

**United States Department of 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 Edgar Village Hall
other names/site number Weinschenk Building

2. Location

street & number 107 West Beech Street N/A not for publication
city or town Village of Edgar N/A vicinity
state Wisconsin code WI county Marathon code 73 zip code 54426

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Hucia Z. Gove 2/16/2000
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer-WI

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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**Edgar Village Hall
Marathon County, WI**

Section 7 Page 1

Describe the historic and current condition of the property.

The former Edgar Village Hall is located at 107 West Beech Street in the Village of Edgar. Occupying a lot within a primarily commercial area, the hall is surrounded by structures ranging from the late nineteenth century to the 1970s. The main facade (north) fronts Beech Street and the building has a nineteen foot setback from the city sidewalk. The rear facade is setback eleven feet from a city alley that runs parallel to Beech Street. Scattered trees surround the building, but are not on the subject property. The hall and a sign are the only resources associated with the property. The hall is a contributing element and the sign is considered to be a non-contributing element.

Sign (non-contributing, ca. 1990s):

Two wooden posts support an ornate wooden sign inscribed "Weinschenk Consulting Group." Positioned near the northeast corner of the property, the sign's late date of construction and non-historic context make it a non-contributing element.

Village Hall (contributing, ca. 1917-1920):

Oriented on a north/south axis, the Edgar Village Hall is an eclectic Period Revival design displaying Italianate, French Colonial and Classical elements. Rising from a stone foundation that has a concrete veneer, the two-story building consists of a single rectangular block. The walls are composed of American bond brick with struck mortar masonry joints. On the north elevation, gables extend to the east and west from the central terrace roof, creating the illusion of a parapeted, side-gabled block. Asphalt shingles completely cover the roof. Embellishments include the following: an overhanging eave along the north facade supported by carved wooden brackets; a broad cornice along the eave and the faux parapets; ornamental brick and stonework; and brick pilasters with simple, stone caps. A brick chimney is situated on the roof's east slope. Fenestration is largely comprised of original, paired casements shielded by modern storm windows and topped with "transoms" that are composed of two four-light, casement-type openings; additionally, there are a small number of modern, replacement windows and modern doors.

Four evenly spaced, brick pilasters emphasize the symmetry of the north (primary) facade. This elevation features a recessed and centered, tripartite entry consisting of two modern steel and multiple-pane glass doors that flank a multiple-paned window; a modern, eight-light, elliptical-arched transom tops the portal. The opening is accented by a segmental brick arch highlighted by a Bedford keystone, two flanking rectangular Bedford stone insets and a pair of modern, metal-and-glass light fixtures. Fenestration along the remainder of the first level consists of two pairs of modern, six-over-six, double-hung sashes. These are situated within brick-infilled, arched openings historically occupied by two additional, double-door entries. Brick segmental arches including keystones remain to denote the original configuration. The upper level carries four segmentally arched openings, each composed of a pair of eight-light, vertical casement windows covered by modern storms; an eight-light "transom" composed of two four-light casements tops the configuration, resulting in a twenty-four-light opening. Stone sills and rectangular

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masonry accent the openings, which are further decorated by patterned brick segmental arches. Additionally, situated between the two central window openings, a panel of vertically oriented, patterned brickwork provides further detailing. Singular and paired, carved brackets support the widely overhanging eave, which is sheathed with aluminum. Ornamental corbeled brick stringcourses and Bedford stone, dentil-like projections are situated just beneath the eave.

The east facade is essentially symmetrical, with six bays defined by an exterior chimney and six evenly spaced, brick pilasters reminiscent of buttressing. The bay located at the north corner of the east facade features a parapet-like, gabled end wall accented with patterned brickwork. A wide, plain cornice tops the gabled peak and wraps around the flanking pilasters. A brick-infilled window opening is centered on the first level; the brick segmental arch and stone sill remain to denote the original opening.¹ A paired set of casement windows topped with two four-light "transom" openings is centered on the upper level. The remaining four pilasters along this elevation feature simple Bedford stone caps. Moving from north to south (front to rear), the second bay is composed of a modern steel and half-glass door with wooden infill demarcating the original opening, and a pair of period, eight-light vertical casements topped with two four-light openings is centered directly above it. This door opening was added when the building was renovated in 1947 when the addition of restrooms altered the interior floor plan; originally, the space was occupied by a window and window infill.² The third and fourth bays are identical, consisting of two nine-over-one-light, double-hung sashes along the first level of each, and a pair of eight-light, casements topped with "transoms" centered on the second level of each bay. The exterior brick chimney, which rises beyond the roof's ridge, is located between the fourth and fifth bays. After construction, the chimney featured a fire bell, which has long since been removed. The fifth bay includes a modern steel and half-glass door and a nine-over-one sash window on the first floor, while the second floor features a boarded-over door opening topped with a pair of four-light casement-type "transom" openings. With regard to the sixth bay at the south corner, a pair of eight-light casements is centered above two nine-over-one-light sashes. Segmental brick arches top all of the openings and a masonry lug sill is located beneath. A row of soldier brick is arranged beneath a simple cornice that extends the length of the elevation.

Fenestration along the south facade is irregularly arranged. On the first level, a nine-over-one-light, double-hung sash is situated at the east corner. A steel door with nine glass panes in the upper half and topped by a one-light transom is slightly off-centered. Directly to the west are a six-over-one sash opening and a wooden, paneled garage door with four central glass panes. The second level carries a six-over-one sash window at the east corner, two small, louvered openings equidistantly situated from the east and west corners, and a boarded-over door opening at the west corner. All openings except the

¹This particular infill was done during initial construction due to an alteration of the interior floor plan. See Swarthout & Speer, "Town Hall for Edgar, Wisconsin."

²Swarthout & Speer, "Town Hall for Edgar, Wisconsin;" Allen and Jane Huebsch, eds, *Edgar Wisconsin: An Illustrated History, 1898-1998* (Friendship, WI: New Past Press, Inc., 1998), 48.

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garage door are topped with segmental brick arches. The garage door was added in the 1960s after that space was converted from a coal bin to a garage.

The west elevation reflects the symmetry found on the north and east sides. Brick pilasters evenly divide the facade into six bays; a simple cornice and a row of soldier brick at the eave extend across the length of the first five bays. Moving from south to north, these bays are identically composed of the following: two small, nine-light, fixed sashes along the first level, while a single opening comprised of paired, eight-light, casement windows topped by two, four-light "transoms" is centered on the second floor.

The sixth bay features a pair of six-light, casement windows centered on the lower floor and a pair of eight-light casement sashes with a "transom" directly above on the upper floor. This bay mirrors its counterpart on the east elevation, featuring a gabled end with a wide cornice and ornamental brickwork.

The coal-burning furnace was converted to fuel oil in the late 1960s, at which time the wooden garage door on the south elevation was added to provide vehicular access to the former coal storage room. Additionally, this building was extensively remodeled circa 1975. At this time, the entries centered on the east and west bays of the north elevation were each replaced with brick infill and two small windows. The centered entry consisted of a single, standard-sized door with brick infill occupying the remainder of the original opening.

A second renovation was undertaken in 1996, during which time the extant main entry was installed. Its appearance is reminiscent of the original, recessed wooden and glass double-doors depicted in historic photographs (photo #9 of 9), and its design was approved by the SHSW's Historic Preservation Division. Additionally, two fire escapes, formerly located on the east and south walls, were removed in the mid-1990s, as well as a roof overhang sheltering an entry on the east facade. The brick walls were subsequently patched with materials closely resembling the original in color and texture.

The original interior arrangement of the first floor was roughly divided into three bays parallel to the long axis of the building (see interior sketch maps for historic configurations). The bay occupying the western portion of the first floor was used originally as a horse stable by the fire department. The space featured whitewashed brick walls and ventilation openings into the fire hall. After the fire department was mechanized in the late 1920s, the stable received a concrete floor and the ventilation holes were infilled; the space became a community room complete with kitchen area. Although used for many community events, its primary occupant was the American Legion.

In 1957, the Edgar Fire Department acquired an ambulance and a wall was constructed to form an ambulance garage in the front portion of the bay. In 1985, the ambulance garage was remodeled and became part of the Edgar Public Library, while the remaining portion of the bay was used by the Legion and a senior citizen's meal program. Mid-1990s renovations included removal of the ambulance garage wall and constructing walls that delineate a conference room, office, and reception area. Also, the west wall was insulated and covered with sheetrock; however, the original windows remain. The floor is carpeted and the ceiling consists of two-by-two foot suspended panels with modern fluorescent lights.

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The east wall is the original brick and is painted white since it was historically whitewashed.³

Historically, the middle bay was the garage for the Edgar Fire Department's equipment. It featured a concrete floor, brick walls, and decorative pressed-tin ceiling. An access door to the cistern was also located in this space. After the fire department moved to a new building, the room was converted into the Edgar Public Library. The most recent renovation attempted to maintain many of the room's historic architectural qualities while providing a functional computer training classroom. Currently, the room's east wall contains numerous electrical and computer outlets and is sheetrocked. The west wall is red brick and it retains water marking patterns from the fire department's hose racks. While the floor is carpeted, the ceiling possesses is original, pressed-tin panels. Modern fluorescent lights hang from the ceiling by twin, narrow rods. Historically accurate replacement crown molding encircles the room, and a sympathetic modern, tripartite glass entry dominates the room's north wall. The rear of the middle bay is separated from the computer room/fire hall by a perpendicular hallway and consists of a boiler room and a garage. The garage was originally a coal bin, but after the boiler was converted to fuel oil in the 1960s, it became a garage for a fire truck.⁴

The eastern bay historically contained the main stairs to the upstairs auditorium, village board meeting room, vault and jail. The jail occupied the rear portion of the bay and later became the first permanent location of the Edgar Public Library. The middle portion contained the village hall meeting room and vault, and the front possessed an entrance hall and main stairwell to the second floor. When water service was installed in 1947, the entrance hall was configured into restrooms and showers. The renovation moved this bay's main entrance from the main facade to the east facade. Although the cells have been removed, the jail area retains its original plaster walls and varnished-wood window surround. The ceiling consists of exposed concrete beams supporting the poured concrete second floor. Although not original, the fluorescent light fixtures date to at least the early 1960s. The old village board meeting room exhibits original varnished woodwork, multiple-panel wood doors, varnished-wood window surrounds and a pressed tin ceiling adorned with modern fluorescent lights. The floor is covered with one-by-one foot square tiles and simple crown molding marks the wall-ceiling junction. A walk-in vault with a steel door inscribed "Village of Edgar" is positioned in the room's southwest corner. Now serving as a breakroom, the room's north wall is dominated by a modern kitchenette that was installed in 1996. The bay's front portion has been extensively modernized and

³George Fergot, Interview with Brian Faltinson, 24 February 1999, Edgar, WI, Notes available at Heritage Research, Ltd., Menomonee Falls, WI. Fergot began serving with the Edgar Fire Department in 1946 and was the fire chief from 1957 to 1999; Stephen Gries, "Renovations & Alterations to the Weinschenk Building, Edgar, Wisconsin," Architectural Plans, 19 June 1996, Available at the Weinschenk Consulting Group, Edgar, WI; Huebsch and Huebsch, eds, 56, 58.

⁴Fergot, interview with Faltinson; "Renovations & Alterations to the Weinschenk Building, Edgar, Wisconsin," Architectural Plans. The white painted brick was authorized by the SHSW as a historically sympathetic alternative to whitewash.

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provides both men's and women's lavatories, a mop closet, hallway and stairwell to the second floor. The stairwell is sealed off from the hallway by a standard-sized modern door since it is not used. A passthrough between the center and the eastern bays was installed in 1996.⁵

The stairs to the second floor turn ninety degrees from a mid-level landing before emptying into a small anteroom. The anteroom retains its historic varnished woodwork, hardwood floors, plaster walls and ceiling. To the west of the anteroom lies a ticket office/theater dressing room with stair access to the film projector loft. A door and a ticket window provided access between the anteroom and ticket room. A large opening joins the anteroom and the auditorium. Site of many sporting and cultural events (see historic context section), this large space has a gymnasium-style floor. Varnished wooden wainscoting gives way to fiberboard walls with the original radiators and small bleachers positioned regularly along both the east and west walls. A serving counter/bar lies in the auditorium's northeast corner. Emergency exits on both the east and south walls are infilled and the space currently is unusable due to local fire codes. The south wall is dominated by a segmentally arched stage that is now sealed off from the auditorium by a temporary particle board wall. Flanking each side of the stage are wooden doors protecting a storage room and exit hallway. The auditorium's segmentally arched ceiling is covered with a combination of one-by-one foot acoustical tiles and fiberboard sheets; illumination is provided by fluorescent lighting.

Overall, the Edgar Village Hall displays many outstanding Eclectic Period Revival features by displaying various Italianate, French Colonial and Classical elements. Although modernized on several occasions, the exterior retains many outstanding historic qualities including most of its original fenestration, carved brackets and ornamental masonry. The most recent historically sensitive renovation used sympathetic materials and design; the building retains a sense of historic feel and association with its past functions as described in *National Register Bulletin* 15. The interior's first floor has been altered extensively, however, the most recent renovation integrated several historic elements into the majority of rooms, most notably, the brick walls, pressed tin ceilings and woodwork. The second floor has seen little renovation and would still be easily identifiable to Edgar's early twentieth-century residents.

⁵Fergot, interview with Faltinson; Gries, "Renovations & Alterations to the Weinschenk Building, Edgar, Wisconsin," Architectural Plans; Susan Weinschenk, Weinschenk Consulting Group President, Interview with Brian Faltinson, 24 February 1999, Edgar, WI. Notes available at Heritage Research, Ltd., Menomonee Falls, WI.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
 SOCIAL HISTORY
 ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1917-1949 *

Significant Dates

1917 **

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.

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Swarthout and Speer (A)

* The period of significance begins with the construction date of the village hall and terminates in 1949, in keeping with the National Register's general fifty-year principle. However, the property operated in its historic form until 1993.

** The significant dates refer to the date of construction of the village hall (1917)

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

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Explain the significance of the property.

Statement of Significance:

The Edgar Village Hall was evaluated for the National Register under Criteria A, B and C. No evidence was found to support eligibility under B. Concerning Criterion C, the subject property is a visually striking example of eclectic Period Revival design; it displays a combination of French Colonial, Italianate and Classical elements. Despite several major renovations, the building retains a high degree of architectural integrity. Additionally, as it originally housed the local government, the structure is a locally outstanding edifice that manifests community identity. Given all these factors, the subject property is eligible under Criterion C. With regard to Criterion A, the Edgar Village Hall played a vital role in the village's civic, educational, social and cultural evolution. Serving as the location of village government and its public services (such as the fire department and village library) the hall was a center for community activities. Edgar's public schools used the facility as the primary venue for extracurricular events -- a source of pride in many small communities. Furthermore, the Village Hall functioned as the meeting place for local organizations, community-wide special occasions and private gatherings.

Given the integral contribution the facility has made regarding community life, the Edgar Village Hall is considered eligible for the National Register under Criterion A.

Historical Background:

The general history of the Village of Edgar and Marathon County is discussed primarily in Marchetti's *History of Marathon County, Wisconsin, and its Representative Citizens*. In 1891, the Village of Edgar was platted by Milwaukee, Lake Shore & Western Railroad attorney Alfred L. Carey. Soon thereafter, George Bumaer and S.M. Quaw constructed a sawmill to take advantage of the area's substantial stands of timber and location on the railroad. By 1893, the settlement had grown to two hundred people and contained a variety of businesses, including two general stores, a saloon, two brick companies and a blacksmith shop. Edgar was incorporated as a village in 1898, with a population of 250.

Building upon the aforementioned enterprises, the number of businesses increased to twenty-three and included a stave mill, undertaker, butcher and hardware store. Being primarily a German community, the village possessed a German Lutheran church.¹

In 1901, the *Edgar Enterprise* began circulating as a weekly newspaper. The first issue reported that Edgar residents had recently voted to build a \$5,000 brick school that could house two hundred students. Although the village contained several sawmills and factories at the time, the *Enterprise* commented that a bank, flour mill and tailor shop were needed

¹Louis Marchetti, *History of Marathon County, Wisconsin, and Representative Citizens* (Chicago: Richmond-Arnold Publishing Co., 1913), 502; *Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory*, various years cited (Chicago: R.L. Polk & Co., 1893-1894, 274; 1897-1898, 333-34; Howard R. Klueter and James J. Lorence, *Woodlot to Ballot Box: Marathon County in the Twentieth Century* (Stevens Point, WI: Worzalla Publishing Company, 1977), 242.

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within the village. The young community was tied to the outside world by a telephone system and eight daily trains on the Chicago & NorthWestern line. Additionally, Edgar had a justice of the peace, village hall, firehouse and jail. By 1903, Catholic and Presbyterian congregations had been established in Edgar, and the population had boomed to seven hundred. Although Edgar evolved into primarily an agricultural support center, excelsior and box factories operated within the village.² In 1915, Edgar, with a population of 850, supplied the area's farmers with three cheese factories, a creamery, veterinarian, brewers' agent and a stock buyer. Although Edgar's population had dipped to eight hundred by 1924, it possessed over seventy-five businesses.³

Like most Wisconsin villages, the Village of Edgar operated under the board of trustees form of government. The village's citizens would elect trustees to govern the community.

A board president, who also served on the board, was elected. The president served part time and possessed limited mayoral responsibilities; however, the position had no veto power over the board. After incorporation, the village board actively worked to improve village life by passing ordinances that promoted safety and sanitation. The board also allocated funds for a fire department, police protection and road maintenance.⁴

The Edgar Village Hall:

Beginning in the late 1890s, Edgar's citizens utilized the large public hall on Beech Street owned by the local lodge of the Modern Woodmen of America. The facility was used for lectures, entertainment and weekly dances. In November 1916, the citizens of Edgar voted seventy-three to five in favor of the village government floating a \$5,000 bond for the purchase of a lot for a new village hall. Almost a year later, the board purchased the Woodmen's hall. In 1917, the building was torn down and construction of the new hall began. Designed by the architectural firm Swarthout & Speer of Wausau, Wisconsin, the land and building cost \$16,700. This represented a significant investment since it was often difficult for small communities to afford such a large capital investment until 1919, when the Wisconsin State Legislature passed a bill that allowed communities with more than five hundred people to pass a property tax increase for the construction of community centers.⁵

²An excelsior factory manufactured wood shavings used in packaging.

³Edgar (WI) *Enterprise*, 14 May 1901. The 14 May 1901 issue was the paper's inaugural issue and it ran until 1907, no other issues are known to exist. Klueter and Lorence, 90; *Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory*, 1903-1904, 345; 1915-1916, 279; 1924-1925, 333-34.

⁴Wyatt, ed., *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*, vol. 1, Government, 9/9-9/10; Huebsch and Huebsch, eds, 22-23, 53-55.

⁵Marchetti, 504; Village of Edgar, "Edgar Village Board Proceedings." 29 November 1916 and 10 September 1917. Available at the Edgar Village Hall, Edgar, WI; Swarthout & Speer, "Town Hall for Edgar, Wisconsin;" Huebsch and Huebsch, ed., 18, 39; *Marathon (WI) Times*, 01 August 1919; 1907 Beech Street Postcard in "Ben Straub's Edgar Book," Unpublished collection of newspaper articles and historical photographs, Available at the Edgar Branch Library, Edgar, WI. Material regarding the construction contractor and date of dedication was unable to be located.

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The architectural firm of Swarthout & Speer was spawned from the firm of Chromaster & Speer of Wausau, Wisconsin. Chromaster & Speer operated from 1913 to 1914 and its principle work was the Wahl House (1913) on Sturgeon Eddy Street in Wausau. In 1914, the Harvey S. Swarthout joined the firm and it became Swarthout & Speer; it was registered in Wisconsin in 1917. The firm's office was at 605½ 3rd Street in Wausau. Its principle works were also in Wausau and include St. John's Episcopal Church at 330 McClellan Street (1914) and the non-extant Central School (1919). Swarthout died from influenza in 1919 and the firm soon switched hands and became Oppenhamer & Obel. Speer was believed to have left the area shortly afterward.⁶

In the 1920s, the Edgar Village Hall was not only used by the village government and the fire department, but also by local community groups. In 1929, the Edgar Women's Club held meetings on the premises and played a key role in providing library services hall. It arranged for the Wisconsin Traveling Library to visit Edgar on a regular basis and use the council room for a library. Various groups sponsored rummage sales, fundraisers and music recitals. Since they did not have a gymnasium or auditorium, the Edgar Public Schools used the hall for basketball games, plays, dances and concerts. The hall contained a jail, which was used most often during the Depression when the sheriff would provide hobos a place to sleep before escorting them out of the village the next morning. Also during the Depression, the building was a site for commodity distribution to needy individuals. Furthermore, it provided a location for numerous wedding receptions.⁷

In the 1940s, the Edgar Village Hall was used for a variety of governmental functions: it was a polling place for elections, a meeting place for caucuses and a courtroom for local matters. The village board conducted its monthly meetings at the hall, and in 1944, it voted to invest \$2,000 from the village hall fund in war bonds. Also during World War II, the Community War Chest met at the facility to discuss plans to meet western Marathon County's war bond quota. Other governmental functions included serving as a meeting place for fire department organizational activities and as a property tax assessment site for the Marathon County Board of Review. Additionally, 'tax collectors' offered assistance to citizens needing help filing their federal income taxes. The county also offered immunizations for childhood diseases at the facility.⁸

⁶Harvey R. Swarthout and Zeno Speer, Architects Card File, Historic Preservation Division, SHSW, Madison, WI; City of Wausau, et. al., *Wausau Intensive Survey Report* (1984), Copy available at SHSW, 90; Mary Jane Hettinga, Librarian/Archivist, Marathon County Historical Society, Wausau, WI, Telephone conversation with Traci Schnell, 30 March 1999, Notes available at Heritage Research, Ltd, Menomonee Falls, WI.

⁷*The Edgar (WI) News*, 01 February 1945; 21 April 1945; 10 May 1945; 17 May 1945; 31 May 1945; 07 June 1945; 20 September 1945. Fergot, interview with Faltinson; Huebsch and Huebsch, 151. For a brief period, *The Edgar News* ran a short column that outlined past events in the village.

⁸*The Edgar News*, 25 February 1944; 10 March 1944; 31 March 1944; 25 May 1944; 03 January 1946; 10 January 1946; 10 October 1946; Fergot, interview with Faltinson.

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Because the village hall also was available for non-governmental activities, the village board published a fee schedule for its use. In 1945, it cost two dollars an hour to rent the facility for basketball practice, physical education classes and parties. For events such as dances, proms and basketball games, use of the facility cost ten dollars an evening. A play cost twelve dollars to stage; however, three free nights of rehearsals were granted.⁹

The Edgar Public Schools remained a major user of the Village Hall in the 1940s because it still did not possess a gymnasium or large auditorium. The Edgar High School (EHS) basketball team used the hall's second floor for practice and home games. Accordingly, EHS conducted physical education classes in the building. The EHS band and glee club also gave free winter, holiday, spring and summer concerts at the hall. Occasionally, EHS would host countywide music contests in the auditorium. Other typical extracurricular school activities that took place included plays, forensic contests, dances and proms.

Due to lack of supervision, Edgar youth were not allowed to use the hall for non-school related activities until the inauguration of the Edgar Youth Center in 1946. Located in the hall, the center offered various youth activities on Saturday nights.¹⁰

In the 1940s, several village, local and county organizations utilized the village hall for meetings and events. The EHS Band Mothers conducted organizational and fundraising activities in the facility. The hall was also used by such local groups as the Boy Scouts, Chamber of Commerce, Lions' Club and Edgar Cemetery Association. While the village's churches often had activities in their own facilities, occasionally they sponsored events, such as banquets, in the building. County groups that met in the building included the Homemakers Club and the Milk Quality Improvement Association. Although infrequent, traveling vaudeville acts would perform in the auditorium. More regular entertainment was provided by movies, which were shown on weekends and were well attended.¹¹

In 1947, the building received a renovation, which primarily consisted of installing restrooms and showers, since the building was not originally constructed with water service. Prior to that time, restrooms consisted of a brick outhouse near the rear of the building, and a cistern provided water storage for the fire department. In 1956, Edgar High School constructed a gymnasium; however, it still used the village hall for sports practice and overflow events. By 1961, the Edgar Library ceased the services of a traveling library and became a permanent institution; locating itself in the old jail

⁹*The Edgar News*, 21 April 1945 and 13 December 1945.

¹⁰*The Edgar News*, 17 March 1944; 24 March 1944; 19 October 1944; 09 November 1944; 15 December 1944; 23 February 1945; 26 March 1945; 03 May 1945; 22 November 1945; 13 December 1945; 31 January 1946; 02 May 1946; 08 August 1946; 14 November 1946; 10 April 1947; 20 November 1947.

¹¹*The Edgar News*, 14 April 1944; 02 August 1944; 14 September 1944; 12 October 1944; 02 November 1944; 07 April 1945; 31 May 1945; 21 September 1945; 11 July 1946; 19 September 1946; Fergot, interview with Faltinson; Huebsch and Huebsch, eds., 47. The second floor auditorium was equipped with a film projection loft.

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area. Use of the building by city groups and private individuals remained consistent throughout the 1950s and 1960s. By the 1970s, the Edgar Fire Department's modern equipment had made the fire station portion of the hall obsolete and inadequate. Therefore, in 1975, the fire department moved to a newly constructed building, while the Edgar Public Library moved from the old jail room to the larger fire department section. In the 1980s, the hall continued to receive frequent use by community and civic groups, such as the scouting organizations, American Legion and a senior citizen's meal program. Both public and private schools and private individuals rented portions of the hall in 1988, for which the village received \$3,185 in rentals.¹²

By the early 1990s, the Village of Edgar found it increasingly difficult to maintain the aging structure. While groups still utilized the facility, their size and number had declined as Edgar's economic role in the area diminished. In 1994, the village government and library moved into a new facility, and the former village hall was sold to Edward Wang. Historic restoration clauses were written into the sale agreement; however, Wang failed to meet those clauses, and his ownership of the building was terminated. In 1995, the Weinschenk Consulting Group, a corporate computer network consulting firm, bought the building and conducted historically complimentary renovations on the first floor, while the auditorium section was sealed off. In 1997, the firm began conducting business activities in the structure.¹³

From 1919 to 1994, The Edgar Village Hall was an integral part of Edgar's civic, educational, social and cultural development. As the location of the village's government, library and emergency services, the hall provided a sense of identity for Edgar's residents. The Edgar Public Schools' use of the facility for extracurricular activities fostered a sense of community pride and provided additional activities for the village's youth. In conjunction with the village government and school, the use of the hall by a diverse group of organizations, clubs and private individuals as a meeting place and center for events fully illustrates how the Edgar Village Hall was truly instrumental in the community's historical development. The structure, therefore, is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A.

Architecture:

The Edgar Village Hall is a representative example of eclectic Period Revival design. The origins of the style are discussed in *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin (CRM)* and in *A Field Guide to American Architecture*. For Period Revival buildings, architects drew

¹²Fergot, interview with Faltinson; "Income, Expense, and Use Summary for Year 1988 and 1993," Located in the Weinschenk Consulting Group (Edgar, WI) history files on the historic Edgar Village Hall; Huebsch and Huebsch, eds., 56, 151. In the 1950s, the Edgar Public Schools were charged \$300 a month for use of the village hall during the school year. See Huebsch and Huebsch, 151.

¹³"Income, Expense, and Use Summary for Year 1988 and 1993;" Abstract of Title No. 186839, Located in the Weinschenk Consulting Group history files; Meeting minutes of the "Old Village Hall" Committee Meeting, 27 January 1994, Located in the Weinschenk Consulting Group history files; Weinschenk, interview with Faltinson.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Edgar Village Hall
Marathon County, WI**

Section 8 Page 6

upon several historical styles for inspiration, including Classical Greek and Roman, Georgian, French Colonial and Italian Renaissance. However, unlike the preceding "picturesque" styles, such as Gothic Revival and Queen Anne, designers attempted to create "historically correct" interpretations of these period styles. Period Revival designs gained popularity in the late 1800s, particularly after Chicago's Columbian Exposition of 1893 ignited widespread interest in historical styles. According to *CRM*, the style peaked between 1900 and 1940.¹⁴

During the early 1900s, attributes from several styles began to be incorporated in a single Period Revival building. This is the case with the subject building, which displays a combination of the following: Classically inspired symmetrical massing, brick pilasters, a simple cornice and stone dentils; French Colonial elements such as paired, vertical casements that open inward and a steeply pitched roof that appears to be hipped; and Italianate characteristics, among which are tall, rounded window openings, masonry ornamentation and wooden brackets that support a deeply overhanging eave.

The Edgar Village Hall is a representative example of the multi-use municipal building that served as a focal point for community activities. The village hall incorporated various facets of government services, including fire protection and a jail. Later, it also housed the public library. As a multi-use building it also provided space for school and community activities and public events.

As a result of the subject building's high degree of architectural character and integrity, the Edgar Village Hall meets the requirements of Criterion C.

Summary:

Due to the significant role the Edgar Village Hall has had on the civic, social and cultural evolution of the Village of Edgar, it is recommended to be eligible for the National Register under Criterion A. Concerning Criterion C, the subject property is a visually striking example of eclectic Period Revival design; it displays a combination of French Colonial, Italianate and Classical elements. It is also an example of the multi-use municipal building. Despite several renovations, the hall retains its original architectural character and is the most imposing structure in the village. Given these factors, the subject property is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C as well.

¹⁴Barbara Wyatt, ed., *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin* (Madison, WI: Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986), vol. 2, Architecture, 2/28; Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1993), 319.

Edgar Village Hall
Name of Property

Marathon
County and State

Wisconsin

9. Major Bibliographic References

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

Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):

- 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 | 1/6 | 2/6/6/0/2/0 | 4/9/7/8/3/7/5 | 3 | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 2 | _____ | _____ | _____ | 4 | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing |

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 | Brian J. Faltinson, Lena L. Sweeten | date | 9/27/99 |
| organization | Heritage Research, LTD. | telephone | 404 251-7792 |
| street & number | N89 W16785 Appleton Avenue | zip code | 53051 |
| city or town | Menomonee Falls | state | Wisconsin |

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National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Edgar Village Hall
Marathon County, WI**

Section 9 Page 1

Major Bibliographical References:

- "Ben Straub's Edgar Book." Unpublished collection of newspaper articles and historic photographs. Available at the Edgar Branch Library, Edgar, WI.
- Edgar* (WI) *Enterprise*, 14 May 1901.
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- Fergot, George. Retired Edgar Fire Department Chief. Interview with Brian Faltinson, 24 February 1999, Edgar, WI. Notes available at Heritage Research, Ltd., Menomonee Falls, WI.
- Gries, Stephen. "Renovations & Alterations to the Weinschenk Building, Edgar, Wisconsin," Architectural Plans (renovation), 19 June 1996. Available at the Weinschenk Consulting Group, Edgar, WI.
- Huebsch, Allan and Jane, eds. *Edgar, Wisconsin: An Illustrated History, 1898-1998*. Friendship, WI: New Past Press, Inc., 1998.
- Klueter, Howard R. and James J. Lorence. *Woodlot to Ballot Box: Marathon County in the Twentieth Century*. Stevens Point, WI: Worzalla Publishing Company, 1977.
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- Marchetti, Louis. *History of Marathon County, Wisconsin, and its Representative Citizens*. Chicago: Richmond-Arnold Publishing Co., 1913.
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- Swarthout & Speer, Architects. "Town Hall for Edgar, Wisconsin," Original Architectural Plans, 21 June 1917. Available at Weinschenk Consulting Group, Edgar, WI.
- Weinschenk Consulting Group, Edgar WI. History files on the historic Edgar Village Hall.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Edgar Village Hall
Marathon County, WI**

Section 9 Page 2

Weinschenk, Susan. Current resource owner. Interview with Brian Faltinson, 24 February 1999, Edgar, WI. Notes available at Heritage Research, Ltd., Menomonee Falls, WI.

Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory. Chicago: R.L. Polk & Co., 1891-1911.

Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory. Detroit: R.L. Polk & Co., 1915-1925.

Wyatt, Barbara, ed. *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin.* 3 vols. Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Historic Preservation Division, 1986.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Edgar Village Hall
Marathon County, WI**

Section 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description

The general area is a rectangle. Beginning at the west lot line, the north and south boundaries measure 75 ft (22.86 m). The east and west boundaries measure 120 ft (36.58 m) from the edge of the sidewalk that defines the north boundary. The long center axis is perpendicular to West Beech Street.¹ The building's parcel is defined as Block 9, Lot 4 and east ½ of Lot 5 of the Village of Edgar.

Boundary Justification

The property's boundary lines are justified as follows: the east and west boundaries correspond with existing lot lines; the north boundary is marked by the existing edge of city sidewalk; and the south boundary coincides with an existing alley.²

¹Property measurements from Gries, "Renovations & Alterations to the Weinschenk Building, Edgar, Wisconsin," Architectural Plans.

²Ibid.

Edgar Village Hall
Name of Property

Marathon
County and State

Wisconsin

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/title | Weinschenk Consulting Group | date | 9/27/98 |
| organization | | telephone | 715 352-2935 |
| street&number | 107 West Beech Street | zip code | 54426 |
| city or town | Edgar | state | WI |

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 Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Photographs Page 1 Edgar Village Hall
Marathon County, Wisconsin

EDGAR VILLAGE HALL (Perspective view)
107 West Beech Street
Edgar, Marathon County, WI
Photo by Brian J. Faltinson
September 1999
Negative at SHSW
View to Southwest
Photo #1 of 9

EDGAR VILLAGE HALL (East and north facades)
107 West Beech Street
Edgar, Marathon County, WI
Photo by Brian J. Faltinson
September 1999
Negative at SHSW
View to Southwest
Photo #2 of 9

EDGAR VILLAGE HALL (West and south facades)
107 West Beech Street
Edgar, Marathon County, WI
Photo by Brian J. Faltinson
September 1999
Negative at SHSW
View to Northeast
Photo #3 of 8

EDGAR VILLAGE HALL (Detail)
107 West Beech Street
Edgar, Marathon County, WI
Photo by Brian J. Faltinson
September 1999
Negative at SHSW
Main Entrance
Photo #4 of 9

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Section Photographs Page 2 Edgar Village Hall
Marathon County, Wisconsin

EDGAR VILLAGE HALL (Interior)
107 West Beech Street
Edgar, Marathon County, WI
Photo by Brian J. Faltinson
September 1999
Negative at SHSW
Reception and Office Area/Stable
Photo #5 of 9

EDGAR VILLAGE HALL (Interior)
107 West Beech Street
Edgar, Marathon County, WI
Photo by Brian J. Faltinson
September 1999
Negative at SHSW
Classroom/Fire Hall
Photo #6 of 9

EDGAR VILLAGE HALL (Interior)
107 West Beech Street
Edgar, Marathon County, WI
Photo by Brian J. Faltinson
September 1999
Negative at SHSW
Auditorium/Gymnasium
Photo #7 of 9

EDGAR VILLAGE HALL (Interior detail)
107 West Beech Street
Edgar, Marathon County, WI
Photo by Brian J. Faltinson
September 1999
Negative at SHSW
Village of Edgar Vault Door
Photo #8 of 9

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

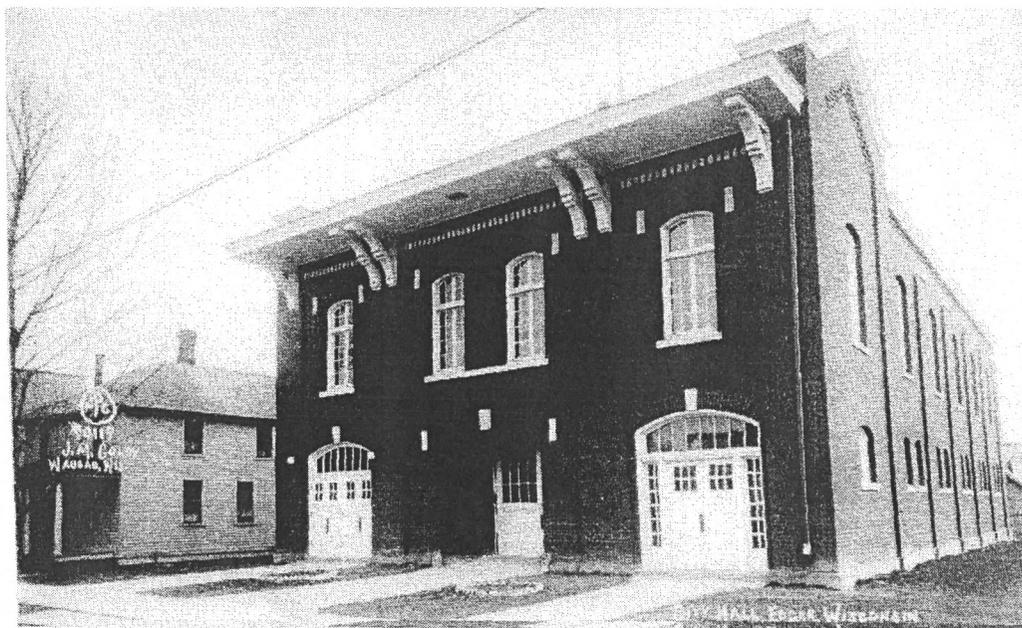
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Attachment Page 1

Edgar Village Hall

Marathon County, Wisconsin

EDGAR VILLAGE HALL (Historic Postcard)
Village of Edgar, Marathon County, WI



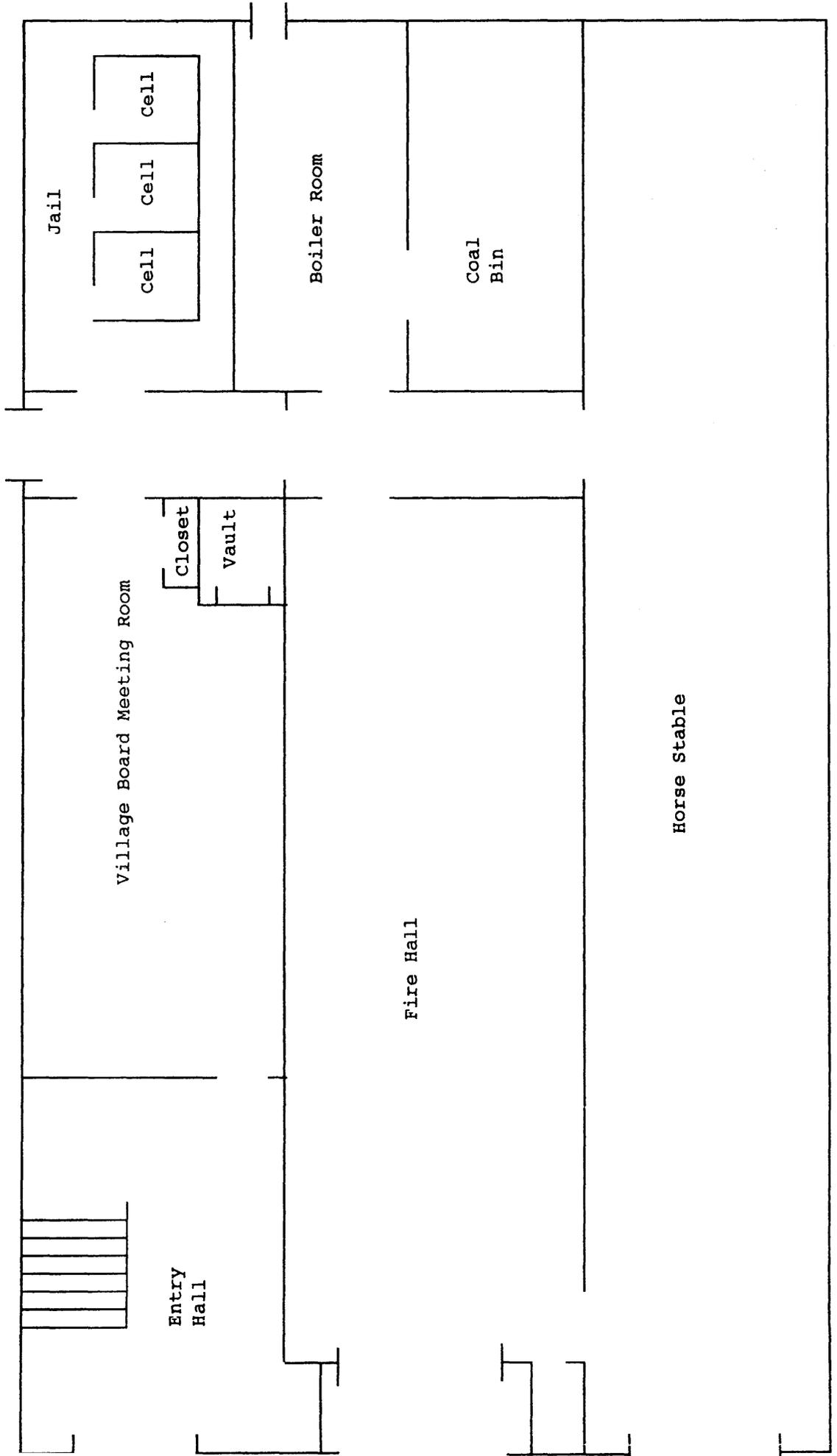
EDGAR VILLAGE HALL (Historic postcard)
107 West Beech Street
Edgar, Marathon County, WI
Photo by J.M Colby, Wausau, WI
Circa 1917
Computer Scanned Image
"City Hall, Edgar, Wisconsin"

Edgar Village Hall First Floor Room Plan, 1917

Drawing not to
scale



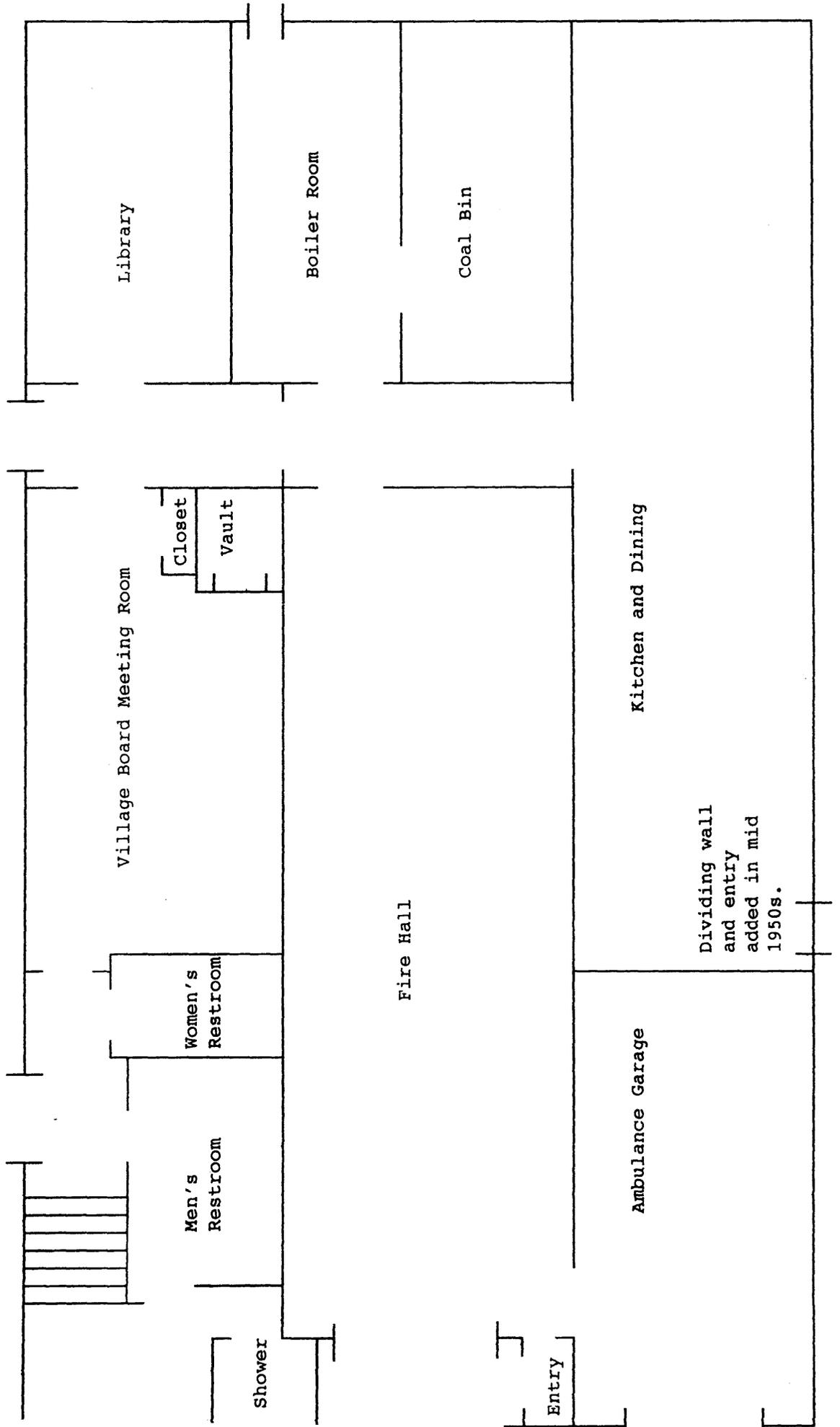
EDGAR VILLAGE HALL
Village of Edgar, Marathon County, WI
Drawing based on architectural plans



Edgar Village Hall First Floor Room Plan, 1947

EDGAR VILLAGE HALL
Village of Edgar, Marathon County, WI
Drawing based on architectural plans

Drawing not to
scale
N

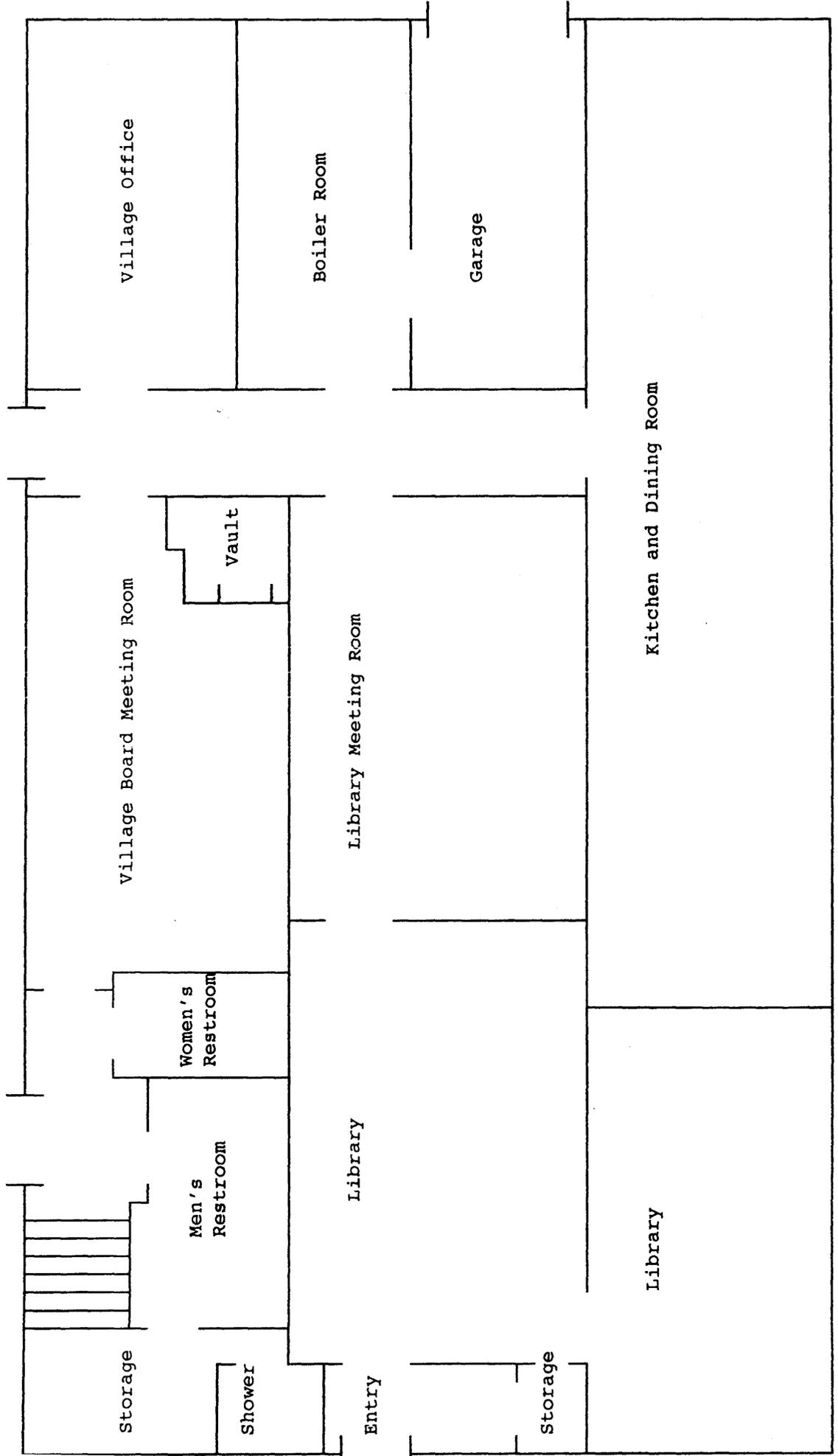


Edgar Village Hall First Floor Room Plan, 1975-1993

Drawing not to
scale



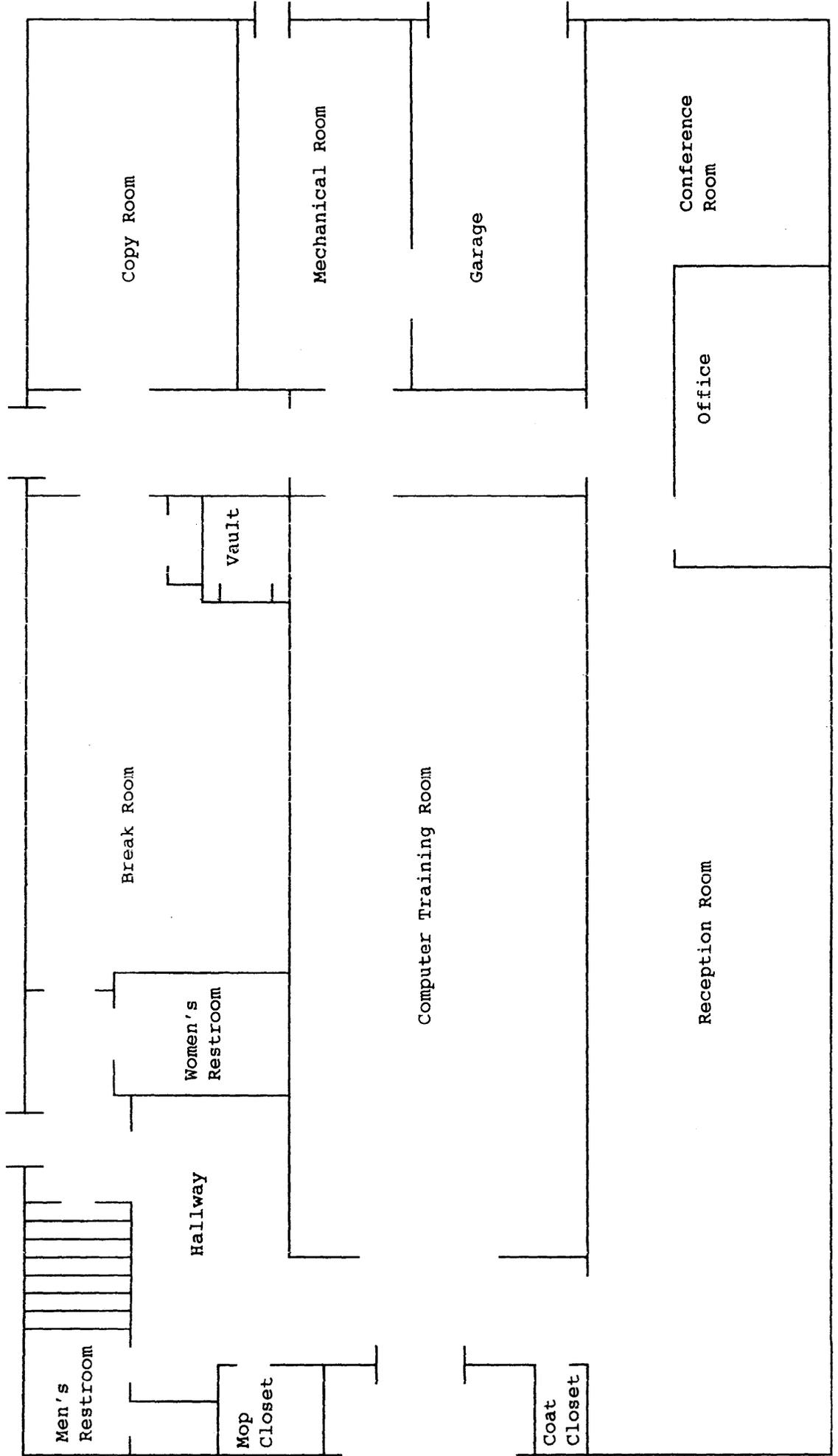
EDGAR VILLAGE HALL
Village of Edgar, Marathon County, WI
Drawing based on architectural plans



Edgar Village Hall First Floor Room Plan, Present

EDGAR VILLAGE HALL
Village of Edgar, Marathon County, WI
Drawing based on architectural plans

Drawing not to
scale
N



Edgar Village Hall Second Floor Room Plan, 1917 to present

Drawing not to
scale



EDGAR VILLAGE HALL
Village of Edgar, Marathon County, WI
Drawing based on architectural plans

