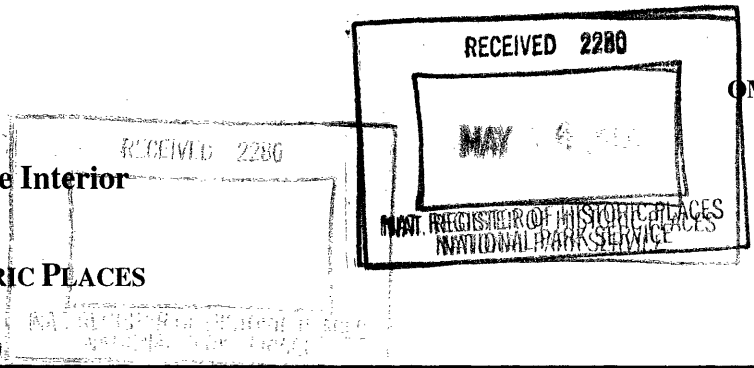


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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: Old Main, North Dakota School of Forestry
OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: 32 BU 501

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: Alexander Street (north of terminus with 2nd Street)
NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A
CITY OR TOWN: Bottineau VICINITY: N/A
STATE: North Dakota CODE: ND COUNTY: Bottineau CODE: 009 ZIP CODE: 58318

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.)

Shelton E. Brown
Signature of certifying official

5-10-06
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer
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 commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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):

Signature of the Keeper
Linda McElleand

Date of Action
9/11/06

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: public-State

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: building

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING
	1	0 BUILDINGS
	0	0 SITES
	0	0 STRUCTURES
	0	0 OBJECTS
	1	0 TOTAL

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER: N/A

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING: N/A

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS:

EDUCATION

college: classrooms, offices; library

RECREATION AND CULTURE

auditorium; sports facility: gymnasium

CURRENT FUNCTIONS:

EDUCATION

university: classrooms, offices, bookstore

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION:

LATE VICTORIAN, Romanesque Revival and Richardsonian Romanesque

MATERIALS: FOUNDATION

WALLS

ROOF

OTHER

BRICK

BRICK, STONE / sandstone

ASPHALT (patterned shingles)

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

(see continuation sheets 7-5 through 7-8)

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

- 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 VALUE, 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

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: ARCHITECTURE, CONSERVATION, EDUCATION, POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1907 (Construction) – 1956 (50 years prior to nomination date)

SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1907 (Budget and Commencement), 1908 (Completion)

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Joseph A. Shannon/Edmund White

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheets 8-9 through 8-16)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see continuation sheet 9-17)

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: State Archives and Research Library
- Federal agency
- Local government:
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Old Main, North Dakota School of Forestry, Bottineau County, North Dakota

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES **Zone** **Easting** **Northing**
 14 394303 5409806

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Outside edges of perimeter sidewalks immediately around building (see site plan, page 12-29).

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION Includes building footprint and immediate landscape around building.

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE: James W. Steely, MSAS, Historian, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION: SWCA© Environmental Consultants **DATE:** 8 May 2005

STREET & NUMBER: 2232 North Central Avenue, Suite 130 **TELEPHONE:** 602-274-3831

CITY OR TOWN: Phoenix **STATE:** AZ **ZIP CODE:** 78004

12. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS (see continuation sheet 12-24)

PHOTOGRAPHS (see continuation sheet 12-25)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME: Minot State University – Bottineau

STREET & NUMBER: 105 Simrall Blvd. **TELEPHONE:** 701-228-5431

CITY OR TOWN: Bottineau **STATE:** North Dakota **ZIP CODE:** 58318-1198

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Old Main, North Dakota School of Forestry
Bottineau County, North Dakota

7. DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY

The Old Main Building of Minot State University–Bottineau, built in 1907 and 1908 to house the North Dakota School of Forestry, is a lofty two-story load-bearing brick building of Romanesque Revival style and details. It rises from a rectangular footprint approximately 75 x 76 feet, encompassing a full basement, two floors for classrooms and offices, a substantial attic, and a four-story tower centered on and projecting from the south façade. The roof's complex but symmetrical massing is hipped, rising to a central platform; gabled, as pediments above large bays on the east and west sides; and vented by four dormers and four chimneys. Romanesque details include the central square-plan tower with large round-arch entry, open belvedere, and pyramidal roof, and second-floor bands of round-arch windows accented with continuous molding of corbelled bricks. Old Main anchors the university-branch campus, a predominantly level landscape generously vegetated with lawns and a variety of cultivated mature trees, about five blocks northeast of downtown Bottineau. The campus was surveyed on cardinal directions as an extension of the town plat, and Old Main terminates the north-axis of Alexander Street just north of 2nd Street. The Old Main building is in excellent condition, well maintained through its near-century of service, retaining high levels of integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, setting, and association.

LOCATION AND SETTING

Bottineau, county seat of Bottineau County, is in north-central North Dakota bordering Canada, in a prairie landscape dominated by glaciated plains of undulating to flat topography. The western and central parts of the county are predominantly low-relief collapsed glacial topography, covered by highly fertile topsoil dark with organic carbon, ideal for wheat production and supporting a variety of vegetation. The Turtle Mountains, rising up to 500 feet above the plains, dominate the northeast part of the county, a combination of high-relief collapsed glacial topography and ice-thrust topography. The lowest and highest points are on the Canadian border, 1,410 feet at the Souris River in the west-central part of the county and 2,545 feet at Boundary Butte to the east. Bottineau is at 1,635 feet above sea level, on the banks of Oak Creek that drains south from the Turtle Mountains through Bottineau, then southerly into the Souris River, part of the Red River basin that forms the eastern topography of the state (Bluemle 1985).

Bottineau's rectilinear town plat, based on the Public Land Survey System and dating from the projection of a Great Northern (now BNSF) Railroad branch through the county in 1886, is bisected by the railway at an almost 45 degree angle from southeast to northwest. The railroad crosses Main Street at 2nd Street, and the historic (pre 1956) commercial district developed south of that crossing, with most historic housing and other services thus concentrated west of the railroad. East of the railroad, beyond the rail-served industries along Railroad

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Old Main, North Dakota School of Forestry
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Avenue, the town developed much later, generally after 1956, with one exception the 1906 School of Forestry campus, along East 1st Street at the northerly extensions of Simrall and Alexander Streets. With generous irrigation water from Oak Creek, the town's residential lawns introduced ornamental vegetation to the prairie in the late 19th century, and the School of Forestry campus propagated trees from its establishment of a nursery early in its operation.

Thus the setting for the School of Forestry's Old Main building, "the physical environment" in National Register evaluation of integrity, is a level topography with lush introduced vegetation—particularly dramatic with mature Colorado blue spruce and Black Hills spruce on campus lawns—and a low-density urban development of college campus and a mid-20th century adjoining residential neighborhood. The setting for Old Main has changed little in the last 50 years, with exceptions of 1960–1966 college buildings moderate distances to the south, east, and north.

DESIGN, MATERIALS, AND WORKMANSHIP

Architect Joseph Shannon's design—in mass a lofty 2-story, rectangular-plan Romanesque Revival building with symmetrical brick elevations and a large hipped roof—features a projecting tower centered on the south façade with the greatest ornamentation, east and west elevations with less ornamentation, and a north elevation with minimal ornamentation. On all elevations above the raised basement, a water table of red sandstone runs continuously around the building; this stone course serves as lintels for basement windows of 1/1 sash below the water table. On all elevations below the eaves a continuous cornice of corbelled bricks runs around the building, reduced in complexity where it traverses under each pedimented central bay on the east, west, and north. All four elevations are divided into three grand bays between corbelled brick pilasters connected by corbelled "entablatures," and the central bays on the south and north are further divided into three smaller bays: centered at the south façade by the projecting tower, and the north elevation by pilasters spaced the same width as the opposite tower. All elevations at the 1st and 2nd floors are lit by 1/1 sash windows: flat lintels on the 1st floor grouped into bands highlighted by corbelled brick hoodmolds; round-arch top sashes on the 2nd level highlighted by continuous corbels of brick. The original wooden windows were replaced in the 1980s with anodized aluminum units that also introduced blanked transoms in each of the 1st- and 2nd-level openings.

The south elevation was intended to be the front of the building generally facing the town and drawing maximum exposure from southerly arcs of the sun. The southeast cornerstone, also serving as a pilaster base at the water table, is incised with Governor John Burke's name above the three directors of the Board of Trustees and the date 1907. The central wooden double-door entry is at ground level beneath a broad round-arch wood-frame transom. The transom is traced above with corbelled bricks divided by an elongated keystone; flanking the keystone are two stone spandrel panels transitioning the arch below to the level 2nd-floor lintel line above: '19' is inscribed on the left (west) panel and '07.' is inscribed on the right (east). Above the '1907.' panels is a rectangular stone panel spanning the width of the tower face, inscribed 'SCHOOL OF FORESTRY.' framed by a larger 'N.' on the left and a 'D.' on the right. At the 2nd-floor window line, two 1/1 round-arch windows light a

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room in the tower.

Above the south eave, a 3-part Palladian-window group—tall central arched window flanked by flat-arch windows, united by a continuous stone lintel—marks the 3rd tower floor; here an exaggerated keystone over the central arched window is flanked by inset corbelled brick spandrels reflecting the '1907.' panels below. The east and west walls at this level sport round windows, whose upper arches match the Palladian window's arch, each framed by radiating brick circles punctuated by Shannon's distinctive exaggerated keystones. A belvedere open on all four sides marks the 4th tower level, with stone sills at each elevation's opening, supporting two evenly spaced wooden Tuscan-order columns. Above the tower's uppermost corbelled "entablature" is a steeply pitched pyramidal roof. Shannon's 1907 drawings show a flagpole topping the tower roof; a metal final caps the roof today. Finally, two attic dormers, each with splayed sides supporting hipped roofs, flank the tower.

The east and west elevations originally mirrored each other, with finished details similar to the other elevations. Above each side elevation's eave line in the central bay, three small windows light the attic behind a large pediment, faced with finish bricks. On the west elevation a ground-level access door once allowed boiler maintenance and filling of interior coal bins. On the east side, a small brick appendage encases a fireproof vault, with interior access, added about 1941 for business-office files (Board of Higher Education 1940–1942). Metal fire-escape stairways, with blank doors inserted into former classroom window frames, appeared on both elevations in 1965 (MSU–B maintenance files). The north elevation is a simplified mirror-image of the south elevation, with the central "tower" bay defined by pilasters and corbels but otherwise on the same plane as the balance of the flanking exterior walls. A round-arch wooden double door and transom, under a large brick arch, provides entry at the ground level. A small pediment or gable, lit by a single lunette window, tops the central bay above the eave line, and is flanked by gabled roof dormers matching those on the south.

The primary exterior materials of "Dickinson pressed brick" (according to locals in 2005 who cite many buildings in the region built with these tan-to-yellow units) and reddish brown sandstone are in good to excellent condition. The Dickinson Fire and Pressed Brick Company produced dense kiln-fired bricks at its plant in west central North Dakota; it also marketed pottery under the trade name Dickota from the same bentonite-rich clays (ND Visual Artist Archive 2006). Darker bricks below the water table show signs of damage from rising damp, and some ornamental pressed bricks at the "entablature" and pilaster "capitals" are mis-aligned or missing. Wooden columns in the tower's belvedere are exposed to the greatest weather extremes and are neglected; two have dislodged but are lying on the tower attic's floor. All roof surfaces are clad with relatively recent composite shingles and are in good condition. Original wood-frame windows on the basement and classroom floors were replaced in the 1980s with anodized aluminum units and double-pane sashes with blank transoms on the 1st and 2nd floor windows.

Overall the building exhibits strong integrity of design, the vast majority of its exterior materials are in place if somewhat neglected (in 2005), and its original workmanship—approaching 100 years in age—is quite evident if somewhat neglected (in 2005).

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FEELING AND ASSOCIATION

The integrity aspect of feeling, the “expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time” in National Register evaluation, is intact on the building's exterior and immediate surroundings. Some historic property evaluations utilize the aspect of “feeling” to gauge integrity of a building's significant interior spaces and finishes. In that sense, Old Main retains high integrity of feeling through an interior only slightly changed since its opening in 1907. Major original interior walls and partitions are intact; north and south wooden stairways with wooden banisters are unaltered except for addition of interior fire doors at the 2nd level in recent years; plastered walls are still visible throughout; wooden doors and trim are still finished in stain and varnish; and original pressed-metal ceilings and moldings still crown lofty hallways and most offices and classrooms.

The basement, with central hall running north-south, originally featured a gymnasium in the northeast quarter, now the campus bookstore (in 2005). A “Girls Dressing Room” and toilet, now women's restroom, were in the southeast corner, and “Boys Dressing Room” and toilets were in the northwest corner, now men's restroom. The boiler room, now mechanical room, with outside stairway to ground level on the west elevation, was centered on the hallway's west side. The coal bunker and storeroom, now physical plant files and workroom, occupied the southwest corner. The raised 1st floor central hall, reached by north and south stairways, provided access to large classrooms in each corner and to offices centered between the classrooms on each side of the hall. The second floor, reached from both stairwells, also led to large classrooms in each corner and offices between on each side. The northeast corner classroom, with higher ceiling and once a raised stage, served as an all-student assembly and performance room for the School of Forestry; it was remodeled for a language laboratory in recent years with multiple florescent lights. The cavernous attic, accessed by the north staircase, serves as storage and is an open catalog of the building's timber-and-metal roof trusses, multiple chimney flues, solid-brick exterior walls visible in the pediments, and original wooden window frames.

The integrity aspect of association, “the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property” in National Register evaluation, is also strongly retained with Old Main: the architect, builder, and countless students, faculty and staff occupying the building before 1960 would readily recognize its character-defining features, and its continued dominance of the entire campus.

CONCLUSION

Campus administrators noted the extremely weathered condition of Old Main's original windows even in the 1940s. Records do not indicate whether the windows received major repairs or replacements at that time. About 1941 the building received its first new roof; the fireproof business-office vault; fluorescent lighting; cabinets in the “Forestry and Biology laboratories” (probably the 2nd floor southwest corner classroom); and other attention (Board of Higher Education 1940–1942). Another “renovation” of Old Main in 1952, probably funded by the 1949 appropriation for Thatcher Hall, included an all-weather concrete-lined pedestrian tunnel

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from Thatcher that also carried steam pipes and other utilities from the new heating plant to the 1907 building (Nelson 1957). The building's basement restrooms were renovated in the 1980s; 2nd-floor stairwell fire doors were added in the 1980s; and electrical wiring and circuits were replaced in 1988 (MSU-B maintenance files).

Campus maintenance personnel in the 1980s replaced the wooden windows (possibly original, but perhaps some dating from repairs in the 1940s or 1952; see previous paragraph) with new aluminum window units on all occupied spaces (personal recollection of Dean Ken Grosz 2005). These aluminum windows include 1/1 sashes and blank transoms—which fortunately do not reflect lowered ceilings inside—differing from the full-opening 1/1 sash configuration shown on architect Shannon's 1907 drawings and in early photos. However, considering the building's overall retention of design, materials, and workmanship, the window replacements are a relatively minor change within the original brick openings, and an understandable upgrade for Bottineau's harsh winter climate; they could also be replaced someday with more sympathetic units. At exterior main door transoms and attic windows, the original wood trim and glass appear to survive.

Not in spite of, but because of, these minor alterations and constant attention over its near-century of service, the North Dakota School of Forestry's Old Main building today is in excellent condition, retaining high levels of integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, setting, and association.

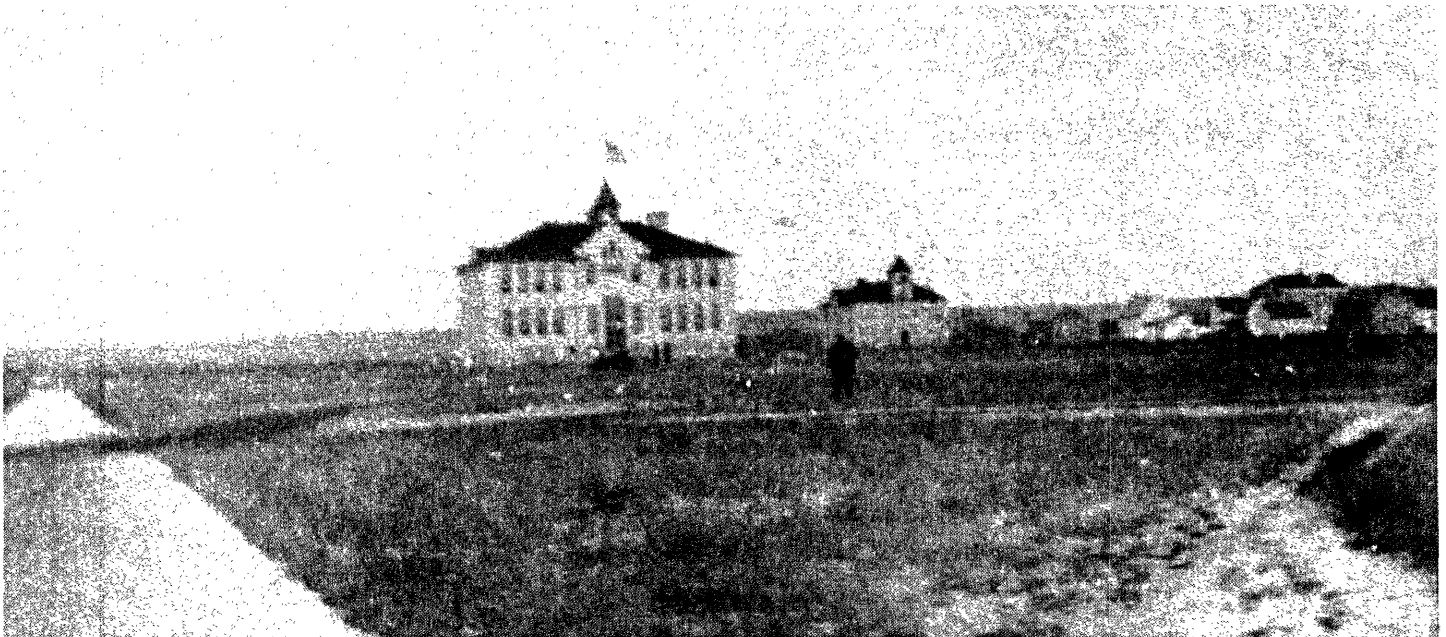


Image facing north-northeast of northeast Bottineau circa 1910 with Old Main, background right of center, and early School of Forestry campus at right; brick Bottineau Public School (demolished) in closer middle ground.
(courtesy MSU-B Foundation – Alumni Association)

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY

The North Dakota School of Forestry's 1907–1908 Old Main Building, now part of Minot State University–Bottineau, embodies rich legacies of higher education, statewide conservation, symbolic design, and sturdy workmanship. The new state's Constitution of 1889, aspiring to fulfill legislative duties of education as well as service to its primarily agricultural citizenry, called for a School of Forestry to research and propagate trees for homesteaders' fuel, lumber, and wind breaks. Bottineau, a county seat and grain market in north central North Dakota, won the school's designation in 1894, and the town provided the first frame classroom building in 1906. The state appropriated \$25,000 in 1907, hired regional architect Joseph Shannon and experienced contractor Edmund White, and ensured completion of the forestry school's permanent Main Building in the fall of 1908. While an exclusive "forestry school" proved to be an extravagance for the sparsely populated, prairie farming state, the school soon evolved into a successful regional college while retaining an emphasis on forestry. As its campus grew to several buildings by the 1940s, its distinctive 1908 edifice came to be called "Old Main" by students, faculty, and graduates, and its neighbors in Bottineau. After almost a century of service to the state, region, and community, the building is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the state level of significance under Criterion A in the areas of Conservation, Education, and Politics/Government. It is also eligible under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a fine example of late Romanesque Revival design, and as the enduring architectural symbol of the university branch, celebrating its Centennial in 2006.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

The City of Bottineau and Bottineau County are named for Pierre Bottineau (1817–1895), a French–Chippewa fur trapper born on the Red River at the extreme northeast corner of present North Dakota. Bottineau's exploits as a military and railroad-survey guide, inviting comparisons to frontiersmen Daniel Boone and Davy Crockett, inspired the North Dakota Territory government to name a new county for him in 1873 (Johnson and Bergeron n.d.). The first Euro-American settlers in the area clung to the forested foothills of the Turtle Mountains along the Canadian border, but established the town of Bottineau when the Great Northern (now BNSF) Railroad built one of its many grain-gathering branchlines across the nearby prairie in 1886. The town plat, a cardinal-direction gridiron centered near the railroad's crossing of Oak Creek, encouraged location of most businesses, homes, and services on the west side of the tracks, while the east side beyond trackside industries remained sparsely developed for decades. (Molberg, et al 1959).

The State Historical Society-sponsored historic sites inventory of the City of Bottineau in 1988 described the community with a "pattern of development typical of that of small North Dakota railroad towns with the city's

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oldest buildings and its original commercial center found near the trackline and later growth spreading outward from these areas....” The surveyors identified a potential historic district in the downtown area along Main Street, with circa-1895-to-1935 masonry commercial buildings in a wide range of architectural styles, including Romanesque Revival and Richardsonian Romanesque, in fair to good condition. Elsewhere they recorded wood-frame houses, several churches, and other buildings from the same time range. “However, the surveyors were surprised to find that no large concentrations of early houses exist near the School of Forestry campus. In fact, the residential areas south of the campus [and east of the railroad] were found to be comprised of houses of surprisingly recent date.”

In the “Historic Context Theme” of Education, the surveyors recorded the School of Forestry's 1907 Old Main building and 1949 Thatcher Hall, recommending both as “National Register eligible”(Granger and Kelly 1988).

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

The newly framed State Constitution of 1889 called for establishment of a state School of Forestry, specifying in Section 216, Subsection 4, only that voters in state's Fourth District would later determine the exact location.

A School of Forestry or such other institution [implying other possible types of colleges, including a “normal school” for teacher training (“Highlights” 1949:261)] as the legislative assembly may determine (should be located) at such place in one of the counties of McHenry, Ward, Bottineau or Rolette, as the electors of said counties may determine by an election for that purpose, to be held as provided by the legislative assembly (N.D. Constitution, as quoted and annotated in “Highlights” 1949:249–250).

The Constitution's identification of a forestry school followed delegates' debate and bargaining that resulted in their strategy to name several desired state institutions—including placement of the state capital at Bismarck—that would be addressed and funded in subsequent biennial sessions, one at a time. Thereafter, heated competition between Fourth District communities hoping for the prestige and economic boost of the forestry school, and lack of funding from the legislature, prevented selection of a home for the institution until the legislature authorized a referendum in 1894. After prolonged vote canvassing, the next year Bottineau declared victory over its closest competition of Minot and Willow City. Minot later exercised the Section 216 option of establishing a teacher-training college, now Minot State University at Minot (“Highlights” 1949).

But without funding and land, the designation remained in name only until 1906 when Bottineau citizens raised funds to build a 2-story classroom building (a large Foursquare frame building, later named Hovind Hall as a women's dorm that survived until about 1960, Molberg 1980:7) on land donated by the Bottineau Turf Club. The 35-acre campus stood between downtown Bottineau to the southwest and Oak Creek to the east, adjacent to the county fairgrounds to the northwest, also donated by the Turf Club (Nelson 1957).

In early 1907 the legislature appropriated \$25,000 for a permanent building to house the School of Forestry on

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Bottineau's already functioning campus. In March the school's trustees advertised for "bids or plans and specifications for the School of Forestry building...to be submitted to the Board of Trustees at their meeting in Bottineau, N. Dak. on April 17th 1907." Also insisting on a brick building, the trustees chose the design of architect Joseph A. Shannon of Devils Lake, ND, and in June reviewed construction bids from contractors in Minot, Devils Lake, and Bottineau. "After a reconsideration of the bids," the July 5 edition of the *Courant* revealed six days later, "the job was let to our home contractor and builder, Edmund White, the price being \$24,500 [sic].... We understand Mr. White already has a large gang of men at work on the ground and the building will no doubt be completed in a very short time. It is a nice drawing card for Bottineau." Indeed, White laid the cornerstone on August 28 and worked until winter. Resuming in the spring, White's gang finished the building in early August 1908, in time for opening on September 21 (*Bottineau Courant* 1907).

CONSERVATION

A growing conservation movement in the United States strongly tempered North Dakota's Constitution of 1889 in its provisions for inviting hardy farmers to its windswept prairies, balanced with an early appreciation of the effects of overgrazing, erosive plowing, and wildlife slaughter. Theodore Roosevelt, a well-known writer on history and conservation by the 1880s, with ironclad connections to North Dakota after spending a memorable winter on its Little Missouri River in 1883, assuredly stoked this progressive political thinking. In 1887 Roosevelt and the editor of *Forest and Stream* magazine founded the conservation-minded Boone and Crockett Club, according to a public-television documentary on Roosevelt. Together *Forest and Stream* and the Boone and Crockett Club, with Roosevelt's guidance, called for "scientific forest management, clean water, and restricted used of natural resources – ideas considered quite radical by most Americans" (PBS.ORG 2006).

Indeed North Dakotans desperately needed to plant trees, for fuel, lumber, and wind breaks, across the otherwise fertile prairies comprising the vast drainages of the Missouri and Red Rivers above the 46th Parallel. As Roosevelt's national political image grew with the parallel expansion of homesteading in North Dakota and the West, his oratory provided pithy creeds to support the cause of Western settlement: "A people without children would face a hopeless future; a country without trees is almost as hopeless" (quoted in Molberg 1980:2). Roosevelt became U.S. President in 1901, elevating the conservation cause to the nation's most effective "bully pulpit" and coincidentally reigniting North Dakota's efforts to establish its School of Forestry. In 1905 the President created the U.S. Bureau of Forestry, including an assignment to affiliate with comparable state programs, and in 1907 he issued an Arbor Day proclamation "to the School Children of the United States" that summed up his unabashed support for trees:

It is well that you should celebrate your Arbor Day thoughtfully, for within your lifetime the Nation's need of trees will become serious.... A true forest is not merely a storehouse full of wood, but, as it were, a factory of wood, and at the same time a reservoir of water. When you help to preserve our forests or to plant new ones you are acting the part of good citizens. The value of forestry deserves, therefore, to be taught in the schools, which aim to make good citizens of you (Roosevelt 1907).

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With substantial federal assistance after 1925, the North Dakota School of Forestry became a major laboratory for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Forest Service, and Soil Conservation Service after 1935, through development and propagation of windbreak species. A new Roosevelt Administration, led by Theodore's cousin Franklin Delano Roosevelt, addressed conservation as a national planning challenge through FDR's Depression-battling New Deal programs. The multi-state Prairie States Forestry Project, led by USDA for the New Deal, made the North Dakota School of Forestry one of its four "centers of information," part of a carefully designed "shelterbelt" of tree lines that diminished wind and soil damage to farms, homes, and communities throughout the Great Plains. In 1940 the school's tree nursery distributed a half-million seedlings, costing 3/4¢ each for hardwoods and 2¢ each for evergreens (Board of Higher Education 1938–1940, Cutler 1985). "In the botanical garden or arboretum" at the School of Forestry, noted the 1938 *North Dakota, A Guide to the Northern Prairie State*, "are about 30 varieties of foreign trees, obtained on a reciprocal basis from other countries, to be tried out in this climate. Plantings established under direction of the school are found on farms in every county in the State. The annual output of the nursery at the present time (1938) is about 500,000 seedlings" (WPA 1938). The resulting windbreaks remain in the 21st century throughout the Prairie States, especially evident in North Dakota and rural Bottineau County.

The first college yearbook issued by the School of Forestry, *The Forester* of 1938, issued from and included many photographs of its 1907 Main Building. In the publication's Foreword, heading neat pages with an engineering-lettering typeface, the editors expressed "our belief that none of the future will be happy for the Northwest unless it be founded upon principles looking toward the conservation of natural resources, both human and arboreal" (*The Forester* 1938).

ARCHITECTURE

Architect Joseph Shannon was born in Edina, Missouri, in 1859, working from age 17 in the building trades and studying architecture "in the school of experience only," as he wrote on his 1926 application for membership in the American Institute of Architects (AIA). Shannon moved to "Dakota Territory which was a very new and raw country at that time," probably to Jamestown with the Northern Pacific Railroad's arrival in 1883 and an associated local building boom.

I began contracting, and as there were no architects in the country, was forced to draw my own plans. It was but a short time until I was kept busy at the board and superintending the work of construction, when I finally abandoned the contracting business altogether, since which time I have been continuously practicing architecture, maintaining my own office (Shannon 1926).

After 1900 Shannon continued to accept commissions in Jamestown but moved to Devils Lake in 1901, his home base when he received the state's School of Forestry commission. In the 1910s he partnered with Henry J. Scherer, and "the Boyd brothers, two draughtsmen" who kept his Jamestown office busy. In his later AIA application, Shannon explained that an "office and apartment fire" had destroyed most of his drawings and files,

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thus “I am unable to furnish examples of my best work.” At age 67 he did not list the School of Forestry building among his short vitae, noting only the 1917 Alfred Dickey Free Public Library (Prairie or Sullivan-esque Style) in Jamestown, the 1917 Voorhees Chapel at Jamestown College (NRHP 1977), and the 1923 Jamestown Junior High School (extant with additions in the 1970s and 1980s). Shannon described his 1917 charter membership with the North Dakota Association of Architects, along with his architect’s state registration number 19, but he also affiliated with the more populous Minnesota Chapter of the AIA after 1921.

On August 4, 1919 I was commissioned by the Governor of North Dakota as a member of the State Board of Architects and served six years, two years of which time I was president of the Board (Shannon 1926).

Shannon’s state appointment to the architectural licensing board implied recognition if not influence in the political arena. Documentation of the earlier process in 1907 of his selection to design the School of Forestry is perhaps lost, but his longtime practice in North Dakota from territorial times, his many commissions by 1900, and comparative rarity in his field probably made political friendships an integral part of his business.

As Shannon launched his career at Jamestown, North Dakota, about 1883, the nation’s building-design professionals drew from a rich catalog of popular styles and traditional influences. Shannon and his fellow master builders and bona fide architects would have known of the recent commissions through illustrated trade journals such as *Inland Architect* and *Carpentry and Building* that by the 1880s arrived faithfully in the U.S. Mail, in turn delivered dependably by the nationwide rail network. In Philadelphia the eclectic mind of architect Frank Furness produced the masonry-rich Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in 1876; in Washington, D.C., Alfred Mullett completed the French Second Empire-style State, War, and Navy Building in 1888 after 17 years of construction and publicity; in downtown Richmond, Virginia, near Thomas Jefferson’s 1789 ultra-Classical state capitol, E.E. Myers completed an ornate Gothic Revival City Hall in 1887; in Chicago the celebrated team of Adler and Sullivan produced one of their first seemingly all-window early Chicago Style office buildings in the Troescher Building of 1884. And from Boston following his tremendously popular design in 1876 for Trinity Church, French-schooled Henry Hobson Richardson produced commission after commission for churches, colleges, estates, libraries, and offices in what became known as the Richardsonian Romanesque style.

Arguably Richardson’s zenith of practice—before an untimely death in 1886 propelled his works to even greater attention—was his 1884–1888 Allegheny County Courthouse in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This massive fireproof records and courts building rose from the ground with huge, rough blocks of stone, ordered into a rectangular-plan building generously lit by a multitude of windows, each supported under its own round arch, all under a massive pyramidal roof. As with Trinity Church, Allegheny County Courthouse profoundly influenced the architectural profession, particularly local-government commissions in the 1880s and 1890s for stand-alone, multi-story, fireproof-masonry buildings during the county-courthouse construction boom throughout the Midwest and Southwest (Larson and Brown 1988). Richardson’s sturdy central tower on Trinity Church, and front-elevation tower on Allegheny Courthouse, offered two models for regional and local builders to emulate

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wherever solid, tower-dominant landmarks were desired. Further, Richardson's subtle touch for ornament—round arches, occasional small columns, and Byzantine floral carvings—could be reproduced by veteran masons in a multitude of stones quarried near construction sites or transported by rail. Brick rarely but sometimes substituted nicely for stone where available materials and economy dictated (Hitchcock 1981).

The 1907–1908 North Dakota School of Forestry building in Bottineau, constructed to drawings signed by Joseph Shannon and dated 1907, is certainly a Romanesque Revival Style building, featuring round-arch central entry and corbelled-brick bands following round-arch windows across each elevation. The pyramid-roof tower is also typical of Romanesque Revival institutional buildings from the 1840s through about 1900, associated with the Victorian architectural period in the United States (Blumenson 1977). Richardsonian Romanesque characteristics, in other examples transcending Victorian and forecasting the 20th century's Modern Movement, added the broad hipped (or truncated pyramid) main roof, and the projecting front-elevation tower as a simplified interpretation of Richardson's own Allegheny County Courthouse.

Yet, in post-1900 mainstream U.S. culture, the Romanesque and its Richardson influences had largely faded as out-of-fashion hallmarks of the 19th century. The Classical Revival, popularized after the 1893 Chicago World's Fair, and the Prairie School, developed around 1900 as indigenous Midwest modernism by Louis Sullivan, Frank Lloyd Wright and many others, appeared increasingly in private and public commissions across middle America. Ironically another large building project in turn-of-the-century Bottineau itself utilized Romanesque (or the closely related Queen Anne) Revival massing, round-arch windows, and a signature tower: the Bottineau County Courthouse of 1901, of "Dickinson pressed brick" (demolished in 1977, Trengen 1977:25–26). Perhaps the conservative tastes of America's small towns, especially in relatively isolated agricultural communities, preferred time-proven and less aggressive public architecture. And perhaps Joseph Shannon's own "Design No. 495" on the School of Forestry drawings recorded not his 495th commission but betrayed the date of an unexecuted design, from April of 1895 or perhaps his 4th commission that year, which he made available at a bargain price to the State of North Dakota 12 years late (Shannon 1907).

Whatever the explanation for a late Romanesque Revival design in 1907, Shannon demonstrated in the details that he indeed kept pace with some of the latest architectural trends. The tower's fully round windows at the third level on its east and west walls, with exaggerated "keystones" of stone contrasting with surrounding radiating bricks, and Palladian 3-part window group at the same level above the main south entry, definitely reflected the order and even whimsy of contemporary Classical Revival and Beaux-Arts styles. Shannon's details for corbelled bricks on the wall surfaces between windows—pilasters and pediments—also drew from a Classical temple-form vocabulary, countering true Romanesque designs of the late 19th century. Further, Shannon's treatment of the attic dormers was decidedly "bungalow" with their gently splayed side walls supporting small gabled roofs; these details also reflected dormers on 1906 Hovind Hall and might have served to unify the two buildings. If the architect's original design was indeed 12 years old, he threw in these spiffy updates that created a unique edifice for the School of Forestry, for Bottineau, and for North Dakota.

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EDUCATION

The North Dakota School of Forestry's first catalog of 1907 listed a broad range of higher-education courses for the first 32 students enrolled, primarily along a business curriculum and with only one class on forestry, to be taught to "fourth-year" students. With completion of the new Main building in 1908, the coursework adjusted to a more practical two-year curriculum. A surprising enrollment that year of 72 students, mostly from north-central North Dakota, resulted in an appeal by the *Bottineau Courant* for student housing in local homes. The forestry program soon expanded with employment of a faculty horticulturist, and by 1910 the campus boasted a greenhouse for experiments in successful transplants to the North Dakota prairie. In 1915 the faculty established a larger tree nursery and planted ash, boxelder, cottonwood, elm, and poplar trees; the next year thorough affiliation with the U.S. Forest Service the school distributed almost a million seedlings to the region's farms (Interior 1917, Nelson 1957).

By 1918 the state's maintenance of a dedicated forestry school, even from its opening a difficult curriculum to sustain, led to designation as a teacher-training institution for about 75 students and the awkward name change to Forestry State Normal School. The struggle to fund and identify the Bottineau college's role stumbled to academic years 1923 and 1924 when the governor vetoed its appropriation and the campus closed for two years. When it reopened in 1925, again named the North Dakota School of Forestry, the curriculum for about 50 students reflected the nation's growing junior college movement with emphasis on business skills and ability to transfer two-year coursework to four-year institutions. Fortunately, steady U.S. Forest Service funds after 1926 reactivated the forestry program's nursery and labs, and by the next year a demonstration "shelter belt" tree-planting program covered 25 counties in the state. The federal-state partnership envisioned in 1889 and 1907 now finally materialized and the Bottineau campus became the experimental forestry station for much of the Dakotas, supplying trees and designs for the multi-state "shelter belt" effort, other windbreaks, and ornamental plantings (Molberg 1980, Nelson 1957).

The Great Depression of the 1930s, coupled with an extended drought across the Great Plains, brought more federal assistance to North Dakota and related programs to its School of Forestry. Its Bottineau tree nurseries proved invaluable to the next President Roosevelt's conservation programs after 1933 (see Conservation above), and training of foresters for the New Deal's massive Prairie States Forestry Project (Cutler 1985). By 1935 the school boasted 10 faculty members and enrolled 145 students, causing another local housing shortage and conversion of the Main Building's basement coal room to a classroom. In 1938 the addition of McLees Hall offered more classroom space, and conversion of the Main Building's basement gymnasium provided a dormitory for 30 boys. In 1943 the State Board of Regents appointed C.N. Nelson as school president with the title of State Forester. Male enrollment declined during World War II, with a slight increase in women students, but enrollment rebounded after the war with returning soldiers, women leaving the wartime workforce, and GI Bill education and housing assistance to war veterans (Nelson 1957, Molberg 1980).

After a 1948 state education report that calculated only \$60,000 had been spent on School of Forestry building

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construction since its opening in 1907, the legislature appropriated \$355,000 in 1949 for construction of Thatcher Hall west of the Main Building, and campus-wide improvements (Nelson 1957). The 1950 *Forester* yearbook prominently featured photographs and statistics on new Thatcher Hall, but also applauded the steadfast legacy of what it now called “Old Main,” the central building of the campus since 1908 (*The Forester* 1950).

The School of Forestry celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1957 with a modernized physical plant, a junior college curriculum including a forestry program, an enrollment of about 200, and a continuing relationship with the USDA Forest Service and its shelterbelt program (Nelson 1957).

Starting in 1960, the campus added new men's and women's dormitories flanking Old Main, and a student center just south of Old Main astride its Alexander Street axis (Bottineau Chamber of Commerce 1966). In 1969 the legislature, governor, and Board of Higher Education merged the Bottineau campus with North Dakota State University, main campus in Fargo, creating the “Institute of Forestry.” The first director of “NDSU–Bottineau,” Robert E. Johnson, became the campus dean but retained the State Forester title bestowed on previous School of Forestry presidents (Molberg 1980:31). In 1996 the state's education authorities transferred the Bottineau campus and about 550 students to Minot State University, creating MSU-Bottineau because of, among other reasons, “favorable distance between Bottineau and Minot [80 miles versus 272 to Fargo], regional and cultural ties to Minot area,” and because the Minot community was “actively seeking to form regional partnerships with communities in the Minot trade area” (*Review of NDSU–Bottineau* 1996).

Old Main approached its 100th birthday sheltering a variety of educational spaces associated with MSU-Bottineau’s spectrum of functions. Classrooms, faculty offices, alumni association office and archives, maintenance workspaces and files, bookstore, and miscellaneous other uses kept the building fully functional and occupied (in 2006).

CONCLUSION

In 1975 John Leno, acting director of NDSU–Bottineau’s Division of Arts, Humanities, and Social Science, produced a building report for Dean Robert Johnson and other faculty and staff. His “Maintenance Needs for Old Main” noted that overcrowding in the building had led to deferred maintenance and poor custodial care. But he offered a number of elementary solutions from paint to new light bulbs to clock repairs. In summarizing his feelings for the building, Leno appealed for a renewed appreciation for Old Main:

I feel it is also important to note that we have an unusual heritage in a building such as Old Main and every effort should be made to preserve its beauty and quality. Its architectural design belongs to 19th century America and has been immortalized in Lewis Mumford’s book, The Brown Decades. (Leno 1975, Mumford 1971).

Leno understood that Old Main was not constructed in the Brown Decades of the late 19th century, but instead heralded a new century for North Dakota as a symbol of “beauty and quality” for one of its progressive and

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Leno understood that Old Main was not constructed in the Brown Decades of the late 19th century, but instead heralded a new century for North Dakota as a symbol of “beauty and quality” for one of its progressive and optimistic educational intuitions. Now entering its second century of service to the state, region, and community, the 1907–1908 Old Main building at MSU–Bottineau is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the state level of significance under Criterion A in the areas of Conservation, Education, and Politics/Government. It is also eligible under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a fine example of late Romanesque Revival design, and as a tribute to the designer, contractor, and artisans who built the building without consideration of obsolescence.

The North Dakota School of Forestry's Old Main building is an undisputed landmark in North Dakota, and the enduring architectural symbol of this historically significant place of higher learning, celebrating 100 years of natural- and human-resource conservation in 2006.



Image of Old Main c. 1940, darkroom-enhanced probably for publication in *The Forester* yearbook.
(courtesy MSU–B Foundation – Alumni Association)

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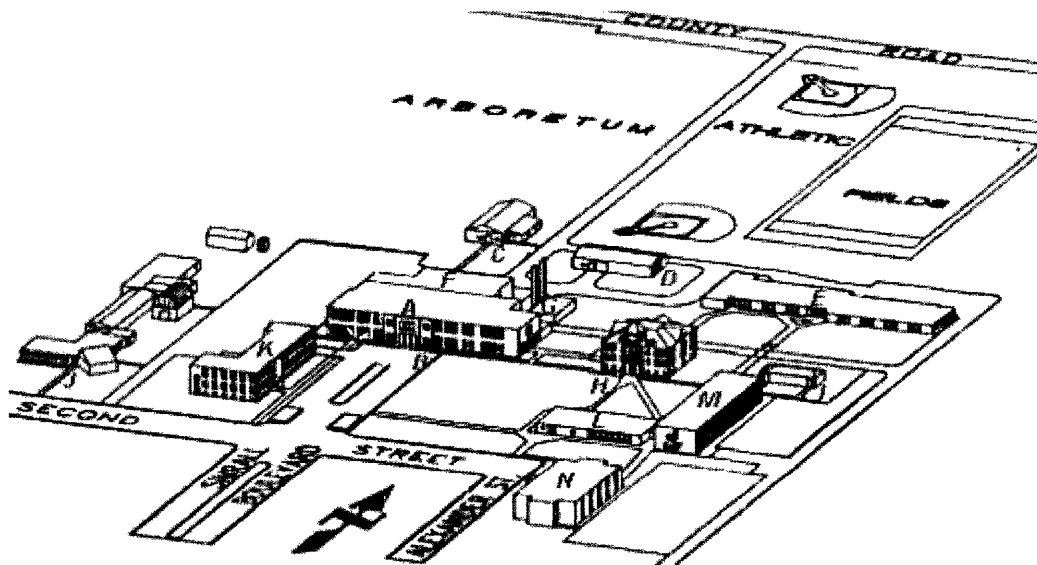
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Bottineau County, North Dakota

12. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

MAP OF CAMPUS



- A. Thatcher Hall, Entrance to Admissions Office
- B. Visitor Parking
- C. Water Technology Classroom
- D. Maintenance Shop
- E. C. N. Nelson Environmental Center - Science & Math
- F. Thatcher Hall Auditorium
- G. Heat Plant
- H. *Old Main* - Arts, Humanities, Social Science, Learning Center & Bookstore
- I. Arntzen Interactive Video Network (IVN) Building
- J. Molberg Center for Forestry and Horticulture
- K. Mead Hall - Residence Hall & Cafeteria
- L. Knudson Student Center - Student Lounge & Coffee Shop
- M. Gross Hall - Residence Hall
- N. Milligan Hall - Residence Hall

(Courtesy MSU-B: <http://www.misu-b.nodak.edu/campusmap.htm>)

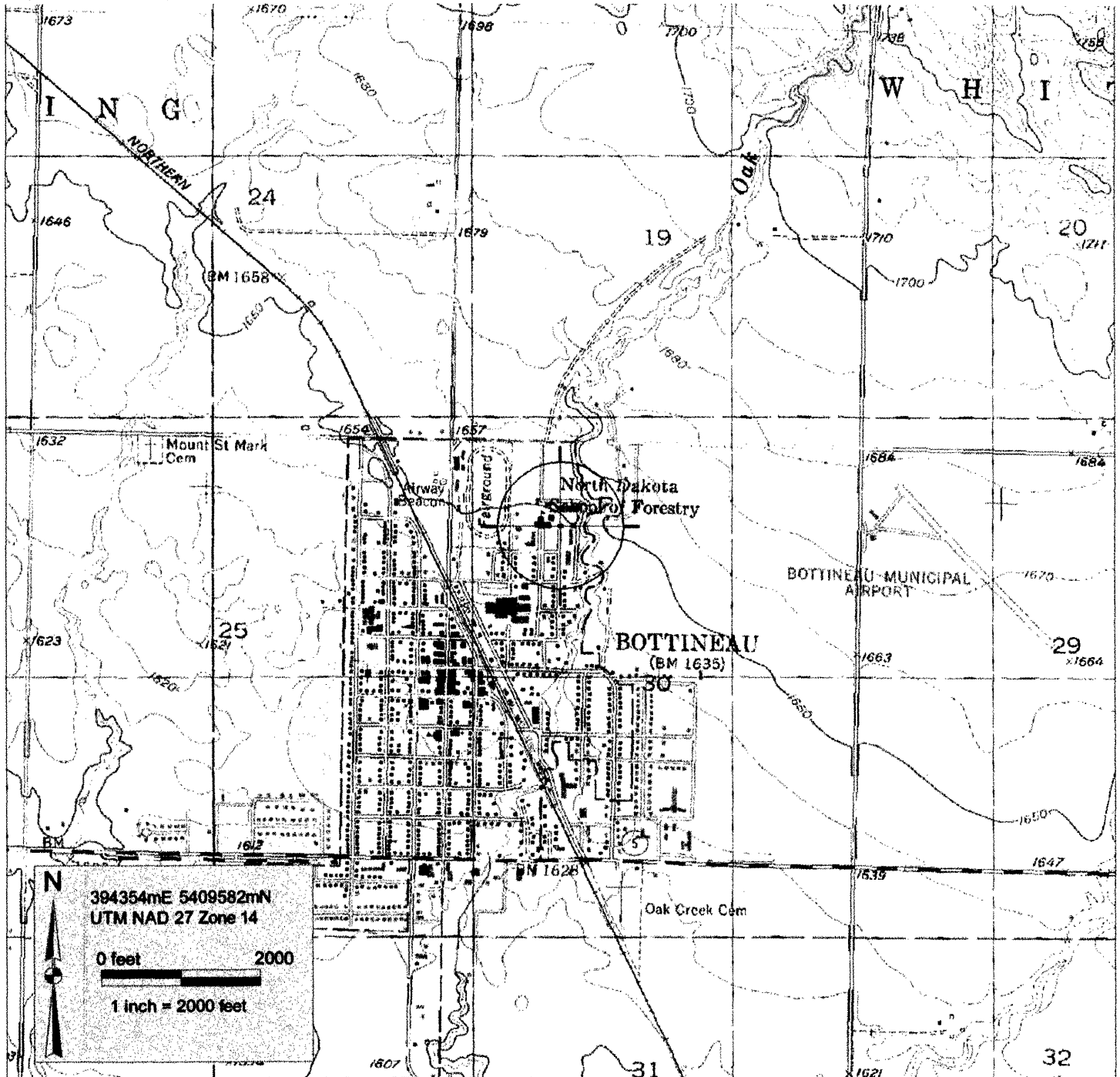
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MAP OF BOTTINEAU



(USGS MAP SEGMENT FROM TOPOZONE.COM)

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12. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information applies to all photographs:

James W. Steely, Photographer

5-6 October 2005

Negatives on file at State Historical Society of North Dakota (SHPO)

Individual photograph information:

Photo 1 of 10

South and east elevations, facing northwest; appendage at ground level on the right (east) is the masonry vault added circa 1941.

Photo 2 of 10

North and west elevations, facing southeast; fire escape stairway added 1965.

Photo 3 of 10

South elevation detail of main entry, facing north.

Photo 4 of 10

South elevation detail of southeast corner, facing north; brick appendage in background is the masonry vault added circa 1941.

Photo 5 of 10

South and east details of tower, facing northwest.

Photo 6 of 10

Tower belvedere interior detail, facing south; street at left running straight south is Alexander Street, and grain elevator in center distance marks the railroad and downtown Bottineau.

Photo 7 of 10

South/main staircase detail, facing southeast; main entry and ground-level landing at right, first floor at left, and landing to second floor in center background.

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Photo 8 of 10

Classroom/laboratory at second floor southwest corner, interior detail, facing east southeast; cabinets probably added 1941 for the "Forestry and Biology laboratories."

Photo 9 of 10

Basement hallway interior detail, facing south; staircase rises to ground-level landing at main (south) entrance.

Photo 10 of 10

Attic interior structural details facing northeast; the four wood and metal-rod trusses, and raised platform, across photo's center facilitate the ceiling of the large free-span, high-ceiling assembly room in Old Main's second floor northeast corner.

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12. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

ADDITIONAL ITEMS: Reproductions of Original Drawings

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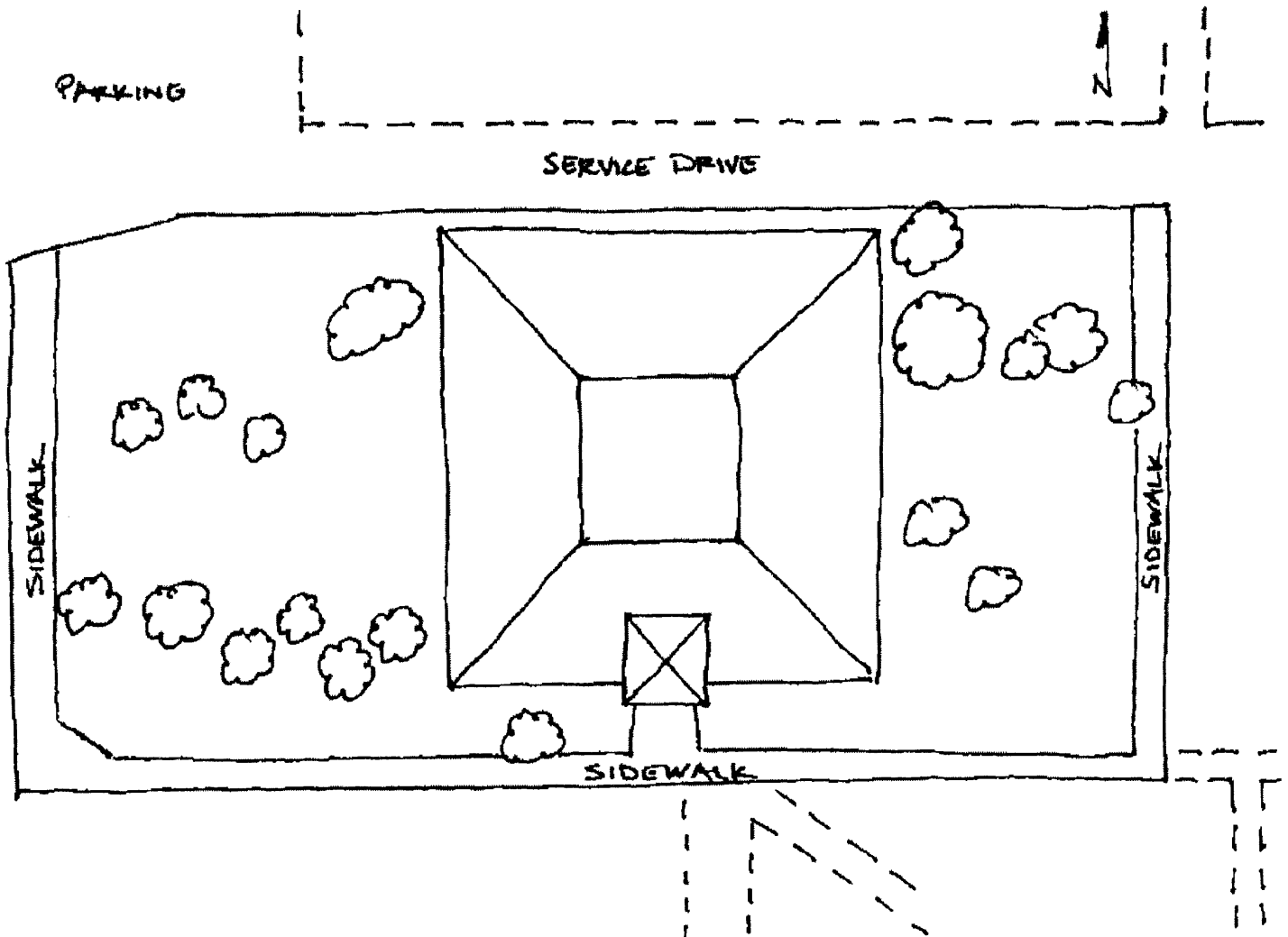
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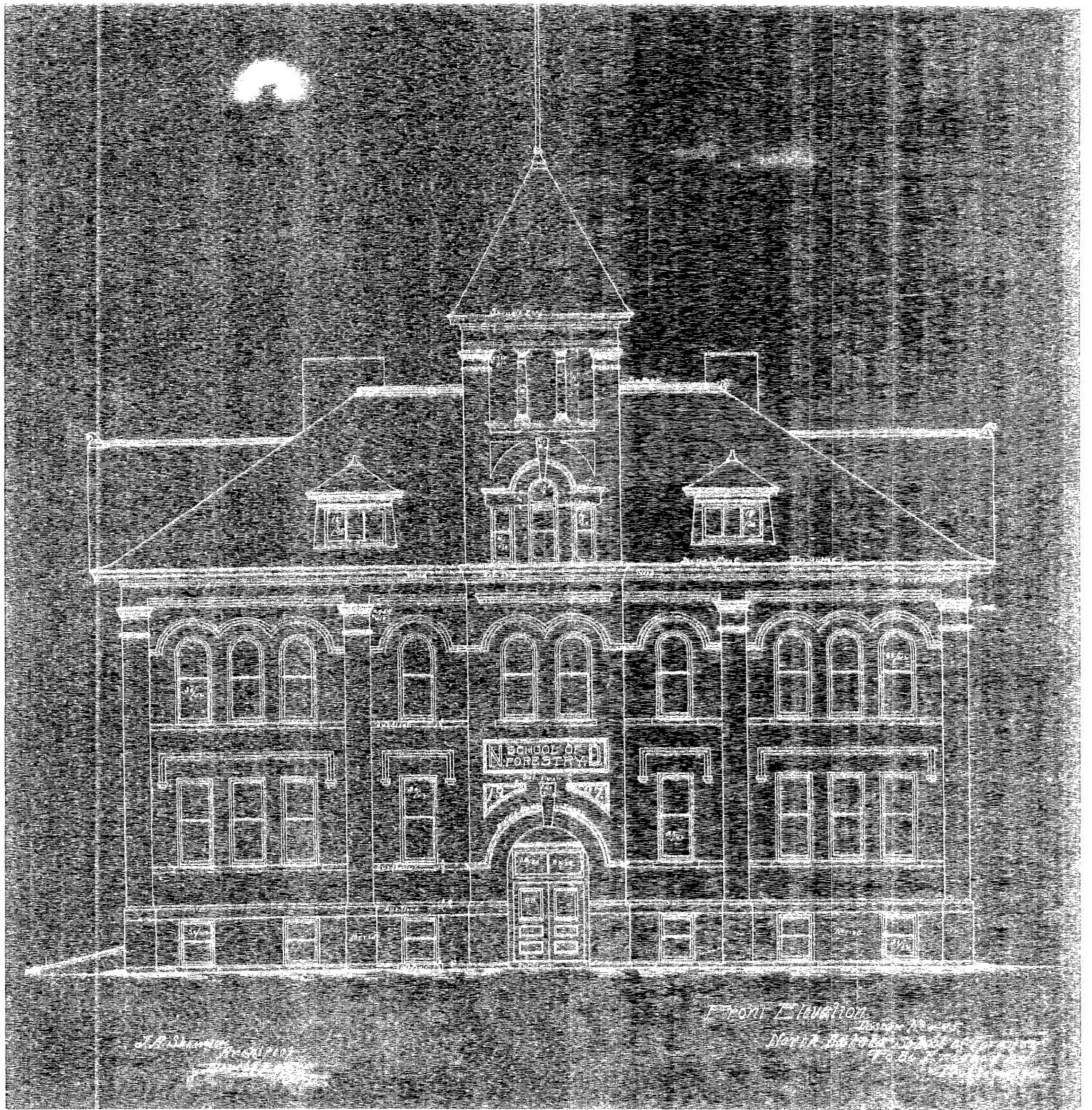
Old Main, North Dakota School of Forestry
Bottineau County, North Dakota _____

12. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Outside edges of perimeter sidewalks immediately around building

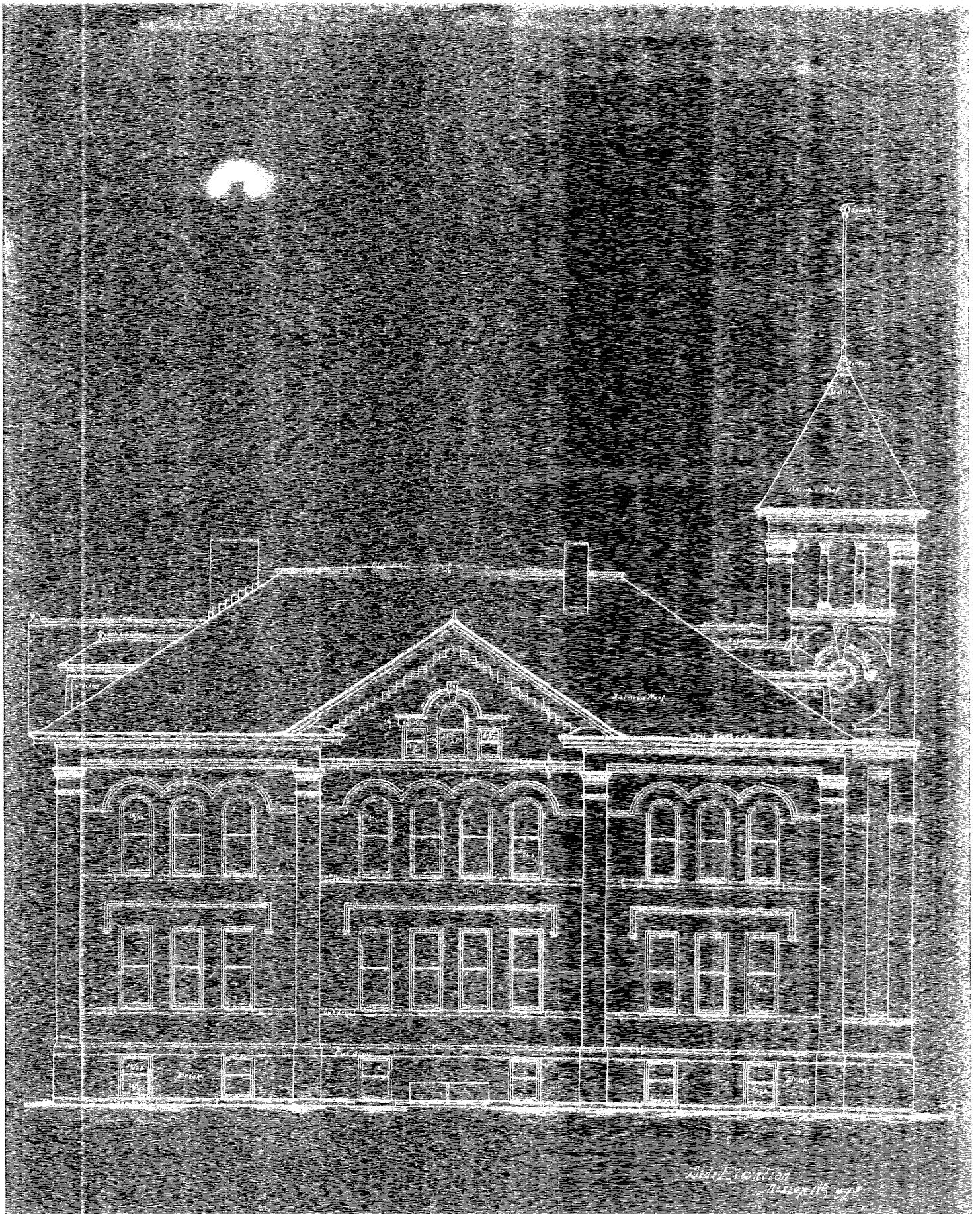
BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION Includes building footprint and immediate landscape around building.



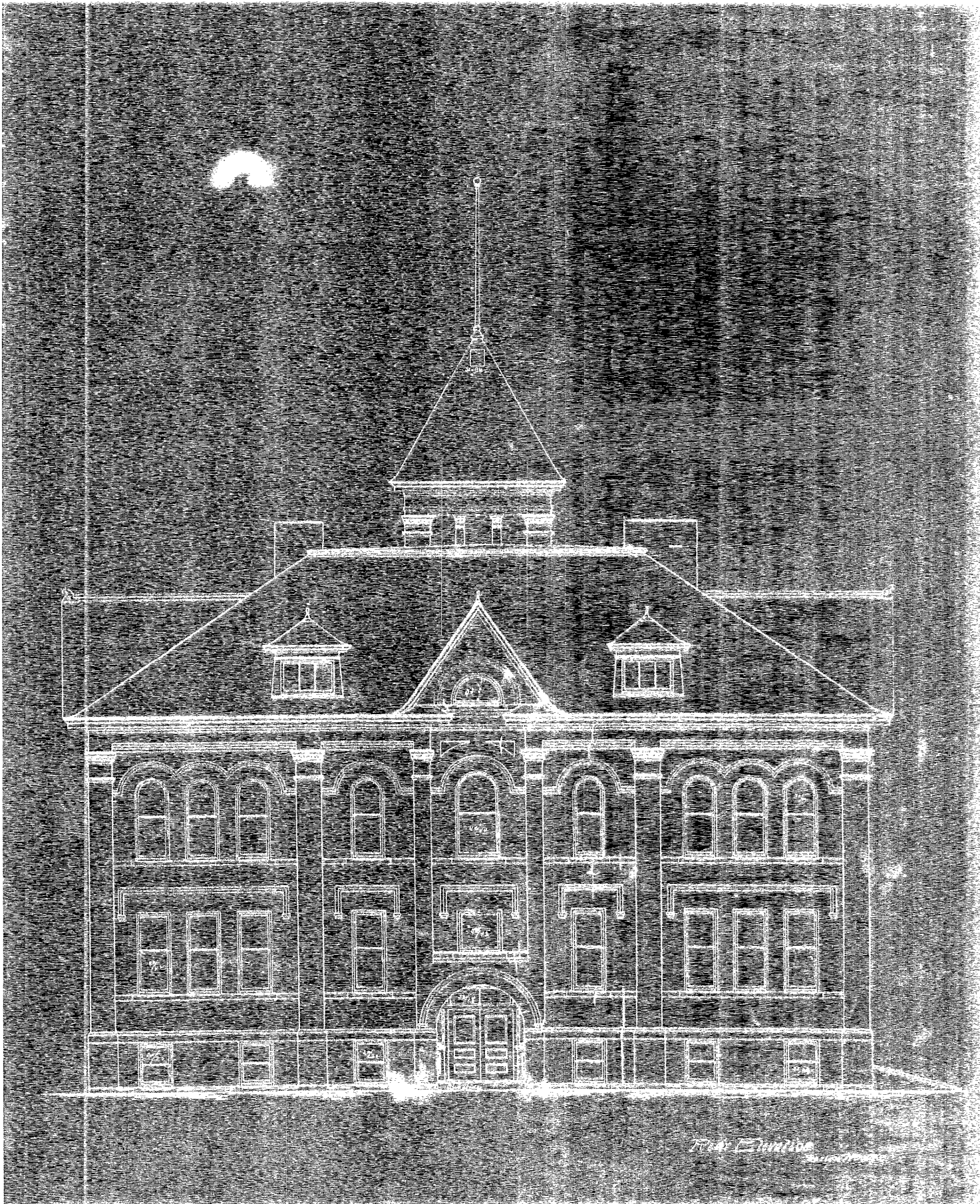


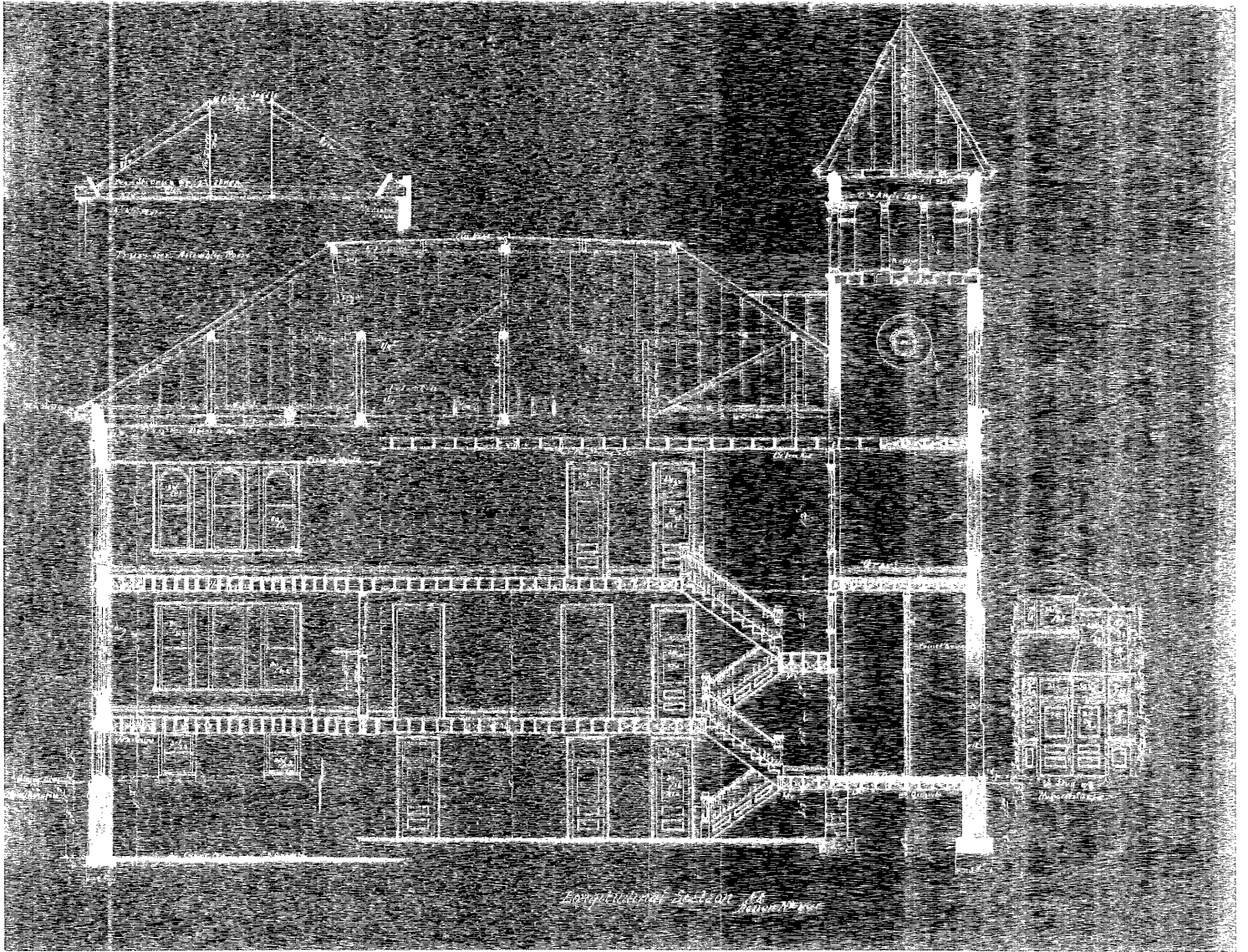
A. B. ...
Architect

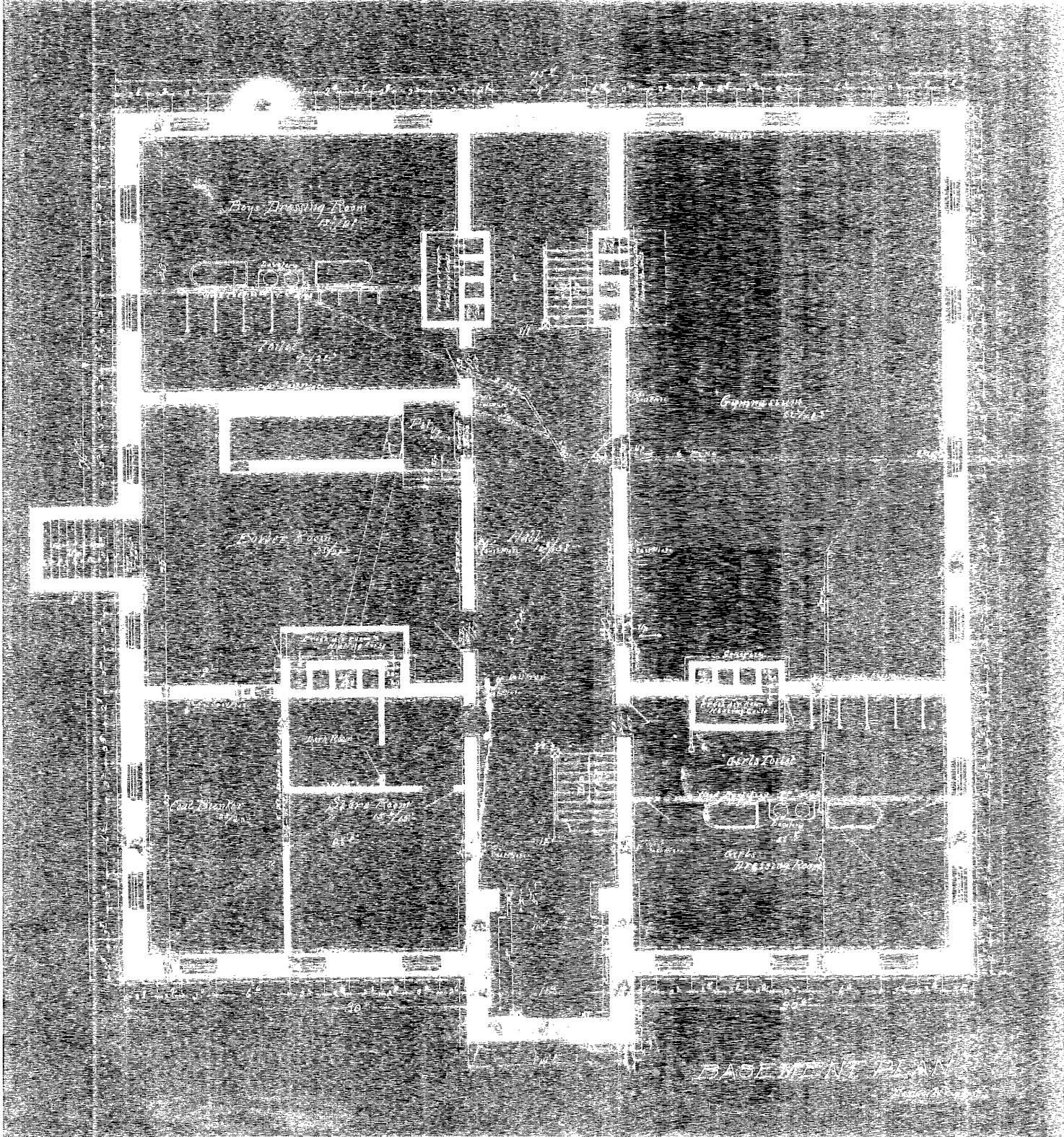
FRONT ELEVATION
DORR HALL
SCHOOL OF FORESTRY
TOLEDO, OHIO



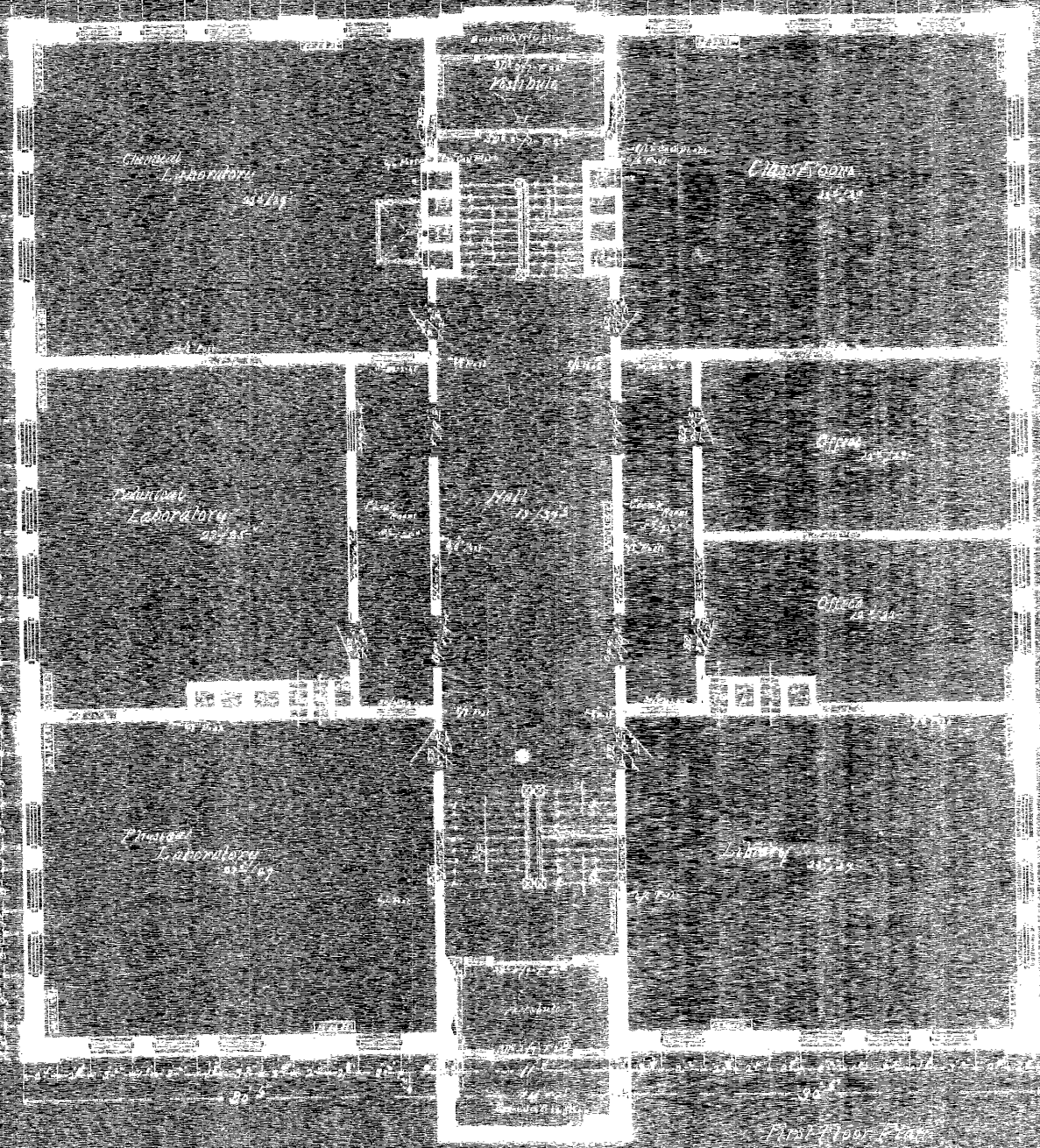
Architect's name and date



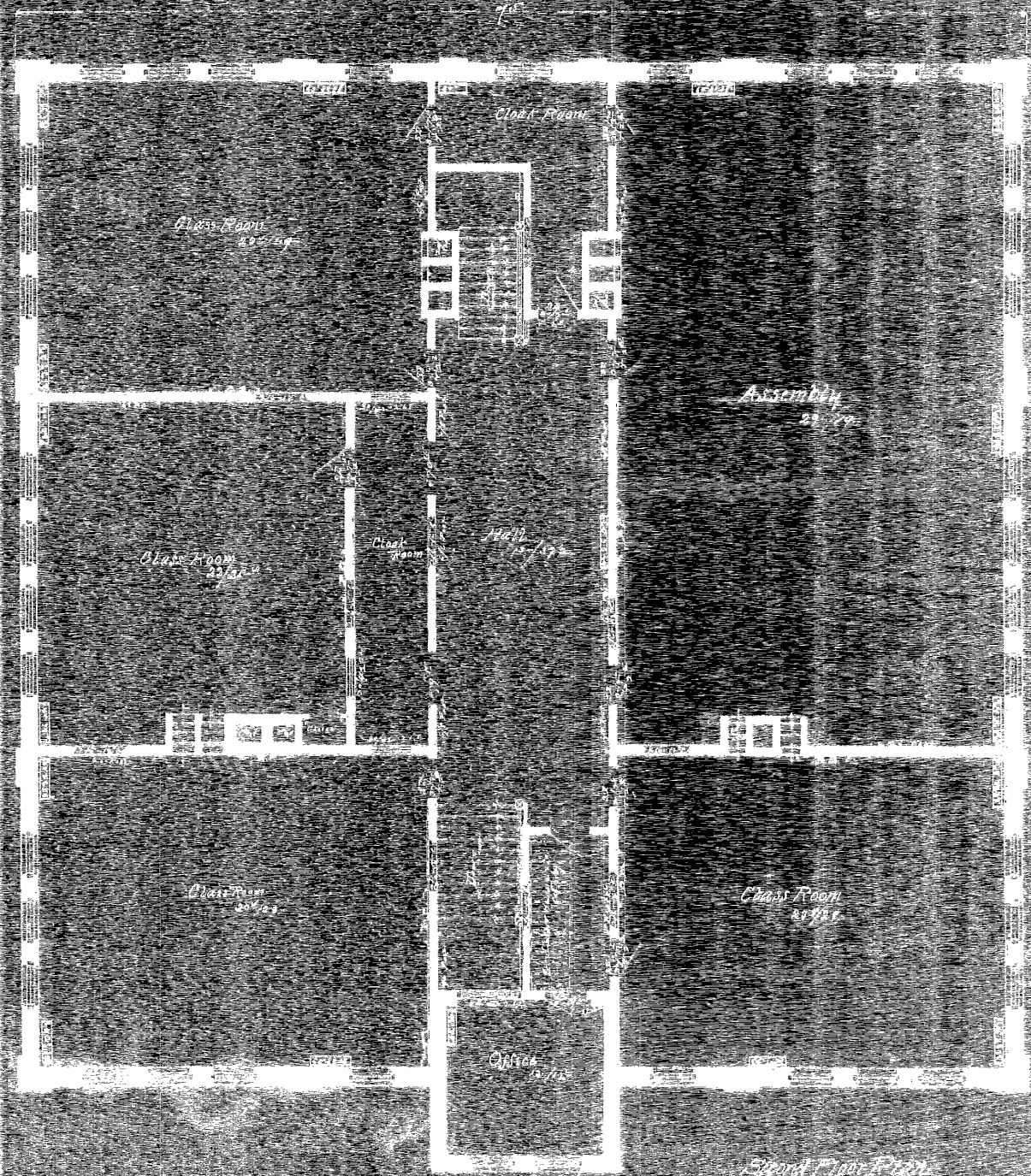




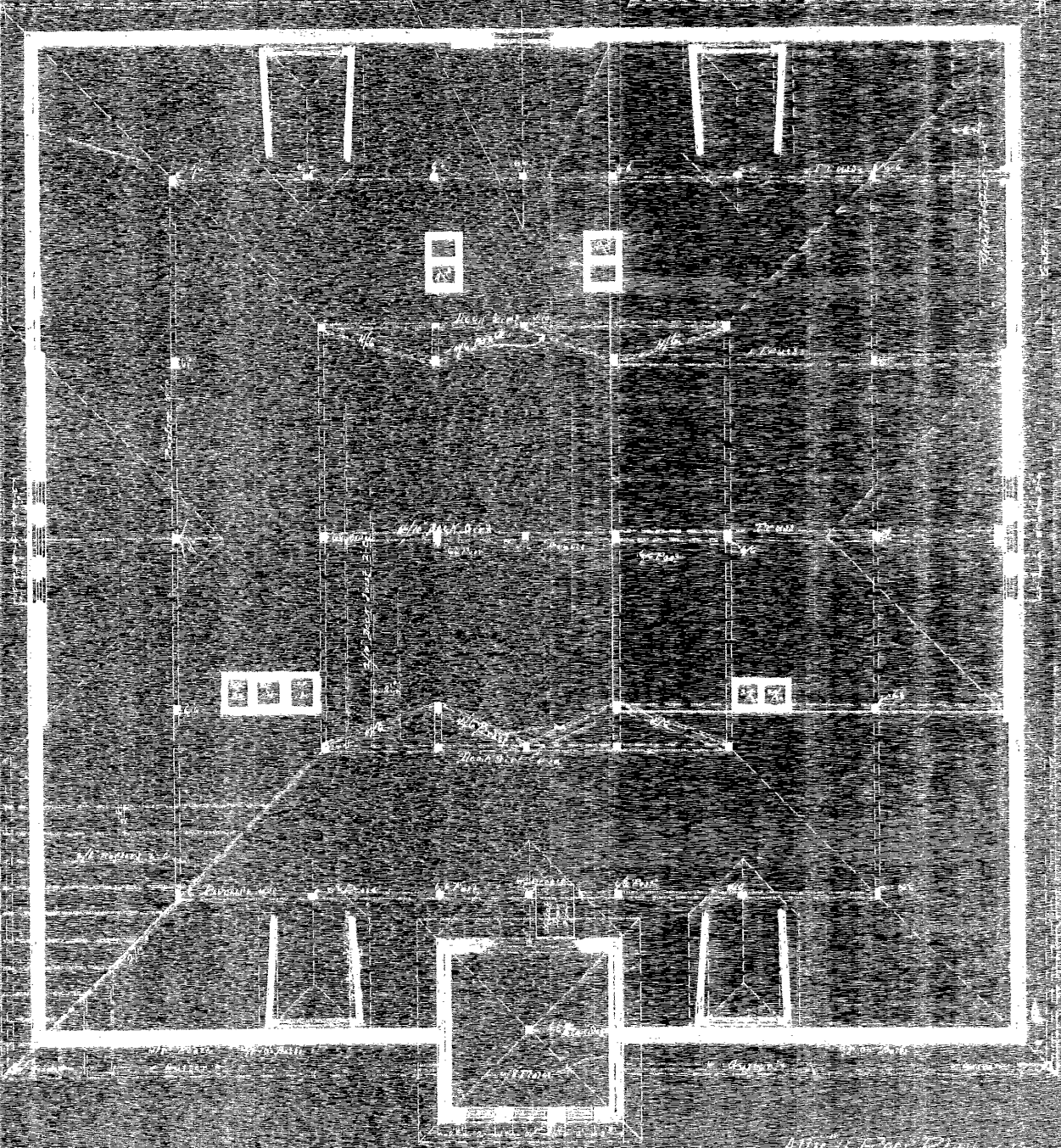
BASMENT PLAN



First Floor Plan
March 1914



Second Floor Plan
Designed by [illegible]



Atto di Pro. P. 101
1000 1000