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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

Grim Building

AND/OR COMMON

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

113-115 East Washington

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Kirksville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Missouri

VICINITY OF

#6-Hon. Thomas F. Coleman

CODE  
029

COUNTY  
Adair

CODE  
001

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

### CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

### OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

### STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

### PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Michael W. Mulford

STREET & NUMBER

113 East Washington

CITY, TOWN

Kirksville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Missouri 63501

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder of Deeds, Adair County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Kirksville

STATE

Missouri 63501

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Missouri State Historical Survey

DATE

1979

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Department of Natural Resources

CITY, TOWN

Jefferson City

STATE

Missouri 65102

# 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

The Grim Building stands just east of the county courthouse square in the downtown business district of Kirksville, Missouri. It is constructed of red brick, laid in common bond, with added detailing in white limestone. Its L plan rests on a foundation of quarry faced, limestone ashlar blocks and it is capped by a tar and gravel roof which slopes gently from south to north. This roof is concealed behind a brick parapet which decreases in height from front to rear along the east and west sides of the building.

The major (south) facade of the Grim Building measures 55'4" while that on the north measures only 48'3" due to a decrease in the width of the building at a point 9' along its eastern side. The building measures 59'8" along the east and west. An alley runs along its west side and a one story brick office building nearly abuts its east wall. A brick warehouse, rectangular in plan, which was constructed at the same time as the main building, is located 13' to the north of its north wall.

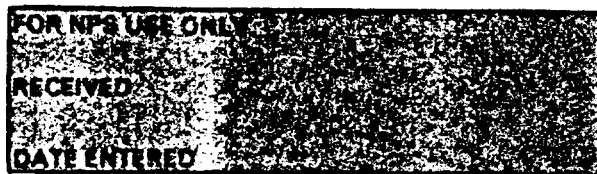
### EXTERIOR

The primary facade of the Grim Building features sculptural details of English Gothic and Italian Renaissance-Baroque design which characterize what has come to be known as the Jacobethan Revival style. In the central bay of this three bayed facade is the main entrance to the building which features a limestone basket-handle arch 7'8" in width which springs from impost level quoin headers. Resting below the arch and above the quoin headers to either side is a unique "capital" composed of two spindle shapes, the larger resting on the smaller. This arched entryway is dominated by a limestone hood mold executed in high relief featuring shields, dragons, grapes and an elaborate acanthus rinceau. A pair of molded and paneled wooden doors, each with a rectangular transom, fills the back wall of the entranceway. The large central light in each door echoes the shape of the main arch above.

Directly above the arch, at the top of the parapet which caps this facade, a cartouche rests on a triangular pediment which has a lion's head, carved in high relief, centered in its tympanum. Below the pediment and at the center of the parapet wall is a scrolled plaque carved with the date, "A.D. 1905" and flanked by two large scrolled brackets. Below this a smoothed stone architrave is supported by modillions and incised with the name, "Grim Building". The parapet is further embellished by a molded limestone stringcourse below and a similar cornice above, and squat engaged pilasters of brick which are capped with squat kraters. Each of these kraters once supported a slender obelisk topped with a ball. In addition, two sculptured medallions are located on the parapet. That to the east represents a bearded man and that to the west, a woman.

The fenestration of the three bayed south facade features two triplet groupings of 1-over-1 light, double-hung windows in each flanking bay. A window pair in a similar design caps the main entrance and a single window with identical detailing is located to either side of the basket-handle arch. Each window

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



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

GRIM BUILDING

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

group is decorated with limestone lugsills, lintels and quoins, while staggered limestone quoin headers embrace the facade at its east and west extremes.

The other facades of the Grim Building are of simple design, embellished only with segmental arches of brick above their numerous windows. A rear entrance is located to the north and a subsidiary entranceway on the east side has been closed with wooden planks.

INTERIOR

The first and second floors of the Grim Building are divided into office space (see plan). Notable features include oak woodwork on the first floor and mirrored chimney pieces embellished with Doric and Ionic classical detailing, glazed tiles and ornate cast metal screens on both floors.

A full basement with a concrete floor and limestone walls is reached by an interior stairway from the first floor. None of the rooms here are presently in use. The basement is the location of a vault and the furnace (see plan).

ALTERATIONS

On the south facade an iron railing in the center of the steps has been added, and the obelisks have been removed from each of the four stone kraters which rest on the parapet. The original wood platform and steps at the north end have been replaced by concrete, and iron railings were added. Originally the building was heated with steam generated by a coal furnace and by gas fireplaces. Electric light with power provided by a Delco system was augmented by gaslight. Today the building is heated with steam generated by a natural gas furnace and fluorescent lighting fixtures replace the former ones. Interior walls in the southwest corner of the first floor have been replaced by wood paneling. On the second floor the ceiling has been lowered and the plaster replaced by building board. Ceiling tile has been installed in the offices on the east side.

PRESENT STATUS

The site of the Grim Building was, at one time, designated as a priority parking area for downtown Kirksville. The latest city plan, however, indicates no plans to demolish the building and the owner is dedicated to its preservation.

# 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/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 type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	Medicine	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES 1905 BUILDER/ARCHITECT A. Weber and Albert B. Groves

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Grim Building in downtown Kirksville, Missouri is a fine local example of the Jacobethan Revival style of design. This style is rarely found in Missouri outside major cities. In addition, this building, along with several streets in Kirksville named Grim and the Grim-Smith Hospital, serves as a memorial to a once prominent family of physicians, educators and civic leaders.

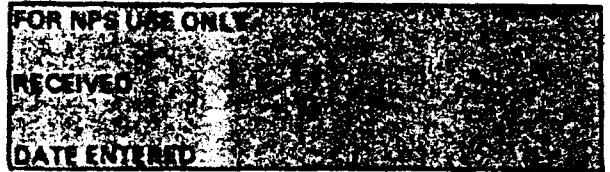
In 1904 Ezra C. Grim, M.D. and his brother, Edward A. Grim, M.D. hired the St. Louis architectural firm of Weber and Groves to design a building for their practice. They intended that it should provide a suite of offices and operating rooms as well as space for business offices.<sup>2</sup> The principle architect was Albert Bartleton Groves (1866-1925) who settled in St. Louis a few years after graduating from Cornell University in 1888. In 1891 he became a partner in the firm of Grable, Weber and Groves which became Weber and Groves in 1893. After Weber died in 1905 Groves pursued his profession alone.<sup>3</sup> He is especially remembered for his designs of the Union Avenue Christian Church (1907), Westminster Presbyterian Church (1916), St. Mary's Hospital (1923) and, with Thomas C. Young, the Masqnic Temple, completed a year after his death, all in St. Louis, Missouri.<sup>4</sup> A.L. Holmes, a Kirksville contractor, successfully bid to erect the building for \$11,248. With the heating system and the construction of the warehouse to the rear the total cost came to \$15,000.<sup>5</sup>

The Grim brothers were prominent Kirksville physicians and civic leaders for many years. They practiced medicine and surgery in the suite of rooms on the east side of the first floor of their building. When, in 1909, they erected a hospital on East Patterson Street in Kirksville, Ezra moved his practice to the new building which, in 1924, became known as the Grim-Smith Hospital. Edward continued to practice medicine in the suite of rooms in the Grim Building until his death in 1936.<sup>6</sup>

The building remained in the Grim family until it was purchased in 1964 by H. Gordon Collett, a grandnephew of the Doctors Grim. Most of the renovations and alterations were made during the period of his ownership. It was sold again in 1970 to Dr. Barry Gushleff and in 1975 to Michael W. Mulford and Gary D. Lewis, 7 prominent Kirksville attorneys. In January, 1979 Mulford became the sole owner.

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

GRIM BUILDING

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

FOOTNOTES

1. Information on the prominent role of the Grim family in Kirksville can be found in articles in the Kirksville [Missouri] Daily Express of February 17, 1936 and May 26, 1943, and in P.O. Selby, Biographies of the Regents of Northeast Missouri State University, 1870-1973 (Kirksville: Northeast Missouri State University, 1973), pp. 51-52.
2. Michael W. Mulford, personal interview with Dr. David March of Northeast Missouri State University, August 19, 1978 and H. Gordon Collett, personal interview with Dr. David March, December 29, 1978.
3. John W. Leonard, ed., A Book of St. Louisans (St. Louis: St. Louis Republic, 1906), p. 242.
4. John Albury Bryan, comp. and ed., Missouri's Contribution to American Architecture (St. Louis: St. Louis Architectural Club, 1928), pp. 129, 172, 184, 207 and 245.
5. Kirksville [Missouri] Journal, May 18, 1905.
6. Collett, personal interview.
7. Deed Records, Books 137, 195, 220 and 245, County Recorder's Office, Adair County Courthouse, Kirksville, Mo. 63501

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

1. Bryan, John Albury, comp. and ed. Missouri's Contribution to American Architecture. St. Louis: St. Louis Architectural Club, 1928.
2. Collett, H. Gordon. Personal interview with Dr. David March, December 29, 1978.
3. Deed Records. Books 137, 195, 220 and 245. County Recorder's Office, Adair County

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

Latitude: 40° 11' 43"  
 Longitude: 92° 34' 52"

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME "Kirksville, Mo."

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62500

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 5	5 3 5	6 5 5	4 4 4	9 3 0 5
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
C					
E					
G					

B					
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
D					
F					
H					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 3, Block 12, original City of Kirksville, Missouri.

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 Emeritus of History

ORGANIZATION Northeast Missouri State University

DATE March 23, 1979

STREET & NUMBER  
 TELEPHONE 816/665-5121, ext. 3352

CITY OR TOWN Kirksville  
 STATE Missouri 63501

**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

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

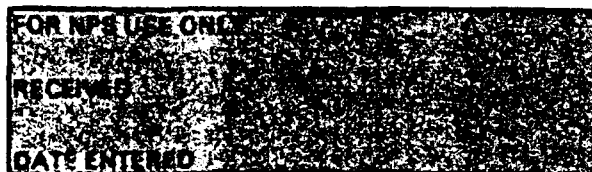
DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



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

GRIM BUILDING

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

3. Courthouse, Kirksville, Mo. 63501
4. Kirksville [Missouri] Daily Express, February 17, 1936 and May 26, 1943.
5. Kirksville [Missouri] Journal, May 18, 1905.
6. Leonard, John W. A Book of St. Louisans. St. Louis: St. Louis Republic, 1906.
7. Mulford, Michael J. Personal interview with Dr. David March, August 19, 1978.
8. Selby, P.O. Biographies of the Regents of Northeast Missouri State University. Kirksville: Northeast Missouri State University, 1973.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



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

GRIM BUILDING

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 11 PAGE 1

2. James Denny (State contact person)  
Section Chief, Nominations-Survey  
Office of Historic Preservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City

314/751-4096  
Missouri 65102

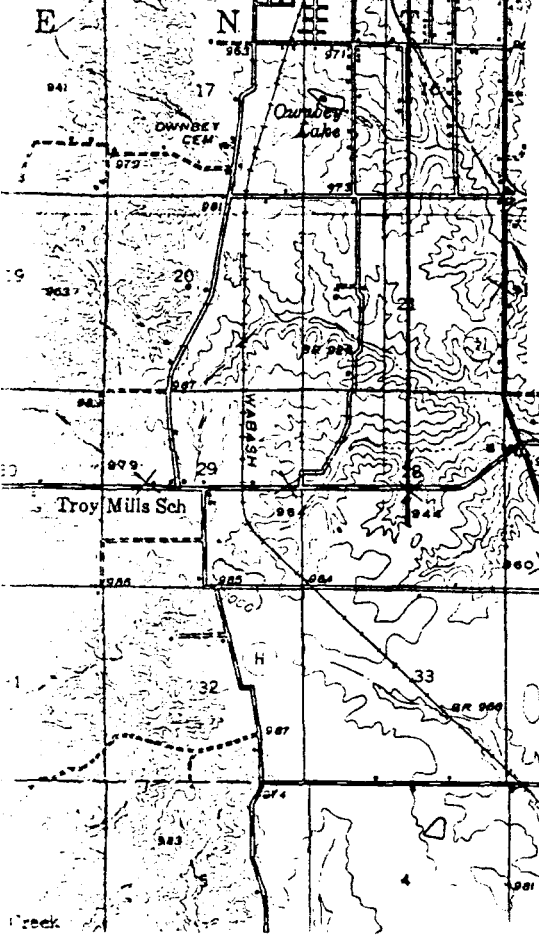
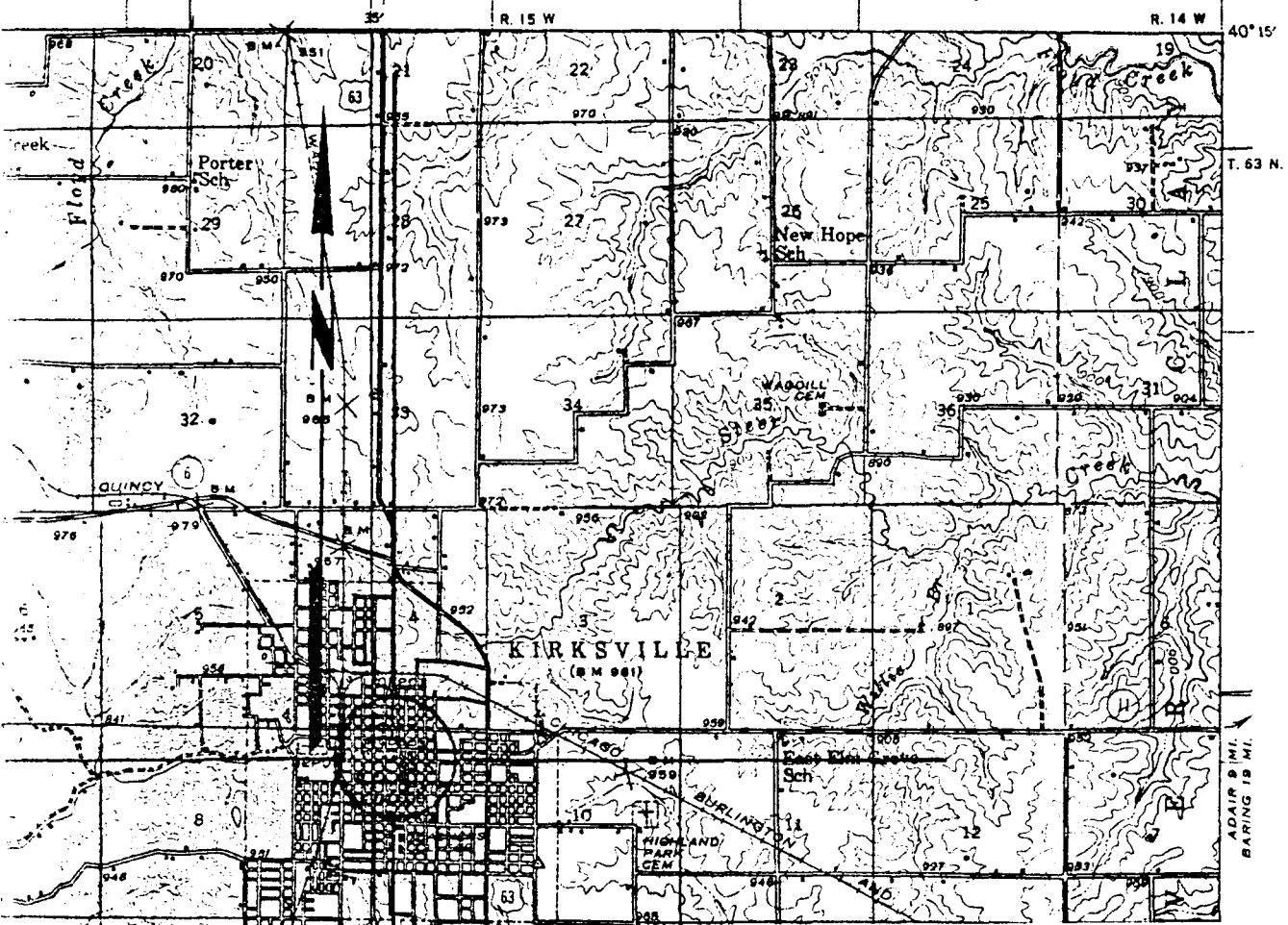


MISSOURI  
KIRKSVILLE QUADRANGLE

LANCASTER 20 MI.  
GREENTOP 7 MI.

92° 30'  
40° 15'

(Edina)  
1:62,500



GRIM BUILDING  
U.S.G.S. 15' Quadrangle  
"Kirksville, Mo." (1938)  
Scale: 1:62,500

UTM Reference: 15/535655/4449305  
Latitude 40° 11' 43" Longitude 92° 34' 52"



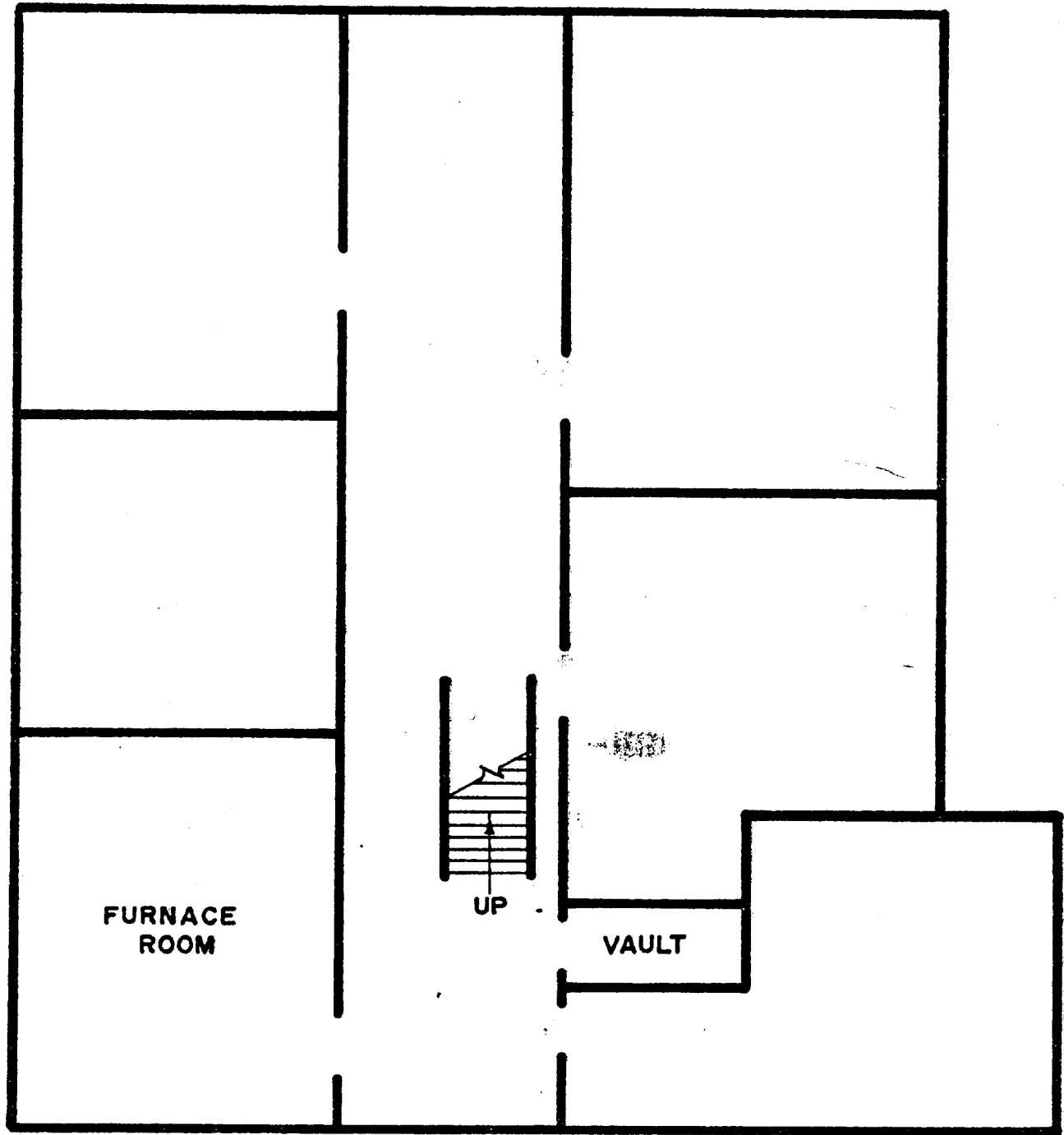
ADAIR 9 MI.  
BARING 19 MI.

EDINA 19 MI. N

(Edina 1:62,500)

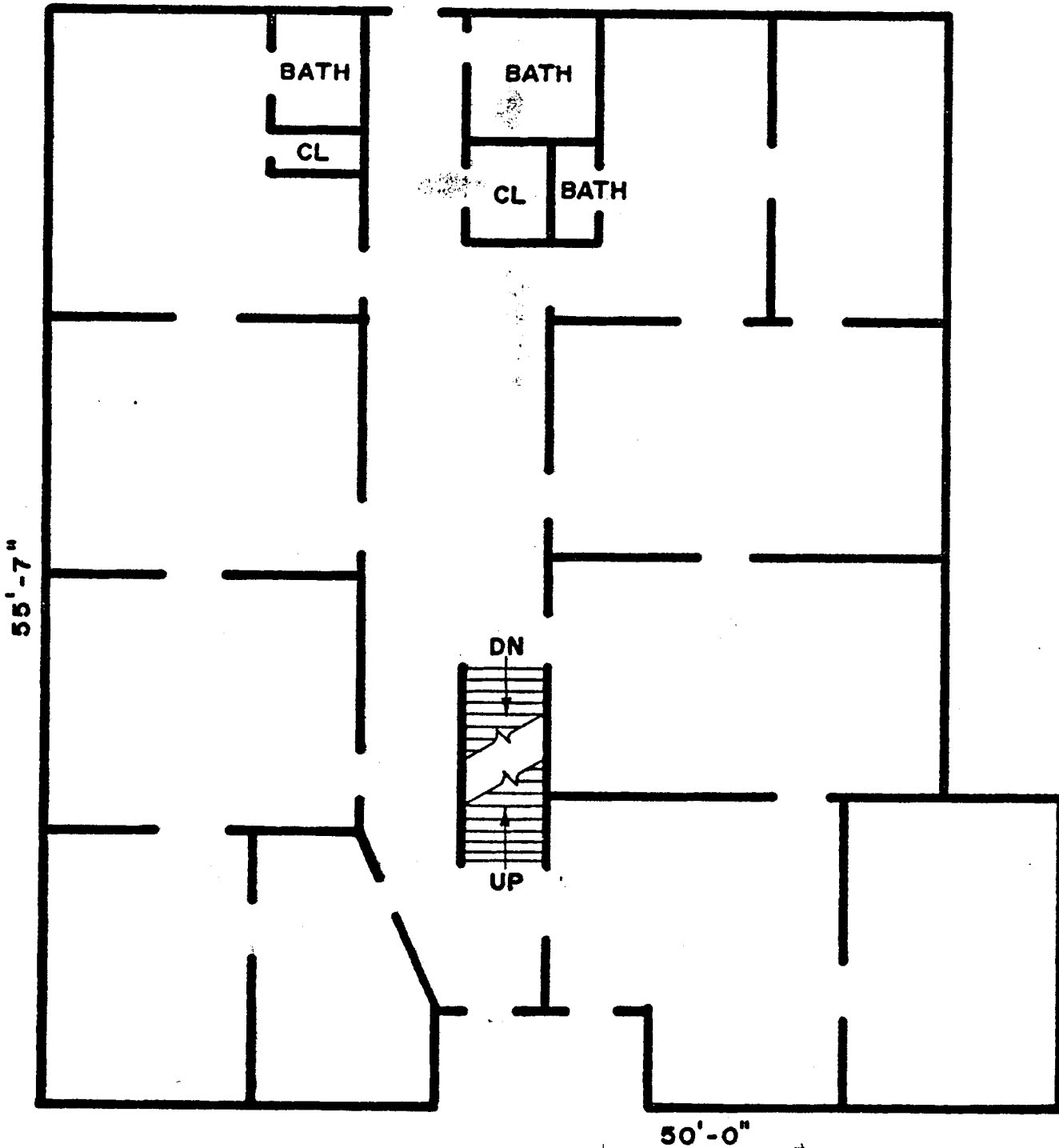
**BASEMENT PLAN  
GRIM BUILDING  
KIRKSVILLE, MISSOURI**

**NOT TO SCALE**



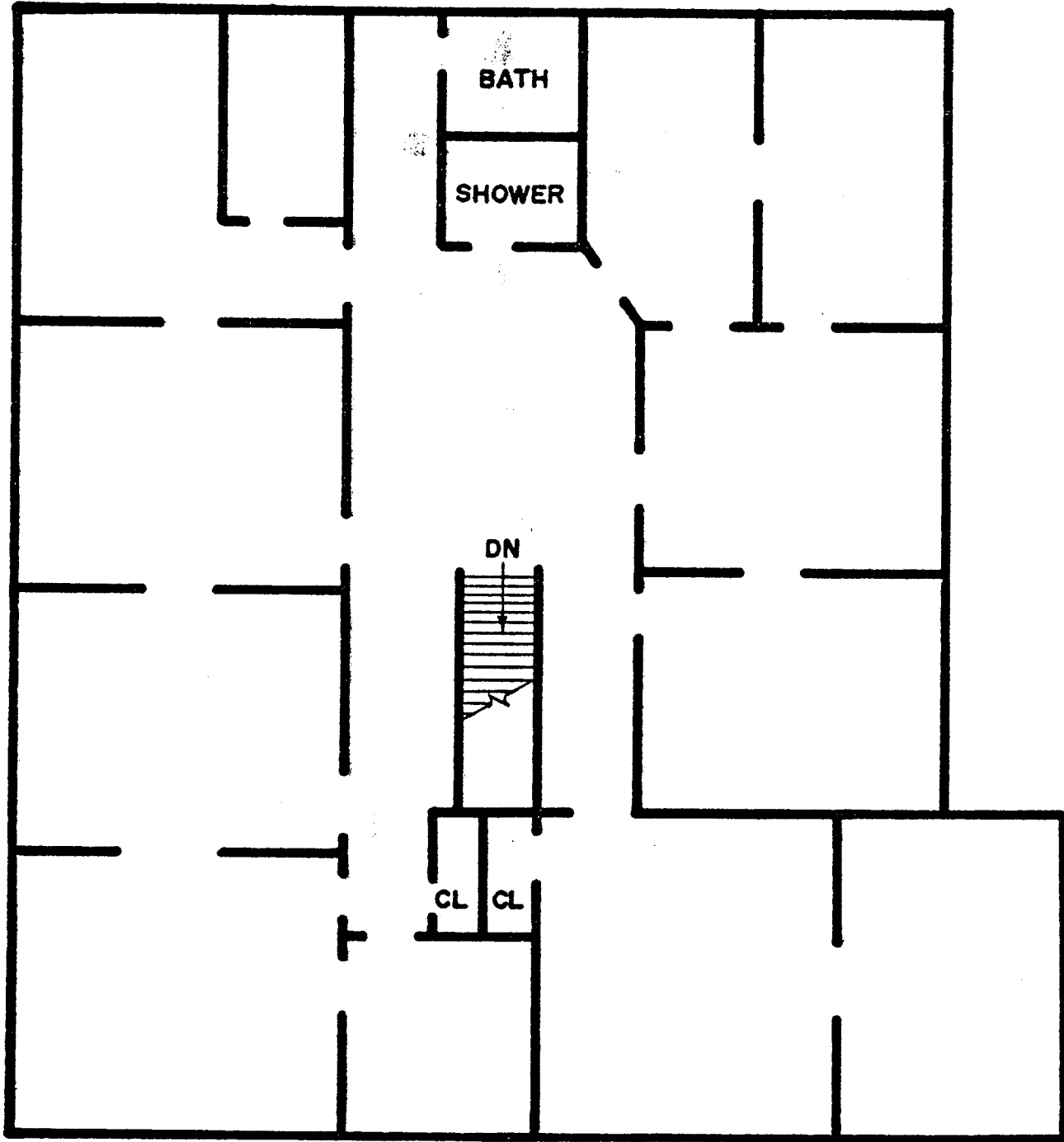
FIRST FLOOR PLAN  
GRIM BUILDING  
KIRKSVILLE, MISSOURI

NOT TO SCALE



SECOND FLOOR PLAN  
GRIM BUILDING  
KIRKSVILLE, MISSOURI

NOT TO SCALE



**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Grim Building**  
**Kirksville, Adair County**

Unless noted, the following is true for all photographs:

Grim Building  
113-115 E. Washington  
Kirksville, Adair County  
Photographer: Leon Karel  
Date: October 1978

National Register Photos:

1. South façade as seen from southwest.
2. South façade, top central decorative member. View from south.
3. South façade, main entry way. View from south.
4. North wall (rear), showing first floor and basement entrances. View from northwest.
5. Fireplace on west wall of front office on southwest, first floor.
6. South façade as viewed from the southwest, c. 1906. Photographer unknown.

Additional Photos:

7. South façade. View from south.
8. South façade, view from southwest.
9. South façade. Close-up view of the top of the main entryway showing wood and glass doors. View is from the south.
10. South façade. Close-up of part of the high relief band of floral and animal sculptures at top of the arched entrance way. View from south.
11. South façade. Interior of arched doorway (main entrance) showing interior spandrel on southeast. View is from northwest.
12. South façade. Top central window pair, second story.
13. South façade. Telescopic view of sculpted medallion of bearded man set in an oculus of brick.
14. South facade. Telescopic view of east and of south façade showing stone vessel atop, offset corner in brick with stone stringcourse, white stone quoins and window treatment. View from south.
15. West façade. One of twelve windows, all alike. View from the west
16. West façade, basement window in foundation. There are five such windows on the west, two on the north, and four on the east. View from northwest.
17. West façade and part of south side of warehouse behind grim Building. View is from southwest.
18. East facade side of building showing L from the north.
19. North side. Stairs leading to basement entrance. View from northwest.
20. Interior, door with brass knob and plate.
21. Interior, terrazzo floor, first floor hallway.
22. Interior, first floor, detail of cartouche flanked by floral design on mantel piece, southeast office.
23. Interior, first floor, detail of fireplace in front office on southeast.
24. Interior, first floor, detail of fireplace in southwest front office.
25. Interior, second floor, southwest front office.
26. Interior, second floor, southeast corner office.

