

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

RECEIVED

NOV 16 1987

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Caroline Brevard Grammar School
other names/site number Bloxham Building

2. Location

street & number 727 South Calhoun Street not for publication
city, town Tallahassee vicinity
state Florida code FL county Leon code 073 zip code 32301

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>1</u>	_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Florida Department of State
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- 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): _____

Alvina Lopez

Entered in the
National Register

12-17-87

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Education - School

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Government - Government offices

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Mission/Spanish
Colonial Revival
Mediterranean Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete
walls brick
stucco
roof terra cotta tile
other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Caroline Brevard Grammar School (Bloxham Building) is a large two-story brick structure built in the Mediterranean Revival style common in the southwest United States and Florida during the period 1915-1940. Constructed in 1925, the building features a cross-gabled red tile roof, arched windows and decorative details. Symmetrical wings flank the central pavilion and a short L-shaped wing adjoins the right wing. A 60' x 39' addition was added to the L-wing in 1962.

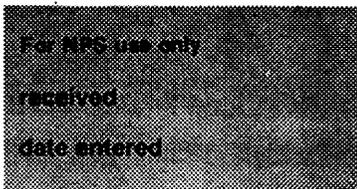
Mediterranean Revival is a style which is based on Spanish architecture and its borrowing of a wide range of inspiration from neighboring Mediterranean architectural styles such as Moorish, Byzantine, Gothic, and Italian Renaissance. The style is noted for its use of low pitched and gabled red tile roofs, varied eave widths, arched windows and doors, towers, roofed porches, stuccoed walls and decorative tile on walls and floors.

Mediterranean Revival architecture began in California in the 1890s and slowly spread eastward. It became very popular in Florida during the 1920s boom period and continued in popularity until the late 1930s. While Mediterranean Revival was very popular in South Florida and on both Florida coasts, it was not used much in the North Florida area. The Caroline Brevard Grammar School is one of a small number of Tallahassee buildings constructed in this style. The Leon High School (1936-1937), the Woman's Club of Tallahassee, the Los Robles Gate, and several homes in the Los Robles subdivision comprise most of the remainder of Tallahassee's Mediterranean Revival style construction.

The Caroline Brevard building stands on the front of the lot and has a small parking lot on the right side and large one occupying all of the rear of the lot. The building is surrounded by trees -- dogwoods and oaks, and is bounded by four public streets -- Calhoun, Gaines, Gadsden, and Madison. The Capital Complex, Leon County Courthouse, and Tallahassee City Hall are two blocks away, making the building ideal for continued use in a public and/or government capacity.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 2

The building's distinctive construction features a cross-gabled red tile roof, no eave overhang, elaborate front pavilion, arched windows, use of parapets, and decorative details, all of which are typical of the Mediterranean Revival style. The two-and-one-half story central pavilion comprising the front entrance is a striking feature. The front doors are framed by columns which are surmounted by a horseshoe shaped arch. The capitals of the columns are decorated with carved owls representing wisdom. This symbolism is consistent with the building's use as an elementary school. A cartouche depicting the key of knowledge is displayed above the doors and under the portico. Above the portico is an arcade of five arched windows separated by single and paired columns. The two sets of paired columns support large carved pelicans. Centered above the windows is a circular scrolled medallion. The top of the pavilion is arched, capped with red straight barrel mission tile, and topped with a ball on block finial.

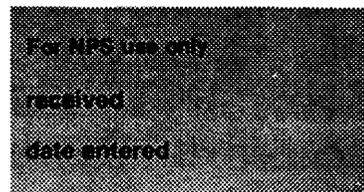
The two-story symmetrical wings flank the central pavilion. At the rear of the right wing is a short L-shaped wing. The entire building is roofed with red straight barrel mission tile and built of red brick in a common running pattern with flush mortar joints. It is painted a medium yellow and accented with red and gray detailing. The north end (Madison Street) has a central parapetted pavilion with a portico similar to the one in front of the building, but less elaborate. A cartouche is centered under the portico. Above the portico are two arched windows separated by a column and surmounted by a sculpted eagle. The windows are flanked by two circular scrolled medallions.

The east side (Gadsden Street) has a simple hooded, tiled doorway with steps descending to the parking lot which fills the entire lot behind the building. The view of the left half of this side is obscured by a two-story 1961 addition. The addition is attached to the original structure only at one wall. The gabled end of the short L-wing is the left end of the east side. Two one-and-a-half story buttresses support this gabled wall.

The south end (Gaines Street) consists of a two-story gabled structure with a shorter two-story attached wing running to the right. The wing has a hooded doorway identical to the one on the east side of the building. The gabled left section is a lobby and the fenestration consists of six windows in two vertical rows. Between the upper two windows is a circular cartouche inscribed with the intertwined initials CBS (Caroline Brevard School) and surrounded by a decorative design. While not nearly as distinctive as the exterior, the interior of the building is spacious and well-lighted. The basement is half office

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 3

space and half storage space. The first (ground) floor has a large lobby on the north, west and south ends with fine metal balusters and red tile floors on the landings and steps. The stairs and tile work is original construction. These lobbies extend to the second floor. The plan of the first and second floors is identical, consisting of long L-shaped wide halls with offices on both sides of the hall. Ceilings in the halls are nine feet and the dropped ceilings in the offices are 11 1/2 feet. The halls and lobbies have a seven inch high rail moulding running their entire length. All office doors are original except the ones of the first floor. Architectural integrity has suffered from partitions and dropped ceilings; otherwise the interior has only been cosmetically changed from its original 1925 appearance.

ALTERATIONS AND PRESENT APPEARANCE

The Caroline Brevard School has had one addition and several minor changes during its 62 year history. The addition was a 60 x 39 foot two-story structure built in 1961 which is attached to a side wall of the L-wing. This addition is stucco on concrete block with a built-up flat roof and painted the same yellow as the rest of the building. While certainly it is a different style from the rest of the building, its height and location keep it from being a serious distraction to the Mediterranean Revival style of the overall building. If necessary, it could be removed without affecting the original building.

Minor changes consist of a loading dock in the back of the building, a handicapped ramp at the south entrance, some windows being replaced by air conditioning vents, dropped interior ceilings, fluorescent lighting fixtures, new interior doors on the first floor, and all the original white wood framed windows being replaced by black metal framed ones with the same pane pattern. Also, a ventilation structure on the middle of the roof was removed some time between 1947 and 1959.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
Education

Period of Significance
1925-1937

Significant Dates
1925

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
William A. Edwards

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Caroline Brevard Grammar School meets National Register criteria A and C on the local level of significance. Designed by a noted southern architect, William A. Edwards, the building was the first consolidated school in Leon County and is the oldest school building in Tallahassee. As one of the few Mediterranean Revival style structures in the city, it reflects Florida's boom era architecture.

The city of Tallahassee built Florida's first public school here in 1850. David S. Walker, the mayor of Tallahassee and Registrar of Lands, provided the major leadership and allotted the funds for this public spirited venture.

Prior to 1850, only private schools operated in the county. Leon Academy, established in 1827, provided an elementary education for White students, but there were no schools for Black children until the passage of the School Law of 1869, which required Florida counties to operate schools for both races at least three months of the year. The Leon County Board of Public Instruction began functioning on April 16, 1869. Free schools for Black children was the major accomplishment of Carpetbag rule in Florida (1866-1876). Schools in this era usually contained only one room, with a single teacher instructing all grades, one through nine. Leon County schools remained segregated for almost a hundred years.

The real beginning of a modern school system in Leon County came in 1885 when special school tax districts were legislated. The districts had the authority to levy three mils for the support of public education. Tallahassee constituted District Number One and built the first high school in the county during the last decade of the 19th century. The special school tax districts were extended until they numbered five and covered the entire county by 1900.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A

1	6	7	6	1	3	2	0	3	3	7	0	0	4	0
Zone		Easting					Northing							

B

Zone		Easting					Northing							

C

Zone		Easting					Northing							

D

Zone		Easting					Northing							

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 35, 36, 37, 38 in the original plan of the City of Tallahassee comprising that block bounded by Madison Street, Gadsden Street, Gaines Street, and Calhoun Street.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the parcel that has historically been associated with the property.

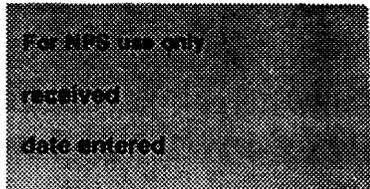
See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title R. Douglas Walton, Jr. and Lea Wolfe, PhD, Historic Sites Specialist
organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date November 1987
street & number R.A. Gray Bldg., 500 S. Bronough St. telephone (904) 487-2333
city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

The idea of the consolidation of schools spread rapidly in the new century. In consolidated schools, professionally trained teachers could teach single grades and special teachers for art, music, and vocational courses could be employed. Public education was extended to include kindergarten and senior high schools. These innovations in education were mostly products of the new teachers' colleges in America. Columbia University in New York City and Teachers College at the University of Chicago were in the vanguard of the movement, but southern colleges, including the University of Florida and Florida State College for Women, were also active.

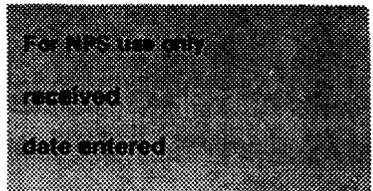
The period from 1920 to 1945 saw rapid consolidation of White public schools in Leon County. There were 32 White schools including the one senior high school, Leon, in 1920. By the end of the era there were only 8 White schools in the entire county. Only two of these were the traditional one-room schools, but every White school was a new building.

In contrast to the White schools, Black schools continued to be one-room rural affairs. Bond issues were passed to build the new masonry consolidated White schools (Caroline Brevard, 1925; Sealey Memorial, 1929; Chaires, 1930; Leon High School, 1936-37; Miccosukee and Woodville, 1941). But, with the exception of the new Lincoln High School built in 1928, the only new Black schools in the county were twelve one-room, wood frame structures built by the Works Progress Administration from 1936 to 1942. This was true even though the Black school population in the era grew from approximately 3,400 to 6,000 students, while the White school population grew from about 2,000 to 4,000. There were only two senior high schools in Leon County until the second half of the 20th century -- Lincoln High School for Blacks and Leon High School for Whites. Transportation was the key to attendance at the new public high schools, and rural Blacks were denied public transportation. This meant that a high school education was effectively denied to Black students in the county, even though a compulsory attendance law passed in 1919 required attendance through age 16.

The Tallahassee District voted a \$150,000 bond issue in October of 1923 for the construction of Caroline Brevard Grammar School. The school would serve students from kindergarten to the sixth grade, and, according to the architect, would be a "modern and scientific building in every particular."

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 3

The school's architect, William A. Edwards, was born in Darlington, South Carolina on December 8, 1866, and received his degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of South Carolina. He worked for the architectural office of C.C. Wilson in Columbia, South Carolina before founding the firm of Edwards and Walter in Columbia in 1907. Edwards and Walter moved to Atlanta in 1908. From 1912 until his death on March 30, 1939 in Atlanta, he was a joint partner with William J. Sayward in their firm Edwards and Sayward. In addition to the Brevard School, his work includes eight buildings at the University of Florida at Gainesville, the Exchange Bank building in Tallahassee, the Administration Building, Library, and several dormitories at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University in Tallahassee, several buildings at Florida State University in Tallahassee, buildings at Winthrop College in South Carolina and Valdosta State College in Georgia, and many churches, courthouses, stores, theatres, and homes as well as Works Progress Administration projects during the 1930s.

Among Edwards' buildings in Florida listed on the National Register of Historic Places are the Exchange Bank building in Tallahassee (listed November 29, 1984), and Peabody, Floyd, Flint, Bryan, Newell, and Anderson Halls, the Women's Gymnasium, and Library East on the University of Florida campus (listed June 27, 1979). Edwards also designed the University of Florida campus arrangement and drew the plans for all buildings from 1907 through 1925.

Edwards is particularly significant in the architectural history of Tallahassee's largest and oldest educational institution, Florida State University. From 1907 to 1925 Edwards was the sole architect for Florida State University and introduced the Jacobean Revival style used for the majority of the campus construction until the 1950s. Ten of his structures, Bryan, Reynolds, Broward, Jennie Murphree, and Dodd Halls, the Westcott Administration Building, Suwanee Arcade, the old Infirmary, the old demonstration school, Diffenbaugh building, and the fountain and main gateway at College Avenue are the core structure and symbol of the campus.

The School Board hired the firm of Edwards and Sayward of Atlanta to supervise and plan construction of the school. On February 5, 1924, the Board voted to buy lots 35-38 in southeastern downtown Tallahassee from Thomas B. Byrd for \$16,000. These lots were part of the original development plan for Tallahassee which is known as "The Old City Plan of 1837." Lots 35 and 36 were owned by Elijah Walker and 37 and 38 by Alvin Green. No record has been found as to why this location was decided upon. On May 15, 1924, instructions were given to start the construction bid process.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 4

At a Board meeting on July 9, 1924, the bids were opened and George W. Livingston was awarded the general contract for the school. Soon, however, Livingston was under attack for shoddy and uncompleted work and on November 10 his contract was terminated and awarded to Chafin and Mason (no information was discovered on this firm) for completion. The school was finished in mid-1925.

The school was named for Caroline M. Brevard, an author and educator born in Tallahassee on August 19, 1860 and died here on March 27, 1920. She wrote several textbooks, a history of Florida, and taught in Leon County public schools and at the Florida State College for Women.

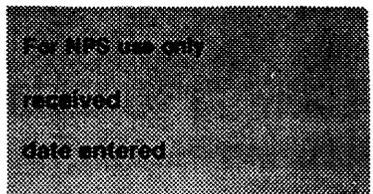
After fifteen years of educational use, the School Board discontinued the kindergarten program at Caroline Brevard in 1941 as separate public kindergartens were established. By 1947 the effects of Tallahassee's northeastward growth pattern were being felt at the school. These effects are shown in the 1947 Master's thesis of Wayne V. Ashmore, a Florida State University education major. His thesis was an in-depth study of the population characteristics of Leon County and their effect on the county schools.

Ashmore's study showed that a population shift toward northeast Tallahassee had left Caroline Brevard in the middle of the city's most sparsely populated section and that housing patterns strongly indicated a continually decreasing enrollment at the school. The physical growth of Tallahassee was also having a direct negative effect on the school, as two large state buildings were being constructed on Calhoun Street directly in front of the school. Several other problems were affecting the use of the school: 1) traffic on the roads around the school was becoming increasingly heavy and dangerous; 2) the school was old and depreciating; 3) electrical and plumbing repair expense was increasing rapidly; and 4) the playground was very small by modern standards and therefore was unsafe for the school's 550 students.

In response to these problems at Caroline Brevard, the School Board decided at its January 23, 1958 meeting that the answer was to accept a previous State offer and sell the school to the State of Florida for use as a public office. Caroline Brevard was sold that day for \$490,000 but was kept by the School Board until the end of the school year in June 1959.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 5

The State Road Department occupied the building until December 5th, 1964, when it sold the building to the Board of Commissioners of State Institutions of the State of Florida for \$2,457,150. On November 15, 1966, the name of the building was changed from the Caroline Brevard Building to the Bloxham Building, after former Governor William D. Bloxham of the late 1800s, by the Board of Commissioners of State Institutions of the State of Florida. The building currently houses varying state offices.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 2

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ashmore, Wayne V. "A Housing Program for Leon County White Schools based on Population Studies." Master's thesis. Florida State University, 1947.

"Building Maintenance File -- Bloxham Building." Tallahassee: General Services Commission, Larson Building.

"Building Permit -- April 2, 1959." Tallahassee: City Department of Building Inspection.

"Building Permit -- June 20, 19861." Tallahassee: City Department of Building Inspection.

Darby, Jane B. "Caroline Mays Brevard." Unpublished manuscript. Historic Tallahassee Preservation Board.

Deed from Thomas Byrd and Ruby Byrd to the School Board, February 6, 1924. Leon County: Clerk of the Circuit Court.

Deed from the Board of Public Instruction to the State of Florida, January 23, 1958. Leon County: Clerk of the Circuit Court.

The Florida Capital Center/A Preliminary Analysis. Tallahassee-Leon County Planning Department, 1971.

"Florida Master Site File -- Florida State University Historic District." Tallahassee: Florida Department of State, Gray Building.

"Floor Plans -- Bloxham Building." Tallahassee: General Services Commission, Larson Building.

Leon County Board of Public Instruction. Minutes -- February 5, 1924.

Ibid. Minutes -- May 15, 1924.

Ibid. Minutes -- July 9, 1924.

Ibid. Minutes -- November 10, 1924.

Ibid. Minutes -- January 23, 1958.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 3

Levitt, Ron. Press release from the Office of the Secretary of State.
Tallahassee: August 7, 1979.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New
York: Knopf, 1984.

Rhodes, Francis A. "A History of Education in Leon County, Florida."
Master's thesis. University of Florida, 1946.

Taylor, A.D. and H.L. Flint. The Florida Capital Center: A Report on
the Proposed Development. Tallahassee: Florida State Improvement
Commission, 1947.

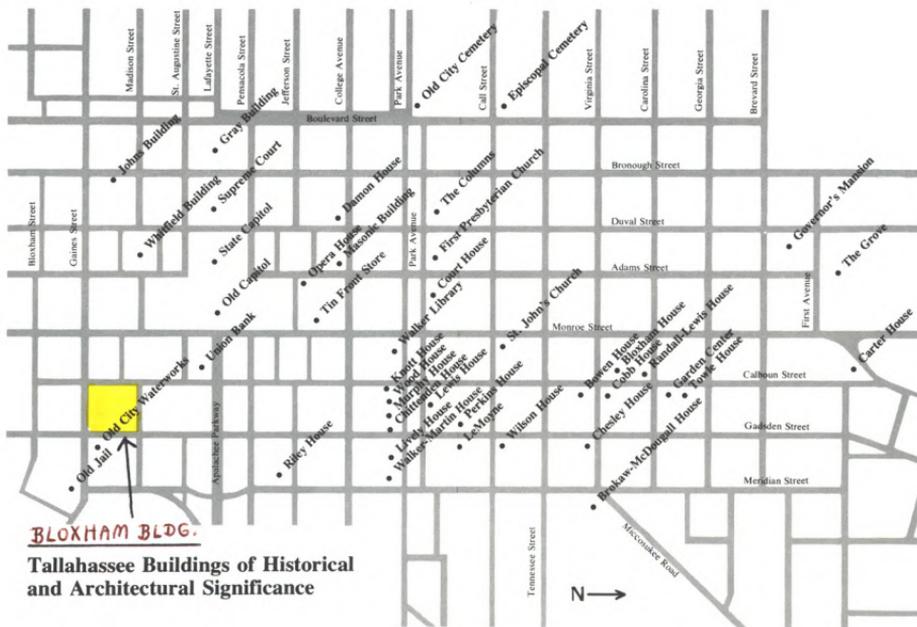
Withey, H.F. and E.R. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects.
Los Angeles: New Age, 1956.

Bloxham Building/Caroline Brevard Grammar School

727 South Calhoun Street 32301

Built 1925

Calhoun Street Historic District

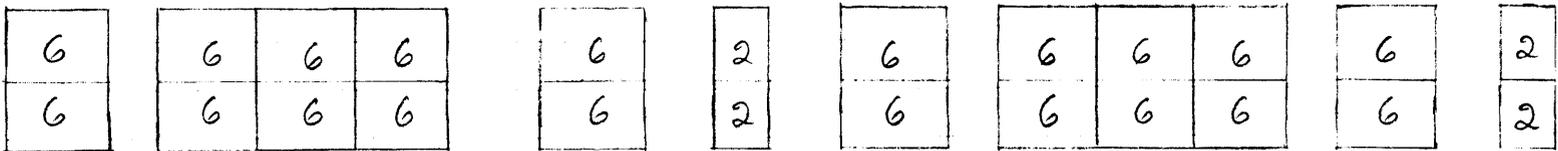
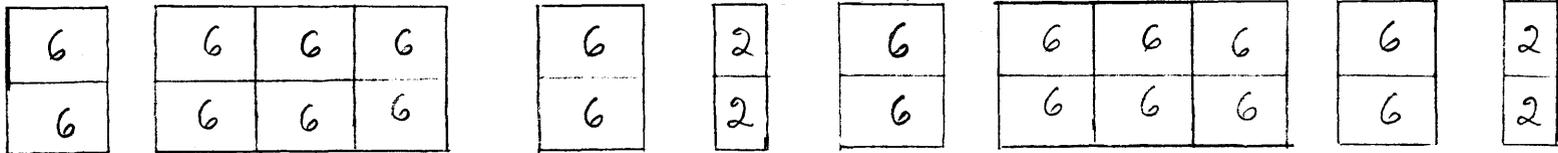


(LEFT) FRONT CALHOUN ST
(W)

1 sq = 2'

TILE ROOF (STRAIGHT BARREL MISSION TILE)

CENTRAL
FACADE



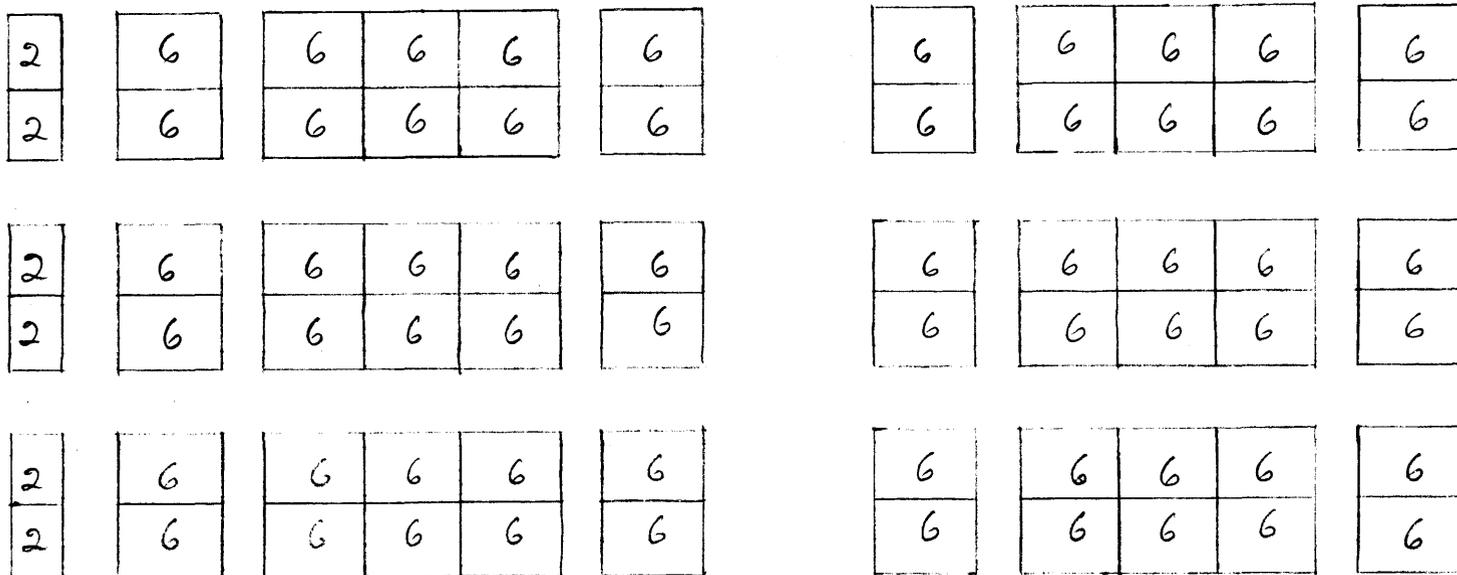
(RIGHT) FRONT
(W)

CALHOUN ST

1 sq = 2'

TILE ROOF (STRAIGHT BARREL MISSION TILE)

CENTRAL FACADE



SEE SETBACK
DRAWING FOR
FINAL RIGHT
END OF
BUILDING
FRONT

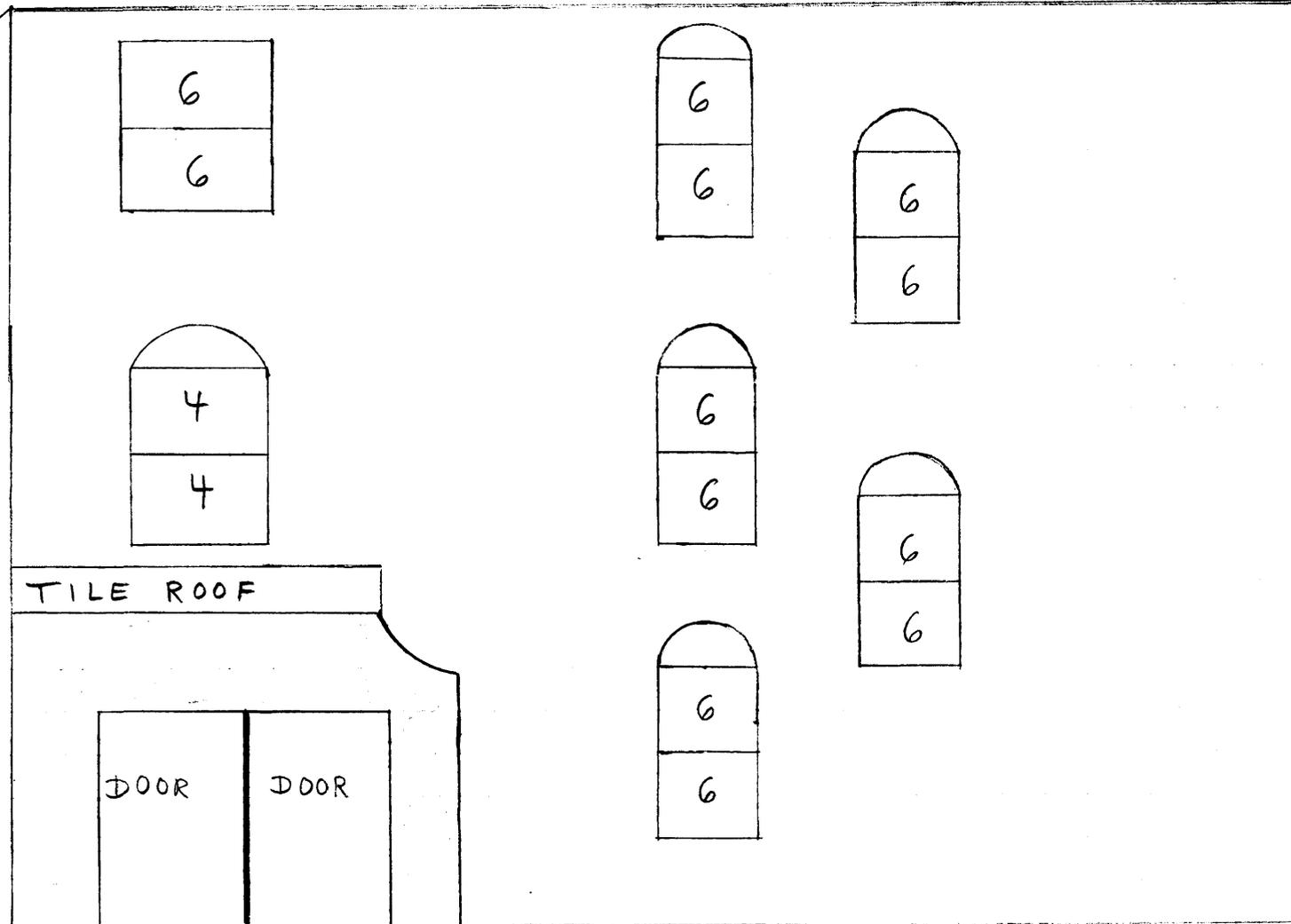
TILE ROOF

(STRAIGHT BARREL MISSION TILE)

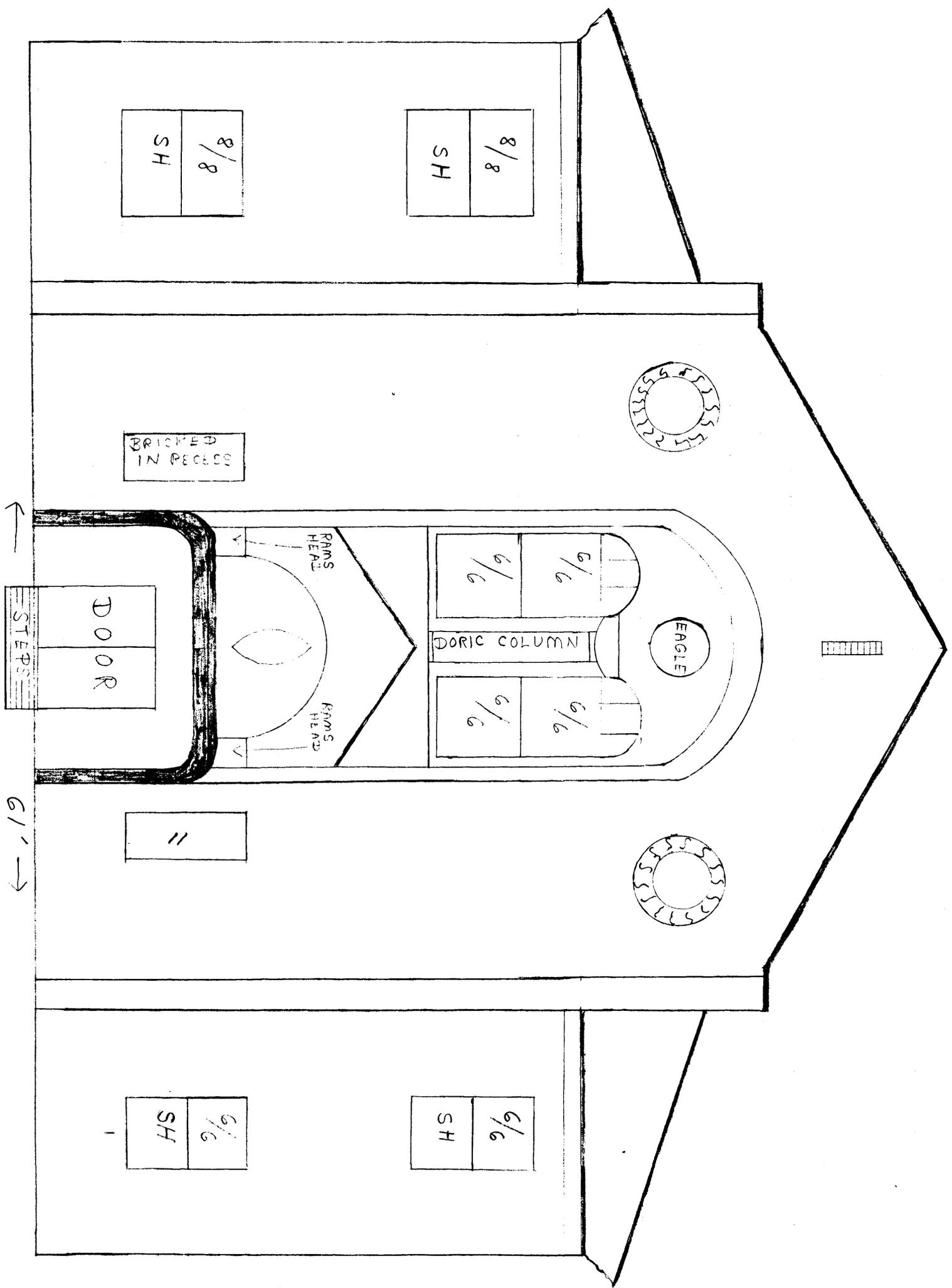
FRONT (W)
CALHOUN ST.

RIGHT END
(SETBACK)

1 sq = 1.3'



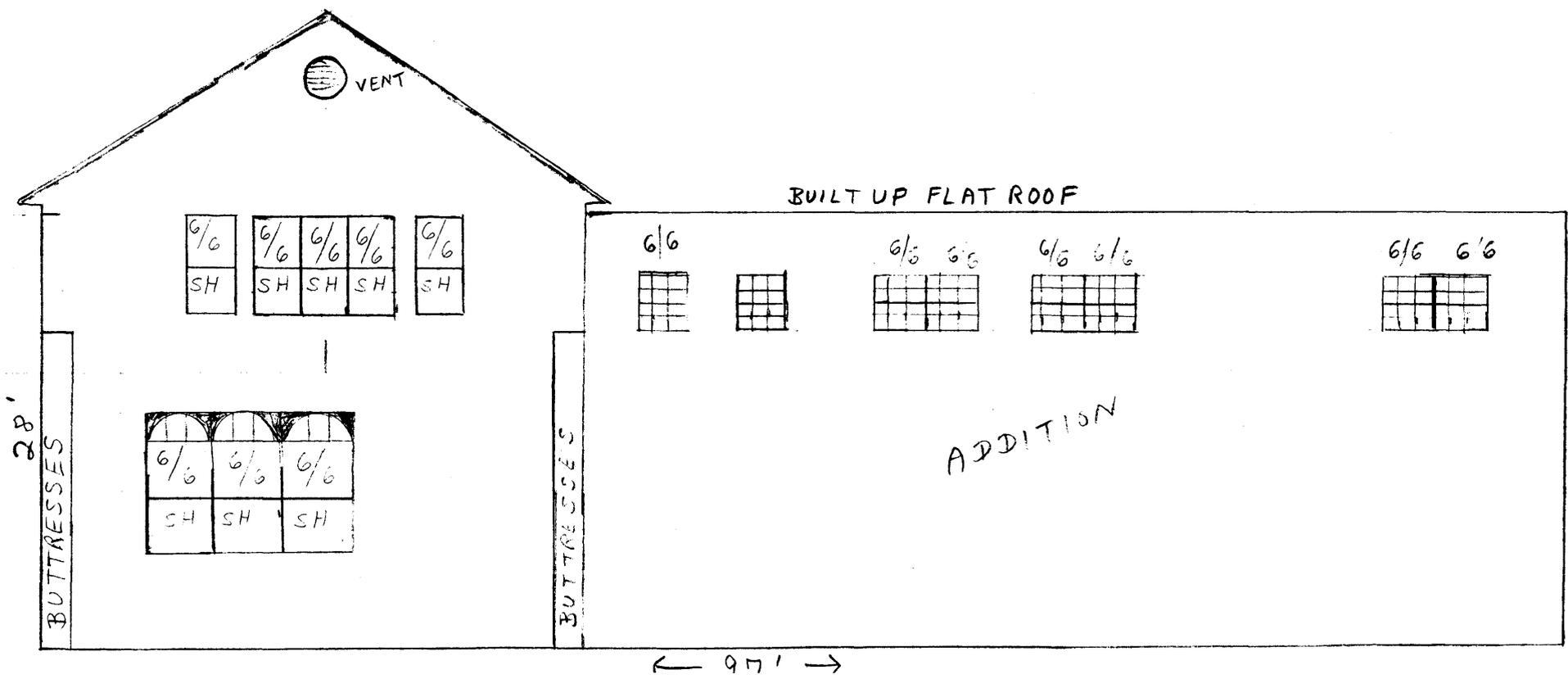
NORTH END - EAST MADISON ST. 1st fl = 1 1/2'



EAST END - LEFT SIDE

1 sq = 2.5'

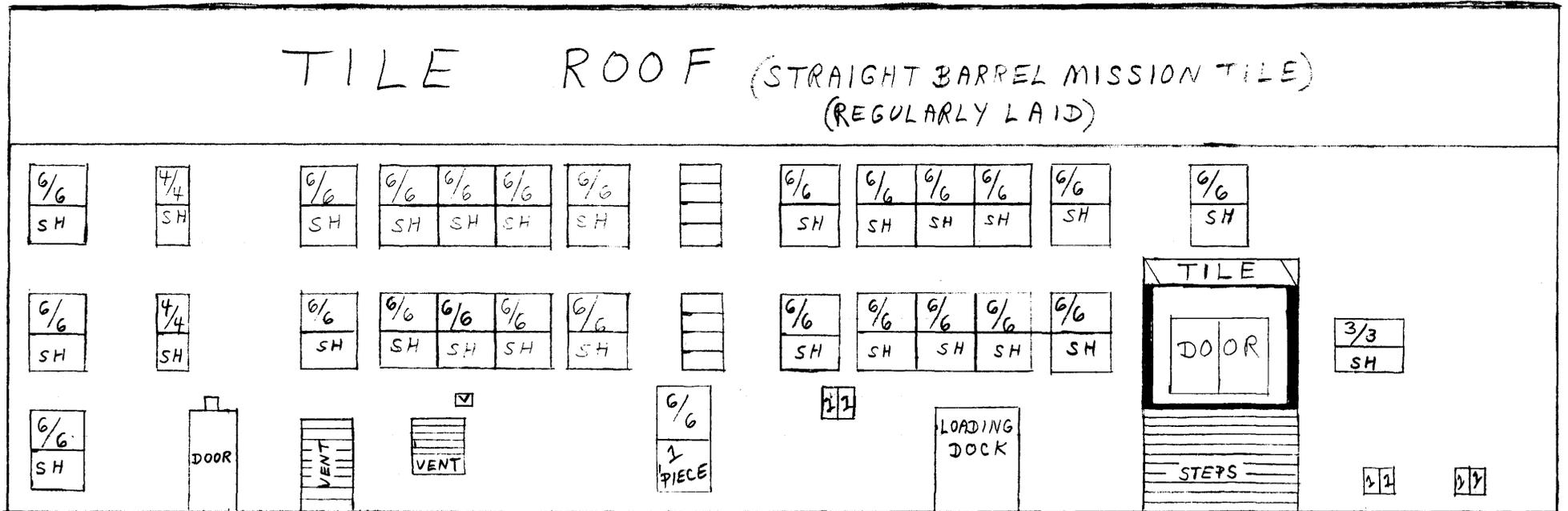
SOUTH GADSDEN STREET



1 sq = 3'

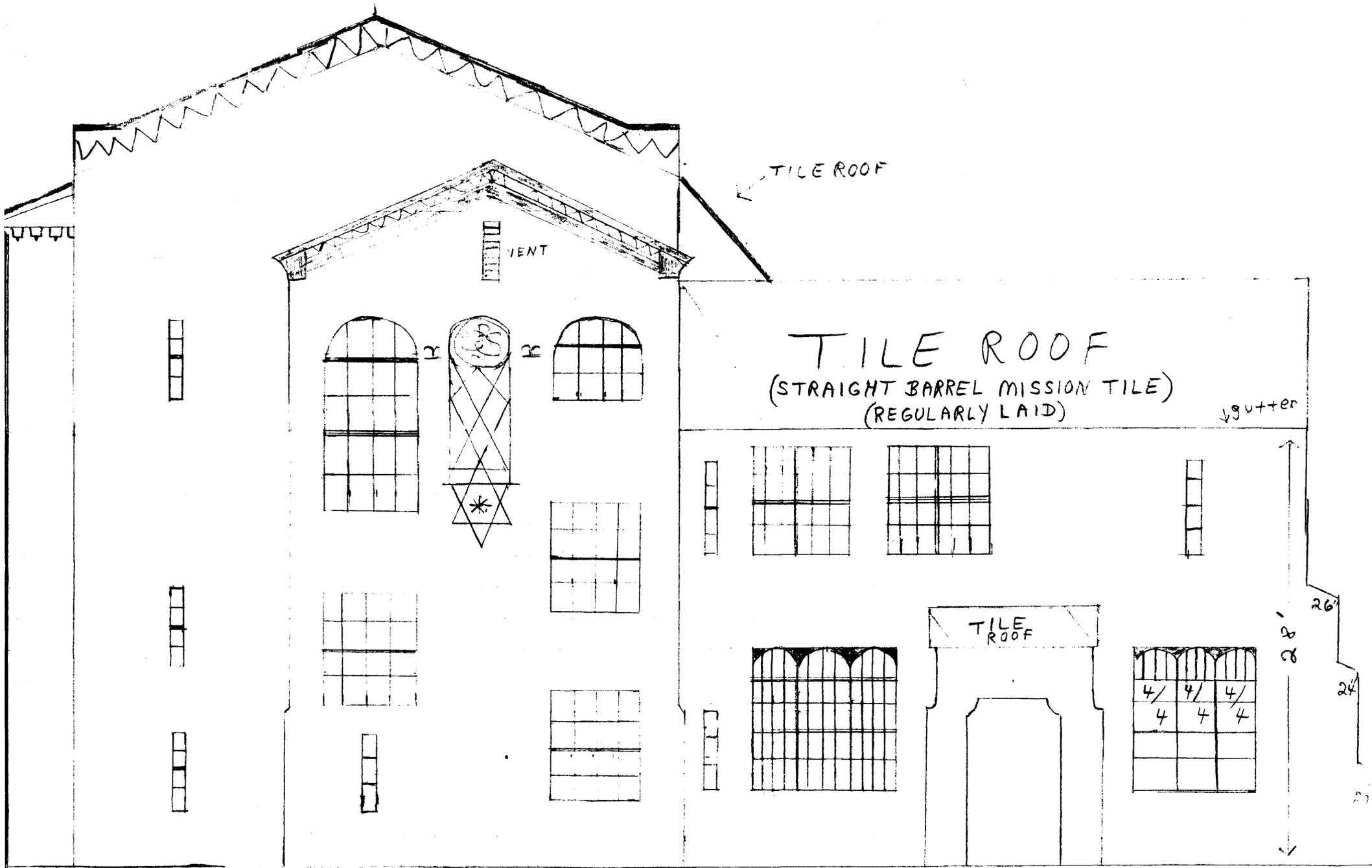
EAST END - RIGHT SIDE

SOUTH GADSDEN STREET



100 FT

SOUTH END - EAST GAINES ST. 1 sq. = 2'

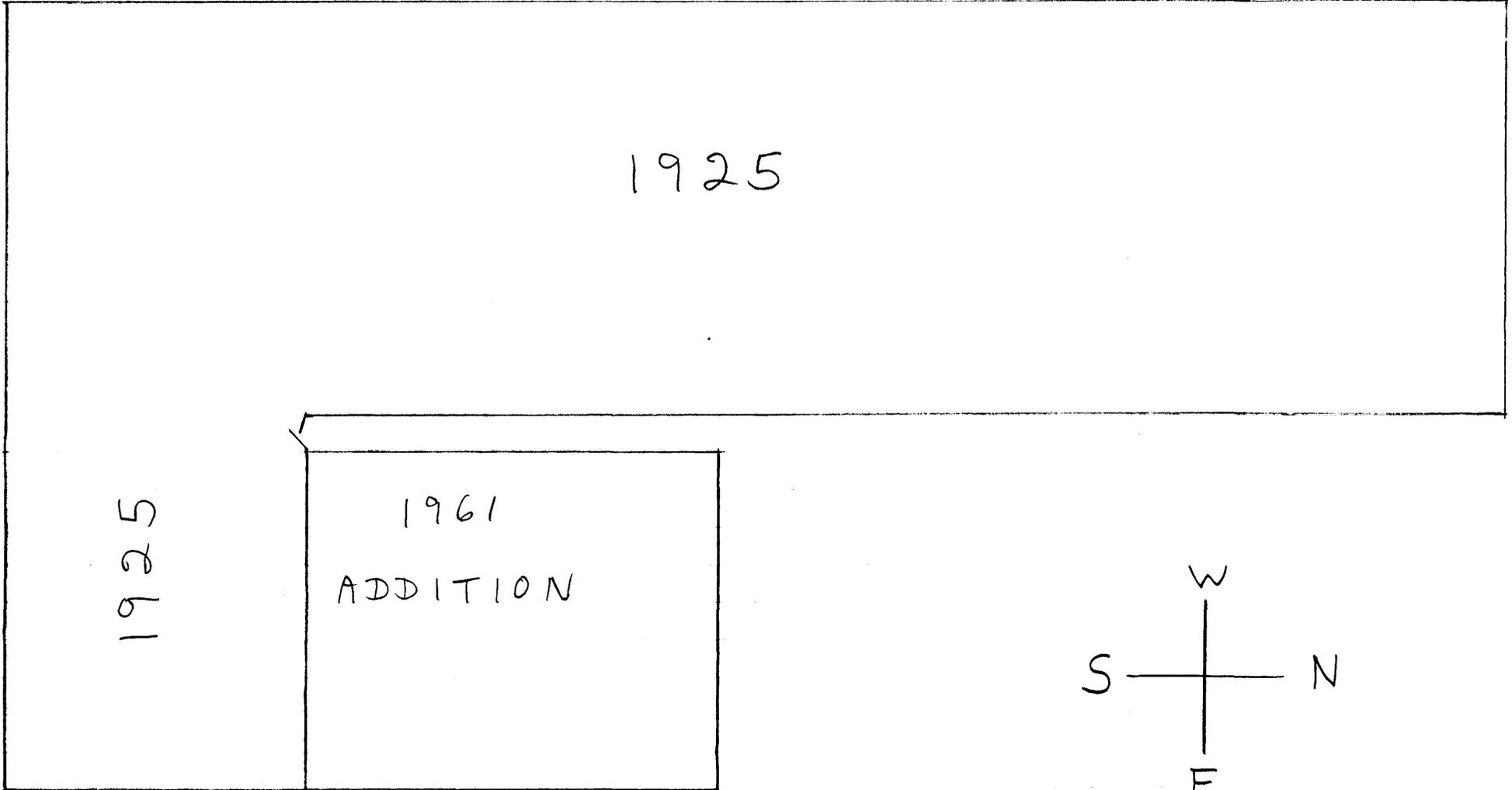


OVERHEAD VIEW

CALHOUN ST (FRONT)

MADISON ST.

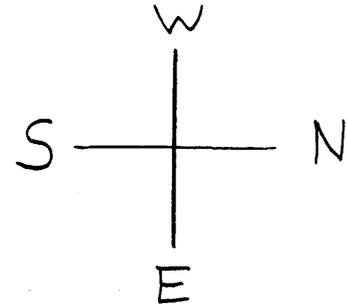
GAINES ST.



1925

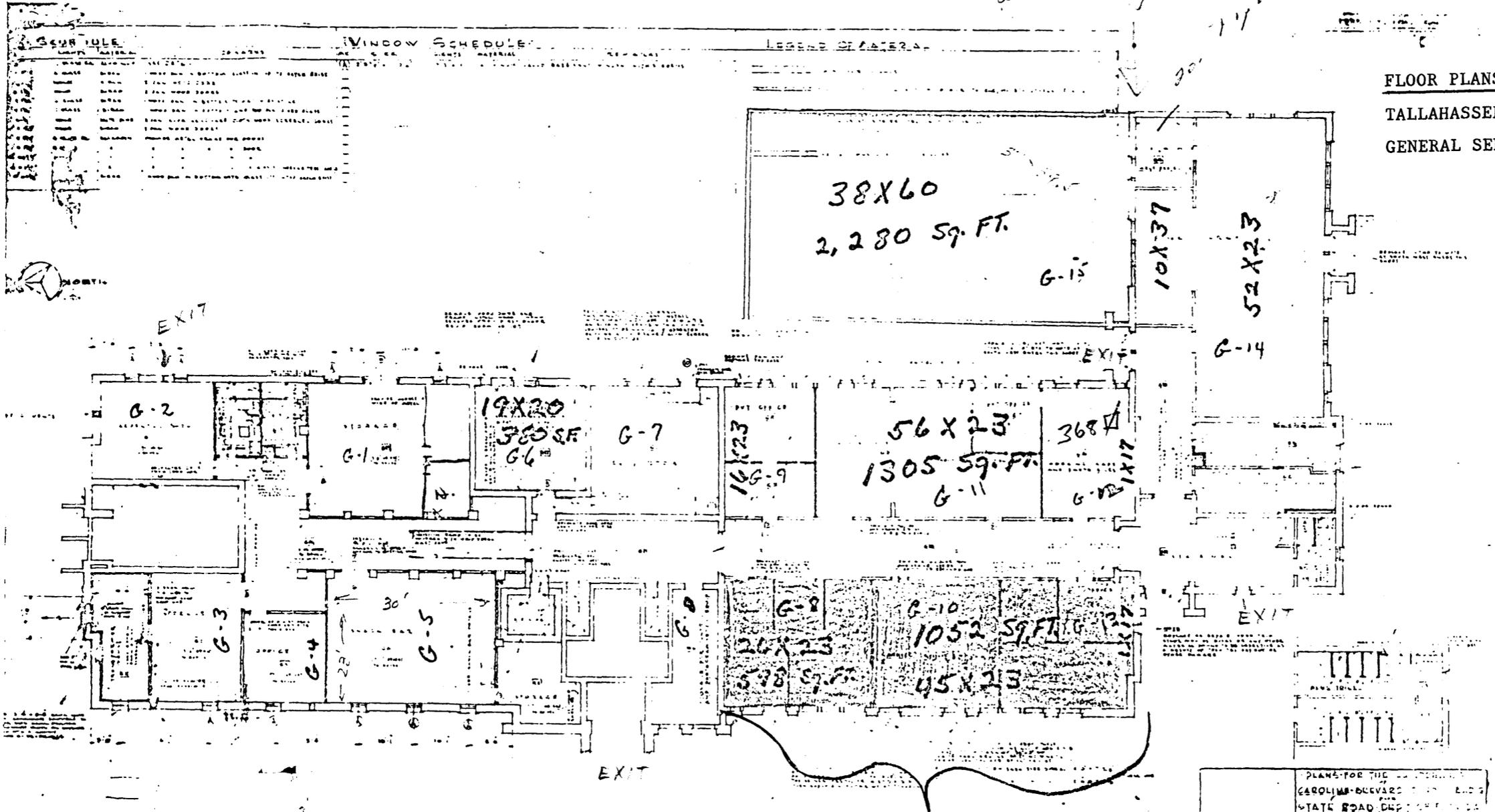
1925

1961
ADDITION



GADSDEN ST.

FLOOR PLANS - BLOXHAM BUILDING
 TALLAHASSEE - LARSON BUILDING
 GENERAL SERVICES COMMISSION



GROUND FLOOR PLANS

- ZONES - ROOMS
- A - G-5
 - B - G-4-13 INNER OFFICE
 - C - G-13
 - D - G-14
 - E - G-1-2-6-9-11-13

5 TON - G-10
 THERMOSTAT - G-10

- THERMOSTATS
- ZONE A - G-5
 - B - G-13
 - C - G-13
 - D - G-14
 - E - G-11

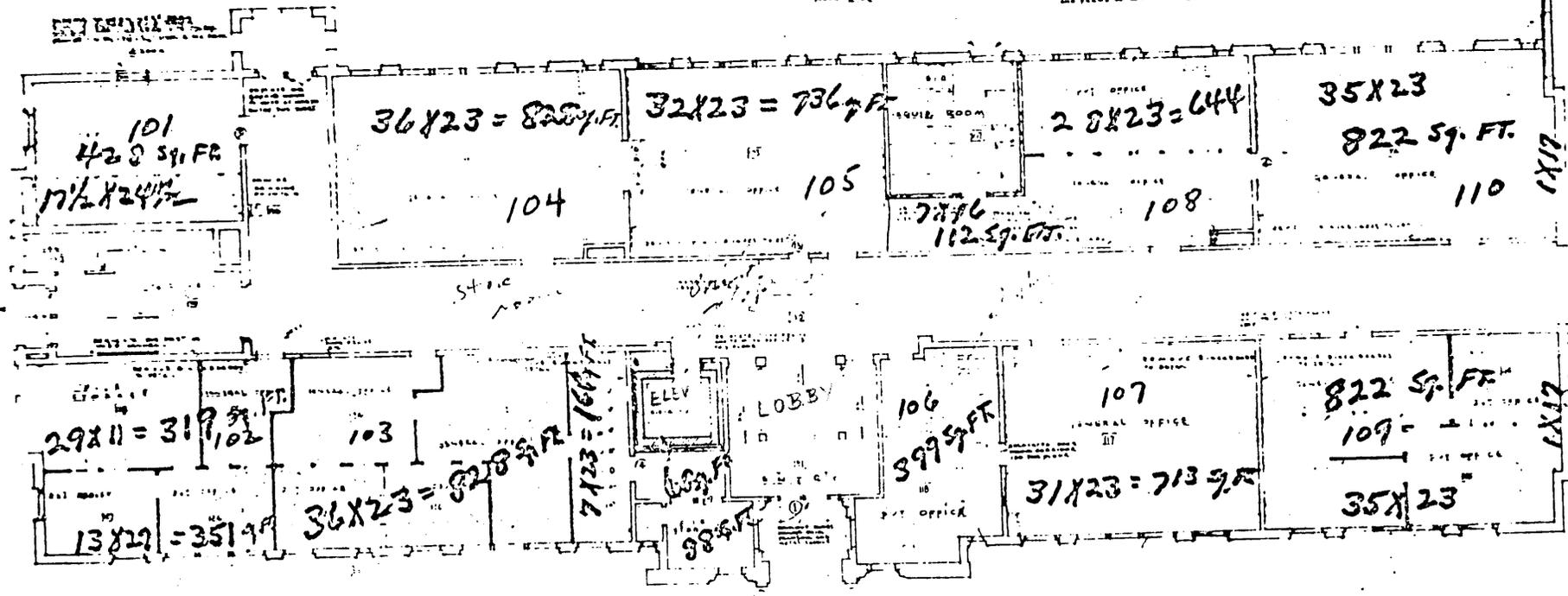
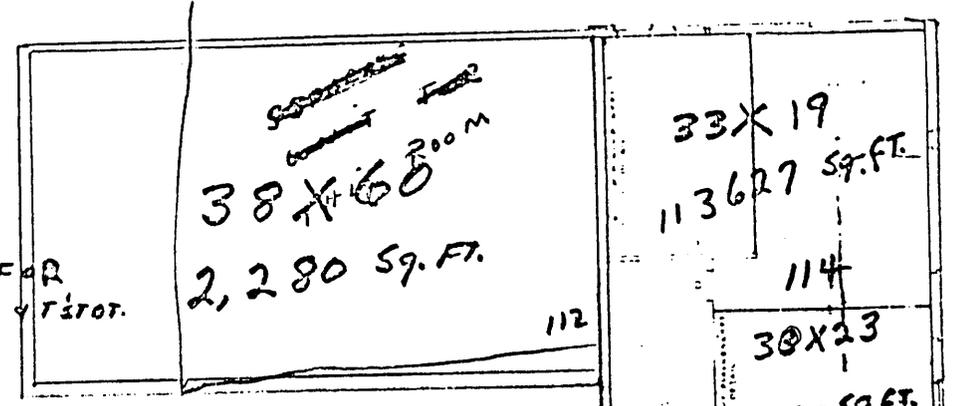
- DEPT. NATURAL RES.
- DGS - PURCHASING
- DEPT. OF STATE
- DEPT. COMMUNITY AFFAIR N.Y.C.

E

1100R

HEAT STRIP & T STAT 101

ZONES	ROOMS	THERMOSTAT LOCATION
A	103 - OUTDR OFF. 104-107-109	103
B	102-102-109A-100	109 A
C	111	111
D	114	114
E	113	113
F	101-104-105-110-108	110



← N

FRIST FLOOR PLANS

PLANS BY CAROLINE B. STATE

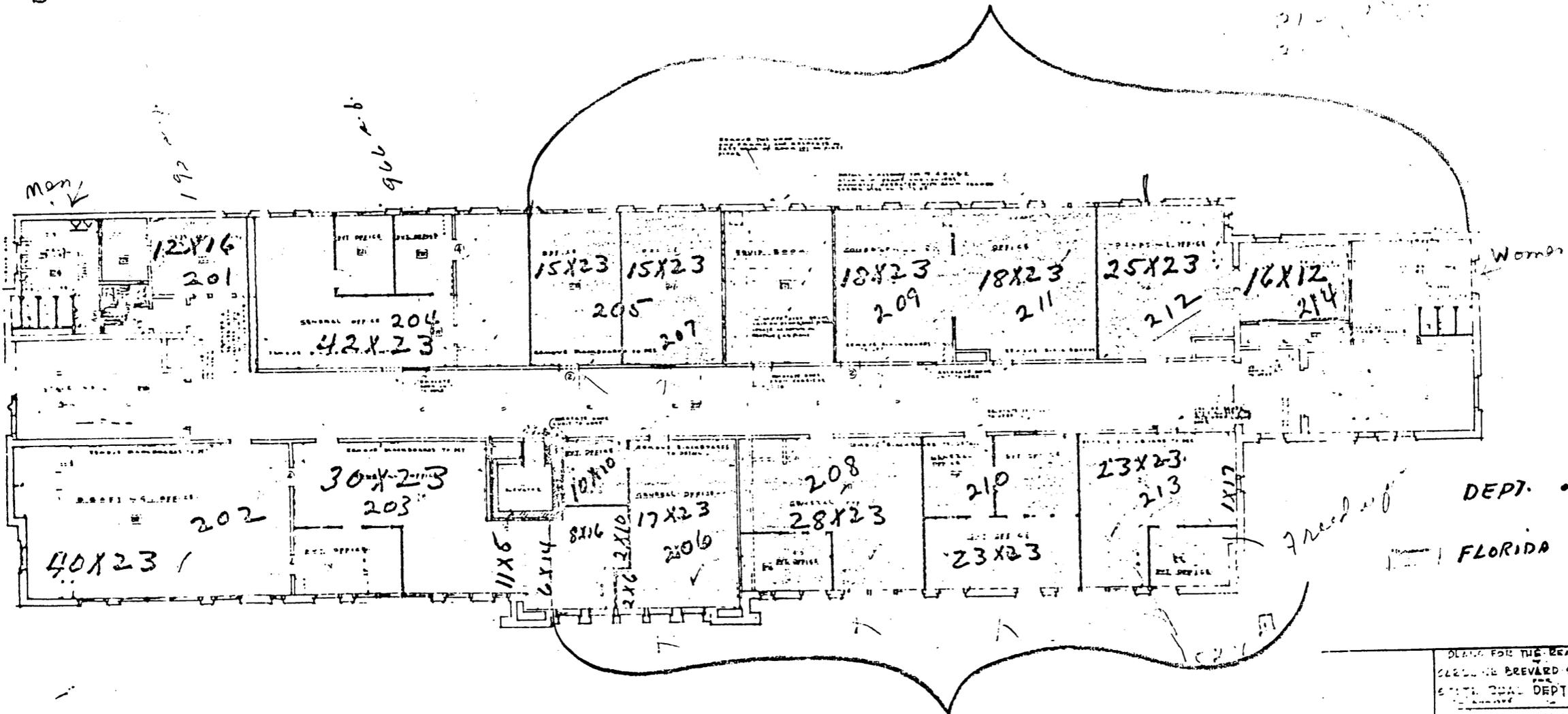
D.G.S. PURCHASING

W

ZONE	ROOMS	THERMOSTAT LOCATION
A	201-204-205-207	205
B	202-203-204-208-210-213	203 - OUTSIDE OVERHEAD DUCTS
C	WAR - 201A-203-206-208-210-213	210 - HALL DUCTS INSIDE OFF.
D	209-211-212A WAR	212

201 } 1:00
 211 } 1:00
 212 } 1:00
 702
 208
 210
 211

4.89



DEPT. OF STATE
 FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE

DRAWN FOR THE REPOSE...
 GEORGE BREVARD SCHOOL...
 STATE DEPT OF FLORIDA
 ALBERT P. WOODARD, A. I. A.
 ARCHITECT