

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Madison County Courthouse
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 1 Courthouse Square [n/a] not for publication
city or town Fredericktown [n/a] vicinity
state Missouri code MO county Madison code 123 zip code 63645

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this [x] nomination [] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [x] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [] nationally [] statewide [x] locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments [].)

9 Nov. 00
Date

Signature of certifying official/Title Claire F. Blackwell/Deputy SHPO

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments [].)

Signature of certifying official/Title

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date
[] entered in the National Register See continuation sheet [].	_____	_____
[] determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet [].	_____	_____
[] determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
[] removed from the National Register	_____	_____
[] other, explain see continuation sheet [].	_____	_____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	1	0 building
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-state	<input type="checkbox"/> site	0	0 sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	0	0 structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	0	0 objects
		1	0 total

Name of related multiple property listing.

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

Government/Courthouse

Current Functions

Government/Courthouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Late Victorian

see continuation sheet [].

Materials

foundation granite

walls brick

roof asphalt

other wood

see continuation sheet [].

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet [x]

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

Property is:

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

Politics/Government

Architecture

Periods of Significance

1900 - 1950

Significant Dates

1900

Significant Person(s)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Link, Theodore Carl/Miller, Louis

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State Agency

Federal Agency

Local Government

University

Other:

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre.

UTM References

A. Zone	Easting	Northing	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	738980	4160190			
C. Zone	Easting	Northing	D. Zone	Easting	Northing

[] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title See continuation sheet
organization _____ date _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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Madison County Courthouse
Madison County, Missouri

Summary:

Constructed in 1900, the Madison County Courthouse is located at 1 Courthouse Square in downtown Fredericktown, Missouri. The rectangular brick and granite building consists of two stories plus an attic and full basement. Measuring approximately 66 feet by 76 feet, the hipped roof building with lower side gables rests on a foundation of cut, rock-faced pink granite. A square, five-story tower with a steep pyramidal roof and finial rises from the south facade where one of the building's two recessed entrances is located. Architect Theodore Carl Link, who earlier designed St. Louis' Union Station in a modified Romanesque style, designed the Madison County Courthouse in an eclectic design primarily of Romanesque, Georgian and probably Italianate affinities. Romanesque is exemplified by numerous round-arched door and window openings, the tower with its buttress-like projections containing stairways, and by the rough texture of the granite. On each side below the tower's bracketed cornice is an arched window which opens onto a balconet. The tower is clockless, but below three of the balconies are brick infilled, round openings for clocks which were never installed. In 1989-93, the exterior and much of the interior were restored to their approximate original appearance. A preponderance of historic material is intact throughout. The Madison County Courthouse retains a majority of its historic features and effectively conveys its historic significance. Within the boundaries of the nominated property are five minor objects which are typical of a courthouse setting, but are not associated with the significance of the courthouse.

Narrative:

The Madison County Courthouse stands in the center of a Lancaster style square, an early form created out of four adjacent blocks with streets entering from all four directions. In Fredericktown, the streets which intersect the square at midpoints are North Main, East Main, South Main and West Main. Traffic flows in a counterclockwise direction. Adequate for traffic in the early 1900s, the 66-foot streets today are too narrow for oversize vehicles which frequently damage curbs and awnings. The central rectangle containing the courthouse measures 108 feet x 140 feet. An exposed aggregate sidewalk surrounds the entire courthouse. Low and medium height plantings lay mainly between the courthouse and the sidewalk. Grass fills the area between the sidewalk and curb. The corners of the courthouse rectangle were rounded at some point. Nonhistoric street lights were removed from the rectangle during the restoration. Outside of the rectangle are stop signs at the four intersecting streets. Adjacent to the rectangle on the north and south, several parking spaces are reserved for law enforcement vehicles and special visitors. Minor noncontributing objects within the rectangle are: a boulder commemorating the founding of St. Michael's, the original village that became Fredericktown in 1814; a veteran's memorial; a flagpole; a sign placed by the Missouri Historical Society and a low enclosure screening the heating system.

Nearly all of the properties on the square are one, two and three-story buildings of brick construction dating from the first half of the 20th century. Only two or three partial vestiges remain of the original buildings. Over the past 20 years or so, efforts to improve and modernize the storefronts have resulted in a myriad of nonhistoric window designs, canvas canopies, awnings, signs and colors. Although many upstairs windows in these buildings have deteriorated, for economic reasons they have been covered with metal panels rather than repaired or improperly modernized. The skyline, however, is largely unaltered because nearly every building on the square retains its original decorative brickwork cornice. Overall, however, the most intact building on the square today is the Madison County Courthouse itself.

Primary (South) Elevation:

The south facade contains the main entrance and the most prominent feature of the building, an 85 foot tower with a steep pyramidal roof and finial. Above grade are four courses of rock-faced pink granite, providing an imposing

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Madison County Courthouse
Madison County, Missouri

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foundation. The symmetrical facade includes matched buttress-like protrusions with a hipped roof on either side of the tower. At the main entrance, six smooth granite steps with metal handrails lead to a two course brick semi-circular arch which surrounds the deeply recessed double leaf entrance over which is a decorative wood panel within the arch. The hand-carved panel features a shield draped in a double set of flowing ribbons with small bows. In the upper half of each buttress-like projection is a 4/4 double-hung window with a splayed lintel and a keystone fashioned from rock-faced pink granite. Lugsills, also of granite, are chamfered to vent water. The rough texture of the granite is appropriately Romanesque, but their design also suggests a Colonial influence, perhaps Georgian. Custom-built sheet metal gutters are concealed by the cornice with only a thin strip of horizontal edge metal being visible. Located on each side of the main building first floor are paired 1/1 double hung windows with a three course flush semi-circular arch enclosing them. There is a small casement window on each side of the main building, recessed into the foundation. A leaded, diamond-patterned fixed window is within the semi-circular arch and above the window pair. Three courses of arched brick headers, set flush, enclose a single 6/1 double-hung window in each of the first floor side gables. Small casement windows are on each side of the main entrance in the foundation of the buttress-like protrusion and additional casement windows are in each lower side gable, also built into the foundation wall.

Brick beltcourses divide the first and second floors as well as the third and attic levels of the main building. The bricks throughout the building are laid in a common bond. Windows on the second floor level begin in the central tower with a double-hung pair topped with granite splayed lintels, keystones and chamfered lugsills similar to those described previously. Upper and lower sashes contain diamond-pattern leaded glass. A single 4/1 double-hung window is centered over each of the round-arched window openings on the first floor. The splayed granite lintels differ somewhat from those on the tower in that they have a separated keystone. Nearly vertically placed bricks divide the granite lintel detail into three distinct sections. The second floor lower side gables each have a single 4/1 double-hung window identical to those on the main building. Link departed from his lintel design on a second pair of double-hung windows directly above those on the second floor of the tower. This pair has a slightly protruding, eyebrow-like brick hoodmold. Two courses of flush, semi-circular arches enclose a pair of double-hung diamond-pattern windows at the attic level of the tower. At the attic level on the main building, a square fixed window with a diamond pattern appears on each side, nearer the tower than centered.

The roofline of the main building has a plain cornice and soffit. Custom-made external metal gutters collect rainwater from the main roof. The cornice on the lower side gables has individually cut dentils attached to the fascia and returns. On both the east and west, two matching patterned chimneys emerge from the side gables near the ridge. On the side gables, the guttering is enclosed like that on the buttress-like projections for stairways. Above the attic windows is a single two-course circle that has been infilled with brick. Originally, a clock was to be installed in this and the two other circular openings in the east and west sides of the tower. At the upper level of the tower on all four sides are balconets. Behind each balconet is a semicircular opening enclosing paired windows with semicircular heads which are divided by a central column. The main arched openings are corbeled and consist of three courses of slightly protruding brickwork. Within each wooden spandrel is a small circular opening. There are no glass inserts, but metal hardware cloth covers these upper openings to prohibit bird infiltration. Two wooden console brackets support the balconets. Each balustrade contains four identical sunburst designs, with a detailed top rail and corner supports. A molding or beltcourse around the tower connects the balconet floors. Below the cornice of the tower on each elevation are three pairs of brackets with two single brackets placed equidistant between them. There is no evidence that brackets were ever used below the cornice on the main building, however. Roofs throughout the building are covered with a composite asphalt shingles that resemble slate. Matching barrel caps cover the four pyramidal hips. A four foot copper finial, a replica of the original, completes the tower.

North Elevation:

The north elevation, like the others, is symmetrical. The recessed double-leaf central entrance is at street level within a semicircular opening. The arch contains a glass panel with the gold-lettered words: Madison County Courthouse,

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Madison County Courthouse
Madison County, Missouri

1 Courthouse Square. Narrow fixed windows with semicircular arches immediately flank the entrance. These windows contain leaded glass in a diamond pattern. Beyond them on each side are two individual 6/1 double-hung windows with semicircular arches. Each window has a chamfered granite lugsill. Centered above the entrance is a large balcony with a balustrade consisting of a sunburst design as well as solid panels. Paired massive console brackets support each end of the balcony and two smaller brackets are arranged between them. A brick beltcourse divides the first and second floors. Upstairs are seven double-hung windows connected by contiguous three-course brick semicircular arches. Each of these windows contains leaded diamond pattern glass. The north side of the tower is identical to the other three sides except there is no infilled clock opening. Windows in the side projections are similar to those on the south elevation. Casement windows are recessed in the foundation on each side of the main building and on each side of the lower side gable.

East Elevation:

First floor windows have semicircular arches and those on the second level have splayed lintels. Cornice returns are corbeled. At the attic level are two louvered window openings with semicircular arches. Three small casement windows are in the foundation. One 9/9 double-hung window with a semicircular arch is in the side of the buttress-like stairway projection. Unlike on the south elevation, east and west sides of the tower lack flat arch windows with splayed lintels and only one window with a semicircular arch is present.

West Elevation:

The west elevation is identical to the east elevation with the exception of somewhat different fenestration in the foundation, with an additional window. A small casement window in the foundation in the side of the projection at the base of the tower is present on the west side but not the east. Also, the west foundation contains a window opening directly below the first first floor window at the south end, while on the east this opening is under the second window.

Interior:

The north and south entrances provide access to the central hallway, from which the four main county offices can be entered. Lining both sides of this hall is a collection of circa 1900 photographs depicting people and buildings of Fredericktown. Oak stairways at the north end of the hall with eight steps lead to the basement. At the south end of the hall is a single stairway to the lower level. Except for two original vaults, the lower level of the courthouse has been totally remodeled to provide office space with energy-efficient lighting, heating and air conditioning. A lift chair was installed to provide disabled access to the basement. Also at the south end of the main floor hall are two matching oak staircases leading to the upper levels. Upon entering the south entrance, these stairways (within the buttress-like projections) are immediately to the right and left. There are six steps to the first intermediate landing. Then turning at right angles, there are three steps to a second landing, seven steps to a third landing, eight steps to a fourth landing and two final steps to reach the courtroom level. The courthouse does not have an elevator. All of the spindles, bannisters, newel posts and stairs have been refinished and sealed with a clear polyurethane finish. An oak tongue-and-groove wainscot follows the upper and lower stairways. Vaulted ceilings are above the upper staircases.

The second floor courtroom measures approximately 46 feet x 52 feet. There are three anterooms for jury deliberations, a judges chamber and attorneys. Seventy-five antique, spindleback oak chairs have been totally refinished and provide adequate gallery seating. The original courtroom ceiling remains intact with pine tongue-and-groove beadboard. Replica circa 1900 white globe light fixtures are suspended on long chains from the ceiling. A non-protruding balcony is supported by original metal rods and turnbuckles from the ceiling. Given the slope of the balcony floor and limited space, there is no evidence that this area was used for additional seating during trials, although some persons may have been allowed to stand. The courtroom level also houses two additional administrative offices, one on the east side and one on the west. When the court clerks' table was refinished, an old flat iron burn mark was exposed.

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Madison County, Missouri

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The County Commission's office is located at the attic level in the tower and is still in use. This area can only be accessed from the second floor by means of a narrow stairway with seventeen steps. There is a large attic area within each lower side gable. A trapdoor and ladder provide the only access to the upper tower level where the balconets are located.

Prior to the recent rehabilitation, cosmetic remodeling attempts were carried out at various times, the latest in the 1970s. Fortunately, many of the historic interior features were merely covered rather than replaced so that a high degree of integrity was retained and then rediscovered during the restoration.

From 1989-93, the courthouse was restored in a three-phase plan: (a) stabilization of the building and roof replacement; (b) window replacement with energy-efficient wooden units to match the originals; and (c) interior work and furnishings. A minimal amount of tuckpointing was required, closely replicating both the width and profile of the original mortar joints. All windows were replaced with energy-efficient coated wooden sashes that are faithful in appearance to the original windows. Nonhistoric materials had been inserted into the round arches of the tower, but these were removed in the rehabilitation process. Despite replacement of missing, damaged, or deteriorated portions, a preponderance of historic material remains intact throughout the building. The addition of modern heating and air conditioning was incorporated in such a way as to minimize the visual effect and preserve the building's integrity, while providing essential energy efficiency.

The rehabilitation was carried out as a joint venture between the St. Louis architectural firms of Gerhardt Kramer and J. R. Luer and Associates.

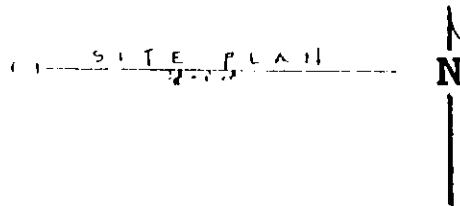
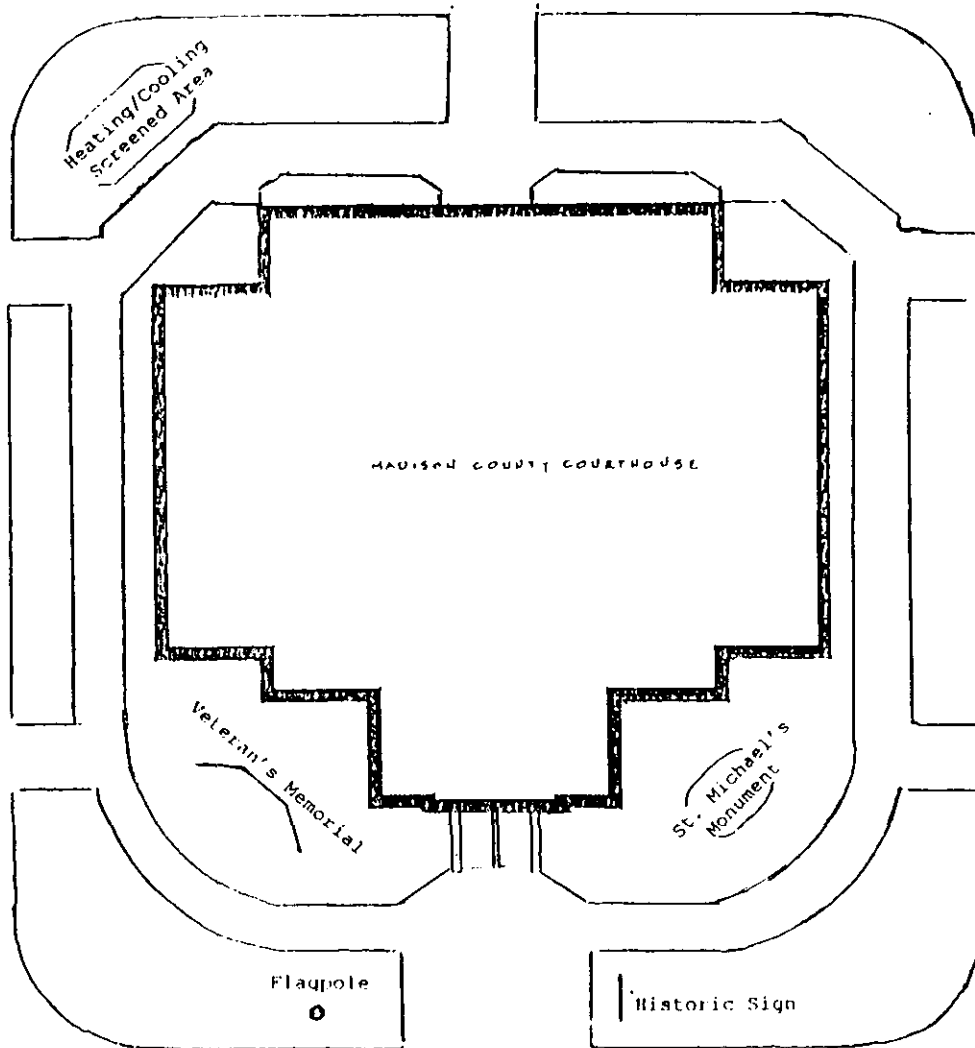
Because of the restoration, community involvement and continuing care, the useful life of the Madison County Courthouse has been greatly extended.

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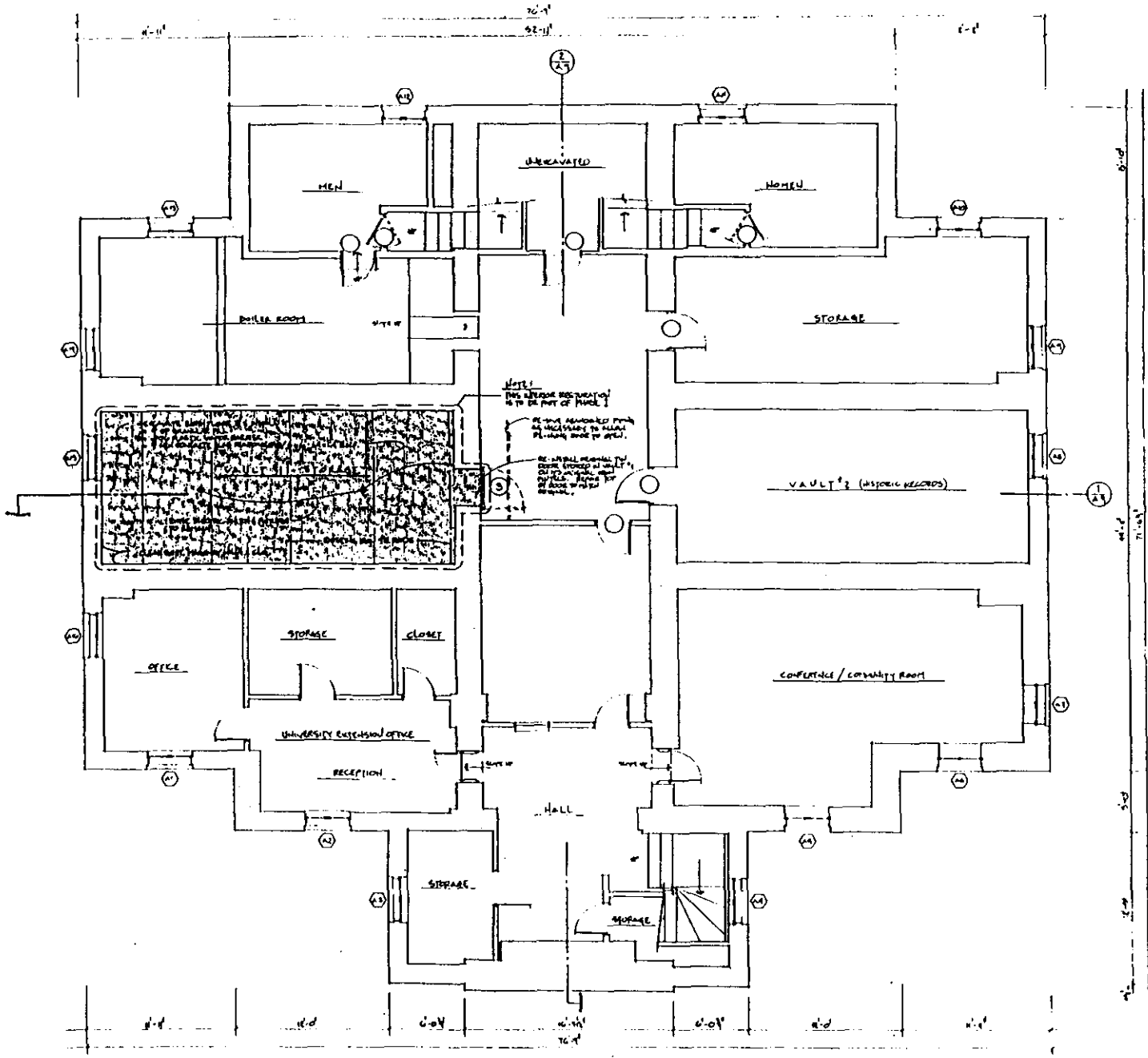


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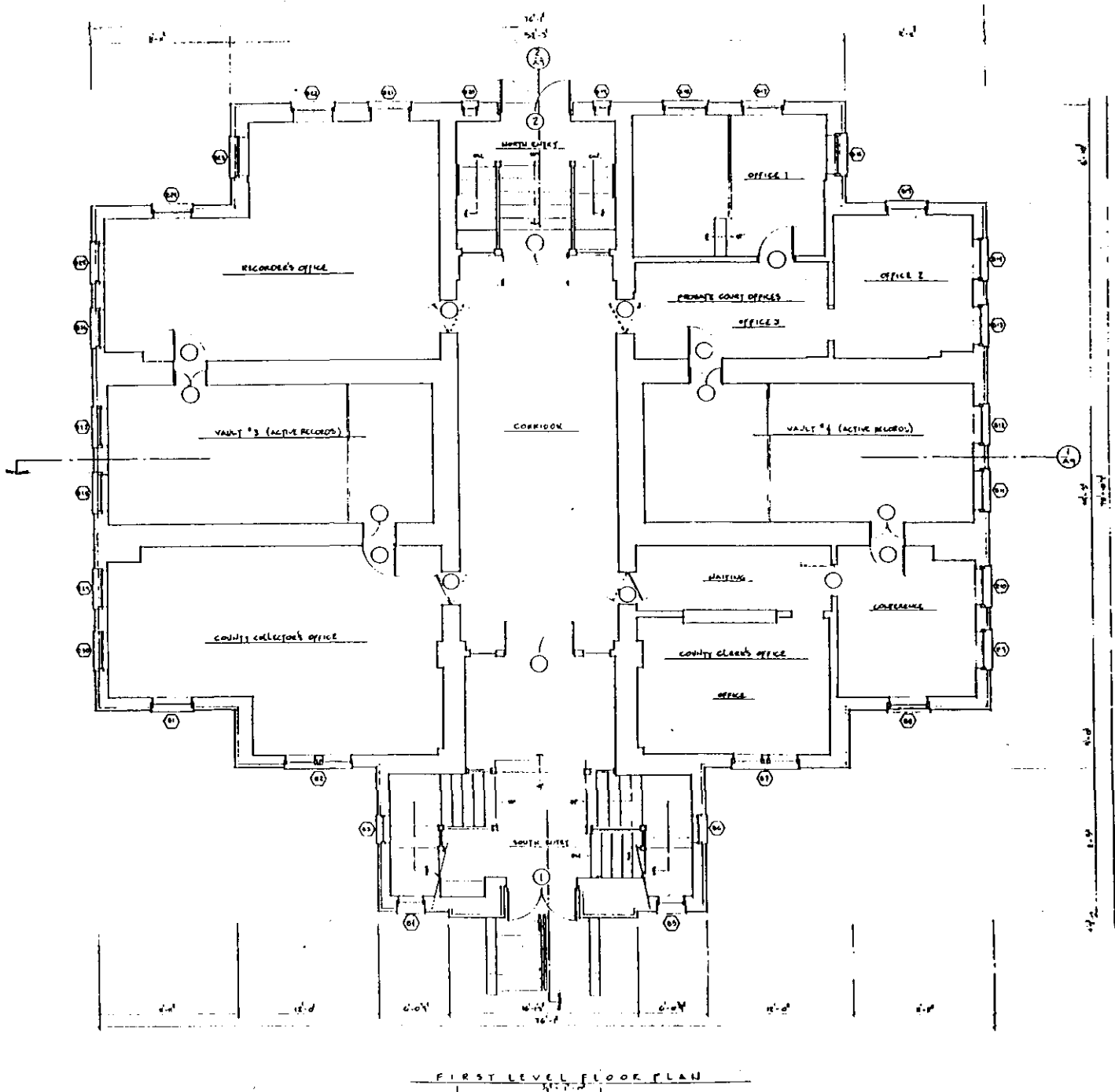
LOWER LEVEL FLOOR PLAN
11-1-01

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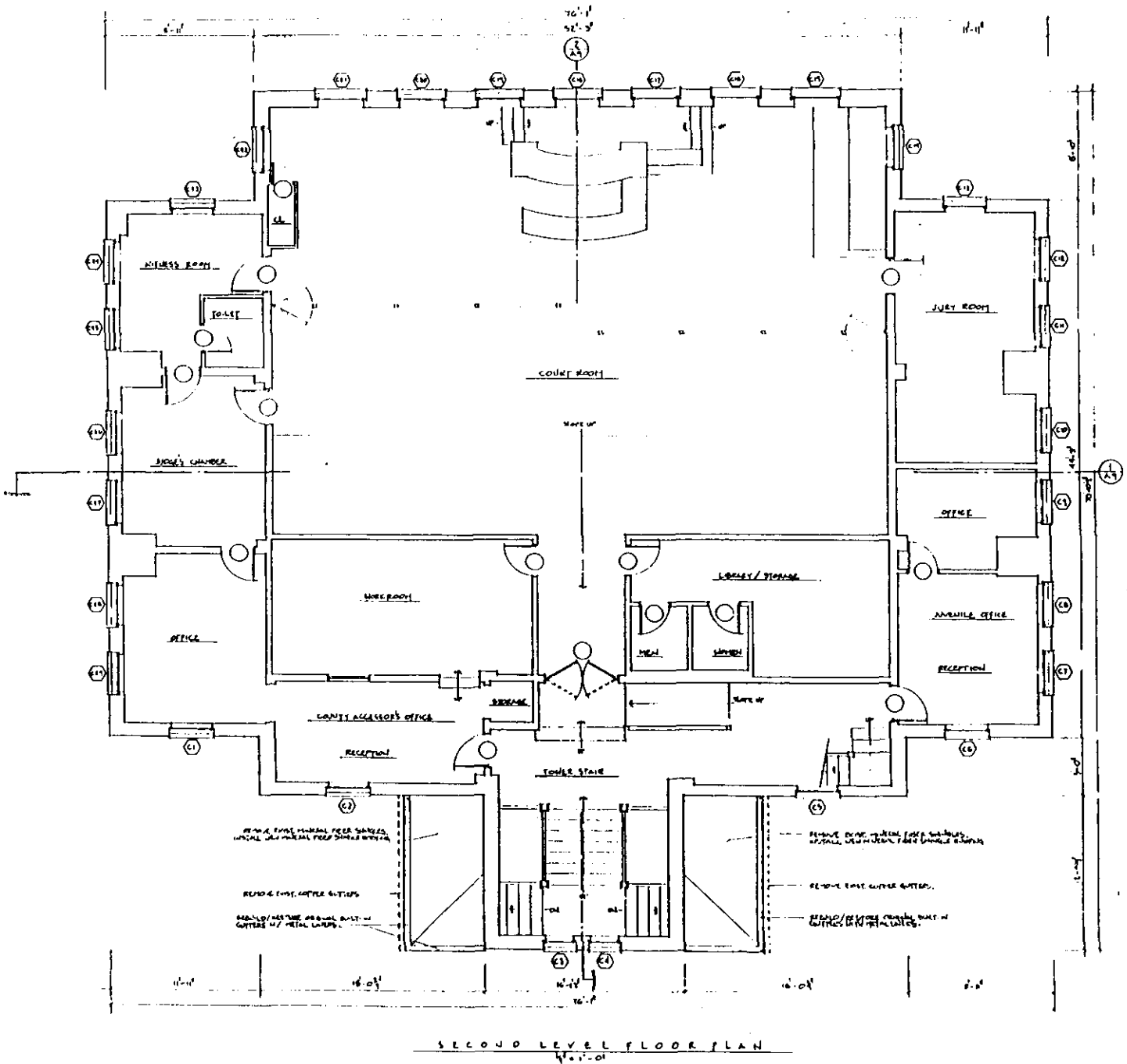


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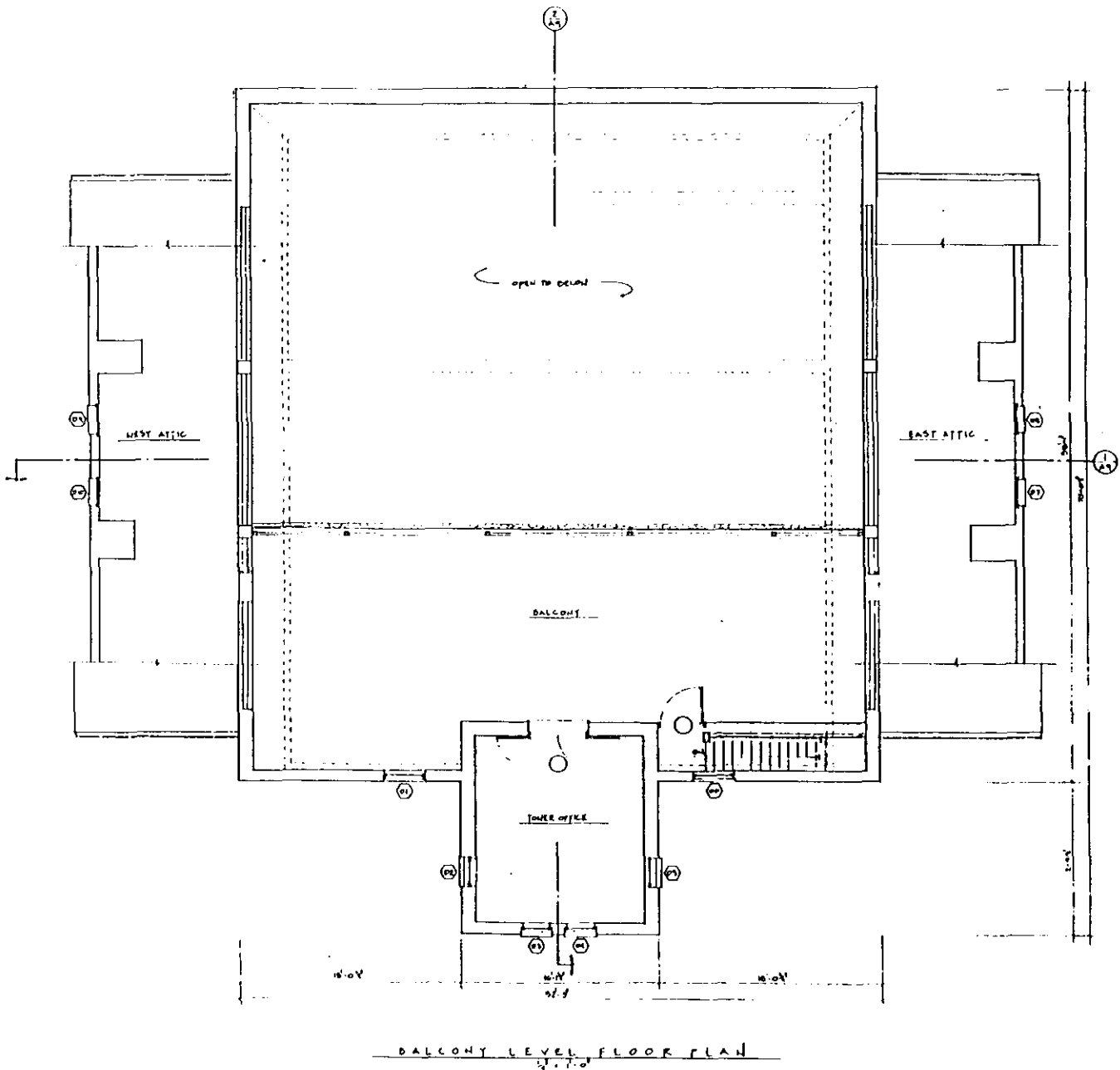


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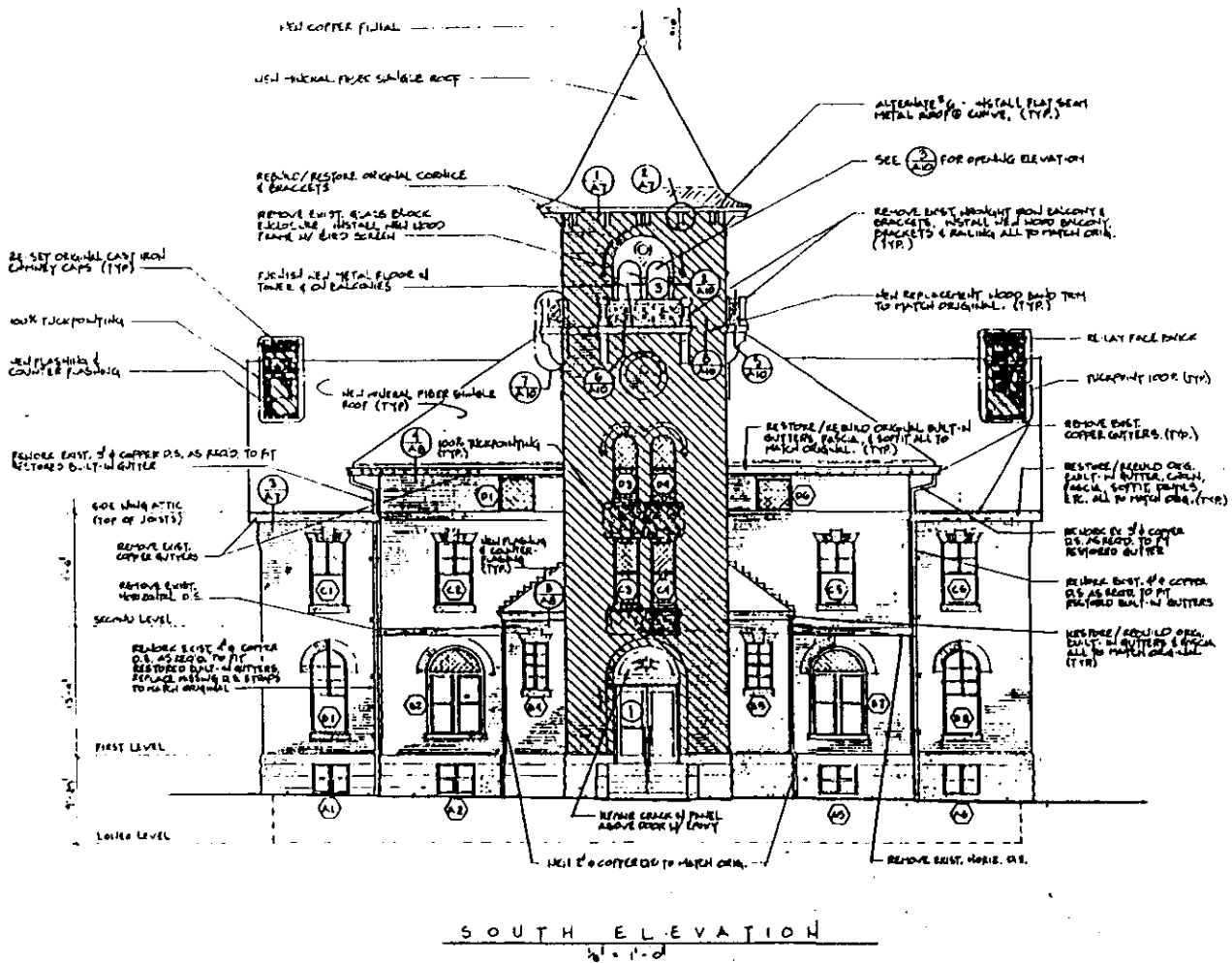


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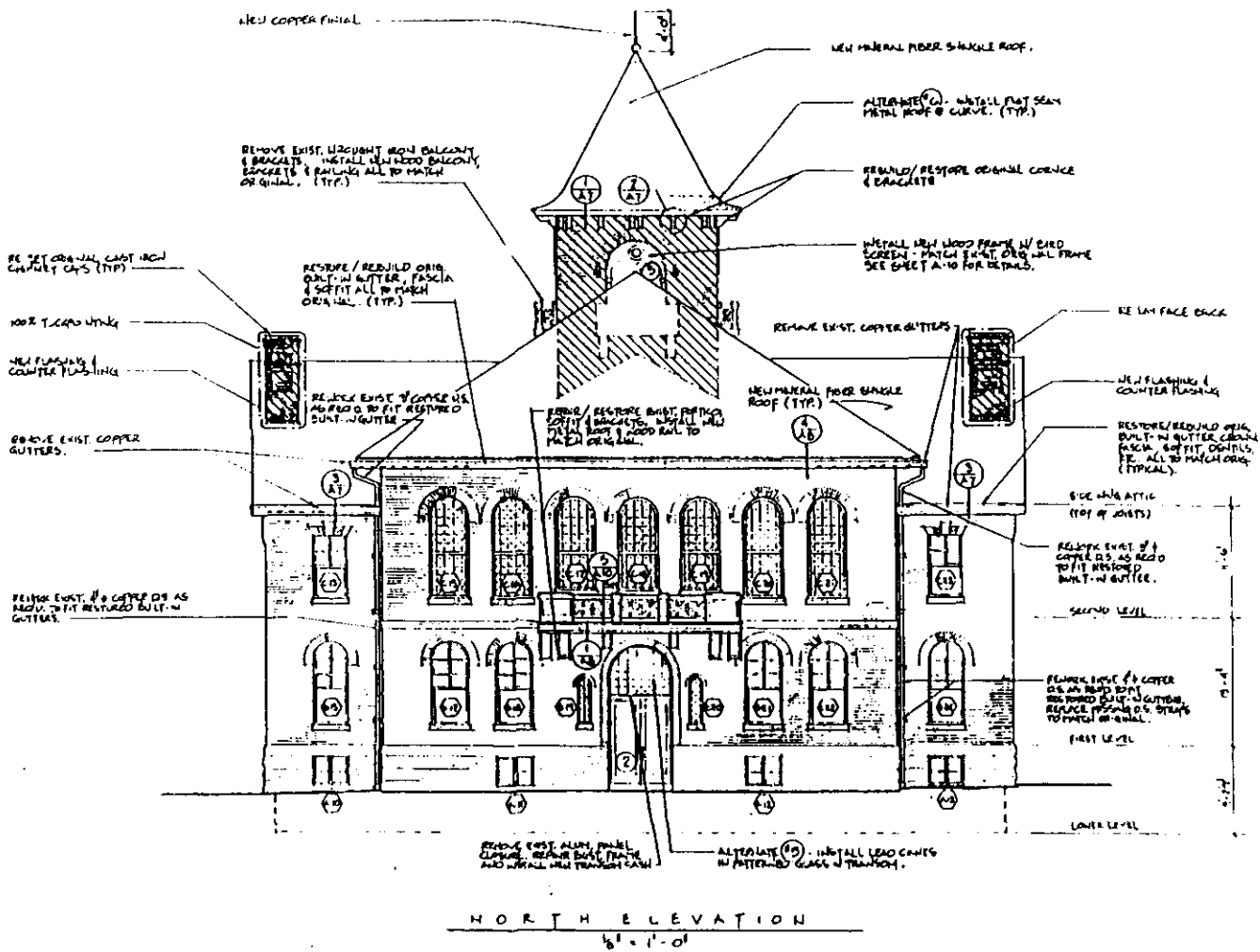


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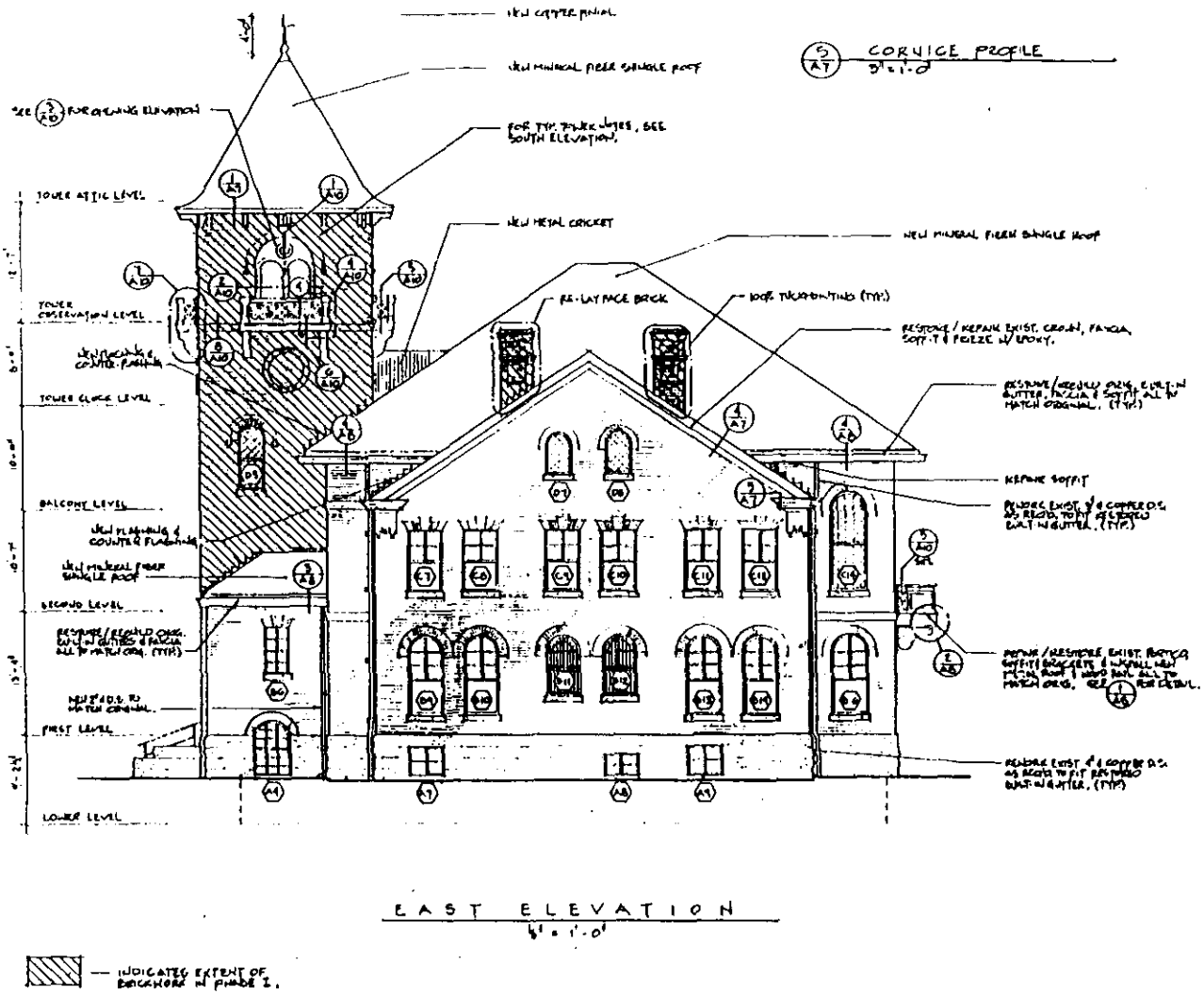


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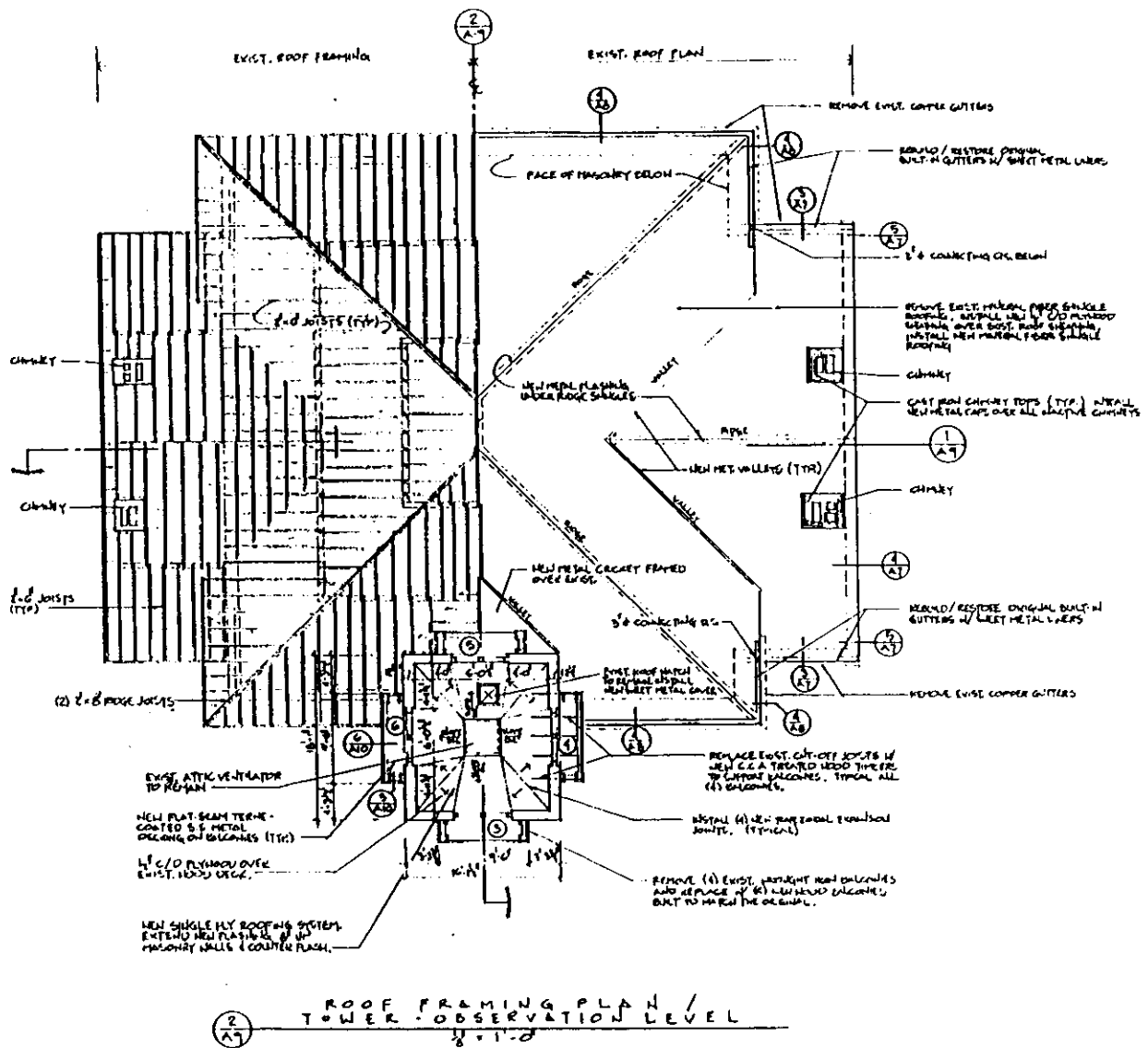


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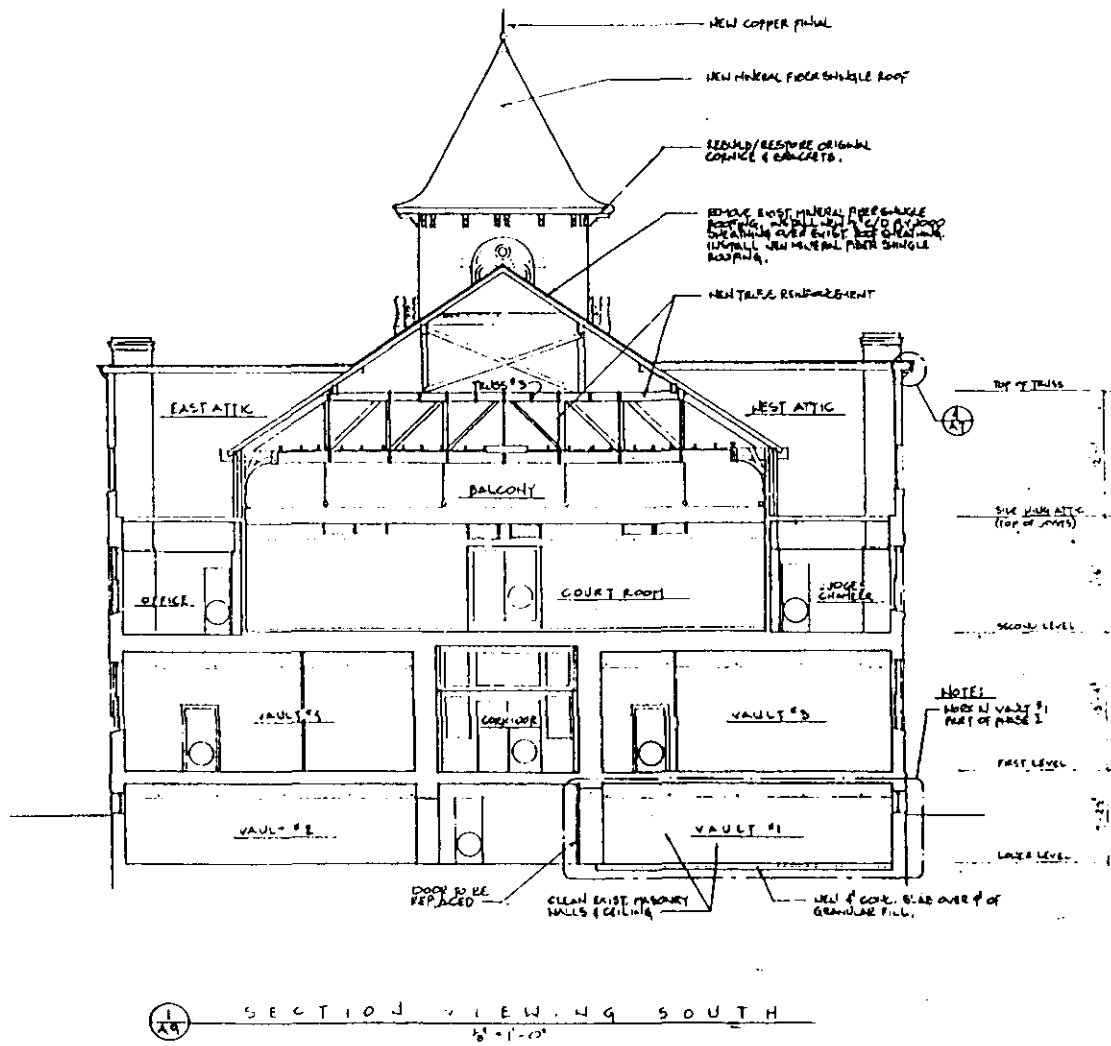


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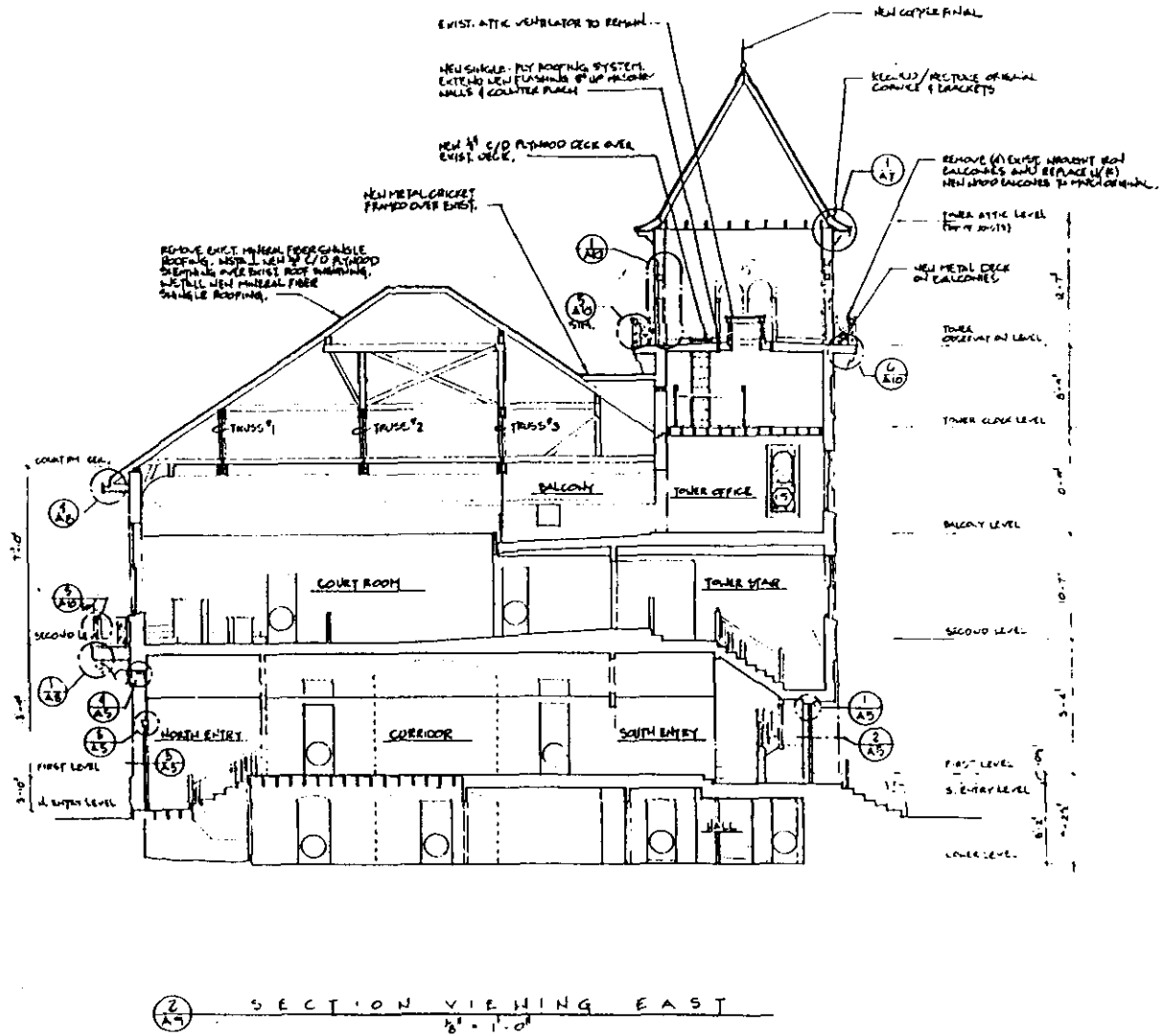


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Madison County Courthouse
Madison County, Missouri

Summary:

Completed in 1900, the Madison County Courthouse, Fredericktown, Missouri, is significant under Criterion A in the area of Politics/Government and under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. Under Criterion C, the building has served as the center of Madison County government for the past century. Within the confines of its brick and granite walls, the essential functions of government at the county level have been carried out continuously since the time of its construction. Under Criterion C, the courthouse is significant as the work of a master: It is an excellent low-key example of a building designed by nationally known St. Louis architect Theodore Carl Link. Stylistically, it is an eclectic combination of restrained Romanesque with Georgian, Italianate and other affinities. The Romanesque style dominated courthouse architecture in Missouri in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, although most examples were more massive with rougher textures overall than the Madison County Courthouse. Before designing the Madison County Courthouse, Link designed St. Louis' magnificent Union Station (1894); later he designed such notable buildings as the Mississippi State Capitol (1903) and various buildings at Louisiana State University (1920s). For the much smaller courthouse project at Fredericktown, Link worked closely with contractor Louis Miller to produce a serviceable, attractive building within a budget of only \$20,000. The period of significance begins with the date of construction and ends at the arbitrary 50-year cutoff for National Register properties.

Courthouse Development:

The early history of what became Southeast Missouri was associated with the general search for precious metals west of the Mississippi River. Many expeditions in search of gold and silver were undertaken in the area that today comprises Iron, Perry, Ste. Francois, Ste. Genevieve and Madison Counties. Test sites in Madison County yielded copper ore which was suspected of being gold-bearing. While no significant gold deposits were found, vast amounts of lead were found in the Mine LaMotte area north of what became Fredericktown. Over the years, as the lead extraction process was refined and improved, larger and larger quantities of lead were produced by the local mining industry. In 1799, the village of St. Michael became the first permanent settlement in Madison County when a group of 13 French settlers built log houses on a Spanish land grant of approximately 4,433 acres between Saline Creek on the south and Castor River on the north. St. Michael was located within the present city limits of Fredericktown. After the Louisiana Purchase, Madison County was created from what had been the District of Ste. Genevieve on December 10, 1818.¹

The Madison County Court first met on July 12, 1819, at the home of Theodore F. Tong. After this meeting Tong, John Burdett, John Bennett and Henry Whitener were appointed commissioners with the early task of locating a permanent seat of justice and government for Madison County. They chose Fredericktown, perhaps named after George Frederick Bollinger who had become an important local figure after leading a large group of German and Swiss settlers from North Carolina into Southeast Missouri in about 1800 and establishing a mill which stands today.²

On June 13, 1821, the commissioners purchased 30 acres of land from Nathaniel Cook and Honor, his wife, for \$300. Cook had surveyed the land and is said to have platted lots surrounding what was designed as a Lancaster style square. The earliest surviving plat for Fredericktown was drawn by John L. Robinson on August 10, 1823, based on the land survey by Nathaniel Cook. Fredericktown's Lancaster square was Missouri's first of this type

¹ Henry Clay Thompson, II. "A History of Madison County Missouri." Serially published by the Fredericktown Democrat-News. 1940, pp. 32-33.

² Ibid., and History of Southeast Missouri. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1888, pp. 55, 173, 274-276, 326, 435.

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Madison County Courthouse
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and is one of only seven such plans in the ³ state. Though often attractive, this type of square became awkward as traffic increased in the 20th century, as has been demonstrated in Fredericktown. Inherent design problems of the Lancaster square were compounded because of its relatively small size. In 1822, the first courthouse was built in the center of the square on the highest point of the parcel obtained from the Cooks. It was a two-story, 50' x 50' building made with locally produced brick. It had a hipped roof and a cupola which was removed in 1838.⁴

In 1900, when the present courthouse was built on the original site, the street layout was the same as earlier. Wagons moved around the courthouse in a counterclockwise direction. The roads, still earthen at the time the courthouse was built, joined the square at midpoints on all four sides. The north-south road was called "Main Street" and the east-west, "Main Cross Street." Fronting on the square were a hotel, bank, four general stores, a tailor, office, jeweler, laundry and a hardware store. The first block of the east Main Cross Street was the most highly developed with two-story buildings on both sides of the street and a single two-story residence with a front yard. The population numbered approximately 2,000. Sources of water were Saline Creek, wells, springs, and cisterns. No organized fire department existed. The Fredericktown Electric Manufacturing Company provided electric service to the main part of town.⁵

In 1898, after voters refused the expenditure of \$15,000 for a new courthouse, a grand jury condemned the first courthouse at the age of 87. Subsequently, 157 local citizens petitioned to vote again on the issue. This time, voters were asked to approve a reduced expenditure of \$10,000, as by this time the county had a \$10,000 surplus in the general revenue fund and would be able to build a \$20,000 courthouse if the citizens approved the measure. The vote overwhelmingly favored the project, 896 for and 274 against. The old courthouse was ordered removed in 1899 at a cost of \$50 to make room the new courthouse in the center of the square.⁶

Finding an architect to design a rural courthouse was apparently not a problem. Presumably, Madison County followed the lead of Dunklin County in the Missouri Bootheel and advertised in a St. Louis newspaper. A local newspaper article told of how Dunklin County placed a small ad and was "nearly swamped" with courthouse plans and proposals.⁷ Madison County apparently did the same since newspaper articles allude to a number of architects submitting plans although only two have been identified, Link and F. Schrage.⁸ Link's design was selected on December 2, 1899 with the provision that he make changes to the plans by December 15, 1899 and

³ Marion Ohman. A History of Missouri Counties, County Seats and Courthouse Squares. Columbia: University of Missouri Extension Division, 1983, p. 31.

⁴ Marion Ohman. Encyclopedia of Missouri Courthouses. Columbia: University of Missouri Extension Division, 1981 (unpaged).

⁵ Sanborn-Perris Map Co., Fredericktown, Missouri, 1900.

⁶ Fredericktown Democrat-News. April 8, 1899.

⁷ Fredericktown Democrat-News. September 23, 1899.

⁸ "F. Schrage" was probably William F. Schrage, a prolific designer of courthouses in Missouri and other states.

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Madison County Courthouse
Madison County, Missouri

that the courthouse be completed by September 1900.⁹ In January 1900, Louis Miller of Arcadia received the contract to build the new courthouse for \$17,608.¹⁰

The cornerstone was laid on May 5, 1900. One of the largest crowds ever in Fredericktown was present for the ceremonies. A procession headed by a comet band was described as over half a mile long. The cornerstone was laid in accordance with Masonic ritual by Most Worshipful Grand Master Cordona H. Briggs of Fayette, Mo.¹¹ The entire project must have gone fairly smoothly because the building was completed in just nine months from the start of construction.

Considering its relatively low cost, the courthouse is particularly impressive but the limited funding is visible today in the clockless tower, a last-minute economy measure. Link designed the tower with three round clock face openings but apparently the clock mechanism itself was not a budgeted item. Contractor Miller offered to install a tower clock at no additional charge and even offered to "subscribe" \$50 toward the cost, estimated at from \$300 to \$600. The local newspaper chided prominent businessmen to devise a way to collect the needed funds, but without success.¹² Eventually, the clock openings were brick infilled.

Architectural Significance:

Architecturally, the 1900 Madison County Courthouse is an eclectic building which exemplifies a diluted form of the Romanesque style preferred by many other Missouri counties for courthouses constructed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. More significantly, the Madison County Courthouse is the only courthouse in Missouri designed by nationally-known St. Louis architect Theodore Carl Link. In Missouri, Link is probably best known for St. Louis' Union Station, an acknowledged masterpiece rendered in limestone and brick and completed in 1894 (NRHP 6/15/70; National Landmark 2/28/71). Under Criterion C, the Madison County Courthouse is clearly significant as the work of a master. Constrained by a budget which apparently could not exceed \$20,000, Link designed an impressive building which cost even less to construct without looking remotely threadbare. In its limited way, the Madison County Courthouse incorporates some design elements seen in Union Station such as round-arched as well as rectangular windows and a clock tower with a pyramidal roof, while the rock-faced pink granite of its tall foundation, lugsills and splayed lintels with keystones adds a touch of Romanesque texture. The granite is a local building material in Southeast Missouri.

Link was born near Heidelberg, Germany, on March 17, 1850. He was educated at the Ecole des Arts et Metiers (Ecole Centrale) at Paris, studying architecture and engineering. When he was 20, he came to America and for the first three years worked in New York, Philadelphia and Texas. He settled in St. Louis about three years later, in 1873. Link's first connection with St. Louis was with the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad in its bridges and buildings department. He went on to serve as assistant chief engineer at St. Louis' Forest Park which was then being laid out. In 1876-77, Link served as superintendent of public parks for the city of St. Louis. Link then returned to Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and New York where he designed buildings until 1882 or 1883 before

⁹ County Clerk Minutes, Book 16. pp. 330-338.

¹⁰ Fredericktown Democrat-News, 1-27-1900.

¹¹ Fredericktown Democrat-News, June 23, 1900. Among items in a box made by J. W. Keyes and placed in the cornerstone were an envelope sent from Germany addressed to Rev. Father Rothensteiner, a copy of the Holy Bible, a tax receipt made out to Wm. Newberry dated 1853, copy of the Democrat-News, tax receipt made out to A. Nifong for \$5.75 dated 1823 and signed by Macaja Stone, a \$20 Confederate bill dated 1864, ten cent silver piece and a picture of the first courthouse. Democrat-News 5-5-1900.

¹² Fredericktown Democrat-News, 6-23-1900.

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Madison County Courthouse
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returning to St. Louis and opening an architectural office there in partnership with Edward Cameron. Link joined the American Institute of Architects in 1889, the year he began to practice on his own. Cameron was his partner on the *Union Station* project. Other Link partners over the years included Rosenheim and Ittner, Wilbur Trueblood and his son Carl E. Link.¹³

Link's designs in and around St. Louis were greatly diversified. They included churches, commercial buildings, libraries, industrial buildings and private residences. Link not only designed several houses in the exclusive St. Louis residential enclaves of Westmoreland and Portland Place; he also designed the entrance gates. St. Louis area buildings designed by Link included the Alton (Ill.) Public Library and the East St. Louis (Ill.) Ice and Cold Storage Building.¹⁴

When plans were solicited for St. Louis' Union Station in 1891 (the first union railroad terminal of its kind in the U.S.), Link was one of 10 American architects invited to compete. Three years later, Link's design was unanimously approved. In fact, it was considered by many that no improvement was possible in the design which today is still widely regarded as his masterpiece. In 1928, *Missouri's Contribution to American Architecture* noted that St. Louis' Union Station was "the first of the many fine railroad passenger stations built in this country during the past 35 years; and while the newer ones have more modern equipment, the St. Louis station still has the virtue of being distinctive."¹⁵

At about the same time that Link was designing the Second Presbyterian Church in a Romanesque vein in St. Louis in 1898-99 (NRHP 9/11/75), he was also designing the Madison County Courthouse in a much more subdued form. While the rural courthouse was a relatively minor work, the architect obviously enjoyed a wide variety of challenges to his creative skills. Link, who purchased \$25,000 of stock in the Louisiana Purchase Exposition (St. Louis World's Fair) of 1904, was one of five St. Louis architects appointed to the Fair's architecture committee and was responsible for the designs of the Mines & Metallurgy and Mississippi Buildings. After the courthouse, Link's other projects included the Mississippi State Capitol at Jackson in 1901-03, a power plant along the Missouri River for the Tibbe Power Company in Washington, Missouri, St. John's Methodist Episcopal Church and the Barr Branch Carnegie Library (Barr Branch Library Historic District, NRHP 9/2/82), both constructed in St. Louis in 1905-06, the Wednesday Club headquarters, a suffrage meeting house was erected in St. Louis in 1908, and the International Shoe Company building, constructed in St. Louis in 1910. Three of Link's residential properties in University City near St. Louis are listed in the National Register as the Theodore Link Historic District (NRHP 9/11/80). Late in his career, in the early 1920s, Link and partner Wilbur Trueblood designed major buildings at Louisiana State University. Link died in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on November 11, 1923.¹⁶

Although Link was fluent with a variety of late 19th and early 20th century styles including Beaux Arts, Georgian Revival, Tudor, Neoclassical, Sullivan-esque and Renaissance, today he is probably best remembered for his

¹³ James Cox. *Old and New St. Louis*. Central Biographical Publishing Co., 1894, p. 432; John Albury Bryan, compiler and editor, *Missouri's Contribution to American Architecture*. St. Louis: St. Louis Architectural Club, 1928, pp. 52, 82; National Register nomination, "Theodore Link Historic District," St. Louis County, Missouri, on file with Missouri DNR/Historic Preservation Program (9/11/80); and *Western Architecture Magazine* (undated). Some material on Link was provided by the St. Louis Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid. Theodore C. Link was inducted into the St. Louis Walk of Fame, May 21, 1995 for his achievements in Art/Architecture. The location of his star may be found at 6519 Delmar, St. Louis, Missouri.

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work in a Romanesque or Richardsonian Romanesque vein. His proficiency in Romanesque is exemplified not only in the monumental Union Station but also in the Second Presbyterian Church, a close approximation of architect H. H. Richardson's famed Trinity Church in Boston, a design on which Link worked almost simultaneously with his Madison County Courthouse project. While the railroad station and possibly the church presumably show Link at his best, the Madison County Courthouse is a unique and important component of his overall output, adding to our appreciation of his architectural range.

The Madison County Courthouse is significant for its association with Link, but it would be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places even if it had been designed by an unheralded architect. The Madison County Courthouse is a good and representative example of turn-of-the-century courthouse architecture in Missouri, rehabilitated to a close approximation of its original appearance in a project completed in 1993. The building still easily retains the ambiance of its 1900-1950 period of significance.

Politics/Government Significance:

The Madison County Courthouse with its familiar clockless tower remains an important political focus 100 years after its construction. The rehabilitated brick and granite building is significant under Criterion A because it has served as the focal point of county government for more than a hundred years. It continues to be an important entity to its citizenry politically, judicially, and administratively. The historic space assignments for the recorder, circuit court, treasurer and county clerk offices on the main floor are thought to be still intact.

The present county commissioners consist of a presiding commissioner and one commissioner for District 1, representing the northern half of the county and another commissioner for District 2, representing the southern half of the county. The commission meets regularly and makes all major decisions for county operations. Today the commissioners are primarily responsible for overseeing the repair and maintenance of roads and bridges on county roads, and budgeting.

Over the years, various other offices have been housed under the courthouse roof. Currently, for example, the University of Missouri Extension occupies office space in the basement to make this entity more accessible to the public. Space also is available in the courthouse for public use, typically in the second floor courtroom which may be reserved when a large meeting room is needed by organizations and interest groups to conduct their business. From its inception through the present, the Madison County Courthouse has served not only as a focal point for county government but as a center for civic life as well. The building's recent rehabilitation should assure its continued public service for many years to come.

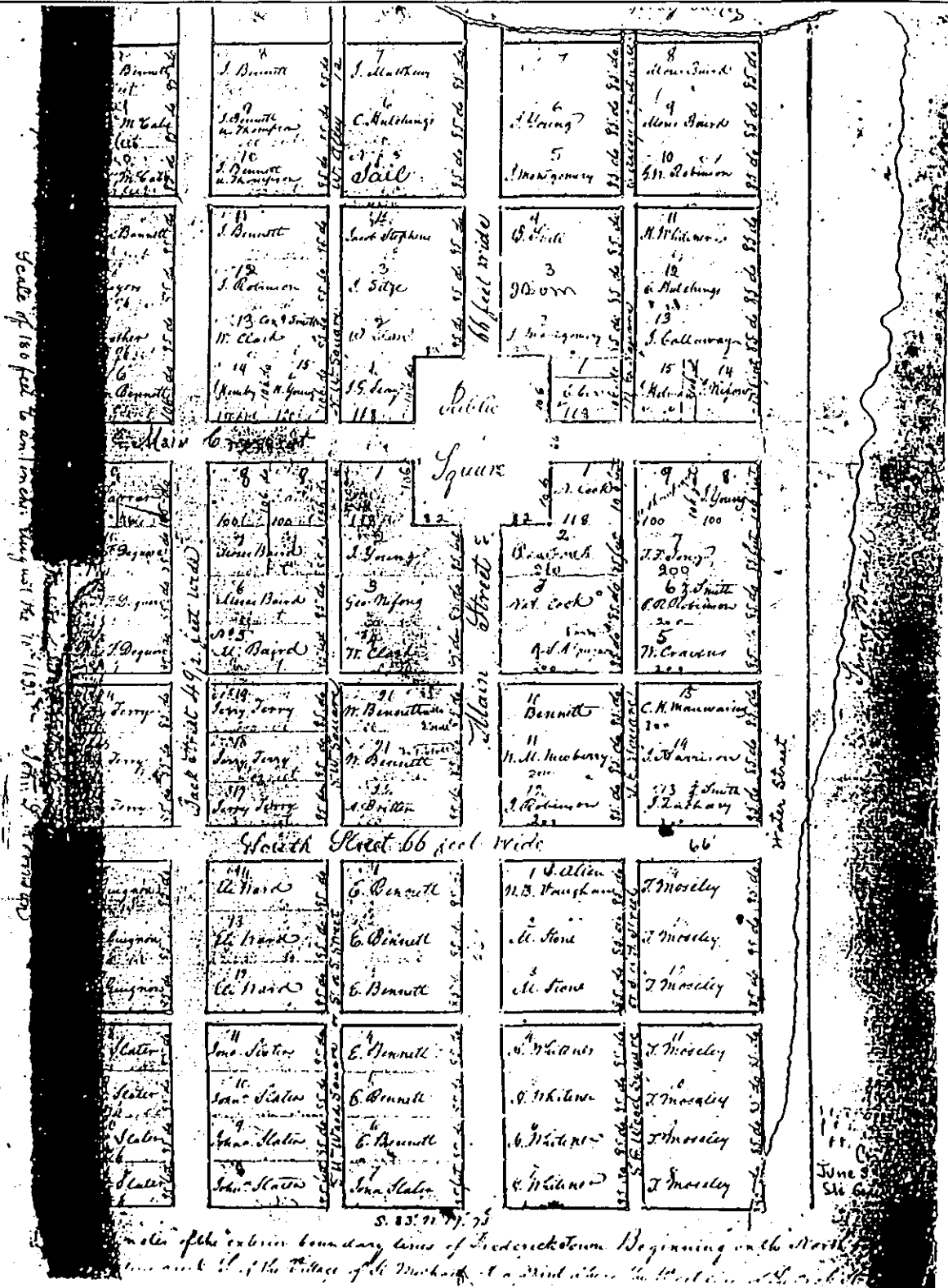
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Madison County Courthouse
Madison County, Missouri

John L. Robinson's Plat Map of Fredericktown, Madison County, Missouri
Date of Map: August 10, 1823



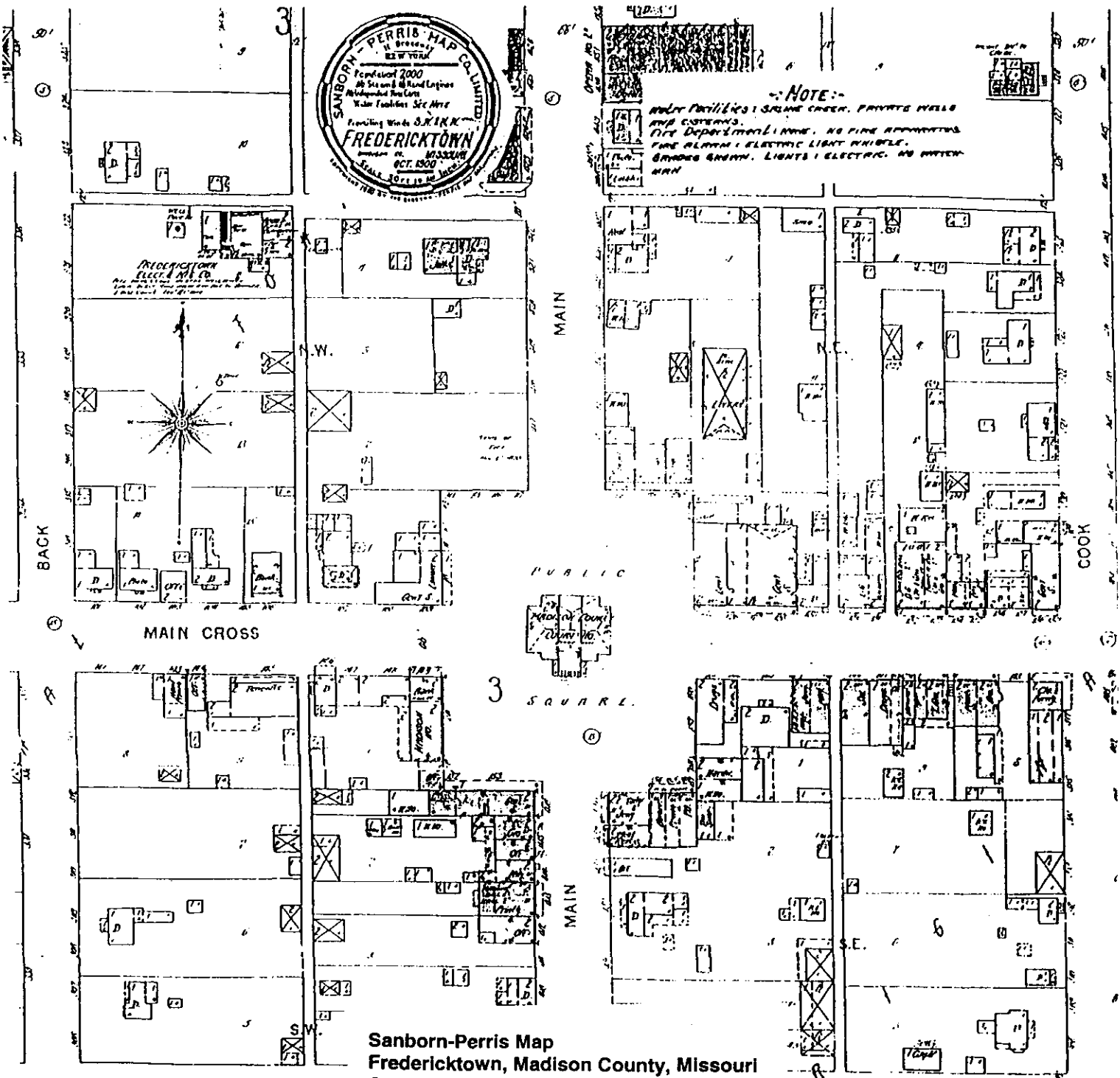
June 9
S. 85° 11' 75"

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10. Geographical Data

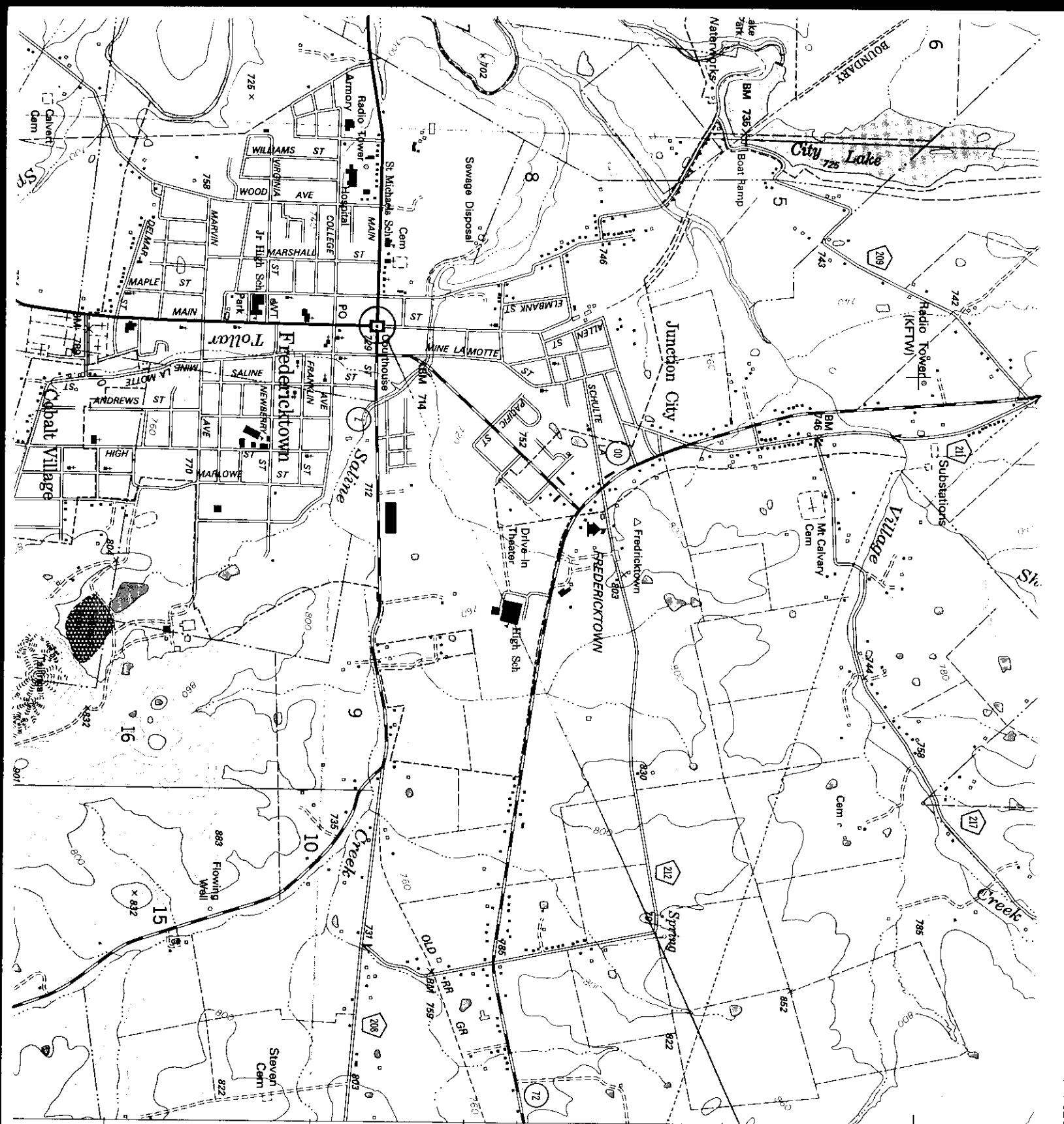
Verbal Boundary Description: Beginning 66 feet west of the northwest corner of East Main Street proceed south 140 feet, thence 108 feet west, thence north 140 feet, thence east 108 feet to the beginning. The boundary of the nominated property includes only the 108 x 140-foot lot on which the courthouse stands.

Boundary Justification: The boundary encompasses the rectangle tract associated historically with the nominated property. Two monuments, a bronze sign, a flagpole and a low enclosure screening the heating system are included within the boundary but are not significant in size or scale and are not associated with the significance of the nominated property.

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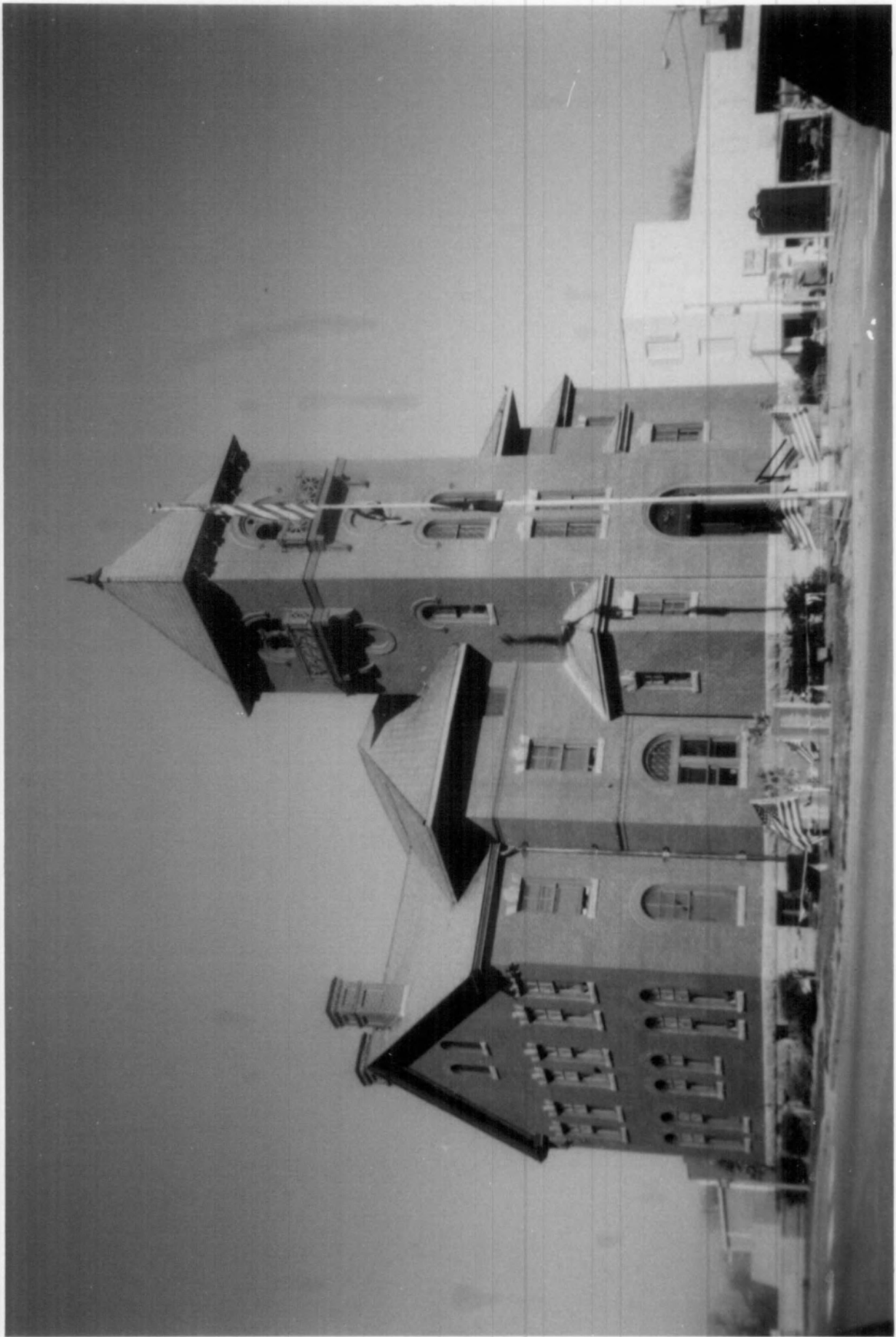


(HIGDON) 15 MI. TO MO. 51 JACKSON 37 MI.

MADISON COUNTY
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 FREDERICKTOWN,
 MADISON COUNTY,
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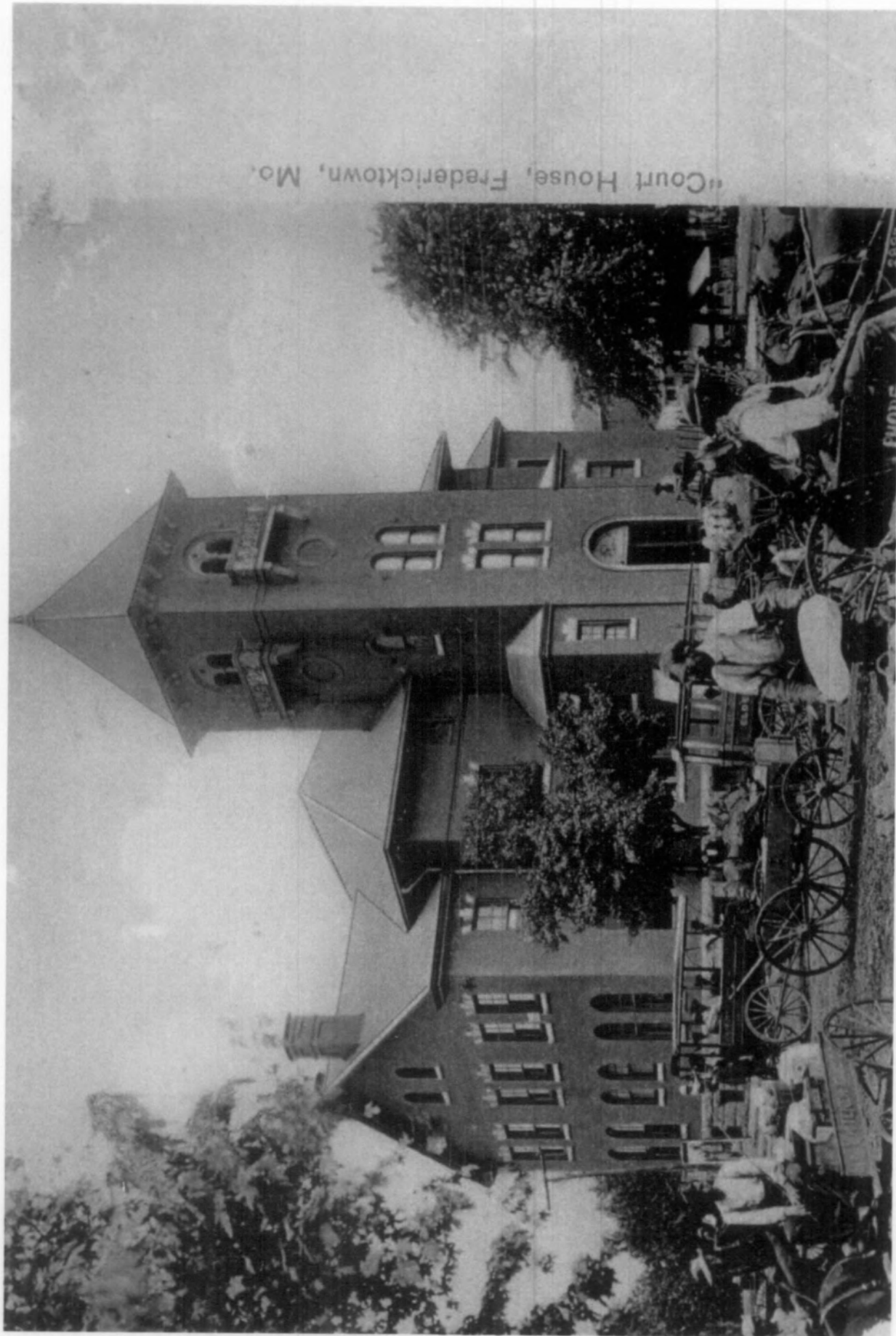
MADISON COUNTY COURTHOUSE
FREDERICKTOWN, MADISON CO., MO

1



MADISON COUNTY COURTHOUSE
FREDERICKTOWN, MADISON CO., MO

2



"Court House, Fredericktown, Mo.

MADISON COUNTY COURTHOUSE
FREDERICKTOWN, MADISON CO., MD

3



MADISON COUNTY COURTHOUSE
FREDERICKTOWN, MADISON CO., MO.
4



MADISON COUNTY COURTHOUSE
FREDERICKTOWN, MADISON CO., MO
5



MADISON COUNTY COURTHOUSE
FREDERICKTOWN, MADISON CO., MO

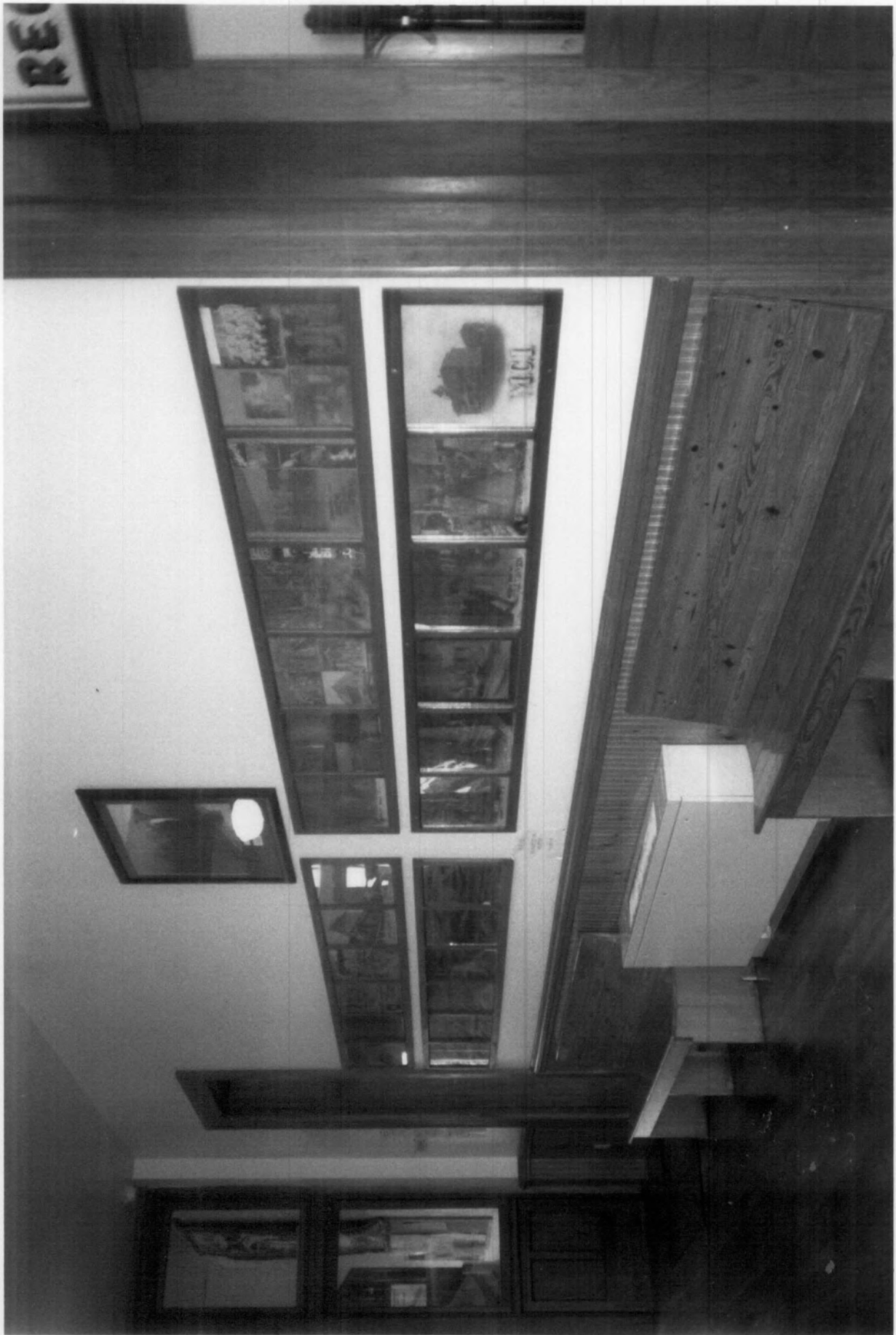
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MADISON COUNTY COURTHOUSE
FREDERICKTOWN, MADISON CO., MS
7



MADISON COUNTY COURTHOUSE
FREDERICKTOWN, MADISON CO, MO
8



MADISON COUNTY COURTHOUSE
FREDERICKTOWN, MADISON CO., MO

9



MADISON COUNTY COURTHOUSE
FREDERICKTOWN, MADISON CO, MO

10

