

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

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

1. Name

historic Timothy Edwards Collins Mansion

and/or common Davidson Residence

2. Location

street & number 1003-1017 2nd Ave NW _____ not for publication

city, town Great Falls _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district Eastern

state Montana code 30 county Cascade code 013

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input 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
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name David William & Rosemary Marie Davidson

street & number 1003 2nd Ave NW

city, town Great Falls _____ vicinity of _____ state Montana

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cascade County Courthouse

street & number _____

city, town Great Falls _____ state Montana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None 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 Timothy E. Collins house is located in the center of the eastern half of the 1000 block of Second Avenue Northwest in the city of Great Falls, Montana. The house occupies a plot 514' x 204' and has no view restrictions other than the pine and maple trees randomly spread around it. A recent wood frame has been built on the northern edge of the lot next to the alley which forms the northwest boundary of the site; it is, however, not visible from the road and does not impact upon the major features of the house. After functioning for some time as a rest home, in the 1940's, the home as returned to its original use as a private residence for Mr. and Mrs. David Davidson.

The Collins house is a detached three and a half story Queen-Anne structure with a steeply pitched hip roof which covers the main portion of the building. Rectangular in form, it is less fragmented than other Queen-Anne structures. The mass of the roof is broken by dormers, which align with bay windows below (see attached roof plan). There are hipped extensions on axis on the north and south sides of the building which mark entrance and the major circulation spaces. The strong, horizontal, "repose" of the Collins house is strengthened by a string course of rough cut ashlar, which encircles the entire building, and by the sweeping verandah which begins at the south entrance and stretches for 100' to the bay window on the east side. Contrasting with this horizontal "repose" are the soaring, paneled brick chimneys, placed where needed on the structure. Compositionally, then, the building plays off sweeping horizontals against strong, sporadic vertical features. The "L" shaped porch emphasizes the first floor division which rests on a foundation of red stone. The first two zones are laid up in brick, separated by the ashlar string course, but are now covered with stucco. The broad expanse of the roof ridge marks the third horizontal zone. The superstructure rests on a 50' x 40' foundation of stone which rises 4-5' from grade and extends 3-4' below. The foundation is punctured now only by windows to give light to the basement. Bases for the chimneys were provided and used in the basement. The basement is entered from the hall between the kitchen and the library. In the west end is a work room, originally used for a washroom. The basement also contains a coal storage and various other storage rooms.

Significant Queen-Anne features

Noteworthy Queen-Anne features on the exterior of the Collins house lie in the picturesque grouping of the attic gables which vary from "oriental" barge boards to classical modillions. Other important features include the sweeping verandah, the paneled vertical chimneys, the playing off of materials in the brickwork off the lower zones and the tile shingles and clapboard of the upper zones. The porte-cochere that covers the driveway on the southern side is also an important Queen-Anne feature.

On the interior the "Medieval Hall" (with parquet floors and raised paneling), the open planning and variety of art glass windows and lamps, speak strongly for the Victorian affinity toward rich materials and hand crafted features.

Exterior Alterations

The most obvious, immediately perceived exterior alteration is the cream colored stucco which covers the original brick of the first two horizontal zones. This was done around 1960 and, while the stucco disrupts the Queen-Anne concern for contrasting materials

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input 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 1891

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Timothy E. Collins home in Great Falls, Montana satisfies two of the criteria of eligibility for listing on the National Register: B. It is associated with the life of a significant person in Great Falls and Montana history; C. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type and period of construction (Queen-Anne). It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of history in Great Falls.

Criterion B

The T.E. Collins house portrays the general desire of successful businessmen of the last quarter of the nineteenth century to construct a stately yet comfortable home. Tim Collins first came to the territory of Montana in 1864. He was a native of County Cork, Ireland, born April 25, 1844, of ancient Irish Ancestry. In 1852 his family came to the United States and settled at Wabash, Indiana. Young Collins received his education in the public schools of Wabash, graduating from high school in 1859. In 1864 Mr. Collins made the long journey to Montana across the plains with oxen. He came through Bannack and from there to Virginia City. Here he commenced a miner's life with moderate success. In 1869 he was elected to the lower house of the territorial legislature, and in 1872 he was elected to the council and then re-elected. During the three years in which he had thus served his pioneer constituency, he had demonstrated that he was a man on whom they could rely on at all times and in all places. He had won the confidence of the rough but honest miners; and so, when he was admitted to the bar in 1872, he found himself in possession of a lucrative practice. He was chosen Probate Judge of Meagher County in 1876, and continued in this office until 1880. Resigning the probate judgeship in 1880, with Aaron and L.H. Hirschfield and Charles E. Duer, he organized the Bank of North Montana at Fort Benton. While a resident of Fort Benton, Mr. Collins was elected to the legislative council, and also a member of the first constitutional convention of 1884.

In the founding of Great Falls, Mr. Collins was a prominent factor. In company with a Mr. Wall he erected the first building on Center Avenue and also the first brick block of the city. The First National Bank of Great Falls was organized by Mr. Collins and others. Col. Broadwater, the first president was succeeded by Mr. Collins who held the position from 1887-1893. Politically, the affiliations of Mr. Collins were with the Democratic Party, and in 1892 he was nominated for Governor and was defeated by a very small plurality. In 1896 he was elected State Treasurer and served in this responsibility with credit to the financial interest involved. In his later years Mr. Collins was largely interested in stock, especially sheep. He was among the first to engage in sheep industry in the territory. From 1892 until 1896 he was a member of the State Board of Education. In 1908, after several months of paralysis of the limbs, attributed to over-work, T.E. Collins passed away on August 30. A strong force in the economic life of state affairs, his memory will long live in the history of Montana and in the esteem of his fellow citizens of the city he helped to found.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Sandborn Map - 1929
 The Daily Tribune 10/18/1891, 6/24/1941, 9/20/1892
 The History of Montana 1739-1885, Chicago Press; 1885, page 1009
 An Illustrated History of Montana, Joaquin Miller, Chicago; 1894, page 452

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property 1.25 acres

Quadrangle name Northwest Great Falls

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	2	4	7	15	2	6	0	5	2	6	11	6	7	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

Sec. 3 SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ T.20N, R.3E.
 Lots 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, Block 28 West Great Falls

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

state	code	county	code
None			

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bill Billingsley/ Architecture Student

organization Montana State University

date November 27, 1979

street & number 405 $\frac{1}{2}$ South 5th

telephone 586-3291

city or town Bozeman

state Montana

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title Manager SHPO

date 5-29-80

For NCRS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.
 [Signature] Ray Law date 8/27/80
 Keeper of the National Register
 Attest: Paul Paul date 9/2/80
 Clerk

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

and textures, the general shape and ornamental design features are retained. The 1929 Sanborn map shows a porch on the northern side of the building. This was removed and replaced in 1948 with a wood frame garage which has, since fallen to disuse. A wooden staircase has also been added to the northern facade which gives access to the third floor which has been converted to an apartment.

The turned spindles that were originally contained in the balustrade of the verandah, have been removed and replaced with 2 x 2 sticks. A balustrade on the third floor dormer, over the sitting room bay window, has been completely removed. The roof, originally wooden shingles, is now covered with composition shingles. The exterior entrance to the basement on the west side was also removed when the driveway was cemented in 1948.

The combination steam and warm air heating system has been replaced by an efficient, all steam, low pressure system. Only the radiators on the third floor have been removed, the rest remain intact. Some of the ceilings and walls have been replaced and wall receptacles have been added where needed. Two baths have been added to the original one on the second floor, in which none of the original fixtures remain.

THE SERVANT'S QUARTERS

To the south of the main house stood the original carriage house and the servants quarters. The carriage house was a one-story frame building which has been removed from the property. The servant's quarters remains much in the same condition as when originally constructed. The building measures 30'x40', and is two-story with one half of the first story built into the slope. The foundation and first story is stone, covered with stucco on one face and with brick (removeable) on the other two exposed sides. A small porch on the east side of the building has been removed. An overhead garage door has replaced the center opening doors on the eastern side. The roof is hipped and covered with composition shingles. The exterior is covered in wooden shingles with decorative scolloping between the first and second floor. The windows are small 1/1 double hung. There is a central chimney. The bottom story, once a tack room, is still used for a workshop and storage. The second story houses an apartment with maple and oak flooring and has retained the original floorplan and fixtures.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service****National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

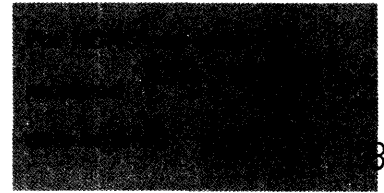
CRITERION (C)

Constructed in 1891, the Collins house embodies the distinctive characteristics of the English Manorial Style (or Norman Shaw Queen Anne) ushered into this country in 1874 by H.H. Richardson's Watts Sherman house in Newport, Rhode Island. A generous porch embraces the main house in typical Victorian manner, underlying the periods concern for interacting with nature. The picturesque effect is enhanced by the treatment of the dormers in various styles. These, along with the significant interior features present a medley of exotic historical associations sought after as a part of Victorian eclecticism and express the concern for craft technique (popularized by the English aesthetic movement). The strong horizontals of the porch, belt course, and roofline are interrupted by vertical statements, such as the soaring chimneys. The favorite practice of playing off materials and textures takes place in the Collins house in the contrast of the stone foundation, the brick middle zone and the decorative tile and clapboard upper zone. The ample interior spaces and dramatic exterior features speak equally to the Victorian concerns for leisure informality and social amenity. This functional dualism was enthusiastically exploited in Queen-Anne structures and contributes to making the style popular among prosperous professional people across the country.

Together, the T.E. Collins House and Servant's Quarters remain a fine example of substantial, detached Queen-Anne domestic structures that still retain their integrity and spatial association. The Servants Quarters, an unpretentious and functional building, possesses few of the Queen-Anne features but bears an integral relationship to the main house and is thus included in this nomination. Such an imposing structure as the T.E. Collins house was intended to make a significant architectural statement and inspire people to invest, develop and build on the west side of the river. Hence, the T.E. Collins House, the first house in this section of town, stands as a reminder of the early growth of residential Great Falls.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



80

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

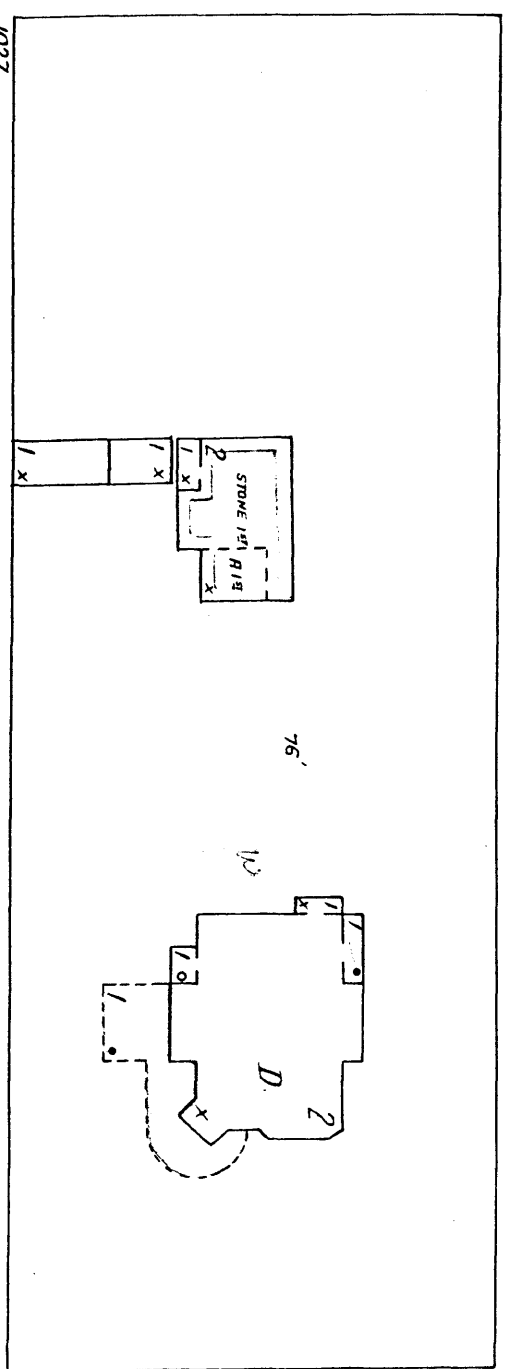
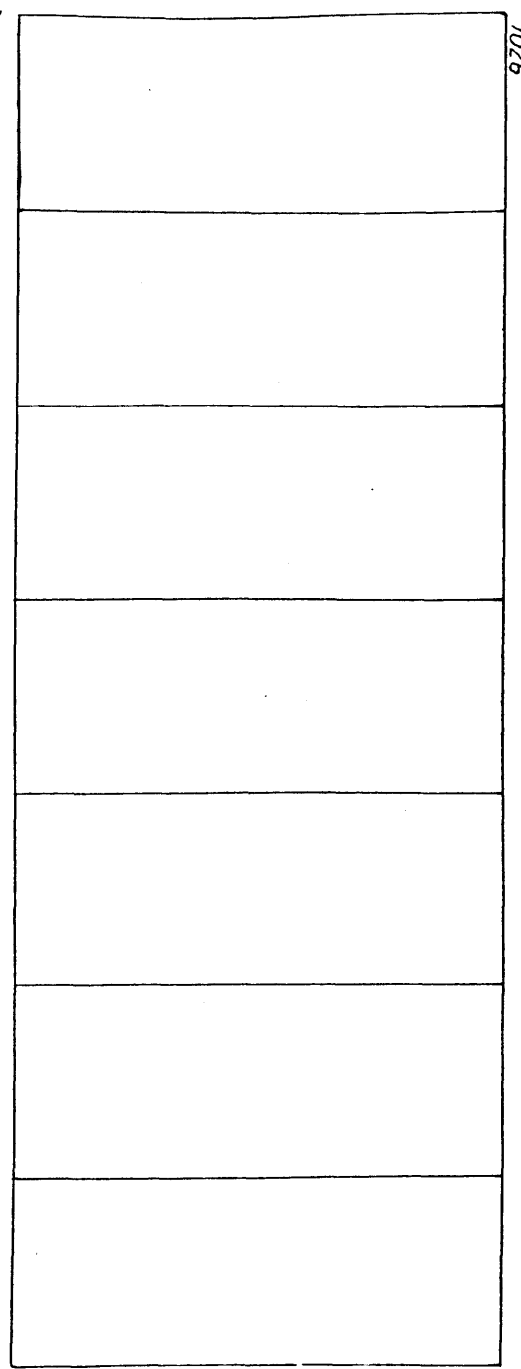
T.E. COLLINS HOUSE

The T.E. Collins House in Great Falls, Montana is the major standing structure associated with the influential banker and financier, Timothy Edward Collins. Not only was Collins responsible for the platting of the west side residential district of Great Falls, he was one of the first to actually build his home, the nominated property, on the far side of the Missouri River. Although the house has lost a measure of its integrity due to the application of stucco to the exterior which conceals the polychromatic contrast of materials and textures the building retains its basic integrity of grand scale and massing. It remains the building most closely associated with the life and work of T.E. Collins who lived in the house for the major part of his career in Great Falls.

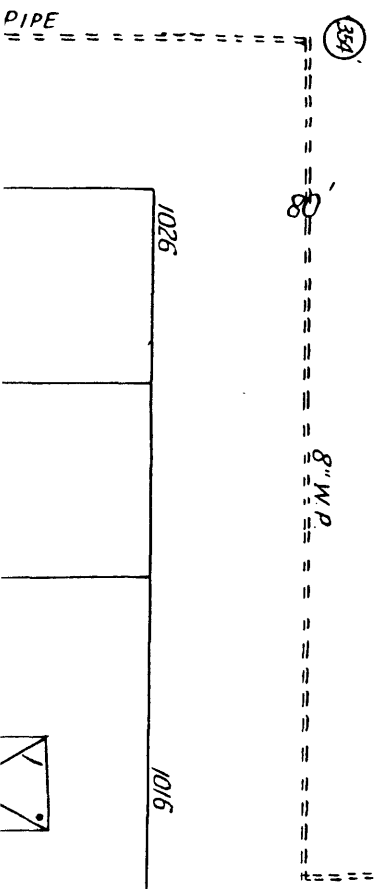
1927
Standard

ST. N. W.

11TH

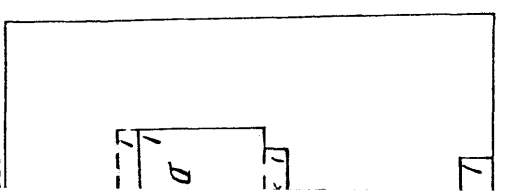
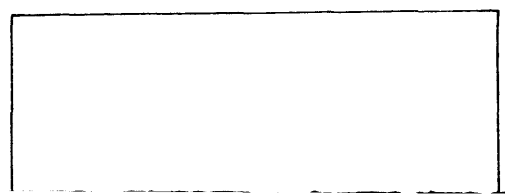


2ND

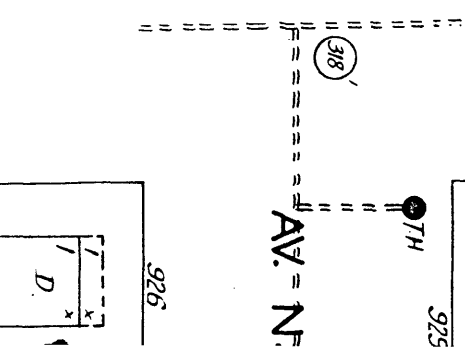


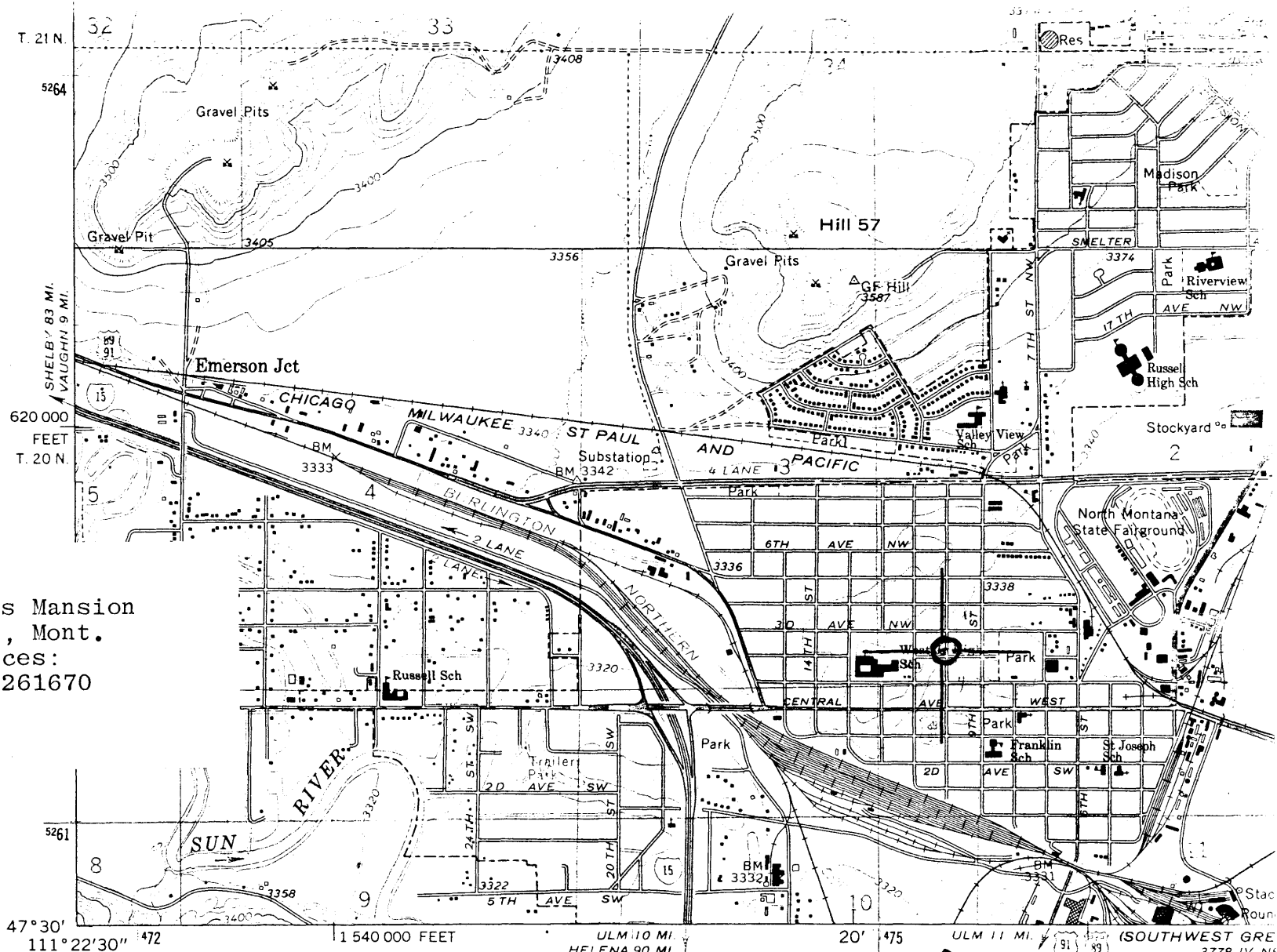
ST. N. W.

10TH



AV. N.

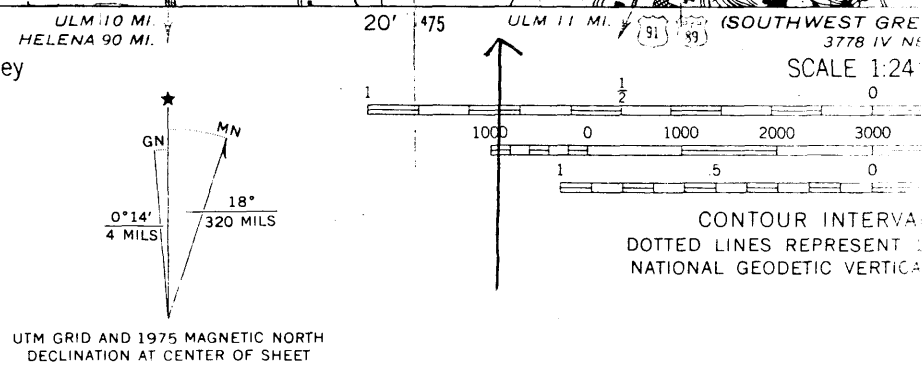




T.E. Collins Mansion
 Great Falls, Mont.
 UTM references:
 12/475255/5261670

(ANTELOPE BUTTE)
 3778 IV NW

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
 Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
 photographs taken 1964. Field checked 1965
 Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grid based on Montana coordinate system,
 central zone
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
 zone 12, shown in blue
 Red tint indicates areas in which only
 landmark buildings are shown



CONTOUR INTERVAL
 DOTTED LINES REPRESENT
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICA

0861 S NTP

(3RD FLOOR APARTMENT)

BALCONY PORCH WITH ROOF

3' HIGH SPACE UNDER 3RD FLOOR

TO GIVE LIGHT TO STAIRS

open staircase
Nails removed
under both
wood built

BATH

UNDER EAVES

STORAGE ROOM

- LINOLEUM -

LIVING
- CARPET -
CEILING 8 1/2 ft

BED ROOM

- CARPET -

CEILING SLANT WITH ROOF

KITCHEN

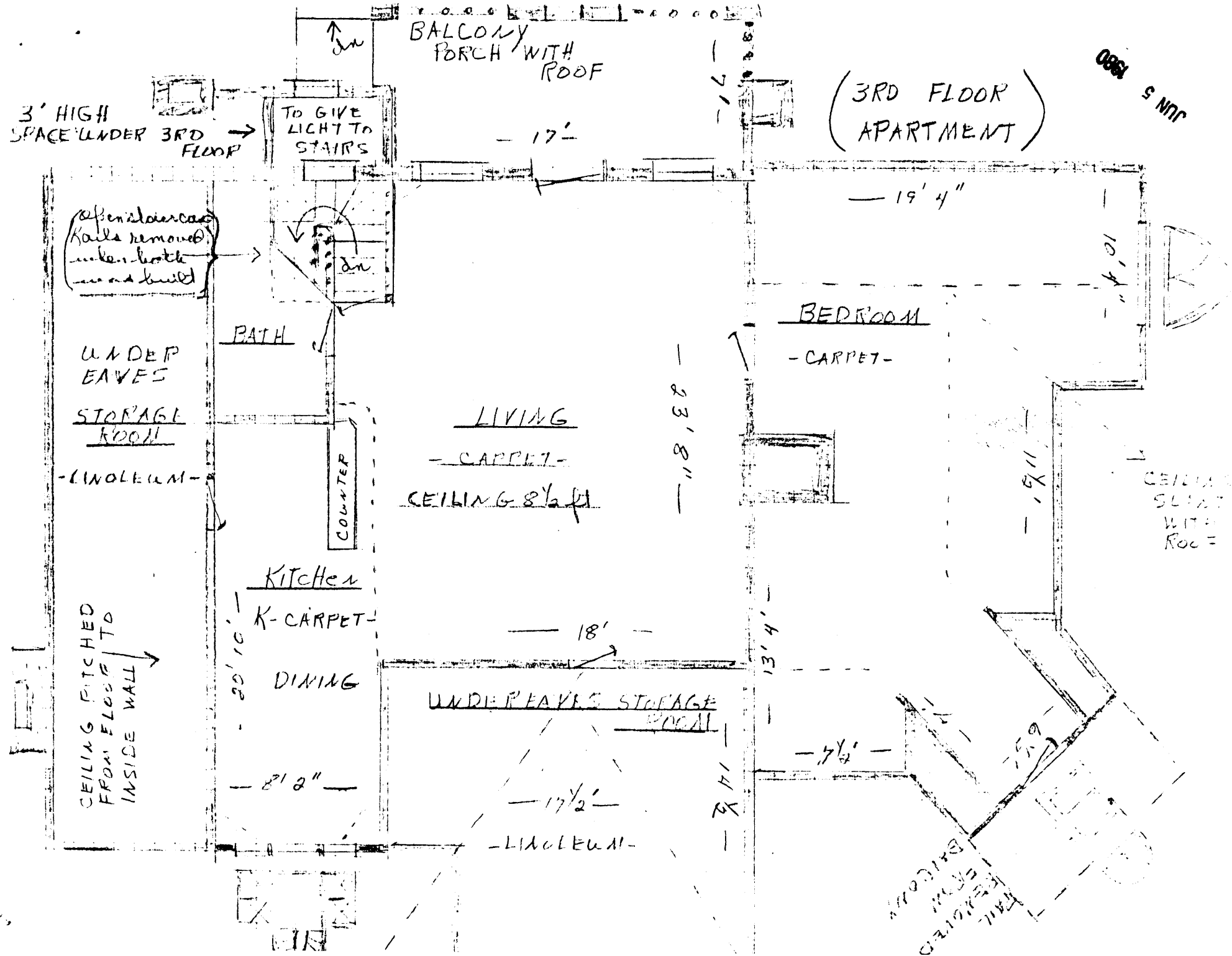
K-CARPET

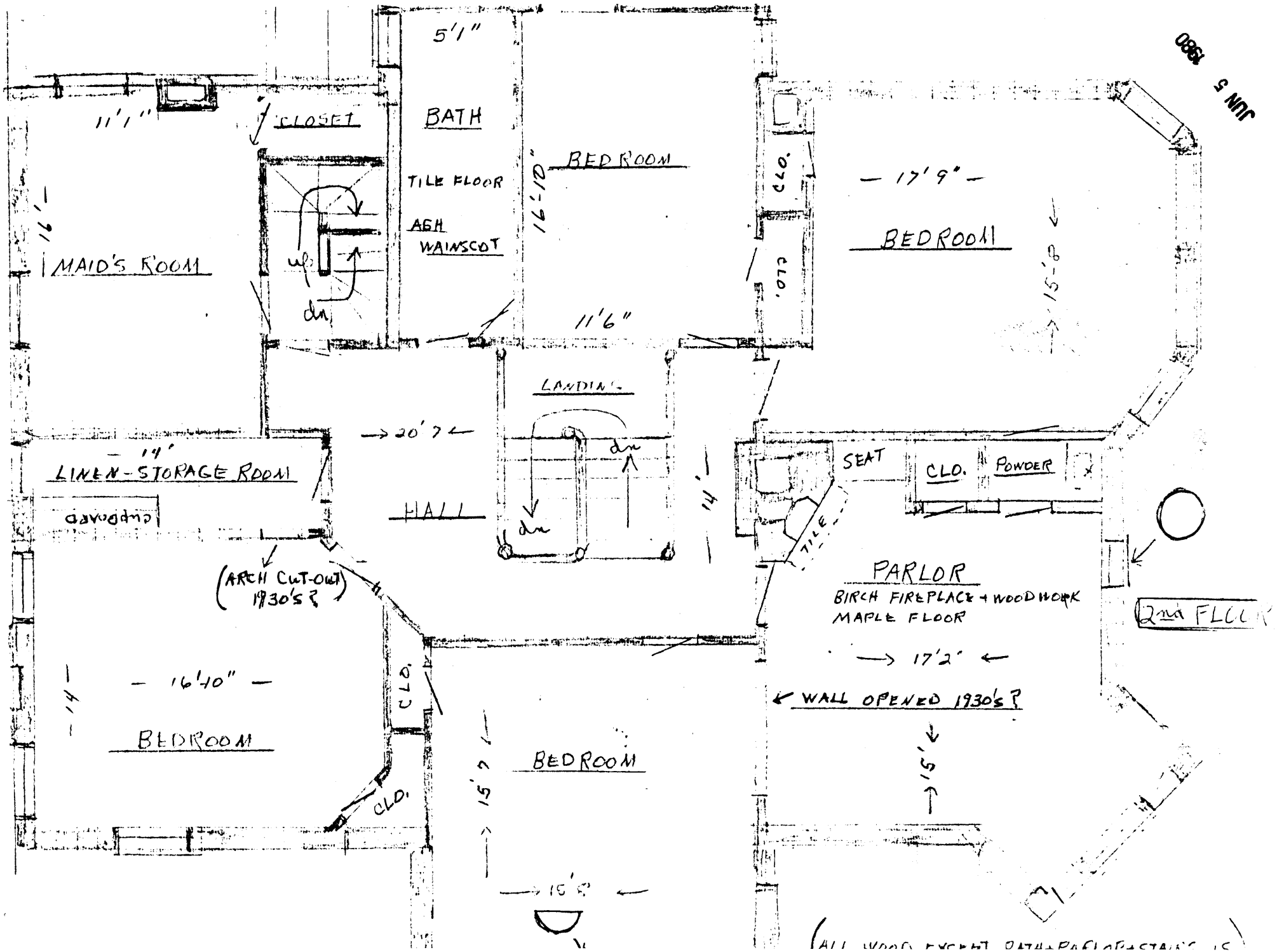
DINING

UNDER EAVES STORAGE ROOM

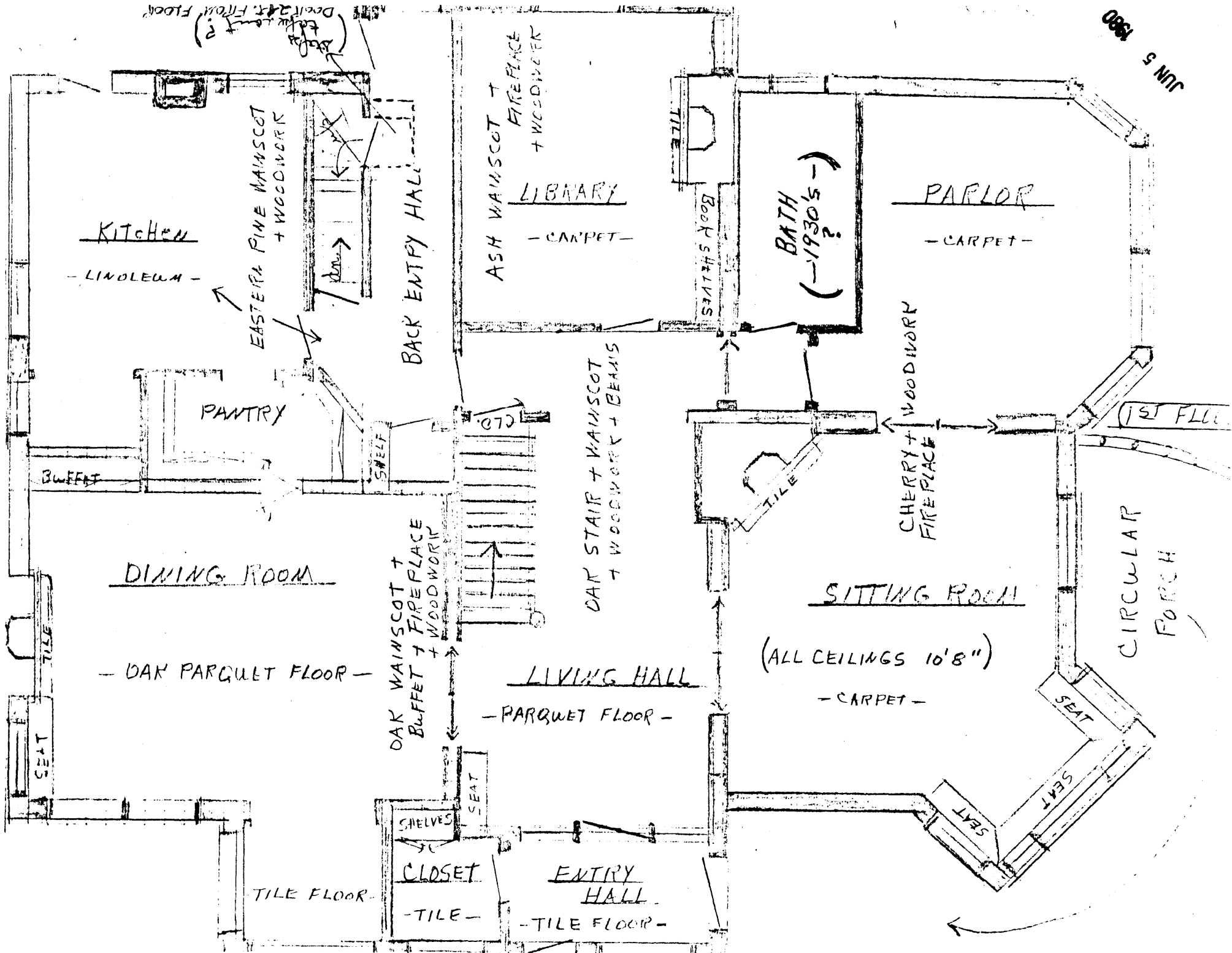
CEILING PITCHED FROM FLOOR TO INSIDE WALL

WOODEN BALCONY
FROM
REAR
CORNER





JUN 5 1930



STONE FOUNDATION-WALLS 20'+

