+NPS Form 10-900 (Oct. 2012)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

### National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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NAT	REGISTER CONSTORIC PLACE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	S

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions 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 classification, 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

Contraction of the second s	1	
other names/site number Alumni Ha	all	
2. Location		
street & number2205 West End Av	enue	not for publication N/A
city or town <u>Nashville</u> state <u>Tennessee</u> code	_TN county Davidson code	vicinity N/A 037 zip code <u>37240</u>
3. State/Federal Agency Certificati	on	
E. Ostur M-Bt, J. Signature of certifying official/Title	tatewide I locally. (See continuation sheet for additional of Date 20, 2011 Date Cer, Tennessee Historical Commission	
	does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See Con	tinuation sheet
In my opinion, the property I meets for additional comments.)		tinuation sheet
In my opinion, the property  meets for additional comments.) Signature of certifying official/Title	Date	tinuation sheet

Alumni Memorial Hall

Name of Property

Davidson County, Tennessee County and State

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) Category of Property (Check only one box)		Number of Resour (Do not include previous)			
private	⊠ building(s) □ district	Contributing	Noncontributing		
public-State	☐ site	1	0	buildings	
public-Federal	structure	0	1	sites	
	object	0	0	structures	
		0	0	objects	
		1	1	Total	
Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)		Number of Contrib in the National Reg	uting resources previ jister	ously liste	
N/A		0			
6. Function or Use					
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instruction	ons)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)			
Education: College		Education: College			
7 Bernsteller					
7. Description					
Architectural Classificat (Enter categories from instruction		Materials (Enter categories from instructions)			
Collegiate Gothic		foundation Concre			
		walls Brick			
		roof Copper			
		other Wood; Glas	s; Metal; Stone		

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

See continuation sheets.

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### 7. Physical Description

Standing as a focal point for one of the most important parts of campus, Alumni Memorial Hall is Vanderbilt University's best example of Collegiate Gothic style architecture. This brick and limestone building was designed and built on a modest scale with monumental forms. It is richly detailed, both at its exterior and interior. Much of the stone detailing that surrounds building entrances and leaded glass windows passes directly from the exterior to interior. Classic Tudor Revival doorways and windows are a part of every façade and elevation and virtually every room in this building. Located on the Vanderbilt University campus at 2205 West End Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee, Alumni Hall is set between one of the most important open spaces on campus and the university's oldest and most important administration building, Kirkland Hall. Designed in the early 1920s and built in 1925, Alumni Hall was constructed simultaneously with Neely Auditorium. Both buildings were designed by architect Henry C. Hibbs in the Collegiate Gothic style. Alumni Memorial Hall is four-stories tall and has a partial basement. The total building area is 24,484 gross square feet. The building plan is roughly "H" shaped, with the main block being 167 feet long and 32 feet wide at its midpoint.

The building's main southwest façade faces a four acre open space known on campus as Alumni Lawn. An elevated slate terrace provides transition from Alumni Lawn to the building's entrances at the main façade (Photo 15). This terrace is enclosed by the building's wings at either side and set off from the ground below by a low, stone-capped masonry wall. At the center of the terrace, six granite stairs, approximately twenty feet in width, connect the terrace to the sidewalk leading to Alumni Lawn.

Probably the most striking singular feature of the building's exterior is its symmetry. The forms and materials of the main southwest façade are completely symmetrical on either side of its centerline. The bay windows, building entrances, stairwell towers, gabled wings, even the stoops at each side entrance, all mirror one another at either side of the façade midpoint. Except for the entrances at ground level, the rear northeast façade is again a mirror image of the main façade. The ends of the building so perfectly mirror one another that Hibbs' original drawings only provided a single drawing, "End Elevation," for the northwest and southeast elevations of the building. The symmetry of forms and materials at both ends of the building (Photo 9) is just as pronounced as at the longitudinal elevations.

Alumni Memorial Hall was constructed of reinforced concrete slab-and-joist floors, supported by concrete load bearing walls and piers at its foundation and load bearing masonry walls above grade. The building achieves its maximum height of four stories only at the twin stairwell towers that separate the central gabled form from the two wings at either side of the building (Photo # 6). The gable ridge of the central form, which contains three stories above grade, is parallel to the main longitudinal axis of the building. The two-story wings at either side of the stairwell towers have gabled roofs with peaks that run perpendicular to the building's main axis. All three of the

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building's main forms, as well as the twin four-story towers with flat roofs, are constructed of original materials which are in reasonably good condition. All of the building's spaces are occupied as this is written.

The building's exterior consists of solid brick load-bearing walls, with limestone stringcourses, leaded glass steel casement windows, and oak panel doors. Limestone quoins are used at the jambs of door openings and fenestration (Photos 9, 12, 13). Large bay and oriel windows are used at the center of the first and second story of the building's central form and both of its wings (Photos 2, 4). These bay windows are particularly prominent at the building's southwest and northeast facades, and the same bay window form is used at both end elevations of the building, again at the center of both building ends (Photo 9). All of the building's bay windows are topped by crenelated parapet walls, capped in limestone, in a manner that is identical to the treatment of parapet walls above the flat roofs of the stairwell towers (Photos 4, 12). Oriel windows are supported by stylized stone corbel tables. All of the building's exterior doors and windows appear to be original construction (Photos 12, 13).

The building's foundation walls and spread footings are constructed of steel reinforced poured-inplace concrete. Exterior walls above grade are constructed of modular brick and limestone, and interior walls were all originally constructed of either brick or structural tile and finished in plaster. In a few places, interior walls that have been replaced or added that are constructed of steel studs and gypsum board. Most of the building's ceilings were constructed of lath and plaster. The vaulted ceilings of the second story of both wings are decorative wood rafters and purlins overlaying panels of cellulose fiber. Wood scissor trusses are used at the roof of both building wings. The roof of the building's gabled central form is supported by conventional king-post wood trusses. All trusses are made from dimensional lumber. Henry Hibbs' original 1924 drawings call for copper shingles on all pitched roofs. Today these roofs are heavy gage standing seam copper (Photo 15), and it is unclear whether this was used on the roof in the original construction. The gutters, roof leaders, collector heads, and downspouts are all copper, and these are almost certainly part of the original construction (Photos 12, 14).

Another striking feature of this building's exterior is the rich stone detailing. The building's base is cut stone, and a stone water course wraps the entire building just below the sill of first floor windows. The central building form has a stringcourse of stone between each story (Photo 12). All of the building's doors and windows are trimmed in stone, and limestone quoins interlock the trim and surrounding brick at the side of each opening (Photos 12, 13). Special decorative features include a floral stone medallion set above the centerline of the window in the middle of the building's main façade (Photo 11), and stone drain spouts at the roof overflow scuppers above oriel windows (Photo11).

Tall, narrow leaded-glass windows, prominent from interior spaces as well as the exterior, are another striking feature of the building. The majority of the windows are fixed sash; however,

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approximately 20% are operable sash casement windows. All operable windows retain original Arts & Crafts cast bronze hardware (Photo 32). Casement frames are painted steel. All glazing is single pane set in leaded cames. Leaded fixed lights appear to be frameless, and they are distorting and leaking where their mortared attachment to stone surrounds have begun to fail. Many of the windows have lightly tinted colored windows. At these windows, each pane of glass differs slightly in color (Photo 32).

Still another strong feature of both the exterior and interior are the elliptical and segmental arched openings used in entrances (Photo 17), and wall openings at bay windows (Photo 31). This elliptical or segmental arch form, framed by cut stone surrounds at doorways, is the first thing a visitor passes upon entering the building (Photo 13). It appears again and again, at bay windows, interior doorways, and wall openings as one travels through the building (Photos 17, 26). The arched doorways, inset into cut stone, accentuate the thickness of walls and add to the impression of strength and endurance.

When the building opened in 1925, both the first and second floors of the building were equally important. Both floors were similar in plan. Twin stair towers separate a central space open to both the main and the rear facades from single large open rooms in both wings of the building. The primary axis of the central room is parallel to that of the overall building, which in turn is perpendicular to the axis of both wings. Again, the symmetry of the floor plan at both levels is striking. The central space between the stair towers is 1,870 SF while the open rooms at either wing are each 1,800 SF. The floor plan at either side of the building centerline is a mirror image of the opposite side. The surprisingly modest scale of the overall plan, coupled with a need for large open spaces at both of the main floors, results in a building with no corridors connecting the spaces. To get from one part of the building to the other, one has to traverse the central core.

Remarkably, the open plan with partial height wood screen partitions in the east wing of the building's first floor is still intact. The remainder of spaces at the first floor and basement has been partitioned into conventional office space (Photos 17-19). Interior spaces at the second and third floor exist today largely as they did when constructed. This is particularly true for the building's three most significant interior spaces – the Memorial Room and the two large rooms with vaulted ceilings in the wings that flank the building stairwells. Except for the loss of a highly decorative plaster ceiling (Photo 40), Memorial Room today looks strikingly similar to photos taken in this room shortly after construction. Ten small offices flanking a central corridor at the third floor, each with its own steam radiator, still constitute the bulk of the third floor (Photos 36-38).

The floors of all rooms at the first and second story are made of oak. At the second floor, oak flooring in the Memorial Room is arranged in a herringbone pattern (Photo 25). The walls of the Memorial Room are richly paneled in oak. Fireplaces set into floor-to-ceiling stone surrounds occupy the center of each end wall in the Memorial Room (Photos 25, 26). The names of forty-four

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Alumni Memorial Hall Davidson County, TN

Vanderbilt students and alumni who lost their lives in World War I are carved into the mantels of these fireplaces (Photos 28-30).

In 1966 the basement and first floors of Alumni Memorial Hall were partially renovated. During this renovation, a kitchen was installed in the east wing of the basement. Another renovation of the building came in 1978 when the Executive Committee of the Board of Trust approved a budget of \$75,000 for the "refurbishment of Alumni Hall." The building's mechanical and plumbing systems are an amalgam of failing pipes and marginal fixtures. Window air conditioning units have been added in a number of locations, and many of these are eroding window frames and masonry that support them. Heat is supplied from steam radiators, most of which are original.

Alumni Memorial Hall is currently being used as office and conference room space for various university organizations, faculty, and staff.

Approximately 115 yards southeast of West End Avenue, the building faces one of the university's most important green spaces, a park-like space of approximately four acres known as Alumni Lawn. Each year, weather permitting, Vanderbilt conducts graduation Commencement ceremonies on Alumni Lawn. To the rear of Alumni Hall is the university's oldest and most important administration building, Kirkland Hall. Alumni Hall is flanked by an undergraduate residence hall to the west and a theater, Neely Auditorium, to the east.

Name of Property

Davidson County, Tennessee County and State

8.	Statement	of	Sig	nificance	•
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#### **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.
- 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 boxes that apply.) NA

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- 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.

#### **Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

#### 9. Major Bibliographical References

#### Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) 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 #	Primary location of additional data: State Historic Preservation Office Other State Agency Federal Agency Local Government University Other Name of repository: Vanderbilt University	
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #		

#### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1925

**Significant Dates** 

1925

Significant Person (complete if Criterion B is marked)

NA

### **Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

#### Architect/Builder

Architect: Hibbs, Henry C.	
Builder: Foster - Creighton Construction Company	

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### 8. Statement of Significance

Alumni Memorial Hall is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C as an example of the Collegiate Gothic style. Completed in 1925, it was designed by well-known Nashville architect Henry C. Hibbs and built by the equally well-known Foster-Creighton construction firm. The building was intended for use as Vanderbilt University's first student center and as a memorial to alumni who died in World War I. Alumni Memorial Hall is distinguished by its heavy stone construction, oriel windows, multi-light windows, stone quoins, heavy stone window trim, all of which are characteristics of the Collegiate Gothic style. Inside the building, paneled arched wood doors, wood trim, and the heavy stone fireplaces and paneling in Memorial Room are character defining features. Alumni Memorial Hall has undergone some modernization and has changed uses over the years, but it still retains its architectural integrity.

#### Historical Background

Plans for building a memorial honoring the Vanderbilt University men who had lost their lives in World War I were set in motion by a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Alumni Association on February 19, 1919. The building was to be a "social center building to be known as Alumni Memorial Hall." At that point only thirty-five Vanderbilt casualties were known. In the end, forty-four names were carved in the fireplace mantels at either end of the second floor reception room, known as Memorial Room. The memorial was intended to maintain for all time the names and memory of the students to whom Vanderbilt was alma mater who fought in World War I. At one point during the planning, consideration was given to displaying all the names of "approximately 2,500 Vanderbilt men who had given full-time to some kind of war service" but the planners of the memorial decided against this.<sup>1</sup>

The Alumni Memorial Campaign began during a time of economic prosperity. To kick off the campaign, a home-coming dinner was given on April 15, 1919, honoring all the Vanderbilt men returning from service in the war. At this dinner, Edwin Mims, head of the English Department at the time, said in his speech of those being memorialized:

Because they were denied the privilege of making a home, you must make a home in which their spirits will live forever, a home from whose walls their pictures will look down upon the generation of students who will gather at their Alma Mater to fill out these unfulfilled careers. You must make it possible for other young men to follow their high and noble example.<sup>2</sup>

The campaign lasted four days with Nashville (both alumni and citizens, who insisted they be included) going over their quota of \$85,000, which would go towards the total quota for the entire

The Vanderbilt Alumnus, December 1920, 69.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Edwin Mims. "They Shall Not Pass." The Vanderbilt Alumnus, December 1920, 74.

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campaign of \$250,000. Students, who had not been considered in the original campaign plan, also demanded to have a part, and in two day's time raised \$28,800 in their own student-managed campaign. Elated by the success of the first days of the campaign, the committee projected a new total for the entire national campaign to be \$346,138.<sup>3</sup>

During the final dinner of the four-day Nashville campaign, a delegation from Maury County asked if they might name their own quota of \$10,000 and that the "fund be set aside as the beginning of a Meade Frierson, Jr. memorial fund with which to equip in Alumni Memorial Hall a room to be known as the Meade Frierson, Jr. Room."<sup>4</sup> Meade Inslee Frierson, a 1915 alumnus from Columbia, TN and a captain in the Cavalry assigned to the 125th Infantry, had been killed in action on August 29, 1918 at the age of twenty-three. The stone plaque bearing the name of Meade Frierson, Jr. remains today in the space which originally served as a small auditorium on the second floor, south of Memorial Room.

Soon the economic boom gave way to a recession in 1920. As a result, a large part of the pledges proved uncollectable. The continuing collections made it impossible to start new drives for other funds for the university. Inadequate gifts forced several delays in construction.<sup>5</sup> Although there was great interest and enthusiasm for the campaign, the projected total was never realized.

Vanderbilt University desperately needed a common area where students, faculty, and alumni could connect with one another and where organizations within the university could meet. In lieu of a designated space, they were using the chapel and fraternity houses to gather. There was no center for college life at Vanderbilt before Alumni Memorial Hall was built.<sup>6</sup> The University of Michigan Union Building was used as a loose model for Alumni Memorial Hall.

The building committee hired Henry C. Hibbs in December 1919. Hibbs' original plan for Alumni Memorial Hall in 1920 was on a grand scale with three floors divided into four sections: a central hall with two wings and a gymnasium. The central hall was to have run up two stories with its paneled walls containing the names in bronze of the 2,500 Vanderbilt men who had served in the war, and over its two mantelpieces, the names in gold of the men who had lost their lives in service. On either side of the central hall with separate entrances were to be "reading and lounging rooms," one for men and the other for women. Running back from the building's rear was to be a "modern, three-floor gymnasium." All four of these areas were arranged so that they could be connected for large receptions or other social functions.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Edwin Mims. "They Shall Not Pass." The Vanderbilt Alumnus, December 1920, 74.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The Vanderbilt Alumnus, April 1919, 135.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Paul K. Conklin, Gone With The Ivy: A Biography of Vanderbilt University. Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 1985, 242-243.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> "A Brief History Of The Alumni Memorial Campaign." The Vanderbilt Alumnus, December 1920.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> The Vanderbilt Alumnus, December 1920, 69.

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Also planned for the building "in appropriate and convenient places" were to be offices for the Alumni Association, the Y.M.C.A., the Y.W.C.A., and the gymnasium directors; accommodations for the student publications, the literary societies, various committees, and classrooms for the Y.M.C.A.; a few bedrooms for visiting alumni and other guests, and an auditorium to seat five hundred. The basement was to contain a large swimming pool, showers, lockers and dressing rooms for men and women, a room for visiting teams, a large room for home teams, a book store, a post office, a barber shop, a pool room, and a modern kitchen, dining room and cafeteria, "adequate to the need of all students, members of the faculty and alumni." <sup>8</sup>

The Building Committee soon discovered that the plan described above could not be realized for less than approximately \$400,000. Therefore, they were forced to choose between two alternatives: to scale down the building, omitting the gymnasium and other features, in order to bring the cost within the limits of available assets in subscriptions (approximately \$250,000) or to proceed with the building as planned and trust some philanthropist (or several) and the Board of Trust to supply the additional \$150,000 needed. At least for a time, they chose the latter.

The December 1920 issue of *The Vanderbilt Alumnus* reported that "by December 1920, the ground on the selected building site had not been scratched." Two reasons given for the delay were "building conditions, in the opinion of experts, are not yet such as to favor a decision to break ground for so large and expensive a structure; and, what is of more immediate importance, that collections on subscriptions have not yet reached that volume which would justify a beginning of operations, even if market conditions were entirely favorable."

Besides these economic challenges, the Building Committee faced the problem of the building's placement on the campus. Two sites were considered early in the planning of the structure. One was behind Wesley Hall (at that time referred to as "Old Wesley") which stood on today's Library Lawn and faced 21st Avenue. (This site was probably about where Buttrick Hall stands today.) The other site considered, and agreed on by the Building Committee, was facing the front of College Hall (now Kirkland Hall). Neither the Board of Trust nor Mrs. George Neely agreed to these sites. Mrs. Neely had pledged in September, 1922 the money for a separate chapel to be built in memory of her husband. Therefore, in January 1924, the Board of Trust sought professional assistance by commissioning a new master plan for the campus. The plan by Charles Z. Klauder, of Day and Klauder Architects, Philadelphia, was presented on April 1, 1924. It placed Alumni Memorial Hall just west of College Hall (now Kirkland) and facing West Avenue (campus extension of 23rd Avenue) with Neely Auditorium just south of it. The Executive Committee of the Board of Trust was shown sketches for both buildings and the new building sites were approved on April 28, 1924. At the same meeting it was determined that bids for both buildings should be made as "one piece." Final plans for the buildings were completed and issued for bid by the June 9, 1924.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> The Vanderbilt Alumnus, December 1920, 69.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> The Vanderbilt Alumnus, December 1920, 71.

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meeting of the Executive Committee. At that meeting, \$200,000 was on hand for Alumni Memorial Hall, with \$60,000 in pledges still outstanding.

Construction contracts for Alumni Memorial Hall, as well as Neely Auditorium, were awarded to the Foster-Creighton company of Nashville on June 26, 1924. Two days later, the Executive Committee met to reject the Foster-Creighton bid which they found "unsatisfactory" with "inadequate information," returning the bid to them for "more complete information." On July 5 the committee voted for a lump sum contract from Foster-Creighton. It had been estimated earlier that both buildings would cost more than \$300,000. In the end, according to information from Wilbur F. Creighton, Jr. in a note to the "Alumni Hall" file (Robert McGaw files) dated August 1962, construction cost for Alumni Memorial Hall was \$173,000, while Neely Auditorium was \$127,000, making the total construction cost for both buildings exactly \$300,000. <sup>10</sup> Collections from campaign pledges plus interest amounted to approximately \$200,000, a shortfall of \$100,000. In the December 22, 1925, meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trust, Chancellor Kirkland was authorized to sell bonds belonging to the Alumni Memorial Hall Fund for the "purpose of repaying Vanderbilt University for the sum advanced for the construction and equipment of Memorial Hall and for other expenditures of the same character that may still arise."<sup>11</sup>

The original plan for Alumni Memorial Hall had been scaled down considerably. With Neely Auditorium built separately, the need for a large chapel within Memorial Hall was eliminated. The plans for the large gymnasium and pool were scrapped, as well as plans for the overnight quest rooms and cafeteria. Plans for the bookstore, post office, and barber shop were also abandoned. The revised floor plan provided for the Alumni Office in the central portion of the first floor with a reception room, a work room and a private office. To the south, was located a men's lounge with a games/billiard room and lavatories in the basement below. To the north, was located the women's lounge with a recreation room and lavatories below. Each of the lounges had a fireplace. Located in the central portion of the second floor was the Memorial Room with fireplaces at each end over which were to appear, in bronze, the names of the war dead. In 1928, The Vanderbilt Alumnus reported that the room was being used for receptions, dances, and other meetings and that it was "probably the most beautiful room in Nashville." <sup>12</sup> To the south of Memorial Room was located a small auditorium seating approximately 250 - 300 people. To the north was located a faculty lounge, referred to in 1928 as the "Faculty Club." The third floor above the central section was divided into offices to accommodate student organizations. In 1928 these offices included Y.M.C.A. general offices, House Manager for Alumni Memorial Hall, student publications Hustler, Masguerader, and Commodore, among others. The Vanderbilt Woman's Club had fitted out one of the third floor rooms as a kitchen, complete with sink, electric range, and a cupboard stocked with dishes, making it possible to serve tea and other refreshments. At either side of the central section

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Wilbur F. Creighton. "Alumni Hall" *Robert McGaw Files.* From a document with information from Wilbur F. Creighton, Jr., of Foster & Creighton re. Vanderbilt buildings constructed by his company. 405 Kirkland Hall, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, August 1962.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Meeting of The Executive Committee of the Board of Trust. December 22, 1925, Vanderbilt University, Volume XII, 37.

<sup>12</sup> The Vanderbilt Alumnus, March - April 1928, 133.

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of the building, atop the stairwell towers, twin fourth floor rooms were used for committee meetings.

From the minutes of a meeting of the full Board of Trust held June 8, 1925, the final construction cost for Alumni Memorial Hall was \$167,875, with Neely Auditorium construction cost being \$125,000. Estimates of total final costs, including architect's fees, clerk of works salary, and other miscellaneous expenditures such as furnishings were \$140,000 - \$150,000 for Neely Auditorium and \$200,000 or more for Alumni Memorial Hall. Neely Auditorium was completed in time for it to be used for the 1925 Commencement. Alumni Memorial Hall, completed later in 1925, was formally presented to the University in October at the Semi-Centennial Celebration of the opening of the University. The Alumni Building Committee made the presentation through Charles Cason. who, as the Alumni Secretary in 1919, had conceived the idea for the memorial. While planned as a memorial and recreational building for students, within a year of completion Alumni Memorial Hall was the location of a controversial event. In 1926 it was where an interracial forum was held by social activist and widely resented Y.M.C.A. secretary William B. Jones. The event was attended by African Americans as well as Caucasians. Some Vanderbilt students protested the event. But it was among the first of a few interracial meetings at Vanderbilt that hinted at future change and racial progress.<sup>13</sup> This event occurred at the same time that the Agrarians, a prominent early twentieth century group of social critics based at Vanderbilt University, were promoting their ideal of southern rural culture as an antidote to industrialization and capitalism.

The use of Alumni Memorial Hall as a student center began to decline when Rand Hall, which became a favorite meeting place for students and faculty, was built in 1952. In the early 1950s, the Placement Office moved to the first floor of the northwest wing (in what was previously the Women's Lounge) of Alumni Memorial Hall and then to the east end of the old Men's Lounge on the first floor of the southeast wing. Also in the 1950s, the News and Publications Office moved into the west end of the first floor of the southeast wing. Robert McGaw's office was in Alumni Memorial Hall from 1950-1979. In his time working at Vanderbilt, among the several offices he held were Assistant to the Chancellor and Secretary of the University. In the 1950s and 1960s, the Development Foundation Office was located on the second floor of the north wing, the space formerly used as the Faculty Lounge. In the early 1960s, the Student Christian Association was located in the northwest side of the building where the Women's Lounge had been. A snack bar was installed in the building in the 1960s.

By 1972, the old Faculty Lounge/Faculty Club, or as it had come to be called, the "Moose Room," had become the Billiard Room. Several mounted heads of big game were displayed for many years in this room. Reflecting the varied used of the building over the years, at the same time as the Billiard Room was popular, a new student organization held a campus dance widely

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Paul K. Conkin. Gone With The Ivy: A Biography of Vanderbilt University. Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 1985, 304.

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Alumni Memorial Hall Davidson County, TN

advertised, including promotion in the *Nashville Banner*, for the benefit of gay and lesbian people in the larger community. The dance was held in Alumni Memorial Hall on December 9, 1972. About 150 people attended the Alumni Memorial Hall dance. Several heterosexual students and faculty members attended as a gesture of respect. The issue provoked intense antagonism by many alumni and elicited a flood of mail opposing such a lenient policy. Nevertheless, perhaps as a result of the initial dance, small gay rights groups were beginning to form on campus.<sup>14</sup> In 1976, the Placement Office moved into the central portion of the first floor, which by then was being referred to as the "Gold Room." This room had been used as a dining room in the preceding years. Miss Ava Sellers' office was in Alumni Memorial Hall from 1952 – 1988. She was counselor, then director, of the Vanderbilt Placement Office from 1948 - 1988. The Placement Office remained in the central portion of the first floor until they moved to the Student Life Center upon completion in 2005. Another long-time occupant of Alumni Hall was the Treasurer's Office, which moved to the first floor northwest wing area (originally the Women's Lounge) in 1977.<sup>15</sup>

In the late 1980s and 1990s the Alumni Relations Office was located in the east end of the southeast side of the first floor, with the Alumni Events Office located in the west end of the same area. Both offices moved out of Alumni Memorial Hall in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Former chairman for the National Endowment for the Arts, Bill Ivey had an office in the southeast wing of the second floor in the early 2000s.<sup>16</sup> As of this writing, Alumni Memorial Hall building is still being used as office space for professors, campus departments, and organizations. Memorial Room is designated as a multi-purpose/presentation room. The campus Writing Studio is located in the southeast wing of the first floor. Other organizations located in Alumni Memorial Hall are the Faculty Senate Office, Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, Vanderbilt International Office, the Advocacy Project, Department of Alumni Relations, and Latin American Public Opinion Project Research Group.

#### Henry C. Hibbs

Alumni Memorial Hall was designed by architect, Henry Clossen Hibbs (1882 – 1946) as Vanderbilt University's first student center. Born in New Jersey, Henry Hibbs received his education at the University of Pennsylvania and worked in Philadelphia and New York before moving to Nashville in 1914 to oversee the construction of the George Peabody (Peabody College for Teachers, NHL 12/21/65 and NR 10/15/66) campus designed by the architectural firm of Ludlow and Peabody. Hibbs was most recognized for his designs of Scarritt College for Christian Workers (now the Scarritt-Bennett Center, NR 8/26/82) in Nashville and Southwestern at Memphis (NR 7/20/78, now Rhodes College) in Memphis. Both of these are examples of the Collegiate Gothic/Neo-Collegiate Gothic style. Hibbs won two gold medals for these designs from the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Paul K. Conkin. Gone With The Ivy: A Biography of Vanderbilt University. Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 1985, 632. At least one of the pool tables once used in Alumni Memorial Hall are in campus storage.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Lyle Lankford. "Alumni Memorial Hall Research."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Lyle Lankford. "Alumni Memorial Hall Research."

# National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Page 11 8 Section number

Alumni Memorial Hall Davidson County, TN

Southern Chapter of the American Institute of Architects in 1929. Hibbs "...introduced the Collegiate Gothic style to Vanderbilt."<sup>17</sup> In addition to his architectural accomplishments, Hibbs was the first president of the Tennessee Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and authored the state's legislation regulating architectural practice in Tennessee (1921). He spoke eloguently on the concept of architecture as "Frozen Music."18

Henry Hibbs designed four other buildings for the Vanderbilt campus: Buttrick Hall (1928); Garland Hall (1928); Calhoun Hall (1928); and Joint Universities Library (1941) (now Central Library of the Jean and Alexander Heard Library System). He also designed a number of buildings for George Peabody College for Teachers, now a part of Vanderbilt University. Hibbs designed many other commercial, residential, and institutional buildings in the US.

### Foster-Creighton

In January 1885, Major Wilbur Foster and Robert Creighton established their contracting business. Wilbur Creighton, Sr. graduated from Vanderbilt University in 1904 and joined the company. The company was re-established with a new charter issued in January 1907. Known as Foster and Creighton, Inc., some of their first work under the new charter included the Jefferson Street Bridge and Shelby Street Bridge (NR 11/20/86) substructures and approaches. During its early years, the company concentrated on heavy engineering and construction but around 1920 they began to focus on architectural engineering and construction.<sup>19</sup> Notable Nashville buildings constructed by the company include the current Parthenon (NR 2/23/72) building, Jubilee Hall (NR 12/9/71, NHL 12/2/74) at Fisk University, the Masonic Lodge, Fort Nashborough, and the L and C Building. They built several buildings on the Vanderbilt campus, including Kirkland Hall and McGill Hall.

### Conclusion

Alumni Memorial Hall bears many of the hallmarks of the Collegiate Gothic style, including arched doorways, leaded glass windows, oriel bay windows, towers with crenellated parapet walls, Gibbs surrounds at door and window openings, Tudor fireplaces, and oak wainscoting used in the interior. The glass used for the windows was brought from England. Mr. Hibbs' use of copper and bronze in Alumni Memorial Hall was featured on the back cover of the March 7, 1925, Bulletin of the Copper & Brass Research Association. It was said that Mr. Hibbs was "one of the most able authorities in the country on the use of copper and bronze." His specifications for the building called for a copper shingle roof, copper roof leaders, flashing, gutters, and downspouts, while copper and bronze hardware was to be used throughout.<sup>20</sup> Two other Vanderbilt buildings and the campus of a subsidiary college, also a part of Vanderbilt, are listed in the National Register: the 1880 Gymnasium (NR 2/23/72), Mechanical Engineering Hall (NR 12/13/78), and Peabody

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Henry C. Hibbs: A Driving Tour, Institutional & Commercial Buildings. Nashville Public Library, n.d.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> "Henry C. Hibbs, FAIA." PowerPoint presentation by Harriet Hibbs Cates, 2009.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Wilbur F. Creighton. A Paragraph from Nashville's History: The Foster-Creighton Story. Nashville: Privately printed, 1974, 20.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> "Copper & Brass In Memorial Hall." The Vanderbilt Alumnus, 1925, 138.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 12

Alumni Memorial Hall Davidson County, TN

k

College for Teachers (NR 10/15/66, NHL 12/21/65), which contains two buildings by architect Henry Hibbs. Alumni Memorial Hall is one of the best examples of Collegiate Gothic in Nashville, comparable only to other Collegiate Gothic buildings designed by Henry Hibbs.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 13

Alumni Memorial Hall Davidson County, TN

#### 9. Major Bibliographical References

- Brumbaugh, Thomas B., Martha I. Strayhorn, and Gary G. Gore. Architecture of Middle Tennessee. Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press, 1974.
- Carey, Bill. Chancellors, Commodores, and Coeds: A History of Vanderbilt University. Nashville: Clearbrook Press Publishing LLC, 2003.
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"Copper & Brass In Memorial Hall." The Vanderbilt Alumnus, 1925.

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- Meeting of The Executive Committee of the Board of Trust. December 22, 1925, Vanderbilt University, Volume XII, 37.
- Mims, Edwin. "They Shall Not Pass." The Vanderbilt Alumnus, December 1920.
- Orr, Frank H., Elbridge B. White, and Charles W. Warterfield Jr. Notable Nashville Architecture 1930 To 1980. Dallas: Taylor Publishing Company, 1989.

The Vanderbilt Alumnus, February 1919.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 14

Alumni Memorial Hall Davidson County, TN

The Vanderbilt Alumnus, April 1919.

The Vanderbilt Alumnus, December 1920.

The Vanderbilt Alumnus, March - April 1928.

Name of Property	Davidson County, Tennessee County and State
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property0.4 acre	Nashville West 308 NE
place additional UTM references on a continuation shee 1 <u>16</u> <u>517691</u> <u>4000356</u> Zone Easting Northing 2	Zone Easting Northing 4See continuation sheet
Verbal Boundary Description Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation	n sheet.)
Boundary Justification Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continua	
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continua 11. Form Prepared By	tion sheet.)
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continua 11. Form Prepared By name/title Vanderbilt University Campus Pla organization Vanderbilt University Campus street & number 122 Bryan Building, 330 24	tion sheet.) nning staff, c/o Joy Blankenship Planning dateJanuary 25, 2010
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continua 11. Form Prepared By name/title Vanderbilt University Campus Pla organization Vanderbilt University Campus street & number 122 Bryan Building, 330 24	tion sheet.) nning staff, c/o Joy Blankenship Planning date January 25, 2010 4 <sup>th</sup> Ave. South telephone <u>615-322-3718</u>

A USGS map (7.5 0r 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**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

#### name Vanderbilt University, c/o Tony Fort, Director, Architecture & Construction

street & number	122 Bryan Building, 330 24th Ave. South			telephone	615-322-2715
city or town N	lashville	state	TN	zip code	37240

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

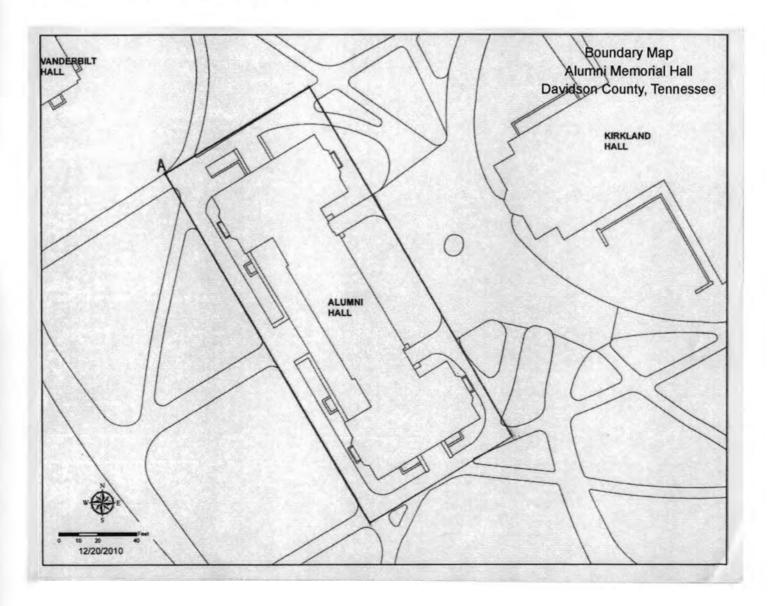
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Maps Page 15

Alumni Memorial Hall Davidson County, TN

#### 10. Boundary Description and Justification.

Beginning at point A (the NW corner), the boundary extends 207 feet to the SW corner. From the SW to the SE corner, it extends 82 feet. From the SE to the NE corner, the boundary extends 205 feet. From the NE to NW corner, it extends 83 feet. This includes land immediately surrounding the building. Alumni Memorial Hall is located on the Vanderbilt University campus and surrounded by other buildings, parking, and sidewalks.



### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 16

Alumni Memorial Hall Davidson County, TN

#### Photographs

Photo by: Joy Blankenship Date: December 2010 Digital Neg: Tennessee Historical Commission #1 of 41 Northeast (front) façade. Photographer facing northeast. #2 of 41 Northeast (front) façade. Photographer facing northeast. #3 of 41 Northeast (front) façade. Photographer facing east. #4 of 41 Northeast (front) facade. Photographer facing north. #5 of 41 Northwest (side) elevation. Photographer facing northwest. #6 of 41 Southwest (back) façade. Photographer facing west. #7 of 41 Southwest (back) façade. Photographer facing south. #8 of 41 Southwest (back) façade. Photographer facing northwest. #9 of 41 Southeast (side) elevation. Photographer facing southeast.

#10 of 41 Northeast (front) façade. Photographer facing east.

#11 of 41 Detail of northeast (front) façade. Photographer facing northeast

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 17

Alumni Memorial Hall Davidson County, TN

#### #12 of 41

Detail of northeast (front) façade. Photographer facing east.

#### #13 of 41

Detail of northeast (front) façade. Photographer facing north.

### #14 of 41

Detail of northeast (front) façade. Photographer facing east.

### #15 of 41

View: terrace - northeast (front) façade. Photographer facing northwest.

### #16 of 41

First floor interior stairwell on southeast end of building. Photographer facing northeast.

### #17 of 41

First floor conference and office space located in the centermost point of building. The door is the middle door (originally designed to be the main entrance into the building) of the northeast (front) façade. Photographer facing northwest.

### #18 of 41

Southeast basement lounge area that occupies the majority of the space in the southeast basement. Photographer facing northeast.

### #19 of 41

Conference area located in the northwest basement. Photographer facing north.

#### #20 of 41

View from stairs approaching second floor landing on southeast end of building. Door on right leads to Memorial Room. John M. Overton memorial plaque is located on right wall. Photographer facing southwest.

### #21 of 41

John M. Overton memorial plaque located on northwest wall of second floor of southeast stairwell landing. Photographer facing northwest.

### #22 of 41

Conference space on second floor southeast end of building. Photographer facing northeast.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 18

Alumni Memorial Hall Davidson County, TN

#### #23 of 41

Memorial plaque for Meade Frierson, Jr. located in conference space (photo # 21) on second floor southeast end of building. Plaque is located on the northwest wall. Photographer facing northwest.

#### #24 of 41

Heating/cooling unit installed in the 1970s. Located on second floor in large conference area on southeast end of building. Photographer facing northeast.

#### #25 of 41

Memorial Room located on second floor in the center of the building. Photographer facing east.

#### #26 of 41

Memorial Room located on second floor in the center of the building. Photographer facing southeast.

#### #27 of 41

Memorial Room located on second floor in the center of the building. Photographer facing northwest.

#28 of 41

Fireplace on southeast wall inside Memorial Room. Photographer facing southeast.

#29 of 41

World War I memorial of 22 names carved in stone above fireplace on southeast wall inside Memorial Room. Photographer facing southeast.

#### #30 of 41

World War I memorial of 22 names carved in stone above fireplace on northwest wall inside Memorial Room. Photographer facing northwest.

#### #31 of 41

Bay window in Memorial Room. Photographer facing southwest.

#### #32 of 41

Bay window detail in Memorial Room. Photographer facing northeast.

#### #33 of 41

Detail of memorial stained glass window pane for James Edward Hart, Bursar of the University from 1906-1936. Located in second floor stairwell landing area window. Photographer facing southwest.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 19

Alumni Memorial Hall Davidson County, TN

#### #34 of 41

Office area on second floor northwest end of building. Photographer facing northeast.

#### #35 of 41

Fireplace in office area on second floor northwest end of building. Photographer facing southeast.

#### #36 of 41

Third floor stairwell landing facing the hallway of offices that spans almost the entire length of the building. Photographer facing southeast.

#### #37 of 41

Third floor hallway of offices. Photographer facing southeast.

#### #38 of 41

Fourth floor office on the northwest side of the building. This is the only room on this side of this floor of the building. It is located in the topmost part of the northwest tower. Photographer facing southwest.

### Archival Photos

#39 of 41 Archival image of the southeast basement, formerly the billiards room.

Photo by: Marvin W. Wiles, Vanderbilt University Photo Archive, 1927.

#### #40 of 41

Archival image of Memorial Room. Photo by: Vanderbilt University Photo Archive, 1927.

#### #41of 41

Archival image of Alumni Hall exterior. Photographer facing northeast. Photo by: Vanderbilt University Photo Archive

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Floor plans Page 20

Alumni Hall Memorial Davidson County, TN

### **Original and Current Floor Plans**

#1 of 17 Original Floor Plan: Basement and First Floor Plan

#2 of 17 Original Floor Plan: Second and Third Floor Plan

#3 of 17 Original Floor Plan: Sections and Details

#4 of 17 Original Floor Plan: West and East Elevations

#5 of 17 Original Floor Plan: End Elevation and Building Sections

#6 of 17 Original Floor Plan: Sections and Details

#7 of 17 Original Floor Plan: Elevations, Sections and Door Details

#8 of 17 Original Floor Plan: First and Second Floor Framing Plan

#9 of 17 Original Floor Plan: Third and Fourth Floor Framing Plan

#10 of 17 Original Floor Plan: Basement Heating Plan

#11 of 17 Original Floor Plan: Detail of Stairs

#12 of 17 Original Floor Plan: Foundation Plan

#13 of 17 Current Floor Plan: Basement

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Floor plans Page 21

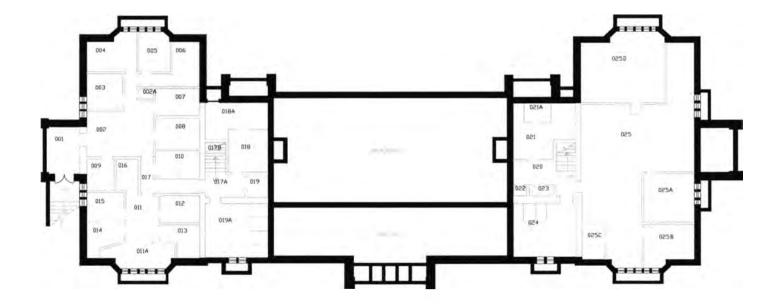
Alumni Hall Memorial Davidson County, TN

#14 of 17 Current Floor Plan: 1st Floor Plan

#15 of 17 Current Floor Plan: 2nd Floor Plan

#16 of 17 Current Floor Plan: 3rd Floor Plan

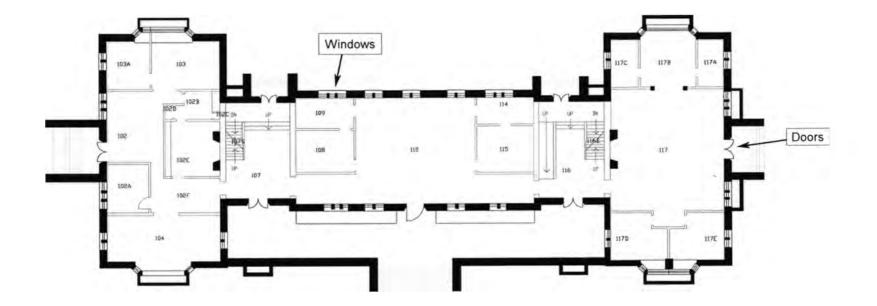
#17 of 17 Current Floor Plan: 4th Floor Plan



BASEMENT



VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY Canpus Planning & Construction Facilities Information Services 13/ Alumni Memorial Hall 17 Davidson county TN



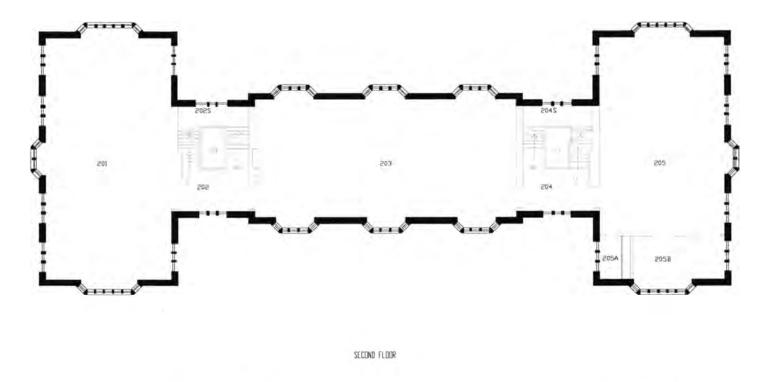
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14/17 Alumni Memorial Hall Davidson County TN





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#### THIRD FLOOR



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REVISED 08/10/10

ALUMNI HALL THIRD FLOOR GSF = 3,040.11 SQ. FT. TOTAL BUILDING GSF = 24,483.73 SQ. FT.

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VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY Campus Planning & Construction Facilities Information Services Ċ

16/17 Alumni Memorial Hall Devidson country TN



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FOURTH FLOOR



REVISED 08/10/10

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SH 5 DF 5

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY Campus Planning & Construction Facilities Information Services 17/17 Alumni Memoral Hall Davidson county TN

#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION PROPERTY Alumni Memorial Hall NAME : MULTIPLE NAME : STATE & COUNTY: TENNESSEE, Davidson DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/17/11 5/27/11 DATE RECEIVED: DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/05/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/12/11 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST: REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000418 REASONS FOR REVIEW: APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N COMMENT WAIVER: N 7.6.1/DATE ACCEPT RETURN REJECT

> Entered in The National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

av lanzmonta

of Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA	-		
REVIEWER	DISCIPLINE		
TELEPHONE	DATE		
DOCUMENTATION see attached com	ments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N		

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



























































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Har-Flays B-A-Bucker HO-1-Paxton E-S-Stewart ASTEIMOTON J-D-Everett 3. Overall J-F-Stephens D-10-Caldwell M.Friersondr E.G.Stephenser

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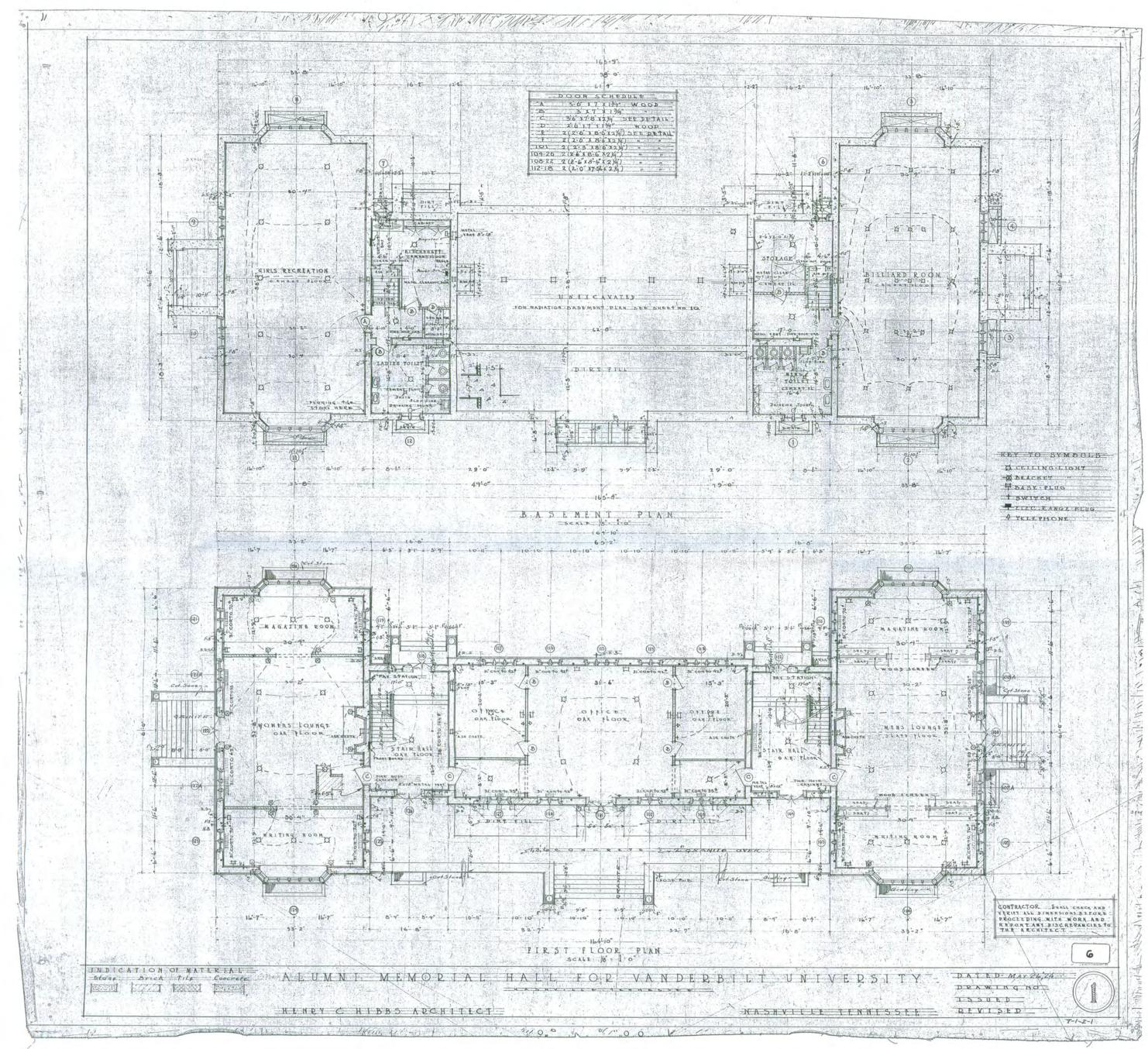








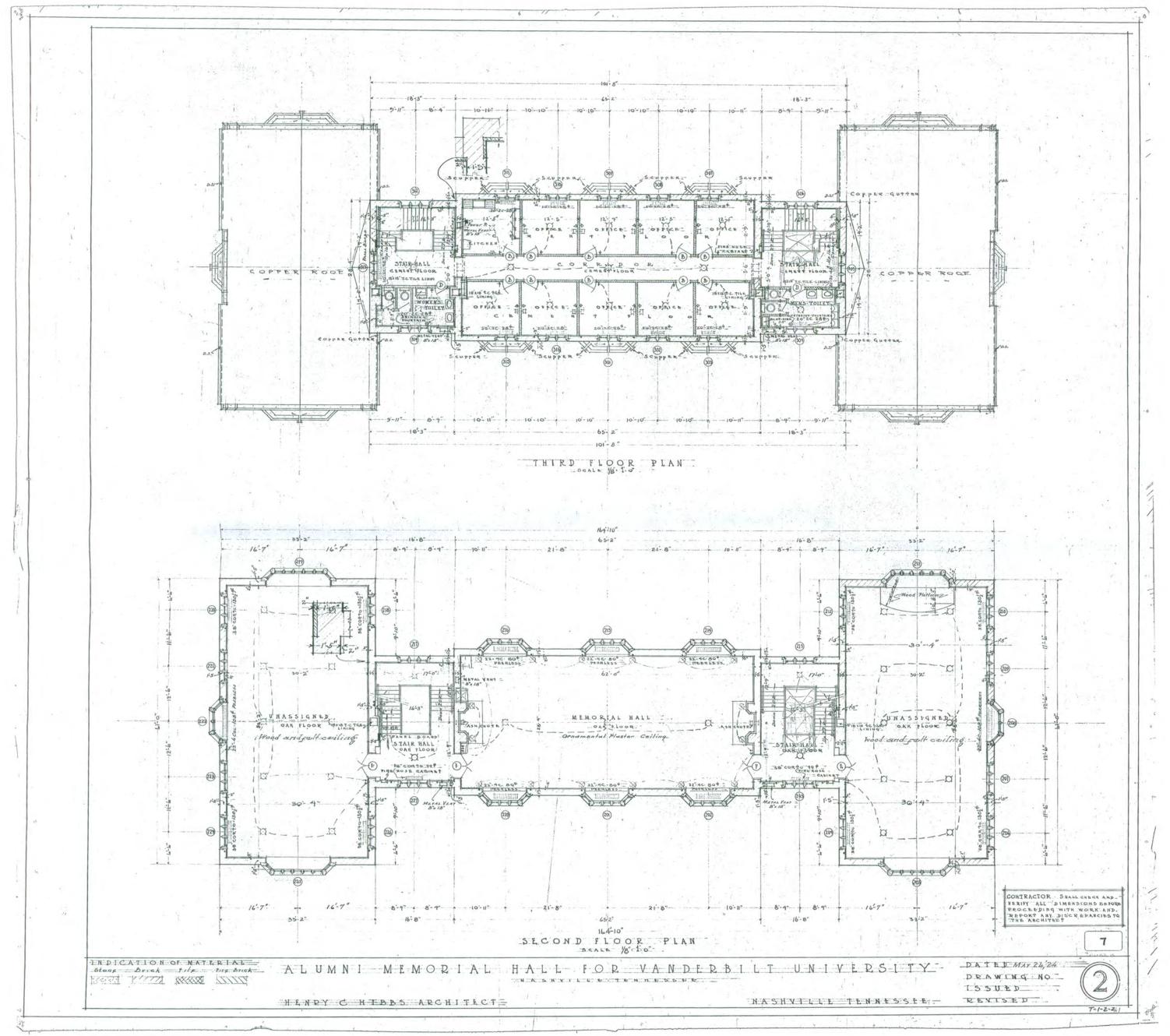




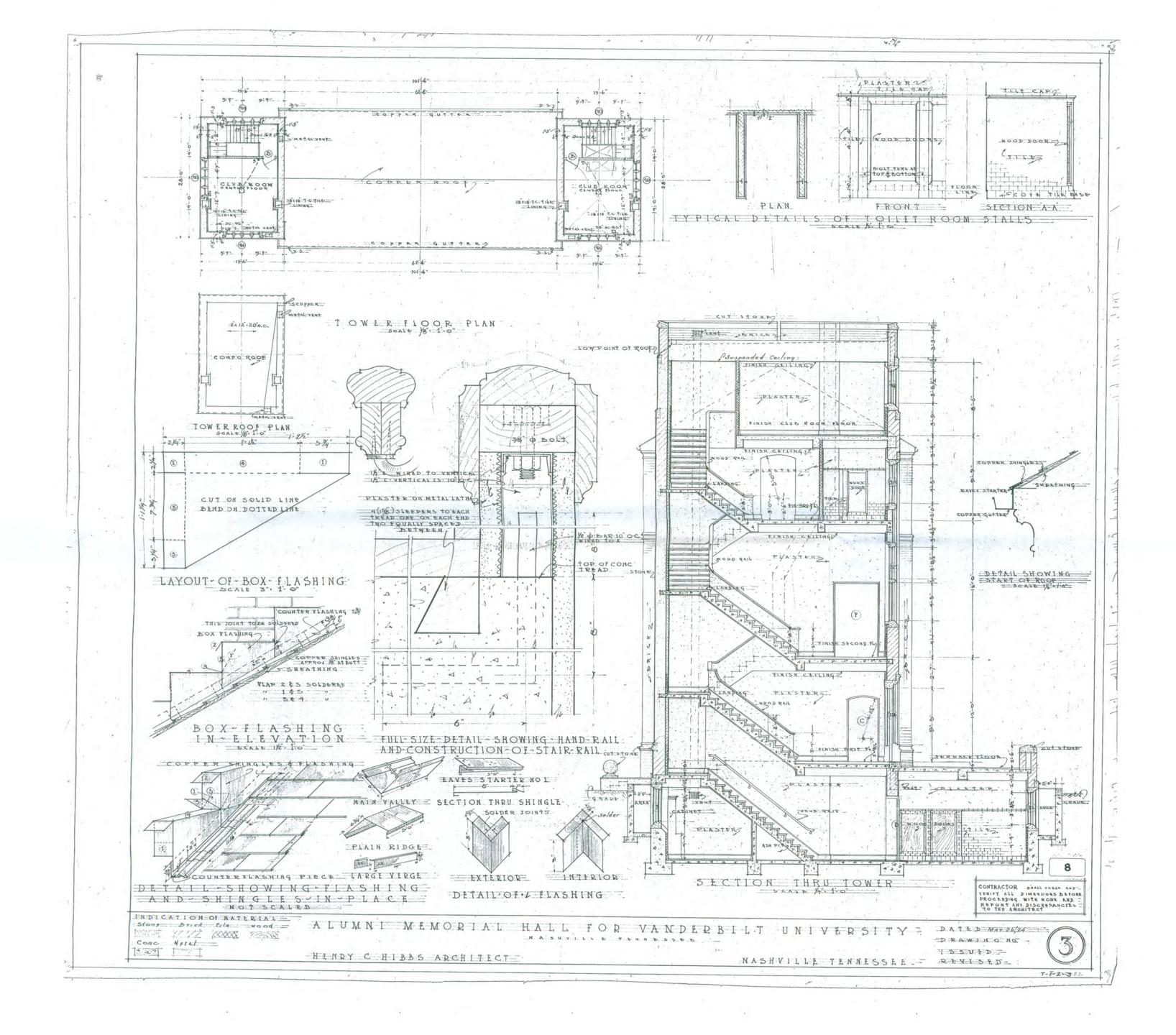
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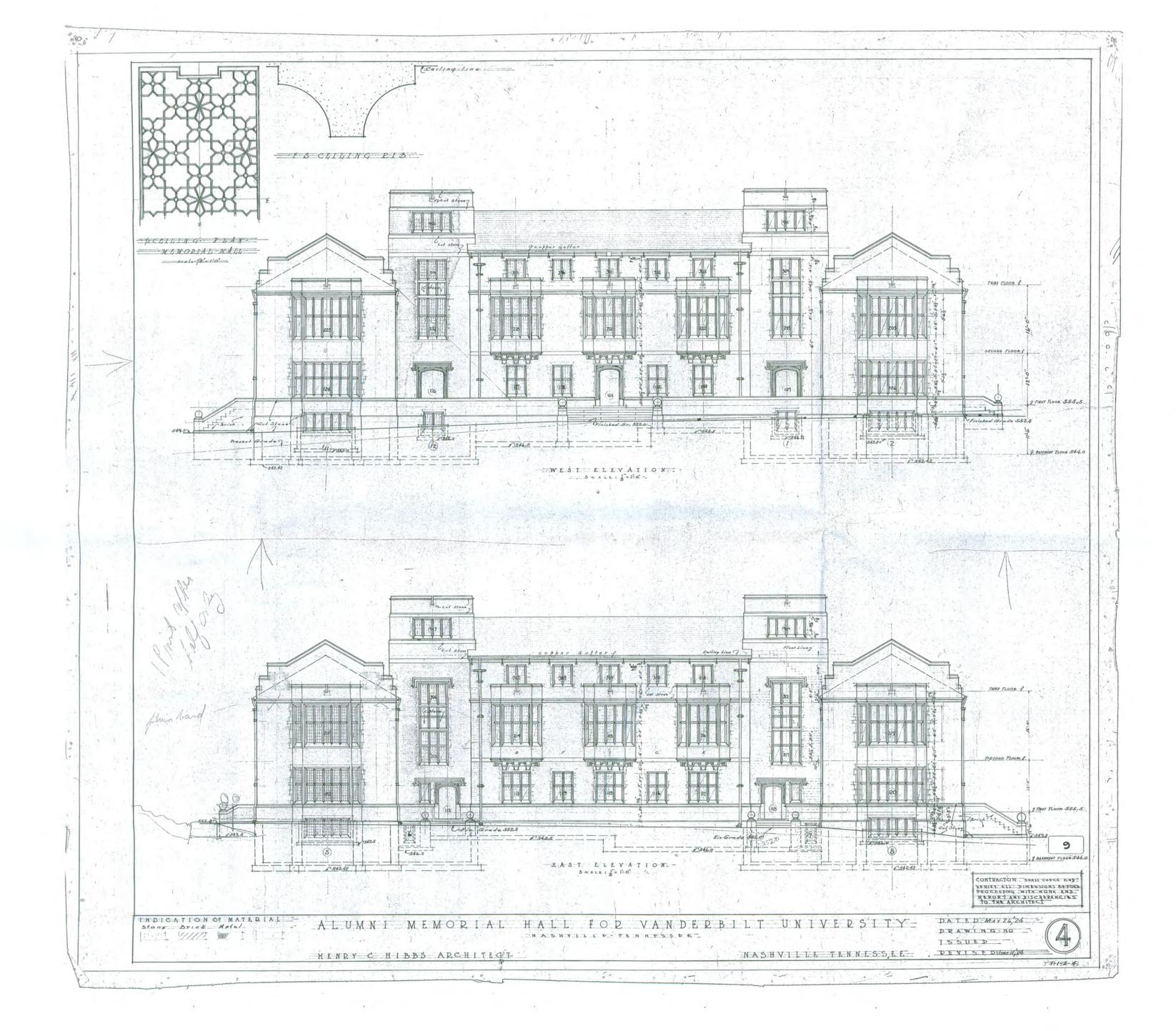
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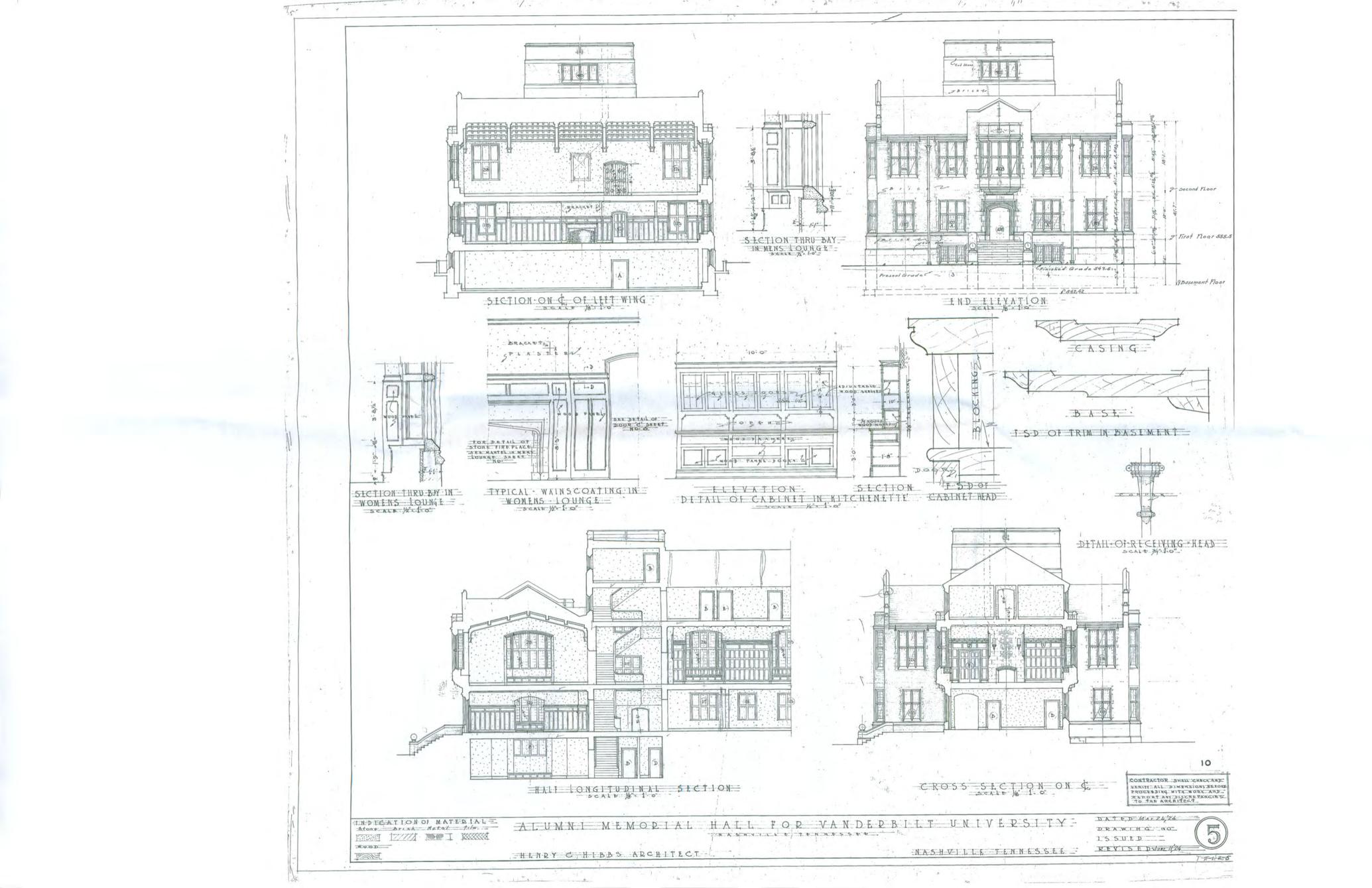
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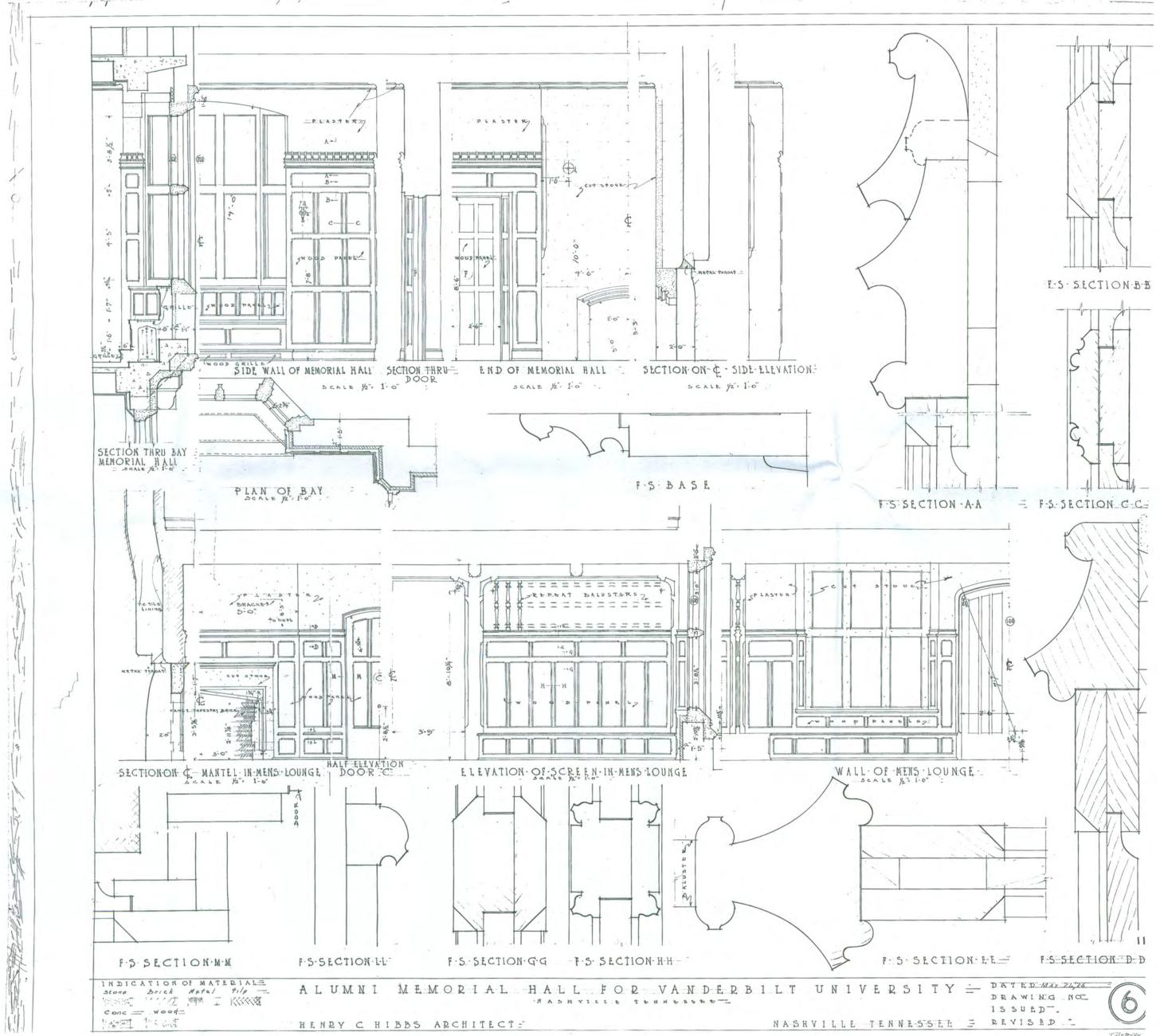


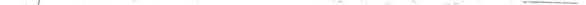
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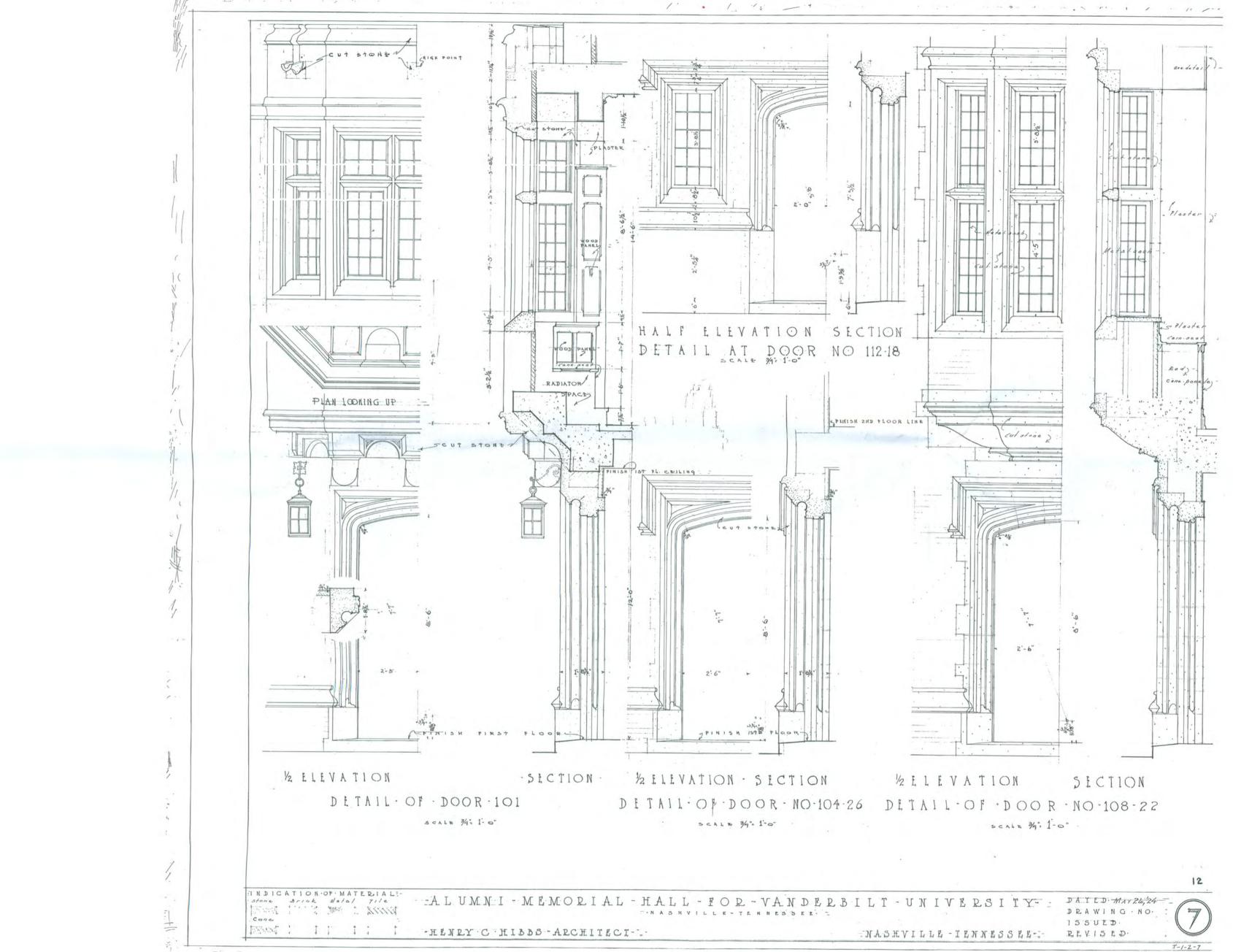




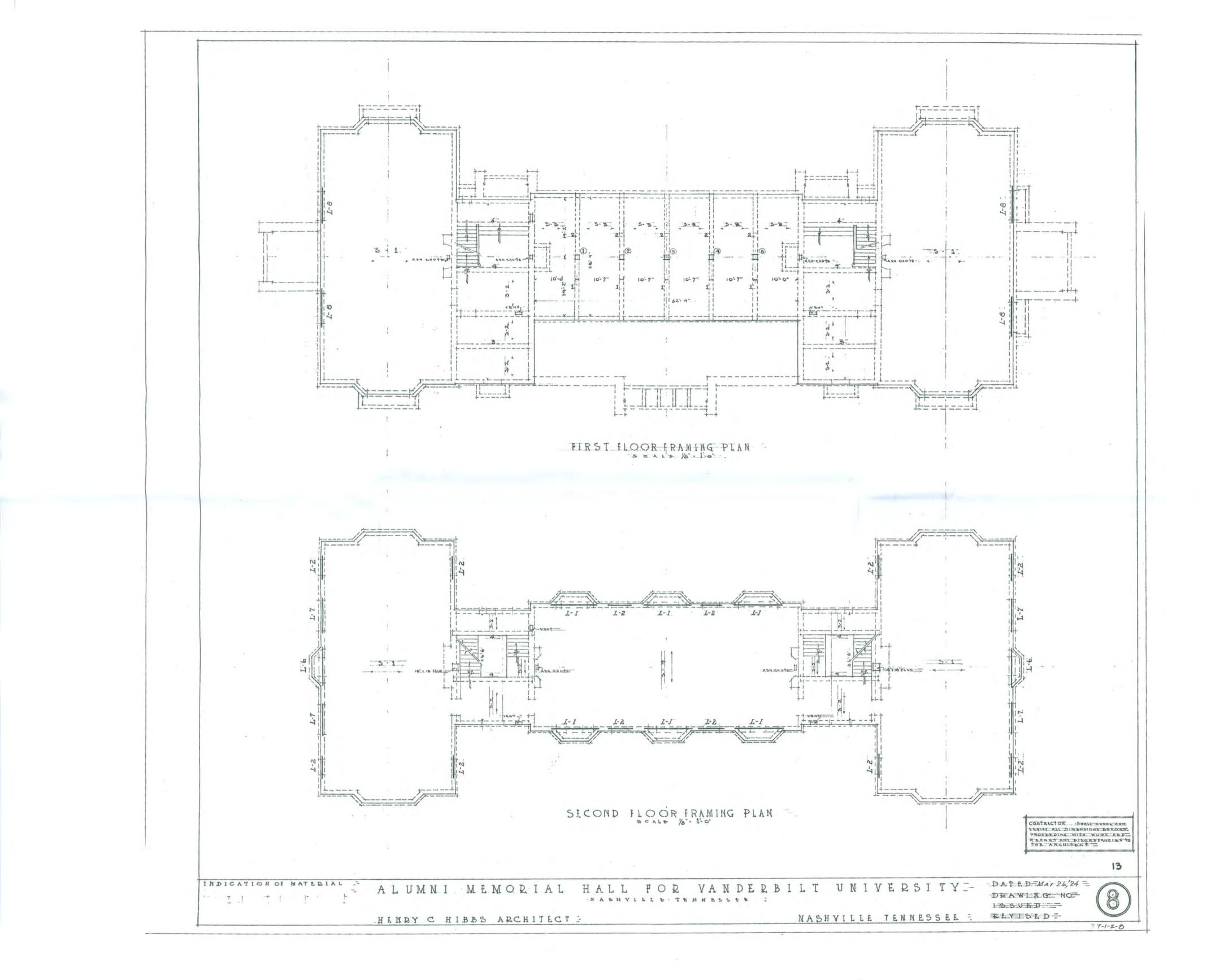


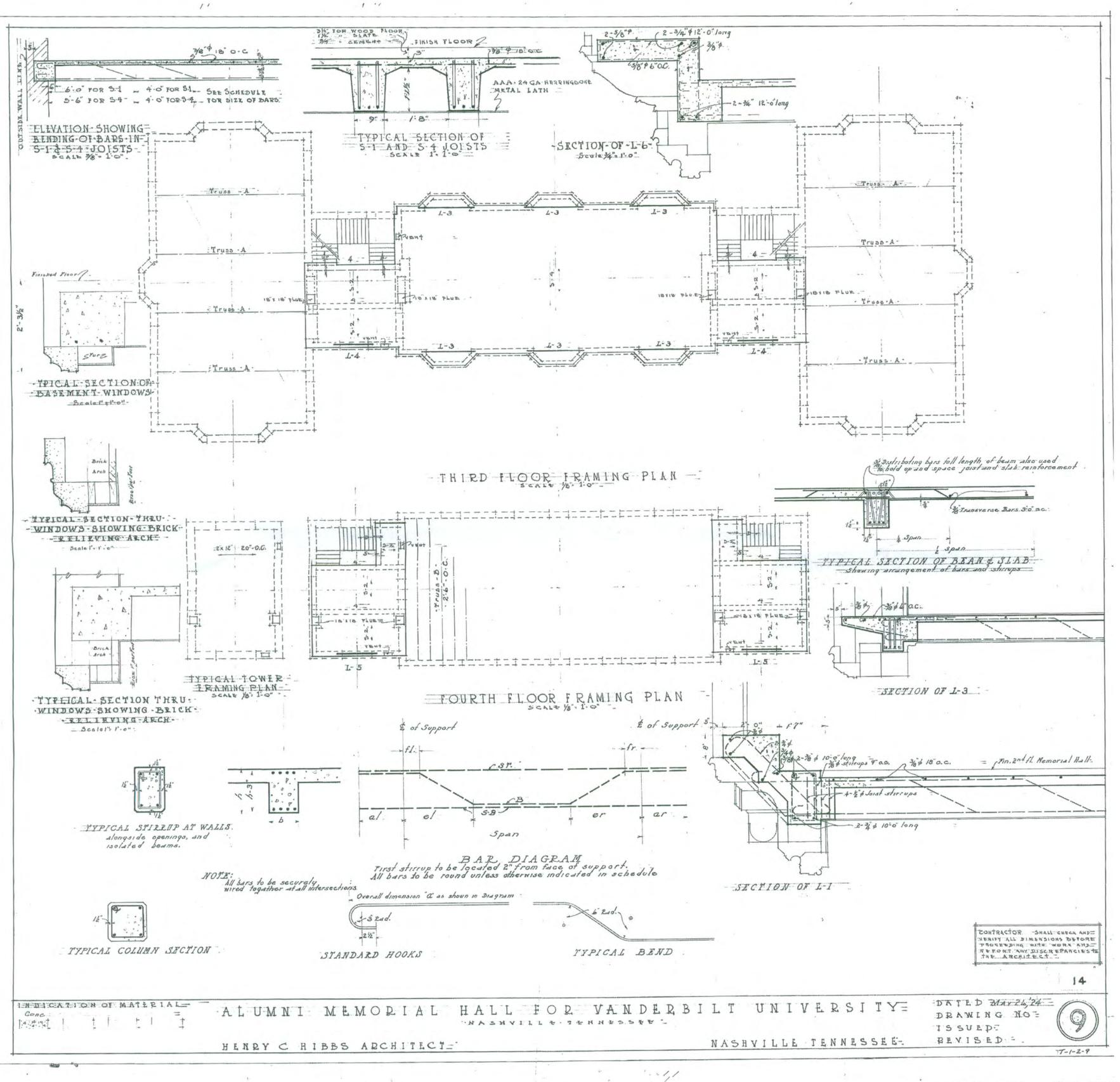


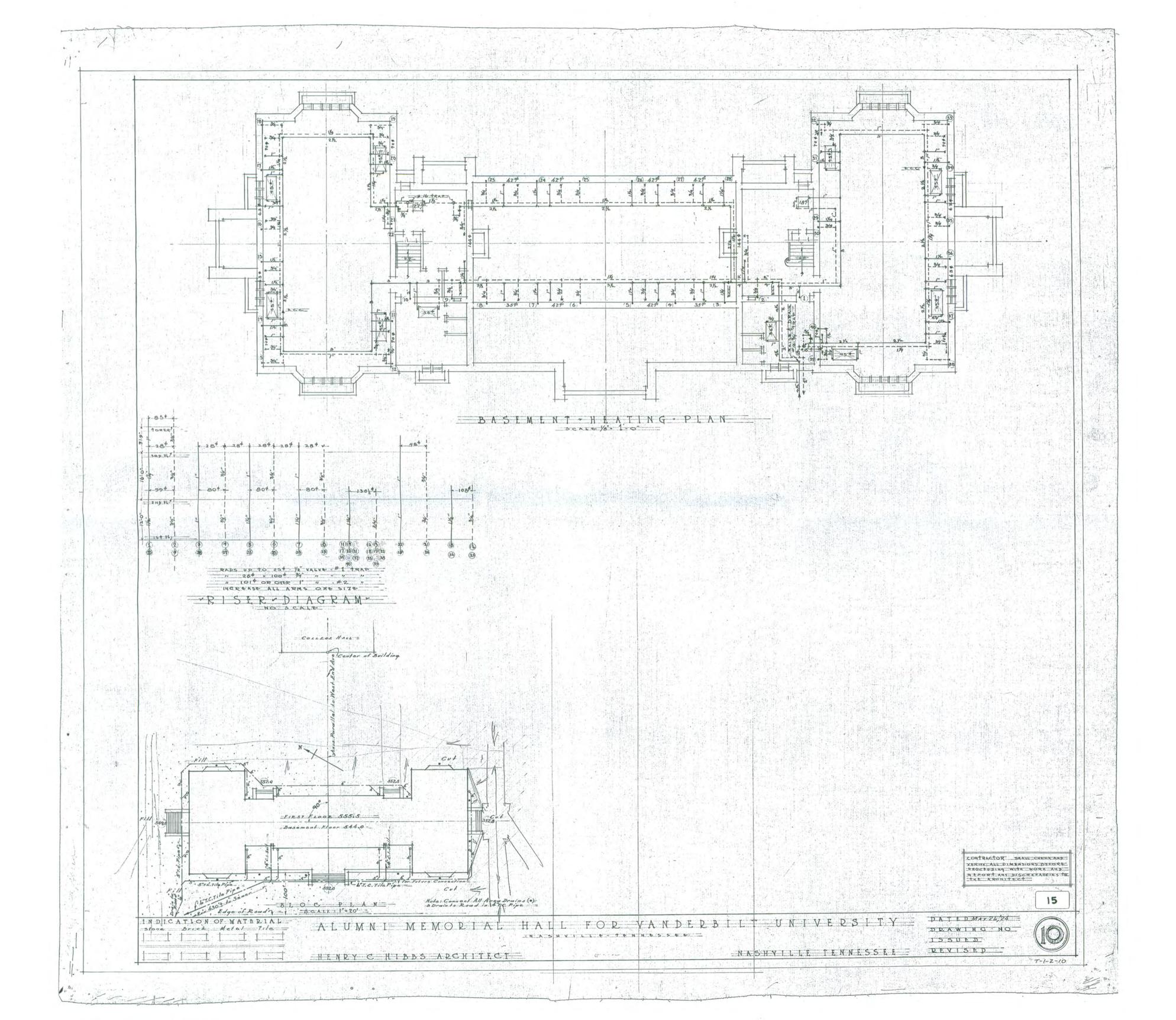


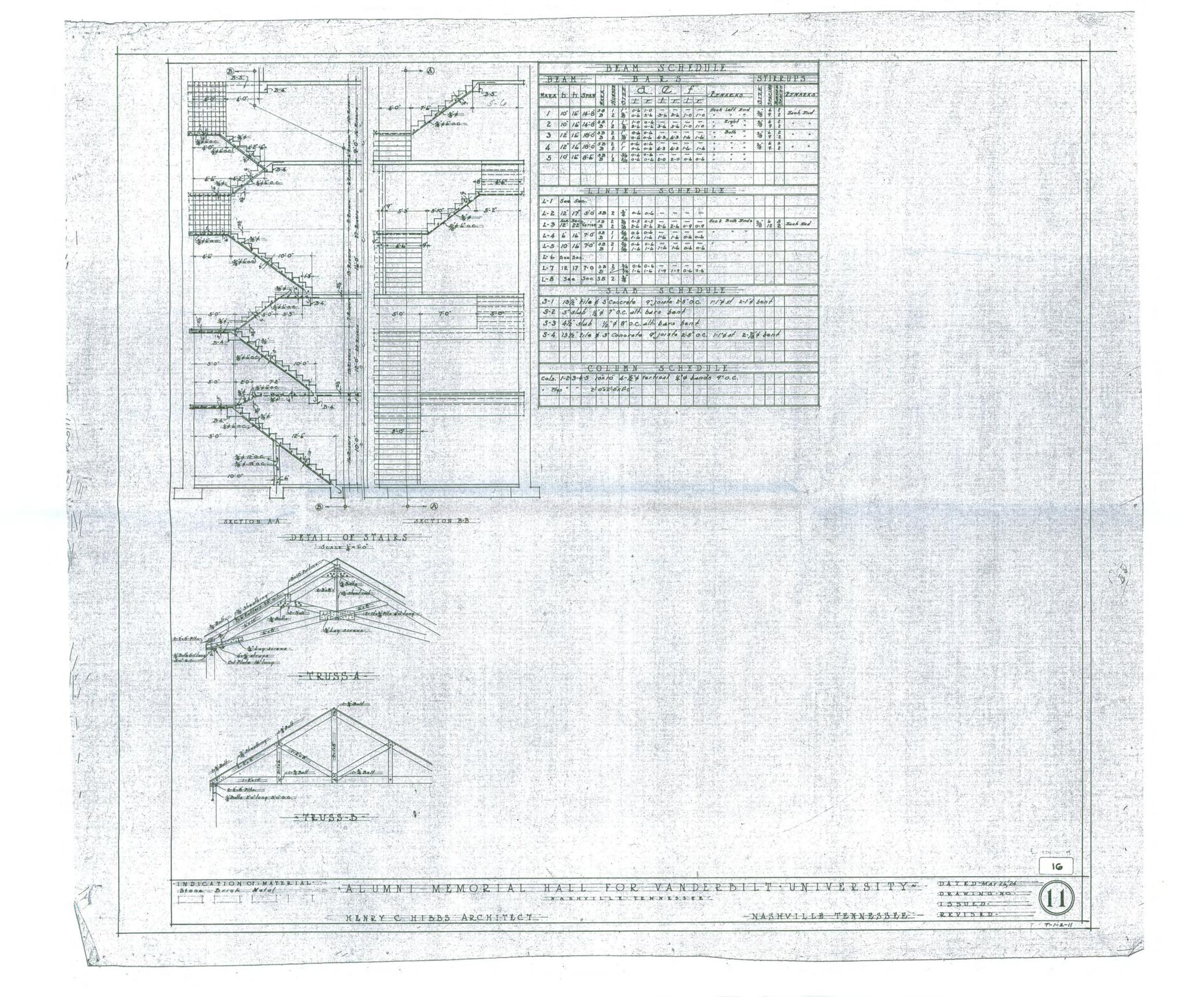


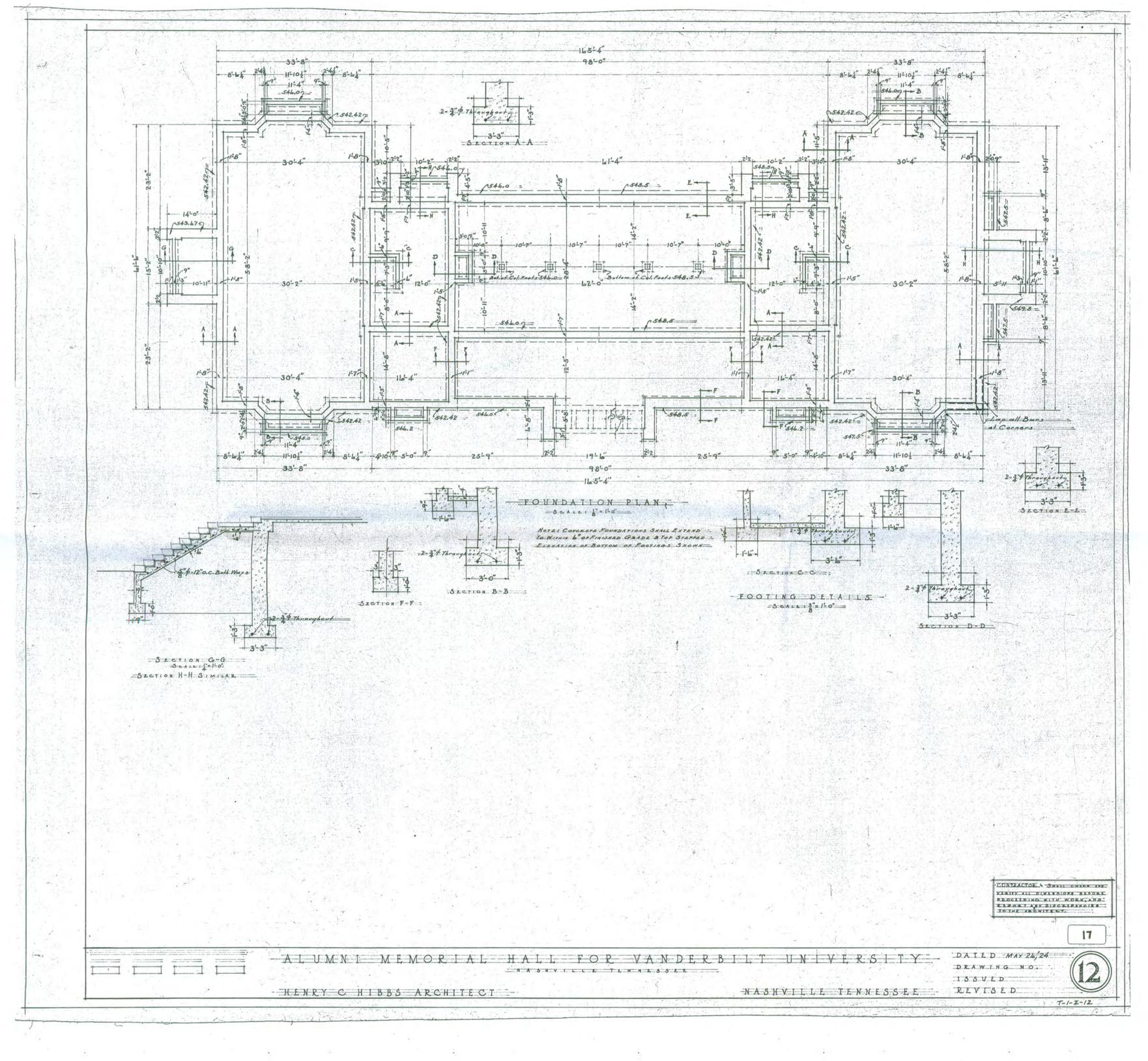
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TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION L 2941 LEBANON ROAD

NASHVILLE, TN 37243-0442 (615) 532-1550

May 20, 2011

Carol Shull Keeper of the National Register National Park Service National Register Branch 1201 Eye Street NW 8<sup>th</sup> floor Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the documentation to nominate the *Alumni Memorial Hall* to the National Register of Historic Places.

If you have any questions or if more information is needed, contact Claudette Stager at 615/532-1550, extension 105 or <u>Claudette.stager@tn.gov</u>.

Sincerely,

E. Patril M. Duty, J.

E. Patrick McIntyre, Jr. State Historic Preservation Officer

EPM:cs

Enclosures