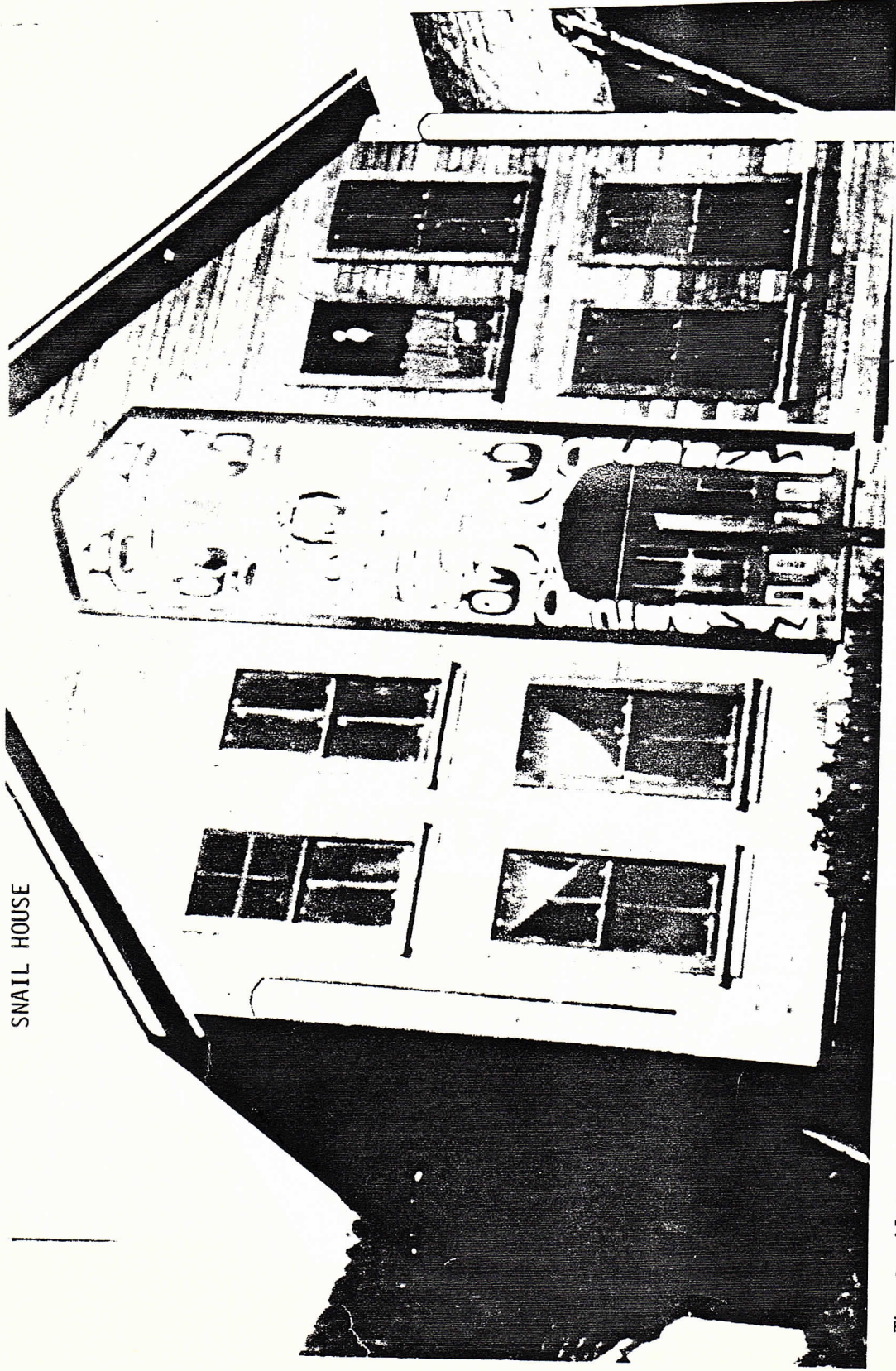


SNAIL HOUSE



The Snail House is one of the oldest and main houses in Hoonah. Several of the other houses came from this house. The Snail House was rebuilt four times, then it burnt down with the town in 1944. They finished rebuilding the Snail House for the fourth time in 1915. The Raven tribe payed the Eagle tribe to rebuild it for them. The building was 60 feet wide and 80 to 100 feet long. The first floor was one big room. The second floor was four big rooms. The carving on the front was two or three inches thick, eight feet wide, and forty feet high. Sam McKinley, Jim Marks, and six others helped carve it. The carving was cut into blocks because it was too heavy to lift.

After the building was finished they had a celebration. Nobody smoked or drank then. The Snail House went by two other names: first and foremost it was the Mt. Fairweather House and some say it was sometimes called the Snake House. There are no chiefs in Hoonah now, but there are head men. For the Snail house they are Leonard Davis, David Kadashan, Matthew Lawrence, and Richard Moses. Some of the main chiefs before the fire were Frank St. Clair, John K. Smith, John C. Johnson, Charlie Jack Sr. and Archie White. All of these men are Ravens. They had a dance every Saturday night at the Snail House.