

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



1. Name

historic Old Perry County Courthouse

and/or common Rome Schoolhouse

2. Location

street & number In the Center of the Town Square _____ not for publication

city, town Rome _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 8

state Indiana code 018 county Perry code 123

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Community Center

4. Owner of Property

name Perry Central Community School Corporation

street & number

city, town Leopold _____ vicinity of _____ state Indiana 47551

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Perry County Courthouse

street & number Corner of Seventh & Taylor

city, town Cannelton _____ state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes no

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The former Perry County Courthouse is the only structure located on the Town Square of Rome, Indiana. The building still appears very much as it did in early photographs. It is a simple two-story brick square, with a central cupola. There are three bays on each side, both on the first and second stories. The exception is on the west wall, where there are only two openings on the first story.

The foundation was originally a low course of sandstone, but in 1917 it was plastered up to the level of the first floor window sills. The main entrance is on the east side, and has a pair of narrow wood doors, unglazed, and a blind transom. The windows and door on this side have flat arches, although other elevations have segmentally arched openings on the ground floor. The standing-seam metal roof is hipped, and is surmounted by a cupola with wood siding. The shingled roof on the cupola, originally white oak, was replaced with redwood in 1967. The cupola originally had windows, and these were replaced by louvered panels many years ago. Two chimneys located on the east side were taken down in 1960.

It is not known what the original interior was like. Presently there are two rooms and toilets on the first floor, with a stairway up and another down at the west end, and a 1930s fire escape on the west exterior. Two rooms and a hall are on the second floor. The building also has a full basement.

Changes, besides the plastering of the foundation, include the alteration of first floor windows, which were originally shorter with twelve-over-twelve sash. The entrance was round-arched and located on the south side. This was apparently changed in the 1930s. Steam heat was also added at this time.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1818 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The former Perry County Courthouse is significant for its association with the founding of the town of Rome, and as the seat of County government for forty years. The building, prominently sited in the Town Square with a view of the Ohio River, also served as the town's school for many years.

The county seat was originally located downriver at Troy, until 1818 when Spencer County was created. The Perry County seat was then re-located to a more central location, on land donated by Uriah Cummings and laid out in 1818 to include a public square for the purpose of erecting a courthouse. This building was constructed that same year.

The building served as the seat of county government until 1859, when the county seat was moved to Cannelton. The former courthouse opened in 1860 as the Rome Academy, offering "advanced learning" in higher mathematics, chemistry, composition, mental philosophy, and classical languages. The building was later leased to St. Luke's Episcopal Church at Cannelton, who changed the name of the school to St. Alban's Academy. In 1902 the Tobin Township Schools took over the building as a public school. The building was a public school until 1966, when the new Perry Central School was built.

The building is presently leased to the Rome Community Center, Inc., for the purpose of restoring and preserving the building for use as a community center.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Perry County: A History. Thos. James De La Hunt, W. K. Stewart Co., 1916.

History of Warrick, Spencer and Perry Counties.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Goodspeed Bros. & Co., 1885.

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property 1.32 Acres

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References Rome, Ind-Ky.

A

1	6	5	4	1	8	6	0	4	1	9	7	2	4	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Town Square of Rome, bounded by Mulberry Street on the north, Main Street on the east, Chestnut Street on the south, and Market Street on the west. The block measures 240 feet on each side.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____

state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James J. Groves President

organization Perry County Historical Society

date March 1, 1977

street & number _____

telephone 812/836-2535

city or town Rome

state Indiana

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature John T. Lott

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 4-3-81

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Beloria Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date

5/12/81

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

Annual Circular of Rome Academy,

ROME, PERRY COUNTY, INDIANA.

PRINCIPAL

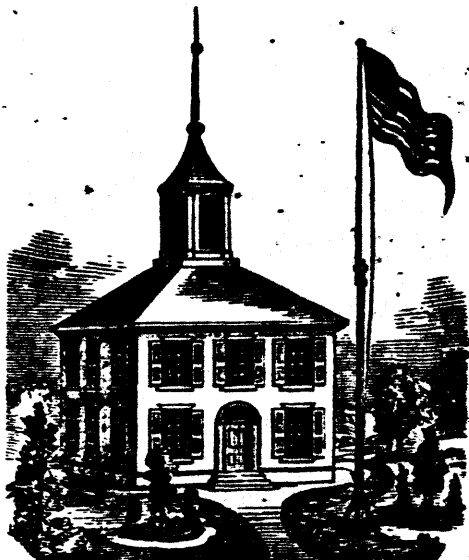
Rev. W. S. Hooper.

ASSISTANT

Miss S. E. Hooper.

TEACHER OF MUSIC

Miss Mary Baldwin.



BOARD TRUSTEES

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Friends and Patrons:

Deeming it of more benefit than a Catalogue, we present to you a Circular, and ask a careful perusal

This Institution has been favored (during the past two years) with unexpected prosperity, and has won an enviable reputation in the surrounding country, and bids fair to become one of the best institutions in Southern Indiana. It has been regularly incorporated by the State Legislature; and is designed to furnish both males and females with all the advantages afforded by Western Colleges.

RELIGION.—No sectarian principles are allowed, yet the doctrines of the gospel are recognized, and daily worship is held at the opening of the school.

LOCATION.—The location is on a high bluff, commanding a beautiful view of the Ohio River and of the surrounding country. The town of Rome is a pleasant and very healthy place, with good society, and free from the noise, bustle and enticements of the city.

BUILDINGS.—Are large, commodious, and comfortably furnished, for the convenience of the teacher and student.

DISCIPLINE.—Great care is taken to promote the moral and intellectual culture of the pupil, and to encourage the physical as well as mental training, and to perfect habits of thought and study.

TERMS OF STUDY AND VACATION.

The Academical year is divided into three terms of thirteen weeks each; commencing respectively, First Monday of September, First Monday of December, and Third Monday of March, with a vacation during Christmas Holidays, and one between the last two sessions.

EXAMINATIONS, &c.—Students are required to have at least four studies, and to be subject to an examination at the end of each term. Careful records of proficiency are kept, and presented to the parents and guardians.

DIPLOMAS.—Will be granted to those who complete the course of study, and certificates to those who complete the course of any one year.

ORNAMENTAL BRANCHES, &c.—In addition to the regular course, the Ornamental Branches, Music, Needle-work, and Book-keeping will be taught to those desiring them.

THE COURSE OF STUDY

Embraces the most thorough systems of Mathematics, Geography, Grammar, Rhetoric, Philosophy, Languages, Astronomy, and kindred branches taught in the Collegiate and Academical Departments of other institutions.

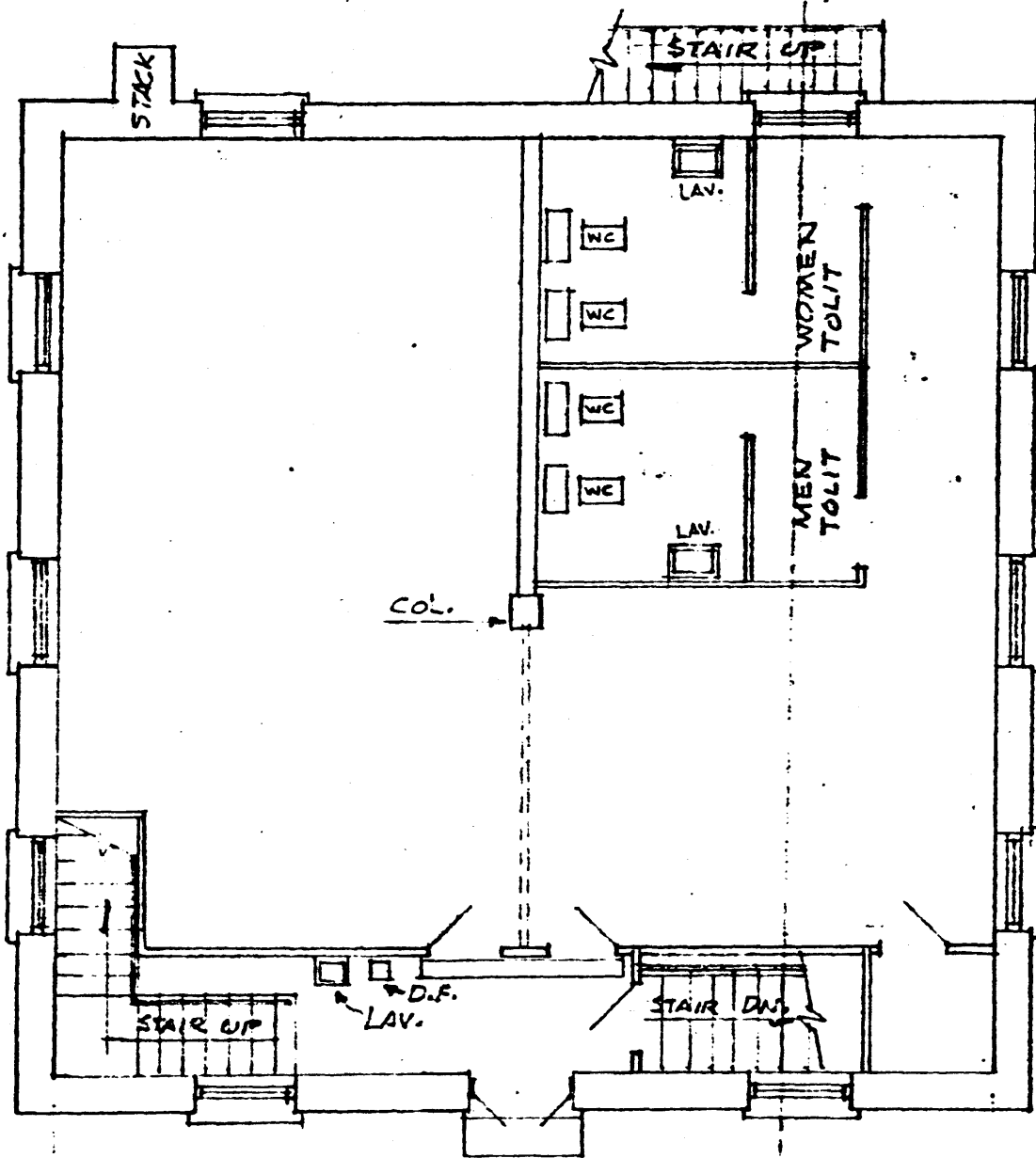
CITIZENS of this and the adjoining counties should look well to the interests of the PEOPLE'S ACADEMY, and lend their influence and support to it, and endeavor to build up an institution that may shed its lustre upon them, and upon which they can look with pride. Send on your sons and daughters.

EXPENSES.

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT, - - -	\$4 00	per term.	Music, Piano, - - - - -	\$12 00.
1st ACADEMICAL DEPARTMENT, -	5 50	"	" Piano rent, - - - - -	3 00.
2d " " " - - - - -	7 00	"	NEEDLE-WORK, - - - - -	4 00.
1st COLLEGIATE YEAR, - - - - -	8 00	"	ORNAMENTAL BRANCHES, - - -	2 00 to 6 00.
2d " " " - - - - -	12 00	"	BOOK KEEPING, - - - - -	10 00.
3d " " " - - - - -	12 00	"	BOARD, (Private Families) - -	1 75 to 2 25.

Attendance—First Year, 115. Second Year, 158.

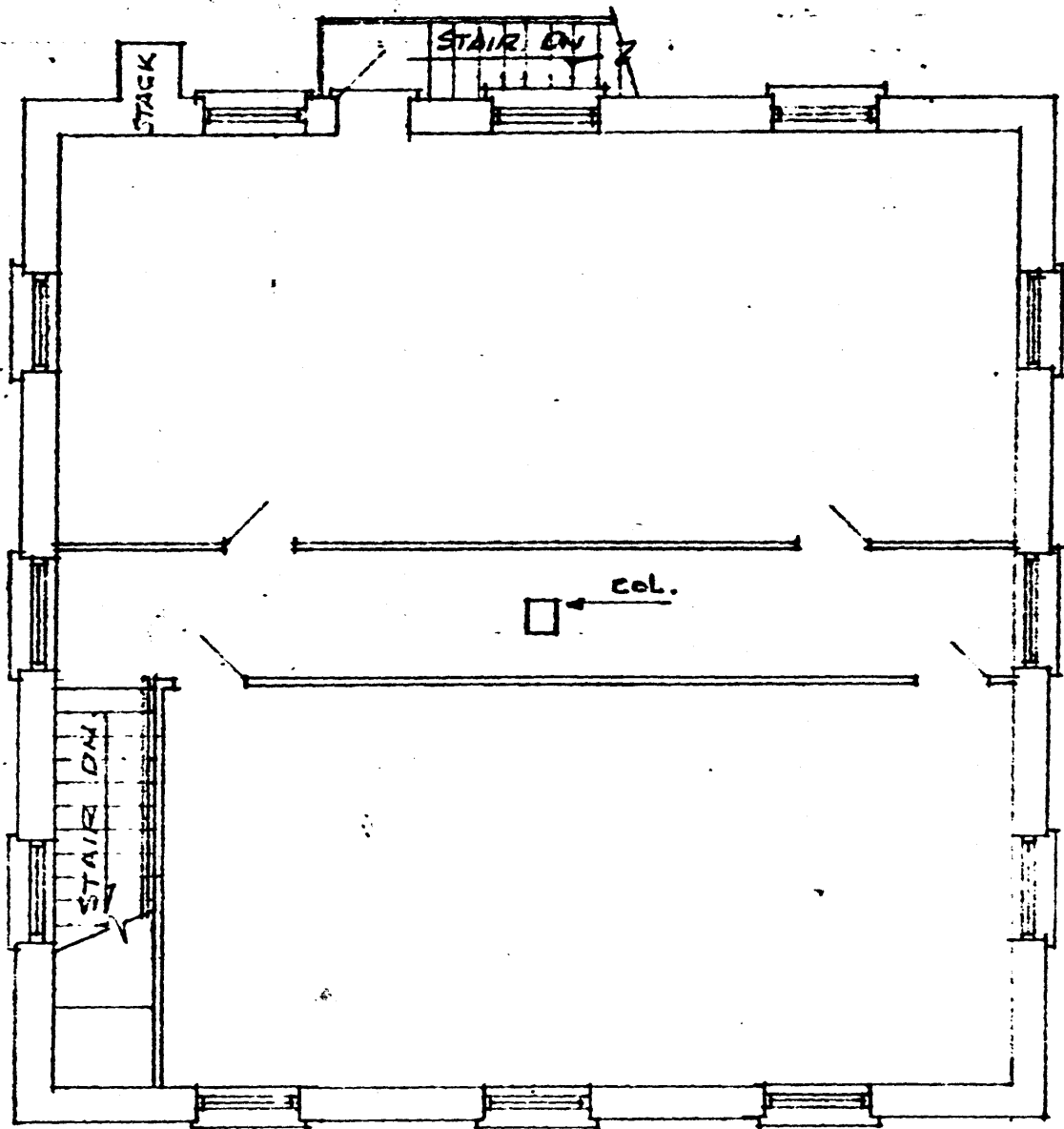
APR 7 1981



FIRST FLOOR
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

PERRY Co. COURTHOUSE
ROME, INDIANA

APR 7 1981
MAY 12 1981

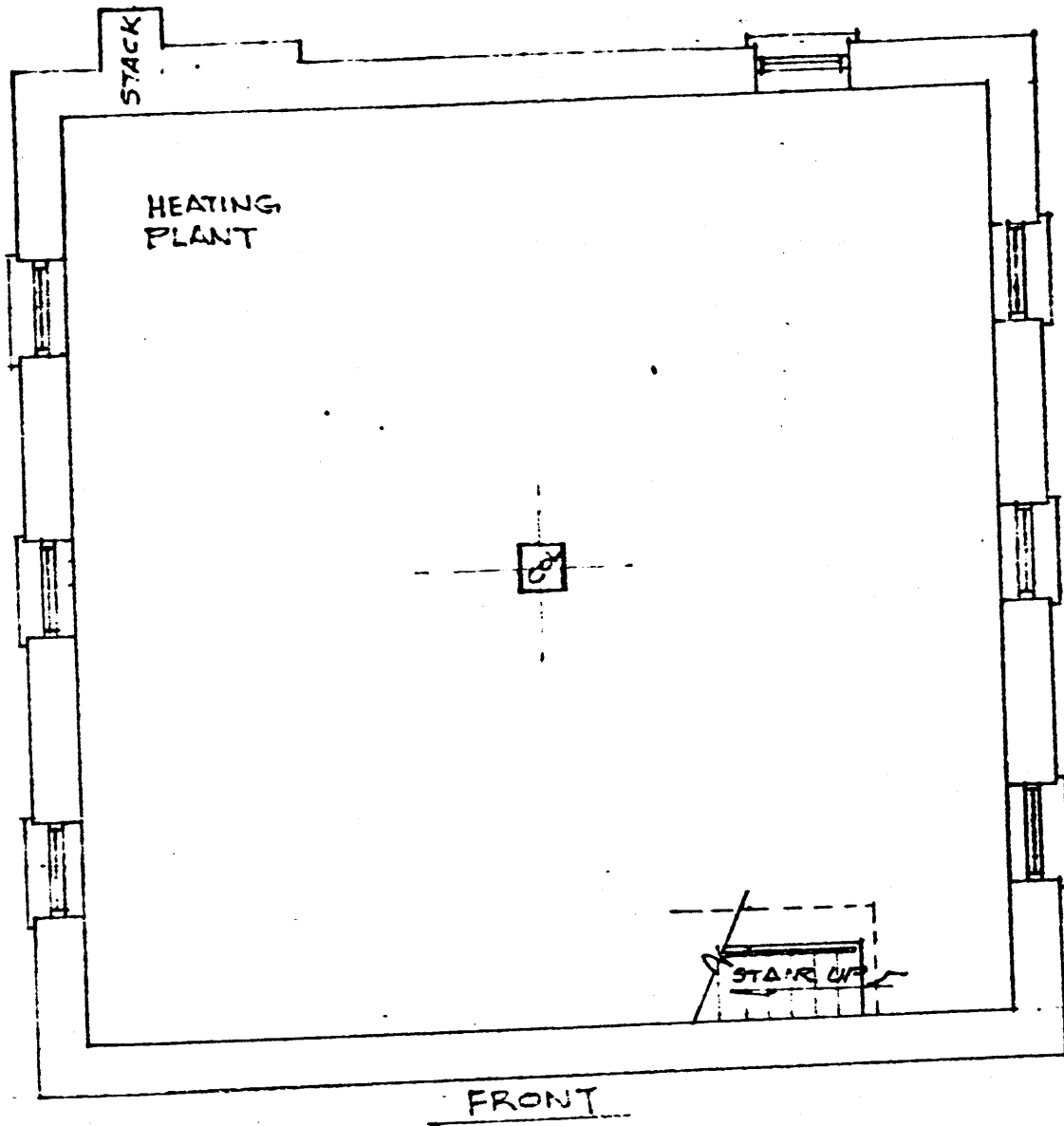


FRONT

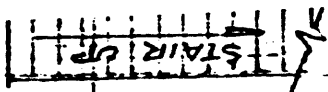
SECOND FLOOR

SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

APR 7 1981



BASEMENT PLAN
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"



1000