

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NR-LISTED
7-22-79
#362

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Little Rock Y. M. C. A.

AND/OR COMMON

Central Branch of the Little Rock Y. M. C. A.

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

524 Broadway

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Little Rock

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

Arkansas

CODE

05

COUNTY

Pulaski

CODE

119

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input 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	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input 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

Young Men's Christian Association of Metropolitan Little Rock

STREET & NUMBER

524 Broadway

CITY, TOWN

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Pulaski County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT

GOOD

FAIR

DETERIORATED

RUINS

UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED

ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE

MOVED DATE 1928

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Y. M. C. A. is a rectangular central core structure which is four stories tall. On the south facade is a hipped-roofed tower which rises two stories above the building. The tower's top floor is an open arcade on four sides. To the west of the tower is a pile whose top floor is a closed arcade. The arcades are decorated with stone arches, impost and piers.

There are two entrances on the south facade. One is a large round arch decorated with flat stone-work. The second has an elaborately decorated stone broken pediment resting on stone pilasters which are topped with urns. Centered on the pediment is a coat of arms held by two putti with garland decorations above their heads. To either side of this entrance are two narrow arched windows separated by columns. The entrance on the east is a round arch framed in a square of stone with shields at each upper corner. Above the door is written in stone "Young Men's Christian Association."

Windows at street level are asymmetrically placed. At the southeast corner are three narrow arched windows separated by columns. At the northeast corner are two sets of two windows separated by single columns. Windows above street level are symmetrically placed.

The building is finished in blonde brick. The foundation is stone and corners have stone quoins. Originally there was a red tile roof.

SIGNIFICANCE

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

1500-1800	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
600-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1928

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Mann and Stern

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Little Rock Y. M. C. A. is a large and significant example of Spanish Revival architecture. At the time of its completion in 1928, the sprawling, four-storey, \$200,000.00 Y. M. C. A. was one of the largest and most costly structures in Little Rock. The "Y" was designed by the firm of Mann and Stern, which was perhaps the premier architectural concern in the state at the time. The Y. M. C. A. building was one of the major undertakings of the firm.

The variety of services provided by the Little Rock Y. M. C. A. has included low-cost board, religious education, physical and athletic training, educational programs, and special benefits for servicemen during war. The building represents significant part of Little Rock's religious and social-humanitarian history.

The Y. M. C. A. was organized in Little Rock in 1885 for the purpose of conducting Bible classes and engaging in civic improvement activities. The first structure that was built for the specific purpose of housing the Y. M. C. A. was erected at the corner of Capitol and Scott Streets in downtown Little Rock in 1905. The demand for use of the facility was almost immediately too great for the new structure to accommodate. Therefore, its period of service as the Y. M. C. A. was short-lived. The 1905 Y. M. C. A. is currently used for offices by the Arkansas Democrat, which is a Little Rock newspaper.

When built in 1928, the Little Rock Y. M. C. A. building was acclaimed by the Arkansas Democrat as being "one of the most modern structures of its kind in the South." Much of the money that was used to fund the construction of the building was raised through private contributions. For months the Little Rock newspapers ran articles which related both to the new Little Rock Y. M. C. A. and to other model Y. M. C. A.'s that were located in other cities. Full-page advertisements announced the need for contributions, and the progress of the amount of money which was raised for the construction of the "Y" was reported daily. Editorial cartoons even stressed to readers the benefits which would result from financing the construction of a new Y. M. C. A. building. The intense newspaper coverage of all phases of planning and construction of the new Y. M. C. A. points out the significance with which the activities provided by the "Y" were viewed locally. In fact in 1928 the sentiment in Little Rock seems to have been that for any city to lay claim to being progressive-minded, it must boast a first-class Y. M. C. A.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

The Little Rock Y. M. C. A. has, since its completion, experienced changes in the nature of the services it provides. In its early years a major function of the "Y" was to provide low-cost rooms to men, many of whom were transients. Consequently, most of the building was used as a dormitory. During World War II, the Y. M. C. A. and the U. S. O. arranged for military men to stay in the "Y" for 35¢ a night. In recent years the importance of providing rooms to boarders has declined, and now only one floor of the building is used as a dormitory.

Another major service provided by the Y. M. C. A. has been the physical and athletic training of boys and men. Pre-military physical training was administered by the "Y" in World War II. Recently, a number of dormitory rooms have been converted to open areas that contain indoor tracks, exercise rooms, and a cardiovascular rehabilitation area.

The name of the Little Rock Y. M. C. A. has been changed to that of the Central Branch of the Little Rock Y. M. C. A. because several new Y. M. C. A.'s have been established in various sections of the city. A recent major change in Y. M. C. A. policy has been the admittance of women as regular members. Some of the original dormitory rooms have been removed in order to create space for the women's locker room.

The Y. M. C. A. is currently much more than a large athletic club. Its public service programs reflect the expanded role that the Y. M. C. A. is playing in the community. Among the programs that the "Y" sponsors are parent-child programs, a day care center, religious instruction, a summer food-service program, day camps, and many other instructional and charitable activities.

Although the Y. M. C. A. building is important to the religious and social-humanitarian history of the city, perhaps the greatest significance of the buildings is its Spanish Revival architecture. The four-storey, blond-brick building occupies one-fourth of a city block. The building is rectangular in shape and features a large, open central court. Six-storey towers are located on both the north and south elevations of the building. Major entrances are placed on the structure's east and south elevations. The window and door arrangement is generally symmetrical. The original red ceramic-tile roof has been removed. A red concrete-tile roof is preferred as a replacement, but the ultimate choice of the replacement material will depend upon the availability of funding. The roof form is hipped. With the exception of the roof the exterior of the building is virtually unaltered, but the interior has experienced numerous alterations; however, such important and visible interior areas as the entrance lobby, the tiled indoor swimming pool room, and the basketball court have experienced minimal or no alteration.

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The problem in describing the bountiful and often elaborate detail-work found on the exterior of the Y. M. C. A. is that of selectivity, since the viewer is presented with so much detail-work from which to choose. The entrance on the east elevation is double-leaf and is set within a stone arched-recess. The large, smooth-dressed stone entrance-arch-surround is rectangular and is inscribed with the words "Young Men's Christian Association." Stone coats-of-arms are set at the upper corners of the entrance-arch-surround; and raised stone molding, which resembles a dripstone in hood molds, caps the entrance-arch-surround. A second storey, wrought-iron balcony is located above the entrance-arch-surround. The balcony fronts a false entrance that is set within a plain stone architrave.

The stone, double-leaf entrance on the south elevation is more elaborate than the one that is located on the east elevation. The entrance is flanked by pilasters and is topped by a broken pediment. The detail-work on the entrance resembles the platteresque detailing found in Mexican Baroque architecture.

A smooth-dressed stone tunnel pierces the foot of the six-storey tower on the south elevation of the Y. M. C. A. The tunnel leads into the building's open central court. An iron gate bars access to the tunnel.

Several groupings of stone-trimmed arcades are set in the first floor wall of the "Y." The individual arches in the arcades feature foil arches which appear to be derived from Spanish-Moorish architecture.

The section of the first floor that is situated below the line of the water table is battered and is finished in smooth-dressed stone. Smooth-dressed stone quoins are located on each corner of the building.

Most windows on the upper stories of the Y. M. C. A. are rectangular and do not possess elaborate surrounds. Several of the windows are enclosed within wrought-iron window guards. Wrought-iron is also used to form several false balconies on the upper floors and four decorative lamps, set in sconces, on the first storey.

The appearance of the swimming pool wing, which is the west side of the building, differs from that of the rest of the "Y." Few windows are located on the first three floors of the swimming pool wing. Arcades, composed of Roman-arched windows, are located on the south and west elevations of the wing's fourth storey. The arcades form a clerestorey for a basketball court which occupies a portion of the upper three floors of the interior of the wing. The arcade on the south elevation is detailed with stone pilaster impostes and hood molds.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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The tower that is positioned on the south side of the building features a full arcade on its sixth storey. A small iron balcony which leads out from a narrow arched aperture is located on the fifth floor of the tower.

Originally, the first floor of the interior of the Y. M. C. A. was a lobby and office space. The three upper floors, excluding those in the swimming pool wing, were dormitory floors. Today, only the fourth floor retains its integrity of use as a dormitory. The second and third floors have been converted into space for locker rooms, indoor tracks, and other open areas.

The first floor lobby retains its original columns, terra cotta trim, and elaborate stairway. The lobby space has been partitioned into several large sections.

The swimming pool wing contains the original locker rooms, indoor pool, and basketball and racquetball courts. The wing has experienced little alteration.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arkansas Democrat, Sunday, May 20, 1928.

Abstract #111942, Beach Abstract, Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, Block 283, Original City of Little Rock.

Young Men's Christian Association of Little Rock Board Reports, March, 1942.

Mrs. Ethel P. Carroll, Y. M. C. A., Interview, September 29, 1978.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME Little Rock

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1, 5 | 56, 6 | 28, 0 | 3, 8 | 44 | 17, 00

B | | | | |

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | | | | |

D | | | | |

E | | | | |

F | | | | |

G | | | | |

H | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, Block 283, Original City of Little Rock.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE #7 - Frezil Miller
#8 - Mike Shinn

ORGANIZATION	DATE
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program	4/16/79
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
500 Continental Bldg., Main & Markham	501-371-2763
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Little Rock	Arkansas 72201

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL X

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 State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 4/19/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE BY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

TEST: DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

17531 SW
INCL ALMONT

LITTLE ROCK QUADRANGLE ARKANSAS

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

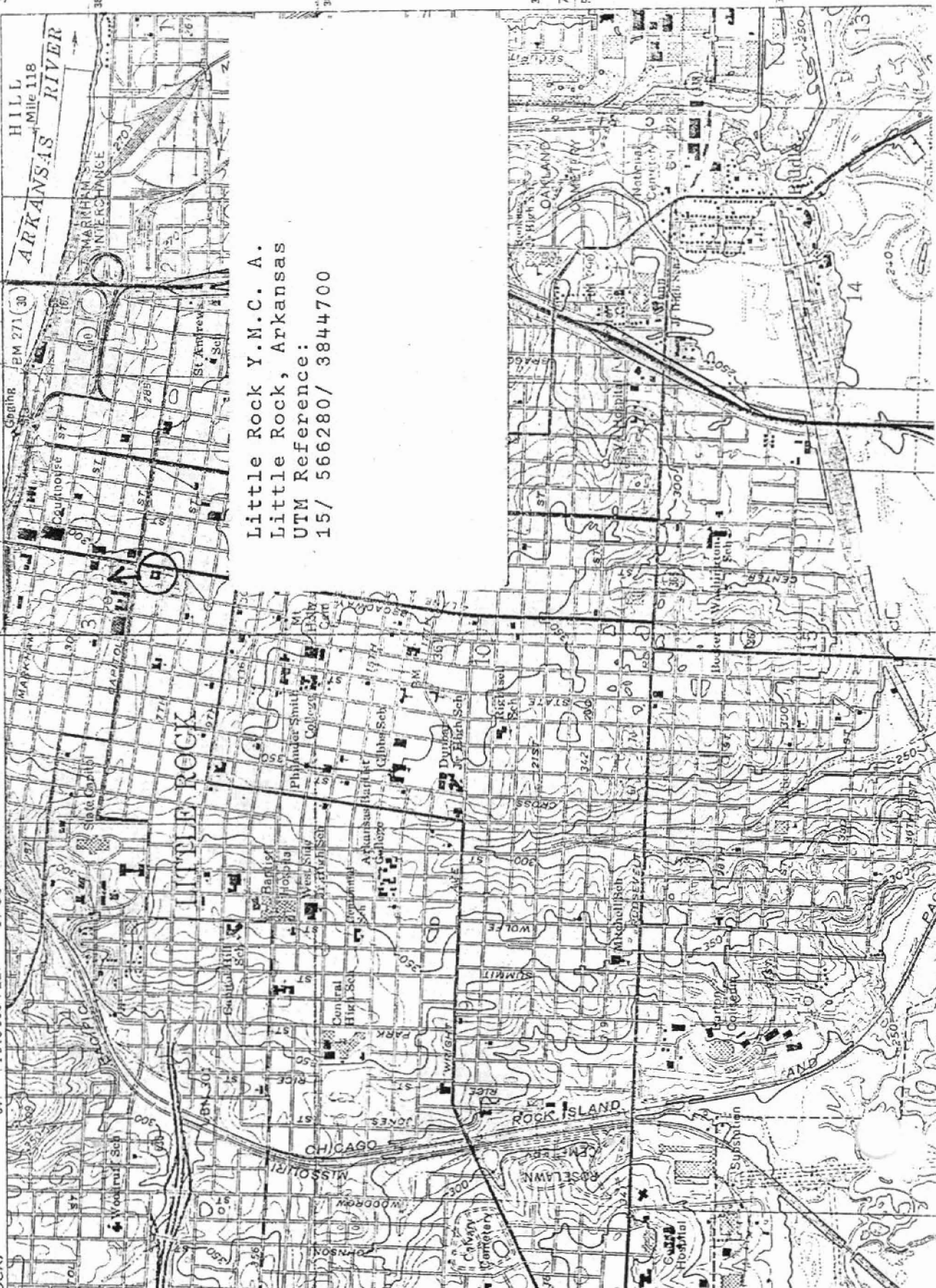
CONWAY 32 MI. (VIA U.S. 65)
1.7 MI. TO NORTH TERMINAL INTERCHANGE
0.5 MI. TO JUNC. U.S. 65

IVESVILLE 10 MI.
WOODLAND HEIGHTS 7.9 MI.

17°30' 1910000 FEET

34°45'

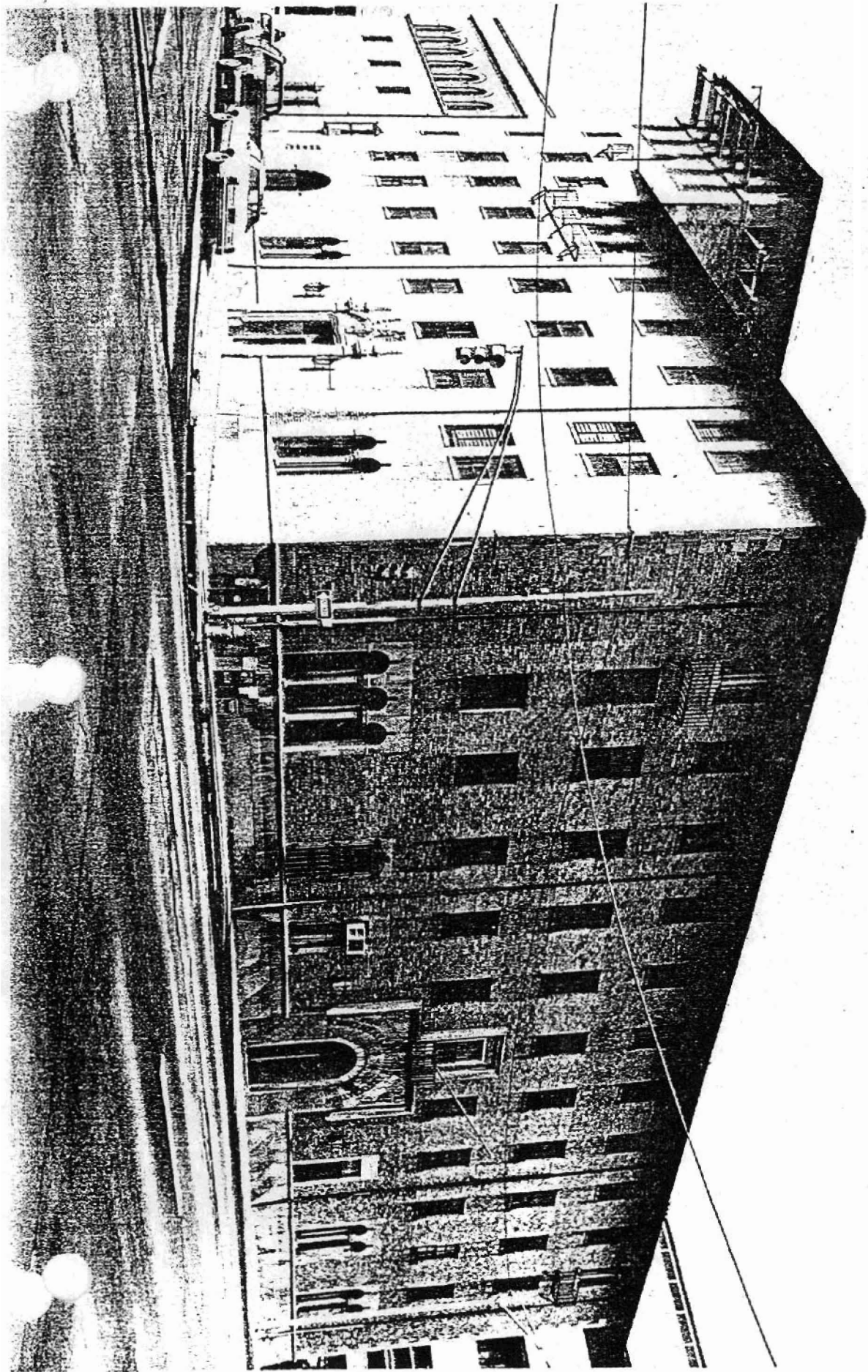
3845



Little Rock Y.M.C. A.
 Little Rock, Arkansas
 UTM Reference:
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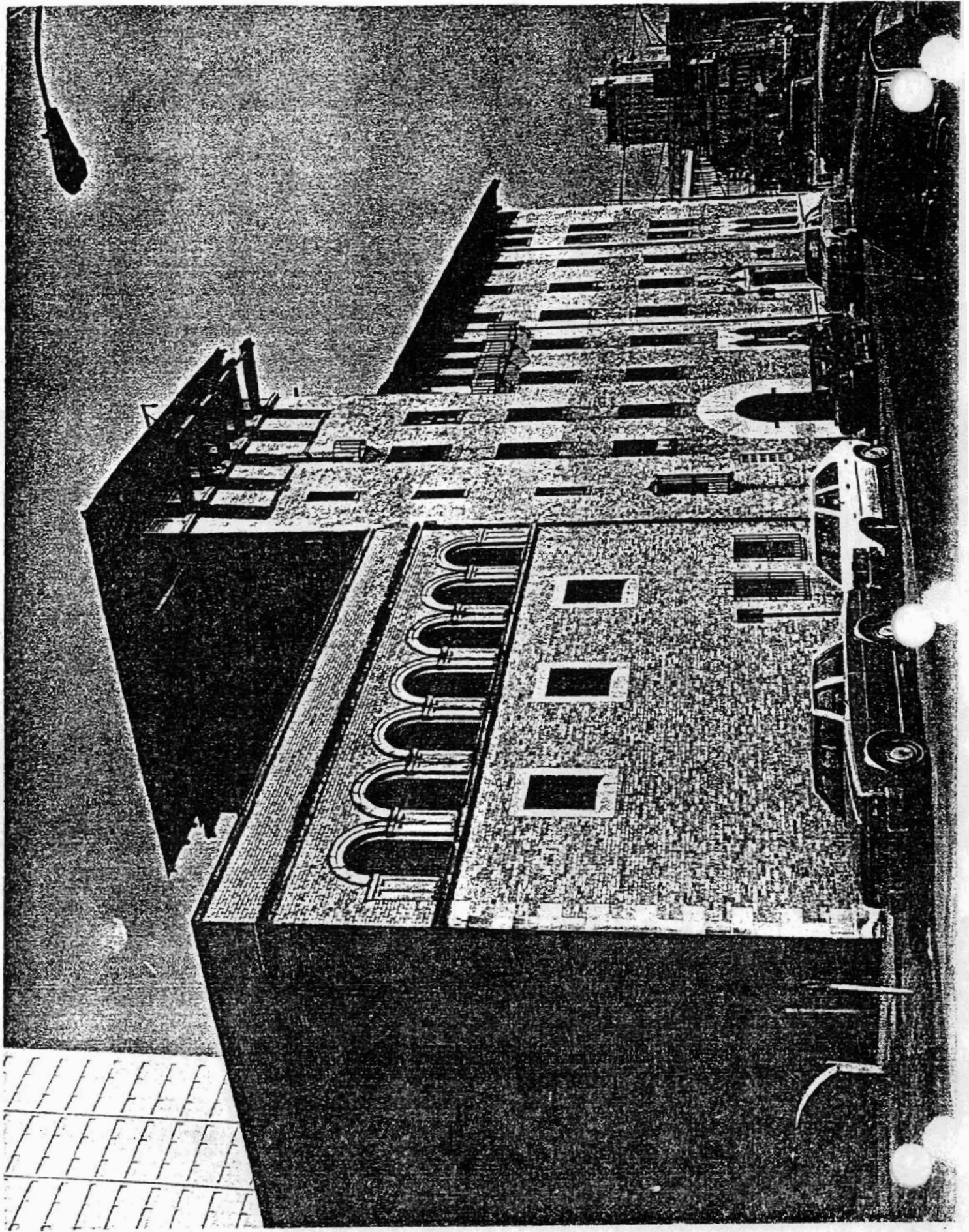
3843 750 000 FEET

3842

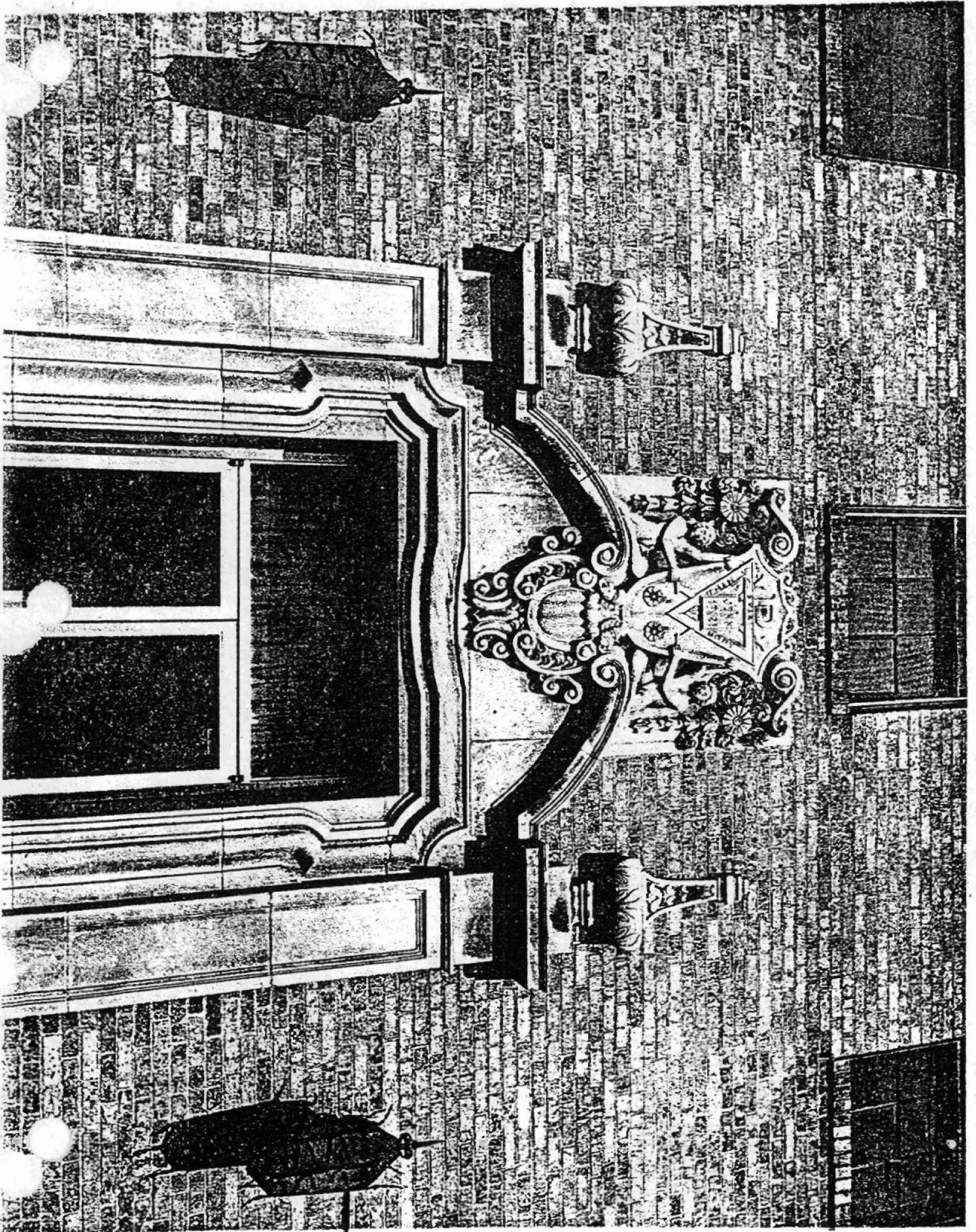


Little Rock Y. M. C. A.
Little Rock, Arkansas
Bob Dunn
1978

Arkansas Historic Preservation Progr.
South and east elevations viewed
from the southeast
#1



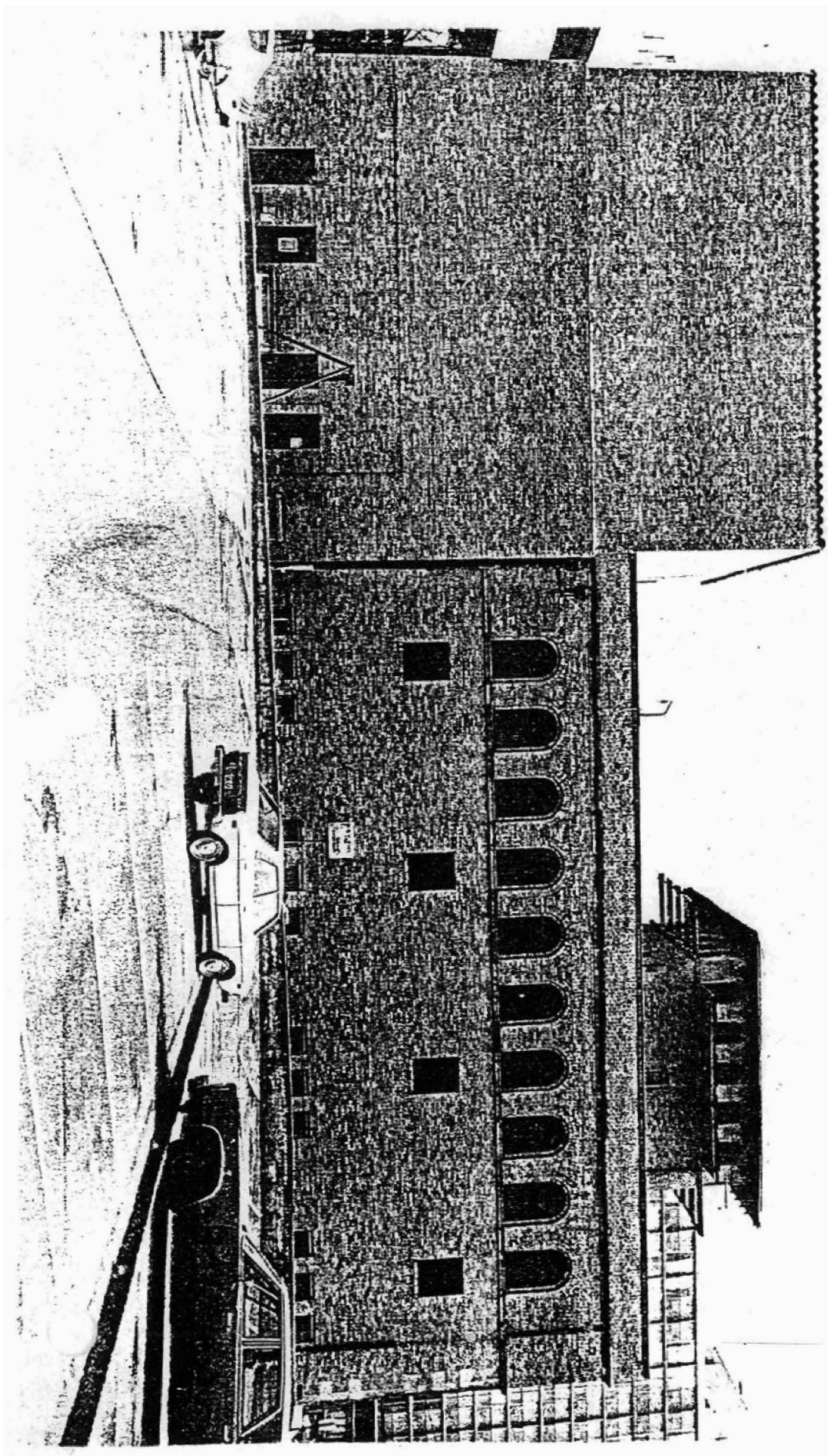
Little Rock Y. M. C. A.
Little Rock, Arkansas
Bob Dunn
1978
Arkansas Historic Preservation
Program
South elevation
#2



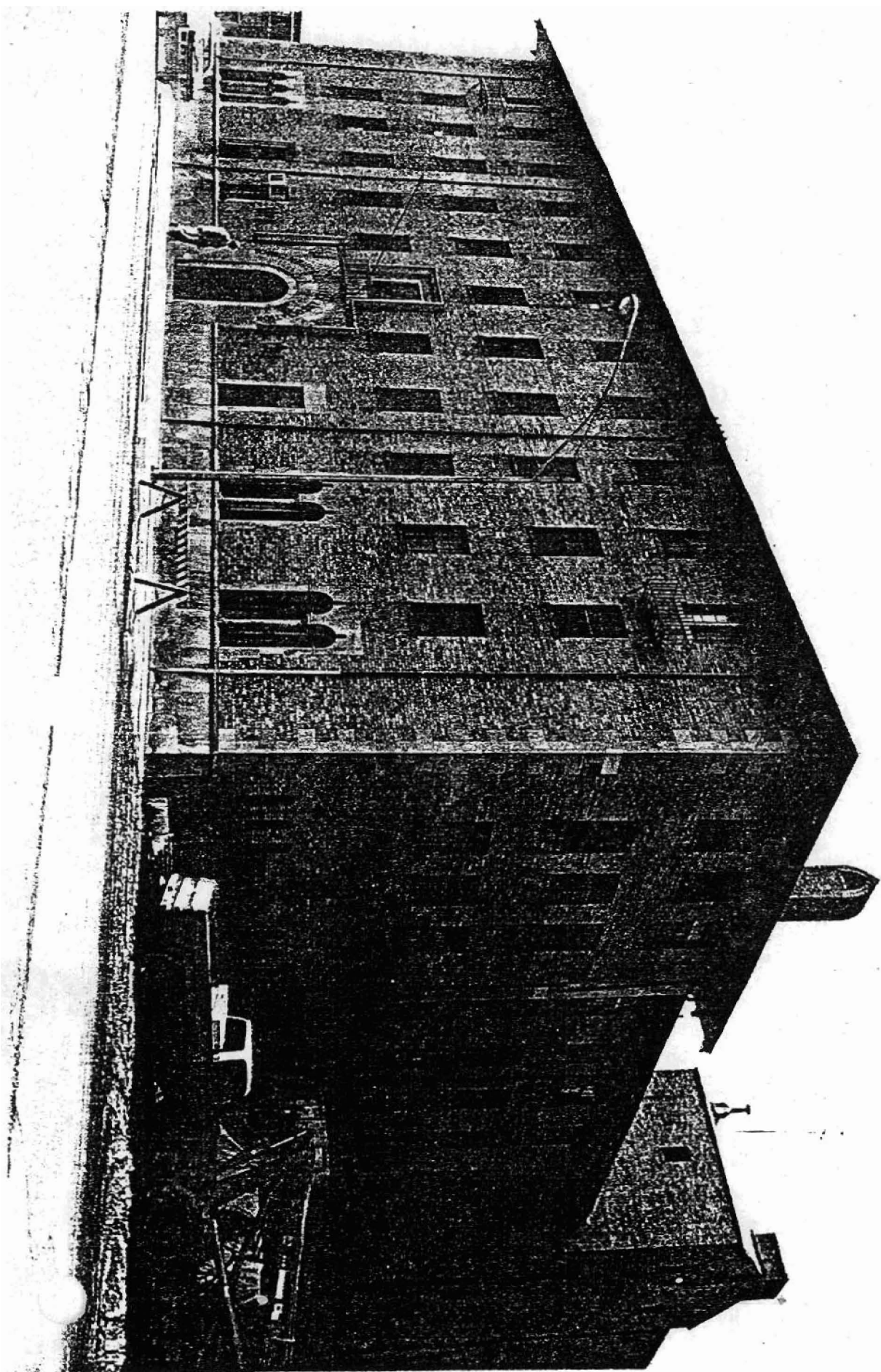
Little Rock Y. M. C. A.
Little Rock, Arkansas
Bob Dunn
1976

Arkansas Historic Preservation
Program
Architrave for entrance on the
south elevation viewed from
the the south

#5



Little Rock Y. M. C. A.
Little Rock, Arkansas
Bob Dunn
1978
Arkansas Historic Preservation
Program
West elevation viewed from the
west
#3



Little Rock Y. M. C. A.
Little Rock, Arkansas
Bob Dunn
1978
Arkansas Historic PRESERVATION
Program
East and north elevations viewed
from the northeast

#4