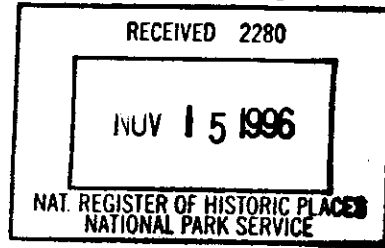


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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 Odell Building

other names/site number Odell Public Library

2. Location

street & number 202 East Lincolnway Road not for publication _____
city or town Morrison vicinity _____
state Illinois code IL county Whiteside code 195 zip code 61270

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _____ nationally _____ statewide locally. (_____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William L. Wheeler / SHPO
Signature of certifying official

3-25-96
Date

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
State or Federal agency and bureau

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Education	Sub: Library
Recreation and Culture	Museum

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Vacant	Sub: _____
-------------	------------

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
roof Asphalt
walls Brick
Wood
other _____

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

=====

8. Statement of Significance

=====

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

- 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)
Education

Period of Significance 1887-1946

Significant Dates 1887

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

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Unknown

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: Odell Public Library, Morrison, Illinois

=====
10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property Less than one

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	253750	4632630	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.)

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Timothy J. Slavin

organization Morrison Historical Society

date January 1996

street & number 620 Lincolnway Court

telephone 815-772-2345

city or town Morrison

state IL

zip code 61270

=====
Additional Documentation
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage
or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====
Property Owner
=====

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

name Robert Atherton, Mayor of the City of Morrison

street & number 200 West Main Street

telephone _____

city or town Morrison

state IL zip code 61270-2437

=====
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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Odell Building

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Odell Building is located on the northeast corner of the intersection of Lincolnway Road (also known as "The Lincoln Highway") and Cherry Street, one block northeast of the downtown shopping area in the city of Morrison. Morrison is located in Whiteside County, approximately forty miles northeast of Rock Island, Illinois. The site of the building is 64 feet by 186 feet. North of the building is a residence, a church and a business. To the east of the building are businesses as well as to the south across Lincolnway Road. Immediately west of the building is a gas station. Across Cherry Street to the west is the community's Roman Catholic Church.

The Odell Building was constructed in 1864-1865 as the new home for the Congregational Church when it relocated to Morrison after the railroad bypassed their home settlement in Unionville. The structure is a one story brick and wood frame building with a stone foundation. Its steep pitched, gabled truss roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The south front had much of the original elevation of the First Congregational Church removed and remodeled in 1945. The front elevation is of a much reduced scale and ornament than the original church. The original church was a twin towered, brick building with arched brick corbels and a central steeple. The front elevation now consists of a centered double door entryway with eight-over-twelve double-hung windows on each side. There is a broken triangular pediment with a decorative urn above the entry. Pilasters frame the entry. The gable front is covered with 8-inch horizontal siding. There are four brick pilasters on the front elevation, dividing it into three bays.

The rear north addition (28' x 30' approximate) was constructed in 1933-1934 as part of the Federal Civil Works Administration. At the same time, other portions of the building were remodeled, including enlargement of the windows and new electrical lighting fixtures.

The east and west elevations are nearly identical. The original east and west elevations walls are brick which has been painted and has received an application of parging mortar over a great portion of the surface. Concrete veneer covers the stone foundation. Decorative wood brackets are located at the cornice line. The original building (south section) has four double-hung windows with semi-circular fan lights atop each. Windows are approximately 7'-6" tall from sill to the semi-circular top lintels. They are

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Odell Building

approximately six feet above exterior grade. On the east elevation are divided light awning windows in the basement directly beneath each first story window which are visible above grade.

The 1933-1934 addition (north) is scaled to match the original building. There are three windows on the east and west elevations identical in size and configuration to the original section. Three, three-light hopper windows are located on the basement east elevation. One, three-light hopper window is located on the basement west elevation. The addition does not have parging over the surface of the exterior brick. The brick is painted a wine red color to match the original building.

The rear (north) elevation of the addition is exposed, painted brick. There are two semi-circular fan light windows approximately 1'-6" in radius which flank each side of a fireplace. The chimney extends above the ridge line approximately 24 courses of brick and is in the center of the width of the building at the northern edge.

The west elevation matches the east elevation except for the exit door located at the south end of the 1933-1934 addition. Concrete exit stairs lead from the paved alley immediately adjacent to the building.

The interior of the building maintains its original scale. The first floor is approximately 4'-6" above exterior entry grade. A set of concrete steps on the front south elevation lead to an interior entry hall. The entry hall leads to two openings into the main room which used to be the church sanctuary. An original balcony is located above the entry hall. The balcony has decorative recessed wood panels facing towards the former sanctuary.

The main room is an open plan, with bookshelves interspersed on the open floor plan and against the perimeter walls. The first story walls and ceiling are covered in a solid yellow pine tongue and groove paneling added in 1887. There are decorative grooved frames with incised corner blocks in sections of the ceiling paneling up to the rake of the roof trusses. The interior ceiling has a king post truss system with large trusses leading from the top of the walls to the tie beam that connects to the king post. The ceiling is sloped. The interior perimeter wall height is 13'. The height to the peak is 20'.

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Odell Building

There is a 14' Gothic arch opening which connects the original building with the 1933-1934 addition, and the floor levels are contiguous. The Gothic arch opening was added in 1933-1934. The addition has a brick fireplace on the north wall with an arched opening. The addition walls are painted plaster.

The full basement was remodeled into a reading room, storage areas, and furnace areas for the Odell Public Library.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Odell Building meets Criterion A for education. Its period of significance is from 1887, the year it became a museum and library, to 1946, the fifty year cutoff for the National Register of Historic Places. As a significant part of the educational growth of Morrison, the locally significant Odell Building which housed the Odell Public Library provided reading material and educational sources to the general populace and was a venue for academic events. It also housed archeological, geological, botanical and biological specimens for viewing by the citizens of Morrison.

There was a settlement in what became Morrison as early as 1847, when the first school building was erected. Morrison was surveyed and platted in 1855 when it was learned that the Galena and Chicago Union Railroad would be passing through this area and bypassing the nearby town of Unionville. The first train arrived on October 19 of that year, and, with the influx of settlers and investors, the business district grew rapidly.

About December 1855, the Union Grove post office, which had been situated at Unionville approximately a mile west of Morrison, was transferred to Morrison. Unionville residents were upset, and commissioned one person to collect their mail and set-up an unofficial sub-station in a store. They described the Morrison post office as ". . . a place where every bean barrel hid a whiskey jug and a place unsafe for ladies."¹

In 1857 Morrison was incorporated as a town. Growth of the town was assured when, in the following year the county seat of Whiteside County was moved from Sterling to Morrison. In 1867, the first attempt to move to a city form of government failed when the election was invalidated due to an incorrect legal description promulgated by the state

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Odell Building

legislature. Morrison became a city two years later in 1869, and functioned under a special charter until 1872, when it was reorganized under the regular laws of the state.

On October 26, 1877, the Board of Education of Mt. Pleasant Township's District #1 (Morrison) met in the office of George Fay, a local attorney. The board consisted of Martin V. B. Smith, Frank Clendenin, Charles Bent, George Fay, and Meril Mead. At that time, a historic and geological committee was appointed. Its membership consisted of the aforementioned Board of Education and the following: Albert Jackson, Chairman; W. R. Kelly; James W. Williamson; Edward B. Warner; Leander Smith; Dwight S. Spafford; and Sidney S. House.

Two weeks later, on November 9, 1877 this committee met " . . . to hear any proposition from any party on the subject of organizing a society, receive bequests or do anything on the before mentioned subjects of history and geology which they may think will be of general benefit to the district."²

The next week, on November 16, 1877, this committee met again and received a report which called " . . . for the organization of an association not for pecuniary profit to be called the Morrison Literary and Scientific Association to be managed by a board of nine trustees those for the first year being James W. Williamson, Albert J. Jackson, Leander Smith, Meril Mead, Martin V. B. Smith, Ed B. Warner, Michael R. Kelly, Dwight S. Spafford and Charles Bent."³ A committee of three of these gentlemen was then formed to obtain a charter of organization from the Secretary of State.

On December 21, 1877, the Articles of Incorporation, having been obtained and filed, were presented. Charles Bent, the owner of the local newspaper and community historian, was appointed temporary chairman of the new organization and Meril Mead its secretary. At that same meeting the by-laws were adopted. Among the by-laws were provisions stating the object of the association, " . . . is the increase and diffusion of scientific and literary knowledge, by a museum, a library, by the reading and publication of original papers, and by such other suitable methods as shall from time to time be adopted . . . "⁴ Other by-laws included initiation fees, a dues structure, the permanent positions of librarian and curator, and the creation of standing committees of the association. An election of officers was held with Charles Bent becoming president and James W. Williamson appointed as librarian and curator. The last order of business on that date was the appointment of a committee to secure a meeting place.

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On January 11, 1878, Albert J. Jackson reported on behalf of that committee that the association could occupy the third story of the bank building (which, coincidentally, was owned at that time by Mr. Jackson and his partner Leander Smith) free of charge for no longer than one year. At that meeting it was reported that the association had 66 new members and that a committee was to contract with James Williamson and remove his collection to the rooms of the association.

On February 8, 1878 there were 47 additional new members (among which was Mr. J. Danforth Odell), and it was reported that attempts to remove Mr. Williamson's collection were deferred due to the bad roads. Additionally, \$4.50 was paid for the printing of circulars to inform the public about the new organization and solicit members. In the following month, it was reported that the glass cases for geological specimens were being manufactured.

At the April 12, 1878 meeting, it was related that a Mr. J. A. Lowry of Elizabethtown had written the association and promised his assistance in ". . . opening Indian burial mounds and securing specimens."⁵ Thereupon, the curator was authorized to make the trip to Elizabethtown at the association's expense ". . . to secure as large a collection of relics and specimens as he may think advisable."⁶ Subsequently, \$65 was reimbursed to James Williamson for his expenses on that trip.

As for Mr. Williamson's collection, its move was still delayed by bad roads up to the May meeting. However, the important result of the May meeting was a resolution that authorized the continuing purchase of books.

At the June 14, 1878 meeting, Mr. Williamson was hired at \$35 per month to take care of the association's rooms and the president was authorized to subscribe to newspapers for the same. At that meeting, the formal opening of the premises was set for June 24, 1878 and rules for the use of the facility were enacted. Some of these rules included:

1. The reading room and museum are open to ". . . all persons of good deportment."⁷
4. Transients may draw books by depositing the value of the book plus \$.25.

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5. Only the librarian and (amended) "... patrons who handle carefully ..." may take a book from, or return a book to, the shelves.⁸
6. Only one book per person and three per family may be loaned at any one time.
7. The overdue book fine runs at \$.02 per day.
8. "Loud talking or laughter, unnecessary noise, smoking and all other improprieties are expressly prohibited."⁹

As to the grand opening of the facility, which occurred on the date planned, the Whiteside Herald reported that "... upon entering, the eye is greeted with 'Welcome Friends' ..." and that the collection consisted of numerous things including a marine collection purchased from Professor Woodman, curator of the Iowa State University Museum, coins and paper money, relics from Egypt and the Holy Land, a taxidermy exhibit showing the birds of New York, local prehistoric relics consisting of fossil and geological specimens, 300 books, 6 daily and 20 weekly newspapers, and 8 magazines.¹⁰

Later that same year the Morrison Literary and Scientific Association acknowledged the generous donation of Mr. C. Grosinski, "... fine plaster bust illustrative of the science of phrenology."¹¹

By January of 1879 the society announced its membership at 165 and its inventory at over 500 books. During the preceding six months, an average of over 170 books per month had been drawn by the membership. In a bit of hubris, the Board of Trustees announced that,

"We today congratulate ourselves with having beyond a doubt the best collection of minerals, fossils, marine specimens, mound builders implements and pottery, coins and various relics found in the state outside of the Chicago Historical Society and State Museum of Springfield."¹²

The financial soundness of the association was assured in November 1879 when it accepted a \$1,000 donation from John Danforth Odell which was conditioned on using it for the purchase of books, including library editions of the works of Cooper and Irving.

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At that same meeting E. B. Warner was hired at \$20 monthly as librarian and shortly thereafter, Mr. Odell was both elected to the Board of Trustees and made a life member of the association.

In 1880, Mr. Odell donated a further \$500 and Miss Quackenbush became the new librarian. Miss Quackenbush resigned in the summer of 1881 and was replaced by Miss Katie Strawder.

In March 1886, J. Danforth Odell chaired a committee that organized a concert for the benefit of the Morrison Literary and Scientific Association which netted \$58.86. Less than a year later, on January 14, 1887, Mr. A. J. Jackson accepted from J. Danforth Odell the deed to the Congregational Church building free and clear as a gift to the association along with \$1,000 to pay current expenses.

The Congregational Church was organized on March 2, 1844 at Unionville (most of which is now a part of Morrison on its west edge). Its founding congregation consisted of twelve members headed by Rev. Nathaniel Smith. During the next five years the congregation nearly quadrupled to 45 parishioners.

In 1850, the Rev. William T. Wheeler became the pastor and in 1853, under his tutelage the society constructed its first church, which was located at Unionville. The growth of Unionville was stunted when the railroad decided to go through Morrison to the east and by-pass it. On June 26, 1858, the church met and decided to move to Morrison. The decision to relocate included removal of their little brown church from Unionville. This structure was quickly outgrown and sold. The sale must have been consummated after a decision to build their new church at the northeast corner of Grove (now Lincolnway Road) and Cherry Streets, but before its completion, because they used their former structure, then belonging to the Methodists, until the dedication of their new brick building on May 14, 1865.

On March 1, 1868, the Rev. Silas F. Millikan began his ministry with the Congregational Church. In that same year a son, Robert A. Millikan, was born to him. The Rev. Millikan continued his labors with the Morrison group until January 1, 1873. (His son, Robert, born in Morrison, won the 1923 Nobel Prize in physics for his isolation and measurement of the electron and research on photoelectronics. In fact the beginning of his

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autobiography reads, "In the year 1872 in the little town of Morrison, Illinois, my two year old brother and I were playing in the dust underneath our front porch . . ." ¹³)

Not long after the end of Rev. Millikan's tenure, the Presbyterians began the construction of a new church at the corner of Grove and Genessee Streets. While this building was being completed, the Presbyterians and the Congregationalists shared the Congregational Church building.

It is contended that the Congregationalists had a great deal of trouble filling their pulpit. Starting in 1880, a rather consistent vacancy in their pulpit necessitated the Congregationalists worshipping with the Presbyterians at their church. Apparently, the Congregational Church could not survive this de facto merger as it was not many years thereafter that mention of them as an independent religious group disappears.

Upon receipt of the building, the Board of Trustees of the Morrison Literary and Scientific Association voted to rename the structure the "Odell Building." A new ceiling was installed and it was freshly oiled and painted. In May of 1887 the library, located in rooms on the third floor of the bank building was closed until the opening of the new library quarters on the Friday evening of June 3, 1887.

In the winter of 1888, Mr. Odell's generosity surfaced again with an additional \$500 for the purchase of books. Less than a year later he passed away and, on February 12, 1889, the Board of Directors passed a beautiful resolution honoring him.

John Danforth Odell was born in Petersburg, New York, in 1815. In 1839 he married Elsie Ann Peters, and, within months of their vows, they moved to Whiteside County, Illinois where they settled in southeast Fenton Township after purchasing the Dr. William Price property. For 13 years, Mr. Odell farmed his land. During that period he and his wife had two children, both of whom died in childhood.

Following his agricultural career, J. Danforth Odell moved to Lyndon where he clerked in a general merchandise store for about two years until the owner's passing. Immediately thereafter, in partnership with F. K. Powell and W. W. Gilbert, he opened the same type of business, called J. D. Odell & Co. This business was apparently quite prosperous but dissolved after only two years by mutual assent. After two more years in the grocery trade, Mr. Odell was able to retire in 1863 and move to Morrison, ". . . having seen

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enough . . . of the hardships of the frontier to pass the balance of his days in quiet retirement."¹⁴

It is alleged that Mr. Odell possessed considerable literary talent which he showcased in the Whiteside Sentinel under the pseudonym "Tim Downes." His passing, however, was not without benefit to the Morrison Literary and Scientific Association. Odell's will bequeathed assignments of nine notes for monies due him from various individuals. The face amount of the instruments was \$6300 and the devise also included accrued interest totaling \$389.86. It was from this nest egg that the Morrison Literary and Scientific Association kept itself and its museum and library on sound financial footing for years to come. In fact, Mr. Odell's gifts allowed the association to reduce its initiation and dues.

Nevertheless, the organization did not sit back content with its endowment. One of the reasons for its ongoing success was a continuing effort to raise money and provide cultural activities for the community. On February 1, 1892 the association hosted a concert featuring Professor R. Mariner, a violin soloist from Boston. Additionally, over the years, the Morrison Literary and Scientific Association continued to host a lecture series for the benefit of the community in the library building.

As in any organization, there were delinquent members. This organization, however, did not simply ignore them. In April of 1893, the board voted to send names of members who were delinquent two or more dollars to the local justice of the peace for collection.

Apparently, it was not only some of the members who were difficult. In March of 1894, the board had to pass a firm resolution directed to the librarian of some time, Ms. Hattie Strawder, to clean the rooms, dust everything and keep ". . . the lamps carefully and frequently trimmed."¹⁵ In addition, she was to keep ". . . a catalogue of books . . . prepared in manuscript and that it (was to) be used exclusively."¹⁶ All of these directions were ". . . in the attempt to make a visit to the place agreeable."¹⁷

The strained relations between Ms. Strawder and the board were relieved two months later when she resigned and Ms. Kate Webster was appointed the new librarian at the same rate of pay--\$20 per month.

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Odell Building

The Morrison Literary and Scientific Association was a local leader in technological improvements. On March 8, 1895, seven electrical lights were installed in the interior of the building at a cost of \$3 per month.

It is interesting to note the recap of the association's expenses for the year 1902: librarian's salary, \$240.00; fuel, \$130.60; books, \$85.27; insurance, \$66.48; binding, \$30.50; labor, \$13.50; periodicals, \$13.07; lumber, \$2.25.

The Board of Directors seemed to have been good money managers as in 1904 the Odell fund had grown to \$7,032.84 and annual dues were still \$1.

In April 1904 a committee was appointed ". . . to examine the practicability of changing the Morrison Scientific and Literary Association into a public library."¹⁸ Two months later a similar committee was appointed ". . . to confer with the city council with reference to forming a free public library."¹⁹ Only a month later another committee was appointed ". . . and given full power to act in taking the necessary steps towards the formation of a free public library."²⁰

The committees must have been successful with their respective charges because on January 27, 1905, at a meeting of the "members and subscribers to the Morrison Literary and Scientific Association"²¹ the following two questions were called:

"1. To lease building, furniture, fixtures, contents of the museum, all bookcases except the one located in the SW corner of the library room, and all books except those purchased with the Odell Trust Fund and so labeled for 25 years from February 1, 1905 at \$1 per annum.

2. To turn over to the Board of Directors of the Odell Public Library, annually on February 1, all funds of the association after making necessary repairs to the building and paying insurance for 25 years beginning February 1, 1905."²²

Each of the questions passed a vote of the membership by the same tallies, 51-0. The Morrison Scientific and Literary Association's library and museum became the Odell Public Library, a free public library that was financially supported by the Morrison city government.

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At the next meeting of the Morrison Literary and Scientific Association, the group reduced the annual dues to \$.25 per year. The minutes of this meeting recited that the Odell fund contained \$7,133. The funds turned over to the library must have been the association's but not the inheritance from J. Danforth Odell.

By July 1906 there were only nine members of the association--six directors and three others. Their dues amounted to \$2.25. However, as fiscally responsible as ever, the board voted to take steps to collect their \$1 per annum rent from the library and, in 1910, the delinquent \$5 was received. Furthermore, the board continued managing the Odell fund. Its main investment activity consisted of loaning the principal to various individuals, businesses, and civic organizations such as, in 1949, the local fire department.

An interesting story occurred in the summer of 1915. As reported by the association's secretary at the time, F. A. VanOsdol, on the morning of June 7 a basement window was broken and the ". . . building . . . entered by thieves and a large collection of old and foreign coins which had been part of the museum for many years (was) stolen and carried away."²³

Thomas Shear and Michael Bailey were the culprits. They were caught by Sheriff H. T. Berry in Fulton, Illinois where Shear had tried to dispose of the loot. They were sentenced to 30 days in the county jail.

A historic chapter of the association ended on April 30, 1916 with the death of Mr. A. J. Jackson. A fair reading of the history of the Morrison Literary and Scientific Association is that it was he, having served continuously on the board since its inception, who was the leader of the organization and its accomplishments.

By this time, the Morrison Literary and Scientific Association's sole task was the management of the Odell Building. In 1917, the building committee was instructed, in conference with the Library Board, to enlarge up to two windows on each side of the structure to gain sufficient light. What, if anything, was done with this directive is unclear. However, on August 28, 1923, the board approved the plans of an architect, Mr. W. E. Bort, of Clinton, Iowa for ". . . installing a vault in the library building, converting the basement into a reading room, enlarging the windows and making other improvements on the building that are considered necessary."²⁴ (It is interesting to note that Mr. Bort's

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work is prevalent in Morrison as it was he who designed many of the fine homes along the Lincoln Highway running through the community.)

Due to the refusal of the city council to approve funding for all or a portion of the remodeling, it seems probable that Mr. Bort's plans were implemented on a piecemeal basis culminating in the north end enlargement and main building renovation project done in the winter of 1933-1934 by the Federal Civil Works Administration.

The impetus for the enlargement project is prominently mentioned in the annual reports of both the librarian and the library's Board of Trustees in the years immediately prior to the enlargement. Constant mention is made of the "crowded conditions" of the Odell Building--especially during the early Depression years when "(t)he unemployment... has drawn many readers to the libraries for study and recreation."²⁵

The best description of the work done comes from Ms. Emma Corcoran, librarian at the time of completion:

"In December 1933 the work was begun, reaching completion in April. On April 7, 1934, a public opening was held and over three hundred visitors viewed the wonderful transformation that had been wrought. The change provided additional space, light and ventilation and much better facilities for work. Nor must the practical side be allowed to overshadow the aesthetic improvement.

With enlarged windows, fine lighting, artistic floor covering, the repolishing of the beautiful pine sides and ceiling of the old part, and the light airy finish of the addition at the north, everyone is enthusiastic over the marvelous change that has taken place."²⁶

Over the years, the Odell Building, as home of the library and museum, was the center for the community's educational, academic and, often, cultural life.

The annual reports of the librarian and the library of the 1920s and 1930s consistently mention the use of the facility made by various churches, lodges, civic societies and clubs, the Boy and Girl Scouts, and especially the schools--particularly the English

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classes of the local high school--for gathering data and doing research for their projects, merit badges, and presentations.

The schools' teachers drew on the resources at the building as well. They frequented it ". . . for their professional reading and many for help in preparing for teachers examinations."²⁷ Included was the ability to call upon the library at the University of Illinois to furnish reference material not on hand.

Younger borrowers were certainly not ignored either. Mention is often made of "easy reading" or juvenile books for the children's table. Noted with emphasis in 1929 was the acquisition of The Book of Knowledge ". . . containing information and interesting articles on scores of subjects of interest to children . . ."²⁸ Additionally, begun in the 1930s and carried on into more modern times, there was a Saturday morning children's story time--an event many local residents fondly remember as an important facet of their youth.

A statistical picture of the library is included in Appendix A. It shows the growth of the use of the facility over the years. It also seems to show the effects that outside historical events (war, depression) had on such an enterprise.

Although the use of the Odell Building as a library was its primary function, it was also a museum and repository of nature's wonders. As previously noted, from its beginnings many curios, relics and specimens were on display in the cases built for those purposes. In 1920, a bird chart was initiated which ". . . attracted much attention."²⁹ Apparently the citizens reported sightings of species, reported them on the chart, and written memos were submitted on ". . . the preparation of bird houses and methods of attracting the birds to these homes . . ."³⁰

In 1924, many of these items were removed from their cases to storage, and the cases were devoted to the growing number of books. However, many of the items made periodic reappearances in special displays.

Finally, the Odell Building served in times of need as well. During the World War II years, its basement was the home of the community's Red Cross rooms. From there books for servicemen and clothing for war sufferers were collected and sent overseas.

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Besides presiding over the Civil Works Administration project of 1933-34, the Board of the Morrison Literary and Scientific Association also oversaw the drastic change done to the front (south elevation) of the Odell Building in 1945. According to local legend, this renovation was a result of the original front facade pulling away from the rest of the structure.

In 1974, the Morrison Literary and Scientific Association deeded the Odell Building to the City of Morrison which is the governing body of the library. On December 1, 1975, the last vestiges of the 98 year old organization disappeared as the Illinois Secretary of State dissolved the corporation for its failure to file an annual report.

In 1995, the community built a brand new library and community center vacating the Odell Building from the use for which it had so proudly served for over one hundred years. Currently, a committee of the city government has the question of its future under study.

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Endnotes

1. Bastian, Wayne. A History of Whiteside County. Henry, Illinois: M&D Printing Co., 1968, Page 315
2. Morrison Scientific and Literary Association. Minutes of Meetings, Book One, Page 1
3. Ibid., Book One, Page 2
4. Ibid., Book One, Pages 5, 6, 10 & 11
5. Ibid., Book One, Page 21
6. Ibid.
7. Ibid., Book One, Page 25
8. Ibid., Book One, Page 26
9. Ibid.
10. The Whiteside Herald. July 5, 1878
11. Morrison Scientific and Literary Association. Minutes of Meetings, Book One, Page 33
12. Ibid., Book One, Page 47
13. Millikan, Robert A. The Autobiography of Robert A. Millikan. New York, New York: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1950, Page 3
14. Bent, Charles. History of Whiteside County, Illinois. Morrison, Illinois: The Whiteside Sentinel, 1877
15. Morrison Scientific and Literary Association. Minutes of Meetings, Book One, Page 280
16. Ibid.
17. Ibid. 18. Ibid., Book Two, Page 8
19. Ibid., Book Two, Page 9

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20. Ibid., Book Two, Page 10
21. Ibid., Book Two, Page 18
22. Ibid.
23. Ibid., Book Two, Page 91
24. Ibid., Book Two, Page 132
25. Odell Public Library. Annual Report of the Librarian to the Board of Trustees: 1934, Page 2.
26. Ibid.
27. Ibid., 1925, Page 3.
28. Ibid., 1929, Pages 2-3
29. The Whiteside Sentinel. July 16, 1920.
30. Ibid.
31. Odell Public Library. Annual Reports of the Odell Public Library to the Illinois State Library or its predecessor. 1915-1945.
32. Odell Public Library. Monthly and Annual Reports of the Librarian. 1911-1914.

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Incorporation issued to the Morrison Literary and
Scientific Association, Box 115, No. 4465. Filed
12/5/1877.

Millikan, Robert A. The Autobiography of Robert A.
Millikan. New York, New York: Prentice-Hall, Inc.,
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Prospectus, Barnes-Crosby Co., 1909.

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Morrison Literary and Scientific Association. Minutes of Meetings 1877-1974.

Morrison Literary and Scientific Association. Check registers. 1877 intermittent through 1946.

Odell Public Library. Annual Reports of the Board of Trustees to the Mayor and City Council of Morrison. 1925; 1933; 1934

Odell Public Library. Monthly and Annual Reports of the Librarian. 1905-1945

Odell Public Library. Annual Reports of the Odell Public Library to the Illinois State Library or its predecessor. 1915-1945.

Weaver, Local History of Morrison and Vicinity. Unpublished handtyped manuscript, 1934.

Whiteside County Recorder of Deeds. Document #6567 filed 1/15/87 and #1722-74 filed 4/10/74.

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The Whiteside Herald. July 5, 1878.

The Whiteside News Sentinel. June 9, 1887; January 28,
1892; May 17, 1894; May 5, 1877; May 19, 1887; May 26,
1887; June 2, 1887; May 11, 1865; November 17, 1879;
January 20, 1887; July 20, 1920.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is described as follows: Lot 8 and Lot 3, excepting the west sixty-four feet and the east thirty-two feet of said Lot 3 in Block 1 in the City of Morrison, Whiteside County, Illinois.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

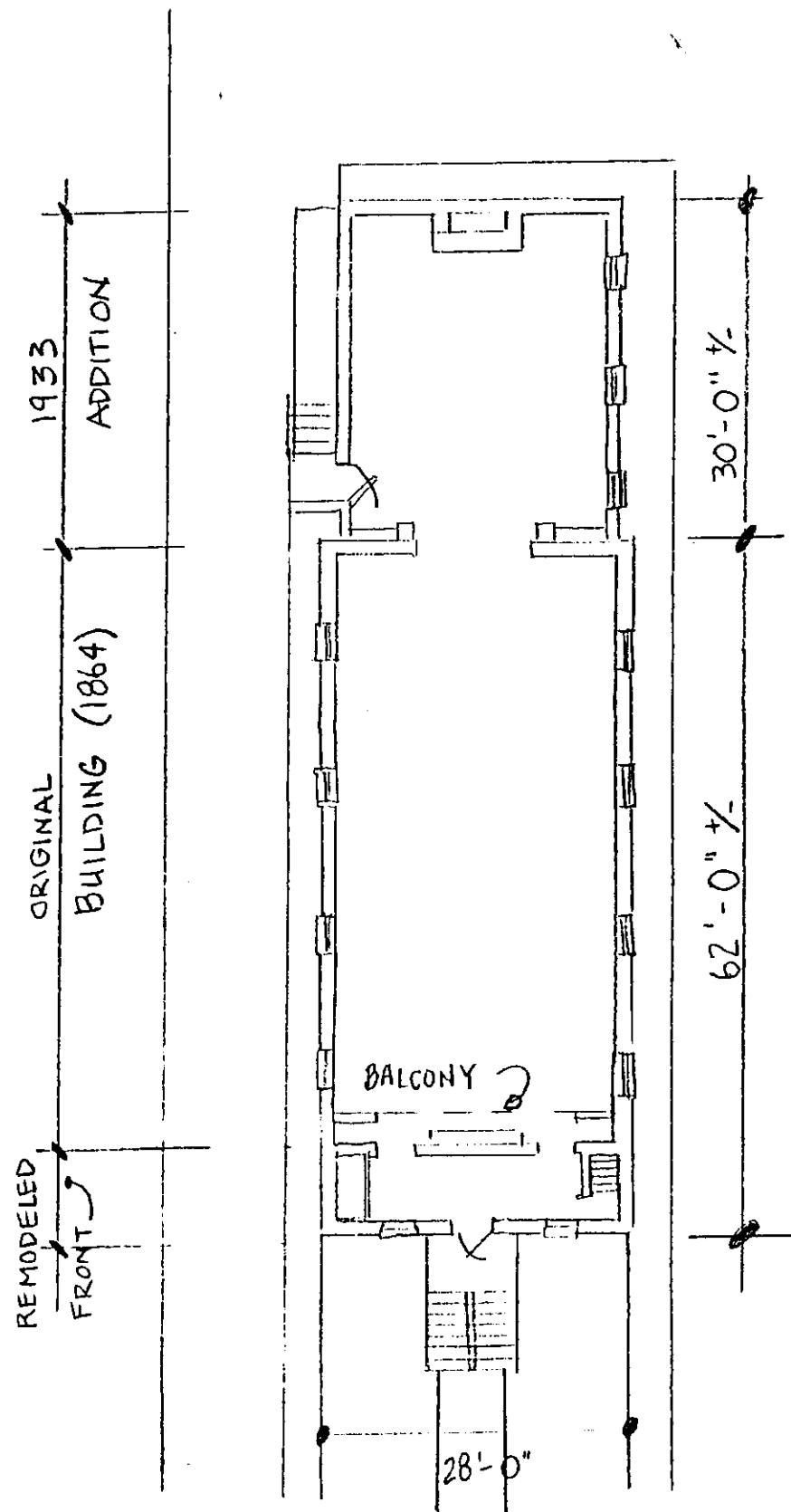
The nominated property includes the entire parcel and building historically associated with the Odell Building.

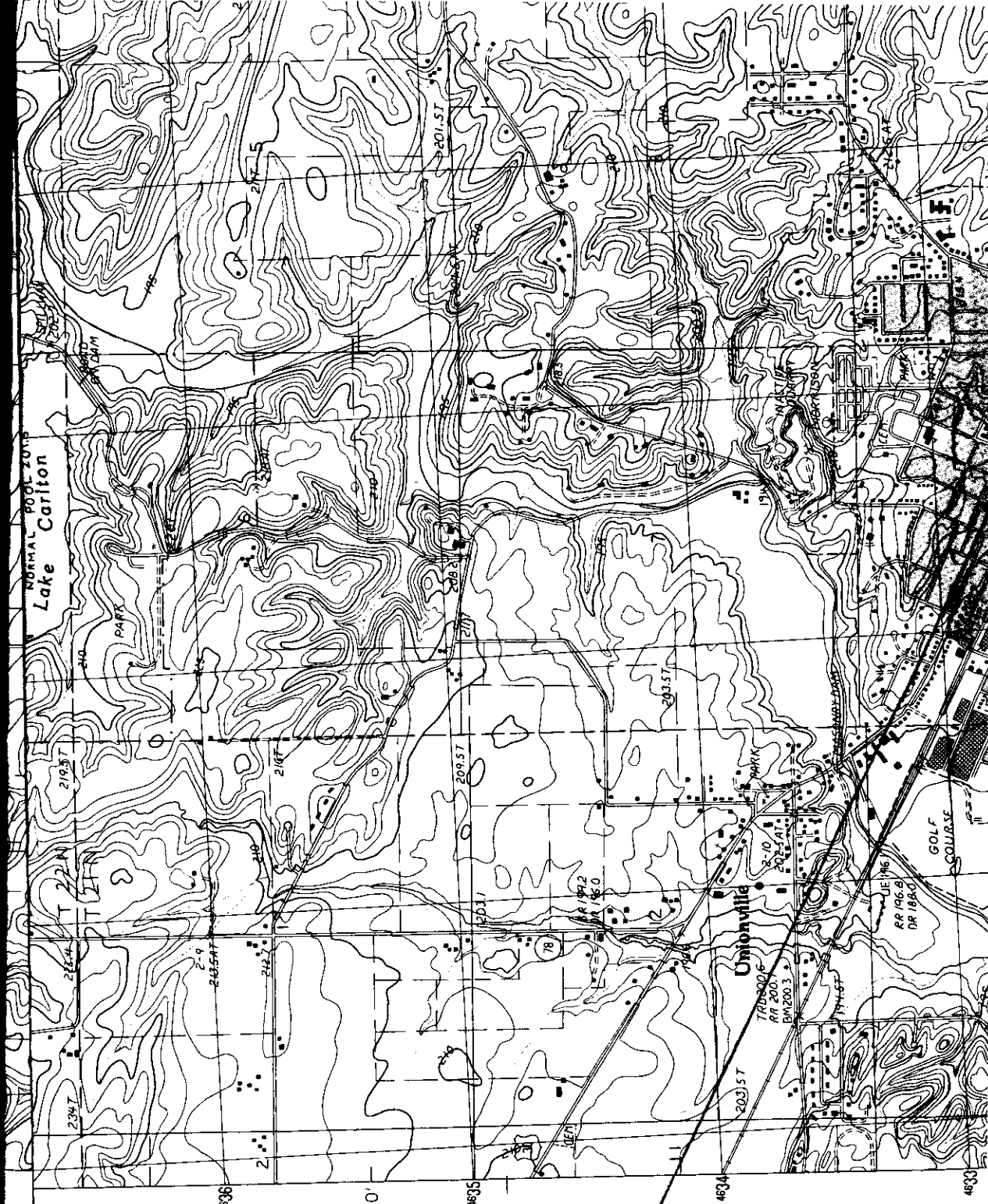
APPENDIX A

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Volumes</u>	<u>Available Periodicals</u>	<u>Number of Borrowers</u>	<u>Total Circulation</u>
1911	-	-	808	13,881
1912	5040	35	926	13,606
1913	5327	35	942	14,742
1914	5476	-	958	13,758
1915	5640	25	1012	12,659
1916	5862	25	1060	12,483
1917	6030	33	830	14,866
1918	6145	31	895	13,114
1919	6314	28	912	12,902
1920	6383	32	1019	16,947
1921	6577	37	1050	19,816
1922	6619	37	1097	19,546
1923	6917	35	1113	18,296
1924	7033	36	1232	17,650
1925	6454	40	1219	18,482
1926	6545	45	1240	17,475
1927	6662	47	1305	17,197

1928	6852	40	1209	19,543
1929	6976	40	832	19,031
1930	7083	42	1038	20,847
1931	7322	41	1200	21,405
1932	7461	46	1308	24,288
1933	7672	40	1400	25,855
1934	7823	36	894	22,049
1935	8021	41	1161	24,485
1936	8085	41	1348	20,647
1937	8449	38	1614	17,949
1938	8782	38	1515	12,480
1939	9114	35	1712	21,008
1940	9480	41	1982	22,308
1941	9806	42	1836	19,797
1942	10,136	42	-	20,458
1943	10,457	43	-	18,729
1944	10,705	43	1648	15,905
1945	10,899	27	1828	14,880

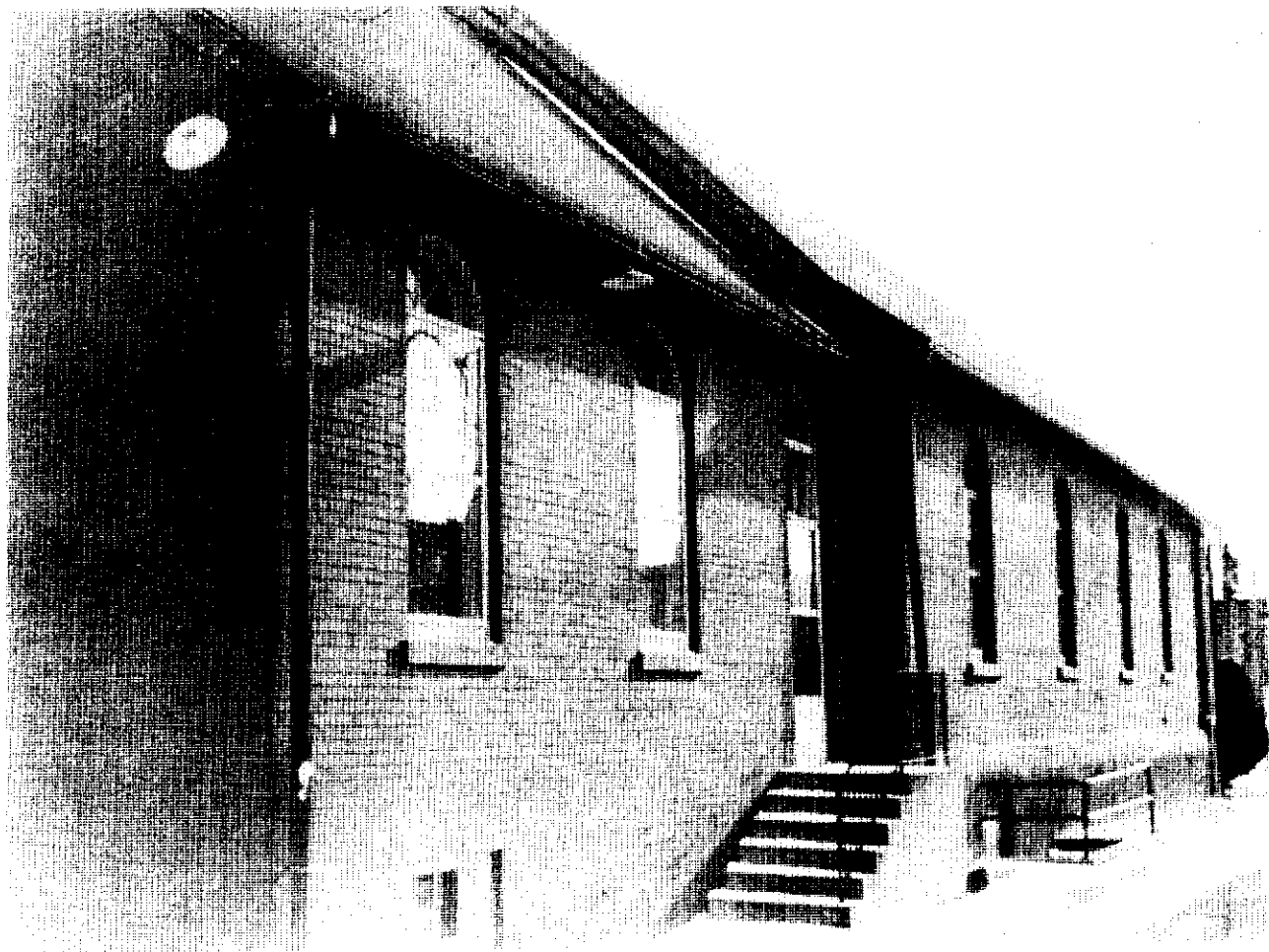
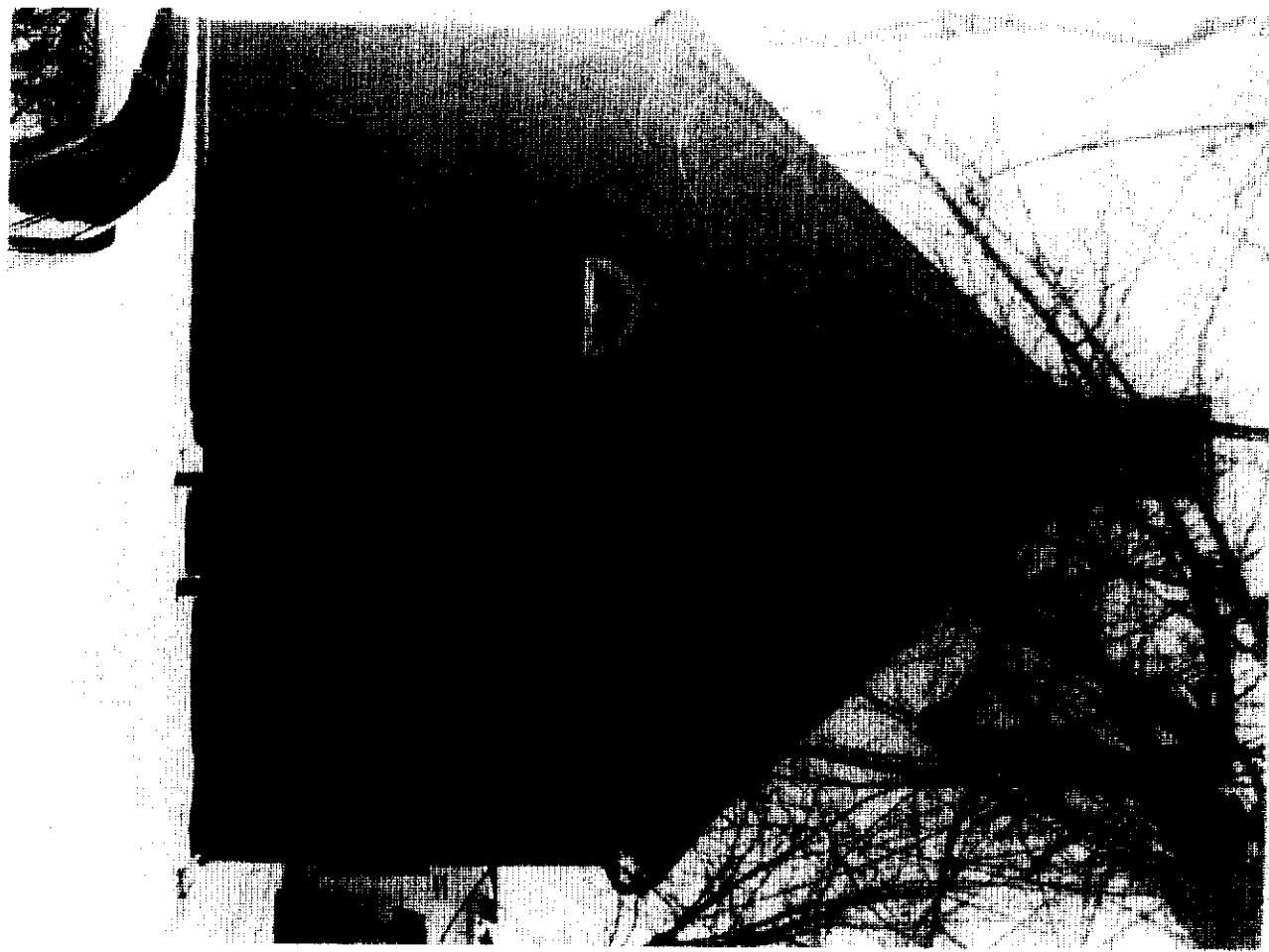
ODELL BUILDING FLOOR PLAN

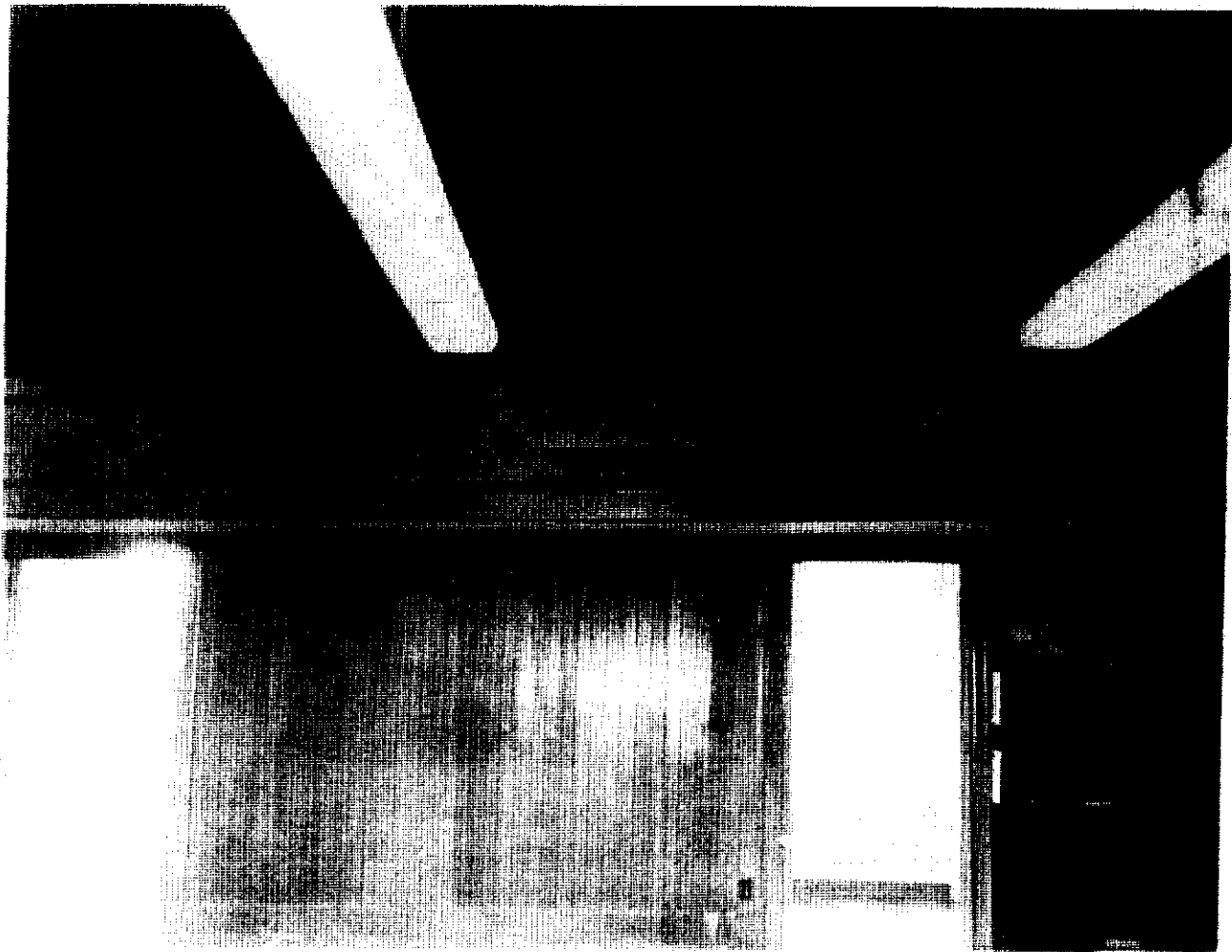
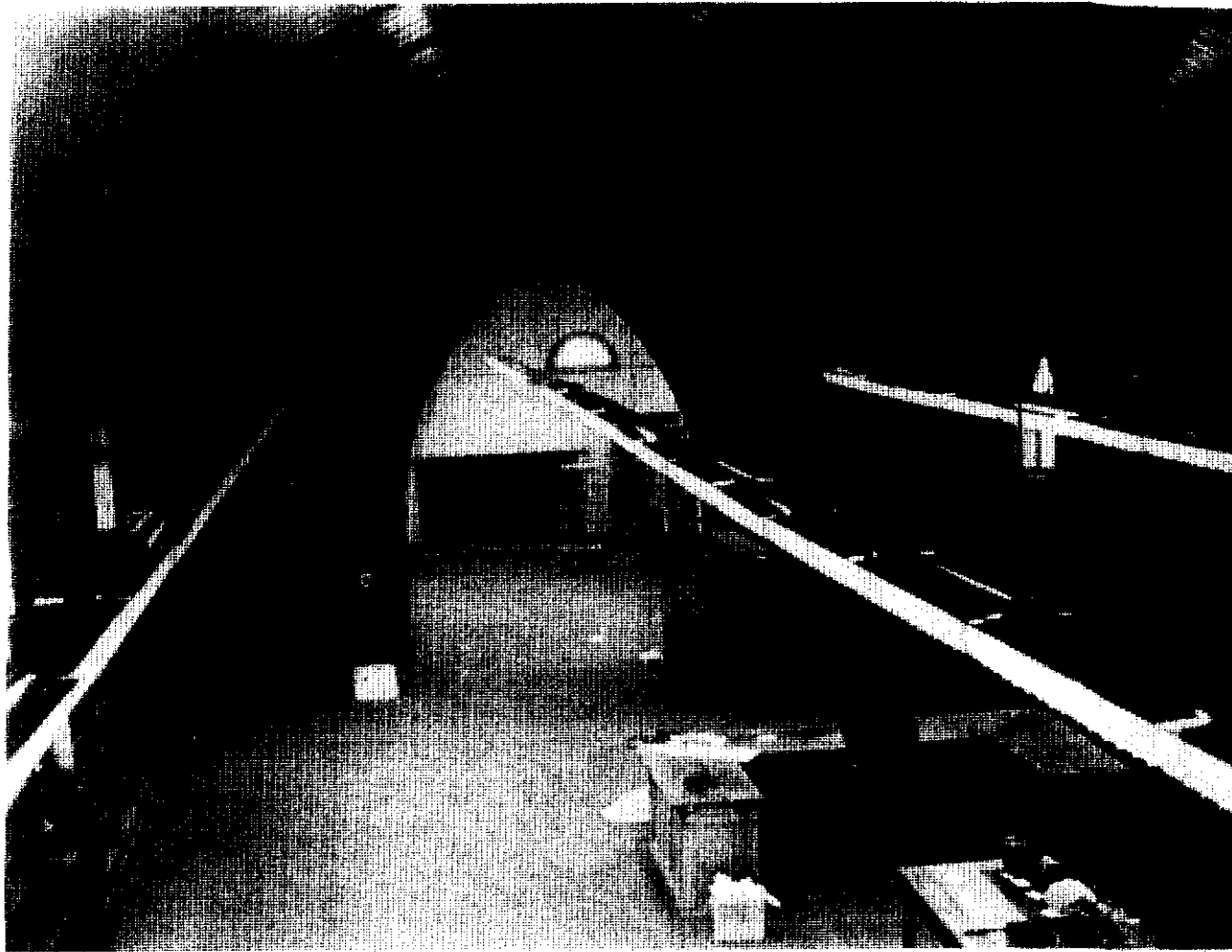


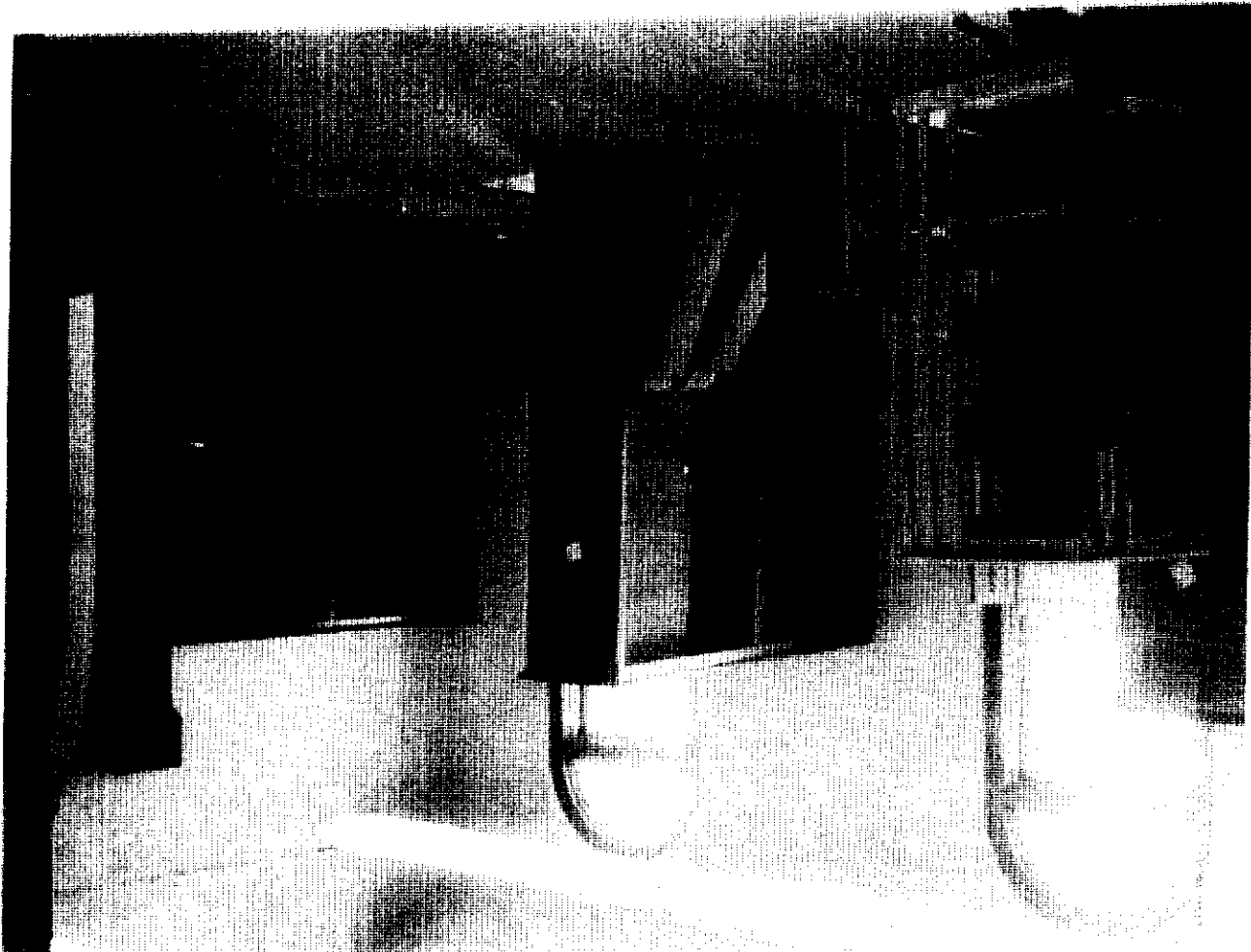
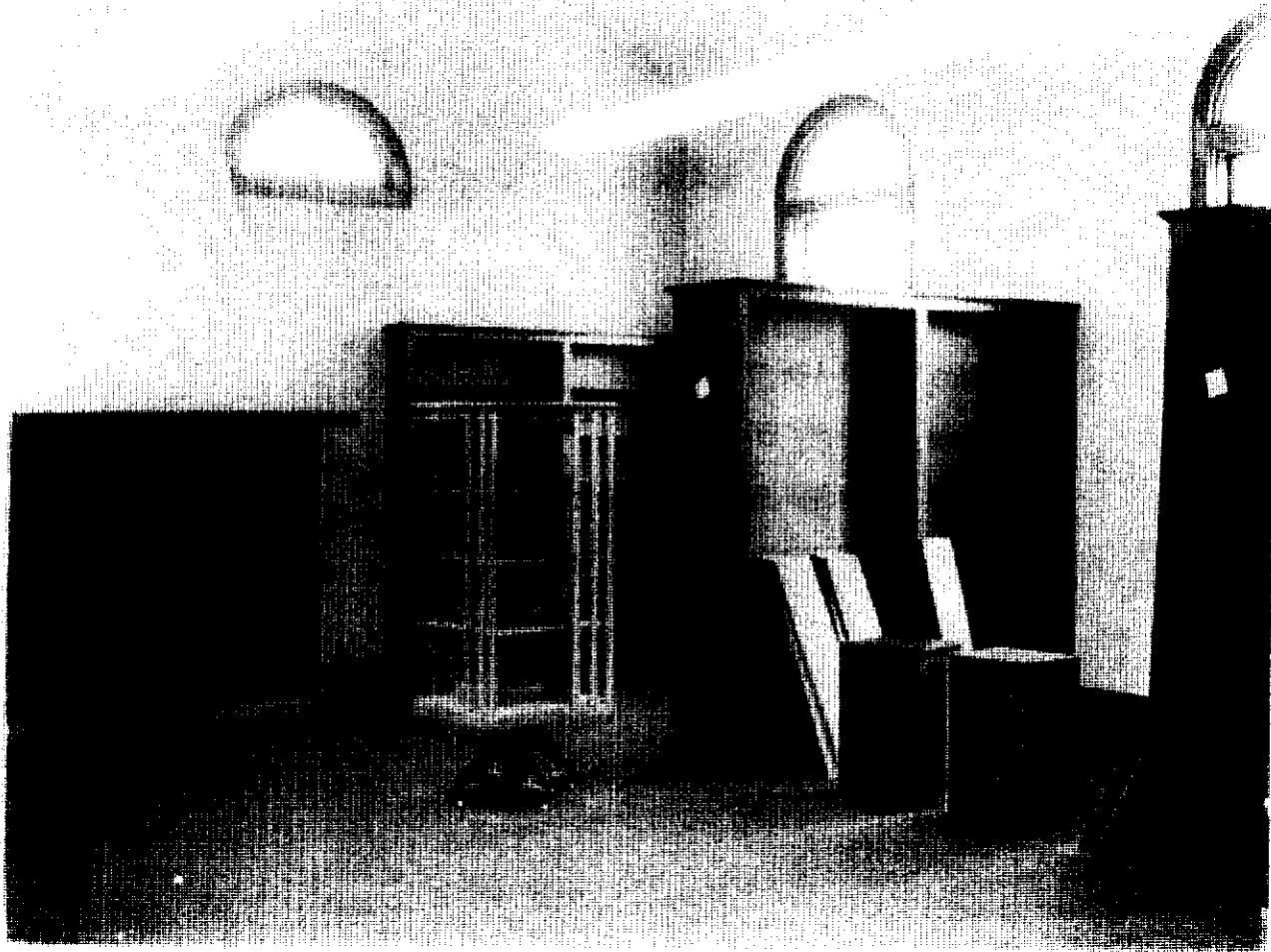


ODELL BUILDING
WHITESIDE COUNTY
ILLINOIS
ZONE 16
E 253750
N 4632630











United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

IN REPLY REFER TO:

The Director of the National Park Service is pleased to announce actions on the following properties for the National Register of Historic Places.

For further information contact Edson Beall via voice
(202) 343-1572, fax (202) 343-1836 or E-mail: edson_beall@nps.gov

Visit our web site at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/nrhome.html>

DEC 20 1996

WEEKLY LIST OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON PROPERTIES: 12/09/96 THROUGH 12/13/96

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

ARIZONA, MARICOPA COUNTY, Jones, Edward L., House, 5555 N. Casa Blanca Dr., Paradise Valley, 96001474, LISTED, 12/13/96

ARKANSAS, OUACHITA COUNTY, Oakland Cemetery, Confederate Section, N of Pearl St., between Adams and Young Sts., Camden, 96001408, LISTED, 12/12/96 (Civil War Commemorative Sculpture MPS)

DELAWARE, SUSSEX COUNTY, Barnes Woods Archeological District, Address Restricted, Seaford vicinity, 96001413, LISTED, 12/11/96

ILLINOIS, WHITESIDE COUNTY, Odell Building, 202 E. Lincolnway Rd., Morrison, 96001475, LISTED, 12/13/96

LOUISIANA, WEST BATON ROUGE PARISH, Allendale Plantation Historic District, Jct. of N. River Rd. and Allendale Rd., Port Allen vicinity, 96001263, LISTED, 11/01/96

MAINE, CUMBERLAND COUNTY, Dry Mill School, 1 Game Farm Rd., Dry Mills vicinity, 96001495, LISTED, 12/13/96

MAINE, PENOBSCOT COUNTY, Sargent--Roberts House, 178 State St., Bangor, 96001476, LISTED, 12/13/96 (Historic Residential Architecture of Bangor MPS)

MASSACHUSETTS, ESSEX COUNTY, Lynn Woods Historic District, Roughly bounded by Lynnfield St., Bow Ridge, Great Woods Rd., Parkland Ave., Walnut St., Saugus Line, Lynn, 96000951, LISTED, 9/06/96

MASSACHUSETTS, WORCESTER COUNTY, Still River Baptist Church, 213 Still River Rd., Harvard, 96001479, LISTED, 12/13/96

MICHIGAN, ALLEGAN COUNTY, Felt, Dorr E., Mansion, 66th St., N of 138th Ave., Laketown Township, Saugatuck vicinity, 96001418, LISTED, 12/12/96

MICHIGAN, BARRY COUNTY, Chief Noonday Group Camp Historic District, E of Briggs Rd., approximately 1 mi. SE of jct. of Briggs Rd. and Bowens Mill Rd., Yankee Springs Township, Bowens Mill vicinity, 96001481, LISTED, 12/13/96

MICHIGAN, BARRY COUNTY, Long Lake Group Camp Historic District, Long Lake Rd., near jct. of Gun Lake Rd. and Hastings Point Rd., Yankee Springs Township, Cloverdale vicinity, 96001482, LISTED, 12/13/96

MICHIGAN, EMMET COUNTY, Four Mile Clearing Rural Historic District, Roughly, jct. of Mitchell and Fletcher Rds. and jct. of Country Club and Fletcher Rds., Bear Lake Township, Petoskey vicinity, 96001379, LISTED, 12/06/96

MISSOURI, JOHNSON COUNTY, Warren Steet Methodist Episcopal Church, 201 S. Warren St., Warrensburg, 96001483, LISTED, 12/13/96

NEW JERSEY, MERCER COUNTY, Mount Rose Distillery, Address Restricted, Hopewell vicinity, 96001471, LISTED, 12/12/96

NORTH CAROLINA, DUPLIN COUNTY, Warsaw Historic District, Roughly bounded by former Atlantic Coastline RR right-of-way, N. and S. Front, Pollock, Frisco, Plank, and Railroad Sts., Warsaw, 96001484, LISTED, 12/13/96 (Duplin County MPS)

OKLAHOMA, GRADY COUNTY, Pocasset Gymnasium, .5 mi. S of jct. of Dutton Rd. and OK 81, Pocasset, 96001489, LISTED, 12/13/96

OKLAHOMA, STEPHENS COUNTY, Duncan Armory, 100 ft. from jct. of 14th St. and unmarked alley between Fuqua Park and Ash Ave., Duncan, 96001490, LISTED, 12/13/96

OKLAHOMA, TULSA COUNTY, 66 Motel, 3660 Southwest Blvd., Tulsa, 96001487, LISTED, 12/13/96 (Route 66 in Oklahoma MPS)

OKLAHOMA, TULSA COUNTY, Eleventh Street Arkansas River Bridge, US 66 over the Arkansas R., from Tulsa to W. Tulsa, Tulsa, 96001488, LISTED, 12/13/96 (Route 66 in Oklahoma MPS)

OKLAHOMA, TULSA COUNTY, Sinclair Service Station, 3501 E. 11th St., Tulsa, 96001486, LISTED, 12/13/96 (Route 66 in Oklahoma MPS)

PUERTO RICO, VEGA BAJA MUNICIPALITY, Casa Alonso, 34 Betances St., Veja Baja, 96001491, LISTED, 12/13/96

TENNESSEE, KNOX COUNTY, Candoro Marble Works, 681 Maryville Pike, Knoxville, 96001399, OWNER OBJECTION DETERMINED ELIGIBLE, 12/04/96 (Knoxville and Knox County MPS)

TENNESSEE, KNOX COUNTY, First Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Adjacent to 620 State St., Knoxville, 96001400, LISTED, 12/04/96 (Knoxville and Knox County MPS)

TENNESSEE, KNOX COUNTY, Kingston Pike Historic District, Roughly 2728-3151, 3201, 3219, 3401, 3425, and 3643 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, 96001404, LISTED, 12/04/96 (Knoxville and Knox County MPS)

TENNESSEE, KNOX COUNTY, Old Gray Cemetery, 543 N. Broadway, Knoxville, 96001402, LISTED, 12/04/96 (Knoxville and Knox County MPS)

TENNESSEE, KNOX COUNTY, South Market Historic District, 707, 709 and 713 Market St. and 404 and 406 Church Ave., Knoxville, 96001403, LISTED, 12/04/96 (Knoxville and Knox County MPS)

TENNESSEE, KNOX COUNTY, Tennessee School for the Deaf Historic District, 2725 Island Home Blvd., Knoxville, 96001401, LISTED, 12/04/96 (Knoxville and Knox County MPS)

WASHINGTON, SPOKANE COUNTY, Central Steam Heat Plant, 152 S. Post St. and 815 W. Railroad Ave., Spokane, 96001492, LISTED, 12/13/96

WASHINGTON, WHATCOM COUNTY, Peace Arch, Peace Arch State Park, US 5 at the US--Canadian border, Blaine, 96001493, LISTED, 12/13/96

WASHINGTON, WHATCOM COUNTY, Washington Grocery Company Warehouse, 1125 Railroad Ave., Bellingham, 96001494, LISTED, 12/13/96