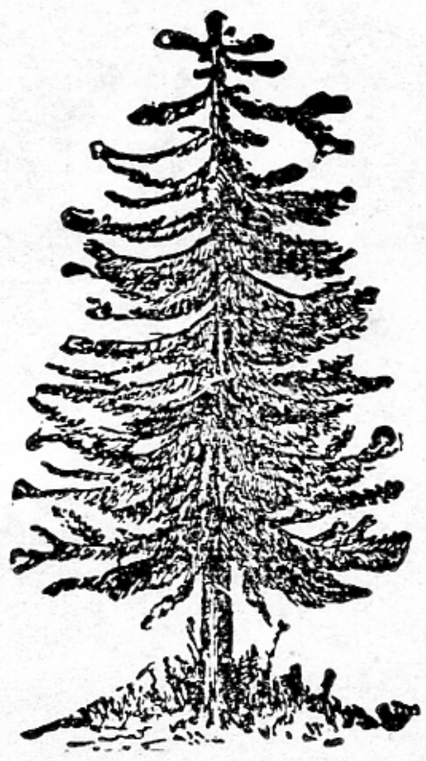
A. W. BLANCHARD
MILLERTON, N. Y.

The New Resort District

Featuring a Region of Scenic Beauty in Northern Dutchess and Southern Columbia Counties, New York, for a Permanent or Summer Home

The
New Resort District



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TO OUR READERS

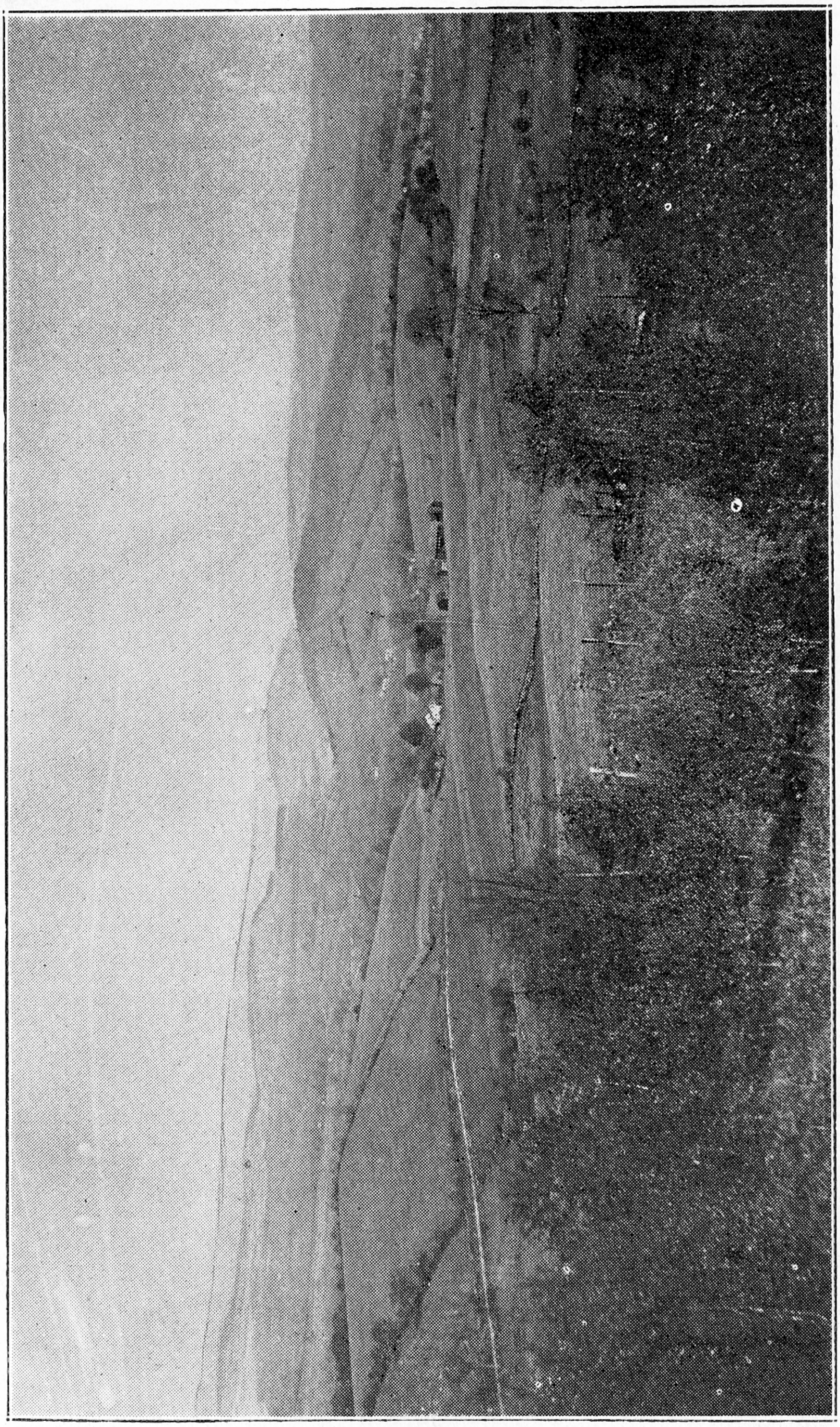
THIS little book is issued in the hope of making you feel better acquainted with one of the loveliest regions in New York state —right at your door, one might say, and yet perhaps hitherto undiscovered by you. Its aim is to introduce the right kind of people to the ideal environment for them—the beautiful Taconic area, in northern Dutchess and southern Columbia counties.

No thought of mercenary profit has marred the compilation of this booklet. In no sense is it a mere profit-making venture. Those who have undertaken this task will feel amply repaid if they have helped in any way those who are looking for permanent homesites in a land of surpassing beauty, with all the pleasures of unspoiled nature and the advantages of civilization.

Nor have the sponsors of the booklet been interested in an overnight development, a mushroom growth, as it were, for this region. It is far better to have only a few people coming in at a time, with the idea of really settling down and taking a permanent, all-the-year-'round interest in the locality, than to have a fly-by-night colony of flimsy, garish bungalows, a veritable blot upon the landscape.

For those who want deep, abiding satisfaction in their living conditions, their homes, their very lives, the Taconic region offers peculiar advantages. It is accessible and will be even more so in the future, as the Eastern State Parkway draws nearer and nearer completion. It is beautiful—a glance at the photographs in this book will give you a faint idea of the loveliness of the country-side. The ordinary conveniences of living, electricity, water and so forth, are procurable. The educational systems are as good as those of city schools, with three large central schools being formed in the area, at Pine Plains, Millerton and the town of Copake. Then too, there are all kinds of outdoor sports, both in summer and winter, including plenty of hunting and fishing. Not far off is the great Tri-State Park, upon which the states are lavishing care and money to make it of the greatest use and enjoyment for everyone.

If you are one who appreciates living life as it should be lived, this is the logical place to make your future home. Read these pages and then come up and get acquainted with the Taconic region. We know you'll never want to leave!



Ridge Tops and Rolling Hills on George M. Page's Estate in Ancram

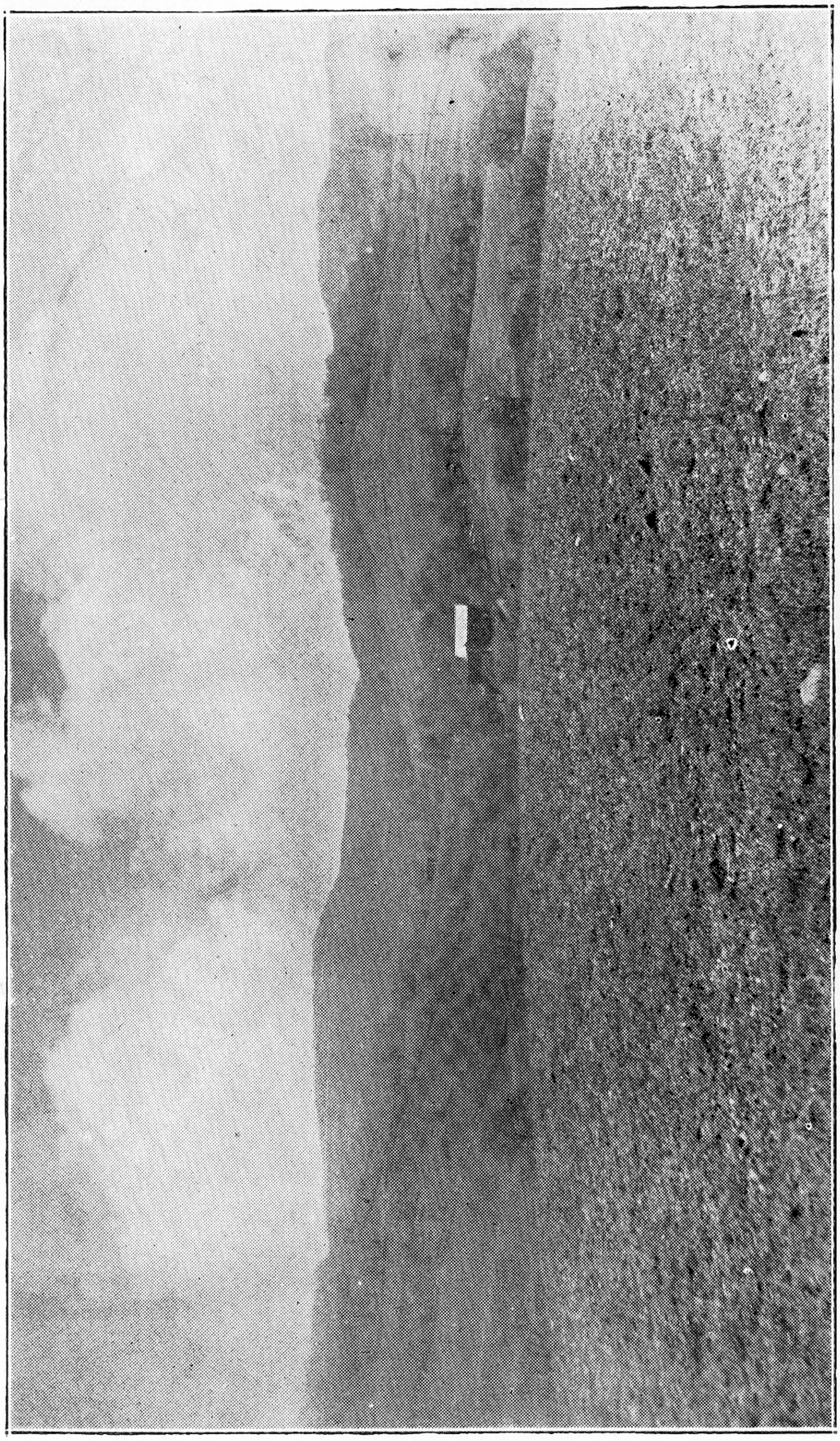
ANCRAM'S ATTRACTIONS AND ADVANTAGES

ONE of the important developments which will result from the building of the projected Taconic Parkway, which is now being laid out, will be the opening of the entirely new, and hitherto comparatively inaccessible Ancram resort district. Real estate men are agreed that this district will probably develop, within a few years after the opening of the Parkway, into the highest class of summer and winter resort. Far-seeing buyers have justified this opinion by buying large tracts of territory in this neighborhood, which they are even now erecting into private estates, long before the definite decision to build the Parkway made their purchases obviously good investments. The Parkway and Taconic Park itself are no more than logical developments of the Columbia county region possibilities.

The scenic riches of this territory have been held back from exploitation until quite recently, largely through the lack of roads, a defect which has been to a great extent obviated by recent state and county roadbuilding programs, and which will be entirely eliminated with the opening of the Taconic Parkway.

Though there are beauty spots everywhere in Columbia county, the Ancram township district seems to be particularly suited to the special requirements of estates of fifteen acres or more, and, according to real estate men and landscape engineers who have studied its possibilities, this will in all likelihood be the way in which it will ultimately develop. That the territory is well adapted for larger estates also, is shown by the fact that the George M. Page estate is 950 acres and there are 500 and 700-acre estates among the other large estates in the vicinity. Also, the greater part of Ancram township will lie just in the angle of the Parkway where it turns east to Copake Falls, the gateway to Taconic Park. Thus, while off the main line of bustling Parkway traffic, it will at the same time be within easy distance of the attractions of the park and the convenience of a short, direct route to the big cities.

The attractions of the Ancram district, taken all together, would probably be difficult to duplicate anywhere, certainly not within the present range of resorts of which New York City is the radial point. With modern automobile and railway transportation facilities,



A Typical View in the Ancram Region

Ancram is well within this range, and yet far enough away to give that sense of remoteness which is essential if a vacation district is to serve its purpose of providing relaxation and freedom from the oppression of proximity to the nerve-wracking bustle of city life, from which the vacationist seeks to escape.

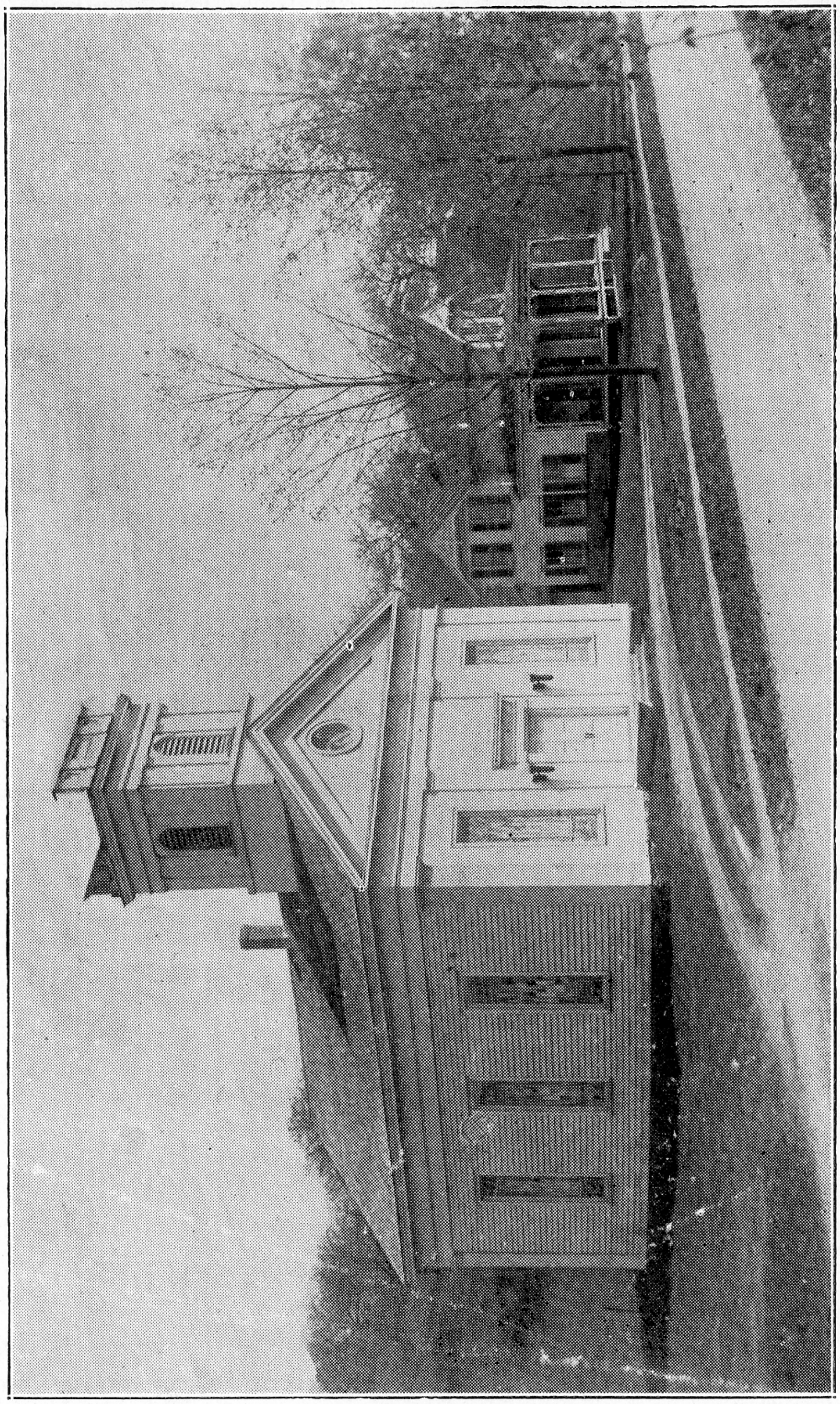
One's first impression of this region, coming to it from the industrial and business activity of the city, through the monotonously suburblike districts lying south, is one of profound peacefulness. Here, one may enjoy a natural, healthy life.

Visitors from every direction have frequently remarked that, coming into this part of Columbia county, the atmosphere seems to alleviate greatly the symptoms of hay-fever, asthma and related ailments. This is undoubtedly caused by the purity and dryness of the air. Though the elevation is not very great, generally much less than a thousand feet in Ancram township, it is high in comparison with a great deal of the country westward, and this district therefore has an exceptionally clear, invigorating atmosphere.

By reason of this comparative height, Ancram township is unusually rich in sweeping, comprehensive views. The Taconic range, to the east, tops this country, of course, but at the same time provides it with a majestic background, visible in a great part of its extent from almost any ridgetop in the township. Coming closer to this range, its impressiveness is completely lost; farther away, toward the Hudson, hills and ridges intervene.

In Ancram township there are an unusual number of ridges and hills of almost equal altitude, easily accessible from good roads, and so favorably spaced and situated that they do not interfere with the view from the crest of each. Thus, along the first mile and a half of country road leading directly north from Ancram village are five hilltops, close to the road itself, from each of which a view of the Taconic range, two sweeping valley views and a glimpse of the Catskill range to the westward may be obtained. The number of delightful but less extensive prospects visible from other points along this road is much greater. As well may be imagined, there are any number of pleasant and inspiring drives in every direction.

The serious drought in the summer of 1929 furnished remarkable evidence of the excellence of the water supply in this district. For, though the rainfall was even less here than in a great deal of the



Ancramdale Presbyterian Church

surrounding country, crops suffered much less. In some parts of the district there is practically a spring to an acre, and under the unusual drought conditions in 1929, few of these failed at all in their natural state, while it is probable that none would have failed if properly dug out and prepared for use. And—what is quite as important—the water supplied by these springs is of the purest and clearest.

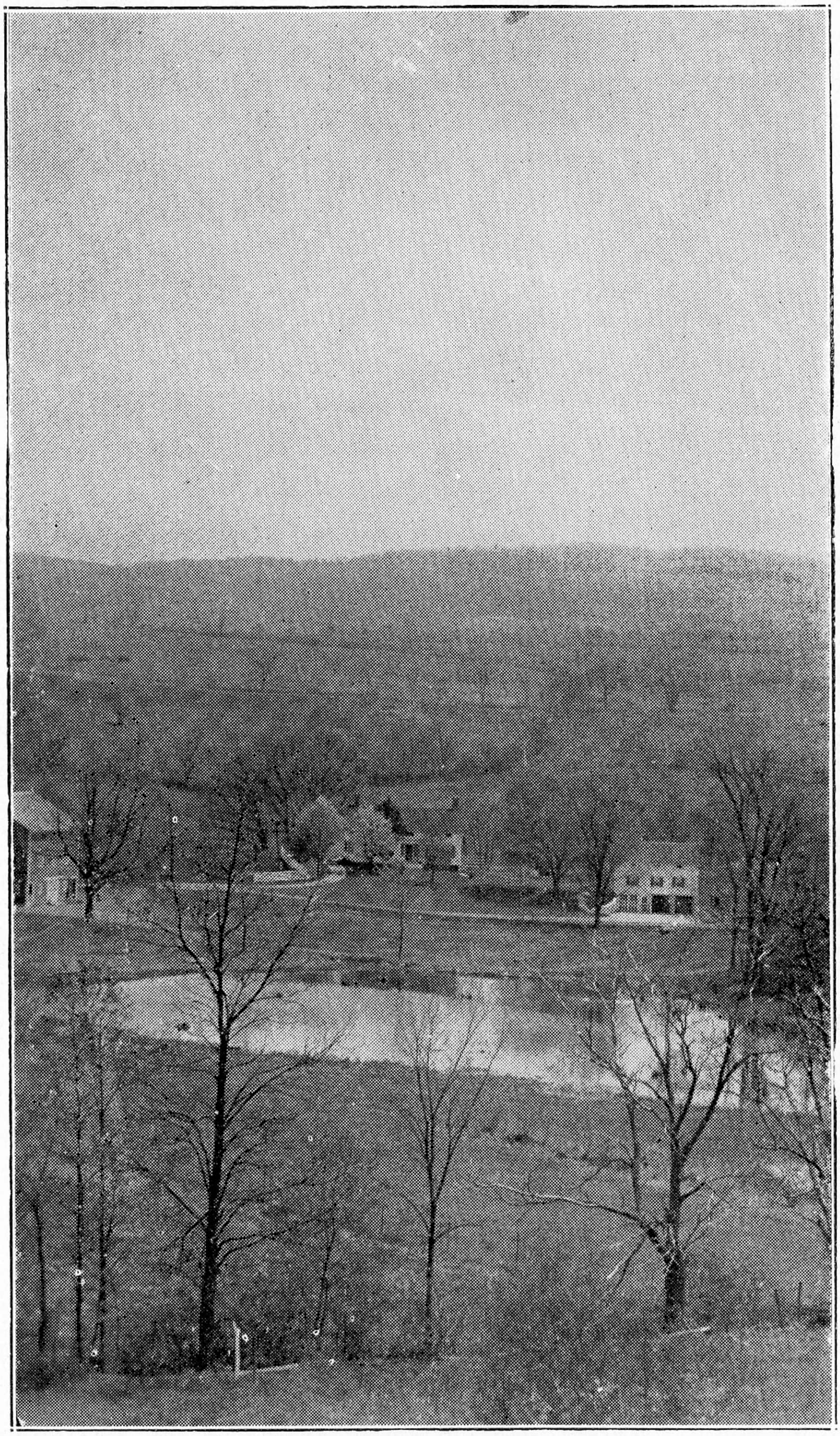
Much of the land here has never been cleared for agricultural purposes and a great deal more has been allowed to revert to its primitive forest condition to such an extent that oak timber is frequently cut in areas which tradition has it once were wheat-fields in the heyday of diversified farming in New York State. In consequence wild life has been greatly encouraged, and has increased proportionately. There are great areas of hill and timber land where game and other wild life is as abundant as in the protected state park areas. A herd of eighteen deer wintered in an orchard less than a mile and a half north of the village of Ancram in 1928-29. This herd lives the year 'round in a known tract of grass and woodland which might easily be made into a single large estate.

Other wild fowl and game, pheasant, partridges, foxes and raccoons are found here in abundance.

But the final test of complete reversion to original land-type, which landscape engineers spend thousand of dollars to obtain artificially on many estates, is the spontaneous and prolific growth of orchids. In the deep recesses of the woods here, secluded, though sometimes within a quarter of a mile of excellent and well-traveled roads, are unusually abundant stations of orchids. The commonest, of course, is the large lady's slipper. But the rarer sorts are also found growing here in their wild, undisturbed beauty, while the hermit-thrush, shyest of his family, calls from the laurel-bush above them.

The trout are here, and the trout streams of this locality are as fine as any in the state, which is the important point.

The arability of land whose chief attraction is rather recreational than agricultural is a minor question. Many first rate resort districts have been developed on abandoned farm-land or land that was never fit for cultivation. But when Ancram is made into a resort country, it is doubtful that farming will be entirely superseded.



Country Home of W. C. Wishart—Near Ancramdale

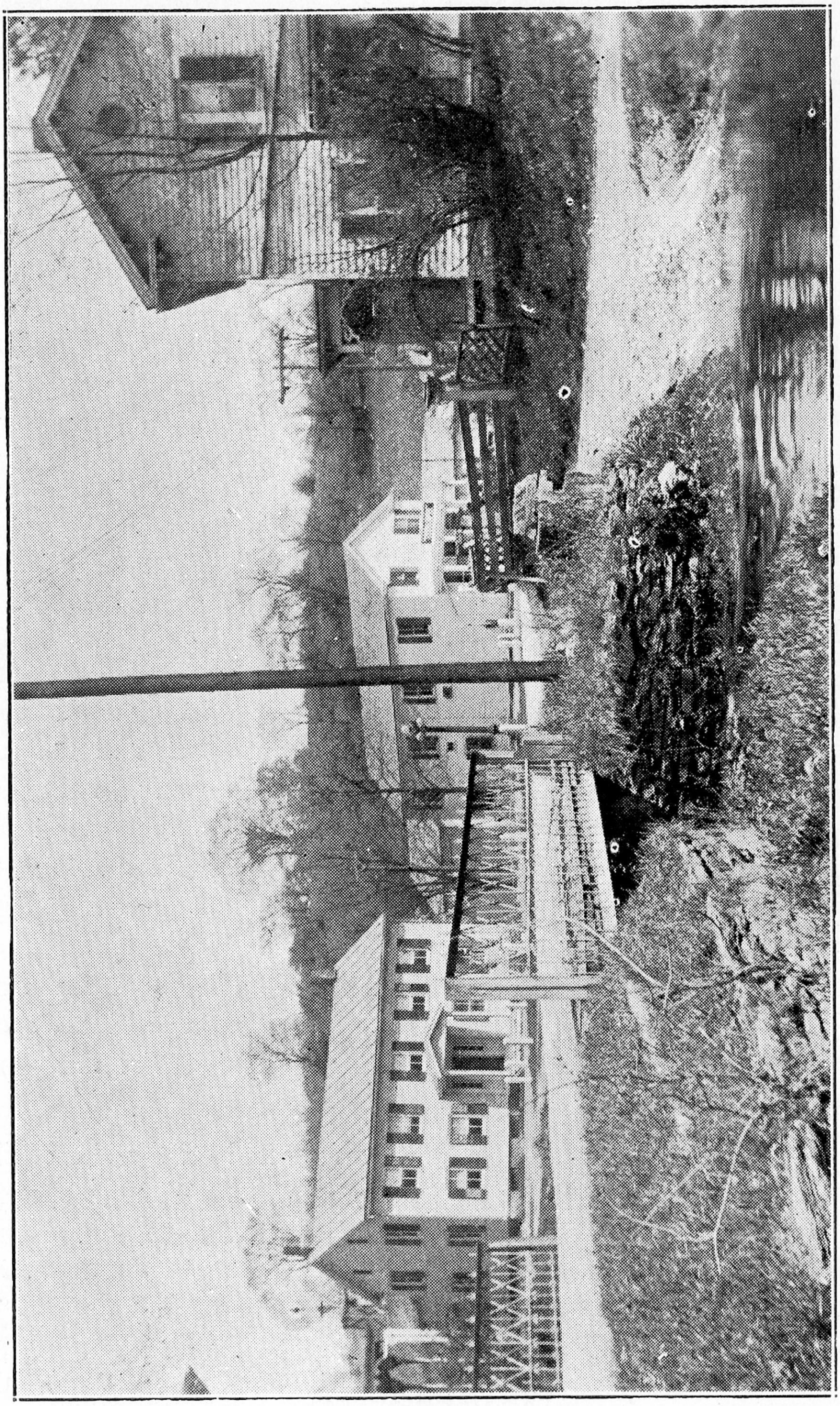
This is a rich dairy country and has often been considered with a view to its possibilities for fruit-raising. The village of Ancram and surrounding country support a modern, up-to-date creamery. The ground is rich and richly repays efforts to make it produce, when due respect is paid to its peculiarities. Even the rocky slate and quartz ridges, when the dirt that covers them is plowed and fertilized, produce abundant harvest.

ANCRAM THEN AND NOW

During the latter part of the eighteenth century and well into the nineteenth, the common method of land-holding was the renting of land by proprietors of large tracts of territory, under a vast number of restrictions, requirements and reservations upon the privileges of the tenants.

Ancram and all of the other towns of the southern half of Columbia county suffered from the pernicious system of leasehold tenancy, though it was in vogue for more than one hundred years. The tenants soon discovered that they were not getting a square deal, while the proprietors were enriching themselves by their labor and contributions. Protests were made without avail, and the law could not sanction the violation of a contract. However, in the year 1846 the State Constitutional Convention abolished the system and prohibited the leasing of farmland for a term of more than twelve years. Gradually the old leases expired and tenures thereafter were in fee simple. Then began a period of prosperity. In the course of a few years, three railroads were constructed through the town of Ancram. They offered ample facilities for traffic and transportation. But by this time the old furnace, forges, grist mills and sawmills had fallen into decay.

During the year 1844 a paper mill was erected on the site of the old furnace by Platner and Smith of Lee, Mass. Though successfully operated, several companies have succeeded to the ownership of the property and it is now held by a company from New York City which is unusually successful in making high grade and special varieties of paper. In the village, near the depot of the N. Y., N. H. and H. railroad, the Willow Brook Milk Co. has established a milk receiving station and is doing a profitable business, both for



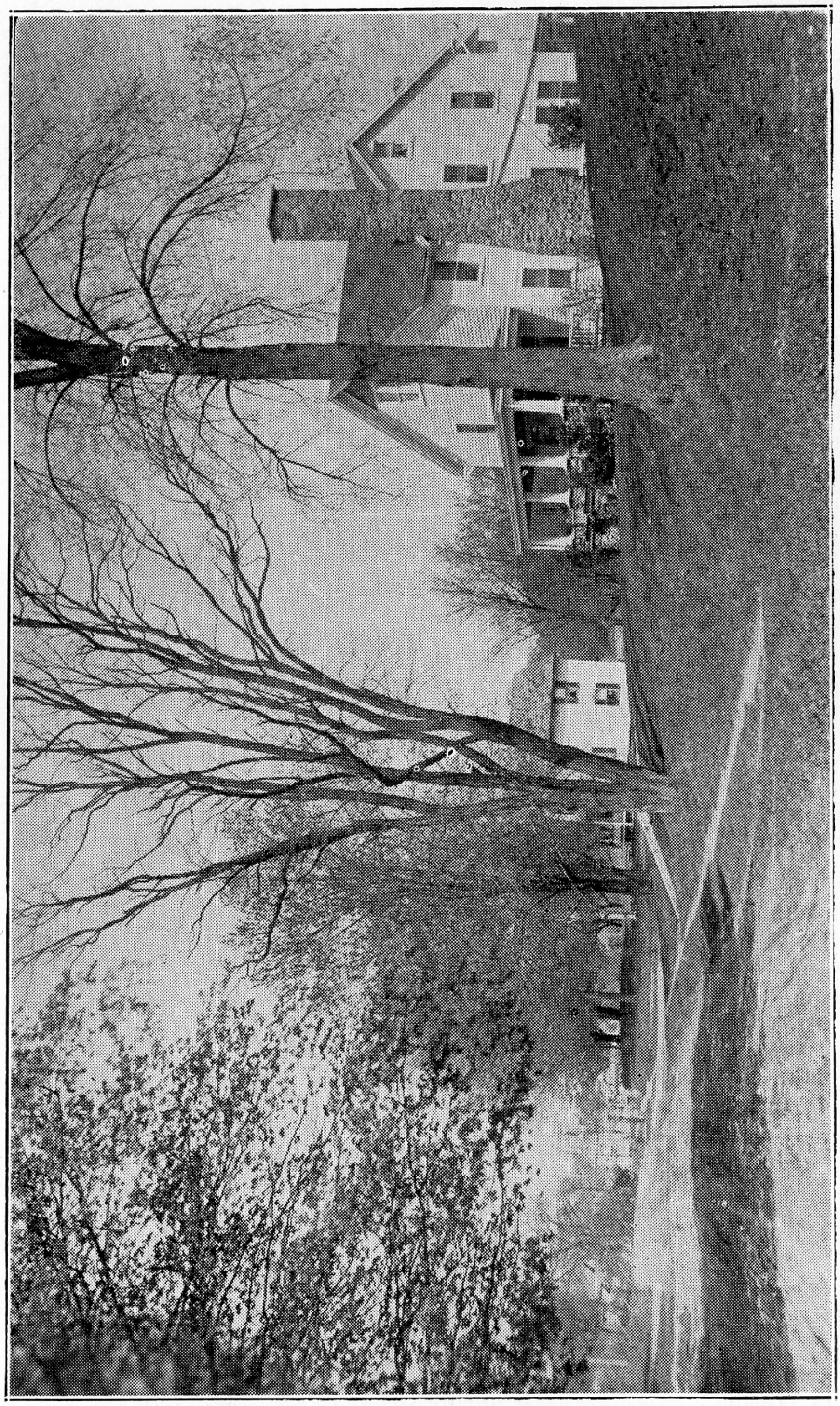
View of Ancramdale

the company and the dairy farmers of the surrounding country. Further evidence of general prosperity is the erection of new homes and business establishments in the town. Modern highways are replacing the old dirt roads. Autos and trucks are increasing the general traffic amazingly.

The Ancram Creek, which flows through the town diagonally from east to west, is a considerable stream in width and depth. It has many still and silent places, the delight of the Boy Scouts and other admirers of nature. Along its course to the Hudson River it furnishes power for various industries. The highway from Ancram to Copake Falls (the principal entrance to the Tri-State Park) is through a section of country magnificently beautiful. It has been wisely said, "A thing of beauty is a joy forever." Anyone whose "soul is not dead," on seeing this scenic topography of the fertile hills and valleys will be indelibly impressed. On this route of eight miles, with one or two detours, may be seen at least ten beautiful lakes, four of which are in the town of Ancram. The first on the route is Long Lake, at present owned by the Poughkeepsie Y. M. C. A. Then on the left of the highway is Beesloch, a gem of beauty in a forest setting. Thence along on the right is the so-called Clark lake, nestling in the deep shadows of overhanging trees. The Lower Rhoda is nearby, a portion of which has been purchased by certain parties for speculation and profit. The other half dozen or more were of sufficient importance to be placed on the 1798 map of the Livingston Manor, a folded copy of which may be found in the Documentary History of New York, Volume Three, page 835.

The following quotation from the late Payton Miller's book, entitled "A Group of Great Lawyers," will appropriately conclude this brief historical sketch.

"No finer country exists in the State than can be found in the hills and valleys which constitute the great bulk of the farming lands of Columbia county. With the Berkshire Hills and Taconic range of mountains on the east, the noble Catskills on the west, and on the north in the dim distance, the Green Mountains of Vermont and the White Hills of New Hampshire, the scenery of this region of the country is grand, beautiful and impressive and almost beyond the power of language to describe. An area of country is presented to the eye consisting of a great variety of soil, and views unsurpassed by any there are in the same altitude within the vast limits of the United States."



Ancramdale—Showing Residence of Floyd C. Barton

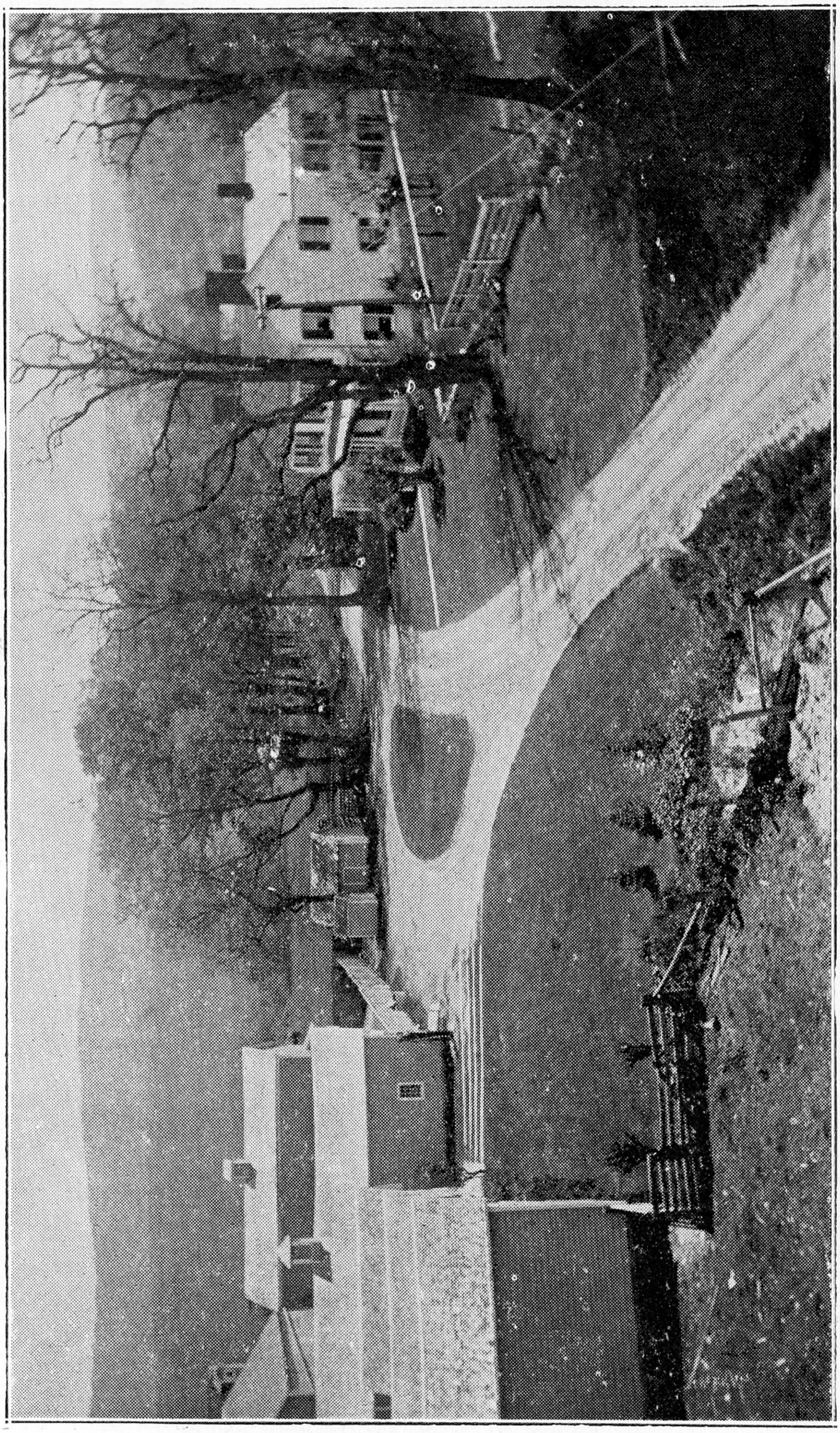
A BEAUTY SPOT IN COLUMBIA COUNTY THAT HAS BEEN "PASSED BY"

ABOUT a century ago a number of Dutch farmers, and some of other nativity, bought farms from the Old Livingston Memorial domain and laid the foundation for the little village of Ancramdale. In colonial days, and for many years afterward, there was a wide strip of neutral ground lying along the border of New York and the New England states. This land was claimed by both New York and the bordering states, and during the period of dispute it was "passed by." In other words, settlers avoided it as a region without law and without government.

Anyone who has toured the Berkshires of Massachusetts has, no doubt, observed that these beautiful hills are duplicated on the New York side of the boundary. The mountains, hills and sequestered vales of eastern Columbia county are fully as beautiful as the famous Berkshires which lie a few miles to the eastward. There is a fine motor highway, beginning at Hillsdale, which leads to the northern boundary of Columbia county. To the observer who tours this highway in summer, or under the golden glow of October's skies, it is a matter of surprise that this beautiful countryside is so sparsely peopled. State motor highways from New York City carry the motorist right through the heart of this beautiful rolling country.

It is only within recent years that men in search of country estates have lighted upon this long neglected territory. Mr. William C. Wishart, an officer of the New York Central railroad, has acquired about four hundred acres lying a mile and a half from Ancramdale and has developed a fine property. Mr. Wishart's nearest neighbor is Conrad N. Pitcher of New York City, who was fortunate enough to acquire his ancestral estate, and he has thoroughly modernized the house and buildings. The house is equipped with every convenience that is afforded by the city, and a model dairy farm and poultry farm are located on the property. Adjoining is the modern up-to-date dairy farm of Harry L. Barton, who was born in the house he occupies, as was his father.

Ancramdale has an elevation of about one thousand feet above sea level. The climate is dry and bracing, and the scenery is most



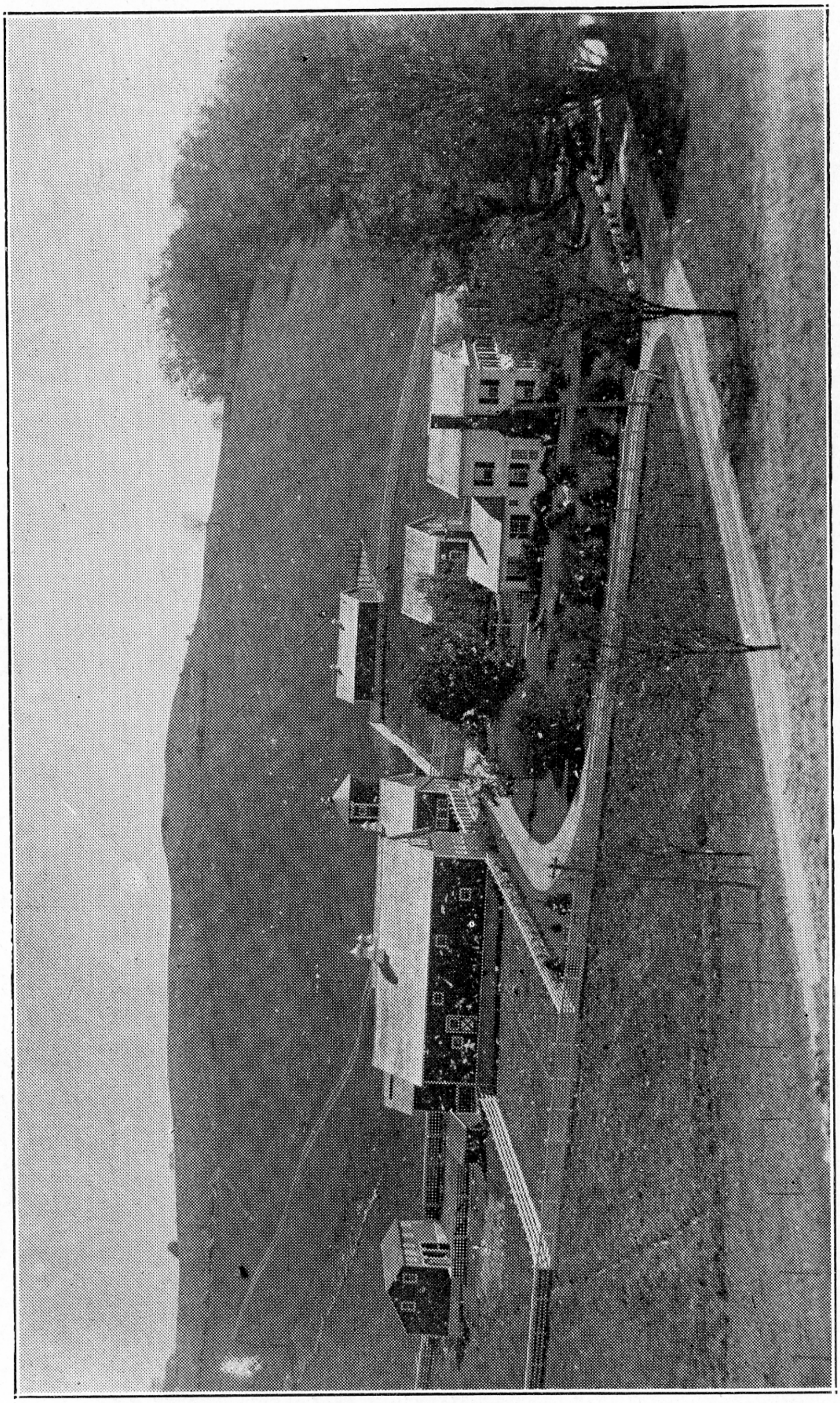
Home of Harry Barton—Near Ancramdale

beautiful, replete with woods, streams, lakes, and with the Taconic Mountains only a few miles distant. An hour's drive takes one into the heart of the Berkshires. A few miles to the south is the picturesque chain of lakes at the base of Stissing Mountain. The Harlem railroad gives ready access to this section, the station being at Millerton, a distance of six miles, four miles being state road and the rest to be made state road soon.

The village formerly called Ancram Lead Mines took its name from the valuable lead deposits that were discovered about 1810 on the farm of Henry Keefer, leased from Robert Livingston, grandson of the first lord of the manor. Livingston bought Keefer out immediately and erected a small smelting-furnace, in which he reduced the ore. After ten years, the mine was abandoned and remained idle until 1836 or 1837, when it was bought and worked for two years by a New York company. After recurrent periods of production and idleness, the mines were taken over by a stock company and fitted up with improved machinery for crushing, washing, hoisting and handling the ore. They were profitably worked for a number of years, but were closed through the competition of more cheaply worked deposits of this metal in the Western states. The flooding of the mines, also, was one of the factors that led to the suspension of mining operations. The name long clung to the little hamlet that was built along the banks of the clear brook that flows through the village. Here you will find the usual village store, post office, church and well kept homes.

At one time Ancramdale was commonly called "Hot Ground," and the name is often heard even today. Its probable origin is the ore-bed there. It is said to be a common belief among the ignorant that the ground where metallic ore is found is always warmer than where no ore exists, and the steam or cloud rising from the hillsides after a shower is thought to indicate the location of hidden mines.

An extinct iron mine, one of the many in the general vicinity, is found on what used to be called the Arthur McArthur farm, two miles east of Ancramdale. It was first discovered by Livingston, about 1776, but was not worked until after the middle of the nineteenth century. It is a small mine and rather difficult to work, and has been lying idle since 1876. Its capacity was rated at seven



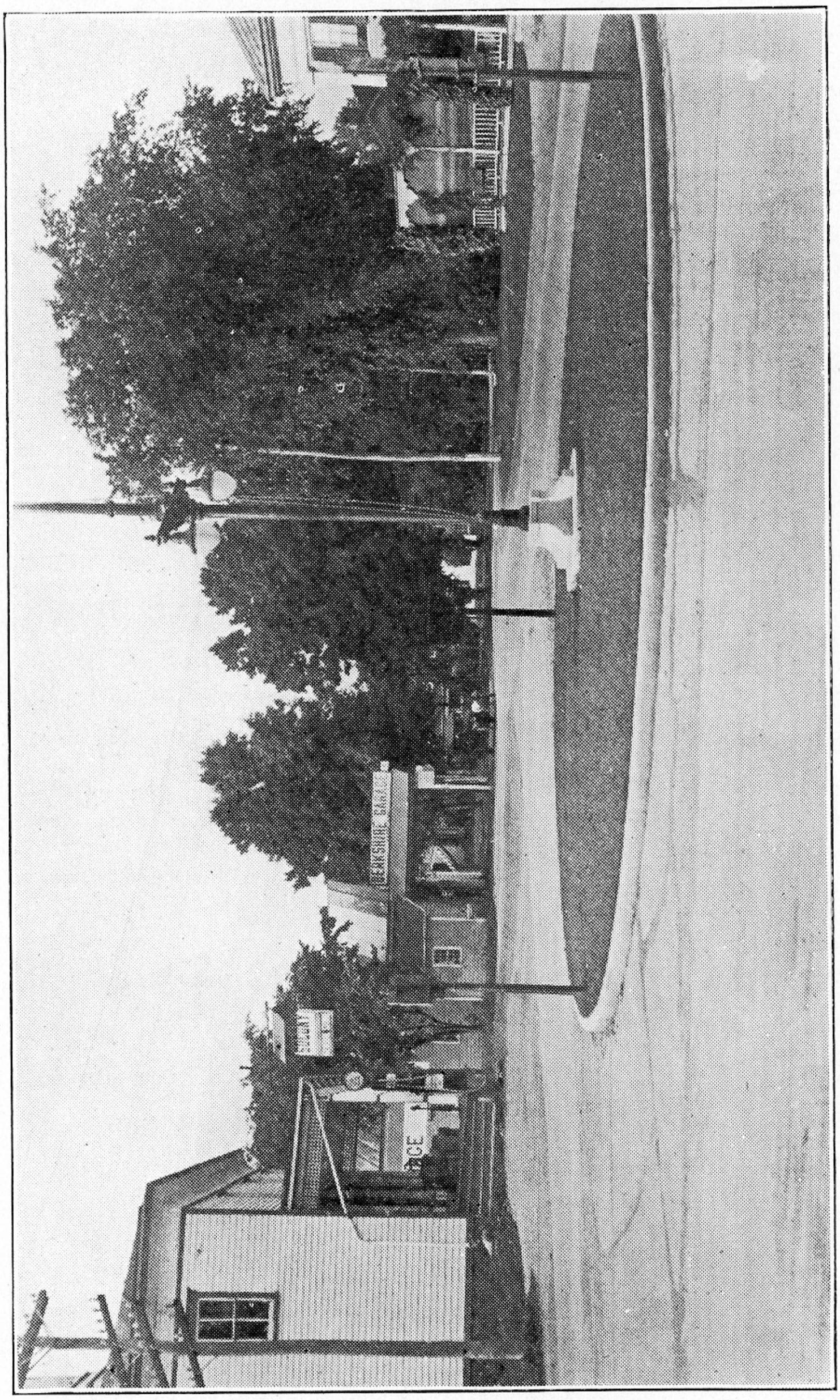
Country Home of Conrad N. Pitcher, The Niver Homestead—Near Ancramdale

thousand tons per annum and the ore contained over forty-three per cent of metallic iron. Similar to this iron mine, but far better known and more productive were the Weed Mine, located on the north line of the town of Ancram, and the Reynolds ore-bed, about three miles south of the Weed mine, near the foot of Chestnut Ridge.

The transportation facilities of the village of Ancramdale are centered in a branch of the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad, which carries freight and express. Milk is the chief commodity sent out from here, just as it was on August 1, 1872, when the first shipment of freight from Ancramdale over what was then called the Poughkeepsie and Eastern railroad consisted of eleven cans of milk.

The woods and low lands near the village abound in snipe, quail, partridges and pheasants. The streams are well stocked with trout, and many a red fox makes sport for the hunter during the autumn days. There is an opportunity for the jaded business man to recover health and soothe a tired brain among these beautiful surroundings. Ancramdale and its vicinity constitute a beautiful paradise on earth, which for some reason has been hitherto "passed by." It reminds one of that most delightful part of Canada lying along the eastern shores of that country. The early settlers pushed on to the head of navigation in the St. Lawrence River and there built up the heart of Canada. The Canadians called the Maritime Provinces "land that was passed by."

Thus it was with the eastern part of Columbia County. This region was beautiful, but neglected. It now bids fair to come into its own. The city dweller is pressing more and more countryward, and he has discovered the beautiful valleys, the lakes and hills that surround the little village of Ancramdale with charms unsurpassed by any region east of the Mississippi River.



Hub of the Old Town of Copake

COPAKE, "THE HOME TOWN"

COPAKE, "The Home Town," hemmed in by the majestic Taconic mountains, lies in the famous Harlem Valley, a valley as rich and beautiful as ever the "bird of freedom" looked down upon. It is a "Happy Valley," wondrous and varied in its charms.

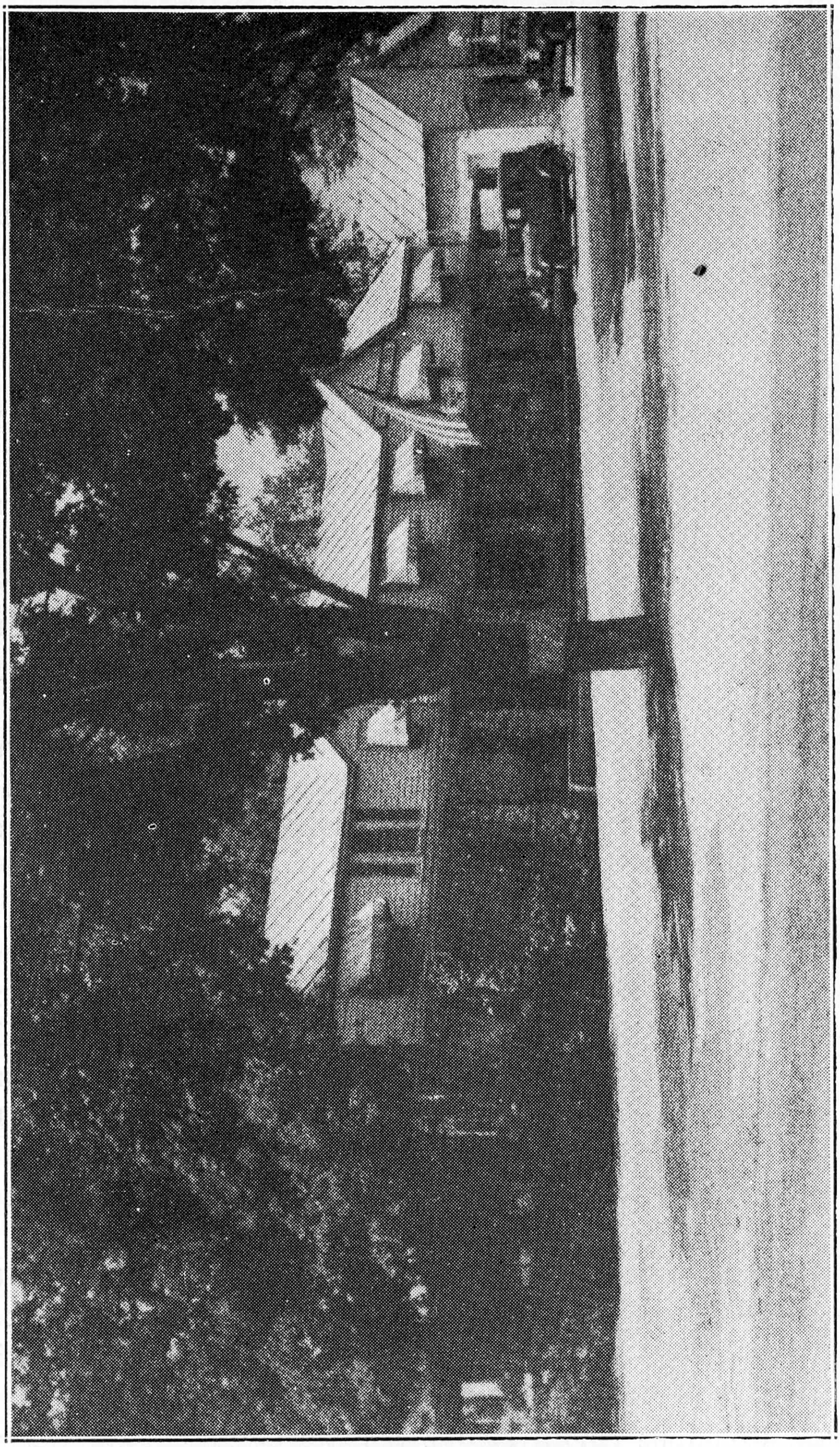
Copake really consists of four little villages—Copake, Copake Falls, West Copake and Craryville, each having its own picturesque and alluring environment. It is in Columbia county, New York, on the border line of Taconic State Park, and separated from Massachusetts by the Taconic range of mountains.

The village of Copake, the key to the region, is readily accessible, being on State highway route No. 22, the Harlem Post road, the Harlem Division of the New York Central railroad and the Central New England Division of the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad. It also connects with a cement highway to the city of Hudson, the business center of the county. It is distant from New York 105 miles, Albany 50, Hartford 50, Poughkeepsie 47, Pittsfield, Mass., 36, Hudson, N. Y., 20.

Copake is the Gateway to Taconic State Park, one of the finest scenic spots in the country, wild and beautiful, and one of the few places in the east where eagles breed and where the huge birds are frequently seen soaring in the clouds or winging their way over wooded acres toward their nests.

This park has unexcelled camping facilities; the camp sites are well located. The park management has sufficient tents and cottages for a large number of persons. Camp sites are equipped with stone fire places, free wood and spring water. Picnic grounds have tables and playgrounds for children. There are bathing facilities, and the sportsman will find good hunting and fishing. The park contains many interesting hikes, including Bash Bish Falls, Sunset Rock, Shaver mountain, Man's Face and Brace mountain, which has an altitude of 2,340 feet and from which three states spread out to the view in beautiful hills and valleys as far as eye can see—New York, Massachusetts and Connecticut. A marker will be found denoting the intersection of the three states.

Copake would be envied by the old Scottish bards for the ten lovely lakes within its borders. The largest is Copake Lake, access-



Taconic Inn, Copake Falls

ible by macadam highways. On an island is attractive Camp Copake, one of the largest boarding camps in the state. Many summer cottages adorn the shores, and the boating, bathing and fishing facilities are unexcelled. Copake's many large camps include Camp Copake; Bronx Valley Boy Scouts; Bible Institute of New York; Camp Clark, of the Clark Foundation; Camp Pontiac; Camp Ferosdel; Camp Barrington; The Rest.

The village of Copake has several institutions of outstanding worth. Its grange, for instance, is the largest in Columbia county. The society owns its splendid building, which is the social and community center of the section. This hall also houses up-to-the-minute talking pictures. Copake has an active Chamber of Commerce, ever awake to the best interests of the town.

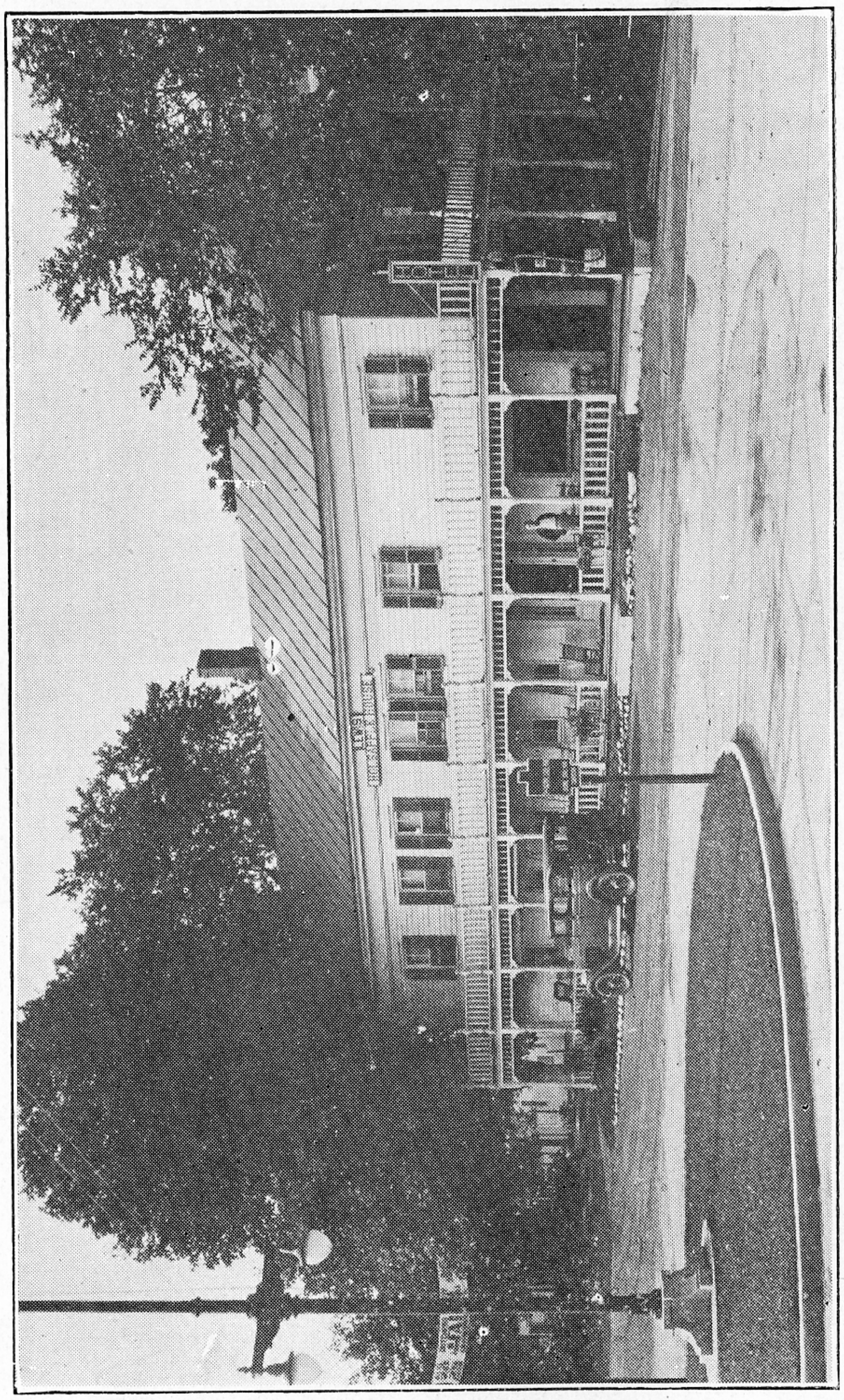
It has a splendid school system and is especially proud to announce that a central rural school district has been formed, with the school building in the town of Copake. It consists of 29 school districts, so far the largest number in the state ever to have merged. The advantages of school centralization to the rural home are beyond comprehension. This school will have every modern device for the comfort, health and training of the children, including a large, well equipped athletic field, gymnasium, assembly hall and cafeteria. The school curriculum will equal in every respect that of the city. This school will be an asset beyond price.

The Harlem Valley is primarily a dairy country and Copake is noted for its many large, attractive, productive dairy farms. The milk is handled by a modern Borden plant.

Copake has an active fire department with modern apparatus, and owns its building for housing the equipment. A club room is included. The town also has a post office.

There are a number of hotels in the locality, including Lewis' Holsapple House, the Copake Inn and the Mountain View House at Copake; Taconic Inn, Copake Falls; the Berkshire Pines and the Knickerbocker Inn, West Copake.

The general settlement of Copake, largely by Dutch and German settlers, began about 1750. It became a town in 1824. The town of Copake received its name from Copake Lake. The word is of Indian origin and is said to refer to some peculiarity of the lake.

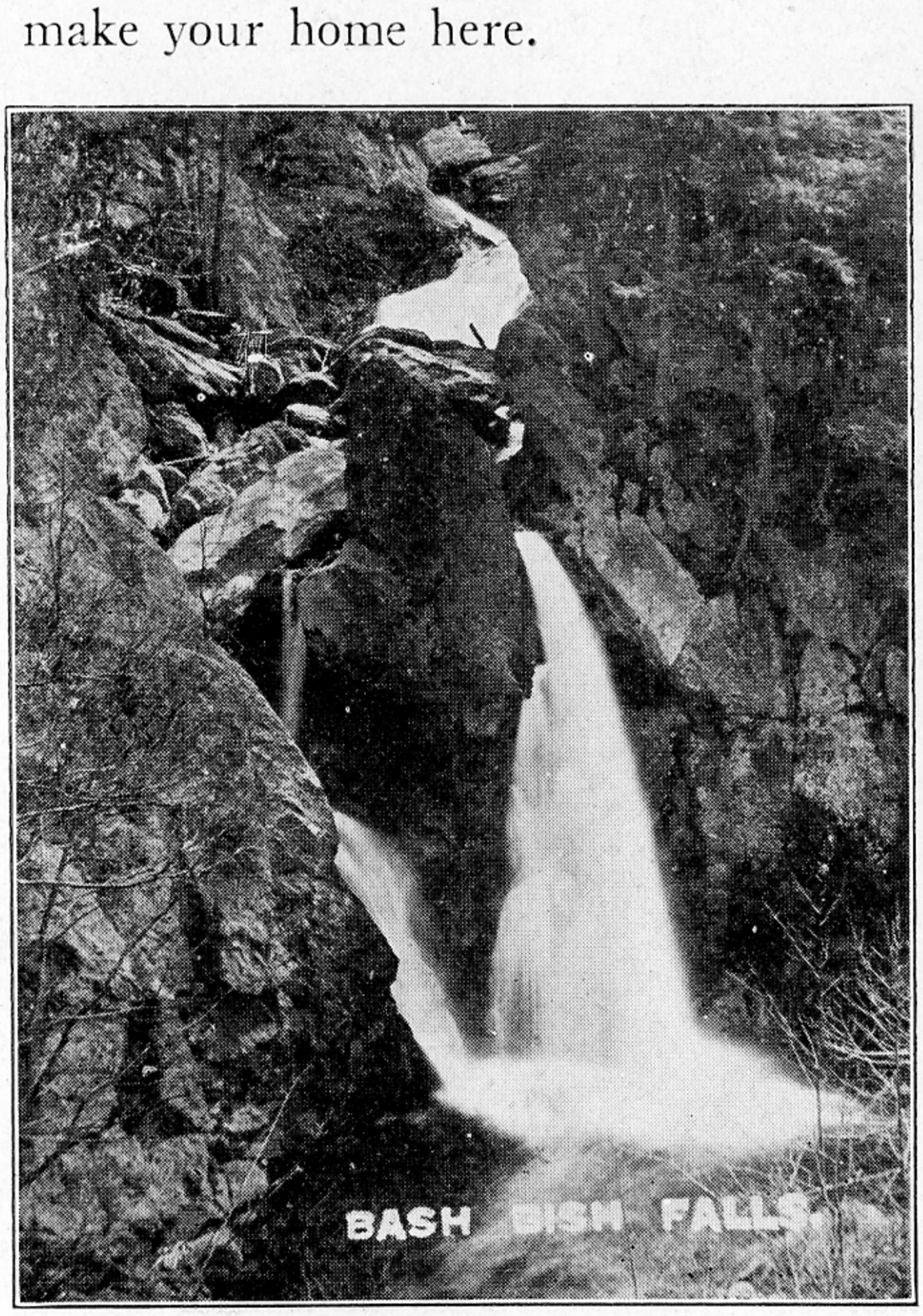


Lewis' Holsapple House, Copake

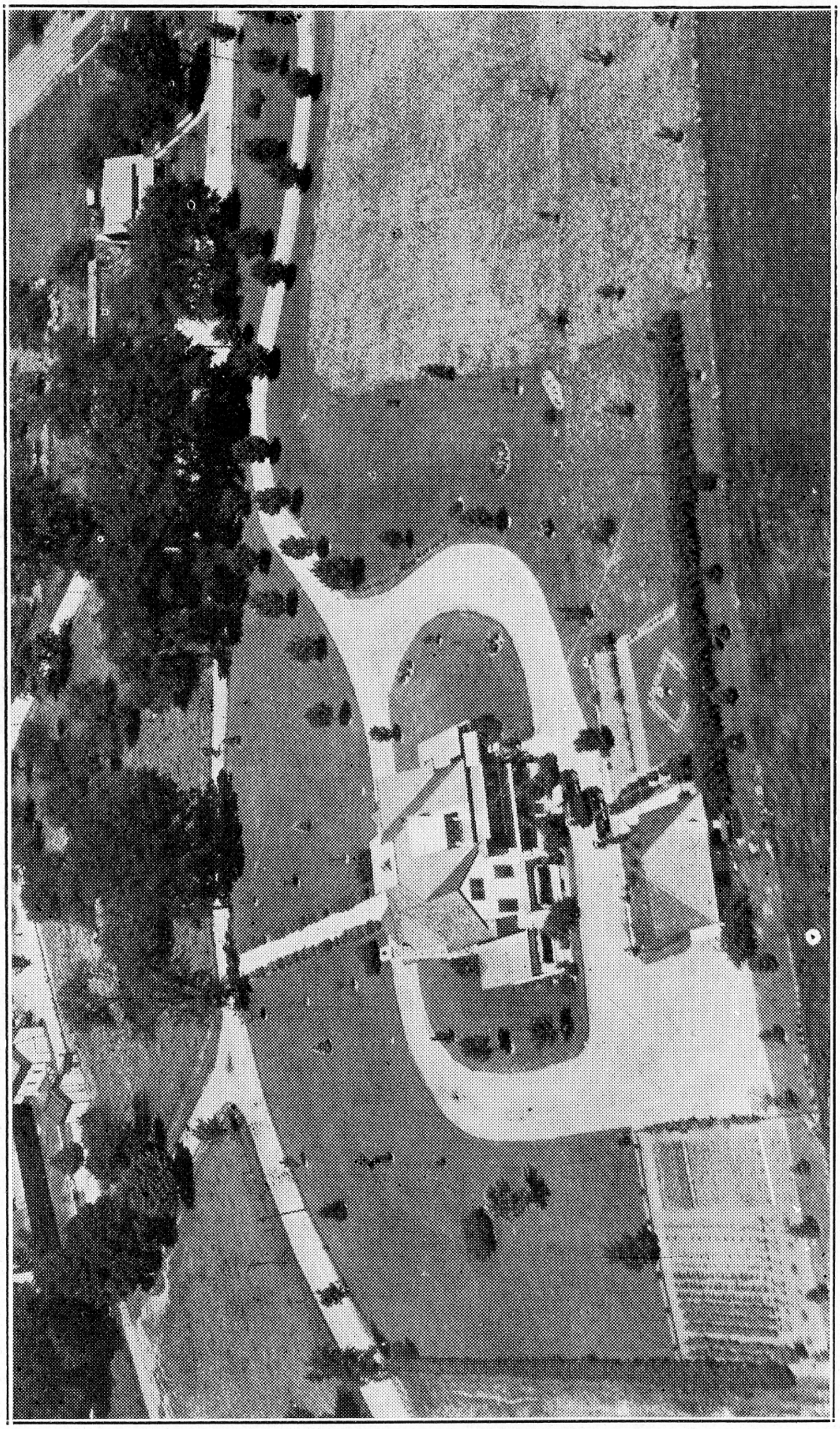
In former days the principal industry of the town, as in so many other parts of this general region, was the production of iron ore, at Copake Falls, then known as Copake Iron Works. The old name is still often heard. The blast furnaces were opened in 1846 and the product was at first transported to Hudson in carts, until the Harlem railroad was put through in 1852. The mines were extensive and were worked for a number of years, but have long since been abandoned. The chief evidence of their previous existence is now the varicolored slag which may be picked up from the ground by visitors at Taconic State Park.

There are several churches in the township. The Methodist church was the earliest established, but its building was not erected until 1853-54. Meanwhile, in 1852, St. John's Episcopal church at Copake Falls was built. St. Bridget's Roman Catholic church, also at Copake Falls, was dedicated in 1873. The West Copake Reformed church was an offshoot of the famous old Vedder church at Gallatin.

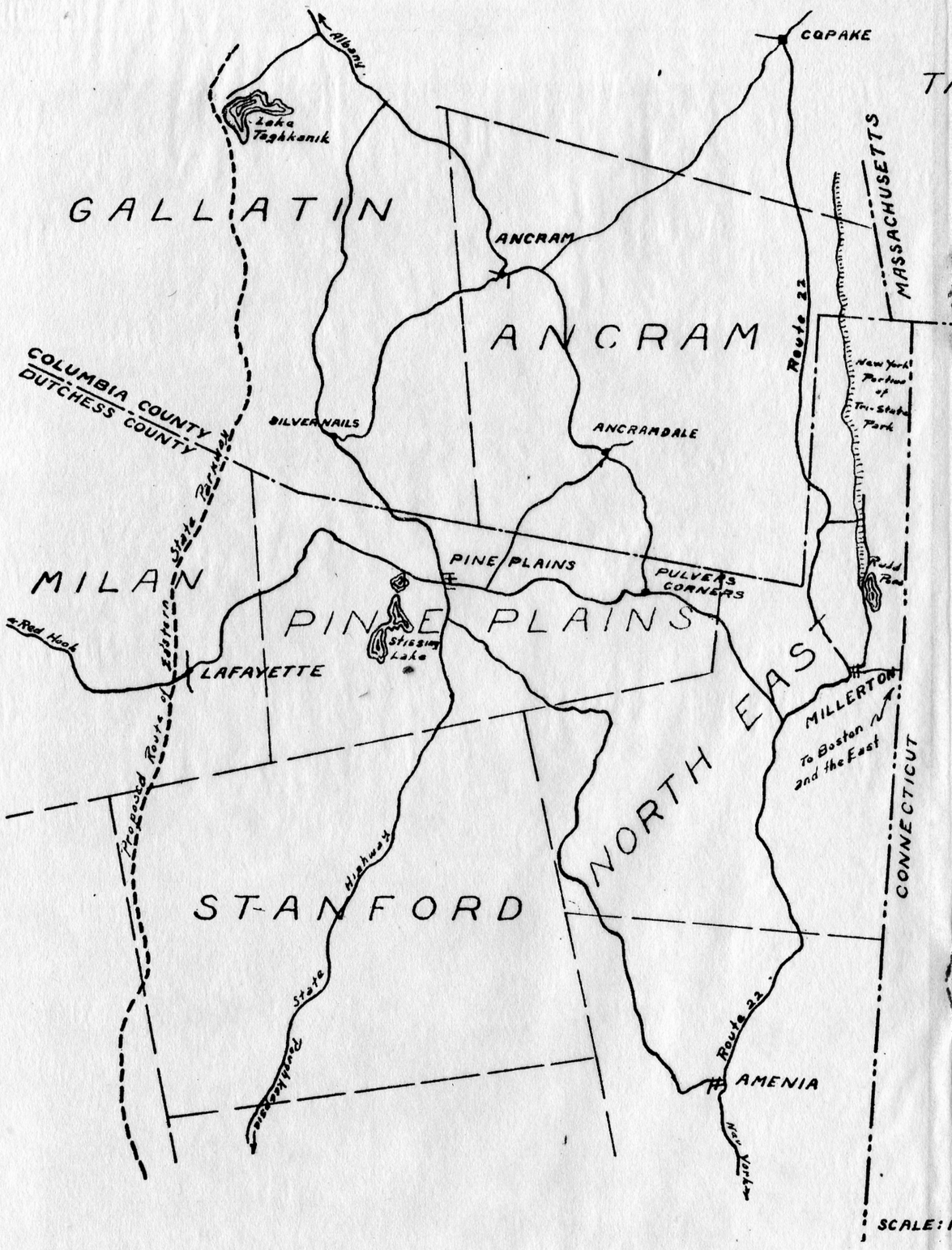
Copake, the place where people "live to live," invites you to visit or, better still, make your home here.

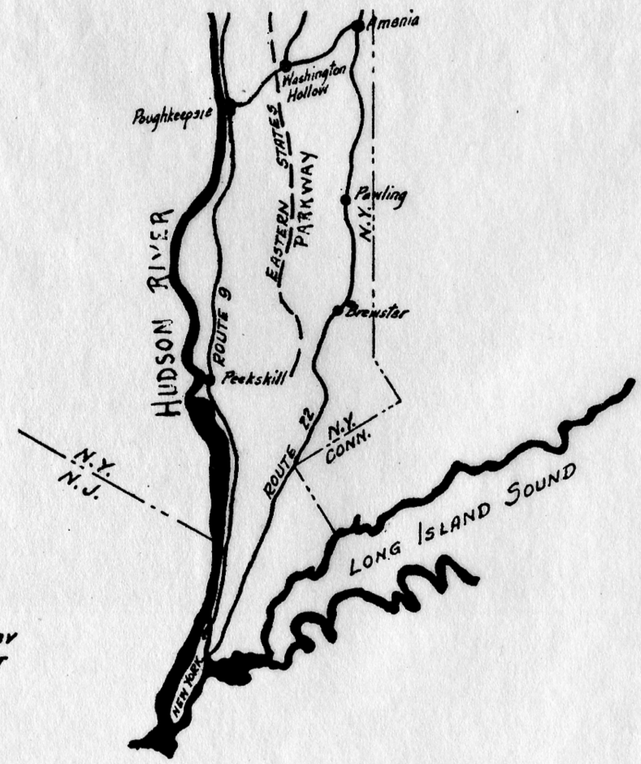


In Taconic State Park



Langdonhurst Farms, Copake; Adrian Langdon, Owner





PREPARED BY
F.W.KAYHART
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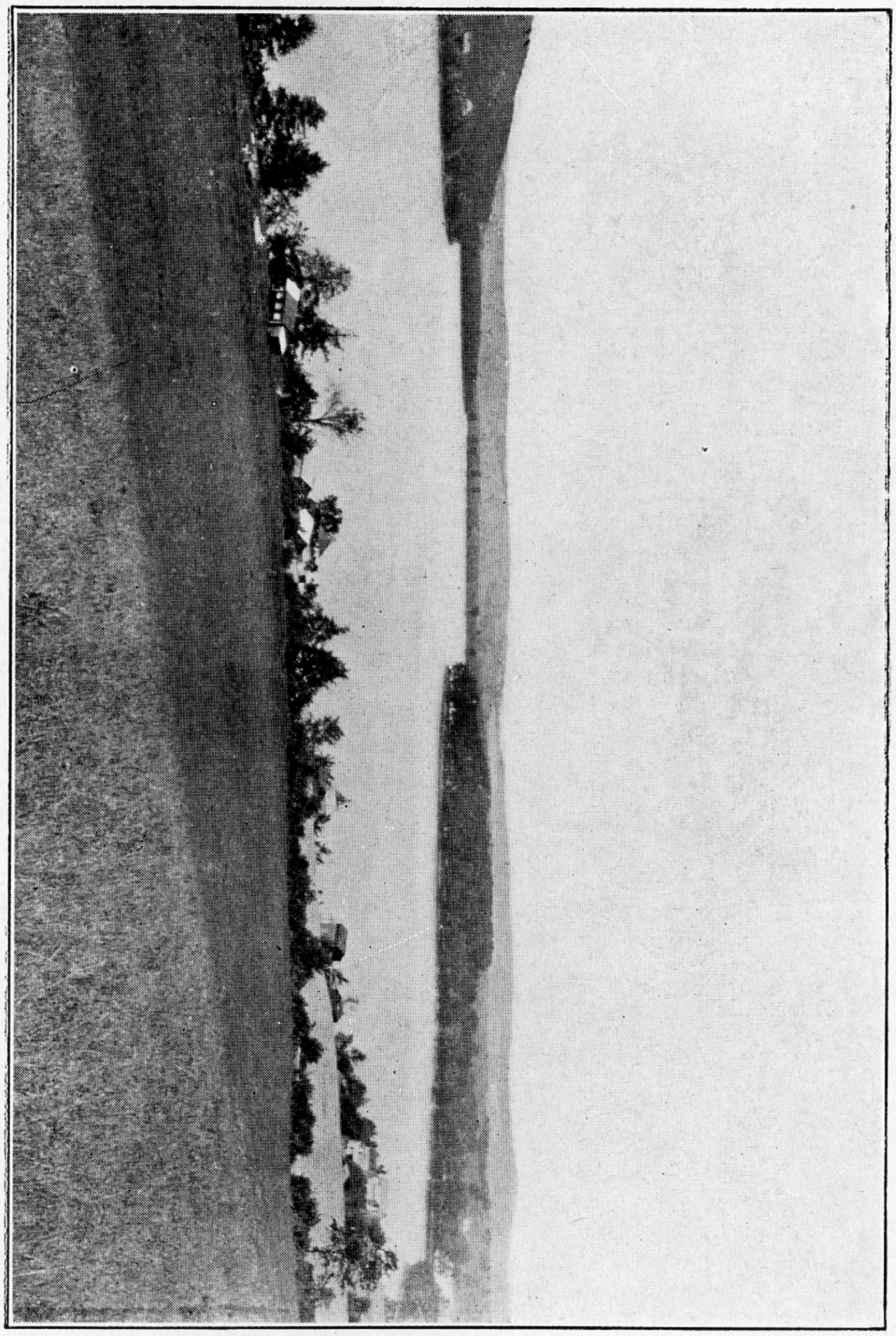
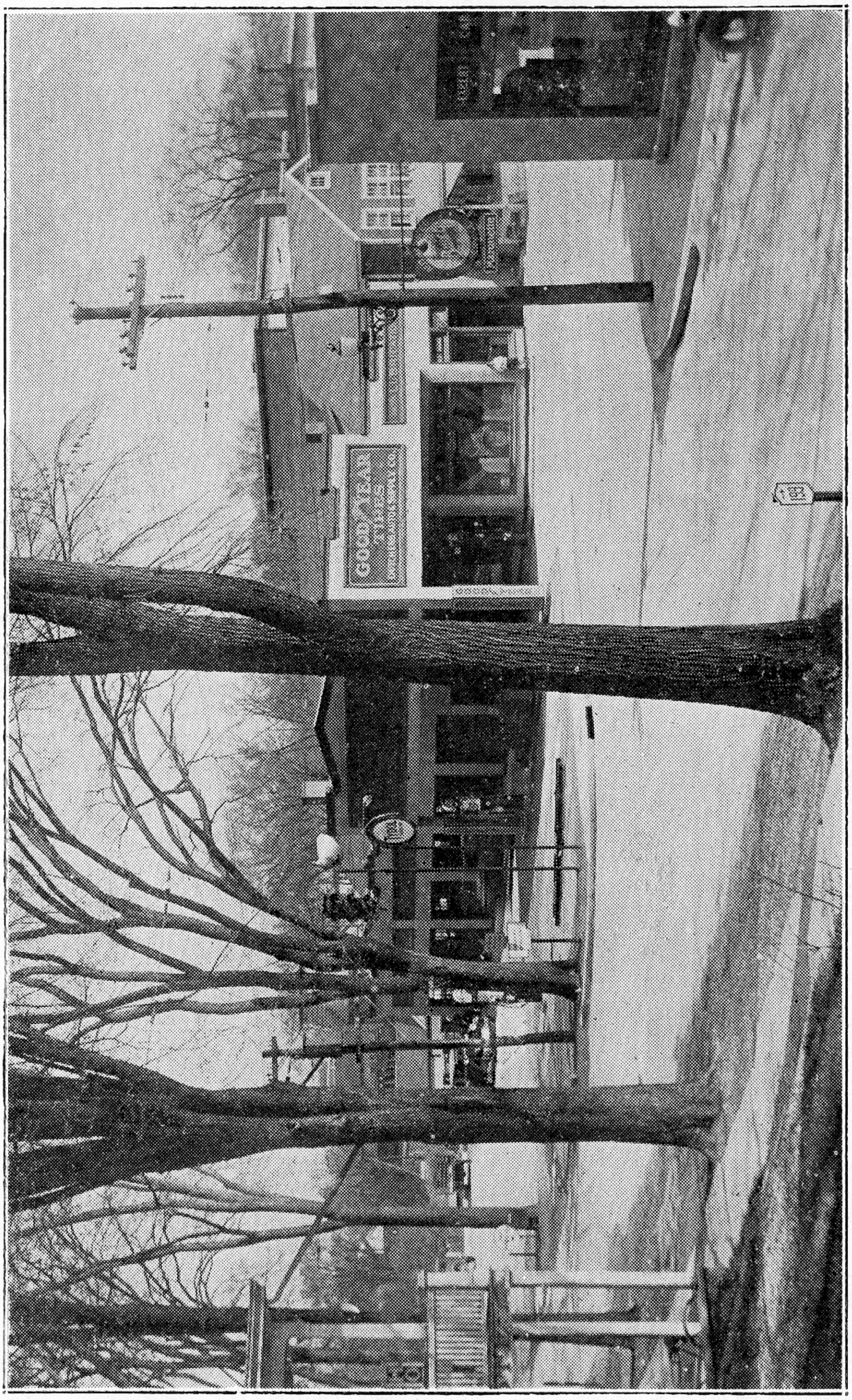
SCALE: 1 inch = 10000 ft.



Copake Lake



Millerton—At the Intersection of the Harlem Valley Road and Main Street

A CENTER OF BUSINESS AND RECREATION

THE incorporated Village of Millerton, which is developing rapidly under the able leadership of its Chamber of Commerce, offers unusual advantages both to homeseekers of discriminating tastes and to business men interested in various types of industry.

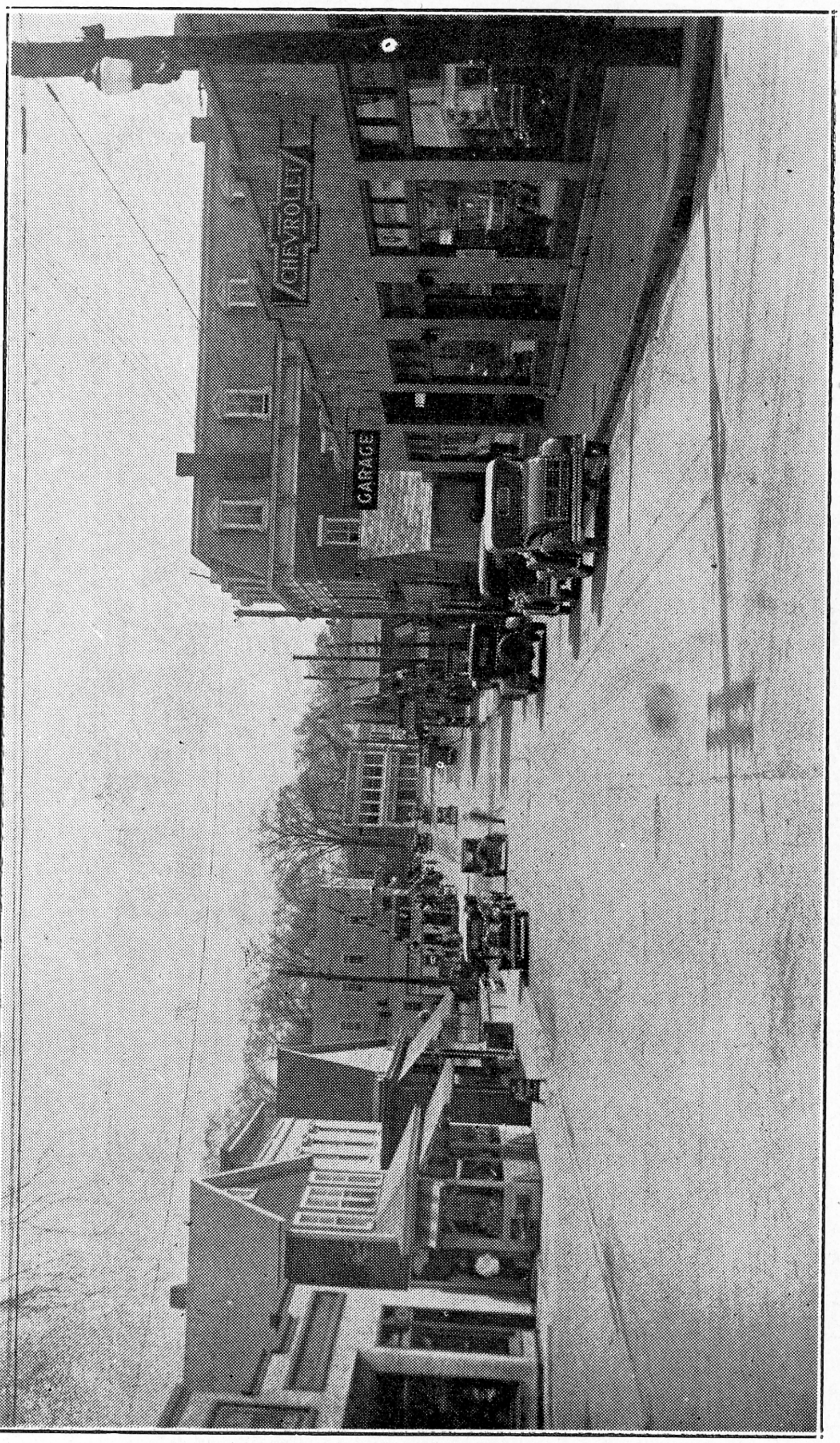
The town is most advantageously placed both for business and for recreation. It is about ninety miles north of the Grand Central Station, New York City, among the glorious Taconic Hills, which rival in beauty the neighboring Berkshires of Massachusetts and the Litchfield Hills of Connecticut.

Millerton is adequately served by the Harlem Division of the New York Central railroad and the Central New England Division of the New Haven railroad, making Albany, North Adams, Hartford and Poughkeepsie easily accessible and giving frequent express service to and from New York City daily. Regular bus service is also provided, and Millerton is the already acknowledged center of local business for Lakeville, Salisbury, Pine Plains, Amenia, Sharon and other surrounding towns.

Leading into Millerton are new concrete highways which are important limbs in the state systems of New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts. Notable among these is the well traveled Route 22, extending from New York City to Montreal, and passing through Millerton. This entire road is being reconstructed and when completed will be a three-strip concrete highway, affording a direct, convenient and scenic route to New York City. Not far from the village is the new four-track Taconic Parkway, a continuation of the famous Bronx Parkway, and the direct improved eastern highway to all points in Connecticut and Massachusetts enters the village over its Main street.

Millerton derived its name from Sidney G. Miller, one of the contractors and builders of the extension of the New York & Harlem railroad (now the Harlem division of the New York Central) from Dover Plains to Chatham in 1851. This marked the birth of Millerton, and the village grew rapidly in population and importance as a railroad, manufacturing and trading center. The village was incorporated June 30, 1875. This ever-increasing progress has continued until Millerton now occupies a commanding position in business and transportation and is the leading town in the Harlem Valley.

The growing village is justifiably proud of its new water system, which provides an inexhaustible supply of 100% pure water, pumped



Millerton—Looking East Up Main Street

from underground sources directly to the water mains and to a reservoir located in the hills, which assures a water force adequate for all business and manufacturing purposes, as well as for the thoroughly equipped fire department. The water system is owned by the village and is controlled by a Board of Trustees.

The streets of Millerton have a total of six miles of sidewalks, and all are well lighted by electricity. Electric current is furnished to householders and for business purposes by the Central Hudson Gas and Electric Corporation, at reasonable rates.

Millerton has a graded and high school system. A central school is in the process of being formed here, which will bring even greater educational advantages to the whole vicinity. In 1928 a thoroughly modern building was constructed at a cost of $150,000, to which an addition will probably be made after the formation of the central district. A feature of the school is a very active Alumni Association, which annually raises a good-sized sum as a scholarship fund, to further the education of some member of the graduating class.

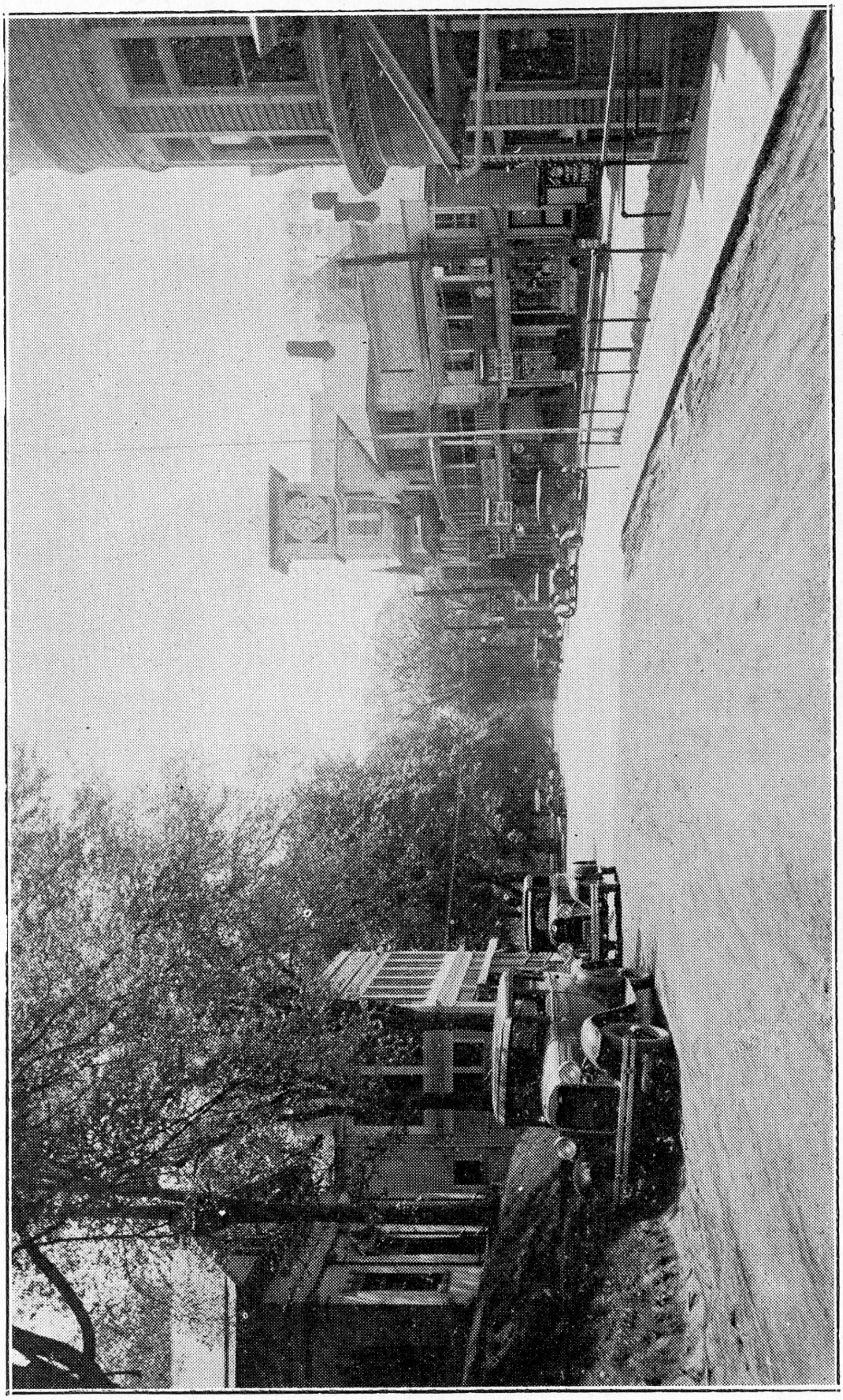
The Public Library, centrally located, provides the use of several thousand volumes, to which frequent additions are made.

There are five religious denominations represented in the village, the Baptist, Roman Catholic, Episcopal, Methodist and Presbyterian churches.

There are a number of active and thriving organizations in the village, including lodges of the Masons, the Odd Fellows and the Rebekahs, a chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, a post of the American Legion and the Millerton Grange.

Millerton has exceptionally good stores, including three well-known chain stores and also a National Bank. The local industries include exporting of dairy products and manufacturing of textiles, perfumes and flavoring extracts. Excellent automobile servicing is provided by modernly equipped garages, some of which have large salesrooms. Further information regarding the business opportunities will be cheerfully furnished upon inquiry of the Chamber of Commerce, organized several years ago to cooperate with the village officials in promoting the general welfare, prosperity and program of the community.

There are many beauty spots in the vicinity of Millerton. Rich in legend and traditions is picturesque Indian Lake or Gnadensee,



The Heart of the Business Center—Millerton

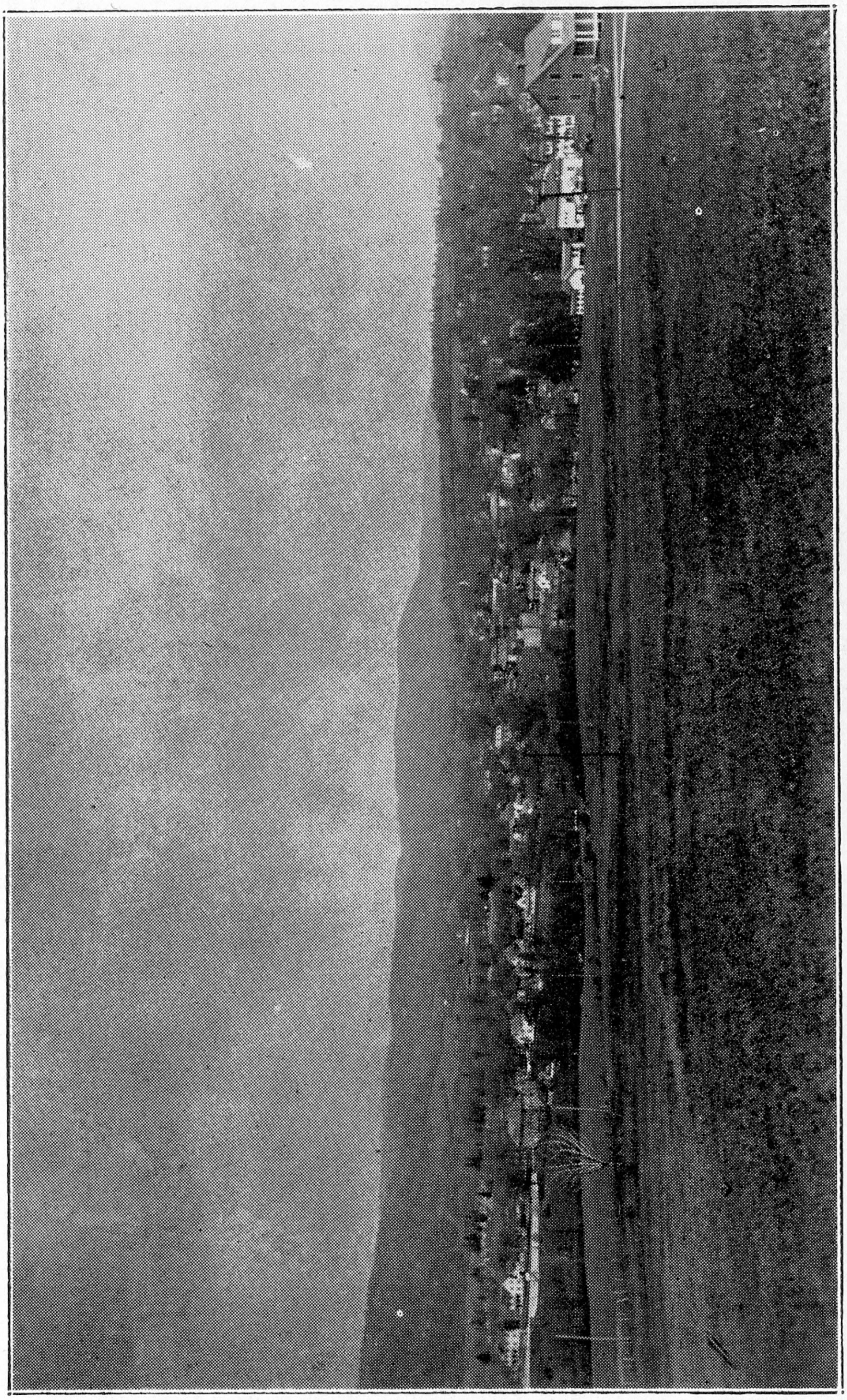
"The Lake of Grace," as it was originally called by the Moravian missionaries who came there about 1750. Rising on the east of it and stretching a number of miles to the north, there is a continuous mountain wall, the Taconic Range, the "natural rampart and bulwark of New England," to borrow the words of Rev. Edward O. Dyer, author of "Gnadensee, a Moravian Picture," a charming description of the historical and picturesque features of the region. At Copake Falls, the site of the Taconic Tri-State Park, there is a break in the wall, a wild and lonely gorge through which the Bash Bish stream plunges from Mount Alandar. "After a series of cascades and waterfalls, it makes a sheer drop of sixty feet into an emerald pool," a gorgeous spectacle. It is at the juncture of the states of Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York, and has been set aside for the recreation and enjoyment of the public.

About two miles and a half from Millerton is Rudd Lake, most of which is included in the splendid new project known as the Taconic Tri-State Park. Here the state has recently developed a well equipped bathing beach, with a commodious pavilion and boats, as well as overnight camping facilities. Already among the forested hills of the Park, where every effort is made to preserve the natural beauty of the place, are miles of bridle paths and motor roads.

The entire region east of Millerton might well rank with the famous "Lake Country" of England, for numerous beautiful lakes nestle among the hills nearby, most of them just over the border in the state of Connecticut. One of the largest and best-known of these is Wonoscopomuk at Lakeville, nor should mention of the Twin Lakes at Salisbury be omitted. There are numerous lakes in the vicinity of Sharon, too. Incidentally, Indian Lake itself lies half in New York state and half in Connecticut.

At Lakeville is found the Hotchkiss School, well-known boys' preparatory school, founded by the late Benjamin B. Hotchkiss, inventor of the famous Hotchkiss revolving cannon. The inventor and philanthropist also gave a fine memorial library at Sharon, Conn. Salisbury, which is near Lakeville, is noted as the scene of championship ski-jumping meets.

Ore Hill, which lies just over the border from New York state, has been famous in its day for the production of high grade iron ore. However, with a change in the demand for the particular sort

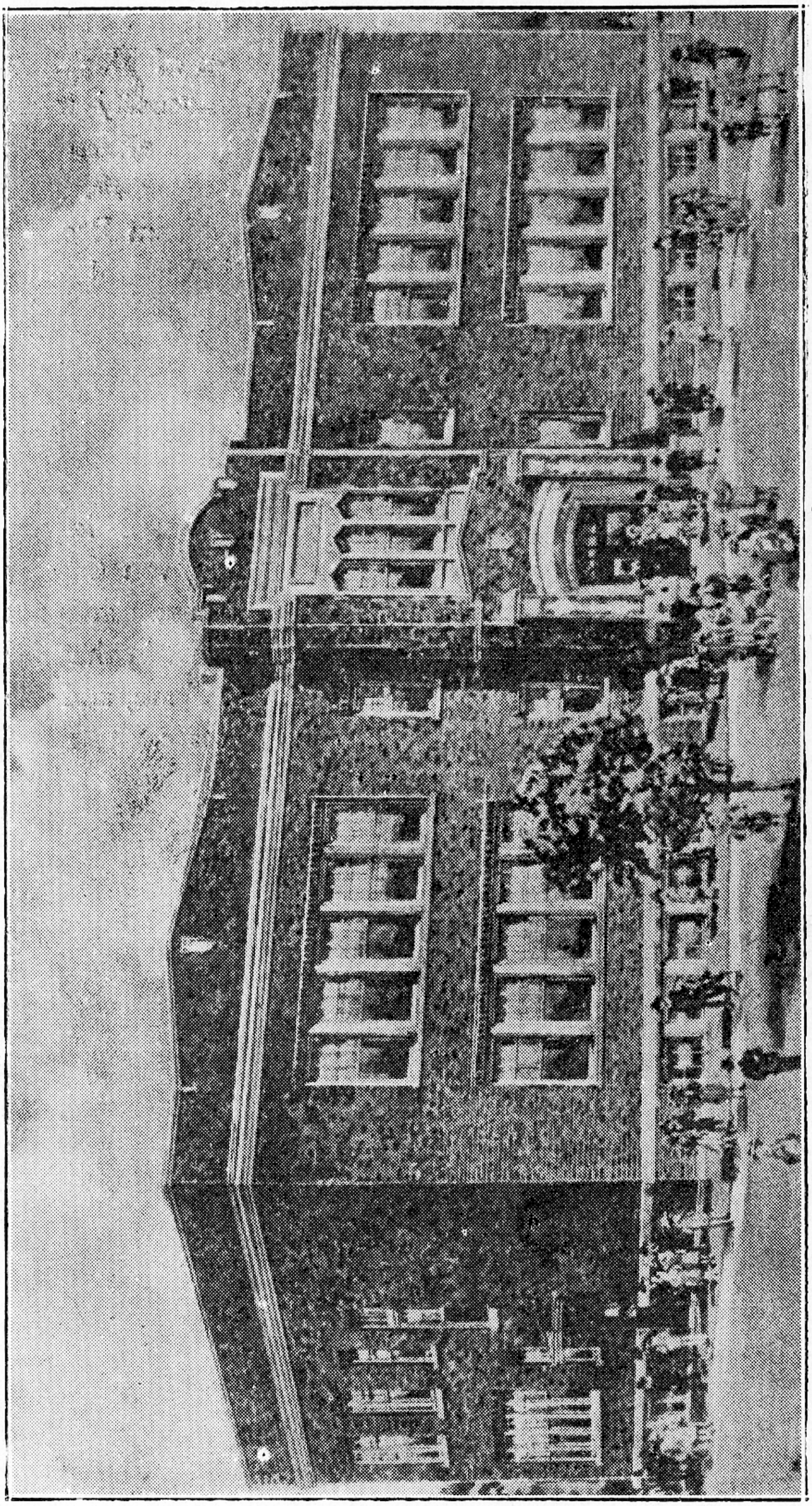


Picturesque Millerton

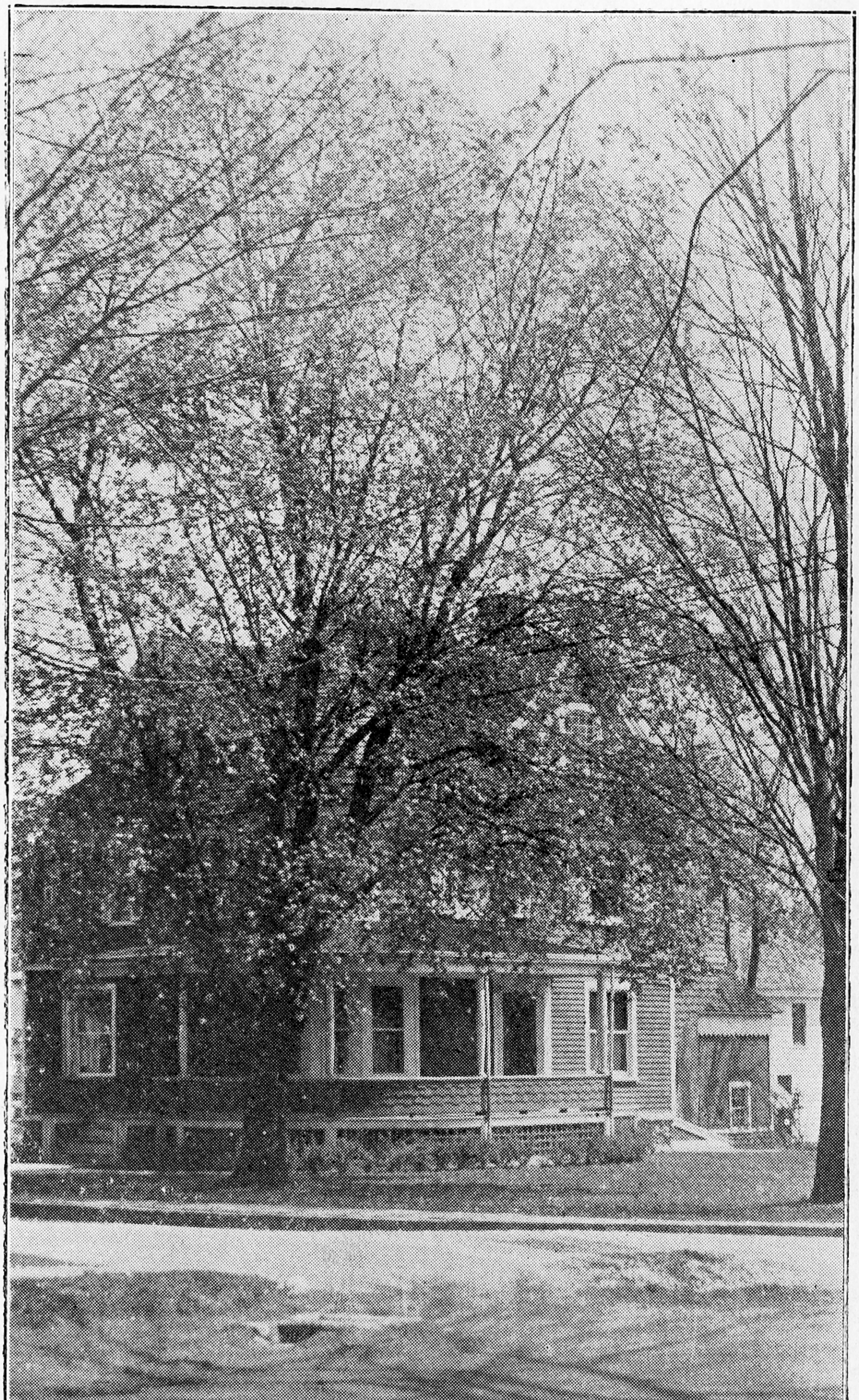
of metal produced here, the industry gradually became defunct. A similar process has taken place at Irondale, just north of Millerton, and at the former Maltby ironworks in the town of North East.

The country surrounding Millerton is unusually interesting, and is rapidly becoming available for country estates, summer homes and farms suitable for dairying or fruit raising. Professional and business men of high standing, largely from Brooklyn and New York, are beginning to take advantage of the real estate opportunities of the region. In the vicinity of Ancram alone, over thirty places have changed hands within the past two years. Much of the land has never been cleared for agricultural purposes; some of it, notably "no man's land" of Boston Corners, had been, originally, land in dispute, claimed both by Connecticut and New York, the claims having been settled long since, in favor of the latter state. Deer, pheasants and partridge are abundant, and even the comparatively rare woodcock has found room here to increase and multiply. Foxes and raccoons are common, making their homes in the rocky and secluded cliff-like ridges in the woods. Trout are here, and the trout streams in this locality are as fine as any in the state.

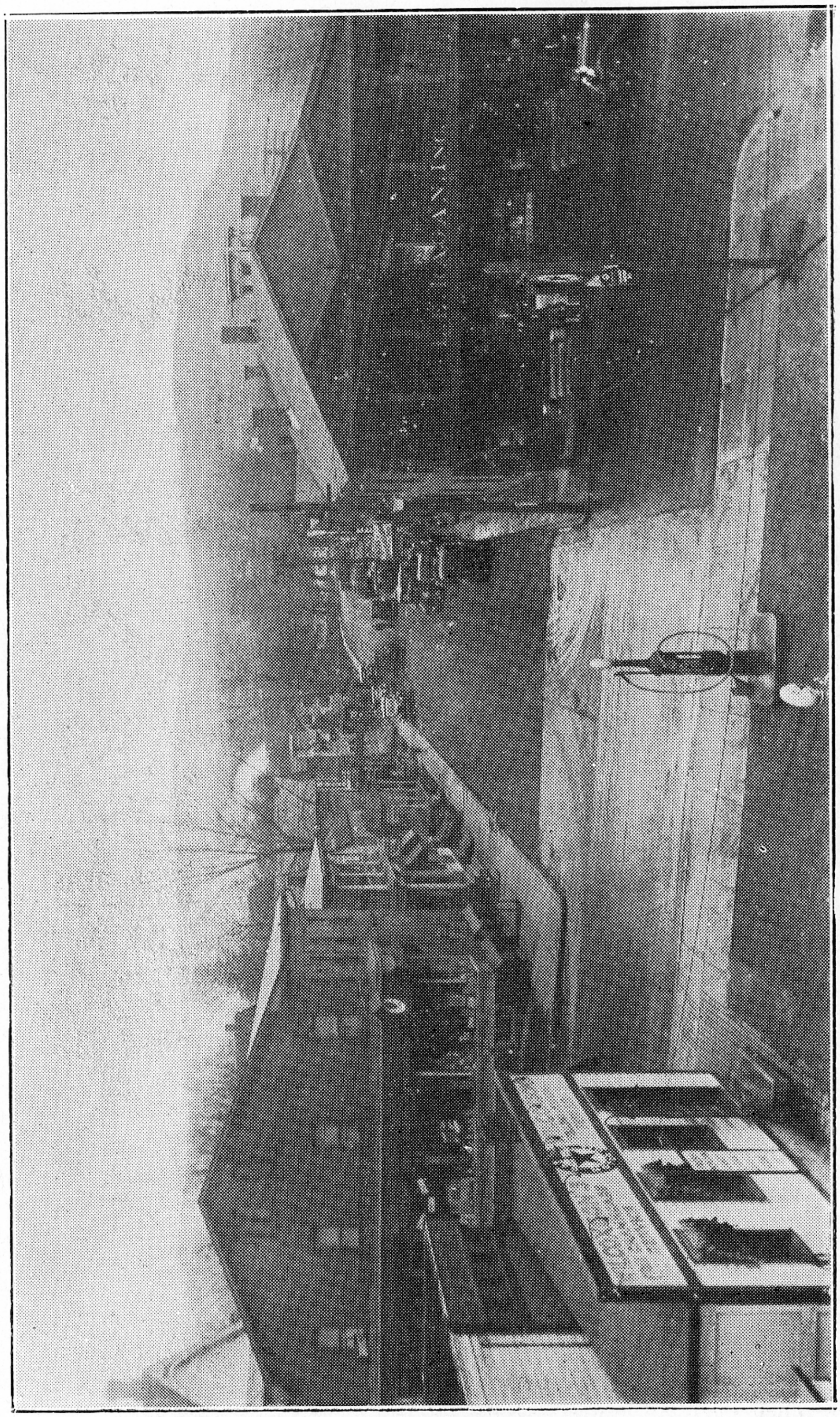
Millerton is unique, a thriving little metropolis set in an environment of rare and unusual rural beauty.



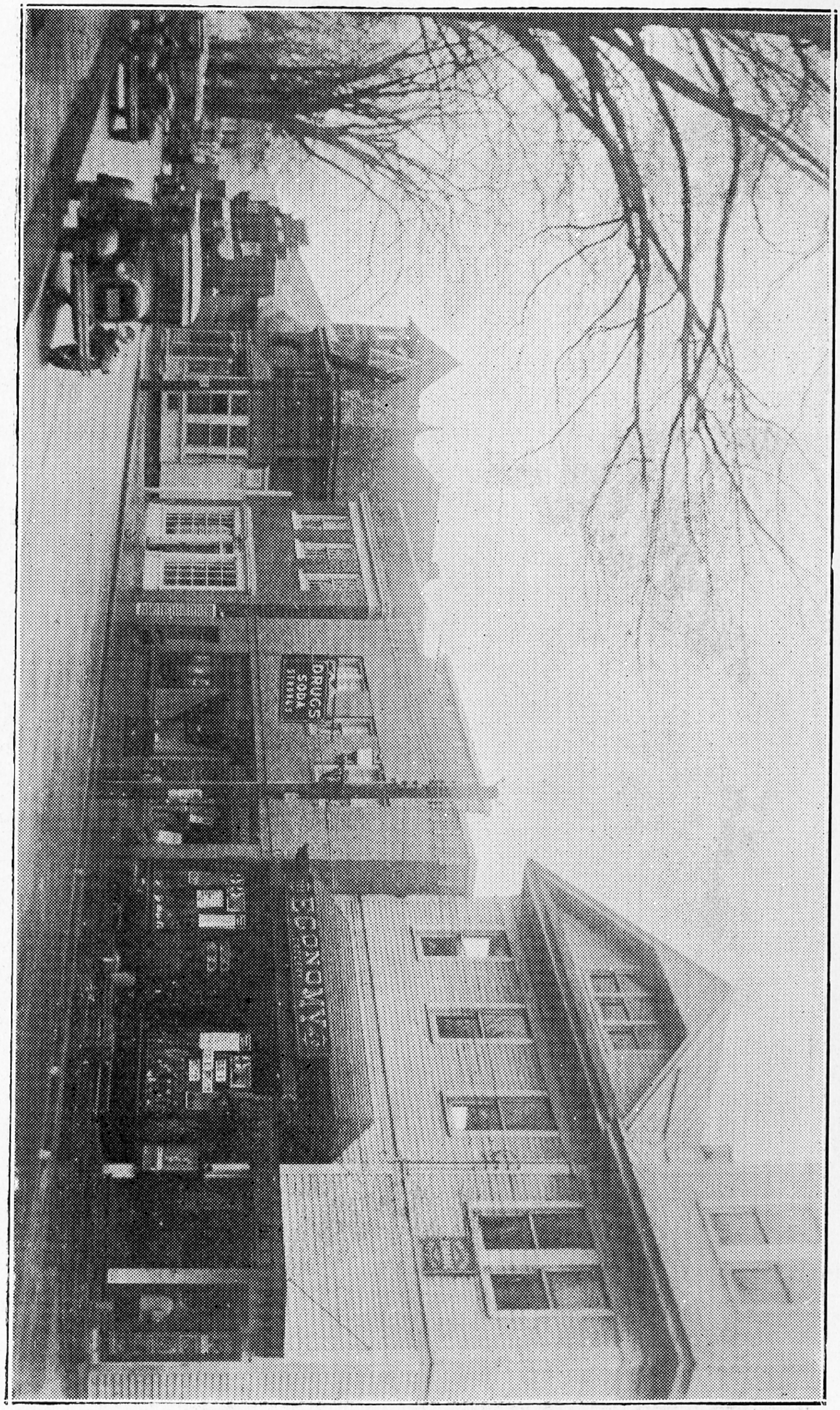
The Millerton Grade and High School



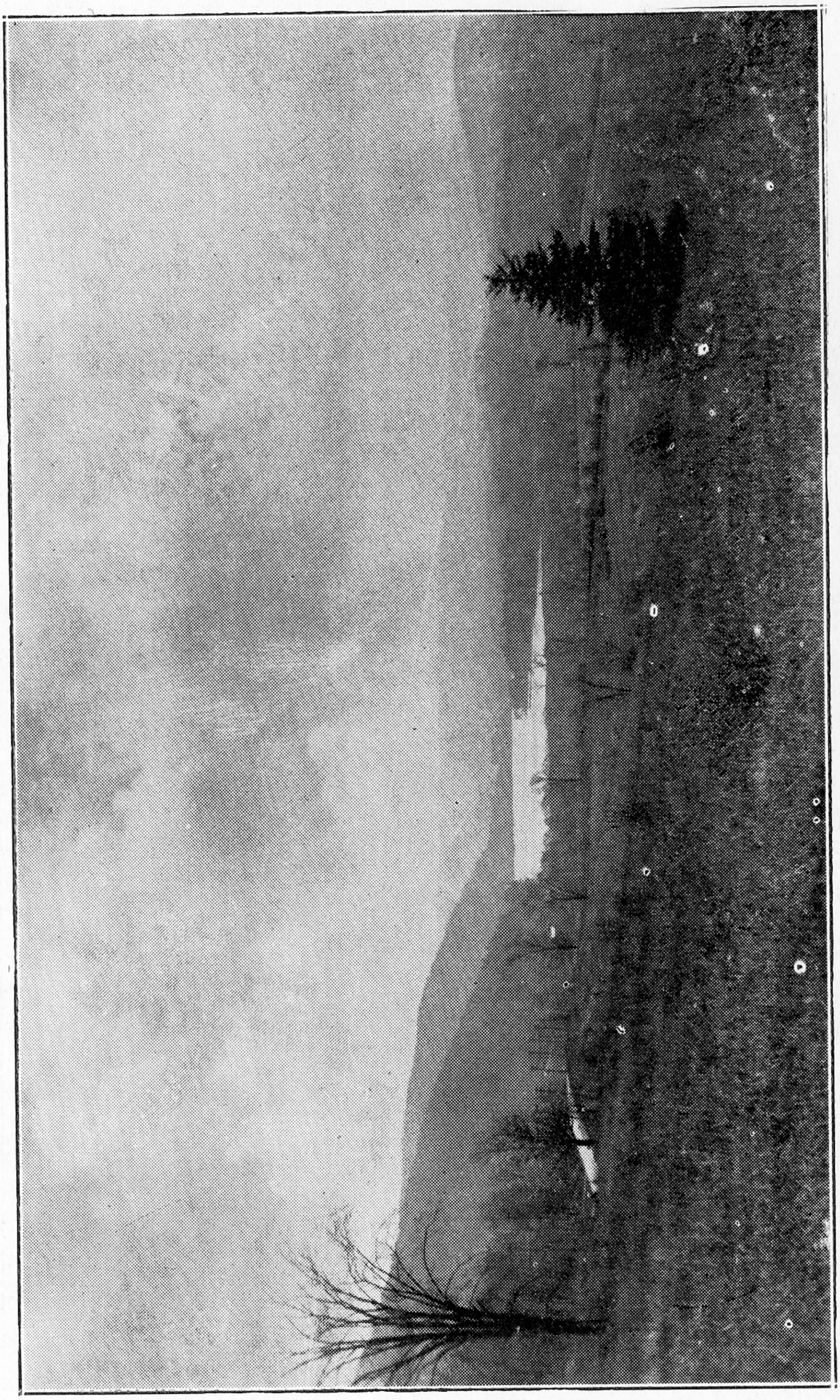
Residence of Surrogate Daniel Gleason in Millerton



Center Street, Millerton



Upper Main Street, Millerton, looking East



Indian Lake—"Gnadensee, the Lake of Grace," near Millerton

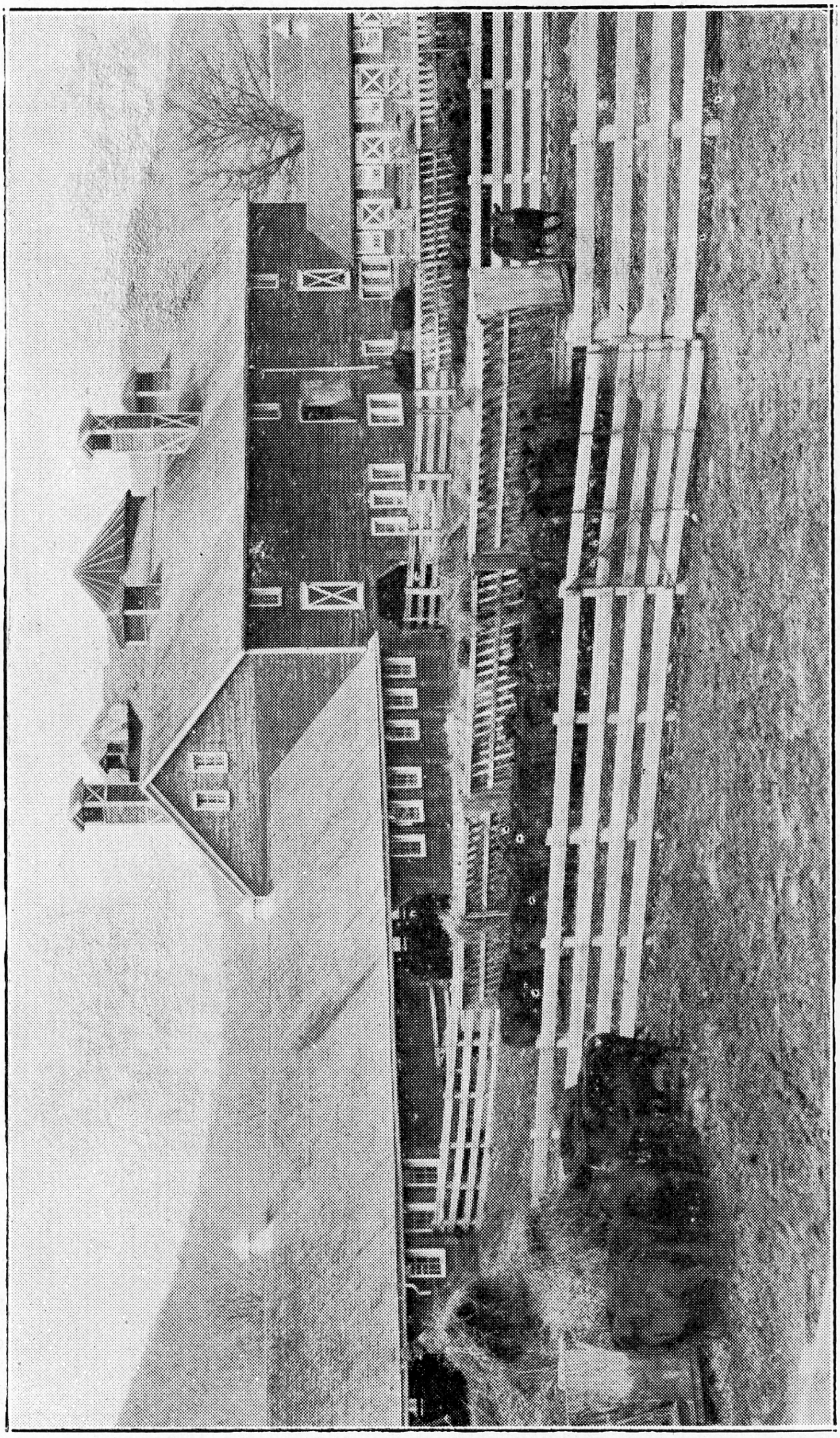
PINE PLAINS THE BEAUTIFUL

A MORE attractive village than Pine Plains, with its ever-lovely surrounding countryside, could hardly be imagined. Nature has made it a haven of health and happiness, rimmed on every side by hills and mountains and yet accessible from all directions.

The town of Pine Plains is in the shape of a large bowl, with the village as its center. To quote Isaac Huntting's "Little Nine Partners," which is devoted to the history of Pine Plains, "There is no better place on earth for a city or village. The drainage is perfect naturally, either northerly through the valley of the Shacameco" (or Shekomeko) "or southerly through the valley of the Wappinger. It is fanned summer and winter by the alternate breezes respectively in their changes and seasons. There are no standing pools or poisonous marshes," but there are several sparkling lakes nourished by springs. Stissing Mountain on the west presides over the village like a benevolent monarch, protecting it from storm and tempest. Gently curving foothills abound, against a sweeping background of the noble ranges of the Taconic and Catskill mountains. Well has it been called "Pine Plains the Beautiful."

Long ago the red men dwelt here, and three chieftains of their race, tradition says, lie buried on what is now Pine street, on the edge of a natural amphitheater. A pine tree flourished above their grave, but that too has disappeared, although photographs of it testify to its existence. The last traces of the Indians are found in such local names as Stissing (originally Teesink) and Shacameco.

Over two hundred years ago the first white men definitely came here to stay. It is stated that probably nine-tenths of the inhabitants of Pine Plains, up to 1771, were descendants of emigrants from the Palatine in Germany, sturdy yeoman stock, simple and God-fearing, who made thrifty and prosperous farmers. Pine Plains, which early became a trading center, in 1823 took cognizance of its natural boundaries and began its existence as an independent township, separate from the others of North East Precinct (originally comprising Milan, Pine Plains and the northern part of what is now the town of North East). From that time on, its progress was steady and continuous.



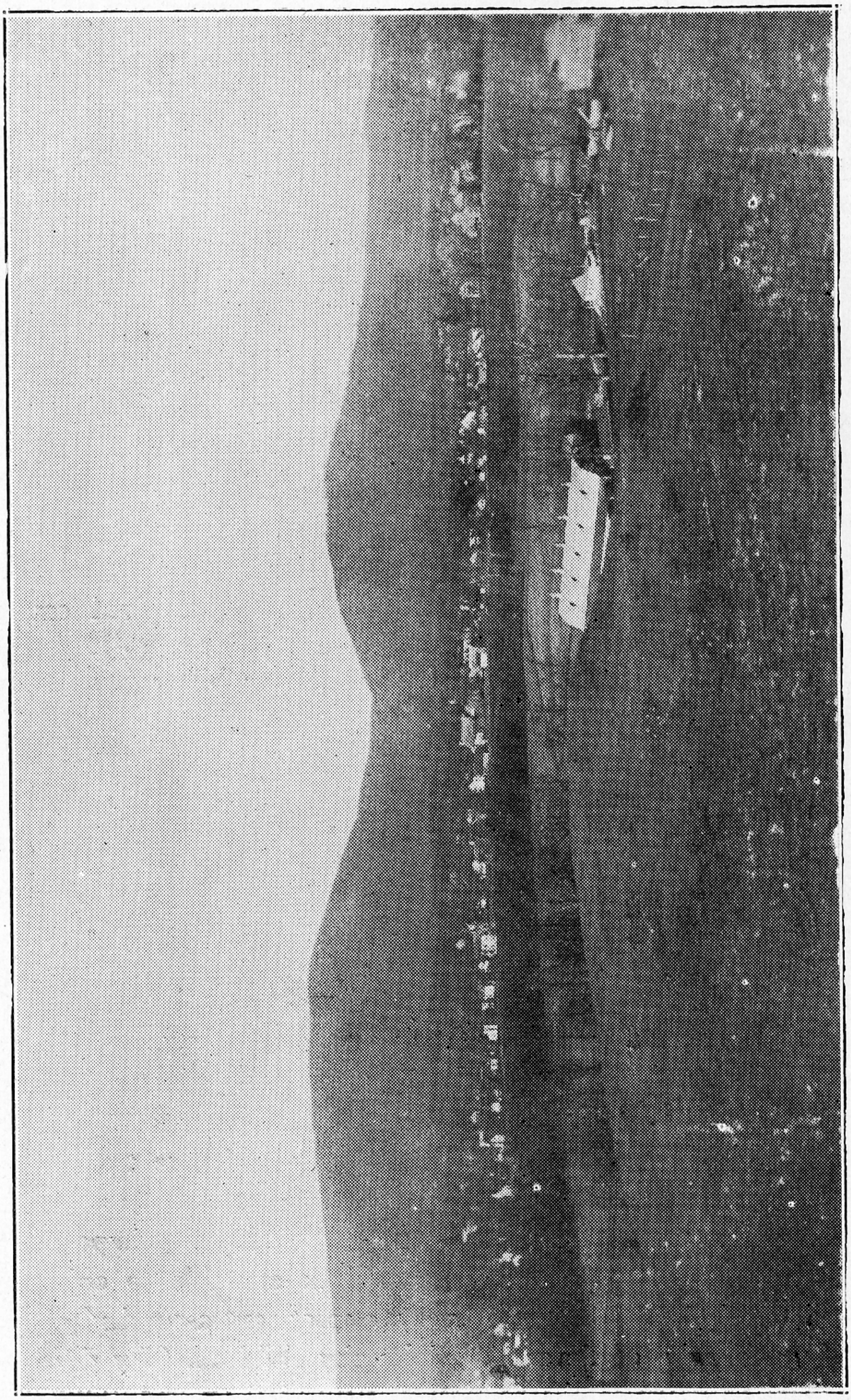
Barns at Briarcliff Farms, Inc., The Home of Aberdeen Angus Beef Cattle
Dutchess County's Favorite Variety of Meat

The Pine Plains of today, active, progressive and modern, is the logical outcome of that century of constant improvement and growth. That the village is both accessible and attractive is shown by the fact that new houses are constantly being built and living quarters are always in demand. Real estate is continually increasing in value, as more and more urban dwellers commence to realize its advantages and potentialities.

Pine Plains lies directly upon a national automobile route east and west, known as the Yellowstone Trail or the Berkshire Trail. It is really a short cut from the Catskill mountains or the Albany Post Road to the Berkshire mountains and the New England states. This highway is macadamized. Pine Plains lies at the northern end of the Mid-county highway, which affords a direct route to Poughkeepsie, the county seat, only 27 miles distant. To the north, Hudson, shopping center of Columbia county, is 23 miles away on an improved county road. The Tri-State Park is only 17 miles to the northeast of Pine Plains, most of which is improved county road also.

Pine Plains is on the Albany-Hartford automobile express route and is also served by two express routes to Poughkeepsie, one of which originates at Millerton. Passenger bus service is maintained twice daily to and from Poughkeepsie and Millerton. There is also a gasoline passenger bus on the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad, besides freight and express service. Star mail routes provide rapid service.

The cause of better roads in the rural districts will undoubtedly be strengthened by the formation of a central rural school district, with the central school at Pine Plains, as is now a certainty, 20 districts having voted for the project. Better roads have always followed the formation of central district schools in all parts of the state, since the children who live out on the rural roads are transported to school by bus. Of course, the advantages which ensue from school centralization are manifold and of the highest importance. For the first time in history, rural children are able to enjoy an education which is the equal in every respect, extra-curricularly as well as curricularly, of that enjoyed by city children. City dwellers who hesitate to move to the country bcause of the previous educational disadvantages of the rural district school, will find this objection done away with. Thus real estate values are irresistibly



Pine Plains, The Beautiful, Looking West Toward Stissing Mountain

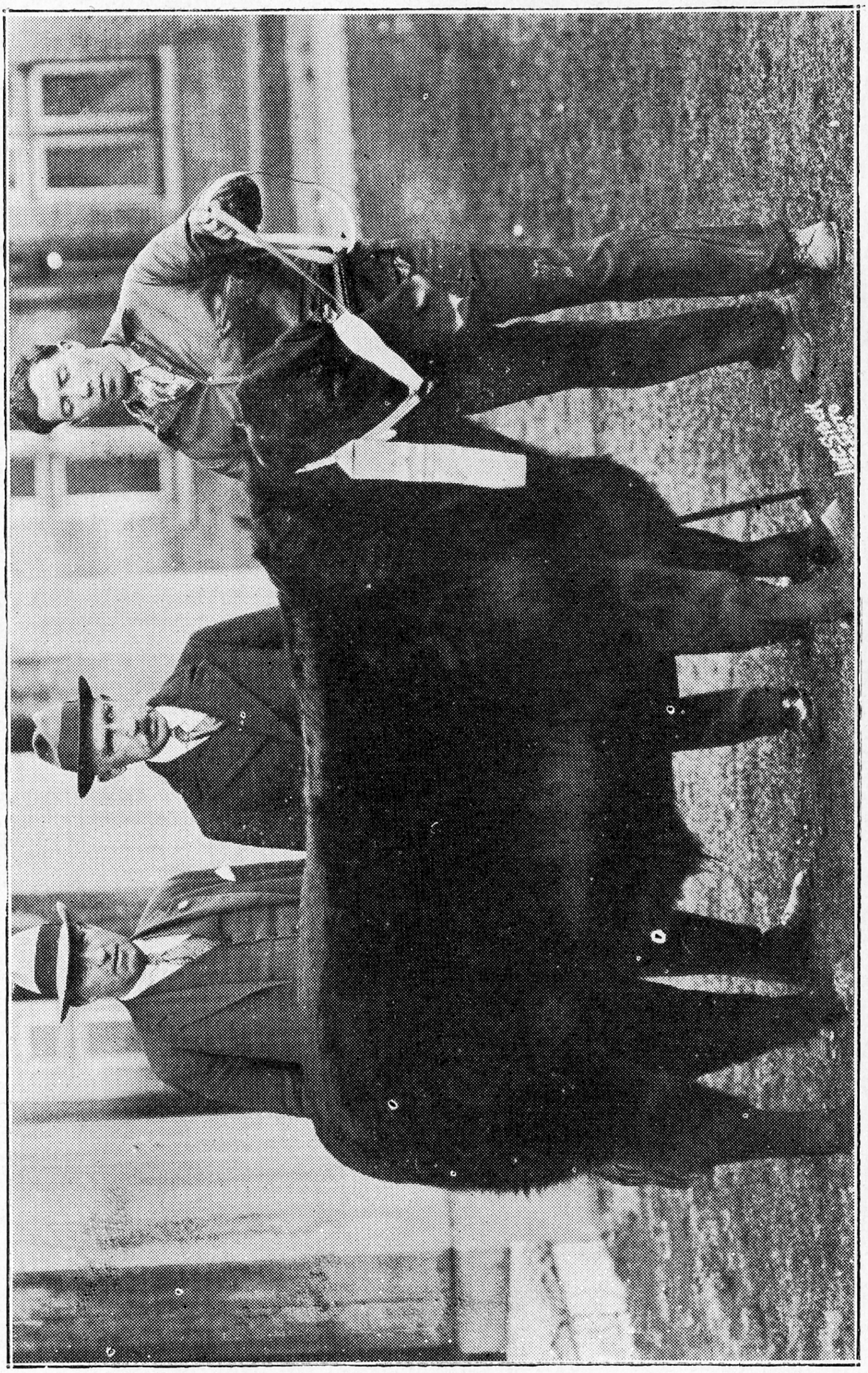
increased. There is no doubt that from every standpoint, the new central school will prove one of the most tremendous assets in the town's development that it has ever possessed or ever will.

At present there is four-room grade instruction and a high school course. Another educational institution of which the town is proud is the free library. Incorporated in 1798, as a subscription library, it has had a long and honorable history. It is now supported by town and state aid, and its stock of recent and worthwhile volumes is replenished several times a year.

The fact that this region is primarily agricultural, specializing in dairy farming, is reflected in the fact that the principal industry of the town is the Borden factory, where milk is bottled and sent away. New equipment has been installed at the factory, which is now prepared to analyze samples of milk from other milk factories in the vicinity.

Pine Plains has another claim to distinction in the agricultural world as the location of Briarcliff Farms, Inc., where Oakleigh Thorne of Millbrook, the owner, has the largest herd of beef cattle in the East, and, it might be added, the most valuable. Mr. Thorne is keenly interested in beef raising in general and Aberdeen Angus cattle in particular, and the herds have taken prize after prize in competition with the finest cattle of the world. Briarcliff Baby Beef is internationally famous and has made Pine Plains known far and wide.

Perhaps this is as good an occasion as any for mentioning that the water supply of Pine Plains is abundant. Numerous springs and streams yield an abundance of water, when other towns in the vicinity are imperiled by drought. In recent years the inhabitants have realized this blessing more than once. There are two reservoirs on Mill Hill which supply the village and there is an electric pump for use when needed. The fire hydrant system of the village is extensive and up-to-date, undergoing frequent inspections. The village homes of course have running water, and electricity for power and light is brought from Falls Village, Conn., by the Central Hudson Gas and Electric Corporation of Poughkeepsie. Other features of the village which make for comfort and convenience are concrete or flagging sidewalks and electric street lights. At the



Briarcliff Thickset, Grand Champion Steer at International Exposition, Chicago, 1931

center of the village there is a traffic light, which has undoubtedly averted many accidents.

The village possesses several public buildings, including a well-equipped Memorial Hall, which is used for numerous social, dramatic and athletic events, as well as for motion-pictures, being wired for talking films. The American Legion Post has built its own home and the Grange have also purchased a building for their own use. The Odd Fellows' lodge have bought a building and considerable property, which they have remodeled. There are also a hose house and a post office of the third class. Four religious denominations are represented, the Episcopalian, Methodist, Presbyterian and Roman Catholic. A weekly newspaper is published, the Register-Herald, formed by the merger of two journals.

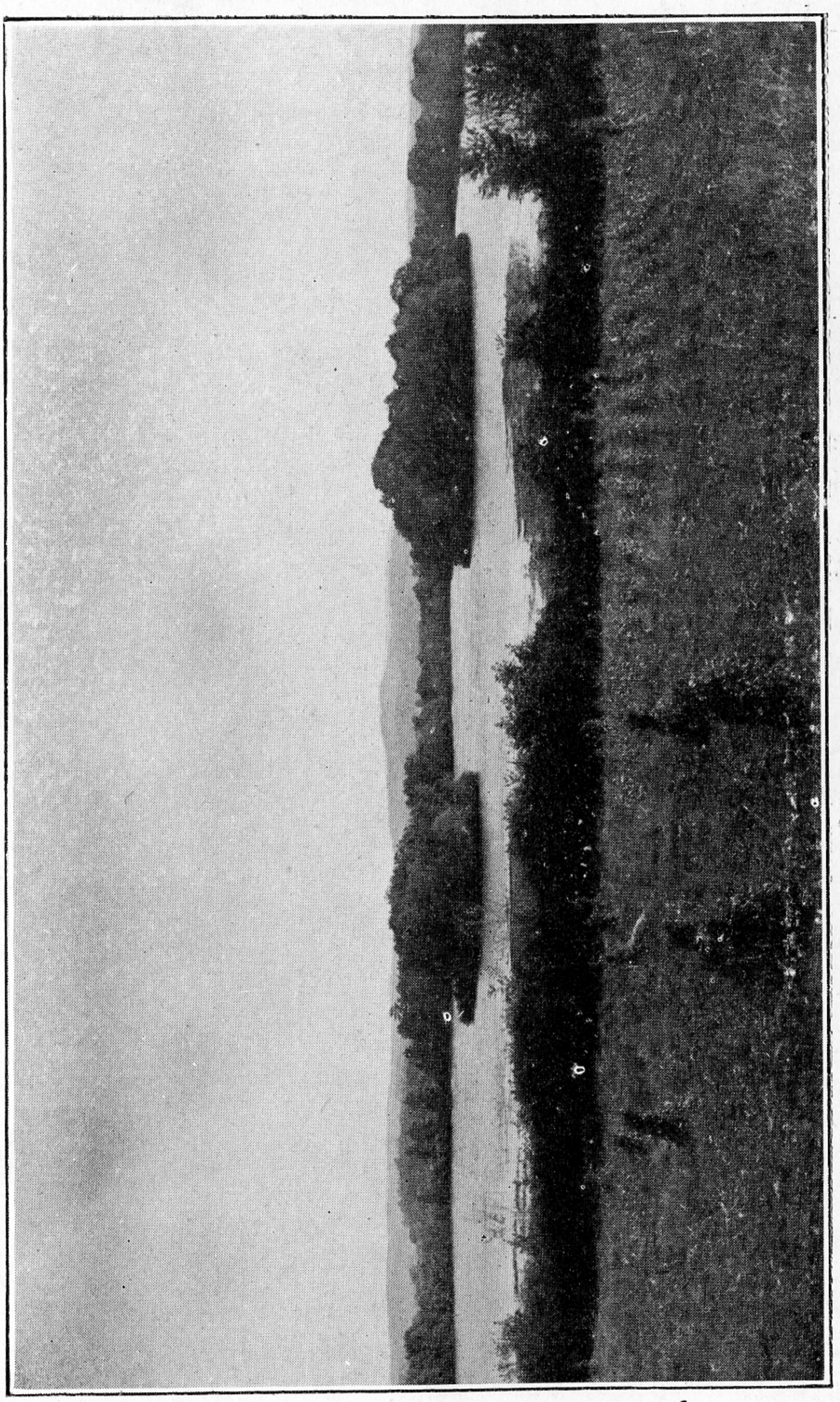
There are a restaurant, hotel and a large boarding house in the village, besides numerous other boarding houses in the vicinity. The Stissing House is on the site of one of the oldest taverns in the county, which was built in 1783. The restaurant is in the Piester Building, formerly the Ketterer Hotel, where a tavern was first constructed in 1789. The Pines is the large boarding house and enjoys a widespread reputation.

Since the town is a trading center, there are several large general stores and business establishments of various sorts, including a pharmacy, two meat markets, electric shop, jewelry store, etc. There are three garages. There has been a local bank for nearly a century, the original Pine Plains Bank having been founded in 1839. The present Stissing National Bank was founded 66 years ago. Appropriately named Evergreen Cemetery was laid out in 1852.

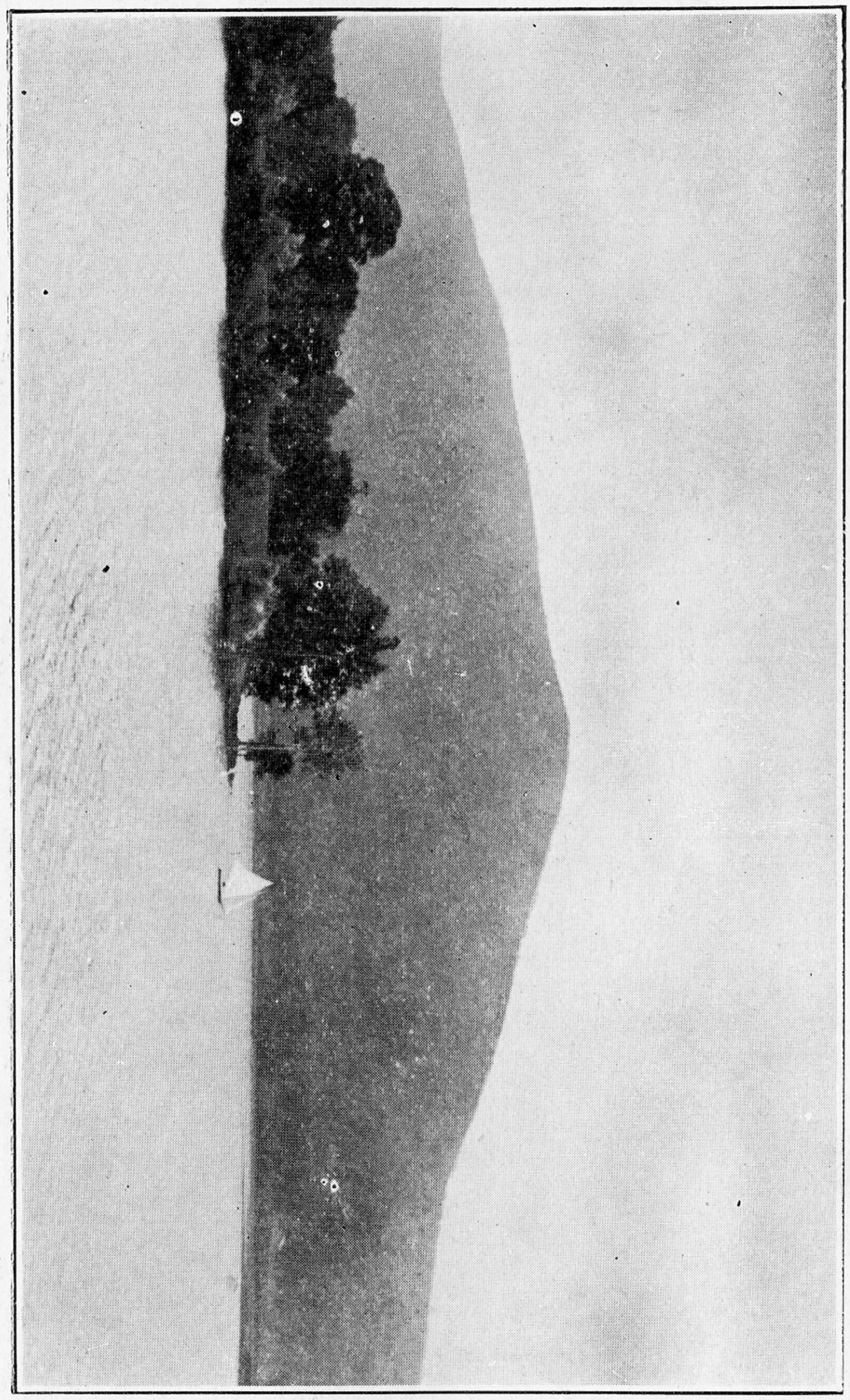
The village has many active organizations and orders, in addition to those already mentioned. There are, for example, a Masonic lodge, an Eastern Star chapter, a Parent-Teacher Association, a Garden Club, an Odd Fellows lodge, a Rod and Gun Club and several societies connected with the various churches.

In enumerating the attractions of Pine Plains, one should not forget the lure it holds for all interested in outdoor sports. Pine Plains is gaining considerable fame as a summer resort, since there is good fishing in the nearby lakes and streams, and good swimming as well. Stissing Lake Camp is a large summer camp for New York City boys and girls, who can enjoy every sort of sport.

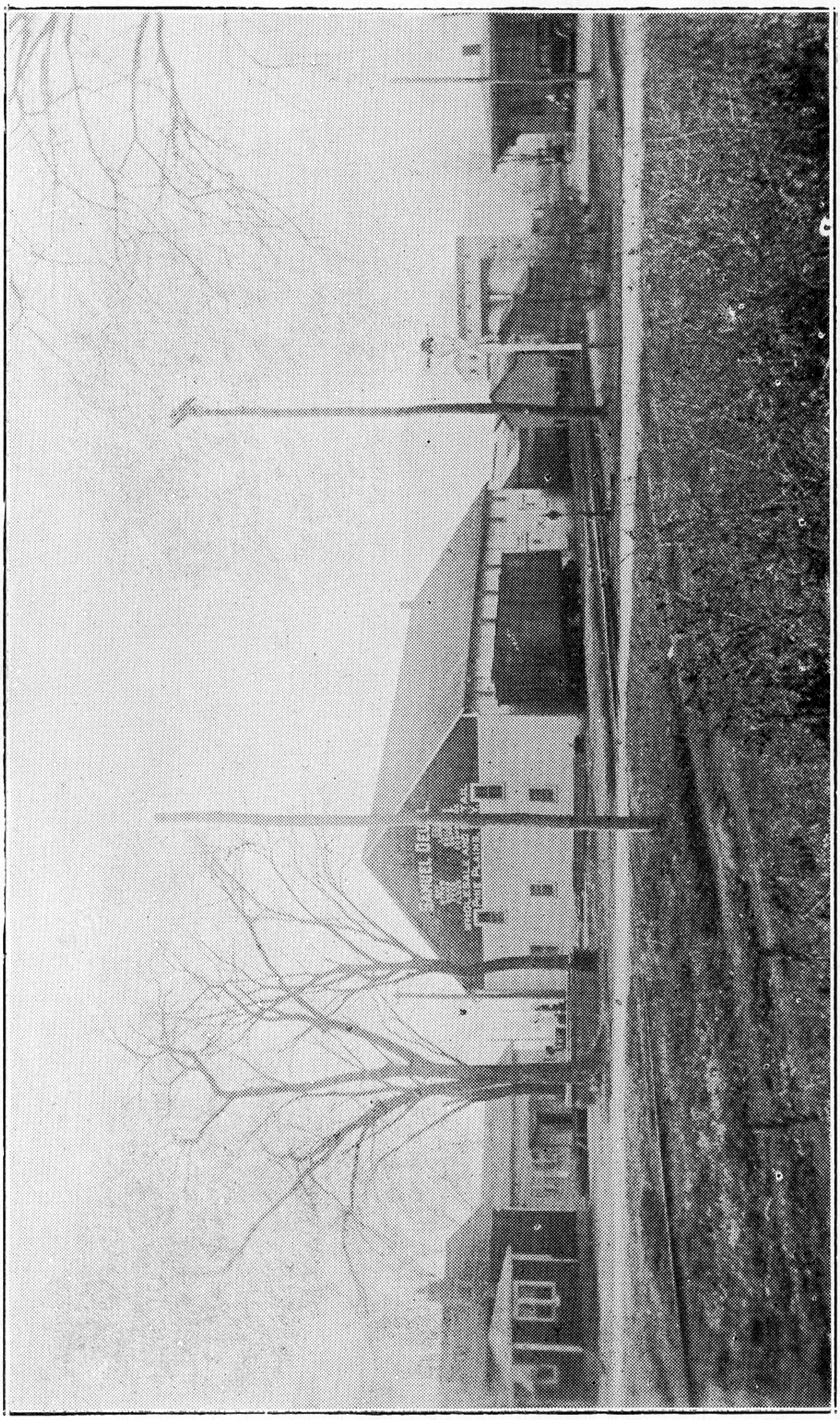
To sum it all up, Pine Plains offers every facility for an agreeable and wholesome existence. With its natural advantages of every kind, to which have been added the benefits of civilized life, it is the ideal situation for a permanent home.



Twin Islands Lake, Near Pine Plains



Stissing Lake and Stissing Mountain, Near Pine Plains



Railroad Depot and Warehouse of Samuel Deuel, Lower Main Street, Pine Plains.

A QUAINTLY HISTORIC HAMLET

IN northern Dutchess county a winding macadam road takes its leisurely way from the Hudson river in the west to the Berkshire Hills in the east. Starting at Red Hook and ending anywhere you wish, it passes through a country-side generously sprinkled with snug hamlets and friendly homes. Each place holds its own special charms and extends its individual invitation to the stranger who will take the trouble of recognizing and accepting it. Somehow, as you go, you have a feeling that Dutchess county is one of the most alluring parts of the Empire State, and that each place is a worthy neighbor of the other.

One of the smallest places on this road is Pulvers Corners. Its size, however, is not a criterion of its wealth of tradition and multitude of physical attributes. By actual count, there are only eight houses and a church in the whole place, but upon investigation each building can prove itself a center of interest to the inquiring visitor. Here is the old store where the keeper failed because he hated to collect his bills, the long house with the "ballroom," the wayside stand which is on the site of "the best blacksmith shop in the state," and the hotel where the coach from the river was accustomed to stop. It was here too that the man ate three dozen eggs, 100 clams, two cans of salmon, drank twenty-four bottles of beer and a glass of gin and went to bed hungry and sober.

And at the bottom of the hill is Maplewood, where the great-great-grandson of the Pulver who got his deed from George III is conducting a prosperous dairy business. At one time nearly all the Corners was owned by this family, but the years have seen the hotel and many of the houses fall into other hands. The present farmhouse was built in 1835, but, of course, that is the new house, and cannot claim the antiquity of some of its neighbors. South of the Corners is the Tripp farm with its classic colonial architecture and its history concerned with few owners but much activity.

All around are genuinely fertile fields and gently wooded hills. It has paid to farm here. It had to. Nowhere in the state can you see more beautiful fields of grain and fodder. Nowhere are the cattle any more attractive. And there are woods. Maple and ash and white birch provide material for incidental carpentry and

firewood as well as beauty. An occasional grey squirrel may be found here and rabbits startle you as they scurry from clusters of scrub oak and wild berry bushes.

Punch Brook is here too. One time long ago, very long ago, a thirsty farmer purchased a keg of whiskey. It was so large that when he crossed the bridge over the brook, it gave way and the contents of the keg mingled with the water. Henceforth it had a name. There is no friendlier brook in the world. It has always been the home of trout, but in recent years its natural supply has been amplified by artificial means. For a while it flows through a wide swamp where ring-necked pheasants have found shelter from cold and hunters and the domes of muskrat huts are visible here and there. Just before the brook crosses the line into Columbia county, it passes the site of an old mill. The millstone is somewhere buried under the willows, but time has left only the remains of the dam and a portion of the foundation. At one time there was a large swimming pool.

But, perhaps, the best part of Pulvers Corners is its accessibility. Although it contains all the advantages and traditional requisites of a rural community, it is really very centrally located. The nearest town is Pine Plains four miles away, where the needs of the section are supplied by numerous stores, four churches, a creamery and a central district school. Pulvers Corners is included in the formation of the centralized school at Pine Plains, which will extend the advantages of the best urban education to the surrounding rural districts. Poughkeepsie is only 30 miles south and Millerton, where connections with the Harlem division of the New York Central railroad may be made, is only six miles east. Pulvers Corners is approximately a few miles less than a hundred miles from New York City.

The future of the Corners is apparently to be that of so much of the East. As each year passes one or two areas are turned into fine summer estates. Only those whose very roots are deep in the soil are remaining to lend their genuine love and affection for the place to the beauty of the country. As long as this condition remains, we may rest assured that at least a remnant of the old up-state New York will not lose its identity in the onrush of industrialism, but will be preserved for the satisfaction of generations to come.