

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Lasley's College Apartments

other names/site number Site #FA1358

### 2. Location

street & number 1916 and 1922 Bruce Street

not for publication

city or town Conway

vicinity

state Arkansas

code AR

county Faulkner

code 045

zip code 72034

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets   
does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  
 nationally  statewide  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*Cathie Matthews*

4/6/11

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Classification

Ownership of Property  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property  
(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property  
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2		Total

Name of related multiple property listing  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of Contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/Plain Traditional  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE  
walls BRICK  
roof ASPHALT  
other  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

Local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1947

Significant Dates

1947

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

Name of repository:

Lasley's College Apartments  
Name of Property

Faulkner County, Arkansas  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** Less than one.

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>550036</u>	<u>3882195</u>	3	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	4	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>

See continuation sheet

#### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

#### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

### 11. Form Prepared By

**name/title** Delores Wheat, edited by Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register & Survey Coordinator  
**organization** Arkansas Historic Preservation Program **date** January 25, 2011  
**street & number** 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street **telephone** (501) 324-9787  
**city or town** Little Rock **state** AR **zip code** 72201

#### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

##### Continuation Sheets

##### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

##### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

**name** CK Development, LLC  
**street & number** 2925 St. Charles Drive **telephone** (501) 450-8650  
**city or town** Conway **state** AR **zip code** 72034

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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### SUMMARY

The Lasley's College Apartments, built in 1947, are located at 1916 and 1922 Bruce Street in Conway just to the east of the University of Central Arkansas campus. The apartments consist of two two-story buildings, located on either side of a central courtyard. The buildings are on a cast-concrete foundation, have brick walls, and flat asphalt roofs with parapets. Each building houses eight apartments for a total of sixteen apartments in the complex.

### ELABORATION

The Lasley's College Apartments, built in 1947, are located at 1916 and 1922 Bruce Street in Conway just to the east of the University of Central Arkansas campus. The Lasley's College Apartments are constructed on a concrete foundation, have red brick walls, and also have metal canopies that are over all of the entryways. These are two two-story buildings, and each building has four entrances, two on the west side and two on the east side of each building. The window casements are made of steel and are original to the building. The buildings feature flat roofs surfaced with tar. A parapet is located around the outside perimeter of the roof and it is built up approximately two feet above the roof surface. The two buildings are aligned parallel to each other, forming a courtyard in the middle.

### *WEST BUILDING – 1922 Bruce Street*

#### **West Façade**

Beginning at the north end of the west façade each floor is fenestrated by a single double-hung, two-over-two window, followed by a pair of double-hung, two-over-two windows. To the right of the pair of windows on the first floor is the entrance to the northern part of the building, which consists of a wood panel door with nine lights in the top half and recessed panels in the bottom half. The entrance has three sidelights on each side and is sheltered by a shed-roofed awning supported by two posts. A single double-hung, two-over-two window is located on the second floor above the entrance. To the right of the entrance and the window above it are single double-hung, two-over-two windows.

The middle section of the façade is recessed back from the façade's main plane. The south facing and north facing walls of the recessed part are fenestrated on each floor by single small, double-hung, two-over-two windows. The recessed part of the façade is fenestrated on each floor by two pairs of double-hung, two-over-two windows.

The south section of the façade is a mirror image of the north section. A projecting cornice is located at the north and south ends of the façade.

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### South Façade

Both floors of the façade are fenestrated by four evenly-spaced double-hung, two-over-two windows that are located towards the right side of the façade. The second window from the left is slightly smaller than the other three. The top of the façade is crowned by the parapet with projecting cornice.

### East Façade

The east façade, beginning at the south end, is fenestrated on each floor by two pairs of double-hung, two-over-two windows. To the right of that, the façade is recessed at the south entrance to the building. The entrance consists of a wood panel door with nine lights in the top half and recessed panels in the bottom half. The entrance has three sidelights on each side and is sheltered by a shed-roofed awning supported by a wrought-iron post at the northeastern corner. A single double-hung, two-over-two window is located on the second floor above the entrance.

The middle section of the east façade is fenestrated on each floor by a pair of double-hung, two-over-two windows, followed by two single double-hung, two-over-two windows, followed by another pair of double-hung, two-over-two windows. To the right of the middle section of the façade, the façade recesses again where the northern entrance is located. Like the southern entrance, the northern entrance has three sidelights on each side and is sheltered by a shed-roofed awning supported by a wrought-iron post at the southeastern corner. A single double-hung, two-over-two window is located on the second floor above the entrance.

The northern third of the façade, like the southern third, is fenestrated by two pairs of double-hung, two-over-two windows. The parapet and projecting cornice run the entire length of the façade.

### North Façade

Like the south façade, both floors of the façade are fenestrated by four evenly-spaced double-hung, two-over-two windows that are located towards the left side of the façade. The second window from the right is slightly smaller than the other three. The top of the façade is crowned by the parapet with projecting cornice.

### *EAST BUILDING – 1916 Bruce Street*

### West Façade

The west façade, beginning at the south end, is fenestrated on each floor by two pairs of double-hung, two-over-two windows. To the left of that, the façade is recessed at the south entrance to the building. The entrance consists of a wood panel door with nine lights in the top half and recessed panels in the bottom half. The entrance has three sidelights on each side and is sheltered by a shed-roofed awning supported by a wrought-iron post at the northwestern corner. A single double-hung, two-over-two window is located on the second floor above the entrance.

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The middle section of the west façade is fenestrated on each floor by a pair of double-hung, two-over-two windows, followed by two single double-hung, two-over-two windows, followed by another pair of double-hung, two-over-two windows. To the left of the middle section of the façade, the façade recesses again where the northern entrance is located. Like the southern entrance, the northern entrance has three sidelights on each side and is sheltered by a shed-roofed awning supported by a wrought-iron post at the southwestern corner. A single double-hung, two-over-two window is located on the second floor above the entrance.

The northern third of the façade, like the southern third, is fenestrated by two pairs of double-hung, two-over-two windows. The parapet and projecting cornice run the entire length of the façade.

### South Façade

Both floors of the façade are fenestrated by four evenly-spaced double-hung, two-over-two windows that are located towards the left side of the façade. The second window from the right is slightly smaller than the other three. The top of the façade is crowned by the parapet with projecting cornice.

### East Façade

Beginning at the north end of the east façade each floor is fenestrated by a single double-hung, two-over-two window, followed by a pair of double-hung, two-over-two windows. To the left of the pair of windows on the first floor is the entrance to the northern part of the building, which consists of a wood panel door with nine lights in the top half and recessed panels in the bottom half. The entrance has three sidelights on each side and is sheltered by a shed-roofed awning supported by two posts. A single double-hung, two-over-two window is located on the second floor above the entrance. To the left of the entrance and the window above it are single double-hung, two-over-two windows.

The middle section of the façade is recessed back from the façade's main plane. The south facing and north facing walls of the recessed part are fenestrated on each floor by single, small double-hung, two-over-two windows. The recessed part of the façade is fenestrated on each floor by two pairs of double-hung, two-over-two windows.

The south section of the façade is a mirror image of the north section. A projecting cornice is located at the north and south ends of the façade.

### North Façade

Like the south façade, both floors of the façade are fenestrated by four evenly-spaced double-hung, two-over-two windows that are located towards the right side of the façade. The second window from the left is slightly smaller than the other three. The top of the façade is crowned by the parapet with projecting cornice.

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### Interior

The interiors of each building contain eight apartments, for a total of sixteen units. Each building has four one-bedroom units and four two-bedroom units. The stairwells have hardwood floors, wood baseboards and walls surfaced with plaster. There are two entrances to each apartment unit. The interior doors and frames are steel. The kitchens have wood cabinets and tile counter tops. In the bathrooms, the original metal sinks are still mounted on the walls. Gas utilities are used for the purpose of the cooking stove and the hot water heaters. One of the changes that has been made was converting the heat supply and the window air-conditioning units to the energy efficient electric mini-split units that are mounted on the living room walls. Ceiling fans have been installed in the living rooms and bedrooms. All of the units have their original hardwood floors in the living areas and bedrooms. The kitchen and bathroom floors are covered with linoleum.

### Integrity

The Lasley's College Apartments retain excellent integrity from when they were built in 1947. The largest change to the outside of the building has been the installation of new HVAC units in the center courtyard. The buildings retain their original windows and doors. Although there have been a few changes in the setting, notably the construction of parking lots to the west and south and new apartments to the north, they are a direct result of the growth of the University of Central Arkansas. However, the neighborhood to the east of the apartments reflects the historic residential feel of the apartments' historic setting.



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### SUMMARY

The Lasley's College Apartments was built in 1947 in response to the growth of the University of Central Arkansas and the need for more student housing. The apartments represent a good example of a mid-twentieth-century courtyard-style apartment complex. Although courtyard-style apartment complexes like the College Apartments were more prevalent in Arkansas's larger cities, specifically, Little Rock, it is a rare property type in Conway. As a result, the Lasley's College Apartments are being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion C**.

The construction of the Lasley's College Apartments in 1947 also reflects the growth of Conway after World War II as returning GIs came to the city. As in much of the country and in other parts of Central Arkansas, the return of veterans after World War II created a housing shortage in Conway, especially as they competed for housing with college students across the city. As a result, the construction of apartments, especially in the vicinity of the University of Central Arkansas, became more prevalent after World War II in order to deal with the housing shortage. For its reflection of the trend of dealing with the housing shortage after World War II, the Lasley's College Apartments is also being nominated to the National Register with **local significance** under **Criterion A**.

### HISTORY OF THE PROPERTY

Conway is the county seat of Faulkner County, Arkansas, which is located just north of the center of the state and bordered by seven counties with Pulaski County directly south of it. Physiographically, the southern two-thirds of the county, which includes Conway in the southwest section, is part of the Fourche Mountain subdivision of the Ouachita Mountains. This subdivision has two anticlinal ridges called Cadron and Bayou Meto that are separated by level, sediment-filled valleys. Lake Conway is located southeast of Conway, with many small creeks and streams running through the area. The Arkansas River meets the mouth of Cadron Creek approximately six miles northwest of the western boundary of the district.<sup>1</sup>

The only development in the area before the 1870s was an early French trading post, approximately five miles from present-day Conway, called Cadron Settlement. Cadron was the former county seat of Pulaski County for the year 1820, until it was relocated to Little Rock in 1821. The settlement disappeared by the 1850s.<sup>2</sup>

The history of Conway began with Colonel Asa P. Robinson, who was a native of Connecticut and a Yale graduate. He moved from New York to Little Rock in 1869 to construct the first twenty miles of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain, and Southern Railroad. Upon his retirement, he was given 640 acres in what is now

<sup>1</sup> Dolan, Doris B., Hattie Ann Kelso Corrine H. Robinson, eds. *Faulkner County: Its Land and People*. Faulkner County Historical Society. River Road Press: Conway, Arkansas, 1986, pp. 5-6.

<sup>2</sup> Conway (Faulkner County). Found at <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net>.

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Conway as partial payment for his services as chief engineer for the St. Louis, Iron Mountain, and Southern Railroad. He chose an area with an open prairie as the site of Conway Station and platted Conway Station in 1871. Three possibilities for the origin of Conway's name are: from an early political family in Arkansas, from the county for which it was originally located, or the railroad locomotive "Conway." After platting the town in 1871, he deeded land for the depot and the courthouse, and supported education for its residents. He started selling lots in 1871 when the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad was constructed through the area. Although Congress approved funding for the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad Company, construction did not begin on it until after the Civil War.<sup>3</sup> The Arkansas Legislature formed Faulkner County from Pulaski and Conway counties in 1873 and named Conway as its county seat. The county was named after Colonel "Sandy" Faulkner. Col. Faulkner created the story of the "Arkansas Traveler," which was a story, painting, and tune that has molded the rustic image of Arkansas since the 1840s.<sup>4</sup> A reporter from the *Arkansas Gazette* reported, August 9, 1873, that, "The town [Conway] is situated on the outskirts of a beautiful prairie, giving a good breeze, a pleasant view, and excellent pasturage for stock." The town of Conway was officially incorporated in 1875 with Lorenzo Dowe Pearle, a drug store proprietor, as Conway's first mayor.<sup>5</sup> *The Arkansas Traveler* became the first newspaper in Conway in 1875. George Washington Bruce founded the *Conway Democrat* in 1878, and Able F. Livingston started the *Log Cabin* in 1879. These last two newspapers merged into the *Log Cabin Democrat* in 1901.<sup>6</sup>

Cotton was the basis of Faulkner County's economy in the nineteenth to the late twentieth century. As the only municipality in the county, Conway became the commercial center for farmers throughout the county. Farmers would travel to Conway to sell or gin their crops, and buy supplies and groceries. Several entrepreneurs built cotton gins in Conway in the 1880s. These include J.M. Shettles and J.D. Townsend's gin on Washington Avenue, John Ingram's Gin on Ingram Street, W.L. "Dude" Whitten and Otis Moore's Gin, Bob Adams' Gin, John Whitten's Gin, and Bob McCullough's Gin (located between Van Ronkle and Merriman streets, on Harrison Street). Conway's population grew as more agricultural and commercial businesses opened.<sup>7</sup> R.T. Harrison opened the first business in 1871 or 1872, and by the late 1800s almost forty brick commercial buildings existed in Conway. Goodspeed stated that five churches, two public schools, one Catholic school, an opera house, fifty mercantile businesses, a flour and grist mill, two cotton gins, two planning mills, a foundry, furniture manufacturer, broom/barrel factory, a steam dye works, a wagon factory, three hotels, and several mechanic shops existed in Conway in 1889.<sup>8</sup> The original railroad

<sup>3</sup> Ward, Bill M. *Conway: As It Was...As It Is*. Ward Agency: Bee Branch, Arkansas, 2008, pp.11.

<sup>4</sup> Sanford C. "Sandy" Faulkner. Found at <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net>.

<sup>5</sup> Keith, Sonja J. and Tammy Keith. *Conway: A Story of Its People*. Community Communications: Montgomery, Alabama, 1999, pp. 13.

<sup>6</sup> Conway (Faulkner County). Found at <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net>.

<sup>7</sup> Keith, pp.13-16.

<sup>8</sup> Goodspeed. *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Pulaski, Jefferson, Lonoke, Faulkner, Grant, Saline, Perry, Garland, and Hot Springs Counties, Arkansas*. Goodspeed's Publishing Company: Illinois, 1889, pp. 711-712.

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depots were located at the depot square between Main and Oak streets and Front Street and Railroad Avenue. The passenger depot was located on the east side of the railroad with the freight depot on the west side.

Conway's rapid growth at the turn of the twentieth century was also encouraged by one of its early residents, George Washington Donaghey (1856-1937), who was instrumental not only for raising the funds to establish three colleges in Conway, but also for leading an anti-saloon campaign, which made Conway a dry city in 1888. Before and after his term as governor of Arkansas (1908-1913), Donaghey was also an experienced contractor.<sup>9</sup>

In 1907, Arkansas legislators passed Act 317, creating Arkansas State Normal School (ASNS), the state's first teacher-training institution. The creation of a normal school allowed more Arkansas women not only an opportunity to advance their teaching skills, but also provided them with the ability to enter into professions besides teaching. The city of Conway was able to outbid its rivals (Searcy, Russellville, Benton, and Fort Smith) by putting up \$51,753 in cash, a substantial tract of land, as well as an alcohol-free community, the latter creating a situation of perceived wholesomeness considered important for the establishment of a normal school. With the addition of ASNS, Conway would become known as "The City of Colleges." Operations at ASNS began in 1908 with one building (the original Training School building; razed in 1972) and approximately 100 students pursuing the two-year Licentiate of Instruction degree. Growth of ASNS was continual until World War I, which had a significant impact on the school's enrollment. In 1917, approximately one third of the school's 440 students had to interrupt their education and go to war.<sup>10</sup>

With the end of World War I, Arkansas State Normal School experienced a significant transformation. The growing number of students returning after the war prompted the school to add the four-year Bachelor of Arts degree in 1920. This curricular expansion was made possible by the construction of the Administration Building in 1919. Serving as an administrative and academic building, the Administration Building added 28,150 square feet, including nineteen classrooms, to the campus to accommodate the increase in the post-war student population. The school's makeover would also necessitate a name change in 1925—to Arkansas State Teachers College (ASTC).<sup>11</sup>

Over the next two decades, the Conway area witnessed the expansion of Arkansas State Teachers College, growing from twenty faculty members and 328 students in 1917 to forty-four faculty members and 745

<sup>9</sup> Seymour, Gayle, and Brad Chilcote. "Administration Building, University of Central Arkansas, Faulkner County, Arkansas." National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. From the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 2010.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*

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students in 1939. On December 8, 1941, the day after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, the college's president, Nolen M. Irby, held a "war assembly" in Ida Waldran Auditorium. President Irby asked students to stay calm and instructed the male students to prepare to leave campus. By 1943, only 289 students were enrolled.<sup>12</sup>

However, after WWII, the college went through more significant changes. When Congress passed the Service Men's Readjustment Act of 1944, also known as the GI Bill of Rights, veterans flooded the campus. As the student population exploded from 289 in 1943 to 1,700 in 1947, and because many of the students were older and already married, a subsequent baby boom prompted ASTC to award honorary *Baby of Arts* degree to the children of veterans. This flood of new students and families to Conway and the college necessitated the construction of places to house the students, including the Lasley's College Apartments.<sup>13</sup>

The Lasley's College Apartments were built in 1947 by an unknown builder, and they are some of the oldest apartments in the University of Central Arkansas (UCA) area. The builder of the apartments chose an unusual design for the apartments, especially in Conway, with the central courtyard in between the two buildings. Courtyard-style apartments were often found in larger cities like Little Rock where the Holcomb Court Apartments (NR-listed, April 7, 1995) represents an excellent example of the type. However, by orienting the buildings perpendicular to the street and including a small courtyard in the center, it was possible to fit more apartments on the parcel, something that would have been important in the post-World War II housing market in Central Arkansas. The courtyard also allowed residents to have a quiet area to socialize and partake in outdoor activities away from the noise and din of the street.

The proximity of the College Apartments to UCA (one block to the northeast) meant that the apartments would have been important complex in providing housing to students and veterans after World War II. The need for veterans housing was something that was apparently critical for Conway and UCA after the end of the war. For example, the 1948 Sanborn map for Conway shows twenty-four small square buildings to the northwest of Doyn Hall on the UCA campus that were specifically labeled "veterans housing."<sup>14</sup>

Jewell Lasley, who was born in 1899, was the first owner of the College Apartments. Jewell grew up in Enola, Arkansas, and as an adult managed her own store in downtown Conway. She bought the apartment buildings new in 1947 because she thought it would be a good investment opportunity since it was so close to the Arkansas State Teachers College, as UCA was known at the time.

About ten years before Jewell bought the apartment building she became involved in a group called Business and Professional Women. This group worked to get equal opportunities for women in the work place.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>14</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Conway, Arkansas, 1948, Sheet 21.

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Because Lasley did very well with the apartment building and was a leader in the community, she soon became the president of the group in Conway. Jewell always made her tenants a priority and was considered a great landlord. Jewell owned and managed these apartments for many years. Jewell Lasley passed away in 2003, but she had deeded the property to her sister, Hazel. Because Hazel had taught at a college in Washington and knew nothing about managing the property, she decided to sell the property to Randall and Diane Davis.<sup>15</sup>

Randall and Diane Davis met while in college, and Randall lived in the apartment building next door. The Davises always loved the Lasley's College Apartments and had managed other rental property for several years. They felt this was a great opportunity to purchase the apartments, and they never had trouble renting the apartments because they were within walking distance to UCA. The Davises owned the apartments for about one year and put quite a bit of money into the maintenance of the apartment buildings, including the new HVAC units. Although the Davises loved the College Apartments, they eventually decided to sell the apartments in order to focus on other projects.<sup>16</sup>

Dwight Southerland bought the apartments from the Davises in 2004, and, like the Davises, also managed the property himself. In 2007, Southerland sold the property to Thomas Dolislager of CK Development, LLC, the current owner. Dolislager has continued to carry out repairs to the property, and hopes to continue to restore and maintain the property. As when they were built, the apartments still house mostly college students who still enjoy the courtyard area for fellowship.

The construction of the Lasley's College Apartments was important to Conway after World War II in order to help accommodate returning veterans and the influx of post-war students to UCA. Multi-family housing like the College Apartments was important after World War II in order to handle the housing needs of returning GI's and their families throughout central Arkansas, and the design of the complex with its central courtyard was unusual in a smaller city such as Conway. The Lasley's College Apartments is still used as an apartment building, and has been throughout its history, continuing to reflect the importance of multi-family housing in the vicinity of the campus.

### **SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROPERTY**

The Lasley's College Apartments is a great example of a courtyard-style apartment building, something that is unusual in Conway. Although courtyard-style apartments were more prevalent in larger cities in Arkansas, specifically Little Rock, it is an unusual design for a city the size of Conway. However, the design of the

<sup>15</sup> Lasley, Hazel. Interview with Thomas Dolislager. 2010.

<sup>16</sup> Davis, Randall, and Diane Davis. Interview with Thomas Dolislager. 2010.

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apartment complex, with the central courtyard, allowed more units to fit on the parcel, and the presence of the courtyard allowed the residents, many of whom were college students, to have a place to gather and socialize that was somewhat separated from the noise of Bruce Street. (This was especially important since Bruce Street is one of the main east-west streets in Conway.) Because of its importance as a rare and intact example of a courtyard-style apartment complex in Conway, the Lasley's College Apartments is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** with **local significance**.

In addition to its architectural significance, the Lasley's College Apartments is also important for its reflection of the state of housing in Conway after World War II and how the problems were solved. After World War II, like many cities in Arkansas, Conway was dealing with an influx of veterans returning from the war that needed housing. It was also especially important because of the presence of several colleges, including UCA. Although there was some veterans housing built on the UCA campus after World War II, apartment buildings like the Lasley's College Apartments were also a significant component in providing enough housing for Conway's growing population. The fact that the apartments were built in 1947 also illustrates that it took several years to provide enough housing. As an important reflection of the ways in which housing was provided for returning veterans and students after World War II, the Lasley's College Apartments is also being nominated to the National Register with **local significance** under **Criterion A**.

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### **VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

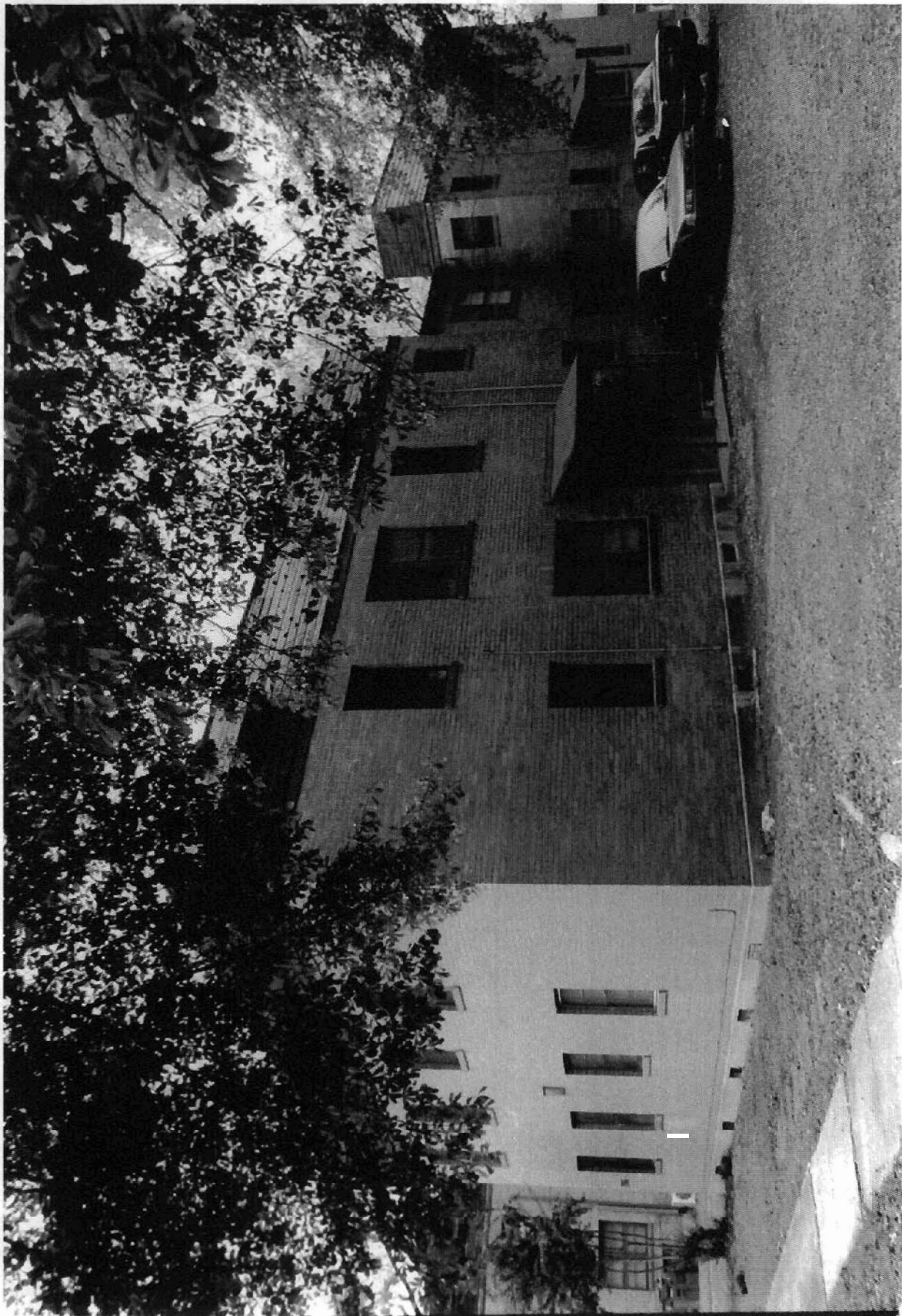
Lot 7, Block 64, Boulevard Addition and PT Closed St. & Alley, Section 2, Township 05N, Range 14W, Conway, AR 72034.

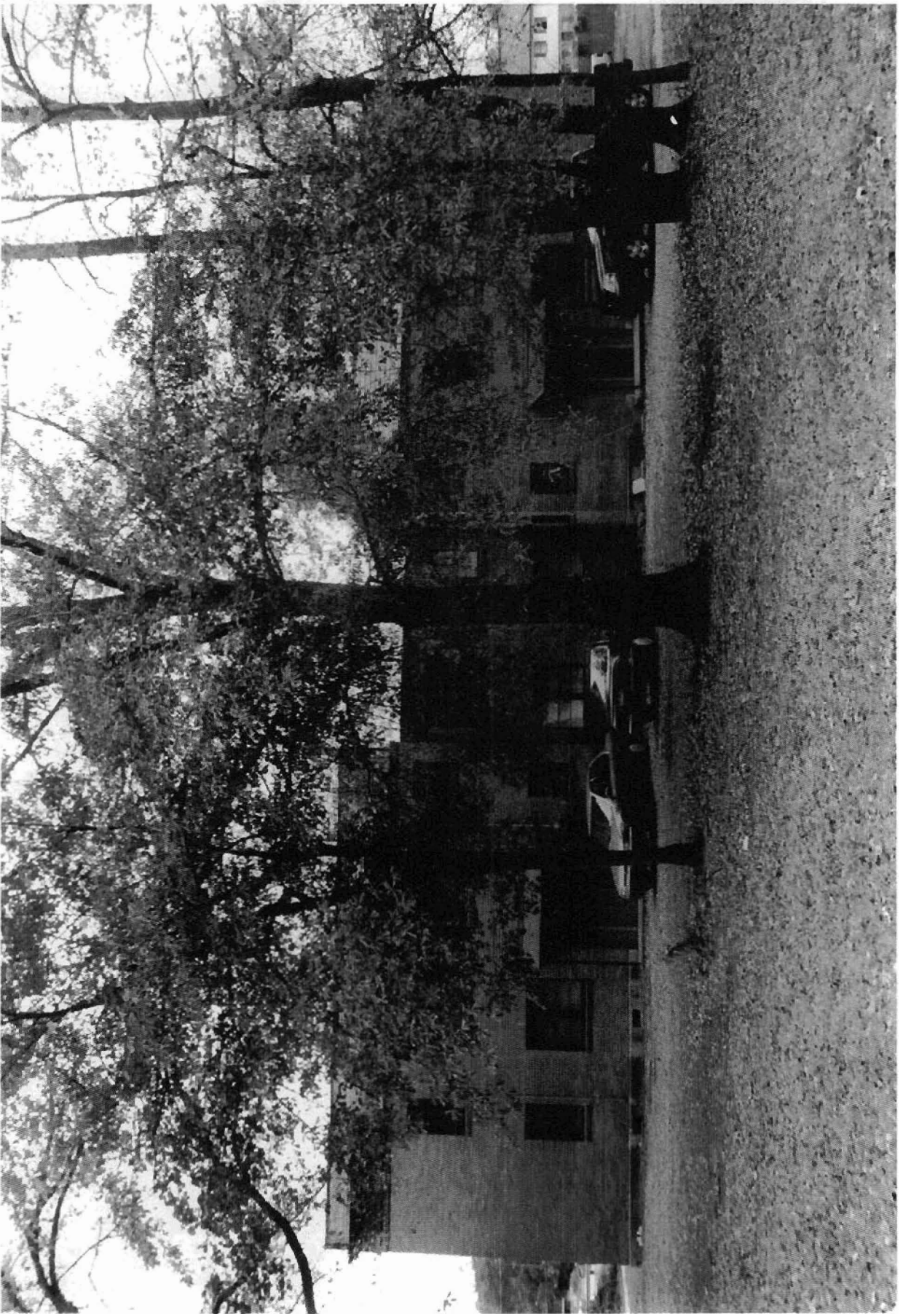
### **BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundary contains the land that is historically associated with the Lasley's College Apartments.

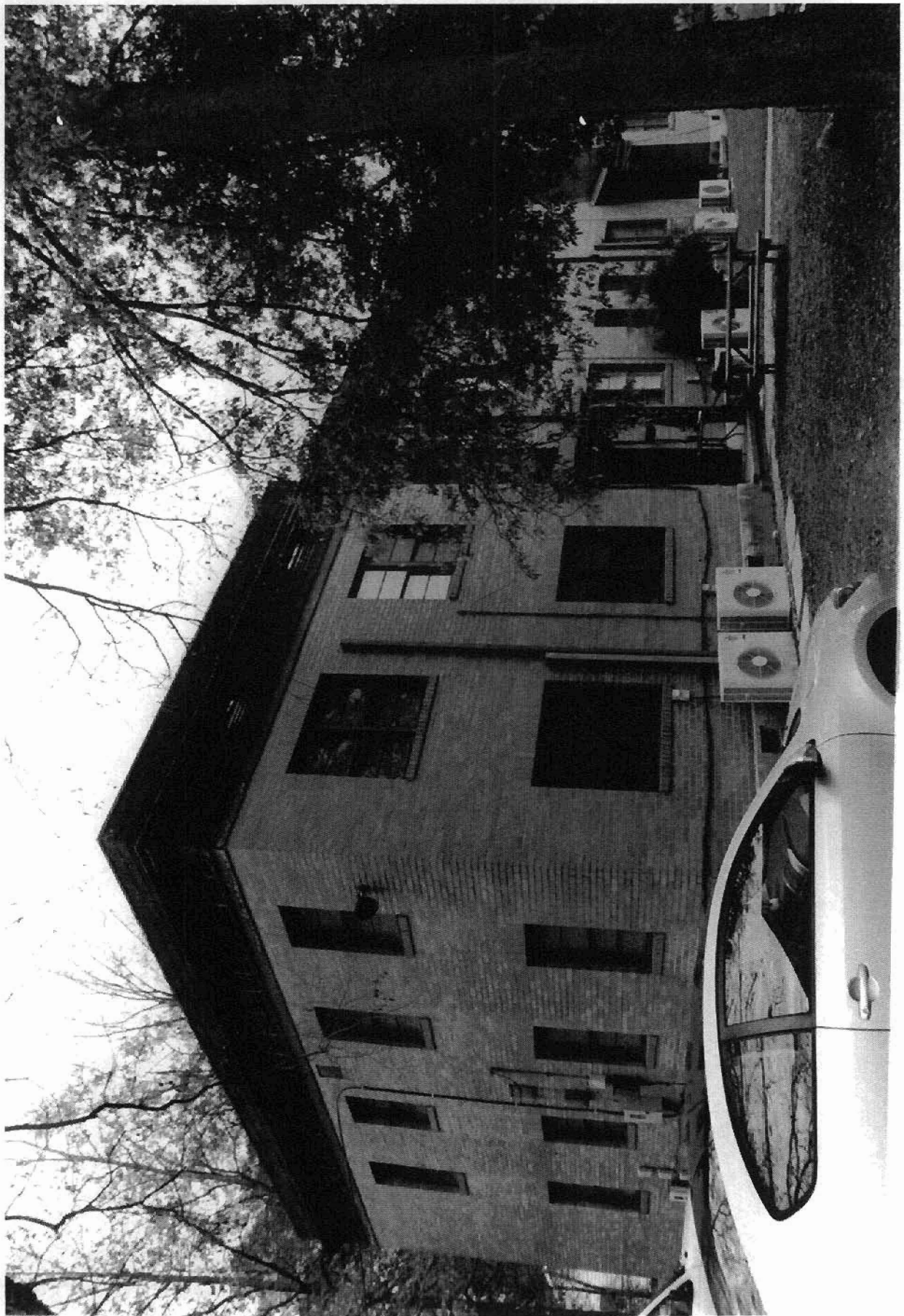


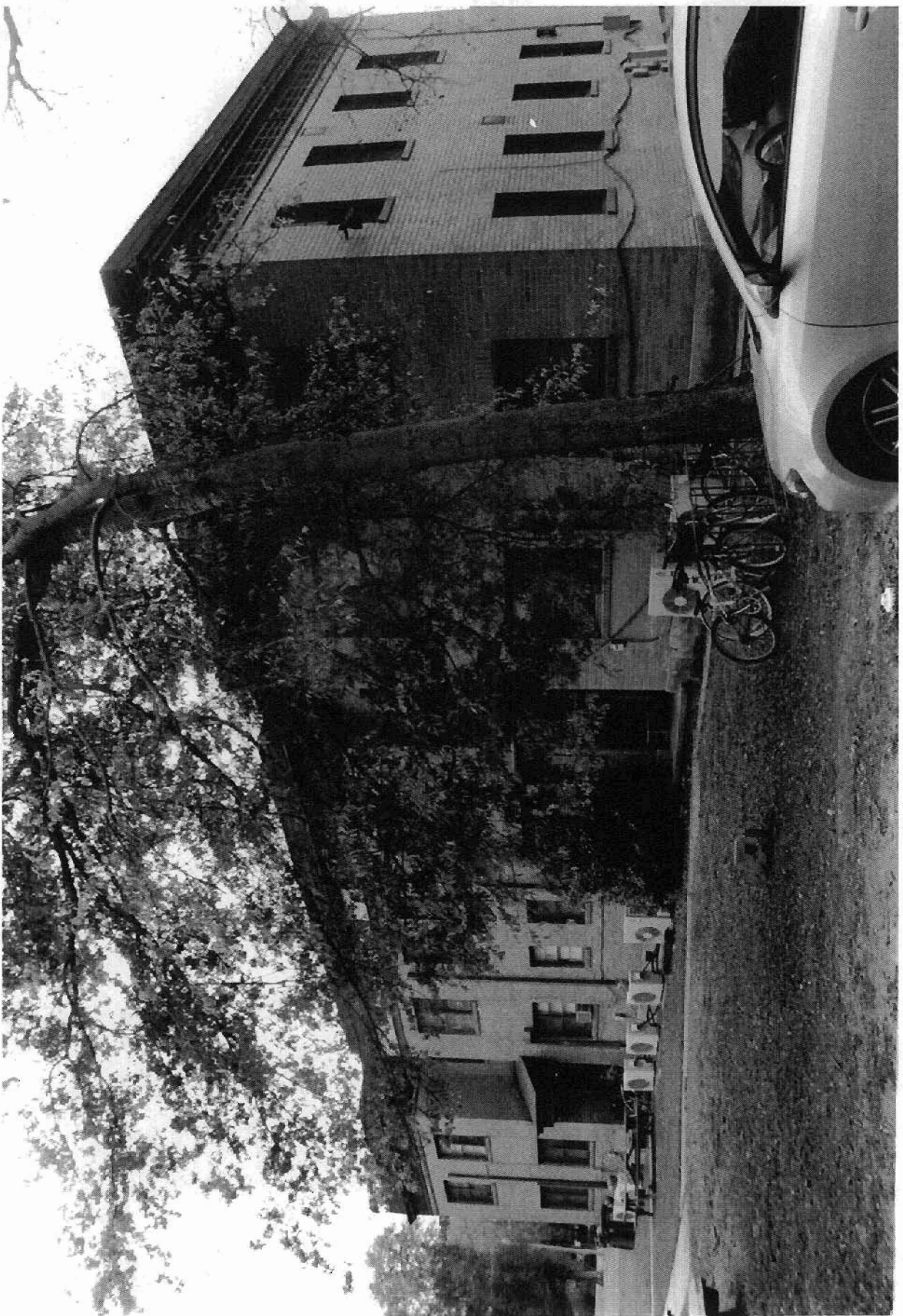




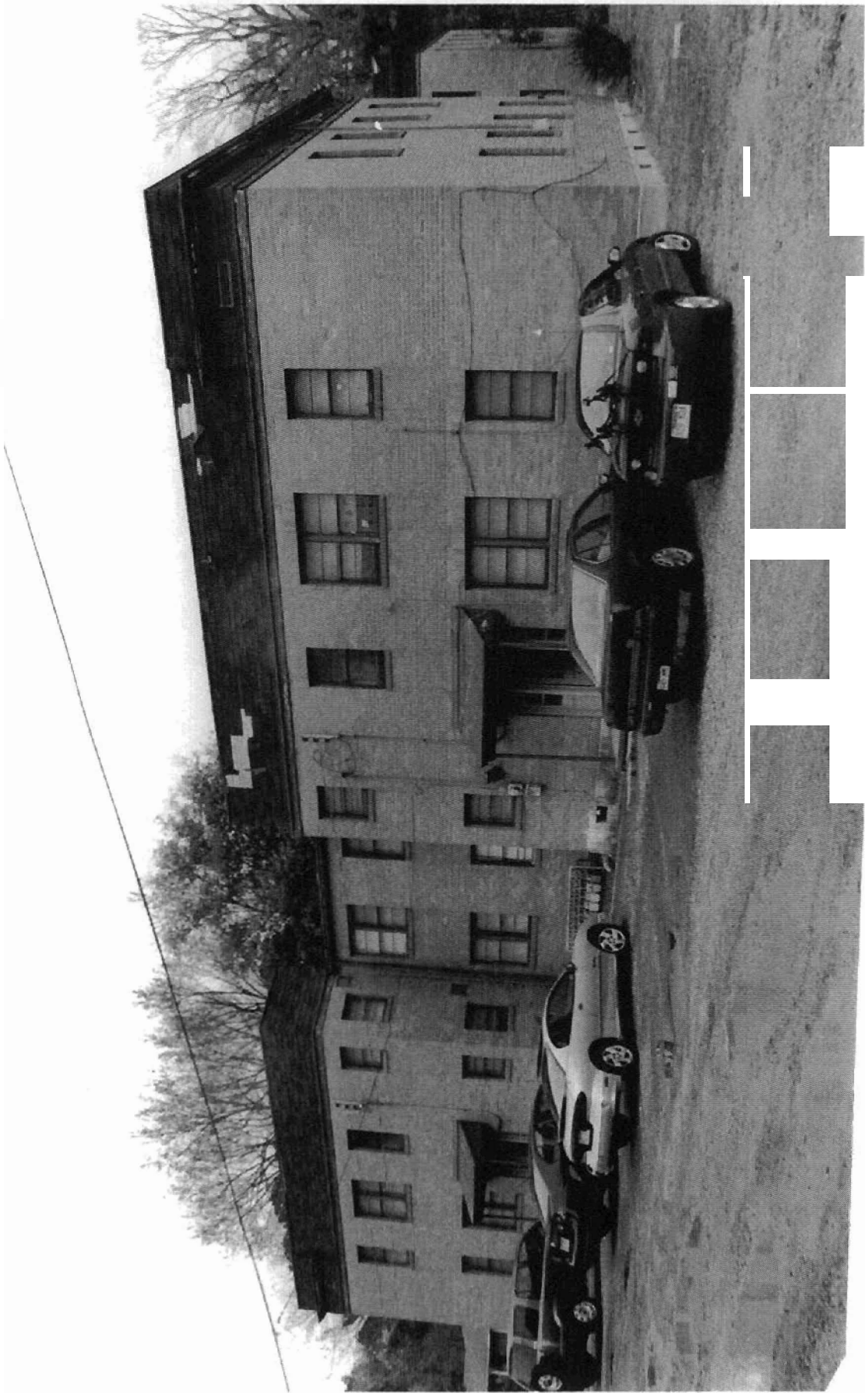






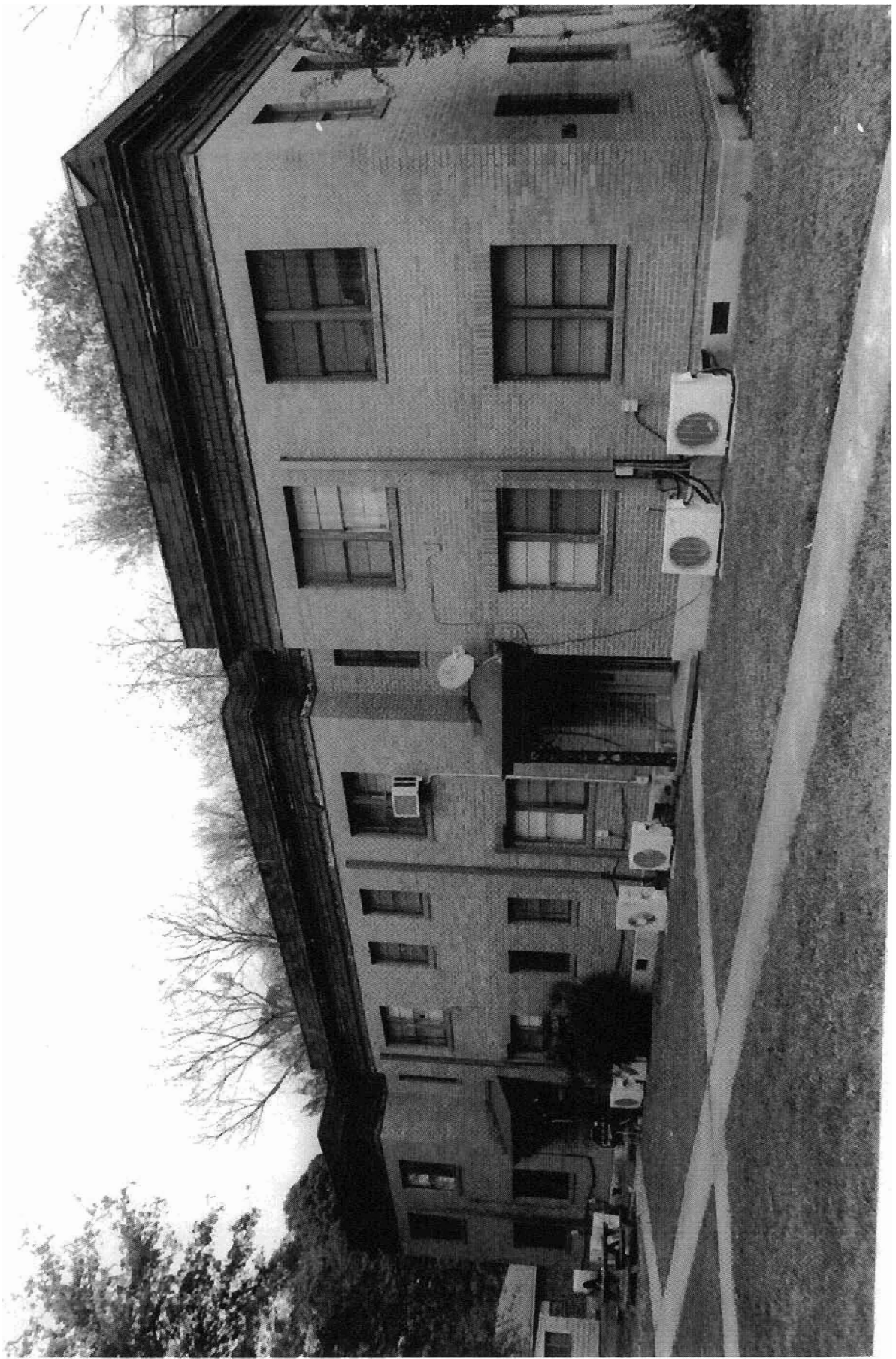


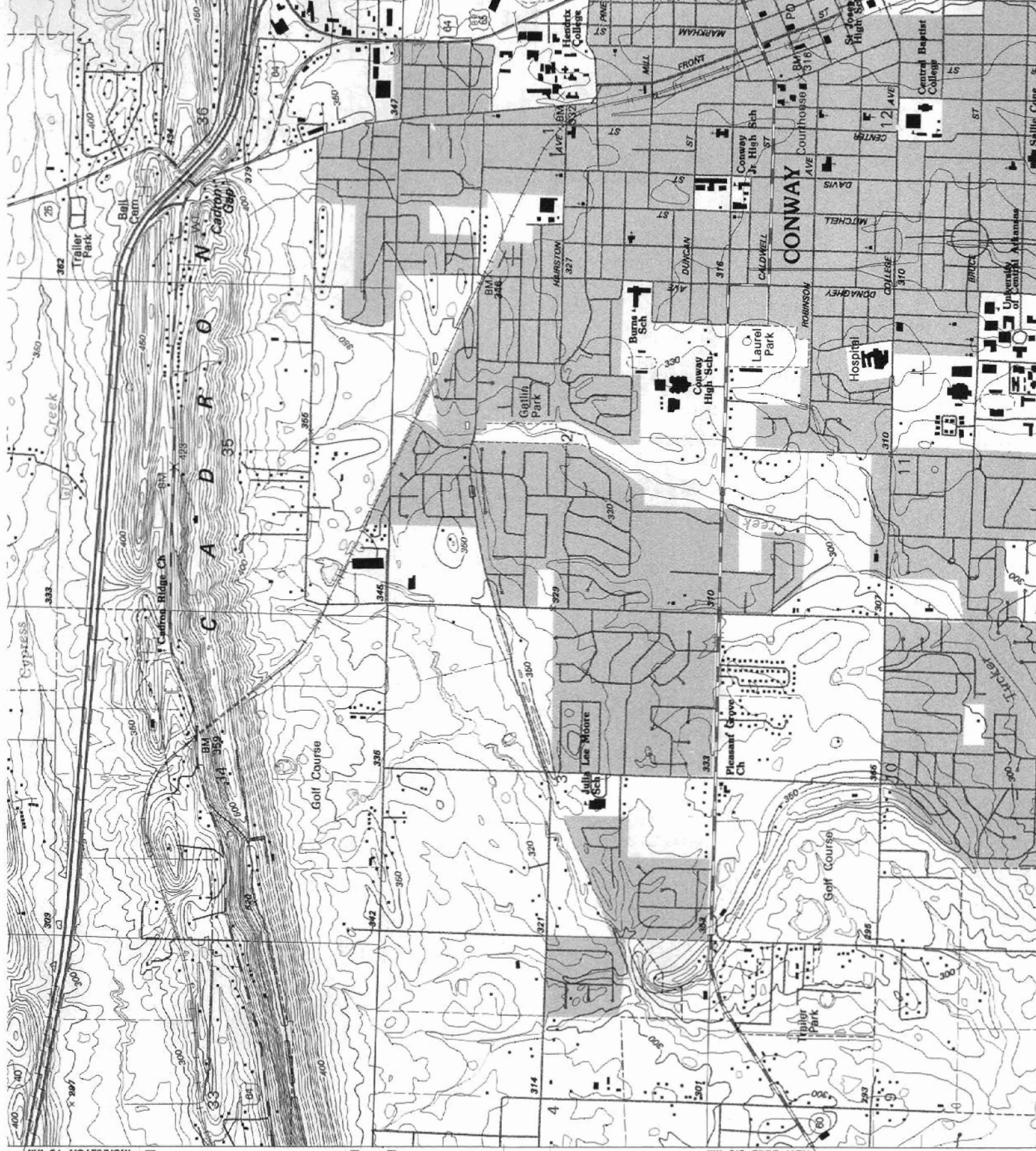












3886000  
 MORRILLTON 15 MI.  
 RUSSELLVILLE 43 MI.

T 6 N  
 T 5 N

3884

PERRYVILLE 20 MI.  
 NEW DIXIE 8.6 MI.

LAWLEY'S COLONIE  
 APARTMENTS 500'  
 CONWAY, FAULKNER  
 COUNTY, AR 3882  
 UTM  
 15/540000/3702145