

File

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Stoddard County Courthouse

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Praire and Court Street not for publication

city, town Bloomfield vicinity of

state Missouri code 29 county Stoddard code 103

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"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>NI</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Stoddard County Court

street & number Praire and Court Street

city, town Bloomfield vicinity of state Missouri 63825

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds

street & number Stoddard County Courthouse, Praire and Court Street

city, town Bloomfield state Missouri 63825

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Missouri State Historical Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1984 federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176

city, town Jefferson City state Missouri 65102

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	<u>X</u> original site
<u>X</u> good	___ ruins	<u>X</u> altered	___ moved date _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Stoddard County Courthouse, an almost square building, located on a Lancaster square in the city of Bloomfield, Missouri, was built during the years 1867-1870 under the supervision of W. G. Phelan. The building was contracted by George Miller and Sam Henson for \$14,800. This first structure was a 2 story building, 68' depth by 52' wide; it was built on a concrete foundation and housed county offices and courtrooms. A hall ran through the center of the building with entrances at both ends; three offices were located on each side of the hall. A double stairway led to the courtroom and jury room on the second floor. The original walls, which were 20" thick, were covered with red bricks made and fired on the site; these walls were incorporated into the present building.

In 1909, remodeling was begun on the building. P. H. Weathers was the architect and the Manhattan Construction Company of Guthrie, Oklahoma, contracted the specified building and remodeling work for a total of \$28,325; however, extra expenses were incurred and the total expenditure was \$29,037.90. The finished structure was to measure 86' from east to west and 68' from north to south. The new construction would consist of identical east and west wings (vault rooms) measuring 17' by 36' and were to be two stories high with a basement beneath each wing which would extend 3'3" above ground level.

The outside walls of the building are 24" thick with the exception of the walls of the wings which are only 20" thick. They are covered with buff colored header bond style brick. Windows are double hung 2/2 lights with arched fanlight headers. The height of the building from street level to the top of the clock tower decoration is 79'8". The north portico is 22'5" wide and 3'2" deep. It is framed by brick pilasters, 4'2" wide and 3'2" deep. The roofline was remodeled to a hipped, crossgable style with a slate roof which has been changed to white asphalt shingles. The roof trim is cornice boxed and frieze decorated. A square chimney which rises 8' above the roof is located on the southwest corner of the west wing. Also rising above the roof is a massive clock tower, or cupola, which is situated atop the center of the roof; it is square with beveled corners and measures 14' x 14' x 20'. The face of the clock, 62" in diameter, may be viewed from the four sides of the building. The inscription on the clock is: "Thomaston, Conn. no 1572, Dec. 23, 1909." The bell housed just beneath the clock is 32" in diameter, and its inscription is: "Made by Seth Thomas Clock Co. New York and Chicago 1909 by McShane Bell Foundry Co. Baltimore Md." Another feature on the outside of the building is the corner stone on the northeast corner of the building; the north side of the stone is inscribed:

"Erected A.D. 1909  
Elevation above sea level 500 ft.  
Manhattan Construction Co., Builders  
W. P. Weathers, Architect."

The east side of the stone has the inscription:

Building Committee  
Jas. L. Fort, Circuit Judge  
Jas. B. Buck  
A. D. Bollinger  
County Court  
D. C. Bollinger, Presiding Judge  
John H. Harper  
Jordon Howell Asso. Judges."

## 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1870, 1909

Builder/Architect P. H. Weathers

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Stoddard County Courthouse is significant according to criteria of evaluation C and A to wit. It is an expression of a high architectural style, Classic Revival with Beaux-Arts decorative elements which is unusual in rural Missouri. It has served as the center of the legal and political activities of Stoddard County since its construction in 1867-70.

Architecture - The Stoddard County Courthouse retains its Classic Revival form and Beaux Arts clock tower and fenestration as remodelled in 1909. "P. H. Weathers prepared a design to enlarge and repair the 1867 Bloomfield courthouse, and the court adopted it May 22, 1909. T. P. Milner, Atlanta, Georgia, supervised the work, which was contracted for \$28,325 by the Manhattan Construction Co., Guthrie, Oklahoma. The foundations were reinforced, new brick wings were added, and old walls were covered with brick veneer. Weathers used a similar design in stone for Daviess and Cape Girardeau counties about this time."<sup>1</sup>

Politics and Government - "County government was important to the Missouri settlers & no public building was physically or symbolically closer to the people than their county courthouse."<sup>2</sup> The Stoddard County Courthouse exemplifies this ideal. It is the third courthouse built by the county. The simple squarish building, originally constructed in 1867, was enlarged in 1909 to meet the governmental needs of the county's population; courtroom, offices, and storehouse of information for public use.

Following the Civil War, the people of Stoddard County started making plans to rebuild their courthouse which had been burned down during General Sterling Price's raid in the fall of 1864. The planned building would be the third to sit in the Square. In 1867, after cleaning up the aftermath and fortifications from the war, the present building was begun. It was finished in 1870, and the records, which had been removed from the previous courthouse building and stored in a cave in Arkansas by Attorney Henry H. Bedford of Bloomfield, were placed in the new building. From this time, the building has continued to serve the state of Missouri as well as the county.

The 1909 remodeling unified the original structure with the much needed east and west additions. This was accomplished by adding a matching brick veneer to the original structure and the replacement of all the existing fenestration to match that used in the additions, 2 over 2 double hung windows with half round fan lights capped by double tiered arched radiating Voussoirs, and the addition of pilaster like piers at all corners. These additions combined with the beaux-archs clock tower make the courthouse perhaps the most architecturally impressive building in the county.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Goodspeed's History of Southeast Missouri 1888.

Douglas, Robert Sidney, History of Southeast Missouri 1912, Vol. 1.

Forister, Robert H. History of Stoddard County, 1970.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Bloomfield, Mo.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

1	6
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2	3	8	9	4	0
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4	0	8	5	8	8	0
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B 

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C 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Public Square, Bloomfield, Missouri. This block is used as a public square with the courthouse located in the center of the block. Continued.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

1. name/title Frances Moore and James R. Mayo

organization Stoddard County Historical Society  
Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce Historical date  
Committee.

street & number Route 2, Box 21 telephone 314/568-3419; 314/568-2793

city or town Bloomfield state Missouri 63825

## 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 [Signature]  
title Fred A. Lafser, Director and State Historic Preservation date 7/11/54  
Officer, Department of Natural Resources

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Continuation sheet Stoddard County  
Courthouse

Item number 7

Page 1

In 1939, a geological survey marker was added; located on the second step of the south portico, it stated that the spot was 498' above sea level. In 1979, the marker was reset when a handicapped ramp was laid.

The entrance hall has double glass doors at the north facade, but the south facade has been altered to a single glass door; both have fanlight headers. The 7'6" wide hall floor is covered with 3/4" white marble tile with a black and white marble tile border. An off-white 3" x 6" marble tile is used for wainscoting in the entrance hall and stairway. The ceiling in the hallway, 13'5" high, is covered with decorative metal ceiling panels. The hallway is the only section of the building which has been completely unaltered since the 1909 remodeling. The offices have all been carpeted and have had dropped ceilings added to conserve energy. Six rooms are on the west side of the hall; these include offices of the county recorder and the county courtroom. There are five rooms on the east side of the hall, housing the county clerk's offices, the women's restroom, and a stairway to the east wing basement, which houses the men's restrooms. A double stairway of 10 steps is located on the north end of the hallway; these steps lead to a landing from which a single stairway of 9 steps leads to a central location on the second floor. Located on the second floor are the circuit clerk office, and the law library. Inside walls are 15" to 30" thick and the inside doors are 10'6" high including the two light transoms above each.

A drinking fountain made of polished red Missouri granite, designed by Thomas P. Barnett and made by the Pickle Stone Co., both of St. Louis, was erected at the north end of the courthouse in October 1917 as a memorial to D. Starks Crumb and Ellen P. Crumb by their children.

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Stoddard County  
Continuation sheet Courthouse

Item number 8

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This fine example of public architecture has continued to serve the many needs of the county with courtroom, public offices, public meeting area, and as a depository of county records and deeds. It has indeed proven its character, need, and significance.

- 1 Ohman, Marian M., Encyclopedia of Missouri COURTHOUSES (Columbia, Mo., 1981)
- 2 Ibid.

Stoddard County  
Continuation Sheet Courthouse

Item number 9

Page 1

Ohman, Mariam M. Encyclopedia of Missouri Courthouses, 1981.

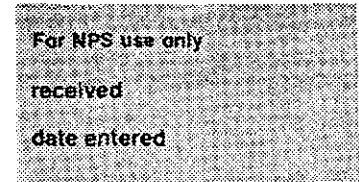
Ohman, Mariam M. History of Missouri Counties, County Seats and Courthouse Squares; 1983.

Stoddard County court records

Stoddard County Recorder of deeds records.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Stoddard County

Continuation sheet Courthouse

Item number 10

Page 1

That part of the southeast quarter (SE 1/4) of the northeast quarter (NE 1/4) of section twenty-three (23), township twenty-six (26), north of the base line, range ten (10), east of the fifth principal meridian, in Stoddard County, Missouri, described by metes and bounds as follows: Commencing at the southeast corner of said southeast quarter (SE 1/4) of the northeast quarter (NE 1/4) of said section twenty-three (23); thence north, along the section line, 782 feet or to the intersection of the section line and the south right of way line of Court Street, in the Original Town, now City, of Bloomfield, Stoddard County, Missouri; thence west, along the said south right of way line of Court Street, 132 feet to the Point of Beginning Proper; thence south 66 feet; and thence west 212 feet; thence north 192 feet; thence east 212 feet; and thence south 126 feet to the Point of Beginning Proper, SUBJECT only to an easement for a City street for that portion within Prairie Street and Court street in said City of Bloomfield, Stoddard County, Missouri.

The above tract also described as the Court House Square in the City of Bloomfield, Stoddard County, Missouri.

Legal description by;  
Elvis A. Mooney, Atty. at law  
Bloomfield, Mo. 63825

Stoddard County

Continuation sheet Courthouse

Item number 11

Page 1

2. Gerald Lee Gilleard, Cultural Resource Preservationist  
Department of Natural Resources  
1915 Southridge Drive  
Jefferson City

(314) 751-4096  
Missouri 65101

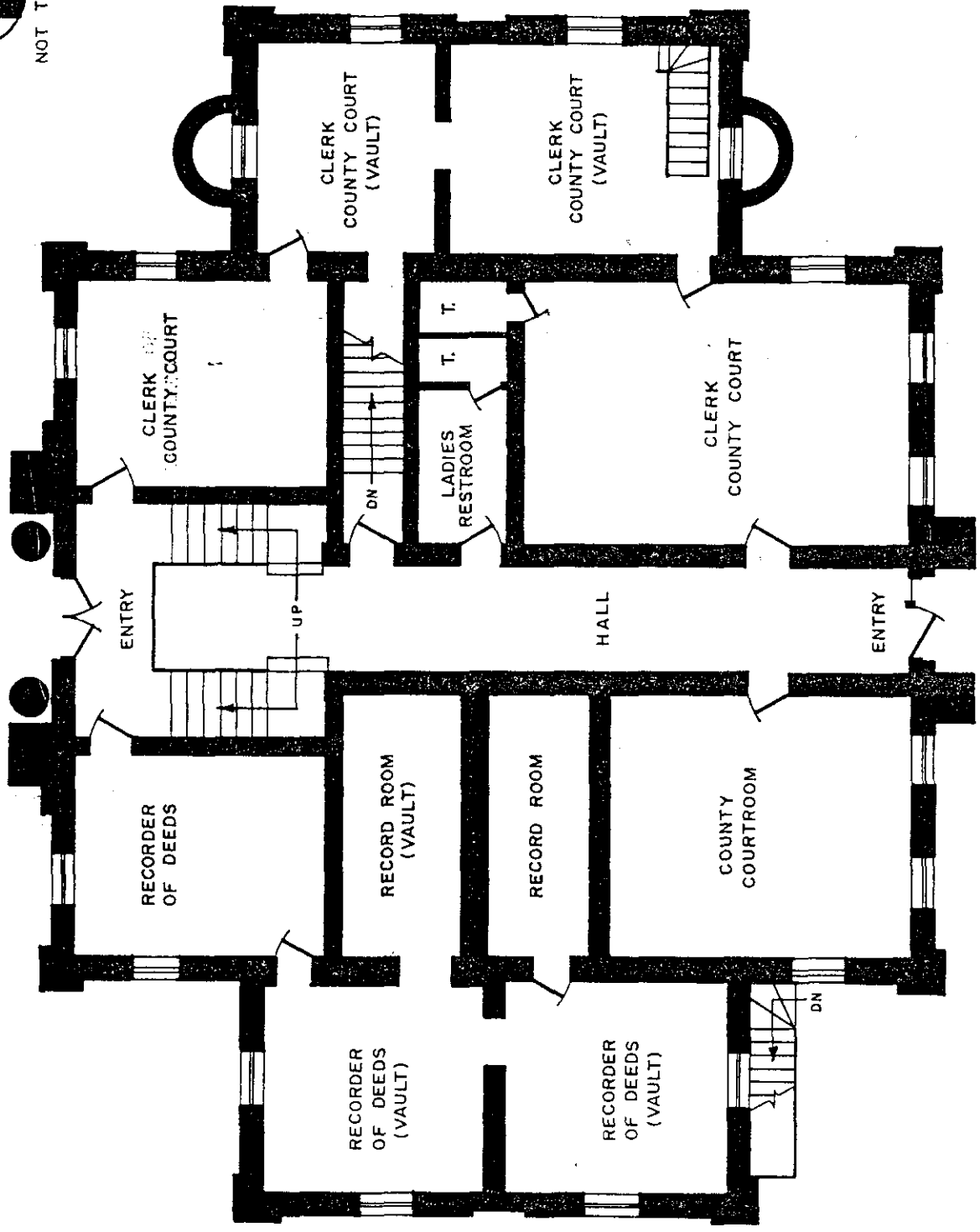
3. James M. Denny, Chief, Survey & Registration  
and State Contact Person  
Department of Natural Resources  
1915 Southridge Drive  
Jefferson City

(314) 751-4096  
Missouri 65101

**FIRST FLOOR PLAN  
STODDARD COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
BLOOMFIELD, MISSOURI**



NOT TO SCALE



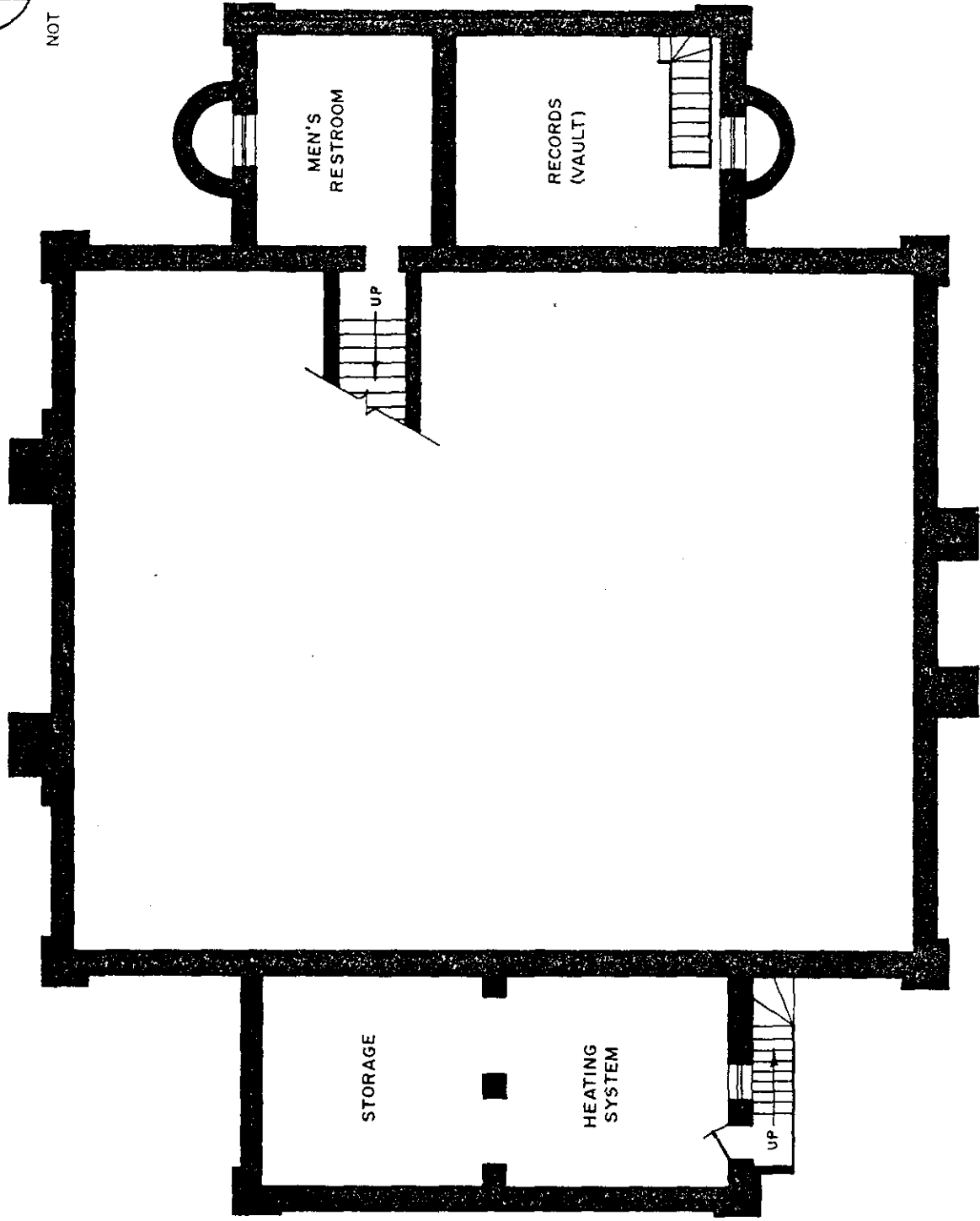
TAKEN FROM DRAWINGS BY JOHN YOUNT & FRANCES MOORE (MAY 1964)



BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN  
STODDARD COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
BLOOMFIELD, MISSOURI



NOT TO SCALE



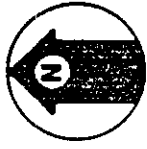
TAKEN FROM DRAWINGS BY JOHN YOUNT & FRANCES MOORE (MAY 1984)

DRAWN FOR: JIM DENNY

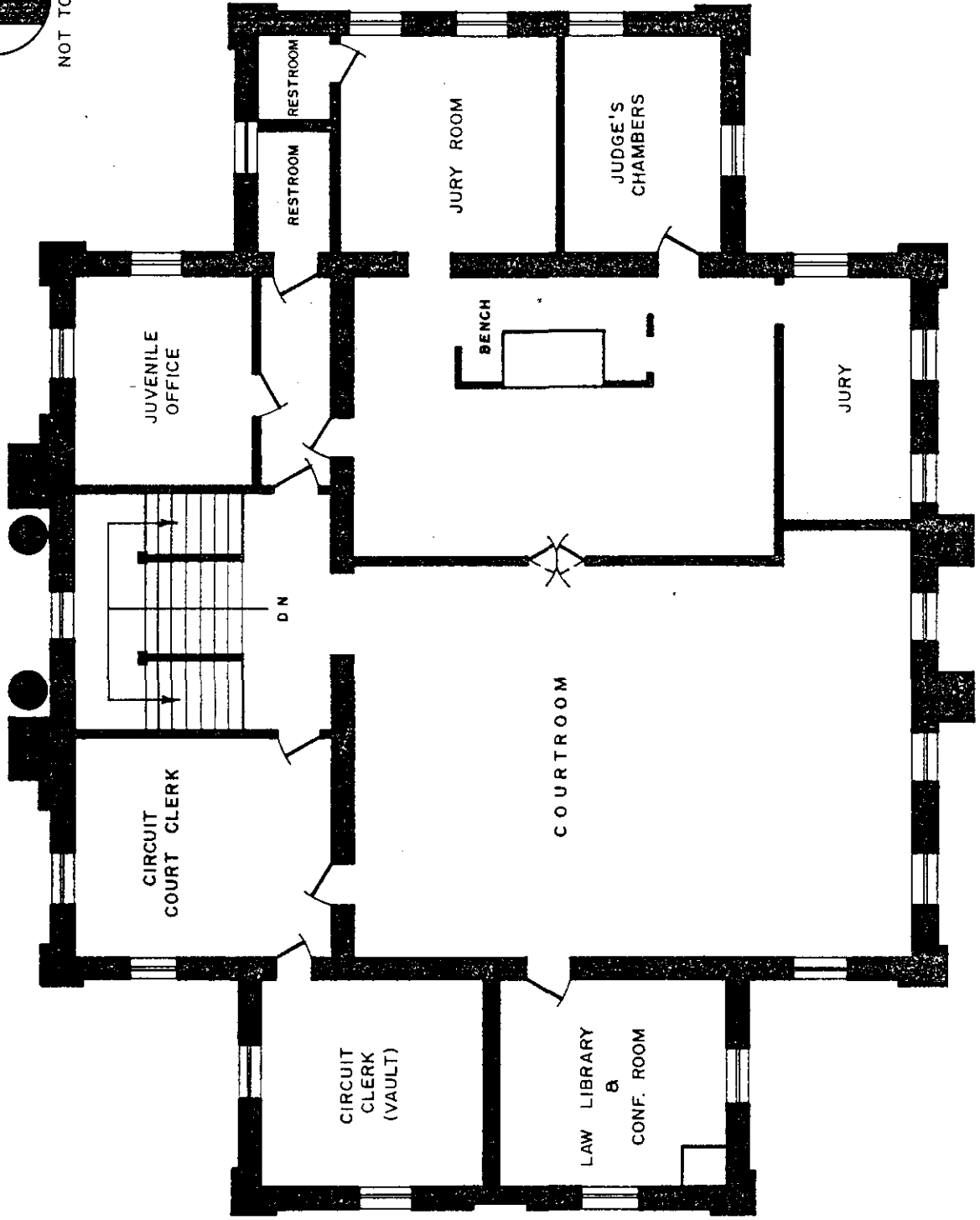
DRAWN BY: BILL SMITH

JULY 1984

SECOND FLOOR PLAN  
STODDARD COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
BLOOMFIELD, MISSOURI



NOT TO SCALE

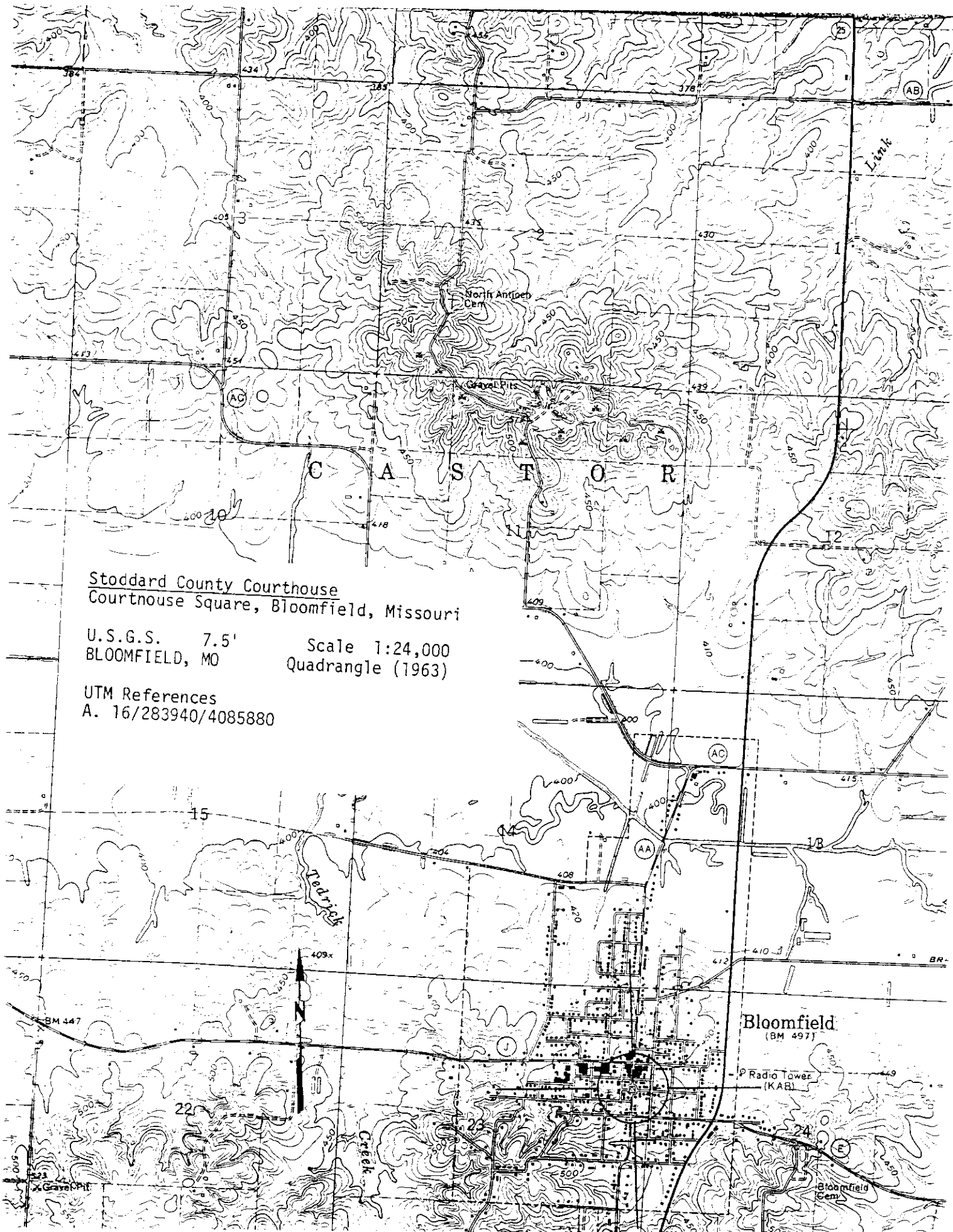


TAKEN FROM DRAWINGS BY JOHN YOUNT & FRANCES MOORE (MAY 1984)

DRAWN FOR: JIM DENNY

DRAWN BY: BILL SMITH

JULY 1984



Stoddard County Courthouse  
Courthouse Square, Bloomfield, Missouri

U.S.G.S. 7.5' Scale 1:24,000  
BLOOMFIELD, MO Quadrangle (1963)

UTM References  
A. 16/283940/4085880

Bloomfield  
(BM 497)

Radio Tower  
(KAB)

Bloomfield  
Cem

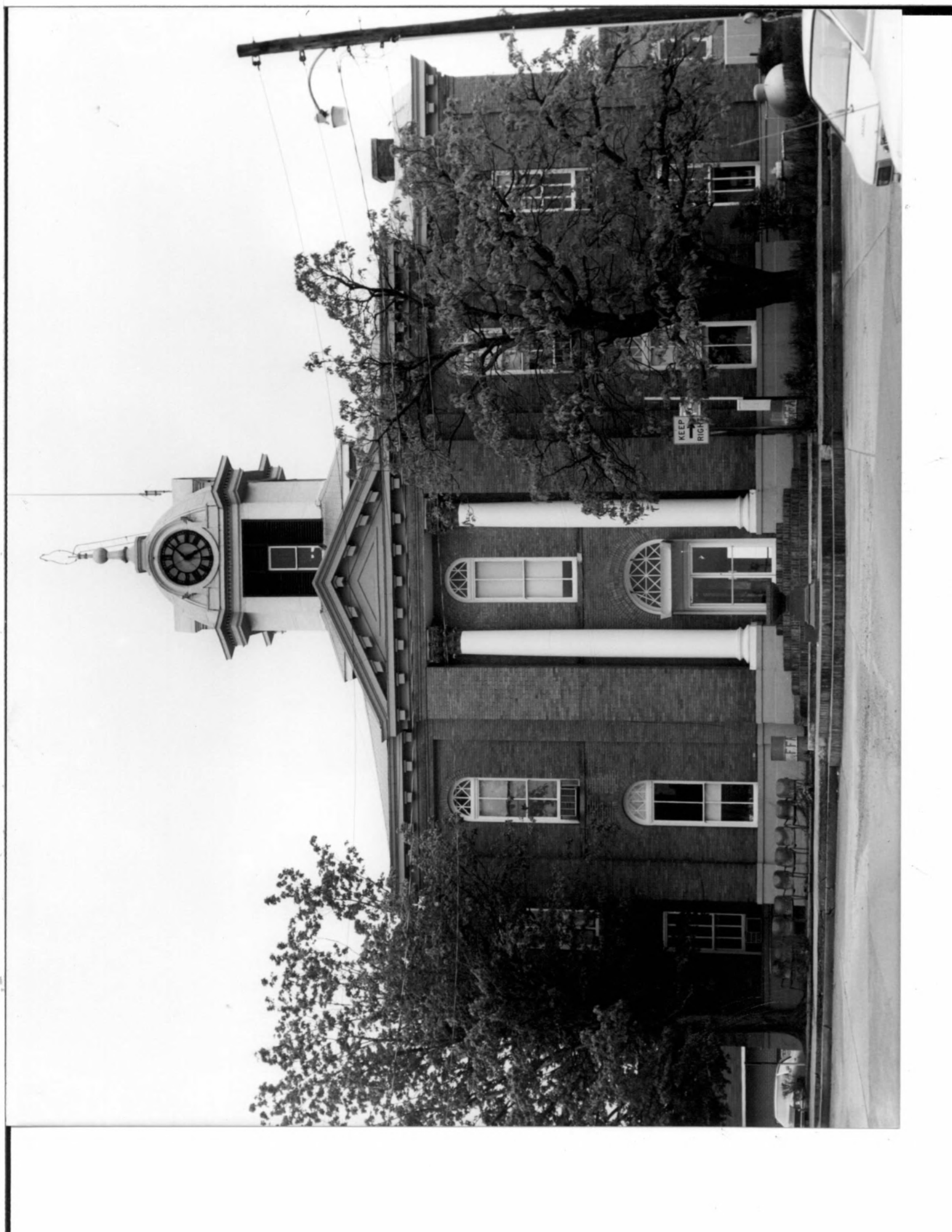
Stoddard County Courthouse  
Bloomfield, Missouri 63825

1 of 9

Photographer: Jim Hall  
Date : May 7, 1984  
Neg. Loc. : Jim Hall, Bloomfield, Mo

View from North snowing main facade.

HALL PHOTOGRAPHY  
202 SCHOOL ST. RT. 3  
BLOOMFIELD, MO. 63825  
(314) 568-2167



12 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

KEEP RIGHT

PAID

2

Stoddard County Courthouse 2 of 9  
Bloomfield, Mo. 63825

Photographer: Jim Hall  
Date : May 7, 1984  
Neg. Loc. : Jim Hall, Bloomfield, Mo.

View from the South showing south facade,  
clearly showing clock tower.

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BLOOMFIELD, MO. 63825  
(314) 568-2167



Stoddard County Courthouse      3 of 9  
Bloomfield, Mo. 63825

Photographer: Jim Hall  
Date       : May 7, 1984  
Neg. Loc.   : Jim Hall, Bloomfield, Mo.

Interior view of double stairway to mid  
landing, single stairway leading to  
second floor. Located on the North end  
of the building.

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Stoddard County Courthouse 4 of 9  
Bloomfield, Mo. 63825

Photographer: Jim Hall  
Date : May 7, 1984  
Neg. Loc. : Jim Hall, Bloomfield, Mo.

Interior view-Stairway appears to be made  
of dressed pine lumber.

WALL PAPERING  
202 SCHOOL ST. RT. 3  
BLOOMFIELD, MO. 63825  
(314) 568-2167



Stoddard County Courthouse  
Bloomfield, Missouri 63825

5 of 9

Photographer: Jim Hall  
Date : May 7, 1984  
Neg. Loc. : Jim Hall, Bloomfield, Mo.

Interior view of doorway, same style on all  
floors.

**HALL PHOTOGRAPHY**  
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Stoddard County Courthouse  
Bloomfield, Missouri 63825

6 of 9

Photographer: Jim Hall  
Date : May 7, 1984  
Neg. Loc. : Jim Hall, Bloomfield, Mo.

Interior view of decorative metal ceiling  
panels, installed in 1909, location in the  
entry hall, first floor.

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Stoddard County Courthouse  
Bloomfield, Missouri 63825

7 of 9

Photographer: Jim Hall  
Date : May 7, 1984  
Neg. Loc. : Jim Hall, Bloomfield, Mo.

Detail of ceiling panel and wall decoration.





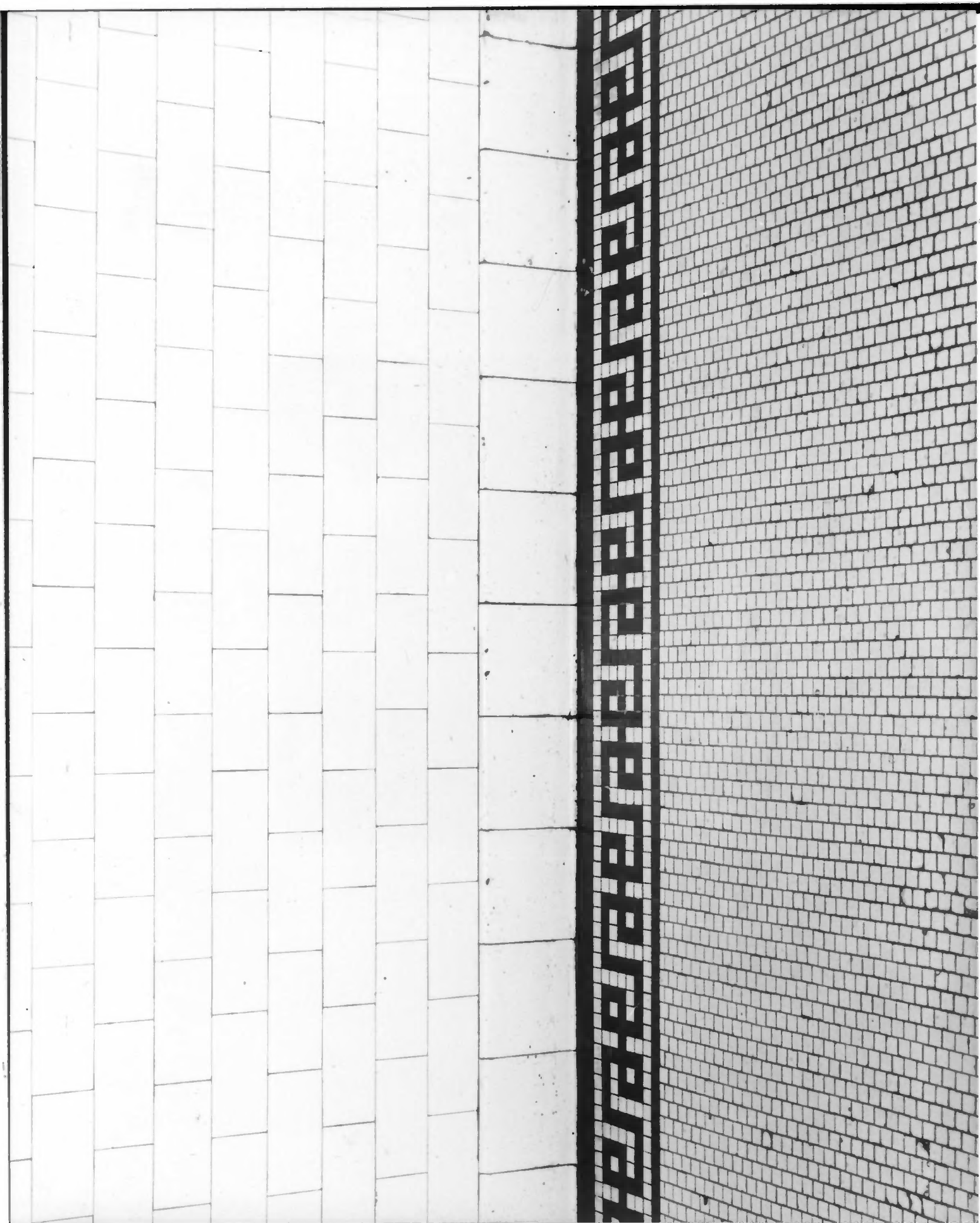
Stoddard County Courthouse  
Bloomfield, Missouri 63825

8 of 9

Photographer: Jim Hall  
Date : May 7, 1984  
Neg. Loc. : Jim Hall, Bloomfield, Mo.

Interior view of the 3/4 inch marble tile  
and 3" x 6" marble tile wainscoting, located  
in the first floor entry hall.

WALL PHOTOGRAPHY  
202 SCHOOL ST. RT. 3  
BLOOMFIELD, MO. 63825  
(314) 568-2167



Stoddard County Courthouse  
Bloomfield, Missouri 63825

9 of 9

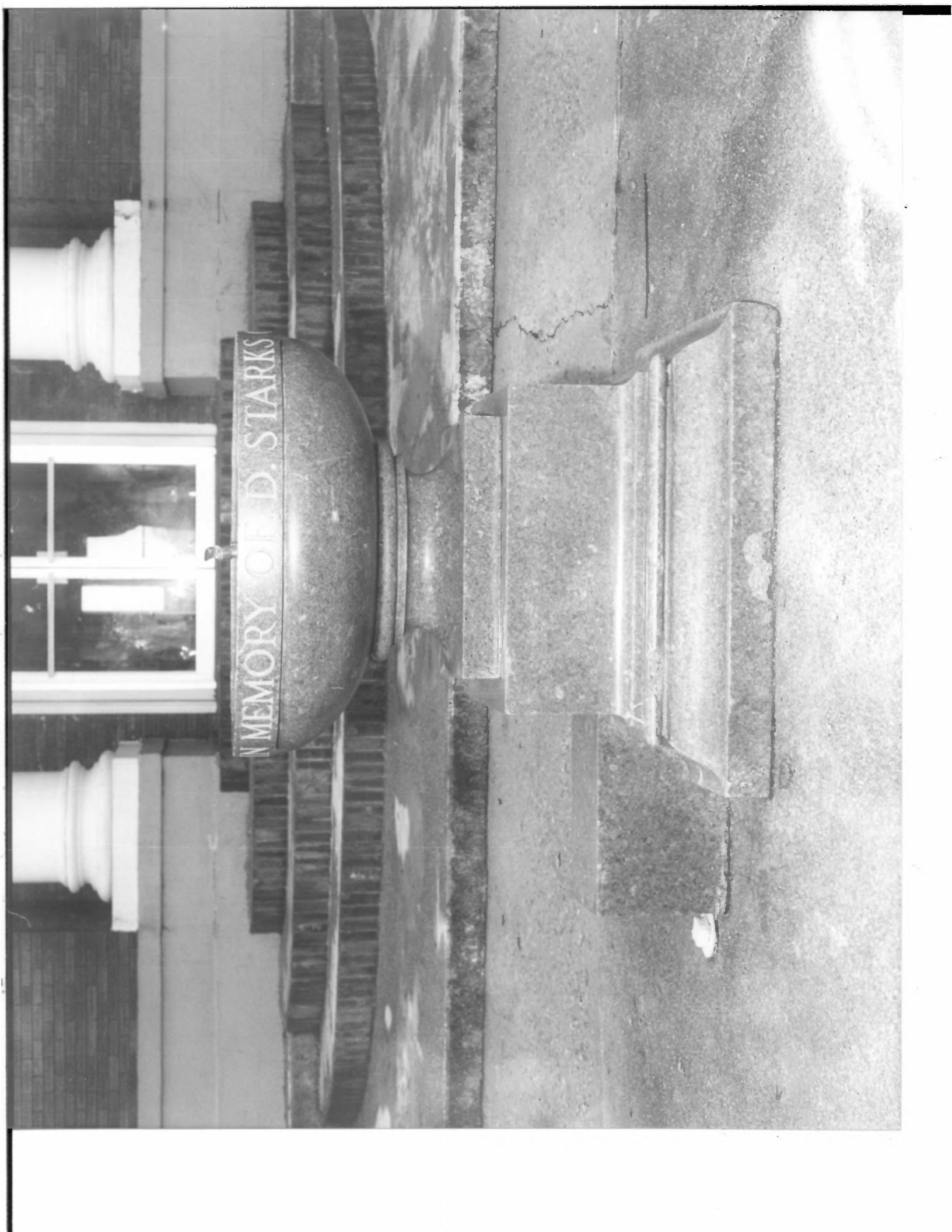
Photographer: Jim Hall  
Date : May 7, 1983  
Neg. Loc. : Jim Hall, Bloomfield, Mo.

View of drinking fountain made of red  
Missouri granite, located at the North  
entrance of the courthouse. Erected  
in October 1917.

HALL PHOTOGRAPHY  
202 SCHOOL ST. RT. 3  
BLOOMFIELD, MO. 63825  
(314) 568-2167



IN MEMORY OF D. STARKS



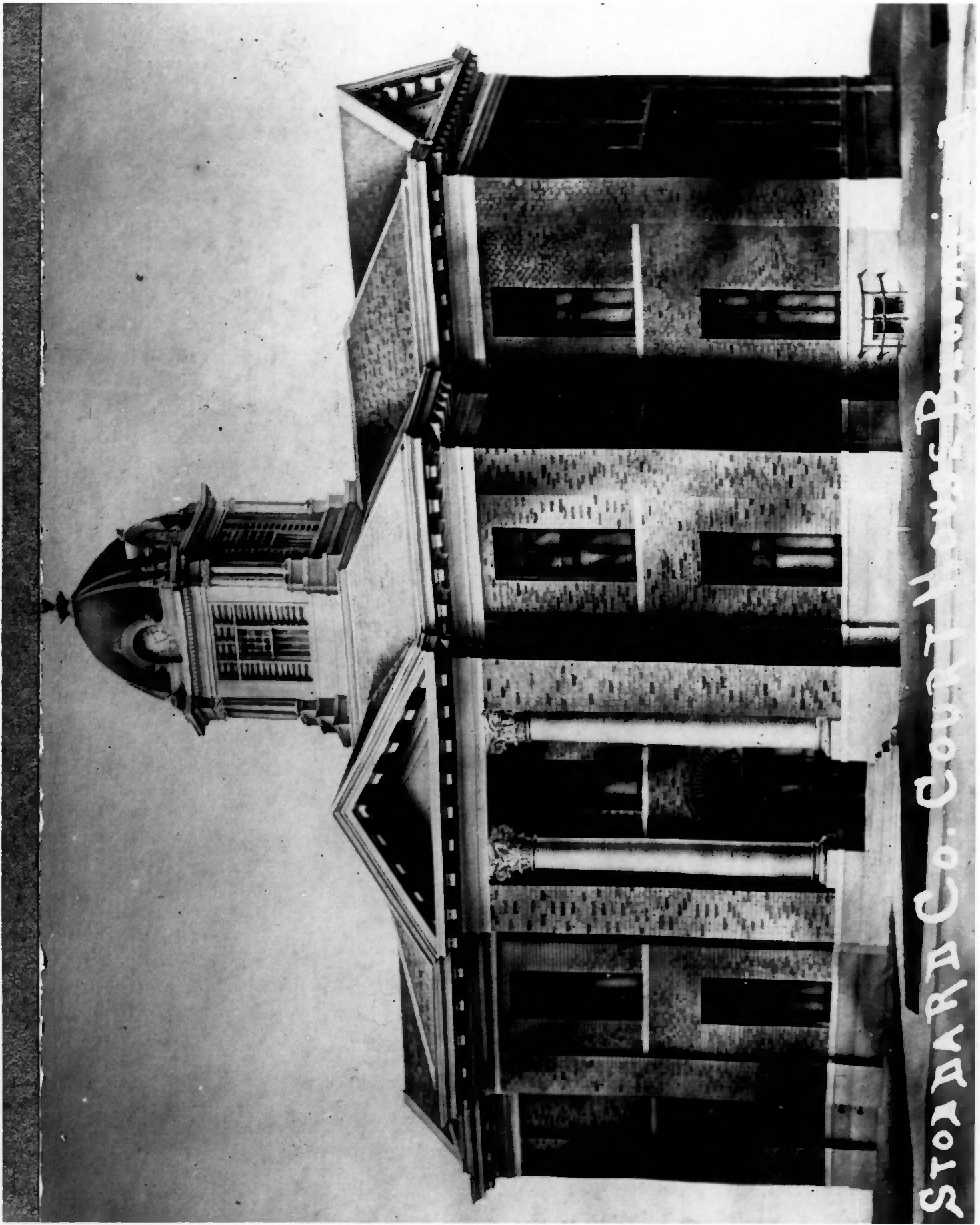
# EXTRA PHOTOS

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STANDARD Co. Court House Building