

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**SENT TO D.C.**

10-3-05

**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 any 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 **Murphysboro Elks Lodge**  
other names/site number **Murphysboro Event Center**

**2. Location**

street & number **1329 Walnut Street**  Not for publication  
city or town **Murphysboro**  vicinity  
state **Illinois** code **IL** county **Jackson** code **077** zip code **62966**

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.)

Walter L. White ISHP 9-30-05  
Signature of certifying official Date

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency \_\_\_\_\_  
State or 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 or other official Date

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau American Indian Tribe

**4. National Park Service Certification**

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

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property  
(Check only one box)

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

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

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register      N/A

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

N/A

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

**SOCIAL / meeting hall**

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

**RECREATION AND CULTURE**

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

**Classical Revival**

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation    **Concrete**

Roof            **Rubber**

Walls           **Brick**

other            **Limestone**  
                    **Terra Cotta**

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

**8. Statement of Significance**

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

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

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

**Architecture**

Period of Significance      1916-1917

Significant Dates          1916-1917

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)      N/A

Cultural Affiliation      N/A

Architect/Builder      Gill, Rudolph Zerse

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

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

Primary Location of Additional Data

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

Name of repository **Jackson County Historical Society, Murphysboro, Illinois**  
**Murphysboro Elks Lodge No. 572**

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property **less than one acre**

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
1	16 294114	4182228	3	_____
2	_____	_____	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.)

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title **Cynthia L. Baer, Assistant Director**

organization **General John A. Logan Museum** date **June 9, 2005**

street & number **1613 Edith Street, P.O. Box 563** telephone **618-684-3455**

city or town **Murphysboro** state **Illinois** zip code **62966**

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**Additional Documentation**

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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)

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**Property Owner**

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

name **Southern Illinois Properties, Inc.**

street & number **1401 Walnut Street** telephone **618-565-1212**

city or town **Murphysboro** state **Illinois** zip code **62966**

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**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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Murphysboro Elks Lodge, Jackson County, IL

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**Narrative Description**

Summary:

The Murphysboro Elks Lodge, located at 1329 Walnut Street, in Murphysboro, Illinois, is a former social meeting hall constructed in 1916-1917. It is located on Lots 2 and 3, Block 25 of J.A. and T.M. Logan's 1<sup>st</sup> Addition to the City of Murphysboro. The building faces north towards Walnut Street, the city's main artery and business district. The building's architectural details are hallmarks of the Classical Revival (or Neo-Classical) style as discussed by McAlester and McAlester.<sup>1</sup> The Murphysboro Elks Lodge is a rectangular, two-story brick building with a full elevated basement. The three-bay front façade is symmetrical and features a red and black face brick wall in running bond and basketweave patterns; limestone foundation veneer and beltcourse; stained glass windows; a second floor classical-columned porch; terra cotta fret, shield, cross, and descending bellflower detailing; and a terra cotta architrave trim and entablature with scroll brackets and dentils around the door. Above the doorway cornice is a terra cotta oval adorned with an elk head in profile and fruit garlands. The front façade is topped with a classical terra cotta entablature with four pairs of elaborate scroll brackets and dentil molding. The eastern façade, which faces an alley, features a secondary entrance and four large Palladian windows with a round arch stained glass fanlight. The property is in excellent condition.

Elaboration:

The Murphysboro Elks Lodge is a rectangular, two-story brick structure with a full elevated basement. It measures approximately 45 ft. high, 109 ft. long, and 42 ft. wide. The three-bay front façade faces north on Walnut Street and features a brick wall laid in running bond, with a dark face brick below the beltcourse and red face brick above. The foundation veneer and beltcourse are made of limestone. The basement windows are glass tile block, which were installed in place of the original two-over-four glass panes between 1948 and 1971. At street level there are two limestone steps to a slightly inset double door with an overhead transom. The current metal double door was installed in place of the original wood and glass frame door before 1975. This primary entry is surrounded by the original terra cotta architrave trim and entablature with scroll brackets, dentils, and fruit garlands. The scroll brackets are elaborate with a large bead molding on the scroll surface and an acanthus leaf below the scroll. Above the door, "B P O E" (Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks) is engraved into the terra cotta, with a later addition of neon tubing spelling "B P O E" affixed to the surface. Above the doorway cornice is a terra cotta shield adorned with an elk head in profile and fruit garlands. Behind the adorned

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<sup>1</sup> McAlester, Virginia and Lee McAlester. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1998. Page 343.

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**Murphysboro Elks Lodge, Jackson County, IL**

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shield is a round arched window with a centered scroll keystone. Above this window are two rondels.

The front façade is symmetrical with two inset stained glass double-hung windows per side on the first floor and a classical-columned porch on the second floor. The four stained glass windows have a decorative geometric iron railing covering the bottom fourth of the window. The stained glass design features a rectangular green glass border and clear, vertical rectangular and diamond leaded panels in the main portion of the window. The transom pane is the same with the exception of a centered amber shield with green, blue, and white squares and a red ribbon. The stained glass windows have limestone sills and are covered by wood-frame storm windows. The storm windows have eight lights: two square panes marking the division between the transom light and the window, and eight elongated rectangular lights, arranged as four over four. There is a rowlock brick course and a centered terra cotta keystone above each window. The second floor features an open porch with a poured concrete floor, terra cotta sill, and a steel-reinforced lintel. Below the sill there is a terra cotta apron across the width of the porch with a stylized cross design. There are two sets of paired classical limestone columns bracketing the middle bay. The columns are simple with a Tuscan-like capital. Simple square brick columns support each end bay with a decorative terra cotta fret, shield, and descending bellflower detailing. Opening onto the porch are two sets of French doors and one central window. The two French doors have a transom window with six lights, arranged as three over three. The doors also have six lights: three square panes over three elongated rectangular panes. The central window is a double casement with six-over-three panes. These doors and windows, in addition to some of the windows on the eastern façade, are Bungalow/Craftsman in style. The front façade is topped with an alternating red/black face brick wall in a basket weave pattern, which supports a classical terra cotta entablature. The entablature features dentil molding and four pairs of scroll brackets with a stylized bay leaf or diamond etching on the scroll surface and an acanthus leaf below. Above this is a simple, short brick parapet wall.

The eight bay east façade, which faces an alley, features a brick wall laid in running bond. Dark face brick was used below the limestone beltcourse and red face brick was used above. The northern quarter of the east façade, representing two bays, continues the architectural features of the north façade: limestone foundation veneer, terra cotta entablature with dentil molding, red and black face bricks in a basketweave pattern, and a short parapet wall above the cornice. In this quarter there are two square, evenly spaced glass tile block basement windows; two evenly spaced one-over-one double-hung windows on the first floor; and two closely spaced one-over-one double-hung windows on the second floor. All of the eastern façade glass tile block



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basement windows were installed in place of the original two over four glass panes between 1948 and 1971. There is an engraved cornerstone at the northeastern corner of the building. It is engraved "BPOE No. 572 / Erected AD 1916." The next two bays, adjacent to the northern quarter, form an asymmetrical section. In the first bay there are two limestone steps up to an aluminum-framed, glass, double-door entry. The door is not original and was installed between the 1940s and 1975. The original door was wood and glass framed. Above the door is a section of raised black brick in an "H" pattern. There are two additional windows above the doorway, exposing the interior stairwell: a three over one window flanked by two narrow one-over-one sidelights between the first and second floors, and paired two-over-one windows between the second floor and roof. The roofline in this section extends above the parapet wall, denoting the stairwell's continuation to roof level.

The next bay has four windows: one rectangular glass tile block basement window, one one-over-one double-hung window on the first floor, a small square single-pane window with two narrow single pane sidelights on the second floor, and a small square single pane window above between second floor and roof. To the left of the secondary entrance, the true poured concrete foundation is visible and continues along the remainder of the eastern façade. The remaining southern half of the façade, totaling four bays, is symmetrical in window arrangement. Each bay is represented by two square glass tile block basement windows, two one-over-one double-hung first floor windows, and one second floor Palladian window with a round arch fanlight. The only exception is on the far south side; a small wood door accessing the basement is in place of a block window. There are four Palladian windows total, all except one with patterned glass in the center panes and sidelights. One window has a large clear non-original glass center pane. Each fanlight is made up of five wedge-shaped sections of clear glass and a central half-circle of stained glass. The stained glass features a border of green rectangles and a field of amber vertical rectangles and blue diamond panes. In the center of each field is a single letter surrounded by a laurel wreath, spelling from north to south "B P O E." A simple, wide terra cotta cornice is located above the Palladian windows, and a short brick parapet wall is located above the cornice. Black and red face bricks are laid in decorative linear patterns on the top third of this portion of the east façade, accenting the windows. Most of the windows on the eastern façade have limestone sills. A soldier course is located above most of the windows and forms a brow line, but the Palladian windows have a double rowlock course above each arch.

The south or rear façade has two bays. The brick is a lesser quality, utilitarian brick of variant colors. Header and stretcher rows are laid in an irregular fashion, with between three and six stretcher rows between header rows. The foundation is poured concrete; there is no limestone

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beltcourse. There are three glass tile block basement windows, and three one-over-one double-hung windows on the first floor. On the second floor are two glass tile block arched windows. The second floor windows resemble the east façade Palladian windows in size and shape, but are entirely of glass tile block. Photographs from 1948 show that these windows originally matched the Palladian windows on the eastern façade. In the center of the stained glass center was "572," the Elks' charter number, surrounded by a laurel wreath. It is believed that these windows and the basement glass pane windows were replaced with glass tile block at the same time between 1948 and 1971. All of the windows have limestone sills. There is a brick soldier course over the first floor and basement windows, and a double rowlock course over the arched windows. There are two doors: one at first floor level and one at the second floor level. The first floor door is not original, and the date of its installation is unknown. It appears that a double-hung window and a portion of the brick wall were removed in order to install the door. The second floor door was installed in 2004 in order to meet fire code regulations. Portions of the brick wall and the western glass tile block arched window were removed to insert the door. At this time there is no stairwell off the second floor door, and a small iron stairway off the first floor door.

The west façade has six bays. Construction methods are the same as the south façade with utilitarian brick and irregular header and stretcher rows. There is a one-story party wall. Above the party wall in the southern half of the façade are four round arch glass tile block windows. These windows mirror the placement and dimensions of the fanlights on the eastern façade. It is believed that the glass tile blocks were installed between 1948 and 1971, in place of clear and stained glass fanlights matching those on the eastern façade. In the northern half there are two one-over-one double-hung windows with limestone sills. The arched windows have a double rowlock course framing the arch and a single rowlock horizontal course as the sill. The two one-over-one windows have limestone sills and soldier courses. The northern quarter of the western façade continues the architectural features of the north façade: terra cotta entablature with dentil molding, red and black face bricks in a basketweave pattern, and a short parapet wall above the cornice.

The flat roof is rectangular in plan and divided into two sections. The northern section is square, and the floor surface is several feet below the parapet wall. The floor surface is covered in black rubber sheets and tilted toward a drain on the east wall. The southern section of the roof is rectangular and located several feet above the floor level of the northern section. Modern air conditioning and heating units were installed on top of this section in 2005. The roof material in this section is also black rubber. The access to the roof is through an interior stairwell, which opens up onto the northern section. The stairwell entrance has an ornate pressed tin ceiling. The

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exterior walls of the stairwell entrance are tin paneling in a brick pattern. Also on the western exterior wall of the stairwell is an enclosed electrical breaker box. The parapet wall is capped by convex clay tile, except along the northern façade where it is capped by flat cement and limestone blocks.

The interior is made up of three levels: basement, first floor, and second floor. The basement is full with high windows looking out onto street level. The stairs accessing the basement are off of the east façade. The basement currently functions as a rectangular banquet and bar space, with the bar located opposite the stairwell. Historically, the space was used for food preparation, dining, Boy Scout meetings, and clubroom space (after 1940s). There also may have been a bowling alley(s) in this space during the building's earliest years. The basement served as a popular community social center during the 1940s and 1950s. Square support columns run the length of the main room. Floors are hardwood, and there is a drop ceiling on the northern end. Also on the northern end, there are two remodeled bathroom facilities, recessed coat rack, and two mechanical/storage areas. On the southern end, along the south façade, are two mechanical/storage rooms. In these rooms, there are clues to the building's construction. There is a short rectangular section off the south façade that extends under the adjoining parking lot. Steel I-beams were used for horizontal support of the south wall. Interior walls are double brick. There is evidence in one section, where bricks have been removed, that the local Murphysboro Paving Brick Company supplied the bricks for at least the interior walls. These bricks are impressed "Egyptian" on the face. The foundation/floor is poured concrete slab over dirt. The original appearance of the basement is unknown, although Bruce Richmond stated a mural did exist on the western wall depicting Southern Illinois scenes. That mural was not present in 1999. Drywall, flooring, and the bar were installed in 1999-2000. At the same time, local artist Inga Silver painted the ceiling, walls, and columns. Outside of the bathrooms, which were remodeled in both 1999-2000 and 2004-2005, the basement is the only area in the building that has been extensively remodeled.<sup>2</sup>

The first floor is comprised of 4 areas: entry, parlors, central hallway, and event rooms. The paint scheme on the first and second floors, including the plaster moldings, is the work of Inga Silver and dates to 1999-2000. Except in bathrooms, all walls and ceilings are plaster. The entry area includes the main front entrance along the north façade. The main front door opens into a small foyer. The floor is small white square tile, with BPOE spelled out in black. A set of double

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<sup>2</sup> Silver, Inga, personal communication, 2005. BPOE No. 572, Elks Minute Books. Batchelor, Harold, personal communication, 2005. Richmond, personal communication, 2005.

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wood-framed, glass paneled interior doors lead to a small flight of marble steps. The interior glazed doors have six lights, two across and three down. The wainscot along the stairs is polished granite. A plaster floral garland is located above the interior doors. Above the door and an open arch space is a plaster shield divided into four sections spelling "B P O E," two flower medallions on top of leaf stems, egg and dart molding, and cable molding.<sup>3</sup>

Two parlors are located on either side of the landing. The entries are open, with wood pilasters bracketing each entry. Each parlor features two stained glass windows on the north façade (see north façade elaboration), a brick fireplace, wood floor, and simple wood chair rail. The fireplaces are slightly different in design: the one on the west more ornate. The east parlor has two windows on the east façade. The west parlor has a door along the south wall that leads to a small room. The room's current function is storage. In the past, it was a bathroom. Historically, the eastern parlor was used for Elks members, and the western parlor was reserved for female family members. Between 1994 and 1998, this space was used as an antique store.<sup>4</sup>

The central hallway is a utilitarian area made up of the stairwell, dumbwaiter, two remodeled bathroom facilities, an office, and a storage room. The stairwell connects the basement to the roof. Firewalls and fireproof doors were installed between the exterior exit and the first floor and between the second floor hall and stairwell. The bathrooms, secretary's office, and storage rooms have wood paneled doors and a single-pane transom. The floor from the entry landing to the event rooms, including the stairwell is black, gray, and white terrazzo with inlaid white square tiles serving as borders. Common decorative elements used in the stairwell and pilasters are the cross, fret, scroll bracket, dentil, and four-petal flower. These decorative elements are used throughout the first and second floors and connect the interior with the Classical Revival exterior. Shields are also used throughout the interior and exterior as decorative elements; the shield is an important Elk symbol.<sup>5</sup>

The main event room is square with an approximate 12 ft. ceiling. The entry is open, bracketed by wood pilasters. On the east wall are three sets of paired one-over-one double-hung windows. The flooring and trim is wood; a high wood chair rail subdivides the walls. There are two freestanding square columns on the west side, with matching pilasters on the north and south

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<sup>3</sup> Silver, personal communication, 2005.

<sup>4</sup> Richmond, personal communication, 2005.

<sup>5</sup> BPOE No. 572, Elks Minute Books. Richmond, personal communication, 2005.

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walls; these are connected by a north to south plaster beam. Each square column is decorated with four molded plaster shields, one per side. There are also two plaster beams running east to west with plaster shields at each end. On both sides of the doorway, running north to south, are metal ventilation ducts suspended from the ceiling. On the south end of the main event room is an open entry to a smaller secondary event room. The entry is identical to the first entry in alignment and wood pilasters. This room has clipped ends on the south façade, a south exterior exit, and wood floor and trim. A portion of this wall is drywall and dates to the removal of an original window and installation of the door. There are five one-over-one double-hung windows in this room. Historically, these rooms functioned as a library, club/lounge with a horseshoe-shaped bar, and occasional meeting/social space for the Elks. The secondary event room featured billiard and card tables. Between 1994 and 1998, this space was used as an antique store.<sup>6</sup>

The second floor consists of four areas: hallway, ballroom, balcony, and parlor. At the top of the stairwell landing are two remodeled bathrooms and a dumbwaiter. The hallway flooring is the same terrazzo flooring used in the first floor hallway and stairwell steps. To the south is a pair of wood-paneled double doors leading to the ballroom.

The ballroom is the most ornate of all rooms in the building. The coved ceiling is approximately 15 to 20 ft. high. The flooring and trim is wood. There is a one-step riser running the perimeter of the east, south, and west walls. The walls are plaster with regularly spaced wood pilasters. The pilasters are painted faux marble and each one has an original glass wall sconce. The pilasters subdivide the room into four sections. Each section has a Palladian window on the east wall and a round arch glass tile block window on the west wall. Below each window is a wood sill. Egg and dart molding is located in between the eastern windows and in between and below the western windows. The south wall features a recessed alcove in between the two Palladian-style glass block windows. This alcove once held the BPOE clock, an important symbol of the Elks. Crisscrossing the ceiling in a rectangular pattern are six east-to-west and two north-to-south molded plaster beams. The molded plaster beams feature an egg and dart edging, acanthus leaves, and four-petal flowers. Inga Silver chose the colors and painted the ballroom in 1999-2000. As an accurate historic restoration was not the goal of the owner at that time, Ms. Silver did not conduct an historic paint analysis. At that time most of the walls, ceilings, and plaster moldings were painted white. She did, however, use the colors of the stained glass windows in the parlors and ballroom as her guide in color selection. In addition, the floor was refinished in 1999-2000 and the ceiling was repaired and painted in 2004. Historically, the Elks used this

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<sup>6</sup> Ibid. Richmond, personal communication, 2005.

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space as their Lodge Room. Meetings, initiations, and social events were held here. Below the round arches on the west wall were stained glass memorial plaques, commemorating each deceased member.<sup>7</sup>

Off the stairwell between the second floor and roof is a doorway that leads to a balcony overlooking the ballroom. On either side of the balcony are small rooms with square holes facing towards the ballroom. These used to be fitted with heating units. The balcony has a turned wood balustrade. An east-to-west plaster ceiling beam runs across the balcony area.

To the north of the second floor hallway is a wood paneled pocket door leading to a parlor. The parlor floor is hardwood, and the walls are plaster. Along the west wall is a brick fireplace, similar in design to the first floor parlors. On the east wall is a pair of one-over-one double-hung windows. A bar is located along the north wall; behind the bar is a double casement window with nine lights, three across and three down. Two sets of double doors are on either end of the north wall, providing access to the balcony. The doors are topped by a transom window with six lights, three across and two down. The ceiling features two plaster beams, similar to the main event room on the first floor, that run north-to-south. Due to water damage, this walls and ceiling of this room were repaired and repainted in 2004. Historically, there room served as lounge space, bar service, and as a food preparation area (the food being lifted from the basement via the dumbwaiter).<sup>8</sup>

The Murphysboro Elks Lodge has sufficient integrity for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The building looks very much as it did in 1916 when it was built. The only changes visible from the exterior are the glass block windows that were installed in the basement level and on the tertiary elevations, and the doors. Originally, according to period photographs, there was a parapet gable roof over just the northern quarter of the north façade. The east and west gable ends had a high, shaped profile of terra cotta with a centered 20-pane window and keystone in a brick wall. The shingles were of either slate or tile. On the northern façade there were three pedimented terra cotta dormers with 20-pane windows. Between this structure and the stairwell was a removable/adjustable wood pergola. The remainder of the roof had a brass railing along the edge and light posts. A brick structure or wall extended above the roofline along the south façade. The original roof surface was concrete. According to local residents, the roof

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<sup>7</sup> Silver, personal communication, 2005. Batchelor, personal communication, 2005. Richmond, personal communication, 2005.

<sup>8</sup> Batchelor, personal communication, 2005. Richmond, personal communication, 2005.

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served as a social gathering space/garden and many dances were held there. It is unknown when the roof structure was torn down or why. Local lore has stated that the roof was damaged during the F5 tornado that struck Murphysboro in 1925; but period photographs from the 1930s and 1940s show the roof features intact. A review of the Elks' Meeting Minutes to 1930 did not reveal a date for the roof's removal, but it is known that the roof was gone by 1975. An interview with an Elks member, Mr. Bruce Richmond, revealed that the Elks tried to use the roof for social functions in either the late 1940s or 1950s, but there was opposition to their use and the roof's use was short lived. The roof was probably removed sometime after that. The removal of the original roof does not impair the integrity of the remainder of the building. The building's hallmark Classical Revival design and detailing is intact.<sup>9</sup>

The interior retains its original design and features and has received only minor renovations since its construction.<sup>10</sup> The majority of these took place in 1999-2000. Renovations during that period included repainting the interior rooms, refinishing the ballroom floor, updating bathrooms, replacing the basement walls with drywall, and replacing the basement linoleum floor with a wood floor. In 2004-2005 the current owner updated the bathrooms, added a second floor fire exit, and installed a more efficient heating/cooling system on the roof. The changes to the building have not compromised its Classical Revival detailing and its historic integrity in location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling.

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<sup>9</sup> BPOE No. 572. Elks Minute Books, 1905-1930, 3 volumes. Ms., BPOE No. 572, Murphysboro, Illinois. Sanborn Map Company. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map: January 1927. NY: Sanborn Map Company. Richmond, Bruce, personal communication, 2005.

<sup>10</sup> Silver, personal communication, 2005. Batchelor, personal communication, 2005.

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Statement of Significance

Summary:

The Murphysboro Elks Lodge in Murphysboro, Jackson County, Illinois, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, as a locally significant example of Classical Revival architecture. Its period of significance is 1916-1917, when it was built. The characteristic features of this architectural style are symmetry; masonry surface; porch/portico supported by classical columns or pilasters (often colossal); doors with elaborate, decorative surrounds; cornices with moderate overhang, dentils, and wide frieze band; and rectangular windows with lintels and double-hung sashes. Classical decorative motifs include acanthus leaves, fret border, laurel wreaths, scrolls, egg and dart moldings, and stylized flowers.<sup>11</sup> The Murphysboro Elks Lodge is one of only a few noteworthy Classical Revival buildings built during the town's critical period of growth and decline between 1888 and 1930.

The classical style of architecture had been popular in the United States since its inception; the classical style heralding the republican ideals of the founding fathers. Classical elements were first used in the Georgian (1700-1780), Adam (1780-1820), Early Classical Revival (1770-1830), and Greek Revival (1825-1860) styles. After the romantic architectural styles of the Victorian period, there was a resurgence of republican idealism and interest in the country's roots beginning in 1893 with the World Columbian Exposition in Chicago. A classical theme was used throughout the exposition and "correct historical interpretations of European styles" was stressed.<sup>12</sup> The exposition propelled a renewal in the country's early colonial and classical styles. Many of the top architects participated in the design of the exposition buildings, and their works were widely publicized and copied on a smaller scale. Beginning in 1895, the Classical Revival style was born and became popular for both domestic and commercial buildings until 1950. The Classical Revival style fused elements from the earlier Georgian, Adam, Early Classical Revival and Greek Revival styles together into an eclectic mixture of classical elements.<sup>13</sup> The style's greatest utilization was in public and commercial buildings, especially between 1900 and 1920.

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<sup>11</sup> McAlester, Virginia and Lee McAlester. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1998. Pages 343-344. Blumenson, John J.G. Identifying American Architecture: A Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms, 1600-1945. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 1981. Page 69. Whiton, Sherrill. Interior Design and Decoration. New York: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1974. Pages 17-44.

<sup>12</sup> McAlester and McAlester, page 319.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid, pages 343-346.



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Some of the most important Classical Revival buildings of this period were built by well-known architects: Charles B. Atwood's Fine Arts Building at the 1893 Exposition (now Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry), George Cary's New York State Building at the 1901 Pan-American Exhibition; and McKim, Mead and White's Pennsylvania Station in New York City. All types of public buildings were built in this style including presidential memorials (McKinley Memorial in Ohio and Lincoln Memorial in Washington, both completed in 1917), fraternal halls and temples (Masonic Temple of the Scottish Rite in Washington, 1910-1916), museums (Minneapolis Institute of Arts and Cleveland Museum of Art, 1912 and 1916), local government buildings, county courthouses, and universities (MIT, 1912).<sup>14</sup>

The Murphysboro Elks Lodge, built in 1916-1917, is a prime example of the eclectic Classical Revival style on a small scale. Its main façades (north and east) feature many of the key classical elements: symmetry, porch supported by columns, elaborate door surround, linteled windows with keystones, classical fret, fruit garlands, acanthus leaves, ornate scrolls, a cornice with dentils and a wide frieze, Palladian windows, and (in its original design) a side-gabled roof with pedimented dormers.

The Elks Lodge was identified in the Illinois Structures Survey as being individually significant. The Jackson County Courthouse (1927) and the former United States Post Office (1911-1912) are the two other Classical Revival buildings in Murphysboro that were identified in this survey as being individually significant. Both buildings are different from the Elks Lodge in that they feature colossal two-story classical columns and heavy cornices. The interior of the post office, however, has been significantly altered. Additional Classical Revival buildings include the Murphysboro Masonic Lodge (1920), Murphysboro Middle School (1922), and the First Christian Church (1926). These buildings exhibit the Classical Revival features of columns, fret borders, stained glass fanlights, keystones, and cornices although major Classical elements were removed from the Murphysboro Middle School during renovations. The same architect as the Elks Lodge, Rudolph Z. Gill, designed the Masonic Lodge and a portion of the Murphysboro Middle School. The architect of the First Christian Church is undocumented, but similarities between the building and the Masonic Lodge (very similar recessed two-story columns) suggest the architect may have been Gill. Compared to these properties, the Murphysboro Elks Lodge has more ornate detail, especially the scroll brackets and the terra cotta architrave trim and

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<sup>14</sup> Whiffen, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1992. Pages 167-171.

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entablature. In addition, the interior of the Elks Lodge has been cautiously renovated which has helped preserve its integrity.

History:

Murphysboro history begins in the fall of 1843 with the donation of 20 acres of land from Dr. John Logan to form a new county seat for Jackson County. Construction of a brick courthouse on today's Walnut Street began in 1844. A second frame courthouse was built in 1855 and served the county until 1894, when a third Romanesque courthouse was built. This courthouse was used until 1927, when a fourth Classical Revival courthouse was built. This courthouse is still in use today,<sup>15</sup> just two blocks east of the Murphysboro Elks Lodge.

The blocks surrounding the courthouse and along both sides of Walnut Street became the town's business district. Growth was slow during the early and mid nineteenth century. After the Civil War, business began to increase and in 1867 Murphysboro became a city. Some of the early industries that helped propel Murphysboro's boom during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries include several coal companies, a foundry, mills, bottling works, brewery, Mobile and Ohio railroad yards, brick manufacturers, and a shoe manufacturer. Key to the city's growth was its railroads. The Mobile and Ohio Railroad established their railroad yards in the city in 1888 along 17<sup>th</sup> Street. The Illinois Central Railroad had a depot and line along 13<sup>th</sup> street, just a half block northeast of the Murphysboro Elks Lodge. There was also an electric interurban line that ran east to west along Walnut Street, in front of the Elks Lodge, and then east seven miles into Carbondale.<sup>16</sup>

With the increase in industries and population, there was a large increase in retail stores and services. Murphysboro's business district offered every product a resident needed: clothing, produce, baked goods, banking facilities, medicines, ice, restaurants, hotels, furniture, opera/theater houses, and a confectionary. The 1300 block of Walnut Street, where the Elks Lodge was built in 1916-1917, was at the heart of the city's retail district. Located only two blocks west of the county courthouse and at the principal station of the interurban line, this block featured an array of stores, cafes, and theaters. At the turn of the century, the buildings were mostly wood frame, but by the 1910s and 1920s a modern combination of brick and frame one

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<sup>15</sup> Jones, Michael et al. Murphysboro, Illinois 150 Years: A Pictorial History 1843-1993. Murphysboro: Jackson County Historical Society, 1994. Fishback, Woodson W. A History of Murphysboro, Illinois 1843-1982. Brandon, Mississippi: Quail Ridge Press, 1982.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

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and two part commercial buildings, most with window storefronts, were built. Walnut Street was brick paved by 1922. Some of the businesses located in the 1300 block of Walnut in 1924 were the Askins Clock Company, Stallas Beauty Shoppe, New Dreamland Confectionary, Horsfield Printing Company, Harrisons O K Drug Store, Herrin Supply Company, J C Penney Company, The Home Appliance Store, Prudential and Metropolitan Life Insurance companies, Southern Illinois Quarry and Construction Company, ISCO Bautz Company, Oldani Restaurant, Airdome Theater, Liberty Theater, Stiritz Bakery, Morgan Music Company, State Bank of Murphysboro, and the offices of eleven doctors.<sup>17</sup>

The Murphysboro Elks Lodge first formed in Murphysboro in 1900. The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is a relatively young organization, compared to other fraternal organizations such as the Masons. Charles A. S. Vivian, an actor/entertainer, and a group of his colleagues officially organized the order in 1868. They organized the order in reaction to the death of a friend, who left his widow and children destitute. Thus, the purpose of the order became twofold: a social organization providing good fellowship for its members, and a charitable organization serving those in need, especially their members and families. Their cardinal principles were "Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity." With a deep spirit of patriotism, the Elks seek to do good works without fanfare. A few of their good works include creation of Flag Day, aiding members and their families in distress, raising money for disabled children, food and clothing for homeless and poor, and aiding veterans and veterans hospitals.<sup>18</sup>

The order grew rapidly during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Lodges began to be chartered in 1871. The Murphysboro Elks Lodge was chartered on July 12, 1900, as No. 572. Little is known about the earliest years of the Murphysboro Elks Lodge. Reviews of the Elks' minute books from April 1905 through April 1930 show a rapidly growing organization. In 1905, there were approximately 33 members. The club reached a high point of 573 members in 1921, and by 1929 there were 398 members. During the 1940s there was a waiting list of gentlemen wanting to become members.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> Ibid. Hoffman Directories. W. H. Hoffman's City Directory of Murphysboro. Quincy, Ill.: Hoffman Directories, 1924.

<sup>18</sup> Phoenixmasonry Masonic Museum. "Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks." [www.phoenixmasonry.org/masonicmuseum/fraternalism/elks.htm](http://www.phoenixmasonry.org/masonicmuseum/fraternalism/elks.htm), 2004. Totse.com. "What it Means to be an Elk." [www.totse.com/en/conspiracy/secret\\_societies/mason13.html](http://www.totse.com/en/conspiracy/secret_societies/mason13.html), 2005. BPOE Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge. "The Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks: How it all Began." [www.elks2477.com](http://www.elks2477.com), 2005.

<sup>19</sup> BPOE No. 572, Elks Minute Books. Richmond, personal communication, 2005.

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The first recorded discussion by the Elks of building a new home was on March 26, 1909, when it was decided that "a committee of five be appointed to devise ways and means for the building of an Elks Hall and Club Rooms." At the time, they were renting space above a drug store east of the courthouse square. On March 1, 1911, the Building Committee revealed a plan to devise as capital stock company worth \$50,000 and divide it into 500 shares worth \$100 each. The shares were available to members only, and no individual member could own more than 20 shares. Members immediately subscribed \$4,300 toward shares. In 1913 plans for a building became firmer. Dues were raised to \$9.00, with \$3.00 going towards the building fund. On June 18, 1913, the lots were purchased on Walnut Street from E. J. Stephenson for \$7,000. A loan was taken out to pay for the lots. Plans and specifications for the building began to be drawn up in 1913. On October 13, 1913, there was some debate on whether the building should be an exclusive Elks home or house businesses on the first floor. At that time, it was decided that business rooms should be in place on the first floor. On May 27, 1914, it was recorded in the minute book that they "approved plans and specifications for the new Elks Building and outlined the plan for raising the necessary funds to erect and furnish the same." On July 17, 1916, the Elks authorized the borrowing of \$20,000 from the Southern Illinois Building and Loan Association and additional funds from individual members.<sup>20</sup>

The first record of the architect's name appears in the minute book on August 24, 1916. The architect was Rudolph Zerse Gill. Gill, also known as "Pop," was born in Urbana, Illinois, on May 17, 1866. He was the son of a carpenter, Zachariah Gill. His father moved to Urbana in 1853 and was a leading carpenter/contractor during the mid-nineteenth century. His father was also a Knight Templar Mason. R. Z. Gill graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in architecture in 1887. After graduation, he worked in Chicago for Holabird & Roche from 1887 to 1889, and then worked in Knoxville, Tennessee, from 1889 to 1893. While in Knoxville, he worked as a general contractor of public works. He designed buildings for several large companies (American Association of London, East Tennessee Land Company, Lenoir City Land Company), which planned towns such as Middleboro, Dillon Springs, Harriman, and Lenoir City. He also designed buildings in Knoxville and Asheville and Raleigh, North Carolina. In October of 1893 he moved back to Urbana and married Nellie Maxwell of Knoxville. They had two sons, Rudolph Zerse (born 1894) and Fred Maxwell (born 1899). During this period he designed the Urbana High School, Monticello City Hall, Danville City Hall, Paxton Poor Asylum, Hotel Douglas at Tuscola, and many residences and store buildings in Urbana. Two residences he designed were his own home at 501 South Busey and the Lindley House at 312

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<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

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West Green. The Lindley House, an 1895 Queen Anne, is now a bed and breakfast and on the Urbana register of local architectural landmarks. Gill also served as city engineer and treasurer from 1896 to 1898 and was a member of the Elks, Masons, and Knights of Pythias.<sup>21</sup>

Gill moved to Murphysboro about 1910-1911. He transferred his Elks membership to Murphysboro on March 29, 1911. His office was later located directly across the street from the Elks Lodge. He is believed to have been the architect of the Murphysboro Masonic Lodge (1920), a portion of the Murphysboro Middle School (1922), Riverside Park Band Shell (1938), Riverside Park Baseball Grandstand (1938), and Riverside Park Gazebo (1920s/1930s). Work Progress Administration (WPA) workers built the band shell and grandstand. Gill designed countless other buildings in Southern Illinois, but their documentation has not been found. He was granted a divorce from Nellie Gill in 1919. His second wife was a woman named Josephine (last name and marriage date unknown); she died in October of 1946. In 1947 he married Edith Graff. While in Murphysboro he continued his membership in the Elks, as well as the Masons and Rotary Club. He attended Methodist Episcopal churches. He died in Murphysboro at the age of 85 on November 4, 1951, and was buried in the Mt. Hope Cemetery in Urbana.<sup>22</sup>

On August 24, 1916, the Elks paid Gill \$873.60 for his design work. A few weeks later, the Elks noted in their minute book that they "authorized transfer to Building Committee of \$2,000 including \$873.60 already drawn in favor of Architect R. Z. Gill and \$559.44 drawn in favor of E. V. Cotter, in payment of premium on bond of contractor L. W. Peters." On Thursday, October 12, 1916, the following was recorded: "On this date the cornerstone of the new Elk's Home was laid without ceremony. Within the stone was placed a list of the officers and committees of the Lodge, a roster of its members, coins of the current year, and copies of the Independent and Republican Era of this date." The minutes of 1917 give some information on the interior design and use of the building. During the early months of 1917, a furniture committee was established and instructed to use their best judgment on selecting new furnishings. On May 17, 1917, "Brother Wisely [Wisely Greenhouse] was instructed to plant moon flowers in tubs on the roof

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<sup>21</sup> BPOE No. 572, Elks Minute Books. S. J. Clarke Publishing Company. The Biographical Record of Champaign County, Illinois. Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1900. Pages 60-61. University of Illinois Archives: RZ Gill Alumni File. Alumni Association Files, 2 February 1919; News Gazette Obituary 5 November 1951. City of Urbana Historic Preservation Commission. "The Lindley House Nomination." Urbana, Illinois: City of Urbana Historic Preservation Commission, 1999.

<sup>22</sup> BPOE No. 572, Elks Minute Books. "R. Z. Gill Dies at 85." Obituary Files, Jackson County Historical Society, Murphysboro, Ill. Jones et al., Murphysboro, Illinois, 94.

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of the new home, so that they will train over the pergola." Flower boxes were also designed for the second-story porch.<sup>23</sup>

The Elks may have rented or owned a neighboring building to use as a club room. The 1924 City Directory notes the location of an Elks Club Room at 1325 Walnut and the Elks Home at 1329 Walnut. The minute books do not refer clearly to a separate club facility. Sanborn fire insurance maps from 1927 show two locations as 1325 Walnut (including the present location). The minute books do record the presence of bowling alleys and billiard tables, which may have been located in the club. Bruce Richmond, who joined the Elks in 1946, remembers hearing about bowling lanes once being located in the basement. In addition, the minute books use a variety of names to refer to the different rooms in the building(s): lodge room, clubroom, ladies parlor, library, and ballroom. It has been assumed and confirmed that the lodge room and ballroom are the same, located on the second floor. The library appears to be the main event room on the first floor, and the ladies parlor is the western parlor on the first floor.<sup>24</sup>

The first Elks meeting was held in the building on July 26, 1917. At that time a large mounted elk head was given to the lodge from the Carbondale Elks Lodge. This elk head would hang in the ballroom below the clock niche up until 1948 at least. The official dedication of the Elks Lodge occurred on Wednesday, November 28, 1917, "with impressive ceremonies." On March 28, 1918, a resolution was offered in appreciation of the efforts of retiring Exalted Ruler R. L. Hagler. Included in the resolution was the following sentiment: "Whereas, largely through his [Brother Hagler's] efforts are we able today to enjoy this beautiful building that will be a monument to the progressive spirit of the Lodge for many years to come." On March 22, 1919, a final total of the building's cost was submitted for record: \$39,700.00. This was paid for through a \$20,000 bank loan, \$17,000 from members, \$2,000 from lodge treasury, and \$700 from the contractor. R. Z. Gill was paid a total of \$1,273.60, and the contractor, L. W. Peters, was paid \$24,844. Over \$7,000 was spent on interior decorations. On that same date, a number of building defects needing attention were noted. These defects included malfunctioning front door lock and stops, broken window latches, leaks in roof drain box and ceilings causing floor damage, poor drainage in basement shower baths, and wood trim pulling away from wall surface. In addition, it

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<sup>23</sup> BPOE No. 572, Elks Minute Books.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid. Hoffman Directories, City Directory of Murphysboro, 1924. Richmond, personal communication, 2005. Sanborn Map Company, Fire Insurance Map 1927.

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was noted on April 13, 1922, that the roof needed to be repaired “for the preservation of the building.”<sup>25</sup>

The most pivotal moment in Murphysboro’s history occurred on March 18, 1925. At approximately 2:30 pm that afternoon, an F5 tornado (known as the Great Tri-State Tornado; one of the top 10 worst storms in U.S. history) unexpectedly hit the city. Within minutes, 234 people died and 70 percent of the town was damaged or destroyed. The tornado traveled from Missouri to Indiana, a total of 219 miles, and killed 695 people. The winds are thought to have been in excess of 300 miles per hour. The hardest hit areas were north and northwest of the downtown, where entire neighborhoods were completely leveled. Raging fires during the evening hours threatened remaining buildings. The downtown sustained damage from both the winds and small fire outbreaks.<sup>26</sup>

On the one-year anniversary of the tornado, *The Daily Independent* published a special “Reconstruction Edition.” The role the Elks and the Elks Lodge played during the tornado and its aftermath is recounted in several columns.

Within an hour after the big storm the Elks home was made an emergency dressing station and then became an emergency hospital. The doctors attended to the wounded brought into the home, and by nighttime scores had been treated there and cots and pallets contained other scores of injured. The Elks home also became headquarters for the citizens’ committee that night and remained so until the Red Cross had taken over all relief work. In the first few days following the storm all activities were directed from the Elks home, each department functioning through its headquarters there [including Illinois National Guard]. Many truckloads of supplies were stored and issued from the Elks. The building was not greatly damaged by the storm.<sup>27</sup>

The Red Cross later set up headquarters elsewhere, but when they had to vacate those quarters in October of 1925, the Elks offered them use of the basement until their work was finished in February of 1926. The Elks also secured donations for relief efforts: \$3,000 from the Grand Lodge and \$4,000 from Illinois lodges. Seven Elks members died in the tornado; each of their

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<sup>25</sup> BPOE No. 572, *Elks Minute Books*.

<sup>26</sup> Jones et al., *Murphysboro, Illinois*, 104. Fishback, *A History of Murphysboro*, 202-209. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. “1925 Tri-State Tornado Web Page,” [www.crh.noaa.gov/pah/1925.html](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/pah/1925.html), 2001.

<sup>27</sup> *The Daily Independent*. “Reconstruction Edition.” Murphysboro, Illinois: 18 March 1926. Section 6, Page 7.

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widows was given \$150. The first minute book entry after the storm was on April 3. The meeting was held in City Hall because the "Lodge Room and Club being given over to relief purposes since the disastrous storm which devastated our city on March 18." The damage sustained by the Elks Lodge is unclear. No mention of damage is recorded immediately after the tornado. On September 24, 1925, it was recorded that a new hardwood floor was being laid in the lodge room (ballroom). A year later, on September 10, 1926, a committee was instructed to "investigate fire loss, and also the damage to fixtures, of March 18, 1925." On May 12, 1927, the lack of insurance payment for "fire and tornado loss, including damage to Lodge room" was noted. A final report on the state of insurance payments was given on August 4, 1927, stating the Elks "received more than they should have collected on account of the co-insurance clause but the damage to furnishings and the damage done by fire has not been collected as no proof of loss was filed." In addition to some building damage, the tornado also affected the growth of the Elks organization. Over the next four years, membership dropped from 536 at the time of the tornado to 398 in October of 1929. Part of the decline was due to the severe loss of business Murphysboro suffered during the tornado. The Mobile & Ohio railroad yards, in particular, did not rebuild and many jobs were lost. The cost of rebuilding homes, medical payments, a decrease in business profits, and the 1927 depression probably hit Elks members hard. During one meeting in April of 1929, 34 members were suspended for non-payment of dues. Then in October of 1929, the Great Depression began.<sup>28</sup>

The Murphysboro Elks Lodge continued to occupy the building for the next 60 years. In July of 1994 they moved into a new metal-sided pole building on the south side of town. The original lodge was sold to Nancy Colp in July of 1994. She opened an antique mall in the building known as "As Time Goes By Antique Mall." She shared title of the building with Andrea (Colp) Boucher until 1998, when Boucher sold it to Alireza Irani and Elaheh Naveri. Irani undertook an extensive renovation of the building with the purpose of opening a restaurant in the basement and renting the upper floors for social functions. Unfortunately, financial difficulties forced him to sell the building. The building was sold to Union Planters Bank in January of 2002. The bank then sold the building to Southern Illinois Properties, Inc., in November of 2003. Southern Illinois Properties has completed additional renovations and now rents the building for social and educational functions.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> BPOE No. 572, Elks Minute Books.

<sup>29</sup> Jackson County Deed Records: Book 850, Page 482; Book 855, Page 195; Book 971, Page 471; Book 984, Page 1086; Book 2002, Page 2700; Book 2003, Page 61256. Jackson County Courthouse, Murphysboro, Ill. Silver, personal communication, 2005.



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In conclusion, the Murphysboro Elks Lodge is one of only a few noteworthy Classical Revival buildings in Murphysboro. Rudolph Z. Gill, an experienced architect whose work was well known in Champaign-Urbana and Knoxville, Tennessee, designed the building. Its period of significance is 1916-1917, a time when Murphysboro and the Elks were experiencing an impressive level of growth and optimism. The building showcases many Classical Revival architectural features such as symmetry; masonry surface; porch supported by classical columns; a door with an elaborate, decorative surround; a cornice with a moderate overhang, dentils, and wide frieze band; and rectangular windows with lintels and double-hung sashes. Classical decorative motifs include acanthus leaves, fret border, laurel wreaths, scrolls, egg and dart moldings, and stylized flowers. The Elks Lodge was identified in the Illinois Structures Survey as being individually significant, and the cautious renovation of past and current owners has preserved its integrity. The building's current status as an event center will solidify its position as a local architectural landmark and will allow the public to enjoy the building's architecture and history for years to come.

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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Section   10   Page  22 

**Murphysboro Elks Lodge, Jackson County, IL**

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

Forty-two (42) feet and seven (7) inches off the east end of Lots 2 and 3 in Block 25 in J. A. and T. M. Logan's 1<sup>st</sup> Addition to the City of Murphysboro, Illinois, as shown by the recorded Plat thereof in Book "R" of Deeds on Page 639 in the Recorder's Office of Jackson County, Illinois.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes the building and lot historically associated with the Murphysboro Elks Lodge and that maintains its historic integrity.

United States Department of the Interior  
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**CONTINUATION SHEET**

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**Photograph Labels**

Photograph

No.

1. Cynthia Baer (Photographer is the same for all 17 photographs)  
May 30, 2005  
Southern Illinois Properties, Inc. (Negative location is the same for all 17  
photographs)  
Northern façade, view from the north.
2. Detail of northern entrance, view from the north.  
July 17, 2005
3. Eastern façade, view from the southeast.  
July 17, 2005
4. Southern façade, view from the south.  
July 17, 2005
5. Western façade, view from the southwest.  
July 17, 2005
6. Basement, view from the south.  
July 17, 2005
7. First floor entrance, view from the south.  
May 30, 2005
8. Western first floor parlor, view from the southeast.  
July 17, 2005
9. Eastern first floor parlor, view from the southwest.  
May 30, 2005
10. Detail of stained glass window in eastern first floor parlor, view from the south.  
July 17, 2005

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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**CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Photographs Page 24 **Murphysboro Elks Lodge, Jackson County, IL**

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11. First floor hallway, view from the northwest.  
May 30, 2005
12. Interior stairwell, view from southwest.  
June 1, 2005
13. First floor event room, view from the north.  
May 30, 2005
14. First floor secondary event room, view from the northwest.  
July 17, 2005
15. Second floor ballroom, view from the south.  
June 1, 2005
16. Second floor ballroom, view from the north.  
May 30, 2005
17. Detail of stairwell tin ceiling between second floor and roof, view from below.  
July 17, 2005

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Photographs Page 25 **Murphysboro Elks Lodge, Jackson County, IL**

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Figure List, Supplemental Photographs

- Figure 1. Rudolph Z. Gill, Architect. (University of Illinois Archives: R Z Gill Alumni File)
- Figure 2. Ca. 1920s/1930s, Murphysboro Elks Lodge. (Jackson County Historical Society, Photo Collection Album 30)
- Figure 3. Top: March 1925, Murphysboro Elks Lodge after tornado. Lodge is on right.  
Bottom: March 1925, Tornado damage in Murphysboro. (Jackson County Historical Society, Tornado: March 18, 2005, 2004).
- Figure 4. Ca. 1940s/1950s, Murphysboro Elks Lodge. (Jackson County Historical Society, Photo Collection Album 30.3)
- Figure 5. Top: Ca. 1910s/1920s, Color postcard of Murphysboro Elks Lodge. Note discrepancy of window arrangement and door on eastern façade.  
Bottom: Ca. 1940s/1950s, Postcard of Walnut Street looking east from 14<sup>th</sup> Street. Lodge is on right. (Jackson County Historical Society, Photo Collection Album 22.1)
- Figure 6. Ca. 1940s, Dance in second floor ballroom of Murphysboro Elks Lodge. (Jackson County Historical Society, Photo Collection Album 33)
- Figure 7. Ca. 1940s, Dance in second floor ballroom of Murphysboro Elks Lodge. (Jackson County Historical Society, Photo Collection Album 33)
- Figure 8. 1948, Second floor ballroom of Murphysboro Elks Lodge. (Jackson County Historical Society, Photo Collection Album 33)
- Figure 9. 1948, Second floor ballroom of Murphysboro Elks Lodge. (Jackson County Historical Society, Photo Collection Album 33)
- Figure 10. 1971, Second floor ballroom of Murphysboro Elks Lodge. Note glass tile blocks in southern windows. (Murphysboro Elks Lodge #572, 100 Years Anniversary Celebration booklet, 2000)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

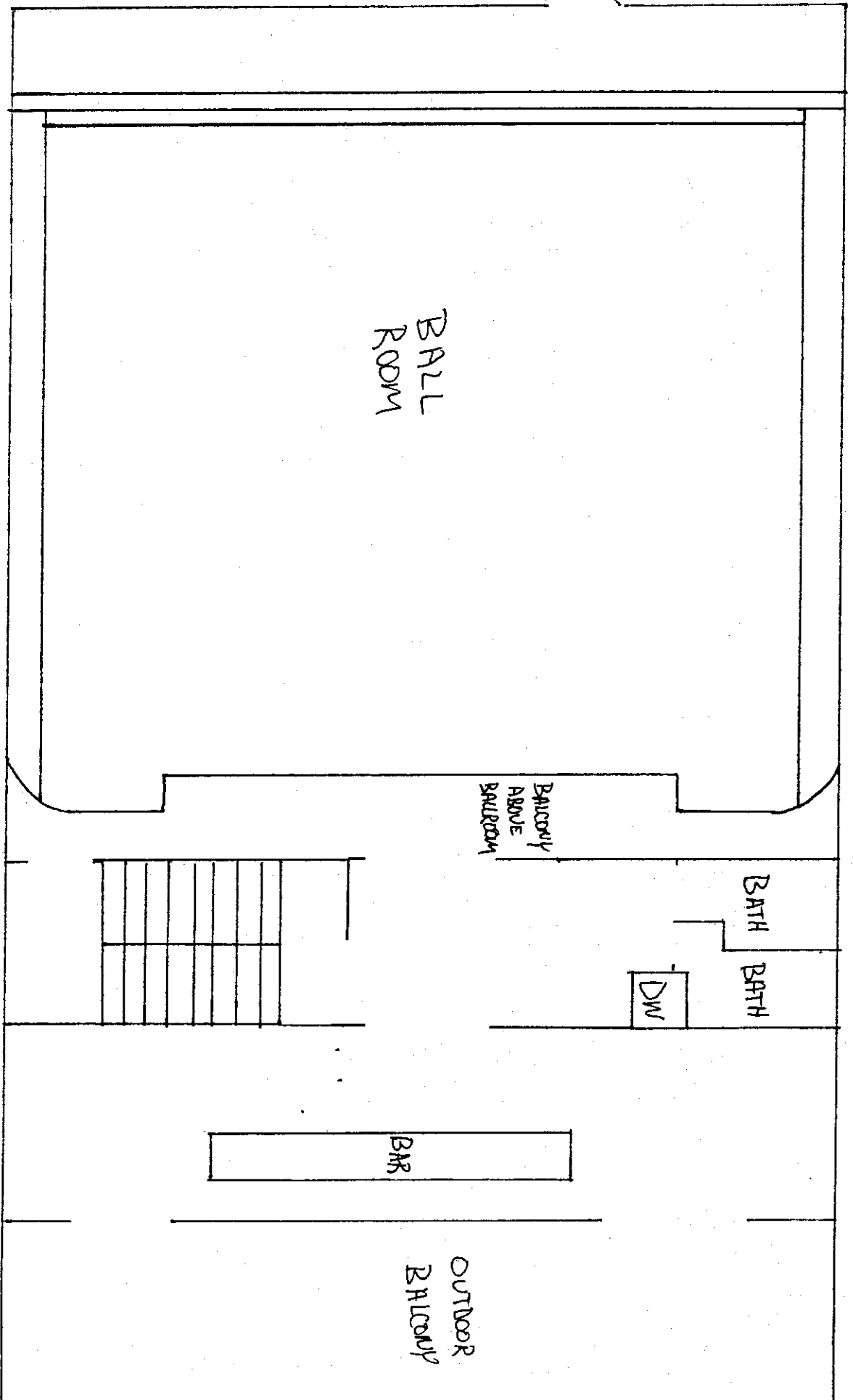
**CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section \_\_Photographs\_\_ Page 26 **Murphysboro Elks Lodge, Jackson County, IL**

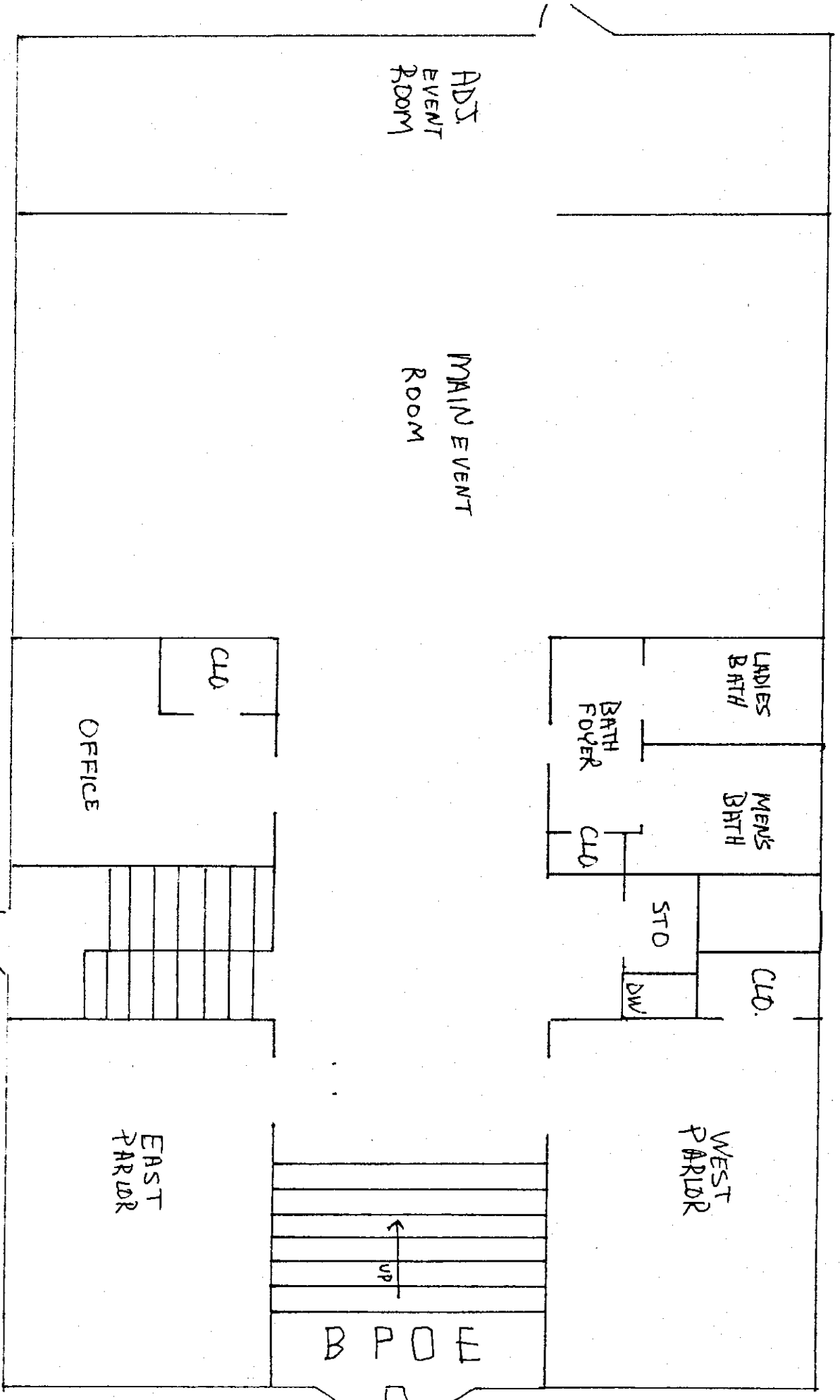
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- Figure 11. Ca. 1975, Murphysboro Elks Lodge. Note basement glass tile block windows and absence of original roof. Jackson County Historical Society, Photo Collection Album 30)
- Figure 12. Gill newspaper advertisement, 18 March 1926, Daily Independent.
- Figure 13. Queen Anne (1895) Lindley House, 312 W.Green St., Urbana. R. Z. Gill, Architect.
- Figure 14. Classical Revival (1920) Masonic Hall in Murphysboro. R. Z. Gill, Architect.
- Figure 15. Classical Revival (1927) Jackson County Courthouse, Murphysboro.
- Figure 16. Classical Revival (1911-12) former U.S. Post Office in Murphysboro.
- Figure 17. Classical Revival (1926) First Christian Church in Murphysboro.
- Figure 18. Classical Revival (1922) Murphysboro Middle School. R. Z. Gill, Architect.
- Figure 19. Riverside Park Band Shell (1938) in Murphysboro. R. Z. Gill, Architect.
- Figure 20. Riverside Park Grandstand (1938) in Murphysboro. R. Z. Gill, Architect.
- Figure 21. Riverside Park Gazebo (1920s/1930s) in Murphysboro. R. Z. Gill, Architect.





2ND FLOOR  
MURPHY'S BOHEMIAN ELKS LODGE  
JUNE, 2006



ADJ.  
EVENT  
ROOM

MAIN EVENT  
ROOM

LADIES  
BATH

MENS  
BATH

BATH  
FOYER

CLO.

STO

DW

CLO.

WEST  
PARLOR

EAST  
PARLOR

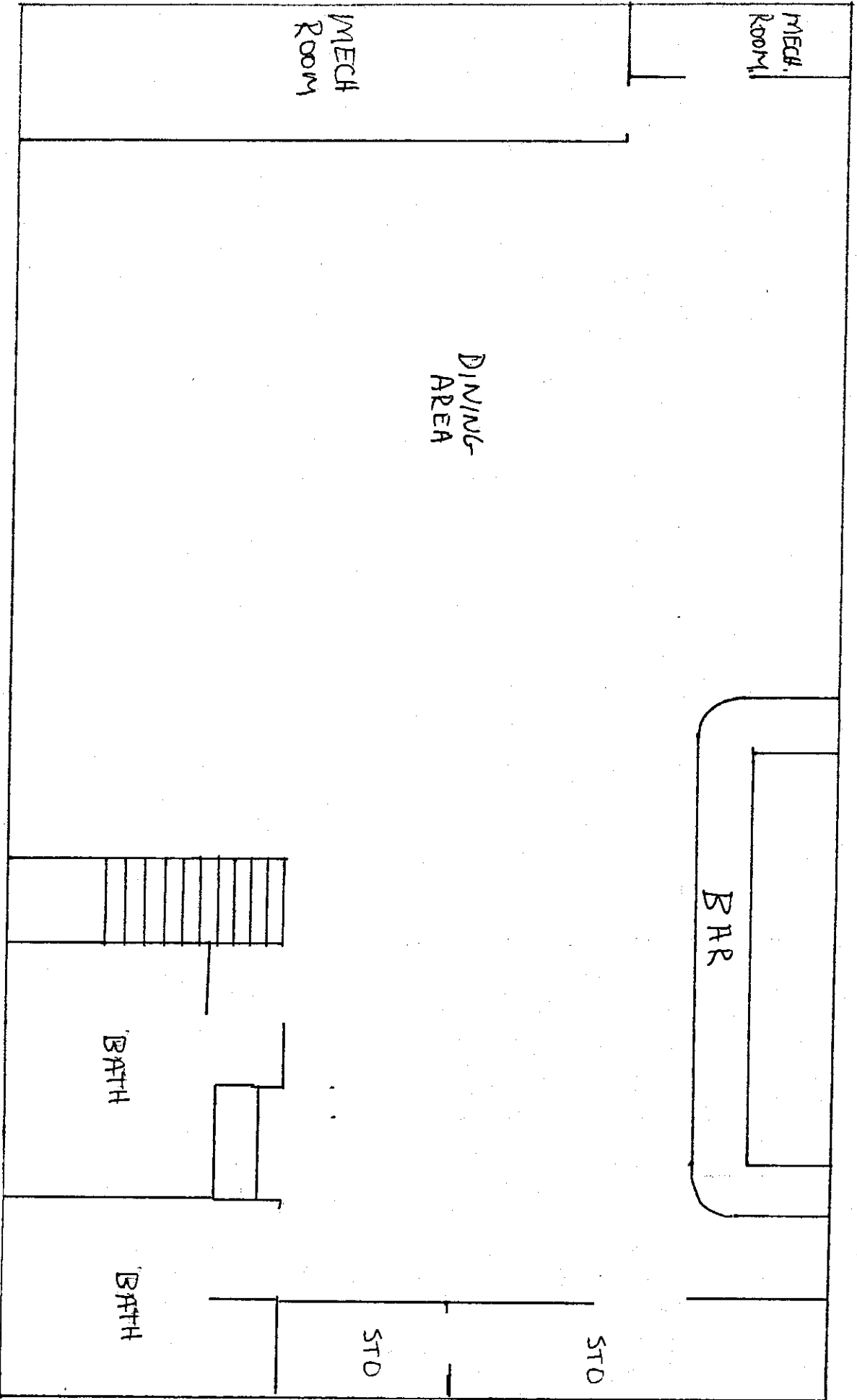
OFFICE

CLO.

B P O E

NS

1ST FLOOR  
MURPHYSBORO, IN ELKS LODGE  
JUNE 2005



BASEMENT  
MURPHY'S BLDG, I L ELKS LODGE  
JUNE, 2006



Figure 1. Rudolph Z. Gill, Architect. (University of Illinois Archives: R Z Gill Alumni File)



Figure 2. Ca. 1920s/1930s, Murphysboro Elks Lodge. (Jackson County Historical Society, Photo Collection Album 30)



**Walnut Street**  
Looking East From 14<sup>th</sup> Street

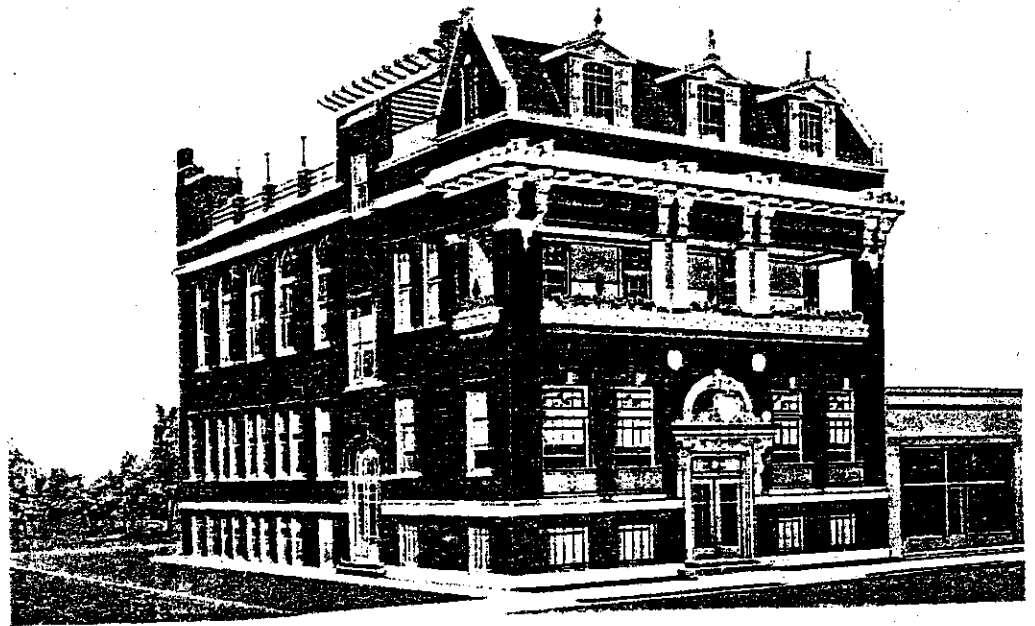


**Unidentified Area**

Figure 3. Top: March 1925, Murphysboro Elks Lodge after tornado. Lodge is on right. Bottom: March 1925, Tornado damage in Murphysboro. (Jackson County Historical Society, Tornado: March 18, 2005, 2004).



Figure 4. Ca. 1940s/1950s, Murphysboro Elks Lodge. (Jackson County Historical Society, Photo Collection Album 30.3)



ELKS' HOME. MURPHYSBORO. ILL.



Figure 5.

Top: Ca. 1910s/1920s, Color postcard of Murphysboro Elks Lodge. Note discrepancy of window arrangement and door on eastern façade.

Bottom: Ca. 1940s/1950s, Postcard of Walnut Street looking east from 14<sup>th</sup> Street. Lodge is on right. (Jackson County Historical Society, Photo Collection Album 22.1)



Figure 6. Ca. 1940s, Dance in second floor ballroom of Murphysboro Elks Lodge. (Jackson County Historical Society, Photo Collection Album 33)

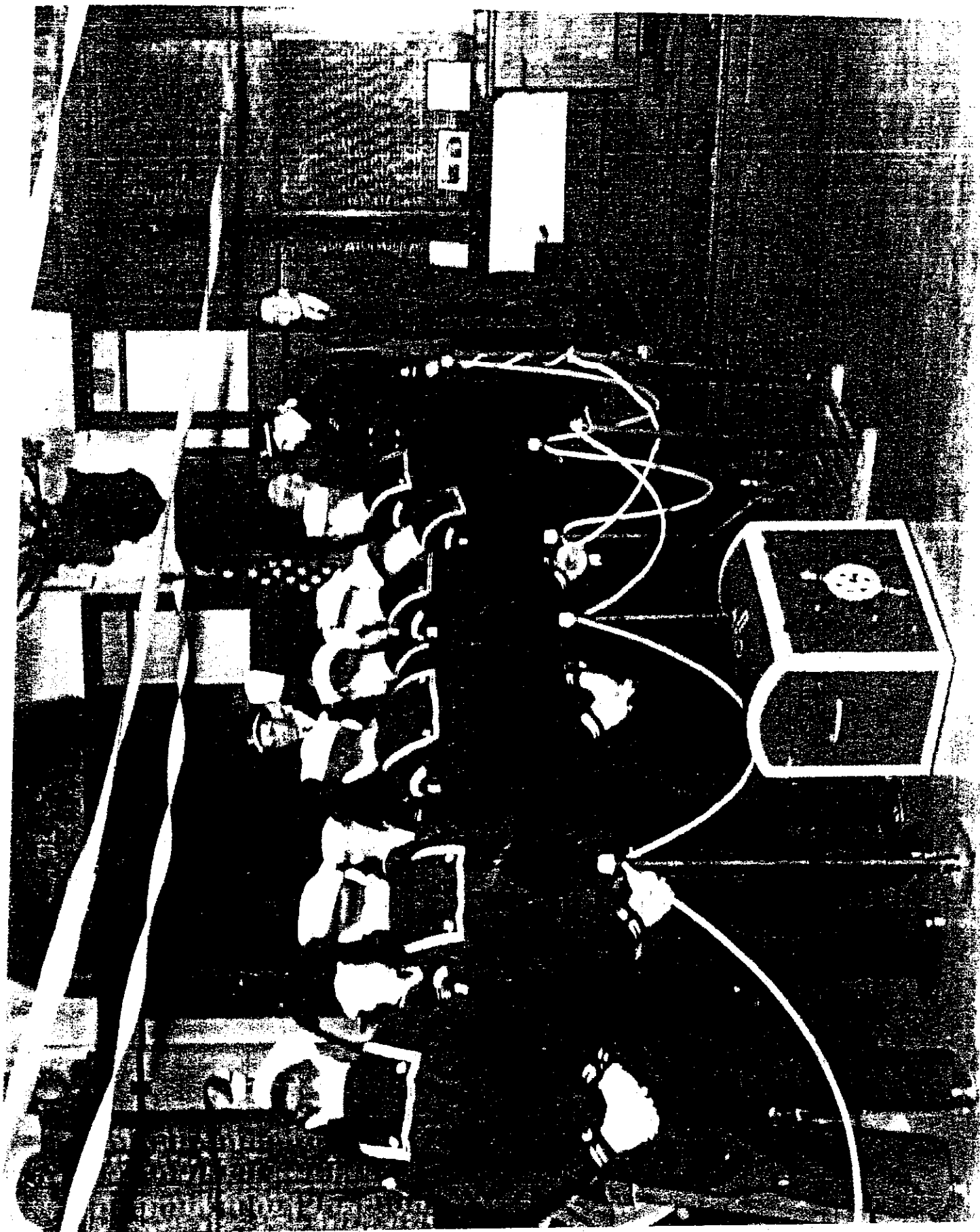


Figure 7. Ca. 1940s, Dance in second floor ballroom of Murphysboro Elks Lodge. (Jackson County Historical Society, Photo Collection Album 33)

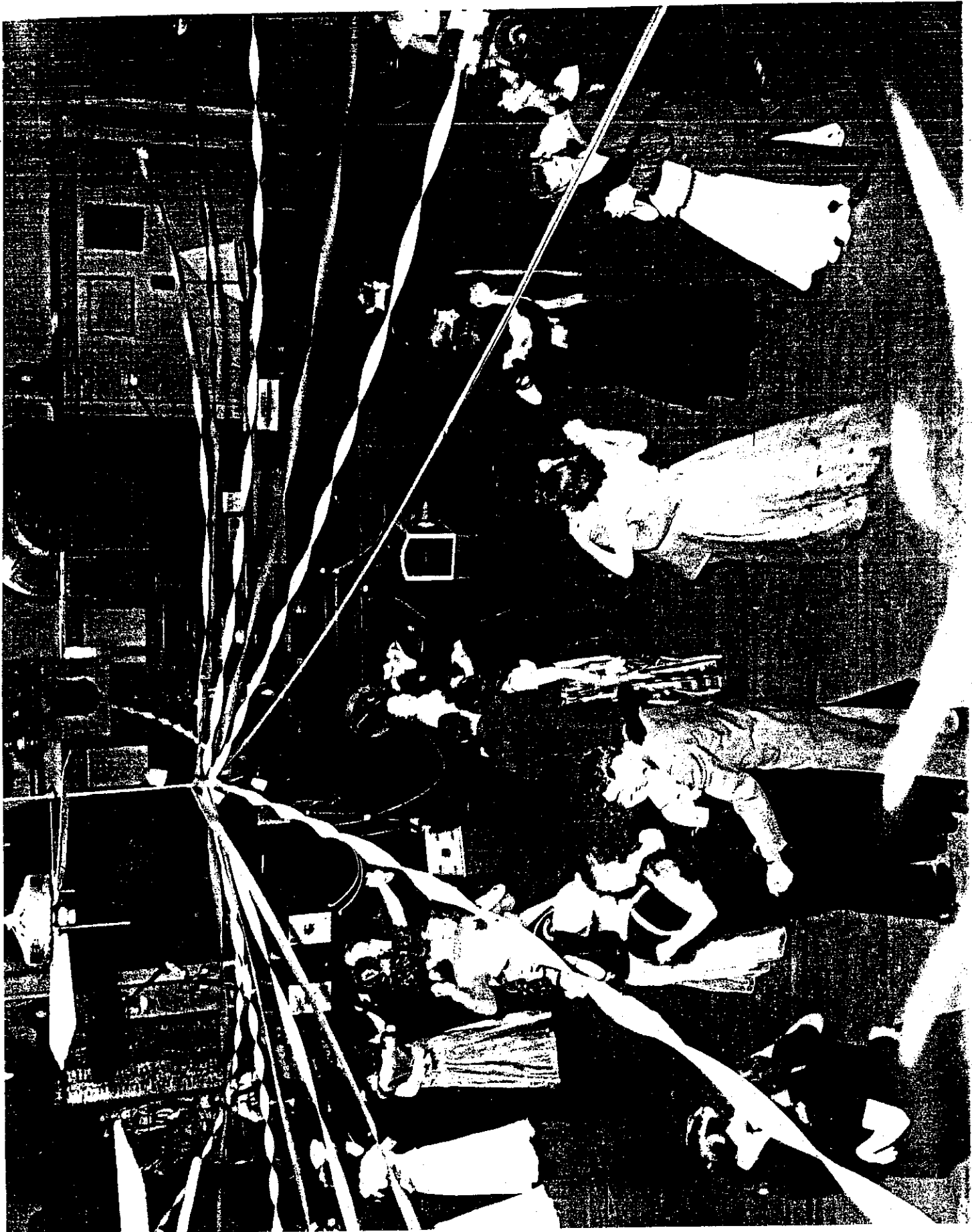


Figure 8. 1948, Second floor ballroom of Murphysboro Elks Lodge. (Jackson County Historical Society, Photo Collection Album 33)



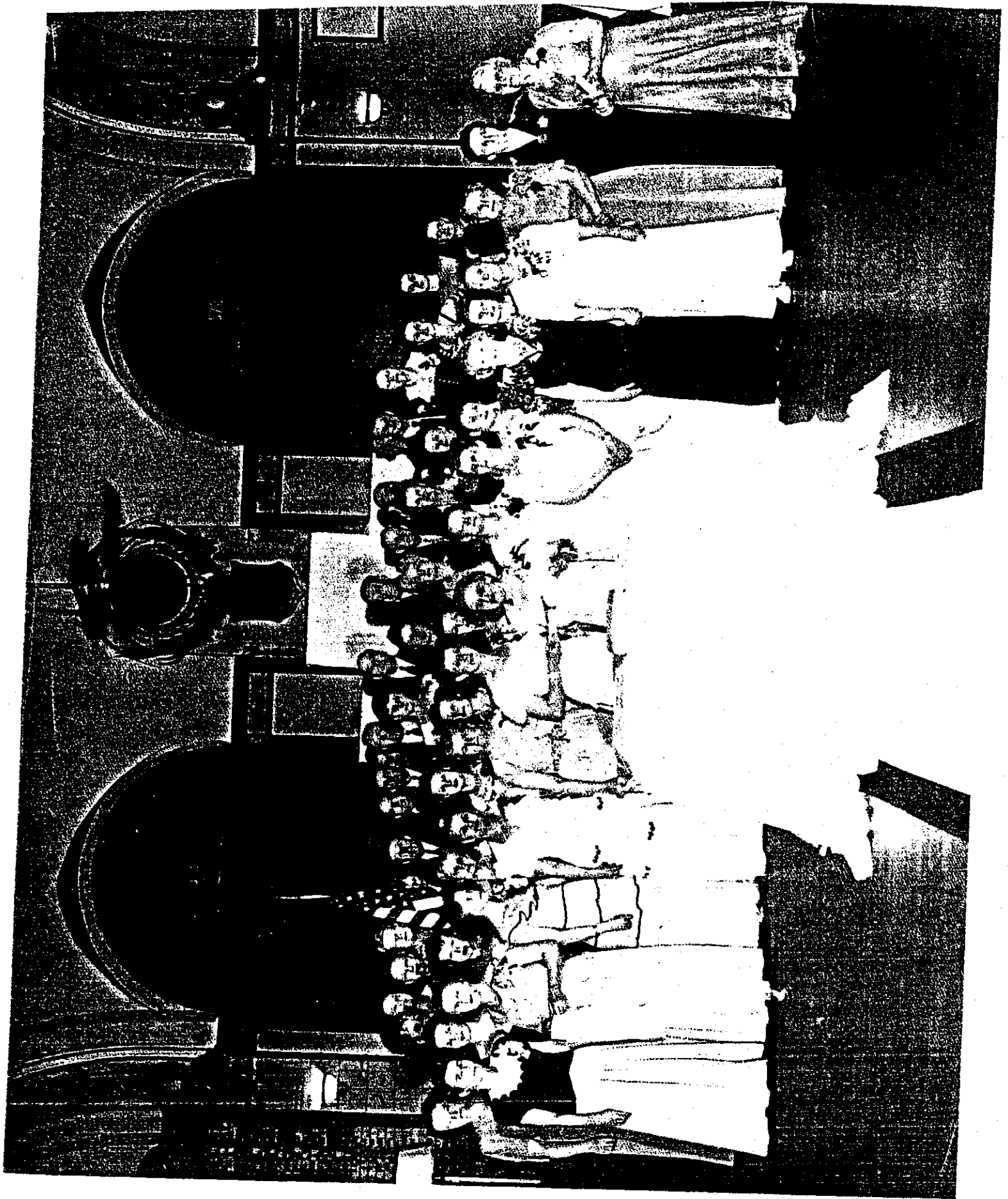


Figure 9. 1948, Second floor ballroom of Murphysboro Elks Lodge. (Jackson County Historical Society, Photo Collection Album 33)

Lodge #572 Ritual Team competed a second consecutive year,  
at the National Convention in New Orleans, July, 1971.



Figure 10. 1971, Second floor ballroom of Murphysboro Elks Lodge. Note glass tile blocks in southern windows. (Murphysboro Elks Lodge #572, 100 Years Anniversary Celebration booklet, 2000)



Figure 11. Ca. 1975, Murphysboro Elks Lodge. Note basement glass tile block windows and absence of original roof. Jackson County Historical Society, Photo Collection Album 30)

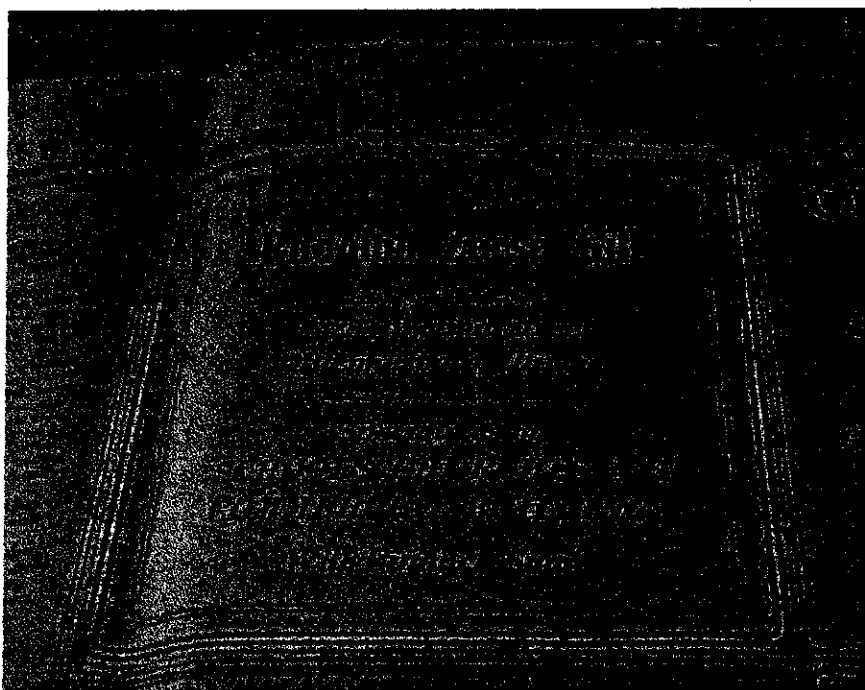


Fig. 12. Gill newspaper advertisement, 18 March 1926, Daily Independent.

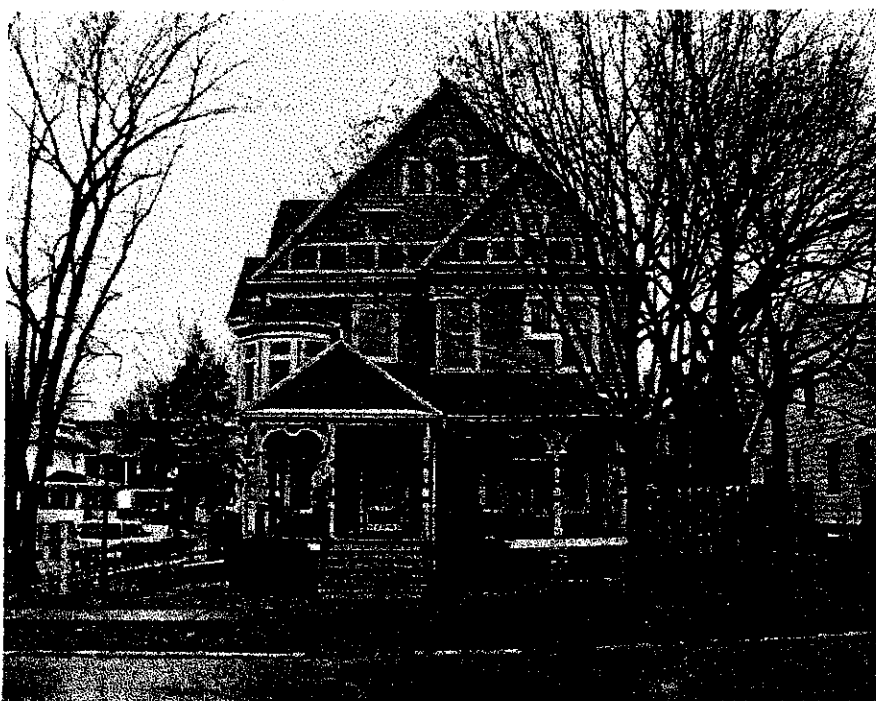


Fig. 13. Queen Anne (1895) Lindley House, 312 W. Green St., Urbana. R. Z. Gill, Architect.



Fig.14. Classical Revival (1920) Masonic Hall in Murphysboro. R. Z. Gill, Architect.

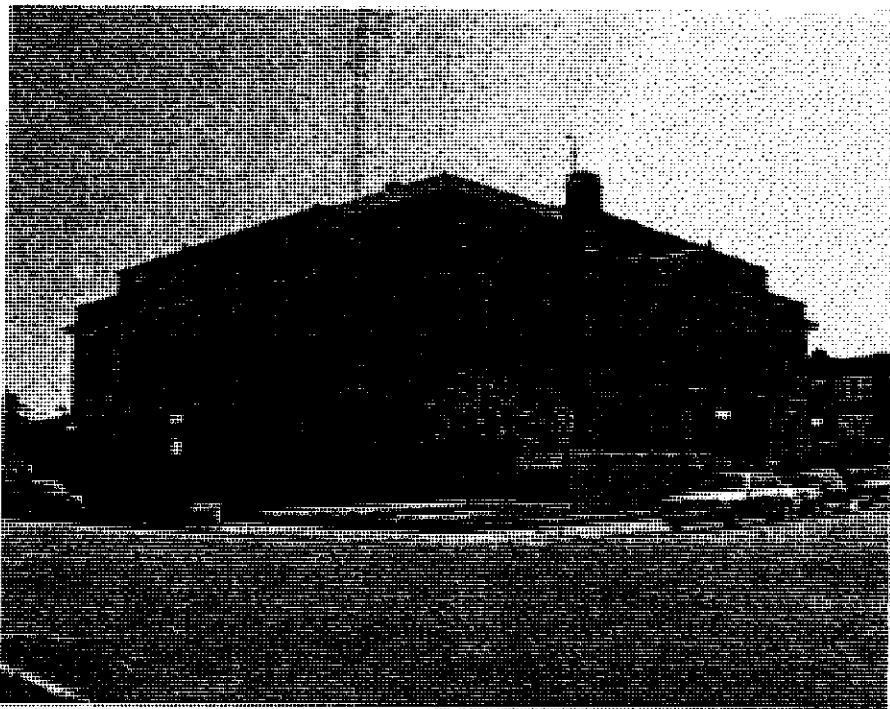


Fig.15. Classical Revival (1927) Jackson County Courthouse, Murphysboro.



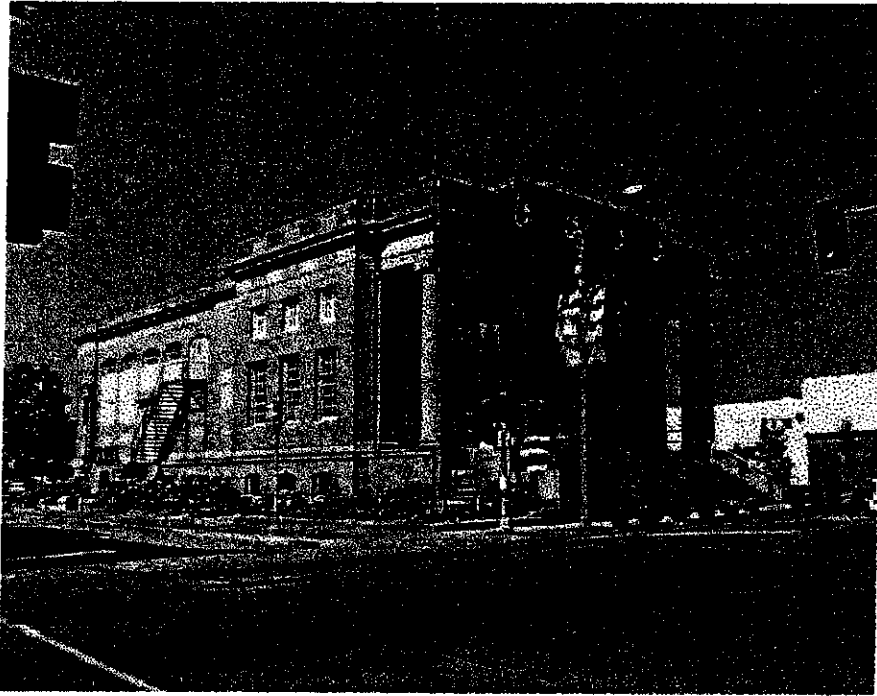


Fig. 16. Classical Revival (1911-12) former U.S. Post Office in Murphysboro.

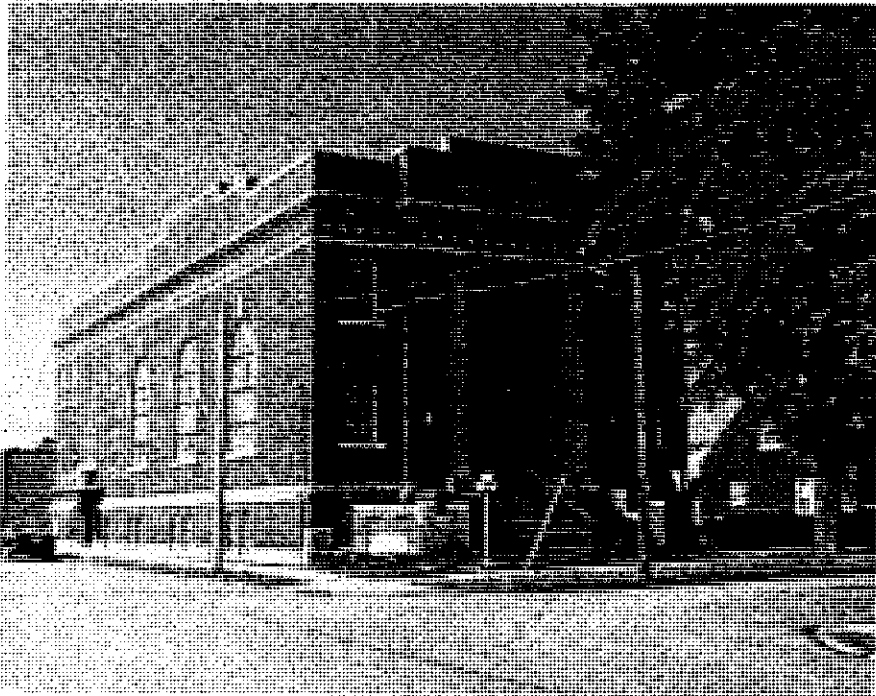


Fig. 17. Classical Revival (1926) First Christian Church in Murphysboro.



Fig. 18. Classical Revival (1922) Murphysboro Middle School. R. Z. Gill, Architect.

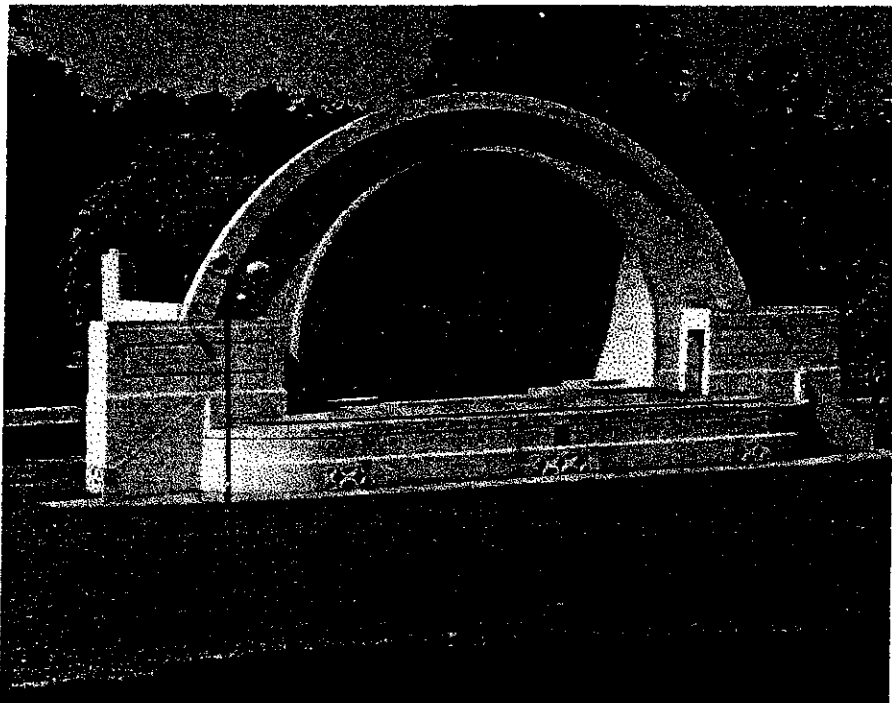


Fig. 19. Riverside Park Band Shell (1938) in Murphysboro. R. Z. Gill, Architect.



Fig. 20. Riverside Park Grandstand (1938) in Murphysboro. R. Z. Gill, Architect.



Fig. 21. Riverside Park Gazebo (ca. 1920s/1930s) in Murphysboro. R. Z. Gill, Architect.

Georgian, The,  
1005 S. Sixth St.,  
Champaign, 05001260,  
LISTED, 11/15/05

ILLINOIS, COOK COUNTY,  
Anderson--Carlson Building,  
2044-48 W. Farwell Ave.,  
Chicago, 05001259,  
LISTED, 11/15/05

ILLINOIS, COOK COUNTY,  
Pacesetter Gardens Historic District,  
13604--13736 S. Lowe Ave.,  
Riverdale, 05001252,  
LISTED, 11/16/05

ILLINOIS, COOK COUNTY,  
Rogers Park Manor Bungalow Historic District,  
Roughly bounded by W. Lunt Ave., N. Western Ave., both sides of W. Farwell  
Ave. and N. California Ave.,  
Chicago, 05001258,  
LISTED, 11/15/05  
(Chicago Bungalows MPS)

ILLINOIS, JACKSON COUNTY,  
Murphysboro Elks Lodge,  
1329 Walnut St.,  
Murphysboro, 05001255,  
LISTED, 11/15/05

ILLINOIS, LAKE COUNTY,  
Linn, Howard and Lucy, House,  
555 Shoreacres Dr.,  
Lake Bluff, 05001257,  
LISTED, 11/15/05

ILLINOIS, LAKE COUNTY,  
Swift, Louis F., House,  
255 E. Foster Place,  
Lake Forest, 05001256,  
LISTED, 11/18/05

ILLINOIS, PEORIA COUNTY,  
International Harvester Building,  
1301-1309 Southwest Washington St.,  
Peoria, 05001254,  
LISTED, 11/15/05

ILLINOIS, RANDOLPH COUNTY,  
Shiloh College,  
13043 Walnut St.,  
Shiloh Hill, 05001251,  
LISTED, 11/15/05

ILLINOIS, WILL COUNTY,  
Downtown Peotone Historic District,  
Roughly N. First St. and both sides of N. Second St., roughly bounded by the  
alley S of Main and N by North St.,  
Peotone, 05001253,  
LISTED, 11/16/05