NPS Form 10-900
(Oct.1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

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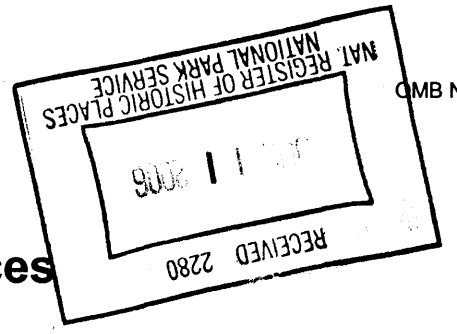

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instruction in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classifications, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Poultry Building and Incubator House

other names/site number Horticulture and Photography Building

2. Location

street & number 800 SW Washington Avenue ☐ not for publication

city or town Corvallis ☐ vicinity

state Oregon code OR county Benton code 003 zip code 97333

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination ____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets ____ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ____ nationally ____ statewide x locally.

Signature of certifying official/Title - Deputy SHPO — Date 7.10.06

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Action — Signature of the Keeper — Date of

✓ entered in the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.

____ determined eligible for the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.

____ determined not eligible for the National Register

____ removed from the National Register

____ other (explain):

9/16/06

Poultry Building and Incubator House
Name of Property

Benton, Oregon
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many as apply)

__X__ private
____ public - local
____ public - state
____ public - Federal

Category of Property
(check only one box)

__X__ building(s)
____ district
____ site
____ structure
____ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: college
AGRICULTURE: animal facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:
Classical Revival, Italianate
LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY
AMERICAN MOVEMENTS:
Prairie School, Craftsman

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: CONCRETE
walls: WOOD: weatherboard, shingle
roof: ASPHALT
Other:

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

See continuation sheets.

Poultry Building and Incubator House
Name of Property

Benton, Oregon
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing).

_____ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

_____ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

__X__ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

_____ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

_____ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes

___X___ B removed from its original location

_____ C a birthplace or grave

_____ D a cemetery

_____ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure

_____ F a commemorative property

_____ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance Within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1913
1928

Significant Dates

1913
1928

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Schell, D.C.
Bennes, John Virginius

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite books, articles, and other sources used in preparing the form on one or more continuation sheets) See continuation sheets

Previous documentation on file (NPS):
- ___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36CFR67) has been requested
- ___ previously listed in the National Register
- ___ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ___ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
- ___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data:
- ___ State Historic Preservation Office
- ___ Other State agency
- ___ Federal agency
- ___ Local government
- _x_ University
- ___ Other

Name of repository: Oregon State University

Poultry Building and Incubator House
Name of Property

Benton, Oregon
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	10	478797	4934082
2			
3			
4			

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David Livingston

organization Endex Engineering, Inc. date November 2005, June 2006 (revised)

street & number 223 NW Second Street telephone 541-754-9517

city or town Corvallis state Oregon zip code 97330

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation sheets

Maps: A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs: Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

name Washington Hall LLC, David Livingston, manager

street & number 223 NW Second Street telephone 541-754-9517

city or town Corvallis state OR zip code 97330

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Poultry Building is a two-story, wood-framed, square-plan, college classroom building with a small covered entry porch and steps leading to the elevated first floor level. The building includes elements of Italianate, Classical Roman, Craftsman and Prairie Style design, reflecting the 1913 remodel by architect John V. Bennes of architect D.C Schell's 1893 Italianate Horticulture and Photography Building. Bennes was an accomplished Oregon architect (License #17), who designed 48 buildings at Oregon State University between 1907 and 1941. There are 16 buildings listed in the National Register of Historic Places, in Oregon, designed by John Bennes, working as a sole proprietor or in partnership with others. None of the buildings Bennes designed for the OSU campus are listed in the National Register.

The Poultry Building is the only known example where Bennes remodeled an existing campus building. It was moved three times by Bennes between 1911 and 1928, as part of Bennes' design projects on the campus. On its fourth move in 1997, the current owners brought the building to a lot at Eighth and Washington, two blocks east of the University campus.

Also on the lot is the 20' by 30' single-story, wood-framed, Craftsman-style Incubator House, a contributing resource that was designed by Bennes in 1907. The Incubator House was adjacent to the Poultry Building from 1913-1928. There are no non-contributing resources on the lot. Both buildings are in the final stages of rehabilitation.

Setting

The Poultry Building and Incubator House are located in an older part of Corvallis, two blocks east of the Oregon State University campus. The front of the buildings face Washington Avenue to the north, aligning with Eighth Street, a north-south street which terminates at Washington Avenue. North of Washington Avenue is a residential neighborhood with a mix of older single family homes built in the early twentieth century mixed with two and three-story apartments built in the 1960s and 1970s.

Within view of the lot are two homes on the local historic register, Woods Grocery (1892) at Ninth and Washington and the Newton House (1906) at Seventh and Washington. Abutting the lot immediately to the east is the 1887 Willamette Valley and Coast Railroad Depot and grounds, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Within the adjacent 8 blocks to the north are 15 historic properties. Two blocks further east is the beginning of the Avery-Helm Historic District.

The Poultry Building is set back 18 feet from the Washington Avenue property line, on a parcel measuring 108 feet east-west and 110 feet north-south. The Incubator House is located 20 feet east of the Poultry Building, and also faces north, in a relationship similar to both buildings' orientation when they were both at 26th and Jefferson between 1913-1928.

Poultry Building – Exterior Description

General Characteristics

The Poultry Building's current appearance is the result of a major remodel in 1913 by Architect J.V. Bennes of the original 1893 Italianate building designed by Architect D.C. Schell. Bennes' work included changing the roof, windows, entry porch, foundation and decorative elements. The perimeter dimensions were not changed. The seven-inch channel drop siding from the 1893 building remains. Few alterations have been made to the exterior after the 1913 Bennes remodel.

The wood-frame Poultry Building has two stories on a concrete foundation, with the first floor elevated about five feet above grade to create a daylight basement. When Bennes moved D.C. Schell's building to its 1913 site, he put a basement under the structure. To mimic the look of nearby masonry buildings whose brick walls stood on substantial elevated concrete bases, Bennes had the workers apply concrete stucco from the ground up to the windows, over the wood framing, giving the impression of a tall concrete base. The current basement elevates the first floor 63 inches above grade, similar to its 1913 setting. Ten-foot-thick concrete walls extend from the basement floor to about 12 inches above grade, on which four-foot tall wood framed walls are built. The exterior basement walls are finished with a three-part stucco system: wire, scratch, brown and finish as found on the original structure.

The exterior walls of the Poultry Building are clad with horizontal channel drop siding. A wood water table with drip cap molding encircles the building above the basement walls, forming a continuous sill for the first-story windows. The first-story window heads abut a wide wood entablature belt course that wraps the building. Corner boards, remaining from the 1893 building, are broken by both the belt course and the water table – a Bennes design choice that emphasizes horizontal over vertical elements.

Windows

Windows throughout the building are wood sash. While the fenestration differs on each facade, windows are consistently vertically aligned at each facade, from the basement up to the second story, resulting in striking symmetry. Basement windows are single sash set without casings into the basement walls. The sash feature four square over four vertical lights.

At the first story, windows are double-hung with a fixed transom above each. The transom is separated from the window sash by a slim molded transom bar. Sash configurations vary; most of the windows are twelve-over-four, with the top sash divided into square lights, the bottom into vertical. Transoms have eight square lights. Focal windows at the north (front) and south facades feature a sash division of fifteen over five, with a ten-light transom. Paired and clustered windows are divided by flat structural mullions. Slim vertical casings complete the trim work.

Second-story windows also feature double-hung, multi-light sash, but without transoms. Like the first story, most of the windows are twelve-over-four, but here, the top sash have eight square lights over four vertical; while the bottom sash have four vertical lights, like their counterparts at the first story. Focal windows at the north and south facades have fifteen over five sash, in configurations matching the rest of the second-story windows. Paired and clustered windows are divided by flat mullions. Casings are far more decorative at the second story than the first. All windows here display bracketed-cornice crown molding. The brackets are vertical, with nailhead molding directly beneath the cornice and a slim recessed-panel shaft terminating with twin styled guttae.[1] Brackets are applied against the window casing, which flares out at the top sash to receive them. Short fillets trim the window sills, formed by extending the vertical members of the casing a few inches below the sill.[2]

Cornice/Eave/Roof

Bennes extended the eaves of the 1893 roof and truncated the roof peak to form a flat cap. The roof-wall junction is comprised of a boxed cornice with overhanging eaves, surmounting a wide frieze band that wraps the building. Decorative brackets trim the roof-wall junction, dropping past the frieze to flank the crown molding of the window closest to the corner at each facade. The decorative brackets match in style the brackets at the crown molding. The slim, recessed-panel brackets are comprised of two pieces: the curved piece attached to the soffit and frieze band, and the straight shaft that extends below the frieze band, against the siding. A single stylized gutta terminates each bracket.[3]

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[1] Properly called guttae (Latin plural of "gutta"), and resembling a truncated pyramid, these drop-shaped tassel forms are a characteristic ornament of an architrave of the Doric Order. Bennes uses this classical element in its formal context in architraves on some of his American Renaissance campus buildings. The classical Doric guttae are generally used as a small ornament in multiples of six under the triglyph. Bennes adapts the gutta as a decorative element singly and in doubles in brackets on the Poultry Building, (and also in multiples of three and four on some of his other campus buildings.) At the Poultry Building, the proportionate size of the guttae are greatly exaggerated compared to the classical Doric order. Bennes varies the proportions of the guttae themselves from building to building, and even uses different proportions of guttae on the same building, the Poultry Building being an example.

[2] The photos of the 1913 building show that Bennes did not intend his brackets to blend into the background. The main brackets were painted in two colors – the bracket was a light trim color that contrasts with the darker siding, and the bracket's recessed panels are highlighted with the dark siding color. Today the window brackets are painted the trim color (same as the casings and cornices), with the recessed panels in the siding color.

[3] Schell's twelve-inch wood freize band below the soffit was widened by Bennes to fifteen inches with the addition of a molding. Schell used modestly-sized matching brackets on each facade, one at each corner. They rested on a frieze band below the soffit, directly above the corner boards. Barely noticeable, they did not extend below the line of the frieze band. Bennes removed Schell's brackets and added his large elaborate vertical decorative brackets. In contrast to the modest brackets of Schell, Bennes' brackets had the exaggerated vertical proportions of the brackets he used on his 1911 Prairie Style Portland home. A similar, but even more exaggerated, bracket ending in a single gutta is on the 1912 McMinnville Public Library, 40 miles north of Corvallis, a Prairie Style Carnegie Library designed by Ernst Kroner of Portland, a contemporary of Bennes.

Bennes matched the design of each facade to the importance of each elevation. The north facade, the entry, received the most attention, with the two tripartite windows and the classical porch. The east facade was next in importance, since it faced the developed portion of the campus, and could be seen from several nearby buildings. This side featured upper and lower two-window groupings flanked by singles. The south facade was less important, and featured only single windows, none grouped. It faced an undeveloped portion of the campus. The west façade, facing the brooder houses of the poultry farm on the western edge of campus, was seldom viewed by visitors. It featured the least interesting facade, and included the back door and only four windows.

North (Front) Facade

The north elevation is the building's front facade and entry. It best represents Bennes' 1913 dramatic changes to the 1893 Italianate building with his elimination of Victorian forms and decoration; replacement of the entry porch with a Classical Revival version; his skillful transitioning of classical elements to create decorations, window groupings and strong horizontality that reflect his familiarity and interest in Prairie Style architecture; and his divided-light windows that acknowledge his handsome Craftsman-style Incubator House already on the site, built six years earlier.

Bennes increased the number of windows on the north elevation from the original four to nine. There is a cluster of three windows in the center of the facade at the first and second stories. At the first story, there is a single window to the east of the cluster, and an entry porch to the west. At the second story, there is a single window to the east and to the west of the three-window cluster. Basement windows mirror the fenestration above.[4]

The pedimented entry porch roof, which rests on an entablature supported by Doric columns and tapered pilasters, presents a modest but distinguished classical entry. The parts include two round wooden Doric columns with caps and bases; pediment framing and roof, including its concealed gutter assembly; entablature with seven-piece molding; plus dentil coursework on three sides of the porch; capped pilasters flanking the door; and tongue-and-groove board ceiling.

The porch roof form is a classical pediment shape, with the board and molding of the raking cornice matching the board and molding at the upper face of the cornice of the entablature. In an adaptation of the pure form, Bennes lowered the pediment into the cornice, so that the cornice is the widest part of the roof assembly. (A formal classical pediment would extend the raking cornice beyond the horizontal cornice, a design he used earlier on the entry to his 1910 greenhouses.) Bennes dropped the roof into the cornice so that rain runoff drained into a tin gutter in the boxed eaves. The gutter is concealed behind the face of the cornice on all three sides. This gutter drains through a downspout connector at the west side of the porch

[4] The 1893 vertical arrangement of the centered pair of one-over-one windows at the first floor, with a matching bay window pair above, capped with a steep cross-gable was eliminated by Bennes. The wall is now a single plane with no bay window; the frieze band is a single continuous horizontal element unbroken by the former gable and bay window.

through the soffit. The downspout connector includes four elbows, wraps around the west corner of the building, and drains into the downspout at the northwest corner of the building.

Details of this modest dignified entry reflect the classical expertise of Bennes: the total height of the columns and pilasters is eighty-four inches, four times the twenty-one-inch depth of the entablature, the proportions of the classical orders. The twelve-inch overhang of the cornice matches the twelve-inch column diameter, another formal standard of the Doric Order.[5]

The exterior porch walls and stepped wing walls are stuccoed, matching the foundation walls. The ends of the walls, and their interior surfaces, are faced with tongue-and-groove boards, with four grooves per board. This detail appears upon close scrutiny of original photos, and examples of the four-groove board material were found inside the building.[6] The front door is glazed wood with a single-light operable transom. The transom mechanism is still intact. The glazing is Craftsman-style, with two rows of three square lights, divided by slim muntins, surmounting three long vertical lights. Under the vertical lights is a single horizontal wood panel. All door lights are beveled glass. The light pattern for the front door reflects a repeated design element used by Bennes throughout the windows, using square lights over vertical lights.

The strong horizontal elements in Bennes' 1913 remodel are inescapable. The architect's choice to articulate the glazing is another example of this horizontal emphasis, creating a lower band of tall lights, a middle band of medium vertical lights, and an upper band of square lights carried completely around the second-story facade of the building.

East Facade

The east facade is 30-feet wide, with four windows at the first floor, and four windows on the second floor. This facade maintains the same general lines, forms and elements as the north. The center two windows at each story are paired, a single window to the north and south of each pair.[7]

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[5] On the 1913 Bennes remodel, photos and drawings show a porch deck immediately below the entry door threshold, extending 4 ½ feet from the entry to the first riser. The risers and treads are flanked by stepped wing walls termed "wood buttresses" by the architect, in two sections, each about four feet long. Porch walls and buttresses are capped by a board and a beveled wood cap.

[6] The porch at Location #1, as originally designed by Schell, was dramatically different from Bennes' classical remodeled porch. The original porch roof was steep (14/12), with decorative cresting, supported on elaborate, narrow turned posts and curved brackets, with diagonal stick work on the gable end. The 1893 porch roof extended about six inches past the west wall. In contrast, Bennes' 1913 porch roof terminates about twelve inches short of the edge of the building.

[7] Schell's 1893 facade here featured a first-floor pair of one-over-one double-hung windows; a centered second floor 9' x 9' window of twenty lights, four rows of five; and an 8' x 8' skylight of twenty-five lights, five rows of five. The large window and skylight, facing north at the original location, were necessary for the photography department. None of these openings were retained by Bennes.

South Facade

The south facade features eight windows: four evenly spaced at each story. At the east end of the facade, a below-grade pedestrian door replaces the fourth basement window, vertically aligned with the windows above. A low concrete wall with metal railing conceals the door and access stairs. Compressors and a large meter box line the foundation wall here.

West Facade

There are four windows at this facade: two at the first story and two at the second. At both stories, the placement is the same: a single window at the north end of the wall and a single window at the south end. At the first story, there is a wood-panel pedestrian door located just to the north of the window at the south end of the facade. The door breaks the line of the facade's continuous sill, providing access to a landing a couple feet below the water table. A stuccoed finish wall encloses the stair block, which consists of the accessible landing, and a wide flight of wood stairs contained by an open-web metal railing. Adjacent to the stair block is a mechanical lift. There is a basement window, vertically aligned, at the north end of the facade.

Interior Description

General Characteristics

In about 1929, the Poultry Department began to use this building to mix feed as part of its ongoing poultry research program. Remarkably little was changed on the outside of the building except for the later addition of double-loading doors on the east facade, and duct penetrations on the north facade to deliver grain to a large galvanized grain hopper located outside, adjacent to the north facade. The upstairs was eventually converted to hold twelve overhead grain bins, supplied by a central grain elevator, with chutes down to the main first floor room. Bin capacity, according to Professor G.H. Arscott, was 85.75 tons. The bins occupied the eastern portion of the second floor, and the first floor remained an open space except for two small offices, entry foyer, stairway and exposed posts and beams of unfinished dimensional lumber which were added to support the grain bins above.[8]

The first floor has tongue-and-groove fir floorboards and eleven-foot-high plaster ceilings. Walls are lath and plaster above tongue-and-groove wood wainscot of varying height, sometimes sixty-one inches high, sometimes forty-five inches high. The wainscot cap is a horizontal beaded board. Interior doors are five-panel wood, some with transoms, some without. Window and door surrounds are flat, with a modest cornice crown molding. Windows have a contoured stool above a flat apron.

[8] G.H. Arscott, "A Historical Review of the Feed-Mixing of the Department of Poultry Science, " Corvallis: OSU Department of Poultry Science, 1966.

First Floor

The first floor plan consists of an entry foyer, stairs to the second floor, a large "L"-shaped open room, two small rooms, and a short hallway to the west exit door.

The entry foyer is lighted by a window on the west wall and the front door lights and transom. Straight ahead is a wide stairway up to the second floor. On the east wall of the foyer is an access door to a fuse box. Judging by the knob and tube wiring remaining in the building, this fuse box enclosure is assumed to be an original part of the 1913 Bennes remodel. Also to the east is a single door with operating transom leading into the main L-shaped open room.

The main room engages all four of the first-floor north windows, the four east windows and the two easternmost windows on the first floor's south wall. This space was the old "mixing-grinding room." There is a cased structural column in the center of the room, finished with plaster and corner boards above wainscot. The northwest corner of the room contains the entry foyer and stairhall; the southwest corner is partitioned into two smaller rooms: the "special feed mixing room" in the southwest corner, and the "micro-ingredient storage and weighing room," abutting the feed mixing room to the east, along the south wall. Wall covering here is horizontal tongue-and-groove. The rooms share a door between them. Both rooms have separate access into the large mixing-grinding room. Along the west wall, between the special feed room and the stairhall partition wall, is the back door leading to the accessible landing outside.[9]

Second Floor

The second floor consists of a stair landing, large open room and a storage room at the northwest corner.

The stairway to the second floor has twenty-one steps. Stairhall walls and ceiling are lath and plaster, with wainscot at the sidewalls. A rectangular handrail with convex top is attached to the east wall. At the top of the stairs is a landing, lighted by the two second-story windows at this southwest corner of the building.

Eastward from the landing is the former large classroom. The classroom is lighted by eleven windows. Finishes at the second floor match those at the first. Walls are plaster on lath above a forty-five-inch wainscot. The nearly twelve-foot ceiling is covered with tongue and groove board. The floor is tongue-and-groove fir. Second-floor window and door trim matches those at the first. New partition walls have been added to divide the space into two apartments. New walls are finished in plaster.

The storage room at the northwest corner is lighted by the two second-story windows at the northwest corner. The room has a plastered full-height ceiling, plaster walls and 45" wainscot. Windows and trim are intact. The door leading into the storage room is a four-panel door. This door appears in the photo of this

[9] Ibid.

classroom in the 1914 OAC Bulletin. It is the only door in the building with cast decorative hinges including finials on the hinge pins, and appears to be original to the1893 construction.

Incubator House – Exterior Description

General Characteristics

The Incubator House is located twenty feet to the east of the Poultry Building. This building, designed by Architect John V. Bennes, was constructed along with poultry houses for the newly formed Poultry Department in 1907. The building was located at the southwest corner of 26th and Jefferson, on the poultry farm.

Though Architect Bennes' three-decade-long association with the college resulted in the such magnificent structures as Weatherford Hall and the Beaux-Arts Womens Building, Mr. Bennes began work at the college with his designs of wooden barns and this little Incubator House. The Incubator House was joined by Bennes' remodeled/relocated Poultry Building in 1913 at 26th and Jefferson. The Poultry Building stood about fifty feet west of the Incubator Building.

In 1928, when the Poultry Building was relocated behind Dryden Hall at 30th and Jefferson, the Incubator House was relocated to the Poultry Department's South Farm along Dunawi Creek. It stood there until August of 2004, when it was moved to its present location.

The Incubator Building is a 20' by 30' rectangular Craftsman-style, wood-frame structure with a 5/12 gable roof. Wide eaves with a board soffit are decorated with distinctive curved brackets. The brackets are deliberately overscaled, with the vertical element terminating in a stylized gutta pendant. The supporting element consists of two curved pieces overlapping each other in a cyma reversa relationship. There are four brackets on each side facade, and five on the gable ends. Larger brackets of the same style support a shed roof at the building's only entry, which is on the north facade. The building is sided in wood shingles all around in a plain five-inch course pattern. It rests on a concrete stem wall above a concrete slab floor. The shingles walls flare slightly at the juncture with the stem wall, where the shingles overhang a base molding that encircles the building.

At its original site, the Incubator House featured decorative structures on the roof, longitudinally aligned with the thirty-foot walls. This roof-line balustrade consisted of a row of four shingled buttresses spanned by three decorative balustrades each supported by three vertical and diagonal "double cross" railing segments. This "Union Jack" roof decoration was used by Bennes in some of his other early campus buildings. Portions of these railings were found in the attic of the Incubator House at its South Farm site, and will be used as part of an in-kind replacement of these railings.

North (front) Facade

The primary facade, facing north, features a set of double batten doors centered in the gable end of the building. Each door has a nine-light window above vertical tongue-and-groove sheathing. Flat board ledgers and diagonal cross-bracing are painted in contrasting colors. Above the door, a deep shed roof is supported by oversized brackets. A louvered vent fills the gable.

East and West Facades

The east and west facades are identical, consisting of three window pairs set high in the shingled wall. Sashes are hopper style, with nine square lights each. Pairs are divided by narrow mullions. Casings are flat, with simple moldings and crossetted sills.

South Facade

The south facade, the rear of the building, is a shingle-covered gable end wall with a gable louver matching the north louver, and five roof brackets.

Interior Description

The Incubator House was built as a single interior space. Walls are covered in vertical tongue-and-groove board, as is the ceiling. Window and door surrounds are simple board. Windows have slim stools with short aprons. Doors are five-panel in style. The floor is smooth concrete.

New partition walls contain a bathroom in the southeast corner of the room, and divide an adjacent closet space. An open kitchen fills the southwest corner of the building.

Locations

To understand the major 1913 alterations, as well as minor subsequent alterations, it will be useful to identify the building's five locations.

Location #1, 1893-1911, at Monroe and 15th Streets

Here was the original Italianate building designed by D.C. Schell for the Horticulture and Photography Departments. Schell's building was a simple four-square outline with 6/12 hipped roof with cresting terminating in finials at the ridgeline. A steep cross-gable was centered at the front of the building, also with crestwork and a single finial at the ridge. Under the cross-gable was a pair of second-floor double-hung

one-over-one windows set in a shallow projecting bay that overhung another pair of identical windows on the first floor.

The porch, located in a position similar to the present porch, had a steeply pitched roof with cresting, single finial, turned spindle supports and diagonal stickwork, as did the cross gable and bay window. The eaves projected about 12", and were boxed. Small decorative brackets were placed at the porch supports, and on each corner board. A single interior masonry chimney was placed in the center of the back wall. A metal chimney was centered a few feet in front of the ridge. Outbuildings included an attached greenhouse and adjacent greenhouses and sheds.

The field of channel drop siding on the other three walls was unbroken except by windows, corner boards, a 12-inch-wide wood frieze at the eaves, and a water table with 10" band above the brick base.

The elevation to the right of the front featured a small single-light window at the forward part second story, and a double-hung, one-over-one window at the rear corner. The back wall featured a pair of double-hung windows at the second story, right of the chimney. The wall to the left of the entry featured a second-story north-facing window of twenty lights, a north-facing skylight of twenty-five lights, and a pair of one-over-one, double-hung windows on the first story. The skylight and north window were part of the Photography Department facilities.

This building was moved by Architect Bennes in 1911 to make room for the new Foundry Building scheduled to be built south of the east wing of the Mechanical Arts shops. Bennes designed the Mechanical Arts building and the Foundry.

Location #2, 1911-1912, Northeast corner, 26th and Jefferson

The building was stored at this location for about a year.

Location #3, 1913-1928, Southwest corner, 26th and Jefferson

The building underwent a major remodel by Bennes to become the headquarters for the Poultry Department. It was elevated to accommodate a daylight basement. It was placed about fifty feet west of the Incubator Building, a structure designed by Bennes and built in 1907 as part of the initial college investment in the Poultry Department facilities. Both buildings stood here until March 1928, when they were moved in anticipation of another Bennes project, a new men's dorm named Weatherford Hall, built in 1928.

Location #4, 1928 -1997, near 30th and Washington

The Poultry Building was relocated in 1928 behind Bennes' 1927 Dryden Hall, then the new headquarters for the Poultry Department at 30th and Washington. Dryden Hall is a two-story masonry structure built in

1927, named after James Dryden, chairman of the Poultry Department from the department's beginning in 1907 to Dryden's retirement in 1920.

At this location, the Poultry Building no longer had a basement, and was placed on a 30-inch concrete foundation wall. (The Incubator House was removed from Location #3 and taken to the college's South Farm, about a mile south of Dryden Hall.)

In 1929, the Poultry Building underwent interior remodeling to make room for a feed-mixing facility to support the research work at the poultry farms. Amazingly, the only significant changes to the exterior were the replacement of the east facade double windows at the first floor with a set of double sliding doors, some holes cut into the walls for metal ductwork, and the deck-and-step assembly at the front porch was shortened from its dimensions at 26th and Jefferson.

Location #5, 1997- present, Eighth and Washington

Construction of the College of Forestry Richardson Hall expansion in1997 required the removal of the Poultry Building, which was no longer in use by the University except as incidental storage. The present owners purchased and moved the Poultry Building as a single unit in 1997 (on steel beams supported by hydraulic dollies), except the porch was removed and placed inside the building. Windows and front door were covered with plywood to protect the building from vandalism. It was not known until 2003 that the 1913 Poultry Building remodel was the work of Architect J.V. Bennes. Research for this nomination also led to the 2003 rediscovery of Bennes' Incubator House along a wooded creek at the South Farm.

Restoration

The Poultry Building

The Poultry Building was moved to the present site in 1997. It is being restored according to a Preservation Plan approved by the State Historic Preservation Office, the National Park Service, and the local Historic Preservation Advisory Board. Work includes the placement of the building on a concrete basement, elevated about five feet above grade, similar to its siting in 1913. The second-floor grain bins were removed, revealing original windows, wainscot and plaster walls. Rough wood columns and beams were removed from the first floor's main room, structures that supported the heavy grain bins above. Windows have been repaired.

Concrete steps on the south side of the Poultry Building lead to the basement, which consists of a 10' by 15' mechanical room and a studio apartment. The apartment is a 28' by 25' open room with a small kitchen and bathroom. The finishes are basic, with hand-applied cement plaster on walls and ceiling, and a painted concrete floor. The plaster finish matches the original pattern and consistency of the upstairs finishes.

Universal access is provided to the main floor by a new platform lift that provides access to an elevated landing at the secondary entry on the west facade. The lift is placed about ten feet away from the building, and does not penetrate the historic structure. Wood steps lead from the landing to the sidewalk, with code-compliant steel railings. This porch satisfies code-required access to the main floor, which will be leased as an office. The original front porch has been reassembled, and will not be modified to meet current codes.

The first floor matches the original 1913 configuration, with restoration work limited to finish repairs and the restoration of two windows on the east facade. These windows, original to the 1913 building, had been replaced by the University in the 1960s with sliding doors. Existing transoms over the sliding doors were preserved as part of the window restoration. The wood floor is refinished; walls and ceilings are hand-plastered; window trim and wainscot have been repaired.

Work on the second floor retained and repaired all original existing (1913) walls, details and finishes, including perimeter wainscot and window trim. Additional interior walls were added to create two small apartments. Original ceiling height of 11'-7" has been maintained, as has the ceiling finish, which consists of 1X4 tongue-and-groove boards. Wall finishes are hand-applied cement plaster; the original fir floor remains, sanded and sealed. New walls touch the original building's walls at only four places. Window assemblies remain undisturbed. The building exterior has been painted in the original 1913 colors, with a "chocolate" body, grey-white trim, and black sashes.

The Incubator House

Restoration work consisted primarily of reassembly of the moved building, with repairs of select elements that were rotted beyond reuse, due to decades of neglect at its location along Dunawi Creek. One window frame was reconstructed, having been smashed by a large tree felled by a windstorm in 2004. Parts of the roof railings found in the attic will be used as patterns for missing parts so the roof-line balustrade can be rebuilt. The building has been painted in its 1913 colors, which matched those of the Poultry Building: chocolate-brown body, grey-white trim, black sashes.

The interior consists of the original single space, with a painted concrete floor. Original tongue-and-groove walls and ceiling have been retained. Within this space, a bathroom has been added in the southwest corner, and kitchen cabinets are located in the southeast corner. This space serves as a wheelchair-accessible studio apartment.

Landscaping

Even though these buildings were part of the college campus, they were never in a setting that strongly connected the buildings to their site with landscaping or contoured sitework. Location #1 placed the 1893 Horticulture building so close to others that it had to be moved. Location #2 was temporary. When the

Poultry Building was remodeled by architect Bennes and placed on a site (Location #3) already occupied by the Incubator House, there was not a strong relationship to the setting. In fact, the little Incubator House was on the corner that most strongly engaged the rest of the campus. At Location #3, photos show no significant landscaping. The site appears not to have been graded, leveled or even mowed, perhaps because the site was a continuation of the Poultry Farm. At the Poultry Building's last campus site, Location #4, the structure fronted on a gravel road and backed up to a chicken yard.

At its present location, the Poultry Building faces north, about eighteen feet from an existing sidewalk along the south side of Washington Avenue. It is aligned with the center of Eighth Street, which extends nine blocks northward from Washington Avenue to Polk Street. The Incubator House is twenty feet east of the Poultry Building, also facing north, similar to the orientation of the two buildings from 1913-1927. The land is level with no existing landscaping.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Introduction

The 1913 Poultry Building is a rare example of how a regionally prominent master architect, John Virginius Bennes (Oregon Architect License #17), integrated contemporary architectural styles to successfully and thoroughly transform an 1893 Italianate-style building on the campus of Oregon Agricultural College (OAC, now Oregon State University). Drawing on his experience with Classical, Craftsman and Prairie styles, campus architect Bennes skillfully integrated architectural themes to make this remodel fit comfortably among his other wood agricultural buildings and his red brick American Renaissance buildings at OAC.

This remodel project and subsequent relocation by Bennes relates to contemporary campus design concepts, since he was working within a 1909 OAC campus plan designed by the Olmsted Brothers of Brookline, Massachusetts. Contextually, the Poultry Building relates to agricultural education during a period of dramatic growth and outreach at OAC. The Poultry Building meets National Register Criterion C as an unusual aspect of the work of a master architect who thoroughly and skillfully transformed and relocated an existing building.

In addition, it meets Criteria Consideration B for moved properties since its significance lies in its architecture; its architectural features are substantially intact; it was considered a movable building by Bennes himself (and never landscaped); it is now located just a few blocks from the campus on which it was built; and occupies a modestly significant location as the terminal vista at the end of a nine-block street in a historic part of Corvallis between the OSU campus and the Avery-Helm Historic District.

The Incubator House, a separate building on the site of the Poultry Building, is considered a contributing resource in this nomination. It has a historic association with the Poultry Building, having been located adjacent to it for many years while located on the OSU campus. Although at one time separated from the Poultry Building and relocated to another remote area of the university, it has been recently rescued and again joins the Poultry Building.

History

In 1868, the Oregon Legislative Assembly designated Corvallis College as the Agricultural College of the State of Oregon. This was done just in time to take advantage of the Federal Morrill Act's land grant of 1862 that allowed the state funds from the sale of 90,000 acres of land in southwest Oregon to endow a state agricultural college. In 1871, the trustees purchased a 35-acre farm adjacent to town to comply with the Morrill Act, and called it the Experimental Farm.[1]

[1] Oregon State University Campus Master Plan, 2004, 1-12.

By 1874, the agricultural classes, part of the Physical Science department, were being taught by college president B.L. Arnold, who published experimental results and recommendations for improving local soils. The college's Department of Agriculture was established in 1883, the first of its kind in the Pacific Northwest. In 1888 the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station began research activities as a result of the 1887 Federal Hatch Experiment Station Act. One year later, a new administration building, Benton Hall, was built on the nearby 35-acre parcel with donated funds from Corvallis and Benton County residents, and the college moved its operations into their new administration building and out of their buildings near downtown.[2]

College attendance and staff continued to increase, and in 1890 included the addition of Emile F. Pernot to teach "photography and photogravure." His department was undersized and underfunded. The 1892 Annual Report of the Board of Regents stated that "The department of photography is put away in a slip of a room, without the possibility of a skylight by means of which to print." In a letter dated July 16, 1894, Pernot wrote to Wallis Nash, Secretary of the Board of Regents, that, "I am only receiving sixteen dollars and sixty-five cents per month for all the work that I do for the college including teaching, literary work, and the same duties and responsibilities as any other member of the faculty."[3]

By that time, the Horticulture department, under the direction of George Coote, an English immigrant, needed more space. An 1892 photo shows the horticultural facilities consisting of two greenhouses attached to a work shed located north of Benton Hall. The annual report of the Board of Regents for the year ending June 30, 1892, described a horticulture department "without even any lecture or teaching-room at all...." A building committee selected architect D.C. Schell of nearby Albany, Oregon, and called on him to prepare plans and specifications for a "Greenhouse and Horticulture Room" with an estimated value of $1,500. The building was completed in the fall of 1893, at a site north of Benton Hall near Monroe Street. Pernot was successful at finding some room in the building for photography.[4]

It was described in the Annual Report of the Board of Regents published on January 7, 1895 by Secretary Nash for the year ending in June 1894, as follows:

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[2] Oregon State Alumni Association, "Orange and Black," Corvallis, 1938, 14; OSU Campus Master Plan, 1-4; Mary Gallagher, "Corvallis Historic Context Statement," 1993, 43.

[3] "Annual Report of the President of the Board of Regents, 1895," Salem, 1894, 14. Attendance went from 99 in 1888-1889 to 240 in 1893-1894; Sally Jackman Wilson, "It Was a Matter of Doing It Himself, the Hard Way," *The Oregon Stater* (Feb-Mar 1969); Douglas E. Davee, "A History of the Poultry Science Department Feed-Mixing Facility," June 1989, citing "Annual Report of the Board of Regents for the year June 30, 1892," Salem, 1893, located at OSU Archives.

[4] Davee, "History;" Davee, citing "Minute Book of the State Agriculatural College Board of Regents, Book One, September 1889 to January 8, 1908," OSU Archives; Davee, citing letter from Board Secretary Wallis Nash to D.C. Schell, Albany, Oregon, October 24, 1893, OSU Archives.

> A horticultural building, two stories in height, 30 x 40 feet, has been erected, and a greenhouse, 20 x 50 feet, has been added. This building has been completed. A new furnace, with piping for heating, was put in place in the fall of 1894, and has since been in successful operation. This gives our greenhouses an area of 2,500 square feet of floor surface. The second story of the horticultural building has been fitted for the photograghic (sic) department. The first floor has been fitted for a classroom for instruction in horticulture and floriculture. The basement is occupied by the fuel and heating apparatus.[5]

Nash, an English lawyer, came to the Corvallis area initially as a representative of English investors in the Oregon Pacific Railroad, of which Nash became Second Vice President. The railroad was headquartered in Corvallis. Nash eventually took residence in Oregon, and became Secretary of the Board of Regents of the State College of Agriculture in 1885. Fellow immigrant, George Coote, was hired in 1888 as the Foreman of the Horticultural Department. In his obituary of 11-16-08, written by Wallis Nash, it was noted that one of Coote's daughters, Edith Jane, was Pernot's wife.[6]

Attesting to the importance of agricultural experimentation and outreach, the 1895 Annual Report included a separate section titled "Report of the Experiment Station." Included in their budget for the year ending July 1, 1894, is a line item for "Photography and Photogravure, $152.50," and a separate report from Pernot, as "Photographer to the Station," including a section of Photo-micrography. Also listed were 32 bulletins produced by college staff. Photos of the Horticultural Building at this "Location #1" provided the information for the following detailed description:

The building had a square plan with a 6/12 hipped roof with cresting terminating in finials at the 8' ridgeline. A steep (14/12) cross-gable was centered at the front of the building, also with cresting and a single finial at the ridge. Under the cross-gable was a pair of second-floo,r double-hung, one-over-one windows set in a shallow projecting bay that overhung another pair of identical windows on the first floor. The field of seven-inch channel drop siding on the other three walls was unbroken except by windows, corner boards, a 12-inch-wide wood frieze band at the eaves, and a watertable with 10" band above the brick base.

The porch, located in a position similar to the present porch, had a steeply pitched roof with cresting, single finial, turned spindle supports and diagonal stickwork, as did the cross-gable and bay window. The eaves projected about 12" and were boxed. Small decorative brackets were placed at the porch supports, and on each corner board. A single interior masonry chimney was placed in the center of the back wall. A metal chimney was centered a few feet in front of the ridge. Outbuildings included attached greenhouses and adjacent sheds.

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[5] Annual Report, 14. The Annual Report of 1895 contains a line drawing of the new building, done by Pernot himself (initials EFP) for Secretary Nash, whose last name was also on the drawing.

[6] Kenneth Munford, "British Horticulturist was County Pioneer," *Corvallis Gazette-Times,* September 16, 1985.

The elevation to the right of the front featured a small single lite window at the forward part of the second story, and a double-hung one-over-one window at the rear corner. The back wall featured a pair of double-hung windows at the second story, right of the chimney. The wall to the left of the entry featured a second-story 9' by 9' north-facing window of twenty lites, a 8' by 8' north-facing skylight of 25 lites, and a pair of one-over-one double-hung windows on the first story. The skylight and north window were part of the Photography Department facilities.[7]

The 1896-1897 annual college catalog describes the building as the Horticultural Hall and Photography Building. The description states, "This building stands north of the main building, and contains a class room and laboratory for the department of Horticulture, and the office and operating rooms of the Photo-micrographer of the station. The following years' catalog calls the building "Horticultural Hall and Bacteriological Lab," but describes the building with the same language as the previous bulletin. The name change from Photography to Bacteriology represents the rapid advances and acceptance of Pernot's interest in microphotography. His work at the Experiment Station led him to take magnified photos of everything from bees to plant tissues and eventually to smaller organisms. He made slides of his photos for use in farmers' short courses and farmers' institutes held throughout Oregon. He became the first instructor in classes on bacteriology in 1899.[8]

One of Pernot's early bulletins (No. 64 in 1901) dealt with the problems of poultrymen, especially concerning six diseases that affected chicks and chickens in western Oregon. His lifelong interest in tuberculosis led to his discovery of the bacillus responsible for tuberculosis in poultry. His discovery led to an Award of Honor at the Hague, Netherlands, and was called "the father of Avian Tuberculosis." His activities exemplify the college's focus at the time on agriculture, science, education and outreach.[9]

The Kerr-Bennes Partnership

In March 1907, the Board of Regents elected William Jasper Kerr as new president of the college, ushering in a period of dramatic growth over the next 25 years until his resignation in 1932. Professor J.B. Horner described in 1921 the results of Kerr's efforts to advance the college:

> During his incumbancy, 200 members have been added to the corps of instructors, and many courses of study have been introduced, until the institution has become second in rank among the land-grant colleges of the United States. Within this administration, more buildings have been

[7] Annual Report.

[8] Harriet Moore, "Report on Horticultural Building #1, Poultry Building," n.d., citing *Annual Catalogue of the State Agricultural College of the State of Oregon* (Corvallis: OAC, 1896-1897), OSU Archives; Moore, 1897-1898; Jim Fisher, *Under the Microscope: One Hundred Years of Microbiology at Oregon State University* (Corvallis: Department of Microbiology, 1998).

[9] Fisher, Wilson.

> erected on the O.A.C. campus than on any other campus on the Pacific Slope. The attendance has increased from 833 to 4750 students, representing all quarters of the Globe. The College accommodates more students annually than all other institutions of higher learning in this state.[10]

Hired in March of 1907, Kerr moved quickly to reorganize the college into four schools headed by deans. Included under the School of Agriculture was the new Department of Poultry Husbandry. The minutes of the Board of Regents, July 17, 1907, describe Kerr's 15-point workplan, including Item 5 with the specific request "...that Professor James Dryden be employed for the extension work in Agriculture and the work in Poultry Husbandry." The final item, Item 15, initiated a long career by Portland architect John Virginius Bennes, to provide a remarkable variety of architectural services to the growing college:

> That work should be started at once on the plans for the buildings for which appropriations will be available in 1908, in order that all the details may be completed in time to have the contract awarded so that the buildings can be completed before the opening of the College next year.[11]

The Board of Regents unanimously adopted Kerr's plan, and authorized Kerr to proceed. By August 1, 1907, there was a letter of proposal to the college from the Portland firm of Bennes, Hendricks & Tobey, signed by J.V. Bennes. It proposed as follows:

> For a compensation of $2,000.00, We propose to furnish working drawings, and specifications and general superintendence of building operations and also to audit and make settlements of all accounts for the New Mechanic Arts School Building, to be erected for the Board of Regents, on the grounds of the Oregon Agricultural College, at Corvallis, Oregon.[12]

The proposal described further details, and was approved and accepted on August 2, 1907. It was signed by Kerr, Governor G. W. Chamberlain and J. H. Ackerman, State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Obviously, Bennes' firm was not commissioned to prepare the drawings on the very day of the bid opening, even though the design contract was signed on that day. Despite any misgivings one would have about proper advance contractual arrangements, this cooperative relationship between Bennes, the Governor, a future governor and congressman (Walter Pierce), the President and the Superintendent, helped pave the way for substantial architectural work at the college by Bennes.[13]

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[10] J.B. Horner, "Brief Hisotry of the OAC," *The Beaver Yearbook* (Corvallis, 1921).

[11] Minutes of the Board of Regents, July 2, 1907, OSU Archives.

[12] Bennes, Hendricks and Tobey to Board of Regents, letter, August 1, 1907, OSU Archives, RG8.

[13] Arthur H. Bone, ed., "Oregon Cattleman-Governor-Congressman: Memoirs and Times of Walter M. Pierce," by Walter M. Pierce, in *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress* (Portland: Oregon Historical Society, 1981).

Bennes' first substantial project at the campus, the Mechanic Arts Building, was constructed in an "L" shape around the west and north sides of the Horticulture & Photography Building, and completed in 1908. The Report of the President of the Board of Regents for the year 1907-1908 identified several Bennes projects which were completed in the school year, including Bennes' Mechanic Arts, Dairy Barn, and Poultry Houses, which included the Incubator Building, making it one of the earliest Bennes projects on campus:

> POULTRY HOUSES - A ten acre tract of land has been set aside for work in poultry husbandry, on which has been erected several buildings especially planned for the needs of the department. These buildings comprise an incubator house and twenty-eight colony houses. Cost $2,000.00[14]

In addition, the Report notes that the Agronomy Building, a 72 x130-foot "cement and brick structure," with three stories and a basement, "will be ready for occupancy on December 1, 1908."[15]

The design themes and details of these buildings relate to the evolution of Bennes work, integrating Craftsman, American Renaissance, and Classical elements, and help explain the Poultry Building remodel. His Dairy Barn features the upper floor sided in shingles and the lower story with red brick pilasters infilled with lap siding, and multi-light windows grouped in threes. The entry is distinguished by a Classical touch, its formal pediment with modillions, supported on Ionic columns on pedestals. His Mechanic Arts building features a red brick facade, multi-light windows with transoms, placed singly and grouped around the structure. On the flat roofs at each end of this building are wooden balustrades with a "Union Jack" baluster pattern.

The monumental red brick Agronomy wing, finished in 1909, featured the strong classical design elements of American Renaissance architecture, including a classical entry with stone entablature decorated with dentil courses and guttae grouped in the traditional six. Bennes, however, added stone guttae in groups of four at his entries, and even used guttae grouped in threes as decorative cornice brackets.

His little Incubator House, perhaps the smallest of his projects on the campus (unless he designed the chicken houses), featured classic Craftsman design, including a shallow-pitched roof, shingle siding, grouped multi-light windows, roof balustrades, and decorative brackets. But even here, he added a touch of classical by terminating the decorative brackets with a single gutta, a design element borrowed from the Roman Doric Order.

With the completion of the Incubator Building, the new Department of Poultry Husbandry collaborated with Emil Pernot to study the mortality of incubator chicks in 1908. The Bacteriology Department had found

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[14] "Report of the President of the Board of Regents of the Oregon Agricultural College and Experiment Station for 1907-1908" (Corvallis 1909).

[15] Ibid.

other quarters and moved out of the 1893 Horticulture Building by then, giving the whole building back to the Horticulture Department. In 1910, the Horticulture Department was able to move into new quarters in Bennes' Agronomy building, as was the Bacteriology Department. Also in 1910, new greenhouses, designed by Bennes, were built for the Horticulture Department. These greenhouses were "modern in every detail, being built of a combination of wood and iron or what is known as the King System," according to the *Oregon Countryman*, a student magazine.[16]

Bennes applied a grand classical entry to these greenhouses, with columns, pediment and parapet, and attached a large single gutta cornice bracket on each end of the facade. The windows, however, are two matched groupings of four plate glass with transoms, a look not unlike Prairie Style.

Poultry Department Research, Education and Outreach

While Bennes was designing and overseeing the construction of barns, classrooms, and a new armory, Professor Dryden was building the Department of Poultry Husbandry. The *Oregon Countryman* reported Dryden's progress in a series of articles over several years:

> James Dryden, Professor of Poultry Husbandry at OAC was recently elected vice president of the International Society of Poultry Instructors and Investigators.[17]
>
> Mr. James Dryden, professor of Poultry Husbandry, has lately received an honor greatly to be coveted. The Orange Judd Co, for years the largest and best known agricultural publishing company in the world, has selected him to compose a treatise on poultry, comprising from 300 to 350 pages. It is to be well illustrated and arranged in splendid pedagogic form.[18]
>
> Mr Dryden has prepared a plan for a chicken raising contest to be completed for by boys and girls of Portland in which liberal prizes will be paid." It is also noted that there were 200 students registered in the Reading Course by the Department of Poultry Husbandry.[19]
>
> Some remarkable egg records have been secured at the Oregon Experiment Station.[20]

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[16] Wilson; Junior Class Oregon Agricultural College, "Bacteriology," *The 1909 Orange* 11 (1908). This article shows the Bacteriology Department classes in a building other than the Horticultural Building; *Oregon Countryman* 1, No. 2 (October 1908): 37; *Oregon Countryman* 2, No. 3 (November 1909): 26.

[17] Oregon Countryman 1, No. 2 (October 1908): 37.

[18] Ibid No. 9 (May 1909): 28.

[19] Ibid 2, No. 1 (June 1909):12.

[20] Ibid 4, No. 4 (December 1911):49.

> A Poultry Demonstration Car to travel out over Southern Pacific lines. Professor James Dryden will equip it. Southern Pacific will carry the car without expense, attaching it to regular trains and leaving it at scheduled stations.[21]

With all this activity and growth, the Department of Poultry Husbandry was in desperate need of more space. In the President's Biennial Report of 1910-1912, Dryden and A. B. Cordley, Dean of the School of Agriculture, state that a "special Poultry Building is greatly needed," and that "...it would be a serious mistake to put several thousand dollars into a building now and in three to five years find that another would have to be built to furnish the necessary accommodations." "...we could fully utilize a building of the dimensions of the Dairy Building."[22]

This argument for a substantial building, such as the Dairy Building recently budgeted for $36,000, (designed by Bennes) was not to be fulfilled. Instead, the plans were already in place to remodel the old horticultural building, based on statements in the earlier OAC Biennial Report of 1906-1908, that said the Poultry Department would be satisfied with a remodeled Horticulture Building, since the department had recently received its colony houses and Incubator Building. The 1906-1908 Report stated:

> But before satisfactory instructional work can be given, it will be necessary to have rooms for handling and judging fowls, for storage of eggs, for laboratory or practical work in designing and construction poultry houses and appliances, and for dressing and packing fowls for shipment. The office and class rooms should be in the new agricultural building. The other work can be provided for in the frame building used at present by the department of Horticulture. This building can be moved to the poultry grounds and remodeled at small expense so that it will be well adapted to to (sic) the needs of the Poultry department.[23]

The Poultry Department had succeeded beyond its expectations of 1908, but the decision had been made to remodel, not build a new building. In the same 1910-1912 publication that carried Dryden's plea for a substantial, separate building for the Poultry department, there was a cost estimate of $1,822.00 for the "Old Horticulture Building, if worked over for the Poultry Department." It provided a detailed list of tasks, including "new gutter tin and downspouts, excavating basement, ceiling on porch, shingles on porch, flooring on porch, and painting stairs and interior woodwork."[24]

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[21] Ibid, No. 7 (March 1911):51. According to a report on page 12 of the June 1912 issue of *Oregon Countryman*, that demonstration railroad car reached 50 towns and gave demonstrations to nearly 23,000 people.

[22] "Oregon Agricultural College Biennial Report of the Board of Regents, 1910-1912," Corvallis, 1913, 26-27.

[23] Davee, "Oregon Agricultural College Biennial Report, 1906-1908," Corvallis, 1909, 52-53.

[24] "Oregon Agricultural College Biennial Report of the Board of Regents, 1910-1912," Corvallis, 1913.

It was no surprise that this estimate, printed in 1912, was so detailed. The same publication describes a new Foundry building designed by Bennes and completed in November of 1911, located on the site previously occupied by the old Horticulture building. The Horticulture building had already been moved, and preliminary plans had been made to remodel it.[25]

Needing to remove the building for his new Foundry, and anticipating the planned remodel for the Poultry Department, Bennes had the old Horticulture building stored in the Fall of 1911 at a field across from his 1908 Incubator Building. The Horticulture building can be seen at its temporary location in a photo circa October 1911. It is also visible in the background of a postcard photo taken of Waldo Hall looking westward along Jefferson.[26]

The building was to be ready for the 1913-1914 school year, according to the *Oregon Countryman* of June 1913:

> Poultry Husbandry: 1913-14 will see many changes in the Department of Poultry Husbandry. To meet the demand and care for students taking this work the old Horticultural Building is to be completely remodeled and provided with laboratory rooms for student use. There will be a feed room for the study, storage and mixing of feeds; an incubator room for hatching problems, an egg room and a killing room were poultry and poultry products will be prepared for market; a shp for building equipment, for a poultry plant, also an office, tool room and demonstration room. During the summer many new charts and lantern slides are to be made and added to the present equipment.[27]

The 1914-1915 OAC Catalogue gave the following description of the Poultry Houses:

> The main poultry building is a three-story structure and is used principally for class, laboratory, and demonstration purposes. It contains a demonstration room with desks and other necessary equipment; a shop, with the necessary tools, benches and equipment for practice work in building poultry plant equipment; storage rooms, office and wash rooms are also provided. In the basement, rooms are provided for fattening and killing fowls, an incubator room for student use, and a feed room with the necessary machinery for grinding and mixing poultry feeds. Besides the main poultry building there is an incubator house, with a capacity of twenty-four incubators and complementary apparatus; and a feed-storage building and a brooding house.[28]

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[25] OAC Barometer, November 18, 1911, Corvallis.

[26] Davee, "History." Analysis and dating of photo with building in temporary location #2.

[27] Oregon Countryman 5, No. 9 (June 1913):46.

[28] *OAC Catalogue for 1914-1915* (Corvallis 1914): 40-41.

If it were any consolation to Professor Dryden, Bennes spent $3,400, considerably more than the original budget of $1,822, hopefully in an effort to add as much character and dignity as possible to this signature building for the energetic Poultry Department.[29]

Bennes' Remodel Goals

The design features and decisions on the Poultry Building were a natural extension of Bennes' training, experience and evolution as an architect. This little building is perhaps even more revealing of an architect's skills than a grand, new structure with a substantially larger budget. Bennes' challenge was to take someone else's unremarkable twenty-year old building; built in a style no longer in favor (the Italianate style was not particularly interesting to Bennes); move the building; and create a structure would provide enough dignity to fit comfortably on a campus of classical red brick buildings, for a new Poultry Department that was reaching out to achieve a regional and national presence.

Dignity as a Marketing and Architectural Theme

The energetic President Kerr took full advantage of Bennes' classically-inspired work as Kerr initiated an aggressive promotion of the college. The May 1912 College Bulletin is titled *"Dignifying the Industries."* On pages one and three, Oregon Agricultural College carries the subhead, "A National and State Institution." It declares its intentions of making their students the best in their towns, their towns the best in the state, and their state the greatest in the nation, and lists 33 other states and eight foreign countries represented in the student body.

The 63-page Bulletin shows at least twenty-one photos of Bennes' buildings, and includes a photo of the Demonstration Train, complete with portable hen house, on site in the eastern Oregon town of Imbler. Interestingly, the Shops photo features the Foundry already in place of the moved old Horticulture building. Since the 1913 remodel was not yet complete for the new Poultry Building, the article on Poultry Husbandry featured a photo of the chicken houses and yards.[30]

Bennes Background

Bennes' work through 1912 at the campus exhibited his experience in the classical design of the American Renaissance movement. Inspired by a desired to return to civic dignity and classic cultural ideals, and growing out of the tradition of the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris, this movement gained momentum with the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago. This exposition also launched the "City Beautiful" movement, in which the design of a city was considered as a whole, including parks, buildings,

[29] "Biennial Report of the Board of Regents, 1912-1914," Corvallis, 1915, 30.

[30] *OAC College Bulletin* 1, No. 60 (May 1912).

transportation and utilities. Frederick Law Olmsted, landscape architect for the Columbian Exposition and for New York City's Central Park, became a principal advocate for this movement. [31]

Bennes is thought to have received his architectural training in Chicago. It is believed he was born in Bohemia in 1867, spent his boyhood in Peru, Indiana, and moved to Chicago to complete his public school education. Some confusion exists about whether he remained in Chicago, or went to Bohemia (now a part of the Czech Republic) for some of his training. He is known to have been in Chicago in 1890, and remained there until his move to Baker City, Oregon, in 1900. He would have been 26 years old at the time of the Columbian Exposition, and 46 at the time of the Poultry Building remodel.[32]

In 1906, Bennes moved to Portland where he was to practice for the next 36 years. Bennes formed a variety of partnerships with other Portland architects, including Eric W. Hendricks, Willard Tobey, Lewis Irvine Thompson and Harry A. Herzog. In 1907, a year after Bennes' arrival in Portland, the Portland Architectural Club was formed to promote, with publications and exhibits, the ideals of the American Renaissance movement. In 1911, the club, with thirty to forty members, joined the Pacific Coast Architectural League, including members from San Francisco, Southern California and Washington. Lasting until 1915, the League was very influential in promoting Greek, Roman, Italian, French and English Renaissance architecture.[33]

Bennes was involved in his profession, as a member of the Oregon Chapter of the AIA, serving as president (1922) and vice president (1920-1921.) He was a member of the Oregon State Board of Architectural Examiners, 1923-1937, serving as vice-president in 1923 and 1935, and president from 1924 to 1933. He received license Number 17 under the grandfather clause when Oregon began licensing architects in 1919. Bennes' work includes commercial buildings, OSU campus structures, and residential projects. Commercial work in Eastern Oregon includes Baker City's Geyser Grand Hotel and Elks Building. His large volume of commercial work in Portland includes the pioneering reinforced concrete Lowengart Building; Hollywood Theater, Cornelius Hotel (French Renaissance), Broadway Hotel (Commercial) and Arthur Hotel.[34]

His work at Oregon State University (then, Oregon Agricultural College) included 48 buildings between 1907 and 1941, including Agricultural Hall (1909-1913), Kidder Hall library (1917), Weatherford Hall (1928), the Italian Renaissance Women's Building (1926), and a variety of agricultural buildings, including six barns

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[31] Rosalind Clark, *Architecture Oregon Style* (Portland: Professional Book Center, Inc., 1983), 125-126.

[32] Richard E. Ritz, *Architects of Oregon* (Portland: Lair Hill Publishing, 2002), 37, 234.

[33] Ibid, 36; Clark, 127.

[34] Ritz, 36-37.

and the Incubator House (1908). He is not known to have designed any wood-frame classroom buildings other than the remodeled 1913 Poultry Building.[35]

Though Bennes' commercial and institutional work was well-regarded, "...he initially made his mark in Portland with his striking residential designs, becoming that city's principal and foremost exponent of the Prairie School with his designs for the Marcus J. DeLahunt house (1909), the Aaron H. Maegly house (1914), and his own residence in Arlington Heights (1911)," according to his biography in NRHP Nomination for his John Bexell house in Corvallis. Bennes was said to have been an admirer of the work of Frank Lloyd Wright. His residential work was similarly noted in his biography by Ritz : "Bennes was as well-known for his outstanding residential designs, in many styles. He worked in the Classical and Craftsman styles, but his most interesting work was in the Prairie style, ranging from a literal example to his own personal interpretations of the style."[36]

Olmsted Plan: Dignity as a Design Theme

On January 16, 1908, President Kerr presented the Board of Regents with "blueprints, drawings and photographs showing the general plans adopted by several educational institutions throughout the country, and indicating the amount of room required for different kinds of work in proportion to the number of students in attendance." Kerr explained that rapid growth of the college made it necessary to adopt "definite" plans, so that buildings will "permanently best serve the interests of the College, thereby avoiding the losses occasioned by the necessity of removing or remodeling buildings..."[37]

At that time, Bennes had probably been working for Kerr and the college for about eight months. It is not known if Bennes, well-versed in the American Renaissance movement and working in Chicago at the beginning of the City Beautiful movement, might have been asked for suggestions by President Kerr for the name of a firm to do some long-range campus planning. Regardless, Kerr found the best firm for the job. In 1909, OAC contracted with John C. Olmsted to create a campus master plan. J.C. Olmsted and Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., continued the firm started by the renowned Frederick Law Olmsted, who died in 1903.

The campus plan was presented in October 1909, after a campus visit in June 1909. It created communal spaces with the use of quads, formal tree-lined streets, and manicured open space areas. It sought to create symmetry through building design and placement. The timeless balance between the built and natural environments was to occur through the use of simple, clean alignments and practical detailing.

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[35] "Holsteins, Horses and Hogs: The Barns of Oregon State," OSU Archives.

[36] "Bexell, John, House," National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 1992. State Historic Preservation Office, Salem; George P. Edmonston, Jr., and Larry Landis, "Up Cose and Personal: Campus Tour," October 25, 2002; Ritz, 37.

[37] E.E. Wilson, Secretary to the Board, "Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Regents," January 16, 1908, OSU Archives, RG8.

Regarding architecture, the Olmsted document said that buildings should be of uniform brick materials and of basic classical forms with dignified entrances.[38]

Bennes' Early Classical Forms

Bennes' early work already showed his commitment to classical forms and dignified entrances. His 1908 Mechanical Arts building was a simple, classical, red brick structure. The north wing of Agriculture Hall, the Agronomy Building, was an American Renaissance structure of red brick with Roman-inspired entries. The Catalog for 1909-1910 showed an artist's rendering of the completed Agriculture Hall, with a tall central five-story structure and a south wing that matched the completed north wing. This scheme was produced before Olmsted presented his master plan in October of 1909. Obviously, Bennes and Olmsted were of the same mind regarding the theme of classical design.

The Dairy Barn is another early example. Bennes' Dairy Barn drawings were under way in 1907 (well before Olmsted visited campus), showing a gable-roof barn unlike any in the countryside. Its second story was shingled, the first story showed brick pilasters with lap siding between, but most notable was the entry with its large pediment roof (with modillions at the overhang), supported by two Ionic columns on pedestals. Bennes decided that a dignified entrance was required on this cattle barn. Obviously, he took seriously President Kerr's goals to raise the stature of the campus to a national level. Bennes clearly saw the difference between a cattle barn, and a structure intended to research and teach the science of raising dairy cattle. The respect shown this Dairy Barn must have impressed Kerr.

But a design even closer to his Poultry Remodel was Bennes' Greenhouses for the Horticulture Department, designed in late 1909 and built in 1910. The entry to the greenhouses was a square building facing north, centrally located on greenhouses extending east, west and south. The entry building was a classic in symmetry and strength, with its single centered entry door flanked by large Roman Doric columns on pedestals supporting an entablature and pediment roof. The entablature's horizontal cornice details transferred to the wall as a belt course and ran around the stucco building. At the corners of the building were simplified brackets composed of a rectangle with a large, single gutta hanging below. The entry was flanked on both sides by a group of four identical single-light windows with transoms, with a Prairie Style effect.

The roof was outlined with a parapet above a cornice that overhung the walls on all four sides. The north and south parapet formed a gable shape identical to the pediment below. As the roofline carried downward from the gable, it came to a notched battlement, before continuing around the east and west sides as a flat parapet. It is notable that the roofline of this grand-looking little structure with a modest purpose was the same form as planned for the highest roof of the five-story central portion of the dignified Agricultural Hall, to be built one year later.

[38] Edmonston and Landis; OSU Campus Master Plan, 1-9, 1-15, 1-16.

Bennes had the confidence to mix his styles to achieve his goals. In this case, it was classical shapes and Prairie style windows, and an Italian Renaissance modified bracket decoration with a single large gutta at the belt course corners. The design is somewhat unexpected for a greenhouse entry, but it shows Bennes' skills, enthusiasm and reassurance that agricultural education is an enterprise worthy of dignified buildings.

Poultry Building Design Choices

Given a twenty-year-old relocated building, Bennes made design decisions consistent with his experience, the evolution of the campus, the goals of President Kerr, the budget, and the constraints of the old Horticulture Building. The Poultry Building was elevated to give it more stature and to create a classical "stone" base. The stone feeling was achieved with stucco that covered a concrete basement wall and then continued up over lath on framing up to the window sills.

The entry was dignified with classical columns, entablature and pediment. Because of the existing location of the interior stairway on the edge of the building, Bennes had to place the entry offset to the right, rather than in the preferred central location. Except for the offset entry, the primary and secondary facades became symmetrical arrangements of windows centered on the building, a classical approach.

To give this building the appearance of a classroom on par with other campus buildings, windows were large and plentiful. The sash patterns were unusual: they integrated square panes similar to those in the nearby Craftsman Incubator Building, a lower band of 1:2 vertical panes, and a band of 1:4 vertical panes. When seen across the facade, these pane patterns create horizontal zones.

Horizontal Elements

Bennes created strong horizontal elements, a form with which he was very familiar in his Prairie-style residential designs. He cut the peak off the roof and eliminated the cross gable. He widened the overhang and boxed soffits; created a strong frieze band on the upper wall at the cornice; created a wide entablature belt course above the first floor windows and a water table at their sill.

The Italian influence is apparent. The window crowns are designed as Italian cornices of a Roman doorway, similar to the Roman Temple at Cori, but exaggerated here. The use of these cornices on brackets as window decoration are not uncommon in American Renaissance design, and are usually in stone. Their strong presence here may have the effect of creating the sense of stonelike lintels...an effect that may help the viewer forget this is the only wood-frame classroom building in sight. Or, this banding created by the window cornices could be an outgrowth of Bennes' fondness for Prairie style features. Or

both. Though not a Bennes house, such window cornices can be seen, for example, on the Prairie-style Carl Little House, Portland,1913.[39]

Prairie Elements

The repeated dominant roof bracket, similar to the window cornice bracket but larger, is Italian Renaissance style – similar to the large decorative brackets on his own 1911 Prairie Style home and on his 1914 Prairie Style Maegly House. It is a form not seen on Bennes' classical campus buildings in masonry. But here, it was clearly intended to be noticed, both by its size, numbers (sixteen) and contrasting colors, perhaps as one additional effort to dignify this wood-frame "step-sister" building to her family of masonry structures all around. It may also be a salutation to the delicate and elegant Craftsman brackets on his nearby Incubator Building, since both Poultry Building brackets (roof and window) and Incubator Building brackets terminate in the classical guttae.

The gutta, borrowed from the Roman Doric order, is a decorative form seen on his other campus buildings, but used here in a more dramatic manner. At the Poultry Building, the guttae are not the incidental and sparing decorations of the Agronomy cornices. They are not the simple, single, same-color shadow forms seen on the corners of the Greenhouse Entry. On the Poultry Building, Bennes used the guttae to punctuate the dramatically elongated brackets at the windows and roof. These decorative brackets were further emphasized with contrasting colors. They were a design element to be noticed. Their use as sixteen large single elements and twenty-seven doubles gave this little building a unique signature not enjoyed by the more predictable American Renaissance brick buildings on campus.

Bennes used the gutta form on some of his other buildings, including a commercial structure for the Labbe Estate in Portland in 1908, where he used a triple form at the bottom of a large stone bracket, and below a pilaster cap. In 1912, he used the gutta in doubles and fours at the bottom of brackets under a doorway pediment at a store and rooming house for Dr. J. Sternberg.[40]

Decorative brackets ending in multiple guttae are a common expression in American Renaissance design. Bennes introduced guttae on campus buildings as a decorative theme, gradually moving away from the classical patterns of six to groups of four, three, two, and finally as a strong decorative element as a single, as seen on the Greenhouse Entry, with its combination of Classical forms and Prairie Style windows. The large decorative roof brackets ending in the contemporary single gutta can be a part of the vocabulary of Prairie-style design. Similar brackets ending in a single gutta are clearly apparent on the 1912 Prairie style Carnegie Library in nearby McMinnville. This "rare" Prairie-style Carnegie library was designed by Portland

[39] Clark, 137.

[40] Drawings of J.V. Bennes, The Cachot Therkelson Papers, University of Oregon Special Collections, Items J56 and C8.

architect Ernst Kroner, a contemporary of Bennes, who later served on the Board of Architectural Examiners with Bennes.[41]

As Bennes' use of the gutta evolved from the classical to the more contemporary, his use of other elements evolved. He transitioned from using singly spaced multi-light windows (in his Agronomy Building) to grouped triple multi-lite windows in his Foundry, to the four plate glass groupings in his Greenhouse Entry. The Poultry Building's primary facade features the dominant triple windows, a grouping that is more contemporary than his Agricultural Hall, with its singly arranged windows typical of American Renaissance buildings. The Poultry windows are more akin to Bennes' use the multiple-window groupings with his 1911 Foundry Building (triple-windows with transoms) and in the 1910 Greenhouse entry with its groupings of four. Bennes' own 1911 Prairie Style house featured both multi-lite triple-window and plate glass four-window groupings.[42]

A Preliminary Design

A set of five preliminary Poultry Building original pencil-on-tissue tracings showed some interesting differences between the initial concept and the final building. Originally, Bennes had indicated the entire building to be "rough cast plaster" where there is now wood siding. The original undated tracing showed the windows substantially as they are today, and wood cornices and frieze band and belt course as they are. The classical entry remained the same, except there were only five steps and the building did not sit as high off the ground as it did when actually built.

The original plan showed the dramatic roof brackets ending in a single gutta, but the window brackets ended in a single acorn, rather than double guttae. The original sketch included the original skylight and large window for the photography department - apparently Bennes was not told that they no longer needed to accommodate the photography department when he did the initial sketch.[43]

Poultry Department Growth

Once housed in its new building, the Department of Poultry Husbandry continued its climb to national prominence. After creating "Miss Corvallis, the Famous Hen that has a record of 259 eggs in one year," the department made news with another hen in October of 1913, "Local Bird sets new record by laying 283 eggs in 356 days, the result of Poultry in breeding."[44]

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[41] Clark, 137.

[42] Ibid., 136.

[43] Bennes and Hendricks, "Job #134," five undated tracings of Poultry Building, OSU Archives, RG193, Bldg. 152.

[44] *Oregon Countryman* (February 1913): 45; Ibid 5, No. 1 (October 1913):44.

In October 1915, the *Oregon Countryman* reported hen number 351, known as Lady Macduff, laid 303 eggs in one year, a new world record. Called "The Oregon Station's Triumph," by Colliers Weekly, it was noted that when the 303rd egg was laid, "telegraph wires were kept busy carrying the news to all the newspapers in the United States."[45] In addition, the hen's photo was carried in 24 Sunday newspapers, and seen by an estimated 20 million people. It was published in Scandinavian, German and French.

The Poultry Department was considered the best in the world before World War I under the leadership of James Dryden. In 1991, Dryden became the only poultry scientist ever to be elected to the National Agricultural Hall of Fame.[46]

Dryden Hall, Weatherford Hall – Bennes Projects

Dryden retired before he had a chance to see a red brick American Renaissance building for the Poultry Department. Bennes, however, was still campus architect in 1927, when it became the Poultry Department's time for their own building. Bennes' design for the classical three-story brick building was built in 1927. The new building, Dryden Hall, was erected a half mile southwest of the Poultry Building's Location #3. A new men's dormitory was to be built where the Poultry Building and Incubator building stood, so they had to be moved in 1928 to make way for Weatherford Hall at 26th and Jefferson.

Bennes must have been fond of the only remodel he did on campus, and the only wood-frame classroom building. Rather than have the old Poultry Building demolished, he specified that the building be relocated to a site behind the new Poultry Department on 30th and Washington. It was moved in March of 1928. Bennes also specified that his Incubator Building be moved, rather than demolished, to a new location at the South Farm. It was placed on a new concrete slab near a creek in 1928.

Epilogue

Professor Arscott's report states that the Poultry Building was outfitted with large bins and feed mixing equipment in 1929. Photos of the building at this location show that it lost the basement, and stood on a short foundation, with a band of vertical 1x4 skirting. Otherwise, the exterior was generally intact. It stood at this location until 1997, when it was to be demolished to make room for the expansion of nearby Richardson Hall, College of Forestry. The present owners convinced the University to sell it instead, and succeeded in moving the building intact in June 1997. At that time, it was not known that this was a Bennes remodel, nor was it commonly known that Bennes' Incubator House still existed. It was discovered in October 2003 by the author of this nomination while researching the history of the Poultry Building.

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[45] "OAC Bulletin," June 1914, Corvallis; *Oregon Countryman* (October 1915):21-22.

[46] George Edmonston, Jr., "OSU Alumni Association News Service," June 1, 2001.

Summary of Integrity and Significance

Design and Context

The Poultry Building maintains integrity as the work of a master who was given a challenging design assignment to frugally move and transform an existing building. The design is an intriguing mix of styles orchestrated by an experienced professional – elements that make sense in the evolution of Bennes' work; in the context of local, regional and national architectural trends; in the evolution of the OAC campus building design and the Olmsteds' master plan; in the evolution of Dr. Kerr's vision of OAC as a regional and national institution; and the Poultry Department's specific needs and contribution to Kerr's vision to reach, as a department of OAC, a national and international audience.

Materials and Workmanship

The materials and workmanship of the 1913 exterior are substantially intact, as are many elements in the interior.

Location

The present location is appropriate to a transient building, moved three times by the architect for whom it is significant. It remains two blocks from campus, occupying a terminal vista down 8th Street through a neighborhood whose houses are contemporary with the building. Local historians can imagine Professor Dryden, who lived at 445 NW 8th Street, nine blocks north, stepping out of the house and looking south down the street to see the building at its present location.

The dignity given the building's design by Bennes' 1913 remodel has never been matched with dignity of site. This emphasis on dignity -- by Bennes, Olmsted and Kerr – will finally be realized, in a modest way, in the present setting.

To local historians, it is interesting to note that the Poultry Building property abuts the property of the Willamette Valley and Coast Railroad Depot (1887), built four years after OAC Regent Wallis Nash reported on the construction of the 1893 Horticulture Building. The Willamette Valley and Coast Railroad was owned and operated by the Oregon Pacific Railroad, of which Nash was chief counsel and Second Vice President.

Until its relocation, the Poultry / Horticulture structure (1893) was the fourth oldest building remaining on campus.

Setting

The building has been associated with poultry since Bennes remodeled it at 26th and Jefferson and then after Bennes relocated it to the new poultry yards. It has never been closely tied to its setting with landscape or plants, despite the Olmsted plan. The flat landscape at the present site will be improved to a level of modest dignity deserving of the buildings.

Feeling and Association

With the University only a few blocks away, and with several large University buildings in view (including Bennes' 1910 Armory, whose entry decoration featured a matched set of large guttae), the site maintains the sense of feeling and association affiliated with the building.

This feeling and association is strengthened by the placement of the Incubator House on the site, in an arrangement similar to the relationship of both buildings at 26th and Jefferson between 1913-1928. This arrangement will reunite two of the three known remaining wood-frame campus structures designed by John Virginius Bennes.[47]

Comparative Analysis

There are no other known examples of wood-frame classroom structures designed by Bennes. Nor are there any known examples of Bennes projects in which he remodeled an existing structure. Most of Bennes' work at the University consists of masonry structures, though he designed several wood-frame barns, one of which still remains on campus.

Prior to the discovery that Bennes was the architect of the Poultry Building remodel, university researchers Moore, Arscott and Davee separately noted in their research papers how unusual it was that this building avoided the wrecking ball. It was very unusual for an 1893 wood-frame building to survive three moves and remain generally intact during a period of rapid growth and construction of classical masonry structures. Someone in a position of authority had to have taken a liking to the building.

As is now known, that person was Bennes, who became acquainted with the Horticulture and Photography Building because he had to move it out of the way of his proposed masonry Mechanic Arts and Foundry Buildings. Obviously on board for the long term, architect Bennes knew when he planned the Mechanic Arts and Foundry Buildings that the Poultry Department, (which already had one of Bennes' first university buildings, the Incubator House,) had no appropriation for a masonry classroom.

[47] "Holsteins, Horses and Hogs." The 1935 veterinary dairy barn is the only known remaining Bennes-designed wood-frame structure on campus.

Bennes, from the very beginning, was probably intrigued by the challenge to transform the Schell structure to a dignified Poultry Department classroom. The remodel of this building could not have been pulled off by anyone of lesser experience or professionalism. Fortunately for the structure, Bennes was still the primary university architect in 1928, when it became time to build the elegant Weatherford Hall in the location taken by the Poultry Department.

Again, the building escaped the wrecking ball, thanks to Bennes' involvement. Perhaps because he was pleased with his only "remodel" on campus, he supervised the relocation of the building behind his new Dryden Hall, as part of his specifications for the construction of the new Weatherford Hall. Further evidence of Bennes' personal investment in his architectural work is his instruction to save the little Incubator House by having it relocated to the South Farm in 1928. Had Bennes been a short-timer, or had his work been of lesser quality, or of lesser appeal to Bennes, he was certainly in a position to have seen these structures dismantled.

Architects, like artists, are subject to pride of accomplishment. They have favorites. Even when he began his work for the University in 1907, Bennes was a master in his profession. Clearly, Bennes provided a quality of design in the Incubator House and the Poultry Building that pleased him, and obviously endeared those buildings to him. Perhaps he knew that the successful Poultry Building remodel was a transformation that few of his peers were capable of, or would even consider accepting, since accomplished professionals did not engage in remodels.

Perhaps he knew that his 1907 Incubator House, the new Poultry Department's very first building, was one that his peers would have given little attention to. It was basically a 600 square-foot garage, yet Bennes designed it with character, dignity and presence.

Finally, since Bennes received no known published credit for the Poultry Building remodel, he was probably alone in his appreciation of the techniques he used to transform Schell's Italianate into the handsome Poultry Building, compatible in design with both the existing Incubator House and the dignified classical masonry structures already on campus.

He did a fine job, and was fortunately in the position to protect these favorites during his long tenure as primary architect for the University.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated area is located in the city of Corvallis, Benton County, Oregon. The street address is known as 800 SW Washington Avenue. It is legally identified as map/tax lot number 12502BB17300 at this location.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated parcel, less than one acre in size, includes the tax lot on which the Poultry Building and Incubator House are currently located.

John V. Bennes and OSU's Architectural Legacy, 1907-1941

OSU Buildings, Additions, Renovations and Other Projects Designed by Bennes:

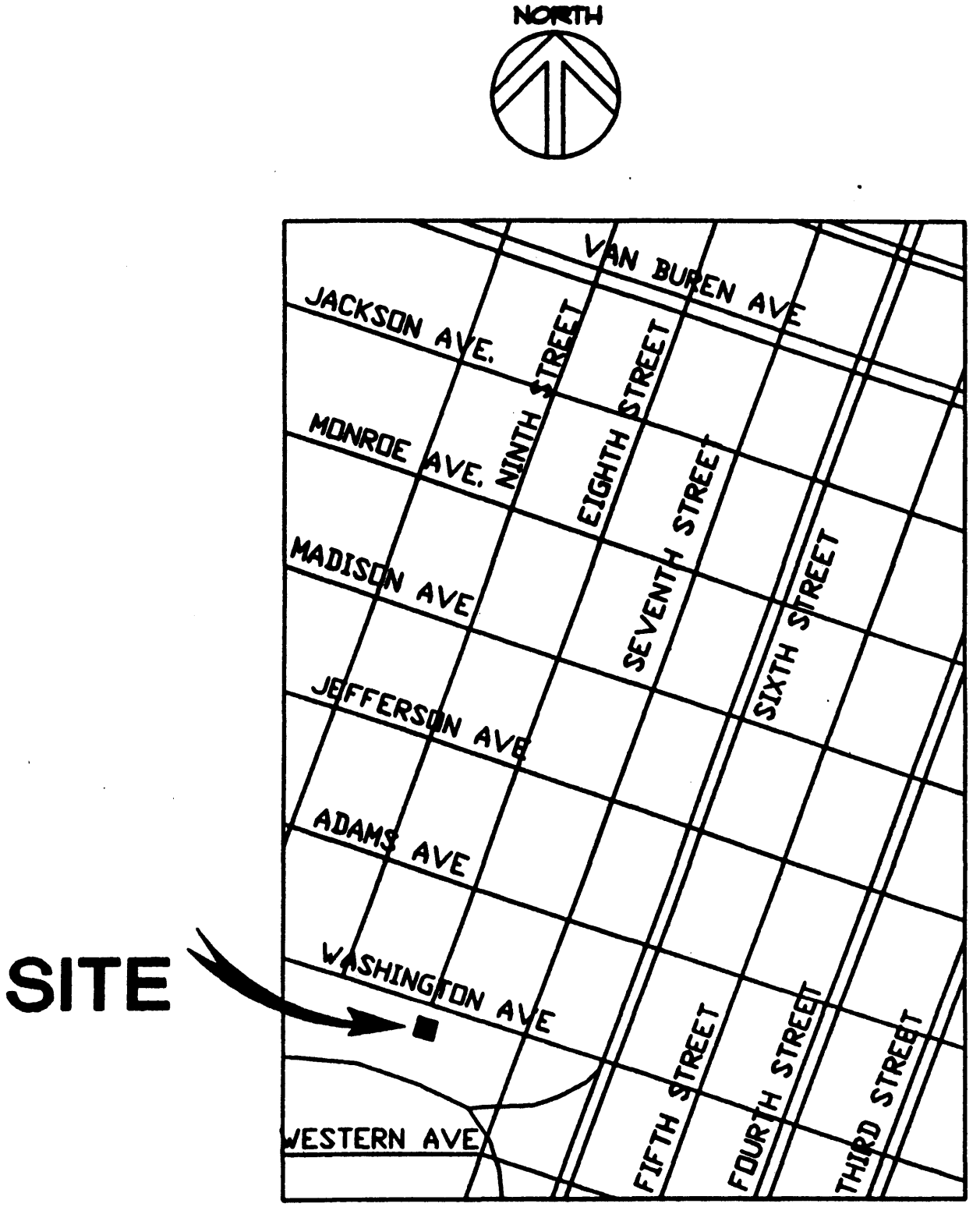
1. Incubator Building**, 1908
2. Mechanical Lab/Industrial Arts Shops/Merryfield Hall & Annex, 1909
3. Dairy Barn/Ag. Utilities Building*, 1909
4. Heating and Power Plant, 1909
5. Strand Agriculture Hall Agronomy wing, 1909
6. Armory/McAlexander Fieldhouse, 1910
7. Chemical Lab Building/Pistol Range, 1910
8. Greenhouses, 1910*
9. Foundry*, 1911
10. Strand Agriculture. Hall center, 1911
11. Farm Mechanics/Gilmore Hall, 1912
12. Stock Judging Pavilion*, 1912
13. Poultry Building (old Horticulture Hall) redesign**, 1913
14. Mines Building/Batcheller Hall, 1913
15. Strand Agriculture Hall Horticultural Wing, 1913
16. Dairy Building/Social Science Hall/Gilkey Hall, 1913
17. Beef Barn*, 1914
18. Domestic Science/Home Economics/Milam Hall east wing, 1914
19. Men's Gymnasium/Langton Hall, 1915
20. Hog Barn and Feeding House, 1916*
21. Foresty Building/Moreland Hall, 1916
22. Library/Kidder Hall, 1918
23. Auto Mechanics, 1918
24. Veterinary Clinic*, 1918
25. Horticultural Products/Hovland Hall, 1919
26. Men's Gymnasium pool, 1920
27. Domestic Science/Home Economics/Milam Hall center unit, 1920
28. Engineering Labs/Graf Hall, 1920
29. Snell Hall/Ballard Extension Hall, 1921
30. Commerce/Bexell Hall, 1922
31. Horticultural Products addition, 1924
32. Horse Barn*, 1924
33. Heating plant, 1924
34. Pharmacy Building, 1924
35. Women's Building, 1926

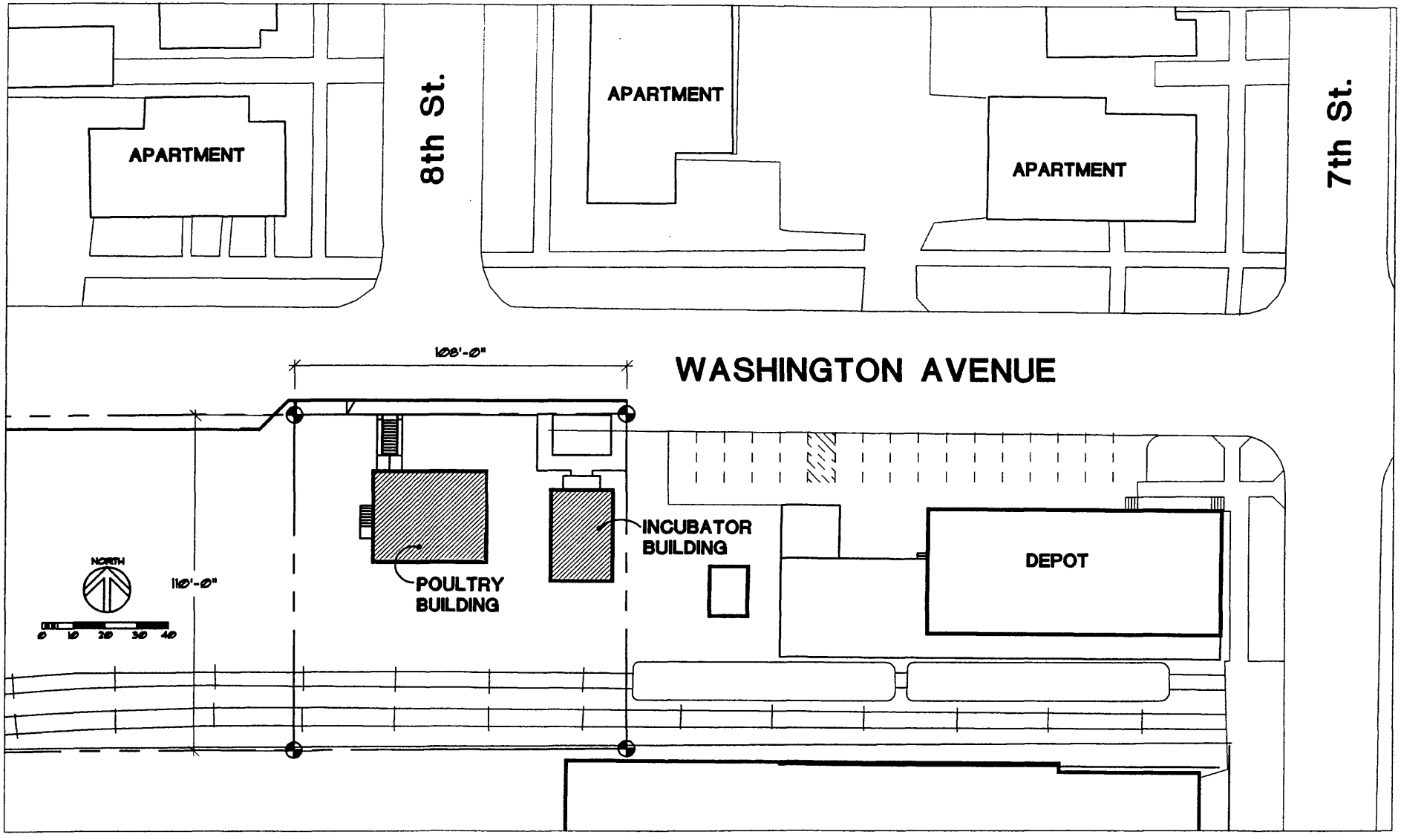
36. Memorial Union Stage Proscenium, 1927?
37. Poultry Science-Veterinary Medicine/Dryden Hall, 1927
38. Men's Dormitory/Weatherford Hall, 1928
39. Physics Building/Covell Hall, 1928
40. Veterinary Medicine Dairy Barn, 1930
41. Sheep Barn*, 1930
42. Student Health Service/Plageman Hall, 1936
43. Gilmore Hall renovation and addition, 1938
44. Chemistry Building/Gilbert Hall, 1939
45. Education Hall remodel, 1939
46. Memorial Union alterations, 1940
47. Memorial Gates, 1941
48. Library addition, 1941

*-- no longer exists
** -- extant, but no longer owned by OSU

Other Corvallis, Oregon buildings designed by Bennes:

1. Bexell House (30th Street)
2. First Presbyterian Church
3. Delta Zeta Sorority House
4. Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority House
5. Masonic Building


NORTH
VAN BUREN AVE
JACKSON AVE.
MONROE AVE.
MADISON AVE
JEFFERSON AVE
ADAMS AVE
WASHINGTON AVE
WESTERN AVE
NINTH STREET
EIGHTH STREET
SEVENTH STREET
SIXTH STREET
FIFTH STREET
FOURTH STREET
THIRD STREET
SITE


APARTMENT
8th St.
APARTMENT
APARTMENT
7th St.
108'-0"
WASHINGTON AVENUE
INCUBATOR BUILDING
DEPOT
POULTRY BUILDING
110'-0"
NORTH
0 10 20 30 40

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

All prints were made with HP Vivera 97 tri-color cartridge on HP Premium Photo Paper, glossy. Photographs were made by David Livingston, files with property owner.

1. North facade of Poultry Building at location #4, OSU Campus, May 1996. View to south.
2. South and east facades of Poultry Building at location #4, OSU Campus, May 1996. View to northwest.
3. South and east facades of relocated Poultry Building at location #5, present site, June 2004. View to northwest.
4. North facades of Poultry Building and Incubator House at present site, January 2006. View to south.
5. North (front) and west facades of Poultry Building and Incubator House, January 2006. View to southeast.
6. East facades of Poultry Building and Incubator House, January 2006. View to west.
7. East and south facades of Poultry Building and Incubator House, January 2006. View to northwest.
8. North (front) and west facades of Poultry Building, January 2006. View to southeast.
9. North and east facades of Poultry Building, January 2006. View to southwest.
10. West and south facades of Poultry Building, January 2006. View to northeast.
11. Second-story window detail on north facade, Poultry Building, January 2006. View to south.
12. Interior, first floor, Poultry Building, January 2006. View to northwest.
13. Interior, first floor, Poultry Building, January 2006. View to north.

14. Front facade, Incubator Building at previous location, OSU Campus South Farm, October 2003. View to east.

15. North (front) and east facades, Incubator House at present site, January 2006. View to southwest.

16. East and south facades, Incubator House, January 2006. View to northwest.

17. North and west facades, Incubator House, January 2006. View to southeast.

18. Roof bracket detail, Incubator House, January 2006. View to northwest.

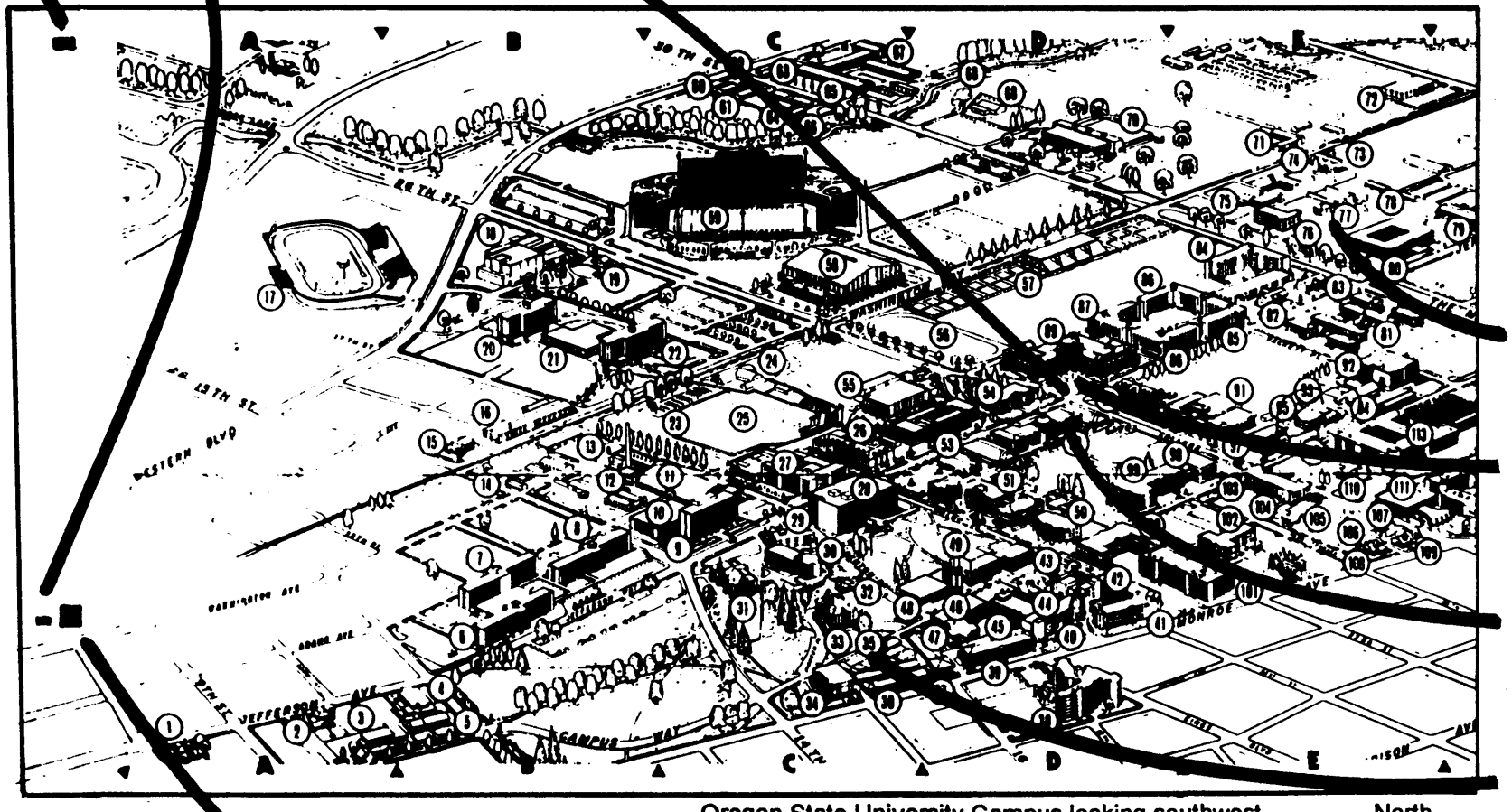
19. Interior, Incubator House, January 2006. View to northwest.

20. Interior, Incubator House, January 2006. View to south.

Oregon State University
Incubator Building

1 1908-1928
2 1928-2004
3 2004

Oregon State University
Horticulture Building
Poultry Building



Oregon State University Campus looking southwest

North

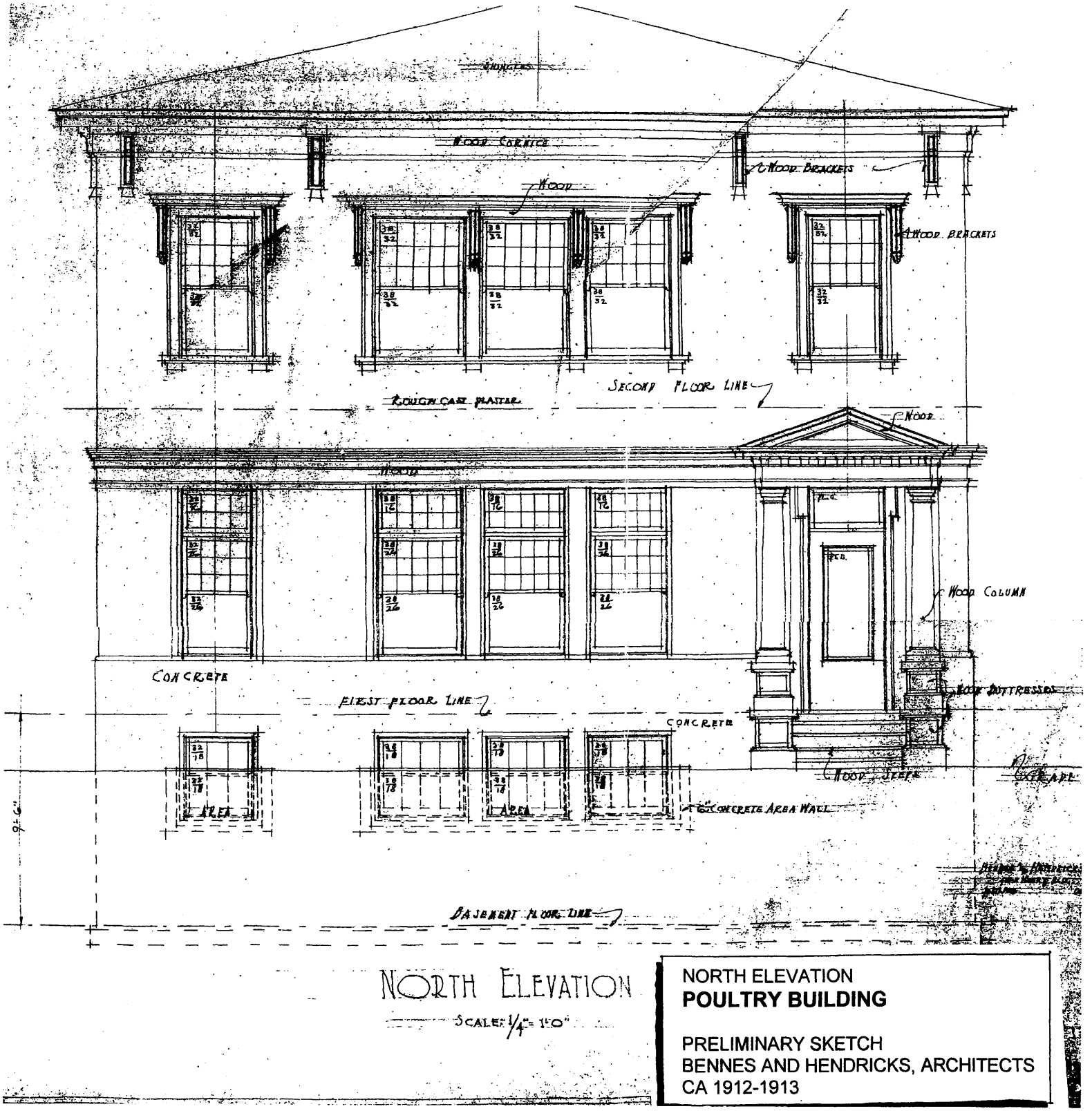
LOCATION
4 1928-1997

LOCATION
3 1913-1928

LOCATION
2 1911-1913

LOCATION
1 1893 -1911

LOCATION
5 1997 - PRESENT

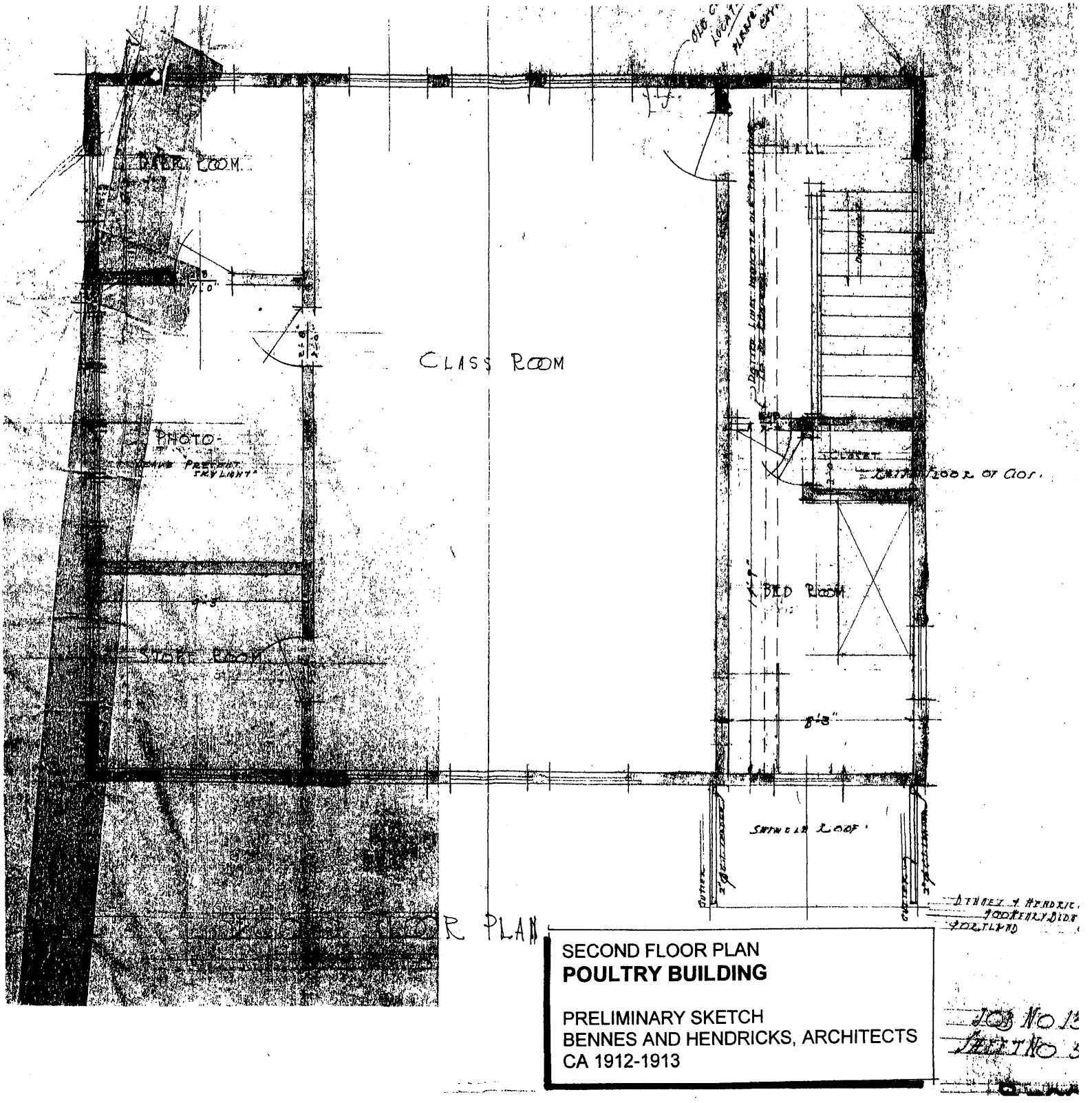


NORTH ELEVATION

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

NORTH ELEVATION
POULTRY BUILDING

PRELIMINARY SKETCH
BENNES AND HENDRICKS, ARCHITECTS
CA 1912-1913

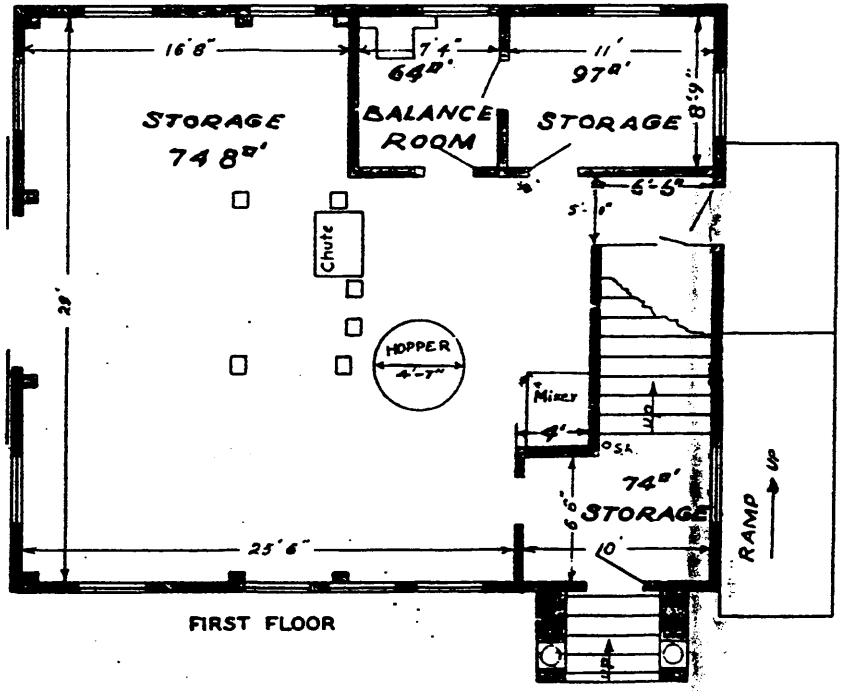


SECOND FLOOR PLAN
POULTRY BUILDING

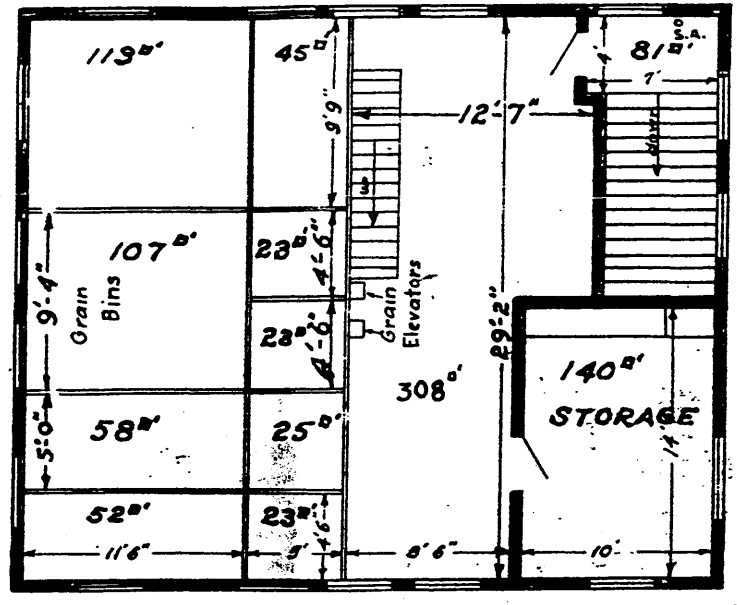
PRELIMINARY SKETCH
BENNES AND HENDRICKS, ARCHITECTS
CA 1912-1913

FIRST FLOOR PLAN AND SECOND FLOOR PLAN
POULTRY BUILDING

WHEN USED AS FEED MILL
CA 1965



FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR

N

USABLE SQ. FT. 983
GROSS SQ. FT. 1,213

WOOD CEILING
CEILING HEIGHT 11'-11"

USABLE SQ. FT. 998
GROSS SQ. FT. 1,213

WOOD CEILING
CEILING HEIGHT 11'-10"

FEED Hou

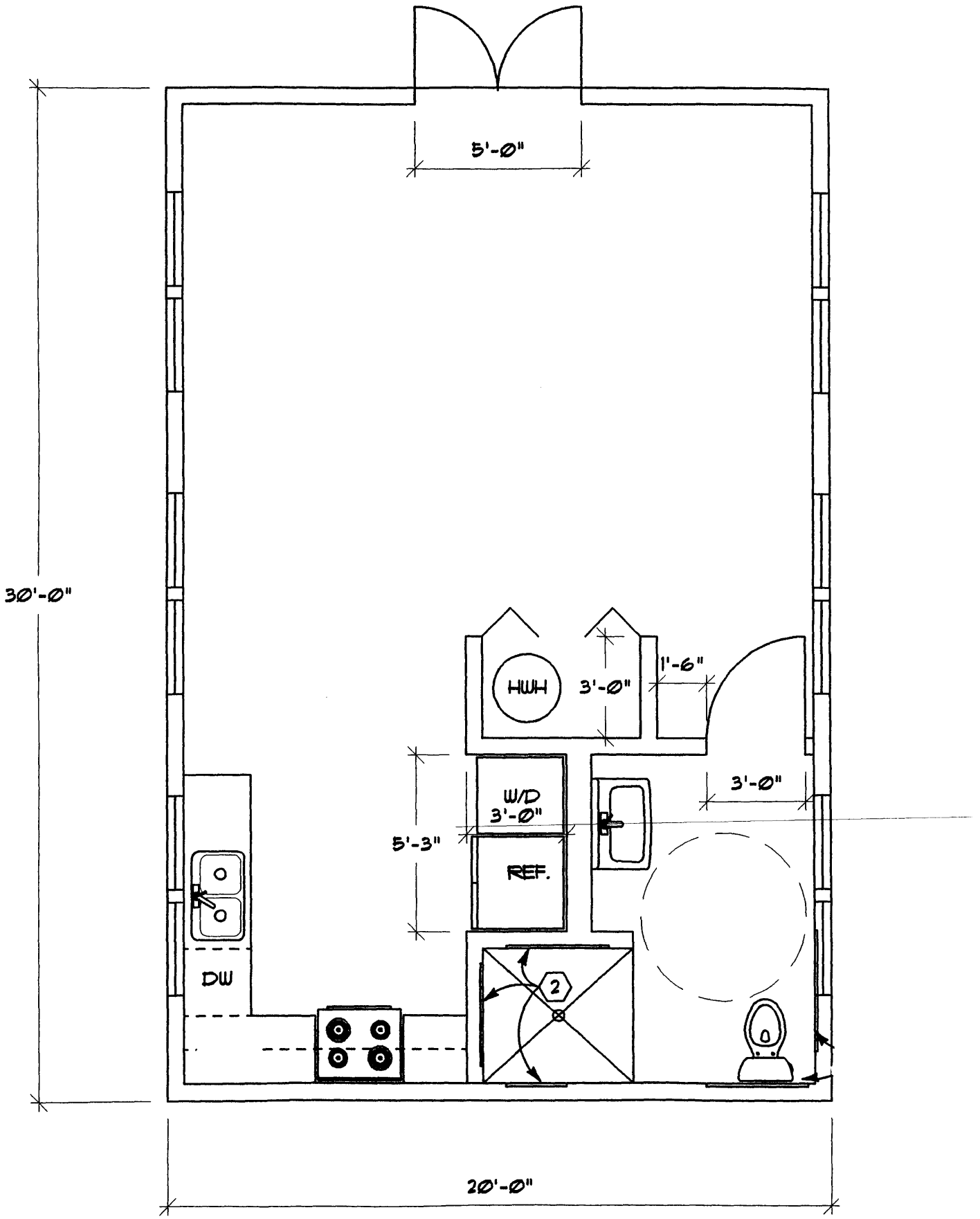
OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

POULTRY [redacted]NG

SCALE 1" = 8'

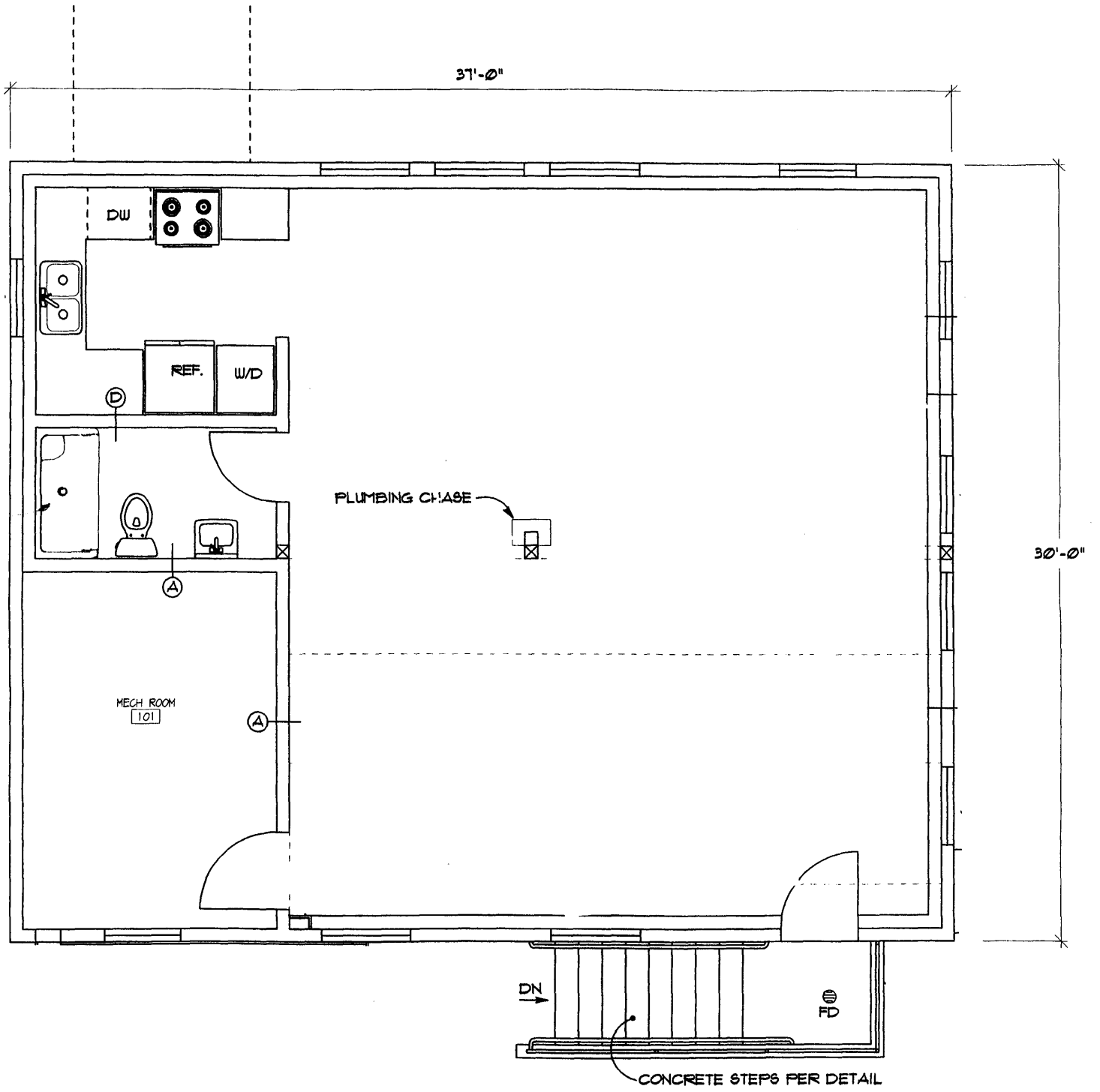
JULY 1965

BUILDING NUMBER ~~155~~ 152



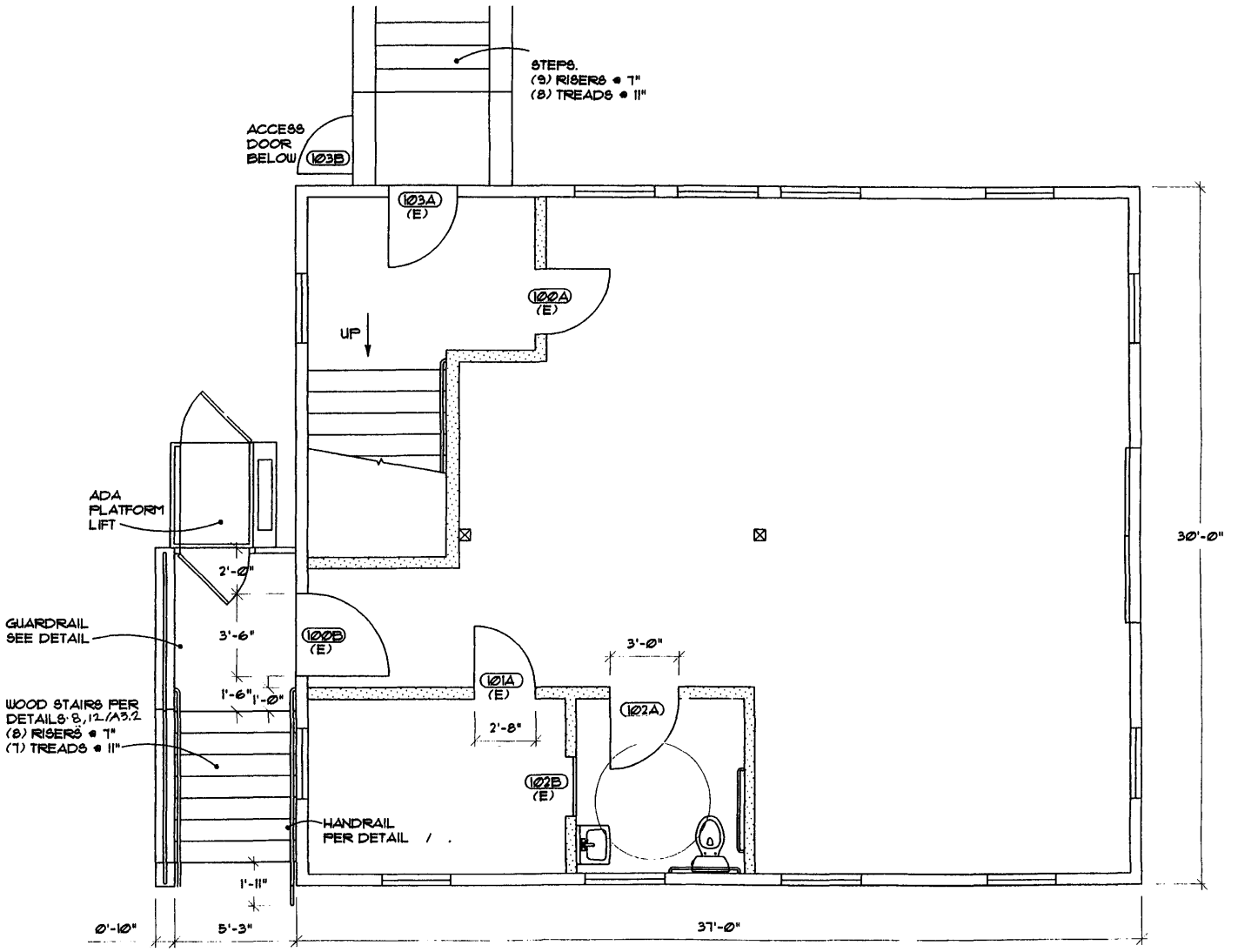
GROUND FLOOR
INCUBATOR HOUSE

▲ NORTH



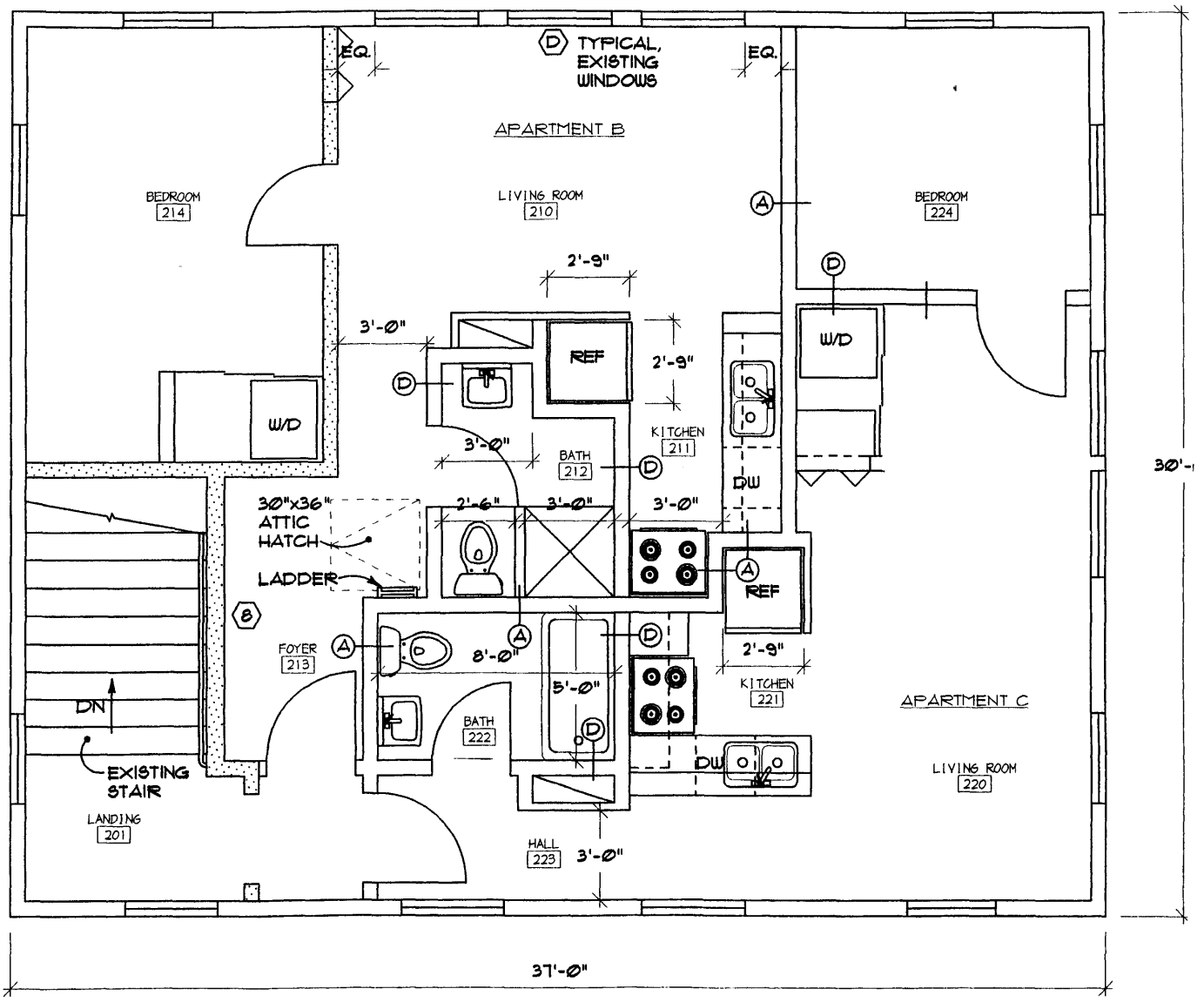
BASEMENT
POULTRY BUILDING

▲ NORTH



FIRST FLOOR
POULTRY BUILDING

▲ NORTH



SECOND FLOOR
POULTRY BUILDING

▲ NORTH