

Listed 12/8/2022

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Wagnalls Memorial

Other names/site number: _____

2. Location

Street & number: 150 Southeast Columbus Street

City or town: Lithopolis State: Ohio County: Fairfield

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national X statewide ___ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B ___ C ___ D

<u>Barbara Powers</u> DSHPO/Dept. Head for Inventory & Registration	10/21/2022
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
___ State Historic Preservation Office, Ohio History Connection _____	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
_____	_____
Signature of commenting official:	Date

Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/Library
RECREATION AND CULTURE/Auditorium

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/Library
RECREATION AND CULTURE/Auditorium

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/ Tudor Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: STONE/Sandstone; STONE/Slate; STUCCO;
WOOD

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Wagnalls Memorial is a rectangular in plan, one and two story, sandstone and partial stucco-and-half-timber 46,700 square foot building in Lithopolis in Fairfield County, Ohio. The Tudor Revival style building was constructed during four eras: 1925 the original central portion of the building, 1961 an addition on the west side connected to the original building by a one-story breezeway, 1983 a below-grade addition on the east side, and 1992 an addition connected to the original building on the west side above grade. A 1999 separate community building located to the northwest of the 1961 addition is not included in the National Register boundary. The building sits on the edge of the center of town between the intersections of E. Columbus Street and Walnut Street and E. Columbus Street and Brown Street. The grade is relatively flat throughout the entire site. The building is accessed either off the sidewalk at the front of the building, from the parking at the rear of the building, or the entrance into the 1992 Addition on the southeast side. Ray Sims, future Architect of the State of Ohio, was the architect of the original 1925 building. Sims, with the firm Sims, Cornelius & Schooley Architects & Engineers, Columbus was the architect of the 1961 addition to the west. James A. Monsul & Assoc., Architects, Lancaster was the architect of the 1983 addition to the east, which served as the Wagnalls Memorial Foundation for the 1992 addition by McDonald, Cassell & Bassett, Inc., Architects/Planners, Columbus with Alex McDonald as the lead architect.. The building reflects historic integrity for being associated with the impact of early 20th century industrial-based

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wealth and philanthropy. The Wagnalls Memorial especially symbolizes philanthropy in small rural towns, bringing progressive ideals and culture to these communities.

Narrative Description

The references of the floor levels in this narrative are based upon the level names designated in the 1925, 1961, 1983, and 1992 original drawings.

Setting

The Wagnalls Memorial is on the southeast side of the Village of Lithopolis in Bloom Township, Fairfield County, 19 miles southeast of Columbus, Ohio. The Memorial, with its southwest façade fronting E. Columbus Street, is sited in a residential neighborhood, and is a sprawling design built in three sections during four different decades. Seven (7) squat sandstone piers (four of which are topped by what appear to be copper lanterns), two sign boards set within additional squat sandstone piers, and a low stone plaque datestone (“Wagnalls Memorial A.D. 1924”) mark the property along the sidewalk that lines E. Columbus Street. There is a paved bituminous asphalt parking lot to the rear of the building, along the northeast elevation. The terrain is relatively flat, and the landscaping around the building features site walkways in cast-in-place concrete and brick pavers amid various perennial plantings (trees and bushes); formal, planted gardens are located to the southwest and southeast. The 1992 Addition also constructed a freestanding heavy-timber pergola to the southeast of the building. Exterior entry steps are dressed limestone. All exterior handrail, guardrail, and other metals are painted iron or steel. Site stair walls are of the same masonry construction as the main buildings while garden retaining walls are loose-laid sandstone. Ground-set high-intensity lights illuminate the exterior elements surrounding the Memorial’s prominent interior volumes. Electric fixtures (wall-mounted lights) are generally copper-finished, of arts-and-crafts-era appearance, and provide light just outside the building doors. There are recessed and wall-mounted electrical elements of standard galvanized steel or gray plastic. Although the grounds have been landscaped since the original construction in 1925, the current landscape mostly dates to 1990s with the plantings mostly following the original plan.

1925 Building Description

The 1925 Building is approximately T-shaped in plan, and one-story high with Tower and exposed Basement. Exterior walls are sandstone-and-half-timbered stucco with Tudor-Gothic Revival style influences; the sandstone was locally cut from the Lithopolis quarry. The method of construction for the 1925 portion is reinforced concrete walls with a concrete slab on grade for the basement and reinforced concrete joist construction supported with reinforced concrete beams and columns for the first floor. The interior features a Basement social space below an Auditorium, a Library Reading Room with exposed trusses, and a three-story crenelated Tower.

The 1925 Building’s southwest elevation features the Tower and, at the base of the Tower, the formal entry (Photo 001, 002, and 003). The entry is reached by a short flight of limestone steps

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that leads to a terrace of patterned cast-in-place concrete. The entry double doors are carved wood with blackened wrought iron hardware, and the doors are set in an Indiana limestone surround. The cornice of this trim breaks to wrap a prominent stone scrolled blazon displaying a muscular forearm and a torch lying along the page gutter of an open book and separating a “W” and an “M” incised in Gothic characters. Above this spandrel panel is a pair of leaded glass windows set within a stone surround. An additional pair of leaded glass windows with transoms is at the top level of the Tower. Adjacent to the southeast of the Tower is the gabled main Library room with bay window featuring five sections stacked three-high of stone tracery framing leaded glass. The gable end has carved wood bargeboard and a triangular panel of stucco and timber above the window bay. Adjacent to the northwest side of the Tower is a recessed three-bay Porch (with cement floors and stone steps according to the drawings) that was enclosed in 1961 when the Addition was built to the west, including three more bays of porch (Photo 004). The 1925 portion of the porch connects northeast to the Auditorium beyond.

The 1925 Building’s steel windows were supplied by International Casements of Jamestown, NY, now known as Hope’s Windows after a series of mergers, including one in 1932 with Henry Hope & Sons, Inc. of New York.

The high-slope portions of the roof are covered in a thick rough-hewn slate fixed to a plank deck. The roof ridges curve, rising to the main clipped gables and the secondary dormer gables alike, and where the ridge joins the entry Tower. The eaves are slightly concave. The low-slope portions of the building roof are protected by an adhered single-ply non-scrim (ethylene propylene diene monomer or EPDM) rubber sheet roofing system that appears to be associated with the 1991 building campaign. This EPDM roofing has a single roofing drain over the 1925 Porch and another segregated single-drain roofing area over the 1925 Tower. There is an area depressed into surrounding roof and into which the building rooftop equipment is gathered and hidden.

Portions of the original sheet metal gutter and downspout system, according to notes found in Sims’ construction contract documents, were made of Toncan (a proprietary copper-molybdenum-iron alloy). While Toncan remains at two downspouts at the Reading Room roof to the southeast of the formal entry, if the alloy was widely used in the original 1925 construction, it has been generally replaced since by sheet copper. All partially embedded roofing components are copper, as is the coping over the stone cap at the Tower parapet. There is a copper custom-fabricated drain assembly emptying the slate-clad basin over the formal entry. At joints between the EPDM roofing and the sandstone wall at the parapet crenellations, there are some transparently finished aluminum termination-bar-type roofing accessories.

Roofing installers tacked smaller flashing pieces over critical ridge, valley, and eave areas. Some of these patches have been painted to match nearby wood trim. All older exposed copper components have fully patinated while some newer repaired surfaces have only just turned a matte copper color. All guttering is half-round and supported by conventional cast bronze brackets and fittings. All downspouts terminate in cast-iron piping to a municipal storm sewer.

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The 1925 Building's northeast elevation features the rear sandstone wall of the Auditorium (Photo 005). At this rear wall is a one-story crenelated projecting bay with lancet casement windows bookending the window-less middle bay. These windows are set within limestone surrounds. Above the crenelated parapet of this one-story bay is a casement window with stone mullions, also set within a limestone surround. The upper roof is a clipped gable on this side. The raised basement has tripartite casement windows with sandstone voussoirs in the masonry above. Sandstone buttresses frame the northeast corner. The 1925 Building's northeast elevation features the five (5) bay side wall of the Auditorium; it is a sandstone wall with punched window openings. This elevation's middle three bays of the exposed basement contain tripartite steel casements and sandstone voussoirs at the window heads. At the first-floor level, the northwest four bays contain tripartite steel casements with transoms. The 1925 Building's southeast elevation interfaces with the 1983 and 1992 Additions and is mostly enclosed by these additions (Photo 006). One bay of the southwest elevation is exposed. It has a window in a timber frame that mirrors the northwest elevation at the formal entry.

Wall-penetrating mechanical-system elements are marked by anodized aluminum louvers installed within purpose-built masonry openings. There are isolated locations of mechanical system elements installed into existing window frames and one for which the frame overlaps its surrounding masonry (at the northwest elevation of the 1925 Building).

Basement Social Room

The Social Room is rectangular in plan with a flat floor and is 60 feet wide and 47 feet deep and is a single story. The floor is commercial grade linoleum tiles, which replaced the original maple flooring. The wall base is painted concrete, and the walls are textured plaster painted white (Photo 007). The southwest wall has wooden paneled double doors. The northwest wall is a trapezoid cove with a maple stage which is 18 feet wide and 8 feet deep. On either side of the stage there are tripartite steel windows with wood frames at the areaways to let light into the space. The northeast wall has an entrance on the northwest end exiting out to an exterior ramp which leads to grade level. There are also two sets of tripartite windows with wood frames to the southeast of the door. On the southeast wall there are four wooden doors with leaded glass windows leading into the back of house amenities adjacent to the Social room; these areas include the pantry, kitchen, and storage. The ceiling is textured plaster painted white with surface-mounted strip ceiling light fixtures. There are four square columns in the space which have flowers and vines painted on top of a base of white paint over textured plaster.

First Floor Library Entry

The main entrance to the building is in the Tower in the original 1925 section of the building. The Library Entry has a flat floor 14 feet wide and 15 feet deep and is a single story. The floor is gray flagstone. The plaster walls have a Decorite finish painted in a golden brown with isolated locations of exposed random rubble stone, which creates the impression of age. There is a gray stone base board. The southwest wall has the building entrance which is the original simplified Tudor Arch with wooden paneled double doors with wrought iron handles and wrought iron nails with wood trim (Photo 008). The northwest wall has three 12-lite leaded glass fixed windows recessed into the wall with wood frames. These windows follow up the staircase on the northwest side leading to the upper levels of the Tower. Also along the northwest wall is a stone

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staircase with a wrought iron railing curving up the northwest side of the space to the upper levels of the Tower. On the northeast wall there is a single wood paneled door with wrought iron handles, hinges, and nails with wood trim leading into the Auditorium Entry. The southeast wall has a bump out in the middle of the wall from the fireplace in the adjacent Library space. On either side of this bump out there are single wood arched paneled doors with wrought iron handles, hinges, and nails with wood trim. The wood ceiling joists run north-southwest and are left exposed in the space. The space is lit by a historic lantern hanging from the ceiling in the middle of the space.

Level 2 of Tower, Markham Room

The Markham Room is the first level in the Tower above the Library Entry. The room has a flat floor and is 14 feet wide and 15 feet deep and is a single story. The floor is wood. The walls have a Decorite plaster finish painted in a golden brown with wood baseboards. The southwest wall has paired 12-lite leaded glass casement windows with stone surround recessed into the wall. The northwest side of the northwest wall has a small wooden staircase leading up a single wood door taking one to the staircase up to Level 2 of the Tower (Photo 009). In this staircase on the northwest wall are two 12-lite leaded glass fixed windows following up the staircase. The southeast side of the northwest wall has a single wood door leading from the staircase in the Library Entry on the level below. The northeast wall does not have any openings. The southeast wall does not have any openings. The wood ceiling joists run northeast-southwest and are left exposed in the space. There is a wrought iron candle chandelier hanging in the middle of the space.

Level 3 of Tower, Dunsmore Room

The Dunsmore Room is the second level in the Library Entry Tower. The room has a flat floor and is 14 feet wide and 15 feet deep and is one and a half stories tall. The floor is wood. The walls have a Decorite plaster finish painted in a golden brown with wood baseboards. The southwest wall has paired 18-lite leaded glass casement windows with 6-lite transoms and stone surround. The northwest wall has the wood staircase leading from the level below, there is a half-height wood paneled wall on the southeast side of the staircase. The northwest wall also has paired 18-lite leaded glass casement windows with 6-lite transoms and stone surround. The northeast and southeast walls do not have any openings. The wood ceiling joists run north-southwest and are left exposed in the space. On the northeast side of the ceiling there is a hatch between the joists giving access to the roof. There is a wrought iron candle chandelier hanging in the middle of the space.

Auditorium Entry

The Auditorium Entry area has a flat floor 16 feet wide and 15 feet deep and is a double height space. The floor is red coated concrete. The walls have a Decorite finish painted in a golden brown with painted concrete base. The southwest wall has the single wood paneled door with wrought iron handles, hinges, and nails with wood trim leading from the Library Entry. The northwest wall has a simplified Tudor arch opening with arched wood paneled double doors with wrought iron handles and wrought iron nails with wood trim leading out onto the Porch area. This porch was enclosed in 1961 when an Addition was built to the west. The middle of the northeast wall has a simplified Tudor Arch with wood paneled double doors with wrought iron

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handles and wrought iron nails with wood trim leading into the Auditorium. The southeast wall has a staircase leading down to the basement level of the building. The wood ceiling joists run southeast-northwest and are left exposed in the space; the ceiling in between the joists has a Decorite finish painted in a golden brown.

Auditorium

The Auditorium has a flat floor 90 feet wide and 47 feet deep and is one and a half stories tall. The flooring is red coated concrete with painted concrete base. The walls have a Decorite finish painted in a golden brown. The southwest wall has the entrance into the Auditorium in the middle of the southwest wall through the simplified Tudor Arch with wooden paneled double doors with wrought iron handles and wrought iron nails with wood trim along with three additional, matching doors to the northwest which open out onto the Porch space (Photo 010). The northwest wall includes the projection room in the middle of the wall. The projection room at the northwest end has since been modified from its original configuration. Originally the wall for the projection room was flush against the back wall with a door on the northeast end. Currently it is a partial height trapezoid bump with the door on the southwest side of the room with oak molding at the top featuring shield motifs. The projection window opening is trimmed with oak wood and the new walls match the original Decorite walls painted in a golden brown. On the northeast wall there are four sections of tripartite steel casement windows. The southeast end of the room includes the stage with doors with wood trim on either side of the stage. The stage has maple flooring and is 17 feet deep and 23 feet wide with wood paneled doors on stage right and stage left. The walls of the stage have a Decorite finish painted in a golden brown. There is a decorative wood or plaster trim around the opening to the stage. The room has 5 exposed oak ceiling beams, which extend from southeast to southwest, visible at the ceiling with support brackets on the wall. At the bottom of the support bracket for the beams there are carved shield motifs. There are four sconces along the northeast and southwest walls under the truss ends. The ceiling has a Decorite finish painted in a golden brown. There are four wrought iron candle chandeliers hanging from the beams on either side of the room. There are four decorative ceiling grates in between the beams; the western three are for HVAC, and the eastern one is for the organ pipes. There are 400 historic wooden theater seats.

Library

The Library is accessed off the Library Entry in the 1925 section and through the circulation corridor in the 1992 section and exemplifies the Tudor-Gothic Revival style. The Library has a flat floor and is 32 feet wide and 51 feet deep with cathedral ceiling two stories tall. The floor is gray flagstone laid in an irregular pattern matching that of the Library Entry along with a gray stone wall base by the fireplace. The walls have a Decorite plaster finish painted in a golden brown with built-in wood bookshelves with wood base lining the perimeter of the space (Photo 011). The bookshelves extend past the wall dividing the space into three equal sections along its depth. The southwest wall has a 5-bay leaded glass window and several symbolic medallions in leaded glass. These window medallions are crusader's shields at the top, a "W" in the center with a log cabin below, a printing press to the left, a lamp to the right, and the Ohio and United States' seals on either side. The middle of the northwest wall has a stone fireplace; above the fireplace on either side are two wrought iron candle holders along with a picture framed quote from Mabel Wagnalls and a picture of Adam Wagnalls (Photo 012). On either side of the fireplace are the

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single wood arched paneled doors with wrought iron handles, hinges, and nails with wood trim entry doors. The northeast wall does not have any openings. The northeast side of the southeast wall has a set of wood fire doors below the historic window. The door was added when the 1992 section was built. The wood framed leaded glass window remains in the dormer space, the glass has been blocked from the other side of the space. The southwest side of the southeast wall has a wood framed leaded glass dormer window matching the one above the new door. It is open to the exterior to let daylight into the space. The ceiling has exposed timber framing, including two oak king post trusses, dividing the space into three equal sections. Decorite plaster finish painted in a golden brown fills the space between the timber framing. At the coving there is carved painted wood with grape vines and shields motifs. At the ends of the top chord of the trusses, sitting on the supporting brackets there are clay owls which sit above carved shields. There are three wrought iron candle chandeliers, one in each section.

Porch

The Porch has a flat floor and is 27 feet wide and 15 feet and is a single story. Originally this portion was open, covered with a low sloped roof. In 1961, the openings were infilled to make the space an enclosed walkway connecting the 1925 section to the 1961 section of the building. The floor is gray flagstone. The walls are sandstone matching the exterior of the 1925 section. The three open segmental arches on the southwest side have been filled with thermopane glazing in aluminum frames. The middle arch has an arched aluminum double door and the two openings on either side have been infilled with arched glass panels. The original stone steps on the northwest side have been removed to allow for the connection link leading to the 1961 section to be added. The ceiling is acoustical ceiling tile with wood crown molding around the perimeter that appears to date to 1961.

1961 Addition Description

The 1961 Addition is an approximately square in plan, one-story with exposed basement, stone, Tudor-Gothic Revival influenced structure complementing the 1925 Building (Photo 001). The method of construction for the 1961 Addition is exterior masonry bearing walls supporting a two-by wood rafter and steel beam roof. The first floor of the addition is comprised of 8" hollow core precast planks supported on steel girders and columns. The hipped roof is covered in slate and has copper flashing. The 1961 Addition's southeast elevation is connected to the northwest elevation of the 1925 Building via a three-bay Porch linking in with the existing three-bay Porch. The 1961 Porch consists of a wood upper section and stone base. Each of the six Porch bays has insulated glass unit (IGU) windows in a stainless-steel frame; the metal doors are also glazed with IGU. Insulated-glazing window units sandwich false diamond pane muntins between glass panes. The metal frames are trimmed in wood. The 1961 Addition's northwest elevation features a centrally located stone chimney flanked at the exposed basement and first floor by paired windows with stone surrounds, vertical mullions, and diamond-pattern false muntins in the insulating cavity. The southeast end has three louvered windows at the exposed basement level. The 1961 Addition's northeast elevation has a basement entry on the southeast end that leads to the mechanical rooms, and a centrally located, first floor entry reached by a short flight of stairs (Photo 013). The 1961 Addition's northeast elevation also has paired windows with stone surrounds and vertical mullions at the exposed basement level and first floor: there is one bay of windows on both levels to the southeast of the porch, and two bays of windows on both levels to

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the northwest of the porch. The exposed basement level on the northeast has one window in a stone surround, and two louvered masonry openings. The 1961 Addition's southwest elevation features a centrally located entry that is reached by a short flight of stone stairs. The entry door has a stucco surround. Flanking the entry are two five-part bays with insulated glazing with diamond pattern false muntins in the insulating cavity; the mullions are cut stone. There are four steel awning-type operable windows spaced across the exposed basement level. These are trimmed with wood brick mold at jambs and head and with a wood sill. At the first-floor level, southeast end, there are two pairs of diamond pane leaded glass windows with stone surrounds and vertical mullions

The high-slope portions of the roof are covered in a thick rough-hewn slate fixed to a plank deck. The low-slope portions of the building roof are protected by an adhered single-ply non-scrim (ethylene propylene diene monomer or EPDM) rubber sheet roofing system that appears associated with the 1991 building campaign.

Roofing installers tacked smaller flashing pieces over critical ridge, valley, and eave areas. Some of these patches have been painted to match nearby wood trim. All older exposed copper components have fully patinated while some newer repaired surfaces have only just turned matte. All guttering is half-round and supported by conventional cast bronze brackets and fittings. All downspouts terminate in cast-iron piping to a municipal storm sewer.

Basement Stevenson Room (Teenage Room)

The Stevenson Room is roughly square in plan with a flat floor and is 62 feet wide and 42 feet deep and is a single story. The space has since been divided into multiple smaller spaces with temporary partition walls and accordion partition walls. The floor is terrazzo. The walls are a yellow glazed block with no baseboard or ceiling molding. Within a stone surround at the southwest wall is one 5-section bay window with a diamond pattern of surface-mounted grids (resembling lead comes) over double paned glass to complement the Tudor-Gothic Revival style. The middle of the northwest wall has a stone fireplace with a stone hearth. To the southwest of the fireplace there is a wood door with a leaded glass windowpane, to the northeast of the fireplace there is a double fixed window with leaded glass window panes and stone trim. The northeast wall does not have any openings. The southeast wall is the temporary partition wall with a door to let people into the smaller space. The ceiling is acoustic ceiling tiles with lay-in lights (Photo 014).

First Floor Book Shelf Room

The Book Shelf Room is the southeast room on the first floor of the 1961 section of the building. The Book Shelf Room has a flat floor and is 35 feet wide and 58 feet deep and is a single story. The floor is gray carpet. The walls are yellow painted gypsum drywall with a portion of the southwest wall having patterned brown wallpaper and a wood baseboard around the perimeter. Within a stone surround at the southwest wall is one 5-section bay window with transoms, featuring a diamond pattern of surface-mounted grids (resembling lead comes) over double paned glass. The entry door is the original simplified Tudor Arch wood paneled single door with wrought iron handles and a window featuring a diamond pattern of surface-mounted grid (resembling lead comes) over double paned glass. The middle of the northwest wall has a

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paneled wood door with wood trim entering the meeting room (Photo 015). The northeast side of the northwest wall has a paneled wood door with wood trim entering a small kitchenette space. The northeast wall has three paneled wood doors entering various support spaces for the building. The southeast wall has a wood paneled single door with a window featuring a diamond pattern of surface-mounted grid (resembling lead comes) over double paned glass; this door leads to the Connection Link corridor to the 1925 section of the building. Within a stone surround at the southeast wall is a paired casement window with a diamond pattern of surface-mounted grids (resembling lead comes) over double paned glass. The ceiling is lay-in ceiling tiles with lay-in light fixtures; there is wood crown molding along the perimeter of the space.

First Floor Meeting Room

The entrance to the Meeting Room is on the northwest wall from the Book Shelf room. The Meeting Room has a flat floor and is 24 feet wide and 30 feet deep and is a single story. The floor has gray carpet throughout the space. The walls are yellow painted gypsum drywall with a wood baseboard. Within a stone surround at the middle of the southwest wall is one 5-section bay window with transoms, featuring a diamond pattern of surface-mounted grids (resembling lead comes) over double paned glass. In the middle of the northwest wall there is a stone fireplace with a stone hearth. On either side of the fireplace within stone surrounds there are paired windows with diamond pattern of surface-mounted grids (resembling lead comes) over double paned glass. There is a decorative carving in the stone beneath the mantel. The northeast wall has a wood door leading into a storage room. The southeast wall has two wood doors leading in from the Book Shelf room. The ceiling is acoustical ceiling tile with lay-in lighting fixtures. There is a white painted wood crown molding around the perimeter of the room.

Connection Link

The Connection link has a flat floor and is 22 feet wide and 11 feet deep and connects the 1961 section to the 1925 section. The floor is gray flagstone, which matches the stone in the 1925 porch. The wall on the southwest side has three segmental arched windows to be a contemporary match to the three openings on the 1925 Building. The windows have simple wood trim, and the wall has flat wood paneling. The northwest wall is the exterior stone of the 1961 section. A wood door with diamond pattern of surface-mounted grids (resembling lead comes) over double paned glass and modern hardware enters the space. The northeast wall mirrors the southwest with three segmental arch openings. The middle and the northwest opening are arched storefront double doors with cut stone stairs leading to the sidewalk; the southeast opening has an arched full panel window. The ceiling is acoustical ceiling tile with a wood crown molding.

1983 and 1992 Addition Description

In 1983, the connector and underground level for a future addition was constructed. The connector included an elevator shaft, stairway, and corridor. The underground level was topped by a roof terrace. In 1992, the addition anticipated in 1983 was designed and constructed. It is an approximately L-shaped in plan, two-story with exposed basement, stone and stucco/timber structure that complements the Tudor-Gothic Revival 1925 Building and 1961 Addition. The method of construction for the 1983 Addition is 12" hollow core precast concrete planks with 2" concrete topping supported on steel girders and columns on the interior and concrete basement walls along the exterior. The method of construction for the 1992 Addition is hollow core precast

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with 2" topping supported on steel girders. The roofs of the 1992 Addition are clipped gable in form. Roofing is slate to match the 1925 Building and 1961 Addition. Dormer windows and projecting bays with clipped gable roofs are incorporated on this building.

On the southwest elevation, according to the drawings, the 1983 side-gable connector was altered in 1992 to resemble half of a front-gable. The 1992 connector has a steep shed roof that meets a chimney-like structure (Photos 003, 016). Approximately on-center there is a pairing of windows and a door. The windows are on the northwest side and are a set of two that is set in a segmental arched stone surround and runs from floor to the ceiling; the wood single leaf door is on the southeast side and has stone voussoirs at its segmental arched head. Above the window and door pairing there is a band echoing the Tower's crenelated parapet; above the band in line with the door is a round arched window set in a stone surround. The 1992 Addition's southwest elevation to the southeast of the connector echoes the 1925 Building. Aligning with the 1925 Building's front-gabled section is a section mimicking that of the 1925 Building, complete with a projecting bay of five sections of fenestration, but with muntins in wood and spandrel panels in stucco. A clipped gable roof tops the projecting bay. The lower level is exposed, revealing four windows, but this section is fenced off so that the terraced landscape cannot be accessed (Photo 017).

The 1992 Addition's southeast elevation has a double-doored entry where the southeast elevation meets a recessed southwest elevation. The entry is reached by a walkway covered by a wood trellis structure (Photo 018). To the southwest of the entry are multi-lite casement windows with transoms containing leaded glass in a grape vine motif. These windows are set in stucco and timber. At the second floor is a series of five pairings of dormer windows set in stucco and timber walls. The window arrangements at the southeast elevation first and second floors are approximately mirrored in the adjacent recessed southeast elevation. The protruding northeast section of the southeast elevation beyond the wood trellis structure has a protruding two-story bay of stucco and timber framing multi-lite windows. There is a prominent clipped gable roof topping the bay.

The 1992 Addition's northeast elevation continues the two-story bays of stucco and timber framing multi-lite windows (Photo 019). The southeast end has four window pairings at the first floor and three at the second floor. The exposed Basement has two window pairings. To the northwest is an elevator bay resembling a three-story Tower. The exterior door opens right to the elevator door. Adjacent to the elevator to the northwest is a stairwell, which is read on the exterior by the second floor, angled multi-lite windows following the line of the stair; one may exit the stairwell via an egress door just below grade. The complex's main entry is currently on the northeast elevation to the northwest of the stairwell bay. This provides easy access from the parking lot, which is on the northeast side of the building.

All windows in the 1983 and 1992 Additions are aluminum-clad wood casement units glazed with insulated glass units (IGUs). All doors are wood, generally paneled, except the southwest formal entry doors to the 1961 Addition and the nearby 1961 doors installed into the 1925 and 1961 Porches. These, and the associated adjacent insulated-glazed windows, are fabricated from stainless steel.

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The high-slope portions of the roof are covered in a thick rough-hewn slate fixed to a plank deck. The low-slope portions of the building roof are protected by an adhered single-ply non-scrim (ethylene propylene diene monomer or EPDM) rubber sheet roofing system that appears associated with the 1991 building campaign. All guttering is half-round and supported by conventional cast bronze brackets and fittings. All downspouts terminate in cast-iron piping to a municipal storm sewer.

There is a three-lite aluminum-framed skylight illuminating the entry hall of the 1992 Addition.

Basement Children's Stacks

The Children's Stacks is in the basement of the 1992 section of the building. The room is rectangular in plan with a flat floor and is 41 feet wide and 100 feet deep and is a single story. The flooring is gray carpet throughout the entire space. The walls have a wood baseboard and a light brown textured fabric wall covering up to a picture rail at door height, topped by tan painted gypsum drywall up to the ceiling (Photo 020). The southwest wall has two pairs of casement windows on the northwest end and four small study rooms to the east. The doors into these study rooms are wood with a glass panel. The northwest wall has an entry leading into service space and restrooms are located on this wall. The northeast wall has no openings in it. The southeast wall has one wood door entering the Story Hour room, and one wood door entering a short corridor; wood wainscot accents the southeast wall. The ceiling is lay-in ceiling tiles and lay-in lights throughout, except for in the middle of the space there is an overhead recessed lighting and wood coffer system. The ceiling pulls back from the windows on the southwest wall to allow for light to enter the space. The space is filled with metal and wood library bookshelves.

Basement Story Hour

The Story Hour room is accessed through the Children's Stacks room in the basement of the 1992 section of the building. The room is roughly 'L' shaped in plan with a flat floor and is 39 feet wide and 50 feet deep and is a single story. The flooring is gray carpeting. The walls have a wood baseboard and a light brown textured fabric wall covering up to a picture rail at door height, above there is white painted gypsum wall board. The southwest wall has no openings. The northwest wall has a wood door which enters the Children's Stacks/Seating area. On the southeast wall there is a trapezoid cove which creates a "stage" area for props and story time. The walls in this area are covered in wood paneling from floor to ceiling. The ceiling is lay-in ceiling tiles and lay-in lights. The ceiling is pulled back on the northeast wall around the windows to allow for light to come in; this area has a raised ceiling height.

First Floor Periodicals Room

The Periodicals Room is located on the southwest side of the 1992 section of the building. The room is rectangular in plan with a flat floor and is 41 feet wide and 30 feet deep and is single and double height in areas. The flooring is green carpet. The walls have a wood base board and a Decorite finish painted in a golden brown. The southern 24 feet of this room is double height allowing there to be a double height leaded glass window on the wall (Photos 021 and 022). This window has the initials W.M. in the middle and a grape vine motif around the perimeter. The northwest wall does not have any openings. The northeast end of the space opens to the hallway.

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The southeast wall has three double leaded glass windows with wood frames and the grape motif. The ceiling has a Decorite finish painted in a golden brown and recessed can lights. The flat ceiling is pulled back from the southwest wall about 24 feet making the southern end of the space a double height space with an overlook from the floor above. There is a decorative oak wood truss visible with two candle chandeliers hanging off the truss in this portion of the space. The ceiling is sloped to show the roof form on the interior and the timber wood frame is visible. There are wood bookshelves around the perimeter of the space.

First Floor Circulation

The circulation space is roughly L-shaped in plan and connects the south east entrance and the northeast entrance of the 1992 section of the building. The circulation desk is located where the southern leg and the western leg of the L-shape meet. The southern leg of the hallway runs southeast to northwest for about 65 feet long and is 16 feet deep with a flat floor and is a single height space. The flooring is gray flagstone. The corridor is open to the Periodicals and seating/shelving on either side. The ceiling is flat with deep wood structural beams connecting the wood columns on either side of the hallway. The flat areas within the formed coffers have a Decorite finish painted in a golden brown and there are wrought iron candle chandeliers located in the coffers. The entry vestibule into this space is wood with wood framed windows and wood double doors with leaded glass panels.

The circulation desk is wood paneled and is square in shape with a drop ceiling around the perimeter. The dropped portion has recessed can lights and a Decorite finish painted in a golden brown. The wood columns at the front of the circulation desk have wrought iron lanterns (Photo 006 and 023).

The northern leg of the corridor runs from northeast to southwest for 50 feet deep, stopping at the Entry Lobby, and is 12 feet wide with a flat ceiling. The flooring in this portion of the corridor is gray flagstone and is sloped at 1/12 for ADA accessibility. The northwest wall runs against the southeast exterior wall of the 1925 section of the building. The exterior stone is left exposed in this space. The southeast wall past the circulation desk is wood paneled up 5 feet with a Decorite finish painted in a golden brown up to the ceiling; there is a wood base board on the southeast wall. A wrought iron lantern is on the southeast wall. The flat ceiling has a Decorite finish painted in a golden brown and recessed can lights.

Halfway down the corridor there is a separation door of wood double doors with diamond pattern of surface-mounted grids (resembling lead comes) over double paned glass and wood framed sidelights and transom. In the space past these doors the original steps and retaining wall on the northwest wall are intact with a wood door. The ceiling is sloped on the southeast wall to show the roof form. The timber wood frame and a Decorite finish painted in a golden brown are on the ceiling. The entry into this space on the northeast wall is wood paneled double doors with diamond pattern of surface-mounted grids (resembling lead comes) over double paned glass and wood framed glass sidelights and transom. There is a tripartite arched wood window on both the southeast and northwest walls at the entry of the space to light the entry.

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Second Floor Stacks/Seating

The Stacks/Seating Room is located on the second floor of the 1992 section of the building. The room has a flat floor and is 92 feet wide and 75 feet deep and is a single-story height. The room is irregular in plan due to other stacks and service rooms located on this floor. The flooring is green carpet. The walls have wood base boards with wood wainscotting up to a chair rail then there is gray textured wallpaper over drywall. On the southwest wall there is an overlook with open viewing down into the Periodicals on the floor below. Decorative leaded glass windows are on either side of the overlook opening. The northwest wall has doors and entries into several smaller rooms on this level along with a wood paneled bar/reception desk. There is a portion of a 5-sided bay window on this wall looking into other rooms. On the southeast side the walls slope down due to the roof pitch outside. In this area the walls have decorative wood framing and a Decorite finish painted in a golden brown. The windows on the exterior walls in this space are double casement windows with wood frames and the pattern is 15 lite. The ceiling has recessed light coves in areas; the sides of these coves are covered with wood and the ceiling in the lighting coves have a Decorite finish painted in a golden brown. The remainder of the ceiling has drop ceiling tiles. Decorative wood beams have been applied to the ceiling to be a contemporary match to the lighting coves (Photo 024).

Historic Integrity

The Wagnalls Memorial reflects each of the seven (7) aspects of historic integrity, and conveys the significance and long-term impact of early 20th century industrial-based wealth and philanthropy in a small rural town. The multiple additions to the building showcase how the importance and value for literary pursuits in Lithopolis grew over the years and how the library influenced the community around it. The Wagnalls Memorial retains historic integrity in terms of an overall feeling and association with a community library and community center, creating a space for the public to gather, socialize, and learn. The overall feeling and association with the library are supported by its original location and setting, design, and layout of the interior spaces, and high-quality materials and workmanship of character defining features.

The **location and setting** of the Wagnalls Memorial are significant and intact and has anchored the southeast end of E. Columbus Street since 1925. Its location on E. Columbus Street, one of the main streets in Lithopolis, is indicative of an early 20th century library being accessible to all in the small-town community.

The **design** of the Wagnalls Memorial as it exists today reflects the historic functions of an early 20th century library and auditorium for a small community movie theater, and the additions show community growth and interest in literary pursuits over the decades. Although additions have been added to the original 1925 Wagnalls Memorial, the additions reference and complement the overall design intent of the building. The additions were constructed with a similar style and similar materials to keep the building reading as one whole, but with distinct sections. While some spaces have been altered through the years, these changes do not alter the function or flow of the building.

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The **materials** of the Wagnalls Memorial are intact on the exterior. The sandstone, partial stucco-and-half-timber, and wood detailing are in good condition. The interior Decorite walls and ceilings are intact throughout the original building along with the 1992 Addition.

The **workmanship, feeling, and association** of the Wagnalls Memorial as an early 20th century library and community gathering place are still evident through the main library in the 1925 portion, the auditorium in the 1925 portion, and the additional library and gathering spaces in the 1961, 1983, and 1992 Additions. The intact Tudor Revival style in Lithopolis stands out from other buildings downtown.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1925-1970

Significant Dates

1925, 1961

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Sims, Ray

Sims, Cornelius & Schooley Architects & Engineers

James A. Monsul & Assoc., Architects

McDonald, Cassell & Bassett, Inc., Architects/Planners

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Wagnalls Memorial in Lithopolis, Bloom Township, Fairfield County, Ohio, meets Criterion A (Social History) at the state level of significance for its contribution to the broad patterns of history. The building reflects the long-term impact of early 20th century industrial/business-fueled wealth which impacted both urban and rural areas of Ohio through philanthropic efforts. Successful residents or legacy families of rural communities gave back to their hometowns by sharing ideas that helped them succeed, through the building of educational and cultural facilities that also added to popular 20th century movements for progressive education and culture to the masses. The 1925 Wagnalls Memorial building contains a library, community center, museum, auditorium, and meeting rooms. A gift to the village of Lithopolis and Bloom Township, the Wagnalls Memorial and later its endowed Wagnalls Memorial Foundation, were created and funded by Mabel Wagnalls Jones in memory of her parents, Hester Anna Willis Wagnalls and Adam W. Wagnalls, co-founder of the Funk & Wagnalls publishing company, both of whom were born in Lithopolis. The Wagnalls Memorial Foundation, as originally conceived by benefactress Mabel Wagnalls Jones, later offered a scholarship fund for local graduates that is still in existence today.

The Period of Significance begins in 1925 with the construction of the Wagnalls Memorial, and ends in 1970 reflecting the initial impact of the construction of the 1961 library addition, the first addition built after Mabel Wagnall's death and reflecting the legacy of her philanthropy through the Wagnalls Memorial Foundation. The 1961 addition, primarily an additional children's library space, was constructed to better serve the growing population of children in the region and was designed by the same architect that designed the 1925 Memorial, Ray Sims, both in the Tudor-Gothic style. During the 1960-1970 time period Lithopolis experienced a dramatic 71.5% increase in population, with the children's library serving as the primary library for the local school and the impact of the Wagnalls Memorial scholarships are beginning to be gauged. The educational and cultural Wagnalls Memorial building, its Tudor Revival style building dominating its location in the village, reflects the vision and generosity of its benefactress, Mabel Wagnalls Jones, and adds to the greater awareness of the localized philanthropic gestures benefitting Ohio's rural populations during the early 20th century.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide a paragraph for each area of significance.)

HISTORIC CONTEXT: OHIO PHILANTHROPY AND INDUSTRIAL WEALTH

The generosity to her parent's hometown of Lithopolis expressed by Mabel Wagnalls Jones through the creation of the Wagnalls Memorial paralleled large scale philanthropy in the nation which grew in the span of two generations after the Civil War. This was due to an "unprecedented number of Americans {becoming} rich and powerful enough to shape

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community and national affairs by themselves.”¹ They used their money for the improvement of mankind with much of the money being funneled into science, education and public health.²

Ohio had become a powerful state economically after the end of the Civil War through to the mid-twentieth century. It participated in America’s industrial growth and by 1930 it was the fourth most populous state in the country. Major industrial centers developed in both large urban cities and smaller cities.

This industrial/business-fueled wealth-based philanthropy shaped cultural and educational activities in Ohio because of having wealth spread across the state in large and small communities. People with the means to give would provide the funding for causes they supported and to enhance the lives of the workers and their communities who supported their factories and businesses. This philosophy in Ohio aligned with the Progressive movement which brought major changes to the United States during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The movement’s goals addressed people’s economic and societal situations, by strengthening the roles of local, state, and national government including greater regulatory oversight of industry and business, but also public education and aspects of general health and safety. Progressivism strove for reform which would end the chasm between excessive wealth and extreme poverty which had deepened during the Gilded Age. In addition to government leadership; social, cultural, and educational causes were championed by a growing number of charitable, religious, and fraternal organizations, often lead by well-to-do men and women. The resulting impact to the built environment included the design and building of libraries, schools, and cultural institutions including auditoriums, theaters, and museums. The Wagnalls Memorial exhibits a combination of almost all of these cultural and educational functions provided for in the facility Mabel Wagnalls Jones built and funded for the citizens of Lithopolis.

In the United States, industrial-wealth-based philanthropy has most notably created a robust public library system. It was Andrew Carnegie’s investments in the creation of new public libraries during the turn of the 20th century that created the most impactful, lasting gift to American society: the access to literary resources no matter one’s economic or ethnic background. It is almost without a doubt that Mabel Wagnalls Jones knew of Carnegie’s support of over 1,600 libraries (111 in Ohio) and sought to emulate his generosity so that her legacy would generate gratitude among the small-hometown community of her parents, Lithopolis, located just outside Ohio’s capital city of Columbus. While Mabel’s husband was involved in the Pittsburgh steel industry where Carnegie made his wealth, there is no information which supports a direct influence or relationship with Andrew Carnegie.

Andrew Carnegie helped set the model for examples of industrial wealth-based philanthropy, most visibly through his libraries, but additionally through his efforts to encourage others of wealth to give back. In 1889 Carnegie published an essay, titled “Wealth” in the *North American Review*. In it he outlined what became known as the “Gospel of Wealth” explaining that wealthy

¹ Zunz, Olivier, *Philanthropy in America*. Princeton (New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 2012), 14

² Ibid. 14.

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individuals had a responsibility to use their wealth to benefit society. The article listed the examples of philanthropic investments including universities, schools, free libraries, hospitals, parks, meeting and concert halls, swimming pools, parks, and churches.

Carnegie referenced merchant Enoch Pratt's model of sponsoring new libraries: in 1886, Pratt financed five new libraries in Baltimore on the condition that the City would pay for operating expenses in perpetuity. Carnegie followed this model and required that cities requesting his support of new libraries generate taxpayer support to fund operating expenses of the libraries. Apart from Carnegie's first library project in his hometown in Scotland and libraries located in Pennsylvania towns where his steel mills were located, Carnegie did not have a personal connection to the locations benefiting from his donations, nor did he intend to have an ongoing commitment to the project. This lack of direct or ongoing financial or other involvement differs from the examples set forth by Mabel Wagnalls Jones and similar non-Carnegie industrial/business wealth-based philanthropy in Ohio.

MABEL WAGNALLS JONES

The story of the Wagnalls Memorial is rooted in gratitude and generosity to share a love of the arts, and ultimately, a commitment to a rural community tied to her family history. Mabel Wagnalls Jones (1869-1946) very much appreciated her upbringing as a musician and writer in Kansas City, Missouri; Atchison, Kansas; and New York City as the only child to Hester Anna Willis (1846-1914) and Adam Willis (1843-1924) Wagnalls. Mabel lived a comfortable life as a child and as an adult. Although her father Adam started his career in theology as a Lutheran minister, he moved his young family to New York City when Mabel was five, to co-own the publishing company of Funk and Wagnall's which allowed the family to achieve high levels of wealth. This wealth allowed Anna and Adam to raise their only child exposed to a world of culture and educated with the best resources. Adam was educated in public schools and at Wittenberg College, Springfield, Ohio, where he graduated in 1866 with an A.B. degree, studying for the ministry, and later attaining a degree of Litt.D. in 1915. He married Anna Willis, also a native of Lithopolis, on June 4, 1868. His first occupation was as the Lutheran pastor of the First English Lutheran Church in Kansas City, Missouri, and city clerk in Atchison, Kansas before joining Funk and Wagnalls a decade later.³

MABEL'S FAMILY

Mabel treasured her visits to her grandmother and extended family in the small village of Lithopolis, Ohio, fewer than twenty miles southeast of Columbus, central Ohio's cultural hub. Although Mabel never lived in Lithopolis, Mabel felt bound to her parents' hometown and her mother Anna's wish for a community gathering space in Lithopolis that would celebrate the performing arts and literature. Following the death of her mother in 1914, Mabel began making plans to honor her mother's memory with her efforts culminating in the building of the Wagnalls Memorial facility for artistic and literary pursuits and donating it to the small community of Lithopolis upon its completion in 1925. During its construction Mabel's father also passed away.

³ New World Encyclopedia.com, "Adam Willis Wagnalls." Accessed May 25, 2022.
https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Adam_Willis_Wagnalls.

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It is reported that the poet Edwin Markam (1852- 1940), when eulogizing at Mabel's father's funeral, said "This work [the Memorial building] was conceived in love. It rose out of her [Mabel's] love for her parents of blessed memory, and also out of her love for her people. She desires that others shall have the cultural opportunities that were denied to her parents in those early days in the Mid-West." Note that Mabel dedicated one of the Tower rooms to Edwin Markam's manuscripts, which tended to espouse progressive beliefs, reinforcing Mabel's charge as patroness to small-town Ohio. At the turn of the 20th century, promoters of progressive education believed in improving the social development of the communities mind, spirit and body, and especially the young students, through exposure to the arts, nature study, science, health, social living, and physical education in addition to the basics of reading, writing, and mathematics.⁴

Mabel appears to be a product of her time, as it was fashionable during the early 20th century to glorify the purity of rural life in contrast to the vices abounding in cities. Further, the Tudor-Gothic Revival style chosen for the building celebrates a Northern European heritage and was often associated with educational institution architecture of the time -- reinforcing an idealized village setting.

Mabel's philanthropy has left a lasting imprint on the town, with an enthusiastic community that has expanded on the original building, first in 1961 with an Addition to the northwest (juvenile library/conference room/office/storage), and again in 1983 and 1992 with Additions to the east. The 1983 Addition was underground and expanded the Library: adult non-fiction, audio-visual, offices, and reading rooms; a large flagstone patio was built above at grade. The 1992 Addition added greater space for books and a second-floor event space. The Tudor-Gothic Revival-inspired Wagnalls Memorial is a rare and true treasure to a small Ohio village and its environs, a lasting monument to the legacy of the Wagnalls family.

THE WAGNALLS FAMILY SETTLES IN LITHOPOLIS DURING THE 19TH CENTURY

The Wagnalls Memorial stands in the small Village of Lithopolis (founded in 1814-15) in Bloom Township, Fairfield County, Ohio. This county historically was known for agriculture. During the early 1800s, Lithopolis was a stop on the stagecoach line between Columbus and Lancaster. Mabel Wagnalls Jones' mother Hester Anna Willis and father Adam were born into poor families in Lithopolis. Many families, like the families of Anna and Adam, occupied log cabins. Employment in the area offered positions as a tanner, flour mill operator, pump factory worker, potter, or proprietor of a hotel, in addition to work as a shopkeeper, such as in one of the five dry goods stores.

The value of a good education in the arts and a hard work ethic were instilled in Anna and Adam as children, and these shared values are what brought them together and what they passed along

⁴ Clyde Henry, "Greenfield Exempted Village School Campus", [Greenfield, Ohio], SAH Archipedia, eds. Gabrielle Esperdy and Karen Kingsley, Charlottesville: UVaP, 2012, Accessed April 12, 2022, <http://sah-archipedia.org/buildings/OH-01-071-0061>.

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to their daughter Mabel. Mabel even had the opportunity to live in Paris and Berlin as a child, studying languages, music, and piano in those cities.

Mabel Wagnalls in a 1925 interview for the magazine *Success*, states:

It [the Memorial building] is a memorial of love. My parents were born here [Lithopolis] in the utmost poverty – in log cabins. My father left home early for another village, but my mother spent her girlhood here with her mother and grandmother. That grandmother – my great-grandmother – was born in the Southeast and lived in affluence until she married a poor ‘Westward Ho!’ young man and followed his fortune in the West. It was to this heritage of poverty and past grandeur that my mother was born, a studious, bright child, always at the head of her classes. At fifteen she had outstripped all runners, passed the county examinations and secured a position as school-teacher.⁵

Mabel’s mother would later go on to study at Xenia College. “It is to fulfill this wish of hers that I have long dreamed and now at last have done what I know she would have had me do – give to the boys and girls of Lithopolis the opportunities for which she had to struggle so hard.”⁶ Upon the death of Hester Anna Wagnalls in 1914, to honor her mother Mabel established and gifted the Wagnalls Memorial Library and established The Wagnalls Memorial Foundation a few years later. The library and community center were designed and built by 1925. Her father Adam Wagnalls died in 1924 before the buildings were finished.

THE COMPANY OF FUNK AND WAGNALLS

Isaac Kaufmann Funk founded the publishing company I.K. Funk & Company in 1876 in Manhattan (New York City). Adam Wagnalls joined his college classmate (Wittenberg College, Springfield, Ohio) in 1877 as a partner. They renamed the firm to Funk & Wagnalls in 1890. The firm was known as publishers of the *Literary Digest*, and an extensive line of encyclopedias, dictionaries, and reference works. The firm redefined how dictionary definitions were listed in 1894 with *The Standard Dictionary of the English Language*, which was the “first of its kind to list current definitions first, archaic definitions second, and etymologies last.”⁷ Before this, the opposite order was common which made the dictionary more of a historical record of the language. The company’s goal was to provide information in a simple and thorough manner. They followed the success of the dictionary with *Funk & Wagnalls Standard Encyclopedia* in 1912.

Isaac’s son, Wilfred J. Funk, was president of the firm from 1925 to 1940. In the 1950s, Unicorn Press bought the rights to publish the encyclopedia and began selling the reference book through a supermarket campaign where shoppers could purchase the latest volume on their shopping visit. This marketing strategy encouraged weekly visits to ensure one could complete the set

⁵ Horton Marion. “Mabel Wagnalls – American Genius Erects Memorial to Her Father and Mother: So this is Lithopolis?” *Success the Human Magazine* (September 1925): Volume IX, Number 9, page 41.

⁶ *Ibid*, 41 and 83.

⁷ Biblio.com, “Funk and Wagnalls.” Accessed May 25, 2022. <https://www.biblio.com/publisher/funk-wagnalls>.

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before the volume sold out.⁸ In 1965 The Reader's Digest Association purchased the company, and after various other owners, World Book acquired Funk & Wagnalls in 2009.⁹

Adam Wagnalls wrote in a 1905 letter to a Lithopolis friend that never in his wildest dreams would he imagine running a company with "aggregate receipts exceeding a million¹⁰ per year."¹¹

A GIFT TO LITHOPOLIS, WAGNALLS MEMORIAL 1920 THROUGH WWII

In 1920, 51-year-old Mabel married the Pittsburgh native, lawyer, Yale University professor, and steel executive Richard Jones (1875-1929).

Shortly after their marriage, the couple threw themselves into the design and construction of the Memorial building after the 1914 establishment of the Wagnalls Memorial Library and the Wagnalls Memorial Foundation. In 1920, Lithopolis was a small rural community outside of Columbus with only 282 residents, which had dropped from its prior peak of 404 residents in 1880. The community did not have a library or other cultural facilities at that time. The memorial soon became a valuable space for community activities. In Mabel's scrapbook, a 1938 news clipping states: "All public meetings are held in the memorial auditorium, such as Parent-Teacher' Association and Farmers' Protective Association gatherings."¹²

Mabel financed the \$500,000 (equivalent to \$14,520,404 in 2022) required, and Richard served as the construction administrator. Ray Sims, a young architect from Columbus, designed the 1925 Building. As a founding partner in 1944 of Sims, Cornelius & Schooley Architects & Engineers, Columbus, he was also the architect of the 1961 Addition. A quote attributed to Sims reads, "To the Wagnalls family I shall be eternally grateful, for they gave me my first important chance to amount to something. They trusted me, a young and unknown architect; they trusted the local craftsmen. Their approach to the building operation was unusual." Richard championed the work of the local men: "That is really one of the wonderful parts of the whole story of Lithopolis. As nearly as possible we used local men and materials in construction. Every workman in Lithopolis worked for the love of the thing he was creating. Possibly not since the days of the Guilds has so much genuine interest gone into the erection of a building."¹³

According to a 1925 interview with Mabel Wagnalls for the magazine *Success*, the "Memorial Building, with its moving picture, organ and piano concerts, its library, its community rooms, its paintings, and its collection of art objects brings people thronging from a radius of more than a hundred miles."¹⁴ The article even boasts that the building "is the finest Tudor-Gothic structure in America."¹⁵

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Biblio.com, "Funk and Wagnalls." Accessed May 5, 2022. <https://www.biblio.com/publisher/funk-wagnalls>.

¹⁰ \$1 million in 1905 equals approximately \$32,670,909 in 2022 dollars, adjusted for inflation.

¹¹ Carol Gaal, "History of Lithopolis and Wagnalls Memorial." February 7, 2019.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid, 83.

¹⁴ Ibid, 41.

¹⁵ Ibid, 41.

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Success reported the popularity of the building and events: “On Sunday afternoons an organ recital is given on the Welte-Mignon reproducing pipe organ, playing either records or responding to the human touch. As many as 1500 people have been counted as entering the Auditorium and listening to the compositions of the masters. In the Auditorium also is a Welte-Mignon reproducing piano. A moving picture apparatus has been installed and Lithopolis, that never before had a picture show, now has pictures twice a week in the Auditorium.”¹⁶ The use of the facility has been consistent over the period of significance and into present time.

Success reported on the fine materials and details of the building: “It [the Memorial] is intended to spread the influences of culture and provide a community center, a place to stimulate and satisfy a desire for the beautiful things of life. At every turn, the eye is met with beautiful, inspiring symbols worked out in carved wood, stone, or in the lead pane glass windows.”¹⁷

Mabel placed a quote over the fireplace in the fiction room in her own handwriting, done in stone: “Dreams long dwelt on amount to prayer, and prayer wrought in faith comes true.” *The Rosebush of a Thousand Years*, by Mabel Wagnalls Jones.

Following the completion of the Wagnalls Memorial and for the rest of her life Mabel oversaw the financial activities of the Memorial, paying all the bills and giving attention to its operation. Upon her death in 1946 Mabel’s will provided that a board of Trustees would assume oversight of the Wagnalls Memorial and the Wagnalls Memorial Foundation.¹⁸

The village of Lithopolis saw strong growth from 1940 to 1970, when it reached a population of 705 residents. Fairfield County was also growing with an average increase of nearly 8% each decade from 1900 to 1950. The Wagnalls Memorial in Lithopolis was a well-received amenity in this growing area.

MABEL WAGNALLS JONES’S LEGACY, POST-WWII AND THROUGH THE 1950s

When Mabel Wagnalls Jones passed away in 1946, a memorial was held for her at the Wagnalls Memorial. The local school took children to the Wagnalls Memorial to honor their benefactor, most of these children had never met Mabel, but they used the books in the Library, participated in community dinners in the banquet hall in the basement, and attended shows in the Memorial Auditorium.¹⁹ These children and the next generations would feel Mabel’s impact on Lithopolis and Bloom Township decades later.

Since Mabel did not have any children. She left her \$2.5 million fortune²⁰ to support the Wagnalls Memorial and the Wagnalls Memorial Foundation. The foundation would support the

¹⁶ Ibid, 83.

¹⁷ Ibid, 84.

¹⁸ “Memorial Makes Lithopolis Unique,” *Country Living*, October 1984, pp. 9, 16.

¹⁹ Ed McCoy, “Lithopolis Pay Tribute to donor of Stately \$500,000 Wagnalls Memorial.” Publication Unknown. 1946.

²⁰ \$2.5 million in 1946 equals approximately \$36,859,487 in 2022 dollars, adjusted for inflation.

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upkeep of the Wagnalls Memorial to perpetuate the library, continue to provide the town with cultural programs, the upkeep of the local cemetery, and a scholarship program for higher education set up for the residents of Bloom Township. The original endowment was meant to maintain the entire building and its contents. This financial structure continued until 2004, at which time the Fairfield County's Public Library Fund (PLF), funding which had been sought since a 2001-2002 loss in investments, supported the Library's staff, books, programs, etc.²¹

In 1948, the scholarship program was open to graduating seniors; there were five (5) students who accepted the \$450 per year to attain a higher education that first year. The only restrictions for this scholarship, when it was originally set up, was the students had to be Bloom Township residents, attend school for 2 years, and have a "genuine ambition to be scholars." The scholarship program was labeled as, "a unique experiment in mass education."²²

By 1953, the scholarship program was received by 36 students and one of the first recipients graduated with a teaching degree and returned to Bloom Township to teach first and second grade.²³

Between 1950 and 1960, population in Fairfield County significantly increased from its steady 8% to 22.6% equaling 63,912 residents. From 1940 – 1970 the village of Lithopolis experienced a steady increases in population – a 21.5% increase between 1940 and 1950; 17.4% increase between 1950 and 1960; and its most dramatic 71.5% increase between 1960 and 1970. Much of this population increase appears to result from the rapid post World War II growth and expansion of Columbus and its surrounding communities. Coupled with the postwar baby boom, the Memorial's library services needed expansion, and Wagnalls responded with an Addition in 1961.

EXPANSION OF THE WAGNALLS MEMORIAL, 1961 TO 1970

In 1961, the Memorial board of Trustees deemed it necessary to expand the facility due to the increased use of the Library and the enthusiastic acceptance of the Mabel Wagnalls Jones Scholarship. A children's library was the major part of this addition because almost 300 of the 400 elementary age patrons of the Library attended Bloom School which had no library at the time and it was reported that this expansion doubled reading interest in Lithopolis due to many new books being added (1961). The citizens of Lithopolis crowded every inch of the new addition which was designed in "perfect harmony" with the original Tudor-Gothic style building. The Memorial still serves as the primary library since its inception for northern Fairfield County and the area of Bloom Township where Lithopolis resides.²⁴ With this 1961 addition, Bloom elementary school children began weekly visits to check out books, a summer reading program for children was started, and overall use of the facility continued for school and community events. The 1961 Addition was the first major addition to the Wagnalls Memorial following

²¹ Email to Perspectus from the Wagnalls Memorial Foundation Board of Directors, October 26, 2021. "During this time [c2004], the Foundation also sold a couple of their original Norman Rockwell's along with other valuable collections."

²² Eugene Grove, "Mrs. Jones Scholarship Fund Produces First Graduate." Publication Unknown. 25 (April 1953).

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Wagnalls Library Advisory Board, Minutes, August 14, 2003.

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Mabel Wagnalls Jones's death in 1946. Its primary use as a children's library serving as the library for the local public school reflects the legacy of Mabel's vision and generous contribution to Lithopolis, Bloom Township, and Fairfield County and the continued impact of her gift through the Wagnalls Memorial Foundation she provided for in her will.

The library provided many long-running programs which fueled the need for more space. The monthly Travelogue Series were held in the auditorium from 1960 through to 2005. The Summer Reading Program started sometime before 1964, and the State Library of Ohio became involved and worked with the Wagnalls Children's Staff from 1981-1991 to provide a statewide theme, program ideas and an annual training workshop. Elementary graduations, school programs, and school concerts have been held in the theatre from the 1920's until 2001.²⁵

WAGNALLS MEMORIAL, 1970 TO PRESENT

Additional programs came to the library in the 1970s which continued to fulfill Mabel's desire to spread culture and stimulate learning. Story Time started around the 1970s and still continues today. Children's Author Visits was a program from the mid-1980s to mid-1990s, where Fairfield County second to sixth graders would submit stories to win a chance to spend the day with famous authors visiting the Wagnalls.²⁶ Additional organizations were developing locally apart from but in association with the Memorial. The Lithopolis Area Fine Arts Association was founded in 1973 to encourage visual and performing arts in the community and was active through to 2012.

By 1983, there were 7,500 residents in Bloom Township. This population increase can partially be attributed to families moving to Bloom Township to receive the Mabel Jones Wagnalls scholarship.²⁷ By the 2020 census, Lithopolis had grown to 2,134 residents.

The impact of the scholarship program in encouraging students to attain a higher education can be seen through the statistic of 70% of the town's seniors entering college, which is above the national average. The scholarship was increased to \$1,000 per year for 8 years and between 1948 and 2003 scholarships totaling \$6,763,108 had been awarded to 3,221 students attending 276 colleges/universities.²⁸

The Memorial at this time was an extremely useful and valuable asset to the community due to it providing many kinds of programs for all ages; this popularity required another expansion in 1983.²⁹ The 1983 Addition expanded the basement level by adding a small above ground structure which leads down into the basement addition. The addition included a supplementary library area and work area, study rooms, an office, restrooms, and audiovisual spaces.

The 1992 Addition, designed in the Tudor-Gothic Revival style, continued the style of the previous buildings and expanded services to the community. This addition included a renovation

²⁵ Carol Gaal interview with Tami Morehart, November 22, 2021.

²⁶ Gaal interview

²⁷ Higher Education Daily, 1983, page 5.

²⁸ The Wagnalls Memorial Foundation flyer, *Financial Summary*. 2004.

²⁹ Ibid.

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of the 1983 basement addition along with the addition of a Story Hour room and some administration space on the basement level. On the first floor a periodicals section was added, more shelving space, a circulation desk with administrative space, and two additional entrances. The addition included a second story with additional book storage and seating areas for community gatherings.

The community of Lithopolis and the board members at the Wagnalls Memorial have shown their gratitude to Mabel Wagnalls Jones through the continued upkeep and expansion of the Memorial. Since Mabel donated the structure in 1925, the broader community has used the facility to its fullest capacity. The Memorial's expansion and upkeep have been mostly funded by the endowment which Mabel left the community, and only after 2004, decades after the end of the Period of Significance, has taxpayer assistance been sought and secured. The board has taken extra effort to keep these additions in the original Tudor-Gothic Revival style of the 1925 Building so the Memorial can continue to serve as a cohesive, fitting tribute to the family of Mabel Wagnalls Jones and a useful gift to the Lithopolis community.

COMPARISONS TO SIMILAR PROPERTIES

Libraries and schools were two visible examples where industry-business based wealth and philanthropy resulted in local projects expressing progressive education ideals and bringing the arts and culture to the working class and to rural communities. Buildings were often designed by leading architects and featured interior and exterior decorative details of the finest materials to highlight classical examples of art and architecture within the building and the site. Most schools at this time were funded by government sources but Ohio has a several noteworthy examples of private funding in rural communities for educational and cultural structures. These examples establish an historic context in which to compare the Wagnalls Memorial and the significance of Mabel Wagnalls Jones within this broad pattern of early 20th century wealth-based philanthropy and its impact upon rural communities throughout Ohio. Not to diminish the importance of similarly funded examples of educational and cultural facilities located in urban settings; but within a rural location these properties often were the only such facility to provide these benefits to the community.

The **Warder Public Library** (1890, NR# 78002019) in Springfield, Clark County, was first realized through the donation of funds and its downtown site by local industrialist Benjamin Warder in the 1880s and later funded by the Springfield Library Association which was incorporated with capital stock of \$20,000.³⁰ Similar to the Wagnalls Memorial, the Warder Library was dedicated to the memory of Warder's parents Jeremiah and Ann A. Warder and given to the residents of their hometown of Springfield. Their son, Benjamin Warder, was the largest stockholder and also the co-founder of the Champion brand harvesting machinery. The company merged in 1902 with four other companies to form International Harvester. The 1890 Warder Public Library, in the Richardsonian Romanesque style was designed by Boston firm of Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge. Springfield benefited from multiple manufactures of agricultural equipment used by farmers in the area and also had woolen and cotton textile mills. The city's

³⁰ \$20,000 in 1890 equals approximately \$631,876 in 2022 dollars, adjusted for inflation. Warder Free Library and Reading Room, Society of Architectural Historians Archipedia, <https://sah-archipedia.org/buildings/OH-01-023-0049>, accessed June 3, 2022.

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population nearly doubled from 1900 to 1920, growing from 38,253 to 60,840 due to the success of these farm-related businesses.

Brumback Library (1899-1901, NR# 79001973) in Van Wert, Van Wert County, in northwest Ohio was an early public county-wide library built through the funding of local businessman John Sanford Brumback. Brumback was a local banker and director in the Central Mutual Insurance Company. The Richardsonian Romanesque style library is located on a prominent site several blocks from the Van Wert County Courthouse in downtown Van Wert. The library was designed by David L. Stine, one of Toledo's foremost architects practicing in the early 20th century.

Greenville Carnegie Library and Henry St. Clair Memorial (1901, 1910, NR# 80002986) the early 20th century Neo-classical style buildings are two of the most imposing public buildings in rural Darke County on the far western edge of Ohio. The Carnegie Library (1901) and adjacent Henry St. Clair Memorial Hall (1910) are examples of local philanthropy in a rural county seat. Local wholesale grocer Henry St. Clair and his wife donated \$135,000 to build the hall to serve the community for cultural events and other activities and \$3,650 for furnishings and stained glass windows for the Carnegie Library. The library was designed by W. S. Kaufman, Richmond, Indiana and the Memorial Hall was the work of Columbus architects Howard & Merriam.

Middleport Library (1912, NR# 86000033) is an example of a Carnegie-funded library in a small rural community in southeastern Ohio. The Georgian Revival style building was funded by the Carnegie contribution and by the local school board and a group of citizens who formed the local library board to establish the library.

Paulding County Library (1912, NR# 83002021) in Paulding is an example of one of the earliest Carnegie-funded libraries to serve on a county-wide basis. The Paulding County Library reflected a shift in the use of Carnegie funds from only serving communities with a population of over 2,000 to addressing the needs of a rural rather than urban only populations. The Library was designed by the Columbus architectural firm of Howard & Merriam.

Pickerington Carnegie Library (1916, NR# 93000981) located in Fairfield County along with the Wagnalls Memorial. The village of Pickerington was one of the smallest communities to receive Carnegie funding for a library. The village donated the land and partnered with Violet Township to provide the additional funds and population to meet the requirements for the Carnegie funding and construction of the Tudor Revival style library. Violet Township and the village of Pickerington, had population of 1,766 in 1910, reaching 2,000 by 1911.

McClain High School (1915, OHI Hig-37-2) located in the rural community of Greenfield, Highland County, was built through the generosity of Edward Lee McClain (1861-1934) and his wife Lulu with a \$500,000 donation³¹ for a state-of-the-art high school. They, and the

³¹ \$500,000 in 1915 equals approximately \$14,232,871 in 2022 dollars, adjusted for inflation.

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Greenfield school superintendent F.R. Harris, were promoters of progressive education. McClain stated he constructed the building to offer “the most good to the greatest number for the longest time.”³² Madison Township, which included Greenfield Village, had a population of 5,521 in 1920.³³ McClain began working at age 15 in the harness shop of his father and conceived an idea for a horse collar pad which could be attached with an elastic steel hood, thus improving upon prior models which went over the heads of the horse and could frighten the animal. This became an industry, the largest of its kind. McClain was also known for his development in 1903 of a cotton mill village in Cartersville, Georgia, where the town was laid out for the welfare of the employees with streets, sidewalks, church buildings, schools, community center, swimming pool and playgrounds.³⁴

The original Georgian Revival style school building on the campus was designed by William B. Ittner of St. Louis, Missouri, a leader in educational architecture. As described by Ittner, it is “an educational utopia.”³⁵ It replaced an original three-building school which served 1800 students from kindergarten through high school. The campus was innovative with modern facilities to prepare students for college and vocational trades. It included a 160-piece art collection, Moravian tile panels and stone balustrades, a marble stair entryway, porcelain drinking fountains with Rookwood Pottery tile backsplashes, original murals, and a reproduction of the Parthenon frieze in the corridors. There is a 1,000-seat auditorium designed to also serve the community, with a Skinner pipe organ.³⁶

Chalker High School (1906, NR#12000464) Southington, Trumbull County, was a privately endowed public high school in this rural community which had 749 residents in 1900.³⁷ It was funded through the donation of land and a building by township native Newton Chalker (1842-1921). Chalker was born in Southington and by age 26 had established a law practice in Akron. He also was involved in real estate development and was responsible for subdividing the 20-acre residential tract for the “North Hill” area. He retired at age 51 to devote his time to travel and philanthropy. He was never married and had no children.³⁸

Centralization of one-room district township schoolhouses began in the early years of the twentieth century and Southington citizens voted down building a centralized school in 1903. They approved it in a second poll in 1905 when Chalker proposed that he would fund and build a

³² Greenfield Exempted Village Schools, “McClain History”. Accessed May 25, 2022, <https://www.greenfield.k12.oh.us/McClainHistory.aspx>.

³³ Bureau of the Census, “Fourteenth Census 1920, Summary for the United States, by Geographic Divisions and States.” P. 17.

³⁴ Greenfield Historical Society, “Edward Lee McClain Biography.” The Dragon publication, p 11. Date and publisher unknown. Accessed May 25, 2022, <http://www.greenfieldhistoricalsociety.org/EL%20McClain%20Bio.pdf>.

³⁵ Harry Turner, D. Brook of SCOPS. Ohio Historic Inventory HIG-37-2, Edward Lee McClain High School. July 25, 1977.

³⁶ Clyde Henry, *Greenfield Exempted Village School Campus*, [Greenfield, Ohio], (eds. Gabrielle Esperdy and Karen Kingsley, Charlottesville: UVaP) SAH Archipedia, 2012., Accessed April 12, 2022. <http://sah-archipedia.org/buildings/OH-01-071-0061>.

³⁷ Bureau of the Census, 22.

³⁸ Susan Tietz, *Chalker High School*, NR# 12000464, February 4, 2011, p.10.

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sophisticated, modern high school if the community would centralize the schools and fund the building of an elementary building. He wanted to contribute an impressive and modern high school in a Neo-Classical Revival style, with cultural enrichment for the whole community with a well-stocked public library, community meeting room, and auditorium. He also funded the Methodist and Christian churches, and established a fund for the upkeep of Southington's cemetery.³⁹

These examples illustrate the impact of local industrial/business wealth-based philanthropy upon providing cultural and educational benefits to rural communities and the contributions of these individuals and families to give back to their hometowns or ancestral homes for the betterment of the citizens of these places. Mabel Wagnalls Jones and the Wagnalls Memorial stands out within this broad context for her generous monetary commitment, her continued involvement in the operation of the Wagnalls Memorial during her lifetime and through the Wagnalls Memorial Foundation to carry on her vision. Additionally the Wagnalls Memorial served the community in a variety of functions – public library, school library, community center, theater and auditorium, and a museum that showcased some of Mabel's literary collections and artwork.

CONCLUSION

The Wagnalls Memorial meets Criterion A (Social History) at the state level for significance. The building reflects the long-term impact of early 20th century industrial/business-based wealth and philanthropy in a small rural town, and stands as an example of the state-wide trend of these philanthropists' construction of buildings to support community education and enrichment.

³⁹ Susan Tietz, *Chalker High School*, p.9-10.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Name of repository: The Wagnalls Memorial Library

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.02 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 39.802241 Longitude: -82.805487

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

1. Zone: 17 Easting: 345423 Northing: 4407151

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

As stated in the October 14, 1988, Survey provided by The Wagnalls Memorial Foundation, the following lots are included within the boundary of the National Register Nomination: "Situated in the Village of Lithopolis, in the County of Fairfield, and the State of Ohio, and bounded and described as follows: Being lots numbered. . . forty-five (45), forty-six (46), forty-seven (47), forty-eight (48) forty-nine (49). . .as the same are numbered on the recorded plat of said Village at the Recorder's Office of said County, subject to all legal rights of ways."

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries were selected because the building sections that comprise the Wagnalls Memorial are located on the lots as stated in the October 14, 1988, Survey provided by The Wagnalls Memorial Foundation. This is the historic boundary and includes the extent of the property associated with the historic significance and period significance.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Alice L. Sloan, Assoc. AIA, Olivia Zepp, AIA, Polly Lynam Bloom, Assoc. AIA
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e-mail: asloan@perspectus.com
telephone: (216) 752-1800
date: January 14, 2022, Revised May 6, 2022

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: The Wagnalls Memorial
City or Vicinity: Lithopolis
County: Fairfield State: Ohio

Wagnalls Memorial

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Photographer: Alice L. Sloan, Perspectus Architecture

Date Photographed: Spring 2021

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

(OH_Fairfield County_Wagnalls Memorial_001), 1961 Addition and 1925 Building, southwest elevation. Camera facing southeast.

(OH_Fairfield County_Wagnalls Memorial_002), 1961 Addition, Connection Link, and 1925 Building, southwest elevation. Camera facing northeast.

(OH_Fairfield County_Wagnalls Memorial_003), 1925 Building, southwest elevation entry tower. Camera facing northeast.

(OH_Fairfield County_Wagnalls Memorial_004), 1925 Building, 1983 Addition, and 1992 Addition, southwest elevation. Camera facing east.

(OH_Fairfield County_Wagnalls Memorial_005), 1925 Building, northeast elevation auditorium. Camera facing southwest.

(OH_Fairfield County_Wagnalls Memorial_006), 1992 Addition, first floor showing circulation hallway abutting 1925 section exterior wall. Flagstone flooring, Decorite ceiling, and wood trusses. Camera facing north.

(OH_Fairfield County_Wagnalls Memorial_007), 1925 Building, basement social room. Camera facing northwest.

(OH_Fairfield County_Wagnalls Memorial_008), 1925 Building, interior of entrance lobby in the stair tower. Wood double doors with Tudor arch, flagstone flooring, Decorite plaster walls, and exposed wood structure at ceiling. Camera facing southwest.

(OH_Fairfield County_Wagnalls Memorial_009), 1925 Building, second floor in stair tower. Wood flooring, Decorite walls, and exposed wood structure at ceiling. Camera facing southwest.

(OH_Fairfield County_Wagnalls Memorial_010), 1925 Building, auditorium with concrete floors, Decorite walls and ceiling, wood trusses, and historic seating. Camera facing east.

(OH_Fairfield County_Wagnalls Memorial_011), 1925 Building, main library room. Flagstone flooring, Decorite plaster walls, and oak king post trusses. Camera facing southwest.

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(OH_Fairfield County_Wagnalls Memorial_012), 1925 Building, fireplace in main library room. Painting of Adam Wagnalls and quote from Mabel Wagnalls: "Dreams long dwelt on amount to prayers and prayers wrought in faith come true." Camera facing northwest.

(OH_Fairfield County_Wagnalls Memorial_013), 1961 Addition, northeast elevation rear entrance. Camera facing southwest.

(OH_Fairfield County_Wagnalls Memorial_014), 1961 Addition, basement teenage room with terrazzo flooring, glazed tile walls and historic acoustical ceiling and lighting. Camera facing west.

(OH_Fairfield County_Wagnalls Memorial_015), 1961 Addition, first floor bookshelf room with carpet flooring, historic crown molding, and historic acoustical ceiling and lighting. Camera facing south.

(OH_Fairfield County_Wagnalls Memorial_016), 1925 Building, 1983 Addition, and 1992 Addition. Camera facing northeast.

(OH_Fairfield County_Wagnalls Memorial_017), 1992 Addition, southwest elevation. Camera facing northeast.

(OH_Fairfield County_Wagnalls Memorial_018), 1992 Addition, southwest elevation entrance, patio, and pergola. Camera facing north.

(OH_Fairfield County_Wagnalls Memorial_019), 1992 Addition and 1925 Building, northeast elevation rear service elevator access. Camera facing west.

(OH_Fairfield County_Wagnalls Memorial_020), 1992 Addition, basement children's stacks. Camera facing south.

(OH_Fairfield County_Wagnalls Memorial_021), 1992 Addition, first floor periodicals room and southeast entry. Flagstone and carpet flooring, Decorite walls, wood beams, and Decorite ceiling. Camera facing westsouthwest.

(OH_Fairfield County_Wagnalls Memorial_022), 1992 Addition, first floor periodicals room. Decorite walls, wood beams, and Decorite ceiling. Camera facing east.

(OH_Fairfield County_Wagnalls Memorial_023), 1992 Addition, first floor wood circulation desk. Camera facing northeast.

(OH_Fairfield County_Wagnalls Memorial_024), 1992 Addition, second floor social room. Decorite walls, wood beams, and Decorite ceiling. Camera facing northeast.

Wagnalls Memorial
Name of Property

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County and State

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

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Page 01



Figure 01: The Wagnalls Memorial, screenshot taken from Google Earth
Latitude: 38.802194, Longitude: -82.805444
UTM Coordinates
Easting: 345436, Northing: 4407364

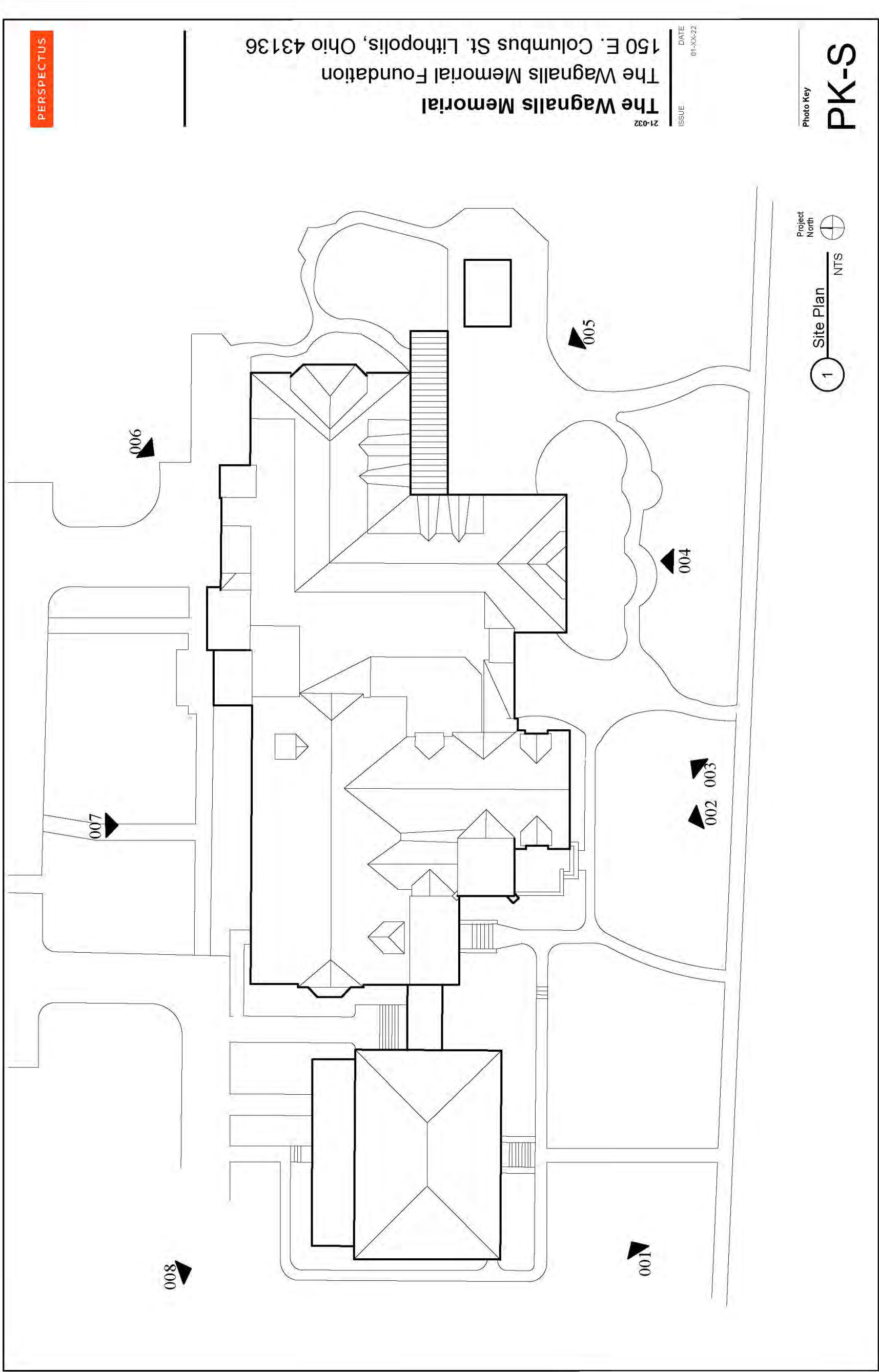
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PERSPECTUS

The Wagnalls Memorial
The Wagnalls Memorial Foundation
150 E. Columbus St. Lithopolis, Ohio 43136

21-032

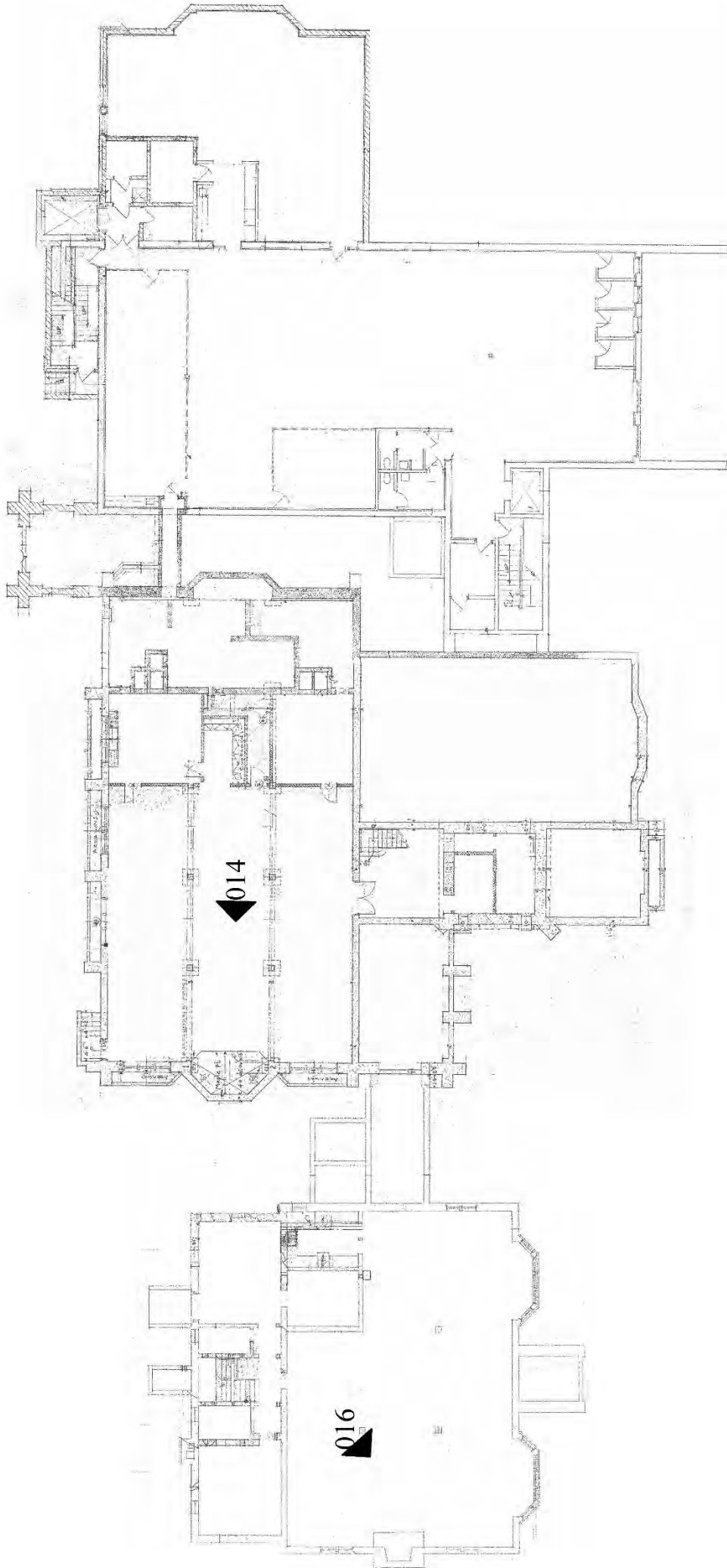
ISSUE
DATE
01-XX-22

Photo Key

PK-0

Project North

1 Basement Plan
NTS



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PERSPECTUS

The Wagnalls Memorial
150 E. Columbus St. Lithopolis, Ohio 43136

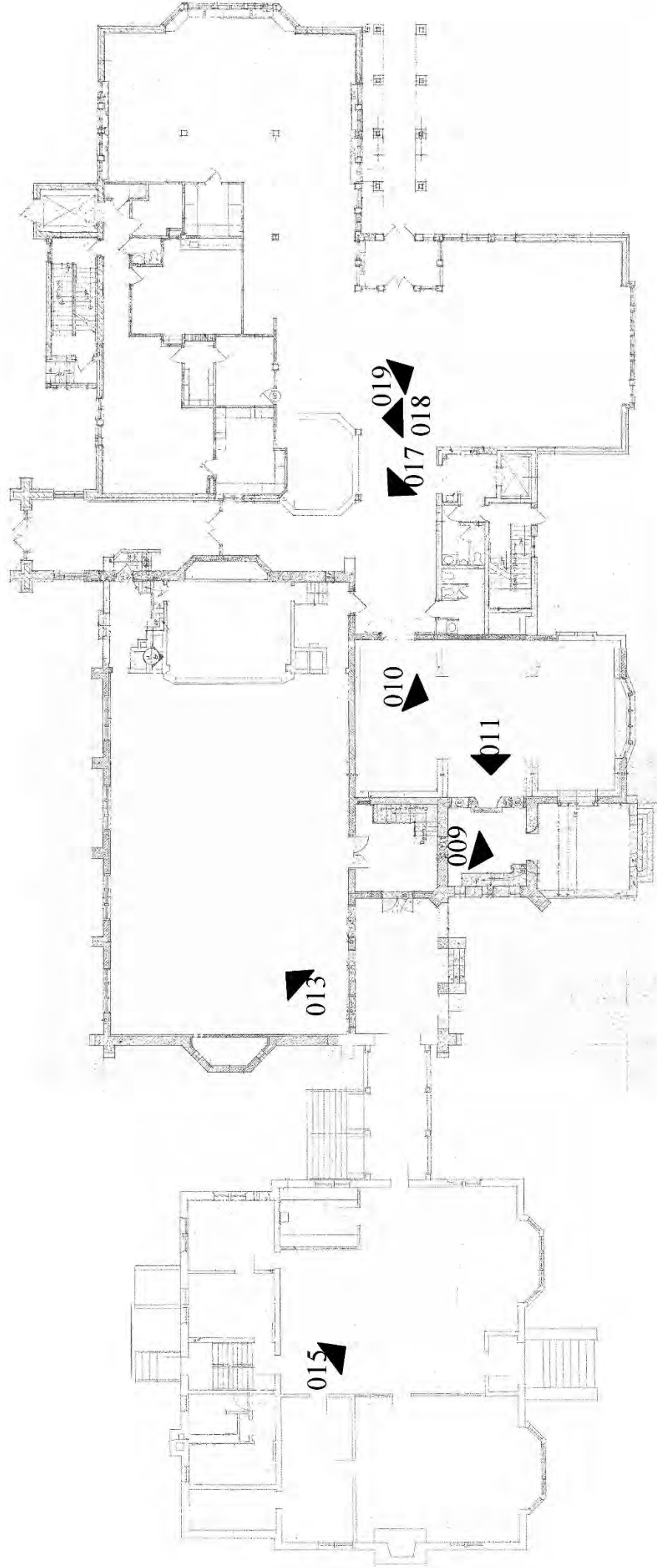
21-032

ISSUE
DATE
01-XX-22

Photo Key

PK-1

Project North
1 First Floor Plan
NTS



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PERSPECTUS

The Wagnalls Memorial
150 E. Columbus St. Lithopolis, Ohio 43136

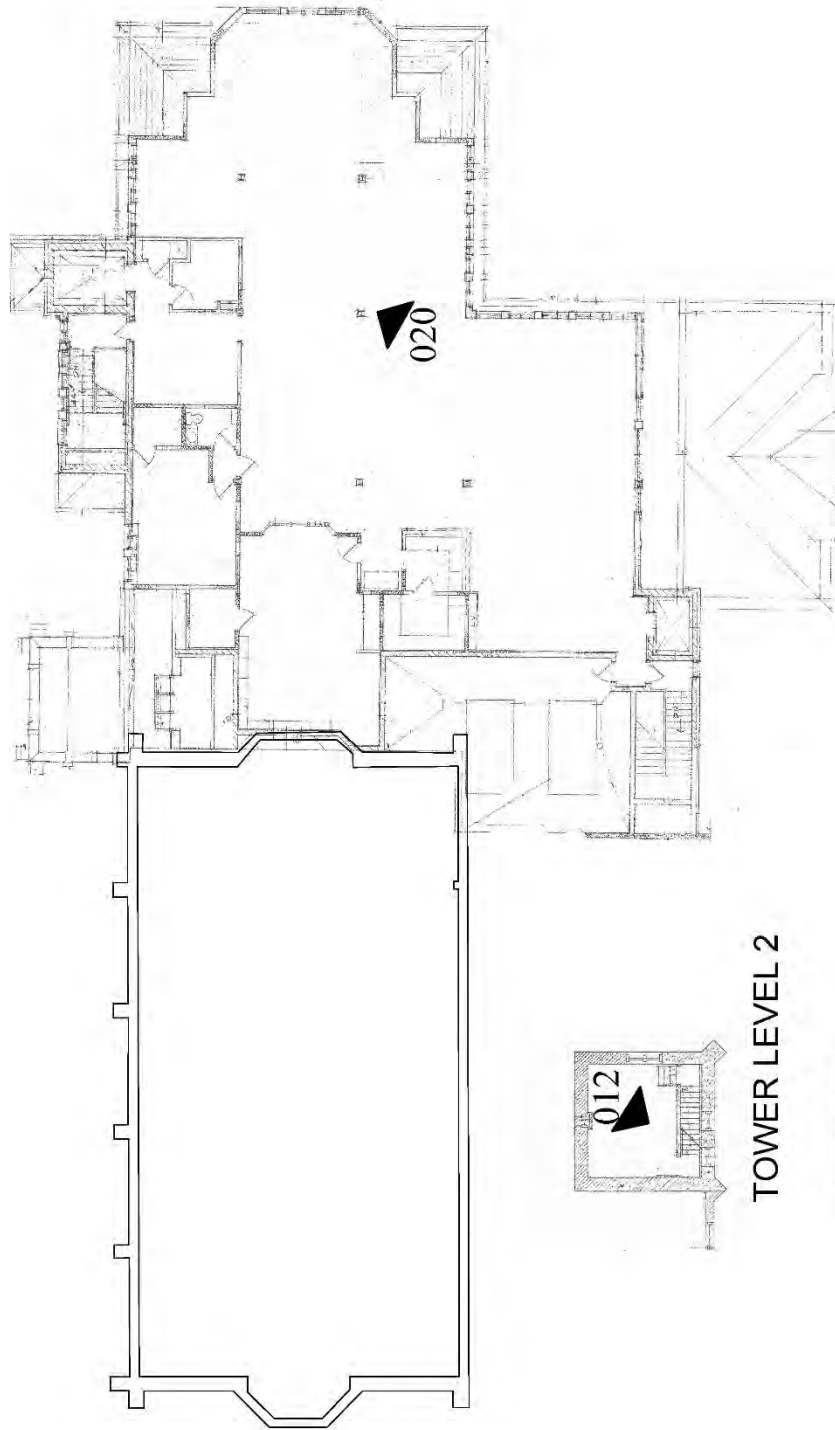
21-032
ISSUE
DATE
01-XX-22

Photo Key
PK-2

Project North



1 Second Floor Plan
NTS



TOWER LEVEL 2

TOWER LEVEL 3

United States Department of the Interior
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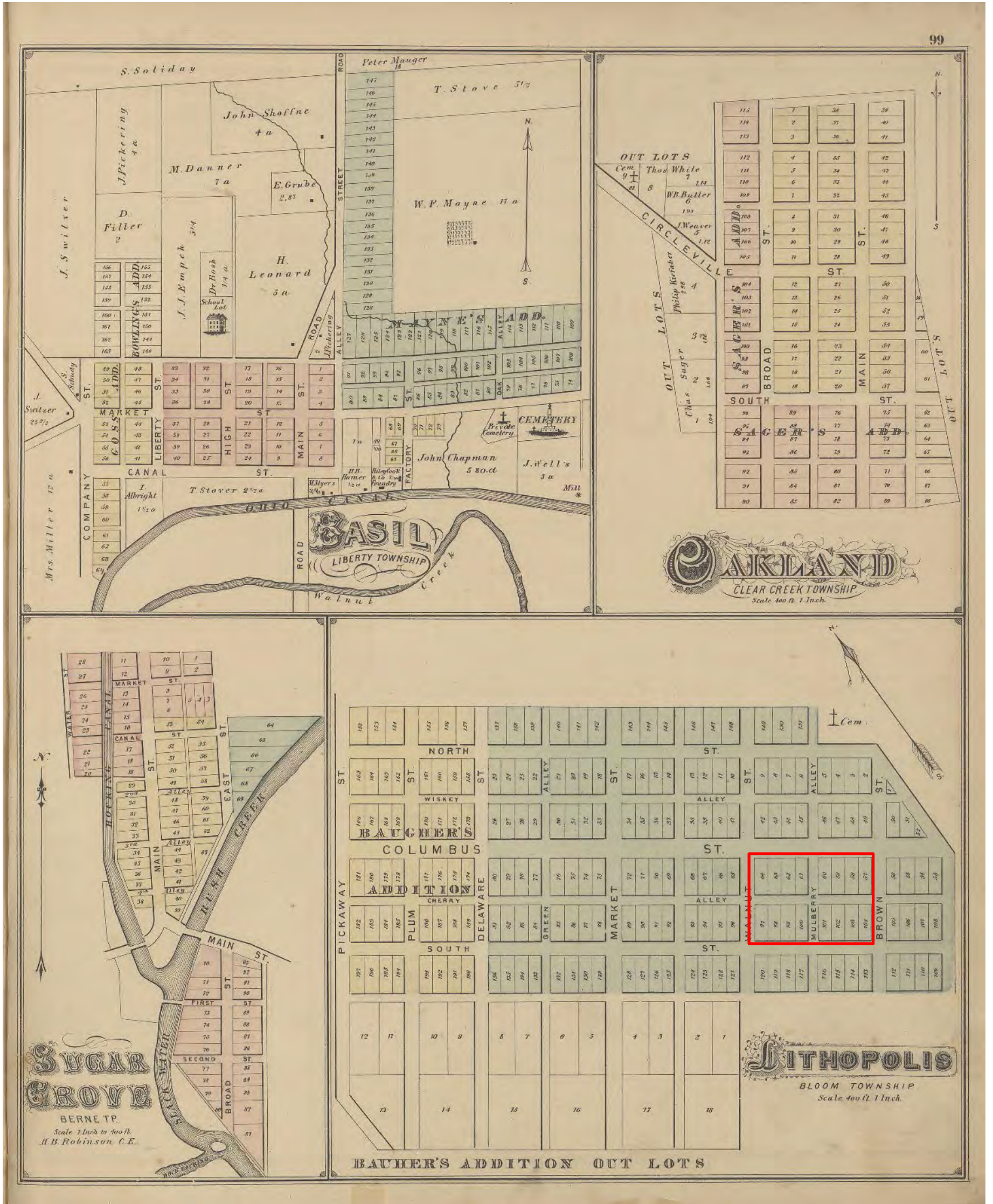


Figure 06: 1875 Map of Lithopolis. Red box indicates future location of Wagnalls Memorial.
Cincinnati & Hamilton County Public Library
Combination Atlas Map of Fairfield County, author: Everts, Louis H., Philadelphia
Publisher: Hunter, Thomas, approximately 1828 – approximately 1984

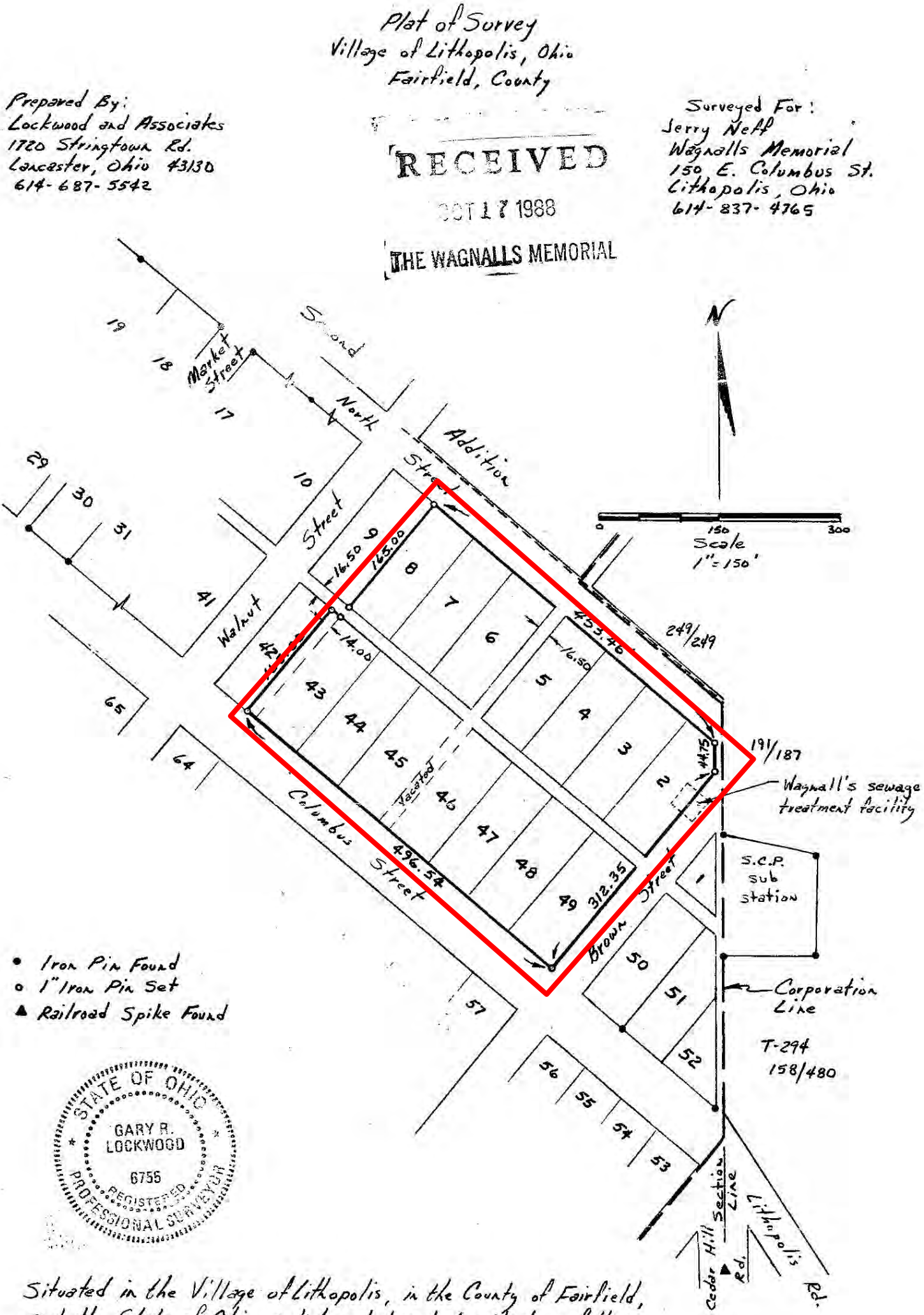
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Situated in the Village of Lithopolis, in the County of Fairfield, and the State of Ohio, and bounded and described as follows.

Being Lots numbered two(2), three(3), four(4), five(5), six(6), Seven(7), Eight(8), Forty-four(44), Forty-five(45), Forty-six(46), Forty-seven(47), Forty-eight(48), Forty-nine(49), and Fourteen(14) feet off the easterly side of Lot Forty-two(42) as the same are numbered on the recorded plat of said Village at the Recorder's Office of said County, subject to all legal rights-of-ways.

This description and plat prepared as a result of a survey performed under the supervision of Gary Lockwood, Registered Surveyor No. 6755 in September, 1988.

Gary R. Lockwood 10-14-88
Gary R. Lockwood Date

Figure 07: Plat of Survey of Village of Lithopolis, Ohio Fairfield County, 1925-1988. Red box indicates plats of Wagnalls Memorial property.

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Figure 08: 1925 Memorial Building, pre-1960.
Courtesy of Wagnalls Memorial Foundation Archives

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Figure 09: Interior of Library in 1925 Memorial Building, pre-1960.
Image courtesy of Wagnalls Memorial Foundation Archives.

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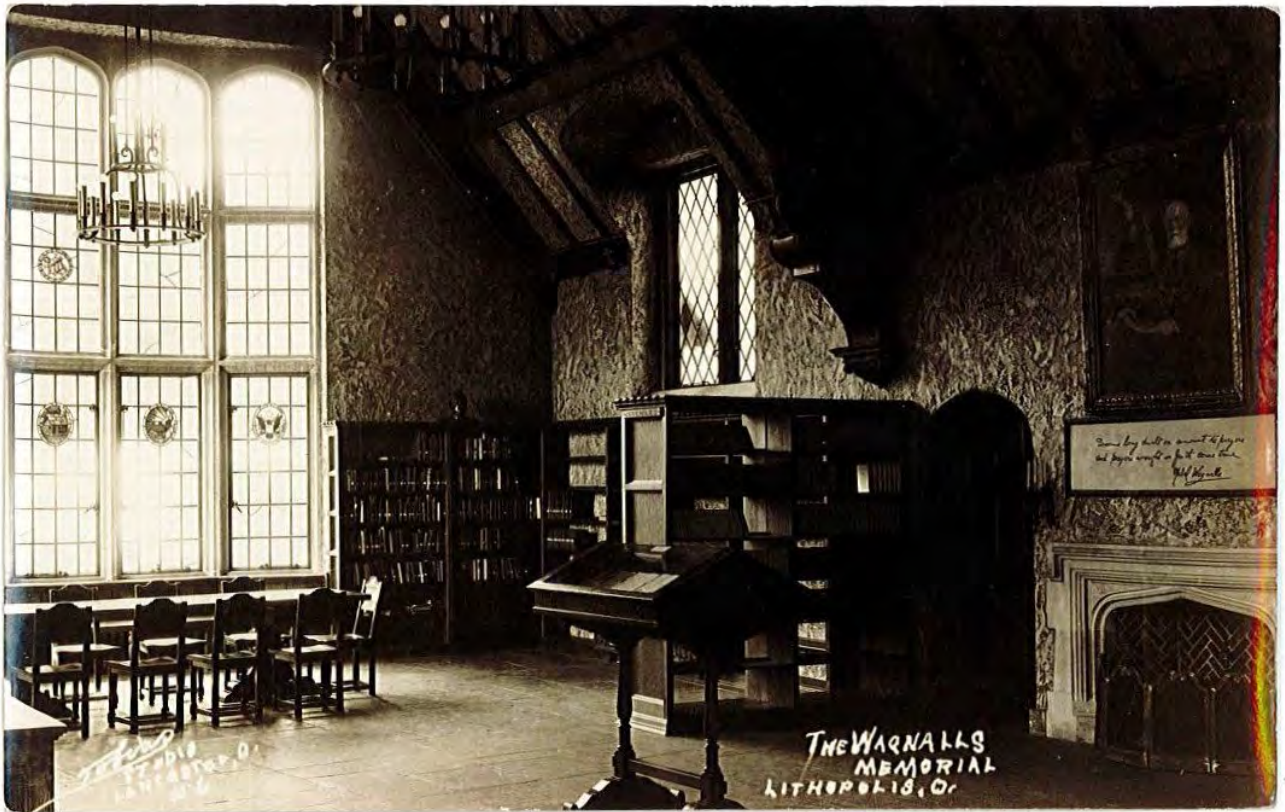


Figure 10: Interior of Library in 1925 Memorial Building, pre-1960.
Image courtesy of Wagnalls Memorial Foundation Archives.

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Figure 11: Interior tribute plaque by Mabel Wagnalls, pre-1960.
Image courtesy of Wagnalls Memorial Foundation Archives.

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Figure 12: Interior of Auditorium in 1925 Memorial Building, pre-1960.
Image courtesy of Wagnalls Memorial Foundation Archives.

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Figure 13: Construction of the 1961 Wagnalls Memorial Addition, 1961.
Image courtesy of Wagnalls Memorial Foundation Archives.

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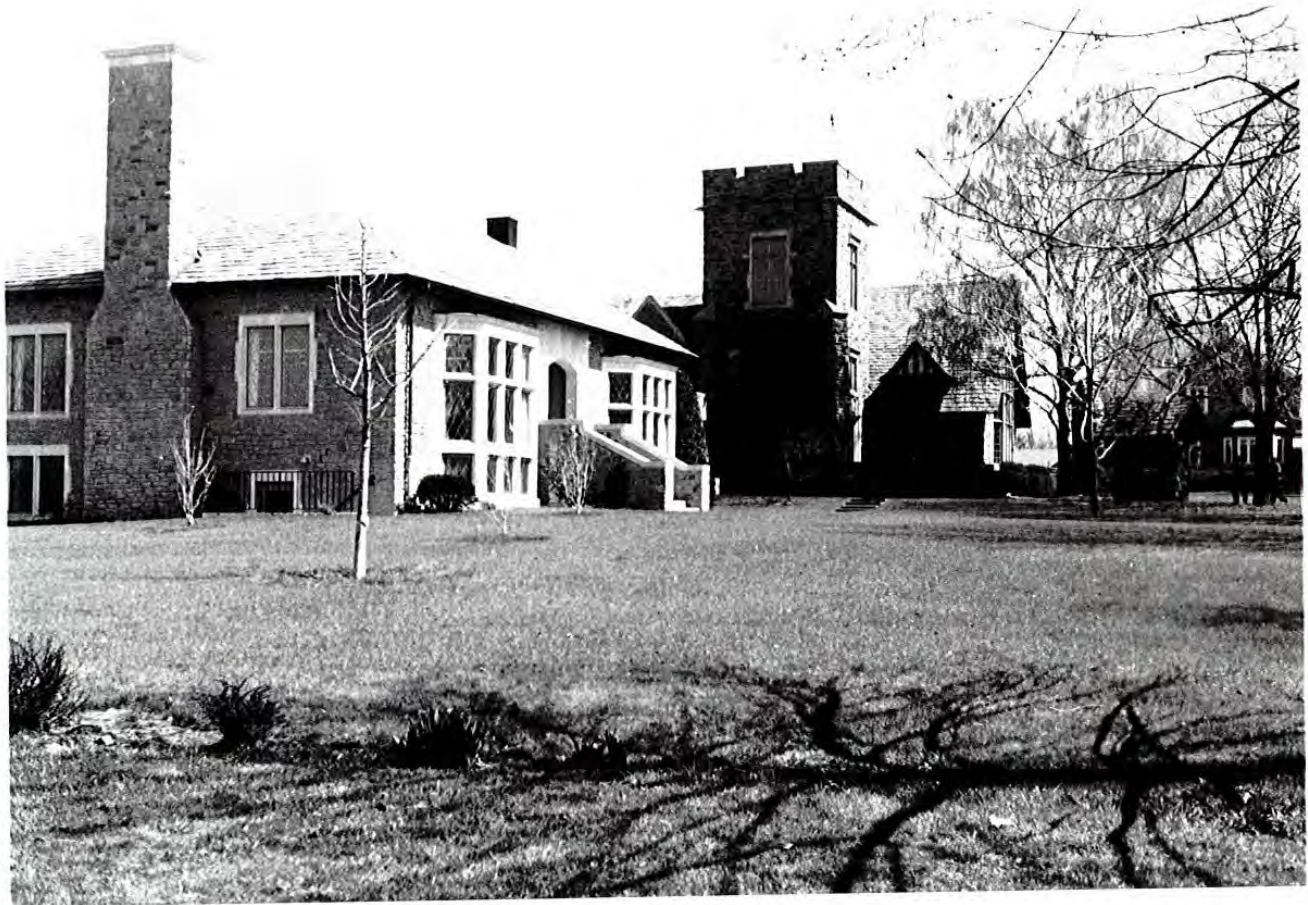


Figure 14: Exterior showing 1961 Wagnalls Memorial Addition and 1925 Wagnalls Memorial beyond, 1961. Image courtesy of Wagnalls Memorial Foundation Archives.

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Figure 15: Interior of the Children's Library in the 1961 Wagnalls Memorial Addition, 1960s.
Image courtesy of Wagnalls Memorial Foundation Archives.

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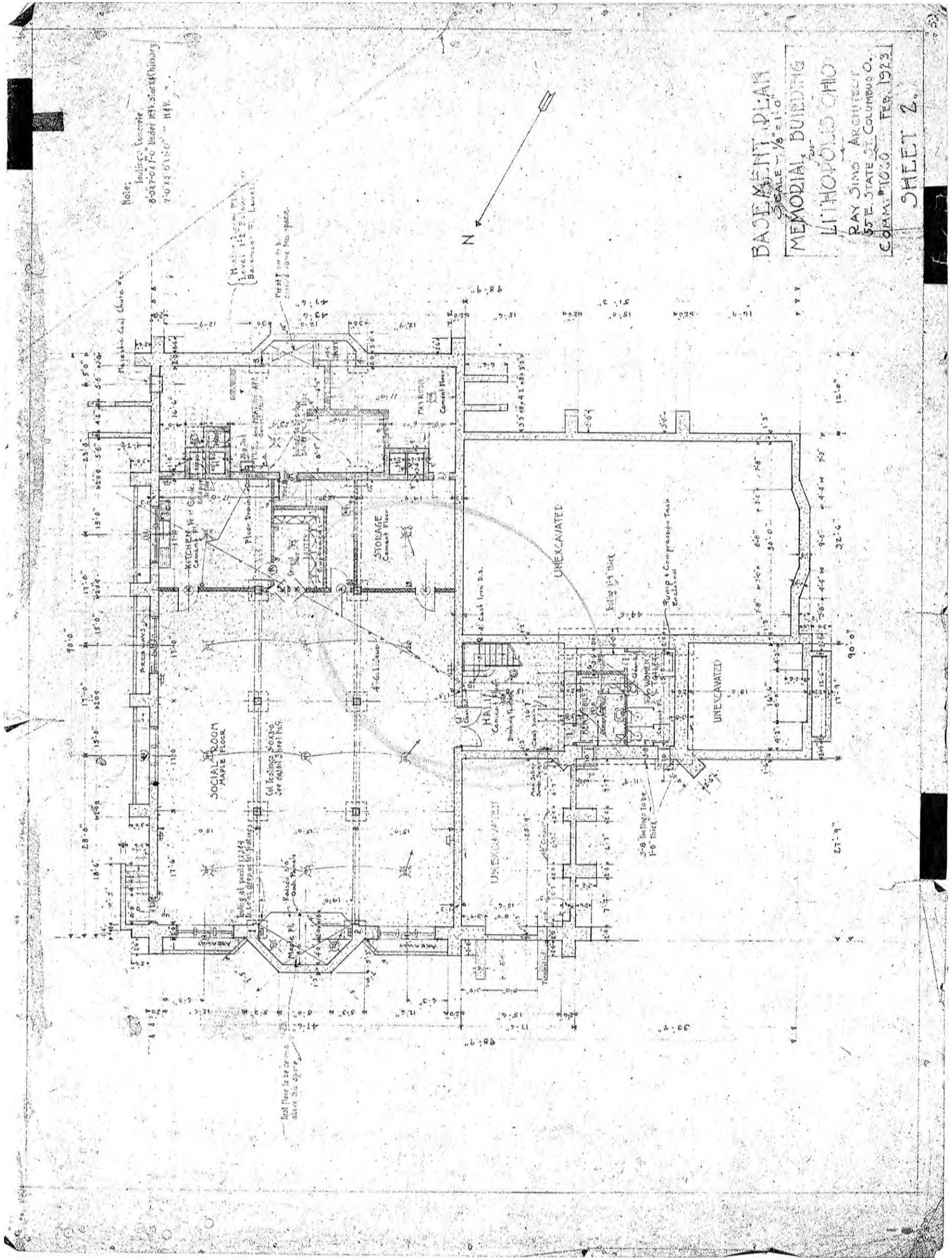


Figure 16: Basement Floor plan of the 1925 Wagnalls Memorial Building, 1925.

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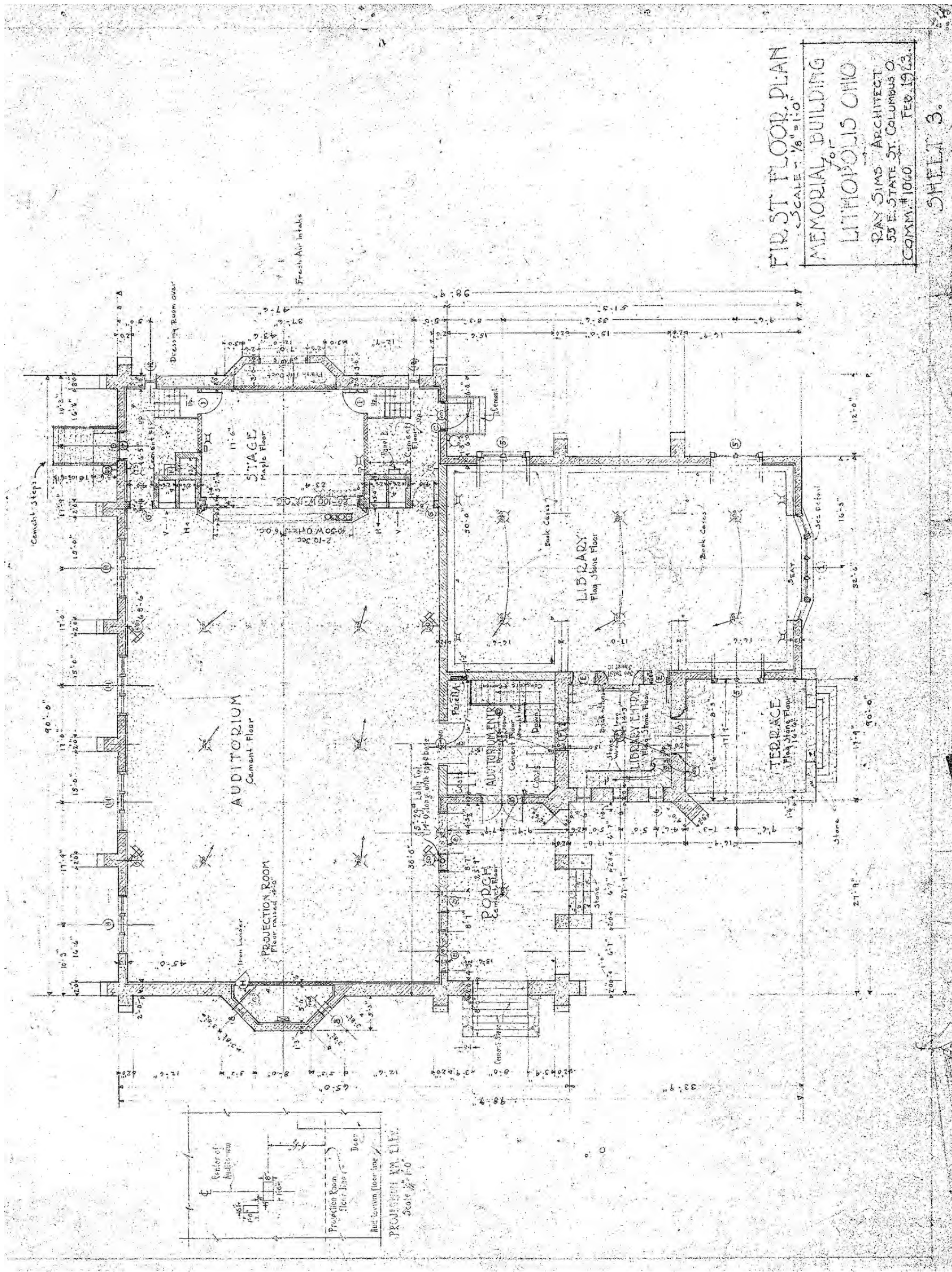


Figure 17: First Floor plan of the 1925 Wagnalls Memorial Building, 1925.

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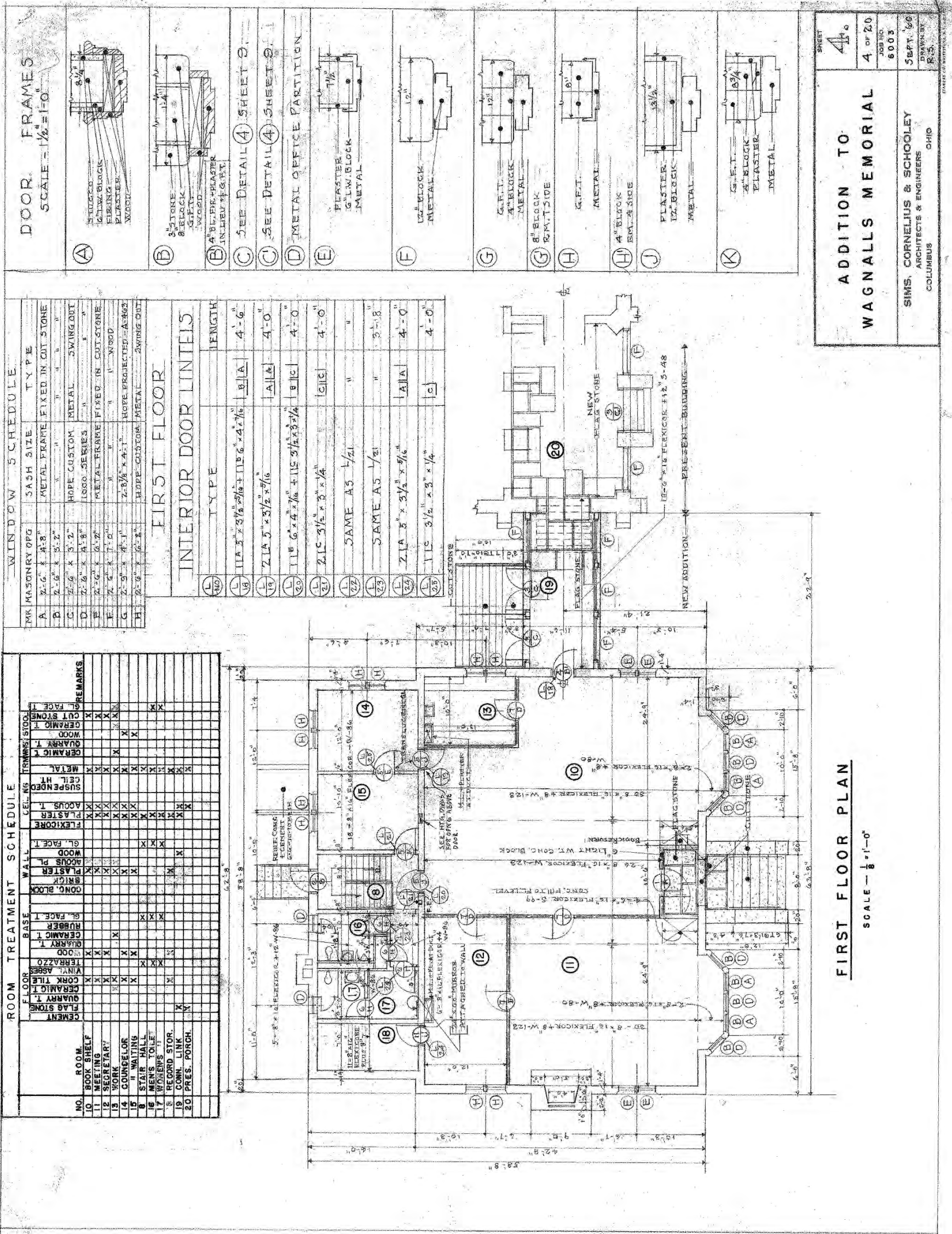


Figure 18: 1961 Wagnalls Memorial Addition first floor plan, 1961.

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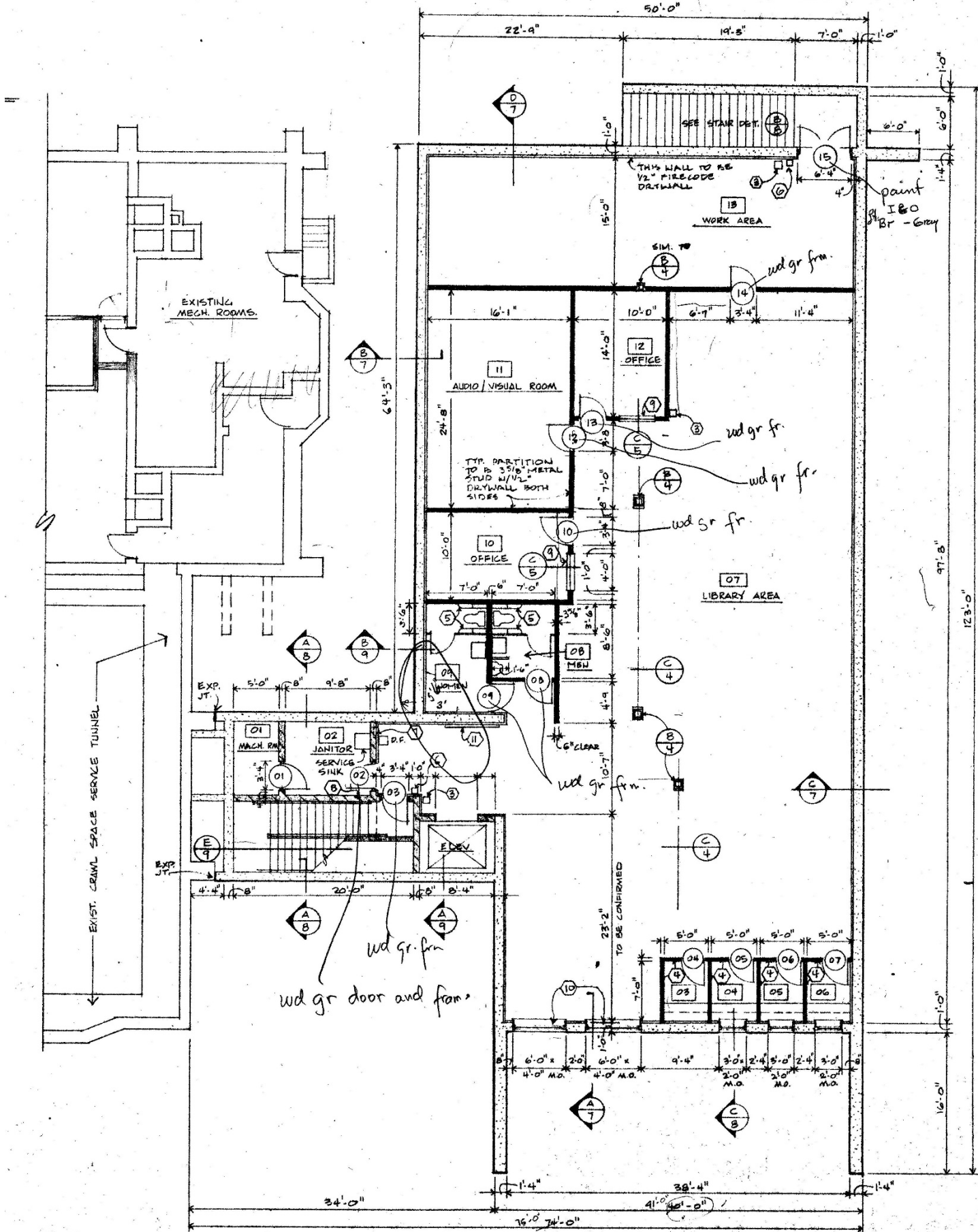
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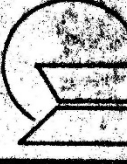
FLOOR PLAN NOTES

- ① DIMENSIONS ARE TO ROUGH UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE
- ② DO NOT SCALE DRAWINGS.
- ③ FIRE EXTINGUISHER. SEE SPECS.
- ④ EXTEND WALLS OF ROOMS 03 - 06 TO 10'-4" A.F.F.
- ⑤ GRAB BAR FOR HANDICAPPED. SEE SPECS. SECTION 10B1.
- ⑥ MANUAL PULL STATION FOR FIRE ALARM (NOT PART OF THIS CONTRACT)
- ⑦ 4"x16" CHASE DOWN TO 1'-0" A.F.F. FOR RETURN AIR DUCT
- ⑧ MASONRY CONTRACTOR TO COORDINATE W/ HVAC CONTRACTOR FOR OPENINGS IN WALL & FLOOR.
- ⑨ PROVIDE KIRSCH ONE-WAY TRAVERSE ROD & FLAME-RETARDANT DRAPERY AT WINDOW OPENING
- ⑩ PROVIDE LENSOR BLIND (COLOR TO BE SELECTED BY OWNER)
- ⑪ BULLETIN BOARD - CLARIDGE # 308-D W/ NATURAL OAK FINISH



LOWER LEVEL PLAN
1/8" = 1'-0"
NORTH

James A Monsul & Assoc.
ARCHITECTS



201 South Broad Street
Lancaster, Ohio 43130
614-687-2287

LOWER LEVEL PLAN

ADDITION TO THE
WAGNALLS MEMORIAL
150 EAST COLUMBUS STREET
LITHOPOLIS, OHIO 43136
CONTRACTOR: WEISER & RUSH CONSTRUCTION

55034
5-31-83
C-7-83



5-17-83

4

Figure 19: 1983 Wagnalls Memorial Addition basement floor plan, 1983.

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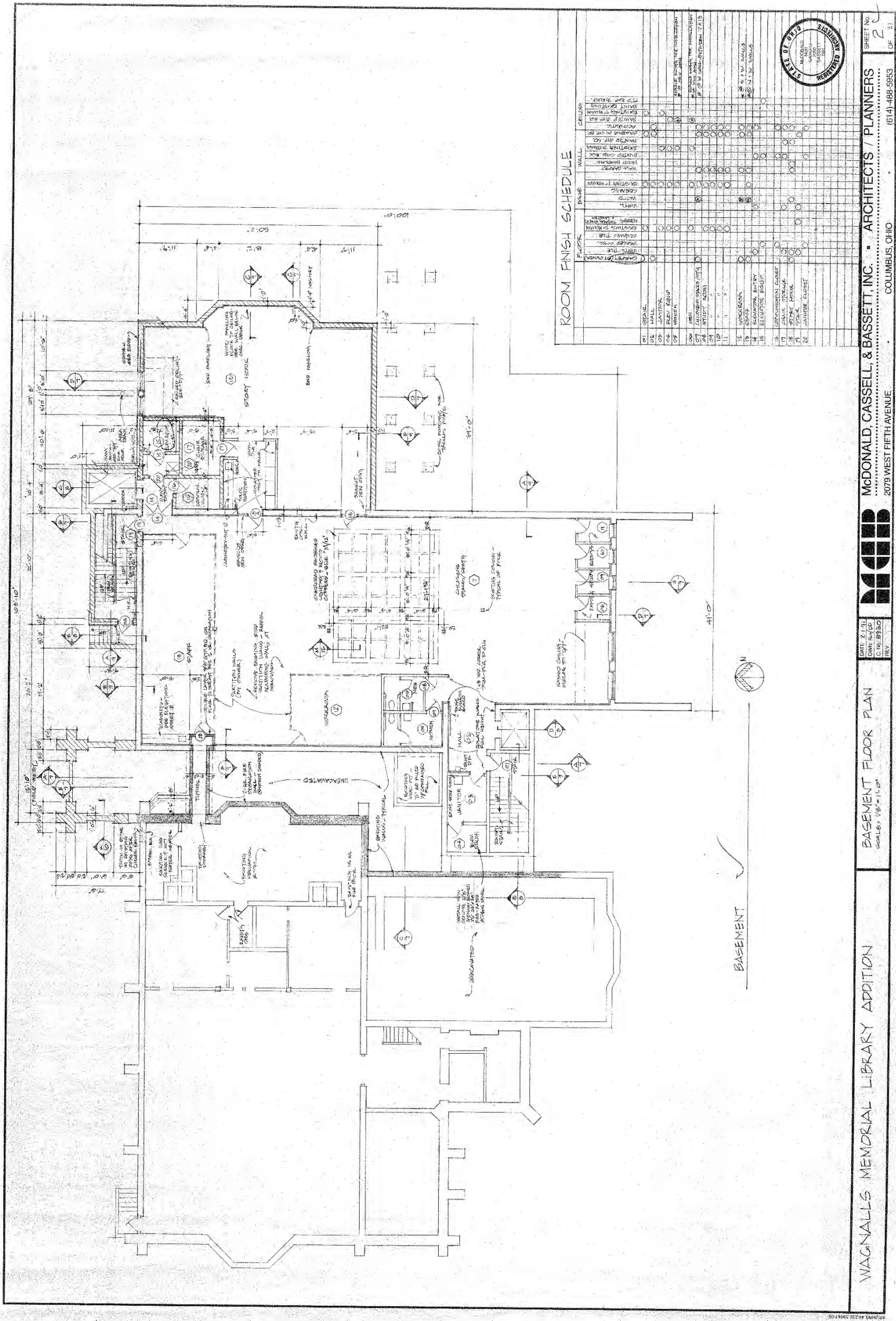


Figure 20: 1992 Library Addition basement floor plan, 1992.

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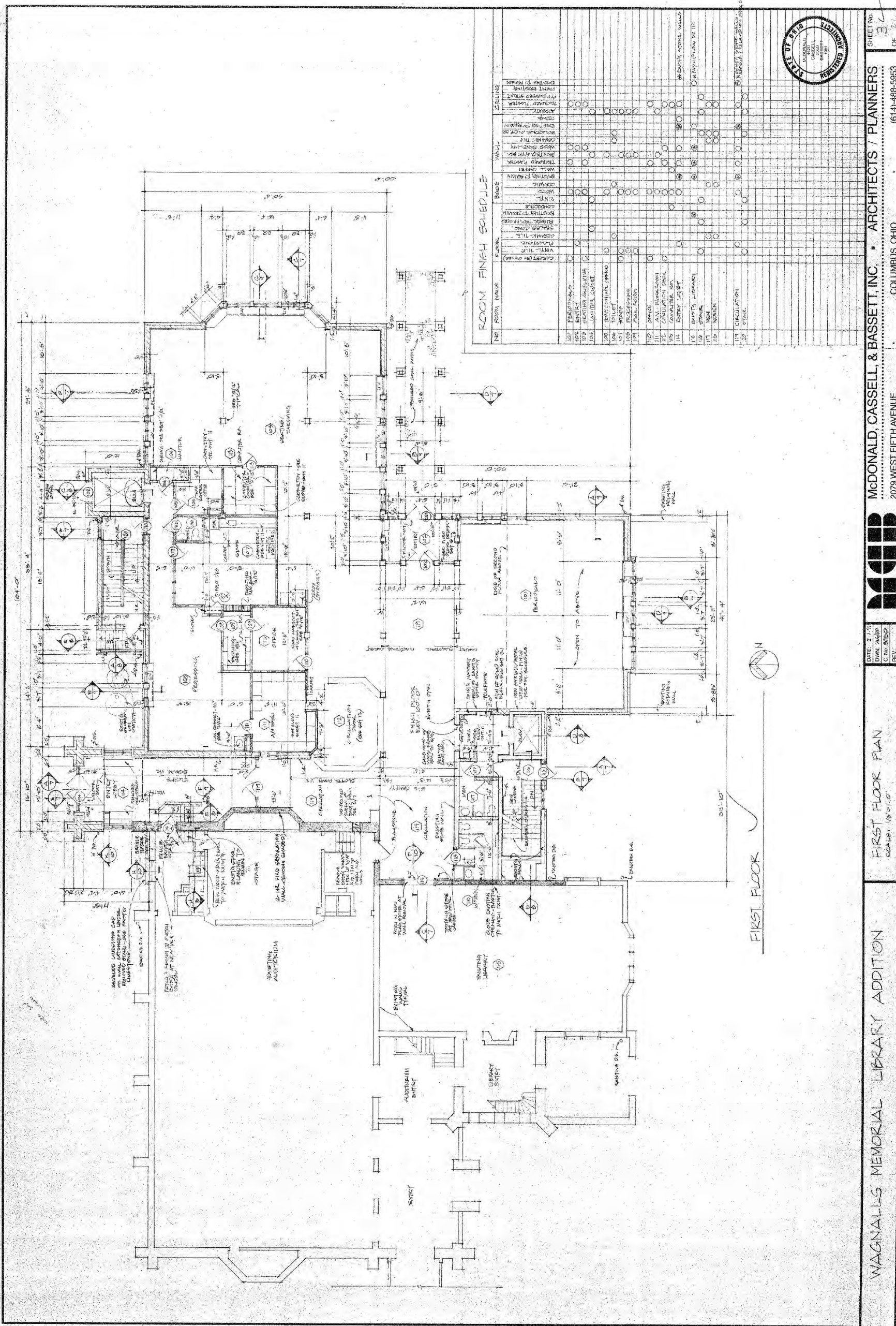


Figure 21: 1992 Library Addition first floor plan, 1992.

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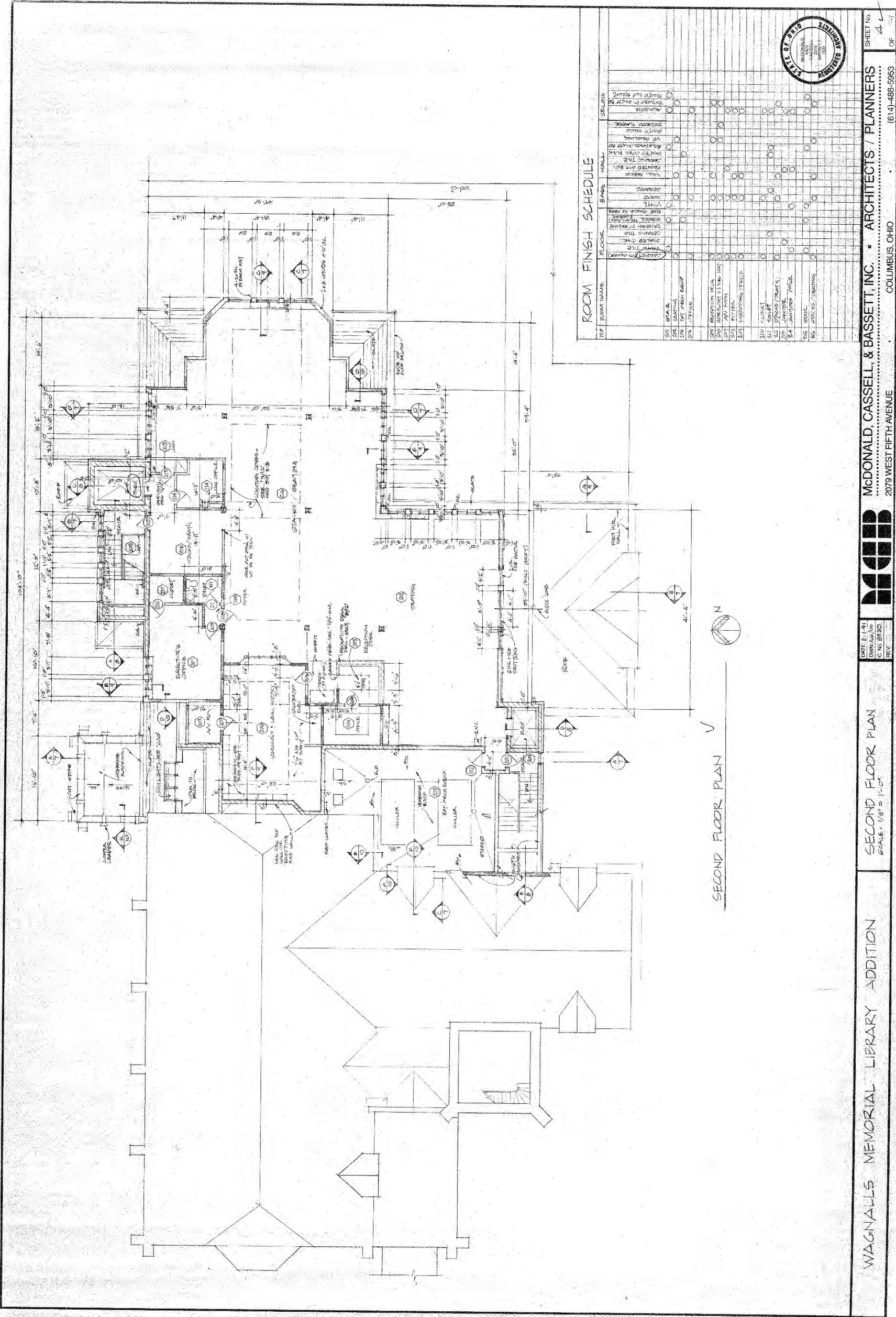


Figure 22: 1992 Library Addition second floor, 1992.

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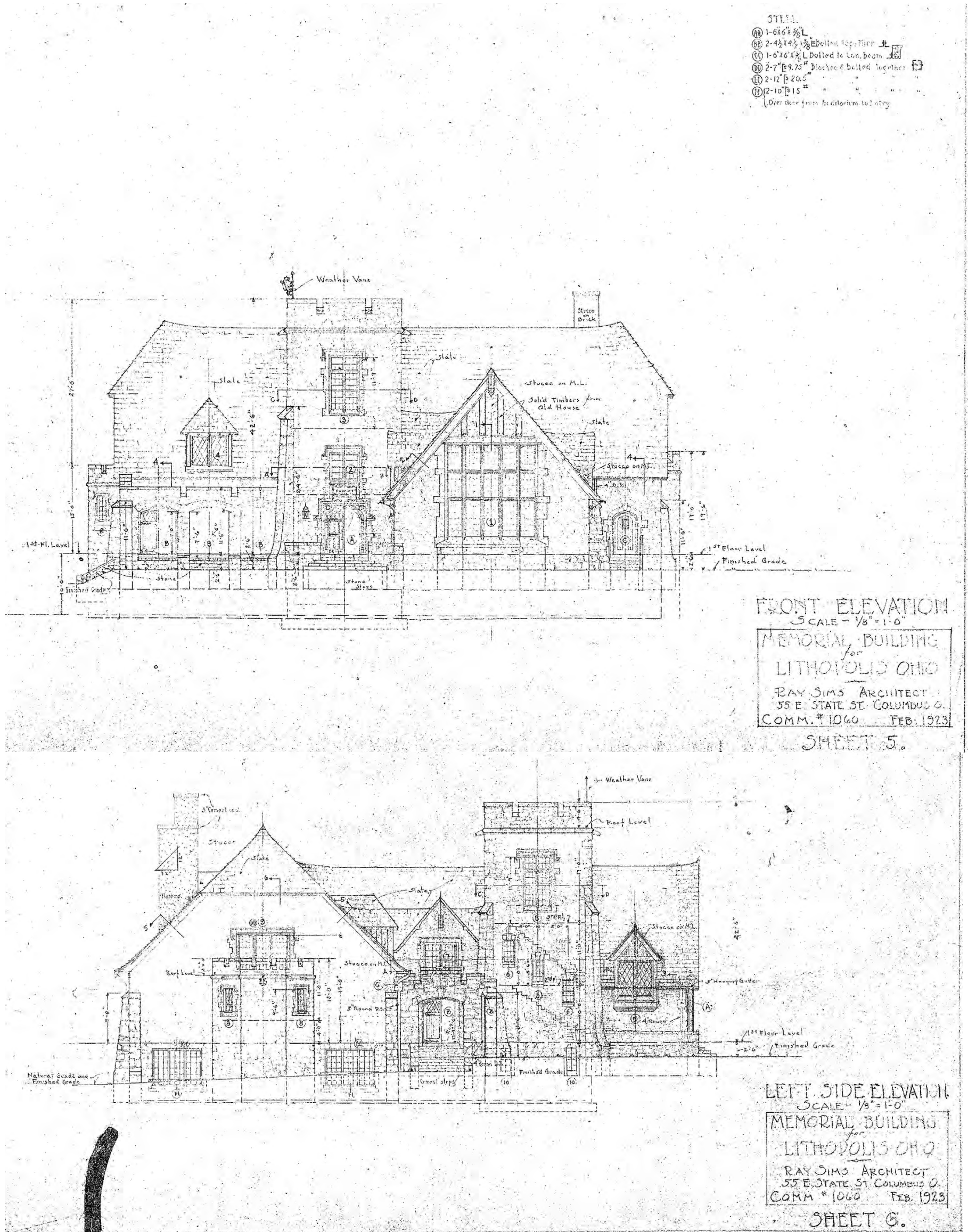


Figure 23: 1925 Memorial Building front and left elevations, 1925.

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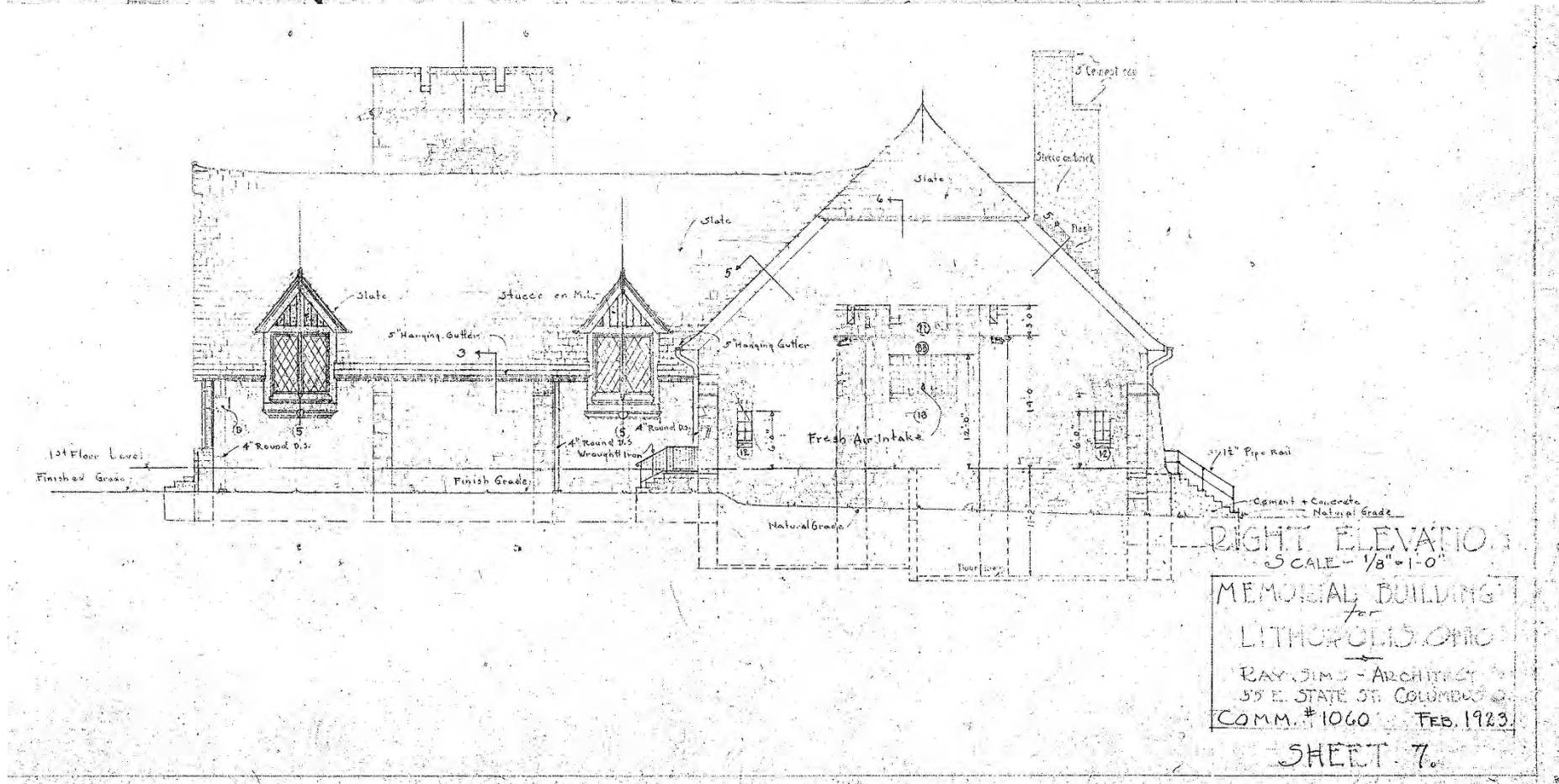
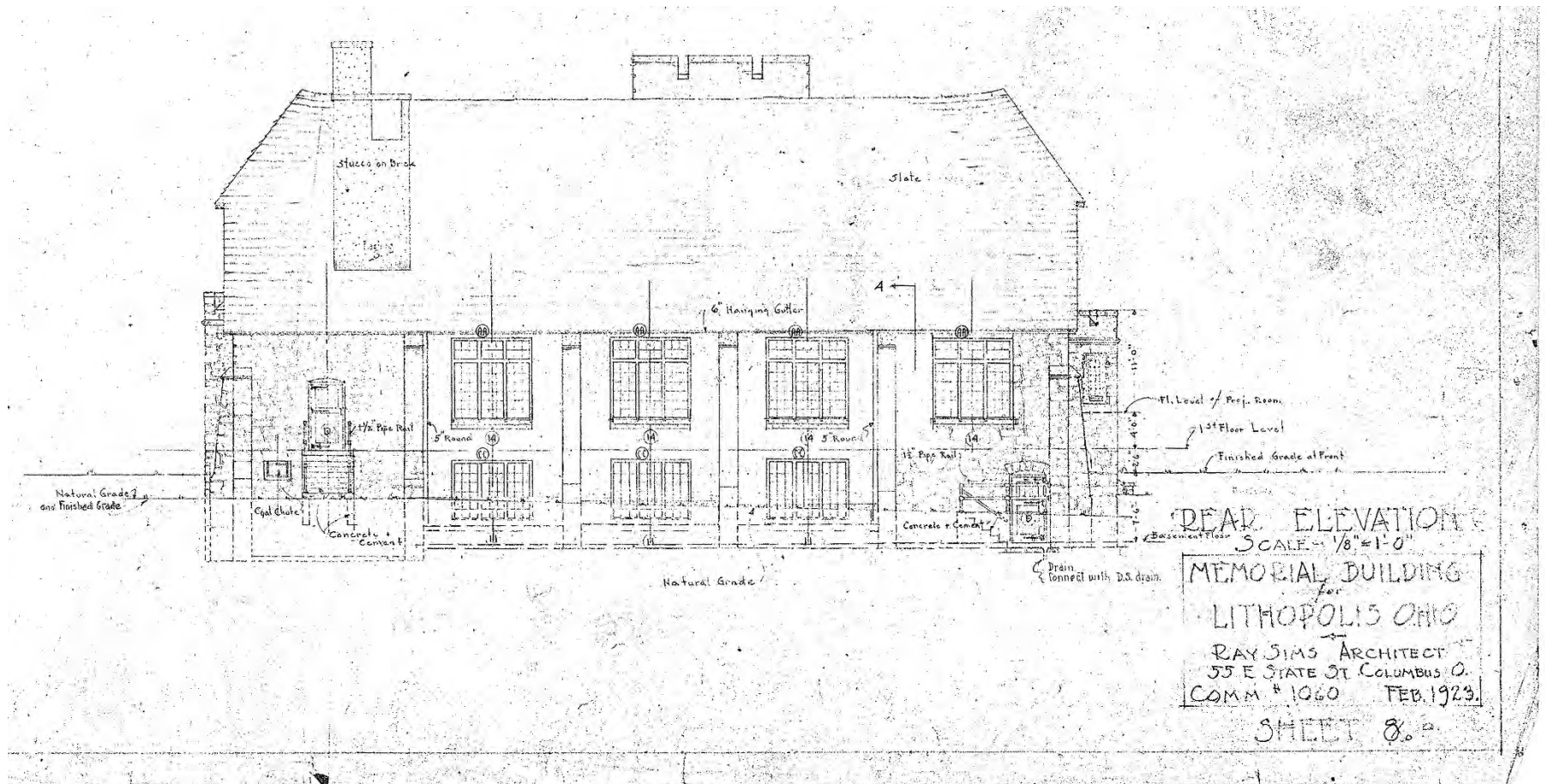


Figure 24: 1925 Memorial Building rear and right elevations, 1925.

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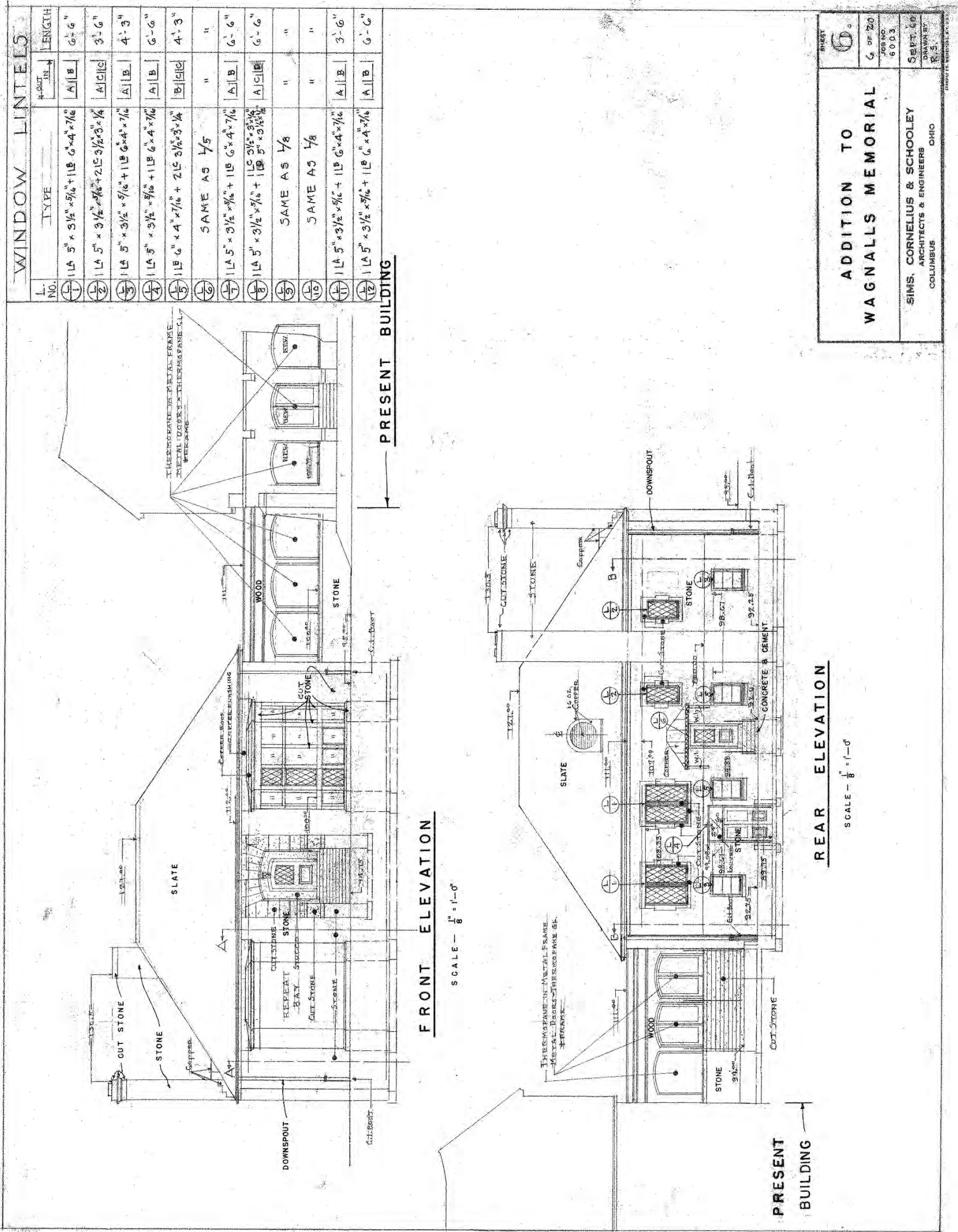


Figure 25: 1961 Wagnalls Memorial Addition front and rear elevations, 1961.

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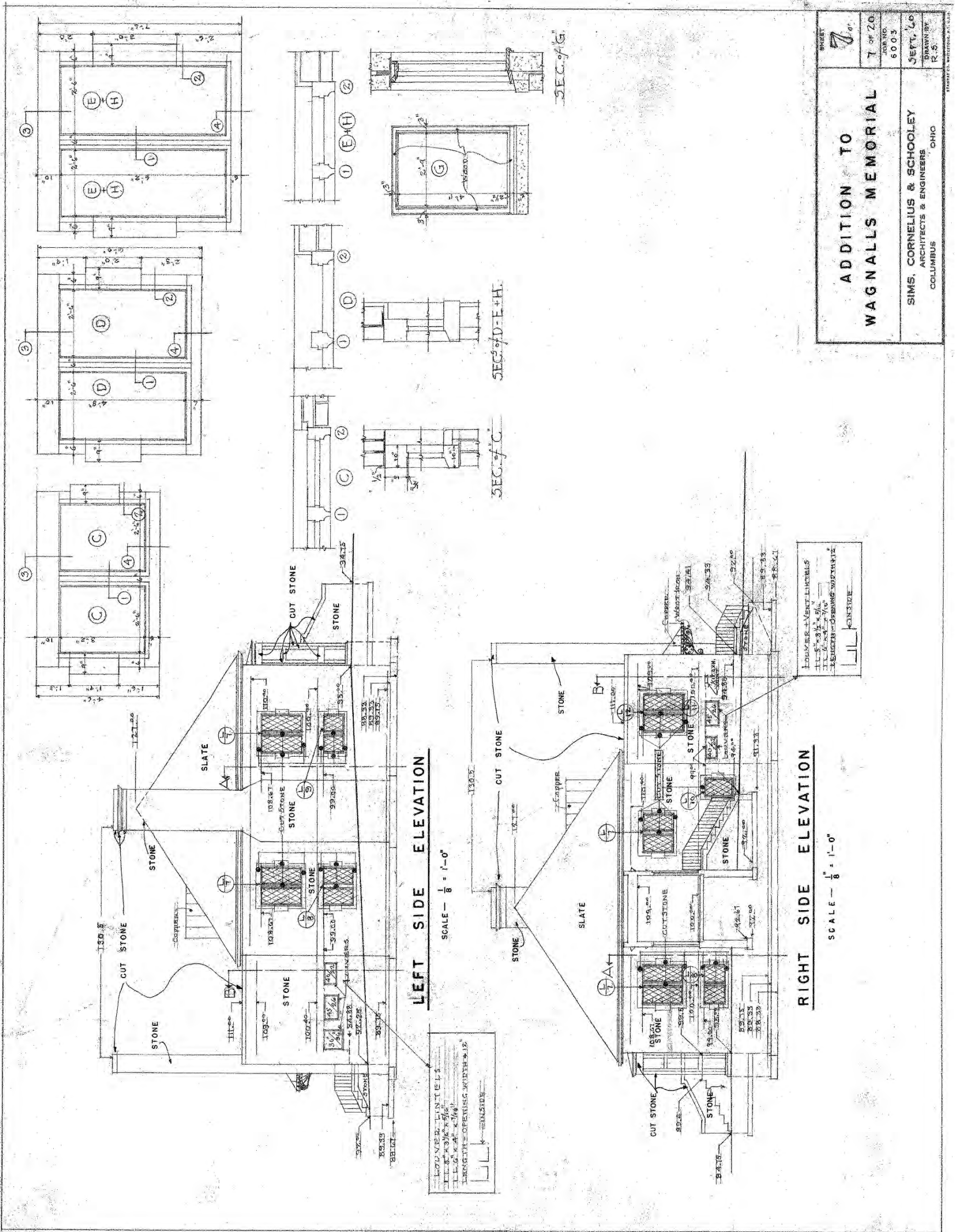


Figure 26: 1961 Wagnalls Memorial Addition left and right elevation, 1961.

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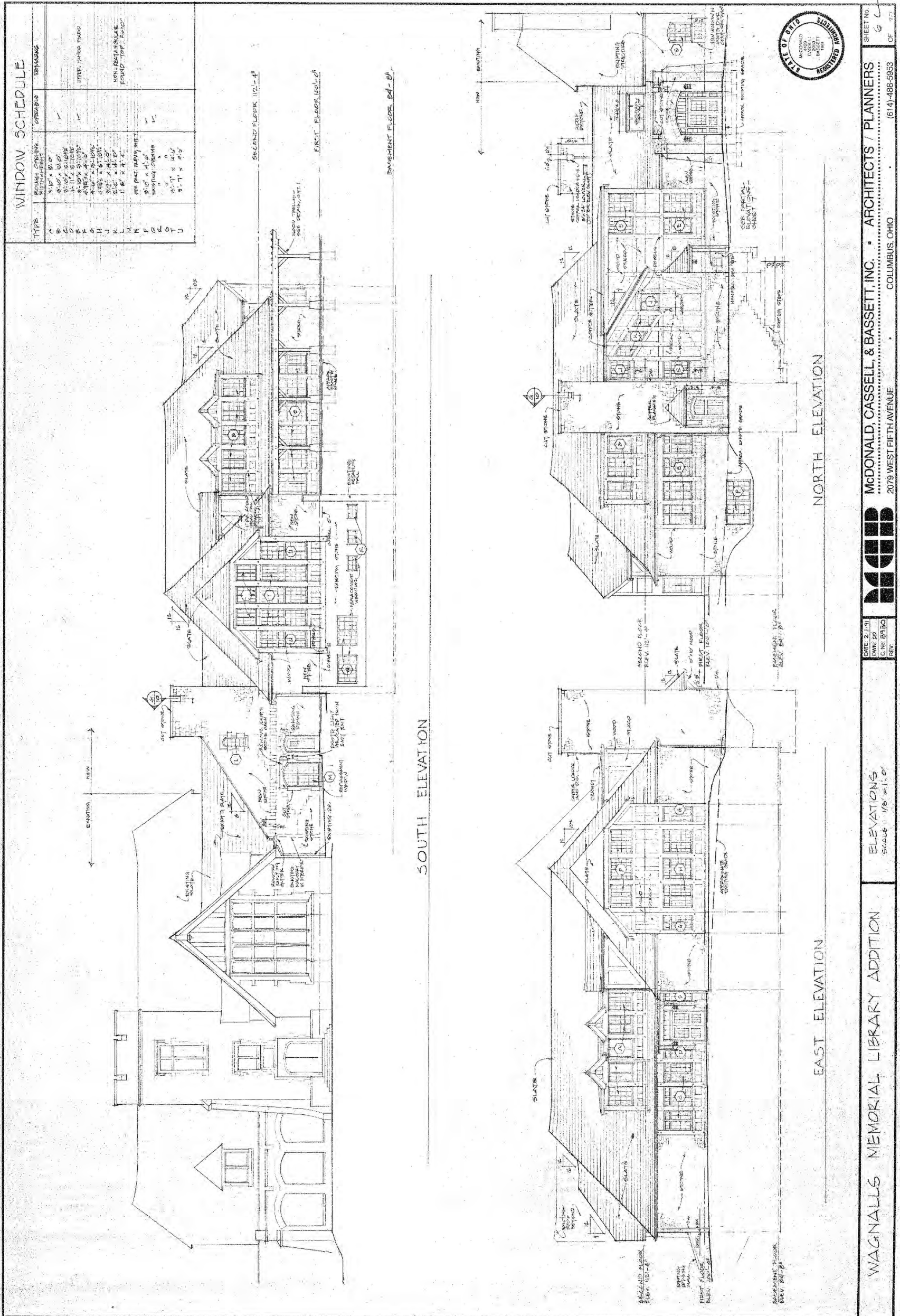
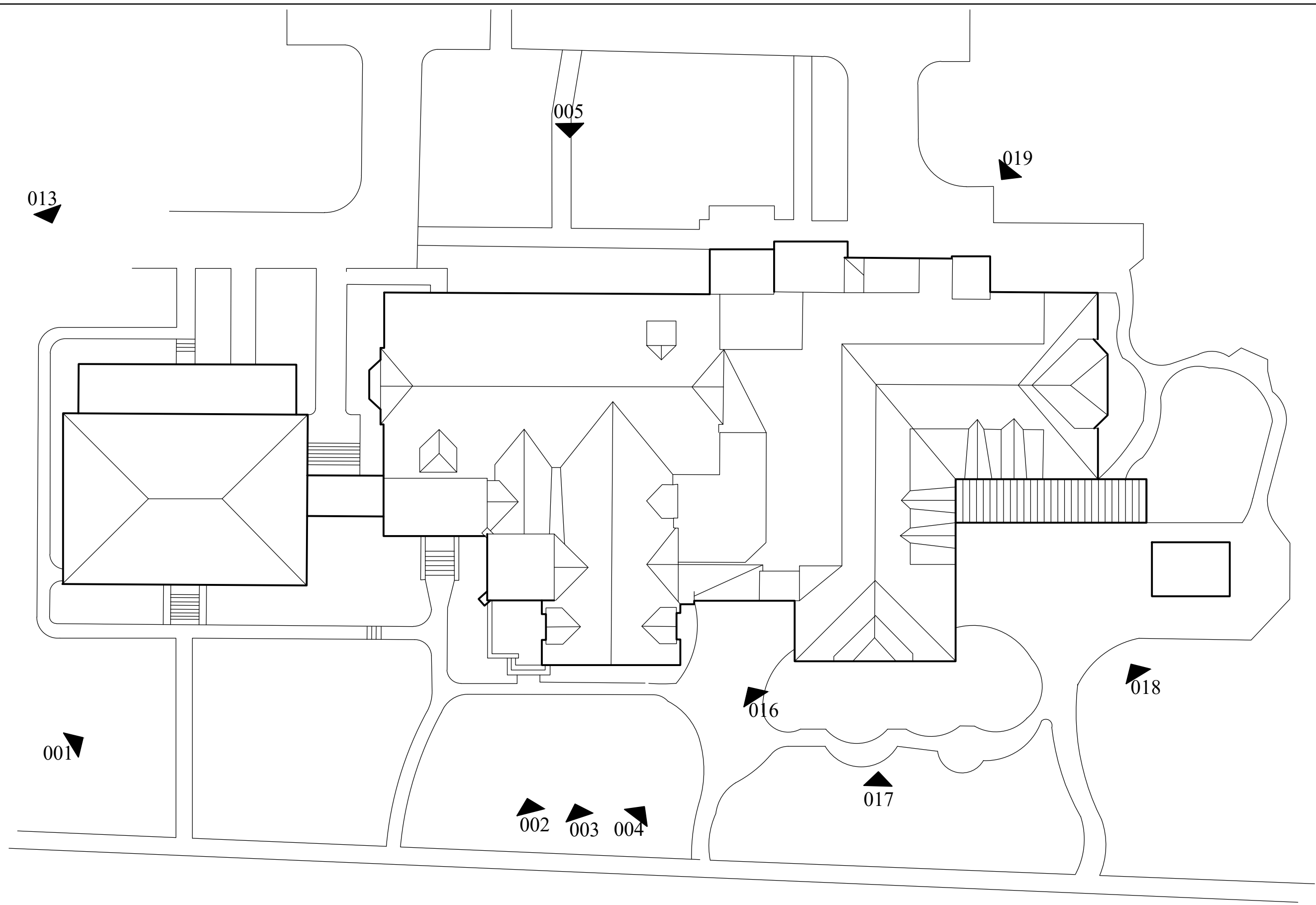


Figure 27: 1992 Library Addition Elevations, 1992.



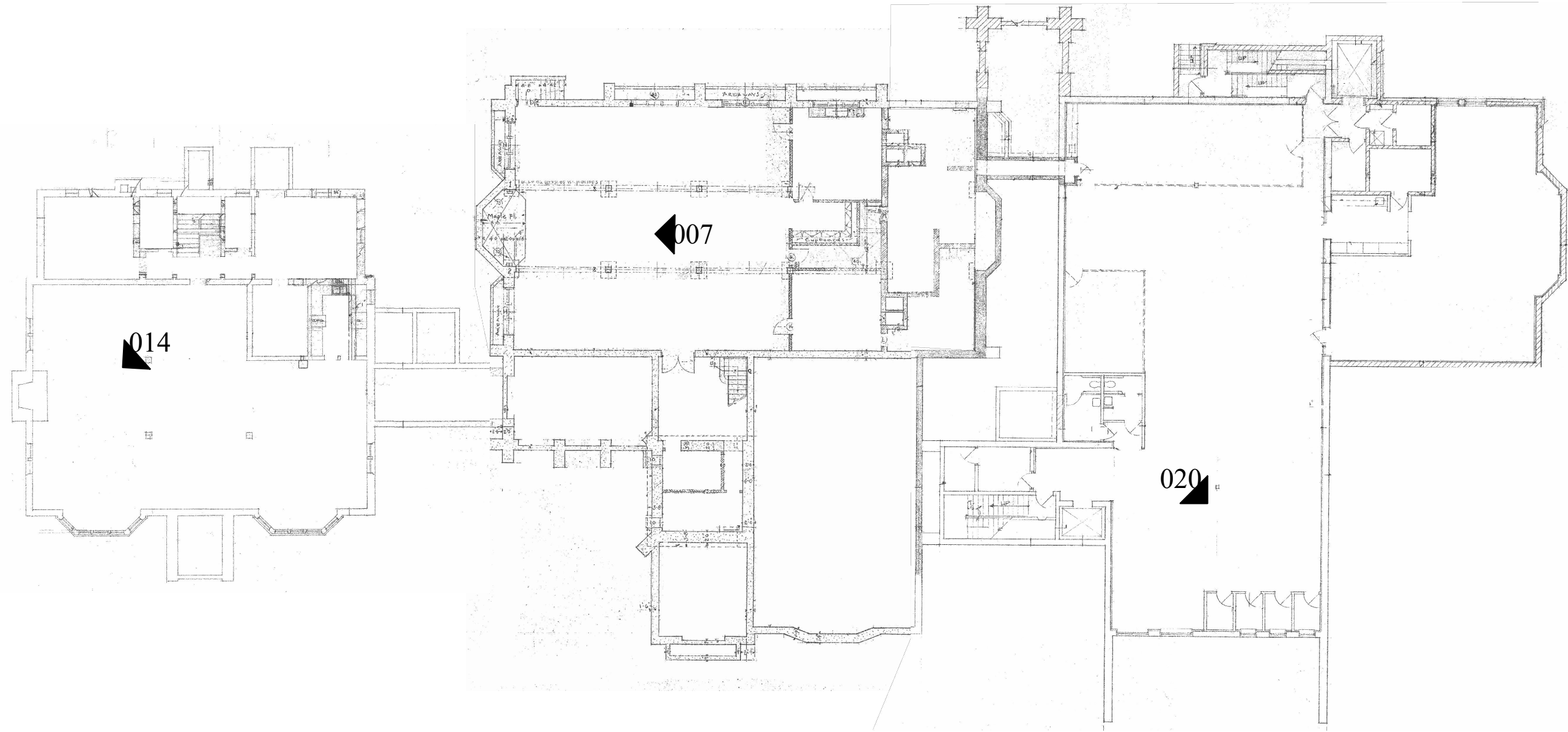
The Wagnalls Memorial
The Wagnalls Memorial Foundation
150 E. Columbus St. Lithopolis, Ohio 43136

21-032

ISSUE DATE
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1 Site Plan North
NTS

Photo Key
PK-S



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150 E. Columbus St. Lithopolis, Ohio 43136

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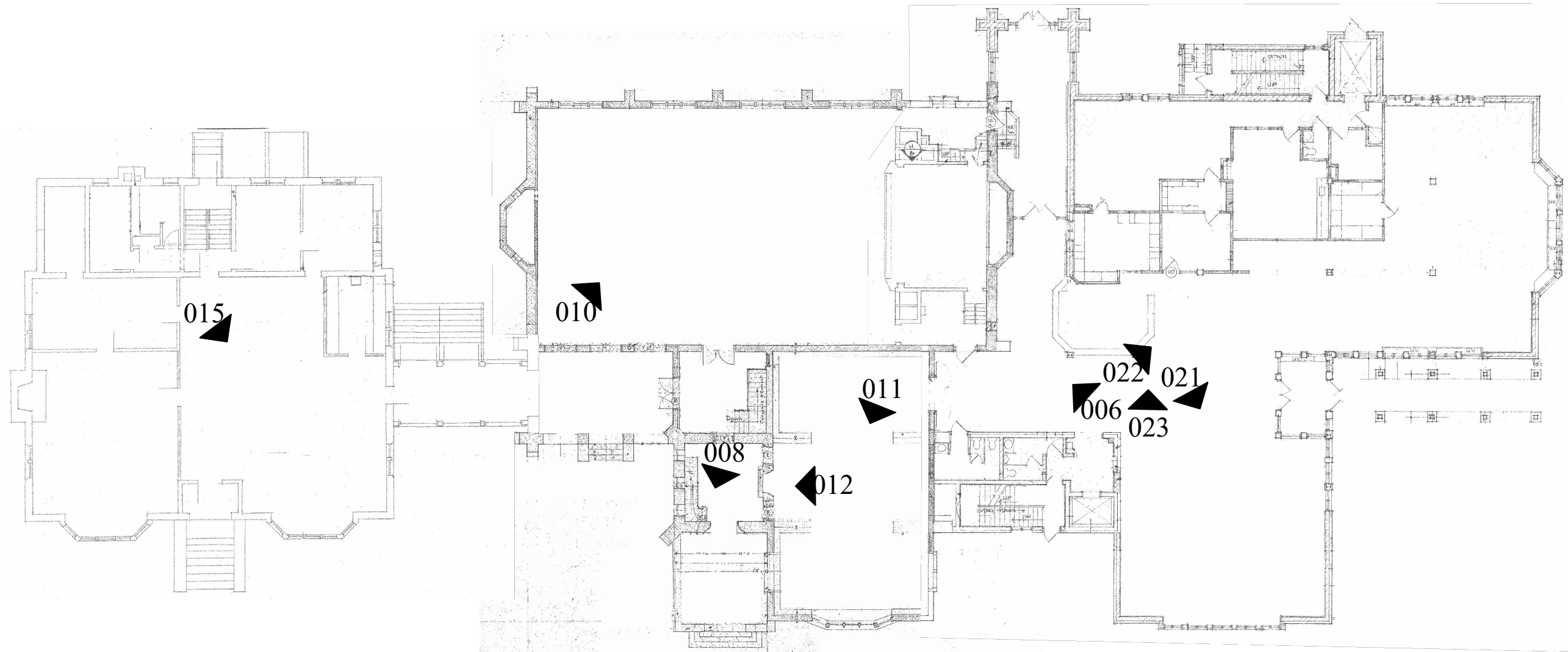
1 Basement Plan ^{North}
NTS 

Photo Key

PK-0



1 First Floor Plan North
NTS

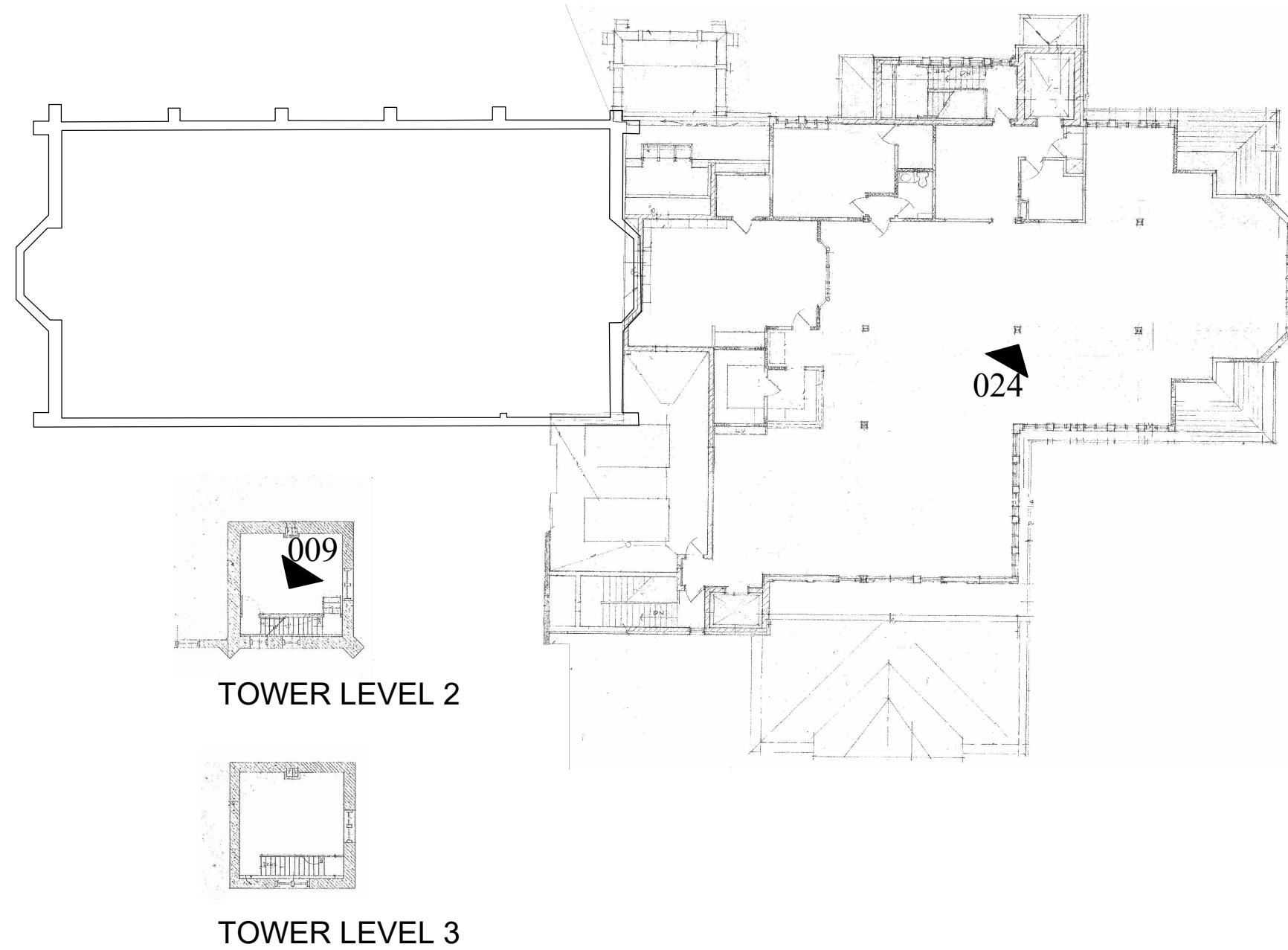
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The Wagnalls Memorial Foundation
150 E. Columbus St. Lithopolis, Ohio 43136

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1 Second Floor Plan North
NTS

Photo Key

PK-2

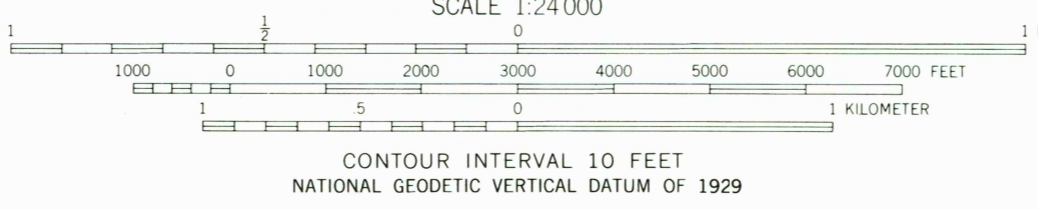


Wagnalls Memorial,
Lithopolis, Fairfield
County, Ohio

Lat 39.802241
Long -82.805487

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Revised in cooperation with State of Ohio agencies
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Franklin County
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1953. Field checked 1955. Revised 1966
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Ohio coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 17, shown in blue
The difference between 1927 North American Datum and North
American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) for 7.5-minute intersections
is given in USGS Bulletin 1875. The NAD 83 is shown by
dashed corner ticks
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Entire area lies within Congress Lands east of the Scioto River
Land lines based on the Ohio River Base

Map photorevised 1987
No major culture or drainage changes observed



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt - - - - -
U.S. Route ——— State Route ———



CANAL WINCHESTER, OHIO

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with
State of Ohio agencies from aerial photographs taken
1983. This information not field checked. Map edited 1985

39082-G7-TF-024
PHOTOINSPECTED 1987
1966
PHOTOREVISED 1985
DMA 4463 IV SE—SERIES V852

