

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
Adair County Courthouse  
AND/OR COMMON  
Adair County Courthouse

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
Adair County Courthouse  
CITY, TOWN  
Kirksville  
STATE  
Missouri 63501  
VICINITY OF  
Adair #6 - Hon. E. Thomas Coleman  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
COUNTY  
Adair  
CODE  
29  
NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CODE  
001

**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 checked="" 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
County of Adair  
STREET & NUMBER  
Adair County Courthouse  
CITY, TOWN  
Kirksville  
VICINITY OF  
STATE  
Missouri 63501

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Recorder's Office  
STREET & NUMBER  
Adair County Courthouse  
CITY, TOWN  
Kirksville  
STATE  
Missouri 63501

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Missouri State Historical Survey  
DATE  
1977  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
Department of Natural Resources  
CITY, TOWN  
Jefferson City  
STATE  
Missouri 65101  
FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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

### Exterior

Constructed of rustic stone on a rectangular plan (113' x 86') with a medium hipped roof, the Adair County Courthouse sits in the center of the Kirksville city square. The massive structure with its three stories and an attic dominates the downtown area. In the southeast corner of the lawn is a large statue of Andrew Taylor Still, founder of osteopathy, and in the northeast corner a flagpole.

Roof. The surface of the composition roof (originally slate) is interrupted by four gables, four hipped dormers, the pyramidal roofs of four corner pavilions which cap the square towers at each corner of the structure, and a tall brick chimney (Photos 1 and 20). In each gable are three one-over-one light windows under a lunette panel which provide light for the attic (Photos 2 and 8), as do the pairs of windows in each of the dormers (photo 1).

South Facade. The central feature is a projecting center block adorned with the county seal amid decorative sculpture in the lunette panel of the gable and similar sculpture in a rectangular panel beneath the attic windows (Photos 2 and 8). It provides an entranceway through a large Roman arch (12' x 13') supported by pairs of short, thick colonnettes of polished granite. A niche alongside the main portal was probably intended for a plaque or bas-relief decoration. The colonnette capitals have a filigree basket, floral, and shell design (Photos 3 and 7). On each of the corbels supporting the corner columns of the projecting center block is the figure of a head resembling a Roman mask (Photos 2 and 9). Stone steps (now concrete) lead to a landing within the arch which provides access to deeply recessed double doors of plate glass with aluminum frames, one large pane per door, flanked by rectangular sidelights and topped by arched fanlights and two voussoirs (Photos 2 and 3). The third story fenestration of this central feature consists of three one-over-one light windows united under a segmental arch (Photo 2).

Beneath the bracketed cornices are the third story windows and fanlights, all under arches. On either side of the projecting center block are two pairs of one-over-one light windows separated by a wide stone mullion, each pair embraced by a basket handle arch and the windows in each pair separated by a true capital above, making use of a free design based on the Greek acanthus leaf found in the Corinthian style, while below is a curved, beaded section set off by smooth bands above and below. The stone lintels above the capital rest on a rectangular "cyma recta" molding. A single window below a "stilted" arch is on each flank of the square towers at the third story (Photos 1, 5 and 20).



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ADAIR COUNTY COURTHOUSE

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The fenestration at the first and second stories matches that at the third story level with the following exceptions: there are no arches above the windows; windows at the second story have rectangular transoms and those at the first have none; and the windows at the first story level are set in farther at the bottom than at the top because of the battered wall construction (Photo 12). Moreover, three entranceways, one to the right and two to the left of the projecting center block, have replaced windows at the first floor level (Compare Photo 1 with Photo 21). The glass in most of the fanlights and transoms at both the second and third story levels, and a few at the first, have been covered with aluminum sheeting to preserve heat and to prevent an excess of light from reaching the interior. Subsequently, the ceilings in the rooms, except the courtroom, have been lowered, thus completely obscuring from view the sheeted windows from within.

North Facade. This duplicates the south facade with one major exception, viz., only one entranceway, located to the right of the projecting central feature, leads to the first floor. This, a part of the original construction, led to the furnace room and a coal bin in which as many as fifty tons of coal could be stored. The entrance now leads to the gas furnace and a large informal storage area. (Photo 20).

East Facade. Neither this nor the west facade is as ornate as those on the north and south. A slightly projecting Roman arch (10'x 10') supported by pairs of highly polished granite colonnettes, smaller than those on the north and south, with decorated capitals forms an entranceway directly to the first floor, but the projection rises only slightly above the first floor level (Photos 10 and 11).

The gable, narrower than those on the north and south, does not extend below the cornice. In the lower center three one-over-one light windows are united under a lunette panel adorned with decorative carvings. At the apex and atop each of the square corner columns is a copper finial (Photos 1 and 20).

A three-bay window united by a rectangular transom, part of the main structure, is above and behind the archway, with single windows below square transoms on either side. At the first floor level to the right of the arched entranceway is a single window directly below those at the second and third floor level. To the left of the arch is a door, instead of a window, leading to a men's restroom. (Photo 20)

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At the third floor level, the fenestration above the arch is like that on the north and south facades, except that there is no projection and the windows, one on either side, are single one-over-one light with "stilted" arches, as are those on the flanks of the corner towers (Photo 20).

West Facade. This duplicates the east facade, with two exceptions. There is no door at either side of the arch and a finial at the apex of the gable is missing.

Interior

The first story with its concrete floor and walls of plaster and wood paneling is finished, but not ornate. Two sets of stairs on the south lead to a landing just inside the south arched entranceway. A wide stairway leads to the second floor which may also be reached by similar stairs from the arched entranceway on the north. Separated stairs on the south lead to a landing midway between the second and third floors whence a wide stairway leads to the third floor. All of the stair treads, risers, and newels are of iron, as are the railings which feature simple "rams horn" curves (Photos 14 and 15).

The main support of the center of the building consists of four arches on the second and third floors which transfer their respective loads from the top into the basement and to the foundation piers. Floral capitals of heavily glazed terra cotta used throughout this support system resemble the exterior colonnette capitals (Photos 7 and 17). The arches on the third floor feature an egg-and-dart molding. At the center of those on the north and the south is a bearded Satyr's head, above and behind which is a floral cartouche. A banded globe is in the center of the corner spandrels (Photos 14 and 18). Above each of the four arches (on both its inner and outer side) on the second floor is a female head centered in a floral decoration. A narrow band of floral relief is the only decoration on the intrados (Photo 19).

The original terrazo floors laid in one-foot squares in the rotundas and the landings are bordered with a "Greek Key" design.

The rotunda on the second floor affords access to various county offices on the east and west, while that on the third floor is surrounded by offices, except on the south. To the right (east) of the top of the stairs on the third floor is the circuit courtroom with satellite offices on the north. The main entrance to this most ornate room in the courthouse, consists of two leather-covered swinging doors, with oval glass panels, guarded by a pair of

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wooden doors. The white, coffered ceiling is decorated with a painted wreath in the center and various molded rosettes and medallions, while the turquoise walls are plain (Photo 13). To the north of the room and somewhat separated from it by original paneling of golden oak are the judges' chambers and the jury room.

An original oak railing separates the spectators from those having business before the court. The golden oak jury box and judge's bench are also original.

# 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1898-1899

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Robert G. Kirsch

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Adair County Courthouse is significant as a regionally important example of Romanesque-Style Architecture, and as the seat of county government since its completion in 1899.

Adair County's first courthouse was built in Kirksville in 1843, two years after the county was organized. It was a one-story brick structure erected for approximately \$1,000 on the northwest corner of the town square where the First National Bank now stands. When this first building proved inadequate, a two-story courthouse, likewise of brick, was constructed in the middle of the town square at a cost of \$2,350. This courthouse, completed in 1855, was used by Colonel Joseph C. Porter and his Confederate troops during the Battle of Kirksville, August 6, 1862, in a vain effort to withstand the attack of Union soldiers under the command of Colonel John McNeil. It was destroyed by fire on April 12, 1865, three days after General Robert E. Lee had surrendered his Confederate army at Appomattox Court House near Lynchburg, Virginia.<sup>1</sup>

From 1865 until 1898, Adair had no courthouse; hence, officials conducted their work in rented rooms on or near the square. In 1872, 1891, 1892, and again in 1896 the county court proposed that the county issue bonds to build a courthouse, but each time the voters defeated the proposition. Finally, in 1897, the required two-thirds majority affirmative vote was given a \$50,000 county bond issue to erect the present courthouse and a jail. Thereupon, the county court, after considering a number of plans, hired Kirsch & Company, an architectural firm with headquarters in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to design the three-story (including a high basement) building.<sup>2</sup>

Architect Robert G. Kirsch, who later designed the courthouses in the Missouri counties of Carroll (1901), Polk (1906), Vernon (1906), and Cooper (1912), was greatly influenced by the (H.H.) Richardsonian Romanesque style of architecture "with its broad arches, squat column clusters, roughfaced stone masonry, and massed hip roofs."<sup>3</sup> Kirsch personally supervised the construction of the massive rectangular structure of "light blue (Ohio) sandstone"<sup>4</sup> with its ornate clock tower, surmounted by a female figure depicting even-handed justice, which projected from the center of the building. This tower was removed in 1949, because its weight was thought to be endangering the main structure, and the figure of justice moved to the center point of the roof. One of the clock dials is in the Adair County Historical Society museum and the bell from which the hours and half hours pealed out is now in the Burdman Bell Wall on the Northeast Missouri State University campus.<sup>5</sup>

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The county court, comprised of Presiding Judge James A. Bragg and District Judges J. S. Hickman and D. H. Crawford, let the construction contract on November 6, 1897, to Anderson & Menke who bid \$46,675, a sum considerably less than the total cost proved to be. C. C. Anderson, of Kirksville, was responsible for the woodwork and F. W. Menke, of Quincy, Illinois, took care of the stonework. The contractors hired G. F. Metzger, of Kirksville, as general foreman.<sup>6</sup>

The cornerstone, which had been prepared by Charles H. Lee, of Kirksville, was laid on Monday, May 2, 1898, with the Masonic ceremony conducted by Andrew Fisher, of La Belle, Missouri, acting for the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Missouri, A. F. & A. M. People from Macon, Milan, Moberly, and Quincy, arriving that day by train, greatly increased the number who enjoyed the program, despite the intermittent rainfall. All doubtless shared, too, in the euphoria which followed upon Sunday's news of Admiral George Dewey's victory over the Spanish fleet in Manila Bay.<sup>7</sup>

Work on the building proceeded smoothly and according to plan during the following ten months. The contractors used local labor insofar as possible, but Kirsch himself saw to every detail of the construction. On February 24, 1899, the Kirksville Democrat announced that the county court had received the courthouse from the contractors. Five weeks later, March 31, 1899, the county officers moved into their new home.<sup>8</sup>

Some Adair County citizens were unhappy because of the cost, approximately \$60,000, had exceeded the original estimate. Moreover, no funds were left to construct the jail called for in the bond issue. Nearly everyone agreed, however, that architecturally, the courthouse was "the pride of all North Missouri."<sup>9</sup> Time has not altered that evaluation.

For almost seventy-eight years, the courthouse has contained most of the county offices as well as the offices of some officials not part of the county government. The only county officials with quarters outside the courthouse today are the prosecuting attorney, the public administrator, and the sheriff. For more than fifty years, the southeast corner of the first floor served as Kirksville's city hall, the city court, and the city police headquarters.<sup>10</sup> This corner was later occupied by the motor vehicle registration office, not a county agency, but which still has space in another part of the first floor. Other space occupied today by agencies not administered by county officials include that used by the Adair County Historical Society, the Northeast Missouri

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Regional Planning Commission, the State Probation and Parole Office, and a Veteran's Affairs Office.

The south facade of the courthouse has always been considered its front. There, the stone (now concrete) steps leading to the entranceway, were used for many years by the sheriffs for foreclosure sales, political orators when a crowd could be assembled on the nearby lawn, photographers for taking group pictures, and patriotic organizations for programs on Armistice Day and Memorial Day. Occasionally, a young man would drive his automobile up the steps to demonstrate his skill and the superior quality of his machine, a performance that ceased when a central iron handrail was installed.<sup>11</sup>

For seventy years hitching posts were along all sides of the courthouse lawn, but were removed in order to make parking places for cars. Also, for many years there were two wells on the lawn, one to the southeast and one to the northwest of the courthouse, from which storekeepers and nearby residents carried drinking water. The wells are still there, but both have been capped by cement.<sup>12</sup>

A major change in the interior of the structure was made in 1923 when the county court, fearing that significant county records might be lost in case of a fire, ordered the construction of a tier of fireproof vaults, one on each floor, in the northwest part. Another change was the conversion of space in the northeast corner of the first floor from a coal bin in which more than fifty tons of coal were stored each year into a large informal storage room in which a gas furnace is located.<sup>13</sup>

With the exception of the tower removal, little change has been made in the external appearance of the courthouse itself. However, the beauty of its setting has been somewhat marred by the loss of beautiful shade trees, the reduction of the lawn area by ten feet on each of the four sides, and the construction of a concrete parking lot on the north one quarter of the grounds.<sup>14</sup>

The survey of Missouri's historic sites is based on the selection of sites as they relate to theme studies in Missouri history as outlined in "Missouri's State Historic Preservation Plan". The Adair County Courthouse is, therefore, being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as an example of the themes of "Architecture", and "Political Affairs".

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FOOTNOTES

1. Eugene M. Violette, History of Adair County (Kirksville, Missouri: The Denslow History Company, 1911), pp. 56-58; Paul O. Selby, "The Adair County Courthouse", in A Book of Adair County History (Kirksville, Missouri: The Kirksville-Adair County Bicentennial Committee, 1976), p. 105.
2. Violette, Adair County, pp. 59-61; Kirksville (Missouri) Journal, September 23, 1897.
3. A Courthouse Conservation Handbook (Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1976), p. 10.
4. Kirksville (Missouri) Democrat, May 1898.
5. Selby, "Adair County Courthouse," p. 105.
6. Violette, Adair County, p. 61; Kirksville Democrat, November 12, 1897.
7. Kirksville Democrat, May 6, 1898; Violette, Adair County, p. 61.
8. Violette, Adair County, p. 63.
9. Kirksville Democrat, February 24, 1899.
10. Selby, "Adair County Courthouse", p. 108.
11. Ibid., p. 107.
12. Ibid., p. 112.
13. Ibid., p. 108.
14. Ibid., p. 112.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

1. Kirksville Democrat, May 1898.
2. A Courthouse Conservation Handbook. The Preservation Press, National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1976.

*National Register  
changed to 92°  
8/2/78*

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approx. 1.32 acres

Latitude  
40°11'42"

Longitude  
90°35'.73"  
1:62,500

QUADRANGLE NAME "Kirksville"

QUADRANGLE SCALE

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 535449 4449285

B               

C               

D               

E               

F               

G               

H               

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Adair County Courthouse rests on Courthouse Square, a tract of land 240 feet on each side and bounded by Harrison Street on the north, Franklin Street on the east, Washington Street on the south, and Elson Street on the west.

**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. David D. March Professor of History

October 24, 1977

ORGANIZATION

Northeast Missouri State University

DATE

665-2283

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

665-5121 ext. 3352

CITY OR TOWN

Kirksville

STATE

Missouri

**12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL      STATE      LOCAL X

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

*Robert L. Spurgeon*

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

DATE

February 10, 1978

**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



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ADAIR COUNTY COURTHOUSE

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3. Selby, Paul O. "Adair County Courthouse," A Book of Adair County History.  
Kirksville: The Kirksville-Adair County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.
4. Violette, Eugene M. "Adair County," Kirksville Journal. September 23, 1897.
5. ———, History of Adair County. Kirksville, Missouri: The Denslow History  
Company, 1911.

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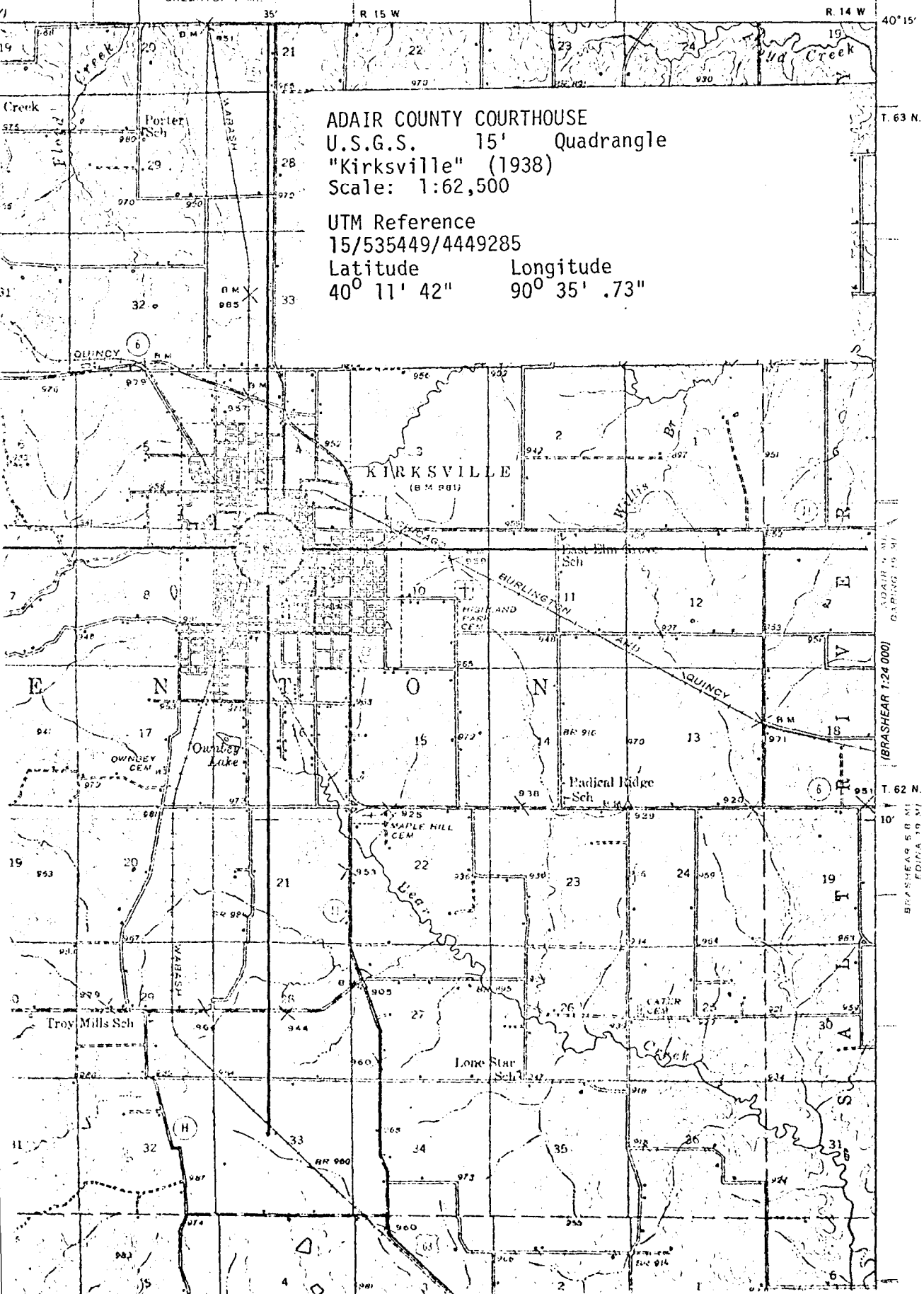
- 
2. Leon C. Karel, Professor of Fine Arts  
Northeast Missouri State University  
Kirksville, Missouri 63501

MISSOURI  
KIRKSVILLE QUADRANGLE

(WILLMATHSVILLE)  
1:24 000

LANCASTER 20 MI.  
GREENTOP 7 MI.

92° 30'



ADAIR COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
U.S.G.S. 15' Quadrangle  
"Kirksville" (1938)  
Scale: 1:62,500

UTM Reference  
15/535449/4449285  
Latitude 40° 11' 42" Longitude 90° 35' .73"

(BRASHEAR 1:24 000)  
T. 63 N.  
T. 62 N.  
EDIP.A 19 37

# EXISTING LAND USE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT



CITY OF KIRKSVILLE  
MISSOURI



### LEGEND

- LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL
- ▤ MEDIUM & HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL
- MOBILE HOMES & TRAILER PARKS
- ▨ COMMERCIAL
- ▧ LIGHT INDUSTRY
- ▩ PUBLIC OR SEMI-PUBLIC
- ▦ PARKS & DEVELOPED OPEN SPACE

ADAIR COUNTY COURTHOUSE



Thanks to you  
... working  
GOAL: \$37,000  
The United Way  
COUNTY WASHINGTON  
DONOR LIST

Street  
MAY  
Pavement Fund

quc

Adair County Courthouse  
Kirksville, Missouri.

Photographer: Leon C. Karel  
May 13, 1977

Copy Neg. Location: Department of Natural Resources  
Jefferson City, Mo. 65101

General View from the Southeast. Three story building in Neo-Romanesque style, a modification of the "Richardsonian Romanesque" design.

General features include: Use of rusticated stone, "battered" walls (thicker at the base), pavilions on the four corners, the rounded arch in various forms, and generally heavy, massive appearance. The courthouse used to have a central clock tower atop which the present statute of justice stood. This was dismantled in 1949 because it was unstable.





COURT HOUSE

phone

Adair County Courthouse

#2

Kirksville, Missouri

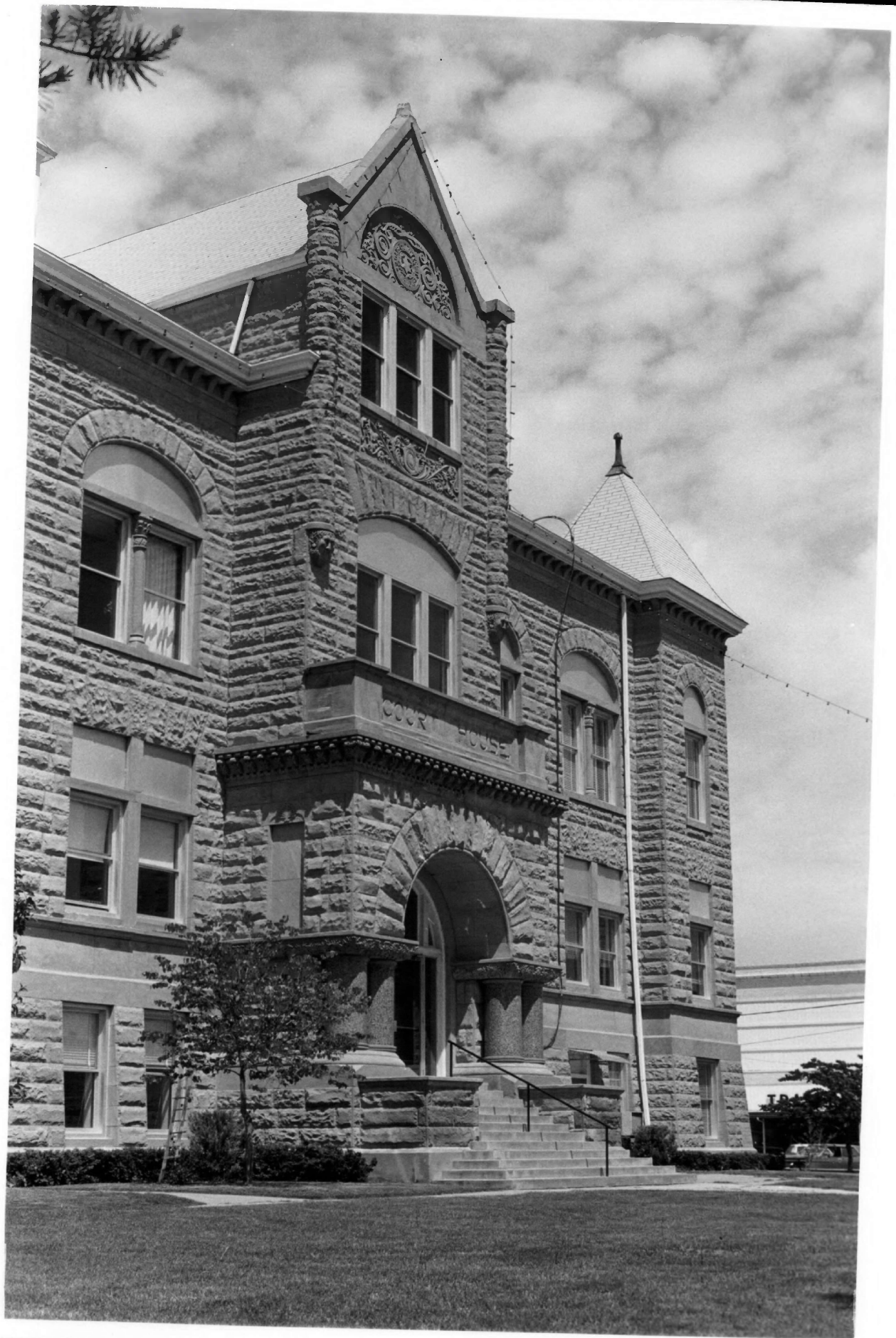
Photographer: Leon C. Karel

May 13, 1977

Copy Neg. Location: Department of Natural Resources  
Jefferson City, Mo. 65101

Closer view of South facade. Large Roman  
Arch supported by granite double columns,  
above which are two carved panels, the  
upper which features the Adair County  
Court Seal.





Adair County Courthouse

#3

Kirksville, Missouri

Photographer: Leon C. Karel

May 13, 1977

Copy Neg. Location: Department of Natural Resources.  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

View of South Side, from the Southwest corner.  
Note niche alongside of main Portal, probably  
intended for a plaque or bas-relief decoration.





Adair County Courthouse  
KRICHSVILLE, MISSOURI

#4

Photographer: Leon C. Karel  
May 13, 1977

Copy Negative Location: Department of Natural Resources  
Jefferson City, MO. 65101

Close up of segmental arch used in three-bay  
window of upper story. Note segmental curve  
of intrados, with flat extrados line. TOP  
segment of fenestration is metal sheeting.





Adair County Courthouse

#5

Kirksville, Missouri

Photographer: Leon C. Karel

May 13, 1977

copy neg. Location:

Department of Natural Resources  
Jefferson City, MO. 65101

Close up of smaller window arch. Here the stone sill is set one voussoir lower than the spring of the arch. This style has been called the "stilted" arch.



Adair County Courthouse  
Kirksville, Missouri

#6

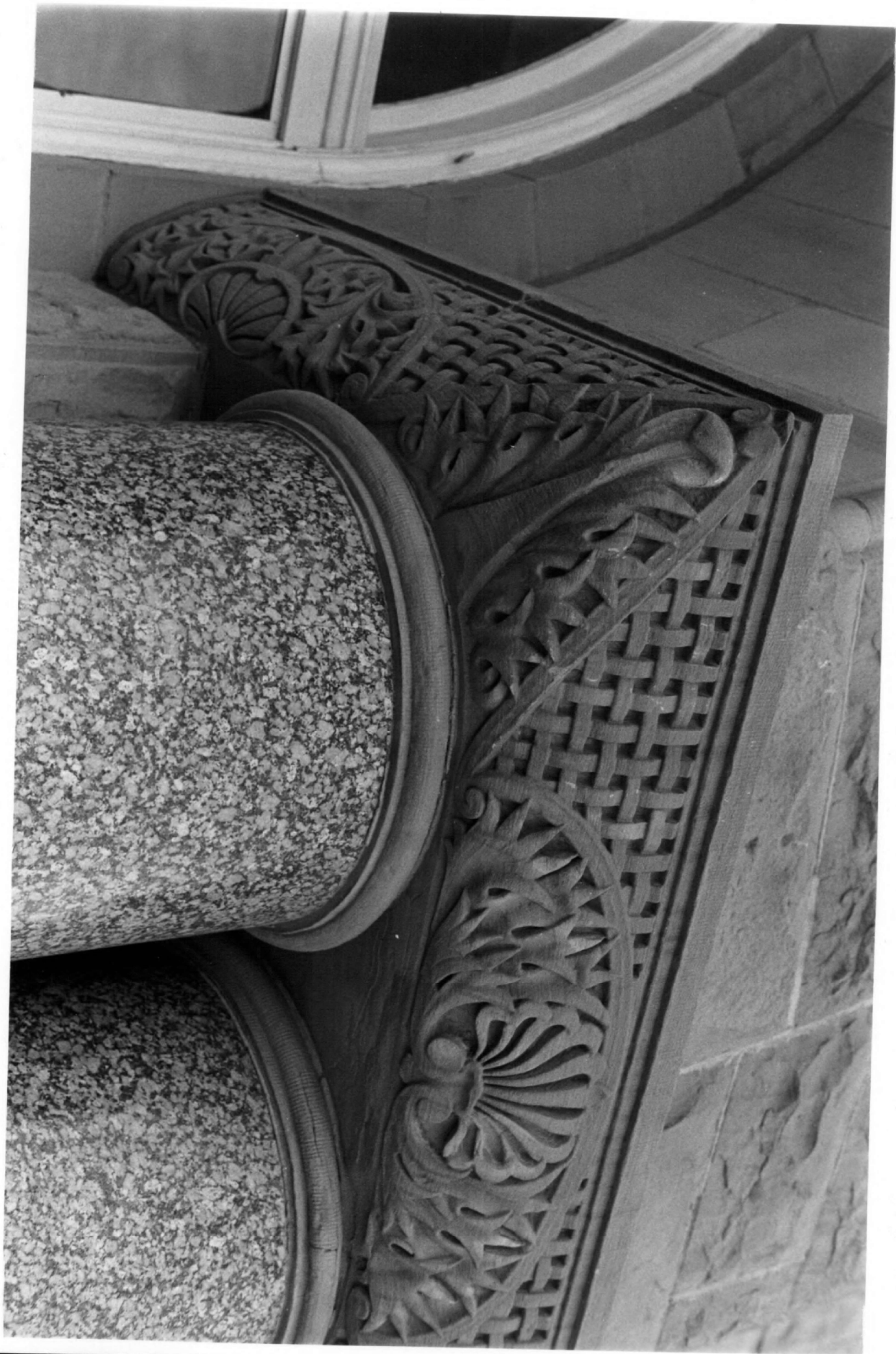
Photographer: Leon C. Karel

May 13, 1977

Copy Neg. Location: Department of Natural Resources  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Detail of Column Capital used for central  
mullion in upper story window. Capital is  
divided into two parts, a true capital  
above, making use of a free design based  
on the Greek acanthus leaf found in the  
Corinthian style, while below that is  
seen a curved, beaded section set  
off by smooth bands above and below.  
The stone lintels above the capital rest  
on a rectangular "cyma recta" molding.





#7

Adair County Courthouse  
Kirksville, Missouri

Photographer: Leon C. Karel  
May 13, 1977

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Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Detail of Capital, Central Entryway, South Side.





Adair County Courthouse

#8

Kirksville, Missouri

Photographer: Leon C. Karel

May 13, 1977

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Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Lunette Panel over central entry way, Southside.

Note Shape of Voussoirs allowing the arch to fit into the triangle gable without use of spandrels. The floral motif with

shell is seen, and clearer use of the

shell shape. The central plaque, or tympanum

carving, can be seen to be composed of three

carefully joined segments.





Adair County Courthouse

#9

Kirksville, Missouri

Photographer: Leon C. Karel

May 13, 1977

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Detail of Corbel Support for Corner Column, South Side.  
The "satyr" head resembles Roman masks. The  
teeth are an added feature.





A Dale County Courthouse  
Kirksville, Mo.  
Photographer: Leon C. Karel  
May 13, 1977

#10

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View of west Entry way.





Adair County Courthouse  
Kirksville, Missouri

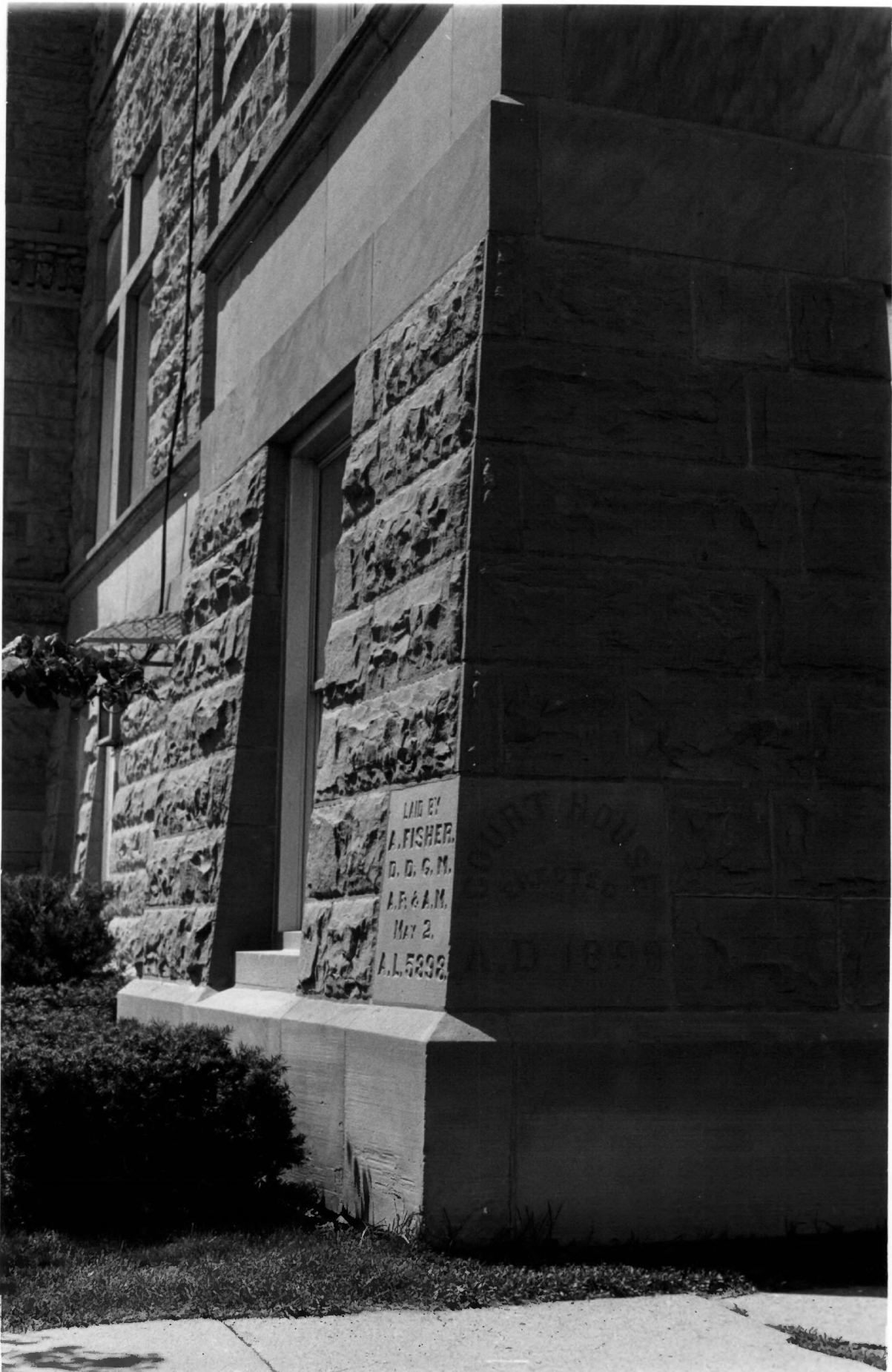
# 11

Photographer: Leon C. Karel  
May 13, 1977

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View of west entryway taken from the South.  
Thickness of load-bearing walls can be seen here.





Laid by  
A. FISHER.  
D. D. G. M.  
A. F. & A. M.  
May 2.  
A. L. 5292.

Adair County Courthouse  
Kirksville, Missouri

#12

Photographer: Leon C. Karel

May 13, 1977

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Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Cornerstone view of Southeast corner of building.  
Detail of battered wall construction can be  
seen in window framing.



#13

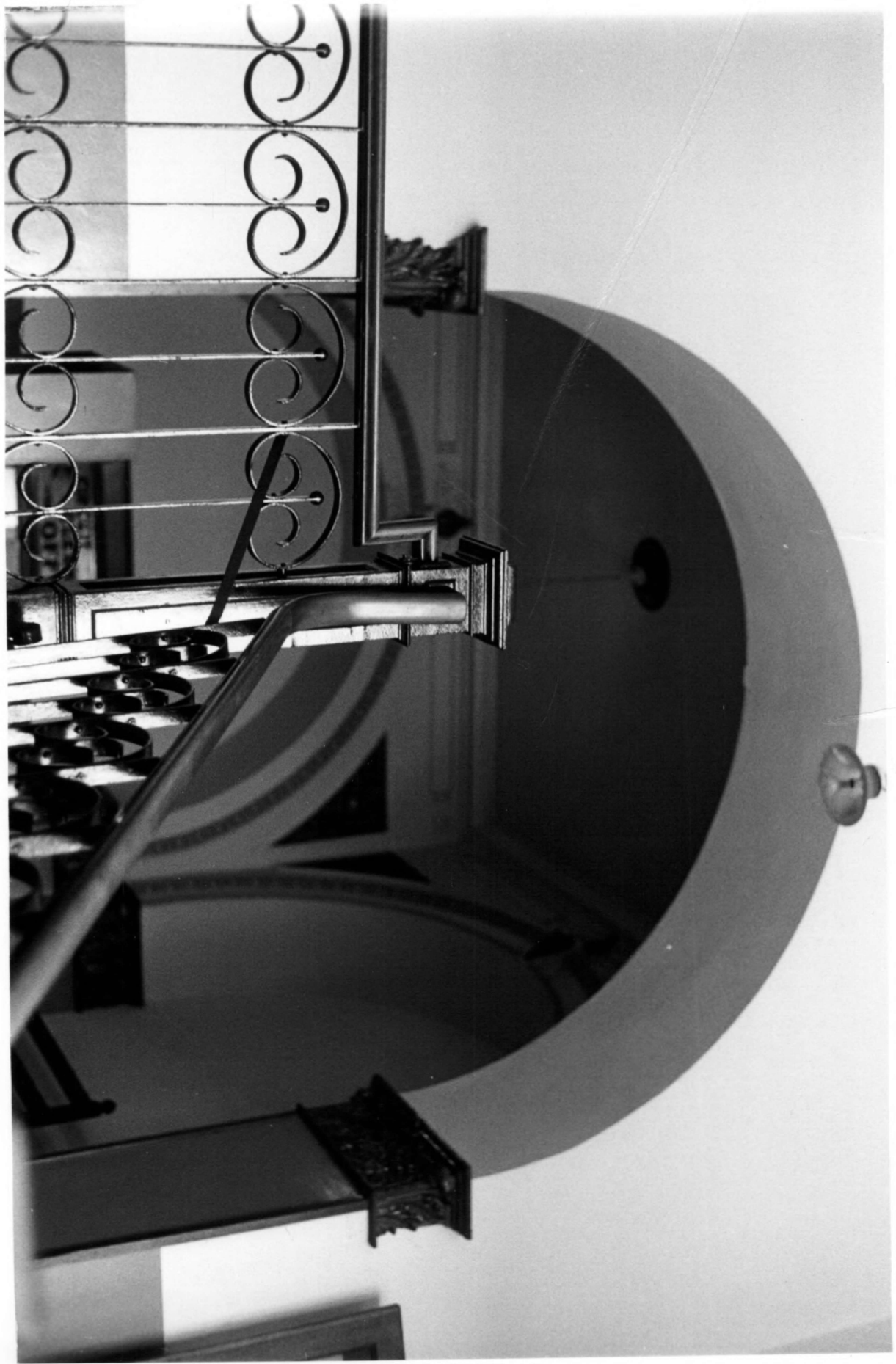
Adair County Courthouse  
Kirksville, Missouri

Photographer: Leon C. Karel  
May 13, 1977

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Jefferson City, MO. 65701

Interior of circuit courtroom showing the  
original judge's bench, jury box, and  
divider, all of golden oak.





#14

ADAIR County Courthouse  
Kirksville, Missouri:

Photographer: Leon C. Karel  
May 13, 1977

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Detail of central, interior archway. This is the main support of the center of the building these arches bearing the weight of the former tower and Super-structure onto the four posts, which in turn carry the load to a similar support system in the lower floor.





#15

Adair County Courthouse  
Kirksville, Missouri

Photographer: Leon C. Karel  
May 13, 1977

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Wrought iron railings feature simple curves  
reminiscent of the classical "Panshorn"  
Capitol



#16

Adair County Courthouse  
Kirksville, Missouri

Photographer: Leon C. Karel

May 13, 1977

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Terrazzo floor border is based on the Greek  
design which was derived from the River  
Meander





#17

A Dair County Courthouse  
Kirksville, Missouri.

Photographer: Leon C. Karel  
May 13, 1977

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Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Floral Capitals used throughout the Central  
Support System echo the exterior column capitals,  
and make use of shell motif. The materials  
seem to be heavily glazed terra cotta



# 18

Adair County Courthouse  
Kirksville, Missouri

Photographer: Leon C. Karel  
May 13, 1977

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Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Top floor arching features egg-and-dart  
molding, a central, bearded Satyr's head,  
and corner Spandrels in which are centered  
a banded globe, which may be a symbol of the  
world.





#19

Adair County Courthouse  
Kirksville, Missouri

Photographer: Leon C. Karel  
May 13, 1977

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Figure above central arch, second story.  
An unidentified female head centered among  
floral decoration. Similar heads are used for  
Justice. Note band of floral relief on arch.



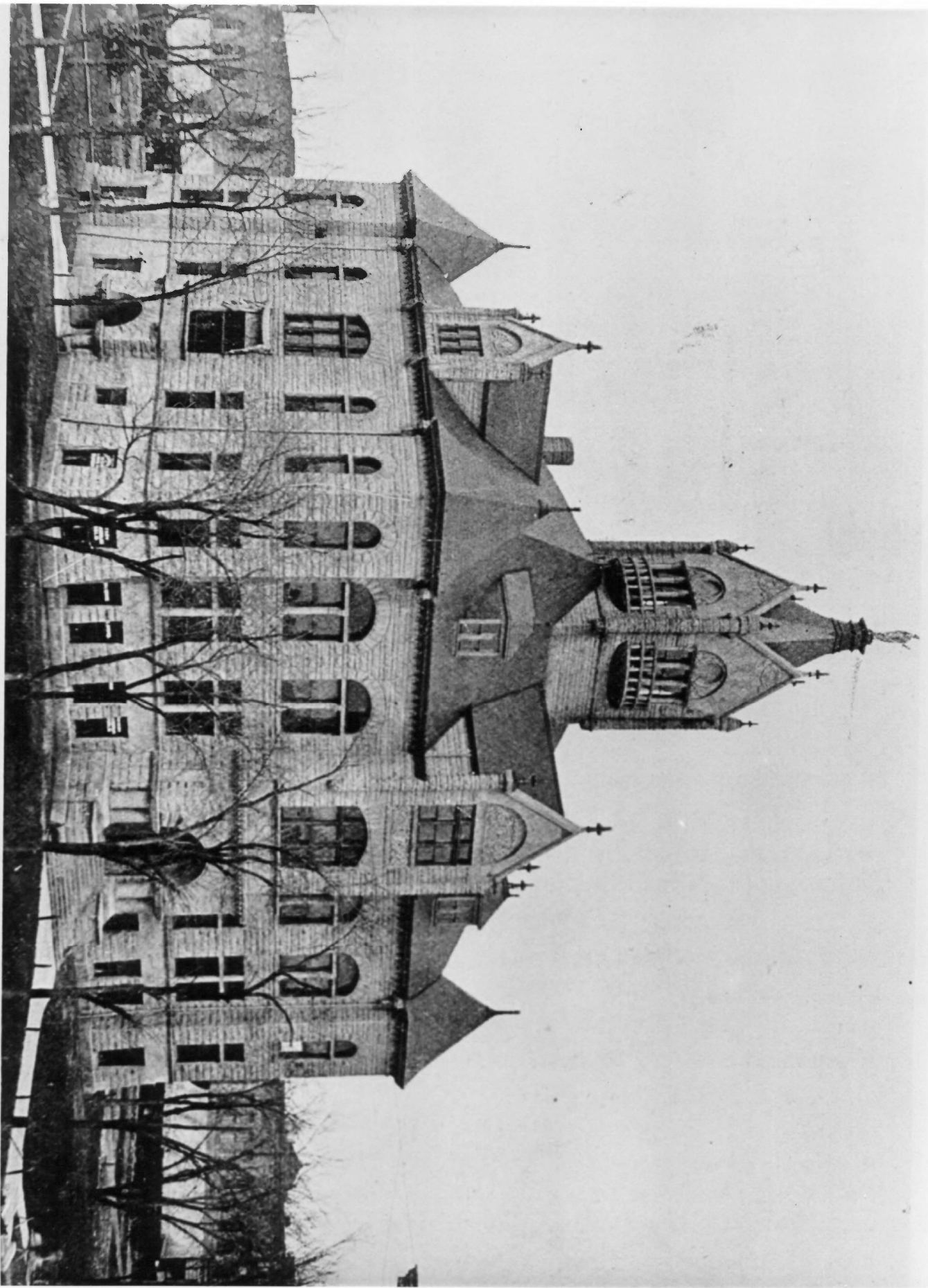
Adair County Courthouse  
Kirksville, Missouri  
Photographer: Leon C. Karel  
May 13, 1977

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Jefferson City, MO.

General view from the Northeast

#20







ADAIR County Courthouse  
Kirksville, Missouri

#21

Photographer: Unknown  
1910

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Jefferson City, MO. C65101

General view from the southwest in 1910.  
Note ornate tower which was removed in 1949, the  
absence of doors on either side of the projecting  
central feature on the south facade, and the  
absence of the iron railing on the steps.