

REQUEST FOR REVIEW

Date: July 31, 2009

From and Return to: PUBLIC WORKS, 1000 City Hall Annex, 25 W. 4th. St. Paul MN 55102
Terri Vasquez, phone: 651-266-6128 fax: 651-266-8855 e-mail: terri.vasquez@ci.stpaul.mn.us

To:	1. Sewer Engineering	Larry Ackerman	700 City Hall Annex
	2. Street Engineering	Pete Gallagher	900 City Hall Annex
	3. Technical Services	Colleen Paavola	1000 City Hall Annex
	4. Traffic Engineering	Linda Murphy	800 City Hall Annex
	5. Traffic Lighting/Signals	John Moriarty	800 City Hall Annex
	6. Street Maintenance	Kevin Nelson	900 City Hall Annex
	7. Sidewalks	Al Czaja	900 City Hall Annex
	8. Bridge Dept.	Glenn Pagel	800 City Hall Annex
	9. City Forestry	Greg Reese	300 City Hall Annex
	10. Water Utility	Dolly Ludden	1900 N. Rice St. Maplewood
	11. Building Dept. (DSI)	Jim Bloom	375 Jackson Street
	12. Dept. of Fire & Safety	Angie Leitner	375 Jackson Street
	13. Comcast	Scott Ruppert	2611 Fairview Ave.N. Roseville
	14. Qwest Communications	Ross Larson	390 Commerce Dr. Woodbury
	15. Xcel-Electric Division	Bernie Gille	825 Rice Street
	16. Xcel-Gas Distribution	James Zakerski	825 Rice Street
	17. District Energy	David Urke	76 W. Kellogg Blvd
	18. Transportation Planning	Michael Klassen	1500 City Hall Annex
	19. Ordinance Enforcement	Henry Ung	899 N. Dale St.
	20. Right-of-Way	Don Stein	800 City Hall Annex

Re: **Encroachment Permit Request**

Permit# 09-0633

FOR: Retaining wall

LOCATION: behind 1433 Raymond Ave. (south of Buford)

REASON FOR REQUEST: replacing existing after fire

DATE DUE BACK: August 5, 2009 to submitting department.

Your comments here:

July 30, 2009

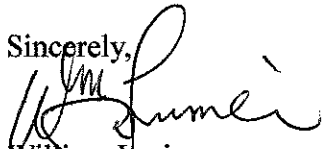
Dear Department of Safety and Inspections:

Upon meeting with Steve Ubl, Building Inspector, on July 28 I learned that I had inadvertently built the lowest tier of my three tier retaining wall about two feet into the unimproved alley right-of-way. He urged me to seek a variance from the City of St. Paul.


I respectfully seek such a variance based on the following facts:

1. I used for the line of my outermost wall the alley-ward end of the original lower landing of my concrete steps leading down into the alleyway. These steps (since removed) predated our ownership of this property in 1976 and were apparently installed at the same time as the original wall (see photo #1 with handrail of original stairway). I needed to replace this wall because it was collapsing, a process accelerated by the water used to extinguish our garage fire in late December 2007 (see printed sheet of burned garage with crumbling wall on the left side). Wall replacement was also endorsed by Mr. Ubl at the time I applied for a work permit to repair the garage.
2. Our alley is unimproved and over the years has sunk below the original grade by as much as 22 inches to create the roadway used by service vehicles and others (see photo #2). This has produced a roadway roughly in the middle of the right-of-way with clearly defined berms on the sides (see photo #3). Parts of the berms have been rip-rapped to prevent erosion (see photo #4).
3. When I spoke with the County Surveyor I asked him to check the alley width on the plat map. He did so and told me there is no designated width for this alley, but suggested that most of the alleys in St. Anthony Park are 20 feet, so this one probably is as well.
4. Trees have grown in the berms alongside the roadway inside the probable 20 foot right-of-way (see photos #5 & 6).
5. My outermost wall is in the berm approximately three feet back from the sunken roadway (see photo #7).
6. My immediate neighbor to the north on my side of the alley has two concrete slabs adjoining his garage. One extends two feet and the other three feet farther into the alley than my wall (see photos #8 & 9).
7. My wall and its plantings will stabilize and beautify this area significantly while creating no impediments to those who use the alley (see photo #10).

Sincerely,


William Lorimer

1433 Raymond Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55108

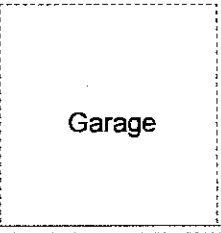

246-9953

1433 Raymond Ave.



150'

50'



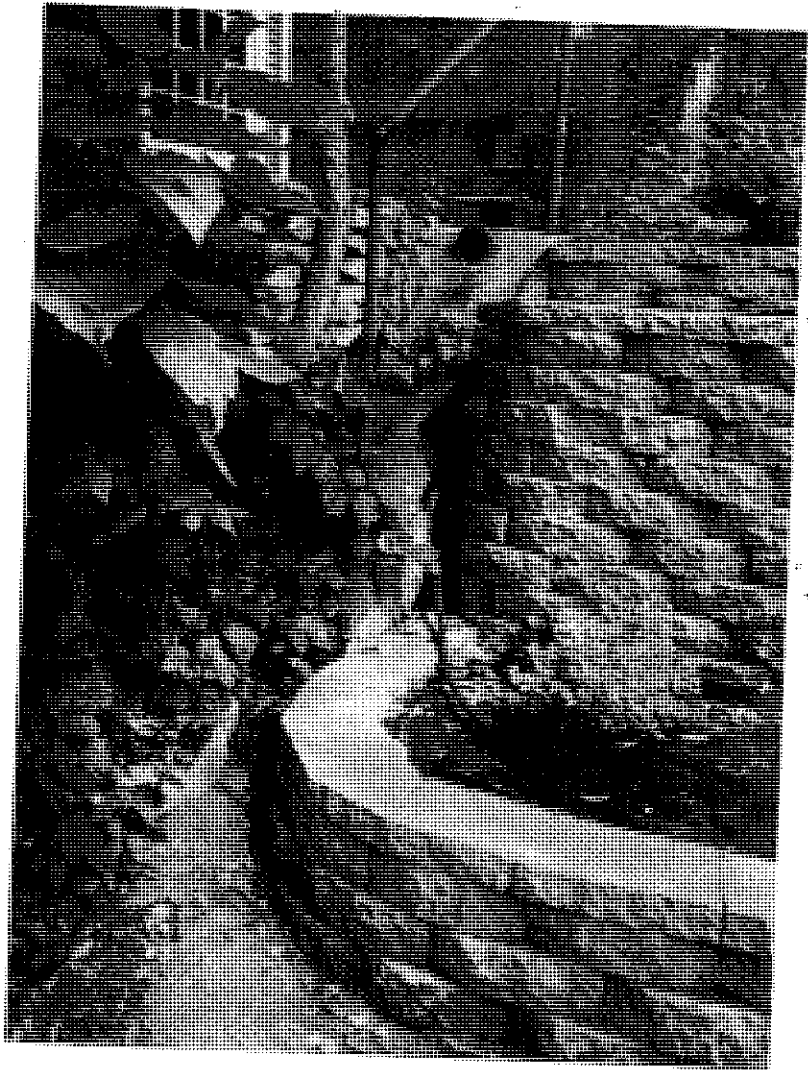
18.5' x 7.5'
Retaining Wall

Berm Berm Tree

Lines of sunken roadway

Unimproved Alley

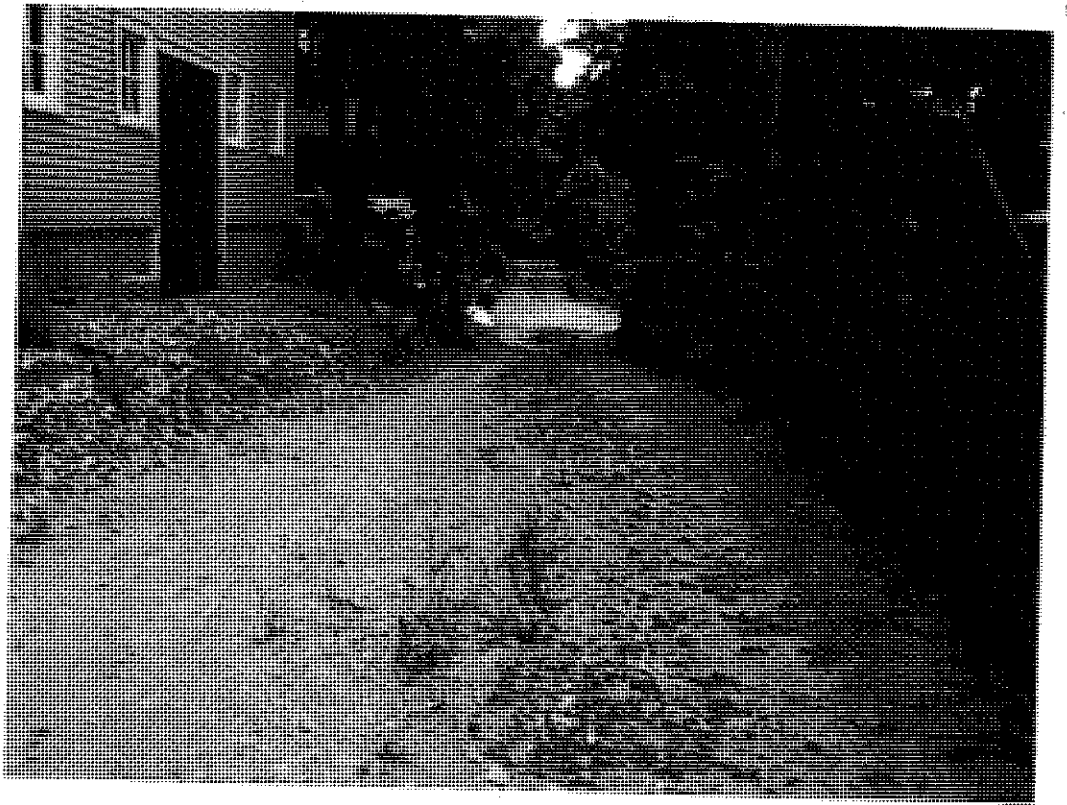
Photo #1





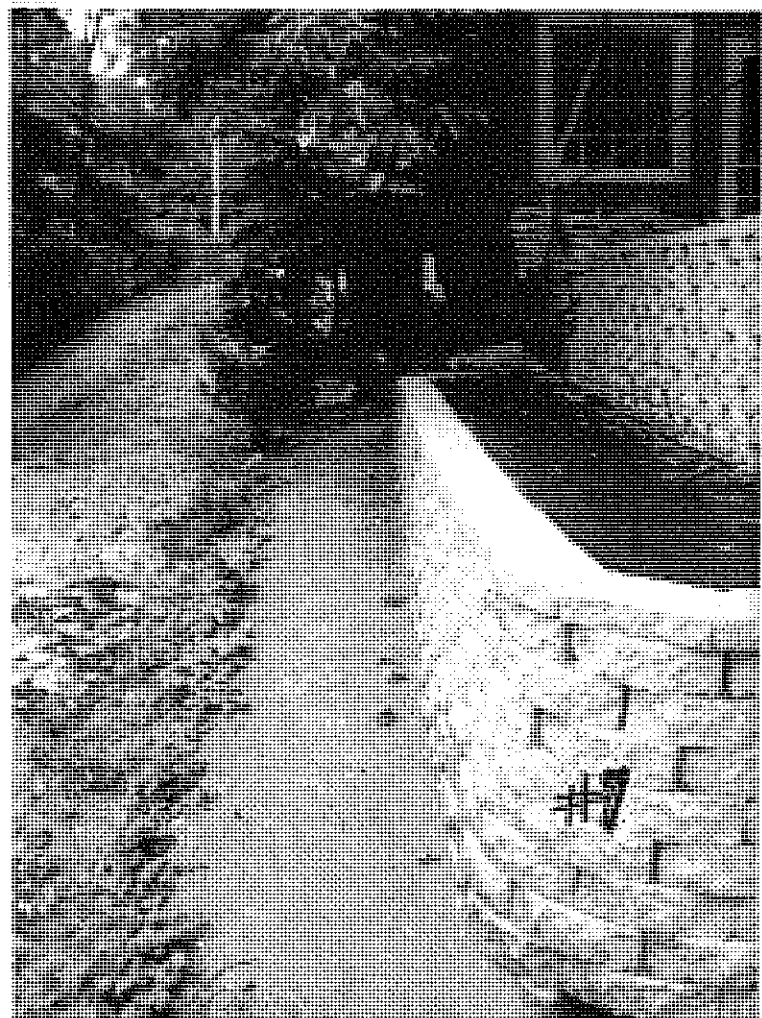
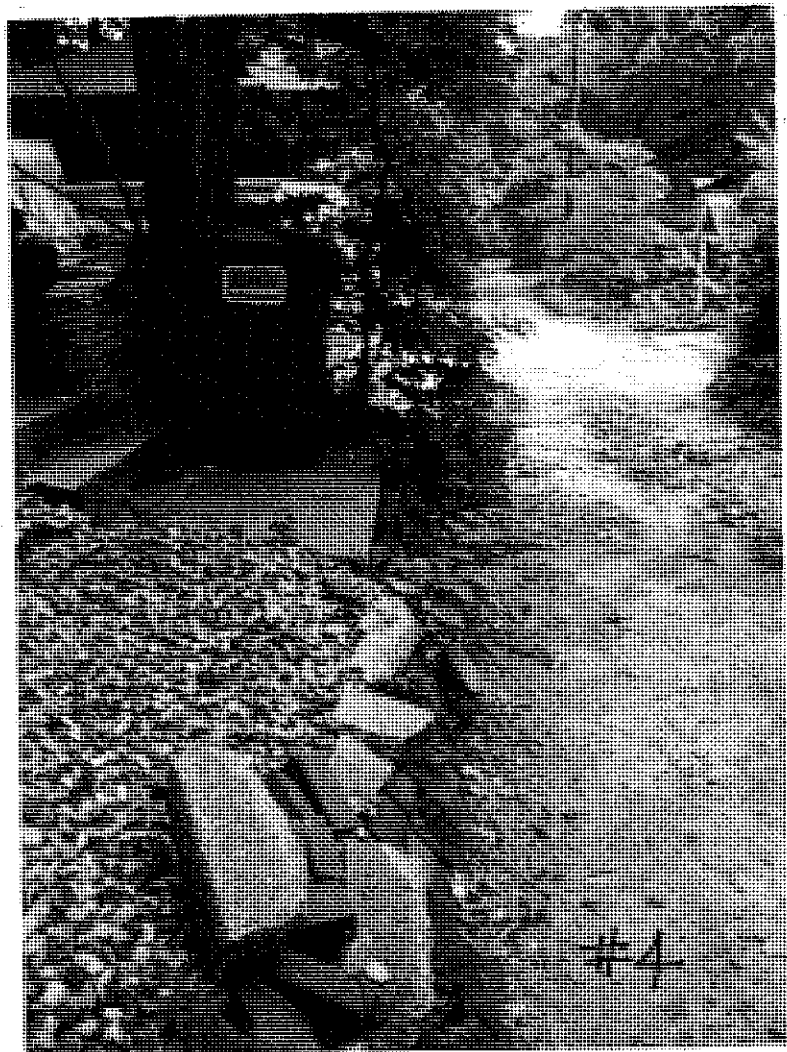
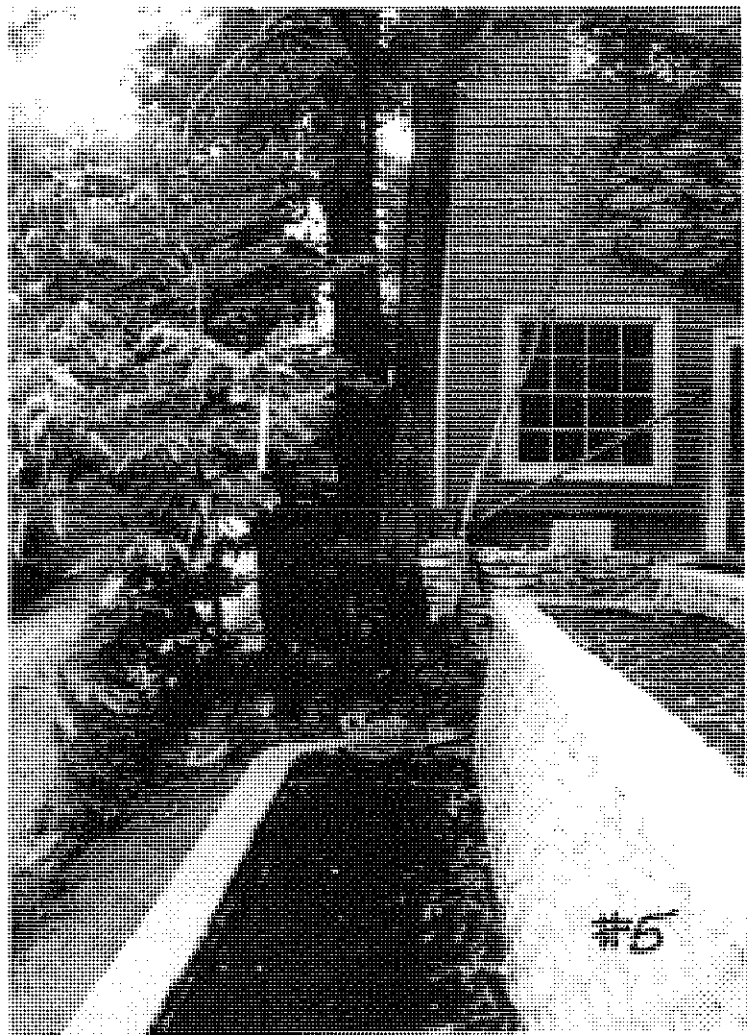
Damaged wall was even further collapsed by the following Spring due to water freezing behind it.

#2

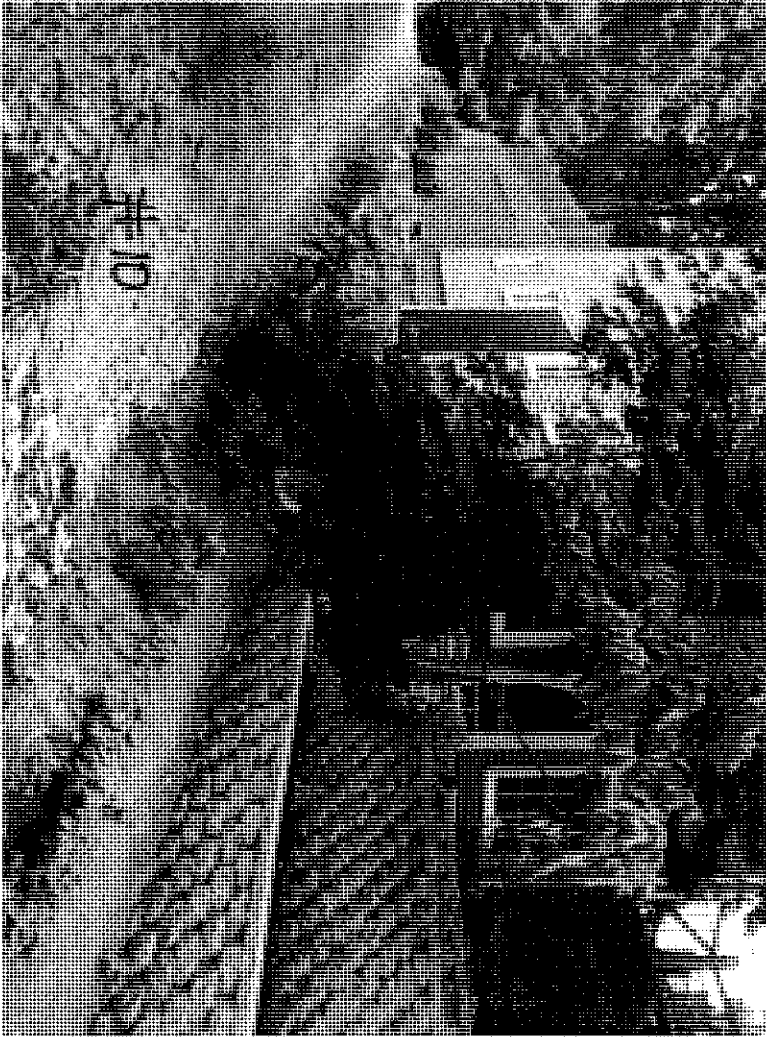
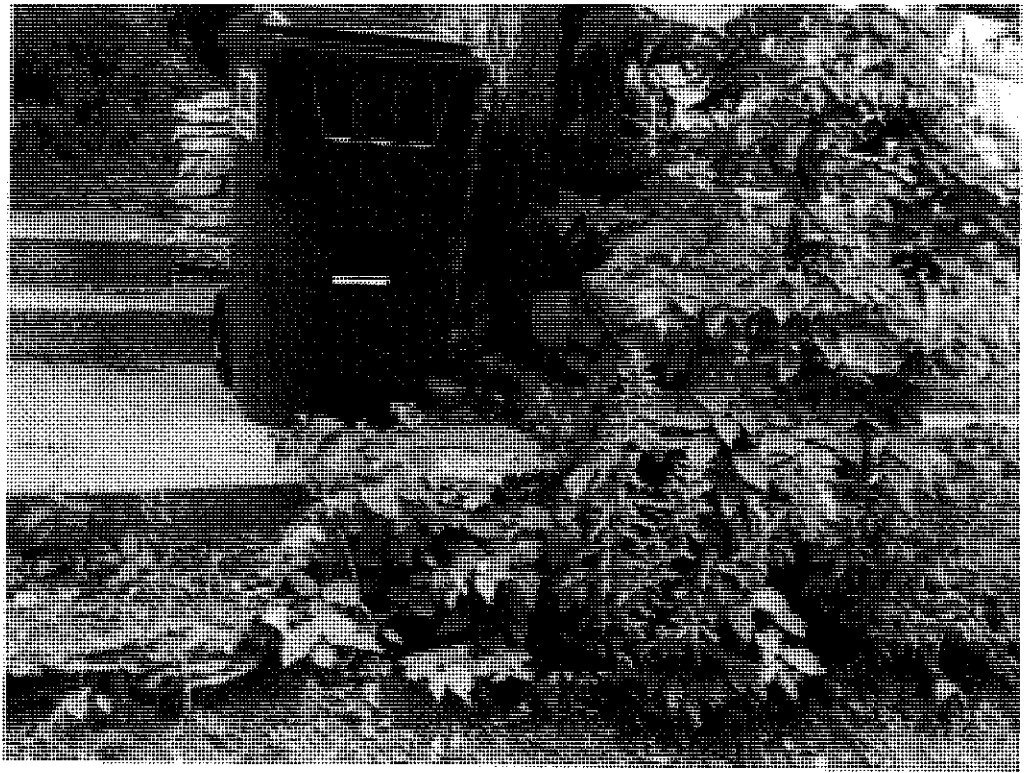


#3

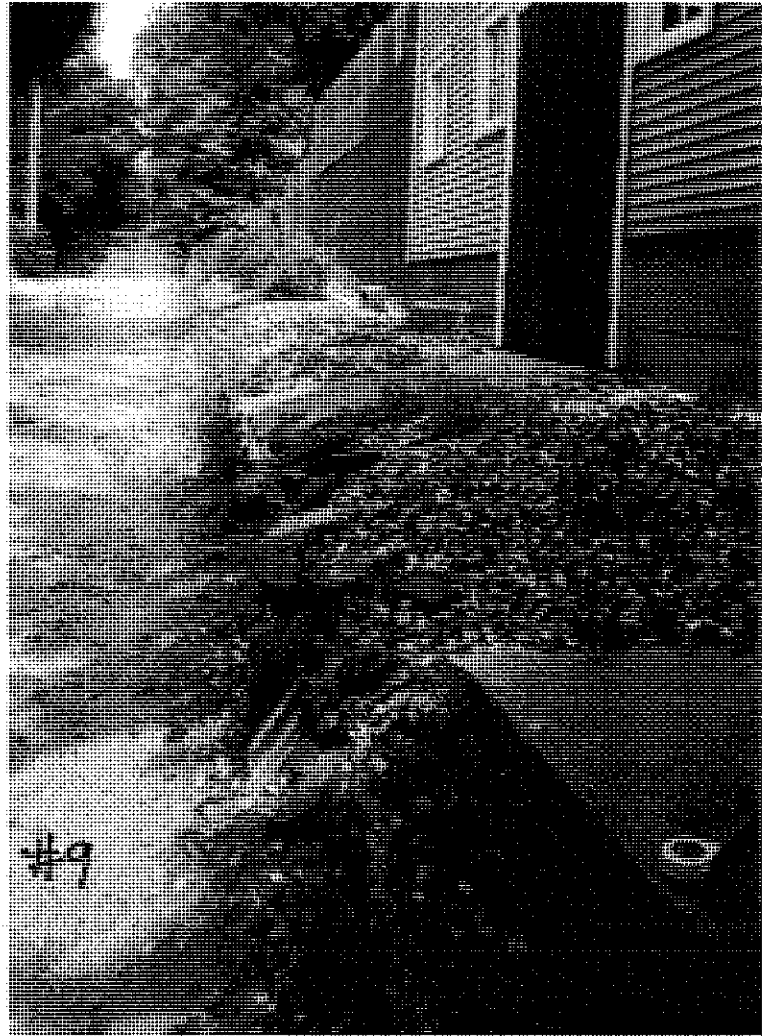




#8



#10



#9