

NO. 10010018
EXP. 10/31/84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received MAY 18 1983
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic (Charles B.) Lore Elementary School
and/or common Charles B. Lore Elementary School

2. Location

street & number Fourth Street and Woodlawn Avenue not for publication
city, town Wilmington vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~
state Delaware code 10 county New Castle code 003

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name The Red Clay School District
street & number 1400 Washington St., Wilmington, De. 19801
city, town Wilmington vicinity of _____ state Delaware

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. New Castle County Recorder of Deeds
street & number 800 French Street City/County Building
city, town Wilmington state Delaware

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wilmington Cultural Resource Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date 1983 (CRS# N-3651) federal state county local
depository for survey records Hall of Records
city, town Doyer state Delaware

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

CHARLES B. LORE SCHOOL DESCRIPTION

The Charles B. Lore Elementary School, located on the south side of West Fourth Street between Bayard and Woodlawn Avenues, is a two and one-half story, E-shaped building constructed of red brick laid in Flemish bond. Notable features of the building's Collegiate Gothic style are its steep pitched, slate gable roof, stone surrounds on windows and doors, and battlements above entryways. The building is a good example of how architectural design was influenced by educational purpose during Wilmington's school modernization program of the late 1920s and early 1930s.

The school's northern, front facade consists of a 4-story, central tower flanked by two stories of classrooms and offices (photo 1, exterior). Each classroom, of which there are three per floor on either side of the tower, has a band of six windows, nine-over-nine, double-hung sash. The east and west wing street facades each have four classrooms per floor. The east wing is two stories high; the west wing is three stories. The roof is a steep-pitched gable made of slate. The center tower, auditorium, and gymnasium behind the tower have flat roofs. Other features of the facade include a stone water table below the first floor windows, and stone surrounds on all windows and doors.

The entire building balances symmetrically on either side of the 4-story tower, which is the school's main entrance. This center door, as well as the doors at either end of the northern facade, have a stone basket arch (photo 2, exterior). The stone arch is repeated on the third floor windows of the tower, which, with the second floor tower windows, project from the wall as a three-sided, four-window oriel (photo 3, exterior). The tower windows are six-over-six, double-hung sash. A narrow rectangular stone with a decorative floral relief rests over the door, and above that, the inscription "Charles B. Lore School" is cut into the stone base of the oriel window. The two front corners of the tower each have two attached three-step brick buttresses, each step topped with decorative stonework. The fourth story face of the tower has a large Seth Thomas clock set into the wall, with a stone surround. The tower is topped with brick battlements with a stone coping.

The east wing of the school also has a center door flanked by classrooms (photo 4, exterior). Presumably, this wing of the building was built first, and the east wing door was perhaps the school's first entrance. The two first floor classrooms on either side of the door extend out from the facade and, with the door, form a large bay topped by battlements. A gable dormer projects from the roof directly above the east wing door with a chimney on one side.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1932 **Builder/Architect** Guilbert and Betelle

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

LORE SCHOOL STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Introduction

The Charles B. Lore Elementary School, located on the City block bounded by Third Street, Bayard Avenue, Fourth Street, and Woodlawn Avenue, was built in 1932. Lore School is being nominated on the basis of meeting criteria A) "being associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our (local) history," and criteria C) "that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction,... that possesses high artistic values," and has architectural significance. The English Collegiate Gothic Style building, reminiscent of the English Tudor period of about 1500, was designed by the architectural firm of Guilbert and Betelle of Newark, New Jersey. The William M. Francis Company was contracted to do the construction. The cost of the building was in the neighborhood of \$575,000. The school was named in honor of Charles B. Lore, Chief Justice of the Delaware Supreme Court (1893-1911) and two-time congressman. The two-story, 87,000 square foot school was closed in 1981 because of declining enrollment.

Historical Significance

The Lore School is an architectural expression of Wilmington's involvement in the statewide movement for public school improvement during the 1920s, growing out of the social and economic changes brought about by World War I. As a result, people began to realize more and more the necessity for keeping the educational program in tune with the times. "A successful educational policy results in the creation of the best possible learning situation for every child in the schools," was the guiding principle in the development of the educational program in Wilmington during the late 1920s and early 1930s, as stated in the Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Schools, 1932. The school modernization program received its incentive from the survey of the Wilmington Public Schools in 1921 by the United States Bureau of Education, the financial support of Mr. Pierre S. du Pont, and the organization of the Delaware School Foundation.

A survey of the Wilmington Public Schools in 1921 by the United States Bureau of Education revealed that a number of school buildings had become educationally obsolete, that they were inadequate to meet the educational needs of their respective communities, that they were hazardous fire traps, and that their unsanitary conditions were a definite menace to the health of the children.

9. Major Bibliographical References

The Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Schools of the City of Wilmington, De., published by The Board of Education in Wilmington, 1928-29, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933-35, 1935-37.
Every Evening Journal, "Delaware School Foundation", March 11, 1931.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx 2 acres
 Quadrangle name Wilmington North Quad. Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Bounded by Woodlawn Avenue, 4th Street, Bayard Avenue, and 3rd Street; the building and area in that city block. See enclosed map.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Clayton McCane, Planner I	Robert Briggs, Historic Preservation Intern
organization	Office of Planning	date January 7, 1983
street & number	800 French Street	telephone (302)571-4119
city or town	Wilmington	state Delaware

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

Deputy
 State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Samuel R. Griffith*

title _____ date *April 27, 1983*

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Joel Alvin Byers
 Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register date *6/16/83*

Attest: _____ date _____
 Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet Lore School Item number 7, Description Page 2

In contrast to all of this, the west wing facade is flat with no door, only classroom windows, but with two gable dormers (photo 5, exterior).

The gable roof of the school's front facade is topped by four brick diagonal chimneys, each with a triple stack, evenly spaced along the length of the front roofline. Battlements with stone coping also top the doors at either end of the northern facade. Stone scuppers spring from the sides of these battlements. The first floor room immediately west of the central tower, the school office, differs from the other classrooms. Its band of seven windows is part of a bay topped with battlements extending out from the facade wall. These windows, like those on the tower, have basket arches. A final unusual exterior feature is an 11-window, copper-faced bay on the east wall of the west wing (photo 6, exterior). This bay rises one story with a full basement beneath and was the "growing room" or greenhouse attached to two science rooms. A cornerstone dated 1932 is set into the northeast corner of the building.

The building's interior has classrooms on both sides of a central corridor (photo 7, interior). Each classroom has built-in wooden closets (photo 8, interior). The kindergarten room on the first floor of the east wing has a brick fireplace and wooden benches built into the wall (photos 9 and 10, interior). The library (recently fire damaged), next to the school office of the first floor, has a double doorway with a basket arch like those on the exterior doors (photo 11, interior). The school auditorium has graceful and decorative brass chandeliers (photos 12 and 13, interior). The dual gymnasiums are attached to the rear of the auditorium (photo 14, interior).

Copies of the original floorplans are attached to this submission.

- end -

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Continuation sheet Lore School Item number 8, Significance Page 2

As a result of the survey, in the late 1920s and early 1930s a comprehensive City-wide school building program was established to make available all types of educational services in proportion to the needs and demands of the various neighborhoods. The three governing criteria in the development of the Wilmington program included:

- o First, meet the immediate educational needs of the entire City and anticipate the demands of the future.
- o Second, analyze the educational requirements of the various districts and establish the type of building in which those needs could best be accomplished in each district.
- o Third, attempt to maintain the program as flexible as possible.

Prior to the modernization program, most school buildings were square-plan with red brick walls laid up in wood-burned lime mortar. The floors were of yellow pine in several widths, then known as cargo run, on ordinary joist construction carried on beams supported on iron columns. The buildings had full cellars and were heated by hot air through registers in each room. The roofs were formed by trusses, on which rested purlines; and on the purlines, there were rafters and sheathing. The roofs were covered with slate or tin. There was little attempt at ventilation other than that provided by windows spaced in side and end walls for design, rather than functional reasons. As a result, buildings were also poorly lighted; a few were equipped with gas lights for dark days. The toilet facilities were unheated brick latrines built in the yards over sunken privy vaults. Although the buildings were not fireproof, none ever burned. Few schools had playgrounds, gymnasiums, or auditoriums; and the drinking water came from hydrants in the yard.

Lore School's English Collegiate Gothic style was common among educational institutions at the time. Like the other modern replacement schools, it was constructed of steel framing with brick curtain walls, hollow tile and brick division walls, and concrete floors covered with flooring of wood, composition blocks, or linoleum. Natural lighting was provided by grouping windows to the best advantage inside walls of rectangular rooms and by placing electric lights in proper positions to give service without shadow. Each room had thermostatically controlled steam heat and an individual ventilating unit. The toilet accommodations, adequate in number, sanitary, and well lighted, incorporated the best features of modern heating, ventilation, and plumbing. Each school had an auditorium and stage, cafeterias and playgrounds with appropriate apparatus. Lore School had separate gymnasiums for girls and boys.

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Continuation sheet Lore School Item number 8, Significance Page 3

These new schools were capable of accommodating 1,200 to 1,500 pupils.

The Building Program

The initial modernization program comprised Bancroft, Bayard, Gray, Howard, Palmer, and the Warner Schools at a cost of \$3.7 million. A comprehensive City-wide building program in 1929-1930 provided for additions to the Palmer and the new Bayard, Lore, Williams, Elbert, and Harlan elementary schools, the Howard prevocational annex, and the Pierre S. du Pont High School, at a cost of about \$4.2 million. The total cost of the post-World War I school modernization program was approximately \$7.9 million.

Lore School

The Lore School was built on the site of old School House Number 25. Therefore, it was necessary to build part of the building and place it in operation so that the children attending Number 25 could be accommodated in the new building while the old one was being demolished and the new building completed. Lore School was built as a "platoon school," an innovation introduced to the elementary schools as part of the modernization program. The platoon school system enabled the children to benefit from specialized instruction in a number of subjects such as music, art, physical education, and auditorium activities. The original plans for Lore School called for 30 classrooms, one kindergarten suite, one speech room, one open air room, one restoration room, two literature rooms, one orthogenic room, two science rooms, one auditorium, one medical inspection suite, one art room, one sewing room, one music room, one library, two gymnasiums, one girl's play court, one boy's play court, one wood working shop, one cafeteria, and one food laboratory.

The modernization program during the late 1920s and early 1930s was a significant period in the history of Wilmington's educational development. The impact of this movement is not fully realized until one considers that much of the program was initiated and implemented after the start of the Great Depression. During a period that experienced extreme economic difficulty, nearly \$8.0 million was spent on the building improvement program alone.

The structural modernization of the City schools reflected fundamental program changes, including:

- o Mandatory and accounted attendance, enforced by the passage of the Compulsory Attendance Law of 1931.
- o The establishment of the junior high school system.

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Continuation sheet Lore School Item number 8, Significance Page 4

- o The introduction of the platoon system to the elementary schools.
- o A revised curriculum to encourage greater and expanded involvement by the children.
- o Adoption of a school calender.

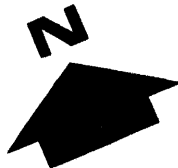
The fundamental changes and the City-wide school building program were significant in the history of Wilmington's educational development, of which the Charles B. Lore School was a part.

- end -

THE CHARLES B. LORE SCHOOL



WOODLAWN PARK



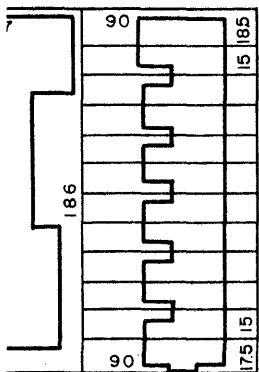
LORE SCHOOL

FERRIS

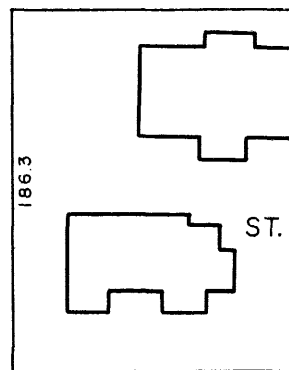
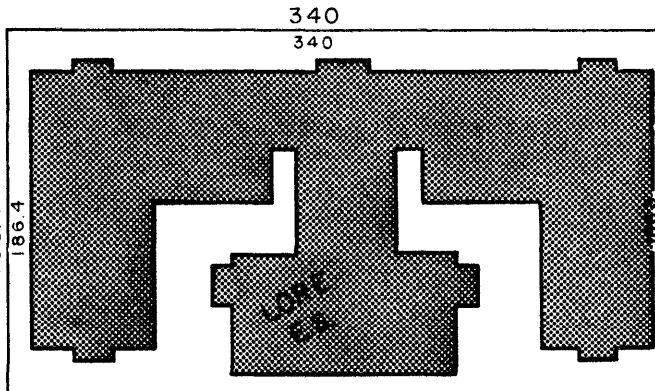
54 5TH

AVE

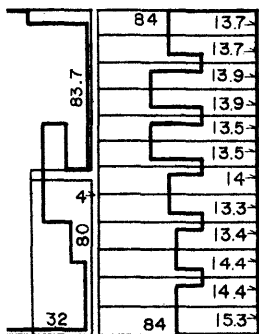
FOURTH STREET



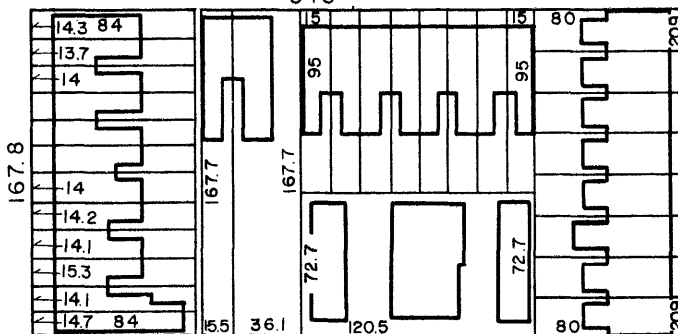
WOODLAWN AVE 60



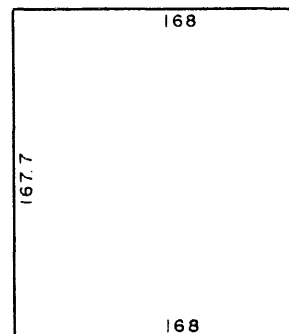
THIRD STREET



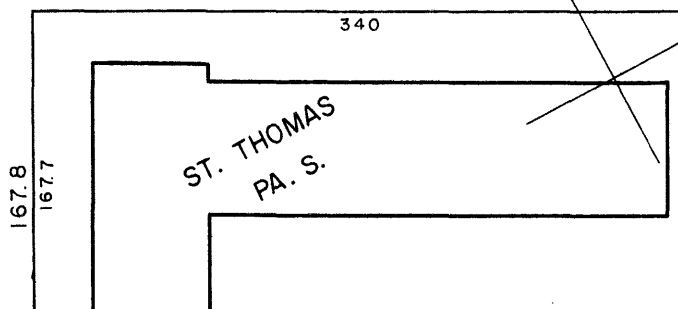
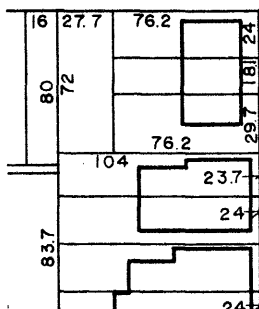
WOODLAWN AVE 60



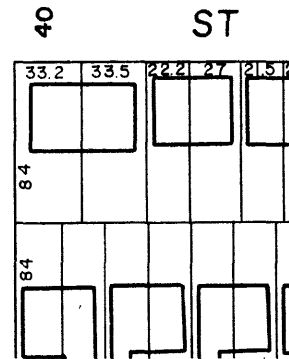
BAYARD



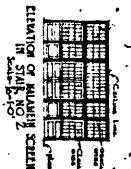
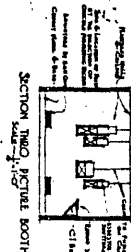
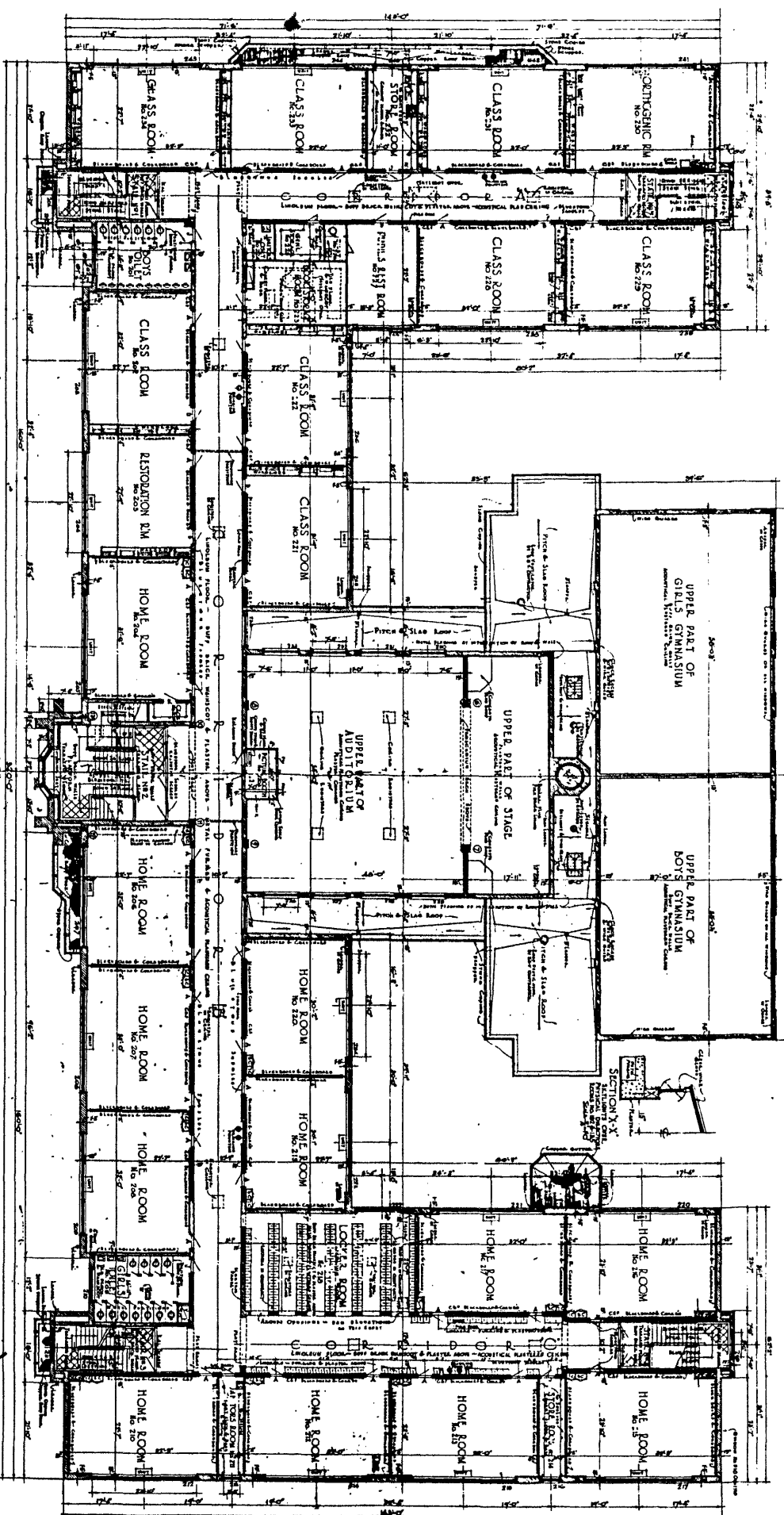
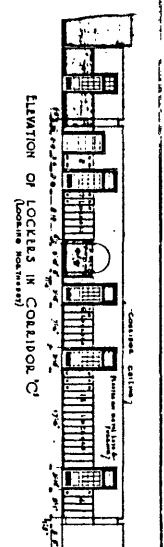
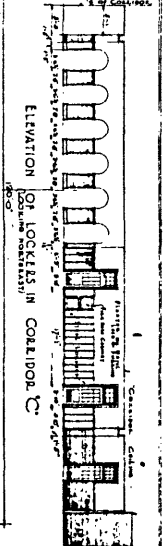
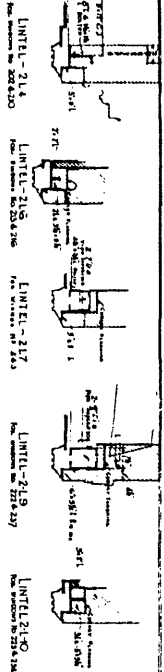
SECOND STREET



60



THE CHARLES B. LORE SCHOOL



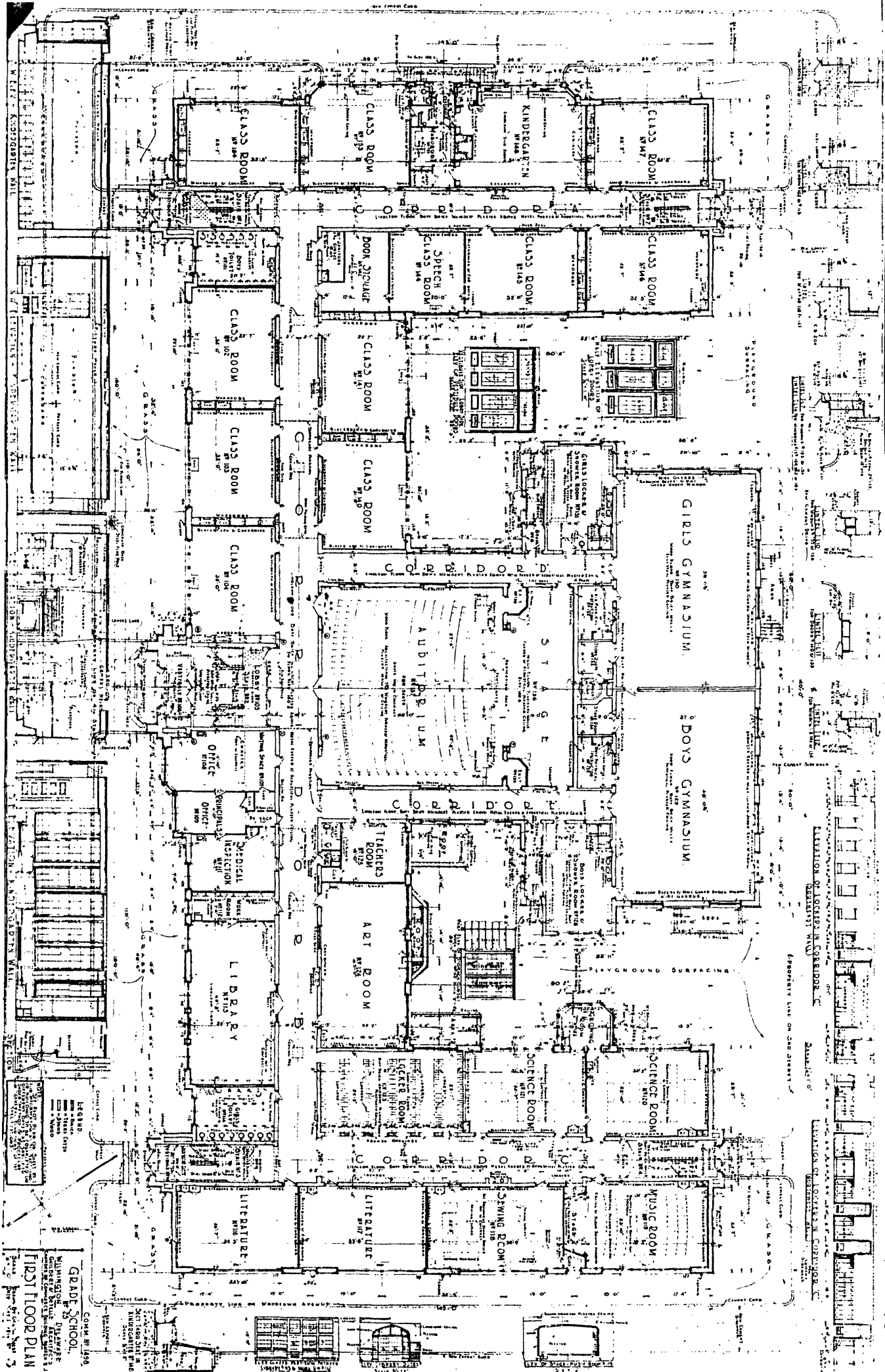
NOTE: SEE PLAN ON SHEET 1 FOR INFORMATION AS TO LOCATION OF WALLS AND PARTITION WALLS. ALL WALLS AND PARTITION WALLS TO BE CONCRETE. ALL PARTITION WALLS TO BE 1/2" GYP. BOARD ON 2" X 4" STUDS. ALL WALLS TO BE FINISHED WITH PLASTER OR GYP. BOARD. ALL PARTITION WALLS TO BE FINISHED WITH GYP. BOARD. ALL WALLS TO BE FINISHED WITH PLASTER OR GYP. BOARD. ALL PARTITION WALLS TO BE FINISHED WITH GYP. BOARD.

LEGEND:

- Plaster
- Gyp. Board
- Concrete
- Wood
- Steel
- Aluminum
- Paint
- Carpet
- Tile
- Linoleum
- Marble
- Granite
- Quartz
- Glass
- Acrylic
- Polycarbonate
- Stainless Steel
- Brass
- Copper
- Nickel
- Chrome
- Black
- White
- Grey
- Blue
- Green
- Red
- Yellow
- Purple
- Pink
- Orange
- Brown
- Black
- White
- Grey
- Blue
- Green
- Red
- Yellow
- Purple
- Pink
- Orange
- Brown

CHARLES B. LORE SCHOOL
 WILLIAMINGTON, DELAWARE
 SECOND FLOOR PLAN
 DATE: 11/15/50
 DRAWN BY: [Name]
 CHECKED BY: [Name]
 APPROVED BY: [Name]

THE CHARLES B. LORE SCHOOL

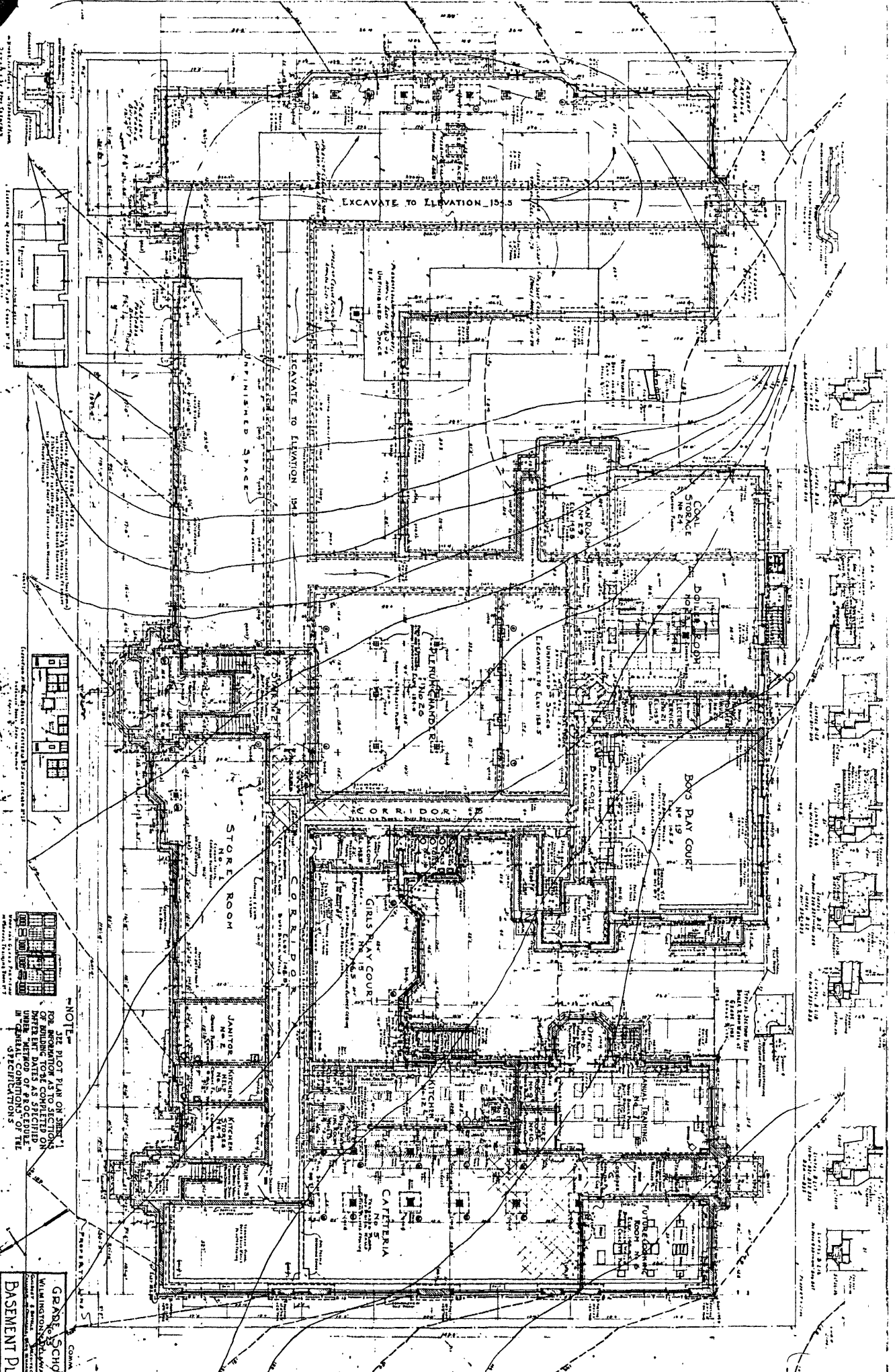


LEGEND:
— DOOR
— WINDOW
— FURNITURE
— LOCKER
— CLOSET
— CASE
— STAIRS
— ELEVATOR

GRADUATE SCHOOL
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE
ARCHITECTS
CORP. NO. 198

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

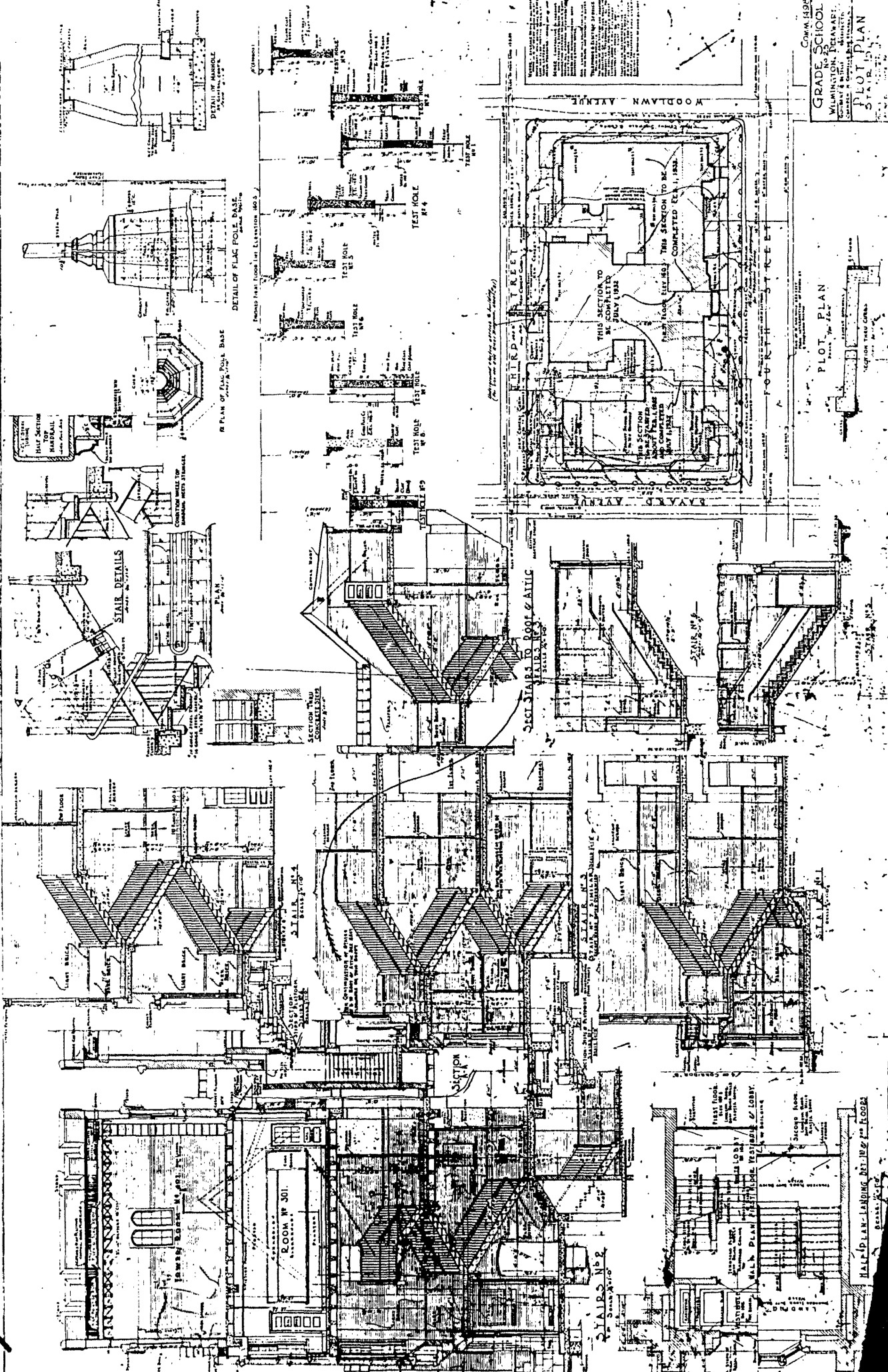
THE CHARLES B. LORE SCHOOL



NOTE
 THE PLAN OF THIS SHEET IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR CONSTRUCTION UNLESS THE METHOD OF PROVISION OF THE SPECIFICATIONS IS IN GENERAL ACCORDANCE WITH THE SPECIFICATIONS.

GRADE SCHOOL
 WASHINGTON, D. C.
 BASEMENT PLAN
 12

THE CHARLES B. LORE SCHOOL



CHAS. B. LORE SCHOOL
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE
PLOT PLAN

PLOT PLAN
Scale: 1/4" = 1'-0"

HALL PLAN
Scale: 1/4" = 1'-0"