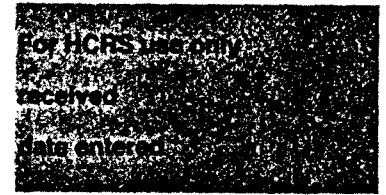


United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



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

1. Name

historic Hall of Waters

and/or common Siloam Park and Springs

2. Location

street & number 201 East Broadway not for publication

city, town Excelsior Springs vicinity of congressional district #6-Hon. E. Thomas Coleman

state Missouri code 29 county Clay code 024

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 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" 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 City of Excelsior Springs

street & number 201 East Broadway

city, town Excelsior Springs vicinity of state Missouri 64024

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder's Office, Clay County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Liberty state Missouri 64068

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Clay County Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

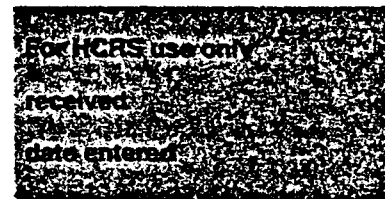
date federal state county local

depository for survey records Clay County Historical Society, Box 99

city, town Liberty state Missouri 64068

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2. Missouri State Historical Survey
1981
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input 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 date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	<input type="checkbox"/> non-structural	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Hall of Waters in Excelsior Springs, Missouri is the product of the Federal Public Works Administration. The structure is generally a "T" shaped building with strong Art Deco and Depression Modern features reflecting its architectural period. Interior and exterior decoration follow Mayan Indian tradition relating to water and Water Gods.

The majority of the structure is cast in place concrete with an exterior skin of ashlar stone, cast stone with carved limestone accents, and exposed concrete. There are a total of five levels with four above ground and a basement story completely underground.

For the purposes of this survey, the building has been divided into three main sections: the Main Building, the Great Hall and the East Wing. The five vertical levels of the structure are located below and identified as: Basement, Ground Floor, Ground Floor Mezzanine, First Floor and Second Floor (see plan).

The Hall of Waters is primarily a conventionally cast in place reinforced concrete column, beam and pan joist structure with a curtain wall skin of various materials setting on a reinforced concrete foundation and piers. The roof structure is also cast concrete over the majority of the building, although the Great Hall utilizes steel beams and haydite slabs. A built-up type membrane roofing over rigid insulation with gravel cover is used with the exception of the terrace surrounding the Great Hall where a concrete slab is placed over waterproofing membranes.

The exterior skin of the building is of three dominant materials used in skillful relationship to each other. A major portion of the building is faced with ashlar pattern limestone, approximately twelve inches thick. This covers the Main Building, lower level of the Great Hall and portions of the East Wing (south side), as well as the decorative stairways and retaining walls surrounding the complex. The two main entrances (west and north) and the upper story of the Great Hall are emphasized through the use of cast stone made from black granite aggregate, which closely resembles smooth cut limestone. Where appropriate, the cast stone panels are complemented by cut stone reflecting Mayan symbolism. The third material, exposed reinforced concrete, is found on the east wing and on a rooftop structure housing mechanical equipment. This exposed concrete is painted a light buff color compatible with the stone portions of the building. Other materials used as exterior decorative features include: glass block, cast aluminum, cast iron, painted steel, glazed tile and bronze.

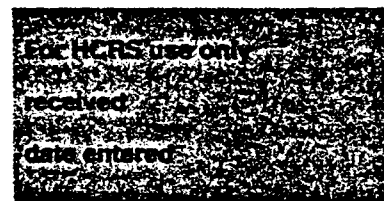
Windows are painted steel and are either fixed divided lights or operable casements with either full or divided lights, or a combination of both. The type, size, and number of lights in individual window openings vary. The doors, depending on their location and use are made of one of three materials: painted steel, wood, or bronze.

The Hall of Waters main entry is on the north facade paralleling Broadway. The building welcomes visitors via an open terrace with ashlar stone walls and cast stone bannisters and caps. This terrace also extends around the building to the west entrance. Between the terrace and Broadway, a distance of approximately 115 feet, is a sunken memorial courtyard. This courtyard is one floor level below the main entry (and Broadway) and is accessible by stairways from the building and ramps on either side at Broadway.

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The two main entrances to the Hall are located on the north and west sides of the Main Building. These entrances are two story openings in cast stone accented by eight carved stone panels depicting Water Gods of Mayan Indian Design. The doors are bronze with full lights and cast iron frames. Above each set of doors, for the full height of the opening, is an infill cast aluminum grill work reminiscent of the Art Deco style, attached to a cast iron framework. Light is provided to the second floor through a fixed glass and casement window located behind the grill work at both entry locations.

One of the most outstanding exterior features of the building is the decorative boiler stack tower. The original coal fired boilers have a 40 inch diameter steel exhaust stack rising about 63 feet above the main roof. This stack is inside of and braced by a three level concrete structure with a skin of ashlar limestone and glass block. The tower has an interior ladder to the top level for maintenance and is capped by a decorative cast stone and aluminum cap 30 feet high. At night, lights behind the glass block extend the full height of the tower and it becomes a focal point visible from all parts of town.

Inside, the Sub-Basement is an unfinished concrete space which is actually a part of the basement although the floor elevation is approximately eleven feet lower. The "pit" was the location of the original coal fired boilers used for heating the building. Presently, the boilers (two) are being dismantled and sold for scrap after being rendered inoperable in 1958 when new gas fired units were installed on the Ground Floor.

The Basement is a very large space primarily unused except for the filtration equipment necessary for the operation of the swimming pool. The basement is totally unfinished and could be termed a full basement in that it extends under all areas of the building as well as around the swimming pool. The basement is accessible by elevator, one interior stairway and one exterior stairwell at the north side of the East Wing. The entire floor is designated as a civil defense shelter, and is used as such in time of emergency.

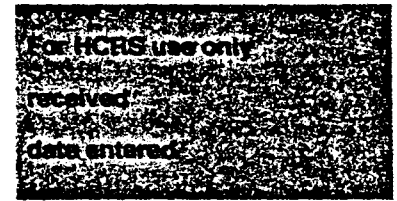
The Ground Floor opens on grade at the south and east and houses public and tertiary mechanical/maintenance spaces. Public spaces include a 10 meter by 25 meter ceramic tile mineral water swimming pool in a two story space with viewing balconies on both sides and the men's locker room which remains much as constructed.

The pool and viewing balconies occupy the entire Great Hall at the Ground Floor and Ground Floor Mezzanine levels. Walls in this area are primarily glazed clay tile with columns clad in faience tile. The floors are nonslip terrazo and railings at the viewing balcony are parkerized wrought iron with an aluminum rail cap. The ceiling was suspended plaster but has been replaced with a suspended lay-in 2x4 grid. As mentioned earlier there were pairs of doors with glass lights and sidelights extending the full length of the pool area allowing natural light into the pool as well as providing access to exterior patios and terraces surrounding the Hall of Waters. These have since been bricked-up and the access points reduced to two solid doors.

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Also found on this level are the mineral water bottling facility, a maintenance shop, abandoned municipal jail space that originally housed employee locker and toilet facilities, a boiler room for the boilers that replaced those in the basement, miscellaneous maintenance offices and a storage room where city police store confiscated items and civil defense supplies. This storage room is in a space originally used for hydro-therapy. There is a small tile mineral water pool in the center that is now covered with wooden planks for storage purposes, although virtually intact.

Adjacent to the north wall of the Ground Floor level and connected by a loading dock is a subterranean storage space. This is located under the entry terrace and is the basement of the original Siloam Pavilion which housed Siloam Spring. The pavilion was torn down to provide space for the Hall of Waters. The basement was retained to serve as a well house for the Iron Water Well which was the original Siloam Spring. Siloam Spring was the first of the mineral waters discovered in Excelsior Springs.

The Ground Floor Mezzanine is the location of the swimming pool concession, Women's locker room, an abandoned mineral bath formerly the men's treatment area as well as access to the spectator balconies and the City's Public Works Department. A corridor leads from a lobby area outside the concession area through a pair of doors to a portico under the main entry terrace at the north. This portico was accessible by six openings in the front of the entry terrace to the sunken courtyard, but these openings have been filled with a chain link closure. The Building Department now occupies space that was originally the men's mineral water bath department.

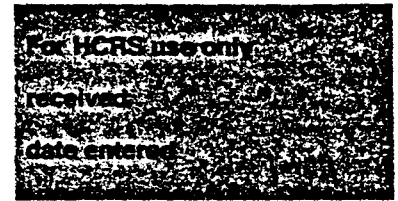
A small decorated vestibule from the main entrance leads south directly to a highly decorated two story foyer at the intersection of the three sections of the building. The foyer exhibits a flavor of Art Deco with Mayan Indian ornamental design influences. The lower walls are of decorative clay and faience tile. Second story openings, leading to a circulation gallery around the foyer are outlined with the decorative tiles in earth colors. Sculptural plaster spandrel panels and decorative open wrought iron railings accent the tile at the gallery openings. The upper walls of the foyer are of plaster stepping back in bands outlining the openings, where painted "Indian" decoration bands were once displayed. These bands of decoration have been painted over in recent years, however. The ceiling of the foyer is of plaster with a skylight in the center. The actual skylight is approximately eight feet by eight feet and transfers light through a translucent lattice work at the ceiling which is about three feet below the skylight itself. There are electric lights in the space between the skylight and the false light lattice for evening illumination. A short corridor leads from this central foyer past the city manager and finance offices through a small vestibule to the west entrance.

The foyer is open to the water bar which fills the first and second floors of the Great Hall. Doors with full height transoms above, line all the walls with structural pilasters of decorative clay and faience tile and plaster separating them. The doors open onto a patio balcony forming the roof of the viewing balconies at the pool below. In the center of this Hall is the Water Bar where the four different types of mineral water found in Excelsior Springs are still dispensed. The plaster ceiling, original light fixtures, decorative tiles and other decoration strongly reflect the Art Deco design influences of the building and remain as constructed.

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The original elevator with bronze doors and frame exhibiting Mayan Indian symbolism is visible just east of the foyer. Beyond, the East Wing of the First Floor houses the finance director's office and mineral water baths, which are still in use serving male customers in the morning and women in the afternoon.

The second floor of the Main Building consists of occupied public space including the City's telephone system and Court Room facilities. The second floor of the Great Hall is simply open above the water bar. The East Wing at this level contains the City Council Chambers and miscellaneous storage rooms.

The Hall of Waters is generally in excellent structural condition. Any visible structural damage is restricted to the swimming pool areas of the south wing, or Great Hall. There is general spalling of concrete beams and deterioration of reinforcing steel in the basement area beneath the pool decks and in the pool walls themselves. Other damage is at the floor structure of the water bar area above the pool. This damage is probably due to the inherent damp conditions at the pool and the air borne chlorine gass necessary for water treatment. Mechanical systems are adequately functional except that the original building ventilation system has been revised restricting proper ventilation of the swimming pool area. Infrastructure for the original system still exists and the City is studying the feasibility of placing this back in operation. Many of the areas in the building are heated only, with air conditioning provided by individual window units.

Architecturally, the condition of the building is fair requiring only general maintenance of the exterior detail, primarily dealing with the stone copings, cast stone ballustrades, stone joints and existing steel windows. Some areas of the exposed concrete exterior walls require patching to protect reinforcing steel and all of these areas should be painted. The interior of the building has been generally well maintained. Some areas have deteriorated however, due to a lack of use, primarily some of the abandoned bath and locker areas. Main public spaces including the atrium and water bar are in excellent condition.

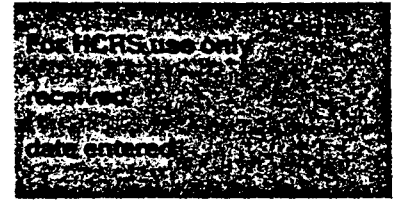
Alterations include:

1. Exterior
 - a. Patio outside of pool area installed in 1968.
 - b. Due to flooding, the grounds were revamped to provide a dike. In this renovation, many of the sidewalks and stone walls were removed. Date: 1955.
2. Interior
 - a. New Gas fired boilers at 1st floor abandoning coal burners in sub-basement. Date: 1965.
 - b. New lay-in ceiling for the pool area. Date: 1972.
 - c. New filtering system for the swimming pool. Date: 1972.
 - d. City jail in basement level abandoned and in use for Public Works activities. Date: 1972.

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- e. Bottling space installed on the Ground Floor to continue the bottling and distributing of mineral water. Date: 1973.
- f. Inexpensive paneling in Council Chambers and Court Room on second floor. Remodeling of first floor offices. Date: 1972.
- g. New elevator switching and cables. Date: 1978.
- h. Revamping of the steam heating system to provide better temperature control. Date: 1977.
- i. Painting of interior spaces on the First Floor. Date: 1979.
- j. Brick panels replacing patio doors on the pool level due to damage experienced during flooding. Date: 1957.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> science (geology)
<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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) medicine
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1880, 1934 **Builder/Architect** Public Works Administration Project #5252
Keene and Simpson, Kansas City, Missouri

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

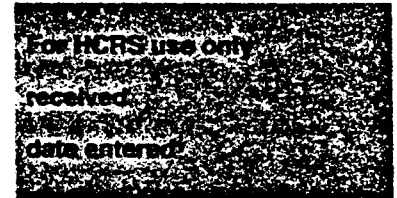
The Hall of Waters in Excelsior Springs, Missouri is significant geologically, commercially and medically as the site of the first spring of many discovered in this city in the 1880's, and 1890's. This spring, known for years as Siloam Spring, is the only natural supply of ferro-manganese mineral water in the United States and one of only five known worldwide. The other waters available here, which are characterised as sodium bicarbonate, calcium bicarbonate and saline sulphur, have long been believed to have curative and medicinal properties. Their exploitation made this city a center of medicinal water cures in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Architecturally, the \$1,000,000 Hall of Waters is significant as the most ambitious project to have been undertaken by the Federal Public Works Administration in Missouri. It is the location of the world's longest mineral water bar dispensing more types of water than at any other single location on earth. In addition, at its height the Hall of Waters was the most completely outfitted health resort in the state and possibly the region. Moreover, the building is notable and possibly unique in its outstanding Art Deco-Depression Modern styling influenced by Mayan water imagery.

(see continuation sheets for details)

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The City of Excelsior Springs, Clay County, Missouri, is situated in and along the deeply cut valley of the east fork of Fishing River. The waters of this stream descend rapidly from upland, 1,050 feet above sea level, only a few miles north of the city, to the valley of the Missouri, 350 feet lower only a few miles south of the city. The stream erosion has therefore been great, carving the valley of Excelsior Springs into the hard bed rock to a depth of 200 feet below the adjacent rolling blue grass prairies of the upland.

The geology of the region has an all important bearing on the remarkable concentration of different types of mineral waters obtained in so small an area. The rocks so well exposed along the valley slopes and which extend to depths of 500 or 600 feet below the valley floor at Excelsior Springs belong to the Pennsylvanian Series and consist chiefly of shales and sandstones, interstratified with relatively thin beds of limestone. These rocks the world over have been found to be rich in mineral wealth, and the waters which flow from them are generally high in mineralization.

The highest formation of importance at Excelsior Springs, is known as the Kansas City limestone formation. This series of limestone and shale members occur geologically at the base of the upper Pennsylvanian group of rocks. The formation outcrops conspicuously along the steep valley slopes, its various limestone members jutting out prominently from near the base of the slopes almost to the hilltops displaying from bottom to top ledges of the Hertha, Bethany Falls, Winterset, and, high on the hills, the lola limestones. In all, some 200 feet of beds are included in the Kansas City formation.

Below the lowest limestone member of the Kansas City formation lies the Pleasanton shale which occurs at the top of the Lower Pennsylvanian group of rocks. This formation is seen in the lower slopes bordering the valley, underlies the valley floor for a hundred feet or more and in all is about 165 feet thick. It is composed of sandstone, shale, sandy shale, and a few very thin seams of limestone and coal. It is from various horizons in the Pleasanton shale that most of the springs and shallow wells located on the valley floor obtain the mineral waters. So variable is the lithography and composition of the Pleasanton shale that springs of Siloam and Regent type may issue forth at nearby points and still yield waters of marked difference in mineralization. Similar wells reaching to various depths in the formation secure waters of marked mineral differences.

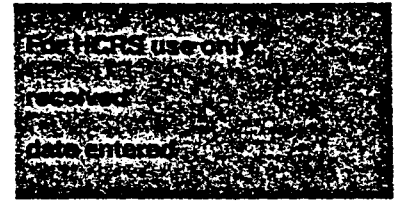
Buried beneath the Pleasanton lies the Henrietta formations, scarcely 35 feet thick in this locality and composed of two thin limestones separated by a shale member.

The basal Pennsylvanian formation reached after penetrating the Henrietta is the Cherokee shale. This includes about 475 feet of chiefly shale and sandstone, with minor seams of coal, which rests on the thick, massive limestones of the Mississippian series. The deeper wells sunk on the valley floor reach the base of the Cherokee shale or the base of the Pennsylvanian series of rocks, at depths of between 600 and 700 feet, and pass from the sandstone and shale beds into strata composed chiefly of limestones or dolomites. Many of the wells of medium depth yield mineral waters obtained from the Cherokee shale and all, except half a dozen of the deepest wells at the springs secure their mineral waters from either the Pleasanton or Cherokee shales.

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The deeply buried limestones of the Mississippian series and rocks still older are reached and penetrated by the deepest wells at Excelsior Springs. The sulpho-saline well, 1,460 feet deep, undoubtedly penetrates strata of Ordovician age and probably even reaches the old Cambrian beds. The other deep wells, sunk to depth of 800 or 900 feet, finish in or at the base of the Mississippian beds, securing their waters in whole or in part from the limestone crevices.

While the general dip of all the rock strata in the region surrounding Excelsior Springs is to the northwest at a very low angle, the city itself is situated in a slight structural basin. That is, the beds of rock are slightly depressed at this point, having been found to rise gently in all directions from this basin, especially to the southeast. Therefore, the rain waters which fall on the uplands surrounding Excelsior Springs and for many miles to the southwest where such formations as the Pleasanton and Cherokee are exposed, seep into their previous layers and descend along the direction of the dipping beds. During the course of travel, by their solvent powers, the waters derive from the rocks, the mineral content contained when they issue forth as springs from the valley floor at Excelsior Springs or are tapped by wells sunk to their levels. The shallower waters have probably traveled a much shorter distance than the deeper waters and are, generally speaking less highly mineralized. This increased mineralization with depth does not hold absolutely true in all cases, but will hold in general application. The increased mineralization is due almost entirely to the sodium chloride content which commonly occurs in greater amounts in the waters of the deeper rocks.

The group of mineral springs and wells, more than 20 in number, about which the City of Excelsior Springs has been built, produce waters of several types. Classified according to the principal negative ion or combination of negative ions most abundantly present in the chemical composition of the mineralogical content of the water, these waters fall into five principal groups.

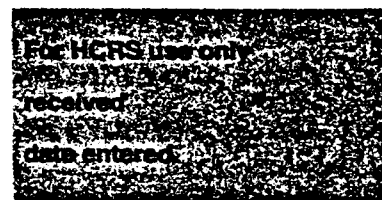
In the ferro-manganese water of Siloam Spring, calcium bicarbonate is the principal mineral ingredient, though a very important amount of calcium sulphate and manganese bicarbonate are also present. Because of the important amount of ferrous bicarbonate present, this water is a chalybeate water. The water of Siloam spring is obtained from springs which flow from the Pleasanton shale. It's mineral content has been obtained from very shallow seated sources in rocks subjected to oxidation. Chalybeate waters are usually of shallow origin where the rocks contain iron in easily soluble compounds.

The calcium bicarbonate waters are also produced from very shallow wells, reaching to the base of the unconsolidated alluvium or to only very shallow depths in the underlying shale. This class of water contains a preponderant amount of calcium bicarbonate and a relatively high amount of combined calcium and magnesium sulphate.

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The sodium chloride and sodium bicarbonate waters are derived from a number of wells 90 to 115 feet in depth and apparently come from a single horizon in the Plasanton shale. At this horizon a thin layer of red shale is overlain by a sandstone bed, the red shale apparently forming an impervious layer just above which the sandstone forms an aquifer containing the mineralized water. The wells reaching this horizon find water high in sodium bicarbonate and sodium chloride and from the abundance of the former constituent the water is commonly known as the soda water. These waters are distinguished from the chloride waters of greater depth by the relatively smaller amount of sodium chloride present and the much greater amount of sodium bicarbonate. They completely lack the manganous bicarbonate of the shallow carbonate water and contain only a small amount of ferrous bicarbonate. They are also practically free from sulphates which the shallower and most of the deeper waters contain. Therefore, the soda water is distinctly in a class by itself, differing radically from any of the other waters produced in the locality.

Sulfo-saline wells derive their supplies from the Cherokee shale at various horizons or from the Mississippian limestones and lower beds of rocks. In some of these deeper wells, the water is almost free from sulphates but excessively high in chlorides and is typically a chloride water. In others, however, sulphates are abundantly present with the chlorides and these waters fall typically under the head of sulphato chloride waters. The sulphates when present are chiefly magnesian, sulphate or Epsome Salts and calcium sulphate, the former predominating. These deeper waters represent no doubt fossil sea water, now somewhat altered in chemical composition, but retaining much of the original character of the water.

The Hall of Waters subsequently replaced both the Siloam Pavilion, and the Sulpho Saline Building as a complete mineral water treatment center opening in the fall of 1937. Prior to the construction of the Hall of Waters each new well discovered was owned and operated privately. This resulted in many problems and it was determined that the needs of the public would be better served if the wells were brought under City control to insure proper maintenance and the sale of water was centralized. United community action resulted in the combining of eight different business concerns into one, under the ownership and management of the City of Excelsior Springs.

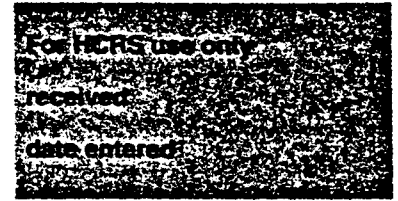
The Hall of Waters was originally built as the finest and most complete health resort structure in the United States. At the time, the one million dollar project was the most ambitious Public Works Administration Project to take place in the State of Missouri. Waters of all the main springs in Excelsior Springs were piped into it to be sold from the "longest mineral water bar in the world" which is still in operation.

The Hall of Waters is in a natural setting, with walks and stone terraces providing pleasant gathering places for the City's 10,000 tourists which came every day and formed the economic base for the community. In addition to the sale of mineral water, the building also contains mineral water bath facilities. At the time of construction, there was both a men's and women's bath department, each of which handled as many as 300 people at any one time. Mineral water baths were given as treatment for various ailments and were an eight stage process. The original bath department is still in operation, serving men in the morning and women in the afternoon.

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A "Great Bathing Pool" is provided on the Ground Floor. This is a full competition size swimming pool, complete with elevated observation deck for spectators. The pool, when filled with saline water was an important part of the mineral water treatment. First the patient would receive the mineral water bath and then they would swim in the salt water pool. The overall effect was to alleviate the discomfort of arthritis and rheumatism. When not in use as a treatment facility, the pool was used for major sporting events. Although suffering from disrepair, the pool is still operated and serves as a major community recreation facility and is used by the public schools for swimming instruction.²

The Hall of Waters in Excelsior Springs, Missouri, which was designated a city landmark in June, 1981, is the site of the first spring to be discovered, Siloam Springs, for which the town was later to become famous. The Hall of Waters represents the very foundation on which the town was built and then prospered, being the central dispersal site of the various kinds of mineral water to be found in Excelsior Springs. Included in the Hall of Waters property are three mineral water wells in addition to Siloam Springs, a central city park, and the Hall of Waters Building itself. A portion of American medical history evolved through the use of the medicinal and curative properties of the spring water, as well as the hydrotherapeutic research which was carried out through the operation of the Hall of Waters.

The City of Excelsior Springs owes its birth to Siloam Spring which remains today as the only natural supply of iron manganese mineral water in the United States and is one of five recognized in existence world-wide. The early settlers in this area avoided the spring water, regarding it as dangerous due to its red color. Around the year 1880 a farmer named Travis Mellion is said to have treated himself with water from the spring. He was afflicted with scrofula, and to the amazement of all, recovered rapidly. This episode fostered the use of the mineral water for any number of ailments, and as positive results were attained, the fame of the water spread. This one spring, located today under the front entryway of the Hall of Waters is responsible for the growth of Excelsior Springs, Missouri as a tourist and health treatment center. The other mineral waters found on the property include two sodium bicarbonate mineral water wells (for indigestion) and one calcium bicarbonate mineral water well. These along with sulfo-saline water, are still dispersed at the Water Bar found in the Great Hall of the Hall of Waters.

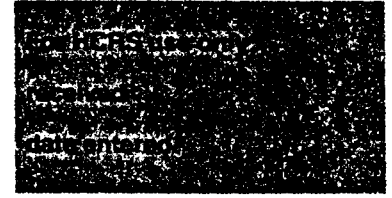
In the beginning, Siloam Spring water was dispersed from a sump built into the ground, then from a barrel equipped with a dipper. The first structure to be erected was a wooden pagoda similar to the one shown on the next page where an employee operated a hand pump for tourists wishing to drink the water. People either brought their own cups or, if they were regulars, could hand their own on hooks provided.

Later the wooden structure was replaced by Siloam Pavilion, a beautiful domed building, and the Sulfo Saline Building. Siloam Spring Water was still dispensed from the Siloam Pavilion with sulpho-saline water delivered in 5 gallon containers and dispensed from the Sulpho Saline Building.¹

¹ See Exhibit A

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

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



HALL OF WATERS

Continuation sheet

Item number

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Page 5

Though other Depression Modern examples, such as the Gano Chance House in Centralia and the Walter Bixby Residence in Kansas City, have been placed on the National Register from Missouri, the Hall of Waters is an outstanding example of Art Deco and Depression Modern styling. With its Mayan water imagery, it is unique in this state. The major portions of the building remain intact just as they were built. Very few structural changes have taken place and virtually all the original decorations has been maintained. Yet, the Hall of Waters site has suffered from change. The building is still set within Siloam Park, but due to problems with flooding, many of the stone terraces and walkways were eliminated to allow for the construction of a dike to the south in the spring of 1955.

As medical science progressed, the importance of mineral water treatment as a cure for various ailments declined, and with it the economic base of the community. The Hall of Waters and adjacent property very clearly illustrate Excelsior Springs in its "Golden Era".

FOOTNOTES

- ¹"Classification of Mineral Waters at Excelsior Springs, Missouri" by the Bureau of Geology and Mines, Rolla, Missouri in America's Haven of Health: Excelsior Springs, Missouri (Excelsior Springs: Excelsior Springs Historical Museum, 1968), pp. 33-35.
- ²Historical information is taken from America's Haven of Health: Excelsior Springs, Missouri and Excelsior Springs: Missouri's National Health Resort (Excelsior Springs: Chamber of Commerce, 1925), p. 5 and Come to Excelsior Springs for Health, Rest and Relaxation (Excelsior Springs: Chamber of Commerce, n.d. ca. 1940), pp. 12-18 and Draft National Register Inventory-Nomination Form completed by the Excelsior Springs Historic Preservation Commission.

9. Major Bibliographical References

America's Haven of Health: Excelsior Springs, Missouri. Excelsior Springs: Excelsior Springs Historical Museum, 1968.

Come to Excelsior Springs for Health, Rest and Relaxation. Excelsior Springs: Chamber of Commerce, n.d.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 3
 Quadrangle name "Excelsior Springs, MO."

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	5	3	9	4	6	8	0	4	3	5	5	2	1	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

Zone				Easting				Northing					

E

Zone				Easting				Northing					

G

Zone				Easting				Northing					

B

Zone				Easting				Northing					

D

Zone				Easting				Northing					

F

Zone				Easting				Northing					

H

Zone				Easting				Northing					

Verbal boundary description and justification A tract of land in the E. 1/2 of the SW 1/4 and the SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 1, Township 52, North, Range 30 West, in the City of Excelsior Springs, Clay County, Missouri, described as follows: Beginning at a point on the south line of Broadway, a street in said city of Excelsior Springs, 140 feet east of

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

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Patti Banks, Community Development Director

organization Excelsior Springs Historic Preservation Commission date August 3, 1881

street & number 201 East Broadway telephone 816/637-9465

city or town Excelsior Springs state Missouri 64024

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

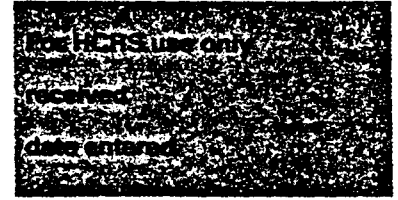
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [Signature]
 Director, Department of Natural Resources and
 title State Historic Preservation Officer date 3/29/83

For HCRS use only I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	date
Keeper of the National Register	date
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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

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



Continuation sheet

HALL OF WATERS

Item number

9

Page 1

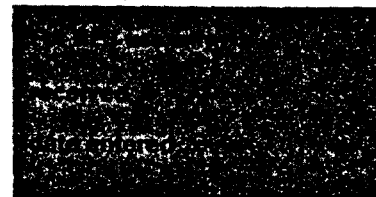
Draft National Register Inventory-Nomination Form completed by the Excelsior Springs Historic Preservation Commission, 1981.

Excelsior Springs: Missouri's National Health Resort. Excelsior Springs: Chamber of Commerce, 1925.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

HALL OF WATERS



Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 1

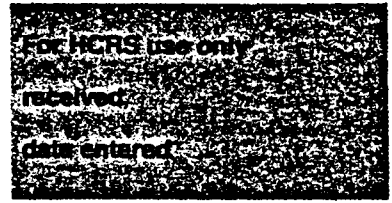
the intersection of the east line of Main Street and the south line of Broadway; thence from said point of beginning south and parallel with the east line of Main Street for a distance of 277.86 feet; thence south 38 degrees, 25 minutes west for a distance of 37.5 feet to a point on the levee centerline; thence southeasterly following the centerline of the levee for approximately 60 feet, easterly following the centerline of the levee for approximately 150 feet, northeasterly following the centerline of the levee for approximately 200 feet; thence north for a distance of 50 feet parallel with the east line of Main Street; thence west 73 feet along the north line of the SE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 1, Township 52, Range 30 West, to a point 350.2 feet east of the intersection of the east line of Main Street with said north line of said southeast quarter of the SW 1/4 thence north along a line parallel with the east line of Main Street to a point 70 feet south of and parallel with the south line of Broadway 52.0 feet; thence north along a line parallel with the east line of Main Street 23 feet; thence west along a line 47 feet south of and parallel with the south line of Broadway a distance of 8 feet; thence north along a line parallel with the east line of Main St. 47 feet; to a point on the south line of Broadway a distance of 290.3 feet east of the east line of Main Street thence west along the south line of Broadway a distance of 150.3 feet to the po. of beg. including all buildings, tanks, machinery, etc. and all vacated streets and alleys in Farris, Dunn & Isleys Addition.

JUSTIFICATION

The North, East and West sides are the respective legal boundaries of the Siloam Park tract owned by the City of Excelsior; the South boundary is a dike which forms a natural boundary as well as serving as a protector of the Hall of Waters building. This smaller parcel of the Siloam Park tract is one that avoids intrusive structures and recognizes in a compact way the building and its immediate setting.

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

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



Continuation sheet

HALL OF WATERS
Item number

11

Page 1

2. Noelle Soren
Historic Architecture Specialist
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

314/751-4096

718214 NE
(HOLT)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

94°15'
39°22'30"

393000m E
CAMERON 26 MI.
12 MI. TO MO. 116

394

R. 30 W.

LAWSON 4.5 MI.

Washington Sch

26

Hall of Waters
Excelsior Springs, Clay County, Missouri

U.S.G.S. 7.5' 1957 Quadrangle
"Excelsior Springs, MO." (Photorevised 1975)
Scale 1:24,000

UTM Reference

15/394680/4355210

PLATTE CITY 30 MI.
KEARNEY 6.2 MI.

4357000m N

T. 53 N.

T. 52 N.

4356

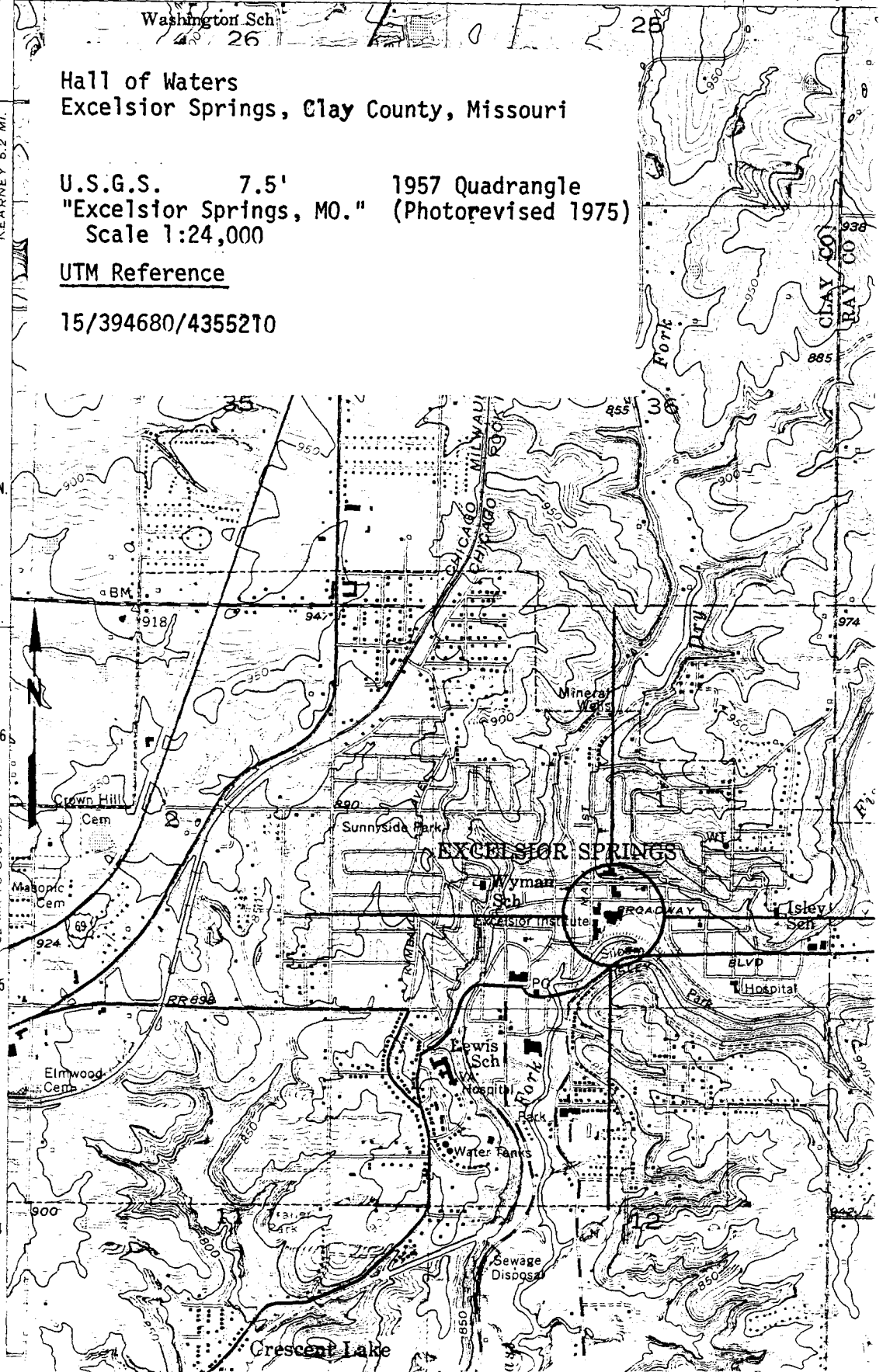
KANSAS CITY (P.O.) 29 MI.
22 MI. TO U.S. 169

4355

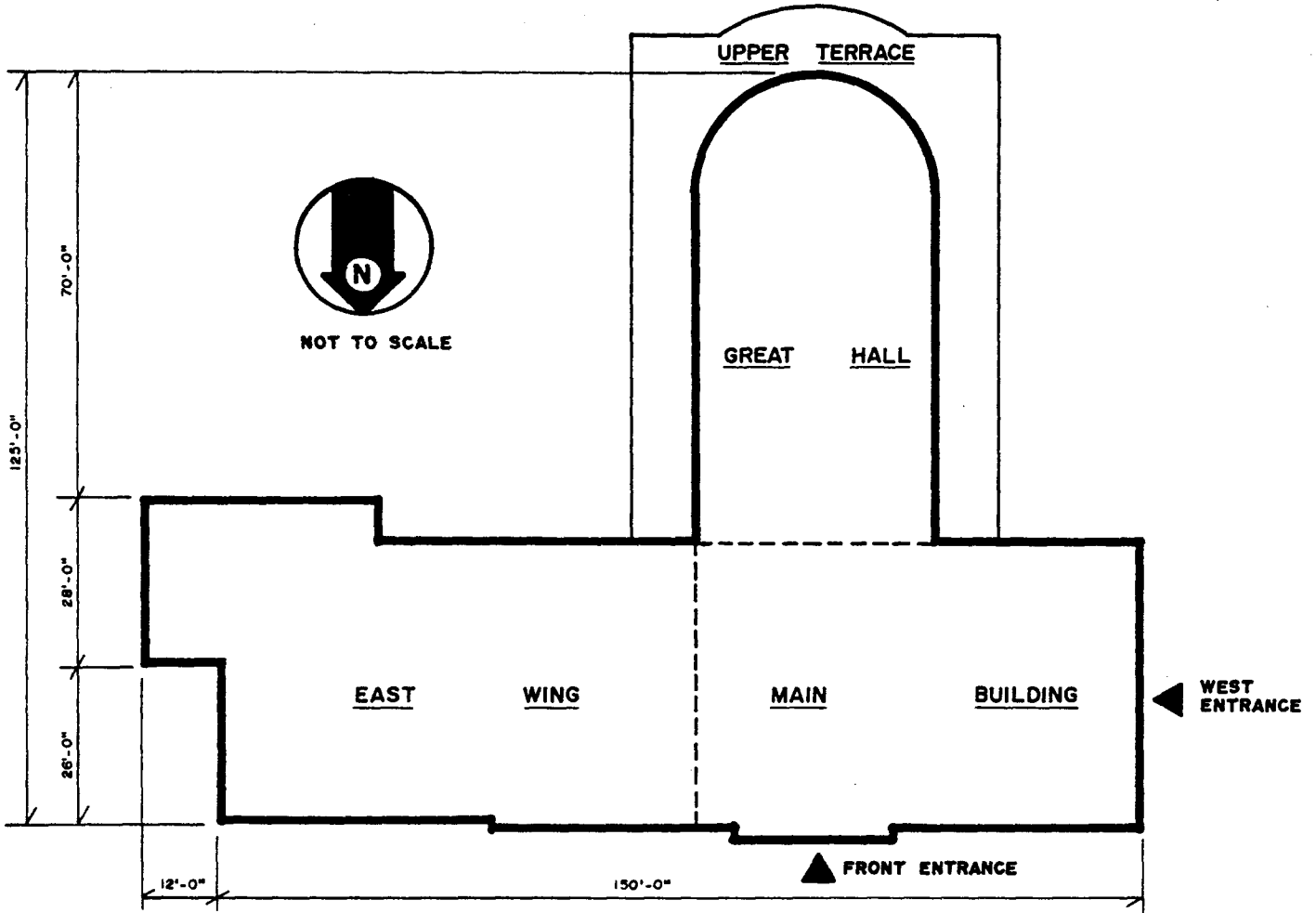
20'

4354

PLATTE CITY 27 MI.



FLOOR PLAN
HALL OF WATERS
EXCELSIOR SPRINGS, MISSOURI



#617

HALL OF WATERS

COUNTY:

LOCATION:

OWNER
ADDRESS:

DATE APPROVED BY A.C.:

DATE SENT TO D.C.:

DATE OF REC. IN D.C.:

DATE PLACED ON NATIONAL REGISTER:

DATE CERTIFICATE AWARDED
(AND PRESENTOR):

DATE FILE REVIEWED:

Clay

Excelsior Springs

City of Excelsior Springs
201 East Broadway
Excelsior Springs, Mo.

October 2, 1982

April 19, 1983

May 9, 1983

June 9, 1983

#1 Primary facade → SE

HALL OF WATERS
201 East Broadway
Excelsior Springs, Clay County, Missouri
Photographer: James M. Denny
Date : August, 1981
Neg. Loc. : Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

Primary facade, looking Southeast.

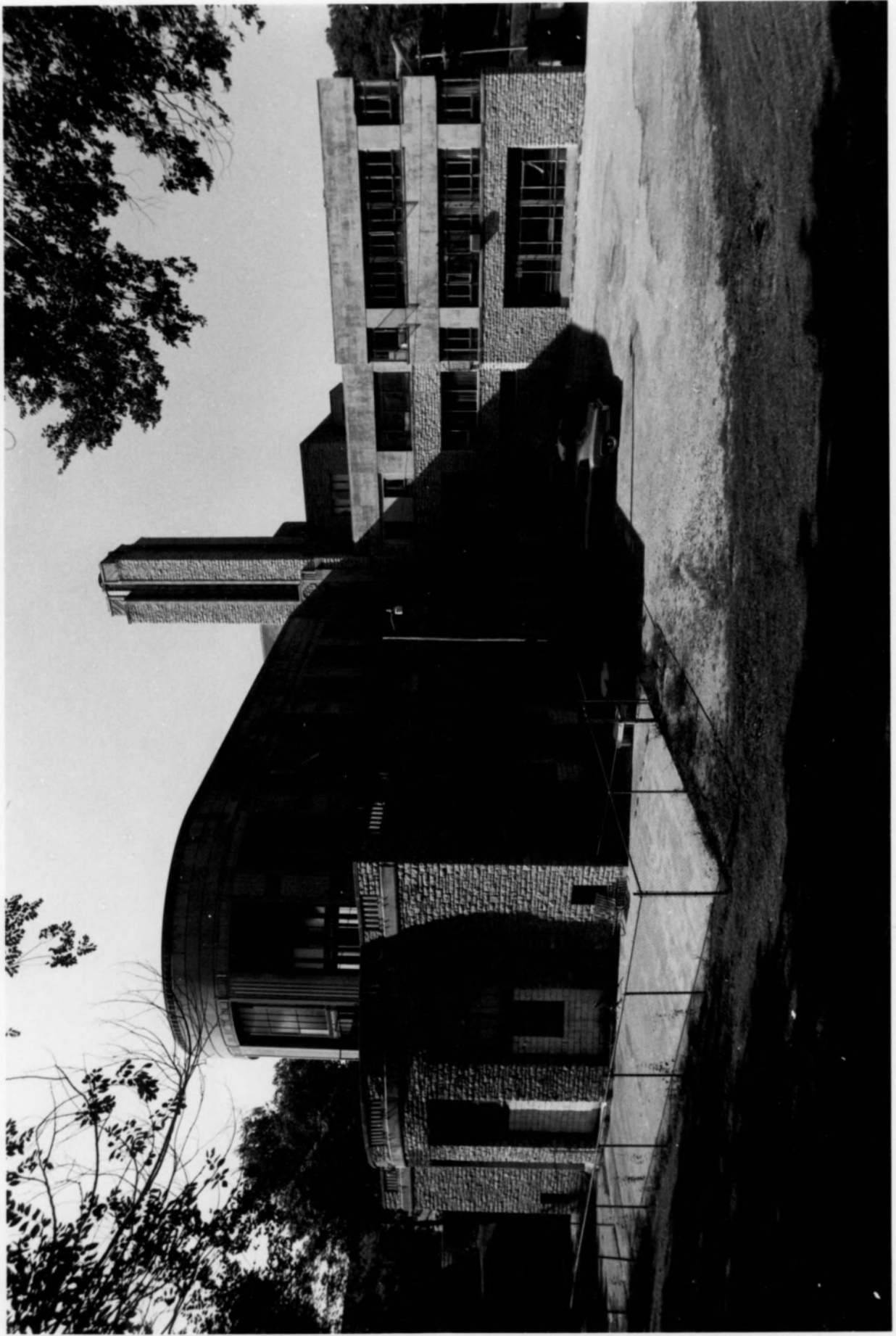


HALL OF WATERS

2 of 13

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Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

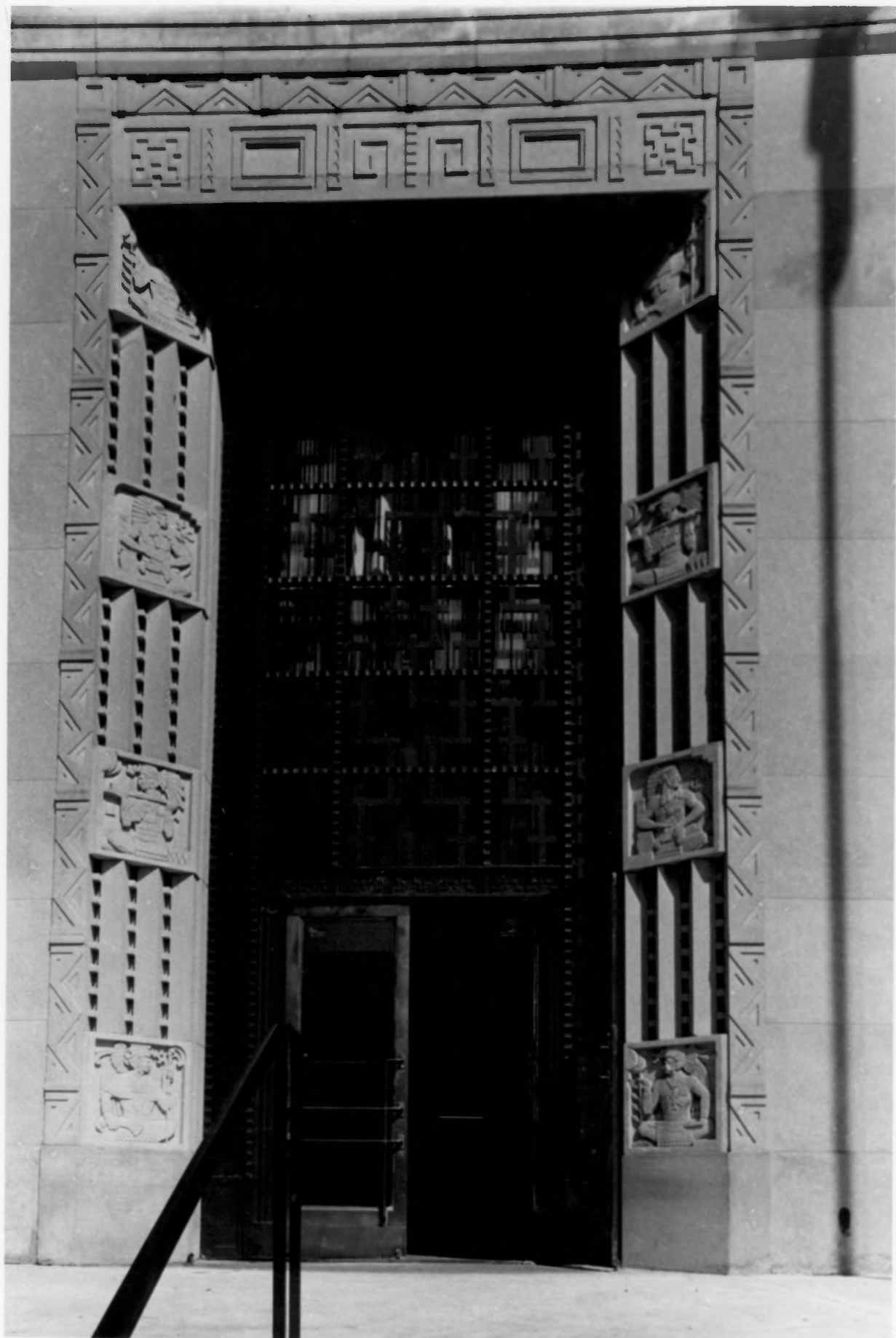
South facade looking Northwest.



R1-2

HALL OF WATERS 3 of 13
201 East Broadway
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West entrance viewed from the East.



HALL OF WATERS

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201 East Broadway

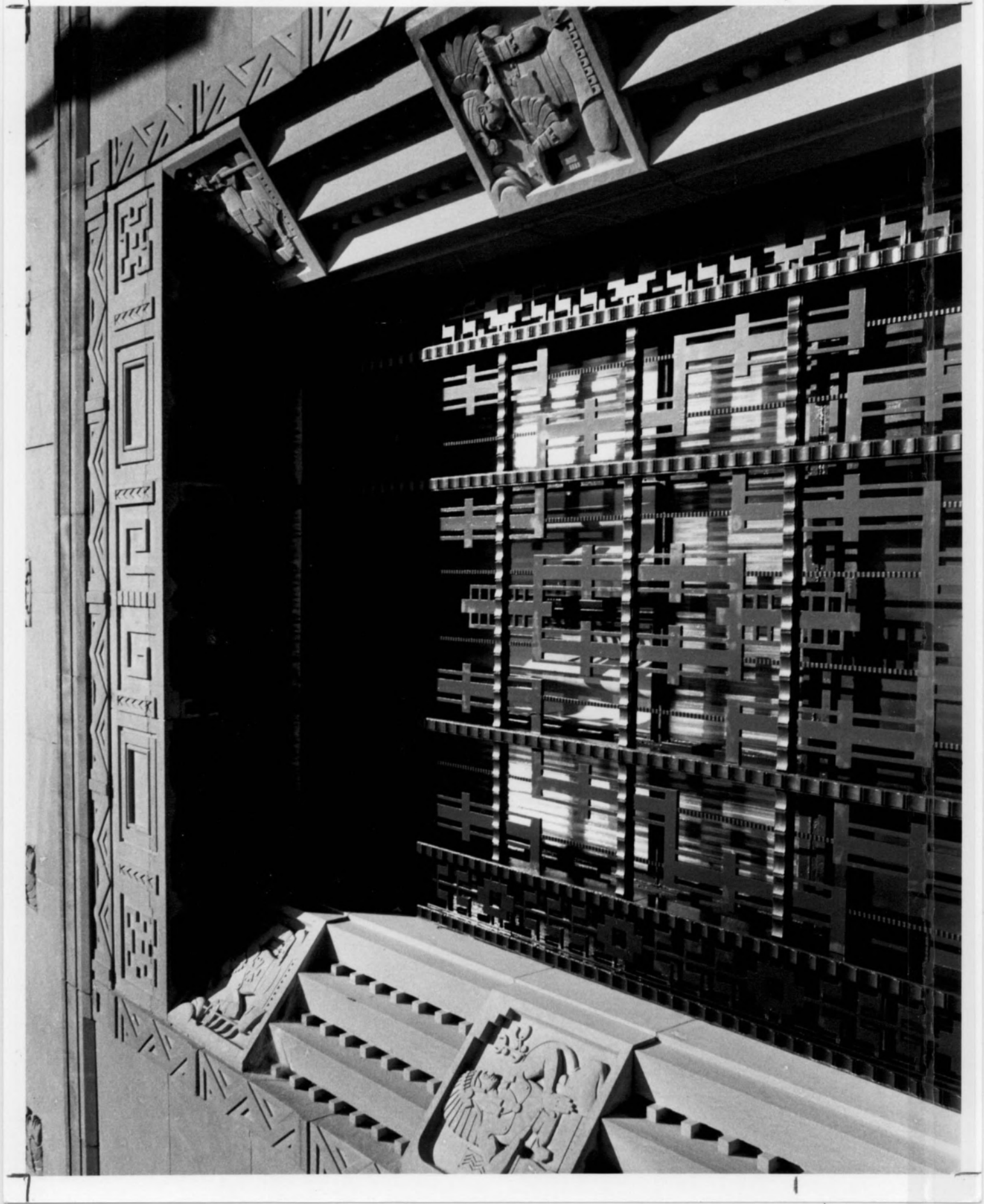
Excelsior Springs, Clay County, Missouri

Photographer: James M. Denny

Date : August, 1981

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West entrance detailed view from the East.



R1-8

HALL OF WATERS 5 of 13

201 East Broadway

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Rear section of West facade, looking
Southeast.



HALL OF WATERS

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201 East Broadway

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Upright exterior light standard on the West
facade looking to the Southeast.



HALL OF WATERS 7 of 13

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Lobby looking East.



HALL OF WATERS

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201 East Broadway

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Lobby elevator detail looking East.



HALL OF WATERS

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View of water bar looking Southeast.



HALL OF WATERS

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North wall Water Bar looking Northeast.



RIDE-SHARING GRID MAP

R2-13

HALL OF WATERS 11 of 13
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Jefferson City, Mo.: 65102

Water Bar Looking Northeast.



HALL OF WATERS

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201 East Broadway

Excelsior Springs, Clay County, Missouri

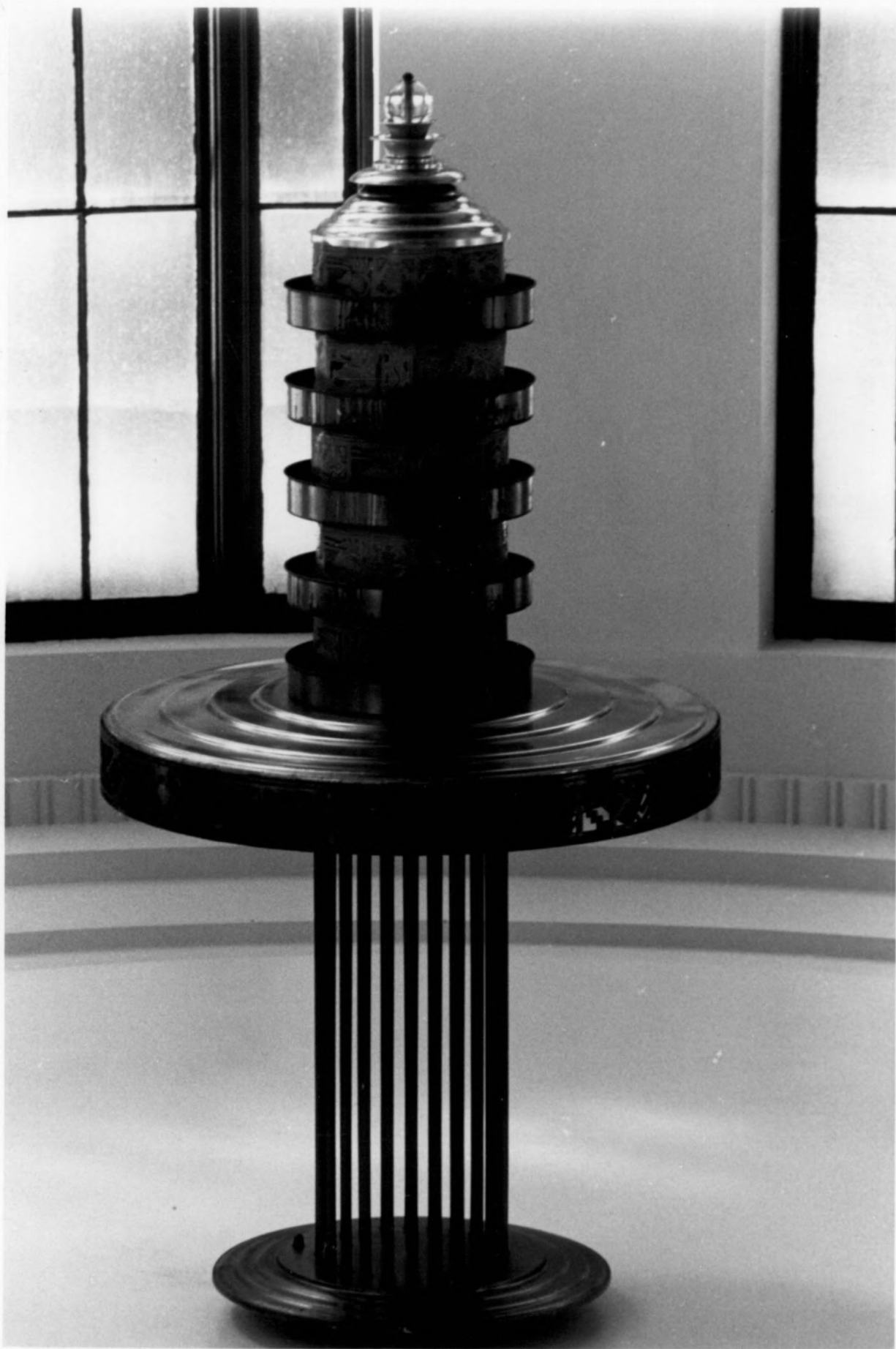
Photographer: James M. Denny

Date : August, 1981

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Hanging light in Water Bar.

R 2-12



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Mineral pool looking Southeast.

13 of 13

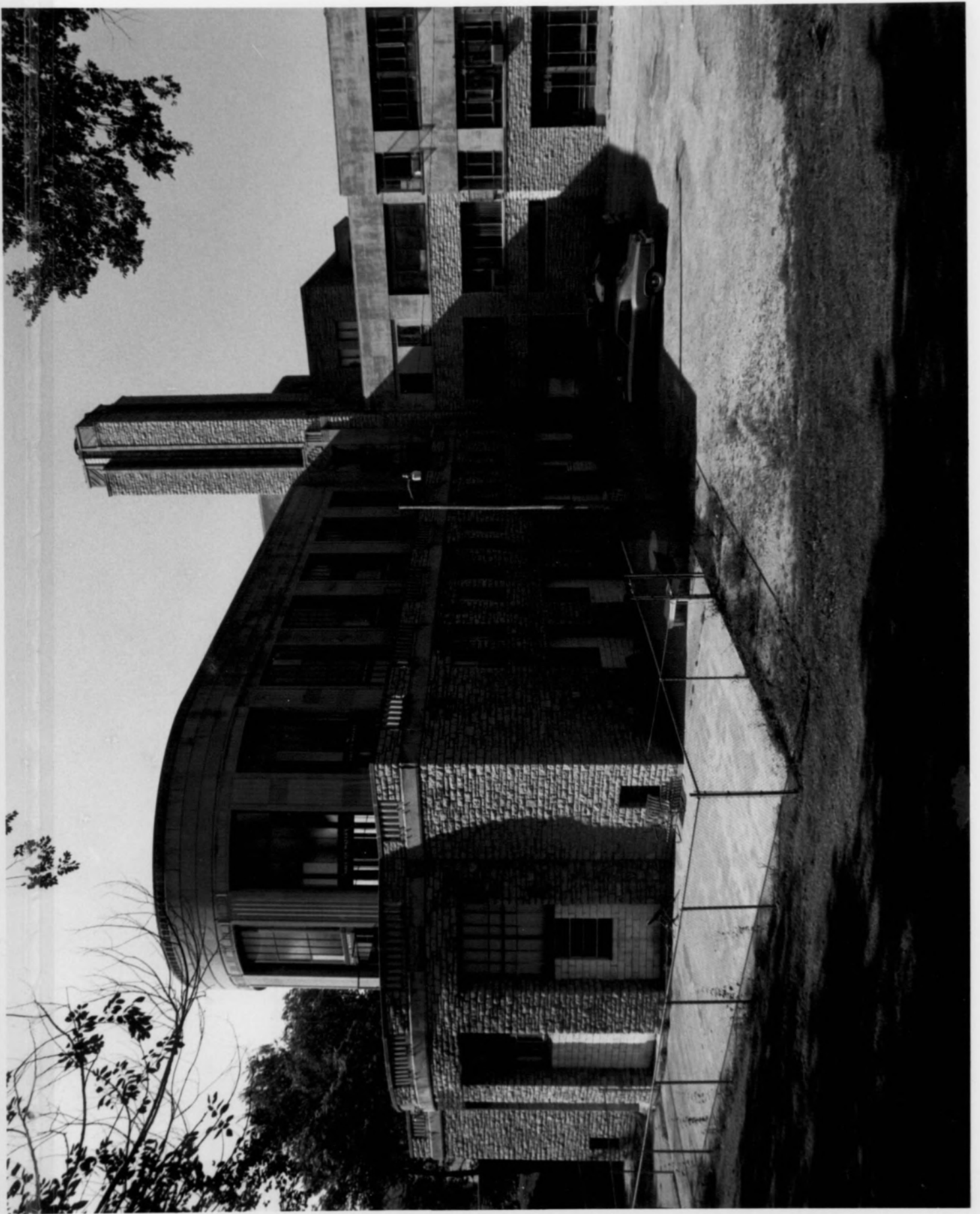


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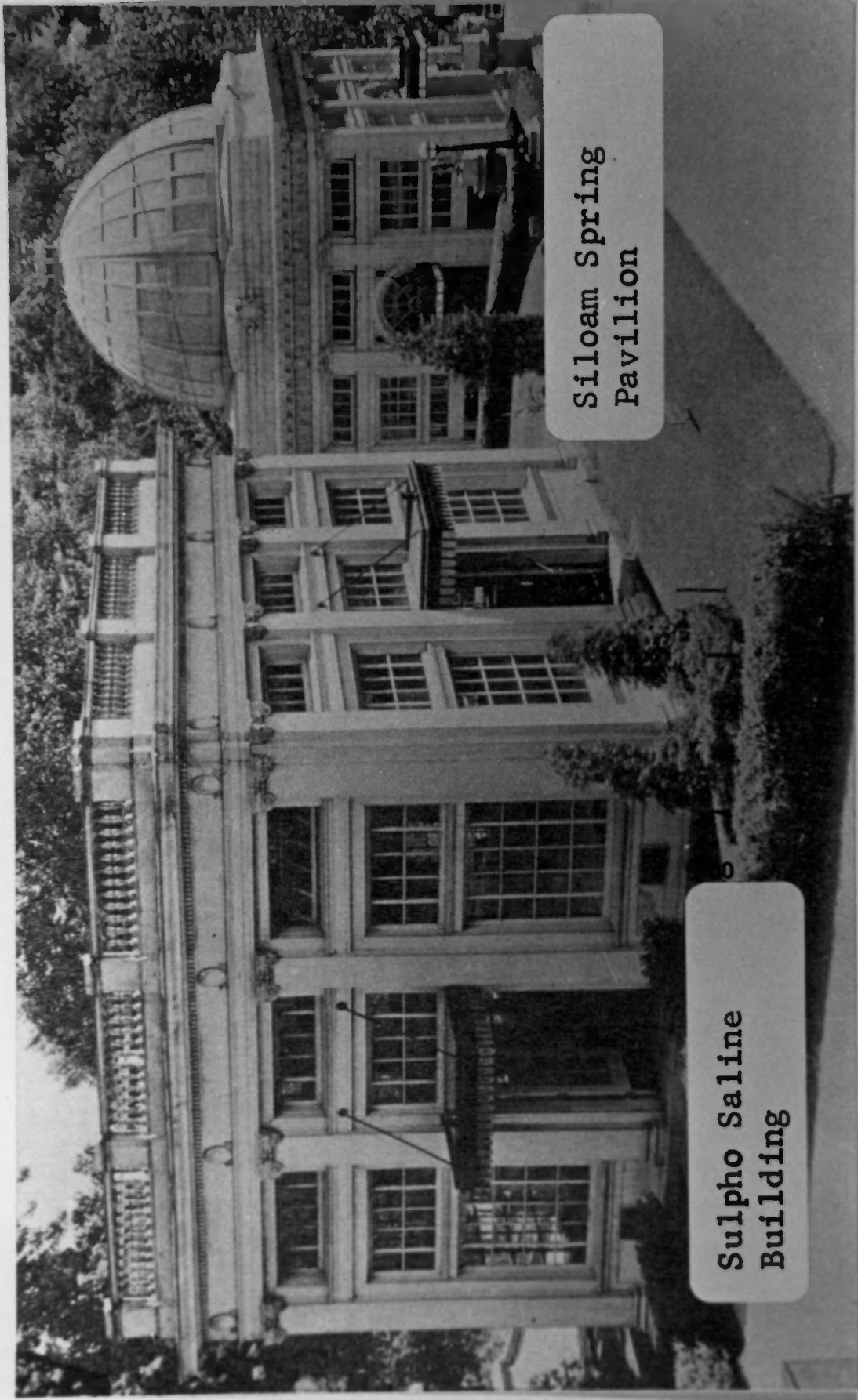
S facade → NW

HALL OF WATERS
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Photographer: James M. Denny
Date : August, 1981
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South facade looking Northwest.



EXTRA
PHOTOS



**Sulpho Saline
Building**

**Siloam Spring
Pavilion**













