

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Sent to
Washington
July 1, 1992

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name City and Town Hall

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Corner of Fourth Avenue and Sixth Street not for publication

city or town Rochele vicinity

state Illinois code IL county Ogle code 141 zip code 61068

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William L. Wheeler, SHPO 6-25-92
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain) _____	_____	_____

City and Town Hall
Name of Property

Ogle Co. Illinois
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/city hall
GOVERNMENT/fire station
GOVERNMENT/correctional facility
EDUCATION/library

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

ITALIANATE

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone
walls Brick
roof Asphalt
other _____

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1884-1942

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Bradley and Sons

Steele, John R.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Local Historian: Betty Barnes
Flagg-Rochelle Public Library District

City and Town Hall
Name of Property

Ogle Co. Illinois
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 1 | 6 | | 3 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 0 | | 4 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
Zone Easting Northing
2 | | | | | | | | | | | | |

3 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
Zone Easting Northing
4 | | | | | | | | | | | | |

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title STEVE FRANK / COMMISSIONER, PERI QUERY / SECRETARY

organization ROCHELLE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION date 5/4/92

street & number 600 NORTH STREET telephone (815) 562-7873

city or town ROCHELLE state IL zip code 61068

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Flagg-Township Historical Society

street & number Corner 4th Avenue and 6th Street telephone (815) 562-7423

city or town Rochelle state Illinois zip code 61068

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1City and Town Hall

The City and Town Hall sits on the southeast corner of Fourth Avenue and Sixth Street in Rochelle, Illinois. The two-story rectangular brick building with an attached single story brick structure stands one block west of the business district on Washington Street and one-and-one-half blocks north of the Burlington Northern railroad tracks. A parking lot adjoins the building on the east and south sides. The north and west sides have a small yard approximately 35 feet deep from Fourth Avenue and Sixth Street.

Constructed in 1884 on lots 9 & 10 on the corner of Fourth Avenue and Sixth Street in the original town layout, the City and Town Hall's main two story building faces north and measures approximately 54' x 36' and the single story structure adjoining the south facade measures approximately 24' x 16'. Total approximate measurement of the City and Town Hall is 70' x 36'. Although there have been minor alterations to the exterior fabric, great care has been made to duplicate existing materials and details.

The City and Town Hall is constructed of soft red bricks made from red clay deposits in Rochelle. Two tile and brick companies were in Rochelle at the time but it is not known which of the two furnished the bricks. The stone used for the outer and center foundation was cut from Braiden's Quarry by Kyte River in Rochelle. All four facades of the two story structure have decorative metal cornice brackets and a decorative brick entablature with expressed dentils under the metal eaves. White brick quoins adorn the four external corners of the two story structure. The hipped roof was originally metal, but due to deterioration it has been replaced with asphalt roofing material.

The first floor on the north facade has two double hung windows and the original main public entrance door with an arched transom window. All window and door treatments are similar throughout the exterior of the building; double hung windows with projecting segmental arched brick crowns and stone sills. The entrance to the fire station originally had two large hinged doors with diamond shaped windows, wainscoted paneling, and a curved top. A sloping concrete driveway led north from the fire station entrance to Fourth Avenue. In 1931, after the fire department moved out of the building, the fire station doors and sloping concrete driveway were removed. The doors were replaced with a large window and a lower brick wall section. In 1954 the large window was replaced with glass blocks and a smaller window. On the second story of the north facade are two double hung windows that flank central paired windows with a double arch.

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City and Town Hall

The first floor on the west facade has four windows and the original double wooden doors with an arched transom window (handicap entrance ramp added 1991). The second story on the west facade has three windows evenly spaced.

The south facade is adjoined by the single story structure that housed the men's jail. This structure has the original heavy steel and wood door on the west facade and three smaller windows with metal grills on the south facade. All of the doors and windows have arched brick crowns, similar to the two story structure. The brick entablatures with expressed dentils mimic the two story structure, but lacks the metal cornice brackets and eaves. The second story of the south facade of the main structure has a single window.

The east facade has three evenly spaced windows on each the first and second stories. In 1935, during the Great Depression, W.P.A. workers dug a large basement under the City and Town Hall, laid a concrete floor in it, built thick concrete walls under the old stone foundation, and added an outside entrance to the basement on the east facade. Before that time there had been only a crawl space under most of the structure.

The interior plan of the City and Town Hall is very simple (see floor plans). The original layout of the first floor was divided into four basic sections: in the northwest corner was the police station from 1884-1931, and an office from 1931-1968. The southwest corner was originally an office from 1884-1891. From 1891-1912 it was used as the Flagg Township Library, and from 1912-1968 was used as the office of the city clerk. A landing, with access to the staircase that leads to the second story, a double door exit, and a doorway to the office/library are in the southwest section of the first floor of the two story structure. The east half of the first floor was the fire station. Quarters for firemen were added in the southeast corner of the fire station about 1912. A small brick addition for a firemen's bathroom was built adjoining the south wall of the main building and the east wall of the men's jail. From 1931-1960 this addition was used as the women's jail and was torn off about 1963. In 1931, after the fire department moved out of the City and Town Hall the east half of the first floor was remodeled. A large opening was put in the wall that had separated the fire station and the west half of the building. The police station was moved to the northeast corner with an exterior door and steps added (a window was removed from the east wall for this door, later the door was replaced with the original window, about 1970). After the police station was moved out of the City and Town Hall in 1935, it was used as an office for the Flagg Township Supervisor.

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A meeting room for the city council and township board was put in the southeast corner. Two public restrooms were installed where the firemen's quarters had been located, and two exterior entrances to the restrooms were put in the east wall. A large brick porch was built on the east lawn in front of the two restroom entrances. In 1963 the public restrooms were changed to private restrooms for the City and Town Hall personnel. At that time the brick porch was removed. About 1968 these bathrooms were removed for office space. A central vault also occupies the first floor, the original doors and locks are still intact.

The second story has two small closets, one at the top of the staircase landing and one in the southwest corner. The main meeting hall occupies the rest of the floor. Many original interior finishes are still intact. Much of the original metal ceilings, wooden flooring, and wainscoting exist throughout the first and second floor. A small kitchen preparation area was added along the east wall in the 1930's.

The single story structure on the south facade of the main building was the men's jail with its own entrance on the west wall. Two metal jail cells are still intact.

The City and Town Hall in Rochelle has undergone minor changes since its initial construction, the fabric of the original building essentially remaining intact. The interior meets the integrity standards in that the original floor plan and many of the original finishes remain intact.

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City and Town Hall

The City and Town Hall meets Criterion A for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. It is a locally significant building associated with the governmental/political administration of Rochelle beginning in 1884. The brick building has always been a public building and an integral part of the community's heritage. The City and Town Hall is Italianate in design and exceptionally well-constructed.

In 1866 Flagg Township voted a township tax of \$3,000 for the purpose of building a town house, with the understanding that the City of Rochelle would also pay \$3,000. There were heated disagreements regarding the kind of building proposed, the city officials wanted a cheaper building erected and thus, the city did not pay its share. Flagg Township proceeded to purchase two adjoining lots on Fourth Avenue and Sixth Street in 1869 at a cost of \$2,000. Eighteen years later, an agreement was struck between the Township and the City of Rochelle. In 1884, the City of Rochelle cooperated with Flagg Township to erect a building. The City and Town Hall was designed by Bradley and Son of Rockford using a sketch made by Rochelle Alderman Sam J. Parker. A local contractor; John R. Steele constructed the City and Town Hall at a cost of \$6,200 using local stone and brick.

The City and Town Hall was the first publicly owned hall for the city. It served as the focal point of political, social and governmental functions for 84 years. At the time of the building's construction, Rochelle had become a bustling community. The City and Town Hall was the central place to make all the decisions pertinent to growth. Elected leaders, concerned citizens, and local groups met long and often at the new City and Town Hall to discuss improvements needed.

Excerpts from the city council meeting minutes tell of discussions for sidewalks downtown. A sidewalk subcommittee was formed to determine how wide they would be, how thick, who would do the work, who would pay for them, and how the horse traffic would be accommodated. All these important details were hashed over at the City and Town Hall.

In 1888, it was recorded that a fire district was needed. Many meetings were held at the City and Town Hall regarding the boundaries of the district.

One of the most interesting topics to read about in the late 1800's meeting minutes was that of the saloon and liquor ordinance, and the card playing and gambling ordinance. Pages of writings are filled with alternatives regarding how many saloons Rochelle would have, what their hours would be, and what days they would be open. These were topics of hot debate. A 1901 meeting minutes recorded "After yet another lengthy discussion it was moved and seconded that saloons may stay open until 11pm rather than 10pm on weekdays".

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Other noted decisions made at the City and Town Hall included the establishment of a lighting system for the Washington Street in 1893. The establishment of official polling places, and the determination of a city election day in 1885, and finally, the date, plans, and execution of the first community picnic at Memorial Park.

The period of greatest significance for the City and Town Hall is from 1884-1942. The building is standing in its original location.

In addition to housing the city council chambers (1887- 1968), the City and Town Hall has served as a home for a diverse collection of governmental, political and social functions including, the fire station (1884-1930); the jail, police station (1884-1931); the township board room (1884-1968); the township meeting room (1884-1968); the township supervisors office (1884-1968); the town clerks office (1884-1968); the city clerks office (1884-1968); the city managers office (1954); the court room (1884-1968); and the library (1891-1912).

The offices in The City and Town Hall have been used throughout the years by a federal marshal, mayor, probation officer, drivers licenses examiner, unemployment compensation representative, W.P.A. 1935 Administration, social security office and many more. Because the hall is a well known landmark in Rochelle and contains a large and open second floor, many organizations such as the Rochelle Anti-Horse Thief Association held meetings there.

During a ceremony in 1899, the Rochelle Post 546 G.A.R. local Civil War Vets had an 1863 Civil War Cannon and pyramid shaped stack of 20 cannon balls erected in front of the city and town hall. Though the cannon balls are gone, the cannon remains facing the corner of the lot.

The growth of Rochelle from its beginnings in 1836 was associated with the railroad, stone quarrying, farming and canning. Originally call "Hickory Grove", the name was changed to "Lane Station" in honor of R.P. Lane on whose land the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad station was located in 1853. The railroad was completed in 1854 and the first railroad of cars chugged into Lane from Chicago in January of 1854.

The Village of Lane became incorporated in 1861, seven years after the advent of the railroad. Five members constituted the first village boards although no records exist of subsequent boards due perhaps to three major fires (1860, 1861 and 1870) that burned much of Lane.

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After the second major fire wiped out the two grain elevators and several stores in 1861, a man was held as a suspect for the crime. While he awaited his sentence, the inflamed citizens of Lane took the accused man and hanged him in the middle of town. From 1861 - 1866 Lane was dubbed Hangtown or Hangmans Town because of the terrible crime committed by its citizens. Local people decided that the only way to get rid of that name would be to change the name of the town. A few men were sitting in a drug store talking about the possibilities and one of them noticed a bottle of Rochelle Salts (a cathartic) on the shelf and said what the town needed was "a good cleaning out". His suggestion was voted upon and Rochelle became official in 1866.

From a small beginning, Rochelle has become an industrial center and the largest city in Ogle County. Rochelle is nicknamed the Hub City because the Chicago and Northwestern and the Burlington and Milwaukee railroad cross one another here. The great North and South Highway U.S. 51 (formerly the Meridian Highway running from Duluth, Minnesota to New Orleans, Louisiana) crossed U.S. 38 when it was the Lincoln Highway running from the East Coast to San Francisco (1929).

Through the years of political, social, and growth changes for Rochelle, the City and Town Hall has remained the hub of the city, providing space for everything from jails to public rest rooms. The modifications made are not significant enough to lessen the historical importance of the building.

Since 1968, the building has been cared for by the Flagg Township Historical Society who, under the founding direction of Franklin Kruger, saved it from the wrecking ball by forming the society. It is currently being used as a historical museum housing many articles of Rochelle's past.

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City and Town Hall

BIBLIOGRAPHY

City Council Minutes; 1885-1907.

Flagg Township Historical Society, 150 Years of Friendship - A Pageant Celebrating Illinois Sesquicentennial 1818-1968. October 1968.

Kruger, Franklin, "The 1884 City and Town Hall in Rochelle, Illinois - History of Northern Illinois". Rochelle News Leader, December 1970.

League of Women Voters of Rochelle in Cooperation with the First National Bank of Rochelle, Our Town Rochelle. (no date given)

Max Anderson Associates, Community Facilities - A Comprehensive Plan for Rochelle, Illinois. Max Anderson Associates; Madison, Wisconsin. December 14, 1973.

Nelson, Art, Little Known Facts About Rochelle. (no date given)

O'Brien, George and Chuck Stafford, (Editors and Publishers) Rochelle Diamond Jubilee 1853-1928. 1928.

Rochelle News Leader Staffwriter (no author listed), "Rochelle Nickname Deserved". Rochelle News Leader, June 1976.

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Section number 10 Page 8

City and Town Hall

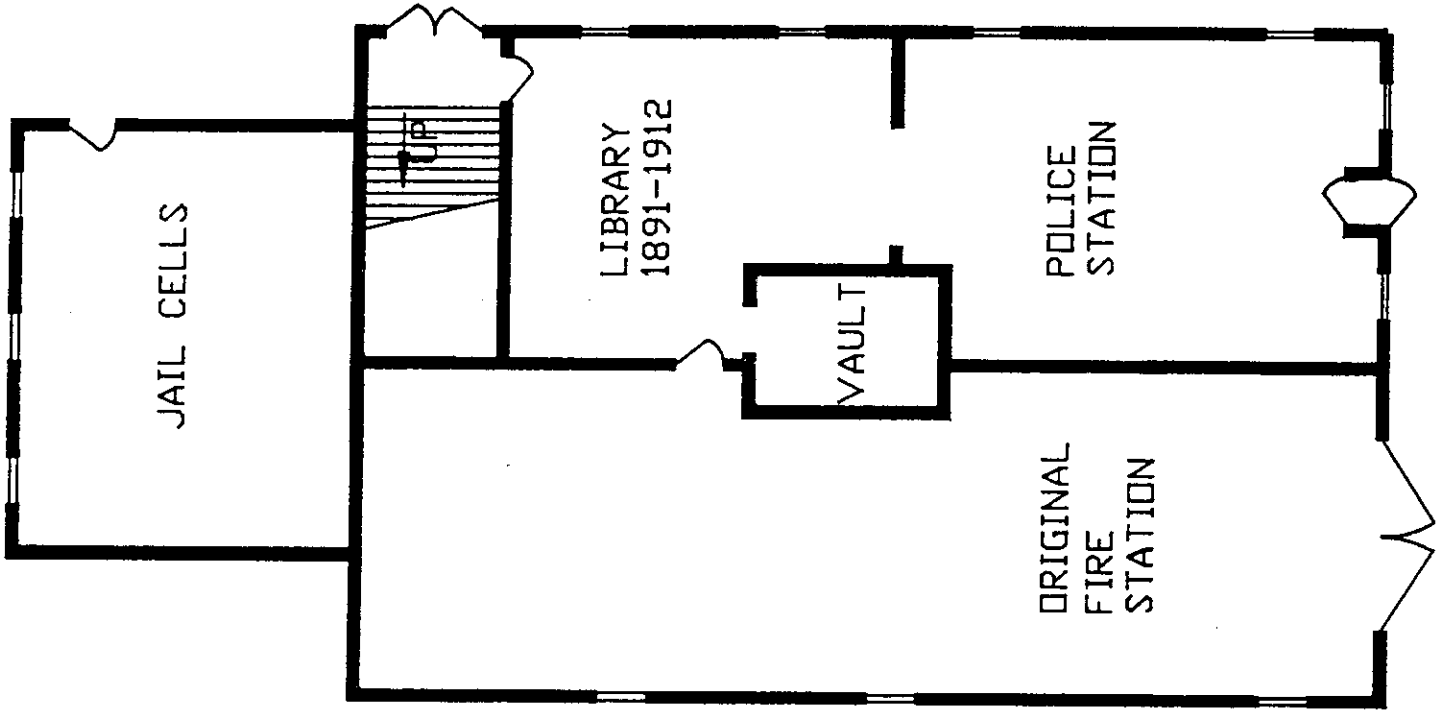
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Part of lots 9 and 10 on the corner of 4th Avenue and 6th Street, Rochelle, Illinois. 60' x 60'.

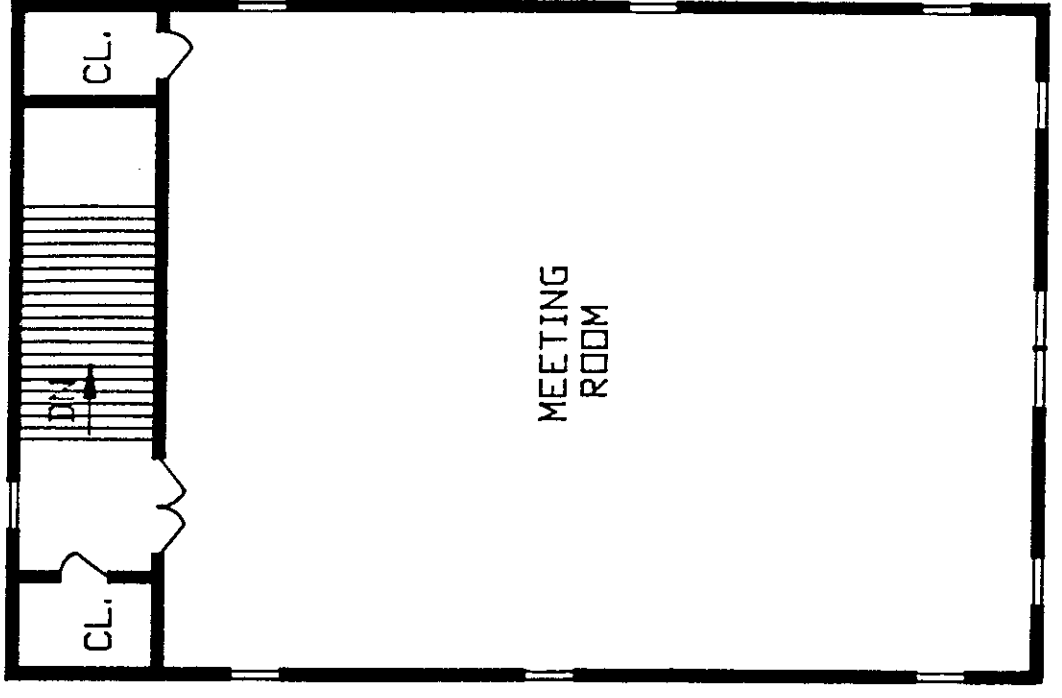
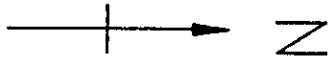
BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Boundary includes the full extent of the property historically associated with the City and Town Hall.

1884 CITY AND
TOWN HALL IN
ROCHELLE, IL
ORIGINAL LAYOUT



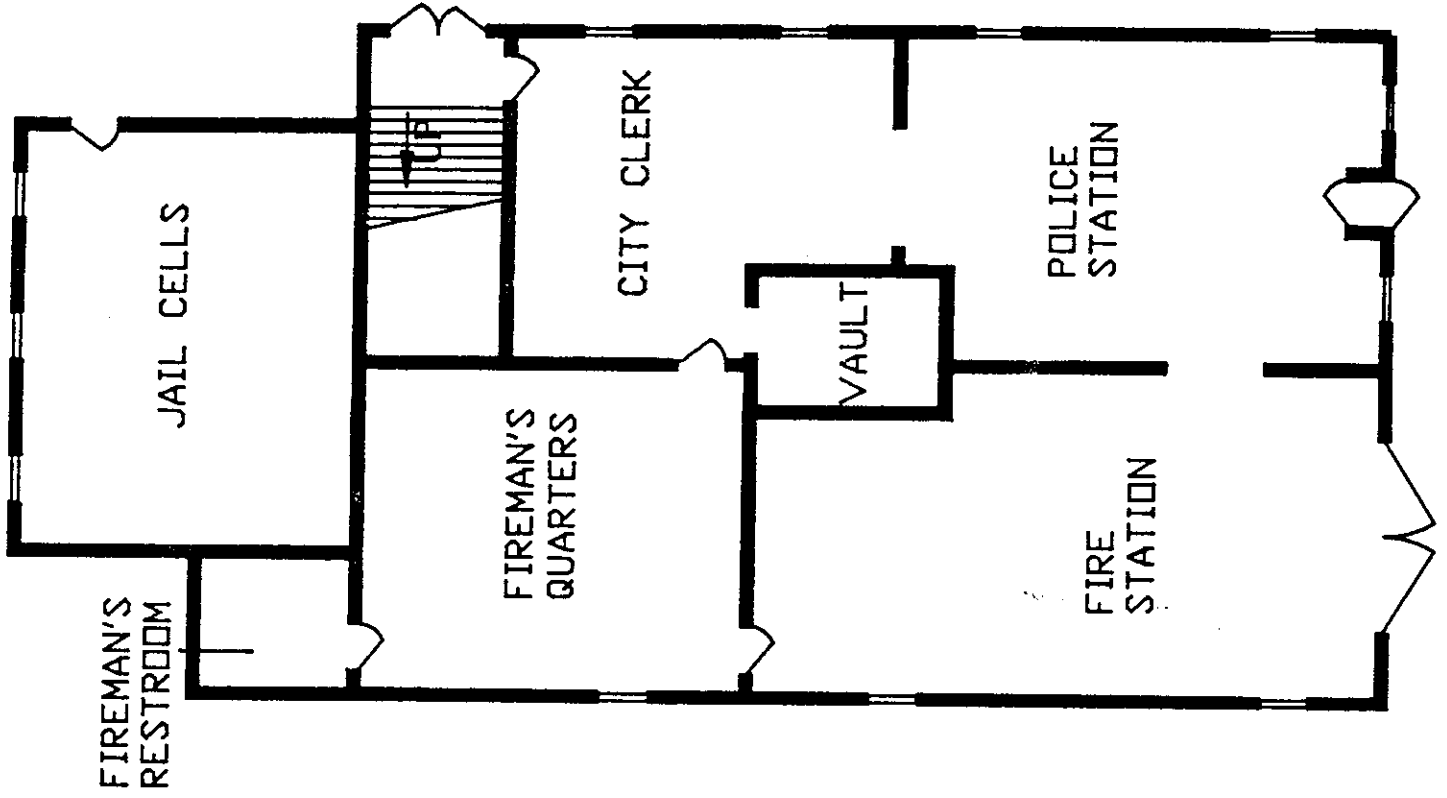
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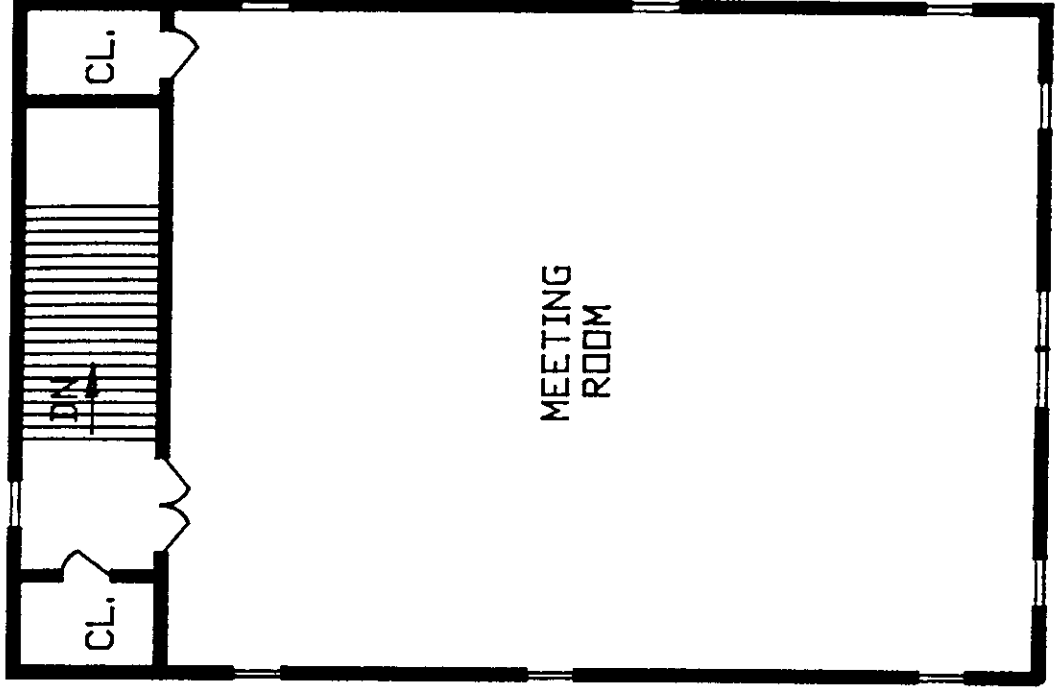
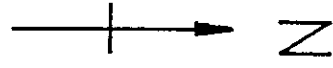
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1884 CITY AND
TOWN HALL IN
ROCHELLE, IL

1912-1930

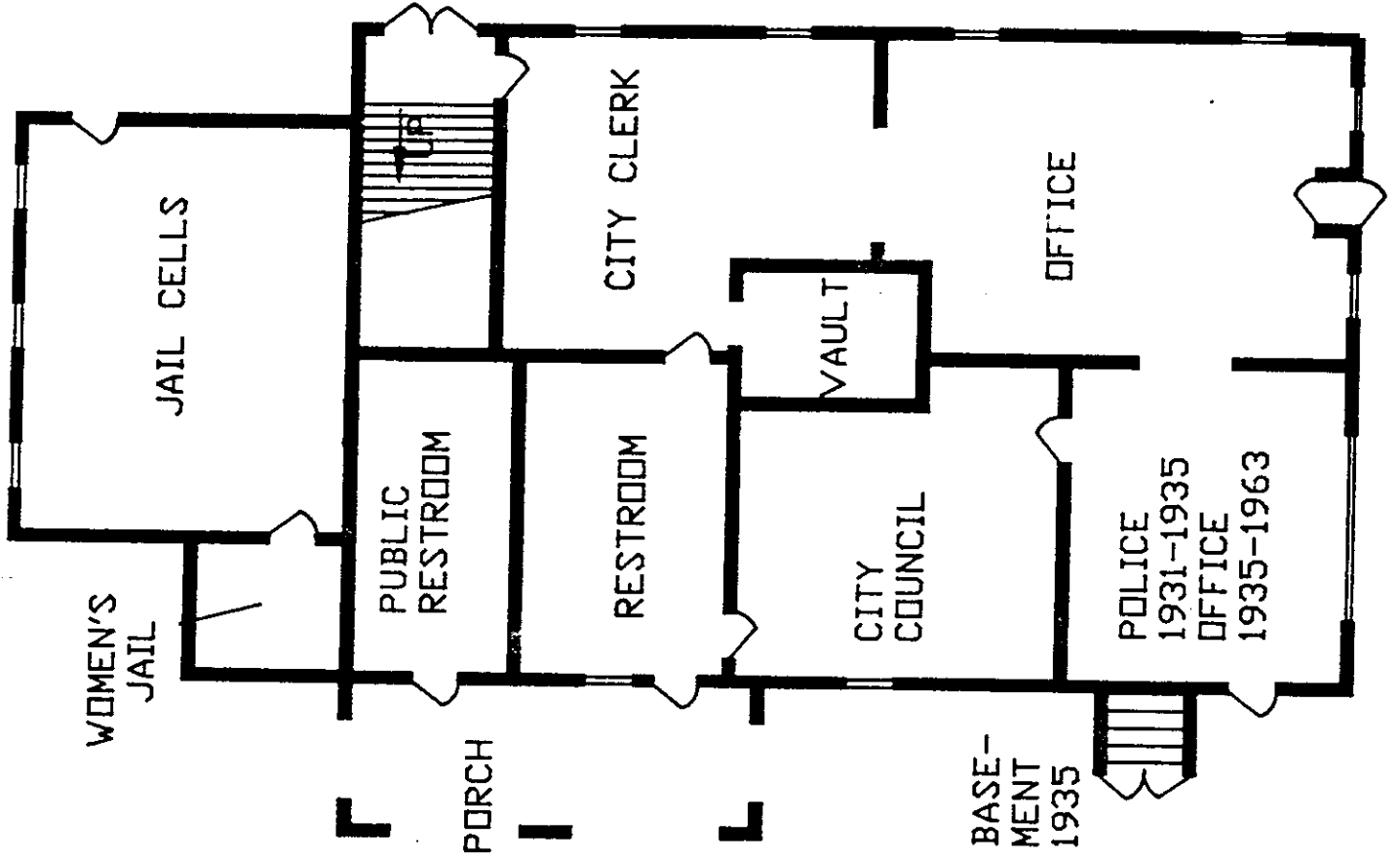


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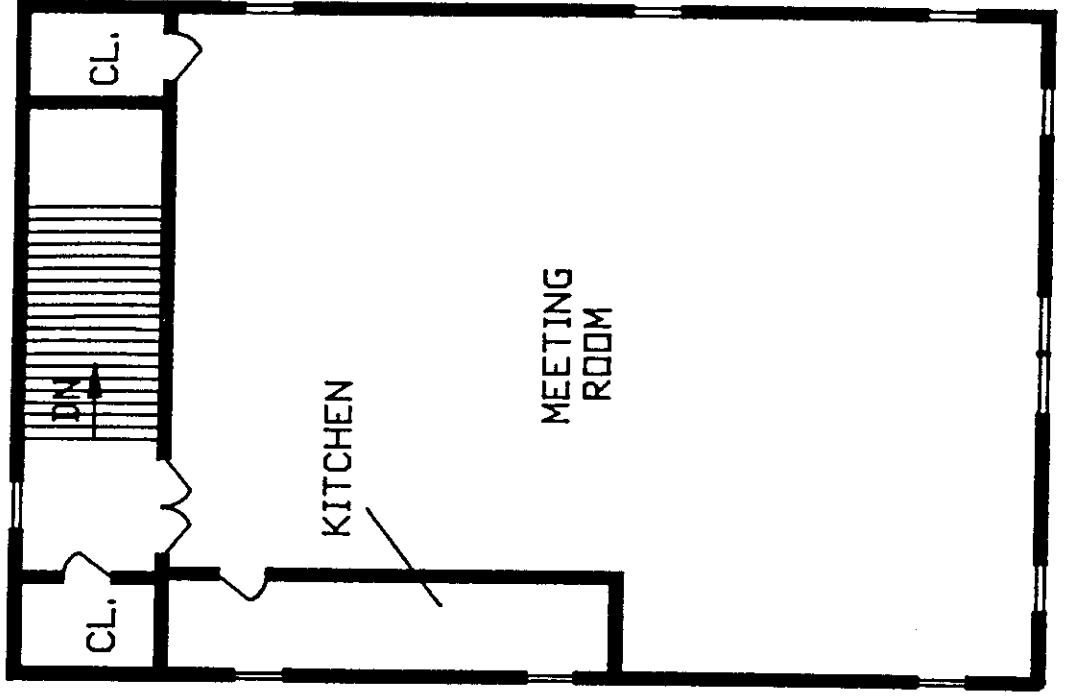


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1884 CITY AND
TOWN HALL IN
ROCHELLE, IL
1931-1963

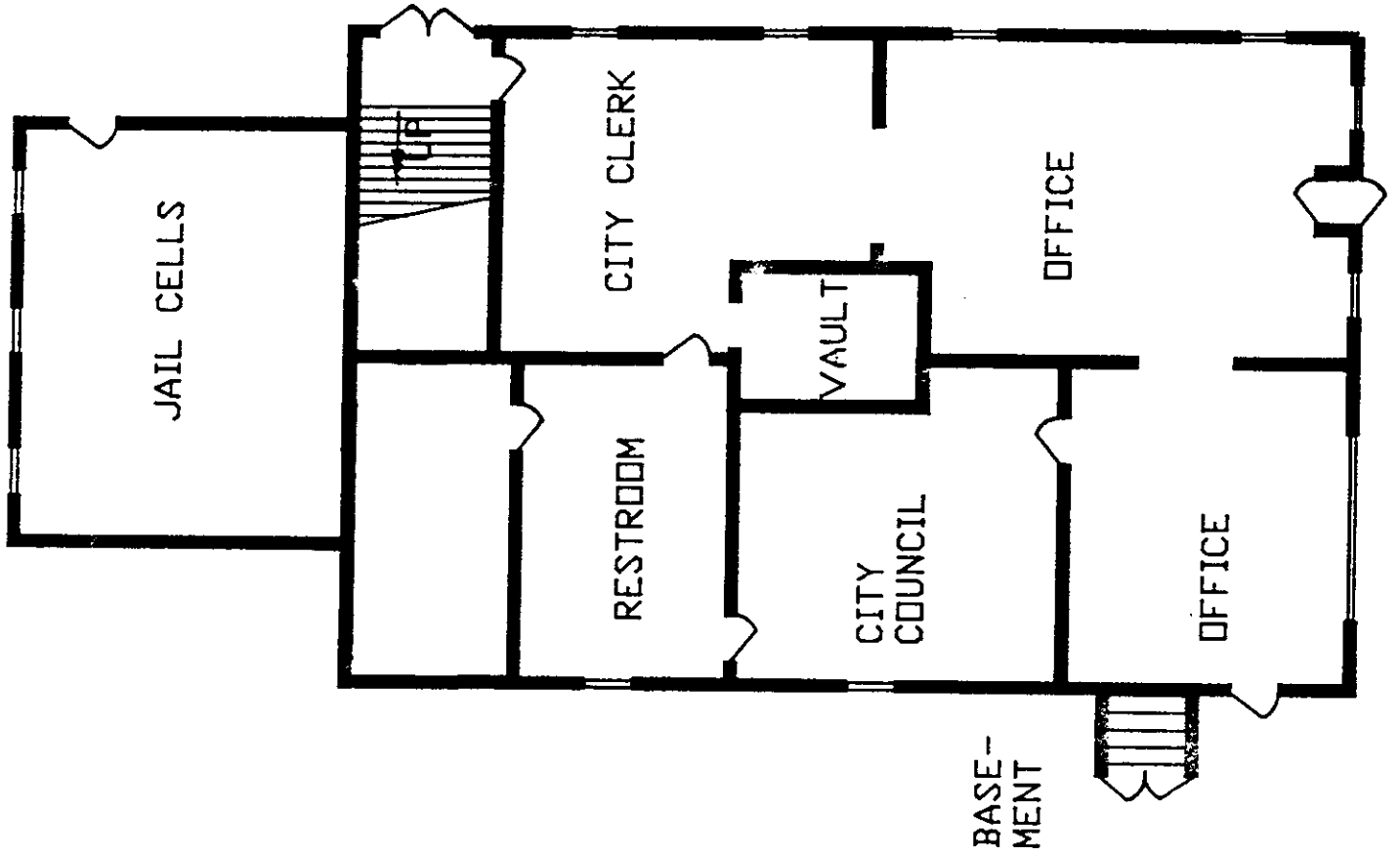


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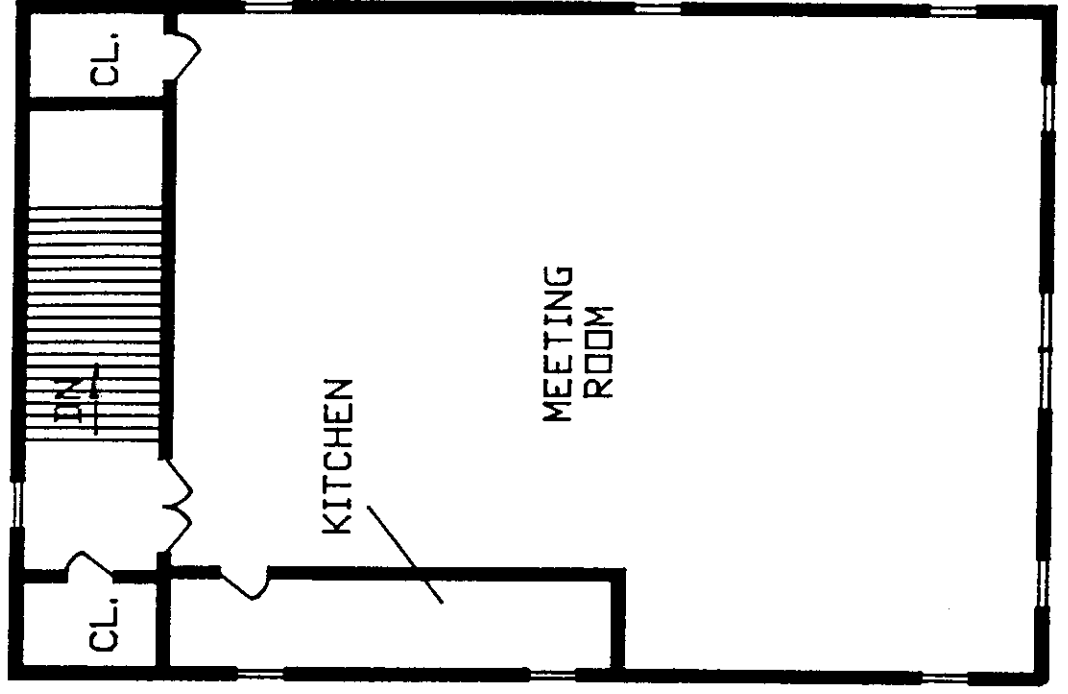


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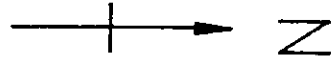
1884 CITY AND
TOWN HALL IN
ROCHELLE, IL
1963-1968



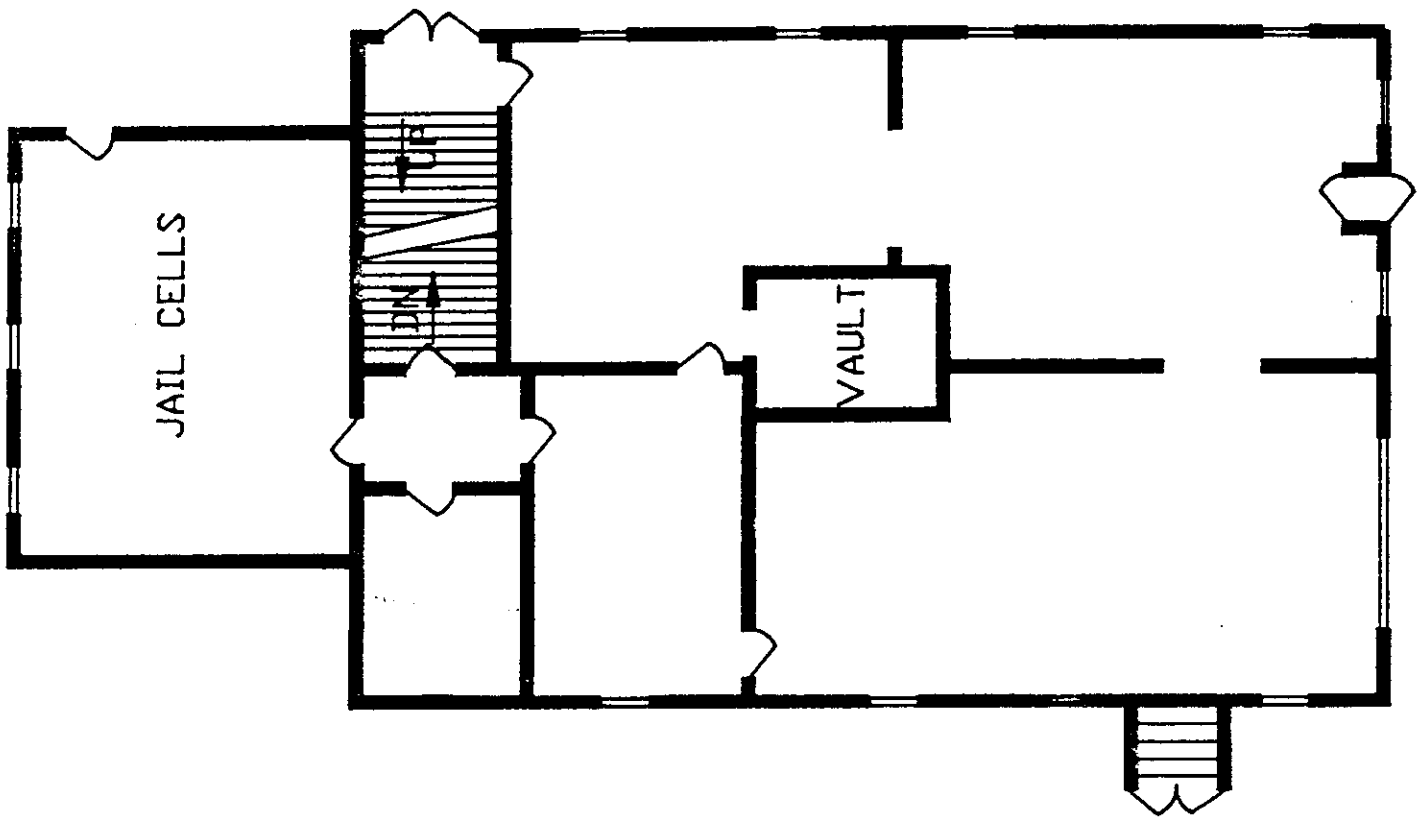
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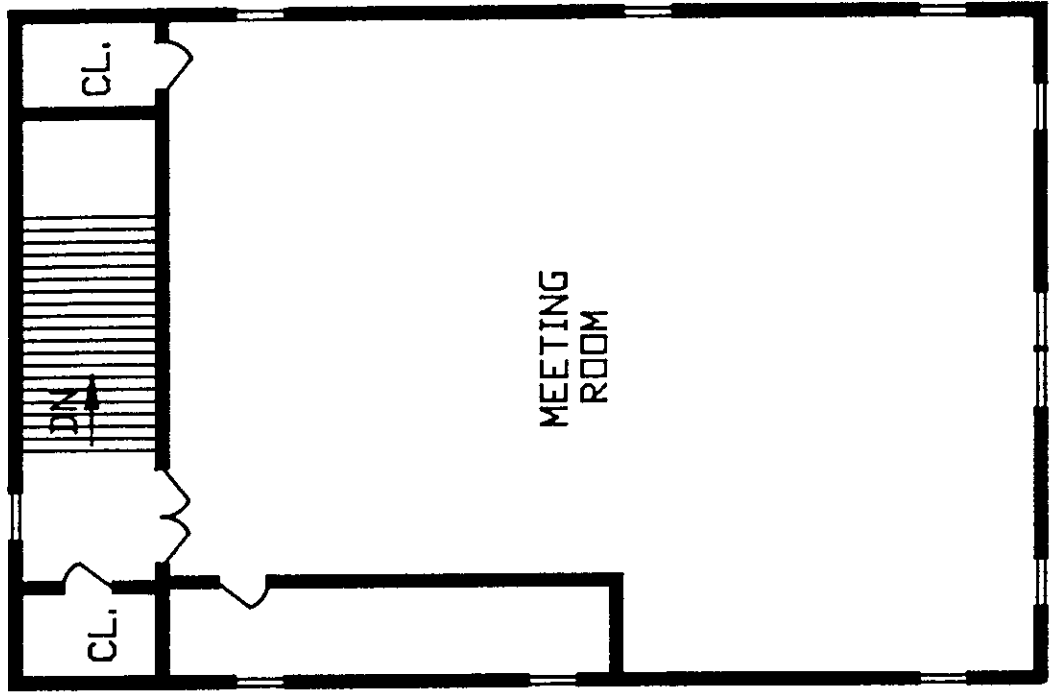
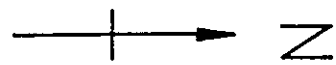
2nd FLOOR



1884 CITY AND
TOWN HALL IN
ROCHELLE, IL
1968-PRESENT



1st FLOOR



2nd FLOOR

0-H-35

43

ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES SURVEY INVENTORY

SURVEY USE ONLY

1. Name of Site: City & Town Hall Museum
Common
Historic

- Archaeology
- Architecture
- History

2008

2. Location:

Street and Number
4th Ave. & 6th Sts.

Township

Section

City or Town
Rochelle

Zip Code

Flagg Range

24
1/4 Section

County
Ogle

40N
R1E

NE

3. Classification:

Category (check one)

Integrity (check one)

- District
- Building
- Site
- Structure

- Altered
- Unaltered
- Moved
- Original Site

4. Ownership

Status (check one)

- Private
- Public

- Occupied
- Unoccupied
- Preservation work in progress

Access to public

- Yes
- Restricted
- Unrestricted
- No

Present Use (check one or more)

- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainment
- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Museum
- Park
- Private Residence
- Religious
- Scientific
- Transportation
- Other (specify)

5. Ownership of Property

Owner's name City of Rochelle

Street and Number 5th Ave. & 6th

Phone Number

City or Town

State

County

Zip Code

6. Description

Condition

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Deteriorated
- Ruins
- Unexposed

Is there a program of preservation underway? Yes No

7. Historical Themes: (check one or more of the following)

- Archaeological Site (Pre-Columbian)
- Archaeological Site (Post-Columbian to 1673)
- French Influence (1673-1780)
- Illinois Frontier (1780-1818)
- Illinois Early (1818-1850)
- Illinois Middle (1850-1900)
- Illinois Late (1900-present)
- Famous People (give names & dates)

GOVERNMENT



8. Specific Date: 1884

Areas of Significance (check one or more of the following)

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (historic) | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (pre-historic) | <input type="checkbox"/> Military |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Music |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | |

Brief statement of significance: (include all names and dates.) Use additional sheets if necessary. It was a public building used for public business from 1884 - 1970. It is now an historical museum.

9. Form prepared by:

Name and title: Franklin Kruger Date: May, 1972
Organization: Flagg Twp. Historical Society
Street and Number: 921 6th St.
City or Town Rochelle County Ogle Zip Code 61068
Phone Number 562-7345

During the course of the Survey we often find it necessary to search for references for a particular site. When filling out the Survey form, please list according to the following example, published references to the site for which forms are being completed. If a bibliography can be compiled, it will greatly deduct from the Survey's task.

Bibliography

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