

60-109-N100-73

NR 5-4-76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

St. Joseph's Home

AND/OR COMMON

St. Joseph's Orphanage

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Camp Robinson Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

North Little Rock

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

Arkansas

CODE

05

COUNTY

Pulaski

CODE

119

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Catholic Diocese of Little Rock

STREET & NUMBER

2415 North Tyler

CITY, TOWN

Little Rock

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Circuit Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Pulaski County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" 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
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Joseph's Orphanage is a massive three-storey structure of pressed brick resting on a foundation of cut stone. In addition to the three storeys, the eighty-room building contains a full attic and basement. St. Joseph's Orphanage was constructed in 1910 at a cost of \$ 150,000, which amount was furnished by the Little Rock Catholic Diocese. The building is self-sufficient, containing the original electric plant and water system installed in 1910.

The building is topped with a hipped, red-tile roof, which features unusual miniature dormers with circular-shaped air vents. Four tall, slender chimneys project from the roof on its front slope. Rows of finial-like projections extend from the roof along the ridge lines.

St. Joseph's Orphanage consists of a large, recessed center section and a projecting wing on either side. Two-storey wooden porches are found on the extreme east and west elevations of the building. The upper levels of each porch are supported by one-storey Doric-capital columns and feature very slender turned balusters. The roof of each porch features a deck surrounded by a railing.

The building is surmounted by a cupola, which rests on a square base set into the ridge line at the center of the building. A wooden railing with star-shaped designs surrounds the round-roofed cupola. The cupola is topped by a white cross.

The four corners of the two projecting wings are marked by quions. A string course follows the third-storey line. The third-storey brick is laid in such a way as to give the appearance of wood planks.

Windows are rectangular, with cast stone lugsills. First- and second-storey windows in the center of the facades of the projecting wings are marked by brickwork in a segmental-arched pattern.

The most distinctive feature of the building is the main entry, located in the center of the facade. The projecting entry is set under a wooden semi-circular arch. The bay containing the main entry is of cast stone with brick trim. It features rectangular pilasters resting on paneled bases. Set above a multi-lite window over the double entry doors is a rounded, multi-lite fanlight. The entry doors are flanked by rectangular pilasters, over which is a semi-circle with keystone.

The projecting wing on the north of the building contains the chapel which was completed a few months later than the other sections of the building. The focal points in the chapel are the tall, arched, stained-glass windows and, inside, the altar, which is set into an arched bay.

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Interiors of the building utilize black veined marble in floors and walls. Oak woodwork abounds. Mantels feature engaged columns and brass hearth covers.

There have been no major alterations or additions to St. Joseph's Orphanage. Minor alterations include the replacement of the original oak double doors in the entry with modern glass doors and the addition of screening to the second-storey porch on the west elevation.

St. Joseph's Orphanage rests on the crest of a hill overlooking North Little Rock and Little Rock. The building remains well preserved and is in excellent condition.

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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

From many points in the cities of North Little Rock and Little Rock, the three-storey St. Joseph's Orphanage may be seen commanding the crest of a hill on the edge of North Little Rock. Built in 1910, St. Joseph's Orphanage has long been an architectural and historical landmark in the area. The edifice is constructed of pressed brick and cut stone and is surmounted with a red-tile roof. The building is topped by a cupola, from which rises a white cross, signifying the Christian basis of the Orphanage. The function of the building as an orphanage makes it representative of the humanitarian aspect of life in America. Orphanages have played a vital role in the American social system. As a religious institution, St. Joseph's Orphanage has achieved distinction in its duration and success. The establishment of St. Joseph's Orphanage was a direct result of the efforts of Bishop John B. Morris of the Little Rock Catholic Diocese. Bishop Morris was one of the most important figures in Catholicism in this country.

John Baptist Morris was born in 1866 in Hendersonville, Tennessee. He attended St. Mary's College in Kentucky and American College in Rome, Italy. Morris was ordained to the priesthood in 1892 and was appointed pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Nashville, Tennessee. In 1901 he was made Vicar-General of the diocese in Nashville. In 1905 Pope Pius X elevated him to the rank of Domestic Prelate. In 1906 Morris was consecrated Bishop Coadjutor of the Little Rock diocese. In 1907 he was appointed Preconized Bishop of Acmonia and Coadjutor - Bishop of Little Rock.

The appointment of Morris as Bishop of the Little Rock Diocese marks an era of enterprise in the diocese. Bishop Morris is credited with the establishment of Little Rock College in 1908 and, in 1920, the opening of the first normal school for Catholic teachers. In 1921 Bishop Morris organized the Catholic Lay Council of Arkansas, an organization of all the Catholic laity of the state for the purpose of developing Catholic organizations in outlying parts of the state. Bishop Morris was responsible for opening a Protectors for Boys in White County in 1921. Under Bishop Morris' direction St. Mary's Academy was completed and St. Vincent's Infirmary was expanded.

A part of the religious philosophy of Bishop Morris was "No church can hope for permanent success or growth that does not actively identify itself with works of charity." This philosophy is reflected in Morris' establishment of St. Joseph's Orphanage. On July 1, 1907, Bishop Morris bought 720 acres

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of land four miles north of North Little Rock (then called "Argenta"). A few frame buildings were on the land, and orphans were housed in them immediately. The Benedictine Sisters of Shoal Creek, Arkansas, took charge of the operations. The Sisters established a school there for the orphans and for children of neighboring families.

In July, 1908, construction of St. Joseph's Orphanage was begun and in April, 1910, was completed. The cost was \$150,000. The sole source of the money was diocesan funds.

Bishop Morris believed that the atmosphere of a farm was the best situation in which to live. Thus, he kept over three hundred acres in cultivation. The government maintained an agricultural experiment station on the land for a number of years. Ninety acres is still devoted to a fruit orchard.

St. Joseph's Orphanage (the building) has been in continuous operation since its construction in 1910. For three years during World War I the building was turned over to the United States Army for housing Camp Pike (now Camp Robinson) military personnel. Bishop Morris re-located the children at another site for the duration.

Today the orphanage is still serving in the capacity for which it was constructed. St. Joseph's Orphanage stands as a monument to Bishop John B. Morris. It is also one of Arkansas' finest symbols of the humanitarianism which has ennobled life in America. The grand design and hill-crest prominence of St. Joseph's seem in accord with the nobility of the building's purpose and of its builder.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arkansas Gazette. May 15, 1910.

. July 11, 1954.

"Bishop John B. Morris", The Guardian, Vol. VII, No. 13, (Silver Jubilee Number), June 16, 1917.

Brockman, Sister Jane Frances. Interview at St. Joseph's Home, North Little Rock, Arkansas, October 3, 1975.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 5	5 6 6 6 4 5	3 8 5 2 7 4 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Sandra Taylor, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE

12-9-75

STREET & NUMBER

300 West Markham

TELEPHONE

(501) 371-1639

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

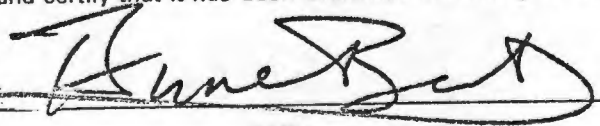
NATIONAL

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 Anne Bartley



TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

12-9-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Publishing Company, 1922.
Marquis, Albert Nelson, ed. Who's Who In America. Vol. XVI. Chicago: A. N.
Marquis Company, 1930-31.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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___VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

COUNTY

Pulaski

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Sandra Taylor

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

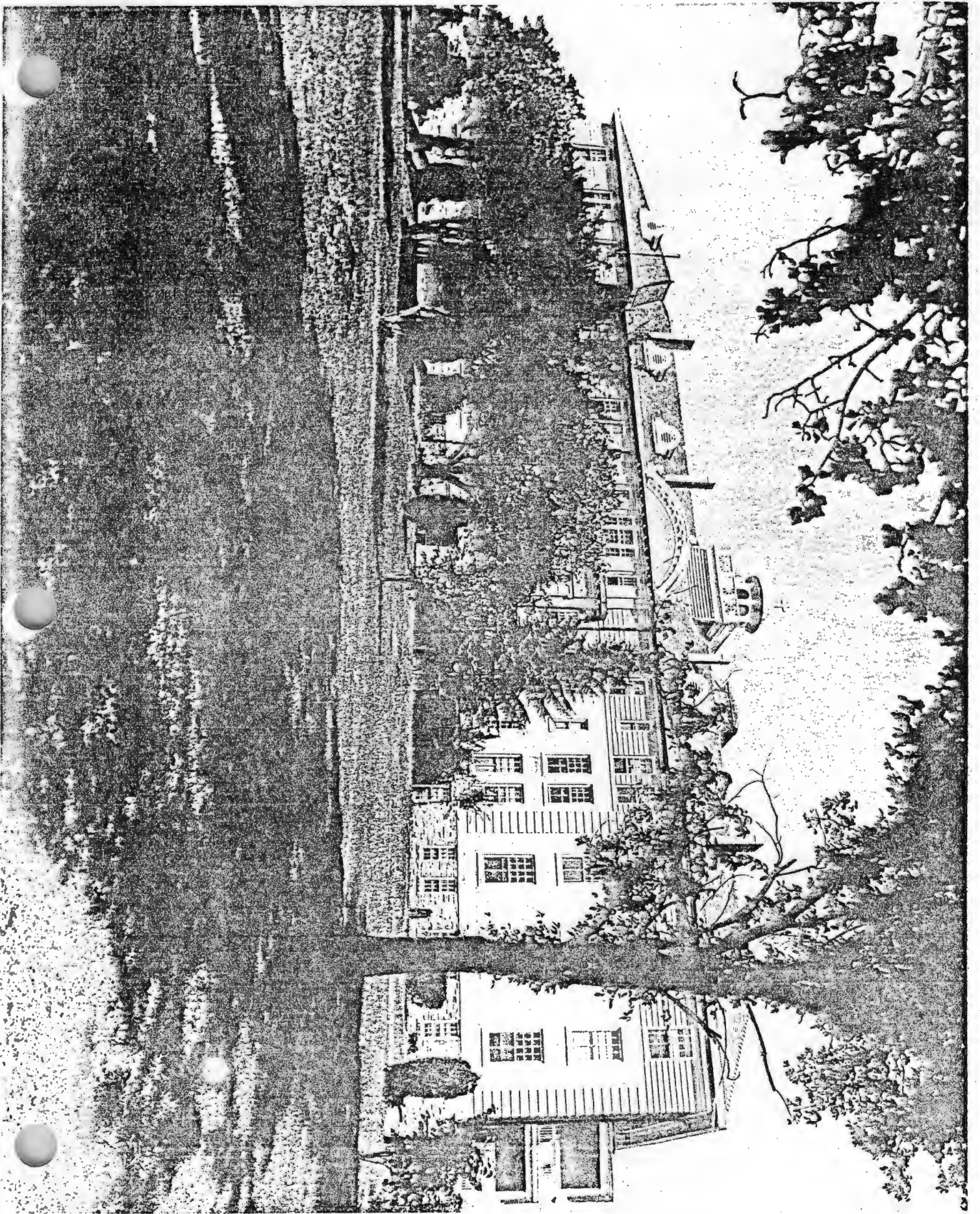
4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Facade viewed from the south

PHOTO NO.

1



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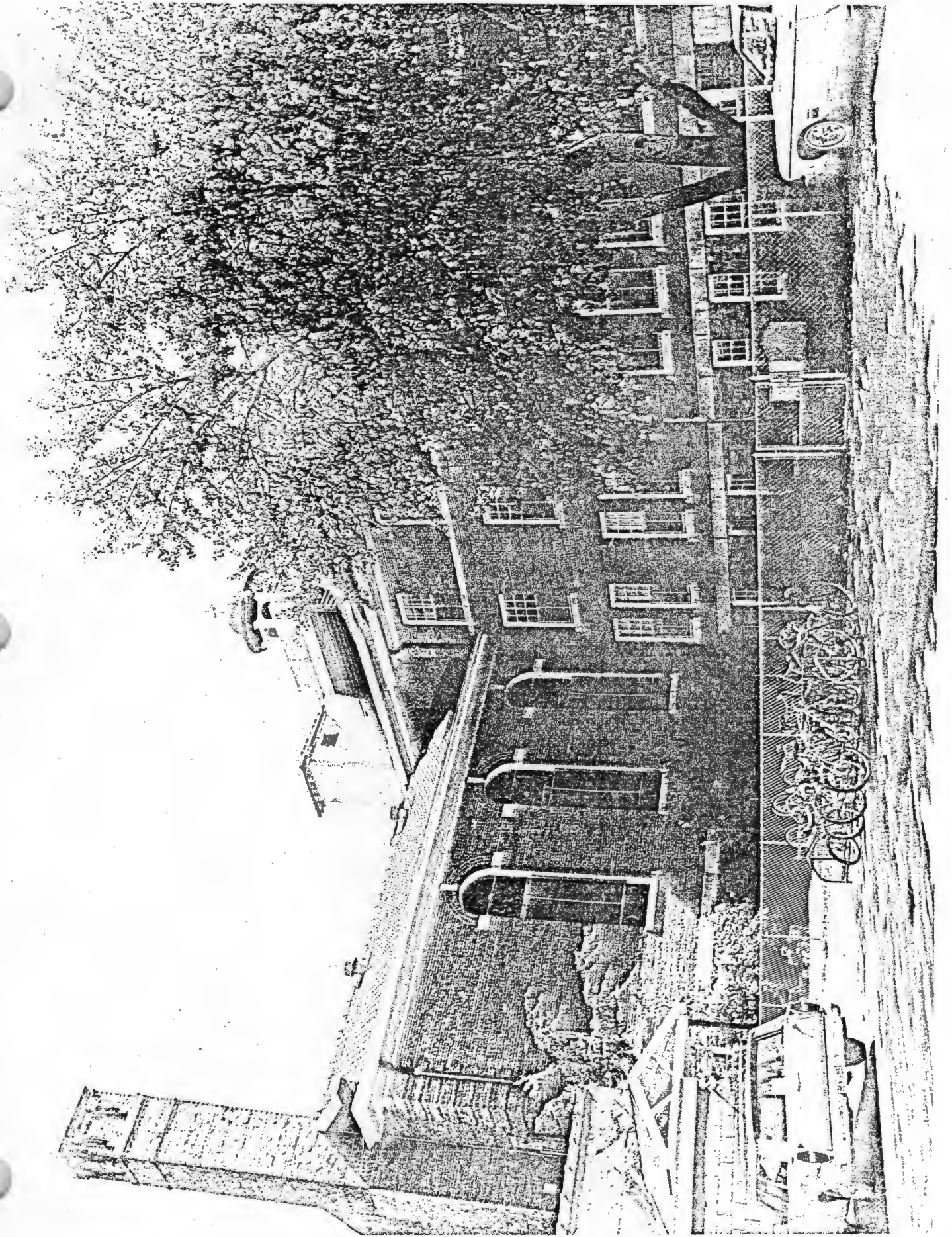
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DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

North elevation, viewed from the northwest

PHOTO NO.

2



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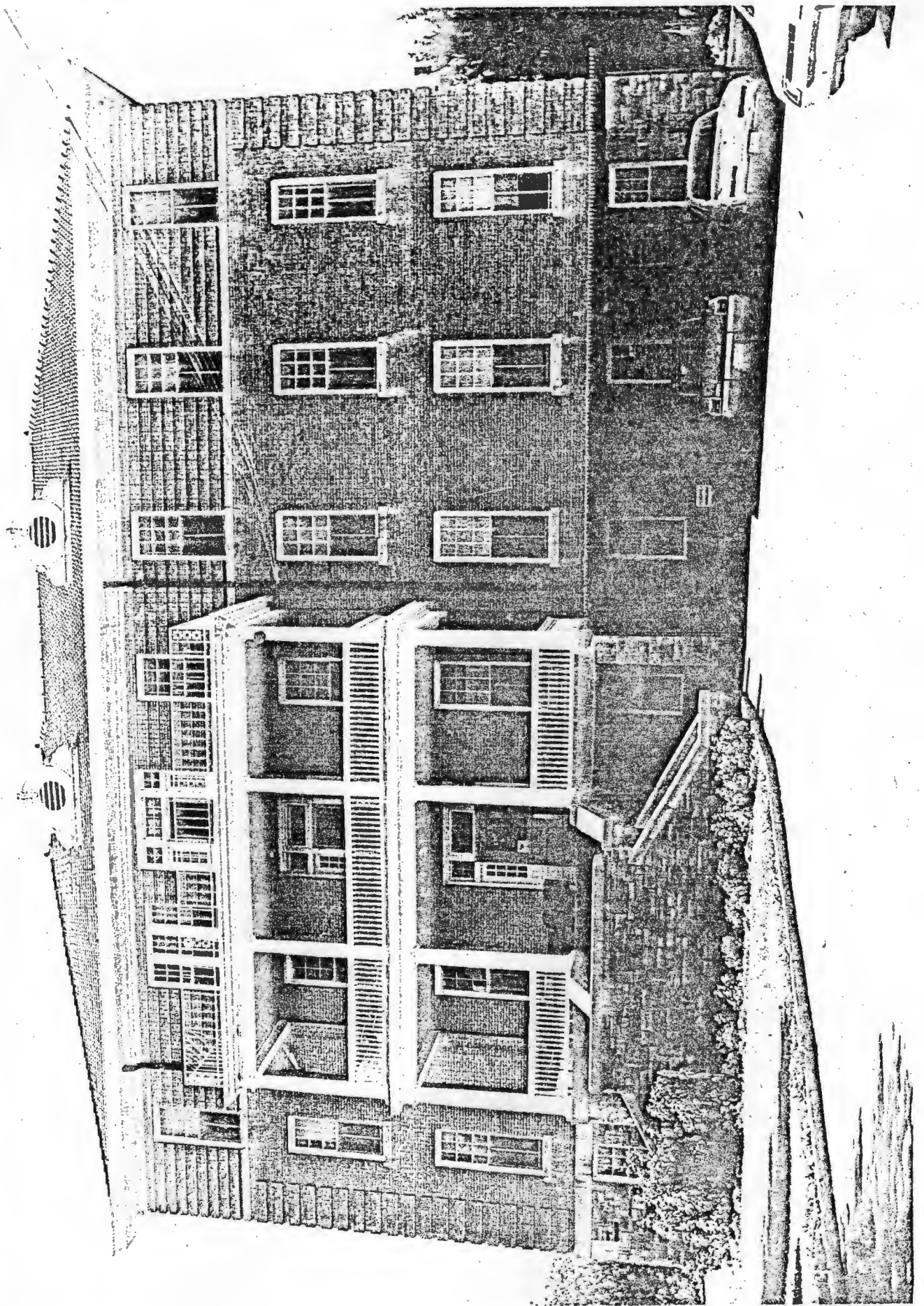
4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

East elevation, viewed from the east

PHOTO NO.

3



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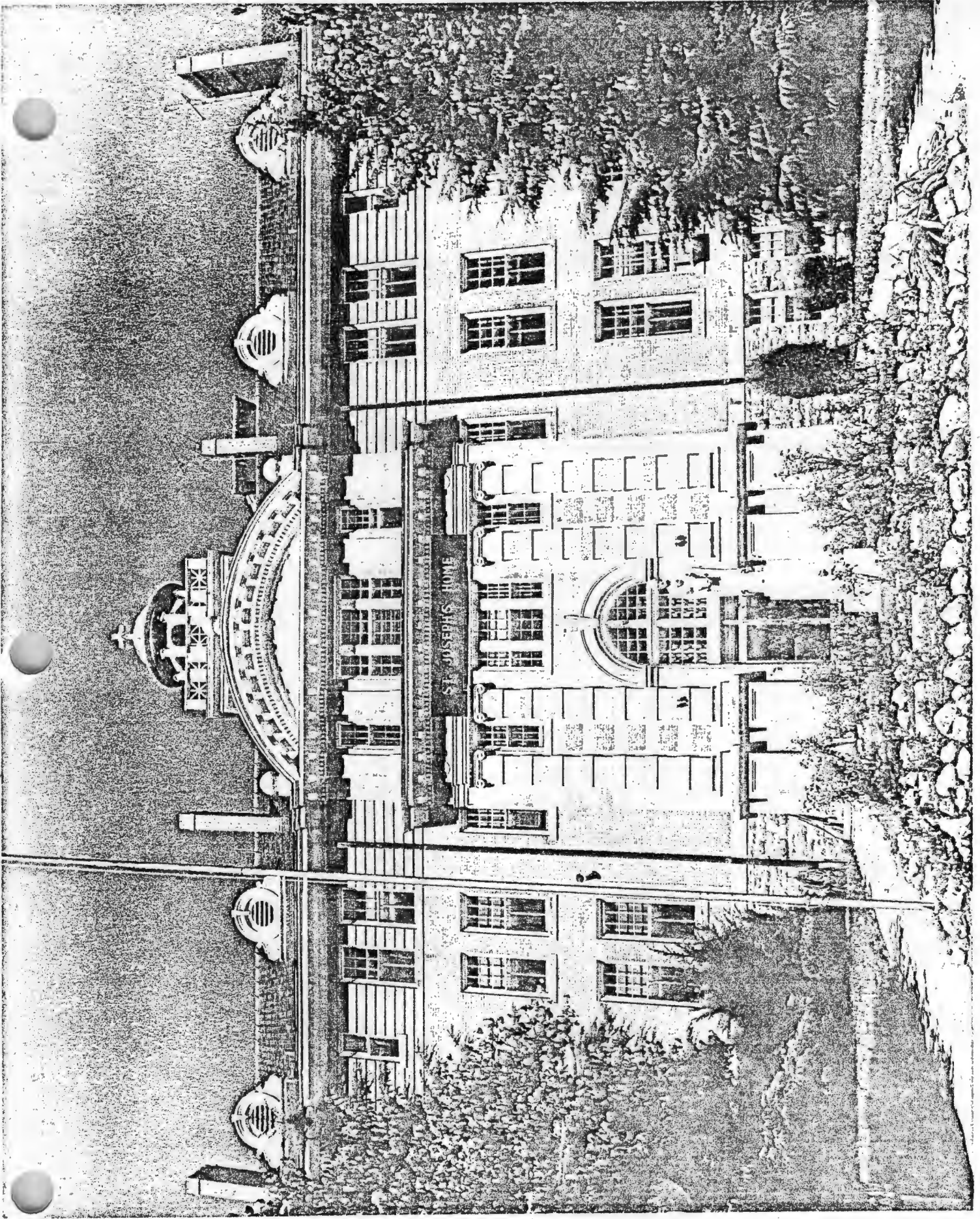
4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Entry, viewed from the south

PHOTO NO.

4



ST. JOSEPH'S HOME

ST. JOSEPH'S HOME

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PHOTO NO.

Mantel with brass hearth cover

5



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COUNTY

Pulaski

STATE

Arkansas

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE United States Geological Survey

SCALE 1:24000

DATE 1961 (photo revised 1970)

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

CAMP JOSEPH T ROBINSON

(NATIONAL GUARD TRAINING AREA)

St. Joseph's Home
North Little Rock, Arkansas

UTM Reference
15 / 566 645 / 3852 740

