DEVELOPMENT OF CRITERIA FOR THE ACCESSIBILITY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES TO SELECTED HISTORIC COUNTY COURTHOUSES IN TEXAS

by

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A THESIS

IN

ARCHITECTURE

Submitted to the Graduate Faculty
of Texas Tech University in
Partial Fulfillment of
the Requirements for
the Degree of

MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE

Approved

Accepted

May, 1995

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would first like to thank my Lord Jesus Christ who died so that I might live. Also, the people who made this document possible. My wife and family who never ended giving me support, along with large amounts of money. Furthermore, to Texas Tech University School of Architecture and their continuous aid and encouragement. Especially I would like to thank John P. White, my thesis chair, who was always there to give me needed advice or fatherly direction. I know I can never repay the debt of time and service he has giving to me. To other teachers, such as Dr. Lyndal Bullock, Dr. Michael Jones, Elizabeth Louden, and to all the others who directed and guided me towards the completion of this thesis. They will not be forgotten for their service to me and my education. And finally, I would like to acknowledge the participants in this thesis. Those individuals, teachers, and specialist who took the time to be interviewed for the purpose of gaining a better understanding of those with a disability. The beginning of a change in attitudes and preconceptions begins with a better educated understanding. Hopefully, this document can begin the basis for an educated nation and world towards those with disabilities. Thanks again to all those mentioned and those who may I have inadvertently forgotten. I love you all very dearly.

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ABSTRACT

This thesis will examine accessibility of historic buildings for all populations. Legislation, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), relating to the integration of the disabled population will be examined to determine how accessibility of historic structures is handled. This thesis will then develop practical measures that can be used by local communities to preserve a building while allowing it to be enjoyed by all.

A community's population, including those with disabilities, has its own unique heritage; historic buildings help define this heritage. Neither a community's disabled population or its history through architecture should be neglected or overlooked. Yet, without access to a majority of these facilities, people with disabilities often miss out on the history of their community. Consequently, these buildings lose some of their value. As local residents become more aware of preserving particular sites, they need to also remember the overriding purpose of preservation. We use historic buildings as learning tools for all populations, including those with disabilities. In the past, many physical barriers within a building have limited the disabled population's ability to use these structures. This eventually caused educational and psychological barriers as well (Howard, Brehm, & Nagi, 1980). A community has an obligation not only to remember its past, but also to remember all who should be able to view it. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to collect information from local advocacy groups for the disabled and preservation leagues in Lubbock and Denton, Texas for the development of criteria that will supplement existing ADA codes. Selected county courthouses in Texas will be used as examples of how the criteria can be applied.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Whether or not historic structures should be adapted for use of the disabled, and how this should be done are the subjects for philosophical debate. Some argue that it is vital not to integrate accessibility requirements into a facility, because these additions work against the building's original intent, and they misrepresent the way the building has always looked. Others argue that it is vital to integrate accessibility codes, because historic buildings are a part of everyone's history, and to deny people access to them deprives them of an educated understanding of the past.

Some people may argue that these historic resources should not be made accessible to those with disabilities. They pose many reasons why. Integration, it is argued, would destroy the original intent of the building. After all, accessibility requirements were not there before, so to be historically correct, the building must stay inaccessible. Furthermore, the costs involved in integrating these standards are often very high to fulfill the needs of the minority of the population. At the other end of the spectrum, many argue historic buildings should be made accessible. They point out that integrating universal design helps everyone access a historic building. Furthermore, a building should reflect the people who have functioned in it, and change as people do. Some consider this a civil rights issue, demanding the opportunity to see and experience these structures. Then, of course, is the acknowledgment that the law requires accessibility integration, even with historic structures.

Society needs historic buildings. Their value goes beyond economic necessitates to an "inherited urban fabric which is our most direct and immediate contact with our history" ("Be Creative," 1985: 63). The buildings themselves become a part of society weaving a fabric which is connected to the very people who occupy and use them. Therefore, preserving these structures becomes an issue that must be addressed by society, particularly those groups and organizations which deal directly with buildings. Vitruvius, the ancient architect and philosopher wrote, "The architect should be equipped with knowledge of many branches of study and varied kinds of learning, for it is by his judgment that all work done by the other arts is put to the test" (Morgan, 1914). Therefore, architecture is an art form that helps describe a society and its culture. Consequently, to interfere with the perception of a building may cause a misunderstanding and misrepresentation of a particular culture. Preservation, restoration, and the integration of elements for accessibility purposes can be interpreted as not being an honest representation of a building or the people and time it represents.

First, it is important to distinguish between the words preserve and restore. Preservation is the act or process of applying measures to sustain the existing form, integrity, and material of a building or structure and its existing site. Restoration is the act or process of accurately recovering the form and details of a property and its setting as it appeared at a particular period of time by means of the removal of later work or by the replacement of missing earlier work. Ellen Soroka in an article titled "Restauro in Venezia" points out:

> Restoration is an exacting science to be sure, but it is also an art form. When should the architect take interpretive liberties in an intervention, and

> when should the existing matiere be preserved? No one questions the need to approach restoration equipped with the methodologies of the various science involved, but the interpretive role of the architect is debatable. It is, of course, the advent of these sciences that has provided this dualistic problem. Before history became a science, buildings were interpretively repaired in the respective contemporary voice, often with little or no regard for the integrity of the original. In trying to address the issue, various attempts were made in the nineteenth century to define restoration and the interpretive role of the architect. Nevertheless, the debates continue despite the solidification of the restoration community, in some cases, into a seemingly positivistic bureaucracy, stopping at the cataloging of history and encouraging maintenance and conservation rather than modern intervention. (Soroka, 1994:224)

Soroka illustrates that restoration and preservation are fairly recent art forms, occurring in the nineteenth century. Historically, buildings were added to or built upon using modern techniques to prolong their existence. Now, philosophers are debating whether or not these additions and transformations distort the original intention of the building or muddy one's perception of who used the building.

John Ruskin, a nineteenth-century English architectural critic and social reformer, felt that a building should be left alone to age naturally over a period of years. In Ruskin's own words, "Restoration is always alive. It means the most total destruction which a building can suffer. It's as impossible to raise the dead as to restore a building" (Murtagh, 1988:17). He thought that to illustrate a building's true history was to leave it as is. By allowing a building's patina to develop, it would represent the results of an honest livelihood. People would see the decay and recognize the building as a historic structure. A fellow English architect, painter, and designer, William Morris, agreed with Ruskin. "In 1879, Morris summed up his philosophy by writing that 'restoration is generally speaking a modern euphemism for wholesale destruction and the worst desecration'" (Murtagh, 1988:

17-18). He felt that restoration would desecrate a building and make it misrepresent its true nature. Even the author of Keeping Time, William Murtagh, agrees with these two philosophers when he comments that the philosophy behind Villoet-le-Duc's work at Carcassonne was overzealousness. He further calls the work confusing, because the twentieth-century observer has trouble distinguishing between Viollet-le-Duc's late-nineteenth-century additions and original construction of the Middle Ages.

Eugene Emmanuel Viollet-le-Duc, a French writer, architect and leader of the romantic rationalists of the Second Empire, took a very different approach. Villoet-le-Duc felt that restoration was an act of reestablishing rather than rebuilding, repairing or maintaining. In the same article by Soroka, he puts forth Villoet-le-Duc's approach to restoration:

> The ancients were not restoring when they simply rebuilt an old edifice in a contemporary manner, nor were the builders of the Middle Ages restoring when they replaced a twelfth-century capital with a thirteenth-century capital. Viollet-le-Duc's focus is on the scientific use of historical study, which recognizes and relativizes the various periods... Restoration is that which restores the building or parts of the building to the style (or styles) that belong to them. (Soroka, 1994:225)

Villoet-le-Duc does not want to confuse the observer. He never copies a style, and warned against absolutes when dealing with restoration. By understanding of the principles guiding the original construction and putting an emphasis on the integrity of the original, restoration modifications could enhance the aesthetic quality of the design. Villoet-le-Duc felt buildings, just like people, weakened over time, but the use of new materials and technologies could represent a building in its best possible manner.

Restoration was seen as recovery. Restoration to Villoet-le-Duc was a finishing off of a particular style and culture.

A Venetian architect by the name of Carlo Scarpa saw restoration as reconstruing. He agreed with Villoet-le-Duc that restoration was important, but disagreed that it was a finishing off of a style or era. Scarpa said, "By restoration is not meant only to repair old buildings, but to give them a new lease of life so that we may be able to live today and tomorrow... In architecture, all the existing buildings form a part of the matiere" ("Restauro in Venezia, 1994: 227). Scarpa saw a building as a life which could continue to grow and develop. These additions were not done haphazardly, but rather with a deep understanding of architecture. Scarpa was interested in bridging the gap between modern and premodern aesthetics by his relationship between materials, spatial dynamics, and time. Like Villoet-le-Duc, Scarpa saw a building as a reflection of time, whereas Ruskin and Morris saw time as agent acting upon a building. Scarpa's techniques often would not be allowed by today's bureaucratic laws and regulations concerning restoration, and , in fact, some in his time viewed Scarpa as a destroyer of historic buildings.

The controversy over when and how to make structures accessible to the disabled has helped develop this era of universal design. Universal design is building for people of any size, culture, or background. To make a building universally accessible is to make it accessible not for those with disabilities, but for us all. When the ADA was passed, it addressed meeting the needs of selected people who needed access to resources rather than to all of us.

The above mention views by Ruskin and others reflect not only a humanistic approach to preservation, but also the political and social views of the historic preservation movement of today. To the researcher, all of these views have merit. A building should be historically honest, yet still maintained for future generations. With the passage of the American with Disabilities Act of 1990, historic buildings now must be accessible to all populations. Ruskin and Morris hold that we must not add these architectural elements because it will destroy the building's true patina and integrity. However, currently, this is not an option; the law dictates integration, which often means changing a building's appearance or structure. Is there a balance? Can buildings become accessible and still be historically honest?

In addition to the philosophical dilemma of how to integrate ADA requirements, there are also educational and civil rights issues. Buildings can be profound historical markers for future generations. With these structures, people can imagine past events. They also serve as examples of the time and effort spent on the construction and maintenance of these buildings as examples of the ingenuity and creativity of man. However, most would also agree that this country was founded on the principles of equal opportunity, with all individuals being valuable members of society. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was passed in 1990 with the belief that our physical world needs to be accessible to all people, especially those who currently are denied basic opportunities to succeed due to structural barriers within building and their surrounding sites (Johnson, 1992; Morrissey, 1991).

An interesting duality arises from the need to resolve these situations. If we believe that historic buildings should be preserved so that we can learn from them, and we also believe that everyone should be entitled the opportunities to be enriched by these structures, how do we deal with the practical issue of accessibility to inaccessible historic structures? The ADA has established regulations for newly built structures and renovations, but when dealing with historical buildings, the guidelines become more vague. While these buildings are still required to be accessible to all, the historical fabric of the building and the surrounding site must be maintained. Exactly how to do this is still unclear. This research gathers recommendations from local advocacy groups for the disabled, historic preservation leagues, and ADA regulations to establish clearer guidelines that will serve to create a balance between historical significance of a building (as deemed by local, state, or federal agencies' criteria), and accessibility. The resulting guidelines can serve as tools for those trying to meet the needs of both the disabled and historical communities. This study analyzes research and legislation concerning the attempts to create an environment of equal opportunity for the disabled, while also exploring the various philosophies of restoration to bring together a better pallet of creativity to the issue of accessibility to historic structures.

Introduction to Method

The following methods were used to determine recommendations that supplement ADA guidelines for making historic facilities accessible to all people (including those with disabilities, cultural differences, etc.).

1. Literature was reviewed to understand accessibility issues and restoration philosophies.

2. A questionnaire was field-tested to determine pertinent issues to ask local advocacy groups for the disabled, the disabled, and preservation leagues.

3. An updated questionnaire was developed to retrieve information from local advocacy groups for the disabled, the disabled, preservation leagues of Lubbock, and Denton, Texas.

4. Responses from these groups were compiled and used to develop a criteria checklist which supplemented an existing ADA checklist.

5. The checklist was applied to three county courthouses in Texas to determine how accessible they are in terms of disabled access. These courthouses were The Denton, Jones, and Gaines County Courthouses.

6. The Jones County Courthouse was used as an example to illustrate differentiated views of just how to integrate accessibility codes and the restoration issue.

7. A determination of the applications and implications of this thesis was developed and described.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Prior to ADA

Most of us know a person who has or has had a disability. A brother may have suffered a broken leg, or perhaps a grandmother is losing her hearing. You personally may have experienced a crippling accident or injury, or have had to deal with a congenital disorder. Whatever the case, the chances are that within our lifetimes we will be at least temporarily disabled (Johnson, 1992). Disabilities effect our lives in several ways. A simple walk to the park or drive to the store becomes a much harder and sometimes an impossible task. Why? Most of the able bodied community have assumed that having a handicap limits a person's ability to move, to work, and to live (Speigel & Podair, 1981). Prior to the 1970s, the overall belief was that to design facilities or transportation for the handicapped was foolish (Howards, Brehm, & Nagi, 1980). A blind person cannot see, therefore why should books be created for them to read? A person without legs is not going to take a walk or drive a car, so why should the environment be adjusted for them? To become disabled was to resign oneself to the fact that there were now activities that one could no longer do.

Gradually, this thinking began to change in the 1960s and 1970s with the civil rights movement. Individuals afflicted with polio, disabled veterans coming home from the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, and people with poor eyesight no longer understood or accepted that they were unable to contribute to society or lead wonderful and productive

lives (Johnson, 1992). Burgeoning medical technology, improved wheelchairs, and prostheses that were hard to distinguish from real limbs were narrowing the gap between disabled and "normal" human beings. For example, a person in a motorized wheelchair window shopping in the mall is no less mobility impaired than an ambulatory person window shopping. However, often the person in the wheelchair is viewed as abnormal and somehow less able than the walking window shopper. While the physical differences are being broken down by new technology, the gap of fear, ignorance, and prejudice is still very prevalent. The attitudes people have towards the disabled are often that they are somehow less competent (Walker, 1981). The belief that the disabled are different, funny, odd, or incapable causes the average population to develop an *us versus them* mentality instead of just seeing them as people. This prevalent attitude has not only effected the disabled person's prospects for job opportunities, it has also limited his/her ability to travel or to use public buildings (Johnson, 1992). Most transportation systems and buildings have not been designed for use by the disabled population. Therefore, structural elements within buildings or transportation systems often prevent many handicapped from using public facilities. Eventually, these structural limitations reduce interaction between the disabled and nondisabled populations, and the belief that the disabled community is somehow less competent is further perpetuated. Unwittingly, in most cases, the nondisabled population has called this is a land of equal opportunity and then made it physically impossible for a person confined to a wheelchair, for example, to enter a museum, a college dorm, or a historical monument due to structural elements within these

buildings. This was one of the primary reasons for the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Disabled persons are just like us; they are us (Johnson, 1992).

The 1970s and 1980s became a time in which many laws were passed concerning the civil rights of the disabled on national, state, and local levels. Some of the pieces of legislation include the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1970, the 1988 Fair Housing Amendments Act, and the realization that the 14th Amendment to the Constitution entitled handicapped children to the same opportunities for an education as other children. These, along with many other pieces of legislation, have increased the awareness of the nation to the plight of the disabled (Johnson, 1992). However, the most powerful legislation prior to ADA was probably the passage of The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, commonly known as Section 504. Section 504 defined that no otherwise qualified handicapped individual in the United States shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. Furthermore, Paragraph 792 (commonly known as Section 502) of this Act created the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board which was responsible for insuring compliance with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968. The Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 also reaffirmed that those buildings receiving federal financial assistance should be accessible to the handicapped; the Compliance Board gave this act more weight and encouraged greater compliance to these standards. Many historical buildings and monuments were eligible for federal financial assistance; therefore, they were instructed to make sure that their services were available for the disabled.

Anyone not complying was subject to injunctions or other appropriate action by the Attorney General of the United States under the Facilities for the Handicapped Act (Jones, 1978).

After the creation of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, there was an effort to comply with the disabled codes, mainly out of fear of financial disciplining rather than a sensitivity to the disabled population. In many ways, however, it did begin a nationwide effort to integrate this class of citizens (Jones & Catlin, 1978). Ramps were installed to public buildings and on curbs. Restaurants included bathrooms with grab bars for disabled people. The transportation industry even included lifts in their buses for the handicap. For nearly two decades, the Rehabilitation Act was the law. What then brought about the need for the ADA?

ADA and Its Implications

The Americans with Disability Act was introduced because the laws were weak in dealing with non-compliance (Johnson, 1992; Morrissey, 1991). The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 did not consider the many factors involved in simply getting from place to place. For instance, the transportation industry most often provided lifts for buses, but only through a special van service which needed to be reserved twenty-four hours in advance. Additionally, many facilities had ramps installed far from the entrances to their businesses. Though private businesses often provided ramps, they still had doors that were too narrow for wheelchairs to get through. Store owners claimed that they tried to meet the requirements, but the costs were too high. Furthermore, cities had handicapped curbs

installed to sidewalks, but they were often put on opposite corners, were hazardous for blind and sighted pedestrians, or were too narrow or too steep. Seeing-eye-dogs were often not allowed by local health ordinances to accompany their owners into restaurants. These were just several instances of the public trying to comply the laws that had not been thoroughly thought through and integrated with existing laws. Many owners were not intimidated by the laws and regulations already governing disabled access, and therefore saw no need to adapt. Their attitude was still that of "us against them", not only maintaining the architectural barriers, but also creating walls of resentment on both sides of the issue. Large gaps still existed in the legislation concerning disabled people and equal access to facilities. One alarming sign of this was that they still remained the largest unemployed group in the nation (Johnson, 1992). The ADA, therefore, was needed to create an environment in which these citizens could be introduced into the workforce and in the mainstream of society, including its opportunities for education, history, and the arts (Spiegel & Podair, 1981).

Who is disabled? The ADA definition of who is disabled has three parts. A person is disabled if he or she either: (a) has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activity (such as performing manual tasks, being able to care for oneself, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, learning, or working), or (b) has a record of such impairment, or (c) is regarded as having such an impairment. A person fitting into one of these categories is protected by the ADA.

The ADA is the most far reaching piece of legislation concerning public access for people with disabilities, and, gradually, changes have been or are being made to give this

population equal access (Johnson, 1992). The ADA clearly establishes that new buildings or those that are renovated must meet these new standards of accessibility. However, there is still considerable debate on how the law should apply to historical structures. The ADA states that historical structures should be barrier-free, but that changes should not occur that would define the historical fabric of the building. Access needs to be provided, but, when dealing with historical structures, these changes need to be as unobtrusive as possible and should not alter features within the building or site that define their historical significance. Can a structure both remain historical and become accessible? Is it possible for an historical structure to maintain its integrity and yet still be universally accessible, or usable by all populations? And, if it is made accessible for the disabled, can clear guidelines be established to help communities overcome inaccessible historical facilities that invite all people, while maintaining the historic features of the building? With the help of local advocacy groups and historic preservation leagues, this research strives at discovering where the balance can be struck. It will develop guidelines that other groups can use in their own communities. This research will examine at several historic county courthouses in northwest Texas to see what is presently being done to comply with ADA standards, and if guidelines developed from research can be helpful.

Historic Preservation in America

Older buildings are needed in our society. They go beyond economics or requirements by law and touch upon an "inherited urban fabric which is our most direct and immediate contact with our history." This is why retaining them is vital to our

importance as people. Historical buildings are important learning tools, carving deep into our very existence (Robinson, 1981). John Steinbeck wrote, "How will we know it's us, without our past?" (Grapes of Wrath, 1939). Our heritage is beyond practical importance. "It is essential to the health and humility of a community's environment" (Williams et al., 1983: 69). To deny any person access to a building, especially those with historical significance, is not only limiting his/her education, but stunting a community's awareness of the past and its growth for the future (Pancsofar & Blackwell, 1986).

Historic preservation's emphasis in America has changed in recent years from individual monuments, like the Washington Monument, to a renewed focus on neighborhoods, districts, and communities. These neighborhoods and districts make up the physical components of a community's historical fabric (Cantacuzino, 1975). They are not only the imposing structures of the powerful and wealthy, but also the houses, factories, halls, and churches in which the typical men, women, and children have lived, worked, conducted their business, and gathered together (Roark, 1991). These built resources form the patterns which embody a community's history and historical meaning. To disallow access to these structures for those with disabilities is to restrict their ability to experience their heritage. By looking at several historical county courthouses, this research will determine what efforts local communities are making to maintain their architectural history, what environmental barriers exist, and how they are making their historical monuments accessible to all populations.

What makes a building or structure historical? The United States has always been interested in preserving its history and has established many regulations for determining

what is considered historical. Some of the most recent are: the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, which established a program for the preservation of historic properties throughout the nation; and Executive Order #11593 of 1971 (Murtagh, 1988), a ruling that deals with the protection and enhancement of the cultural environment. However, the most important legislation that determines the historical value of a building or structure is The Department of the Interior's Criteria for Historical Structures (National Park Service, 1983). It serves as a basis for judging, at the national, state, and local levels, all nominations for inclusion on the National Register. These standards were developed to evaluate significant properties and to recognize the accomplishments of all who have made a contribution to our country's history and heritage (Murtagh, 1988).

Some of the criteria which deems a building or property historical and allows it to be included on the National Register are: (a) a place associated with lives of persons significant in our past, or (b) a piece of architecture which embodies a distinctive type of construction, or (c) a particular piece of architecture constructed by the work of a master (Murtagh, 1988). Other aids the government gives to local communities on historical structures is The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings. These standards give directions on rehabilitating older buildings or sites, and give detailed information on particular ways of painting, adding to, or enhancing a historical structure. By following these guidelines, owners receive tax incentives determined from the Tax Acts of 1976, 1981, and 1986 (Murtagh, 1988).

A community's disabled population and its historical buildings are both important; neither aspect should be neglected or overlooked. As local residents become more aware

of preserving areas of town or particular sites that represent their history, they should remember their overall purpose in doing so. We use history as a learning tool, and historical buildings should be a learning tool that is available for all populations, including those with disabilities. In the past, many have overlooked these physical barriers and did not see that these physical barriers eventually cause educational and psychological barriers as well (Howards, Brehm, & Nagi, 1980). As we strive for universal accessibility, this research wishes to establish practical measures that can be used in local communities to both preserve a building and allow it to be enjoyed by all. By using northwest Texas historic county courthouses as examples, we wish to determine how other communities are dealing with this issue, and to see if the ADA is making a difference in how historical structures are being altered or preserved.

CHAPTER III

METHOD AND PROCEDURE

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 is civil rights legislation. In the Act, minimum and maximum requirements are stated. Some architects have begun to view the law as a restriction rather than a freedom. It may be perceived this way, but it's intent was to help not only the disabled, but all of us. How can freedom be found within a dogma of restrictions and violations? The freedom comes in the perception and the reasoning behind the law itself. An architect must know the law, and must know when he has broken it. Instead of seeing the law as a set of maximum and minimums, it should be considered a creative platform to construct new and innovative masterpieces. Michalangelo, he did not create David out of marble; he felt David was already there. He only had to chip the excess marble away. How many architects view the ADA as a masterpiece in the making? An architect must first be knowledgeable of the law, but then be creative and innovative in his perception of the law. Accessibility is not a set of maximum or minimums, but instead a new era in architecture. By understanding the reasoning behind the law, one can find freedom in it and better educate oneself with those with disabilities.

This research first tries to understand the law, and then uses it as a basis for new and innovative approaches in making specific historic county courthouses in Texas accessible. The researcher contacted, through an interview questionnaire, local advocacy groups for the disabled, preservation leagues of Denton and Lubbock, Texas, and people

with disabilities to help create a less rigid understanding of the law. A review of current ADA federal legislation proceeded the development of the interview questionnaire and was used in conjunction with Texas Tech professors and instructors to determine adequate questions to present. From this information, a checklist was developed.

While gathering research for this thesis I had the opportunity to put myself in the shoes of those with disabilities. I wore corrective glasses which made it hard to distinguish similar colors, level changes, or where floors met walls. By walking on the campus of Texas Tech University and in its Administration Building with a cane and corrective glasses, I discovered how much more time was needed to get from place to place, how tough it could be to get across streets, and how difficult walking up stairs and ramps could be. I used crutches to get across campus and found it difficult to get on buses, carry books, or open doors. Moving around in a wheelchair changed my whole outlook on cabinet heights, restroom fixtures, and halls or doors which can be too narrow to maneuver. In each one of these instances, I felt scared, awkward, frustrated, and embarrassed. I lacked mobility. The slightest change in texture or surface made it more difficult to move. Thresholds and non-secured doormats made entrance into facilities scary and dangerous. These exercises, for a moment made me disabled.

I personally went through these activities to better understand those who deal with these obstacles daily in simply getting from place to place. That is also why I interviewed people with disabilities. By simulating disabilities in more detail, I better understood how those with disabilities must feel, those feelings of awkwardness and embarrassment. But why? Why was my mobility, hearing, or seeing preference a reason for the uneasiness I

constantly felt. I was different in those ways but did that make me an outcast? Probably it was a little of both. I felt self-conscious of those making remarks about me, even though I knew I could take off the glasses or get out of the wheelchair; I felt strange and looked down upon. It made me consider the feelings of those who cannot change. That is why the ADA's purpose must be understood, explored, and respected. Additional restrictions often cause more distance; this research hopes to prevent this.

A checklist has been developed to measure the accessibility of existing historical buildings. It was derived from an existing ADA checklist, but was expanded upon through the personal interviews from local advocacy groups for the disabled, preservation leagues, people with disabilities, and a review of literature. With the checklist, a community can determine what factors within or around a historical structure prevent accessibility for the disabled. Once they have this information, they can determine what approach they wish to take in making the building more accessible based on the various philosophies with the fields of restoration and preservation.

The checklist was broken down into eight categories that were based on a disabled person moving through the site and the building. These were as follows: (1) paths to entrance, (2) the entrance, (3) emergency egress, (4) hallways, (5) rooms and common spaces, (6) stairs, interior ramps, lifts, and elevators, (7) accessibility to rest rooms, and (8) additional access. These eight categories served as the outline of the checklist and are described in Chapter IV (Results and Discussion). Three county courthouses were chosen to demonstrate how the checklist could be applied towards a historic building. The questions addressed in Chapter IV are as follows:

1. Are the paths to entrance easily manageable by those with disabilities and free from all protruding elements?
2. Are the entrances into each of the courthouses free from difficult level changes and operable to those with disabilities?
3. Do each of the courthouses have emergency egress that aids those with disabilities?
4. Are all courthouse hallways level, clearly lit, and readily accessible to major common spaces?
5. Are all rooms and common spaces free from poorly attached carpeting, obtrusive elements, and distinguished by clear signage?
6. Is the vertical access to each courthouse easily identifiable and manageable by those with disabilities?
7. Does each courthouse have accessible rest room facilities?
8. Are the telephone and mailbox areas of the courthouse reasonably designed for use by those with disabilities?

Questionnaire Development and Distribution

The questionnaire in this study has been developed for the purpose of gaining supplemental criteria that historical structures could have in terms of accessibility for people with disabilities. It was developed through a review of literature of federal legislation dealing with the disabled and historical properties, as well as through correspondence and interviews with disabled and historic preservation educators. The

questionnaire was field-tested with professionals from the University of North Texas in Denton, and the College of Architecture at Texas Tech University in Lubbock. The questionnaire was administered through personal interviews with local representatives from advocacy groups for the disabled, preservation leagues, and people with disabilities. The groups were selected through personal contacts (word of mouth) and both the Denton and Lubbock County phone books. The researcher used the questionnaire for basic structure within the interview, but allowed for some flexibility. Some of the questions within the questionnaire were as follows:

1. Are you familiar with the Americans with Disability Act?
2. What are some basic ADA requirements that are a necessity at any site?
3. Are there any items or loopholes the ADA has left out that may be needed in any building?
4. Do you know of ways to integrate ADA requirements to an historical structure?

A few of the experts contacted were Dr. Lyndal M. Bullock, Regent's Professor, Special Education at the University of North Texas, Denton; and Professor John White, Historic Buildings Survey (HABS/HAER) team leader for several years and professor at Texas Tech University, College of Architecture, Lubbock.

The questionnaire was developed from local advocacy groups for the disabled, preservation leagues, and people with disabilities. Groups that deal with people with

disabilities were more familiar with the interest of the disabled and are continually striving for better treatment and legislation pertaining to the disabled. They gave a more accurate assessment of the issues and have done extensive research on the subject. Likewise historic preservation leagues were better equipped to relay information from the historic preservation movement and be up-to-date on any pending legislation that would directly effect any historical city, town, or structure. Those with disabilities gave personal perspectives on how buildings, specifically historical ones, could be amore accessible for them. They felt it was their right.

While developing the interview- questionnaire, the researcher made several assumptions. These assumptions and limitations are as follows:

Assumptions

1. Individuals from local advocacy groups for the disabled and those from local preservation leagues are qualified to make assessments and judgments on whether or not a historical building is accessible to people with disabilities.

2. The local advocacy groups for the disabled, as well as historical preservation leagues of Denton and Lubbock, Texas, had access to national, state, regional, and local material pertaining to people with disabilities and the historic preservation movement.

3. Government legislation, including the Americans with Disabilities Act and criteria for the National Register, were legitimate sources of information in determining how to make an area or resource accessible to a disabled person and in a determining whether or not a building was historical.

4. Historic preservation leagues of Denton and Lubbock have adequate knowledge of the ADA's requirements specifically pertaining to historical structures.

Limitations

1. While a broader sample base would have been preferable, time dictated the utilization of a smaller sample size to adequately cover all areas dealing with accessibility to historical structures.

2. Since the sample size was small, information may be left out pertaining to information on state and federal levels. Future research may compare local historical structures with those on a state and national level to determine if accessibility criteria should be adjusted to meet their potential different needs.

3. After reviewing the literature, this research appears to be one of the introductory attempts to review existing checklists and to develop a more up-to-date list of criteria for determining legal and aesthetic accessibility for people with disabilities to historical structures. Further research is needed to determine if the method used is acceptable or if another recourse is required to ensure adequate accessibility to a historical structure.

Instrument Description

The instrument in this study was a criteria checklist developed for the purpose of determining how accessible a historic structure was and how well ADA codes and regulations had been integrated. Three Texas county courthouses were used as examples

of how this checklist could be applied. By better determining what parts of a facility were not accessible, it could then be determined how to make it more accessible when determining how to best restore or preserve the building. The checklist was derived from interviews with experts in the field of disabilities and the historic preservation movement. It also was compiled through a review of literature of federal legislation which included an ADA checklist for existing buildings. The ADA checklist encompassed many accessibility requirements needed in any structure, and so became a basis for the instrument in this study. However, by drawing upon expert interview responses and other research, gaps were found in the government's accessibility checklist and therein redesigned. The instrument itself is located in Appendix C for further review.

County Courthouses and Rationale Behind Selection

In 1977, W. Brown Morton, one of the developers of the Secretary of the Interior's standards and guidelines in determining what made a building historical, defined architectural integrity as "those qualities in a building and its site that give it meaning and value." The definition in itself is very general and Morton added that for a building to have integrity it must have some or all of the following attributes: (1) style, (2) workmanship, (3) setting or location, (4) materials, (5) building type or function, and (6) continuity. The courthouses selected for this study-- the Denton County Courthouse, the Jones County Courthouse, and the Seminole County Courthouse-- hold many if not all of the attributes described by Morton. The courthouse has always been a symbol of community heritage and pride. Its style was developed from a particular era for the

community. Furthermore, each of the courthouses are historic because these were one of the first structures constructed in the community to demonstrate the workmanship and strength of the community's resources. Location was important, with the courthouse often placed in the center of town to be the anchor for the rest of the community. This was a facility that was the community. Parties and picnics frequently were seen on the site of the courthouse; this was the place people wanted and needed. Because of the courthouse's vital part to the community, only the best materials that could be afforded were used. Finally, there was continuity. The courthouse became an integral, dynamic machine which gave a community the reason for the future. Therefore, each of these buildings was chosen for their connection with the community. Accessibility to these facilities by those with disabilities only strengthens this argument. Furthermore, as public facilities they must be made accessible. The Denton, Jones, and Seminole Courthouses are great examples of how historic buildings are dealing with the issue of accessibility.

The Denton County Courthouse

The Denton County Courthouse is located in Denton, Texas. Denton is located 38 miles north of downtown Dallas on Interstate 35E (U.S. 77) and 36 miles north of downtown Fort Worth on Interstate 35W (U.S. 77 & Texas 380). The elevation for Denton is 630 feet. The latitude is 33 degrees 12 minutes north and longitude is 97 degrees 5 minutes 30 seconds west. As of July, 1987, the city of Denton has a population of 62,750. The county has a total population of 239,543.

The Denton County Courthouse's Romanesque style of architecture was adopted when incorporating accessibility requirements in July 1985 (Figure 3.1), while also considering courthouse plans prepared by J. Riely Gordon. In August of that same year the commissioners of Denton, County, Texas, employeed W.C. Dodson as architect and his plans were used in constructing the courthouse. The entire construction process took two full years to complete. The design includes at least eighty-two polished re granite columns with red sandstone bases and capitals of Romanesque character. Beginning with the massing Dodson had used for mansard-roofed courthouses, he ornamented the gabled

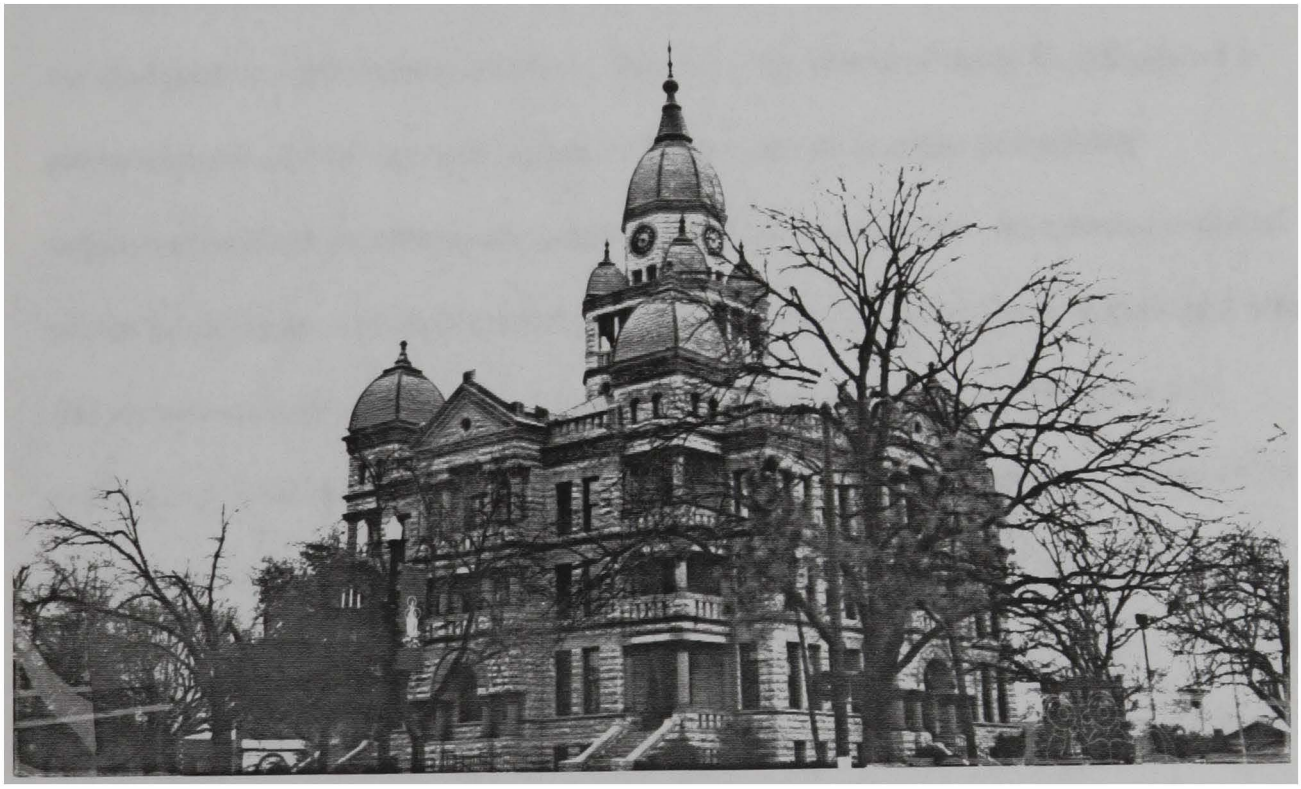


Figure 3.1. Denton County Courthouse

pavilions at each facade with three tiers of Romanesque columns and a round arched entrance. There are no projecting pavilions, but, instead, corners which are filled with a three-tiered porch, a very open construction of Romanesque columns and stone railings, which supports a windowed story of stone and a square dome with ornamental finial. A heavy stone parapet slit with rectangular openings replaces the cornice and the central tower has a square base with beveled corners and a columned gallery supporting small square domes at the diagonals. An octagonal clock stage rises out of the base with a steep octagonal dome and an elaborate finial (Welch, 1984: 296-297).

The Denton County Courthouse was selected primarily because the integration of accessibility requirements have already been instituted. How these requirements were met are discussed in the following chapter. However, the Denton County Courthouse is a prime example of one way to integrate. The city choose to make accessibility requirements blend into the existing aesthetics of the courthouse. An elevator is placed within the building, and an accessible ramp winds down to a lower level to prevent a long and obtrusive ramp above grade. Doorways have audible signals to help those with hearing impairments, and historic signage aids those with visual disabilities. Many of the people enjoy the look of the courthouse, and often find it difficult to notice the changes. This particular way to integrate would probably attach itself to Villoet-le-Duc. He would agree with the use of modern technologies and innovations to heighten the Romanesque style of the courthouse. Elevators, railings, and ramps form an integral part of the whole and bring the Denton County Courthouse to a "finishing off" stage for a particular time period.

The Jones County Courthouse

The Jones County Courthouse is located in Anson, Texas. Anson is located in Central West Texas, the County Seat of Jones, County at the crossroads of Highways 277, 83 and 180, 23 miles north of Abilene and 153 miles west of Fort Worth. As of the 1960 census, Anson has a population of 2,890.

The Jones County Courthouse is based on the Beaux-Arts tradition (Figure 3.2). It has very definite classical motifs around the entire site. The major materials are brick, sandstone and limestone on the exterior.

Figure 3.2. Jones County Courthouse

As you enter the building, one can notice the traditional cross plan. The hallways form the cross with adjoining offices to either side. Furthermore, there are three levels to the courthouse, with a clock tower finishing off the roof. To gain access to the main floor, one will have to travel one full story to the entrance door. There are no accessible entrances at this time. Moving to the interior of the building, the courthouse is equipped with terrazzo floors and marble wainscoting. The doors and trims are in wood and are stained in a dark color. The rich interiors and the classical motifs represent the community's wealth along with its sense of tradition.

The rationale behind the incorporation of the Jones County Courthouse in this thesis is that the town of Anson is in the process of incorporating accessibility requirements. Anson received over $700, 000.00 for integration of these requirements, and is still unclear on just how they are going to achieve an adequate solution. Therefore, the researcher felt this checklist could help the community of Anson determine how the courthouse was inaccessible so that they could then discuss how they wished to integrate the changes. Integrating the accessibility requirements could be based on the restoration philosophies discussed previously in Chapter I. A description of the courthouse, and ways to handle accessibility integration will be discussed in Chapter V.

The Gaines County Courthouse

The Gaines County Courthouse is located in Seminole, Texas. The city is located at the intersection of Highway 180, Highway 385, and Highway 62. It was founded in 1905 by William B. Austin. Today it has a population of over 6,484.

The Gaines County Courthouse design is based on the International Style developed in 1955 (Figure 3.3). The courthouse is symmetrical in form with deep pilasters, and a recessed center facade. The exterior is finished with stone, and on the upper right panel of stonework appears some low-relief carving which includes an oilwell, a source of Gaines County wealth. This approach to design was common during the 1950's, an era that felt the design of a government facility should reflect the way government was intended to be, functional and free of elaborate ornamentation. The design and economy of the courthouse precluded the development of elaborate designs, making a bold statement on the way people perceived government's role in society.

Figure 3.3. Gaines County Courthouse

The purpose for including this courthouse into the research was to document a Texas courthouse that was constructed well after the turn of the century. This was done to determine if time had influenced, in this particular case, the way buildings were constructed when relating to those with disabilities. Ironically, research showed that the Gaines County community used many of the same accessibility techniques and designs used by the Denton County Courthouse. An elevator and downward ramp to the lower level were integrated with the rest of the courthouse. However, this could be an ample opportunity to use the philosophy of Carlo Scarpa when deciding to "resurrect" the old structure. The International style of the Gaines Courthouse often appears lifeless due to the cool gray coloring of the exterior stone and the outdated colors and materials that frequent the inside of the facility. Integration of accessibility requirements, therefore, can become the tool needed to give the courthouse a new look based on its historic roots. By following the philosophy of Scarpa, the building could achieve a new lease on life by the liberation of its current state to a renewed focal point for the community. By allowing new openings in walls, adding of exterior ramps, and/or lifts, and distinguishing changes that have occurred through time instead of trying to blend them together, the courthouse could again serve as a focal point of the community. It would no only have a renewed purpose or life, it would also be better for all.

Data Analysis

The primarily information for the development of the instrument in this study was obtained from representatives from local advocacy groups for the disabled, from historical

preservation leagues, and from those with disabilities of Denton and Lubbock, Texas. An interview questionnaire, located in Appendix A, was developed for the acquisition of information from the above groups for the development of a safety and access checklist that was applied to three county courthouses in Texas. These are the Denton, Jones, and Gaines County Courthouses, respectively. The study itself is primarily a descriptive study, used for obtaining information to help communities make their buildings accessible for all of us.

The interview questionnaire responses, located in Appendix B, were reviewed and applied to a current ADA checklist for access and safety to see areas that may have been neglected or left out. Some inconsistencies were found, and a revised checklist was formed through the interview questionnaire, federal legislation, and current related articles and books; this is located in Appendix C. The researcher, after the development of the checklist then visited each of the above listed sites to conduct a safety and access inspection. Each recorded checklist is presented in its true form in Appendix D at the back of this document. The inspection checklist then was then broken down and reviewed with discussions and recommendations located in Chapter IV, Results, Discussion, and Recommendations. These sections were transformed into question form. The researcher was guided by a total of eight research questions that were based on how a disabled person would move around the site and building. Once accessibility of a structure was established, a community could better determine what changes to make, and how to best integrate them within the building while still keeping the building historically honest. The eight research questions were as follows:

1. Are the paths to entrance easily manageable by those with disabilities and free from all protruding elements?

2. Are the entrances into each of the courthouses free from difficult level changes and operable to those with disabilities?

3. Do each of the courthouses have emergency egress that aids those with disabilities?

4. Are all courthouse hallways level, clearly lit, and readily accessible to major common spaces?

5. Are all rooms and common spaces free from poorly attached carpeting, obtrusive elements, and distinguished by clear signage?

6. Is the vertical access to each courthouse easily identifiable and manageable by those with disabilities?

7. Does each courthouse have accessible rest room facilities?

8. Are the drinking fountains and telephone areas of the courthouse reasonably designed for use by those with disabilities?

These questions will be used as the basis for the following chapter. Each of these questions refers to each section in the safety and access checklist developed by the researcher. Under each of these questions the researcher discussed, described, and recommended the courthouse as it is currently.

Information in this study has been interpreted and evaluated by the researcher who has a Bachelor's of Architectural Design (professional degree) from Texas Tech University, and who is currently working towards a Mater's of Architecture in Historic Preservation and Rehabilitation. Any data that required outside assistance for interpretation and evaluation has been considered by Dr. Michael Jones, who has done extensive research in the field of universal design; Dr. Lyndal M. Bullock, Regent's

Professor, Special Education at the University of North Texas, Denton; and Professor John P. White, Historic Buildings Survey (HABS/HAER) team leader for several years and professor and Texas Tech University, College of Architecture, Lubbock.

CHAPTER IV

RESULTS, DISCUSSION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter deals with the results, discussion, and recommendations gathered and used from three Texas county courthouse checklists. The researcher has used a revised safety and access checklist to determine how these facilities have handled the issue of accessibility. The three courthouses were in Denton, Jones, and Gaines Counties. The results of each of courthouses has been incorporated into this thesis and can be reviewed in Appendix D. The checklist was developed dealing with eight general categories. These categories are illustrated in Appendix B. Each of these categories, in turned, were used to form a question which can be used to describe each of the eight categories in a researchable format. The thesis questions are as follows:

1. Are the paths to entrance easily manageable by those with disabilities and free from all protruding elements?

2. Are the entrances into each of the courthouses free from difficult level changes and operable to those with disabilities?

3. Do each of the courthouses have emergency egress that aids those with disabilities?

4. Are all courthouse hallways level, clearly lit, and readily accessible to major common spaces?

5. Are all rooms and common spaces free from poorly attached carpeting, obtrusive elements, and distinguished by clear signage?

6. Is the vertical access to each courthouse easily identifiable and manageable by those with disabilities?

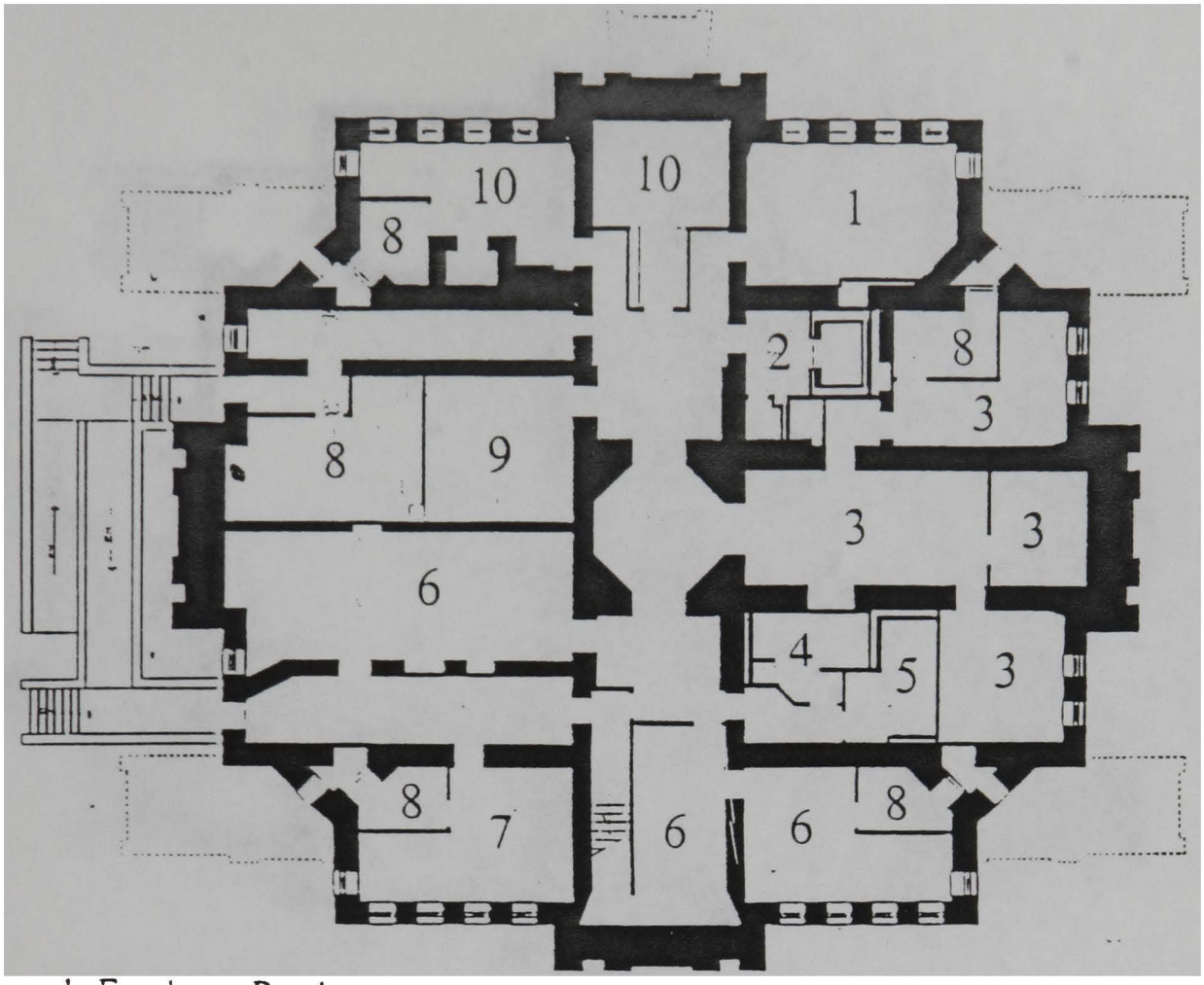
7. Does each courthouse have accessible rest room facilities?

8. Are the drinking fountains and telephone areas of the courthouse reasonably designed for use by those with disabilities?

The Denton County Courthouse

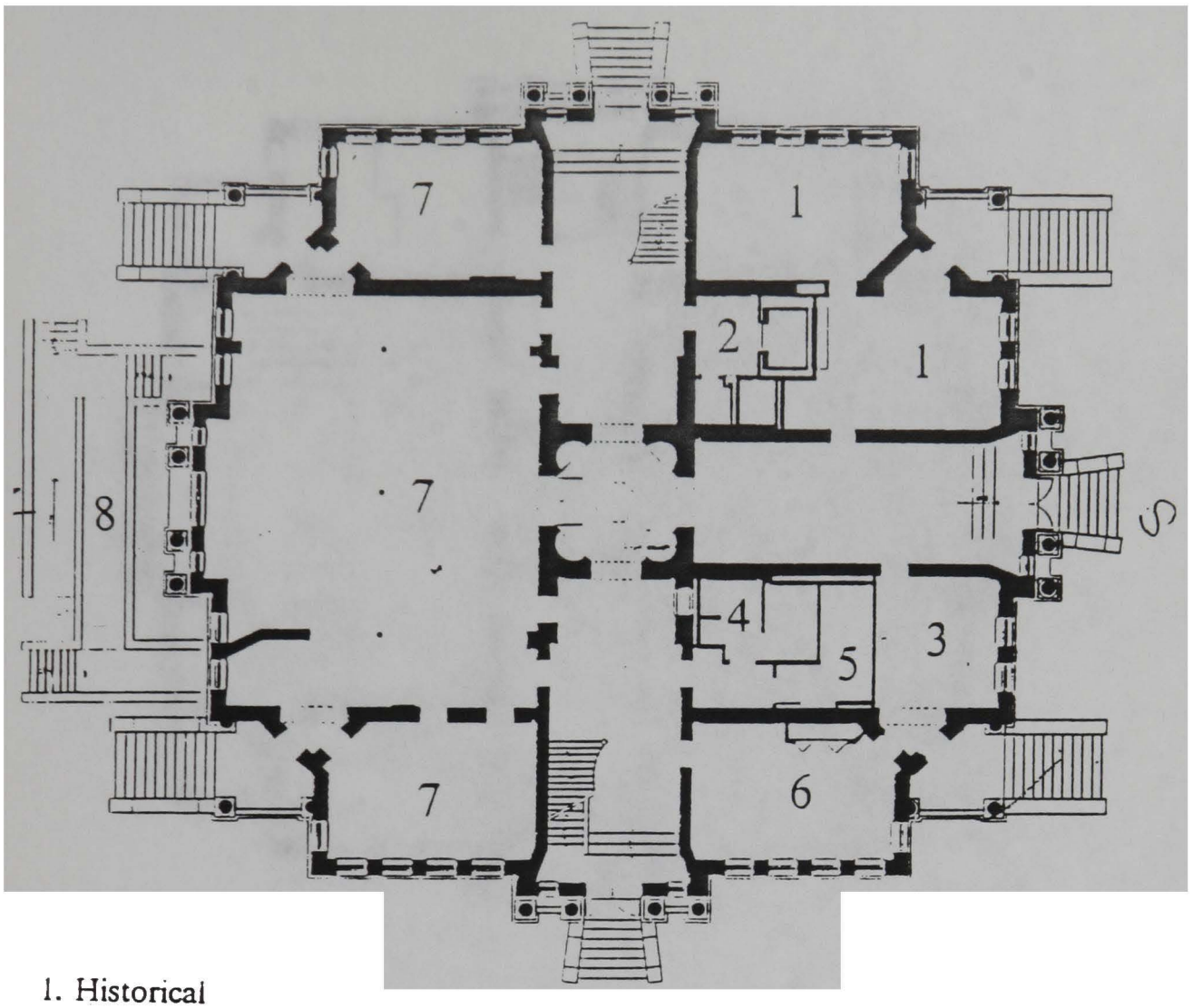
1. Are the paths to entrance easily manageable by those with disabilities and free from all protruding elements?

All pathways have curb cuts at drives, parking, and drop-off areas at the specified accessible parking areas. The accessible areas are located on the north and west sides of the square lot which encompasses the courthouse (Figure 4.1). The accessible parking areas have direct access to the building and other floors (Figure 4.2, & Figure 4.3). There were a total of four accessible parking spaces, two of those occurring in a direct line with the accessible entrance from the north. The other parking spaces were on the adjacent corner (west) and had easy access to the entrance as well. At each of the accessible parking areas, there were signs that indicated fines from $50 to $200 for those who had illegally parked. The signs were easy to read and clear (Figure 4.4). Curb cuts were marked in a contrasting color (yellow), however outside steps were not marked and may be hard to manage by those with a visual disability. This may be in-part due to the historic nature of the building, but the researcher feels that a different color of stone or concrete may have been used to aid in this area. Landscaping was unobtrusive over the paths of travel (Figure 4.5). The path ways were very wide, over ten feet wide (36 inches min.), and clear from any protruding objects. The only items in the path of travel were trash cans along the streets, but these objects can easily be detected by individuals with a visual disability using a cane. Walking surfaces into the facility were stable, firm, non-slip, but



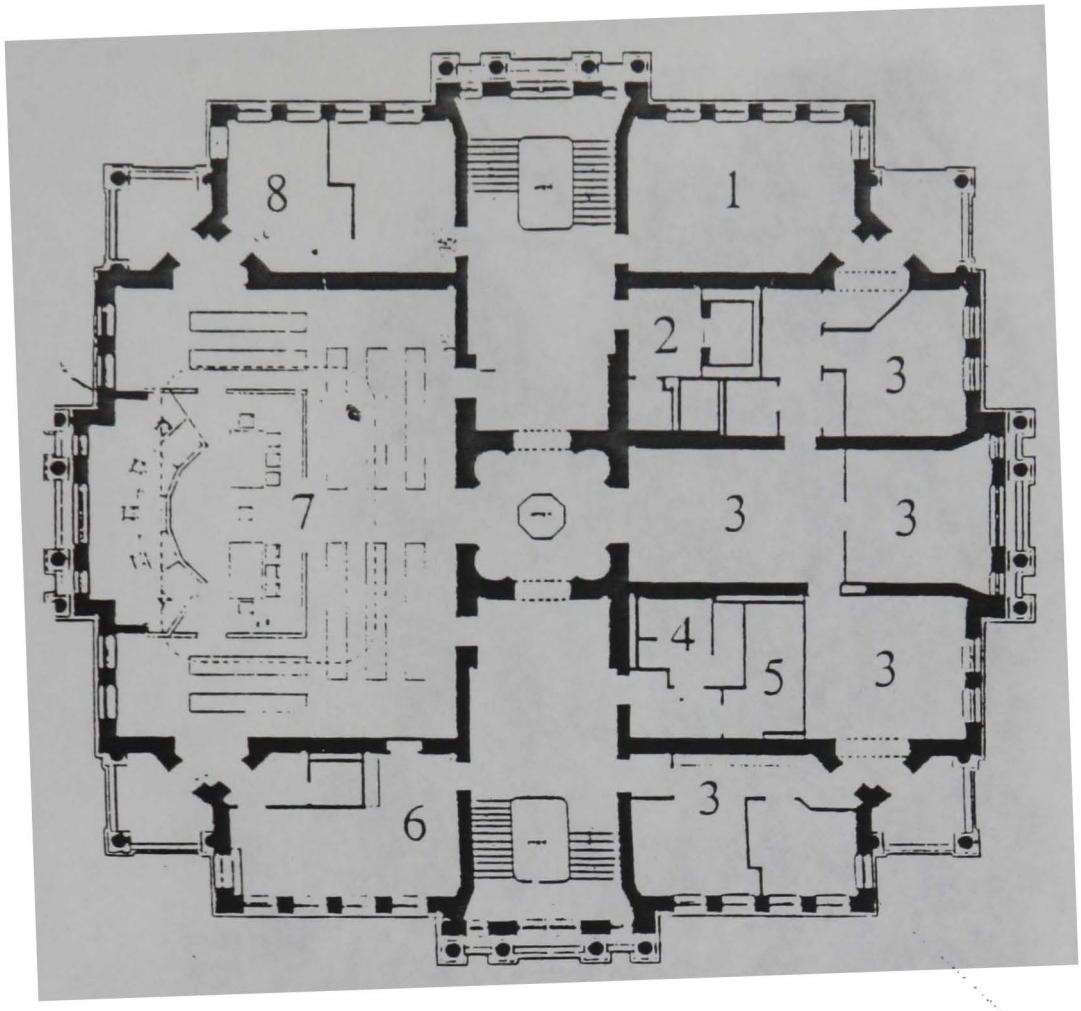
1. Employee Break Room
2. Elevator
3. Historical Commission
4. Men's Room
5. Women's Room
6. Print Shop
7. Mail Room
8. Mechanical
9. Electrical
10. Building Maintenance

Figure 4.1. Ground Level Floor Plan



1. Historical Commission
2. Elevator
3. Archives
4. Men's Room
5. Women's Room
6. 1896 Room
7. Museum
8. Handicapped Entrance

Figure 4.2. First Level Floor Plan



1. County Judge
2. Elevator
3. Judge's Staff
4. Men's Room
5. Women's Room
6. Conference Room
7. Commissioners Court
8. Commissioners Court Services

Figure 4.3. Second Floor Plan

Figure 4.4. Location of Accessible Parking to Courthouse

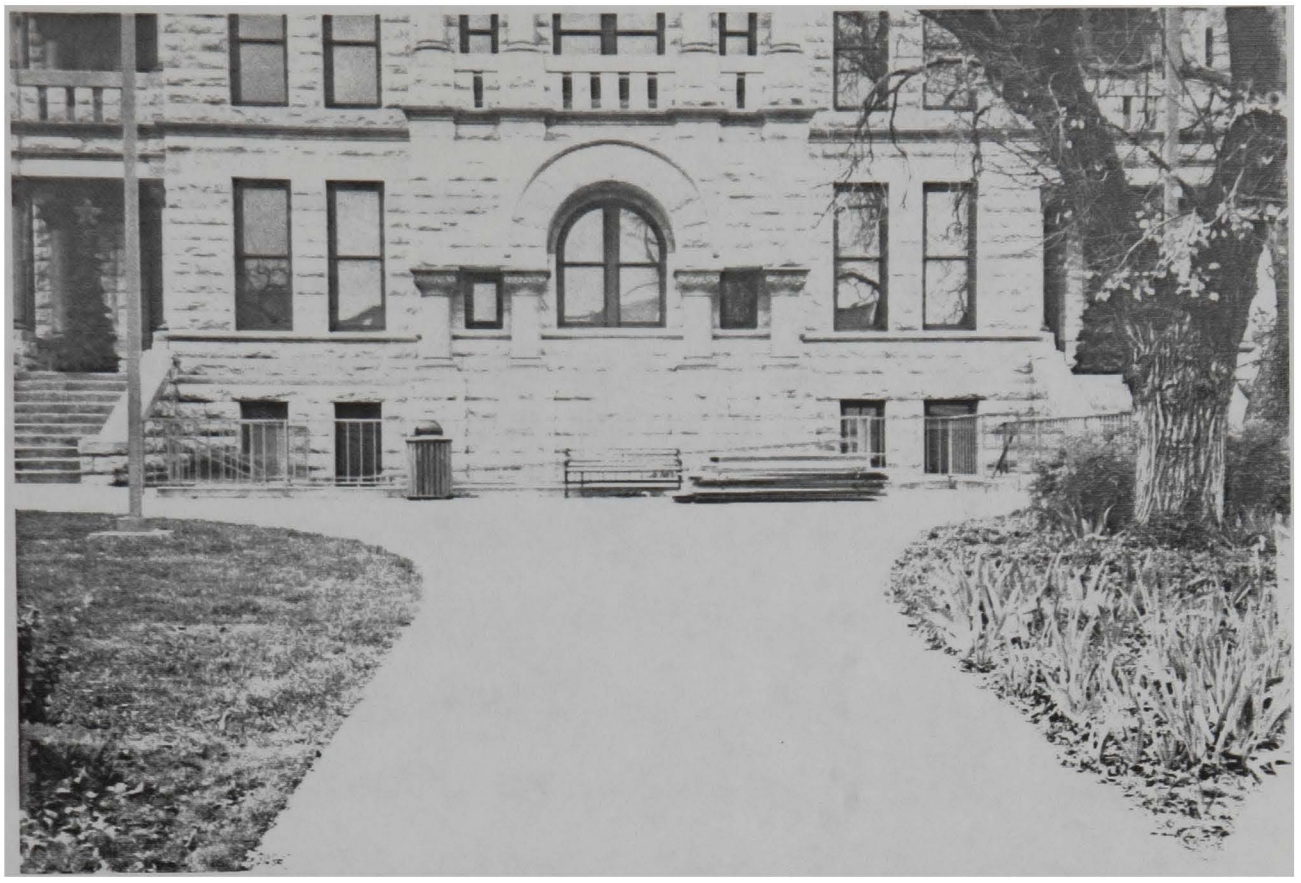


Figure 4.5. Pathway to Accessible Entrance

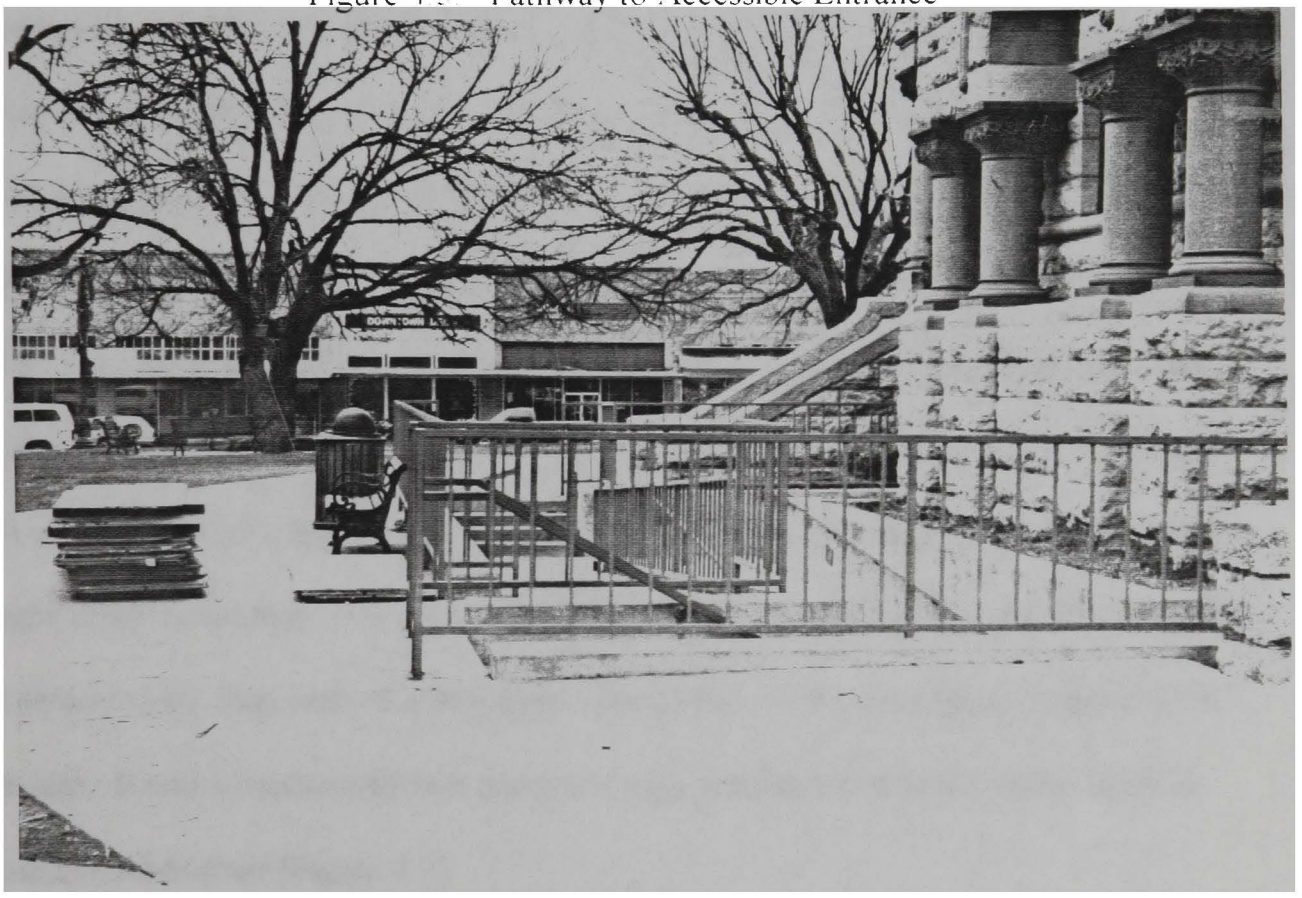


Figure 4.6. Accessible Ramp Entrance

because the courthouse is on a raised site there is a slope to the building. The researcher did not see this as a major problem; the slope was no greater than 1:12; however it may be somewhat difficult to manage. Overall, the exterior landscaping and paths of travel were in fine condition and appeared to comply in full with ADA codes.

2. Are the entrances into each of the courthouses free from difficult level changes and operable to those with disabilities?

The Denton County Courthouse does have an accessible entrance that does not require the use of stairs. It comes in the form of a ramp (Figure 4.6). The ramp does not go up, but rather down to the lower level. The ramp occurs on the north side of the building which is directly in line with the accessible parking spaces and the slope of the ramp is no greater than 1:12. The length of the ramp was greater than 30 feet, so a landing of over five feet wide was located at every 30 foot horizontal length of ramp. They also were located at the top and bottom of the ramp. The ramp was integrated very well, and since the courthouse is symmetrical on all sides, the accessible ramp becomes just as important as any other entrance. Railings were located on both sides of the ramp. They were sturdy, but along the ramp itself the railings were only 32 inches high, where codes state they should fall between 34 and 38 inches high. These may have to be raised to comply with ADA regulations. On grade, the railings were within code, climbing to a height of 44 inches high. The widths between railings were greater than the recommended 36 inches wide. They were five feet wide. The surface of the ramp itself appeared to be non-slip. It was a concrete surface that was rough, but not too hard to maneuver on by those in a wheelchair (Figure 4.7).

Inaccessible entrances, those that have stairs to the first level, did not have signage that indicated the location of the nearest accessible entrance. These entrances were located on the west, south, and east sides of the courthouse. Furthermore, the railings on the entrance area stairs were high enough for code purposes (42 inches), but did not extend the recommended twelve inches plus the width of one tread from the bottom step (Figure 4.8). The signage and railings will need to be changed for a more accessible facility. Signage is virtually inexpensive, and to extend a railing is cheaper than a law suit. Besides the lack of extended handrails, these entrances could be used independently from the accessible ramped entrance. The entrance doors have at least 32 inches of clear opening on one side, but since they are double doors it could be increased to 66 inches if required. Once you have entered the courthouse you then must navigate a few more stairs that do have non-slip treads and are identifiable by color change. There are no glass doors or revolving doors in the facility.

The accessible entrance door (the door on the ramp side; north) does not have adequate wall space on the pull side of the door to enter the facility. The code recommends at least 18 inches, but the Denton Courthouse has only 10 inches on the accessible door (Figure 4.9). This appears to be an area that may cost considerable money to remodel. It may be less expensive to incorporate a closer device. This however is not the major problem. Once a person in a wheelchair has opened the door, the entrance is not the recommenced 32 inch clear opening, but rather less than 30 inches due to the emergency handrail on the opposite side of the door. It may be necessary during office hours that this handrail is secured in the down position, for the allowance of more room

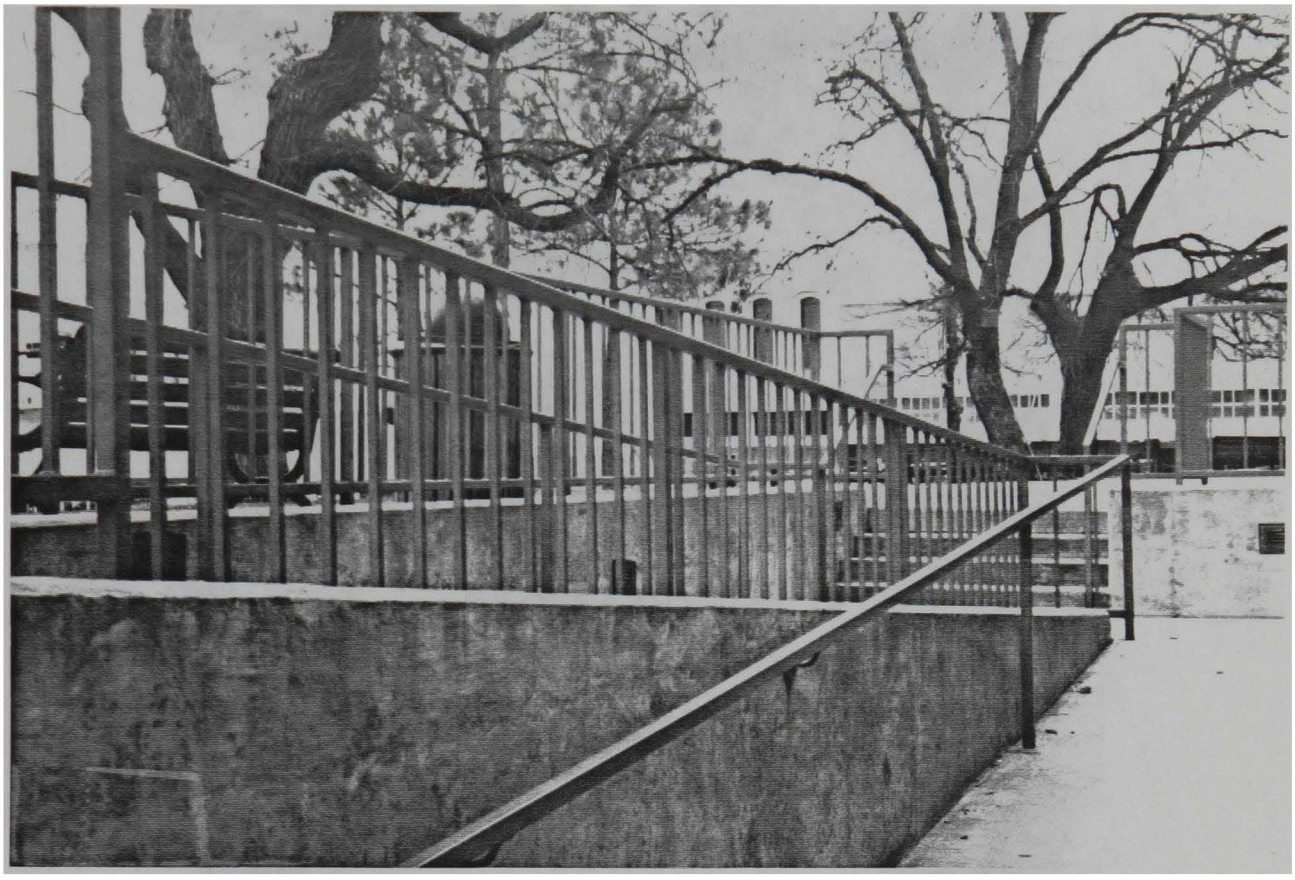


Figure 4.7. Accessible Ramp- Railings and Ramp Surface

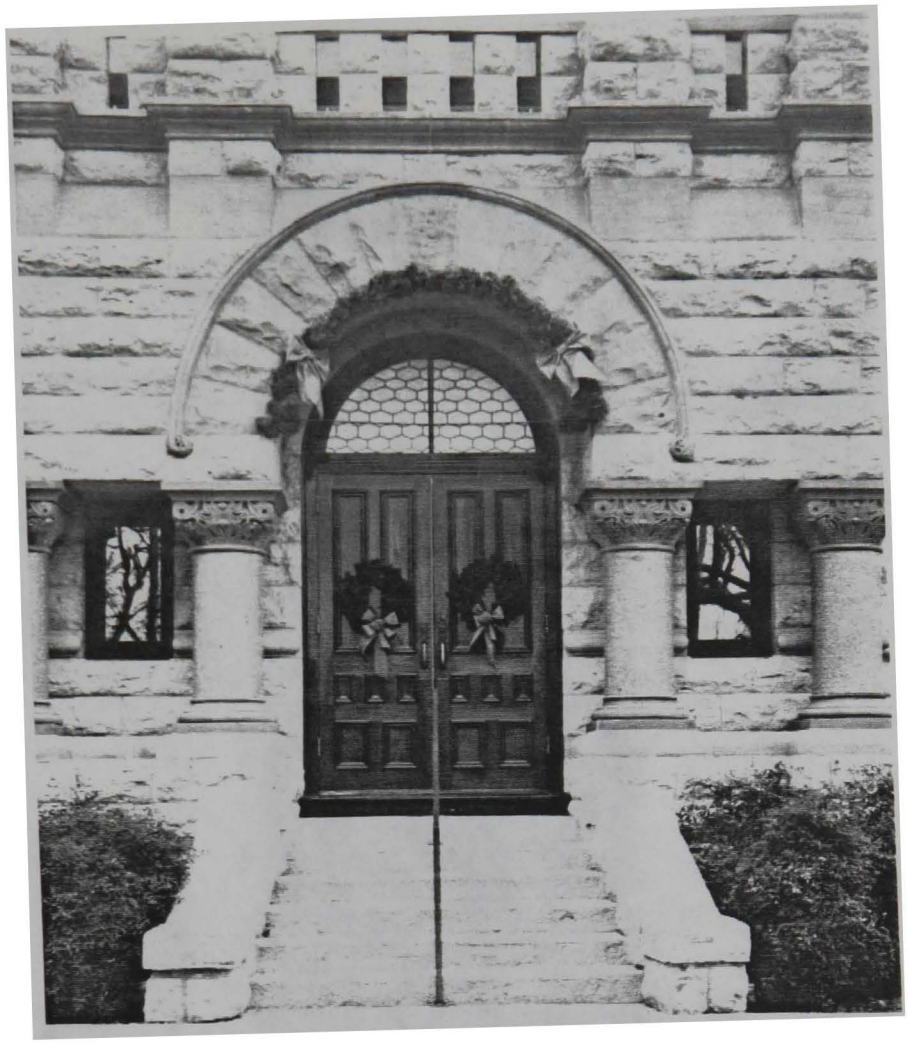


Figure 4.8. Stair Entrance

Figure 4.9. Access to Entrance Door

through that door. The door itself is beginning to rot, due to water, and the researcher has heard that the entrance itself has flooded on occasions. This I feel, if true, must be the first item to be redesigned. There is a drain near the door, but if flooding is continually occurring then alternative measures will need to be instituted. The addition of more drains is one possible solution. The rest of the entrance appears to be adequate. The threshold of the door is beveled and sufficient to maneuver by those in a wheelchair. Doormats appeared on the other side of the door and were lower than one-half inches high and were secured to the floor at all edges. The researcher again learned that these were changed due to the infiltration of water. By fixing the flood problem, money can be saved from the acquisition of new mats. The door handles on most all the doors in this facility were no higher than 48 inches, which is recommended by code, but they may be hard to operate with a closed fist. The door handles are designed more for a person to grab with his/her fingers. This is impossible for a person who has severely disabled his/her hand and can only use a clinched fist. Alternate fixtures may be looked into, if money is available. The doors did seem to be easy to open and fell within the maximum of 5lbf. There were no closer mechanism noticeable by the researcher.

3. Do each of the courthouses have emergency egress that aids those with disabilities?

The Denton County Courthouse has adequate emergency egress. On each of the floors there are fire alarms that are equipped with flashing lights and audible signals. Each of the emergency paths of travel have sufficient lighting, in the stairs, corridors, and exits.

4. Are all courthouse hallways level, clearly lit, and readily accessible to major common spaces?

The accessible entrance does not really provide direct access to the main floor, lobby, or elevator. You must first travel through a long corridor, adjacent to the print shop, turn east and travel down another corridor to find the elevator over on the right (Figure 4.10). At first glance, the accessible entrance appears to be almost like a service entrance. A person looking for the elevator may find it difficult to locate the elevator. The elevator, nonetheless, is located on an accessible path of travel and the route through all public spaces is 36 inches wide. The hallways are also wide enough in areas for a person using a wheelchair to reverse direction. There is equipment and boxes in the hallways, but there appears to still be plenty of room to maneuver. The lighting is fairly uniform throughout. Recommendations may be to give more visible signage to the elevator, and increase light levels to make the space appear less like a service corridor.

Doors located off of main public hallways all have 32 inches of clear opening. Most all of the doors on the pull side have at least 18 inches of clear wall space so that a person using a wheelchair can get near to open the door. But, there are areas, especially on the first floor where items and exhibits flood the hallways (Figure 4.11). This could be a problem if the area continues to collect items and exhibits. Doors can be operable with not too much force and door handles are less than 48 inches high. They can be operable by closed fist from the insides of the door, all you have to do is push, but on the other side of the door a person with a closed fist may find it difficult to operate the door. Each major office door did have audible signals to let those know if someone had entered the space. Thresholds were leveled or beveled to aid those in wheelchairs into the space.

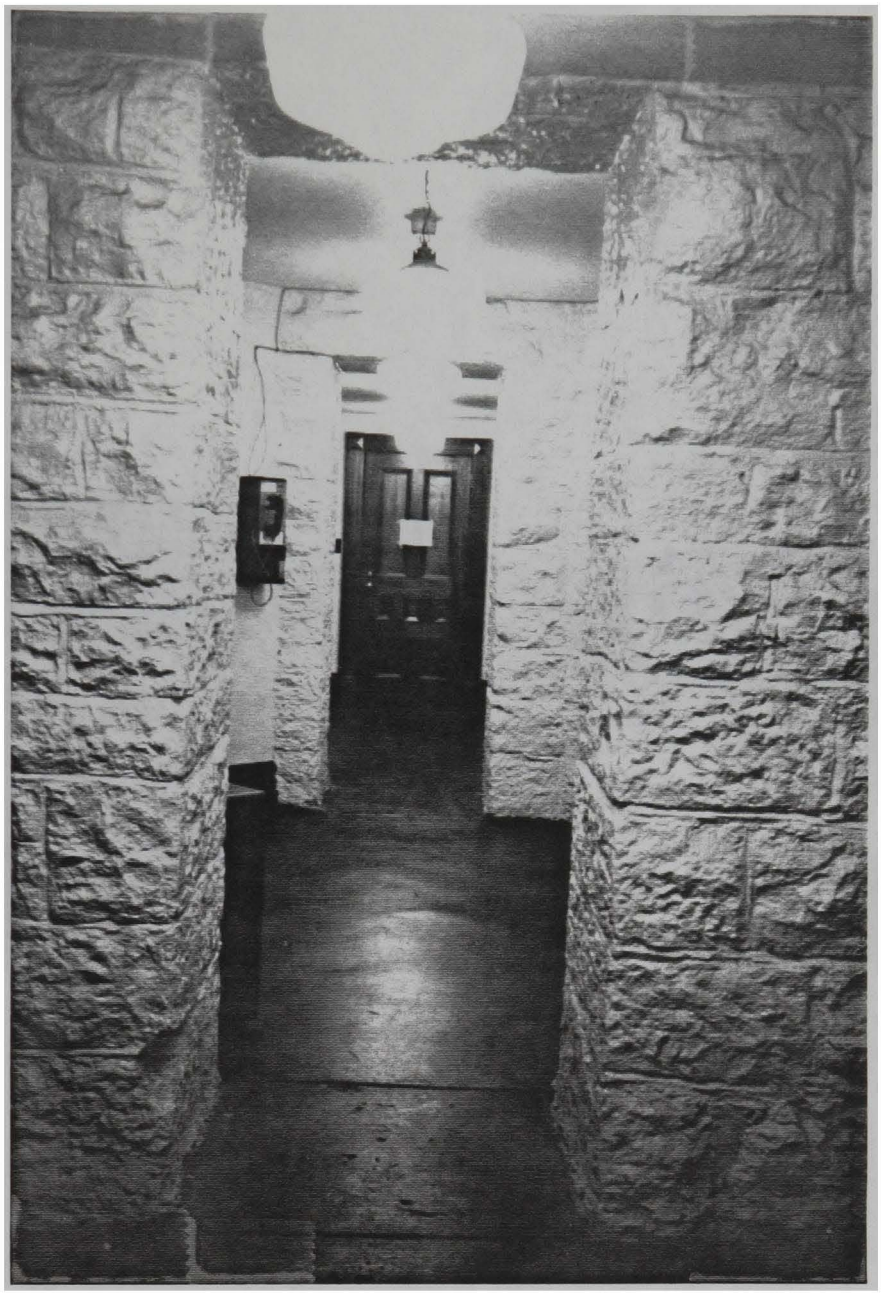


Figure 4.10. Path of Travel to Elevator

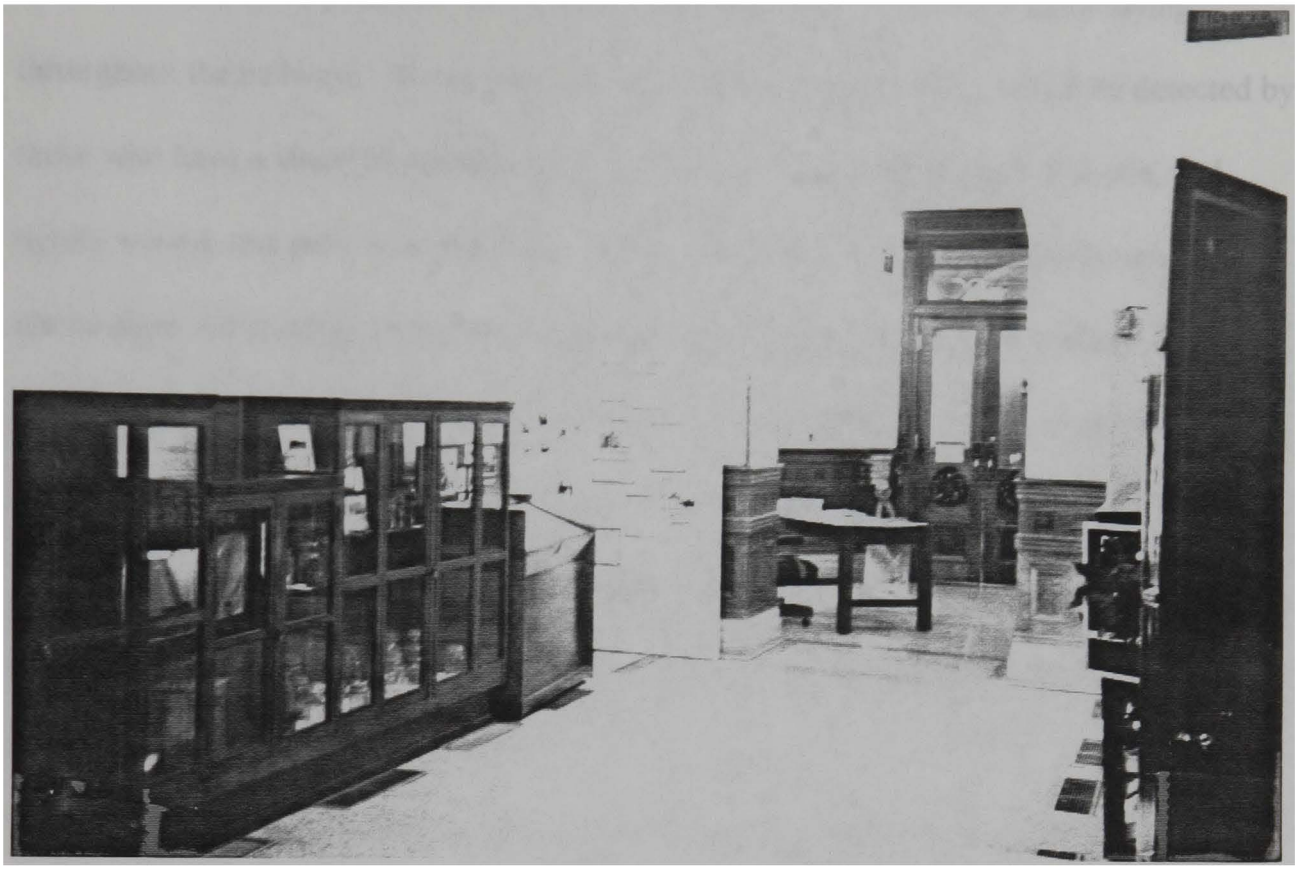


Figure 4.11. First Floor Hallway

5. **Are all rooms and common spaces free from poorly attached carpeting, obtrusive elements, and distinguished by clear signage?**

All aisles and pathways are at least 36 inches wide, but do have items laying throughout the hallways. These items are exhibits and displays that can still be detected by those who have a visual impairment using a cane. Mats or carpeting are low-pile, and tightly woven, and secured to the floor, besides the one in the elevator. However, there are no signs designating permanent rooms and spaces for those who are visually impaired. There are adequate signage for those without a visual impairment, but the researcher did not find any braille signage on doors to help those who may be visually disabled. Braille signage would make a more accessible facility and should be looked on the right side of each door. They are located here due to the majority of visually impaired persons are right handed braille readers.

Controls available for use by the public including electrical, mechanical, window, cabinet, and self-service appeared to be in a large part located at an accessible height. They may, however, be hard to operate with a closed fist.

6. **Is the vertical access to each courthouse easily identifiable and manageable by those with disabilities?**

The Denton County Courthouse has stairs or an elevator to all levels of the building. The stairs do have non-slip treads. On the interior stairs, there are railings on only on one side, the side opposite of the wall (Figure 4.12). The wall side of the stairs does not have a railing. The county may look at placing another railing against the wall. The stairwells are clearly lit and the landings are marked in a contrasting colors. The landings are of a lighter color than the darker steps of the stairs.

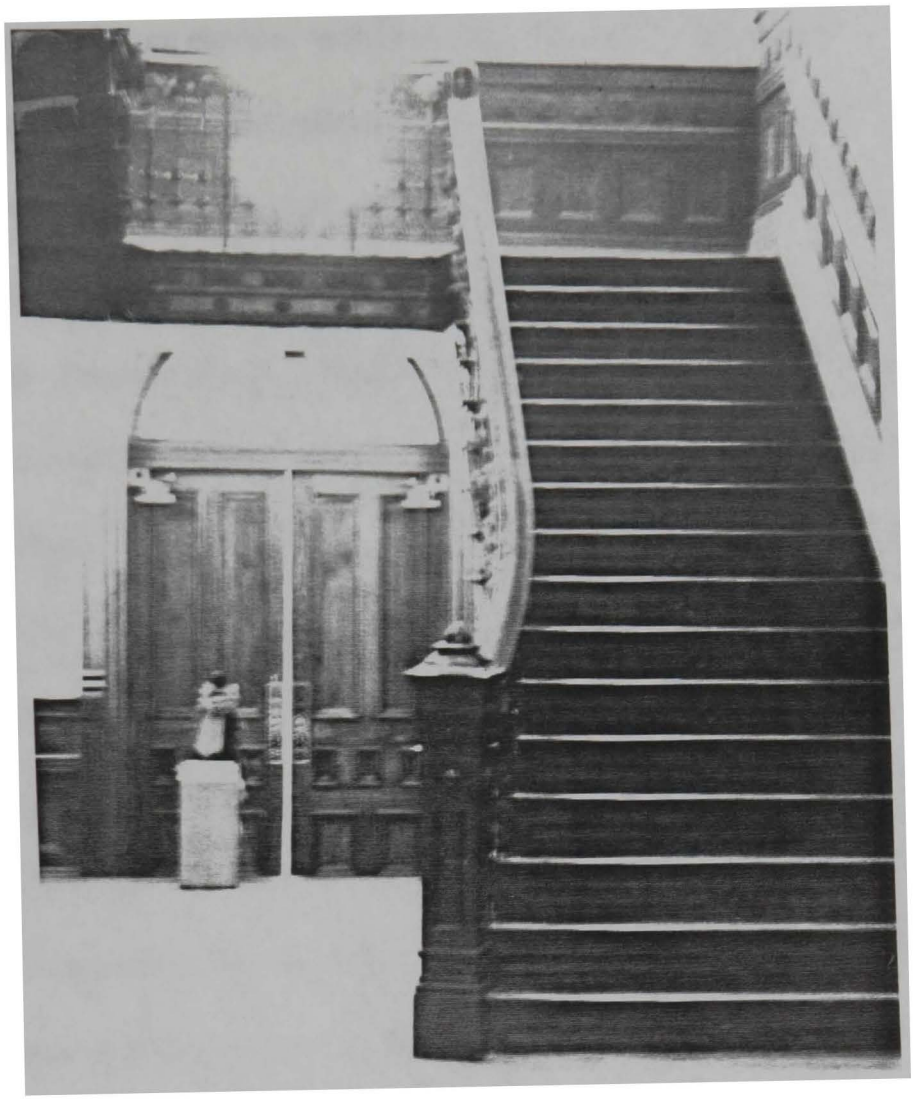


Figure 4.12. Interior Stair

There is only one elevator in the building. The elevator has both visible and verbal door opening/ closing and floor indicators. However, the elevator has one audible tone for up or down. The codes suggest one tone for up and two tones for down. The call buttons in the hallway (up and down arrows) fall within regulations and are no higher than 42 inches high. However, these call buttons do not have any raised braille lettering to help those with a visual impairment. The controls do seem to be readily accessible to the occupants of the building. There are signs on the jambs of the elevators at each floor, identifying the floor in raised and braille letters. There appears to be no emergency intercom usable without voice communication. The inside of the elevator cab do have raised braille lettering and is accessible to those in a wheelchair. The controls are between 15 and 48 inches high. There is also at least 30 by 48 inches of clear space for a person in a wheelchair to approach and reach the controls. One problem is the carpeting in the cab itself. The carpet appeared to be wrinkled and not securely fastened to the floor. A person in a wheelchair may have trouble moving in and out of the cab. This must be changed, or securely fastened to the floor surface. The inside dimensions of the cab was approximately five and a half feet by seven feet. There were no apparent lifts within the building.

7. Does each courthouse have accessible rest room facilities?

The courthouse has accessible rest rooms on all floors, except the first floor which may cause some problems. The first floor rest rooms have recommended rest room facilities, however, a water fountain in the hallway may obstruct passage to the restroom for those in a wheelchair (Figure 4.13). The upper and lower floor rest rooms appear to

be without this problem, so the courthouse still has readily accessible rest room facilities. However, those with a visual impairment can not find the rest rooms because there is no tactile signage identifying where the rest rooms are. There are signs over the door, but no braille signs on the sides of the doors. The entrance into the rest rooms may be somewhat difficult for those in a wheel chair. You first must maneuver through a door from the public hallway, pass by a narrow opening where a water fountain is located and then pass trough another door. These doors are also hard to operate with a closed fist. The doorways fall within codes and so do the hallway widths. The entry configuration does not provide adequate maneuvering space for a person using a wheelchair. A better arrangement would help, however the rest room facilities themselves are well planned and have adequate spaces inside. There are 36-inch wide paths to all fixtures. The wheelchair-accessible stall has an area of at least five feet by five feet, clear of the door swing. The stall door may be hard to use with a closed fist, but over all it falls within recommendations. The accessible stall also has grab bars behind and on the sides of the toilet. The toilet seat is between 17 to 19 inches high. The researcher believes it is right at 19 inches high. The lavatories in these facilities have a 30-inch-wide by -48-inch-deep clear space in front. The lavatory rim is no higher than 34 inches. Furthermore, there is at least 29 inches from the floor to the bottom of the lavatory apron (excluding pipes) in all of the rest room facilities. The doors in the building and rest rooms may be hard to operate with a closed fist, however they are not when it comes to the lavatory facets. They are turn knobs and the cold and hot water faucets are clearly marked. The soap and other dispensers are no higher than 48 inches high and operable with a closed fist. The

mirrors in each of the rest rooms are mounted with the bottom edge of the reflecting surface 38 inches from the ground. One side note is that the fixtures may be hard to see by those with a visual impairment. The fixtures are stainless steel or white and the surrounding walls are white and green. A contrasting color may help. The researcher did not find any rugs in any of the rest rooms.

8. Are the drinking fountains and telephone areas of the courthouse reasonably designed for use by those with disabilities?

The drinking fountains are located in the hallways adjacent to each of the rest room facilities. Each of the fountains has clear floor space at least 30 by 48 inches in front, except the one on the first floor. However, getting to those areas are tight and hard to negotiate if you are in a wheelchair (Figure 4.13). The controls of the fountain are mounted on the front and operable with a closed fist. Code recommends that the fountain protrude no more than four inches into the circulation space. However, the water fountains in the courthouse are mounted directly on the wall surface and protrude 19 inches into the circulation space. If possible, it may be necessary to place water fountains in another location. This would give more room to the rest room entrances. This is a minor point and overall the placement of the fountains is adequate due to the historic nature of the interiors.

The public telephone area is located in the basement close to the accessible elevator. This is not the most commonly used room for visitors. There is only one public phone and the lowest operable part of the phone is over 58 inches from the ground. This is impossible for a person in a wheelchair to use. The phone is located on an angled wall and protrudes three inches further than the recommended four inches into the circulation

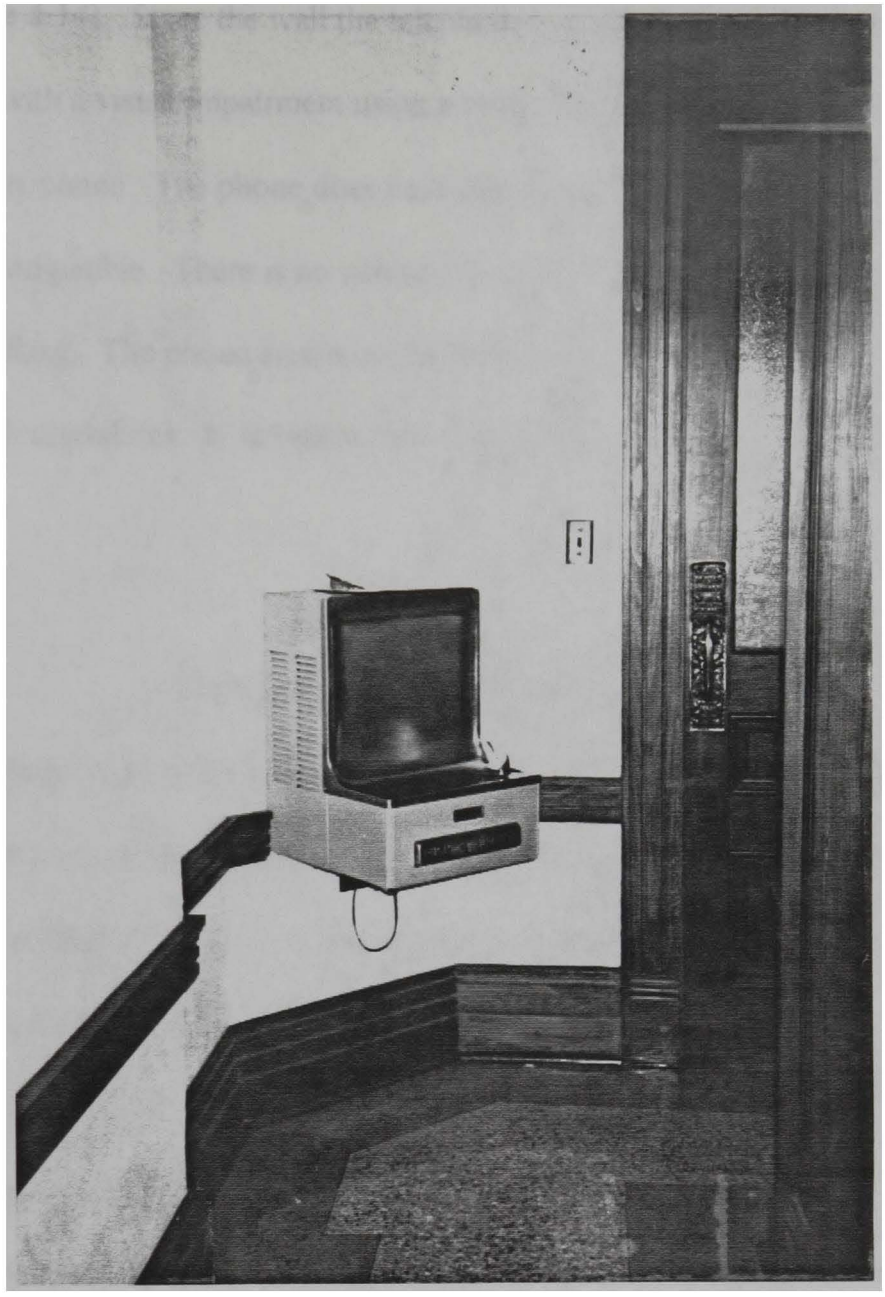


Figure 4.13. First Floor Restroom Hallway

space (Figure 4.14). Since the wall the telephone is on is at a 45 degree angle this will not effect those with a visual impairment using a cane. There is no text telephone or TDD symbol for the phone. The phone does have push-button controls but the phone is not hearing aid compatible. There is no volume control on the phone and the appropriate signage is lacking. The phone area is another major priority that may need to be modified for those with disabilities. It should be lowered and equipped so those with disabilities can use it.

Summary of Denton County Courthouse

The Denton County Courthouse addresses the issue of accessibility fairly well. With the exceptions of the flooded accessible door, the crowded bathrooms and the negation of the interior handrails an honest attempt has been made to integrate accessibility requirements. But to what philosophy does these requirements fall under. Perhaps, they relate in theory to that of Viollet-le-Duc and the issue of restoration as the act of restoring to a particular time. The Denton County Courthouse and its surrounding context is in the process of representing a particular time in the community. Therefore, accessibility requirements have been added to by modern technologies to better address the courthouse at a particular time, the turn of the century. The courthouse has been a catalyst for surrounding buildings as they bring a historic aesthetic appearance to their facilities as well. But in, terms of universal design, I feel that the issue was left to the

Figure 4.14. Public Telephone Area

wayside. The accessible entrance is still the least appealing entrance and many corridors to the elevator are tight and narrow. The role of these requirements being used for all populations has still been forgotten and the disabled are still viewed as the people who forced a ramp to the basement. Let us not forget that these codes were introduced prior to ADA and in that light can be viewed as a positive direction a community can take in terms of accessibility for all of us. By focusing on current ADA regulations and the spirit behind their appearance, the Denton community can use their courthouse as a vehicle which describes to others the importance of universal design. The incorporation of these accessibility requirements will make the area more accessible for us all and hence bring back a little of the old town atmosphere of togetherness and family.

1. Are the paths to entrance easily manageable by those with disabilities and free from all protruding elements?

The Jones County Courthouse is in the process of incorporating accessibility requirements into its structure (Figure 4.15). Each floor is inaccessible to those with disabilities (Figure 4.16 & Figure 4.17). However, at the moment the courthouse is without direct access for those in a wheelchair, and difficult for those who may have trouble climbing stairs or negotiating severe level changes (Figure 4.18). The pathways from the parking areas, which are located around the entire complex do not have any curb cuts at drives, parking, or drop off areas. There may be adequate access from the south side of the building where the curb is almost flush with the street pavement (Figure 4.19). This may be leveled as well to prevent any accidents or complications on access. There are adequate spaces or those who are disabled, but those in wheelchairs can park but not enter the building. There are marked International Symbols for Accessibility in each of the handicapped parking spaces. There is no enforcement procedure or enforcement signs to ensure that accessible parking is used only by those who need it. Curb cuts are marked with contrasting colors, but the paint is fading and will need to be touched up. There is no way to determine if the current accessible parking spaces is closet to a designated accessible entrance. The surrounding landscape is well groomed and unobtrusive over paths of travel (Figure 4.20). In some areas of the pavement there are a few uneven paths of travel. These appear to be in the process of repair. Overall, walking surfaces to the entrance are stable, firm, non-slip, and easily manageable by those in a wheelchair. Again this is all for naught at the present time due to the lack of accessibility to the courthouse

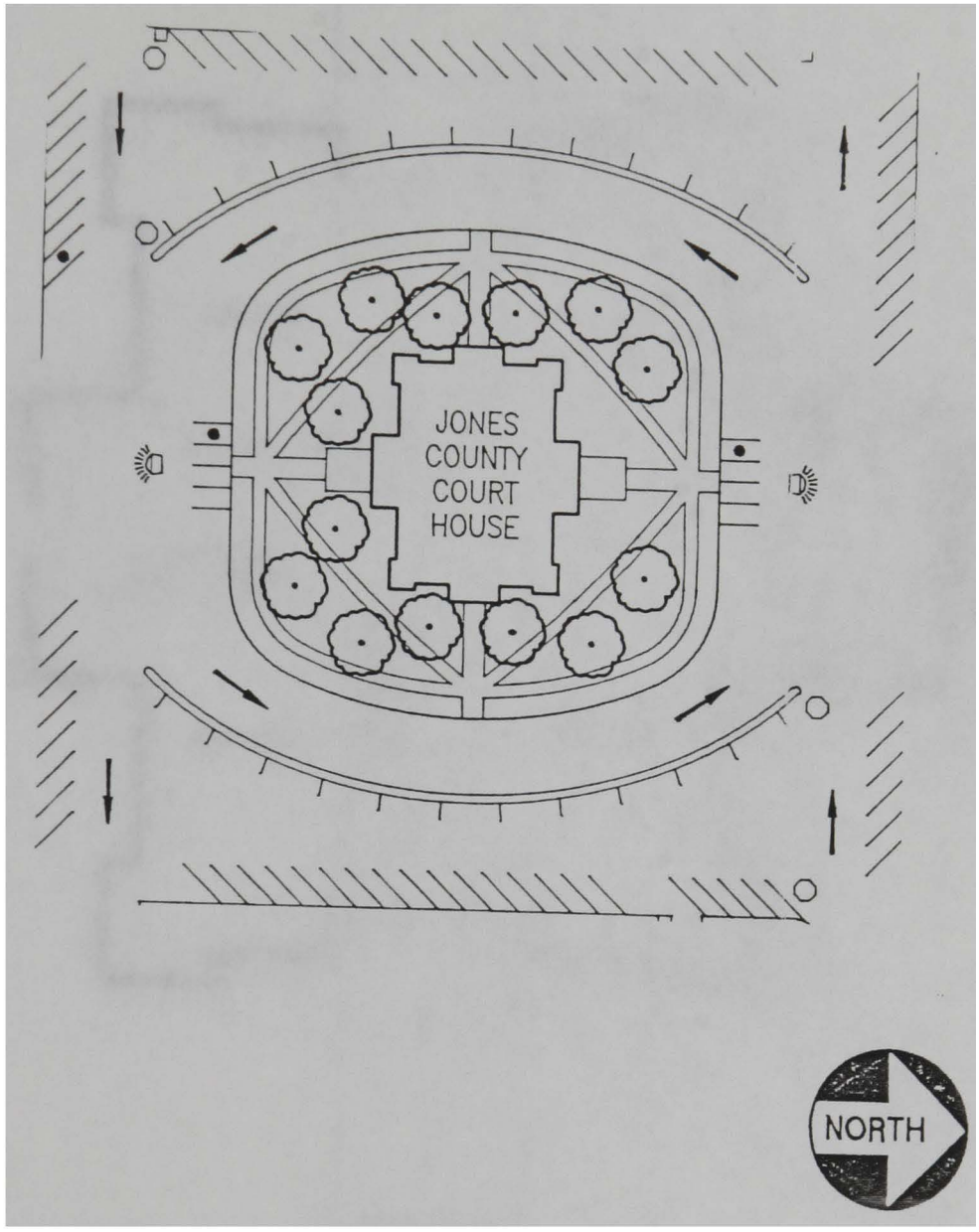


Figure 4.15. Site Plan of Jones County Courthouse

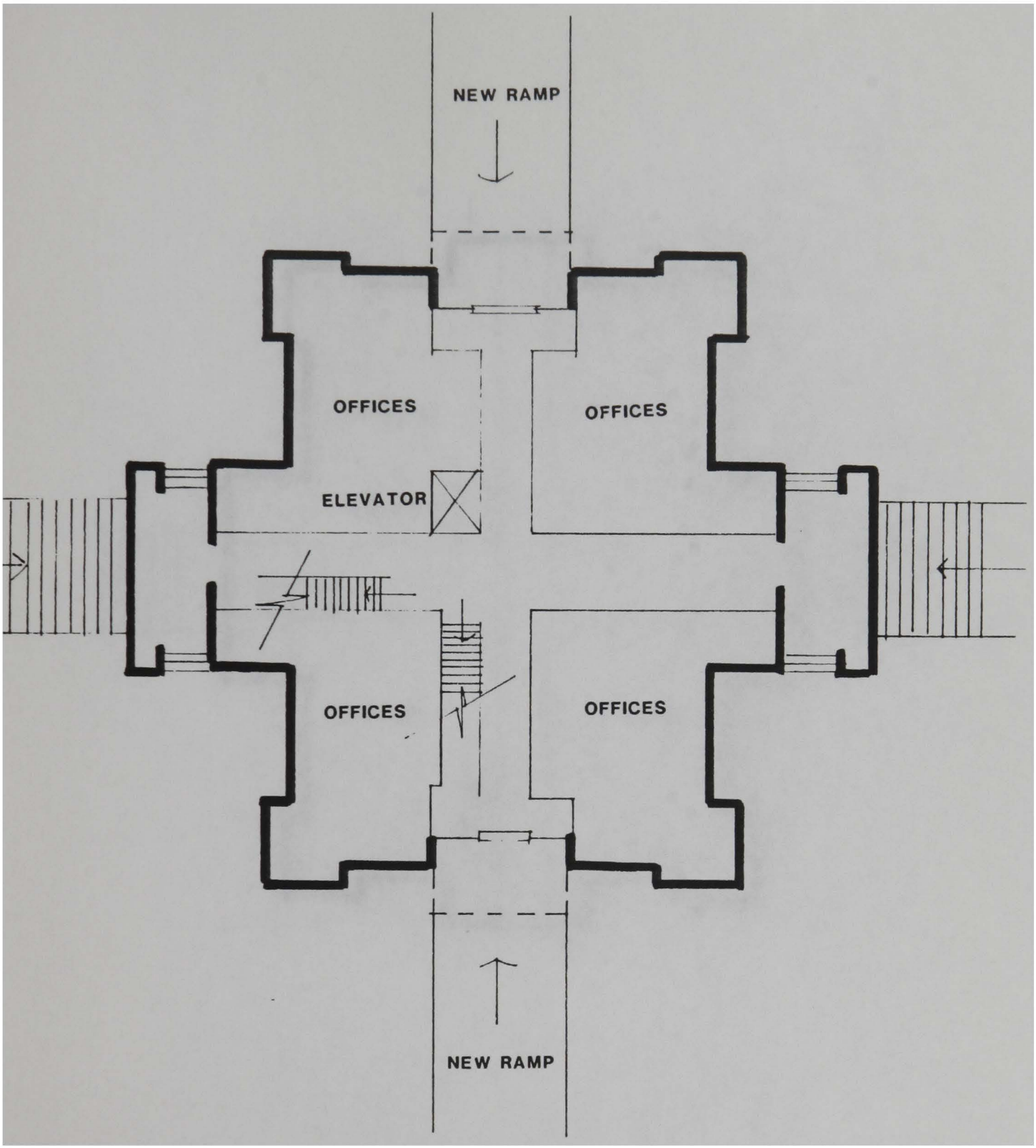


Figure 4.16. Ground Level Space Plan

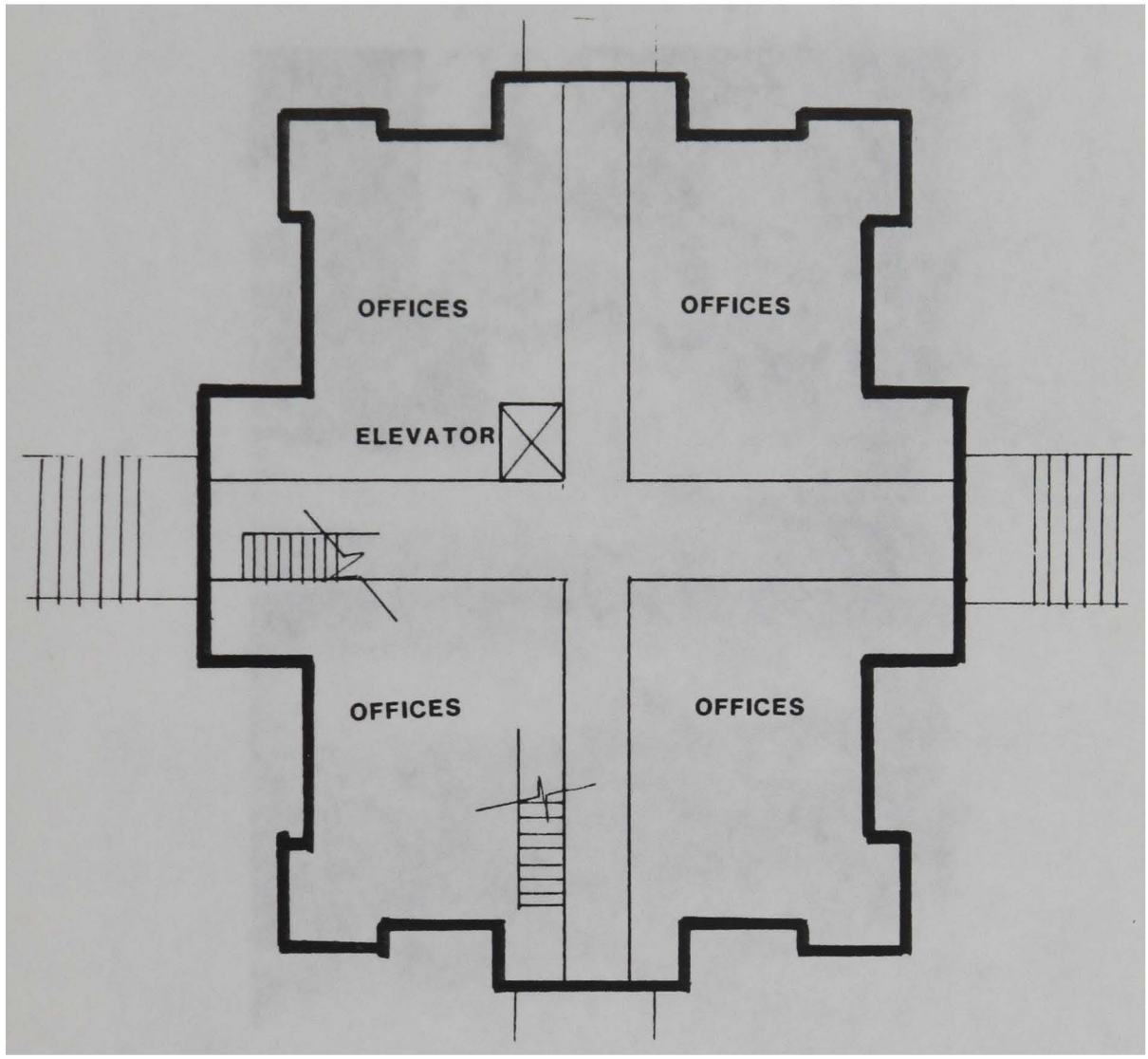


Figure 4.17. First Floor Space Plan

Figure 4.18. Accessible Parking and Entrance Area

Figure 4.19. Ramp to Sidewalk View

Figure 4.20. Surrounding Area of Courthouse

itself. If any items do appear in the paths of travel, such as trash cans or street signage, they are easily detectable by individuals with a visual disability using a cane. The paths are 59 inches wide in the most common areas, other walking surfaces are at least the required 36 inches wide.

2. Are the entrances into each of the courthouses free from difficult level changes and operable to those with disabilities?

The Jones County Courthouse does not have an accessible entrance that can be used independently from the use of stairs. The facility is symmetrical on all sides and has stairs on each of the four sides. The courthouse rises one full story before the stairs reaches the entrance doors (Figure 4.21). There is no ramp or lift at any of the entrance locals. Railings do occur on the stairs and are 40 inches high from the ground. They are sturdy and firm. However, the appearance of the railings may need to be altered to enhance the overall aesthetics of the courthouse. The railings are currently piped railings with a light color of paint. Widths of the entrance railings are at least 36 inches wide. One railing cuts through the center of the stairs. With the introduction of accessibility requirements, there also will be the need for signs indicating the location of the accessible entrance. The Jones County citizens and its city council are in the process of locating the appropriate area to place an elevator and other alternative accessible entrances. The entrance doors which are located on all sides of the courthouse have at least 32 inches of clear opening. The visitor must travel through a series of doors to gain entrance. The first is a glass door which could be marked more clearly for those with a visual impairment. Once they have negotiated this they must then travel through a wooden door, that is

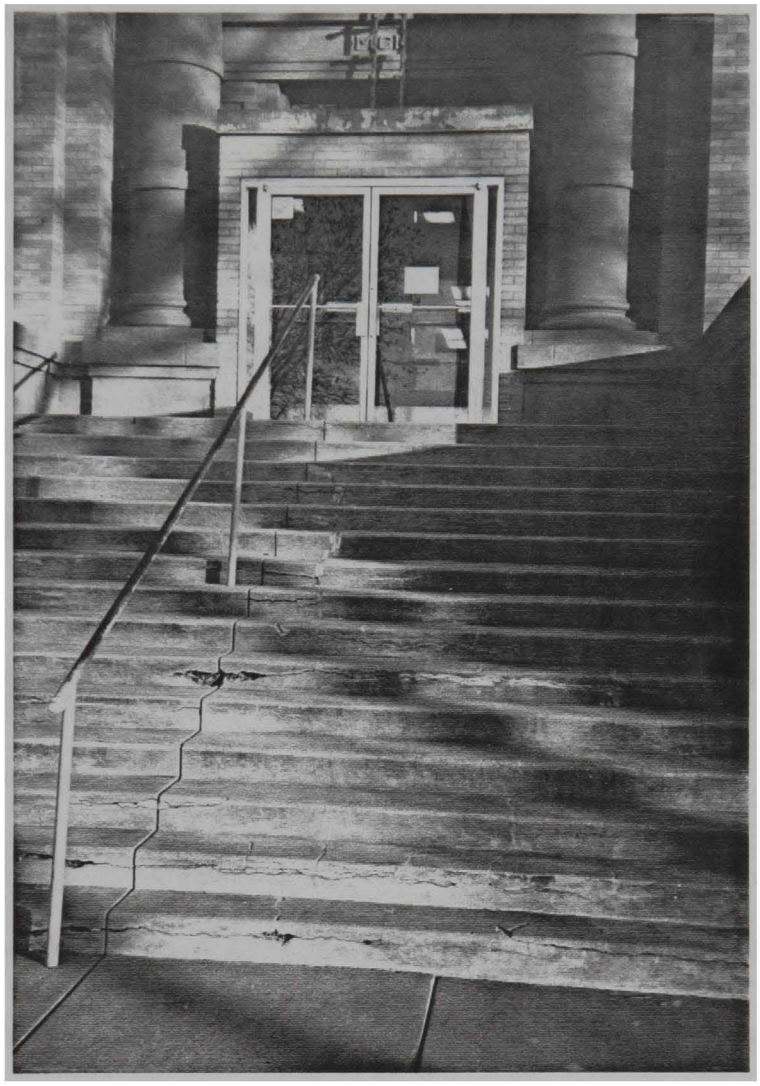


Figure 4.21. Entrance Stairs

original to the building. This door is accessible after the visitor rises over a few more steps. There are no revolving doors in the courthouse. The doors do have at least 18 inches of clear wall space on the pull sides of the door, next to the handle, however a person in a wheelchair will not be using these entrances. The threshold is negotiable and beveled less than 1/2 inches high. Doormats are less than 1/2 inches, as well, and secured to the floor at all edges. The door handles are 37 inches off the ground, but inoperable with those who must use a closed fist. Doors also are to heavy to open and must be reduced to under 5lbf to meet code requirements. There are no closer devices for doors within the facility.

3. Do each of the courthouses have emergency egress that aids those with disabilities?

The Jones County Courthouse in Anson, Texas is without adequate emergency egress requirements. Fire alarms do not have audible signals or flashing lights. In fact the facility lacks a fire alarm system. This is another extremely vital component which will need to be added for the assurance of the building's future. Once alarm systems are in place there is sufficient lighting in egress pathways such as stairs, corridors, and exits in case of an evacuation during a fire.

4. Are all courthouse hallways level, clearly lit, and readily accessible to major common spaces?

Since there is no direct accessible entrance to the main floor or lobby the placement of the future elevator becomes important. Before its placement, the city of Anson should check the most popular paths of travel to determine the best local for the elevator. Once the elevator is in place access to public spaces should fall in the direct paths of travel. Two main hallways cut through the square courthouse meeting in the

center of the building. The courthouse encompasses many floors, between 4-6, depending on the clock tower and jury rooms located on the upper levels. All public rooms fall off these hallways and are at least 36 inches wide. The hallways are also wide enough to accept a 5-foot circle or T-shaped space for a person using a wheelchair to reverse direction (Figure 4.22). Lighting is uniform throughout the courthouse. There are some equipment lying around in the hallways such as gum ball machines, coke machines, etc. (Figure 4.23). These may need to be placed in a separate room to provide a greater accessible path of travel for those with disabilities. The doors located of the public hallways have at least 32 inches of clear opening for those in wheelchairs to enter. Furthermore, on the pull side of each door, next to the handle, there is at least 18 inches of clear wall space so that a person using a wheelchair can get near to open the door. Most doors in the facility are already open for easier access, however some doors remain closed and are hard to open due to the force it takes to open them (Figure 4.24). Door handles are 48 inches high or less and in some rare cases hard to open with a closed fist. Thresholds within the courthouse appear to be level, but in many instances they are wooden and may be hard to maneuver over if in a wheelchair.

5. Are all rooms and common spaces free from poorly attached carpeting, obtrusive elements, and distinguished by clear signage?

All aisles and pathways to all foods and services are at least 36 inches wide. There is adequate room, with the addition of an elevator for access, for a 5-foot circle or T-shaped space for turning a wheelchair completely. The floor surfaces are mainly tiled, but in cases of carpeting it is low-pile, tightly woven, and securely attached along edges. Common spaces through pubic areas are basically free from all obstacles and are cane

Figure 4.22. Main Courthouse Hallways

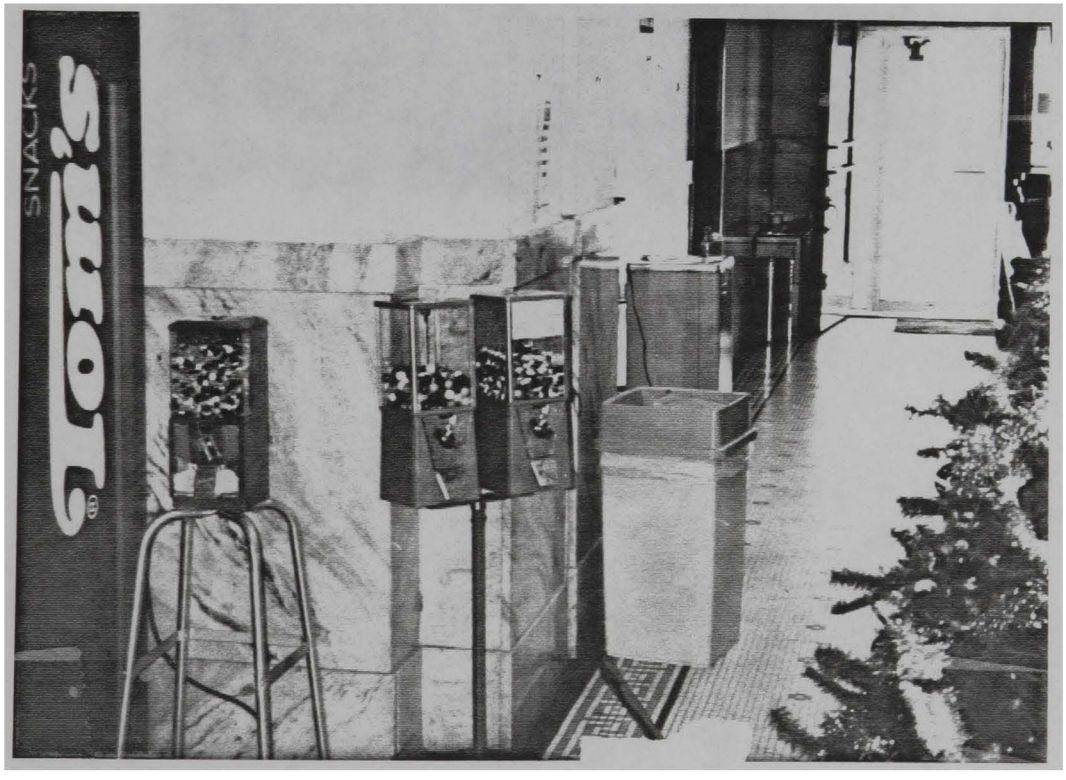


Figure 4.23. Hallway Equipment and Machines

Figure 4.24. Common Space Door

detectable. However, there are a few elements that may impede a person who is visually disabled to adequate access (Figure 4.25). One is the public phone which protrudes into the path of travel and is mounted on the wall, protruding more than 4 inches into the space. This can cause serious problems if run in to by a blind person. There are no braille signs designating permanent rooms and spaces, such as rest room signs, exit signs, and room numbers. Also, items such as water fountains light switches, doors, etc. may be difficult to operate with a closed fist.

6. Is the vertical access to each courthouse easily identifiable and manageable by those with disabilities?

The Jones County Courthouse has no ramps or elevators to access other floors. The only path of vertical access is the use of stairs. Those in a wheelchair can not use the building as it is now, but as stated earlier, the community is in the process of reversing this situation. The stairs have non-slip surfaces. The stairs do not have continuous railings on both sides, with extensions beyond the top and bottom steps. The railing is located on only one side. The stairwells are adequately lit and contrast well with the steps from the landing areas. The landings are a light tile and the stairs are black treads and risers. There is no elevator in the facility (4.26). There are no lifts in the courthouse.

7. Does each courthouse have accessible rest room facilities?

The restroom facilities are located on the main floor and will need to be reworked when the other renovations and alterations occur. The rest room are available to the public but at the moment not accessible for those in a wheelchair. There are no tactile signage to identify rest rooms or any other room. The courthouse does have signs above doors to indicated a particular room or space, however, those with a visual

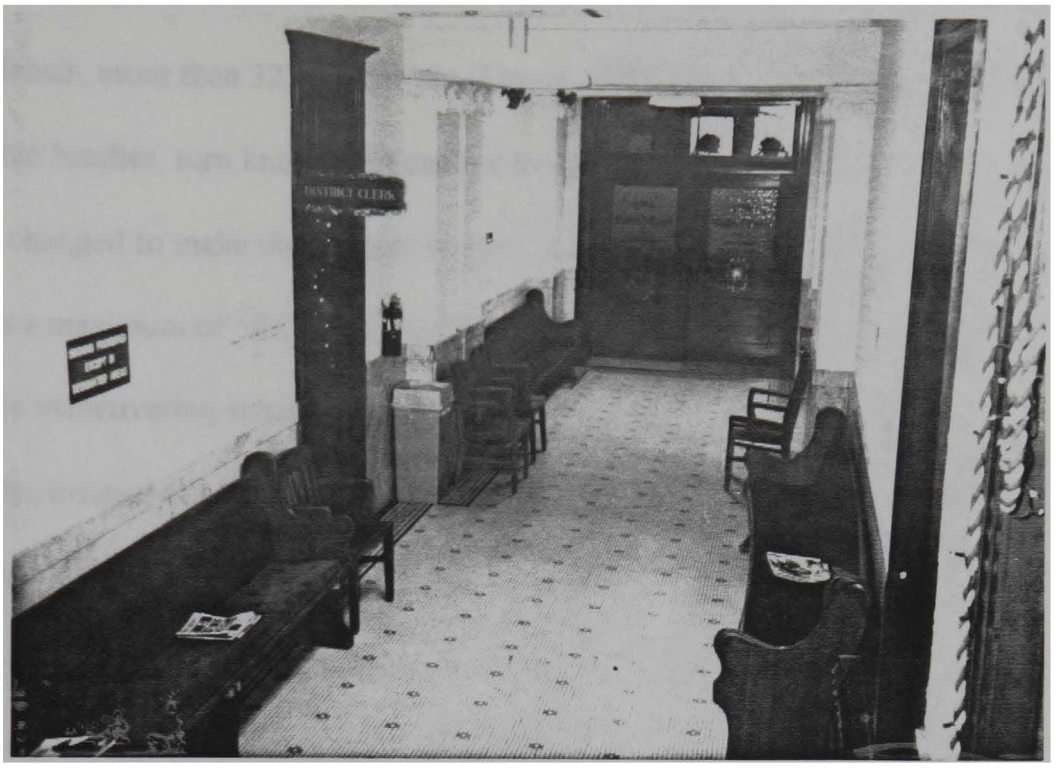


Figure 4.25. Second Floor Hallway

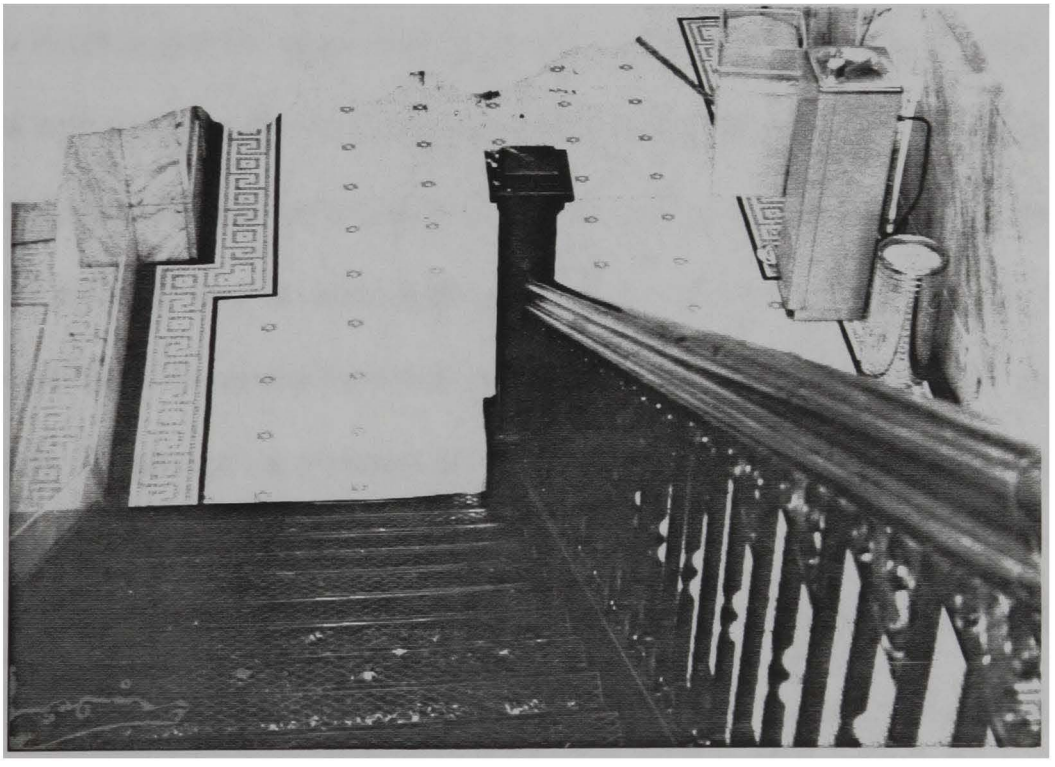


Figure 4.26. Courthouse Stairs

impairment may not be able to distinguish these. The restroom doors are wide enough for a wheelchair, more than 32 inches wide (Figure 4.27). They are not equipped with accessible handles, turn knobs, and can not be turned with a closed fist. Some doors will also be changed to make them easier to open with out too much force to open. The code requires a maximum of 5lbf. The entry configuration of the rest rooms do not provide adequate maneuvering space for a person using a wheelchair. Some areas may be somewhat accessible but overall the areas will need to be reworked. Not all paths in the rest room are 36 inches wide. There are no stall doors in the men's rest room. The space does not even have an accessible stall for those in a wheelchair. Including grab bars behind and on the sides of the toilet. The toilets now are less than the required 17 to 19 inches high. One will need to be included in the new facility. The lavatory rim is at an adequate height, 30 inches from the ground. However there is not at least 29 inches from the floor to the bottom of the lavatory apron excluding pipes. The faucets can not be operated with one closed fist and the cold and hot water faucets are not clearly marked. In fact, the restroom only had a cold faucet in the men's rest room. Soap and other dispensers are more than 48 inches high and non-operable with a closed fist. The mirror is located over the lavatory and the bottom edge is 11 inches over the required 40 inches high or less. Fixtures in the restroom do contrast well with the walls and floor surfaces. The floor surfaces are tiled and non-skid.

8. Are the drinking fountains and telephone areas of the courthouse reasonably designed for use by those with disabilities?

The Jones County Courthouse has drinking fountains. The main floor has a drinking fountain located on the main floor with a clear floor space of at least 30 by 48

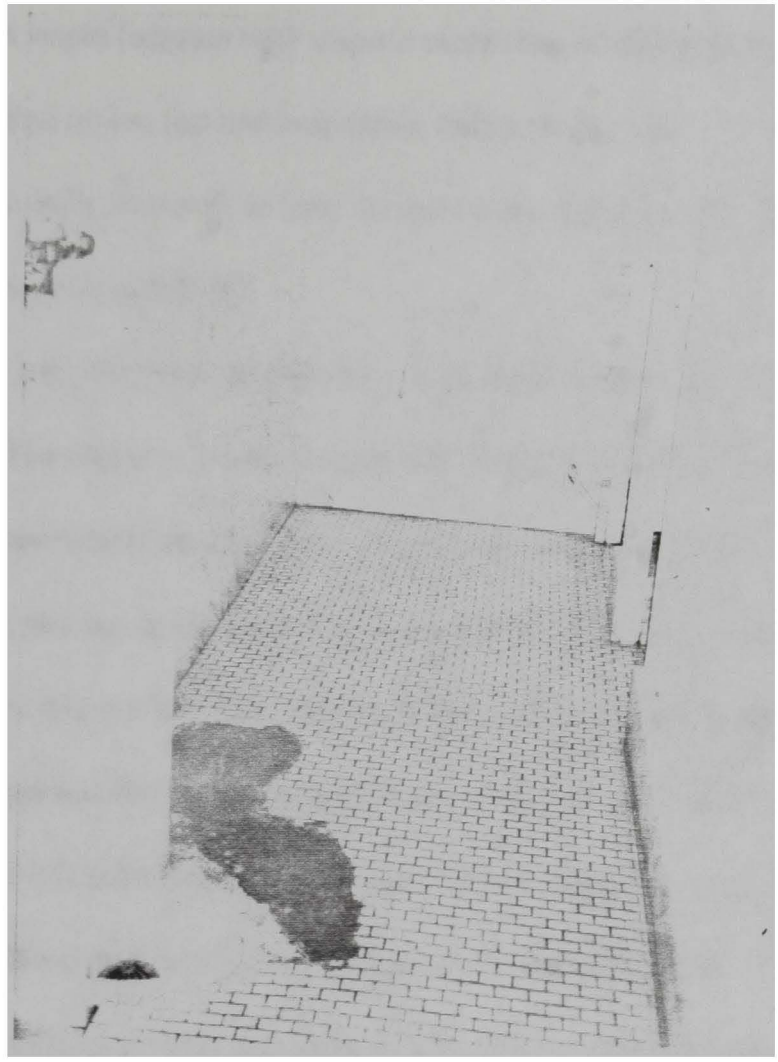


Figure 4.27. Men's Restroom

inches in front (Figure 4.28). There are no fountains in the courthouse that has a spout no higher than 36 inches from the ground, and another with a standard height spout. The courthouse has a single fountain with a spout more than 40 inches from the ground. The controls are located on the top and inoperable with a closed fist. The fountain does protrude into the paths of travel, at least 20 inches into the hallways. This will need to be reworked for ease of accessibility.

There is only one public phone and it is located on the main floor right of the main paths of travel. The phone is located on the wall which is directly across from the downward staircase which leaves a more narrow area for those talking on the phone and those traveling in and out of the courthouse (Figure 4.29). This will need to be relocated in an area which is less active. The location of the telephone is not identified with appropriate signage and the highest operable part of the phone is 60 inches from the ground which is 6-12 inches higher than code requires, depending on your approach. The phone is in the hallway and protrudes 7 inches into the path of travel. Code requires 4 inches or less. This is to prevent accidents for those who are visually disabled using a cane. There are no push button controls or volume controls on the phone.. There is no text telephone in the building.

Summary of Jones County Courthouse

The Jones County Courthouse is currently in the process of instituting accessiblity requirements. Therefore, the issue of just how to integrate is still in the process of being debated. Where will the ramp go? Is the elevator going to be placed outside or inside the

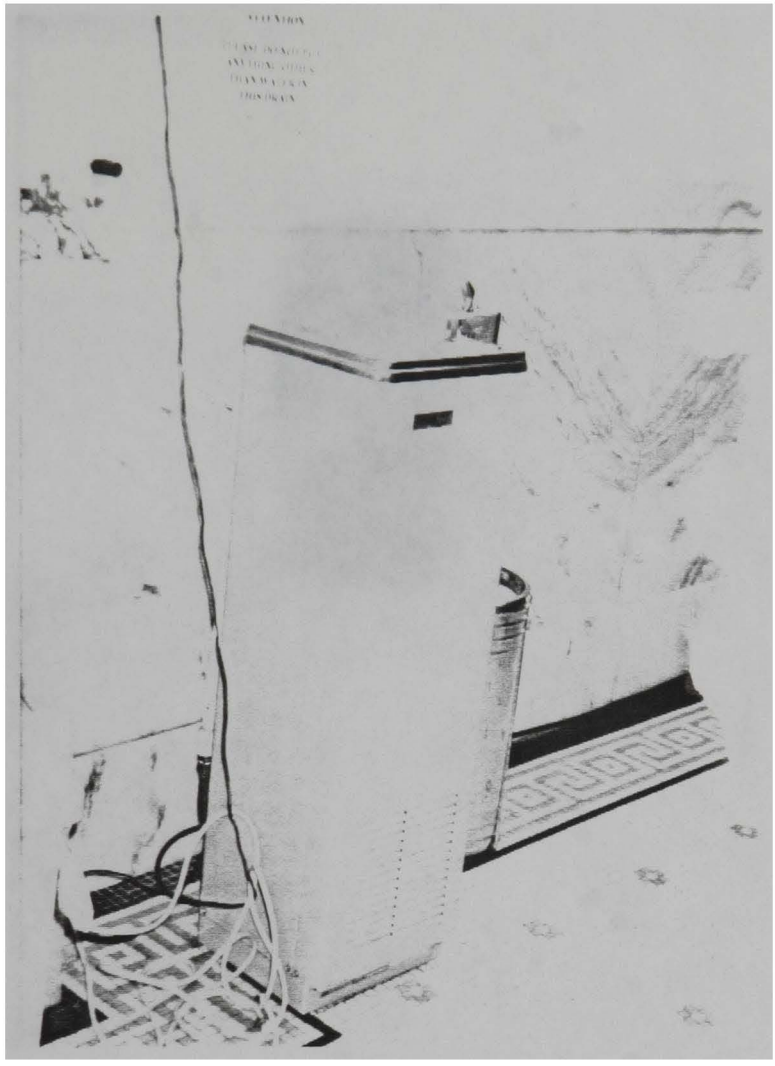


Figure 4.28. Main Floor Water Fountain

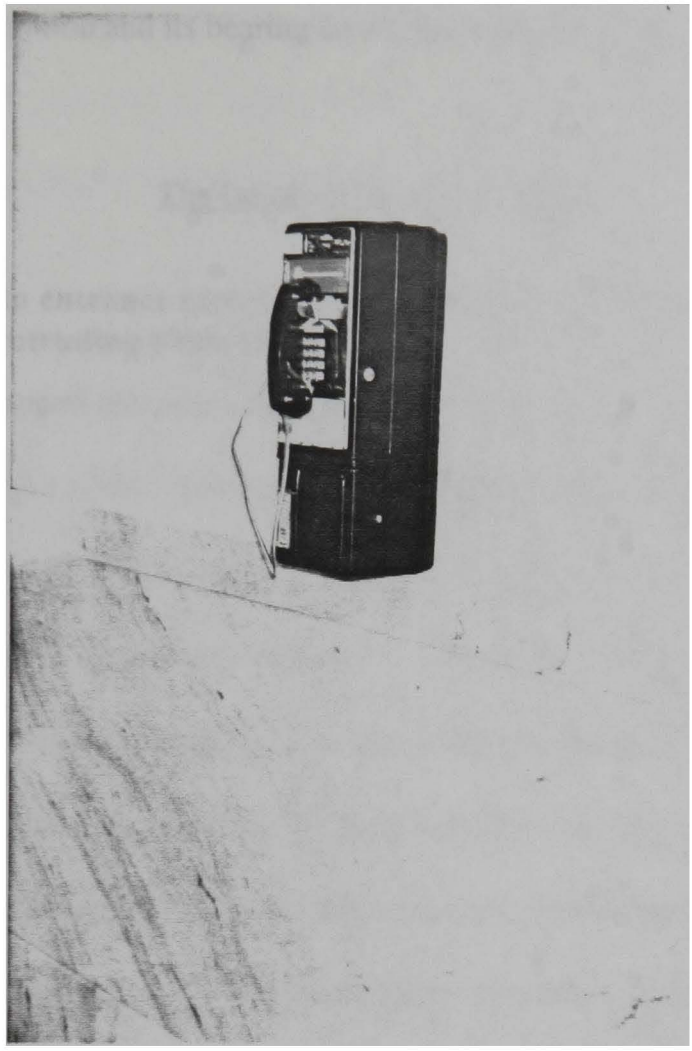


Figure 4.29. Public Telephone Area

building? How does this affect fire egress? etc. All of these questions will need to be addressed. Consequently, in the conclusion part of this thesis I wish to describe my own philosophy of restoration and its bearing on the Jones County Courthouse.

The Gaines County Courthouse

1. Are the paths to entrance easily manageable by those with disabilities and free from all protruding elements?

The handicapped drives and parking area did have one ramp from the street to the top of the curb (Figure 4.30). However, the surrounding areas and paths did not have any curb cuts. The curbs were distinguished by yellow stripes for those who are visually impaired, but not those bound in a wheelchair. This is a item which cannot be overlooked. Furthermore, the accessible parking area is located in-between the courthouse and another building on the square. Cars can enter the area from the west or south sides of the square. There are two accessible parking spaces that meet code requirements, but it appears there is more than 75 parking spaces throughout the grounds, and code dictates there needs to be at least four spaces. The accessible parking area is good in a sense that it is close to the courthouse. However, the area appears to be more of a service entrance and may need to be enhanced to keep feelings and attitudes of the disabled from being tampered with. The parking areas have the international symbol for accessibility painted in the spaces themselves. There was no enforcement signage located in this area to prevent others from parking in the spaces.

Like stated earlier, surrounding curbs did have painted curbs, but no curb cuts (Figure 4.31). The outside steps did not have contrasting colors to help those with a visual impairment distinguish the steps. The surrounding landscaping was unobtrusive over paths of travel, but there are several level changes. Any objects protruding into paths of travel can be detected by individuals with a visual disability using a cane. Walking

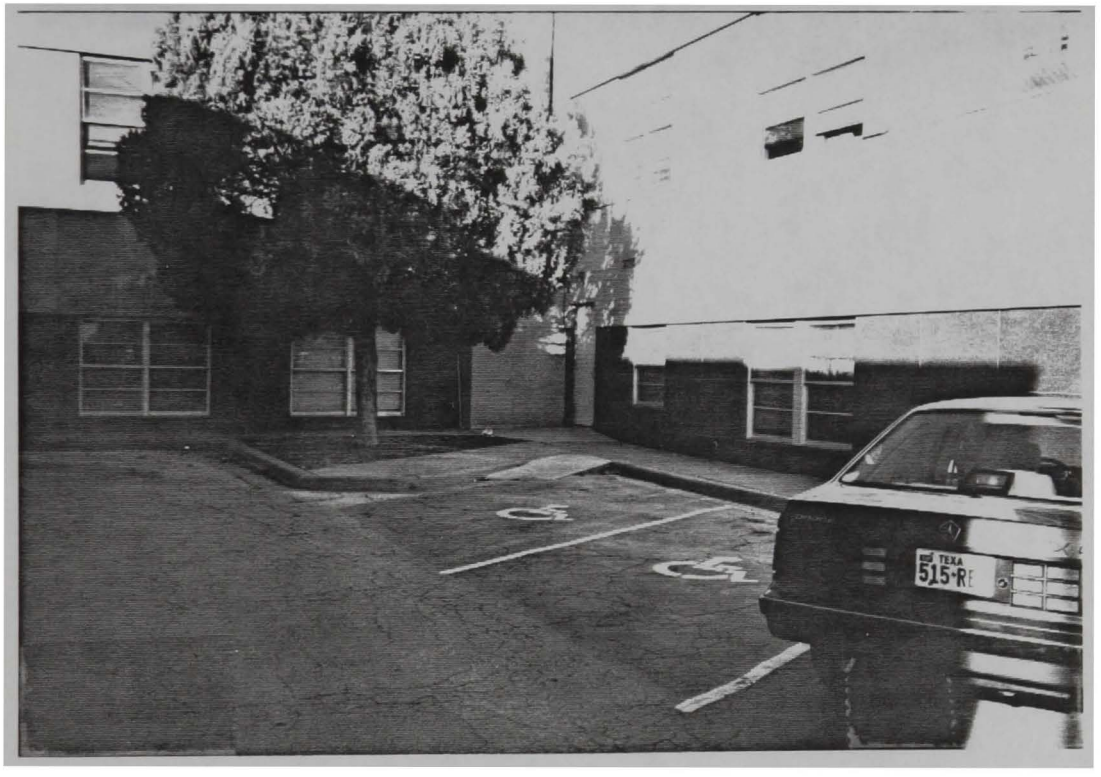


Figure 4.30. Accessible Parking Area

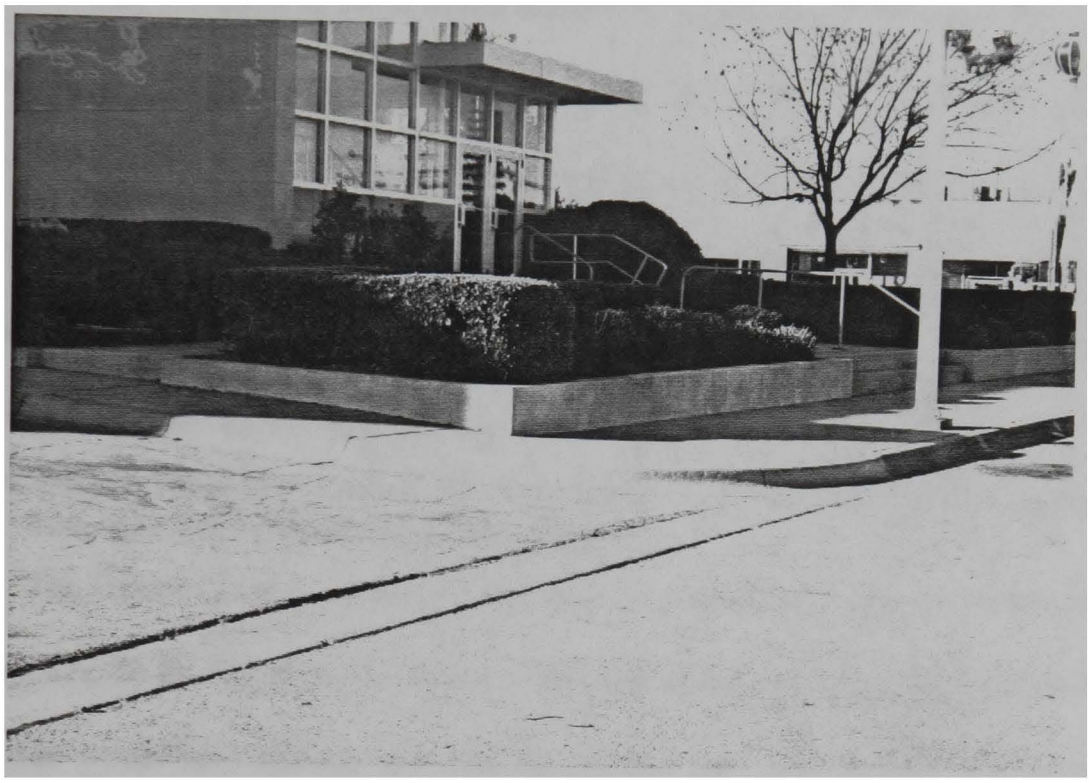


Figure 4.31. Surrounding Walkways

surfaces to the entrance are stable, firm, and non-slip. But, these spaces cannot be accessed by those in a wheelchair except from the accessible parking area located in one location. This is the only ramp up or down onto the site. Besides this the paths are wide enough, if curb cuts were added, to allow room for these individuals.

Overall, the paths to the entrance are in very good condition (Figure 4.32). The only recommendations I would have is to add curb cuts throughout the sight to provide better accessibility. Also, it would be nice to enhance the accessible parking area with a better door (one that does not look like a service door) and liven the area up with different colors and more foliage. Signage into the area is needed to help those on the other side of the courthouse to be able to find the area (Figure 4.33).

2. Are the entrances into each of the courthouses free from difficult level changes and operable to those with disabilities?

The Gaines County Courthouse does have a questionable accessible entrance that does not require the use of stairs. I say questionable because it appears that those in a wheelchair would have difficult time entering and exiting the courthouse. The actual accessible entrance is located in a somewhat service like area and only has a ramp, not a curb cut, from the parking space to the sidewalk. The spaces are however, close to the building and in a good location from the parking area to the elevator. Before a person gets to the accessible door he/she must first negotiate under a tree to the door located in a corner of a three-story building. Once they have entered the door, there is a ramp right at the edge of the door which is greater than the 1:12 ratio stated by code. The ramp is located in a hallway that must jig-jag to reach an accessible hallway (Figure 4.34). There

Figure 4.32. Surrounding Paths of Travel

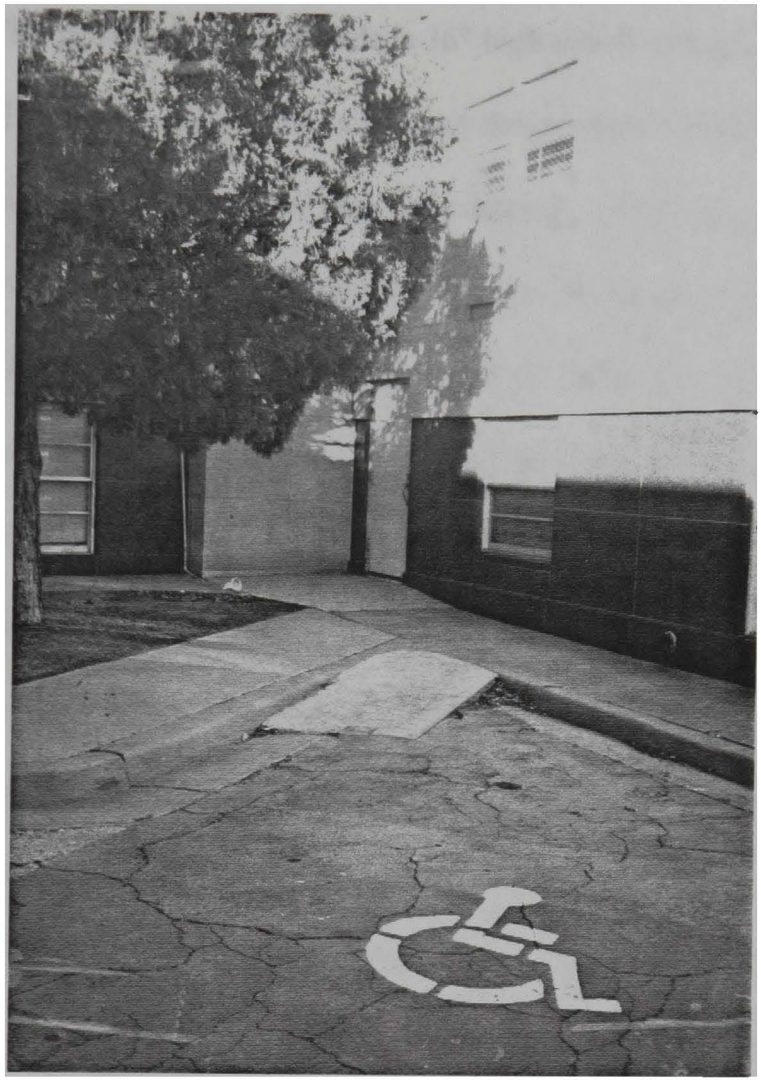


Figure 4.33. Accessible Entrance Area

are railings on only the right side of the ramped entrance and needs to have them on each side of the wall. This railing on the right side is 36" high which is within an acceptable range. The overall distance between the railing and the other side of the wall is 50-54 inches in width which is 20 inches wider than code dictates, which is good. The wheelchair ramp do have mats located along the length of the ramp. These are not extremely secured and are overlapped upon one another creating bumps and crevasses along the ramped surface. The mats appear to be one-half inches high and there is no beveled threshold to help get over the bump. There is a five foot long level landing at the jig-jag of the ramped hallway, but the ramp appears to rise more than 30 inches between the landing and the door or accessible hallway. There are no signs indicating the location of the nearest accessible entrance on the site. The accessible entrance can be used independently from other entrances. Recommendations would be as to fix-up the accessible entrance. If the accessible ramped entrance slope cannot be changed then the area must become easier to use than it is now. The mats must be secured to the floor and continuous through the hallway. The ramp must also have a level landing area at the top to help those exiting the courthouse. Railings need to be on both sides of the ramped hallway.

The entrance doors each have a clear opening dimension greater than 32 inches. There are glass doors in the courthouse. These doors are mainly located on the exterior part of the facility. I feel that these doors could be marked more visibly for those with a visual impairment. The landing areas before the door area is of a contrasting color, red tile compared to gray concrete steps. Door handles have a grid pattern to them with red

lines, however these could be brought out further. There are no revolving doors in the facility. For each door in the courthouse there is adequate room for those in a wheelchair to open on the pull side of the door. However, the accessible entrance only has 11 inches on the pull side of the door while leaving the courthouse. Furthermore, besides the lack of room on the pull side of the door, the accessible entrance or exit has the door on the top portion of the ramp. This makes exiting the building virtually impossible for those trying to go up the ramp and open the door at the same time. This must be changed. An automatic opener may be the solution here. The thresholds throughout the building are level or beveled to make it easy for those in a wheelchair. Doormats at each of the entrance are secure besides those at the accessible entrances. Door handles throughout the courthouse are no higher than 48 inches and operable with a closed fist. This is mainly on exterior doors. Interior doors, especially on those to the rest room facilities are difficult to operate with a closed fist. Most doors can be opened without too much force (maximum 5lbf), but there are a few that may need to be adjusted. There is no closer device located on any of the doors in the courthouse.

3. Do each of the courthouses have emergency egress that aids those with disabilities?

Emergency egress in the Gaines County Courthouse is questionable. The building does have a fire alarm system. However, alarms do not have visual flashing lights to tell those with a hearing impairment there is a fire. There are audible signals to the alarm. The stairwells in the path of egress could also use more lighting. The fire system will need to be upgraded and a higher lighting level in stairwells can be accomplished through a variety of light bulbs or fixtures.

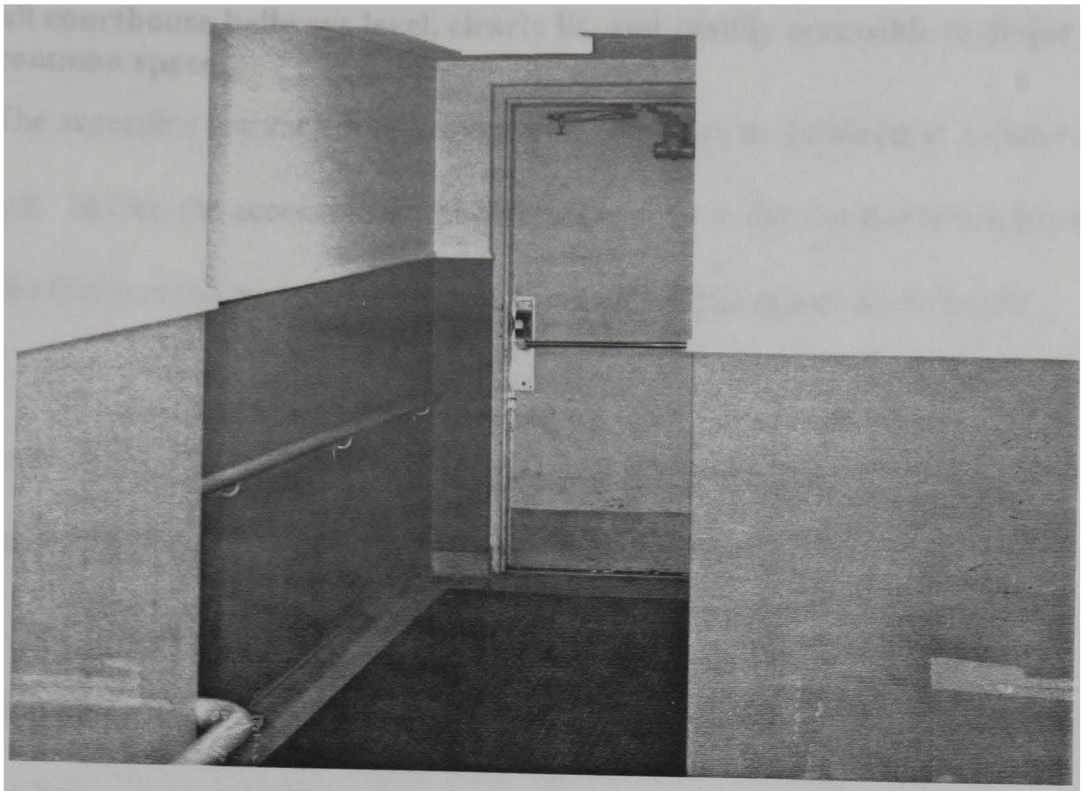


Figure 4.34. View to Accessible Entrance Door

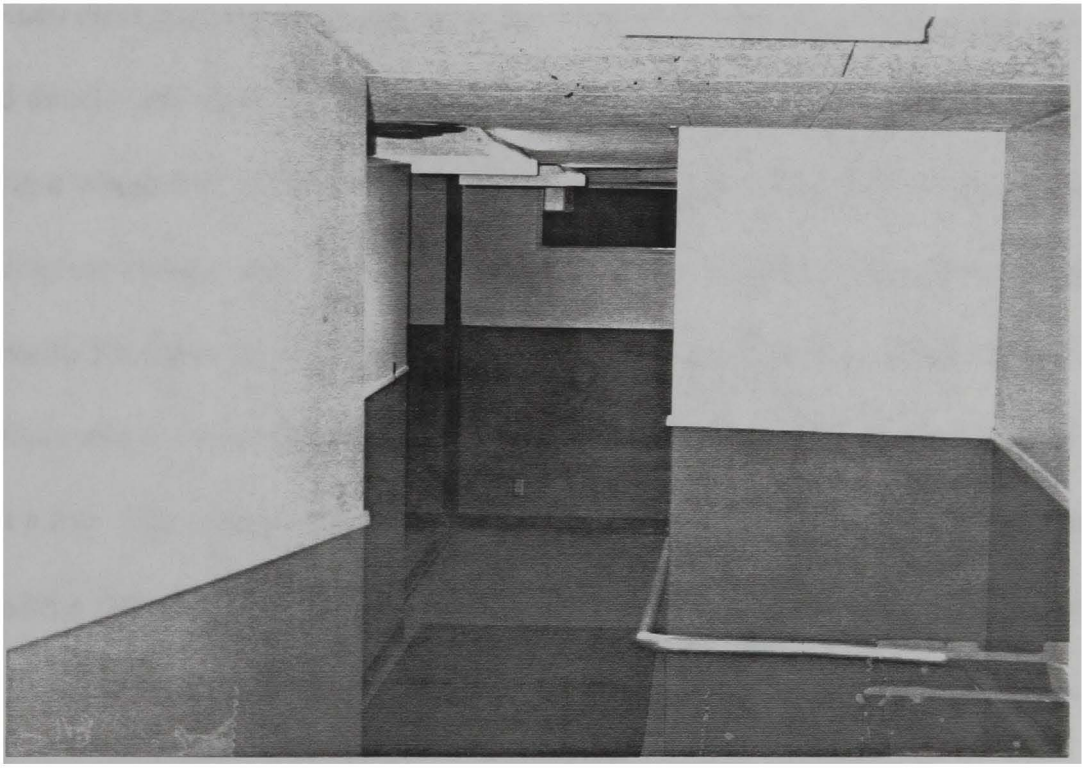


Figure 4.35. Accessible Entrance View to Elevator Area

4. Are all courthouse hallways level, clearly lit, and readily accessible to major common spaces?

The accessible entrance does provide a direct access to the elevator, located on the lower level. In fact, the accessible entrance flows directly to the elevator which travels to each of the floors in the courthouse (Figure 4.35). All public spaces do lie on the accessible path of travel and the route to these spaces is a least 36 inches wide. Hallways are extremely wide, 10 feet 2 inches wide, providing adequate room for those in a wheelchair to maneuver (Figure 4.36). These hallways are in direct access from the elevator. The hallways in the courthouse are adequately lit, but stairwells may need increased lighting levels. There are no unobtrusive objects lying in the hallways to effect those who have visual impairments using a cane.

Doors, in the courthouse, are located off of the 10 foot 2 inch hallways and have at least a 32-inch clear opening. Actually, they are 35 inches wide. Since most of the doors are located directly off major hallways there is sufficient room next to the handle that a person using a wheelchair can get near to open a door (Figure 4.37). Many of the doors in the building are already open and do not even need to be handled. This makes spaces easily accessible for those with a disability. Those doors closed can be opened without too much force and door handles are 48 inches high or less. They appear to be opened with a closed fist. The restroom facilities did have a problem with weight of the door and operation with a closed fist. These may need to be looked at to determine if modification is required. Threshold at each of the interior doors are level or beveled, up to less than 1/2 inches high to make it easy for those in a wheelchair or a damaged limb.

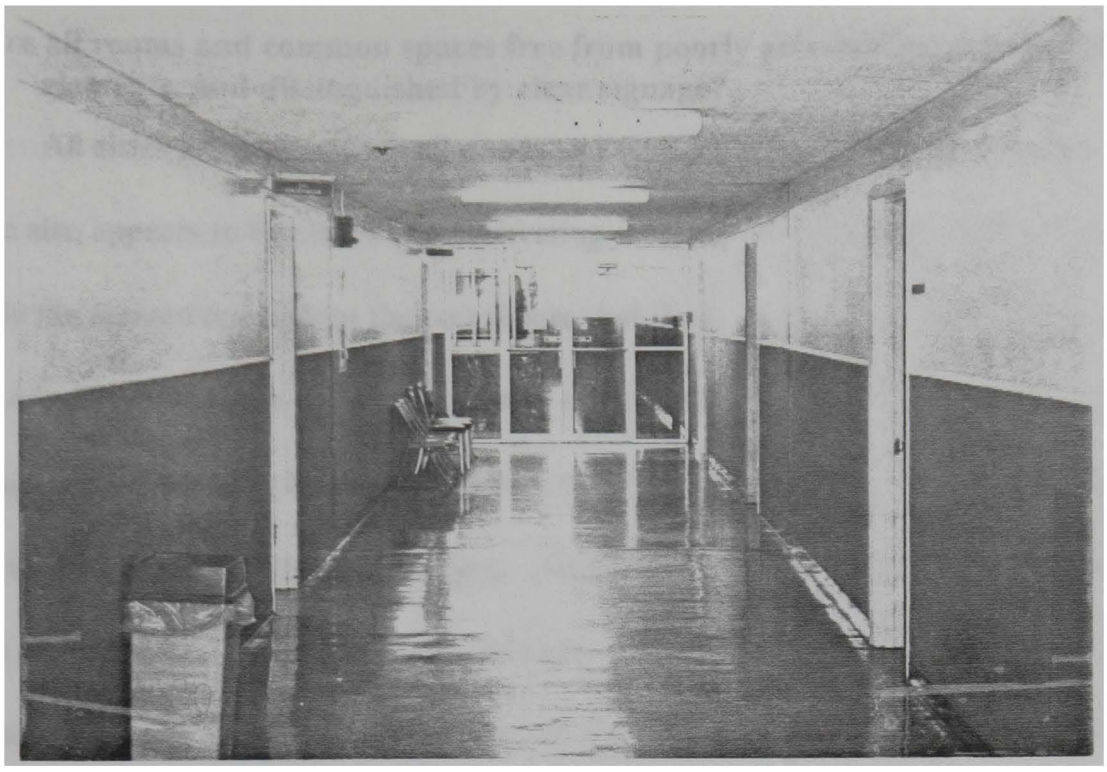


Figure 4.36. Lower Level Hallway

Figure 4.37. Main Level Hallway

5. **Are all rooms and common spaces free from poorly attached carpeting, obtrusive elements, and distinguished by clear signage?**

All aisles and pathways to all goods and services are at least 36 inches wide. There also appears to be plenty of maneuvering areas for those in a wheelchair. There is mainly tile located throughout the courthouse, but those rooms or spaces with carpeting have a low-pile, tightly woven, and secured attachment to the floor surface. Routes through the public areas do not have many obstacles in the path of travel. There is a good contrast between floor and wall surfaces. the floor is a light tile next to a wainscoted black marble wall. The wainscoting coating stops close to the ceiling and returns back to a light color. This makes wall and ceiling connections somewhat difficult for those who are visually impaired. Overall the wall and floor surfaces are in good condition. The lighting through these spaces in very good as well. One shortcoming in these public spaces and rooms is it lack of signage for those who are visually impaired. There are no accessible signage in braille on any sides of the doors. There is very good signage over the doors that can be seen by those who are not blind. Furthermore, controls such as fire or the elevator buttons are not available for those in a wheelchair. They are more than 60 inches from the floor. Therefore, if the elevator cab is accessible for those in a wheelchair, they will not be able to push which floor while in the elevator. These controls will need to be brought down to an accessible height. They can be operable if reached by a closed fist.

6. **Is the vertical access to each courthouse easily identifiable and manageable by those with disabilities?**

The Gaines County Courthouse does have ramps and elevators to all levels. Also on each level, there are stairs which can be used as an alternate route. The stairs do have non-slip tread surfaces, and railings are continuous on both sides with extensions beyond

the top and bottom part of the stairs (Figure 4.38). The stairwells are lit but could use an increase in lighting levels. The landings in the stairwells are not marked in contrasting colors they are the same light color as the steps. This may wish to be changed for those visually impaired person to aid them in the location of that final step before the landing.

The elevator in the Gaines County Courthouse is in a good location (Figure 4.39). The elevator travels to each of the floors. However, the elevator itself has many problems. There are no audible signals or visual signals to clue those with disabilities when the cab arrives. Code requires a one tone signal for a upward traveling cab and two-tones for those traveling down. The elevator itself appears to be a service elevator. It is readily distinguished as an outdated model and may need to be modified. The call buttons in the hallway are greater than the recommended 42 inches high from the floor. The actual height is 54 inches on the exterior wall surface and 51 inches in the inside of the cab. Making it virtually impossible for those in a wheelchair to use. The cab dimensions itself are 5 1/2 feet by 3 3/4 feet in depth. There is a three foot elevator door opening. There are no raised and braille letters on the inside or outside of the cab at any of the floors. Also there is no sign on the jamb at each floor identifying the floor. There is no emergency intercom or voice communication system. Recommendations would be to lower cab controls and make available raised braille signs on the inside, outside, and at each floor of the elevator. A new elevator is expensive but if possible it would be brought up to code without many man hours. There are no lifts in the courthouse.

7. Does each courthouse have accessible rest room facilities?

The rest rooms in the Gaines County Courthouse are accessible with those with a

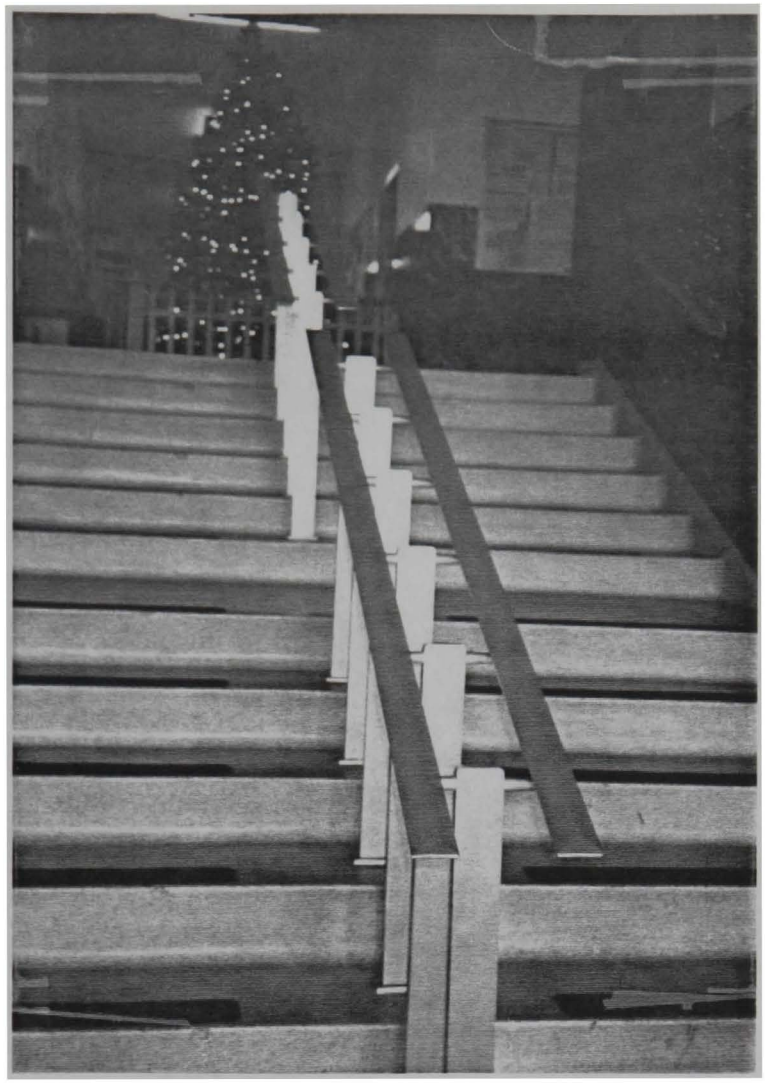


Figure 4.38. Stairs to Main Level

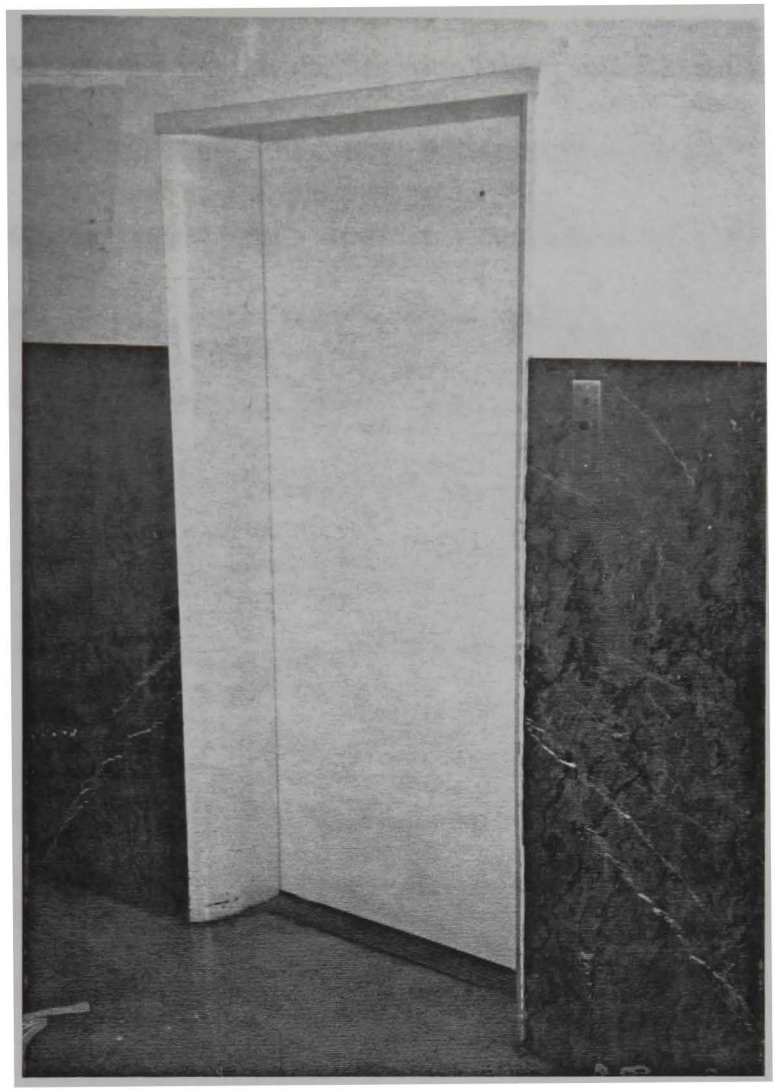


Figure 4.39. View of Main Level Elevator Access

disability. However, there are a few modifications that can aid in the ease of accessibility. The rest rooms are located on the lower level of the courthouse and is directly off of the main circulation spaces (Figure 4.40). They lie to one side of the elevator and accessible ramp. As you enter the rest rooms, there is a small bump or ramp into the two main restroom areas. This bump may not impede those in a wheelchair very much, however, it may be necessary to rework this particular attribute to enhance restroom facilities. There are no signs indicating accessible rest room facilities. There are no tactile signage as well, for those with a visual impairment. Every door into a rest room is 34 inches of clear opening, which is 2 inches greater than required by code. Accessible handles of less than 48 inches are equipped on each of the rest room doors but they can not be operable with a closed fist while exiting the facility. Each door is also some what hard to open and appears to be more than 5lbf of force to open them. The entry configuration of each of the rest rooms do provide adequate maneuverings space for a person using a wheelchair. Paths to each of the fixtures in greater than the required 36 inches. The stalls are located in an accessible location. However, the stall doors can not be operable with a closed fist. The wheelchair-accessible stall has an area of a least 5 feet by 5 feet, clear of the door swing, for maneuvering. The accessible stall does have grab bars on each side but none are located behind the toilet itself. The toilet seat is 19 inches off of the ground. The lavatories have at least one 30-inch-wide by 48-inch-deep clear space in front. The lavatory rim in 34 inches from the ground, which is required by code. There is also at least 29 inches from the floor to the bottom of the lavatory apron (excluding pipes). Faucets in each of the rest rooms are turn knobs and can not be operated with a closed

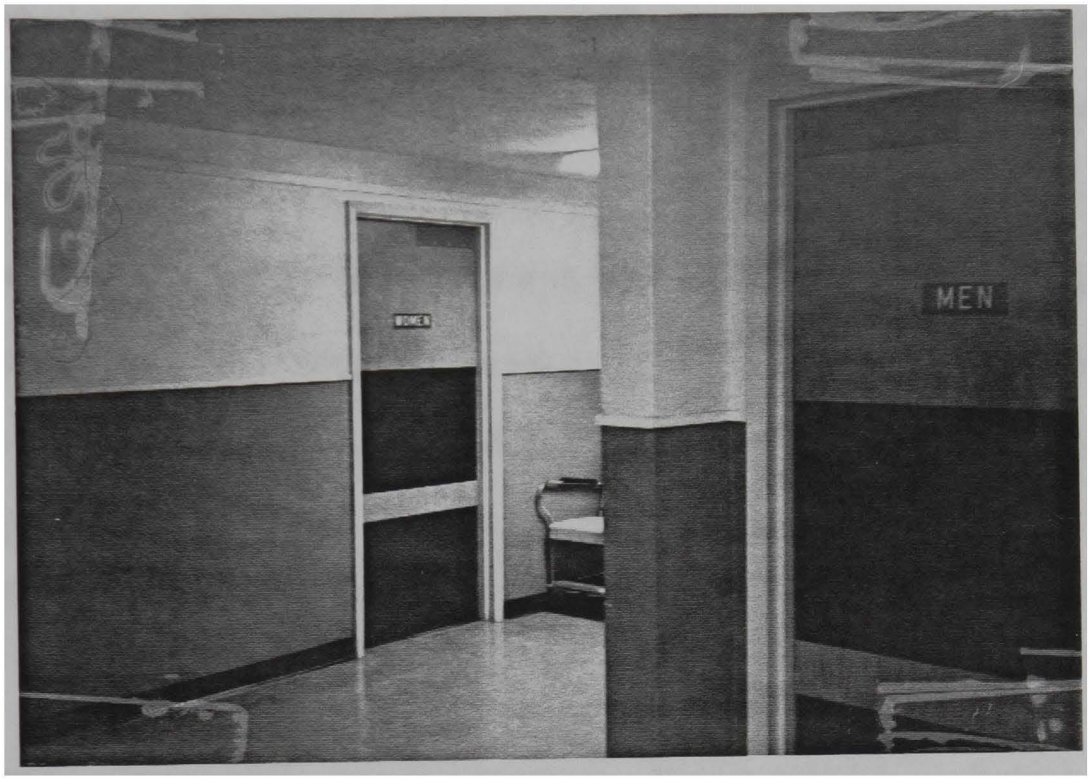


Figure 4.40. Lower Level Restrooms Location

fist. Furthermore, the soap and other dispensers are greater than the required 48 inches high or less. The height of the towel dispenser is 56 inches from the ground and the soap dispenser is 50 inches from the ground. These will need to be moved to be used by those in a wheelchair. Also, the mirror is too high for those in a wheelchair. The height is one inch higher than the maximum height of 40 inches. The reflecting surface should be lowered at least one or more inches (Figure 4.41). The fixtures do not contrast well with wall surfaces. The wall is a yellow color with white or silver colored fixtures, near a light cream color floor. Color changes could help bring out fixtures from the wall surfaces. Also, cold and hot water faucets are not clearly distinguishable. There are no rugs or mats in any or the rest rooms.

8. Are the telephone and mailbox areas of the courthouse reasonably designed for use by those with disabilities?

Drinking fountains are located in main hallways and have at least 30 by 48 inches in front for maneuvering by those in a wheelchair. There is at least one fountain, located on the main floor with a spout no higher than 36 inches from the ground, and another with a standard height spout. The fountains throughout the building protrude 14 inches from the wall and code requires them to be 4 inches or less into the circulation space. The controls of the water fountains are mounted on top of the spout and are not really operable with one closed fist.

The public telephone area is accessible from the most commonly used rooms. However, the telephones themselves are located in booths which can not be entered in by those in a wheelchair (Figure 4.42). There is no text telephone or push-button controls. The phone is not hearing aid compatible and is not adapted with a volume control. Also,

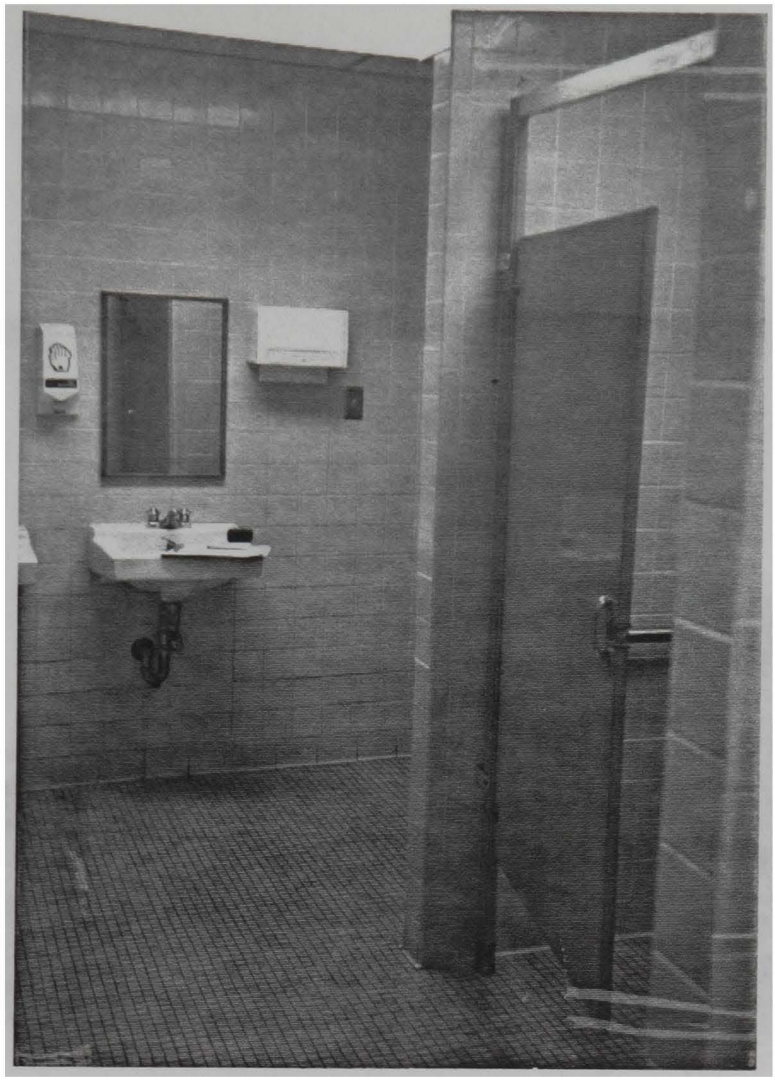


Figure 4.41. View of Men's Restroom

Figure 4.42. Main Level Telephone Area

there are no large print telephones and no braille signage is located in the area. This area will need to be redesigned with adequate accessibility requirements.

Summary of Gaines County Courthouse

The Gaines County Courthouse is lacking adequate accessiblity requirements. The building seems to try an address the issue of those with disabilities, but do so haphazerdly and without proper direction on just how to integrate. The accessible parking and entrances appear as service entrances and the entire site lacks proper curb-cuts for those in wheelchairs. Furthermore, the accessible ramp to the basement is too steep and for thsoe exiting the building in a wheelchair, it is virtually impossible for them to do. The accessible door is located right off the ramp and those in a wheelchair would have to hold themselves on the ramp, push open the door, and then push themselves through in all one motion. This will need to be changed. Also, if one was to be able to enter and navigate the ramp to the elevator, the controls are located too high for them to use. The rest of the facility, the hallways doors and restrooms have minor problems but overall appear to address accessiblity issues well. So, how does one begin to alleviate this dilemma? First a philosophy of restoration must be brought up. I would take the viewpoint of Scarpa in this case. The reason I choose Scarpa in this instance and not in the Denton or Jones County Courthouses is do to several factors. The Gaines County Courthouse is not located on a square in which it is the dominant building of the area. It is located to one side of the street. Furthermore, it is placed a considerable distance from the street and is buffered by parking rather than a park area. Furthermore, the character of the building is

that of the machine age, very pragmatic, economical, and in my view, sometimes cold in appearance. Therefore, I propose a Scarpan approach to give the courthouse a new lease on life. Placement of accessiblity requirements will be place in a prime location, the front of the building. The elevator would be placed on the exterior and it would have direct access to the main floor. Interiors and small corridors would be opened up and well lit. The issue of universal design would take center stage. This, in my opinion, would best represent what the courthuse was originally intended for- the community. The community of Seminole desired a building with an economical and pragmatic focus. The issue of universal design fits this role perfectly. And by making accessiblity requirements readily accessible, I would not only bring a building back to life but make it accessible for all populations.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY, IMPLICATIONS, AND APPLICATIONS

This study was done to increase community awareness on building accessibility for the disabled. Often times, balancing accessibility requirements while still maintaining the historic fabric of a building can be difficult. This research's checklist can educate local communities on how a structure can be made more accessible. These historic resources are a part of the history and culture of a community, and to deny access to the disabled denies them a source of education. The checklist was derived from personal interviews with local advocacy groups for the disabled; the disabled; historical preservation leagues of Lubbock and Denton, Texas; and with a review of federal, state, and local accessibility legislation. Once criteria was developed to determine what factors prevent a building from being accessible, different philosophical approaches to preservation and restoration were discussed.

Historically, the county courthouse was a building which helped unify the community. Much of the business of the day occurred here, as well as county picnics and fairs. Currently, the city courthouse and downtown areas are often no longer the hub of town, with much of the business occurring in urban malls and business complexes. Fortunately, some communities are preserving and revitalizing their downtown areas, including their courthouses, to represent how they have progressed. The Jones County Courthouse is an example of a building which is being preserved for the sake of maintaining a part of the community's heritage.

The Jones County community, specifically the town of Anson, has been granted over $700,000 to restore their county courthouse. In addition to preserving, the community must also make it more accessible. This makes the Jones County Courthouse a good example of how the developed checklist of this thesis can be applied. It also allows for discussion on how the changes could be best adapted.

The initial decision for the community is to decide whether or not to integrate accessibility requirements. The philosophies of John Ruskin and William Morris would not have integrated. They believed that the best way to restore was to allow the patina of the building to develop over time. The disintegration of the building's materials, along with the inaccessibility of the courthouse, would demonstrate the historical truth of the building and better compare it with modern structures. However, following these philosophies would likely bring about legal repercussions.

By using the checklist developed in this thesis, community members can distinguish how they will need to adapt the building so that it can be better used by all. Paths to the entrances will need to be cleared of obtrusive items. Pathways will need to be stable and firm. Accessible parking and signage will need to be introduced, and, perhaps most of all, vertical access in the form of an elevator will need to be proposed. Once the community establishes what needs to be changed, they can better determine what method of restoration to use.

They may choose to take the Viollet-le-Duc approach to restoration by viewing restoration as finishing off a building. The addition of modern techniques and materials would complete the Anson courthouse. His philosophical approach would integrate the

elevators, walkways, and restrooms to restore the courthouse in its Beaux Art's style. Viollet-le-Duc's emphasis on the original structure's Beaux Arts tradition would heighten the perception of the courthouse itself. Determining the location of the elevator would be a major part of this perception. If placed within the building, the latest technology and materials would be used. New walkways, curb-cuts, and ramps would also be designed to integrate themselves with the building. Viollet-le-Duc's restoration would try to make the courthouse the best possible example of Beaux Art tradition. This style of restoration is currently taking place at the Jones County Courthouse by the addition of modern water pipes, cooling and heating systems, and handrails, even though they were added out of necessity rather than historic accuracy.

Carlo Scarpa's philosophy would approach the courthouse differently. Scarpa would, based on research and historical fact, try to extend the life of the courthouse rather than try to give it a definite finish like Viollet-le-Duc. He would search for materials that corresponded with the intent of the original. He would have possibly placed the elevator on the exterior of the building, bringing the old courthouse to the elevator shaft. This, to Scarpa, may have been a representation of the past coming towards the present and future. The elevator shaft would be prominently displayed to exalt the courthouse to a new status. Scarpa may have cut large openings into the building to break down the barriers between the modern and premodern aesthetics. Light fixtures, railings, ductwork, etc. would be used as physical representations of time; details would further display this resurrection. Scarpa's philosophy would treat the building as a reflection of time. It would age and

develop as people do, instead of allowing time to act upon the courthouse as Ruskin and Morris believed.

Although there are a variety of philosophies, I would like to discuss how I would make the Jones County Courthouse accessible. The Jones County Courthouse is dealing with many of the same issues that faced the Denton County Courthouse in Denton, Texas. The town of Anson has a very nostalgic feel to it, and the community has saved many of its historic buildings. Therefore, accessibility requirements in this situation should compliment the historic look of the courthouse. However, in some locations within the building, I wish to push the bounds of traditional restoration techniques in America.

Location of the elevator is perhaps one of the most important questions to address in the Jones County Courthouse. Taking into consideration the old town atmosphere and nostalgic look, I choose to place the elevator within the confines of the building. By doing this, I keep the symmetrical balance of the exterior square and prevent conflicting views from occurring. As of now, the entrances rise one full story on each side of the courthouse. After studying the entire building, I choose to access the basement and the elevator from the east and west sides of the building. These sides are seen primarily from moving vehicles, but are still inviting public entrances into the building (Figure 4.16). I propose to remove the stairs on both the east and west sides to open the basement level up. On the main level where the stairs used to be, a viewing balcony will be built that will match the design of the original entrance and exterior wall. In place of the stairs, a ramp extending from the main pathways to the basement will be introduced. By placing the ramps here, everyone can use the entrances. At the entrances, full glass doors would be

used to contrast between the void of the stairs and the mass of the stone. Furthermore, by replacing the east and west stairs with ramps down, I open up the basement level which often only becomes a place for equipment storage. Access to the building can then either be from the historical views of the north and south, or from the quick paced views of the east and west. Many will use the east and west entrances due to their accessibility from major parking areas. This in itself starts to break down barriers; it is not equal access, just access.

The Jones County Courthouse has rich and historic interiors, so the placement of the elevator is important. I would place the elevator where the treasury department of Jones County is presently, and it will extend through the basement level to the upper level. The door to the elevator will be recessed back off of the main hallway to create an elevator lobby which can diminish the contrast between the historic interiors and the newly placed elevator. Other vertical access like stairs will need to be painted in contrasting colors at the tread and riser locations to help those with visual impairments judge various steps. Furthermore, in terms of emergency egress, there is currently a fire escape attached to the exterior of the building which, in my opinion, distracts from the historic look of the courthouse and will need to be taken down. For fire egress, each office or common room has access to a window or doorway out of the building. On the upper floor, fire egress may be more difficult. Stairs are located on opposite ends of the building, and there is access to the roof, but a variance may be needed in this situation. Common spaces have adequate room for those in a wheelchair and contrasting colors are used frequently, which aid those with visual impairments. Audible clues need to be used to help the visually

impaired determine the location of particular rooms. Even the history of Anson could be played over speakers to educate all people of Anson. Signage in contrasting colors should be throughout the building, designating where the elevator, public phones, etc., are, although they should be done in a style that compliments the historic features of the building. The courthouse hallways are clearly lit and would be readily accessible due to the ramped entrances and the elevator. Doors located off the main spaces are wide enough, and with the inclusion of audible signals and braille signs anyone can find his/her way around. In the end, changes can be made to the building that can make it better used by all.

Overall, I feel it is best to incorporate some of the views of both Viollet-le-Duc and Carlo Scarpa when trying to restore the Jones County Courthouse, as well as making it better accessible to all. By removal of the east and west stairs and the inclusion of the entrance ramps, I had tried to give the building a new lease on life. By creating viewing balconies, I will use modern materials, but design them in such a way that they would blend in with the historic elements of the building. For example, by using contemporary concrete masonry units and reinforcing them with re-bar, I will match historical intentions with modern technology. Furthermore, the incorporation of electronic emergency fire equipment, which should be directly linked to the audible and visual clues used throughout the building for the disabled, will also be used to bring the historical building into the present. By creating new access, historic viewing areas, and contemporary electronic equipment, the Jones County Courthouse can maintain its historical integrity, be accessible for all, and still grow through time.

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APPENDIX A

DEVELOPMENT OF CRITERIA FOR THE ACCESSIBILITY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES TO SELECTED HISTORIC COUNTY COURTHOUSES IN TEXAS

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Are you familiar with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)?

2. Is the Americans with Disabilities Act realistic? Has it aided people with disabilities into historical buildings?

3. What are some basic ADA requirements that are a necessity at any site?

4. Do you know of some ways to integrate those ADA requirements without detraction from a buildings historical appearance?

5. Is there items or loopholes the ADA has left out that may be needed in any building?

6) With accessibility to a historic building, do you see any economic benefits or downfalls that occur? If so, what are some pertinent issues?

7) How can accessibility to a historic building help educate all people about people with disabilities?

8) Do you know of any fine examples of integrated ADA requirements to historical structures?

9) Is there any population overlooked in the ADA?

10) Do you know any other person who may aid in the preparation of this thesis?

APPENDIX B

ACCESSIBILITY QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES OF ADVOCACY GROUPS FOR THE DISABLED AND PRESERVATION LEAGUES

1. Are you familiar with The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)?

Respondent A:
Yes, I am.

Respondent B:
Yes.

Respondent C:
Yes.

Respondent D:
Yes.

Respondent E:
Yes.

Respondent F:
Yes.

Respondent G:
Yes.

Respondent H:
Yes.

Respondent I:
Yes.

Respondent J:
Yes

Respondent K:
Yes

2. Have you seen an increase in buildings that have striven to make themselves accessible to people with disabilities after the passage of the ADA?

Respondent A:
Not necessarily. Accessibility to buildings has been mainly a gradual integration, primarily starting with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and progressing to the passage of the ADA in 1990. There has however been an increase, with the passage of the ADA, of people wanting accommodations to buildings. Furthermore, people are becoming more educated on their rights or opportunities available to them.

Respondent B:
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 has begun a build-up of accessibility into public buildings. The ADA has increased the public's sensitivity to accessibility to public buildings and also made it unlawful for public places to be without accommodations to people with disabilities.

Respondent C:
Not really, no! Not globally.

Respondent D:
Yes, I have seen an increase.

Respondent E:
Yes, I feel that it has aided people with disabilities into buildings, especially those with a hearing impairment. Since it has become law, buildings have to integrate accessibility accommodations.

Respondent F:
Yes.

Respondent G:
I do not really know. I have seen that the ADA has helped in the inclusion of disabled accommodations to Chapman Hospital here in Lubbock.

Respondent H:
The ADA could be realistic if it was properly enforced. Not among people who want to carry out a law suite. The law has aided people in accessing some historical sites. You might want to check the federal government being exempt from the regulations as it applies to your study.

Respondent I:
Yes.

Respondent J:
Personally no, because I mainly worked on buildings prior to the passage of the ADA. Some public buildings were required to be accessible before ADA. With the passage with the ADA it made accessibility a legal issue.

Respondent K:
Yes.

3. What are some basic ADA requirements that are a necessity at any site?

Respondent A:
A ramp needs to be in place for people in wheelchairs. Heavy doors need to have opening devices. Pull down doorknobs instead of turn knobs need to be integrated to ease people with disabilities into spaces.

Respondent B:
A ramp is a primary necessity at any site. An elevator if there is more than one floor, or in case of no elevator there must be reasonable accessibility. That is if there is an inaccessible class on the second floor then it must be moved to the lower level for people with disabilities. Exterior access from parking lots to the building itself; curb-cuts, ramps, signage, etc.

Respondent C:
Signage, in large print. There needs to be braille signs on the inside and outside of the elevators. In the elevator, the panel on the inside must be low enough for those in a wheelchair. There should be contrasting colors form the wall surfaces to the floor or from the floor to the base board (90% of people with vision problems have trouble with elevation changes). Lighting is better if it is near wall surfaces so it may wash the area. There needs to be non-glare wax on floors. Contrasting doors color compared to the wall surfaces with braille room numbers on the right or left side of the door. Placement is important, and consistency is the key to ease in accessibility. Water fountains, telephones, display cases all need to be recessed to avoid accidents. If not, they need to be continuous to the floor. Change in elevation that uses stairs must be clearly seen in contrasting colors. Also, doors need to be of light weight to prevent troubled access into a building.

Note: Wheelchair ramps have not really aided those of the visually impaired. They have a difficult time negotiating level changes.

Respondent D:
The physically disabled probably will need a ramp to replace stairs. Other alternatives may include escalators, or walking stairs and elevators. The visually impaired will need braille labels on all doors in the same location (labels should

appear on the right side of all doors; most of the visually impaired are right handed braille readers). Likewise, braille signs, maps, and audio taping devices throughout the building will need to be introduced. Labels, signs, and maps should not be placed on doors themselves if possible. Contrasting colors need to be instituted along the base boards and tops of wall surfaces. Door frames should also have contrasting color from that of the surrounding wall surface. To illustrate different areas to the visually impaired, there should be change in floor texture patterns; these should also be in contrasting colors. Pedestal fountains and telephones need to be recessed and must clearly show a visual change. Heavy doors will be easier to open with push-bar handles instead of traditional turn-knob handles. Ramps need to show a change in levels with contrasting colors. This can be acquired by colored pavement surfaces at the top and bottom of the ramp and differentiated color rails. Inside and outside rugs need to be will secured to floor surfaces. Rugs are a good indication of upcoming doors or entrances. Too much natural light can be a detriment to those with low vision.

Respondent E:
First thing, is that a lighting system be hooked up to the fire alarm system. This is so in case of a fire, people who are deaf, can know when to exit the building. Also, the light must distinguish between a fire bell or a disaster bell. A blue or red light is the most frequently used color of light. This can be accomplished through a series of flashes of the light that will express different signals. Now, I have been in buildings that try to manually turn off and on the alarm light and it has been my experience that this is not only dangerous it just does not work. The lighting system needs to be wired to the whole system and the light signals need to be throughout the building. There needs to be a place that hearing impaired students are educated on which flashes mean what. Phone systems is another thing often left out of buildings. A *ttd* or telecommunication device for the deaf needs to be installed. If there are televisions on the premise, then there needs to be a closed caption TV. or a portable system which is hooked in with the other televisions. In buildings such as hotels or office buildings where people knock to enter a door, there should be a vibration light on the door to tell when someone desires access to that space.

Respondent F:
The biggest requirement is the availability of trained interpreters. Also, *ttd* telephones and closed caption television. Lights that are hooked to the fire alarm systems is another major requirement that should be at any sight.

Respondent G:
There needs to be handicap ramps, handrails that are adequate heights (need to check codes), and elevators. When dealing with elevators you need to check the size requirements of the cab itself. This is important because many architects try to fit the smallest elevator into a historical building due to lack of space, rather than

checking the code requirements. For the hearing impaired it is often nice to make talking elevators, those elevators that have audio messages on the activities and locations of certain spaces. Signage is another factor, especially braille signs on the inside and outside of the elevator cab (check codes for exact heights of sign placement). Bathrooms for people with disabilities should be measured by the number of spaces within the courthouse.

Respondent H:
Curb cuts, ramps, lightweight or electrical doors, braille signs, elevators. Please keep in mind that I am not very familiar with the accessibility portion of the law.

Respondent I:
The entrance to each of these facilities need to have ramps or mechanical lifts for people with wheelchairs to enter the building. For those with hearing and visual impairments, it is necessary to have textured surfaces, visual clues (such as visual signs), and flashing lights. Moving to the interior of the building there needs to be textured surfaces as well. Braille signage is another requirement and should be located as the codes suggest. Floor to floor access needs to be achieved through elevators or lifts. Toilet facilities should be integrated for those with disabilities, and it should be determined if it is necessary to have a uni-sex bathroom.

Respondent J:
Door widths, ramps, and elevators are the major ones. Also, door closer mechanism for those in wheelchairs.

Respondent K:
I am aware of the following: ramps, elevators, clear signage, braille signage, parking spaces easy entrance, rest rooms, water fountains, lighting, doorways, hallways with fire egress, railings- safe handrails on ramps, clear marking of level changes, door handles-levers rather than knobs, integration of space- seating arrangement for those in wheelchairs.

4. Do you know of some ways to integrate ADA requirements without detraction from a buildings appearance?

Respondent A:
In historical buildings it seems that it would be difficult, but in newer construction integration appears to be easier.

Respondent B:
No

Respondent C:

Not really. I feel it would be easier to integrate these requirements into a new construction rather than historical ones. Integration helps all people. (functional universal design)

Respondent D:
I am not familiar with that area.

Respondent E:
I feel for the hearing impaired it would be very easy to integrate systems discreetly enough as to no detract from the buildings appearance. Lights, telephones, and close captioned televisions can be fashioned in the likeness of surrounding materials or colors. I see no difficulty in this particular area.

Respondent F:
It seems that one of the easiest ways is in newer construction, rather than historical ones.

Respondent G:
At Chapman Hospital here in Lubbock we installed a wheelchair lift instead of a ramp. The ramp would have taken up too much space and detracted from the buildings character. All preliminary designs were brought before a review board which aided in the best design for the project.

Respondent H:
Architects can usually integrate requirements of the law with historical structures (i.e. an elevator away from a historical structure). I will give you names of other people who can better answer this question.

Respondent I:
I believe there are many, but I can not think of any off the top of my head.

Respondent J:
For a historical building (if a ramp is required), ramps may be designed to flow towards the lower levels to prevent visual detraction. Long ramps require handrails and in some instances a low wall can aid in integrating this accessibility standard to historical buildings.

Respondent K:
These are elements that can be done easier at the start of a design and are integral parts of the initial design. But, in historical structures, it should be easy to integrate electrical lighting and sound systems without detraction. For those accessibility requirements that are harder to integrate, such as ramps, a chair lift (that can be hidden in the ground) may be a suitable alternative.

5. Is there items or loopholes the ADA has left out that may be needed in any building?

Respondent A:
Demand buses (buses in which people with disabilities can order directly where they are at) vs. Public buses. The ADA does not address this conflict clearly. Demand buses are nice because they take the person to a particular place, and can be helpful in bad weather conditions. Public buses may be more difficult to use but it does integrate people with disabilities into the mainstream population.

Respondent B:
I do not believe so.

Respondent C:
I am not quite sure.

Respondent D:
The codes are not specific enough. How many bathrooms are required for each parking space. There may need to be more than one handicapped restroom. Does not explain to workers the importance of assistance to the visually impaired (i.e. a McDonalds employee asking, "May I help you"). Has not influenced restaurants to have braille menu's on location. The lack of trained personal to those with a visual impairment.

Respondent E:
The public education of the codes is a set of minimums and maximums. We should get over this idea behind the codes. We need to learn to go out of our way to help people because one day it may be us that needs the help. Everyone should be deaf friendly, not upset because they have to institute so minimum requirements by law. ADA also has left out the importance of providing qualified interpreter services for the hearing impaired.

Respondent F:
I am not aware of any. There may be some.

Respondent G:
I am not familiar enough with the codes to determine that.

Respondent H:
I am not aware of any.

Respondent I:
I do not know.

Respondent J:
I am not familiar enough with the codes to know one way or the other.

Respondent K:
The ADA is pretty comprehensive but there may be loopholes in particular lighting levels.

6. With accessibility to a historic building, what are some economic downfalls and benefits that may occur?

Respondent A:
One purpose of integration is to benefit people economically.

Respondent B:
Economic downfalls will occur at the beginning of integration of ADA requirements. However, you will be investing in a "human capital" that will bring more individuals to the site. This in turn will generate more revenue for the building and make it more productive, lessening the burden of the initial cost of integration.

Respondent C:
It is the law!!

Respondent D:
I see nothing but an economic benefit. By integrating these codes you are increasing the number of people you will be able to serve. If a blind person knows of a place in which their needs are being met, they will for sure tell their friends of your establishment.

Respondent E:
Change is always scary and it usually will cost something at the start. But, after the initial investment, if your facility is deaf friendly, you will definitely see an increase in people at your location. People who are hearing impaired will go out of their way to tell their friends of your business. They will see that they are more than a set of minimums and maximums.

Respondent F:
The downfalls may occur more harshly for small businesses due to the cost of accessibility accommodations. However, the overall benefits over a period of time will only increase revenue.

Respondent G:
The benefit is to restore the historical character of a building while designing for

disability access. The downfall may be the cost of the requirements at the start, but it is the law. However, it is a public facility and they are required to institute ADA requirements. The overall economic benefits in the long run are hard to determine. They seem to be very minimal. County courthouses do not really sell revenue or products but they do offer a cities heritage.

Respondent H:
I can say that improving accessibility would benefit potential employees in landing jobs with the county government. Of course, downfalls are evident when you put a price tag on renovation.

Respondent I:
The downfall is the disruption of a building's historical fabric. Economically speaking for public facilities there is hardly any benefits. However, private businesses may see an increase, due to integrated disabilities requirements, because it draws more people to them. For example, a restaurant will increase its revenue because it has allowed for a more diverse population to use their facility.

Respondent J:
I see many economic downfalls, due to the integration of these standards to strictly public service buildings. In the private sector they may see a greater benefit because it relates directly to increased business (i.e.. a restaurant). I have seen instances in particular communities (small), in which the government has given grants to place an elevator in a historic courthouse, but in the same building the city has no funds to fix a leaking ceiling. Now this is a contradiction in terms of saving a building for future generations. In that instance the government could have given money for the roof and gave information on how to change the facility to make it accessible to those with disabilities. This is just one example of how the law sometimes does not positively affect the community, it becomes a detriment to a community's heritage.

Respondent K:
Definitely it is going to be more expensive to integrate these requirements. However, in this country we are all offered particular rights, right to a speedy trial, right to council, etc. regardless of cost.

7. How can accessibility to a historic building help educate all people about people with disabilities?

Respondent A:
Accessibility brings all citizens together and helps us to recognize are differences.

Respondent B:
Help bring people together, to learn of each others differences.

Respondent C:
Helps everyone become more sensitive to each other, and educates people about those with disabilities.

Respondent D:
Accessibility will make people more aware of those people with disabilities. It will also educate those with and without disabilities of ways buildings can be changed to help both of them. People with disabilities do not want to be pitied they want equality.

Respondent E:
It lets people see things they never thought about before, for example the flashing light system or the ttd telephones. This in turn increases the questions asked about these items. Public education about the hearing impaired is only increased and helps aid teaching young children about those with disabilities. They grow up with a better understanding of people with disabilities and thereby help the whole community grow closer together.

Respondent F:
Integration of people with disabilities into the mainstream population becomes a very powerful educational tool to a diverse nation. It begins to bring understanding and tolerance to a nation that is all ready torn apart by race, sex, and disability.

Respondent G:
Accessibility creates a better awareness of those around us. It also helps bring a part of our heritage closer to those who have been denied access for years.

Respondent H:
First of all, you may find accessibility sometimes will help everyone. In other instances, people will get the opportunities to see what people with disabilities go through in their daily lives.

Respondent I:
Well, first people will probably recognize that there are those who have disabilities. Secondly, that those with disabilities may become more aware of their rights.

Respondent J:
As a designer, I have seen it help me to realize areas that I can improve upon. Also, it has made me more aware of those with disabilities and how I can make a

building universally accessible.

Respondent K:

It can help us recognizes that all individuals have a right to anywhere. It makes us more aware of are own mobility and how fragile it is. Also, the more we are integrated together the more we recognize each other as citizens and human beings.

Accessibility reduces separation.

8. Do you know of any fine examples of integrated ADA requirements to historical structures?

Respondent A:

The Administration Building at Texas Tech University:

* ramps
* push-doors

First National Bank in Lubbock Texas

* braille markers on floor
* verbal messages on loud speakers

Respondent B:

Not really. However, the old part of Holden Hall could be a good example of a tough solution to ADA integration.

Respondent C:

The Louvre in Europe. Newer structures have good examples, and it only cost 5% more at the start of a project which will in turn bring more people to the building to increase revenue.

Respondent D:

The Dallas Museum

Fort Worth Museum of Science and Industry

* tactual museum (exhibits you can touch)

Sam Houston Elementary School, Denton, Texas

* layout is good: H-plan
* not labeled however, Calhoun Jr. High School, Denton, Texas is labeled with braille

Respondent E:

McNair Elementary School, Denton, Texas

Calhoun Jr. High School, Denton, Texas

Respondent F:

Not really, however, my husband Gary Fischer coaches deaf children on his high

school football team and sends his plays in through signals.

Respondent G:
Chapman Hospital, Lubbock, Texas

Respondent H:
The Chemistry Building at Texas Tech University

Respondent I:
I believe the new addition to the State Capitol is a good example.

Respondent J:
Tahoka Courthouse with its room layouts and the Matador Courthouse in which the elevator has been integrated into a historical context.

Respondent K:
Courthouse in Portland, Oregon or Seattle which integrated a ramp with steps. No, it was in Vancouver, Canada by Arthur Erikson, an architect, but it lacked hand rails. Also, just off the top of my head I think of the Guggenheim by Frank L. Wright.

9. Do you feal that there is any population overlooked in the ADA?

Respondent A:
I am not aware of any.

Respondent B:
Anyone can become a person with a disability. It is not a blanketed issue in which we all considered people with disabilities.

Respondent C:
I am not aware of any.

Respondent D:
I do not think so.

Respondent E:
The non-verbal persons, who may not be deaf, are overlooked. All of us at one time or another kept in our own little shell. The ADA has taught, however, that if you want something you will need to fight for it.

Respondent F:
Not really!

Respondent G:
I am not familiar with the codes enough to determine either way.

Respondent H:
I think the law could consider more ways to aid people with motor disabilities and maybe aid people with hearing disabilities.

Respondent I:
I am not aware on any.

Respondent J:
I am not familiar enough with the codes to determine that.

Respondent K:
Those with epilepsy, and those that depend on non-verbal communication. Emergency phones.

10. Do you know of any other people who may aid in the preparation of this thesis?

Respondent A:
(All are at Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas)
Mr. Davenport 742-2184
Trudy Puttet
Dr. Nora Griffen-Shirley
Jay K. Brownhow
Jim Brunges

Respondent B:
Art Glick, Landscape Architect, Instructor at Texas Tech Univ. College of Landscape Arch. 742-3803
Eric Williams

Respondent C:
Dr. Carol Layton, College of Education, Texas Tech University: 742-2370

Respondent D:
Ronda Bilbrey, Assistant Principal at Evers Elementary, Denton, Texas (taught hearing impaired children)
Barbara Fischer, Principal at Strickland Jr. High, Denton, Texas (was director of Deaf Education, 1991)
Paula Scott, heads up deaf education program at Texas Women's University, Denton, Texas

Respondent E:
Barbara Fisher, Principal at Strickland Jr. High, Denton, Texas

Note:
There is two-sides to the deaf culture. One side is that people with hearing impairments need to be integrated into mainstream society and one that lives in their own society and language. Deafness involves language and language is a tie to ones culture. A person who is not deaf cannot understand the deaf culture. I taught preschool and I saw this culture, this non-verbal society of people. I also was one of twenty-five non-deaf people in the country who attended Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. in the summer of 1991 and learned from deaf people form all over the world We need to understand that people with hearing impairments have their own culture like us. We need to see that as a vital part of themselves which should not be taken away but understood. Sign language is not universal, but the non-verbal communication crosses over other language barriers.

Respondent F:
My secretary Gloria Garcia who has a child that is hearing impaired.
Note:
I interviewed Gloria and asked her what some issues afflict her and her child with a hear impairment. She basically stated that for her child it was the lack of closed caption devices at the movie theater or other public facilities that limits her child from the life of any other child.

Respondent G:
Bill Adiling, Architect (worked on the Garza County Courthouse)
Terry Kinsey, Texas Historic Commission, (512) 463-6183

Respondent H:
Sherry Hurst, 795-4278
Jim Webb, 762-4363
Stephon Breedlove, 765-7794

Respondent I:
The county judge at each of your courthouse sites.
Trudy Puttet

Respondent J:
John White- Professor of Architecture at Texas Tech University.
Elizabeth Louden- Assistant Professor at Texas Tech University.

Respondent K:
Gale Gabrysh- Architect in Austin, Texas- Her thesis was on accessibility codes.
Glen Hill from the College of Architecture at Texas Tech knows her.

APPENDIX C

COUNTY COURTHOUSE CHECKLIST FOR SAFETY AND ACCESS

Name of Texas County Courthouse
Location of City

PATHS TO ENTRANCE: ***YES NO/OTHER***

Do pathways have curb cuts at drives, parking, and drop-off areas?

Comments:

Are an adequate number of accessible parking spaces available (8 feet wide for car plus 5-foot striped access aisle)? For guidance in determining the appropriate number to designate, the table below gives the ADAAG requirements for new construction and alterations (for lots with more than 100 spaces, refer to ADAAG):

Total spcs.	Accessible
1 to 25	1 spc.
26 to 50	2 spcs.
51 to 75	3 spcs.
76 to 100	4 spcs.

Comments:

Are 16-foot-wide spaces, with 98 inches of vertical clearance, available for lift-equipped vans? (At least one of every 8 accessible spaces must be van-accessible.)

Comments:

Are accessible spaces marked with the International Symbol of Accessibility? Are there signs reading "Van Accessible" at van spaces?

International Symbol of Accessibility:

Comments:

PATHS TO ENTRANCE (continued): ***YES NO/OTHER***

Is there an enforcement procedure to ensure that accessible parking is used only by those who need it?

Comments:

Are all curbs and outside steps marked with a contrasting color?

Comments:

Are the accessible spaces closet to the accessible entrance?

Comments:

Is the surrounding landscaping unobtrusive over paths of travel?

Comments:

Can all objects protruding into paths of travel be detected by individuals with a visual disability using a cane?

Comments:

Are walking surfaces to the entrance stable, firm, non-slip, and easily manageable by those in wheelchairs?

Comments:

Is the path at least 36 inches wide?

Comments:

THE ENTRANCE: ***YES NO/OTHER***

Is there an accessible entrance that does not require the use of stairs?

Comments:

If there are stairs at the main entrance, is there also a ramp or lift, or is there an alternative accessible entrance?

Do not use a service entrance as the accessible entrance unless there is no other option.

Comments:

Are all the slopes of ramps no greater than 1:12?

Slope is given as a ratio of the height to the length. 1:12 means for every 12 inches along the base of the ramp, the height increases one inch. For a 1:12 maximum slope, at least one foot of ramp length is needed for each inch of height.

Comments:

Do all ramps longer than 6 feet have railings on both sides?

Comments:

Are all railings sturdy and between 34 and 38 inches high?

Comments:

Are the widths between railings at least 36 inches?

Comments:

THE ENTRANCE (continued): *YES NO/OTHER*

Do wheelchair ramps have a non-slip surface?

Comments:

Is there a 5-foot-long level landing at every 30-foot horizontal length of ramp, at the top and bottom of ramps and at switchbacks?

The ramp should rise no more than 30 inches between landings?

Comments:

Do all inaccessible entrances have signs indicating the location of the nearest accessible entrance?

Comments:

Can the alternate accessible entrance be used independently?

Comments:

Entrance Doors

Does the entrance door have at least 32 inches clear opening (for a double door, at least one 32-inch leaf)?

Comments:

Are glass doors marked to make them more visible to those with a visual disability?

Comments:

THE ENTRANCE (continued): *YES NO/OTHER*

If there is a revolving door, are there conventual doors on either side?

Comments:

Is there at least 18 inches of clear wall space on the pull side of the door, next to the handle?

A person using a wheelchair needs this space to get close enough to open the door.

Comments:

Is the threshold level (less than 1/4 inch) or beveled, up to 1/2 inch high?

Comments:

Are doormats 1/2 inch high or less, and secured to the floor at all edges?

Comments:

Is the door handle no higher than 48 inches and operable with a closed fist?

The "closed fist" test for handles and controls: Try opening the door or operating the control using only one hand, held in a fist. If you can do it, so can a person who has limited use of his or her hands.

Comments:

THE ENTRANCE (continued): ***YES NO/OTHER***

Can doors be opened without too much force (maximum is 5lbf)?

Comments:

If the door has a closer, does it take at least 3 seconds to close?

Comments:

EMERGENCY EGRESS: ***YES NO/OTHER***

Do all alarms have both flashing lights and audible signals?

Comments:

Is there sufficient lighting in egress pathways such as stairs, corridors, and exits?

Comments:

HALLWAYS: ***YES NO/OTHER***

Does the accessible entrance provide direct access to the main floor, lobby, or elevator?

Comments:

Are all public spaces on an accessible path of travel?

Comments:

HALLWAYS (continued): *YES NO/OTHER*

Is the accessible route to all public spaces at least 36 inches wide?

Comments:

Is there a 5-foot circle or a T-shaped space for a person using a wheelchair to reverse direction?

Comments:

Is lighting uniform throughout, or are some areas light and others dark?

Comments:

Is equipment lying around in the halls?

Comments:

Doors Located Off of Main Public Hallways

Do doors into public spaces have at least a 32-inch clear opening?

Comments:

On the pull side of doors, next to the handle, is there at least 18 inches of clear wall space so that a person using a wheelchair can get near to open door?

Comments:

Can doors be opened without too much force?

Comments:

HALLWAYS (continued): ***YES NO/OTHER***

Are door handles 48 inches high or less and operable with a closed fist?

Comments:

Are all thresholds level (less than 1/4 inch), or beveled, up to 1/2 inch high?

Comments:

ROOMS AND COMMON SPACES: ***YES NO/OTHER***

Are all aisles and pathways to all goods and services at least 36 inches wide?

Comments:

Are the spaces for wheelchair seating distributed throughout?

Comments:

Are the tops of tables or counters between 28 and 34 inches high?

Comments:

Are knee spaces at accessible tables at least 27 inches high, 30 inches wide, and 19 inches deep?

Comments:

ROOMS AND COMMON SPACES (continued): ***YES NO/OTHER***

Is there a 5-foot circle or T-shaped space for turning a wheelchair completely?

Comments:

Is carpeting low-pile, tightly woven, and securely attached along edges?

Comments:

In routes through public areas, are all obstacles cane-detectable (located within 27 inches of the floor or protruding less than 4 inches from the wall), or are they higher than 80 inches?

Comments:

Do signs designating permanent rooms and spaces, such as rest room signs, exit signs, and room numbers, comply with the appropriate requirements for accessible signage?

Comments:

Are all controls that are available for use by the public (including, electrical, mechanical, window, cabinet, game, and self-service controls) located at an accessible height?

Comments:

Are they operable with a closed fist?

Comments:

STAIRS, INTERIOR RAMPS, LIFTS, AND ELEVATORS: ***YES NO/OTHER***

Vertical Circulation

Are there ramps or elevators to all levels?

Comments:

On each level, if there are stairs between the entrance and/or elevator and essential public areas, is there an accessible alternate route?

Comments:

Stairs

Do treads have a non-slip surface?

Comments:

Do stairs have continuous rails on both sides, with extensions beyond the top and bottom stairs?

Comments:

Are stairwells clearly lit?

Comments:

Are the landings marked in contrasting colors?

Comments:

Elevators

Are there both visible and verbal or audible door opening/ closing and floor indicators (one tone=up, two tones=down)?

Comments:

STAIRS, INTERIOR RAMPS, LIFTS, AND ELEVATORS: ***YES NO/OTHER***
(continued)

Are the call buttons in the hallway no higher than 42 inches?

Comments:

Do the controls outside and inside the cab have raised and braille lettering?

Comments:

Is there a sign on the jamb at each floor identifying the floor in raised and braille letters?

Comments:

Is the emergency intercom usable without voice communication?

Comments:

Are there braille and raised-letter instructions for the communication system?

Comments:

Lifts

Can the lift be used without assistance? If not, is a call button provided?

Comments:

STAIRS, INTERIOR RAMPS, LIFTS, AND ELEVATORS: ***YES NO/OTHER***
(continued)

Is there at least 30 by 48 inches of clear space for a person using a wheelchair to approach to reach the controls and use the lift?

Comments:

Are controls between 15 and 48 inches high (up to 54 inches if a side approach is possible)?

Comments:

ACCESSIBILITY TO REST ROOMS: ***YES NO/OTHER***

If rest rooms are available to the public, is at least one rest room (either one for each sex, or unisex) fully accessible?

Comments:

Are there signs at inaccessible rest rooms that give directions to accessible ones?

Comments:

Is there tactile signage identifying rest rooms?

Mount signs on the wall, on the latch side of the door. Avoid using ambiguous symbols in place of text to identify rest rooms.

Comments:

ACCESSIBILITY TO REST ROOMS (continued): ***YES NO/OTHER***

Is the doorway at least 32 inches clear?

Comments:

Are doors equipped with accessible handles (operable with a closed fist), 48 inches high or less?

Comments:

Can doors be opened easily (5 lbf maximum force)?

Comments:

Does the entry configuration provide adequate maneuvering space for a person using a wheelchair?

A person using a wheelchair needs 36 inches of clear width for forward movement, and a 5-foot diameter clear space or a T-shaped space to make turns.

Comments:

Is there a 36-inch-wide path to all fixtures?

Comments:

Is the stall door operable with a closed fist, inside and out?

Comments:

ACCESSIBLITY TO REST ROOMS (continued): ***YES NO/OTHER***

Is there a wheelchair-accessible stall that has an area of at least 5 feet by 5 feet, clear of the door swing, or is there a stall that is less accessible but that provides greater access than a typical stall (either 36 by 69 inches or 48 by 69 inches)?

Comments:

In the accessible stall, are the grab bars behind and on the side wall nearest to the toilet?

Comments:

Is the toilet seat 17 to 19 inches high?

Comments:

Does one lavatory have a 30-inch-wide by 48-inch-deep clear space in front?

A maximum of 19 inches of the required depth may be under the lavatory.

Comments:

Is the lavatory rim no higher than 34 inches?

Comments:

Is there at least 29 inches from the floor to the bottom of the lavatory apron (excluding pipes)?

Comments:

Can the faucet be operated with one closed fist?

Comments:

ACCESSIBILITY TO REST ROOMS (continued): ***YES NO/OTHER***

Are soap and other dispensers and hand dryers 48 inches high or less and usable with one closed fist?

Comments:

Is the mirror mounted with the bottom edge of the reflecting surface 40 inches high or lower?

Comments:

Do fixtures contrast in color with walls and floors?

Comments:

Are the cold- and hot-water faucets clearly marked?

Comments:

If there are rugs in the rest rooms, are they nonskid?

Comments:

ADDITIONAL ACCESS: ***YES NO/OTHER***

Drinking Fountains

Is there at least one fountain with clear floor space of at least 30 by 48 inches in front?

Comments:

ADDITIONAL ACCESS (continued): *YES NO/OTHER*

Is there one fountain with its spout no higher than 36 inches from the ground, and another with a standard height spout (or a single "hi-lo" fountain)?

Comments:

Are controls mounted on the front or on the side near the front edge, and operable with one closed fist?

Comments:

Does the fountain protrude no more than 4 inches into the circulation space?

Comments:

Public Telephone Area

Is the area accessible from the most commonly used rooms?

Comments:

Is the location of the text telephone identified by accessible signage bearing the International TDD Symbol?

International
TDD Symbol:

Comments:

Is the highest operable part of the phone no higher than 48 inches (up to 54 inches if a side approach is possible)

Comments:

ADDITIONAL ACCESS (continued): *YES NO/OTHER*

Does the phone protrude no more than 4 inches into the circulation space?

Comments:

Does the phone have push-button controls?

Comments:

Does the phone have push button controls?

Comments:

Is the phone hearing aid compatible?

Comments:

Is the phone adapted with volume control?

Comments:

Do some of the telephones have large-print details?

Comments:

Is the phone with volume control identified with appropriate signage?

Comments:

Is one of the phones equipped with a text telephone (TT or TDD)?

Comments:

ADDITIONAL ACCESS (continued): ***YES NO/OTHER***

Mailbox Area
Is the area brightly lit?

Comments:

Are the names and numbers easy to read?

Comments:

Are public mailboxes identified with a bright dot or a label for those with a visual impairment?

Comments:

APPENDIX D

LIST OF RESPONDENTS

Sally Abbe
Planner II, for the City of Lubbock
(member of Historic Society in Lubbock)
Municipal Courts Building
Lubbock, Tx. 79401

Rhonda Bilbrey
Asst. Principal at Evers Elementary School
(worked with hearing impaired children for several years)
Denton, Tx. 76201

Monty Davenport
Asst. Vice President for Plant Services
Texas Tech University
Lubbock, Tx. 79411

Barbara Fisher
Principal at Strickland Middle School
(worked with hearing impaired children for several years)
Denton, Tx. 76201

Alicson Johnson
Orientation and Mobility Specialist
Denton, Tx. 76201

Elizabeth Louden
Assistant Professor at Texas Tech University
Lubbock, Tx. 79411

Dr. Nora Griffen Shirley
Orientation and Mobility Instructor
College of Education at Texas Tech University
Lubbock, Tx. 79411

Dr. Virginia Sowell
Ass. Vice President at Texas Tech University
Lubbock, Tx. 79411

Gary Smith
Lecturer at Texas Tech University
Lubbock, Tx. 79411

Scott Tooke
Student and at Texas Tech University
(has cerebral palsy)
Lubbock, Tx. 79411

John P. White
Professor at Texas Tech University
(HABS Team Leader for over ten years)
Lubbock, Tx. 79411