

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

SENT TO D.C.

9/28/95

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 Eldorado City Hall

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 1604 Locust Street not for publication

city or town Eldorado vicinity

state Illinois code IL county Saline code 165 zip code 62930

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. Orndorff (SHPO)
Signature of certifying official/Title

9-26-95
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:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Eldorado City Hall
Name of Property

Saline, 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	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Government/City Hall

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Work In Progress

Recreation/Culture/Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

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.)

- Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
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.
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:

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

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Politics/Government

Period of Significance

1924-1945

Significant Dates

1924

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

H.E. Boyle & Co., Architects

Miller & Simpson, Contractors

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Eldorado City Hall
Name of Property

Saline, Illinois
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 116 373050 4185770
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 Averil Miller Mathis

organization Project B.O.U.N.C.E. date 7/10/95

street & number 1901 Saline Avenue telephone 618-273-6188

city or town Eldorado state IL. zip code 62930

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 City Of Eldorado-leased to Project B.O.U.N.C.E. for 50 years

street & number P.O. Box 59 telephone

city or town Eldorado state IL. zip code 62930

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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Eldorado City Hall

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Eldorado City Hall sits at the northwest corner of Locust and First Streets and faces the south (Locust Street)(photo # 2) in the City of Eldorado, East Eldorado Township, Saline County, Illinois. The building is located near the central part of the City of Eldorado, a town of 4,536 residents, which is located in the northeast part of Saline County and is bounded on the north by Rector Township, on the south by Cottage Township, on the west by Raleigh Township and on the east by Gallatin County, Illinois.

The 46' X 60' building was constructed in 1924 by builders, Miller and Simpson of Eldorado, Illinois, and from drawings by H. E. Boyle & Co., of Evansville, Indiana. Local contractors were used in the construction of the building; Narans & Gampher, electricians, W. B. Douthitt, plumbing and heating and Roy McDaniel, painting and decorating. The building site is on the west half of lots 6 and 7, block 25 of the original plat of the city of Eldorado, commonly known as 1604 Locust Street on what was once the old Womack Hotel site.

It is a three-story building of Albion shale brick (photo # 3). The interior tin embossed ceilings throughout were painted ivory and the woodwork in golden oak with the walls in a mauve color. The outside wood trim was white. The hipped asphalt roof's ridge line runs from north to south with large extended eaves. The deep soffit ends at the front with huge wooden brackets, where the front of the roof line boasts a large dormer with a half moon window. A large electric siren perched atop the composition roof and was shielded by its own protective roof. The original siren was eventually removed and replaced by a modern siren that can be heard for five miles.

The fire station was built into the building on the west side to house the fire engine (photos # 7 & # 8). The active firemen left their gear on the second floor above the fire truck. These rooms, directly above the fire truck, were elevated above the normal second floor level to accommodate a taller ceiling in the fire station for the truck height. A ladder and brass fire pole provided entry and exit from the fire station to the quarters above.

The original fire station entrance had wide, wooden double doors containing nine glass panes in the upper two-thirds of the doors. In 1954, during the renovation these doors were replaced. The entire entrance was filled in with Bedford stone with a 2'8" X 6'8" door installed along with a two-pane casement window with a stone sill.

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To the east of the old fire station entrance is a triple one-over-one double-hung wood window with flat arches and concrete sills. The center window measures 51" X 65" and is flanked by a 25" X 65" window on each side. A rectangular, smooth stone is placed at the lower, outer edge of the triple window for decoration (photo # 3).

The building's front facade faces south on Locust Street (photo # 1). The entrance to the first floor is by a door under the east and one on the west side of the exterior steps leading to the second floor (photo # 5 & 6). These doors enter a foyer which was built directly under the landing leading to the second floor.

Two brick pillars, with electric lights centered in the middle of each, stood at the bottom on each side of the concrete stairway. The brick side supports went all the way up the stairs to a second set of pillars at the second floor landing. An iron hand railing bisected the steps. It was during the 1954 renovation that these steps were torn out and a more gradual ascent was constructed. This included steps from the east and west to a landing, then steps ascending to the original landing in front of the double doors of the second floor. The retaining wall was of brick with a concrete cap, and a decorative iron railing was added. The original pillars and landing at the second floor entrance were retained.

At each of the four corners of the building are seven-course brick quoins at the first story. In between the quoins are single courses of recessed brick. This same pattern of seven courses of raised brick and one recessed course may be seen on each elevation (photos 4, 5, 6) of the first story. A concrete stringcourse runs between the first and second stories on all elevations. All windows throughout the building are wooden, double-hung one-over-one windows with concrete sills.

On the south side of the building, and above the old fire station entrance is a triple window. The triple window has flat brick arches. The middle window measures 51" X 48" and is flanked by 25" X 48" windows on each side. This triple window is shorter than the other windows on the front of the building since the height of the ceiling of the fire station required the floors on the west side of the second floor to be 28" higher than the floor level on the east, or the main room on the second floor. To the east is a triple window with a flat brick arch, in the center of the second story which measures 51" X 65" and is flanked by 25" X 65" windows on each side. Just above and to each side of this central, second floor window is a square, flat stone. These stones are placed in line with the rectangular stones placed at the sides of the first floor triple window (photo # 3).

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Eldorado City Hall

The double door front entrance to the second floor has sidelights on each side. An extended awning, supported by two large, heavy link chains, hangs above the entryway with a transom window above the awning. Originally, this awning had small electric lights with round globes placed on the outside corners, while the inside corners were held in place by wooden brackets. The wraparound cornerstone was placed at the entrance level of the second floor, and was dedicated on June 21, 1924.

On the south side of the cornerstone is the inscription:

MAYOR
S. W. LATHAM

COMMISSIONERS
Wm. H. BROWN
W. E. HATTER
L. E. BARTON
JAMES LYON

On the east side of the cornerstone is the inscription:

ERECTED
1924
H. E. BOYLE & CO.
ARCHITECTS

MILLER & SIMPSON
CONTRACTORS

A flag pole flew the flag over the main entrance to the city hall in 1924. It has since been replaced by a taller flag pole in a memorial setting on the east side of the entrance. The memorial was provided by the American Legion of Eldorado, and constructed just after WW II (photo # 5).

Centered above the transom window, between the second and third stories, and beneath a triple window on the third floor, is a large stone panel with the words "CITY HALL." Two recessed brick panels, the same size as this stone panel, are found between the second and

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Eldorado City Hall

third stories (photo # 6), and placed directly between the triple windows of these stories. This forms a balance to the wall between these stories.

The three front third story windows on the south are triple with a flat brick arch. Each center window measures 51" X 81" and is flanked by a 25" X 81" window on each side. This gives a pleasing continuity to the entire front facade on the south side of the building since this triple window treatment is duplicated on all three stories (photo #3).

Directly above the center triple window of the third floor is a dormer with a small half moon, wood window with a concrete sill. A decorative wedge-shaped, keystone rises above the center of this window.

The roof line, below the dormer, extends to the outer edges of the center triple window line. However, the soffit ends at the inner line of the outside triple windows, and at this juncture, are two decorative corbels or brackets on each side (photo # 3).

The first story east elevation originally contained seven windows measuring 36" X 65" (photo # 1). At the rear of these windows are two bricked in windows, again with the concrete sills, and inside this area is the stairwell to the second floor. In 1931, the middle window was removed and a door installed to facilitate the transfer of prisoners (photo # 5). Previously, the prisoners had to be taken in the second story front door and down the back stairs, or through the former fire station.

There are seven windows on the second story, with two bricked in window areas to the north to accommodate the stairwell inside (photo # 7). The east elevation third story has nine windows. (photo #1, 7).

Beginning at the east end of the north elevation first story is a bricked in window with a concrete sill measuring 48" X 65", which accommodates the inner stairwell. To the west is a one-over-one, double-hung window with a concrete sill. A chimney separates this window and the back access door, measuring 36" X 75". West of the chimney is a bricked in window area with a concrete sill which allowed for the former coal bin (photo # 4).

Beginning at the east end of the north elevation second story is a bricked in window to accommodate the inner stairwell. To the west is a window, then a chimney and two more windows. These windows all measure 48" X 65". The north elevation third story, has two

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windows, a chimney and two more windows. All windows on the north are the same size (photo # 4)

The west elevation first story has seven windows measuring 48" X 65", again with two additional windows at the north, bricked in, and behind these two was the original coal bin. In 1954, the seven windows were removed and replaced with concrete block (photo # 6). The west elevation second story has seven windows which measure 36" X 48". The west side of the first floor is 28" higher than the east, which accounts for the shorter windows. The west elevation third story has eight windows measuring 36" X 81". In the center, is a bricked in window of the same size with a concrete sill. In 1954, a metal "tube" fire escape was installed in one of the west windows on the third story, with an additional access from a window on the second story. This fire escape sits on a concrete pad at the ground juncture (photo # 6).

Directly beneath the second story entrance landing on the south, at ground level, are doors entering the first story, one from the east side (photo # 5) and one from the west side of the staircase (photo # 6). These doors open into a small foyer. From the foyer, double doors with glass panes (photo # 11) lead north into what once served as the city offices (photo # 12). This room is now a meeting room. A large brick vault was situated on the north wall of the city offices (photo # 13). A rest room was situated between the vault and the former fire engine room wall. The fixtures have been removed from this rest room and the room is used for storage. In the meeting room the old tin ceiling tiles and the walls were repaired and painted. The west door of the conference room goes directly into the former fire engine room.

The former fire engine room was approximately 50' X 12'. The front section, using about 26 feet, will be used as a tourist information center and offices for the Eldorado Chamber of Commerce and Project BOUNCE. The west wall originally had windows, which were blocked in during the 1954 renovation, leaving deep indentations (photo #8). These indentations have been boxed in and shelves added to hold memorabilia pertaining to the city hall building. The back section has been converted into handicap accessible public rest rooms.

To the north of the meeting room is a large room which at one time held the three jail cells and police quarters. The jail bars (photo # 17) are still intact on three windows on the east. Located in the northeast corner of this room was the rest room for the prisoners (photo # 15),

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which has been gutted and converted into a storage room, keeping the embossed ceilings intact (photo # 10).

The city jail, located on the ground floor behind the city offices had no direct entrance. For convenience, in 1931, a door was cut on the east side from the fourth window from the south, on ground level, to facilitate entrance and exit from the prisoners quarters (photo # 5). On the west side of this room, through a double door, one could reach the former fire station (photo # 18).

A door on the northwest leads into the original furnace room, which was cleared, embossed ceilings and walls repaired and painted and made into a service area for the kitchen. The kitchen, which is directly west of the former furnace room, was once the coal bin (photo # 9). A large, heavy, sliding door hid the coal bin. The walls of this former coal room is 12 inches thick and on the coal bin door are slanted wood strips nailed to the facings into which boards were placed to control the flow of the coal as it was removed.

The stairway at the northeast corner of the first story (photo # 19) leads to the large open room with wooden floors and tin embossed ceilings on the second story. City council meetings were once held here. It was also the meeting place for many other local entities.

Large steel support beams, covered with decorative tin ceiling panels and held in place by iron poles which support the third floor can be seen in the large meeting room on the second floor. The ceiling in this area is twelve feet high (photo # 21). The west side of this room has three elevated rooms and entrance is gained by four steps (photo # 23). These rooms are directly over the former fire engine area which had a higher ceiling to accommodate the fire truck. These elevated rooms had only eight foot ceilings, which came to the same level of the large outer room. During renovation in 1954, the ceilings of the elevated rooms were lowered, the walls were paneled, the floors carpeted and new light fixtures installed. The south room will be used as the museum office and the other two will house special museum exhibits. A fourth room on the west, on the same level with the main floor (photo #23), had many uses over the years, and is currently a wash room.

The main large meeting room is on the east of the second floor. The outside double-door entrance is on the southeast corner (photo # 20). The photograph (photo # 21) shows a temporary furnace in the middle of the room which has since been removed. A new

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heating and cooling system has been installed: one unit for the first floor and another for the second and third floors.

Ascending the stairway in the northeast corner (photo # 26) to the third story is a landing with double doors which opens into a large open room with wooden floors. This room had new flooring installed in 1954, when it was used for "Teen Town", for gatherings of teen-aged children. This was a place for the teens to meet on specified nights and operating hours were set by a governing group of adults. There were adults present at all the functions, such as parties, dances etc. From one window on the west is the "tube" fire escape, installed in 1954 (photo # 6).

On the northeast of the large room is a door leading to the cloak room (photo # 32). Coat hooks may still be seen on the wainscoting. On the far northwest corner is a door leading to a powder room and rest room (photo # 30). Another room between the powder room and the hall entrance contains office space with its own private wash room (photo # 31). City Court was moved from the Redman building to this floor when the building was completed in 1924. City court was maintained in this building well into the 1960's.

According to a newspaper article published in the Eldorado Daily Journal in 1924, the third floor originally housed the main court room, chambers for the judge, state's attorney and court clerk, a jury room and a room where the local Woman's Club furnished and maintained Eldorado's first Public Library.

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Eldorado City Hall

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Eldorado City Hall, in the city of Eldorado, Illinois, is locally significant for Criterion A for its association with politics/government. The three-story brick building was constructed in 1924 and also housed all city government agencies, the jail, fire department and fire engine, and city court. The city hall also housed the public library from its opening, which was sponsored by the Woman's Club. Its period of significance is 1924 to 1945, the fifty year cutoff for the National Register.

In 1923 the City of Eldorado floated a \$30,000 bond issue to construct a city hall. From this, \$27,876 was paid to the contractor, \$184.00 miscellaneous costs and \$124.06 for an added "closet" (wash room), for a grand total of \$28,184.06 cost of construction.

Prior to the construction of the Eldorado City Hall in 1924, settlers began arriving in Eldorado Township in the very early years of the 1800's, probably around 1806 as far as local historians are able to ascertain. Long before Illinois was admitted to the Union, Kaskaskia was the chief town within her boundaries and the capitol of the Illinois territory. The next town of importance was Shawneetown. So it became necessary to establish a trail between the two points. It is known as the "Shawneetown-Kaskaskia Trace." This trace or trail ran from Shawneetown past the great salt works at Equality and on to "Elder-Reado" (the originally intended name for Eldorado). The trail turned northwest to the Karnes "block-house" a mile north of Raleigh, Illinois and on to Kaskaskia.

The "Goshen Trace" (or trail) was part of the Kaskaskia trail for many miles. It was originally an Indian trail running northwest from Shawneetown to Goshen (The East St. Louis area). From Shawneetown to a point southeast of Eldorado the trails are the same. An historical marker was erected by the Illinois State Historical Society on Route 142, just south of Eldorado where these two trails originally separated. The Goshen trail ran through part of the northern section of Eldorado on its way northwest to Goshen.

In 1814, Coleman Brown registered land along the Kaskaskia trail, around what is now Eldorado, where he built a block house for protection. Around 1820, Samuel Elder purchased land from Coleman Brown and constructed a two story house on the east side of the Kaskaskia trail, atop a hill near where the first Eldorado water tower stood.

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Eldorado City Hall

In 1852 Joseph Read bought land on the west side of the Kaskaskia trail. His house was built in the vicinity of the Beulah Heights School. With the news that the railroads were coming to the area, Samuel Elder and his son, William Elder, and Joseph Read and his son, William Read, decided to lay out a village. The plat was made on August 22, 1857, and was surveyed by Martin D. Gillette on May 24, 1858.

The first railroad survey to enter Eldorado was made in 1853. It entered this territory from the north, intersecting the old Kaskaskia Trail near the home of Judge Samuel I. Elder; near the Eldorado water tower on State Street. The name of the railroad, as remembered by old settlers was the Edgewood and Shawneetown Railroad, and was proposed to run from Flora via Fairfield, Enfield, Norris City, Omaha, Ridgway, thence to Shawneetown. The company went bankrupt before building any tracks.

In 1869 surveying began on what was called the Shawneetown branch of the St. Louis and Southeastern Railroad. At the same time the surveying for the main line of the St. Louis and Southeastern Railroad was being done, and it ran from East St. Louis to Evansville, Indiana and was later extended to Nashville, Tennessee. The railroad company ran a number of preliminary surveys, none of which were near enough to Eldorado to meet with the approval of the people who lived in and near the village of Eldorado. During all these surveys the citizens became alarmed and thought there was a probability of not getting the road located just where they wanted it. With these conditions prevailing it was easy for the railroad companies to secure liberal donations, after they agreed to build the road and establish a depot within one-half mile of State Street. This station was an L-shaped wooden building. The Louisville & Nashville Railroad had a waiting room on one side and the Penn Central and Illinois Central Railroads had their waiting room on the other side. A brick building was erected to take its place in 1930.

Soon after the railroad was built the village began to move eastward. The first business house to move was that of C. P. Burnett;. The eastward drift kept on until the greater part of the business formerly done on State Street had drifted toward the depot and in time it was abandoned as a business district.

Some two years prior to the building of the Shawneetown branch of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad (L & N) which ran through Hoodville, Digby Town (now Dale), Broughton, and Eldorado, then to Equality, there had been a spur railroad built from Junction

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Eldorado City Hall

to Equality. The sponsors of this road were men by the name of Castle and Temple. The L & N later acquired this spur making their connection over it to Shawneetown.

In 1870 the people between Eldorado and Belleville, Illinois became very interested in getting a railroad built between the two towns. In the latter part of 1870 there was a survey made from Eldorado to Benton. The survey was paid for by donations by the citizens living on and near the proposed route. The railroad project was abandoned after some surveying was completed.

Efforts to revive the building of a railroad line between Eldorado and Belleville began in 1876. On September 1, 1876, James Hill and William Nye opened offices in the Smith Hotel; located where the post office now stands. They immediately went about securing a right-of-way for a railroad line through the farms from Eldorado to Raleigh, and as the people were so anxious to get this road, the right-of-way was secured at little cost. John T. Campbell, a civil engineer from Rockville, Indiana, was brought in to do the surveying. Mr. Campbell, Alex Sanders, Thomas Akers, Ed Organ ;and one other man composed the Engineering Corps. The survey was started at the present junction of the Illinois Central Railroad and the Cairo and Vincennes Railroad. Hill and Nye had very little capital so Hill, the business manager, arranged with the merchants of Eldorado and Raleigh to accept orders given by his subcontractors for provisions while grading was being done between the two places. A large part of the labor was paid for in this way. The road was nicknamed the "Bacon and Overall" Railroad. Mr. A. J. Webber of Galatia became interested and the road was pushed on to Thompsonville.

The three railroads into Eldorado proved a profitable investment for many years, until the construction of the state roads. In 1993 the tracks of the Big Four Railroad through Eldorado were removed.

At one time the L&N Railroad had two passenger trains into Eldorado and two out each day. The Chicago & Vincennes Railroad (later the New York Central) had three passenger trains into town and three out each day. There were sixteen passenger trains that arrived in Eldorado each day. These trains continued until the 1950's when they ceased to be profitable and were discontinued. The Illinois Central was the first to remove its trains. There is today no passenger train in or out of Eldorado.

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Eldorado City Hall

An election was held on March 11, 1873, to incorporate Eldorado as a village. Forty men voted to incorporate. On March 27, 1894, the citizens of Eldorado voted to incorporate Eldorado as a city. Eldorado had a municipal electric light plant as early as 1896 according to Francis Batchelder in Saline County, A Century of History. Eldorado celebrated its 100th anniversary as a city in 1994.

In 1870's, a poultry house was built by C. P. Burnett, a local financier and businessman, and was located next to the New York Central railroad tracks. Poultry and eggs were purchased from area farmers and shipped to larger cities, and Eldorado soon became a poultry center. In 1877, an ice house was built across the street from the poultry house to store the ice needed for shipping dressed poultry. Many local people were hired at the poultry house, and they were known locally as "the chicken pickers." Some time around 1910 the poultry house was destroyed by fire. Sparks from a train engine on the near by tracks caused a roof fire, and with little fire protection, the whole building was destroyed. The ice house is still standing, and is now being used for storage.

City clerk records of 1902 show T. J. Womack as mayor with four aldermen. In 1911 when Samuel Latham was mayor, seven miles of concrete sidewalks were laid, one and one-fourth miles of street crossings were constructed and one and one-fourth miles of sewer lines were installed in the city. Between then and 1923, more streets were paved, a water works system costing \$75,000 was established, with installation of sewers.

Before the city hall was built, each mayor, as he was elected, moved the city government to his particular place of business. On June 4, 1924, the Eldorado Daily Journal announced that the jail was being moved from the business location of Ottie Reeder, the current mayor of Eldorado, on Organ Street, to the new city hall, and also the moving of the police magistrate and the water department to the city hall was announced.

On June 16, 1924, the Eldorado Daily Journal announced dedication plans for the city hall with the Honorable John A. McNeil of Olney delivering the address. The June 21, 1924, issue of the newspaper carried a photo of the grand structure on the front page.

The interior decorating of the city hall was done by Roy McDaniel of Eldorado. The newspaper stated the original woodwork was golden oak and the walls were painted ivory. All three floors had embossed tin ceilings. A hot water heating system was installed by W. B. Douthitt. An electric fire siren was installed on the top of the building. The brick used in

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the construction was the famed Albion shale brick made in Albion, Illinois, which, at that time, was the largest individual brick company in the world. The lighting system and fixtures were installed by Narans and Gampher.

Originally, the 46' X 60' three story building housed the jail and the fire department on the first floor. On the second floor, leading off the large council chambers room, were the office of the police magistrate, city police officers, city collector and treasurer, water superintendent and city engineer. On the third floor, which was the main court room, were chambers for the judges, states' attorney, clerk of the court, and jury room. Also on the third floor was a room for the Eldorado Library for use by the public. A separate article in the Eldorado Daily Journal stated the library room had been nicely furnished by the Woman's Club and that they were now accepting donations of "books and silver offerings."

On June 11, 1924, the city council met in regular session at the Eldorado City Hall for the first time with council members Brown, Hatter and Latham present, and council members Lyon and Barton absent.

An unusually large crowd attended the dedication of the new city hall, June 21, 1924. So many attended, the court room was filled to capacity and the corridors were also full.

On July 2, 1924, the council approved an area for the Eldorado Municipal Band to practice in the city hall "when not interfering with the council proceedings or the functions of the library." In November of that same year, a partition was installed at the foot of the stairway on the first floor "to prevent prisoners being humiliated by spectators."

In December of 1924, a janitor was employed for city hall whose job description included sleeping at the city hall and answering fire calls at night for the voluntary fire personnel. This action led to the hiring of a custodian and family who occupied the elevated rooms on the second floor. The custodian also acted as jailer, and fed the prisoners at twenty five cents per meal. Men working out their fines were also allowed to take meals there at the same rate, or eat at home and the twenty five cents would then be deducted from their fine.

Herber Page Directory Company issued an Eldorado City Directory for 1923-1924, first edition, and listed the estimated population of Eldorado at 6,500. There were some 268 businesses listed including cafes, schools, churches, carpenters, lawyers, physicians and dentists and a wide range of businesses from the local taxi, hotels, groceries, mule barns,

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furniture, drugs, insurance and junk dealers. There were "Mom and Pop" grocery stores, many of them were actually homes from where the family devoted one room in the house to the sale of groceries. The directory also had a household and property guide listing owners and renters and it listed a street directory.

There were three shaft mines within the city limits of Eldorado and several mines just outside the city limits. Mining and farming were the major industries supporting Eldorado. During the early 1920's there was an influx of Irish, English, Hungarian, Polish, Scots and Italian miners who settled in Eldorado when hearing of the many mines here. With the closing of many mines in the late 1920's and early 1930's, the area saw a definite decline in population.

In the 1920's there were three elementary schools and one high school within the city limits. Six elementary schools bordered the city limits, and several one room schools dotted the vicinity. All students from these elementary schools were eligible to enroll in the Eldorado High School, but there were many children who never attended.

In February, 1925, the city council instructed a carpenter to build cabinets for books and supplies on the third floor for the city court. The council hired a merchant policeman whose salary was paid in part by the local merchants, and part by the city.

A hospital was established in Eldorado 1925 by Dr. B. F. Pearce. This hospital was endorsed by the Miner's Union for use by their members.

In 1926, a contingent of merchants and city officials met with a representative of B. I. Camp Manufacturing Co., and signed a contract. The businessmen subscribed to erecting a factory building for this company to manufacture men's underwear. In 1928 the factory was employing some 250 people.

On June 27, 1927, the council let a bid for \$412.50 for the construction of a storage shed to be built behind the city hall.

Lawyer A. W. Summers was nominated city judge and W. T. Warford was nominated clerk of the city court on September 6, 1927.

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On June, 1928, as an economical move, the council discontinued one line of phone service to the police magistrate's office. One number was then used for the magistrate, fire station and treasurer's office.

There were four chicken hatcheries in Eldorado in the 1920's, and they hatched and shipped chicks by postal service to all parts of the United States. It was this volume of shipments that pushed the Eldorado Post Office into a Class I classification.

In July 1928, the city hall was the scene of a city-wide meeting of the water consumers of Eldorado.

In 1928 an 18 hole golf course was established on the property of one of the hatcheries. It was 2715 yards long, with a par of 74.

In October 1929, the city council voted to widen the downtown streets by five feet on each side, and approved a proposal for a city-wide gas delivery system.

The city council accepted a bid in May, 1930, for a new fire truck which was a Dodge with a Boyer pump. A tax levy was passed by a two to one margin for construction of a new high school gymnasium to replace the wooden structure which had burned in 1929.

On November 27, 1930, the new city lighting system became operable.

In January, 1931, desperation from the Depression and the wholesale unemployment from the closing of the mines caused a rash of bankruptcies, suicides and robberies. Gas sold for 9 cents a gallon, vegetables were 3 three cans for 25 cents, soap was ten bars for 27 cents, roast beef was 12 1/2 cents a pound, potatoes sold for 25 cents a peck, and coffee was two pounds for 23 cents. The price of gold was \$31.36 per troy ounce.

On December 28, 1931, the city council sponsored an ordinance requesting Eldorado be approved as the site for moving the Eastern District of Illinois Federal Court from Cairo to Eldorado to a more central location. The proposal was for this to be combined with the new Federal Post Office already approved for Eldorado. A custodian was hired for the city hall at \$60.00 per month.

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The current terms of the office of city court judge and clerk of the city court began October 3, 1927, and expired October 3, 1933. An ordinance was passed asking the people "Whether or not the city court of the city of Eldorado shall be discontinued and disestablished." This ordinance was voted down and the citizens elected Harry Flanders as judge and Grace Karnes as clerk of the city court.

Appropriations for corporate purposes and liabilities for the fiscal year of 1933-1934 was fixed at \$61,458.92, compared with the 1994-1995 figure of \$1,727,700.00.

During 1933, a cheese factory was opened in the Rex Burnett building. This operation allowed the farmers a place to sell their surplus milk.

Also in 1933, a newly formed Eldorado Fruit Growers Association accepted delivery of 56,000 strawberry plants to be allocated to nearby farmers. Some 30 acres were planted in strawberries and a contract was signed to send the berries to Davenport, Iowa.

During the devastating flood of 1937, Eldorado was one of the few southern Illinois towns that was not flooded. Eldorado became the staging area for goods and commodities for the refugees. Some 1,000 refugees were given help and/or temporary housing and meals were served three times a day by Eldorado volunteers. All civic organizations, churches, the city hall and many private citizens volunteered their buildings or rooms to house refugees. One church was designated the "kitchen" for feeding all the refugees, whether in private homes or designated facilities. At the peak of the flood, 125 children were enrolled as emergency students in the Eldorado schools.

In 1937, the fair grounds were placed northeast of the city. Show buildings were intended to be constructed around the one-half mile race track already in place. The facilities at the city park, where the fair had previously been held, had become outdated and too small.

In October, 1939, a judicial election was again held and H. A. Flanders was elected judge of the city court, with Sherman Cox elected as city court clerk.

During 1942, the large cannon which had been placed on the city hall lawn was dismantled and donated to the scrap salvage drive for World War II. In its place, the city council donated the space to the Lion's Club and the American Legion to erect a memorial board which carried the names of all the men from the vicinity then in service. The townspeople

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collected newspapers, the foil from chewing gum wrappers and flattened cans for the salvage effort.

On January 19, 1942, the city council "tendered to the United States Government permission to use the city hall in the event the United States Post Office was rendered useless due to the war."

The Eldorado Township High School graduated 147 pupils in the 1941-1942 class. This class was the largest graduating class in the history of the school.

During World War II, the big weekend activity was to park on the city streets, walk around and talk to neighbors and others who came to town on Friday and Saturday nights. To accommodate all the cars, the city council, in 1942, prepared a parking lot east of the Calvary Baptist Church for 25 automobiles. This was only one half block from downtown.

When registration for sugar ration cards was held during WW II, there was a total of 6,758 citizens in Eldorado who registered.

Following World War II a memorial area was prepared where a stone monument to Eldorado's fallen heroes and a permanent flag pole was erected on the front lawn, east of the city hall.

On January 2, 1943, the city council passed an ordinance to "establish and maintain a Public Library and Reading room in the City Hall for the use and benefit of inhabitants of the city of Eldorado." A tax was levied for the maintenance provision. Before this tax ordinance passed, the Woman's Club had maintained the library.

The city court was moved from the third floor to the second floor in 1954. The last magistrate was elected in 1963; none was elected in 1967, indicating there was no longer a city court held in Eldorado after that time.

Although it was sturdily constructed, time took its toll on the old City Hall, and in 1954 it was needing numerous repairs. It was during this year the citizens formed an organization called LAID (Labor Association for Industrial Development), also labeled "Operation Bootstrap." These eager citizens called on Richard Poston, head of the department of

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Community Development at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois, to help them in a program of self development.

With a plan of action in which plumbers, hardware dealers, bankers and property owners cooperated, citizens began to clean up the city hall. It was an eyesore, a dirty, three-story brick building that some said had been condemned for structural weakness (this proved untrue). Someone described the front steps as being so steep an able-bodied man needed a crutch to get up them.

Early, on the morning of February 16, 1954, workers moved toward city hall. By noon, dozens of volunteer workmen had torn out the brick and concrete, one-story high concrete steps, furniture from inside the building had been moved out and worn wood flooring was removed.

During the operation, new front steps were constructed, new guttering was installed, all windows glazed, painted and new sash cords installed. The third-story floor was torn out, new supports put in and new floor laid and finished; a powder room and two rest rooms were installed. The entire interior was painted, all woodwork repaired, blinds renovated; new light fixtures installed in city clerk's office and third floor; all fixtures repaired and repainted; all electrical wiring checked and replaced as needed; all plaster repaired and repainted; all plumbing checked and necessary repairs made. By March 13, 1954, over \$2,000 had been donated and a job that would normally have cost \$20,000 had been accomplished for \$1,675.61.

With this renovation, the city hall survived many years until laws were passed that required that all public offices be made handicap-accessible. In 1994, the Eldorado City officials were denied a grant to accomplish this new requirement. Due to problems with making the old city hall handicap accessible, city official decided to build a new city building. The new city building was constructed with tax funds and donations on lots the city had purchased in 1975.

In 1991, a group of citizens banded together and formed a not-for-profit group named BOUNCE, an acronym for Better Opportunities Under Noble Civic Effort. Their goal was to revitalize Eldorado. They proposed making Eldorado the antique capital of the tri-state area; filling the empty store buildings with antique stores, promoting tourism and giving new life to the town.

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One of the primary interests of BOUNCE is in preserving the historical buildings of Eldorado. After several buildings had been razed, the group became concerned that Eldorado was losing its heritage. One of the best buildings remaining was the Eldorado City Hall. In order to save the Eldorado City Hall, Project BOUNCE was granted a 50 year lease at \$1.00 per year by the City of Eldorado.

A Museum committee was formed for the purpose of preserving the city hall and turning the second and third floors into a city museum. The committee held showings of donated and loaned antiques and old city artifacts in 1994. The potential is great for the Museum. The Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Michigan awarded BOUNCE a grant of \$50,000 for the renovation of city hall for offices and museum facilities.

At the present time, extensive work is being done on the ground floor to house offices, a kitchen, dining room, conference room and two public rest rooms. The ground floor, which was in the worst condition, needed more help, and the other floors could not have been used until the renovation of the ground floor had received substantial rehabilitation. The amenities of the building have been left intact when at all possible. Major repairs have been made where needed, but care has been used to refrain from altering the original qualities of the building.

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Eldorado City Hall

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Rocky's Advanced Printing, Eldorado, Illinois, 1994.

Saline County Historical Society, SALINE COUNTY, A Century of History, 1847-1947,
Saline County Historical Society, Harrisburg, Illinois, 1947.

Dodd, T. Leo, KOBWEB KORNERS, (Vols. I & II), T. Leo Dodd, Argus Printing Co.,
Cynthiana, Indiana, 1967.

Microfilm No. 335-B, ELDORADO DAILY JOURNAL, Vol. 2 # 180 to Vol. 3 #190,
September 1922 to September 1923, L. O. Trigg, Editor & Publisher, Eldorado
Memorial Library, 1001 Grant Street, Eldorado, IL 62930.

Microfilm No. 336-B, ELDORADO DAILY JOURNAL, Vol. 3 # 191 to Vol. 4 # 174,
September 1923 to September 1924, L. O. Trigg, Editor & Publisher, Eldorado
Memorial Library, 1001 Grant Street, Eldorado, IL 62930.

Photocopies, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM 1954 ("Operation Bootstrap").
Originals in City of Eldorado Government files, City Clerk's office, Administration
Building, Eldorado, Illinois.

Files of CITY COUNCIL MINUTES, files at City Clerk's office, Administration Building,
Eldorado, Illinois: Book III, January 1924 to June 1929; Book IV, June 1929 to May
1935; Book V, May 1935 to April 1943; Book VI, May 1943 to December 1945

PERSONAL INTERVIEWS

Putnam, Bill, 1214 Benton Street, Eldorado, IL, local jeweler,(whose father was an early
Eldorado Mayor), September 1994.

Collins, Pat, Sr., 1150 Jefferson Street, Eldorado, IL, local businessman, member of early City
Councils, February 1994.

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Wilson, Quentin, 1113 Third Street, Eldorado, IL, second generation fire chief, December 1994.

Funkhouser, Brenda, Librarian, Eldorado Memorial Library, 1001 Grant street, Eldorado, IL, numerous interviews, 1993-94-95.

Baldwin, Leonard, RR 3, Eldorado, IL, son of early jail and city hall custodian who lived in City Hall building. His mother cooked for the prisoners.

Mahoney, Pat, City Clerk for City of Eldorado, Illinois, Eldorado City Clerk's Office, Veteran's Drive at North Railroad streets, Eldorado, Illinois. Numerous interviews, 1994, 1995.

McKinnis, Paul, 2209 Forest Street, son of early Eldorado Police patrolman, 1994-1995.

9 ADDITIONAL ITEMS

(these items from files at City Clerk's office, Eldorado, IL)

Copy of Deed, dated August 2, 1923, property W 1/2 of lots 6 & 7 in block 25, original plat of Eldorado.

Copy of Deed, dated June 28, 1935, property E 1/2 of lots 6 & 7 in block 25, original plat of Eldorado.

Copy of Certificate Of Title, dated July 25, 1941, property W 1/2 lot 5 in block 25, original plat of Eldorado.

Copy of Deed, dated December 27, 1965, property S 30' in regular form of lot 4, block 25, in the original plat of Eldorado.

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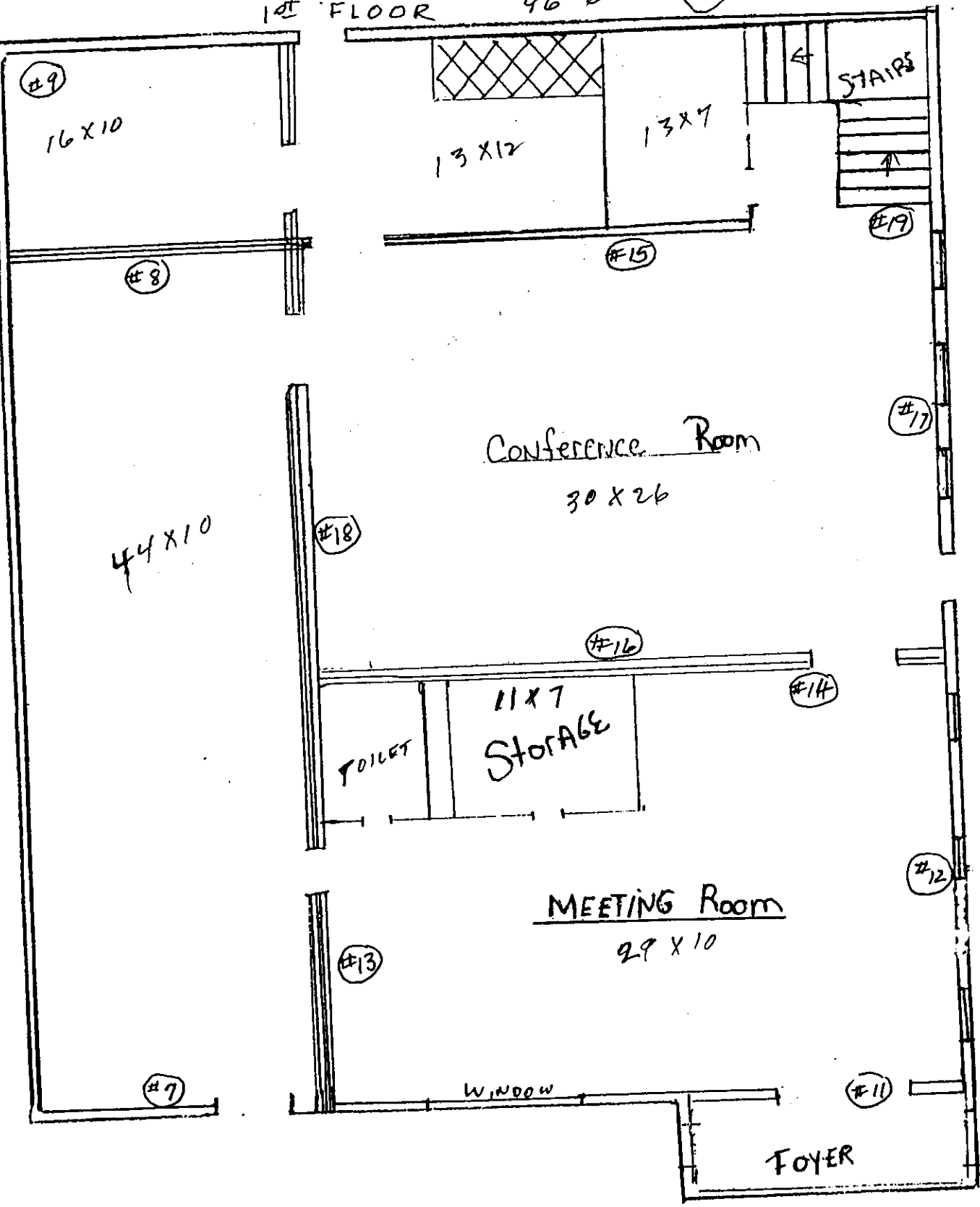
10. VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

W 1/2 lots 6 & 7, block 25, original plat; E 1/2 lots 6 & 7, block 25, original plat; W 1/2 lot 5, block 25, original plat; S 30' in regular form of lot 4, block 25, original plat of the city of Eldorado.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the City Hall.

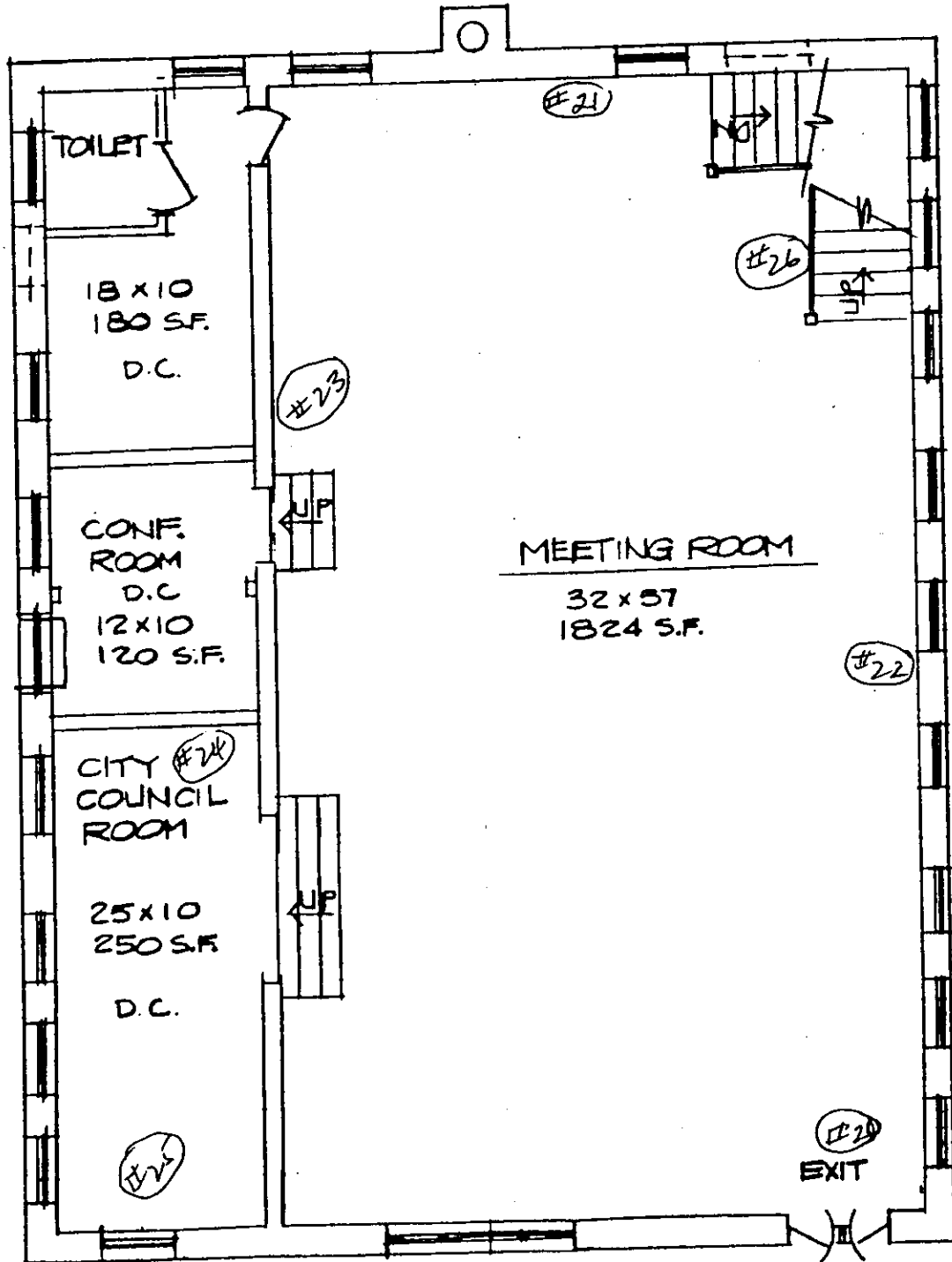
ELDORADO CITY HALL
1ST FLOOR 46'-6"



NOT TO SCALE

○ LOCATION + # OF PICTURES

NOTE: D.C. FOR DROPPED CEILING

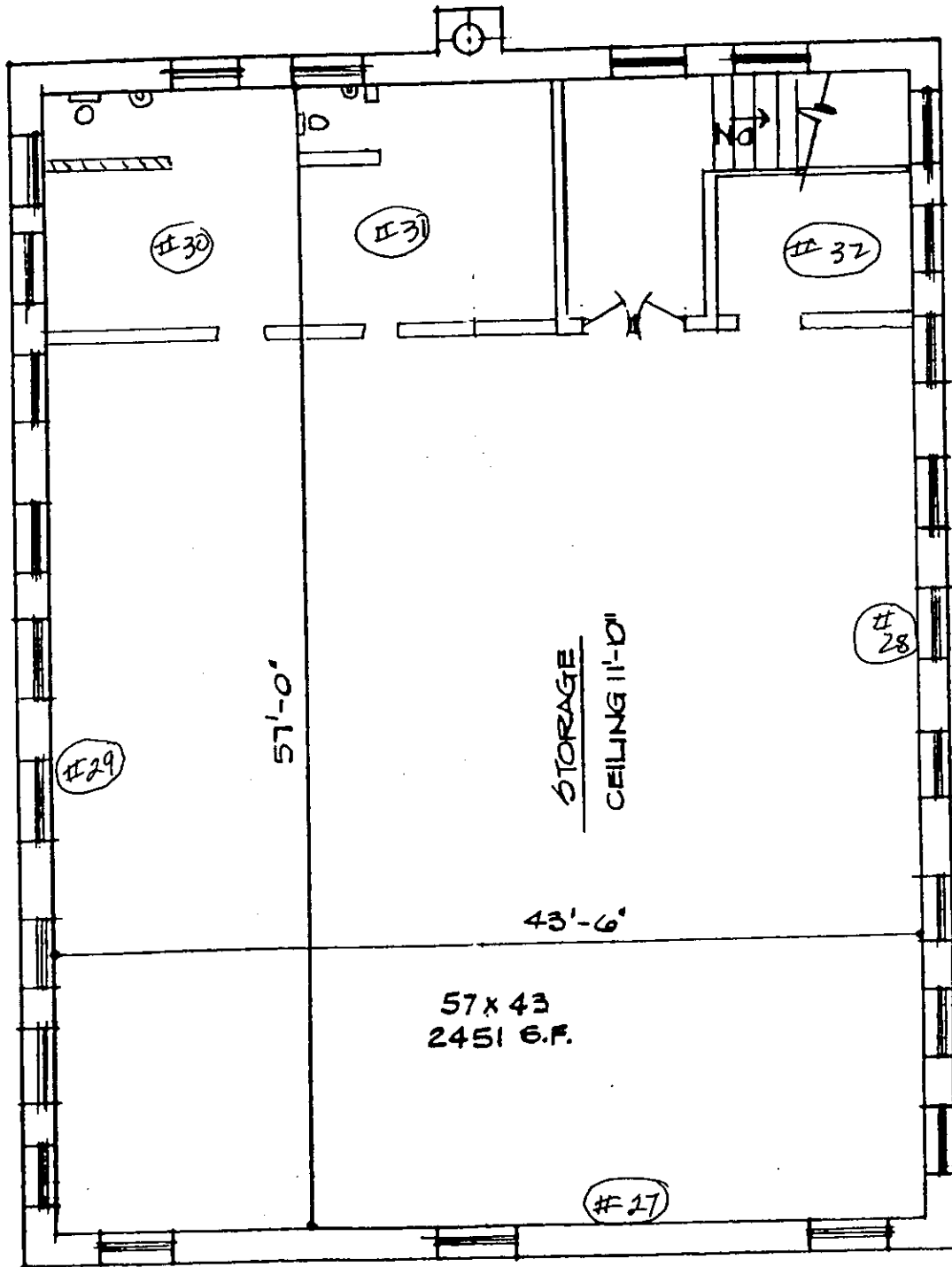


EXISTING SECOND FLOOR PLAN
ELDORADO CITY HALL

LOCATION & # OF PICTURES

Not To Scale

NORTH

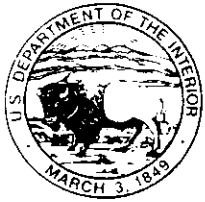


EXISTING THIRD FLOOR PLAN

ELDORADO CITY HALL

Not to Scale

O Location & # of Pictures



United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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IN REPLY REFER TO

The Director of the National Park Service is pleased to announce actions on the following properties for the National Register of Historic Places. For further information call 202-343-9542 or 202-343-1572 or you may respond via cc:Mail.

NOV 17 1995

WEEKLY LIST OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON PROPERTIES: 11/06/95 THROUGH 11/10/95

KEY: State, County, Property Name, Address/Boundary, City, Vicinity, Reference Number, NHL, Action, Date, Multiple Name

COLORADO, DELTA COUNTY, Garnethurst, 509 Leon St., Delta, 95001245, LISTED, 11/07/95
COLORADO, EL PASO COUNTY, Colorado Springs City Auditorium, 231 E. Kiowa St., Colorado Springs, 95001244, LISTED, 11/07/95
COLORADO, LAS ANIMAS COUNTY, First Christian Church, 200 S. Walnut St., Trinidad, 95001246, LISTED, 11/07/95
COLORADO, MONTEZUMA COUNTY, Ertel Funeral Home, 42 N. Market St., Cortez, 95001248, LISTED, 11/07/95
COLORADO, OTERO COUNTY, Carnegie Public Library, 1005 Sycamore Ave., Rocky Ford, 95001247, LISTED, 11/07/95
ILLINOIS, GREENE COUNTY, Hotel Roodhouse, 303 Morse St., Roodhouse, 95001238, LISTED, 11/07/95
ILLINOIS, JO DAVIESS COUNTY, Warren Commercial Historic District, 102-165 E. Main St., 204-210 E. Bunett, 102-108 S. Railroad, Warren, 95001241, LISTED, 11/07/95
ILLINOIS, LA SALLE COUNTY, Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad Depot, 150 Washington St., Marseilles, 95001239, LISTED, 11/07/95
ILLINOIS, LAKE COUNTY, Green Bay Road Historic District, Roughly, area surrounding 10 S to 1596 N Green Bay Rd. and Ahwahnee Rd., Lake Forest, 95001235, LISTED, 11/07/95
ILLINOIS, OGLE COUNTY, Buffalo Township Public Library, 302 W. Mason St., Polo, 95001236, LISTED, 11/07/95 (Illinois Carnegie Libraries MPS)
ILLINOIS, SALINE COUNTY, Eldorado City Hall, 1604 Locust St., Eldorado, 95001237, LISTED, 11/07/95
ILLINOIS, SANGAMON COUNTY, Miller, Bell, Apartments, 835 S. Second St., Springfield, 95001242, LISTED, 11/07/95
ILLINOIS, WHITESIDE COUNTY, First Congregational Church of Sterling, 311 Second Ave., Sterling, 95001234, LISTED, 11/07/95
KENTUCKY, BUTLER COUNTY, Finney Hotel, Jct. KY 403 and Hime St., Woodbury, 95001349, LISTED, 11/07/95
KENTUCKY, ROCKCASTLE COUNTY, Lair, John, House and Stables, Jct. of US 25 and Hummel Rd., NE corner, Renfro Valley, 95001270, LISTED, 11/07/95
KENTUCKY, WOODFORD COUNTY, Clifton Country Club, 1190 Buck Run Rd., Versailles vicinity, 95001271, LISTED, 11/07/95
KENTUCKY, WOODFORD COUNTY, Labrot & Graham Distillery, 7855 McCracken Pike, Frankfort vicinity, 95001272, LISTED, 11/07/95
LOUISIANA, NATCHITOCHEES PARISH, Carnahan Store, Main St. (LA 495), Cloutierville, 95001243, LISTED, 11/07/95
LOUISIANA, VERMILION PARISH, Downtown Abbeville Historic District, Roughly bounded by State and First Sts., Vermilion Bayou, Pere Megret and Concord Sts., Abbeville, 95001261, LISTED, 11/07/95
MISSISSIPPI, ADAMS COUNTY, Woodlawn Historic District, Roughly bounded by Martin Luther King St., E. Stiers and Old College Lns., Elm and Bishop Sts., Natchez, 95001250, LISTED, 11/07/95
MISSISSIPPI, HINDS COUNTY, Houses at 500, 505, 512 and 513 North State Street, 500, 505, 512 and 513 N. State St., Jackson, 95001249, LISTED, 11/07/95
MONTANA, LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY, Appleton House No. 9, 1999 Euclid Ave., Helena, 95001264, LISTED, 11/07/95
MONTANA, LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY, Childs Carriage House, 318 E. Sixth Ave., Helena, 95001263, LISTED, 11/07/95
NEW JERSEY, CUMBERLAND COUNTY, A.J. MEERWALD (Schooner), 22 Miller Ave. on Maurice River, Commercial Township, Bivalve, 95001256, LISTED, 11/07/95
NEW JERSEY, ESSEX COUNTY, Canfield--Morgan House, 899--903 Pompton Ave. (NJ 23), Cedar Grove, 95001265, LISTED, 11/07/95
NEW YORK, CAYUGA COUNTY, Moravia Union Cemetery, NY 38, Moravia, 95001278, LISTED, 11/07/95 (Moravia MPS)
NEW YORK, MONROE COUNTY, Chase Cobblestone Farmhouse, 1191 Manitou Rd., Town of Parma, Hilton vicinity, 95001279, LISTED, 11/07/95 (Cobblestone Architecture of New York State MPS)
NEW YORK, MONROE COUNTY, Covert, William, Cobblestone Farmhouse, 978 N. Greece Rd., Greece, 95001280, LISTED, 11/07/95 (Cobblestone Architecture of New York State MPS)
NEW YORK, ONEIDA COUNTY, Western Town Hall, Main St. at jct. with Stokes--Westernville Rd., Westernville, 95001277, LISTED, 11/07/95
NEW YORK, OTSEGO COUNTY, East Main Street Historic District, Roughly, E. Main St. from Church St. to the Richfield Springs reservoirs, Richfield Springs, 95001282, LISTED, 11/07/95
NEW YORK, SUFFOLK COUNTY, Parsons, Ambrose, House, Springs--Fireplace Rd. at jct. with Old Stone Hwy., Town of East Hampton, Springs, 95001276, LISTED, 11/07/95
NEW YORK, WAYNE COUNTY, Baker, J. and E., Cobblestone Farmstead, 815 Canandaigua Rd., Macedon, 95001281, LISTED, 11/07/95
PENNSYLVANIA, BERKS COUNTY, Morgantown Historic District, Roughly, area surrounding Main St. between Walnut and Washington Sts., Caernarvon Township, Morgantown, 95001255, LISTED, 11/07/95
PENNSYLVANIA, BUTLER COUNTY, Butler County National Bank, 302 S. Main St., Butler, 95001251, LISTED, 11/07/95
PENNSYLVANIA, CAMBRIA COUNTY, Old Conemaugh Borough Historic District, Roughly bounded by Railroad, Adams, and Steel Sts., and Church Ave., Johnstown, 95001253, LISTED, 11/07/95
PENNSYLVANIA, SOMERSET COUNTY, Uptown Somerset Historic District, Roughly bounded by N. Kimberly, Main, Columbia, and W. Catherine Sts., Somerset, 95001254, LISTED, 11/07/95

more: