

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Scottish Rite Cathedral
other names/site number Masonic Temple

2. Location

street & number 505 Byers Avenue N/A not for publication
city, town Joplin N/A vicinity
state Missouri code MO county Jasper code 097 zip code 64801

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official G. Tracy Mehan III, Director Date 5/11/90
Department of Natural Resources and State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

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:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/meeting hall

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/meeting hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/

Beaux Arts

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls terra cotta

brick

roof asphalt

other marble

glass

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Scottish Rite Cathedral is a two-story, concrete and terra cotta social hall built in the Beaux Arts style in 1923. On the main (west), north and south elevations the exterior of the building is of glazed, cream colored terra cotta, while the rear, or east, elevation has a brick exterior. The building rests on a raised basement and was constructed in a rectangular plan with the main elevation oriented towards the west. The building is two-stories in height, with the exception of a raised story at the rear which houses the stage and fly space of the auditorium. The only major changes to the building have been the removal of original metal windows and their replacement with structural glass blocks. With this exception, the majority of original interior and exterior detailing remains intact.

The Scottish Rite Cathedral is located at the southeast corner of Byers Street and 5th Street in Joplin, Missouri (1980 pop. 40,100). This area was originally a prominent residential section of the city, but office and commercial development have taken place on the adjacent four blocks between Main Street and Byers Street. The building sits on a large rectangular urban lot and an asphalt parking area is located adjacent to the south facade. The building is freestanding and does not share any party walls with adjacent structures. No other buildings or structures are located on the lot.

The building's main elevation has seven bays with the central three-bay section projecting approximately five feet forward from the main block. This section contains the main entrances which lead to the first floor lobby and stairwell. These three bays are divided by fluted Ionic columns on raised plinths. Attached to the columns are original copper and glass light fixtures. The main entrances consist of original bronze double doors with recessed panels and single light windows with "Union Jack" lights. Above each pair of doors is a rectangular transom with Union Jack lights. Each door has a terra cotta surround and pediment. The pediments have dentil molding, egg and dart molding, and bead and reel molding. In the gable field is circular molding and floral designs.

Above the entrances are stained glass arched windows with console keystones and spandrels with floral motif panels. Over the windows protective glass and muntin bars have been added. In the fascia panel over the windows is the inscription "SCOTTISH RITE CATHEDRAL" and flanking panels with shields,

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garlands, and acanthus leaf decoration. Above the fascia panel is an entablature with modillion blocks, bead and reel, and egg and dart molding. The second story has a stepped roofline and three bays of three stained glass windows. The windows are set within a recessed arched bay with surrounds of corkscrew molding. The windows have terra cotta sills, and dividing each window bay are panels with shields and floral designs. Above the windows is the inscription "AD MAJOREM DEI GLORIEM". At the corners of this facade are shield and floral panels and Greek fret band ornamentation. At the roofline is terra cotta statuary of a double headed eagle of the Rite below which is the inscription "SPESMEA IN DEO EST".

The main block of the building rests on a raised basement and basement windows are rectangular and have structural glass blocks added in 1966. First floor windows on the main facade have terra cotta sills and cornices with acanthus leaf support brackets, horizontal leaf molding, rosette panels, and dentils. Second floor windows have terra cotta sills and plain, undecorated surrounds. All windows on this and other facades have had the original sash windows removed and structural glass blocks added in 1966. Extending on this facade is a continuation of the entablature with modillion blocks and egg and dart molding.

The south facade is divided into ten bays with windows located in all of the bays with the exception of an entrance on the first floor. This entrance is reached by concrete stairs and a concrete handicapped ramp added in 1966. This entrance has a small gable roof entry porch with an asphalt shingle roof. The porch is supported by fluted Ionic columns and pilasters. At the cornice are dentils and egg and dart molding. In the gable field is a triangular band of bead and reel molding. The main entrance has an original glass and frame single light door.

The central three bays on the south facade project slightly from the main block and each bay contains a window divided by fluted Ionic pilasters. Windows in these bays have plain undecorated surrounds and terra cotta sills. First floor windows in the flanking bays have cornices with acanthus leaf molding, horizontal leaf molding, rosette panels, and dentils. Second floor windows have plain undecorated surrounds. At the roofline is a continuation of the entablature with egg and dart molding and modillion blocks.

The north facade is identical to the south facade except it has nine bays and lacks an entrance on the first floor. The exterior surface, window arrangement, and entablature detailing is consistent with the south facade. The north facade also features a basement entrance with a glass and metal door added in 1966

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Social History
Architecture

Period of Significance

1923-1940
1923

Significant Dates

1923
1923

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Greene, Herbert M./Bane, C.W.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Scottish Rite Cathedral is significant under Criterion A and C for its role in the social history of Joplin and for its architectural design. The building was constructed in 1923 as the Masonic Lodge Temple for area Masons and it was one of the most prominent Temples built during these years in Missouri. The Cathedral represents the significant role of the Masons in the social history of Joplin, as one of the most important fraternal orders in the city, and in their active contributions to local charities. Since its construction, the building has continued to be owned and occupied by Joplin Masons. The building is also significant as an excellent, intact representative example of the American Beaux-Arts tradition. Its Beaux-Arts influenced design features engaged columns, pedimented windows, elaborate cornice, and ornate interior detailing. With the exception of window alterations, few changes have occurred to the building.

When Joplin was platted in 1872, a Masonic Lodge was already in existence in the area. The boom in lead mining during these years brought many newcomers to the region and, in 1870, miners opened a Masonic Lodge at the small community of Fidelity.² After only three years, the community of Joplin had assumed prominence in the area and lodge members voted to relocate the lodge to Joplin in 1873. Joplin's first Masonic Lodge location was a rented room at the corner of Second and Main Streets which was shared with the Odd Fellows fraternity. In 1876, members voted to move to another temporary location on Main Street and the following year purchased a large lot for the construction of their own building. The lodge moved into this frame building on Main Street in 1877 and it served as Joplin's Masonic Lodge into the early 20th century.

By 1913, Joplin's lodge membership had grown from a few hundred to a few thousand and included many of Joplin's most prominent citizens. Charles Schifferdecker, a well known businessman, purchased property at the southeast corner of 5th and Byers Street for \$10,000, deeding it to the Scottish Rite with a proviso that they use the property as the site for a temple.⁴ A building committee was formed to plan, finance, construct, and equip the building. After soliciting designs from various architects, the committee hired Texas architect

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- 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 # _____

See continuation sheet

- Primary location of additional data:
- State historic preservation office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

A

1	5
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3	6	5	1	4	5
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4	1	0	5	3	4	5
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for the Scottish Rite Cathedral includes all of lots 7, 8, and 9 in Sergeant's Sub Addition, City of Joplin, Jasper County.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary for the Scottish Rite Cathedral includes all property historically associated with the building.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Philip Thomason/Teresa Brum
organization Thomason and Associates date 11/9/89
street & number P.O. Box 121225 telephone 615-383-0227
city or town Nashville state TN zip code 37212

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which is reached by stairs from the sidewalk level. The raised auditorium section at the roofline has a gable and stepped roofline with rectangular panels of Greek fret band decoration and shield and garland decoration. The rear, or east facade, has an exterior surface of stretcher bond brick with a yellow glaze. Window openings on this facade have terra cotta sills and lintels. A central doorway on the second floor of this facade has metal double doors which lead to a metal fire escape.

The interior of the cathedral has not been significantly altered and displays its original floor plan and arrangement. The basement level contains a kitchen and large dining room. On the first floor is a large lobby, meeting hall, and various rooms used as libraries, music rooms, and offices. The second floor is composed of a small lobby and auditorium with a proscenium stage.

The basement level contains a kitchen which has modern fixtures, counters, and shelves. The dining room has a capacity of 1,000 and has rectangular wood posts, carpeted floors, plaster walls and ceilings with large plaster medallions. The ceiling is coffered with simple cornices. The first floor lobby has marble floors, marble wainscoting, and a coffered plaster ceiling. Ceiling cornice decoration includes triglyphs, guttae, and metopes, large modillion blocks, and small rosettes. An original copper and glass light fixture hangs above the staircase which connects with the main entrances. Flanking the entrance are marble engaged Doric columns. Doors in the lobby area which connect with the meeting rooms and offices are solid wood single panel design with architrave molding, and dentilled cornices. Door surrounds at the main entrances are marble with architrave molding. Over the entrance is a wall painting entitled "The Omnipresent" by W.G. Noll of Kansas City. The painting portrays attitudes of the human soul "face to face with Infinity."

The Social Room is the largest on the first floor and has added carpeting over the floors, rectangular wood support posts and a wood beam coffered plaster ceiling. The walls are plaster with grained wood wainscoting. Doors leading to this room are both solid wood single panel design and multi-panel single and double wood design. The fireplace in the room has a textured brick surface, tile hearth, and marble lintel. Above the lintel is an internally lit stained glass tri-part window set within a segmental arch. The stained glass depicts a mounted Sir Galahad, in quest for the Holy Grail. Over the arch is an inset circular electric clock.

The Sovereign Room has a carpeted floor, wood paneled oak wainscoting, a coffered plaster and oak beam ceiling, and original acorn shaped glass and metal light fixtures. Door surrounds in this room are of oak with simple cornices. The

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Library has original oak floors, plaster walls, a plaster and oak beam coffered ceiling, and original acorn shaped light fixtures. A primary feature of this room are built-in glass and oak bookcases with multi-light double doors. The Music Room has a tile floor, plaster and lattice panel walls, and a plaster ceiling. Both the walls and ceiling have painted murals of flowers and birds. The fireplace has a brick surround, tile hearth, and stone lintel. The coffered ceiling has painted oak beams.

The Fellowship Library has oak floors, plaster walls, and a plaster ceiling. The walls have wood wainscoting and rectangular panels of plaster molding in floral designs. The ceiling has an ornate cornice with egg and dart molding, dentils, and bead and reel molding. Plaster molding at the ceiling includes large medallions, bound papyrus stalk ornamentation, and bead and reel molding. Light fixtures of metal and glass are original. Other smaller rooms are located on the first floor and have carpeted wood floors, plaster walls and ceilings, and minimal detailing.

Leading from the first floor to the second floor is a staircase with marble stairs and an original wood and metal railing with brass newel posts caps. Illuminating the stairwell are arched stained glass windows with bound papyrus stalk, floral and cartouche designs. The staircase leads to the second floor lobby which has marble floors and a railing of wood and brass. The lobby has marble wainscoting, plaster walls, and a barrel vault plaster ceiling with painted murals in garland and urn and running ornament designs. The lobby has original metal and glass light fixtures. Doors leading from the lobby into the auditorium are original solid wood, single panel design with architrave molding. Above the doors is a decorative cornice which extends along all four walls and has wave molding, bead and reel molding, and other raised plaster relief designs.

The Auditorium dominates most of the second floor measuring 58' by 51'. The room is decorated in the French Renaissance style with wood floors and added carpeting, plaster walls, and a plaster ceiling. The auditorium has a balcony section and proscenium stage. The original chairs were removed and replaced ca. 1966 with upholstered chairs. The auditorium has four arched bays along the walls with each bay displaying rectangular panels, open lattice panels, and arching with plaster moldings of egg and dart and leaf and dart. In each arch is a prominent console keystone. Dividing each bay are fluted Ionic pilasters of concrete and plaster. Light fixtures are recessed within rosettes. Doors leading to the auditorium are solid wood single panel design. Door surrounds have beaded wood and plaster moldings, leaf and dart molding, and a cornice with dentils, bead and reel, and egg and dart molding.

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At the auditorium ceiling are four large rectangular stained glass skylights with glass designs of bound papyrus stalks. Also at the ceiling are panels with large plaster modillion blocks and leaf and dart molding. The proscenium arch is flanked by fluted Ionic pilasters which are decorated with plaster moldings of fruits, flowers, and pinecones. Fascia panels above the arch have garland and swag designs and in the keystone is a double headed eagle.

Adjacent to the auditorium is a large meeting room which has wainscoting of grained wood and a chairrail. At the east wall is a small raised platform with a decorative surround of fluted Corinthian columns and a cornice with scrolled brackets, egg and dart molding, and dentils. At the ceiling is a plaster cornice with bead and reel, leaf and dart, and egg and dart molding as well as dentils and scrolled brackets. Several small rooms on this floor contain original plumbing fixtures and have minimal decorative detailing.

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Scottish Rite Cathedral, Joplin, Missouri

(and Mason) Herbert M. Greene and local contractor (and Mason) C.W. Bane to complete the building. Construction of the temple was postponed because of the onset of World War I. After the war in 1919, work commenced on the building with the cornerstone laid on March 22, 1920.

Greene's design of the building was influenced by the Beaux-Arts style in the use of classical orders and ornamentation. The building was constructed with a raised basement, engaged Ionic columns on the main facade, and stained glass windows. The building's exterior was sheathed in a cream colored glazed terra cotta manufactured in Los Angeles. The exterior decoration was more than matched by the elaborate interior detailing and fixtures. On the first floor a marble stairway and lobby led to the executive chambers and offices, meeting rooms, library, music room, and game room. A large central social room measuring sixty feet square was placed on the first floor which connected with other rooms through a series of doorways. The second story was dominated by an auditorium which was designed and decorated in the French Renaissance period. The interior on both floors featured oak and walnut woodwork, stained glass, plaster pilasters and moldings, and decorative paintings. The final cost of the building was \$350,000 which made it one of the most costly ever constructed in Joplin.

Formal dedication of the Scottish Rite Cathedral was held on February 12, 1923. The Joplin Globe called the building "the most elaborate and expensive building in the city devoted to non-commercial interests," and reported "with the exception of the Holy Temple in Washington D.C....the cathedral...probably is the finest in America from the standpoint of art and commerce." The impressive ceremonies at the opening included the participation of Masons throughout the Southwest, and a grand procession escorted by three marching bands.

Since its construction the building has continued to be utilized by the local Masons. Membership in the lodge has included not only Joplin residents but also residents from nearby communities such as Carthage and Sarcoxie. The Masons have been a major fraternal lodge of the city and have been active in the support of charities throughout its history. The building is opened once a year to the general public for an annual Easter program performed in the auditorium by the Masons. The only major change to the interior and exterior of the Scottish Rite Cathedral has been the removal of the original windows and the insertion of structural glass blocks into the openings. This alteration maintains the translucent effect of the window openings and does not detract significantly from the building's overall design and appearance.

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Fraternal organizations have been important throughout Joplin's history for their contributions to the community. In addition to the Scottish Rite Cathedral another significant building is the original Elks Club Building located on W. 4th Street. This Colonial Revival design building was recognized for its architectural and historical significance with its listing on the National Register in 1985. The Scottish Rite Cathedral remains the primary lodge for Joplin Masons and is part of a long tradition of Masonic activity in the city. It is the most significant social building constructed during the 1920s in the community and its exterior Beaux-Arts influenced design is the best remaining example of this style in Joplin.

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Scottish Rite Cathedral, Joplin, Missouri

Major Bibliographical Sources

Joplin Globe, 11 February 1923.

Joplin, Missouri. "Architectural/Historical Inventory." Missouri Office of Historic Preservation, 1987.

Joplin News Herald, 25 January 1942

Notes

1. Joplin, Missouri. "Architectural/Historical Inventory." Missouri Office of Historic Preservation, 1987.

2. Joplin News Herald, 25 January 1942, p. 5.

3. Joplin Globe, 11 February 1923, p. 3b.

4. Joplin Globe, 11 February 1923, p. 1b.

5. Ibid

6. Ibid

7. Ibid

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Photograph Continuation Sheet, Scottish Rite Cathedral

Scottish Rite Cathedral
505 Byers Avenue
Joplin, Jasper County, Missouri
Photo by: Thomason and Associates
Date: June, 1989
Neg: City Planning Office, Joplin, Missouri
Photo # 1 of 8
View: Byers Avenue facade, facing northeast.

Photo # 2 of 8
View: Byers Avenue facade and south facade, facing northeast.

Photo # 3 of 8
View: Byers Avenue facade and north facade, facing southeast.

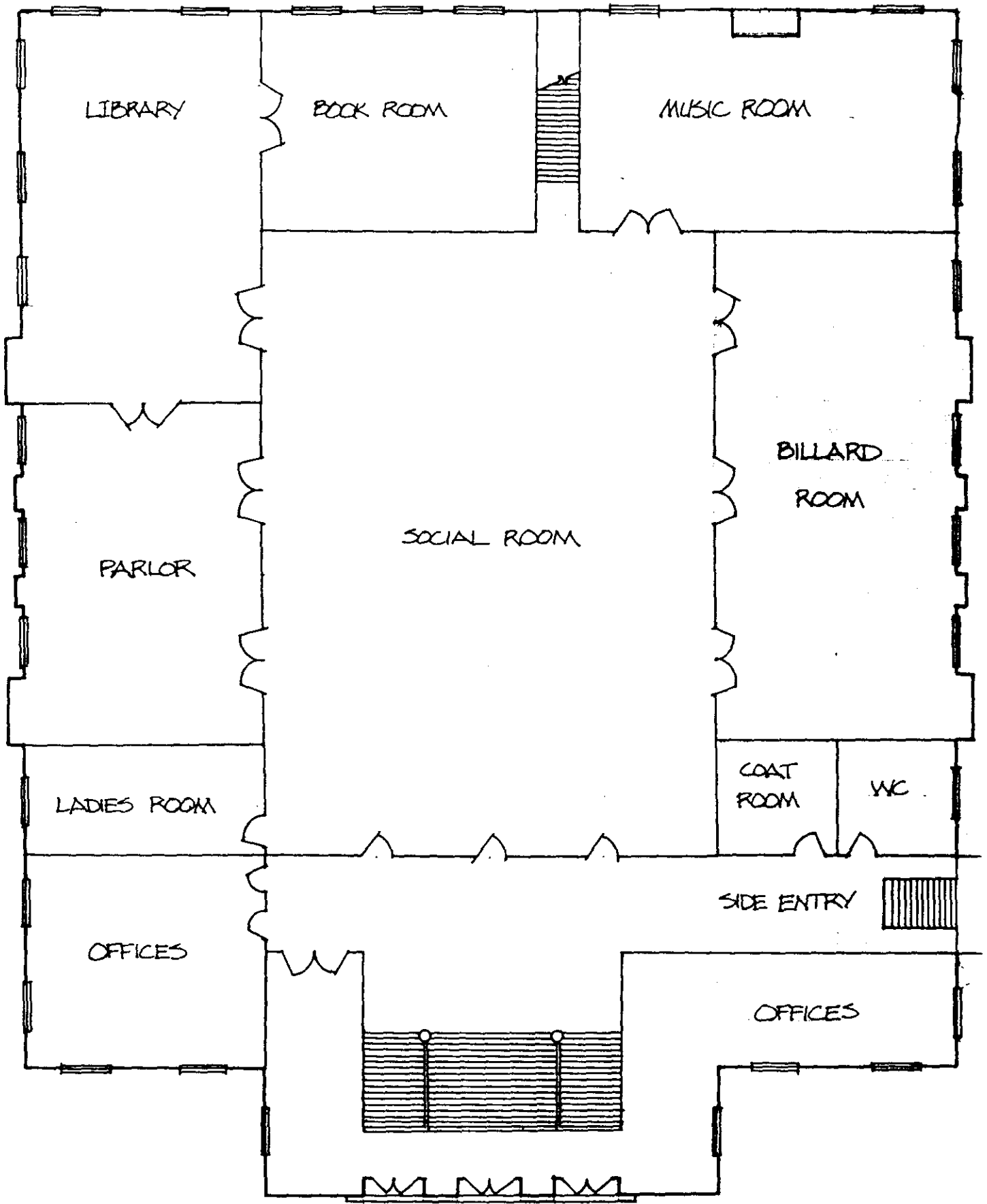
Photo # 4 of 8
View: East or rear facade, facing west.

Photo # 5 of 8
View: Interior view of first floor lobby.

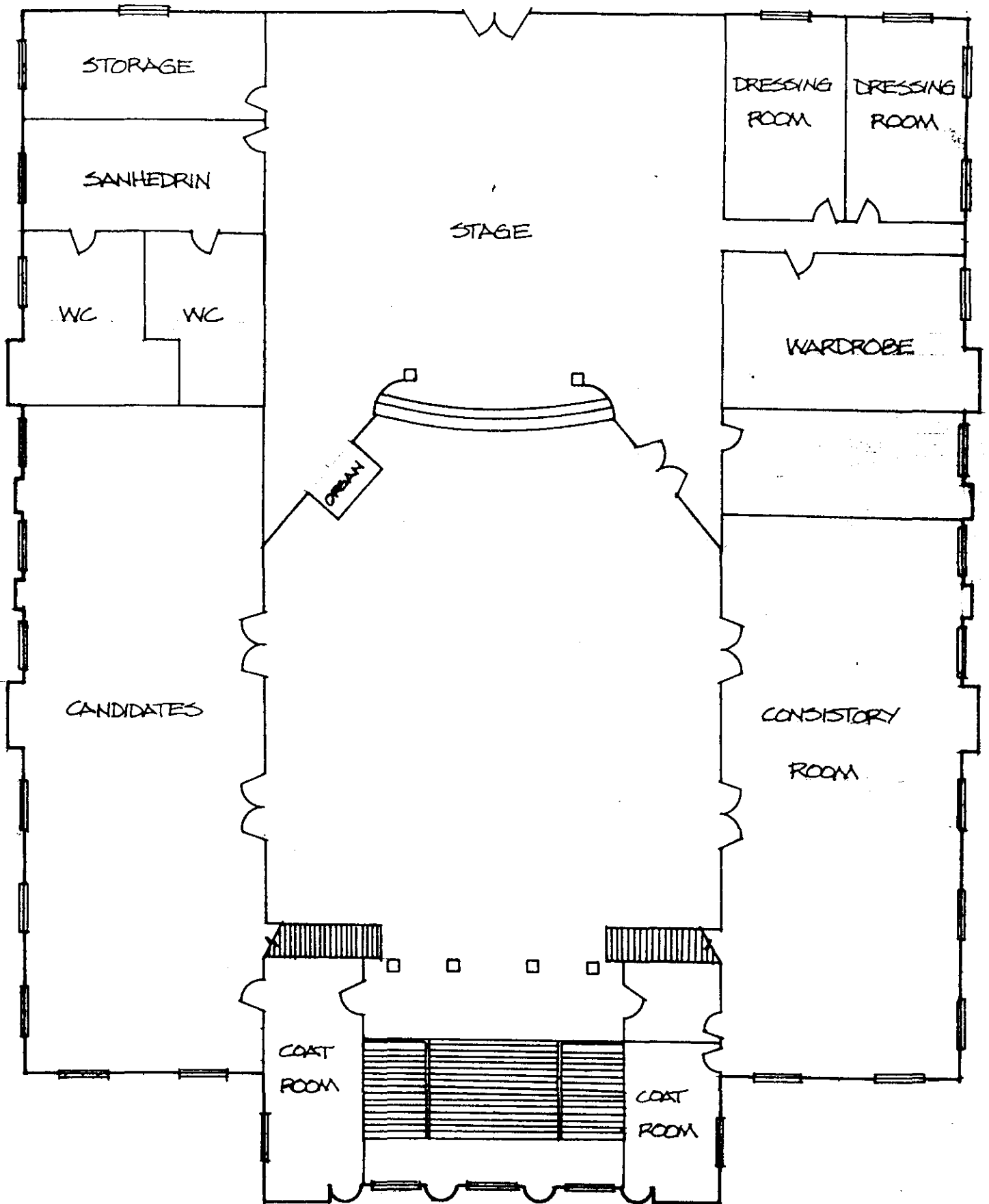
Photo # 6 of 8
View: Interior view of Social Room on first floor.

Photo # 7 of 8
View: Interior view of Library on first floor.

Photo # 8 of 8
View: Interior view of auditorium on second floor.

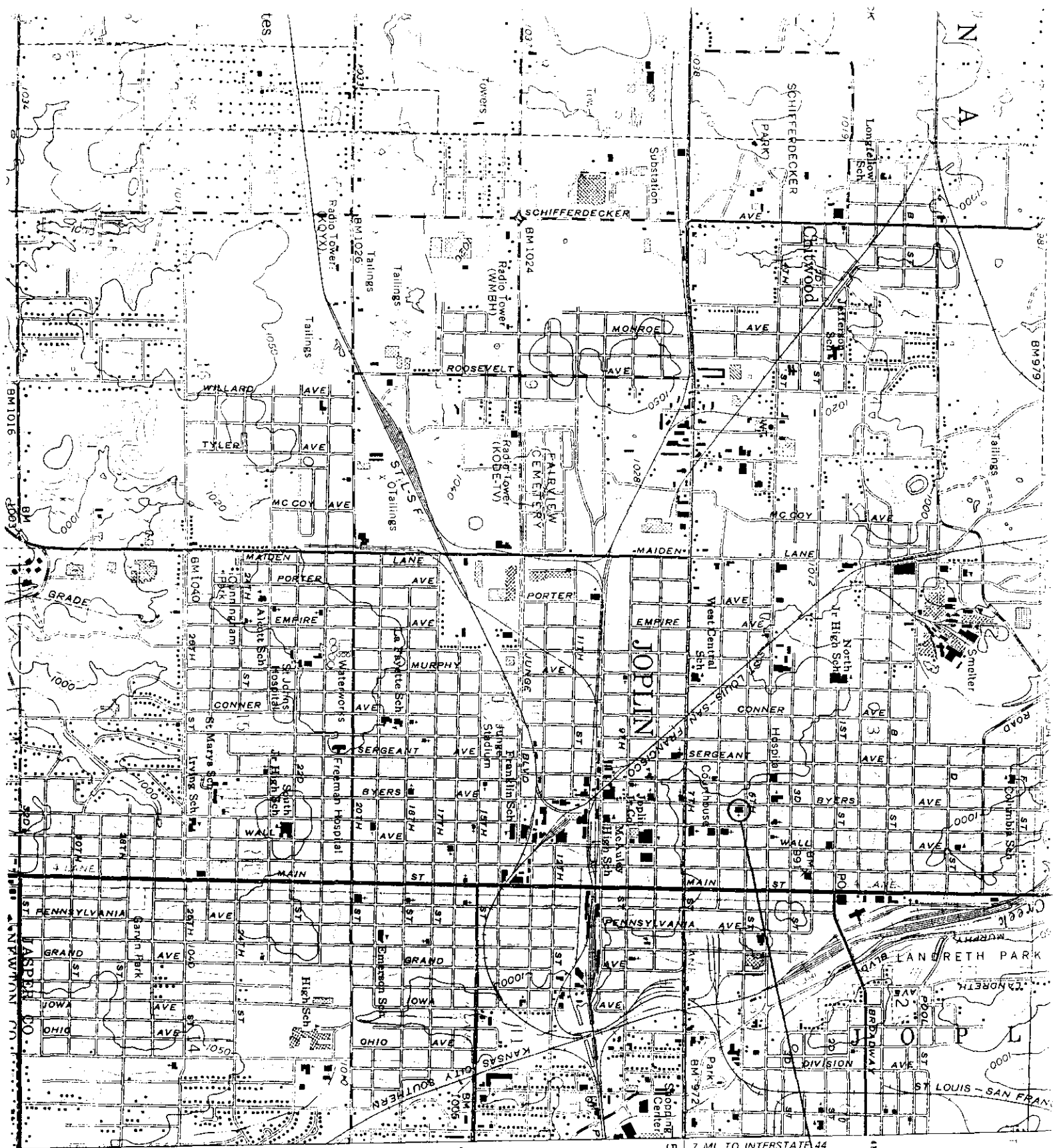


SCOTTISH RITE CATHEDRAL
FIRST FLOOR



SCOTTISH RITE CATHEDRAL

SECOND FLOOR



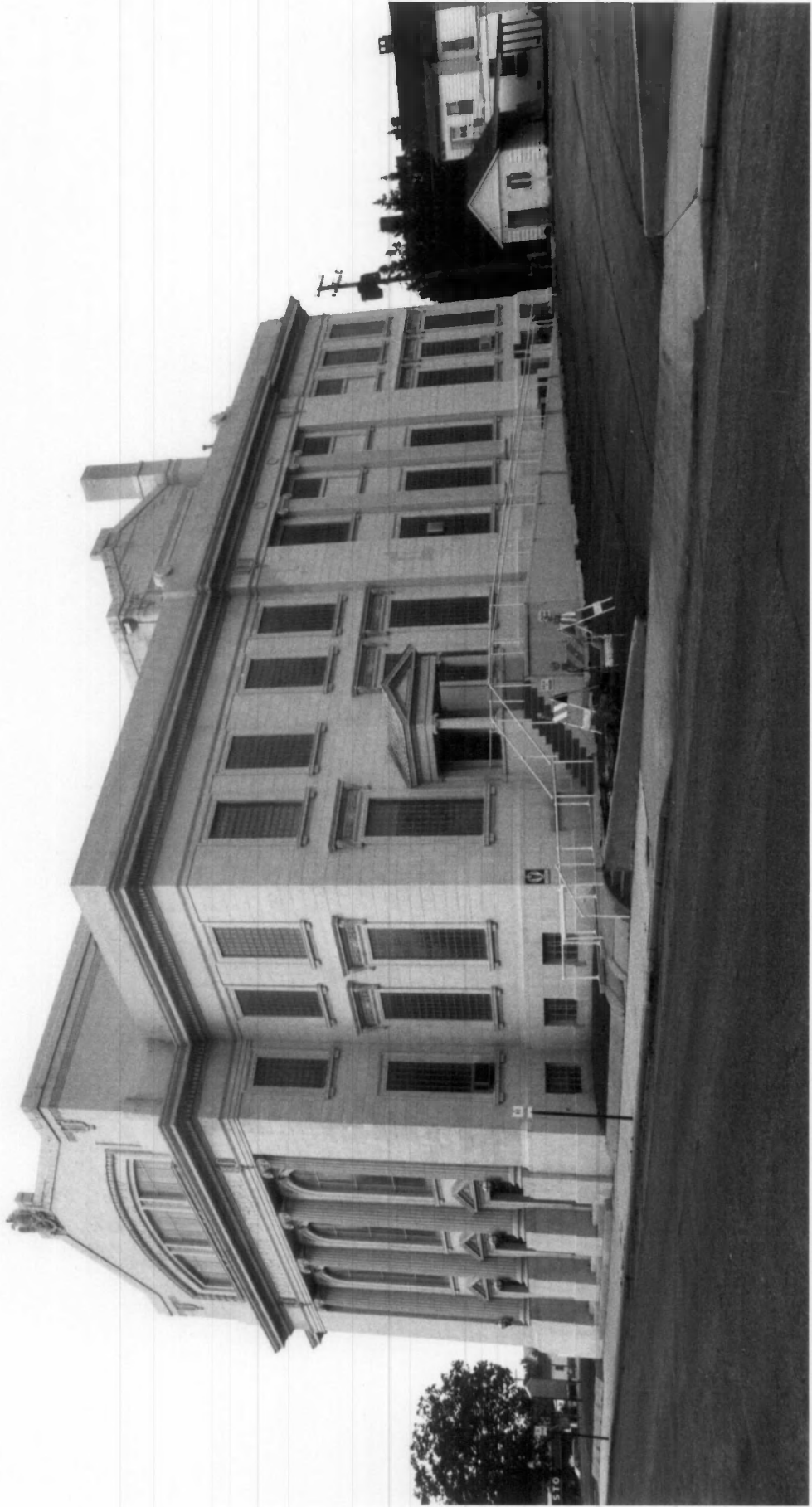
102 (JOPLIN EAST) 7158 III SW 103 104 106 7 MI. TO INTERSTATE 44



Scottish Rite Cathedral
 505 Byers Avenue
 Joplin, Jasper County
 15/365145 / 4105345



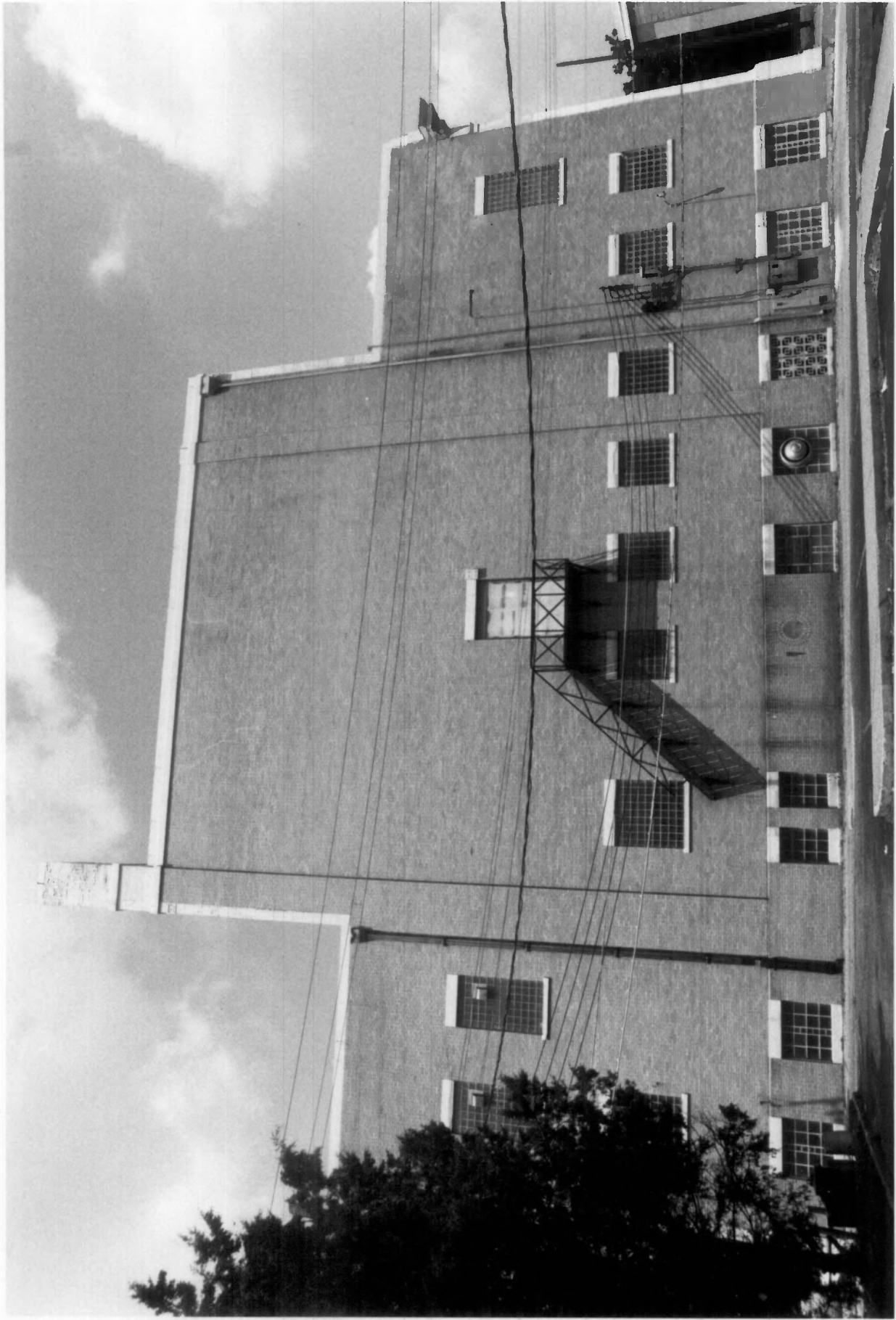
Scottish Rite Cathedral
Photo # 2 of 8



Scottish Rite Cathedral
Photo # 2068



Scottish Rite Cathedral
Photo # 3 of 8



Scottish Rite Cathedral
Photo # 4 of 8

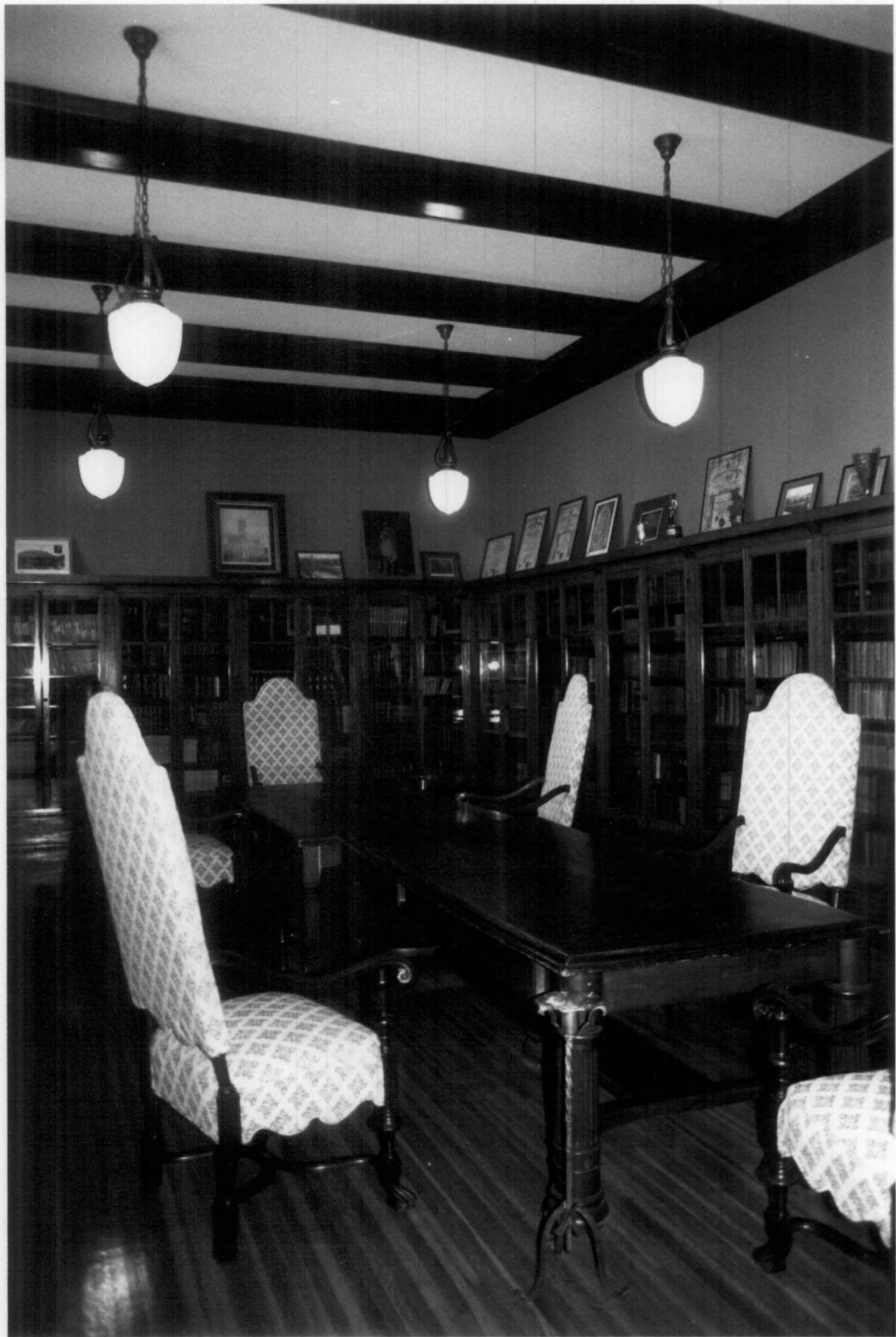


Scottish Rite Cathedral
Photo # 5 of 8



Scottish Rite Cathedral
Photo # 6068

Spotlight Rite Cathedral
Photo # 7 of 8





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Photo # 8 of 8