

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

32-2335

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See Instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the Instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Type all entries.

1 Name of Property

historic name Finch, John A., Memorial Nurses Home
other names/site number Finch Hall

2 Location

street & number N. 852 Summit Blvd ☐ not for publication
city, town Spokane ☐ vicinity
state Washington code WA county Spokane code 063 zip code 99201

3 Classification

Ownership of Property

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
1	—
—	—
—	—
1	—
	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4 State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

State or Federal agency and bureau

3/28/91
Date

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5 National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is

- ☐ entered in the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet
☐ determined eligible for the National Register ☐ See continuation sheet
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other, (explain) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Health Care

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Unoccupied

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th & 20th Century Revivals
Italian Romanesque Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete
walls exterior brick
interior concrete
roof tile
other

Describe present and historic physical appearance

The John A Finch Memorial Nurses Home is a three and one-half story rectangular building constructed of a reinforced concrete frame and faced in buff and tan brick. The building is located on a triangle of land that housed the St. Luke's Hospital complex between Summit Boulevard, Dean, and A Streets in Spokane. Summit Boulevard runs along the east bank of the Spokane River on the northwest side of the city. The building faces west on Summit and looks across the boulevard to the banks of the river. Directly across the river are the green lawns of Riverside Cemetery. The building retains excellent exterior integrity, good interior integrity, and is presently being converted to rental housing.

Constructed in 1928-29, the building is built on a rectangular plan with a symmetrical facade and reflects elements of the Romanesque Revival style, particularly as reflected in the compound arch entry portal on the facade. The building rests on a concrete foundation and rises to a hip roof covered with red-orange and tan tiles. Seven shed roof dormers project from the roof, three on each side of a larger central dormer. The dormers are lighted by six-pane casement windows and are faced with the same tiles as the main roof. The cornice has a row of brick dentils, directly below is a protruding band of brick encircling the building. There is a brick water table above the concrete foundation.

The facade of the building is divided into two wide bays on either side of a slightly projecting central pavilion. Each bay contains four double-hung six-over-one windows with brick sills at each floor level. The center bay is set off by a brick design. On the first floor, narrow windows with four-over-one lights frame each side of the compound arch entry. The entry is accessed by a granite stoop. The double metal door features glazed upper panels. Above the door is a half-round window of reinforced glass that probably replaces an earlier light. To either side of the entry are large wrought iron coach lamps. Above the entry is a granite panel with the carved inscription "John A Finch Memorial Nurses Home." Directly above the granite panel are three double hung windows. The center window has six-over-one lights, while the flanking windows have four-over-one lights.

Each story of the north and south side elevations is lighted with six-over-one double hung windows on either side of central glazed metal frame doors leading to fire escapes. On the rear elevation is a single story flat roof pentagonal bay that houses the living room of the dorm. The parapet of the rear bay has a design of pierced brickwork with a brick rail. The bay is entered through French doors and lighted by double hung six-over-one windows.

The interior of the building is constructed of reinforced concrete, with terrazzo floors and concrete walls. The interior stair balustrade is composed of alternating straight and twisted wrought iron balusters topped with a curved wood railing. The floor plan includes small dormitory rooms along double loaded corridors.

☒ See continuation sheet

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with some common spaces on the first floor. The original mahogany doors remain on the closets of many rooms, and many of the built-in drawers are faced with quarter-sawn oak. Some of the interior doors are wood and some metal grained to resemble wood. The interior of living room bay on the first floor features a beamed ceiling, with brackets, and a fireplace with decorative tile work.

The grounds surrounding the building include a concrete walkway that encircles the building and leads to the front entry. A tennis court is surrounded by a high metal fence. There are twin firs in the front lawn and a rotted wooden flag pole.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Health/Medicine

Period of Significance

1928-1941

Significant Dates

N.A.

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Whitehouse & Price, architects

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above

Opened in 1929, the John A Finch Memorial Nurses Home is the oldest remaining building and the last intact structure associated with the three diploma nursing schools that once existed in Spokane, a city considered a major medical center in the Pacific Northwest. St Luke's Hospital, with which the school was affiliated, was the only hospital serving the north side of the city from its construction on Summit Boulevard in 1904 until 1964, when Holy Family Hospital was erected. Mining entrepreneur John A Finch donated most of the land for the hospital and his trust provided the funds for the dormitory, which was designed by distinguished Spokane architects Whitehouse and Price. The nurses hall opened in response to the need for living quarters for the rapidly expanding nurses training program, and remained the primary facility through the existence of the program. The building retains good exterior and interior integrity and strongly reflects the growth of professional nursing in Spokane.

Historical Background The three major hospitals in the Inland Northwest were all established in the late 19th century in an attempt to serve the growing population of Spokane. The first hospital in the young city was Sacred Heart, opened by the Sisters of Providence in 1886. In the mid-1890s, the Maria Beard Deaconess Home opened, eventually evolving into Deaconess Hospital. The third hospital--St Luke's--was opened by Spokane Episcopalians in 1897. The downtown facility, originally known as the Spokane Protestant Sanitarium, reflected the growth of the city and a strong desire by the Protestant community for a health facility of its own. Though the Episcopal bishop and prominent church members were on the initial and subsequent boards, the hospital was officially non-sectarian.

In 1904, St Luke's moved to new quarters on Summit Boulevard in a building designed by architect Albert Held. Until 1940, the hospital expanded its north side campus, adding wings and additions to the original building until it was a large complex. The Shrine Hospital for Crippled Children started in 1924 in a mobile unit on the grounds. In 1939, it moved into a new building that still remains.

Much of the financial support for the growing hospital was provided by mining magnate John Finch. Finch, together with his partner A. B. Campbell, acquired the Gem, Standard, and Hecla mines in the Coeur d'Alenes. In the Slocan area of southern British Columbia they owned the Standard and Enterprise mines. Finch and Campbell expanded into other businesses as well, including fruit, lumber, and hardware. Finch was active in community affairs, serving on the boards and donating large amounts of money to a variety of charities. Three of his favorites were the Children's Home, the Spokane park system, and St Luke's Hospital. An Episcopalian, he donated the land for the hospital on the north side.

☒ See continuation sheet

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and money for equipping it. When he died in 1915, 40 percent of his estate was left in trust, providing money to build and furnish the new nurses dormitory in 1929

By that time, nurses training was well established both in the United States and Spokane. The first nurses training schools in America were opened in the 1870s. Over the next 20 years the programs expanded so rapidly that by the 1890s the medical profession was demanding better training and stricter standards for the schools. In response, many hospitals started their own in-house training programs. In Spokane, Sacred Heart began a training program in 1898, with Deaconess and St. Luke's beginning programs the following year. In each instance, the course was two years in length (later expanded to three years) with the nurses living in the hospitals, sleeping on cots, working long hours, and taking classes either on the job or in the doctors' offices.

The shortage of trained nurses during World War I was a major turning point for the profession. There was an increased need for nurses training programs and the three Spokane hospitals responded by expanding their programs and building separate dormitory facilities for the women in training who came from communities all over the Northwest. These new programs were diploma schools, the nurses who completed training through the hospitals received diplomas and took state examinations to become registered nurses. The schools had full-time professional instructors, standards and requirements were strict and came under state regulation. A peak period of nurses training occurred in the 1930s and the early 1940s, with a particularly acute shortage of nurses occurring in the early years of World War II. To cope, many hospitals enlarged their training programs and even established scholarship programs to encourage enrollment.

As technology advanced, nurses training became more complex and the profession leaned toward baccalaureate programs offered through colleges and universities. During the 1950s, Washington State University initiated a degree program in nursing. The students studied on the Pullman campus and then moved to Finch Hall while completing hospital training through St. Luke's. As a result of programs like that at WSU, hospital programs began to phase out throughout the country. St. Luke's School of Nursing closed in 1965, as did the other two hospital programs in Spokane, and consolidated with the Intercollegiate School of Nursing established by Ft. Wright College, Whitworth College, Washington State University, and Eastern Washington University, offering a Bachelor of Science degree.

The nursing dormitory built at St. Luke's was completed during the heyday of the hospital training programs. The building was constructed in a vaguely Italian Romanesque Revival style and was constructed of reinforced concrete faced with brick. Architects Harold Whitehouse and Ernest Price, who designed the structure, were educated at Cornell University and formed a partnership in Spokane in the early 20th century. Over the next half century, the firm designed courthouses, banks, schools, churches, libraries, and hospitals in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana. Their work included campus

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buildings at the University of Washington, Washington State University, and the University of Idaho, and the firm was particularly favored by the Episcopal church, for which it designed the monumental St John's Cathedral in Spokane (1926-1954)

Other nurses dormitories have not fared as well as Finch Hall. The buildings that housed the Deaconess program have been demolished. Sacred Heart Hospital demolished its original buildings, and constructed a new nurses dorm in 1946 which, in turn, was remodelled into St Joseph's Care Center. Lindsay Hall, a second nursing dorm constructed for St Luke's in 1945, was converted into the hospital's Geriatrics Department in 1952. It is now owned by the Salvation Army. Only Finch Hall, which continued to serve into the 1960s, strongly reflects the diploma nurses programs that flourished in the city in the early and mid-20th century.

9 Major Bibliographical Reference

Durham, N W, *Spokane & the Inland Empire*, V III, Spokane S J Clarke Publishing Co, 1912
Personal interview, Carolyn H Hunter, Director, Continuing Education, Intercollegiate School of Nursing, August 1990

R L Polk Spokane City Directories

Redeman, Clara, *Our First Forty Years*, Caldwell, Idaho Caxton Press, 1941

Sacred Heart Hospital, *Fifty Golden Years*, Spokane Acme Stamp & Printing Co, 1936.

St Luke's Memorial Hospital, *Pulse*, June-July 1970

Sanborn Insurance Maps of Spokane, 1910 & 1952.

Spokesman-Review, Spokane February 22, 25, 27, 1896, April 8, 1901, June 23, 1904, June 20, 1905, December 5, 27, 1903, March 28, 1905, July 14, 1912, January 29, 1917, June 29, 1920, December 20, 1925, June 12, 1928, July 7, 1940, September 8, 1940, May 3, 1942; March 15, 1949; February 7, 1964, July 23, 1972

Woodbridge, Sally, *Building Through Time*, Portola Valley, California American Lives Endowment, 1981

☐ See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)
has been requested

☐ previously listed in the National Register

☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings

Survey # _____

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering

Record # _____

Primary location of additional data

☐ State historic preservation office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Specify repository _____

10 Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one

UTM References

A 11 465885 5279040
Zone Easting Northing

C _____
Zone Easting Northing

B _____
Zone Easting Northing

D _____
Zone Easting Northing

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The property contains four 50 foot lots and 15 feet of a fifth lot Lots 6 through 9 and northwesterly 15 feet of Lot 10, Block 4, Sherwood Addition These lots run along Summit Boulevard and are 120 feet deep

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Finch Memorial Nurses Home

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Nancy Gale Compau/Historian, edited by L. Garfield

organization _____

street & number 2935 S Howard

city or town Spokane

date

telephone

state

September 1990 (edited Feb 1991)

(509) 624-4927

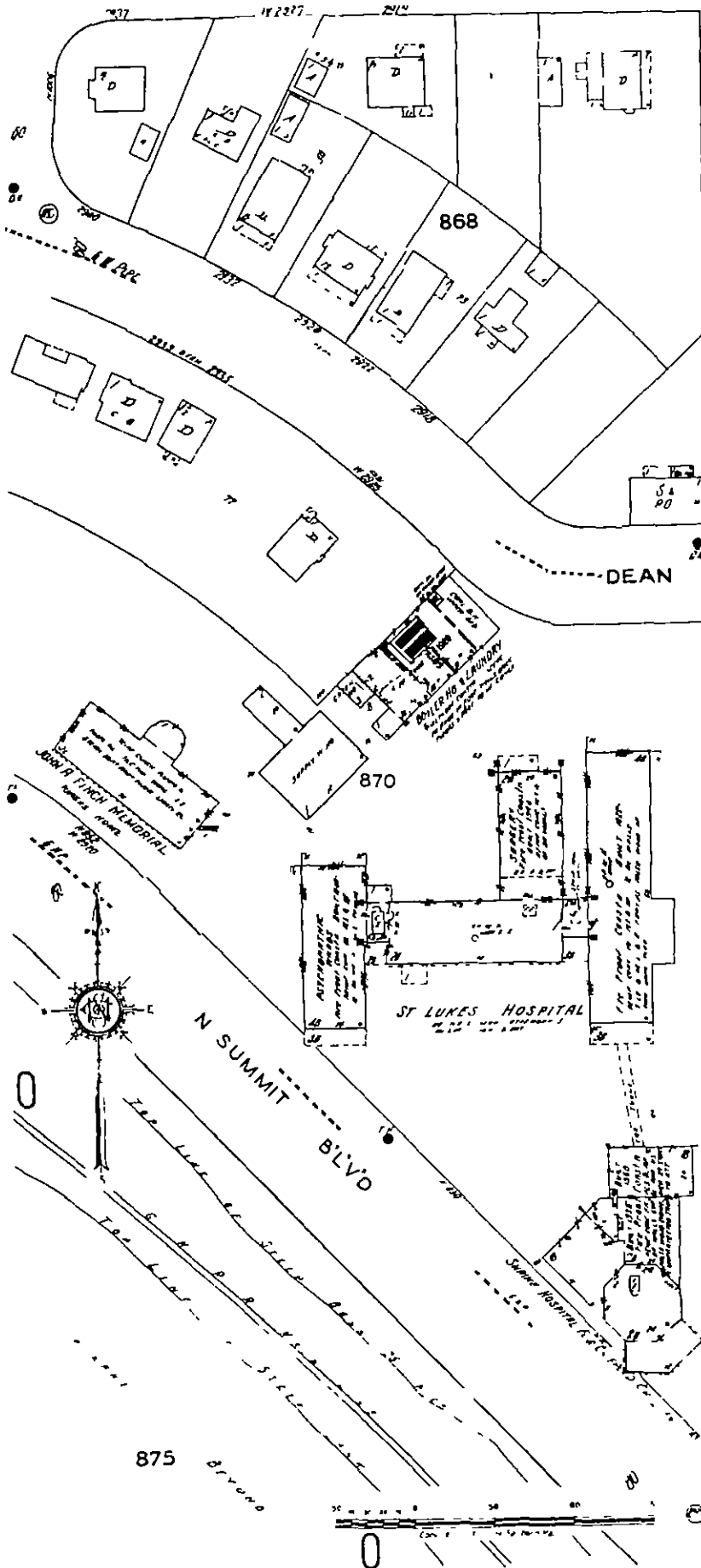
Washington

zip code

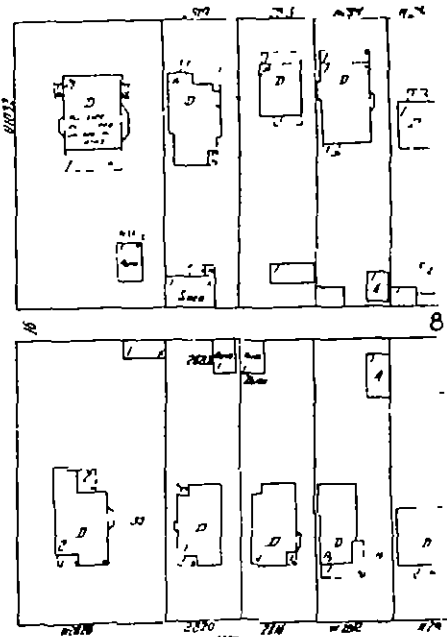
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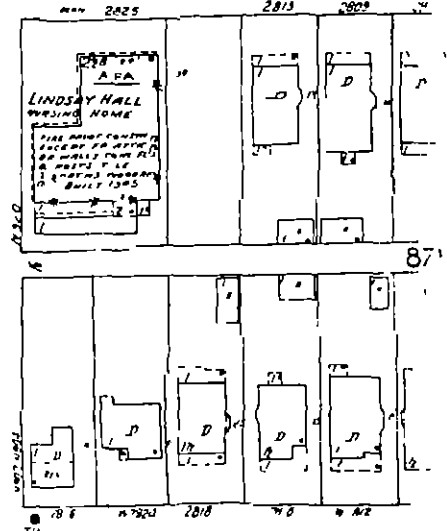
Finch Memorial Nurses
 Spokane, Spokane Co., WA
 WAH References
 11/465885/5279040



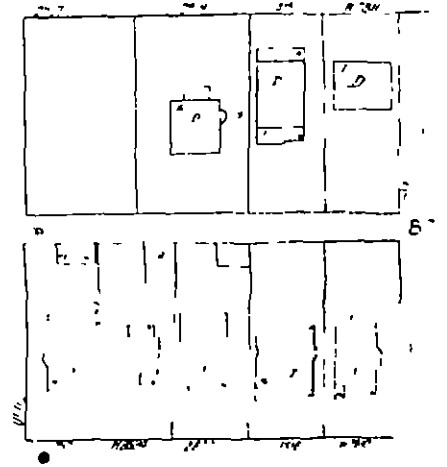
STREET

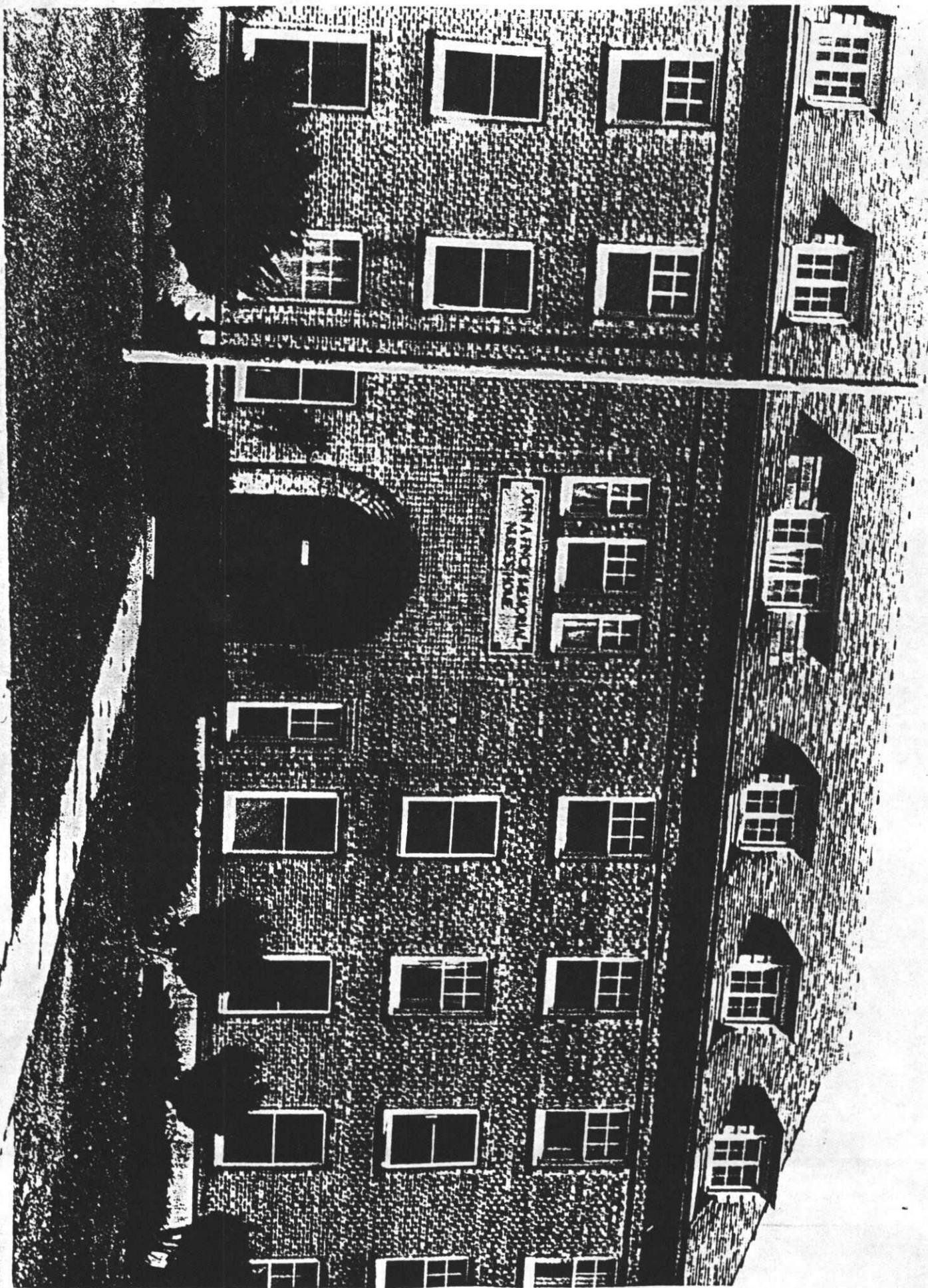


AV



MALLON





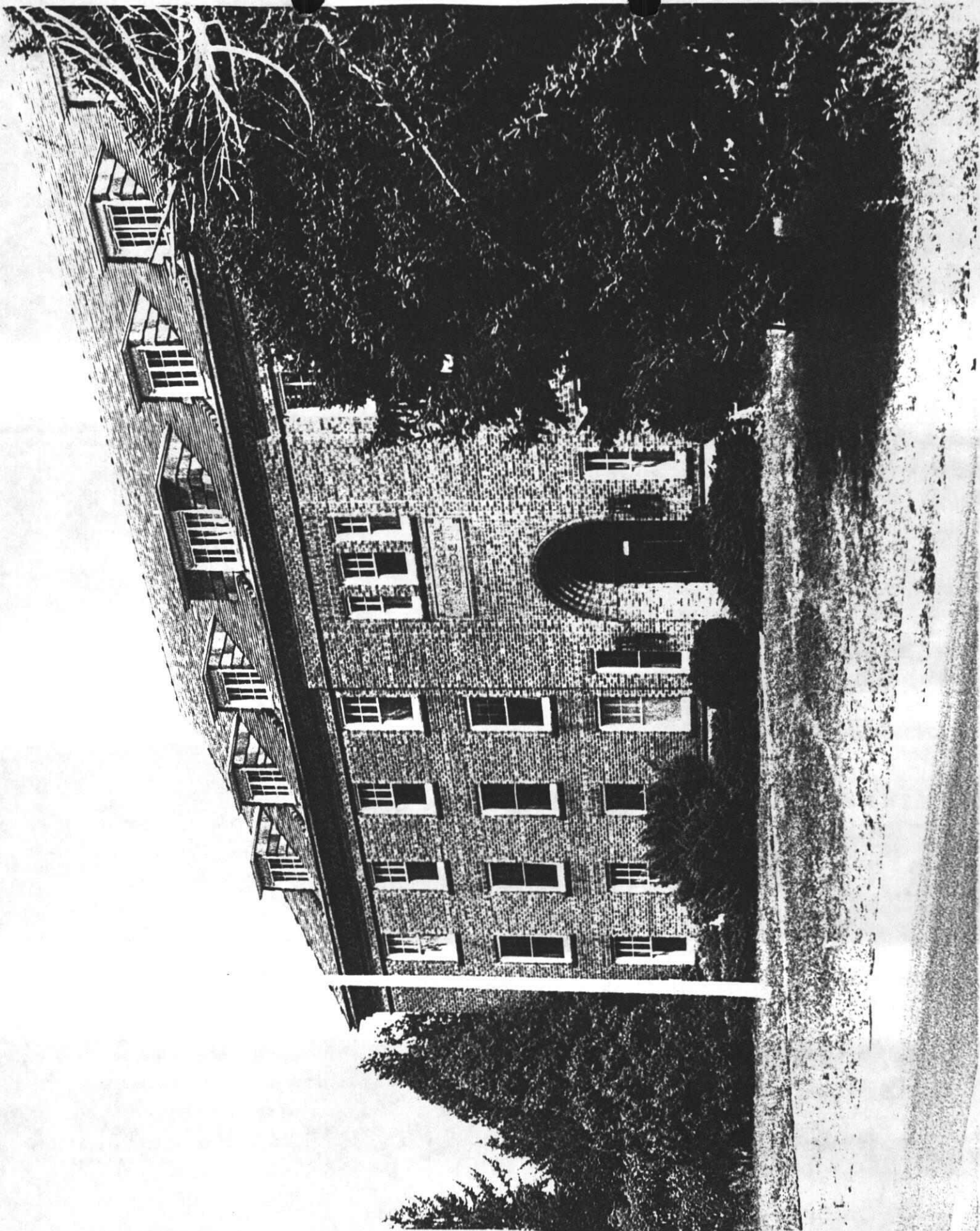
FINCH HALL
N. 852 SUMMIT BLVD.
SPOKANE, WA. 99801

NANCY G. COMPANY, PHOTOGRAPHER
AUGUST, 1990.

N.E.G. AT OHP

#237/24

LOOKING EAST AT FRONT ELEVATION.
#1 OF 8,

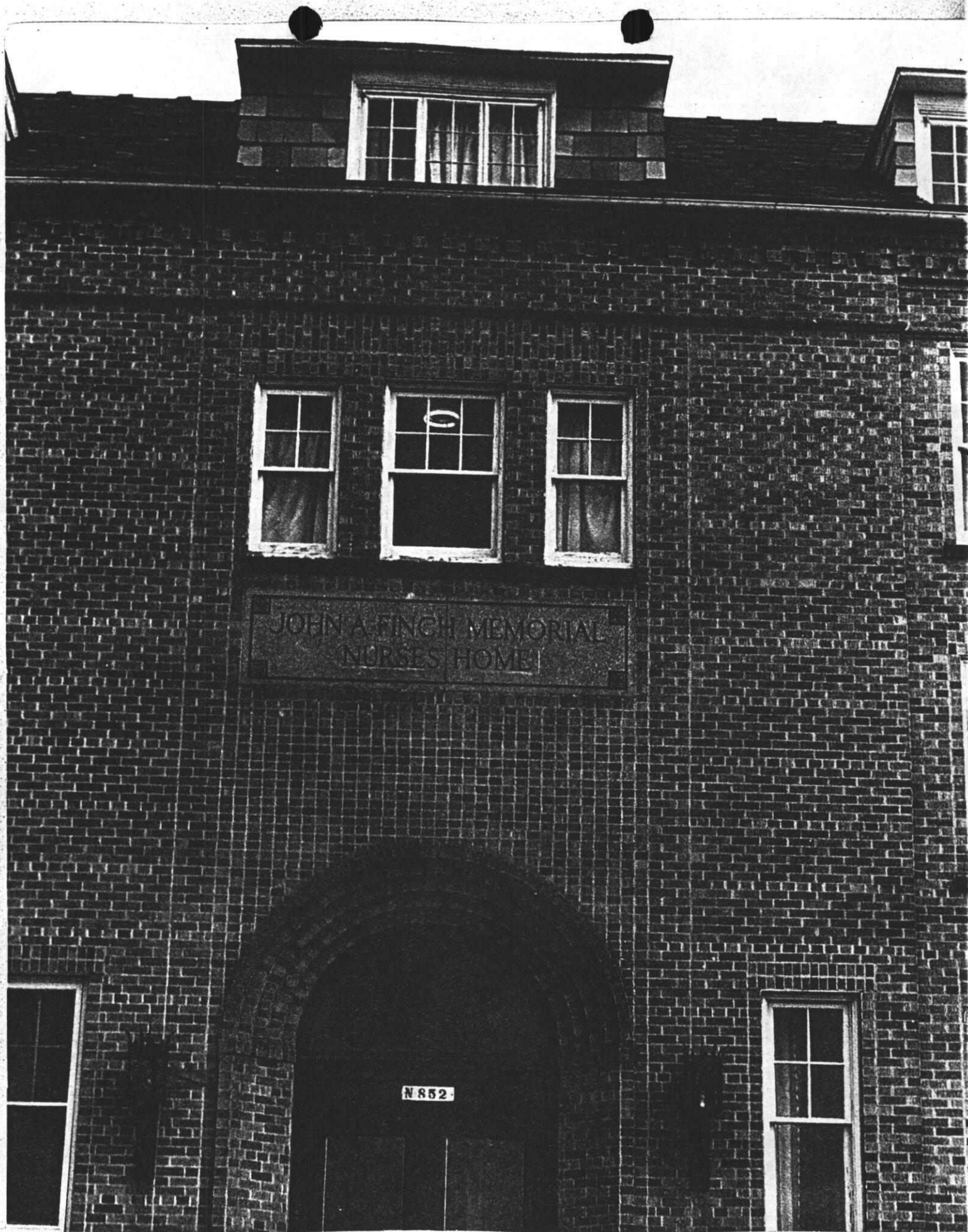


FINCH HILL
N. 852 SUMMIT BLVD.
SPOKANE, WA. 99201

NANCY G. COMPALE, PHOTOGRAPHER
AUGUST, 1990

NEG. AT 0449 # 19/2

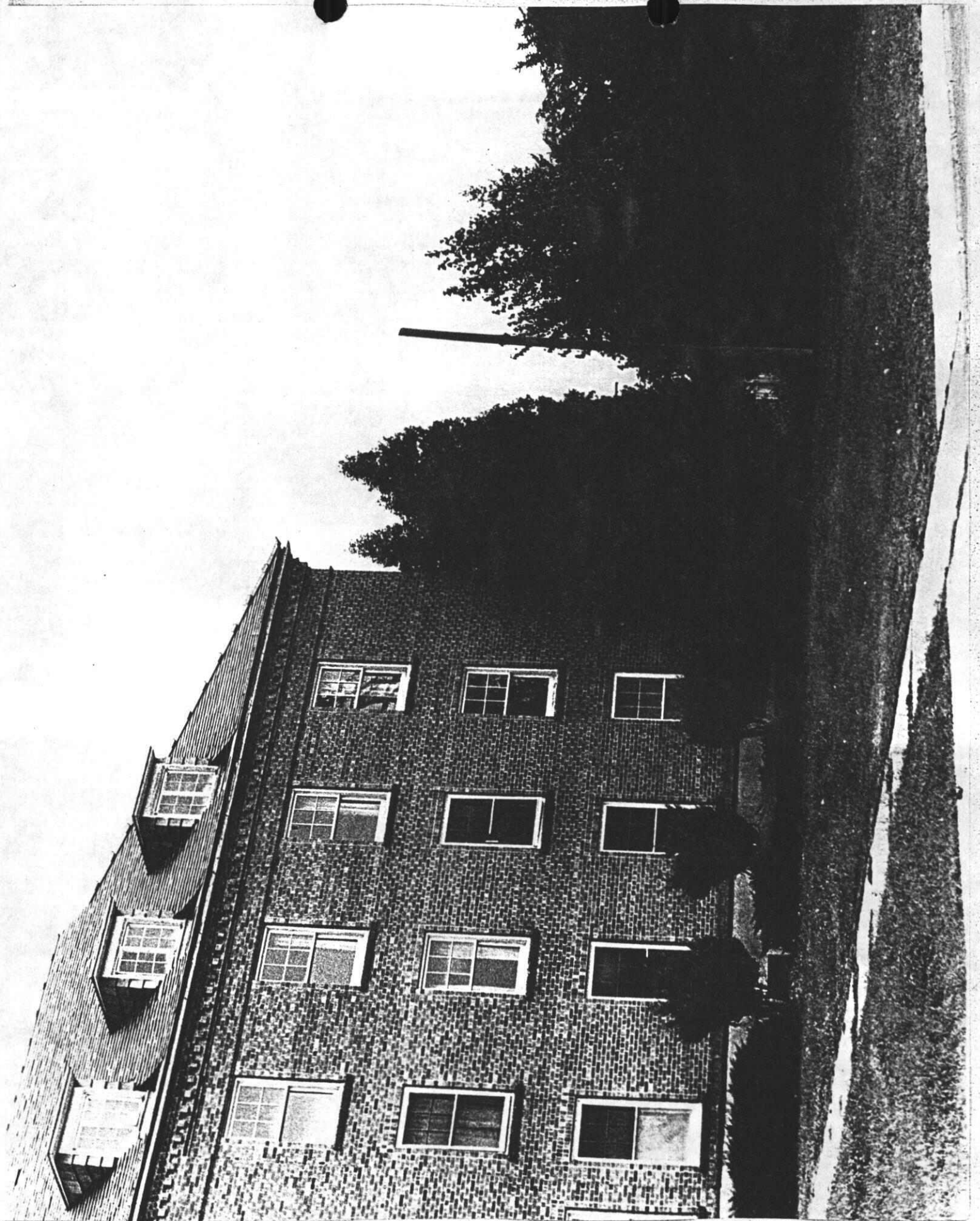
LOOKING NORTH + EAST TOWARD FRONT ELEVATION,
2 of 8.



FINCH HALL
N. 852 SUMMIT BLVD.
SPOKANE, WA. 99201

NANCY G. COMPAU, PHOTOGRAPHER
AUGUST, 1990

NEG. AT OAHF #18A/19
LOOKING EAST AT FRONT ENTRY.
#3 OF 8.



FINCH HALL

N. 852 SUMMIT BLVD.

SPOKANE, WA. 99201

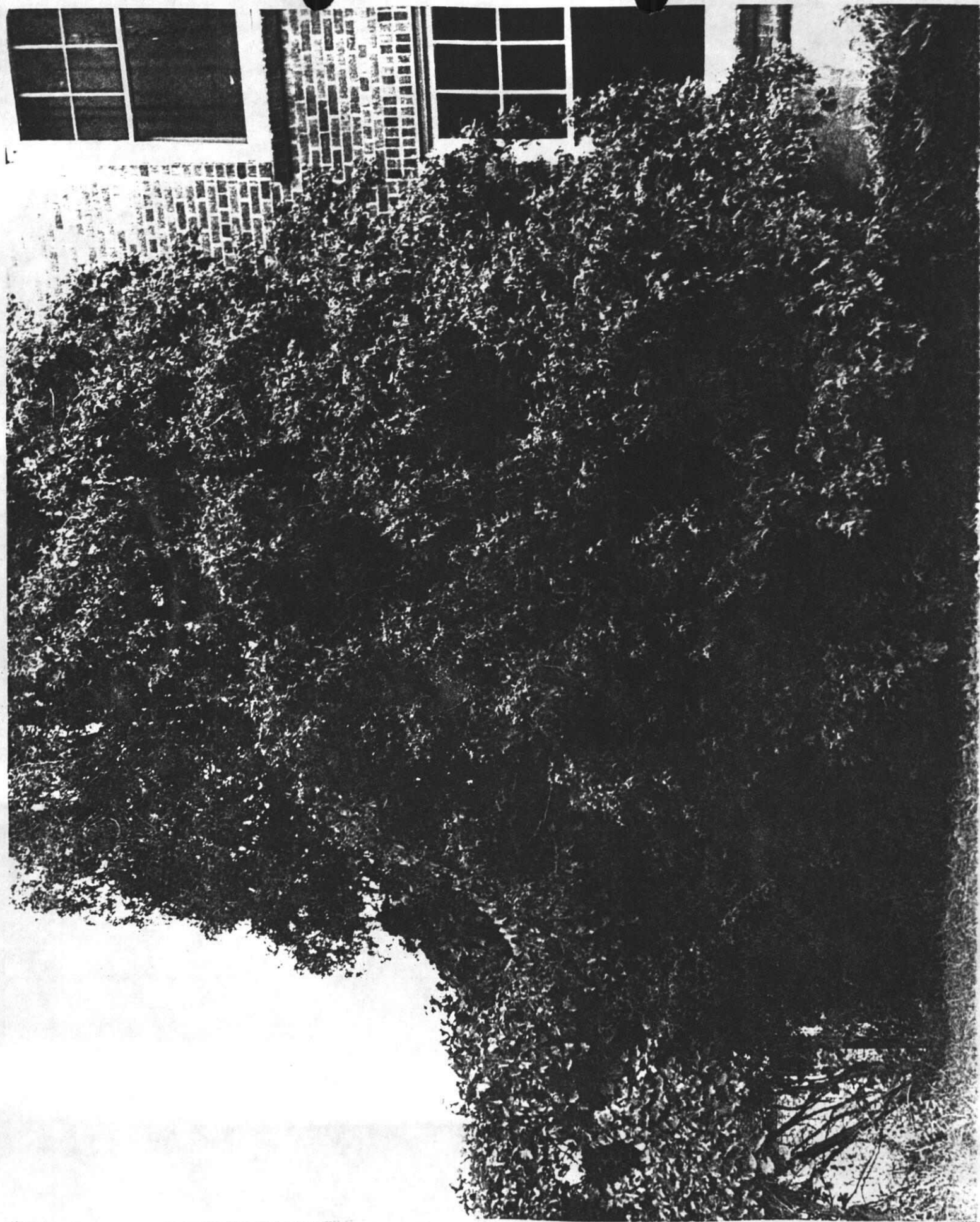
NANCY E. CONNOR, PHOTOGRAPHER

AUGUST, 1990

NEG. AT OHPD #210/22

LOOKING SOUTHEAST AT FRONT ELEVATION - RIGHT SIDE, FRONT
OF BLDG.

#4 OF 8.



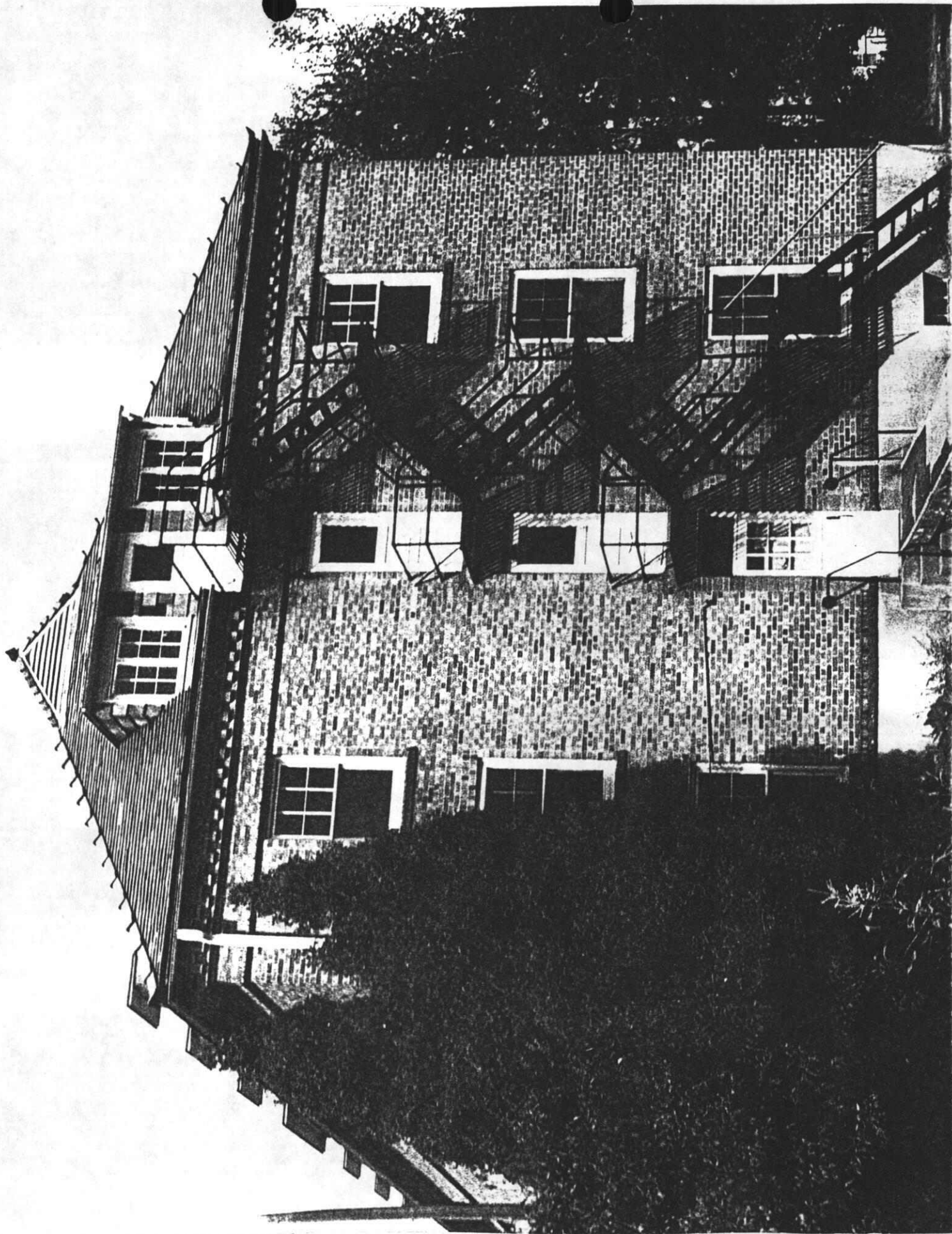
FINCH HILL
N. 852 SUMMIT BLVD.
SPOKANE, WA. 99201

NANCY G. COMPANY, PHOTOGRAPHER:
AUGUST, 1990.

NEG. AT OHP - # 159/16

LOOKING NORTHWEST AT SIDE OF FRONT
ELEVATION SHOWING CORNER OF
VINE COVERED TREES COURT,

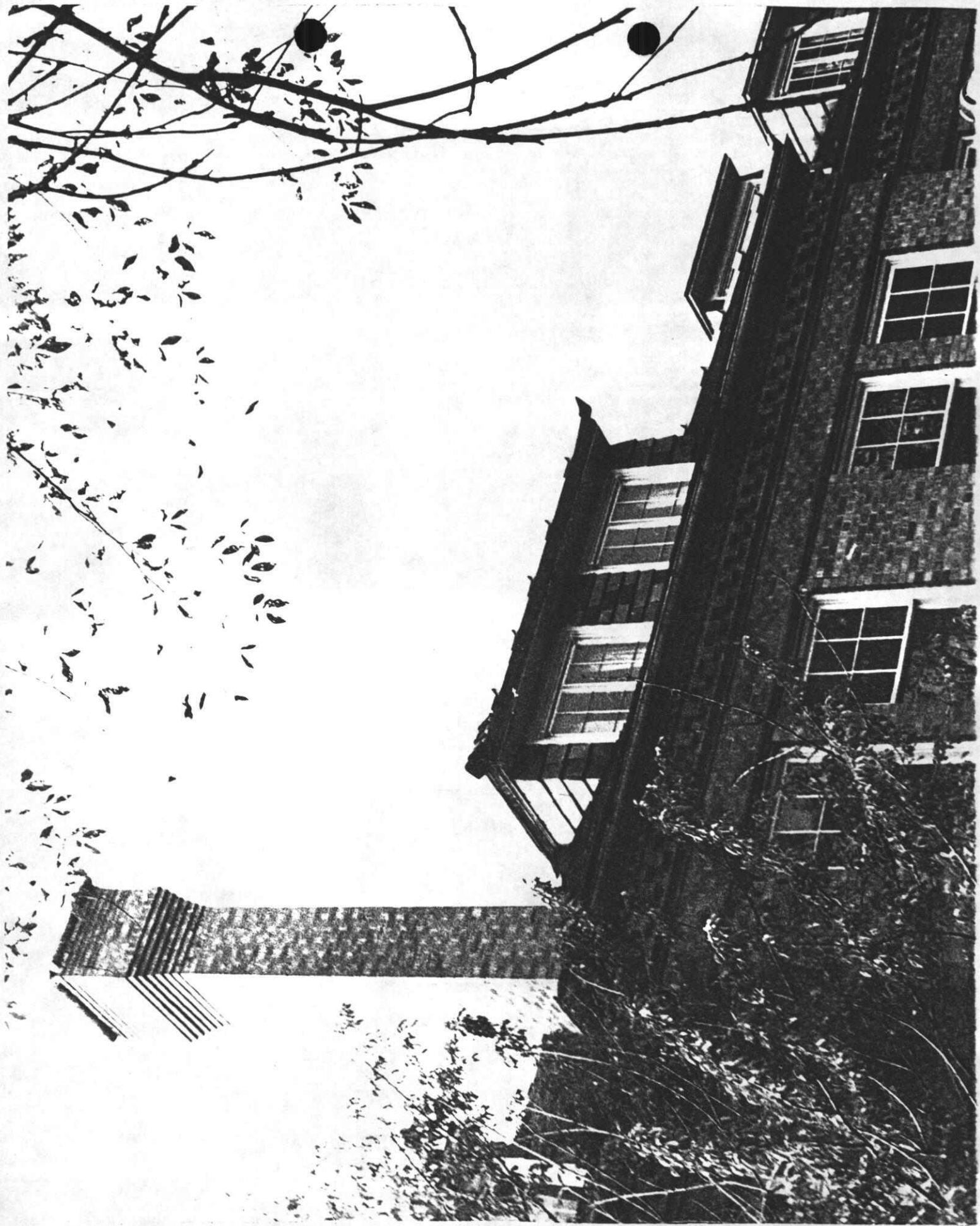
#5 OF 8.



FINCH HALL
N. 852 SUMMIT BLVD.
SPOKANE, IDA. 99201
NANCY G. COMPAU, PHOTOGRAPHER
AUGUST, 1990.
NEG. AT OAHU #57/4
LOOKING NORTH HT. SIDE ELEVATION.
#16 of 8.



FINCH HALL
N. 852 SUMMIT BLVD.
SPOKANE, WA. 99201
NANCY G. COMPAUL. PHOTODUPLICATION
AUGUST, 1990
NEG. AT OAHU #8A/9
LOOKING NORTHWEST AT REAR
ELEVATION.
#7 OF 8.



FINCH HILL
N. 852 SUMMIT BLVD.
SPOKANE, WA. 99201
NANCY G. COMPELL, PHOTOGRAPHER.
AUGUST, 1990.
NEG. AT OAHU #129/13
LOOKING NORTHWEST AT KENR ELEVATION
ROOFLINE.
#8 OF 8.