

(Easement on 1891 Courthouse)

MAGI #1651103601

1. Name: **Montgomery County Courthouses**
2. Planning Area/Site Number: **26/11** 3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: **Map 15**
Coordinate G-13
4. Address: **Montgomery and Washington Streets**
Rockville, Md.
5. Classification Summary

Category buildings Previous Survey Recording MNCPPC
 Ownership public Title and Date: Inventory of Historical
 Public Acquisition N/A Sites; 1976
 Status occupied
 Accessible yes; unrestricted Federal State x County x Local
 Present use government

6. Date: **1891, 1931** 7. Original Owner: **Montgomery County Government**
8. Apparent Condition

a. excellent b. altered c. original site

9. Description: The 1891 courthouse is built on granite ashlar block foundations and constructed of red pressed brick and sandstone. It is three bays square and three stories high. There is a six-story tower on the northeast (front) elevation; the second level of the tower has two tall rectangular windows flanked by brick columns, surmounted by a stained glass window and set into a rusticated sandstone arch; the third level has a triple window set into 3 arches; the fourth level has a horizontal opening; the fifth has a round window divided into 4 quarters; the sixth level is open with 2 sandstone columns on each of the 4 sides; the tower has a pyramidal roof. The building has a hipped roof with slate covering. There is a cross gable on the east and west elevations, and one-over-one double hung windows with sandstone lintels and sills.

Attached to the northwest by a modern brick connector is the 1931 neo-classical style courthouse building. It is 15 bays and three stories, and is built of Indiana limestone blocks. Windows are six-over-six, double-hung. Applied pilasters separate each bay and extend two stories. The flat roof is hidden behind a simple entablature.

10. Significance: Montgomery County's third and fourth courthouses stand in the center of the County seat as representatives of 200 years of continuous governmental activity on the site. Montgomery County was formed in 1776, and the first Court was held on May 20, 1777 at the house of Leonard Davis (location unknown). By 1783 a frame courthouse existed, but was sufficiently outgrown by 1810 to necessitate a separate building for the Clerk and his records. 2-7/8 acres were acquired in 1812, and by 1840 a new brick courthouse was completed. Although its original one-story wings were raised in 1872 to provide more space, it was still too small for the needs of a growing population and the General Assembly authorized a bond issue for the fireproof brick "old" Courthouse, constructed in 1891 at a cost of approximately \$50,000.

As County population and governmental business increased, an addition was suggested. Land was purchased in 1930 and the grey courthouse constructed the following year.

11. Researcher and date researched: **Candy Reed/Architectural Description**
Glen Mountney/Eileen McGuckian
12. Compiler: **Eileen McGuckian** 13. Date Compiled: **2/79** 14. Designation Approval
15. Acreage: **approx. 3 acres**

26-11-1

M: 26/11-1
Magi #
1651103601

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Montgomery County Courthouses

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Montgomery and Washington Streets

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

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 type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input 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 type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" 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

Montgomery County Government

Telephone #: 279-1000

STREET & NUMBER

County Office Building, 100 Maryland Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 20850

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 498

Folio #: 244

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

MNCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites

DATE

1976

—FEDERAL STATE COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland 20855

7 DESCRIPTION

M.26-11-1

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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 1891 three bay, three story courthouse faces northeast on Courthouse Square.

Built on granite ashlar block foundations, the court house is constructed of red pressed brick and sandstone. There is a six story tower on the northeast elevation. On the northeast (front) elevation nine granite steps, flanked by metal railings lead to the double wood and glass paneled doors. At the second level of the tower there are two tall rectangular windows flanked by applied brick columns and separated by an engaged sandstone column. These windows are surmounted by a semi-circular stained glass window and set into a rusticated sandstone arch with a cut keystone. At the third level there is a triple window set into three rusticated sandstone arches. At the fourth level there is a horizontal opening with a sandstone rectangular frame enclosing three separate windows separated by two sandstone columns. At the fifth level there is a round window divided into four quarters. The sixth level is open with two sandstone columns on each of the four sides. The tower has a pyramidal roof.

The courthouse has one over one double hung windows with rusticated sandstone lintels and sills. The courthouse has a hipped roof with slate covering. There is a cross gable on the east and west elevations. At the peak of this cross gable there are two small round headed windows. The roof eaves flare slightly out over the denticulated cornice line.

Attached to the north by a modern brick connector is the 1931 Neo-classical style courthouse building. This fifteen bay, three story structure has a projecting pedimented portico on the north (front) elevation. The gabled roof of the portico is supported by six fluted columns with voluted capitals. The frieze bears the words: Montgomery County Courthouse. The building is constructed of Indiana limestone blocks. There are six over six double hung windows. Applied pilasters separate each bay and extend a full two stories. The flat roof is hidden behind a simple entablature.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1891, 1931

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The 1891 red brick and the 1931 limestone Courthouses, Montgomery County's third and fourth such government buildings, stand proudly in the center of the County seat as representatives of 200 years of continuous governmental activity on the site.

On Sept. 6, 1776, the Maryland Constitutional Convention passed a resolution which divided Frederick County into three parts. The southern part became Montgomery County, named for the patriot General Richard Montgomery who was killed at the Battle of Quebec, Dec. 21, 1775.

The Convention named the following Commission to supervise the setting up of the new County: Nathan Magruder, John Murdock, Henry Griffith, Thomas Cramphin, Jr., Zadock Magruder, Allen Bowie, and John Wilson. These men had been active in the Revolutionary movement.

An election was held to select the new County seat; this was necessary because the only sizable town in the new County, Georgetown, was located at the southern edge. The area which is now and always has been the County seat was selected for its central location within the County, its location along an established road, and its nearby taverns or ordinaries to accommodate those with court business. (One of these, Hungerford Tavern, had been the scene of Revolutionary gatherings.)

The first Court was held on May 20, 1777, "at the house of Leonard Davis" (exact location unknown); the first Justices named by the Maryland Assembly were Charles Jones, Edward Burgess, William Deakins, Elisha Williams, Samuel Wade Magruder, James Offutt, and Richard Thompson. Brooke Beall was chosen as the first Clerk of the Court, Clement Beall named Sheriff, and Samuel Carnole, Court Cryer. Leonard Davis was instructed to provide for the "reception of prisoners" and for a permanent courthouse; Brooke Beall kept Court records at his home for a time.

In 1779, Thomas Owen Williams, owner of the land designated for the Courthouse, proposed improvements for repairing the "house they sitt in" and the jail; Benjamin Ray erected a new whipping post, stocks, and pillory. How long they met in this converted house is unknown, but in the 1783 Assessment Thomas Owen Williams is noted as the owner of "Young Man's Delight" containing 200 acres and improved by "1 framed Courthouse, 3 framed dwelling houses and 4 old out houses".

This early Court dealt with such issues as indecent behavior, felony, care of orphans, apprenticeship and slavery, illegitimate children, road building, tavern licenses, deeds, wills, and marriage licenses. At specific times the Court sat as a Levy Court to authorize expenditures for County business and to set the County tax.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(continued on Attachment Sheet A)

Attachment Sheet A
Montgomery County Courthouses

The description of the first Courthouse is unknown, but it was sufficiently outgrown by 1810 to necessitate a separate building for the Clerk and his records. Commissioners were appointed to "locate and superintend the laying of a Lot or parcel of land....to build a Courthouse and prison for the use of the aforesaid County," and 2 7/8 acres were acquired for that purpose.¹

By 1835 the County petitioned the General Assembly for authorization for a new brick Courthouse, which was completed in 1840. Its original one-story wings were raised in 1872 to provide more space, and it was enclosed by an iron fence. Less than 20 years later a building committee was appointed, the General Assembly authorized another bond issue, and the new fireproof brick "old" Courthouse was constructed in 1890-1. Thomas P. Johns of Baltimore was the builder; Frank E. Davis of Baltimore was the architect; building costs were approximately \$50,000.

The 1891 Courthouse was the center of activity in Rockville. Circuit Court sessions in March and November attracted lawyers, jurors, litigants, and those who provided hotel, livery, and meal services for them. Rockville was known as a "Gretna Green", for as many as 150 couples were married at the courthouse each month.

As County population and governmental business increased, there were demands for a new Courthouse. The County Commissioners appointed a committee to recommend alterations or additions to the existing courthouse, and the committee suggested a new building. In 1927 the Legislature approved \$300,000 for acquisition and construction of a new courthouse; land was purchased in 1930 on the block west of the red brick courthouse, and buildings on that block were either razed or moved.²

The new courthouse was completed by 1931. Delos H. Smith and Thomas H. Edwards were the architects, and J.J.J. McDevitt Company of North Carolina built the structure, attached to the old courthouse.

In the late 1960s, the Montgomery County Council allocated funds to raze the old red brick courthouse, but citizen protest induced it to reverse that position and renovate it for modern needs. The County will abandon the red brick courthouse in the 1980s in favor of the complex now being constructed nearby.

FOOTNOTES:

1 Land Records of Montgomery County, Md. P591 (April 29, 1812).

2 Ibid, 498/240-257 inclusive; Montgomery County Commissioners purchased several parcels from owners of the block to the west of the red brick courthouse.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland
 Malloy, Mary Gordon, and Poole, Martha Sprigg, "Montgomery County Courthouses"
The Montgomery County Story, Vol. XIII, No. 3, (Montgomery County Historic
 Society, May 1970).
 Poole, Martha Sprigg, "The Maryland Constitutional Convention of 1776",
The Montgomery County Story, Vol. X, No. 4, (Montgomery County Historical
 Society, August 1967).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 3 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Bounded on the west by South Washington Street
 Bounded on the east by Maryland Avenue
 Bounded on the north by Courthouse Square
 Bounded on the south by West Jefferson Street

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Glen Mountney/Eileen McGuckian /Candy Reed, Architectural Description

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

2/79

STREET & NUMBER

Box 87

TELEPHONE

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

STATE

Maryland

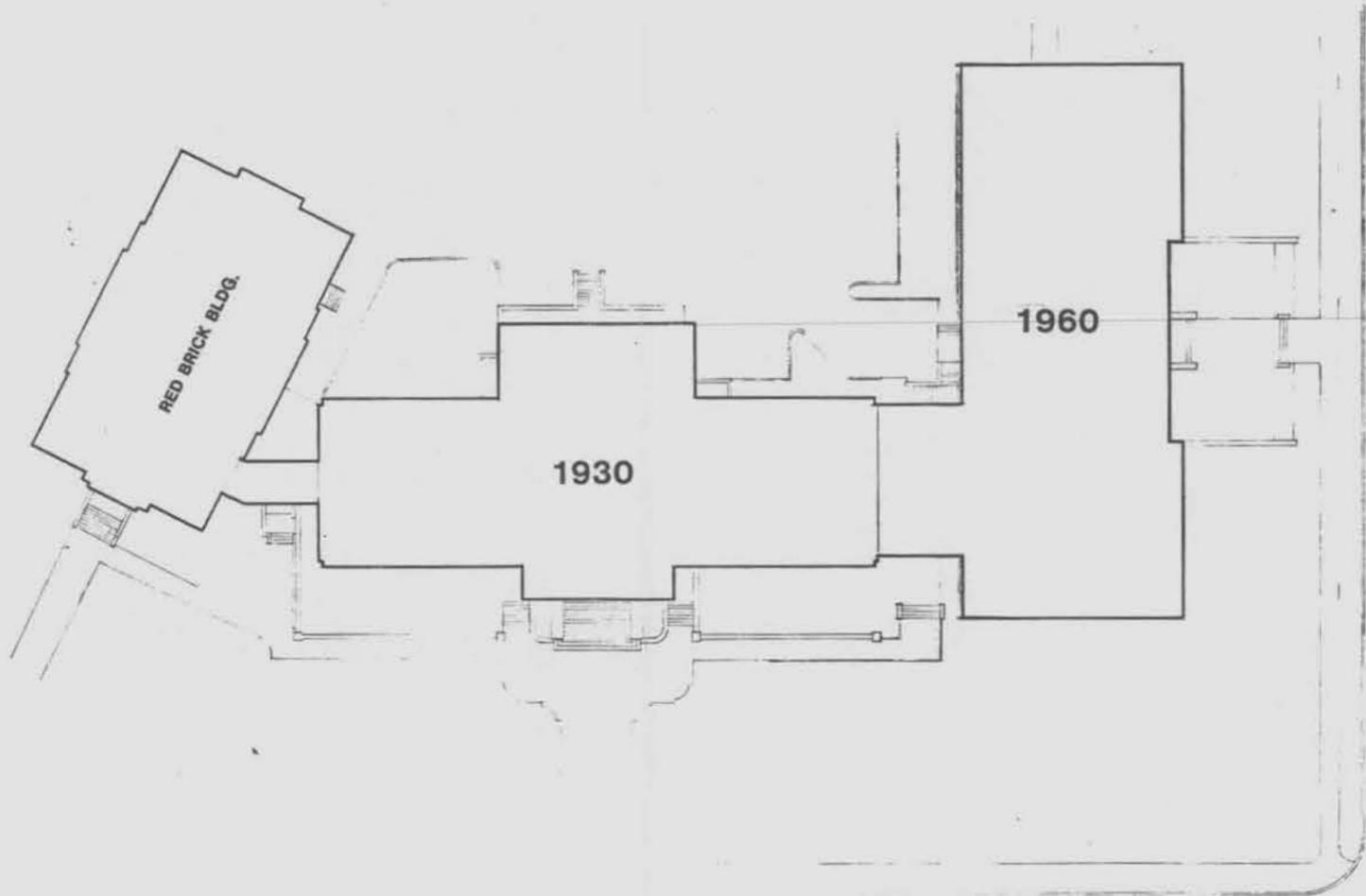
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: ~~Maryland Historical Trust~~
~~The Shaw 21 State Circle~~
~~Annapolis, Maryland 21401~~
~~(301) 267-1438~~

SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS
 Box 87, Stronghold
 Dickerson, Md. 20753
 (301) 926-4510

M:26-11-1



SITE PLAN
Scale: 1" equals 20'-0"



Gaudreau, Inc.

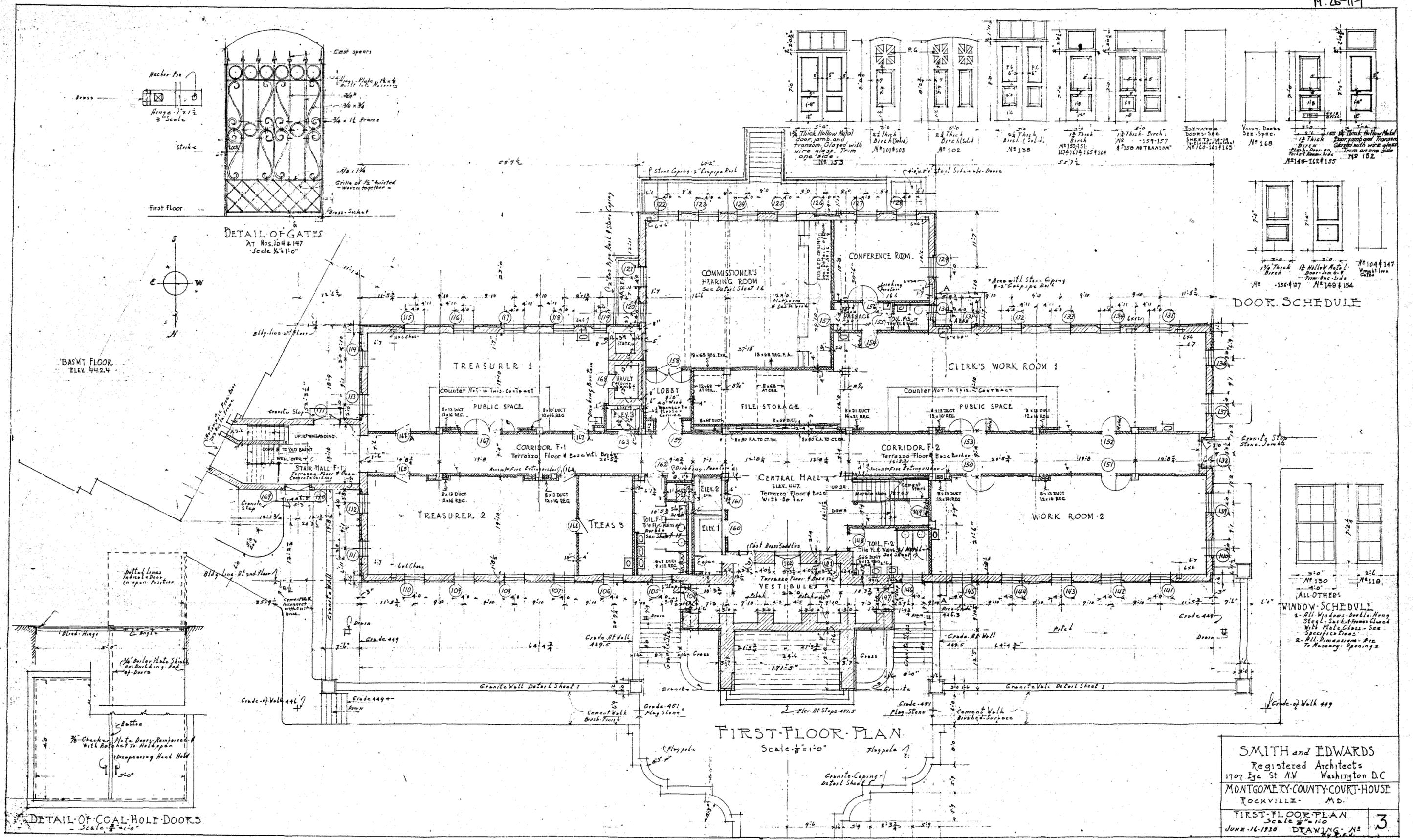
Architects Planners Engineers

29 West Mulberry Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
301-537-2640

**Burdette Koehler Murphy
& Associates**
MECH./ELEC. ENGINEERS

No.	Description	Date
Revisions		
RENOVATION OF THE GREY COURTHOUSE ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF FACILITIES AND SERVICES MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND		
SITE PLAN		
Project No.	Drawing No.	
8141	C-1	
Date		
4-8-62		

AS BUILT PWS



DETAIL OF GATES
AT Nos. 104 & 107
Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"

DOOR SCHEDULE

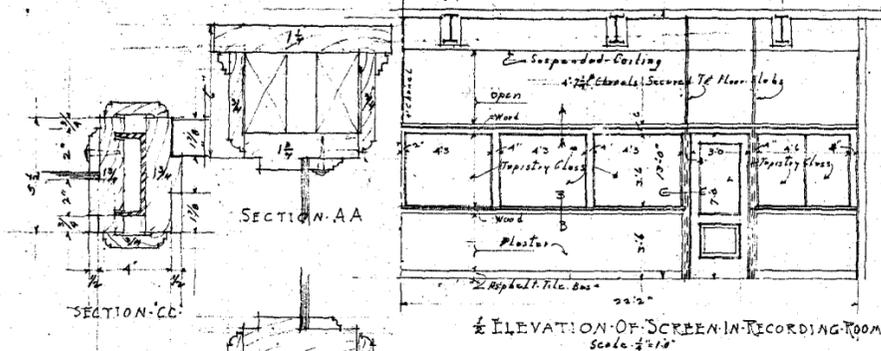
WINDOW SCHEDULE

DETAIL OF COAL-HOLE DOORS
Scale 1/2" = 1'-0"

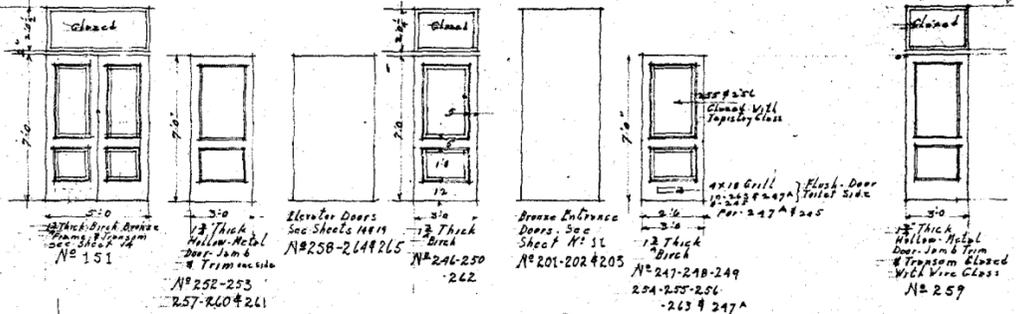
FIRST-FLOOR PLAN
Scale 1/8" = 1'-0"

SMITH and EDWARDS
Registered Architects
1707 Eye St NW Washington DC
MONTGOMERY-COUNTY-COURT-HOUSE
ROCKVILLE - MD.
FIRST-FLOOR PLAN
Scale 1/8" = 1'-0"
JUNE-16-1930 DRAWING NO. 3

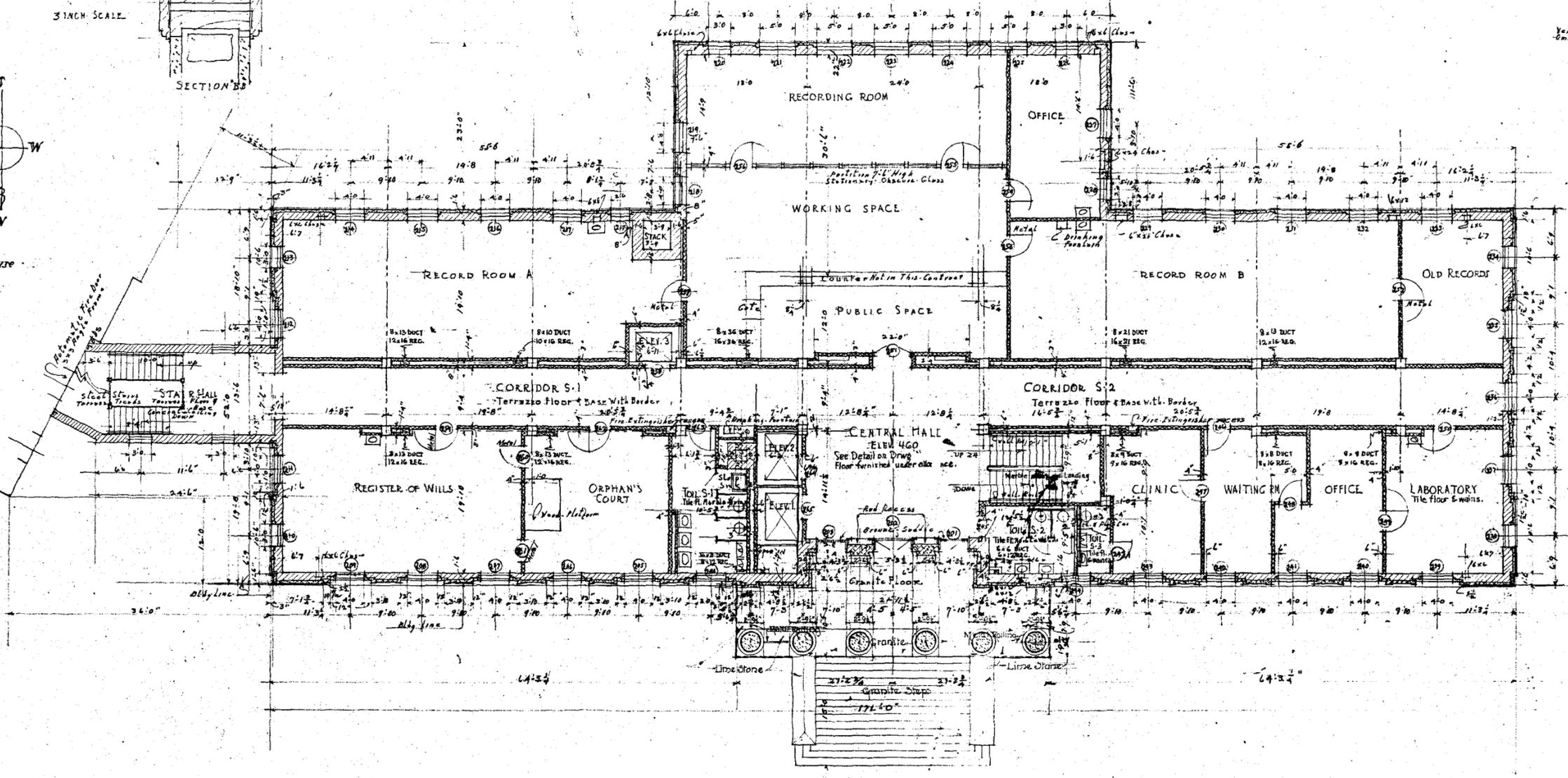
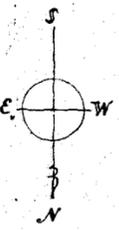
1
2
3
4
5
6
Maryland State Archives



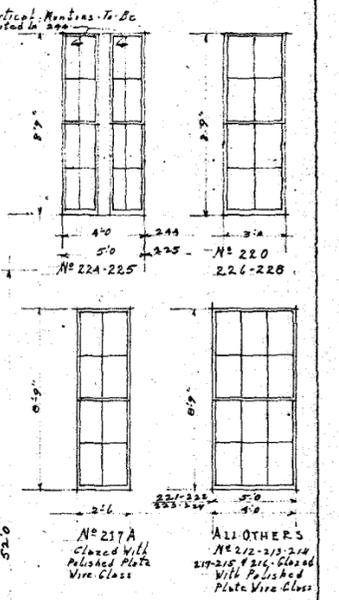
ELEVATION OF SCREEN IN RECORDING ROOM
Scale: 1/2" = 1'-0"



FIRST FLOOR - Old Court House
JULY 1853



SECOND-FLOOR PLAN
Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"



1 - All Windows - Steel Sash & FRAME GLAZED WITH PLATE GLASS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED - SEE SPECIFICATIONS
2 - ALL DIMENSIONS ARE TO MASONRY OPENINGS

SMITH and EDWARDS
Registered Architects
3707 Eye St N.W. Washington D.C.
MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURT HOUSE
ROCKVILLE - MD

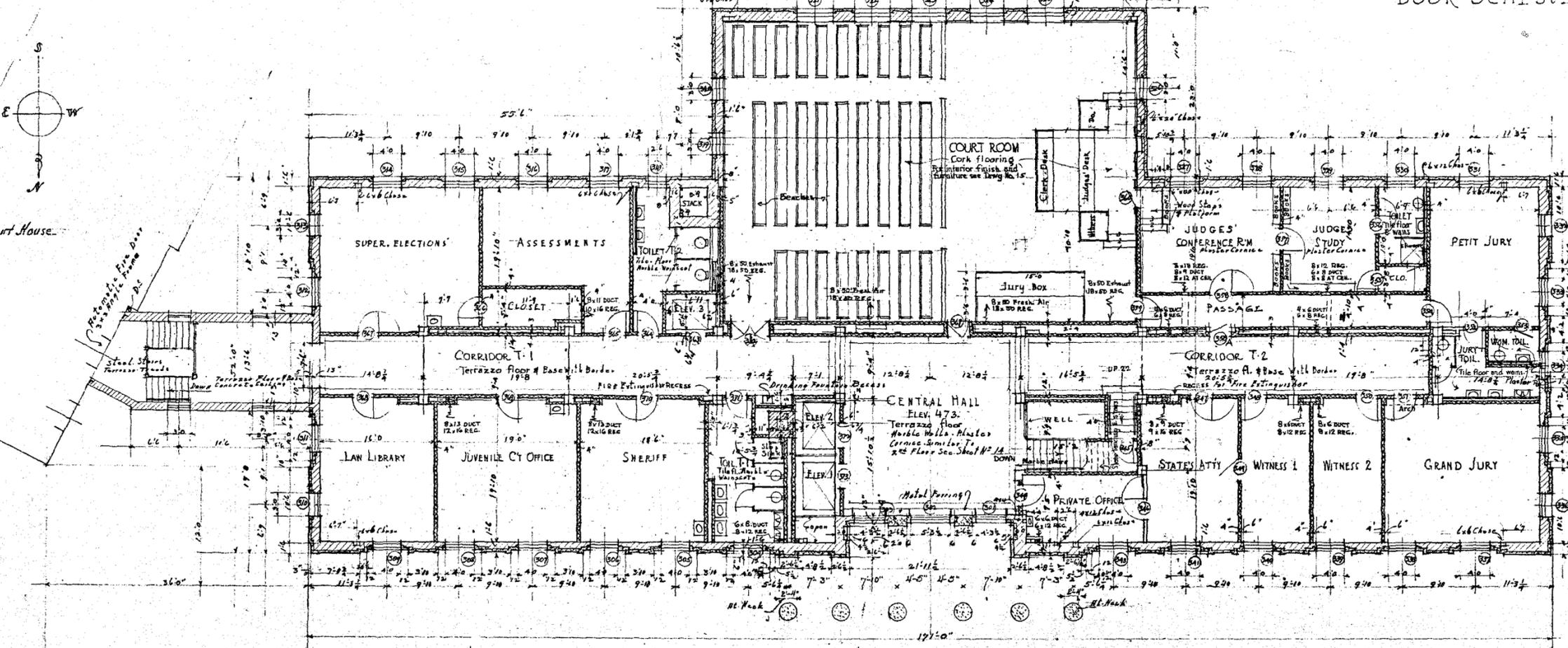
SECOND-FLOOR PLAN
Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"
JUNE 16-1930 DRAWING NO. 4

M:26-11-1

DOOR SCHEDULE

N° 313-312-311 Glass Door Sec See T-14-19	N° 347-348-350 1 1/2" Thick Door	N° 346-349 1 1/2" Thick Door	N° 353-352 1 3/4" Thick Door-Jamb Side	N° 352-353-357 1 3/4" Thick Door on Corridor Side See Sheet 15	N° 362 1 3/4" Thick Door on Corridor Side See Sheet 15	N° 361 1 3/4" Thick Door on Corridor Side See Sheet 15	N° 360 1 3/4" Thick Door on Corridor Side See Sheet 15
-------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------	------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------

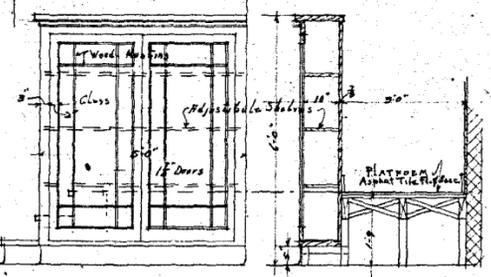
SECOND FLOOR Old Court House
Elev. 462.14



WINDOW SCHEDULE

N° 302	N° 301-303
N° 318	N° 319-320 4-326
All Others	N° 321-322-323 324-325

THIRD-FLOOR PLAN
Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"



BOOKCASE IN JUDGE'S OFFICE
Scale: 1/2" = 1'-0"

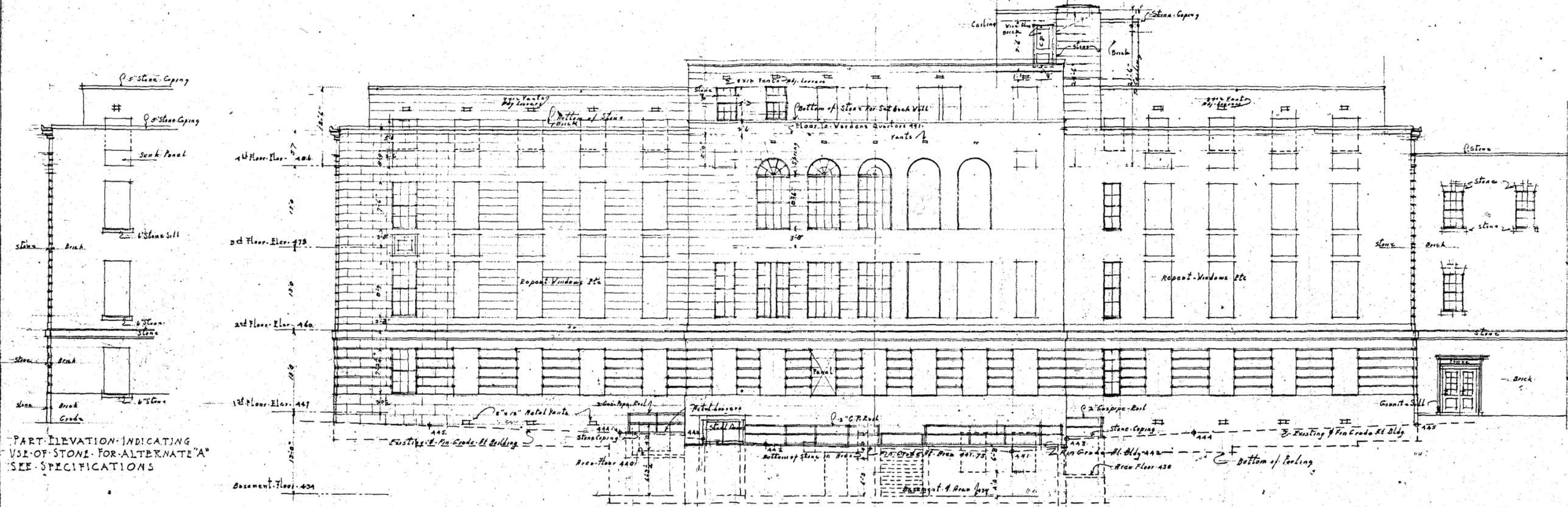
WINDOW SCHEDULE

- All Windows - Steel Sash & Frames
Glazed With Plate Glass Unless
Otherwise Noted See Specifications
- All Dimensions - Ass. To Anatomy
Openings

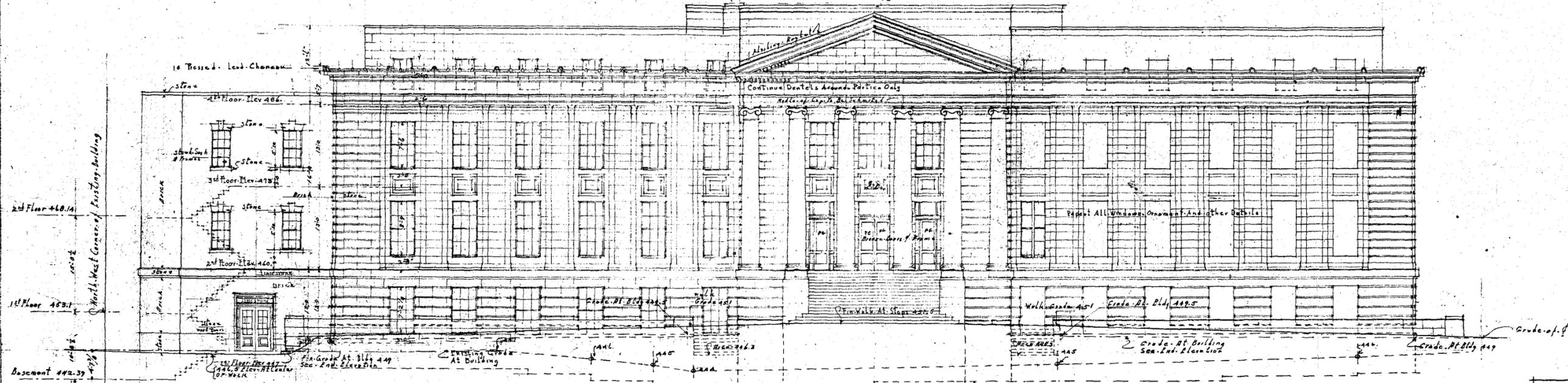
SMITH and EDWARDS
Registered Architects
1704 Eye St NW Washington D.C.
MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURT HOUSE
ROCKVILLE, Md.
THIRD-FLOOR PLAN
Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"
June 26, 1980 DRAW



Maryland State Archives



REAR "SOUTH" ELEVATION
Scale - 1/8" = 1'-0"



FRONT "NORTH" ELEVATION
Scale - 1/8" = 1'-0"

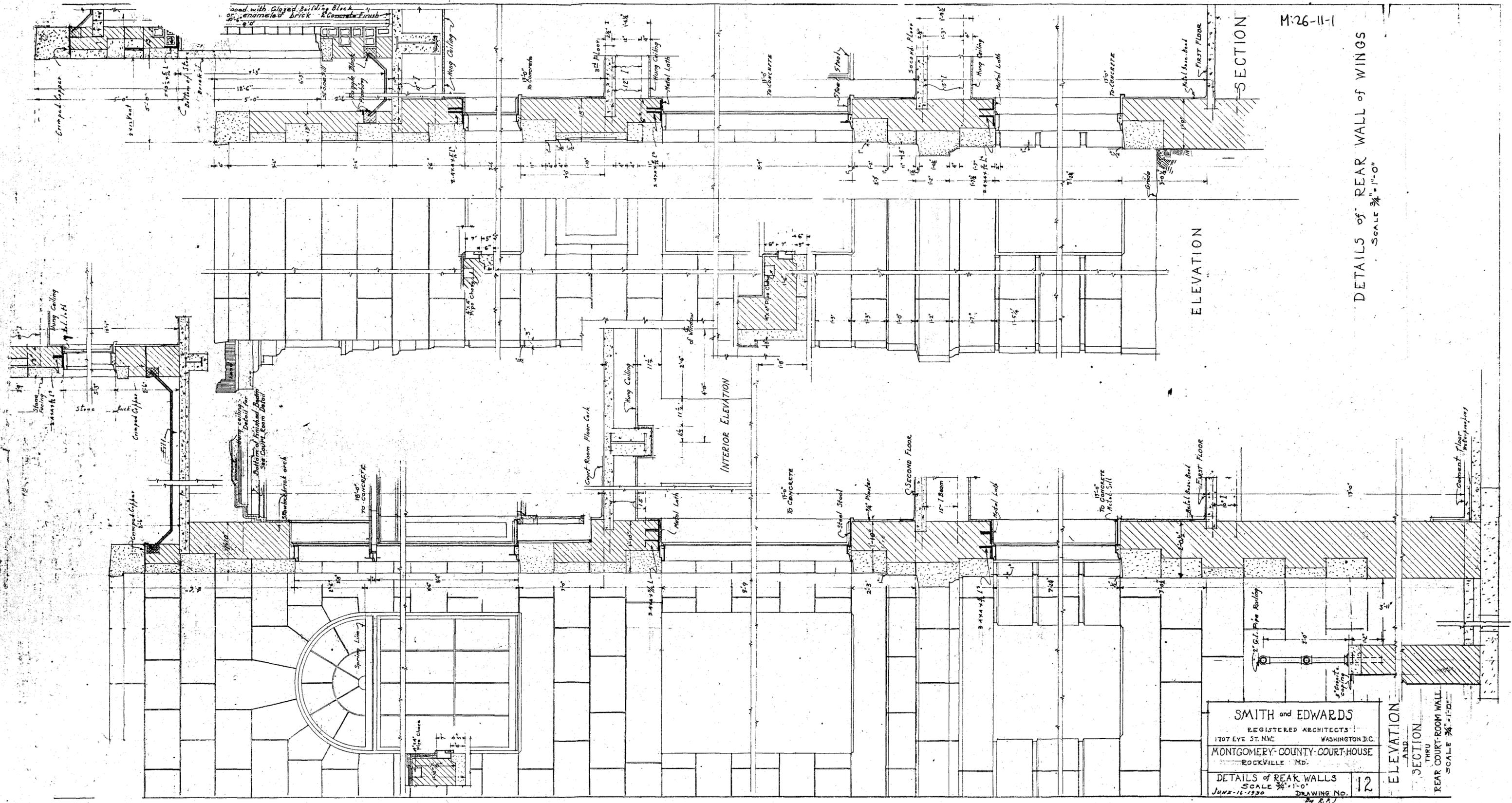
PART ELEVATION INDICATING
USE OF STONE FOR ALTERNATE "A"
SEE SPECIFICATIONS

Bottom of Footings Not Less Than 3'-0"
Below Existing Grade - But They Must
Go To Approved Bearing Soil in All Cases

SMITH and FDWA J
 Registered Architect
 1707 Eye St. N.W. Wash.
 MONTGOMERY COUNTY-C
 ROCKVILLE. MD.
 FRONT and REAR ELEVATIONS
 Scale 1/8" = 1'-0"
 JUN 16 1930 DRAWING NO. 8



Maryland State Archives



M:26-11-1

DETAILS of REAR WALL of WINGS
 SCALE 3/4" = 1'-0"

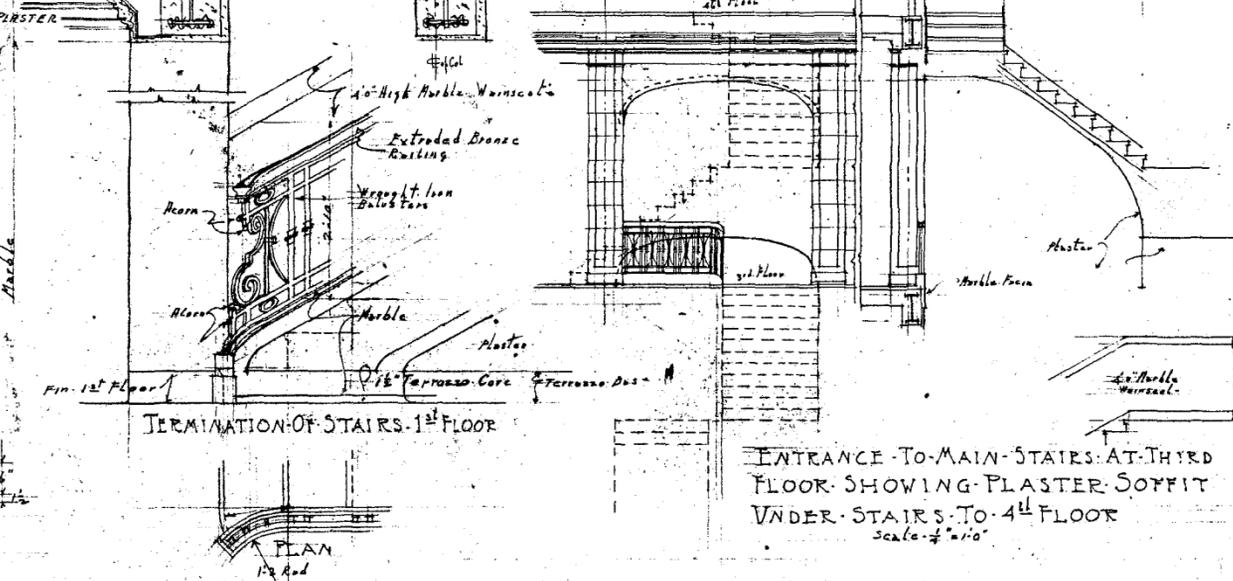
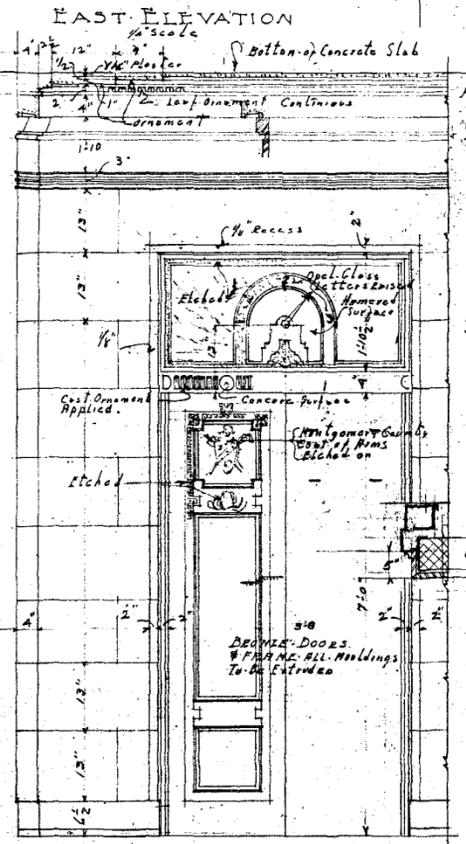
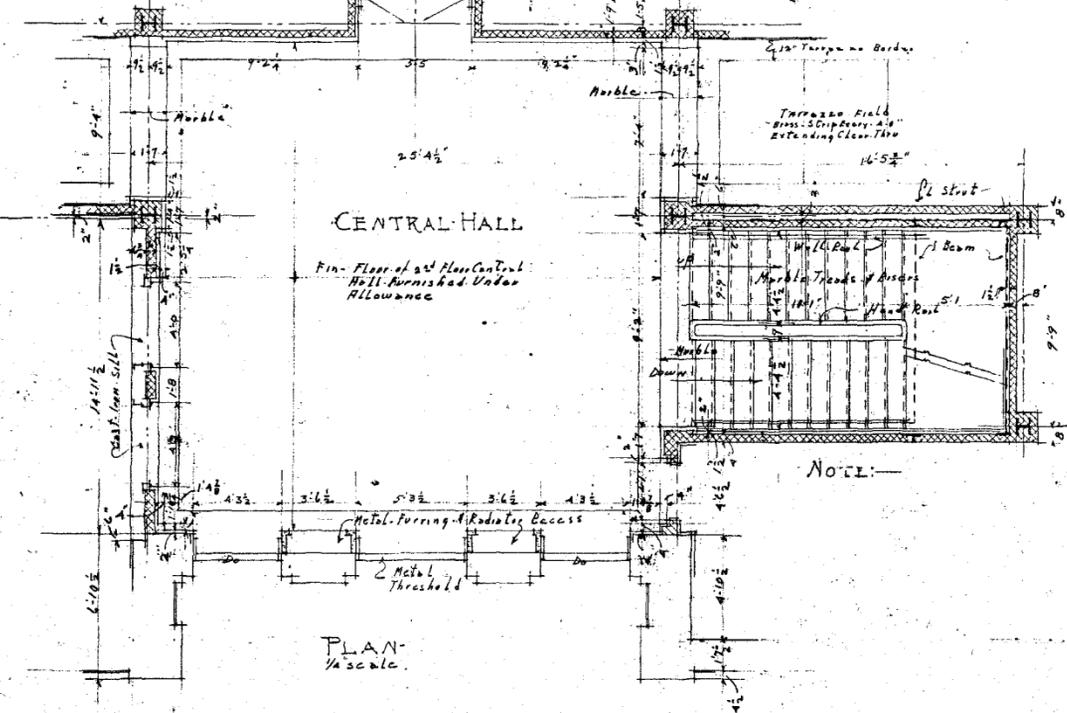
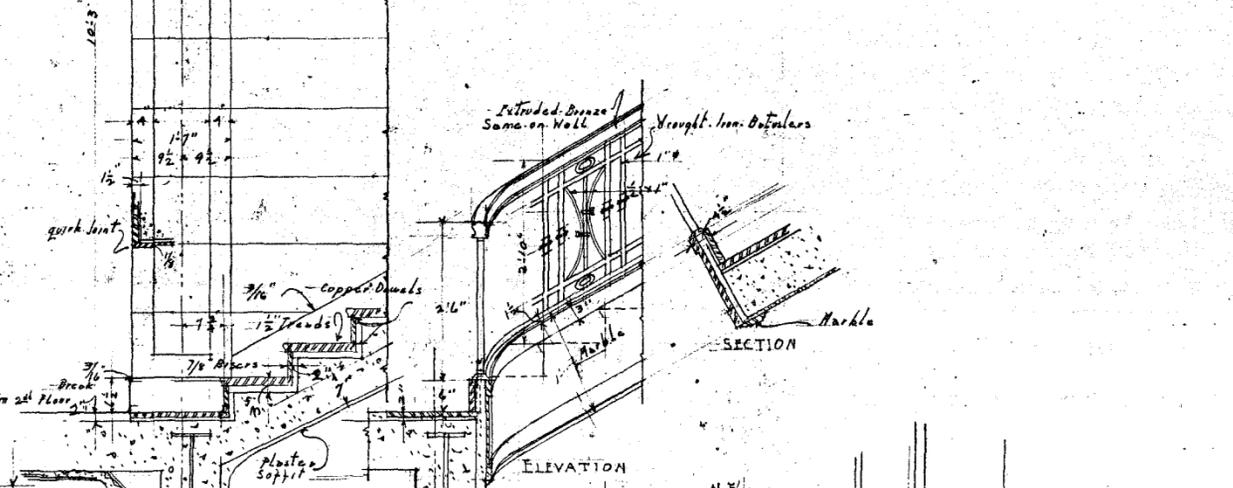
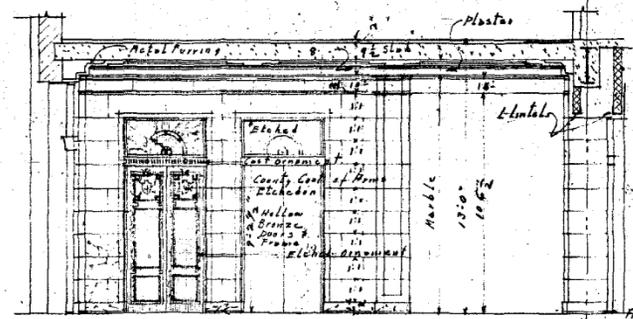
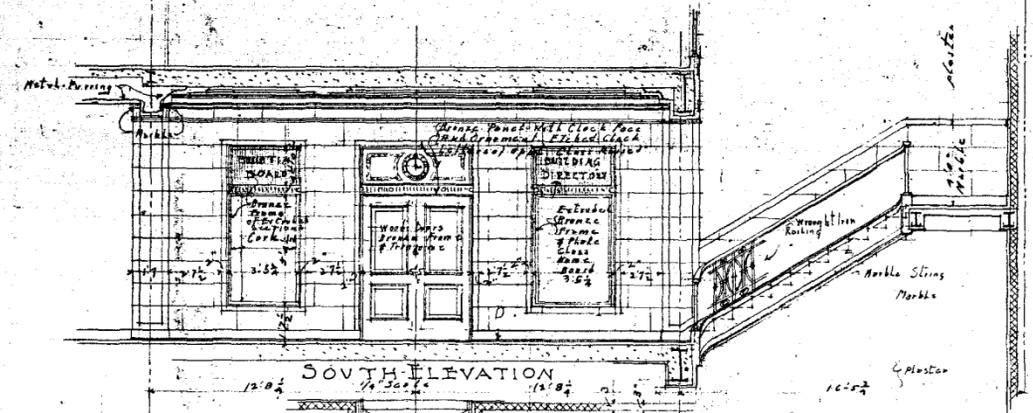
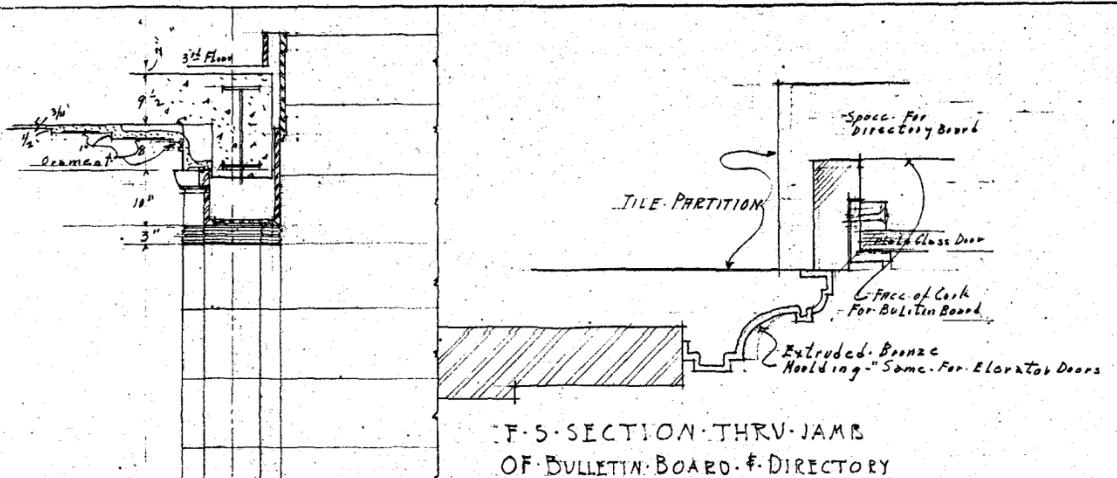
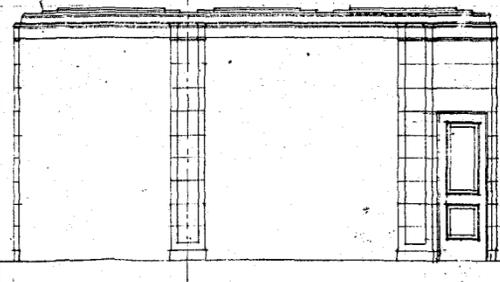
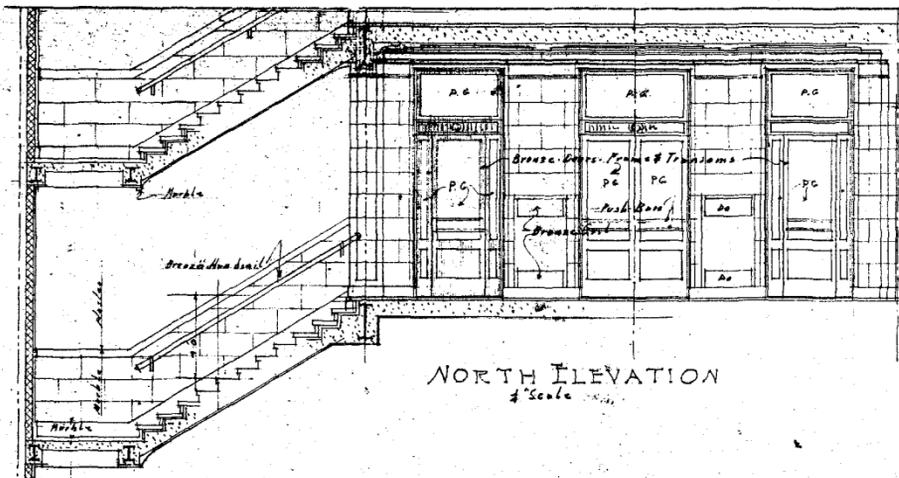
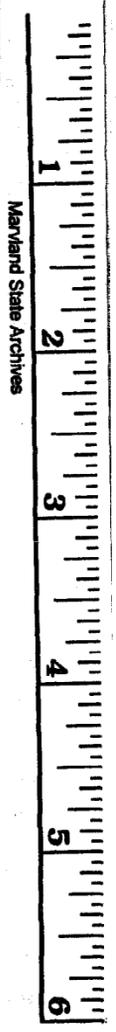
ELEVATION

INTERIOR ELEVATION

ELEVATION AND SECTION

SMITH and EDWARDS
 REGISTERED ARCHITECTS
 1707 EYE ST. N.W. WASHINGTON, D.C.
 MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURT-HOUSE
 ROCKVILLE, MD.
 DETAILS of REAR WALLS
 SCALE 3/4" = 1'-0"
 JUNY-16-1920
 DRAWING No. 12
 BY R.E.J.

REAR COURT-ROOM WALL
 SCALE 3/4" = 1'-0"

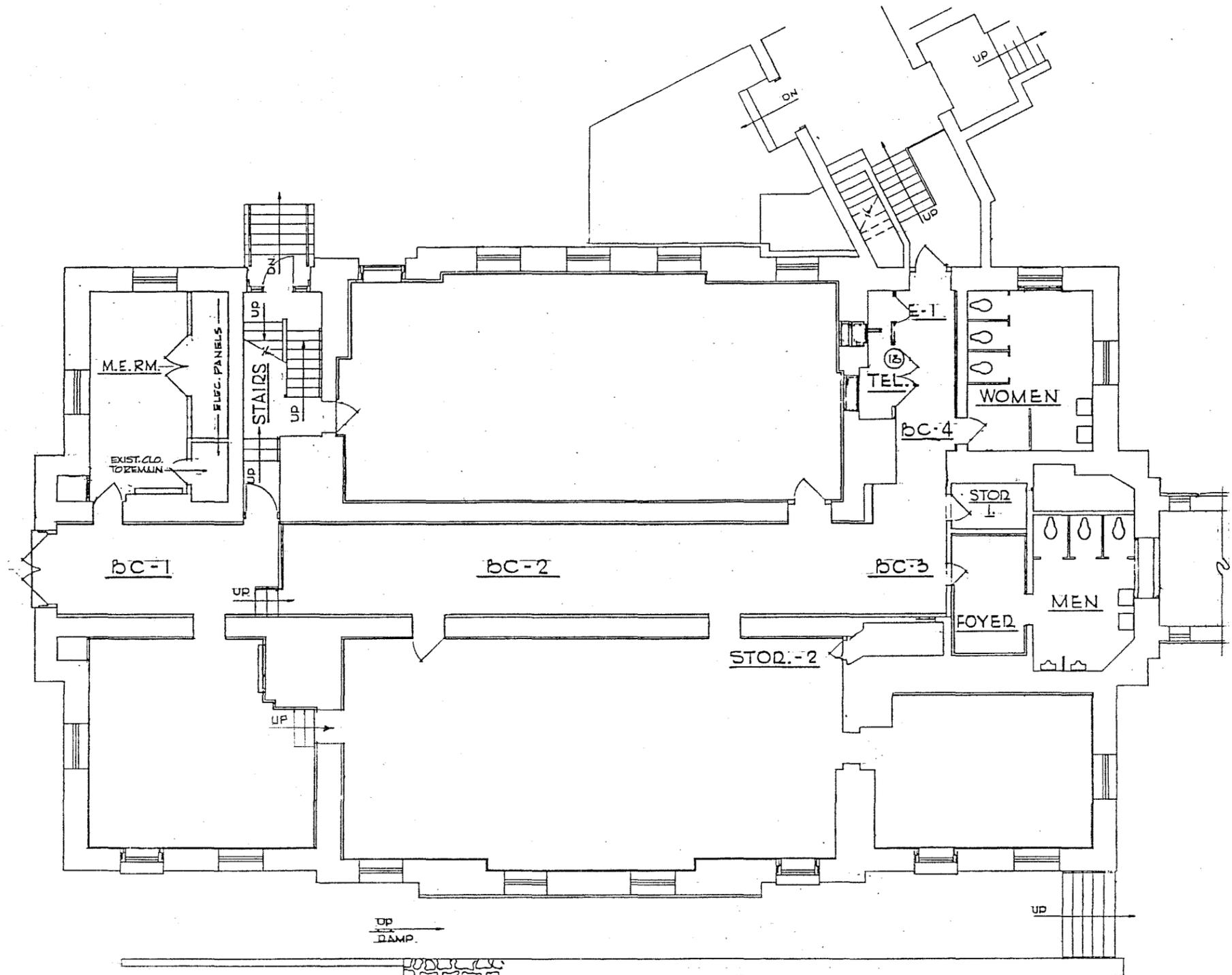
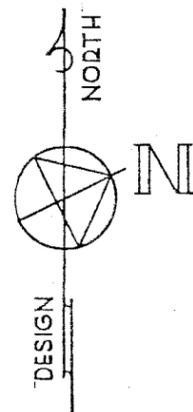


3/4" INCH SCALE DETAILS OF STAIRS

NOTE: 3rd Floor Central Hall To Be Treated in Similar Manner

SMITH and EDWARDS
Registered Architects
1707 Eye St. N.W. Washington D.C.
MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURT HOUSE
ROCKVILLE M.D.

2nd FLOOR CENTRAL HALL
JUNE 16, 1920 DRAWING NO. 14



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

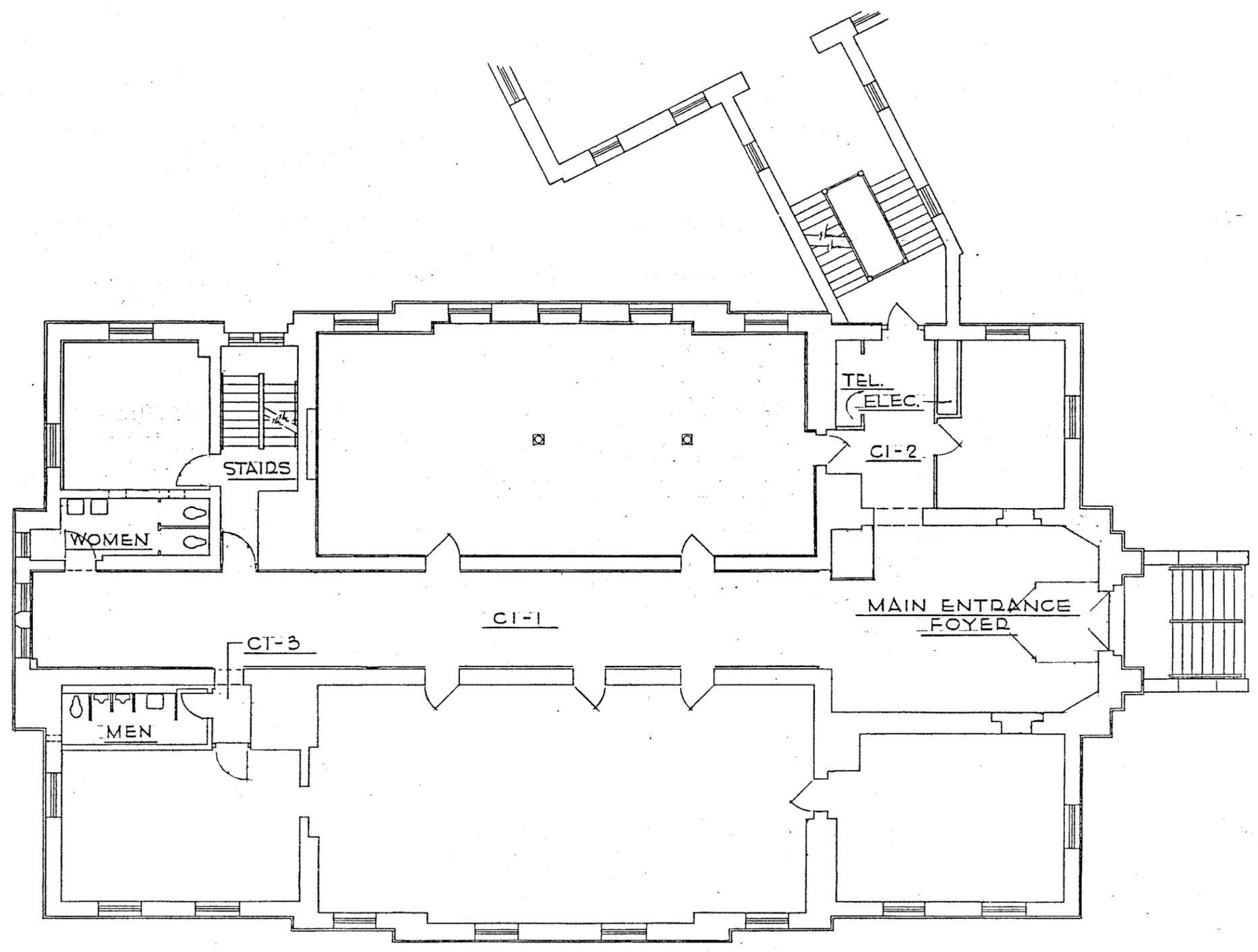
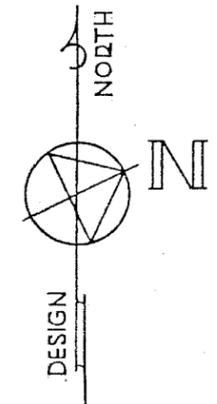
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

DEPARTMENT OF FACILITIES & SERVICES
 MONTGOMERY COUNTY GOVERNMENT
 50 COURTHOUSE SQUARE
 ROCKVILLE, MD 20850

RED BRICK COURTHOUSE
 COURTHOUSE SQUARE
 ROCKVILLE, MD 20850

DRAWING
 1 OF 3
 DATE: OCT '83

M.26-11-1



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

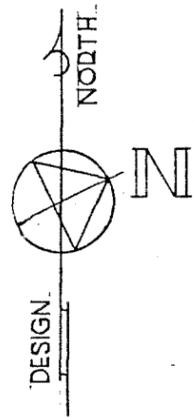
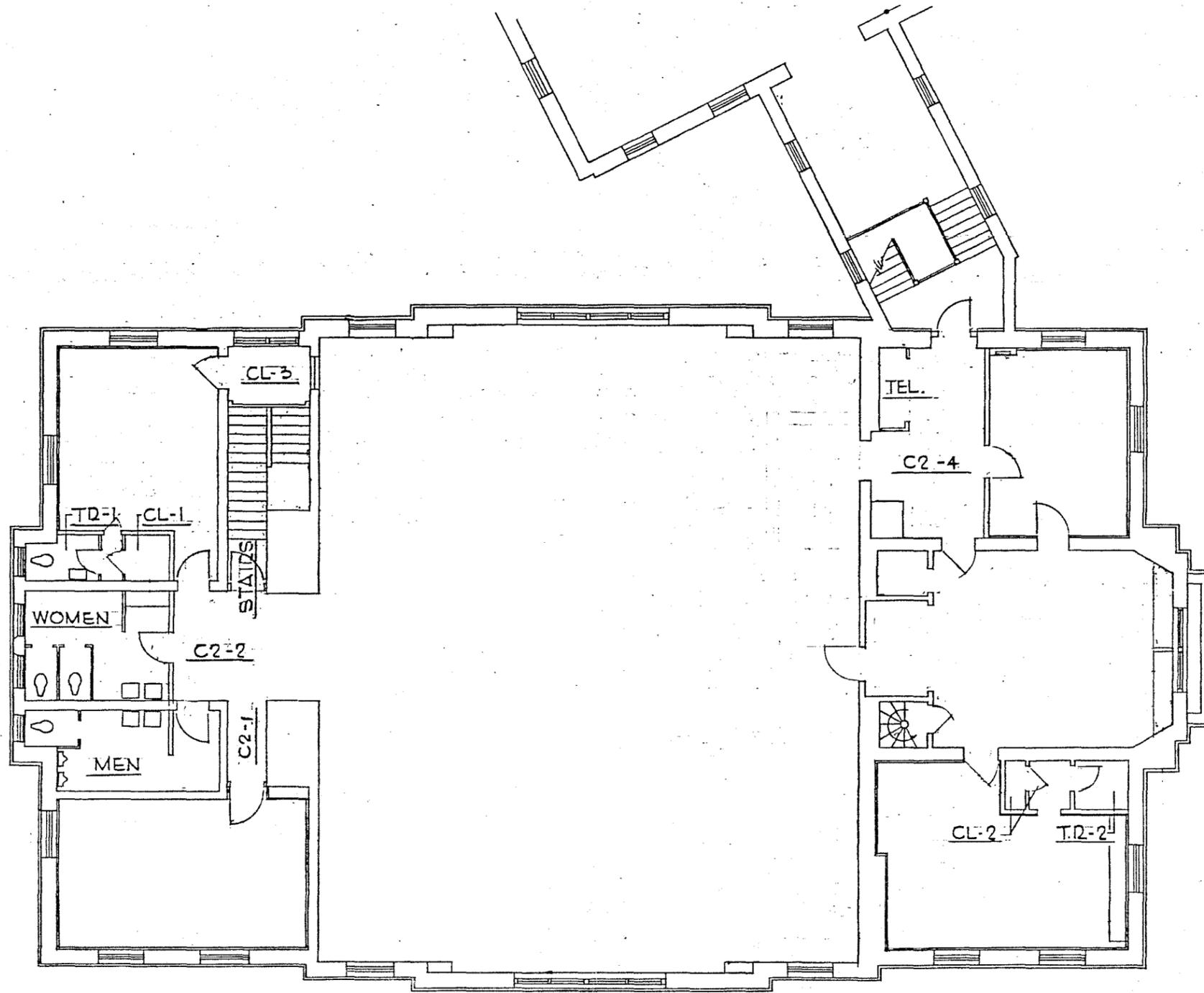
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

DEPARTMENT OF FACILITIES & SERVICES
 MONTGOMERY COUNTY GOVERNMENT
 50 COURTHOUSE SQUARE
 ROCKVILLE, MD 20850

RED BRICK COURTHOUSE
 COURTHOUSE SQUARE
 ROCKVILLE, MD 20850

DATE: OCT '83

DRAWING
 2 of 3
 DATE: OCT '83



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

DEPARTMENT OF FACILITIES & SERVICES
 MONTGOMERY COUNTY GOVERNMENT
 50 COURTHOUSE SQUARE
 ROCKVILLE, MD 20850

RED BRICK COURTHOUSE
 COURTHOUSE SQUARE
 ROCKVILLE, MD 20850

DRAWING
 3 OF 3
 DATE: OCT '83



NAME MONTGOMERY CO. COURTHOUSE (CTHSE.
HIST. DIST.)
LOCATION JEFFERSON ST. ROCKVILLE, Md
FACADE NE
PHOTO TAKEN 5/14/75 MDWYER

M: 26-11-1