

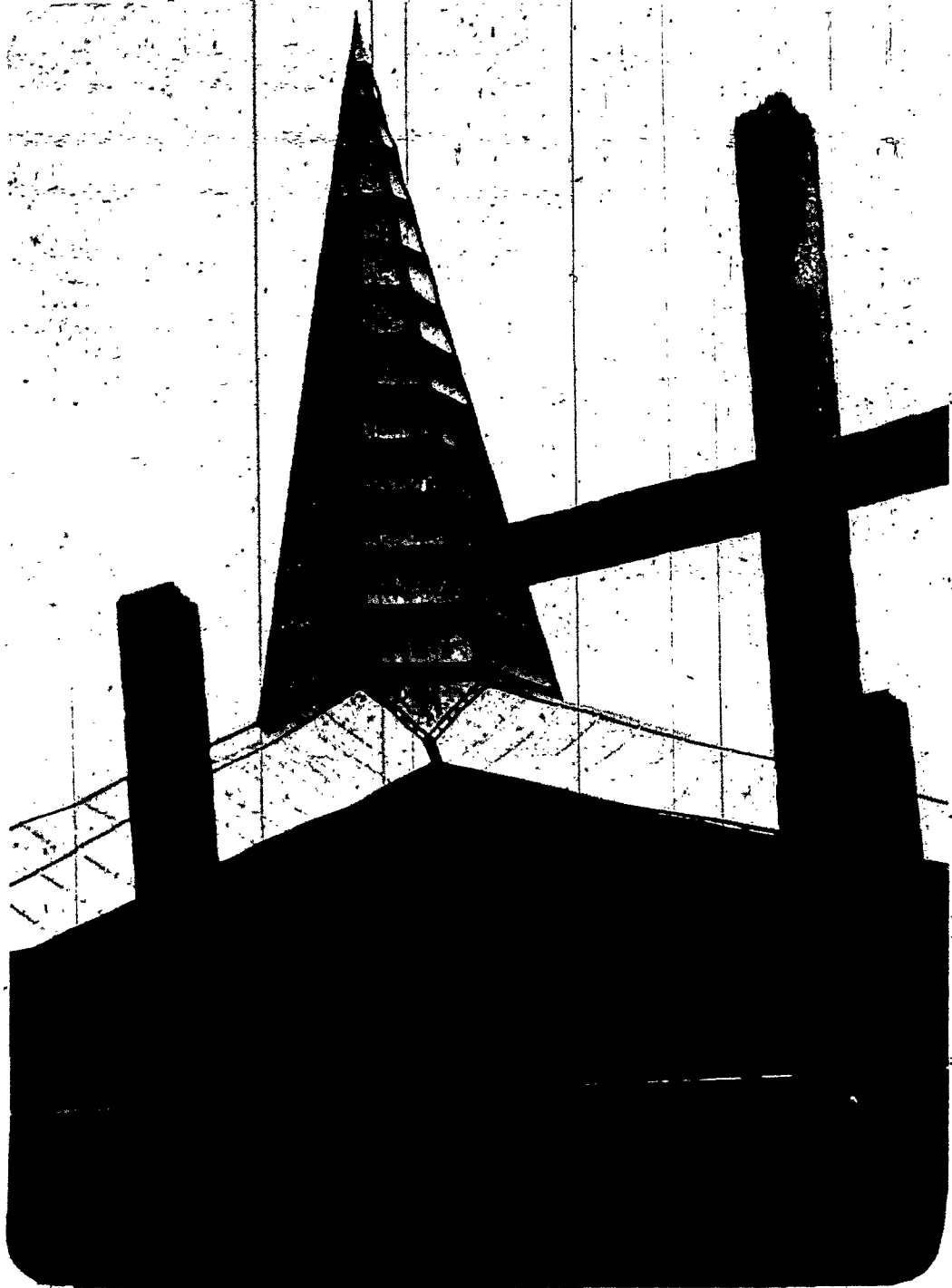
# STEEPLES

For all of recorded history, men have erected spires, obelisks, steeples, pyramids and simple piles of stone to mark specially significant places and events. Something there is about a slender, tapering structure that creates a still and respectful silence in the mind of the beholder.

Early in its history, Christianity took over this practice for the purpose of religious worship, mounting the spire often times on top of a tower to produce what is technically known as a steeple.

The practical uses of what usually was the tallest structure of the community did not escape medieval Christians. The belfry, where hung the bells which announced the time to peasants and townsmen alike, for a long time signalled the opening of worship; in many cases now, the bells have been replaced by large clock-faces.

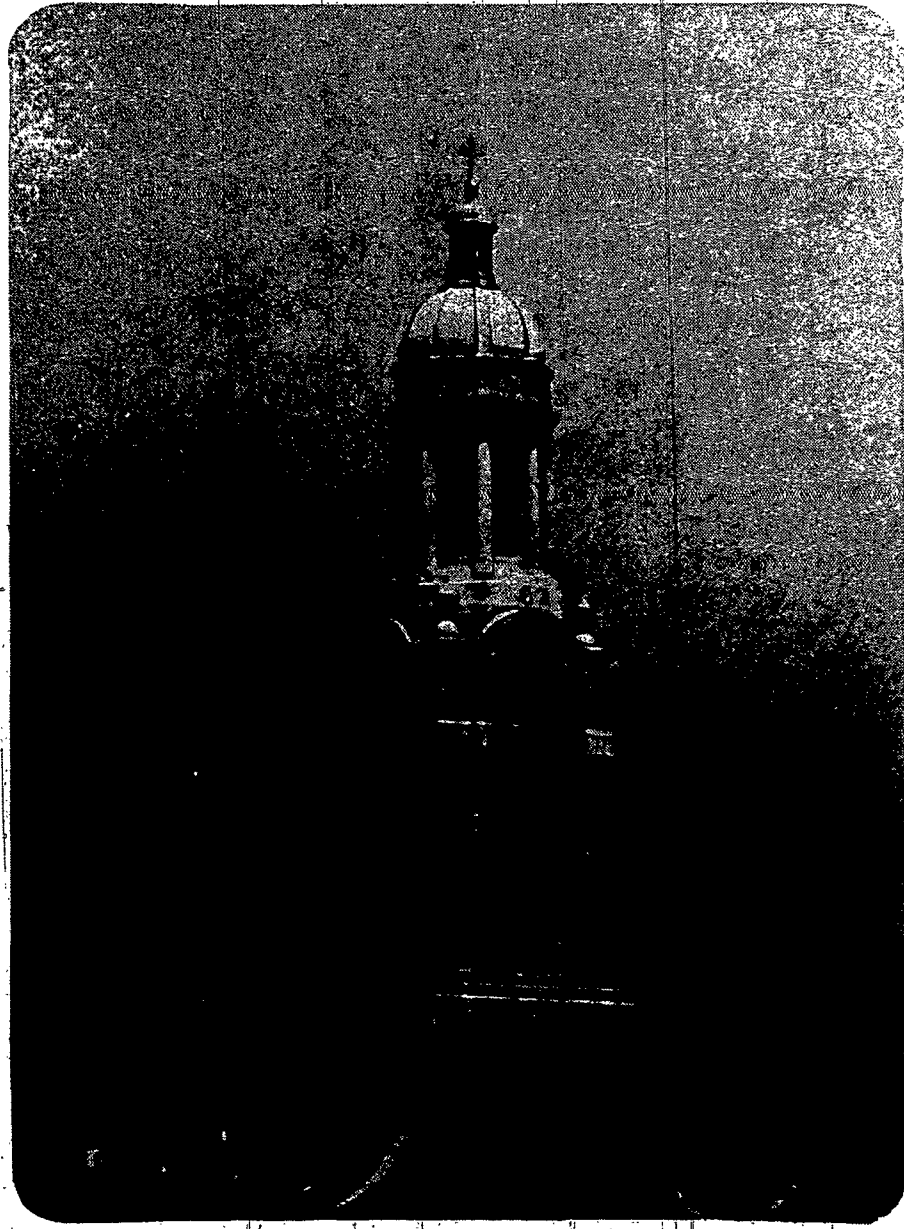
Some church steeples in Rochester have both bells and clock, such as St. Joseph's. Other, less ornate churches have only simple spires, plain or decorated simply with a cross.



Church of the Annunciation, Rochester



St. Patrick's Church, Victor



St. Joseph's Church, Rochester