

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received AUG 10 1987
date enteredSee instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Atchison County Memorial Building

and or common

2. Location

street & number 417 South Main Street not for publication

city, town Rock Port vicinity of

state Missouri code 29 county Atchison code 005

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
☐ district	☒ public	☒ occupied	☐ agriculture
☒ building(s)	☐ private	☐ unoccupied	☐ commercial
☐ structure	☐ both	☐ work in progress	☐ educational
☐ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	☒ entertainment
☐ object	☐ in process	☐ yes: restricted	☒ government
	☐ being considered	☒ yes: unrestricted	☐ industrial
	☒ N/A	☐ no	☐ military
			☐ museum
			☐ park
			☐ private residence
			☐ religious
			☐ scientific
			☐ transportation
			☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name City of Rock Port

street & number 500 South Main

city, town Rock Port vicinity of state Missouri 64482

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of Recorder of Deeds
Atchison County Court House

street & number Washington and Clay

city, town Rock Port state Missouri 64482

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Missouri State Historic Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes ☒ nodate 10/84 federal ☒ state county localdepository for survey records Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program

city, town P. O. Box 176 Jefferson City state Missouri 65102

7. Description

Condition

☒ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Atchison County Memorial Building is a two-story plus basement reinforced concrete structure designed in 1919 to serve as a World War I memorial and a community center. It is located on South Main Street in downtown Rock Port, Missouri, the county seat. The exterior of the building survives virtually unaltered.

Measuring approximately 107 feet east and west and 63 feet north and south, the building features a five-bay primary (west) facade of concrete articulated in a Classical Revival style (Photos #1, 2). The rusticated first story is centered with a doorway with full entablature; small, unadorned double-hung windows flank the entrance and larger, architraved and pedimented windows pierce the end-bays. Second story fenestration features a range of tall, elongated openings glazed with nine-light lower sash and eight triangular lights above; end-bay windows are trimmed with architrave and entablature motifs. Four fluted Roman Doric columns exhibiting entasis support an entablature with a frieze of triglyphs and metopes which wraps around the corners of the building. A parapet with cornice caps the primary facade and carries the inscription "1917 Atchison County Memorial 1919". A granite tablet erected in 1970 by the American Legion is located on the front lawn (Photo #1-right foreground). The inscription lists names of Atchison County soldiers who lost their lives in World War I, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

The side (north and south) and rear (east) elevations are sheathed in yellow brick and display irregular openings. The first story of the south elevation (Photo #1 -right) features an ornamental brick and concrete entrance, and nine-over-nine, double-hung windows. Two-over-two light, double-hung windows pierce the second story, except for an elongated art glass window at the western-most bay. Two-over-two double-hung windows also appear above the second story. On the north elevation, second and third level fenestration is identical to that on the south. The rear (east) elevation is unarticulated except for a basement entry and window, and a second floor stage entrance.

The interior spaces (Fig.1) were functionally planned to provide the community with a gymnasium and an auditorium but are without significant architectural features. Upon entering the building from the west, concrete steps lead down to the gymnasium and up to the auditorium. The gymnasium space features a concrete floor and ceiling, and includes an observation deck on the north and south sides. The 735 seat auditorium is equipped with a stage (Photo #3), gallery seating, and a projection room. Other smaller, subordinate rooms remain as originally planned (Fig.1) although most have been adapted to new uses.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
☐ prehistoric	☐ archeology-prehistoric	☐ community planning	☐ landscape architecture	☐ religion
☐ 1400-1499	☐ archeology-historic	☐ conservation	☐ law	☐ science
☐ 1500-1599	☐ agriculture	☐ economics	☐ literature	☐ sculpture
☐ 1600-1699	☒ architecture	☐ education	☐ military	☒ social/
☐ 1700-1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☐ 1800-1899	☐ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☒ 1900-	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates 1919-1921

Builder/Architect James Oliver Hogg

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Atchison County Memorial Building is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criteria A and C and is significant in the following areas:
ARCHITECTURE: Conceived in 1919 as a Memorial to Atchison County soldiers who served in World War I, the building is a good representative example of the classicism which prevailed in Missouri public architecture of modest size between the World Wars. It combines a finely detailed and well-proportioned Classical Revival facade of concrete with a highly functional interior designed to meet community needs with gymnasium and auditorium spaces. The architect-designed, stylistically sophisticated building is noteworthy within the largely vernacular context of this small community.
SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN: When in 1919 the Missouri General Assembly made available small matching grants for the construction of World War I memorials, Atchison County citizens responded with sufficient funding to construct a monumental, architect-designed structure in a nationally popular style. The building stands today as a symbol of the patriotism and civic pride that characterized this rural county in the post-war years.

Social/Humanitarian: In 1919, following the close of World War I, the Missouri General Assembly authorized an appropriation of \$115,000, "for the erection of a memorial building, monument or memorial tablets in each of the counties of the state, and in each city not a part of a county." A maximum of \$1000 was allowed each county or city providing it would match the grant with a sum of \$250 or more.¹ The first county to respond to the offer was Atchison, a sparsely populated county located in the extreme northwest corner of Missouri. Within minutes after word of the fund reached Rock Port, the county seat, a telegram was sent to state officials pledging \$1000 towards a building planned to serve as memorial and community center.² Subsequent fund-raising meetings at Rock Port generated even greater support and generosity, eliciting the following comment from the Editor of the Missouri Historical Review:

Here is a tale worth telling, a message worth reading. A Missouri town of eleven hundred souls raised \$25,000 in less than two hours to honor their heroes of war. The living proved worthy of the dead. Is there a rival for such rank in America? But the citizens of Rock Port and Atchison county were not content. They wanted eminence in conscience and country. So \$50,000 was raised! New York City would have civil war in raising an equal per capita for such a purpose...³

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Atchison County Memorial Building

Section number 8 Page 1

To advance the cause the local community members pledged money to an interest bearing account for five years. Local bankers managed this fund and advanced the money for the construction capital. All of this fervent activity culminated with the memorial's completion in 1921. A new community center was set among the other post-war improvements dotting the townscape including five newly paved miles of streets, a 21 acre city park, and newly constructed water and sewer system.⁴ Although a post-war recession gripped the majority of the state, Rock Port's citizenry dedicated themselves to civic improvement. The memorial building objectified not only their commitment to commemorating the fallen youth of their community but also their belief such a building could impart "useful" value to the living community by including a gymnasium and civic auditorium.⁵

By 1925, at least thirty-four of Missouri's 114 counties had erected war memorials which took the form of tablets, drinking fountains, park and cemetery markers, bridges, statues, band stands, avenues, trees, arches and shafts, in addition to six buildings.⁶ A classical idiom was universally adopted in Missouri's memorials, including the granite shaft with victory figure commissioned by the State to be erected in France to commemorate Missouri's participation in the war.⁷

Architecture: In July 1919, a Building Committee selected prominent Kansas City architect James Oliver Hogg (born ca. 1858) to design the Atchison County Memorial Building. Trained at the University of Illinois, Hogg is best known in Kansas City for his commercial designs, and as an early proponent of the use of reinforced concrete, a structural system which was given new impetus in the World War I era as a result of shortages and increased cost of steel. Those factors may have influenced Hogg to extensively utilize concrete in his design of the Memorial Building. Although the architect sheathed the Rock Port structure's reinforced concrete frame with brick on side and rear elevations, he fully exposed the concrete on the primary facade where it was molded into a formal classical vocabulary of entablature with frieze of triglyphs and metopes, pediment and architrave motifs, a rusticated first story and monumental fluted Roman Doric columns exhibiting entasis (Photo #1).

In selecting a Classical Revival style Hogg drew upon precedent of both state and federal public buildings where classicism was deeply entrenched as an architectural expression of dignity, permanency and grandeur.⁸ The recently completed Missouri Capitol (1918) in Jefferson City with its porticoed facades of fluted columns provided the most important and immediate regional model, although two decades earlier Hogg had designed an impressive temple-front county courthouse in Hannibal, Missouri. In the nation's capital, classicism

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Atchison County Memorial Building

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continued to prevail in contemporary official architecture such as the Lincoln Memorial, the U. S. National Defense Building and the War Trade Building. Published projects for large war memorial structures in Boston and New York were also conceived in a full-blown classicism.

While built on a more modest scale than World War I memorial buildings in other Missouri counties such as Jackson and Carroll, the fine proportions and carefully detailed facade of the Atchison County building achieved a dignified presence and refinement which were unsurpassed. Its quality of design and stylistic sophistication are also noteworthy within the context of rural county Missouri where vernacular buildings more typically are found. An arresting civic monument which dominates the surrounding city (Photo #2), the structure is a significant county landmark embodying an era of community patriotism, pride and achievement.

The highly functional interior spaces (Fig. 1) were also well-designed and planned to meet community needs as was the case in most of the State's memorial buildings. Characteristically, these buildings contained a gymnasium and an auditorium, and in some examples also housed a post office or public library. The basement level of the Atchison County building featured a 60 x 75 feet gymnasium, (complete with locker and shower rooms) which alternately served as dance floor and exhibition space. A galleried auditorium located on the second floor was equipped with a stage that accommodated theatrical productions, performances of local singing groups, as well as high school musicals and graduation ceremonies (Photo #3).

From the 1920s into the 1960s the American Legion used the building as a center for meetings and exhibitions, and for more than fifty years the Rock Port Volunteer Fire Department has held its annual fund-raising ball there. Boy Scout groups continue to use the facilities as do various other civic and private organizations for special events. Although the second floor Memorial Room originally designed to house World War I records and artifacts has now been put to other uses, a stone tablet erected in 1970 by the American Legion in front of the building commemorates soldiers who lost their lives in both World Wars, Korea and Vietnam, thus carrying forward the symbolic meaning of the building into more recent history.

FOOTNOTES

¹Sarah Guitar, "Monuments and Memorials in Missouri", Missouri Historical Review 19 (July 1925): 555-6.

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National Park Service

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Atchison County Memorial Building

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²John C. Stapel, "Atchison County's Memorial at Rock Port, Missouri",
Missouri Historical Review 15 (July 1921): 648-51.

³Stapel, "Atchison County", p. 648.

⁴Ibid., 650.

⁵Ibid., 648.

⁶Guitar, "Monuments", p. 555-603.

⁷Missouri Historical Review 16 (January 1922): 313-14.

⁸Lois Craig, et al, The Federal Presence: Architecture, Politics, and Symbols
in United States Government Building, (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, n. d.),
p. 258.

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National Park Service**

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Atchison County Memorial Building

Continuation sheet Rock Port, Missouri

Item number 9

Page I

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date entered

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Craig, Lois, et al. The Federal Presence: Architecture, Politics, and Symbols in United States Government Building. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, n. d.

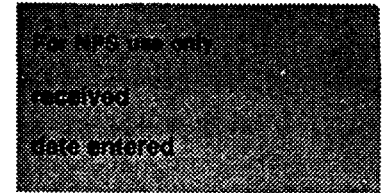
Guitar, Sarah. "Monuments and Memorials in Missouri." Missouri Historical Review 19 (July, 1925): 555-603.

Missouri Historical Review 16 (January, 1922): 313-314.

Stapel, John C. "Atchison County's Memorial at Rock Port, Missouri." Missouri Historical Review 15 (July, 1921): 648-651.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Atchison County Memorial Building Item number 11
Rock Port, Missouri

Page 1

2. Beverly A. Fleming
Chief, Preservation Planning
Historic Preservation Program
Division of Parks, Recreation,
and Historic Preservation
P. O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102
Phone: 314/751-7960
Date: May 27, 1987

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than one

Quadrangle name Rock Port

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	5	2	8	6	6	7	0	4	4	7	6	2	1	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots Eleven (11) and Twelve (12) in Block Thirteen (13) in Nucholls and White Addition to the City of Rock Port, Missouri.

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title 1. Mary M. Stiritz Research Assistant

organization Missouri Department of Natural Resources date July 27, 1987

street & number P. O. Box 176 telephone 314 751 7960

city or town Jefferson City state Missouri 65102

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Wayne E. Ginn
Frederick A. Brunner, Ph.D., P.E., Director, Department of Natural Resources and
State Historic Preservation Officer date 7/31/87

For NPS use only

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

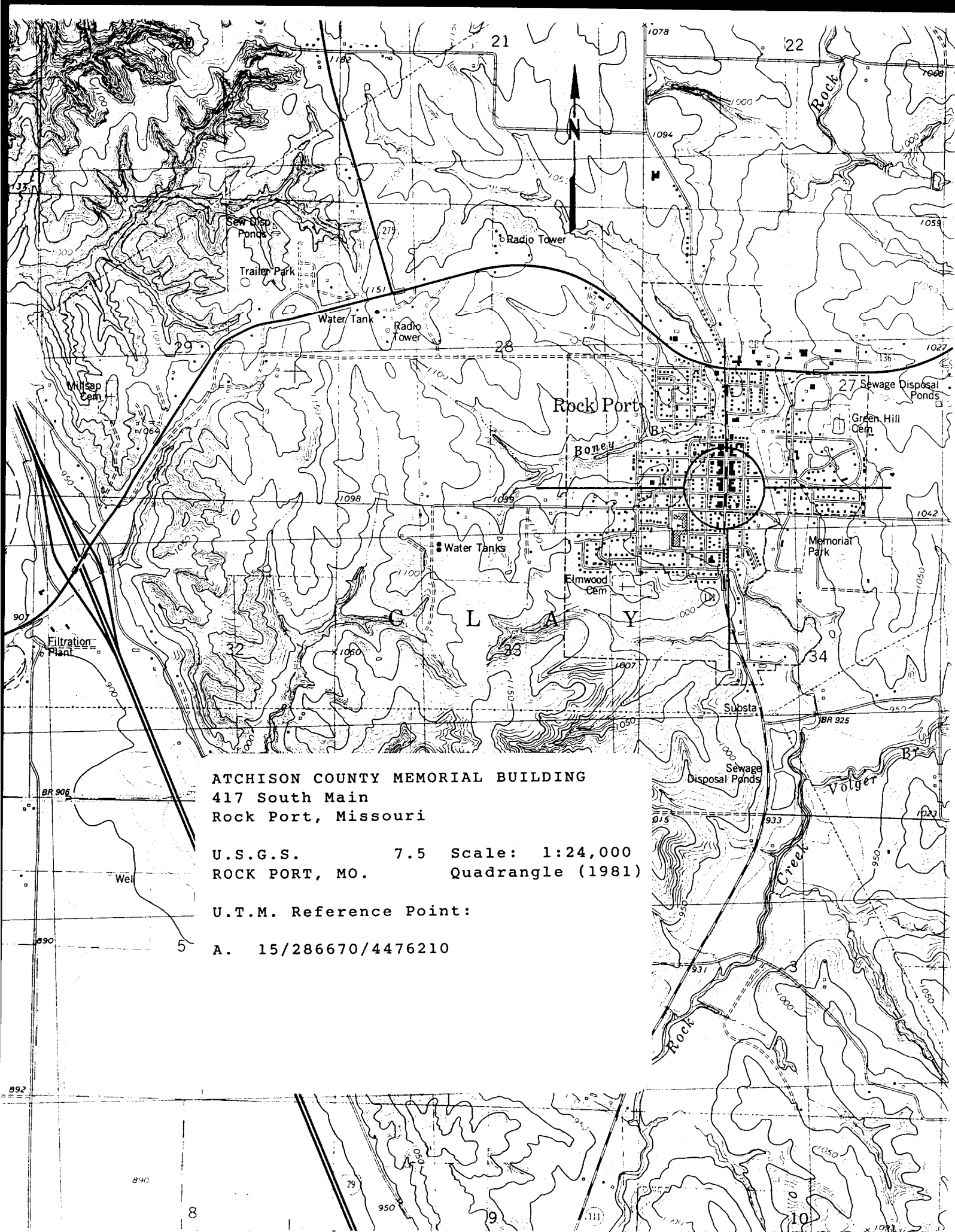
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

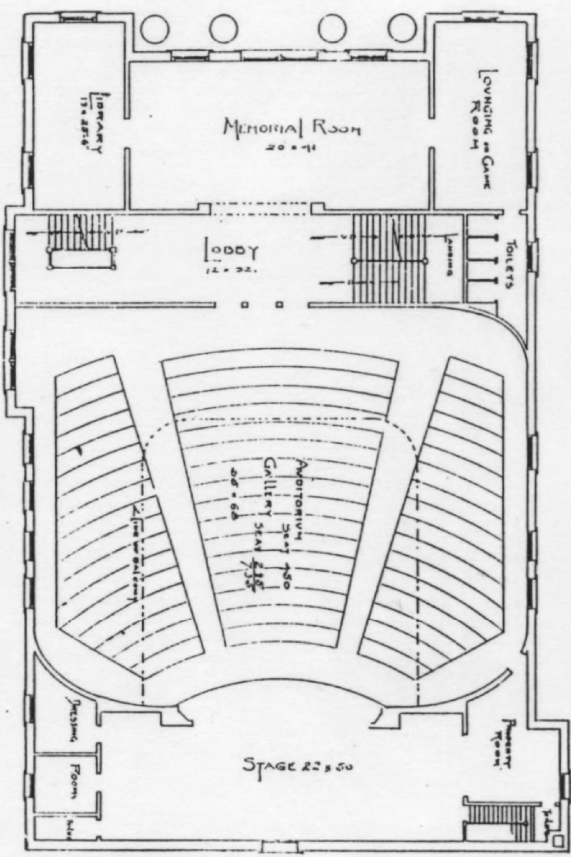
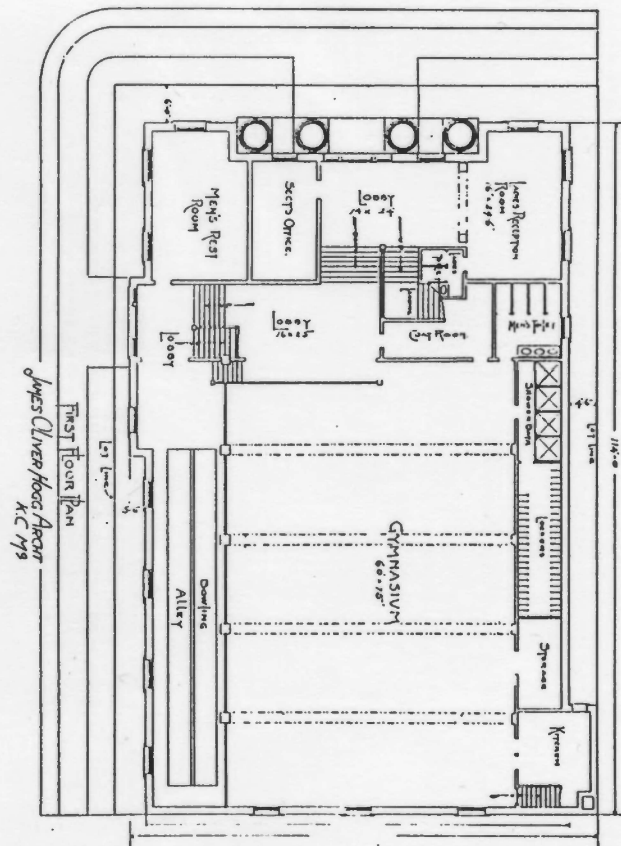


ATCHISON COUNTY MEMORIAL BUILDING
417 South Main
Rock Port, Missouri

U.S.G.S. 7.5 Scale: 1:24,000
ROCK PORT, MO. Quadrangle (1981)

U.T.M. Reference Point:

A. 15/286670/4476210



Jesse Oliver Hogg Architect
K.C. Mo.
Second Floor Plan.
Memorial Building.
ATCHISON COUNTY'S MEMORIAL, FLOOR PLANS.











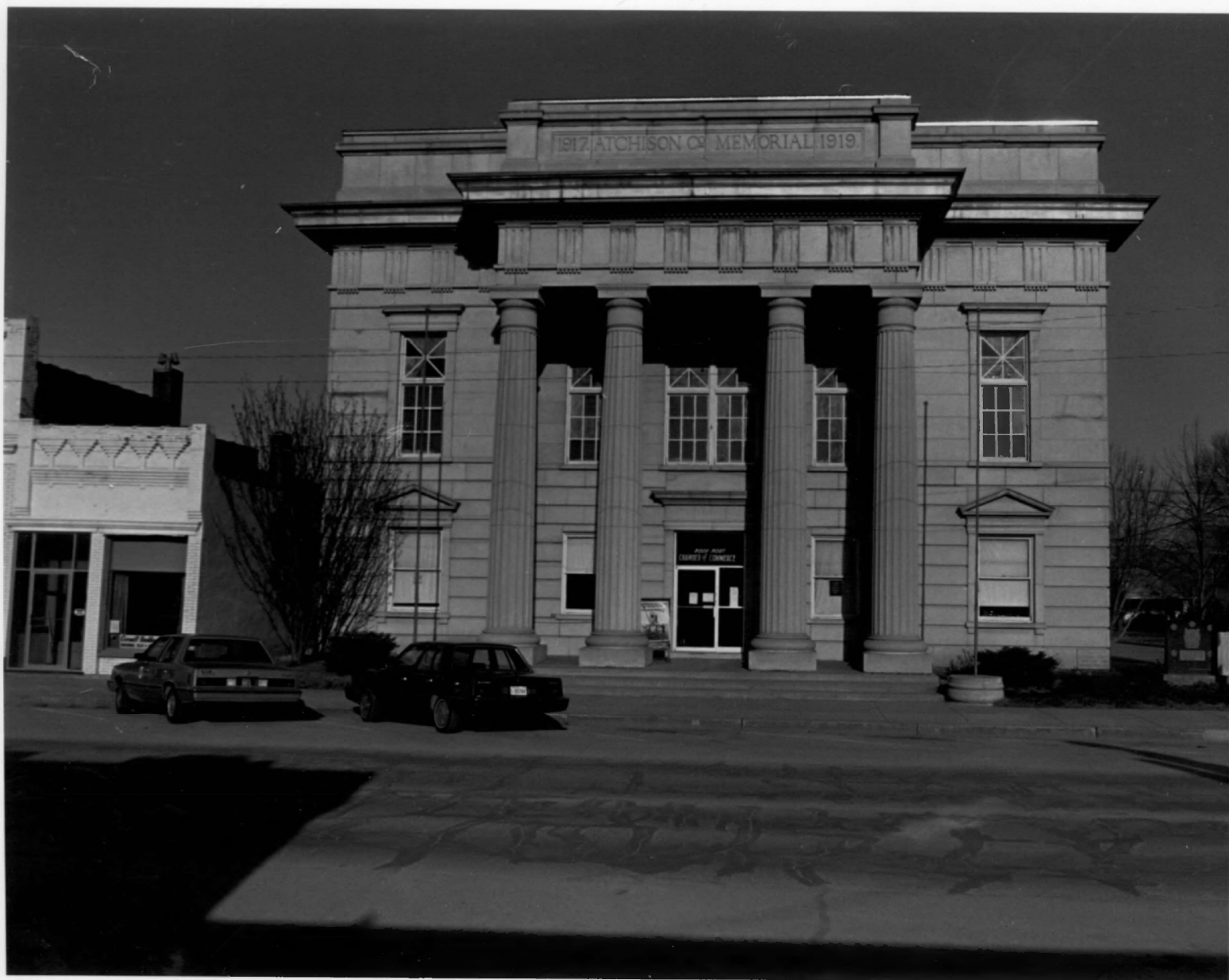


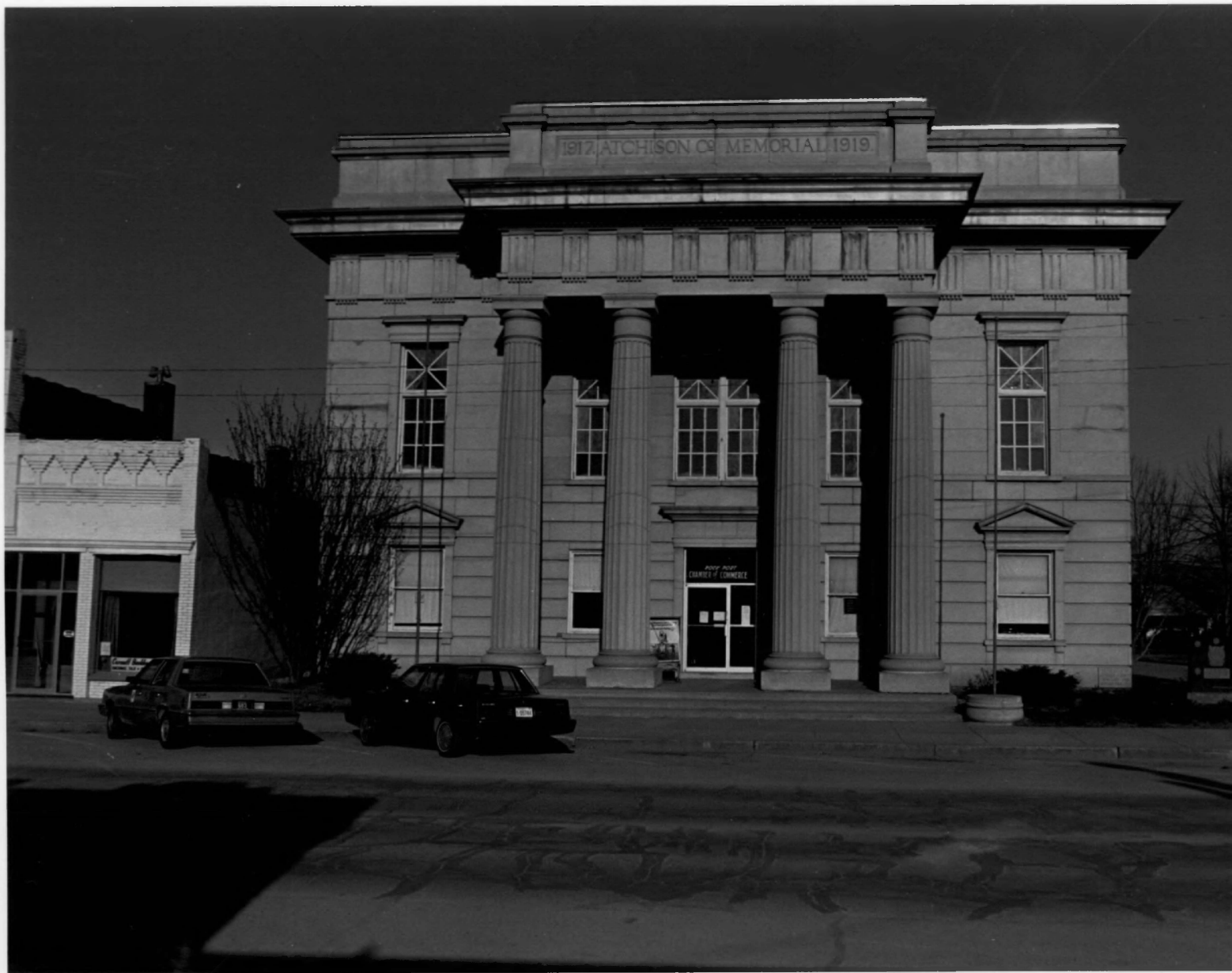
[illegible]

TO THE MEN AND WOMEN
OF ATCHISON COUNTY WHO
OFFERED, AND THOSE WHO
GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE
CAUSE OF PEACE.

ERECTED BY AMERICAN LEGION 1940

[illegible][illegible]



















TO THE BOYS
OF ATCHISON COUNTY
WHO GAVE,
OFFERED THEIR

TO THE MEN AND WOMEN
OF ATCHISON COUNTY WHO
OFFERED, AND THOSE WHO
GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE
CAUSE OF PEACE.

ERECTED BY AMERICAN LEGION 15

WORLD WAR I

ALLEN, SYLVESTER
BECKETT, FRANK
BRAGG, HARLEY
CASE, SYLVESTER
COOK, DAVID
COZAD, RALPH
CRAIN, GUTHRIE
CUMMINGS, CECIL E.
CURRIE, DONALD
DRAGOO, JOHN C.
ENGLES, BARRY
GREEN, RALPH O.
HERRON, LYNN
LOVELL, JOHN
MCNUTT, GEORGE
MILLER, CHARLES
MORRISON, GEORGE
PHELPS, PAUL
RICHARDS, JOHN
SCHIEFERA, ADY
SHERMAN, TEMPLE
SMITH, MERRILL
TRAIT, THURMAN M.
WILSON, LEWIS W.

WORLD WAR II

ADAMS, RILEY A.
BECK, JAMES L.
BRUNK, HAROLD L.
BRUNK, BILLY D.
BRUNK, VIRGIL L.
CAMPBELL, JOSEPH F.
CHANCEY, LESLIE
CHAPMAN, GUSTAVUS F.
CHATTEN, JUNIOR B.
CLANTON, THOMAS I.
COLE, THOMAS W.
COLE, VERNON E.
COPELAND, JAMES L.
CRODIT, RALPH
CRIDER, SIDNEY R.
DEERING, LEE E.
DUNFEE, JR. C. C.
DUNLAP, VERNON M.
FOX, JOHN C.
FRERICHS, ADOLPH T.
FUNK, JOHN H.
GREBE, VIRGIL H.
HALL, WILLIAM J.
HARRIS, WILLARD E.
HARTMAN, GUY

WORLD WAR II

HAYES, EZRA H.
HAYS, BILLY J.
HECKER, DELBERT T.
HENSRAW, BILL
HICKS, LEONARD
HILL, GERALD D.
HUNTER, KERRIT J.
KNEAUB, GUSSIE L.
KOEYER, RALPH L.
LARA, DELBERT S.
LANGFELT, ROBERT D.
LANGSTON, ANDREW J.
LANGSTON, GORDON
LINDSAY, WILLIAM L.
MANESS, JOHN H.
MARTIN, CHARLES M.
MCCOLL, DANIEL A.
MILLER, JAMES M.
MORTIMORE, WILLIAM H.
MORTON, DONALD A.
DEEDHAM, H. RAY
NELL, NORMAN L.
NOFTSGER, ERNEST H.
NORDHOLM, JOE A.
OBERT, ERNEST H.

WORLD WAR II

OLSON, GILBERT L.
PETERSON, S. GOULD
PIERCE, MARLIN L.
PLUMB, VICTOR C.
POPPA, BURDETTE W.
PURTEL, DAEL D.
ROLF, GLENN F.
ROLOFSON, GAYLE L.
RUPE, BRADFORD A.
RYAN, WILLIAM A.
SELLERS, JAMES
SHOWALTER, WAYNE
SIPES, JAMES C.
SMITH, CECIL L.
SMITH, PERRY T.
SYMMONDS, WOOLSEY E.
TAYLOR, WILLIAM A.
THOMPSON, JAMES W.
WAGNER, ORVILLE
WHITEROCK, FRANK E.
WITHROW, FLOYD
WILSON, FRANCIS
WOLFE, CLARENCE E.
WOOTEN, HARRY T.
WOOTEN, HAROLD D.

KORE

ASBURY, JAMES
BOLIN, BILL
DRAGOO, JOHN
DUNLAP, G. PA
DUNKLE, HAROLD
HARTMAN, JOHN
PUETT, HAROLD
WADE, ROY A.

VIETN

KING, GARRY
NOELLSCH, R.
BECKMAN, DO



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ERECTED BY AMERICAN LEGION 11

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DUNKLE, HAROLD
HARTLE, JOHN
PUETT, HAROLD
WADE, ROY

VIETNAM

KING, GARY
NOELSEN, A.
BECKMAN, D.













Resolutions
For the purpose of the American Revolution
to uphold and defend the constitution of
the United States of America
to maintain law and order
to foster and perpetuate a new breed
of American citizens
to preserve the interests and conduct
of our nation in the great world
to maintain a sense of individual
obligation to the community, state and nation
to combat the evil forces of both classes







