

JOHNS HILL SCHOOL AND BOILER HOUSE  
1025 East Johns Avenue  
Decatur  
Macon County  
Illinois

HABS No. IL-1264

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED & INTERPRETIVE DRAWINGS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001

**HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY**  
**JOHNS HILL SCHOOL AND BOILER HOUSE**

**HABS No. IL-1264**

**Location:** 1025 East Johns Avenue, Decatur, Illinois 61521

The Johns Hill School and Boiler House is located at latitude: 39.838090, longitude: -88.942407. The coordinate represents the main entrance at the west face of the School. The coordinate was obtained September 14, 2020 utilizing Google Earth Pro software (WGS84) and the accuracy is estimated at +/- 3 meters. The Johns Hill School and Boiler House location has no restriction on its release to the public.

**Present Owner/Occupant:** Decatur Public Schools District 61

**Present Use:** Magnet Elementary School

**Significance:** The Johns Hill School is an excellent example of the Gothic Revival Style utilized on a K-12 school building. The building's exterior stone finials, buttresses, arches, and ornament is indicative of the style.

The school is located on the original home site of the prominent Johns Family of Decatur. The block was dedicated to the City of Decatur upon the death of Jane Johns in 1919 and the School was named to honor the family.

**Historians:** Scott Utter and Katherine Pohl, Summer 2020

**Project Information:** This documentation project was prepared pursuant to Illinois Historic Resources Preservation Act (20 ILCS 3420) and its rules (17 IAC 4180) to address Stipulation I. MITIGATION of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the Demolition of the Existing Johns Hill School and Boiler House (July 21, 2020), Decatur, Macon County, Illinois.

The Johns Hill School and Boiler House recording project was executed during the Summer of 2020 by AltusWorks, Inc. and Dirk Matthews Photography in cooperation with the Decatur Public Schools District 61. Key personnel included Scott Utter, project manager and historian, Ellen Stoner, quality control, Katherine Pohl, historian, and Dirk Matthews, photographer.

## PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

### A. Physical History

1. Date of erection: The Johns Hill School was built in 1929. The Boiler House was constructed in 1924.

Additions: 1973 and 1985

2. Architect: Brooks, Bramhall & Dague.
3. Original owners, occupants, uses: Decatur, Illinois Board of Education. The School's original use was a junior high school. The Boiler House building was constructed to provide heat to the adjacent Washington Elementary School (demolished).
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Roy W. Christy, General Contractor
5. Original plans and construction: The original plans for the Johns Hill School (School) are titled "South East Junior High School" as the naming of the school as Johns Hill Junior High School was not determined until August of 1928.<sup>1</sup> The original plan of the Johns Hill School was for a T-shaped plan with a classroom wing and an auditorium/ gymnasium wing. The classroom wing contained a single, double loaded corridor which provided access to classrooms, restrooms, locker rooms, and office spaces on basement, first floor, and second floors. The main entrance to the school was on the south elevation at the midpoint of the primary building mass. Secondary entrances were located at the east and west elevations of the building. Opposite the main entrance and perpendicular to the classroom wing of the building was a stacked double height gymnasium (sunken) and double height auditorium with balcony. Egress stairs were located on either side of the gym and auditorium structure.

Original drawings for the Johns Hill School indicate that two additional classrooms were to be constructed on each floor with a secondary corridor intersecting the main corridor at the north end.<sup>2</sup> If built, the two classrooms would have extended from the main mass of the building to the east of the existing classroom and restrooms. As constructed, the building ends at the east wall of the restrooms and the east façade was built per the elevation on sheet seven of the construction documents.<sup>3</sup>

The Boiler House was constructed in 1924 to serve the Washington Elementary School (demolished) located to the West. Both the Washington Elementary School and the Boiler House were designed by Brooks, Bramhall & Dague. The Boiler House was a single space containing two boilers with a connected coal bunker creating an L-shape

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<sup>1</sup> "Johns Hill Junior High is Name Given to New Building," *Herald and Review* (Decatur, IL), Aug. 26, 1928.

<sup>2</sup> Brooks, Bramhall & Dague, *South East Junior High School, Plan of First Floor, Sheet 3*, June 1, 1928, Decatur School District Archives.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, *Sheet 7*.

plan.<sup>4</sup> The Boiler House was accessed by a cast-in-place concrete ramp enclosure located at the east of the primary spaces. The Boiler House was connected to the Washington Elementary School by a cast-in-place concrete tunnel. Drawings indicate a “Future Boiler Room” was planned for the northwest corner to infill the L-shape plan.<sup>5</sup> Newspaper descriptions focusing on the construction of Washington Elementary School indicate that the Boiler House “is designed to heat the new grade building and also the new junior high school which will be erected on a site adjacent in a short time.”<sup>6</sup>

6. Alterations and additions: Drawings also indicate that locker rooms open to the corridor were constructed adjacent to the restrooms. This condition is visible on the basement level where the original arched openings are still in place. The locker rooms have been replaced with additional classroom spaces on the first and second floor. Original drawings of the auditorium indicate that seating was provided below the balcony. This seating has been removed and two additional classrooms constructed in their place.

The Boiler House was expanded in 1929 with one additional boiler to serve the new Johns Hill School. The original architects also designed the Boiler House addition. The addition infilled the northwest corner of the original L-shaped Boiler House to create a rectangular shaped building. A concrete tunnel protected piping serving the Johns Hill School, below grade, and entered the School at the south.

A multipurpose room addition was constructed in 1973 and designed by Architects Design Spectrum and Caudill Rowlett Scott. The addition is constructed to the east of the original auditorium /gymnasium wing of the original school and is connected to the main building by two vestibules.

Original wood windows at the original school building were removed in 1977 and replaced with aluminum windows under the design of Architect John F. Sweetnam.

The library addition was constructed to the south of the auditorium/gymnasium wing in 1985 and the Architect was Salogga, Bradley, Likins, and Dillon.

## B. Historical Context

Various Native American tribes have lived in the area now known as Macon County. The most recent, the Kickapoo Tribe, lived in Illinois but began to leave in the early 1830s as part of treaties with the United States government.<sup>7, 8</sup> Macon became a county in 1829 and in the same

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<sup>4</sup> Brooks, Bramhall & Dague, *Elementary School, Plan of Boiler Room, Sheet 15*, Decatur School District Archives.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> “New Grade School to go on Johns Hill,” *Herald and Review* (Decatur, IL), June 15, 1924.

<sup>7</sup> “Homeland/Migration Routes,” Kansas Kickapoo Tribe, Kansas Kickapoo Tribe, September 18, 2020. <https://www.ktik-nsn.gov/history>.

<sup>8</sup> *Past and Present of the City of Decatur and Macon County Illinois* (Chicago: S.J. Clark Publishing Company, 1903), 14.

year Decatur, Illinois was laid out and planned to be the seat of the County.<sup>9</sup> When Illinois moved its capital to Springfield, it also organized the Internal Improvement act to build a new railroad to transport agricultural products to other parts of the country. Speculation ensued when surveying efforts identified the route would pass through Decatur. Lots were sold and speculators began to build along the railroad. Disruption in the financial markets in the late 1830s caused the abandonment of the railroad scheme, plunging the area into a depression and delaying any railroad construction through Decatur until 1850.<sup>10</sup>

Congress passed an act granting land to Illinois to build a railroad in 1850 and in 1851 the Illinois legislature incorporated the Illinois Central Railroad and gave it land in trust to operate. By 1854 the railroad was completed through Decatur.<sup>11</sup> The same year also brought the extension of The Wabash railroad through Decatur, portions of which had been part of the original Internal Improvement scheme, calling it The Great Western Railroad. Eventually renamed The Wabash Railroad, it connected cities from Kansas City to New York City. In addition to these lines, the Terre Haute and Peoria division of The Vandalia railroad connected Decatur to the east coast, and The Indiana, Decatur, and Western Railroad connected a line from Indianapolis, Indiana to Springfield, Illinois.<sup>12</sup> The construction of the railroads brought with it an influx of new residents and Decatur began to emerge from its economic depression.<sup>13</sup> Macon County produced some crops for sale, as well as livestock, such as hogs, and the railroads opened access to markets to the east and south for their sale.<sup>14</sup> Businesses which connected the local economy to the railroads included pork packing and grain mills.<sup>15</sup> New businesses were also founded, such as the Mueller Manufacturing Company and the Millikin Bank.<sup>16</sup> The population increased from 1,112 in 1830 to 26,481 in 1870<sup>17</sup> and the town continued to grow into the twentieth century.

Jane Martin and Harvey Johns married in Circleville, Ohio in 1845. Harvey, who had studied medicine, had an office in Circleville where he practiced medicine. Soon though, Harvey bought a farm in Piatt County, Illinois from Dr. Hull in 1849.<sup>18,19</sup> Around this time, Dr. Johns began to develop an interest in agriculture. Eventually, he left medicine and specialized in breeding cattle and hogs. Jane and Harvey moved to Decatur with their two children in 1849 and lived first at Macon House.<sup>20</sup> The city soon began to grow and the Johns became an integral part of its society.

Harvey Johns became very involved in the agricultural and political communities in Illinois. In 1852 he became both vice president of the Agricultural Board of Illinois and a member of the state legislature of Piatt county for the Whig party. During his lifetime he was also involved in the

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<sup>9</sup> Ibid., 13.

<sup>10</sup> Johns, Jane Martin, *Personal Recollections of Early Decatur, Abraham Lincoln, Richard J. Ogelsby and the Civil War*, ed. Howard C. Schaub (Decatur Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, 1912), 16-35.

<sup>11</sup> *Past and Present*, 29.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid., 29-30.

<sup>13</sup> Johns, *Personal Recollections*, 35.

<sup>14</sup> *Past and Present*, 28-29.

<sup>15</sup> Johns, 50-51.

<sup>16</sup> Susan M. Baldwin and Cindi Bills, "Roosevelt Junior High School" (National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 2002), 15.

<sup>17</sup> *Past and Present*, 18.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid., 700.

<sup>19</sup> Johns, 12.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid., 12, 14, 21.

Illinois State Breeders' Association and the National Agricultural Association. Dr. Johns introduced Durham cattle into Illinois.<sup>21</sup> During the Civil War he volunteered as a surgeon to Governor Yates and was sent to the front to care for the wounded.<sup>22</sup>

Jane Martin Johns also took an active part in the Decatur community. She organized the Social Services Bureau<sup>23</sup> and was an active member of her local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Jane worked to support the war effort in both the Civil War and World War I. Despite being over ninety years old, she worked almost every day during World War I for the Red Cross surgical dressing department and for some time making trench candles. In 1917 she gave a speech to drafted men before their departure to camp.<sup>24</sup> She also gave speeches at the high school on several occasions.

The Johns family was a friend to Abraham Lincoln, having met him shortly after they arrived in Decatur.<sup>25</sup> Harvey, while elected for the Whig party, attended the nineteenth general assembly in Springfield, Illinois in 1855. Lincoln was a candidate for Senate and had been campaigning for election at the assembly. While attending, Jane overheard men in an adjoining room discuss a plot to ensure the election of Governor Matteson. She was able to tell Harvey, who informed Lincoln of the plan. Lincoln gathered a few close supporters and persuaded them to vote for Lyman Trumbul instead of himself. Trumbul did win the election, proving Lincoln's sacrifice worthwhile.<sup>26</sup>

Jane and Harvey had five children together, William Corwin Johns, Fannie Johns, Helen Johns, Sheridan Johns, and Laura Johns.<sup>27</sup> Jane survived her husband, Harvey who died in 1899.<sup>28</sup> At the time of Jane's death in 1919 only two of her children were still living, Sheridan, Johns and Mrs. C.B.T. Moore (nee Helen Johns).<sup>29</sup>

Jane Johns at first opposed moving from Ohio to Illinois. As they travelled into town, they passed the hill that would later become their home and she said "I will consent to live in Illinois if I can live on that hill."<sup>30</sup> The property was bought for the couple by William Martin, Jane's father, in 1852.<sup>31</sup> In June of 1860 it was put into trust by him for Jane and her children so that they would be supported.<sup>32</sup> The Johns began to build a house there in 1854. They built the house of Decatur brick, two stories tall, with a columned porch in one corner and a turret. Its style is reminiscent of the Italianate style popular in the era. The house and the foundation of the barn were the first

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<sup>21</sup> *Past and Present*, 701.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*, 701.

<sup>23</sup> "Jane M. Johns, Aged 92, Dies Early Thursday," *Decatur Herald and Review* (Decatur, IL), June 26, 1919.

<sup>24</sup> "Mrs. Jane M. Johns Dies at Age of 92," *Decatur Daily Review* (Decatur, IL), June 26, 1919.

<sup>25</sup> *Past and Present*, 700.

<sup>26</sup> "Once Thwarted Plot to Defeat Lincoln," *Decatur Daily Review* (Decatur, IL), June 26, 1919.

<sup>27</sup> Phillips, Isaac Newton, "Johns Vs. Johns," *Reports of Cases at Law and in Chancery Argued and Determined in the Supreme Court of Illinois* 172, United States: E.B. Myers & Company, (1898), 472.

<sup>28</sup> *Past and Present*, 702.

<sup>29</sup> "Mrs. Jane M. Johns Dies at Age of 92," *Decatur Daily Review* (Decatur, IL), June 26, 1919.

<sup>30</sup> Johns, 14.

<sup>31</sup> "Moved to Decatur and Built Home in 1852," *Decatur Daily Review* (Decatur, IL), June 26, 1919

<sup>32</sup> Phillips, Isaac Newton. "John Vs. Johns," *Reports of Cases at Law and in Chancery Argued and Determined in the Supreme Court of Illinois* 172, United States: E.B. Myers & Company, (1898), 474.

buildings to be built using Decatur brick.<sup>33</sup> Two trees were planted on either side of the drive and were kept in place even when the school was built.<sup>34</sup>

For many years before her death, Jane spoke about donating the land for use as a park and playground. The trust in which the land was held stipulated that after her death, the land should go to her heirs.<sup>35</sup> In 1915 she transferred a fund of \$15,000 to her trustees with the direction that when the land was sold they were to buy as much as they could for a park. She spoke to her heirs about her plan and saved as much as she could each year to put towards the purchase.<sup>36</sup>

After her death, Jane's heirs did sell or donate their portions to the city for a total of approximately 18 acres.<sup>37</sup> In 1928 the Decatur school board asked for permission to build a new school on the property. They wanted a new, safer, building so they could raze Central Junior High school and transfer the students.<sup>38</sup> The new Johns Hill building would have better fire proofing as well as a scientific heating and ventilation system to prevent the spread of disease.<sup>39</sup> The board employed Brooks, Bramhall & Dague as the architect for the project. The firm had worked for the school board before on Washington School, which occupied the lot next to Johns Hill Junior High school, and Durfee School, among others.<sup>40, 41</sup> The building was completed in the summer of 1929, in time for the start of the fall semester.<sup>42</sup> The Johns Hill Junior High School name was selected to honor the benefactor family that had donated the land for the park and the subsequent school.

Barkley Shelby Brooks founded the architectural firm of Books, Bramhall, and Dague in 1894. Originally a sole proprietor, Brooks was later joined by Arthur E. Bramhall and England Dague.<sup>43</sup> Brooks designed the first fireproof building in Decatur, the Morehouse and Wells Company Building, in 1911.<sup>44</sup> Overall, the firm designed over 175 buildings in Decatur and nearby towns. They specialized in commercial buildings such as schools, apartment buildings, churches, offices, and industrial facilities. For the school district of Decatur, the firm designed fourteen schools. Brooks, Bramhall, and Dague also designed Aton Hall at Millikin University and the Decatur Post Office, among other notable buildings in Decatur.<sup>45, 46</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> Johns, 48.

<sup>34</sup> "Remove Tress on Johns Hill," *Decatur Herald and Review* (Decatur, IL), July 31, 1928.

<sup>35</sup> Phillips, 474.

<sup>36</sup> "Made Great Gift to City of Decatur," *Decatur Daily Review* (Decatur, IL), June 26, 1919.

<sup>37</sup> "Johns Hill Park of 18 Acres is Donated to City," *Decatur Herald and Review* (Decatur, IL), December 21, 1920.

<sup>38</sup> "Ask Bond Issue of \$400,000 for Two Junior High Schools," *Decatur Herald and Review* (Decatur, IL), March 08, 1928.

<sup>39</sup> "Proper Ventilation of School Rooms Important Element Now in Construction Buildings," *Decatur Herald and Review* (Decatur, IL), October 08, 1928.

<sup>40</sup> "Washington School," *Decatur Herald and Review* (Decatur, IL), May 08, 1927.

<sup>41</sup> "Building Work in Spurt After Weather Tie-Up," *Decatur Herald and Review* (Decatur, IL), May 03, 1925.

<sup>42</sup> "New Johns Hill School Ready for Occupancy Before Fall Term Opens," *Decatur Herald and Review* (Decatur, IL), July 27, 1929.

<sup>43</sup> Susan M. Baldwin and Cindi Bills, "Roosevelt Junior High School" (National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 2002), 11-12.

<sup>44</sup> *Ibid.*, 11.

<sup>45</sup> Susan M. Baldwin and Cindi Bills, 12.

<sup>46</sup> "Plan Details of New Postal Building Here," *Decatur Daily Review* (Decatur, IL), June 26, 1919.

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General statement

1. Architectural character: The exterior stone details and ornamentation of the School has a significant level of detail and craftsmanship in stone carving and masonry construction. The limestone façade contains finials, relief sculptures, buttressed piers, and arches which provide significant representation of the Gothic Revival Style. The Boiler House chimney contains some banding in limestone.
2. Condition of fabric: The Johns Hill School is in good condition. The Boiler House is in poor condition specifically related to deteriorated exterior masonry and interior concrete structure.

### B. Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: The Johns Hill School is 2-stories with a raised basement and is 53'-6" tall at the main entrance. The overall school dimension is 259'-2" in the north south dimension and 202'-0" in the east west dimension.

The Boiler House is one story and 9'-0" tall. The overall Boiler House dimension is 54'-4" in the north south dimension and 48'-0" in the east west dimension.

2. Foundations: The School foundations are composed of cast-in-place concrete footings with brick masonry foundation walls. Foundation walls at the multipurpose room and library addition are cast-in-place concrete.

The Boiler House footings and foundation walls are composed of cast-in-place concrete up to grade.

3. Walls: The Johns Hill School exterior walls are composed of red brick masonry with limestone alternating height courses of ashlar units and gothic motif ornamental elements. A one-story projecting limestone mass signifies the main entrance and is flanked on either side by large limestone piers. Within the piers are quatrefoil carvings with a rose set within. Limestone segmental arches at the north, south and east entrances create the door openings. Arch voussoirs are carved with a continuous running trim that transitions at the springing stone to an alternating height ashlar pier.

Brick masonry buttresses are expressed between the classroom windows and step inward as the buttress increases in height and is capped by a pointed limestone capital. A continuous limestone water table is located at the head of the basement windows.

Parapet level stone panels are centered above the three building entrances as well as the two projecting end masses of the east elevation.<sup>47</sup> The stone panels are laid in an alternating height ashlar pattern with expressed finials that extend beyond the height of

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<sup>47</sup> Brooks, Bramhall & Dague, South East Junior High School, *Sheet 6*, Decatur School District Archives.



the parapet. Similar finials are located at the main entrance volume parapet. A stone coping is located at the top of the parapet wall throughout the School.

The walls of the library and multipurpose room addition are composed of an orange brick veneer in a running bond pattern. The parapet walls are capped with a metal coping.

The Boiler House walls are of brick masonry with limestone window sills. The brick masonry is constructed with a common bond with a Flemish header course every 6<sup>th</sup> course. The masonry parapet extends to three sides of the building and is capped by a metal coping. The third wall terminates at the roof with a gutter to which stormwater drains.

4. Structural system, framing: The School basement floor structure is composed of cast-in-place concrete beams and joists that bear on the exterior wall. The first floor, second floor, and roof structure are composed of steel joists supporting concrete slab. Warren type steel trusses with vertical bracing span the entire width of the auditorium and bear on the exterior brick masonry wall. The auditorium floor is supported on steel beams which bear on steel I-shape columns in the gymnasium. Two lines of columns run east to west and are located between the bleachers and the gymnasium wood floor.

The multipurpose room addition and the library addition are slab-on-grade structures with metal roof trusses bearing on a concrete masonry unit exterior bearing wall. The trusses extend the full width of the building and support an exposed metal deck.

The boiler house roof structure is composed of steel joists with a concrete deck poured over a flat metal lath. The 1924 portion of the Boiler House roof is supported by a cast iron column at the center of the space, located between the two boilers.

#### 5. Openings

- a. Doorways and doors: Johns Hill School entrances are located at the north, south, and west elevation and accessed by concrete stairs. Exit doors are located at the east elevation and provide egress from the building stairs. Previous exterior exit doors out of the north east and south east corners of the gym now exit to a vestibule between the School and the multipurpose room addition.

Doors at the building exterior are solid steel flush panel doors with a 12"x12" window at the top.

- b. Windows: Window openings at the typical classroom are composed of a ganged three double hung window with a brick head and limestone sill. Auditorium windows were originally double height on the north and south with an arched brick head. Auditorium window openings have been infilled with a solid metal panel with a small double hung window set within.

Replacement aluminum window assemblies were configured with a double hung window at the lower half of the opening with a one-over-one light configuration.

The upper half of the window opening is composed of an opaque aluminum panel.

Window openings in the library addition are individual double hung windows with an opaque aluminum panel to match the original building's replacement windows. There are no windows in the multipurpose room addition.

Window openings within the Boiler House have been infilled with brick masonry.

6. Chimney: A single chimney serves the four boilers in the boiler house and was constructed at 87'-0" tall. The current height of the chimney is approximately 43'-0". The chimney is composed of brick masonry with limestone band and coping. The chimney is engaged with the east wall of the boiler house.

7. Roof

- a. Shape, covering: The roofs at all locations are low-sloped roof with a membrane covering.
- b. Cornice, eaves: A shallow stone cornice is located above the second-floor windows and runs the entire perimeter of the School.

### C. Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: The School is a T-plan with the classroom wing running north to south; bisected at the midpoint by the auditorium/gymnasium wing located to the east. Basement, first floor, and second floor of the classroom wing are arranged with the classrooms on the west side of the corridor and restrooms and locker rooms at the east half of the corridor. The sunken floor of the gymnasium is 10'-3-1/2" below the classroom wing basement floor level. The bleachers, accessed from the classroom wing corridor, provide the vertical transition between the two floor heights. The locker rooms, located under the bleachers, are approximately 2' below the gymnasium floor. The main floor of the auditorium is accessed by the first-floor corridor and the balcony from the second-floor corridor. The main office is located at the first floor adjacent to the main entrance stairs.

The multipurpose room addition is entered through the gymnasium stairs to an enclosed vestibule. The multipurpose room addition is a single room. The library is a single-story addition located to the south of the auditorium and accessed by a secondary corridor intersecting the main corridor at the south.

The Boiler House is rectangular in plan and composed of two rooms. The south room contains the two boilers that serviced the demolished Washington Elementary School and the north room contains the two boilers that provide heat for Johns Hill School.

2. Stairways: The School's main entrance connects directly to an open stair which accesses the first floor. Four stair enclosures are located at the corners of the auditorium/ gymnasium wing and serve all floors of the building. Stairs are composed of steel pans filled with concrete at the stair treads. Stair railings are composed of cast iron balusters and newel posts with molded wood top rails.
3. Flooring: The School's flooring in the corridors is composition tile and in the classrooms the flooring is carpet tile. Flooring in the gymnasium and auditorium is tongue and groove wood flooring.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: The wall finish in the School classrooms is a flat plaster with a painted finish. The walls of the corridor are constructed with painted brick masonry to approximately seven feet high with flat plaster walls above. The ceiling in the classrooms and corridors is a two by four suspended acoustic ceiling system which conceals a flat plaster ceiling above. The walls and ceiling of the auditorium are a combination of ornamental and flat plaster. The wall ornamentation mimics the exterior masonry wall details with engaged buttresses which are capped with a pointed plaster capital. The auditorium ceiling is coffered with expressed beams in both directions. The flat area between the beams is lined with cork board for sound insulation. The walls within the gymnasium are a glazed, brick masonry. The gymnasium ceiling is a two by four suspended acoustic ceiling system with an original tongue and groove painted wood ceiling above. The ceiling in the library addition is a two by four acoustic ceiling and in the multipurpose room the roof structure is exposed.

The Boiler House exterior walls and roof structure are exposed with no ceiling or wall finish.

5. Openings
  - a. Doorways and doors: Doors in the School are wood paneled, stile and rail doors with a six-light glazed opening over two solid wood panels. Corridor doors have solid panel transoms within a stained wood frame. The interior vestibule doors are stile and rail wood stained doors with a fully glazed twelve light panel. Vestibule doors have wood framed glass transoms and sidelights.
  - b. Windows: Windows throughout the School have wood interior sills. The auditorium windows have stone sills with painted wood surrounds and a plaster hood at the original window opening. The original window opening is infilled with a solid, painted gypsum wallboard panel.

Two fixed interior windows with twelve lights each are located above the main entrance stairs. The windows open into the Principal's office and provide borrowed light from the exterior to the main stair.
6. Decorative features and trim: As described above the auditorium has decorative plaster details which mimic the exterior detailing of the masonry wall. The perimeter of the space as well as the beam to ceiling joint has a crown molding. The seating in the

auditorium is laminated bent wood at the seats and backs installed on steel row stanchions mounted to the floor. Arms of the seating are solid wood with a scroll at the outer edge. The lower wall of the balcony is composed of stained wood with panels and a rounded top rail.

Classrooms have three walls dedicated to slate chalkboards with wood surrounds. Classrooms originally assigned to house science, domestic arts, and art have wood drawers and vertical casework constructed of oak with metal pulls.

Lockers are steel and fabricated by the Lyons Metal Products corporation of Aurora, Illinois.

#### 7. Mechanical equipment

- a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: The two boilers which provide heat for the School are manufactured by Kewaunee Boiler Company. The Boiler House and School are connected through an underground tunnel which contains hot water piping. Radiators and unit ventilators are located throughout the School and provide the heating distribution. Located in the School classrooms, each unit ventilator has an opening through the exterior wall which bring in fresh air.

Toilets exhaust to the roof through masonry chases located at the corners of each restroom. The auditorium and gymnasium exhaust to the roof through ducts located in chases in the corridor wall.

#### D. Site

1. Historic landscape design: The building is sited on Johns Hill 30' above South Maffit Street located approximately 420' to the west. The main entrance is accessed by a stepped sidewalk from South Maffit Street. Two trees which line the path to the front door are the same trees which lined the drive to the Johns home.<sup>48</sup>

### PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

#### A. Architectural drawings:

Brooks, Bramhall & Dague. (1924, December 3). *Washington Elementary School*. Retrieved from Decatur School District Archives.

Includes sheets,

- Plan of Basement and Foundation – Sheet 1
- Plan of First Floor – Sheet 2
- Plan of Second Floor – Sheet 3
- Plan of Roof – Sheet 4
- Elevations – Sheet 5
- Elevations – Sheet 6

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<sup>48</sup> "Remove Trees on Johns Hill," *The Decatur Herald* (Decatur, IL), July 31, 1928.

- Elevations and Details – Sheet 8
- Window Details – Sheet 9
- Building Section – Sheet 10
- Interior Elevations and Details – Sheet 11
- Stair Details – Sheet 12
- Door Details – Sheet 13
- Details – Sheet 14
- Power House – Sheet 15
- Basement and Piping Plan – Sheet 16
- Mechanical First Floor Plan – Sheet 17
- Mechanical Second Floor Plan – Sheet 18
- Diagram of Risers – Sheet 19

Brooks, Bramhall & Dague. (1928, June 1). *South East Junior High School*. Retrieved from Decatur School District Archives.

Includes sheets,

- Plan of Foundation – Sheet 1
- Plan of Basement and Foundation – Sheet 2
- Plan of First Floor – Sheet 3
- Plan of Second Floor – Sheet 4
- Plan of Roof – Sheet 5
- Elevations – Sheet 6
- Elevations – Sheet 7
- Elevations and Details – Sheet 8
- Auditorium and Gym Section – Sheet 9
- Building Section – Sheet 10
- Elevation Details – Sheet 11
- Door Details – Sheet 12
- Stair Details – Sheet 13
- Boiler Room Plan – Sheet 15
- Heating Plan – Sheet 16
- Mechanical Plan of Basement – Sheet 17
- Mechanical Plan of First Floor – Sheet 18
- Mechanical Plan of Second Floor – Sheet 19
- Attic Piping Plan – Sheet 20
- Riser Diagram – Sheet 21
- Riser Diagram – Sheet 22
- Boiler Plan – Sheet 23

Design Spectrum & Caudill Rowlett Scott. (1973, July 6). *Addition to John Hill Junior High School*. Retrieved from Decatur School District Archives.

Includes sheets,

- Plan – Sheet G16
- Reflected Ceiling Plan – Sheet G17
- Roof Plan – Sheet G18
- Elevations and Sections – Sheet G19
- Foundation – Sheet S3
- Site, Paving, and Utility Plan – Sheet C8
- Grading Plan – Sheet C9
- Electrical Site Plan – Sheet E6
- Lighting Plan – Sheet E7
- Power Plan – Sheet E8
- Site Plan – Plumbing – Sheet P6
- Underfloor Plan – Plumbing – Sheet P7
- Floor Plan – Plumbing – Sheet P8

John F. Sweetnam, Architect and Engineer. (1977, August). *New Aluminum Windows*. Retrieved from Decatur School District Archives.

Includes sheets,

- East and West Elevations – Sheet J1
- North and South Elevations – Sheet J2
- Window Details – Sheet J3
- Window Types – Sheet J4
- Window Types – Sheet J5
- Auditorium Elevations – J1A

B. Early Views:

“New Junior High to Top Johns Hill.” *Decatur Herald and Review* (Decatur, IL), June 10, 1928.

“The Hilltop Junior High on Johns Hill.” *Decatur Herald and Review* (Decatur, IL), January 27, 1929.

Remnants of Decatur. *Photograph of Jane Johns' Home*. Photograph. Decatur, IL, 1914. Decatur Public Library.

“Washington School.” *Decatur Herald and Review* (Decatur, IL), May 08, 1927.

C. Selected Sources:

“Ask Bond Issue of \$400,000 for Two Junior High Schools.” *Decatur Herald and Review* (Decatur, IL), March 08, 1928.

“Building Work in Spurt After Weather Tie-Up.” *Decatur Herald and Review* (Decatur, IL), May 03, 1925.

*Decatur Daily Review* (Decatur, IL), April 23, 1900.

“Homeland/Migration Routes.” Kansas Kickapoo Tribe, Kansas Kickapoo Tribe, Spet. 18, 2020. <https://www.ktik-nsn.gov/history>.

“Jane M. Johns, Aged 92, Dies Early Thursday.” *Decatur Herald and Review* (Decatur, IL), June 26, 1919.

“Johns Hill Junior High is Name Given to New Building.” *Herald and Review* (Decatur, IL), August 26, 1928.

“Johns Hill Park of 18 Acres is Donated to City.” *Decatur Herald and Review* (Decatur, IL), December 21, 1920.

Johns, Jane Martin. *Personal Recollections of Early Decatur, Abraham Lincoln, Richard J. Ogelsby and the Civil War*, ed. Howard C. Schaub. Decatur Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, 1912.

“Made Great Gift to City of Decatur.” *Decatur Daily Review* (Decatur, IL), June 26, 1919.

“Mrs. Jane M. Johns Dies at Age of 92.” *Decatur Daily Review* (Decatur, IL), June 26, 1919.

“New Grade School to go on Johns Hill.” *Herald and Review* (Decatur, IL), June 15, 1924.

“New Johns Hill School Ready for Occupancy Before Fall Term Opens.” *Decatur Herald and Review* (Decatur, IL), Jul. 27, 1929.

“Once Thwarted Plot to Defeat Lincoln.” *Decatur Daily Review* (Decatur, IL), June 26, 1919.

*Past and Present of the City of Decatur and Macon County Illinois*. Chicago: S.J. Clark Publishing Company, 1903.

Phillips, Isaac Newton. “Johns vs. Johns.” *Reports of Cases at Law and in Chancery Argued and Determined in the Supreme Court of Illinois 172*, United States: E.B. Myers & Company, (1898).

“Plan Details of New Postal Building Here.” *Decatur Daily Review* (Decatur, IL), June 26, 1919.

“Proper Ventilation of School Rooms Important Element Now in Construction Buildings.” *Decatur Herald and Review* (Decatur, IL), October 08, 1928.

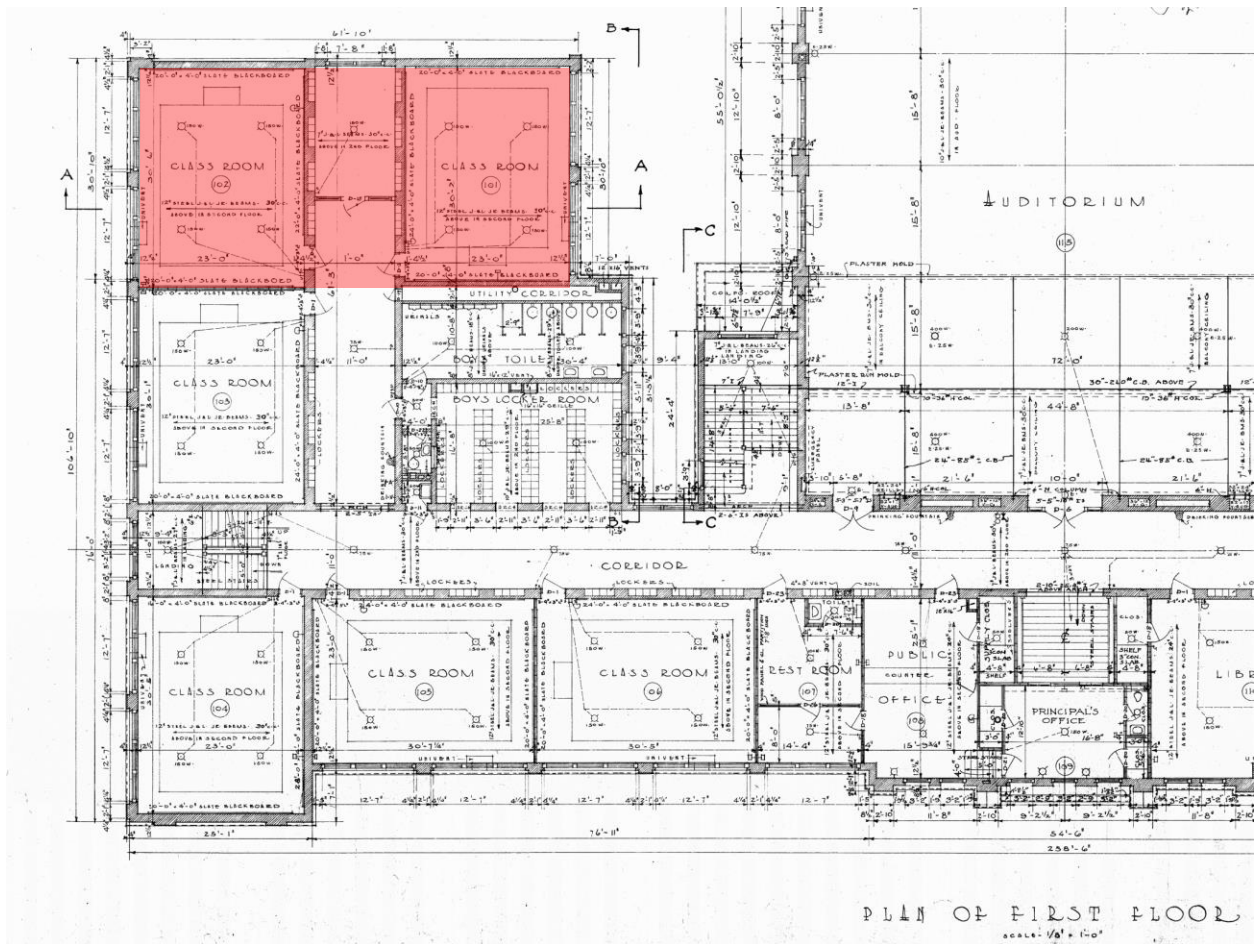
“Remove Tress on Johns Hill.” *Decatur Herald and Review* (Decatur, IL), July 31, 1928

Susan M. Baldwin and Cindi Bills. “Roosevelt Junior High School.” National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 2002.

D. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated:

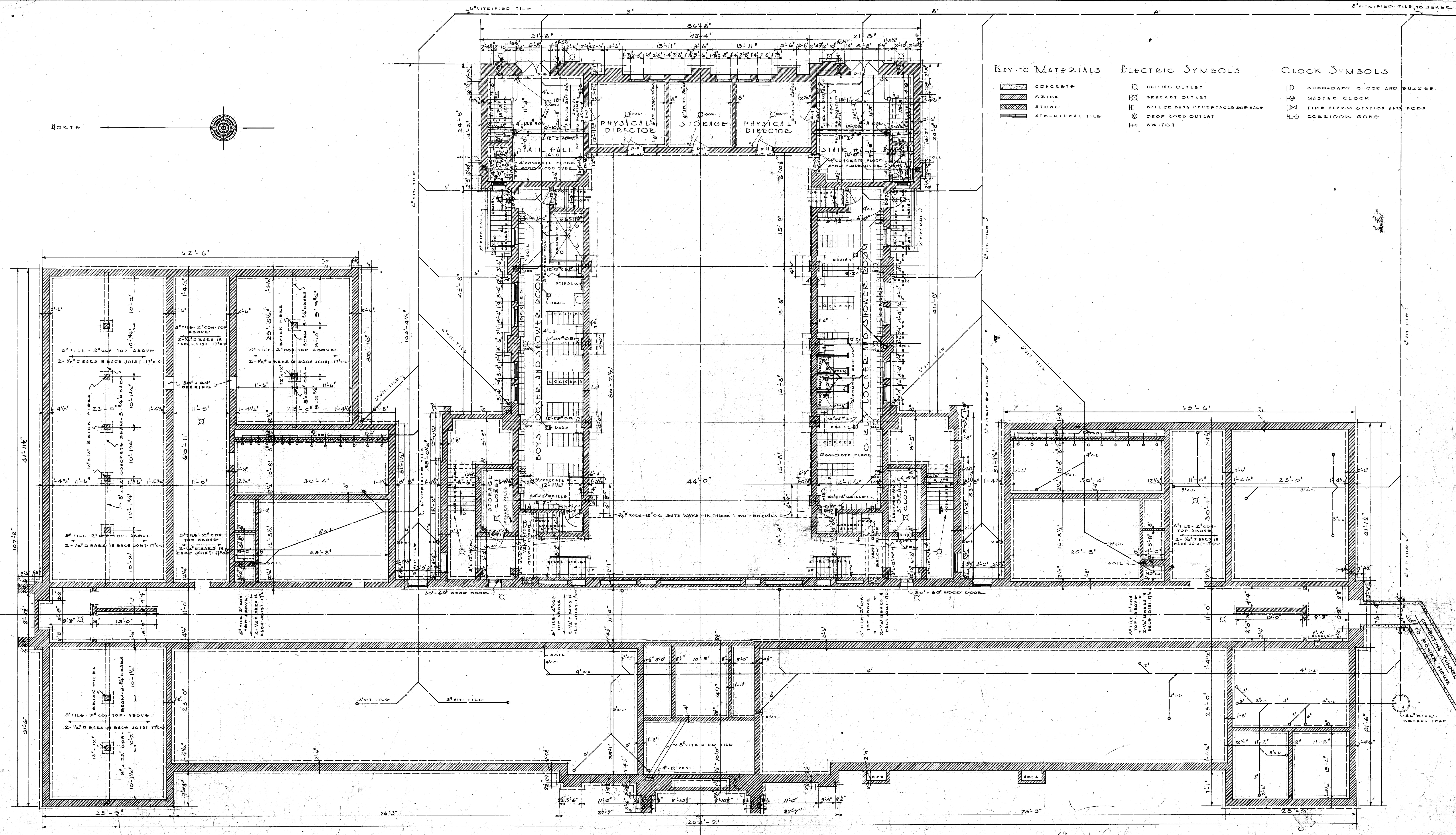
Banton, O.T. Decatur, Illinois. Decatur, IL: Macon County Historical Society, 1983.





The two classrooms, shaded above, at the north east corner of the School were not constructed on any of the floor as indicated in the original 1928 construction documents. The sketch plan on sheet 16 illustrates the built configuration.

Brooks, Bramhall & Dague, *Elementary School, Plan of Boiler Room, Sheet 3*, Decatur School District Archives.



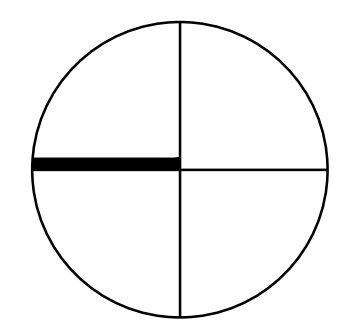
PLAN OF FOUNDATION

SCALE - 1/8" = 1'-0"

*John Hill  
Dr. High School*

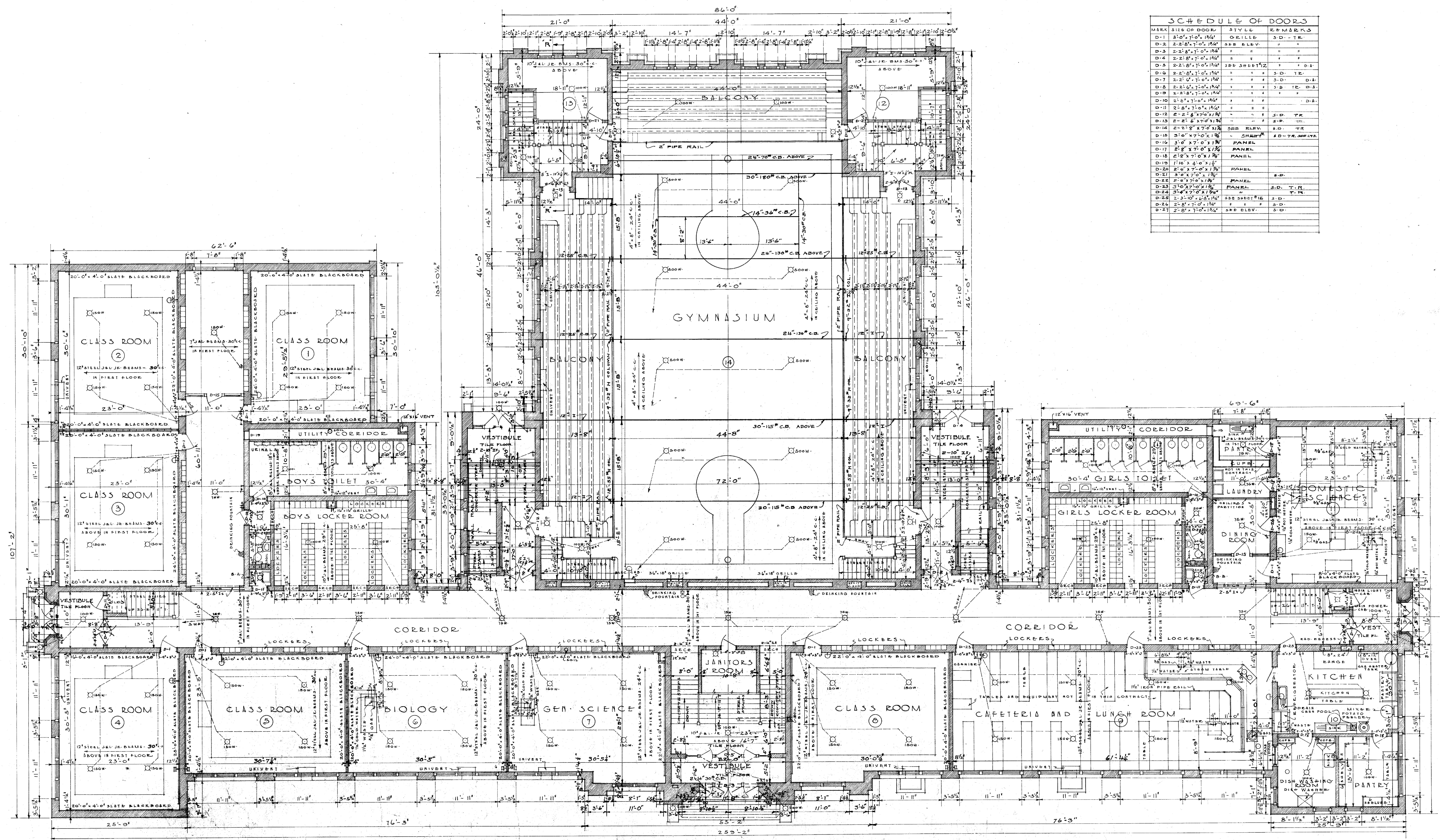
SOUTH EAST JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL  
FOR THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
DECATUR ILLINOIS

JUNE 1 1928  
BROOKS - BRANSHALL & DAGUE  
ARCHITECTS - DECATUR - ILLINOIS



THIS DRAWING IS A SCANNED REPRODUCTION OF AN ORIGINAL (1928) CONSTRUCTION DRAWING. IT HAS NOT BEEN FIELD VERIFIED FOR ACCURACY. THIS DRAWING IS SCANNED AT THE ORIGINAL SIZE BUT ACCURACY OF SCALE WAS NOT CONFIRMED.

DRAWN BY: SCOTT UTTER

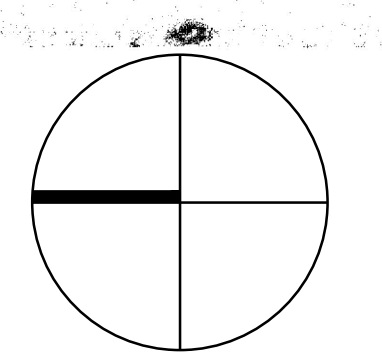


SCHEDULE OF DOORS

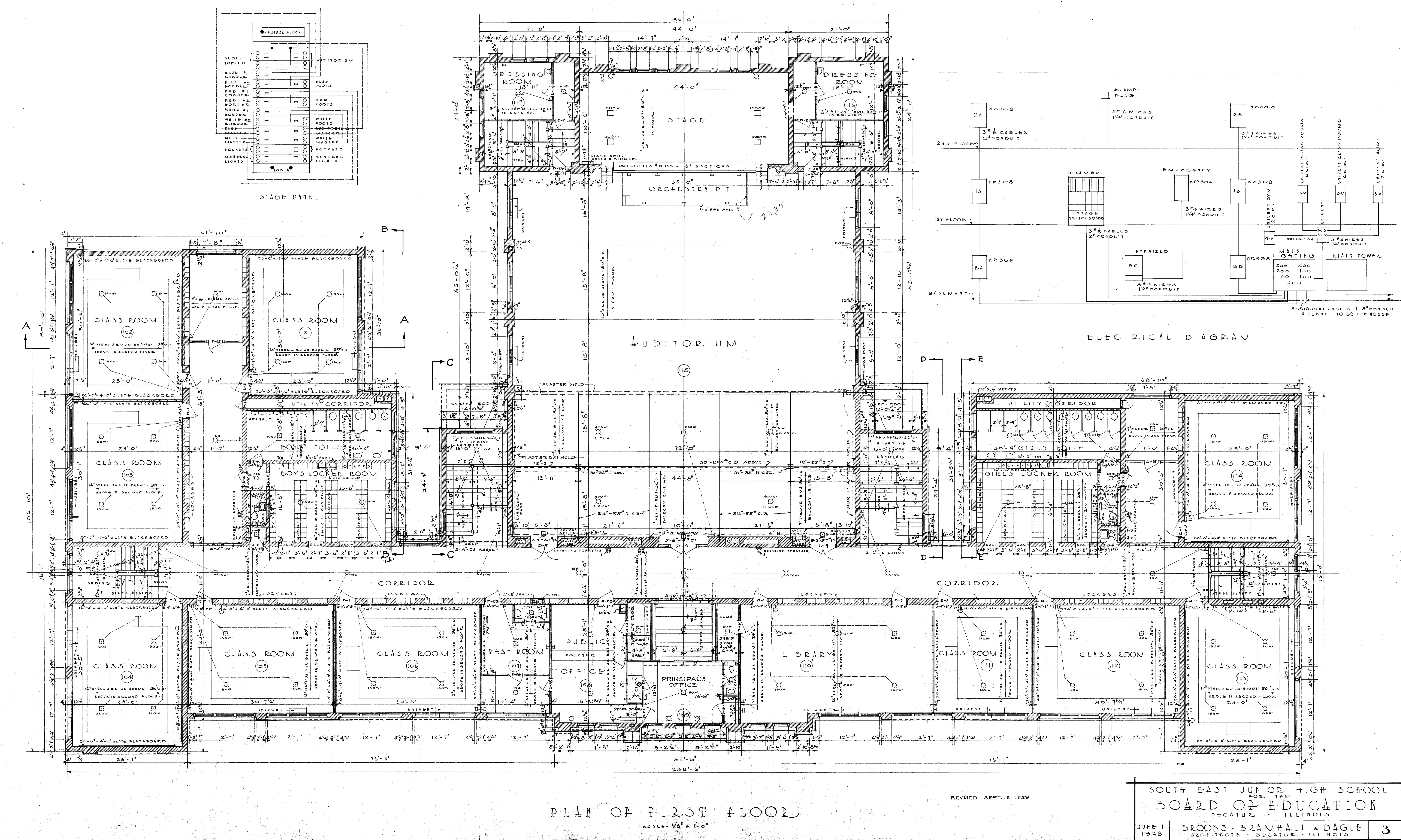
NO.	SIZE OF DOOR	STYLE	REMARKS
D-1	2'-0" x 7'-0" 1/2"	ORILLE	3-D - TR
D-2	2'-2 1/2" x 7'-0" 1/2"	SEE ELEV.	" "
D-3	2'-2 1/2" x 7'-0" 1/2"	" "	" "
D-4	2'-2 1/2" x 7'-0" 1/2"	" "	" "
D-5	2'-2 1/2" x 7'-0" 1/2"	100% SHEDDING	" "
D-6	2'-2 1/2" x 7'-0" 1/2"	" "	3-D - TR
D-7	2'-2 1/2" x 7'-0" 1/2"	" "	D-4
D-8	2'-2 1/2" x 7'-0" 1/2"	" "	3-D - TR, D-4
D-9	2'-2 1/2" x 7'-0" 1/2"	" "	" "
D-10	2'-2 1/2" x 7'-0" 1/2"	" "	D-4
D-11	2'-2 1/2" x 7'-0" 1/2"	" "	" "
D-12	2'-2 1/2" x 7'-0" 1/2"	" "	3-D - TR
D-13	2'-2 1/2" x 7'-0" 1/2"	SEE ELEV.	3-D - TR
D-14	2'-2 1/2" x 7'-0" 1/2"	SEE ELEV.	3-D - TR, SEE ELEV.
D-15	2'-2 1/2" x 7'-0" 1/2"	PANEL	" "
D-16	2'-2 1/2" x 7'-0" 1/2"	PANEL	" "
D-17	2'-2 1/2" x 7'-0" 1/2"	PANEL	" "
D-18	2'-2 1/2" x 7'-0" 1/2"	PANEL	" "
D-19	2'-2 1/2" x 7'-0" 1/2"	PANEL	" "
D-20	2'-2 1/2" x 7'-0" 1/2"	PANEL	" "
D-21	2'-2 1/2" x 7'-0" 1/2"	PANEL	" "
D-22	2'-2 1/2" x 7'-0" 1/2"	PANEL	3-D - TR
D-23	2'-2 1/2" x 7'-0" 1/2"	PANEL	3-D - TR
D-24	2'-2 1/2" x 7'-0" 1/2"	PANEL	3-D - TR
D-25	2'-2 1/2" x 7'-0" 1/2"	SEE ELEV.	3-D - TR
D-26	2'-2 1/2" x 7'-0" 1/2"	SEE ELEV.	3-D - TR
D-27	2'-2 1/2" x 7'-0" 1/2"	SEE ELEV.	3-D - TR

PLAN OF BASEMENT  
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

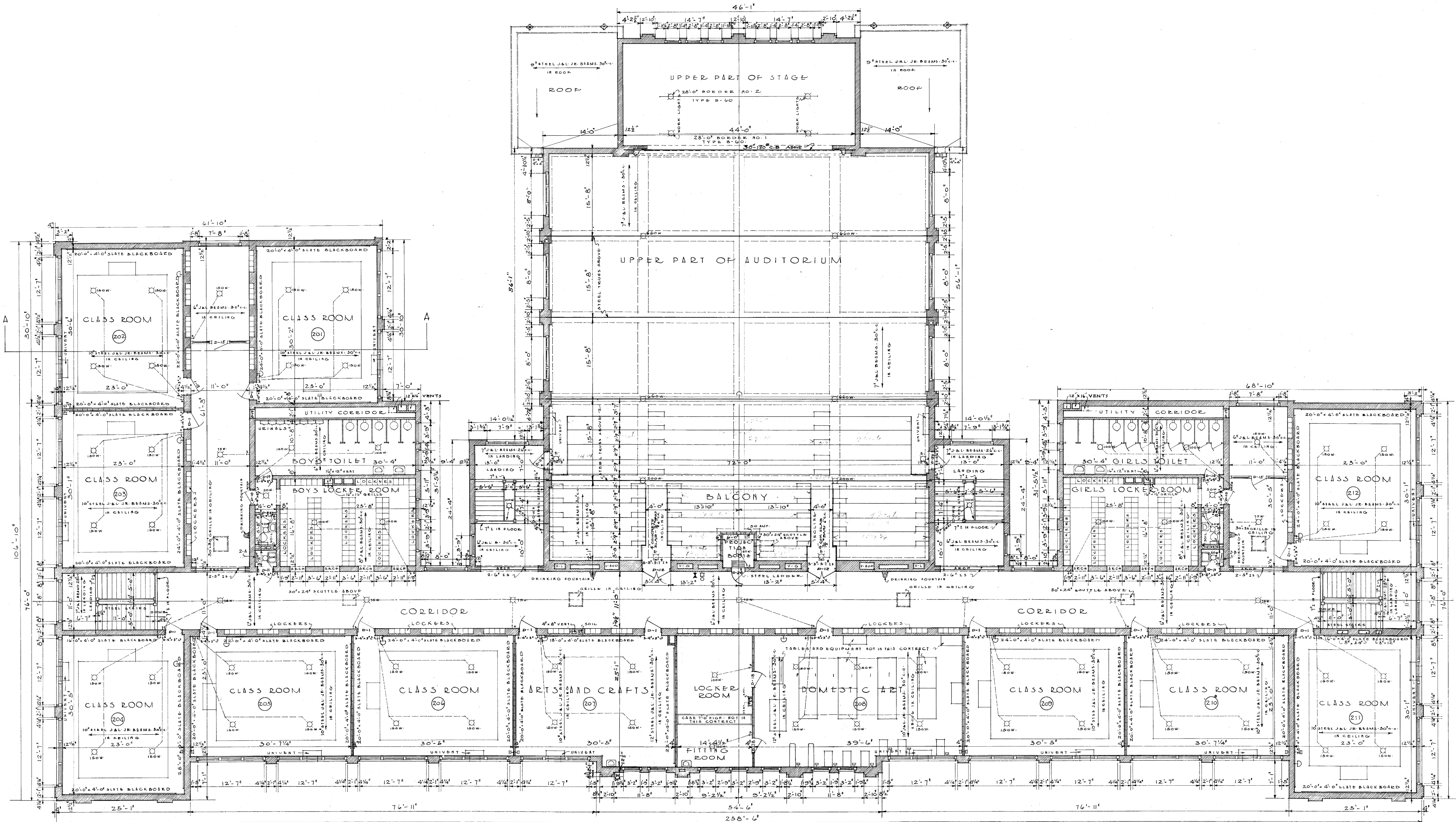
SOUTH EAST JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
DECATUR, ILLINOIS  
JUNE 1, 1928  
BROOKS, DRAMM & DAGUE  
ARCHITECTS - DECATUR - ILLINOIS



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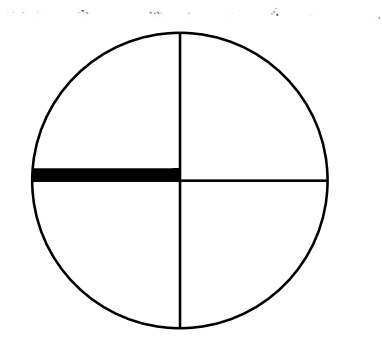


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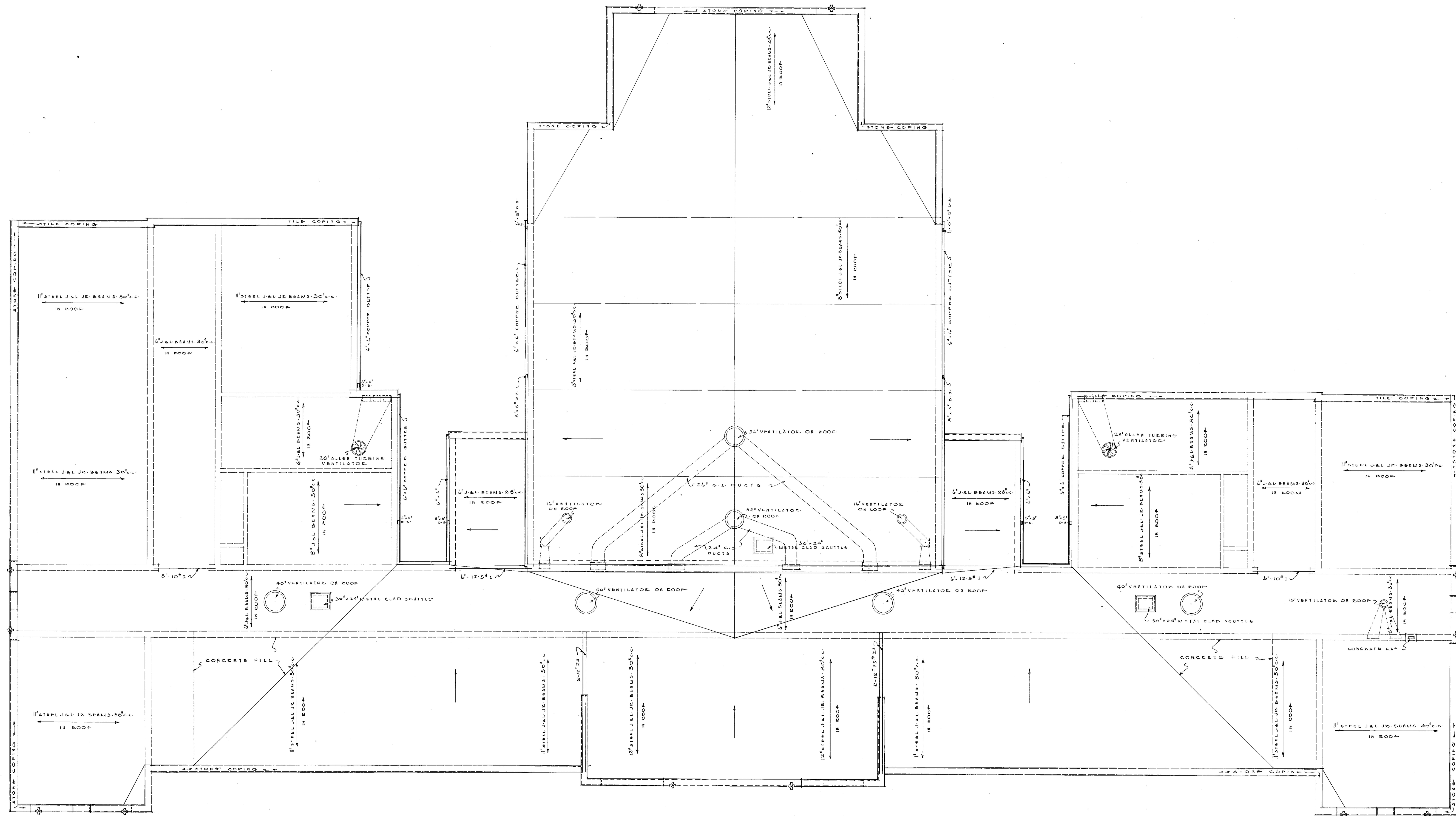


PLAN OF SECOND FLOOR  
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

SOUTH EAST JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL  
 BOARD OF EDUCATION  
 DECATUR, ILLINOIS  
 JUNE 1 1928  
 BROOKS - BRAMHALL & DAGUE, ARCHITECTS - DECATUR - ILLINOIS

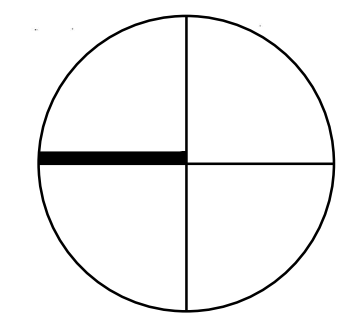


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PLAN OF ROOF  
SCALE - 1/8" = 1'-0"

SOUTH EAST JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL  
FOR THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
DECATUR ILLINOIS  
JUNE 1 1928 BROOKS - BRAMHALL & DAGUE ARCHITECTS - DECATUR - ILLINOIS 5



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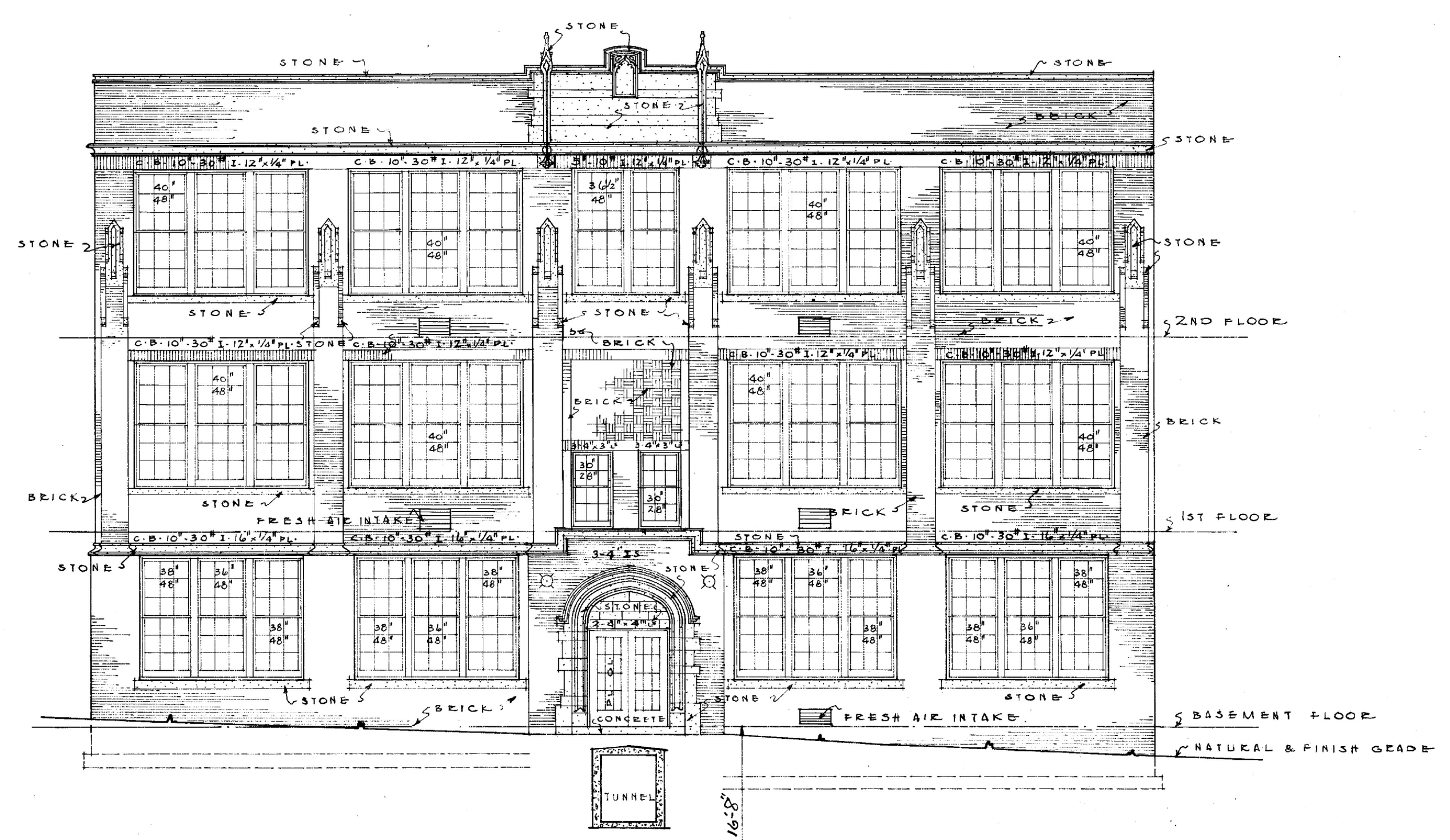
DRAWN BY: SCOTT UTTER  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

JOHNS HILL SCHOOL AND BOILER HOUSE  
1025 EAST JOHNS AVENUE DECATUR MACON COUNTY ILLINOIS

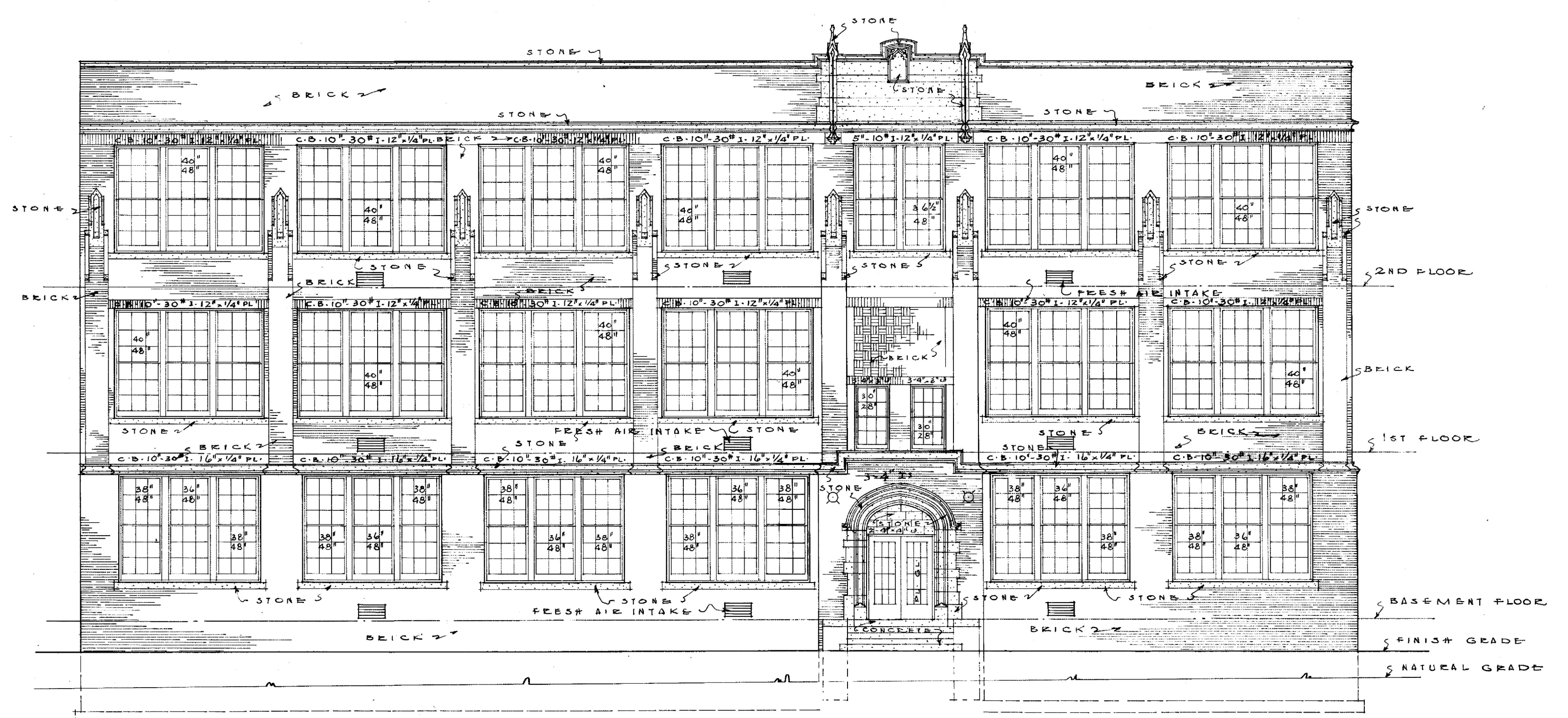
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
L-1264

SHEET 5  
OF 17 SHEETS

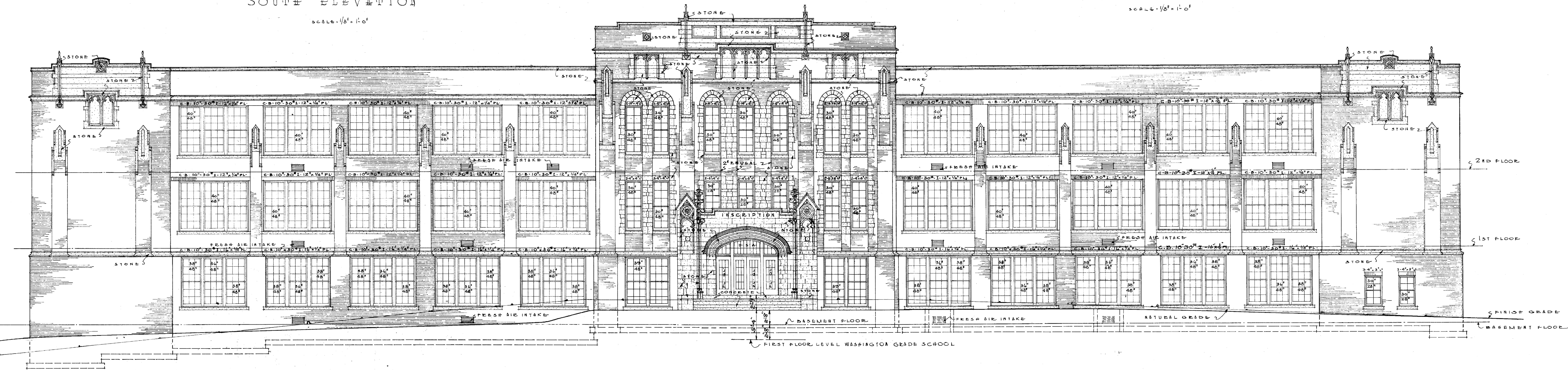
REPRODUCED PLEASE CREDIT THE HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY NATIONAL PARK SERVICE NAME OF DESIGNATOR DATE OF DRAWING



SOUTH ELEVATION  
SCALE - 1/8" = 1'-0"

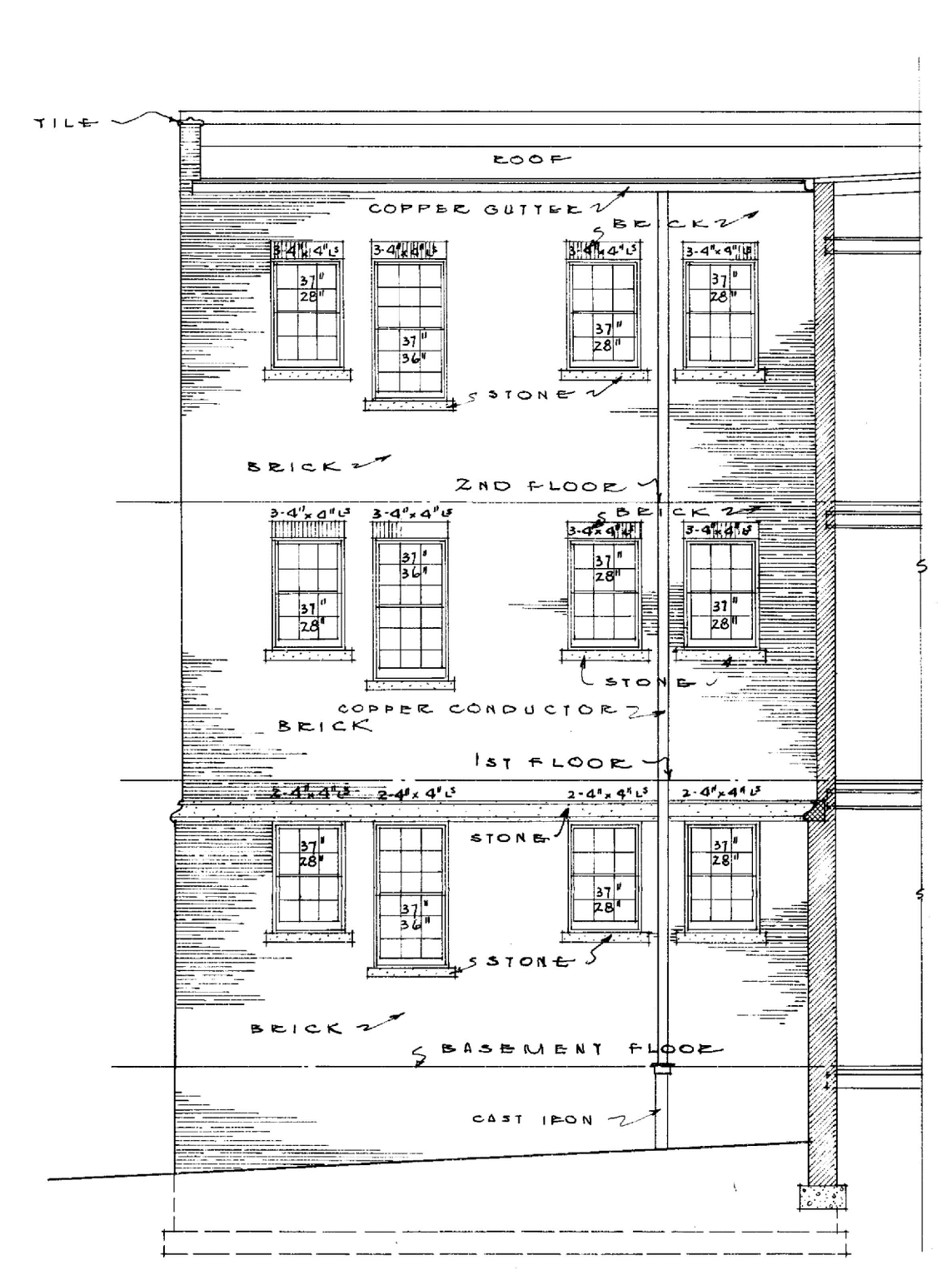


NORTH ELEVATION  
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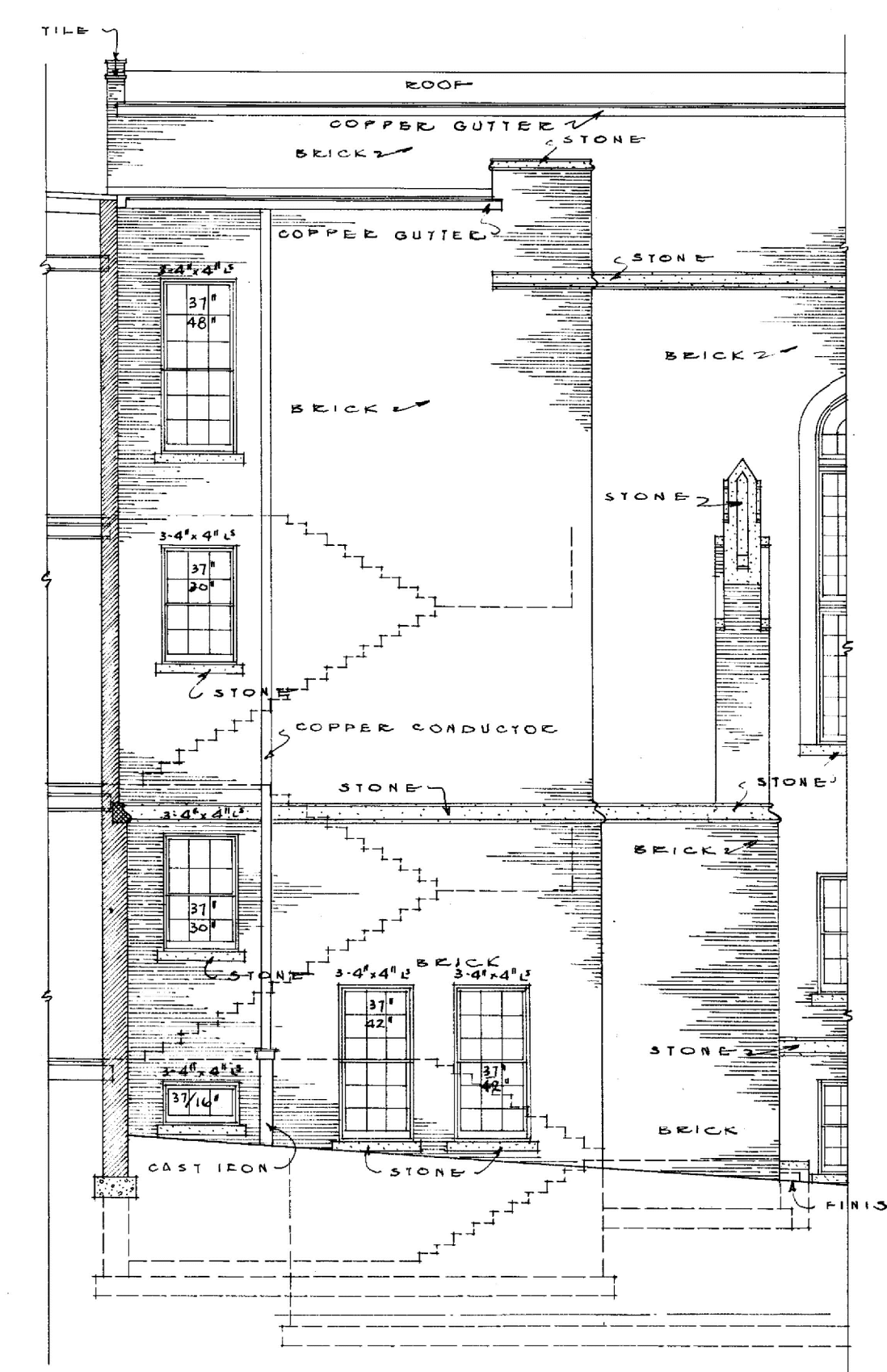


FRONT ELEVATION  
SCALE - 1/8" = 1'-0"

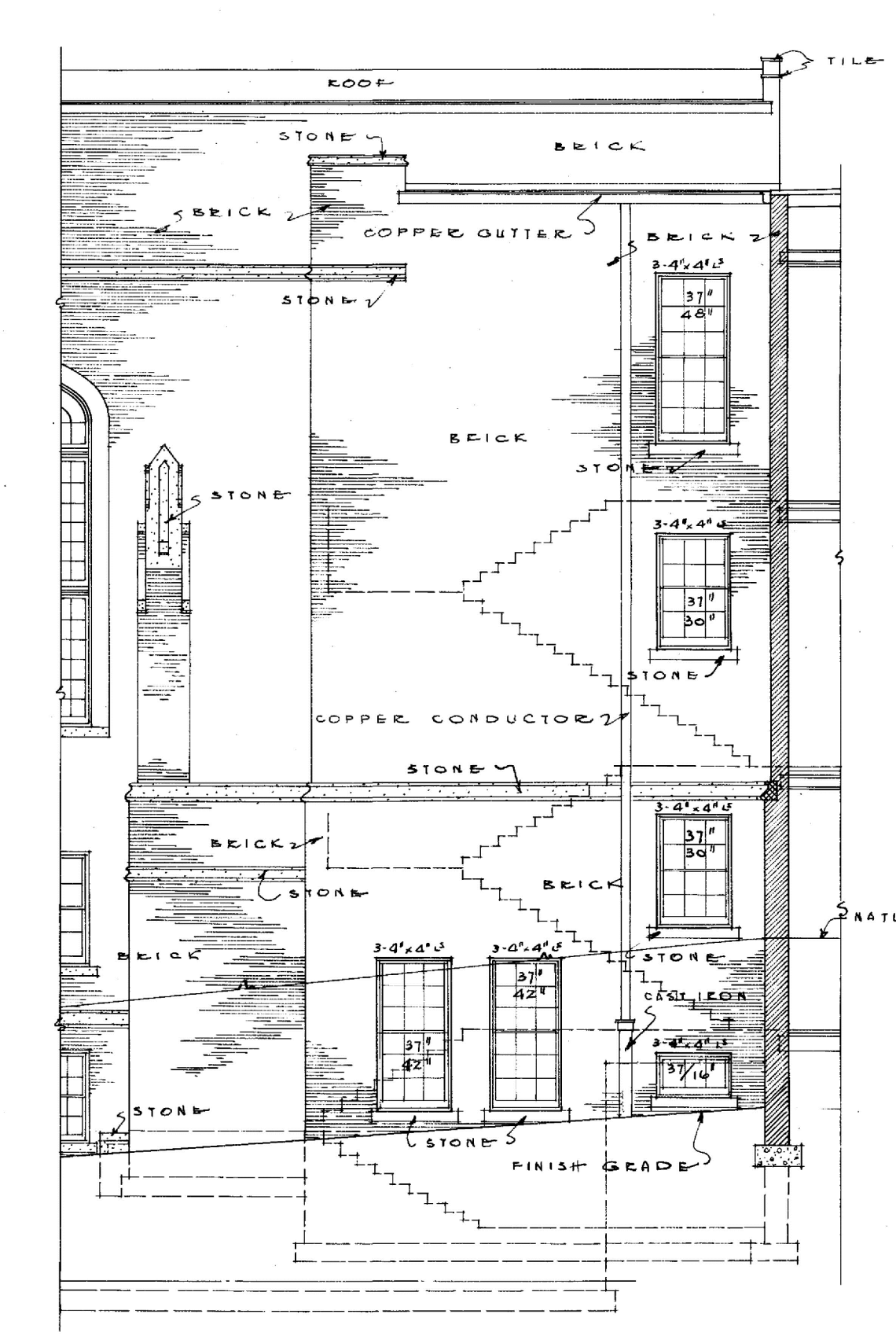
SOUTH EAST JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL  
FOR THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
DECATUR - ILLINOIS  
JUNE 1 1928  
BROOKS - BRAMHALL & DAGUE  
ARCHITECTS - DECATUR - ILLINOIS 6



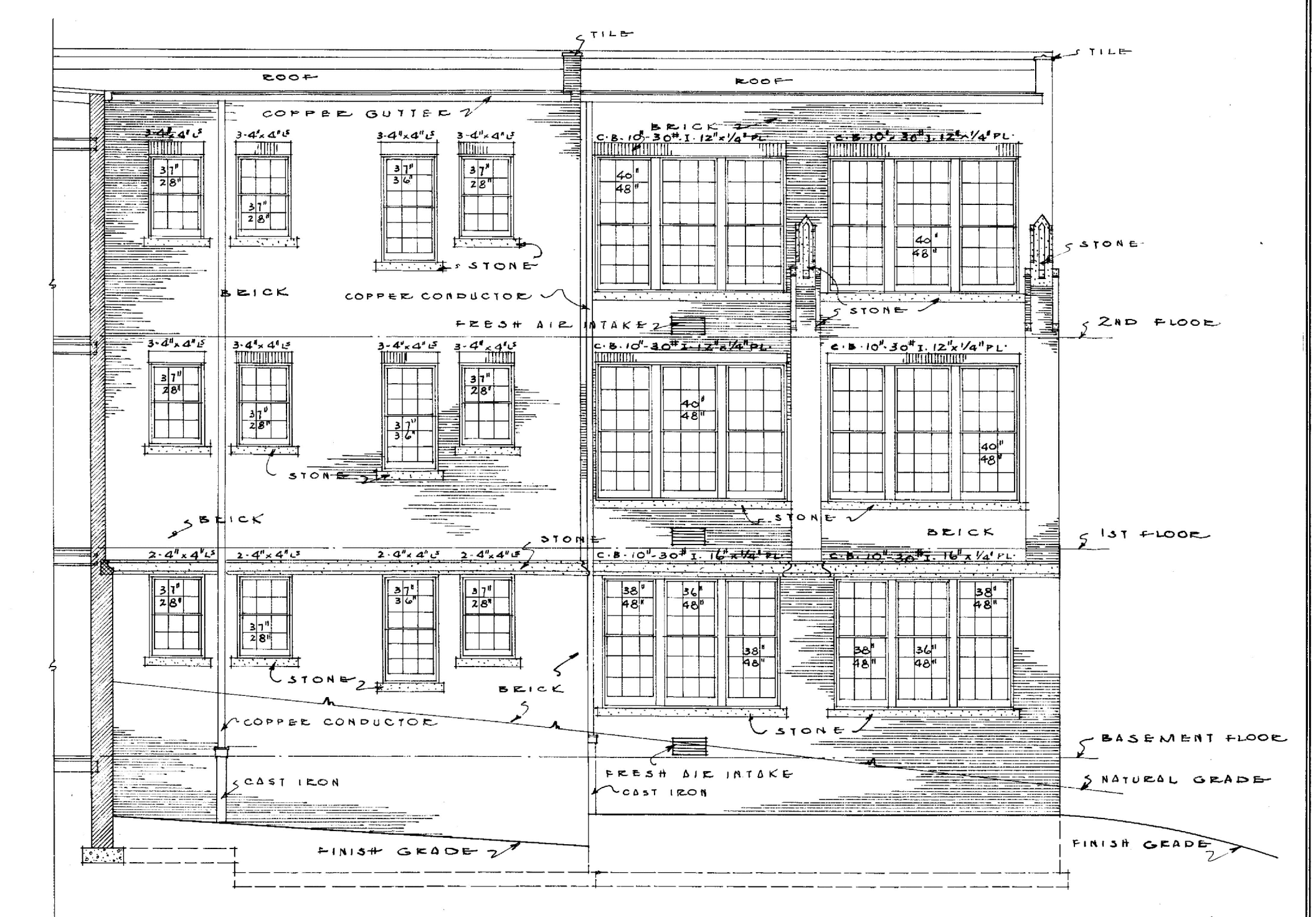
ELEVATION ON LINE E-E  
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



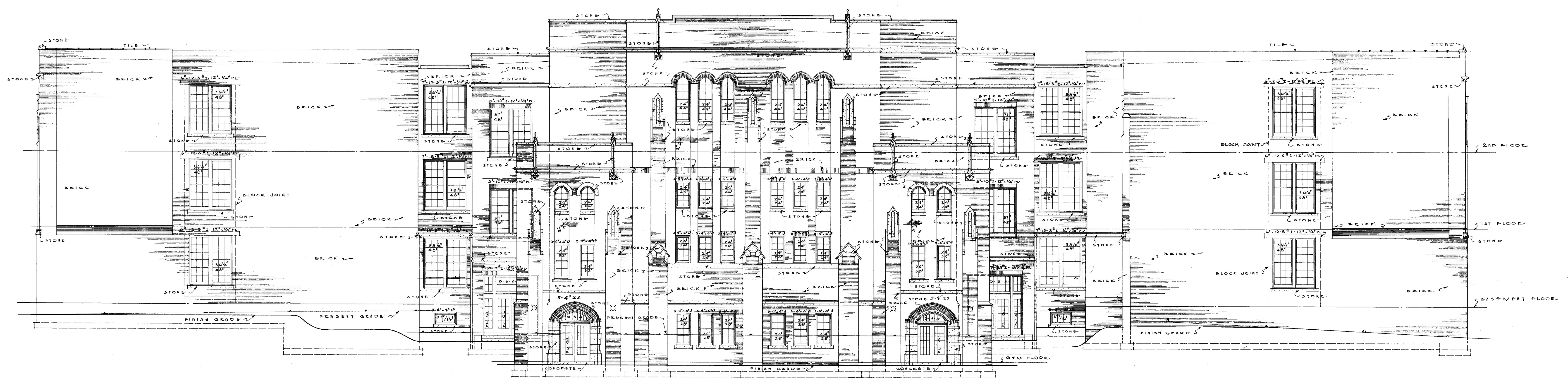
ELEVATION ON LINE D-D  
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



ELEVATION ON LINE C-C  
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



ELEVATION ON LINE B-B  
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



EAST ELEVATION  
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

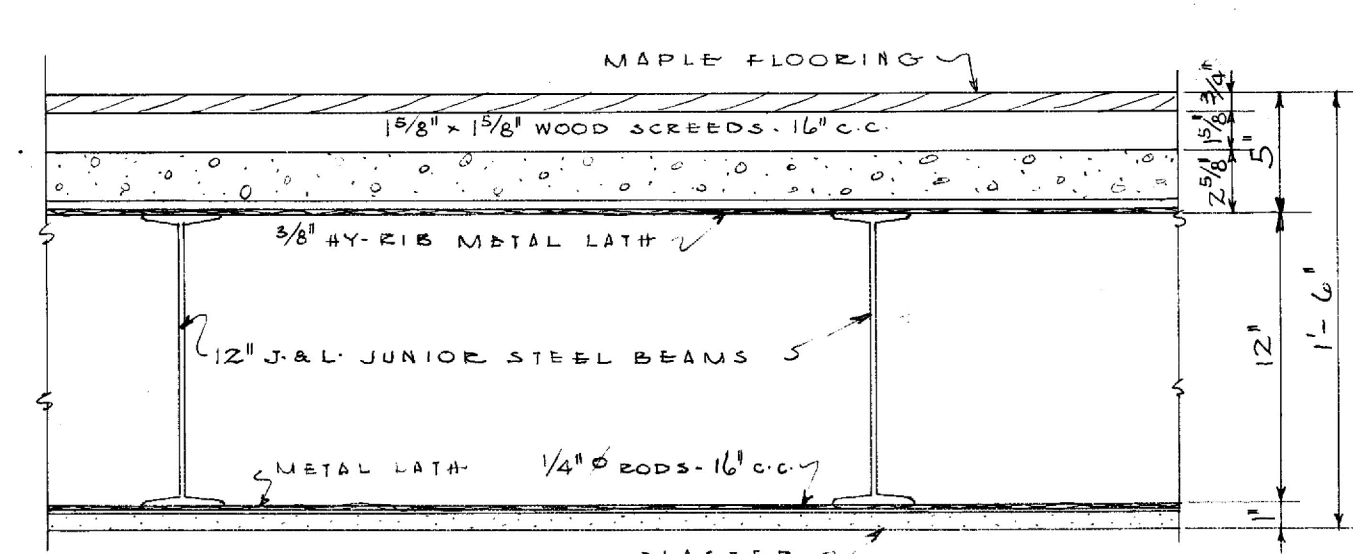
SOUTH EAST JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL  
FOR THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
DECATUR - ILLINOIS  
JUNE 1 1928  
BROOKS - BRAMHALL & DAGUE  
ARCHITECTS - DECATUR - ILLINOIS

DRAWN BY: SCOTT UTTER

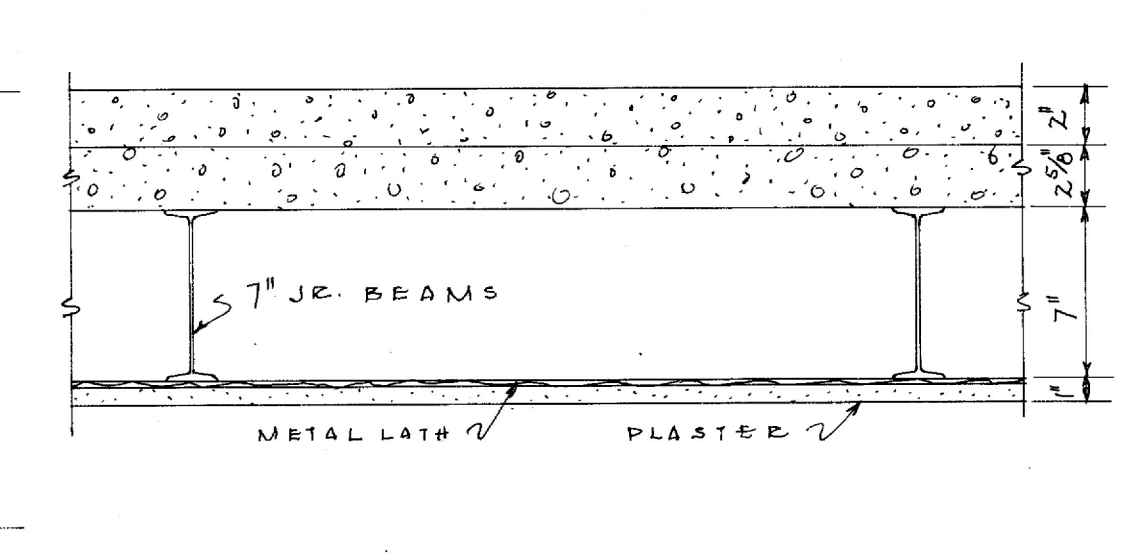
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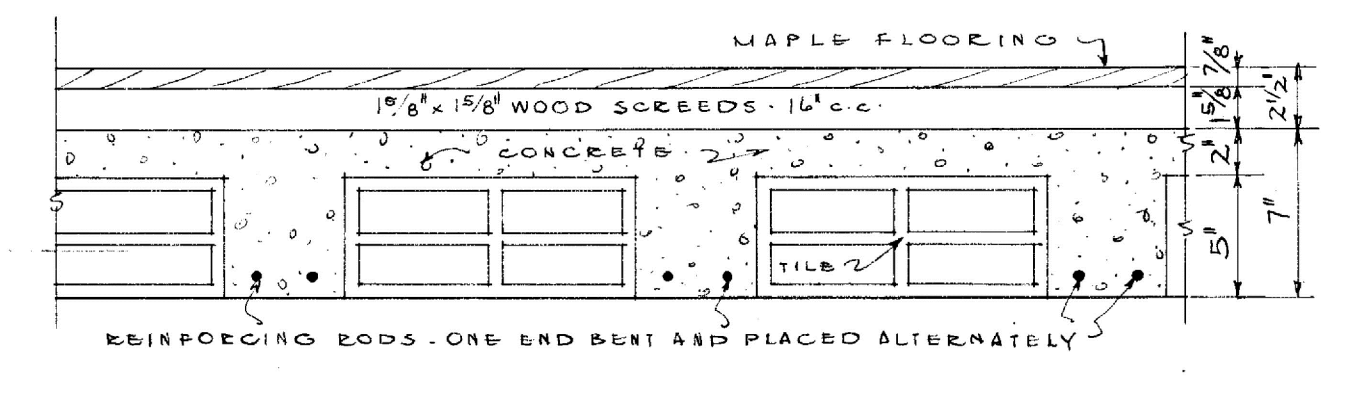




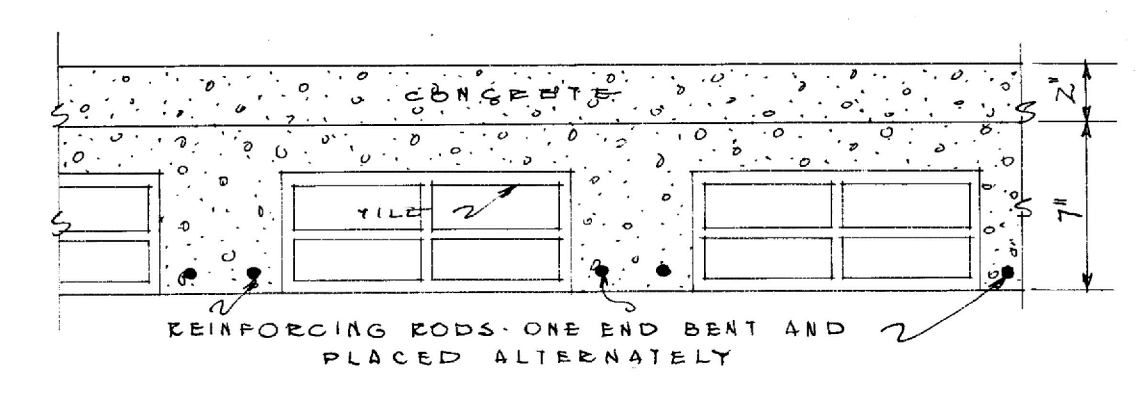
TYPICAL CLASS ROOM FLOOR CONSTRUCTION  
FIRST AND SECOND FLOOR  
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



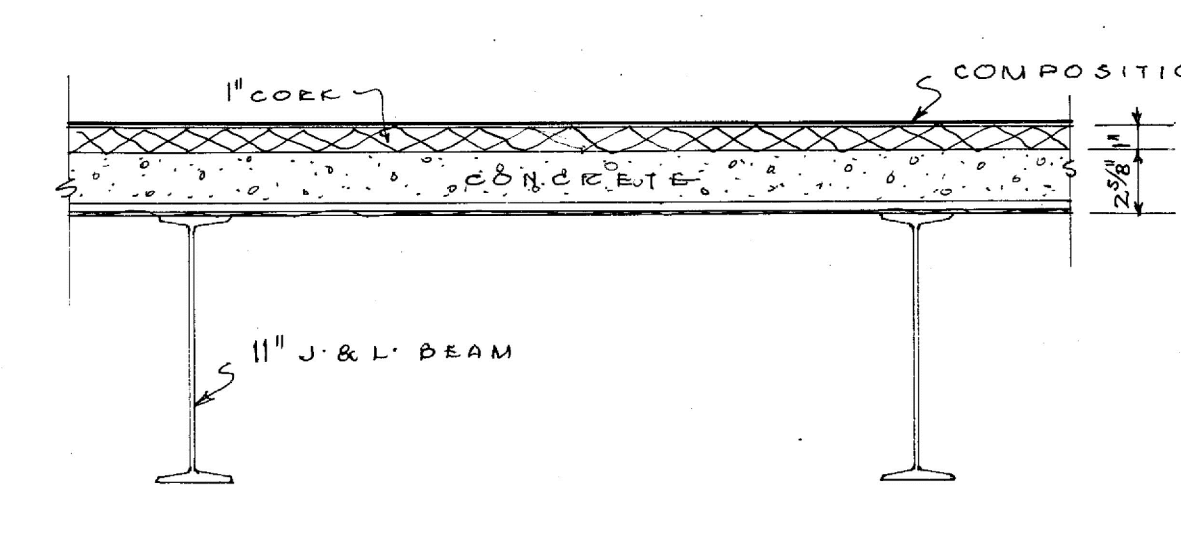
TYPICAL CORRIDOR CONSTRUCTION  
FIRST AND SECOND FLOORS ONLY



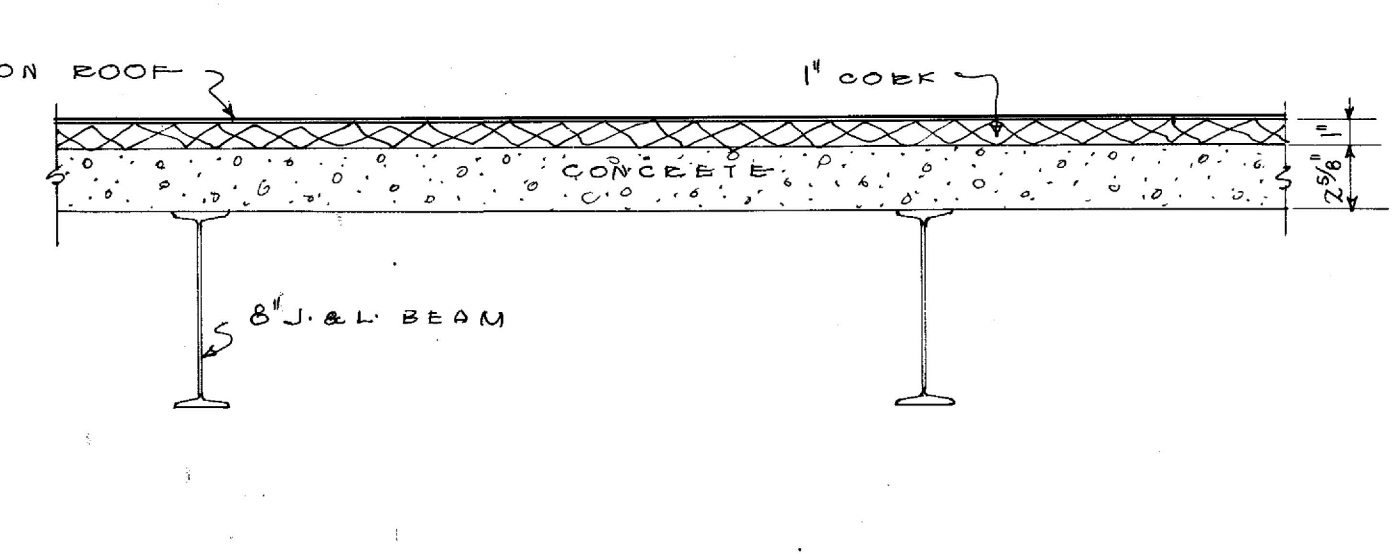
TYPICAL CLASS ROOM FLOOR CONSTRUCTION  
BASEMENT FLOOR ONLY  
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



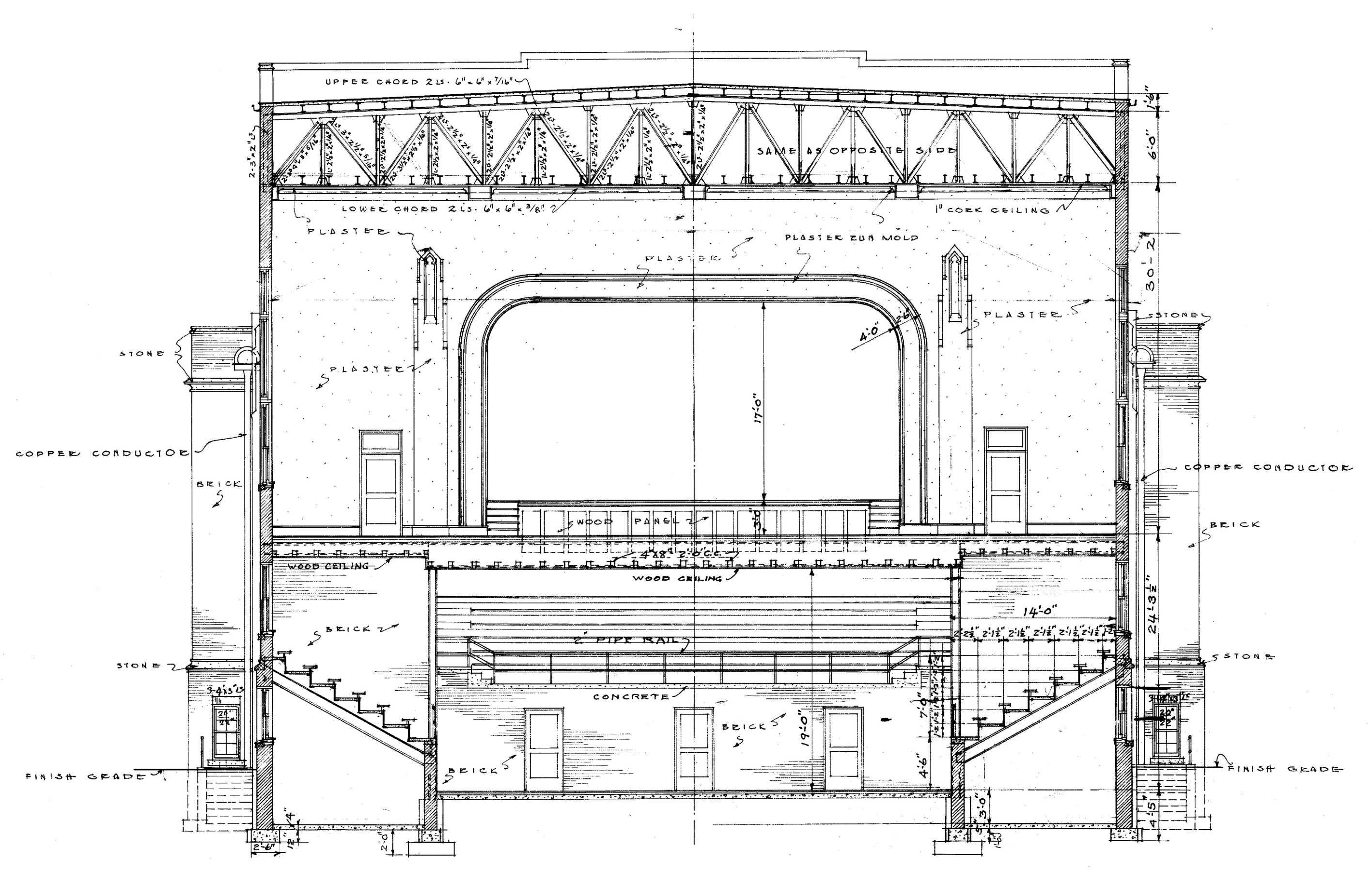
TYPICAL CORRIDOR FLOOR CONSTRUCTION  
BASEMENT FLOOR ONLY



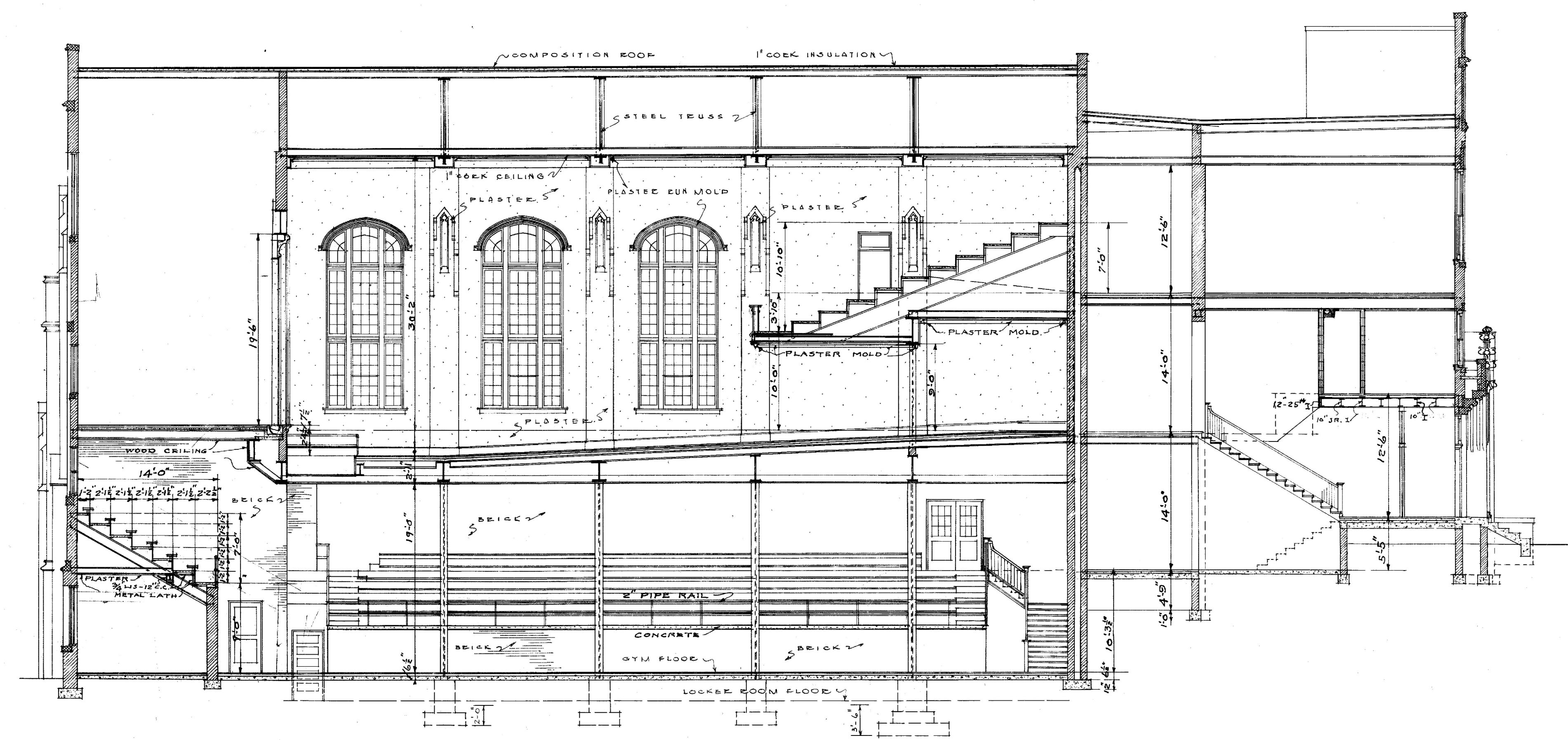
TYPICAL ROOF AND SECOND STORY CONSTRUCTION



ROOF AND CEILING CONSTRUCTION  
OVER AUDITORIUM



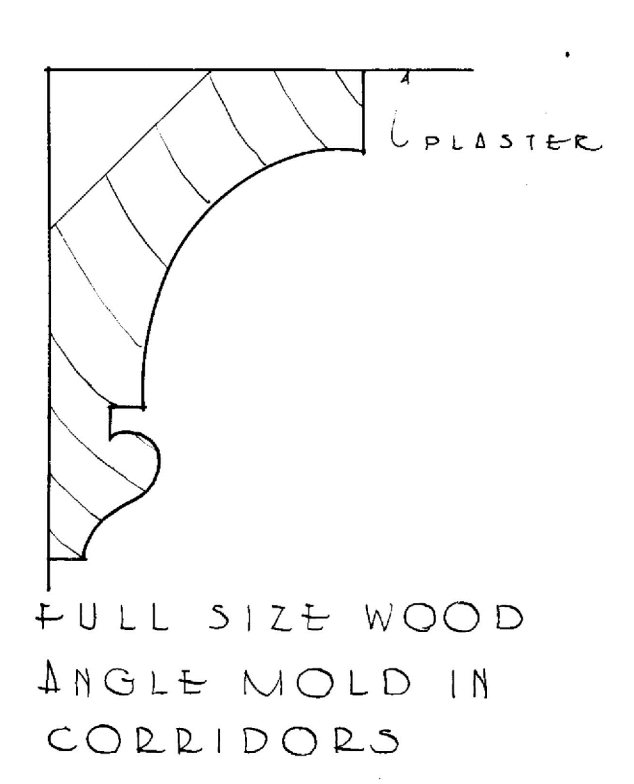
CROSS SECTION THRU AUDITORIUM  
AND GYMNASIUM  
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



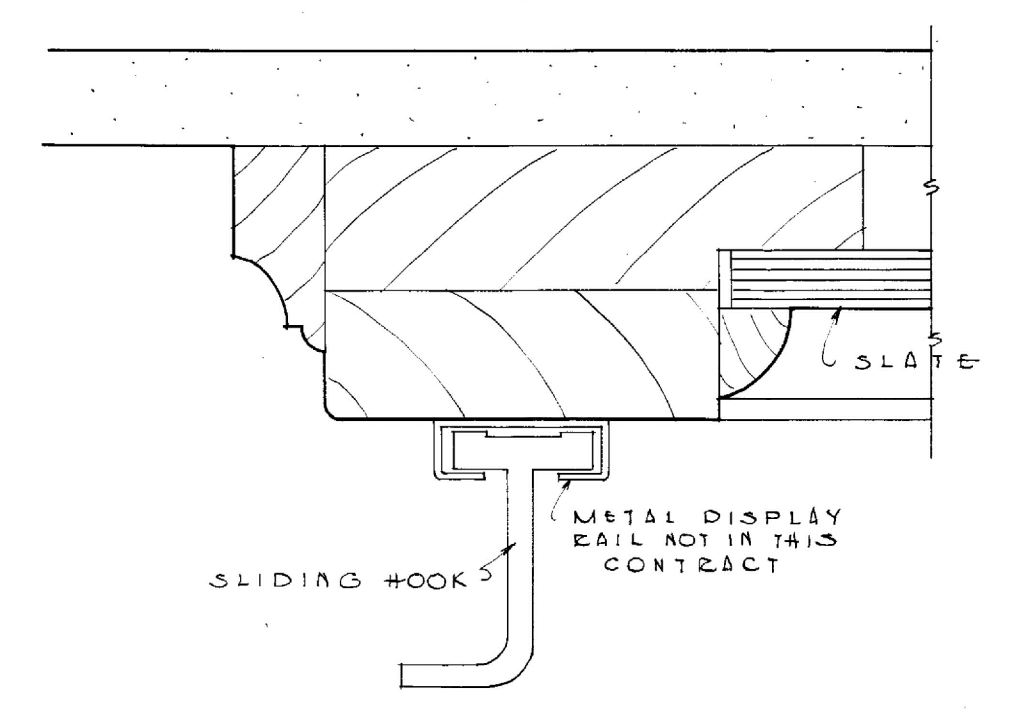
LONGITUDINAL SECTION THRU AUDITORIUM AND GYMNASIUM  
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

SOUTH EAST JUNIOR #10# SCHOOL  
FOR THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
DECATUR ILLINOIS  
JUNE 1 1928  
BROOKS - BRAMHALL & DAGUE  
ARCHITECTS - DECATUR - ILLINOIS  
9

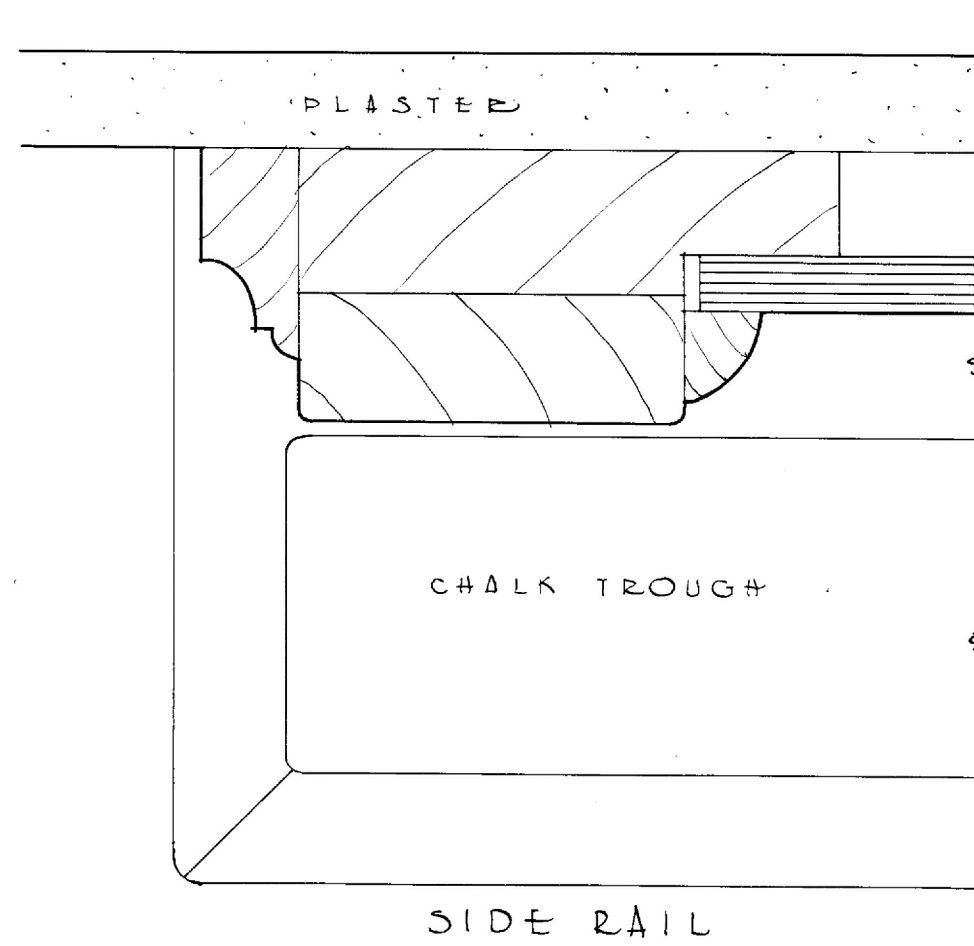
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THIS DRAWING IS SCANNED AT THE ORIGINAL SIZE BUT ACCURACY OF SCALE WAS NOT CONFIRMED.



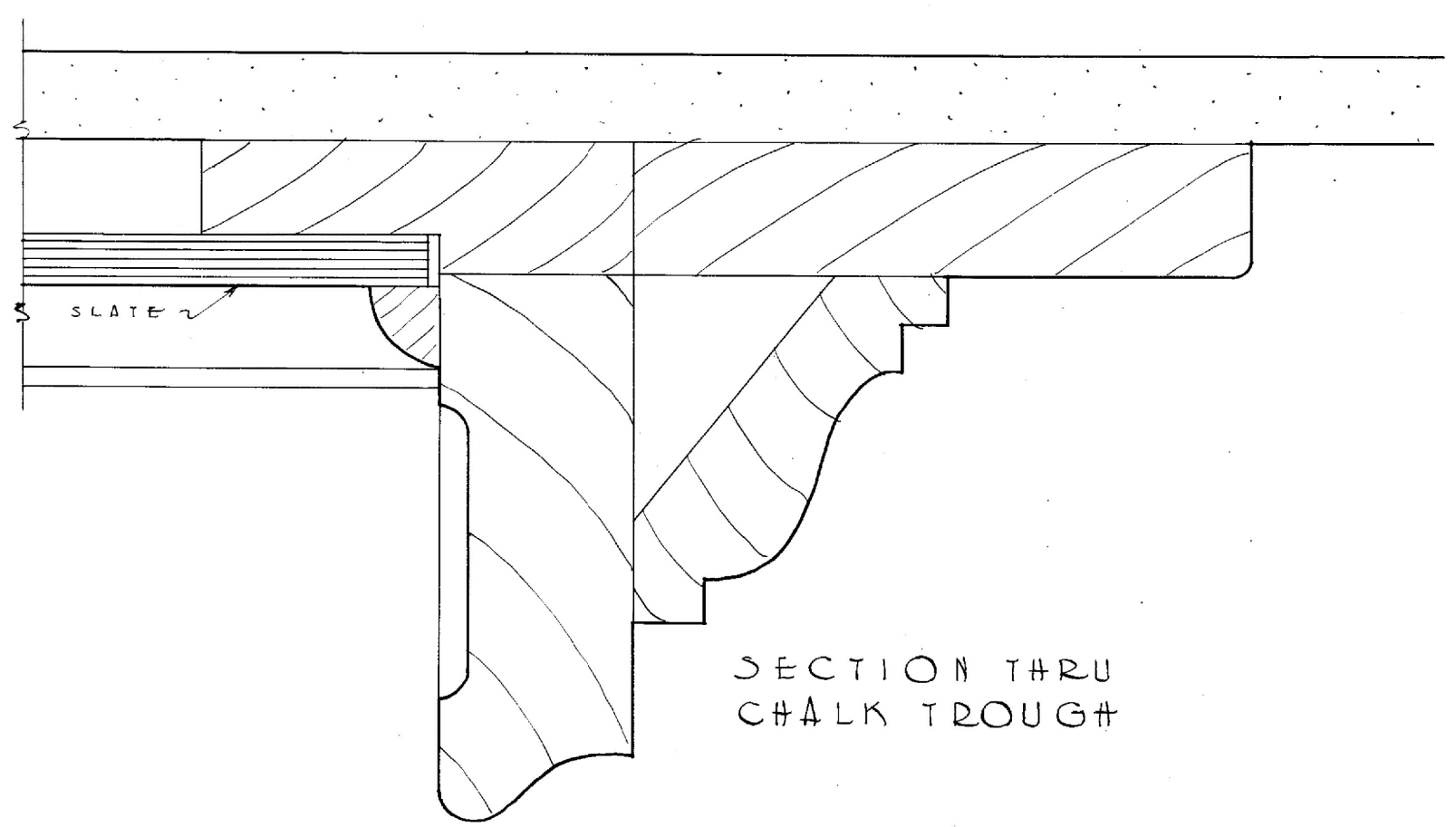
FULL SIZE WOOD ANGLE MOLD IN CORRIDORS



HEAD RAIL

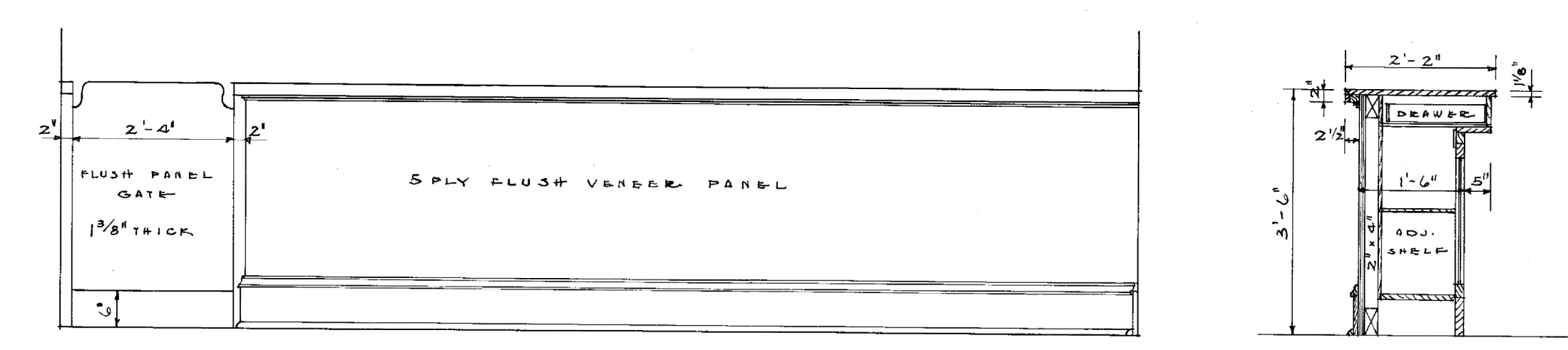


SIDE RAIL



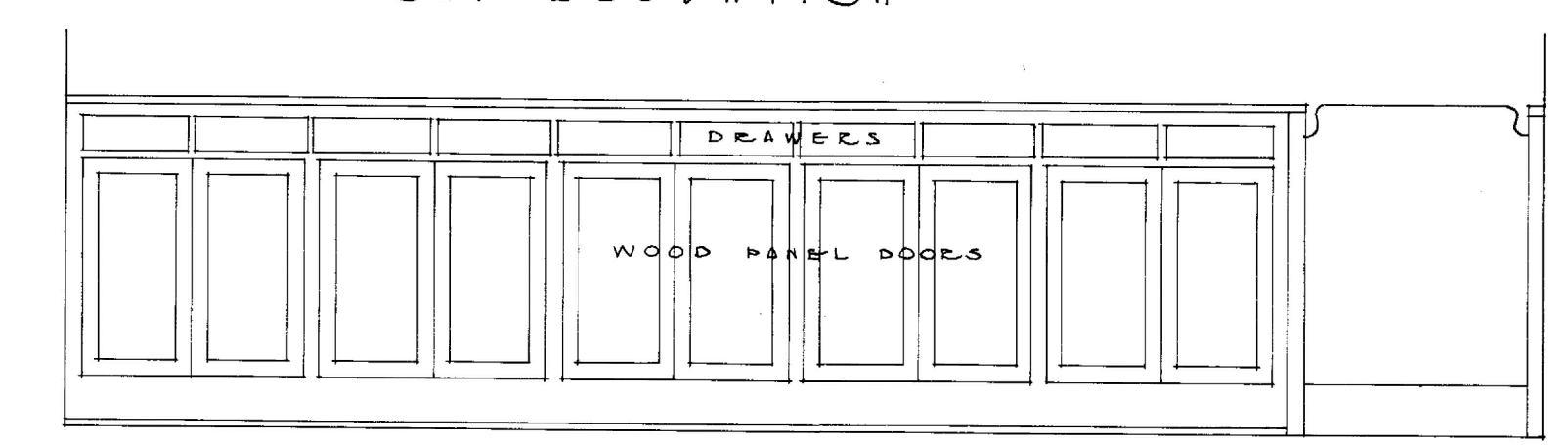
SECTION THRU CHALK TROUGH

FULL SIZE DETAIL OF BLACKBOARD FRAMES



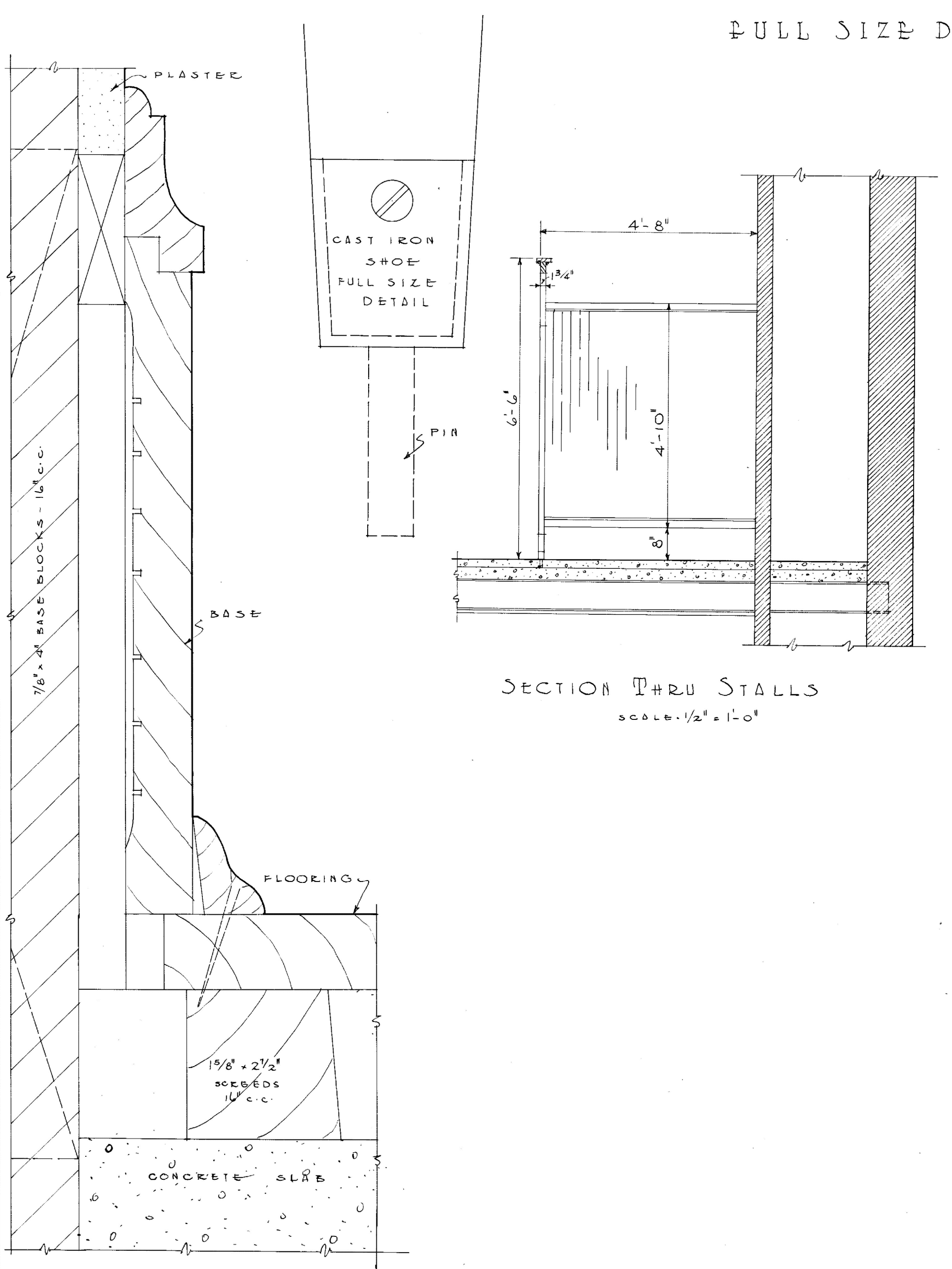
FRONT ELEVATION

SECTION

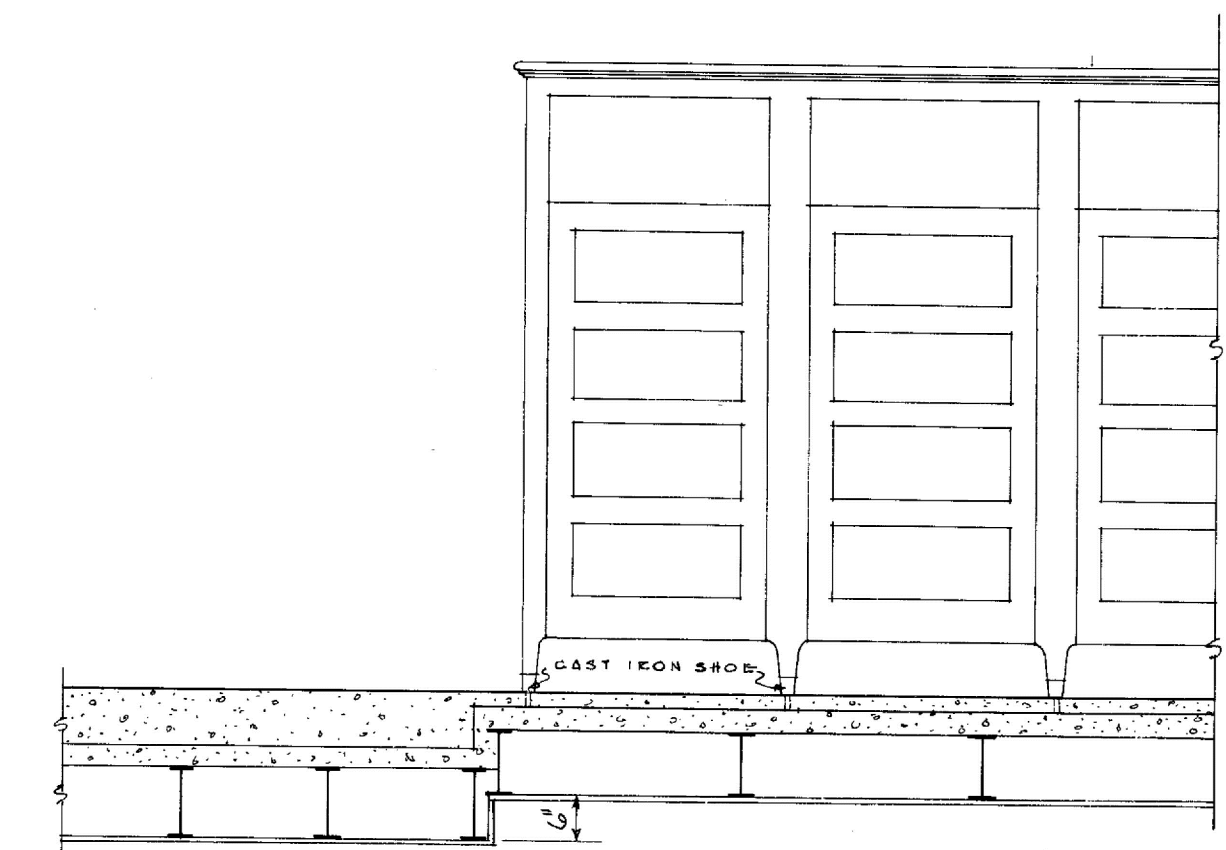


REAR ELEVATION

DETAILS OF COUNTER IN OFFICE  
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0"

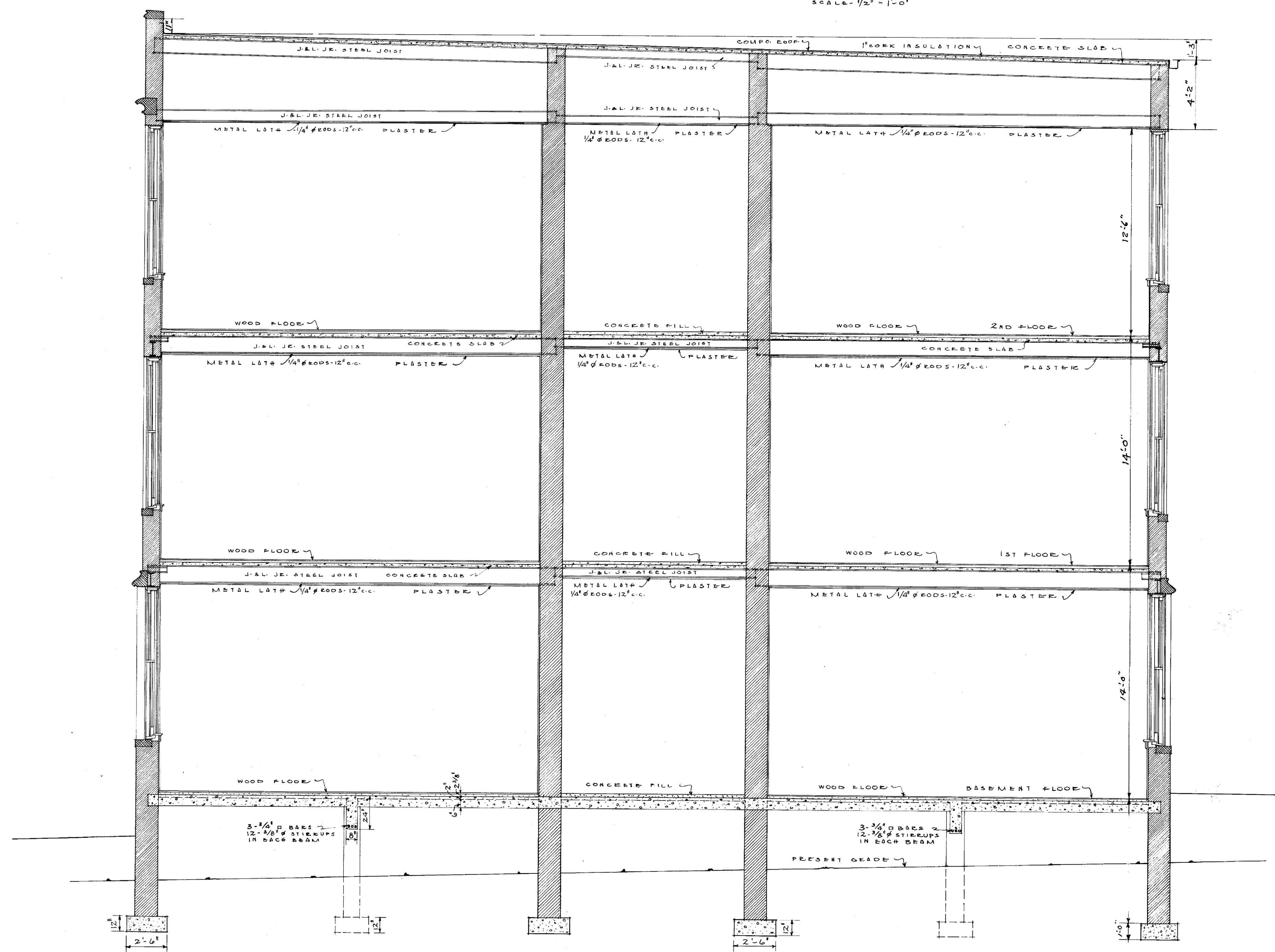


SECTION THRU STALLS  
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0"



ELEVATION OF TOILET STALLS  
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0"

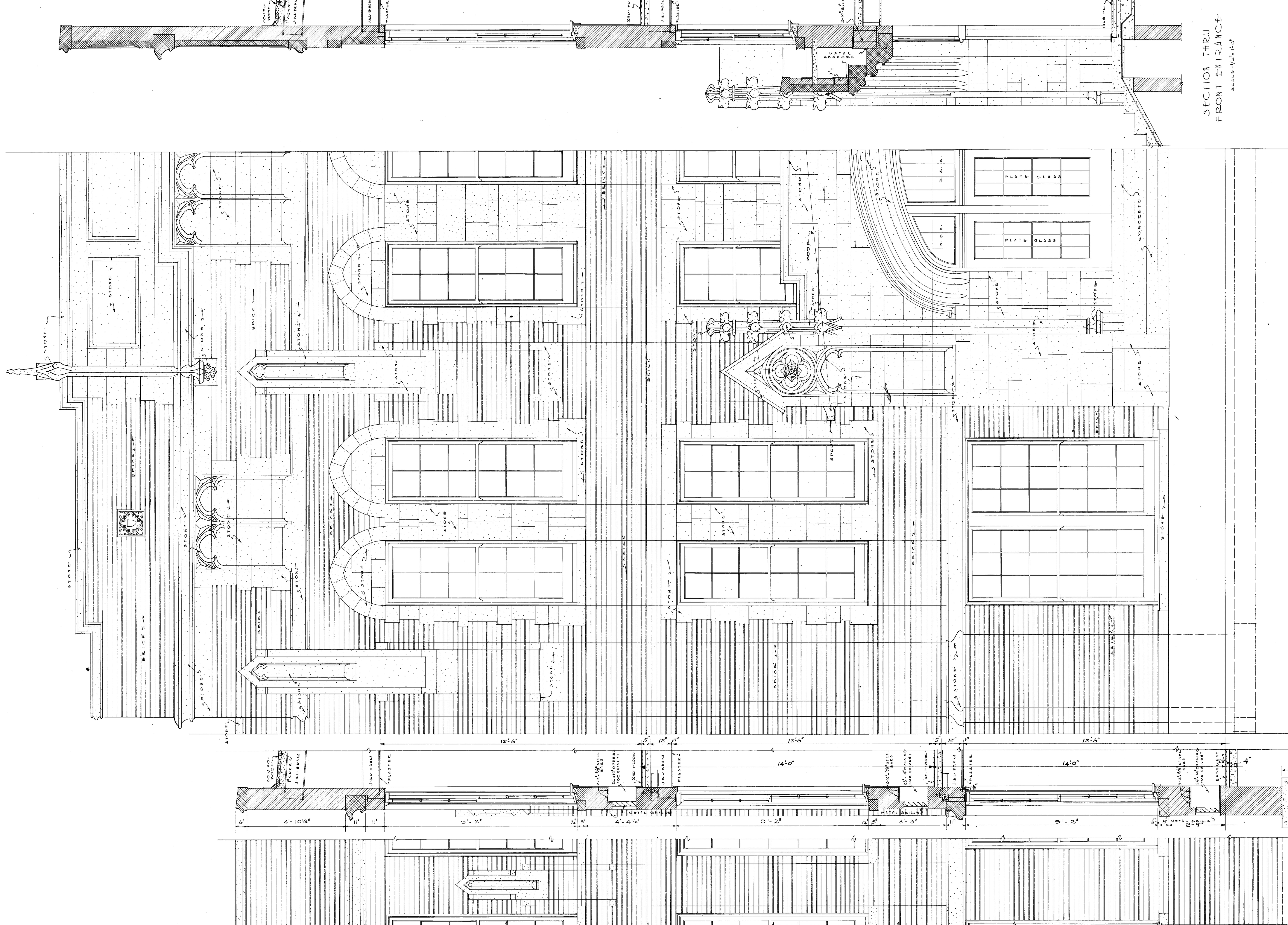
FULL SIZE BASE IN CLASS ROOMS



CROSS SECTION ON LINE-A-A  
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0"

SOUTH EAST JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL  
FOR THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
DECATUR ILLINOIS  
JUNE 1 1928  
BROOKS - BRAMHALL & DAGUE  
ARCHITECTS - DECATUR - ILLINOIS

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DETAIL OF CENTRAL FACADE  
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0"

SECTION THRU  
FRONT ENTRANCE  
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

DETAIL OF MAIN WALL  
SECTION  
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0"

JUN 1 1922

11

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DRAWN BY: SCOTT UTTER

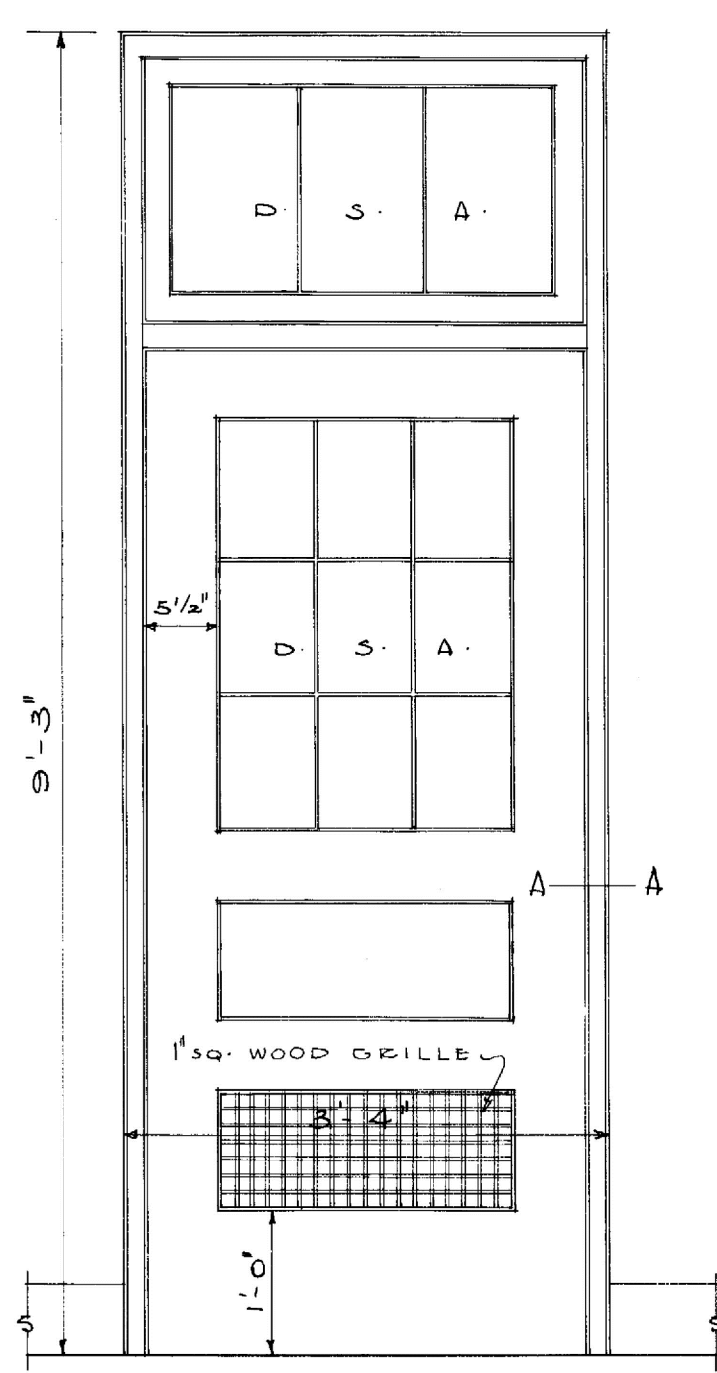
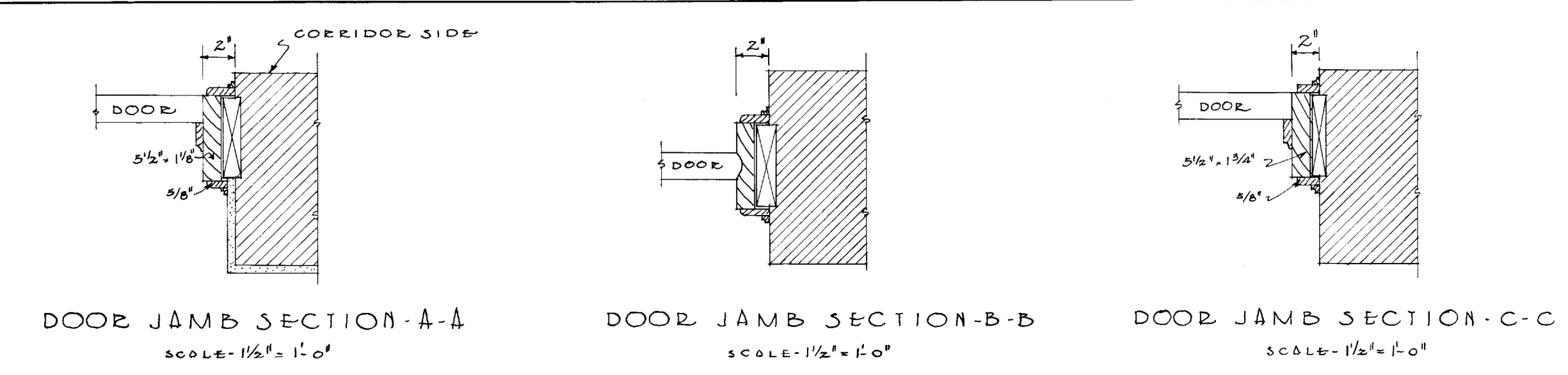
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

JOHNS HILL SCHOOL AND BOILER HOUSE  
1025 EAST JOHNS AVENUE DECATUR ILLINOIS  
MACON COUNTY ILLINOIS

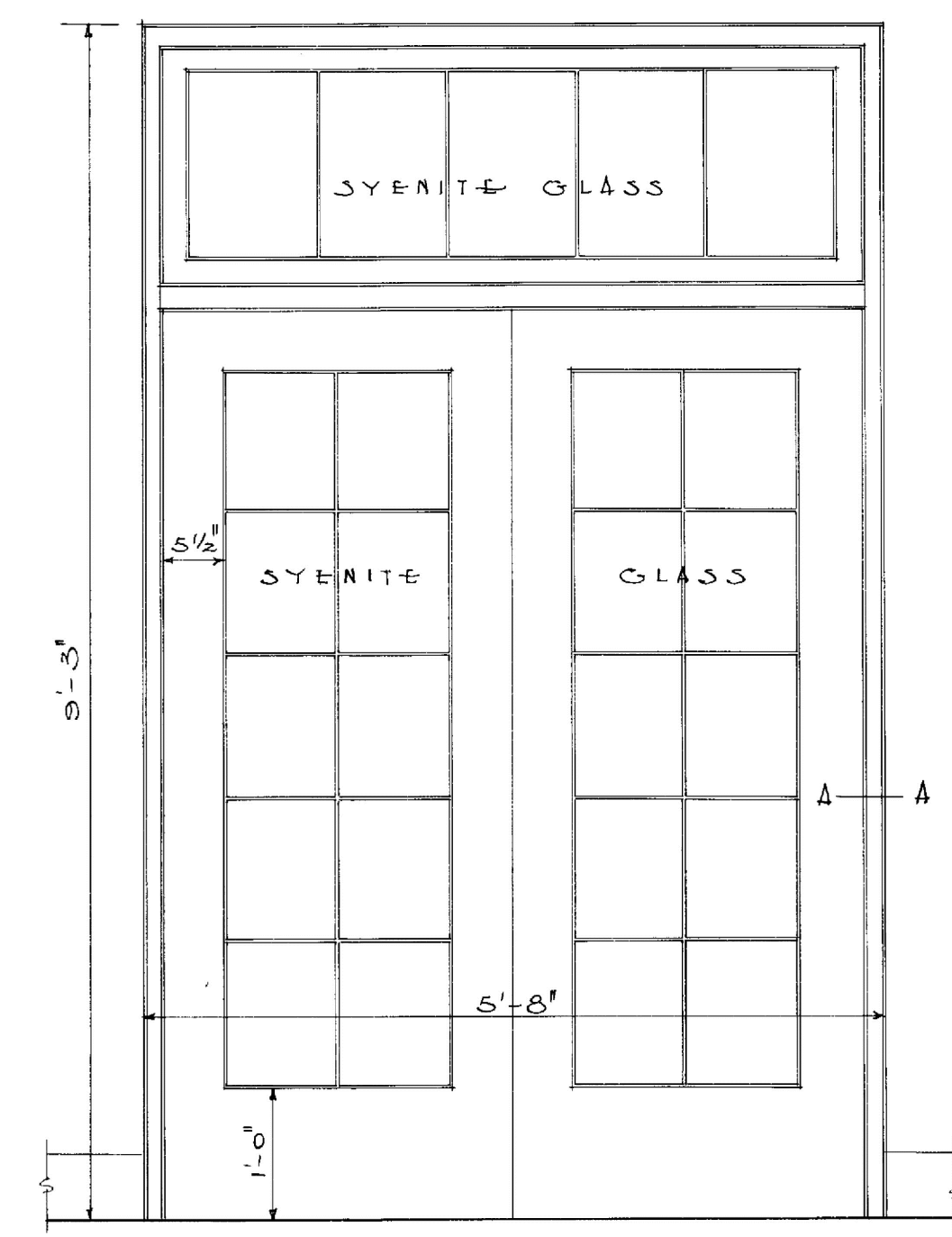
SHEET 11  
OF 17 SHEETS

HISTORIC AMERICAN  
BUILDINGS SURVEY  
IL-1284

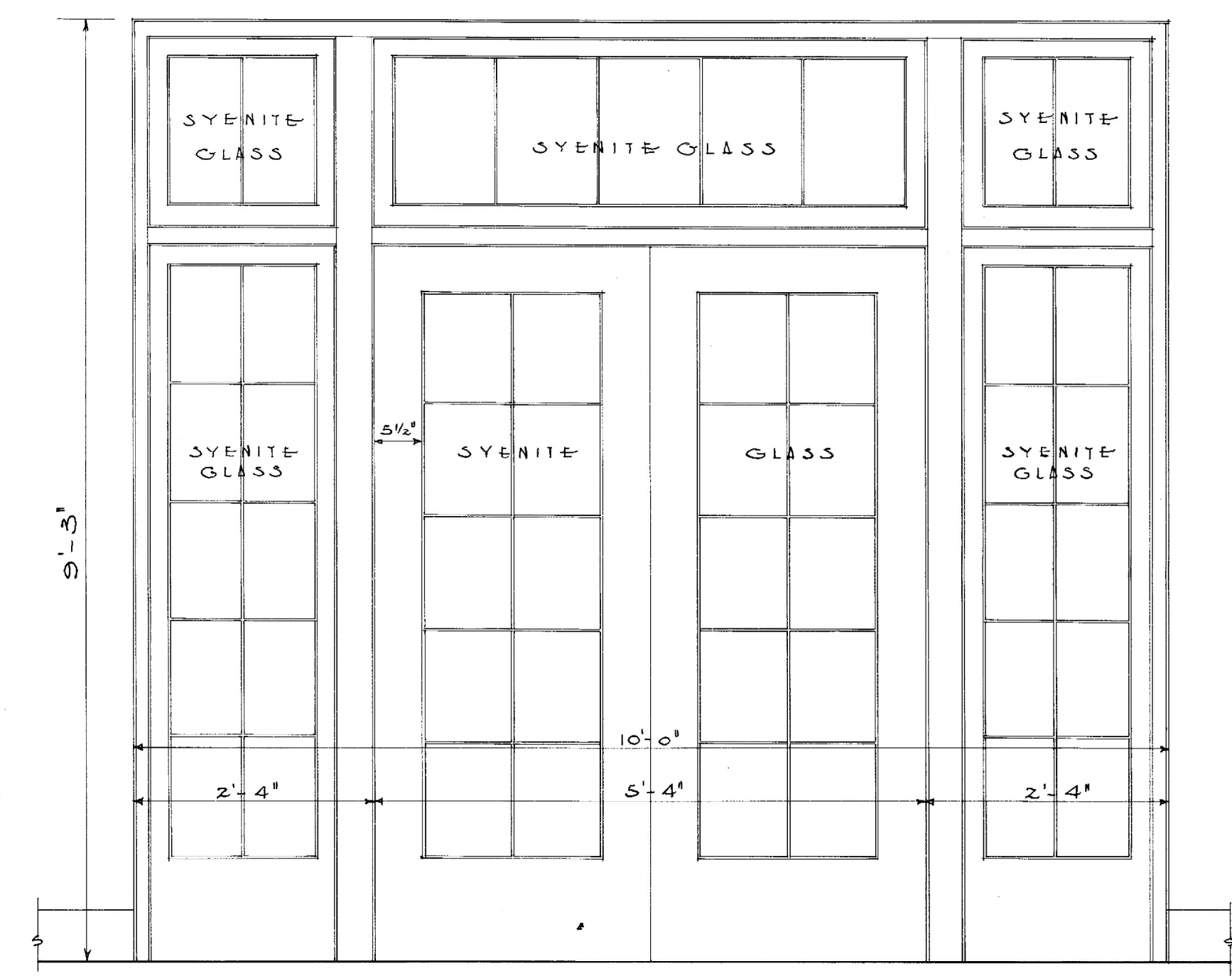
REPRODUCED PLEASE CREDIT THE HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, NAME OF DESIGNATOR DATE OF DRAWING



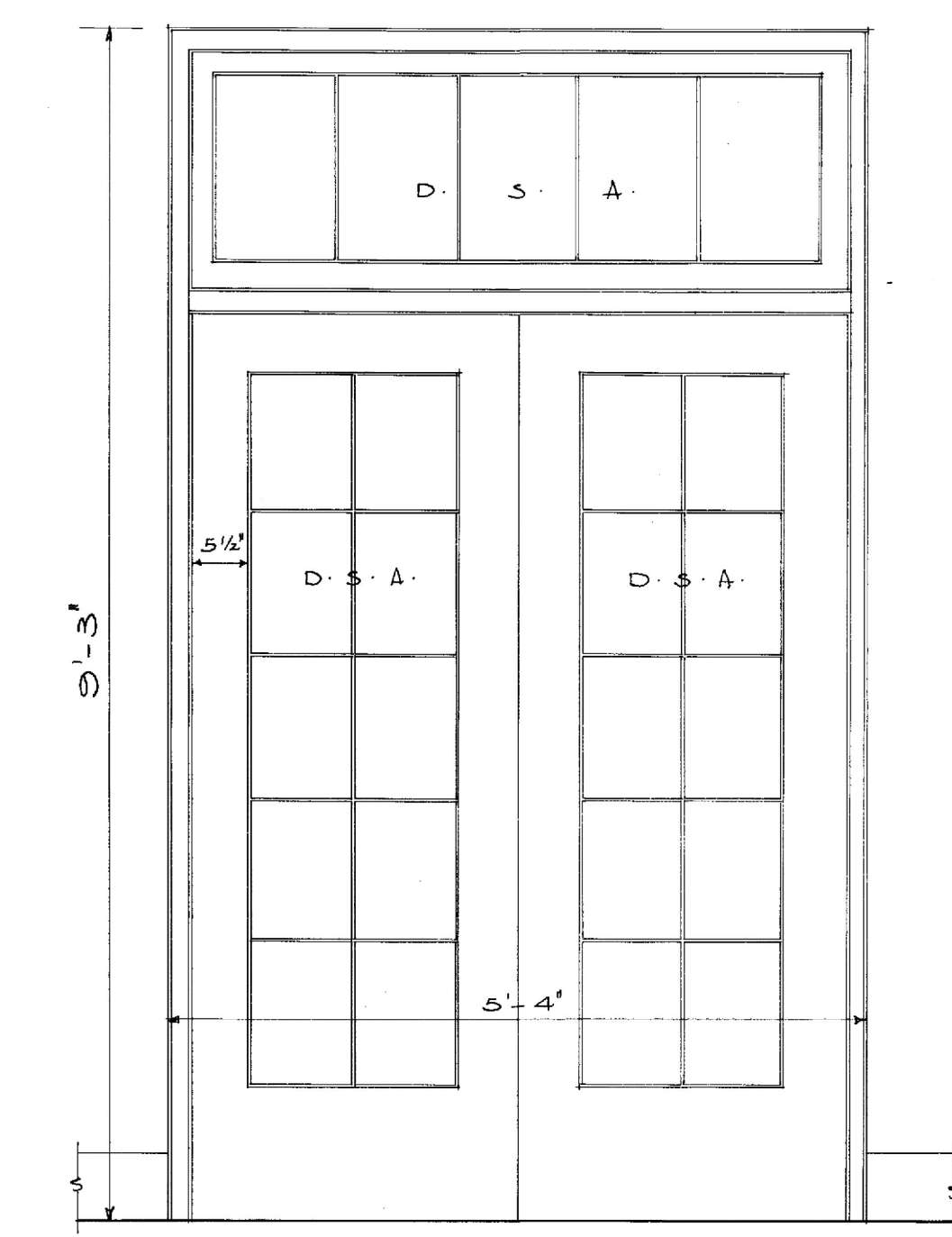
DETAIL OF DOOR D-1



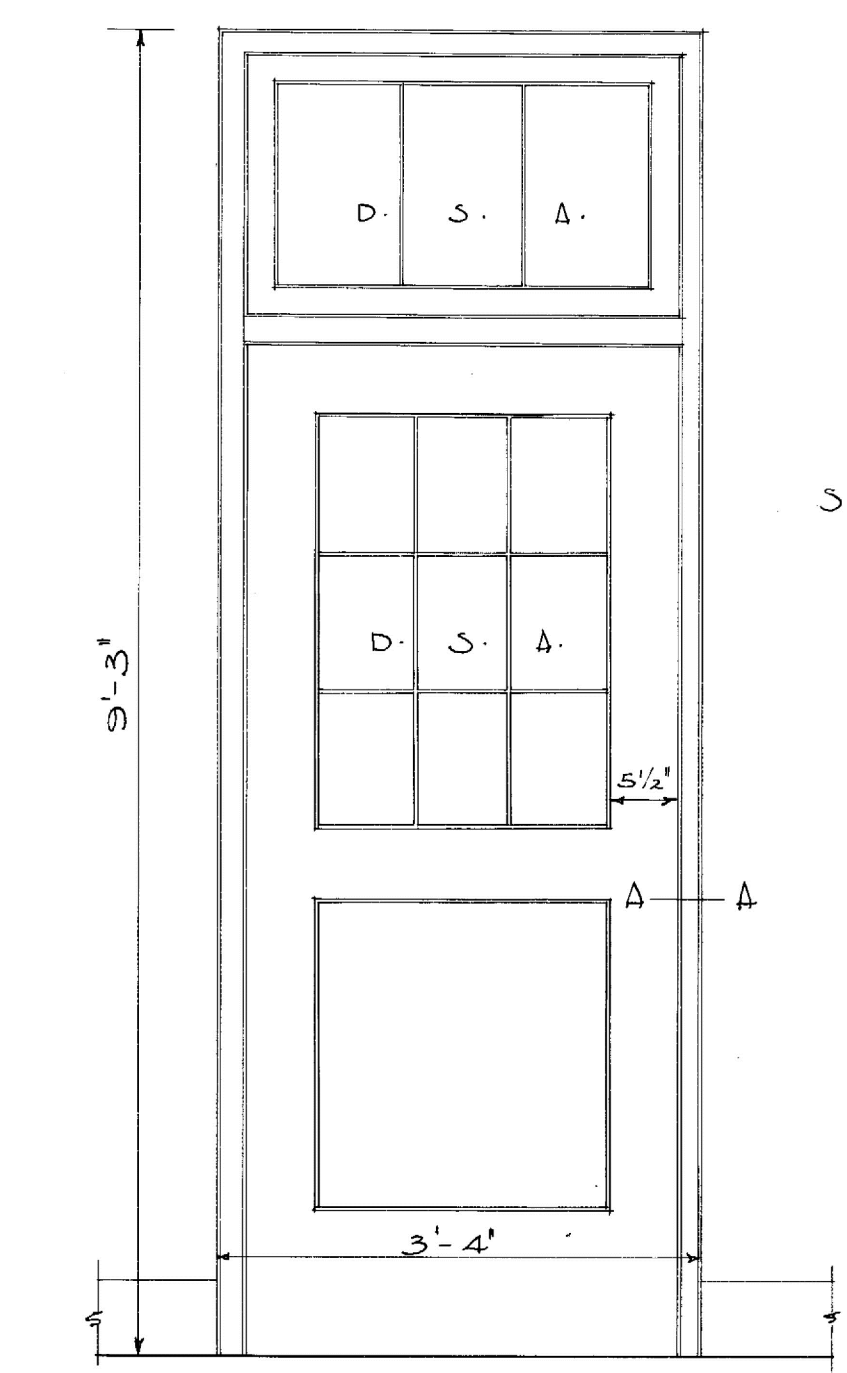
DETAIL OF DOORS D-9



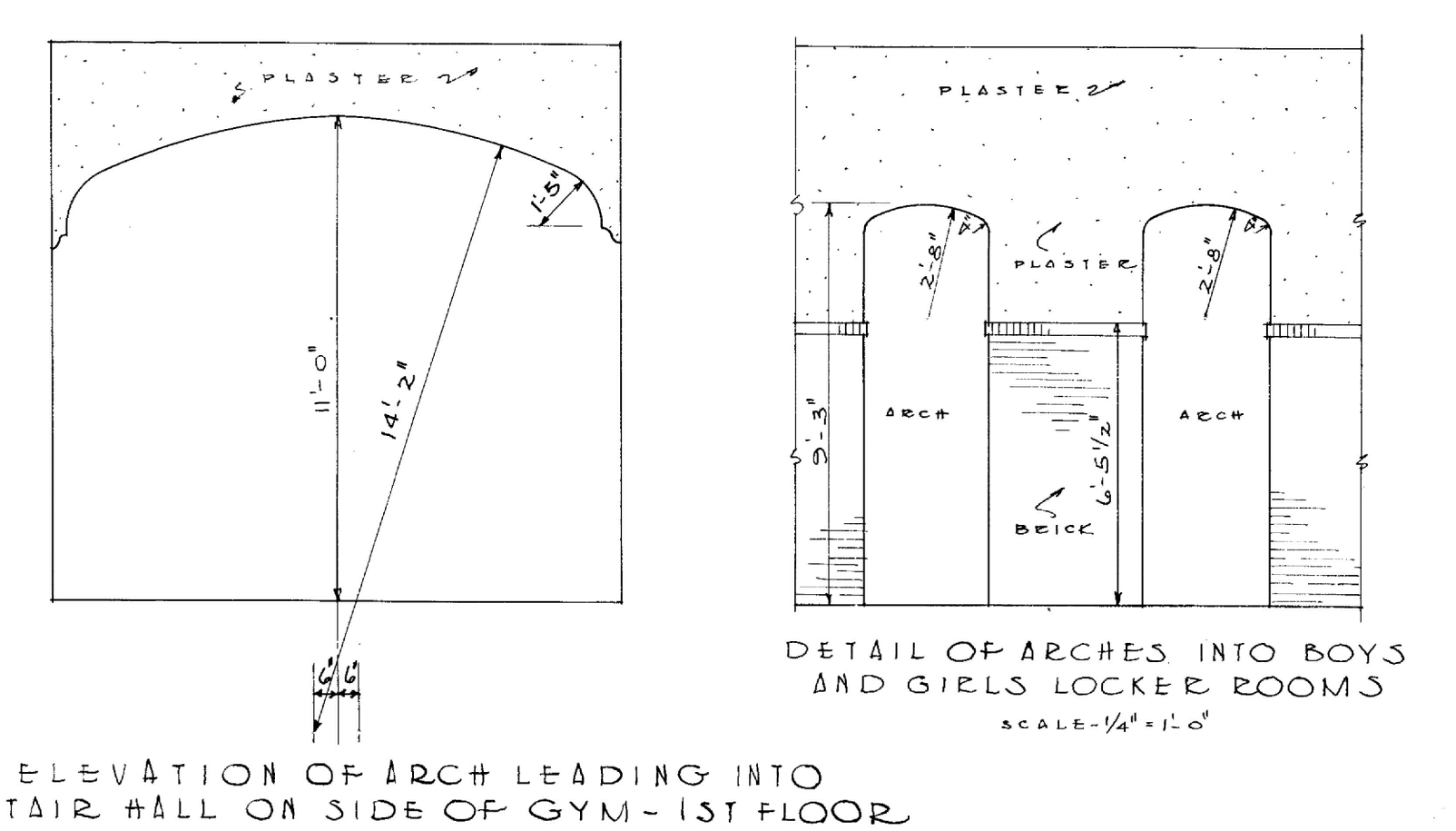
DETAIL OF DOORS D-6



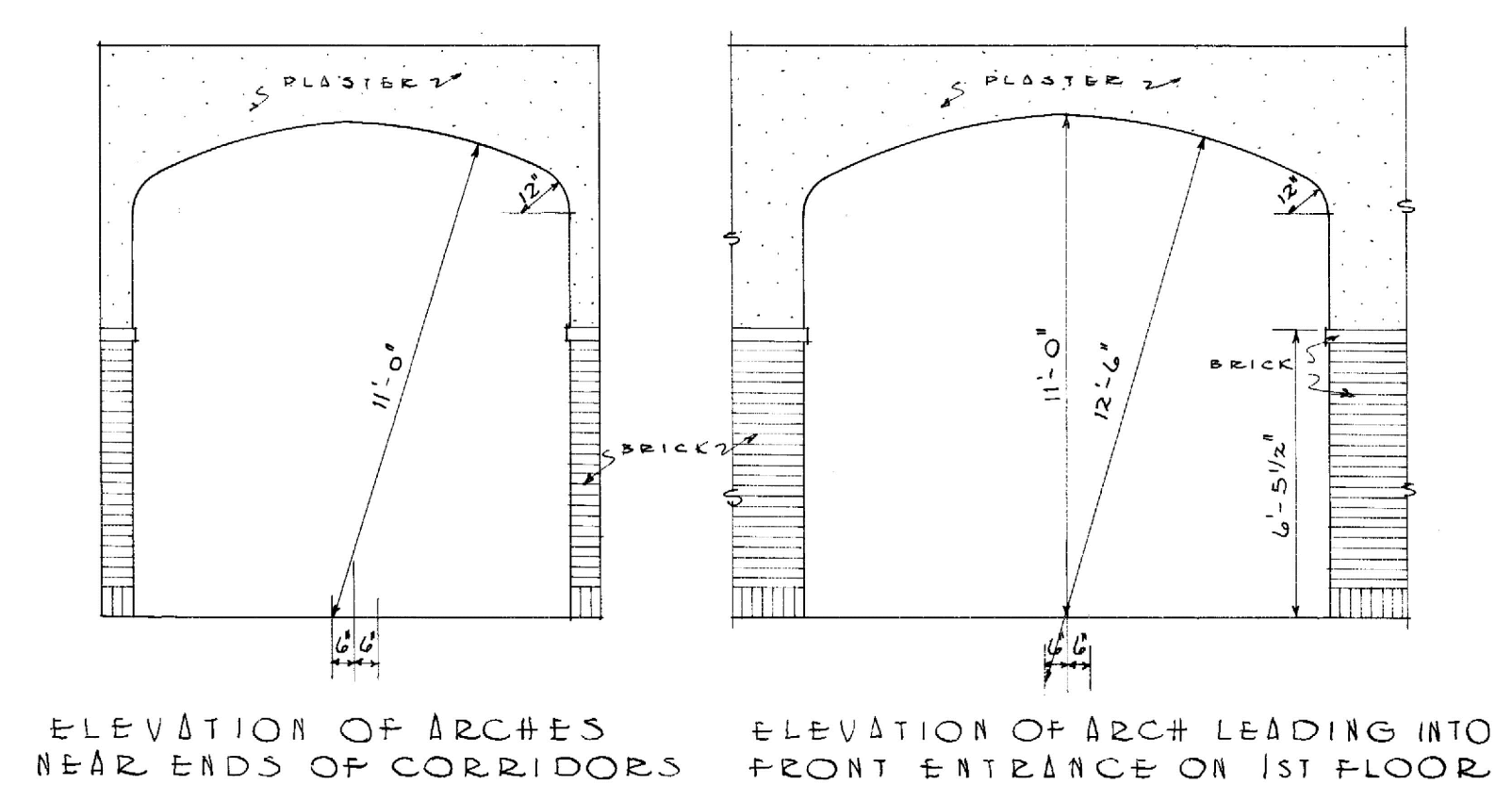
DETAIL OF DOORS D-8  
D-7 WILL BE SAME AS ABOVE EXCEPT THAT TRANSOM IS OMITTED



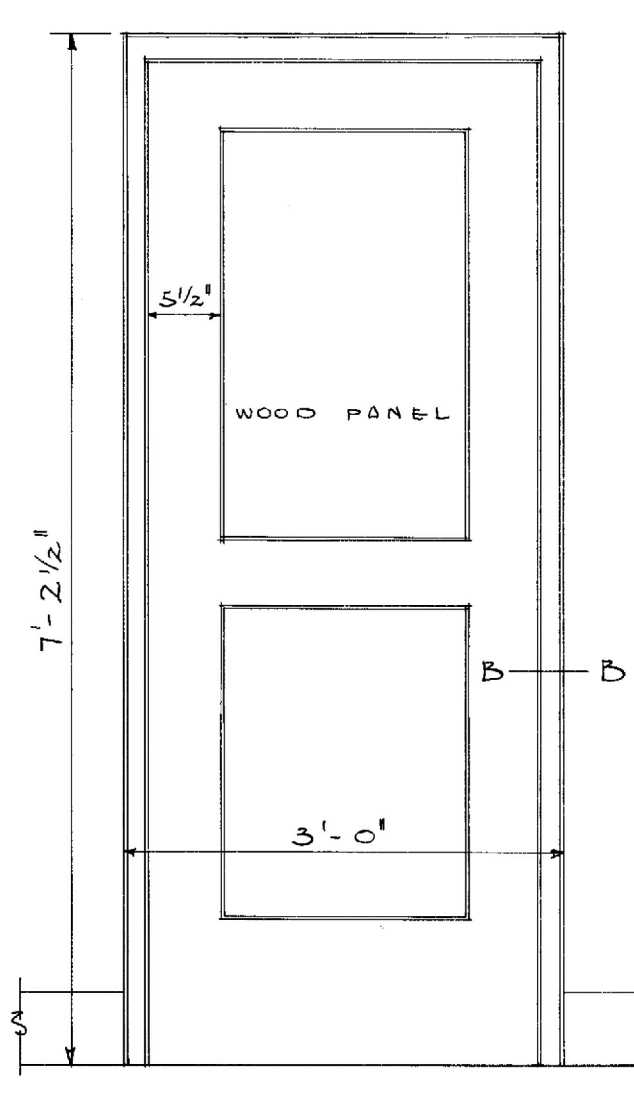
DETAIL OF DOORS D-23  
D-24 WILL BE SAME AS ABOVE EXCEPT THAT SASH IN DOOR WILL BE WOOD PANEL  
D-26 WILL BE SAME AS ABOVE EXCEPT THAT TRANSOM WILL BE OMITTED AND DOOR WILL BE 2'-8"



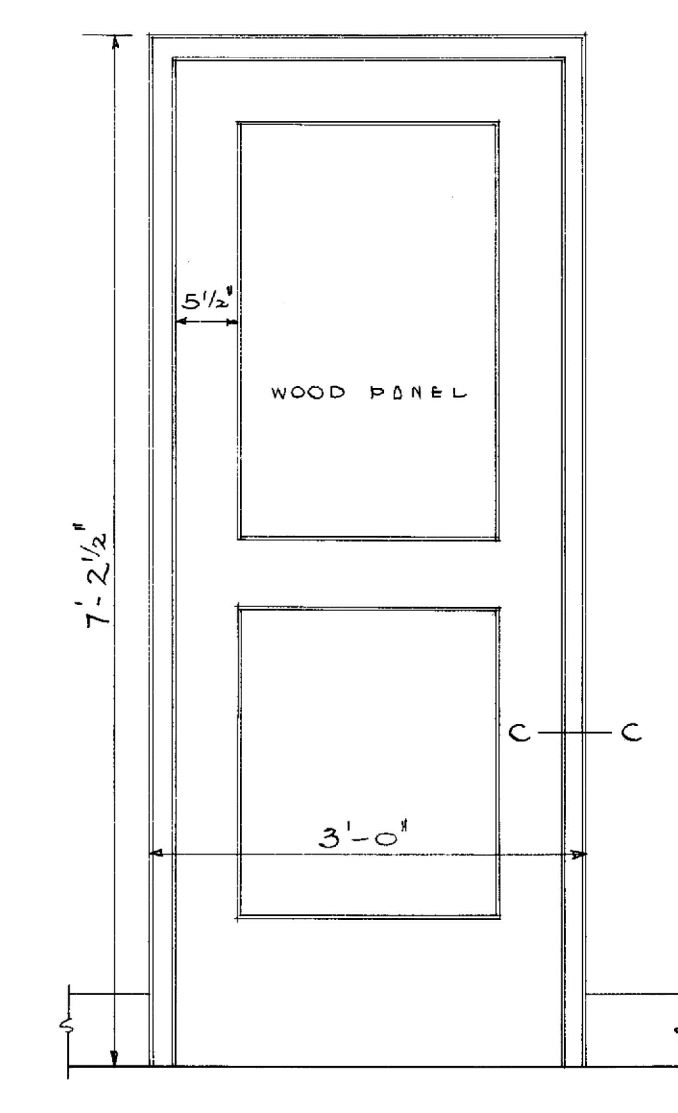
ELEVATION OF ARCH# LEADING INTO STAIR WELL OR SIDE OF GYM - 1ST FLOOR



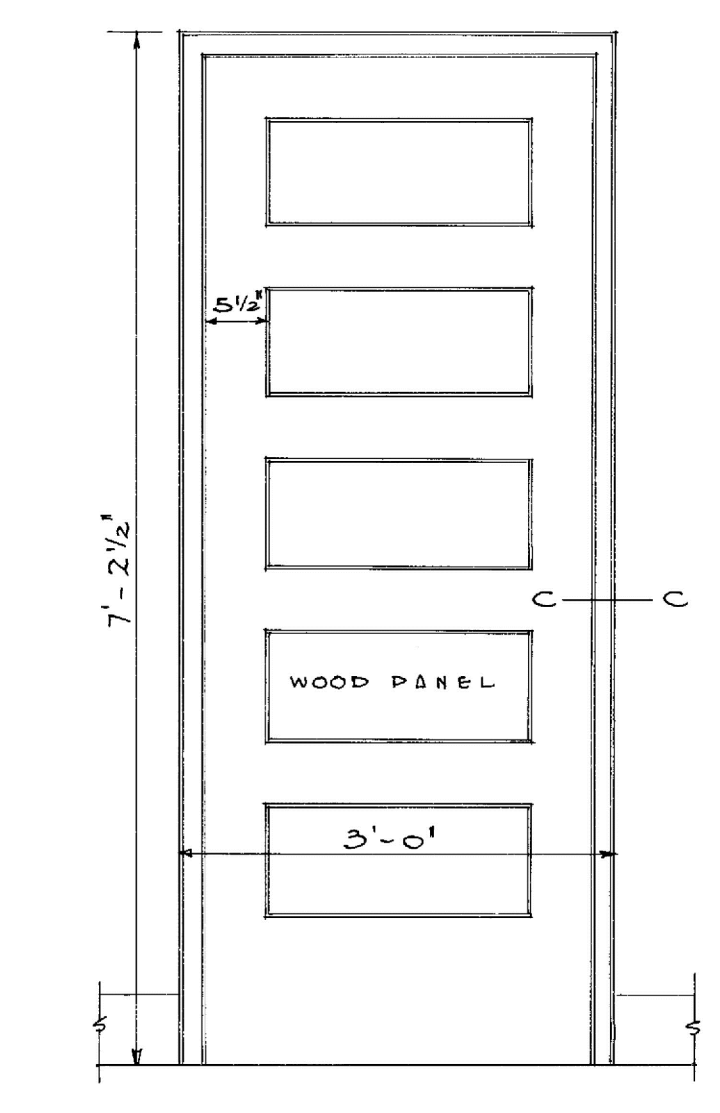
ELEVATION OF ARCH# LEADING INTO FRONT ENTRANCE ON 1ST FLOOR



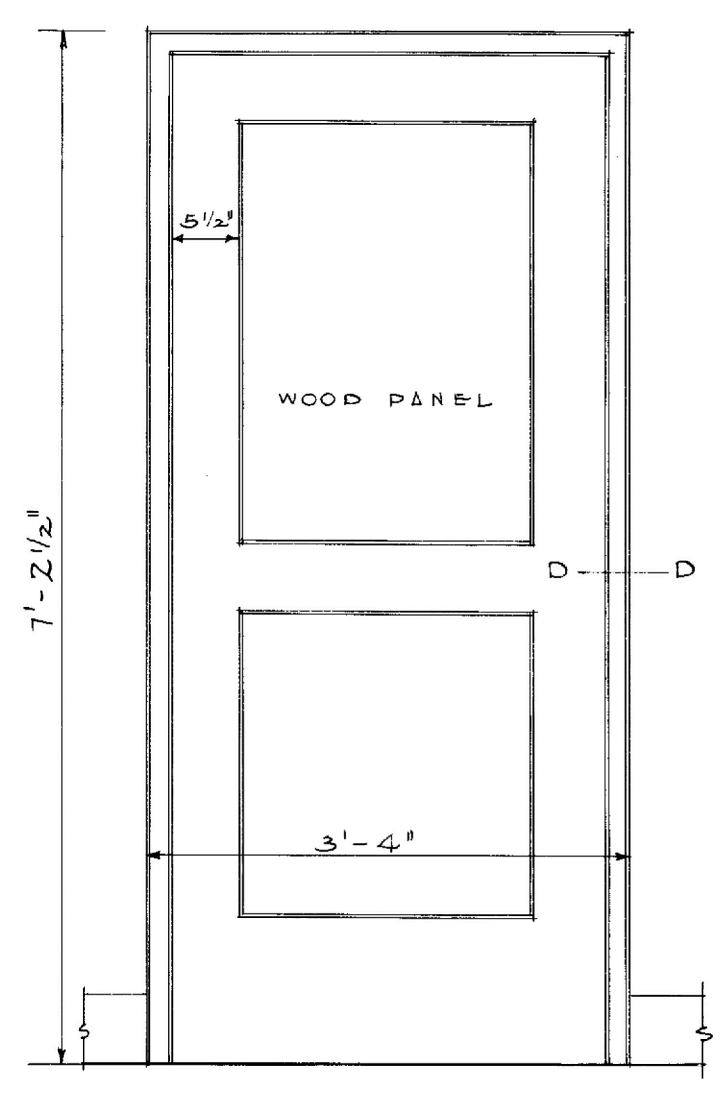
DETAIL OF DOORS D-10



DETAIL OF DOORS D-11  
D-16 WILL BE SAME AS ABOVE EXCEPT THAT IT WILL BE 3'-0" WIDE

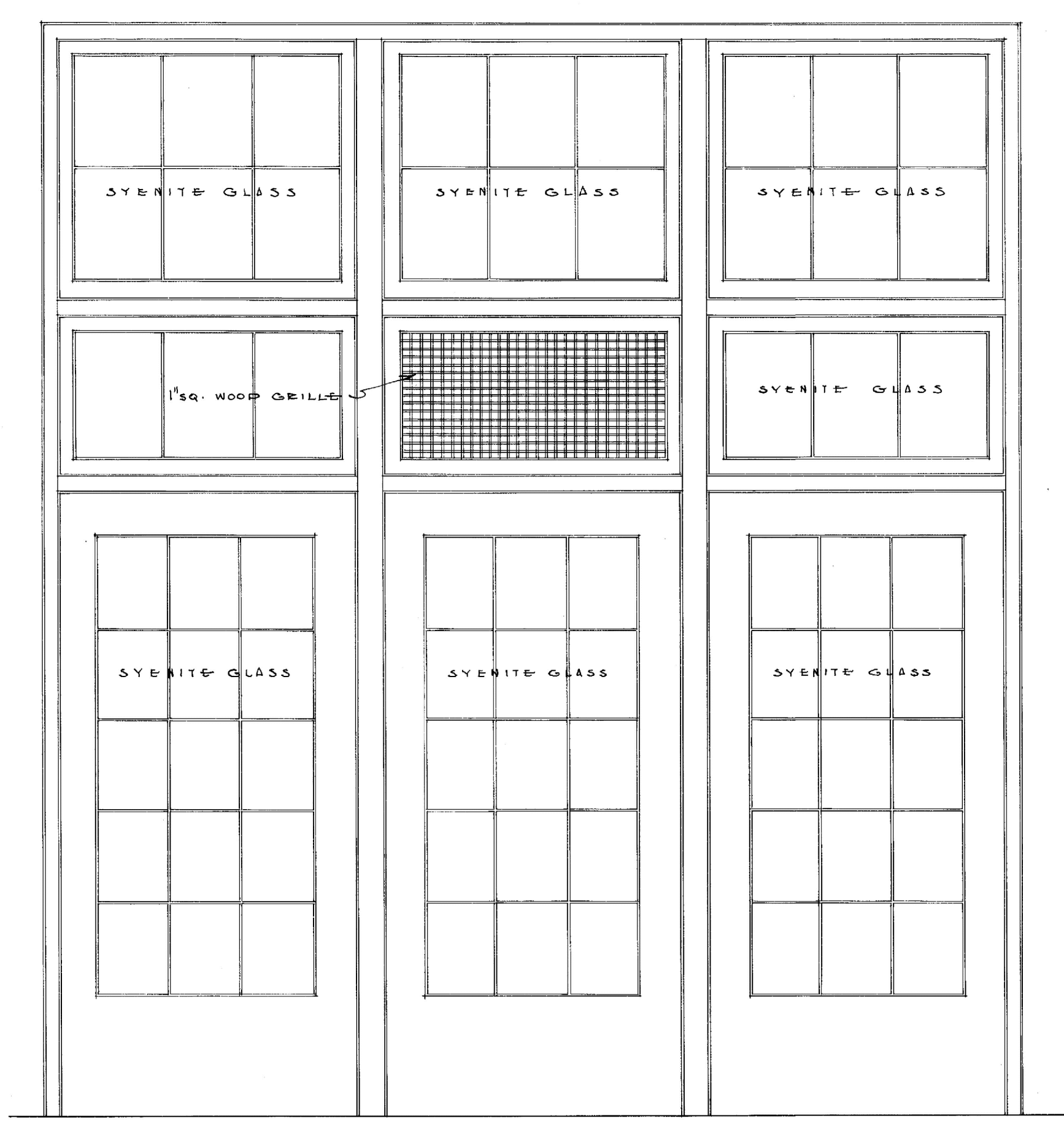


DETAIL OF DOORS D-17

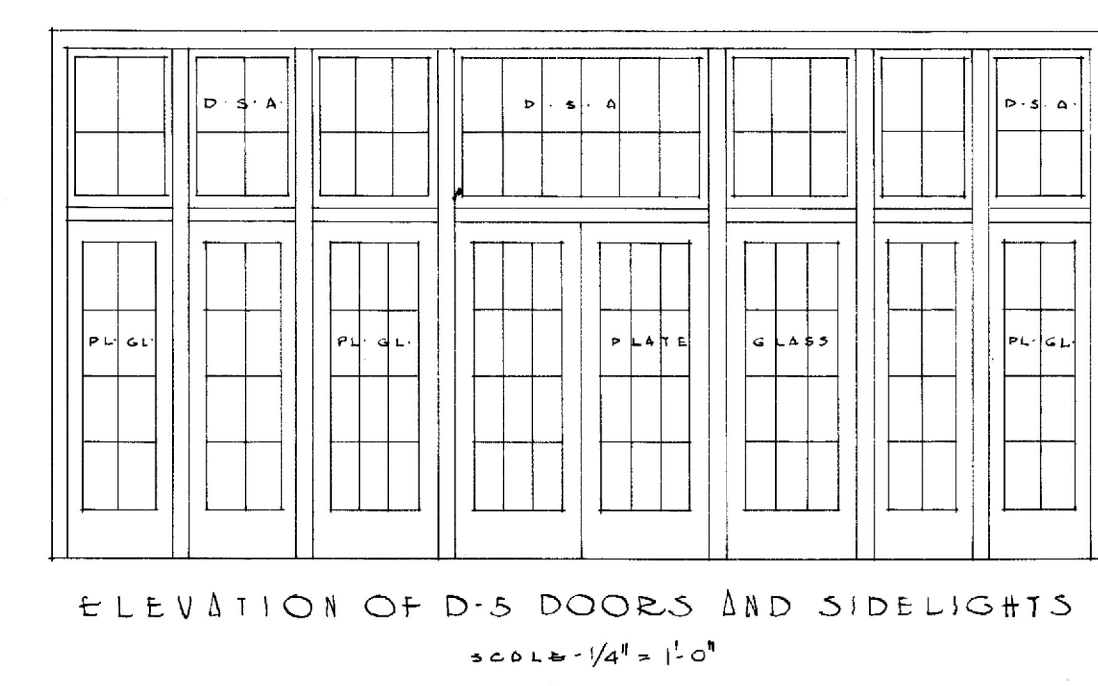


DETAIL OF DOORS D-21  
D-18 DOORS WILL BE SAME AS ABOVE EXCEPT THAT THEY WILL BE 2'-8" WIDE  
D-20 DOORS WILL BE SAME AS ABOVE EXCEPT THAT THEY WILL BE 2'-0" WIDE

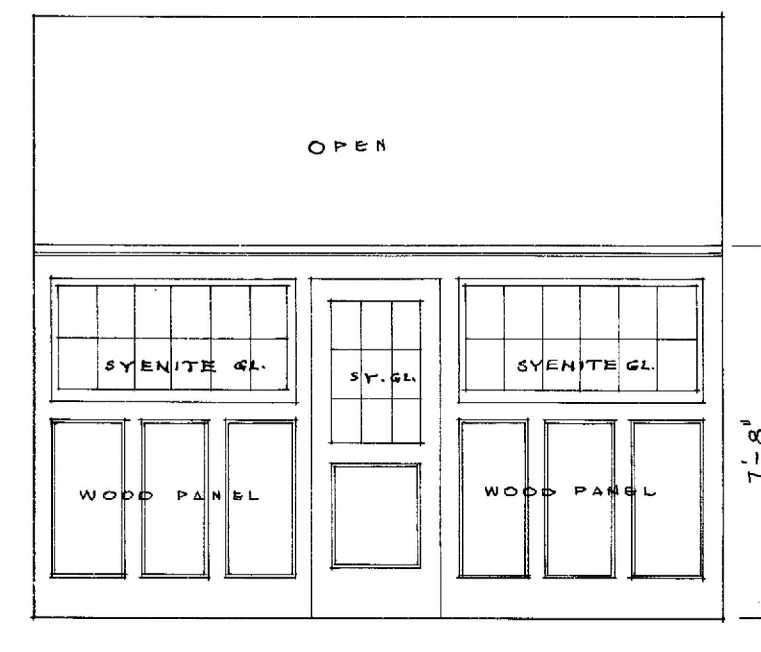
SCALE 3/4" = 1'-0"



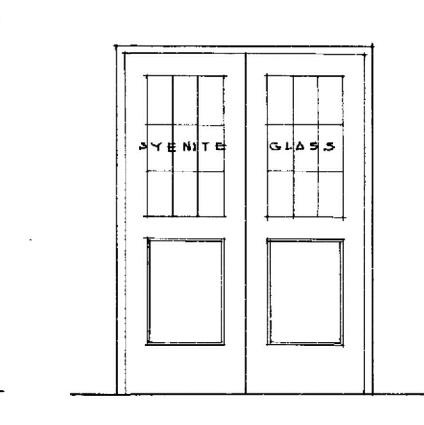
ELEVATION OF DOORS D-15



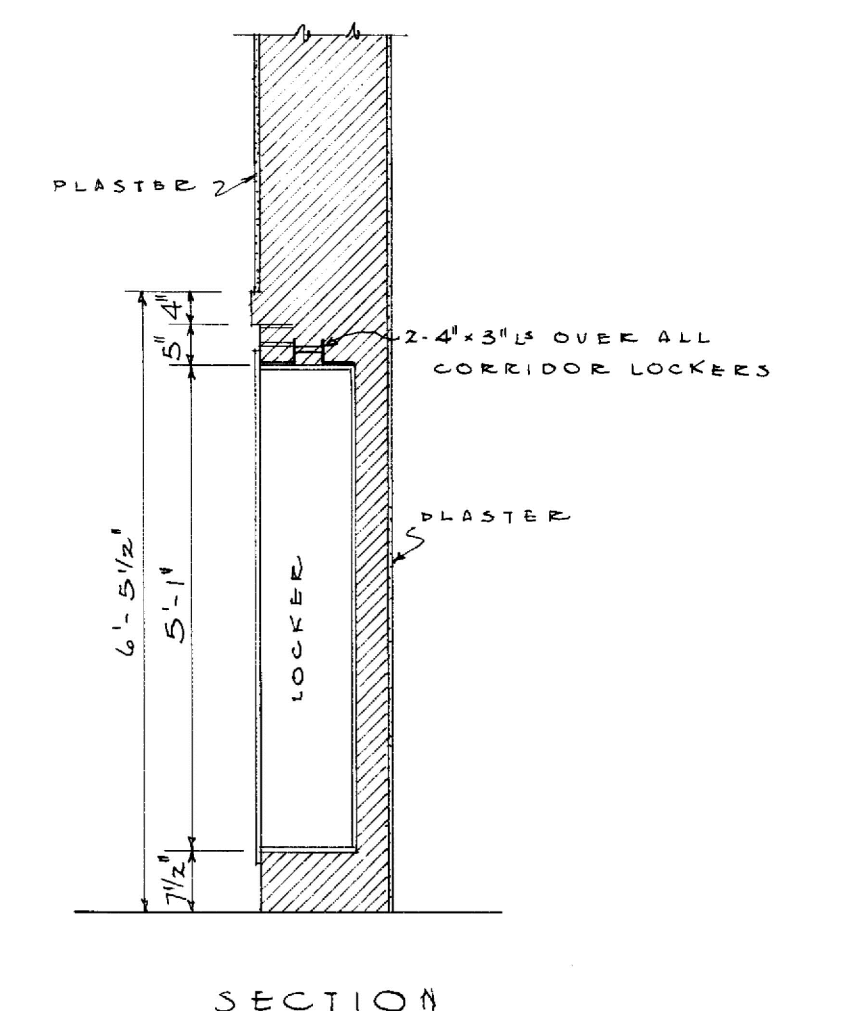
ELEVATION OF D-5 DOORS AND SIDELIGHTS



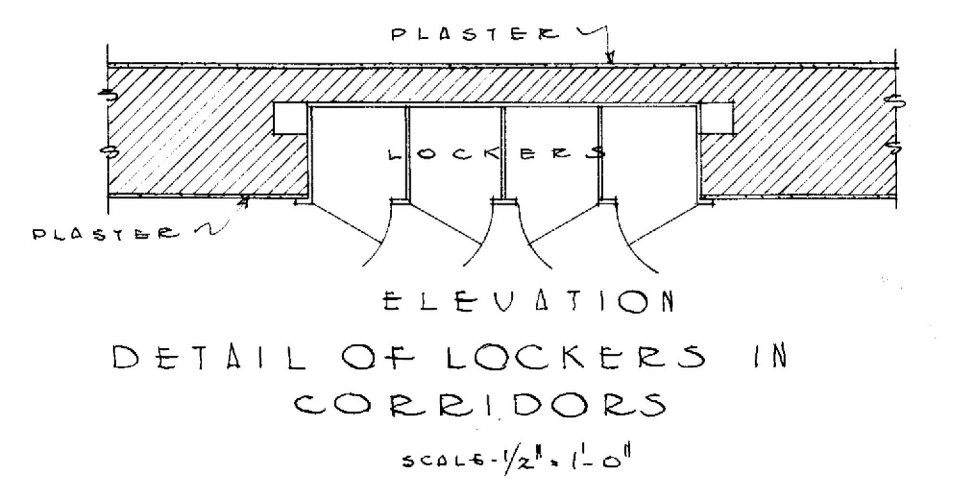
ELEVATION OF PARTITION IN REST ROOM OR FIRST FLOOR



ELEVATION OF D-12 & D-13 DOORS



SECTION

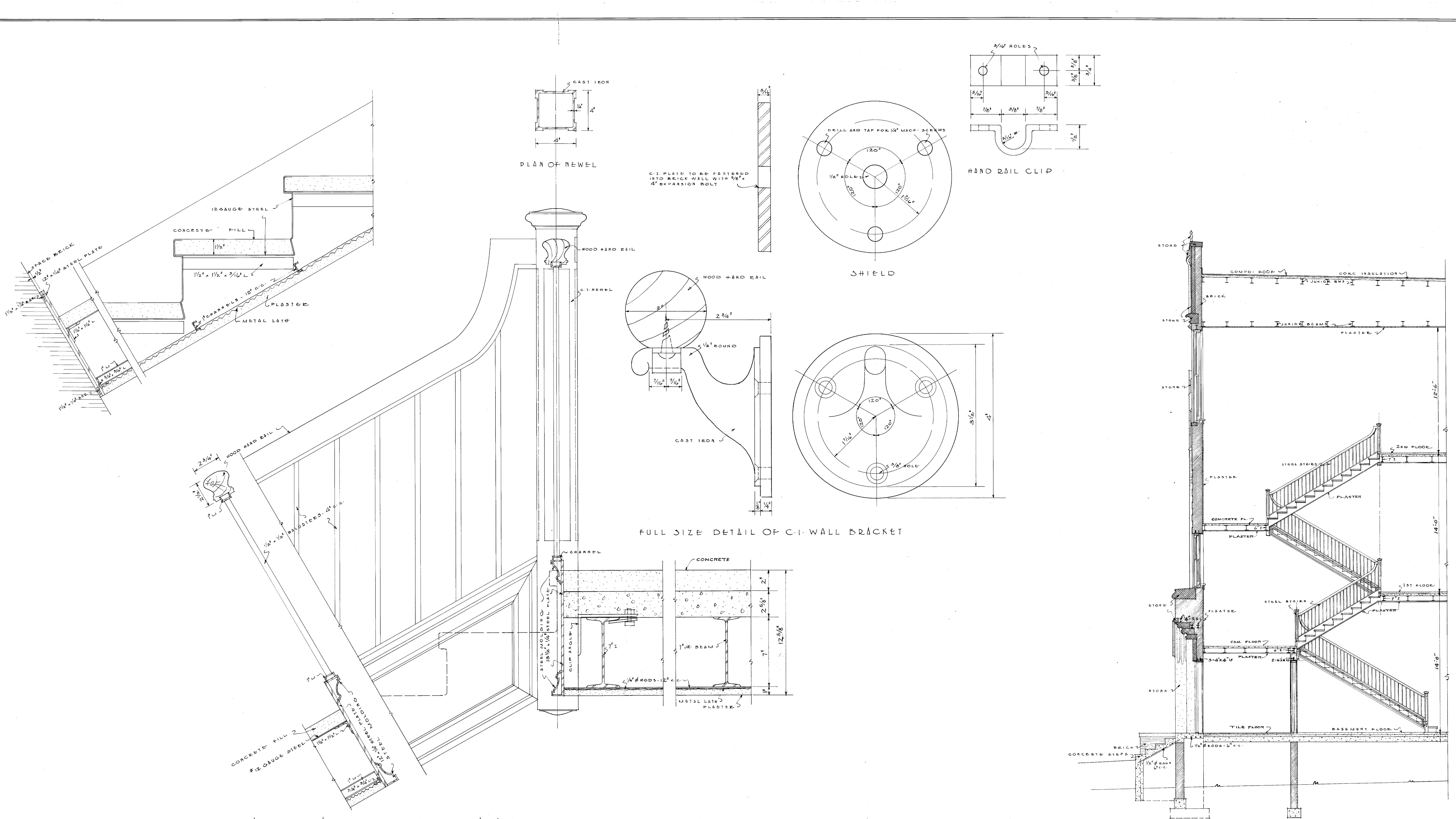


ELEVATION OF LOCKERS IN CORRIDORS

SOUTH EAST JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL  
 BOARD OF EDUCATION  
 DECATUR - ILLINOIS

JUNE 1 1928 BROOKS - BRANFALL & DAGUE ARCHTCS - DECATUR - ILLINOIS 12

THIS DRAWING IS A SCANNED REPRODUCTION OF AN ORIGINAL (1928) CONSTRUCTION DRAWING. IT HAS NOT BEEN FIELD VERIFIED FOR ACCURACY. THIS DRAWING IS SCANNED AT THE ORIGINAL SIZE BUT ACCURACY OF SCALE WAS NOT CONFIRMED.



TYPICAL DETAILS OF STEEL STAIRS

SCALE: 3/4" = 1'-0"

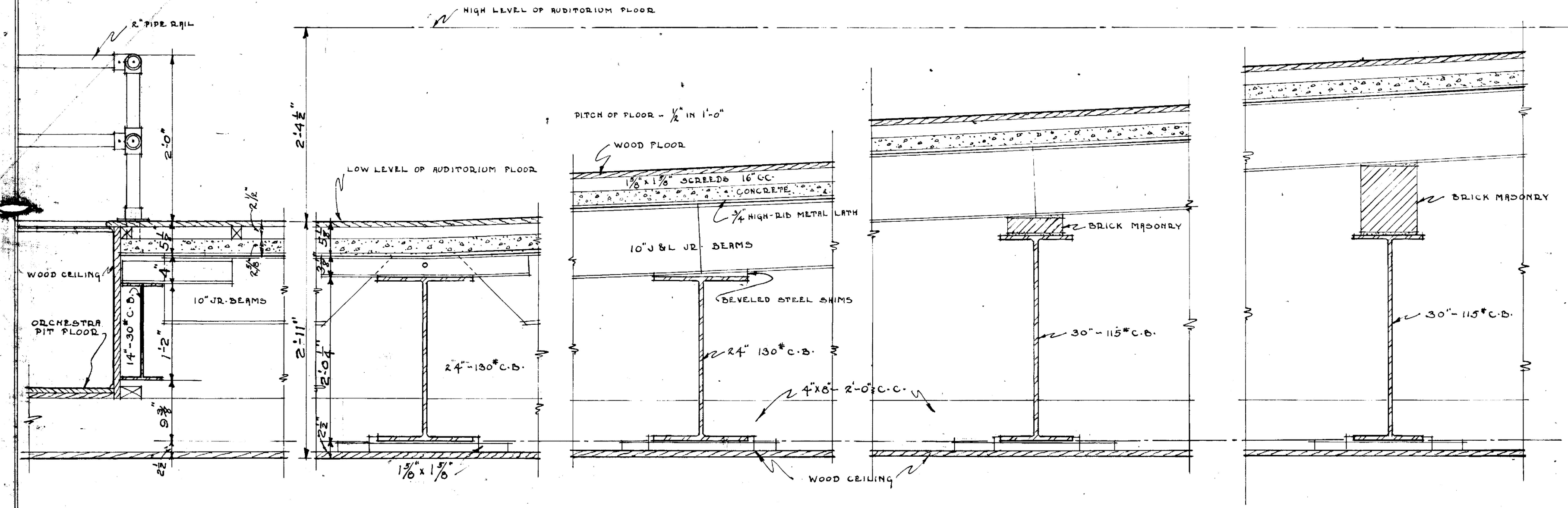
SECTION THRU STAIRS AT NORTH ENTRANCE  
STAIRS AT SOUTH ENTRANCE WILL BE THE SAME EXCEPT THAT IT WILL BE OPPOSITE HAND

SOUTH EAST JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL  
FOR THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
DECATUR - ILLINOIS

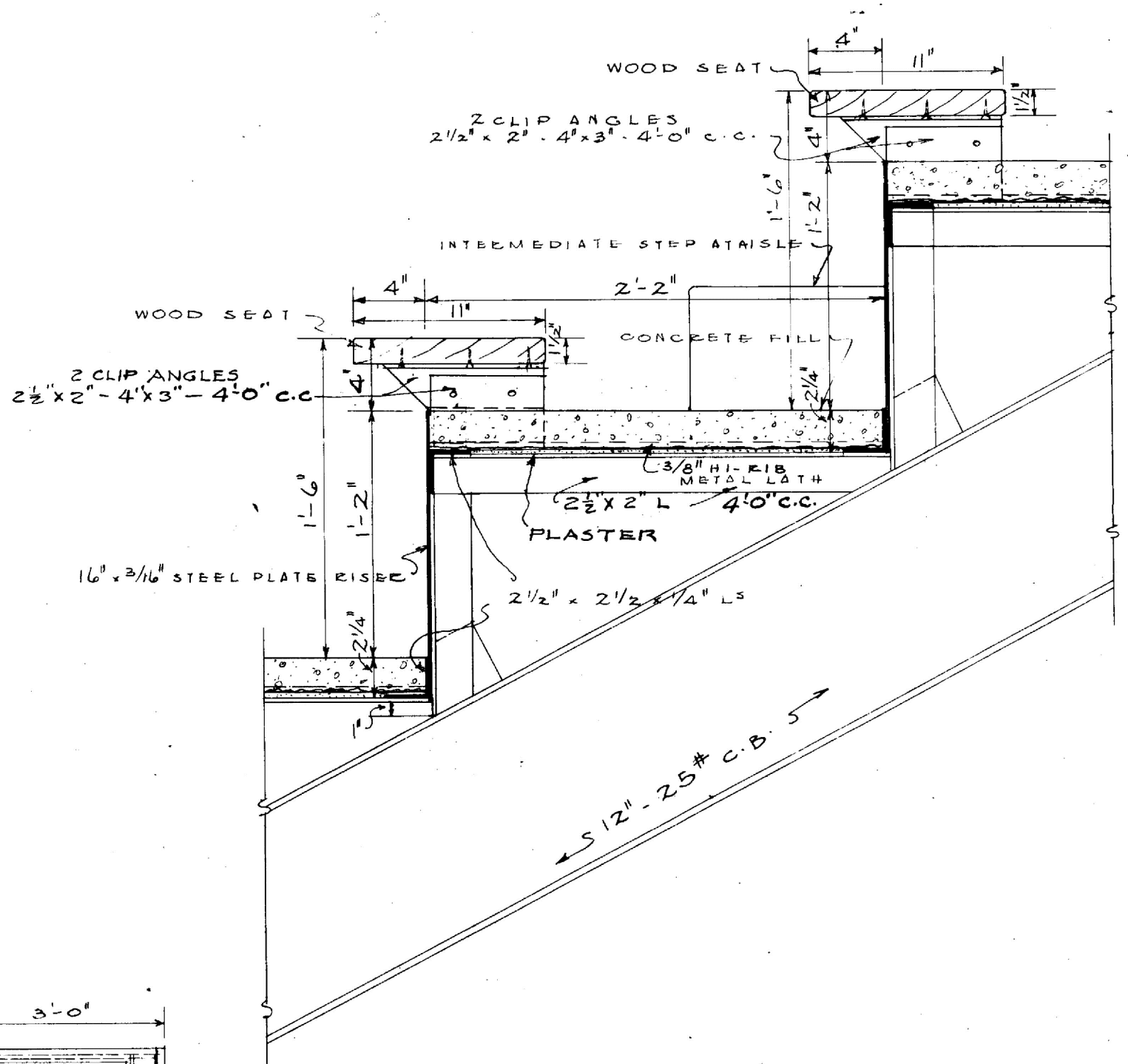
JUNE 1 1928 BROOKS - BRAMHALL & DAGUE 13  
ARCHITECTS - DECATUR - ILLINOIS

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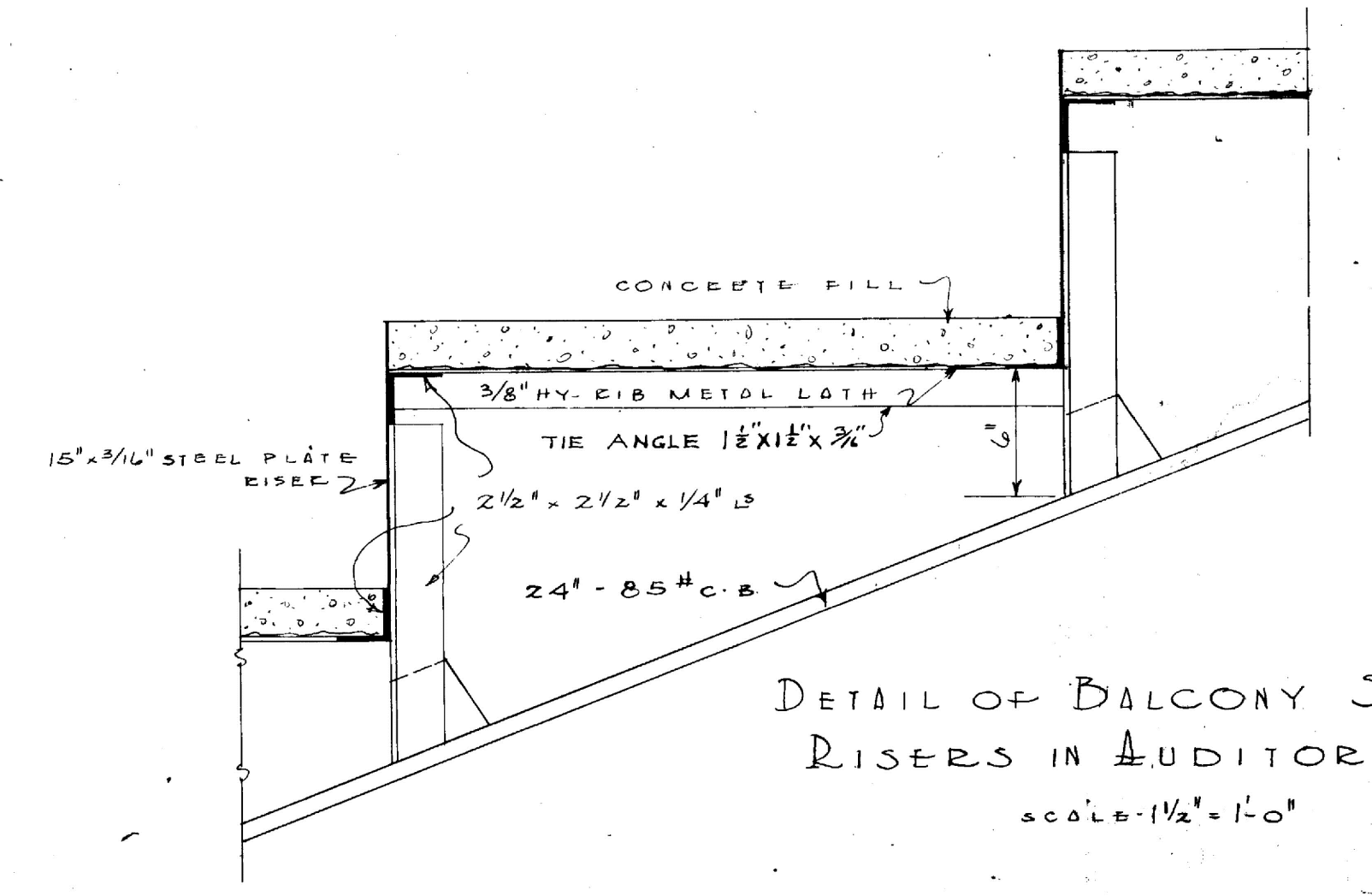
DRAWN BY: SCOTT UTTER



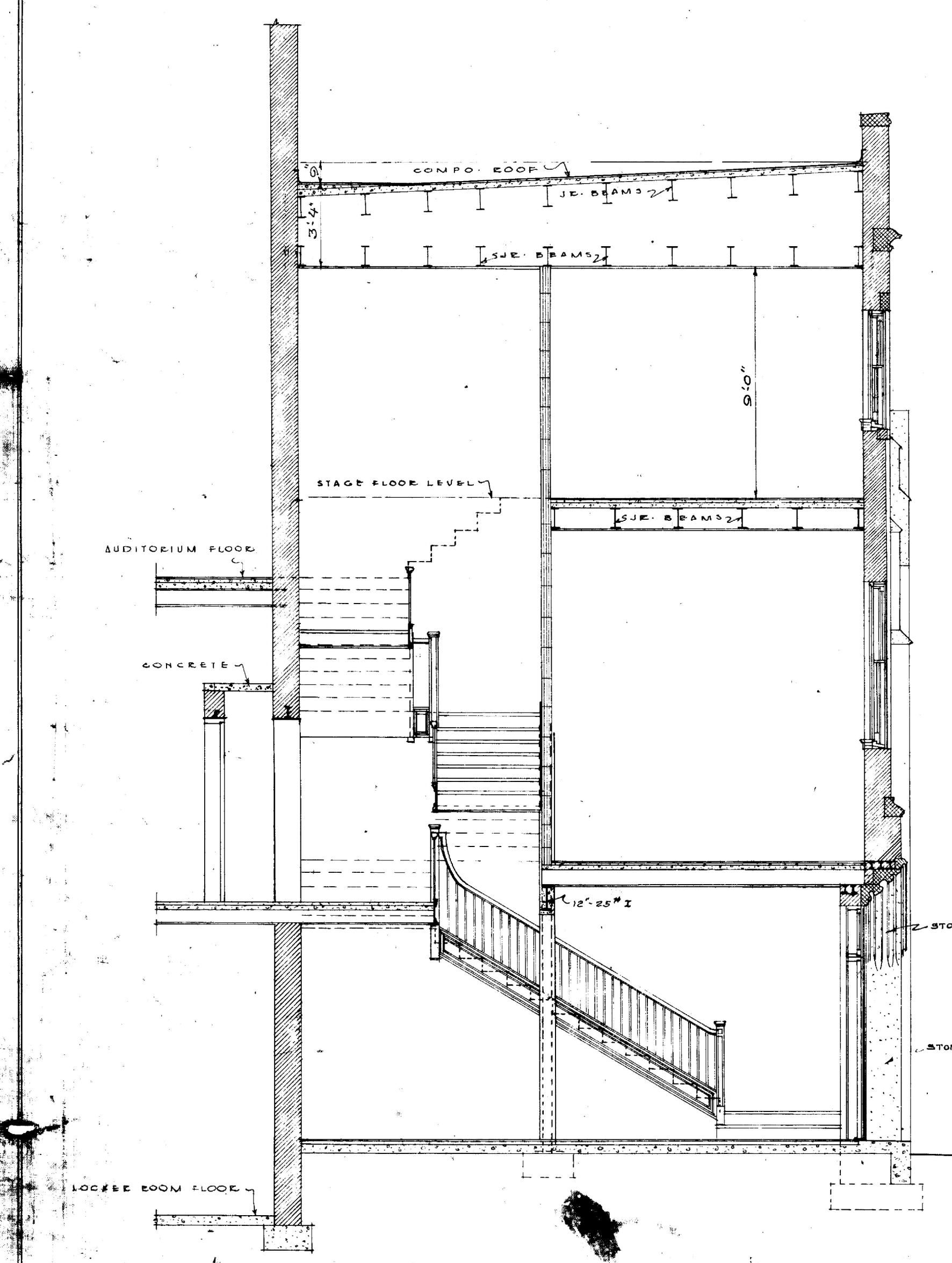
DETAILS SHOWING CONSTRUCTION OF SUPPORTING BEAMS IN AUDITORIUM FLOOR  
SCALE: 1" = 1'-0"



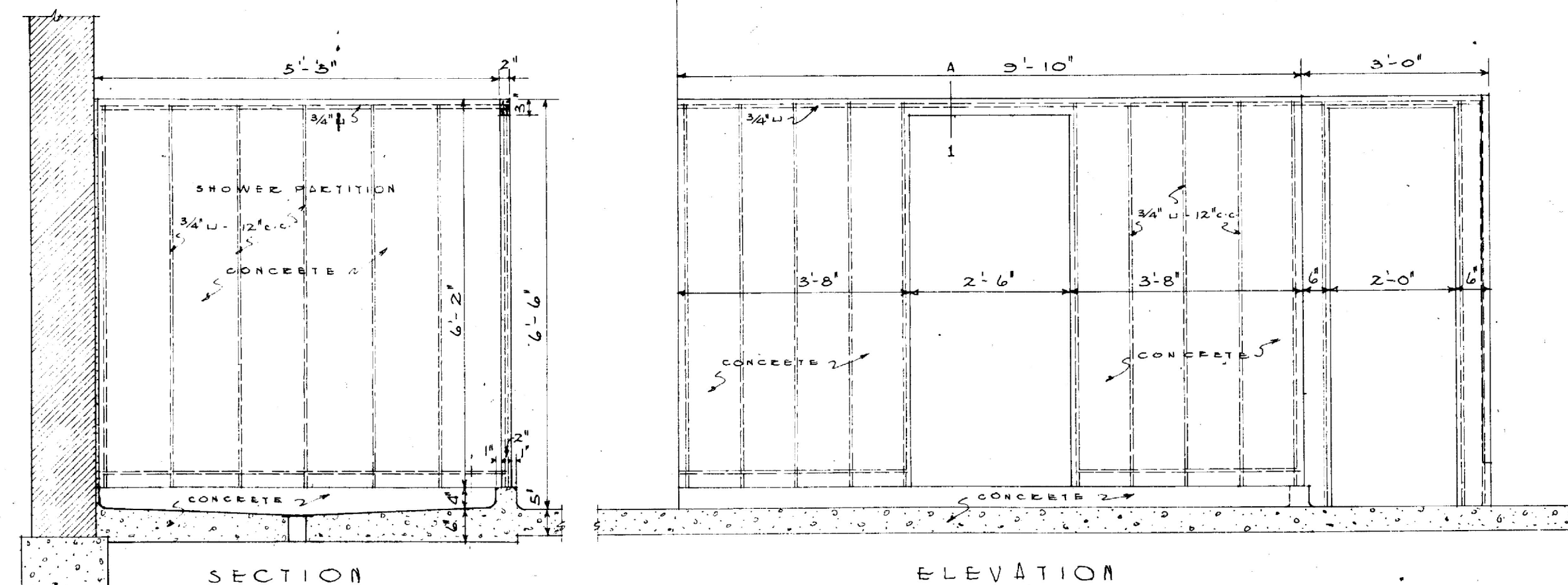
TYPICAL SECTION THRU  
BALCONIES IN GYMNASIUM  
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



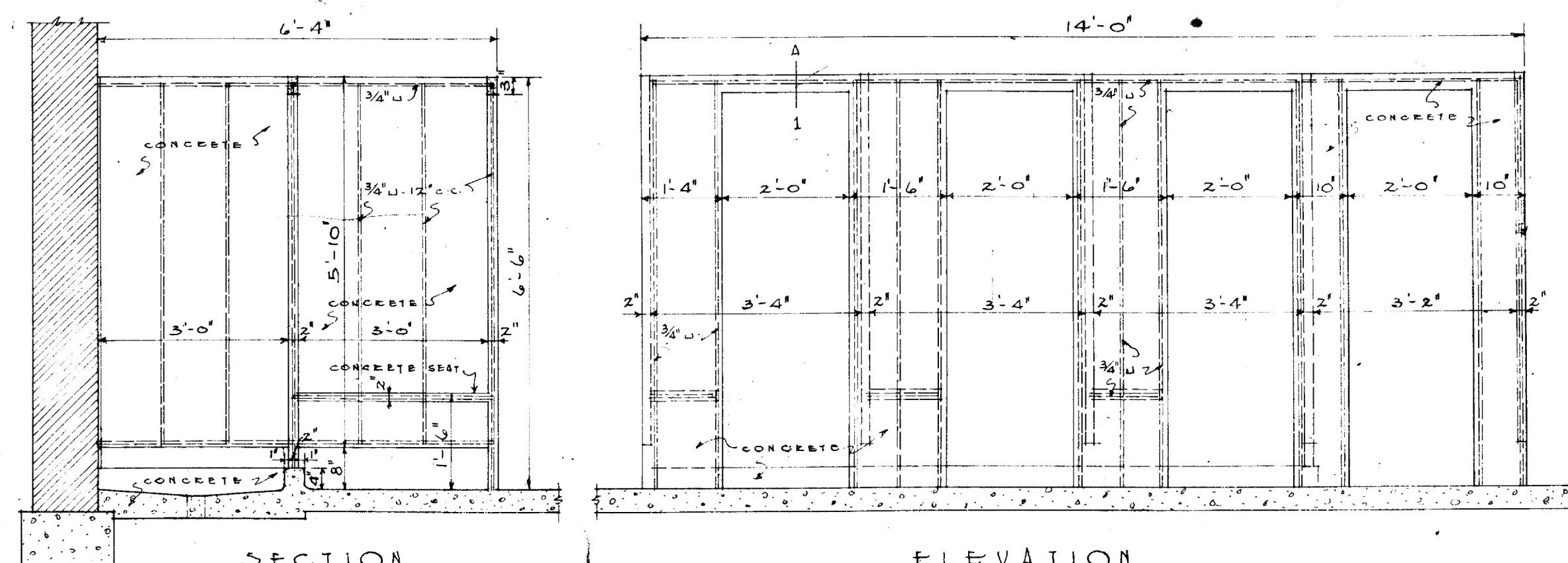
DETAIL OF BALCONY STEEL  
RISERS IN AUDITORIUM  
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



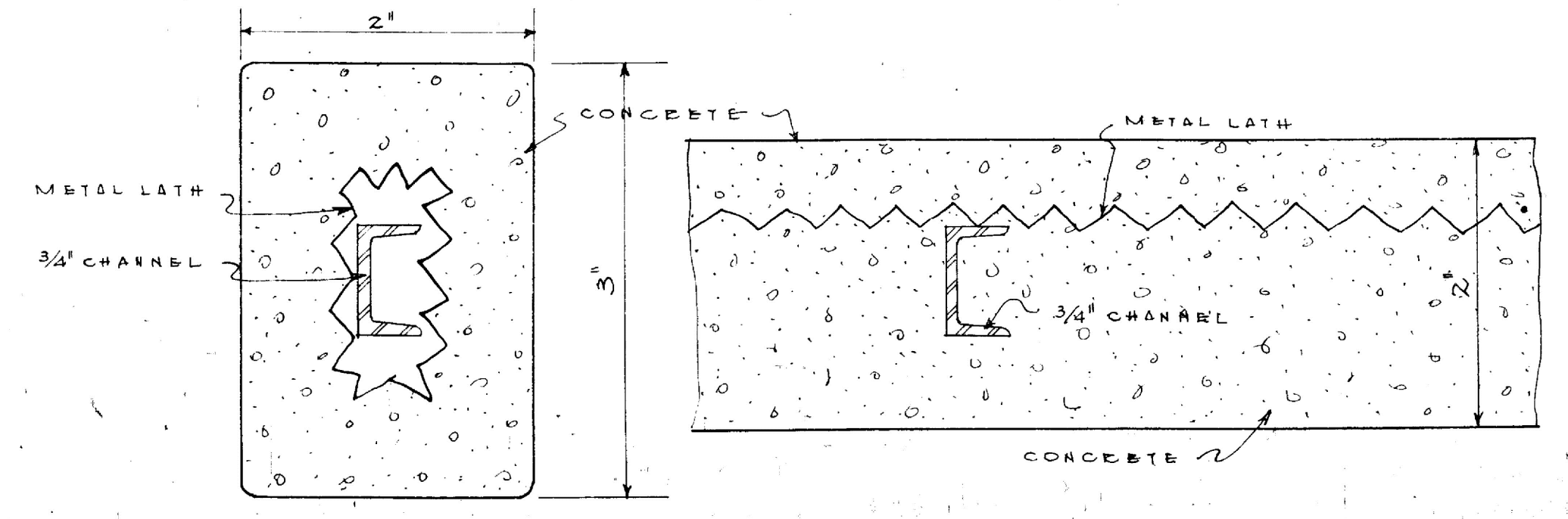
SECTION ON LINE LOOKING NORTH THRU EAST STAIR HALL  
OF GYMNASIUM AND AUDITORIUM  
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



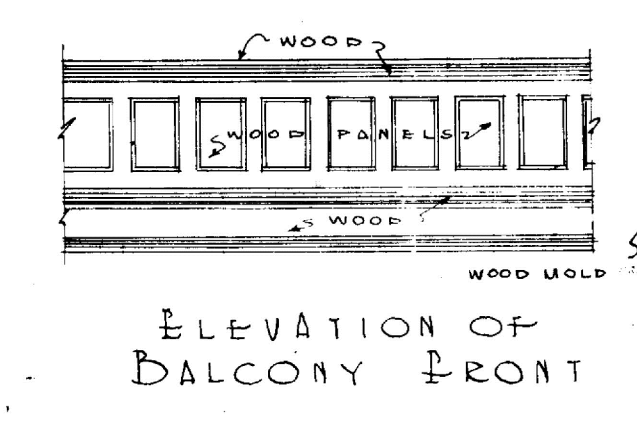
SECTION  
ELEVATION  
DETAIL OF BOYS SHOWERS IN SHOWER ROOM  
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



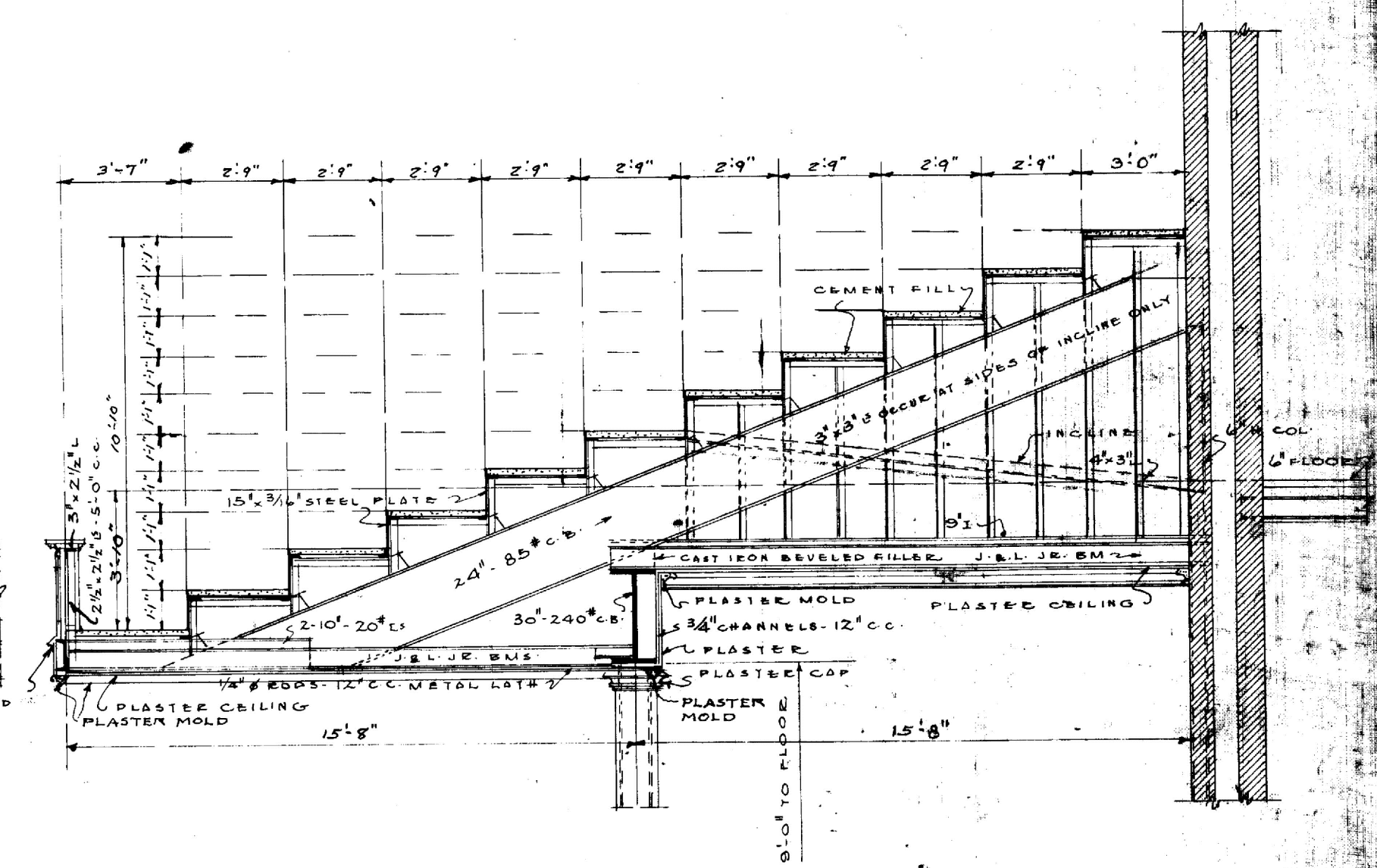
SECTION  
ELEVATION  
DETAIL OF GIRLS SHOWERS AND DRESSING BOOTHS IN SHOWER ROOM  
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



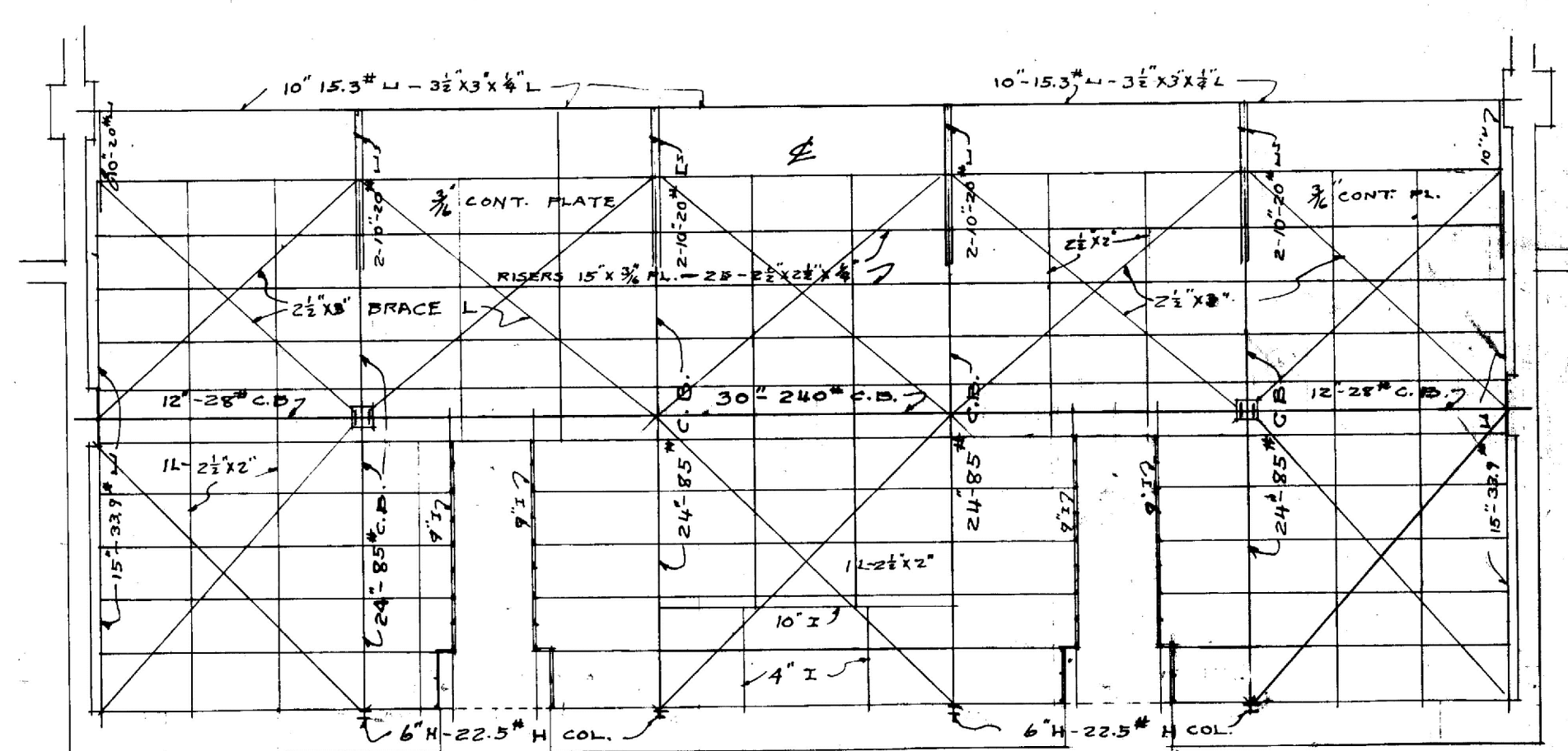
FULL SIZE SECTION A-1 : FULL SIZE DETAIL OF PARTITIONS CONSTRUCTION



ELEVATION OF  
BALCONY FRONT



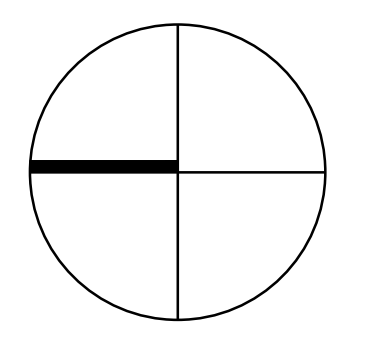
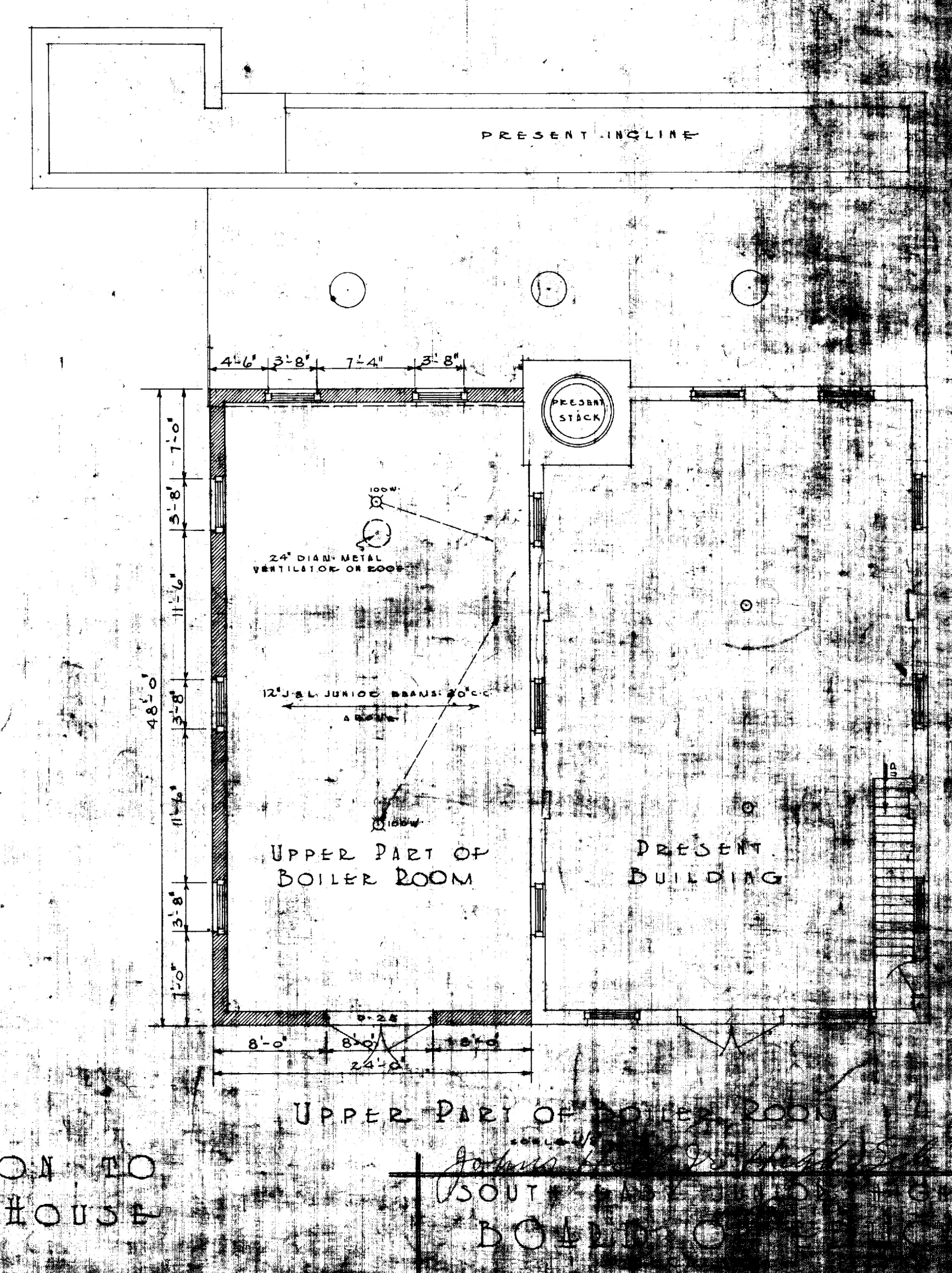
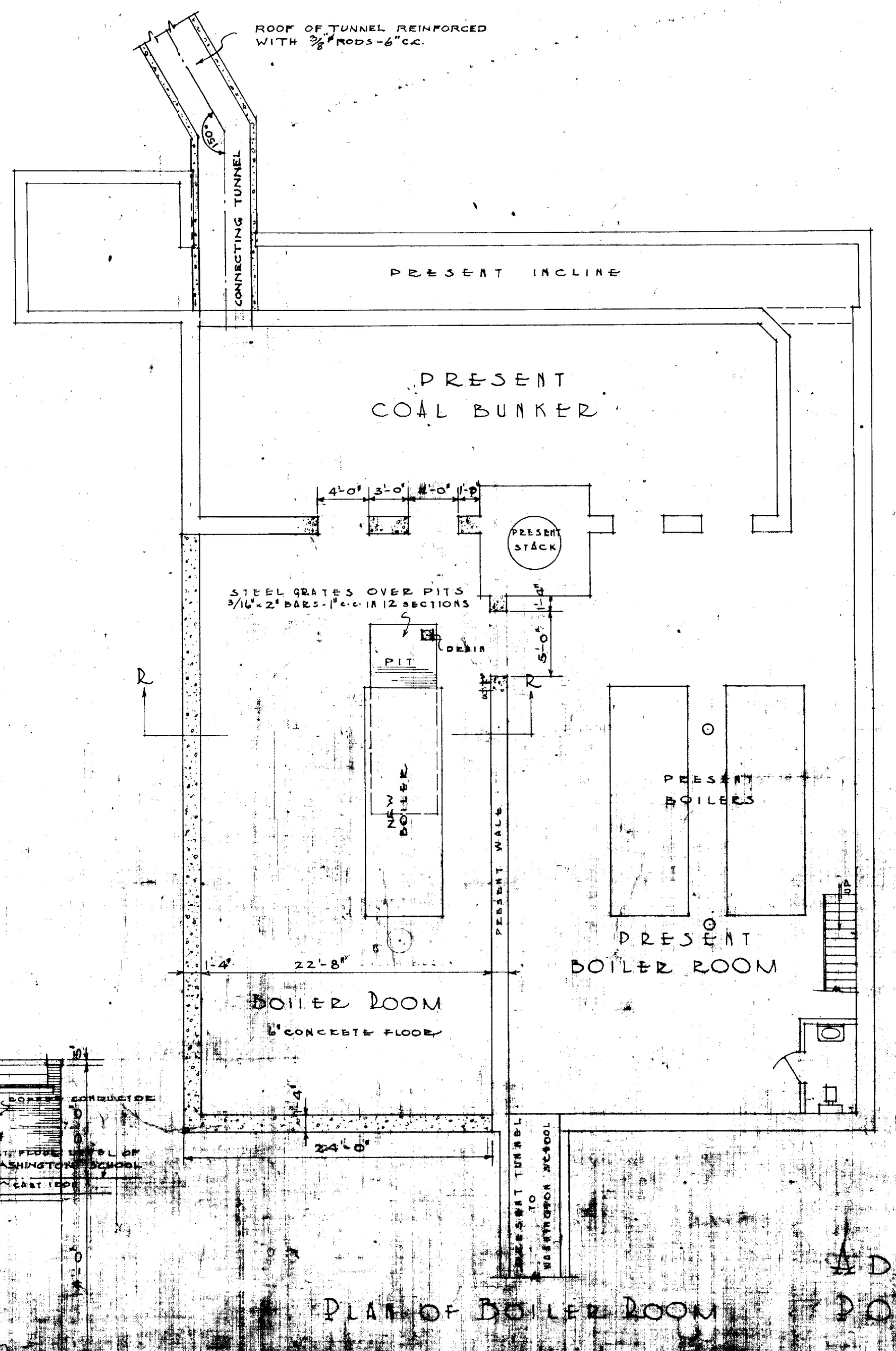
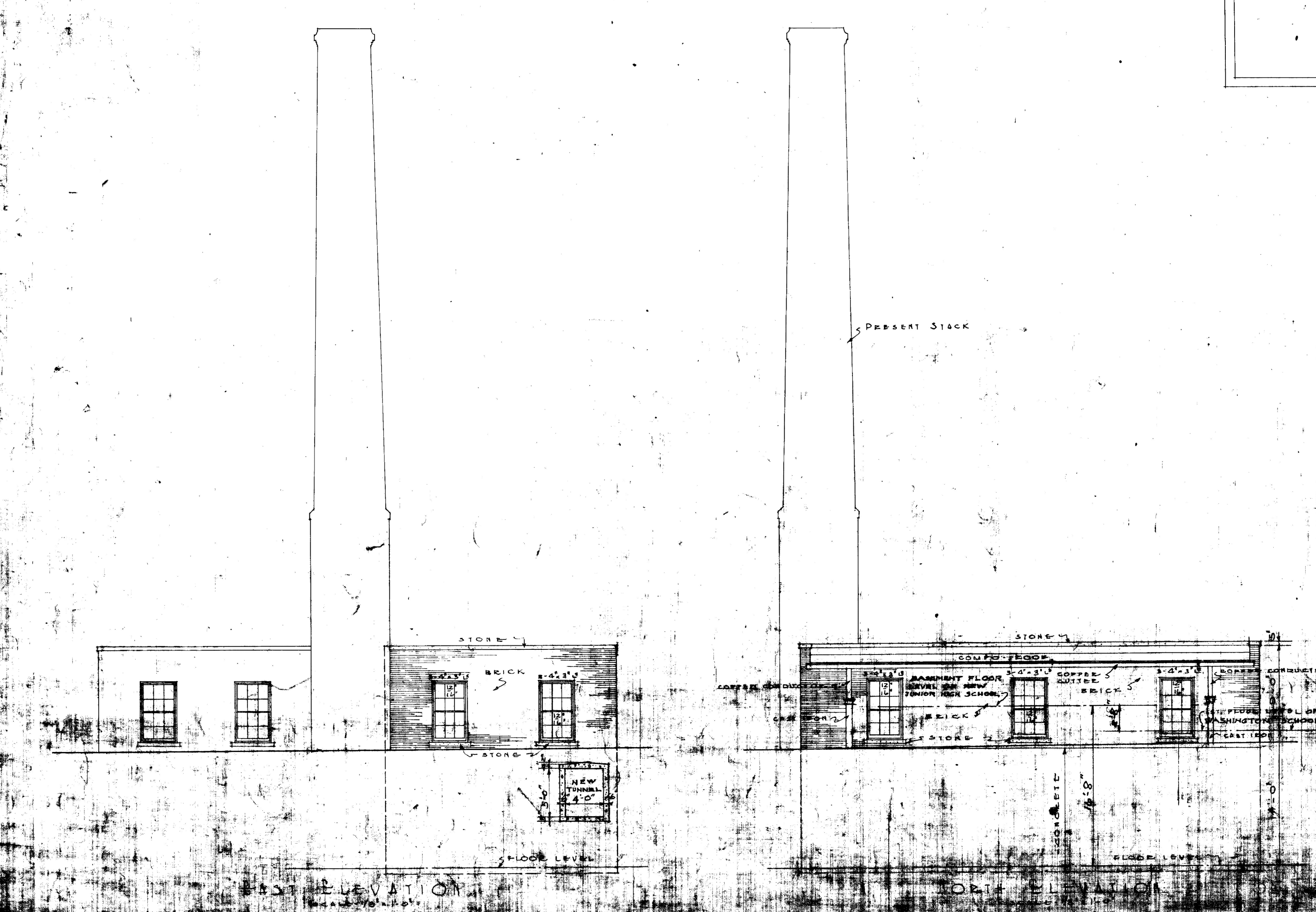
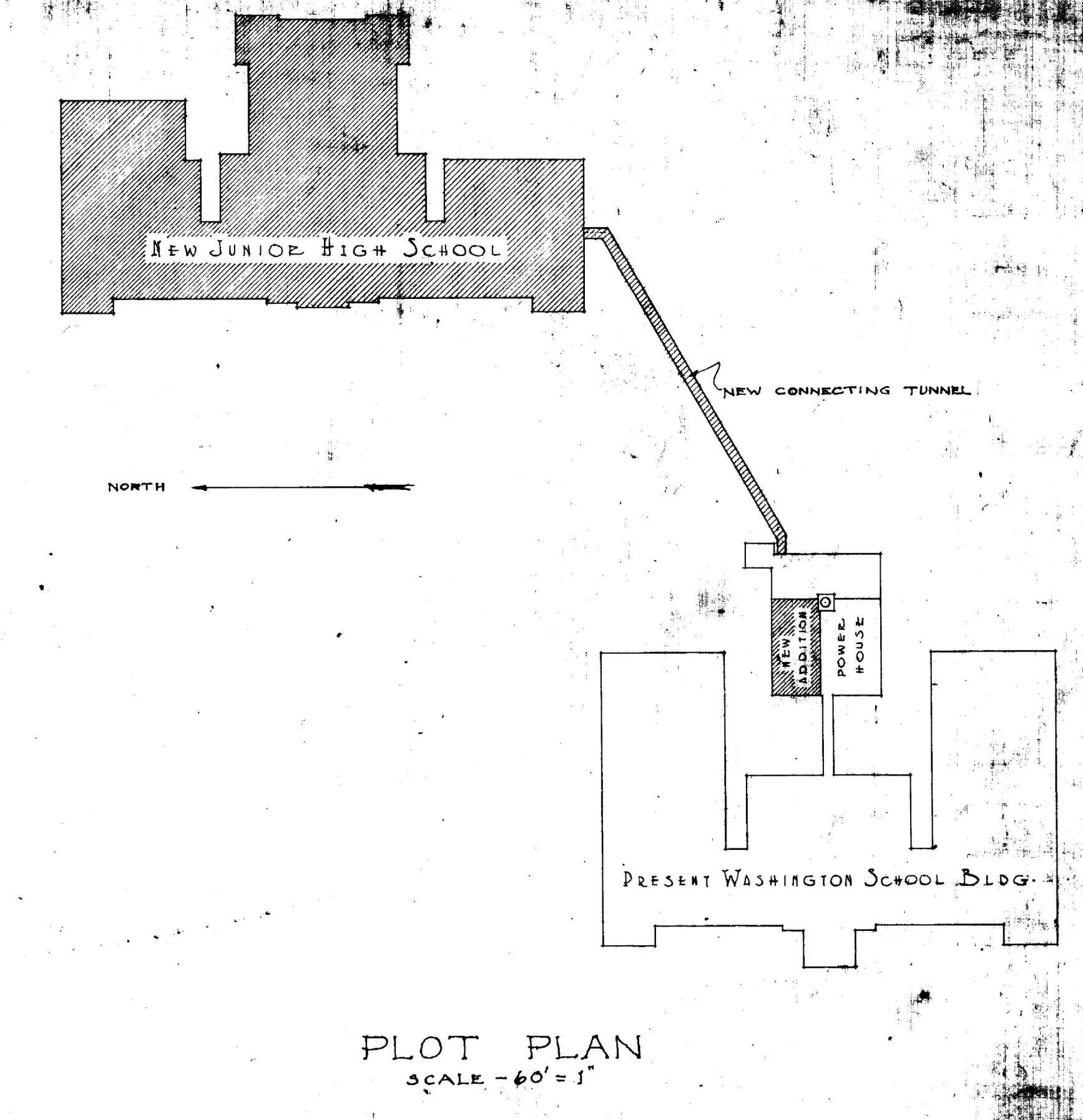
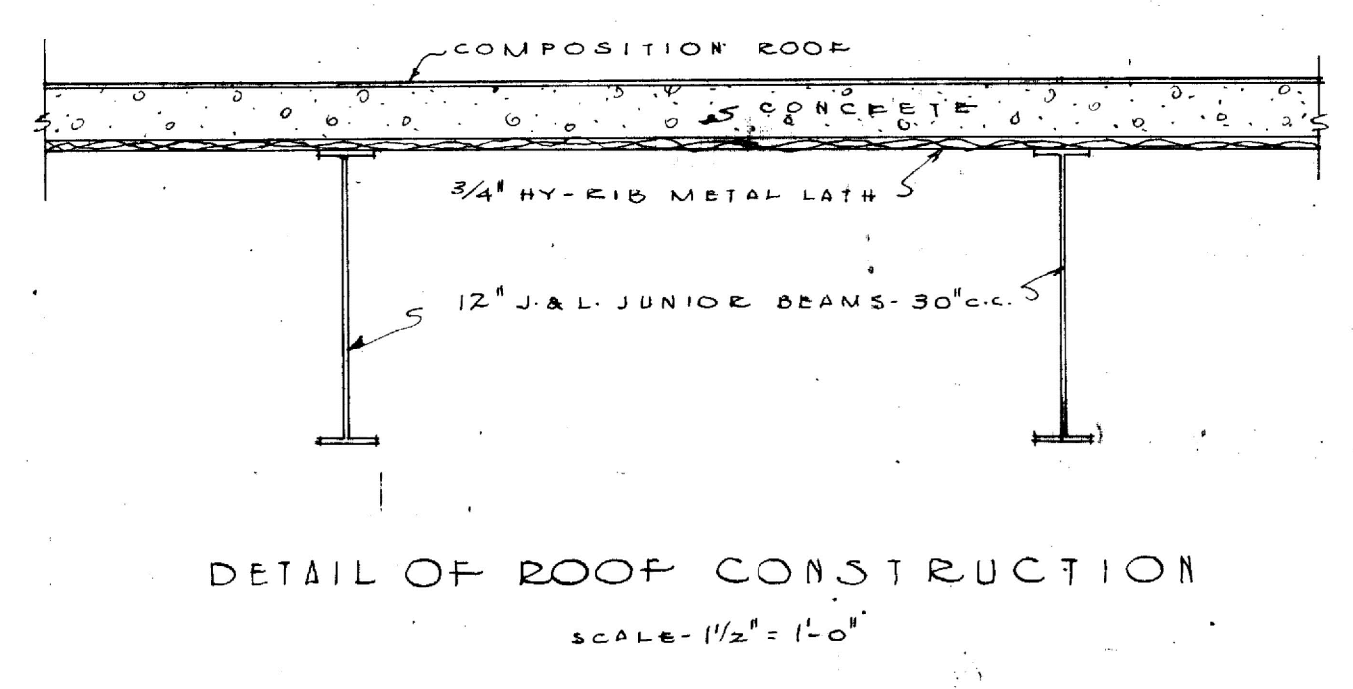
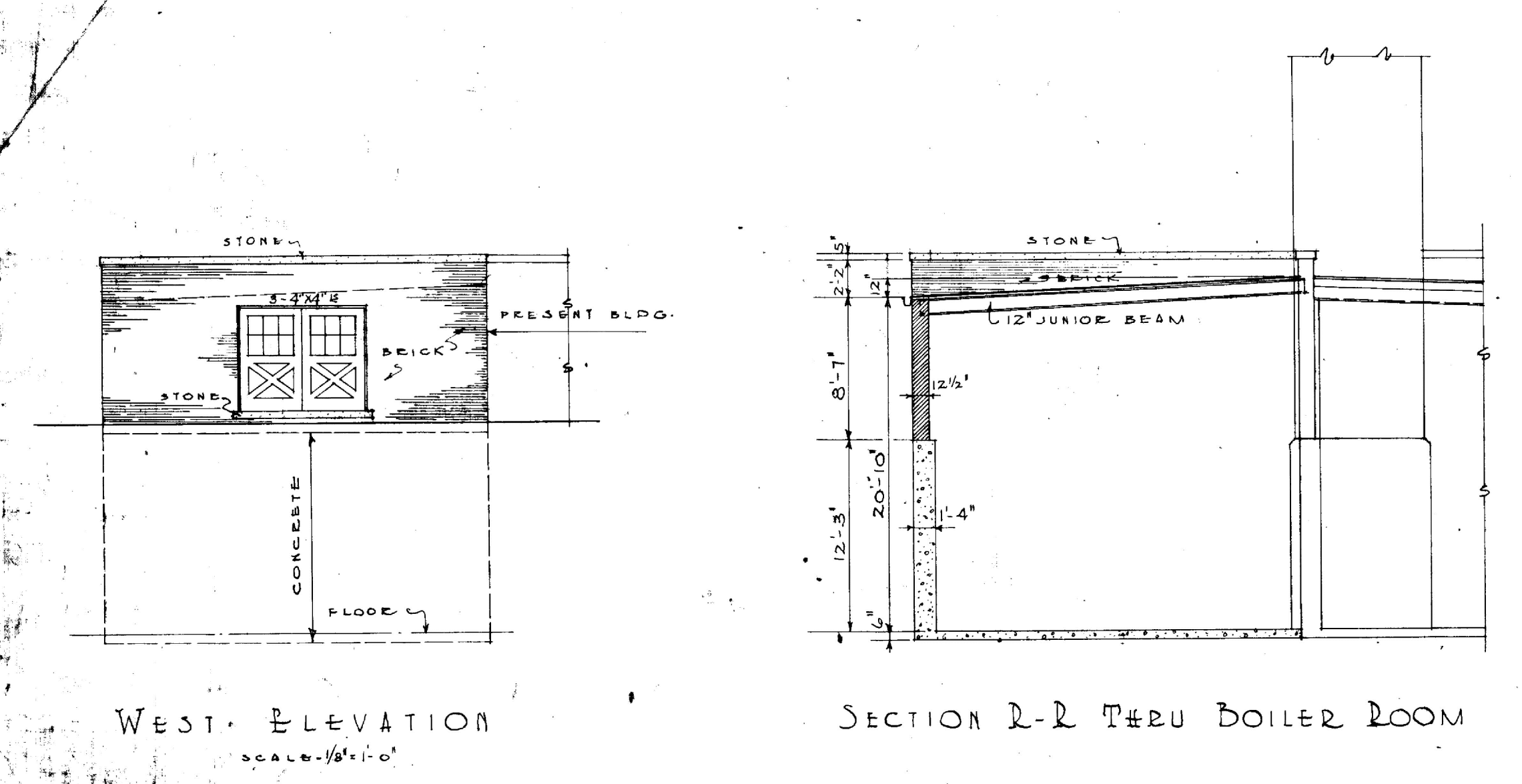
SECTION THRU BALCONY  
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



PLAN OF BALCONY BRACING  
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

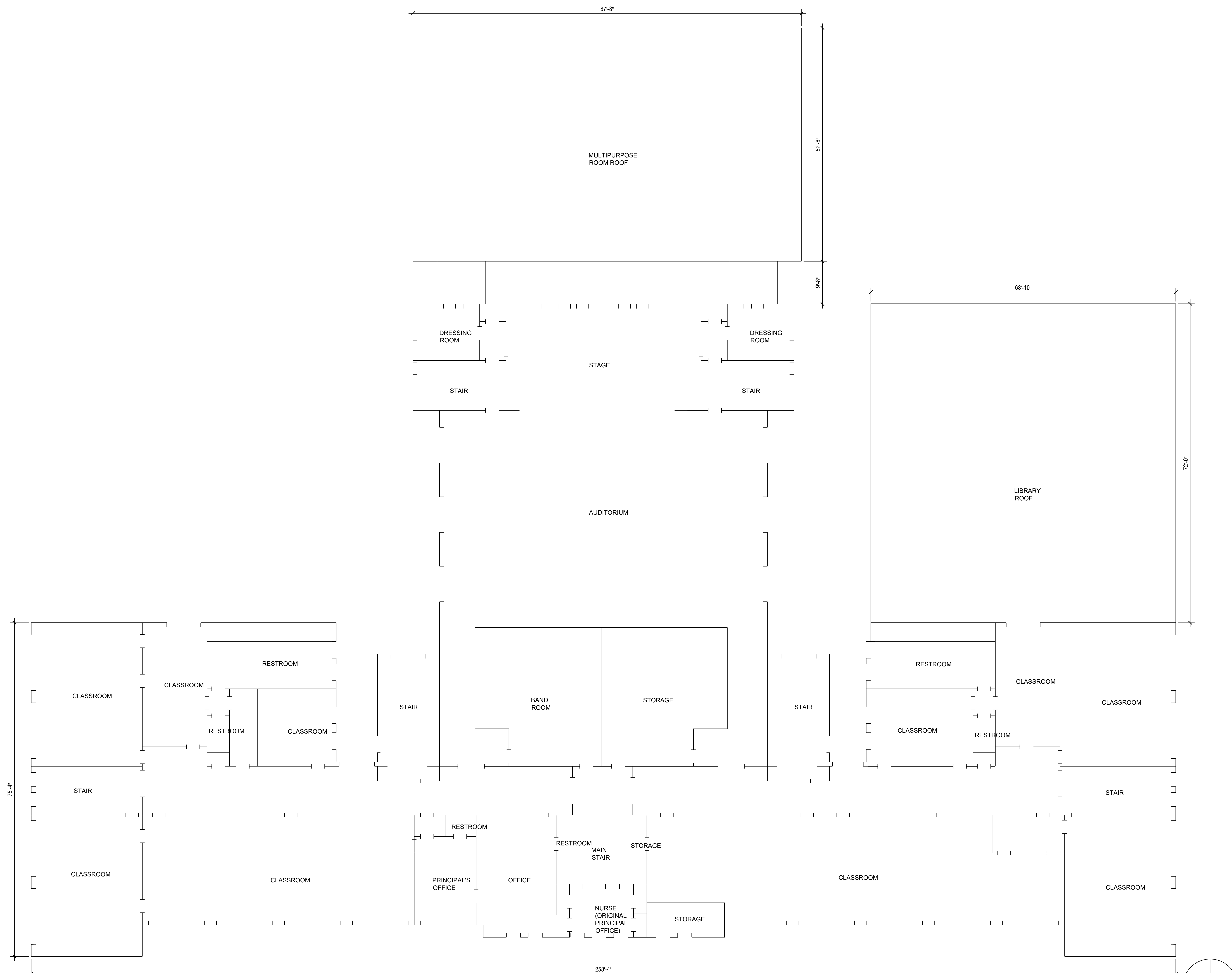
SOUTH EAST JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL  
FOR THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
DECATUR ILLINOIS  
JUNE 1 1928  
BROOKS - GRAMMILL & DIGHE  
ARCHITECTS - DECATUR ILLINOIS

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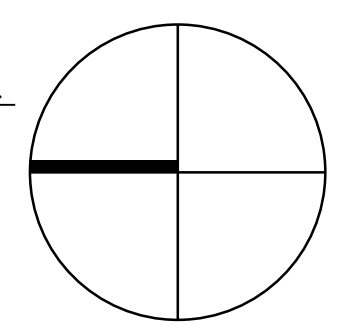
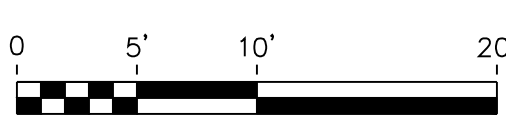


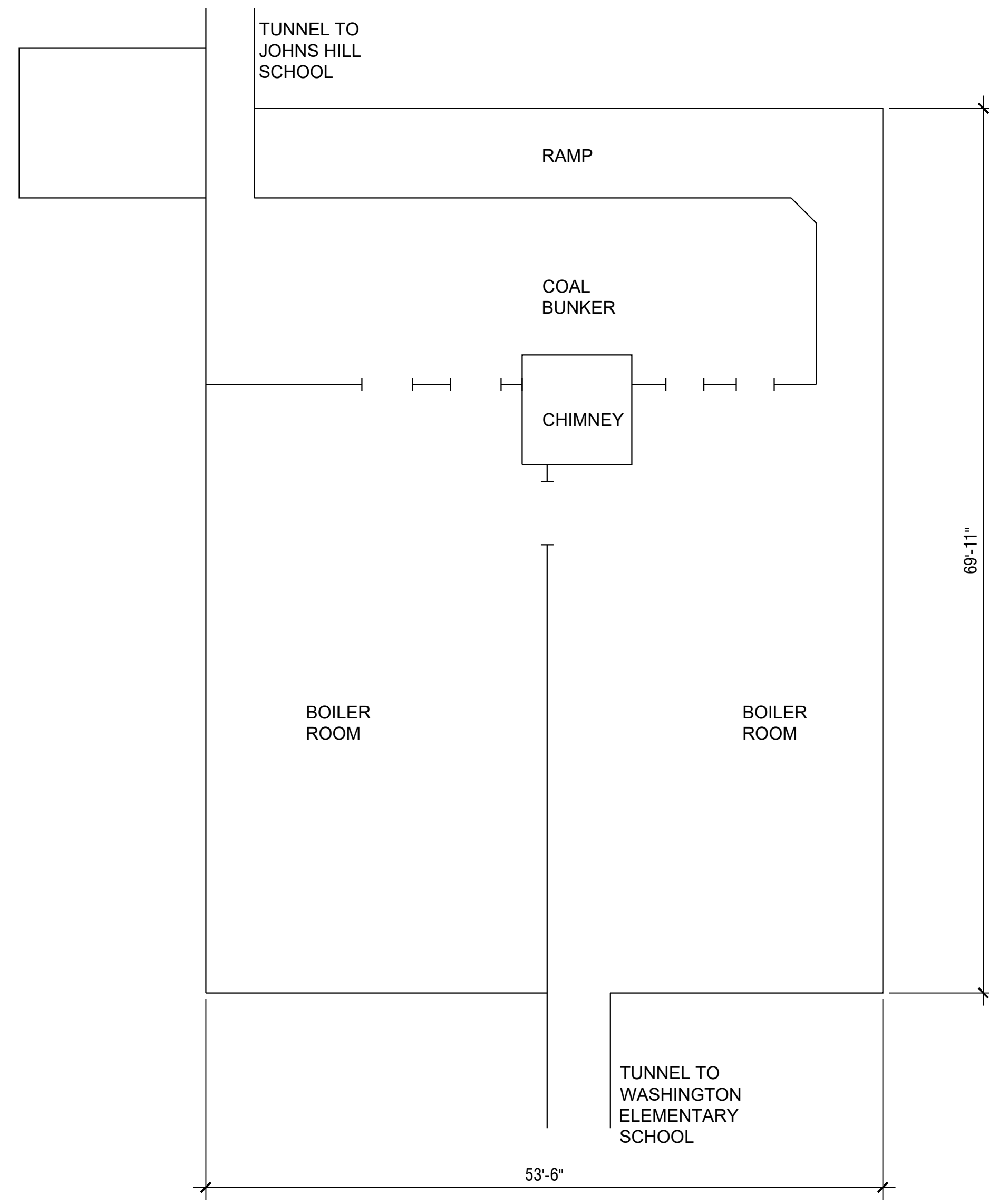
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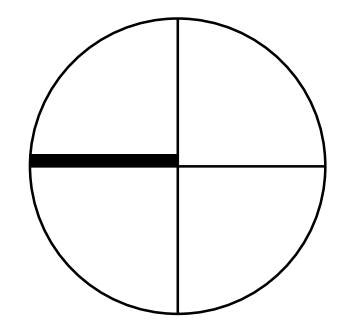
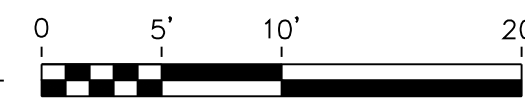


FIRST FLOOR PLAN SKETCH - SCHOOL  
 SCALE:  $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'-0''$





BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN SKETCH - BOILER HOUSE  
SCALE:  $\frac{1}{8}" = 1'-0"$



DRAWN BY: SCOTT UTTER

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

JOHNS HILL SCHOOL AND BOILER HOUSE  
1025 EAST JOHNS AVENUE    DECATUR    MACON COUNTY    ILLINOIS

SHEET 47  
OF 17 SHEETS

HISTORIC AMERICAN  
BUILDINGS SURVEY  
IL-1284

UNIVERSITY OF  
ILLINOIS  
SPRINGFIELD

REPRODUCED FROM THE HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, IMAGE OF DELIMITATION DATE OF DRAWING.

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

### INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

JOHNS HILL SCHOOL AND BOILER HOUSE  
1025 East Johns Avenue  
Decatur  
Macon County  
Illinois

HABS No. IL-1264

### INDEX TO BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS

Dirk Matthews, Photographer, 2020

- IL-1264-1      Looking southeast from South Maffit Street south of East John Avenue. Representative of the siting of the School on the hill and the associated landscaping in front of the main entrance. The rows of trees flanking the entrance sidewalk are visible on the right side of the image.
- IL-1264-2      View of east façade and sidewalk leading to the main entrance. The limestone entrance arch and pointed buttress piers. The flanking trees at the north and south of the sidewalk are visible.
- IL-1264-3      View of the main entrance at the east façade. Representative of the typically limestone detailing visible throughout the façade of the School. Engraved letters spelling “Johns Hill Junior High School 1928” is visible above the arch.
- IL-1264-4      View of the northwest corner of the façade. Visible is the end cap of the west elevation with limestone finials and relief sculpture at the parapet level. The return of the north wall and the window arrangement is visible.
- IL-1264-5      Looking west at the east façade of the School with the north façade of the multipurpose room addition in the foreground. Visible is the taller auditorium and gymnasium wing of the School with red brick and limestone details. The stair tower with egress doors are visible in the center of the photo.
- IL-1264-6      Looking northwest at the auditorium and gymnasium wing of the School. The orange brick façade to the right is the south façade of the multipurpose room addition. The orange brick façade to the left is the east façade of the library addition.
- IL-1264-7      Looking northeast at the interior of the gymnasium of the School. Visible is the raised bleachers above the brick masonry perimeter wall. Also visible are the steel columns supporting the auditorium above.
- IL-1264-8      Looking west at the interior of the auditorium of the School. Visible are the wood seating at the main and balcony level, coffered ceiling and wood paneled front wall of the balcony.

JOHNS HILL SCHOOL AND BOILER HOUSE

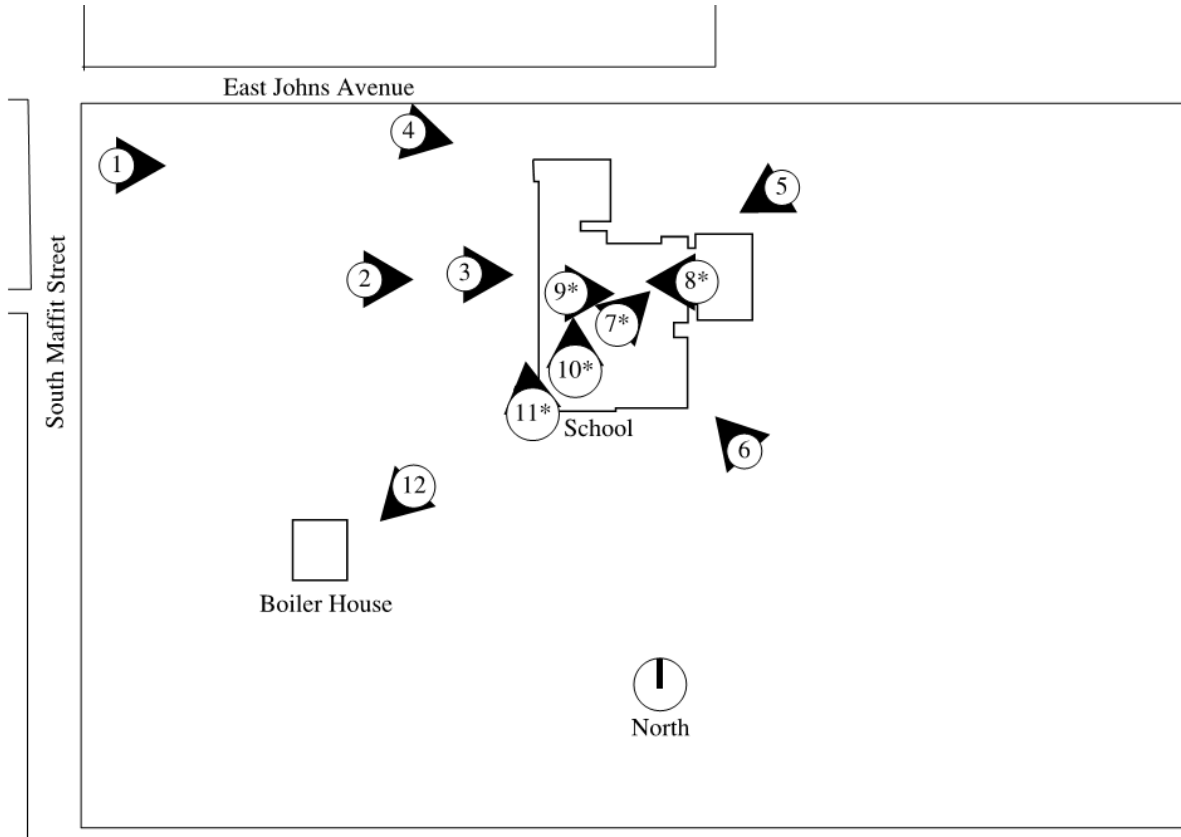
Index to Photographs

HABS No. IL-1264

(Page 2)

- IL-1264-9      Looking northeast at the interior of the auditorium stage from the balcony. Visible are the plaster heads at the arched windows and the buttressed piers which mimic those on the exterior façade.
- IL-1264-10    Looking north at the interior of the second-floor corridor. The arrangement of the doors and the brick masonry wainscot is visible.
- IL-1264-11    View of the typical classroom interior of the second floor. The door opening, windows, and slate chalkboard are visible.
- IL-1264-12    Looking southwest at the Boiler House. Visible is the lowered brick masonry chimney with limestone banding.

**PHOTO KEY**



\*Indicates Interior Photo

HABS 16-1264-1



HABS 16-1264-2



HABS 11-12-64-3

JOHNS HILL  
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL  
1928





HABS-11-1264-4



HABS 1L-1264-5

Johns Hill

SLOW

SPEED  
LIMIT  
5

NO  
LOITERING  
OR  
RECREATION  
ON SCHOOL  
PROPERTY



HABS IL-1264-6



HABS 11-1264-7



BUFFALO STATE COLLEGE  
1970-71  
REGIONAL CHAMPIONS

J  
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I

HABS 11-1264-8



HABS IL-1264-9



HABS JL-1264-10

JHMS Teachers are the Best  
**THANK YOU!**  
JHMS

EXIT



HABS 11-1264-11



YOUR ATTITUDE DETERMINES YOUR HIGH SCHOOL

6

6

6  
6th Literature  
Student Edition



HABS 12-1264-12

