

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any 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 Givin, Amelia S., Free Library
other names Mount Holly Springs Public Library

2. Location

street & number 114 North Baltimore Avenue N/A not for publication
city or town Mt. Holly Springs N/A vicinity
state Pennsylvania code PA county Cumberland code 041 zip code 17065

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.)

Andrew J. MacDonald July 1, 2004
Signature of certifying official Date

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

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

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register _____
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the _____
National Register
 See continuation sheet.

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Brownstone

roof Stone/Slate

walls Stone/Brownstone

Brick

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.)

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or a 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

Social History

Period of Significance 1889-1954

Significant Dates 1889

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Steen, James T.

Ransom, Moses Y.

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

(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)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	313437	4442750	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

See continuation sheet.

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul Tucker
organization _____ date February 3, 2004
street & number 617 South Mountain Road telephone (717) 432-8194
city or town Dillsburg state PA zip code 17019

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Amelia S.Givin Library

street & number 114 North Baltimore Avenue telephone (717) 486-3688

city or town Mount Holly Springs state PA zip code 17065

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.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Keeper, National Register of Historic Places, 1849 "C" Street NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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Givin, Amelia S., Free Library
Cumberland County, PA

According to the *Mt. Holly Echo*, the Amelia S. Givin Free Library in Mt. Holly Springs, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania was constructed in 1889 and dedicated on January 2, 1890. The building is a one story Romanesque Revival building with an asymmetrical plan, intersecting gable roofs, and a raised recessed principal (west) entry under a broad round arch. The west and north walls are constructed of regionally quarried sandstone, the south and east walls are of brick, and the roof is slate. The principal entry faces west on North Baltimore Avenue at the southeast corner of the Church Street intersection. North Baltimore Avenue is the main north-south commercial route through Mount Holly Springs and a number of mid 19th to early 20th century residences remain along its approximately one half mile stretch through town. A substantial brick addition was added to the rear (east) of the original library in 1987. The addition has a composition shingle gable roof and is not highly visible from North Baltimore Avenue. The building sits on a relatively level lot with mature landscaping, and has a parking area developed to the east, which is accessed by Church Street. Overall, the original building's condition, and integrity of design, details and craftsmanship are excellent and other than the 1987 addition, the building has undergone only minor alterations since its construction.

Exterior

The main recessed entry approximately bisects the west elevation. A pair of short, robust, engaged stone columns, typical of the style, supports each side of the massive semicircular entry arch. A dressed stone band with projecting belt courses top and bottom is immediately above the arch. The stone is carved with the letters LIBRARY and serves as the main signage for the building. A group of three arch-top windows separated by engaged columns are located above this band. A carved stone monogram of the Library's benefactor (ASG for Amelia Steele Givin) is located above the triple windows. A two-story engaged circular tower with two fixed windows with transoms stands immediately to the north of the entry. The tower is finished with a high band of blind arch recesses, a stone cornice and a conical slate roof. South of the main entrance, the primary elevation is comprised of three bays of three large double hung, one/one windows with fixed transoms, separated from the entry by an engaged, round, truncated pilaster.

The south elevation of the original building is a simple gable end with symmetrical placement of two basement windows, two large main floor double hung, one/one windows with transoms, and two attic windows, all flanking an internal brick chimney. This elevation also includes a longitudinal elevation of the 1987 brick addition. The addition includes two sets of three double hung windows on the main level and one set of three double hung windows at the basement level. The roof of the addition intersects the east wall and the east slope of the original building's roof.

The east elevation of the original building is where the 1987 addition adjoins. The original elevation was comprised of a set of three large one/one double hung windows with fixed transoms, and one other window or door opening (now removed to provide connections between the historic library and the addition) symmetrically positioned to either side of a central brick chimney. The east, gable end elevation of the addition includes a ramped entrance into the basement from the parking lot.

The north elevation of the original building is comprised of the large semicircular projection with conical slate roof that projects from the north gable end of the building. The projection has seven equally spaced and deeply set fixed arch top clerestory windows mimicking the blind arch recesses on the west elevation tower, and two window openings at the basement level. The stone walls of this semicircular projection as well as the west elevation tower are battered to the sill height of the primary first floor windows. This elevation also includes the north longitudinal elevation of the 1987 brick addition. The addition includes five double hung windows, and an entrance into the raised main floor level. The roof of the addition intersects the east wall and the east slope of the original building's roof.

Interior

The interior of the Givin Library is primarily reading room and entrance facilities in the original building, and library stacks and support facilities in the 1987 addition.

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The interior of the original library building is comprised of a full basement, main library level, and a small mezzanine. The original basement was historically, and continues to be used for mechanical equipment and storage. The basement level of the addition is primarily a large meeting room with two small storage rooms and a kitchenette. It is accessible via a ramp from the parking area and stairs from the first floor.

The interior of the main level of the historic library is comprised of one large 18 ft. high space, separated into four principle rooms – three reading rooms and a central hall -- with partial height, decoratively paneled walls. A small mezzanine, accessed by a small cast iron spiral stair, exists in the northwest corner of the building overlooking the north reading room. The main level of the 1987 addition is generally open floor space with some support facilities, restrooms, etc.

The foyer of the historic building continues to serve as a principal entrance to the library and maintains the original blue and white geometric pattern faux mosaic tile floor. The interior of the historic library is finished with oak paneling on the walls and ceiling. A massive, ornately carved stone and molded brick fireplace stands at the east wall of the central hall, opposite the entrance. This center hall separates the original stack area to the north (now a reading room) from the two reading rooms to the south. All three rooms are separated from the center hall by approximately 10' high oak partition walls comprised of a combination of raised panel wainscoting with wood fretwork in a variety of patterns and 'weaves' above. The partition walls are capped with an oak band, turned spindles, and a final rail.

The stack room to the north of the center hall has a large semicircular projecting bay to the north, an alcove to the west that includes a lesser semicircular projection resulting from the engaged tower, and a small office in the northwest corner. The original wooden library shelving wraps around the semicircle of the reading room below clerestory windows. At the alcove, a cast iron spiral stair leads to the small mezzanine and the mechanical room (formerly an office) above the entry. The two reading rooms to the south of the center hall are essentially mirror images of each other. The rooms have the same window pattern and each has a corner fireplace with an oak surround and mantle. The fireplaces have surrounds of tile reportedly imported from England, and hearths comprised of a combination of tile, reportedly both English and domestic tile. The partition wall that separates the two reading rooms is solid oak raised paneling. The 18' high ceiling of the original library is finished with beaded oak infill boards between cased beams.

The original fretwork detailing of the historic library interior is worth special note. This feature is used as a partition treatment between the central hall and the flanking reading room and stack spaces. The fretwork is installed above solid paneled wainscot, providing visual connection from the central desk area to all of the main floor spaces, as well as free circulation of light and air throughout the floor. The fretwork, known as Moorish fretwork, is constructed from interlocking milled spiral rods. Moses Y. Ransom, of the C.S. Ransom Moorish Fretwork Company in Cleveland, Ohio, patented the technique in 1885. The work is called Moorish for its similarities to the geometries of Arabic Mashrabiyya woodwork used throughout the Middle East. The versatility of Moorish Fretwork allows numerous intricate patterns and weaves. The Givin Library exhibits patterns of stars, sunbursts, open weaves, tight weaves, spirals, and twisted ropes. The fretwork in the Givin Library is oak, matching the material of the paneled walls and wainscot throughout the historic library.

The physical integrity of the original library is remarkably good, given the fact that it has been in constant public use since its construction in 1889.

The original building features have been very well maintained. On the interior, the fragile fretwork partition walls and their integral doors, original finishes, and all original tile work are in excellent

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condition. The original exterior materials have also been well maintained.

Alterations

The Givin Library has undergone a variety of alterations, both interior and exterior, over its history. These alterations have not had a major impact on the overall integrity of the building. The alterations have generally been accomplished with concern for the significant architectural aspects of the historic building, and handled with sensitivity. Through their achievement, the alterations have enabled the building to continue to function in its most appropriate, originally intended use, that of a library.

The brick addition to the east of the historic building, designed by Boiling Spring's Architects Bixler and Bixler in 1985, was completed in 1987. The most significant alterations the addition imposed on the historic building were the closure of four historic windows on the east elevation of the original library, and the creation of two openings into the library through its east wall. The four closed windows on the east elevation remain, in situ, and are visible from the interior of the historic library. The architectural drawings for the addition indicate that the openings created to connect the historic library with the addition were the locations of historic windows, although there is some belief within the library community that at least one of these openings had been a door. The only other significant alteration to the historic library is the installation of new aluminum-framed entry doors behind the stone of the main entry arch on the west façade. Alterations having a lesser impact to the historic building include a new, sensitively installed HVAC system, the adaptation of a portion of the main library mezzanine for mechanical equipment, the adaptation of the northwest corner of the stack room into an office from earlier closet and restroom uses, and the closure of several basement windows for security purposes.

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Statement of significance

The Amelia S. Givin Free Library is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for Social History and Criterion C for Architecture. The library was constructed during the public library movement of the late nineteenth century, which was fueled by various additional philanthropic efforts of organizations such as the Carnegie Foundation, begun in 1881. The Givin Library was the first public library in Cumberland County and has been in continuous operation serving Mt. Holly Springs and the surrounding community for over 113 years. The building is an example of the popular late nineteenth century Romanesque Revival style. The period of significance begins with the construction of the library in 1889 and ends in 1954, following the NR 50-year guideline.

In January of 1889 Mt. Holly Springs Central Hotel burned to the ground. Shortly thereafter Amelia Givin purchased the lot, and in May 1889, she announced her intentions to provide a free library for the working people of the two large paper mills built by her father. Shortly thereafter, ground was broken for the new library. The original library has had one addition constructed in 1985-1987. The addition was added to the east façade of the library, and necessitated the closure of four original windows, although they remain in situ, and are visible from the interior of the historic library.

Mt. Holly Springs was already a well-established center of commerce when incorporated as a borough in 1873. Known variously as Papertown or Kidderminster this village was rich in natural resources. In the early 19th century, several paper companies maintained successful mills, supported by an abundant supply of water. In addition, high quality iron ore was in abundance and several furnaces and forges had set up shop. By the turn of the century, Mt. Holly Springs' population had grown to approximately 1,200 persons, largely due to the workforce necessary for the established industries. In addition, the Mount Holly Springs Park was a popular resort destination bringing people from Baltimore, Washington D.C., and Philadelphia.

In 1827 the Givin family built a factory in Mt. Holly Springs to make rugs and blankets. Along with these rug-making factories, the Givins owned Mt. Holly Springs Paper Company was extremely profitable, establishing the family's wealth. With her inheritance, Amelia S. Givin not only built and furnished the library but generously endowed it as well. Records do not show the same level of civic philanthropy from other members of the Givin family. Amelia Givin's uncle, her father's brother Samuel Givin, did serve on Mt. Holly Springs' first Borough Council, but the family's chief civic contribution, other than Amelia's library, appears to be the supply of major community employment at its various factories.

The Givin Library was in operation a full decade before the next library in Cumberland County would open. The Bosler Library in Carlisle opened in 1900 as a subscription library, costing one dollar per year for its use. The Colonial Revival style Bosler library with its Ionic front porch columns is a stately presence in Carlisle, the seat of Cumberland County and home of Dickinson College. The Bosler and Givin libraries were the only public libraries in Cumberland County until the late 1950s. In 1960, the Cumberland County Library System was formed. It is now a federation of eight independent libraries throughout the county. Until the Cleve J. Fredricksen Library was constructed in 2001 in Camp Hill, the Bosler and Givin libraries were the only county libraries whose original intent was that of a public library.

The appearance of Mount Holly Springs has changed considerably in the past one hundred years. Although paper is still the dominant industry in town, little else has remained the same. The resort atmosphere dried up along with the Holly Lake when the dam fell into disrepair. The few Victorian Era homes that remain are now mostly remodeled or in need of repair. The First National Bank, located at the corner of Baltimore and Pine streets, is the only other building in Mt. Holly Springs that is discernable as stylistically similar to the library. The bank has, however, been significantly altered, leaving only remnants of its original appearance and character. The library has been one of the very few unchanging community bulwarks, still fulfilling its mission to

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the people of Mt. Holly Springs. Visitors and patrons alike are drawn from well outside the primary service area of the library.

Henry Hobson Richardson (1836-1868) was an influential voice in civic architecture in the late 1800's. Amelia Givin hired Pittsburgh's James T. Steen, a prominent architect well versed in the Richardsonian style, to design her memorial library. Steen was considered the foremost architect in Western Pennsylvania, designing many buildings in downtown Pittsburgh. Unfortunately, only a few of these have survived. Amongst Steen's best-known Romanesque Revival designs were The Western University of Pennsylvania (later the University of Pittsburgh), the original City Hall, the Kaufman department store, and the YMCA. Steen designed the library using classic Richardsonian elements including: broad round arches, use of towers with conical roofs, rusticated ashlar masonry, battered foundation walls, banks of windows, deeply set windows and doors, squat columns and carved ornament. Little is known about the library's builder, George Rice, other than that he also was said to be from the Pittsburgh area. The buildings south and west facades of brownstone were quarried and worked in Hummelstown, PA and laid up by local masons. The interior woodwork was made by C. S. Ransom & Company in Cleveland, Ohio and shipped via rail to the library. Signatures of some of the carpenters and the first president of the board of trustees are still visible on the attic rafters.

On the 55th anniversary of the library, the Rev. A.D. Gramley dedicated his book, *An Introduction to Mount Holly Springs, Pennsylvania*, to the Memory of Amelia S. Givin. The chapter on the library opens with the following paragraph:

"The Amelia S. Givin Free Public Library was presented officially to the borough of Mt. Holly Springs on January 2, 1890. It stands as an index finger for instruction, amusement, and culture. It is located on Baltimore Avenue in the central section of the village. It is an imposing structure and is an ornament and a great blessing to the town. Not often does one see such a commanding building in a town the size of Mt. Holly Springs. Out of the abundance of her wealth, which was accrued from the lucrative paper manufacturing business, Miss Givin gave this depot of literature. The building is constructed architecturally to suit its high purpose. It is true to its design and complies in all its virtues to the purpose for which it was given. It is an unfailing symbol of wisdom and a gem in architecture. Strangers passing through town are impressed by its stateliness and it is environed with an academic atmosphere and wears a scholastic touch."

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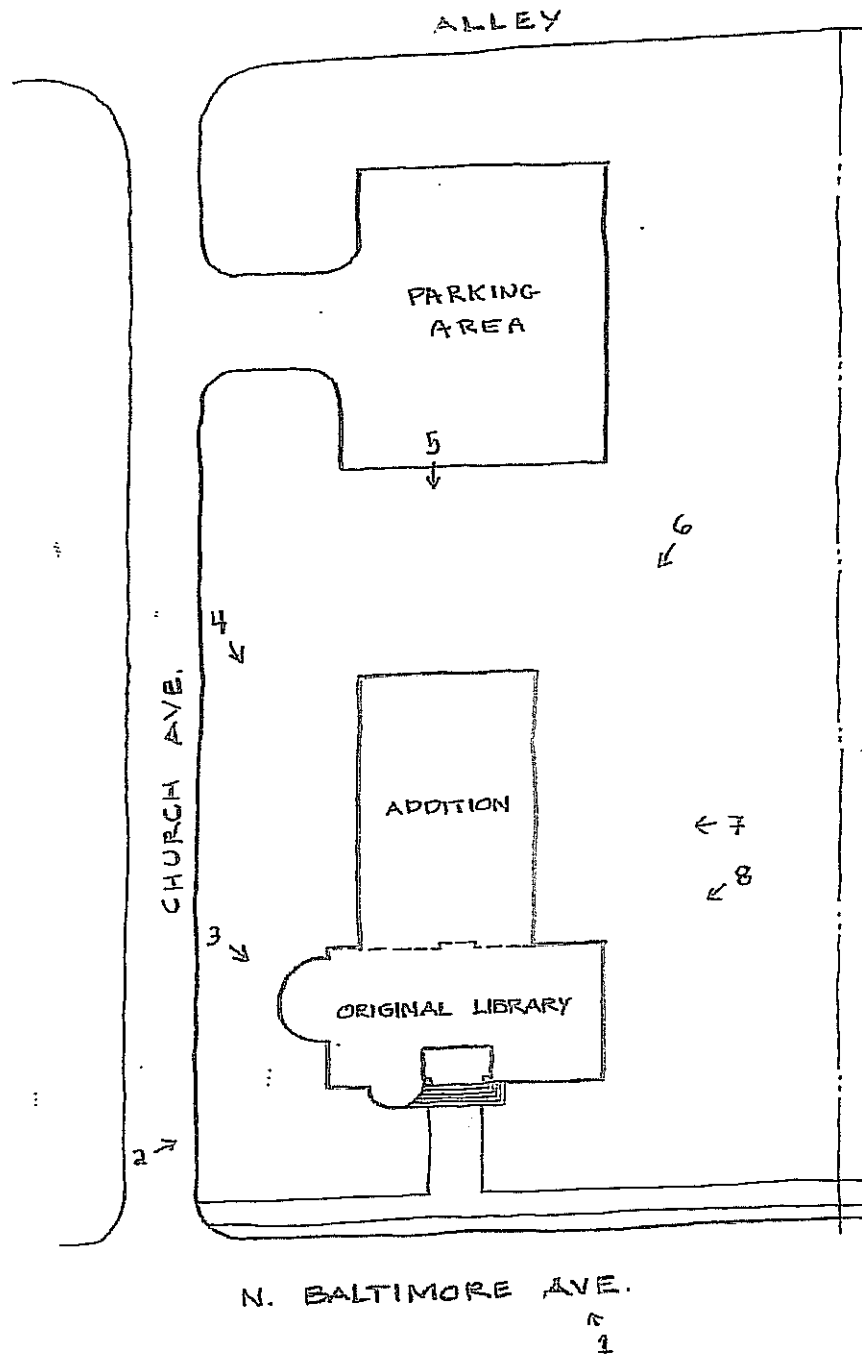
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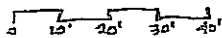
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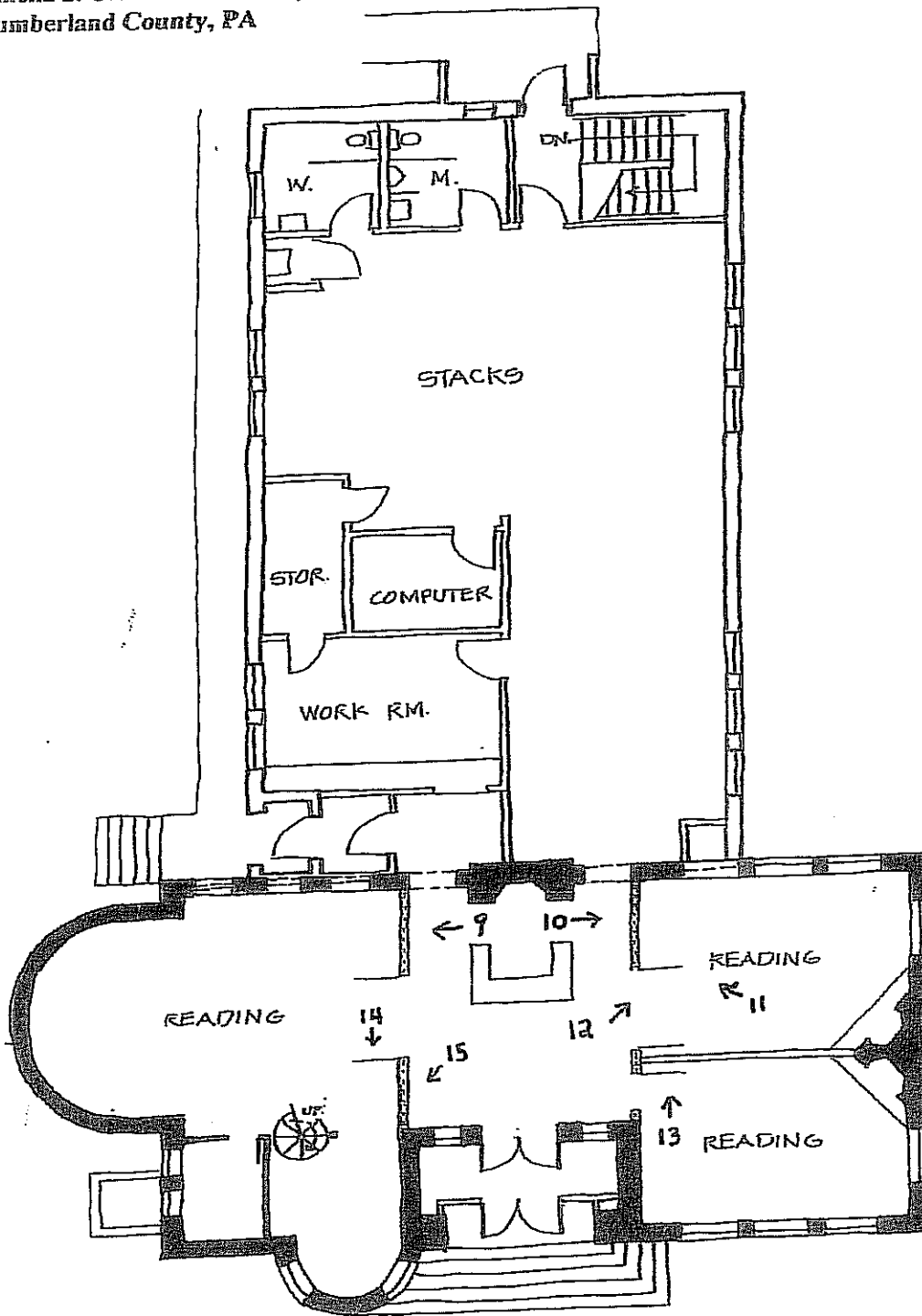
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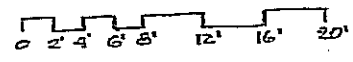
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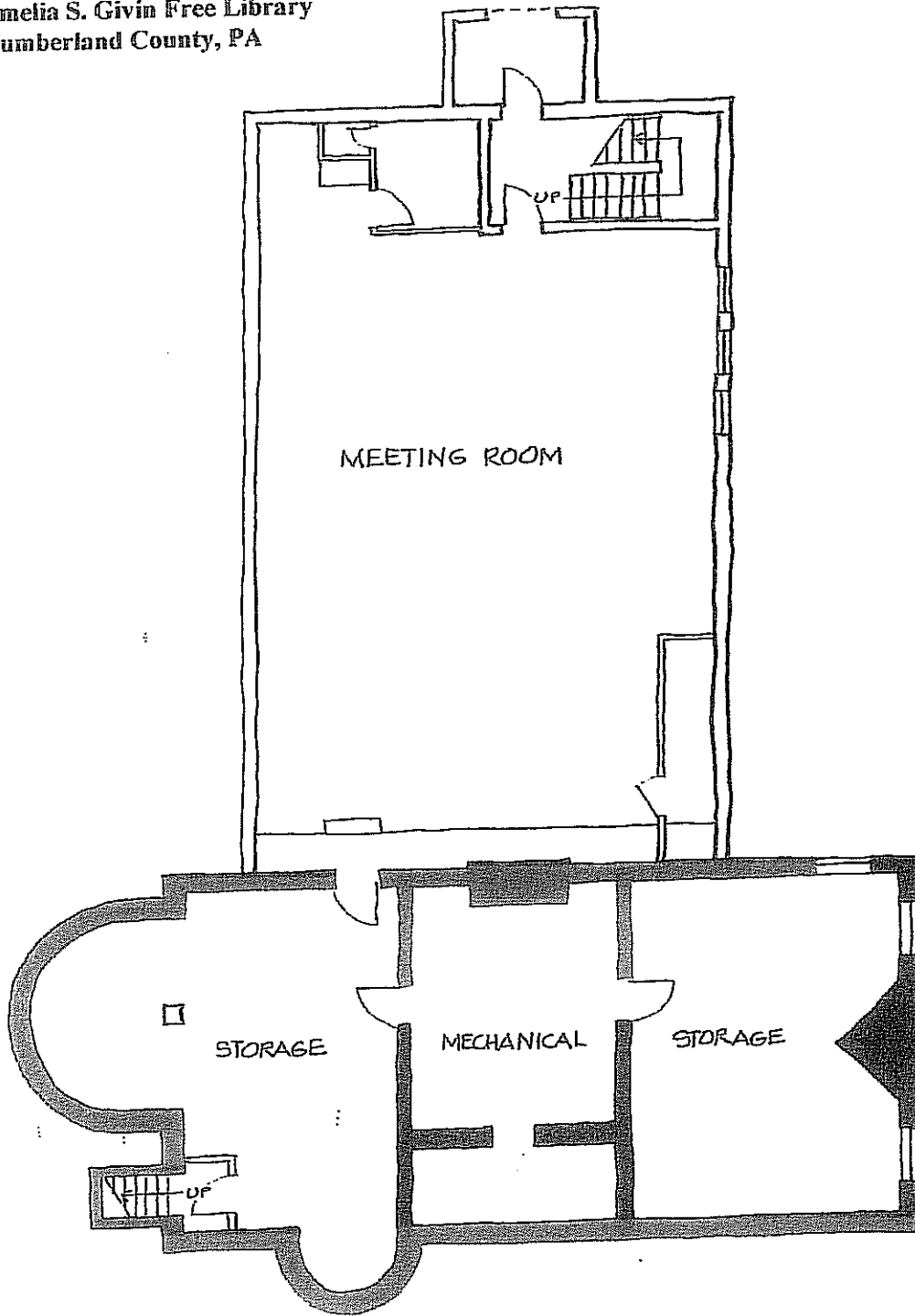
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Cumberland County, PA



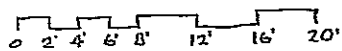
FIRST FLOOR PLAN



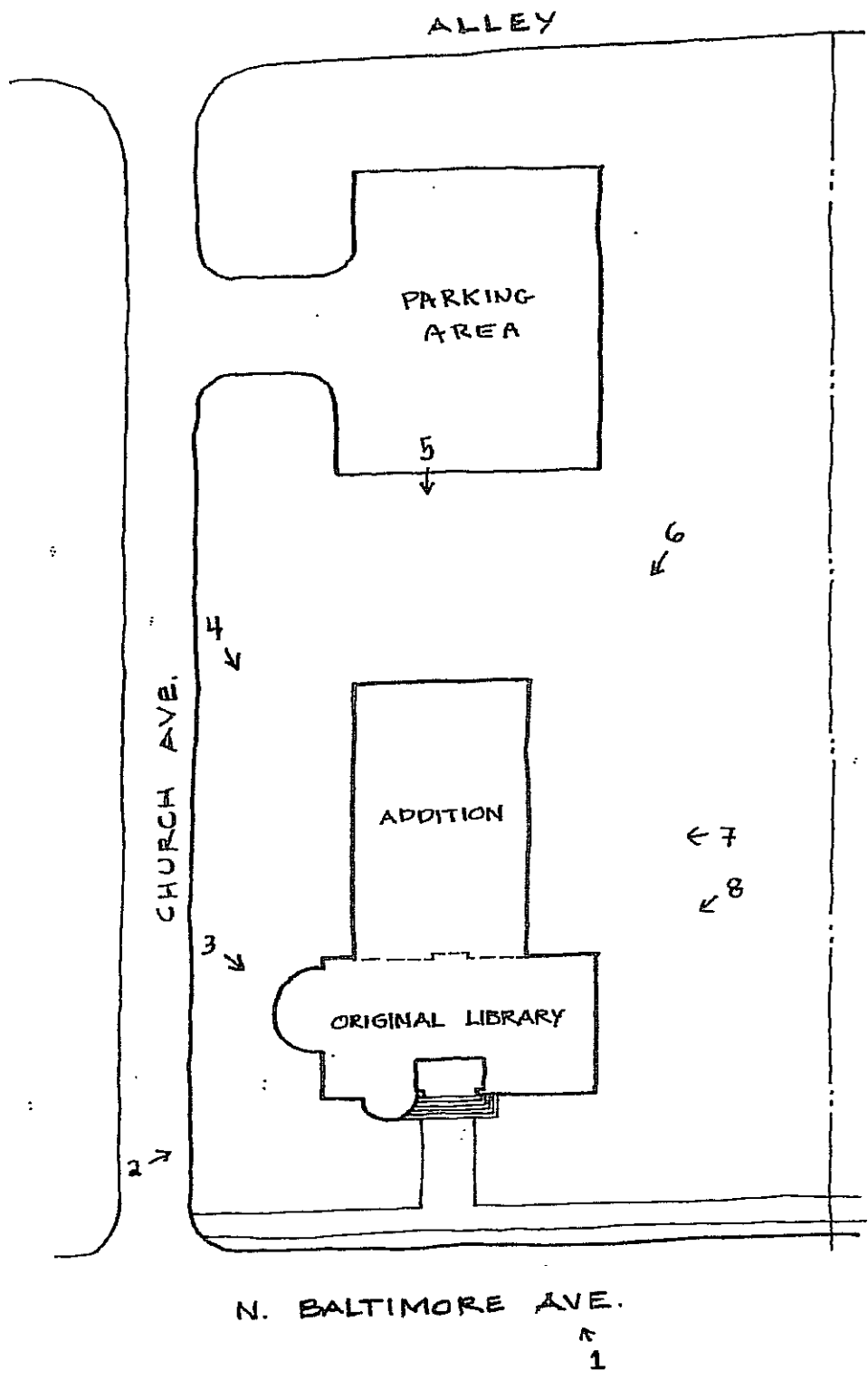
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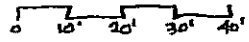
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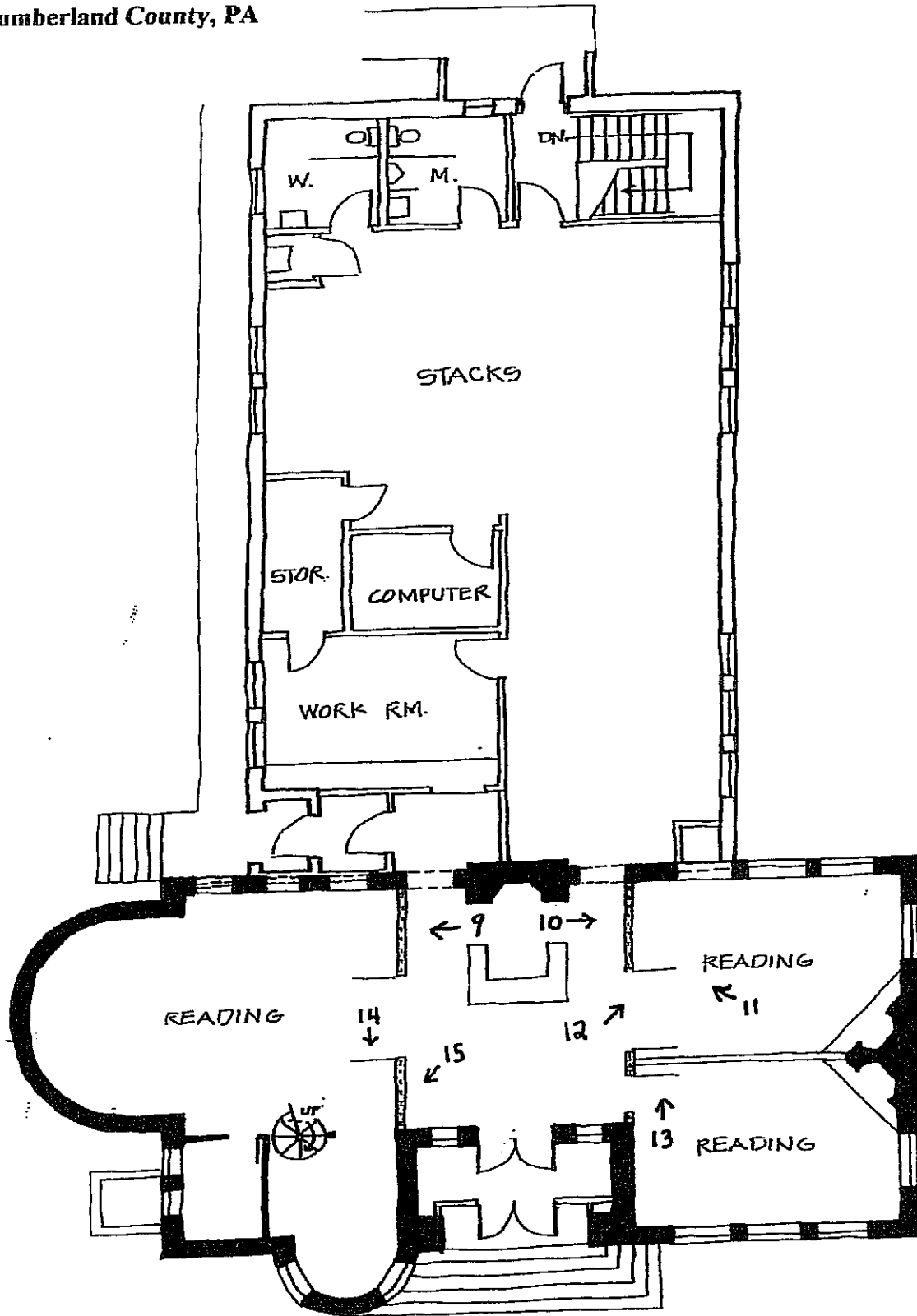
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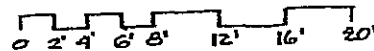
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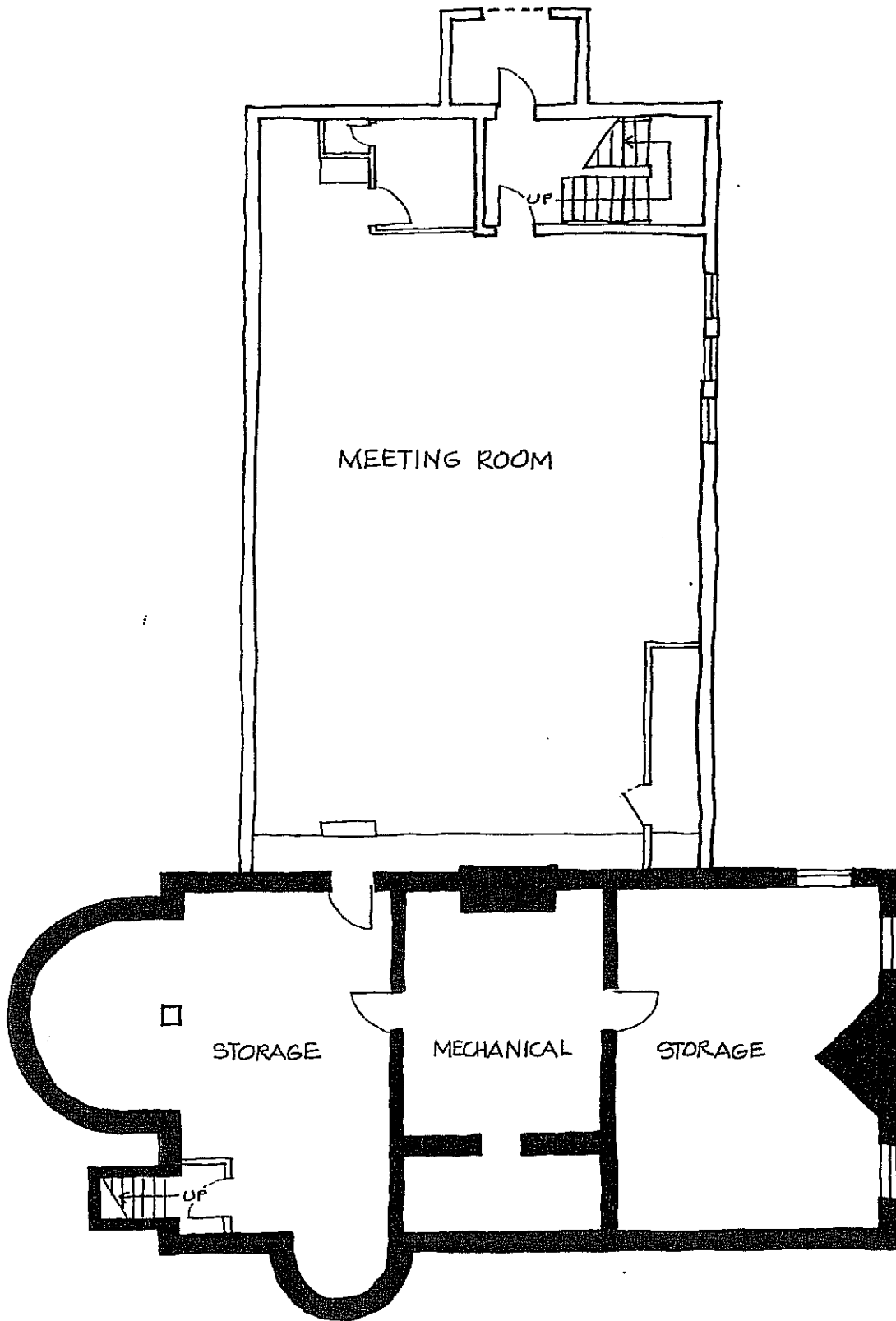


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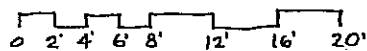


FIRST FLOOR PLAN





BASEMENT PLAN





AMELIA S. GUIN LIBRARY
CUMBERLAND COUNTY, PA
UTM 44 42 775 N
3 13 437 E

6 MI.
PA. 34 12'30" 1312

CARLISLE 5.3 MI.

5564 II NW
(CARLISLE)

BOILING SPRINGS 3.8 MI.
MOUNT ZION 0.6 MI.

1315

10'

1316

