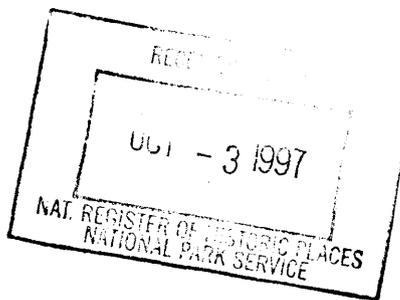


AUG 11 1997

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



1285

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 First Church of Christ Scientist

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 23 Third Street N.W. N/A not for publication

city or town Mason City N/A vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Cerro Gordo code 033 zip code 50401

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Patricia O'Leary Kim DSITPO 9-22-97
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of 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:) _____

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action 10/30/97

Name of Property _____

County and State _____

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(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_ 1 _____		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
	_ 1 _____	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

None

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Professional

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVAL

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete/tile block

walls brick/stucco

roof asbestos/rubber

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.)

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1928

Significant Dates

1928

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Clyde W. Smith

M. M. Moen Co.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 15 | 4942110 | 47778210 |
Zone Easting Northing
2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
Zone Easting Northing
4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Darrell L. Lewis, Manager
organization ELF, L.C. date revised Feb. 27, 1997
September 12, 1996
street & number Suite 200, 23 Third St. N.W. telephone (218) 724-9707
city or town Mason City state Iowa zip code 50401

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 ELF, L.C. Darrell L. Lewis, Manager
street & number Suite 200, 23 Third St. N.W. telephone (218) 724-9707
city or town Mason City state Iowa zip code 50401

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

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

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

First Church of Christ Scientist
Cerro Gordo County, Iowa

Section number 7 Page 1

7. Narrative Description

The First Church of Christ Scientist is a 9,400 square foot building near the heart of the Mason City, Iowa central business district. It is an outstanding example of 1920's architectural eclecticism. The building exhibits elements drawn from the Romanesque and Gothic Revival modes, but the overall character and form of the building is more similar to that of meeting halls and auditoriums than the historicism and traditionalism that characterized ecclesiastical design in this era. What might be considered as the "advanced design" of this building illustrates both the propensity of Christian Scientists to break with traditional church planning and design, and the continuing popularity of and interest in advanced modern design that persisted in Mason City despite the general post World War I eclipse of the Prairie Style architecture that had become so popular in the community prior to the war. The building, constructed adjacent to the wood frame building it replaced, was characterized in an October 24, 1928 newspaper article as "one of the building achievements of 1928 in Mason City".

Constructed of high quality brick and featuring limestone trim and inset colored tile, the building possesses good exterior and interior integrity. The long rectangular building features a large entry portico at the westerly (facing North Washington Avenue) side with two limestone columns supporting the arched brick opening and two limestone half columns at the outside edge of the openings. Leading to the portico is a wide 9-riser concrete staircase. The staircase and portico are edged with black wrought iron railings. Access to the building from the portico is through a set of centered double doors bounded on either side by single doors. The double doors are surrounded by inset colored tile with a limestone pediment. The face of the building behind the portico is stucco with a brick inlay pattern.

The north side of the building (facing Third Street Northwest) features two single entry doors at either end with round top windows above. The walls are brick with inset colored tiles along the upper edge of the walls. The lower level windows, at ground level, are the original divided light casement style windows. The five windows of the upper level have been altered with the installation of extruded aluminum windows and panels sometime in the 1950's. The center three of those windows were originally roundtops, which still remain under the aluminum panels. Wrought iron railings are placed below the three center upper level windows. With the exception of the doors, the south side of the building is a duplicate of the north side.

At the northeast corner of the building is a square building extension with original double hung divided light windows on three sides. This extension was for the Christian Science "Reading Room". Where the extension abuts the public sidewalk a large display bay and window is located which is accessed from the inside of the building at the lower level. This lighted display area was used to feature materials available in the "Reading Room".

The east facade of the building (facing the alley) is a brick wall with the original divided light casement style windows. Modifications, made in 1993, include an access door to the lower and the upper level and a handicapped ramp to the upper level. An exterior doorway has been closed and covered.

The roof over the main body of the building is a asbestos shingle covered gable roof running the length of the building. The extension at the northeast corner and the office areas at the east end of the building feature a flat rubber surfaced roof.

The building is a masonry and steel beam structure. Its subgrade foundation is poured reinforced concrete. Its above grade foundation is tile block. Its interior floors are reinforced concrete over steel girders.

The auditorium spaces were rehabilitated in 1993 and 1994 to accommodate professional offices. The walls constructed on the upper level rise only partially into the auditorium space creating a mezzanine above resulting in the retention of the visualization of the auditorium ceiling. The ornate screening of the organ loft and

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First Church of Christ Scientist
Cerro Gordo County, Iowa

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the loft itself remains intact and in view of office common areas. The bathrooms have been removed and reconstructed in their entirety on the upper floor. The bathrooms on the lower level remain as originally constructed with tile floors and stucco walls. All original doors in the interior of the building remain in place. Three sets of double divided light doors remain that provided access to the upper level auditorium. The "Reading Room" features two sets of original divided light doors, heavy textured stucco walls and original light fixtures. The original handrails and railings of iron and wood are located along both stairways. Additional handrails have been installed closely resembling original handrails. The original boiler and radiator system was removed in the 1950's and was replaced in the 1950's and 1994 by gas furnaces.

While substantial additions have been made to accommodate use of the building for office space, substantially all of the original architectural elements and sense of the building remain intact. The rehabilitation of the building was under the provisions of the tax act and have been approved by the National Park Service as meeting the Secretary of Interiors Standards.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

First Church of Christ Scientist
Cerro Gordo County, Iowa

Section number 8 Page 3

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

Completed and first occupied in 1928, the First Church of Christ Scientist meets National Register Criterion C for Architecture as a local example of architectural eclecticism of the 1920's. Designed by Minneapolis architect Clyde W. Smith the building shows elements of Romansque and Gothic Revival modes. The design of the building reflects the propensity of Christian Scientists to break with traditional church planning and design. The building features no symbols, icons or other typical religious ornamentation that would be representative of a religious hall. Instead it reflects an "advance design" exhibited in the highest quality construction techniques and standards of the era.

Members of the Christian Scientist's congregation came from some of the community's most affluent families seeking comfort in their religious hall. The caption under an October 24, 1928 newspaper photo of the building states, "The structure is about 100x43 feet and seats 400 persons. It is equipped with the most luxurious seats and fixtures." The placement of upholstered theater style seats in the main auditorium, rather than traditional church pews, gives strong testimony to the building's break from typical ecclesiastical design of the era.

Most of the architecturally and historically significant buildings in downtown Mason City, that marked the development of the City in the early part of the 20th century have been removed, lost to fire or substantially changed. The First Church of Christ Scientist is among the few structures that remain that mark this important local period of growth and prosperity. It stands as a strong physical presence of the Mason City industries that manufactured brick, tile block and concrete that drove the rapid growth of the community during this period.

This building has been marked as one of the most notable achievements of architect Clyde W. Smith. Smith was born in 1886 and died in 1952. Other notable buildings he designed are the Stacy Residence and Jones Harrison Nursing Home, both in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Smith, a Christian Scientist, was hired by the main church body in New York to design a building fitting the teachings of Mark Baker Eddy. The wealth of the local members gave the architect great latitude to design a building of the highest quality materials and appointments. The local Christian Scientist's had their first Reading Room in the First National Bank building and a meeting hall in a wood frame structure that was located at the rear of the site adjacent to the alley.

The architectural eclecticism of the building allowed for the use of a multiplicity of construction materials and techniques. The reinforced poured concrete foundation and floors typifies the local cement plants. The use of tile block and brick represents the vibrant local brick and tile industry. The limestone quarries of the area are represented. The inset colored tiles used on the exterior of the building add a unique ornamentation replacing the use of traditional religious symbols. The extensive interior and exterior use of rough stucco adds to the eclectic nature of the building design.

The general contractor was M.M. Moen of Mason City. The electrical contractor was C.J. Smith and the plumbing contractor was Ideal Plumbing and Heating. Local prominent architect, Karl Waggoner was project superintendent. The total cost of the building was approximately \$50,000.

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First Church of Christ Scientist
Cerro Gordo County, Iowa

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9. Bibliography

Mason City Globe Gazette; May 22 & 25, 1923; July 20, 1927; August 4, 1927 and October 24, 1928

NW Architectural Archives, University of Minnesota

Loomis Archive of Mason City History, Mason City Public Library

10. Verbal Boundary Description

Lot 7, Block 7, Paul Felt's Plat, Mason City, Iowa

Boundary Justification

Constitutes entire historic site

**United States Department of the Interior
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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

First Church of Christ Scientist
Cerro Gordo County, Iowa

Section number Add ' 1 Page 5

- PHOTO #1 View is of the northwest corner of the building. Entire north and westerly side of the building shown. Camera is pointing southeast.
- PHOTO #2 View is of the entire north side of the building. Camera is pointing south.
- PHOTO #3 View is of the west side of the building. Camera is pointing east.
- PHOTO #4 View is of the south side of the building. Camera is pointing north.
- PHOTO #5 View is of the east side of the building. Camera is pointing west.
- PHOTO #6 View is of the northeast corner of the building. Entire north side of the building. Camera is pointing southwest.
- PHOTO #7 View is of the former front of the upper level auditorium. Camera is pointing to the northeast.

The following information is common to all photographs:

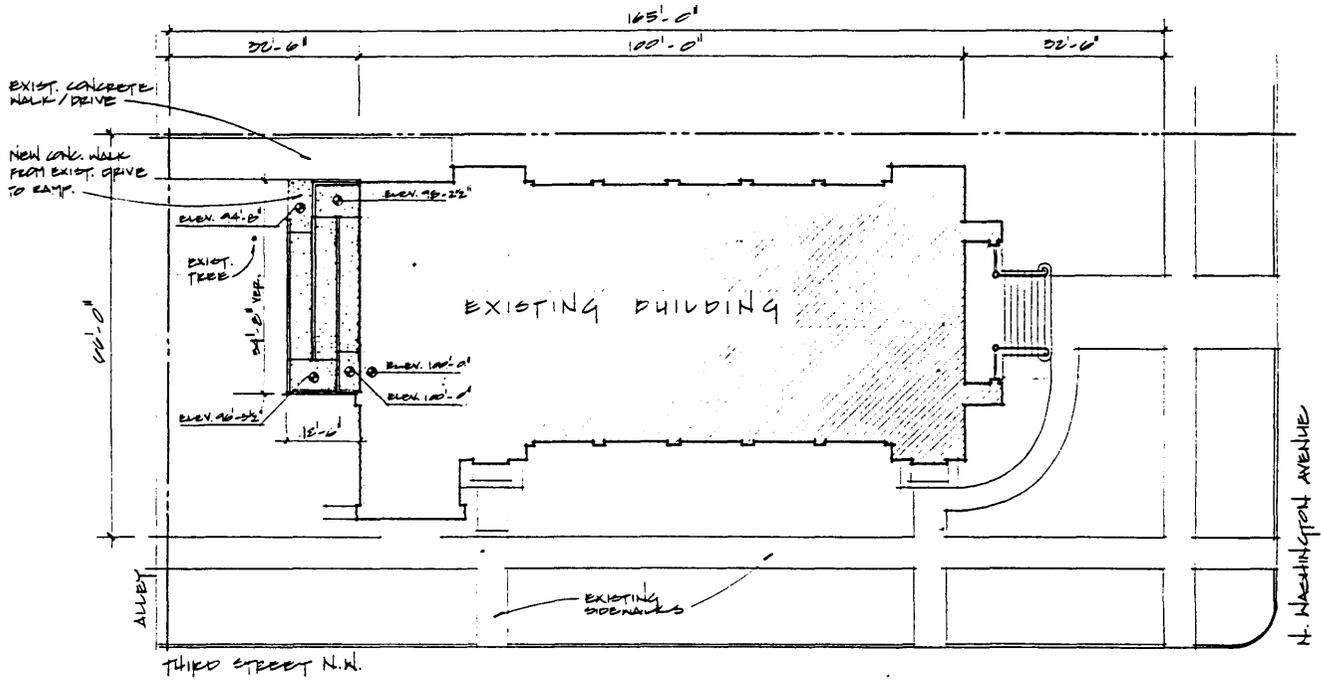
Name of Photographer	Darrell Lewis
Date of photograph	February 1997
Location of original negative	First Church of Christ Scientist, Mason City, Iowa

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First Church of Christ Scientist
Cerro Gordo County, Iowa

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2 SITE PLAN
SCALE: 3/8" = 1'-0"

First Church of Christ Scientist

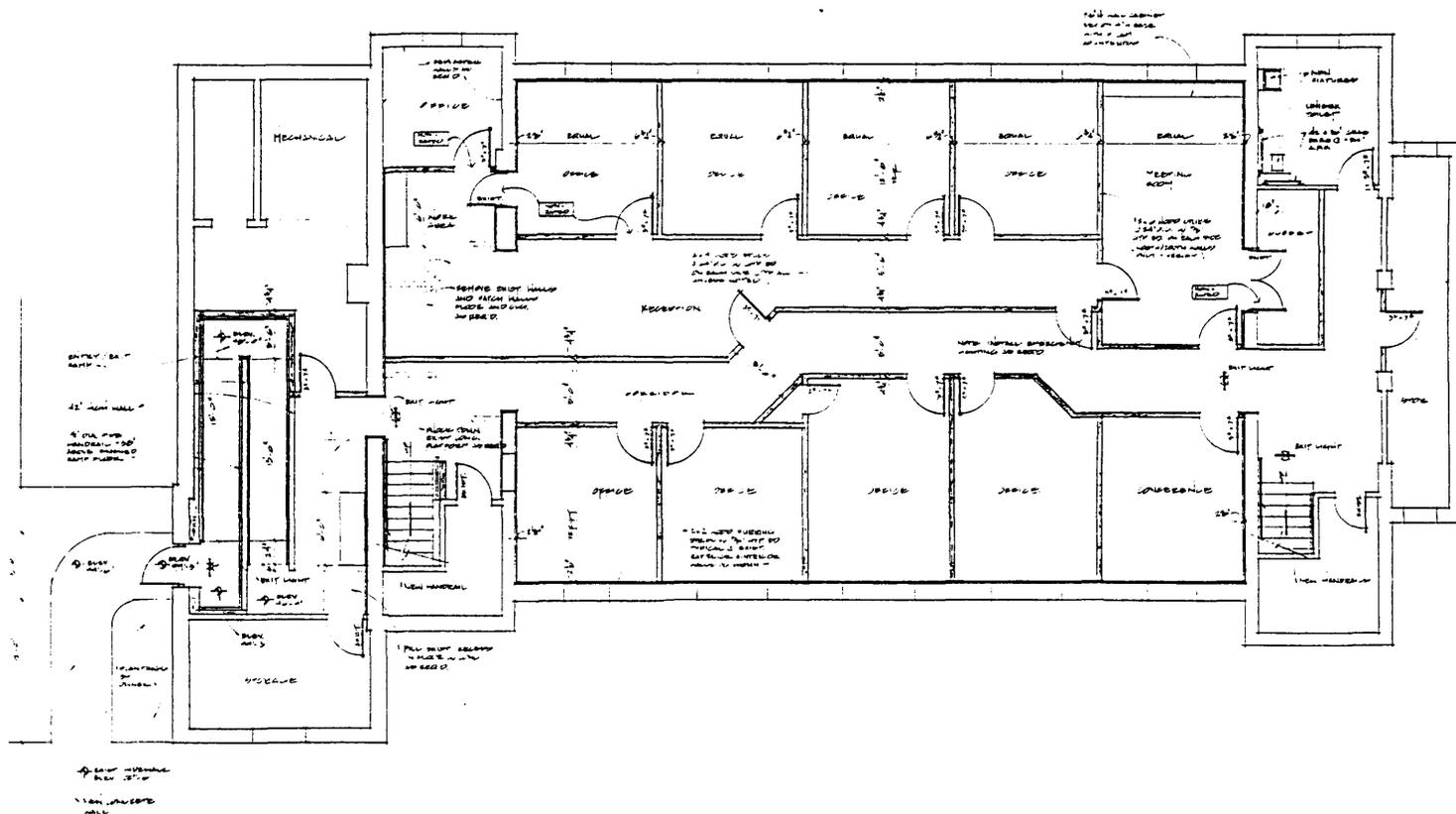


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First Church of Christ Scientist
Cerro Gordo County, Iowa



LOWER LEVEL FLOOR PLAN

First Church of Christ Scientist

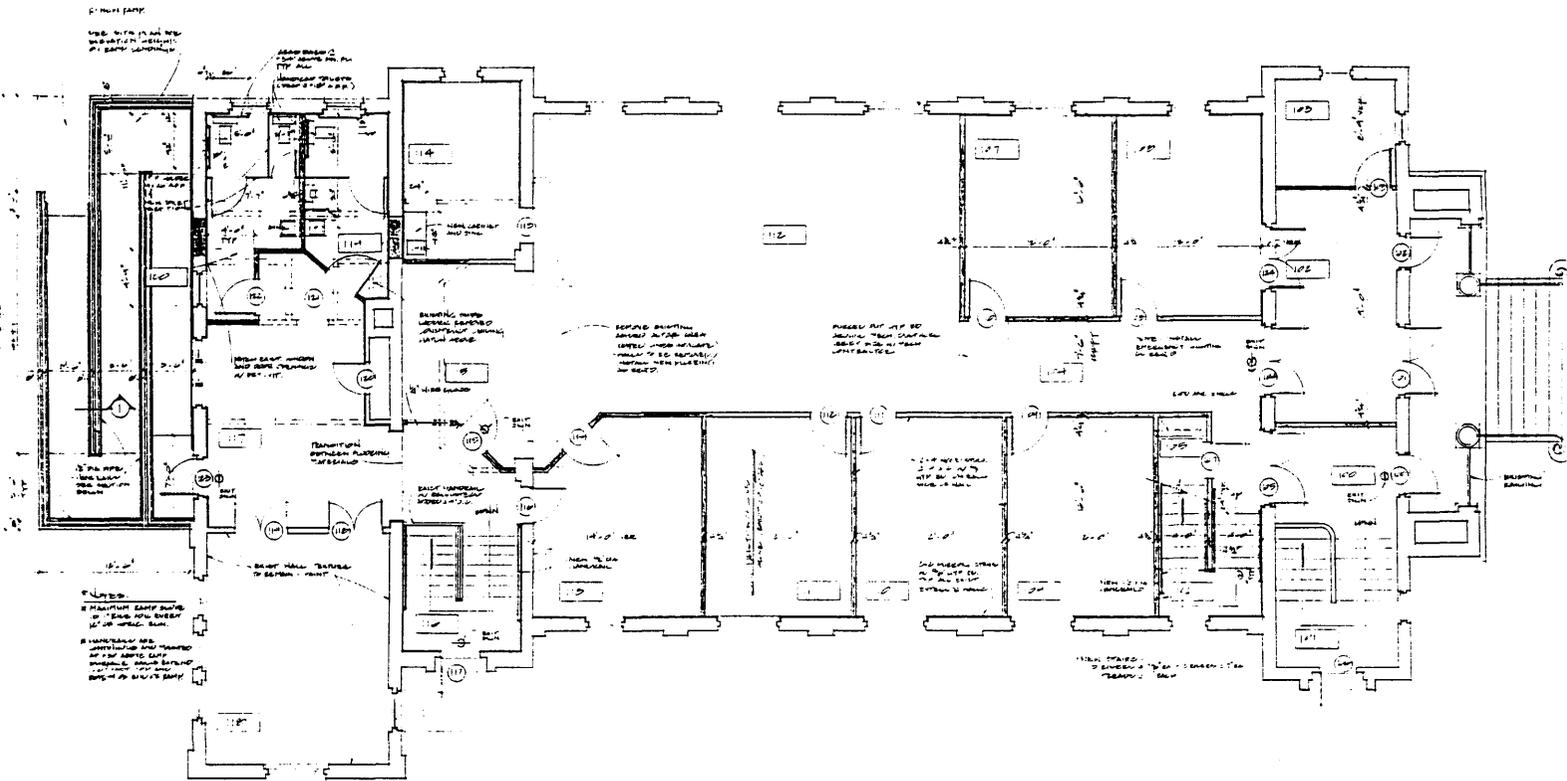


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First Church of Christ Scientist
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UPPER LEVEL FLOOR PLAN

First Church of Christ Scientist

