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MACOG

June 27, 2006

Vernon Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street NW, Room 700
Washington, DC 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

JUL 07 2006

Part of
Public Record



Re: South Bend Railway Application
FD 34893

Dear Mr. Williams:

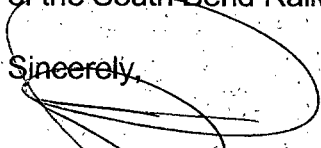
The Michiana Area Council of Governments is the Metropolitan Planning Organization for Elkhart, St. Joseph and Marshall Counties in Indiana. The MACOG Policy Board is comprised of fifteen elected officials and is charged with the responsibility of developing regional transportation plans and programs. Additionally, the MACOG operates three public transit systems, develops freight plans, comprehensive economic development strategies for the region, and is responsible for meeting all requirements under the current SAFETEA-LU legislation as the MPO.

As such, the MACOG Policy Board has expressed interest in the process for public comment and input regarding approval by the STB of the potential sale, as well as a concern for public safety at the railroad crossing intersections and along the rail corridor currently proposed for purchase and re-activation by the South Bend Railway Company. We would like to receive specific information regarding the process and timetable for this project and would encourage the STB to take into consideration all NEPA impacts, including all potential environmental justice issues, safety and congestion concerns, as well as the local community's input regarding the proposed project.

I have attached photos of the current rail corridor, which highlight the condition of various intersections along the corridor. Crossing warning devices have been removed from many crossing intersections and at least two major intersections have traffic counts exceeding 23,000 annual average daily traffic.

All In all, we respectfully request that the STB thoroughly review all aspects of the proposed project, heavily considering the communities safety in making its decision of the South Bend Railway application.

Sincerely,


Sandra M. Seanor
Executive Director

Cc MACOG Policy Board
George Herendeen, MACOG Attorney



Major streets the rail track crosses

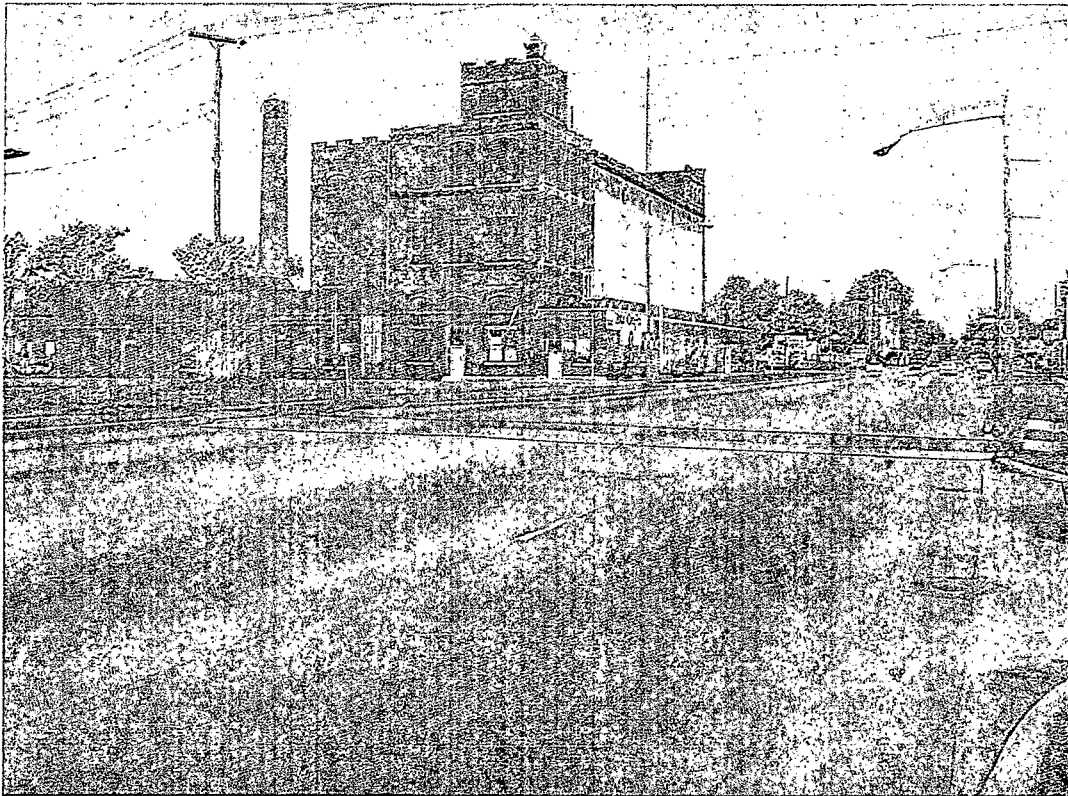
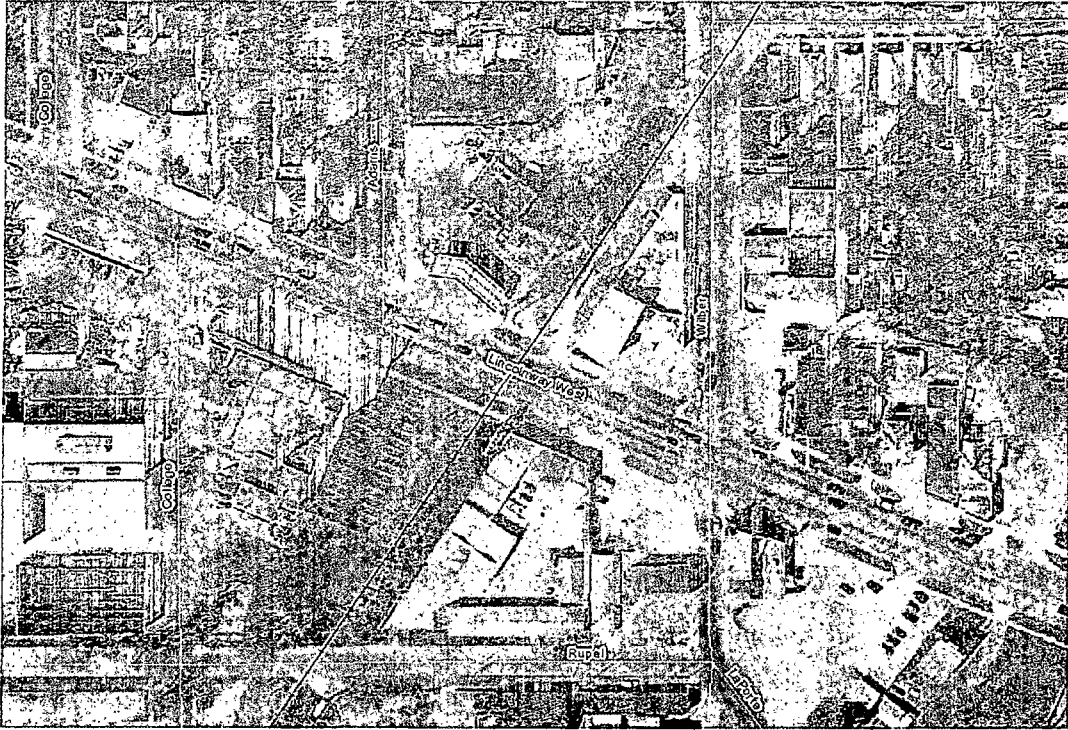
1. Lincolnway West at 200 feet west of Wilber Street.
2. Portage Road at 250 feet north of Angela Blvd. (Overpass bridge on Portage road)
3. SR 933 at Douglas Road.
4. Douglas Road at 1430 feet west of St. Joseph Drive.
5. Douglas Road at 325 feet west of St. Joseph Drive

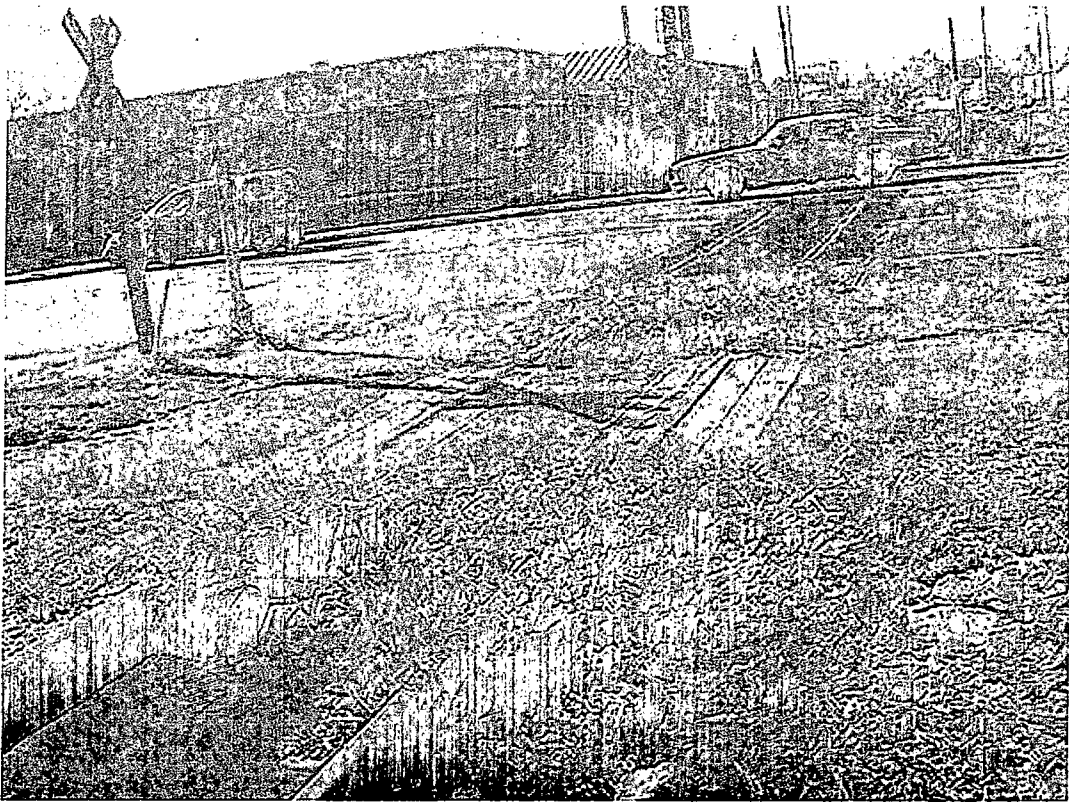
Local streets the rail track crosses

1. Washington Street at College Street.
2. Orange Street at College Street.
3. College Street at 130 feet north of Orange Street.
4. Linden Avenue at 180 feet west of College Street.
5. Florence Street at 200 feet west of College Street.
6. Sibley Street at 200 feet west of College Street.
7. Fassnacht Street at 205 feet west of College Street.
8. Longley Avenue at 200 feet west of College Street.
9. Werwinski Street at 93 feet west of College Street.
10. College Street at 145 feet north of Werwinski Street.
11. Rupel Street at 134 feet east of College Street.
12. Wilber Street at 384 feet north of Lincolnway West.
13. Vassar Avenue at 68 feet west of Lawndale Avenue.
14. Woodward Avenue at 245 feet north of Angela Blvd.
15. Riverside Drive at 215 feet north of Angela Blvd.
16. North Shore Drive at 215 feet north of Angela Blvd.

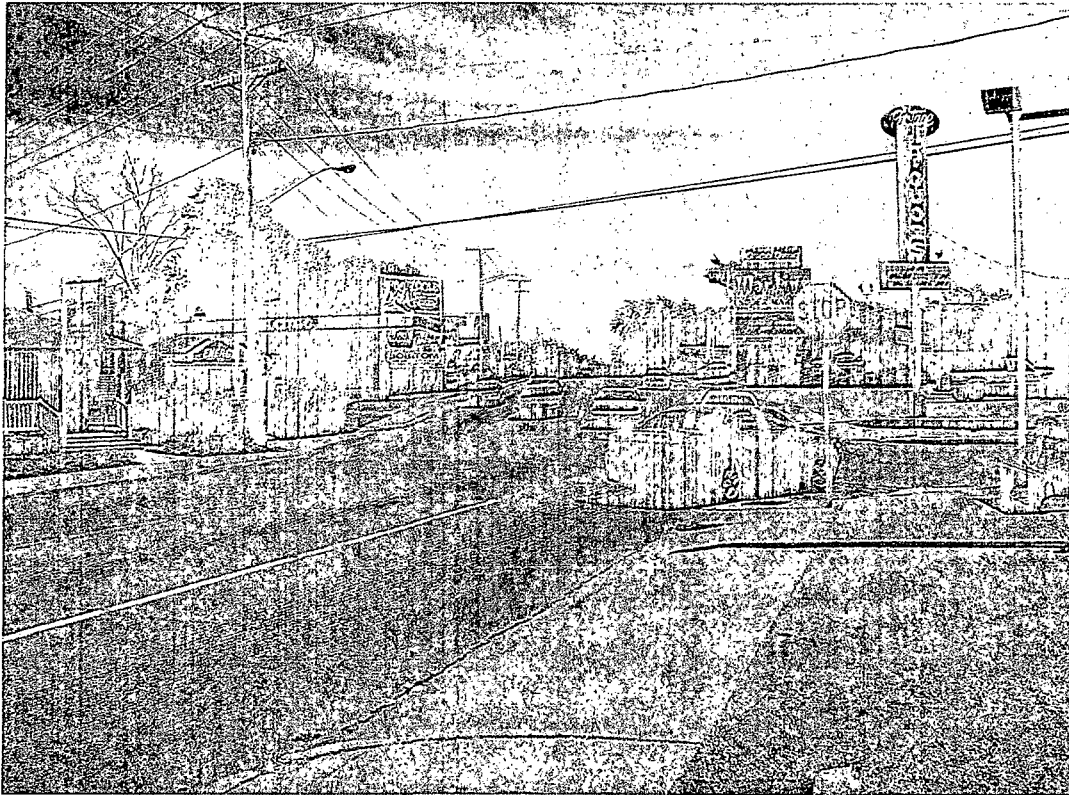
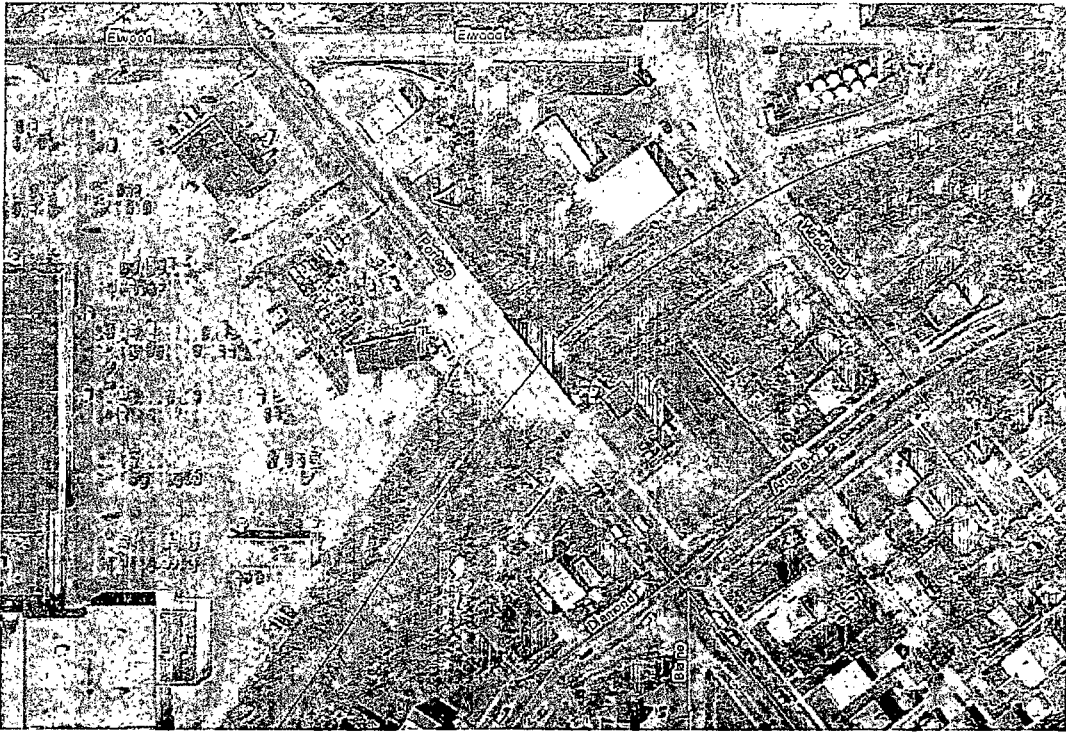
Aero-photographs and Ground Pictures

1. Lincolnway West at 200 feet west of Wilber Street.

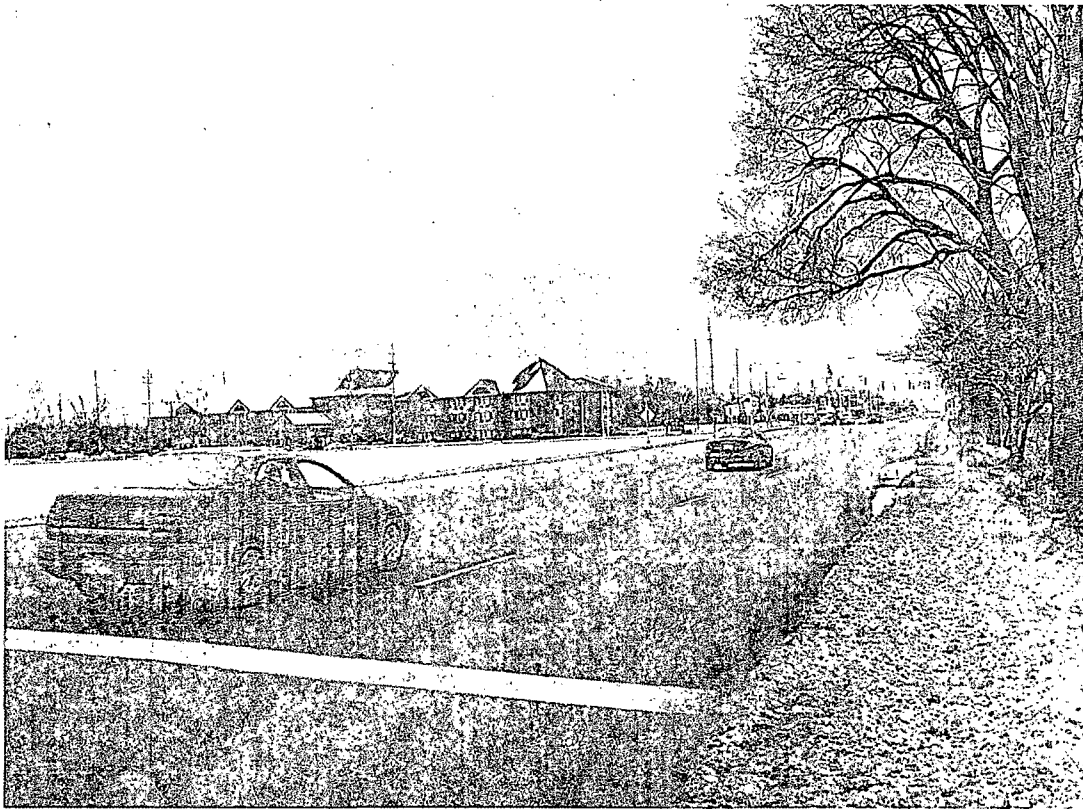
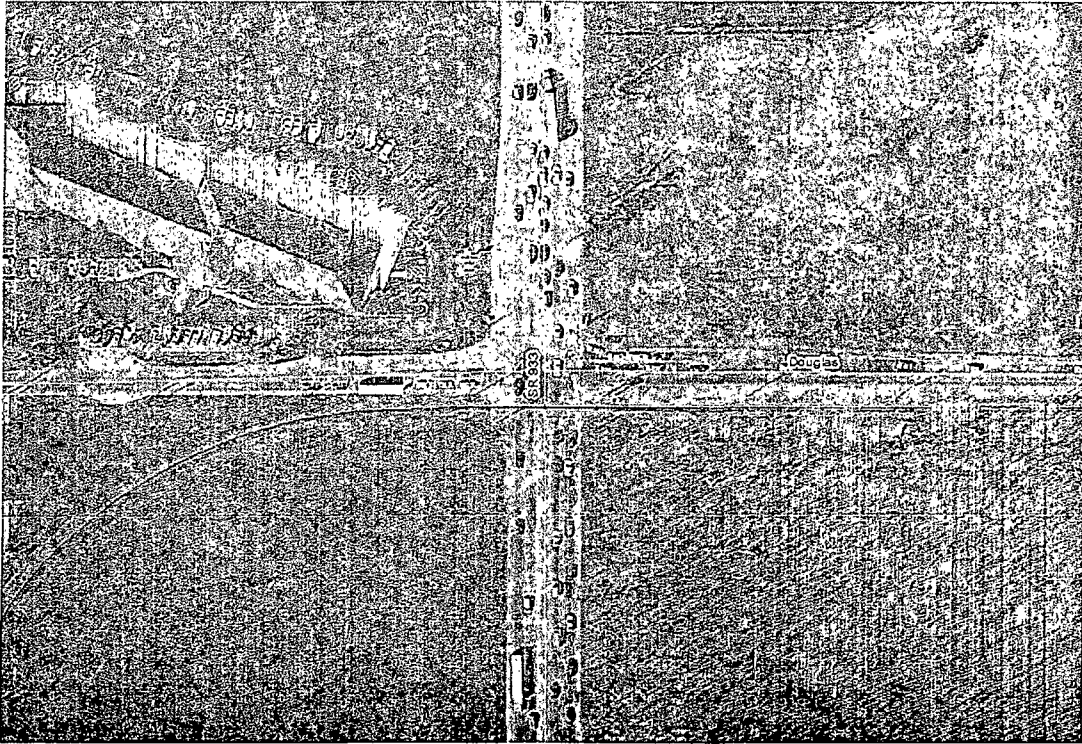


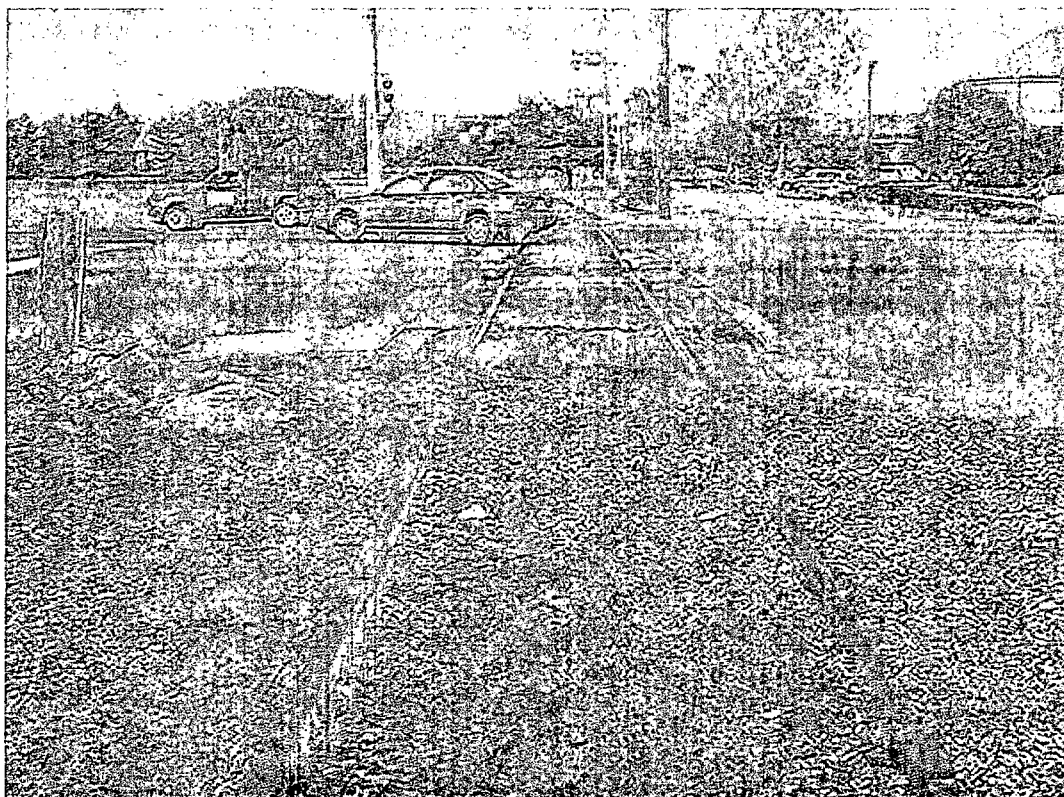
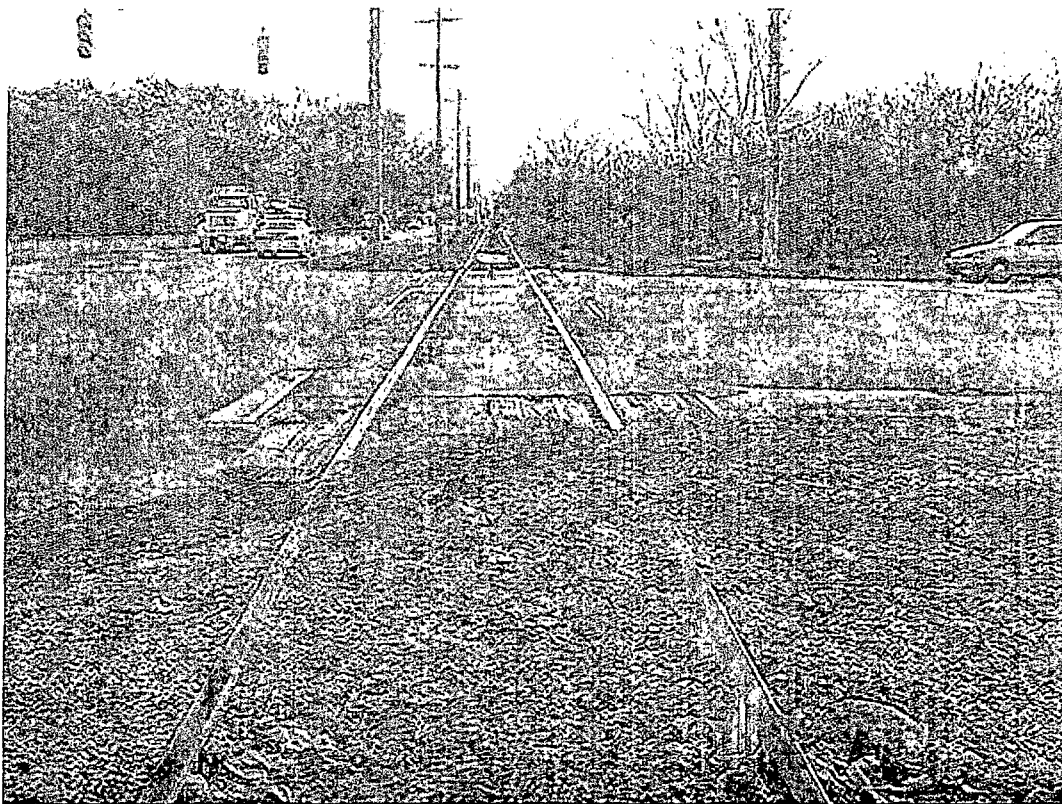


2. Portage Road at 250 feet north of Angela Blvd. (Overpass bridge on Portage road)

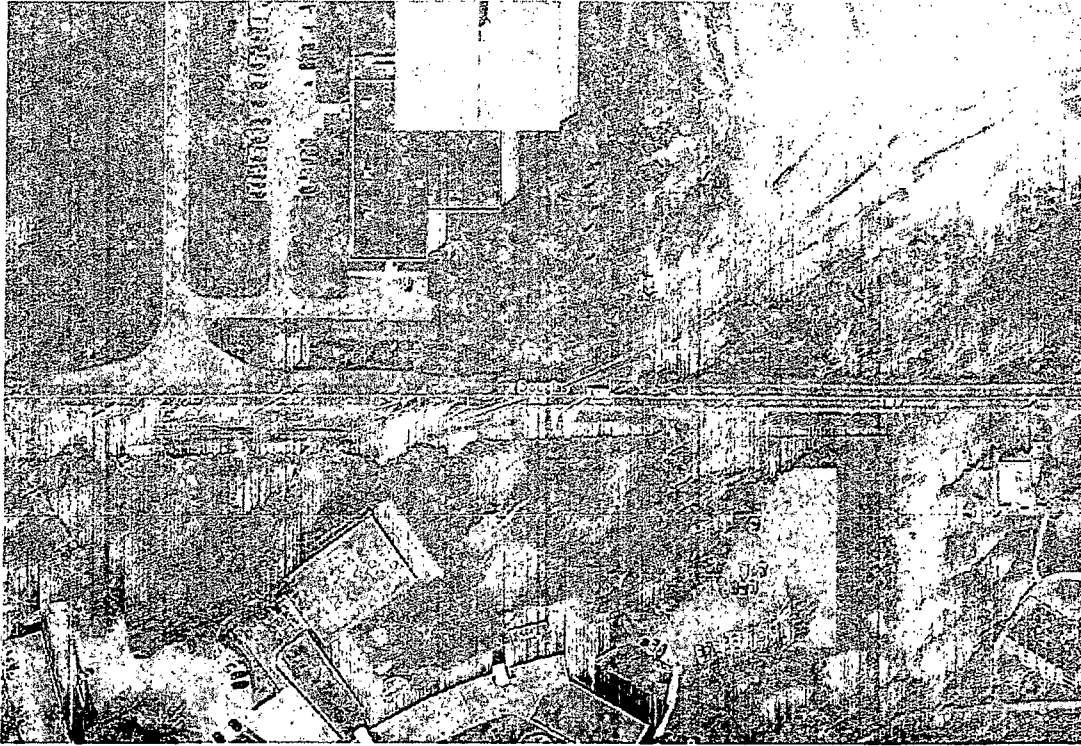


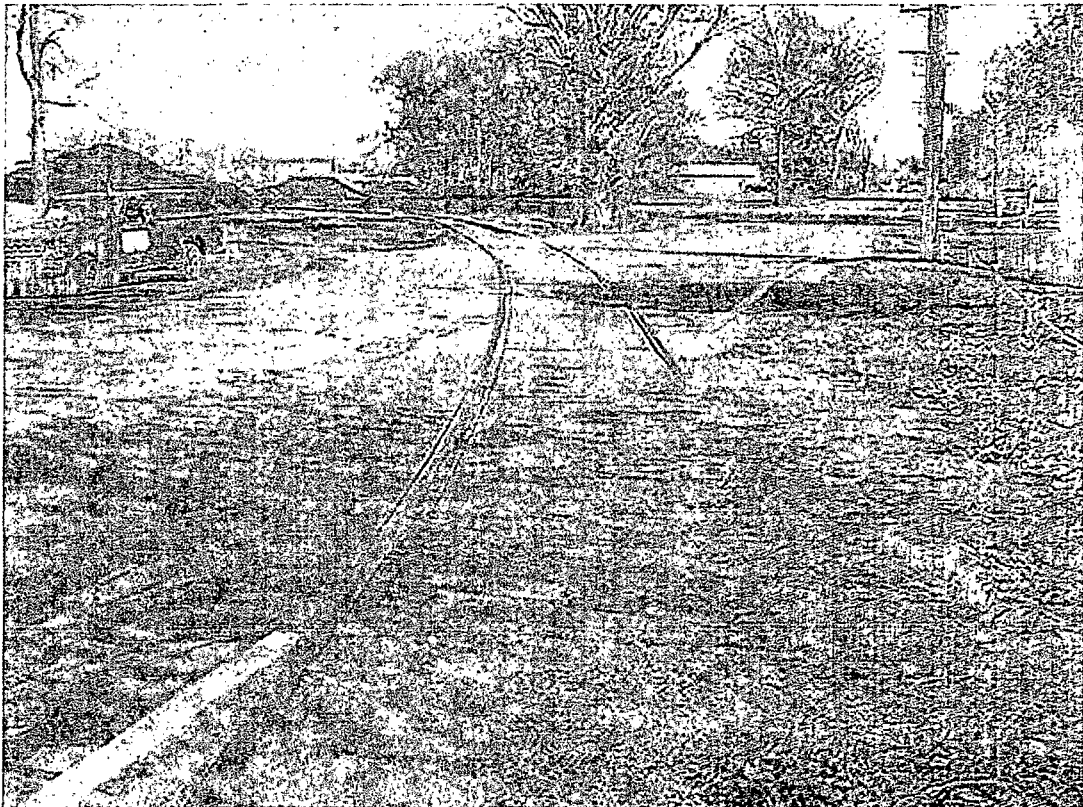
3. SR 933 at Douglas Road



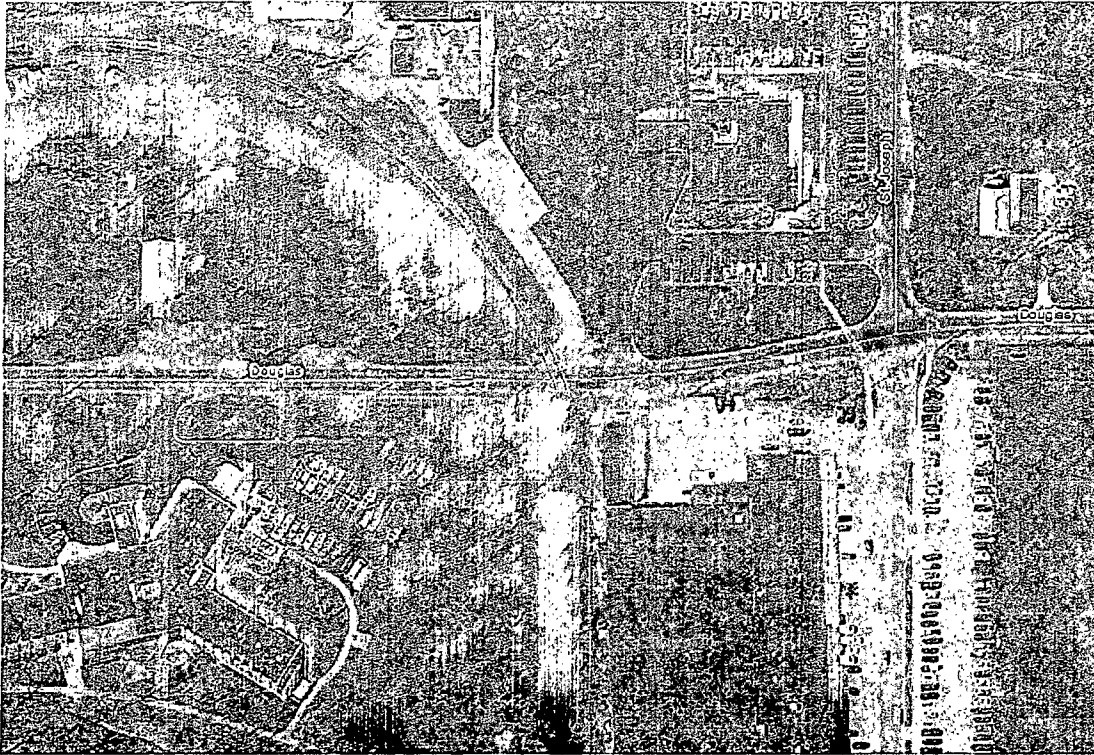


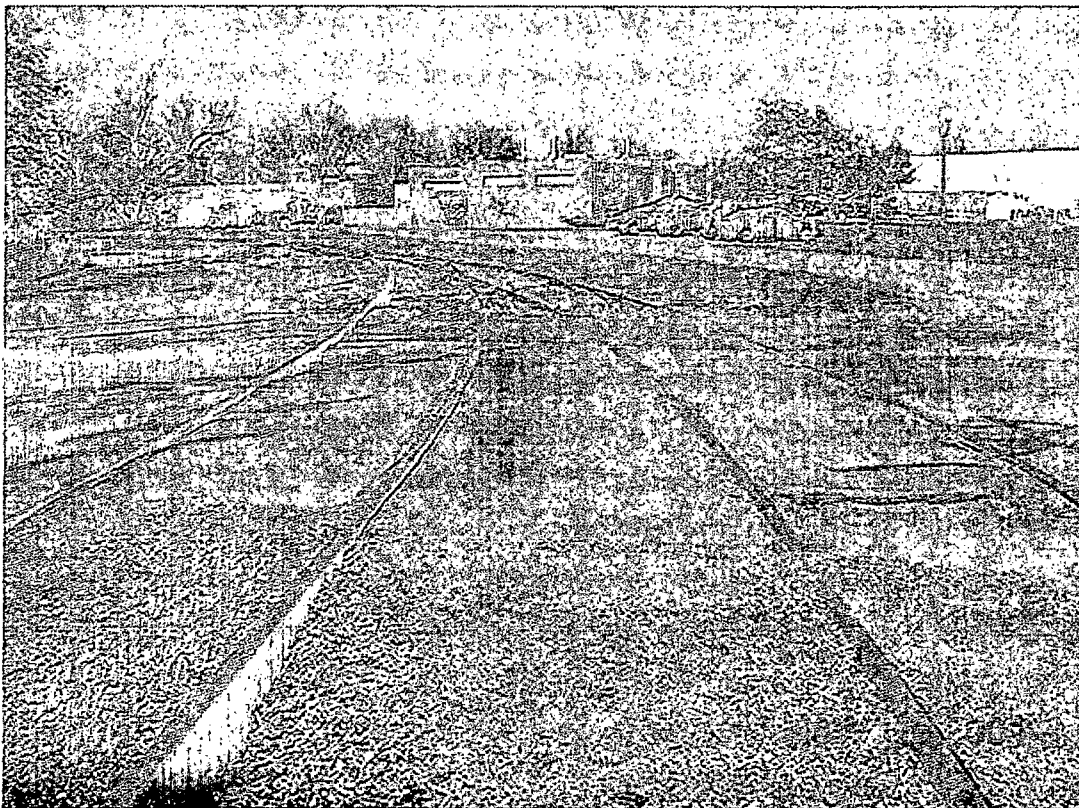
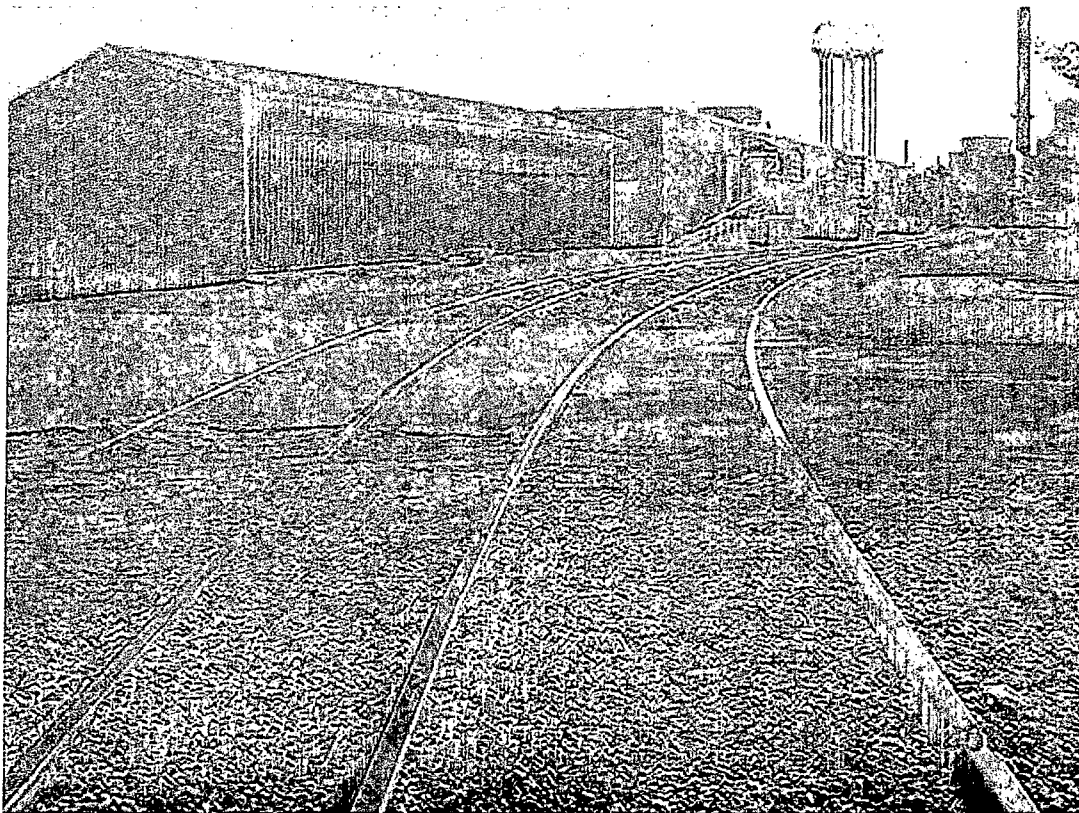
4. Douglas Road at 1430 feet west of St. Joseph Drive





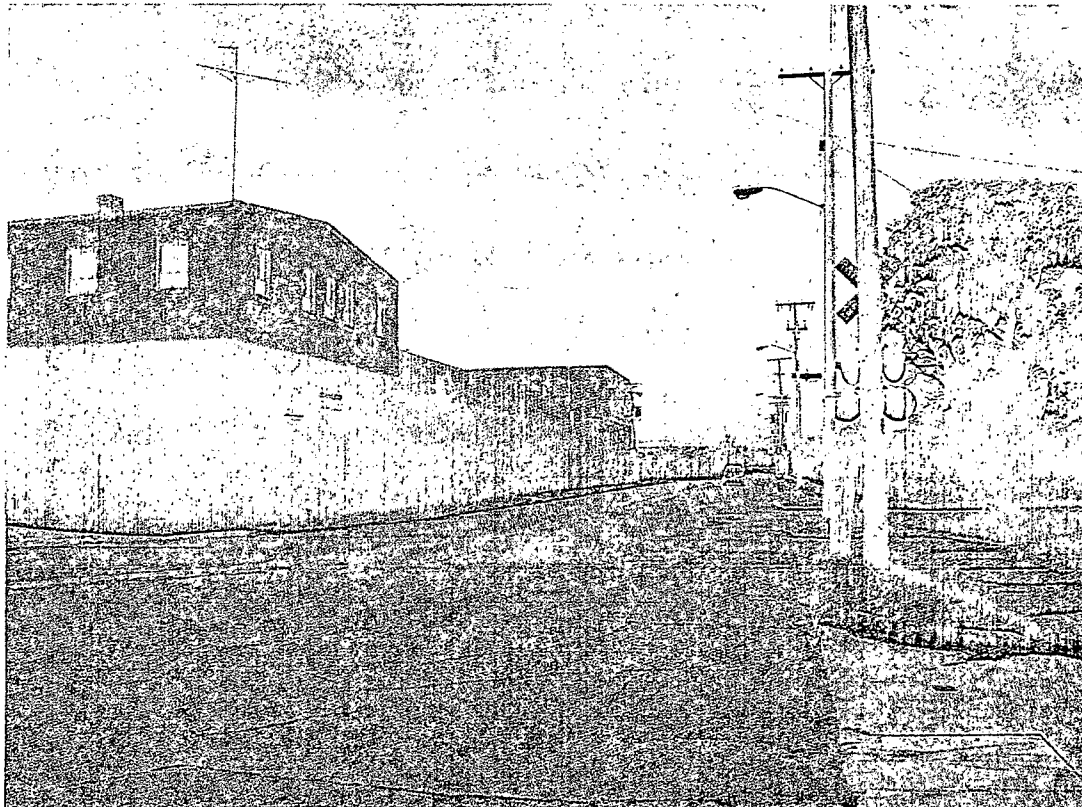
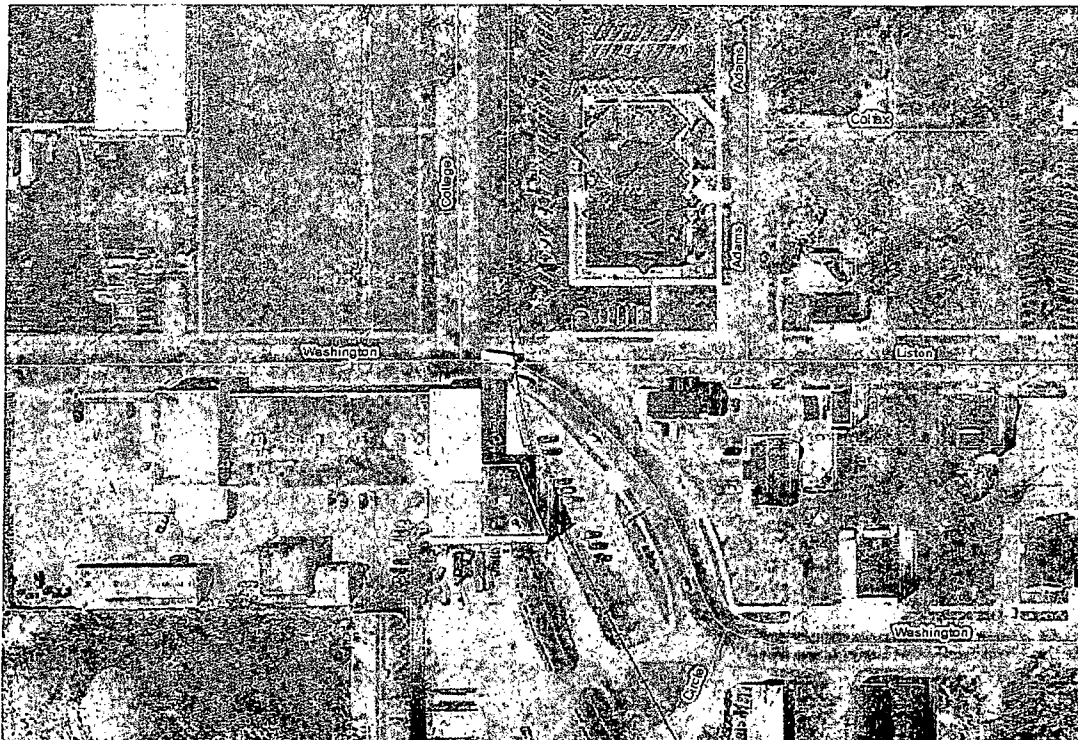
5. Douglas Road at 325 feet west of St. Joseph Drive

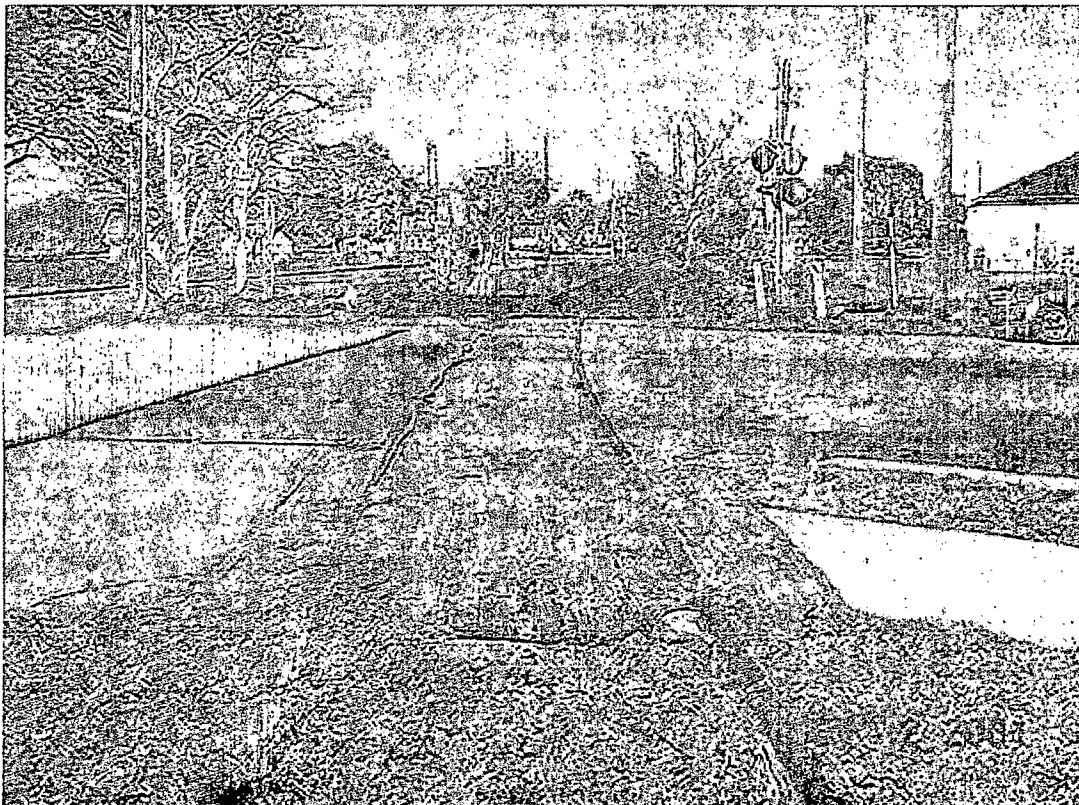
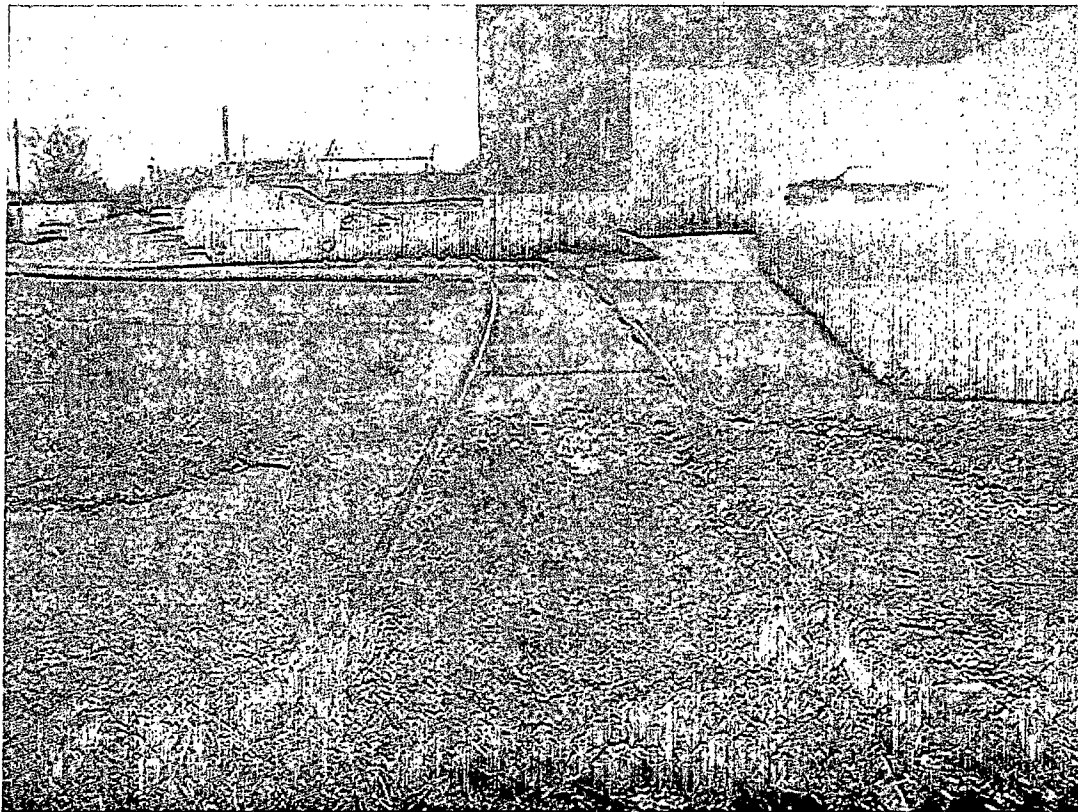




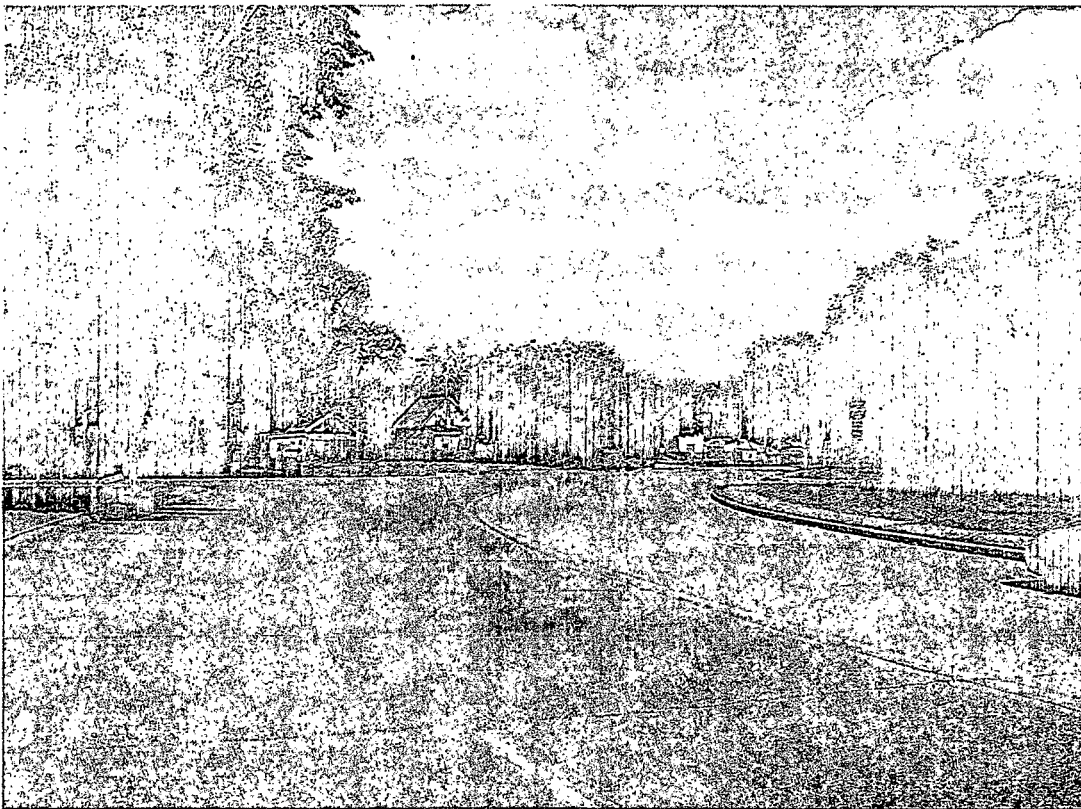
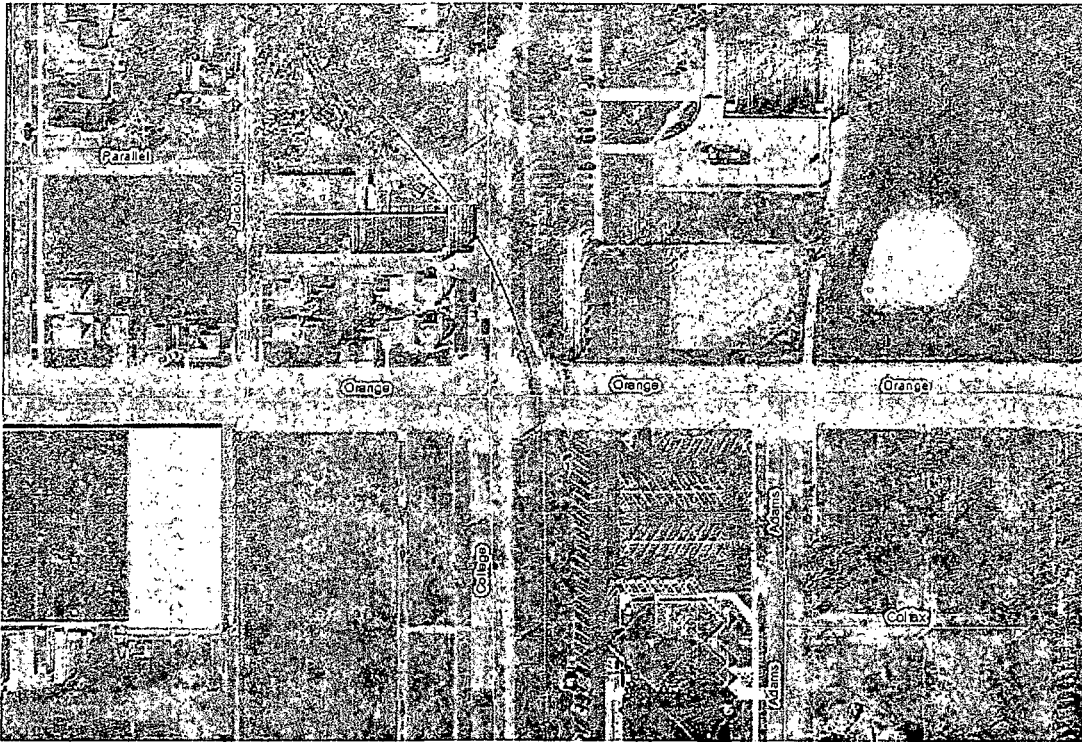
Local streets the rail track crosses

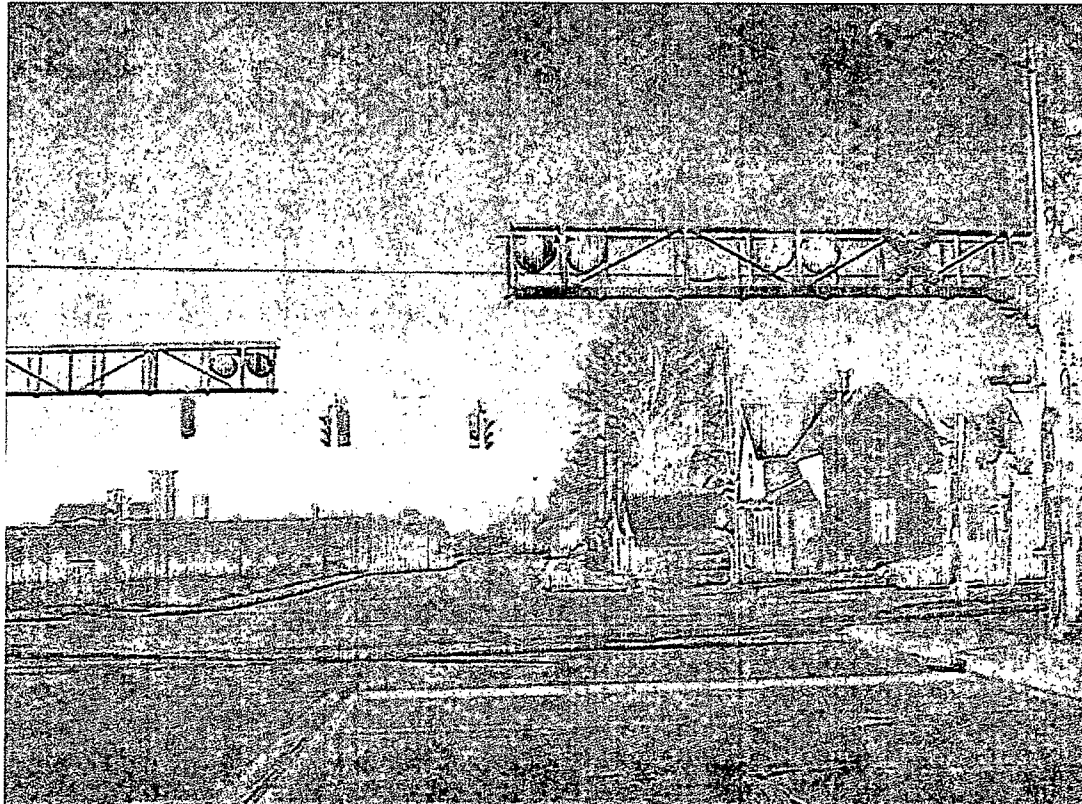
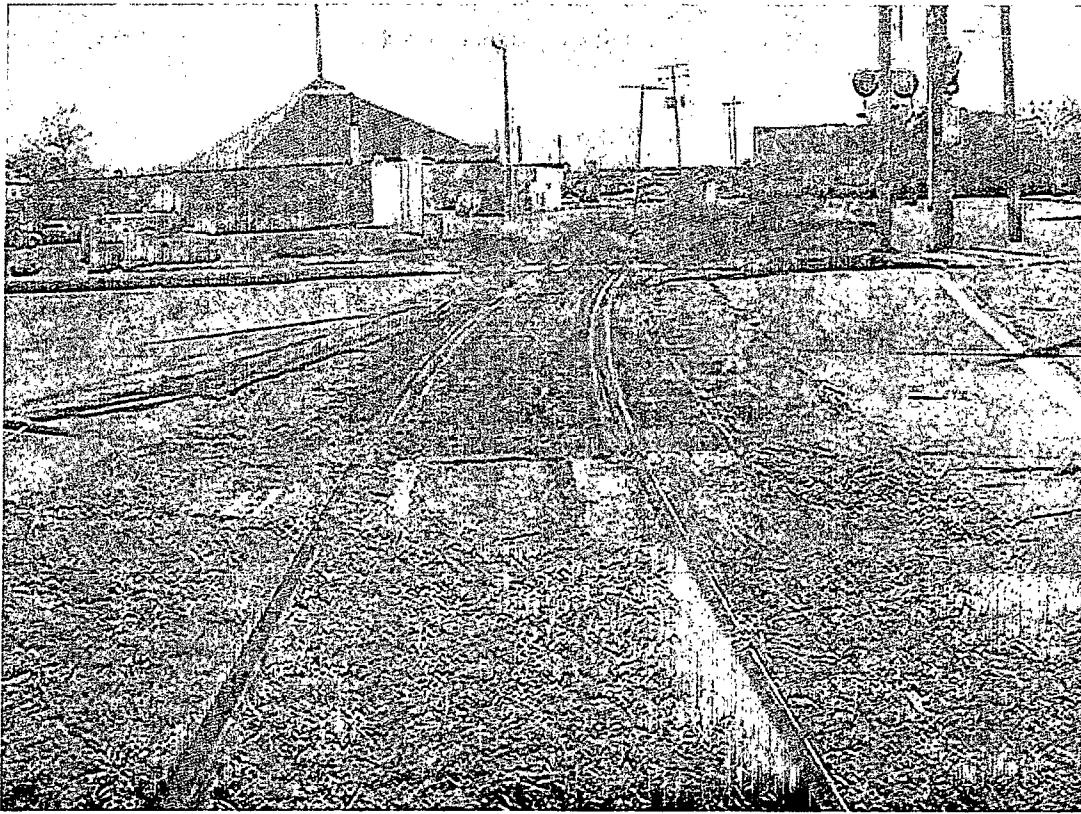
1. Washington Street at Liston Street.



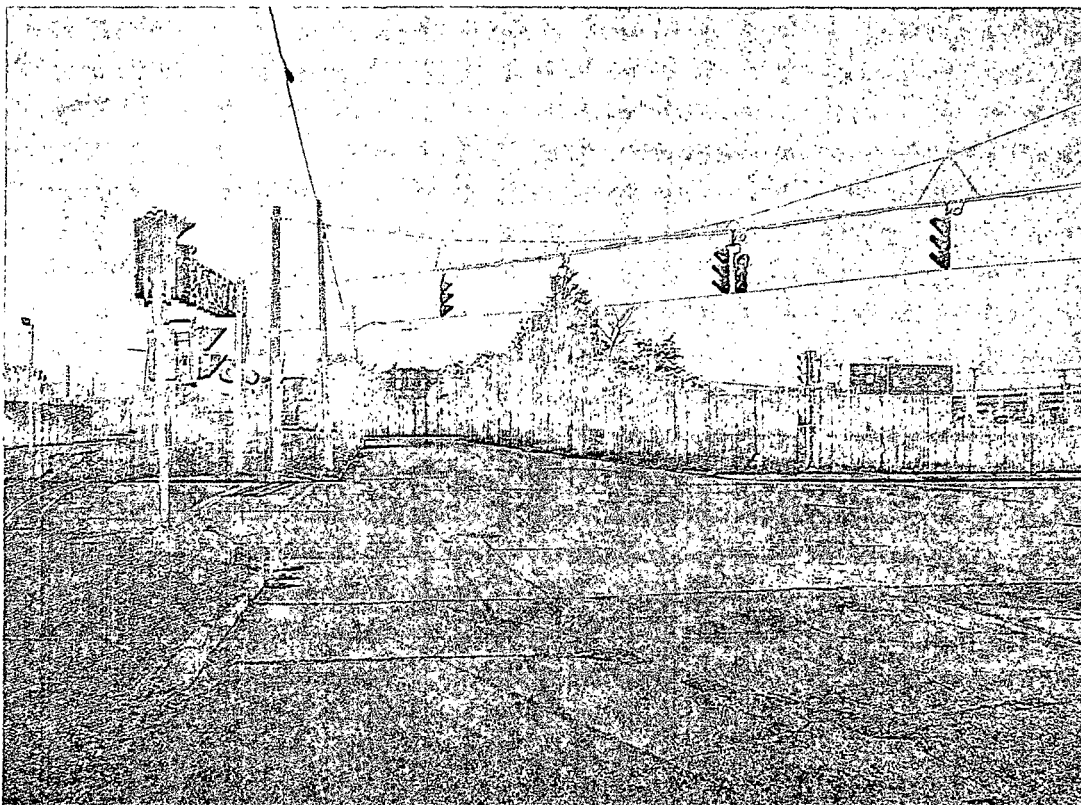
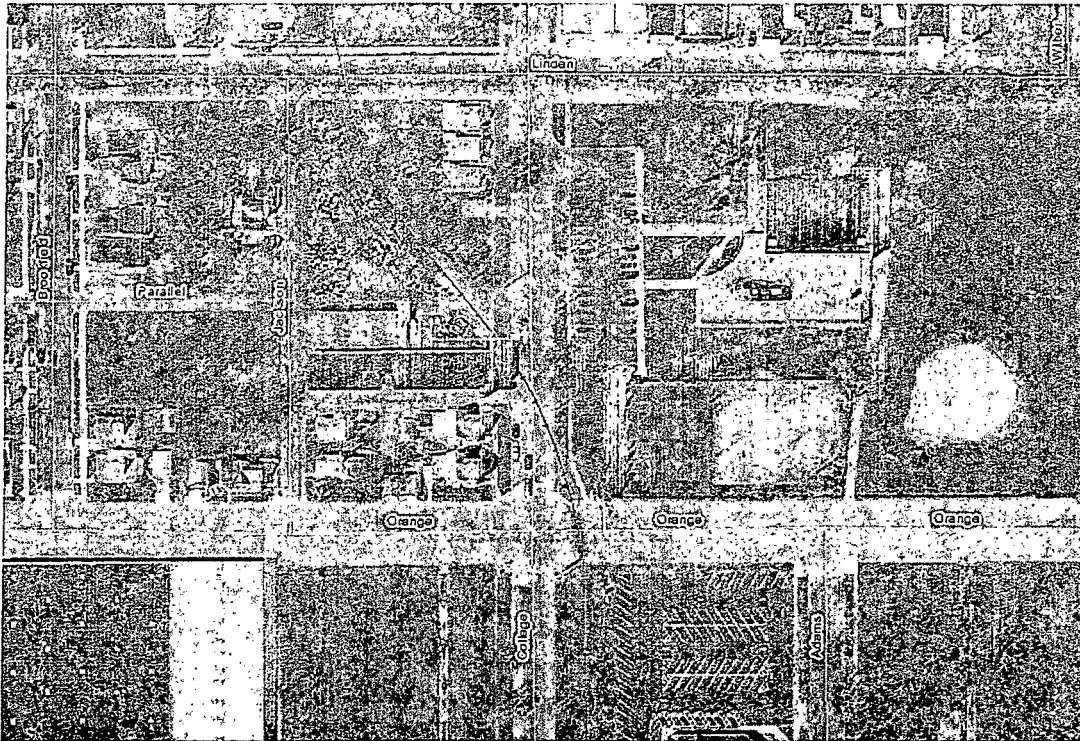


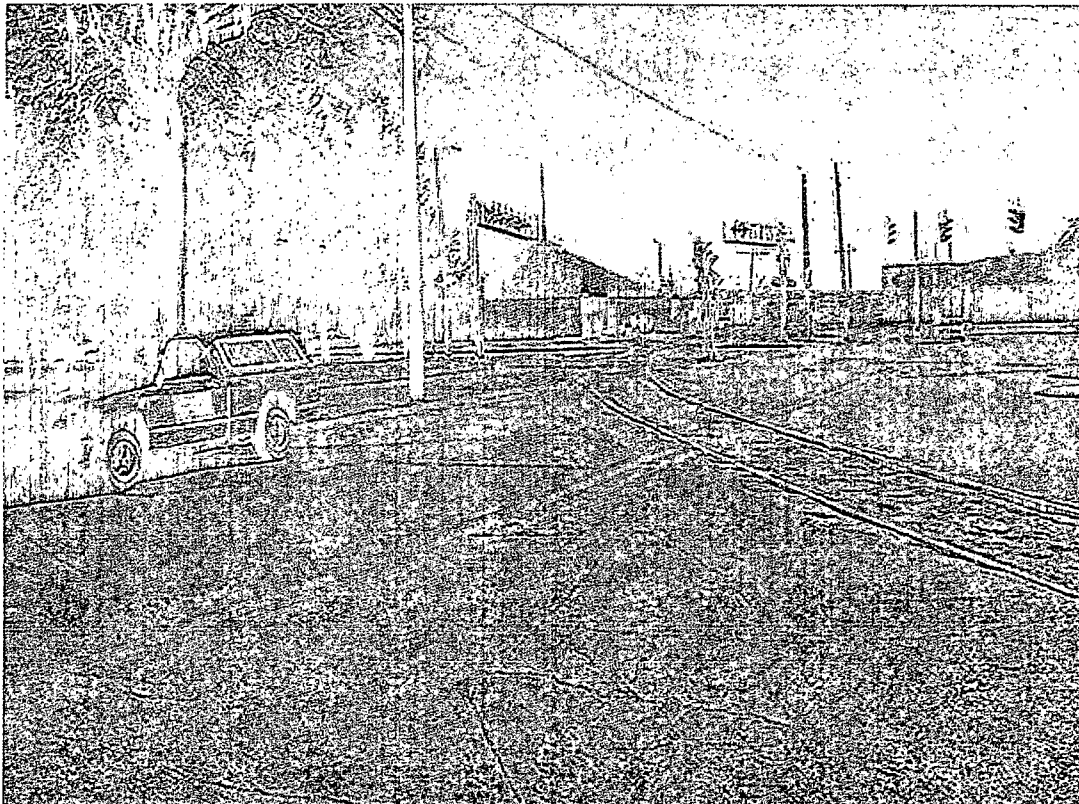
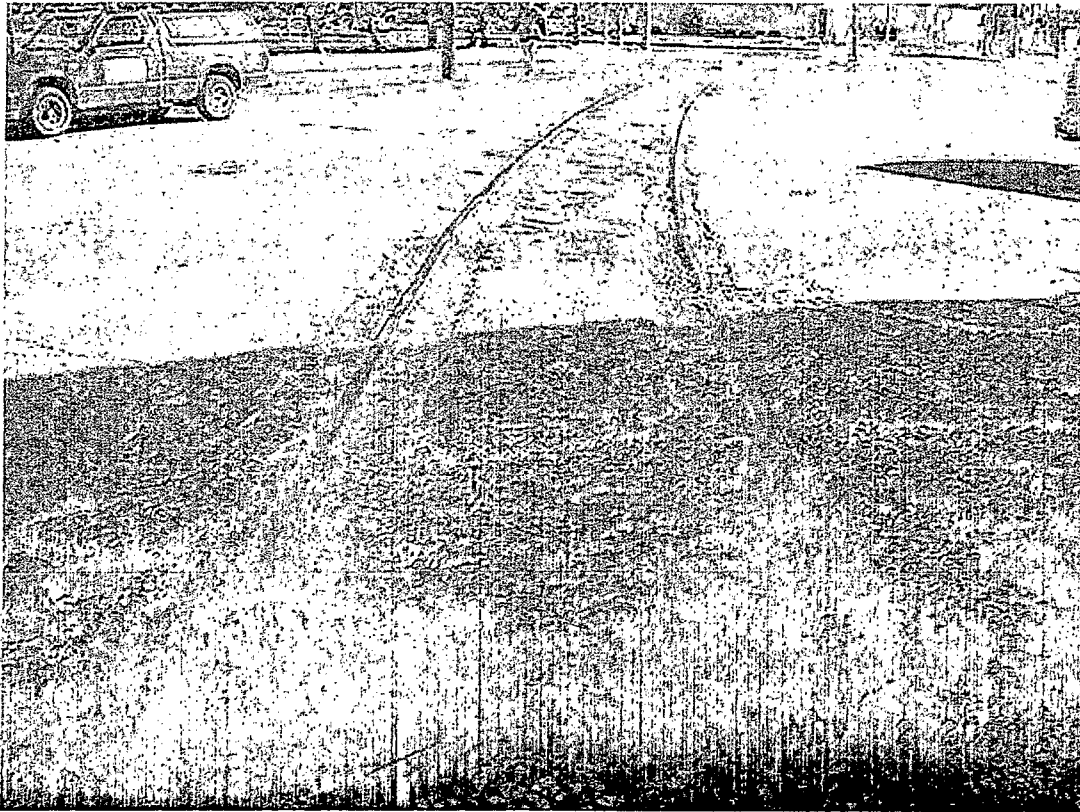
2. Orange Street at College Street





3. College Street at 130 feet north of Orange Street



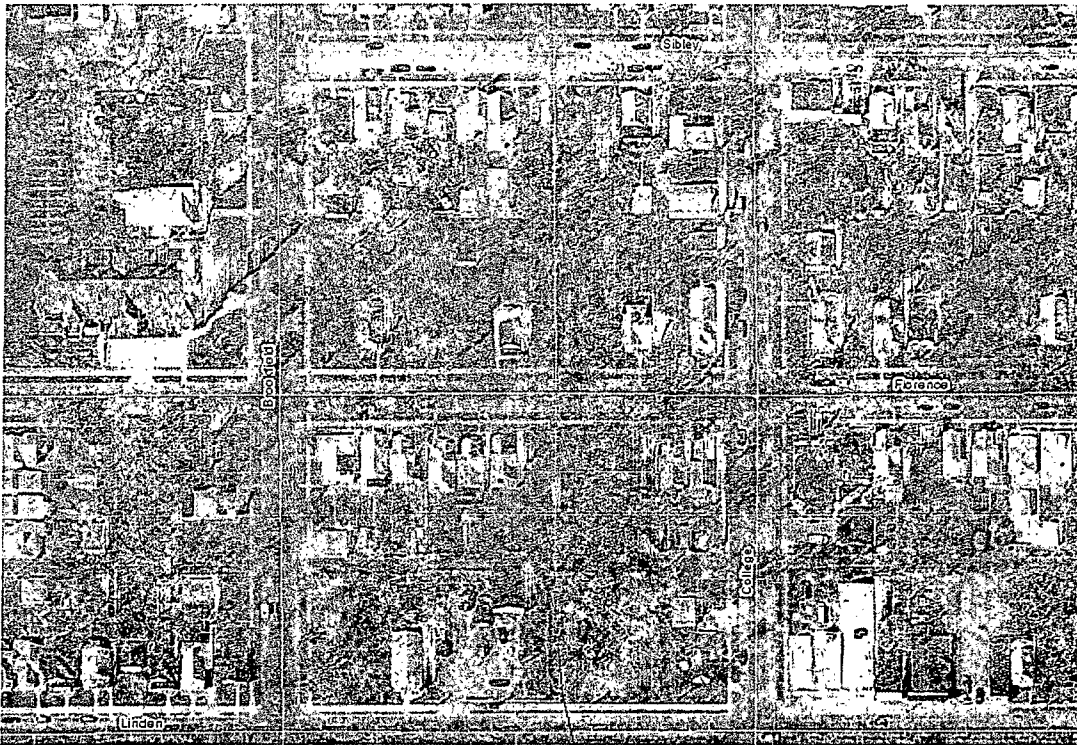


4. Linden Avenue at 180 feet west of College Street

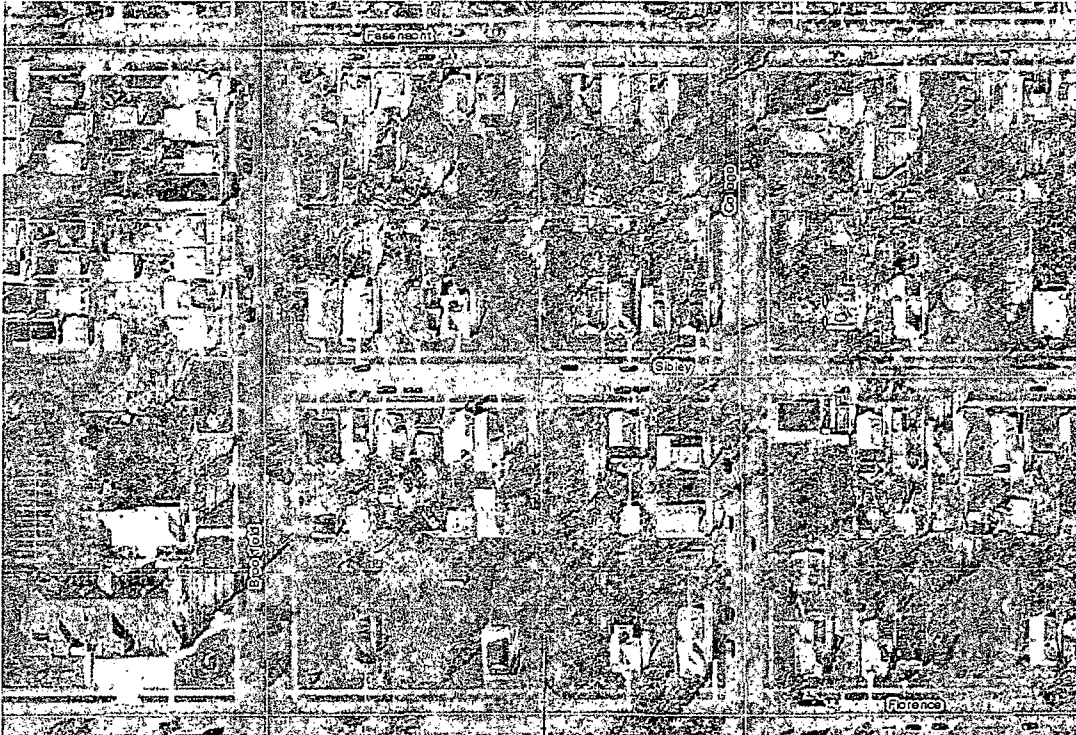




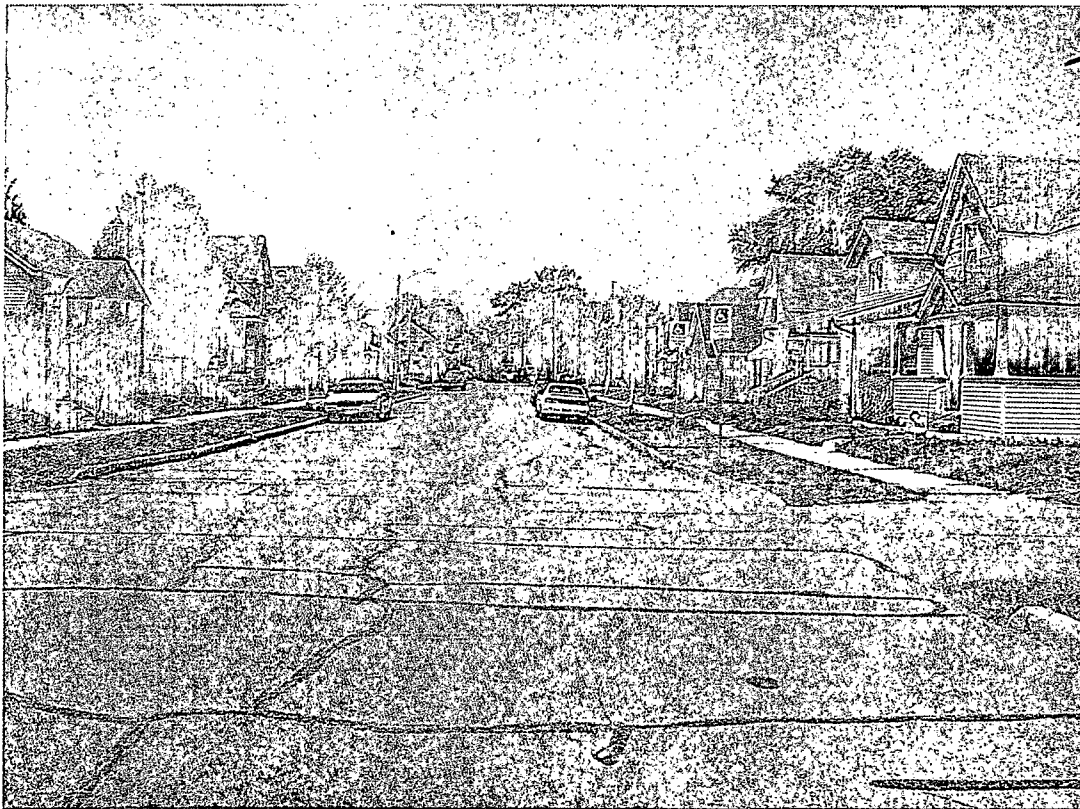
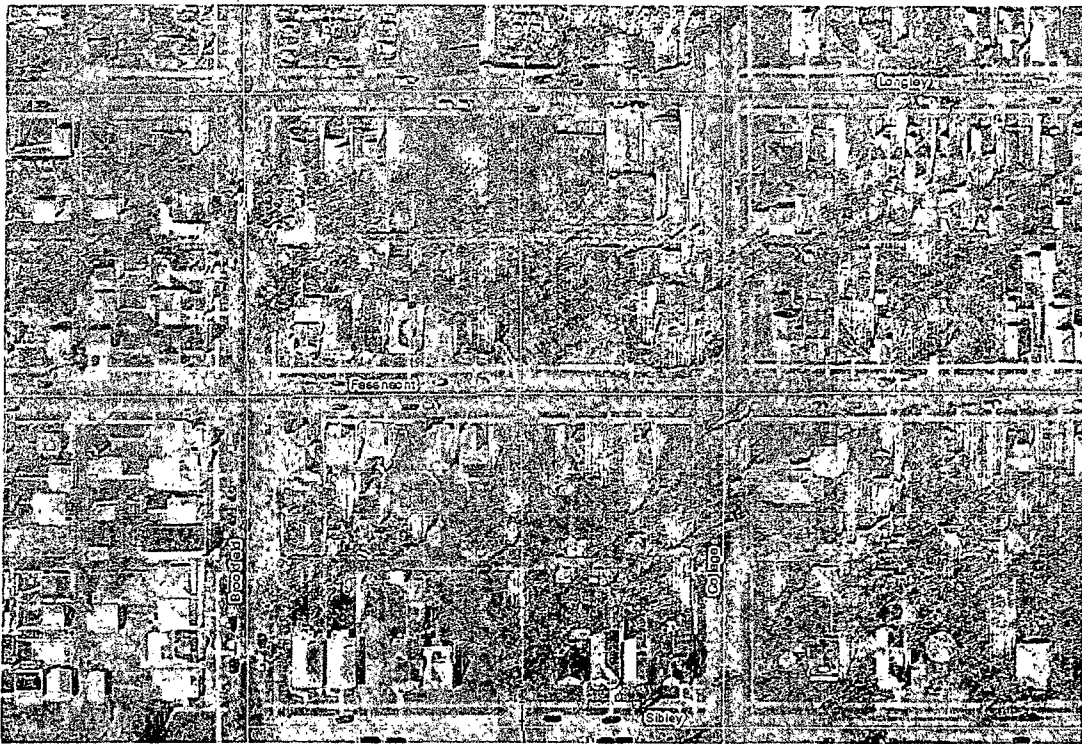
5. Florence Street at 200 feet west of College Street.



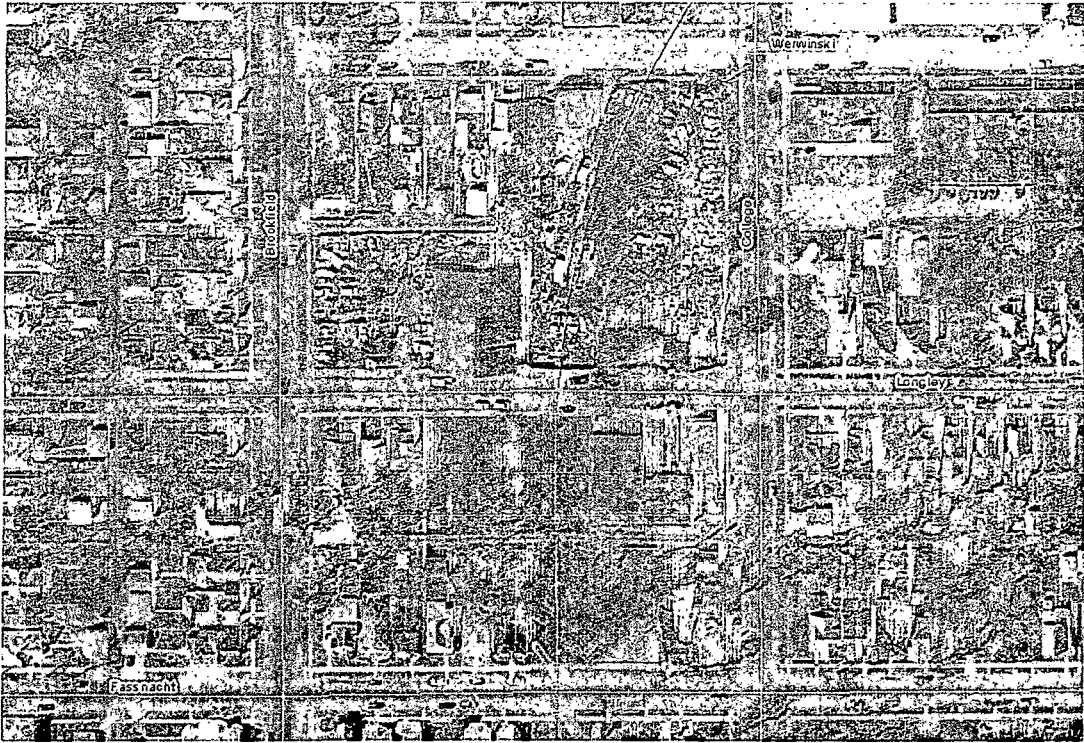
6. Sibley Street at 200 feet west of College Street

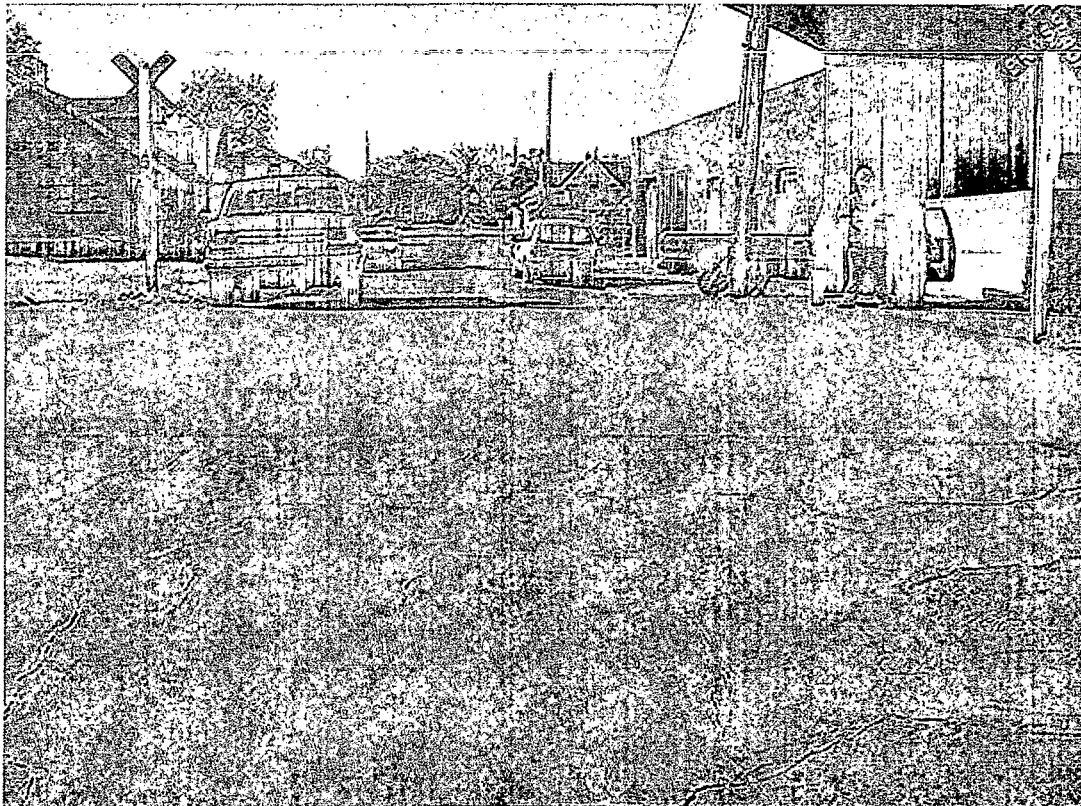


7. Fassnacht Street at 205 feet west of College Street

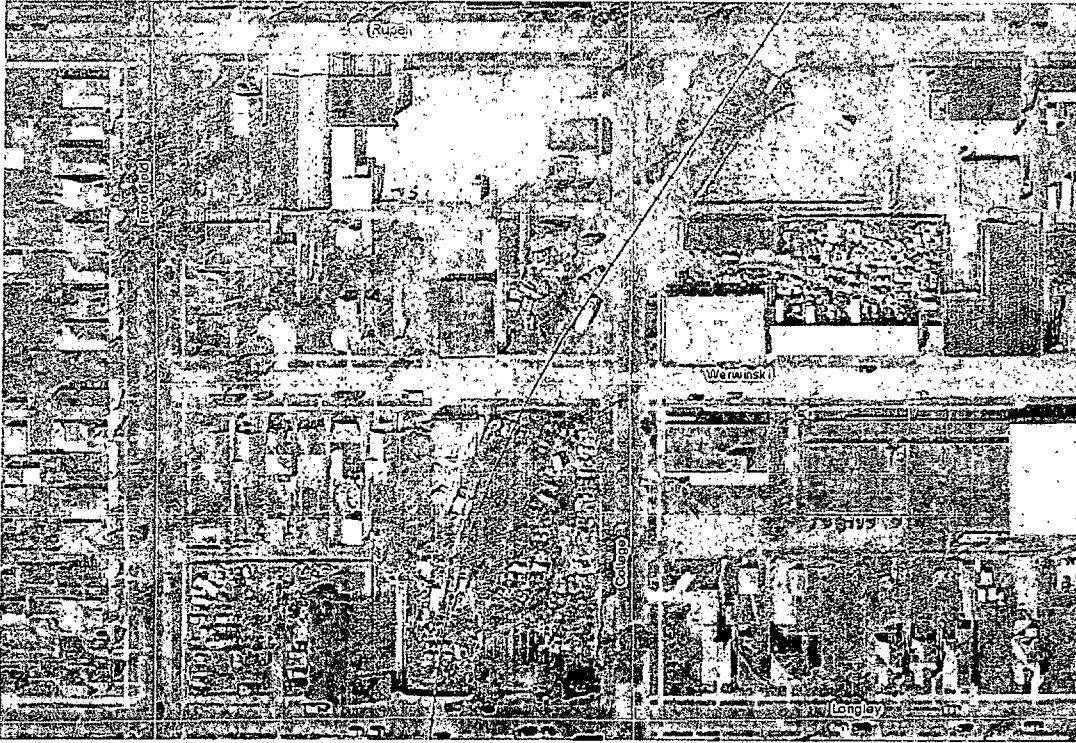


8. Longley Avenue at 200 feet west of College Street.

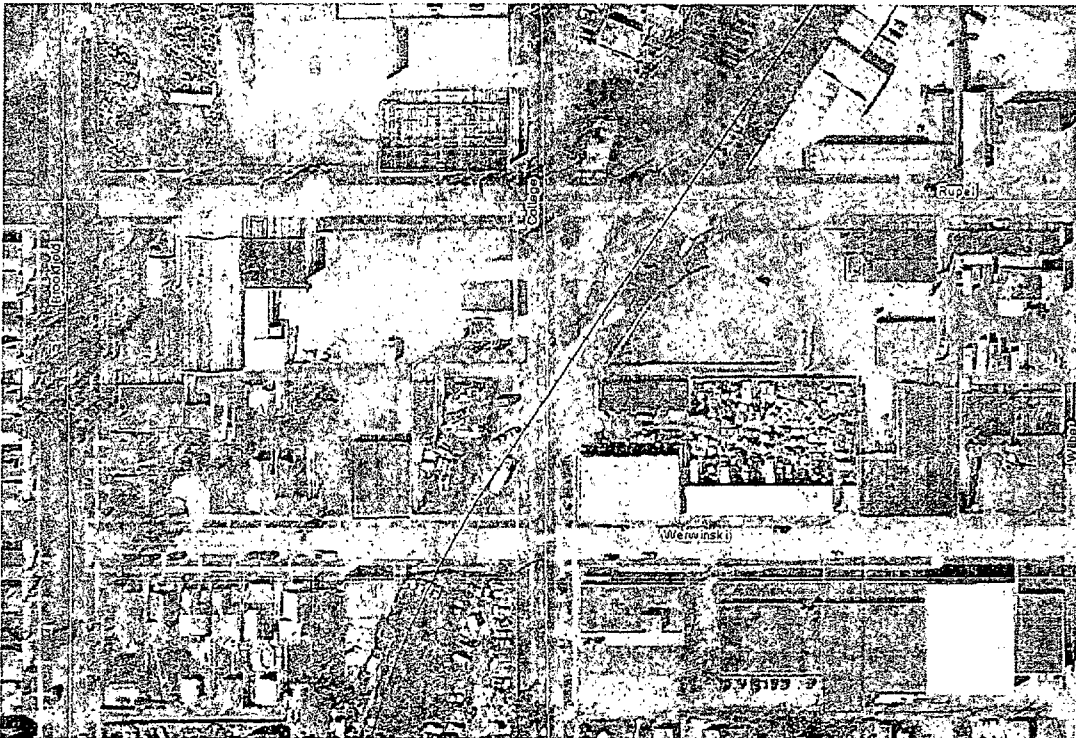




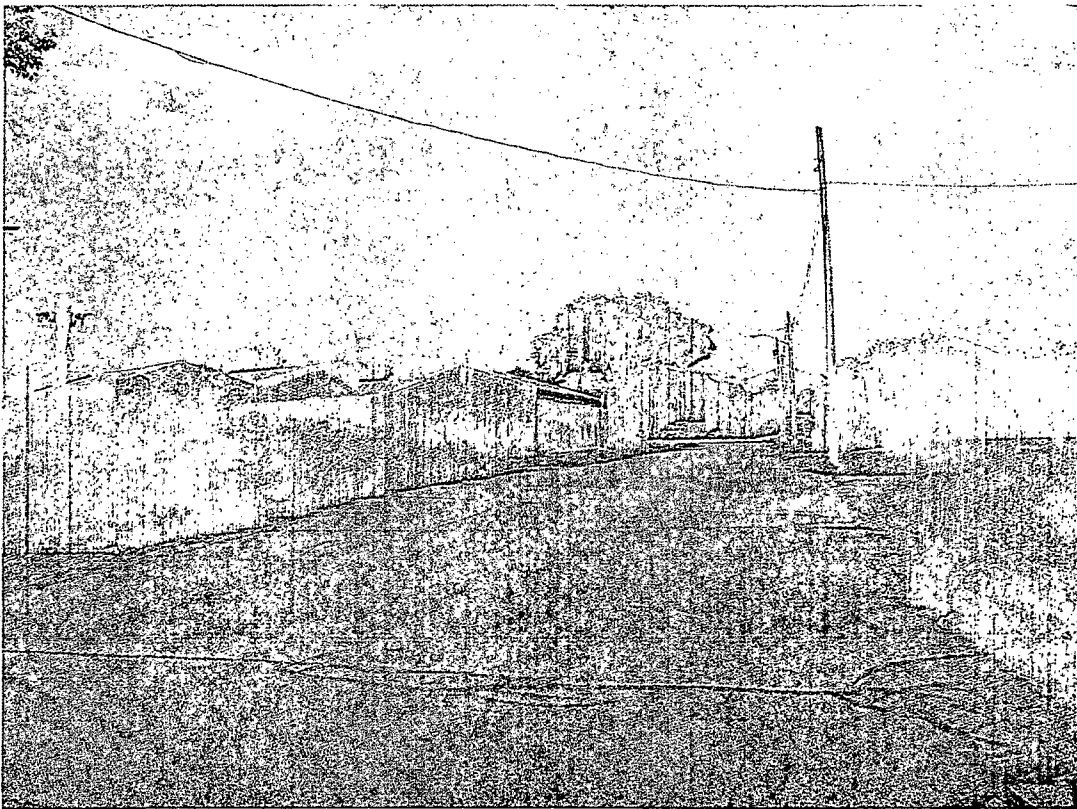
9. Werwinski Street at 93 feet west of College Street.

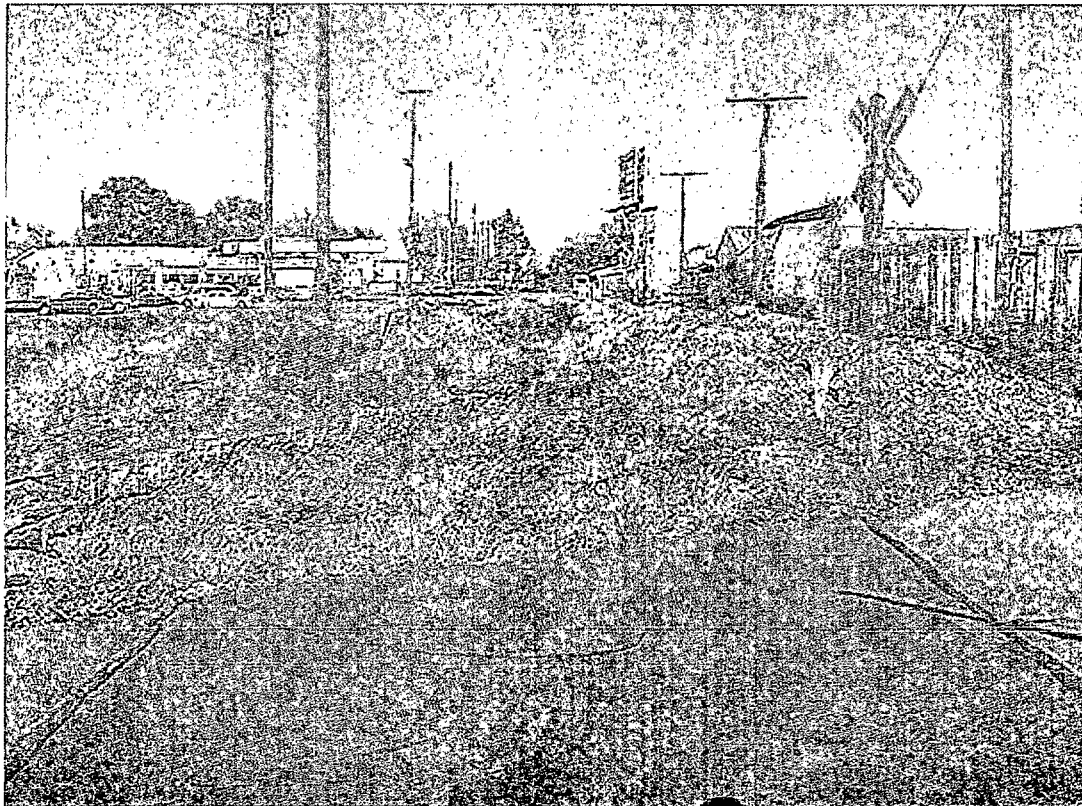
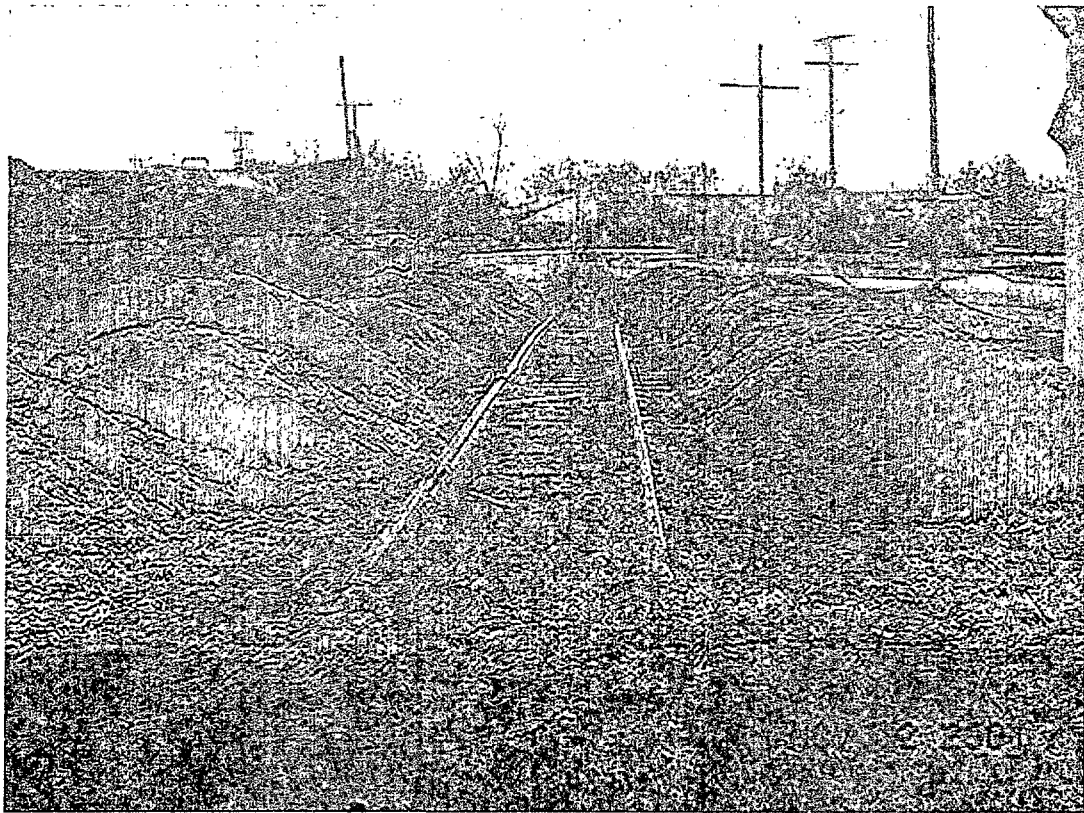


10. College Street at 145 feet north of Werwinski Street.

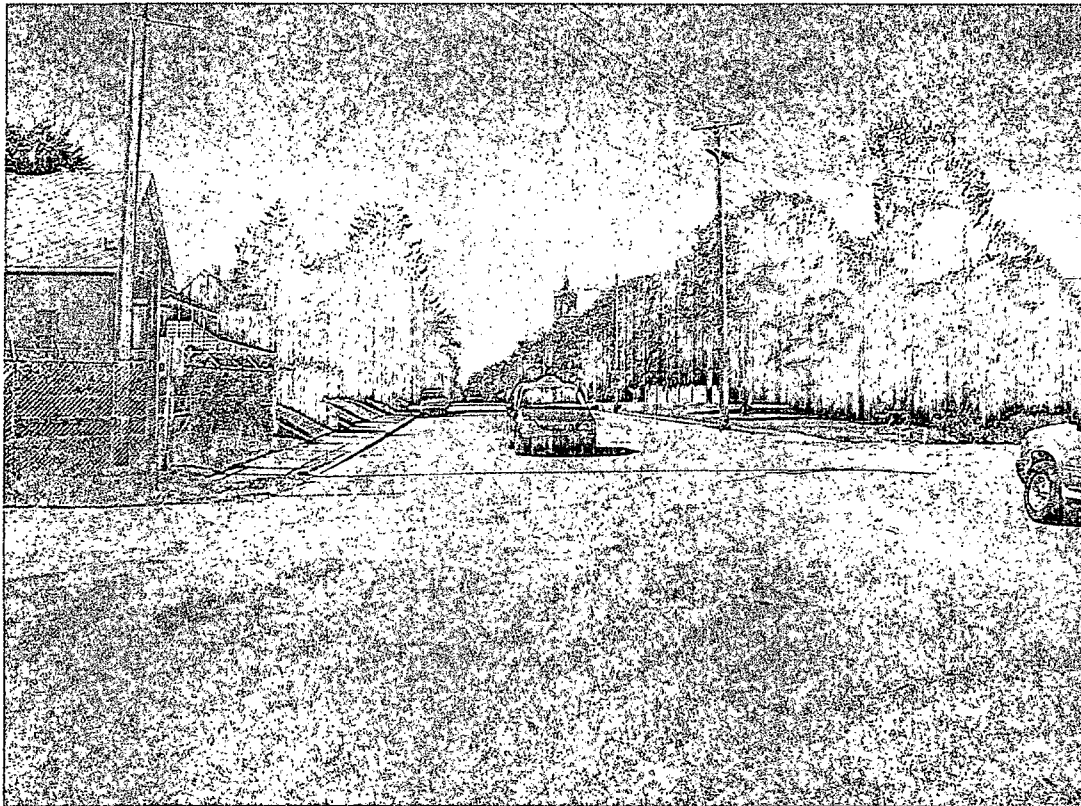
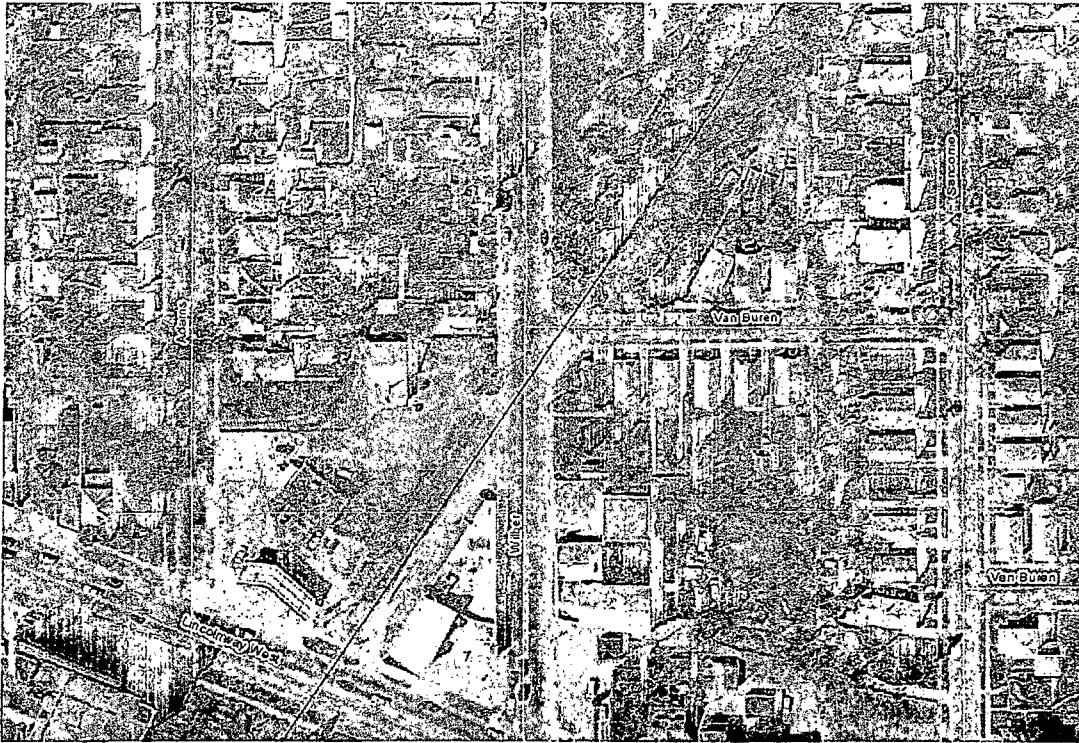


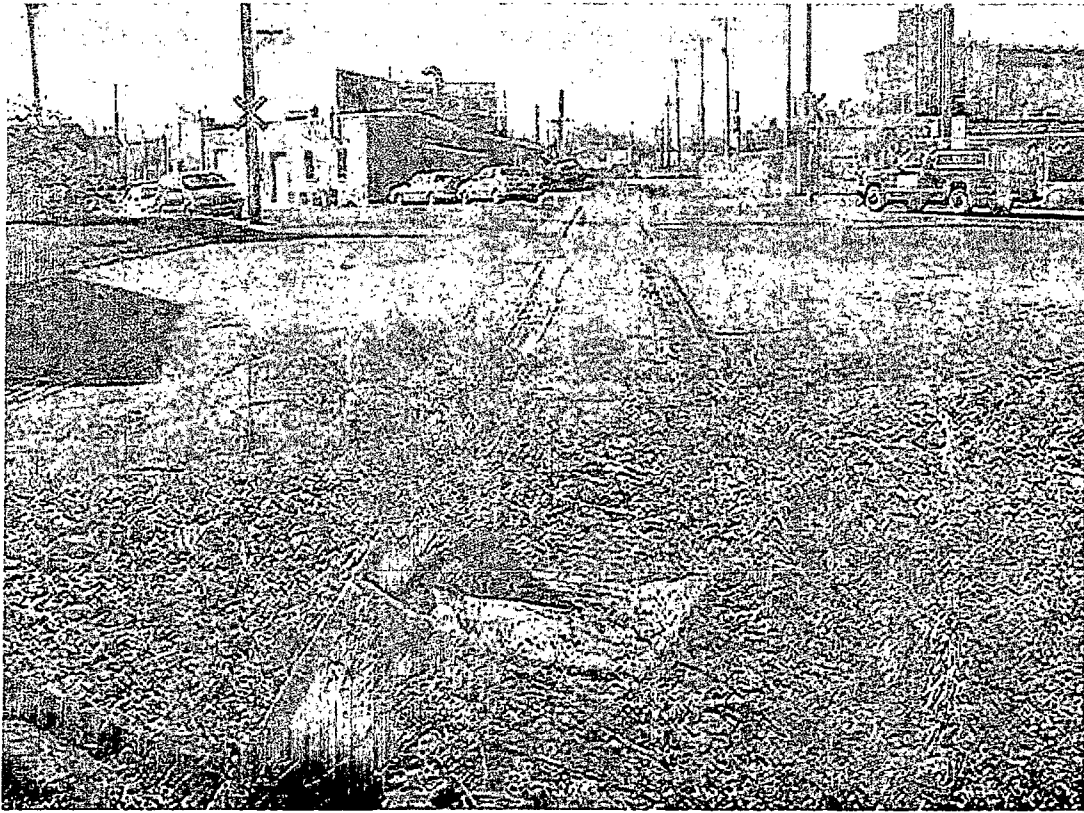
11. Rupel Street at 134 feet east of College Street.



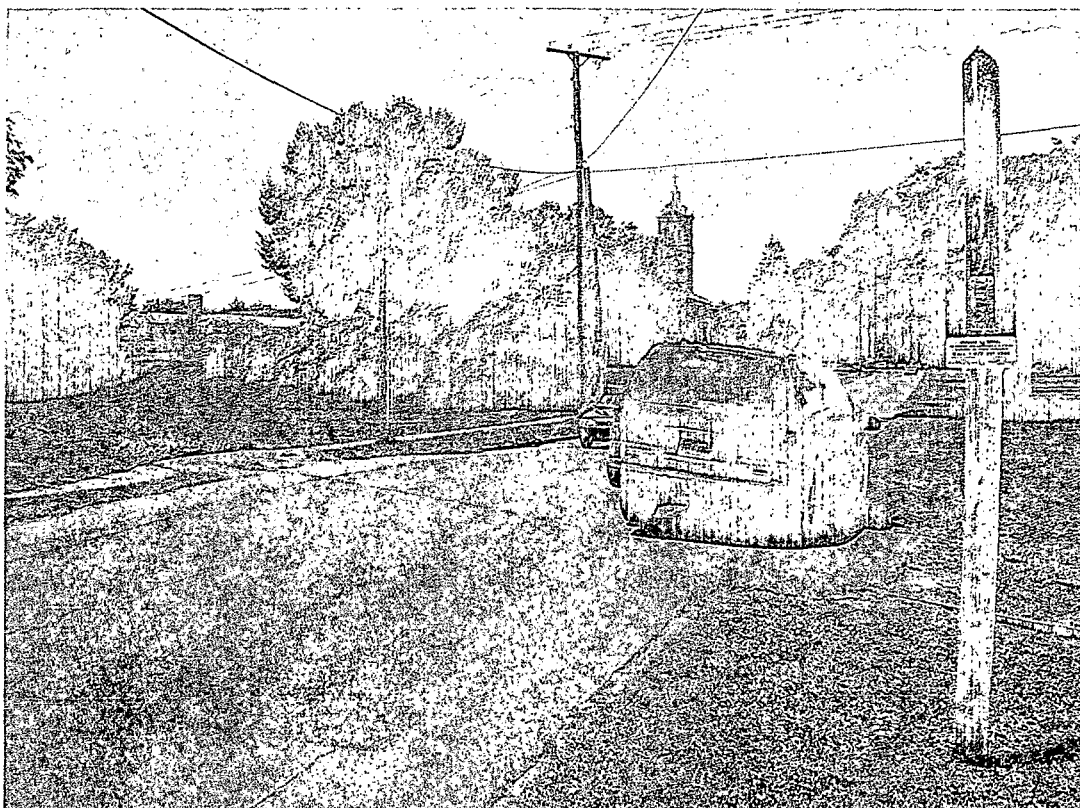
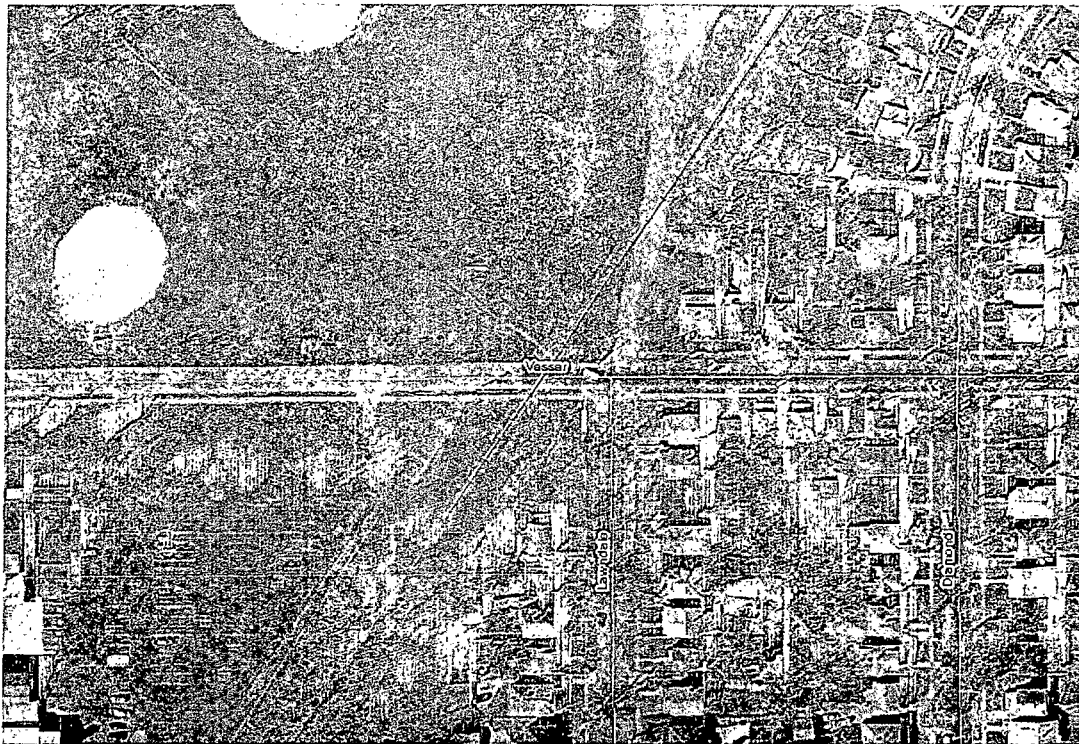


12. Wilber Street at 384 feet north of Lincolnway West.

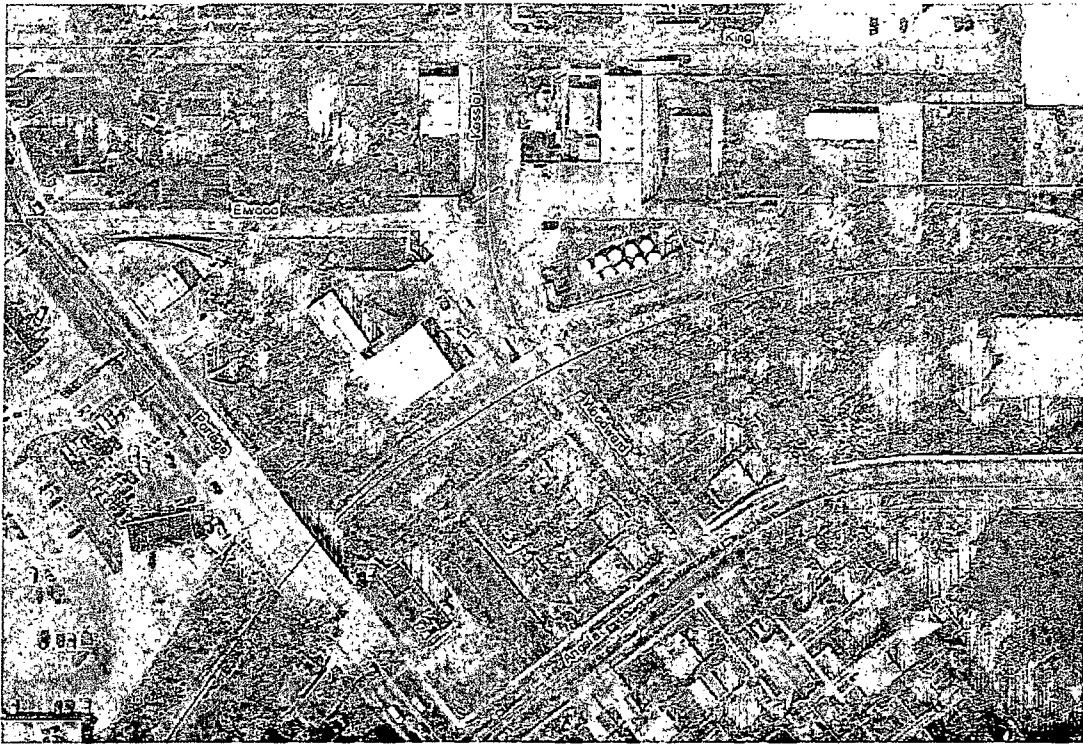


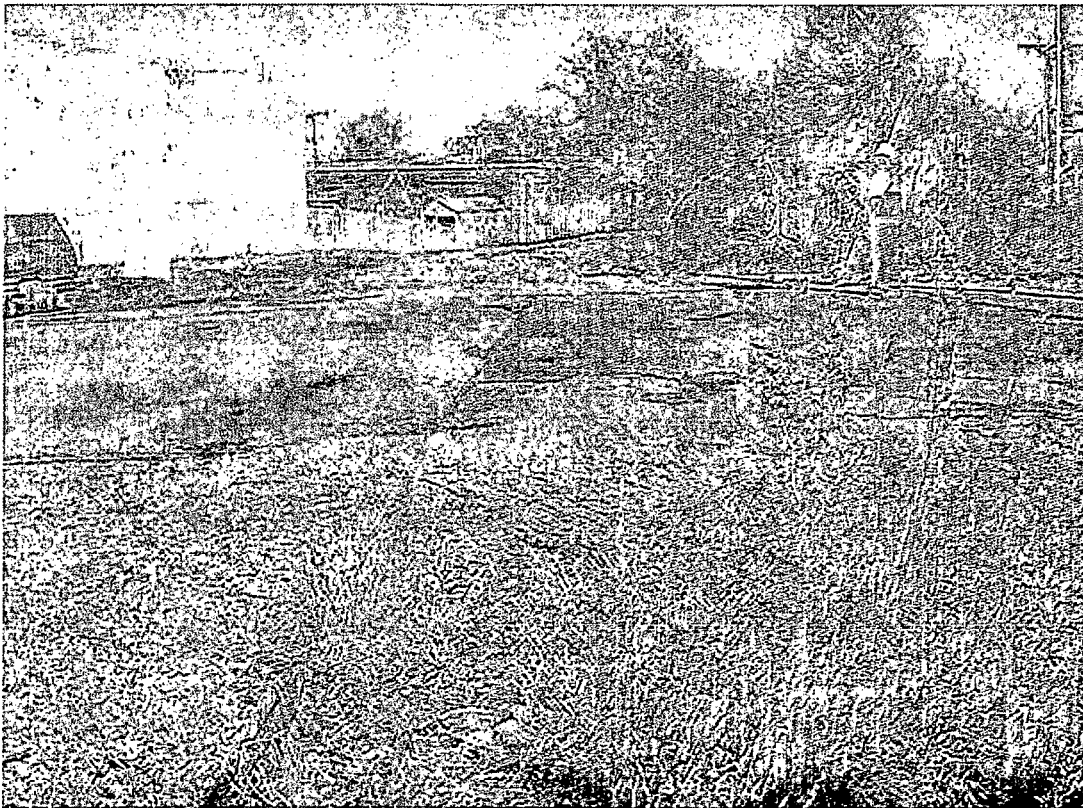
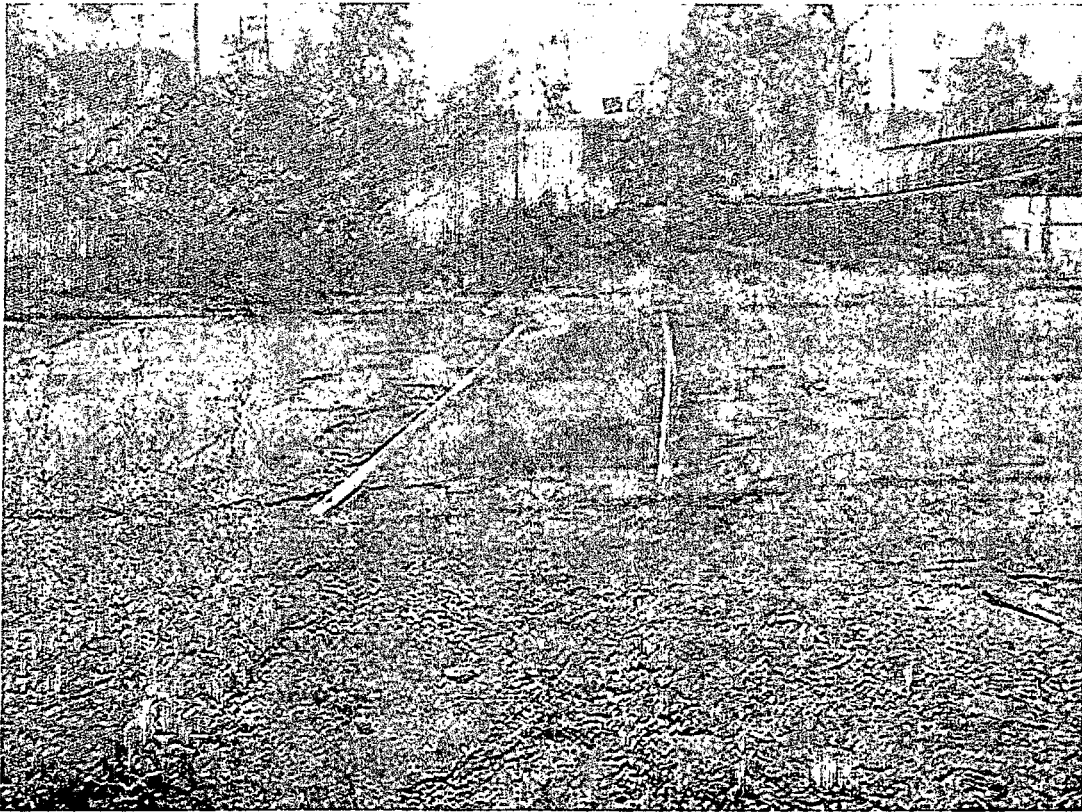


13. Vassar Avenue at 68 feet west of Lawndale Avenue

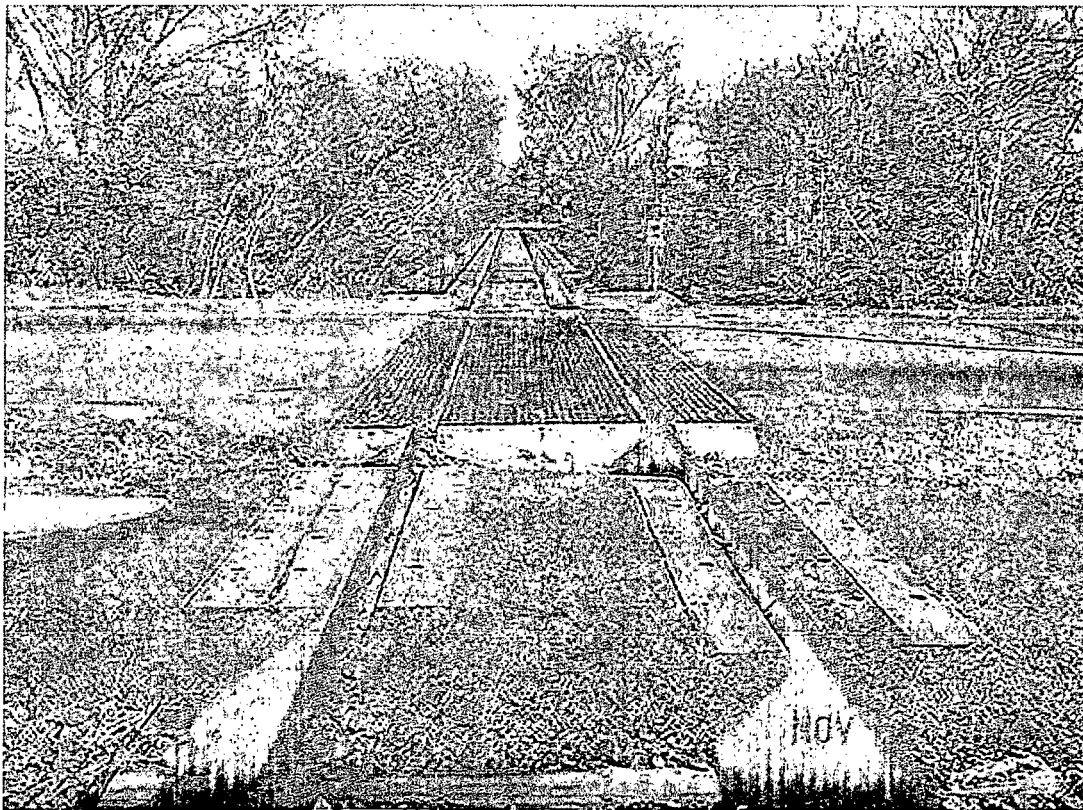
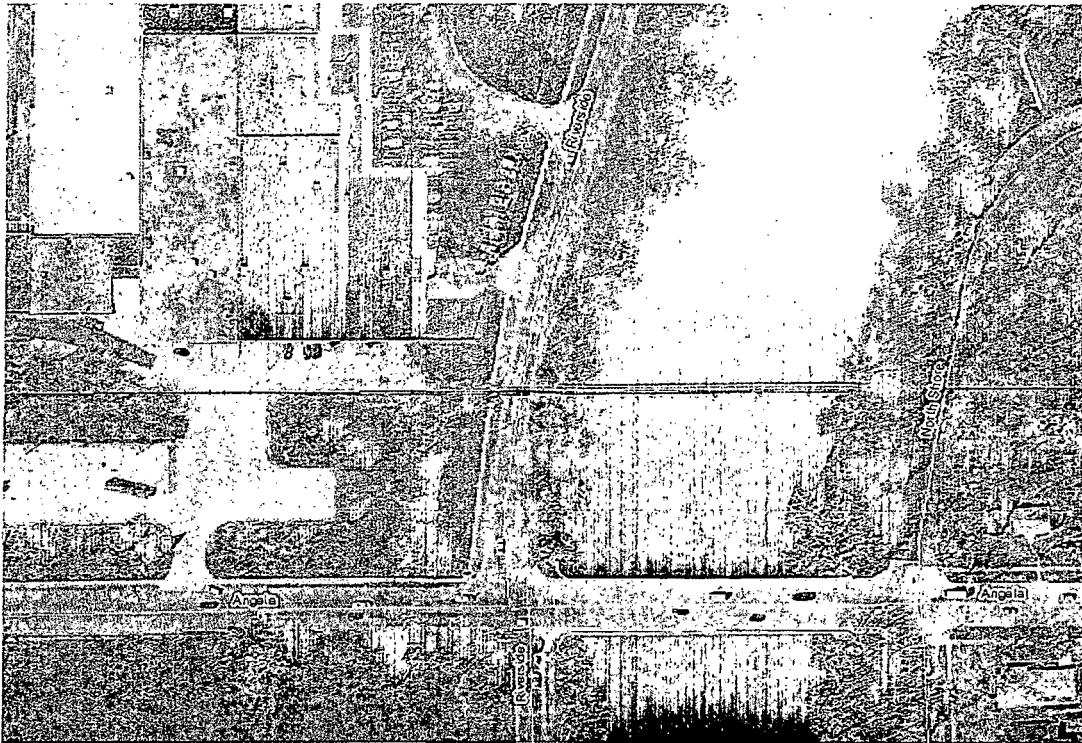


14. Woodward Avenue at 245 feet north of Angela Blvd.





15. Riverside Drive at 215 feet north of Angela Blvd



16. North Shore Drive at 215 feet north of Angela Blvd.

