

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Gentry County Courthouse

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Public Square not for publication

city, town Albany vicinity of congressional district 6th - Hon. E. Thomas Coleman

state Missouri code 029 county Gentry code 075

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<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 Gentry County Court

street & number Public Square

city, town Albany vicinity of state Missouri 64402

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds, Gentry County Courthouse

street & number Public Square

city, town Albany state Missouri 64402

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title 1. Historic Inventory of Gentry Co. has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1979-1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Program
Department of Natural Resources P.O. Box 176

city, town Jefferson City state Missouri 65102

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The third Gentry County Courthouse was constructed in 1884-1885 by Rufus K. Allen of St. Joseph, Missouri. Mr. Allen also constructed the Union Railroad Station in St. Joseph and the Nodaway County Courthouse in Maryville, Missouri. The architects were Eckel and Mann of St. Joseph who designed many public buildings in Northwest Missouri.

The Courthouse was designed in the round-arched High Victorian or Ruskinian Gothic style. The plan is symmetrical. The main entrance is centered on the south facade beneath a tower, and leads, via a ten (10) foot wide corridor, directly to a secondary entrance in the north facade. Cross stairways lead to the second, or court room floor.

There is a basement under portions of the structure. The foundation is of sandstone.

All facades are symmetrical and are organized into three major bays. With numerous subordinate elements. The south, or entrance facade has projecting bays on either side, flanking an extended center bay. A tower is set into this center bay. Both the tower and the arches emphasize the symmetry of the facade about the center entrance.

The organization of the north facade is identical to that opposite, except that the tower is replaced by a gabled wall dormer. The massing of the longer east and west facades is identical to the north facade, in that it is the center bay which projects beyond recessive end bays. The center bay is further emphasized by increased height and the addition of a gabled wall dormer.

A water table at the first floor line, a string course at the second floor, continuous string courses at the bottom of the second floor window sills, and a massive cornice beneath a prominent hipped roof, make horizontal divisions in the composition of each facade.

Wall openings are rich in variation. Windows are usually double in these openings. The first floor windows are double hung single-light sash surmounted by semi-elliptical transoms and topped with semi-circular arches. Muntins divide the transom into many small lights. The second floor windows are similar to those on the first floor except that the double transoms are topped with segmental arches and radiating voussoirs.

Ornamental stonework embellishes the heads of wall openings at the first and second floors. At the first floor level the semi-elliptical arches are topped by a stone band. This is also true in the arches over the entrance way.

The building cornice is a massive design element consisting of a molded cornice, and a corbelled brick frieze. Closely spaced brick brackets, the height of the frieze, give the composition a rich texture of highlight and shadow.

The main building roof is a truncated hip and the projecting dormers are gabled. The entire roof is of slate.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

The massive square tower is divided into four stories. At the second story it is supported by buttresses. The third story has double wide windows with a transom that resembles the windows on the first and second floor. At the top of the third story, there is a heavy stone band with an elaborate gable motif. Each wall of the fourth story contains a clock face below a gable roof. The steep attenuated hip roof of the tower has gabled dormers above each clock face.

The exterior of the building is faced with St. Joseph pressed brick. The decorative trim is sandstone from Parkville, Missouri. The style of the building has Italianate features which resemble other Allen, Eckel and Mann structures in Northwest Missouri. The circular design at the very top of the structure resembles a weathervane with an arrow giving wind direction.

The windows in the structure are original for the most part. The original exterior doors were removed in the early 1950's.²

The height of the first floor was originally fourteen (14) feet from floor to ceiling. However, all the ceiling heights on the first and second floor have been lowered in various remodeling projects. The ceiling in the central hall is still fourteen (14) feet above the floor and is covered with pressed tin.

The corridors are floored with marble parquet. The two main stairways to the second floor are wood. There is a skylight above the stairs in the south portions of the building.

There are six fire-proof vaults built into the building. They vary in size and early descriptions declare these vaults to be burglar proof.

The original construction costs vary between \$22,000³ and \$45,000⁴. Since 1885, several repairs and alternations on the structure have not altered the exterior appearance of the structure. The construction of new steps, fountain and memorial at the south entrance to the building during 1974 greatly improved the accessibility of the structure from the street level.

The memorial's semi-circular design blends into the south side of the Gentry County Courthouse, and steps up both sides of the memorial also serve as the south entrance to the courthouse.

The memorial is centered on a round pool which contains a lighted fountain. The side of the memorial nearest the street, the south side of Albany's square, contains two large flower beds flanking a flag pole.

Railings around the memorial are black iron, and three bronze plaques list the 61 Gentry County men who gave their lives in wars after World War I.

One plaque lists the names of 56 men who died in World War II. Smaller plaques on either side of this list the two men who died in Korea and the three men who were casualties of the Vietnam War.⁵

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GENTRY COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 2

Although the records of the Gentry County Courthouse have been searched few repairs made their way into the County Court books. The iron fence that surrounded the public square has been removed.

FOOTNOTES

1. Williams, Walter. The State of Missouri. Columbia, MO: E.W. Stephens, Press, 1904, Vol. I pp. 486-487.
2. Letter from Jan Roberts, Secretary for Circuit Judge, Gentry County. Dated January 21, 1980.
3. History of Gentry and Worth Counties. Topeka, KS: Historical Publishing Co., 1922.
4. Williams, op. cit.
5. Albany Ledger. October 16, 1974.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1884-1885 Builder/Architect R. K. Allen/Eckel & Mann Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Gentry County Courthouse is significant as a fine Missouri example of a High Victorian or Ruskinian Gothic Style Courthouse, as the design of the prominent western Missouri architectural firm of Eckel & Mann, and as the seat of government for Gentry County for 95 years.

The building presently under consideration is the third to serve as Gentry County's county seat. The first Gentry County Courthouse was a log building twenty-four feet by twenty feet, built by Elisha Cameron in July 1845. The building was located one block north of the present county courthouse site and was used until 1852. The second courthouse was a brick structure measuring sixty by forty-five feet, two stories in height with a fire proof vault. In 1883, this building was destroyed in a wind storm. The County records were moved into store buildings on the north side of the square. These buildings burned on March 6, 1885, before the present building was completed and the county records were lost in the fire.

The third and present courthouse was erected during the period of 1884-1885. Rufus K. Allen, who did so much construction of public buildings in Northwest Missouri for the architect Edmund Eckel, also finished the interior of this building. The style and date of construction makes it an exceptional structure for the state of Missouri. The structure has served as the seat of government for Gentry County for 95 years.

The architect was the firm of Eckel and Mann. Edmund J. Eckel (1845-1934) was a native of Alsace, France and a graduate of the Ecole des Beaux Arts, Paris. John Albury Bryan identified him as "the outstanding man in the history of the profession in the western section of the state". Eckel arrived in St. Joseph in 1869, joining the firm of Stigers and Boettner. Lewis Stigers, senior partner of the firm had designed Patee House (A National Historical Landmark). In 1872, Eckel became a partner in the firm. From 1888 to 1893, he was partners with George R. Mann. Later partners included Walter Boschen, Will S. Aldrich and his son George R. Eckel. George Eckel had as partners Aldrich and Otto Brunner. The firm exists today, with William Brunner, son of Otto as the senior partner. Edmund Eckel was a member of the Western Association of Architects from 1885 to 1889 when that organization merged with the American Institute of Architects. He was made a fellow of the A.I.A. in 1889.

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Albany Ledger, 1974-1977.
2. Atlas of Morgan, Nodaway and Gentry Counties, MO. 1880.
3. History of Daviess and Gentry Counties Topeka, KS: Historical Pub Co, 1922

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name "Darlington, Mo."

Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

UMT References

40° 14' 58" N.Latitude 94° 20' 5" W.Longitude

A

1	5	3	8	16	4	17	19	4	14	5	16	10	18	18
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

A tract of land located in the southeast quarter of section twenty-four (24), township sixty-three (63) North, Range thirty-one(31) West, described as follows: Beginning on the inside curb line at the southwest corner of what is known as the Public Square,

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

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title 1. Thomas W. Carneal, Assistant Professor of History

organization Northwest Missouri State University date February 12, 1980

street & number 306 Colden Hall telephone 816/582-7141 ext. 1289

city or town Maryville state Missouri 64468

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Director, Department of Natural Resources and
title State Historic Preservation Officer date

For HCERS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
National Register of Historic Places
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GENTRY COUNTY COURTHOUSE

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Continuation sheet

Item number 6

Page 1

2. Missouri State Historical Survey

1980

Department of Natural Resources

P.O. Box 176

Jefferson City

state

Missouri 65102

Item number 9

Page 1

4. History of Gentry and Worth Counties. St. Joseph, MO: National Historical Co., 1882.
5. Illustrated Historical Atlas of Gentry County, MO. Edwards, 1877.
6. Plat Book of Gentry County. Hixson, 1925.
7. Standard Atlas of Gentry County, MO. Ogle, 1914.
8. Williams, Walter. A History of Northwest Missouri, Vol I. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1915.
9. Williams, Walter. The State of Missouri. Columbia, MO: E.W. Stephens, Press, 1904.

Item number 10

Page 1

Original Town; thence north along the inside curb line for two hundred (200) feet to the northwest corner of said square; thence east along the inside curb line for two hundred (200) feet to the northeast corner of said square; thence south along the inside curb line for two hundred (200) feet to the southeast corner of said square; thence west along the inside curb line for two hundred (200) feet to the point of beginning.

Item number 11

Page 1

2. James M. Denny, Section Chief, Nominations-Survey

and State Contact Person

Department of Natural Resources

Historic Preservation Program

P.O. Box 176

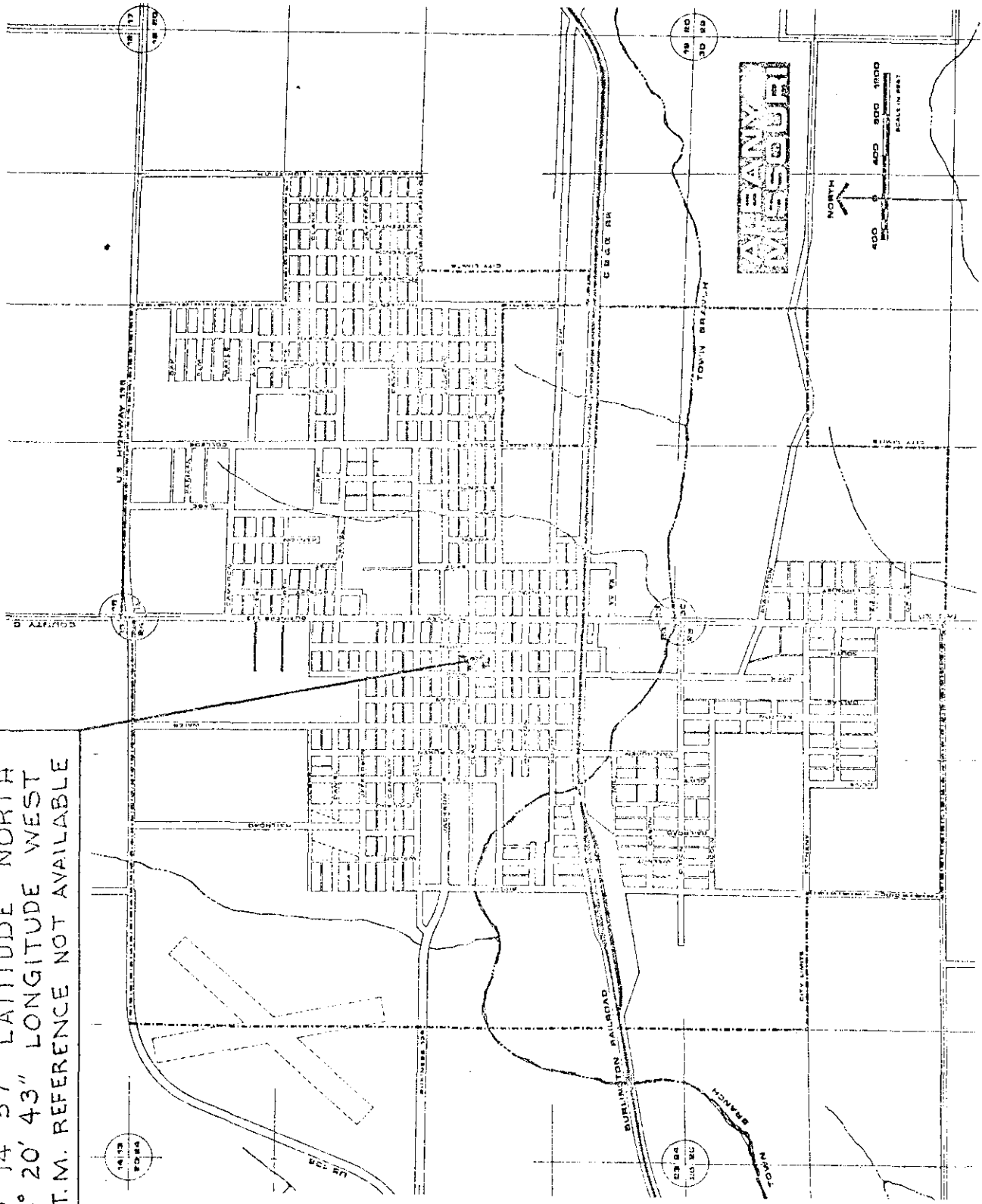
Jefferson City

March 4, 1980

314/751-4096

Missouri 65102

GENTRY COUNTY COURTHOUSE
40° 14' 57" LATITUDE NORTH
94° 20' 43" LONGITUDE WEST
U.T.M. REFERENCE NOT AVAILABLE



STATE OF MISSOURI
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND WATER RESOURCES
EDWARD L. CLARK STATE GEOLOGIST

DARLINGTON QUADRANGLE
MISSOURI
15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

(BETHANY)

94°15'
40'15"
T. 69 N.
R. 23 E.

GENTRY COUNTY COURTHOUSE
U.S.G.S. 15' Quadrangle

"Darlington Quadrangle" (1927-photorevised
1940)

Scale: 1:62,500

UTM REFERENCE:

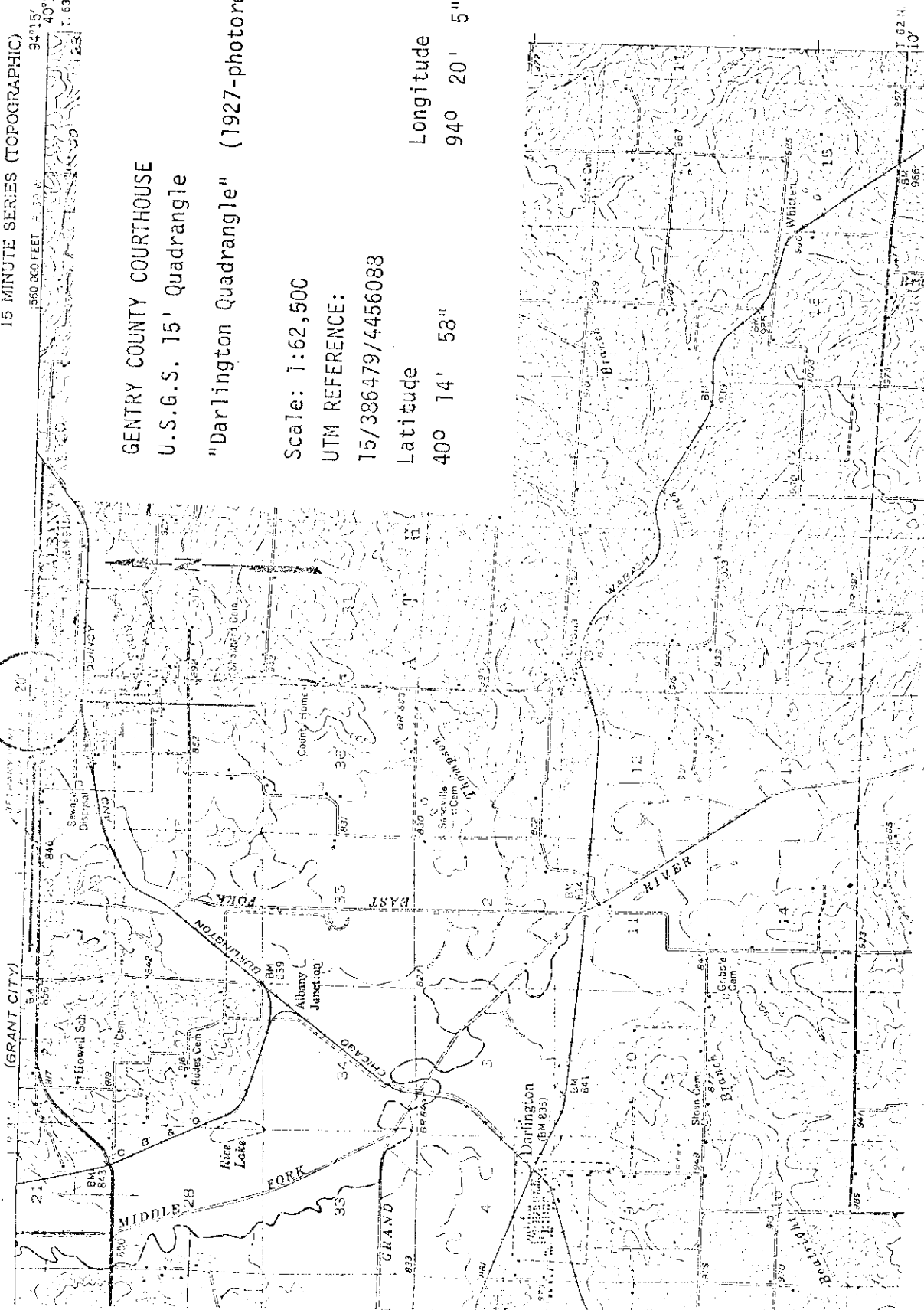
15/386479/4456083

Latitude

40° 14' 58"

Longitude

94° 20' 5"



Gentry County Courthouse
Public Square
Albany, Gentry, Missouri
Tom Carneal January 20, 1980
Carneal's Office, 306 Colden Hall
Northwest Missouri State University
Maryville, MO 64468
West
1 of 10



Gentry County Courthouse
Public Square
Albany, Gentry, Missouri
Tom Carneal January 20, 1980
Carneal's Office, 306 Colden Hall
Northwest Missouri State University
Maryville, MO 64468
North
2 of 10



Gentry County Courthouse
Public Square

Albany, Gentry, Missouri

Tom Carneal January 20, 1980

Carneal's Office, 306 Colden Hall

Northwest Missouri State University

Maryville, MO 64468

East

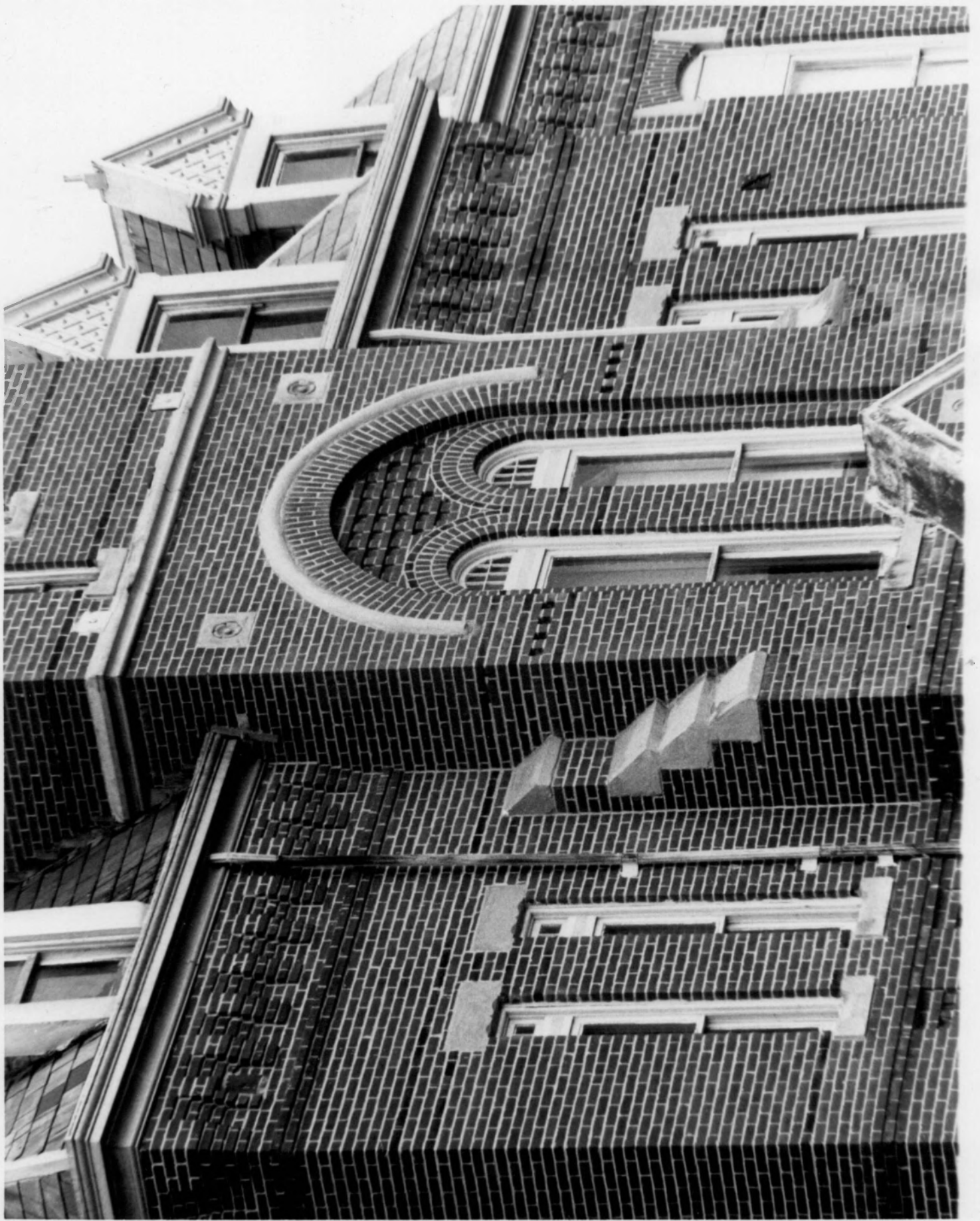
3 of 10



Gentry County Courthouse
Public Square
Albany, Gentry, Missouri
Tom Carneal January 20, 1980
Carneal's Office, 306 Colden Hall
Northwest Missouri State University
Maryville, MO 64468
South
4 of 10



Gentry County Courthouse
Public Square
Albany, Gentry, Missouri
Tom Carneal January 20, 1980
Carneal's Office, 306 Colden Hall
Northwest Missouri State University
Maryville, MO 64468
South
5 of 10



Gentry County Courthouse
Public Square

Albany, Gentry, Missouri

Tom Carneal January 20, 1980

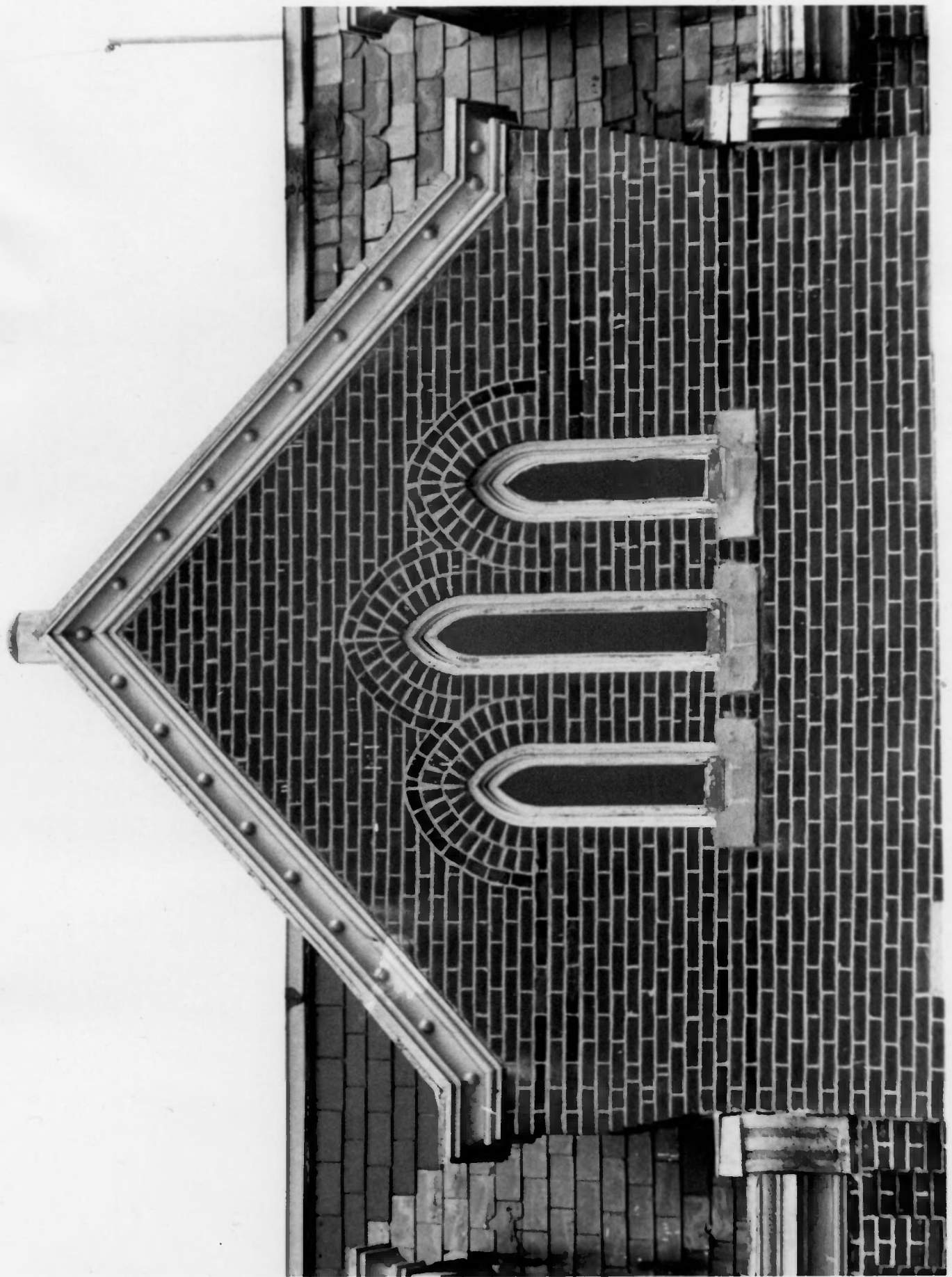
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Northwest Missouri State University

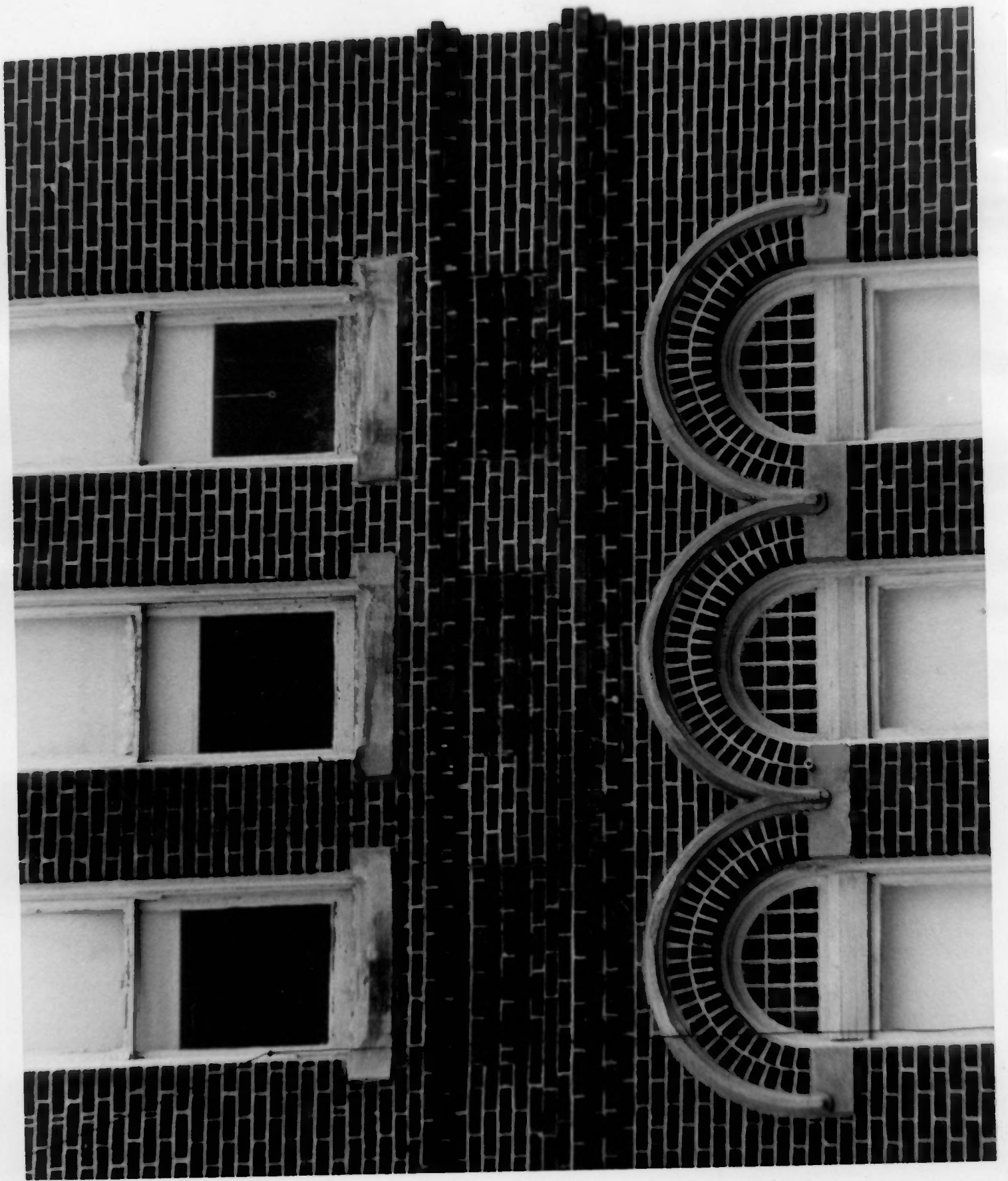
Maryville, MO 64468

South

6 of 10



Gentry County Courthouse
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Maryville, MO 64468
West
7 of 10



Gentry County Courthouse
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West
8 of 10



Gentry County Courthouse
Public Square

Albany, Gentry, Missouri

Tom Carneal January 20, 1980

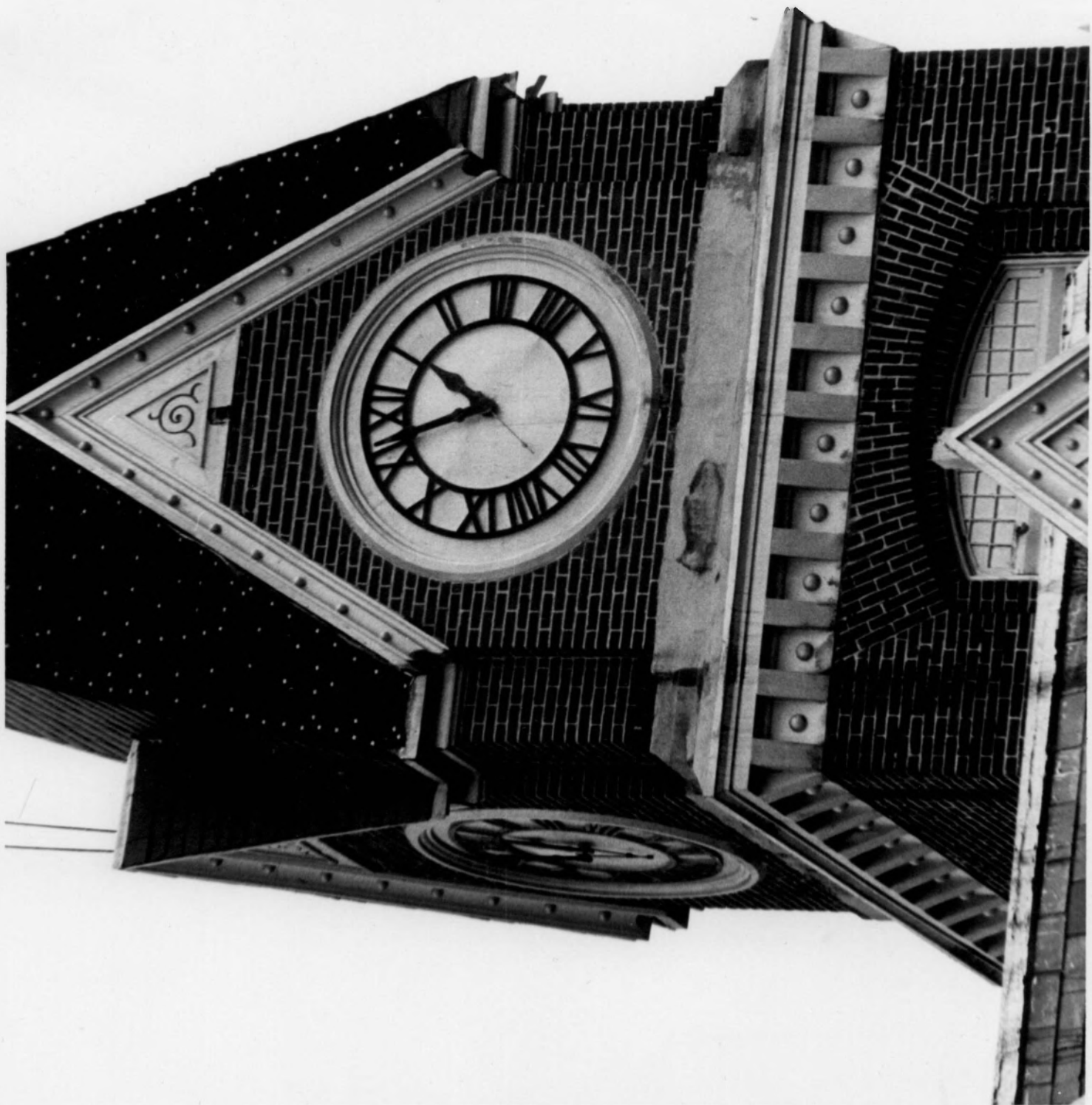
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Maryville, MO 64468

West

9 of 10



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Carneal's Office, 306 Colden Hall
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West
10 of 10

