

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

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EMBROIDERY CLASS IN FRONT OF FIREPLACE IN FOYER

THE WASHINGTON IRVING HIGH SCHOOL

MR. C. B. J. SNYDER, ARCHITECT

PROGRESS on the part of departments of public education in our large cities has no better illustration than in the Washington Irving High School, Irving Place, 16th and 17th Streets, New York City, now about completed, and illustrated in this issue. The effort to send forth into the world young men or young women who shall be thoroughly equipped to meet the varying conditions, domestic, social or political, that may confront them, has resulted in the

development of educational features that when introduced into a single institution, as in the present case, presents an example for study on the part of other municipalities that will be found not only interesting but also extremely valuable.

The Washington Irving High School in its present state represents the drawing together and combining of various departments in the educational scheme for girls that have for the past year or two been scattered throughout different schools



ASSEMBLY ROOM, LOOKING FROM STAGE

at different places in the city. The difficulty has been to provide a building that would combine within the walls of a single structure, all the various utilities that would be necessary to encompass such diversified educational features. That this has finally been accomplished is seen in the production of a schoolhouse which is one of a series that has made New York school architecture and school management a model in the highest and broadest sense.

In planning this school, the question of a site became one of first importance and in contemplating it we are reminded that there is another class of buildings which has apparently yielded to the pressure of economics, which in our larger cities results in the construction of tall buildings. The tall building has heretofore been almost entirely confined to business structures or the towering apartment houses. In the

case of this schoolhouse the necessity of a desirable location and the consequently high land values made it imperative that if the building was to meet the necessities and give space to features that the projectors believed should be incorporated, it would be necessary to build to a height unusual in public school construction. The plot of land on which this school is erected is 184 feet front with a depth on 16th Street of 183 feet and on 17th Street of 166 feet. The building with its roofed playground is practically 150 feet in height although owing to the unusual story height, there are provided but nine subdivisions. The architectural treatment of the exterior can be studied from the illustrations that are presented. Its interior planning is the result of the most painstaking and careful study

on the part of the architect who has been able to receive the embodied ideas of the faculty of teachers and reduce them to a practical and architectural possibility. In order to understand the complexity of the problem involved in the planning of this schoolhouse, it may be well to set down the principal departments of study that are provided. They are:—



A ROOF PLAYGROUND

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Housekeeping, nursing, marketing, care of babies, laundering, embroidery, plain sewing, garment making, costume designing,

salesmanship, office management, book-binding, cataloguing, commercial filing, printing, photography, gardening, news-



MANTEL (OPPOSITE MAIN ENTRANCE) IN FOYER

drawing, illustrating, plain and fancy cooking, entertaining, sanitation, picture hanging, telephoning, dancing, stair-climbing, typewriting, bookkeeping, stenography,

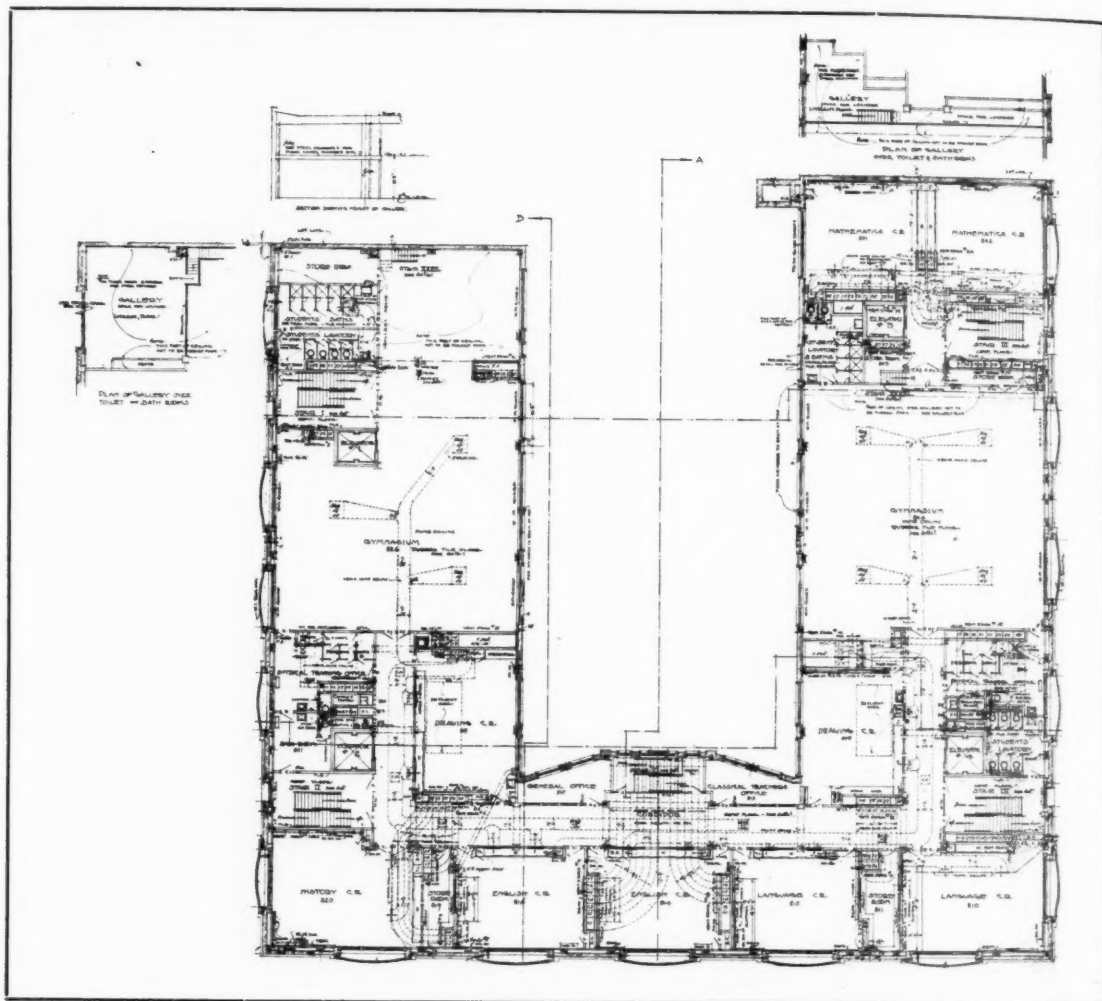
paper writing, and in addition the usual high school branches, namely, Latin, German, French, Spanish and Italian, singing, physics, chemistry, history, mathematics,

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physiology and civics. As the principal of the school, Mr. William McAndrew, very aptly remarked: "It fits for college, for business and for matrimony."

Through the main entrance on Irving Place, the visitor reaches the foyer which is finished in fumed oak and is sufficiently

and a series of twenty mural paintings depicting scenes from Rip Van Winkle, the Headless Horseman, the Sketch Book and other works of Washington Irving. There are four elevators, each sufficiently large to carry a class and these are installed at each corner of the building, and run from



EIGHTH FLOOR PLAN

large to accommodate three or four hundred for dancing or receptions. Above the foyer is a gallery affording a promenade between the acts in the theatre, to which it leads, and with the foyer below a lounging place for an audience coming out of the theatre parquet and balcony. The central decorative motive of this foyer is a large open fireplace immediately opposite the entrance

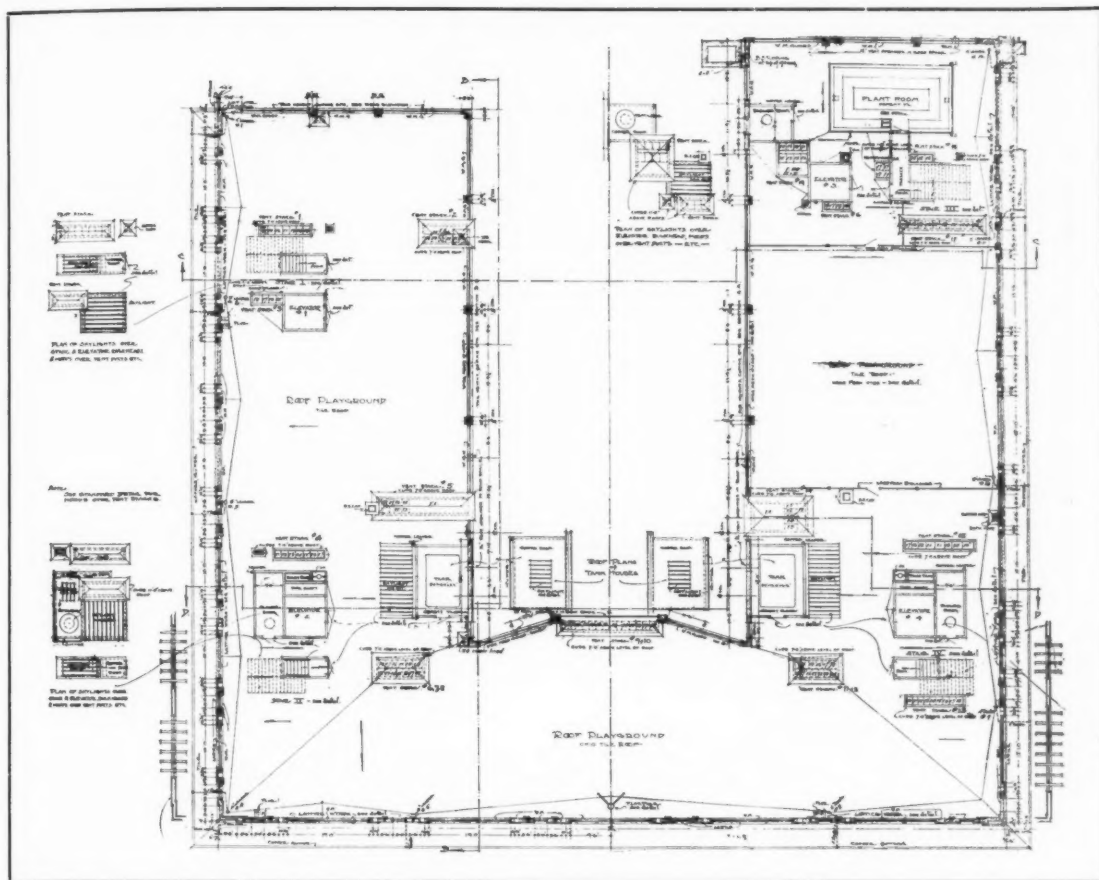
the basement to the eighth floor. The theatre or auditorium is placed on the first story, the stage being equipped with four complete sets of stage scenery. This room with the gallery has a seating capacity of 1515. Beneath the theatre is a large gymnasium, there being four others distributed on the upper floors. There are ten enclosed fire and smoke proof stairways dis-

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tributed so as to aid in the rapid interchange of classes at the end of each period as well as for means of egress in case of necessity. An original departure in planning is the introduction of student dining rooms in space usually allotted to classroom purposes. These student dining rooms are located on

erence to the plan, are seven in number including those on the roof. Each one is designed to accommodate sixty-four girls and one teacher. The indoor gymnasias have baths and dressing rooms together with the usual lockers.

The lighting, electrical equipment, heat-



ROOF PLAN

the fourth and fifth floors and have a seating capacity of 882. Every minute of the pupil's life is conserved for educational purposes and during the time passed in the dining room, she is under the scrutiny of competent teachers who correct any lapse of table manners and by this means instil knowledge of the refinements of daily life.

The gymnasias, as will be seen by ref-

ing, ventilation and other details of equipment have received the most painstaking study on the part of the architect.

The building has of course been constructed as nearly fireproof as possible. In short, the entire result is one that may be safely said to provide a model for similar classes of buildings throughout the country.



STAGE IN ASSEMBLY ROOM, WASHINGTON IRVING HIGH SCHOOL

THE NEW DELHI

THE controversy being waged in England as to the designation of a style of architecture for the building of Delhi, the new capital city of India, suffers no diminution, neither is it confined to the architectural press. London daily papers have printed many communications from men high in legislative ranks all offering suggestions or pointing out what to them are errors in the expressed opinions of others. The technical press has of late taken up these communications together with the opinions of members of Parliament, and in a recent issue of *The Architects' and Builders' Journal*, many of these expressed opinions are discussed.

It is always interesting when a layman whose acknowledged ability entitles his opinions to respectful consideration, airs his views on a technical question, and we very much doubt if many of our representa-

tives in Congress, a few of whom have lately expressed themselves with relation to the merits of our architecture and the ethics of practice have as deep a knowledge of architecture and architectural practice as many men in Parliament appear from their views expressed concerning the building of Delhi, to possess.

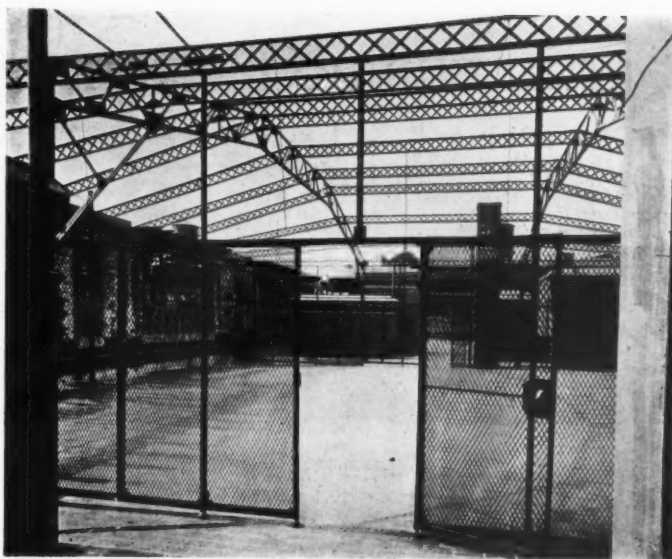
Let us take for example the following letter of Mr. Arthur W. Soames, M.P., addressed to the *London Times*. Mr. Soames writes:

"Which is the best method to adopt in order to secure the finest possible work? There are the proverbial three courses: (1) An open competition; (2) a limited competition; (3) the selection of an individual. Now an open competition has this to recommend it, that it has an appearance of fairness, and it entrenches the authorities securely against the odious charge of favouritism. I submit, however, that it is ruled out of court if my two propositions

are admitted. For it cannot be expected that a large number of competent architects, in addition to incurring the enormous labour and expense of such a competition, would be able further to dislocate their practices by a visit to India sufficiently long to enable them to saturate themselves with its atmosphere. Moreover, it is notorious that an open competition rarely attracts the best men, and this is not a task for the immature and budding architect, but for a man of wide experience whose artistic powers have attained their fullest development.

"Further, it is hardly sufficiently realized that in a competition a man rarely produces the best work of which he is capable. He has necessarily one eye on the judges all the time, and the temptation is serious to think rather of what is most likely to win than of what is the absolute best.

"A limited competition of (say) six carefully selected men would probably be better, but I submit that the considerations adduced above still apply. The best men,

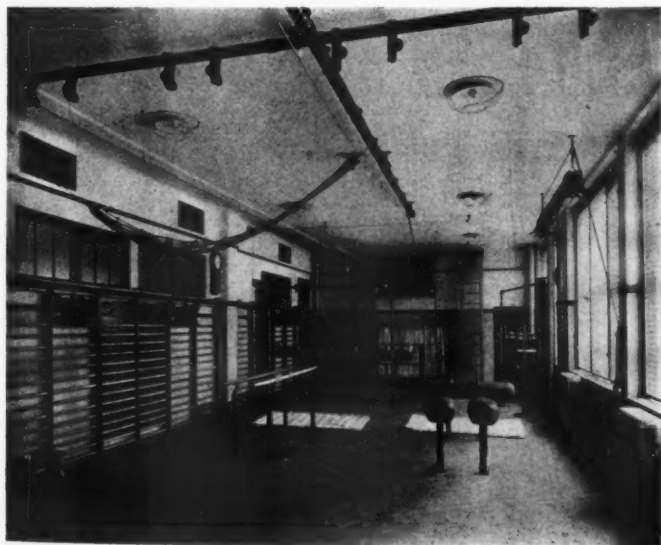


ROOF PLAYGROUND, WASHINGTON IRVING HIGH SCHOOL

presumably all very busy men, would be least able to spare the necessary time for preparation and competition on the off chance of success. If they did they would certainly deserve very handsome remuneration for their labours and loss of time.

"I wish therefore to urge upon those in authority not to take the easy way out, but to take their courage in both hands and select the man whom, after the fullest inquiry, they find to be esteemed most capable of rising to this great opportunity. How are they to select him? It is submitted that there are two bodies fitted to advise on the subject, the Royal Academy of Arts and the Royal Institute of British Architects. Or, alternatively, let five-and-twenty picked architects be each of them asked to name the *two* men whom he considers best fitted for the work, and abide by the result of the vote."

Since the above was written, the architects for the preliminary work have been selected. It is interesting to note that action taken has been along the lines suggested.



A GYMNASIUM, WASHINGTON IRVING HIGH SCHOOL

THE CURRENT ARCHITECTURAL PRESS

IN an article on "The Towers of Manhattan," with particular reference to the Woolworth Building, printed in *The Architectural Record*, Mr. Montgomery Schuyler propounds the question, "What is the limit of tall building," and

(FROM ARCHITECTURE)



U. S. POST OFFICE, NEW YORK
MESSRS. McKIM, MEAD & WHITE, ARCHITECTS

answers it to the effect that the problem is purely a commercial one and not at all technical. He would have us believe that when men refuse to supply the money for construction, only then will the limit have been reached, and that modern engineering skill is able to build to any height.

The very interesting series of illustrations accompanying this article are more convincing than the text as to the artistic excellence of these large structures and justify those expressions of amazement at our growth both artistic and commercial, that have been elicited from foreign visitors. The upbuilding of this country is becoming more and more each year the result of a combined and harmonious collaboration between architect and engineer.

Omitting particular reference to non-technical articles in this issue of *The Architectural Record* and confining this notice to the contents that will be useful to the man in practice, we find a continuation of Mr. Hunter's well written series on "Tapestries," from the architectural point

of view, Mr. Spencer's "Building the House of Moderate Cost," and a technical description of concealed or indirect lighting, by Mr. Harry Pickard. In these contributions the authors treat their subjects authoritatively and in all of them will be found ideas of suggestive value.

The usual "portfolio of current architecture" is in this issue confined to examples of domestic architecture. These subjects will be found in detail in our index on other pages.

The Evans Collection of American paintings in the National Gallery of Art at Washington, D. C., is described by Mr. Charles De Kay, in the February issue of *The International Studio*. This is a subject in which art lovers in America will be interested as the Evans pictures form the nucleus of what it is hoped will become a dignified and important record, under the care of the National Government, of the work of American artists. Mr. Evans' generosity in giving to the Government more than two hundred representative paintings by American artists, should receive the grateful acknowledgment of every-

(FROM THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW)



HOUSE AT BIRMINGHAM, MICH.
MR. A. W. CHITTENDEN, ARCHITECT

one in this country interested in the exploitation and advancement of the work of American painters.

Mr. De Kay's article is illustrated by several important examples but naturally in the limits of a magazine review he is

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able to touch but briefly on the representative character of the many pictures that are exhibited.

Architecture for February, following the example set by *THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT*, at an earlier date, has illustrated quite

(FROM *THE WESTERN ARCHITECT*)



FREE PRESS BUILDING, DETROIT, MICH.

ALBERT KAHN, ARCHITECT; ERNEST WILBY, ASSOCIATE

thoroughly the exhibition of the Architectural League of New York. The most interesting and important example in this issue is a somewhat inadequate illustration of the United States Post Office in this city, erected on Eighth Avenue, opposite the new Pennsylvania terminal, Messrs. McKim, Mead & White, Architects. This very dignified and prominent addition to architectural New York is worthy of study and consideration and will doubtless receive more thorough and careful illustration at a subsequent date.

The text, in addition to an article descriptive of the Architectural League exhibition, presents a critical analysis by Mr. Egerton Swartwout of the Ferguson Library at

Stamford, Conn., and a brief description of the McAlpin Hotel in this city, illustrated by an exterior and several interior views.

The Western Architect in its February issue, gives much space to the illustration of the home of Frank Lloyd Wright, Architect, and to a study of Mr. Wright's personality. The authorship of this article is not disclosed but if we accept all that is printed concerning Mr. Wright's personality and the value of his ideas of originality in design, we must believe that the idiosyncrasies which have been criticized as marking this man's work, are the most enduring evidences of his greatness in domestic architecture.

The Free Press Building, Detroit, Mich., Albert Kahn, Architect, Ernest Wilby, As-

(FROM *THE BRICKBUILDER*)



GILMAN COUNTY SCHOOL FOR BOYS,
BALTIMORE, MD.

MESSRS. PARKER, THOMAS & RICE, ARCHITECTS

sociate, is illustrated in this issue and has been rightly given the first place among the illustrations. It is an unusually good type of the modern commercial building and shows a well restrained use of terra cotta in construction, and a particularly well conceived wall space, done after a

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fashion that might be copied to advantage in similar examples of this type of building.

A project for the Union Station for Minneapolis, Minn., Mr. L. S. Buffington, Architect, is illustrated but fails to commend itself as solving in any eminent degree the many problems that surround the design of a structure of this character.

The Architectural Review of Boston, for January, illustrates Ely Cathedral and prints a descriptive article of this imposing edifice,

(FROM *THE ARCHITECTURAL RECORD*)



DETAIL OF A HOUSE IN BUFFALO, N. Y.
MESSRS. EISENWEIN & JOHNSON, ARCHITECTS

contributed by Adelaide Curtiss. Accompanying this, are some measured drawings by Mr. A. B. Allen, reprinted from *The Builder* of London. The working drawings of a house at Mt. Kisco, N. Y., Mr. Alfred Busselle, Architect, have been reproduced and also some designs for a house at Glen Cove, L. I., Mr. Charles A. Platt, Architect. Both are excellent examples and are admirably presented.

It is extremely gratifying to note the very cordial and optimistic point of view that is taken in this issue in discussing the

current periodicals in the field of architecture. The whole field of architectural journalism has been reviewed in the broadest and most fair-minded way and leaves nothing to be desired in the honesty of its criticisms or the very manly and outspoken method of expressing differences of opinion wherever they are believed to exist.

Probably next in value to the opinion of architects as to the practical essentials of a building, particularly as to arrangement of plan, is that of the intelligent layman whose daily work brings him into the closest and most intimate relation with the structure. Judge Henry D. Harlan, of the Supreme Court, has contributed to the January issue of *The Brickbuilder* an article on "Court House Planning," wherein he states in the most logical and convincing manner his opinions as to the essentials in planning court houses, and cites, as a particular example, the Baltimore Court House, Messrs. Wyatt & Nolting, Architects. Judge Harlan states that he was a member of the building committee of this court house and has held court in every court room it contains. At the very outset Judge Harlan shows a firm grasp of his subject in the following expression of opinion. He writes:

"More and more we are coming to recognize that our public buildings should be dignified and imposing structures, that in their architecture they should typify their uses and purposes, and that they should teach those who look upon them that there is no incongruity between beauty and utility. There are sound practical reasons as well as real economy in making the public buildings of a city contribute markedly to the beauty of the city, in making them impress the people with what they stand for and represent, in making the city itself a more attractive place in which to dwell and transact business. Every architect who is called upon to design a court house, one of the most important buildings of any city or town, in which it is located, has offered to him a rare opportunity, the significance of which he should not underestimate, for service to his profession, to the public, and to the community."

Mr. Githens' series on "Recent American Group Plans" continued in this issue treats with particular reference to colleges and universities, and the development of new plans.

The rapid growth of American colleges has resulted in conditions as to plan and relation to present and future extension similar in many ways to those surrounding our larger civic problems.

(Continued on page 156)

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THE WASHINGTON IRVING HIGH SCHOOL

THE completion of the Washington Irving High School building may be considered as, in a sense, marking the advent of a new epoch in the history of public education in America. And as the building was to supply the means by which new purposes were to be accomplished, it will be readily realized that the problems presented to the architect for solution during the processes of designing this school-house for girls, were probably not only more complex than those encountered in any similar undertaking previously attempted, but also demanded an amount of ingenuity and originality not required in following well beaten paths.

According to the plan here adopted, the pupil who has graduated from the grammar school and enters the Washington Irving High School begins a course of study that promotes the highest ideals, inculcates domestic virtues that, without an institution of this type, are sometimes permitted to lapse for want of competent instruction at home, and fits her for any station in life in which she may be placed. A careful study of the floor plans and illustrations of the various features that have been incorporated in this, possibly largest of public school buildings, will supply

evidence of the care with which each requirement was met, and at the same time reveal a form of paternalism in public education in America that attempts something more than to impart to the pupil an elementary knowledge of subjects that a quarter of a century ago was considered all that was necessary to supply the life-needs of the average girl attending public school.

But after all it seems probable that while the architecture of the building may be studied with a fair degree of satisfaction by means of the illustrations presented, the complexity of the entire scheme of operation is so great that it is only by a personal visit, where one may observe the skill displayed in securing both the safety and comfort of the pupil and can study the methods and appliances adopted for imparting knowledge in the many branches that are included in the curriculum, that an adequate idea of the problems which confronted the architect, and the manner of their solution, can be obtained. Such a visit will amply repay any architect interested in the public school building problem, for the time spent, and will doubtless convince him that this school building is a worthy culmination of the work of an architect whose school buildings in their various types have already set a standard for similar buildings throughout the country.

REGULATING THE HEIGHT OF BUILDINGS

PROBABLY no one will envy the presidents of the Boroughs of Manhattan, Brooklyn and the Bronx their positions on the Special Committee appointed by Mayor Gaynor to consider among other things, the advisability of limiting to some extent the further construction of skyscrapers in New York. The questions raised, while not new or peculiar to New York, are grave ones, and although it is obvious that the time cannot be long delayed when measures must be taken to regulate the height of buildings, particularly in certain sections of the city, the interests affected are so many and the results of restrictive ordinances would inevitably be so far-reaching that the entire subject presents difficulties that can only

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be overcome with the greatest amount of study and investigation.

One aspect of the matter concerns what might be termed the public interests, involving consideration of such features as light, air and transportation facilities, which it is apparent cannot be adequately provided under any system of subways, if buildings of unlimited height providing accommodations for thousands under one roof are ultimately erected without restriction, over the entire area of lower Manhattan Island. Another subject of general and growing interest is that of aesthetics about which it is conceded there does not appear to be entire unanimity of opinion but which, nevertheless, should be considered in connection with the heights of buildings, their sites and their arrangement.

THE CURRENT ARCHITECTURAL PRESS

(Continued from page 154)

Notable among the illustrations are the Gilman country school building for boys by Parker, Thomas & Rice, Architects, an unusually well designed building, a house at Matinecock, L. I., by Carrere & Hastings, one at St. Martins, Pa., by Duhring, Okie & Ziegler, and one at Orange, N. J., by Mann & McNeille. Other subjects will be found in the current index printed in this issue.

RECENT LEGAL DECISIONS

LIQUIDATED DAMAGES

A building contract provided that the building, an apartment house, should be completed on a specified date under a penalty of \$25 for every day thereafter until completion. The building was not completed until two months after the specified date. The court was called upon to decide whether the clause should be construed as a penalty or as liquidated damages. The building was erected for the sole purpose of being rented. The cost of its erection was \$21,073. The sum agreed to be paid as penalty would amount, for the sixty days, to \$9,000. This, it was held, being out of proportion to the rent which would be presumably received, or

Opposed to these interests are those of private individuals and corporations which cannot, in justice, be ignored. Private capital invested in unimproved or poorly improved real estate, under past and present conditions, would scarcely furnish an adequate return if restrictions were placed upon the property limiting the height of possible future buildings. It is apparent that values would in such an event be very greatly disturbed and individual losses could scarcely be prevented. To discover a solution of the problem that will promise the greatest measure of relief and benefit to the greatest number, involving the least possible amount of individual loss and hardship, is the task that now confronts the Mayor's Special Committee. Results will be awaited with more than usual interest.

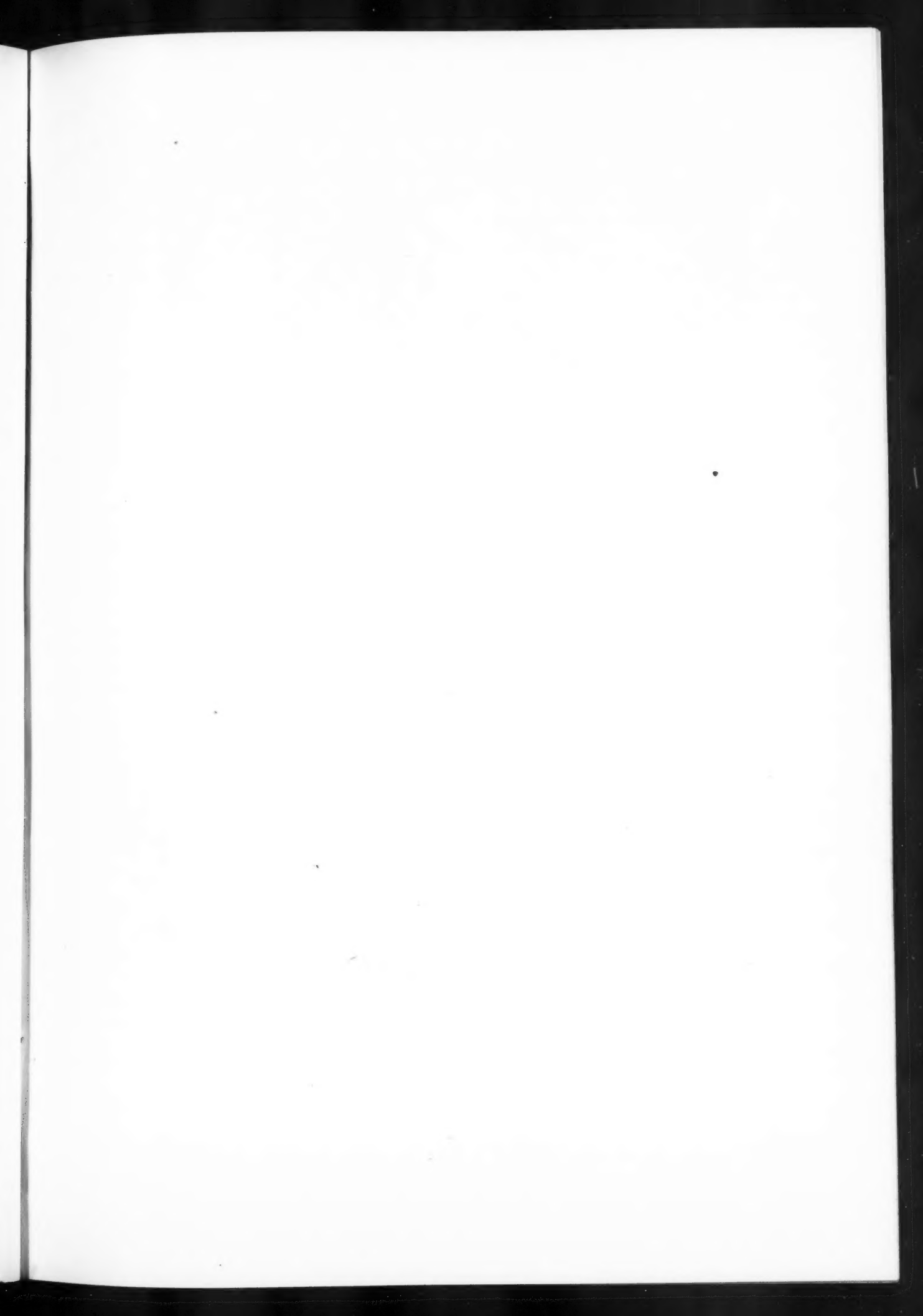
to a fair interest on the amount invested, the clause should be construed as a penalty and not as liquidated damages, and proof was allowed of the fair rental value of the building for the 60 days for which damages were claimed.

Wait v. Stanton & Collamore, Arkansas Supreme Court, 147 S. W. 446.

OWNER'S PROMISE TO PAY SUB-CONTRACTOR PERSONAL

The rector of a church promised to pay the lumberman who had the sub-contract in connection with the erection of the church his entire lumber bill if he would furnish the materials required for the completion of the contract. This promise was made after the contractor had failed to pay for material already delivered and the lumberman had refused to supply more lumber until he had received something on account. In an action by the lumberman against the rector on the promise, the principal question was whether the promise was to pay the debt of the contractor and so came within the statute of frauds. It was held that the rector's promise was personal and an original engagement to pay his own debt so far as related to material delivered after the promise was made, and was not within the statute of frauds.

Fitzgerald Spear Co. v. Kelly, New Jersey Supreme Court, 83 Atl. 491.

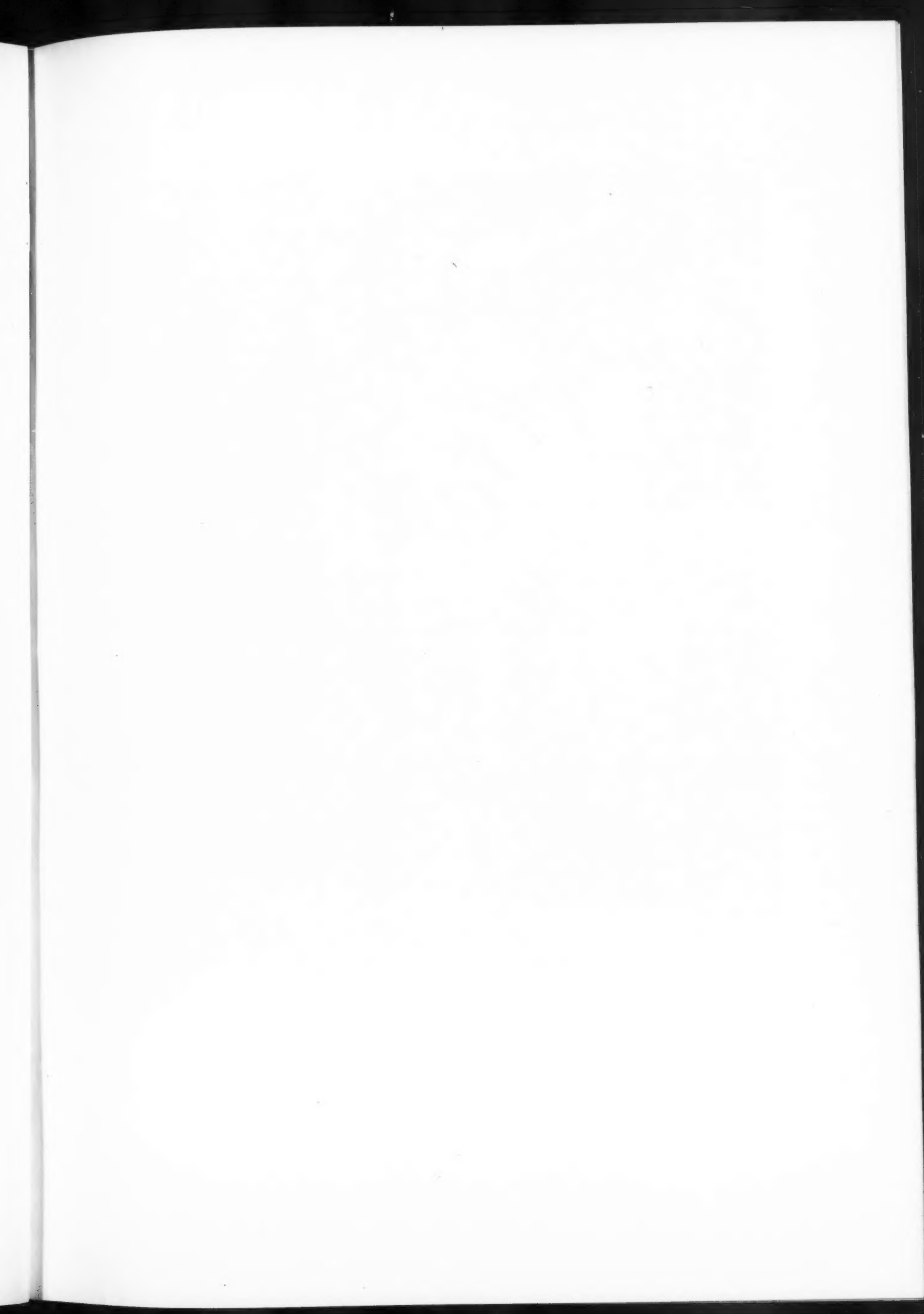




WASHINGTON IRVING HIGH SCHOOL

IRVING PLACE, NEW YORK

MR. C. B. J. SNYDER, ARCHITECT

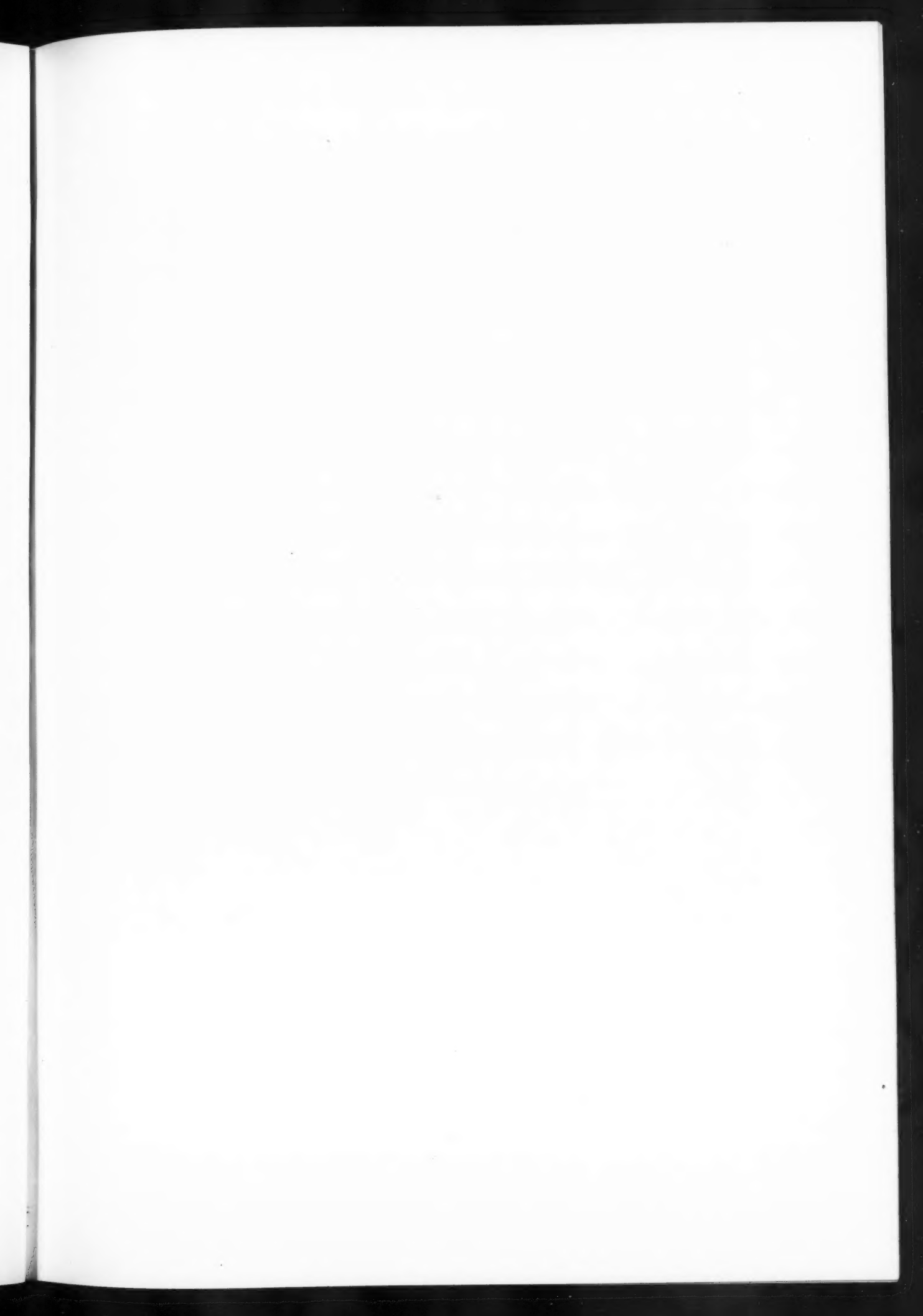




DETAIL, IRVING PLACE ENTRANCE

WASHINGTON IRVING HIGH SCHOOL
IRVING PLACE, NEW YORK

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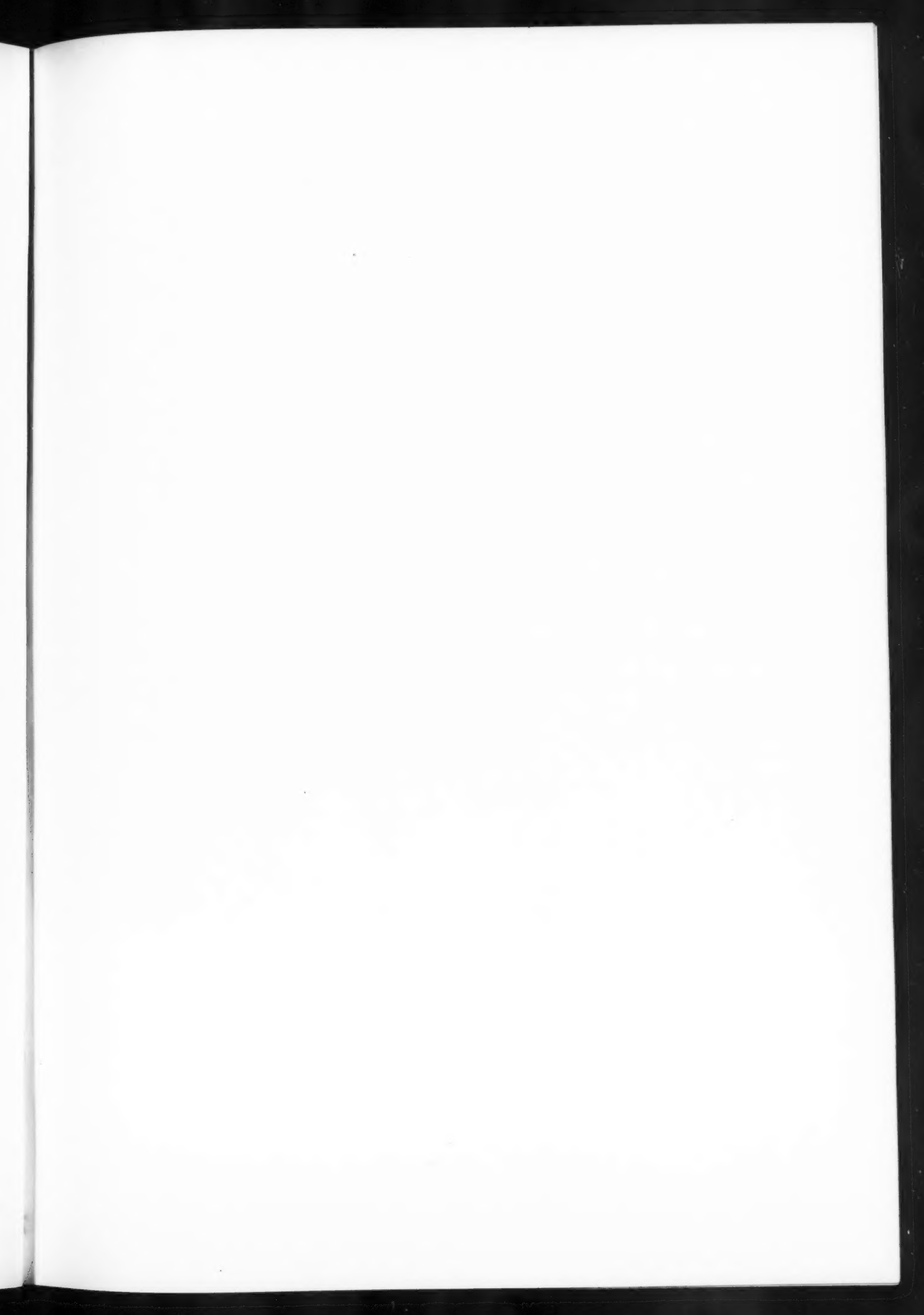


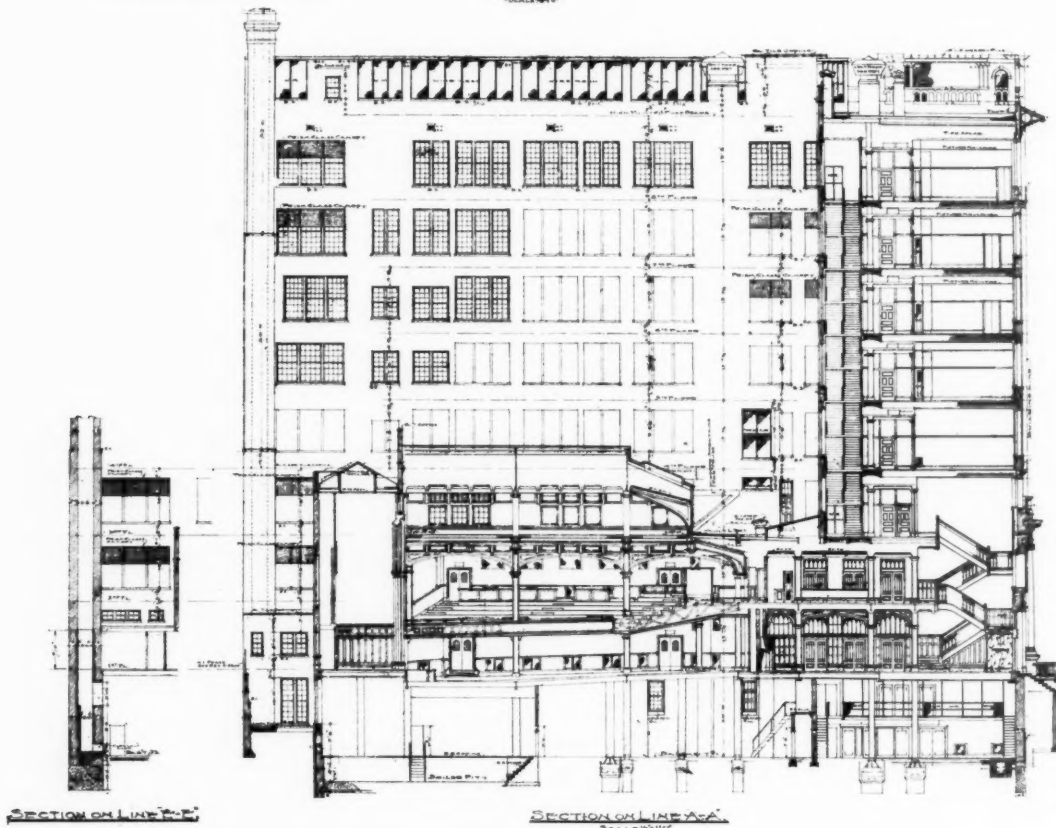
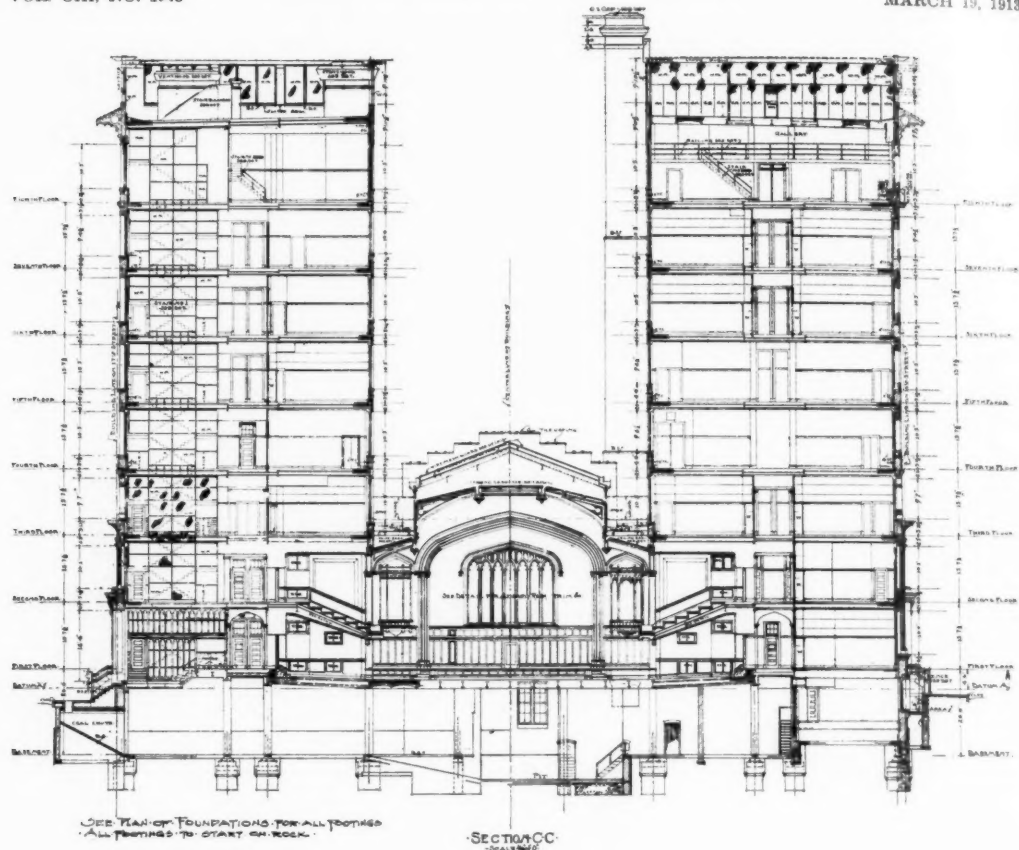


FOYER, LOOKING TOWARD SEVENTEENTH STREET

WASHINGTON IRVING HIGH SCHOOL
IRVING PLACE, NEW YORK

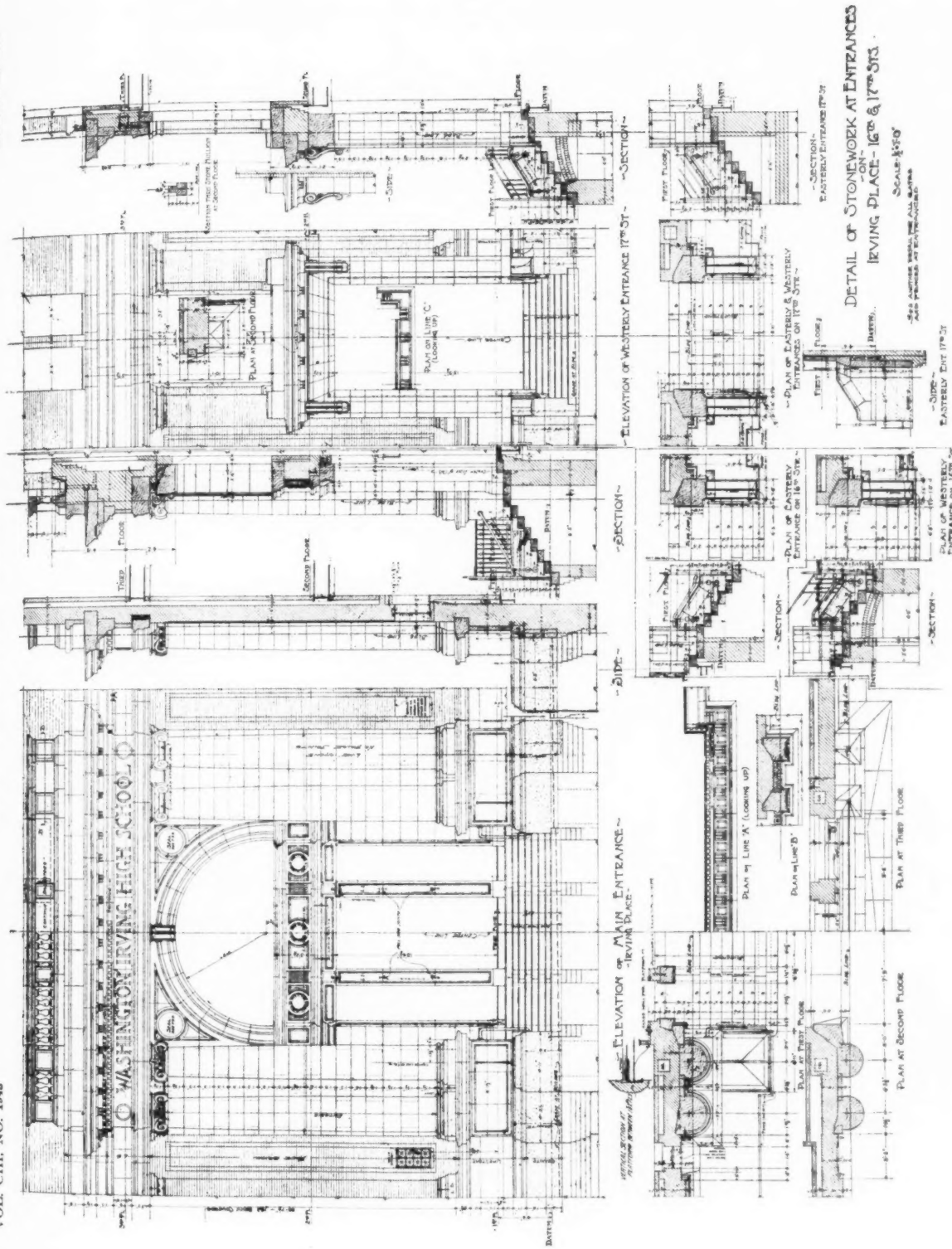
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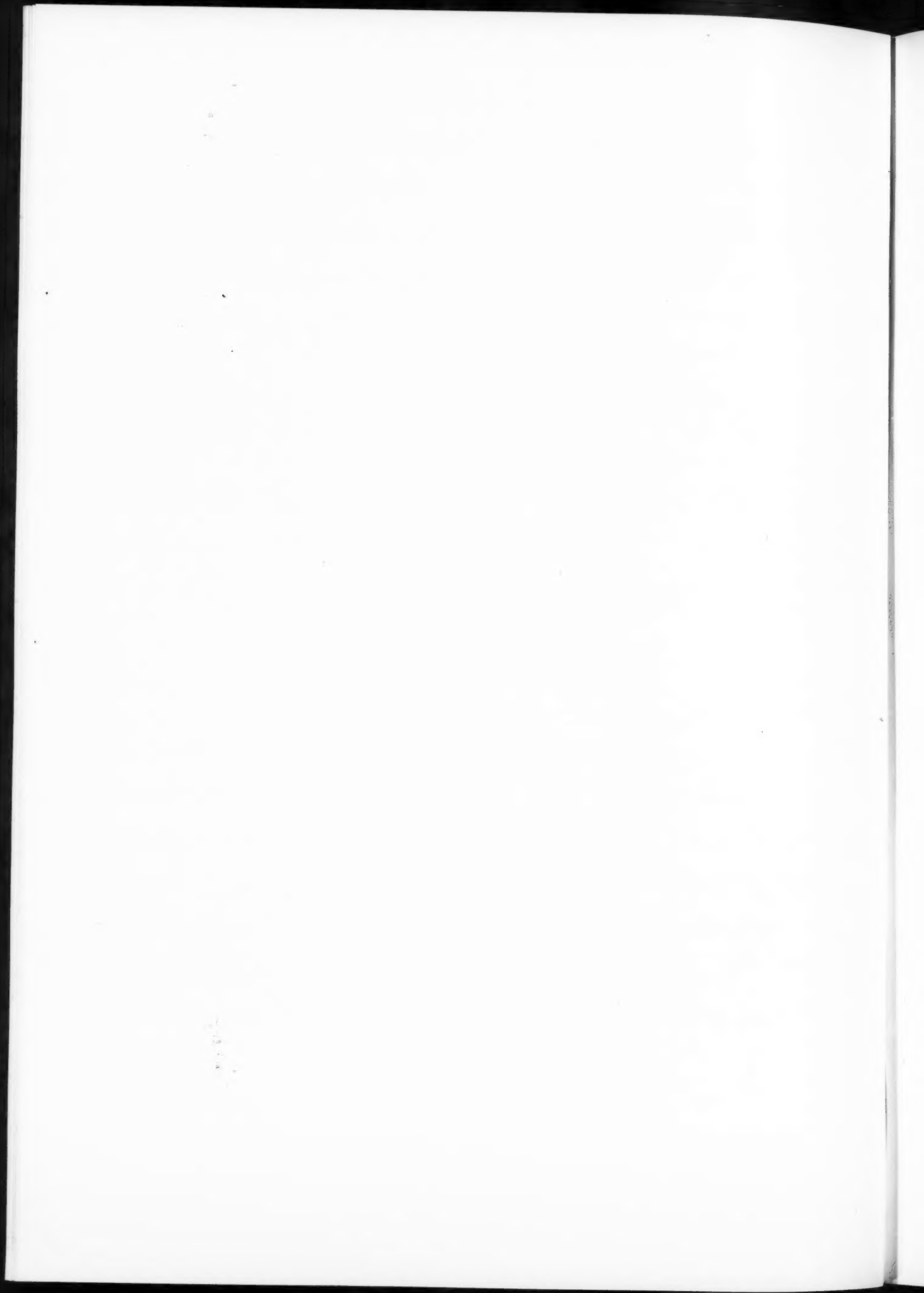


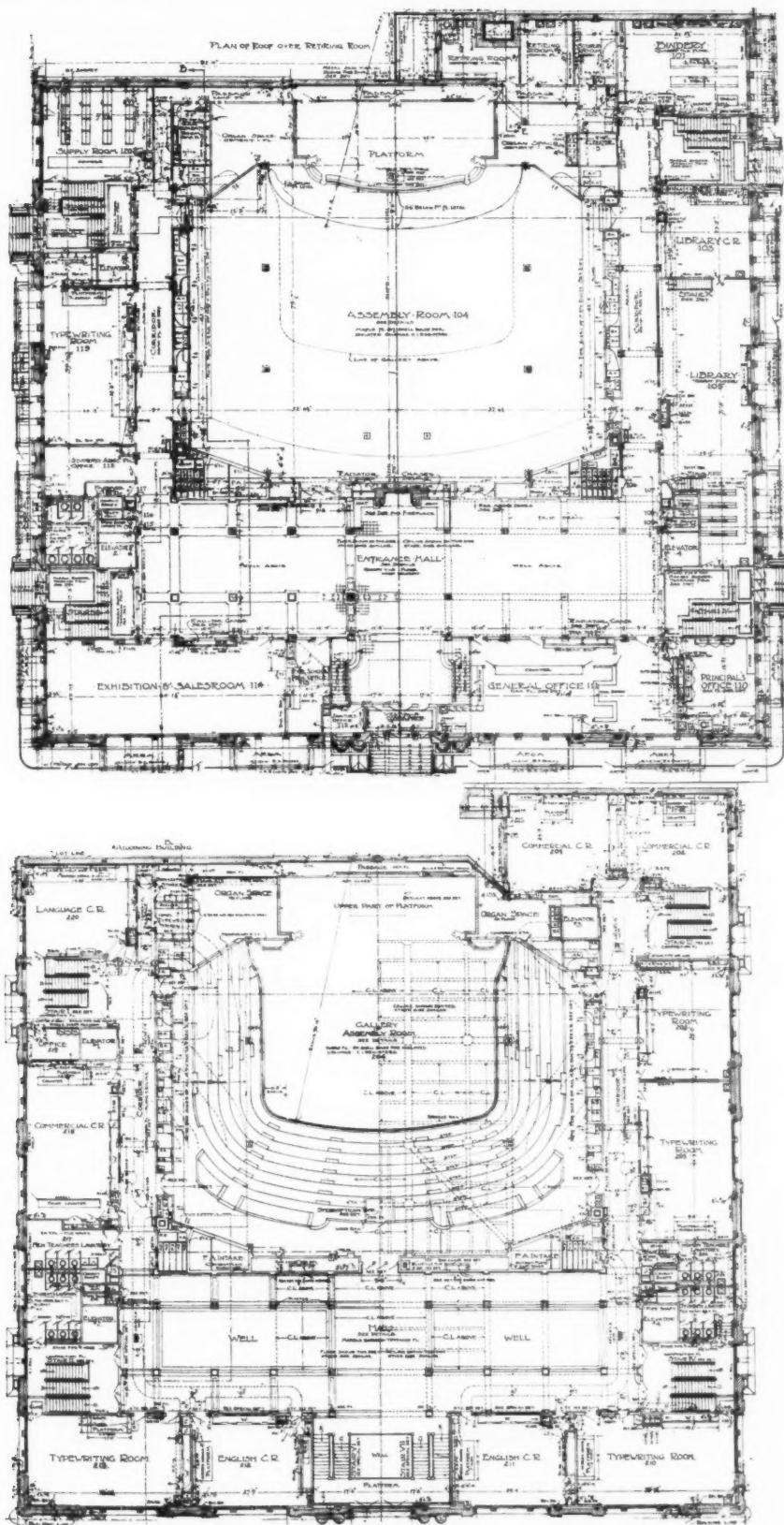
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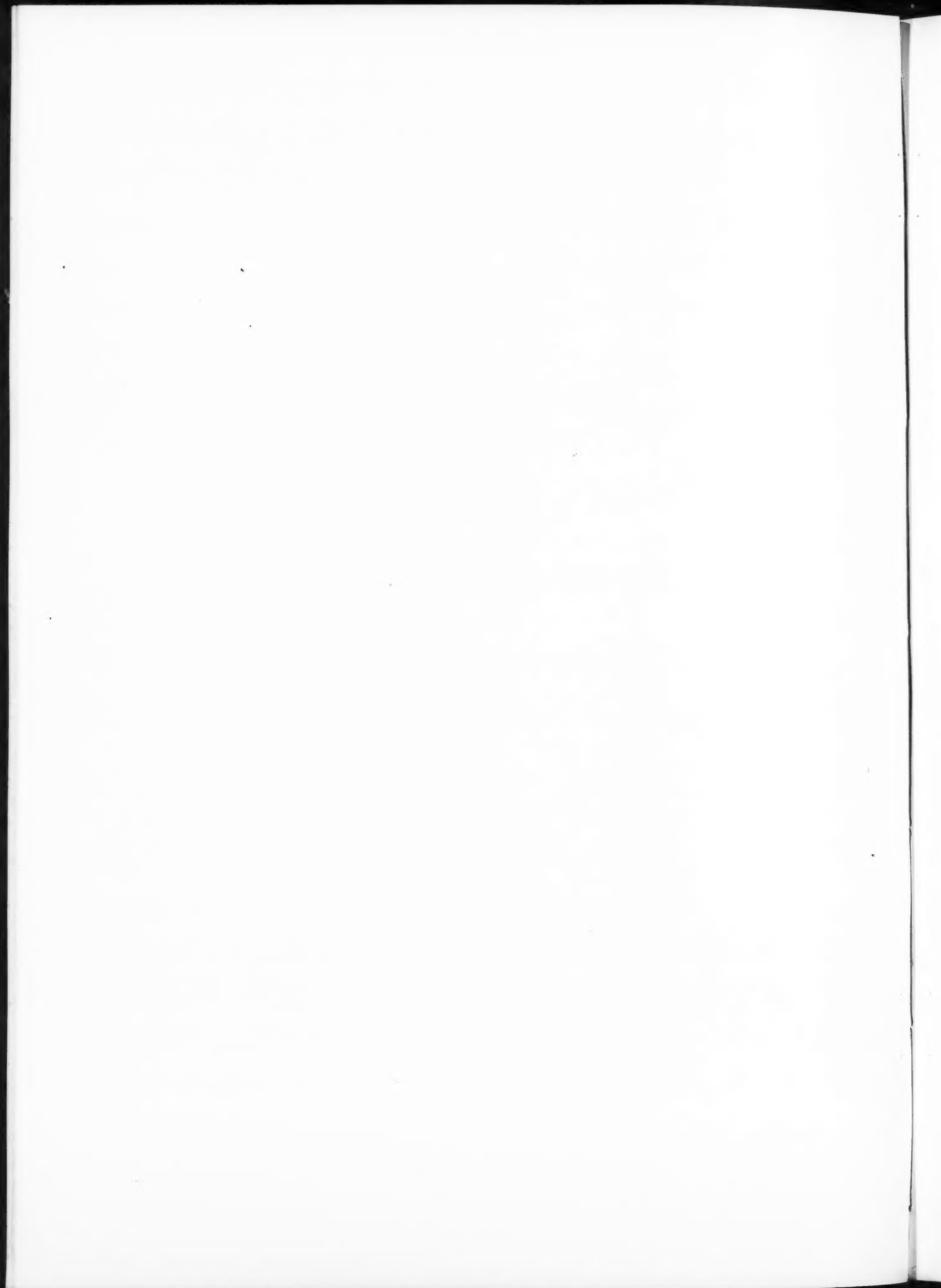


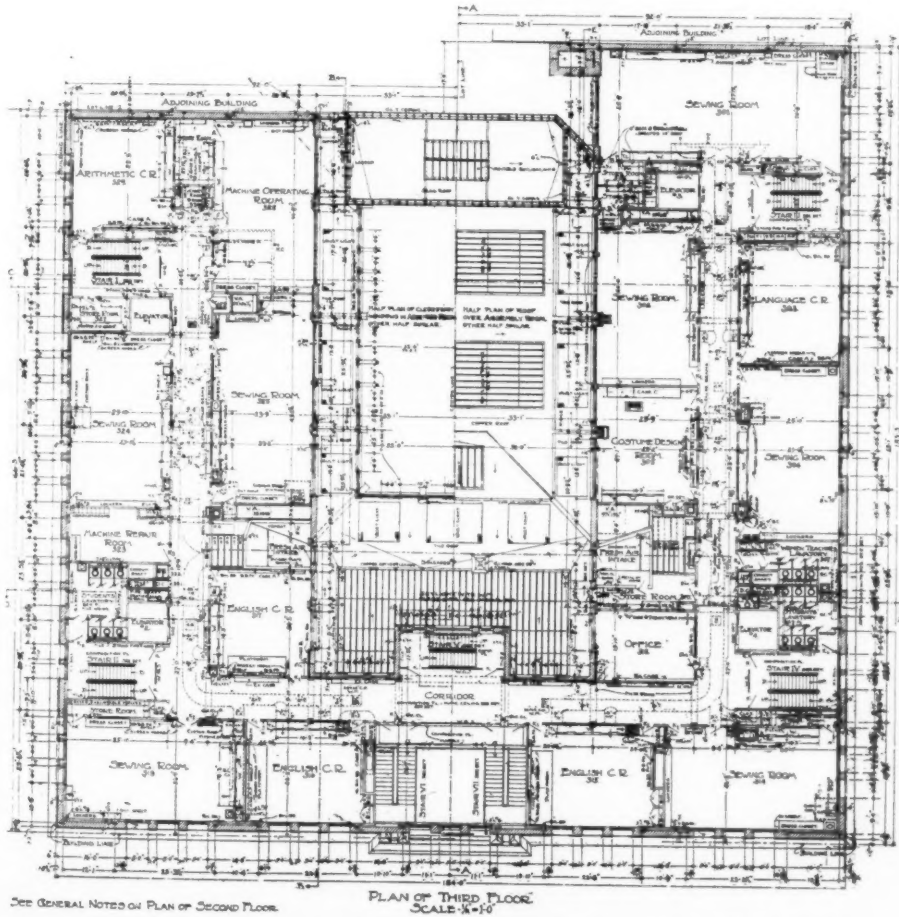
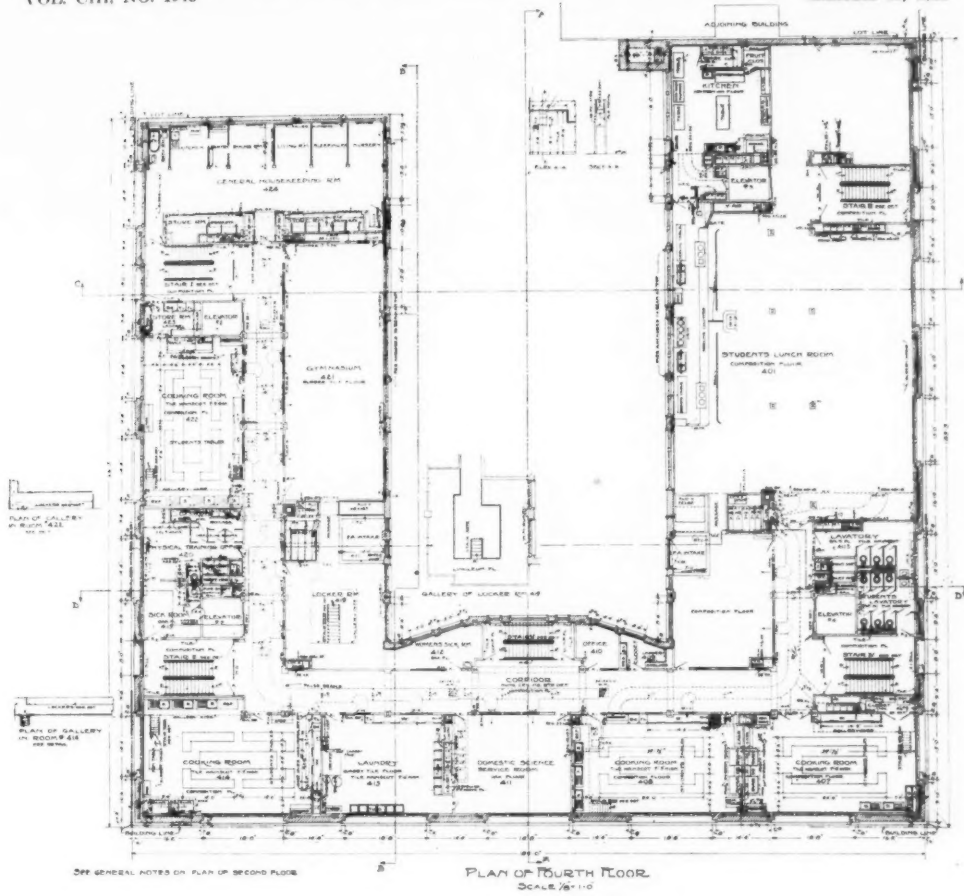
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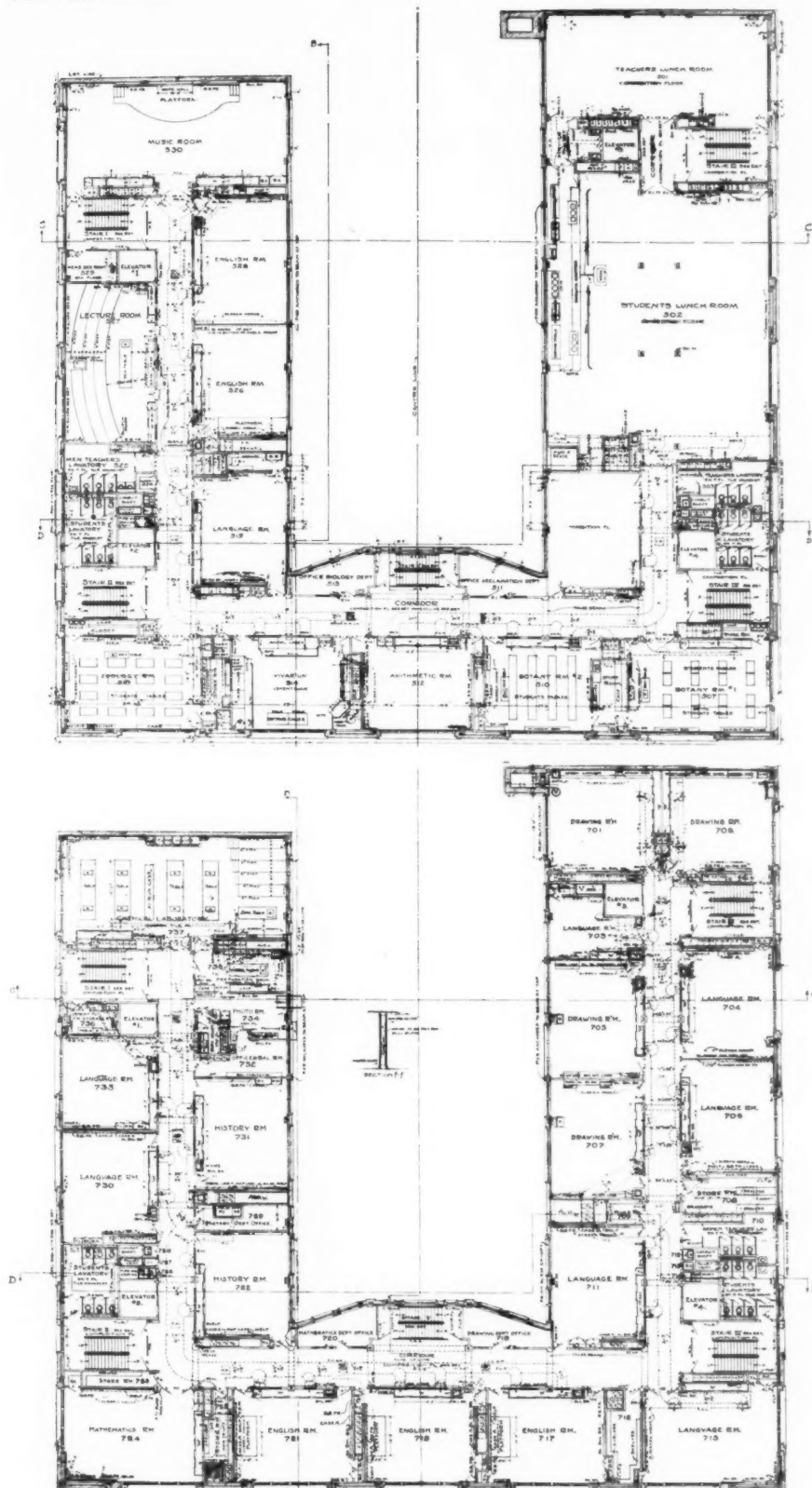


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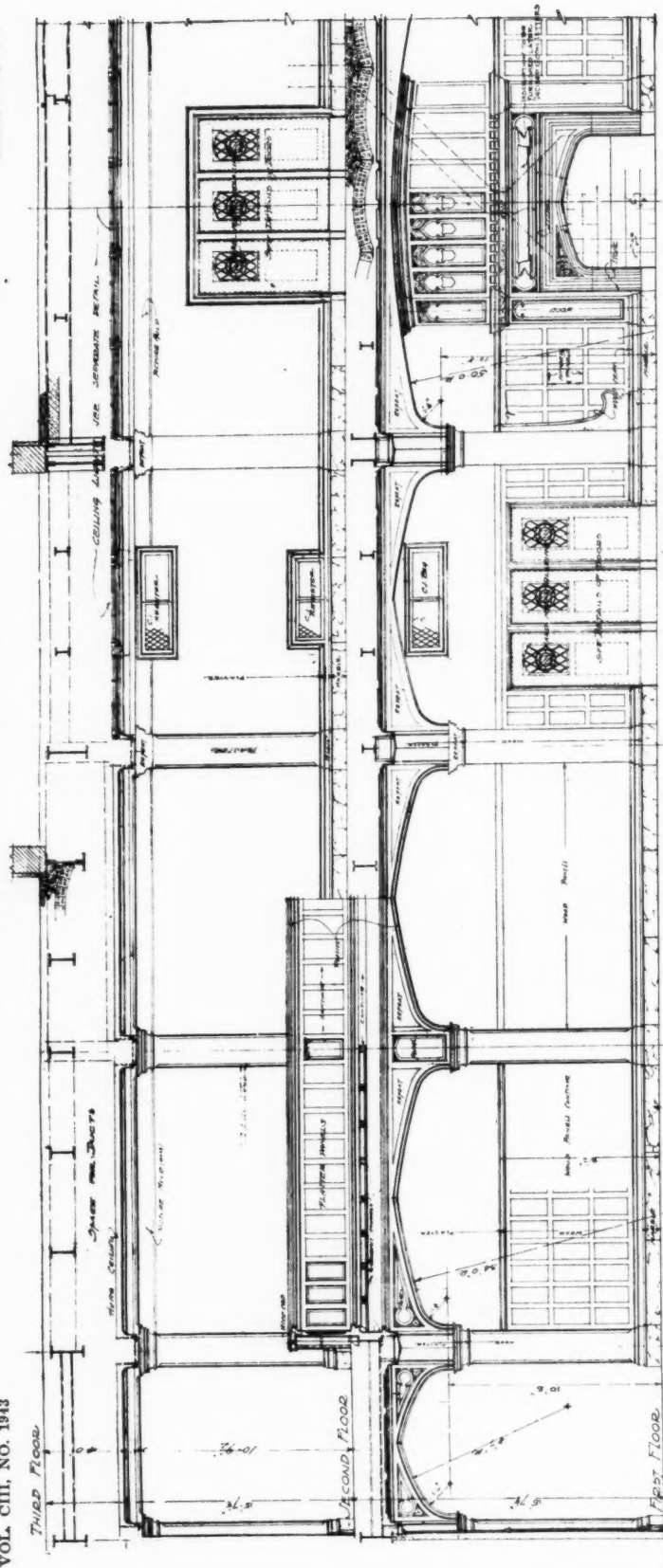
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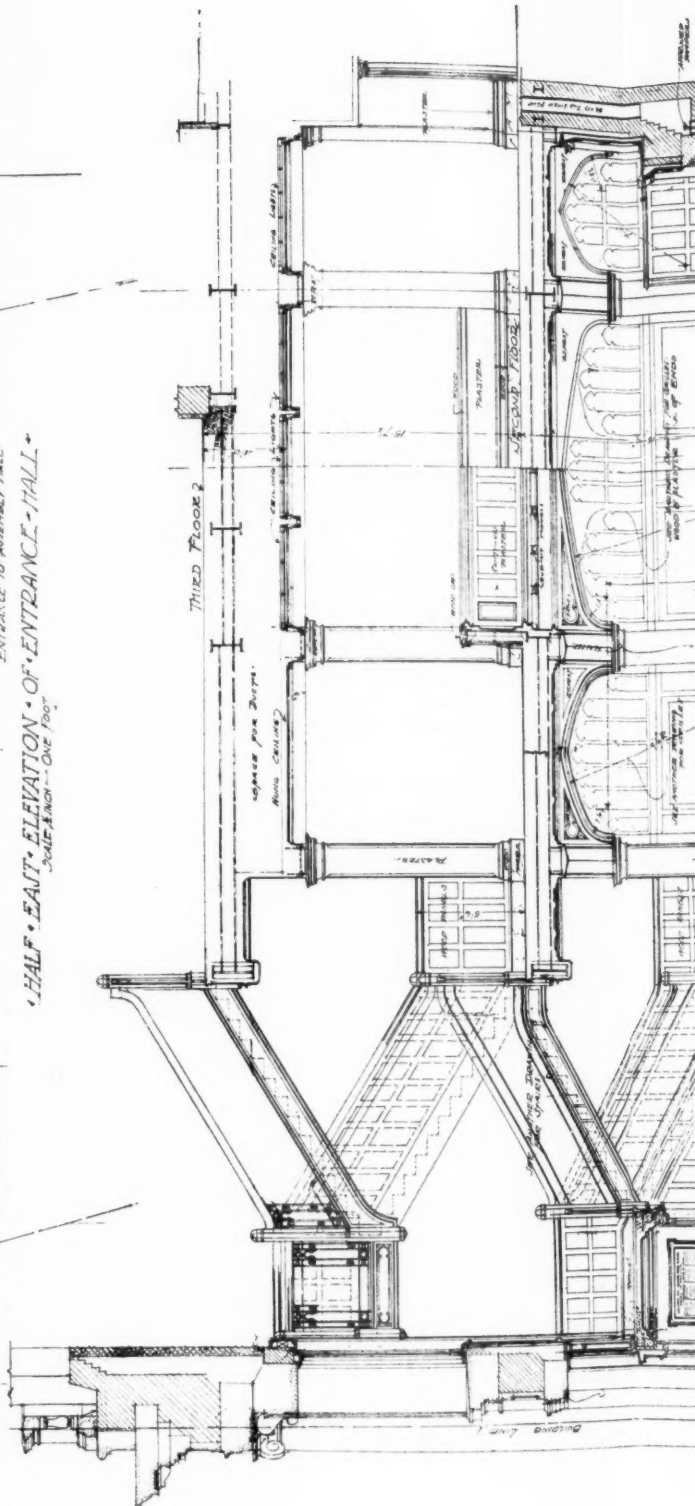
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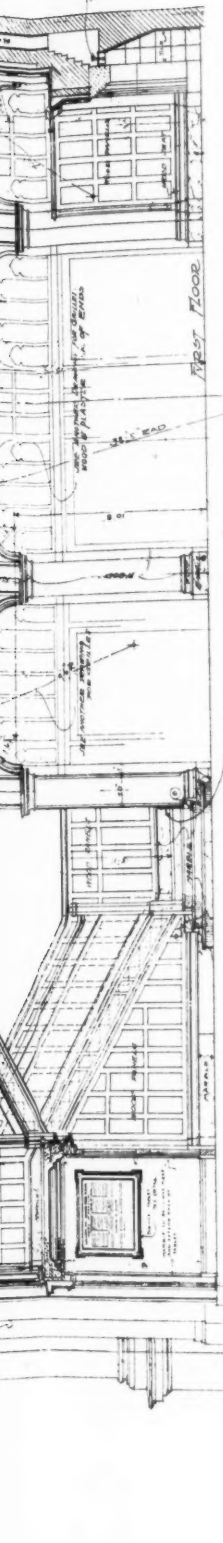
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THIRD FLOOR

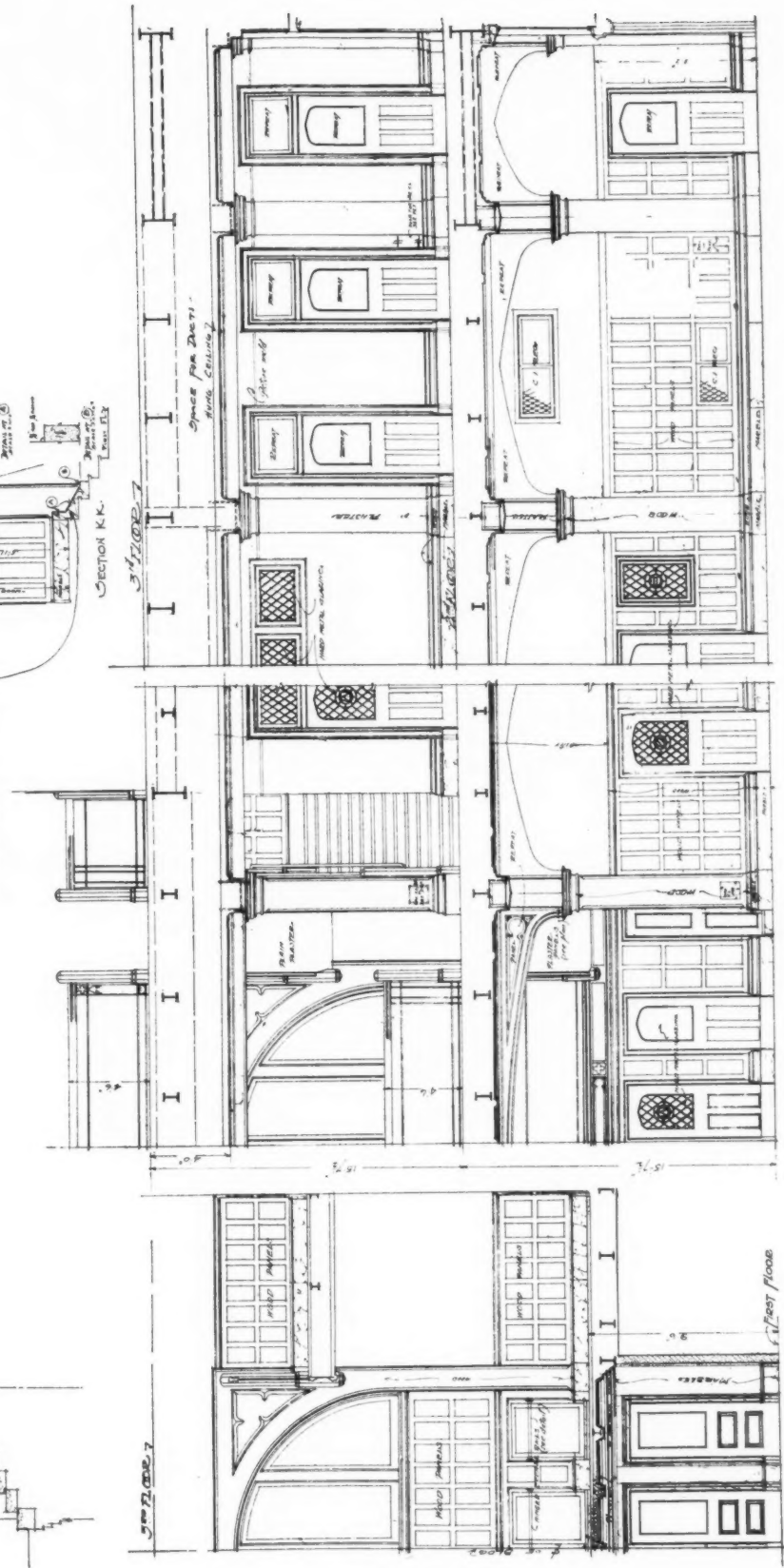


HALF EAST ELEVATION OF ENTRANCE HALL
SCALE - ONE FOOT





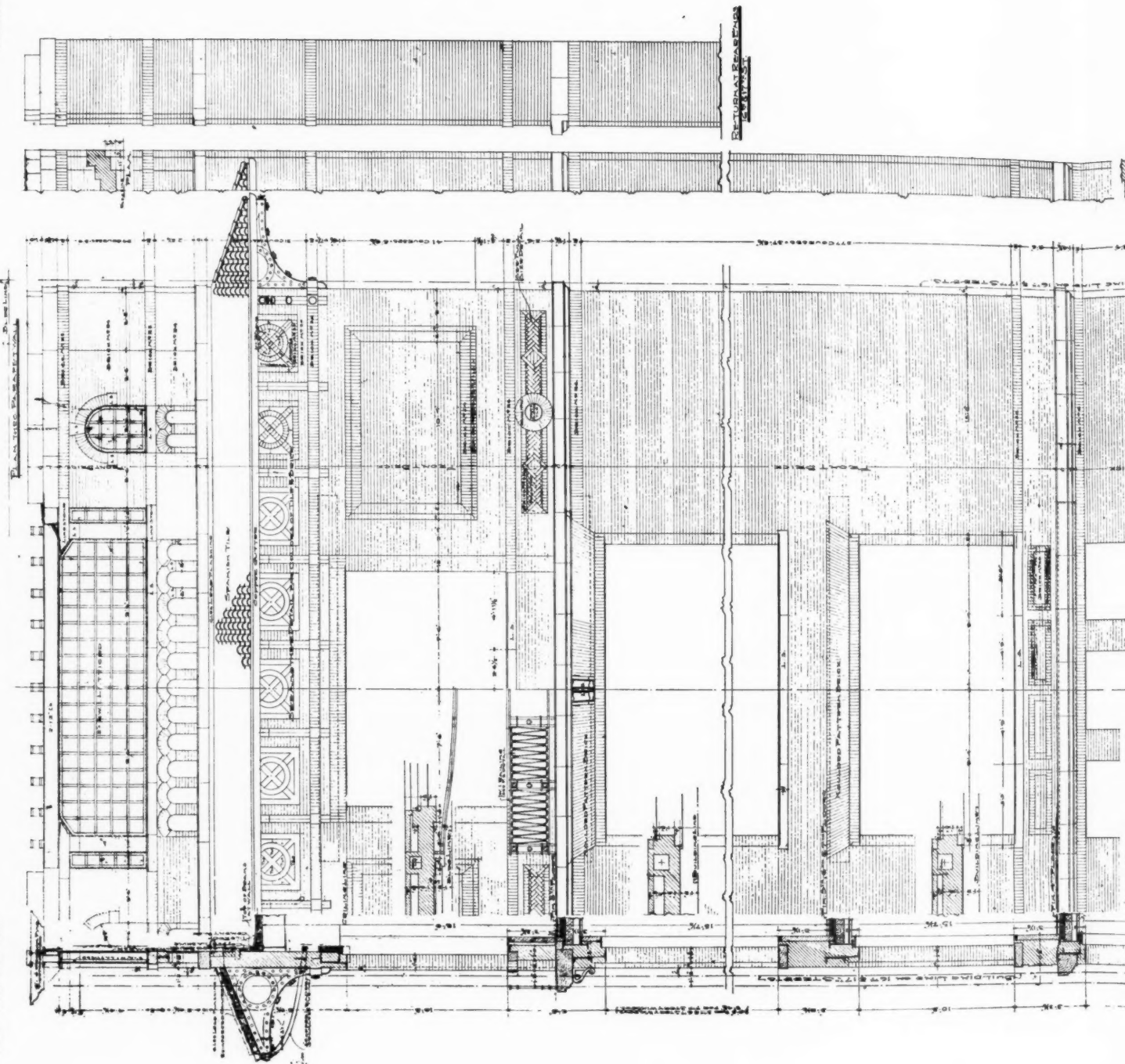
SECTION A-A
SCALE 1/2" = 1'-0"

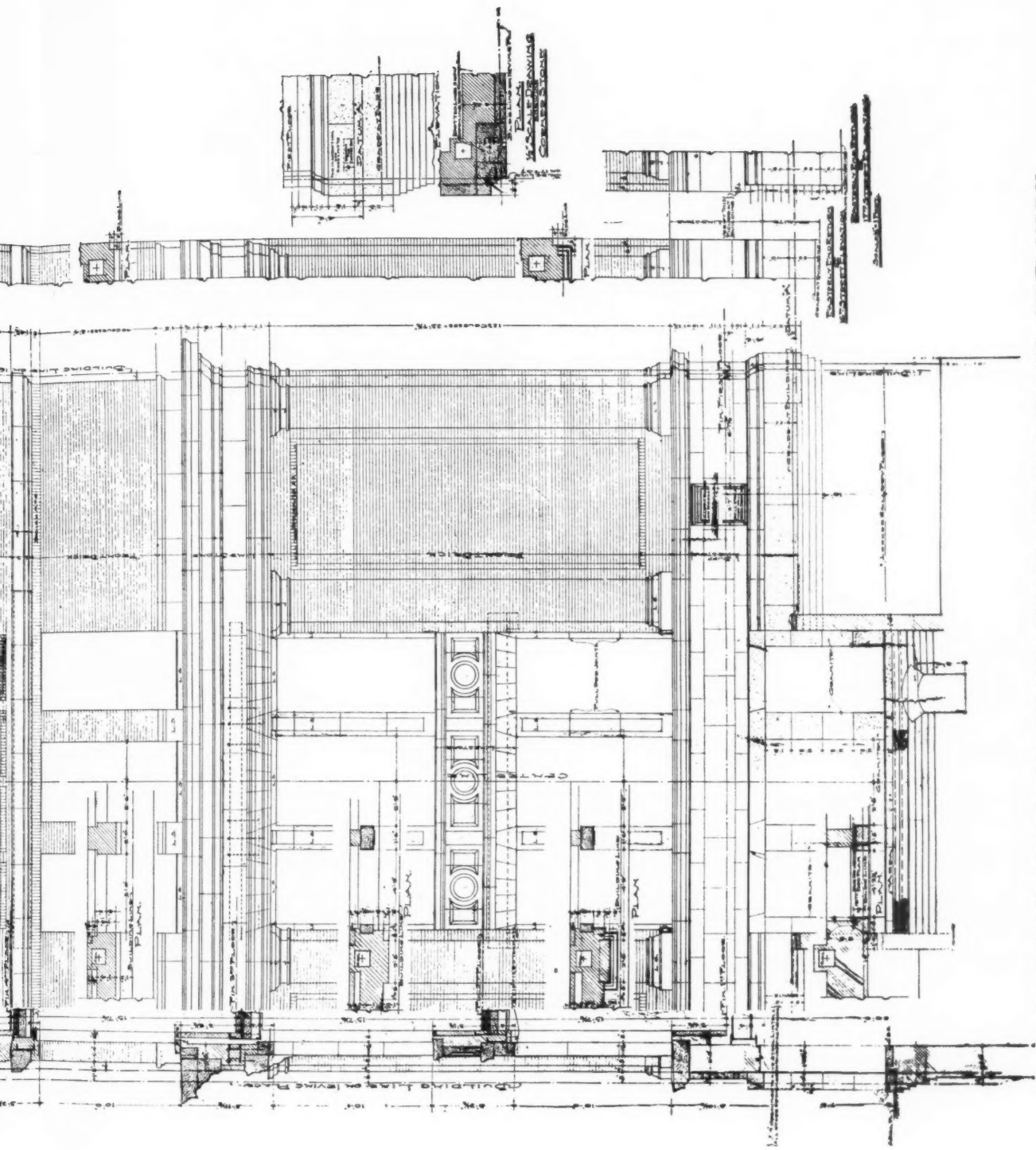


SECTION K-K
SCALE 1/2" = 1'-0"

PART WEST ELEVATION OF ENTRANCE HALL
SCALE 1/2" = 1'-0"

WASHINGTON IRVING HIGH SCHOOL, IRVING PLACE, NEW YORK
MR. C. B. J. SNYDER, ARCHITECT





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THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT



MONT ST. MICHEL, FRANCE

(From the original water color by Cass Gilbert, F.A.I.A.)