

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

SENT TO D.C.

3-22-2002

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 WEST FRANKFORT CITY HALL

other names/site number WEST FRANKFORT CIVIC CENTER AUTHORITY

2. Location

street & number 108 NORTH EMMA STREET

not for publication

city or town WEST FRANKFORT

vicinity

state ILLINOIS

code IL

county FRANKLIN

code 055

zip code 62896

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.)

[Signature]  
Signature of certifying official/Title

3/20/02  
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 commenting 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

WEST FRANKFORT CITY HALL  
Name of Property

FRANKLIN, 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)

SOCIAL

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

CLASSICAL REVIVAL

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls BRICK

CONCRETE BLOCK

roof ASPHALT

other LIMESTONE

**Narrative Description**

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

WEST FRANKFORT CITY HALL  
Name of Property

FRANKLIN, ILLINOIS  
County and State

### 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.

#### 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

1921-1952

#### Significant Dates

1921-1922

#### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

#### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

#### Architect/Builder

SCRIBBINS, JOHN ARCHITECT

WILSON, S. M. BUILDER

#### Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

WEST FRANKFORT CITY HALL  
Name of Property

FRANKLIN, IL.  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property LESS THAN ONE ACRE

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

|      |         |          |         |
|------|---------|----------|---------|
| 1    | 16      | 330610   | 4196120 |
| 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 FRANK A. SAVKA / PRESIDENT, CIVIC CENTER AUTHORITY BOARD

organization WEST FRANKFORT CIVIC CENTER AUTHORITY date JANUARY 8, 2002

street & number 108 NORTH EMMA STREET telephone 1-618-937-3373 (HOME)

city or town WEST FRANKFORT state ILLINOIS zip code 62896

#### 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 WEST FRANKFORT; G. DAVID GREEN, CITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPER  
PROPERTY LEASED TO THE WEST FRANKFORT CIVIC CENTER AUTHORITY FOR 50 YEARS

street & number 201 EAST NOLEN STREET telephone 1-618-932-2121

city or town WEST FRANKFORT state ILLINOIS zip code 62896

**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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WEST FRANKFORT CITY HALL

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The West Frankfort City Hall building is located on the southeast corner of North Emma Street and East Poplar Street in the City of West Frankfort, Illinois. West Frankfort at one time was the county seat of Franklin County and is geographically located in the southernmost part of the State of Illinois, being only sixty miles north of the State of Kentucky. The region for years has been called "Little Egypt". The West Frankfort City Hall is located on a lot measuring 86' x 120'. Directly west of the building is a large parking lot. The new city hall building is located in the second block north of the parking lot adjacent to the north side of the West Frankfort City Hall. There is an abandoned two-story house located just east of the West Frankfort City Hall and it will probably be torn down soon. There is another parking lot just east of the vacant house and it is directly north and behind the United States Post Office. The West Frankfort City Hall is located one block north of East Main Street, which is centrally located in the primary section of the City of West Frankfort.

EXTERIOR

The West Frankfort City Hall is a two-story blond brick building, symmetrically arranged with two one-story wings on each side, and a smaller, one-story addition on the rear elevation. The building rests on a poured concrete foundation and has a small basement area comprised of two rooms. The building has a flat roof with asphalt exterior covering with a tar mixture over it. The roof appears to be in good condition and part of the roof was recently repaired. Most of the roofline is left plain, characteristic of the Classical Revival style.

A detailed formal entrance is located in the center of the front west facade of the building. The entrance is flanked on both sides by limestone pilasters, which are plain rather than fluted. The capitals of the pilasters are not proper Greek orders and are best described as having a stylized leaf -design that curves outward at the top. The abacus of the capitals is adorned with small medallions. Above the doorway the words "City Hall" are engraved in the limestone door surround.

The front façade is perfectly symmetrical. The entrance has double glass doors with aluminum frames. Even the first story wings on each side of the main section of the building are symmetrically placed. Their functions vary, and therefore, the placement of doors and windows on each wing is different. The openings are set between pilasters on the front facade. Four

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pilasters divide the front of the building into three main zones. The entrance to the building is placed in the central zone and windows are placed in the zones on either side of the entrance.

Most of the limestone is typical of the type of limestone ornamentation found in either the Beaux-Arts or Classical Revival styles. The windows feature limestone sills and keystones. A limestone cornice and a parapet with limestone coping adorn the top of the building. There are four round limestone elements called medallions on the front of the building. The medallions are aligned with the four pilasters. One additional medallion is located on the north and south side of the building. These medallions are in line with the beginning of the cornice above the pilasters. There are four limestone panels above the cornice on the front façade that continue the expression of the four pilasters to the top of the parapet. In the center of the parapet, a limestone nameplate also bears the name "City Hall." The nameplate is bracketed on either side by an s-shaped scroll.

On the first floor of the central building, there is a group of three double-hung wood windows with six-over-six lights on either side of the entrance. There are three sets of three windows on the second floor. The far left are three, one-over-one windows trimmed in vinyl, the middle three are the original six-over-six windows, and the two to the right are one-over-one vinyl windows.

The brickwork at the West Frankfort City Hall is very detailed, and it is clear that the masons who constructed the building were very skilled in their trade. Over the building's entrance there are five distinct brick patterns that create the ornamentation over the doors. Starting at the outside edges of the brickwork, a single column of brick arranged in the soldier position surround a field of brick in the basket weave bonding pattern. A rowlock of bricks form the top and bottom borders. The same brick borders and patterns are found over each side of the central pattern over the entrance. The smaller side borders of brick align with the pilasters that flank either side of the doors.

The central field of brick over the door also features the basket weave pattern with a square limestone ornament diagonally placed over the center of doorway. A soldier course of bricks surrounds the top and sides of this field. Bricks in the stack bond pattern separate the three fields of bricks in the basket weave pattern above the entrance. Brickwork details continue in the spaces between the first and second floors. Four columns of stretcher bricks in the stack bond pattern divide the space into three areas. The stretchers form the outside border of this area of the façade. The two inner columns of stretcher bricks are aligned with the mullions of the

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windows, continuing the vertical effect. The bricks between the stretchers are placed in the common bond pattern, with fifth course Flemish headers. The lintel bricks are laid in a soldier course.

The north, south, and east elevations of the two-story building are relatively plain in comparison to the front façade. The limestone coping runs along the edge of the parapet on the north and south elevation, and limestone caps the top of the chimney, which is located on the southeast corner of the building. A few feet of the cornice and limestone banding extend around the front façade onto the north and south elevations. A brick soldier course continues across the top of these elevations where the cornice ends. There are two window openings on the second story of the north elevation and four on the south elevation; all but the one in the southeast corner have been boarded up. There are four one-over-one windows on the second story on the east elevation (the back of the building); all are replacements.

The one-story wings that flank the two-story building are adorned with limestone coping and bands. Brick headers accentuate the upper limestone bands. The north wing housed the Water Department. There is a single glass door with an aluminum frame that serves as the entrance to the office. There is also a small bracketed overhang above the doorway and a stoop with a metal railing. The north elevation of this wing has three six-over-six wood windows and a single glass door with an aluminum frame. There is a round arch and limestone keystone above it. The back or east elevation of this wing originally had two windows with round arches that have since been filled in.

The wing south of the main entrance is the old fire department, which originally had two wooden overhead garage doors. The left door has been removed and covered with vinyl siding. The other door has been replaced with an aluminum overhead garage door. The south elevation of this wing has a window with one-over-six lights. There is also a steel exterior door leading into the fire department. The radio room, which is slightly recessed, has one six-over-six window. The south elevation has two of the windows covered with Plexiglas. On the far right is a one-over-one aluminum window. The windows facing the new city hall building on the north elevation are six-over-six and covered with plywood. The original windows are still intact.

A new one-story addition was added to the West Frankfort City Hall in 1954 on the back, or east elevation, of the building to house additional fire fighting equipment and vehicles. The City of West Frankfort now keeps their garbage trucks parked in there and the Water Department uses

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part of it for their equipment. The addition is constructed of concrete blocks and has tile coping. The south elevation of the addition is adjacent to the radio room. From left to right, this elevation has a six-over-six wood window with an aluminum awning, a wood paneled garage door, a wood door and another wood paneled garage door. The east elevation of this addition has seven sliding windows, located about halfway up the wall, and two concrete block pilasters. The north elevation of the addition has two concrete block pilasters and three garage doors, two of which were replaced with aluminum and the third with the original wood paneled door.

**INTERIOR**

All the interior floors on the first floor are concrete and bare with the exception of Room #1 (City Clerk's Office), Room #2 (Water Office), Room #3 (Foyer), Hallway #5 (Entrance Foyer) and Room #6 (Police Department), which are covered with carpet. All the exterior and interior walls on the first and second floors are approximately 14" thick covered with plaster on the interior side. The interior walls and ceilings are all plaster and painted with the exception of the Mayor's Office located on the second floor and the Fire Department. The second floor flooring is wood, tongue and groove, installed over poured concrete, resting on floor joists. All of the interior doors on both floors have transoms above the doors, with the exception of those listed in the room descriptions.

All the rooms on the first and second floor, except as noted, have a 6" wood basewood with a 1½" crown molding and 1½" cove molding on the ceiling, with the exception of the jail section and Fire Department. The courtroom on the second floor has the baseboard, but does not have the cove molding on the ceiling. The ceilings, except where noted, are 10' 6" high. All the inside doors are wood, except where noted.

A description of each room is as follows and corresponds to the rooms as shown on the plan submitted: Room #1 (City Water Department) has a single glass door with aluminum trim, which opens to the outside. There are five original six-over-six wood windows. There is a 3 ½" wood chair rail around the entire room located 38 ½" from the floor. There is one interior door, leading into the hallway. There is an open doorway between the water office and Room #2 (City Clerk's Office). The room has two smaller rooms within it and there is a door that leads out into the main foyer entrance. There are two six-over-six original windows. Area #3 (Entrance Hall) serves as the main entrance to West Frankfort City Hall. There are three steps leading into the main hallway. This also serves as the landing for the split stairway leading up to the second floor. Area #4 (Main Hallway) serves as the main hallway from the north entrance to the door



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leading into Room #7 (Fire Department). The door at the north entrance of the hallway is a single glass door with aluminum trim. There are four interior doors that lead into Rooms 8, 9, 10, 12 and 7. Area #5 is the foyer just off the main entrance. A set of double wood doors (swinging) separate the foyer from the entry hall. Room #6 (Police Department) has one entrance, with one of the original wood doors. There are two small rooms located within the room and one appears to have been used as a safe or a more secure room. There are three, six-over-six original wood frame windows. Room #7 (Fire Department) originally had two overhead garage doors but one of the doors is now enclosed with vinyl siding and the other has an overhead garage door, made of aluminum. The original overhead door is in storage and plans are to make one for the door that is covered with vinyl siding.

Room #8 (jail cell) is one of the original cells. The original steel barred doors are still in place and outside barred windows are original. Room #9 (entry and toilet area) has one outside door and is still in place. The room also has bathroom facilities and a shower, probably for the inmates. Room #10 (jail cell) is the original cell with the original barred door. Room #8, Room #9 and Room #10 are all painted and plastered walls and ceilings, along with the small entrance hallway. Room #11 (rest room) has one interior door leading into the hallway. A partition now divides the restroom in half. The walls have been scored to resemble tile. The "tile" measures 6' 6" from the floor and is capped by a 3 1/2" wood molding. There is no baseboard in the room. Room #12 (office), has one interior wood door leading into the main hallway and one six-over-six original window in the room. Right off of Room #12, there is a door leading down the stairway to the basement area consisting of two poured concrete rooms, Room #21 and Room #22. The original doorway between the two rooms is closed off with concrete block. Another doorway was made by knocking an opening through the poured concrete wall. The original chimney extends upward from the basement area, all the way above the second floor, some 20-25'. The chimney is visible from the outside of the building. Room #13 (radio room) served as the main communication room for both the fire and police departments. There was a stairway to Room #13 added later for sleeping quarters above the radio room, but it was removed around 1987. The room is separated from the main fire station with a wall, which has a large opening, possibly for to allow for quick response from the firemen. Part of the partition is made of glass blocks. There is one, six-over-six wood, original window and also a wood door leading to the addition to the building. Inside the fire department, there is one steel door leading to the outside, facing the south, along with one, one-over-six window. Adjacent to Room #13 is a rest room and shower.

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Area #14 is the landing at the top of the split stairway and at the top of the second floor. The split stairway has steps leading up to the first landing. The railings are made of wood, with a series of three,  $\frac{3}{4}$ " square wooden balusters with a design in the woodwork. They extend the full length of the handrail and are the same on each stairway. There are two  $6\frac{3}{4}$ " newel posts at the bottom of the stairway, which is attached to the handrail. There is an ornamental design on the top of each newel post. The stairs are 4' wide and are made of wood. At the top of the first landing there are two square newel posts measuring 5" square which are exactly the same design as the two larger ones located at the bottom of the stairway. There are seven steps up to the top landing on the second floor and they are 5' 8" wide. There are identical newel posts at the top landing as at the bottom of the stairway and they are 5" square. The handrail is the same on the whole stairway and also along the upper foyer Area #14. There is a 6" wide baseboard on the first landing area and another 3" wide molding 6' 10" above the lower molding. The lower molding is about the same height as the chair rail on the top landing on the second floor. There is also a cove molding around the ceiling in the landing. There are three, six-over-six original wood windows on the west side of the landing. Both landings have wood floors. Room #15 (office) is the corner office and it has three one-over-one vinyl windows. It has one interior wood door leading into a small foyer, just off the landing area. The ceiling is 11' high and vinyl tile covers the floor. Room #16 (small office) has two six-over-six original wood windows that are presently covered with some plywood. The room has a small closet with a wood door. There is also a door leading into the courtroom #17. There is no floor covering in this room and the ceiling height is 11'. Room #17 (courtroom) is the original courtroom and city council meeting chamber and is the largest room in the original building. It had seven windows. Five are one-over-one aluminum windows. The other two had been broken and are covered temporarily with Plexiglas. Some of the plaster on the north side of the room has fallen off the wall and there is a small section of ceiling that has broken loose. There are two large ceiling supports for the ceiling. The ceiling is 14' 4". The walls and ceiling are plaster and there is a 6" wide wood baseboard with  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " trim. It appears that there was a drop ceiling installed at one time and some of the heating and air conditioning duct is still in place. The main entrance to the courtroom has double doors with a round arched opening with a transom light. The seven other windows in the room have the same arched design over each one, but no transom lights. Room #18 (bathroom) has one interior door, that being one of the original wood doors. The original window has been replaced temporarily with a smaller, one-over-one window. The floor has a tile covering and there is a partition separating the lavatory from the stool area. The wall of the bathroom has been scored to resemble tile. The "tile" measures 6' 4" high from the floor and has a  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " molding on top. The ceiling height is 11'. Room #19 (Mayor's Office) has wood paneling and the ceiling

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has been dropped to a height of 8'. There are three one-over-one aluminum windows. The floor is carpeted and it has one of the original wood doors that leads out into the second floor landing.

From the inside of the 1954 addition, the wall of the original West Frankfort City Hall is still visible. There is a wood door leading into what was once the radio room. There are two six-over-six windows toward the center of the building, on the east side. Farther to the right on the east side is a doorway that leads into the jail section. To the right of the doorway there are two small windows for the jail cells and one four-over-four window off the hallway.

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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The West Frankfort City Hall meets Criterion A for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for its local significance as a City Hall. It was the City of West Frankfort's first city hall and it played a very important part in the period of time between 1921, when the West Frankfort City Hall was constructed, to 1952, the fifty-year cutoff for the National Register.

### HISTORY OF WEST FRANKFORT

The history of the West Frankfort area can be traced back to the early 1800's. Early writings tell about the two Indian tribes that occupied the area where the City of West Frankfort is located. The two tribes were the Shawnee and the Kaskaskian tribes. This was about the year 1802. The two tribes waged a fierce battle to see which tribe would control the area. The Shawnee Tribe defeated the Kaskaskian Tribe and drove them toward the Mississippi River to the west. It is recorded that the first non-natives to come to this area were the Frenchmen and that was about the year 1804. It was about the year 1806, when seven Jordan brothers settled in the area, coming here from Tennessee. The first thing that they did was to build two forts to protect themselves from the Indians. One of the forts was built by one of the brothers, named Frank and from his name came the name Frankfort (Frank's Fort). Frankfort was located on the old Shawneetown to Kaskaskia Trail, which was one of the main trails through the southern part of the state. The first courthouse was built in Frankfort and later the county seat was relocated to Benton, Illinois, which was more centrally located in Franklin County. The two forts were built on locations that were probably the highest parts of the county. Frankfort grew into a good-sized community with several stores, and settlers were moving into the surrounding area. A historical marker is located on the site of the old "Frankfort Square," showing that it was the largest city in Franklin County in 1818. On March 1, 1841, the first term of the county court was held in the new county seat of Benton, Illinois. In 1895 news started to spread about a railroad coming to the area, which was going to run about one and one half miles west of the Frankfort area. A depot was erected and the station was named West Frankfort. Soon most of the businesses began to move and locate close to the railroad. Plans were soon made to organize a school district and for several years there were two separate school districts. The post office in Frankfort was also closed and there were two separate city governments until 1923, when it was voted on and approved to merge into one community, that being the City of West Frankfort.

Coal was discovered in Franklin County in 1904 and the coal rush began with mines springing up all over the county. There were several mines sunk in the immediate West Frankfort area.

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Frankfort soon began to be referred to as Frankfort Heights, Illinois. Today, Frankfort Heights has its own post office, with its own zip code, even though it is in the city of West Frankfort. The two post offices are about one mile from each other.

The calmness brought in a lot more people into the West Frankfort area and the population grew from about 300 people in 1900 to approximately 5000 in the year 1915. Records show that there were eight coal mines operating at the same time during the period from 1904 to 1924. The population continued to grow rapidly and reached 19,000 people in 1927. The coal industry began to slow down and in 1950 and the population had fallen to a little over 11,000. New mines were sunk in 1975 and in 1978, but there are no longer any coal mines operating in all of Franklin County today. The current population of West Frankfort is approximately 8500 residents.

**WEST FRANKFORT CITY HALL**

On May 16, 1921, plans for a city hall were presented by architect John Scribbins before the West Frankfort City Council. The proposed city hall, according to the minutes of the May 16, 1921 city council meeting, was to be a two-story brick building with all the modern conveniences. On September 26, 1921 the city council met for a special meeting at the Knights of Pythias Lodge Building to vote on the bids that had been received. A special election was held on April 21, 1921 to approve the bond issue not to exceed \$40,000. The bond issue passed with 1,338 in favor of the bond issue and 441 against. All bids received were too high, so the city council instructed Mr. Scribbins to confer with all the bidders to arrange the making of deductions in their bids that would meet with the city council's approval. The meeting was adjourned to the following day, September 27, 1921. The meeting was again held at the Knights of Pythias Lodge Building. No contracts were approved and Mr. Scribbins was requested to draw up such plans and specifications or modify the present plans, so that the cost of the proposed city hall would come within the bounds of the bond issue. It was decided to advertise for bids again.

The City Council met on October 11, 1921, at the Knights of Pythias and awarded the contract to S. M. Wilson of Wood River, Illinois, to construct the proposed City Hall Building. It was to be located at 108 North Emma Street in the City of West Frankfort, Illinois. According to the city council minutes, the bid was \$35,000 for the building. The plumbing and heating was awarded to E. V. Simpson of West Frankfort for the sum of \$4,950. Drayer Electric, also from West Frankfort, was awarded the electrical work for \$875. The contractor, S. M. Wilson, was from

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Wood River, Illinois, a town close to St. Louis, Missouri. Mr. Scribbins was listed as a registered architect in the 1923 edition of *Handbook for Architects and Builders* at 22 W. Monroe Street in Chicago. In 1925 he was listed at 1830 Calumet Avenue. In 1931-32 he was listed at 331 Park Avenue in Glencoe, and in 1938-39 his address was 611 S. Tremont Street in Kewanee.

The first official West Frankfort City Council Meeting was held in the West Frankfort City Hall on July 17, 1922, with the honorable J. E. Story, Mayor of the City of West Frankfort, presiding. The West Frankfort City Hall was in use for the period from 1922-1979, when a new city hall building was constructed, just north of the West Frankfort City Hall.

West Frankfort was hit by two major disasters and West Frankfort City Hall was used in the aftermath of both of them. It served as the main communication center and handled the many visitors that came to West Frankfort to report on what had happened. There was no other place to gather the information, except at City Hall. The two disasters were the Tri-State Tornado that occurred on March 18, 1925, which went through the north part of West Frankfort, killing 128 people and injuring over 300. There were over 500 homes destroyed.

The second major disaster was the Orient #2 Coal Mine Explosion that occurred on December 21, 1951, where 119 miners lost their lives. This was especially devastating since it happened just a few days before Christmas. The Orient #2 mine explosion brought United Mine Workers International President, John L. Lewis to West Frankfort, along with the Federal Mine Bureau Inspectors and top district officers. The West Frankfort City Hall and the railroad depot served as communications centers during the mine explosion disaster. On July 24, 1948, another coal mine explosion took 27 lives at the No. 8 Coal Mine. A Coal Miner's Memorial has been built on East Main Street, just next to the railroad that runs through the middle of West Frankfort. The Miner's Memorial, which is located at the northeast corner of East Main and Anna Street, is just a short distance from the West Frankfort City Hall.

Some of the interesting ordinances, resolutions, and meetings that took place at the West Frankfort City Hall that have been significant to the City of West Frankfort are as follows:

The City Council met on October 11, 1921 and approved to award the contract to S. M. Wilson of Wood River, Illinois, to construct a new city hall. It would be the first official city hall for the City of West Frankfort.

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WEST FRANKFORT CITY HALL

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The City Council met on February 1, 1921 and voted to establish a Commission Form of Government, which was passed by the City Council. The citizens voted in favor of the proposal by 531 yes votes and 198 against. The City still has the Commission Form of Government today.

The City Council met on May 28, 1927 and voted and passed an ordinance to establish a public library, which has meant so much to the residents of West Frankfort.

The City Council met on October 1, 1927 and agreed on a permit for a tabernacle to be built for Billy Sunday to hold a revival. The tabernacle was built at the corner of North Emma and West St. Louis Streets. It has been said that the revival lasted for two weeks.

On May 18, 1929, the City Council passed an ordinance to allow Central Illinois Public Service Company to install 151 street lights and also to construct, operate, and maintain an electric light, heat and power system in the City of West Frankfort. A special election was held on August 6, 1929 to grant a franchise to the Central Illinois Public Service Company and it was defeated on a vote of 435 against 266 for the franchise.

The City Council passed on ordinance on October 10, 1932 that no person or persons, company or corporation shall conduct public or private dances or waltzing within the corporate limits of the City of West Frankfort, on the Sabbath Day or night, commonly called Sunday.

The City Council met on October 29, 1932 and passed a resolution, accepting a proposal from L. A. Snider Engineering Services, Inc., to furnish the engineering services for construction of a municipal light plant and distribution system in the City of West Frankfort.

The City Council met and approved an ordinance creating a water utility on November 15, 1937.

The City Council met on August 8, 1938 and approved a resolution granting approval for a radio broadcasting station to be built between Williamson and Franklin County and request the FCC to grant their application for a license.

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WEST FRANKFORT CITY HALL

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The City Council met and approved a resolution, requesting that further publication of "Seven Stranded Coal Towns" be immediately suspended and that all presently printed copies be immediately destroyed, this was approved on July 7, 1942.

The City Council met on August 18, 1942 and approved an ordinance regulating blackouts and air raids.

The City Council met and approved ordinances on prohibiting the drilling and operating of oil wells in the City of West Frankfort. This passed on August 4, 1943.

The City Council passed a proclamation on May 20, 1944, on the day following the start of the Invasion of Shores of Fortress Europe, to start the fight for freedom against the tyrant Nazi in his homeland. Whereas many West Frankfort sons were to be among the thousands of soldiers from all parts of the United States taking part in the invasion, the published proclamation set aside and designated the hour from 2:00 to 3:00 o'clock p.m. a solemn hour of prayer for the safety of their sons and their success.

A resolution passed on May 14, 1945, designating the name of "Lake West Frankfort" for the water reservoir created by the construction of city and federal project no. ILL. 11-2 Ten.

The City Council passed a resolution on December 9, 1946 to furnish water to the Village of Thompsonville.

An ordinance was passed on October 4, 1948, vacating an alley for the West Frankfort School district to construct a new High School gymnasium. The alley was located between North McClelland Street and between Main and Poplar streets.

The West Frankfort City Hall continued to be used until 1979, when the current city hall was constructed. In 1988, it was leased by the City to West Frankfort Civic Center Authority and is currently used for Civic Center Authority meetings. The West Frankfort City Hall has had minor changes over the years and maintains sufficient integrity for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.



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National Park Service**

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WEST FRANKFORT CITY HALL

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

West Frankfort City Councils Minutes, ordinance files and resolutions files. All of this information is located at the City Clerk's Office the current City Hall.

Franklin County Clerk's Office, located in Benton, Illinois

"History of West Frankfort", published by the Frankfort Area Historical Society in 1978. Library of Congress Card No. 78-70417. The Frankfort area Historical Society has attempted in this book to preserve the history of our area.

Hall, Emery Stanford, ed. *Handbook for Architects and Builders*. Illinois Society of Architects, 1923;1925;1931-32;1938-39.

PERSONAL CONTACTS:

Roger Young, Retired, West Frankfort, Illinois

Mr. Kent Holland, Retired, West Frankfort, Illinois

Mr. Al Lukens, Retired, West Frankfort, Illinois

Mr. Bill Simmons, Retired, West Frankfort, Illinois

Mr. John K. Dobbins, Instructor, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale Campus, resides In Johnston City, Illinois

ENCLOSED ARE:

Two documents taken from the records of the City Clerk's Office in West Frankfort, Illinois

Architects drawing of the west side of the City Hall.

Photographs showing the City Hall at the intersection of North Emma Street and East Poplar Street.

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

# **National Register of Historic Places**

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WEST FRANKFORT CITY HALL

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

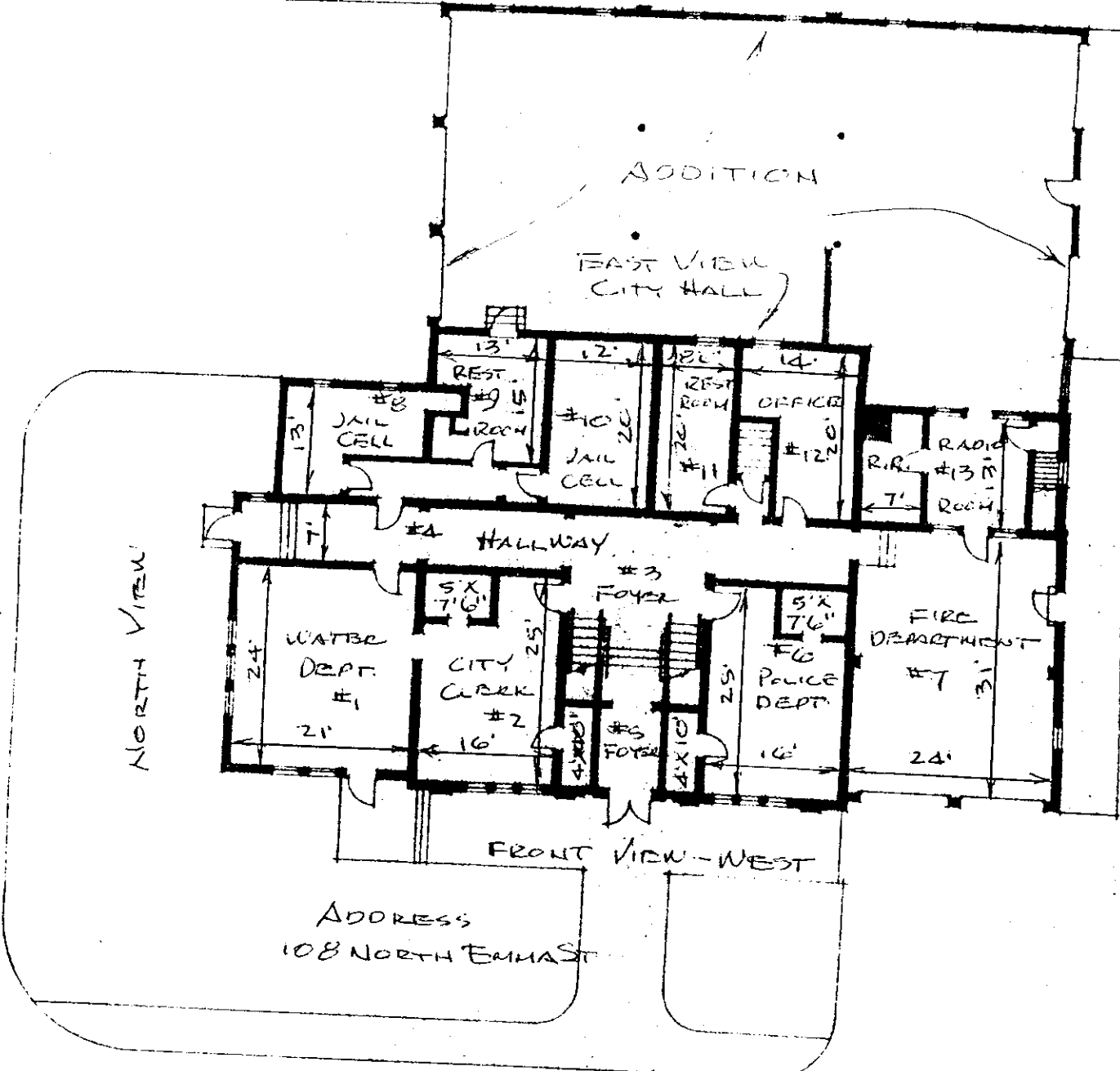
Lot (1) in block (18) of Peter Wasiters first addition of the City of West Frankfort, Illinois

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The nominated property includes the entire parcel (86' x 120'), historically associated with the City Hall Building.

POPLAR STREET

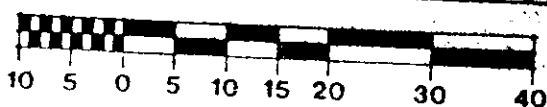
NORTH VIEW



ADDRESS  
108 NORTH EMMA ST

EMMA STREET

# First Floor Plan



SCALE: 1/16" = 1' - 0"

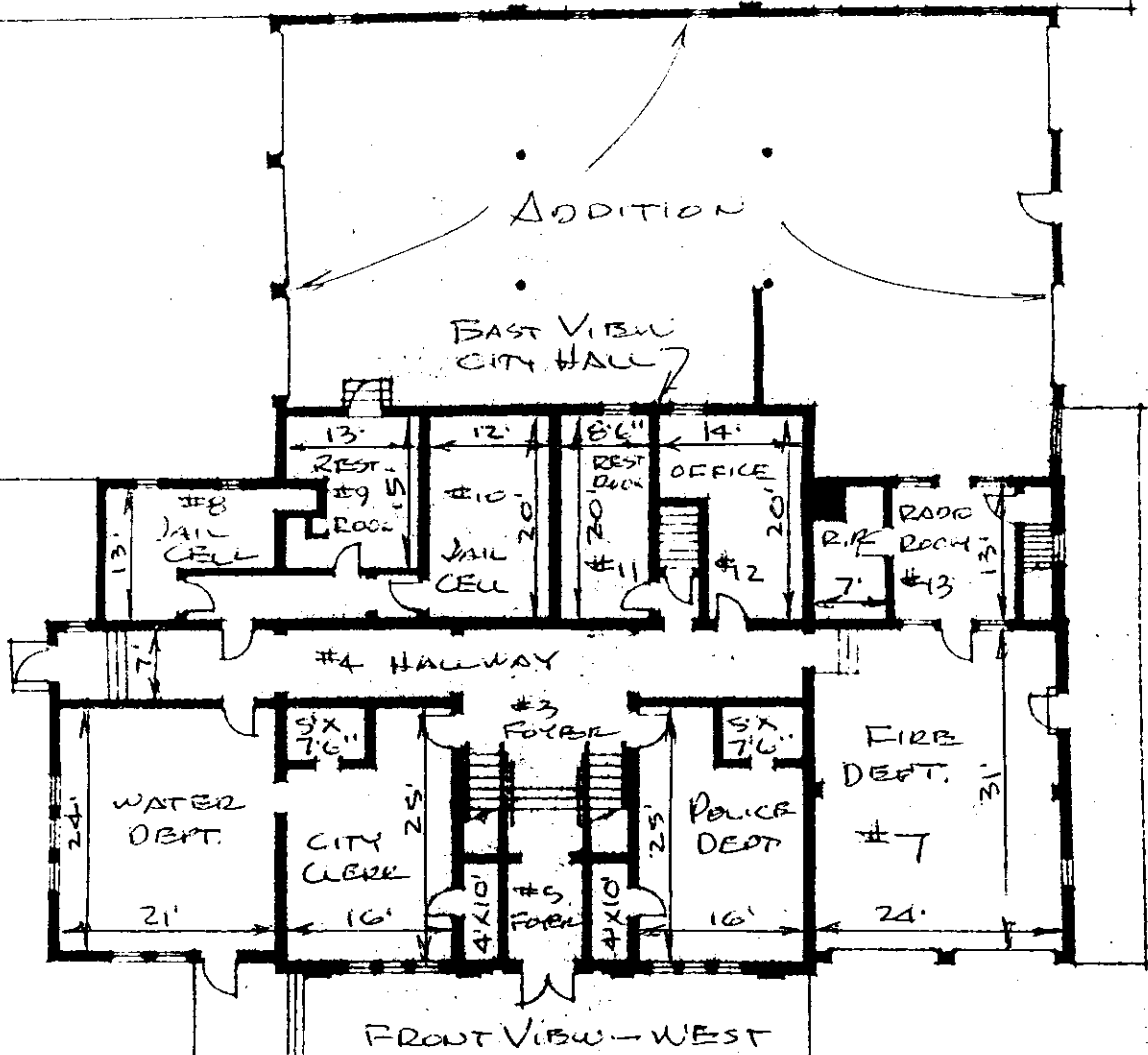
NORTH

POPLAR STREET

NORTH VIEW

SOUTH VIEW

ALLEY

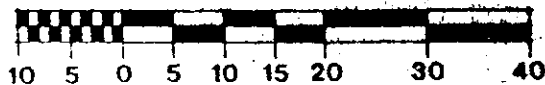


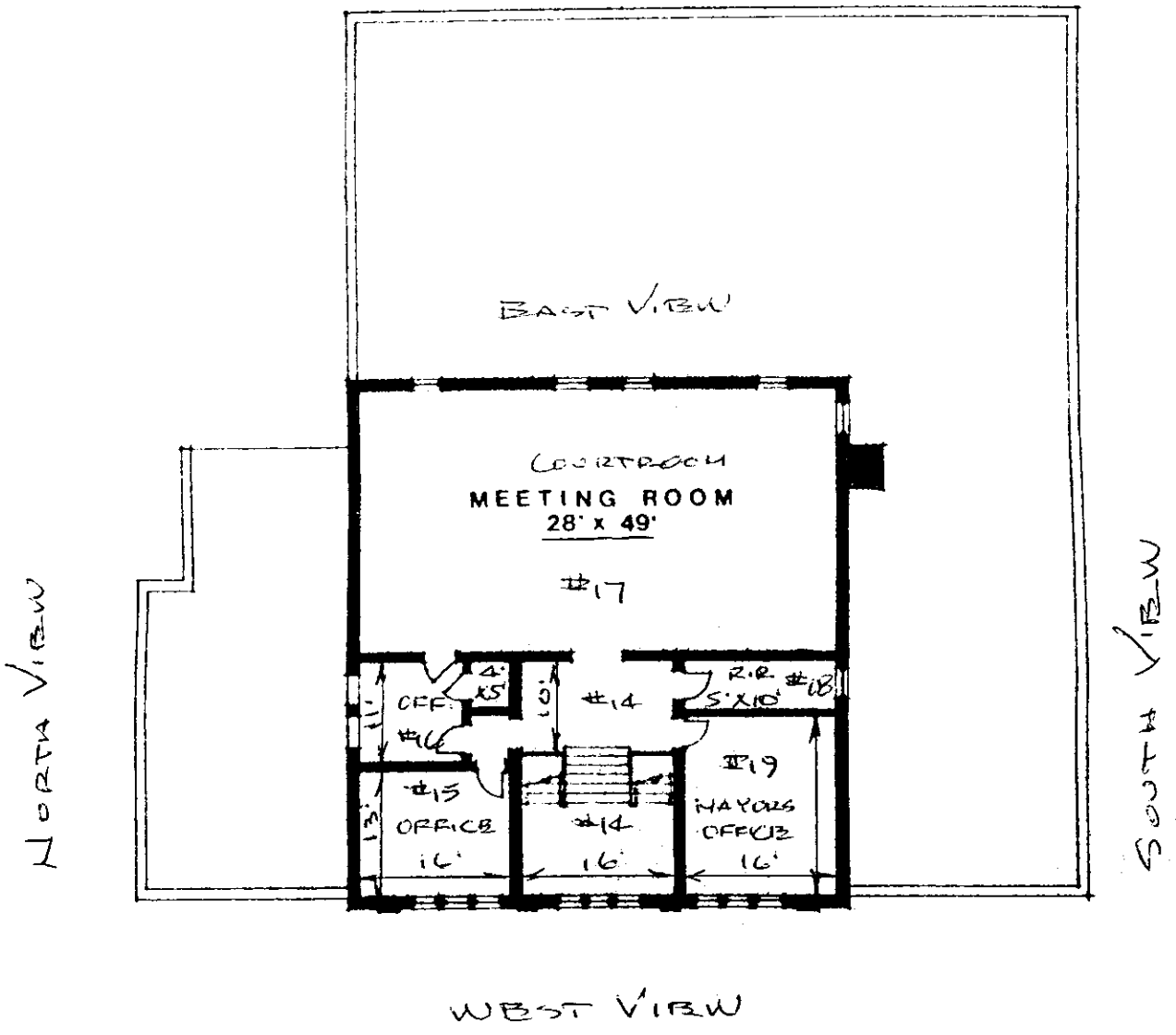
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108 NORTH EMMA ST.

EMMA STREET

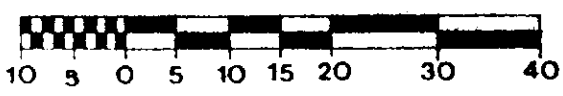
# First Floor Plan

NORTH

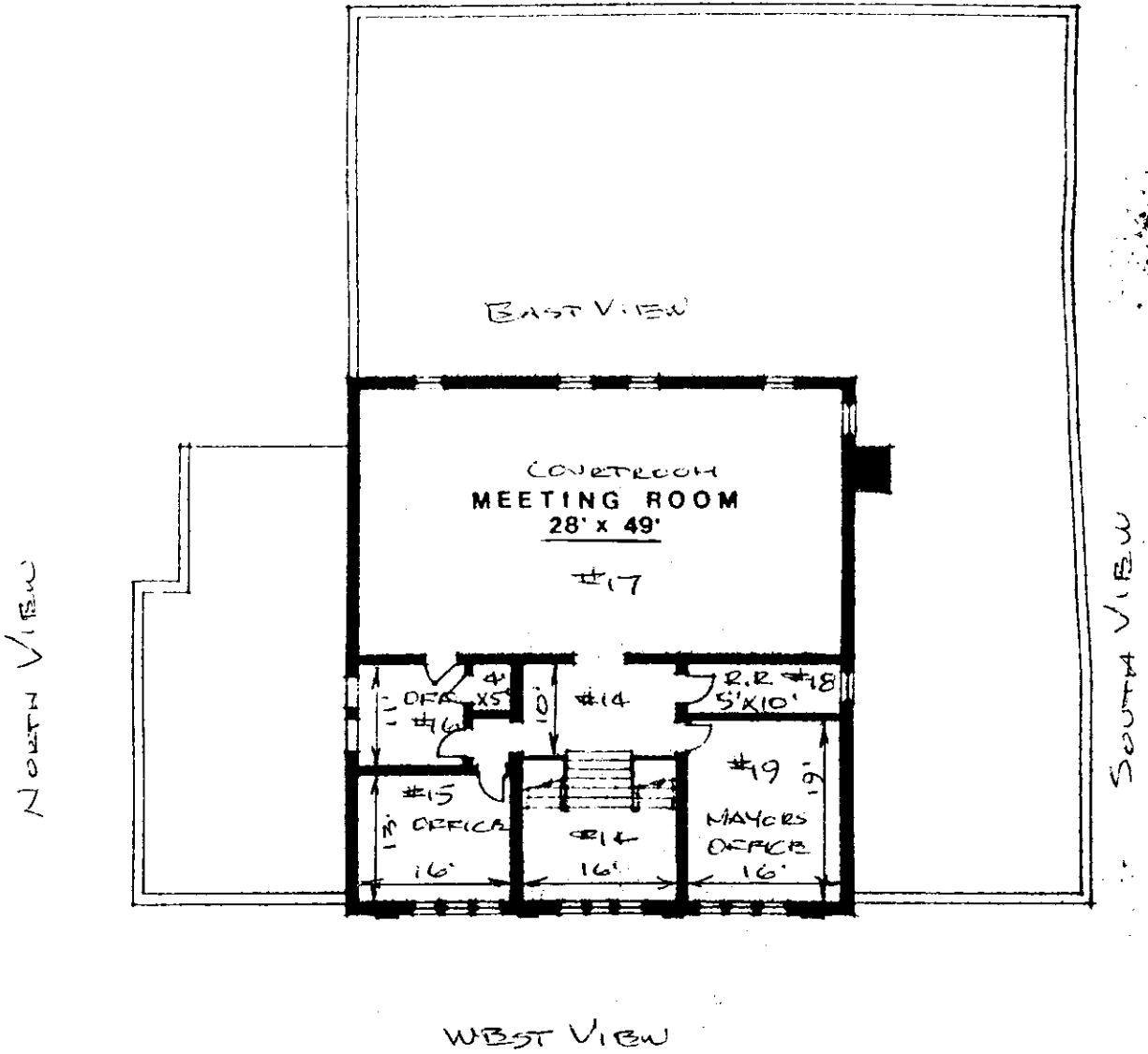




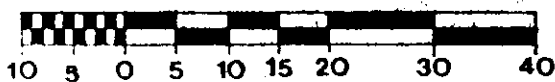
## Second Floor Plan



SCALE: 1/16" = 1'-0"



# Second Floor Plan

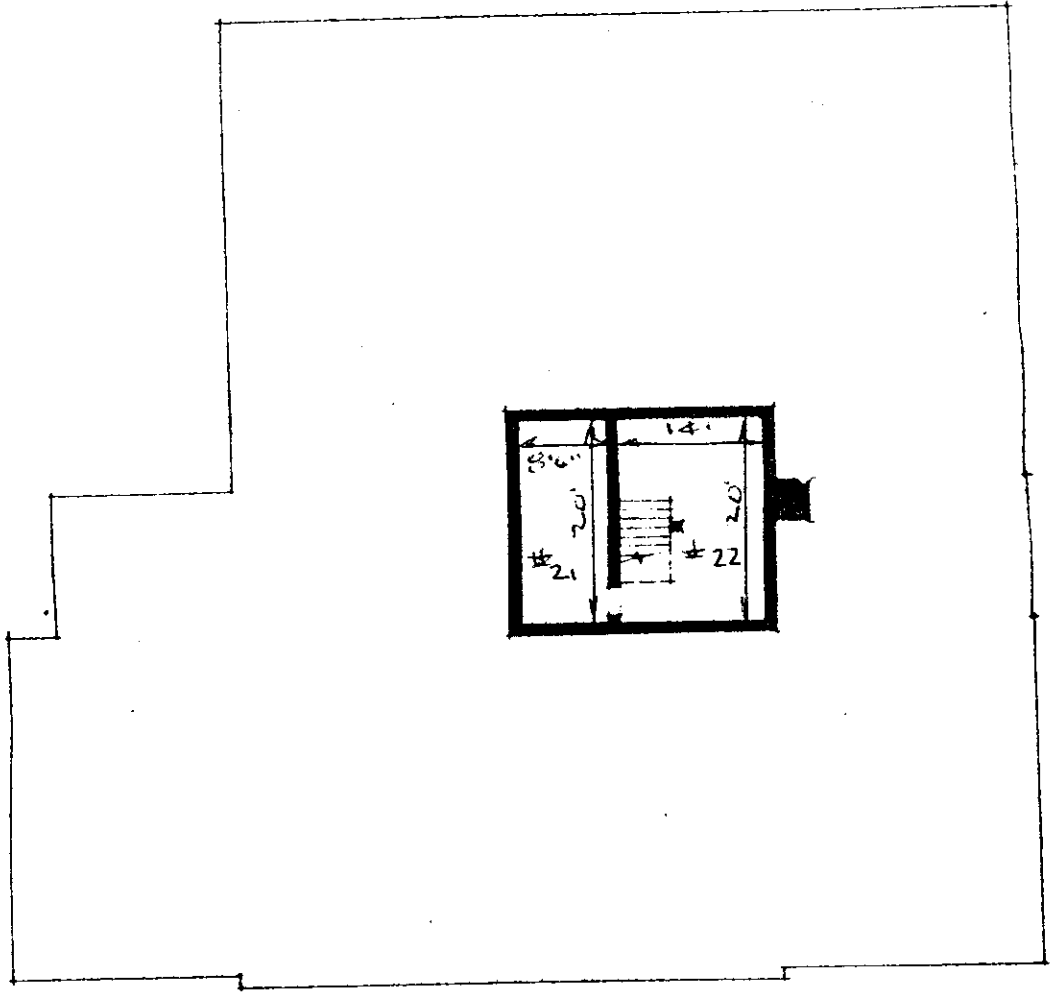


SCALE: 1/16" = 1'-0"

EAST VIEW

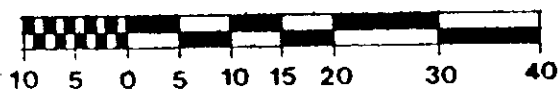
NORTH VIEW

SOUTH VIEW



WEST VIEW

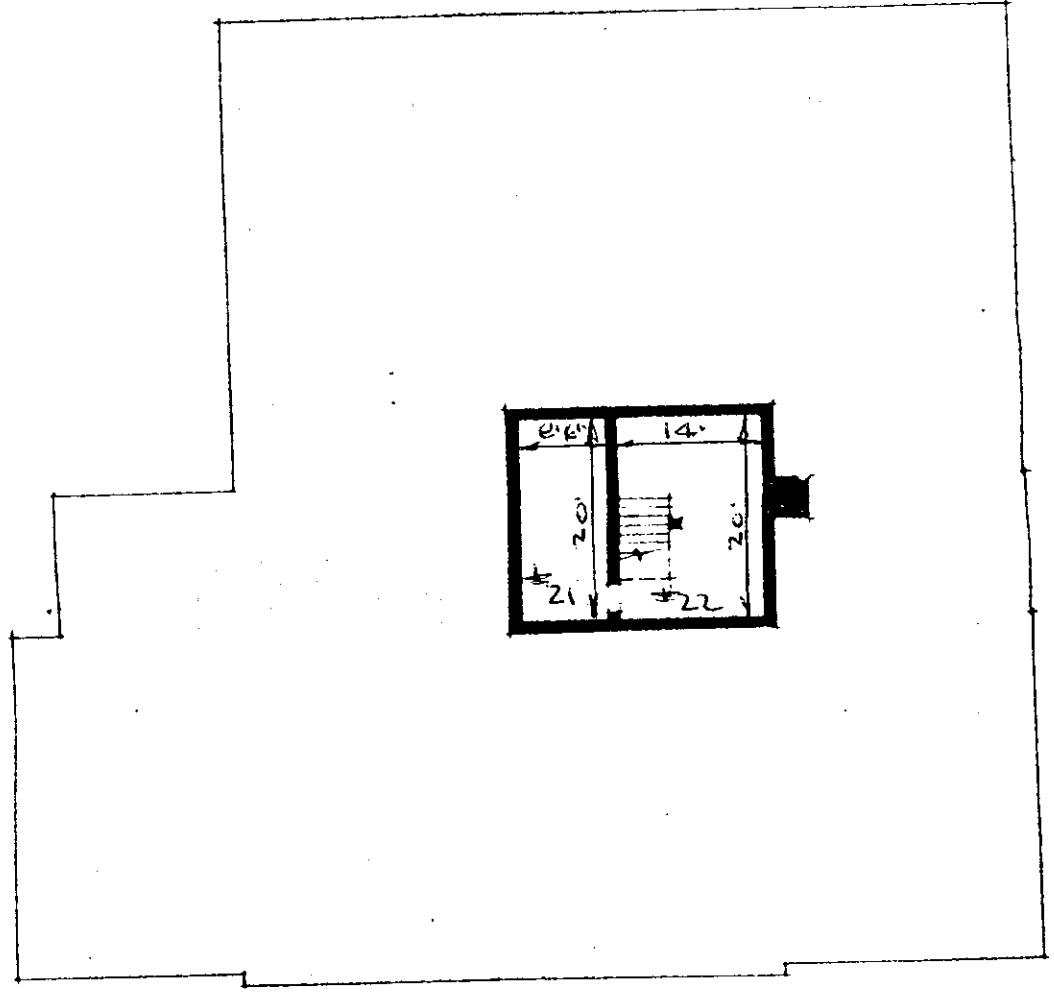
# Basement Floor Plan



EAST VIEW

NORTH VIEW

SOUTH VIEW



WEST VIEW

# Basement Floor Plan

