

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Abou Ben Adhem Shrine Mosque  
Shrine Mosque  
and/or common Abou Ben Adhem Temple

**2. Location**

street & number 601 East St. Louis Street not for publication  
city, town Springfield vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district #7-Hon. Gene Taylor  
state Missouri code 029 county Greene code 077

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Fraternal

**4. Owner of Property**

name Board of Trustees  
Abou Ben Adhem Shrine Mosque  
street & number 601 St. Louis Street  
city, town Springfield vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Missouri 65806

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds  
Greene County Courthouse  
street & number 940 Boonville  
city, town Springfield state Missouri 65802

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Historical Sites of  
Springfield, Missouri has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
date 1976  federal  state  county  local  
depository for survey records Historical Site Board  
City Hall, 830 Boonville  
city, town Springfield state Missouri 65802

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

ABOU BEN ADHEM SHRINE MOSQUE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

Missouri State Historical Survey  
1980, 1981  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

state

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Abou Ben Adhem Shrine Mosque, a fraternal temple designed in a Moorish inspired style, is located in a declining urban section of Springfield, Missouri and measures approximately 251' along the north and south and 138' along the east and west with a maximum height of 100' at the peak of the domes on the south facade. A recently renovated, partially below grade, full lower floor, which is the present location of the ballroom, kitchen, restrooms, club room and meeting room, supports the main floor auditorium and offices, the second floor meeting rooms and the additional club rooms on the partial third and fourth floors (see plans). The building is constructed primarily of red brick laid in common bond over reinforced concrete foundations with cement stucco imitating ashlar applied to its lower exterior (photo #1). The Mosque remains substantially unaltered except as noted below. At an unknown date, the basement windows along the east and west sides were closed with masonry and covered with a cement stucco coating (photos #1 and 2). To the north an arched structural steel Warren truss with steel columns enclosed in the masonry of the exterior walls supports the roof of the auditorium which seats about 5000 (photos #9 and 10). To the south, concrete domes, painted deep red with buff trim and capped with bronze finials, rest atop the east and west pavilions of the primary facade. Additional Moorish inspired decorative elements are executed in pale blue and deep gold glazed terra cotta including an inscription at the summit of each pavilion in Arabic - "There is no God but Allah" (photos #3, 5, 6 and 7). Above the decorative entryway on the south side (photo #7) a broad ogival brick arch is located which encloses a stained and art glass window measuring 33' x 21' depicting a desert caravan and executed in vibrant colors by Stanley Uthwatt and Vergil Sands of the Springfield Art Glass Company (photo #4). The renovated north entrance provides access for the handicapped (photo #8). The interior of the building is occupied primarily by the auditorium and its accessory rooms, and the decor continues the Moorish theme begun on the exterior (photos #9 and 10). The auditorium measures 63' along the east and west and 115' along the north and south and features a hard wood floor and an 80' x 42' stage and associated dressing rooms at its north end, resting beneath a 60' x 20' proscenium arch.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1923      **Builder/Architect** Hans Van Unwerth, engineer  
 Heckenlively and Mark, architects  
 John Olson, general contractor

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Abou Ben Adhem Shrine Mosque in Springfield, Missouri, a building which achieved the status of a City Historic Site in October, 1973, is significant due to its impressive architectural styling and its dual function as southwest Missouri's regional civic and cultural center and as the home for the considerable charitable activities of Springfield's Shriners for over 50 years.

(see continuation sheet for details)

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

ABOU BEN ADHEM SHRINE MOSQUE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 7

On October 15, 1903 Abou Ben Adhem Temple was organized in the Baldwin Theater in Springfield, Missouri by officers of the Ararat Temple of the Ancient and Accepted Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine (A.A.O.N.M.S.) in Kansas City, Missouri<sup>1</sup>. The local Shriners' first permanent home was erected on Walnut Street in 1906. Their constantly growing membership, however, led the organization to erect the present Mosque in 1922-1923. The size of the building and its exotic decoration and theme were especially notable at this time in Missouri's rugged and developing Ozark region<sup>2</sup>.

Shrine Mosque was designed by the local architectural firm of Heckenlively and Mark. These architects are responsible for the design of many minor local buildings including the Campbell Public School, Central High Fine Arts Building, Weaver Public School and Harrison Football Stadium. Abou Ben Adhem Mosque is by far their most impressive work known<sup>3</sup>.

From 1922 to the present, Shrine Mosque has been the home for the Springfield chapter of A.A.O.N.M.S. This national organization has been especially noted for its charitable work since its inception in 1876. The Springfield chapter alone, which has a current membership of about 6,000, has contributed about half a million dollars over the years to the Shrine Childrens' Hospital Association in Baton Rouge, Louisiana<sup>4</sup>.

In addition to serving the charitable organization, the Mosque, which has the largest auditorium in southwest Missouri, has long served as a regional center for many and varied cultural and civic events. Everything from political and commercial conventions to wrestling matches, from concerts by Fritz Kreisler, Frank Sinatra and the U.S. Marine Band to performances by the Big Bands of Glenn Miller, the Dorsey Brothers and Benny Goodman, from speakers like Ronald Reagan to President Harry Truman to special attractions like Jose Greco and performances of "Aida" and "Madame Butterfly" have been welcomed here by southwest Missourians<sup>5</sup>.

FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>This order, which was founded in New York City by actor Billy Florence in 1876, is limited to Knights Templars and 32° Scottish Rite Masons. In the beginning, Florence called it Mecca and an early film celebrity, Lew Wallace, helped create the exotic atmosphere which surrounds the rites. Shriners are known for their social and charitable works and for the fez, sphinx, crescent and scimitar which are their symbols. See Arthur Preuss, ed., Dictionary of Secret and Other Societies (St. Louis: B. Herder Book Co., 1924), pp. 36 and 155.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

ABOU BEN ADHEM SHRINE MOSQUE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

<sup>2</sup>The Shrine Mosque of Abou Ben Adhem Temple - 50th Anniversary, 1923-1973 (Springfield: Shrine Mosque, 1973), p. 3.

<sup>3</sup>This list of building was provided to me by Mr. Thomas L. Hayes in a personal letter of December 19, 1980.

<sup>4</sup>This information was provided to me by Mr. Thomas L. Hayes in a personal letter of February 6, 1981.

<sup>5</sup>The Shrine Mosque, pp. 15-17.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Hayes, Mr. Thomas L. Personal correspondence with Noelle Soren, December 19, 1980 and February 6, 1981.

Preuss, Arthur, ed. Dictionary of Secret and Other Societies. St. Louis: B. Herder Co., 1924.  
The Shrine Mosque of Abou Ben Adhem Temple - 50th Anniversary, 1923-1973. Springfield: Shrine Mosque, 1973.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name "Springfield, MO."

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	<input type="text" value="15"/>	<input type="text" value="474600"/>	<input type="text" value="4117940"/>	B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Verbal boundary description and justification

The westernmost 147' of Lots #1 and #4, City Block #1 in the W.C. Price Addition to Springfield, Greene County, Missouri

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

1. Noelle Soren  
name/title Historic Architecture Specialist  
Historic Preservation Program  
organization Department of Natural Resources date August 3, 1981  
street & number P.O. Box 176 telephone 314/751-4096  
city or town Jefferson City state Missouri 65102

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Department of Natural Resources  
title and State Historic Preservation Officer date

For HCERS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

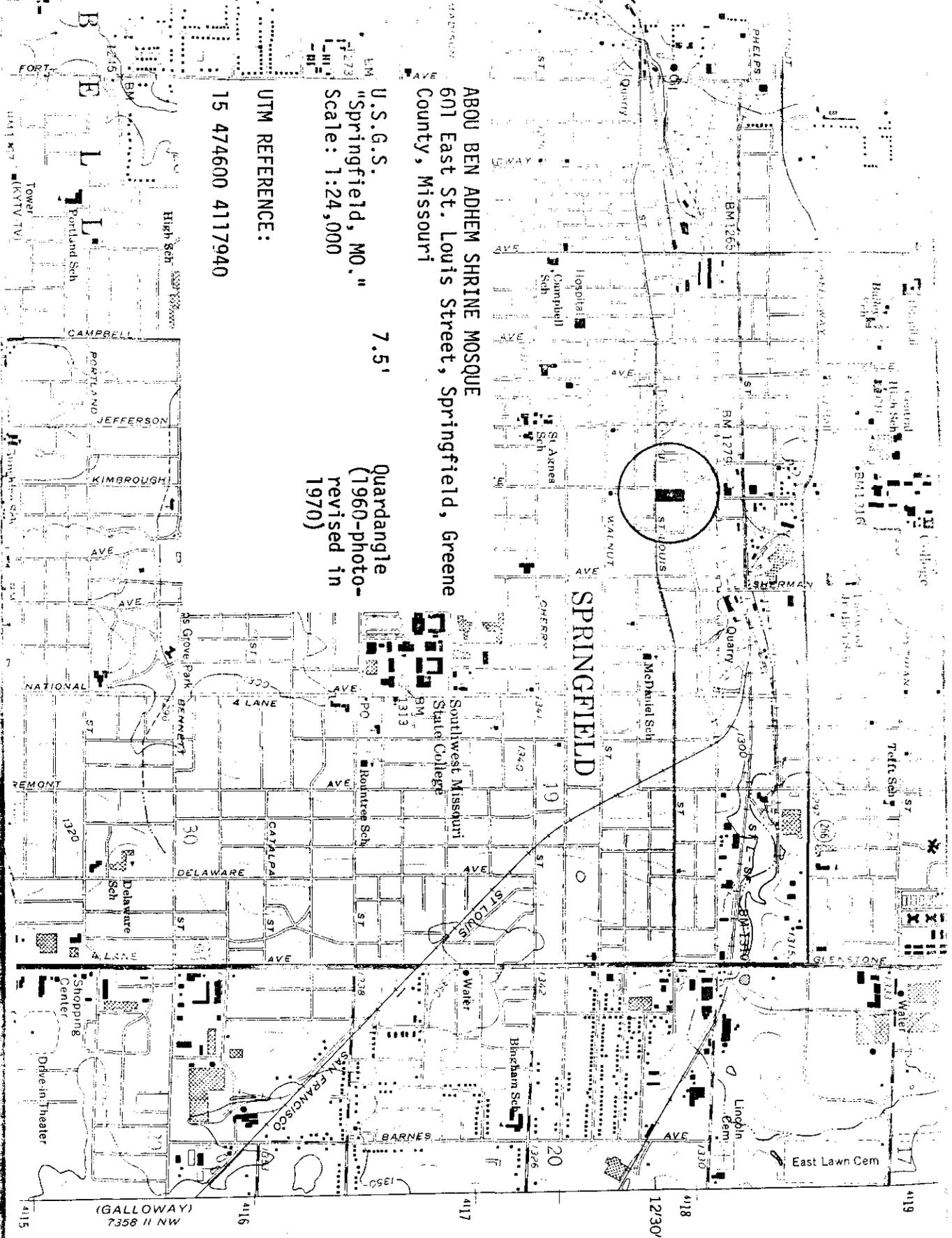
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

ABOU BEN ADHEM SHRINE MOSQUE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 11 PAGE 1

2. Thomas L. Hayes  
Abou Ben Adhem Temple  
647 South Pickwick  
Springfield, Missouri 65802 417/866-4932
  
3. Edwin C. Waters, A.I.A.  
Plaza Towers, Suite 800 (Marshall, Waters, Woody Associates, Inc.)  
1736 East Sunshine  
Springfield, Missouri 65804 417/883-2720



ABOU BEN ADHEM SHRINE MOSQUE  
 601 East St. Louis Street, Springfield, Greene  
 County, Missouri

U.S.G.S.  
 "Springfield, MO."  
 Scale: 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCE:  
 15 474600 4117940

7.5'  
 Quadrangle  
 (1960-photo-  
 revised in  
 1970)

(GALLOWAY)  
 7356 II NW

ABOU BEN ADHEM SHRINE MOSQUE #1 of 10  
601 St. Louis St., Springfield, Greene County,  
Missouri

Photographer: Noelle Soren

February, 1981

Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176,  
Jefferson City, MO. 65101.

View to northeast of primary facade and west  
side.

NRESA



4

ABOU BEN ADHEM SHRINE MOSQUE #2 of 10  
601 St. Louis St., Springfield, Greene County,  
Missouri

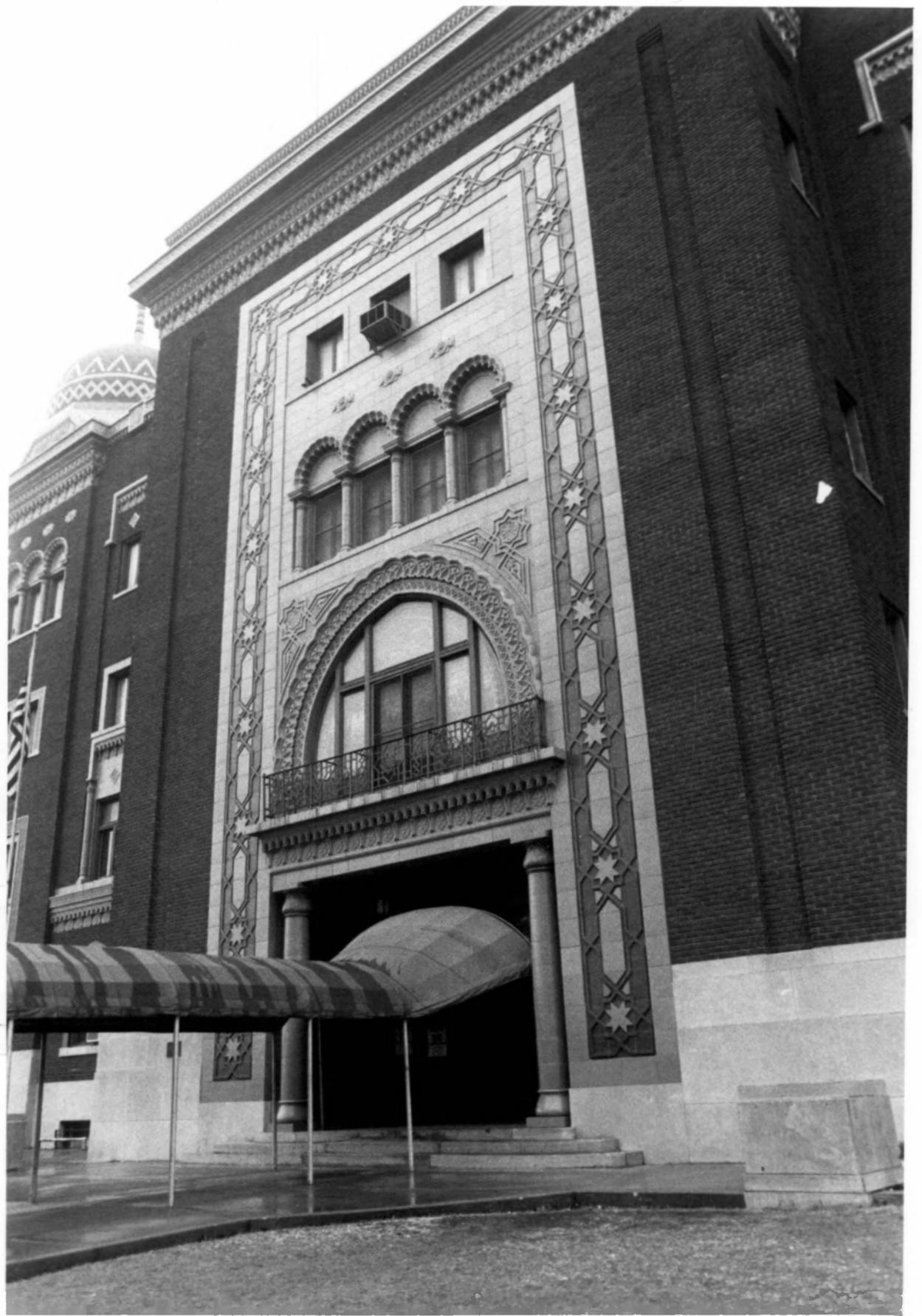
Photographer: E.C. Kropp Co., Milwaukee, WI.  
ca. 1940

Neg. Loc.: Abou Ben Adhem Shrine Mosque  
Historic view to northeast, reproduced from a  
postcard.

ABOU BEN ADHEM SHRINE MOSQUE  
SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI—2



ABOU BEN ADHEM SHRINE MOSQUE #3 of 10  
601 St. Louis St., Springfield, Greene County,  
Missouri  
Photographer: Noelle Soren  
February, 1981  
Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176,  
Jefferson City, MO. 65101  
South (primary facade), main entrance, detail.

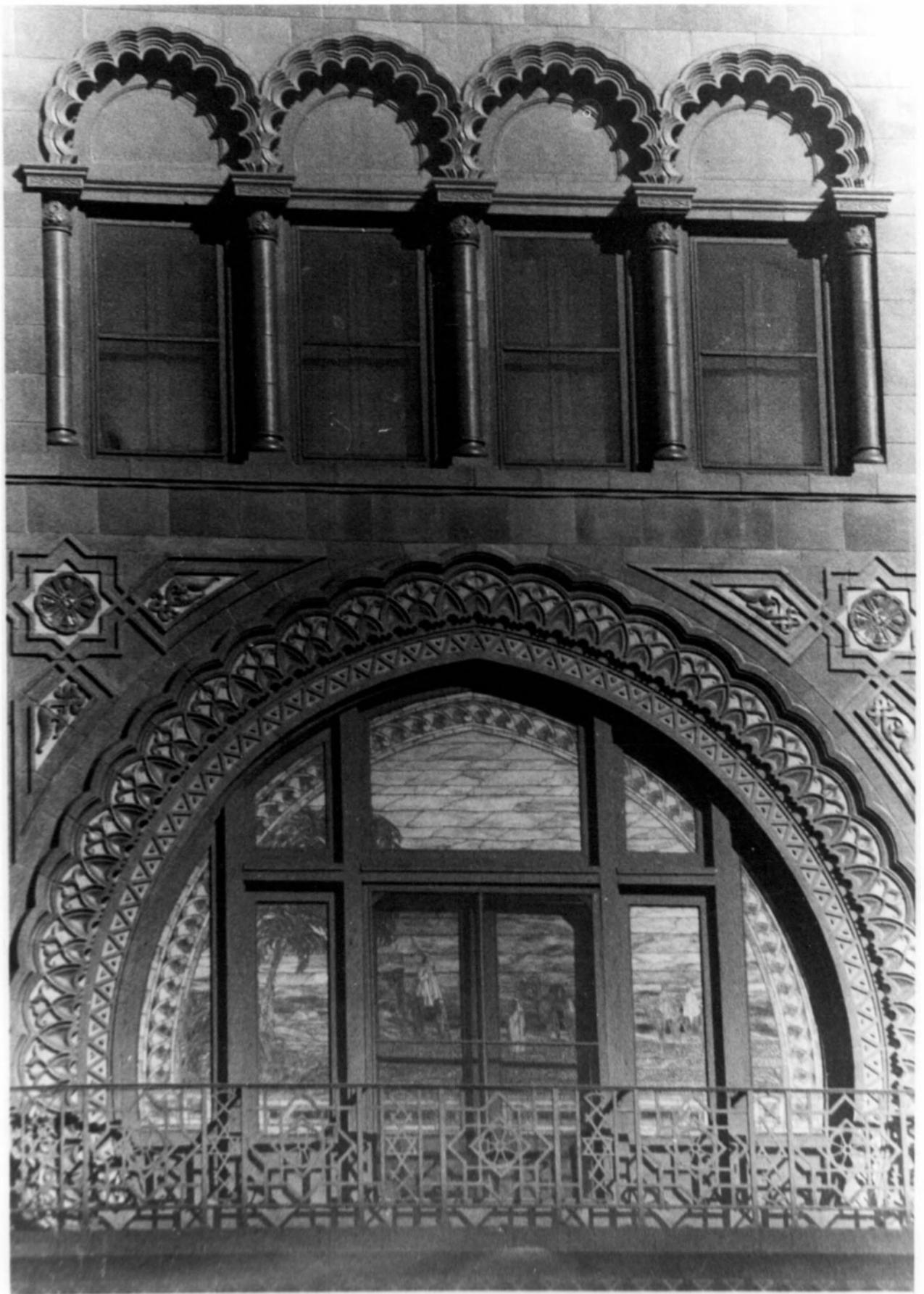


ABOU BEN ADHEM SHRINE MOSQUE #4 of 10  
601 St. Louis St., Springfield, Greene County,  
Missouri

Photographer: Unknown  
1978

Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources, P.  
O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO. 65101

Main entrance, detail of brilliant art glass  
window depicting desert caravan scene.



ABOU BEN ADHEM SHRINE MOSQUE #5 of 10  
601 St. Louis St., Springfield, Greene County,  
Missouri

Photographer: Noelle Soren

February, 1981

Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176,  
Jefferson City, MO. 65101

South (primary) facade, east tower, detail.



ABOU BEN ADHEM SHRINE MOSQUE #6 of 10  
601 St. Louis St., Springfield, Greene County,  
Missouri

Photographer: Noelle Soren  
February, 1981

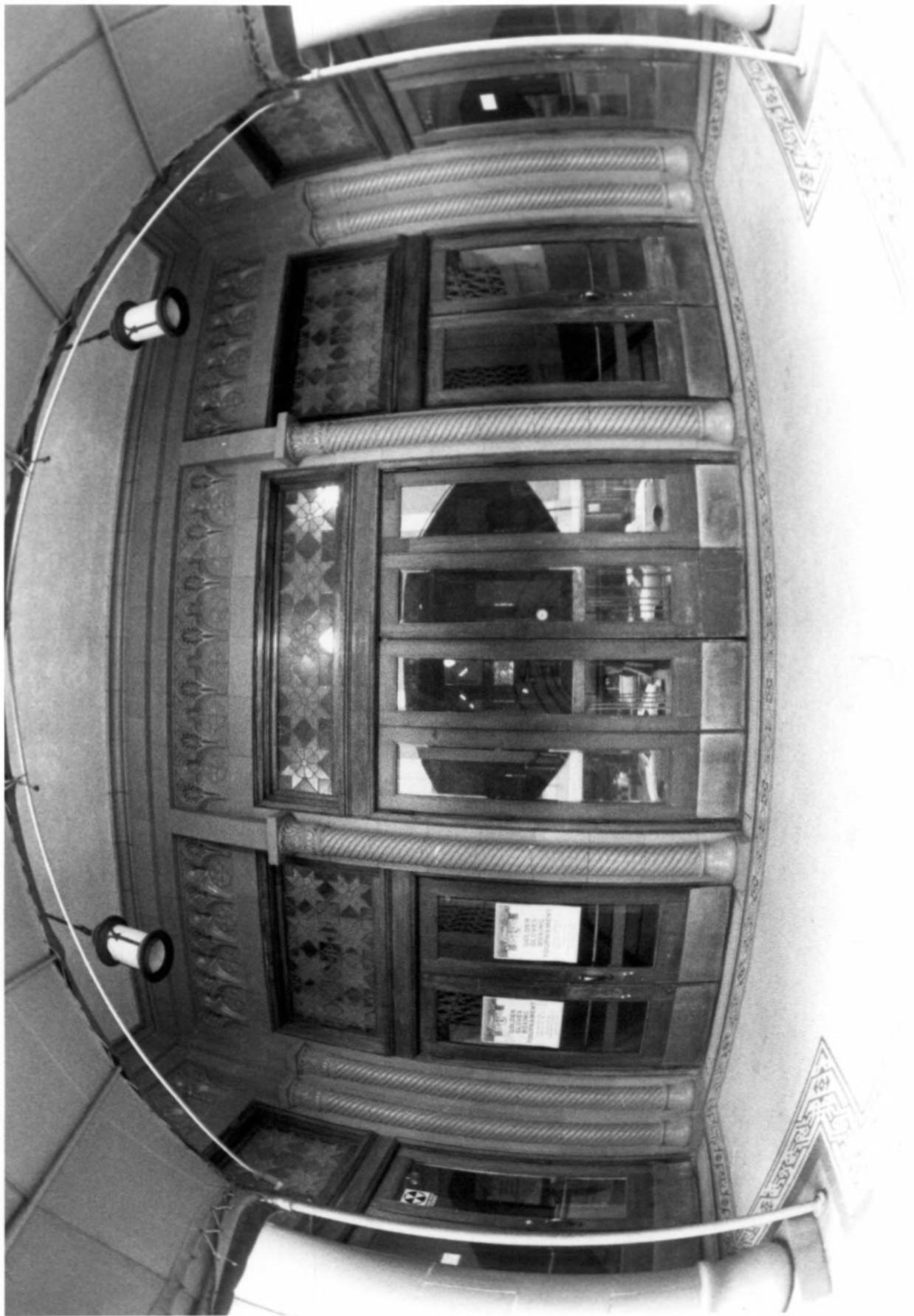
Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176,  
Jefferson City, MO. 65101

Detail, west window at the second story level  
of the second bay on the south (primary) facade



ABOU BEN ADHEM SHRINE MOSQUE #7 of 10  
601 St. Louis St., Springfield, Greene County,  
Missouri

Photographer: Noelle Soren  
February, 1981  
Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176,  
Jefferson City, MO. 65101  
South (primary) facade, detail of main entryway



ABOU BEN ADHEM SHRINE MOSQUE #8 of 10  
601 St. Louis St., Springfield, Greene County,  
Missouri  
Photographer: Noelle Soren  
February, 1981  
Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176,  
Jefferson City, MO. 65101  
North (rear) side, view to southeast. Lower  
gallery is a modern addition.



ABOU BEN ADHEM SHRINE MOSQUE #9 of 10  
601 St. Louis St., Springfield, Greene County,  
Missouri

Photographer: Noelle Soren  
February, 1981  
Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176,  
Jefferson City, MO. 65101  
Interior, auditorium, view to north with stage  
at rear.

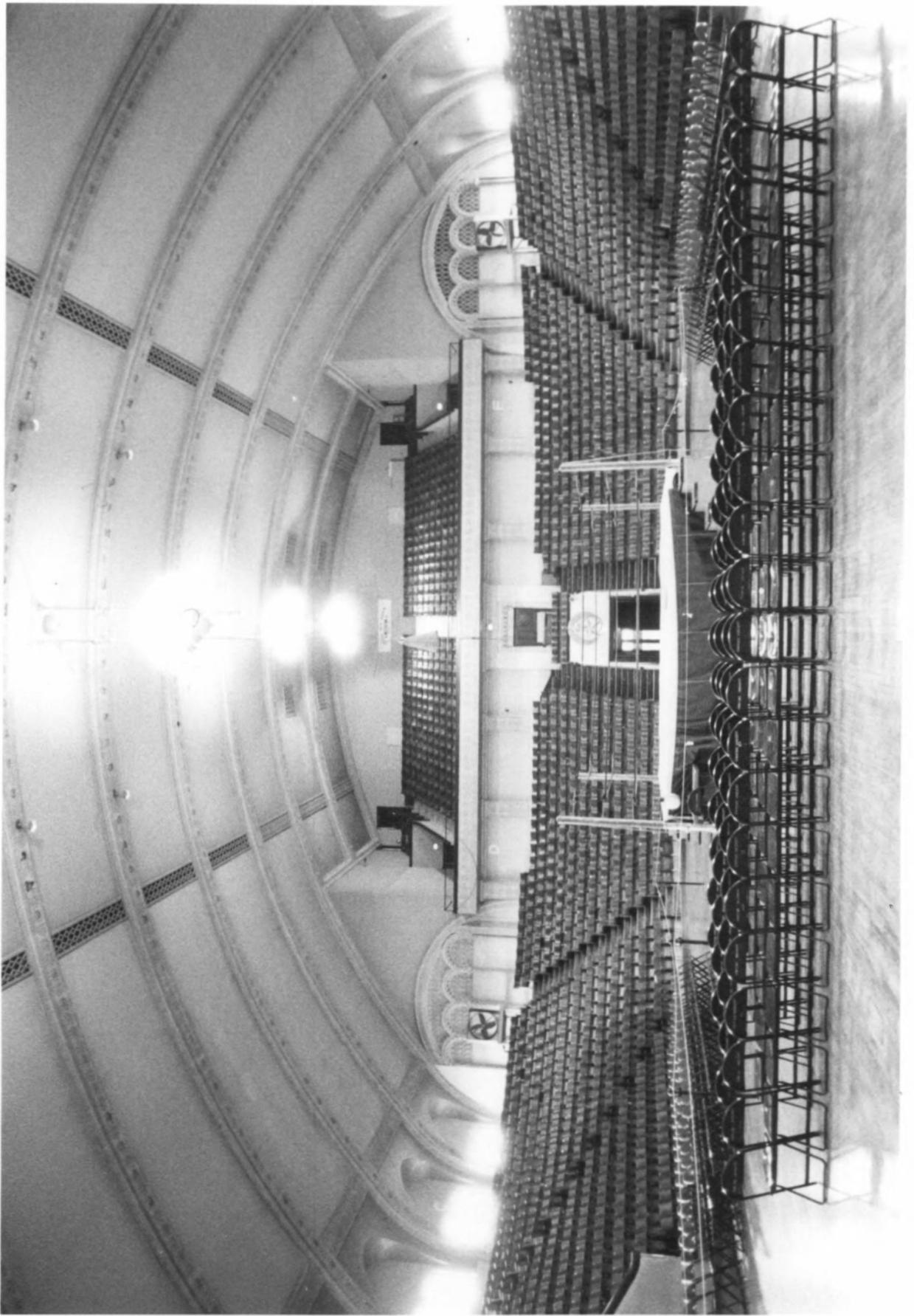


ABOU BEN ADHEM SHRINE MOSQUE #10 of 10  
601 St. Louis St., Springfield, Greene County,  
Missouri

Photographer: Noelle Soren

February, 1981

Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176,  
Jefferson City, MO. 65101  
Interior, auditorium, view to south.



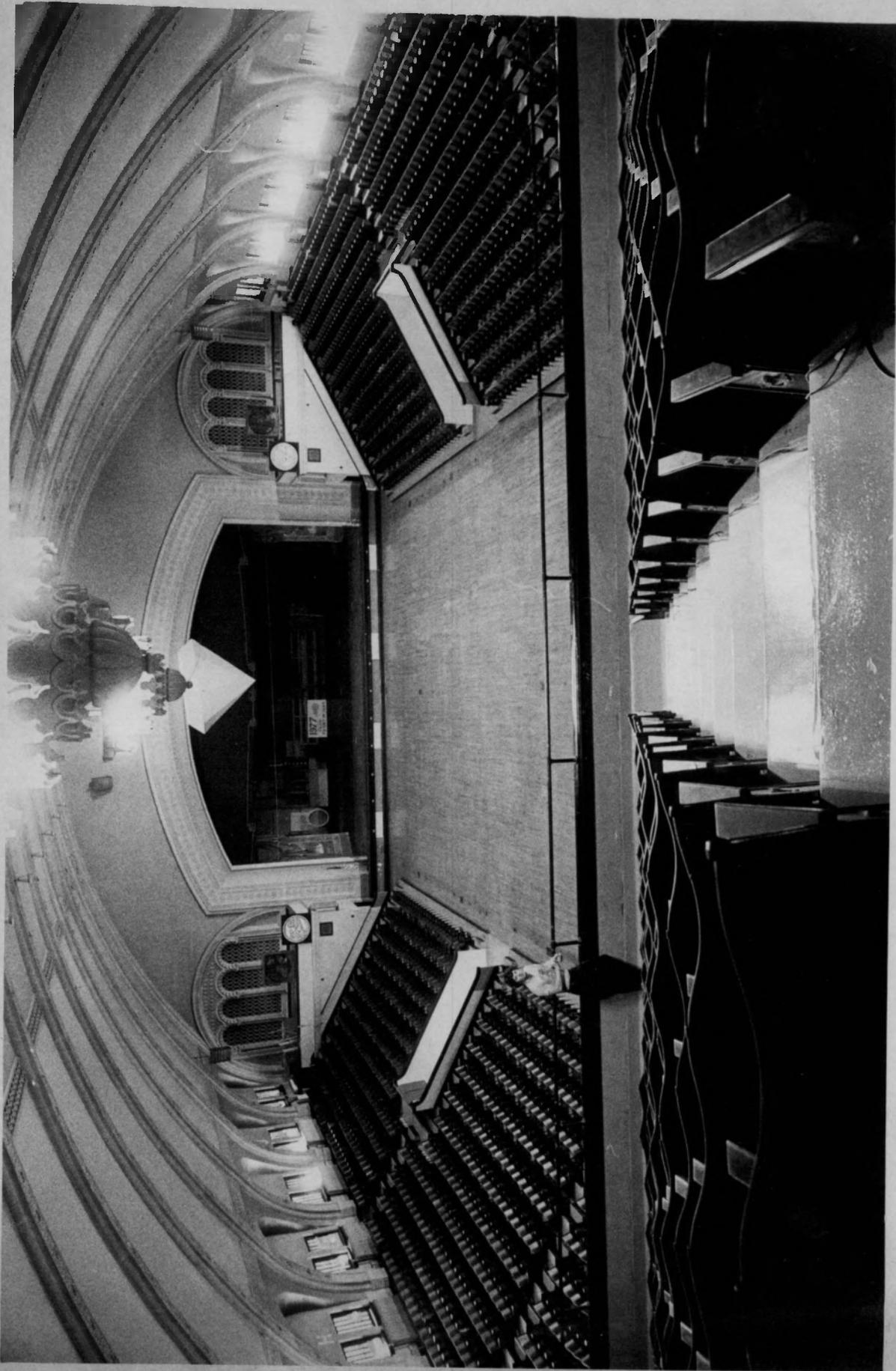
EXTRA

PHOTOS



TICKETS

SEATING CAPACITY  
SKYLINE MASSQUE  
MAIN FLOOR 382  
TERRACE 1976  
BALCONY 416  
TOTAL 3374  
MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF BOSTON



Shrine magazine 9-1978  
03  
190  
402  
Wed  
76