

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Stockton Community Building

other names/site number Trent-Sallee American Legion Post #230

2. Location

street & number corner of Spring and North streets [n/a] not for publication

city or town Stockton [n/a] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Cedar code 039 zip code 65785

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 [])

Claire F. Blackwell 3 Nov. 98

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

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:

[] 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 [].

Signature of the Keeper

Date

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)	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		
			<u>0</u> buildings
			<u>0</u> sites
			<u>0</u> structures
			<u>0</u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing.

Number of contributing resources
previously listed in the National
Register.

n/a

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function
SOCIAL- meeting hall

Current Functions
SOCIAL-meeting hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification
Other: WPA Stone Building

Materials
foundation Limestone
walls Limestone
roof Tin
other Shake

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

SOCIAL HISTORY

ARCHITECTURE

Periods of Significance

1933-1948

Significant Dates

N/A

N/A

Significant Person(s)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

American Legion Post #230/

Walter Kelly

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 1

UTM References

A. Zone	Easting	Northing	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	429810	4172630			
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 City of Stockton
street & number City Hall telephone 417-276-5210
city or town Stockton state MO zip code 65785

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

Stockton Community Building
Cedar County, MO

Summary: The Stockton Community Building, Stockton, Cedar County, is a two story rectangular building located at the South edge of Stockton City Park. Due to the steep grade on which it stands, only the upper story is visible from the South. The building sits on a rock foundation and is constructed of native limestone in a plain Ashlar design. Corners extend above the roof line. A corner stone identifies the building as American Legion Post #230, and contains the date, 1934. The building is essentially unaltered from its original date of construction.

Narrative: The rectangular building measures 81 feet in length and 36 feet in width. A full width porch under a lowered gable roof extends off the east. The porch roof is supported by three square stone posts. A single wood post supports the roof at the corner of the top landing. Stone railings keep Community Building users from falling to the ground below. To make the building more handicapped accessible, a wheelchair ramp was later added to the south side of the porch.

The building has numerous windows and doors. On the south there are six windows and two doors; on the north, fourteen windows and three doors; on the east, four windows and two doors; and on the west, five windows. The double hung, single pane windows are accentuated by cast iron molded lintels. The bottom of the sill is constructed of molded wood. Storm doors have been added to the north side in recent years.

Originally, cedar shakes covered the gable roof. After years of leakage, the shakes were replaced by a metal roof. Three brick chimneys top the roof line.

The interior of the building has undergone renovation in recent years. Modern plumbing, central air-conditioning, and a second kitchen have been installed. Three rooms were constructed on the upper floor, and paneling added to the walls in the rooms and the meeting hall on the lower floor. The paneling covers some of the windows, but building owners plan to reinstall them in the future. In the 1960s, the ceilings were lowered, covering the original pressed metal ceilings, but the original ceiling has been preserved and restored in one upper floor room. The downstairs kitchen has been modernized.

Sidewalks surround the east and north sides of the building. A pole has been installed on the northwest corner for outside lighting, and another on the northeast corner for electricity. Across the street, to the east is the city spring and an outdoor stage and bleachers. To the north, the city park contains a kitchen built by the National Youth Administration in 1938.

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Section 8 Page 2

Stockton Community Building
Cedar County, MO

Summary: The Stockton Community Building, located at the corner of Spring and North streets, Stockton, Cedar County, is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of social history and Criterion C in the area of architecture. Erected through a grant from the Civil Works Administration, a sub-division of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, the rustic building has remained an integral part of Stockton and surrounding Cedar County since work began on its rock walls in 1933. One of the first New Deal Projects in Cedar County during the Great Depression, its construction provided an income to sixty-one men at a time when income levels were dropping and residents were moving to the urban centers of Springfield and Kansas City in search of jobs; provided the community with a new lodge to replace one destroyed by fire in 1914; allowed for the hosting of events like the 1938 talent show that raised \$70.00 for the upkeep of Stockton Cemetery; and served as a memorial for the county's World War I veterans, also housing the Trent-Sallee American Legion Post #230. The period of significance extends from the date of construction in 1934 until 1948, the arbitrary fifty-year limit for significance.

Narrative: Cedar County is located in the Ozark Highlands of Southwest Missouri. It is bordered by Barton, Dade, Polk, St. Clair, and Vernon Counties. Organized on February 14, 1845 from portions of Dade and St. Clair Counties, the county is named for the trees that grow along its many rivers and streams.¹

Stockton, the county seat, was platted on land donated by Zimri and Marion Crabtree on February 11, 1846. Originally named Lancaster, the citizens changed the name in 1847 to Fremont, in honor of explorer and soldier John C. Fremont, to avoid confusion with another town in northern Missouri that had the same name. After the 1856 Presidential election, several citizens expressed their dissatisfactions with the views of Free Soil candidate Fremont, and in February 1859 the name was changed to Stockton, in honor of Robert Field Stockton, a naval commander who played a prominent role in the conquest of California during the Mexican War.²

An abundance of rivers and spring-fed streams that were ideal for the construction of grist mills helped Cedar County become a center of commerce even before its official organization. When the first settlers arrived in the area in 1832 they had to travel 60 miles south to Springfield to trade and mill their grain. In 1839, John Williams built the first mill on Cedar Creek. After the mill washed away, Williams began construction on a new mill seven miles north of Stockton. Before its completion he sold it to the Caplinger Family. In 1860, state roads from St. Clair and Vernon Counties led to Caplinger's Mill.³

By 1860, Stockton had grown to become the trade center for the county. Two stage lines linked the community with Bolivar, Polk County and Fort Scott, Kansas. Five general stores, two grocery stores, two flour mills, two hotels, a harness manufactory, and two saw mills serviced its 550 residents.⁴

¹ Floyd C. Shoemaker, "Cedar County," Missouri Historical Review, 53(July 1959): 329.

² Ibid., 330-331.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid., 332.

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Section 8 Page 3

Stockton Community Building
Cedar County, MO

Guerrilla warfare during the Civil War devastated Cedar County. On July 11, 1863, Confederates under the command of Major Thomas R. Livingston attacked Stockton while citizens listened to political speeches at the county courthouse. On October 5, 1863, Confederate General J.O. Shelby sent a detachment of men to Stockton. They burned both Caplinger's Mill and the county courthouse. County records were saved only because Southern Sympathizers had moved them to Arkansas.⁵

The period following the Civil war saw the return of growth to Cedar County. Citizens raised over \$10,000 to build a new brick courthouse to replace the one that burnt. The Cedar County High School opened with a tuition of three dollars per month for English studies and four dollars a month for Classic studies. New towns like Caplinger's Mill were platted to serve the growing farm population. Health resorts were also built at El Dorado Springs, Jerico Springs, and Balm to exploit the health restoring springs. All of these enterprises helped the population of the county grow from 9,474 in 1870 to 16,923 by 1900.⁶

After the turn of the century, the population of Cedar County started to decline as many of its citizens moved to urban centers like Springfield and Kansas City. Between 1910 and 1920 the population declined by 13 percent. Between 1920 and 1930 it fell 20 percent to 11,136.⁷

In spite of the decline in population, Stockton continued to grow. Several new buildings were built along the town square between 1890 and 1920. The first telephone line connecting the town to the outside world was completed October 3, 1891. The Stockton Roller Mill opened for business in September 1892, providing not only jobs to residents, but also the first electric power plant.⁸

The Great Depression significantly impacted Cedar County. Unable to secure funds to pay taxes and plant another crop, many Cedar County farmers simply abandoned their farms. In 1930 the number of acres abandoned totaled 21,310. Those leaving the farms found little relief in Stockton, as jobs were in short supply. Even where they existed the pay was significantly less. For example, a carpenter in 1926 earned \$4 a day. By 1933 the same carpenter earned only \$3 a day. Cooks made \$4 a day in 1926, but only \$2 in 1933. Road workers who earned \$3.75 a day in 1926, only earned 50 cents in 1933. Even county officials were not immune. In 1932 the County Court reduced the salary of the County Superintendent by \$300 a year and the Prosecuting Attorney's salary by \$400.⁹

⁵ Ibid, 333.

⁶ Ibid, 334

⁷ Arthur Paul Moser, A Directory of Towns, Villages, Hamlets, Past and Present of Cedar County, Missouri, (Springfield, MO, 1975): 3.

⁸ Clayton Abbott and Louis B. Hoff, Missouri History in Cedar County, (Stockton, MO: By author, 1973): 73-79.

⁹ Moser, 130-34; "Cutting Salaries in Cedar County," The Stockton Journal, 3 February 1932, 1

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Section 8 Page 4

Stockton Community Building
Cedar County, MO

To help bring economic relief to the county and slow the exodus of citizens, county officials and civic leaders looked to the state and federal governments. In 1933, an average of 1,223 persons a month received some form of government aid. For the year, local, state, and federal aid to county residents totaled \$14,000.¹⁰

Stockton's Commercial Club also threw its support behind any proposed state or federal projects. After the dedication of the new all-weather bridge over the Sac River, east of Stockton, club members voted to lobby for an appropriation in the next Missouri General Assembly session for the completion of Route 39 north to Caplinger's Mill. They also pledged their support for a proposal to construct a dam on the Osage River, near Osceola, St. Clair County. As the editor of the Stockton Journal pointed out the project would help the town because it "would be ideally located as a summer resort as this would be where the best fishing would be on account of being on the edge of the backwater."¹¹

In an October 1933 letter to Stockton Mayor Shelby E. Osborn, Wallace Crosley, Director of Federal Relief for Missouri, told the mayor that he would support any project that would benefit the county and Stockton. "As relief director, I am trying to impress upon the people of the state, especially in the counties where we are extending federal and state aid," wrote Crosley, "that they must show a willness to do for themselves. Stockton or Cedar County has an opportunity to further any projects that will give employment to its citizens. I regard it as an obligation resting upon everybody, every tax payer, to encourage such a movement."¹²

In November 1933, the Civil Works Administration (CWA), a federal program established by the Roosevelt Administration in early 1933 to hire workers at a minimum wage for the completion of federally approved projects, announced that it had allotted \$30,000 for projects in Cedar County. Thomas Hembree, president of the commercial club, and fellow member, Zola F. Frieze, drove to Jefferson City in early December 1933 to request money from CWA representatives for the construction of a new American Legion lodge and community building.¹³

Since the destruction of the Knights of Pythias building by fire in 1915, Stockton had been without a lodge building. From its inception in December 1931, Trent Sallee American Legion Post #230 had been meeting in the Farmers Cooperative Meeting Building, just east of the town square. However, after the formation of the American Legion Auxiliary in January 1932, members began petitioning for the construction of a new lodge to serve as both a meeting house and a memorial to World War I veterans.¹⁴

¹⁰ Moser, 134-36.

¹¹ "Will Dedicate Bridge," The Stockton Journal, 13 November 1932, 9.; "Great Inland Lake," The Stockton Journal, 31 May 1933, 1.

¹² "A Letter from Relief Director," Cedar County Republican, 26 October 1933, 1.

¹³ "Big Relief Program," Cedar County Republican, 26 October 1933, 1.; "Will Get \$5,035 from CWA," Cedar County Republican, 14 December 1933, 1.

¹⁴ Abbott, 121.; "A Symbol of Stockton's History," Cedar County Republican, 13 April 1994, 2.

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Section 8 Page 5

Stockton Community Building
Cedar County, MO

In Jefferson City, Hembree and Frieze submitted plans for the new building to CWA representatives, but they refused to accept the plans because they were not endorsed by an architect. After refusing to pay \$400 to Jefferson City architects for the endorsement of the plans, Hembree and Frieze drove to Springfield and submitted them to G.W. Fletcher, a civil engineer who had designed the new waterworks for Stockton. Fletcher checked over the plans and wired his approval to CWA representatives.¹⁵

In mid-December 1933, the CWA approved the allotment of \$5,035 to pay for the necessary labor to build the lodge and community building. Trent Sallee Post #230 and citizens of Stockton agreed to supply the building materials. Workers worked thirty hours per week at forty-five cents an hour for common labor, eighty cents an hour for semi-skilled labor, and \$1.05 for skilled labor. Preference in hiring workers was given to ex-service men.¹⁶

The foremen selected for the job of overseeing the construction of the 40-by-80 foot native stone building were Bob Phillips, quarry foreman; Lester Sheeks, gravel foreman; James Cooper, sand foreman; and Walter Kelly of El Dorado Springs, as the building superintendent. To oversee all aspects of the project, committees were appointed by Trent Sallee Post leaders. Members of the Finance Committee were L.R. Van Buskirk, Fred Crawford, Clark Montgomery, and Mayor Shelby Osborn. Building Committee members included: CC. Nance, H.S. Stark, and John Garrison. Labor Committee members included: Dick Gipson, Frank Whistance, and Harry Webb. Thomas Hembree, the time keeper for the project, owned and operated the quarry that provide the stone for the construction of the building.¹⁷

Work commenced just before Christmas 1933. It soon became apparent to Walter Kelly that sixty-one men were not needed to construct the building. In a message to Mayor Osborn, Kelly stated that if the park board agreed to supply the cement, he would supply the men for the construction of a new swimming pool in the city park. The board agreed and construction began immediately on the new pool. It opened to the public on June 28, 1934.¹⁸

Workers completed the digging of the basement on January 11, 1934. During the blasting of the stone for the basement, excitement arose when workers found a rock they believed contained gold. However it turned out to only be tiff (lead ore). As the editor of the Cedar County Republican stated, "Thirty years ago such an indication of minerals would have created an interest in prospecting."¹⁹

¹⁵"Will Get t \$5,035 from CWA," Cedar County Republican, 14 December 1933, 1.

¹⁶Ibid.

¹⁷"Legion Building Progresses," Cedar County Republican, 21 December 1933, 1.

¹⁸"A Swimming Pool," Cedar County Republican, 28 December 1933, 1.; "Swimming Pool Opened," Cedar County Republican, 28 June 1934, 1.

¹⁹"CWA Work Progresses," Cedar County Republican, 11 January 1934, 1; "Found Mineral Shines," Cedar County Republican, 28 December 1933, 1.

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Section 8 Page 6

Stockton Community Building
Cedar County, MO

On October 28, 1934 the Stockton Community Building was dedicated. Speeches were given by Trent Sallee Post #230 Commander C.O. Gardner; Ben Searight, Cedar County Relief Chairman; and Mayor Shelby Osborn. The American Legion Auxiliary prepared lunch for all in attendance. The Bolivar Drum and Bugle Corps drilled on the town square and the Stockton High School Orchestra ended the program.²⁰

Since its dedication the Stockton Community Building has continued to be an important part of the community. In 1938 the building held the Cotton Blossom Minstrel, a local talent show that raised \$70.00 for the operation of the Stockton Cemetery Association. The Commercial Club in 1940 assembled mattresses to sell for fifty cents each to local residents. Throughout the 1940s and 1950s, General Electric and the MFA Oil Company sponsored demonstrations; the local Missouri Farmer's Association held monthly meetings; and the Cedar County 4-H Council held its annual Club Day in the building. The building also served as a Teen Town for teenagers every Friday night during the late 1950s and early 1960s, and was used by the Stockton R-1 School District during the 1967-68 school year to hold classes while the new high school was being built. In recent years, the Walnut Festival, a region-wide celebration held the last weekend of September, has used the building to exhibit crafts, agricultural products, and student art. The American Legion also continues to hold meetings on the lower level.²¹

²⁰"Legion Building Dedicated," Cedar County Republican, 1 November 1934, 1.

²¹"The Cotton Blossom Minstrel Monday and Tuesday Nights," Cedar County Republican, 29 September 1938, 1.; "The Commercial Club has a Good Meeting," Cedar County Republican, 5 December 1940, 1.; "A Historic Symbol," Cedar County Republican, 4 May 1994, 4.

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Section 9.10 Page 7

Stockton Community Building
Cedar County, MO

Books:

Abbott, Clayton and Louis B. Hoffman. Missouri History in Cedar County. Stockton, MO: By author, 1973.

Leuchtenburg, William E. Franklin D. Roosevelt and the New Deal, 1932-1940. New York: Harper & Row Publishers, 1963.

Moser, Arthur Paul. A Directory of Towns, Villages, Hamlets, Past and Present of Cedar County, Missouri. Springfield, MO, 1975.

Articles:

Shoemaker, Floyd C. "Cedar County." Missouri Historical Review 53(July 1959): 329-336.

Newspapers:

Cedar County Republican. January 1932 - January 1948; January 1994 - December 1994.

The Stockton Journal. January 1932 - January 1935

Miscellaneous:

Lenhart, Carolyn; and Steven E. Mitchell. "WPA Stock Barn and Pavillion." Grundy County, MO. NRHP Nomination. Historic Preservation Program. MO Department of Natural Resources, Jefferson City, MO. 1994.

"Emergency Conservation Work Architecture in Missouri State Parks, 1933-1942, Thematic Resources." NRHP Multiple Resource Submission. Historic Preservation Program. MO Department of Natural Resources, Jefferson City, MO. 1985.

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description: Lot 4, Block 9, original plat, City of Stockton, Cedar County.

Boundary Justification: The boundary of the nominated property includes the entire city lot historically associated with the building.

United States Department of the Interior
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**National Register of Historic Places
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Section 11 Page 8

Stockton Community Building
Cedar County, MO

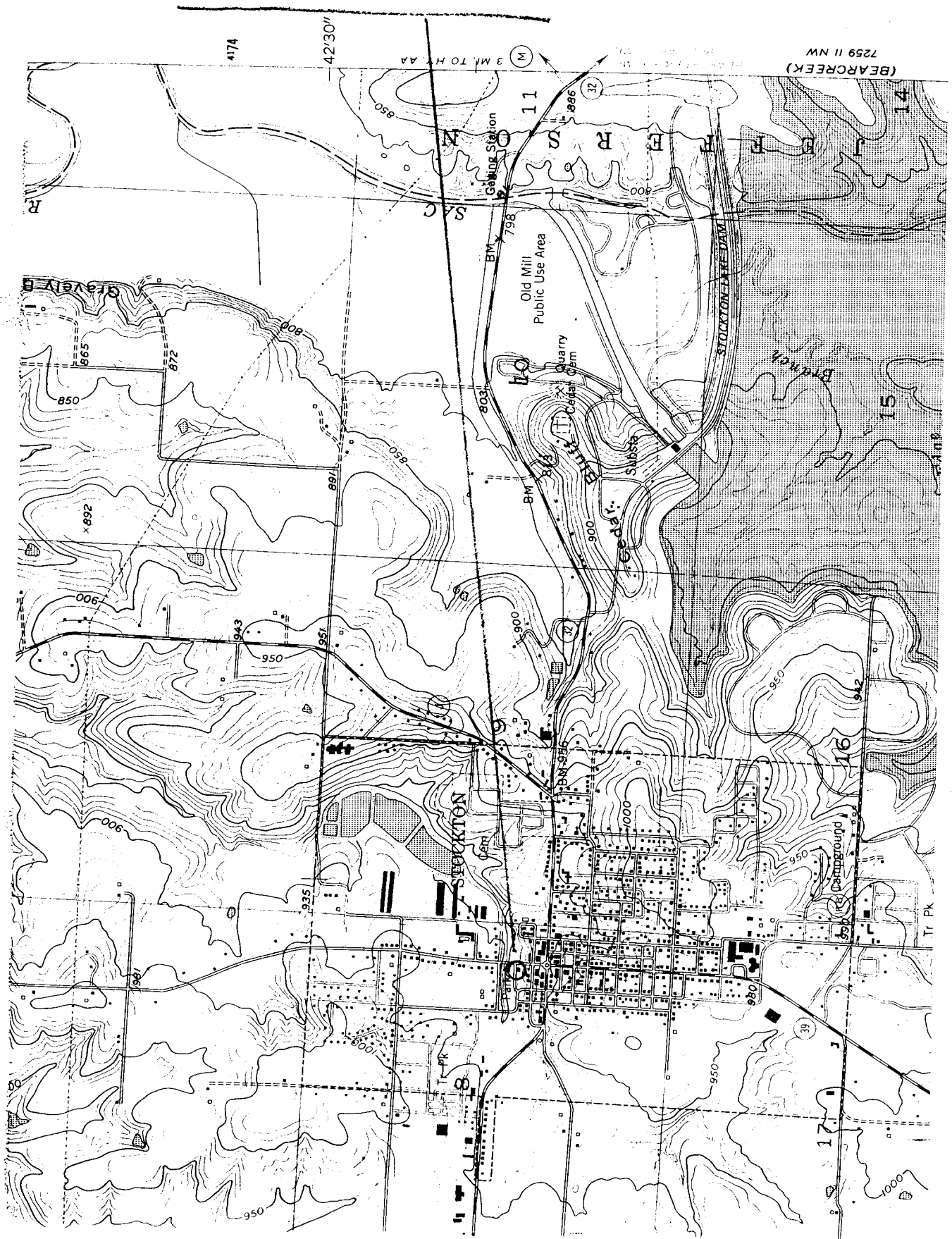
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March 5, 1998
original draft, sections 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 10

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editor, sections 1-11

STOCKTON COMMUNITY BUILDING
CEDAR COUNTY, MISSOURI

15/429810/4172630



14 Stockton Community Building
Cedar County, Stockton
Extra NR Photograph #1
Photographer: Peter Nichols
1998



3

Stockton Community Building
Cedar County, Stockton
Extra NR Photograph #2
Photographer: Peter Nichols
1998

View of ceiling



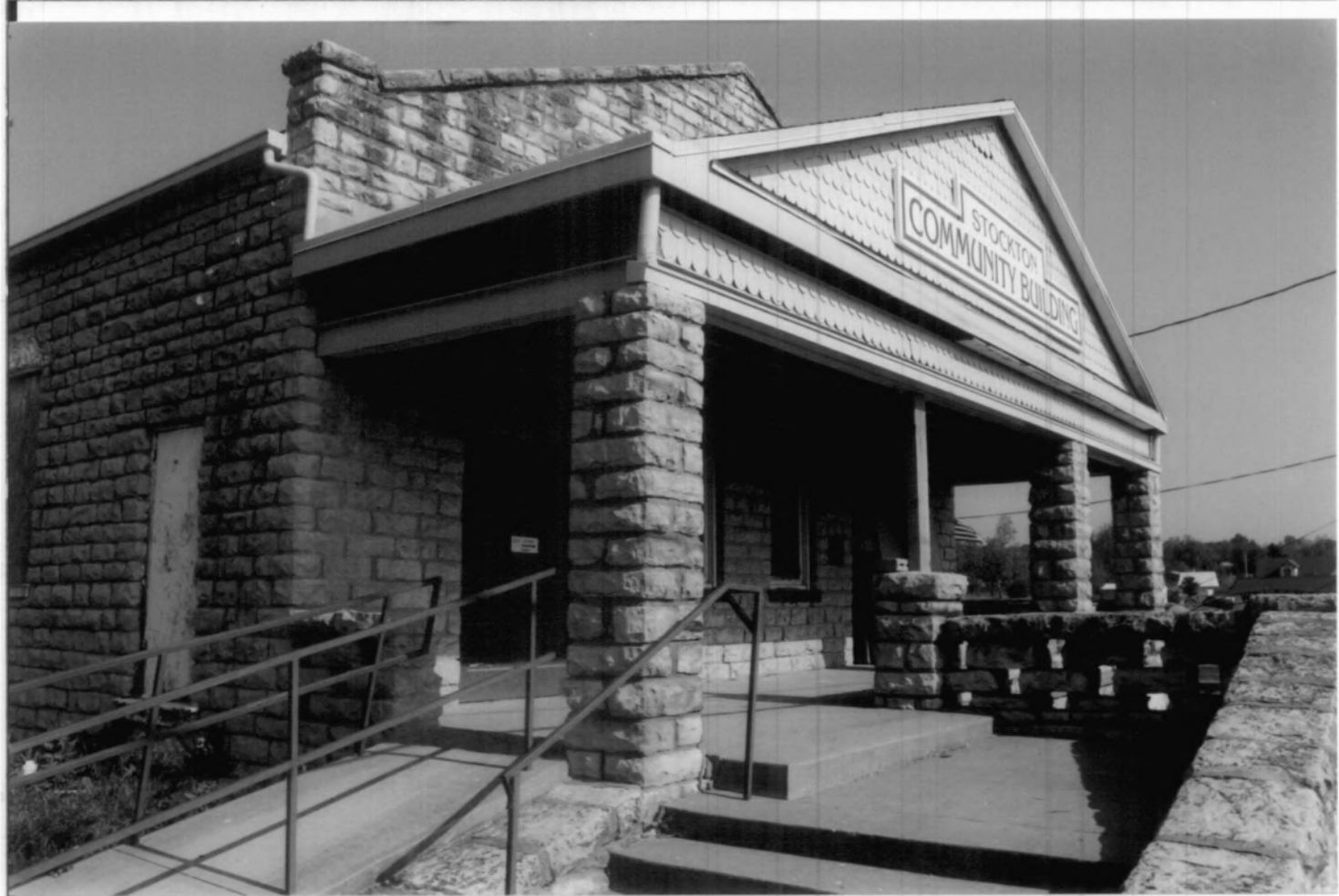
Stockton Community Building
Cedar County, Stockton
Extra NR Photograph #3
Photographer: Peter Nichols
1998

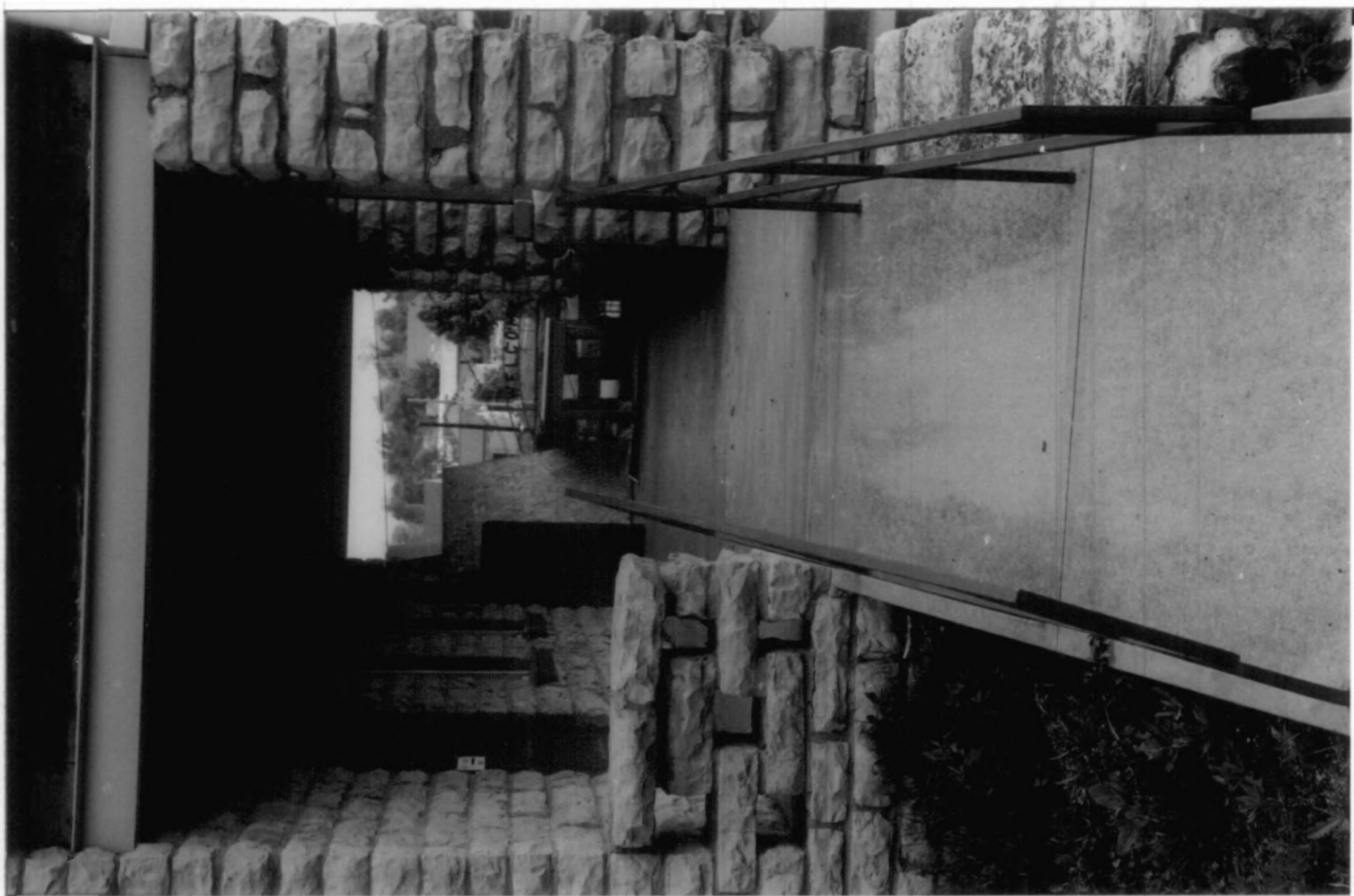
Basement Fellowship Hall



EXTRA
PHOTOS



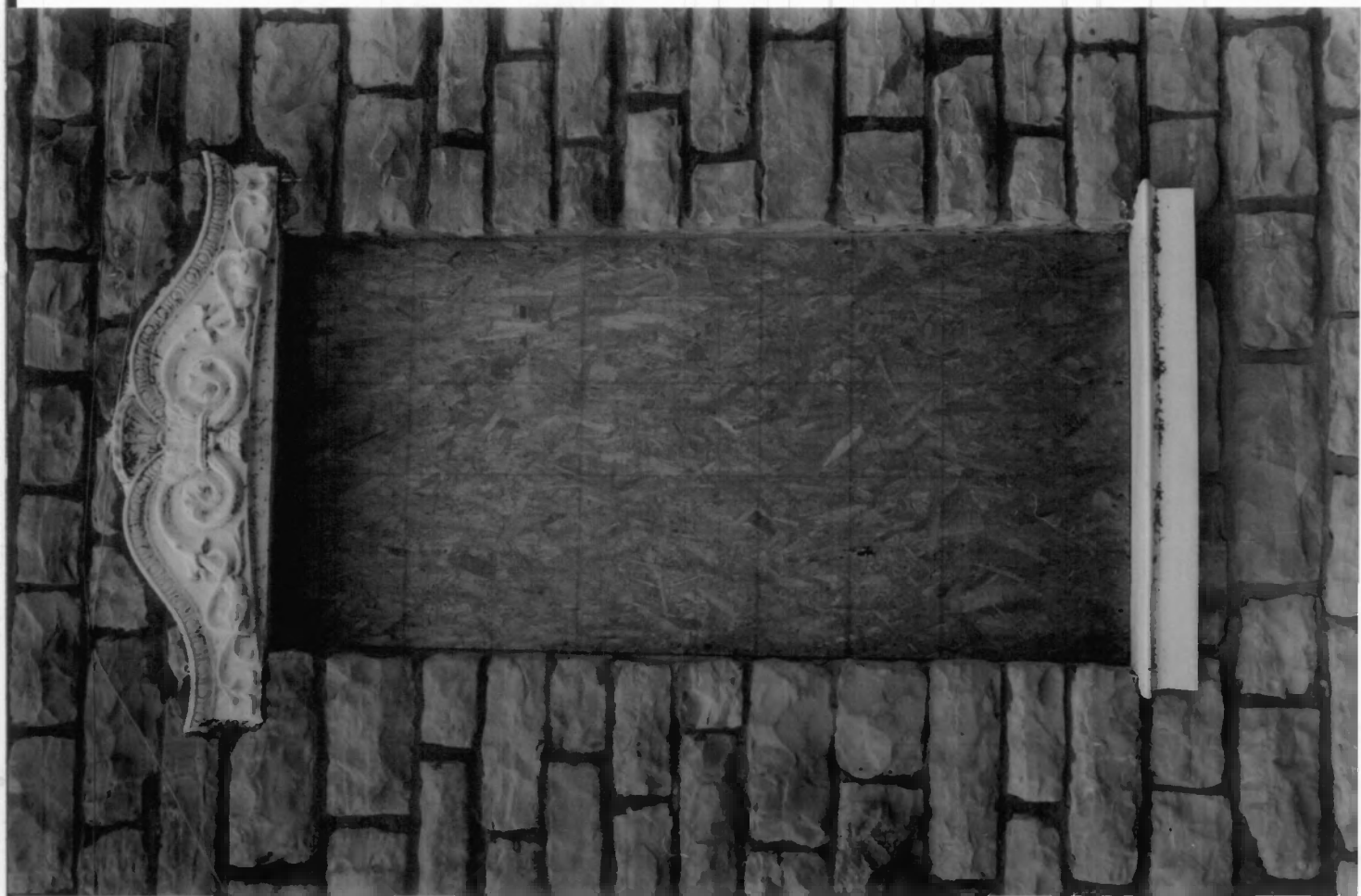












AMERICAN LEGION
MEMORIAL



TRENT POST
NO. 230
1934











