

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received NOV 14 1988
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Trenton and Mercer County War Memorial; Soldiers and Sailors' War Memorial

and/or common War Memorial Building

2. Location

street & number W. Lafayette Street

NA not for publication

city, town Trenton _____ vicinity of

state New Jersey

code 034

county Mercer

code 021

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple (see continuation sheet)

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Mercer County Courthouse

street & number S. Broad Street

city, town Trenton _____ state New Jersey

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None (NA) has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Trenton and Mercer County War Memorial is located immediately southeast of the intersection of Lafayette and Barrack (formerly Willow) Streets in downtown Trenton. Adjacent to the north and west is the State House National Register Historic District, which includes a number of other significant buildings such as the Old Barracks and the State Capitol complex. (Note: the boundaries for the local State House district include the War Memorial; the boundaries of the National Register district do not.) To the south are Route 29, a major local highway, and the Delaware River.

Site : The War Memorial stands on a roughly rectangular site bordered on all sides by streets. The building is surrounded by lawns and low plantings, separated from the streets by wide sidewalks. The main approach to the building is from the west. Two flights of wide granite steps lead up to a plaza in front of the building. The area between the flights of steps was originally a lagoon in which a bronze fountain spilled water into polished black granite bowls; however, the basin of the lagoon has been filled in and sodded over. The plaza is paved with granite and concrete in a geometric pattern and surrounded by a limestone balustrade. Bronze light standards are located along the balustrade and line the walks that extend from the plaza along the sides of the building. There are two flagstaffs in front of the Memorial, one on the plaza, the other on the lawn below. Both have bronze bases and finials cast by the Gorham Company of Providence, Rhode Island. The poles, constructed of a special steel with copper content to prevent rusting, were made by John E. Lingo & Sons of Camden, New Jersey.

Exterior : The War Memorial is constructed of buff Indiana limestone in a coursed, dressed-faced ashlar, with trim of a slightly darker variegated limestone. In an article published shortly before the dedication of the building in 1932, the architect, Louis S. Kaplan, described its restrained Italian Renaissance Revival design as "modern in character", but based on the simpler forms of Greek and Roman architecture. (Note: all quotations in this description are taken from the following source: Louis S. Kaplan, "Architectural Description: Soldiers and Sailors' War Memorial", Trenton, Vol. VIII, No. 7, January 1932.) The phrase "modern in character" probably refers to the fact that the Memorial reflects to some degree the planar and flat geometric interpretation of classic architectural forms characteristic of the then popular Art-Deco style. Kaplan also appears to have been influenced by Paul Cret's design for the Rodin Museum (1929) in Philadelphia, since an early photograph of the museum was found with Kaplan's drawings for the War Memorial (these materials were donated to the Memorial Building Commission by Kaplan's daughter

(see continuation sheet 7-1)

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 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 checked="" 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 1930-32

Builder/Architect Louis S. Kaplan

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Trenton and Mercer County War Memorial (also known as the Soldiers and Sailors' War Memorial) was constructed in 1930-32 from designs by the noted Trenton architect Louis S. Kaplan. The building is locally significant both as an example of an Art-Deco interpretation of the Italian Renaissance Revival style and of the type of commemorative monument constructed throughout the United States in the years following the First World War. In its design and siting, the Memorial embodies the last phase of the City Beautiful movement. Since its completion, the building has functioned as a civic and performing arts center for Trenton and Mercer County and, in effect, for much of central New Jersey. Although some of its decorative finishes have been altered, primarily through overpainting, the Memorial as a whole displays a high degree of integrity not only in its major features but also in such secondary items as signs and fixtures.

In the years following World War I, communities across the United States made plans to erect memorials to their war dead. Some of these were to be purely commemorative, but many others were designed to serve the public as theaters, auditoriums, art centers or civic centers. Some of those with public use that were actually built were the Club Building (1919) at Morgan Park, Duluth, Minnesota; the Scripps Playground Building (1919), La Jolla, California; the Liberty Memorial (1921-26), Kansas City, Missouri; and the War Memorial (1923-33), Indianapolis, Indiana.

In 1924, in response to strong public sentiment, Mayor Frederick W. Donnelly expanded Trenton's War Emergency Committee into a War Memorial Committee. Composed of representative citizens under the chairmanship of John A. Campbell, the new group was charged with finding a fitting way of paying tribute to the 5,300 men and women from Trenton and 1,600 men and women from Mercer County who had served their country during the Great War. After several years of studying and planning, the committee decided "to erect a memorial that would combine beauty, dignity and civic utility."¹

State, county and city agencies, the press and public joined in supporting the proposed memorial. School children and teachers from throughout New Jersey collected almost \$80,000 for the project.² The State acquired as the site for the memorial a 160 by 270-foot lot along the Delaware River at the foot of Willow Street adjacent to Stacy Park. The State Legislature created the Trenton and Mercer County Memorial Building Commission and set up the procedures implementing the war memorial project. The Commission was to be composed of two representatives for the City of Trenton, two for Mercer County, and five private citizens. The original members were

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2.75 ±

Quadrangle name Trenton West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	8	5	1	9	7	2	0	4	4	5	1	8	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

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

state	code	county	code
			NA

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Polly A. Matherly, Architectural Historian

organization Heritage Studies, Inc.

date August 1986

street & number Box 864, Mapleton Road

telephone (609) 452-1754

city or town Princeton

state New Jersey 08540

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

title Assistant Commissioner for Natural Resources

date 11/5/86

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

Entered in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register

date 12-11-86

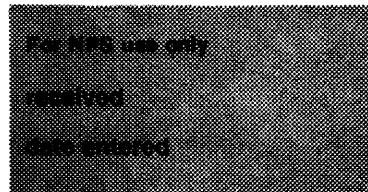
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Ownership

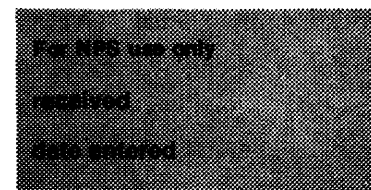
Building: Trenton and Mercer County Memorial Building Commission
W. Lafayette Street
Trenton, New Jersey

Land: City of Trenton
City Hall
Trenton, New Jersey

County of Mercer
Mercer County Administration Building
640 S. Broad Street
P.O. Box 8068
Trenton, New Jersey 08650

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after his death).

The mass of the War Memorial is divided into three major components. The front (western) section [Fig. 1] consists of a tetrastyle Ionic portico flanked by two-story wings; here parapets conceal flat roofs. The central portion of the building is a two-story rectangular block containing the primary space in the building, the auditorium; here a gable-form roof of copper is set on a high attic that conceals a curtain loft at its eastern end. The rear (eastern) section of the Memorial consists of another rectangular block, containing an assembly hall set at a right angle to the axis of the auditorium; again a parapet conceals a flat roof.

Rusticated quoins decorate all corners of the building and similar pilasters mark the vertical bays on the side elevations [Fig. 2]. A cornice with dentil band runs around the entire building. Unaltered windows in the wings and central block consist of bronze casement units under plain transoms. Those on the first floor carry simple hoods; those on the upper story are set in plain, slightly recessed surrounds. The rear elevation of the Memorial is broken by a row of five tall windows lighting the assembly hall; the original bronze units in these openings deteriorated and had to be replaced in 1981. Smaller windows light two levels of dressing rooms located on the south side of the rear block of the Memorial. In addition to the main entrance to the building, there are two smaller entrances on each side of the central block and one on the north side of the rear block; all are topped by high transoms with bronze grilles.

On the parapet above the portico carved seals flank a dedicatory inscription: "TO THE SOLDIERS AND SAILORS AND OTHER PATRIOTIC CITIZENS OF TRENTON AND MERCER COUNTY AS A MEMORIAL TO THEIR FAITHFUL SERVICES IN TIMES OF NATIONAL NEED." A second inscription, carved above the entrance to the rear block, reads: "THEY SHALL GROW NOT OLD, AS WE WHO ARE LEFT GROW OLD: AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE MORNING WE WILL REMEMBER THEM." Six seals carved on each side of the attic represent Justice, Industry, Hope, Commerce, Agriculture, and Wisdom.

Memorial Court : The interior of the portico comprises the memorial court, which remains essentially unaltered [Fig. 3]. The floor is paved with pink marble. At its center is a large bronze tablet, set off by three courses of other marbles, the inner and outer bands of verde antique, the middle of Levanto red. Bronze plaques set into the limestone walls record the names of the soldiers, sailors, marines, and nurses from Trenton and Mercer County who died during World War I.

(see continuation sheet 7-2)

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Nine panels are carved on the walls, representing Music, Art, Sculpture, Drama, Science, and the National, State, County, and City seals. The ceiling of the court is composed of blue and gold terra cotta in a coffered Florentine design. At the center of each coffer is a rosette containing a light. The ceiling, which measures 30 by 48 feet, is significant because it is rare to find a flat, fully-suspended terra cotta ceiling of so large a size. At the center of each coffer is a rosette containing a light. Three pairs of figured bronze doors set in an elaborate classical surround lead from the rear of the memorial court into the vestibule. Similar doorways lead to the wings at each side of the court.

Vestibule : The walls and floors of this rectangular space are composed of various marbles. There is a ticket booth at each end of the room. Three pairs of bronze doors are set in the long inner wall, leading to the foyer beyond. The low relief plaster ceiling is finished in faux bronze.

Foyer, Upper Lobby, and Halls : The foyer [Fig. 4] and upper lobby (or balcony assembly room) extend across the west end of the auditorium at the first and second floors respectively. On each floor hallways run down each side of the auditorium. In his article, Kaplan described these spaces in the following terms:

The foyer is paneled in Rosato d'or marble with red Verona trim. This same type is carried up the stairways [Fig. 5] to the balcony assembly room and also down the hallways. In the hallways the marble course extends but a few feet from the floor, the walls and the ceiling being finished in a rich cream-colored paint.

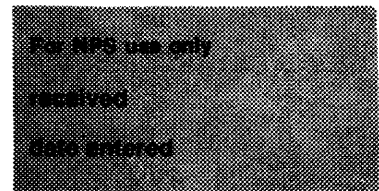
Although Kaplan referred to cream-colored paint, recent paint analysis has revealed a polychrome scheme for the foyer, upper lobby, and halls. It is possible that the original paint color in those spaces was that described by Kaplan and that the colors identified in the paint analysis were the result of a thorough cleaning and overpainting by the Works Progress Administration in 1938. The minutes of the Memorial Building Commission contain references to the latter work, but do not describe it in detail.

The ceiling of the foyer is a low relief design in plaster. According to Kaplan, it was originally finished in "golden-colored tints" but again there has been overpainting. Kaplan also described chandeliers of "bronze, with a ball effect in blue enamel." These remain in place. Each is decorated with 13 stars for the original 13 States,

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and surmounted by an eagle.

Auditorium : At the center of the War Memorial is the approximately 2000-seat auditorium [Fig. 6]. Its walls are paneled to mezzanine height in dark walnut; the same material is used for the railing of the orchestra pit and across the front of the balcony. Above the paneling, the walls are treated with a special acoustical plaster. The upper portion of each side wall is broken by a row of three triple "archways"; each opening has a metal guard rail [Fig. 7] across the base and is capped by an entablature and a broken pediment with urn finial. Originally these archways were draped with damask in a dull rusty gold; the auditorium seats were upholstered in mohair in a similar shade. Some of the seats still retain their original covering.

The auditorium ceiling remains essentially as Kaplan described it:

In the center is a large Adamesque design with a modern influence--though not a modernistic influence. Besides the fluted designs in this circular centerpiece, there are groups of round plaques bearing classic figures. The moulding around this large coved ceiling is dropped sufficiently to hide the lights. These reflected on the design bring out the many colors and give a warm, saffron light to the pit of the theatre. The paneling helps to mellow this glow and bathes the audience in a restful light.

The decoration of the proscenium "is in harmony with the other detailing of the plastered walls and ceiling." Next to it on either side is a plaster screen to hide the pipes of an organ, although none was installed originally. The theater organ now in the auditorium was manufactured in 1928 by the M. P. Moller Company of Hagerstown, Maryland; it was moved to the War Memorial from Trenton's Lincoln Movie Theater, which was demolished in 1974. Above the proscenium are six openings through which spotlights can be directed into the orchestra pit or onto the front of the stage. Kaplan noted that these lights were "adaptable to color shading" with color screens "handled by magnetically controlled switches." The main stage spotlights were located at the rear of the balcony, along with a projection booth for "sound pictures".

At the time of its completion, the auditorium featured the most modern stage equipment then available, including elevators for the orchestra pit and for an organ console, as well as a special system for climate control. Set in the floor under every other seat is a special duct,

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through which fresh warm air could be blown into the auditorium and stale air removed. The air was constantly filtered through a water screen, located in the "plenum chamber" in the basement. Kaplan stated that the War Memorial had "the most complete heating and ventilating system in the city"; the temperature was "thermostatically regulated and all controlled from a central point, so that heat may be sent to any room in the building, though there be no need for heat elsewhere".

Another special feature of Kaplan's design is a fireproof curtain covering a row of three large openings between the main stage and the adjacent assembly hall. Since the floor level is the same in both areas, when the fireproof curtain is raised, the assembly hall can be used to provide additional seating or an expanded stage for the auditorium. Adjacent to the main stage are a stage manager's office, green room, and 12 dressing rooms on two levels, arranged so that they are also accessible from the stage of the assembly hall.

Alterations to the auditorium have been limited to repainting, plaster repair, upgrading of the stage equipment (1979-80), and installation of air conditioning (1980).

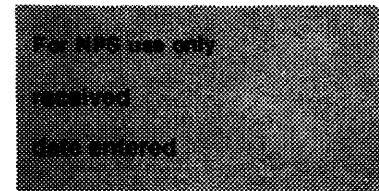
Assembly Hall (Ballroom) : The assembly hall occupies most of the rear section of the War Memorial. It has its own entrance from Lafayette Street and its own lobby and stairhall [Fig. 8], featuring floor and wainscot of hand-made tiles manufactured by the Mueller Mosaic Company of Trenton. The assembly hall [Fig. 9] is large enough to seat 1000 people for meetings or 500 for banquets. There is a small stage at the southern end of the room and a small balcony and projection booth to the north. The assembly hall is more clearly influenced by the Art-Deco style than any other space in the War Memorial. It originally featured a color scheme in silver and orchid, but has been repainted. The walls have a high oak wainscot, above which is plaster treated to imitate stone. The coved plaster ceiling features a rectangular design in benedict metal.

Kaplan described the assembly hall stage as "set in acid stained oak and cast aluminum" and the balcony as "faced with the same materials to balance with the stage and door on either side of it"; however, a recent analysis of decorative finishes has shown that the proscenium and balcony were constructed not of cast aluminum but of cast plaster with aluminum leaf, now covered with gold-colored paint. Windows line the east wall of the room above the wainscot; tinted glazing was installed when the original windows were replaced in 1981. In the

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west wall, framed with simple surrounds, are the three large openings giving access to the rear of the stage in the auditorium.

Smoking Lounge : Two marble stairways lead down from the main foyer to the smoking lounge at basement level. The design of the room is a combination of Elizabethan Revival and Art-Deco elements [Figs. 10 and 11]. The floor consists of variegated green and purple slate. The walls are rough plastered and acoustically treated. The plaster ceiling is composed of strapwork with various low-relief decorative motifs including Tudor roses.

The room features a fireplace of carved travertine that is, according to Kaplan, "a replica of one in the old Four Feathers Inn in England." (Kaplan did not specify the location of the inn and we have not been able to identify it.) Drinking fountains of faience tile are located on either side of the fireplace [Fig. 12]. Hand-made tiles, produced by the Mueller Mosaic Company, are used for the hearth and also for the base and border around the room; the tile is of several colors, but the general effect is of a deep blue. Both the central lighting fixture and the wall brackets are of hand-wrought iron. The room was intended to have furniture in the Elizabethan style, but this was never installed.

Museum Room 1 and Commission Meeting Room : These rooms occupy the south wing (south side of the memorial court), which has its own entrance and staircase and so can function independently of the rest of the building. The museum room, located on the first floor, was intended to house items of local historical interest; it is now used by the American Legion. The walls consist of walnut wainscot topped by plaster treated to imitate Caen stone. The plaster ceiling was originally decorated with a polychrome effect.

Directly above the museum is the Commission Meeting Room, capable of seating 150 people. The construction drawings for the War Memorial indicate that originally this space was designated Museum Room 2, but by the time the building went into use its function had been changed. The walls of the room are paneled from floor to ceiling in dark walnut. The plaster ceiling originally had a decorated border. The plain, bowl-shaped chandeliers remain in place.

Offices : The north wing (north side of the memorial court) also has its own entrance and staircase; it contains various offices and meeting rooms. The first floor of this wing was originally intended to be one large meeting room but was partitioned for offices during construction of the Memorial. The rooms in the north wing have not

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been substantially altered, but neither do they contain any features of particular significance.

Exhibition Room : This rectangular room is located in the basement of the Memorial beneath the assembly hall. The space was intended to serve a number of uses (meetings, exhibits, banquets, etc.) and is relatively simple in design. It features a high wainscot of pickled oak and a cornice with rope molding. The original Art-Deco lighting fixtures, some of the best in the building, remain in place.

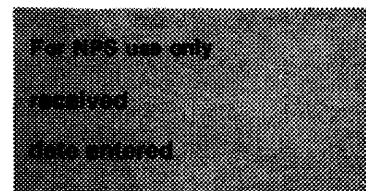
Kitchens : Adjacent to the assembly hall (to the rear of the stage) is the serving kitchen; a service elevator and stairway connect it to the main kitchen, located directly below next to the exhibition room. Both kitchens have walls of buff-colored enamel brick and fittings of monel metal, the most modern equipment available at the time the Memorial was built.

Restrooms : Restrooms are located on each floor of the War Memorial. As described by Kaplan, "...the decorations, while different in each section, are all of local tile and serve to show the beautiful effects such local industries are obtaining." Some tiles have been replaced, but on the whole these spaces are relatively unchanged.

Integrity : The War Memorial displays a high degree of integrity. With few exceptions, work done on the building over the years has consisted of routine maintenance and necessary repairs. The only substantial change visible on the exterior has been the replacement of the assembly hall windows. The building has required repointing on several occasions, the earliest of them in 1938, but this has had no impact on the appearance of the Memorial. On the interior, the design of all the significant decorative features is intact; in addition, lighting fixtures, signs, and similar items survive throughout the building. Overpainting has had a serious impact in some areas; however, a thorough analysis has recently been completed and will allow restoration of the original colors and finishes in all of the major rooms of the War Memorial.

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Mayor Donnelly and Edward W. Lee, Director of Finance, for Trenton; Freeholders William S. Borden and F. Alex Crawford for Mercer County; John A. Campbell, James Kerney, General C. Edward Murray, Newton A.K. Bugbee, and Colonel Edward C. Rose.³ The Commission elected Campbell as its president.⁴

The Commission estimated that some \$800,000 would be needed to build, equip and furnish the memorial.⁵ Trenton and Mercer County each authorized \$200,000 for the project; each would later provide an additional \$35,000. The remaining amount was to be raised by public subscription. The campaign began with an intensive drive November 4-11, 1927, and within a year the pledges, ranging from \$1 to \$75,000, totaled more than \$405,000.⁶

The Commission conducted a competition for design of the memorial, which was won by the firm of William A. Klemann of Trenton. Klemann had received a certificate of proficiency in architecture from the University of Pennsylvania in 1895, and had practiced in Trenton for many years. A special subcommittee of the Commission, composed of Donnelly, Kerney, Bugbee, and Murray, was appointed to work with Klemann and to consult with ex-service men, local officials and civic leaders.⁷ The final design for the memorial was based on the Italian Renaissance style. On June 25, 1929, the Commission approved a plaster model of the proposed building.⁸ After Klemann's death on December 18th of that year, the Commission agreed that Louis S. Kaplan should carry out the construction of the memorial.⁹ Although Klemann had been the official architect for the competition, all the designs for the building were essentially Kaplan's work and the drawings carried his signature.

Louis S. Kaplan was born in Philadelphia in 1897; the family moved to Trenton when he was six years old. He attended Trenton High School and, on Saturdays, the School for Industrial Arts, where he pursued his interest in architecture. Kaplan graduated from high school at the age of 15; because he was considered too young for college, he took a job as an apprentice to the firm of Klemann and Fowler. Kaplan next studied at the School of Architecture, University of Pennsylvania, where his teachers included Paul Cret (1876-1945). Born in France, Cret had been an outstanding student at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts. He taught at the University of Pennsylvania from 1903 to 1937, and also maintained an extensive and influential architectural practice.

Kaplan graduated from the University in 1917 and, after service in the Navy during World War I, returned to Trenton and joined the staff of

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Klemann and Fowler. In the mid-1920's Klemann and Fowler dissolved their partnership; Kaplan remained with Klemann and became his head draftsman. Because Klemann was seriously ill at the time, Kaplan designed and prepared the firm's winning competition drawings for the War Memorial. In 1927, he left Klemann to establish his own practice. In 1930, after Klemann's death, Kaplan consolidated the late architect's staff with his own under the name William A. Klemann and Louis S. Kaplan, Architects, and arranged to complete Klemann's unfinished commissions, most notable among them the War Memorial. In the course of his career, Kaplan served as city, county, and state architect and designed a number of important Trenton buildings, including Har Sinai Temple, Adath Israel, the Grant School and Parker School. He died in 1964.

The Memorial Building Commission reviewed final bids for the War Memorial on June 10, 1930, and awarded the general contract to the Karno-Smith Company of Trenton.¹⁰ Ground-breaking ceremonies were held in July 1930. Although construction of the building was not totally completed until March 1, 1932, the dedication ceremonies were combined with the inauguration of Governor A. Harry Moore, held in the auditorium of the war memorial on January 19, 1932. The total cost of the completed memorial was \$926,685.72.¹¹

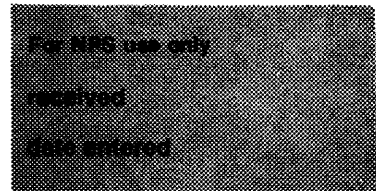
The Trenton and Mercer County War Memorial was planned and built in conjunction with a larger, state-sponsored project involving the expansion of Stacy Park, improvements to the State Capitol (including construction of the terraces and power plant), and construction of the State Library/Supreme Court Building (now called the State Annex). Plans for the state development were drawn by architects J. Osborn Hunt and Hugh A. Kelly. With their emphasis on axial arrangements, symmetry, sequential progression of spaces, and an architectural language derived from classical models, both the Klemann-Kaplan and the Hunt-Kelly designs were expressions of Beaux-Arts principles and of the City Beautiful movement that spread across America under the inspiration of the "White City" created at Chicago for the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893. The designs for the War Memorial and the adjacent state project support the opinion of architectural historians John Burchard and Albert Bush-Brown that the conservative, Beaux-Arts tradition "was at its best in the City Beautiful movement, particularly in the commemorative memorial."¹²

The War Memorial Building has more than met its goal of civic utility. Since the opening of the building, the New Jersey State Departments of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars have occupied offices in the wings of the memorial court. Every Governor except one

(see continuation sheet 8-3)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



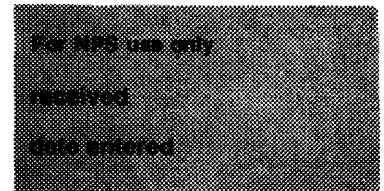
Continuation sheet War Memorial, Trenton, NJ Item number 8 Page 3

has taken his oath of office on the stage of the main auditorium. Churches, unions, fraternal groups, political organizations, local governments, and private corporations have used the auditorium, assembly room (ballroom) and exhibition room for countless meetings, dinners, dances, and other events. The building has, in effect, functioned as a civic center for much of central New Jersey.

Over it's 54-year history, the War Memorial auditorium has been equally significant as a center for the performing arts, widely recognized for its fine acoustical qualities. After a concert in 1935, Paderewski, the great pianist, described the auditorium as the most perfect in which he had ever played, and violinist William Primrose echoed that opinion after an appearance in 1947.¹³ The 2000-seat hall was at one time the largest professionally-equipped theater between New York/Newark and Philadelphia, and it is still rated acoustically as one of the top concert theaters in the eastern United States. Internationally-known performers who have appeared here include Gertrude Lawrence, Marian Anderson, Louis Armstrong, Yehudi Menuhin, the Cleveland Orchestra, the Martha Graham Dance Company, Marcel Marceau, Bob Hope and Bruce Springsteen. In addition, the War Memorial is home for the Trenton Symphony, New Jersey Symphony, Trenton Opera Association, New Jersey State Opera, Princeton Ballet Society, and Garden State Theatre Organ Society.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet War Memorial, Trenton, NJ Item number 8

Page 4

FOOTNOTES

¹Writers' Project, Works Progress Administration, "Trenton's Municipal Activities: Number Six, Trenton and Mercer County War Memorial Building" (Trenton: Free Public Library of Trenton, 1941), p.1.

²Trenton and Mercer County Memorial Building Commission, minutes, June 25, 1929.

³Building Commission, minutes, March 23, 1928.

⁴Building Commission minutes, March 29, 1928.

⁵Building Commission minutes; a summary of costs dated September 16, 1927, shows a total cost estimate for the proposed building of \$777,912.00

⁶Writers' Project, loc. cit., p.2.

⁷Writer's Project, loc. cit., p.3

⁸Building Commission, minutes, June 25, 1929.

⁹Writers' Project, loc. cit., p.3: Building Commission, minutes, January 15, 1930.

¹⁰Building Commission, minutes, June 10, 1930.

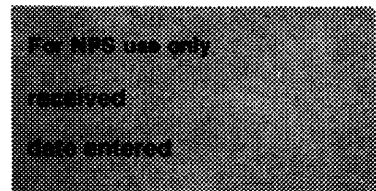
¹¹Writers' Project, loc. cit., p.3.

¹²John Burchard and Albert Bush-Brown, The Architecture of America: A Social and Cultural History abridged (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1966), p. 310.

¹³"Vast Machine Heart Keeps Building Alive," Trenton Sunday Times-Advertiser, June 22, 1947.

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National Park Service**

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Continuation sheet War Memorial, Trenton, NJ Item number 9 Page 1

Burchard, John, and Bush-Brown, Albert. The Architecture of America: A Social and Cultural History, abridged. (Boston: Little Brown and Company, 1966).

Johnston, Elma Lawson. "Inauguration Opens Memorial Building," Trenton Sunday Times-Advertiser (17 January 1932).

Kaplan, Louis S. "Architectural Description: Soldiers and Sailors' War Memorial," Trenton, Vol.VIII, No. 7 (January 1932).

Nixon, Bruce. "The War Memorial: Reaching for the Right Chord," Trenton Times Magazine (25 October 1981).

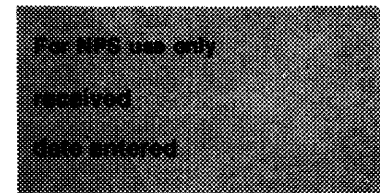
Trenton and Mercer County Memorial Building Commission. Minutes, 1927-1966.

"Vast Machine Heart Keeps Building Alive," Trenton Sunday Times-Advertiser (22 June 1947).

Writers' Project, Works Progress Administration. "Trenton's Municipal Activities: Number Six, Trenton and Mercer County War Memorial Building." (Trenton: Free Public Library of Trenton, 1941).

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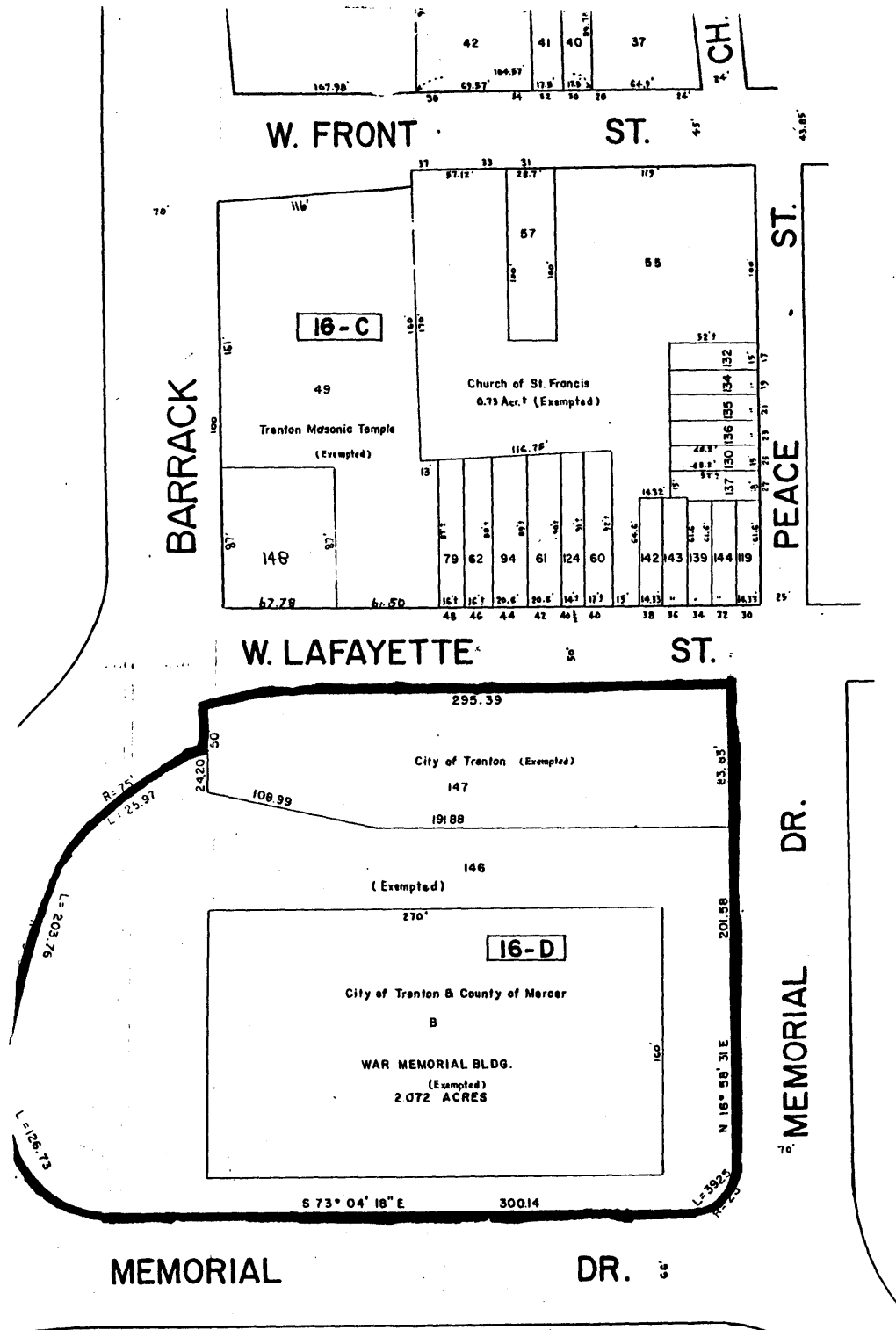
Continuation sheet War Memorial, Trenton, NJ Item number 10

Page 1

The boundary of the National Register nomination for the Trenton and Mercer County War Memorial (Soldiers and Sailors' War Memorial) is that of the property on which the building stands: Block 16-D, Lots 146 and 147 as shown on the Tax Map, City of Trenton, 2nd Tax Area, Sheet 16. The boundary is described as follows: beginning at the southwest corner of the intersection of W. Lafayette Street, Peace Street, and Memorial Drive; thence, southerly, westerly, and northerly along the curbline (west, south, and east sides) of Memorial Drive to the southeastern corner of its intersection with Barrack (formerly S. Willow) Street and W. Lafayette Street; thence, easterly along the south curbline of W. Lafayette Street to the point of beginning. The property so defined is divided into two parcels, under the ownership of the City of Trenton and the joint ownership of the City and Mercer County; despite this division in ownership, the War Memorial and its landscaped grounds occupy both of the parcels (Lots 146 and 147) that comprise Block 16-D. Title to the building itself is held by the Trenton and Mercer County Memorial Building Commission.

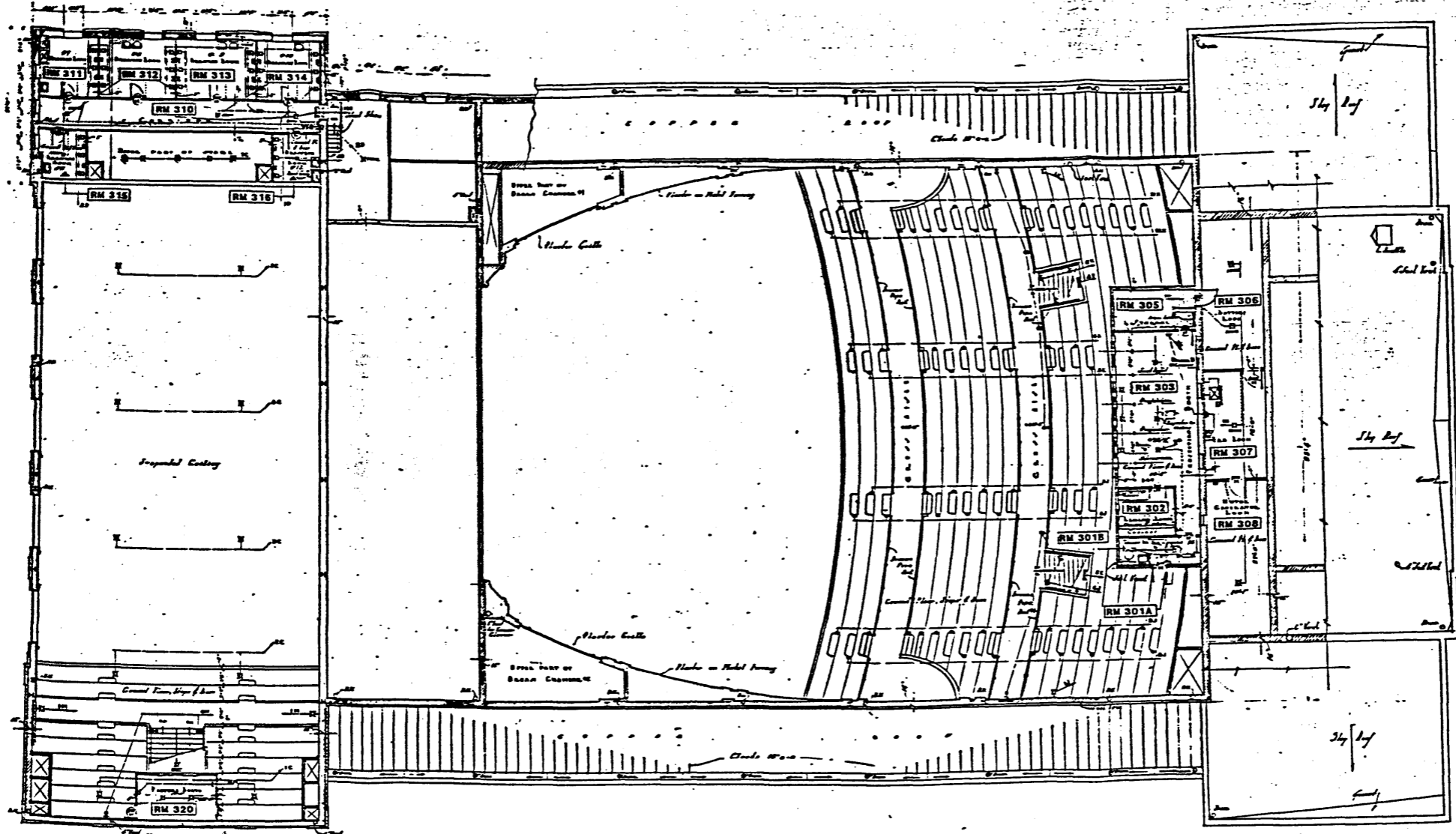
Tax Map

War Memorial
Trenton
Mercer County, NJ



MEMORIAL

DR. 66'



Trenton and Mercer County War Memorial
Trenton, New Jersey

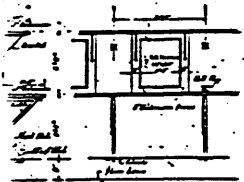
BALCONY FLOOR PLAN

- SEE STEEL DRAWINGS FOR NUMBERS AND SPACING OF STEEL BAR JOISTS.
PROVIDE 3-5" X 6" WALLS OVER ALL MASONRY OPENINGS EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE SHOWN ON STEEL DRAWINGS.

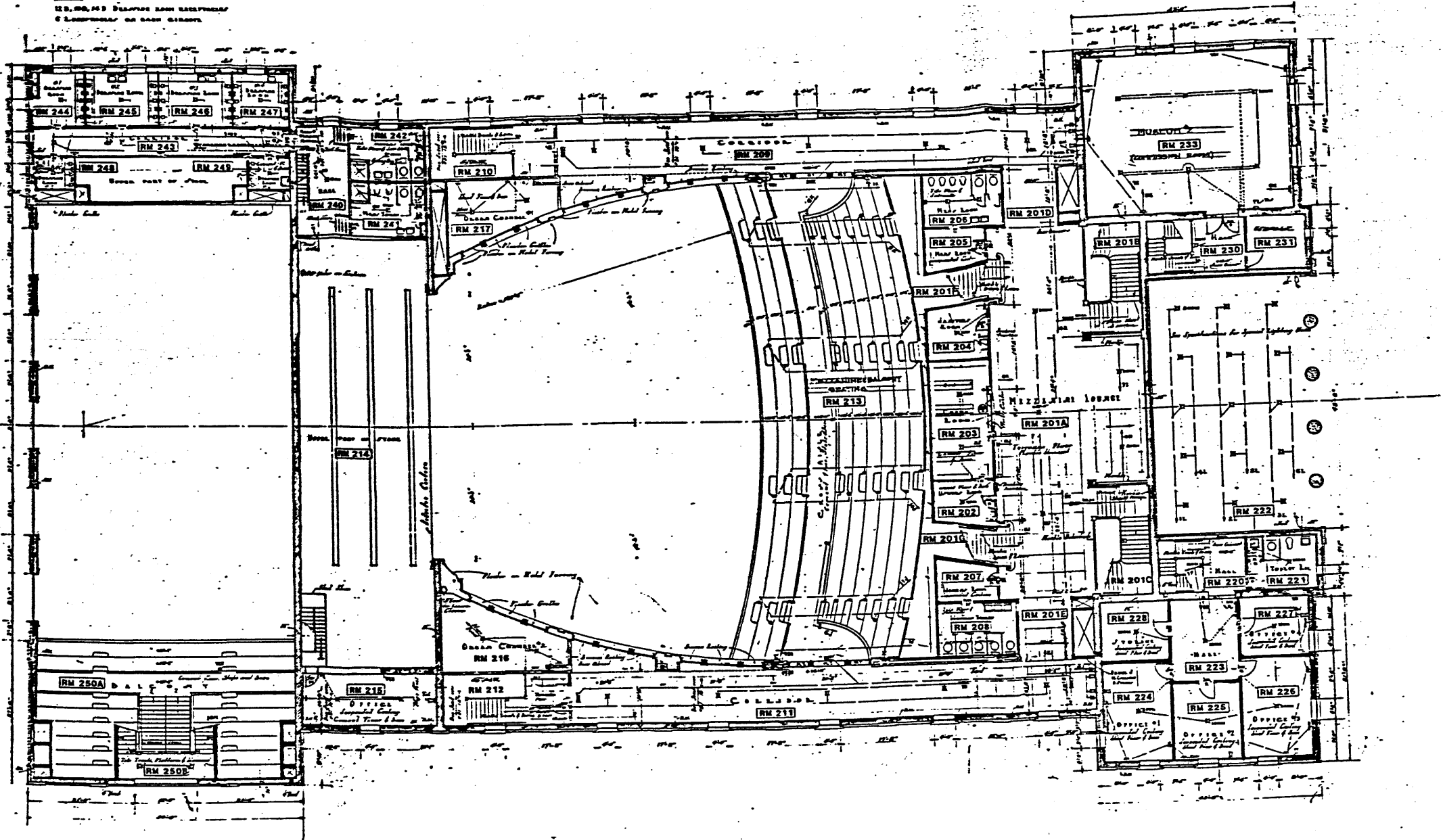
TABLE OF MATERIALS	ABBREVIATIONS
	BRK Brick
	CSO Castor Block
	CON Concrete
	STN Stone
	MOP Mortar bed of plaster
	WOD Wood

THE W. A. KLEMMANN CO.
LOUIS S. KAPLAN
ARCHITECTS
100 TRISTAR & MERCER COUNTY
SOLDIER & SAILOR MEMORIAL BLDG.
STACY PARK TRENTON, N.J.
DRAWN BY J.A.L. CHECKED BY J.K.
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0" DATE: 12-28-73
SHEET NO. 13

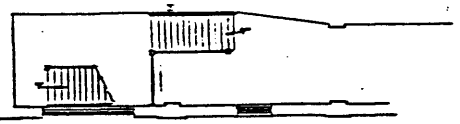
NOTES:
 1. SEE DRAWING FOR DIMENSIONS
 2. DIMENSIONS ON EACH DRAWING



STAIR - BRASS/PLATE LOBBY TOWER
 See Drawing 1-14



Trenton and Mercer County War Memorial
 Trenton, New Jersey



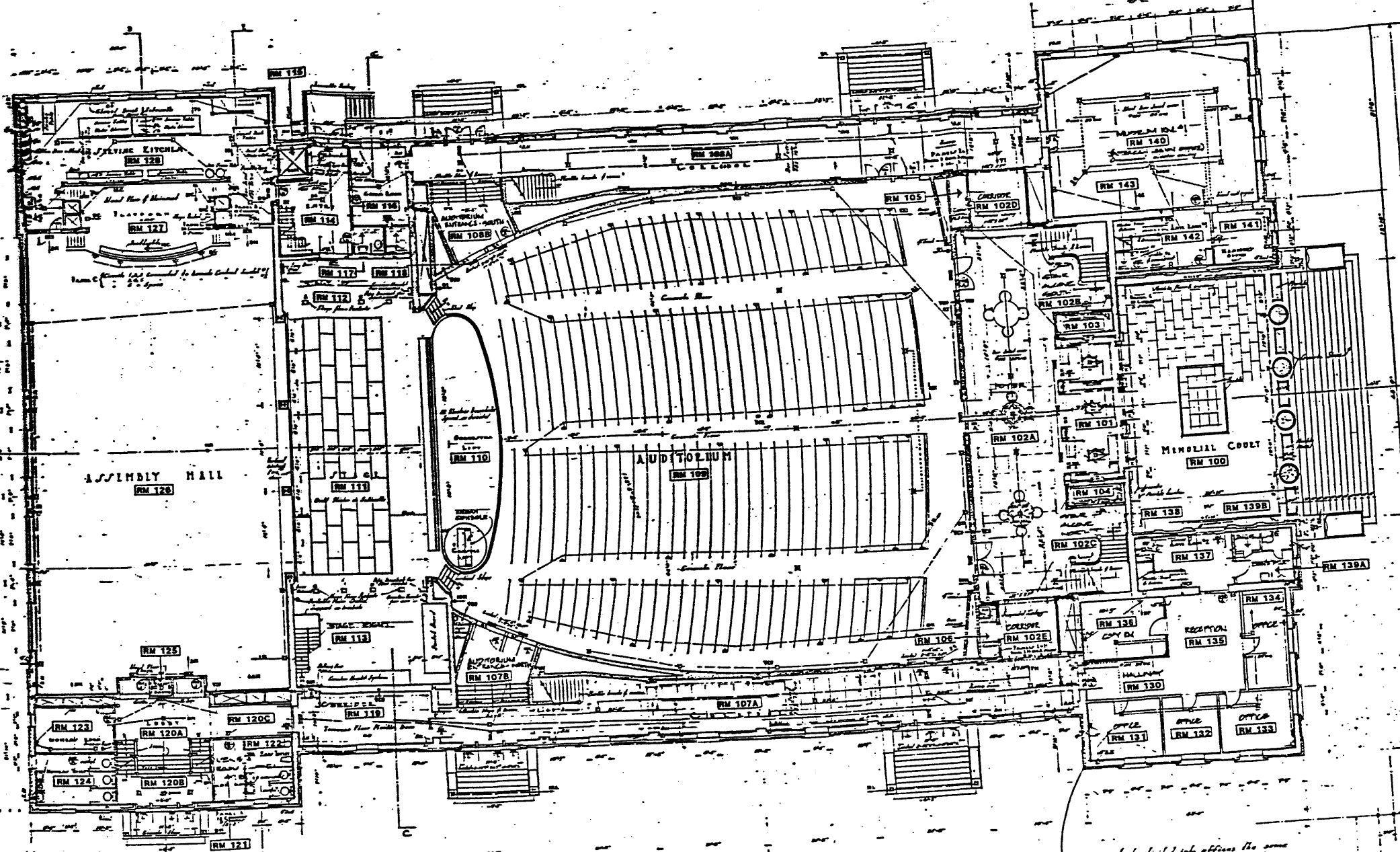
PLAN AT LANDING

MEZZANINE FLOOR PLAN

1. SEE STEEL DRAWINGS FOR NUMBERS AND SPACING OF STEEL I.B.E. JOISTS.
 PEOPLE - 3'-0" x 3'-0" OVER ALL MASONRY OVER 18" EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE SHOWN ON STEEL DRAWINGS.

INDEX OF MATERIALS	ABBREVIATIONS
	Brick R.M. Run Water Down
	Cinder Block v.c.o. Vacuum casting method
	Concrete
	Stone
	Metal Lath & Plaster
	Wood

THE W. A. KLEMMANN CO.
 LOUIS S. KAPLAN
 30 WEST 57TH STREET
 NEW YORK 19, N.Y.
 JOSE TELLATON & MERCER COUNTY
 SOLDIERS & SAILORS MEMORIAL BLDG.
 STRICT PARK, TRENTON, N.J.
 DRAWN BY L.J.L. CHECKED BY L.S.K.
 SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0" DATE 1/18/66
 SHEET NO. (12)



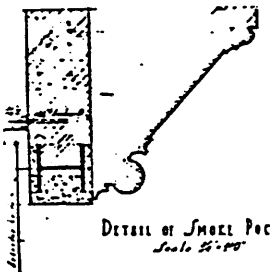
NOTE - SEE STEEL DRAWINGS FOR NUMBERS AND SPACING OF STEEL BAR JOISTS.
PROVIDE 3-5" DIA. RIGID OVER ALL MASONRY OPENINGS EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE SHOWN ON STEEL DRAWINGS.

GROVND FLOOR PLAN

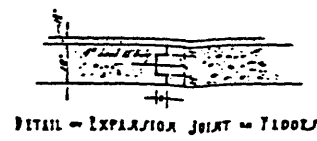
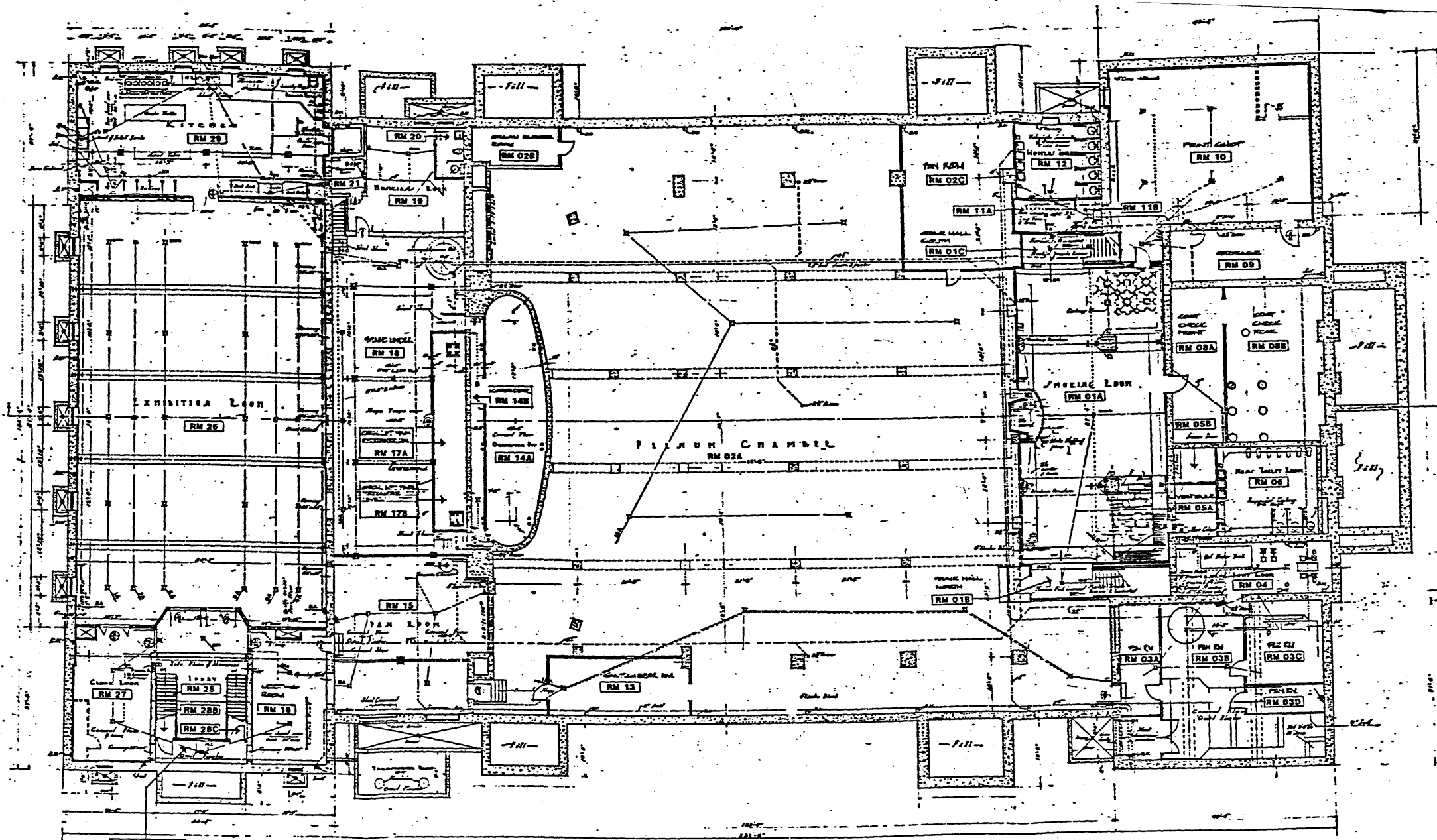
LABEL OF MATERIAL	ABBREVIATIONS
Diact	P.V. Ion water drain
Cinder Diact	V.C.O. Vertical cleaning outlet
Concrete	N.W. Hot water
Slope	C.V. Cold water
Metal ball & shutter	G. Gas
Wood	F.D. Floor drain
	D. Drain

THE W. A. KLEMMANN CO.
LOUIS S. KAPLAN
ARCHITECTS
50 WEST STATE STREET TRENTON, N.J.
JOB TRENTON & MERCER COUNTY
SOLDIERS & SAILORS MEMORIAL BLDG.
STACY PARK, TRENTON, N.J.
DRAWN BY J.L.L. CHECKED BY J.L.L.
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0" DATE: APR. 2, 1936
SHEET NO. 11

This room to be divided into offices the same as shown on sheet # 12



Detail of Small Pocket
Scale 3/4" = 1'-0"



BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN

Label of Materials	Abbreviations
	B.V. Rain water down
	V.L.D. Vacuum cleaning outlet
	C.V. Hot water
	C.V. Cold water
	G. Gas
	F.D. Floor drain
	D. Drain

THE W. A. KLEMMANN CO.
 LOUIS STAPLAN
 ARCHITECTS
 300 TELLER & MERCER COUNTY
 SOLDIERS & SAILORS MEMORIAL BLDG.
 STACY PARK, TRENTON, N.J.
 DRAWN BY L.B.L. CHECKED BY L.R.
 SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0" DATE: 12-1-34
 SHEET NO. 10