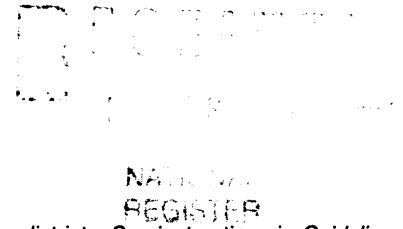


1836

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Fish and Game Pavilion and Aquarium
other names/site number Natural Resources Pavilion and Aquarium

2. Location

street & number Iowa State Fairgrounds not for publication
city, town Des Moines vicinity
state Iowa code IA county Polk code 153 zip code 50319

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: The Conservation Movement in Iowa, 1857-1942
Iowa State Fair and Exposition Grounds Historic District; The Architectural Legacy of Proudfoot & Bird in Iowa, 1882-1940
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
[Signature] 10/31/91
Signature of certifying official Date
State Historical Society of Iowa
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register. Entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet. [Signature] 12/23/91
 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 Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/
state fair exhibit building

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Same

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Italian Renaissance

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls brick

roof steel truss

other marble, stone, and cast plaster
details

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Conservation
Education

Period of Significance

1926-1942

Significant Dates

1926-1929

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Proudfoot, Rawson & Souers

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings
Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository:

Iowa Bureau of Historic Preservation

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one acre included in previously listed National Register
Iowa State Fair and Exposition Grounds Historic District

UTM References

A

1	5	4	5	3	6	7	0	4	6	0	4	8	8	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

B

Zone		Easting						Northing						

C

Zone		Easting						Northing						

D

Zone		Easting						Northing						

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rebecca Conard
organization PHR Associates date May 28, 1991
street & number 275 Crescent Park Drive telephone 712/657-3347
city or town Lake View state Iowa zip code 51450

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Section 7: Physical Description

The Fish and Game Pavilion actually consists of two interrelated structures: a large, free-standing aquarium, which probably was built in 1925 or early 1926, and the outer pavilion itself, completed in 1928. Both structures were designed by the noted Des Moines architectural firm of Proudfoot, Rawson and Souers. The pavilion is located on the Iowa State Fairgrounds in Des Moines, one of several exhibit buildings and concession stands situated near the west entrance. A fenced area on the west side of the pavilion surrounds several mature trees, a concrete exhibit pool, walkways, and small landscaped areas.

The aquarium is a low, one-story rectangular building measuring approximately 23'x43'. It has a truncated hipped form with wide boxed eaves. The roof is covered with flat tiles, and two 30" ventilators are located at either end. Highly distinctive brackets support the eaves; each consists of a scroll-sawn cypress piece along the soffit edge and an ornamental plaster frog at the roof-wall juncture. The lower walls are constructed of concrete; upper walls are of wood-frame construction; and the exterior is surfaced with stucco. Twenty-one viewing tanks are recessed into the outer walls in ribbon fashion at eye level. Above the tanks, faience tiles decorated with a variety of aquatic images (crabs, fish, seahorses, etc.) are symmetrically spaced between the plaster frog brackets, creating a frieze effect. On the lower wall, monochromatic tiles have been set into the stucco in geometric patterns above a tiled plinth. On the north facade, an arched wood-panel door surrounded by gold rope tile provides access to the interior work space. The architectural drawings for this building are dated July 1926, but biennial reports of the fish and game warden indicate that the building had been completed by June 30, 1926.

The pavilion is a classically styled structure built in the Italian Renaissance tradition. Functionally, it is an open rectangular box with steel truss roof supports, engineered to encapsulate the aquarium and provide unobstructed passage around it. The structure measures approximately 75'x140' with solid masonry walls rising to a height of about 26'. The walls are constructed of brick laid in a common bond pattern with every sixth course Flemish. They rest on a concrete slab foundation, and stone quoins accentuate the corners. The parapeted roof is flat, resting on top of the steel truss superstructure, and highlighted by a stone cornice. Recessed clearstory windows that are hidden from view on the outside by the exterior walls provide some natural lighting. Additional natural light comes through arched openings on both the east and west sides and a triple-arched front entrance. The south front facade has a triptych-

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like quality, with the parapet of the center bay raised about 18" higher than that of the two side bays. Corinthian columns support three round arches in the center bay. A stone signboard inset above the entrance is ornamented with stylized fish, tails intertwined around a trident. The entrance arches are balanced by a pair of arched balcony-level windows on either side, each pair surrounded by an arched window casing slightly recessed into the wall. Identical balcony windows are found on the east and west side facades, where they flank five-bay arched openings. Other Italian Renaissance details include decorative wrought iron balcony railings and white marble medallions set between the arches on the side walls. Cast stone swans perched on the southeast and southwest roof corners complete the thematic ornamentation. The architectural drawings for the pavilion are dated 1927, and biennial reports indicate that it was first used in 1928.

Hairline cracks in the brick walls of the pavilion have been inexpertly repaired, but otherwise both structures possess excellent integrity of design, materials, and construction. The only obvious alterations are replacement doors at the rear service entrances and replacement of the "Fish and Game" sign with one that reads "Natural Resources."

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Section 8: Statement of Significance

Summary Statement

The Fish and Game Pavilion is significant under National Register Criterion A for its association with the State Fish and Game Department, the first state agency established in Iowa for resource conservation and the first to undertake a program of public outreach (see Subsection II of Section E, "Wildlife Conservation").* It is also significant under Criterion C as one of the most distinctive public buildings designed by the firm of Proudfoot, Rawson and Souers. The property was previously listed on the National Register as one structure, the State Fish and Game Building, under the Iowa State Fair and Exposition Grounds Historic District nomination (1987), and it is cited in the MPDF entitled "The Architectural Legacy of Proudfoot & Bird in Iowa, 1882-1940" (1989).

Criterion A

The Fish and Game Pavilion is the legacy of W.E. Albert, who served as State Fish and Game Warden from 1920 until his death in 1932. Believing that the Department of Fish and Game had some responsibility to acquaint the public with its work, Albert spearheaded the construction of a permanent exhibit building on the state fairgrounds. The idea grew out of game exhibits which had been staged annually at the state fair beginning in 1910. That year, the department exhibited 2000 ring-neck pheasants in order to acquaint Iowans with the bird and promote a statewide restocking program. Thereafter, the game exhibit became an annual event. Actually, it was more of a temporary game farm, since at the close of the fair game birds were distributed free to anyone who wanted to assist the state with propagation and restocking. These exhibits also came to include steel cattle tanks holding a variety of fish found in Iowa waters.

Albert felt that the fair exhibits should be presented in a more dignified manner in order to exploit their educational potential fully. By 1926, the aquarium building had replaced the messy stock tanks. Virginia deer, fox, raccoon, opossum, skunk, collections of birds' eggs, and mussel shells from Iowa waters were also on exhibit that year. In addition, department staff members presented illustrated talks on wildlife and outdoor conditions in a nearby tent. In 1928, the pavilion opened, its stately, classical style lending an erudite character to the exhibit space. Albert noted that the completed complex was "comparable with those of the other states

* within the Conservation Movement in Iowa MPS

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and...surely a long step ahead of the tent exhibit of former years...." In his 1928 biennial report, Albert discussed the state fair exhibit along with other educational activities carried out by the department.

Each year at the State Fair the Fish and Game Department has an exhibit where thousands of people can see and learn of the various kinds of native fishes, fur bearing animals, and game birds. The exhibit is changed each year so that something new may be seen.

The exhibit pavilion has attracted thousands of fair-goers each August, except for a few years during World War II when the fairgrounds were closed and the Army used the buildings for offices. Although the basic purpose of the exhibit was educational, the annual show had its share of curiosities to draw a crowd: Oscar, a giant, 75-pound rock sturgeon attracted visitors for nearly 30 years, and exhibit director George Coon worked up entertaining skits with a white-tailed deer named Sammy. Nonetheless, as former State Conservation Commission director Bruce Stiles noted, the "sugar coating" wrapped at deeper motive: to impress upon the public the importance of conservation in determining the future of the state and nation.

Criterion C

The Fish and Game Pavilion is significant under Criterion C as an outstanding example of the many public buildings designed by the firm of Proudfoot, Bird, et al., one of Iowa's most important architectural firms during the first four decades of the 20th century. After its inception in 1882, the firm underwent a number of transitions as partners were added or died, but from 1925 to 1929 the firm was known as Proudfoot, Rawson and Souers. Over 700 Iowa commissions have been documented for the firm between 1885 and 1940, about half of them located in Des Moines. The firm maintained a varied practice, divided fairly evenly between residential, commercial, and public buildings. The Fish and Game Pavilion represents one of the firm's more important commissions during the Proudfoot, Rawson and Souers years, in company with such other landmark structures as Memorial Union at Iowa State University. Its classical styling conveyed the image that Fish and Game Warden W.E. Albert was seeking; its unique aquatic ornamental details will forever identify the pavilion with wildlife.

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Section 9: Bibliography

Biennial Reports of the State Fish and Game Warden, 1911-12, 1926, 1928, 1930.

Located at Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Des Moines.

Christian, Ralph. *The Architectural Legacy of Proudfoot & Bird in Iowa, 1882-1940.*

Multiple Property Documentation Form prepared for Iowa Bureau of Historic Preservation, 1989.

Page, William C., Lowell J. Soike, and James E. Jacobsen. *Iowa State Fair and Exposition Grounds Historic District.* National Register of Historic Places documentation prepared for the Iowa Bureau of Historic Preservation, 1987.

Pavlicek, Tami. "The Years of Albert's Folly." *Iowa Conservationist*, August 1986, pp. 20-21.

Proudfoot, Rawson and Souers. Aquarium for State Fish & Game Department (July 1926) and Pavilion for State Fish & Game Department of Iowa (March 1927). Architectural drawings located at Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Des Moines.

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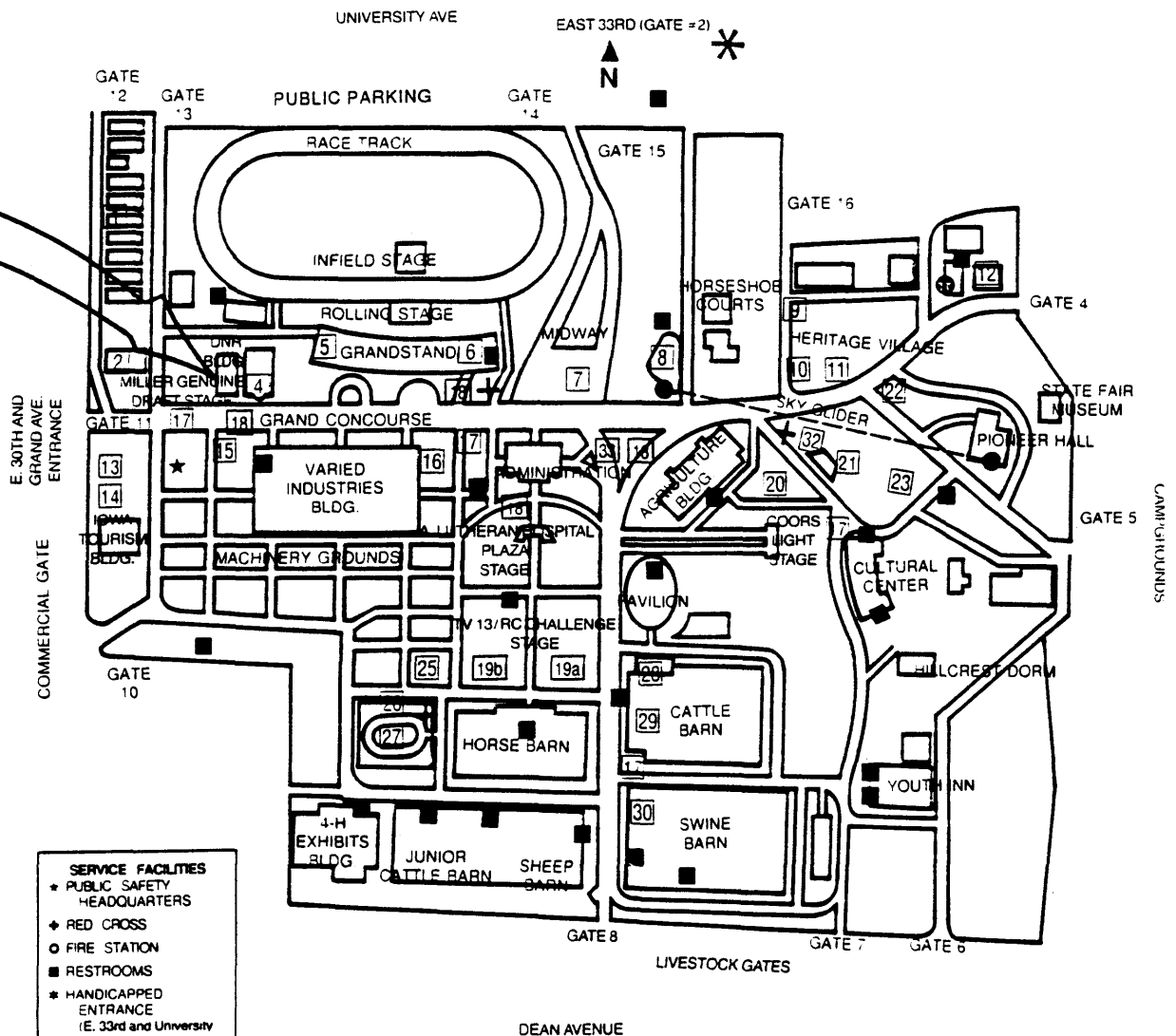
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Section 10: Geographical Data

Boundary Description: The Fish and Game Pavilion and Aquarium are included in the boundaries established for the Iowa State Fair and Exposition Grounds Historic District in 1987. Within the fairgrounds, the structures are located along the Grand Concourse near the E. 30th and Grand Avenue entrance as shown on the map below. They are situated on a lot which measures 81'x150' deep.

Boundary Justification: The boundary lines follow the established lot lines within the fairgrounds.

- 2 - AQUARIUM BLDG.
- 20 - ART ATTACK
- 21 - ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOWCASE (Earth Sheltered Home)
- 30 - AVENUE OF BREEDS
- 30 - AVENUE OF HORSE BREEDS
- 10 - BARBERSHOP
- 20 - BLANK CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL FUN FOREST
- 11 - BUCKSKINNERS
- 11 - CIRC MODEL RAILROAD EXHIBIT
- 7 - COLONIAL TICKET BOOTH
- 22 - COUNTRY SCHOOL
- 28 - DAIRY PARLOR
- 10 - DOUGLASS PHARMACY
- 17 - DRAKE U. FAIR INFORMATION CENTER
- 23 - EXPOSITION HILL
- 25 - FFA HEADQUARTERS
- 6 - FABRICS & THREADS
- 16 - FARM BUREAU PARK
- 26 - FARM GADGET SHOW
- 22 - FIRST CHURCH
- 4 - FOOD EXHIBITS
- 9 - FORT MADISON BLOCKHOUSE
- 10 - GENERAL STORE
- 5 - HALLS OF LAW, FLAME AND TRANS.
- 5 - LOST CHILDREN (HALL OF LAW)
- 32 - MERCY HEALTH AND FIRST AID CENTER
- 29 - MULTI-MEDIA CENTER
- 4 - NORWEST BANK FAMILY CENTER (Variety/ Homemakers Theater)
- 13 - PETTING ZOO
- 12 - POULTRY, PIGEONS AND RABBITS BLDG.
- 1 - RACE BARNS
- 1 - RAILROAD DEPOT
- 18 - STATE FAIR SOUVENIRS
- 10 - TELEPHONE BLDG.
- 33 - TRIANGLE
- 14 - TV8 AND PEPSI ON ICE
- 10 - U.S. POST OFFICE
- 19a - VILLAGE MART
- 19b - WALNUT CENTER
- 27 - WEST ARENA
- 15 - WHO RADIO CRYSTAL STUDIO
- 8 - YE OLD MILL



SERVICE FACILITIES

- ★ PUBLIC SAFETY HEADQUARTERS
- ◆ RED CROSS
- FIRE STATION
- RESTROOMS
- ★ HANDICAPPED ENTRANCE (E. 33rd and University - Gate #2)

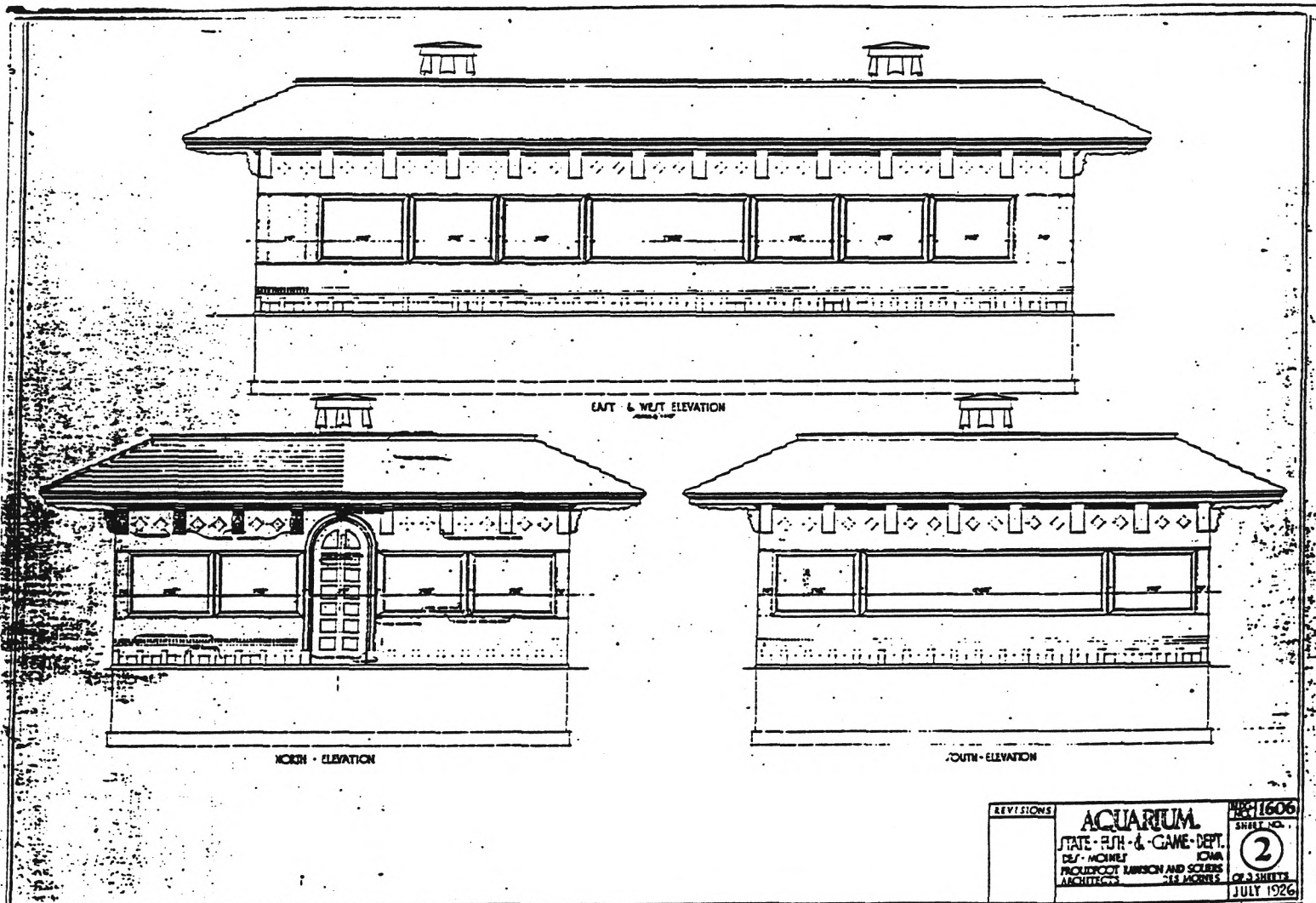
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*Attachments: Aquarium Elevations
Proudfoot, Rawson and Souers, July 1926
Source: Iowa Department of Natural Resources*



REVISIONS	ACQUARIUM STATE - FISH & GAME - DEPT. DES. - MCNEELY IOWA PROUDFOOT RAWSON AND SOUERS ARCHITECTS 218 WORKS	1606 SHEET NO. 2 OF 3 SHEETS JULY 1926
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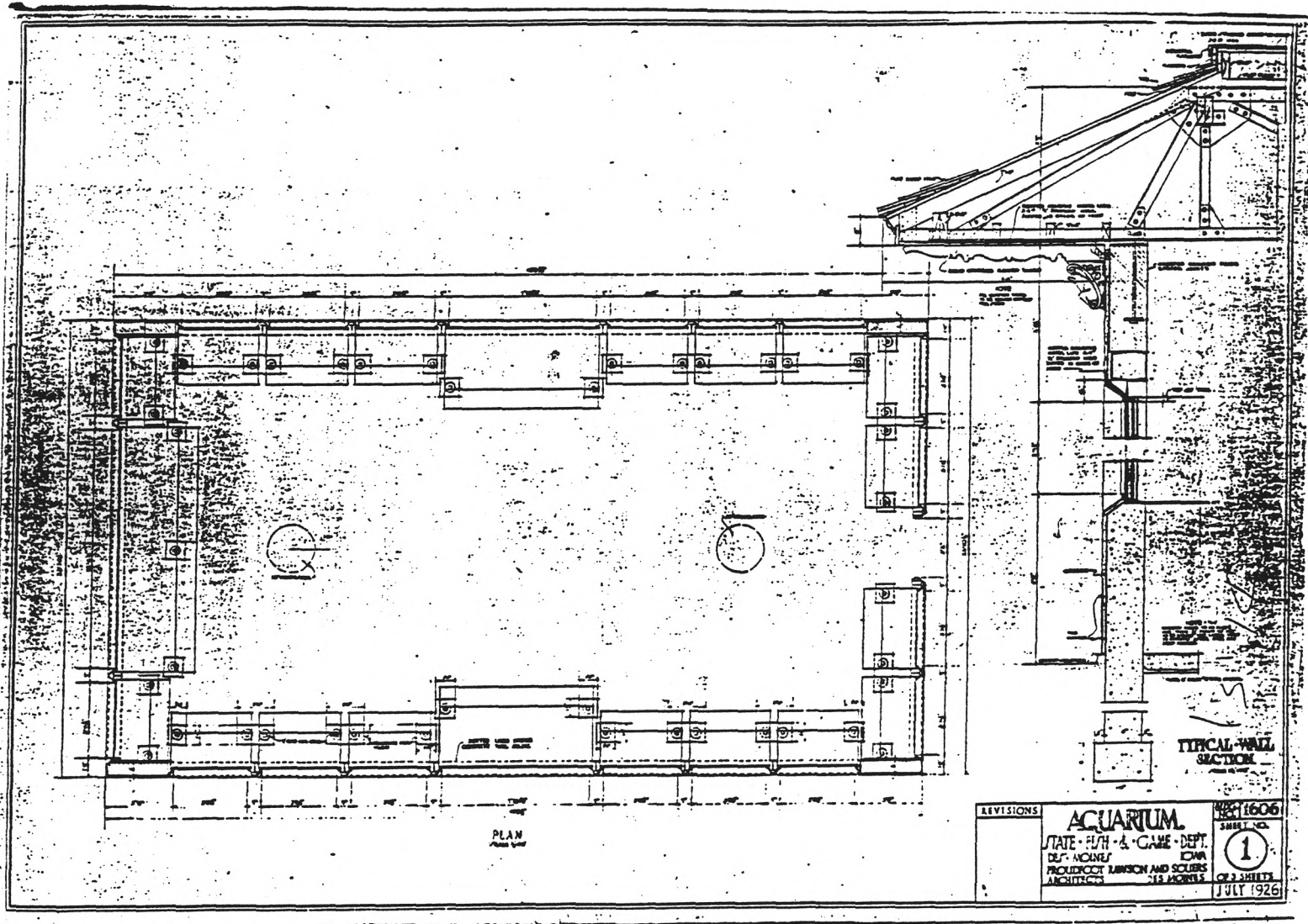
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*Attachments: Aquarium Floor Plan and Details
Proudfoot, Rawson and Souers, July 1926
Source: Iowa Department of Natural Resources*



REVISIONS	AQUARIUM. STATE - FISH - & GAME - DEPT. DES. - MONIEY PROUDFOOT, RAWSON AND SOUERS ARCHITECTS - 15 MONTHS	NSP 1606 SHEET NO. 1 OF 2 SHEETS JULY 1926
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*Attachments: Pavilion Elevations
Proudfoot, Rawson and Souers, March 1927
Source: Iowa Department of Natural Resources*

The architectural drawings include:

- SECTION - A-A**: A structural cross-section of the pavilion showing the roof truss system and floor joists.
- SECTION - B-B**: A structural cross-section showing the interior of the pavilion with five arched openings and a central entrance.
- NORTH ELEVATION**: The exterior view of the pavilion from the north, showing five arched windows and a central entrance.
- SOUTH ELEVATION**: The exterior view from the south, featuring a sign that reads "STATE FISH AND GAME" above the entrance.
- WEST ELEVATION**: The exterior view from the west, showing a single arched window and a decorative wall.
- DETAILS**: Several construction details including:
 - DETAIL OF FLASHING
 - DETAIL OF CURB
 - DETAIL OF BALCONY RAIL
 - DETAIL OF WINDOW HEAD AND SILL
 - DETAIL OF WINDOW JAMB AND SILL
 - DETAIL OF CEMENT WIDOWS
 - DETAIL OF STAIRS
- GENERAL NOTES**: A block of text providing construction specifications and material requirements.
- STAIRS - NOTES**: Specific instructions for the staircase construction.
- REVISIONS**: A table for tracking changes to the drawings.
- PROJECT INFORMATION**: Pavilion - 102 - State Fish & Game - Department of ICWA - Proudfoot, Rawson and Souers - Architects - 283 Avenue...
- DATE**: MARCH 1927

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*Attachments: Pavilion, Exterior Details
Proudfoot, Rawson and Souers, March 1927
Source: Iowa Department of Natural Resources*

