

Wichita Well Sample Library

June 23, 2009

Cassie White, Grant Administrator-Compliance Officer  
Mo-Kan  
1302 Faraon Street  
Saint Joseph, Missouri 64501

RE: Atchison County Memorial Hall ADA Project

Dear Ms White:

On June 3, 2009, the Kansas Geological Survey (KGS) received Mo-Kan's May 27, 2009, request for environmental assessment comments. The comment request was part of a grant application to the Kansas Department of Commerce Community Development Block Grant program to provide funds to Atchison County to renovate a portion of Memorial Hall.

Based on project information provided by Mo-Kan, Memorial Hall is located in the city of Atchison and was constructed in 1922 as a memorial to veterans of World War I. It is a multi-story structure and serves as a community center, with a majority of the building consisting of a large gymnasium and theatre area. Other areas include the Atchison County Recreation Commission administrative offices, men and women restrooms, kitchen, lounge, community space, storage and dressing rooms.

Atchison County is proposing to renovate the existing women's restroom to comply with ADA requirements. Renovation will consist of removing or replacing existing restroom fixtures, door handles, wall partitions and other impediments with ADA compliant fixtures and handles. Restroom stalls will be widened and additional toilets with signage will be installed. Also an existing drinking fountain will be relocated and replaced with ADA compliant fountain. No major structural changes will be required for the proposed renovation.

A review of regional geologic and hydrologic information along with the project information provided by Mo-Kan indicates the project will have minimal impact on the regional geologic or hydrologic conditions, subject to the condition that all construction debris is disposed in accordance with local, state and federal requirements. An agency environmental comments form was not included with the request; therefore, this letter will serve as the agency review and transmittal form.

The assessment was based on the regional geologic and hydrologic conditions and project information available to the KGS at the time of the review and should not be used for a detailed site characterization. Other geologic, hydrologic or project conditions, not discussed herein, or for which the KGS has no knowledge, may affect the feasibility of the project. It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide any necessary characterization, geotechnical or environmental testing, or design by a licensed professional geologist or engineer to complete the project.

Sincerely,  
KANSAS GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



Michael T. Dealy, L.G. #71  
Manager Wichita Operations

Pc: Dan Suchy, KGS Data Resources Library

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May 27, 2009

Kansas Geological Survey  
1930 Constant Avenue  
Lawrence, KS 66047-3726

Re: Atchison County Memorial Hall ADA Project

Dear Review Team:

The Mo-Kan Regional Council, on behalf of Atchison County, is in the process of preparing an environmental review record for the Kansas Department of Commerce's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Enclosed are a project description, site photos, and location maps of a proposed ADA renovation project for Memorial Hall located in the city of Atchison in Atchison County. This proposed project was awarded a CDBG (Project number 09-PF-902) for \$50,500. This letter serves as a request for consultation regarding the proposed project. We would appreciate your input no later than June 30, 2009. I hope the enclosed information provides you the necessary details needed for your decision.

If you have any questions, or need additional information, please call me at 816-233-3144. Please send your findings to:

Mo-Kan Regional Council  
Attn: Cassie White  
1302 Faraon  
St. Joseph, MO 64501

Respectfully,



Cassie White  
Grant Administrator / Compliance Officer

Enclosures

Cc: Atchison County Commission, Chairman, Tom Wagner

Atchison County is located in the northeast corner of the State of Kansas. It is a small, agriculturally-based county (population 16,774) and due to its geographic isolation has few economic opportunities and limited amenities. As one would gather there are many needs, but one issue has attracted the attention of the County Commission as well as residents throughout the county and that is the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall building.

Memorial Hall, located in the city of Atchison, was constructed in 1922 as a memorial to the men and women who served during World War I. At that time, little thought was put forth in regards to design and accessibility; as a result the structure does not comply with current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. Consequently, senior citizens and those with limited mobility who use the facility do not have equal access. The Atchison County Commission and the Memorial Hall committee propose to renovate the building to better comply with ADA regulations. The planned improvements include renovating the women's restroom (men's restroom has already been addressed) and replacing an existing water fountain. The anticipated project will cost approximately \$105,500, address ADA requirements and provide a safe, accessible facility for all area residents and visitors. The building is owned and operated by Atchison County and was placed on the National Register in April 2007.

Memorial Hall is a multi-story structure, however, only the first and second floors are open to the public. According to facility operators, approximately 8,000 students use the building on an annual basis. This number increases to 9,000 if you include the number of senior citizens who utilize the walking track inside the building. (There are no fees assessed to walkers for use of the facility.) While the majority of the building is a large gymnasium and theatre area, a portion of the building is used as the administrative offices for the Atchison County Recreation Commission. The Recreation program offices are used on a daily basis as is the gymnasium. Other areas include a kitchen, lounge, community space, storage and dressing rooms. The second story includes balcony seating and the historic American Legion Posts. While the second story is not easily accessible to elderly and physically handicapped users, accommodations have recently been added to alleviate some concerns. (A glass partition was added in 2007 to allow individuals with limited mobility a safe place to watch activities.)

The county has endeavored to stay in compliance with some sections of the ADA, but due to the costly nature of renovation projects they have not been able to meet all of the ADA requirements. According to 2000 U.S. Census information, the number of disabled persons living in Atchison County is 2,718 (17.7%). The number of elderly (+55 years and older) individuals living in the county is 4,280 (26%). Therefore, the need to address the accessibility alterations is imperative for the county to reach its goal of properly serving every citizen of Atchison County.

Although the county has yet to receive a formal complaint concerning the current circumstances there have been numerous examples of informal/verbal complaints regarding the situation. One particular complainant suggested that if improvements were not completed that she may start the litigation process. (This particular person was restricted to a wheelchair and had children in the winter soccer league. The women's restroom is not accessible which created problems in regards to her supporting her children's activities.)

In an effort to make the Memorial Hall available to all citizens of the county, the County Commissioners are applying available resources and labor to expedite this improvement process. This project will supplement recently completed improvements, which include the construction of a wheelchair ramp, renovating the men's restroom, replacing entry doors, adding a partition for spectators confined to wheelchairs and the installation of new handrails. As noted, the planned additional improvements

include renovating the women's restroom (men's restroom has already been addressed) and replacing an existing water fountain.

The anticipated project will cost approximately \$105,500, to cover some of this cost, Atchison County received a Community Development Block Grant for \$50,500 to cover some of the anticipated costs. Atchison County will contribute \$55,000 to the proposed project with \$25,000 coming from a forced labor account. Beyond the County's initial match (both cash and in-kind), there will be no other local, state, or federal commitments to this project.

Atchison County is proposing to renovate the existing women's restroom to meet ADA requirements. This will entail removing and/or replacing existing fixtures, door handles, wall partitions and impediments with ADA compliant bathroom fixtures and handles. Bathroom stalls will be widened to allow those with limited mobility easier access. Finally, plans call for additional toilets and appropriate signage to be provided. No major structural changes will be required for this portion of the project. (The County has already spent over \$50,000 making changes to the buildings plumbing infrastructure to ensure the planned project will succeed.) The second portion of the proposed improvements is to replace an existing drinking fountain. This will require relocating the fixture to an area with appropriate clearance and exchanging it with an ADA-compliant fountain. CDBG funds will be used for each of these projects.

# Aerial Reference Photos



Photo (1): Reference to location in block area.

Photo (2): Front faces south.

Photo (3): Old head house on extreme top.

Photo (4): West end of building.

Photo (5): East end of building.

Photo (6): North backside of building.

# Women's Restroom Facilities

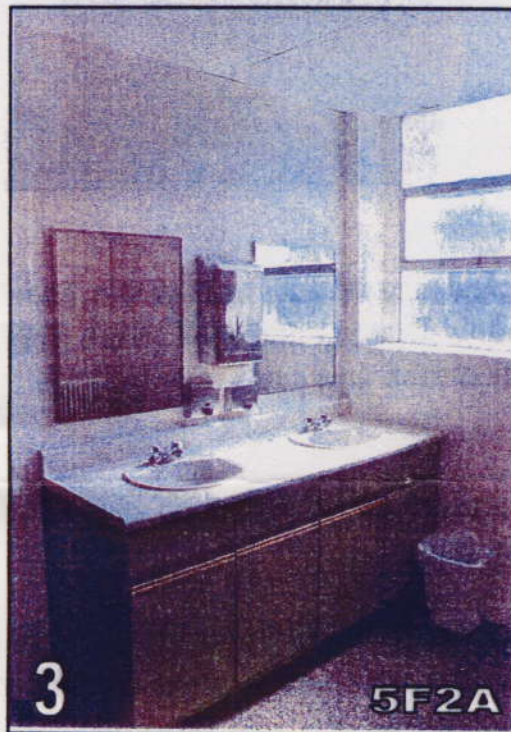
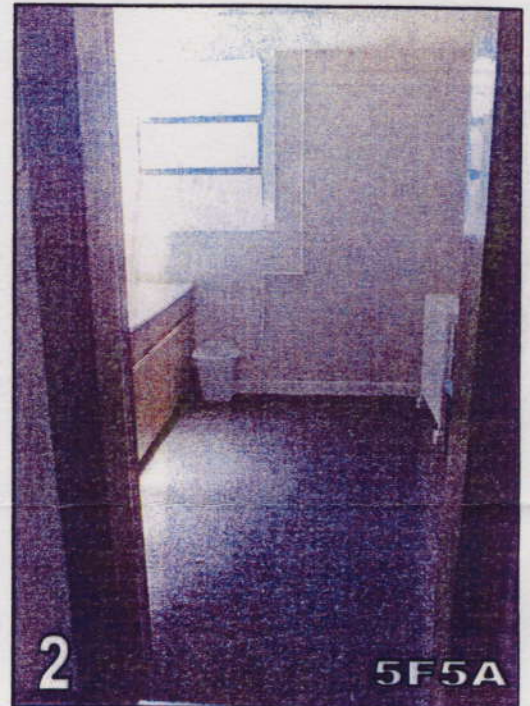


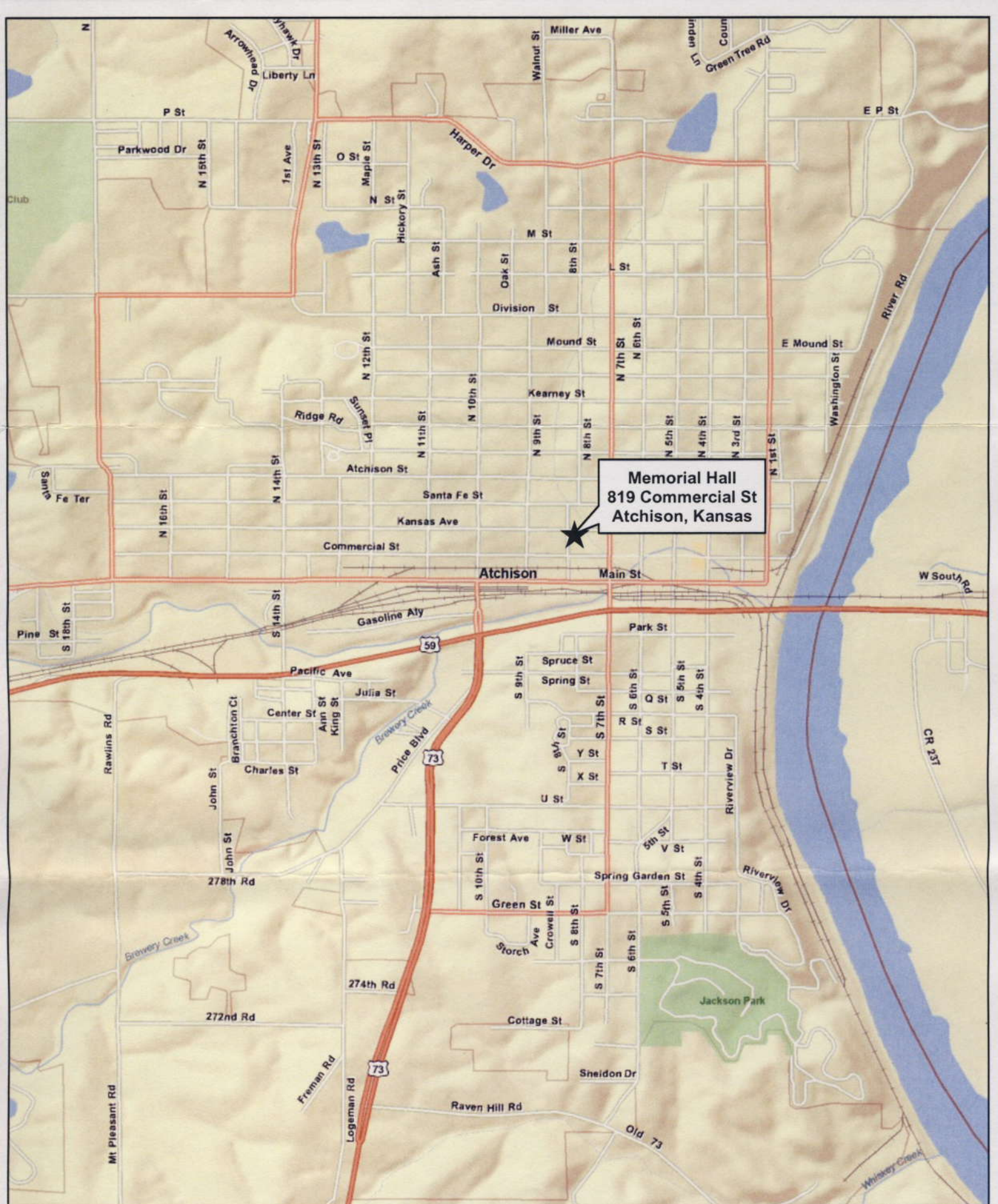
Photo (1): Entrance to Women's Room on left. Skate Room is center doors.

Photo (2): View of narrow entry to Restroom.

Photo (3): View shows sink facilities on east wall. Window is south wall.

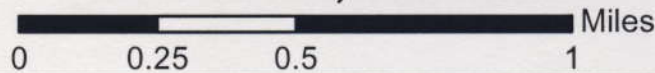
Photo (4): View looking east into commode facilities.

**NOTE:** As in Men's Restroom, entry and facilities will not pass A.D.A. regulations. Enlargement is needed and possible.

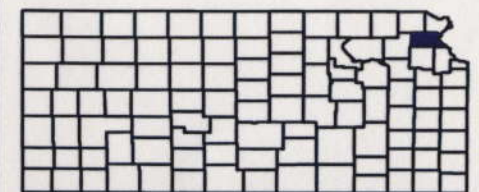


Memorial Hall  
819 Commercial St  
Atchison, Kansas

# Atchison, Kansas



# Memorial Hall Building Atchison, Kansas



**ATCHISON COUNTY**