

54-18-1040-43

NR 12-6-75

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC HELENA LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

AND/OR COMMON
PHILLIPS COUNTY LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
623 PECAN STREET

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
FIRST

CITY, TOWN
HELENA

__ VICINITY OF

STATE
ARKANSAS

CODE
05

COUNTY
PHILLIPS

CODE
107

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
HELENA PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION / PHILLIPS COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

STREET & NUMBER
623 PECAN STREET

CITY, TOWN
HELENA

__ VICINITY OF

STATE
ARKANSAS

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. CLERK'S OFFICE

STREET & NUMBER
PHILLIPS COUNTY COURTHOUSE

CITY, TOWN
HELENA

STATE
ARKANSAS

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__ FEDERAL __ STATE __ COUNTY __ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

In 1891 the Women's Library Association of Helena, Arkansas, constructed a two-and-one-half storey building to house their library. Almost forty years later a one-and-one-half-storey museum was added to the original library building. The combined structures are known as the Helena Library and Museum.

The library is a two-storey brick building with a mansard roof. Paired gable dormers project from the roof on all four elevations. On the side and rear elevations the double-hung sash windows have segmental heads and cast-stone lugsills. Around the entire building the wall surface is broken with coursing at the second-storey line.

The facade of the library is divided into three bays by brick pilasters. Paired windows set in segmental-arch frames flank the one-storey enclosed entry porch. An unusual decorated entablature surmounts the second-storey windows on the facade. The cornice features molded woodwork with decorative brackets above brick coursing.

The museum building adjoins the southwest corner of the library and is architecturally harmonious with the library building. Like the library, the facade of the museum is divided into three bays by brick pilasters and has a segmental-arch entry flanked by paired, segmental-arch windows. The museum has a truncated hip roof extending over the brick cornice.

Several additions have been made to the rear of the Helena Library and Museum. In the 1960's two one-storey, flat-roofed additions were made to the rear (west) elevation of the library. A one-storey, gable-roofed extension was added to the museum in 1974. The only alteration to the library's facade occurred about 1914 when the entry was moved from the north front window to the center bay.

The interior of the library building has molded trim with corner blocks around doors and windows. In the northeast corner of the building an elegant stairway with slender turned balusters rises to the second storey. The interior of the museum consists of one large open room completely surrounded by a railed balcony. Museum displays are located around both the ground floor and the balcony. Interior woodwork in the museum is harmonious with that in the library.

This architecturally interesting structure, which is somewhat reminiscent of the Second-Empire style, is painted a glowing pink with white trim around the doors and windows. Resting on its original site near the downtown area, the Helena Library and Museum remains in excellent condition.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 10-1499	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
	<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			Library & Museum

SPECIFIC DATES	1891	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Raenhart and Simon-Library Andrew P. Coolidge-Museum
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As the oldest public building in Helena, Arkansas, the Phillips County Library and Museum is an important local landmark. During the two decades following its 1891 construction the building functioned as the civic center of Helena. Its continual use as a library and museum has made it the most historically important educational building still standing in Phillips County.

In the 1870's Helena's first library originated with the Rescue Hook and Ladder Company. This volunteer-firemen's group had a small lending library for several years. In 1878 another group of men established the Helena Library Association. Ten years later the Women's Library Association was organized and chartered, and the Helena Library Association soon disbanded. The 533 books owned by the men's library were donated to the new women's library.

Construction of a permanent library building was important to the Women's Library Association. In 1889, only a year after the group was organized, a site was acquired on which to build a library. By 1891 enough money had been raised to finance construction of a \$6,000.00 building. Helena contractors Raenhart and Simon were in charge of construction.

From 1889 until the 1920's, when public support first became available, almost every kind of money raising event imaginable was held to benefit the Helena Library. From the sale of local bonds and figurative bricks to the holding of benefit concerts, bazaars and dances, the Helena community was continually involved in raising money to support the library. Probably the most unusual fund-raising event occurred when the main hall of the library building was used as a skating rink.

As Helena's civic center around the turn of the century, the library was used for frequent dances, receptions and women's club meetings. Religious services and school classes were held there occasionally. It was not until 1914 that the main room of the building was devoted exclusively to library purposes.

Beginning in 1889, with the donation of a carved wooden inkwell, many museum items were donated to the Helena Library. Through the years more and more artifacts were presented to the library, and with each new gift the need for a museum building grew. After a number of years of fund

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

raising similar to that which financed the library, a museum wing was added to the Helena Library in 1929.

The Helena Museum is one of the most important local museums in Arkansas. Displays include Indian artifacts, personal effects of several individuals prominent in Helena's history, Civil War relics, early documents relating to Phillips County history and many other items. In addition, both the museum and library contain a great deal of archival material concerned with Helena's past.

Architecturally, the Helena Library and Museum is unusual in eastern Arkansas because of its mansard roof. In this community of Greek Revival and Victorian residences, the French mansard library is a distinctive change of pace. For many years the building has been painted a vibrant pink, a color in contrast to the quiet use of the structure.

The Helena Library and Museum has a great deal of local historic significance as the oldest public building in the community, as an early civic center, and as the repository for a great number of articles and information concerned with Phillips County history. Its architectural style, unusual in this area, adds further to the significance of the building.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Kirkman, Dale. "Phillips County Library and Museum". Unpublished manuscript on file with Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, Arkansas, August, 1975.
- "Phillips County Library and Musuem". Historic Helena and West Helena. Helena, Arkansas: Phillips County Chamber of Commerce, 1973.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 1 acre
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	7 2,1 3,2,5	3,8 2,3 2,2,5	B			
C				D			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

DIANNA KIRK, HISTORIAN

ORGANIZATION

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

DATE

9-9-75

STREET & NUMBER

300 WEST MARKHAM

TELEPHONE

501-371-1639

CITY OR TOWN

LITTLE ROCK

STATE

Arkansas

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

GENE RICHARDSON

TITLE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

SEPTEMBER 19, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

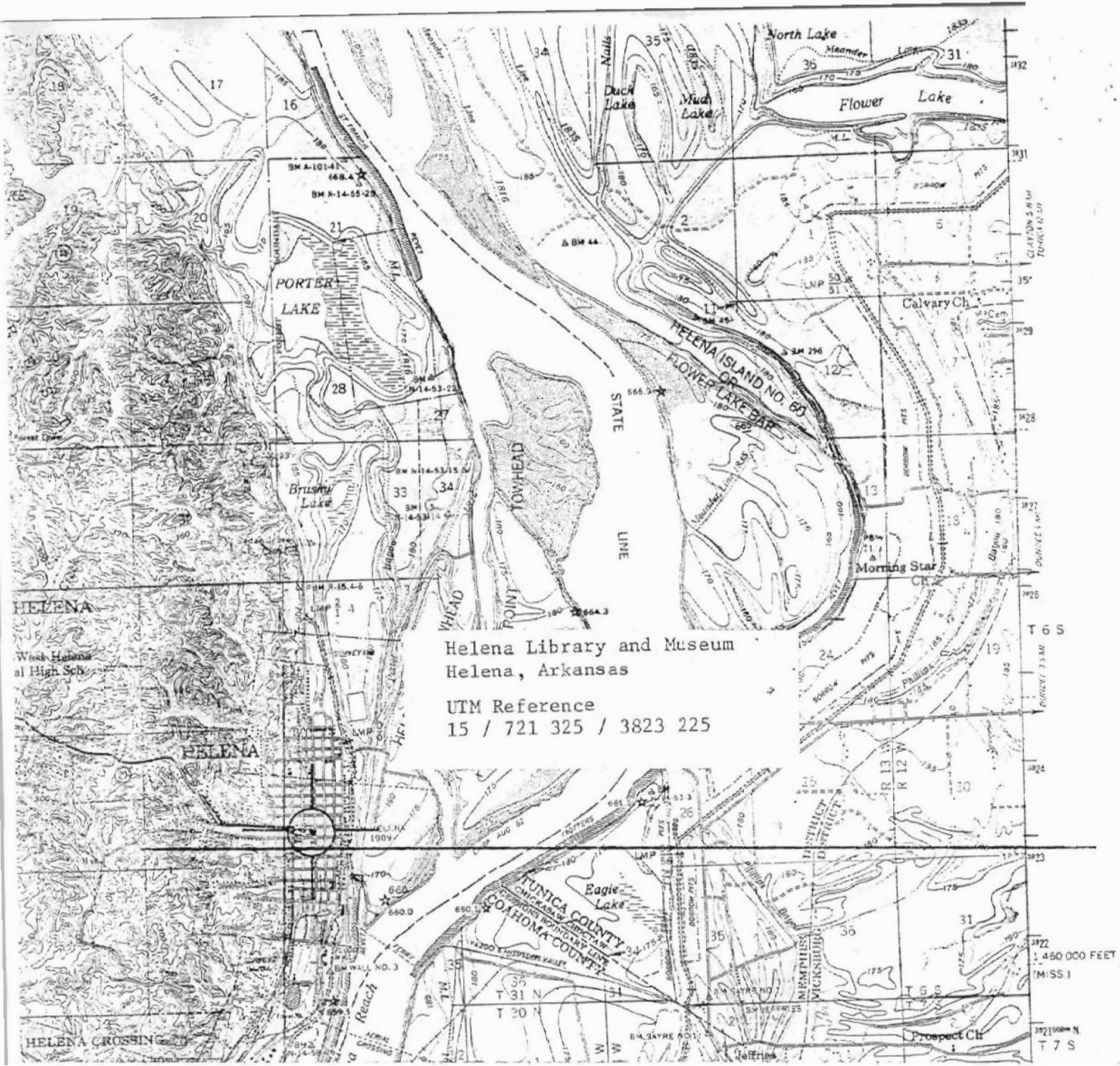
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Helena Library and Museum
Helena, Arkansas

UTM Reference
15 / 721 325 / 3823 225

Form No. 10-301
(Rev 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP



NAME

HISTORIC

HELENA LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

AND/OR COMMON

PHILLIPS COUNTY LIBRARY AND MUSEUM



LOCATION

Helena, Arkansas

Phillips County, Arkansas

Interior with street lamp, mounted on the building!

Form No. 10-301a
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC **HELENA LIBRARY AND MUSEUM**

AND/OR COMMON
PHILLIPS COUNTY LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN
HELENA

____VICINITY OF

STATE
ARKANSAS

COUNTY
PHILLIPS

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT
DIANNA KIRK

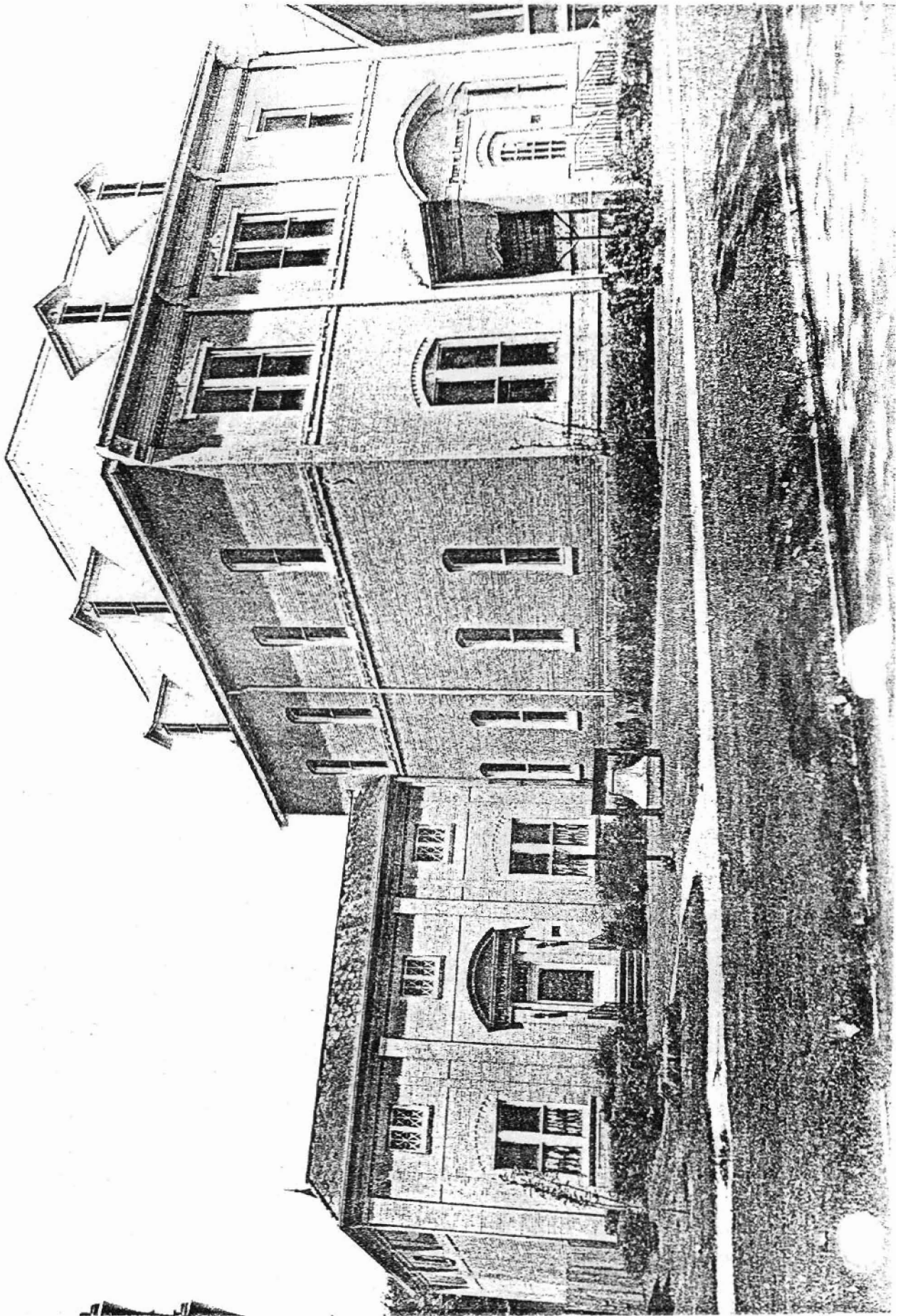
DATE OF PHOTO
SUMMER, 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT
ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET
FACADE AND SOUTH ELEVATION, VIEWED FROM THE SOUTHEAST

PHOTO NO
2



Form No. 10-301a
(Rev. 10-74)

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1 NAME

HISTORIC HELENA LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

AND/OR COMMON PHILLIPS COUNTY LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN HELENA

— VICINITY OF

STATE ARKANSAS

COUNTY PHILLIPS

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT DIANNA KIRK

DATE OF PHOTO SUMMER, 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

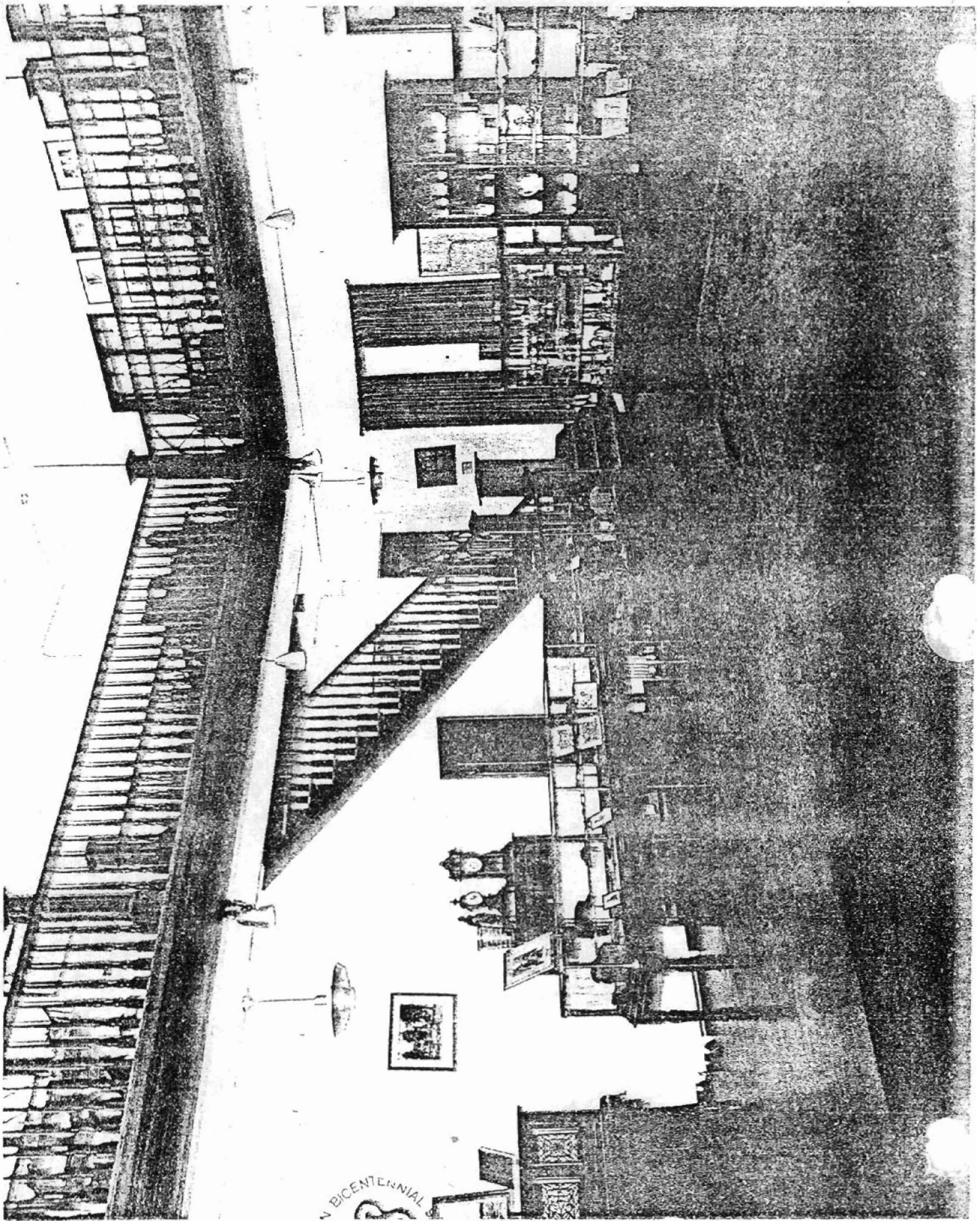
4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

INTERIOR OF MUSEUM, VIEWED FROM NORTHEAST ENTRY

PHOTO NO.

4



1876 BICENTENNIAL

Form No. 10-301a
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HELENA

— VICINITY OF

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DIANNA KIRK

DATE OF PHOTO
SUMMER, 1975

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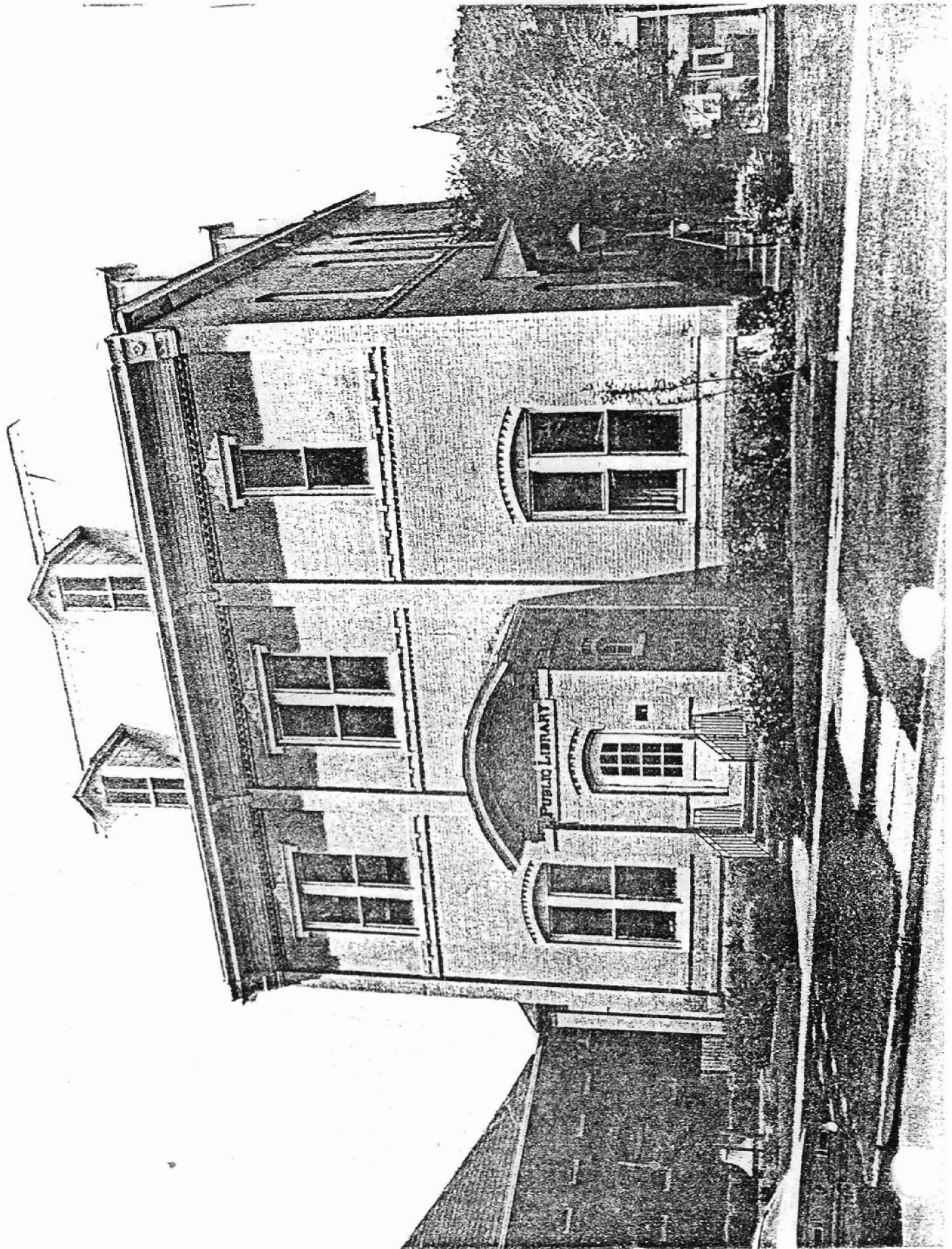
4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

LIBRARY FACADE AND NORTH ELEVATION, VIEWED FROM THE
NORTHEAST

PHOTO NO.

1



Helena Ark
Phillips Co
1975

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HISTORIC
HELENA LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

AND/OR COMMON
PHILLIPS COUNTY LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN
HELENA

STATE
ARKANSAS

COUNTY
PHILLIPS

DATE OF PHOTO
SUMMER, 1975

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT
DIANNA KIRK

NEGATIVE FILED AT
ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET
REAR ELEVATION, VIEWED FROM THE WEST

PHOTO NO
3

