

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

32-355

For NPS use only

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

historic Commission Building

and or common

## 2. Location

street & number West 216 Pacific Avenue not for publication

city, town Spokane vicinity of

state Washington code 053 county Spokane code 063

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	n/a	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other

## 4. Owner of Property

name Loretta R. Simchuk

street & number South 1501 Hazelwood Road

city, town Spokane vicinity of state Washington

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds etc Spokane County Courthouse

street & number West 1116 Broadway

city, town Spokane state Washington

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" 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**

The Commission Building is a two story brick warehouse building with two fronts: one facing south on Pacific Avenue and the north facade facing a railroad spur. Nearby are other properties in commercial use and a couplet arterial of First and Second Avenues.

The Commission Building is rectangular in plan, 50 feet wide and 180 feet long, and the north elevation is skewed to accommodate the line of the railroad spur. The 18 inch thick brick walls rest upon a basalt stone foundation. No building adjoins on the west, and the brickwork of the Commission Building's west wall is marked by pilasters and corbelled spandrels. The tan brick north elevation is largely intact and features a large round arched central doorway flanked by similarly dimensioned window openings that have been filled with brick. Directly above these openings are three identical segmentally arched window openings fitted with double hung sash and transom lights. The parapet of the central bay rises above the building parapet line and frames the word "Commission" in a recessed panel. Below the building parapet line, similarly recessed panels contain the names of the original owners placed across the three bays of the facade: Rasher/Kingman/Herrin Co. The south or Pacific Avenue facade has been substantially altered with the application of a layer of stucco which obscures the original brickwork and fenestration. On this elevation, a pair of rectangular windows flank a simple entry and on the second floor, three smaller openings fitted with steel sash mark the original fenestration. The full and segmental arch openings which characterize the north facade are visible on the interior of the south facade.

The interior is unadorned space, marked only by heavy timber framing and unfinished brick walls. The first floor is 14 feet high and the second floor is 16 feet high, with the sloping roof also covering a large loft space illuminated by two skylights. The floors are of maple. There is a full basement with two large walk-in brick vaults; similar vaults are on the first floor as well. Convection air vents are built into the exterior walls and provide air circulation to the basement.

## 8. Significance

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

Specific dates: 1906 Builder Architect: James M. Geraghty, builder

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Commission Building is significant as a component of Spokane's warehouse district, and particularly as an early produce warehouse in the community. Built in 1906 for the Rasher-Kingman-Herrin Company, it is noteworthy for the careful execution of its north or loading dock facade. Although substantially altered on its Pacific Avenue elevation, it still exhibits the essential characteristics of its form.

Constructed in 1906 by James M. Geraghty, a local builder, the Commission Building has served as a warehouse since its completion. The original intent was to temporarily store and distribute perishable produce. There were several commission merchants in the Spokane area in the early 1900s, and one of the most prominent was the Henry M. Herrin Company. The firm specialized in the brokerage and wholesaling of fruits, produce, butter, eggs, cheese, and lemons. Herrin later joined with C.E. Kingman and Huber Rasher to form the Rasher-Kingman-Herrin Company. The new firm occupied the Commission Building from 1906 to 1915, when it relocated. From 1919 until the mid-50s, the Commission Building was occupied by the Roundup Fisheries Company, later named the Roundup Grocery Company. The building also housed the Independent Grocers Association headquarters office during the late 1930s through the next ten years. In more recent times, the building has experienced a series of owners and has been used primarily as office and storage space.

The present owner plans to rehabilitate the building and return the Pacific Avenue facade to its original appearance. The Commission Building will be re-established in a landscaped setting with associated parking.

## 9: Major Bibliographical References

Durham, Nelson Wayne, History of the City of Spokane and Spokane County, Washington, From Its Earliest Settlement to the Present Time, Spokane, 1912.  
Hyslop, Robert B., Spokane's Building Blocks, 1983.  
Polk's City Directories, 1906 through 1975.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Spokane N.W.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

1	1	4	6	8	9	0	0	5	2	7	7	9	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

All of Lots 8 and 9 and the west 50 feet of Lots 2 and 3, Block 4, First Addition to Fourth Addition to Railroad Addition, Spokane County, Washington.

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

state n/a code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marlund A. Simchuk, private developer

organization Simchuk Brothers, Inc.

date December 1984

street & number South 1501 Hazelwood Road

telephone (509) 747-4559

city or town Spokane

state Washington

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

title \_\_\_\_\_

date \_\_\_\_\_

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

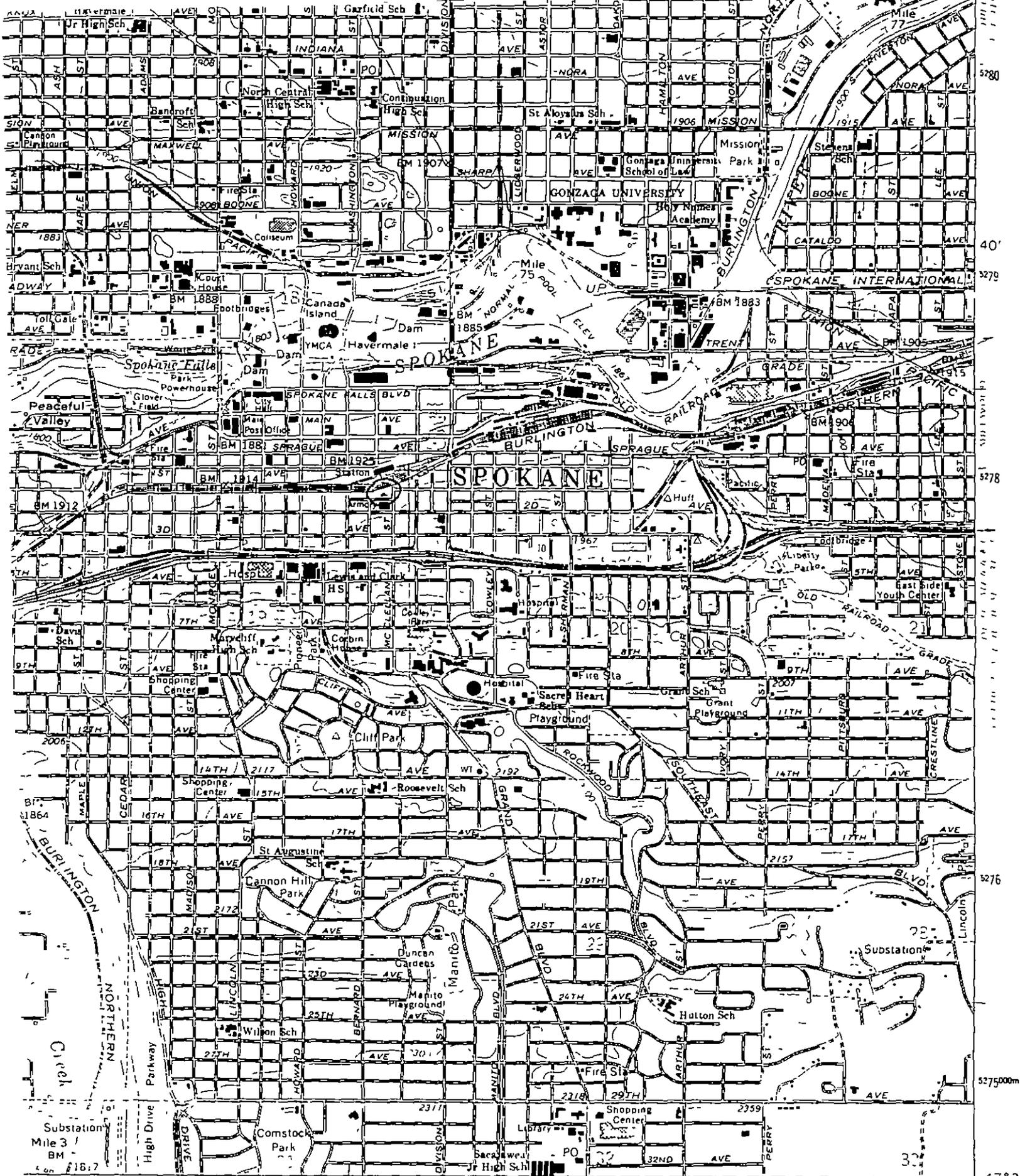
date \_\_\_\_\_

Keeper of the National Register

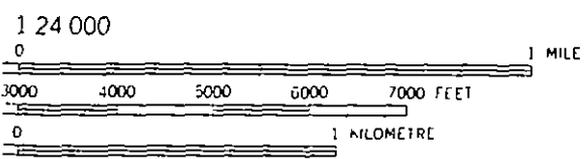
Attes.-

date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration



(SPOKANE SW)  
2579 III SW

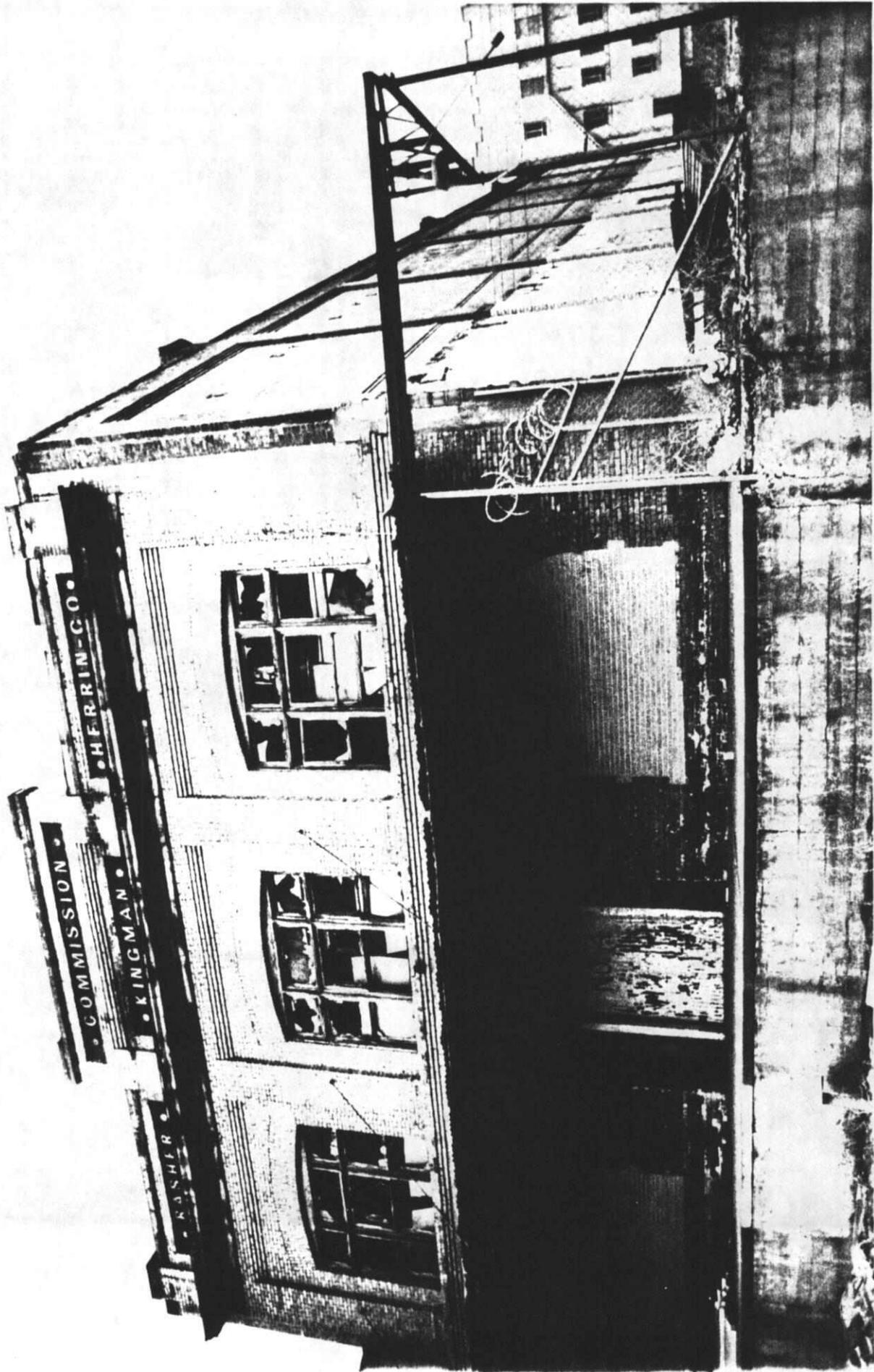


VERTICAL 20 FEET  
HORIZONTAL 1000 FEET

470 • INTERIOR-COLOGICAL SURVEY HEIGHT VERTICAL 471000m E 47°3' 117°22'30"

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Primary highway hard surface
- Secondary highway hard surface
- Light duty road hard or improved surface
- Unimproved road
- Interstate Route



HERRIN-CO.

COMMISSION

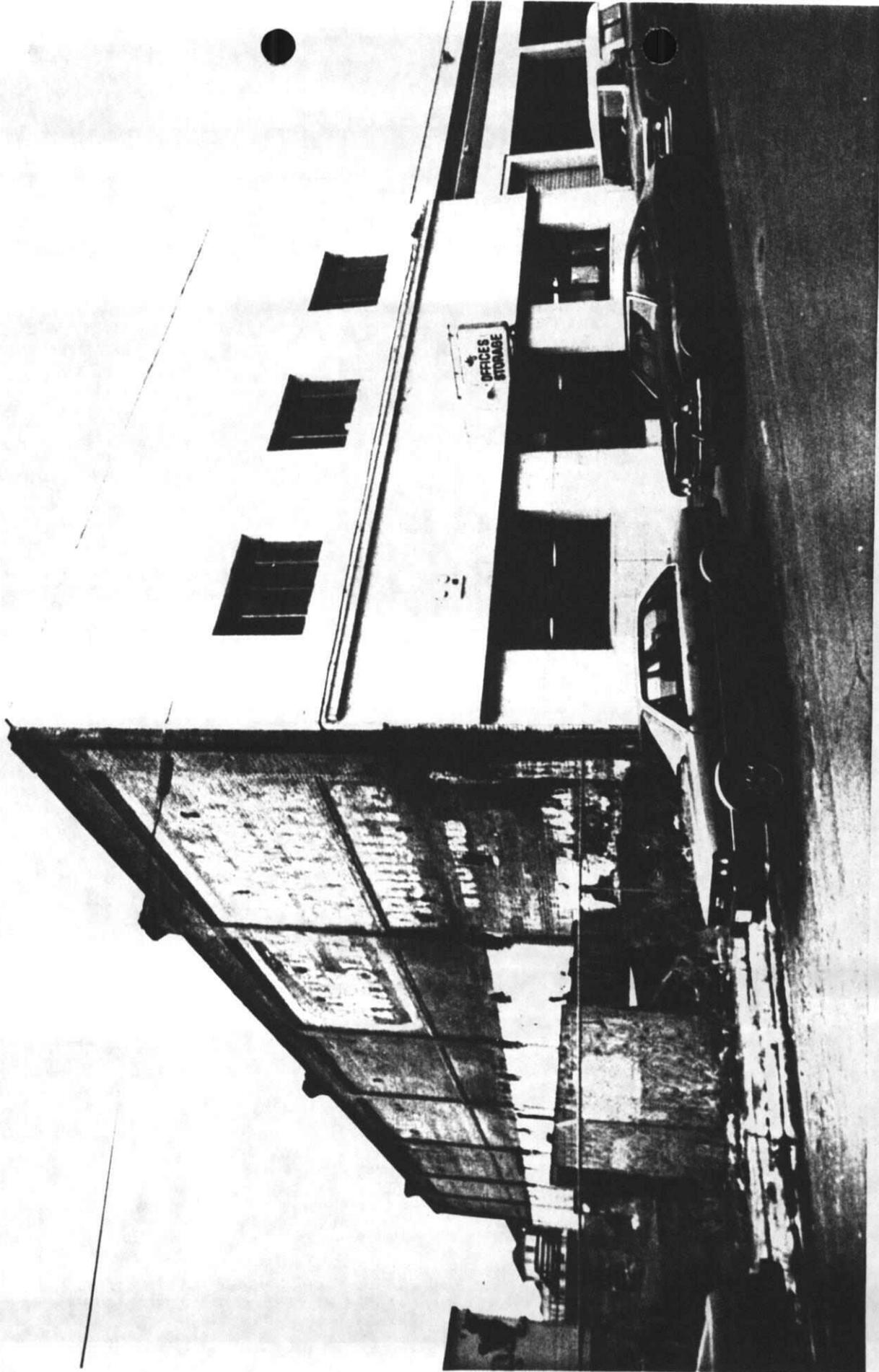
KINGMAN

KOSHER

Looking south  
shows N. front &  
west wall  
1 of 4

commission bldg.  
spokane, wash.  
Libby photog.  
dec. 11, 1934  
neg. © Libby

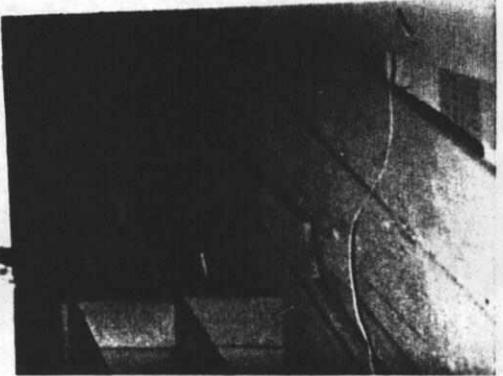
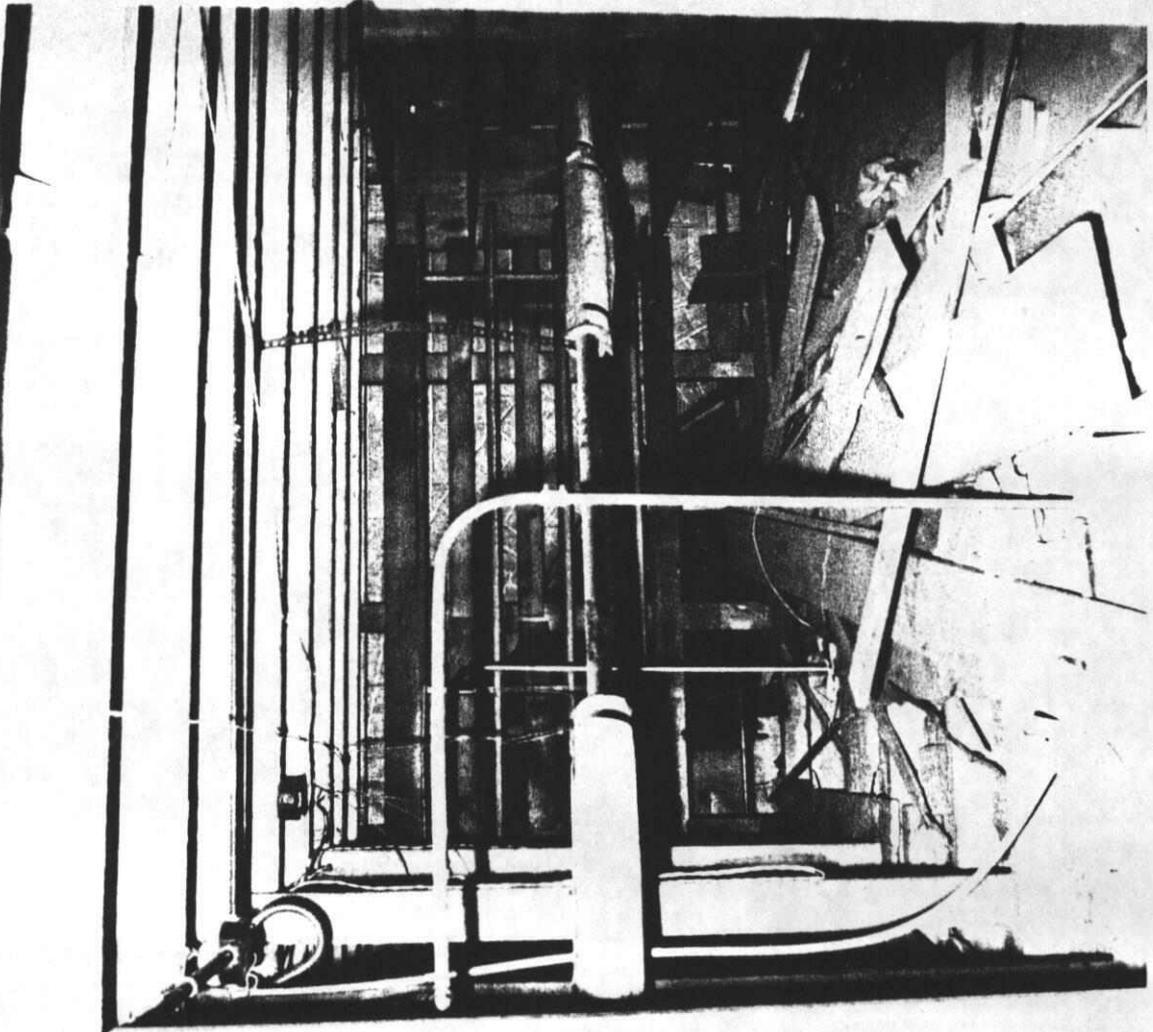
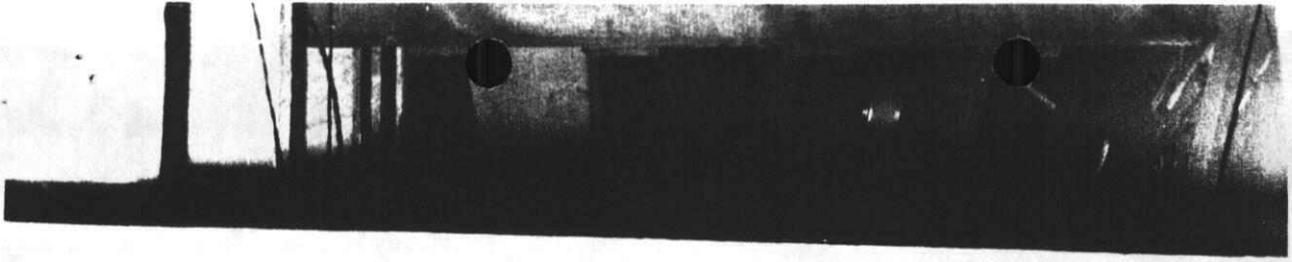
84-977-27  
LIBBY PHOTOGRAPHERS  
W. 508 SECOND 661-6627



Looking north  
shows S. front &  
west wall  
2 of 4

commission bldg.  
spokane, wash.  
Libby photog.  
dec. 11, 1934  
neg. © Libby

84-977-21  
LIBBY PHOTOGRAPHERS  
W. 508 SECOND 624-5535  
SPOKANE, WA 99204

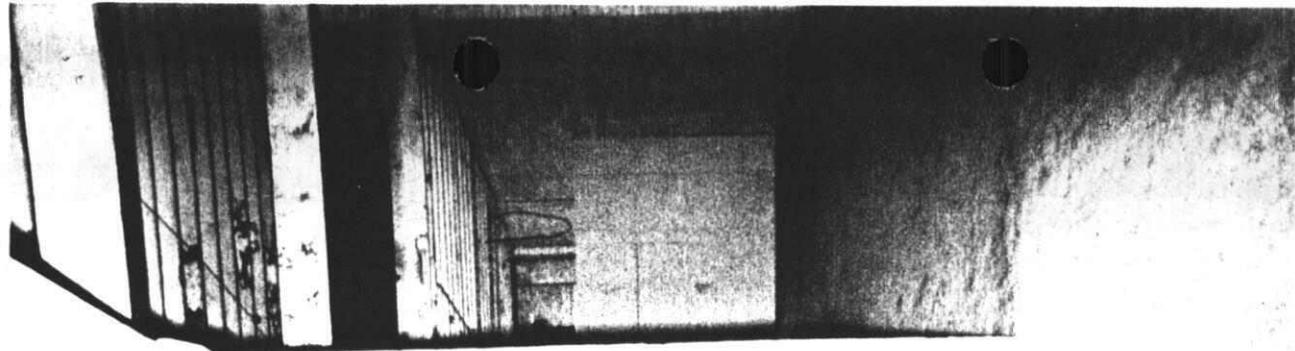


int. looking S.  
shows archwork  
to be uncovered  
3 of 4

commission bldg.  
spokane, wash.  
libby photog.  
dec. 11, 1934  
neg. 3 libby

LIBBY PHOTOGRAPHERS  
W. 508 SECOND 021 5527

84-977-15



int. looking S.  
beam structure &  
maple flooring  
4 of 4

commission bldr.  
spokane, wash.  
Tibby photon.  
dec. 11, 1984  
neg. @ Tibby

84-977-9  
LIBBY PHOTOGRAPHERS  
W. 508 SECOND 624-5535  
SPOKANE, WA 99204