

NR listed
3-28-84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National 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

1. Name

historic St. Anthony's Hospital

and/or common _____

2. Location

street & number 202 E. Green Street N/A not for publication

city, town Morrilton N/A vicinity of

state Arkansas code 05 county Conway code 029

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name St. Anthony's Apartments an Arkansas Limited Partnership

street & number P. O. Box 637 ATTN: Mr. W. C. Minton

city, town Morrilton N/A vicinity of state Arkansas 72023

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Conway County Courthouse

street & number Moore Street

city, town Morrilton state Arkansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

site federal state county local

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY

With a view of the Arkansas River to the south and the mountains to the southwest, St. Anthony's Hospital in Morrilton, Conway County, is an imposing three-story Art Deco-inspired brick and stone structure. Designed by Arkansas architect A.N. McAninch in 1935, this unique local example of a popular early twentieth century style was constructed in 1937 following two years of funding difficulties. A planned third floor, evident in the original drawings, was added in 1949 in response to a need for additional facilities. Until 1970, St. Anthony's served as an important regional hospital and today remains the most significant Art Deco structure in this central Arkansas community.

ELABORATION

Possessing a commanding presence on Sayles Hill, three blocks from the heart of Morrilton, St. Anthony's Hospital is one of the community's most impressive structures, for not only is it larger in scale than most, but it is the city's best example of Art Deco design.

The hospital's site, bounded by Green and Moose Streets, is scattered with large hardwood trees. Two concrete drives enter from Green Street on the west and a concrete walk leads from Moose Street to the building's main entrance.

Facing north, the three-story structure is located on the site of the Burrows House, a Colonial Revival residence that served as the first hospital. The frame house was demolished to make room for the present hospital. Salvaged materials were utilized in the construction of a two-story stone residence for the Benedictine Sisters, which until two years ago, was located near the southeast corner of the hospital. A utility building still stands to the rear.

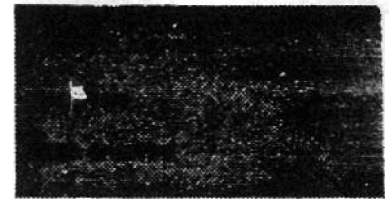
St. Anthony's was designed by A.N. McAninch, a successful Arkansas architect who designed a number of Art Deco-influenced PWA-funded buildings throughout the state. Plans and specifications for St. Anthony's, Job No. 210, reveal that at the time of its initial design, the future addition of a third floor was anticipated. Though the building was originally two stories in height, the third floor, added in 1949, has the appearance of being original, as does the three-story two-bay addition to the west end of the hospital which was added at the same time.

St. Anthony's is of concrete, brick and steel construction. The plan is symmetrical, with two slightly splayed wings joined at the center by front and rear projections. The west wing exceeds the length of the east wing by the two bays added in 1949. A one-story projection on the east end accommodates the chapel/assembly room. Constructed with a basement, the wall above grade is concrete. The dominate material of each elevation is buff brick, with a darker brick laid in vertical bands detailing the spandrels between floors.

Splayed brick pilasters with stone caps and recessed vertical slots above and below the third floor level alternate with paired six-over-six double-hung wood windows. Slender brick pilasters with horizontally-grooved smooth stone caps separate each set of paired windows. The repetition of wide and slender pilasters serve to counteract

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the horizontal emphasis of the plan. Original drawings indicate that steel casement windows with transoms were specified, possibly to satisfy PWA requirements. Wood double-hung windows were substituted, most likely as a result of the change in funding arrangements.

The building's flat roof with parapet is embellished with a stone coping detailed with a continuous chevron pattern. Positioned directly above each third floor window are slender stepped stone pinnacles, the points of which extend above the parapet. A central penthouse with two casement windows on each of its four sides extends above roof.

Located in the center of the front (north) elevation, a two-story projection features a stepped stone frontispiece surrounding a double-doored main entrance. The corners of the projection are accentuated by paired piers detailed similarly to the pilasters. A pair of windows is positioned above the stone frontispiece and penetrate each floor of the east and west sides of the projection. A glass transom above the wood and glass doors originally was etched with the hospital's name. The smooth stone surrounding the entrance is detailed with vertical grooves and a pair of stylized reliefs of caducei. Steps, flanked by stepped stone pedestals, lead from the walk to the entrance.

The east elevation features a one-story flat-roofed projection with six windows on its east side and three recessed vertical slots in the brick wall of the north side. Detailing of this chapel projection is similar to the rest of the building. The west elevation was extended in 1949 with the addition of a three-story annex with a high basement. This elevation is detailed identically to the east, with four pairs of windows per floor, including the basement, in which was located the chaplain's suite.

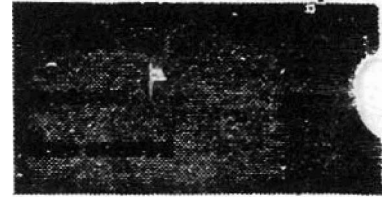
The south (rear) elevation is dominated by a five-sided central projection above which rises the penthouse. Curved concrete sun decks with metal railings extend from the second and third floors. The end bays of this elevation project from the corners. Originally, a Potter spiral slide fire escape, which in appearance resembled a metal silo, was attached to the east side of the west corner projection. A one-story flat-roofed kitchen extension was added in 1949.

The interior of St. Anthony's is in deteriorated condition. Central corridors run the length of each floor. Walls are plaster and the simple wood trim is stained and varnished. Green tile wainscot is found in some of the rooms. Multi-colored linoleum tiles laid in a decorative pattern cover the floor.

The lobby, which is approximately 900 square feet, is located inside the front entrance. A hexagonal pattern in the plaster ceiling is this space's only ornamentation. An opening in the east wall allows communication between the lobby and the adjacent office. Several steps separate the lobby from the main corridor. The most striking feature of the interior is the curved stair positioned at the center of the building. A curved cantilevered plaster ceiling projects above the stair, creating a dramatic effect in an otherwise utilitarian interior. An elevator is located directly behind the stair and a simple chapel at the east end of the first floor corridor.

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When originally built, the hospital had twenty-nine rooms, a laboratory and two operating rooms. With the addition of the third floor and the west annex, the facilities were expanded to include fifty rooms, an emergency room, fracture room, maternity suite, radiology room, an improved dietary department and additional laboratory and surgical space.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" 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 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	Designed 1935 Constructed 1937	Builder/Architect	J. H. Leveck & Son - Builder A. N. McAninch - Architect
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Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

SUMMARY

St. Anthony's Hospital, located on Sayles Hill in the small central Arkansas River community of Morrilton, was designed in 1935 and constructed in 1937. This facility was one of three Arkansas hospitals then being operated by the Benedictine Sisters of St. Scholastica Convent at Fort Smith, Arkansas, and was the only health care facility of its kind available to this multi-county region of the state. Designed by Little Rock architect A. N. McAninch, St. Anthony's is a unique local example of the Art Deco style. Constructed of buff brick with cast stone ornament, the hospital was originally two stories in height. A planned third floor, evident in the original 1935 drawings, and a one-bay extension to the west, were added in 1949.

ELABORATION

Occupying the highest point in Morrilton, St. Anthony's Hospital is the second medical facility to be located on Sayles Hill. The original St. Anthony's, the first hospital in Conway County, was established in 1925 by the Benedictine Sisters. The history of the Benedictine Sisters in Arkansas dates back to 1880 and the founding of St. Scholastica's Convent in Fort Smith, which followed a significant immigration of Catholic farmers. In 1916 the Sisters first began their involvement with hospital administration when they joined forces with the Benedictine Sisters operating St. Joseph's Hospital in Booneville, Missouri.

Located in the Burrows House, a two-story frame Colonial Revival residence, the first hospital accommodated only fourteen beds. Due to the inadequate facilities and an ever-increasing number of patients, the Sisters decided in 1935 to construct a new hospital on the same site. Following the demolition of the Burrows House, the hospital was temporarily located in a dormitory at Harding College and later at Jones Hospital.

Planned under the name of "Municipal Hospital", Addenda No. 3 to the plans and specifications dated July 6, 1935, formally changed the name of the soon-to-be built hospital to St. Anthony's.

Though designed in 1935, St. Anthony's was delayed by unanticipated funding difficulties that postponed construction until 1937. Originally to be funded through the Public Works Administration (PWA), plans had to be changed when it was determined that the PWA would not fund the project if the Benedictine Sisters were involved. The original plan had centered around a contract between the Sisters and the city, calling for the latter to lease the building for a sum equal to the interest on the loan. Under the contract, the Sisters would be deeded the hospital once the city had repaid the loan. A 1935 Arkansas Gazette article explains that "The PWA officials refused to permit the contract between Morrilton and the Benedictine Sisters to have any part in the application for the loan. Instead, Washington has insisted that the city prepare to pay a five mill tax beginning next year, the proceeds of which to insure the interest

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and payments on the principal..." Despite the fact that a \$60,000 loan containing a 4% grant had been approved by the PWA, funding plans were changed when the city refused to alter its contract with the Sisters. As a result, several changes were made to the plans. To reduce the total project cost, several PWA requirements were eliminated.

Construction of the hospital finally began in January 1937 after new funding had been secured. J. H. Levick & Sons were the contractors for the project. The building was occupied in November and formally dedicated on the 29th of that month.

The hospital was designed in 1935 by A. N. McAninch, a Little Rock architect who designed a number of PWA-funded projects in Arkansas, among them three buildings at Arkansas State College in Jonesboro and Rison High School. Drawings for these, as well as the hospital, published in the PWA Section of the Arkansas Gazette on October 6, 1935, reveal that McAninch frequently designed in the Art Deco style. Earlier a rendering of St. Anthony's appeared in the Arkansas Gazette on June 9, 1935.

Plans for the hospital called for an initial two-story structure, with a third floor to be added when needed and financially feasible. McAninch's 1935 plans reveal drawings for three floors, with a foundation calculated to accommodate the future third floor. Thus, the building appears to have been built all at once, despite the fact that it was constructed in two stages separated by twelve years.

In 1949, St. Anthony's was still the only hospital in this region of the state and accordingly was feeling the strain of increasing demands on its medical facilities. As a result, Mr. McAninch was once again commissioned along with his partner, Mr. Mahnker, to supervise the addition of the third floor and a one-bay extension to the west side, and other improvements. The \$220,000 necessary to fund this expansion project was secured from several sources: a grant from the federal Hill-Burton Fund, loans from local banking institutions, and a \$25,000 contribution from local businesses and citizens. With the completion of this addition in June of 1950, the St. Anthony's Hospital became one of the most modern and technologically equipped medical facilities in the state.

St. Anthony's continued to supply the only hospital care available to Conway and surrounding counties for more than twenty years. Eventually, the increasing numbers of patients and the lack of up to date medical equipment required the Benedictine Sisters to once again move their hospital to completely new facilities. On April 4, 1970, the doors of St. Anthony's Hospital building were permanently closed.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Arkansas Gazette, PWA Section, October 6, 1935.

Arkansas Gazette, June 9, 1935.

Benedictine Sisters of Morrilton, personal interviews.

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Blatz, Elmer, personal interview, Morrilton, Arkansas, 1984.

County Records, Conway County Courthouse, Morrilton, Arkansas.

Davidson, John, personal interview, Morrilton, Arkansas.

Imboden, Clarence, letter dated Dec. 3, 1984.

Mahnker, Mr., personal interview, Little Rock, Arkansas.

McAninch, A.N., architectural plans for Job #210, Municipal Hospital, July 6, 1935.

McMinn, W.C., personal interview, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Moose, Mrs. Hope, personal interview, Morrilton, Arkansas.

Morrilton Democrat, June 15, 1950, p. B5.

"St. Anthony's Hospital", pamphlet, 1979.

Taggart, Bert, personal interview, Little Rock, Arkansas.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 3.5 acres

Quadrangle name Morrilton East

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	5	5	2	3	3	6	0	3	8	8	9	2	4	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Block 6, Egans Addition to the City of Morrilton, Conway County, Arkansas.

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

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Tommy Dale Thompson, Broker (Edited by AHPP Staff)

organization St. Anthony's Apartments, Ltd. and
Minton Construction Company

date 1-14-85

street & number P. O. Box 637

telephone (501) 843-3543

city or town Cabot

state Arkansas

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state 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 *Wilson*

title Arkansas SHPO

date 2-7-86

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

of Concrete, Brick and Steel to Replace Frame
Structure at Morrilton as Result of Assistance by PWA

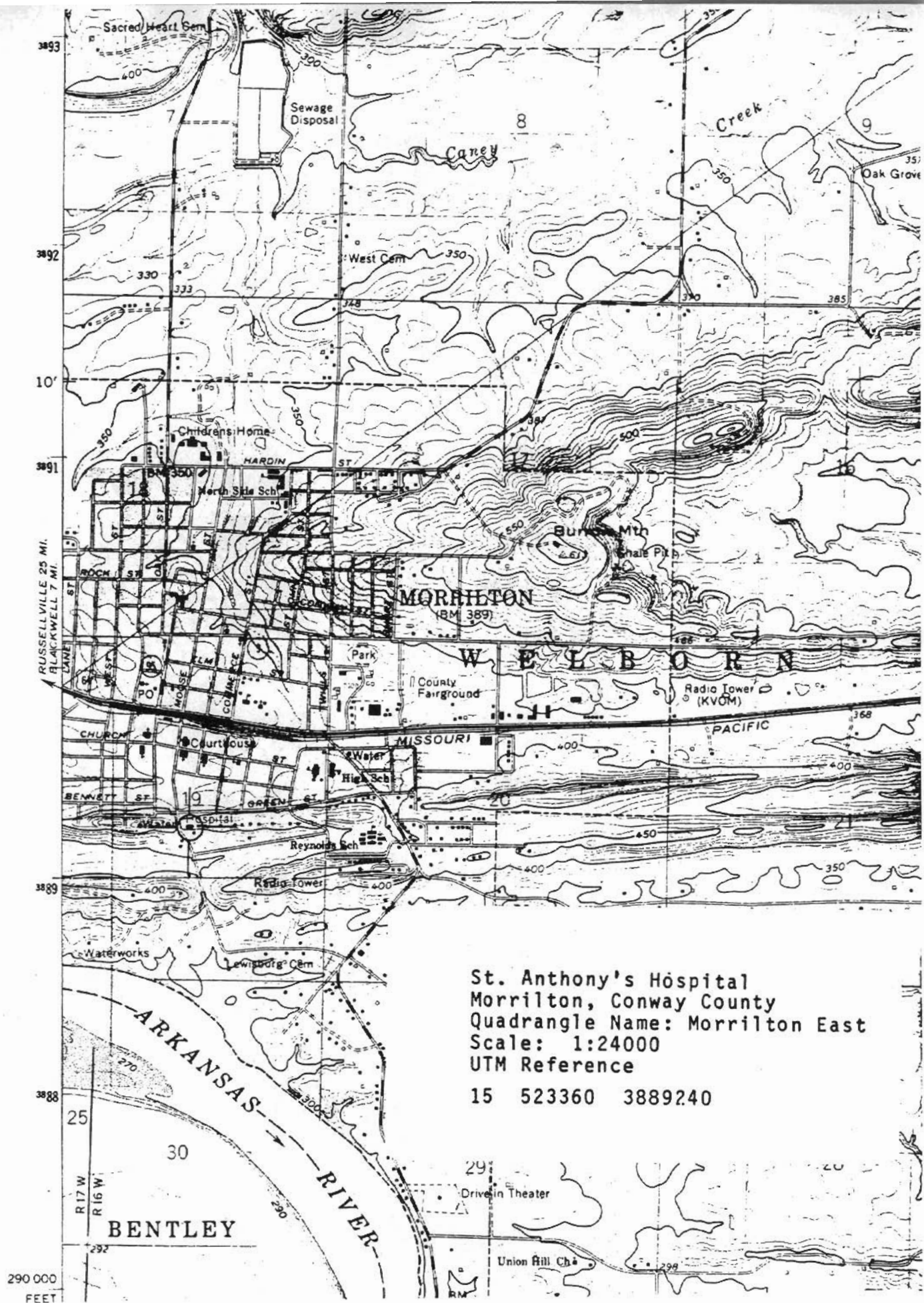
June 1, 1936



PROPOSAL OF PROPOSED ST. ANTHONY'S HOSPITAL, MORRILTON.

Agreement for erection of a new St. Anthony's hospital at Morrilton was signed last week and this will be sought soon. The plans are for a brick and concrete structure. The hospital will replace the existing one. The plans are for a brick and concrete structure. The hospital will replace the existing one.

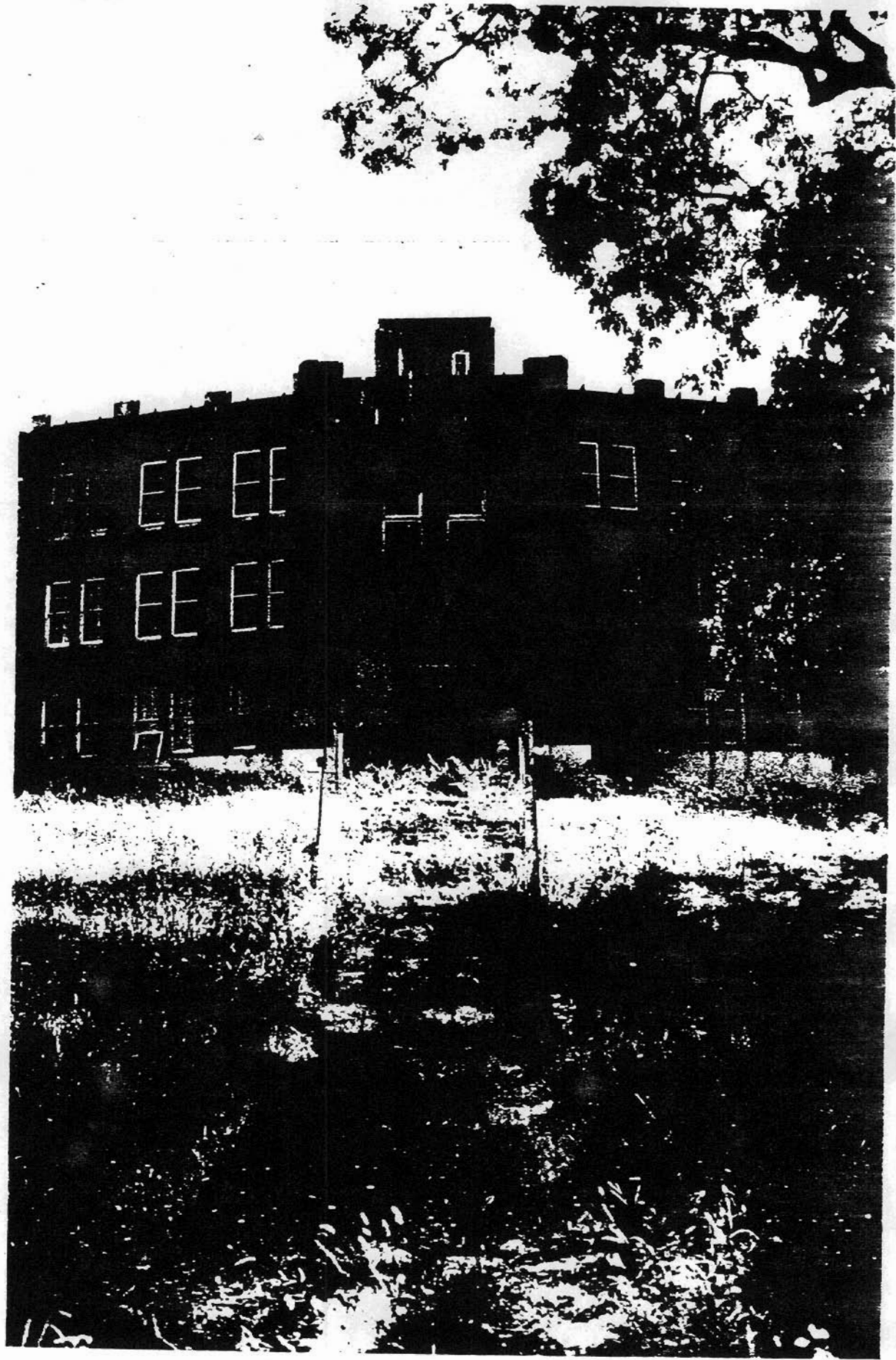




St. Anthony's Hospital
 Morrilton, Conway County
 Quadrangle Name: Morrilton East
 Scale: 1:24000
 UTM Reference
 15 523360 3889240

290 000
 FEET





St. Anthony's Hospital

Morrilton, Conway Co.

Front Entrance

Photographed by Don Brown & Mike Swanda

November 1985

Negative on file at AHPP



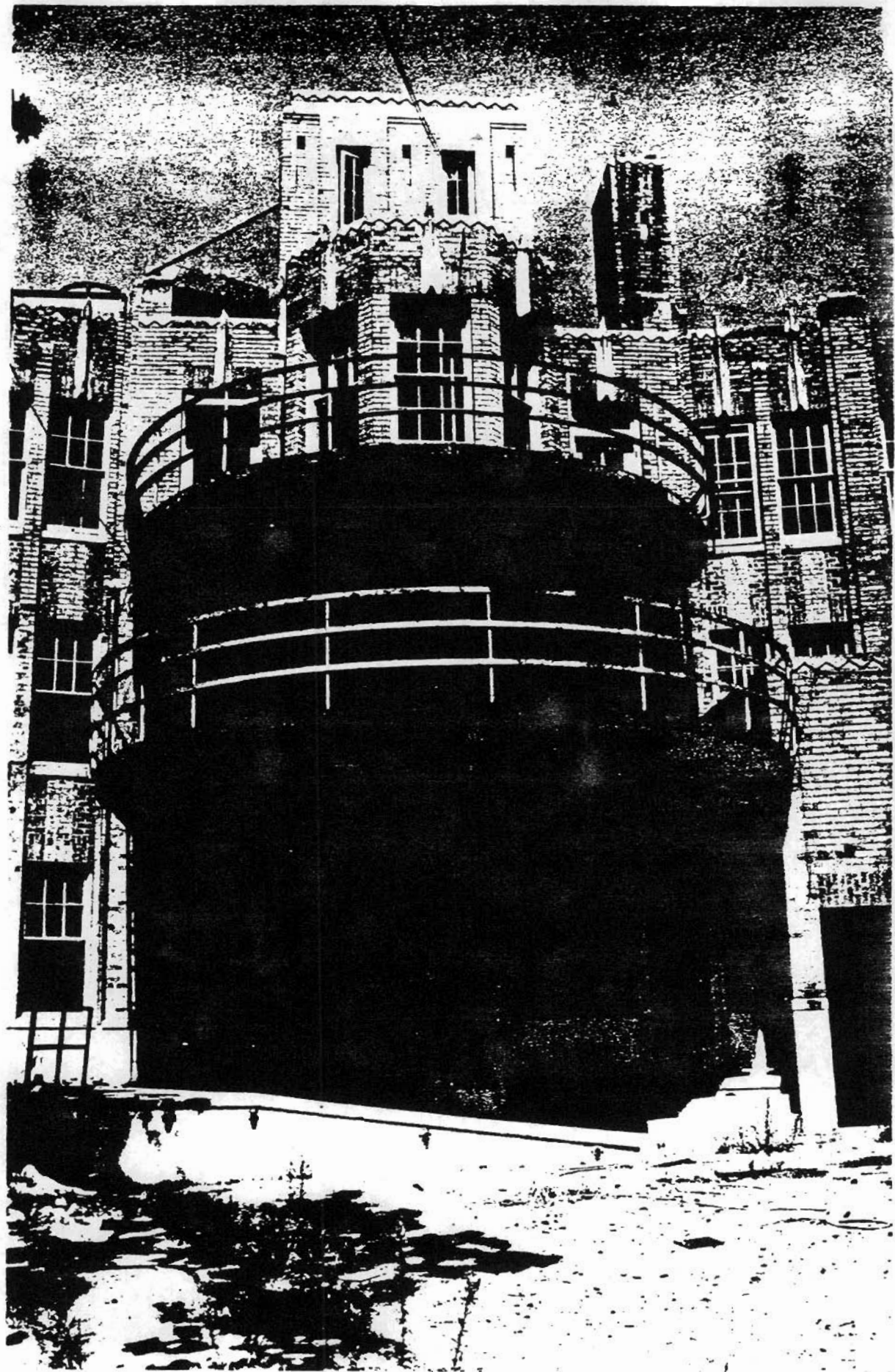
St. Anthony's Hospital
Morrilton, Conway Co.

Rear Elevation

Photographed by Don Brown & Mike Swanda

November 1985

Negative on file at AHPP



St. Anthony's Hospital

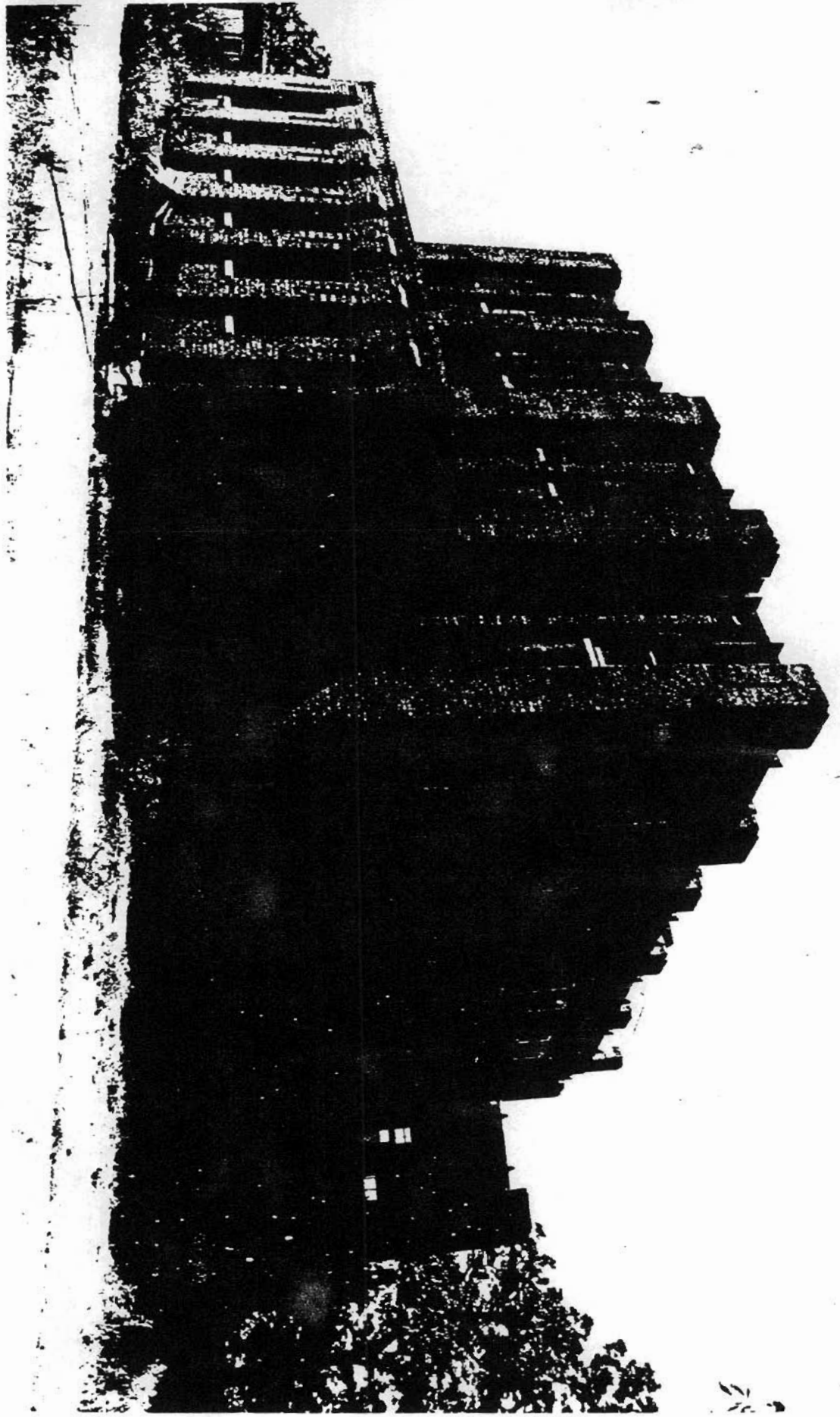
Morrilton, Conway Co.

Rear Elevation

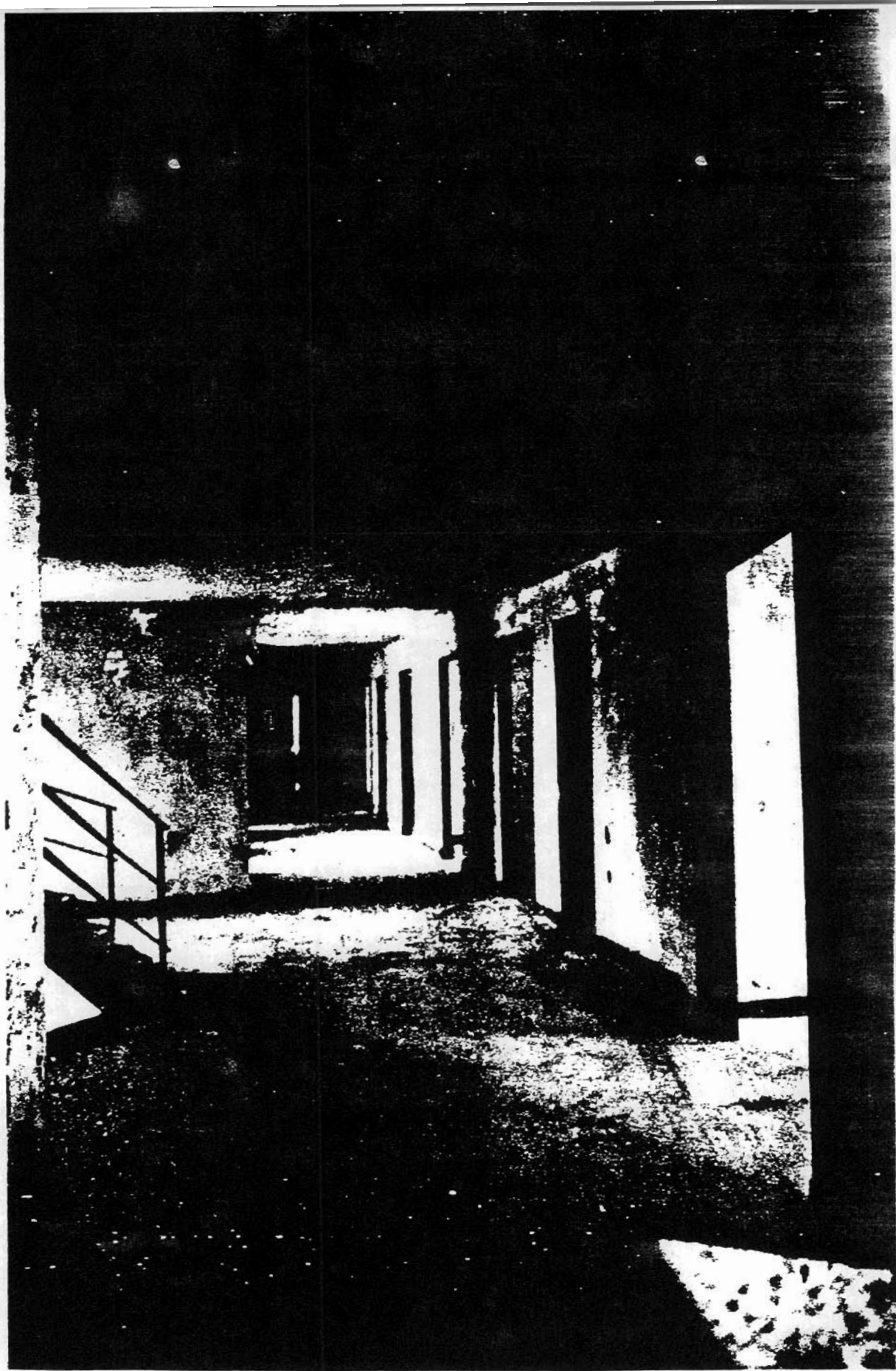
Photographed by Don Brown & Mike Swanda

November 1985

Negative on file at AHPP



St. Anthony's Hospital
Morrilton, Conway Co.
View from northeast corner
Photographed by Don Brown & Mike Swanda
November 1985
Negative on f at AHPP



St. Anthony's Hospital
Morrilton, Conway Co.
Main Corridor
Photographed by Don Brown & Mike Swanda
November 1985
Negative on file at AHPP



St. Anthony's Hospital

Morrilton, Conway Co.

Interior Stair

Photographed by Don Brown & Mike Swanda

November 1985

Negative on file at AHPP