

HUNT-HAWES GROCER COMPANY
(Alarm Supply Building)
508 East Seventh Street
Fort Worth
Tarrant County
Texas

HABS TX-3503
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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS TX-3503

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- Location:** 508 East Seventh Street
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas
Located to the east of Montgomery Ward & Company/Tindall Storage Warehouse building which fronts Grove Street in the central business district of Fort Worth. The building faces north toward Seventh Street.
Latitude: 32.754032, Longitude: -97.326467
The coordinate was obtained on 17 April 2013 using Google Earth. The datum is WGS84. There is no restriction on the release of this information to the public.
- Present Owner:** Fort Worth Transportation Authority
1600 East Lancaster Avenue
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas
- Present Use:** Vacant
- Significance:** The Hunt-Hawes Grocer Company is significant both individually and singularly as a contributor to the warehouse district on the eastern edge of downtown Fort Worth. Along with the Montgomery Ward Building (1911), the Axtell Building (1916), and the Nash Hardware Building (1910), it represents the important role of Fort Worth to West Texas and the Southwest as a major shipping and supply center during the early twentieth century.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection:
1910
2. Architect:
Unknown
3. Original and subsequent owners, occupant, uses:
Legal Description: Fort Worth Original Town, Block 71, Lots 5-8
 - a. 1910-1913 – Hunt-Hawes Grocer Company
 - b. 1914-1924 – Montgomery Ward & Company
 - c. 1925-1937 – Fakes & Company furniture warehouse

- d. 1938-1979 – Fort Worth Paper Company
 - e. 1981-1999 - Alarm Supply Company
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers:
Builder and Contractor are unknown. Viking was the manufacturer of the “dry system” fire extinguisher system, installed in 1931.
5. Original plans and construction:
Not available
6. Alterations and additions:
- a. The repairs of the 1912 fire damage included total replacement of one column and the repair of another. The repair was effected by sawing off the column at the floor line and inserting a new matching wood column section from the floor to the cast iron saddle. Replacement of wood foundation beams with steel wide-flange beams in two locations and a portion of the tongue and groove wood deck was accomplished.
 - b. Apparently, due to a railroad track grade change on the southeast side of the building, the northern most original coiling loading dock door appears to have been relocated to the second floor
 - c. Two windows were added on the third floor south side. These windows have an arched, brick lintel.
 - d. The truck loading dock canopy was enlarged toward the south side second floor.
 - e. An aluminum/glass door and aluminum/glass storefront was added in the place of the western most dock door, north side.

B. Historical Context

The Hunt-Hawes Grocer Company building was built in 1910 to house the Hunt-Hawes Grocer Company, a wholesale grocery firm. After being damaged by fire in 1912, the building was repaired.

In 1914, the building was consolidated with the Montgomery Ward & Company building which shares a party wall to the west. When Montgomery Was & Company moved to the old Fort Worth Chevrolet Assembly Plant on West Seventh Street in 1924, the building became part of the Fakes & Company furniture warehouse until 1937. There is no separate listing for the 1910 building in the Fort Worth City Directory until 1991. However, Tarrant County property records indicate ownership was transferred 22 December 1937 from Warren Glenn Embry to Pollock Realty Corp.

Beginning in 1938, the building became a warehouse for Fort Worth Paper Company.

This use continued until Roger W. Williams purchased the building on 15 October 1979 to house Alarm Supply Company, a wholesale supplier of security devices.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General statement:

1. Architectural character:

The five-story brick warehouse is a five-sided structure with one corner clipped at an angle adjacent to the railroad right-of-way on the east side. The north side of the building is divided into five equal bays by brick pilasters with T-shaped capitals.

2. Condition of fabric:

The general condition is good.

B. Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions:

The building's west side is 100'-5" in width, the north façade is 100'-0" in length, the south façade is 82'-6" in length and the east façade is 53'-0" in length. The chamfered east façade section is 50'-6" in length. The building is five-sided in shape with the south half of the east façade paralleling the BNSF railroad right-of-way on the east.

2. Foundations:

The foundation consists of a series of concrete spread footings on which the columns supporting the second floor bear directly. Framing into these column locations are heavy wood timber beams similar to the framing for the upper floors as discussed below. In accordance with the discussion of the fire damage above, two of these beams were replaced with steel side-flange beams. The exterior, load-bearing masonry walls are founded on a continuous grade beam which possibly extends 12 to 13 feet below the grade where probable bearing strata was found. During seismographic examination no spread footings were found to support the exterior grade beam. It is possible that piers or piles could have been employed.

3. Walls:

They are load-bearing brick masonry with pilasters, overhanging cornice with T-shaped capitals at pilasters. Cornice decorated with brick coursing detailing including corbelling between the pilasters out to the face of pilasters to form the lower part of the cornice. Corbelled brick dentils occur at the upper part of the cornice leading to a shallow ledge area. Parapet walls above the ledge area have been coated with roofing cement-like elastomeric membrane on both side of the parapet. Brick laid up in running bond into the outermost wythe being a red brick.

4. Structural System Framing:

It's comprised of heavy timber framing for columns and beam throughout. The size of the columns varied and reduced in cross section each floor above; columns at the first floor are 16"x16", second floor columns 13"x13", third floor columns 12"x12", fourth floor columns 9 1/2"x9 1/2", ending with 6"x6" columns at the fifth floor. Similarly, beams are a cross section relating to the column size in width to width typically 12" wide x 16" high at the first through the fifth floor, roof beams are 6"x10 1/2" high. Beams are seated on the columns by means of cast iron saddles sized to fit down on the top of the column. The size and configuration of the saddles is adjusted to accommodate decreasing column sizes at the upper floors.

- All floors are tongue and groove on full dimension 2x14 wood joists spaced at 12" centers. The roof deck is wood on full dimension 2x12's spaced at 16" centers.
5. Porches and awnings:
Concrete loading docks at the north and south façade with a possible historic miscellaneous iron canopy over the dock at the south façade incorporating iron suspension rods anchored into brick masonry, probably intended as protection for dock door framing. Intrusive canopy exists over the dock and ramp areas at north façade.
 6. Chimneys:
None
 7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors:
Rolling shutter type loading dock doors at the north façade; intrusive bronze anodized aluminum storefront window and door at western-most bay on north façade. There are upward (outward) acting sectional overhead doors at south façade. Historic wood personnel door at second floor, south façade leading into stair vestibule (serving third floor offices).
 - b. Windows and shutters:
 1. Windows at north façade: wood 6/6 double-hung on floors two through five. Steel coiling manual chain-hoist mechanism activated shutters at first level, north façade over two window apertures at east end.
 2. Windows at east and south facades: steel 2/2 double-hung glazed with obscuring glass. No windows at first level.
 8. Roof:
Flat built-up with low slope built in with roof structure along east-west ridgeline. Scuppers at southwest and northwest corners direct water to conductor heads at exterior; conductor heads connected to downspouts. Parapet at periphery is stepped-height, 60-72" high.
- C. Description of Interior
1. Floor Plans:
Floor plan is five-sided with east façade having a chamfered corner aspect with the wall parallel to the BNSF railroad right-of-way.
Floor to floor heights are:
 - a. First to second: 14'-3"
 - b. Second to third: 10'-0"
 - c. Third to fourth: 10'-0"
 - d. Fourth to fifth: 10'-0"
 - e. Fifth to roof at perimeter: 9'-8"

2. Stairways:
 - a. Interior southwest corner: Wood stairs from second floor to third floor; serves office areas. Wood treads and riser with modest wood handrail, balustrade with newel post.
 - b. Enclosed wood stair at west wall, first floor to second floor. Utilitarian design and features.
 - c. Wood stairs adjacent to east wall originally served first through fifth floors. Utilitarian design with no special features.
3. Flooring:

Tongue and groove wood deck over diagonal wood sub-flooring (1 ½" thick) in warehouse areas. Office areas included vinyl asbestos tile and vinyl composition tile finishes. Tongue and groove flooring runs in north/south direction, perpendicular to wood joist framing. Width of board varies from 2 ½" to 5 ¾". Wood species is pine.
4. Wall and ceiling finish:
 - a. Warehouse areas are exposed brick at exterior wall areas, painted. Ceiling is exposed wood structure at second through fifth floor. Drywall sheathing at first floor
 - b. Office areas:
 1. Reception area, stair vestibule, fire riser closet, toilet (under stair), first floor; partitions – drywall on wood studs; ceiling – suspended lay-in drywall, painted
 2. Toilet room/Change room at first floor – interior sides: plaster, painted; exterior side: exposed wood planks, painted, ceiling – plaster, painted
 3. Second floor office area – office adjacent to freight elevator, partitions and ceilings painted drywall
 4. Vault at second floor – exterior side of vault brick, painted. Interior inaccessible
 5. Toilet room at second floor – walls and ceiling painted drywall
 6. Stair enclosure at southwest corner, second floor – interior sides plaster, painted; exterior wood planks, painted
 7. Historic offices on third floor: partitions and ceiling – painted plaster
 8. Modern offices, third floor: partitions – drywall on wood studs, limited wood paneling (plywood); ceilings – suspended lay-in drywall, painted
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: wood, painted. At historic areas, third floor all detailing very simple, utilitarian

- b. Window: borrowed light condition in historic offices, third floor: Double hung 1/1 wood windows
 - c. Sliding metal fire doors at fourth and fifth floors
 - 6. Decorative features and trim:
None notable
 - 7. Hardware:
None notable
 - 8. Mechanical equipment:
 - a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: none notable
 - b. Lighting: none notable
 - c. Plumbing: standard cast iron drainage system
 - d. Materials handling systems:
 - 1. Interior freight elevator serving all floors, originally a roped counter-weighted lifting system; retrofitted to hydraulic system. Draw works at penthouse still in place.
 - 2. Package delivery system in a spiral, galvanized steel sheet metal assembly serving fifth to second floors with out-all ramp at second floor adjacent to dock doors at south façade.
 - 9. Original furnishings:
None
- D. Site
- 1. Historic landscapes design:
Concrete walks with iron pipe rails at step down to street level
 - 2. Outbuildings:
None

PART IV. SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

Original Architectural Drawings:
No original plans or drawings are known to exist

Early Views:
Exterior view, northeast corner of Hunt-Hawes Grocer, Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, (ca. 1912) University of Texas at Arlington, Special Collections, Fort-Worth Star-Telegram

Interview:
Christopher W. Ebert and Gordon M. Marchant. Interview with Scott Tindall. Written notes, Fort Worth, Texas. 2 September 1999.

Bibliography

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Tarrant County Texas. Office Tax Assessor-Collector. Assessor's Abstract of City Property Tarrant County, Texas.

Reedy, Frank B., The Reedy Group, Alarm Supply Building, Existing Structural Condition Survey, 6 October 1999.

2. Secondary and published sources:

Fort Worth Record, 19 March 1912. Federal Writer's Project Texas Research Data for Tarrant County, Texas, p. 7768.

Fort Worth Star-Telegram, 19 March 1912. Microfilm, University of Texas at Arlington Library.

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Sanborn Map™ Company, Insurance Maps of Fort Worth, Texas. 1927, p. 209. Microfilm. City of Dallas Public Library.

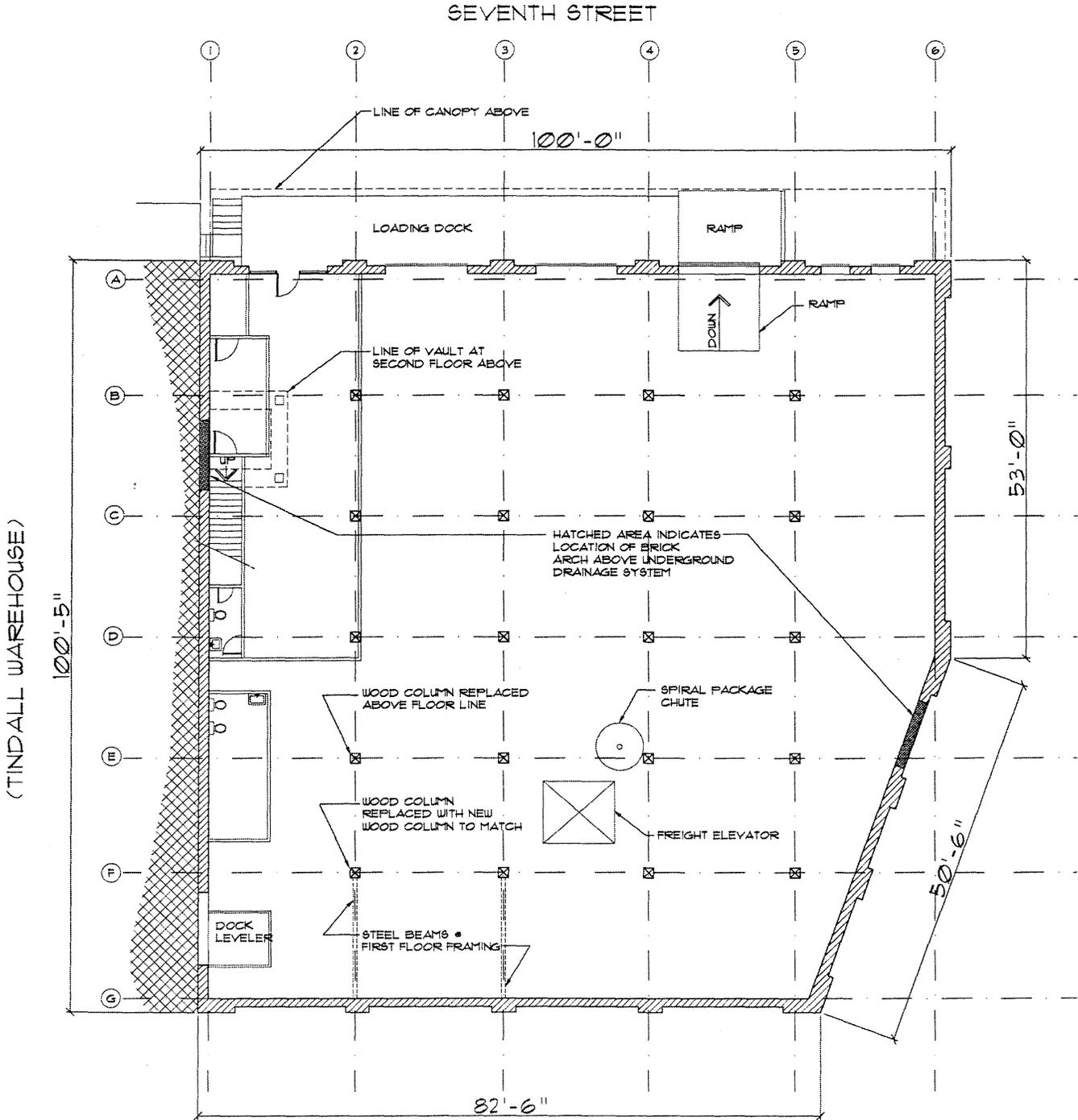
PART V. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) recording project was required by the Memorandum of Agreement among the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the Fort Worth Transportation Authority (FWTA), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the Texas State Historic Preservation Office regarding the Fort Worth Transportation Authority Commuter Rail Project Fort Worth, Texas. The FTA determined that the construction of the commuter rail project would effect the Hunt-Hawes Grocer Company building which is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Therefore, FWTA documented the Hunt-Hawes Grocer Company building to HABS level III guidelines.

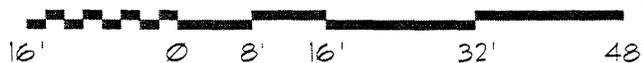
The field work and sketch drawings were prepared by Historic Design & Development. The recording team consisted of Gordon M. Marchant, Jr. and Christopher W. Ebert. Historic research was conducted by Christopher W. Ebert. The architectural description and sketch

drawings were prepared by Gordon M. Marchant, Jr., AIA. Photography was produced by Michael Bodycomb of Fort Worth.

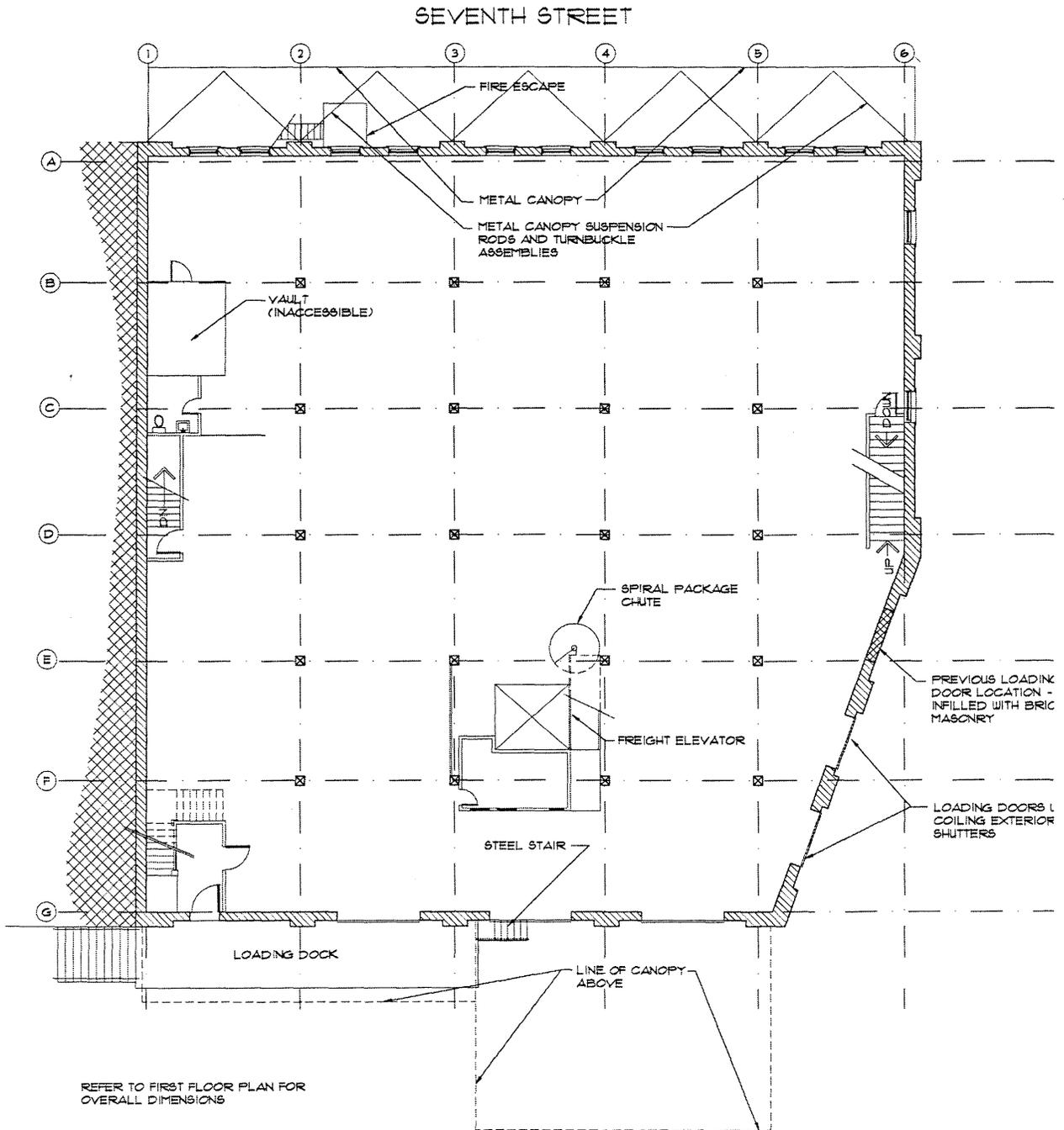
The report from the 1990s was submitted to the HABS Washington Office by the Intermountain Regional Office in 2013. The report was reformatted and edited to meet HABS standards by HABS/HAER/HALS archivist Anne Mason in 2013. The original report was submitted with a bibliography, but did not contain any citations.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



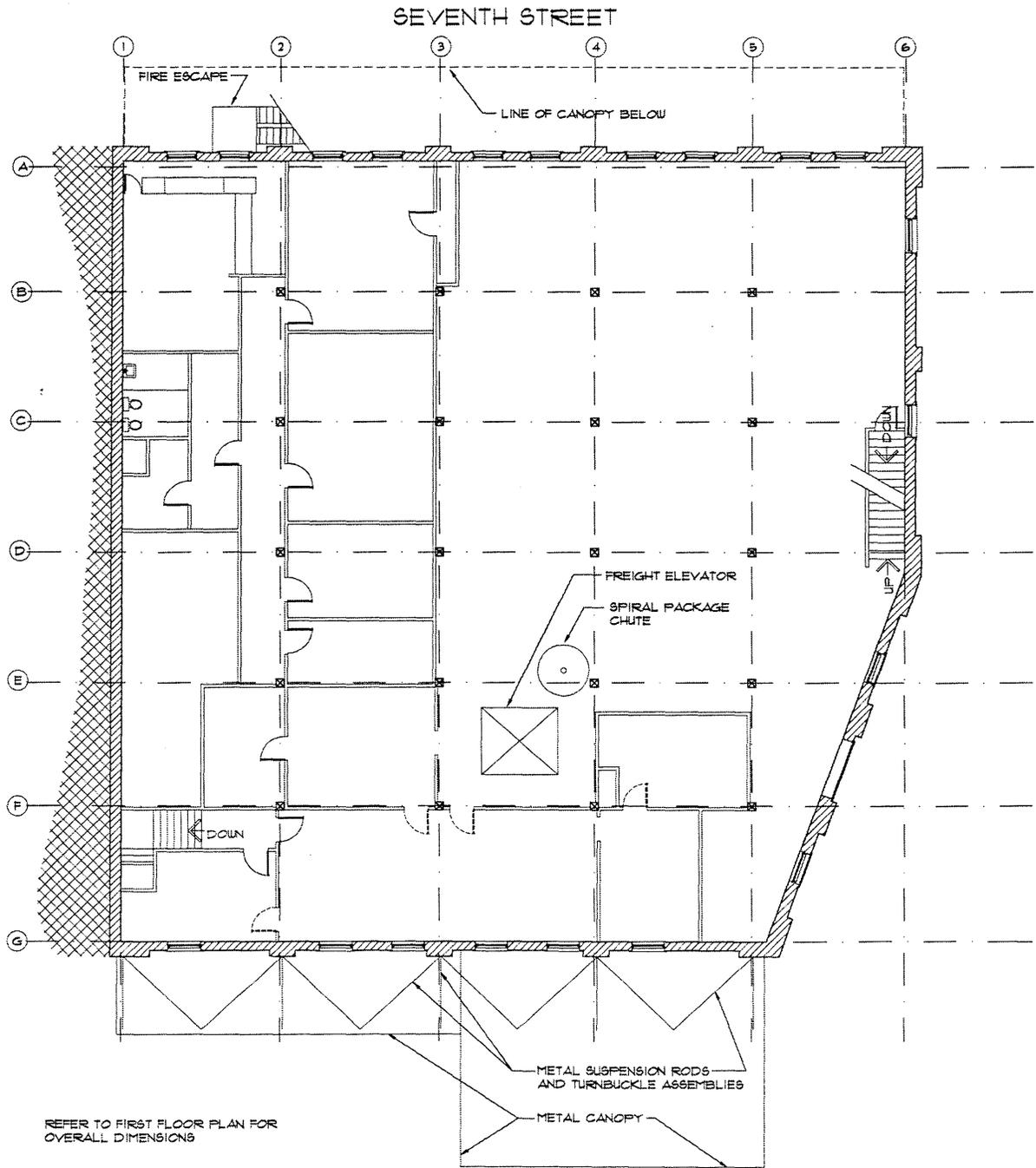
(TINDALL WAREHOUSE)



SECOND FLOOR PLAN



(TINDALL WAREHOUSE)

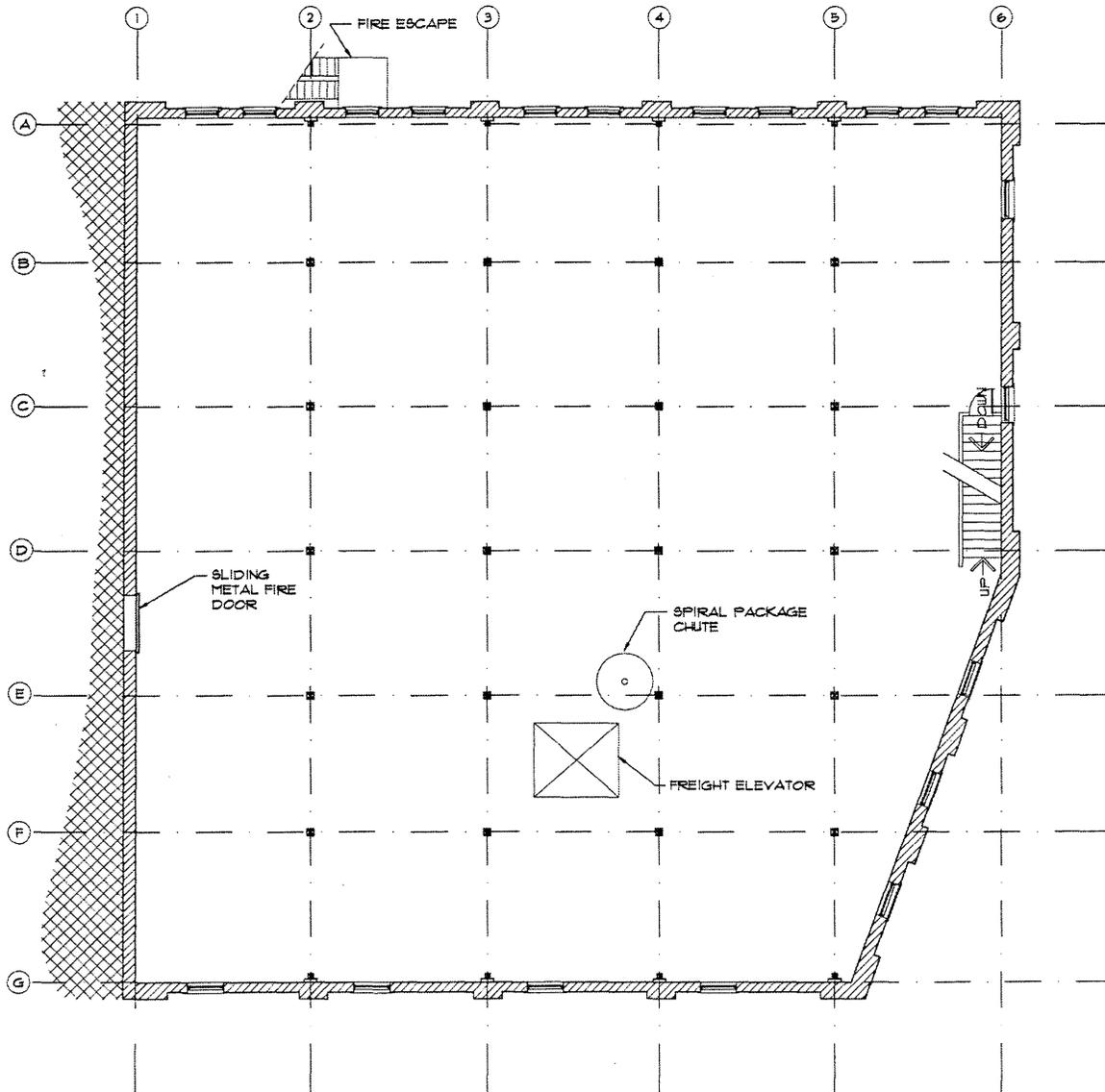


REFER TO FIRST FLOOR PLAN FOR
OVERALL DIMENSIONS

THIRD FLOOR PLAN

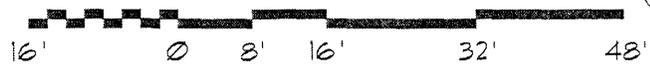


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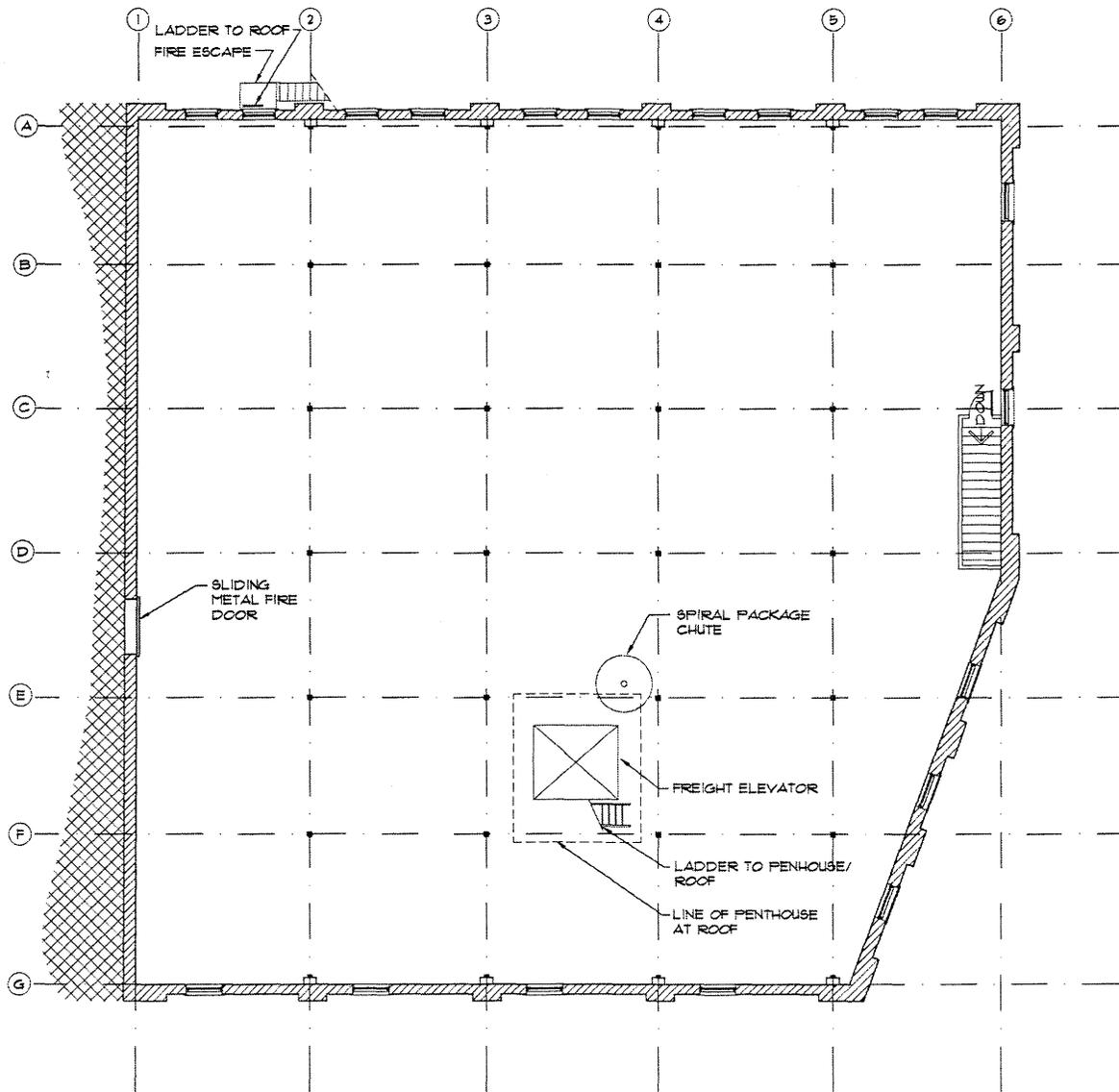
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OVERALL DIMENSIONS

FOURTH FLOOR PLAN



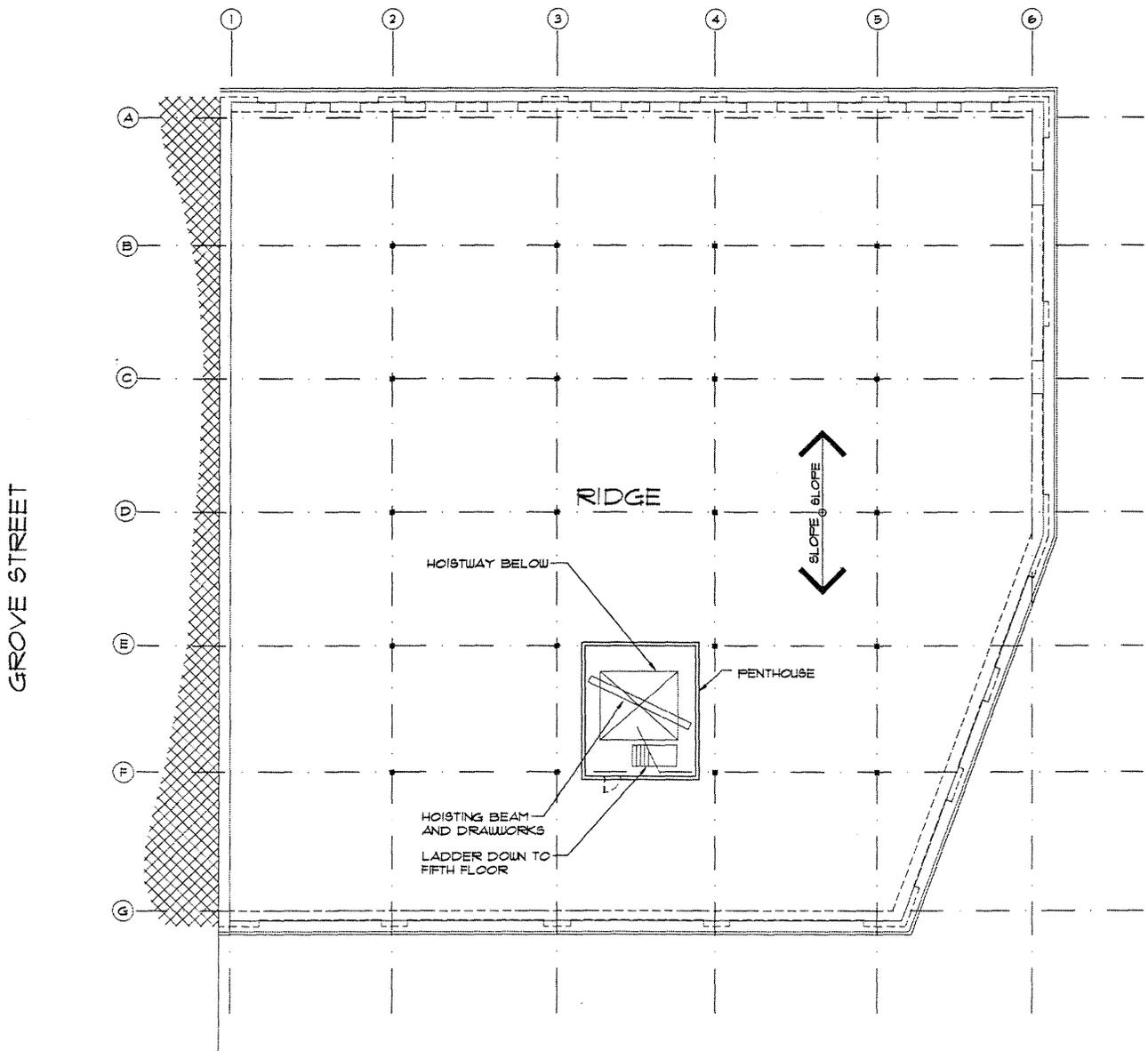
(TINDALL WAREHOUSE)

SEVENTH STREET



FIFTH FLOOR PLAN





ROOF PLAN

