

# SPOKANE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

## Nomination Form

OPR 93-791

City/County Historic Landmarks Commission  
Sixth Floor - City Hall  
Spokane, Washington 99201-3333

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

### 1. Name

historic Spokane Fire Station No. 9  
and/or common

### 2. Location

street & number S. 804 Monroe  
city/town Spokane vicinity of  
state WA county Spokane

### 3. Classification

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

### 4. Owner of Property

name Square Circle Investments  
street & number W. 216 Pacific Avenue #202  
city/town Spokane vicinity of state WA

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc Spokane County Courthouse  
street & number W. 1116 Broadway  
city/town Spokane state WA

### 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Spokane Historic Landmarks Survey  
date 1979 local  
depository for survey records Historic Preservation Office  
city/town Spokane state WA

14-2

## 7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Surrounding shrubs, hedges, and well-trimmed lawns create an attractive setting for Spokane Fire Station No. 9, a two-story red brick structure with hipped roof, situated upon a concrete foundation built up over an old stone basement.<sup>1</sup> The plan is rectangular, approximately forty feet across the front facade and thirty-five feet long. Early newspaper articles, and an historic photograph, reveal that this building's exterior integrity has been almost perfectly maintained over the years. The hipped roof is covered with composite shingles arranged in the same herringbone design that appears in the historic photograph, which is dated November 27, 1930, only two days after the official opening. The roof features overhanging eaves, exposed rafter ends, and two small hip-roofed dormers with ventilation louvres, one facing the East, or front, end of the building, the other facing West. Also on the roof are two high and narrow rectangular brick chimnies.

All elevations of Fire Station No. 9 present a neat and orderly appearance. A simple ivory-colored terra cotta stringcourse separates the first and second stories on all sides. The front facade faces East and features two segmentally arched bay entries. Their roll-up glass-windowed doors replaced the original swinging glass-windowed doors. To the right of these equipment entries is the elegant front pedestrian entrance, consisting of a wood and glass door surmounted by a wide terra cotta canopy supported by large terra cotta brackets. The canopy consists of a simple classical entablature design, while the supporting brackets are adorned with complex scroll and floral work. Crowning this elaborate entry is a simple rectangular glass transom. The second floor of the front facade contains three symmetrically placed sets of two double-hung wood-frame windows. The remaining sides of Fire Station No. 9 present various configurations of similar windows, symmetrically arranged, either in single fashion or in sets of two. The North and South sides each contain a secondary pedestrian entry with narrow glass and wood doors. The rear, or West, side of the building, features a large basement entry with a descending concrete access ramp. This is not a recent addition, as the original building was designed to store the hose cart in the basement.

Fire Station No. 9 was the last Spokane station to devote a large amount of space for living quarters for the men, and the interior of the building contains a number of reminders of the classic days when men and horses spent most of their time in the station. The original enclosed hardwood stairway leads from just inside the front pedestrian entry to the second floor dormitory area, which features the original maple flooring and dark-stained wooden cabinetwork. When the old station on this site was demolished in 1930, firemen salvaged the polish brass poles and they were installed in the new building, where they are still functional in 1992. Although the first floor kitchen and equipment areas have been modernized over the years, the plan is the same as when first built, including the interior hose drying tower, which extends from the basement to the second floor.

<sup>1</sup>The stone walls of the basement date back to the original Fire Station No 9 built on this site in 1908.

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In summary, Spokane Fire Station No. 9 is a well-maintained, structurally sound example of pre-depression American architecture which eclectically combines several styles popular during the early years of this century. The wide wooden eaves with exposed rafter ends is representative of the American bungalow style. The terra cotta stringcourse and the elaborate canopy above the front entry draw upon Classical Revival themes. Additionally, the straight-forward cubical appearance of the front facade is reminiscent of the American Four-Square design. This building, located as it is in a neighborhood of older residential and commercial structures representing numerous styles, is a perfect adjunct to its environment. The addition of this property to the Spokane Register of Historic Places would ensure protection of this fine monument to Spokane's fire-fighting past.

## 8. Significance

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

City Fire Department

Builder/Architect

Arthur W. Cowley

Specific dates 1930-1932

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

Spokane Fire Station No. 9, recently sold by the City of Spokane, is liberally endowed with social, historical and architectural significance. Since 1930 it not only provided fire protection for a large part of the city, but was an important factor in the neighborhood's social life, involved in local functions and offering various services. In this way it continued in the tradition of the previous station that had been built on the same site in 1908. That facility served Spokane during the classic horse-drawn steam engine days. The polished brass poles, upon which the alerted firemen whirled down to man the equipment, were salvaged from the original building and installed in the new station when it was constructed in 1930. Those two succeeding fire stations answered alarms for a total of eighty-four years. While "attending fashionable fires," they serviced some of the most valuable residential real estate in Spokane, including the exclusive Cannon Hill district. In addition, Station No. 2 was often called upon to battle fires in the Downtown and Browne's Addition areas. Fire Station No. 9 is also important as an illustration of a transitional period in local firehouse design. It was the last Spokane station to have been deliberately designed to complement the stylish appearance of neighboring residences. Subsequent structures became more and more divorced from the surrounding houses. Function would become more important than style. Another remarkable and transitional design element of Fire Station No. 9 is its large second floor dormitory area, a reminder of a time when City firemen spent more time on duty than they did with their families. Finally, Fire Station No. 9 possesses architectural significance due to its nearly unblemished integrity, discussed in Section 7, and its locally prominent architect, Arthur W. Cowley.

The original Spokane Fire Station No. 9 was built in 1908, at the Southwest corner of Monroe Street and Eighth Avenue. It was constructed in response to increasing demands for fire protection for the City's South Hill district, where many exclusive homes had recently been built. The first recommendation for a station on the site was made by Fire Chief A. H. "Harry" Myers during the summer of 1900. South Hill residents responded by presenting a petition in support of the idea, signed by numerous prominent citizens, including Herman Preusse, E. A. Shadle, and George Belt. The City's response was slow, however, due to various technicalities. In 1905 Chief Myers again voiced his concern, but it was not until 1908 that the station was finally built. The original Spokane Fire Station No. 9 was the second of six wood-frame stations of similar design erected between 1900 and 1909. These buildings were the scene of much of the

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Emerson, Stephen B., The Spokane Fire Department, Master of Arts thesis, Eastern Washington University, 1991.

The Spokesman-Review and The Spokane Daily Chronicle

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than one acre.

Railroad Second Addition

Lots 5-6, Block 68

Tax parcel #35193-0505

S. 804 Monroe, Spokane, WA

Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state

county

state

county

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Stephen B. Emerson

organization NA

date 8-92

street & number N. 6723 Winston Drive

telephone 509/326-5053

city/town Spokane

state WA

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excitement that transpired during the classic horse-drawn steam engine era, which had ended by 1920. Remarkably, they were largely built by the firemen themselves. Their elegant style, featuring gambrel roofs, dormers and cupolas, created a harmony with the neighboring residences. Like the others, Station No. 9 featured its own unique design details, including round and diamond-shaped windows, and a second floor balcony. Unfortunately, all of these distinctive buildings have been demolished, as Station No. 9 was in the summer of 1930. By that year fire fighting had been transformed by the internal combustion engine, which replaced the horse-drawn steamers, and the double-platoon system,<sup>2</sup> which allowed the firemen to live with their families instead of at the station. The first Spokane Fire Stations built to accommodate the new firetrucks, a number of which were built by the do-it-yourself firemen, were quite small. Less space was required to house the smaller crews and, as yet, the vehicles were not that big. But as equipment grew in size, there was a need for larger bays. The new Fire Station No. 9, built in 1930, represented a mid-point between the old and the modern styles. Although it was dominated by large double equipment bays, as were nearly all later stations, No. 9 was the last station to house a sizable dormitory for the firemen, replete with beds, wooden cabinets, and the old brass pole and drop-away doors salvaged from the original building. This was probably due to the fact that the double platoon system, which freed the firemen to live in their homes, had only been adopted in 1928, after years of opposition. It could easily have been revoked, but was not.

The Spokane Fire Station No. 9 of 1930 was constructed in the face of formidable opposition. In that year it was determined that the underpinnings of the old station were unsound. South Hill residents and City Commissioner Lambert requested funds for a modern and aesthetic new building, designed by local architect Arthur W. Cowley. the projected cost was \$13,807. But the Great Depression was about to descend upon Spokane, and money was already becoming tight. Many opposed such an expenditure, including Spokane Mayor Funk, who declared "That's fine and dandy for that neighborhood."<sup>3</sup> In response to tightening budgets, in May of 1930, Fire Chief William Joyce announced a plan to consolidate Spokane Fire Stations by eliminating some facilities, claiming that the new and faster fire engines could cover a larger territory. Thus, the question of a new Fire Station No. 9 became embroiled in this controversy. Why spend money on a new station while retiring others? Despite the opposition, sufficient funding was agreed upon in June, 1930, and by July the old building was down. The new station, officially opened on November 25, was built on the same site as the previous one, and in the nick of time. Chief Joyce's consolidation plan became a reality in 1933, and several stations were closed for good. Subsequently, no fire stations were built in Spokane until 1939, when the ravages of the Depression had lessened.

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Spokane fire Station No. 9, built in 1930, is the creation of Arthur W. Cowley, Spokane architect and member of a prominent pioneer family. His father, Henry Thomas Cowley, was an early Spokane missionary, who settled among the Spokane Indians at a site now occupied by Cowley Park on Sixth Avenue. Durham's 1912 Spokane and the Inland Empire credits the Henry Cowley family with being "the fourth white family here, those preceding him being A. M. Cannon, J. J. Browne, and James N. Glover." Henry Cowley's only son, Arthur, was born in Spokane on October 9, 1878. He graduated from the Old South Central High School, and later attended Oberlin College and the University of Wisconsin, from which he received a degree in civil engineering in 1903. After returning to Spokane, he was for a while associated with early local architect J. K. Dow, before opening his own office in 1906. In 1912, Arthur Cowley relocated to Edmonton, Alberta, but he came back to Spokane in 1914, where he designed many buildings during a career which lasted nearly until his death on January 18, 1949. Many of his creations were industrial or warehouse structures which have largely disappeared. He also designed a number of apartment and rooming houses, of which many have been demolished or hopelessly altered. One of these, the old Gandy Hotel building, once located on Sprague Avenue adjacent to the Chronicle Building, was razed in 1982, as was the original Crescent Block, to clear the way for expansion of the Spokesman-Review newspaper offices.

Today, the finest surviving example of Arthur Cowley's architectural creativity is the Altadena Apartments, located at South 608 Stevens, which cost one hundred and twenty-one thousand dollars when it was built in 1909. Built of red brick, as were most Cowley structures, it features terra cotta trim of neo-classical design in its cornices, stringcourses, and entry-flanking columns. This love of classical decor is reflected in Spokane Fire Station No. 9 by the wide terra cotta entablature with floral motif brackets which hangs above the front entry. Seemingly out of place, it represents Arthur W. Cowley's personal trademark. Cowley is also credited with the design of at least two other Spokane fire stations, No. 2, at E. 603 Indiana Avenue, and No. 16, at W. 2731 Northwest Boulevard. Both of these structures are much smaller than Fire Station No. 9, but they all share similar characteristics, including neat brickwork and American bungalow elements, such as overhanging eaves and exposed rafter ends.

<sup>2</sup>The double platoon system, a product of Twentieth Century labor movements, was adopted by the Spokane Fire Department in 1928. This only occurred after a bitter fifteen-year struggle, which included an attempt by a fireman to set off a bomb in the Spokane Daily Chronicle Building. Basically, the new system meant reorganizing the firemen into two shifts. This required hiring more men, costing the City money. But for the firemen it meant, at last, a real homelife.

<sup>3</sup>Spokesman-Review, April 5, 1930, p. 7.

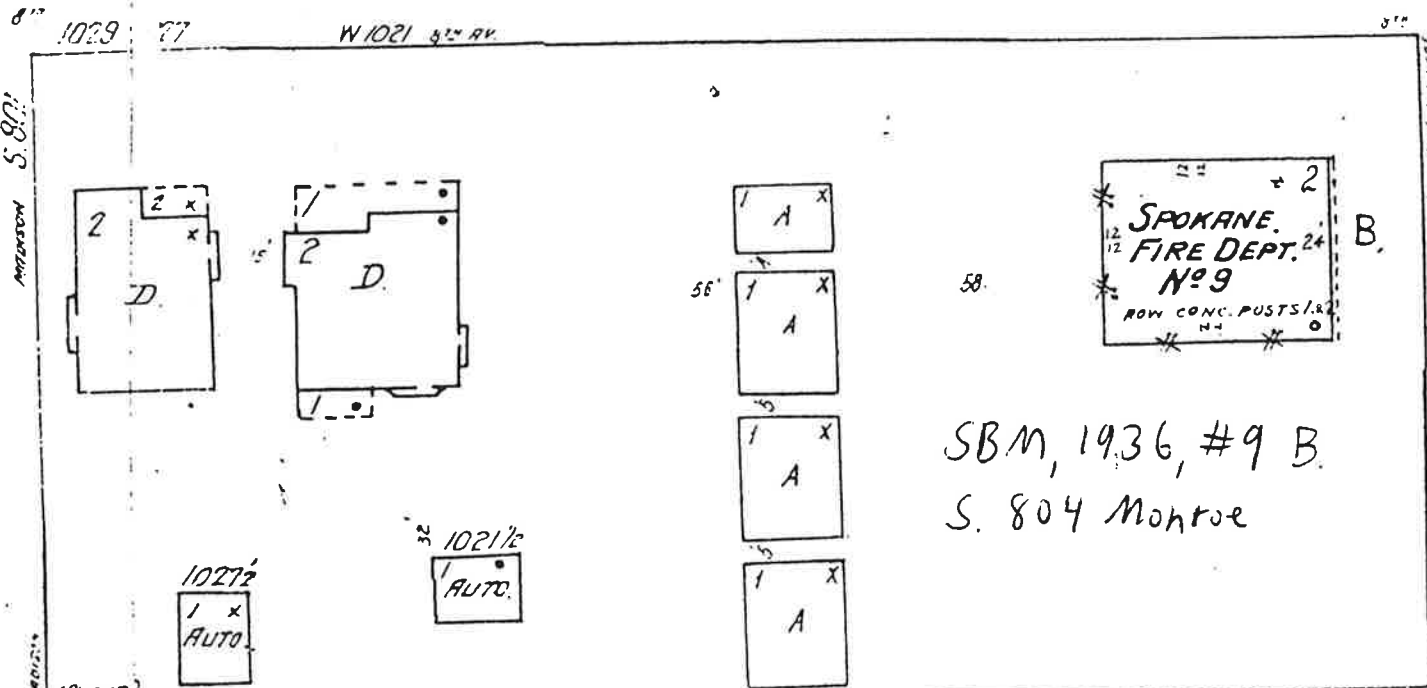


6" W PIPE

8TH

AV.

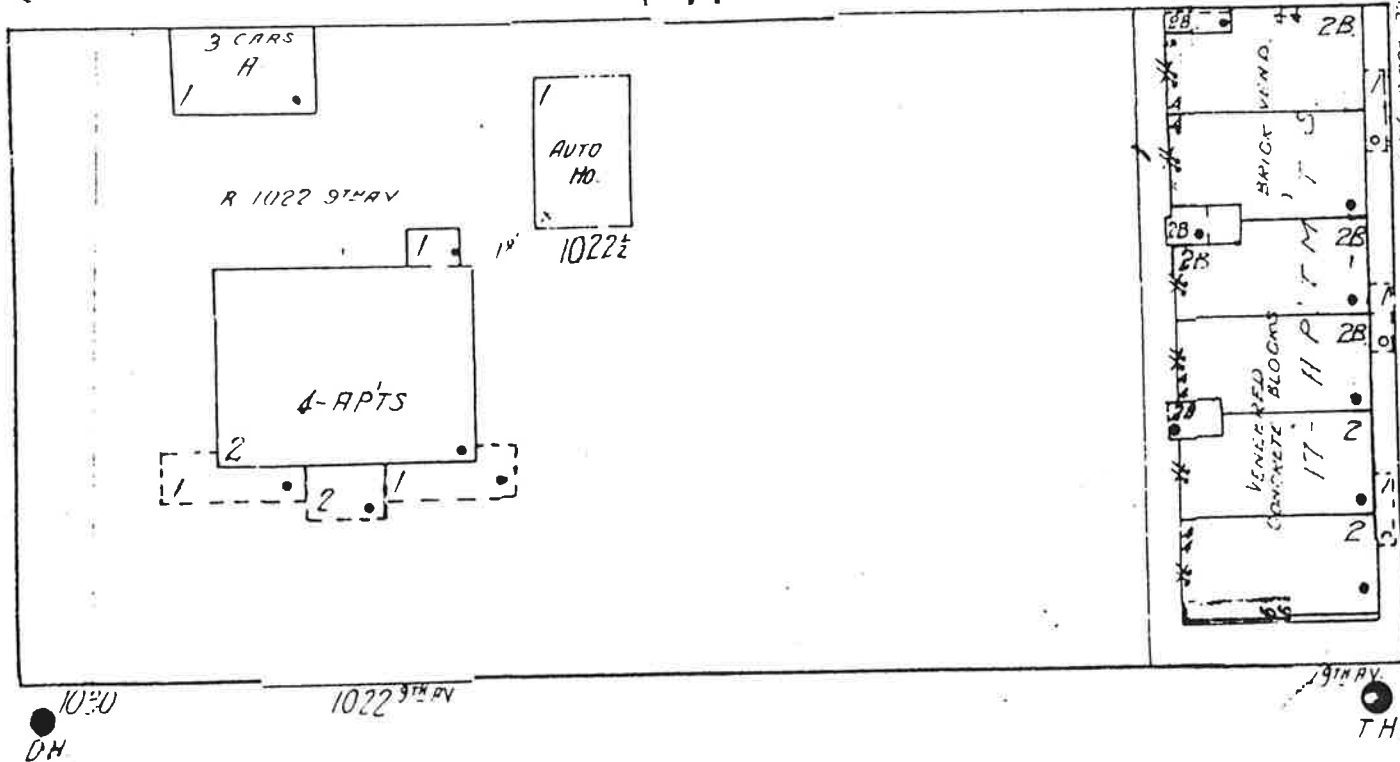
6" W PIPE



SBM, 1936, #9 B.  
S. 804 Monroe

S. Monroe

4.47



6" W PIPE

9TH

14-9

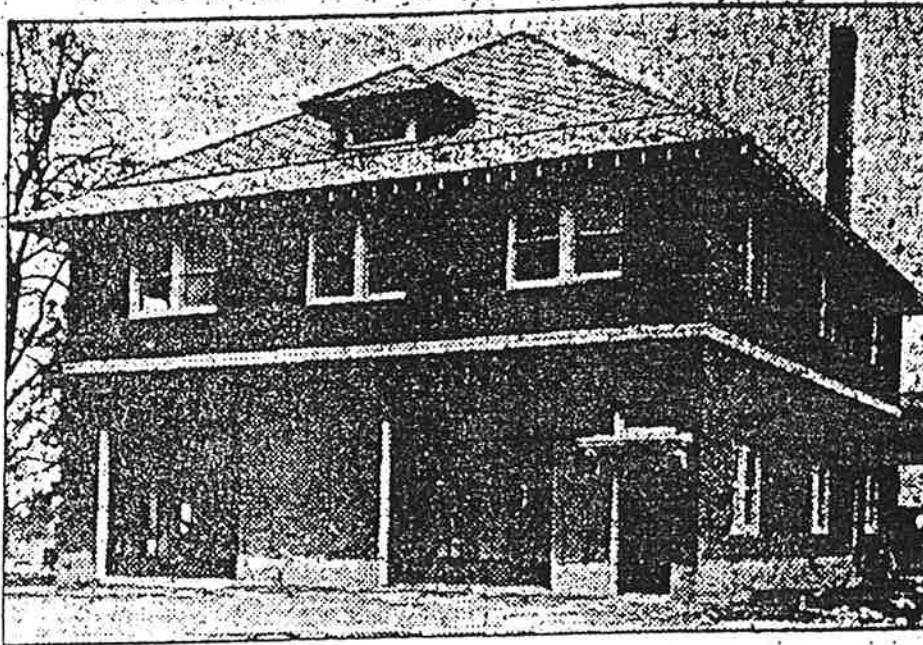
W 1005



Nov. 27, 1930 p. 14

SPOKANE DAILY CHRONICLE

## Fire Laddies Like New Home



Neatness, beauty and utility are features combined in this new city fire station, No. 9, at Eighth and Monroe. The brick structure, providing room for apparatus and quarters for the fire laddies, is the last word in modern housing of fire fighting equipment.

## DENIES RYAN MAN IN VICE FRAMEUP

NEW YORK, Nov. 27. (AP)—The Daily News said in a copyrighted story today that "Chile" Acuna, former police stool pigeon, had denied he named Inspector Thomas T. Ryan as the detective who hired him to "frame" women in vice cases.

Shown photographs of Inspector Ryan, the News said, Acuna declared, "I never saw this Inspector Ryan in my life."

Expenses on Increase.

## "THANKS DENIES W"

By RT. REV. EDWARD D. D.,  
Bishop, Cathedral of St. Evangelist.

It is a sad comment upon the slight hold Christianity upon the occidental mind the people who turn customary fall grist of giving panegyrics for themselves hard-pressed if they are embarrassed in the attempt to make up a list of things which cause this year.

It all goes to show civilization has traveled in the direction of the Christianization of life, and it very largely indicates how our material system has helped to constrict old-fashioned ideas both of poverty and God.

### Pre-Christian Life

The pre-Christian life is intensely national generally speaking, is ethnic in its attitude toward peoples and their problems. Conception is very largely preconceived, not only because of inheritance of Christian ideas in our outlook, but because such outlook is the more human and easy. But from the Christian view, if one would know about compiling a list of thanksgiving, all he need

## ITALIANS WATCH AMERICANS FEAST

FLORENCE, Italy, Nov. 27. (AP)—The large American colony here celebrated Thanksgiving day in typical American fashion, with big family dinners featuring Italian turkeys.

United States Consul Joseph E. Haven read the president's Thanksgiving proclamation in the Church of St. James.

The Chronicle prints today's news today.

14-10  
PUB

## GIVING

## N JAIL S' APPEAL

Nov. 27. (AP)—A 12-year-old negro was free as a bird after a patrolman found him living in the city dump, in the boxes. "and I'm getting well there. I ground rent and any time. I'd from here, right

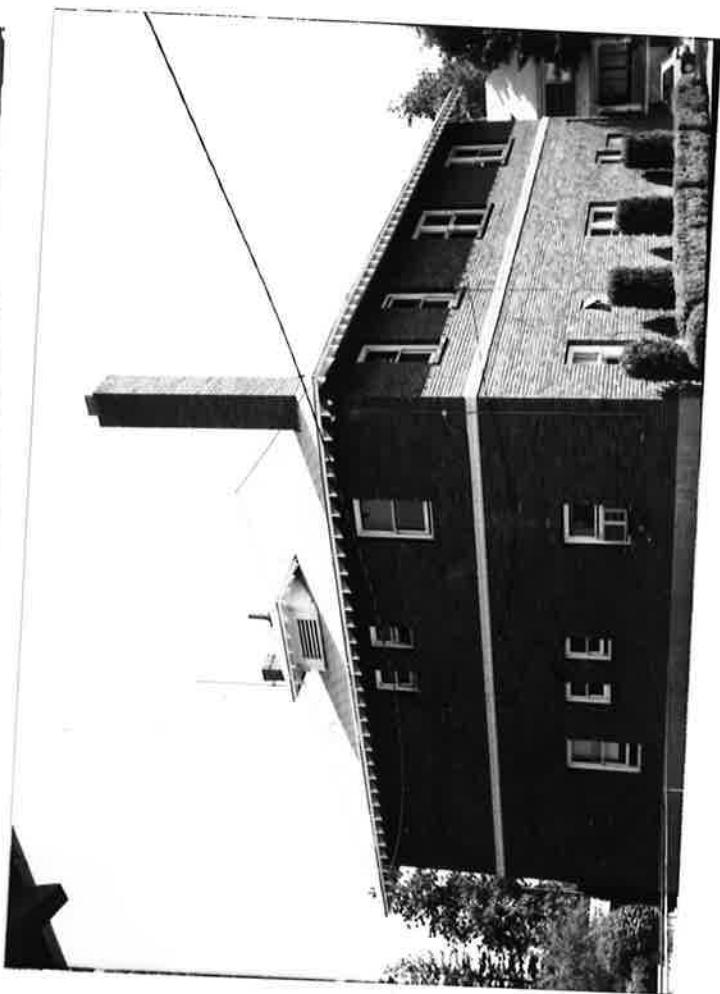
Judge Gordon, turkey dinner but I guess you

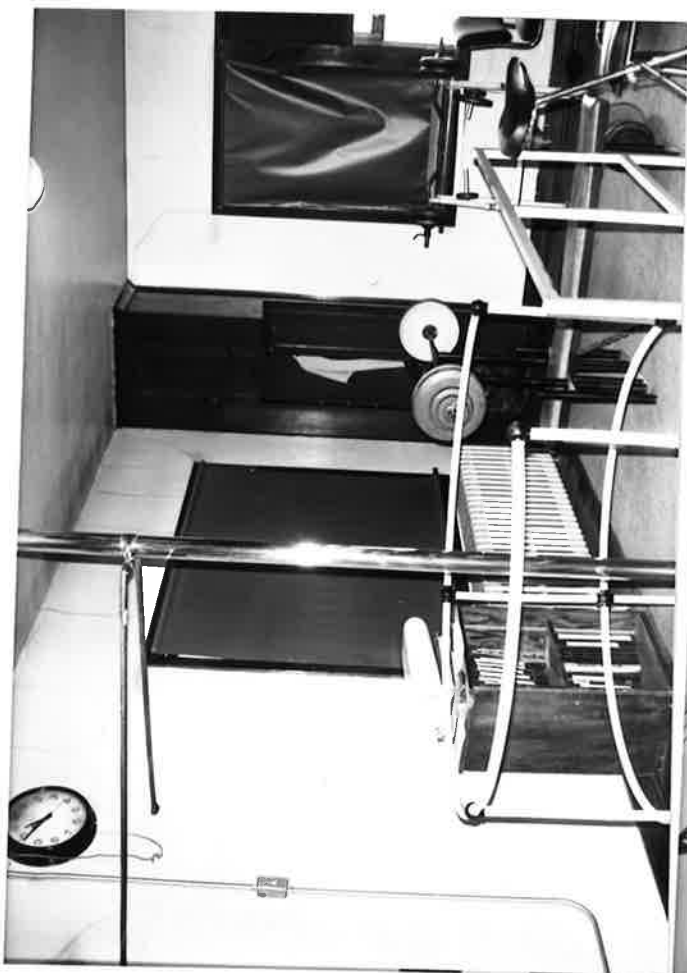
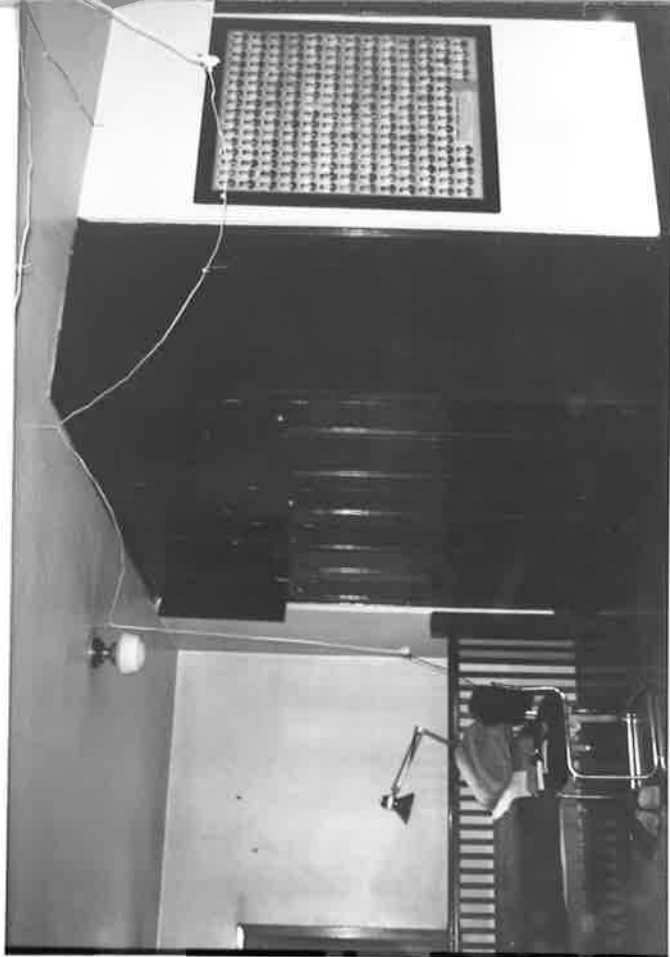
ly shouted Taylor, "I'm not a judge, I'm a lawyer, at all." "10 days," coun-

ed Taylor, "I'll hang as you like

are, "I trust the of my heart-beat I may see my

ne evening prayer ation of the day-ly perhaps more tive in its form, with a conscious-aining, enfolding e to him than last day he has been and thankfulness-od's goodness to understand divine because he has the world as he everyday affair.











## 12. Signature of Owner(s)

Ausan C. Mader  
Vice President

### For Office Use Only:

Date Received: 8-28-92  
Date Heard: 9-16-92 / 10-21-92  
Commission Decision: Approved Ratified  
Council/Board Action: Approved 9-15-93  
Date: 9-27-93

Attest: Janet L. Owens  
Deputy City Clerk

Approved as to Form:

Michael J. Pucio  
Ass't City Attorney

We hereby certify that this property has been listed on the Spokane Register of Historic Places:

Frank J. Gebhardt or Sharon S. Barnard  
MAYOR, City of Spokane CHAIR, Spokane County Commissioners

Frank J. Gebhardt  
CHAIR, Spokane City/County Historic Landmarks Commission

Katherine W. Hanett  
City/County Historic Preservation Officer