

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

For HCRS 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 Kennett City Hall and Masonic Lodge

and/or common Dunklin County Museum, Inc.

## 2. Location

street & number 122 College Street \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Kennett \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district #10-Hon. William Burlison

state Missouri code 029 county Dunklin code 069

## 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" 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 City of Kennett

street & number 200 Cedar Street

city, town Kennett \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Missouri 63857

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of Recorder of Deeds

street & number Dunklin County Courthouse

city, town Kennett \_\_\_\_\_ state Missouri 63857

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Missouri State Historical Survey has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_\_\_ yes  no

date 1980 \_\_\_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_\_\_ county  local

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

city, town Jefferson City \_\_\_\_\_ state Missouri 65102

## 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site

moved

date \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The former Kennett City Hall and Masonic Lodge, commonly known as the Dunklin County Museum is located in downtown Kennett, northeast of the public court square. A two-story rectangular brick structure, it measures 85' along its north and south sides and 35' on its east and west axis.

Construction of the building commenced in June of 1902 as a joint project by the City of Kennett, population 1,509, and the Helm Royal Arch Chapter and the Masonic Lodge AF & AM #68, organized in 1888. The building was constructed on plans by Cape Girardeau architect Blackwood, with labor provided by day workers, at a total cost of \$6,000.

Constructed of brick, the building stands on a solid concrete and hard brick foundation, originally featuring a stretcher bond, red-pressed brick facade with a balcony over the front door. The building's front was altered in the 1920's, following a fire, and the balcony with balustrade was removed and the exterior plastered over and painted white.<sup>1</sup>

The first floor was used exclusively as Kennett's City Hall and the second floor reserved for the Masonic organizations. In 1976, the city vacated the premises, approximately twenty years after the Masonic Order ceased utilizing the upstairs lodge. The building was leased to the Board of Directors of the Dunklin County Museum as an historical museum for the county by the City of Kennett for a sum of \$1.00 per year.

Notable design features of the building include its ceilings of pressed metal, its roof of extra heavy sheet metal, its wide stairway of oak, its 14 1/2' ceilings and its 24 double-hung windows, twelve of which were imitation cathedral translucent glass.<sup>2</sup>

The first floor was divided into a council room, three offices, and two "holding" cells. The second floor is approached by a wide, oak stairway leading to a landing which leads to the 27' long waiting room, which adjoined three anterooms. The central room on the second floor was the lodge room proper, 30' x 53'4", with the original suspended oxidized copper electric light fixtures.

Brick for the building, which was Kennett's first formal City Hall, supposedly was manufactured locally, from brick clay found on Crowley's Ridge and along the St. Francois River in Dunklin County.<sup>3</sup>

Major alterations to the building include the removal of the balcony and balustrade and partially bricking in a window at the front (ca. 1920); the partitioning of downstairs city offices (1970); the replacement of the front door with a thermo-pane glass door with sidelights (1970); installation of wood paneling three feet up in the front hall and main downstairs room (ca. 1970).

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KENNETT CITY HALL AND MASONIC LODGE

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During the time the Masons occupied the second floor, a central oil furnace was installed with ducts heating the second floor, but not the first floor. In the 1960's, air conditioning window units were installed, while gas units were used for heating the downstairs. The upstairs windows were boarded up because of leakage (1976). At present, the second floor is used for storage only.

The building has been in continuous use as a public building since its construction except for the period (July 1976-June 1977) delineated by the moving of the municipal government to new facilities and the finalizing of building preparation as a museum.

1. The Daily Dunklin Democrat, (Missouri), March 20, 1903.
2. Ibid.
3. Dunklin County Historical Society Records, Vol. 2, pages 14 and 26.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** March 1903 **Builder/Architect** Architect: Blackwood

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Kennett City Hall and Masonic Lodge, commonly known as the Dunklin County Museum, originally constructed to jointly house the Kennett municipal government offices and the Kennett Masonic Lodge, was considered of significant importance to the community of Kennett and preserved as a local landmark. Instead of razing the structure and replacing it at the present site with a new municipal building, the mayor and council purchased land to the north of the building to construct the new municipal building, leasing the 1903 building to the Dunklin County Museum for the preservation of artifacts and memorabilia of Dunklin County and environs.

The building represents the first permanent municipal offices for the city of Kennett. Municipal government operated for nearly three quarters of a century from the ground floor offices.

The second floor of the municipal building served as the second permanent home of the Masonic order, Helm Royal Arch Chapter, reputedly the city's leading fraternal organization founded in 1888. With the dedication of the building in 1903, the town observed Masonic week, demonstrating the respect with which the city held the Masonic order.

Historically, the site is located in the immediate vicinity of the purported camp site of the Indian Chief, Chilletecaux, for whom Kennett was originally named in the early 1800's. The name was changed to Kennett in the 1850's to honor Luther Kennett, Mayor of St. Louis and railroad promoter.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

1. The Daily Dunklin Democrat, March 20, 1903.
2. Dunklin County Historical Society, Vol. 2.
3. Masonic Lodge, AF & AM, #68.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property (.16) under one acre

Quadrangle name "Kennett, Mo."

Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

UMT References

A 

1	6	2	2	4	2	0	0	4	0	1	4	3	5	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

Northeast corner of the Courthouse Square on College Street, extending 35' north by 85' east (parts of Lots #3, #4, #5 of East Kennett addition of City of Kennett).

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

state code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name title Carol Goldsmith, Newspaper Editor  
Mrs. W.R. Carter, Chairman, Board of Directors

organization Dunklin County Museum, Inc. date December 1979

street & number 511 College Street telephone 314-888-2129

city or town Kennett state Missouri - 63857

## 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 HCRS 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

KENNETT QUADRANGLE  
MISSOURI-ARKANSAS

CAMPBELL 20 MI.  
WHITE OAK 7 MI.  
2 580 000 FEET

R 10 E 769000m E.

(Pneoda)

R 9 E

05'

90°00'

36° 15'

4015000m N.

T 19 N

700 000 FEET

HAYTI 14 MI.

T 18 N

10

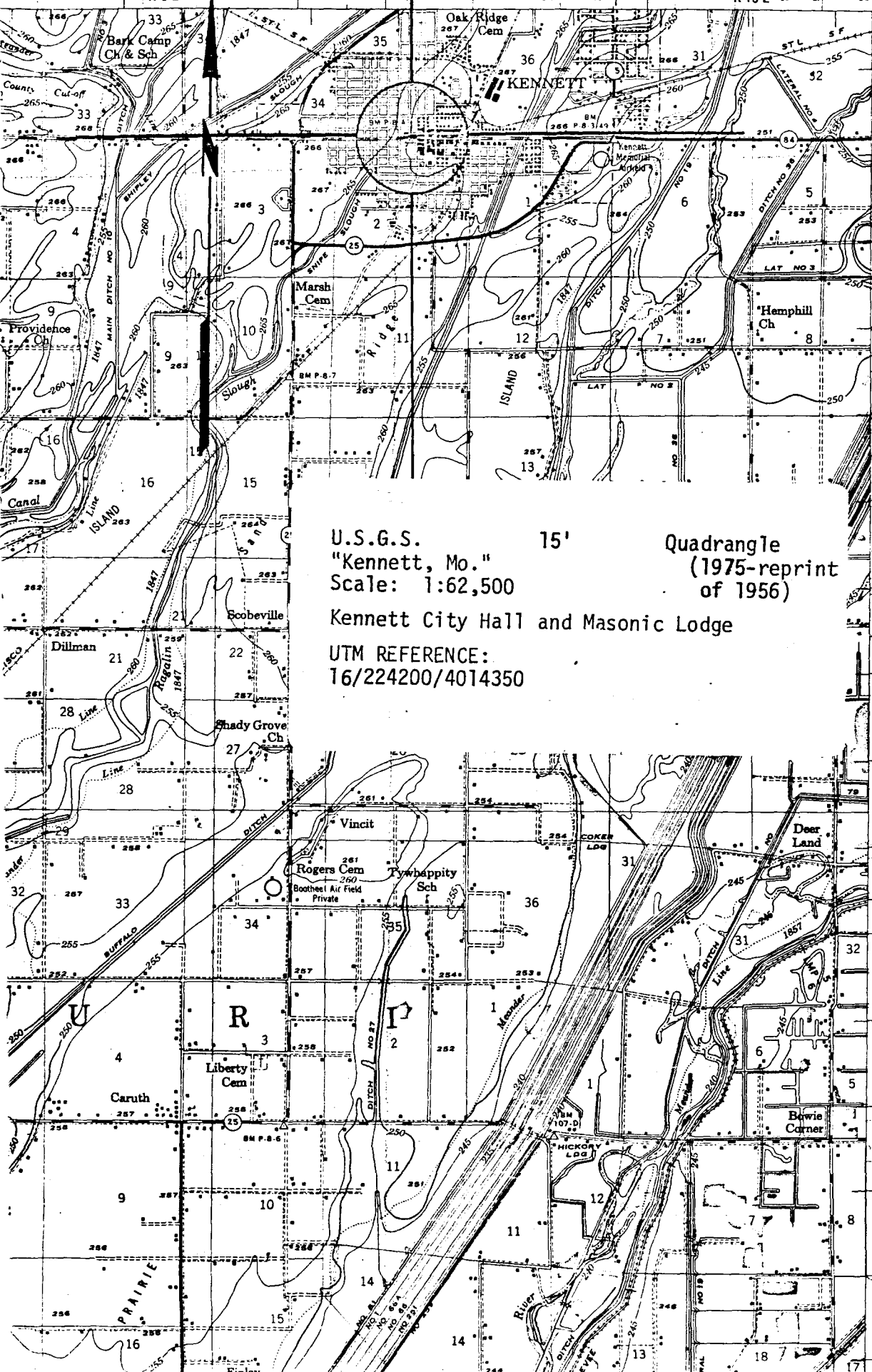
(Hayti)

U.S.G.S. 15'  
"Kennett, Mo."  
Scale: 1:62,500

Quadrangle  
(1975-reprint  
of 1956)

Kennett City Hall and Masonic Lodge

UTM REFERENCE:  
16/224200/4014350



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- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>2. Elizabeth Moser, Historic Site Administrator II<br/>Missouri Department of Natural Resources<br/>Division of Parks and Historic Preservation<br/>Route 1, Box 223<br/>New Madrid</p>         | <p>December 1979<br/><br/>314/748-5340<br/><br/>Missouri 63869</p> |
| <p>3. James M. Denny, Section Chief, Nominations-Survey<br/>and State Contact Person<br/>Department of Natural Resources<br/>Historic Preservation Program<br/>P.O. Box 176<br/>Jefferson City</p> | <p>July 10, 1980<br/><br/>314/751-4096<br/><br/>Missouri 65102</p> |

KENNETT CITY HALL AND MASONIC LODGE

#493

COUNTY:

Dunklin

LOCATION:

122 College Street, Kennett

OWNER:  
ADDRESS:

City of Kennett  
200 Cedar Street, Kennett, Mo. 63857

DATE APPROVED BY A.C.:

July 25, 1980

DATE SENT TO D.C.:

August 11, 1981

DATE OF REC. IN D.C.:

August 14, 1981

DATE PLACED ON NATIONAL REGISTER:

September 17, 1981

DATE CERTIFICATE AWARDED  
(AND PRESENTER):

April 1, 1982  
Orval L. Henderson, Jr., to Senator  
Nelson Timmin for delivery

DATE FILE REVIEWED:



The Kennett City Hall and Masonic Lodge, commonly known as the Dunklin County Museum, originally constructed to jointly house the Kennett municipal government offices and the Kennett Masonic Lodge, was considered of significant importance to the community of Kennett and preserved as a local landmark. Instead of razing the structure and replacing it at the present site with a new municipal building, the mayor and council purchased land to the north of the building to construct the new municipal building, leasing the 1903 building to the Dunklin County Museum for the preservation of artifacts and memorabilia of Dunklin County and environs.

KENNETT CITY HALL & MASONIC LODGE #1 of 6  
122 College Street, Kennett, Missouri

Photographer: James M. Denny  
July 30, 1980

Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources  
Historic Preservation Program  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Primary facade from the southwest.

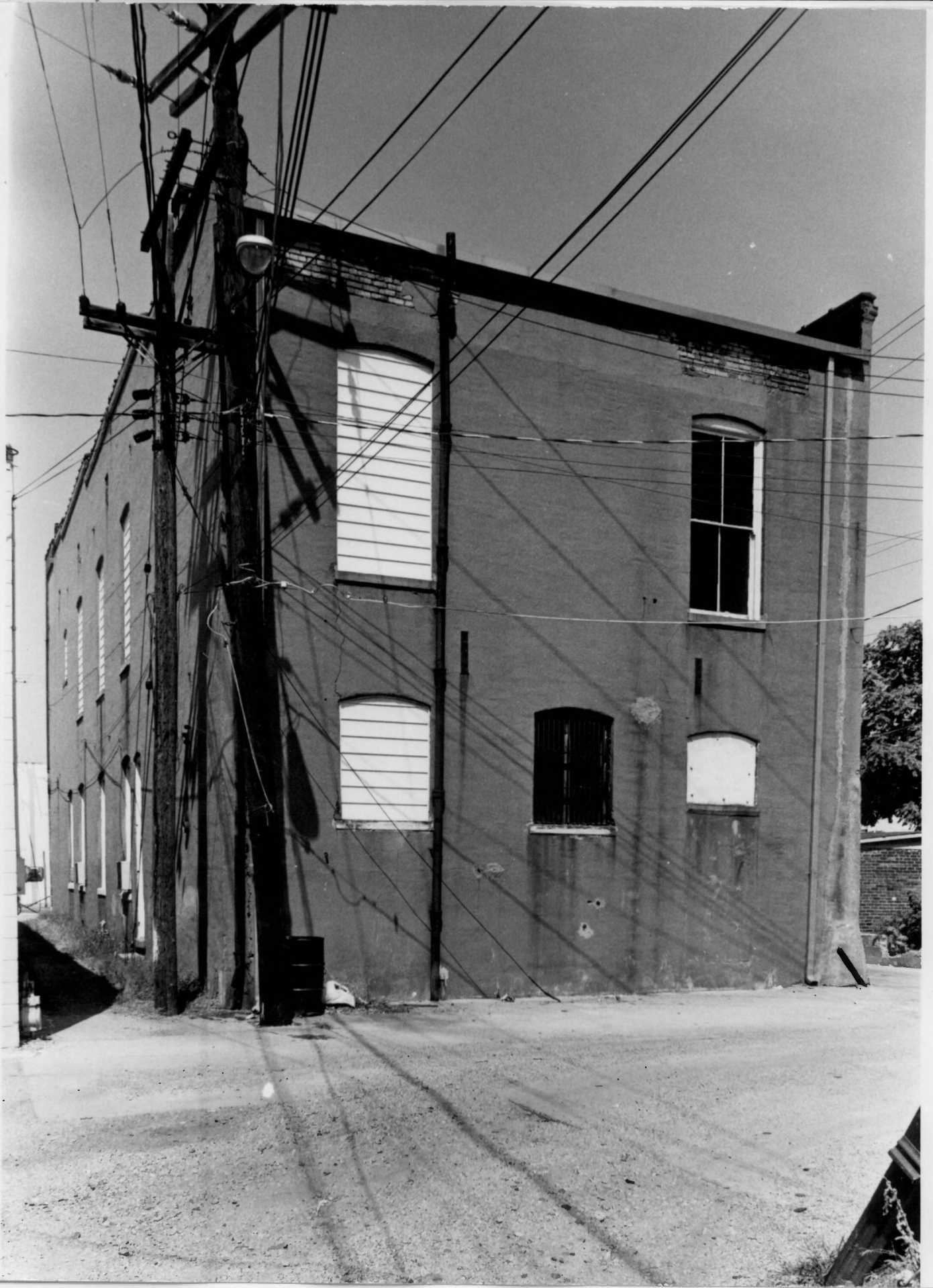


KENNETT CITY HALL AND MASONIC LODGE #2 of 6  
122 College Street, Kennett, Missouri

Photographer: James M. Denny  
July 30, 1980

Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources  
Historic Preservation Program  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

View from the southeast.

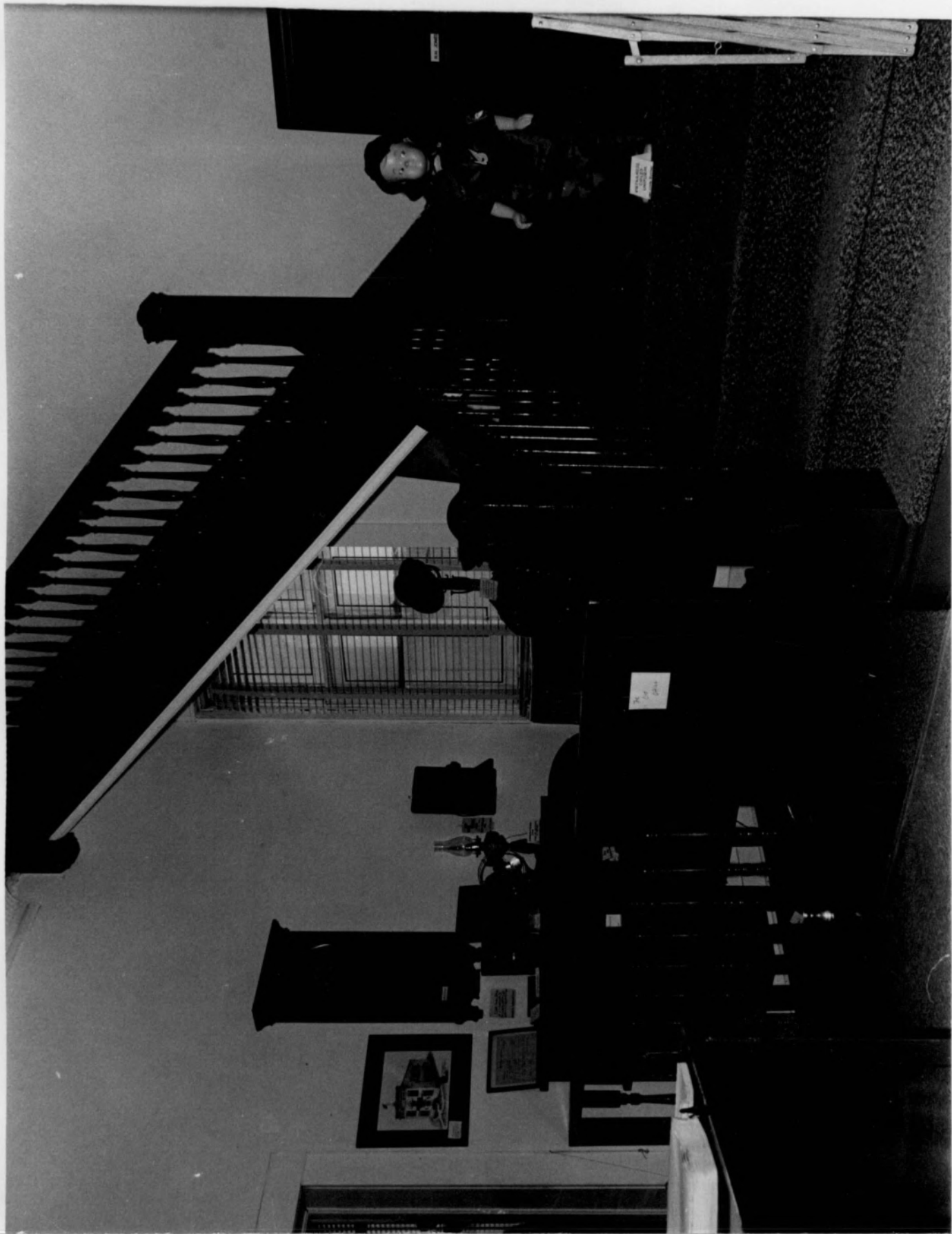


KENNETT CITY HALL & MASONIC LODGE #3 of 6  
122 College Street, Kennett, Missouri

Photographer: James M. Denny  
July 30, 1980

Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources  
Historic Preservation Program  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Interior view of oak stairway.



KENNETT CITY HALL AND MASONIC LODGE #4 of 6  
122 College Street, Kennett, Missouri

Photographer: James M. Denny  
July 30, 1980

Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources  
Historic Preservation Program  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

View from the northwest of front room.





KENNETT CITY HALL AND MASONIC LODGE #5 of 6  
122 College Street, Kennett, Missouri

Photographer: James M. Denny  
July 30, 1980

Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources  
Historic Preservation Program  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

View of first floor pressed metal ceiling.



KENNETT CITY HALL AND MASONIC LODGE #6 of 6  
122 College Street, Kennett, Missouri

Photographer: James M. Denny  
July 30, 1980

Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources  
Historic Preservation Program  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

View of interior, showing "holding" cell.



NO  
VISITING  
TODAY