

DOCUMENTATION OF WEST VIRGINIA
COLORED ORPHANS' HOME
CABELL COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA



by
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Prepared for
Cabell County Board of Education



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WEST VIRGINIA COLORED ORPHANS' HOME
(Main Building)

Former Location: 3353 U.S. Route 60, Huntington, West Virginia 25705

Building formerly faced north; Zone 17, 380119.06 East; 4252150.02 North, NAD 1983

Present Owner/Use: The main building of the former West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home was demolished in 2011. In its former location, the Huntington East Middle School has been constructed. It opened in January 2014 by the Cabell County Board of Education.

Significance: The West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home, later renamed the West Virginia Colored Children's Home, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1997 under Criteria A and C with statewide significance. According to the nomination, the Orphans' Home was listed "under Criterion A in the areas of Social History, Education and Ethnic Heritage as a physical representation of the institution's longstanding role in the provision of social services and education to the state's black community."¹ Additionally, the main building was considered significant under Criterion C for Architecture because of its design utilizing the Classical Revival-style for an institutional structure built in the early 1920s.²

Historian: Robert C. Whetsell, Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc. (Hurricane, West Virginia), 2010 and Trent Spurlock, Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc. (Lexington, Kentucky), 2014.

Project Information: This recordation project was sponsored by the Cabell County Board of Education in partial fulfillment of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) regarding the demolition of the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home and the construction of a new middle school. The MOA was among the Cabell County Board of Education, the West Virginia School Building Authority, and the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer. The physical documentation of the former West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home main building was undertaken by Robert C. Whetsell, Historian, in 2010. The photographs were taken by Robert C. Whetsell in November 2010. The work was completed under the supervision of Karen E. Hudson, Ph.D., Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc., principal investigator. Trent Spurlock, Architectural Historian, of Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc. completed the comprehensive written history of the West Virginia Colored

¹ Lisa Adkins, West Virginia Colored Children's Home National Register of Historic Places Nomination (Charleston, WV: West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office, 1997), 8:2.

² Ibid., 8:2.

Orphans' Home in April 2014. The work was completed under the supervision of Elizabeth G. Heavrin, Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc., serving as principal investigator.

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Part I. Historical Information

A. Physical History

- 1. Date of erection:** Ca. 1922–1923.³ The first West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home built on this site was a three-story brick structure constructed ca. 1904 with the assistance of students' labor. The first building was destroyed by fire on April 5, 1920, although an earlier fire in 1909 is also mentioned in newspaper articles. The institution's second structure, a three-story Neo-Classical building, was constructed on the same site between 1922 and 1923.⁴
- 2. Architect:** Warne, Tucker and Patteson, Architects, Charleston, West Virginia. According to the original construction plans, Warne, Tucker and Patteson were the architects for the West Virginia Colored Orphans Home, later renamed the West Virginia Colored Children's Home. H. Rus Warne settled in Charleston, West Virginia after his studies and designed numerous public and private buildings throughout the state, including institutional structures such as the Northcott Science Hall for Marshall University and the Administration Building for Glenville State College. The firm of Warne, Tucker and Patteson also designed buildings on the campus of the West Virginia University Institute of Technology.⁵
- 3. Original and subsequent owners, uses:** Ca. 1904, the property was purchased by the Colored Orphans Home and Industrial School Corporation. In 1911, the State of West Virginia bought the main building, support structures, and 190 acres. At this time, the facility was managed by the West Virginia State Board of Control. The original main building of the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home was destroyed by fire in 1920 and a new building was constructed ca. 1922–1923. In January 1931, the name of the Orphans' Home was changed to the West Virginia Colored Children's Home. The West Virginia State Board of Control continued oversight of the facility (known as the West Virginia Colored Children's Home) until 1956, at which time the West Virginia Colored Children's Home was closed following the Supreme Court's mandated integration of public education facilities. The property temporarily served as the West Virginia Home for Aged and Infirm Colored Men and Women until its transfer to Marshall University in 1961. Afterward, the main building was utilized for student housing and additional buildings for student apartments were constructed on the property. The property was acquired by the Cabell County Schools Board of Education in anticipation of the construction of the Huntington East Middle School.

³ Ibid., 7:2.

⁴ Adkins, 8:5, 8:7; Jason A. Baker, Robert C. Whetsell, and Russell S. Quick, *Phase I Archaeological Survey for the Proposed New Beverly Hills-Enslow Middle School, Guyandotte District, Cabell County, West Virginia* (Hurricane, WV: Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc., 2010), 14.

⁵ S. Allen Chambers, Jr. *Buildings of West Virginia* (New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2004): 57–58, 117.

The main building of the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home was demolished in 2011.⁶

4. **Builder, contractor, suppliers:** Not known.
5. **Original plans and construction:** Originally the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home was a three-story, eleven-bay, hip-roof, rectangular Neo-Classical structure with a raised, two-story central portico. The roof was sheathed in slate shingles and the exterior of the structure was clad in brick. Oriented to the north, the façade's portico is supported by a single-story pedestal that features a double-leaf central entry flanked by paired windows with four-over-single-light, double-hung sashes. The portico's pediment was clad in stucco with a central oculus filled with a decorative sash. Doric columns, paired at the corners, supported the portico, which also featured a wood railing. The portico sheltered the three central bays of the façade, including the single-leaf central entry that featured a three-light transom and sidelights. Paired windows filled with four-over-single-light double-hung sashes filled the other bays sheltered by the portico. Exterior steps were not provided to access the portico. The portions of the façade flanking the central portico featured four bays to each side filled with either single or paired windows with six-over-single-light double-hung sashes. The majority of second and third floor window openings featured brick jack arches and stone sills. Windows on the second floor also feature stone keystones. A single-leaf entry was located along the first floor to the right of the portico's pedestal. Dentil molding encompassed the building below the cornice and a stone stringcourse delineates the first and second floors of the structure.⁷

The side (west and east) elevations each featured a porch extending from the second floor and supported by a single-story brick pedestal. The porches hip-roofs were covered in metal, supported by paired Doric columns, and featuring wood railings. The porches sheltered double-leaf entries with transoms and flanked by windows. The pedestals featured a central pedestrian opening flanked by single bays and single bays on the sides. The openings of the pedestals were partially filled with wood lattice. Inside the pedestals were entries to the building's first floor.⁸

The rear (south) elevation of the building served as the primary entrance to the structure. The eleven-bay rear elevation features three bay projections at either end of the main block that extend slightly beyond the wall plane of the central section. The outer bays of these projections had single windows while the central bay was filled by

⁶ Adkins, 8:5, 8:7, 8:9; Baker, et al., 14, 18.

⁷ Original construction drawings, Warne, Tucker, and Patteson, Architects, Charleston, West Virginia, currently located at Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia.

⁸ Ibid.

paired windows. The west projection also had a below-grade entrance to the partial basement containing the boiler and fuel room. A single-leaf entry was situated along the center of the east projection. The center three bays of the rear elevation's central portion were filled with paired windows. Double-leaf entries filled the outer bays of the first floor's rear central portion, sheltered by a small porch supported by Doric columns. A smaller set of windows were located above the entries and a larger set were located along the third floor. These windows of varying sizes denote the location of the interior stairwells.⁹

The third floor blueprints depict a double-loaded corridor flanked by bedrooms featuring a single closet. A bathroom with two toilets and bathtubs are located near the ends of the corridor. Large dormitory rooms are located at each end of the corridor, one for boys and the second for girls.¹⁰

- 6. Alterations and additions:** Numerous alterations to the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home took place through the years of its service to children, adults, and college students. The specific dates of these modifications are unknown.

The façade portico was altered with the partial enclosing of the entry. The sidelights had been covered with vinyl siding and the single-leaf entry's door had been replaced. Only the original three-light transom remained. The original wood railing was replaced with a metal railing and the Doric columns had been wrapped in vinyl siding. The central double-leaf entry of the pedestal supporting the portico was filled with brick.

The majority of window sashes remained in use throughout the building, although the window facings had been clad in vinyl or aluminum. The cornice encompassing the building had also been clad in vinyl or aluminum, covering or removing the original dentil molding. Exterior metal fire escapes had also been added to the corners of the façade in front of the former side porches.

Both of the former second-story side porches were enclosed and clad in vinyl siding. Two windows had been added to the east and west elevations of the porches and a single window along the rear (south) elevation. These windows were similar to those found throughout the structure. The façade (north) elevation of the porches contained a single-leaf entry to access the fire escape. The first floor pedestals of the side porches had windows filling the openings that originally contained lattices. The central entries to these pedestals were resized to accommodate single-leaf entries.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

The rear elevation of the building remained little changed, although the small porches sheltering the double-leaf entries had been covered in aluminum and vinyl siding, obscuring the original Doric columns and cornice of each entry.

The interior of the building had been greatly altered to accommodate the apartments for student housing created during the building's use by Marshall University. Modifications to the interior include the division of the original rooms into smaller living quarters and the addition of bathrooms to serve each of these apartments. On the first floor alone, the dining room was divided into two apartments complete with separate bathrooms. The kitchen and serving room on the first floor was divided into two bathrooms and an apartment. The porches on the side elevations of the building on both the first and second floors were converted to apartments with three of the spaces also containing bathrooms. Stairwells were added along the rear (south) elevation of the building at the southwest and southeast corners of the original building to provide additional egress from the building. The original bathrooms on the second and third floors were also removed.

B. Historic Context

From the mid-nineteenth through the early twentieth century, orphanages, also known as orphan asylums, were predominantly founded and operated by specific religious or ethnic groups in the United States, such as Catholic, Jewish, and Protestant religious organizations. These orphanages provided admittance to children principally from groups to whom they catered, although by the first decades of the twentieth century these institutions began to open admittance to a greater number of children not within their specific religious group or ethnicity. In the late nineteenth century, many in orphanages were the children of immigrant parents primarily from European countries. African American orphans were a greatly underserved group when examining orphanages nationwide because of the racial attitudes toward blacks during this period. The segregation of orphans followed the practices of the day.¹¹ As stated in Timothy A. Hacsí's *Second Home: Orphan Asylums and Poor Families in America*, "Black children were rarely admitted to asylums designed to care for white children in 1890, and while the situation changed somewhat over the next four decades, the majority of orphan asylums remained institutions for white children of various ethnic backgrounds in 1933."¹²

¹¹ Timothy A. Hacsí, *Second Home: Orphan Asylums and Poor Families in America* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1997), 121.

¹² *Ibid.*

The number of orphanages for non-white children greatly increased over the first two decades of the twentieth century. Although ninety orphanages existed for non-white children in the early 1930s, this was just a fraction of the more than six-hundred children's asylums for whites. Not all of these facilities for non-whites were constructed for African Americans because new institutions in the western portion of the nation were serving immigrant children whose parents originally immigrated from Japan, China, and Mexico. Additionally, orphanages serving non-white children were typically smaller than those catering to whites and provided fewer amenities because of a lack of consistent funding sources.¹³

As stated in Cicero M. Fain, III's dissertation entitled "Race, River, and the Railroad: Black Huntington, West Virginia, 1871–1929," blacks living in West Virginia, "unlike those in the North, confronted a state-mandated system of racial segregation in state-run schools and social welfare institutions."¹⁴ Churches served as the primary social institution for many African American communities situated in cities such as Huntington, offering leadership and a power base from which the black community could expand its influence further into the city at large. The creation of additional black institutions followed the churches, such as newspapers, lodges of fraternal societies, schools and other civic establishments. One African American institution in Huntington, the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home, was initiated through the efforts of a black pastor who wanted to improve the lives of children who had lost one or more of their parents and lacked the economic and family resources to care for themselves.

The son of a farmer and shoe maker, Charles McGhee was born in Franklin County, Virginia, in the spring of 1858. McGhee attended various small county schools but the early death of his father placed a greater responsibility of the family's wellbeing on his shoulders. McGhee worked to help support the family but also seems to have found time for studies. He joined First Baptist Church of Charleston while in his early twenties and married Laura DeHaven in late 1888. McGhee served as pastor at a number of churches, including Scott Street Baptist Church in Bluefield, First Baptist Church of Princeton, and the Ingleside First Baptist Church. McGhee may have furthered his educational pursuits while living in Bluefield, West Virginia.¹⁵

Beginning in 1893, Reverend McGhee and other interested parties lobbied for improvements to the African American educational facilities in Bluefield. The migration of blacks from southern states to work in the coalfields of West Virginia and Virginia in the late nineteenth century created an increased need to expand the educational offerings

¹³ Ibid., 122.

¹⁴ Cicero M. Fain, III, "Race, River, and the Railroad: Black Huntington, West Virginia, 1871–1929" (Ph.D. diss., Ohio State University, 2009), 11.

¹⁵ A. B. Caldwell, editor, *History of the American Negro, West Virginia Edition, Vol 7* (Atlanta, GA: A. B. Caldwell Publishing Company, 1923), 170, 172.

in southeast West Virginia for the families of the miners. Established in 1895 as a high school for African American students, the Bluefield Colored Institute began to receive monetary appropriations from the state of West Virginia in 1897 through the efforts of Reverend McGhee and others. This institution evolved into the current Bluefield State College, an integrated historically black college.¹⁶

Reverend McGhee's interest in providing for disadvantaged African American children led to the establishment of the Colored Orphanage in Bluefield, West Virginia in early 1899. This new facility, known as the West Virginia Normal and Industrial School for Colored Children, was to provide primary and vocational classes to its students. The institution's creation was in part prompted by the death of Reverend McGhee's brother-in-law, who worked in the coal mines and left behind Reverend McGhee's sister and children. A dearth of state-supported institutions to provide assistance to mining families dealing with problems such as low and intermittent incomes or the death of the family's breadwinner meant many families and children were neglected of both educational and physical necessities. By March of the following year, the West Virginia Normal and Industrial School for Colored Children moved to a location in the Central City section of Huntington, West Virginia. A staff of three operated the facility that served approximately eighteen children. While operating the institution, Reverend McGhee did not have his own church to pastor but spent time fund raising for the facility. In certain instances a band composed of residents of the West Virginia Normal and Industrial School for Colored Children would travel with Reverend McGhee during his fund raising trips. The state began to subsidize teachers' pay in 1903. The option to purchase the facility's location in Central City expired before Reverend McGhee could raise sufficient funds. The orphans' home moved to a location near Blue Sulphur Springs offering a larger building and grounds but this location was utilized only temporarily because of local hostility towards the facility. Approximately 210 acres were purchased along Pea Ridge Road (now Norway Avenue) circa 1903–1904, south of the Guyandotte River and southeast of downtown Huntington by Reverend McGhee for a new facility.¹⁷

Constructed circa 1904 to house the children for the orphans' home at the Pea Ridge Road site, the three-story, brick, main building was built partially with labor supplied by the children of the institution. A portion of the lumber for the building's construction came from the farm and the bricks were made on the property. The children may have been taught the brick-making trade by a Tuskegee tradesman possibly sent by Booker T. Washington. The main building consisted of a three-story, gable-roof projection with a

¹⁶ Caldwell, 172– 173; Bluefield State College, "History," online resource, <http://bluefieldstate.edu/about/history>, accessed March 2014; Adkins, 8:3–8:4.

¹⁷ Caldwell, 172– 173; Adkins, 8:3–8:4; Ancella Radford Bickley, "Black People and the Huntington Experience," in *Honoring Our Past, Proceedings of the First Two Conferences on West Virginia's Black History*, edited by Joe William Trotter, Jr. and Ancella Radford Bickley (Charleston, WV: Alliance for the Collection, Preservation, & Dissemination of West Virginia's Black History, 1991): 142–143.

hip-roof wing. Porches on both the front-gable façade and side elevation of the wing provided shelter to the first and second story entries. Serving as superintendent of the orphans' home, Reverend McGhee solicited funds to construct the buildings and operating expenses for the facility. Funds were provided from the home's farm and boarding school income as well as private donations. Beginning in 1903 and continuing through 1910 the state of West Virginia legislature appropriated funds annually to subsidize the operation of the orphans' home, beginning with \$1,500 and varying through the period. In 1910 the state authorized \$3,000 to subsidize operation of the home.¹⁸

A newspaper article dated November 11, 1909 indicates the orphans' home "located three miles south of Huntington, was completely destroyed by fire last Thursday."¹⁹ According to the newspaper the fire started in a chimney flue and consumed the "main group of buildings, the barn and grainary (sic)" although a "new building under construction was situated at a distance which left it unharmed." The value of the buildings razed by the fire was estimated at \$12,000. Reverend McGhee, continuing to act as superintendent, was in Wheeling at the time of the fire raising funds for completion of the new building. This early fire is also referenced in an article dating to 1920. It is unclear if the circa 1903-1904 building was completely destroyed by the fire of 1909 and rebuilt or if it was remodeled after the fire. These two newspaper articles are the only references located describing a fire on the property prior to 1911.²⁰

The act to establish the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home was signed by Governor William E. Glasscock on February 24, 1911, two days after the bill was approved by the legislature. The act stated the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home was to be located in building(s) "suitable for the purpose to be provided by the state at the present site of the West Virginia normal industrial school for colored orphans, near Huntington, county of Cabell. This institution shall be under the management, direction, control and government of the state board of control."²¹ The legislation authorized the State Board of Control to purchase approximately 190 acres and improvements currently occupied by the West Virginia Normal Industrial School for Colored Orphans for a purchase price of not more than \$10,000. The State Board of Control was given the responsibility to oversee the management of the facility including its day to day operations. The state legislation indicated that the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home could accept children under sixteen years old that were relinquished by their invalid parents, placed in the home by

¹⁸ Adkins, 8:5; State Board of Control of West Virginia, *Second Biennial Report of the State Board of Control of West Virginia for the Biennial Period Ending September 30, 1912, Part 1* (Charleston, WV: Union Publishing Company), 327–328; Bickley, 143.

¹⁹ "Orphans Home Destroyed by Fire," *Raleigh Herald* (Beckley, WV), November 11, 1909.

²⁰ "Orphans Home Destroyed by Fire," *Raleigh Herald* (Beckley, WV), November 11, 1909; "Board of Control to Rebuild Home of Negro Orphans," *Huntington Advertiser*, April 6, 1920.

²¹ House Bill No. 17, Chapter 24, *Establishment of the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home*, Acts of the Legislature of West Virginia, 30th Regular Session (1911), online resource, <http://www.wvculture.org/history/africanamericans/wvcoloredorphans01.html>, accessed March 2014.

“agents of the humane society of West Virginia,” or relinquished to the care of the home by persons that oversaw the poor in any town, city, or county within the state of West Virginia.²² The purpose of the facility was “to provide and maintain a home for colored orphan children, and to instruct and assist them in any way that may seem best to fit and equip them for usefulness in life.”²³

A description of the orphans’ home property after its purchase by the state is included in the 1912 biennial report of the State Board of Control of West Virginia. Of the original 210 acres associated with the property, the state purchased 190 acres. Twenty acres had been previously sold or retained by Reverend McGhee. The farmland was in fair condition but would require significant funding to bring it to first class status, including fertilizers and farm equipment. It was also suggested a farm manager be employed to maximize the use of the agricultural land. Most of the land was too steeply sloped for cultivation but could be used for pasture. At the time of the report the orphans’ home owned two mules and six head of cattle. Approximately fifteen acres were available for cultivating for fruits and vegetables. An apple orchard containing 800 trees was also located on the property. The employees and children, referred to as inmates, lived in the main building. Also situated on the orphans’ home property were a stable, a small dwelling, and outbuildings in deteriorated condition. The orphans’ home employed five persons, all receiving room and board, including: Reverend Charles McGhee as superintendent; Ms. Lucy H. Ware, matron; James Liggins, carpenter and blacksmith; Hardin Smith, gardener; and Ms. C. L. Stewart, teacher.²⁴

The front-gable block of the main building was 30-x-60 feet while the wing was 40-x-60 feet. A foundation had been laid for a second wing to the main building, matching that of the existing wing, but had never been constructed. Located on the first floor of the main building was the “kitchen, dining room, storage room, recreation room, laundry and workshop. The second story contains the office, bed rooms, the girls’ dormitories and the nurseries. The third floor contains the chapel, the boys’ dormitories and teachers’ bed rooms. The attic contains dormitory for boys.”²⁵ The main building was heated by gas, coal, and wood stoves. Water for the orphans’ home was supplied by pumping it from the Guyandotte River north of the facility and storing it in a cistern. The four-room dwelling on the grounds was occupied by the superintendent. The frame barn was used to house the horses and as storage of the wagons.²⁶

²² Ibid.

²³ State Board of Control of West Virginia, *Second Biennial Report of the State Board of Control of West Virginia for the Biennial Period Ending September 30, 1912, Part 1* (Charleston, WV: Union Publishing Company), 329.

²⁴ Ibid., 327–328.

²⁵ Ibid., 332.

²⁶ Ibid., 332.

The 1912 biennial report of the State Board of Control states that the children of the orphans' home were taught subjects such as reading, writing, arithmetic, spelling, history, geography, and physiology. A separate industrial department for boys and girls was included in the training for the children. The Industrial Department for Girls offered instruction in general housework, cooking, sewing, and doing laundry. Agriculture, construction skills such as carpentry and masonry, blacksmithing, painting, plumbing, and shoemaking were taught in the Industrial Department for Boys.²⁷ It must be surmised that because there was not a separate building to actually house the industrial department, this work was simply accomplished in the main building or grounds of the institution.

In 1911, various fruits and vegetables were grown on the farm and utilized in the kitchen of the Orphans' Home, including: sweet and Irish potatoes, kale, beans, tomatoes, onions, corn, apples, watermelons, blackberries, and cantaloupes. Hay, fodder, and corn were raised for the farm animals. Over the following years similar garden vegetables were cultivated by the gardener or farmer and children of the home, but a wider range of vegetables included squash, lettuce, cucumbers, radishes, and beets.²⁸

The West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home housed 69 children on June 30, 1914. The Orphans' Home had housed an average of seventy-three children over the previous twelve months, the majority of which were boys (Table 1). Nineteen children admitted to the facility during the fiscal year: six were admitted from the eastern portion of the state in Hampshire County and four were admitted from McDowell County in the extreme southern portion of West Virginia (Table 2). The number of the facility's livestock had increased and fodder such as hay and oats were grown as feed for the farm animals. The farm's livestock included swine, cattle, horses, and mules. Three poultry houses had been recently constructed on the grounds. The institution's farmer lived in the small dwelling on the campus. A number of improvements were reported to have been completed to the main building by mid-1914, such as the interior completion of the first floor's dining room, kitchen, and pantry and a recreation room for boys.²⁹

An editorial appeared in the Charleston, West Virginia, newspaper on March 18, 1915, criticizing the low cost of meals provided to children living in the state's institutions. Special emphasis was placed on the reported cost of \$.02 per meal for each child living at the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home in 1913. The editorial stated that the increase in wages paid to the employees of the state run institutions was funded through lowering the meal costs; therefore, the amount of food provided to the children of these facilities. As further proof, the following year the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home had an average of one less child for the year living at the institution and the cost of food

²⁷ Ibid., 329.

²⁸ Ibid., 333.

²⁹ State Board of Control of West Virginia, *Third Biennial Report of the State Board of Control of West Virginia for the Period October 1, 1912 to June 30, 1914, Part 1* (Charleston, WV: Tribune Printing Company), 426, 436.

provided to the children declined to \$.019 per meal. In the same time period an additional employee was hired to work at the institution. According to sources affiliated with the facilities in a second newspaper article in the following days, the foodstuffs grown on the state institutions' farms, such as potatoes, beans, milk, and eggs were not included in the per meal food calculations. But the editorial further states that the original assumption was correct, indicating that the value of the farm products raised at the institutions were included in the final cost of meals served to the children and inmates of the state's institutions. As stated in the editorial, the smaller expense to feed the state's institutional members was occurring at the same time food costs were increasing, thus the state was not fulfilling its duty to adequately provide for the inmates, and especially children, under the state's care.³⁰

According to a brief biography, Reverend Charles McGhee served as superintendent of the Orphans' Home from 1900 through 1915. By 1922 Reverend McGhee was no longer associated with the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home but was proprietor of the 32-room Mt. Vernon hotel in Huntington.³¹

The superintendent, matrons, laundress, cook, and farmer are positions commonly found employed at the institution throughout its history. Both James L. Hill was appointed to the position of superintendent and H. H. Railey as field agent in September or October 1915. The field agent investigated children prior to being accepted to the home, assisted in the placement of children in private homes, and continued to check on the children after placement in private homes until their official adoption. The valuable work of the field agent is apparent by the number of children living at the Orphans' Home in mid-1915 (60 children) and the end of the fiscal year in 1916 (37 children) (Table 1). The field agent's work not only provided a caring home life for the child but also an economical benefit for the state in reducing the operating costs for the orphans' home.³²

Children had to meet certain guidelines for admittance to the orphans' home, including: 1) the child had to be healthy with no physical or mental limitations; 2) Must be under sixteen years old, a resident of West Virginia, own no personal or real estate, and have no relative that wished to raise the child; 3) The child was placed at the

³⁰ Walter E. Clark, "The Politician and the Tax (Ninth Editorial)," *Charleston Mail* (Charleston, WV), March 18, 1915; Walter E. Clark, "The Politician and the Tax (Tenth Editorial)," *Charleston Mail*, March 22, 1915.

³¹ Caldwell, 173.

³² State Board of Control of West Virginia, *Fourth Biennial Report of the State Board of Control of West Virginia for the Period July 1, 1914 to June 30, 1916, Part 1* (Charleston, WV: Tribune Printing Company), 373–376, 381.

Table 1. Population Statistics of the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home (from the West Virginia State Board of Control Biennial Reports).

	3.1.1911 to 10.1.1911		10.1.1911 to 9.30.1912		10.1.1912 to 6.30.1913		7.1.1913 to 6.30.1914		7.1.1914 to 6.30.1915		7.1.1915 to 6.30.1916		7.1.1916 to 6.30.1917		7.1.1917 to 6.30.1918		1920 Report		1922 Report		7.1.1923 to 6.30.1924		7.1.1924 to 6.30.1925		7.1.1925 to 6.30.1926		7.1.1926 to 6.30.1927		7.1.1927 to 6.30.1928		7.1.1928 to 6.30.1929		7.1.1929 to 6.30.1930			
	No	Information	No	Information	No	Information	No	Information	No	Information	No	Information	No	Information	No	Information	No	Information	No	Information	No	Information	No	Information	No	Information	No	Information	No	Information	No	Information	No	Information		
Avg # of Total Children	66		70		74		73		60		35		41		43																					
Avg # of Females	23		24		26		27		15		7		15		16																					
Avg # of Males	43		46		48		46		45		28		26		27																					
Died in institution (total)	3		2		1		1		1		1		0		1																					
Adopted in private homes (total)	1		9		12		3																													
Placed in private homes (total)	4		8		7		2		30		49		34		46																					
Returned to relatives (total)	10		10		18		3		14		30		14		18																					
Ran away																																				
Sent to other institutions																																				
Released on age																																				
Ages Admitted During Year																																				
Under 6 years of age	14		9		3		8				29		25		20																					
6 to 12 years of age	18		29		20		8				19		47		55																					
12 to 16 years	6		4		4		3				12		23		32																					
Total	38		42		27		19				60		95		107																					
Length of Stay at Orphans' Home of Remaining Children																																				
Less than 6 months																																				
From 6 months to 1 year																																				
From 1 to 2 years																																				

Table 2. Home Counties of Children Admitted to the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home (from the West Virginia State Board of Control Biennial Reports).

Total admitted by counties	3.1.1911 to	10.1.1911 to	10.1.1912 to	7.1.1913 to	7.1.1914 to	7.1.1915 to	7.1.1916 to	7.1.1917 to	1920 Report	1922 Report	12.1.1923 to	7.1.1924 to	7.1.1925 to	7.1.1926 to	7.1.1927 to	7.1.1928 to	7.1.1929 to	7.1.1930 to	7.1.1933 to	7.1.1934 to	7.1.1935 to	7.1.1939 to	7.1.1940 to	7.1.1941 to	7.1.1941 to	7.1.1942 to		
	10.1.1911	10.1.1912	6.30.1913	6.30.1914	6.30.1915	6.30.1916	6.30.1917	6.30.1918	No Information	No Information	6.30.1924	6.30.1925	6.30.1926	6.30.1927	6.30.1928	6.30.1929	6.30.1930	6.30.1930	6.30.1934	6.30.1935	6.30.1936	6.30.1940	6.30.1941	6.30.1941	6.30.1942	6.30.1943		
Boone																												
Cabell	6	3	4	3		10	14	9			10	5	5															
Fayette	3	3	1	0		5	7	18			3	3	3															
Grant							1	0																				
Greenbrier	1	1				1	3	1				1																
Hampshire																												
Harrison	2	1	1	0		1	7	4			1	1	1															
Jackson	1	0				2	4	0																				
Jefferson	1	0				10	8	8			4	2	5															
Kanawha	3	5	4	2																								
Lewis																												
Logan							3	4			3	1	2															
McDowell	4	3	3	4		2	8	16				5	5															
Marion						5	5	4																				
Marshall	0	2					1	0																				
Mercer	3	3	3	0		1	5	10																				
Mineral	1	1				1	1	0																				
Mingo	0	1				1	3	3					1															
Monongalia	3	3																										
Monroe	2	1				2	2	3																				
Ohio	3	4	2	0		4	7	8																				
Putnam	0	1	2	0		1	1	2																				
Pocahontas	0	2																										
Raleigh						4	7	10				2																
Randolph	0	2																										
Roane							1	2																				
Summers	3	3	3	1		4	1	1																				
Taylor	1	2				4	1	1																				
Tucker	1	1																										
Wayne																												
Wood			3	3		3	5	3																				

orphans' home voluntarily because of disabilities or economic difficulties of the parents; 4.) desertion either by both parents or by one parent and the remaining adult was unable to raise and care for the child; 5.) the parents or relatives who were unable to care for the child because of work or other reasons but the parents could pay \$5 per month to the orphans' home for care of the child; 6.) the orphans' home would accept children from authorized agents of a city, county, court, or the state of West Virginia if the child would not be a detriment to the behavior and lives of other children living at the orphans' home, as the institution was not meant to handle the reforming of problem children.³³

A number of steps were involved in the adoption of a child from the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home. Once a request was initiated the field agent would visit the private home and seek references. Requests from families that already had children were examined to make sure the family could financially support the addition of another child. Requests from those without children were given preference over those that already have children within the family. Once the field agent is satisfied with the arrangement, the child is placed in the foster home for a 90-day trial period. At the end of the three month period, if the child and foster parents were happy with the arrangement the foster parents could adopt the child. If children were placed to work as domestics, the child was required to be the age of majority, the home and family were inspected by the field agent, and they were required to pay the child a salary.³⁴

Improvements to the physical plant of the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home between 1914 and 1916 included the construction of a new pump house to transfer water from the Guyandotte River to a new water tower and tank. A dairy barn and tile silo were also added to the grounds. The barn was able to accommodate twelve cows, milking equipment, and a portion of the barn could be divided to provide room for eight horses. Three swine houses and two chicken houses were constructed over the past two years following up-to-date designs. The main building of the orphanage continued to use gas for heating and lighting although electricity would have been preferred because of the threat of fire and the economic savings provided by steam heat. The girls croquet ground was graded and roads within the property were also to be graded in the future. The adjacent twenty acres owned by former Superintendent Reverend Charles E. McGhee were rented by the institution for pasture and cultivation. A residence was also located on this tract that was utilized by the orphans' home's farmer.³⁵

By 1918, the field agent for the institution was no longer employed as the duties were being fulfilled by employees of the State Humane Society. Improvements to the farm at this time included the planting of over one thousand fruit trees, including cherry, apple,

³³ Ibid., 383–384.

³⁴ Ibid., 384.

³⁵ Ibid., 390–392.

and peach trees.³⁶ Within two years, the State Board of Children's Guardians took over the responsibilities formerly conducted by the State Humane Society for the investigation and placement of children in private homes. Isaac M. Carper began employment as superintendent of the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home on March 17, 1920.³⁷

A three-story wing to the main building was constructed circa 1919 to 1920. Although no photograph has been located of the main building after its expansion, it is assumed that the new wing provided a symmetrical appearance to the building. The new wing was used to house the girls while the boys were housed in the original wing. The front-gable central section had been remodeled for use as quarters for the superintendent and his family. The improvements to the main building cost approximately \$23,000.³⁸

The main building of the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home was razed by fire at 10:30 PM April 5, 1920. Alonzo Lee, living along the Barboursville Road, fired shots from the north side of the Guyandotte River after seeing the structure on fire. The sound of gunfire woke Superintendent Carper, who exited the building to investigate. He saw the structure's cornice burning at the east end of the building and began to awaken the other employees and children. The Huntington Fire Department responded to the blaze, which may have begun in the attic, but was unable to reach the building because of muddy roads on the property. The water tank at the top of the tower contained 20,000 gallons of water, but there were no fire hose connections to utilize the stored water to extinguish the blaze. None of the thirty-five children living at the Orphans' Home was injured, although the fire chief and Superintendent Carper reentered the building upon hearing the cries of two boys, brothers Charles and Clarence Renix. Both boys, quartered on the third floor, were safely removed from the burning building. An eight-year-old boy jumped from the third floor into the arms of the Mr. Lee, who originally had fired the warning shots to alert the Orphans' Home's residents of the fire. It was anticipated that the main building's value at the time of the fire was \$65,000. One of the institution's neighbors took in the children and fed them breakfast the next day. Superintendent Carper met with Huntington Mayor Judge Campbell the following day and with the mayor's help was able to transfer the children via automobiles to other accommodations. The mayor placed the girls of the orphanage, along with their teacher and matron, at the Huntington General Hospital. The fire station served as the boys' temporary housing. The girls were subsequently removed to Dr. C. C. Barnett's hospital at 1201 Seventh Avenue. On the evening of April 7, 1920 the State Board of Control ordered all of the orphanage's

³⁶ State Board of Control of West Virginia, *Fifth Biennial Report of the State Board of Control of West Virginia for the Period July 1, 1916 to June 30, 1918, Part 1* (Charleston, WV: Tribune Printing Company), 319, 329–330, 333.

³⁷ State Board of Control of West Virginia, *Sixth Biennial Report of the State Board of Control of West Virginia for the Period July 1, 1918 to June 30, 1920, Part 1* (Charleston, WV: Tribune Printing Company), 357, 362, 364; Adkins, 8:7.

³⁸ State Board of Control of West Virginia, *Sixth Biennial Report*, 357; "Board of Control to Rebuild Home of Negro Orphans," *Huntington Advertiser*, April 6, 1920.

children be transferred to the new Psychopathic Building at the Spencer State Hospital in Spencer, West Virginia. This move was accomplished on April 8, 1920. Soon afterwards the children were placed in private homes through the efforts of the State Board of Children's Guardians. The operation of the farm was transferred to the Huntington State Hospital until the Orphans' Home was rebuilt. The superintendent requested that the State Board of Control sell the current property and purchase a tract with better farmland that could accommodate one or two other state institutions, such as the West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind.³⁹

A contract was signed and, by mid-1922, construction was ongoing for a new West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home to be located near the site of the previous structure. Other ongoing improvements included the construction of a new barn and a new five-room, single-story dwelling for the superintendent. The house, clad in stucco with a shingle roof, contained a 30-x-24-ft basement. It is unclear if the new barn referenced is the same barn described in the 1916 biennial report with improvements or if an entirely new structure was constructed. Another recently completed improvement was a hard surface road passing through the farm and continuing to Huntington. This seems to be Norway Avenue located south of the newly constructed Orphans' Home. A bus stop located approximately a half mile away from the institution connected the Orphans' Home to downtown Huntington. A new superintendent, H. H. Railey, had been hired within the past two years to oversee the construction of the new buildings. Railey had previously served as the field agent for the orphanage.⁴⁰

The new main building opened to children on December 1, 1923, although the first child did not enter the institution until December 5, 1923. On June 30, 1924, there were twenty children living at the new facility. The three-story, Classical Revival-style building with a brick exterior and slate roof was constructed for nearly \$60,000 on the ridgeline facing north to the Guyandotte River. A description of the new building in the 1924 biennial report indicates that the interior was comprised of twenty-six rooms along with four dormitory rooms and a small basement containing the heating equipment.⁴¹

It is unclear what type of formal educational instruction the children were receiving at this time, as a teacher was not employed at the facility. The 1924 biennial report indicates

³⁹ State Board of Control of West Virginia, *Sixth Biennial Report*, 362–363; “Board of Control to Rebuild Home of Negro Orphans,” *Huntington Advertiser*, April 6, 1920.

⁴⁰ State Board of Control of West Virginia, *Seventh Biennial Report of the State Board of Control of West Virginia for the Period July 1, 1920 to June 30, 1922, Part 1* (Charleston, WV: Tribune Printing Company), 343; . State Board of Control of West Virginia, *Eighth Biennial Report of the State Board of Control of West Virginia for the Period July 1, 1922 to June 30, 1924, Part 1* (Charleston, WV: Tribune Printing Company), 317; State Board of Control of West Virginia, *Ninth Biennial Report of the State Board of Control of West Virginia for the Period July 1, 1924 to June 30, 1927, Part 1* (Charleston, WV: Jarrett Printing Company), 491.

⁴¹ State Board of Control of West Virginia, *Eighth Biennial Report*, 316–317, 322; State Board of Control of West Virginia, *Eleventh Biennial Report of the West Virginia Board of Control for the Period July 1, 1933 to June 30, 1936* (Charleston, WV: Jarrett Printing Company), 228.

that school classes were not offered because of the lateness of opening the facility after completion of the building. At the time, larger boys worked on the farm and younger boys helped with the lawn work. The girls were taught needlework, with three receiving awards at the Tri-State Fair in 1923.⁴²

Bids were let on April 9, 1924 for the construction of a three-story building on the Orphans' Home property. The bids were to be opened on May 16. This building, located to the south of Norway Avenue, would house the State Industrial Home for Colored Girls and was expected to open in November 1925. This institution was operated separately from the Orphans' Home but was also overseen by the State Board of Control. Actual construction and furnishing the building took longer than expected as a newspaper article indicates the Industrial Home for Colored Girls was to open in February 1926.⁴³

The facility's driveway from Norway Avenue was improved with concrete during fiscal years 1924 through 1927. Also during this time a garage was constructed on the site with a basement used as a cellar for fruit and vegetables while the attic was utilized for the curing and storage of meat to be later used in the facility's kitchen. A playground with new equipment was added to the grounds and a new pumping system for retrieving water was installed along with a filtration system. The new water system provided water not only to the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home but also to the nearby Industrial Home for Colored Girls. The thirty acres cultivated on the property were improved through fertilizing and raising cover crops such as clover and soy beans to enrich the soil.⁴⁴

By mid-1930, several improvements had been made to the property, such as new concrete sidewalks, flower gardens and shrubs planted near the building, and the planting of twenty-five shade trees in the yard and another thirty aligned along the drive to Norway Avenue. Two lots were purchased to the immediate east of the institution's driveway along Norway Avenue in an area referred to as Campbell Park, thus increasing the land holdings to approximately 200 acres. The topography on these two lots prevented a clear view from the driveway onto the street so future plans included leveling off the two lots to improve sight clearance and safety when pulling out onto the street from the Orphans' Home. The facility continued to pump its water from the Guyandotte River but because of movement by the river away from the pump station and waste pumped into the river from upstream the superintendent requested a deep well be drilled on the site to provide the Orphans' Home a safe water supply. The issue with the water may also have been prompted by three cases of typhoid fever that occurred at the State Industrial Home for Colored Girls. Both institutions shared the same water source and pumping station. After

⁴² State Board of Control of West Virginia, *Eighth Biennial Report*, 322, 325.

⁴³ "Asks Bids on New State Building," *Charleston Gazette*, April 10, 1924; "New State School Work Progresses," *Charleston Gazette*, September 16, 1925; "Home for Negro Girls May Open in February," *Charleston Daily Mail*, January 3, 1926.

⁴⁴ State Board of Control of West Virginia, *Ninth Biennial Report*, 500–501.

the illnesses a chlorination machine was installed to provide safer water to both the Orphans' Home and the Industrial Home.⁴⁵

In January 1931, the name of the Orphans' Home was changed to the West Virginia Colored Children's Home and the State Industrial Home for Colored Girls was renamed the West Virginia Industrial Home for Colored Girls. Delegates to the West Virginia Association of Colored Graduate Nurses meeting in Huntington visited both the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home and the West Virginia Industrial Home for Colored Girls during their convention in January 1935. According to the June 30, 1936, West Virginia Board of Control report, approximately forty acres remained under cultivation and nearly the same amount in woodlots at the Orphans' Home. The small dwelling was occupied by the institution's farmer and assistant farmer. Various improvements to the facility were undertaken with the aid of workers employed through the Civil Works Administration (CWA), a short-term federal relief program of the New Deal that temporarily employed many out of work men because of the Great Depression. CWA labor painted the exteriors of the main building, barn, and garage in late 1934 and moved the hog houses to distance them further from the main building. River bottom land owned by the Orphans' Home was improved by CWA labor through the laying of drainage tiles to allow the land to be agriculturally productive. CWA workers also constructed a new paved entrance drive to the institution. This new drive probably provided access to U.S. 60, the Midland Trail, a new highway aligned along the Guyandotte River to the north of the main building. Fencing was replaced throughout the property and a stone dwelling for the farm manager was started in 1936, all utilizing CWA labor. The stone for the dwelling was quarried on the Orphans' Home's property. By 1939, the second-story porches on either end of the main building had been enclosed for use as sun porches. The porches provided a place for the children to play during inclement weather.⁴⁶

Educational opportunities for of the Orphans' Home's residents improved by the mid-1930s, with classes held for nine months of the year by two accredited teachers for children through sixth grade. The school at the Orphans' Home was attached to the Cabell County Board of Education. For students requiring further education, the Board of Education provided transportation to Douglass High School in Huntington. As this was a

⁴⁵ State Board of Control of West Virginia, *Tenth Biennial Report of the State Board of Control of West Virginia for the Period July 1, 1927 to June 30, 1930, Part I* (Charleston, WV: Jarrett Printing Company), 529–530, 538; West Virginia Board of Control, *Eleventh Biennial Report*, 227; “Fever Cases Cause Equipment Change,” *Charleston Daily Mail*, July 20, 1930.

⁴⁶ The original name “Orphans' Home” is used throughout this report; “Names of 13 State Institutions Changed,” *Charleston Gazette*, January 23, 1931; “State Colored Nurses Convene at Huntington,” *Charleston Daily Mail*, January 20, 1935; West Virginia Board of Control, *Eleventh Biennial Report*, 227–229; West Virginia Board of Control, *Twelfth Report of the West Virginia Board of Control for the Period July 1, 1936 to June 30, 1939*, 190.

period of continued segregation, the Douglass High School served only African American students.⁴⁷

Howard H. Railey, former superintendent of the Orphans' Home, died at his home in Institute, West Virginia on December 19, 1936. Railey was the third African American elected to serve in the West Virginia legislature.⁴⁸ Isaac M. Carper, having served as superintendent of the Orphans' Home in the early 1920s, died in Charleston on February 22, 1942. Carper served various positions in the African American branch of the Masons and was Charleston's first black mailman. He had also been active in the Democratic Party and served as director of the West Virginia Bureau of Negro Welfare and Statistics.⁴⁹

W. B. Fox was serving as superintendent of the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home in 1939. Mr. Fox was followed by who was serving as superintendent in June 1943, at which time forty children were living at the Home. Upon reaching the age of 21, the children were automatically removed from the home to live on their own as an adult. In mid-1943, in the middle of the United States' participation in the Second World War, eight adults were employed at the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home, including C. Shelby Martin as superintendent.⁵⁰

Superintendent David L. Hays requested numerous updates for the institution's facilities in mid-1948, including: repairs to the main entrance drive extending to U.S. 60 (Midland Trail), introducing showers in the main building as each dormitory had only two bath tubs, the installation of electric lighting on the grounds, constructing fire escapes for the building and placing water hydrants throughout the campus in the event of a fire. Portable buildings, possibly Quonset huts, were requested by Superintendent Hays to house the school rooms, thus freeing additional dormitory space. The stone dwelling constructed for the institution's farmer through New Deal federal relief funds had never been completed.⁵¹

Roy W. Edwards was appointed superintendent of the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home in early 1949 after the death of former Superintendent David L. Hays who died in

⁴⁷ West Virginia Board of Control, *Eleventh Biennial Report*, 230; Adkins, 8:8.

⁴⁸ "Railey Funeral Rites Will Be Conducted Today at Institute," *Charleston Gazette*, December 22, 1936.

⁴⁹ "Claimed by Death," *Charleston Daily Mail*, February 23, 1942; James E. Casto, "Historic Site Was Orphan Home," *Herald-Dispatch* (Huntington, WV), October 1, 2008.

⁵⁰ West Virginia Board of Control, *Twelfth Report*, 190; West Virginia Board of Control, *Thirteenth Report of the West Virginia Board of Control for the Period July 1, 1939 to June 30, 1943* (Charleston, WV: Jarrett Printing Company), 182; West Virginia Board of Control, *Fourteenth Report of the West Virginia Board of Control for the Period July 1, 1943 to June 30, 1945*, 28.

⁵¹ West Virginia Board of Control, *Fifteenth Report of the West Virginia Board of Control for the Period July 1, 1945 to June 30, 1945*, 84-87.

an automobile accident. Edwards had previously worked as a teacher and most recently was employed by the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad.⁵²

Classes were no longer taught at the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home by June 1951. For the previous three or four years, the children were bused to Huntington public schools. It was recognized that the classes taught at the Orphans' Home were not up to the standards of those provided by the public schools, although it should be remembered that public schools continued to be segregated at this time. Extracurricular activities for the children included joining the 4-H Club, the high school band, and the girls joining the Y-Teens, a group affiliated with the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA). A group of eight girls at the Orphans' Home participated in a singing group that performed at various venues throughout the city. The children attended Sunday school and services at four churches in Huntington and also enjoyed activities associated with the Community Chest, Red Cross, and other civic organizations.⁵³

Among changes initiated by Superintendent Roy W. Edwards was that staff and children share the same menus for meals, the children's duties rotated on a monthly basis, and the residents attended a movie twice a week. Improvements to the Orphans' Home's physical plant from 1948 through 1951 included: fire escapes added to the main building, water line laid for watering the livestock, paving the main drive leading to U.S. 60 (Midland Trail), fluorescent light fixtures added to the main building, painting the interior of the main building and small dwelling, a room in the main building utilized for classes was remodeled for use as a dormitory for older girls, the main building's electrical system was partially rewired, and a truck, station wagon, and tractor were purchased for the Orphans' Home. The institution was farming 160 of the total 200 acres owned by the Orphans' Home, with fifty-five acres under cultivation.⁵⁴

The U. S. Supreme Court ruling in *Brown vs. Board of Education* in 1954 legally ended segregated educational facilities throughout the nation although desegregation of schools did not occur overnight or uniformly in all the states that practiced segregation. The West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home operated until 1956, when the institution was closed and the residents of the Home were removed to the newly integrated Children's Home at Elkins. After its closure as the Orphans' Home, the Huntington facility briefly served as a nursing home for black residents named the West Virginia Home for the Aged and Infirm

⁵² "West Virginia News Briefs," *Beckley Raleigh Register*, February 2, 1949.

⁵³ West Virginia Board of Control, *Sixteenth Report of the West Virginia Board of Control for the Period July 1, 1948 to June 30, 1951*, 125-126.

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, 126-128.

Colored Men and Women. The institution and its grounds were transferred in 1961 to Marshall University and were repurposed as housing for students.⁵⁵

The average number of children living at the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home fluctuated from year to year while under the oversight of the West Virginia State Board of Control. No records are available prior to the institution's purchase by the state, although it would be surmised that a smaller number of children were cared for until the completion of the circa 1904 building on Norway Avenue. Between 1911 and mid-1915 the greatest number of children were cared for at the Orphans' Home on a yearly basis, with an average of nearly sixty-nine children living at the facility (Table 1). The highest average number of residents living at the institution was seventy-four children from October 1912 through June 1913. During this four year period the number of boys residing at the home annually was nearly double the number of girls. The majority of children admitted to the Orphans' Home during this period were under twelve years old, with a high of forty-two children admitted from October 1911 through September 1912. Only four of the forty-two children admitted to the institution within this twelve month period were between the ages of twelve and sixteen. Most children who were removed from the Orphans' Home between 1911 and mid-1915 were returned to their relatives, including their parents. Between 1911 and mid-1914 twenty-five children were adopted, twenty-one were placed in private homes with foster parents, and forty-one returned to relatives. After mid-1914 the number adopted are no longer reported in the biennial reports of the State Board of Control although the numbers placed in private homes increased dramatically.

In the three years from July 1915 through June 1918 the average number of children annually living at the Orphans' Home declined to approximately forty residents (Table 1). Boys continued to outnumber girls and children placed in private homes outpaced the number of children returned to live with their relatives. The large increase in children placed in private homes, assuming some were adopted, and those returned to live with their relatives probably explains the lower number of children remaining at the Orphans' Home. The total number of children admitted to the institution also increased over the three year period from July 1915 to June 1918, with sixty admitted in fiscal year 1916 and over one hundred in fiscal year 1918. This higher number of admittances also prompted the increased placement of children in private homes.

After the fire in 1920 destroyed the facility, annual reporting did not begin again until fiscal year 1925. For the six years between July 1924 and June 1930 the annual average number of children living at the home decreased to slightly under twenty-three children per year, with fiscal year 1930 having the highest number of children possibly because of

⁵⁵ Ancella R. Bickley, editor, *Our Mount Vernons: Historic Register Listings of Sites Significant to the Black History of West Virginia* (Huntington, WV: Carter G. Woodson Memorial Foundation, Inc. and the Drinko Academy at Marshall University, 1997), 123; Adkins, 8:9.

the start of the Great Depression (Table 1). The ratio of boys to girls began to change during this six-year period, as the average number of girls was greater than boys from July 1, 1927 through June 30, 1930. After a lull in the number of children admitted to the facility in the two and a half years after its reopening, the number admitted increased to over fifty for each of the following three years (fiscal years 1928 to 1930). Children admitted under the age of twelve continued to outnumber those over twelve years of age throughout the six-year period from mid-1924 through mid-1930. The length of residence at the home for children remaining at the end of the fiscal year was also stated in the biennial reports for fiscal years 1927 through 1930. Most of the children during these four years had resided at the Orphans' Home for between six months and a year, although a few had been at the home for one to two years. It is to be expected that other children may have lived at the Orphans' Home for longer periods although these were not reported in the State Board of Control's reports. The amount of information concerning the release of children from the Orphans' Home increased in the biennial reports during this six year period, indicating that not only were children placed in private homes or returned to their relatives, but that some children were placed in other institutions, ran away from the Home, or reached their age of majority and were released from the Orphans' Home. After fiscal year 1930 the State Board of Control's biennial reports did not include detailed information concerning the population of the Orphans' Home.

The State Board of Control's biennial reports contained information pertaining to the home counties of the children residing at the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home from 1911 to mid-1943 (Table 2). The variety of counties represented by the children indicates the importance of the Orphans' Home in truly serving as a statewide institution. Some counties were represented by more children than others, such as Cabell, Kanawah, Logan, McDowell, and Raleigh. Thirty-one counties were represented by children living at the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home during the 32-year period from 1911 to mid-1943.

Past residents of the home have varying opinions as to the success of the institution in raising and preparing children for adulthood. A former resident of the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home wrote a letter to the editor of the *Charleston Gazette* in October 1972 to praise a former director of the West Virginia Industrial Home for Colored Girls, Ms. Fannie Cobb Carter. Joseph Turner wrote that, after his parents died, both he and his brother were placed in the Orphans' Home. Mr. Turner was seven years old at the time and remained at the Orphans' Home for seven years, although it is unclear what time period Mr. Turner resided at the home. Mr. Turner's recollections of life at the Orphans' Home did not include fond memories. He stated that the children's clothes were uniforms made at one of the state prisons and that the children marched to each of their three daily meals. At water breaks the children were served from the same cup and breaking the rules at times led to serious disciplining. Classes were taught only through the sixth grade. The

children would also work long hours in the Orphans' Home's agricultural fields, such as the corn field. Mr. Turner complimented Ms. Carter for encouraging the children of the Orphans' Home and supporting both them and the girls under her care at that Industrial Home to further their educations and become upstanding adults.⁵⁶

Another resident of the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home, Ms. Delores Moody, stated during an interview that she was six years old when she was placed in the Home in the mid-1940s and resided at the institution until its closure in 1956. When she first arrived at the Orphans' Home school classes were taught by a single teacher at the facility. It wasn't until approximately two years later that the younger children began to catch the bus at the bottom of the hill from the Orphans' Home and were taken to Huntington's Barnett Elementary and later to Douglass High School, both segregated African American schools. While in the public schools, she was able to take part in afternoon activities such as the glee club and band. Although the residents of the Orphans' Home could not leave the grounds on their own, upon reaching high school age they could attend sporting events at Douglass High School such as baseball, football, and basketball games. They could only leave the Orphans' Home campus if they were accompanied by an adult, relative, or friend and only then for short periods of time. Other activities outside the Orphans' Home mentioned by the former resident include trips to Camden Park, to see movies at a theater for blacks on Eighth Avenue, picnics, and ice skating shows. Camden Park was a segregated amusement park that allowed African Americans to enter only one day a year. The children of the Home also attended Sunday school classes and church services at 16th Street Baptist Church. While living at the Orphans' Home, the residents had to help out with various chores, with the boys principally working in the gardens, fields, and dealing with the livestock and the girls working in the kitchen and dining room. Girls helped clean the dishes and at some point the Orphans' Home purchased a dishwasher for the kitchen. The children also had to clean their rooms and help with laundry. The teenage children lived on the third floor and the younger children on the second floor of the main building. Matrons that looked after the children lived on both the second and third floors of the main building, with boys and girls on separate ends of the building in large, dormitory-style rooms.⁵⁷

In a letter from 2009 Revella Cardwell Bush, former resident of the home, stated that she and her sister were placed in the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home in 1943 by relatives after their parents died in 1941. Mr. Marsden Cabell, serving as superintendent of the Orphans' Home, was asked by one of the sisters' relatives if they could continue to take piano lessons. The institution's secretary provided the sisters, along with other children of the Home, with piano lessons. Besides the sisters, only one other group of

⁵⁶ Sgt. Joseph Turner, "May God Bless You, Miss Fannie," *Charleston Gazette*, October 5, 1972.

⁵⁷ Delores Moody, concerning memories of living at the WV Colored Children's Home, interview by Trent Spurlock and Sarah Reynolds, recorded, Huntington, WV, 26 March 2014.

siblings was living at the Orphans' Home: two brothers and two sisters. This resident only remembered being punished twice although the rules of the institution were strict. A bell rang to gather downstairs for each meal, rang again for the children to form a line, and a third ring to march into the dining room. The institution's cook led Bible study on Friday nights and this resident was later baptized in the Guyandotte River. The children were assigned daily chores with the boys milking the cows. Having worked mainly in the kitchen's pantry, this young girl would strain the milk and make butter and buttermilk from it. She also learned to use an electric sewing machine and produced clothes for the children of the Home and for prisoners at the Moundsville penitentiary. But it was not all work and no fun for the facility's children as trips were taken to parks, the movies, and playing games just as children do today, such as horseshoes and various ball games. The book mobile from the library would stop by the Orphans' Home. Having graduated from Douglass High School and through the efforts of Superintendent David Hays, this resident was able to attend and graduate in 1951 from West Virginia State College in Institute.⁵⁸

After the transfer to Marshall University, alterations to the building and the character of the property's landscape began to take place. The road frontage along U.S. 60 (Midland Trail) had been sold off the original Orphans' Home property and the Prestera Center was constructed circa 1968. The Prestera Center currently provides the residents of Cabell and neighboring counties mental health and addiction services. By 1988, the West Virginia State Police Barracks had been constructed along U.S. 60 and Marshall University had constructed three two-story buildings for student housing on the former Orphans' Home campus. In 2008 both the Cabell County Board of Education and the Prestera Center wanted to purchase the land containing the former West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home. The Prestera Center wished to consolidate its facilities at the site while the Board of Education planned to construct a new middle school on the site. Prestera Center initially purchased the property from Marshall University. The Cabell County Board of Education initiated eminent domain proceedings for the property with an agreement reached in 2009. After a lawsuit by preservationists to save the former West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home from demolition the building was razed along with those constructed by Marshall University for student housing on the site. The new Huntington East Middle School, costing approximately \$23 million, opened in January 2014. The new facility provided educational classes to approximately 800 students in the sixth

⁵⁸ Revella Cardwell Bush to Susan Pierce, Director, West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office, September 25, 2009, located in the vertical files of Marshall University Special Collections, Huntington, West Virginia; Revella Cardwell Bush, "Colored Orphans Home," in *200th Birthday of Cabell County, The Bicentennial 1809-2009* (Huntington, WV: KYOWVA Genealogical and Historical Society, 2011): 140-142.

through eighth grades who formerly attended the Beverly Hills and Enslow Middle Schools.⁵⁹

The West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home served as an early African American social institution in the state beginning in the late nineteenth century. Similar to many black institutions in the south, the Orphans' Home was established through the efforts of someone affiliated with the state's religious establishment. Through Reverend McGhee's and others perseverance, a facility was created for the betterment of black children's lives by providing food, shelter, guidance, and educational and vocational opportunities. The West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home, as stated in the National Register of Historic Places nomination, "shared common ideals with the self-improvement tenets espoused in other black vocational schools across the country during the late nineteenth century."⁶⁰

⁵⁹ Pretera Center, "Pretera History," online resource, <http://www.pretera.org/Pretera/AboutUs.aspx?a=OurHistory>, accessed April 1, 2014; James E. Casto, "Historic Site Was Orphan Home," *Herald-Dispatch* (Huntington, WV), October 1, 2008; Adkins, 8:10; James E. Casto, "New Huntington Middle School state's first 'green' school," *The State Journal* (Charleston, WV), January 24, 2014, online resource, <http://www.statejournal.com/story/24540610/new-huntington-middle-school-states-first-green-school>, accessed April 1, 2014; *200th Birthday of Cabell County, The Bicentennial 1809-2009* (Huntington, WV: KYOWVA Genealogical and Historical Society, 2011): 142.

⁶⁰ Adkins, 8:2.

Part II. Architectural Information

A. General Statement

- 1. Architectural Character:** The West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home is a three-story, hipped roof, Classical Revival-style institutional building constructed of red brick laid in American bond. The façade is dominated by a full-height entry porch, with triangular gable pierced by a bull's-eye window. The portico rests on a brick basement and is supported by four Doric columns. The portico extends across a central unit that consists of three bays. The central unit is flanked by four-bay units. The three units are divided by internal stairwells. Single-bay, two-story wings flank each side elevation. The structure rests on a raised brick-covered foundation, accented by a limestone beltcourse at the first floor level.

The window openings have remained relatively unaltered. While some door openings have been changed most have been replaced with sympathetic materials of similar styling. The most noticeable alteration to the exterior of the property has been the enclosure of the original first and second floor porticos. Over time, these open air porches were transformed to glass enclosed sun porches and eventually apartments. Despite this drawback, the exterior largely retains its historical institutional appearance and landscaping.

Unlike the exterior, the historic period interior floor plan has been significantly altered from its original design following its construction for use as an orphanage in 1922–1923. Most of the alterations appear to have occurred following closure of the orphanage in 1956 and transfer to Marshall University in 1961 where the building was reconfigured for student apartments. Open areas (kitchen area, dining room, dormitories and sleeping quarters for orphanage superintendant and staff) and interior spaces were partitioned, walls moved, doorways changed, and bathrooms and kitchen areas installed where none had existed during historic period of construction and use. There is not a single floor, with the exception of the attic area, that has not been wholly affected by these changes.

- 2. Condition of Fabric:** Overall condition of the building is good considering lack of effective maintenance and occupancy for a number of years. Foundation appears in good condition with no visible signs of structural issues, such as cracks or breaks. Exterior brickwork is in need of repointing with some minor loss of mortar present. Historic exterior woodwork, particularly columns, door surrounds, and cornice trim, are covered with aluminum and vinyl sheathing both protecting and hiding it from view. Concrete sidewalks are in poor condition (cracking, breaking, and uneven) due to age, freeze/thaw cycles, and tree root pressure.

Interior issues presently affecting the building condition are a result of unchecked roof leaks. Most damaging have been the leaks occurring in the first and second floor

apartments of the east and west wings. Overall, the interior is in good condition and structurally sound. Issues, such as loose tiles and stained drop ceiling, are present. Plaster walls appear in good shape with minor cracking. Some rooms have had some paint loss as a result of temperature flux and minor water damage from leaks. Roof appears to be sound and in good condition with no noticeable holes present.

B. Description of Exterior

- 1. Overall Dimensions:** The three-story building has a rectangular floor plan with centrally located bay (portico) projecting from the north façade. Front elevation (south façade, Photo 0001) measures 138 ft 2 inches (east to west) x 56 ft 3.5 inches (north to south). This includes two, two-story, porticos, measuring 11 ft 7 inches (east to west) x 38 ft 8 inches (north to south) that once graced the east and west ends of the building but are now enclosed. The central portico extending northward projects 12 ft 1.5 inches (north to south) from the north façade and measures 32 ft 2 inches (east to west). Two exterior, metal, fire escapes (three stories tall) have been erected on the northeast and northwest corners of the building. Building's hipped roof and projecting gable is clad with asphalt shingles.
- 2. Foundations:** Foundation of the rectangular-shaped building and the north portico is masonry and comprised of brickwork. A partial basement, comprised of two small rooms (boiler and electrical) totaling 31 ft 6 inches (east to west) x 14 ft 7 inches (north to south), is located in the southwest corner of the building.
- 3. Walls:** Walls are brick masonry construction with internal steel girder framing. Exterior walls are red brick with Indiana limestone trim used in the belt course, windows sills, keystones in flat arches above windows, and door sills. Exterior brickwork is American Bond comprised of alternating courses of stretchers and headers separated by seven courses of stretchers. A course of headers is used along the ground level of the exterior of the building. Brick stretchers are incorporated in the decorative flat segmented arches found above window and door openings in the upper level floors of the building.
- 4. Structural Systems, Framing:** Internal steel girder framing with masonry walls and foundation; wood floor joists framing; hipped roofing system is wood rafters, and queen post trussing.
- 5. Porches, Porticoes:** Pediment of full height, partial width, north portico is finished in stucco and supported by six wooden Doric columns (single and coupled, clad in vinyl siding) with unadorned capitols and two wooden pilasters. Exterior access to north portico is on the second floor. Flooring, once tile, is today finished in concrete with wrought iron railing replacing original wood balustrade railing. The pediment features a

wheel shaped vent at its center. The first floor and foundation beneath the portico is of brick masonry construction.

The original two-story porticoes on the eastern and western ends of the building have been enclosed and transformed into rooms. In the late 1920s, the open areas of the first floor were enclosed with casement windows; the second floor porticoes were left open until the late 1930s, when rows of windows converted the space into sunrooms. Original exterior windows on the main building in these sections were removed and in-filled with brick. Following use as a children's home the first and second floors were enclosed and upper floor sunroom windows replaced with present openings.

6. Chimneys: Three rectangular, interior chimneys of brick construction; chimneys are scattered and pierce the slope of the building's hipped roof on the northwest, southwest and east facing slopes. Each chimney is topped with a limestone cap stone.

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and Doors: North and south elevations: combination single and double, wood panel doors with 6-light insets equipped with interior panic bar (except second floor portico access door). The south façade features two centrally located, recessed, double-door entrances with single step, stone stoops. Each of these wooden door surrounds is vinyl clad with squared columns supporting a broad entablature. East and west wings: modern single panel wood doors on first and second floors; upper floors have 1-light inserts.

b. Windows: Windows filled with wood sashes are symmetrically placed across front (south) and rear (north) facades, singly and in pairs. Windows are predominately six-over-one-light, double-hung sashes. Openings at upper two levels are topped with brick segmented flat arches. Indiana limestone is used as decorative trim on the keystone of the segmented arches and sills. Ground floor windows do not have segmented arches but do have limestone sills. The several pairs of windows in the stairwell area of the central portion of the south façade have 3-light transoms.

Small single-light wood sash casement windows set in concrete surrounds are ring the basement area of the building. Small concrete retaining walls with iron grates mark their presence.

8. Roof:

a. Shape and Covering: Building has hipped roof with ridge (east to west) and centered projecting gable (north to south) of moderate pitch. Two half-hip roofs extend southward from the main hipped roof above the southwest and southeast corners of the building's east and west wings. Shallow pitched-hip roofs are used on two story sections at east and west ends of building. The roofs of the building

is covered with asphalt shingles (three-story main section) and rolled asphalt roofing (two story sections at end of east and west wings). Original roof was covered in slate shingles. Original tin roofing remains in place protecting the south façade's twin double door entries.

- b. **Cornice, Eaves:** Cornice and eaves are wood covered by sheet aluminum and aluminum soffit concealing original architectural details.
- c. **Louvered Vents:** Southern slope of central portion of the hipped roof feature three triangular shaped (gable roofed) attic ventilators. The original louvered openings have been covered with aluminum sheet metal. A round, wheel-shaped, wooden, ventilator opening is centered in the pediment of the north portico. The visible round framing of the ventilator is clad in bent strips of aluminum sheeting.

C. Description of Interior

1. **Floor Plans:** Interior spaces of each of the three floors of the rectangular-shaped building are divided by a central corridor running length of building (east to west). Rooms are located north and south of the central corridor and on the east and west ends of the building. Room size varies with space divided by partitions between each room to provide bedrooms, living rooms, bathrooms, closets, and kitchens for each apartment. Several apartments have multiple entrances along the central corridor. Building is served by four sets of staircases; two located in the building's central section of the building and another two situated at the ends of the corridor in the east and west wings. Fire doors separate. The attic is open without partitions and runs the length of the building. Partial basement with two rooms is found below grade at the building's southwest corner and is accessed by an exterior concrete staircase.
2. **Stairways:** Building has four internal stairwells; two in the center section and one at both ends of the building's west and east wings. The two central stairwells are original to the building. The stair carriage, riser, nosing, newel post, handrail and balustrade is steel constructed with thick slate stair treads and landings. The wall string molding is made of wood. Lighting for these two stairwells is provided by paired, double-hung six-over-one wood sash windows topped with a pair of three light wood sash transoms. Each of these windows is placed at the landings between the second and third floors. Historically, these two stairwells provided access to the boys (east) and girls (west) wings of the orphanage with young children housed on the second floor and older children on the third floor.

The stairways at the eastern and western ends of the building wings were added later and are entirely of steel construction. Handrails and balustrade feature hollow steel tubing with rectangular and squared newel posts, similar to the squared newel posts of the central staircases.

Originally open at each floor (central staircases), all stairwells have been walled off at each floor and equipped with steel fire doors and surrounds to meet fire codes.

- 3. Flooring:** Flooring is comprised of a combination of 9-x-9-inch and 12-x-12-inch square tiles (or both) over concrete (first floor) or hardwood (second and third floors) flooring. Hardwood flooring is laid east to west and is only visible where floor tiles have come loose. Tile flooring was used for easy maintenance and to unify spaces. More importantly, the tiles served as cosmetic covering of damage done to the original hardwood floors on the second and third floors created by demolition and movement of interior walls. Tile size and colors changed through the years as areas of the building were upgraded; some rooms having two layers of tiles atop the original hardwood flooring. Colors of tiles vary from brown tiles to two-tone square patterns resembling marble tiles. A number of tiles have come loose due to lack of maintenance, and environmental conditions resulting from no heat and water damage from leaks.
- 4. Wall and Ceiling Finish:** Load bearing walls are of brick masonry construction finished with plaster. All interior walls of the exterior facade of the building are finished with plaster. Interior walls have been heavily modified since its original construction. Based upon original building construction plans, the majority of the interior walls of the building have been modified or moved to accommodate spacial renovations. Materials used in the walls and ceilings include brick masonry, plaster and drywall. Other finished noted include ceramic tiles (kitchen areas), vinyl wall paper, wood paneling and paint. Rooms in the first, second, and third floor are mainly finished in a combination plaster or drywall. The basement walls and ceiling retain unfinished brick walls and structural clay tile ceilings. Ceilings heights vary between 9 feet (third floor) and 10 ft 8.5 inches (first and second floors) or lower if drop ceilings are used.
- 5. Openings:**

 - a. Doorways and Doors:** Interior doorways, with the exception of steel fire doors and surrounds in the stairwells, are wood casing. Doors are hardwood construction with two inset panels. Wood molding around the door casing is wood with simple unembellished crown. Larger doorway openings between the main building and original porticos (now apartments) on the west and east ends of the building's first floor have been altered for use with smaller bathroom doors.
 - b. Windows:** Windows are recessed with simple wood trim molding and surrounds. No decorative embellishments or elaborate moldings. Crown molding and trim of inside casing is joined together with plain miter joints.
- 6. Decorative Features and Trim:** Decorative architectural work is minimal and without high style embellishments. Rooms and halls are stark in their appointments. Interior

woodwork, found in the form of flooring, paneled doors, baseboards, and picture molding, remain present and well represented throughout the above-grade floors of the building.

Wood trim on the interior finish consists of mainly of mitered wood baseboards with scroll and straight edge embellishments, simple door and window molding, and a limited use of picture molding. Only one room in the northwest corner of the third floor was noted as having a variation of cyma reversa style picture molding (west bedroom of Room 21). Rest of the walls remained free of crown and picture molding.

7. Hardware:

- a. Windows:** Metal turn latch locks with metal pulls centered and inset in the bottom face of each window frame. Casement windows: first floor, west wing: combination modern turn latches and older metal bar latch that drops into a receiving holder. Receivers for both types of devices are affixed to the window mullion.
- b. Doors:** Corridor apartment doors use combination of modern key in doorknob locking system and a separate dead bolt lock above. Some doors also had an extra chain lock attached to the interior side of the door. Interior bedroom, closet and bathroom doors use the older style simple skeleton key-keyhole with metal door knob lock or a metal doorknob with a twist lock combination. Stairwell fire doors do not have knobs; doors leading outside from stairwells are equipped with push down panic bars.

8. Mechanical Equipment:

- a. Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation:** Primary heat source is radiator and steam heat. Iron radiators are found throughout the building under window openings along exterior walls. Secondary supplemental heating source found in updated and modern bathrooms are electric baseboard heaters. Piping for steam radiators visible throughout and is covered with fiberglass pipe wrapping. Hot water piped from boiler rooms.

No central air conditioning system.

Exterior double-hung windows provide ventilation in living spaces, while a circular vent in the pediment above the north portico ventilates the attic area.

- b. Lighting:** Electric, no historic period fixtures remain. Wiring has been upgraded and modern breaker boxes installed on each floor's hallway. Metal wire conduit runs length of hallway along ceiling; enters each room along ceiling and down the exterior of the walls to light switches. Electrical lighting is provided by fluorescent shop lighting in halls and standard bulb fixtures in the center of each room's ceiling. Electric cutoff boxes are located in the basement.

c. Plumbing: Plumbing has been upgraded and reconfigured throughout the building for placement of modern bathrooms and kitchen areas found in apartments where historically none were originally present. Iron pipes for steam and returns are visible leading to and from iron radiators which line the rooms beneath each window. Plumbing visible consists of an array of materials including copper tubing, plastic/pvc and iron piping.

9. Original Furnishings: No original historic era furnishings are present. Modern appliances (stoves, ovens, dishwashers, etc) have been removed.

D. Site:

1. Historic Landscape Design: Building is sited on a prominent knoll with a scenic view of the Guyandotte River and of present development along US Route 60 to the north. Historic landscape consists of a steeply sloping lawn interspersed by mature trees. A grassy open lawn surrounds the outside area of the building much as it did during its historic period of use. Concrete sidewalks encircle the level area surrounding the building's exterior. Ornamental gardens and a playground area, once situated along and at the end of the present concrete sidewalk extending from the west façade, are no longer present. Campbell Drive, with its hairpin turn and roughly laid stone retaining wall, curves its way to a circular drive and parking area in front of the building's south elevation.

2. Outbuildings: A gable roofed, two-story, brick and wood frame dwelling is situated east of the building. Constructed at the time of the orphanage, it historically served as a storage building and garage. The property was severely altered when converted into a residence. The property is a non-contributing resource.

Part III. Sources of Information

A. Architectural Drawings

University Heights Main Apartment Building. Floor plan drawings showing alterations to the main building of the former West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home. Unknown author. May 1994. Currently located at Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia.

Warne, Tucker, and Patteson, Architects, Charleston, West Virginia. Original construction drawings, undated. Currently located at Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia.

B. Early Views

The "West Virginia History Onview" website, containing "Photographs from the West Virginia and Regional History Collection" contains twenty historic images of the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home. Images found on the website include: seven photographs containing groups of children; one of the children in the Orphan and Industrial Home Band; one of the children working in the agricultural field; four of the three-story pre-1920 building; one of the farmer's cottage; one of the pump house; four of the circa-1923 three-story building; and one interior photo of the dining room. Many, if not all, of these images appear in various volumes of the State Board of Control of West Virginia biennial reports.

Electronic versions of the images may be ordered from the West Virginia and Regional History Center's website: http://images.lib.wvu.edu/cgi/i/image/image-idx?q1=west+virginia&rgn1=ic_all&op2=And&q2=colored+orphans+home&rgn2=ic_all&type=boolean&c=wvcp&view=thumbnail

C. Interviews

Delores Moody, narrator and former resident of the Orphans' Home. Recorded March 26, 2014 at the Cabell County Board of Education, Huntington, WV. Interviewed by Trent Spurlock and Sarah Reynolds of Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc., Lexington, Kentucky. Interview content includes Ms. Moody's memories of living at the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home. Interview retained by the Cabell County Public Schools.

D. Selected Sources

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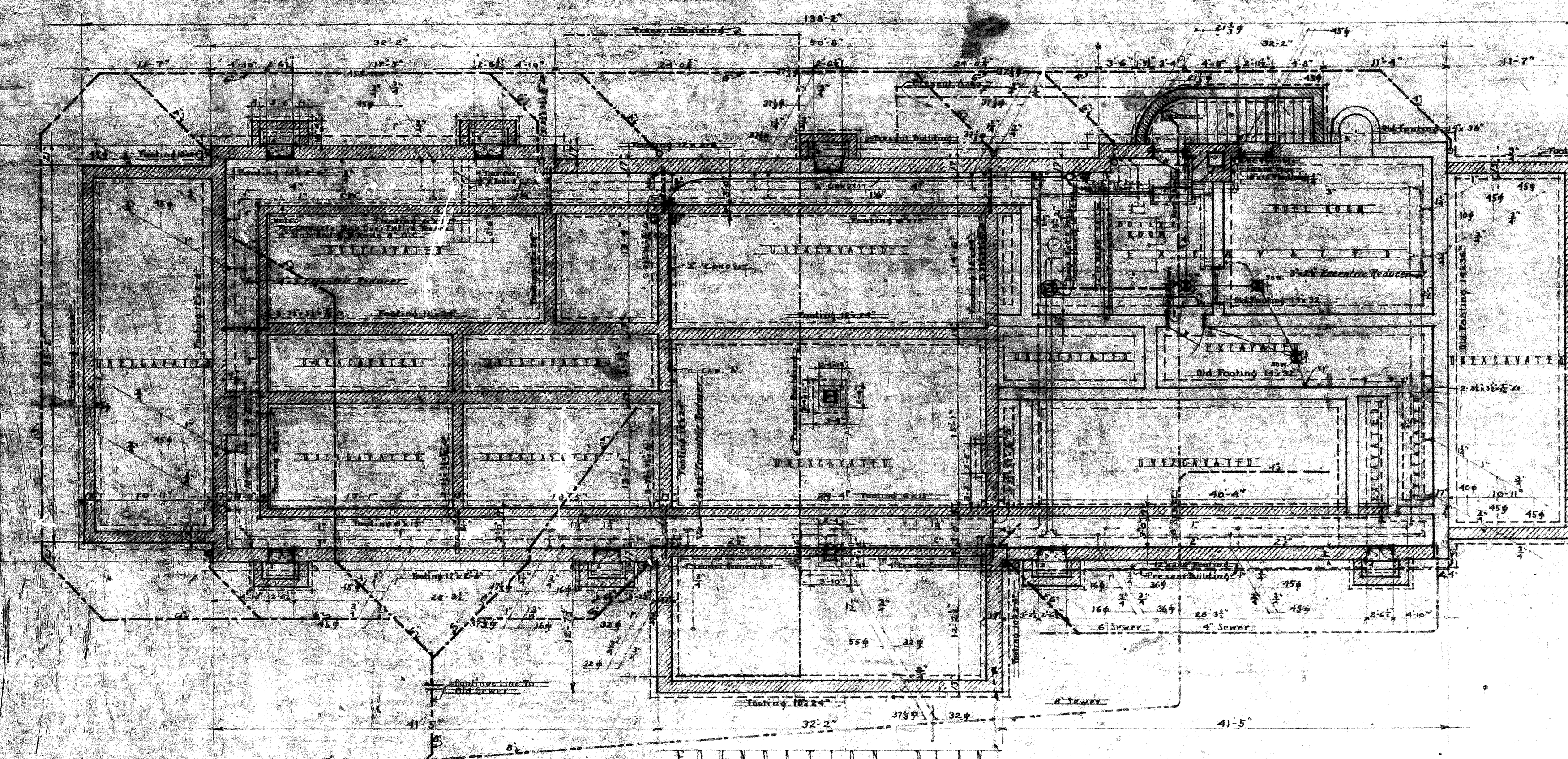
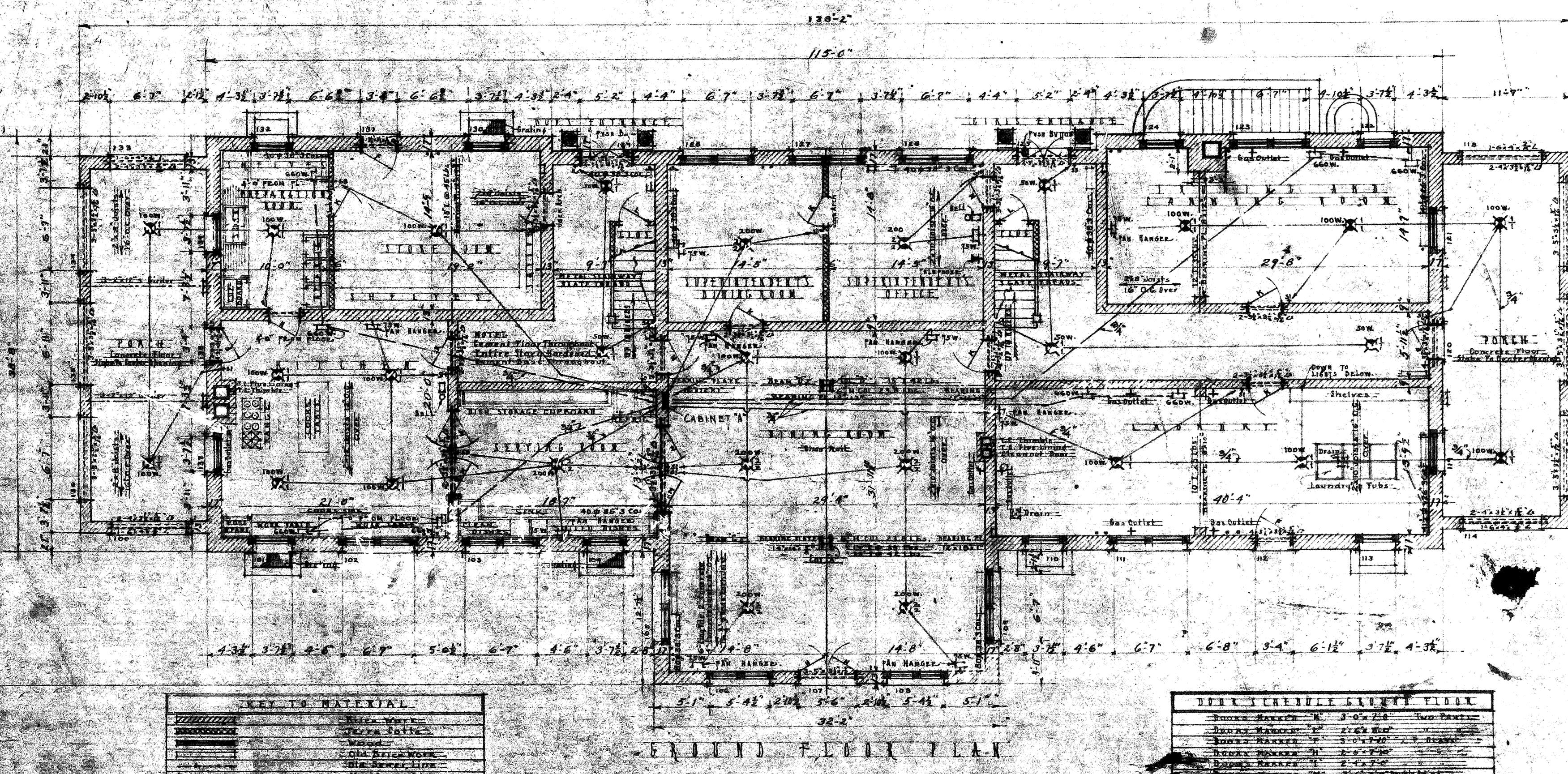
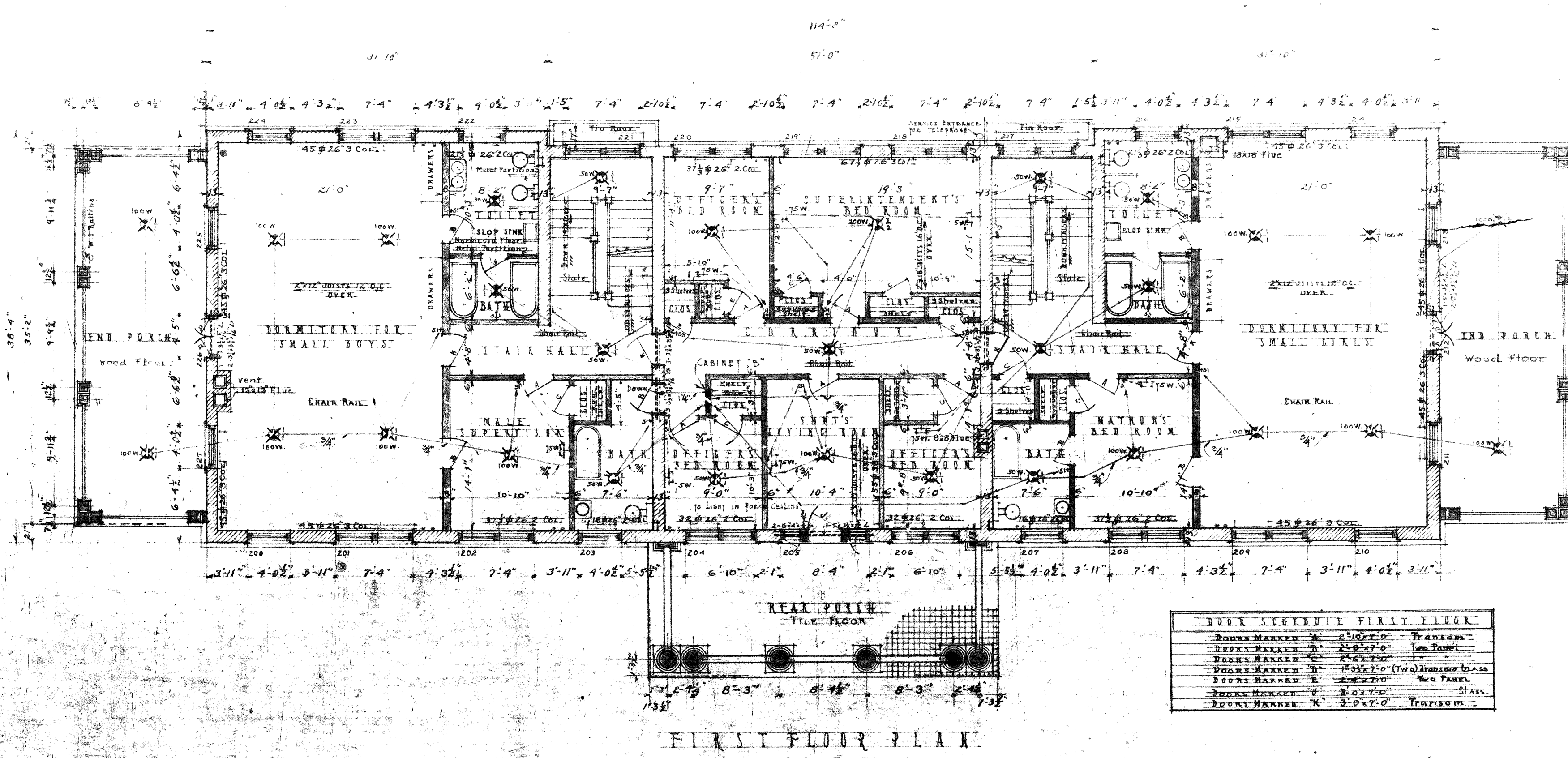
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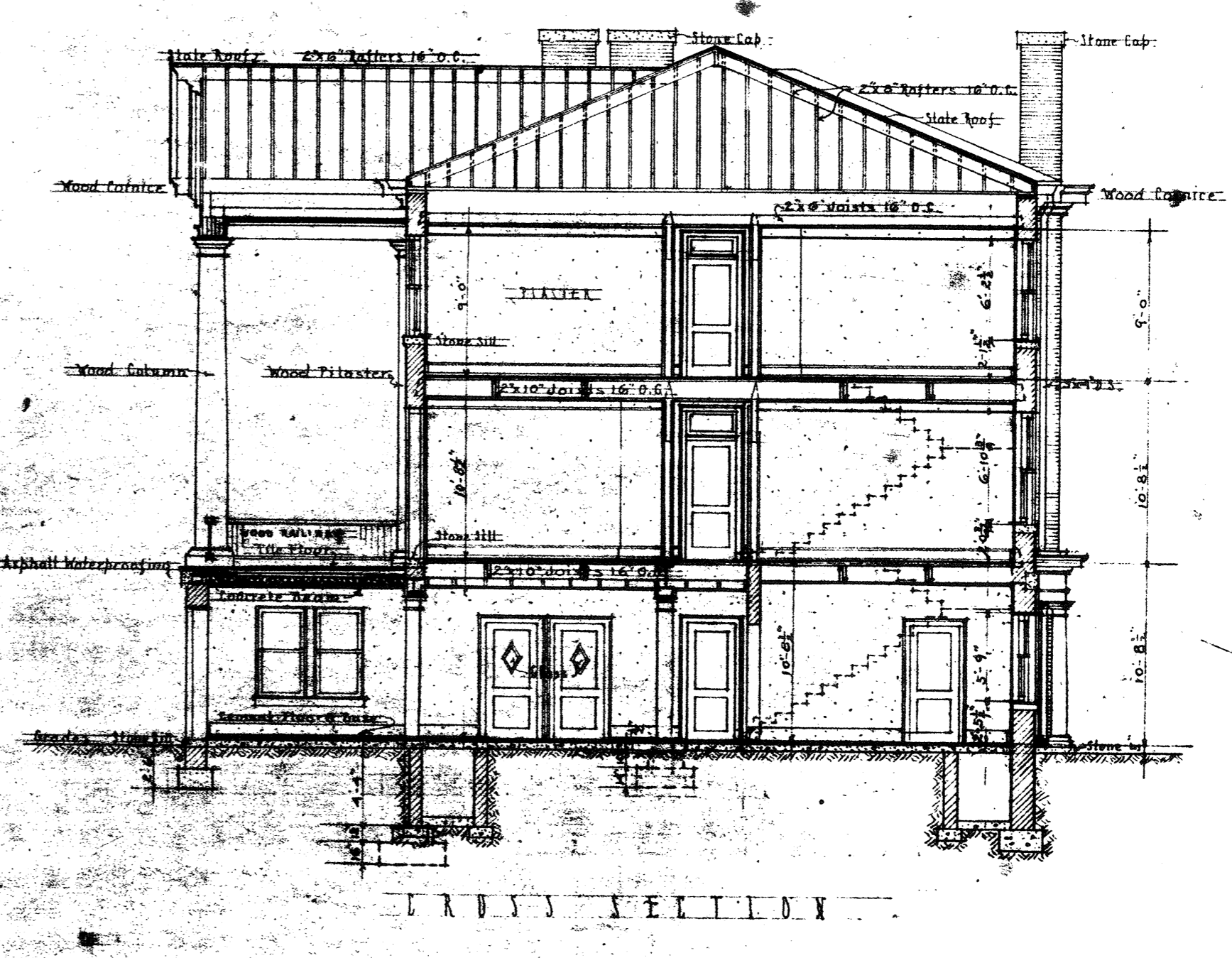
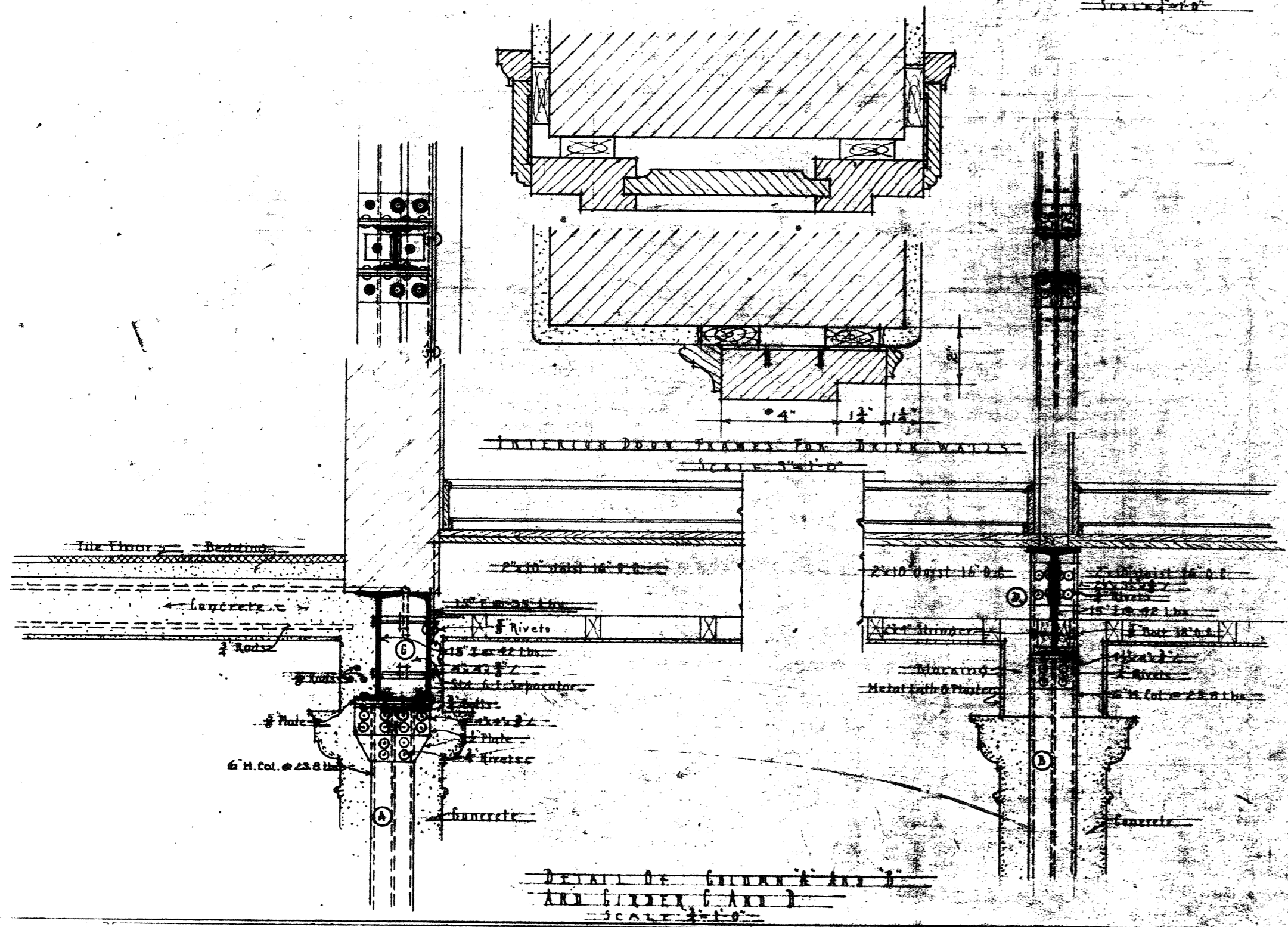
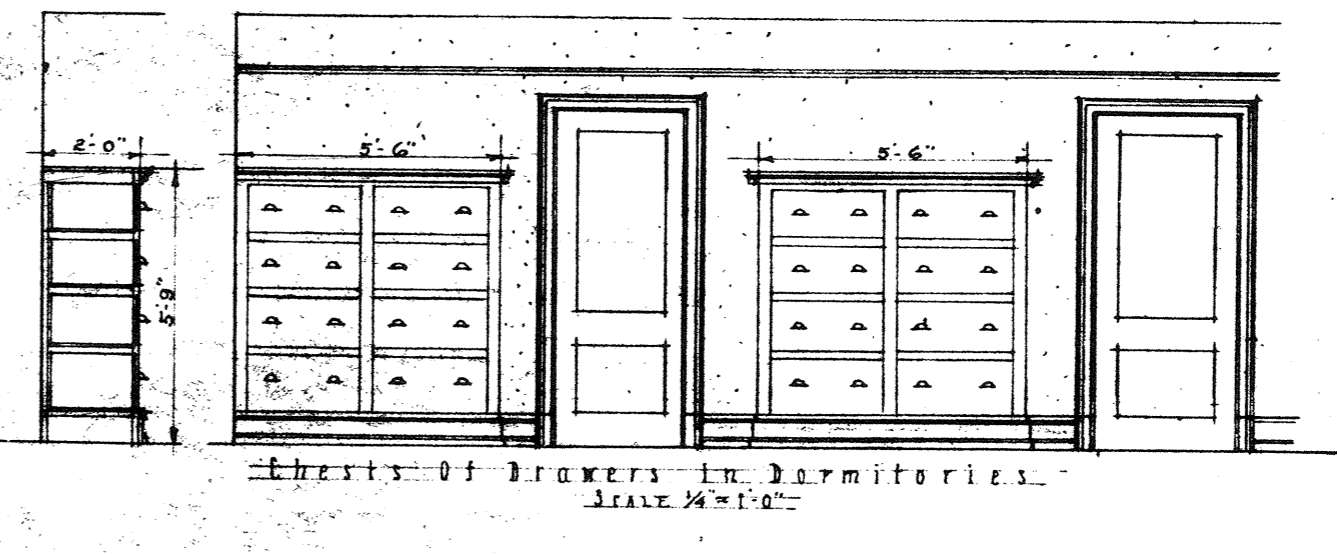
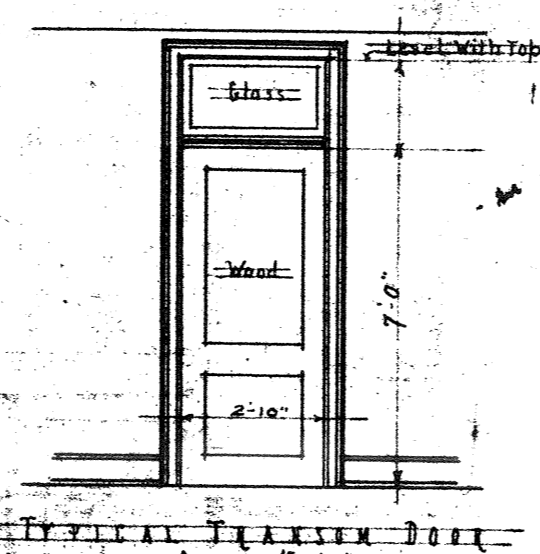
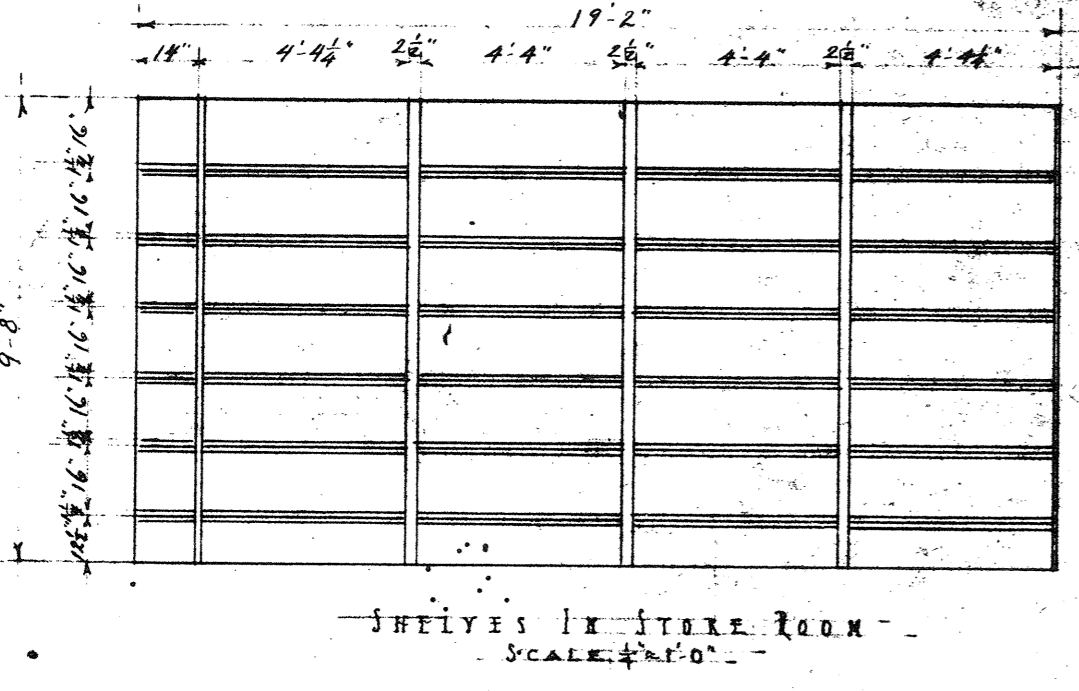
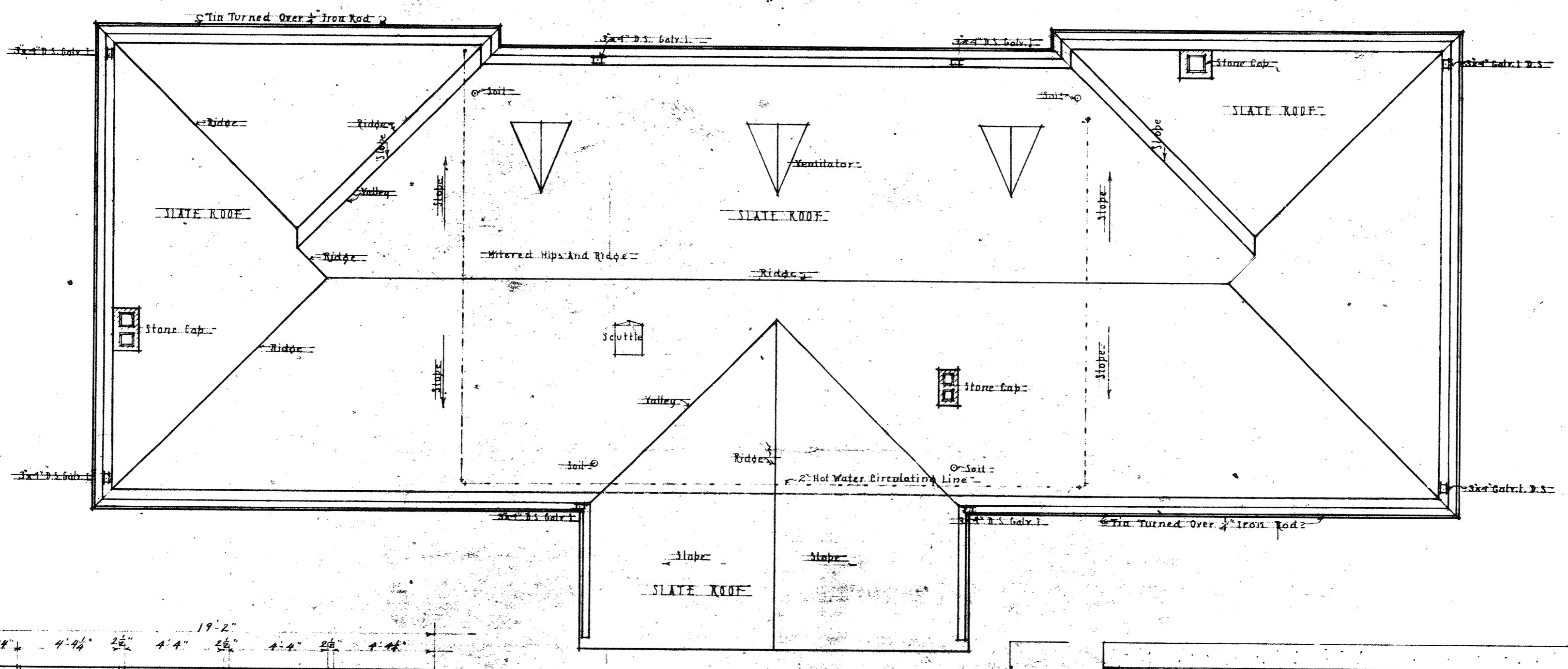
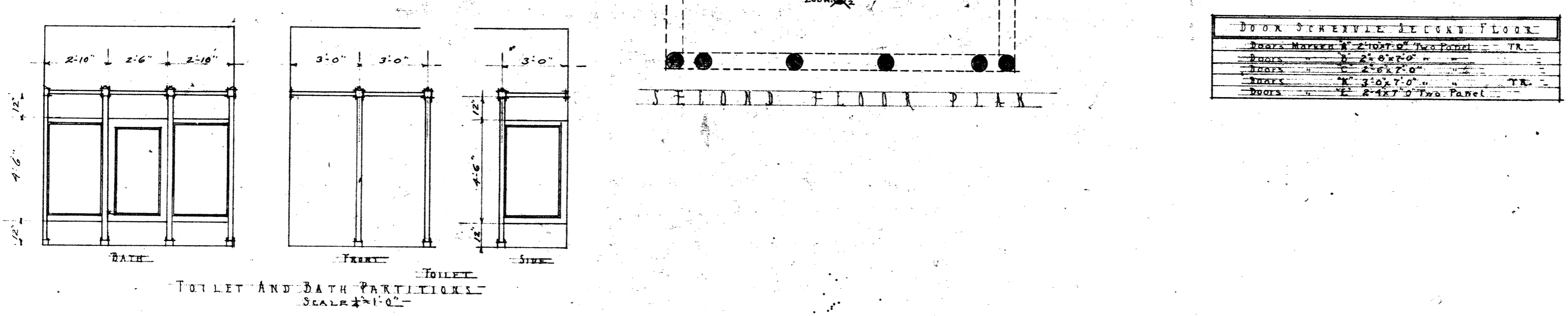
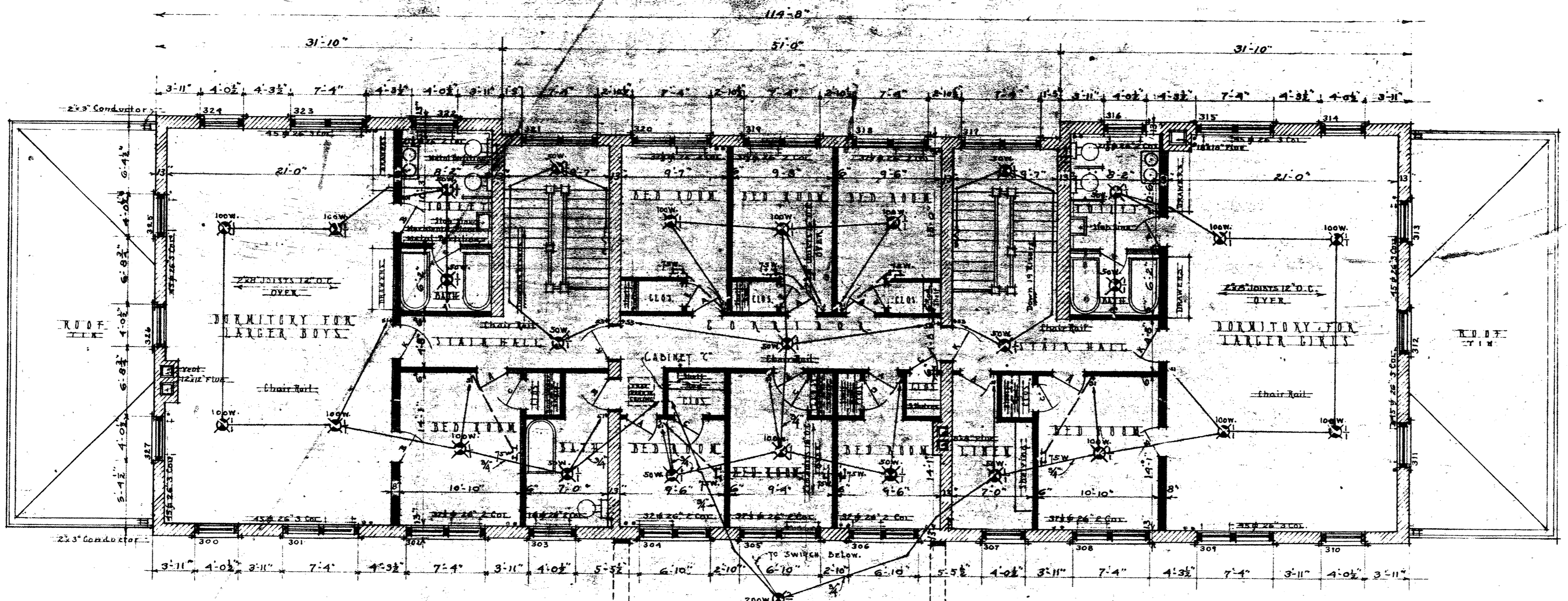
Unpublished Sources

Fain, Cicero M. III. "Race, River, and the Railroad: Black Huntington, West Virginia, 1871–1929." Ph.D. diss. Ohio State University, 2009.

E. Supplemental Materials

The following images are found in the Supplemental Materials, including: scans of the original construction blueprints for the main building of the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home, floor plan drawings for the main building dating to May 1994 when the building was utilized for student housing by Marshall University, and photographs documenting the main building of the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home taken in November 2010. The locations from where the November 2010 photographs were taken are indicated on the May 1994 floor plans.



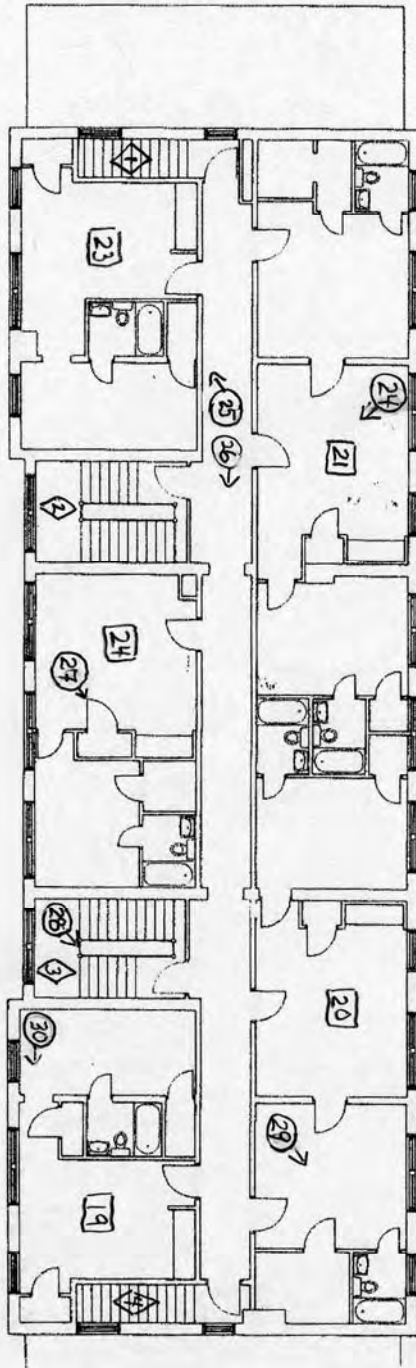


DESIGNED BY
STATE BOARD OF
BY
GENERAL CONTRACTOR
D.T.

COLORED ORPHANS HOME
HUNTINGTON WEST VA

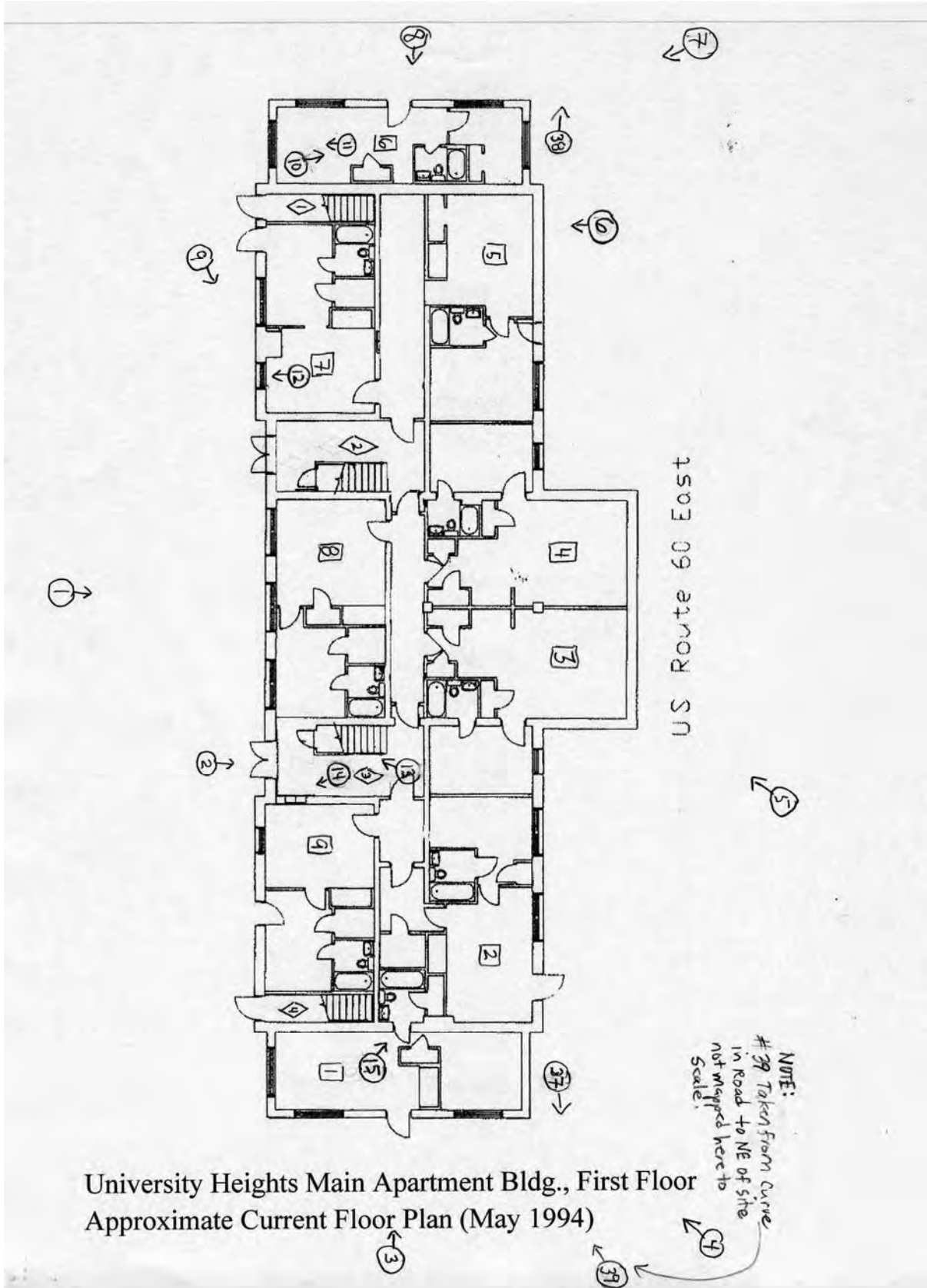
EDWARD TUCKER & PATTERSON ARCHITECTS CHARLESTON WEST VA

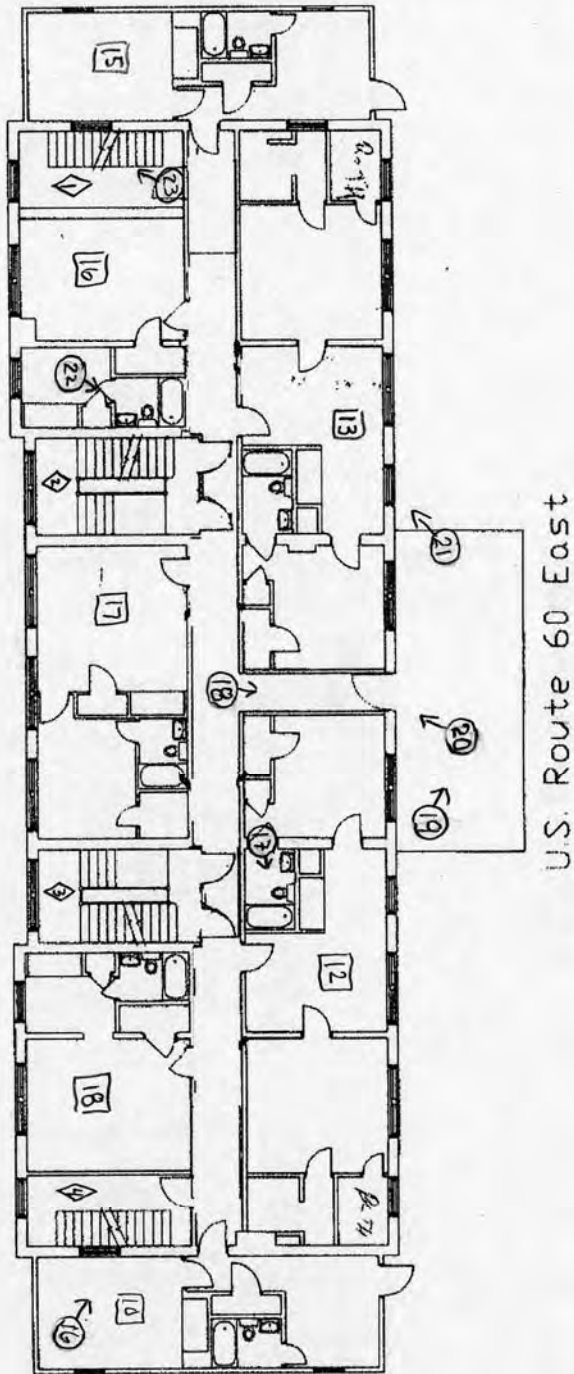
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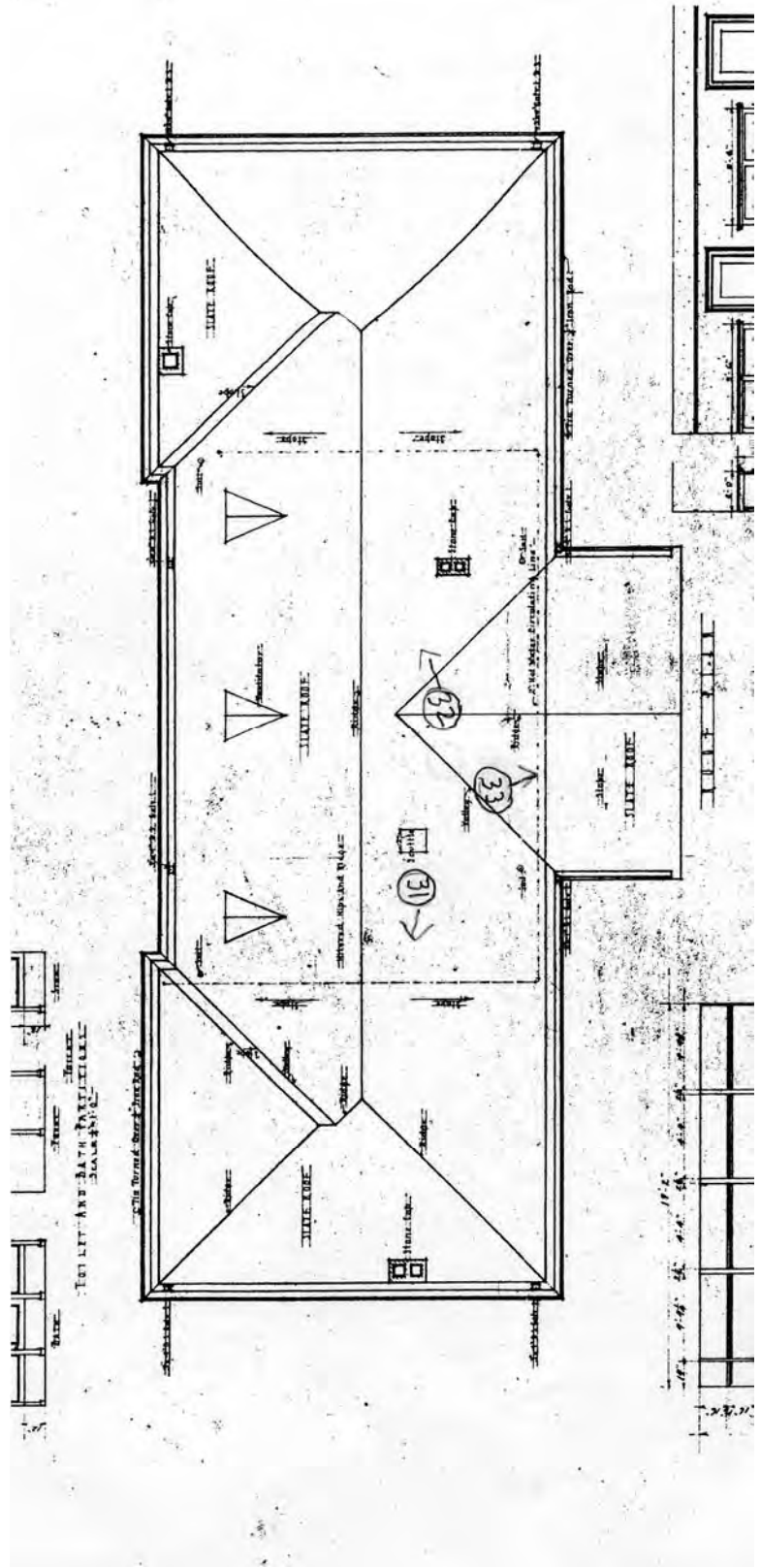
U.S. Route 60 East

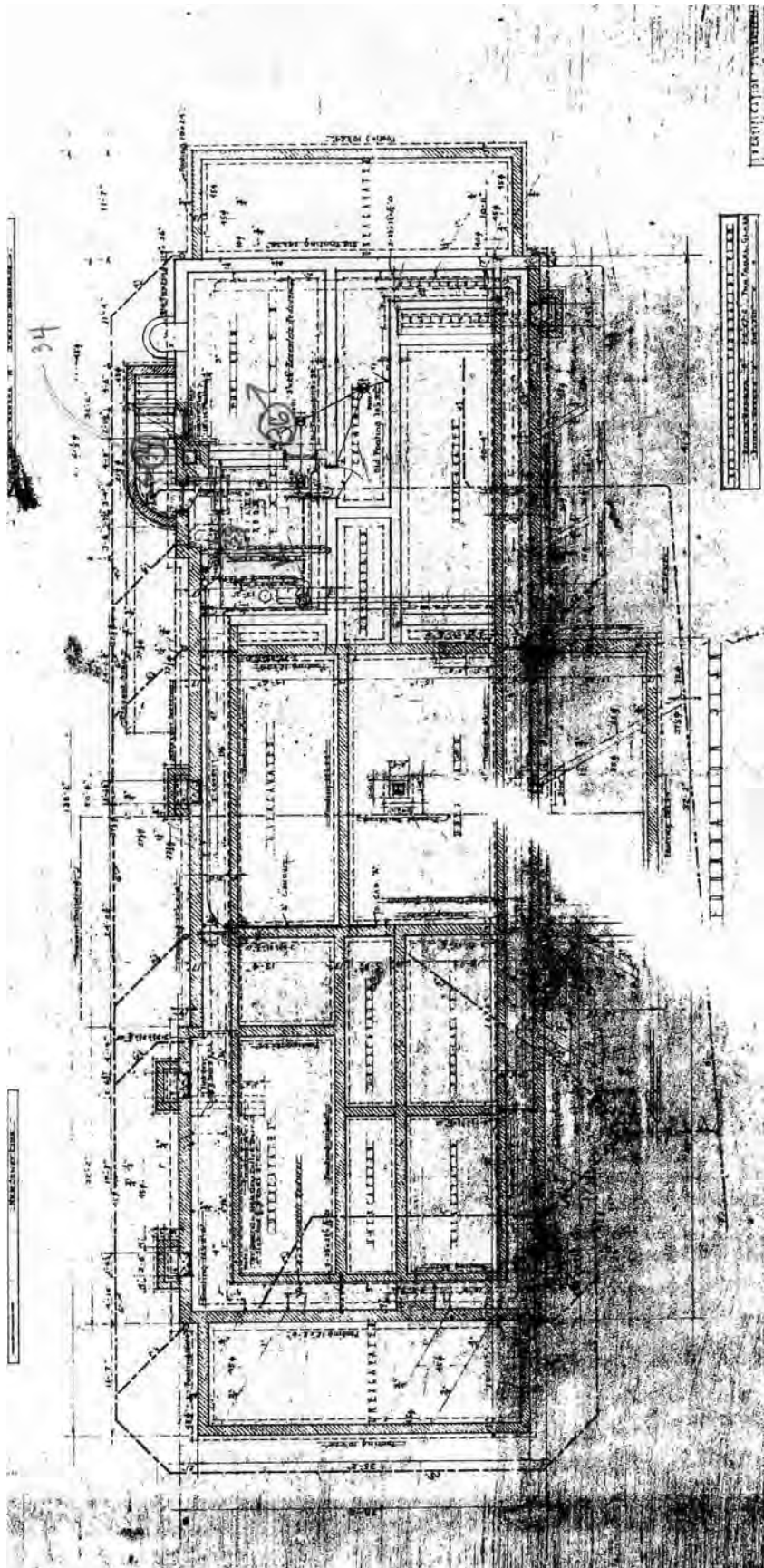
University Heights Main Apartment Bldg., Third Floor
 Approximate Current Floor Plan (May 1994)





University Heights Main Apartment Bldg., Second Floor
 Approximate Current Floor Plan (May 1994)





Name of Property: WV Colored Children's Home
City or Vicinity: Huntington
County: Cabell
State: WV
Name of Photographer: Robert C. Whetsell
Date of Photographs: November 2010

Location of Original Digital Files: WV Division of Culture and History, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard
East, Charleston, WV, 25305-0300

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0001

South façade, camera facing north.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0002

Detail, south façade, door surround, original western wing entry, camera facing north.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0003

East façade, showing alteration to original east portico, camera facing west.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0004

East façade (left) and north elevation (right), camera facing southwest.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0005

North façade, full height, partial width, portico with pediment and wheel window, camera facing southwest.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0006

North façade, detail of first floor belt course (top), window (center), and below grade window opening (bottom), camera facing south.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0007

North elevation (left), and west façade (right), camera facing southeast.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0008

West façade, showing alteration to original west portico, camera facing east.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0009

South façade, steps leading below grade to basement boiler and electrical rooms, camera facing northeast.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0010

Interior, 1st floor, west wing, Room 6, entry area and kitchen, camera facing northwest

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0011

Interior, 1st floor, west wing, Room 6, detail of casement windows, camera facing south.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0012

Interior, 1st floor, west wing, Room 7, detail of typical double hung, wood sash, window (original hardware) with three-over-one lights, camera facing south.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0013

Interior, 1st floor, east wing, stairwell 3, original steel staircase with slate treads, exterior doors (left), camera facing south.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0014

Interior, 1st floor, east wing, stairwell 3, metal mailboxes, camera facing southeast.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0015

Interior, 1st floor, east wing, Room 1, altered original doorway, camera facing northwest.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0016

Interior, 2nd floor, east wing, Room 10, altered original fenestration, camera facing northwest.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0017

Interior, 2nd floor, east wing, Room 12, typical bathroom (modern), camera facing east.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0018

Interior, 2nd floor, corridor leading to north portico access door (note 3 light transom), camera facing north.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0019

Exterior, 2nd floor, north portico, vinyl siding covered wood columns and wrought iron railing, camera facing northwest.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0020

Exterior, 2nd floor, north portico, altered original doorway with flat segmented arch (top), camera facing southwest.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0021

Exterior, 2nd floor, north portico, detail of typical upper floor, double hung, window, camera facing southwest.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0022

Interior, 2nd floor, west wing, Room 16, closet door lock set, camera facing northeast.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0023

Interior, 2nd floor, west wing, stairwell 1, steel staircase from 2nd floor landing, camera facing southwest.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0024

Interior, 3rd floor, west wing, Room 21, typical kitchen/living area, camera facing southeast.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0025

Interior, 3rd floor, west wing, central corridor, electrical breaker boxes and fluorescent hall lights, Camera facing southwest.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0026

Interior, 3rd floor, west wing, typical view of central corridor, camera facing east.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0027

Interior, 3rd floor, Room 24, detail of typical older type door knob and lock set, camera facing northeast.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0028

Interior, 3rd floor east wing, stairwell 3, view of one of two original steel and slate constructed central staircases, camera facing northeast looking toward second (bottom) and third floor (top) landings.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0029

Interior, 3rd floor, east wing, room 20, typical bedroom with bathroom (left) and closet (right), camera facing northeast.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0030

Interior, 3rd floor, east wing, Room 19, view showing common use of steam radiators for heat, camera facing east.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0031

Interior, attic, roof framing system, and brick chimney (center), camera facing east from scuttle opening.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0032

Interior, attic, roof framing system and brick chimneys (left and right), camera facing southwest.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0033

Interior, attic, roof framing system for north portico pediment with wheel vent opening (background) and brickwork of top of north façade visible (foreground), camera facing north.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0034

Exterior, basement, south façade, curved brick retaining wall at bottom of steps outside of boiler and electrical/laundry entrance to basement area, camera facing east.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0035

Interior, basement, west wing, east room, boiler room and apparatus, camera facing northeast.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0036

Interior, basement, west wing, west room, electrical and laundry room, camera facing southwest.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0037

Exterior, landscape, view from top of east wing fire escape towards Campbell Drive, camera facing east.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0038

Exterior, landscape, view from top of west wing fire escape towards Walmart shopping center (left) and wooded ridge knoll (right), camera facing west.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0039

Exterior, landscape, view from horseshoe curve on Campbell's Drive, east of building, highlighting property landscaping, topography, and building proximity to other structures and roadways, camera facing west.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0040

North façade, camera facing south-southeast.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0041

North façade, camera facing south-southwest.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0042

North façade, camera facing southeast.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0043
North façade, camera facing south-southeast.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0044
North façade, camera facing south-southeast.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0045
North façade, camera facing south-southeast.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0046
North façade, camera facing south-southeast.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0047
North façade, camera facing south-southeast.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0048
North façade, camera facing south-southeast.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0049
North façade, camera facing south-southeast.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0050
North façade, camera facing south-southeast.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0051
North façade, camera facing south-southeast.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0052
North façade, camera facing southeast.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0053
North façade, camera facing southeast.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0054
North façade, camera facing south-southeast.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0055
North façade, camera facing south-southeast.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0056
North façade, camera facing southeast.

WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0057
North façade, camera facing east-southeast.



WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0001



WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0002



WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0003



WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0004



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WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0056



WV_CabellCounty_WVColoredChildrensHome_0057

Printed Photograph Index

The following photographic descriptions correspond to the printed 4 x 6 historic photographs that follow and the digital images on the enclosed CD. Most of the photographs appeared in the Reports of the West Virginia State Board of Control. The circa dates of the photographs are the dates the images were published in the reports. All historic photographs were provided courtesy of the West Virginia and Regional History Collection, West Virginia University Libraries in Morgantown, West Virginia.

- Photograph 0001. Colored Orphans' Home and Industrial School Band along with the institution's founder, Charles McGhee (indicated as number "10").
- Photograph 0002. Colored Orphans' Home and Industrial School Band, Huntington, West Virginia.
- Photograph 0003. Group portrait of girls living at the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home in Huntington, West Virginia, circa 1912.
- Photograph 0004. Group portrait of boys living at the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home in Huntington, West Virginia, circa 1912.
- Photograph 0005. Exterior of the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home main building in Huntington, West Virginia, circa 1914, prior to its destruction by fire in 1920.
- Photograph 0006. Dining Room in the main building of the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home in Huntington, West Virginia, circa 1914.
- Photograph 0007. Group portrait of girls living at the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home in Huntington, West Virginia, circa 1914.
- Photograph 0008. Group portrait of boys living at the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home in Huntington, West Virginia, circa 1914.
- Photograph 0009. Group portrait of the children of the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home in Huntington, West Virginia, circa 1916.
- Photograph 0010. Several boys working in the bean patch at the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home in Huntington, West Virginia, circa 1916.
- Photograph 0011. Barn and silo located at the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home in Huntington, West Virginia, circa 1916.
- Photograph 0012. North and east elevations of the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home main building in Huntington, West Virginia, circa 1924.
- Photograph 0013. Farmer's cottage and barn located at the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home in Huntington, West Virginia, circa 1927.
- Photograph 0014. South and east elevations of the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home main building in Huntington, West Virginia, circa 1930.
- Photograph 0015. Children playing on a swingset at the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home in Huntington, West Virginia, circa 1930.
- Photograph 0016. Children playing on swings at the West Virginia Colored Orphans' Home in Huntington, West Virginia, circa 1930.

