

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See 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 Humes, L.C., High School
other names/site number North Side High School and Humes, L.C., Junior High School

2. Location

street & number 659 North Manassas NA not for publication
city or town Memphis NA vicinity
state Tennessee code TN county Shelby 157 zip code 38107

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 for 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.)
Herbert L. Boyce 6/11/04
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission
State or 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:)

for Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Daniel J. ... 7/12/04

Humes, L. C., High School
Name of Property

Shelby, Tennessee
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal
- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	1	Buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2	1	Total

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

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Public Schools in Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee 1918 -1954

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: school

EDUCATION: school

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Collegiate Gothic

foundation Concrete

walls Brick

roof Slate

other Brick, terra cotta

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more 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 N/A

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture _____
 Education _____

Period of Significance

1924-1954 _____

Significant Dates

1924, 1926, 1930, 1940, 1954 _____

Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)
 N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation

N/A _____

Architect/Builder

Aswumb, George; Pfeil, Charles O.; Fisher, Charles/Arch. Buffaloe, B.E. & Co. ; Wessel Construction/Cont. _____

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
- 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: Memphis Landmarks Commission, Office of Planning and Development _____

Humes, L. C., High School
Name of Property

Shelby County, Tennessee
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 7.16 acres Northwest Memphis, TN-AR

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>16</u>	<u>770520</u>	<u>3894220</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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 Judith Johnson (1996) Nancy Jane Baker Landmarks Manager (2001)
Organization Memphis Landmarks Commission date July 15, 2001
street & number 125 N. Main Street Suite 443 telephone (901) 576-7170
city or town Memphis state TN zip code 38103

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 Memphis Board of Education
street & number 2987 Avery Avenue telephone (901) 325-5335
city or town Memphis state TN zip code 38112

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.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Tennessee

VII. Narrative Description

Lawrence Cabell Humes (L.C.) High School sits on 7.16 acres at 659 North Manassas in downtown Memphis, Tennessee. Historically, the urban area is one of the oldest parts of the city. The school is situated on the north end of the block on a flat, grassy site containing a few mature trees. L.C. Humes is bounded on the east by Manassas Street, on the south by Jackson Avenue, on the west by Woodlawn Street and on the north by Saffarans Avenue.

Constructed by Wessell Construction Co. in 1924, L.C. Humes, designed by George Awsumb of Pfeil and Awsumb Architects, follows the architectural style of Collegiate Gothic, which is an adaptation of the Gothic Revival style. Humes is a three-story red brick and concrete structure with terra-cotta trim. The flat roof is covered with slate and has a coping. The roofline has battlements and crenellated portions. The building, which has a reinforced concrete frame, consists of a central section with a lateral T-shaped wing that is parallel to Manassas Street. The most architecturally significant sections of the building are the 1926 transverse wings that extend from both the north and south facades.

The principal architectural features of the main building are located on the front, or east, facade. Two decorative polygonal buttresses frame the corbeled Tudor arches that serve as the entrances to the building. These buttresses resemble towers from the Middle Ages and are topped with terra-cotta finials that are incised with a diamond-shaped design. Using two colors of brick, the diamond ornamentation motif is continued in the decorative patterning of the brickwork that repeats across the upper portion of the central wing and the transverse wing. Above the center of each arch is a rosette and surrounding each corbeled arch is carved foliage terminating in a spire. The name of the school is engraved above the main arched entrance. Embedded in the brick work above the three arched entrances are foliated cartouches containing educational symbols, including a book of knowledge above the north entrance; keys to wisdom above the south entrance; and a tree of life above the main entrance. All the windows are four-over-six casement windows, with the original mullions and terra-cotta transom bars. The ecclesiastical influence is reflected in the style of the structure by the brickwork combined with terra cotta that creates an illusion of lancet windows just above the north and south entrances. Above the brickwork are three quatrefoils. Gargoyle downspouts of cast concrete are positioned on the sides of the entry bays. Four cast concrete finials, similar to those above the main entrance, adorn the top of each wing. Above the projecting entry bays appear cast stone inscription panels with quotations reflecting education reform:

“The whole world here unlocks the experience of the past to
The builders of the future.”

“The hope of democracy depends on the diffusion of knowledge
and wisdom.”

Surrounding the inscription panels is a diamond-shaped brick pattern; the same pattern spans the upper portion of the original facade. The exterior of the building still retains its architectural and

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historic integrity. Only minor alterations have occurred since construction and occurred within the period of significance.

The interior of L.C. Humes High School retains some of its original elements, but some features have been altered due to a renovation program that ensued following a fire that caused damage to the main office and auditorium in 1976. The first floor lobby retains the original simple walls and terrazzo floors. The terrazzo pattern is repeated on the stairs to the second floor and again in the entry and on the stairs of the extensions. The Tudor arch is repeated in the interior of the building, framing the entrances of the mezzanine floor. Major original elements in the interior of the building include wood staircases, handrails, and balusters at the entrance and cast-iron newel posts, handrails, and balusters throughout the rest of the building. In the additions, cast-iron ornamentation decorates the stairs. The hallways and classrooms are utilitarian and have a minimal amount of architectural detailing. Many classrooms were re-wired and equipped with more effective fluorescent lighting. However, the original porcelain water fountains and some original slate blackboards remain. Ceilings were lowered and central air-conditioning was installed.

The original three-story building had its first additions in 1926. The next additions at the rear of the T-shape were added in 1930 when the then existing building was covered with a brick veneer (See site map). Attached to the north side of the 1930 addition is another three-story, brick veneer rectangular addition from 1954. On the north end of the main building is a 1940 three-story, irregular plan addition with a flat roof and casement windows. Freestanding on the south end behind the main building is a contributing 1928, brick veneer, one-story building with a cross gable roof and originally used as a firing range. On the south end of the building, attached to the 1926 wing is a 1977 one-story, rectangular brick veneer addition. Freestanding in the northeast corner of the school and parallel to Manassas Street is a gymnasium. It is a simple one-story brick structure with non-decorative facades. Built in 1957, the gymnasium was designed by Clarence Fisher. Additions occurred over a long period and reflect an architectural continuity of design.

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VIII. Narrative Statement of Significance

Lawrence Cabell (L.C.) Humes High School is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A, for its significance in education to Memphis, Tennessee and under criterion C, for its for its Collegiate Gothic design. The school building represents the City of Memphis' moral and financial commitment to raising the standard of education within the City and the City's compliance with the Smith-Hughes Act, part of the national educational reform movement. Architecturally, L.C. Humes has a distinctive architectural style, Collegiate Gothic, and represents the work of local architects Charles O. Pfeil and George W. Awsumb. The Gothic Revival detailing, such as the prominent entrances with the Tudor corbelled arches and intricately designed pinnacles, create a unified design that embodies the academic spirit exemplified by the Collegiate Gothic style. The building meets the registration requirements for public schools set forth in the Multiple Property Documentation Form for *Public Schools in Memphis, Tennessee 1918-1954*.

By the time Central High School, the city's first high school, was completed in 1909, it was already obsolete from overcrowding. However, additional high schools were not constructed for another fifteen years, L.C. Humes being one of them. Originally called Northside, L.C. Humes was constructed in 1924 to teach seventh to twelfth grades for white students. It was renamed for Lawrence Cabell Humes, president of the Memphis Board of Education who died in 1925. Humes was the companion school to South Side High School built in 1923 for African-American students. During the first forty-one years of its operation, teachers at L.C. Humes taught a broad spectrum of ethnic groups (e.g., Jewish, Irish, German, Italian, and Greek). Humes was the first school in Memphis with the junior and senior high student combination. In 1930, the stage/gym was designed by Memphis architect George Awsumb in the same Collegiate Gothic style as the rest of the building. In 1954 the cafeteria was built serving not only the students but also the nearby Memphis Board of Education employees. Architect Charles Fischer designed the gym in 1957. In 1966, L.C. Humes was integrated and within a year it began to teach only seventh and eighth grades and the name was changed to the L. C. Humes Junior High School.

At the turn of the century, an Education Reform movement began in America. This movement aimed to transform schools from disciplinary institutions into educational and training institutions. Advocates believed students/children should be trained for useful service in the office, shop, and home and to prepare them for intelligent participation in an increasingly complex social, political, and industrial society. With this basis, the Smith-Hughes National Vocational Education Act was enacted in 1917. This act promoting vocational education was one of the most important educational innovations proposed by educational reformers. Vocational education provided training in practical skills for pupils who would not or could not complete the traditional four-year program. The Smith-Hughes Act established the central tenants of trade and industrial education, resulting in much creating "co-op" education between businesses and schools. The Memphis School Board complied with the national requirements of the Smith-Hughes National Vocational Education Act by using the L.C. Humes High School as the example in Memphis for how vocational education should work.

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For example, banking was one of the early vocational courses offered at Humes. It was a course designed to encourage thrift and practicality, which was a unique concept in public schools in Memphis. One hundred percent of the students participated in the program by making deposits and/or withdrawals once a week on "bank day."

In 1929, New York newspaper and the NBC network announced that Humes High School had installed the largest centralized radio system in America. In 1932, "talkie" equipment was installed. Two-way communication was made possible when the radio system was rewired in 1938 for public address system. Financed entirely by the school, the new public address system was the first of its kind in the city and one of the best in the south.

The first course in infant hygiene in the city schools was offered here in 1928. Other unique courses included manual training, telegraphy, commercial law, ROTC, forensics, aviation, and distributive education. In 1940, other courses offered at Hume included construction, shop, business, food service, and cosmetology.

Memphis architect George Awsumb designed the Humes vocational school buildings, which consisted of twelve classrooms and shops. Ernest Ball, the Superintendent of Education, stated that the addition would house the school's commercial department, food department, metal, electric and wood shops, and the drafting department. The shops in the new addition would also deal with "motors for airplanes". For those adults already in the work force, L.C. Humes offered night classes in stenography, typewriting, bookkeeping, home making, millinery, dressmaking, and mechanical drawing. The classes were designed to provide vocational training and specialized instruction to increase worker efficiency. The "boys" employed in the vocational educational department supplied hundreds of school chairs, desks, and typing tables for use in the city school system. They earned money for their efforts. This is an early example of co-op education in the Memphis City School system.

From its beginning L.C. Humes established a reputation for excellence in academics and sports. The award winning school paper, the *Humes High Herald* ranked among the best high school newspapers in the country. The newspaper "bound closely the students and the faculty of Humes High School". In 1937, it received the Medill School of Journalism's International First Place Award for Critical Service.

In a report by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary School as reported by the Memphis *Commercial Appeal* writer Ellis Moore on June 22 1951, the Humes High School curriculum and course of study was rated as "extensive and flexible" with a strong college preparatory course and excellent vocational training. There were a large number of extra-curricular activities, a variety of athletes, a strong student council and assembly program planned and presented by the pupils. The report also stated that the school was "free from undemocratic influences of social fraternities and sororities." The instruction includes a broad curriculum "adequate" for the pupils and that the classrooms were spacious, clean and "the faculty shows a genuine interest in the individual student." The buildings were well kept, the lighting was good, and there was a continued program of improvements and maintenance for the facility.

Among the many graduates of L.C. Humes to distinguish themselves are: plastic surgeon McCarthy DeMere, Rhodes Scholar and college professor James E. Roper, Shelby County

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Juvenile Court Judge Kenneth Turner, former Shelby County Sheriff Gene Barksdale, actor Red West, rock and roll star Elvis Presley, business executives Nat Baxter of the Coca Cola Company, Nat Buring of the Buring Food Group, and former Memphis Chief of Police John Holt.

Today, L.C. Hume High School is still an important part of the Memphis educational system. It continues to be used and will soon undergo maintenance and upgrading. It remains a vital part of the City's history.

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Bibliography

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Commercial Appeal. (Memphis), 28 November 1940.

Herndon, Joseph L. "Architects in Tennessee until 1930: A Dictionary." Masters thesis, Columbia University, 1975.

Griffin, Loretta G. and Verna Dobbs. "National Register of Historic Places Inventory- Nomination Form, Humes Jr. High School (draft) 1985.

Johnson, Judith and Michael Fleanor. "Public Schools in Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee 1918-1954", National Register MPS.

Moore, Ellis. "Report by the Southern Association of College and Secondary School." *Commercial Appeal*, 22 July 1951.

The Development of School Facilities in the Memphis City School System, 1865 to Present. 1987. Division of Research Services, Memphis City School, Memphis Tennessee.

Sanborn Map Company. "Insurance Maps of Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee." New York: Pelham, 1952,1959.

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Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

Lawrence Cabell Humes High School is on a 7.16-acre parcel in the City of Memphis. It is bounded on the north by Saffarans Avenue, on the east by Manassas Street, on the south by Jackson Avenue and on the west by Woodlawn Street. The boundaries contain all the property historically and currently associated with the school.

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Photos by: Nancy Jane Baker (1-14) and Judith Johnson (15-26)

Date: 2001 and 1998

Neg: Tennessee Historical Commission

1 of 26

Main Building, main entrance, facing northwest

2 of 26

East facade of Main building, facing northwest

3 of 26

East facade, northeast entrance, facing southwest

4 of 26

One of flanking entrances of the facade of the main building, facing west

5 of 26

Detail of one of the flanking entrances on the facade of the main building, facing west

6 of 26

Detail of the south side of the south flanking entrance of the main building, facing north

7 of 26

Main Building north elevation main entrance, facing south

8 of 26

Gymnasium, north elevation, facing south by southwest

9 of 26

Gymnasium, west elevation, facing north by northeast

10 of 26

Gymnasium, 1954 addition, main building, and 1930 addition, facing east

11 of 26

1930 addition, facing south by southeast

12 of 26

Connection between the 1940 addition and the main building and the 1930 addition, facing north by northeast

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13 of 26

1928 Secondary building, facing north by northeast

14 of 26

South elevation of the 1926 main building and 1977 addition, facing north, northeast

15 of 26

1926 and 1940 additions, facing southwest

16 of 26

1930's addition, facing northwest

17 of 26

Interior, hallway

18 of 26

Interior, hallway

19 of 26

Interior, stairwell and windows

20 of 26

Interior, science laboratory

21 of 26

Interior, science laboratory

22 of 26

Interior, science laboratory

23 of 26

Interior, classroom

24 of 26

Interior, auditorium

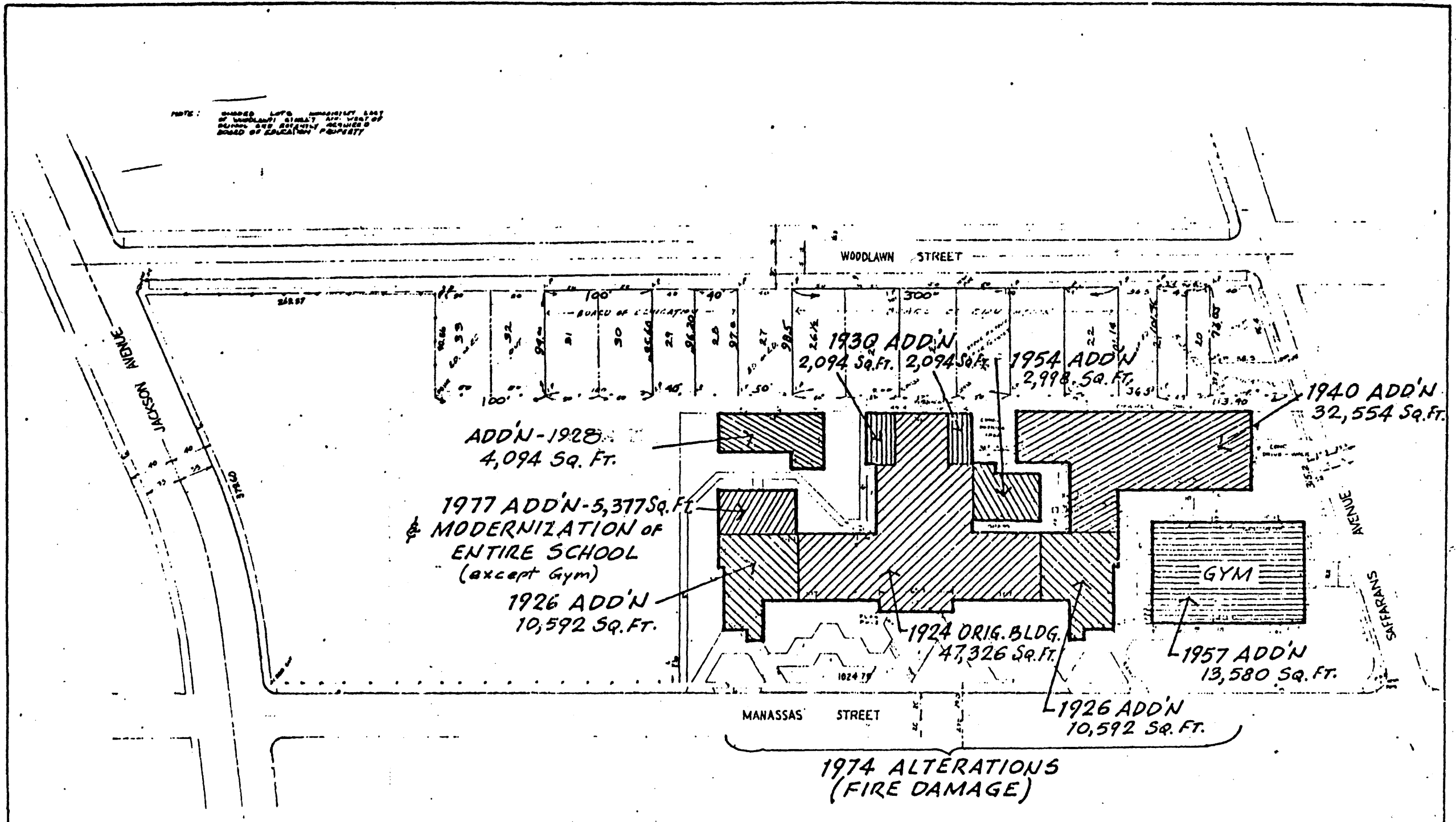
25 of 26

Interior, auditorium, detail of drapery

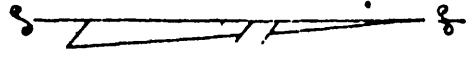
26 of 26

Detail of "corner" stone

NOTE: SHADDED LOTS IMMEDIATELY EAST OF WOODLAWN STREET AND WEST OF MANASSAS STREET ARE PART OF SCHOOL AND ARE NOT TO BE CONSIDERED AS BOARD OF EDUCATION PROPERTY

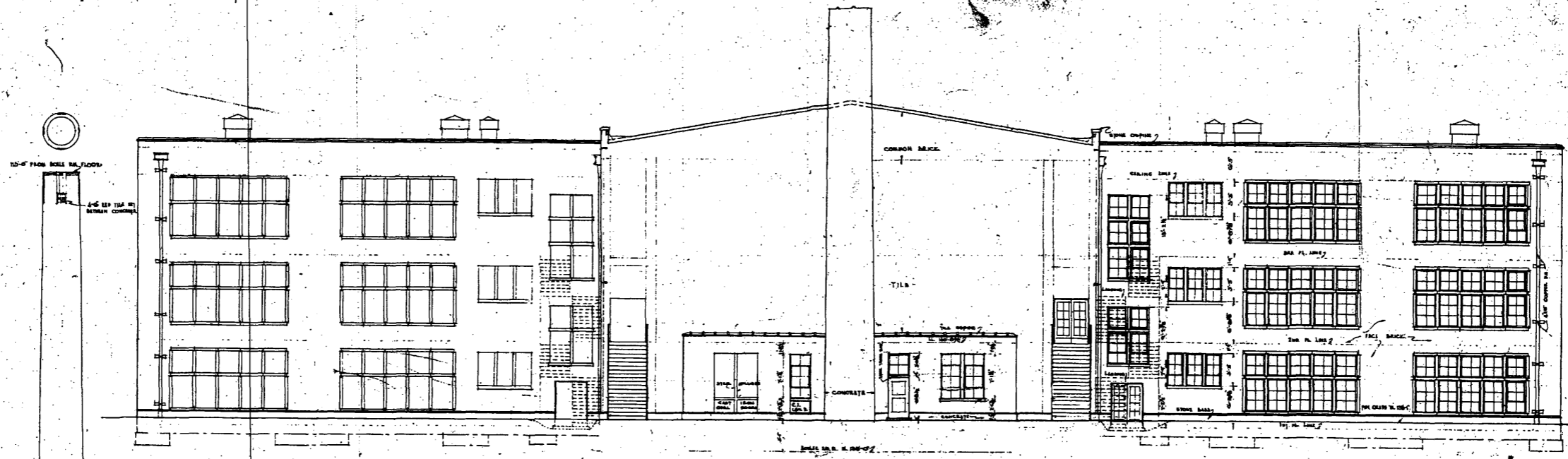


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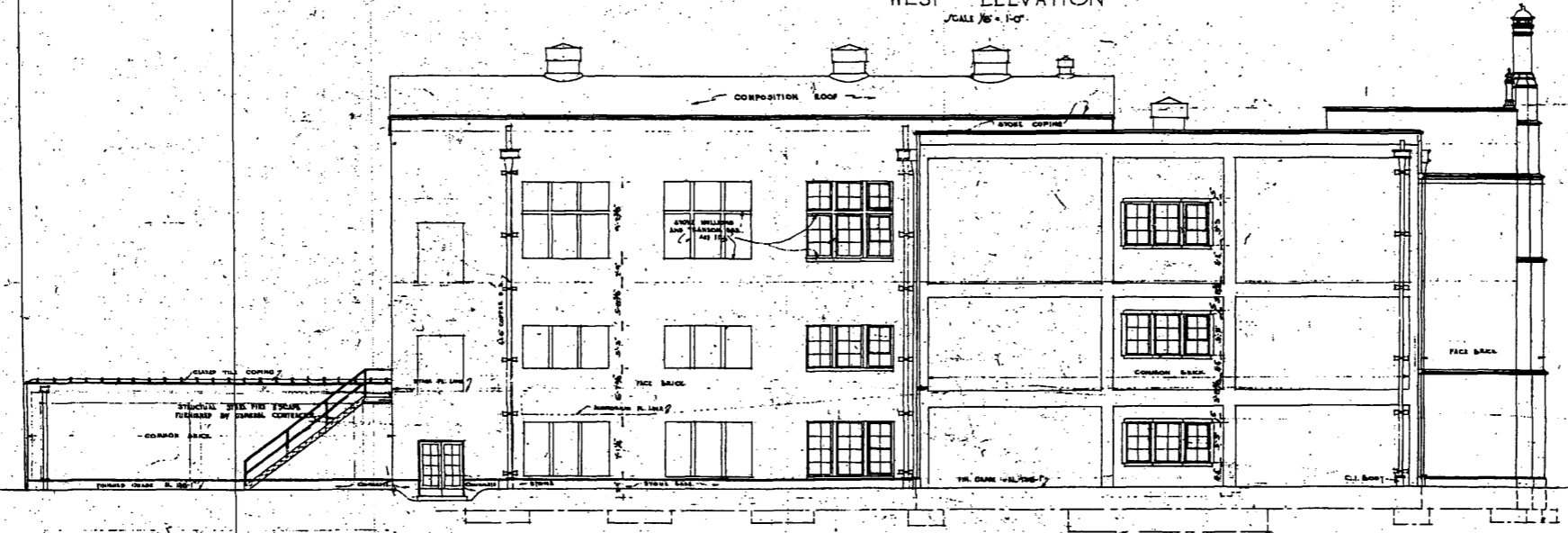


PHASE VI

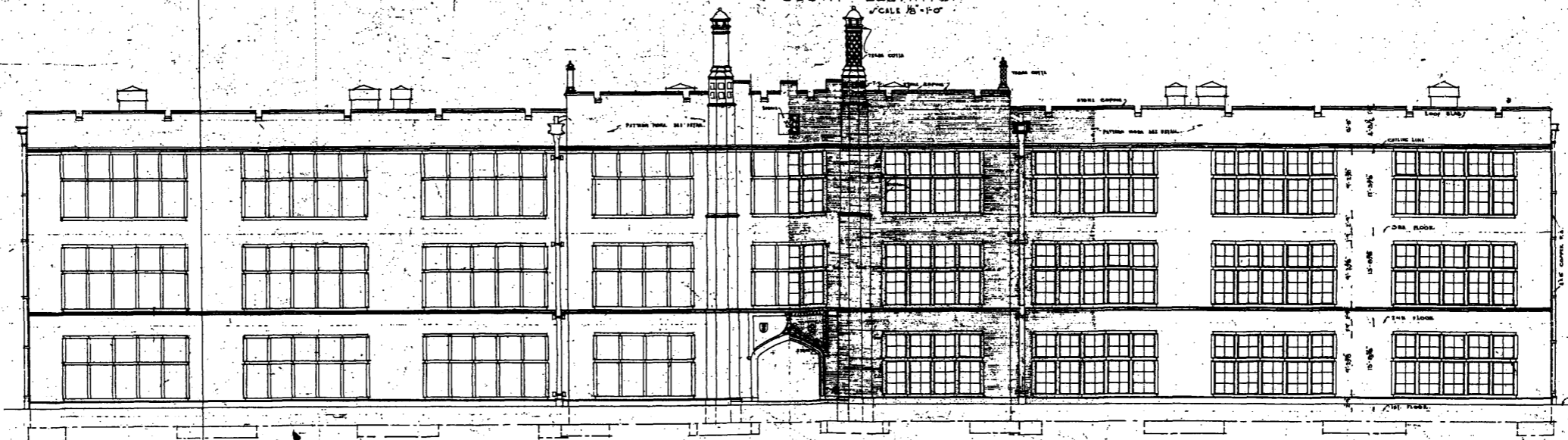
DRAWN BY		BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE MEMPHIS CITY SCHOOLS	
DATE		BUILDING LOCATION PLAN	
APPROVED BY			
APPROVED BY			
APPROVED BY			
APPROVED BY			
SCALE	SHEET OF	SCHOOL HUMES JR.	DRAWING NO. ACBM-13074- E



WEST ELEVATION
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"



SOUTH ELEVATION
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"



EAST ELEVATION
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

NOTE: EAST AND WEST ELEVATIONS SYMMETRICAL ABOUT
CENTER LINE UNLESS SHOWN OTHERWISE
ALL FACE BRICK - SEE PAVING DETAILS 2001%

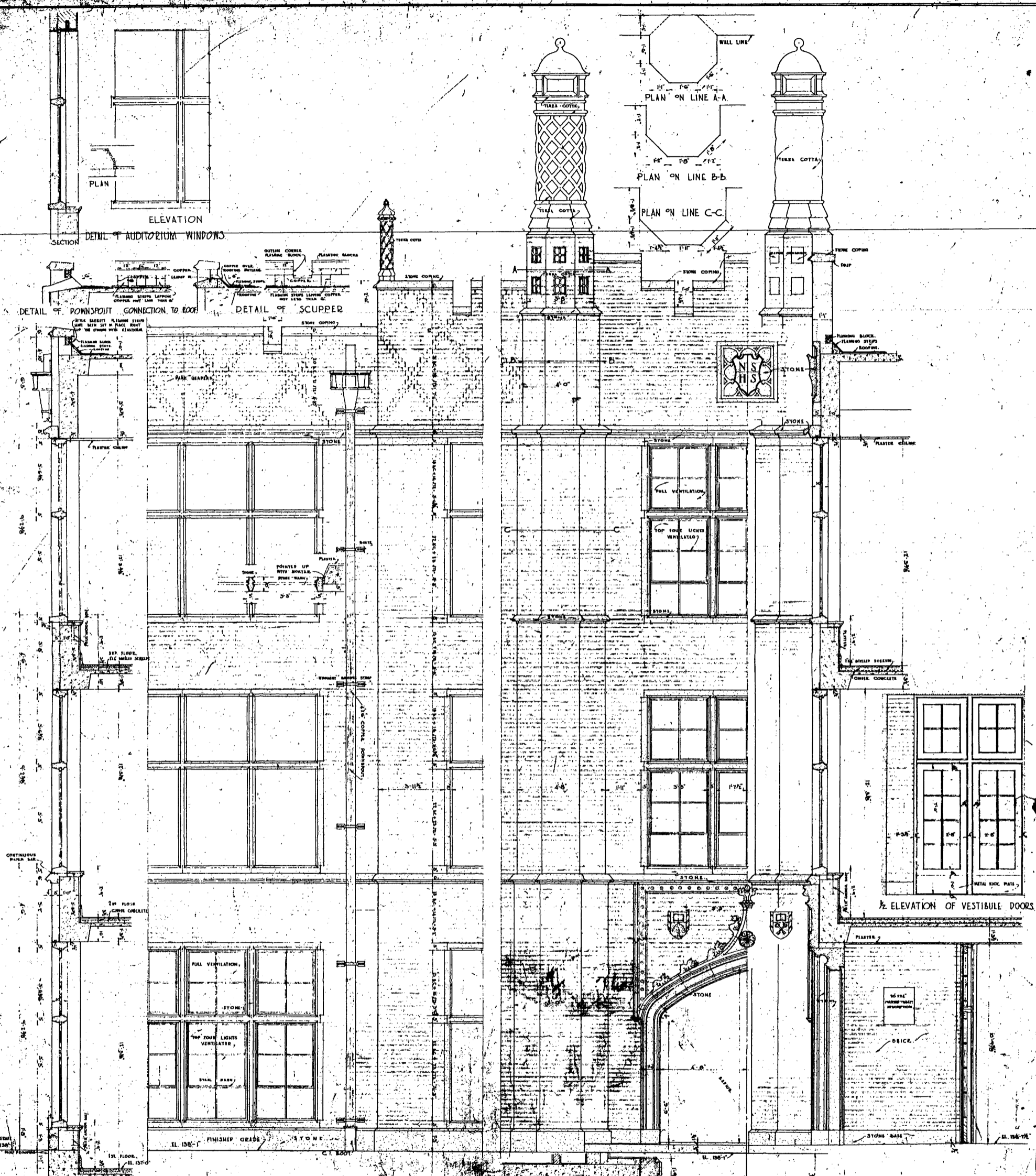
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BRICK
TILE
CONCRETE

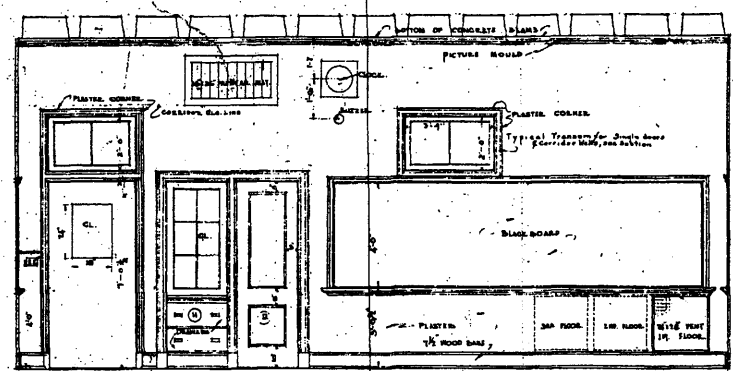
NORTH SIDE HIGH SCHOOL

CHARLES O. PFEIL
GEORGE AWSUMB
ARCHITECTS

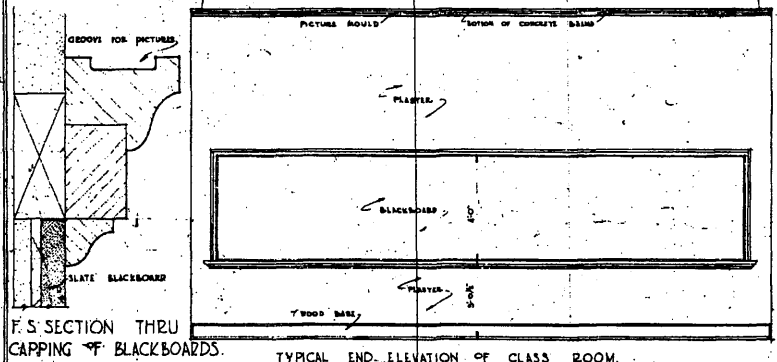
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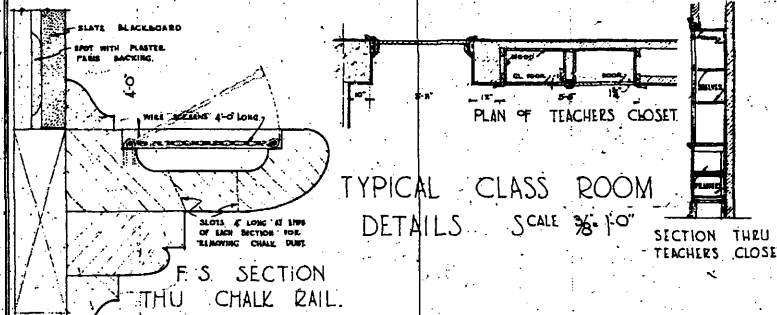
B.B.B.
 TYPICAL WALL SECTION SCALE 1/2" = 1'-0"
 PLAN OF ENTRANCE
 SECTION THRU ENTRANCE



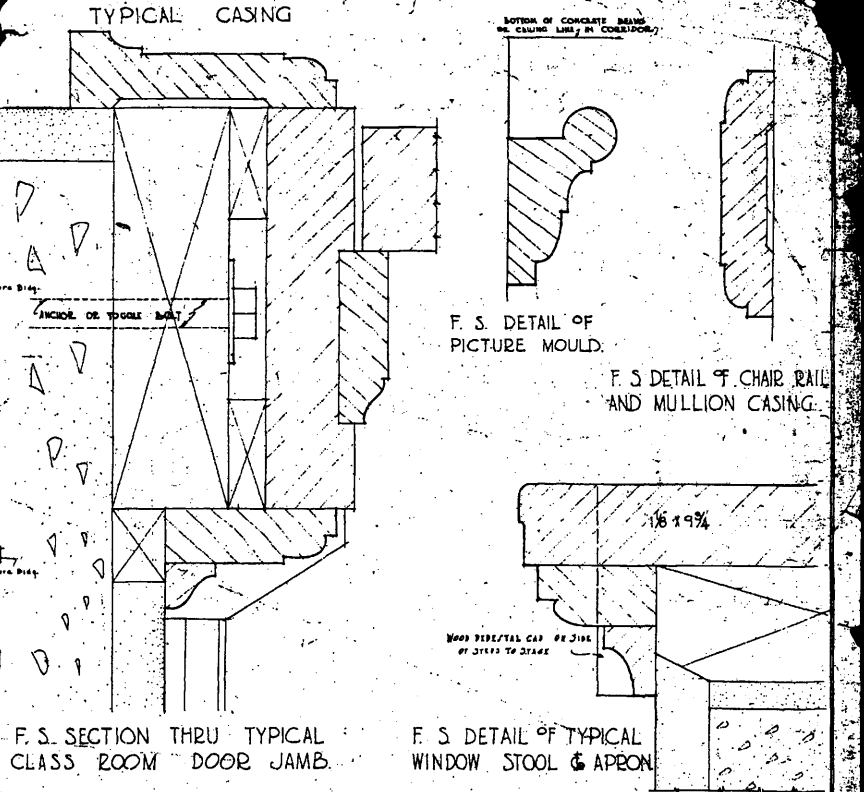
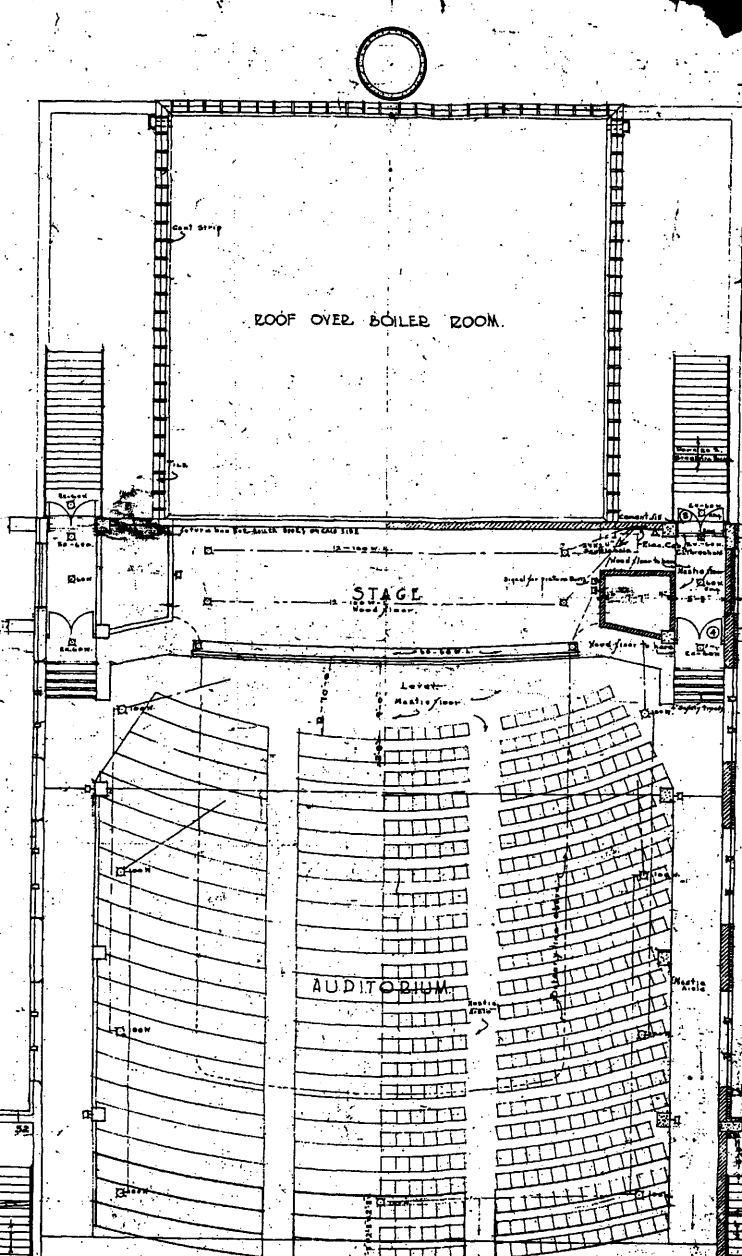
TYPICAL ELEVATION OF CLASS ROOM NEXT TO CORRIDOR.



TYPICAL END ELEVATION OF CLASS ROOM.

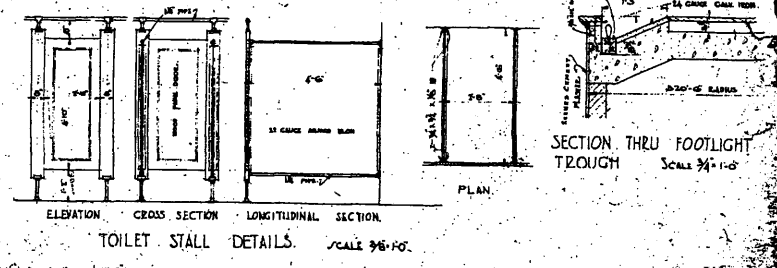


TYPICAL CLASS ROOM DETAILS SCALE 3/8" = 1'-0"

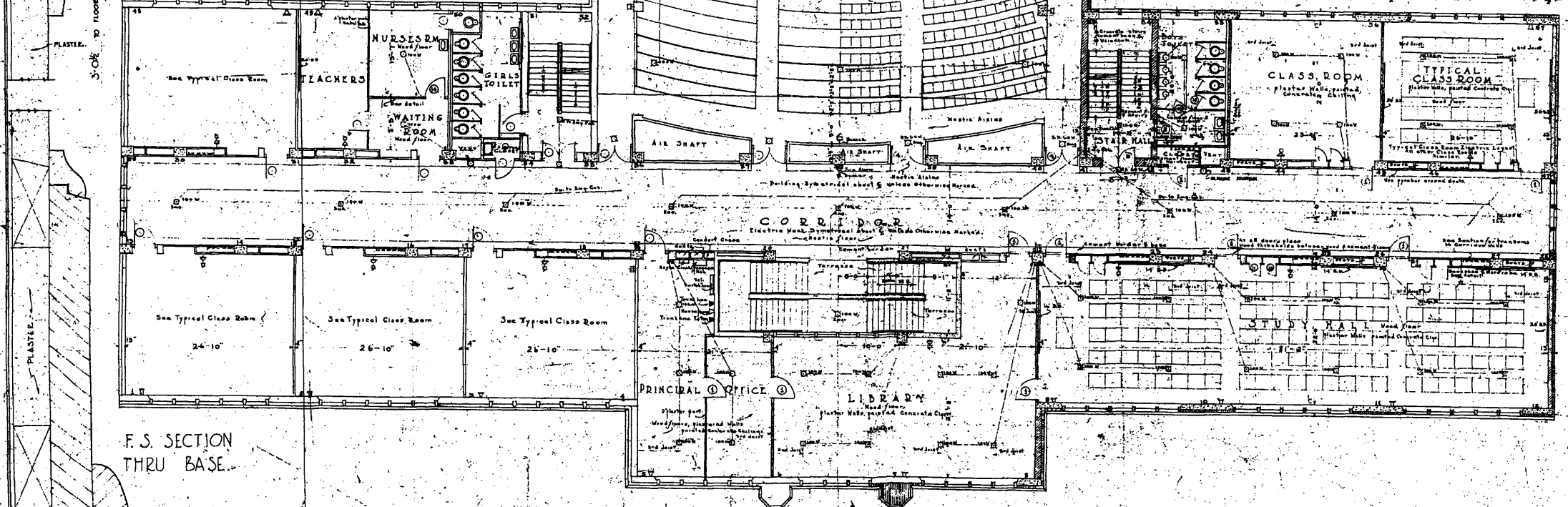


F.S. SECTION THRU TYPICAL CLASS ROOM DOOR JAMB.

F.S. DETAIL OF TYPICAL WINDOW STOOL & APRON.



TOILET STALL DETAILS SCALE 3/8" = 1'-0"



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

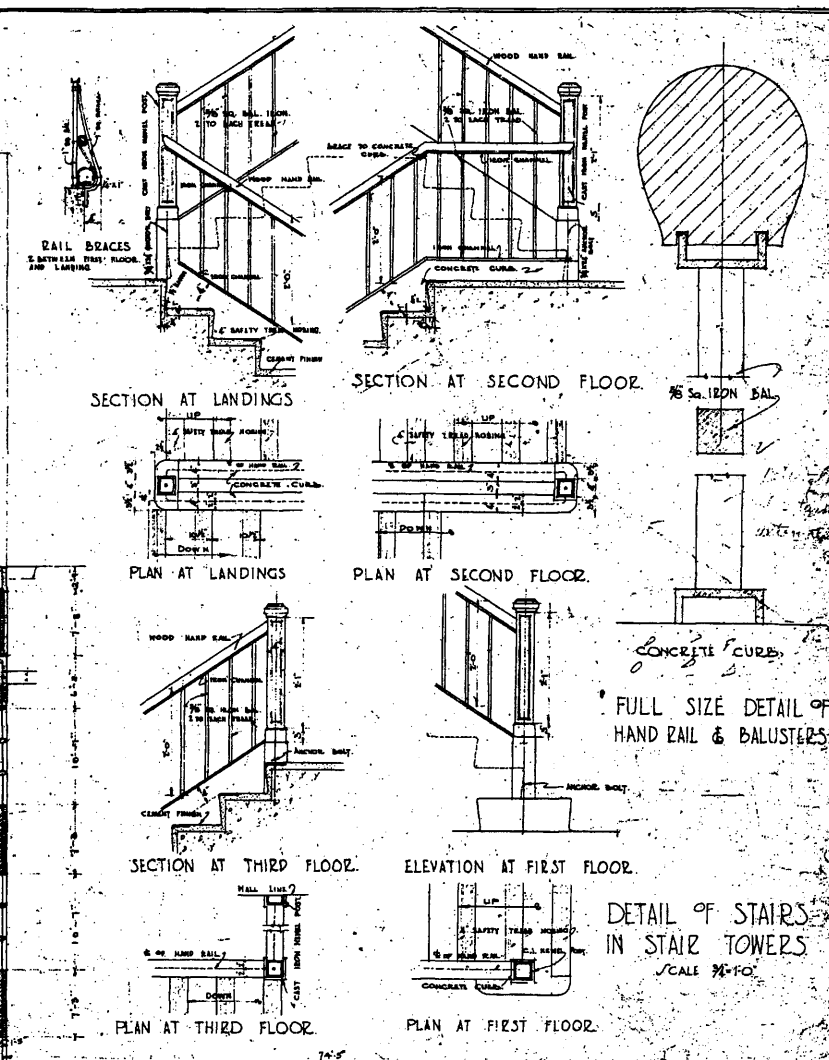
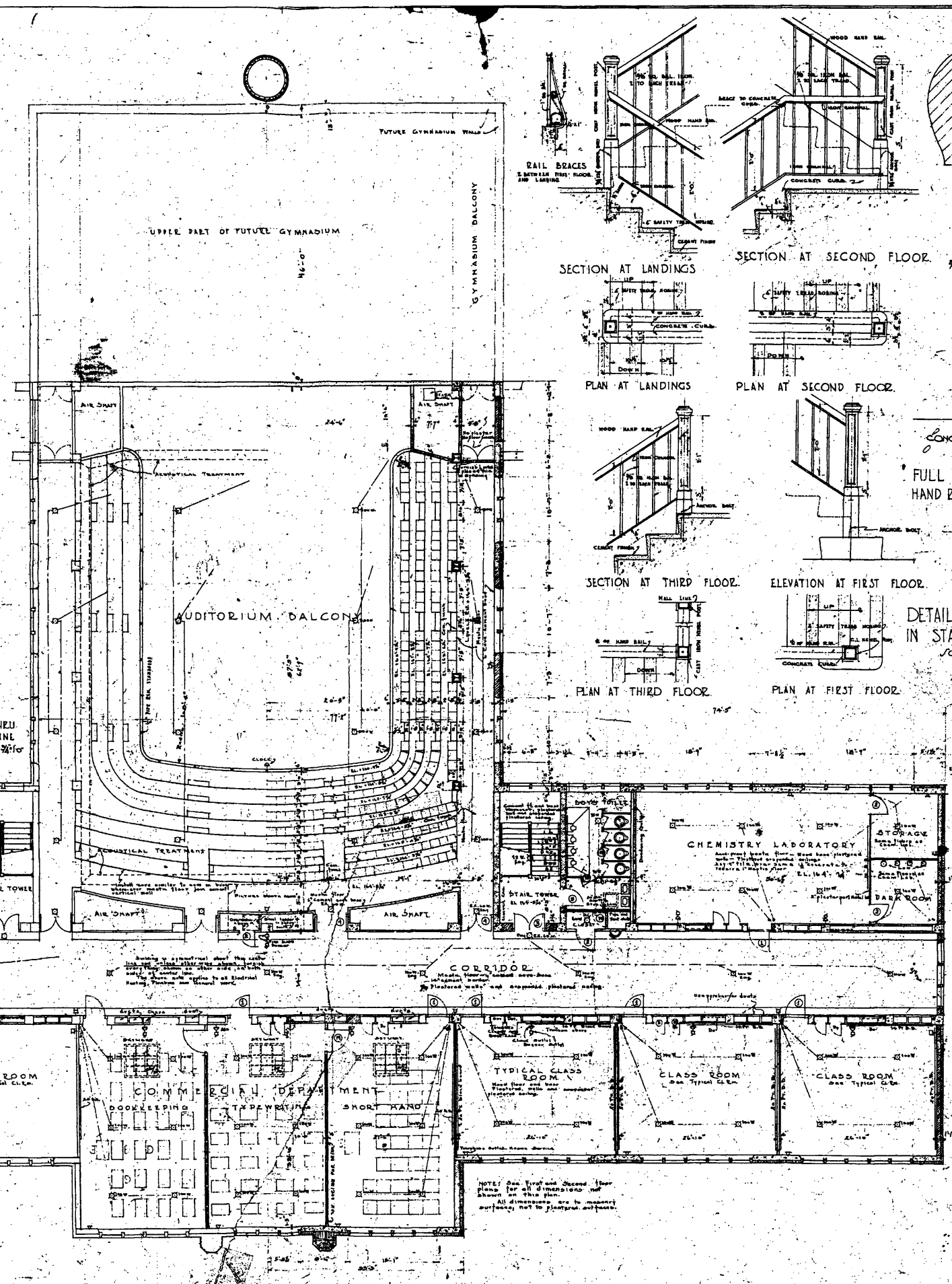
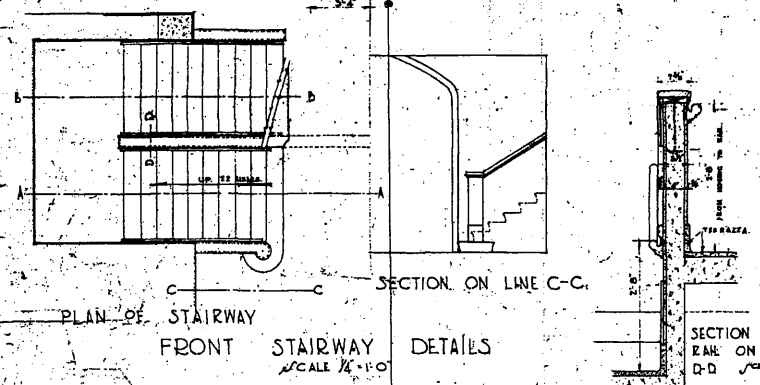
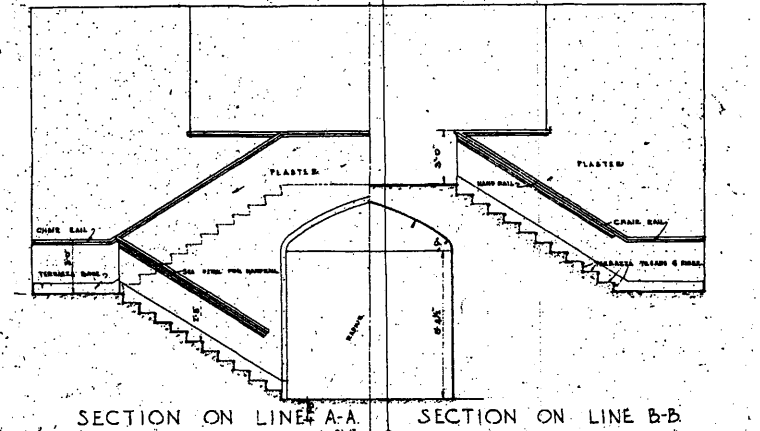
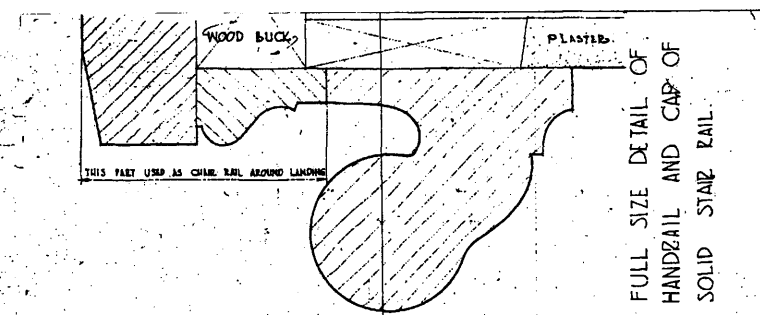
SHEET 2
SERIES 333

DRINK
TILE
CONCRETE

NORTH SIDE HIGH SCHOOL

CHARLES O. REIL
GEORGE AWSUMB
ARCHITECTS

SHEET 2
SERIES 333



THIRD FLOOR PLAN
SCALE 1/8"=1'-0"

SHEET 3
BRICK
TILE
CONCRETE

NORTH SIDE HIGH SCHOOL

CHARLES G. PFEL
GEORGE AWSUMB
ARCHITECTS

SHEET 3