

HABS
DC,
WASH,
395

Auditors Complex, Annex Buildings
Corners of Independence Avenue, 15th Street SW
and 14th Street SW
Washington
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-524

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
MID-ATLANTIC REGION NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

AUDITORS COMPLEX, ANNEX BUILDINGS

HABS No. DC-524

Location: Corners of Independence Avenue, 15th Street SW and 14th Street SW, Washington, D.C.

Present Owner: General Services Administration

Present Occupant: General Services Administration; United States Holocaust Memorial Council

Significance: Laundry, stable and storage, or support functions for original Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Main Auditors Building

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Four architects designed the Auditors Complex. James G. Hill supervised the original Main Auditors Building, and Hill's successors -- Willoughby J. Edbrooke, William Martin Aiken and James Knox Taylor -- the major additions to that structure. Taylor was responsible solely for the design of the Annex buildings, the last of the structures added to the site, and the only one not physically linked to the main complex.

Edbrooke and Aiken's south and west additions reflected the formal, classically-derived design of Hill's Main Auditors Building. In Annex 1/1-A and Annex 2, however, Taylor created structures that differed not only from one another, but also from all other buildings on the Auditors Complex. While the height, massing and exterior red brick masonry of the Annex buildings complemented Hill's original structure, Taylor's application of vernacular Dutch-Colonial and Flemish styles emphasized fanciful details such as hipped roofs and elaborated cupolas, thus departing completely from the classical elements of the buildings nearby.

2. For detailed structural information see Architectural Data Forms under HABS No. DC-524-A and HABS No. DC-524-B

B. Historical Context

1. In 1861, President Lincoln's Secretary of the Treasury established the Bureau of Engraving and Printing to finance the government through the issuance of notes that could circulate as money. By 1900, all Federal Government currency, bonds and stamps were manufactured by the Bureau.

Originally the Bureau of Engraving and Printing was housed in the top floor of the United States Treasury. In 1878, however, Congress appropriated funds for the design and construction of a separate Bureau building and issued a land grant for it in the subdivision of the Mall at 14th Street West and "B" Street South. The purchase of this land -- funded by Washington philanthropist, William W. Corcoran -- also took place in 1878. James Sherman, then Secretary of the Treasury

charged James G. Hill, his supervising architect, with the design. Evidentially Hill's work progressed rapidly, for within only one month of the land purchase, bids were being accepted for the excavation. The building itself was occupied in July, 1880.

2. Numerous processes were involved in the early manufacturing of currency, bonds and stamps. Those related to the authenticity of notes -- plate engraving, wetting, printing and numbering -- took place in Hill's Main Bureau Building. The many support functions (production of power, carpentry, laundering of cloths for wetting paper, and carriage storage and stables used to transport currency and documents) required to produce authentic notes, however, quickly exceeded the space available in the original structure. Thus, by 1886, six service buildings had been erected merely to house support services for Auditors Main. All were demolished by 1904 in order to make way for larger, more efficient structures that could accommodate more than one support function under the same roof.

The Annex buildings -- or "outbuildings" as they were called originally -- were the three structures created to enhance the efficiency and ever-increasing support needs of the Main Auditors Complex. Annex 2 was built to house a laundry, a critical function because printing paper needed to be of a uniform degree of moisture, a state that could be accomplished only by separating the paper sheets with scrupulously clean cloths and immersing them in tubs of water for several days. Annex 1/1-A also served as a laundry area, although its primary purpose involved the storage of carriages and housing of horses to transport currency and related documents. The six cast iron tubs that today remain in the Annex buildings are the only surviving pieces of original equipment.

3. The Annex buildings fell into disuse in the early 1920's, at which time new, more advanced printing methods alleviated the support functions for which they had been constructed. By the 1950's, all three Annex Buildings were occupied by GSA file cabinet storage.

In 1977, Joan Mondale, together with representatives from the Department of the Interior, considered the possibility of restoring the Annex Buildings to house a National Museum of Crafts. The plans for that museum never materialized. Two years later, however, GSA recommended the buildings for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and the land grant transfer to the Holocaust Council of the site on which the buildings rest took place in 1981.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. The Annex buildings illustrate vernacular Dutch-Colonial and Flemish styles that emphasize hipped roofs, elaborated cupolas and projecting

rafter ends. For more detailed information on their architectural character see Part I (Physical History) of this outline and the Architectural Data Forms.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Original Architectural Drawings

1. Bound Volumes, Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Washington, D.C., RG 121, Cartographic Room, NAB.
2. Drawings for the Building of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Region 111, DC 0501 BC, RG 121, NAB.
3. August 3, 1900, Drawings for Laundry and S. Outbuilding, Dr. No. 4 GSA Region III.

B. Early Views

1. Still Picture Branch, Audiovisual Archives Division, RG 121, NAB.
2. "Map of the City of Washington for Use by the Engineering Department, District of Columbia," 1904.
3. August 4, 1904, Photo Showing Old Stable, Photographic Gallery Archives, RG 121.

C. Bibliography

1. Primary and Unpublished Sources

- a. Letters Received, 1843-1910, Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Entry 26, RG 121, WNRC.
- b. Index to Miscellaneous Contracts and Bonds, General Accounting Office Records, Books 3-6, RG 217, NAB.
- c. Deeds and Condemnations, Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Title Vault, RG 121, WNRC.
- d. June 6, 1900, Fireproof Outbuilding, \$115,000, 31 S.L. 589.
- e. April 29, 1901, Changes Completed on Boiler House, B.E.P.
- f. January 21, 1902, S. Outbuilding and Laundry Completed, B.E.P.
- g. October 17, 1902, Brick Sidewalk Extending Along E. Front the Site of the Bureau.
- h. November 4, 1902, Cement Sidewalk and New Curb Laid on W. Side of 14th Street (?) Bureau, Letter to: W. M. Meredith, Director from: D. C. Commissioners, Sidewalk & Curb ordered Letters Received. Official Letter A-PO 1902. BEP. RG 121, N.A.

- i. March 3, 1903, Additional Land South of Building and Erection of Laundry and Stables Removal of Old Laundry. Stable and Erection of 2 Story Building. To acquire additional ground to the south of the present site of the BEP and cause to be erected thereon a suitable building, including heating and ventilating apparatus and approaches, for use and accommodation of the laundry and stable of BEP, and the secretary's further authorized to erect upon the site now occupied by the laundry and stable buildings of the BEP, to the West of the Main Building, an addition consisting of two stories and basement, approximately 47 feet on width by 248 in length, for BEP. The total limit of cost for additional ground and buildings including removal of laundry and stables, \$215,000.00.

For additional land and commencement of buildings, \$100,000.
32 S.L. 1039, 1211

- j. September 3, 1903, Site Plan
- k. September 24-25, 1903, Plans and Sections, - Stable and Laundry
Drs. Nos. 1-2, GSA. Region III
- l. October 12, 1903, Details of Stable and Laundry, Dr. Nos. 3-4,
GSA. Region III
- m. December 1-11, 1903, Changes to Plate Vaults, Dr. No. V-77 to
V-80, GSA. Region III.
- n. February 18, 1904, Additional Material to Complete 2 Vaults,
For additional labor and material necessary to complete two
vaults now in course of construction at the BEP, \$16,000.
33 S.L. 457.
- o. April 28, 1904, Additional \$50,000 to Complete Stable and
Laundry, 33 S.L. 457.
- p. May 12, 1904, West Out Building, Approaches, Dr. No. 1, GSA
Region III.
- q. June 3, 1904, Electric Wiring for Stable, Dr. No. W-114, GSA
Region III.
- r. July 14, 1904, Framing W. Outbuilding, Dr. No. 10, GSA
Region III.
- s. August 11, 1904, Stable and Laundry Completed Annual Report,
1904, pp. 3-4.
- t. August 11, 1904, West Outbuilding: Framing, Roof Framing,
Electric Heating, Dr. Nos. 11-12-13-14. GSA, Region III.
- u. September 29, 1904, Construction Approved for West Outbuilding
Contractor: A. B. Stannard, BEP

- v. October 1, 1904, Removal of Old Stable; Laundry Begun Annual Report, 1904, P. 4
- w. March 3, 1905, Appropriation for Completion of West Outbuilding, \$60,000, 33 S.L. 1161.
- x. December, 1905, West Outbuilding Completed, Annual Report, 1905, p. 4.
- y. April 20, 1911, Four Spiral Fire Escapes, Memo to: Director, from: Capt. of Watch. Silo type structures rising to the top of the building enclosing a spiral slide fire escapes that were a bane to the oldsters and timorous and a joy to the youngsters and fun loving BEP.

2. Secondary and Published Sources

- a. Fifty Glimpses of Washington and its Neighborhood, Chicago: Rand, McNally & Company, 1896.
- b. A Guide to the Architecture of Washington, D.C., Washington Metropolitan Chapter of the A.I.A., New York: Praeger, 1965.
- c. Gutheim, Frederick and Wilcomb E. Washburn, The Federal City; Plans and Realities, National Fine Arts Commission.
- d. Historical Prints of American Cities, Watkins Glen, N.Y.: Century House, 1952.
- e. Huddleson, Sarah M., M.D., "The Sunny Southwest," Records of the Columbia Historical Society, XXVI, 1924, pp. 157-187.
- f. Hutchins, Stilson and Joseph W. Moore, The National Capital, Past and Present, Washington: The Post Publishing Company 1885.
- g. The Latest Views of Washington, D.C., Portland, Me.: L. H. Nelson Company, 1906.
- h. Proctor, John Clagett, "Old Section of City Homes", Washington Sunday Star, June 6, 1937 (Columbia Historical Society).
- i. _____, "Southwest Washington, or the Island," Washington Sunday Star, July 13, 1930 (Columbia Historical Society).
- j. Schmeckebier, Laurence F., The Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Institute for Government Research, Service Monographs of the United States Government, No. 56, Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1929.

- k. U. S. Public Buildings Commission, Public Buildings in the District of Columbia, 65th Congress, 2nd Session, Doc. No. 155, Washington: Government Printing Office, 1918.
- l. U. S. Secretary of State, The Statutes at Large of the United States of America, Washington: Government Printing Office, 1878-1905.
- m. U. S. Secretary of the Treasury, "Annual Report of the Chief (Director) of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing," in the Annual Report of the Secretary of the Treasury on the State of the Finances (1877-1905), Washington: Government Printing Office.
- n. U. S. Secretary of the Treasury, History of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, 1862-1962, Washington: General Printing Office, 1962.
- o. Washington, A Plan for Civic Improvements, Citizens Planning Committee for the Commission of the District of Columbia, 1947.
- p. Washington, City and Capitol, Federal Writers Project, American Guide Series, Washington: Government Printing Office, 1937.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

1. The preceding documentation of the Annex buildings was undertaken by the United States Holocaust Memorial Council in the winter of 1984 in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

During its initial museum planning period (1982-1984), the Holocaust Council made every effort to develop architectural designs that would preserve all or part of the Annex buildings. In the late summer of 1984, however, when advanced technical site surveys and program requirement studies had been completed, it became clear that retaining the Annex structures would be inconsistent not only with the Council's legislative mandate to build a world-class memorial museum but also with the aesthetic dignity and national presence of the Mall. After thorough review with the State Historic Preservation Office and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the Council -- in anticipation of the demolition of the Annex buildings -- entered into a Memorandum of Agreement to develop the national memorial museum on a fully cleared site.

See HABS No. DC-524-A AUDITORS COMPLEX, ANNEX BUILDINGS 1 AND 1/A
HABS No. DC-524-B AUDITORS COMPLEX, ANNEX BUILDING 2
for more information on the complex.

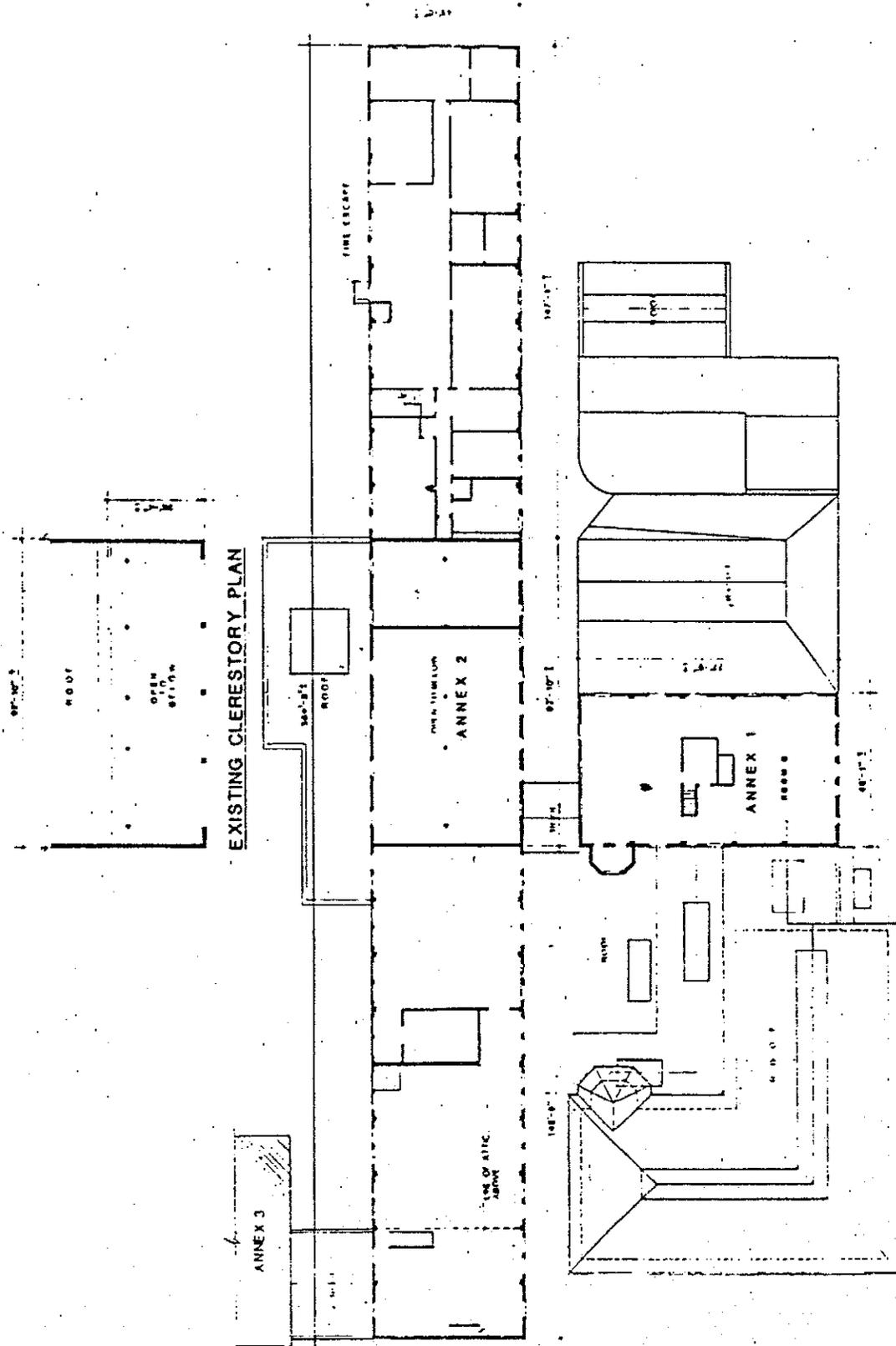


FIG. 4 EXISTING SECOND FLOOR PLAN
SCALE

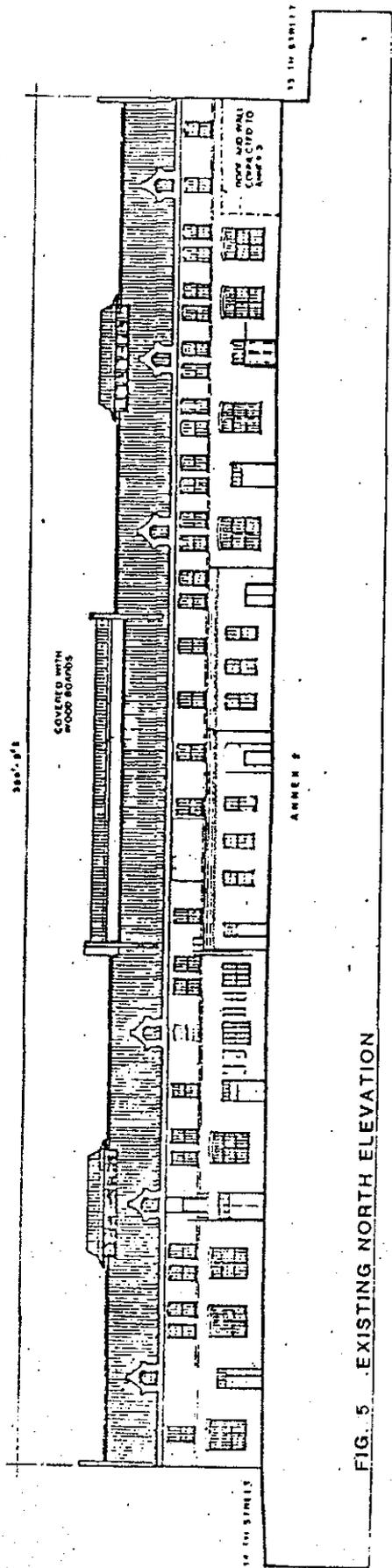


FIG. 5 EXISTING NORTH ELEVATION

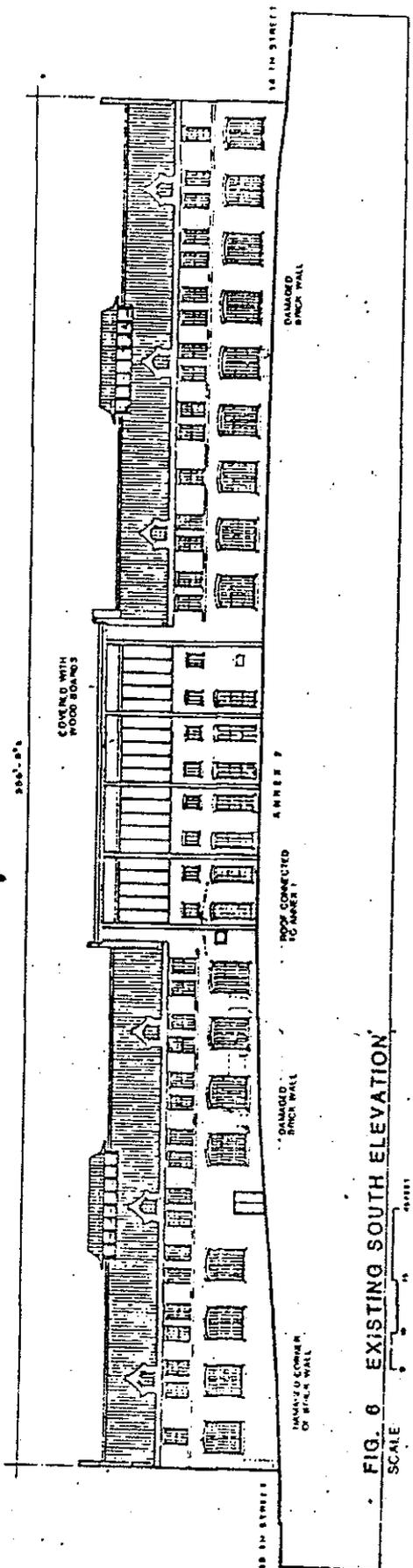
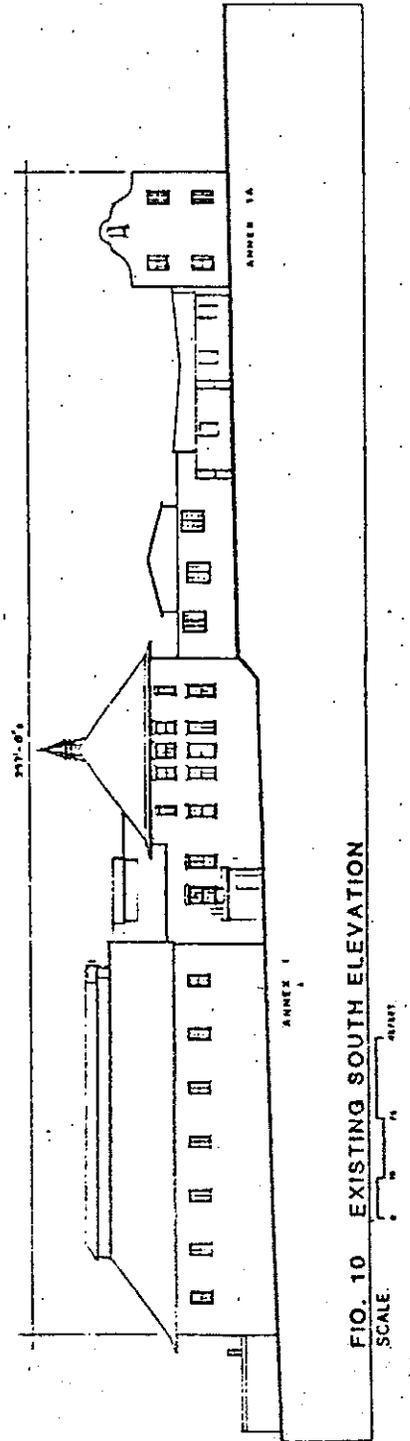
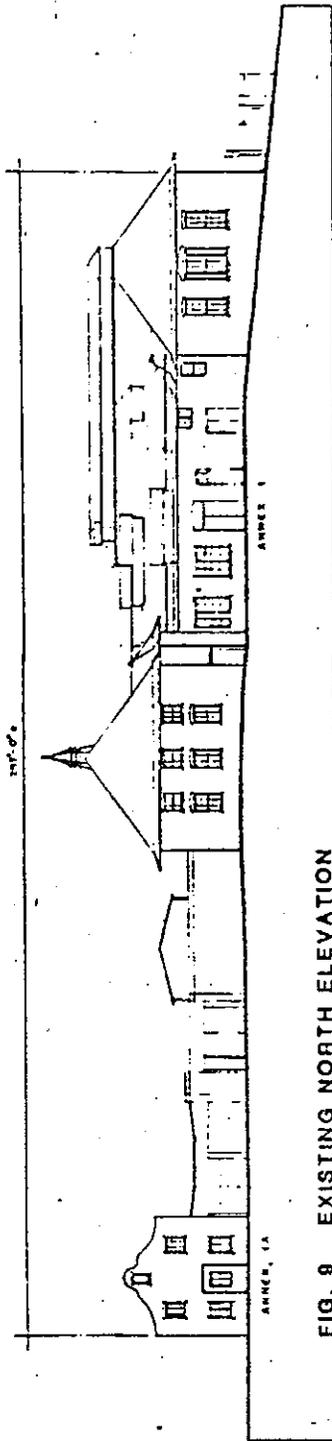
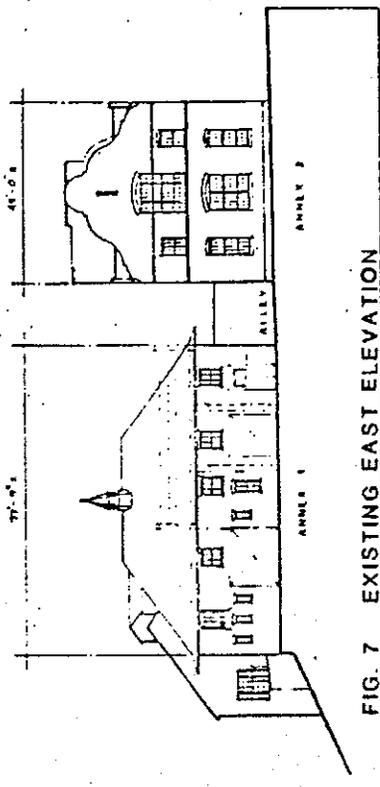
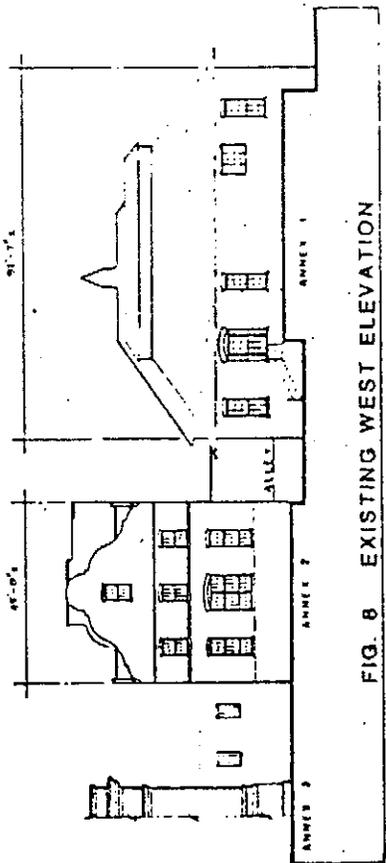


FIG. 6 EXISTING SOUTH ELEVATION



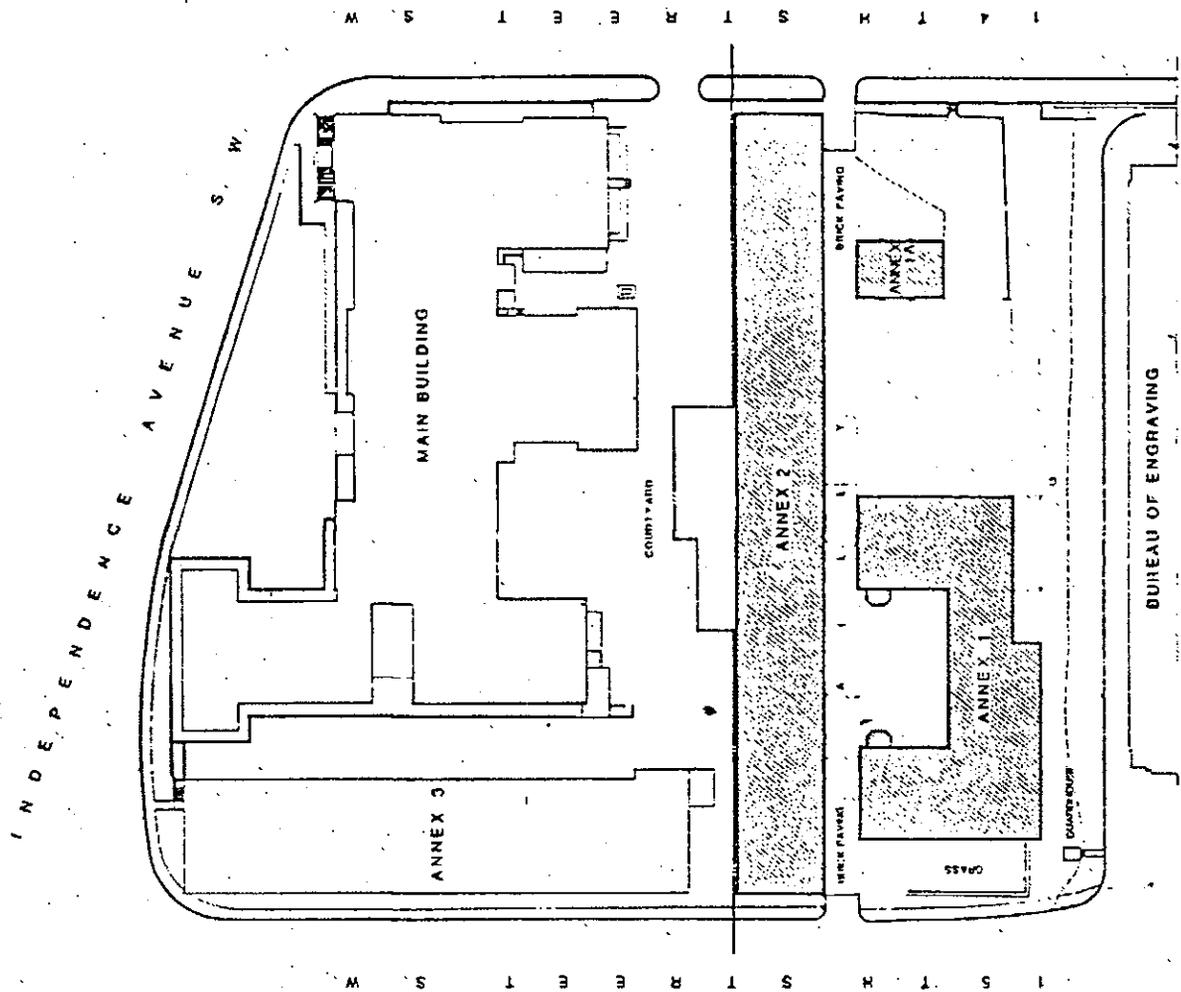


FIG. 11 SITE PLAN RESTORED TO ORIGINAL PROFILE (i.e. without present-day in-fill)
SCALE: 1" = 100'

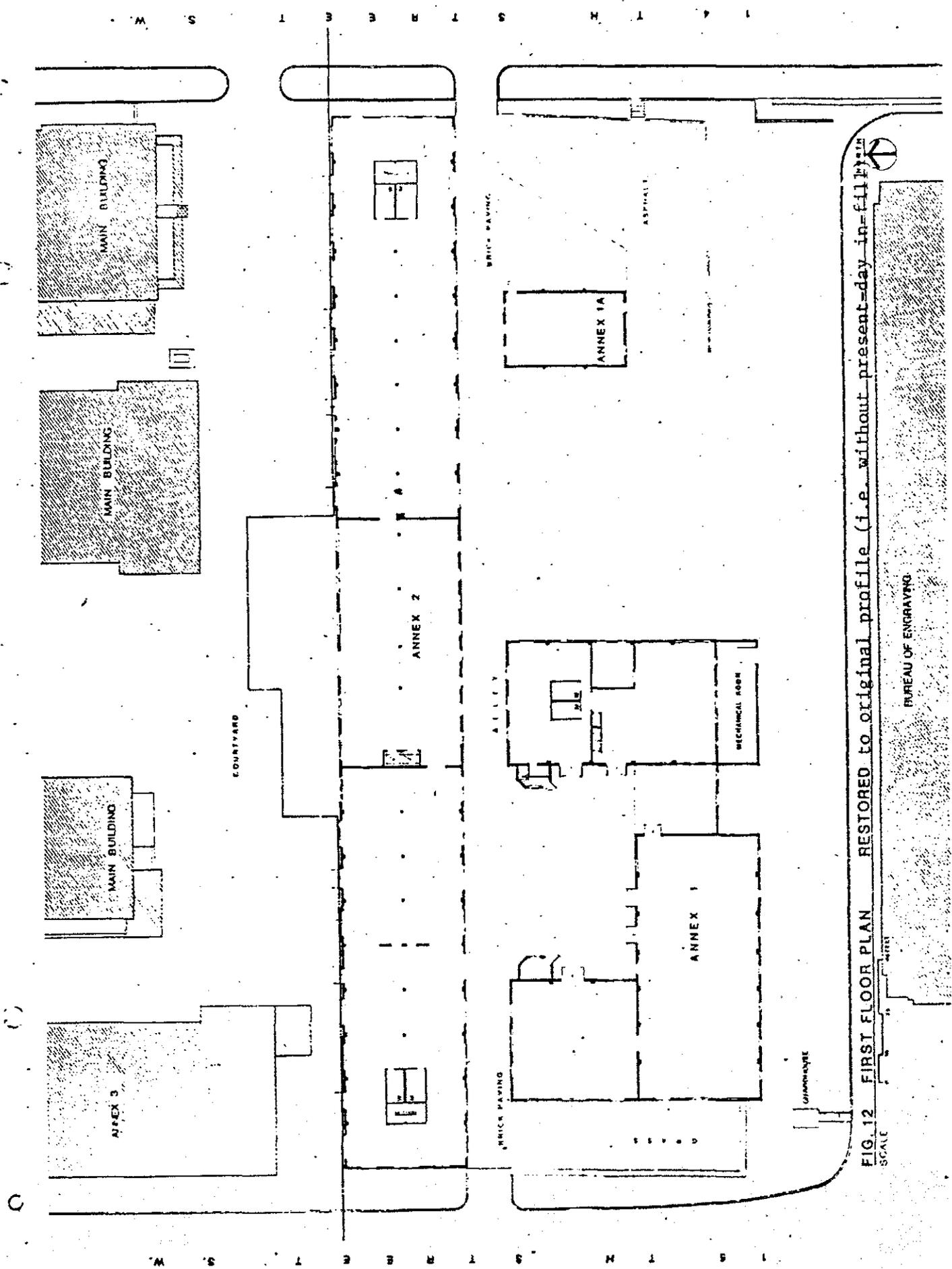


FIG. 12 FIRST FLOOR PLAN RESTORED TO ORIGINAL PROFILE (i.e. without present-day in-fill)
SCALE

BUREAU OF ENGRAVING

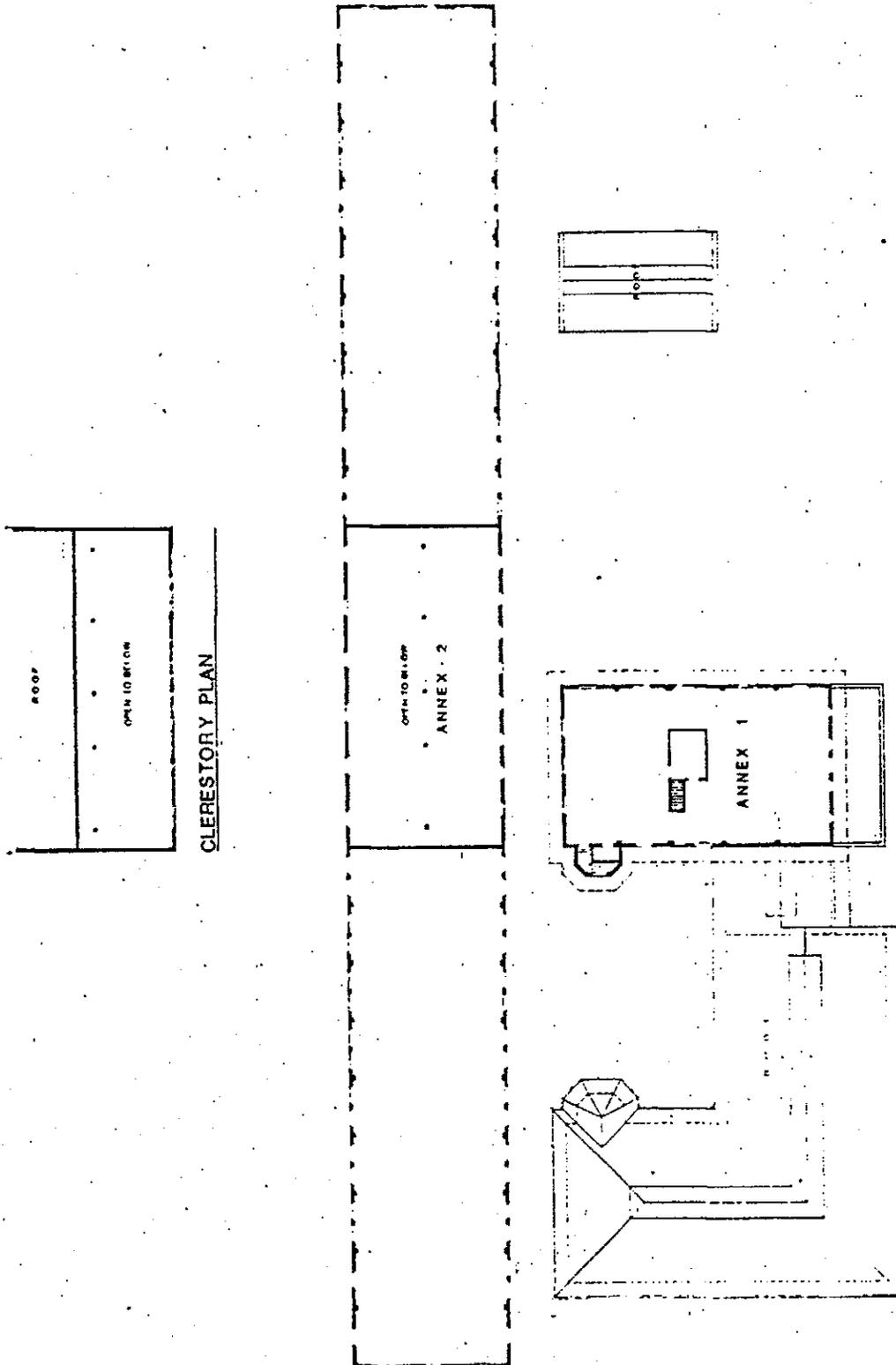
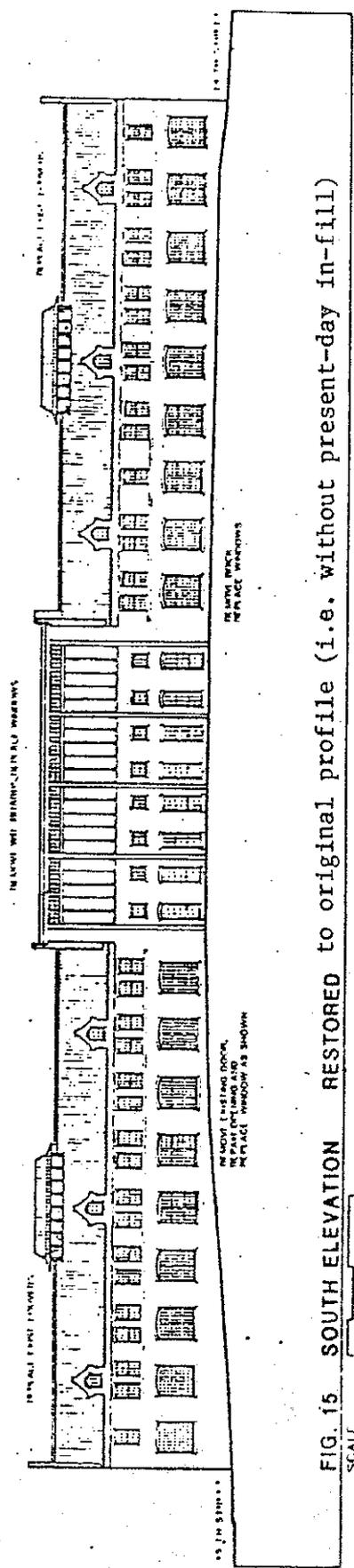
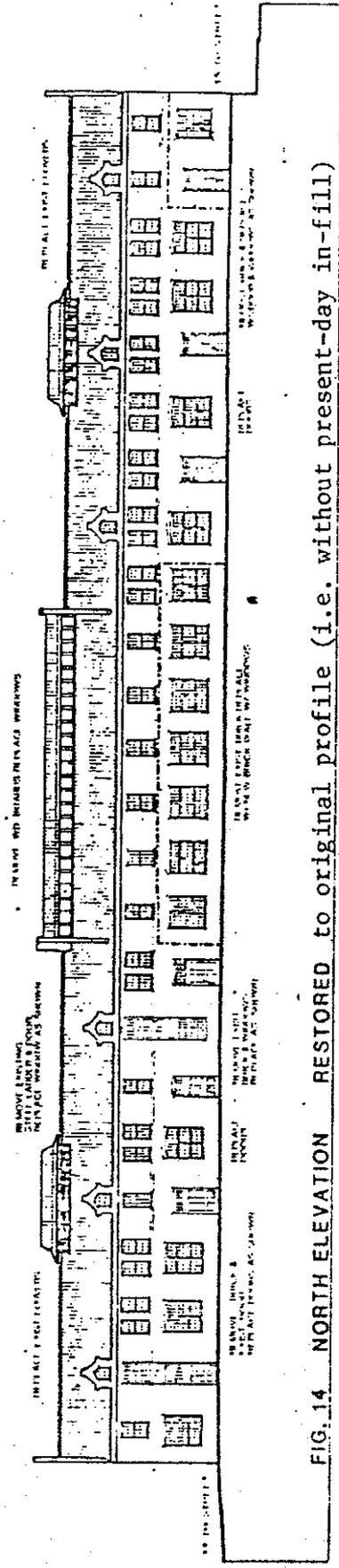
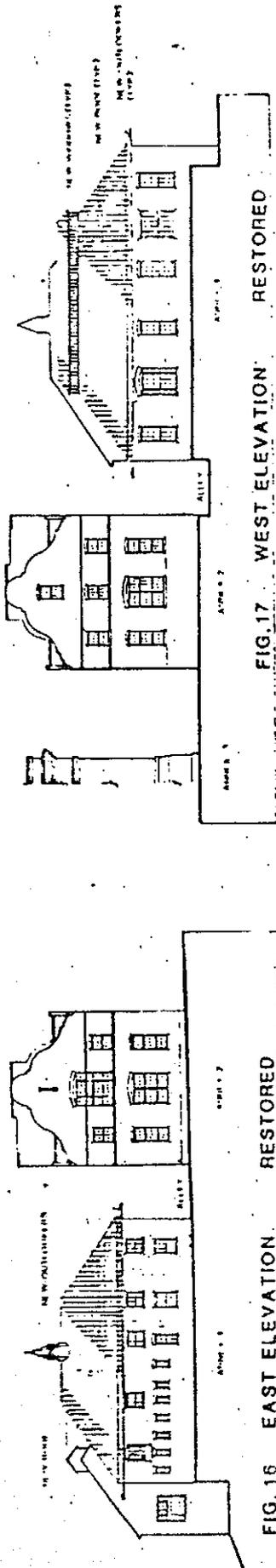


FIG. 13 SECOND FLOOR PLAN RESTORED TO ORIGINAL PROFILE (i.e. without present-day in-fill)

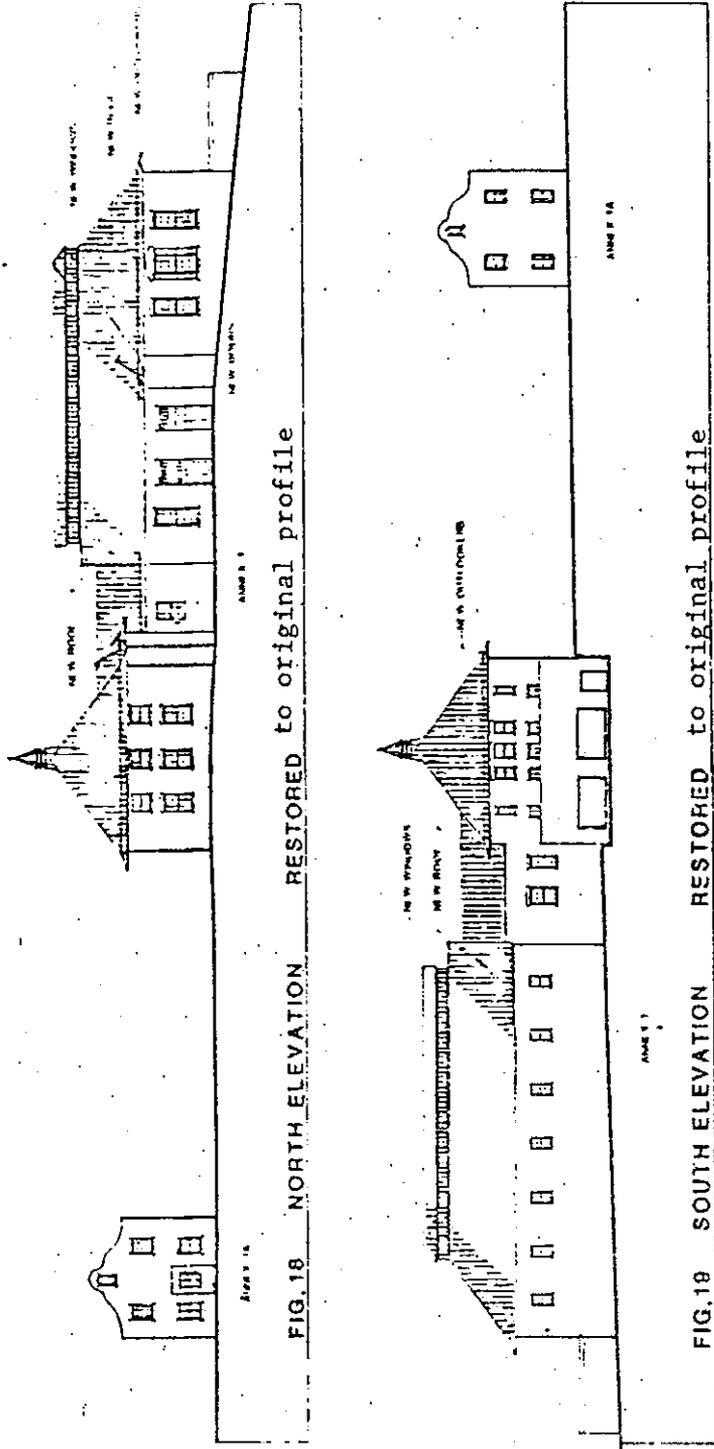
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"



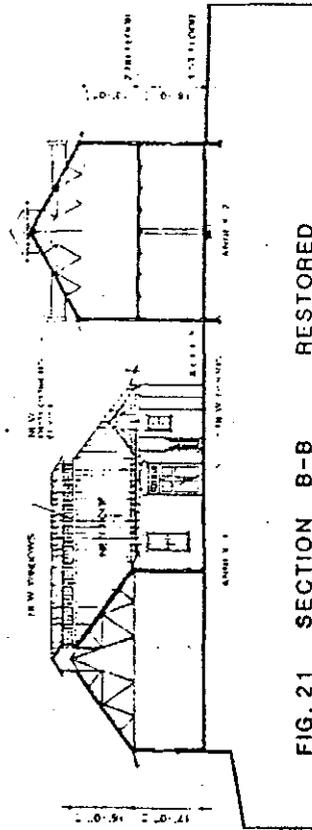
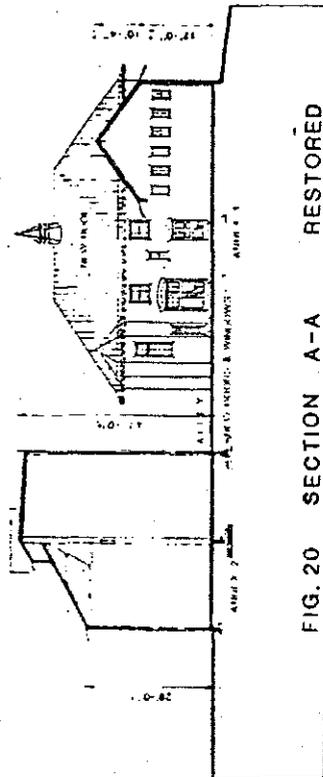




"Restored" to original profile (i.e. without present-day in-fill)



RESTORED TO ORIGINAL PROFILE
RESTORED TO ORIGINAL PROFILE
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



"Restored" to original profile (i.e. without present-day in-fill)

