

# *New Hampshire* ARCHITECT

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*New Hampshire Chapter of the American Institute of Architects*



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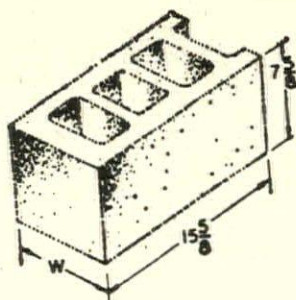


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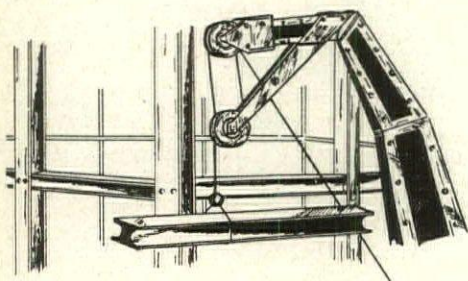
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# New Hampshire ARCHITECT

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## COVER PICTURE

Recently completed home of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph C. Margeson in New Castle. Details of design will be found on Pages 8, 9, and 11.

Edward Benton Miles, Exeter, Architect.

The Maxam Company, Portsmouth, General Contractor.

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# THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS

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"Anon out of the earth a fabric huge  
Rose, like an exhalation, with the sound  
Of dulcet symphonies and voices sweet,  
Built like a temple, where pilasters round  
Were set, and Doric pillars overlaid  
With golden architrave; nor did there want  
Cornice or frieze with bossy sculptures graven.  
The roof was fretted gold. - - - -

- - - The ascending pile  
Stood fixt her stately height, and straight the doors  
Op'ning their brazen folds, discover, wide  
Within, her ample spaces, o'er the smooth  
And level pavement: from the arched roof,  
Pendant by subtle magic, many a row  
Of starry lamps and blazing cressets, fed  
With Naphtha and Asphaltus, yielded light  
As from a sky. The hasty multitude  
Admiring enter'd, and the work some praise,  
And some the architect: his hand was known  
In heaven by many a towered structure high."

The last sentence in the above quotation from Milton's "Paradise Lost" shows that architectural tradition originated in a very high place. Unfortunately the architect referred to was none other than Lucifer (Satan) and the structure described was his palace in hell.

" - - - And how he fell  
From heaven they fabled, thrown by angry Jove  
Sheer o'er the crystal battlements; - - -  
- - - nor aught availed him now  
To have built in heaven high tow'rs; nor did he scape  
By all his engines, but was headlong sent  
With all his industrious crew to build in hell."

But this is not the fate of all architects, nor was Satan the first architect. Reading further we find the part where the angel Raphael replies thus, in part, to Adam's too deep questions concerning celestial secrets:

"This to attain, whether heaven move or earth  
Imports not, if thou reckon right; the rest  
From man or angel the great Architect  
Did wisely to conceal, and not divulge  
His secrets to be scann'd by them who ought  
Rather admire; - - - -"

Is there a lesson here for us lesser architects? There surely is, because in this mundane realm we seldom act with divine grace or wisdom. If we did, then our services would be in great demand and we would have little need for such things as a Public Relations program or an Architects' Registration Law.

The New Hampshire Architect is primarily a medium for improving relations between architects and the public, for their mutual benefit. Keeping in mind that for every architect subscriber there are about thirty lay subscribers, we should guard against divulging too many of those "secrets" about our own troubles or about the black sheep and pretenders among our own numbers.

The magazine has had its face lifted by new Editor Alex Majeski. He has worked out new page arrangements and is introducing some new departments. He is rotating assignments for material instead of depending on voluntary contributions. In these and in other ways New Hampshire Architect will present their better side to be

" - - - scanned by them who ought Rather admire."

*Eugene J. Magenan*

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## NOTICE

Articles and photographs to be published in New Hampshire Architect should be mailed to Alexander Majeski, Palomino Lane, Manchester, N. H.

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## ARCHITEXTOPICS

*By Richard Koehler, A.I.A.*

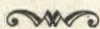
### N. H. A. A.

The New Hampshire Associate Architects is a joint venture of the architectural firms: Alfred T. Granger, Associates, Koehler and Isaak, Hersey and Spaulding, Inc., Tracy and Hildreth and Maurice E. Witmer, to execute the Architectural Engineering work on the Portsmouth Air Base.

This coagulating of independent talent into a workable unit provides sufficient proof that not always is it necessary to contract with large firms to execute a sizeable program.

It should be a source of hope to our profession and individual offices in the hinterlands that what is lacked in man-power can be solved by a joining of forces to provide at least as good, if not a better, service now believed attainable only by employment of the large firms.

The members of the N. H. A. A. fully realize that the results of their efforts will "cast the die" as to future large scale work, be it of the military or private. The N. H. A. A. is appreciative of the action taken by the Corps of Engineers in placing full trust in it and shall endeavor to justify this faith.



### Evolution of an Architect

This species of humanity requires definition.

We shall start with that stage of life where we find him just past the damp underpinning age. He has made several sketches recognizable not to himself but thoroughly gloated over by his forebears. Fortified by this cheer, there is no end to his excursions with the graphic arts. Rather than answer to a question with a pure "yes" or "no," he profusely illustrates his answer on any convenient surface. And so up through the years he spins, over-developing his graphic talents and leaving his vocal and social communications back in the damp stage. College, graduate school, etc., further develop this

natural bent with so very little emphasis on the simple basic rules of communication, that we find this chap with a well-calloused hand, squinting eyes, and so trained in concentration that he responds to outward stimuli with a pleasant vague smile.

He attacks his first drafting chores with relish—window and door details, framing plans, specifications; all of the unglamorous, he absorbs with enthusiasm because he still is expressing in a medium familiar to himself.

Now he feels ready to assume that area of architecture dealing with the client, the contractor, the banker and all the other inhabitants of this world that play a part, minor part that is. For various reasons these "other people" do not understand him—the client turns his ideal solution into a mediocre execution, the contractor has no aesthetic sense, the banker requires those silly requisitions.

Now here is the cross-roads—he may compromise and decide to live with these strange bed-fellows, or he can go marching up the aesthetically satisfying path quite by himself, screaming his defiance with the very small chance that after years of eating bark from trees he will be pinned with some medal of distinction. As evidenced by the standard of living of most architects, it is obvious which road is taken.



### Success

Our scope of activity as architects has been, is, and will be, between a short jab into the earth and a stone's throw into the sky—yet how little we have progressed! !

In this day of shoe, stocking and suit sizes, this day so filled with "file it here, file it there" systems, this day when activities mental, physical and spiritual must be regimented to the hands of a time-piece; we as architects have jumped aboard this fast moving Pied Piper's band, and amid the clatter have attempted to concentrate, we have labored hard and in pains of labor finally delivered a mouse—not a large mouse—not a little mouse—not even a green mouse with red eyes—just a plain and nondescript mouse.

(Continued on page 12)



## SICO Non-Load

### Bearing Partitions

Cost is a prime factor and concern to architects, contractors, and owners of buildings under present conditions of high priced materials and labor and it is often the deciding point whether "to build or not to build." A vital factor in cost reduction may be a new material of one kind or another, but it is important that the user of any new material know how best to utilize the special properties of that particular material to the best advantage.

Material may not be good just because it is new; only time and experience can furnish the proper perspective with which to view any product. However, when an actual job use of a new product shows that either time or money may be saved, then a study of such saving in time or money should properly be called to the attention of all interested parties.

Recently the Middle Street Baptist Church in Portsmouth purchased the historic Pierce mansion on Haymarket Square for the purpose of converting this really fine example of early American architecture into a parish house. To make room for future church building it was necessary to move the Pierce mansion on to a new foundation; the contour of the ground in the new location was such that a roomy basement could be made under the building, with entrances at ground level in the rear. By careful planning, the architect, Maurice E. Witmer of Portsmouth, secured an entirely new and daylighted floor under the building and at the same time retained the original pleasing colonial exterior.

This new basement was planned for use as class and work room space; it was necessary, therefore, to erect a number of nonload bearing partition walls that would be **first**, reasonable in cost, **second**, highly resistant to sound transmission, **third**, strong enough to stand up under the inevitable beating they would take from children of all ages using the rooms for work and play, **fourth**, to be pleasing in appearance and harmonize with the fine rugged strength of the mansion of which they were to become a part.

A number of materials and construction systems for these walls were carefully considered and it was finally decided to build one room using SICO non-load bearing plastered partition. Plans were made to keep an accurate record of all costs for the trial job and to base the decision for the remainder of the partitions on the results obtained. The record was kept by the contractor, Edward L. Paterson and Son, and the architect. Union labor was used on the job. Actual current rates in the area and prices for materials were charged in the normal manner.

The trial job covered an area of approximately 400 square feet of partition and came out so well that it was decided to go ahead with the entire job of some eight rooms totaling some 1800 square feet, including doors and other openings. Actual accurate costs were kept in the same manner for this entire job and a brief analysis is given below.

None of the workmen on this job had ever handled this type of board previously but they had no difficulty in the erection and completion of the walls. As a matter of fact workmen, contractor, architect, and owner were all in agreement that they would like to use more of this same type of partition.

Before turning to the cost analysis it may be well to furnish a brief description of the partitions and how they were erected. It was decided that a wall of 3 inch overall thickness would be used and this consisted of a 2 inch core of SICO Structural Insulation with 1/2 inch of hard plaster on each side.

To start with, a runner of standard 2 x 4 finished lumber, resawed on the job to exactly 3 inches in width was bolted to the concrete floor. The same type of runner was also bolted to the steel or wood ceiling beams and was used as a frame around door openings. Strips of ordinary 13/16 inch lumber were sawn 1/2 inch wide and nailed to the runners forming a wood channel piece into which the 2 inch thick SICO board could be set. The 1/2 inch wide strips also served as grounds for the 1/2 inch thick coat of plaster which was applied on each side. The wooden runners at floor, ceiling, and door openings also served as nailers for wood trim finish.

To erect the SICO board, which comes in sheets size 16 inches by 48 inches, a carpenter and helper were used together with a mason to "butter" all joints between sheets. Four inch finish nails were driven into the wood base runner at about one foot intervals and the first row of SICO sheets was pushed down into these protruding nails which acted as dowells. The sheets of SICO board were layed up with mortar cement between all joints and the vertical joints were staggered. The 4 inch finish nails were also used as dowells between the sheets of SICO board.

As the walls were erected, temporary braces were placed along one side of each wall so that the opposite side could be plastered first, with the brown coat.

When it was necessary to cut the sheets of SICO board an ordinary carpenter's hatchet was used and it was quite surprising how quickly and accurately the rough cuts could be made. No SICO board was sawed on the job. Where electrical wiring was to be installed in the partitions, a rough groove was cut into the wall with a hatchet, conduit and boxes were roughly installed in the wall before any plastering was done. Grooves and

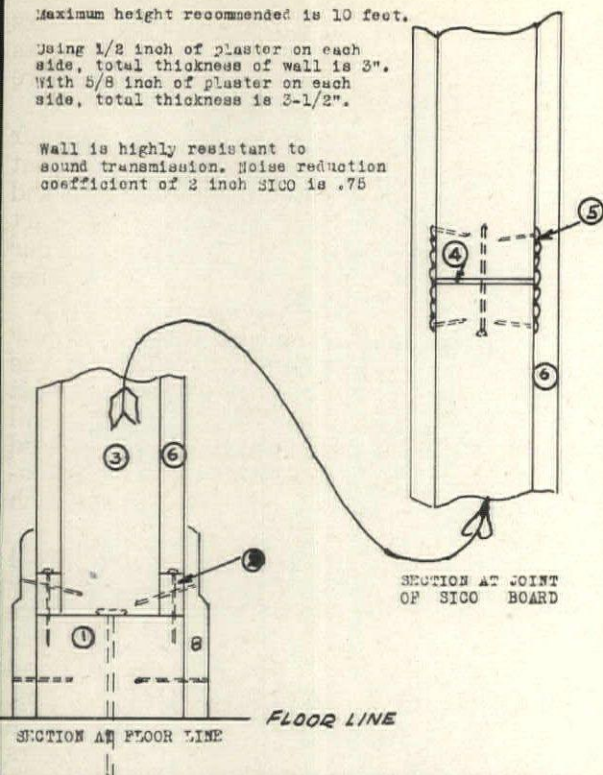


Metal runners may be substituted for wood pieces.

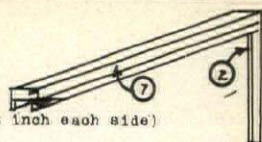
Maximum height recommended is 10 feet.

Using 1/2 inch of plaster on each side, total thickness of wall is 3".  
With 5/8 inch of plaster on each side, total thickness is 3-1/2".

Wall is highly resistant to sound transmission. Noise reduction coefficient of 2 inch SICO is .75

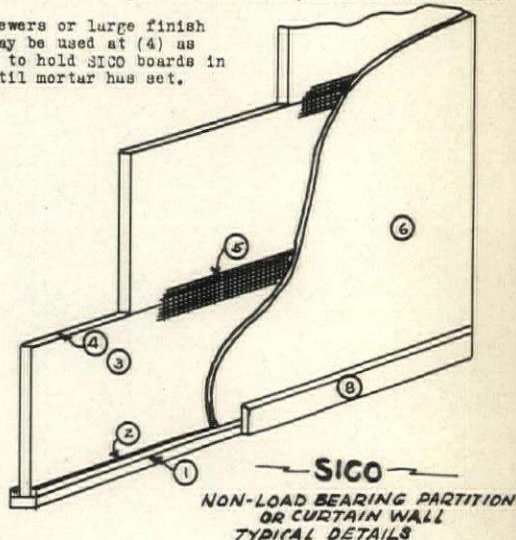


- (1) Floor or base runner
- (2) Plaster ground strip
- (3) SICO Board
- (4) Cement mortar joint
- (5) Wire mesh joint strip
- (6) Plaster or cement (minimum thickness 1/2 inch each side)
- (7) Cap runner
- (8) Base board or trim



Note: Use temporary braces on one side of wall until first coat of plaster has been placed on other side.

Wood skewers or large finish nails may be used at (4) as dowels to hold SICO boards in line until mortar has set.



SICO STRUCTURAL INSULATION  
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conduit were later covered with strips of wire lath, and then plastered as an integral part of the wall.

The walls erected one day were ready for the first coat of plaster on the following day. Brown coat was applied to one side of the wall and the plaster set up fast enough so that when one side was plastered the temporary braces could be removed and the opposite side plastered with no delay. The surface of the SICO board is quite porous so that there was practically no "drop off" as the plaster was applied and the plastering job moved along with maximum speed and minimum mess and loss of material on the floor. The porosity of the board gave an excellent key for the plaster which allowed the brown coat to dry normally with finish coat applied in the usual time.

It may be noted, that where the SICO walls joined into other dissimilar materials such as steel beams, pieces of wire lath were used over such joints. Otherwise no wire mesh was used. It was believed that due to the fact that the sheets of board were layed up with mortar joints, the entire wall would act as a unit, thus reducing the tendency of plaster cracks between the individual sheets of board comprising the wall.

The job was completed in the late summer with no artificial heat in the building and with the heating season well advanced there

has been no sign of cracking in the plaster.

The completed walls are only 3 inches thick overall, yet rugged, with excellent appearance, and are exceedingly resistant to sound transmission.

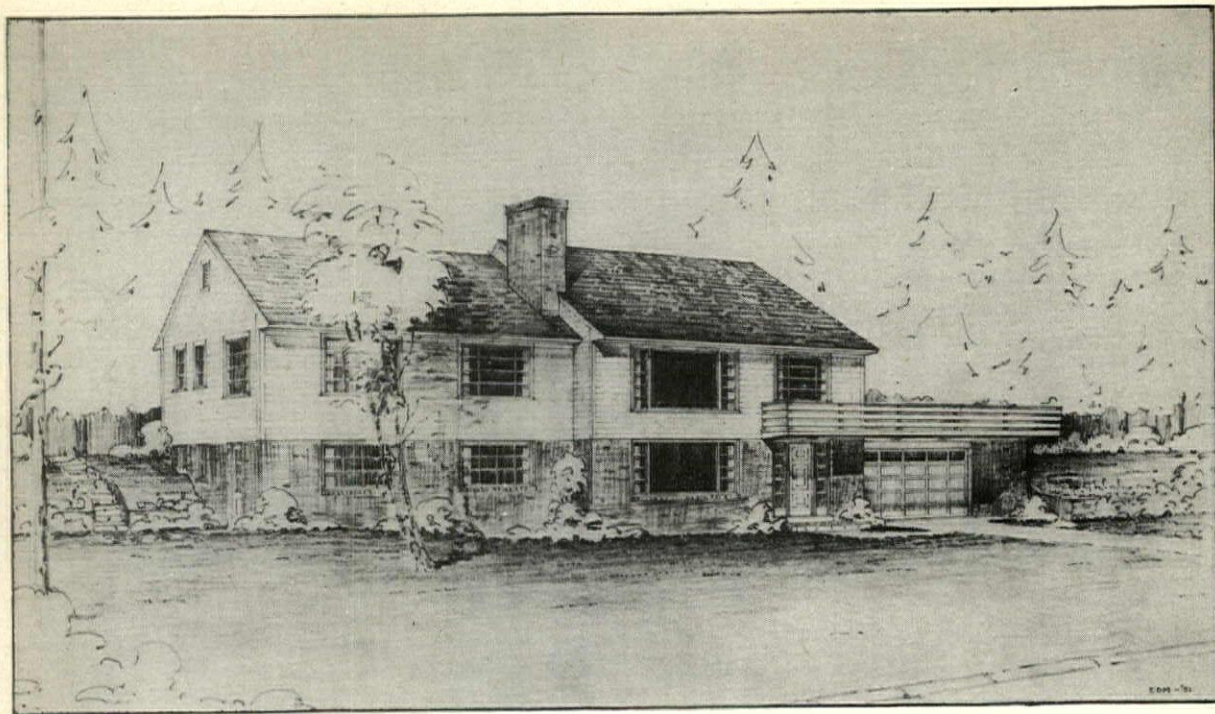
A summary of the actual costs on this job follows:

Actual Cost Study, Middle Street Baptist Church, Portsmouth, N. H., September, 1951.

Two inch partition, plastered both faces one-half inch. Total thickness of partition three inches.

Carpenter	\$18.00 per 8 hour day	
Mason and helper	\$44.00 per 8 hour day	
1,467 sq. ft. 2" SICO		\$ 381.42
Carpenter—labor	\$ 72.00	
Carpenter—material	26.00	98.00
Mason—labor	\$440.00	
Mason—material	126.23	566.23
		<hr/>
		\$1,045.65
Carpenter hours		
2 men 3 days		
Mason hours		
1 mason and helper laying board 3 days		
2 masons and 1 helper "brown" 3-1/2 days		
2 masons and 1 helper "skin" 3-1/2 days		
Cost per 1,467 square feet		\$1,045.65
Cost per square foot		\$ 0.712





## Margeson Home at Newcastle Completed

Of unique design is the recently completed home for Mr. and Mrs. Ralph C. Margeson and daughter in New Castle, N. H. A sloping lot backed by a pine grove and facing the street on the South provides a setting for this interesting residence. In addition an excellent view of the ocean was available from the higher areas of the site.

The main entrance of the house is at the basement, or Ground Floor level. The Ground Floor plan of the residence shows how easily guests may enter from the driveway and be conducted immediately to the Game Room without having to enter the living areas of the house above. This Game Room may be used in conjunction with the Kitchenette when "snacks" are desired. Space is also provided on this floor for a Shop, Gun Room, Furnace Room, Bath and Garage. The Bath is well placed for use after swimming at a nearby beach.

The First Floor of the house provides the living quarters. By placing the main rooms at this elevation it was possible to take advantage of the view of the ocean mentioned above. A roof deck over the Garage provides opportunity for "sunning" and greater enjoyment of the view and breezes from the

water. As the site is sloping the ground is at floor level at the back of the house and a screened porch opens to a terrace in the pine grove. This screened porch and terrace, being on the North side of the building, are comfortable even in the hottest Summer days.

The residence is constructed with brick walls for the Ground Floor and wood frame with clapboards for the First Floor. Ceilings are plastered throughout the house. Wall finishes are plaster and pine sheathing. Floor finishes are of cork, asphalt tiles, and wall to wall carpets. Heat is provided by an oil fired two zoned forced hot water system.

General Contractors: The Maxam Company, Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Plumbing & Heating Contractor: George W. Womersley, Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

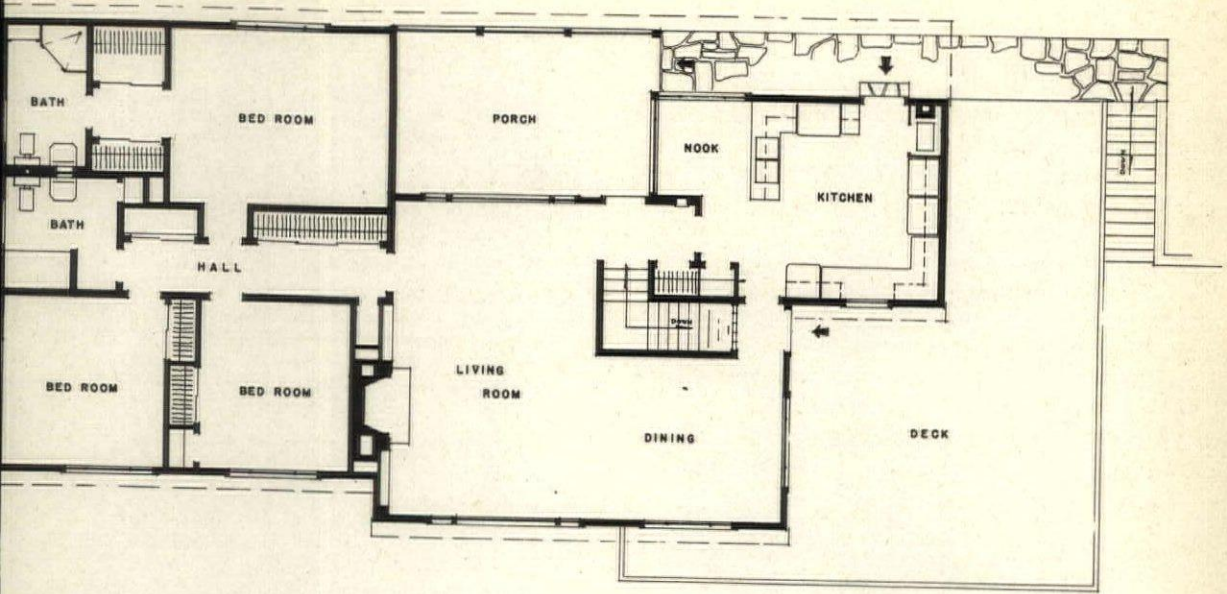
Electrical Contractor: W. B. Redden, Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Architect: Edward Benton Miles, Exeter, New Hampshire.

(Additional photos pages 9 and 11)

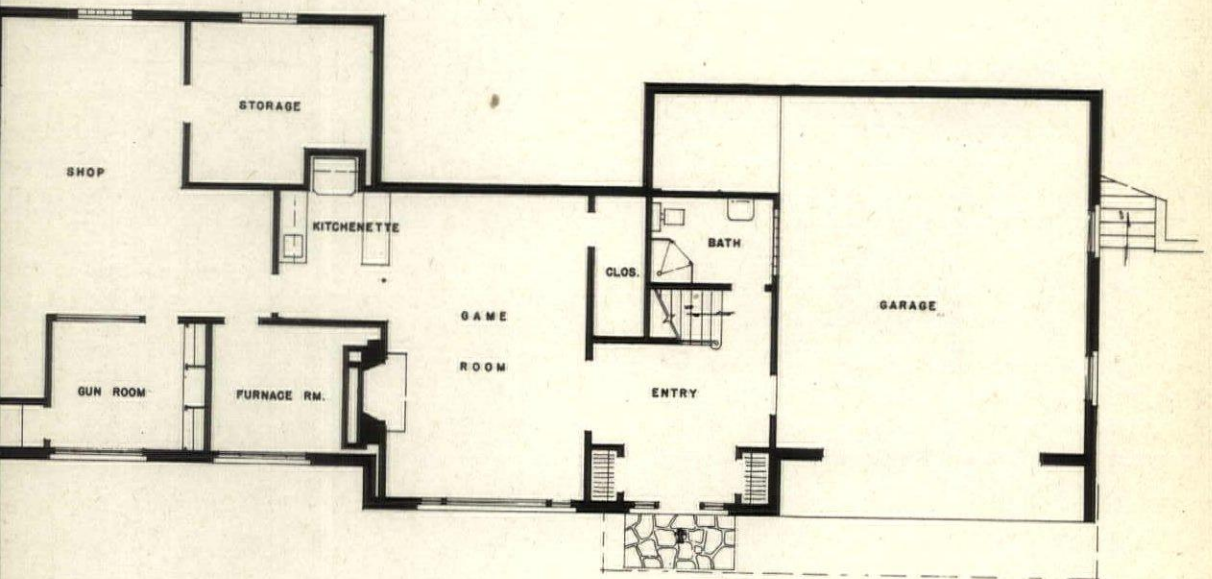


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FIRST FLOOR PLAN

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GROUND FLOOR PLAN

Scale 0 5' 10' 15'



## 50th Anniversary Observed By West Side Lumber Co.

The West Side Lumber Company, located at 168 South Main street, ties in with early history of that section of the city and is the oldest lumber company in Manchester.

It was established on February 16, 1903, when the A. C. Wallace Lumber Company was purchased, thus completing 50 years of operation this year. Robert L. Shirley, father of the present owner, came into the firm in 1920. In 1937, Lawrence W. Shirley became owner-manager upon the retirement of his father.

Original corporators are Daniel J. Mahoney, Frank J. Provost, Horace Holbrook, Ira F. Sturtevant and Dr. Charles B. Sturtevant.

The West Side Lumber Company has a planing mill and a saw mill. The company carries a complete line of lumber and building materials and makes its own moldings and inside finish to sell at retail.

In the old days it was a familiar sight to see the huge logs drawn on sleds by horses across South Main street to be piled along the Squog river on Log street. Gradually the company's residential houses along Log street disappeared, as space was needed to pile lumber. Today Log street, most likely, is the only former residential street in the city without a house on it. At times there have been 100,000 feet of logs on properly named Log street.

It has been a long expanse of time for logging operations by this company within a 15-mile radius of Manchester, with timber long since acquired in the modern manner.

Years back the Ranno harness shop was alongside the West Side Lumber Company, doing business in a three-story building at South Main and Log streets. The coming of the automobile naturally sounded the death knell of the harness business and then a fire reduced the structure to one story. The West Side Lumber Company now owns the old Ranno building and land.



Shepard Volgelgesang, A. I. A., designed the above house for the Casgrain Estate in Whitefield. Construction was recently completed.



"Doctor," said the patient, "if there's anything wrong with me, don't frighten me half to death by giving it a long scientific name. Just tell me in plain English what it is."

"Well," the doctor replied hesitantly, "to be perfectly frank, you are just plain lazy."

"Thank you, Doctor. And now, will you give me the scientific name for that condition so that I can tell the folks at home?"—*Oral Hygiene.*

Mr. Brown was a stubborn individual. He would never wear rubbers when it rained, or an extra sweater on chilly nights. Mrs. Brown became somewhat irritated at his obstinacy.

"You never take any good advice," she complained.

"Darn lucky for you I don't" he retorted, "or you would still be an old maid."—*Times of Brazil.* (Soa Paulo)





View of back of house showing screened porch, kitchen entrance and terrace during construction.

## Professional Engineers Must Register in N. H.

CONCORD—As the result of legislation enacted at the 1951 session of the General Court, all Granite Staters professing to have the ability to practice professional engineering, as defined in the law, must be registered after Jan. 1, 1952. Since 1945 there has been a registration law for engineers, but it was only "permissive" in nature. The new law makes registration mandatory.

The 1951 amendment to the registration law requires the registration of "any person in either public or private capacity practicing or offering to practice professional engineering" by submitting "evidence that he is qualified to practice."

It has also been declared unlawful for any person "to use in connection with his name, or otherwise assume, use or advertise any title or description tending to convey the impression that he is a professional engineer, unless such person has been duly registered."

At the same time, it should be pointed out

that the work of operating engineers, operators of machines or engines, technicians or mechanics is not professional engineering and is not encompassed by the provisions of the professional engineering law.

According to the new law, a professional engineer must have as basic qualifications, advanced knowledge of mathematics and the physical sciences, augmented by their practical application through satisfactory practical experience. "These are the fundamental working tools," according to A. M. Whittemore, secretary of the N. H. Society of Engineers.

Purpose of the law is to protect the public against unscrupulous and incompetent engineering practices. Requests for complete information about the amended registration law can be obtained at the Board of Registration for Professional Engineers, 6 School street, Hudson.

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*It's in the limelight that  
white wash shows up the  
blackest.—CHARLEY GRANT.*



(Continued from page 5)

## Yankee Architect

Survival of the fittest—trite?—yes, but applicable. A relocated Westerner observed that people seemed to take on the characteristics of the land on which they live and New England was no exception. I have often wondered what wore off the legs of a Scotty dog.

We as Yankee Architects have this one common problem—money—there just isn't enough of the stuff. If you are interested in State work—austerity is the watch-word. If you are interested in commercial work—they either wear out what they have or they tear down what they have and ask you to use the debris to create something new. If your forte is residential, they may have "the you-know-what" but they may be frozen artistically to all except goody-goody colonial.

We therefore develop a negative hope that by some form of catastrophe such as a devastating fire, a hurricane, a flood or some other Act of God, a change might be wrought.

In those architects who have survived and in some instances flourished, we find the typical Yankee—it is not luck alone but a complete marriage of conniving, persistence and downright ability.

It is this noncommittal crust veneering the aesthetic of the Yankee Architect which is sometimes misinterpreted, yet we request that the disposition and the face be subjugated and due consideration be given the end results and to no other section will the Yankee Architect take second place in doing "the bestest with the leastest."

A woman unexpectedly met Mr. Truman at a rather large private party. Altho normally equipped for conversational purposes, she was not an old hand at the Washington scene and she was flustered at suddenly being obliged to say something to Mr. Truman. All she could achieve was "Oh, Mr. President—I've heard so much about you!"—*Atlantic Bulletin*

## Benjamin A. Howes

## Dies at Walpole

Benjamin A. Howes, 76, construction engineer and architect who developed specifications for billions of dollars worth of government and war housing, died at Walpole, N. H., January 9.

Education at M. I. T., Mr. Howe spent the years 1905 to 1933 as a specialist in New York. He was noted for his knowledge of reinforced concrete and other construction subjects. He did design and construction work in South America, South Africa and other foreign countries. Latterly he was senior engineer for the U. S. Housing Administration, being chief of specifications and materials.

*Wolf: a man who enjoys life, liberty and the happiness of pursuit.—Detroit.*



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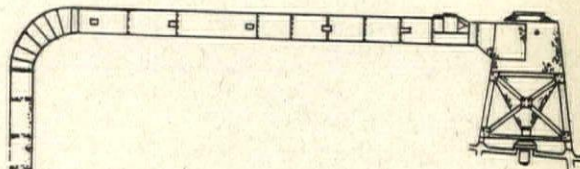
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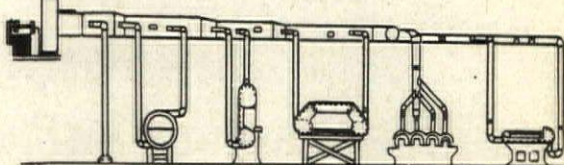
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