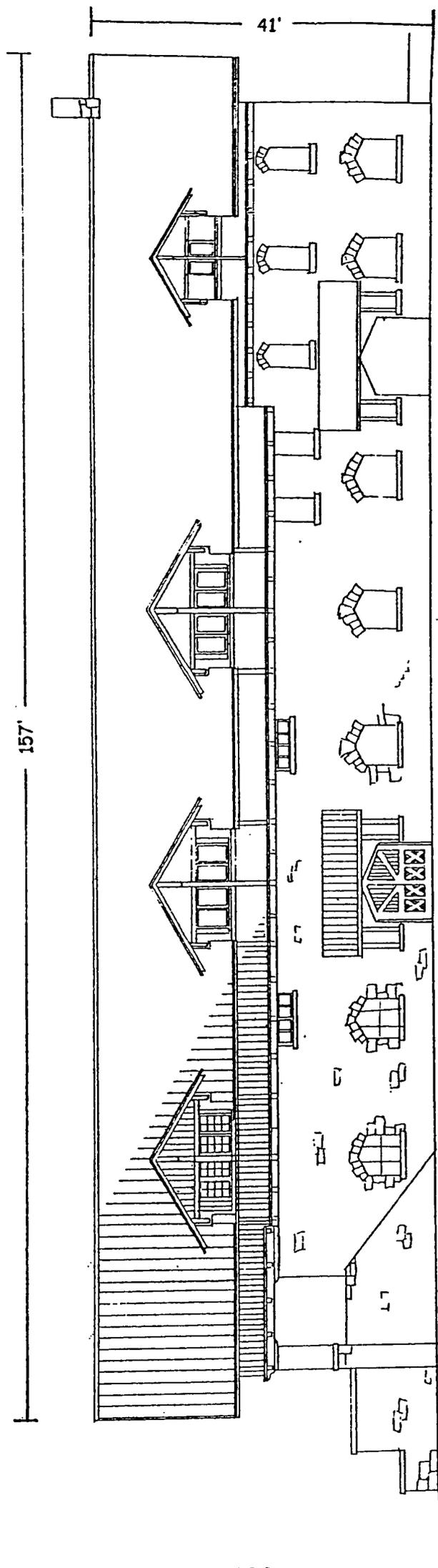


Figure C.2 Main Floor Plan of the Tercio Company Store
 Source: Drawing by author.



MEZZANINE FLOOR PLAN

Figure C.3 Mezzanine Floor Plan of the Tercio Company Store
 Source: Drawing by author.



WEST ELEVATION

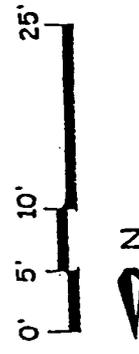


Figure C.4 West Elevation of the Tercio Company Store
 Source: Drawing by author.

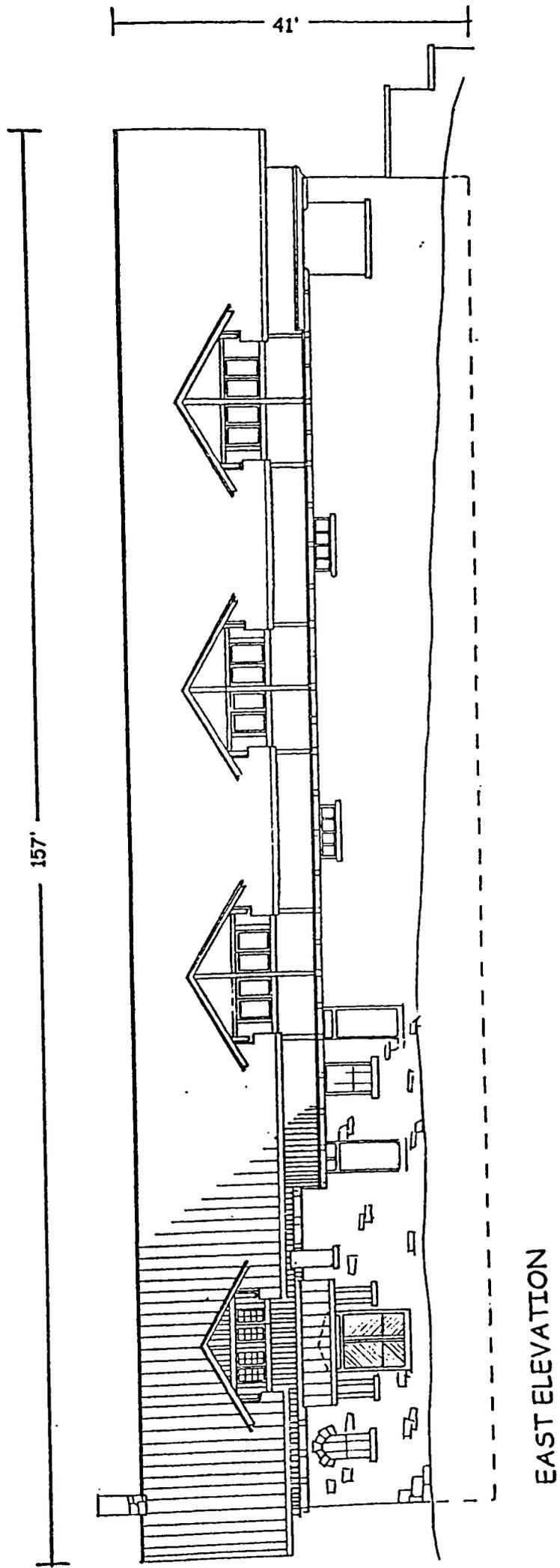


Figure C.5 East Elevatoin of The Tercio Company Store
 Source: Drawing by author.

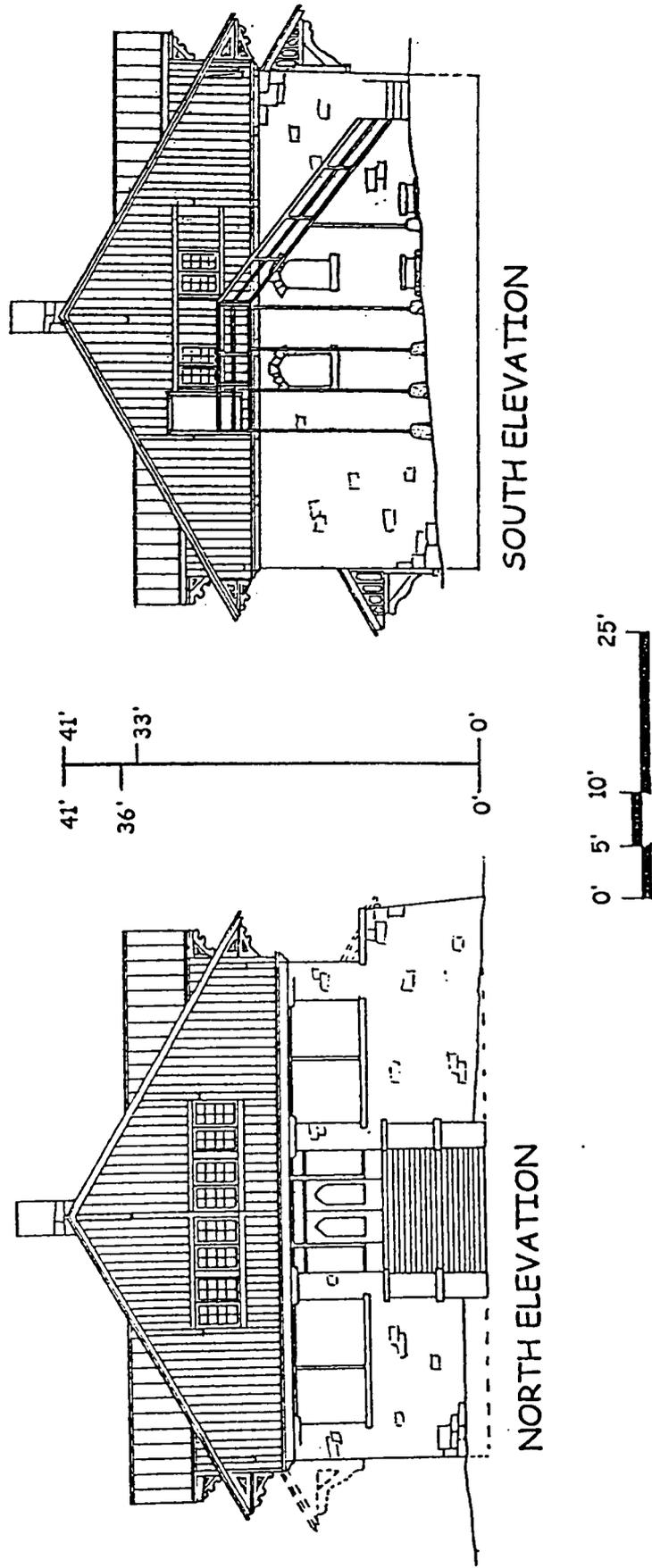
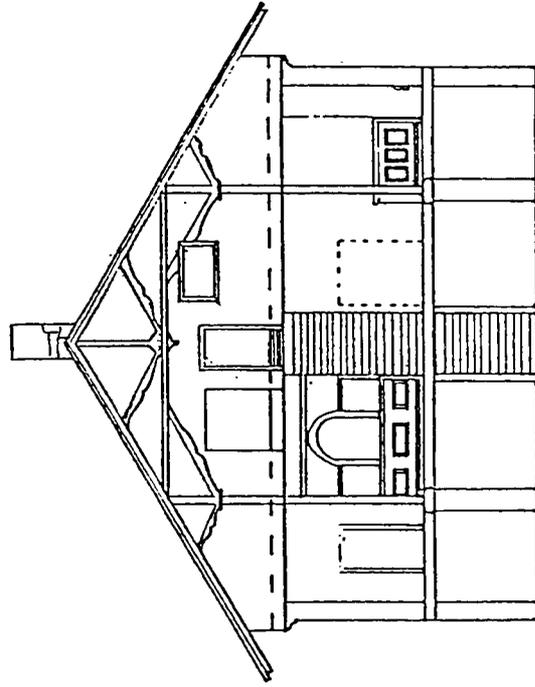
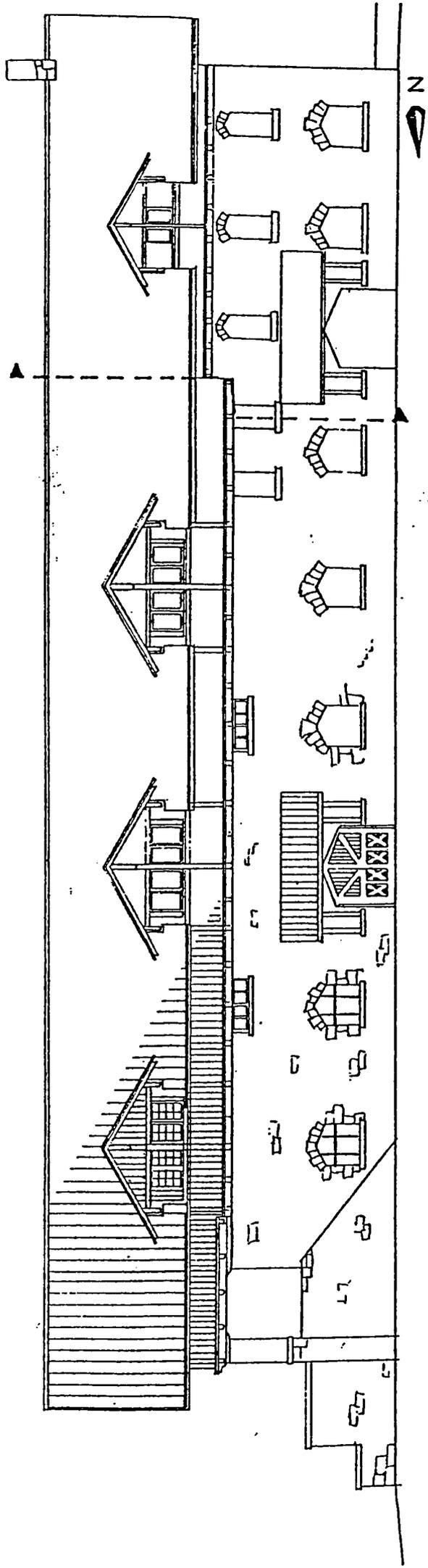


Figure C.6 North and South Elevations of the Tercio Company Store
 Source: Drawing by author.



SECTION



Figure C.7 Section Through the Tercio Company Store
 Source: Drawing by author.

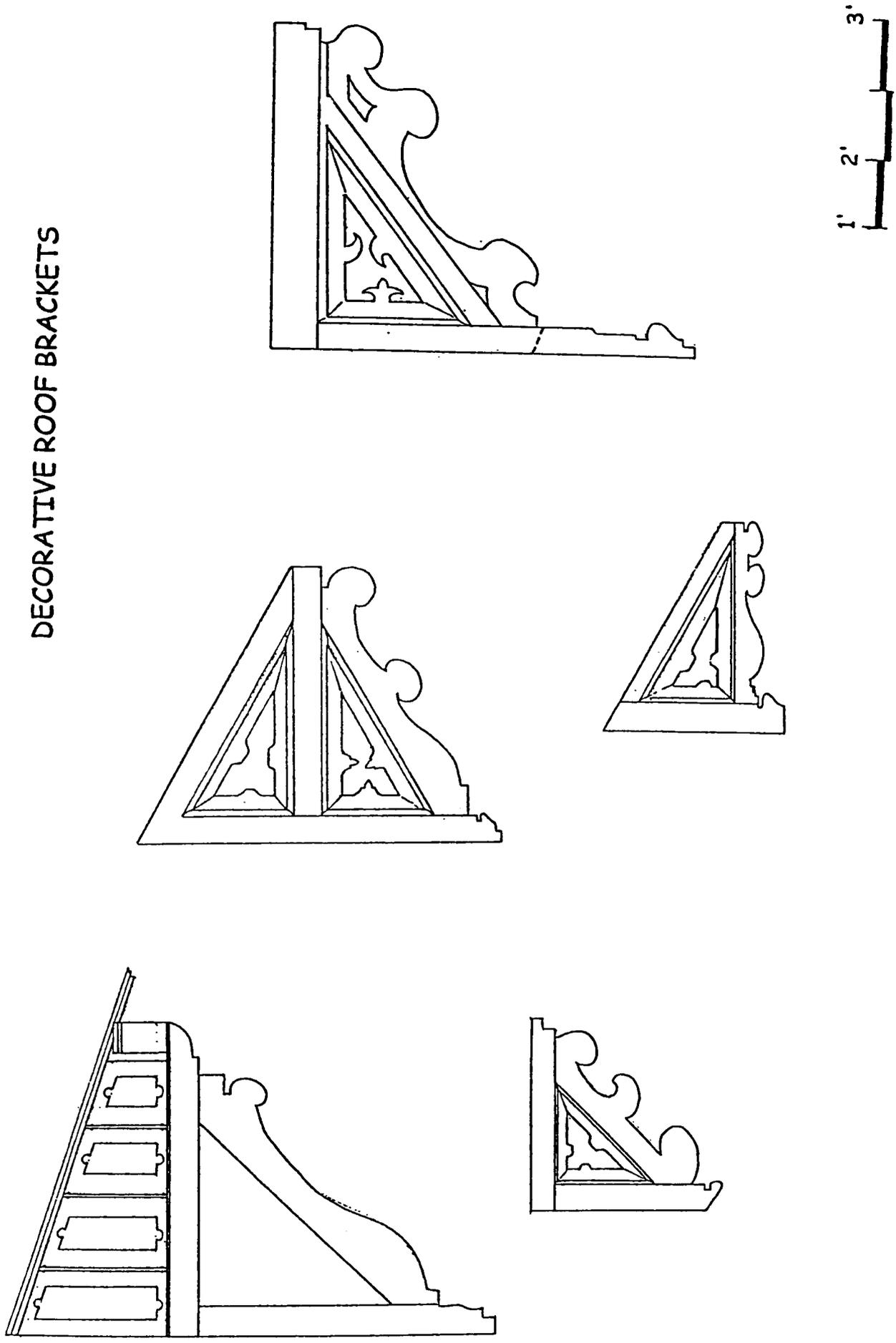


Figure C.8 Decorative Roof Bracket Details
 Source: Drawings by author.

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