

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	

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

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Sedalia Public Library

AND/OR COMMON

Sedalia Public Library

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

311 West Third Street

CITY, TOWN

Sedalia

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

#4 - Hon. Ike Skelton

STATE

Missouri

CODE

29

COUNTY

Pettis

CODE

159

**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"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDEN
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Sedalia Public Library

STREET & NUMBER

311 West Third Street

CITY, TOWN

Sedalia

VICINITY OF

STATE

Missouri 65301

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder of Deeds, Pettis County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Ohio Street

CITY, TOWN

Sedalia

STATE

Missouri 65301

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

1. A Tour of Historical Sites

DATE

1977

FEDERAL STATE  COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Pettis County Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Sedalia

STATE

Missouri 65301

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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SEDALIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

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2. Missouri State Historical Survey  
1979  
Office of Historic Preservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City

state

Missouri 65102

ITEM NUMBER 11 PAGE 1

2. Donald G. Morton, Director  
Sedalia Public Library  
311 West Third Street  
Sedalia

November 8, 1978  
816/826-1314

Missouri 65301

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Sedalia Public Library, located amid spacious lawns on a wooded site in downtown Sedalia, Missouri, is a two story Greek Revival Building constructed on a cruciform plan measuring 100' along its north and south sides. Along the east and west axes it measures 36' through each wing and 75' through the rear section and portico (see plan). This plan conforms to one of the several ideal schemes which later came to be recommended for Carnegie Libraries (Bobinski, p. 59). The library is constructed of brick bearing walls faced with cream-colored terra cotta over a combination of wood and steel framing on a foundation of concrete with a damp course of two-ply Ruberoid placed 6" above the basement floor. Exterior walls are faced with grey Carthage limestone from 2" below grade to the water table to give the appearance of a stone foundation. The roofs of the central portico and two wings were originally faced with shingle tile but are now covered with a combination of composition shingles and built-up sections. That on the one-story portion to the rear is covered with five plies of tar and gravel (Shepley, et.al.).

Notable design features of the library include its seven-bayed primary facade (ABACABA rhythm) which is punctuated by an open tetrastyle Ionic portico in its central bay. The columns here are constructed of limestone drums and each terra cotta capital is composed of 4 distinct volutes rather than 2 balusters with volute ends. The remaining entablature, pediment, cornices, acroteria, ornamental door surround conches with coquillage embellishment and other decorative features are of cream-colored terra cotta.

The remaining bays on the primary and secondary facades of the library are set off by hybrid surface applied pilasters of vigorous form supporting a fasciated architrave edged with a series of anthemion acroteria. Decorative moldings include water leaf and enriched water leaf which cap the architrave and cornice dentils and the egg and dart on the echini of the capitals and pilasters and edging the coffered ceiling of the portico.

Inside, the basement is the location of the Children's Department, two adult stacks, newspaper and periodical storage, staff lounge, boiler room and restroom. The first floor lobby features floor of Italian white and pink Tennessee marbles with thresholds of American black marble. The main desk and all woodwork, including the columns, conventional Ionic capitals and entablature are of solid stained oak. The enlarged oculus above the lobby gives a view through the second floor to the galvanized iron and glass skylight above. East and west of the lobby, the Reference and Reading and the Magazine Rooms feature ornate mantels faced with intricately designed terra cotta. A closed string oak stairway with turned balusters capped with Ionic capitals similar to those on the Ionic portico, leads to the second floor. Here the lobby is flanked by four pairs of Tuscan columns, and an Ionic balustrade surrounds the central oculus. Above, the architrave is capped with a running spiral which is echoed on the edges of the skylight and elsewhere. All wooden floor surfaces of the first and second stories are of pine, and the library is capped with a partial, unfinished attic.

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(11/78)

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ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

Major alterations to the Library include the installation of an independent heating plant (ca. 1920), the replacement of the tile roof with composition shingles (1933) and the removal and resetting of a section of wall in the east wing (1933). In addition, in 1955 a \$60,000 bond issue was passed to repair cracks in the front wall, to support the foundation under the west wing, to raise one of the three ton columns of the portico which had settled 6" below grade and to complete minor interior repairs. In the 1960's air conditioning was installed, and in 1970-1971 major, but primarily cosmetic, remodeling was carried out inside. In 1974 a burglar alarm system was installed and the foundations further repaired. In July 1976 the exterior of the Library was waterproofed with two applications of an epoxy coating. All joints were cut and filled prior to these applications. At the same time, the foundations and the columns were waterproofed with a silicone solution. In July, 1978 the shingle roofing on the south wing was replaced with the built-up variety.

This building has been in continuous use as a public library since its construction. There are no plans to alter this situation or any part of the building in the foreseeable future.

# 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1900

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge  
Maurau, Russell and Garden

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Sedalia Public Library is significant as the first public library in the State of Missouri to receive a Carnegie grant for construction of a library building (Bobinski, Appendix). In addition, the building subsequently constructed is an outstanding example in this state of the Greek Revival Style and was designed by the noted architectural firm of Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge.

After sporadic attempts at founding subscription libraries and reading rooms, a group of civic-minded individuals, led by Miss Smith and Mrs. Cotton, daughters of the founder of Sedalia, Gen. George R. Smith, conceived the idea of a free public library. The issue was brought before the voters in 1894, but was defeated. In 1895, a second attempt was made and passed this time, making the Sedalia library the fifth oldest public library in Missouri. From 1895-1901 the library was located in the Court House on Ohio Street, where it shared quarters in the basement with the Sedalia Natural History Society. By 1899, the Society complained of being interfered with in their operation. The County Court also became dissatisfied, and asked the library to move. At this point, D.H. Smith (owner of D.H. Smith Hardware Co., and Director of the Third National Bank) undertook to contact Andrew Carnegie, with whom he had had some business contact. Carnegie agreed to donate \$50,000 for the construction of the building, on the conditions that Sedalia would provide a suitable site and an annual maintenance of 8 per cent, or \$4,000. Sedalia was especially favored because Carnegie usually required an annual maintenance equal to 10 percent of the original grant, which in itself was fairly large for a city the size of Sedalia. A special election was held in February, 1900, to increase the tax levy from one-half mill to one mill, in order to meet the annual maintenance requirement. This levy passed by an overwhelming majority.

The present site was selected from a list of nine, on property owned by Emil and George Bichsel and Frederick W. Phipps. Property owners in the neighborhood contributed \$2,500 of the \$8,000 purchase price, and on 4 April 1900 the deed was presented to the Library Board. The noted architectural firm of Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge of Boston, successors to the office of H.H. Richardson, was employed, along with their associate, John Lawrence Maurau of St. Louis. The plans were drawn up in consultation with F.M. Cruden, noted librarian of St. Louis Public Library. On June 14, 1900, the plans were adopted by the Library Board. At the suggestion of Carnegie, the plans were submitted to E.H. Anderson, Librarian at the Carnegie Library in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He suggested free

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(11/78)

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SEDALIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

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access to the book stacks, but his suggestion was not adopted for several years. On August 23, 1900 the construction contract for the building was awarded to a local firm, Hurley and Moyer, for \$42,338. By cutting expenses to the minimum, the building was erected for the original contract price and dedicated on July 30, 1901. Shortly after its dedication the Sedalia Public Library was noted as an example of the embodiment of the ideals of dignity and refinement as symbolized by the Carnegie Library movement (Morton, pp. 3-10; D.H. Smith, p. 7; McGruder, 233; Koch, pp. 180-181).

Through the years the library has served as a center for community cultural activities and as a meeting place for groups such as the local Garden Club, D.A.R., Sorosis, Historical Society and the Missouri Library Association.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Bobinski, George S. Carnegie Libraries: Their History and Impact on American Public Library Development. Chicago: American Library Association, 1969.
2. Koch, Theodore Wesley. A Book of Carnegie Libraries. New York: H.W. Wilson Co., 1917.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME "Sedalia, East"

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 479945 4284220

B         

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the intersection of the South line of Third Street with the East line of Moniteau Avenue, both being streets in the City of Sedalia, thence South along the East line of said Moniteau Avenue One hundred and twenty-two feet and six inches

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

1. Noelle Soren, Architectural Historian

September 20, 1979

ORGANIZATION

Department of Natural Resources

DATE

314/751-4096

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 176

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Jefferson City

STATE

Missouri 65102

## 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 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

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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SEDALIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

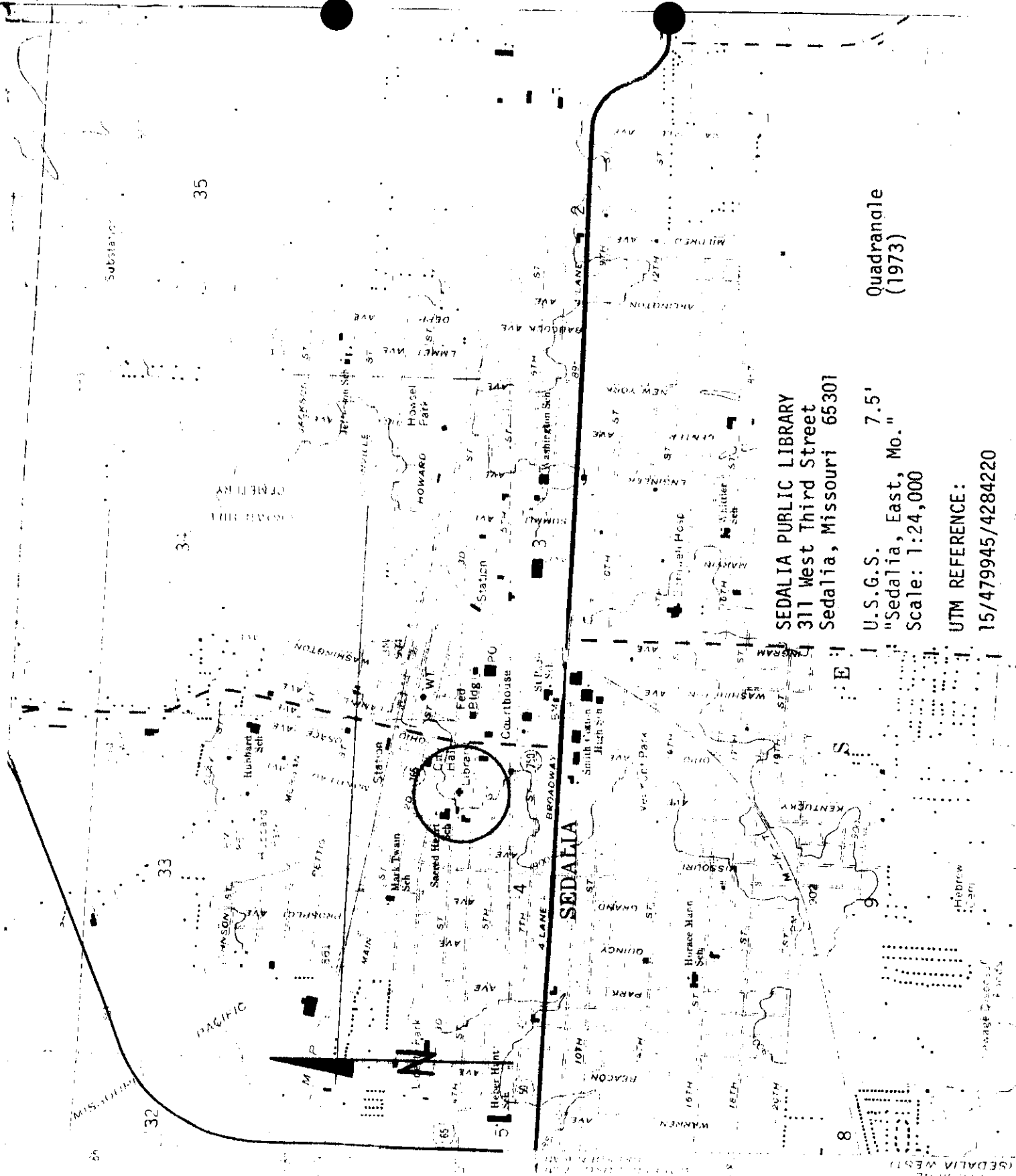
ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

3. McGruder, Mark A. History of Pettis County, Missouri. Topeka: Historical Publishing Co., 1919.
4. Morton, Donald G. "Brief History of the Sedalia Public Library". (Unpublished Mss., Sedalia, Mo., 1972.)
5. Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge; Mauran, Russell and Garden. Specifications for the Carnegie Library Building, 1900.
6. Smith, D.H. "The Old Library". (Speech recorded in "Record of Proceedings at the Dedication of the Carnegie Library Building: Sedalia, July 30, 1901).

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

from the point of beginning, then East parallel with the South line of said Third Street Two hundred and seventy eight feet and five inches to the West line of Kentucky Street, a street in said City, to a point One hundred and twenty-two feet and six inches South of the intersection of the West line of Kentucky Street and the South line of Third Street, thence North to the said last named point of intersection thence West along the South line of Third Street Two hundred and seventy eight feet and five inches to the point of beginning (north part of Block 3 of Sarah E. Smith's and Martha E. Martin's First Addition to the City of Sedalia.





SEDALIA PUBLIC LIBRARY  
 311 West Third Street  
 Sedalia, Missouri 65301

U.S.G.S. 7.5'  
 "Sedalia, East, Mo."  
 Scale: 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCE:  
 15/479945/4284220

Quadrangle  
 (1973)

Substation

35

34

33

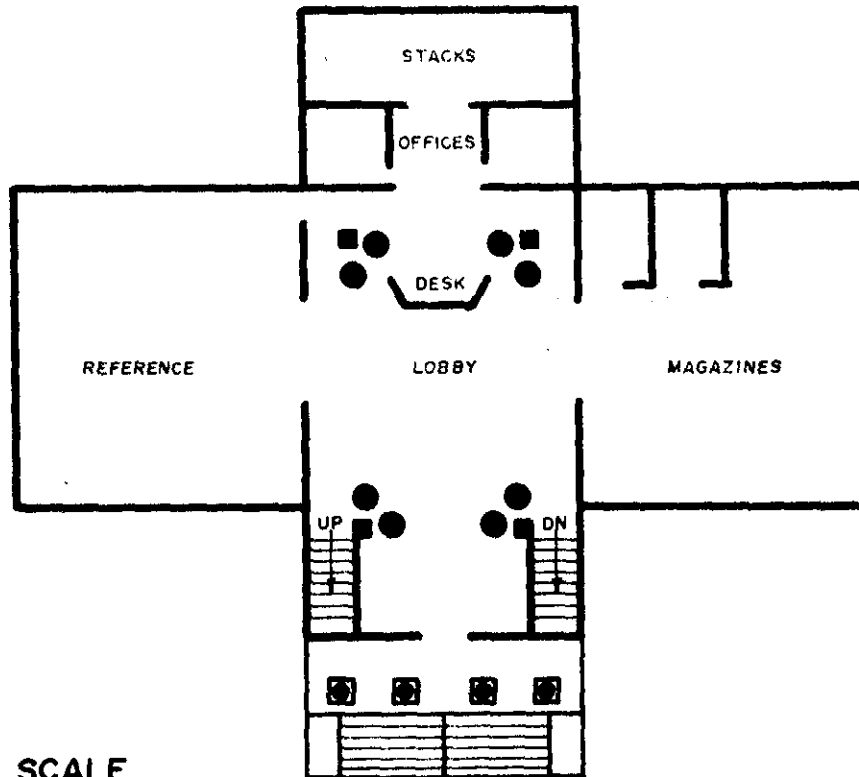
32

8

(SEDALIA WEST)

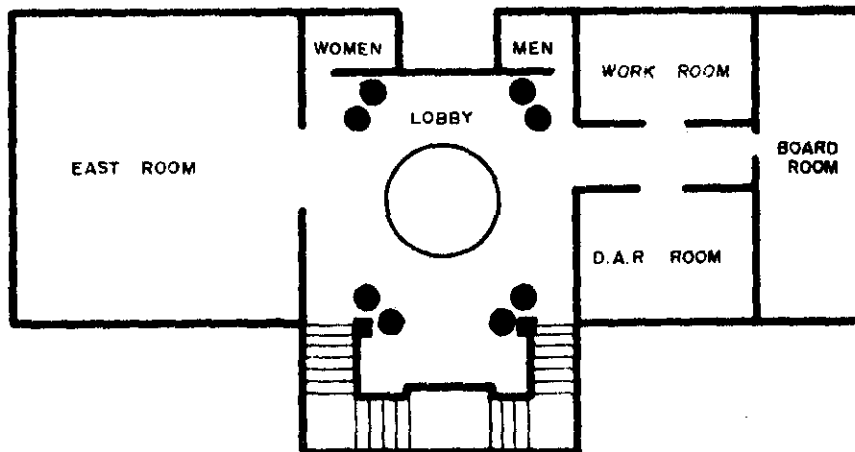
SEDALIA PUBLIC LIBRARY  
SEDALIA, MISSOURI

FIRST FLOOR



NOT TO SCALE

SECOND FLOOR



## SEDALIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

COUNTY: Pettis

LOCATION: 311 West Third St.  
Sedalia

OWNER: Sedalia Public Library  
ADDRESS: 311 West Third St.  
Sedalia 65301

DATE APPROVED BY A.C.: November 9, 1979

DATE SENT TO D.C.: November 26, 1979

DATE OF REC. IN D.C.: December 4, 1979

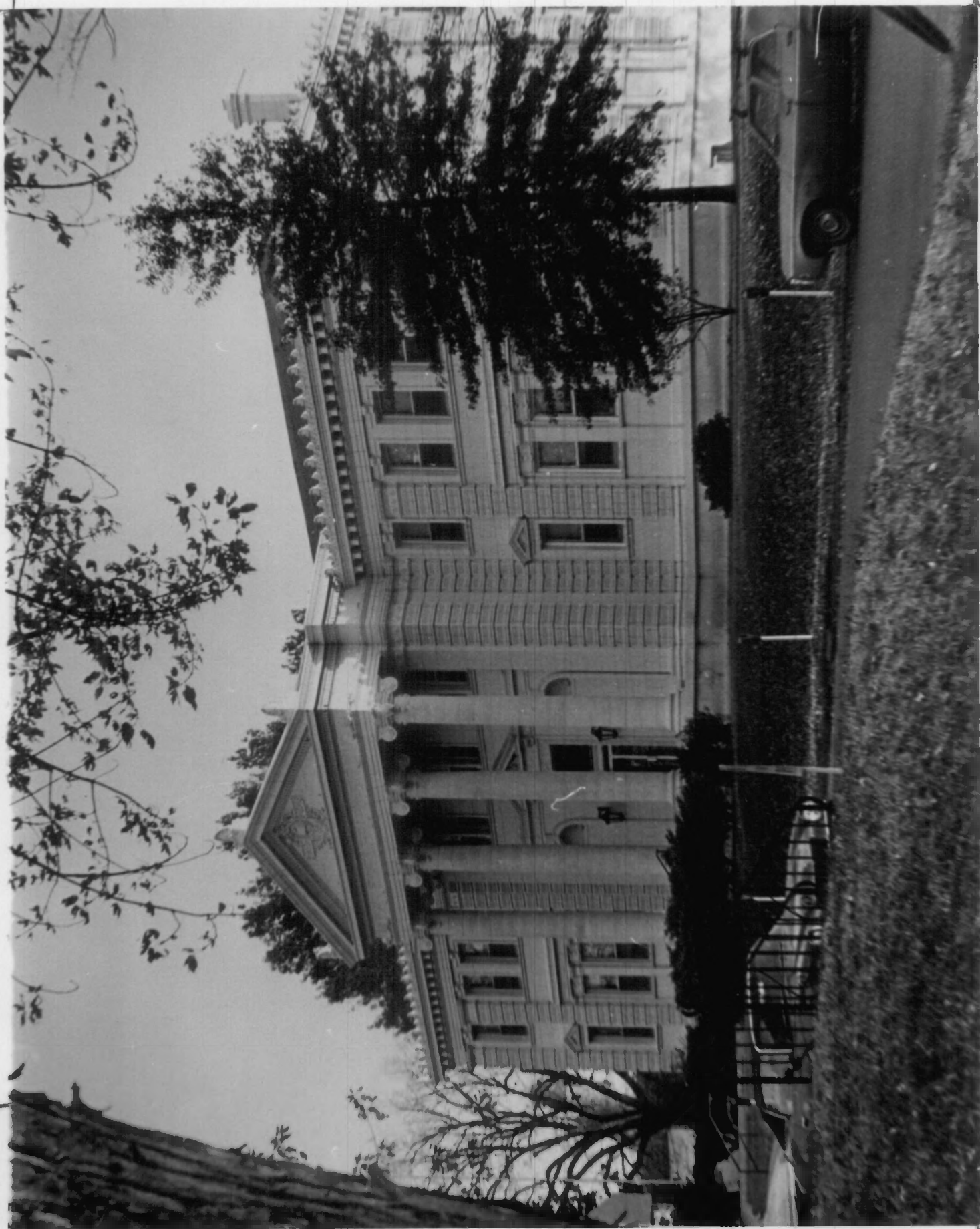
DATE PLACED ON NATIONAL REGISTER: January 10, 1980

DATE CERTIFICATE AWARDED  
(AND PRESENTOR):

DATE FILE REVIEWED:

Sedalia Public Library is significant as the first public library in the State of Missouri to receive a Carnegie grant for construction of a library building (Bobinski, Appendix). In addition, the building subsequently constructed is an outstanding example in this state of the Greek Revival Style and was designed by the noted architectural firm of Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge.

SEDALIA PUBLIC LIBRARY #1 of 12  
311 West Third Street, Sedalia, Pettis County,  
Mo.  
Photographer: Sedalia Public Library  
July, 1978  
311 West Third Street, Sedalia, Mo. 65301  
View to southeast of primary facade.

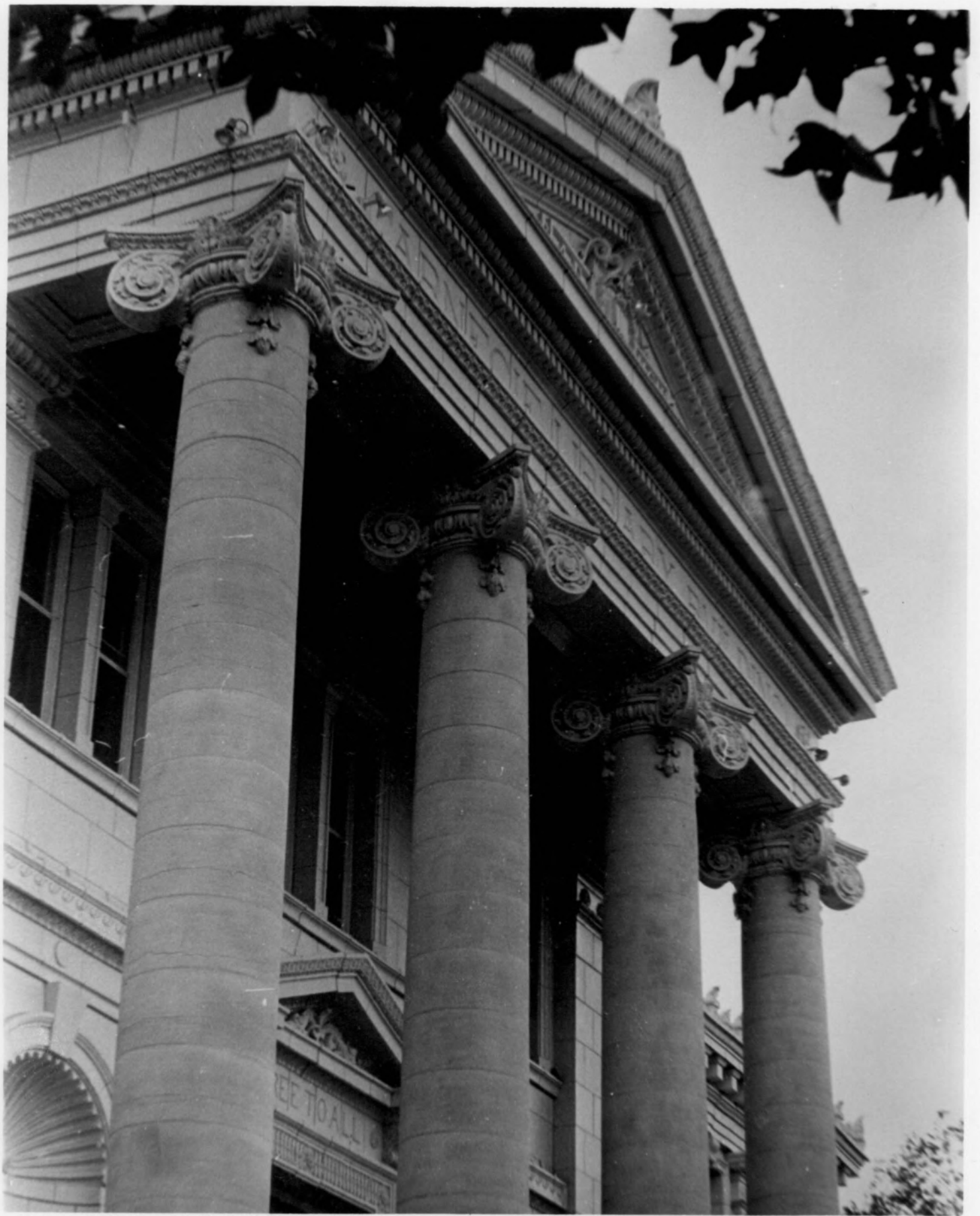


SEDALIA PUBLIC LIBRARY #2 of 12  
311 West Third Street, Sedalia, Pettis County,  
Mo.  
Photographer: Noelle Soren  
August, 1979  
Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176,  
Jefferson City, Mo. 65102  
North facade, central bay.





SEDALIA PUBLIC LIBRARY #3 of 12  
311 West Third Street, Sedalia, Pettis County,  
Mo.  
Photographer: Sedalia Public Library  
July, 1978  
311 West Third Street, Sedalia, Mo. 65301  
North facade, central bay detail.



SEDALIA PUBLIC LIBRARY #4 of 12  
311 West Third Street, Sedalia, Pettis County,  
Mo.  
Photographer: Noelle Soren  
August, 1979  
Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176,  
Jefferson City, Mo. 65102  
North facade, central bay, detail of Ionic  
capital.



SEDALIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

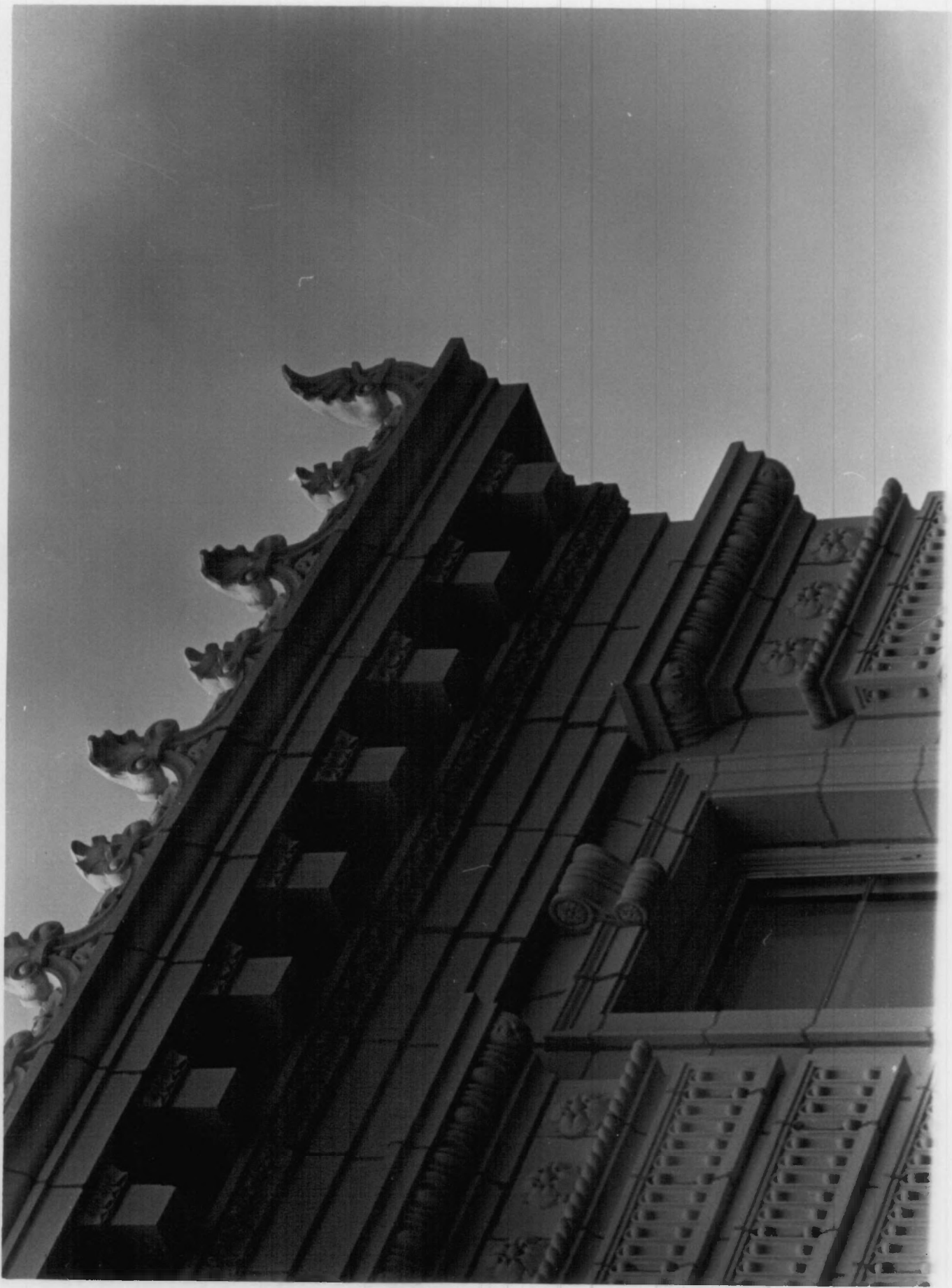
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311 West Third Street, Sedalia, Pettis County,  
Mo.

Photographer: Noelle Soren  
August, 1979

Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176,  
Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

Northwest corner of north facade, cornice  
detail.



SEDALIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

#6 of 12

311 West Third Street, Sedalia, Pettis County  
Mo.

Photographer: Noelle Soren

August, 1979

Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176,  
Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

View to northeast of rear (south) side.





SEDALIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

#7 of 12

311 West Third Street, Sedalia, Pettis County,  
Mo.

Photographer: Noelle Soren

August, 1979

Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176,  
Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

Interior, first floor, lobby, view to north  
toward front door from behind desk.



SEDALIA PUBLIC LIBRARY #8 of 12  
311 West Third Street, Sedalia, Pettis County,  
Mo.

Photographer: Noelle Soren  
August, 1979

Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176,  
Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

Interior, view to south of lobby from landing  
between first and second floors.



SEDALIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

#9 of 12

311 West Third Street, Sedalia, Pettis County,  
Mo.

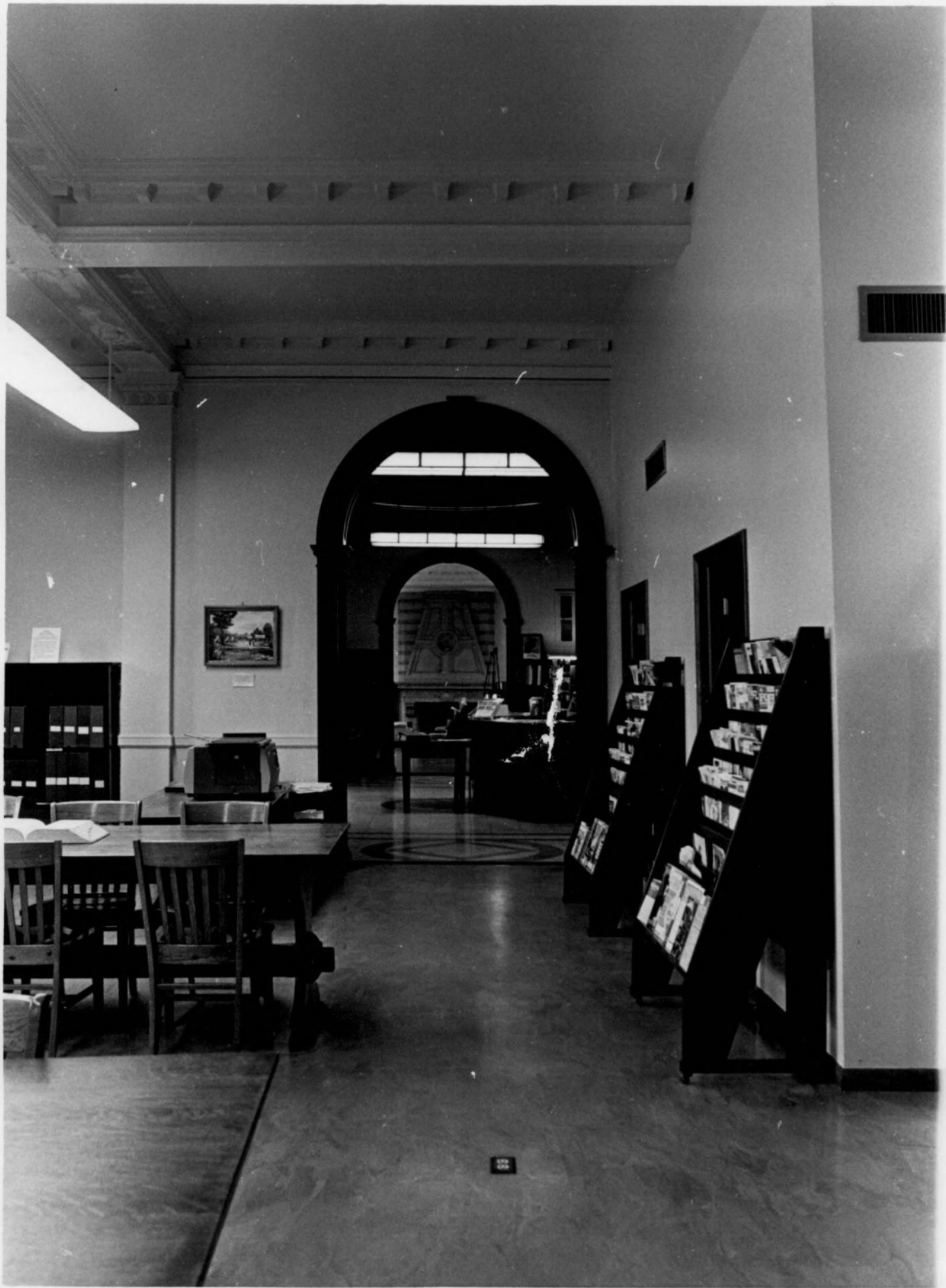
Photographer: Noelle Soren  
August, 1979

Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176,  
Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

Interior, lobby, interior Ionics in northeast  
corner.



SEDALIA PUBLIC LIBRARY #10 of 12  
311 West Third Street, Sedalia, Pettis County,  
Mo.  
Photographer: Noelle Soren  
August, 1979  
Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176,  
Jefferson City, Mo. 65102  
View to east from Magazine Room through Lobby  
to Reference Room.





SEDALIA PUBLIC LIBRARY #11 of 12  
311 West Third Street, Sedalia, Pettis County,  
Mo.  
Photographer: Noelle Soren  
August, 1979  
Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176,  
Jefferson City, Mo. 65102  
Interior, Reference Room, east wall, mantel.



SEDALIA PUBLIC LIBRARY #12 of 12  
311 West Third Street, Sedalia, Pettis County,  
Mo.

Photographer: Noelle Soren  
August, 1979

Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176,  
Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

Interior, second floor, view to east of Lobby  
and skylight.

