

MEMORANDUM

February 8, 1976

TO: ADAMS, FERRELL, HAAPANEN, HOCH, MEAGHER,
MURR, SPRAGUE AND THOMPSON

FROM: FRED T. NEWCOMB

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY STUDY OF BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPH
RECEIVED FROM CLARENCE M. KELLEY, WITH LETTER
DATED JANUARY 8, 1976.

Photo identified with FBI lab No. K-53, was taken
on November 22, 1963 by James W. Powell, Special
Agent, Region II, 112th INTC, Army Intelligence
Corps, Dallas, Texas.

Background based on information at hand:

On December 31, 1963, Lt. Col. E.E. Boyd, Region II Army Intelligence Corps made available to the FBI, a Kodacrome transparency taken by James W. Powell, showing the Texas School Book Depository Building. Boyd reported Powell said the photo had been taken approximately 30 seconds after the last shot (CD 206, page 19).

On January 8, 1964, this photo was submitted to the FBI lab for examination. The lab reported "the corner sixth floor window of the Texas School Book Depository...shows boxes stacked in a formation similar to that which has been recorded in other photographs made of this window. Nothing else of significance was determined from the examination of specimen K-53, the 35mm Kodacrome transparency." (CD 329, page 58)

On January 3, 1964, James W. Powell was interviewed by FBI Agent George T. Binney, regarding his photograph. Powell said he heard two possibly three shots and then ran to the southeast corner of Elm and Houston where he noticed some people pointing at the Texas School Book Depository. Powell then raised his 35mm Minolta Camera and snapped a picture of the face of the building 100 feet away from him. (CD 206, page 70)

On January 28, 1964, Secret Service Agent Roger Warner interviewed Powell regarding his activities after the shooting. Warner's report makes no mention of Powell's photograph. Warner reports Powell said he joined Sheriff's deputies in a search behind the TSBD as it was thought the shots had come from the railroad yards. (CD354). Don't know what to make of this conflict.

Warner mentions that Powell has submitted a report of his activities that day. Does anyone have that report?

How Powell photo was located:

A request to the National Archives for a copy of Mr. Powell's picture brought the response that they were unable to locate this photo among the records of the Warren Commission.

Since the FBI lab had examined the photo, I wrote to Clarence Kelley on June 19, 1975 in an attempt to locate the Powell picture.

Kelley replied on July 17, 1975 that "due to the abundance of other information identifying persons in the building, the photo taken by Mr. Powell was not considered to be of prime importance...and was(therefore) not made part of the official record; however, we do have copies of this photograph."

On November 20, 1975, I requested a copy of the Powell photograph under the Freedom of Information Act and received a 8x10 black and white glossy print on January 12, 1976.

Examination of the photo:

The following prints were made for study:

Exhibit I - print of entire Powell photograph (the slide mount borders are visible on the print I received from Kelley.)

Exhibit II - print of Dillard photo.

Exhibit III - xerox of Jim Murray's photo taken approximately 1-2 hours after the assassination.

Exhibit IV - enlargement from Powell photo showing corner 6th floor window.

Exhibit V - enlargement from Powell photo showing set of windows adjacent to sniper's nest on 6th floor.

Comparison of Exhibit I and Exhibit II suggest that both photographers snapped their pictures a few moments apart, judging by the positions of the persons in the windows. If you look closely, both black men visible in Exhibit II are in Exhibit I, however, the one to the left is nearly obscured by the window frame.

Exhibit II was taken from a car in the middle of the street, looking up at the building. The view through the 6th floor window's "snipers nest" shows mostly the ceiling. The box resting on the window sill is barely visible as are the stack of boxes behind the window.

Exhibit IV - there appears to be a dark object projecting out from the shadows and immediately above the box resting on the window sill.

Exhibit V - ~~the reports~~ My preliminary head scratching at what these objects represent.

Legend for Exhibit V/:

- A-1, stack of book cartons approximately 3 to 4 feet behind window.
- A-2, shadow cast on book cartons by vertical centerpost B-8.
- A-3, book carton resting on window sill showing one side facing sunlight and one side toward the camera in shadow.
- A-4, shadow cast on book carton by adjacent upper window muntin.
- B-5, something interrupts shadow side of box - perhaps "hand", we should see shadow side of box as shown in A-3. Would like your opinion on this.
- B-6, possible end of rifle barrel -- as suggested in the testimony of Bob Jackson; Howard Brennan; Malcolm O. Couch, who testified "I remember glancing up.. and seeing about a foot of a rifle being - the barrel brought into the window,"; Carollyn Walther; Amos Lee Eunis and news reports of witness Norman Similas.

Exhibit VI - blowup from Powell photo. There appears to be a face visible behind the window. Since the floor is 18" below the window sill the person is probably crouching or seated near the window.

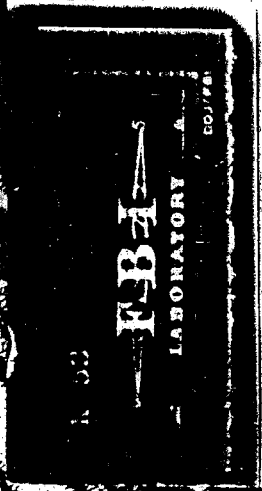
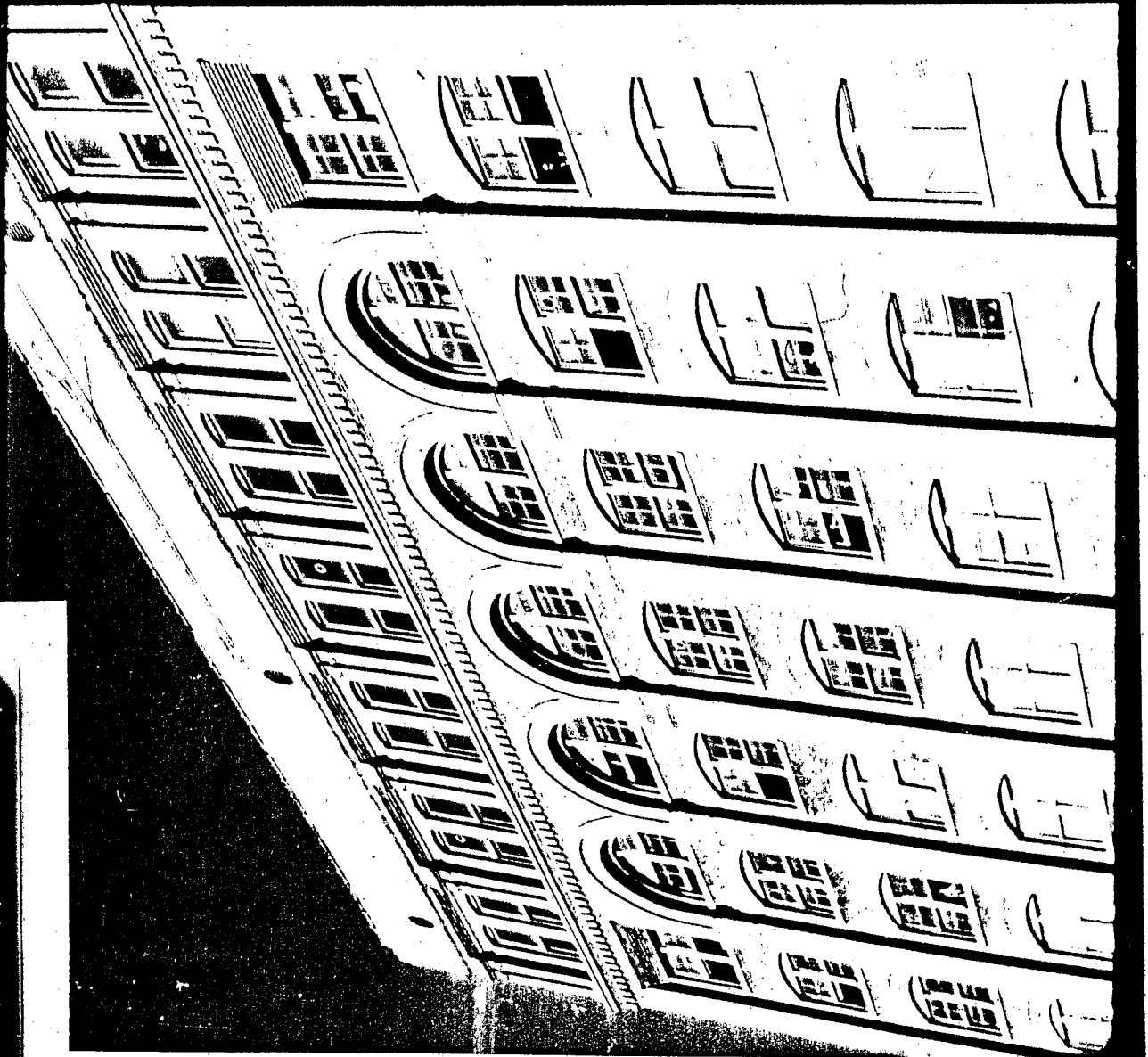
Need to locate original color photo of this to check. Anyone have any suggestions?

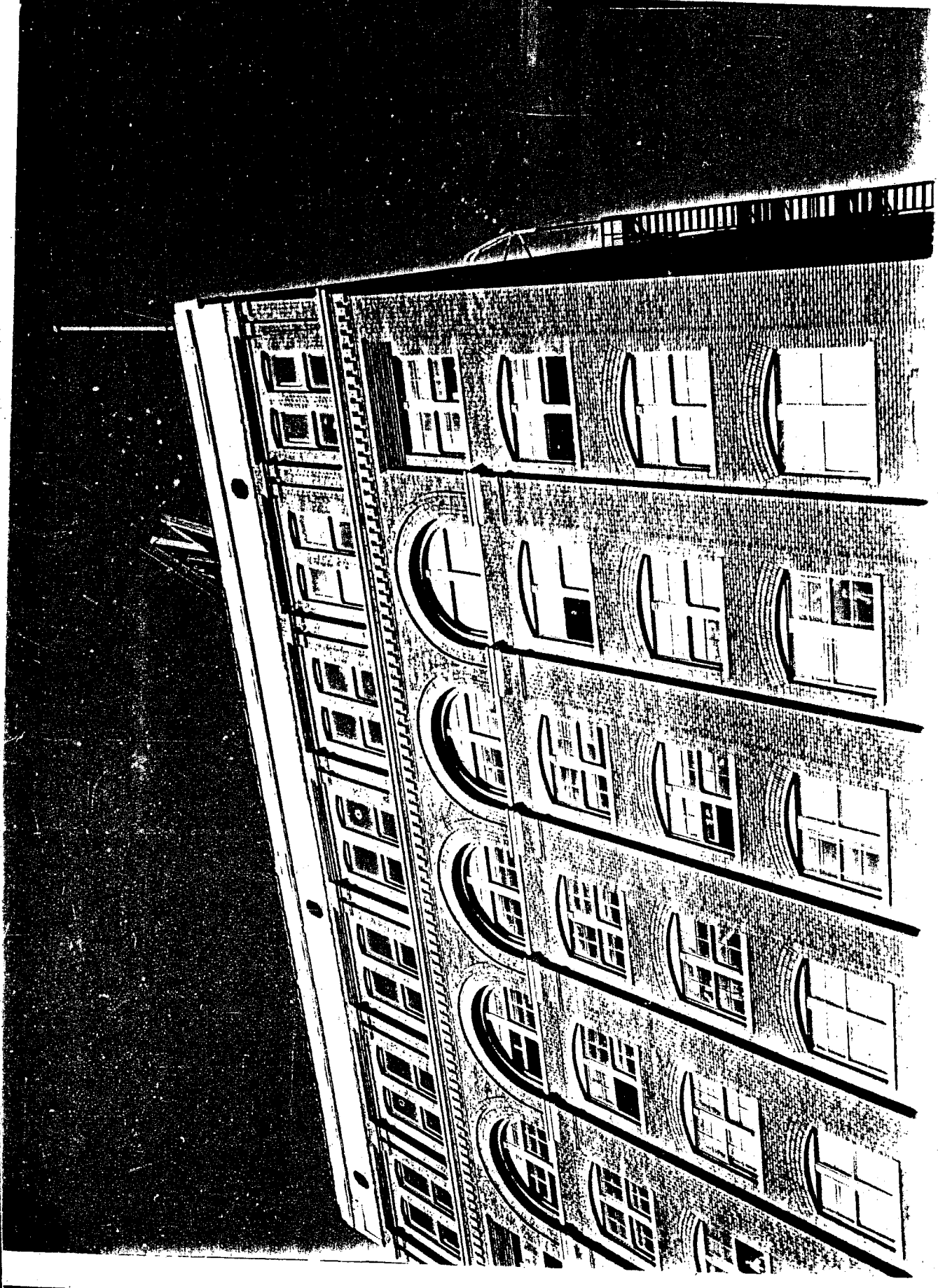
Exhibit VII - (a) depicts face of individual in window...(b) is sunlight striking row of boxes. If you check this area in the Hughes film you will note that a new shadow has been cast on the boxes during the brief 1 to 2 minute space between the Hughes and Powell photos. This strongly suggests there is a person standing between the window and the boxes in the Powell photo.

This could be the same individual who was standing at point (C) in the Hughes film (see pages 242-245, Six Seconds in Dallas by Josiah Thompson).

This image is not visable in the Dillard photo (Exhibit II) due to light reflection on the windows.

Z. 1025





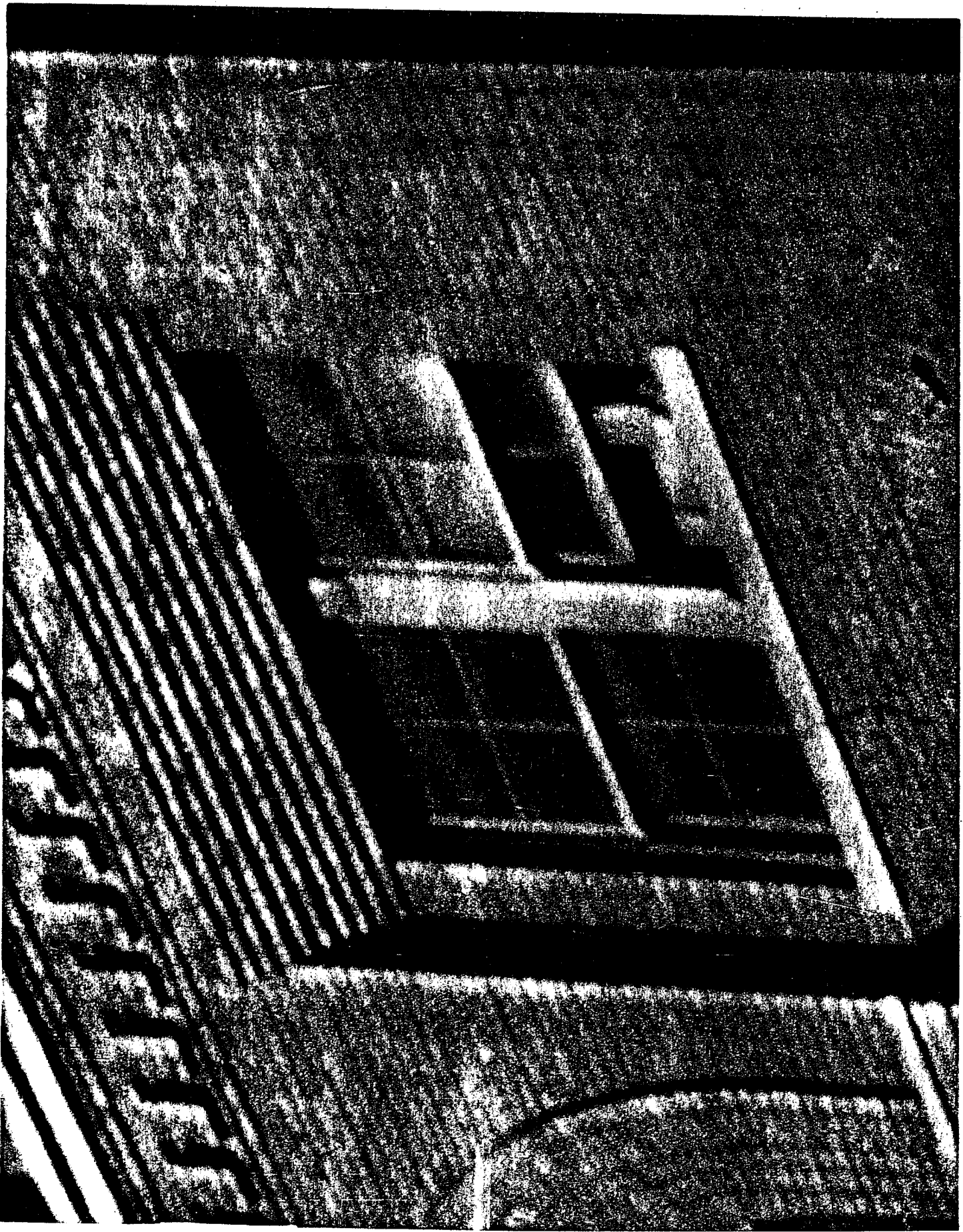
EXH. II

DILLARD FULL PHOTO (EXHIBIT 2)

III 1989

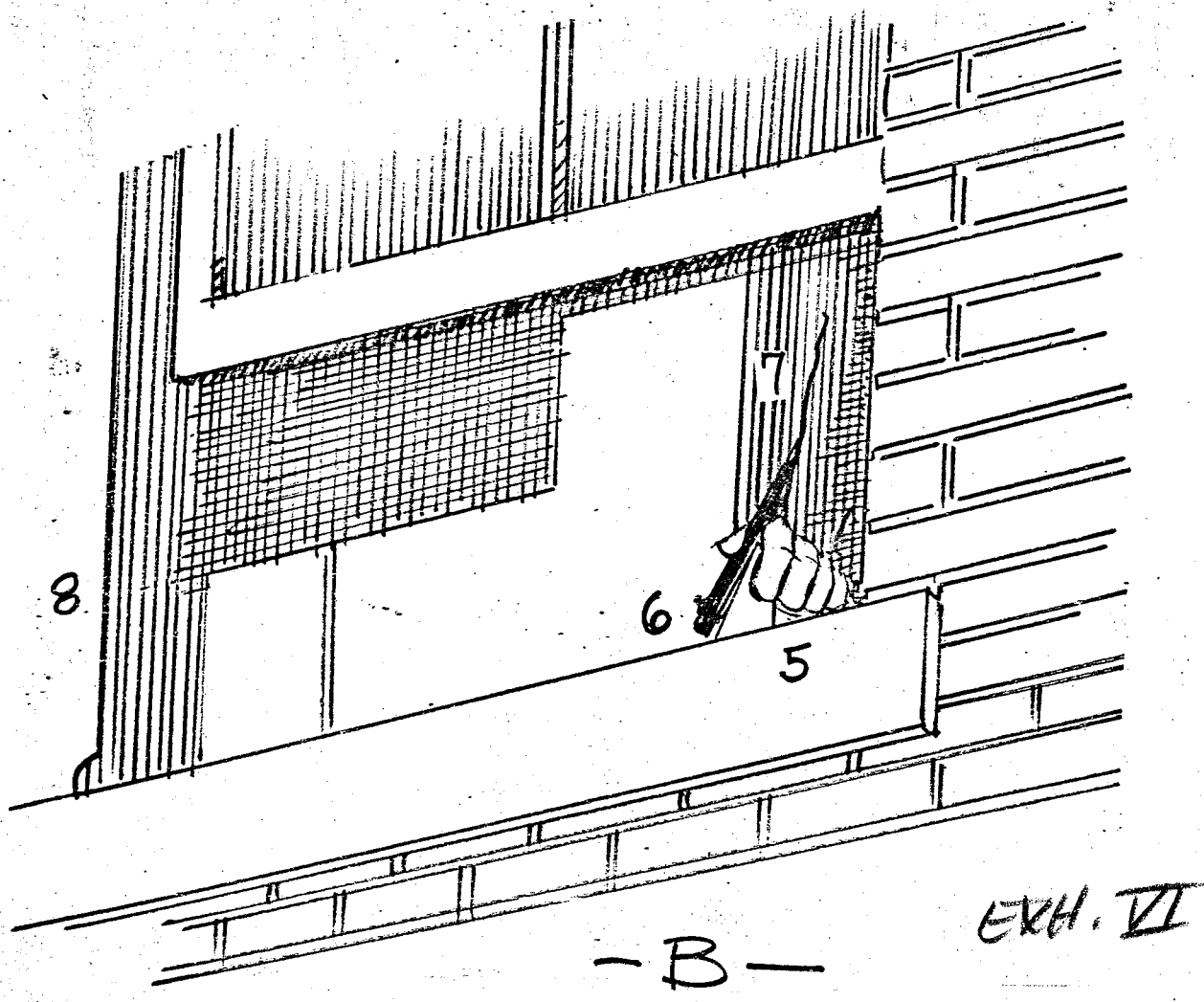
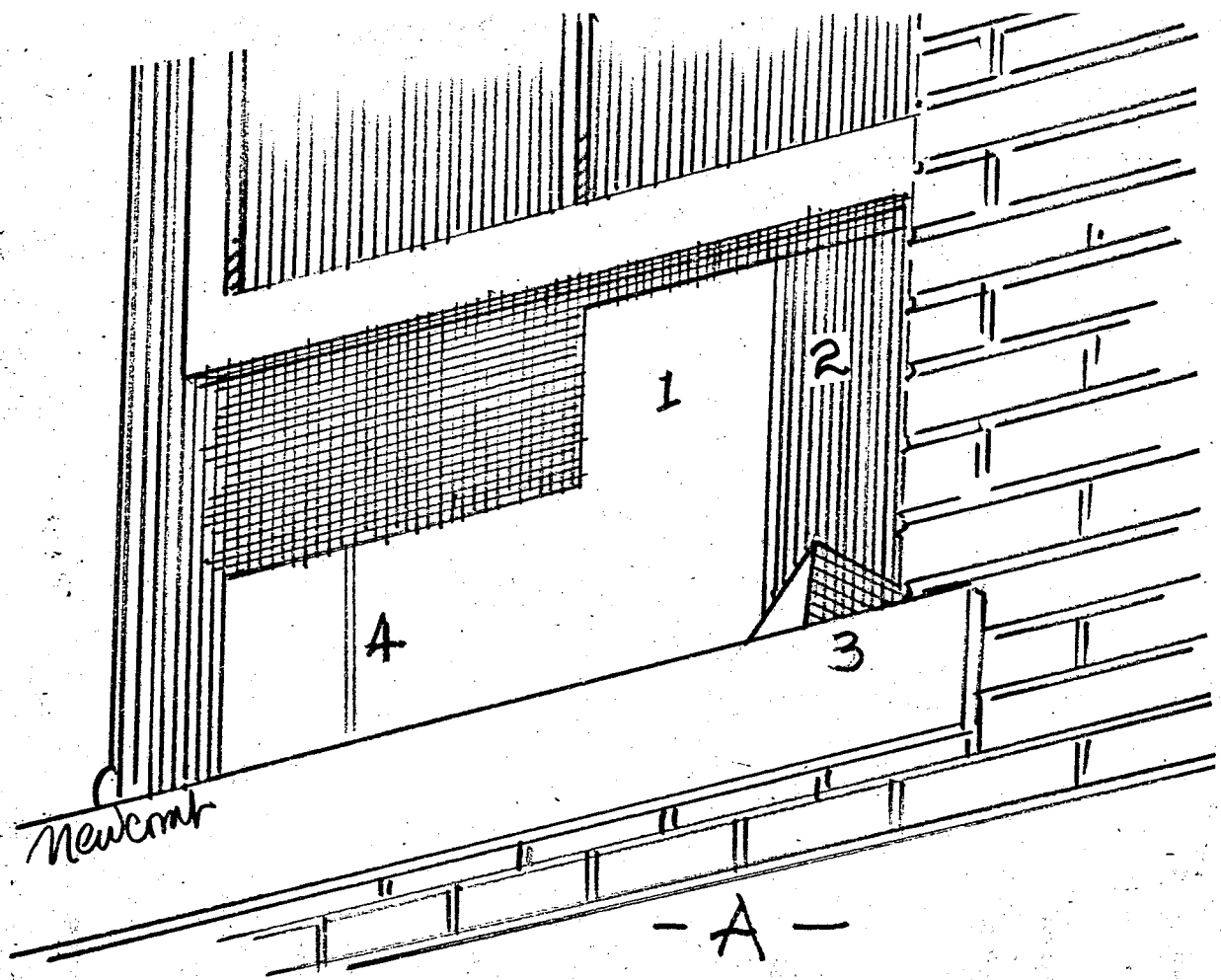


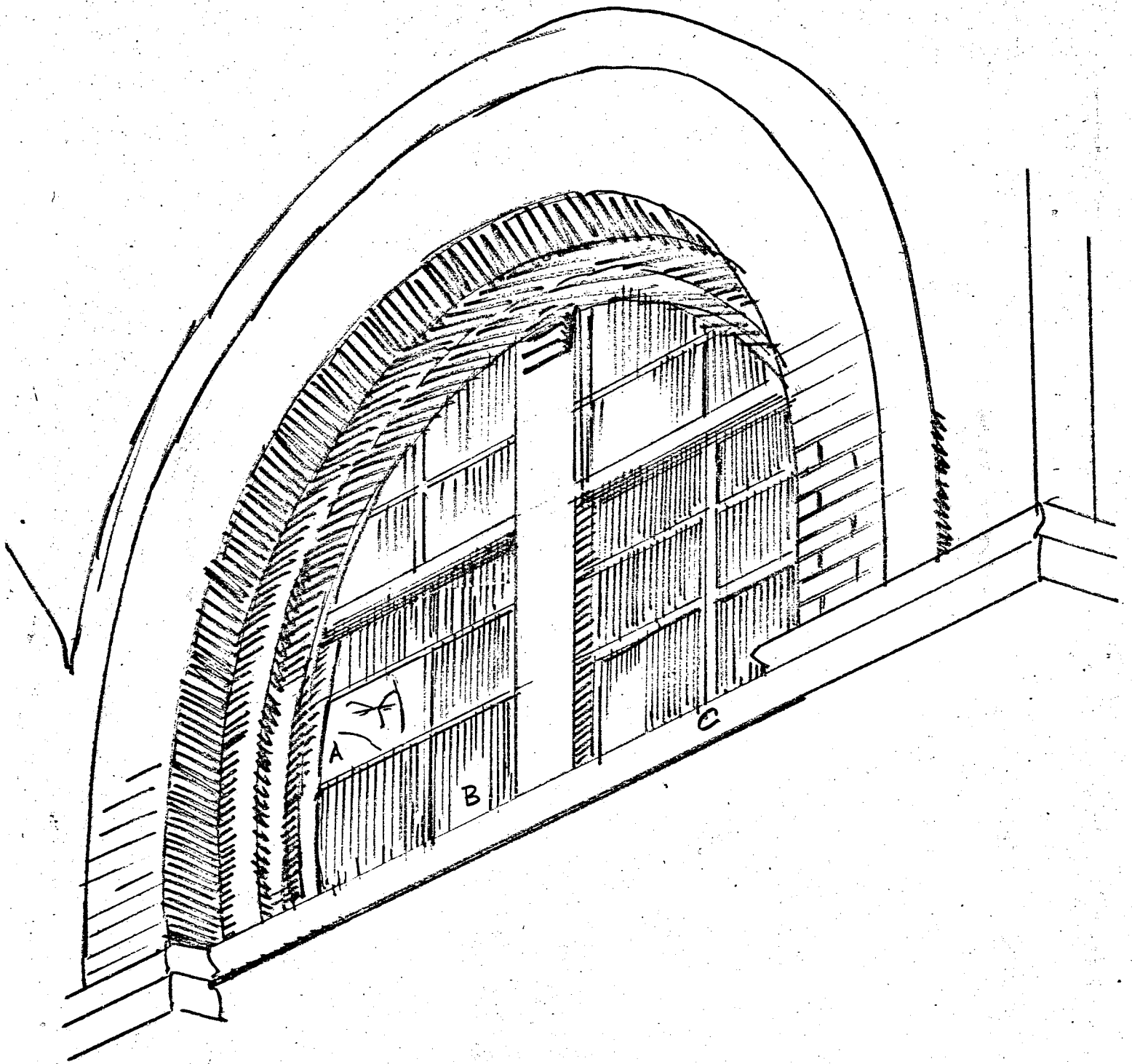
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EXH. IV







EXH. VII