



TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION
2941 LEBANON ROAD
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0442
OFFICE: (615) 532-1550
E-mail: Peggy.Nickell@tn.gov
(615) 532-1550, ext. 128
www.TDEC.net/hist

March 24, 2012

Kaye Graybeal
400 Main Street, Suite 403
Knoxville, TN 37902-2476

RE: Ayres Hall, Knox County, Knoxville, Tennessee

Dear Ms. Graybeal:

Enclosed please find a draft nomination for **Ayres Hall** on the campus of University of Tennessee. The property is located within the jurisdiction of the Knoxville Certified Local Government. This program requires that the historic zoning commission and the chief local elected official review all National Register nominations within the city before they are presented to the State Review Board. The nomination is scheduled to be presented at the May 23, 2012 State Review Board meeting. A fact sheet explaining the procedure is enclosed.

A copy of the draft has also been sent to Mayor Rogero's office. Please complete the enclosed form and return it to me by May 22, 2012.

If you have any questions regarding the Certified Local Government program or the National Register, please contact me at 615/532-1550, extension 128 or Peggy.Nickell@tn.gov.

Sincerely,

Peggy Nickell
Historic Preservation Specialist
National Register

PN/pn
Enclosures (2)

Pc: The Honorable Madeline Rogero, Mayor of Knoxville, Tennessee

CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT NATIONAL REGISTER REVIEW

CLG: Knoxville
PROPERTY: Ayres Hall
ADDRESS: 1403 Circle Drive, Knoxville, Knox County, Tennessee 37996

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION EVALUATION

NAME OF COMMISSION:
DATE OF MEETING:
HOW WAS THE PUBLIC NOTIFIED OF THE MEETING?
 ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER

REASONS FOR ELIGIBILITY OR NON-ELIGIBILITY:

SIGNATURE:
TITLE:

DATE:

THC STAFF EVALUATION

ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER

REASONS FOR ELIGIBILITY OR NON-ELIGIBILITY:

Begun in 1919 and completed in 1921, Ayres Hall on the campus of the University of Tennessee is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C as an excellent example of the Collegiate Gothic Revival style. Ayres Hall embodies numerous and distinctive characteristics and elements of the Gothic Revival style. It was designed by the Chicago firm of Miller, Fullenwider, and Dowling with Grant C. Miller acting as the local architect. Ayres Hall is one of the first two Collegiate Gothic Revival style examples built on the campus for a total of seventeen and has long been an icon for the Knoxville campus.

SIGNATURE: *Peggy Nickell*
TITLE: Historic Preservation Specialist

DATE: 3-24-2012

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN BEFORE: May 22, 2012

RETURN FORM TO:

PEGGY NICKELL
TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION
2941 LEBANON ROAD
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0442

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 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 Ayres Hall
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 1403 Circle Drive not for publication
city or town Knoxville vicinity
state Tennessee code TN county Knox code 093 zip code 37996

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date
State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission
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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Ayres Hall
Name of Property

Knox County, TN
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing

Noncontributing

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

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

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: college

EDUCATION: college

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Collegiate Gothic Revival

foundation Concrete
walls Brick

roof Terra Cotta
other Limestone; Glass; Wood; Metal, Marble

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Ayres Hall
Name of Property

Knox County, TN
County and State

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 N/A

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1921

Significant Dates

1921

Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Grant C. Miller, (Miller, Fullenwider, & Dowling)

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- 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:

Special Collections Library, University of TN, Knoxville

Ayres Hall
Name of Property

Knox County, TN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property _____

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1 _____
Zone Easting Northing
2 _____

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing
4 _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gail L. Guymon, Architectural Historian/Archivist
organization Archaeological Research Laboratory/U. of TN date February 20, 2012
street & number 5723 Middlebrook Pike, Rm. 239A telephone 865.974.9644
city or town Knoxville state TN zip code 37921

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 University of Tennessee Knoxville c/o Chris Cimino, Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration
street & number 417 Andy Holt Tower, 1331 Circle Park telephone 865.974.4204
city or town Knoxville state TN zip code 37996

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 listing. 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 20303

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

Ayres Hall
Knox County, TN

7. Narrative Description

Ayres Hall is a four-story Collegiate Gothic Revival building long recognized as an icon of the University of Tennessee's Knoxville (UTK) campus. Completed in 1921, it occupies the top The Hill¹ and the building's north elevation overlooks Cumberland Avenue, a major east-west thoroughfare that passes through the campus (Photo #6). The property is generally bounded by Circle Drive which encircles The Hill at its approximate midpoint. Ayres Hall shares the summit of The Hill with South College (1872), the oldest building on campus. To the east, south, and west, Circle Drive is lined with several other Collegiate Gothic Revival buildings. The building shares its construction date and general design with Morgan Hall, located on the UTK agricultural campus. Both were designed by the Chicago firm of Miller, Fullenwider, and Dowling and were the first campus buildings constructed in the Collegiate Gothic Revival style. Ayres Hall contains 88,256 gross square feet and is roughly I-shaped with a center pavilion and bell tower.

Exterior

Ayres Hall's architectural form consists of a side-gabled three-story main block² with a four-story parapet roofed center pavilion at its midpoint and a four-story gabled wing with gabled parapet end walls at each end. A quatrefoil-shaped bell tower offset toward the north elevation of the pavilion rises three stories above the roofline of the main block. A parapet roofed, three-story wing is attached to the interior corner of each wing on the south elevation. On the north elevation, three-story stairwell towers are tucked into the inside corners at the juncture of the main block and wings. The building's forms and materials are symmetrical along the east-west axis to either side of the midpoint of the center pavilion. Primary and secondary entrances, stairwell towers, and gabled wings mirror one another on a given elevation.

There are, however, some differences between the north and south elevations. The exterior walls of the wings and center pavilion on the south elevation are on the same plane. On the north side, the north elevations of both wings extend beyond the plane of the projecting bay on the center pavilion. There are also slight differences between the north and south elevations in fenestration patterns on the end gables, as well as in the types and placement of decorative elements used at the entries and on the exterior walls.

Above the cut limestone foundation and water table, the steel and concrete-reinforced frame is clad in load bearing variegated red brick laid in common bond. Coping, string courses, quoins, window and door surrounds, bay windows, and ornamental elements and motifs repeated on the exterior elevations are executed in limestone and characteristic of the Collegiate Gothic Revival style. Coping runs along the roof/wall junction of the main block, the end gables on the wings, the center pavilion, and bell tower. Ayres retains its original copper gutters and downspouts. Gutters

¹ The University's predecessor, East Tennessee College, was located on Barbara Hill in the municipality of West Knoxville. Over the years, the name was shortened to "The Hill."

² The peak of the gable on the main block was designed with a flat top

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6 Ayres Hall
Knox County, TN

extend the full length of the north and south elevations of the main block and along the east and west elevations of the wings. The roof is terra cotta tile.

Nearly all of Ayres Hall's windows are single casement with hopper transoms and are recessed into limestone surrounds with quoins at the jambs. These windows have the following configurations: six, nine, twelve or fifteen-lights and none, one, or two rows of six or eight-light transoms. These configurations appear in various groupings on all elevations. Ayres also has original fixed windows with perpendicular tracery. These form transoms above the entries on the north and south elevations of the pavilion and are also on both sides of the south elevation's entry on the pavilion.

A set of steps that are the width of the center pavilion on the north elevation lead down to a two-level brick and concrete plaza of red brick laid in a basket weave pattern set between bands of concrete. Low concrete balustrades with balusters and square, flat-topped, newel posts extend from the outer corners of the pavilion to the bottom of the steps and the upper level of the plaza. Mounted on each newel post at the foot of the steps is an opaque white spherical light fixture. Two perpendicular black metal bands embellished with medallions where they intersect surround the sphere. A lancet-shaped finial is mounted at the top of the bands.

A second set of steps connects the upper and lower portions of the plaza. The outside edges of the lower section have an L-shaped, low brick and concrete wall. A newel post on the end of the short leg of each of these walls is set on a short concrete crenellated post. Light fixtures on these posts match those on the upper level balustrade. Four more wide concrete steps descend from the middle of this level of the plaza to concrete sidewalks that extend up the upper north slope of The Hill from Circle Drive.

Perpendicular to the plaza and running east-west, are concrete sidewalks with original limestone balustrades that extend nearly the full length of Ayres Hall. The tall starting newel for these balustrades is a rectangular, buttressed post that sits on an irregularly shaped base. The top of the post is crenellated and the light fixture mounted on top matches those previously described. At the far end of each walk, a straight-run flight of steps bridges the change in elevation between the north side of The Hill and Circle Drive.

The north elevations of the wings on the north elevation have parapeted end gables outlined by limestone coping to form a triangle. A rectangular cap is mounted at the peak of the triangle and a diamond-shaped motif is set into the corners of its base. Just below the peak, two vertical bands of coping intersect with three evenly-spaced horizontal bands. This treatment gives the gable the appearance of stickwork. Bricks in the uppermost center of these vertical bands are laid on the diagonal and form a herringbone pattern. Directly below, the bricks are laid vertically. Centered within the triangle is a blank cartouche mounted on a tablet. It has a horizontal pleated swag above it, festoons down each side, and a single rosette centered beneath it. Below the end

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 7

Ayres Hall
Knox County, TN

gables, the wings have a single-bay formed by ribbons of five windows on each story (Photo #12). Each of these 15-light windows has a 6-light transom.

The top edge of each stair tower on the north elevation of Ayres Hall has a wide flat band of coping with a rounded arch in the center. A quatrefoil medallion is centered beneath the arch and directly below the coping, is a checkerboard panel of alternating squares of vertically laid brick and smooth limestone. A stone panel with a cherub head putto is set high into the two buttresses on the towers' exterior corners. Each tower has a single bay comprised of paired 15-light windows with 6-light transoms on both upper stories above the entry. The buttressed, centered entrance has a rectangular surround with quoins at the outer edges and capped limestone pedestals at the base of the surround. A double band of half-round stone molding extends across the top of the surround and a band of coping directly below it features a horizontal band of quatrefoil medallions. Mounted in the center of the top of the surround is a blank tablet. Between the top of the surround and the Tudor-arched opening above the entry doors, the checkerboard pattern is repeated. The limestone archivolt features a panel of square medallions with botanical motifs. The entry has double-leaf, wooden, 10-light entry doors and has a divided light Tudor-arched transom (Photo #10).

The north elevation of the main block has three bays on each side of the center pavilion (Photos #7, 8, and 12). First and second story fenestration consists of a two ribbons of five 15-light windows with 6-light transoms with a paired window of the same configuration between them. Fifteen-light windows on the third story are also in ribbons of five, two, and five but do not have transoms.

The center pavilion on the north elevation has three bays (Photo #8). At ground level, the flat-roofed center bay is rectangular in shape and heavily buttressed. It projects slightly from the face of the pavilion and there is a skylight in the roof. The brick buttresses project above the height of the center section of the entry bay and are heavily outlined with limestone quoins. The north elevations of these buttresses have a deeply recessed niche with a pendant light fixture mounted at the top and a square medallion centered at the bottom. A pair of smaller arched buttresses is tucked between the interior edge of each of the larger buttresses and the bay's arched opening. The panel above the Gothic-arched opening to the entry bay is ashlar limestone and has limestone medallions and a centered blank tablet. The extrados of the archivolt has a panel of square medallions with botanical motifs (Photo #9). Further inside the archivolt, a panel on the intrados has alternating tablet and diamond-shaped medallions. The floor of the entry bay has alternating black and white ceramic tiles in a checkerboard pattern set into concrete. The bay's interior walls are ashlar limestone and each interior wall has a centered blind arch. A copper tablet on the west wall lists the names of presiding officers and members of the Educational and Agricultural committees of the Sixth Tennessee General Assembly when the Senate bill that provided the funding for the construction of Ayres Hall was passed. Matching original pendant light fixtures are suspended from the top of each arch.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 8

Ayres Hall
Knox County, TN

The entry on the main block at the center pavilion has double-leaf, 10-light doors flanked by two single-leaf 10-light doors. The tops of the doors are slightly rounded and follow the curve of the basket-handle arched stone surround. Arched limestone pilasters on both sides of the double-leaf door continue vertically to form part of the Tudor-arched transom above the entry doors. The transom has perpendicular tracery. A pair of 15-light windows with 6-light transoms flanks the entry on the ground floor.

The two end bays on the upper stories of the center pavilion have a single 15-light window with a 6-light transom on the second and third stories and paired 12-light windows with two rows of 6-light transoms on the fourth story. The top edge of the surround on the third story end windows is enlarged and abuts the sills of the fourth story windows (Photo #11). A tablet is set into the middle of the surround. A limestone medallion with a botanical motif is set into the outer wall of the center pavilion between the center bay and the windows of the end bays on the fourth story. A rectangular panel of bricks laid vertically alternating with quatrefoil medallions is centered above the fourth story end bay windows and forms a checkerboard pattern.

The second, third and fourth stories of the center pavilion form a bay whose corners and point of juncture with the face of the pavilion are delineated by coping and quoins that extend vertically to the band of coping along its flat roofline. The bay has a ribbon of six 15-light windows with 6-light transoms on the second and third stories. The two windows at the ends of the ribbon wrap to the sides of the center bay. On the fourth floor, the fenestration pattern changes to a ribbon of six 12-light windows with two rows of 6-light transoms. A string course formed by a band of projecting molding is above all the fourth floor windows on the center pavilion and evenly-spaced medallions affixed to the molding display alternating botanical and tablet motifs. A stone replica of seal of The University of Tennessee set into a heavy surround anchored by quoins is centered on the bay above the fourth story windows.

The three-story bell tower begins above the fourth story of the center pavilion and has identical elevations (Photo #2 and #8). Its corners are formed by engaged stepped buttresses. The stone coping at the top edge of its parapet roof is repeated at the tops of each stepped section of the bell tower and forms belt courses around all elevations of the tower. The uppermost section of the bell tower has a flat-topped niche centered in each buttress. Quoins are used in the surround of the niche and the inner corner of the buttress. The center section of upper portion of the bell tower contains a 10-foot wide brick panel framed by a stone surround with quoins. A circular limestone clock face is centered in the middle of the panel. The outer edge of the clock face has two bands of half round molding. Black Roman numerals are set off from the inner portion of the face by a narrow band of compound half round molding and the black hands are centered on the clock face. Directly above the clock face is a tablet draped with a festoon. The tablet has a stone surround with a dogtooth medallion positioned at the center of each side. The narrow recessed area between the center panel and the corner buttresses is limestone. The upper edge has a cornice formed by compound molding. Beneath the molding is a quatrefoil with a centered dogtooth medallion. A rectangular niche with tracery and a blank tablet in the upper portion is

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 9

Ayres Hall
Knox County, TN

below the quatrefoil. Spanning the width of the center section of the bell tower is a band of decorative stone. Each corner and the center of the band have a deeply recessed dogtooth medallion carved in relief and mounted in a square surround with a quatrefoil back panel. Between these corner medallions is a band of molding with medallions with foliated and botanical motifs.

The center section of the stepped buttresses has a single centered square of limestone and stone corner molding. The lower portion of the buttresses has smaller buttresses on the inside edges. A very narrow stone niche set into limestone surrounds with quoins is centered on this portion of each buttress. The center portion of the bell tower at this level has a pair of deeply recessed drop-arch openings set into limestone surrounds with quoins beneath a panel of checkerboard brick and limestone. Each opening has stone tracery in the upper portion that forms two small lancet arches.

The five bay east and west elevations of Ayres Hall are along the wings at each end of the main block. Here, the ground slopes away from the building, fully exposing the first story. At grade, on the east elevation (Photos #4 and 5), the recessed entry near the southeast corner has 10-light double leaf wooden doors with an 8-light fixed transom. A reproduction pendant exterior light fixture similar in appearance to the originals still on the building is mounted on both sides of the entry. As part of the renovation, a small concrete patio with metal tables and chairs was added outside this entry.³ To the north of this entry, the window pattern is six, two, and three. Fenestration is identical on the second and third stories and consists of 15-light casement windows with a single row of 6-light transoms arranged in ribbons of three, two, six, two, and three. On the fourth story, the pattern changes to ribbons of four, three, six, three, and four.

At grade, the west elevation has (south to north) the following fenestration: a double-leaf entry identical to that on the east elevation, ribbons of two and six windows, a single-leaf 10-light entry, and a ribbon of three windows. Fenestration on the upper stories of the west elevation is identical to that on the upper stories of the east elevation (Photo #1).

There is a single bay of windows from ground level to the fourth story on the east and west elevations of the north elevation's center pavilion. A paired 15-light window with 6-light transoms is at ground level. Second and third story windows are single, 15-light, with single 6-light transoms. The third story window also has a blank tablet surrounded by rosettes and a botanical motif above the transom. A paired 12-light window with a double row of 6-light transoms is on the fourth story and directly above it on the bell tower wall is a checkerboard panel comprised of vertically laid brick and deeply recessed quatrefoils that is repeated on all four elevations of the base of the bell tower.

³ The patio was part of the original design but omitted during construction due to lack of funds.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 10

Ayres Hall
Knox County, TN

On the south side of the building the fenestration pattern on the east and west elevations of the center pavilion is different. Here, a single 15-light door with a 6-light transom is at ground level. Single second and third story windows are 15-light with 6-light transoms. The tablet surrounded by rosettes is repeated on this side of the building above the third story window. The fourth story has a paired 12-light window with a double row of 6-light transoms.

Instead of the balustrades used on the north elevation, the south side of the building has simple low stone planters with corner posts that defines the entries at the wings as well as the foundation plantings along the main block.⁴ There is a fairly level expanse of lawn and sidewalks on this side of the building. An 80-foot flagpole erected in 1940 is slightly south of the entrance on the center pavilion

Due to the change in grade, the wings on this side of Ayres Hall are three stories in height. They have a projecting gabled end and toward the center of the building, an adjoining section with a flat roof and parapet. Decorative elements in the upper portion of the gable-ended portion of the wings are identical to those on the north elevation and the coping that forms the base of the triangle on continues across the adjoining section. A stone gargoyle waterspout set into a rectangular stone opening with tracery in the upper portion, is at the juncture of the two sections of the wing between the upper and lower bands of coping. The center portion of the roof parapet is set off by quoins and contains three courses of vertically laid brick topped by a panel of stone quatrefoils.

The fenestration pattern at ground level from the outer to inner (west to east) corner of the wings is a ribbon of three 15-light windows and 6-light transoms. The middle bay has a recessed arched entry with 10-light, double-leaf entry doors, and an arched divided-light transom. Reproduction pendant light fixtures are to either side of the arch. To the right of the entry bay is a ribbon of four 15-light windows and 6-light transoms. On the remaining stories, the fenestration pattern repeats the ribbons of the ground level but above the entry door, the middle bay consists of paired windows of the same configuration.

On either side of the center pavilion, the main block's south elevation has five bays; all with paired windows. First and second story windows are 15-light 6-light transoms. Third story windows are also 15-light but have no transom.

At first glance, the center pavilion on the south elevation (Photos #2 and 3) is very similar in appearance to its counterpart on the north elevation, yet there are a number of differences. A ribbon of narrow four-light windows with perpendicular tracery flanks the entry at ground level instead of the paired 15-light and 6-light transom windows seen on the north elevation. On the center bay, the second story windows are omitted and replaced by a band of three 9-light windows without transoms at the level of the third story. Windows on the fourth story are identical with those on the north elevation.

⁴ The wall was added during the renovation project

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 11Ayres Hall
Knox County, TN

The south elevation entry bay also differs from that on the north side. It is slightly wider and higher and the top edge of the surround is stepped rather than flat. The tablet centered at the top of the surround is identical to those found on the peak of the end gables on the south elevation wings and more ornate than those seen on the north side of the building. A stone putto is mounted on a pierced rectangular stone opening on both the east and west elevations of the buttress of the entry bay. It consists of a projecting corbel with a human head beneath it. The arched opening to the entry is taller and narrower and lacks the deep archivolt of the opposing side but the doors match those on the north elevation. Reproduction light fixtures are mounted on either side of the south elevation of the entry bay. The building's cornerstone is at ground level on the exterior corner of the west buttress above the water table.

Interior

Vestibules at both entries on the north and south elevations of the center pavilion open to a rectangular lobby (Photo #13). Interior doors are double-leaf with 10-lights and have 6-light sidelights set into a marble surround. A central corridor runs the entire length of the main block and intersects with the corridor of each wing. Basket-handle arches of marble span the main corridor on the east and west sides of the lobby.

All corridors of the building and the lobby have original cementitious terrazzo floors in a pattern of white, black, and gray rectangles outlined by a single row of small black squares. The rectangles are separated by bands of pink terrazzo (Photo #14). During the renovation, a pink granite base molding was added. The upper portions of the original walls of Ayres Hall are roughcast plaster. The lower two-thirds of the walls of the lobby, the corridor through the main block and the interior staircase walls are vertical paneled wainscot.

The ceiling of the lobby retains the original plaster spandrels, bosses and crown molding. These were left plain during the initial construction to reduce construction costs but during the renovation, the spandrels and crown molding were hand-grained to look like wood and the plaster bosses decorated with a raised motif of grape clusters and leaves, were hand-painted (Photo #15). Similar bosses appear at the bottom of the open side of arches and as the base of ceiling fixtures in the lobby area on the upper floors. The crown molding and spandrels continue the length of the main corridor and wings. Structural columns faced with Tennessee grey marble known as "Dolly Varden"⁵ salvaged from the building's restrooms, support each point of intersection with the spandrels and marble-faced arches bridge the gap between the outermost columns and the primary interior entries. The grape motif used on the bosses is repeated on the capitals of the columns. Between the intersecting spandrels, the center portion of the lobby's ceiling has acoustical panels set into a dropped wallboard surround. Circular pendant light fixtures with frosted shades trimmed in dark wood are suspended from the panels. This ceiling was installed in the lobby during the renovation to create overhead space for the installation of HVAC ductwork

⁵ This type of marble is no longer available

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 12 Ayres Hall
Knox County, TN

and fiber optic telephone and data cables; however, portions of the original plaster vaulted ceiling are still visible above the interior vestibule doors and above the stairs.

On each side of the south entry vestibule, a single-leaf six-panel door opens to a small janitor's closet tucked beneath the bracketed marble quarter-turn staircase that ascends to the second and third floor landings (Photo #16) from both the southeast and southwest corners of the lobby. The staircase retains both its original wooden handrail and metal balustrade which has a top and bottom panel of open quatrefoils. The square starting newel sits on a marble base and has a wooden cap. The body of the newel is the same as the balustrade. The wall below the balustrade is paneled wainscot framed in marble. The same wainscot is used on the interior wall of the staircase from the lobby to the first floor landing. With the exception of the changes in the ceiling, the present appearance of the lobby now closely reflects the specifications of the architect's original drawings.

Two study rooms for students are at the opposing corners of the north side of the center pavilion and are accessed from the lobby through arched openings. During the renovation original slate chalkboards taken from classrooms were mounted on the interior walls of the study rooms and framed in wood. Matching paneled wainscot fills the space between the chalkboards and the floor. The floors in the study rooms were installed during the renovation and replaced the original wooden floors which were badly worn. The new floors are rectangles of white terrazzo with a centered green quatrefoil separated by bands of green terrazzo.

Restrooms are located on the south side of the pavilion opposite the study rooms (Photo #20). During the renovation, all the restrooms in the building were redone using materials and motifs in keeping with the original design. Walls are white subway tile with black and green trim. The black and white checkerboard pattern seen at the entries to the pavilion is repeated in the restroom floors. Stalls and countertops are marble.

There are now three identical elevators in the building. Since the main staircase ends at the third floor, access to the fourth floor is via an elevator (Photo #17) and an enclosed interior staircase off the lobby on the north wall of the corridor at the east end of the main block (Photo #23). The other two elevators were placed in the adjoining sections of the wings on the south elevation and go to from the main floor to the second and third floors of the building. The quatrefoil design repeatedly used in the interior is repeated on the metal elevator doors. The floors of the elevator cabins repeat the checkerboard motif. Staircases located in the stair towers extend from the basement level to the third floor.

Marble wall panels and matching benches (Photo #19) were added to a section of the north wall to provide seating for students waiting for classes as was the wainscot (originally omitted to cut costs) used in the main block corridor. Original radiators in the secondary entrance vestibules and on stair landings were restored (Photo #22).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 13

Ayres Hall
Knox County, TN

Vestibules of the secondary entries near the wings have skeleton wainscot on the lower two-thirds of the interior walls over the same rough plaster used in the corridors above the paneled wainscot. Interior wooden entry doors in these vestibules are 10-light double leaf set into a rectangular opening with single light sidelights and a single light fixed transom. The vestibules have the same terrazzo floor found in the main block and wings.

Most of the space in the main block and wings of the first and second floors is devoted to classrooms (Photo #25). The cap molding along the top edge of the wainscot in the lobby and main block corridor continues on the same plane as a string course along the walls of the corridors in both wings and intersects the top of the each door frame at the bottom of the arched transoms. The lobby and main block's crown molding, spandrels and ceilings/fixtures are also used in the corridors of the wings (Photo #18). Classroom floors are hardwood and ceilings are identical to the one in the lobby but have flush mounted motion sensitive lighting instead of pendants. Wainscot paneling is used in classrooms beneath windows and across the front of the rooms beneath the marker boards.

The second floor houses the offices of the Math Department on the north side of the center pavilion (Photo #21). Instead of classrooms, the remaining space on this floor is comprised of faculty and graduate student offices.

On the third floor, the office of the Dean of Arts and Science occupies the space directly above the Math Department in the center pavilion. This space also has a reception area and smaller offices for associate deans, the director of development, and support staff. The rest of the floor contains offices and conference rooms.

The fourth floor plan is different from the lower floors in that only the center pavilion is used for public space; the remainder of the floor contains attic and mechanical space. The north side of the pavilion is divided into three rooms: two smaller math seminar rooms flank a large colloquium used for lectures. Archival photographs of Ayres Hall and The Hill are etched in glass on the interior wood paneled walls of the colloquium and long wooden tables and chairs provide seating. The large bay window on the north side of the pavilion provides natural lighting.

An elevator and an enclosed staircase that ascends to the bell tower are located on the east side of the pavilion on the north side of the main hall outside these rooms. A second enclosed staircase that connects the third and fourth floors is on the west side of the vestibule on the north side of the main hall.

Directly across the lobby on the south side of the pavilion is a large conference room (Photo #24) whose exterior wall is the bay window on the south side of the pavilion. The interior walls have wood paneling.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 14 Ayres Hall
Knox County, TN

The entries to both the conference room and the colloquium are identical rectangular openings with double leaf 10-light wooden doors. Ceilings in these upstairs rooms are of the same design as those in the pavilion on the main floor. Restroom facilities are in the southwest corner of the pavilion on the south side of the main hall adjacent to the colloquium.

Renovation Project

Grant C. Miller, of the Chicago architectural firm of Miller, Fullenwider, and Dowling designed Ayres Hall. Due to lack of funds, however, some elements of Miller's original design such as the clock faces on the bell tower, the plaza on the north elevation, and a wing on the southeast which would have required the demolition of South College, were omitted when the building was completed in 1921. The first interior alterations occurred a few years later when rising student enrollment necessitated the reconfiguration of the office suites; however, little else was done to alter the building until the late 1970s when aluminum windows replaced the original wood windows. The second major alteration occurred on the interior in 1983 when an elevator was installed in the main floor lobby of the center pavilion in order to comply with federal regulations requiring handicapped access. Over time, Ayres Hall physically deteriorated and the fourth floor was closed due to inadequate fire exits.

Technological changes and the increasing emphasis on energy efficiency and handicap accessibility at the end of the twentieth century made it increasingly difficult for Ayres Hall to function efficiently as an academic building. It was closed at the end of the fall semester in 2008 and a \$23 million renovation project was undertaken which was completed in 2010. Architects for the project were Ross/Fowler and Weeks, Ambrose, McDonald, Inc. and the general contractor was Johnson & Galyon; all Knoxville business firms. The goals of the project were to retain as much of the original materials and workmanship as possible, to construct elements of the original design that were never completed,⁶ and make the building as energy efficient⁷ and technologically advanced as possible while at the same time, making certain that all the elements of the project as a whole, reflected the original intent of Miller's design and retained the building's historic appearance. A great deal of the project involved simple cleaning, painting, and polishing of original materials.

Landscape changes to Ayres Hall included the construction of the plaza on the north elevation,⁸ the low planters parallel to the main block on the south elevation, and the construction of a small concrete patio with landscaping on the southeast corner of the building (Photo #5). New electrical machinery and HVAC equipment was placed in underground boxes on the south side of the building and the bell tower exterior lighting was upgraded to modern electrical standards. In addition to cleaning and repointing the brick, the roof deck was repaired but nearly all of the original tiles were preserved (Creekmore 2012a).

⁶ With the exception of the wing on the south elevation

⁷ The project was a certified Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) work.

⁸ The plaza was not constructed exactly as shown on the original plans but captures the spirit of Miller's design

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 15

Ayres Hall
Knox County, TN

In the bell tower, clock faces and mechanisms were added by the Verdin Clock Company of Cincinnati (Shearer 2011:1) and an electronic carillon that simulates bells was installed; replacing chimes added by the University in 1991. New stairways to the bell tower were constructed and the attic was reconstructed to provide space for the installation of mechanical equipment. Several reproduction light fixtures designed to closely resemble the originals were placed outside several of the building's entries. All the aluminum windows were removed and replaced with energy efficient aluminum over white oak windows. These have applied mullions and double paneled to give the illusion of true divided lights. While they look the same as Ayres' original wood casement windows and transoms, the panes in the replacement windows are double glazed, have a U factor of less than .24 and a solar gain co-efficient of less than .27.⁹ Wooden venetian blinds with fabric tapes featuring a quatrefoil design were installed in classrooms and offices to further maximize energy efficiency. Inside, 70 per cent of the original wood trim was salvaged and reused. All interior doors were catalogued prior to removal. After being refinished and fitted with handicap accessible door handles, one-fourth of them were reused and installed in the original openings (Creekmore 2012a).

Inside, original radiators were restored and function in places such as the main stair landings where it was not possible to run ductwork. No original interior light fixtures remain. In the lobby the unfinished columns were completed using original marble salvaged from restrooms. Plaster work on the tops of the columns, the bosses, and spandrels was hand-painted and wood-grained. In the east corridor on the main floor, a "China Brown" marble wall and benches were added as seating space for students waiting for classes. Dropped ceilings and new pendant light fixtures were installed in the lobby, main corridor, and both wings. Glass writing boards were installed in classrooms. Materials used in the restrooms (previously described) blend seamlessly with the rest of the building. Some new flooring was added, such as the terrazzo tile in the student lounge. Wood floors were removed, repaired, refinished, and reinstalled on the first through third floors. Only the fourth floor tower space has new engineered hardwood floors made from recycled wood flooring. Where doorways were changed (such as on the third and fourth floors), the Acme gypsum blocks used in the walls was saved. On the fourth floor, the rooms in the center pavilion are all new construction (Creekmore 2012a).

When the building reopened for the spring semester in January 2011, it contained math classrooms on the first two floors in addition to offices for the College of Arts and Sciences, the Arts and Sciences Advising Center, and the Department of Mathematics (Davis 2011)

Changes and upgrades such as the use of energy efficient windows and the installation of a new HVAC system, motion sensitive interior lighting, more than 400 wireless access points, and elevators have made the building energy efficient and created modern classroom and office space while retaining a majority of the original materials and the overall historic appearance of Ayres Hall.

⁹ Doug Lowrie, UTK Facilities Planning Office, personal communication, December 2011.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 16 Ayres Hall
Knox County, TN

8. Statement of Significance

Ayres Hall on the campus of the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Knox County, Tennessee is eligible for the National Register under criterion C for its local significance as a good example of a Collegiate Gothic Revival building. It was designed by the Chicago firm of Miller, Fullenwider, and Dowling with Grant C. Miller acting as the local architect. Begun in 1919 and completed in 1921, Ayres Hall has long been an icon for the University of Tennessee's Knoxville campus. A total of 17 Collegiate Gothic Revival buildings were constructed at UTK between 1911 and 1961, many of which were designed by the Knoxville architectural firm of Barber & McMurry.

This landmark building is named for Dr. Brown Ayres (1856-1919), who served as the university's twelfth president from 1904 until his death in 1919. It is the first academic building constructed during a period of time when the university was rapidly expanding and establishing new colleges and degree programs. It is also (along with Morgan Hall on the agricultural campus) the first UTK campus building constructed in the Collegiate Gothic Revival style, which was selected as the style for new academic buildings as a reflection of the high academic standards and progressive ideals embraced by the university in the first decades of the twentieth century.

Historical Background

The University of Tennessee's roots extend back to Blount College, the first non-sectarian college in the Southwest Territory, and the first in the entire country whose non-denominational status was ensured by the 1794 legislative act granting its charter. James White, Knoxville's founder, was one of the first trustees of the college, and part of the town square was designated for its use. Students received a classical education that included instruction in the sciences as well as ancient and modern languages (Klein 1995).

Blount College was absorbed by East Tennessee College in 1807. In 1840, the name was changed to East Tennessee University.¹⁰ Due to lack of funds and the death of President Carrick, East Tennessee College closed in 1809 and did not reopen until 1826. At that time, the trustees decided to purchase a new 40-acre site for the college west of Second Creek just beyond the western boundary of the incorporated municipality of Williamsburg. The new campus was within what would later become the municipality of West Knoxville and forms the heart of the campus today (Creekmore 1958:164-168; Rule 1900:144-145; Klein 1995).¹¹

During the brief tenure of Reverend Charles Coffin, Old College (Historic Photo #1, now the site of Ayres Hall) was constructed for the then exorbitant sum of \$13,000. By 1835 three one-story

¹⁰ In 1879 East Tennessee University was renamed The University of Tennessee. Female students were banned in 1807

¹¹ West Knoxville was incorporated in 1888. The board of mayor and aldermen changed the name of Kingston Pike to Cumberland Avenue on April 26, 1888. West Knoxville was annexed into the City of Knoxville in 1898.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 17

Ayres Hall
Knox County, TN

dormitories had also been built (East, West, and North College), forming a square at the top of Barbara Hill (Klein 1995).¹²

President Joseph Estabrook assumed the direction of the college in 1834. He revised the course of study, brought in well-educated instructors, and insisted on a high quality of work from students. Reaping the benefit of these changes, the college was given the status of a university in 1840 by the state legislature. At that time, student enrollment was approximately 100. Despite these changes, funding continued to be a major problem and it was difficult to retain quality teachers for the low annual salaries that were offered. Estabrook's resignation in 1850 plunged the University into a period of "deterioration and decay" (Creekmore 1958:167; Klein 1997b).

In 1861 when the Civil War began, East Tennessee University was again closed and most of the faculty and students enlisted. The handful of buildings that occupied Barbara Hill were incorporated into Fort Byington and used as troop barracks and a hospital by both armies at various times during the occupation of Knoxville. When held by the Union army, Barbara Hill was repeatedly shelled by Confederate guns positioned across the river. After the war ended, the buildings were in a dilapidated condition and had to be renovated before classes could resume. The university reopened in 1866 and was designated the land-grant college of Tennessee by an act of the state legislature in 1869 under the provisions of the Morrill Act of 1862. As such, the university was required to teach mechanical and agricultural subjects, provide military training, and not discriminate in the admission of students on the basis of race. African American students nominated for scholarships were sent to Fisk University in Nashville but women were no longer admitted. The sale of a 300,000-acre land grant tract netted \$400,000, an amount that gave the university an annual income of \$23,640 (Creekmore 1958:167, 169; Sims 1952:1-2).

In 1872, South College was built, bringing the number of campus buildings on The Hill to five: Old College, East College, West College, and South College. Seven years later, East Tennessee University was renamed The University of Tennessee by the state legislature (Creekmore 1958:171-172).

The university took steps to live up to its new name during the term of President Charles Dabney (1887 to 1904), the first UT president to hold a Ph.D. His administration placed a new emphasis on scientific and technical studies in an effort to transform the university into a modern technical and agricultural college. One of his first acts was to fire all but two faculty members whose replacements far exceeded their predecessors in academic qualifications and character. Dabney also created graduate programs in several subjects and added a law department. Perhaps one of the most controversial changes brought about during his administration occurred in 1893 when the university began accepting female students. According to James D. Hoskins, late UT president emeritus, the first women admitted to UT were referred to as "floosies" and were not especially

¹² Named for Barbara Blount, William Blount's daughter, who was one of five female students who attended Blount College between 1804 and 1808. Creekmore 1958, 166.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 18

Ayres Hall
Knox County, TN

welcomed by the men. One of the co-eds remembered hearing President Dabney address the student body and state that "ladies have not only come to the University but they have come to stay" (Ezzell, et. al. 2009:9; Thomas 1969). By the close of Dabney's administration the military system had been eliminated and the Knoxville campus had 16 buildings. Faculty and staff numbered over 50 and enrollment was nearly 500, including students enrolled in the university's medical and dental schools (Klein 1995).

Dabney's successor, Dr. Brown Ayres, served as UT president from 1905 until his death on January 28, 1919. When Ayres assumed the presidency, the University of Tennessee had a total of 729 students and 95 faculty members. Public education in general was not well supported by the state at this time and even though it was the state land-grant university, UT did not receive any substantial amount of state funding until 1903 when \$10,000 was appropriated. This amount increased to \$25,000 the following year and to \$50,000 annually by 1908, due in part to pressure exerted on legislators by Ayres and Philander P. Claxton, head of the university's Education Department, Seymour Mynders, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, who urged legislators to appropriate money for the state's public school system as well as the state university.¹³ Their lobbying efforts paid off and in 1905, the state legislature appropriated \$100,000 for The University of Tennessee (Montgomery 1956).

President Ayres' administration focused on continuing to expand and elevate existing programs and to work toward becoming fully accredited. During his tenure, the number of faculty increased from 94 in 1905 to 283 by 1918. Student enrollment also increased during this same period; from 729 to 2,548. The university's first library building was constructed in 1911 with funds from the state and the Andrew Carnegie Foundation (Montgomery 1956).

In March 1917 Harcourt A. Morgan was in Nashville lobbying members of the state legislature to pass the bill authorizing a \$1,000,000 bond issue for The University of Tennessee as well as a revenue stream to enable the bonds to be paid off and to provide operating funds. One hundred thousand dollars of bonds were to be used to establish an agriculture experiment station in Middle Tennessee, another equal sum was to be used to pay off the university's existing debt, and the remaining \$800,000 was to be used for institutional facilities in both Knoxville and Memphis (Creekmore 2012b).

Upon hearing the news that the bill had passed both houses and had been signed by Governor Rye, President Ayres, the trustees, and various advisors sat down to discuss how best to use the new funding to address the urgent need for new campus buildings and to plan for their construction. They adopted the Collegiate Gothic Revival style of architecture for this new construction as both a reflection of the increasing status of the university as well as to set them apart from the "old" university of the nineteenth century (Montgomery 1956).

¹³ Claxton was soon appointed to the position of U.S. Commissioner of Education

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 19 Ayres Hall
Knox County, TN

Ayres' vision included the construction of a large new administration building at the top of The Hill that would replace the antiquated West College, Old College, and East College buildings. As late as 1914, however, Ayres had decreed (referring to Old College), "the same building will stand for years to come unchanged."¹⁴

By 1919 plans were moving ahead to demolish Old College but they aroused strong sentiments among those who sought to preserve it. One of those was Knoxville native, John Fanz Staub, then an aspiring architect in New York City. Staub wrote an impassioned plea for the preservation of Old College that appeared in the January 14 issue of the *Knoxville Sentinel*:

"This old building is a beautiful heritage from our forefathers and belongs not only to us, but to those who come after us. I feel that we will be condemned if we sanction by silence the destruction of Old College" [Ezzell et. al. 2009:2].

The Board of Trustees appropriated \$9,000 to have Old College moved but a structural inspection revealed the bricks had deteriorated to the extent that relocating it was not possible. Old College (along with East and West College) was demolished to make room for the construction of the building that would be known as Ayres Hall. In January 1919, President Ayres met with Chicago architect, Grant C. Miller, to discuss the design of Ayres Hall, Morgan Hall, and Jefferson Hall. Unfortunately, Ayres' did not live to see his dream realized as he died suddenly on January 28 (Klein1997a:3).

The 15,000 cubic yards of soil taken from the south side of The Hill during site preparation was used to partially create Shields-Watkins Field.¹⁵ Construction began with the laying of the first brick on November 26, 1919 by Blanche Bingham, a sophomore from Bell Buckle, Tennessee. The cost of building Ayres Hall was \$689,500 but that figure also included the cost of expanding the heating plant in Estabrook Hall (1898) and equipping the building. When pipes were being installed on the south side of The Hill to connect Ayres to the heating plant at Estabrook Hall, workmen discovered the skeletal remains of six persons buried west of Barbara Blount Hall just below what is now Circle Drive. They were believed to be the remains of Civil War soldiers killed during the Battle of Fort Sanders on November 29, 1863. One of the workmen, John S. Stewart, was killed on February 16, 1921, when the supporting cable of a scaffold below him broke after it was damaged by corrosive acid he was using on the building to clean the brick. The first memorial bench installed in 2010 was placed there by an anonymous donor in Stewart's memory.

The cornerstone was formally laid on March 22, 1920 by William Patton Hoskins, the preschool age son of future UT President James D. Hoskins. Ayres Hall was formally dedicated on June 6, 1921 as part of the commencement program.

¹⁴ Clipping from *Volunteer*, 1914. Old College folder Milton Klein Files, University Archives.

¹⁵ The football field now inside Neyland Stadium.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 20 Ayres Hall
Knox County, TNGrant C. Miller, Architect

Grant C. Miller (1870-1956) of the Chicago firm of Miller, Fullenwider, and Dowling was the architect for three buildings on the University of Tennessee Knoxville Campus: the Austin Peay Building (1911)¹⁶; Ayres Hall (1921) and Morgan Hall (1921).¹⁷ After receiving B.S. and M.A. degrees in architecture at the University of Illinois under Nathan C. Ricker in 1894 and 1895, Miller earned a B.S. degree in civil engineering at Cornell. He joined the firm of Patton and Fisher in Chicago and designed his first library in 1901. Patton and Fisher (later Patton and Miller) designed Carnegie libraries and other educational buildings across the country. Fisher moved to the East in 1901 and Patton and Miller's partnership lasted until 1912. Together, the firm designed over 300 buildings; one-third of which were libraries. Miller became a partner in the Chicago firm of Miller, Fullenwider, and Dowling in 1914 after dissolving his partnership with Patton. Miller continued to focus on libraries and educational buildings throughout his career.¹⁸ Some of the firm's other university buildings included the Law Hall at Cornell College in Iowa (1924) and France Hall¹⁹ at Heidelberg College in Ohio (1925-1926) (Creekmore 2012a).

Miller envisioned Ayres Hall as a self-contained academic campus of sorts with a different approach to the use of the interior space. Professors' office suites included space for support staff and were connected to their classrooms. The fourth floor pavilion space was designed and reserved for use by the university's two debating societies, Philomathesian and Chi Delta. The original layout quickly changed, however, as increasing enrollment during the 1920s created a shortage of classroom space (Ezzell, et. al. 2009; Creekmore 2012b).

Miller's original design included a wing on the south elevation that would have required the demolition of South College. Due to lack of funding, the wing was not part of the original project and not economically feasible years later during the Depression. In 1934 the administration made the decision to retain South College so the wing was never constructed (Creekmore 2012b).

Morgan Hall, constructed at the same time, is visually similar to Ayres Hall but lacks the tower and grander elements of the design. Miller, Fullenwider, and Dowling used the plans for Ayres Hall for The Olmstead Administration Building at the University of Evansville in 1921-1922. It differs in that blocks of Bedford limestone of varying shades and widths were used on the exterior and the ends were broken, not sawed. The Olmstead building is believed to be the first instance in which Bedford stone was used in this way in the United States.

¹⁶ The building was originally a Carnegie library and served as the University of Tennessee Knoxville's first library building.

¹⁷ List of UTK Campus Buildings. UTK system spreadsheet.

¹⁸ Paul Kruty, "Patton & Miller: Designers of Carnegie Libraries, *Palimpsest* 64 (July/August 1983), 110-122; Marcia Anderson, "Illinois Carnegie Libraries-Amendment," National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, Section E, 11 and 13, National Park Service, Washington, DC, 2000.

¹⁹ NRHP 2/12/1979.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 21

Ayres Hall
Knox County, TN

Ayres Hall exhibits many of the recognized features of the Collegiate Gothic Revival style, including masonry construction, arched windows and doorways, bas relief decorative panels and plaques, recessed entries, buttresses, tracery windows, crenellated roof parapets, and a tower. It is one of Knoxville, Tennessee's earliest and best examples of this style of architecture.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 22

Ayres Hall
Knox County, TN

9. Major Bibliographic References

Anderson, Marcia

2000 "Illinois Carnegie Libraries," Amendment, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, Section E, 11 and 13, National Park Service, Washington, DC, 2000.

Creekmore, Betsey Beeler

1958 *Knoxville*, University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville.

Creekmore, Betsey B.

2012a "Ayres—Answers To Possible Questions." Unpublished manuscript. Obtained through personal communication.

2012b Untitled digital file containing facts about Ayres Hall arranged by topic. Obtained through personal communication.

Davis, Elizabeth

2011 "Ayres Hall: Better Than New," *Tennessee Alumnus Magazine*, Winter 2011, 1-2.
<http://www.alumnus.tennessee.edu/2011/01/ayres-hall-better-than-new/>, accessed 5 December 2011.

Ezzell, Tim, Carroll Van West, Larry McKee, Elizabeth Moore, and Julie Lenger

2009 "Campus Heritage Plan: University of Tennessee, Knoxville." Knoxville: University of Tennessee Community Partnership Center.

Klein, Milton

1995 "Brief Historical Sketch of The University of Tennessee."
<http://web.utk.edu/~mklein.brhist.html>, accessed 31 March 2011.

1997a "Brown Ayres: Twelfth President, 1904-1919."

<http://web.utk.edu/~mklein/brownayr.html>, accessed 19 December 2011.

1997b "UT's First Presidents." <http://web.utk.edu/~mklein/firstpre.html>, accessed 20 January 2011.

Kruty, Paul

1983 "Patton & Miller: Designers of Carnegie Libraries, *Palimpsest* 64, July/August.

Montgomery, James Riley

1956 "The University of Tennessee during the Administration of President Brown Ayres, 1904-1919," Master's thesis, University of Tennessee. In "Brown Ayres," *Context*, 14 February 1991

Rule, William

1900 *Standard History of Knoxville, Tennessee*. Lewis Publishing, Chicago.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 23

Ayres Hall
Knox County, TN

Shearer, John

2009 "Restoration of Ayres Hall Offers Old Charm, New Amenities." *Knoxville News-Sentinel*, 11 December. <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2009/dec/11/restyling-a-campus-icon/?print=1>, accessed 5 December 2011.

2011 "Historic Ayres Hall Is Back Open At UT-Knoxville." *The Chattanooga*, 15 January 2011. http://www.chattanooga.com/articles/article_192396.asp, accessed 5 December 2011.

Sims, Almon J. (compiler)

1952 Section 1: A Brief Chronological History of the Organization and Development of the College of Agriculture, University of Tennessee under the Land-Grant College System. In *History, College of Agriculture, Agricultural Experimental Station, Agricultural Extension Service, University of Tennessee, 1869-1952, with Data on the East Tennessee Farmer's Convention, Community Organizations and the Land-Grant College System of Education*, pp. 1-13. Typed manuscript. Knoxville.

Smith, Samuel D. and Benjamin C. Nance

2003 *A Survey of Civil War Era Military Sites in Tennessee*. Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Division of Archaeology, Research Series No. 14, Nashville.

Thomas, Lois Reagan

1969 "1794 Campus Life Rough," *Knoxville News-Sentinel*, 22 September. McClung Historical Collection, Vertical files, Tennessee University History, Knoxville.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 14

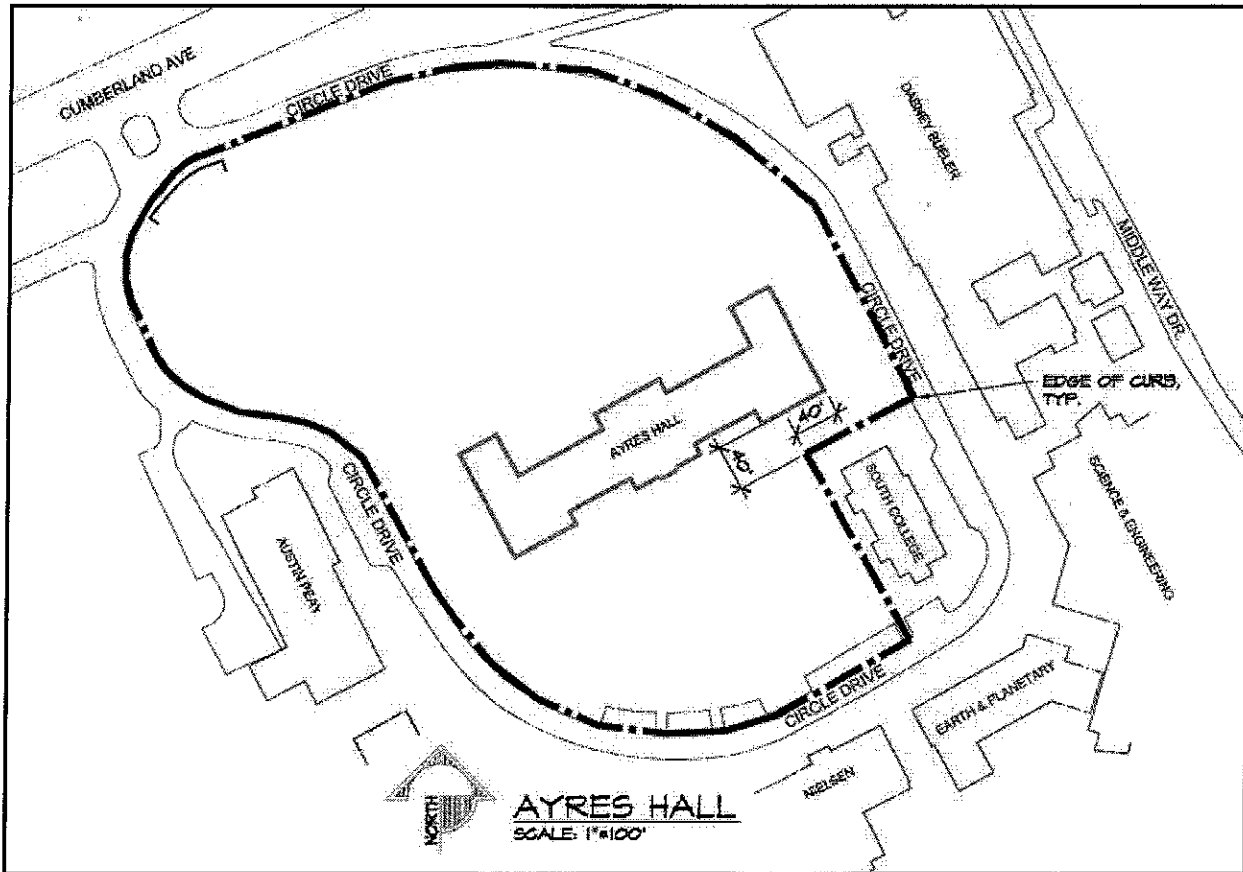
Ayres Hall
Knox County, TN

Verbal Boundary Description

The property included in this nomination is a portion of a larger parcel that contains several university buildings. The property nominated is almost completely bounded by the interior edge of Circle Drive with the exception of the southeast corner. There, the boundary turns north and follows the interior edge of the sidewalk running North-South in front of South College. The boundary turns east at a point where this sidewalk meets the sidewalk running East-West in front of Ayres Hall at a distance of 40-ft. from the front edge of the east wing and continues eastward in a straight line to a point of intersection with the curb on the interior of Circle Drive.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundary includes land that is currently associated with the historic setting of Ayres Hall.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Photos _____ Page _____

Ayres Hall
Knox County, TN

Photographs

Photos by: Gail L. Guymon
Date: September 2011
Digital Negative: Tennessee Historical Commission, Nashville.

#1 of 25

Southwest elevation, photographer facing northeast.

#2 of 25

Center pavilion and bell tower, south elevation, photographer facing north.

#3 of 25

Detail of center pavilion entry, south elevation, photographer facing north.

#4 of 25

Southeast elevation, photographer facing northwest.

#5 of 25

Detail of entry on east elevation, photographer facing northwest.

#6 of 25

North elevation and setting, photographer facing south.

#7 of 25

East wing and portion of main block, north elevation, photographer facing southwest.

#8 of 25

Center pavilion and bell tower, north elevation, photographer facing south.

#9 of 25

Detail of center pavilion entry, north elevation, photographer facing north.

#10 of 25

Secondary entry, south elevation, photographer facing north.

#11 of 25

Decorative panel used on center pavilion above 4th story windows on end bays. Photographer facing south.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Photos _____ Page _____

Ayres Hall
Knox County, TN

#12 of 25

North elevation of main block west of center pavilion and west wing, photographer facing south.

#13 of 25

Lobby of center pavilion, photographer facing southwest.

#14 of 25

Original terrazzo floor on first floor main block east of lobby. Photographer facing east.

#15 of 25

Boss used in lobby. Photographer facing west.

#16 of 25

Staircase and wainscot, southeast corner of lobby, main floor. Photographer facing southeast.

#17 of 25

Elevator, first floor main block east of lobby. Photographer facing northeast.

#18 of 25

Looking north down the first floor of the east wing. Photographer facing north

#19 of 25

Marble wall and benches, first floor main block east of lobby. Photographer facing northeast.

#20 of 25

Typical restroom, first floor main block west of lobby. Photographer facing north.

#21 of 25

Entrance to Math Department offices, 2nd floor lobby. Photographer facing northwest.

#22 of 25

Arches at top of lobby stair landing, photographer facing east.

#23 of 25

Third floor interior staircase off main block near center pavilion. Photographer facing northeast.

#24 of 25

Fourth floor conference room, photographer facing northwest.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Photos _____ Page _____

Ayres Hall
Knox County, TN

#25 of 25

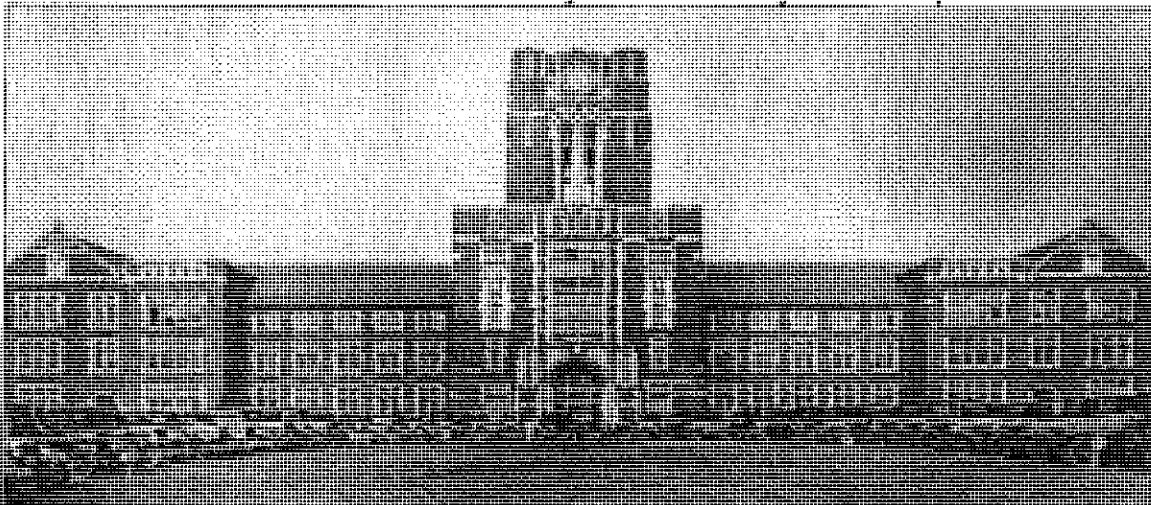
Renovated classroom in east wing, first floor.

Historic Photos

Photo #1 of 4 Old College in 1914.



Photo #2 of 4 The south elevation of Ayres Hall shortly after completion.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

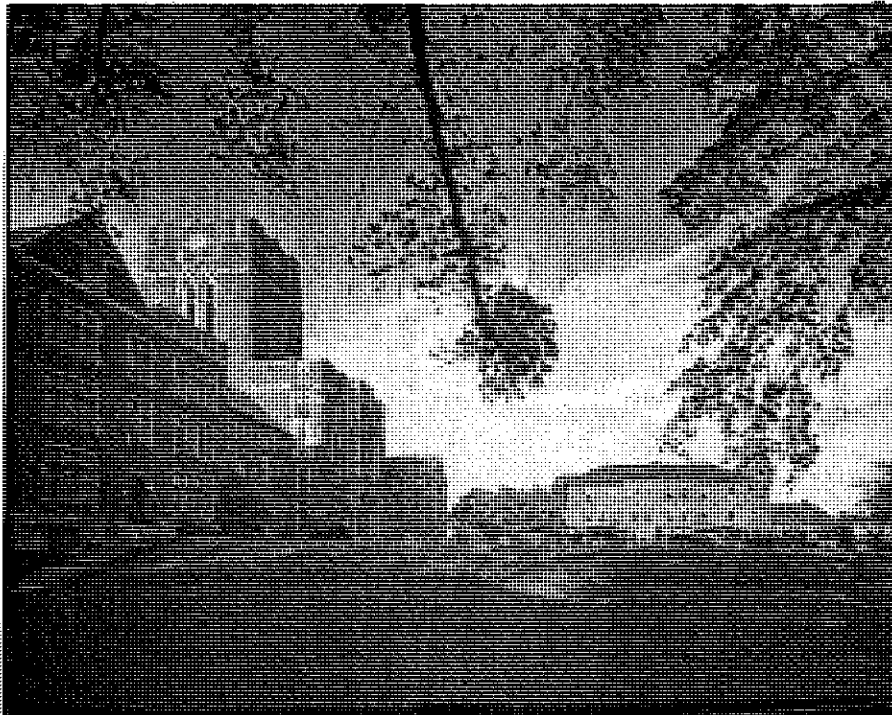
Section number _____ Photos _____ Page _____

Ayres Hall
Knox County, TN

Photo #3 of 4 North elevation and setting.



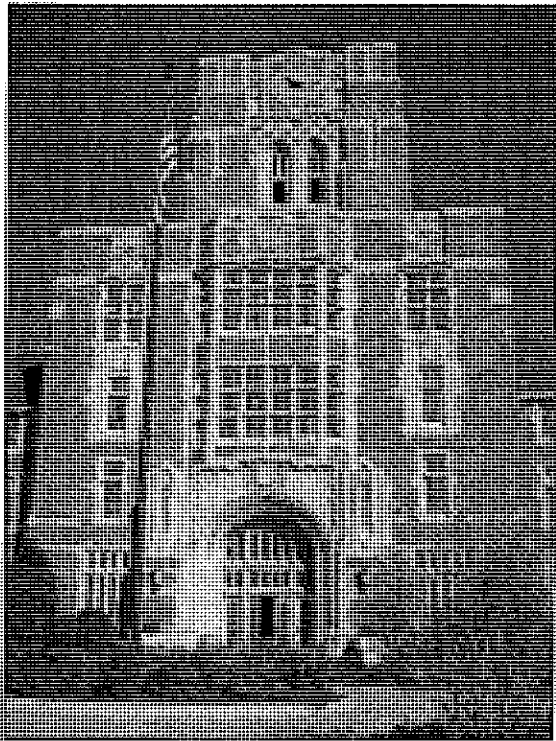
Photo #4 of 4 Southwest elevation ca. 1924 and South College in background.



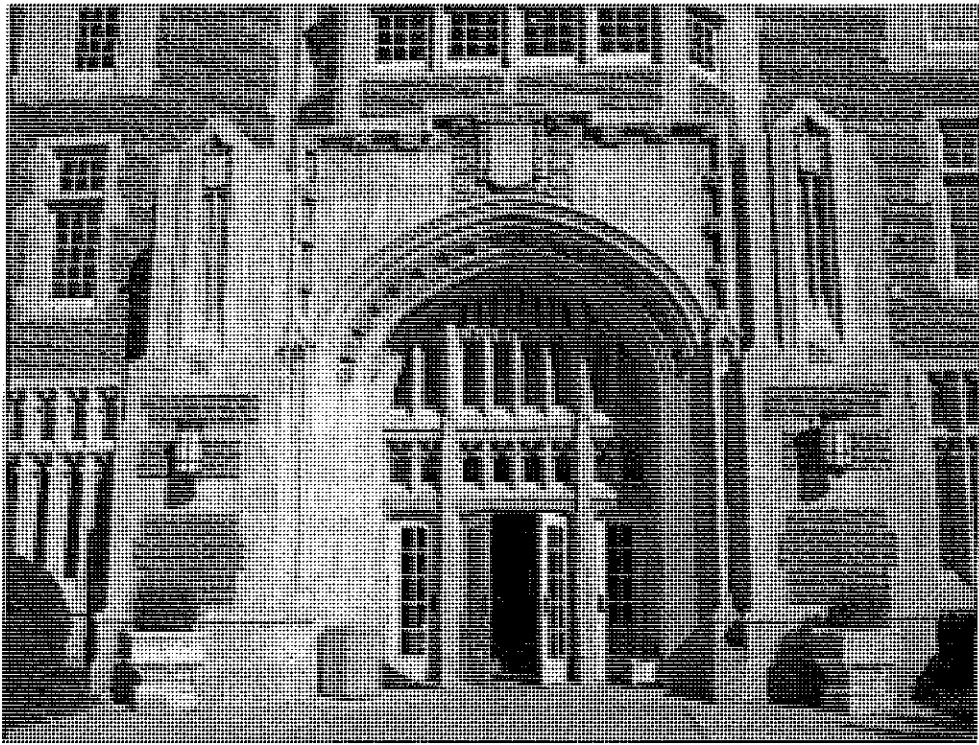
AYRES HALL
UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE, KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE
PHOTOGRAPHS



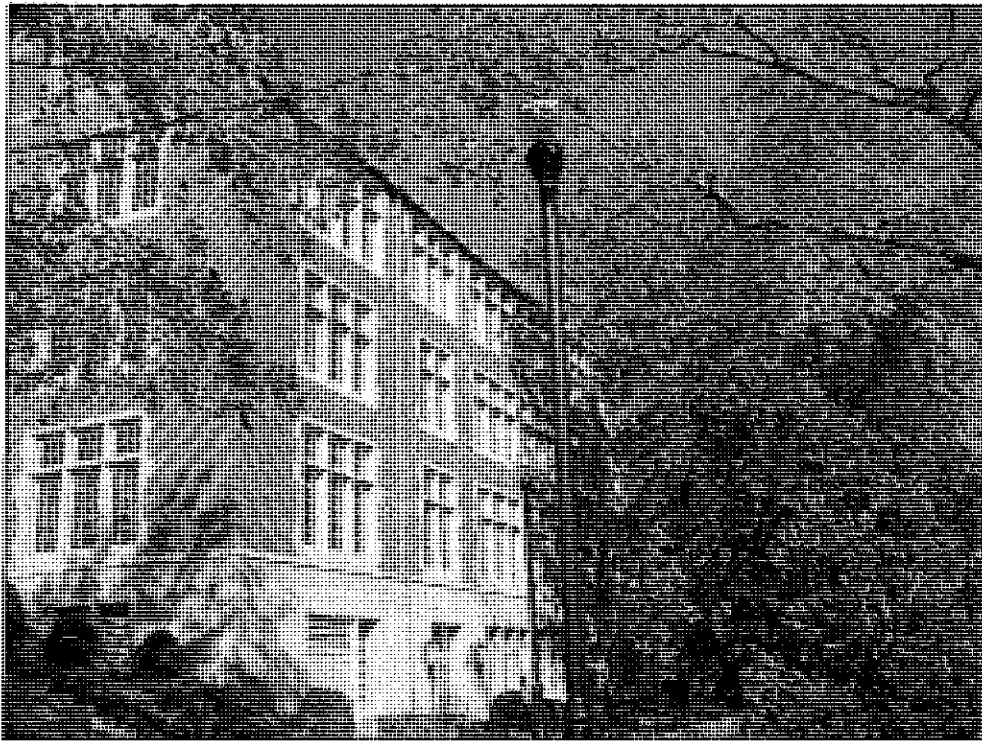
1 OF 25



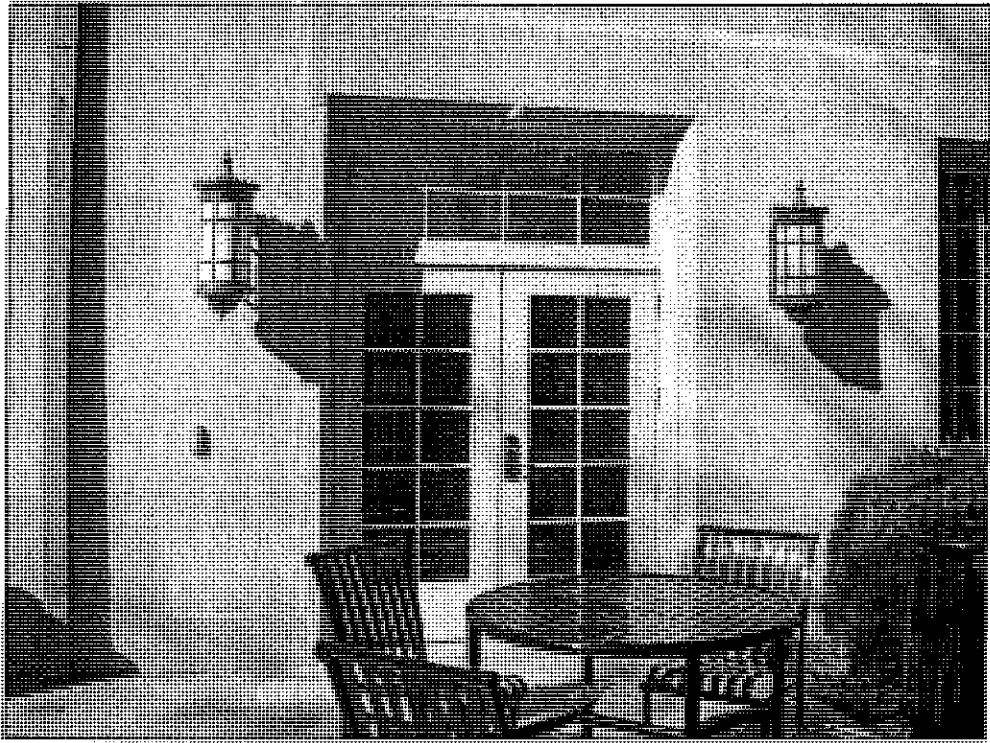
2 OF 25



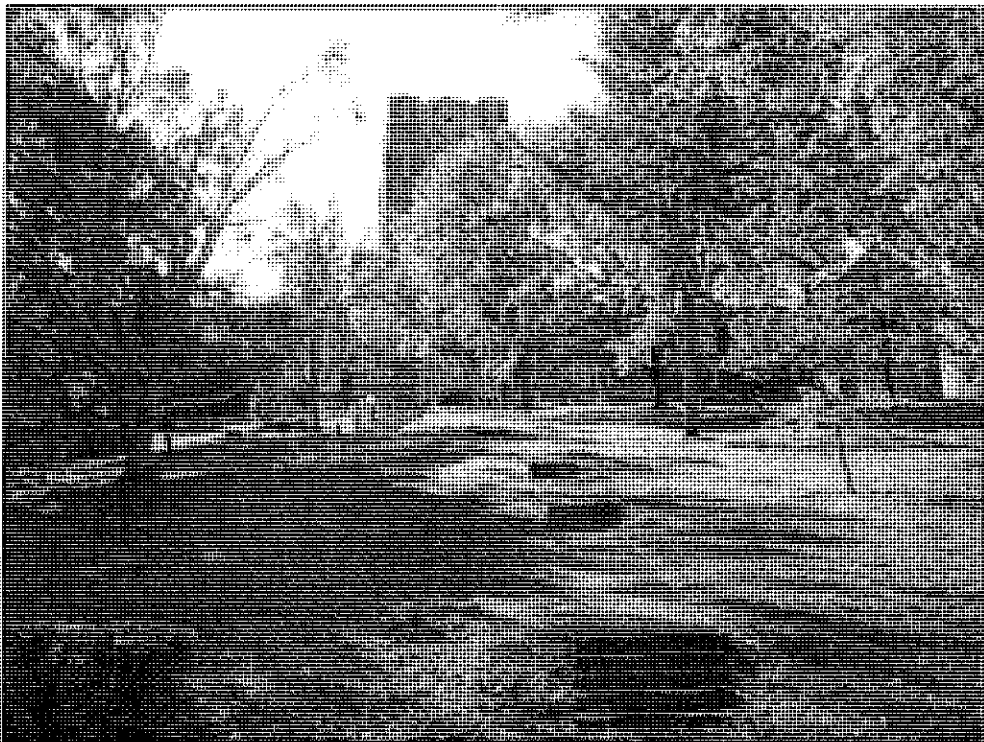
3 OF 25



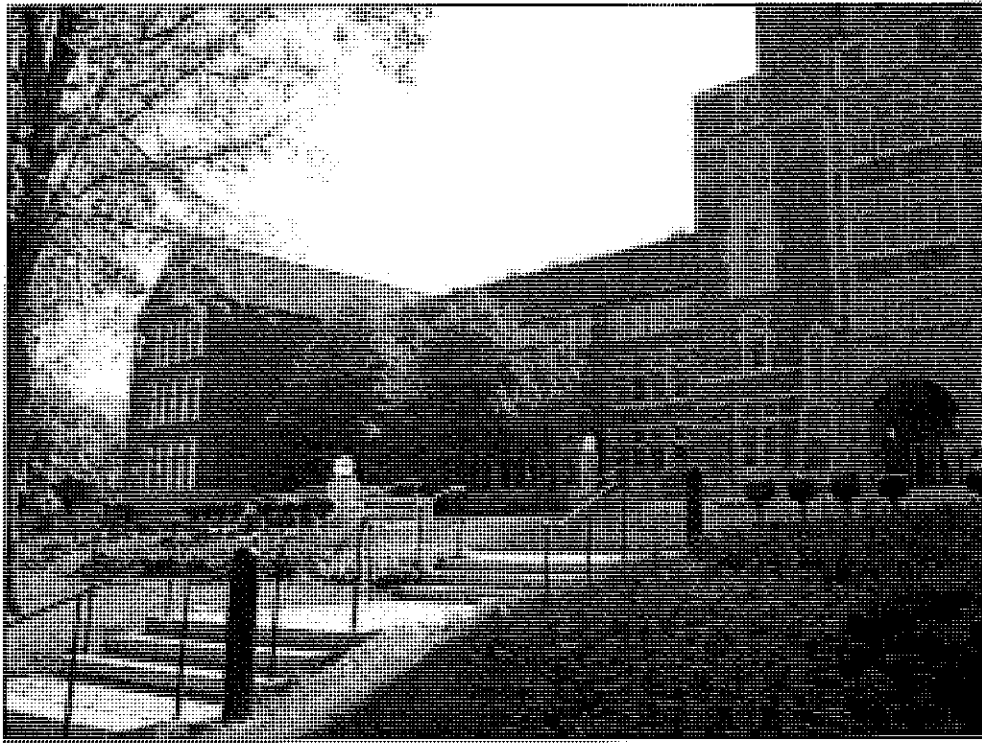
4 OF 25



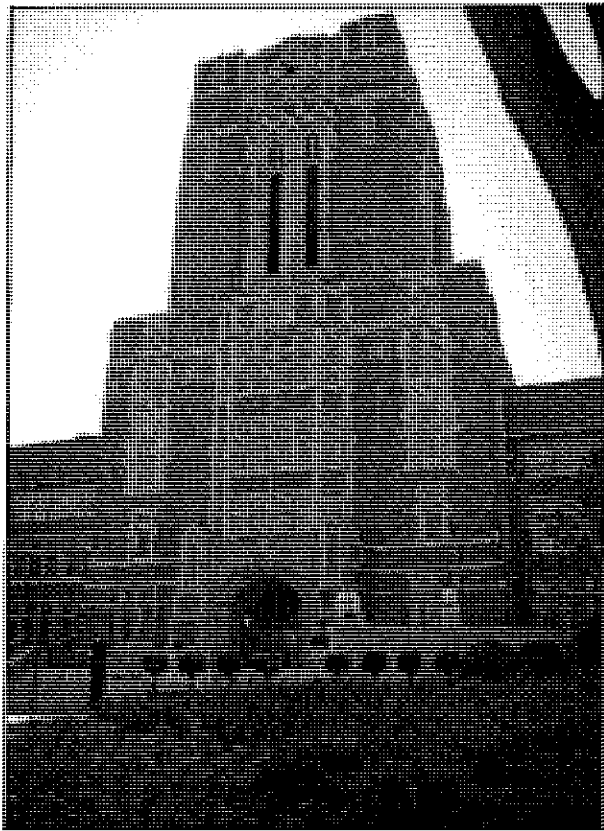
5 OF 25



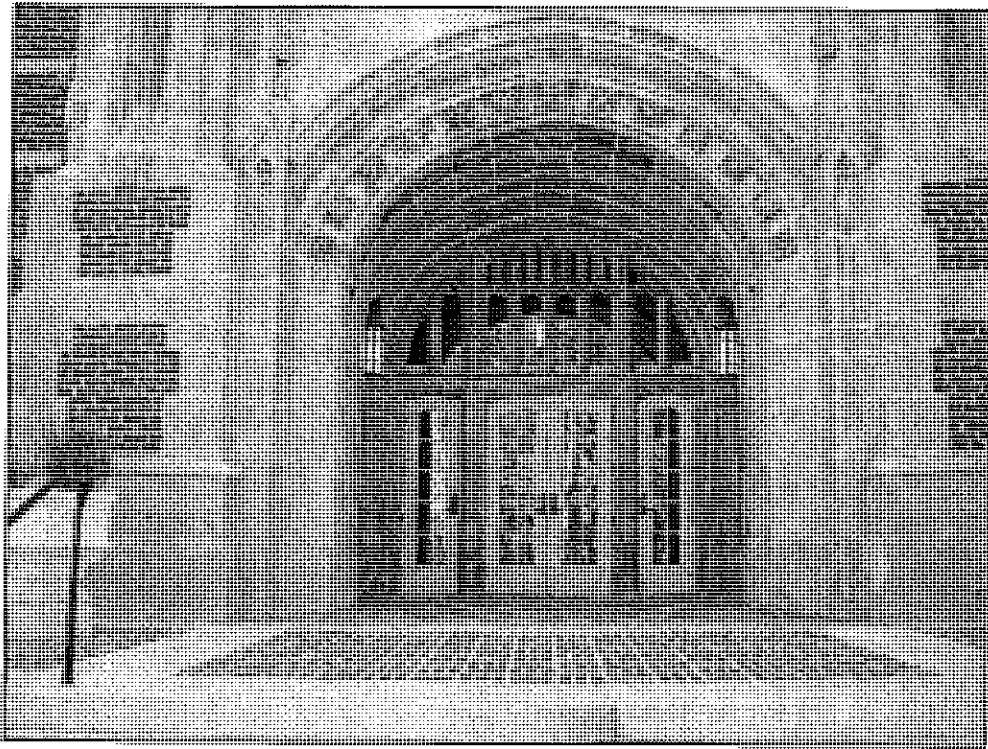
6 OF 25



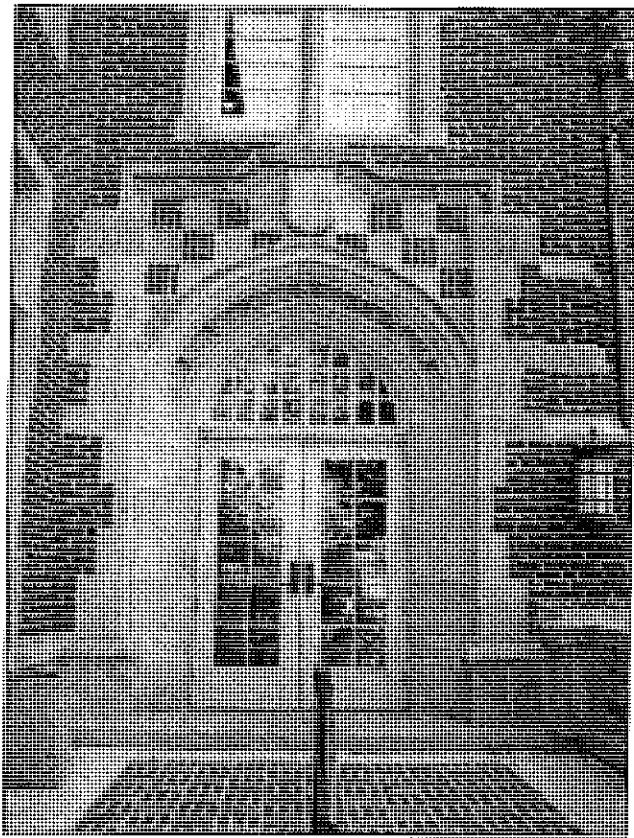
7 OF 25



8 OF 25



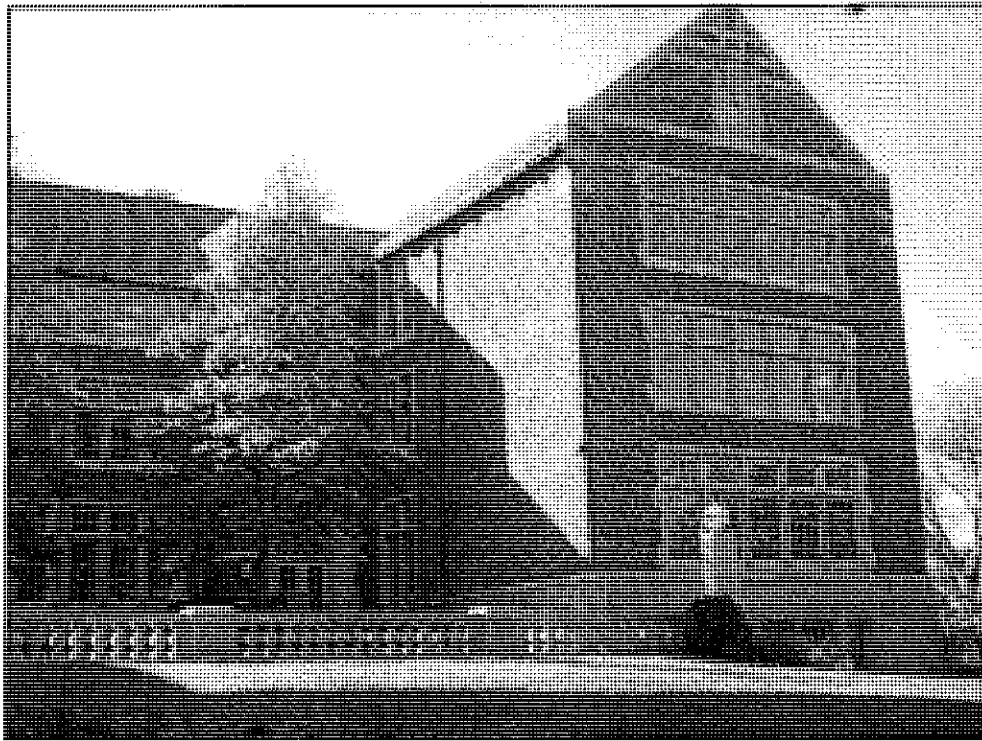
9 OF 25



10 OF 25



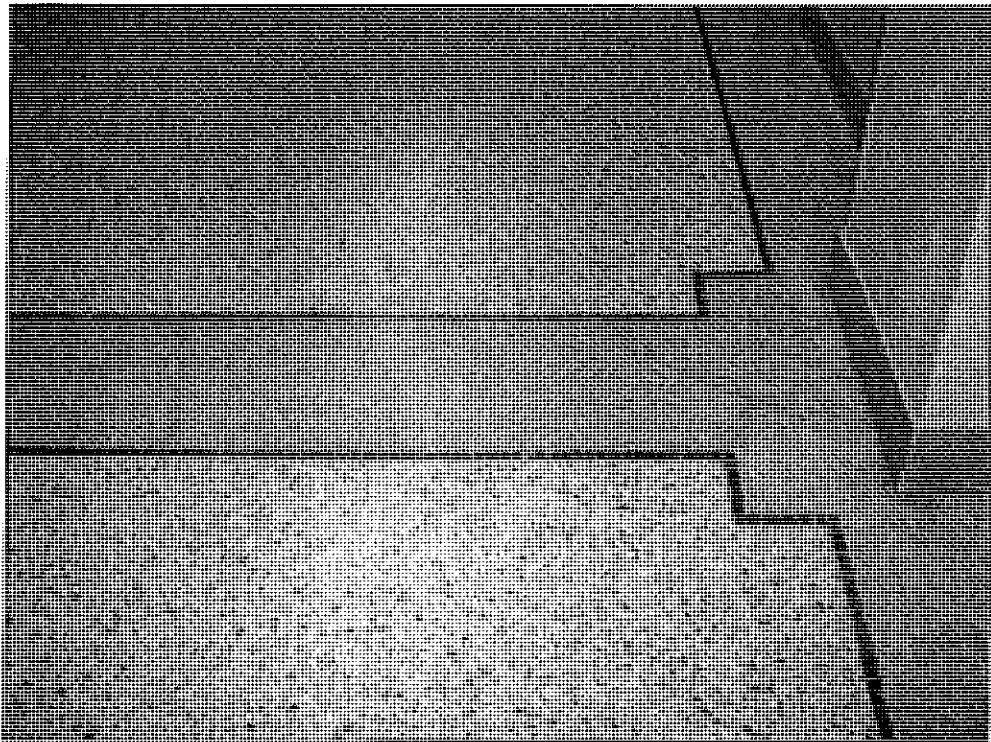
11 OF 25



12 OF 25



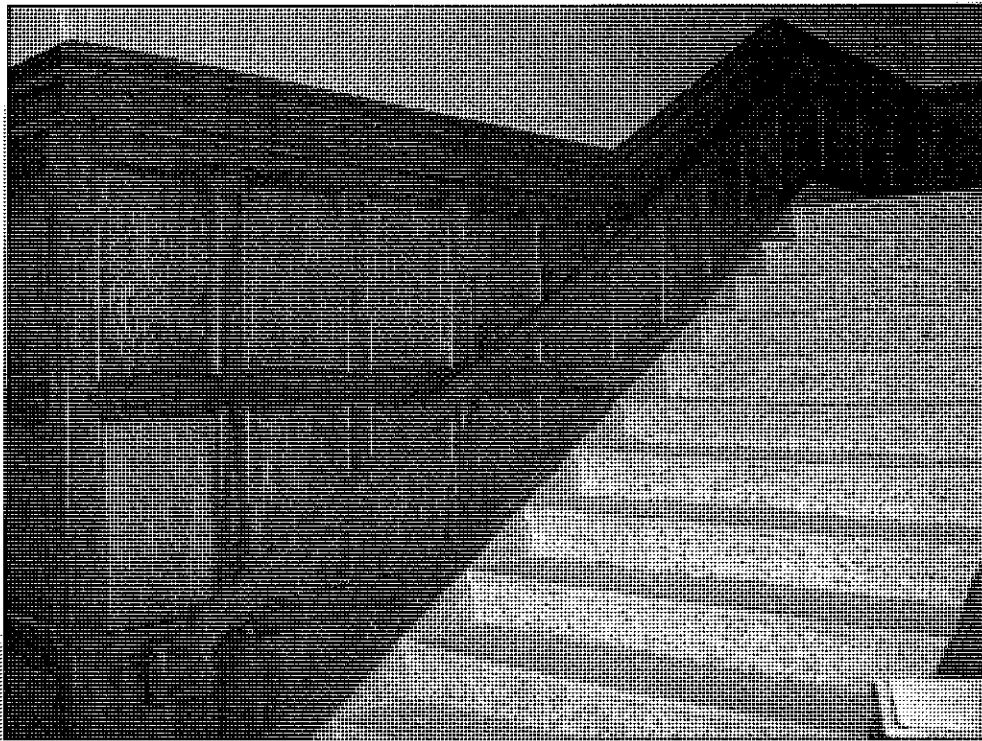
13 OF 25



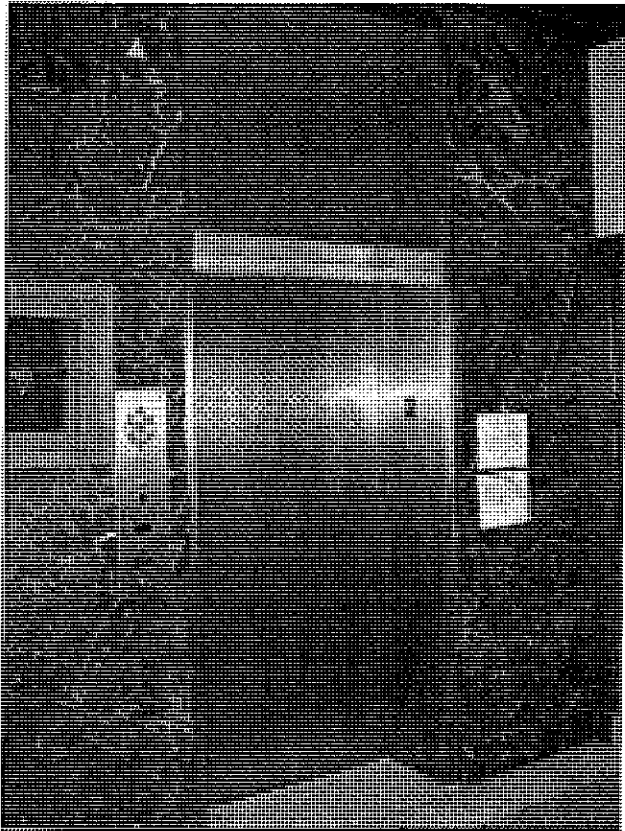
14 OF 25



15 OF 25



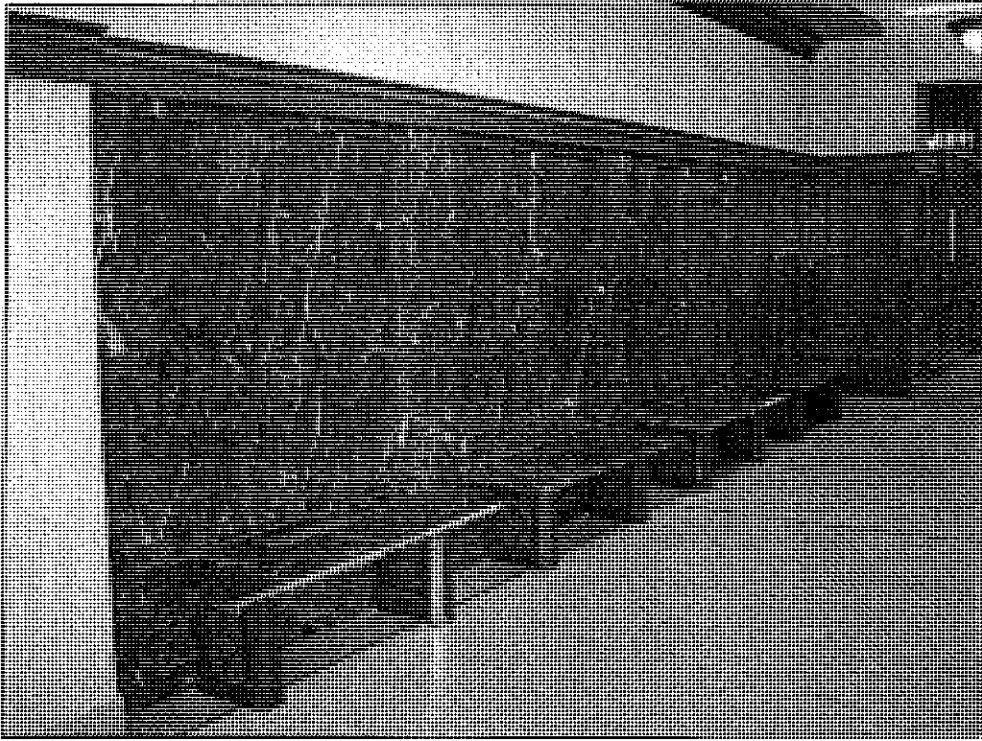
16 OF 25



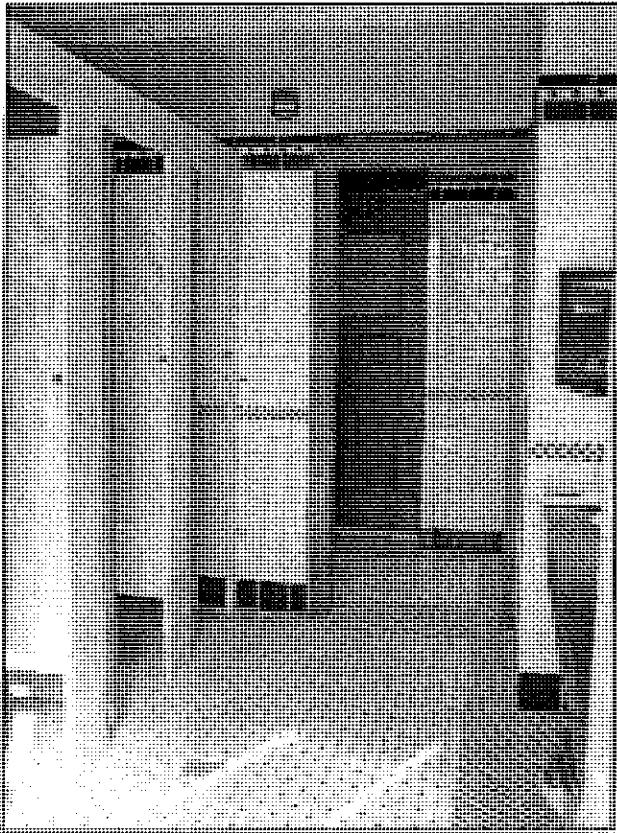
17 OF 25



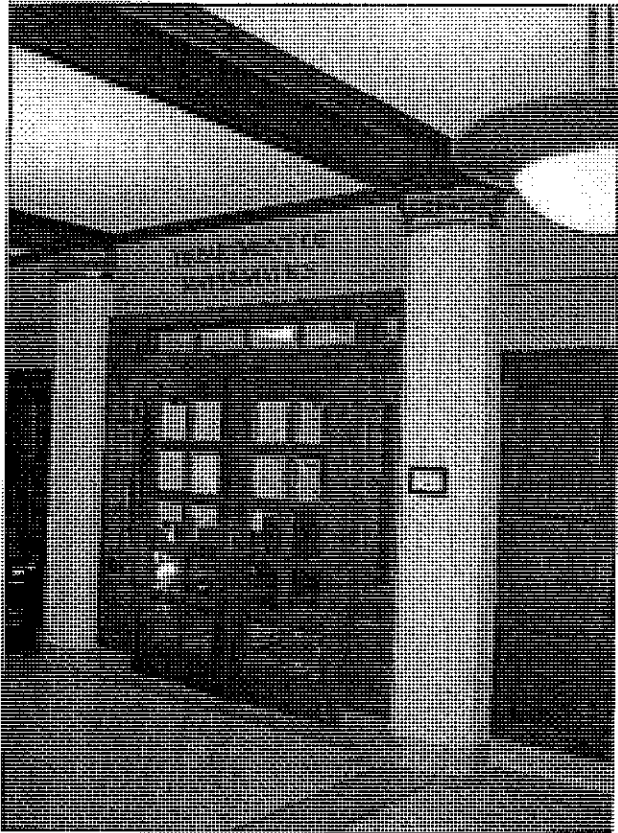
18 OF 25



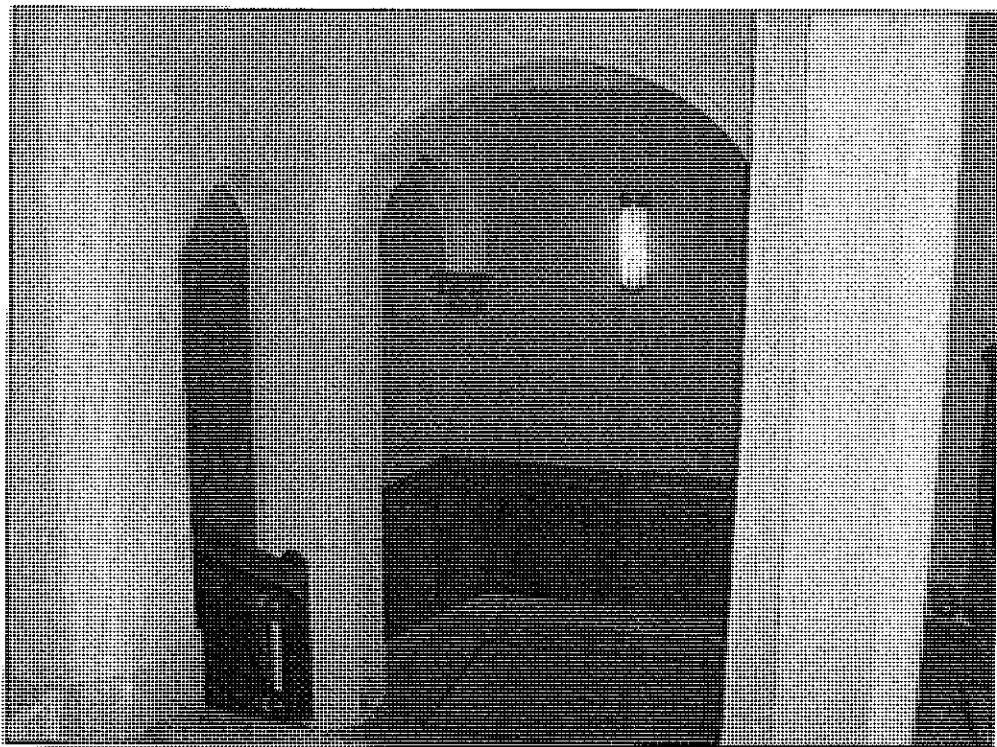
19 OF 25



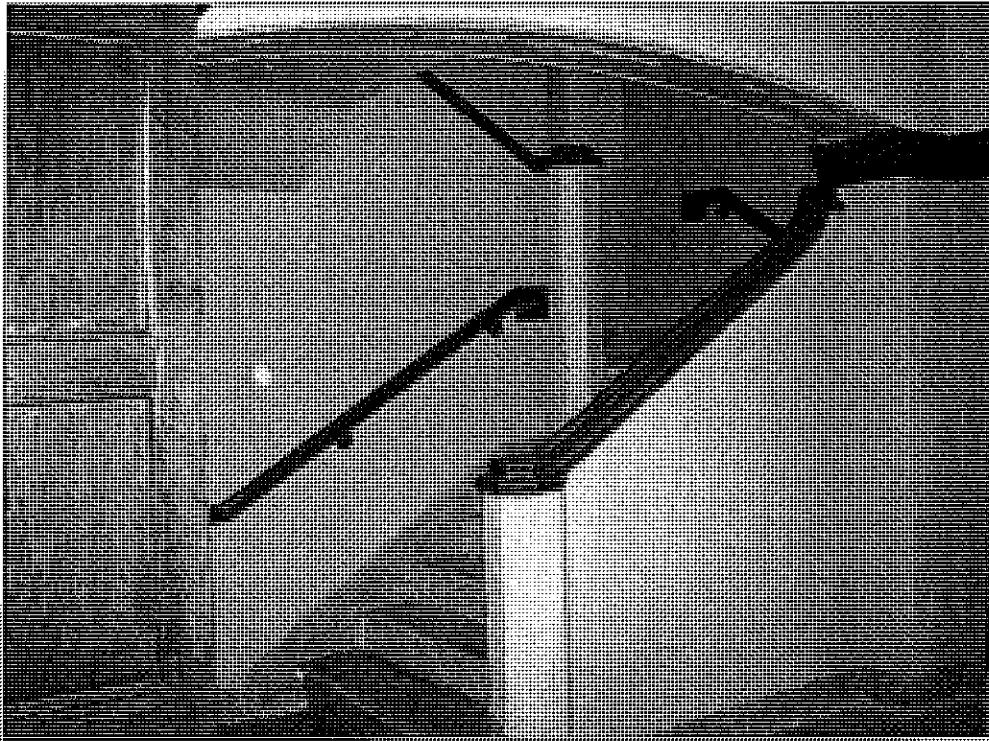
20 OF 25



21 OF 25



22 OF 25



23 OF 25



24 OF 25

