

FINAL

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 an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Maring, Grace Keiser, Library

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_ 035-442-45308

2. Location

street & number 1808 South Madison Street N/A  not for publication

city or town Muncie N/A  vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Delaware code 035 zip code 47302

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

[Signature]  
Signature of certifying official/Title  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources

7-27-05  
Date

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 certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

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

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

- building
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: Library

VACANT

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

19th & 20th c. REVIVALS: Colonial Revival

foundation CONCRETE

walls BRICK

STONE: Limestone

roof STONE: Slate

other METAL: copper

**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.)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
EDUCATION

Period of Significance

1930-1955

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Houck and Smenner (architects)
Glaser, A.J. (builder)

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- Criteria A-G with checkboxes and descriptions.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- Criteria for previous documentation on file (NPS).

Primary location of additional data:

- Criteria for primary location of additional data.

Name of repository:

Maring, Grace Keiser, Library  
Name of Property

Delaware IN  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

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

1	16	63 7 8 7 0	44 4 8 6 6 0	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
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 Jonathan Spodek and Holly Beach  
organization Ball State University date 02-15-2004  
street & number Department of Architecture (AB 402) telephone 765/ 285-1900  
city or town Muncie state IN zip code 47306

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

##### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

##### Photographs

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

##### Additional items

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

### Property Owner

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

name City of Muncie  
street & number 300 N. High St. telephone 765/ 747-4853  
city or town Muncie state IN zip code 47305

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

(8-86)

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**Narrative Description**

Summary Paragraph

The Grace Keiser Maring Branch Library is a one story, brick masonry Georgian Revival building located at the northeast corner of the intersection of Madison Street and Memorial Drive in Heekin Park in Muncie, Delaware County, Indiana. The building was constructed in 1930 as the first branch library for Muncie Public Library. The library is a symmetrical structure on a concrete foundation. The exterior is red brick with limestone detailing and is covered by a side-gabled slate roof. Although vacant since 1999, the interior of the building contains the original wood trim and circulation desk on the first floor and a large open room with support spaces in the basement. This library has remained relatively unaltered since its original dedication and retains a high level of historic integrity.

Site/Context

The library is set on the southwest corner of Heekin Park. The park was meant to be a "natural park" which had the majority of its space devoted to treed and open areas. The library's immediate site follows this natural theme. The area around the library has sporadically placed landscape features. The parking area is located behind at the rear of the building with a drive way that leads to Memorial Drive. There is a concrete sidewalk that leads around the south side of the building from the parking lot to the main entrance. To enter the library from Madison Street there is a flight of stairs leading up the hill from the sidewalk along the street. A secondary entrance, on the east façade, leads down into the basement.

Exterior

The building's main block is a rectangular, five-bay, symmetrical structure measuring 61'-6" by 32'-0", facing west towards Madison Street with a small central rear projection. The exterior is composed of a red brick accented by the limestone trim around the door and windows. There is a limestone belt course dividing the basement from the first floor. This feature accents the elevated first floor entrance at an intermediate level between the basement and first floor levels. The windows are predominate and symmetrically placed on the façade. A wood cornice with copper gutters accents the roofline. The narrow end walls have parapets which enclose the steep, gabled slate roof. Two end chimneys protrude from the north and south gable end façades.

West Façade (front)

The main entrance is located on the west façade. There are six concrete steps leading up to the wooden six paneled door with a fan light above. The door surround is limestone with a pediment above the entry, flanked by fluted Doric pilasters. The name of the library is carved into the frieze and an urn and acanthus vine design is located in the pediment. Flanking each side of the entry are bronze lamps and two narrow wooden three-light windows at the entry vestibule level.

The entire façade is symmetrical and the wooden windows express the symmetry. They are evenly placed on this façade, recessed within a blind arch with limestone blocks at the spring points of each arch. There are four twelve-over-twelve wood windows topped by a limestone jack arch with a pronounced keystone, and a limestone sill. Centered under each of the first floor windows are sets of paired casement windows in the raised foundation. The first floor windows are all original as are the basements windows. At some point, glass in two of the basement windows was removed and replaced with exhaust fans. This is the only modification to the windows on this facade.

Features that accent this façade include the wooden cornice and copper gutter system around the roof line. Another stylistic feature on this elevation is the gable end parapet walls with chimneys rising above the roofline.

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East Façade (rear)

The East façade continues the symmetry of the front façade but is accented by a Palladian window located on the central axis in the rear projection from the building. The window contains a fan-light over the main fifteen-over-fifteen window with tall narrow, six-over-six light windows on either side. The limestone surround features an arch with a pronounced keystone, fluted pilasters that flank the small windows, and a decorative sill runs the length of the window. Above the Palladian window is a round six light circular attic window accented by four limestone keys and brick rowlock surround. The gable end of the rear projection has a gabled parapet wall with a stone coping.

There are four windows symmetrically placed on the rear façade that are the same as the ones on the front façade. They are evenly placed on this façade within a blind arch with limestone blocks at the spring points of each arch. The windows are twelve-over-twelve wood windows topped by a limestone jack arch with a pronounced keystone and a limestone sill. The basement windows are located directly under the first floor windows and are sets of paired wooden casement windows. Tucked into the southeast corner of the rear projection is a set of concrete stairs leading down to a basement entrance. These stairs are screened by a low, brick wall. The entry door opening is original to the design. However, the original door and frame were replaced with a contemporary hollow metal door and frame. All the windows on this façade are original with the exception of one basement sash that has been removed and replaced with a louver into the mechanical room.

North/South Facades

The north and south facades are identical, containing a central chimney flanked by two windows on either side. The chimneys are placed at the center of the gable end of the building and protrude out a half foot from the exterior walls. The two chimneys step in half way up the wall with limestone triangles accenting the reduction in width. Above the parapet wall, the chimneys have a limestone band several brick courses from the chimney's top. At the first floor, the chimney is flanked by two wooden eight-over-eight double hung windows on either side. The windows are set in blind arches like the front and rear façades and share similar limestone details as those windows. The basement windows on these elevations are situated directly under the upper windows and are the same double casement windows as the front and rear facades. The brick walls extend above the roofline, forming a sloped parapet wall with flat end steps, all capped by a limestone coping.

Interior

The main entrance to the library is through a small vestibule centrally placed on the west side of the building at a level half way between the first floor and the basement. The vestibule acts as an enlarged landing to the stairs connecting the first floor and the basement. To the south side of the vestibule is a half-flight of stairs to the basement. To the north side of the vestibule is a half-flight of stairs to the first floor. The half-flight of stairs to the first floor wrap around a glass enclosed library office on the first floor. Between these stairs in the vestibule are the casement windows of the first floor library office.

The first floor is simply organized with central reading room flanked on each side by two evenly sized reading rooms. The three primary spaces of the first floor are divided by partial walls capped by walnut framed windows. A semi-circular circulation desk is centrally located at the west end of the main reading room. Behind this desk is a small office. The 14-foot tall ceilings are accented by a run-in-place plaster cove at the ceiling and stain finished walnut trim throughout the first floor. The south reading room has a centrally placed fireplace with a walnut mantel with Georgian urn detailing. All of the original dark stain walnut trim is still intact on the first floor windows and doors. The concrete floor is covered with contemporary glued down carpet. The walls are painted plaster. The walls of each of the three reading rooms once had

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built-in book shelves. They are still extant on the northern most and southern most walls. However, only the paint ghosts of these built-in shelves are evident on the other walls. A small corner sink, original to the design, is still extant in the northeast corner of the south reading room. The originally lighting has been replaced with 1960's style fluorescent light fixtures.

The basement has no formal spaces. The primary space is the Community Room taking up the northern 3<sup>rd</sup> of the level. The remaining spaces include a kitchen, toilet rooms, storage rooms and a mechanical room. The basement is utilitarian in nature with no significant detailing or ornament. Changes to the basement have only included fixtures and equipment. The steam boiler dates from the 1960's, the kitchen sink has been removed, and new toilets, sinks and partitions have been added to the bathroom.

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**Statement of Significance**

Summary

The Grace Keiser Maring Branch Library holds local historical significance, meeting National Register Criteria A and C. The library played an important role in the development of Muncie Public Library system and influenced the south side of Muncie. In 1930, it was constructed as the first branch library in Muncie. Since the building's dedication, it served the residents of the south side of Muncie as an educational resource and a social/civic meeting place. The structure meets National Register Criteria C in the area of Architecture as an excellent example of Georgian Revival civic building in the city. The building was designed by Houck and Smenner, a respected local architectural firm.

History and Background

The public library movement's initial emphasis was to construct central or main libraries. But a need for more facilities was becoming evident in the middle 1920s. Resources were required to satisfy the needs of the residents rapidly growing cities and outlying rural areas. The branch library was the solution to this need.<sup>1</sup> The goal of the branch library system was "to bring people and books together."<sup>2</sup> The branch libraries were not as formal as the main library. They were designed to be more comfortable for the local citizens; the buildings were neither as large nor as formal as the main library.<sup>3</sup>

Muncie, like other cities, was growing and as a result had a need for a new branch library on the south side of the city. In 1923 a petition to the library board containing five hundred signatures of south side residents verified this need.<sup>4</sup> Unfortunately money constraints did not allow for the construction of a branch library in 1923. A bequest from Grace Keiser Maring in October of 1926 gave the city the money needed to begin the planning and construction of the library.

Grace Keiser Maring and her husband Joel Madison Maring were prominent, philanthropic residents of the city of Muncie. Joel benefited from the great gas boom by founding Maring, Hart, and Cole Glass Factory and was the Director of the local Merchants National Bank. As the wife of a prominent businessman, Grace was able to spend her time as a member and leader of several social organizations. Her death came unexpectedly at age 61, but her will carried out the work she began in life.<sup>5</sup> In the will, Maring stated that would "like to give a sufficient amount to build, or at least to help build a branch library building providing the city will support and equip it."<sup>6</sup>

Mrs. Maring's estate provided \$25,000 for this purpose. Mrs. Maring's heirs and the Library Board of Trustees agreed that Heekin Park would be the ideal location for this first branch library. The location within the park was at the intersection of two major streets on Muncie's south side, 12<sup>th</sup> Street (now Memorial Drive) and Madison Street. Additionally, it was conveniently located between Garfield Elementary School and Wilson Junior High School. In 1999, due to the small size and the expense of maintenance and upkeep of the building, the Muncie Public Library decided to vacate the building and turn it over to the City of Muncie.

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1 Arthur D. Mortimore, *Branch Libraries*. London: A Grafton Book, 1966, p. 8 and 13.

2 John Adams Lowe, "The Rural Library Building," *The Architectural Record* 1919, p. 451.

3 Ibid.

4 Elizabeth Hinkley Middleton, "The First Seventy-Five Years: A Sketch of the Muncie Public Library, 1847-1949." June 1949, History and Genealogy Center, Muncie, Indiana.

5 "Social Worker Dies Suddenly," *Muncie Morning News*, October 13, 1926, p.1, c.4.

6 Grace Keiser Maring. "Will," History and Genealogy Center, Muncie, Indiana.



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Muncie may be unique in Indiana in that it has both a Carnegie-funded main library and a branch library funded by a philanthropic local citizen. Hammond's Carnegie library was demolished in the 1960s. Hammond had several branch libraries that were built with public funds. The buildings are extant but no longer used as library branches or owned by the Hammond Library.

Rushville and Hagerstown are both substantially smaller communities than Muncie and neither has a Carnegie library although both have privately funded library buildings. Rushville Library, completed in 1931 was funded by a donation from a local philanthropist and supplemented with local government funds. Hagerstown's library opened in 1930 and was funded by a donation from local industrialist Ralph Teeter.

The Goodland-Grant Township Public Library Newton County was built with funds donated by Thomas Mitten in 1931. Goodland does not have a Carnegie library but Newton County has two Carnegie libraries, one located in Kentland built in 1912 and second in Brook built in 1913. Neither of these communities has a branch library.<sup>7</sup> These communities are smaller and more rural than Muncie.

Criteria A

The library helped serve the educational needs of Muncie's south side where most of Muncie's heavy industry was located (including Ball Brothers Glass Factory, Warner Gear, Warner Electric, American Lawnmower, Republic Iron & Steel, Hemingray Glass, Maxon Premix Burner, Becket Bronze, and Muncie Foundry) along railroad lines and spurs. In close proximity to the factories were the residential areas of the city known as Congerville, White City and Industry where the factory workers and their families lived. These neighborhoods were located along the electric streetcar line. The Maring Library was located in the center of south Muncie.

The library was also near Wilson Junior High and Garfield Elementary Schools and was used as the main library for both schools. The branch library was planned to meet a previously unmet need for a community cultural, education and recreational center on the city's south side. In addition to the usual facilities for adult and children's reading services, the Maring Branch was equipped with a community room and kitchenette which could be for social and civic meetings. The community room became one of the most successful library services.<sup>8</sup>

As the library aged, residents continued to use the building in progressively larger numbers and with a greater frequency. By 1951, Garfield Elementary School modernized due to increasing enrollments, the city relocated the Muncie Boys' Club adjacent to the library, Madison Street YMCA was constructed, and new developments of housing were being constructed in the area.<sup>9</sup> These changes increased patronage at the library and the library board decided to increase the level of programming to accommodate the new population. The library became a part of a large block of community buildings in close proximity to one another along South Madison St.

Programs developed as a result of increased number included Children's Summer Reading programs, Adult Book Talks, Classic Film Series, and After School Enrichment.<sup>10</sup> The programs changed over time due to the educational need of the patrons. According to the library's 1961 annual report attendance during the summer at Maring functions was higher than

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7 Goodland-Grant Township Public Library National Register Nomination, Newton County, Indiana.

8Naylor, Lewis C. "Grace Keiser Maring Branch Library," April 20, 1952, Library Records Box, History and Genealogy Center, Muncie, Indiana.

9 Ibid.

10 Maring Branch Library, Annual Report, 1961, History and Genealogy Center.

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attendance at Carnegie, the main library. The library staffed personnel to develop programs for children and adults. In 1993, the children's library planned and carried out programs including three overnight lock-ins, a series of programs for Cub Scouts groups to earn badges, an Appalachian music and toy program, visits from Pet Jungle, and a Mexican Christmas Party. There were two after school programs per week that consisted of crafts, stories, films, games and guest. The library also provided several art programs including cartooning, paper mache, watercolor prints and clothes designing. For adults there were workshops for parents and teachers of the students in the local area.<sup>11</sup>

The library played an important role in education especially with their outreach programs to enrich the lives of all ages on the south side of Muncie. Although these programs were available at other library branches, the location of the Maring Library and the availability of community meeting facilities proved conducive to the success of other organizations in the area. With the neighboring buildings as Garfield Elementary and the Boys and Girls Club, the library completed an educational block on the south side of the city. The Lincoln Branch Library was established in 1934 and was located in the Lincoln School. It was moved to a new, free standing building in the 1960s and renamed Webb Hunt Branch after the Lincoln School principal of 35 years.

Criteria C

Local architects Houck and Smenner were commissioned to design the library and it was constructed by contractor A.J. Glazer. The firm of Houck and Smenner was already responsible for the design of numerous civic buildings throughout the city, including City Hall (demolished 1995), Beth El Temple, and High Street Methodist Church.<sup>11</sup> City Hall was listed in the National Register and High Street Methodist Church was designated as National Register-eligible as part of the Downtown Muncie Multiple Resource Area and Beth El Temple as listed as part of the Old West End Historic District. According to "A Hundred Year Succession of Indiana Architects and Their Work, 1888-1988" compiled by Fredrick Graham, the architectural firm of Houck and Smenner began in 1920 and was dissolved in 1931. During this period, the Grace Keiser Maring Library was the only library designed by the firm. While a number of residential projects were designed in the colonial revival style, this is the only example of a civic or commercial building designed by the firm in the Georgian Revival Style.

The style of the building is generally referred to as Colonial Revival, which was extremely popular in Muncie in the years prior to construction of the library. Specifically the structure falls into the stylistic category of Georgian Revival, a variation of Colonial Revival. Although Muncie has numerous examples of typical colonial-inspired houses, only four are rated as "outstanding" examples of the Georgian Revival style in the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory of Delaware County, conducted in 1985. The Grace Keiser Maring Library is the only civic building built in the Georgian Revival style in Muncie and is also rated "outstanding," meaning that the property has enough historic or architectural significance to be considered for an individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places.<sup>12</sup>

The Georgian Revival style is declared as "an appropriate style for proclaiming Classical Revival ideals of the Virtuous Citizen."<sup>13</sup> It was utilized to bring dignity and a sense of refined taste to civic structures, such as libraries. Georgian Revival

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11 Cecilia Howard, Maring Branch Library Annual Report, 1993.

12 Department of Natural Resources, *Delaware County Interim Report: Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory*, Indianapolis: Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, 1985.

13 Alan Gowans, *Styles and Types of North American Architecture: Social Function and Cultural Expression*, New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 1992.

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structures are characterized by their symmetrical composition and elaboration of the door and window features. The basic window considered multi-paned, double hung topped by a flat arch with a pronounced keystone. Palladian windows are also common of this style. The main, centralized entry consist of an accentuated classical pediment surrounds. Often, the door is paneled wood with a transom light above. Other common features include: a masonry string course, embellished cornice, and urn motifs.<sup>14</sup>

The Grace Keiser Maring Library exemplifies the Georgian Revival style as it is an outstanding text book example exhibiting the above characteristic elements with the symmetry, windows, and door details, string course, and decorative detail. The building remains architecturally unaltered since its inception in 1930. The integrity has been completely preserved in regard to its location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and educational associations.

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<sup>14</sup> John J.G. Blumenson, *Identifying American Architecture: A Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms, 1600-1945.*, New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1981, p. 19.

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

Beginning at the northeast corner of Madison Street and Memorial Drive, proceed north 260 feet along the east curblineline of Madison Street. Then proceed east for 150 feet. Then proceed south 260 feet to the north curblineline of Memorial Avenue. Then proceed west along the north curblineline of Memorial Avenue back to the point of origin.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes the lot historically and currently associated with the Grace Keiser Maring Library.

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**Photographs**

All photographs are of:

Grace Keiser Maring Library  
Delaware County, Indiana  
Holly Beach, Photographer

All negatives are stored in the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Photo #1 of 6

View of Front (West) Elevation, camera facing east.

Date: March 28, 2004

Photo #2 of 6

View of the West (front) and North (side) Elevations, camera facing southeast.

Date: March 28, 2004

Photo #3 of 6

View of the South (side) and East (rear) Elevations, camera facing northwest.

Date: March 28, 2004

Photo #4 of 6

View of basement meeting room, camera facing northeast.

Date: March 28, 2004

Photo #5 of 6

View first floor circulation desk, office and vestibule, camera facing southwest.

Date: March 28, 2004

Photo #6 of 6

View first floor reading rooms, camera facing northeast.

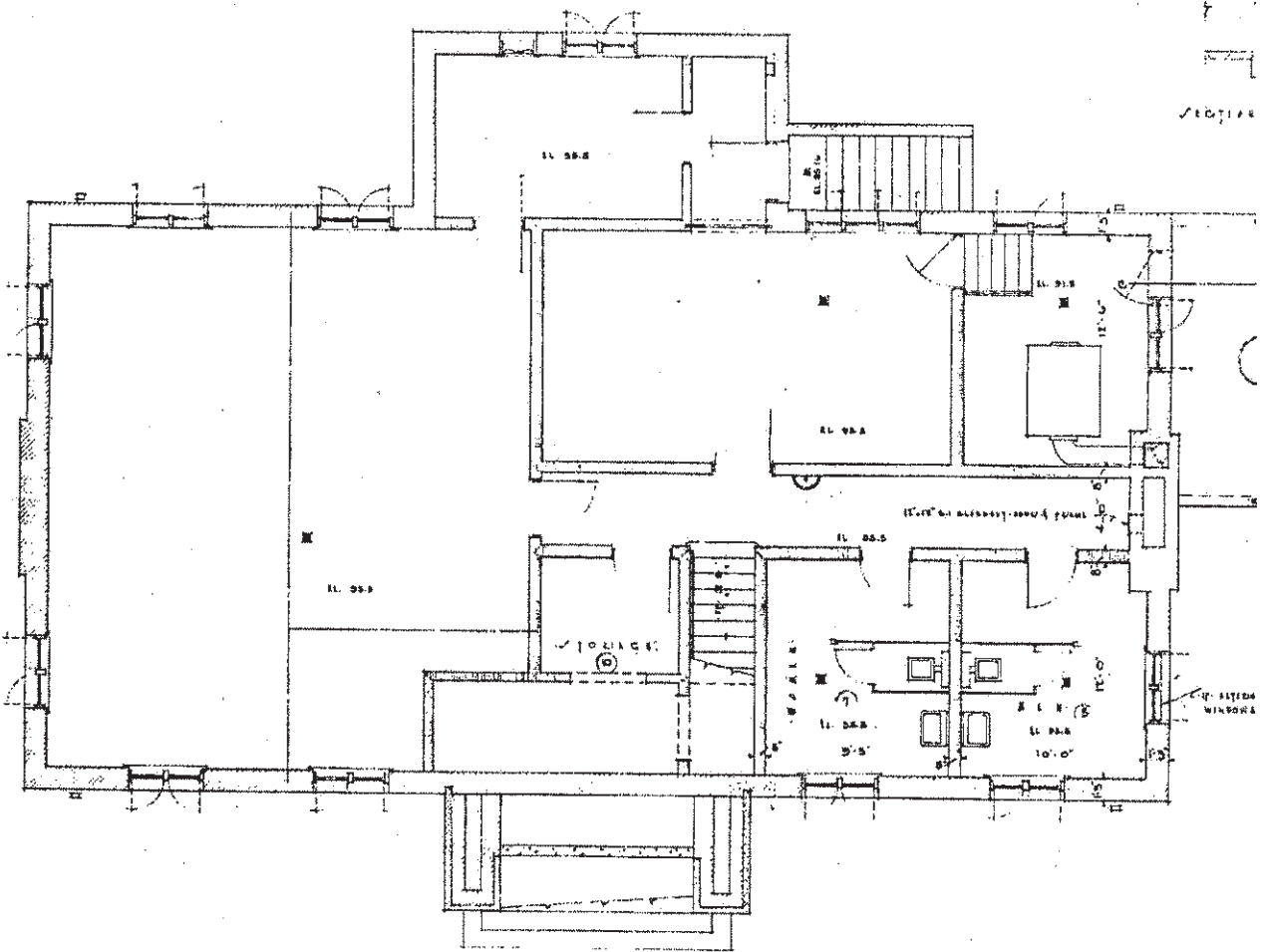
Date: March 28, 2004

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Basement Floor Plan 1929

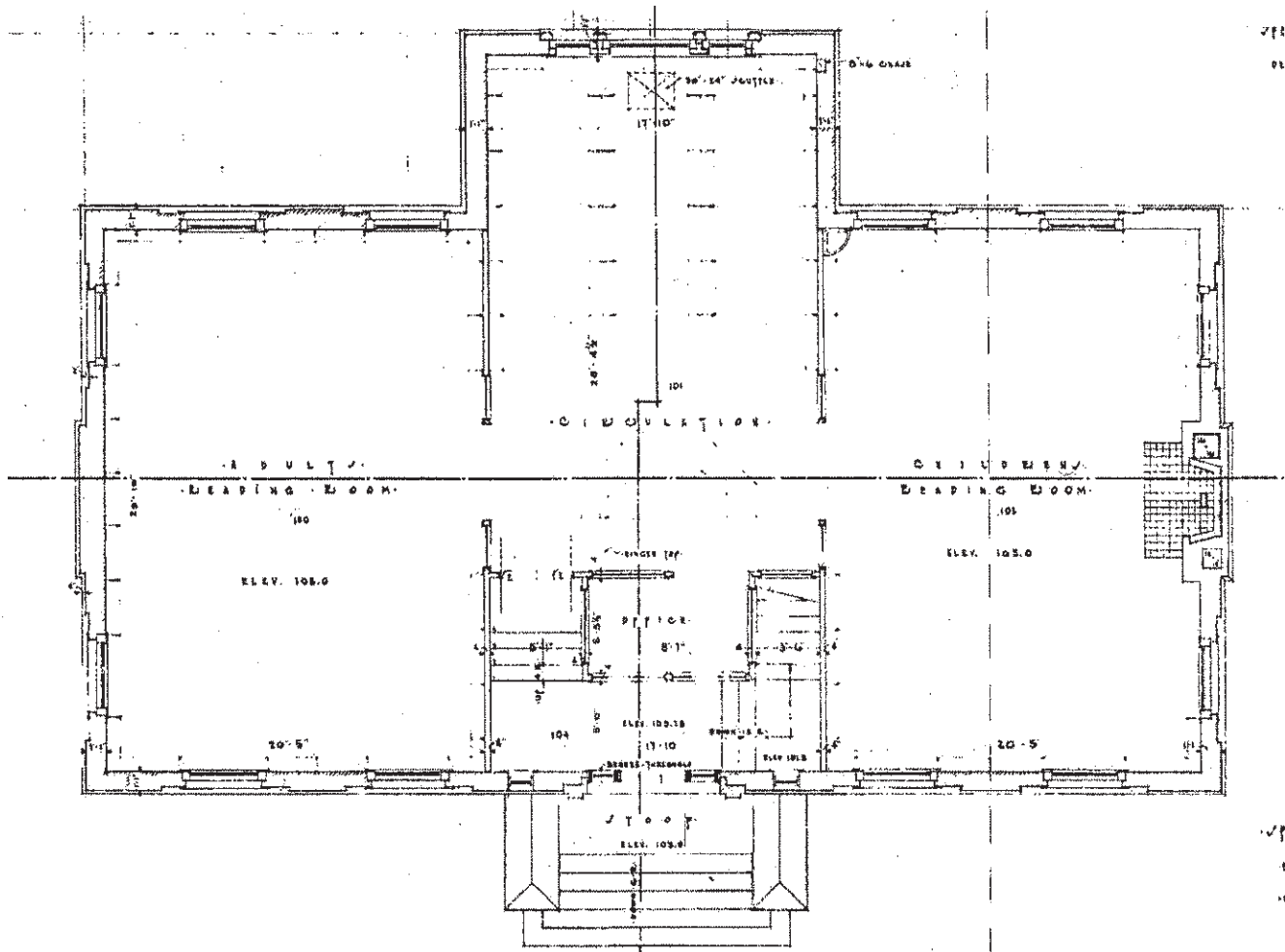


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First Floor Plan 1929



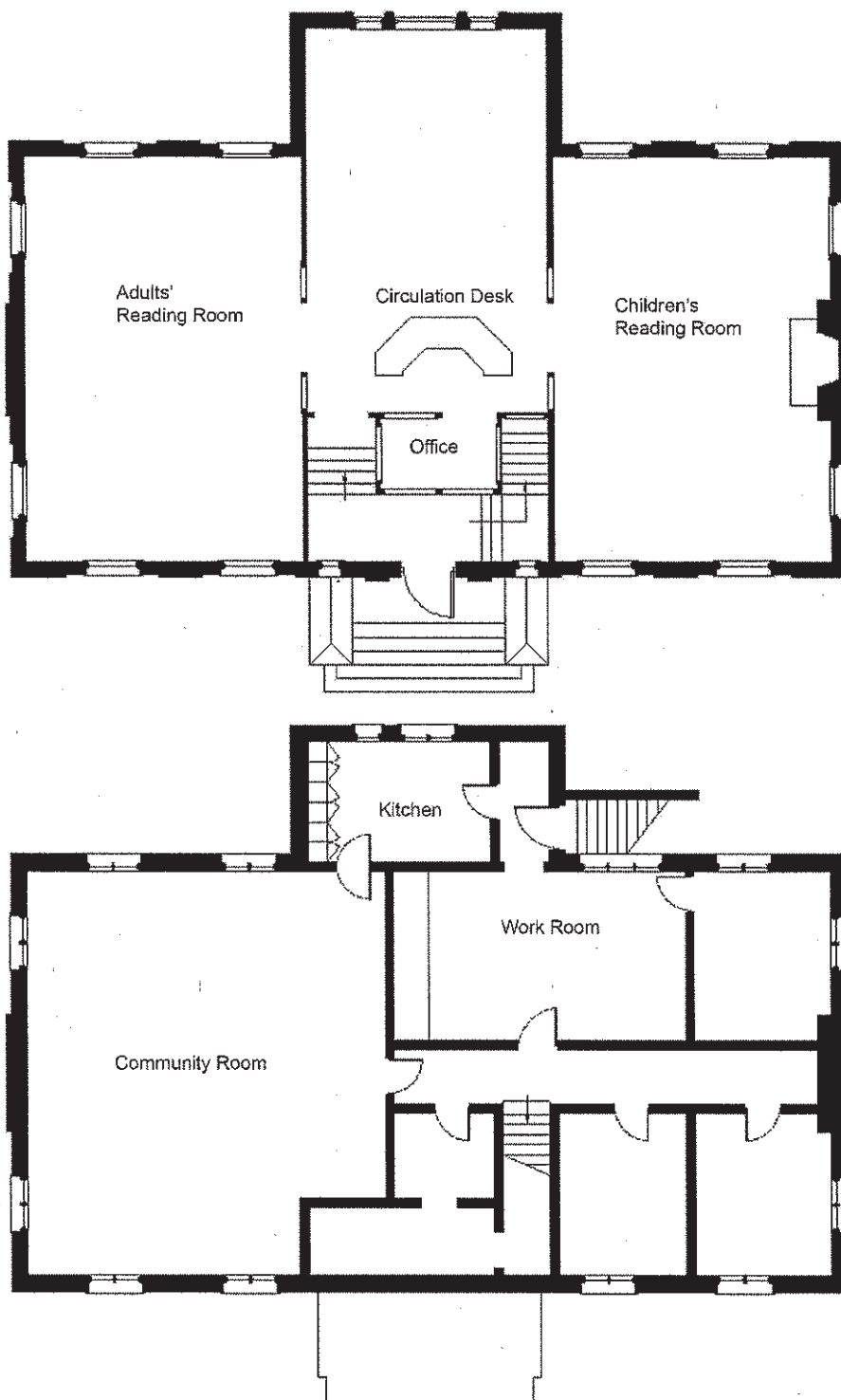


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Number 12 Page 13

**Current Floor  
Plans, 2005**



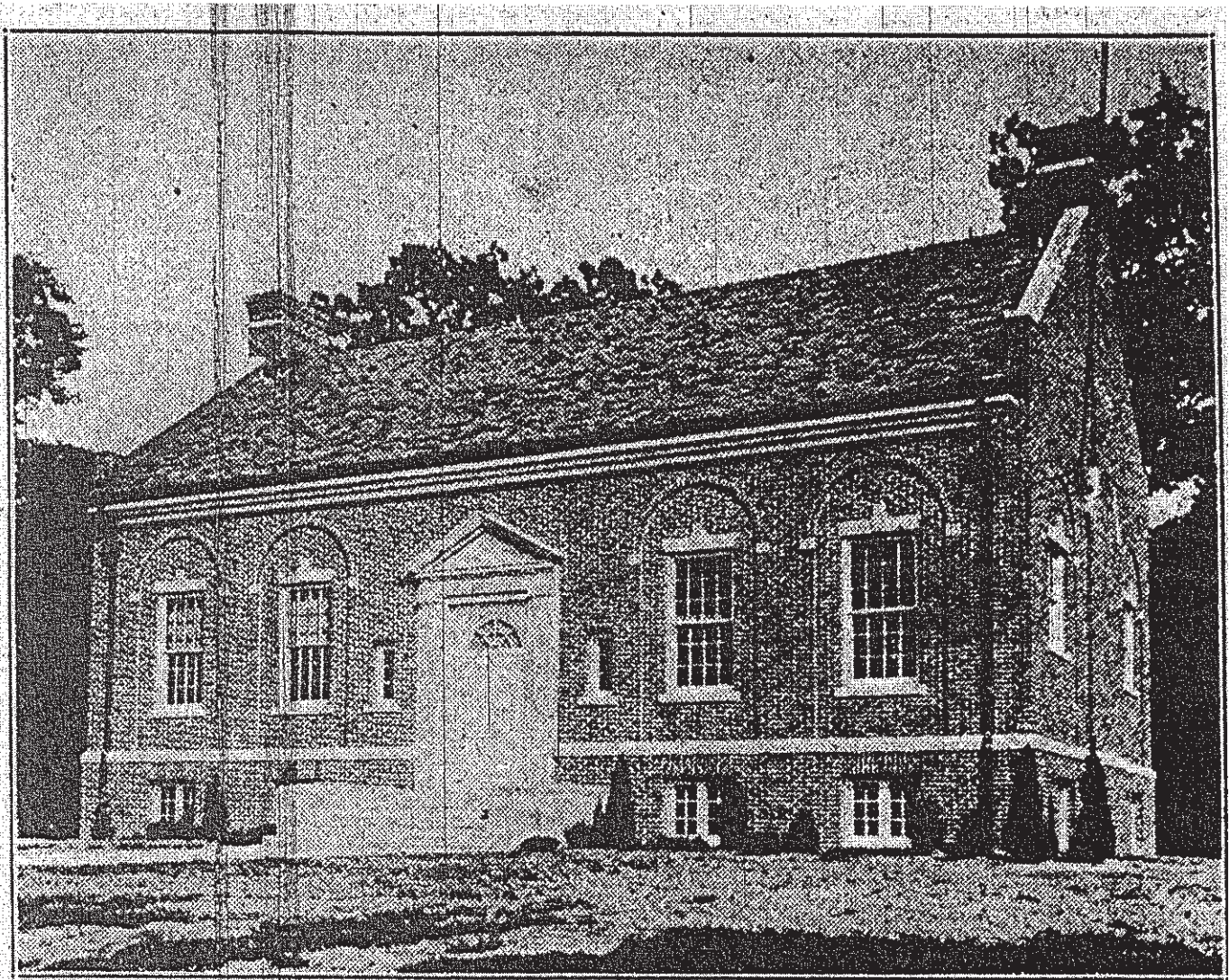
**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**CONTINUATION SHEET**

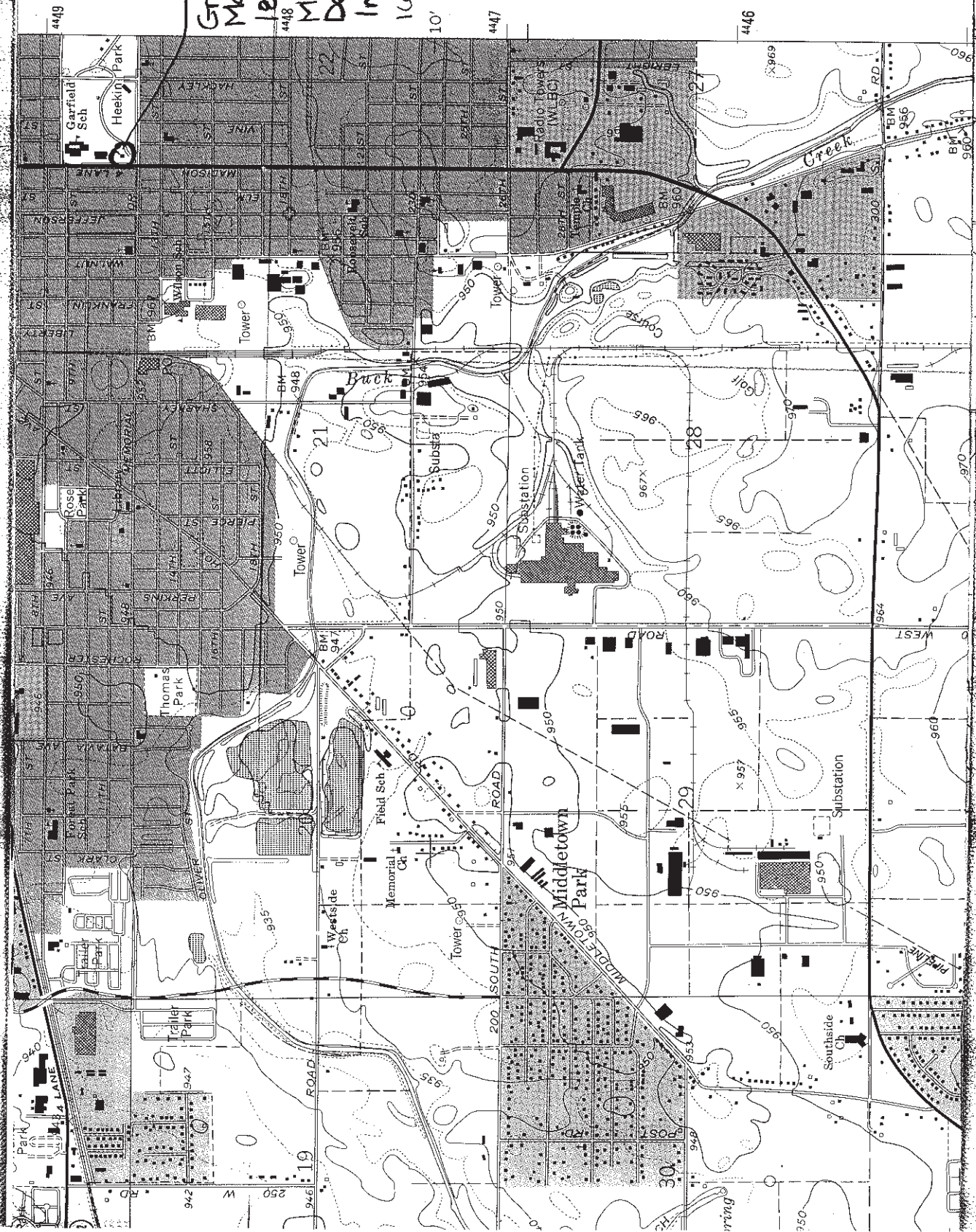
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**Historic Photo C. 1930**



Grace Keiser  
Maring Library  
1808 S. Madison St.  
Muncie  
Delaware County  
Indiana  
19 637870 4448660



4449

4447

4446

10'

19

30