

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Morgan County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Versailles

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

#4 - Hon. Ike Skelton

STATE

Missouri

CODE

29

COUNTY

Morgan

CODE

141

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☒ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Morgan County

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Versailles

VICINITY OF

STATE

Missouri 65084

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Recorder of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Morgan County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Versailles

STATE

Missouri 65084

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

1. Lake of the Ozarks Council of Local Governments Historical Survey

DATE

1978

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☒ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

LOCLG, P.O. Box 786

CITY, TOWN

Camdenton

STATE

Missouri 65020

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

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DATE ENTERED

MORGAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

2. Missouri State Historical Survey
1977 state
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City Missouri 65102

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

3. Morgan County Court Records, May 7, 1888.
4. Schultz, Gerard. Early History of the Northern Ozarks. Jefferson City:
Midland Printing Company, 1937.
5. Versailles, Missouri: Its First 125 Years, Versailles: The Leader-Statesman
Printers and Publishers, 1960.

ITEM NUMBER 11 PAGE 1

2. Noelle Soren, Architectural Historian
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City
September 20, 1979
314/751-4096
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

Morgan County Courthouse, located in the central square of the business district of Versailles, Missouri, is a two story red brick interpretation of the Second Empire Style. Its rectangular plan is capped by a truncated, shingle-faced, hipped roof and is highlighted with projecting, pedimented pavilions to the north and south, which enclose the building's main entrances, and four mansarded corner pavilions of three stories each. These corner pavilions feature standing seam tin roofs on their lower slopes and asphalt on their uppers. The building measures approximately 85' along the north and south and 85' along the east and west and rests on a foundation of coursed, quarry-faced limestone blocks.

The most arresting feature of the exterior of the courthouse is its aediculated cupola with decorative details articulated in cast iron, molded tin and wood. It is capped by a cloister vaulted dome faced with asphalt shingles. Below, the four corner pavilions are adorned with projecting, flat-roofed dormers on each of their outer faces.

The embellishment of the main body of the courthouse is confined to the articulation in brick of corbeled courses below the cornices, and to pilasters and round and segmental window arches. The brick voussoirs of these arches are highlighted with white paint and visually stabilized by the addition of limestone sills and keystones. Galvanized guttering, painted white, forms cornices above the first and second floor levels.

The simply appointed interior of the courthouse contains the county offices (see plan).

Aside from interior painting and refurbishing with carpeting, wall paneling and acoustical tile, Morgan County Courthouse remains virtually unaltered and in excellent condition. The exterior was recently sandblasted and tuckpointed, the trim repainted, and the central portion of the building was given a new roof. In addition, the summits of the chimneys were removed and the chimneys sealed when central gas heating and air conditioning were installed at an unrecorded date. More recently glass doors replaced the originals on the four cardinal entrances.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/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 type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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 1889 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Architect: William Schrange
Contractor: Hiram Griffith

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Morgan County Courthouse is significant as the local seat of county government which has stood for 90 years, a civic symbol to the local citizenry. In addition, it is the finest architectural example in the small town of Versailles, Missouri and in all of rural Morgan County.

From 1833 to 1835, before Versailles had been chosen as the permanent seat of Morgan County's government, the farm of Mr. Josiah Walton, located 6 miles southeast of town at a site known as Millville, served as the temporary county seat (Schultz, p. 61). In 1835 Morgan County pioneers, Wyan and Hugh Galbraith, donated 36 blocks of land, each 170' square, and plotted the town of Versailles. The following year the county purchased a log house in the northeast corner of the public square for use as the first courthouse (History of Cole, etc., pp. 423 and 412). In 1844 a small two-story building of locally made brick was erected in the center of the public square, replacing the log building as the courthouse. William Burch and Colonel Young of Jefferson City were its builders (Versailles, Missouri, p. 2.).

In 1886-1887 Versailles was hit by two devastating fires and the brick courthouse was destroyed (Versailles, Missouri, p. 3). In 1888 voters approved a \$15,000 appropriation for the construction of a new courthouse in a special election. This, with the \$4,000 insurance payment from the building which burned, provided the \$19,000 required to construct the present building (History of Cole, etc., p. 413). By May 7, 1888 William Schrange, the architect and superintendant for the construction of the new courthouse, submitted the plans and specifications to the county court for its approval (Morgan County Court Records, May 7, 1888). The actual construction was in charge of Hiram Griffith of Sedalia who was aided by local carpenters and bricklayers. The bricks used in the courthouse were manufactured by inmates of the Missouri State Penitentiary in Jefferson City. One brick, beneath the south window of the recorder's office, is inscribed "J.L. Morrison, Warden" bearing witness to this (Versailles Leader-Statesman, 1B).

The Morgan County Courthouse has always been a local center of activity for civic, library, community and women's groups, and it is the only architectural example approaching monumental style in the county. For many years, the offices of the Versailles Leader were located in the east basement and those of the Versailles Statesman, its rival, in the west (History of Cole, etc., p. 413).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. "At 90, She's Still the Center of Attention, Versailles Leader-Statesman, March 1, 1979.
2. History of Cole, Moniteau, Morgan, Benton, Miller, Maries and Osage Counties, Missouri. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1889.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME "Versailles, Mo."

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1, 5 5, 1, 2, 8, 3, 0 4, 2, 5, 3, 4, 7, 0

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All of the area of public square bounded on the North by Newton Street, on the South by Jasper Street, on the East by Fisher Street and on the West by Monroe Street.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

1. Launa Jones - Historical Preservation Officer

September 20, 1979

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Lake of the Ozarks Council of Local Governments

314/346-5616

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

P.O. Box 786

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Camdenton

Missouri 65020

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Director, Department of Natural Resources and
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

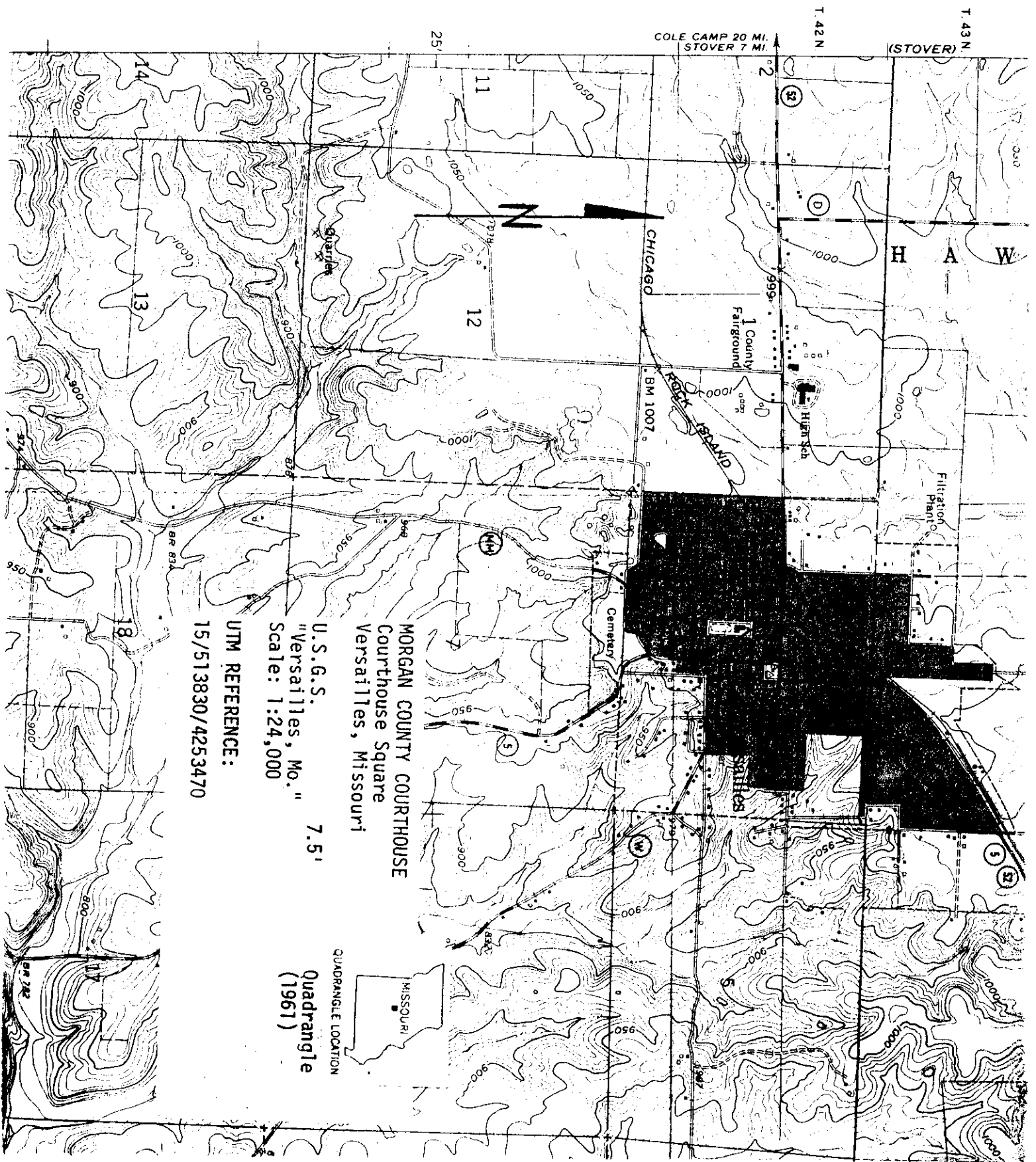
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION



T. 43 N
(STOVER)

T. 42 N

COLE CAMP 20 MI.
STOVER 7 MI.

HAW

CHICAGO

1 County Fairground

High Ash

Filtration Plant

BM 1007

Cemetery

Versailles

MORGAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE
Courthouse Square
Versailles, Missouri

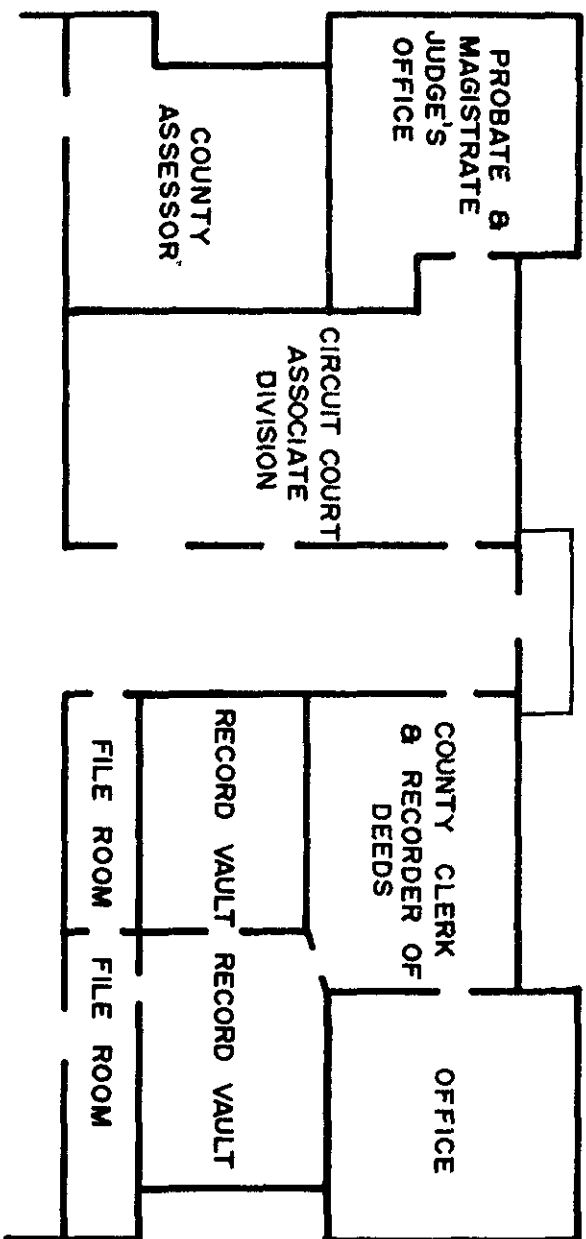
U.S.G.S.
"Versailles, Mo."
Scale: 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCE:
15/513830/4253470

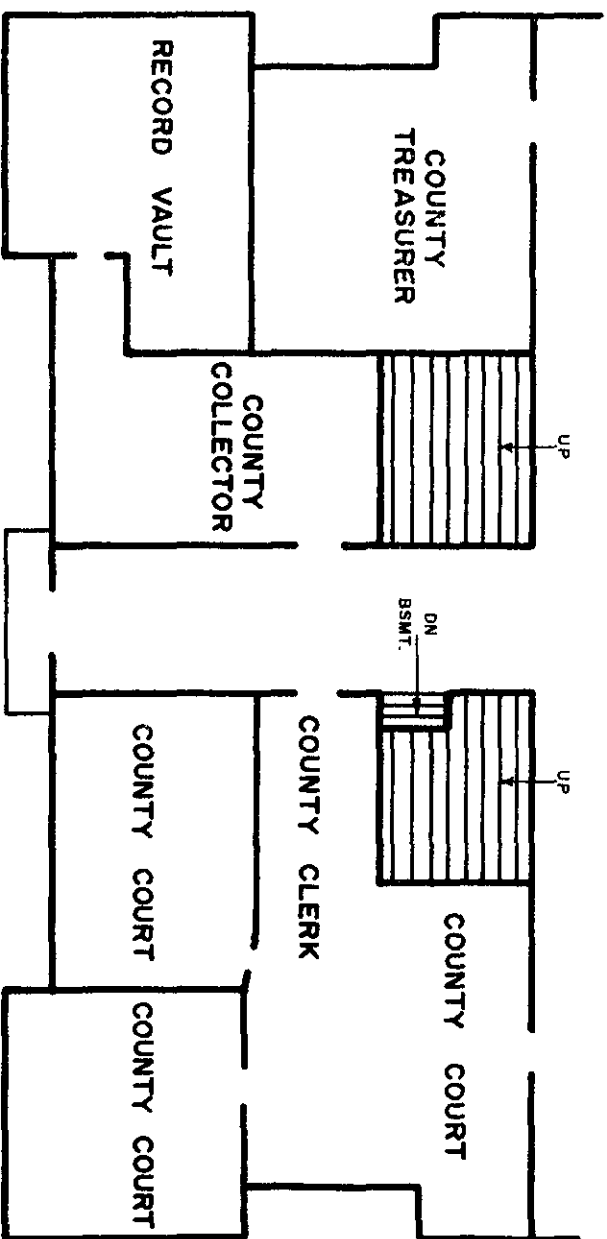
Quadrangle
(1961)



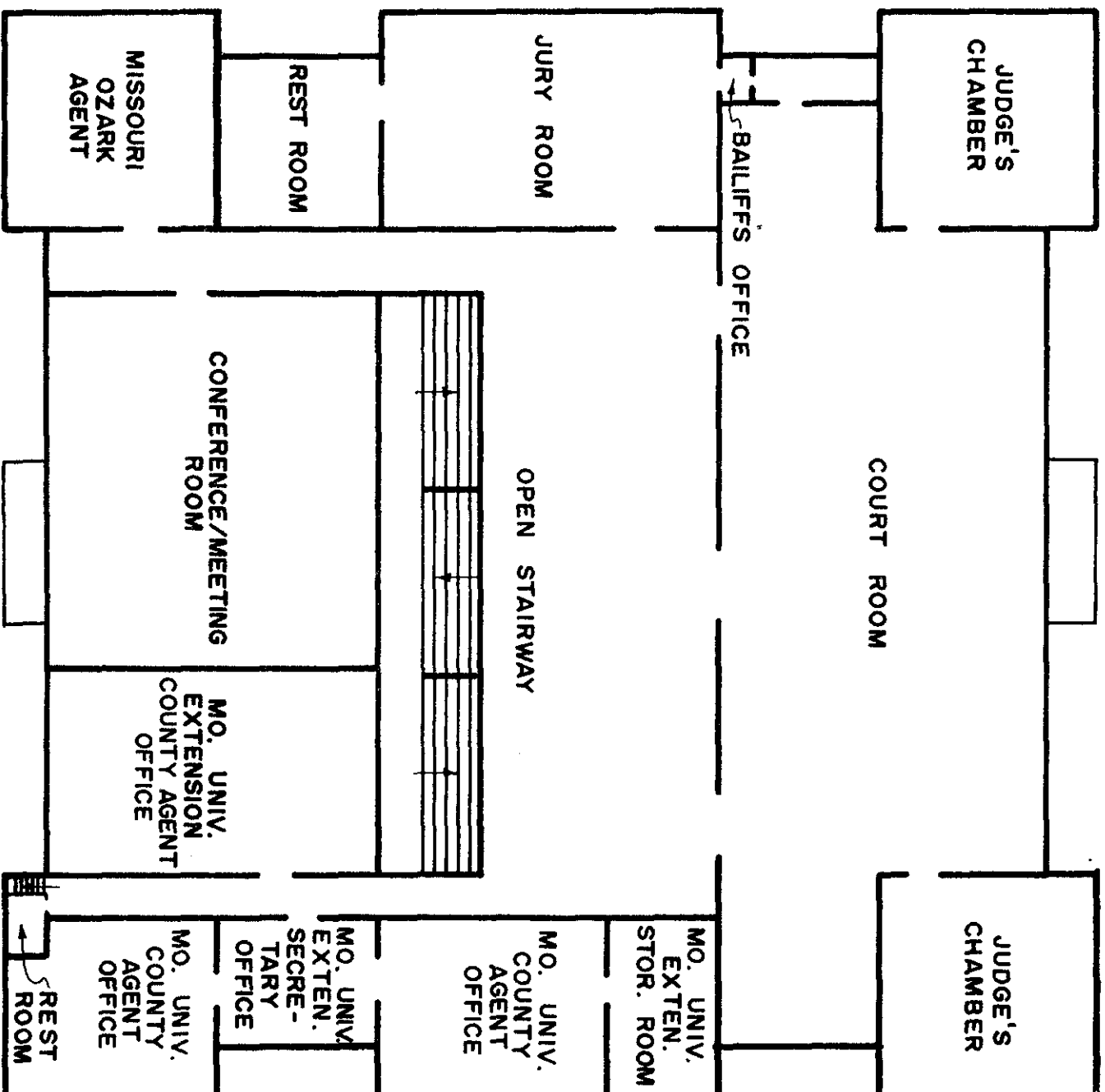
MORGAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE VERSAILLES, MISSOURI



—N—
NOT TO SCALE



SECOND FLOOR PLAN
MORGAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE
VERSAILLES, MISSOURI



NOT TO SCALE



MORGAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE #1 of 7
Courthouse Square, Versailles, Morgan County,
Mo.

Photographer: Tom Chesser
August, 1978

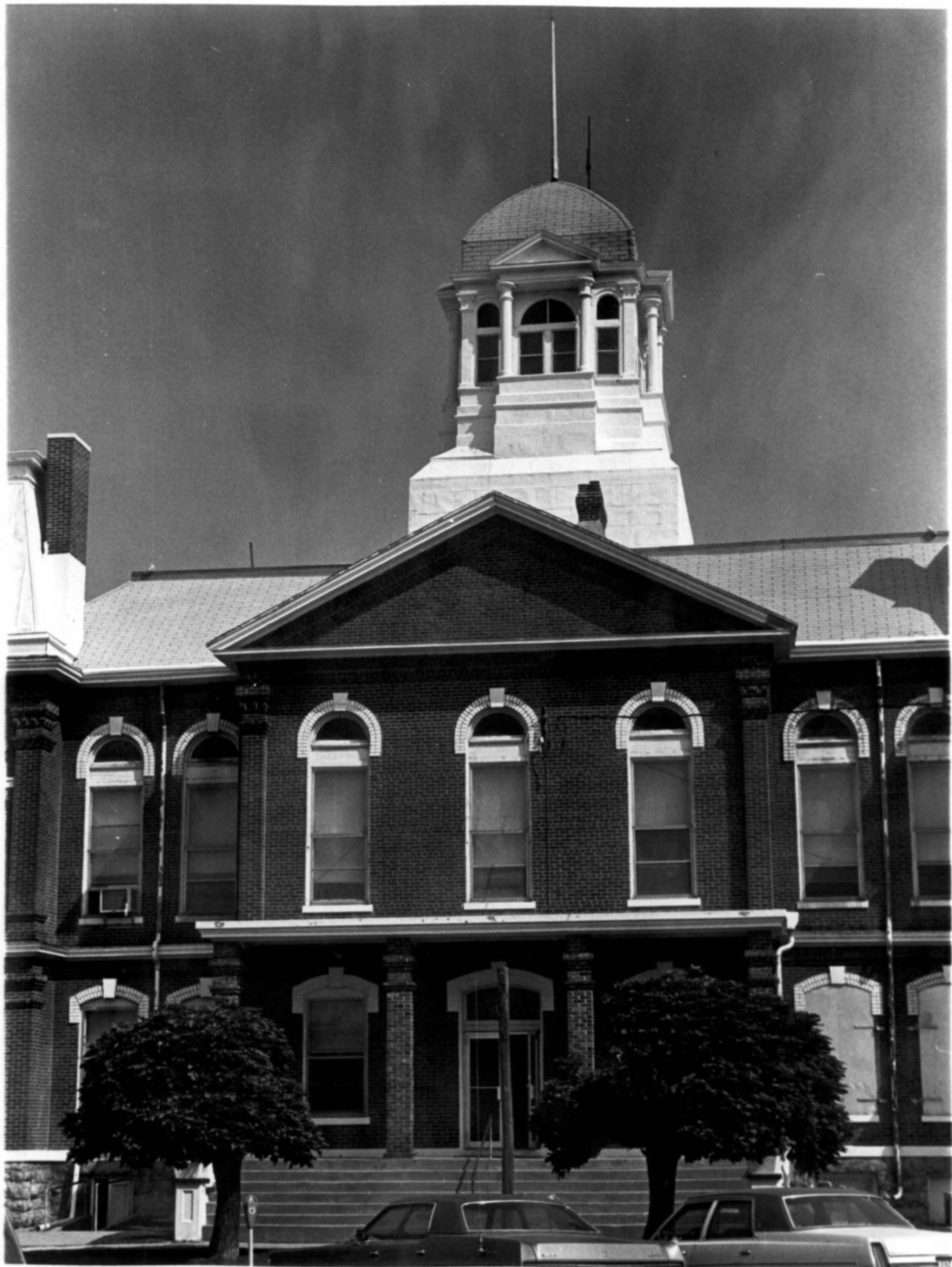
Lake of the Ozarks Council of Local Governments
P.O. Box 786, Camdenton, Mo.
View to northeast.



MORGAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE #2 of 7
Courthouse Square, Versailles, Morgan County,
Mo.

Photographer: Tom Chesser
August, 1978

Lake of the Ozarks Council of Local Governments
P.O. Box 786, Camdenton, Mo.
North facade.



MORGAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE #3 of 7
Courthouse Square, Versailles, Morgan County,
Mo.

Photographer: Tom Chesser
August, 1978

Lake of the Ozarks Council of Local Governments
P.O. Box 786, Camdenton, Mo.
Southwest corner, detail of foundation and
water table.



MORGAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE #4 of 7
Courthouse Square, Versailles, Morgan County,
Mo.

Photographer: Tom Chesser
August, 1978

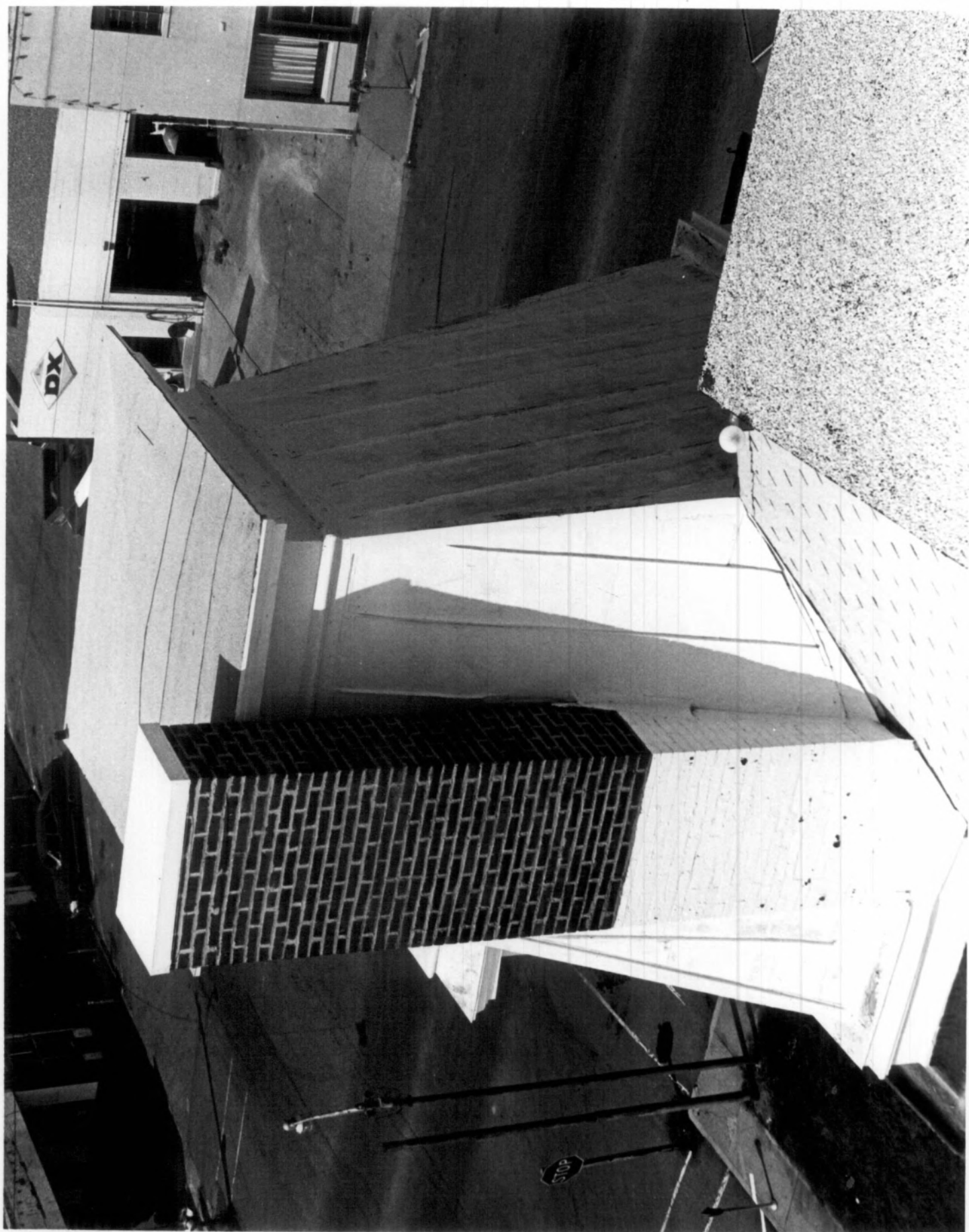
Lake of the Ozarks Council of Local Governments
P.O. Box 786, Camden, Mo.
Southwest corner pavilion, detail of west side.



MORGAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE #5 of 7
Courthouse Square, Versailles, Morgan County,
Mo.

Photographer: Tom Chesser
August, 1978

Lake of the Ozarks Council of Local Governments
P.O. Box 786, Camden, Mo.
Northeast corner pavilion, detail.



MORGAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE #6 of 7
Courthouse Square, Versailles, Morgan County,
Mo.

Photographer: Tom Chesser
August, 1978

Lake of the Ozarks Council of Local Governments
P.O. Box 786, Camdenton, Mo.
Interior, first floor, view toward west.

nty Collector

County C



MORGAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE #7 of 7
Courthouse Square, Versailles, Morgan County,
Mo.
Photographer: Unknown
April 27, 1912
Credit: State Historical Society of Missouri,
Hitt and Lowry Streets, Columbia, Mo.
View to southeast.



PUBLIC AUCTION SALE APRIL 27TH 1912
VERSAILLES-MO.

CORNER DRUG STORE PHOTO

EXTRA
PHOTOS

MORGAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE



