

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only
received JUL 2 1981
date entered AUG 12 1981

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

1. Name

historic Monte Vista School

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 3211 Monte Vista Blvd., NE _____ not for publication

city, town Albuquerque _____ vicinity of congressional district 1

state New Mexico code 35 county Bernalillo code 001

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Albuquerque Public Schools, Francisco D. Sanchez, Superintendent

street & number 725 University Blvd., SE

city, town Albuquerque _____ vicinity of state New Mexico

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bernalillo County Records

street & number 505 Central, NW

city, town Albuquerque _____ state New Mexico

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title _____ has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes no

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Monte Vista physical description

The Monte Vista School, built in 1930, stands on a large trapezoidal shaped lot located just west of the intersection of Campus and Monte Vista Boulevards in the Monte Vista Addition. The original building is a steel-framed, eight room facility built on two levels; the eastern section, containing the entry hall, offices and two classrooms, is one story; the western section, containing only classrooms, is two two-story wings, extending southwest and northwest from the lower front section. The school was designed in a Mediterranean style, based on the Spanish Colonial Revival styles made popular at the 1915 Panama-California Exposition in San Diego. Gently sloping ridged hip roofs of red barrel tile cover pale tan stuccoed walls. Above the main entrance on the east is a square pitched-roof tower topped with an octagonal lantern supported by scroll brackets; the tower provides a visual centerpiece for the multi-level roof line. Below the tower the highly ornamented main entrance with its Churrigueresque molded terra cotta surround is the focal point of the front facade. Above the arched entry way is a classical archivolt molding trim highlighted by a central molded shell ornament with a swag beneath. Below the archivolt the entrance is flanked by fluted columnar pilasters with ornately detailed capitals crowned by a finial. The arch soffit is accentuated by a decorative band in low relief. Windows on this original section were once all tall 6/6 wood sash; a number of these have been replaced by slightly shorter 6/6 aluminum sash, the extra space being filled with a stuccoed panel.

Two major additions have been made to the school, although they do not obscure the original design. In 1947 a two-story addition was added to the end of each of the western wings; they do not obscure the all-important highly decorated main entrance. The wings were built of the same materials as the original building - pale stuccoed walls and red barrel tile roofs - and repeat the window pattern and proportions, except the windows are 9/9 wood sash. The main entrances to the additions continue the classical column motif found at the original entrance, except these are appropriately much simpler. The doorways are flanked by fluted pilasters with shallow simple classical capitals. These 1947 additions are an integral part of the building and do not at all detract from the original structure - in fact they enhance it by accentuating its simple lines and centered design.

In 1965 a second addition was made to Monte Vista, a separate building which houses the cafeteria/all purpose room. It is of purely functional design with no clear stylistic connection to the 1930/1947 structure; the architect wisely did not attach it to the main building.

In 1974 an innovative playground and small solar greenhouse were built by the south east facade of the school, a project which involved the cooperative effort of teachers, parents and designers. It is surrounded by a stuccoed adobe wall on one panel of which is a mural painted by students at the school. Although stylistically it does not blend with the more formal school building, the playground is exciting visual evidence of the neighborhood's involvement with its school.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1930

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Monte Vista School is an exceptionally fine example of the Mediterranean style applied to institutional use. Coupled with its architectural importance it has local historic significance as the focal point of the Monte Vista Addition, the first subdivision east of the University of New Mexico and north of Central Avenue. The school has acquired an increasingly fine reputation as an educational institution; its use and physical character appear to be especially compatible.

The school is one of three Mediterranean style schools in the city; the other two, Eugene Field School (1926) and Jefferson Middle School (1939) have both been altered on their front facades. Additions to Monte Vista, as noted in the physical description, are all on the western side of the building, well away from its welcoming, ornamented front entry. This dramatic front entrance is oriented directly toward the Sandia Mountains, making the school one of the few public buildings in the city which takes advantage in its site planning of Albuquerque's unique location just west of this dramatic mountain range.

The siting of the school, besides taking advantage of its mountain view, also increases its importance as the center of the subdivision. The large lot on which it stands lies within the acute angle formed by the intersection of Campus and Monte Vista Boulevards, the two major streets which quarter the addition. A broad sidewalk flanked by a well-established planting of conifers, leads from the point of the angle to the school entrance. The building also appears as a stylistic culmination of the area, a formal presentation of the vernacular interpretations of the regional styles seen in the surrounding homes.

The person responsible for the school's design and siting was T. Charles Gaastra, a Dutch architect who made his home in the Southwest during the 1920's. Gaastra quickly learned to design in the popular regional styles. He designed the Eugene Field School mentioned above, several homes, the Bernalillo County Courthouse (since remodeled), the Wool Warehouse and the first four buildings on the University of New Mexico campus built under the university's formally adopted policy (1927) of using the Spanish-Pueblo Revival style for its architecture.

The Monte Vista Addition was platted in 1927 and by 1930 nearly 150 homes had been built. As the population in the area grew, the need for a public school became more and more evident. Initial plans were for a 10-classroom building, but the \$108,000 price tag was too high. An eight-classroom facility was approved to be built at a cost of \$77,500. It was planned to accommodate 225 students in grades kindergarten through 7th grade. The original faculty was small: one teacher taught grades five through seven and served as principal, three other teachers taught kindergarten through fourth grade. Construction was completed by the beginning of 1931 and the school was presented to the public at an open house February 1st. Newspaper articles described it as "one of the finest of its kind in the Southwest." A special feature of the building was "the radio system whereby the principal may speak to all rooms without leaving the office." The school was planned to allow for an

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bergman, Edna Heatherington, The Fate of Architectural Theory in Albuquerque,

NM: Buildings of Four Decades, 1920-60, Unpublished Master's Thesis, 1978,
University of New Mexico

"Monte Vista School: The First Fifty Years", commemorative pamphlet, 1981, Monte Vista School PTA

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property 2.33 acres

Quadrangle name Albuquerque East

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	3	3	5	3	2	6	0	3	8	8	3	2	0	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

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D

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

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

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary P. Davis, Historian

organization Historic Landmarks Survey of Albuquerque

street & number P.O. Box 1293

telephone (505) 766-4720

city or town Albuquerque,

state New Mexico

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

Thomas W. Merlan

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 6-29-81

For HCRS use only

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

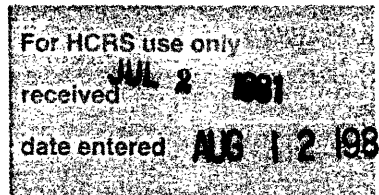
Bell Giverson
Keeper of the National Register

date 8/12/81

Attest:
Chief of Registration

date

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
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Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

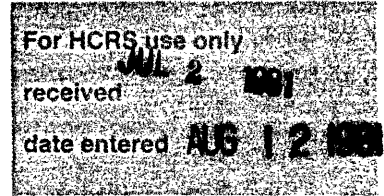
Monte Vista School

8

2

additional eight rooms to be added later, a piece of foresight for which architecture critics can be thankful, since it allowed the school's imposing east facade to be left untouched. The original building and the 1947 additions along with the landscaped area at the front are proposed for registration.

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Continuation sheet

Item number #10

Page 1

Verbal Boundary description

Please refer to accompanying site plan. The nominated property encompasses the eastern one-third of Block 14, Monte Vista Addition. Beginning at a point (A) at west corner of intersection of Campus and Monte Vista Boulevards, proceed west 390 feet along property line on Campus Boulevard to Point(B). Then proceed southwest across school grounds west of main building 240 feet to point(C). Then proceed southeast along line between main building and 1965 all purpose building 300 feet to point (D) at intersection with school property line on Monte Vista Boulevard. Then proceed northwest along said property line 390 feet to point of beginning. The boundary includes the original 1931 structure and its 1947 additions, the landscaped entry area designed to complement and introduce the main entrance and the kindergarten playground on the southeast.

MONTE VISTA SCHOOL
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

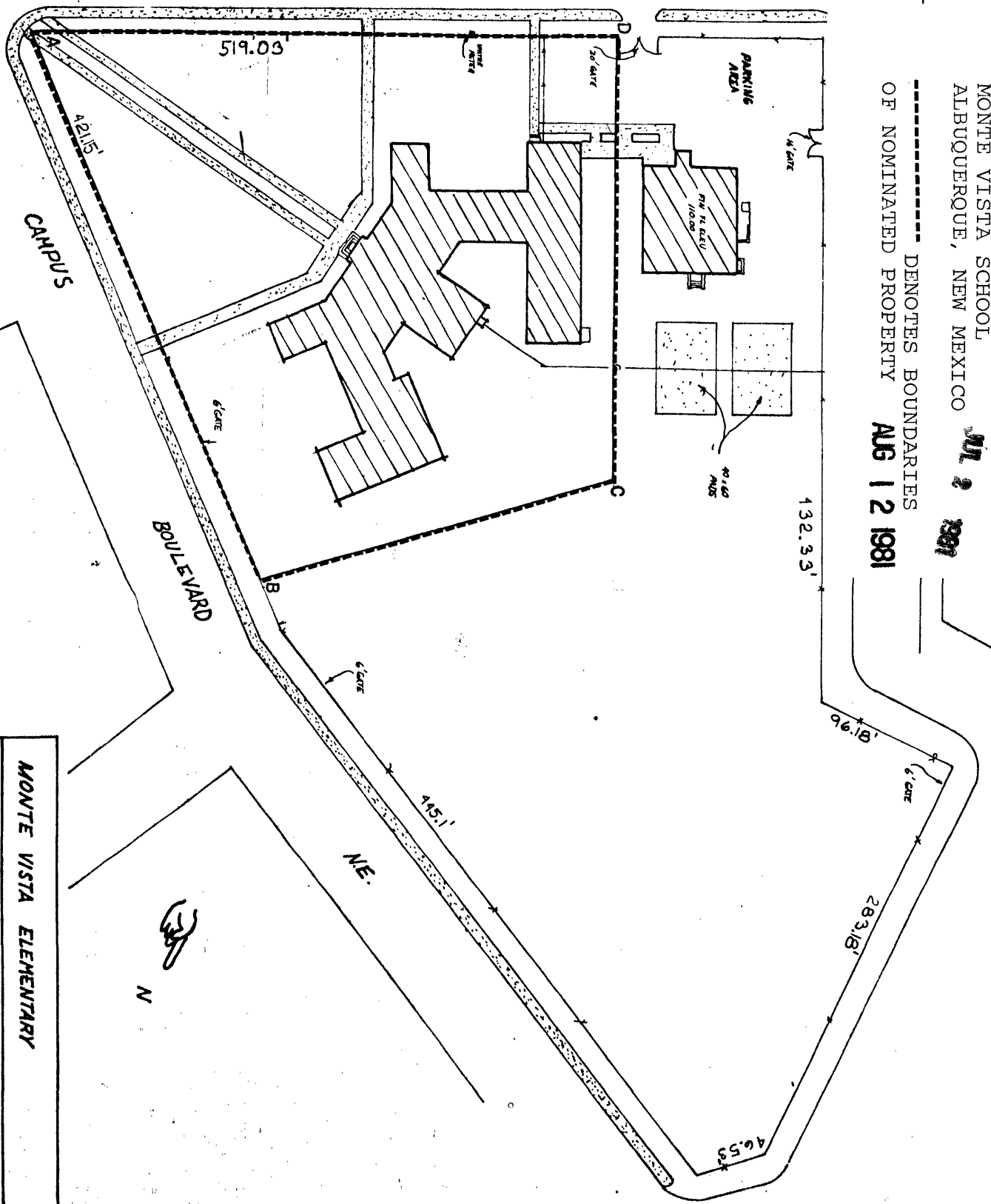
JUL 2 1981

DENOTES BOUNDARIES
OF NOMINATED PROPERTY

AUG 12 1981

MONTE VISTA BLVD. NE.

BRYN MAWR



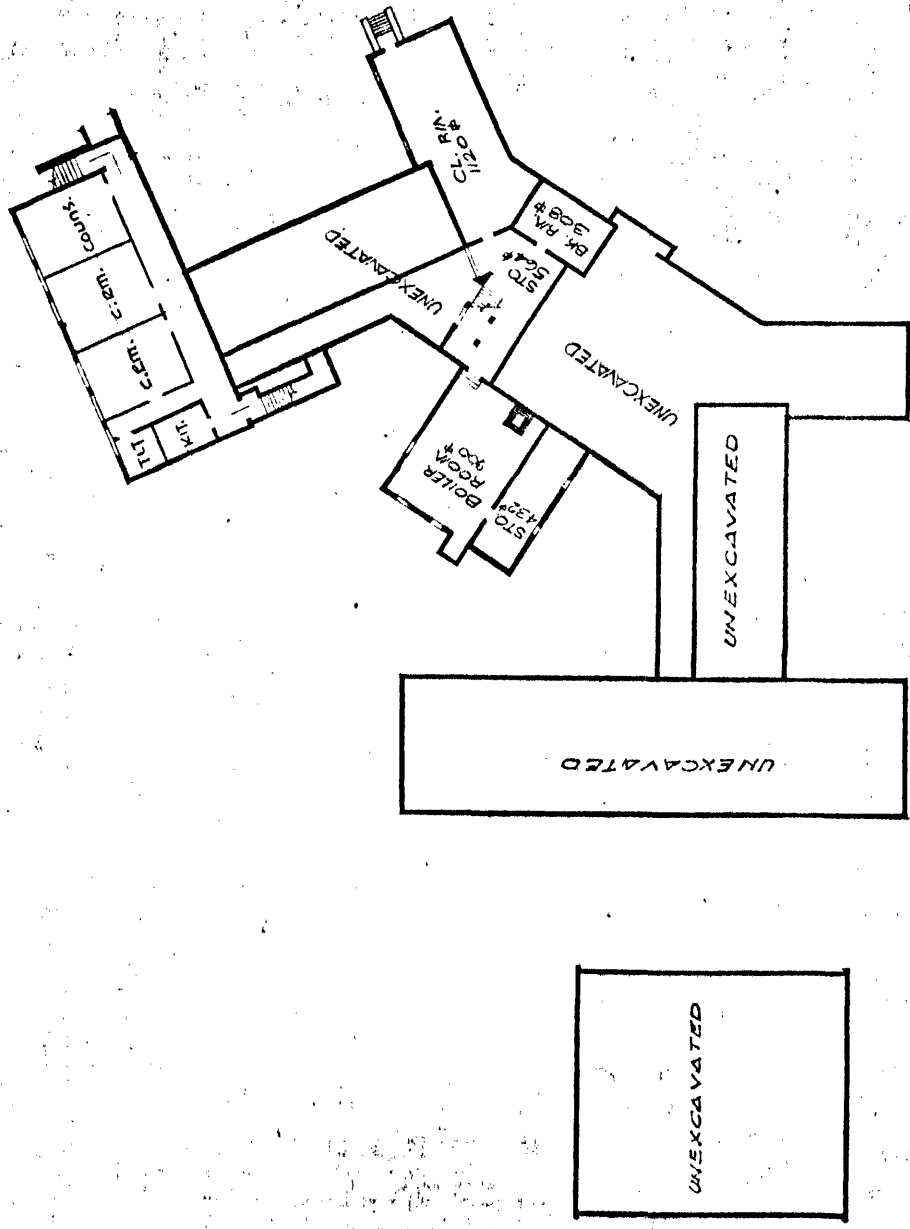
MONTE VISTA ELEMENTARY

SITE PLAN

APS

FRIDAY 13, AUGUST 1971

WKCJ

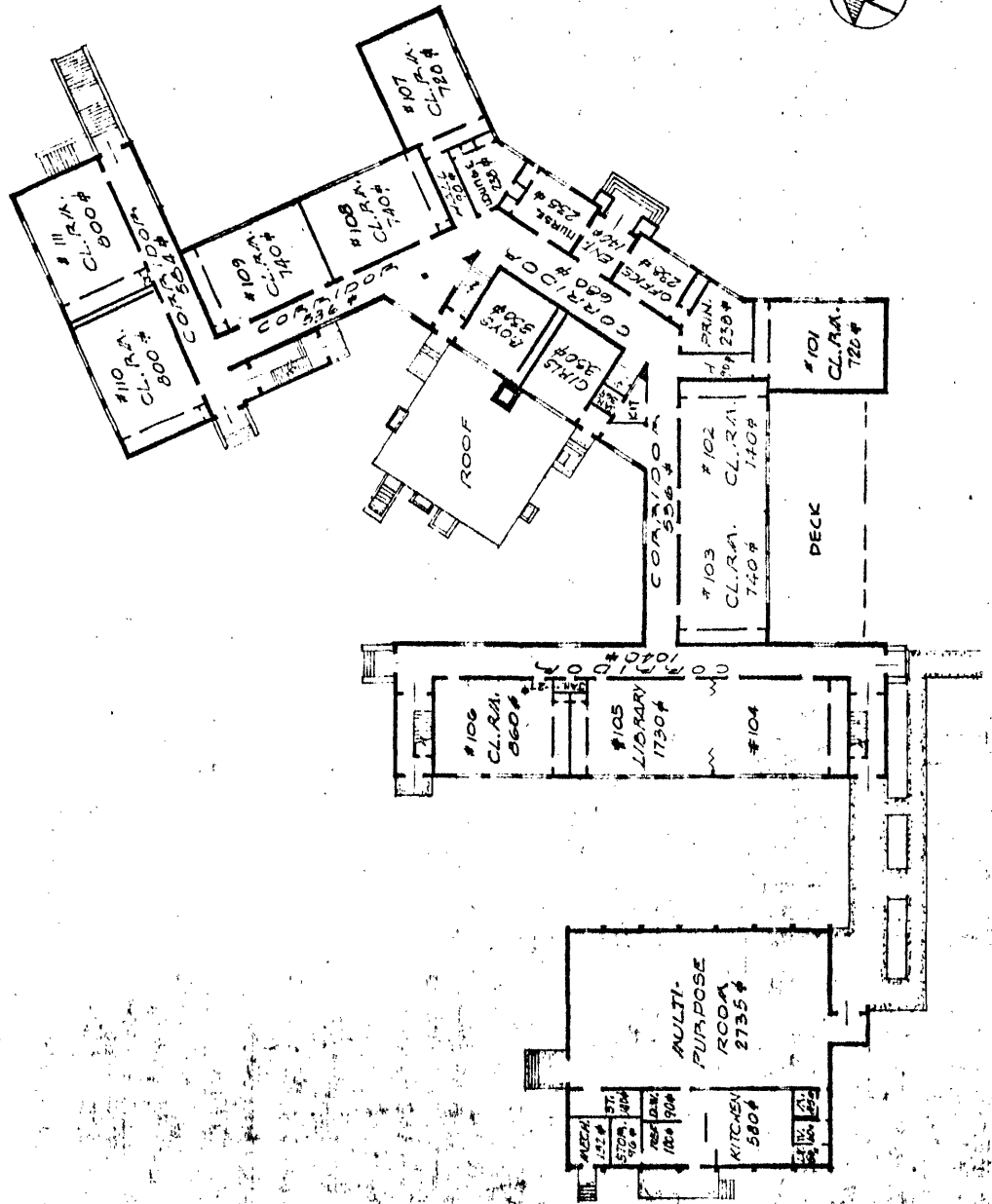


AUG 12 1981

ALBUQUERQUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 FLOOR PLAN
 MONTE VISTA ELEMENTARY
 A.P.S. BUILDING-PLANNING
 724 MAPLE S.E. ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.
 BY-OVA SCALE: 1/32" = 1'-0" DATE: 6-5-81

BASEMENT & FOUNDATION PLAN

SHEET 2 OF 2

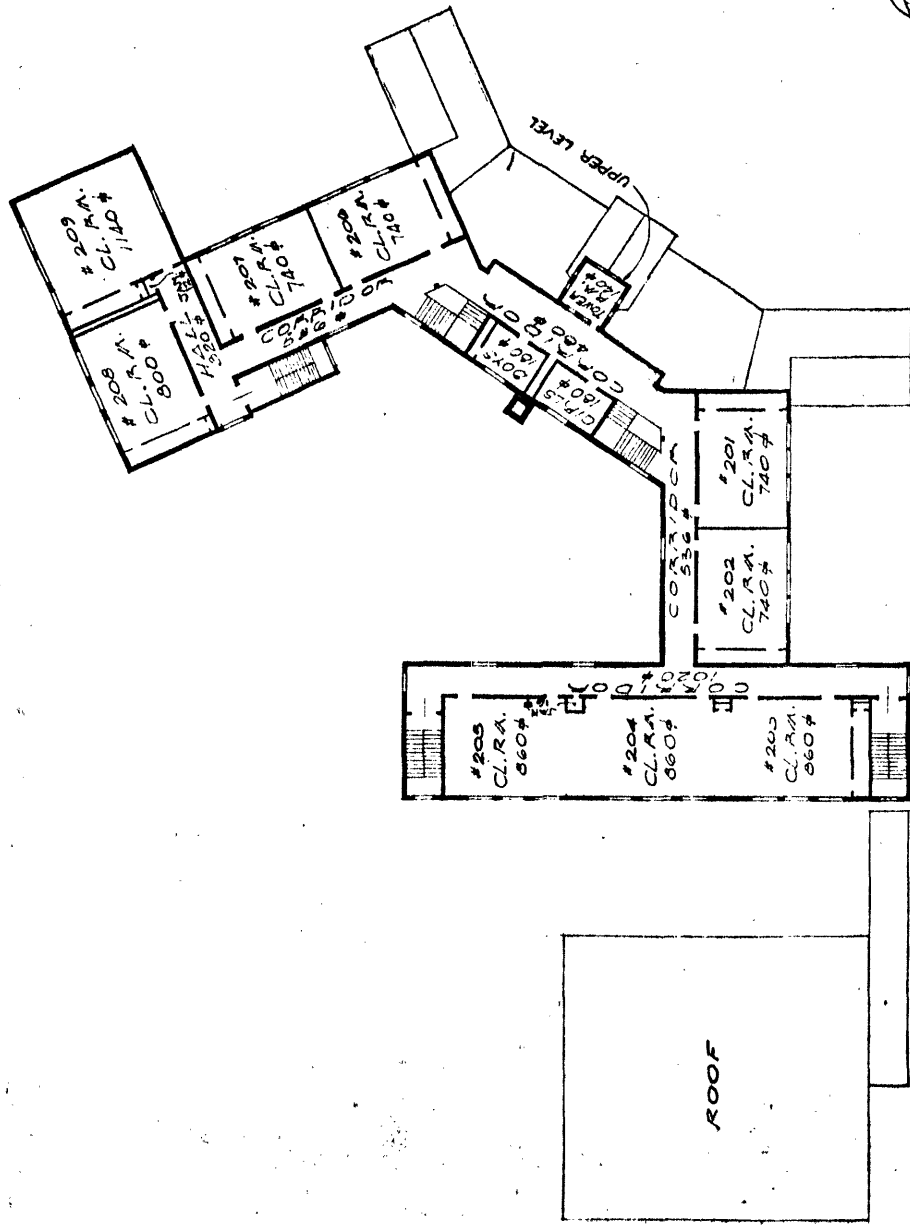


AUG 12 1981

ALBUQUERQUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 FLOOR PLAN
 MONTE VISTA ELEMENTARY
 A.P.S. BUILDING-PLANNING
 724 MAPLE, S.E., ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.
 BY: GVD SCALE: 1/32" = 1'-0" DATE:

SHEET 3 OF 3

FIRST FLOOR PLAN



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 MONTEVISTA ELEMENTARY
 A.P.S. BUILDING-PLANNING
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 BY: GJM SCALE: 1/32" = 1'-0" DATE: 6-5-81
 SHEET 4 OF 4

SECOND FLOOR PLAN