

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**SENT TO D.C.**  
**7-2-04**

**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 **Collinsville City Hall and Fire Station**

other names/site number

**2. Location**

street & number **125 South Center Street** \_\_\_\_\_ Not for publication

city or town **Collinsville** \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity

state **Illinois** code **IL** county **Madison** code **119** zip code **62234**

**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.)

*Wm. Ch. Stapp*  
Signature of certifying official

*7-1-04*  
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

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

\_\_\_\_\_  
American Indian Tribe

Collinsville City Hall and Fire Station  
Name of Property

St. Clair, IL  
County and State

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#### 4. National Park Service Certification

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I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register 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):	_____	_____

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#### 5. Classification

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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>  2  </u>	<u>  0  </u> buildings
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u> sites
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u> structures
<u>  1  </u>	<u>  0  </u> objects
<u>  3  </u>	<u>  0  </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register      0

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

**Collinsville City Hall and Fire Station**  
Name of Property

**St. Clair, IL**  
County and State

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

**GOVERNMENT: City Hall**

**GOVERNMENT: Fire Station**

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

**GOVERNMENT: City Hall**

**GOVERNMENT: Fire Station**

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

**Italianate**

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation    **STONE, CONCRETE**

Roof            **ASPHALT SHINGLES**

Walls          **BRICK**

other          **STONE, CONCRETE**

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

Collinsville City Hall and Fire Station  
Name of Property

St. Clair, IL  
County and State

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### 8. Statement of Significance

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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)

**POLITICS/GOVERNMENT**

Period of Significance      **1885 - 1954**

Significant Dates          **1885; 1910**

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation      **N/A**

Architect/Builder      **Kennedy, J. W., Firehouse architect; City Hall - Unknown**

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

**Collinsville City Hall and Fire Station**  
Name of Property

**St. Clair, IL**  
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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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(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 **Collinsville Historical Museum, 408 West Main Street**

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreeage of Property **Less than 1 acre**

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

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

1 **16 240190 4284310** 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.)

**Collinsville City Hall and Fire Station**  
Name of Property

**St. Clair, IL**  
County and State

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title **John Leckel and Mark Schusky**

organization **Historic Preservation Commission**

date **March 2004**

street & number **590 Watch Hill**

telephone **618/344-7314**

city or town **Collinsville**

state **IL** zip code **62234**

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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 **City of Collinsville**

street & number **125 South Center Street**

telephone

city or town **Collinsville**

state **IL**

zip code **62234**

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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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— NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES —

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**Collinsville City Hall and Fire Station**

**DESCRIPTION**

The Collinsville City Hall and Fire Station are located on the northwest corner of Church and Center Streets in Collinsville, Madison County, Illinois. The two buildings were constructed at different times and are of different architectural styles. In 1972, the buildings were connected with a covered structure running the length of both. In 1994, an elevator and new stairwell were added in this connecting passageway, both giving access to the basement level, first level and second level of each building. Additional second floor offices for City Hall employees were also created in this space during that renovation. The exterior walls (south façade of the Fire Station and north façade of the City Hall) have become the interior walls of the connecting structure. These, now interior, walls are intact; no damage has been done to them by the connecting structure. The buildings as connected stand about 20 feet from the edge of Center Street to the east. To the south they face Church Street. To the west, the buildings face a parking lot; and to the north, a street-wide alleyway. The buildings occupy their original site. On the southeast corner of the lot is a statue of a Civil War veteran with the following inscription: "Erected to the Memory of Civil War Veterans 1861 – 1865 by Tent No. 19 Daughter of Union Veterans." The statue was dedicated on June 14, 1926, and originally was located between the City Hall and the Fire Station. It was moved twenty feet to its current location after the 1956 addition was made to the Fire Station and is considered a contributing object.

Built as two separate buildings, the City Hall and Fire Station have been made one by the connecting passageway. The buildings will be described separately as two contributing buildings since they were not connected historically. First, the City Hall will be described in detail, followed by the Fire Station.

**COLLINSVILLE CITY HALL**

**EXTERIOR**

The Collinsville City Hall was built in 1885 in the Italianate style, which was popular in the United States from 1840 to 1885. The building is red brick with white limestone banding, a rusticated limestone foundation and wood trim. It is 2 ½ stories, with a gable-

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**Collinsville City Hall and Fire Station**

front and a low pitched roof with wide overhanging eaves and decorative brackets under the eaves. A band of saw-toothed trim is beneath the gables and the cornice. The corners of the building have paired brackets atop brick pilasters which extend to the foundation. The brick pilasters have flat limestone caps and the centers of the shafts are set in one row, giving them the appearance of fluted columns.

The windows are tall and narrow, with segmental arched tops and limestone sills. The cast iron window hoods have inverted U-shaped, crowns with rosettes in their centers. There is a limestone belt course that runs across the east and west facades of the structure at the first and second levels.

The elevations are three bays on the east and west faces and seven bays on the south and north faces. The north face of the building has been covered by a pass through and elevator which was required by law to be provided in all public buildings. This pass-through connects the City Hall to the Fire Station. No damage was done to the north face of City Hall when this addition was constructed.

The front and main entrance to the building is on the east façade and is divided into three bays. The central bay is accentuated by a stone nameplate with CITY HALL in raised letters. The nameplate rests atop large paired brackets that extend to the cornice line. Two small louver windows are located beneath the nameplate. The wide trim beneath the cornice, although broken by the nameplate and the central bay, forms a triangular pediment.

The upper belt course on the second story is broken by each window. There are three windows on this floor. The center window is flanked by brick pilasters with paired brackets, which extend to the portico. The portico has an elaborate enframing similar to the windows. A rosette is placed in center of the pediment. The entrance has cross and bible doors with glazing. Above the doors is a transom with twelve divided lights. The entrance is accessed by limestone steps. At the southeast corner of the building and just above the foundation, a limestone cornerstone reads A. D. 1885. It has limestone steps leading up to a covered one story porch.



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**Collinsville City Hall and Fire Station**

The south façade is on the side gable and the cornice line is broken by a pediment over the central bay. A louvered window is under the gable's peak. Beneath the pediment are paired brackets atop brick pilasters, which extend to the top of the first floor. The pilasters are on either side of a central window. A limestone beltcourse is located at the top of the window and another divides the first and second floors in the center bay. On the first floor of the central bay is a recessed arched opening. Originally this was a secondary entrance, but the door has since been replaced with a window. The limestone steps leading to the former entrance are still intact. There are six windows on either side of the central bay, three on each floor.

A chimney runs up the center of the west façade. There are four windows on this elevation, two each floor, and they are located on each side of the chimney. A small one-story addition, approximately 3' x 5' is located on the south corner. On the north corner is a rear entrance door which is covered by a cloth awning. The entrance opens onto a concrete block stoop.

Except for the replacement windows, the exterior of City Hall has been maintained essentially as it was when built.

CITY HALL INTERIOR

The current floor plan includes a basement, used primarily for storage; the first (ground) floor, used for office space, personnel, and citizen contact; and the second floor, used primarily for local courtroom proceedings as well as the City Council meeting chambers. Unless indicated otherwise, the walls are painted plaster and the window surrounds and trim are wood. The wooden doors all have wood surrounds as well. All of the trim is painted. The ceilings on both floors were dropped and have acoustical tiles. Original ceilings are under the dropped acoustical tiles. The attached floor plan numbers the rooms on each floor – please reference this floor plan for the “room number” indicated in this narrative.

GROUND FLOOR (1<sup>st</sup> FLOOR)

Room #1: Entryway. The floor and stairs are covered in gray rubber tile squares, with a wood slat base underneath. There is one set of stairs on the south leading to the second

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**Collinsville City Hall and Fire Station**

floor. In 1994, when the elevator was added, a set of stairs on the north side of the entryway was removed. The current hallway, which also has gray rubber tile flooring and gray rubber baseboards, dates from this renovation. Two bathrooms are located on the east side of this hallway, containing one toilet each, with no exterior windows and wooden doors. The entirety of the entryway has five interior windows and wooden doors.

Room #2: Waiting Area. This room has gray rubber tile flooring, gray rubber baseboards, and is separated from the entryway by interior windows.

Room #3: Main Office Area. This room is a large, open space. The west wall has wood paneling and two wooden doors; the north wall contains three windows (presumably original); the south side of the room is a hallway with office space to the south and modular desk walls and one wood panel post forming the boundary of the room itself; and the east end of the room is set by the large desk between this room and the waiting area (#2). The entire area has gray and burgundy patterned carpet from the 1999 renovation over the original wooden slat flooring. Located at the west end of this room are two bathrooms and a closet area. Both bathrooms (marked as #3a on the floor plan map) have gray rubber tile flooring, yellow ceramic tile and white painted walls, and modern toiletry fixtures. The closet is open on the south side and its three walls are covered in wood paneling.

Room #4: Administrative Assistants' Office. This room's east wall has wood paneling and a wooden door; the south wall has two windows; the west wall has a wooden door leading to Room #5, (the City Manager's Office); the north wall has four interior windows, one wood door, and wood paneling. It has burgundy carpet and wooden baseboards throughout.

Room #5: City Manager's Office. This room has wooden baseboards and carpeting. The east wall has a wooden door to Room #4; the south wall has one exterior window; the west wall has wood paneling and a wooden door to Room #6 (the Economic Development Director's Office); the north wall has wood paneling and two interior windows.

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**Collinsville City Hall and Fire Station**

Room #6: Economic Development Director's Office. This room has wooden baseboards and carpeting. The east wall has wood paneling and a wooden door; the south wall has two exterior windows; the west wall has wood paneling, a wooden door, and one interior window; the north wall has wood paneling, one interior window, and one wood door.

Room #7: Public Works Office. This room has wooden baseboards and carpeting. The east wall of this room has one interior window with wood trim, two wooden doors, and wood paneling; the west wall has a painted metal door leading to an old safe and one exterior window; the south wall has one exterior window; and the north wall has wood paneling, one wooden door, and wooden baseboards. The room is carpeted.

Room #8: Kitchen. This room contains amenities for City Hall employees, including a refrigerator, stove, microwave oven, and table and chairs. The room has gray rubber baseboards. The east wall has one interior wooden door; the south wall has one interior wood door; the west wall has one exterior window and one exterior wood door; the north wall has one interior window (formerly exterior, now looking out to the annex) and one wood door leading to the annex that is accessed by three steps adjoining a wooden handrail.

SECOND FLOOR

The main space of the second floor is used for the City Council's meeting chambers as well as a local courtroom. This large, open room has a blue patterned carpet, a raised dais hosting a long, wooden desk used by the City Council and judges during formal meetings, and wooden pews for audience seating. Except for the west wall, the walls are papered to a height of approximately 5'6." Wood trim runs the perimeter of these walls between the wallpapered and plaster walls. The chambers are accessed off of the corridor by a wooden double-door located on the east wall. The south wall has four exterior windows and no baseboard; the north wall has four interior, once exterior, windows and one interior wooden door which was originally a window. The west wall has three interior wood doors, white rubber baseboards and wallpaper adorning to the wall to a height of approximately 8' with beige painted wall above. These doors lead to three offices, all of which have painted wood paneling with wood trim, carpeting, and white rubber baseboards.

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**Collinsville City Hall and Fire Station**

The middle office houses the Madison County Circuit Clerk. This room has two doors, leading to the other offices and two exterior windows. The southwest corner office is occupied by the headquarters of the City's Senior Shuttle Service. This room has two exterior windows on the south wall. The northwest corner office houses the judges' chambers. This room has two interior windows that open onto the annex (formerly exterior windows) on the north wall and two wooden doors are in the south and east walls.

The hallway on the east end of the second floor, outside of the council chambers, has a gray-speckled linoleum-style floor, beige wallpaper, three exterior windows, white rubber baseboards, one wooden interior double-door leading to the main courtroom and meeting chambers, and one interior door leading a closet. The stairs lead down to the ground (first) floor, as described previously.

**BASEMENT**

The basement was originally one large open area and has subsequently been divided into several smaller rooms with wood paneling, wooden walls, and some brickwork. The interior basement walls are white plaster-covered mortar and stone; some bricks were added later to support portions of the basement walls. Wooden supports are placed throughout the basement; the ceiling is the wooden-slat layer of flooring for the ground floor, all clearly visible from the basement; some walls in rooms created in the basement space are made of wood panel tile (similar to that seen throughout the First Floor offices); and the entire basement has a concrete floor. Much of the basement is used for storage of City Hall files. One room has been created with white plaster and white painted walls, wood doors, modern office furniture, a bathroom with modern toiletries, a white tile drop ceiling, and in this space the concrete floor is covered in carpet. Another room space has been created to house the City's information technology (IT) hardware, including computer equipment and Internet servers.

Of note, two original jail cells are still visible in the basement. The walling is the same as that found in much of the basement – large stone and mortar. Gray metal “prison”-style doors with latches provide the only entryway into the dark, rectangular cells. Near the cells is located the old boiler and furnace for City Hall.

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**Collinsville City Hall and Fire Station**

The interior of the Collinsville City Hall has undergone some changes since the initial construction of the building in 1885. In 1972 local Collinsville architect Robert Field helped the City Council and Mayor revamp the main City Council meeting chamber on the ground floor of the building. At that time, small additions were also added to the rear (west) of the building. Before the 1972 modifications, the first (ground) floor consisted of one large, open room, with jail cells located at the rear (west) of the building. With the 1972 changes, office space was added on the south side of the room, with a large, open room left on the north side. This open area served as the City Council's chambers until a 1994 renovation. In 1994, work was done to add an elevator, making City Hall compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. The first floor then became the main office for city government personnel, for public contact with city government, and for employee amenities in the building, while Council chambers as well as the local courtroom, judges' chambers, and one other office room were created on the second floor of the building. Interior revamping of the building's carpeting, paint, baseboards, and other non-structural modifications were undertaken in 1999, and are the current (2004), existing conditions.

**COLLINSVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**EXTERIOR**

The Collinsville Fire House is a two-story Romanesque Revival red brick building with one-over-one, double-sash windows and limestone coping, sills, lintels, and imposts. This elevation is divided into three bays; the roofline on the southernmost and central bays is accentuated by brick corbelling and a terra cotta cornice. The central bay, which houses the emergency vehicles, is wider and is slightly recessed. The bell tower, which is three stories, is on the northeast corner. It has a low-pitched pyramidal roof, originally topped by a lightning rod spire. The upper story has rowlocked arched openings with limestone sills on each of its four sides. The southernmost bay is the same width as the bell tower.

There are four windows on the second story; two arched windows with limestone imposts in the central bay and a flat-arched window with limestone lintels on either side. The area on the second story of the bell tower is recessed so the corners resemble pilasters. Beneath the window on the southernmost bay there is a round window with rowlock

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**Collinsville City Hall and Fire Station**

arches. The brick voussoirs are arranged in separate concentric circles to form the opening. Beneath the windows on the central bay is a nameplate with the words FIRE DEPARTMENT raised upon it.

On the first floor there is a single glazed door on the southeast corner with a limestone lintel, a garage door in the central bay for a single fire truck with a limestone course above it, and an arched doorway in the bell tower with brick voussoirs and a limestone keystone. The bell tower entrance has an arched transom window above wood paneled doors with glazing. The limestone imposts have carved scallop ornamentation. The north façade of the Fire Station has five ranked openings on the second level and four ranked openings on the first. The easternmost windows on both floors are in the bell tower and limestone lintels and sills. All the other windows have rowlock arches and limestone sills.

Some of the openings on the west façade of the building were bricked in. There are two double-sash windows on the second level. A double-sash wood window and a small window in place of the original door opening are on the first level. A plain slab door on the northwest opens into the 1956 addition to the Fire House.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT 1956 ADDITION**

The façade of the 1956 addition replicates the Romanesque fire house style. The limestone coping and brick corbelling, although simple, mimic the design of the original building. The setbacks are also similar to those of the original station, for there is a slightly recessed and wider bay with an emergency vehicle entrance and a narrower corner bay. On the second story, there are three arched windows with limestone imposts with a continuous sill above the emergency vehicle entrance and a flat arched window with a limestone lintel in the narrow bay. The vehicle entrance is unadorned and is wide enough for two fire trucks. The rear or west elevation of the addition is very plain, with three windows on the upper floor and a stairway on the first floor.

INTERIOR

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**Collinsville City Hall and Fire Station**

The current floor plan of the original and 1956 addition includes the ground floor bays (north and south) housing ambulance and fire engine equipment; equipment for personnel; and office and dispatching space as well as a social lounge area for fire department employees. The upstairs includes a sleeping area for the firemen, office space for the Fire Chief and secretaries, and a meeting room for fire department employees. As noted, some space above the north bay is also used for office space for City Hall employees. The attached floor plan numbers the rooms on each floor – please reference this floor plan for the “room number” indicated in this narrative.

GROUND FLOOR (1<sup>st</sup> FLOOR)

Room #1: North bay in the original firehouse. This large, open room houses the department's ambulances. All of the walls are brick except the west wall, which is plaster. There are two doors on the east wall; a white bay exterior door and one gray wood door leading to the original hose tower. The north wall has three exterior original windows with painted gray sills. The west wall has one interior window between the dispatch area and the north bay with gray trim, and one gray wood swinging door leading into the dispatch area. The south wall has gray wood trim on two doorways and gray wood trim around a window opening. The entryway is gray painted plaster. The main room of the north bay, the large open space, has an ornate painted tin ceiling with a pattern of floral and geometric designs. As noted, an original harness loop hangs from this ceiling. The floor is concrete. The hose tower no longer has steps, so there is no access to the top. It has three interior windows and a set of swinging, wooden double-doors with a transom top, which lead to the outside.

Room #2: South bay of the 1956 addition. The south bay has a concrete floor and a plaster ceiling. The north wall is brick and the others are concrete block. Some renovated areas are visible – for example, a window has been bricked in and a doorway has been added to the original wall that connects the building to the City Hall access passageway. The doorway itself is made of wood, painted gray, with gray trim. The east wall has a south bay door, which is painted white. The north wall is the mirror image of the south wall of the north bay, as described in Room #1 above. The west wall consists of gray concrete block, inter-laid with some brickwork. There are two exterior windows with 24 panes of beveled glass. There is one gray metal exterior door.

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**Collinsville City Hall and Fire Station**

Room #3: Living Quarters. The dispatch room and 'social lounge' of the building are housed in this room. It has an acoustic tiled drop ceiling, a gray-speckled linoleum-style tile floor, and gray paneled plaster walls with black rubber baseboards. All interior doors are wooden and have wood trim. There is a stairway leading to the second floor. The stairs have rubber treads and the walls are gray-painted plaster and brick.

**UPSTAIRS (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)**

The upstairs houses the firemen's sleeping area and personal lockers; the Fire Chief's office; a secretary's office; a main meeting room; a hallway; and a modern, renovated space above the south bay, on the south end, housing City Hall office space. The entire floor has gray painted walls, primarily of plaster and drywall, with some brickwork. There is a white tile drop ceiling, and most of the floor is linoleum-style tile, though the offices are carpeted. The upstairs originally housed the hay-loft, as noted. Subsequently, it housed only the firemen's sleeping quarters and a large, open meeting area for fire department employees. The current subdivisions of the space have occurred in the last twenty years. There is also a fire-pole in the firemen's sleeping quarters leading into Room #3 on the ground floor of the north bay, though this was never used professionally by the fire department.

The interior of the Collinsville Fire Department has undergone some changes since the initial construction of the building in 1910. In 1956 local Collinsville architect Robert Field helped the City Council, Mayor and Fire Department revamp the ground floor of the building. Further renovations in 1994 converted second floor space above the north bay of the Fire Department into office space for City Hall employees. The original fire house was located on what is now (2003) the north bay of the building. The original structure housed a hay-loft in the second story of the building, stables at the west end of the ground floor, and a "harnessing" area where the fire engines were kept and horses were harnessed to them in the current main ambulance bay. An original ring from which harnesses were hung still exists, attached to the North Bay ceiling. The original hose tower also still exists, though is no longer in use, on the northeast corner of the building.



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**Collinsville City Hall and Fire Station**

**CONNECTOR**

In 1993 the Collinsville City Hall and Fire Department were joined by a connector, visible from the east and west elevations. The narrow connector has a two-story arched window with a door at its base that opens into a small lobby with an elevator. On the west elevation of the connector, there is a door with a glass side panel, and a glass transom, which shares an awning with the entrance on the back of the City Hall.

**STATEMENT OF INTEGRITY**

The Collinsville City Hall and Fire Department have sufficient integrity for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The exteriors of the original buildings have experienced little changes since their construction in 1885 and 1910. The ornamentation and significant architectural features remain intact. The 1956 addition to the Fire Station is sensitive to the design of the original building and the connector between the Fire Station and the City Hall did not damage the exterior walls when it was constructed. Both buildings have had interior changes to accommodate offices and comply with the Americans with Disability Act but the essential physical historic features, including the plaster walls and wood trim and staircase in the City Hall and the pressed metal ceiling, brass fire pole, and the hose tower of the Fire Station, are present and convey the significance of the buildings.

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**Collinsville City Hall and Fire Station**

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Collinsville City Hall and Fire Station meet Criterion A for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for their association with government in Collinsville since 1885. The period of significance is 1885, when City Hall was constructed, to 1954, the 50 year cutoff for significance to the National Register. The City Hall and Fire Station have served as the center of all city political functions and fire protection up to the present. The City Hall lower level also served as the city jail until the 1960s.

The City Hall and Fire Station are characteristic of public buildings in the last quarter of the nineteenth and first quarter of the twentieth century. Centralization of city departments was the new, progressive theory of city management. Collinsville followed the trend and placed the buildings so they could work as one unit. The City Hall/Fire Station structures follow this concept of civic order by including the functions of administration, public assembly, fire protection, record keeping and law and order. Strategically the City Hall/Fire Station were placed in the center of the city as it was first platted. This is representative of city halls/fire stations throughout the United States. The connected structures occupy the corner of what was once the hub of the city one block south of Main Street, on the original site.

**History of Collinsville**

Collinsville is situated on the ancient loess bluffs of the Mississippi River. These bluffs and the adjacent bottomlands attracted many early people long before Collinsville was here. This area's first occupants were the Paleo Indians who arrived at the end of the Ice Age over 11,000 years ago, hunting the mastodon and other large mammals. They were followed by the Archaic hunters and gatherers from 10,000 to 3,000 years ago, who also increased in numbers and began growing a few seed crops. The Woodland culture followed from 2,300 to 1,200 years ago and began to make pottery, built burial mounds, introduced the bow and arrow, lived in larger communities, and greatly expanded ritualism and agriculture.

The most prominent points on the Collinsville bluffs are Sugar Loaf Mound and Fox Hill Mound. They are conical shaped and rise to a height of over thirty feet. They are believed to be the work of the Mississippian Indians, the most dominant culture in this area from 1,200 to 600 years ago. The flood plain of the Mississippi is extremely fertile

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land and was the home of these mound building Native Americans who comprised the largest population and built the largest prehistoric community in North America north of Mexico. Today we call this community at the westernmost boundary of Collinsville, Cahokia Mounds; this complex chiefdom was surrounded by numerous outlying towns and villages and farmsteads. More than 20,000 people were supported by corn and other crops grown in the fertile bottomland soil, the native mammal population, the fish, clams and crayfish which inhabited the oxbows and streams, and the birds which made this area their home and those which used it as a flyway on their northern and southern migrations. The Mississippian Indians disappeared about 300 years before the first European settlers arrived, leaving behind only the monumental remains of the mounds and the artifacts and bodies that they contain.

The early European settlers of this area were largely of German, French and British Isles extraction. The French came mostly from Canada and the others came, in most cases, along the National Trail from the Eastern, and newly formed, United States of America. These early Europeans were attracted to Collinsville for the same reasons the Native Americans were: the fertile soil, the abundant wildlife, and the proximity to streams and the confluence of the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers.

In 1800 Ephraim Conner became the first American to settle in what is now Collinsville, Samuel Judy came the following year, settled on what is known as claim 338, and made the improvements as required by law in order to own the land. While the specific improvements are not known, he must have cleared the land, fenced some of it, and planted the area that he had cleared. Judy manufactured the first bricks in Madison County, and, in 1808, built the first brick house in Collinsville. By May of 1810, the survey township that later became Collinsville Township was surveyed and subdivided into sections by federal surveyors.

The first land in this area was entered August 22nd, 1814, by John Turner. It consisted of 160 acres in section 25. In 1814 William Gillham entered 253 acres in section 8. In 1813, Abner Kelly settled under the bluff in the northern section of Section 20 near the Sugar Loaf Mound. "After the war of 1812, and treaties of peace had been signed with the Indians, [Collinsville] began to fill up. . . In a short time the rattle of the saw and gristmills was heard; the rude log and pole cabins of the pioneers were replaced with

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larger and more comfortable frame buildings; schools and churches were established; and a country that a few years before was a vast wilderness, inhabited only by wild beasts and the fiercer red man, was changed to a civilized and highly improved region." (History of Madison County, Illinois Edwardsville, Illinois: W. R. Brink and Co. 1882)

In 1817, three brothers, Augustus, Anson, and Michael Collins from Litchfield, Connecticut purchased the premises of one John A. Cook. They immediately made improvements and soon erected a distillery with two stills – one of thirty gallons and the other of sixty - a frame house, a larger double-decked ox grist and saw mill, a cooper-blacksmith-wagon and carpenter shop, a tan yard and several dwellings. Here the real beginnings of Collinsville took shape.

"The town from its beginning had only a gradual growth until the building of the Vandalia railroad through here in 1868, which gave it a new impetus, and it soon became more prosperous. Her coal interests were soon developed and became an important factor in her business. Her beautiful heights were sought by citizens of St. Louis as suburban homes. . . . Collinsville became not only a mining and manufacturing place but a city of residences. In 1880 it contained 2,893 inhabitants." (History of Madison County, Illinois)

**COLLINSVILLE CITY GOVERNMENT**

The original town plat was laid out by the representatives of Wm. B. Collins, Joseph L. Darrow, and Horace Look. "It constituted a part of the N. E. ¼ of thirty-three and a part of the N. W. ¼ of section thirty-four of Collinsville Township. . . . The plat was recorded in the office of county clerk May 12, 1837. . . . Collinsville was first incorporated under the general law as a village in 1850. On September 30, 1872 an election was held to vote on city organization that resulted in 101 votes for and seventy-eight votes against, a majority of twenty-three votes for city organization." John Becker served as the city's first mayor.

On September 1, 1875, the City of Collinsville purchased the land for the City Hall from Joshua S. Peers and his wife Adeline C. This included lots 8, 9 and 10 in Block 5 of Collinsville Original Town. (The original town included 8 streets: Seminary, Clinton,

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Center, Vandalia (later called Morrison), Chestnut, Aurora and Grove and Wood Alleys. (Book 153, Page 423 of Deeds Book, Recorder of Deeds Office, Madison County Courthouse, Edwardsville, Illinois) The remaining lots on block 5 were purchased by the city at auction in 1892 from the estate of Harry L. Strong. (Book 209, Page 245 of Deeds Book). Dr. Strong had purchased the land from Joshua and Adeline Peers. The building of the Fire Station was begun in 1910 on the back section of lots 9 and 10.

The twenty years between 1880 and 1900 were uncertain ones for the city of Collinsville. Changing from a farming to a mining town provided the town with an "unreliable gross product", only seasonal work, and the strife of union organization. During the administration of Mayor William Stevens, the third mayor since Collinsville became a city, the miners struck the Abbey Coal Co. Scabs were bought in and violence ensued. A brave policeman stopped a riot by proclaiming that is would continue "over his dead body." Mayor Stevens would not let the state militia come in because he "saw more harm in their presence than without." (Gill, James V. AN HISTORICAL SURVEY OF THE CITY OF COLLINSVILLE. An unpublished manuscript: 1964.)

The construction of City Hall did not begin until November 10, 1885, during the administration of its fourth mayor, Dr. Charles R. Oatman, who served during 1885 and 1886. The cost of the building was \$7,975.00. During the years prior to City Hall's construction meetings were often conducted in the current mayor's home. Oatman was defeated for reelection in 1887 because of the town's debts incurred during his term of office. This debt was the result of building the City Hall and other public improvements. He was defeated by William Matthews who was a promoter of building City Hall when he served as alderman.

William J. (Billy) Matthews, the fifth mayor served as the city's chief executive and served more years and was elected more times (seven two year terms) than any other man in Collinsville history. John Banks who served many years on the city council, said of Matthews, "He campaigned all the time whether he was running for anything or not. He was always walking around, talking to people, shaking hands." (Gill)

Many public improvements took place during Matthews' administration. Main Street was macadamized. (Unfortunately this proved unsuccessful and not until the street was

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bricked was the mud problem solved.) Work on the city water works began on January 4, 1892. A deep well was sunk on City Hall grounds, went through a vein of coal at 220 feet. The water was excessively hard and had a mineral taste. Later, potable water was found in the bottoms over an eight mile per hour stream through loose gravel. (Gill)

Mayor Matthews promoted the trolley line and finally granted a franchise. By 1900, Collinsville was connected to St. Louis over the old line through Caseyville and Edgemont. Mayor Matthews also oversaw the building of the first electric plant at the end of his administration. (Gill)

In 1918, during Mayor Siegel's administration, a nationwide scandal shocked and shamed the residents of Collinsville. A German immigrant named Robert Paul Prager, 29, was accused of being a German spy. He was dragged through the streets until the local police intervened and got him into the City Hall where they hid him in the basement. The mob circled outside becoming increasingly agitated as Mayor Siegel tried to pacify them. Wesley Beavers, a local man snuck into the building and found Prager. He called for the leaders of the mob, who stripped Prager and drug him into the street. Prager was paraded naked down Main Street with the crowd taunting him, making him kiss the flag and profess his loyalty. When the mob reached the edge of the bluff, they hung Prager on a Hackberry tree. He swore he was not a German spy and called for his mother (who was still in Germany) to forgive the mob. The perpetrators were brought to trial in Edwardsville and found innocent.

Dr. J. H. Siegel continued his service as mayor throughout the World War I years when the city faced liberty loans, high prices, rationing, sugar shortages and the threat of Prohibition. The boom days of the war years ended in 1922 when the spiraling population became static and began to decline. As public dissatisfaction with Prohibition increased, the bootlegging industry in the city became bigger and better organized. Collinsville became a favorite rendezvous for hoodlums, but this had no discernable effect on the community since little illegal activity, beyond the manufacture of alcohol, was conducted within the city limits. (Gill) A.C. Gauert was elected as mayor during the Prohibition years (1925).

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The country faced more serious challenges during the 1930s and 1940s with the Depression and World War II. The Depression hit Collinsville hard but, with the rumblings of World War II, prosperity began to return. During these years, M.W. Harrison, was elected in 1938 and again in 1942 and Gilbert Killinger was elected in 1945 and served a two-year term. Again the community lost its young men, faced shortages of everything and held on tightly until the years of growth and expansion began in the 1950s.

**FIRE STATION**

The first fire protection in Collinsville was established in 1872 with the organization of the I. C. Moore Enterprise Fire Company Number 1. A hand pumper, donated by Mayor I. C. Moore, was the first piece of equipment. In 1886 a four wheel horse cart was purchased from Belleville. By 1888, the name was shortened to Enterprise Fire Company Number 1, and at some later time the name was changed to the Collinsville Volunteer Fire Department. The Fire Station was not built until 1910. In 1912 the department went from horse drawn fire equipment to motorized vehicles. This happened with the purchase of a Jeffrey Quad brand pumper. (Stehman, Lucille, COLLINSVILLE, A PICTORIAL HISTORY. G. Bradley Publishing. St. Louis, Missouri, 1992.)

Robert Hartmann served as fire chief from 1925 until 1947. He had become a volunteer fire fighter in 1917 when he was 28 years old. He was responsible for the purchase of an Ahrens Fox Brand pumper for the princely sum of \$12,450. One of the largest fires in fire department history was the Wendlar Drug Store fire in 1940. The Ahrens Fox pumper came to the rescue and subdued the blaze. (Stehman)

In 1956 an addition was made to the Fire Station and in 1993 another addition was made which connected the station and the City Hall. The City Hall and Fire Station continue to serve as the governmental center of Collinsville. These buildings best represent Collinsville's political history and are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for their significance to the community.

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**Collinsville City Hall and Fire Station**

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Zurier, Rebecca. THE AMERICAN FIREHOUSE, AN ARCHITECTURAL AND SOCIAL HISTORY. New York: Abbeville Press, 1981.



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**Collinsville City Hall and Fire Station**

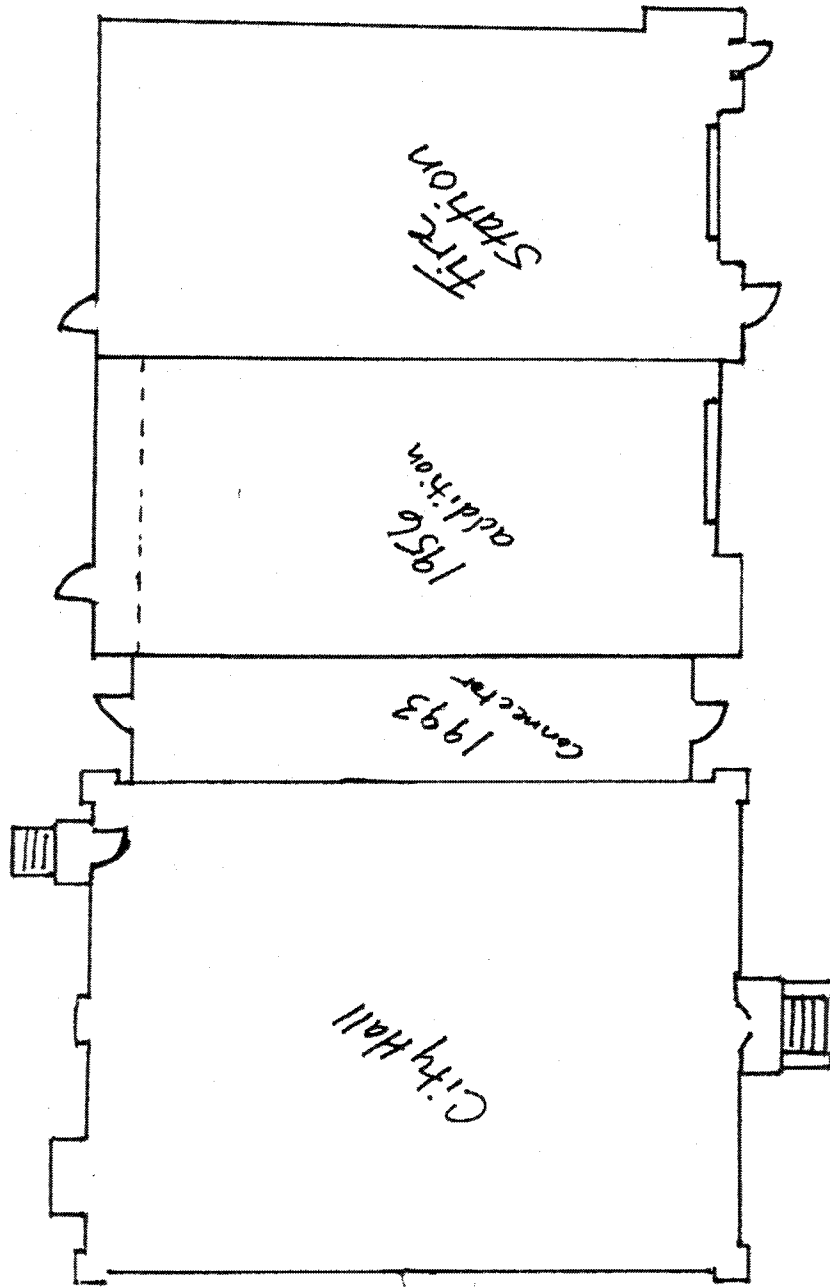
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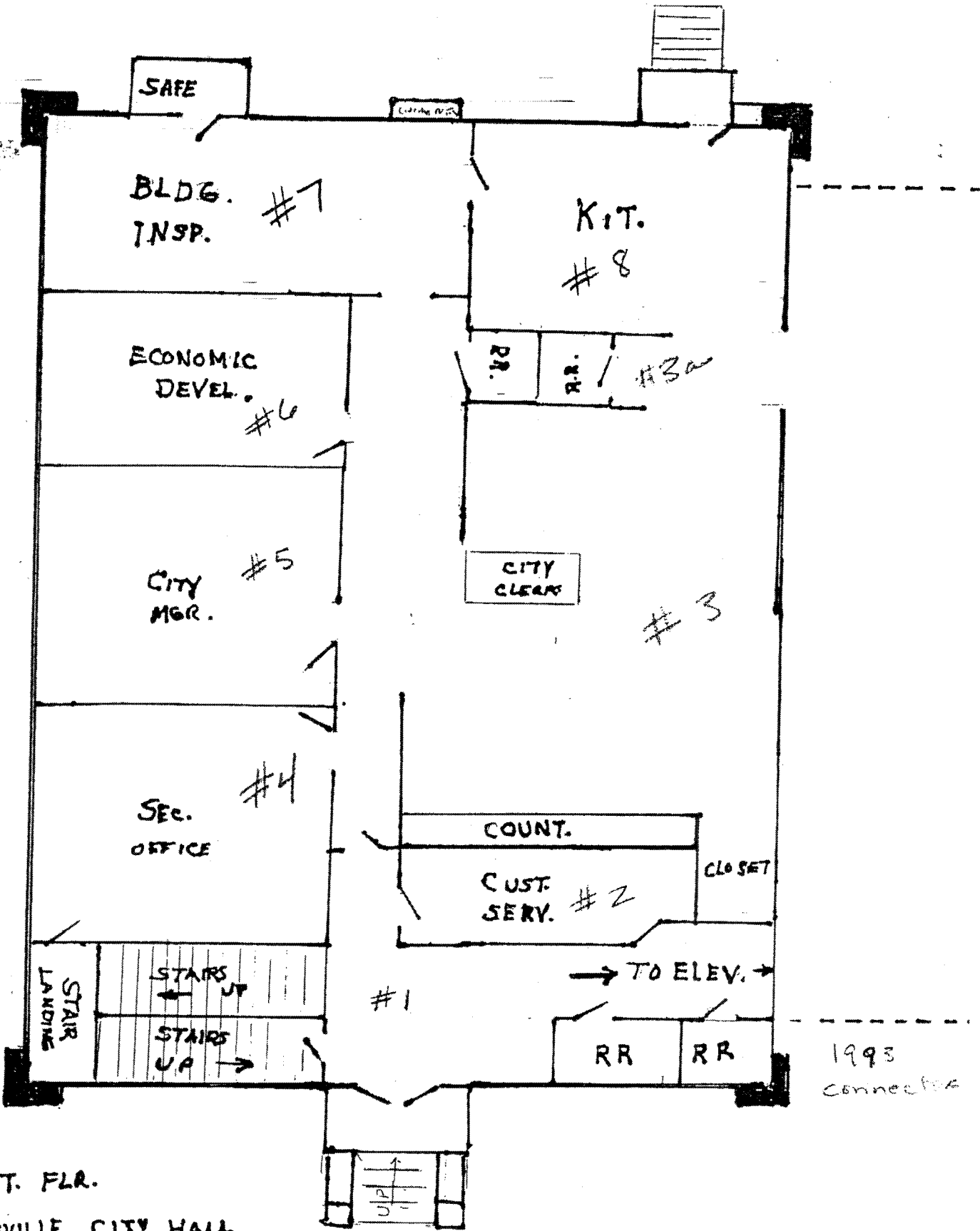
The Collinsville City Hall and Fire Station are located on the northwest corner of Church and Center Streets in Collinsville, Madison County, Illinois on lots 8, 9, and 10 of Block 5, Original Town of Collinsville.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

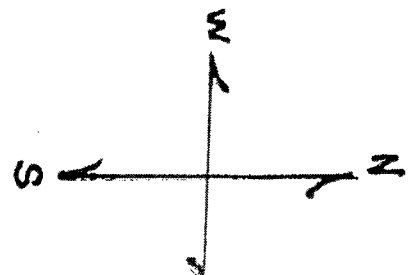
The boundary includes the buildings and the lot historically associated with the property.

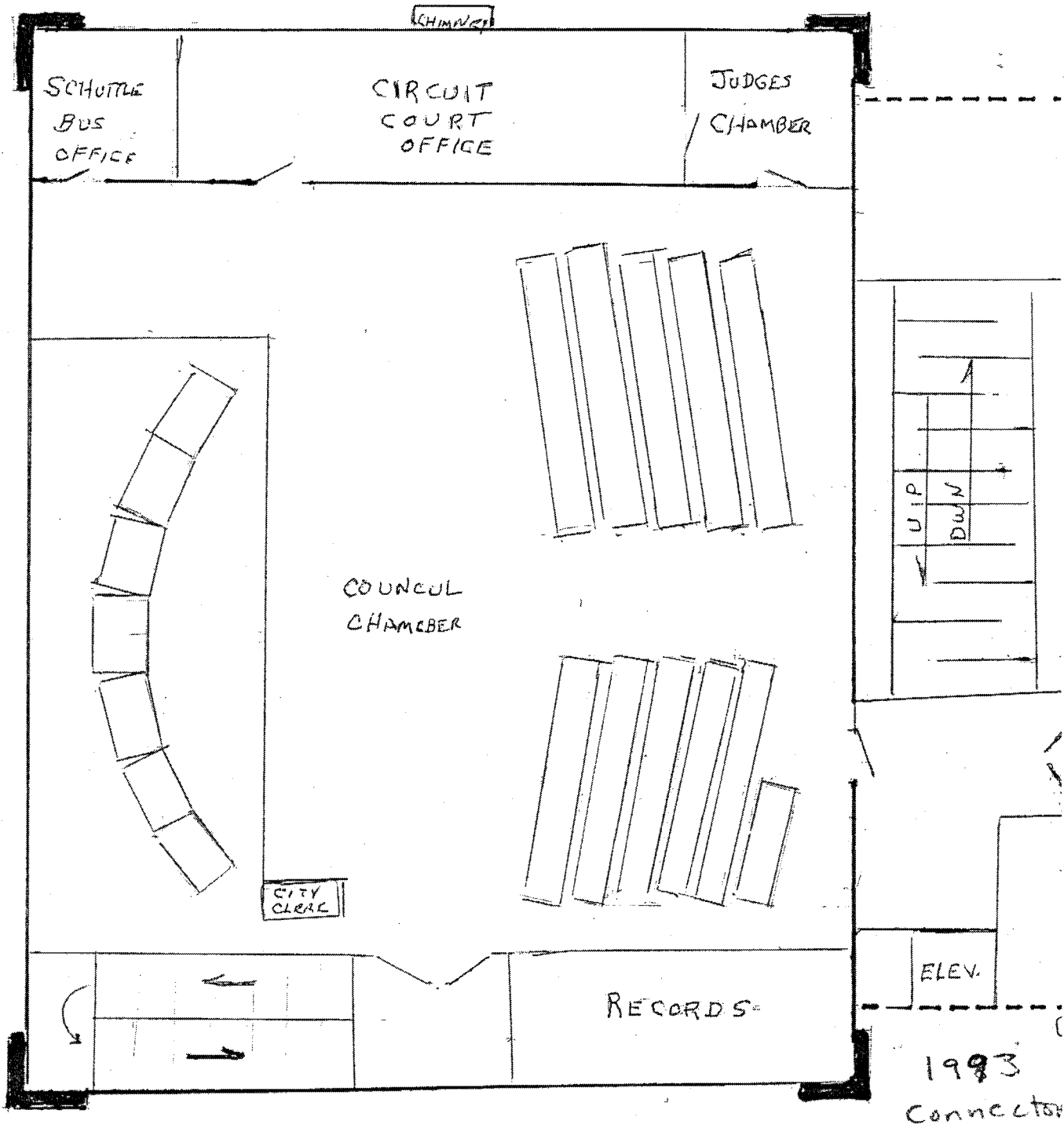
Collinsville  
City Hall &  
Fire Station  
showing 1956  
addition &  
1993 connector





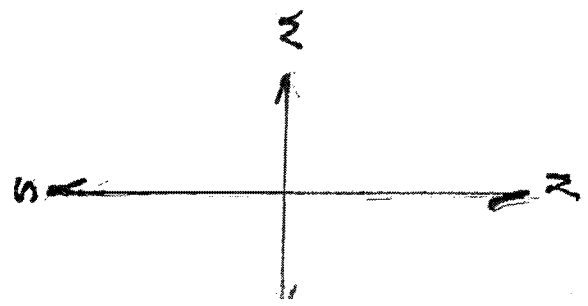
1ST. FLR.  
 COLLINSVILLE CITY HALL

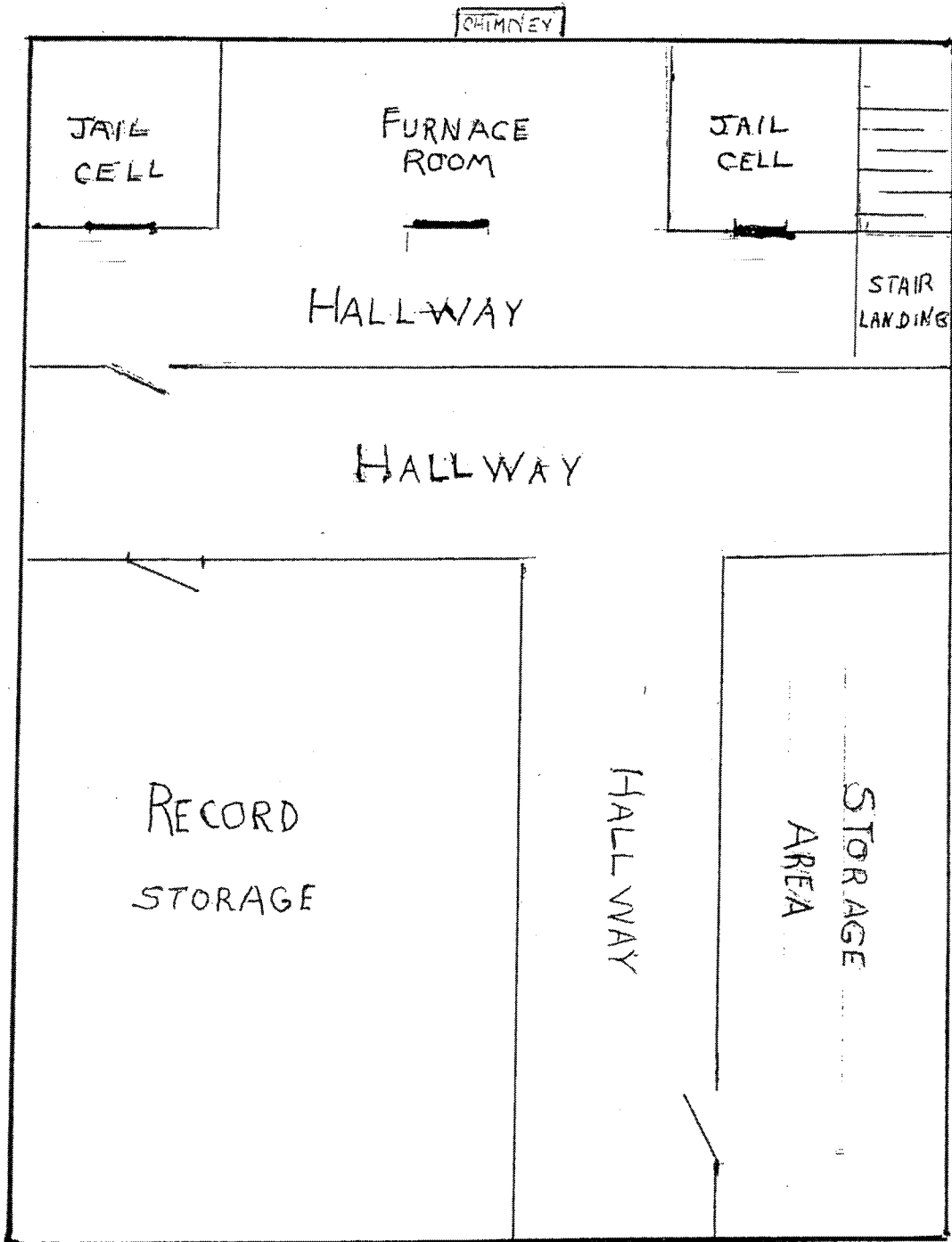




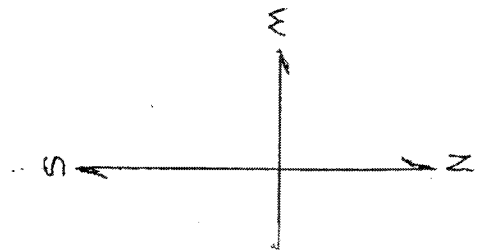
2ND FLR.

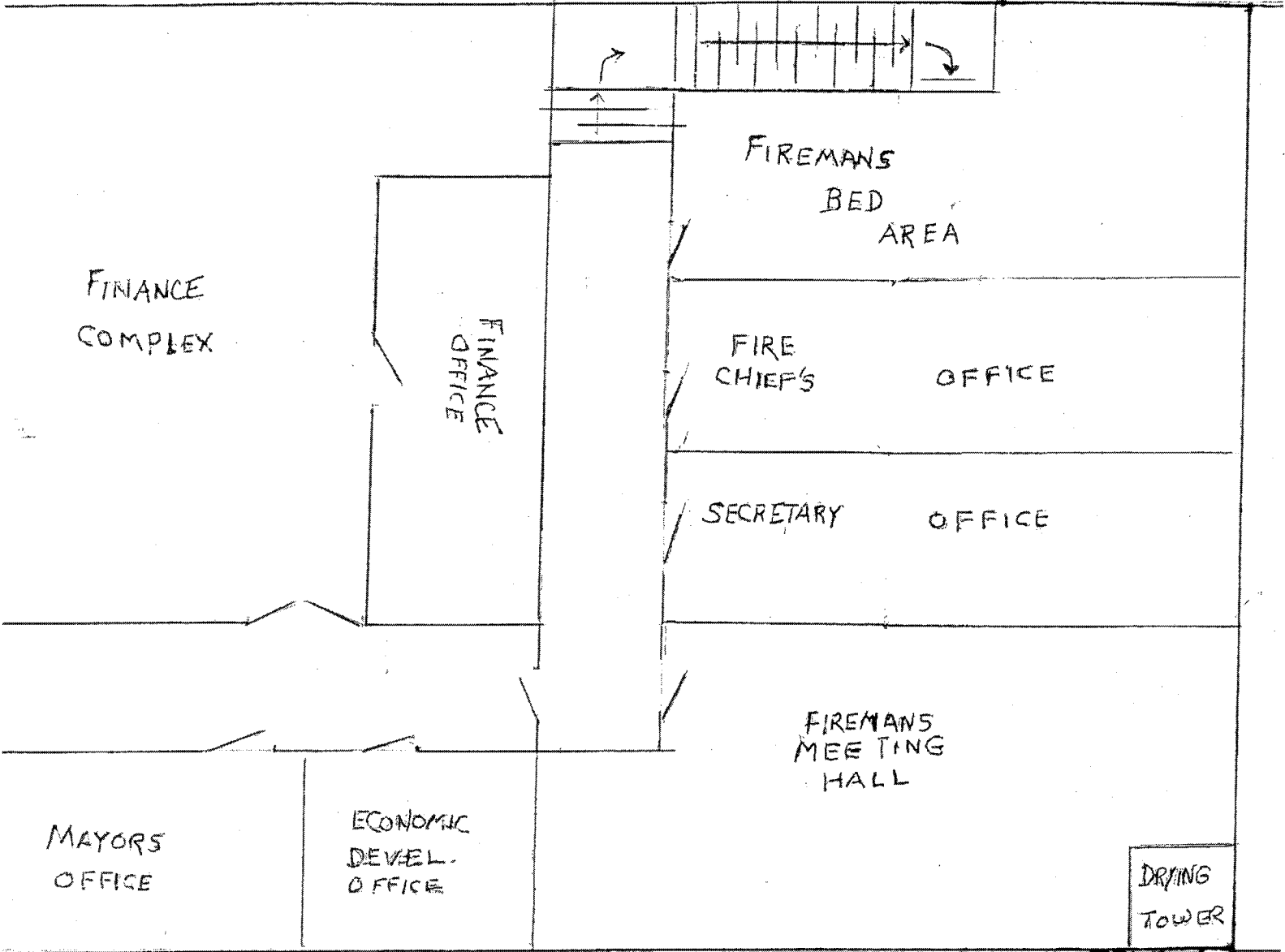
COLLINSVILLE CITY HALL



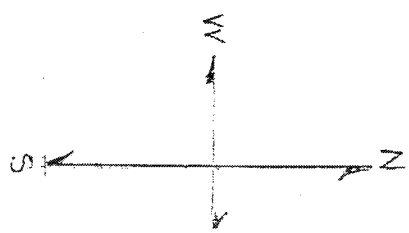


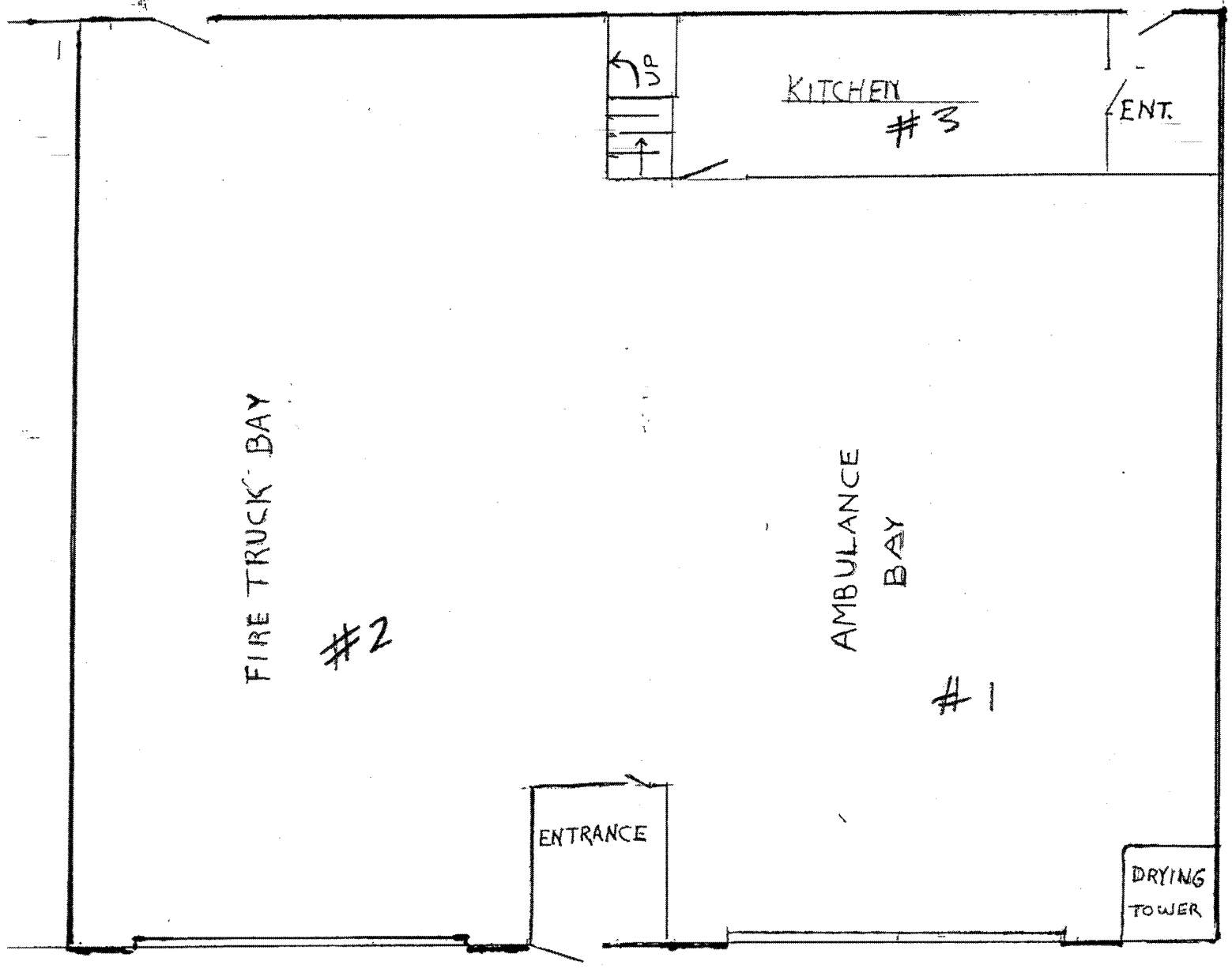
BASEMENT - COLLINSVILLE CITY HALL



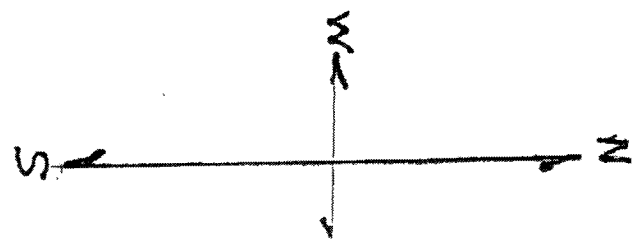


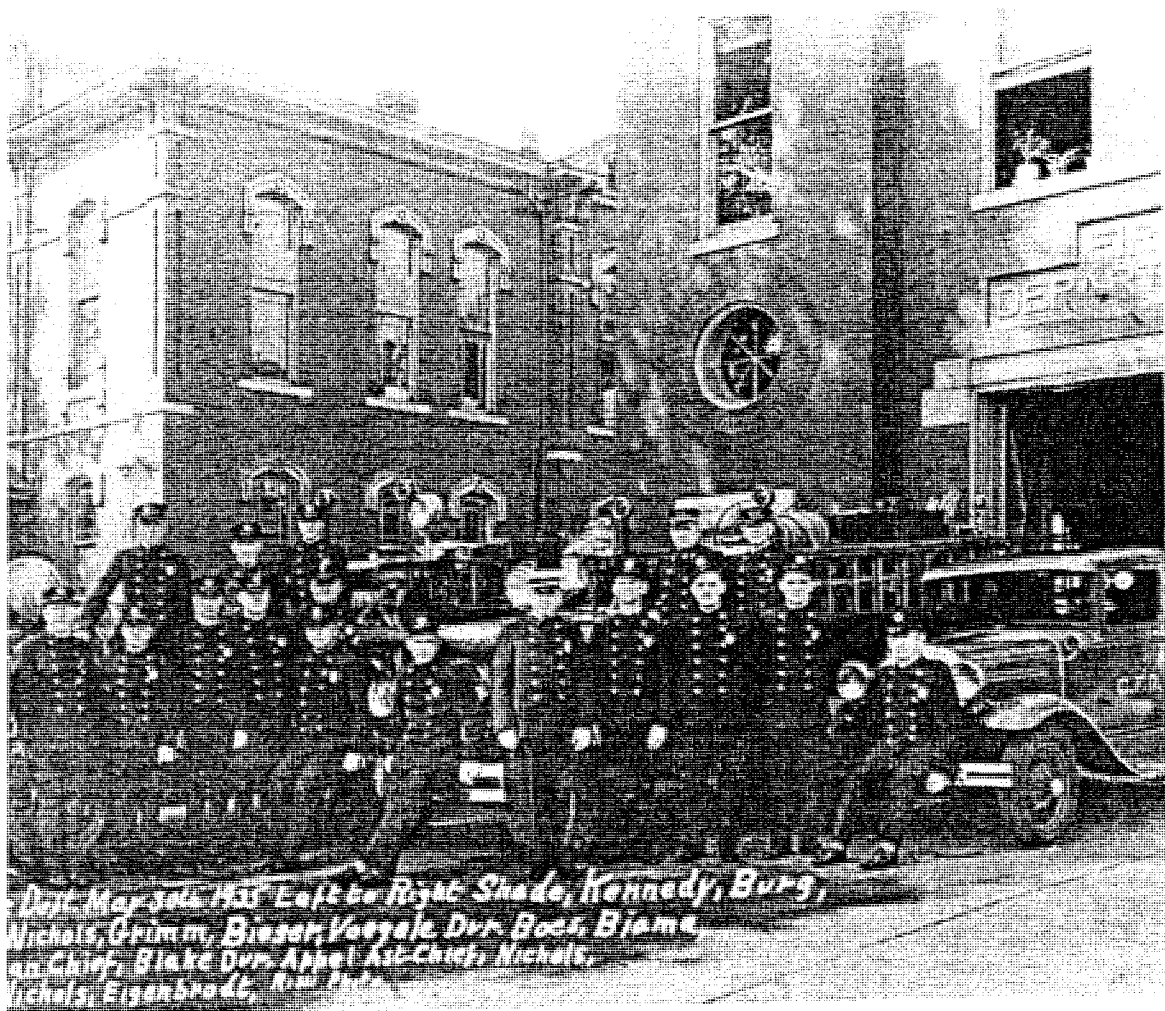
2ND FLOOR CONNECTING CITY HALL AND FIRE DEPT.





GROUND FLOOR  
FIRE DEPT.





Department members stand in front of their fleet, including the Ahrens Fox engine at left, the newly purchased Indiana engine and fire department car.

A fire at Wendler Drugs circa 1940 draws a crowd of spectators to watch the Collinsville Fire



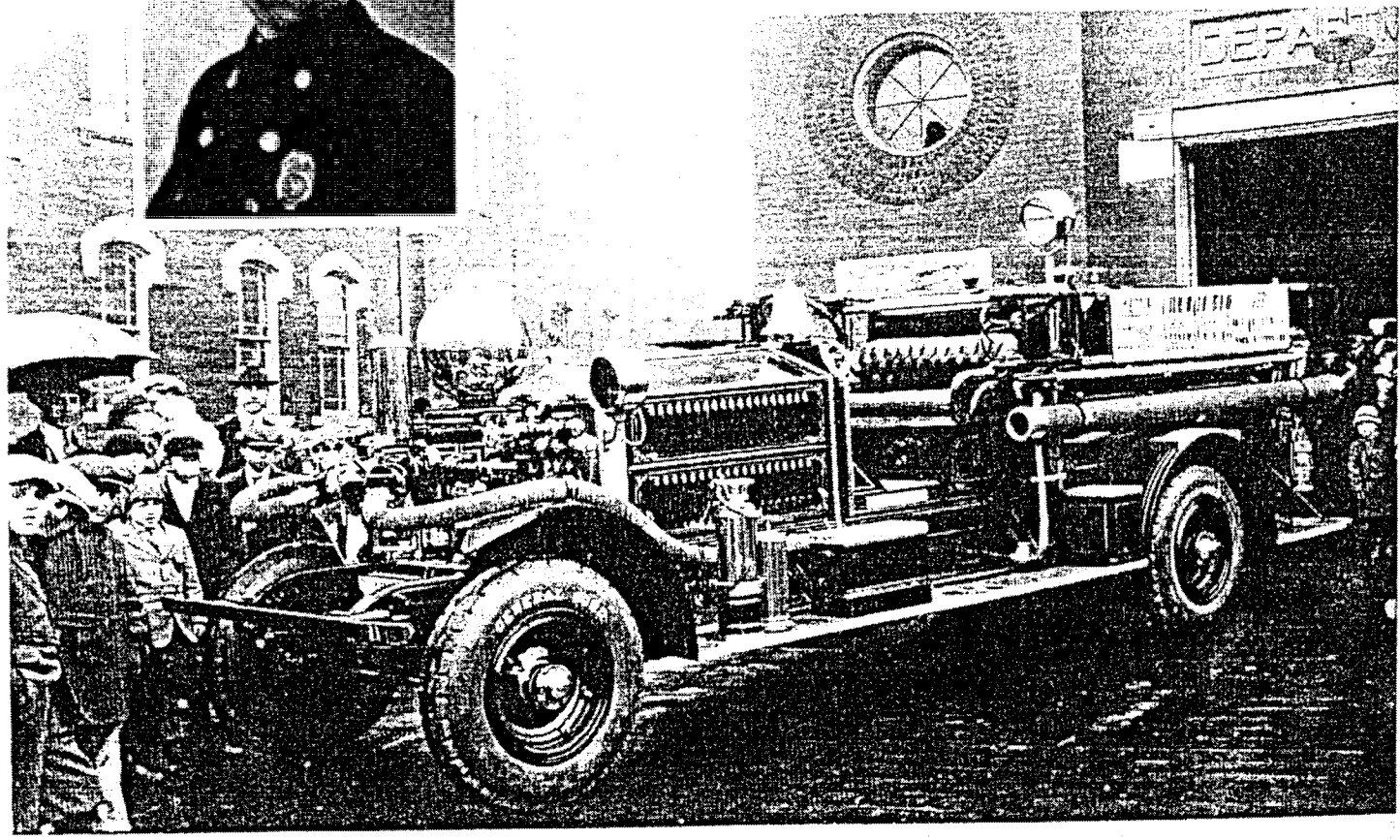


The Collinsville Volunteer Fire Department went directly from hand-drawn fire apparatus to motorized vehicle in 1912 when it bought a Jeffrey Qu brand pumper. The photograph was taken in 1924.

Left to Right W. Blake W. Ambrosius E. Bogel T. Eigenbrodt W. Pointer W. Kennedy R. Nichols J. Nichols L. Kluge Jake Rieser R. Hartman Capt. J. Apple Asst. Chief Geo. Cass Chief August Bearline Capt.



Robert Hartmann served as fire chief from 1925 until 1947. He became a volunteer firefighter in 1917 at the age of 28. He was the last surviving charter member of the Madison County Firemen's Association at the time of his death in 1983.



The 1925 purchase of an Ahrens Fox brand pumper for \$12,450 was a source of great community pride. The unit was recovered from salvage after it was delivered from Cincinnati in

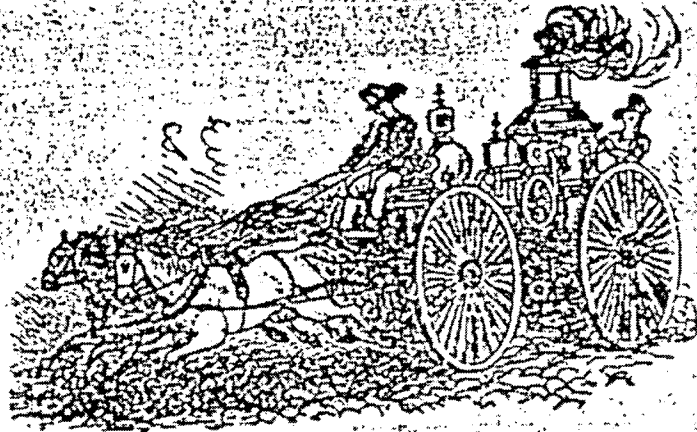
Troy, not long after its delivery. The Ahrens Fox was recovered from salvage by Collinsville firefighters and is currently being restored.

1940 May 24th 1940 East Co. Ryan, Shado, Kennedy, Burt,  
Gardner, Grimm, Blasen, Vandyke, Don, Boer, Blaine,  
in Chief, Blake, Don, Appel, K. Chief, Nichols,  
Chas, Esposito & Co. 1940

A fire at Wendler  
Drugs circa 1940  
draws a crowd of spec-  
tators to watch the  
Collinsville Fire  
Department in action.



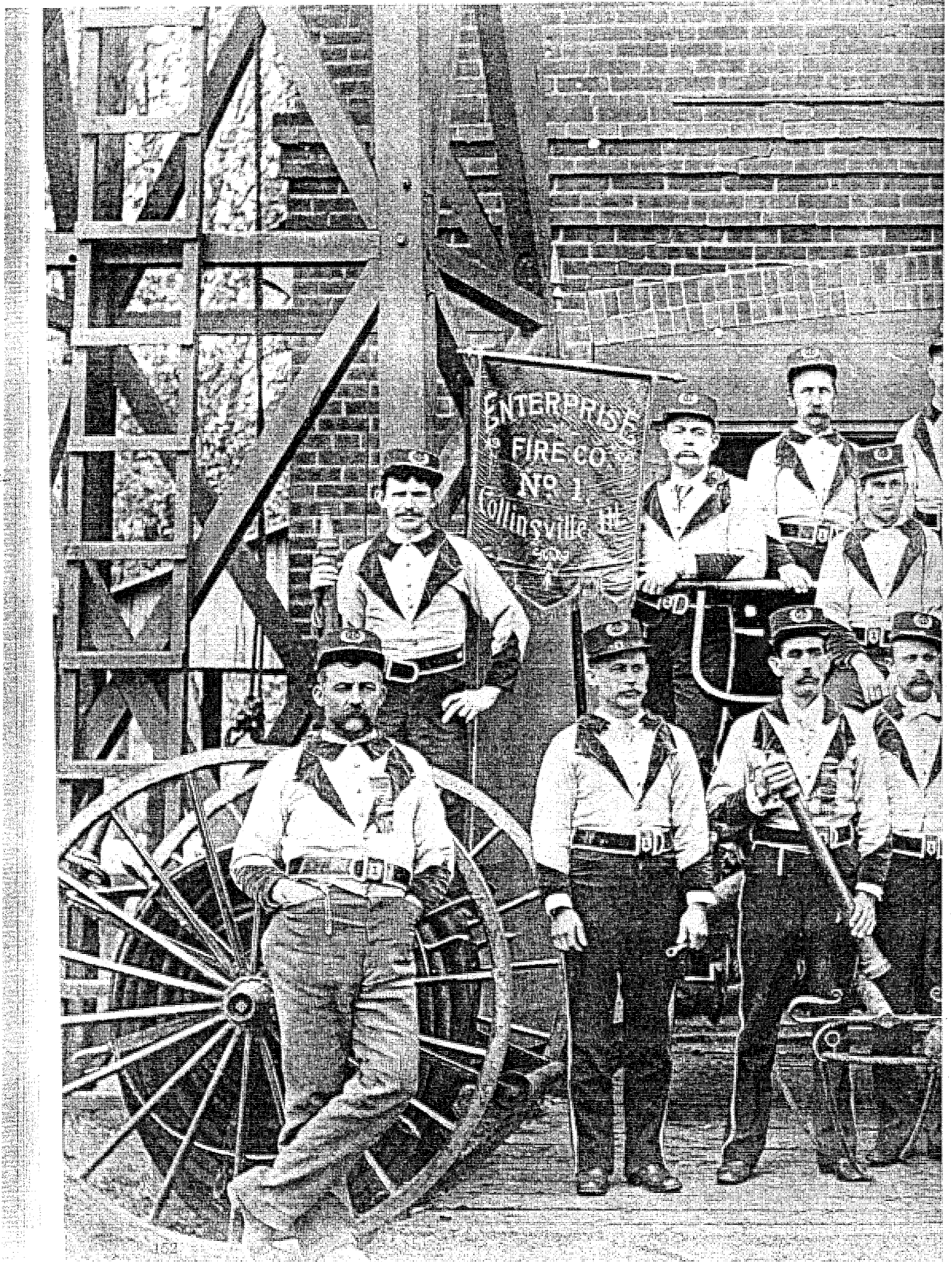
ENTERPRISE FIRE CO. NO. 1.



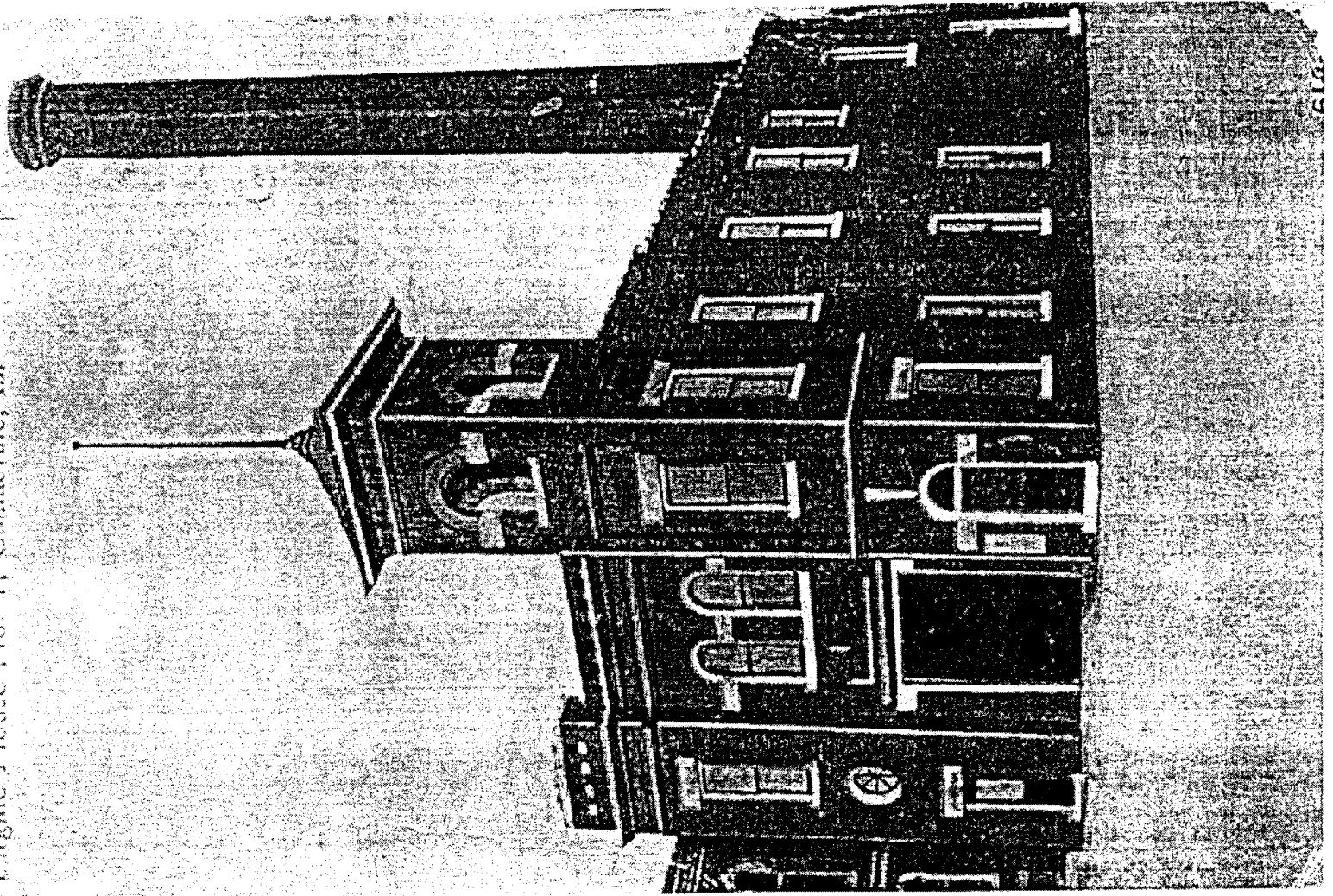
COLLINSVILLE, ILLINOIS.

You are respectfully invited to  
attend a complimentary Banquet  
given by the Ladies of Collins-  
ville, in honor of the visiting  
delegates of the Illinois Firemen's  
Association at Temperance Hall  
Tuesday evening, Jan. 10, 1890.

Meet at Convention Hall at 8 o'clock P. M. sharp.



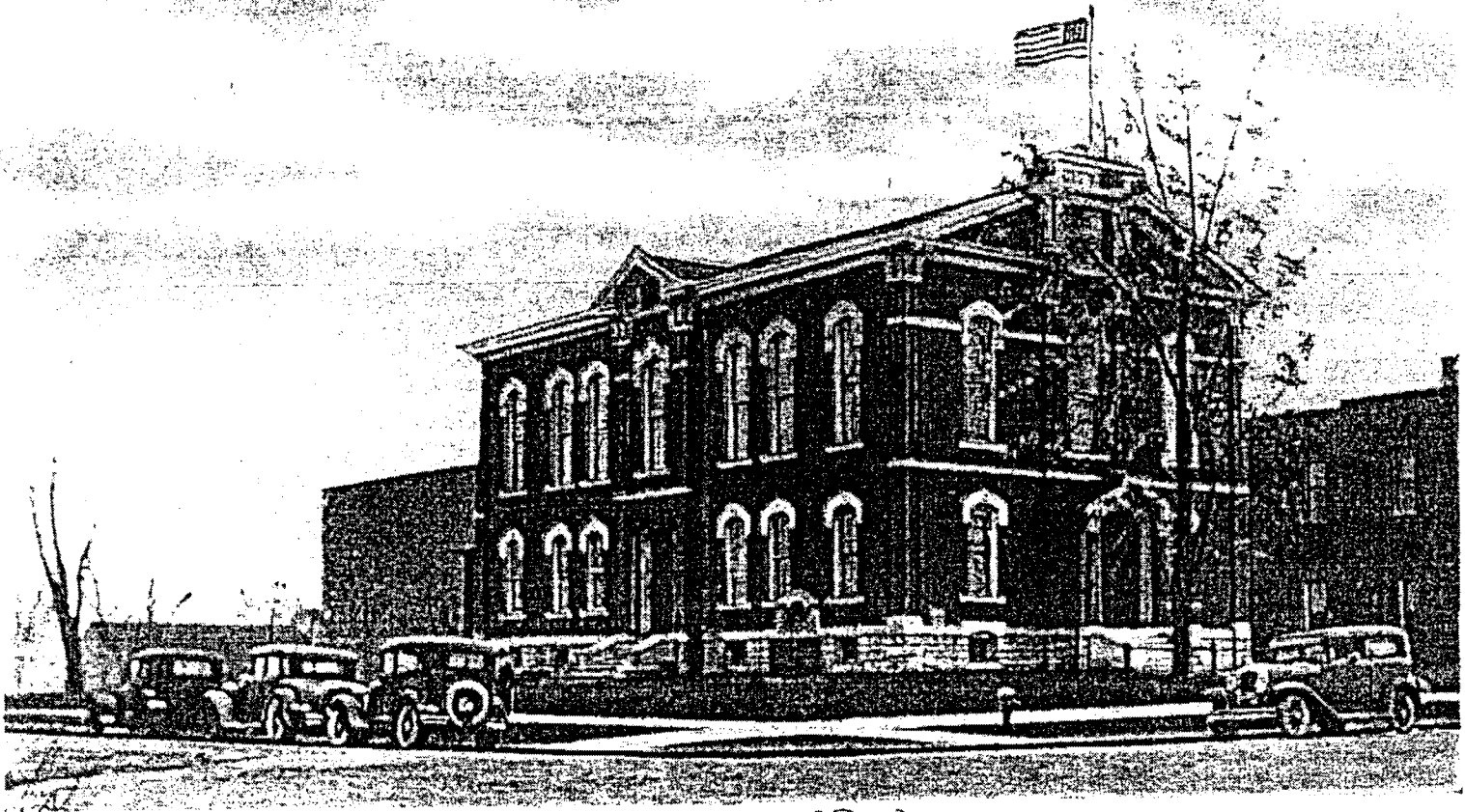
Engine House No. 1, Collinsville, Ill.



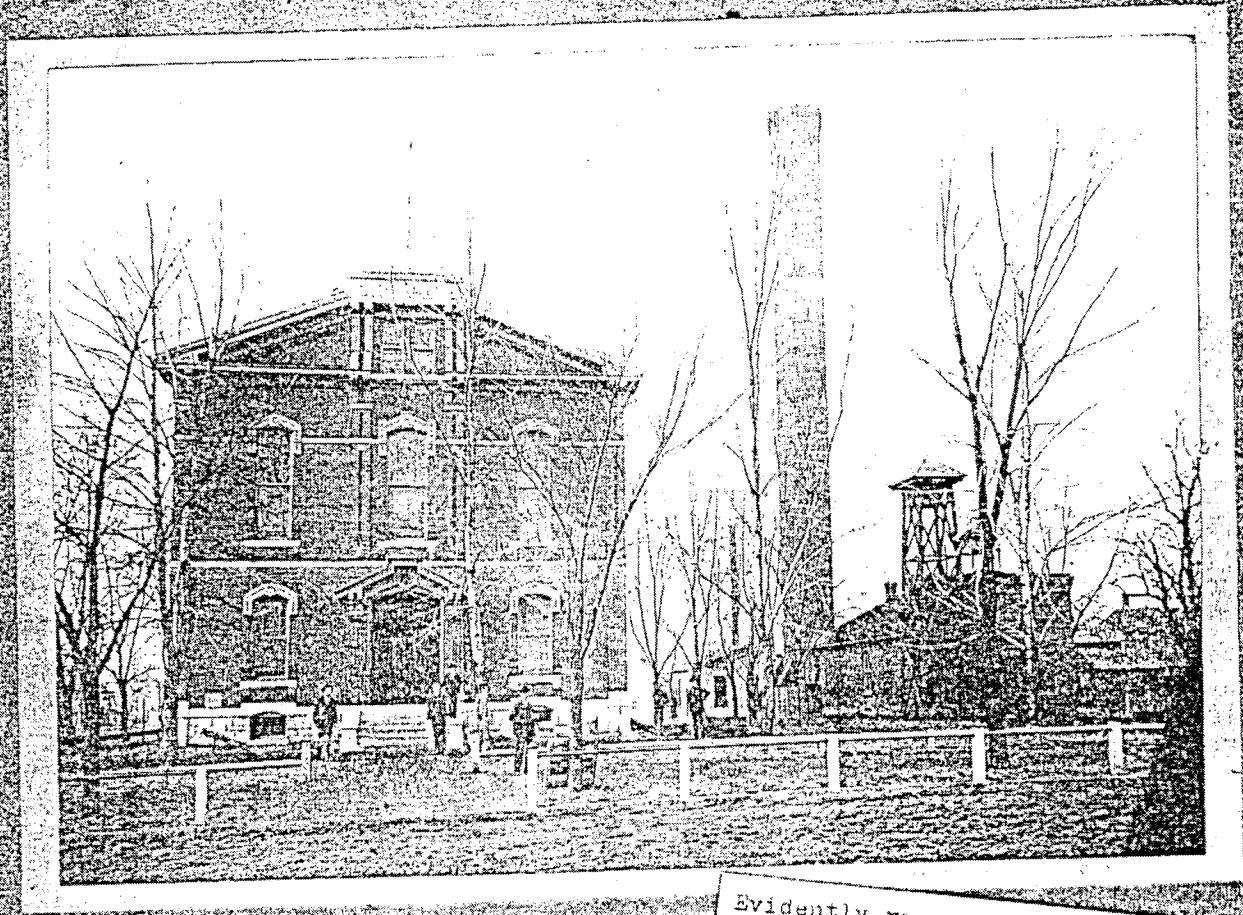


City Hall & Fire Station  
date unknown

CITY HALL, COLLINSVILLE, ILL.—5



City Hall ca 1920s



Evidently rare photograph of City Hall, old  
Fire Station and bell tower.

City Hall, prior to 1910





City Hall, Collinsville, Ill.

From postcard of City Hall postmarked 1910