

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceFile Copy
For NPS use onlyNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

32-383

1. Name

historic Holy Names Academy Building

and or common Academy Apartments

2. Location

street & number 1216 N. Superior St.

___ not for publication

city, town Spokane ___ vicinity of

state Washington code 053 county Spokane code 063

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	___ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	___ educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	n/a	___ no	___ military	___ other.

4. Owner of Property

name Academy Limited Partnership

street & number E. 715 Sprague Ave., Suite 204

city, town Spokane ___ vicinity of state Washington 99202

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc Spokane County Courthouse

street & number W. 1116 Broadway

city, town Spokane state Washington 99201

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Washington State Inventory of Cultural Resources
title Spokane Historic Landmarks Survey has this property been determined eligible? ☒ yes ___ nodate 1977 ___ federal ☒ state ___ county ☒ localdepository for survey records Washington State Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation
Spokane City Plan Commission111 West 21st Ave., KL-11, Olympia Washington 98504-5411
city, town Spokane state Washington 99201

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent

☒ good

☐ fair

☐ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered

☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Holy Names Academy Building is a four story red brick structure located near the Spokane River in Spokane, Washington. The building, which reflects an eclectic mix of Victorian institutional design, has a U-shaped plan and is constructed of load-bearing masonry walls with an interior structural system of steel columns and wooden beams and joists. The building rests on a foundation of cut granite laid in irregular courses. The property is bordered on the east by railroad tracks along the river, on the north by a city park, and on the west and south by residential areas.

The building is composed of a central rectangular block with mansard roof flanked by perpendicular gable roof wings. The central block, built in 1891, was designed by Patrick Donohoe and originally featured a pedimented entry porch and bell towers on both the front (west) facade and the rear. In 1903 when the north and south wings, designed by Preusse and Zittel, were built, the central block was altered considerably to conform with the additions. At that time, the original entry portico and bell towers were removed and the building assumed the basic configuration it maintains today.

The west (front) facade of the central block faces Superior Street and is marked by a classical two story portico with full entablature supported by four wooden Tuscan columns on concrete bases. The cornice of the portico is crested by a decorative wrought iron balustrade. The portico shelters a second story balcony with wrought iron balustrade which is suspended by steel tie rods from the overhanging portico.

The portico projects from a central gabled pavilion, four stories in height, which is divided into three bays. The first and second story center bays have double oak panelled doors with lights. The second story door has a semicircular transom light. The pavilion has a bracketed cornice beneath the gable end. The gable end itself is sheathed in aluminum siding, obscuring the brick stepped gable and arched windows which originally crowned the pavilion.

On either side of the pavilion, the central block is divided into four bays. The first and third story windows in each bay are rectangular with cut granite sills and a continuous granite lintel course. The second story window openings are arched. All windows feature one-over-one double hung wooden sash. The third floor of the central block is capped by a bracketed cornice of tin which serves as a foundation for the mansard roof. The mansard roof is punctuated by three semicircular arched dormers on both sides of the pavilion. The dormers have molded hoods and are lighted by one-over-one double hung sash windows. The east (rear) facade is identical to the front facade without the entry portico and with the addition of a utility entrance and smokestack.

The wings added in 1903 are nearly identical to each other and are compatible with the central block. Each wing is a gable roof structure, four stories in height. The west ends of each wing project outward from the west facade of the central block. The first stories are marked by rusticated brick work and segmental arch window openings with radiating voussoirs and cut granite sills capped by a cut granite lintel course. The second and third story window openings form an arcade pattern with tapestry brick spandrels separating the flat arched second story openings from the semicircular arched third story openings. Radiating voussoirs crown all openings. All windows from the first through third stories are wooden one-over-one double-hung sash. The walls are capped by corbelled brackets which support a tin cornice.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Continuation sheet

Item number

7

Page

2

Both wings feature stepped gables with cornices and finials. The fourth story of each gable end has a Palladian-like window arrangement with a semicircular arched window flanked by a segmental arched opening with radiating voussoirs on either side. The entire arrangement sits on a corbelled brick projection with cut granite sills. Engaged brick pilasters frame the window openings; those surrounding the center opening support a plain pediment. Fleur-de-lis patterns applied to the facade in wrought iron frame the window arrangement. The window openings have wooden multi-lighted-over-one double hung sash with a semicircular fixed transom light over the center windows.

The north and south sides of each wing have various arrangements of stepped gable dormers with cornices. The largest of these dormers has three bays with segmental or semicircular arched window openings in the middle and flat arched on either side, and wooden one-over-one or multi-lighted-over-one double hung sash. The south side of the south wing and the north side of the north wing have smaller dormers framing paired windows. The north side entrance has a porte cochere supported by steel pipes with a moulded entablature topped by an ornamental iron balustrade similar in design to the balconies of the front portico.

The interior arrangement of the Holy Names Academy is typical for a school building of the period with long wide hallways and high ceilings. Most of the first through third floors are divided into individual classrooms, each characterized by solid maple floors, fir trim around door and window openings, and solid fir paneled doors. Several classrooms have built-in fir cabinets, wainscotting, and armoires. Two open stairways with spindled oak balustrades serve all four floors, as does an elevator added in later years. The main doors enter at the first floor, opening to a stairway that rises to the second floor where the administrative and visitor's areas were located. A vaulted chapel area takes up nearly the entire south wing of the third floor. The third floor of the north wing houses the auditorium and theatre, complete with stage and seating. The entire fourth floor was largely dedicated to housing for the nuns and boarders.

Two elements added to the Holy Names property in the mid-twentieth century do not contribute to the significance of the property. A two story brick addition which once housed a gymnasium was added to the rear of the south wing about 1940. A three story concrete block school building measuring approximately 40 by 80 feet was constructed immediately east of the rear of the north wing about 1959. Also rear of the main structure and located on the property are tennis courts and basketball courts, built about 1940. By contrast, the front lawn of the structure is landscaped and features a circular drive.

List of contributing and noncontributing buildings:

Contributing: Holy Names Academy building (1)

Noncontributing: gymnasium (c.1940) (1)
school building annex (c. 1959) (1)

Total: 1 contributing building; 2 noncontributing buildings

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	1891/1903	Builder/Architect	Patrick Donohoe (1891)
	Period of Significance		Preusse & Zittel (1903)
			1891–1935

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Holy Names Academy Building is a significant structure in the educational history of Spokane and eastern Washington. Chartered in 1891 as a private secondary academy and expanded in 1907 to become one of the state's first private normal schools, the Academy offered both a high school curriculum and a teacher training course for young women from throughout the Inland Empire for many decades. The building, built in 1891 and enlarged in 1903, reflects the designs of Spokane architects Patrick Donohoe and Preusse and Zittel and is an important example of Victorian institutional architecture in Spokane.

Historical Background

Holy Names Academy stands as a monument to the works of the Sisters of the Holy Names, a Catholic Order founded in Quebec in 1844 with the expressed purpose of providing Christian education to children in remote areas of Canada. By 1859, this mission was expanded to the Pacific Northwest when the Sisters established St. Mary's Academy in Portland, Oregon. In 1880, the Sisters established an academy in Seattle.

The Order first sent members to open a school in Spokane in 1888 at the request of Father Joseph Cataldo, a Jesuit priest who had established Gonzaga College in Spokane the year before. Classes at the Sisters' new school began in September, but by November enrollment had grown enough to require another Sister and another lay teacher to staff the facility. The school, originally known as the Academy of Holy Names and later as Our Lady of Lourdes School, was located on Main Avenue between Bernard and Washington Streets.

But the role of the Sisters in Spokane soon expanded. While building Gonzaga College, the Jesuit fathers saw a need for a similar institution for young women in Spokane. In 1889, Father Cataldo formally requested the Sisters of the Holy Names to establish a boarding school for young women in the city and by his authority they were provided with a five acre tract of land in Sinto's Addition, the current site of Holy Names Academy. The Academy was founded and construction begun with the cornerstone laid on September 14, 1890. The Reverend Leopold Van Gorp, S J., presided over the ceremonies that day and he told those assembled, "Nowhere will your children be able to receive such an intellectual and moral training as at the hands of the Sisters who have devoted their lives to such an object, not from mercenary motives, but from their love of God and from motives of charity."

The Holy Names Academy Building, designed by Spokane architect Patrick Donohoe, was opened with 12 students on August 31, 1891, and was accredited by the state the same year as a secondary school for young women. By 1902, the student body had grown to 235 students. Continual improvements were made to the facility throughout the first ten years, but by 1903 the number of students had increased to the point where additional facilities were needed. In that year, the Sisters commissioned the Spokane architectural firm of Preusse and Zittel to design two wings to be added onto the north and south sides of the original building.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

8

Page

2

In 1907, a special amendment to Washington State's school laws enabled the Sisters to establish private normal schools for the education of teachers. Normal school classes at the Holy Names Academies in Spokane and Seattle started in September of that year, and the schools received formal accreditation by the State Board of Education on December 31, 1907, thus becoming the first private normal schools in the State of Washington.

Holy Names Academy in Spokane continued to serve as both a high school and normal school for the next several decades. In 1938, the State gave permission for the Sisters to add another year to their normal school course, enabling them to grant a four-year Bachelor of Arts degree in Education. The Holy Names College of Education opened on September 15, 1938, with 118 women in attendance. Classes were held at the Holy Names Academy for over two years until February 7, 1941, when a new college facility located south of the Academy was completed. This facility now serves as the Maplewood Gardens Retirement Home and is not included in this nomination. The College eventually expanded its curriculum to a liberal arts format and soon moved to its current site, the former army base at Ft. Wright. The College closed its doors in 1982.

The original Holy Names Academy Building graduated its final high school class in 1975. After experiencing declining enrollments as well as the decline of its physical plant, the decision was made to close the school. Gonzaga Preparatory School, Spokane's all male Catholic high school, went coeducational in 1976 in order that Spokane's high school women would have a Catholic education available to them. Some of the Holy Names Sisters were hired by Gonzaga Prep for faculty positions.

In 84 years of operation, Holy Names Academy had over 5,000 students in attendance and graduated a total of 3,742. Many of these students boarded at the school, having come from rural areas of eastern Washington, northern Idaho, and western Montana, where often there were no parochial or secondary schools offering the quality education of Holy Names. Young women from throughout the Inland Northwest came to Holy Names for teacher training at the Normal School, and in turn went on to teach at public and parochial schools throughout the region.

Architecturally, the Holy Names Academy Building reflects Victorian institutional design in Spokane. The original central block was designed by Patrick Donohoe, an architect who practiced in the city from 1888 to 1891. The Academy Building is his major work in the city. Hermann Preusse and Julius Zittel, who designed the 1903 wings, were German immigrants who had a partnership in Spokane from 1893 to 1910. Their association produced several Spokane landmarks including St. Aloysius' Church, several Gonzaga College buildings, Our Lady of Lourdes Cathedral, and several residences in the city's South Hill and Browne's Addition neighborhoods.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Chronicles of Holy Names Academy, Spokane, 7 vol. 1888 to 1970; Unbound 1970 to 1975.

Manuscript. SNJM Archives of Washington Province.

Schoenberg, Wilfred P., S.J., A Chronicle of Catholic History of the Pacific Northwest, 1943-1969. Portland, OR: Catholic Sentinel Printery, 1962.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2.41

Quadrangle name Spokane N.W.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 11 470630 5279350
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property is described as parcel number 17531-0014 in the City of Spokane, describe thusly: Beginning at the southeast corner of the intersection of Superior and Sharp St, proceed south on Superior until the northeast corner of Superior and Boone; proceed east along Boone until the railroad right of way (cont.)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	n/a	code	county	code
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state	n/a	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title John P. Morrow (with assistance from Sister Edwardine Mary, SNJM)

organization Coldwell Banker Feldman Person Co. date September 4, 1985

street & number N. 2206 Pines telephone (509) 928-5750

city or town Spokane state Washington 99206

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is

 national state X local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title DSHPO date 3.24.86

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

10

Page

2

V.B.D. continued: (approximately 500 feet); proceed north along said right of way, (parallel to the railroad tracks) until the extension of Sharp Avenue; proceed west on Sharp until point of beginning.



Holy Names Academy Building
Spokane, Spokane Co., WA

UTM References:

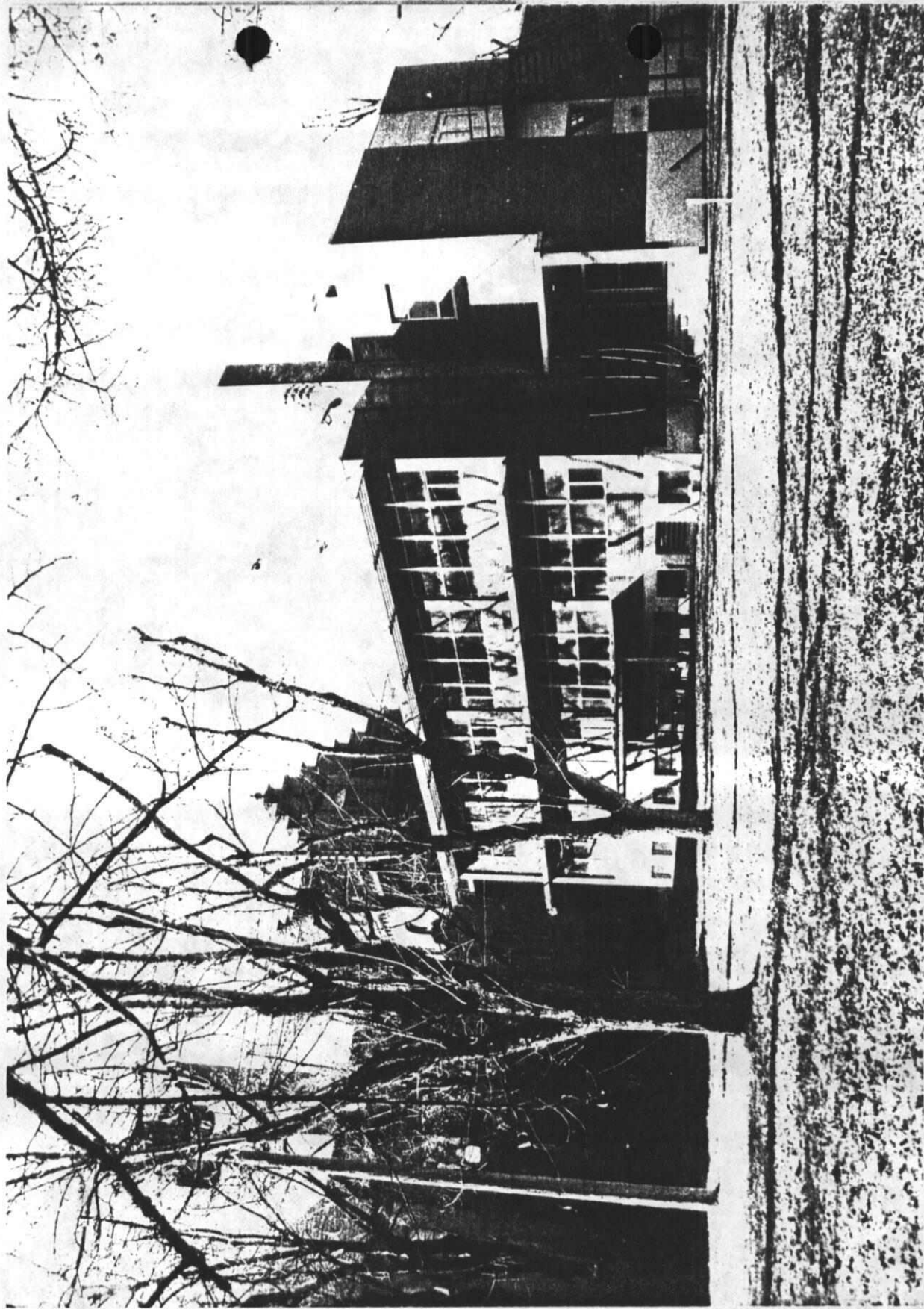
11/470630/5279350



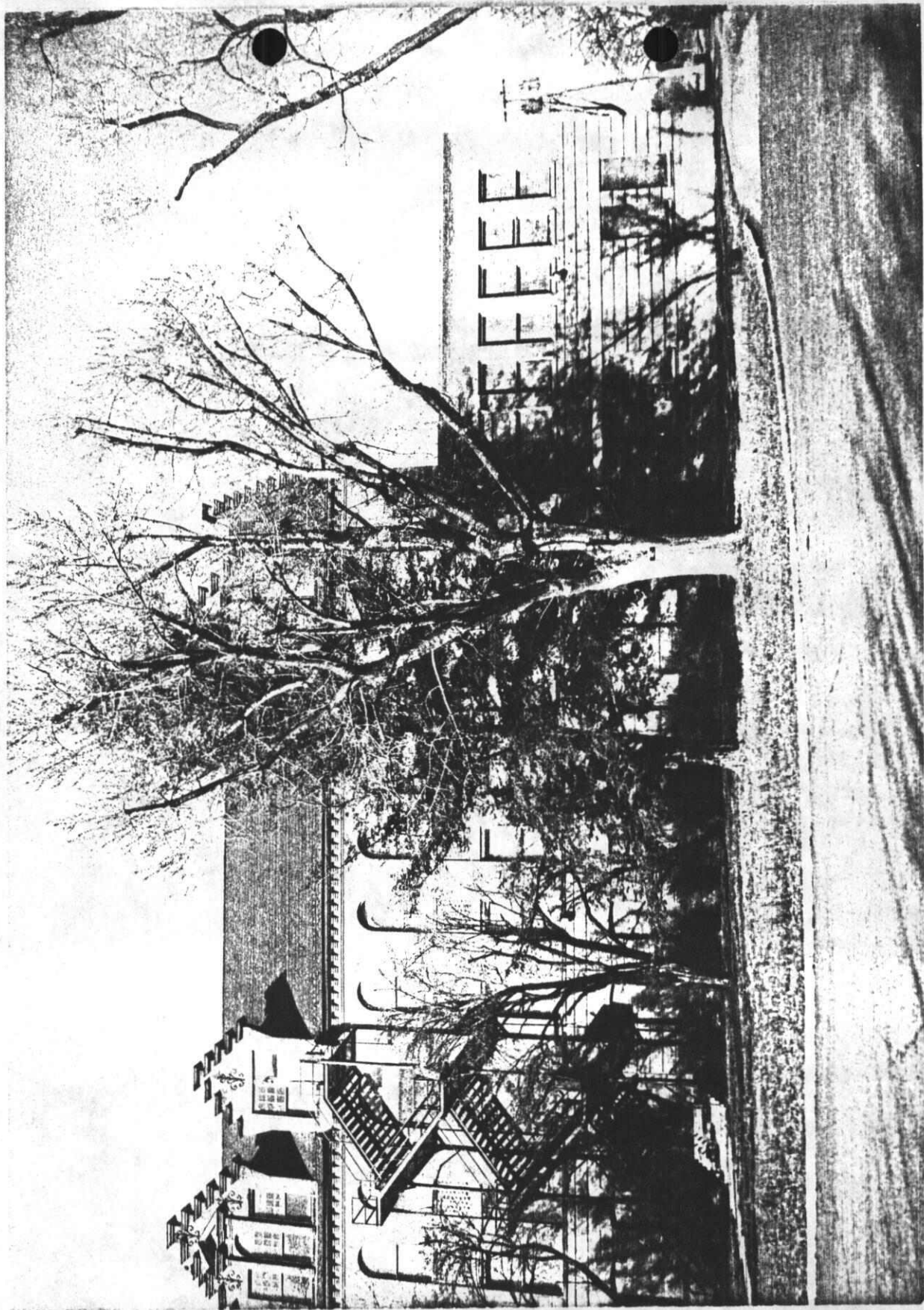
Holy Names Academy Building
Spokane, Spokane Co., WA
Photo by S. Brooks-Miller
Negative at OAHF
View of rear (east) elevation, looking west
Photo 9 of 9



Holy Names Academy Building
Spokane, Spokane Co., WA
Photo by S. Brooks-Miller
Negative at OAHF
View of classroom annex, looking east
Photo 8 of 9



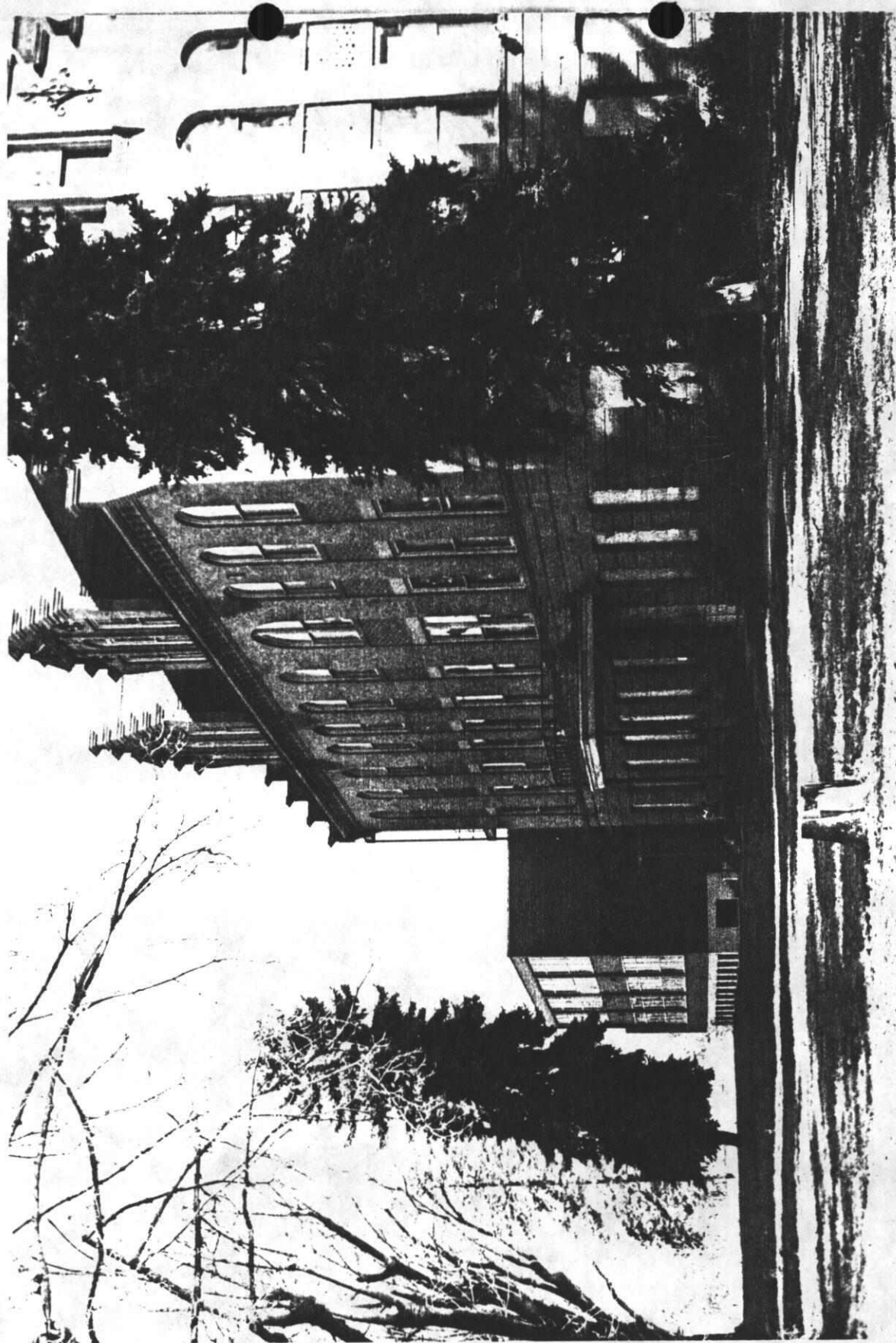
Holy Names Academy Building
Spokane, Spokane Co., WA
Photo by S. Brooks-Miller
Negative at OAHF
View of classroom annex, looking north west
Photo 7 of 9



Holy Names Academy Building
Spokane, Spokane Co., WA

Photo by S. Brooks-Miller, March 1986
negative at OAHP

View of south wing and gymnasium annex,
looking toward northeast
Photo 6 of 9



Holy Names Academy Building

Spokane, Spokane Co., WA

Photo by S. Brooks-Miller, March 1986

Negative at OAHF

View of north wing and class annex, looking
southeast

Photo 5 of 9



Holy Names Academy Building
Spokane, Spokane Co., WA

Photo by S. Brooks-Miller, March 1986
Negative at OAHF
View of north wing, looking southeast
Photo 4 of 9



Holy Names Academy Building

Spokane, Spokane Co., WA

Photo by S. Brooks-Miller, March 1986

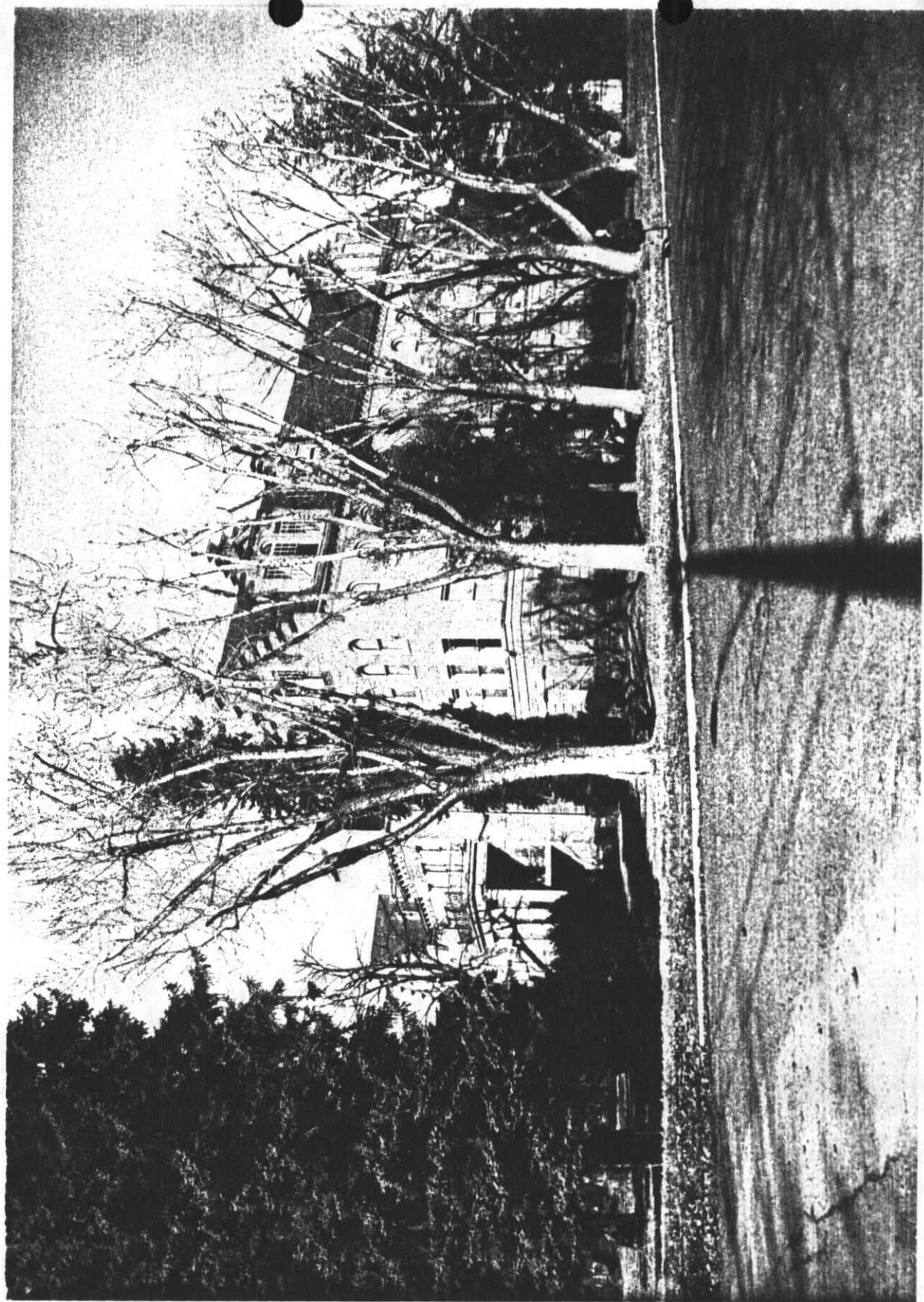
Negative at OAHF

View of principal facade (west), looking east

Photo 3 of 9



Holy Names Academy Building
Spokane, Spokane Co., WA
Photo by S. Brooks-Miller, March 1986
Negative at OAHF
View of principal facade, looking SE
Photo 2 of 9



Holy Names Academy Building
Spokane, Spokane Co., WA
Photo by S. Brooks-Miller, March, 1986
Negative at OAHF
View of principal facade (west), looking NE
photo 1 of 9

