

WASHINGTON

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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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

Adams Memorial Library

AND/OR COMMON

DuPage County Historical Museum

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

102 East Wesley Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Wheaton

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Illinois

VICINITY OF

CODE

012

14th

COUNTY

DuPage

CODE

043

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

County of DuPage

STREET & NUMBER

421 County Farm Road

CITY, TOWN

Wheaton

VICINITY OF

STATE

Illinois

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

(Warranty Deed #79-17102, dated 10-4-65, recorded 3-1-79)

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

DuPage County Recorder of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

421 County Farm Road

CITY, TOWN

Wheaton

STATE

Illinois

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

1. Inventory of Historic Structures in Wheaton, Cook County
2. Cultural and Historical Inventory

DATE

2. July, 1976

1. April 1975

FEDERAL

2

STATE

1

COUNTY

LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

1. Ill. Dept. of Conservation

DuPage County Regional Planning Commission

CITY, TOWN

2. Wheaton

1. Springfield

STATE

Illinois

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



Continuation sheet Adams Memorial Library

Item number 6

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2. Inventory of Historic Structures in DuPage County (state) August 1974, Illinois Department of Conservation, Historic Sites Division, Springfield, IL 62706.
3. Inventory of Historic Landmarks in DuPage County (state) October 1974, Illinois Department of Conservation, Historic Sites Division, Springfield, IL 62706.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT.	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	
	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	
	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located at the Southeast corner of the intersection of Wesley and Main Streets, the Adams Memorial Library Building is a two-story rectangular building, 50' by 75', with a circular stair tower at the Northeast corner. The building is constructed of coursed, rock-face limestone with blue Bedford stone trimmings. Originally of red slate, the present asphalt shingle roof retains its original copper gutters and downspouts. Each of the facades is dominated by a tall, stone gable with semi-engaged pinnacles at each side, near the base of the gable. The eaves of the gables have dentil mouldings which meet the horizontal eave line at the bases of the pinnacles with carved stone ornament in acanthus leaf motif. The same motif is present at the bases of rounded engaged pilasters which spring from the first floor line to frame the gable and second floor windows under the gable. Within each gable is an arched window.

The gable of the primary, North facade is given prominence by the placement of an urn at the point. This facade consists of four elements; a turreted stair tower to the East, the gable, a round arched double doorway, and a shallow rounded, stone, bay window at the West. The doorway is arched in blue Bedford stone with an extrados consisting of egg and dart moulding over a dentil moulding, and an intrados consisting of a band of carved acanthus leaf ornament beneath a fret moulding. Under the gable, at the second floor line, a carved blue Bedford stone name plaque is now hidden behind a modern sign.

The South facade has a bay window of copper clad cast iron. At the Southwest and Northeast corners of the site are stone bastions with wrought iron gates opening onto a small ell-shaped courtyard. The South and East facades have always had other structures in close proximity and are unexpectedly elaborate considering their context.

The interior is substantially intact. Floors, in general, are oak; Ceilings are plaster on wire cloth; and partitions from the basement up are plaster directly on brick. Exterior walls have wax linings for damp-proofing. The decorative cast iron floor registers throughout the first and second floors are original.

The basement was used to house heating apparatus, coal bins, and a lavatory. Although substantially altered the original fabric of the basement is intact.

The first floor includes a Vestibule, a Hall with a main staircase rising to a landing on the West wall, the Main Reading Room at the Northwest corner, the Ladies's Reading Room at the Southwest, a Lecture Room at the Northeast, the Reference Room, Librarian's Room, and Library Room at the Southeast. The Vestibule wainscot is marble. The Hall has a wainscot, ceiling mouldings, and a staircase in oak. The Main Reading Room is finished in quarter-sawn oak, carved panel ceiling, bench seating in the bay window, and had a fireplace with a grate. The wainscoting has a small acanthus leaf emblem carved in each panel.

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The Ladies' Reading Room has oak trim with a fireplace with grate and mantelpiece. The Lecture Room is finished in oak; but the original platform is missing. The oak wainscoting is identical with that used in the second floor auditorium. The fireplace in the Library Room has been closed up, and the oak trim here and in the Librarian's Room is discontinuous where oak shelving units have been removed. It would appear that all the original shelving units are still in the building; but some have been substantially modified to function as museum display cases. The entire first floor is little changed from the original construction.

The second floor houses an auditorium originally planned to seat 500 persons on the main level and with a gallery. Windows at the North and South sides are glazed with leaded stained glass in a curvilinear pattern, and there is an arched stage opening at the East end flanked by small rooms opening onto the stage. Originally used as Dressing Rooms, the Southeast room was substantially modified in 1931 to provide an exit to a fire escape, and subsequently to provide a small kitchen and lounge for library staff. The Audience Room is finished in Oak. Roof trusses are expressed with the lower chord being treated as an exposed beam on either side of the large windows. The oak flooring has recently been covered with carpeting. At the West end of the second floor, flanking the main stairway, are two room originally used for dressing and for receptions. The Southwest of these rooms has been substantially altered.

The stairs continue up to a gallery which originally overlooked the Audience Room; but has since been closed off.

Door and window hardware throughout the interior first and second floors of the building is the original decorative bronze.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Groundbreaking 10-18-1890
Dedication 10-28-1891 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Charles Sumner Frost

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Adams Memorial Library was the first public library in Wheaton, a gift from John Quincy Adams, in memory of his wife, Merilla Phipps Adams. Mr. Adams moved from Hopkinton, Massachusetts, to Chicago in 1851, where he became a leading miller, grain merchant and real estate investor. He moved to Wheaton in 1876.

In announcing construction of the new building, the Wheaton Illinoian article of September 26, 1890, states, "its object being to furnish complete library accommodations and small and large lecture rooms for literary entertainments." An endowment given by Mr. Adams solely supported the library until 1923, at which time, the City of Wheaton began supplemental funding. The library was one of the earliest, in Illinois, to use the Dewey decimal system for the classification of its collection.

The Adams Memorial Library building was in active use as a library until 1965, when construction of a new facility was completed. Interested in establishing the present museum, the DuPage County Historical Society acquired ownership of the building and initiated its conveyance to the County of DuPage in 1965.

Typical of the early work of Charles Sumner Frost, this building retains most of its original integrity and illustrates many of the design elements found in his work: rusticated limestone, turrets, steep pitched roof, arches, bay windows, carved oak panelling and a Romanesque character. The newspaper description of the building's dedication describes it as, "the Byzantine treatment of the Romanesque style." It is a style popular in the 1890's, and is reflected in Mr. Frost's practice during this period.

Charles Sumner Frost was born on May 31, 1856, in Lewistown, Maine, where he received his early education and introduction to architecture, followed by two years of study at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Mr. Frost practiced for three years in Boston, with Peabody & Stearns, before arriving in Chicago in 1881, where he entered into a partnership with Henry Ives Cobb on January 1, 1882. This partnership, in 1885 produced the Potter Palmer Mansion and the Chicago Opera House Block, a forerunner for Adler & Sullivan's Auditorium Hotel, containing both theater and office functions. The partnership was dissolved in 1889, with Mr. Frost maintaining an office as sole practitioner until 1897.

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The Adams Memorial Library was designed and built during this period, as was the Morgan Park Library, 1889; Western Bank Note Building, 1891; and Chicago Home for the Friendless, all in Chicago.

On January 1, 1898, Mr. Frost formed a partnership with Alfred H. Granger. Notable projects of this association included The Coliseum, 1900; Chicago and Northwestern Railway Office Building, 1904; Northern Trust Company, 1905; George Smith Memorial for St. Luke's Hospital, 1907; and the Chicago Terminal of the Chicago and Northwestern Railway, 1911; all in Chicago. Mr. Frost was the architect for Municipal Pier in 1916.

Mr. Frost's final partner was Charles G. Henderson, with whom he designed an addition to the Northern Trust Bank.

Most of Mr. Frost's professional efforts encompassed the area of northern Illinois. His influence was regional, however, with buildings in seven states. His records list 127 projects for the Chicago and Northwestern Railway alone, and include the major train stations in several midwestern cities. Charles Sumner Frost retired from practice on December 31, 1928, at the age of 72, and died December 11, 1931.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lincoln, Marjorie H., "Wheaton Public Library: Past and Present", prepared for the Wheaton Leader, May, 1969. Pamphlet in Wheaton Public Library. "Our Public Library", Wheaton Illinoian, 30 Oct. 1891, (newspaper report of dedication of Adams Memorial Library). Moore, Jean, From Tower to Tower: A History of Wheaton, Illinois, Wayside Press, Mendota, Illinois, 1974. Andreas, A. T., History of Chicago, A. T. Andreas Co., Publishers, Chicago, 1886.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME Wheaton

QUADRANGLE SCALE 7.5 minute

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 400180 4636280

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Town of Wheaton, Block 6, Lots 4 and 5, located at the Southeast corner of the intersection of Wesley and Main Streets.

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

W. Edger Green, AIA, Charles W. Berrow, Jr., and Patricia A. Wallace

ORGANIZATION

Northeast Illinois Chapter, American Institute of Architects, 1-27-81

STREET & NUMBER

117 W. Wesley Street

DATE

TELEPHONE

312/ 668-0626

CITY OR TOWN

Wheaton

STATE

Illinois 60187

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

Dwight K...

DATE

4/13/81

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
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

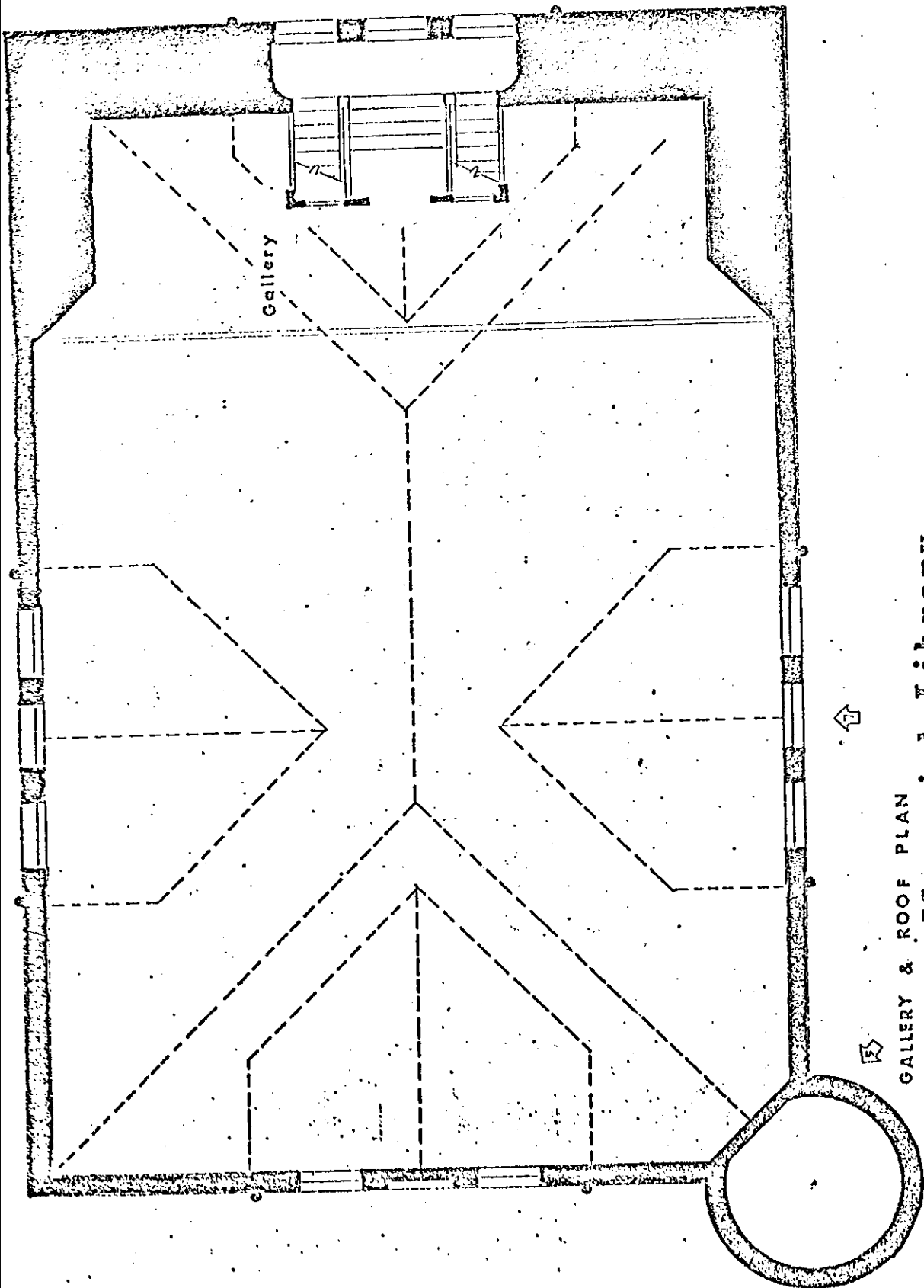
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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GALLERY & ROOF PLAN
Adams Memorial Library

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

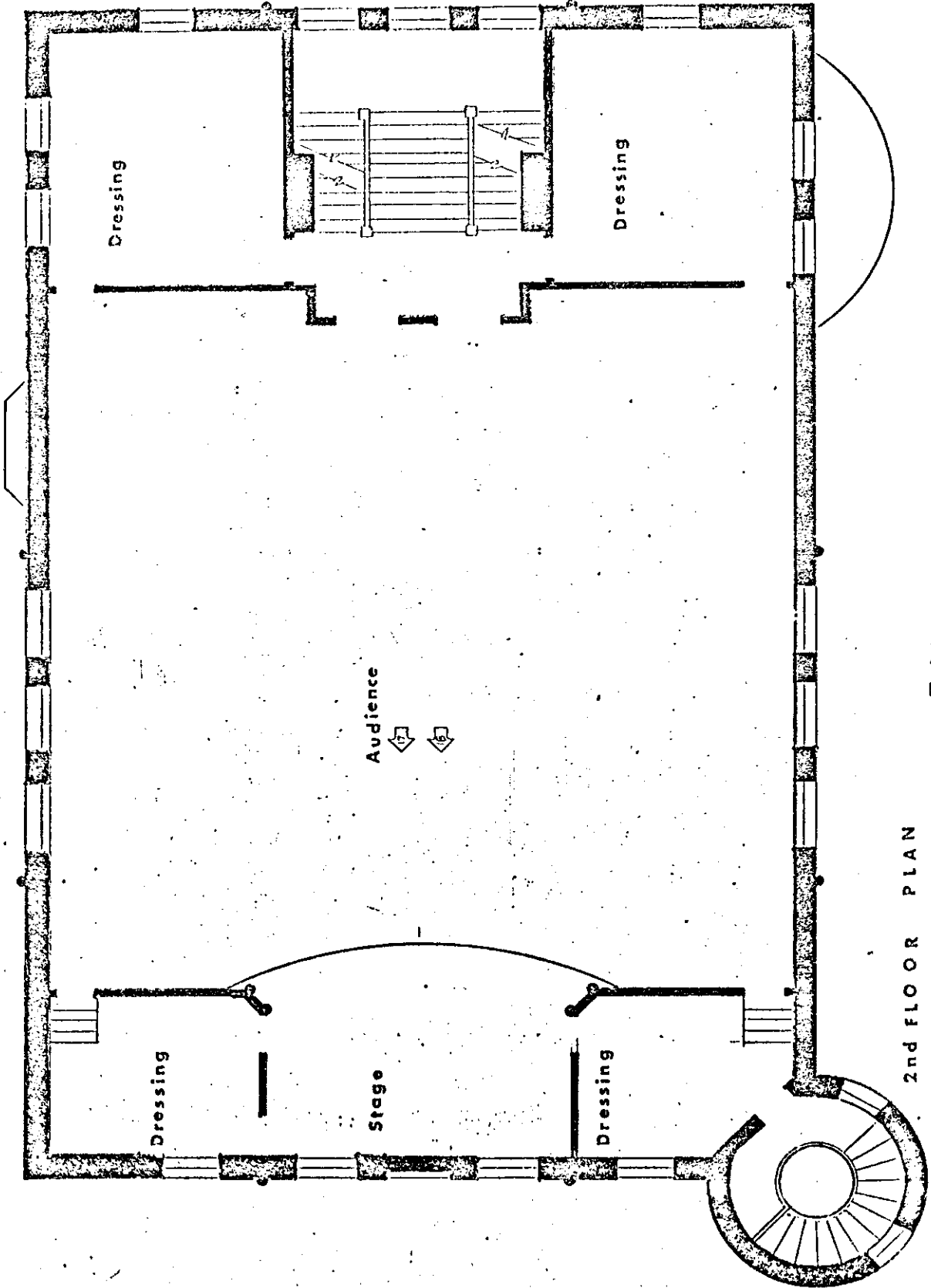
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2ND FLOOR PLAN
Adams Memorial Library

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

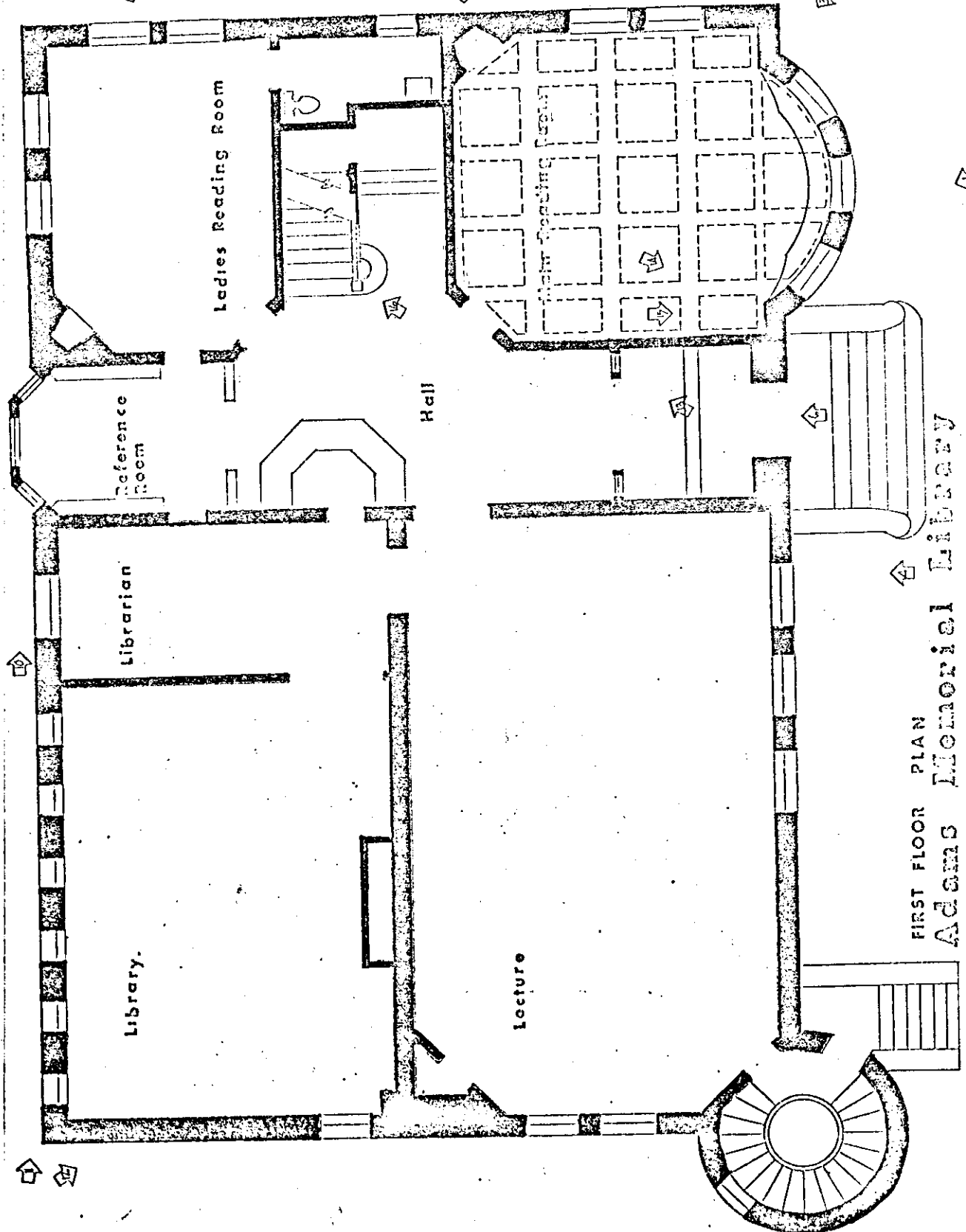
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FIRST FLOOR PLAN
Adams Memorial Library

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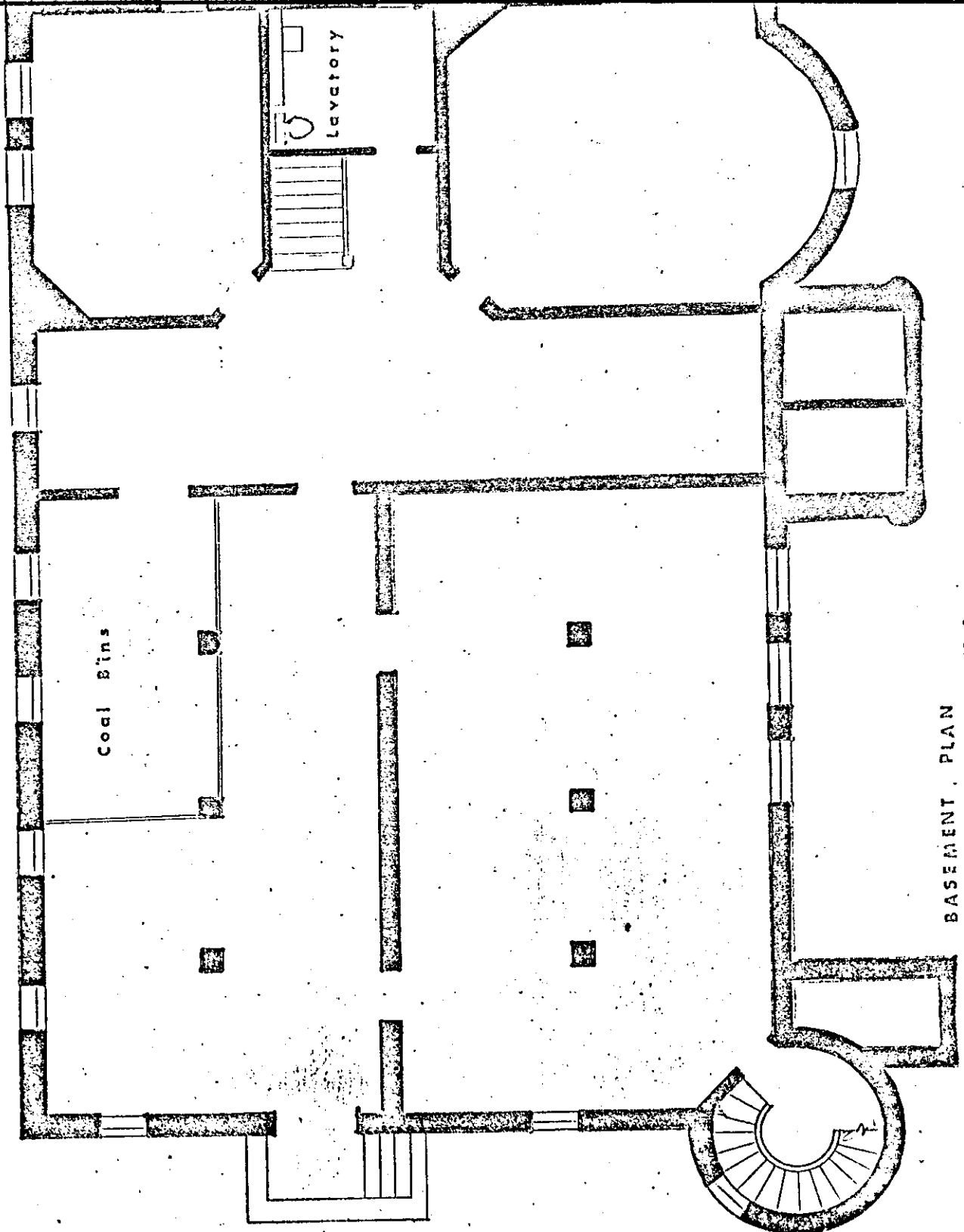
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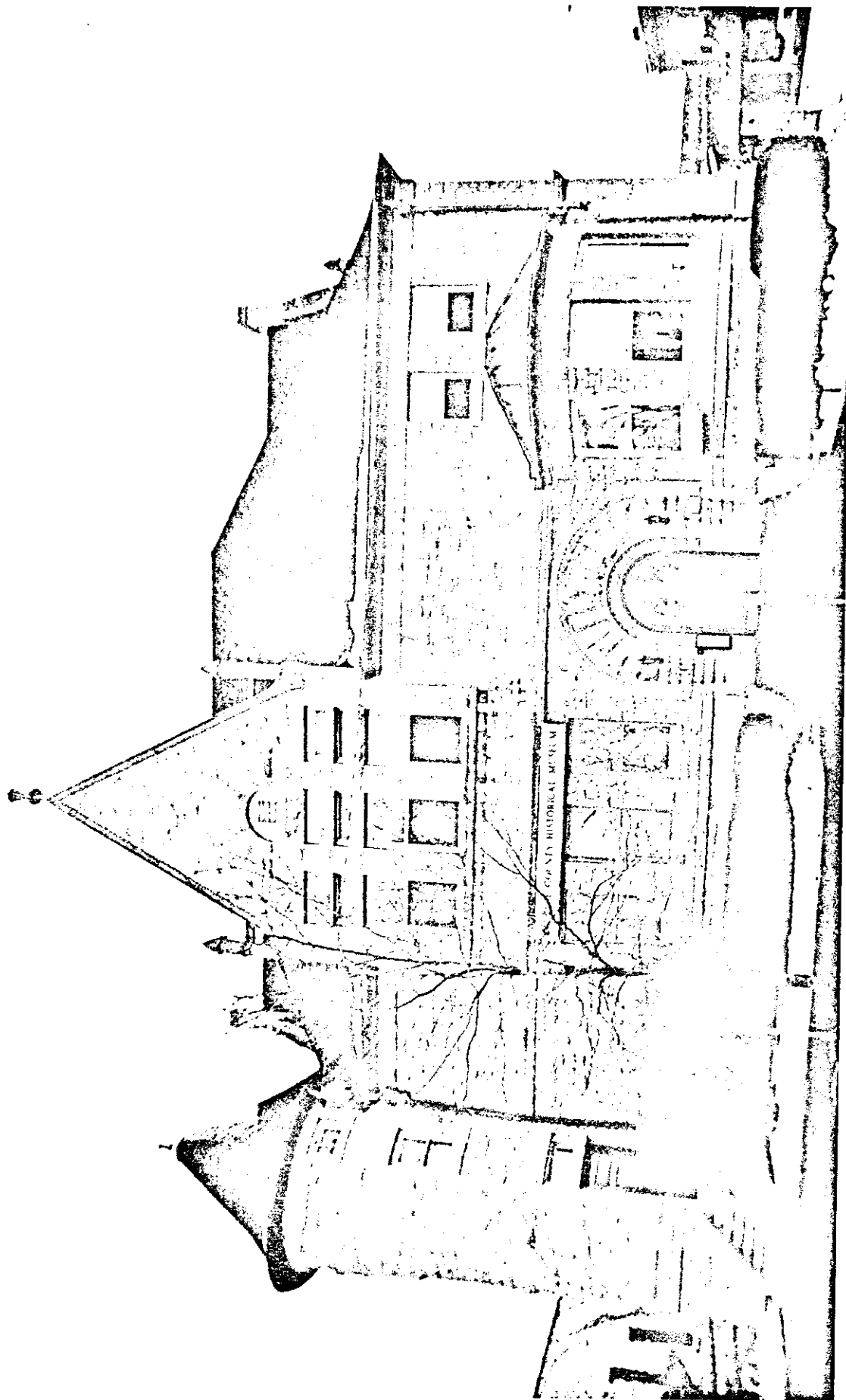
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BASEMENT PLAN
Adams Memorial Library



ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES SURVEY INVENTORY

DU-H-48 ✓

200342

1. Name of Site:

Common Du Page Co. Historical Museum
Historic Adams Library

2. Location:

<u>Street and Number</u>	<u>Township</u>	<u>Section</u>
102 E. Wesley St. (SE cor Main)		
<u>City or Town</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>1/4 Section</u>
Wheaton		
<u>County</u>		
Du Page		

3. Classification:

Category (check one)		Integrity (check one)	
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site

4. Ownership:

<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied
	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress

Access to Public

Yes Restricted Unrestricted No

Present Use (check one or more)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	

5. Ownership of Property:

<u>Owner's Name</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
<u>Street and Number</u>	
<u>City or Town</u>	
<u>State</u>	<u>County</u>
	<u>Zip Code</u>

REPOSITORY

6. Description: Romanesque

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed		

Is there a program of preservation underway? Yes No

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

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archeological Site | (Pre-Columbian) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archeological Site | (Post-Columbian to 1673) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> French Influence | (1673-1780) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Frontier | (1780-1818) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Early | (1818-1850) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illinois Middle | (1850-1900) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Late | (1900-present) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Famous People | (give names & dates) |

8. Specific Date: 1891

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 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. Built as public library, near cemetery museum

9. Form prepared by:

Name and Title: _____ Date: _____
Organization: _____ Phone: _____
Street and Number: _____
City or Town: _____ County: _____ Zip Code: _____

During the course of the Survey we often find it necessary to search 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

Robertson, Robert, Of Whales and Men. New York, Alfred K. Knopf, Inc., 1954.

