

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

RECEIVED

JUN 18 1993

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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

historic name William C. and Hertha Dau House

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 315 South Dodge Street not for publication

city or town Algona vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Kossuth code 109 zip code 50501

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 6/10/83
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State Historical Society of Iowa
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:)

Signature of the Keeper Patrick W. Andrews Date of Action 7/29/93

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total.

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Art Moderne and International Style

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls BRICK

roof OTHER

other

Narrative Description

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

see continuation sheets

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1937

Significant Dates

1937

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Thorson, Oswald (arch)
Miller, George L. (bldr)

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):

- 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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Wm. C. & Hertha Dau House
Name of Property

Kossuth, Iowa
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .2 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	5
---	---

3	9	9	3	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	7	6	8	6	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

3

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

4

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

 See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ken Ruhnke (Hertha Dau's grandson)

organization N/A date 12-23-92

street & number 898 Homestead Blvd. telephone 801-637-7815

city or town Price state Utah zip code 84501

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name Hertha Dau

street & number 315 South Dodge Street telephone 515-295-5603

city or town Algona state Iowa zip code 50501

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 listings. 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 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Wm. C. and Hertha Dau House, Kossuth, Iowa

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1

CFN-259-1116

Summary

Located in an older residential neighborhood south of Algona's downtown business district, the William C. and Hertha Dau House is a two-story, irregularly-shaped edifice whose wood frame walls are veneered with tan colored brick. It rests on reinforced concrete foundations and is capped with a flat roof. Stylistically, this house exhibits the combined influences of the Art Moderne and International modes (see black and white photos). The former style is reflected in the relatively smooth walls; asymmetrical facades; the horizontal emphasis provided by horizontal lines in the brick walls and horizontal balustrade elements; a curved exterior wall; bands of glass block windows; interior and exterior round windows; window bands which turn corners; and interior features like; light fixtures and door handles with "streamline" motifs. International style influence is reflected in a variety of lines, textures, and forms typical of that mode. Geometric purity is reflected in the horizontal lines of the windows, flat horizontal roof projections, and simple curved and straight lines in the pipe railings. The use of space includes the design of rooms projecting out of the main rectangular form, rectangular interior space flow, square arrangement of the house on the rectangular lot, the cylindrical dining room, and exterior curved wall. Completed late in 1937, this house has undergone little significant alteration over the years. The only noticeable change is a slight alteration in the roof fascia profile, but overall this residence possesses a high degree of integrity.

Land Purchase

On September 3, 1936, Wm. C. Dau purchased Lot 5 of Block 52 in the original plat of Algona located in Kossuth County, Iowa. This lot is approximately 124' x 65'. The inducement was \$1,200 for a site with a two story home and two existing walnut trees. The house was relocated to another lot in Algona shortly after purchase.

Owner And Architect Influence On Design

Wm. C. and Heartha Dau were impressed with the "Model Homes of Tomorrow" displays at the 1933 Chicago World's Fair. They were influenced by The Masonite House, Design For Living House, The Stan-Steel House, and The House of Tomorrow--The First Glass House which were on display at the World's Fair (Hertha Dau, 1989). Upon their return from Chicago, Mr. Dau drew sketches which included a round dining room, kitchen, living room, and sewing room on the main level to communicate the form and style they wanted in a new home. They then sought an architect.

When architect Thorwald Thorson of Forest City, Iowa, was first approached by the Daus to design a modern home, he declined saying "he doesn't design that kind of junk" but indicated that his son might be interested (Hertha Dau, 1989)

The Daus engaged Oswald Thorson of Forest City, Iowa, an architect who had recently graduated from the School of Architecture at the University of Minnesota and had just begun practicing in the office of Thorwald Thorson. This was his first house design commission. Thorson was exposed to "modern" architecture during

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2

CFN-259-1116

his last year, when the architectural school broke completely with traditional schools of design and concentrated on contemporary architecture (Oswald Thorson, 1989).

Oswald admitted that the Dau house was the first and last house that he designed with a flat roof, due to water problems encountered with this type of architecture. Following World War II, Oswald worked in his father's architectural office in Forest City. To seek more business, Oswald opened a branch office in Waterloo which grew into the partnership of Thorson, Brom, Broshar, and Snyder, specializing in hospitals and schools in the northeast part of Iowa. Oswald was involved in architectural design in Waterloo, Iowa from 1945 to 1979 at which time he retired from the practice. In the late 80's he sold interest in the architecture firm (Oswald, 1989).

Plans, Specifications, And Accounting Documents

A search for building documents yielded complete plans and specifications developed by Thorson, and records showing actual building expenses incurred by the Daus. According to the expense records kept by the Daus, the total cost to construct the home was \$10,000 .

Changes Made To The Architectural Design During Construction

Following conversations with Hertha Dau and Evelyn Dau Ruhnke in 1991, the original architectural drawings were used to document, "as built", the condition of the home following construction in 1937. A few changes materialized between the time architectural drawings were finalized and construction was completed on the Dau home in 1937-1938.

A common wall between the master bedroom closet and the bathroom closet was shifted slightly. The railing over the dining room roof was never installed. Flat iron railings which were to be shaped into curves for stairway railings were never constructed; pipe railings were substituted instead (Oswald Thorson, 1989). All railings and pipework in the home were designed and sculpted by William C. Dau in his auto body shop using four different diameters of pipe. All oblong door handles were also designed and fabricated by Wm. C. Dau who welded Buick car door handles onto standard door hardware and chrome plated them to match other chrome handles, hinges and the fireplace trim used in the home (Hertha Dau, 1989). The exterior flower boxes and outside stair railings were added by William C. Dau during 1938.

The kitchen cabinet plan was modified before construction to concentrate the stove and refrigerator on the west wall and sink and cabinets on the north wall. Some of the basement window wells were raised and earth fill added to provide positive drainage away from the foundation. The north basement window well and the front door step brick nosings were eliminated also. Inset courses of brown brick were changed to be flush with the other brick courses.

The cornice was covered with metal at the time of construction to reduce maintenance (Evelyn Ruhnke, 1989). The metal fascia was painted to match the brown brick and other trim on the home, and a thin galvanized drip flashing was installed along the top edge of the fascia.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Wm. C. and Hertha Dau House, Kossuth, Iowa

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 3

CFN-259-1116

The architect called for metal window frames but Anderson wood casement windows were substituted to eliminate frost penetration problems. All windows are fixed except for 3 living room, 2 dining room, 2 in each bedroom, and one in each bathroom which are crank out type casement windows. Metal framed storm windows and wood framed screens clip to the inside of the windows.

During 1937, William C. Dau added a chrome pipe base to an old round oak table and purchased modernistic oak chairs for the living room. He also constructed a chest of drawers for his daughter's room out of masonite and pine. The simple rectangular chest was painted off white and chrome handles added to match the other chrome hardware in the home.

The use of light tan colored brick with horizontal lines of brown brick may be unique for a home of this type and time period. The Daus searched for some time before discovering a company in Streeter, Illinois which produced a smooth light tan brick for their "modernistic" home (Hertha Dau, 1989).

Integrity of the Original Structure

Since the home was built, a few superficial changes have been made with few overall changes to the original form or structure of the home.

The walls of the living room, hallway, and dining room were originally painted light gray with darker gray mottling accents but were later changed to off-white (Evelyn Ruhnke, 1989). The master bedroom was originally painted with a pastel pink with darker pink stenciled flower patterns. The southeast bedroom was originally painted with pastel blue stenciled border and yellow stenciled stripes over white, and the northeast room was painted light blue. Presently, the southeast bedroom is painted pastel blue, the northeast bedroom painted light pink, and the master bedroom painted peach. Floor length curtains were used on the casement window in the living room with matching curtains hung from the dining room ceiling. Today, curtains in front of the windows in the dining and living room are window length. The exterior door has been painted a few times, but matches the original orange color. The trim has also been painted a few times, but it matches the original brown color (Hertha Dau and Evelyn Ruhnke, 1989).

The original rust colored wool carpeting found in the living room, dining room, hallway and stairway was replaced with a brown mottled and sculptured carpeting around 1979 (Evelyn Ruhnke, 1989). The original kitchen linoleum, off white with rust specks, was replaced with green and cream inlaid vinyl floor covering in 1979. All upstairs rooms retain their original oak flooring except the master bedroom which has been carpeted. Smooth, square, 12"x12" acoustical ceiling tiles were glued to the ceilings of the master bedroom, upstairs hall and bathroom in 1975 to conceal plaster cracks. A new counter top, sink, and cabinet were added to the upstairs bathroom in 1968. A vinyl floor covering was added to the upstairs bathroom and pink plastic tile added to the plaster walls around the bathtub and sink in 1968. All venetian blinds found on the first and second story windows were removed in 1968. A plywood and pine storage cabinet with sliding doors was constructed in the first floor sewing room in the late 1960's. The storage unit was painted a very light green to match the other wall surfaces. No structural modifications to walls, floors, or ceiling resulted from this addition (Hertha Dau, 1989).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Wm. C. and Hertha Dau House, Kossuth, Iowa

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

CFN-259-1116

During 1988, the main roofing material was stripped down to the wood deck and foam insulation added. The dining room and garage roofs were partially stripped, and foam insulation added there also. The upper galvanized drip flashing and the upper painted flashing was replaced on all roofs at that time. This modification changed the number of fascia elements from a drip flashing and two flat metal sheets to only two flat metal sheets. Also, the upper fascia sheet metal overlaps the lower fascia sheet metal piece more than the original. The upper roof fascia has been modified more than the lower roofs over the garage and dining room. The thickness of the roofs, however, has changed very little with these modifications. The roof membrane has been replaced twice with the addition of sloped insulating foam and roof membrane on the main roof in 1988 to better facilitate drainage (Hertha Dau, 1989)

Wood framed storm doors with matching circular glass of inside doors were made by William C. Dau in 1939, but replaced with aluminum combination doors (glass and screen) to the west and north doors in 1968.

Two wall mounted, half-round gray aluminum fixtures with indirect lighting, originally installed on the north and west living room walls, were removed in 1968 (Evelyn Ruhnke, 1989). These fixtures are in storage in the basement of the home. The black and gray, metal paneled fireplace with three vertical chrome strips on each side of the firebox was designed and fabricated by Wm. C. Dau in 1938 but covered with brown colored plastic brick veneer in 1969 (Hertha Dau, 1989).

A flat roofed screened summer house was designed and constructed by the Daus in 1940 on the same site which the wood working shop now occupies. In 1968 this structure, including the 6" concrete base was hoisted onto a flatbed trailer and moved to the Ridge View Farm where the Daus' daughter and her family live. The summer house is still in use at that location.

In 1968, the Daus built a wood working shop on the site previously occupied by the summer house. The wood working shop is a non-contributing structure. This 2"x4" wood frame building was designed and constructed with a flat overhang roof, lap siding with the width as the brick used in the home and painted a light tan to match. In the early 1970's, a wider, tan colored aluminum siding was added over the original siding to reduce maintenance. William C. Dau built much of the walnut furniture which was added to the home during the late 1960's and early 1970's in this shop.

The Dau landscape was originally designed by a Souix City, Iowa, landscape designer with Hertha's input. The plans could not be located, but with the aid of Hertha Dau and Evelyn Ruhnke and several old photos, the landscape plan was reconstructed from memory. Only a few plants from the original landscape design are present on the site today. The most notable of these are the four large maple trees on the west and south of the house. Between 1940 and 1960 Hertha Dau gradually replaced plantings around the house and built a large annual and perennial flower garden on the north side of the house. This garden is still present today.

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

Wm. C. and Hertha Dau House, Kossuth, Iowa

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 5 **Summary**

The William C. and Hertha Dau House possesses local significance under National Register Criterion C as an excellent example of Art Moderne and International style influenced residential design and of the impact of the "Model Homes of Tomorrow" exhibited at Chicago's 1933 Century of Progress Exposition on Iowans who visited that World's Fair. Completed in 1937, it was the first such "modern" house erected in Algona, and its design influenced another house completed in 1938 in the community for another Worlds Fair attendee. Photographs and a description of the Dau House were featured in the statewide edition of the Des Moines Register and local newspapers and at least one example was based on plans loaned by the Daus to a couple in Humboldt, and perhaps others were erected in the state prior to World War II.

Copy of the Dau House in Humbolt, Iowa

Within a year of the construction and publicity about the Dau house in local newspapers, a couple from Humbolt, Iowa, borrowed the house blueprints from the Daus to design and construct their own house. The couple made slight changes to these plans before constructing their house. Hertha Dau recalls that the couple enlarged the dining room by two feet, added a railing over the garage and constructed the walls out of white stucco, but it is otherwise very similar in form to the Dau house. Locations of windows and doors were shifted and the sizes of window openings changed from the Dau house. The original window frames were metal, but later replaced with wood casement type windows. Half wing walls were not included at the front door or garage area, and the roof overhang was reduced. A room was added to the back of the home at some point in time (Hertha Dau, 1989).

Another Art Moderne House Algona , Iowa

The Dau house stands in sharp contrast to nearly all other houses constructed in Algona in the 1930's and 1940's. The only exception is the Ringgenberg house which is a white stucco, flat roofed home designed and built in 1938 by Botsford Lumber (Emma Jean Lighting, 1990). Botsford Lumber hired George Miller to design the Ringgenberg house in 1938. George Miller was the general contractor who built the Dau house in 1937. Mr. Ringgenberg attended the 1933 Worlds Fair and was also impressed with the "Model Homes of Tomorrow" and, according to Emma Jean Lighting, he was also influenced by the Dau Home.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Wm. C. and Hertha Dau House, Kossuth, Iowa

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 6

CFN-259-1116

Major Bibliographical References

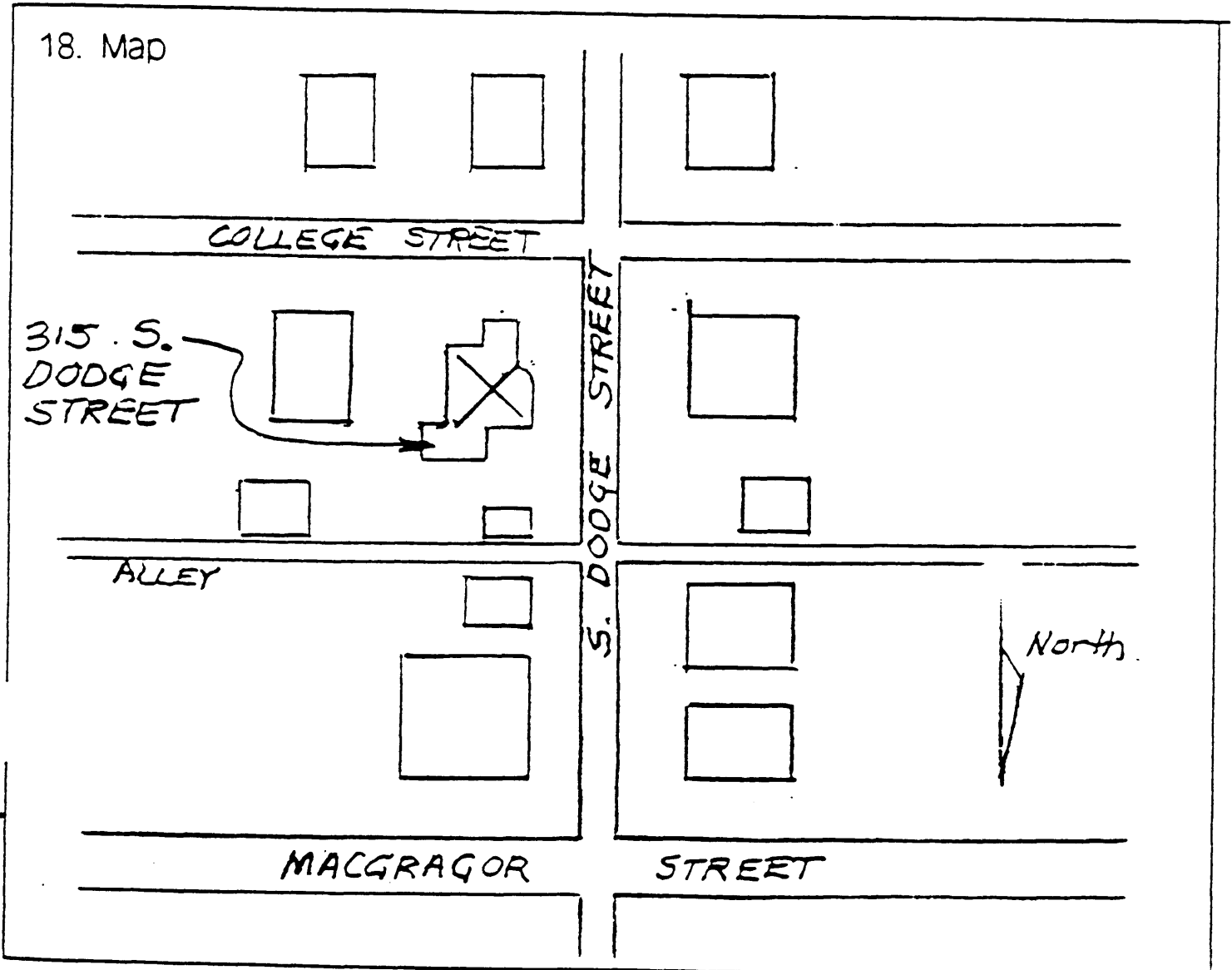
- Virginia and Lee McAlester, A Field Guide To American Houses, Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1984
- Algona Tribune, "New \$10,000 Home of Wm. C. Dau One of Most Modernistic, Convenient in City", 1937, Algona Tribune, on file with the State Historical Society of Iowa, Capitol Complex, Des Moines, Iowa
- Francoise Choay, Le Corbusier, New York: George Braziller, 1960
- Hertha Dau, from March 1989 thru November 1992, interviews by Evelyn Ruhnke and Ken Ruhnke, no transcript or tape available
- William C. and Hertha Dau, Expense Records, 1937, , on file with the State Historical Society of Iowa, Capitol Complex, Des Moines, Iowa
- Hertha Dau, Dau Historic Landscape Plan, reconstructed from memory, 1990, drawn by Ken Ruhnke, on file with the State Historical Society of Iowa, Capitol Complex, Des Moines, Iowa
- Des Moines Register, "\$10,000 Algona Home", 1937, Des Moines Register, on file with the State Historical Society of Iowa, Capitol Complex, Des Moines, Iowa
- James Marston Fitch, Walter Gropius, New York: George Braziller, Inc., 1960
- Emma Jean Lighting, October 1989, interview by Evelyn Ruhnke, no transcript or tape available
- James Weber Linn, A Century of Progress Exposition Chicago 1933, Chicago: The Reuben H. Donnelley Corporation, Chicago
- Gillian Naylor, The Bauhaus, London: Studio Vista Limited Blue Star House, 1968
- Evelyn (Dau) Ruhnke, from March 15 to September 1, 1989, interviews by Ken Ruhnke, no transcript or tape available
- Oswald Thorson, Architectural drawings, 1937,, on file with the State Historical Society of Iowa, Capitol Complex, Des Moines, Iowa
- Oswald Thorson, Specifications, 1937, ,on file with the State Historical Society of Iowa, Capitol Complex, Des Moines, Iowa
- Oswald Thorson, architect, October 22, 1989, interview by Ken Ruhnke, no transcript or tape available
- William C. Dau, photographs of Dau House interior, 1938-1944, on file with the State Historical Society of Iowa, Capitol Complex, Des Moines, Iowa
- Allan Ruhnke and Judy Ruhnke, photographs of exterior and interior of Dau home and out building, 1989-1990, on file with the State Historical Society of Iowa, Capitol Complex, Des Moines, Iowa
- Evelyn Ruhnke, Photographs of Humbolt house which was based on Dau House, 1990, on file with the State Historical Society of Iowa, Capitol Complex, Des Moines, Iowa

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

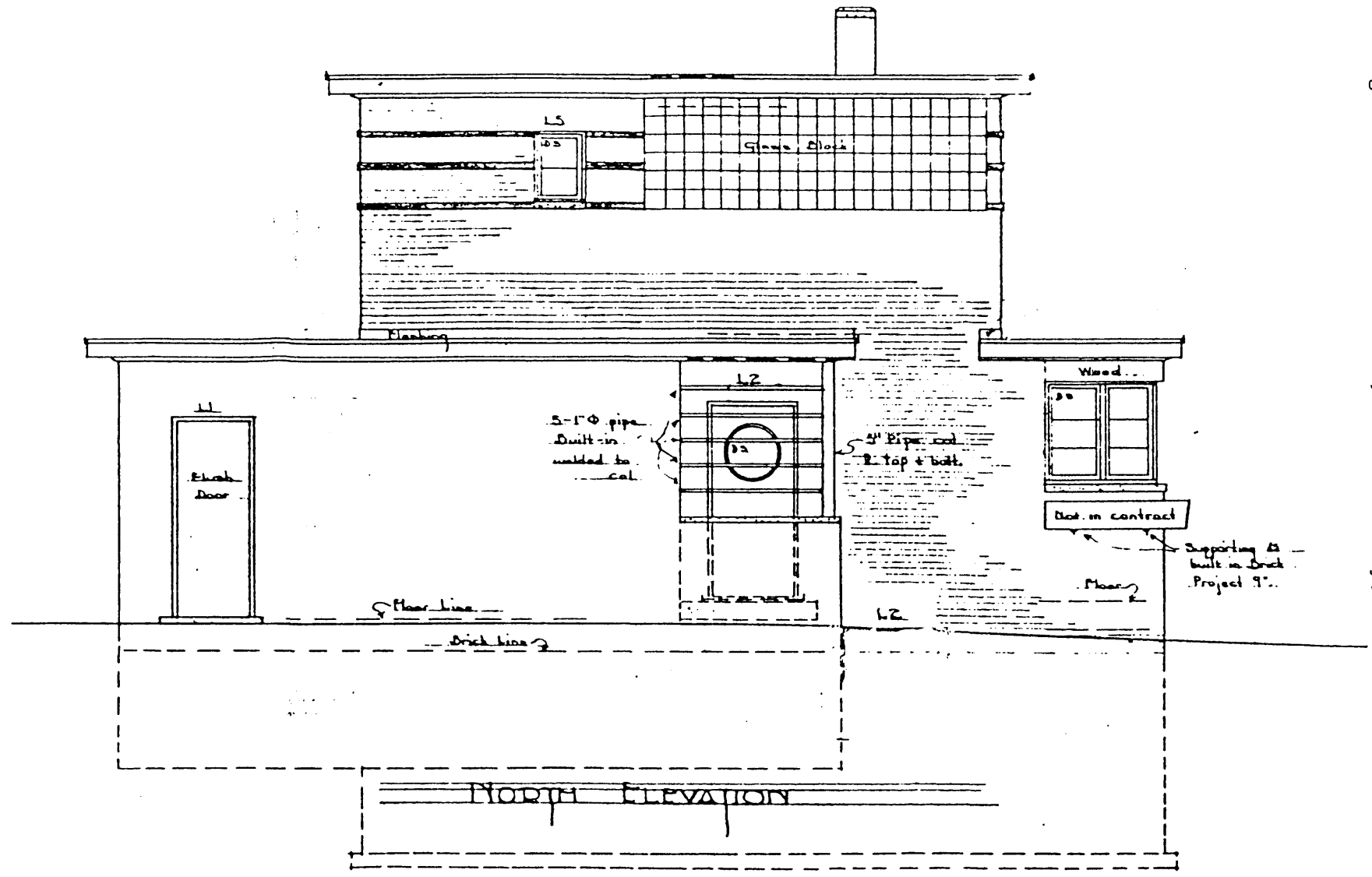
Section number 10 Page 7

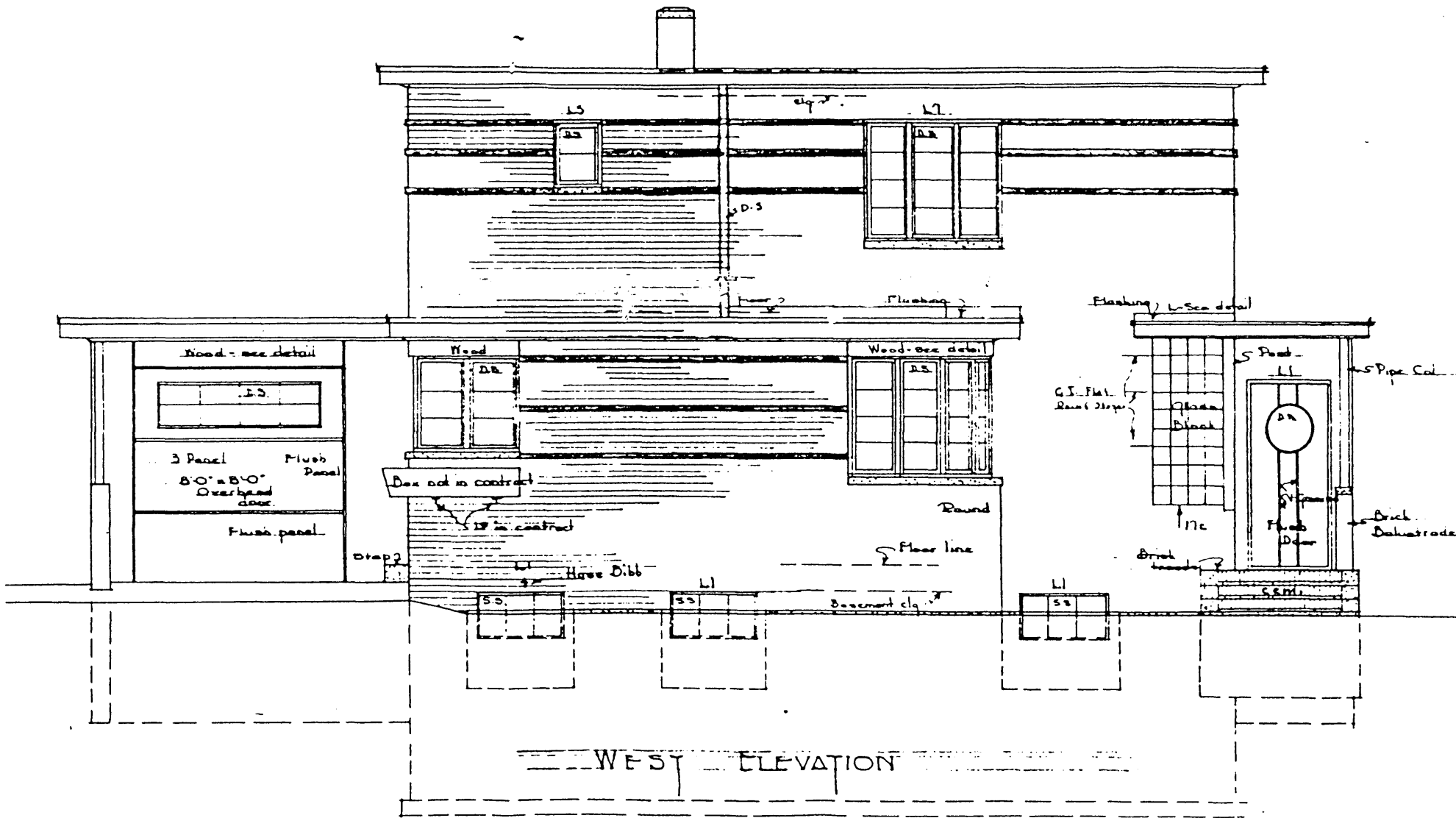
Dau House, Kossuth County, Iowa



CPE-41965/CFN-259-1357

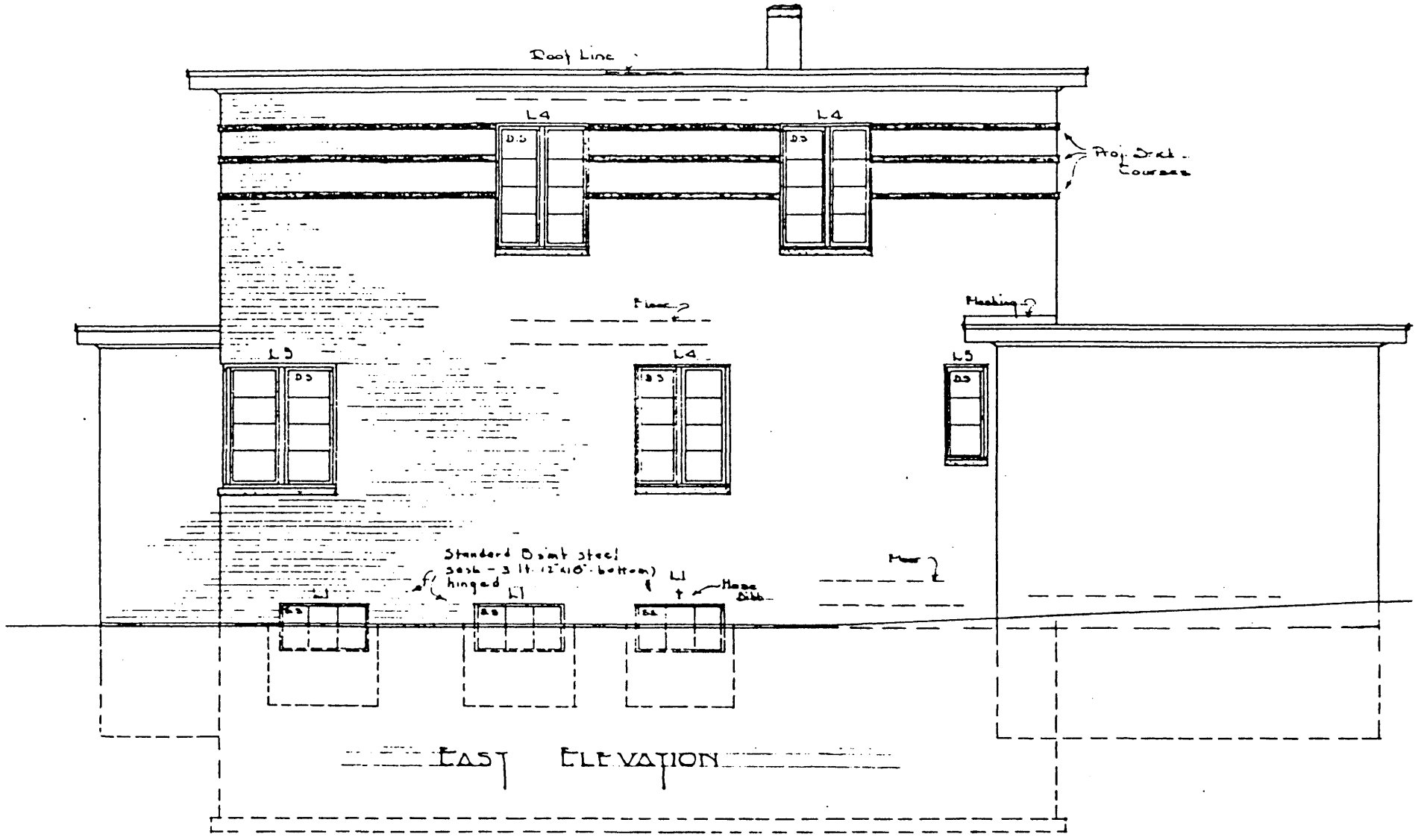
all of Lot 5 Block 52

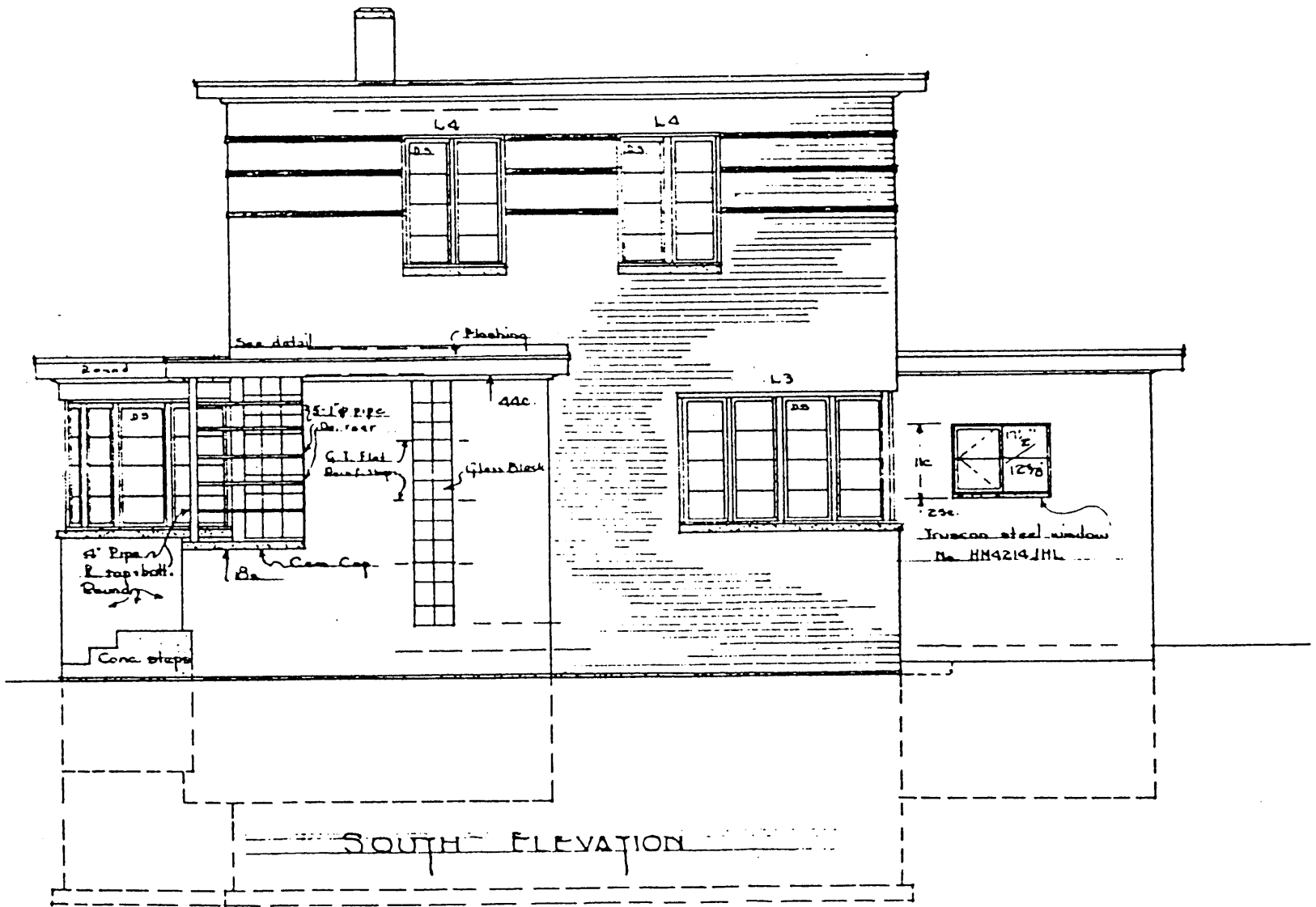




WEST ELEVATION

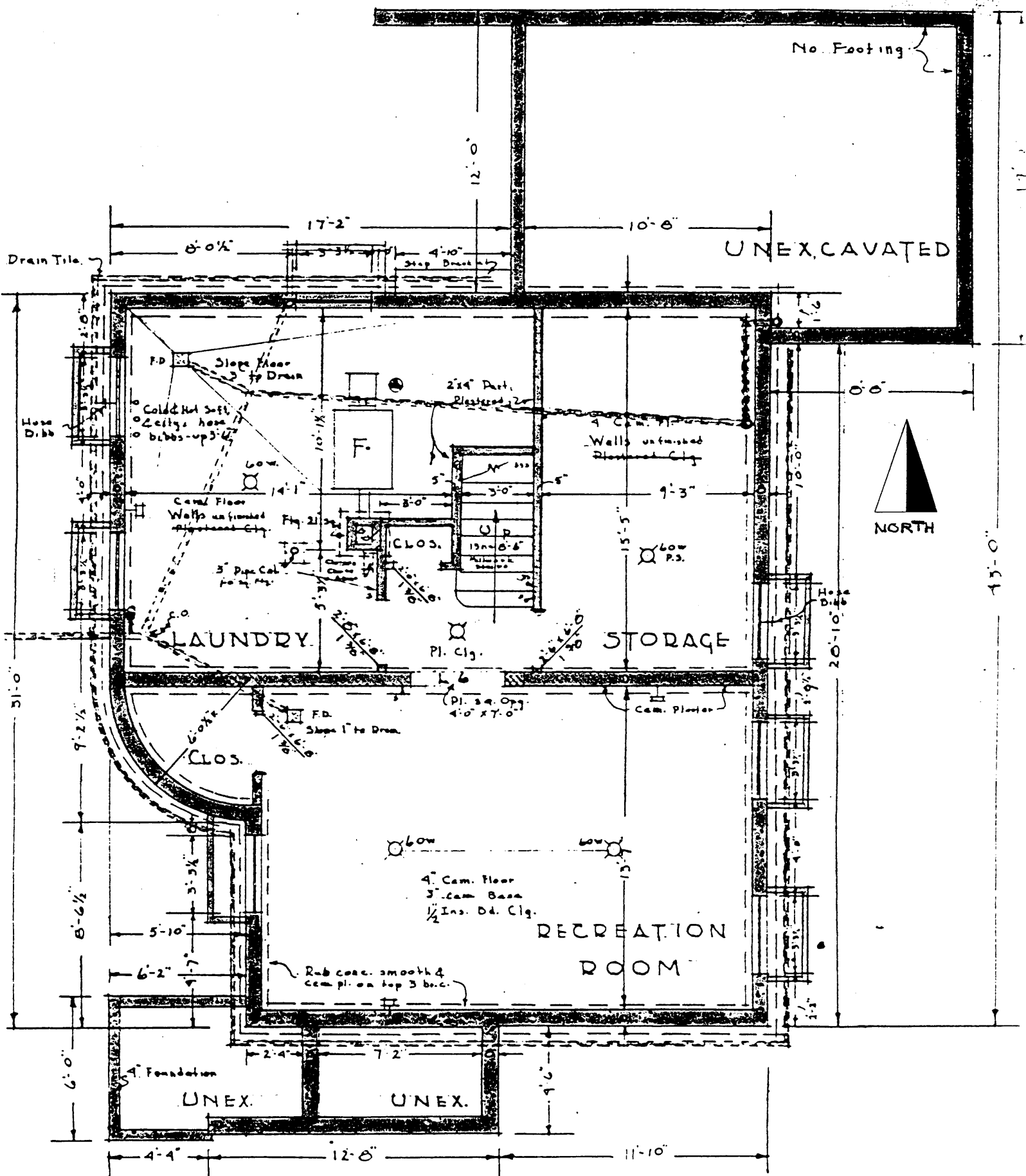
2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176





5'-9"

20'-0"

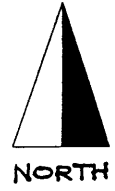
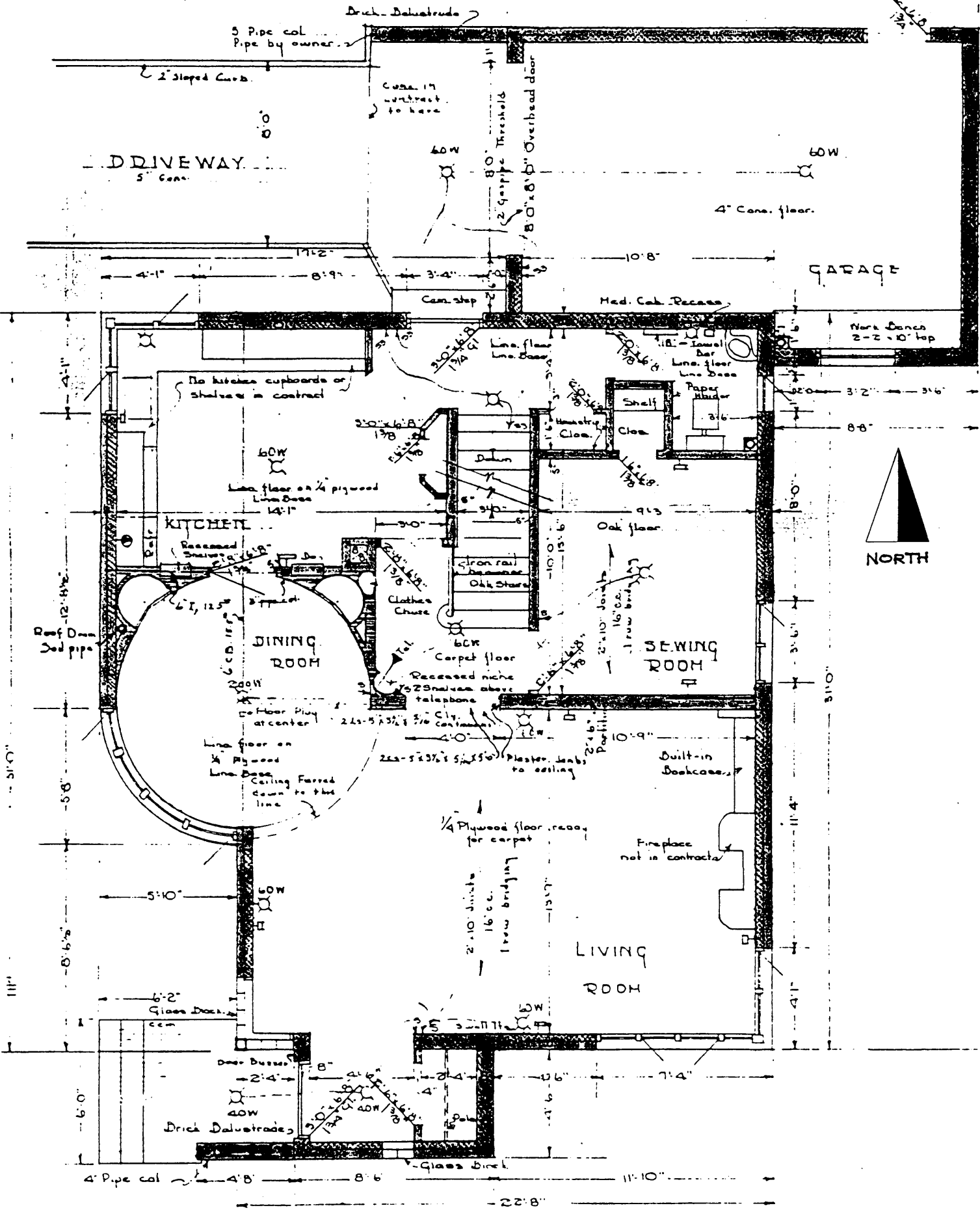


BASEMENT

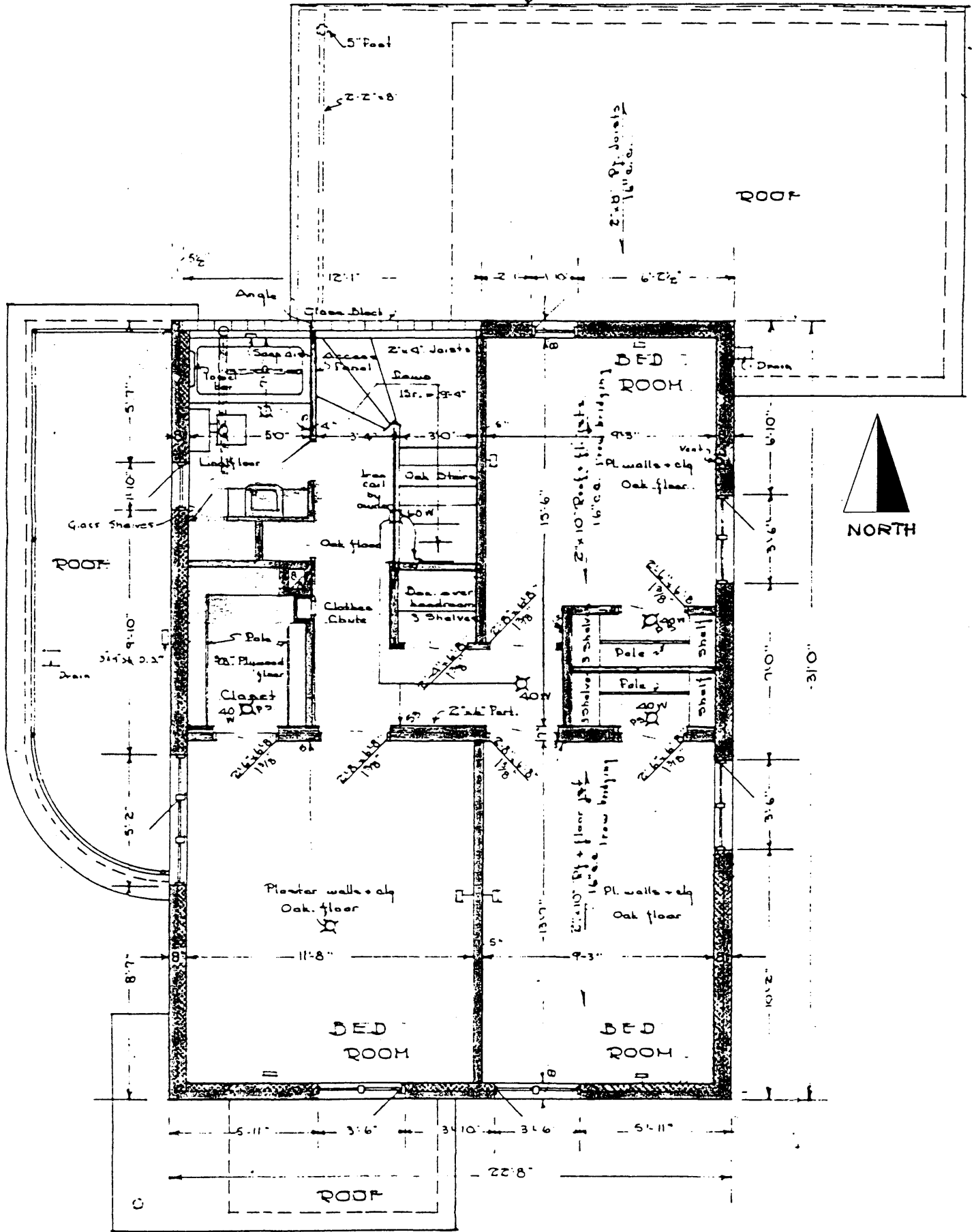
20'-0"

18'-2"

2'-0" 2'-0"



MAIN FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR