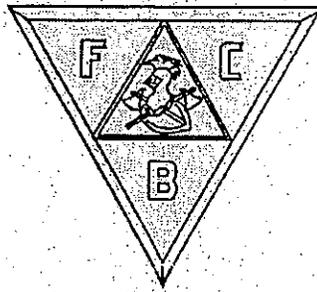
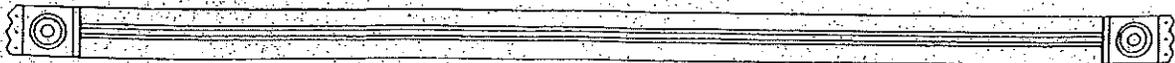


*Pythian Hall Study
Whitehouse, Lucas County, Ohio
Historic Structure Report*



*prepared by
DESN 401 - Historic Preservation
College of Technology
Bowling Green State University
Fall 1995*



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PREFACE

Background

This paper was prepared by BGSU students for a class entitled "Historic Preservation: Theory & Application." The course is an introduction to the basic concepts of the preservation profession, the current standards for practice, and how those concepts and standards are applied to the restoration, rehabilitation, and adaptive reuse of historic resources.

The purpose of the course is to provide students with a general understanding of the theory and principles of historic preservation, and how those theories are actually applied in the construction and design fields today. Topics include the history of the preservation movement in North America, the legal basis for preservation and land use regulation, an introduction to historic building types and styles, and the programs and activities affecting building/site preservation.

Within that framework, students learn how to document a historic building using photos, plat maps, government documents, property records, and other archival sources. Those skills are then used to identify, evaluate, and determine the style and significance of a historic resource.

Project Description

In March of 1992, the Pythian Sisters of Whitehouse, Ohio contacted the Northwest Regional Coordinator of the Ohio Historic Preservation Office, indicating an interest in nominating their building to the National Register of Historic Places. To assist them in their efforts, the class instructor agreed to work with the Pythians, giving students the opportunity to research and document the building. Over the course of the Fall 1995 semester, the class completed a historic structure report documenting the history, appearance, and condition of the Pythian Hall. In addition, a full set of photographs and architectural drawings were produced. The final product is intended to serve as the basic document for the National Register nomination.

Acknowledgments

The members of the DESN 401 course at BGSU would like to thank the following groups and individuals for their contributions to this project:

the Pythian Sisters, especially Marilyn Conklin and Charlotte Leonard, for providing the opportunity to document their building and for their time;
the Whitehouse Historical Society, especially Orville Bucher, for allowing access to their historic records and pictures of Whitehouse, Ohio and for his time;
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- 
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- Maura Johnson, Northwest Regional Coordinator for the Ohio Historic Preservation Office, and DESN 401 class instructor, for giving guidance and for sharing her experience in historic preservation and the documentation of historic resources.

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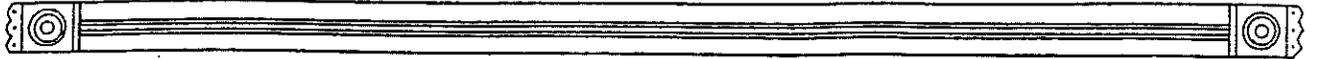


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INTRODUCTION

To qualify for the National Register of Historic Places, a property must be significant; that is, it must represent a significant part of the history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, or culture of an area, and it must have the characteristics that make it a good representative of properties associated with that aspect of the past. The significance of a historic property can be judged and explained only when it is evaluated within its historic context. Historic contexts are those patterns, themes, or trends in history by which a specific occurrence, property, or site is understood and its meaning (and ultimately its significance) within prehistory or history is made clear. Historians, architectural historians, folklorists, archeologists, and anthropologists use different words to describe this phenomena such as trend, pattern, theme, or cultural affiliation, but ultimately the concept is the same.

The concept of historic context is not a new one; it has been fundamental to the study of history since the 18th century and, arguably, earlier than that. Its core premise is that resources, properties, or happenings in history do not occur in a vacuum but rather are part of larger trends or patterns. In order to decide whether a property is significant within its historic context, the following five things must be determined:

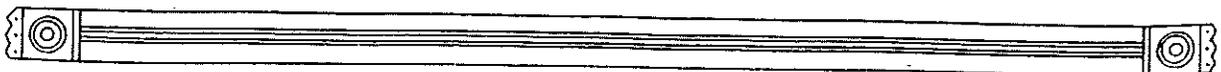
- The facet of prehistory or history of the local area, State, or the nation that the property represents;
- Whether that facet of prehistory or history is significant;
- Whether it is a type of property that has relevance and importance in illustrating the historic context;
- How the property illustrates that history; and
- Whether the property possesses the physical features necessary to convey the aspect of prehistory or history with which it is associated.

The discussion of historic context should incorporate information regarding specific events, activities and uses, construction materials and methods, roles of important persons or organizations, social or cultural traditions, and trends in local or regional development to the extent that it relates to the significance of the property. The discussion should also do several things:

- Explain the role of the property in relationship to broad historic trends, drawing on specific facts about the property and its community;
- Briefly describe the prehistory or history of the community where the property is located as it directly relates to the property. Highlight any notable events and patterns that affected the property's history, significance, and integrity.
- Explain the importance of the property in each area of significance by showing how the property is unique, outstanding, or strongly representative of an important historic context when compared with other properties of the same or similar period, characteristics, or associations (National Register Bulletin 15, 1991).



*History of Whitehouse,
Ohio*



HISTORY OF WHITEHOUSE, OHIO

Native Americans in Northwest Ohio

The history of Native Americans in Ohio began around 13,000 BC. Nomadic tribes as well as permanent residents centered their cultures around the bountiful Ohio River Valley. The Native Ohioans kept their settlements far from the Black Swamp of Northwest Ohio, only entering the swamp to hunt. By 600 AD, the last of these cultures disappeared from Ohio, leaving no clue as to the reason for their demise. After 1,000 AD, the Fort Ancient people emerged in southern Ohio and were later absorbed into the Shawnee culture. In the northern part of Ohio, the Whittlesey Focus people developed great agricultural skill but fell victim to the European diseases of 17th century explorers and to the invading Iroquois tribes using European guns.



Figure 1-Map of Indian Trails of Ohio(1776)

up their principle villages on the outer edges of the Black Swamp. The Ottawa came to the region due to the superior agricultural and hunting grounds and were also attracted to new trade opportunities with the British (Knepper, 1989).

For nearly 500 years after the disappearance of the Fort Ancient and Whittlesey Focus peoples Ohio lands were uninhabited. The driving force of this abandonment was the Five Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy, who dispersed and destroyed tribes from the northern Great Lakes to the Ohio River. The Iroquois themselves did not establish settlements in Ohio until the 1740's. The first non-Iroquois villages were founded in the 1730's by the Wyandot, who had been driven out of Ontario by the Iroquois. Called Huron by the French, the Wyandot were centered in the Sandusky River Valley and the Sandusky Bay region.

The Ottawa, an Algonquin tribe originally from Canada and northern Michigan, moved into Northwest Ohio from Detroit around 1740. They, too, had been displaced from their homeland and set

American Settlement of the Maumee Valley

The Northwest Territory (Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin) was ceded to the United States by England after the Revolutionary War in 1783 by the Treaty of Paris. In order to encourage settlement of this land, the Land Ordinance of 1785 established a division of land in a simple, rectangular system of sections and townships which allowed for an equitable distribution of land at a low price. Settlement was delayed, however, because of the continuing threat of Indian attack and the refusal of the English to abandon their western forts. It was not until after the Battle of Fallen Timbers and the succeeding Treaty of Greenville in 1794 that the Ohio Territory was free from danger. Following the War of 1812, the English also surrendered their claims. The Indians, in turn, were moved west through series of treaties in 1807, 1831, and 1833.

The Treaty of Detroit in 1807 provided the Ottawa with a six-mile-square reservation. The villages of Whitehouse and Neapolis are located in this tract. The Treaty of 1831 was signed by the Ottawa chiefs and ceded this tract to the United States. The last treaty, signed at Chicago in 1833, gave up all Indian rights to lands claimed by them and reaffirmed all private treaties related to lands in Ohio (Whitehouse Historical Society, 1989). These three treaties made the Ohio Territory completely available for white settlement, and the succeeding years show a vast migration into Northwest Ohio.



Figure 2-Street Scape-Old Whitehouse

Beginnings of Whitehouse

The earliest settlers in the Whitehouse area arrived in 1831 after the Ottawa reservation was opened to white settlement (Andreas & Baskin, 1875). Due to the dense, forested swamps in Northwest Ohio, there was plenty of land available to be cleared. The first settlers were farmers who lived on the east side of the present town. The land on which Whitehouse now stands, in the northwestern part of Waterville Township, was first owned by Harvey Kimber as of October 6, 1842. It was sold twice before it was finally acquired on September 27, 1853 by Edward Whitehouse, a treasurer of the Toledo and Illinois Railroad and the man for whom the town is named.

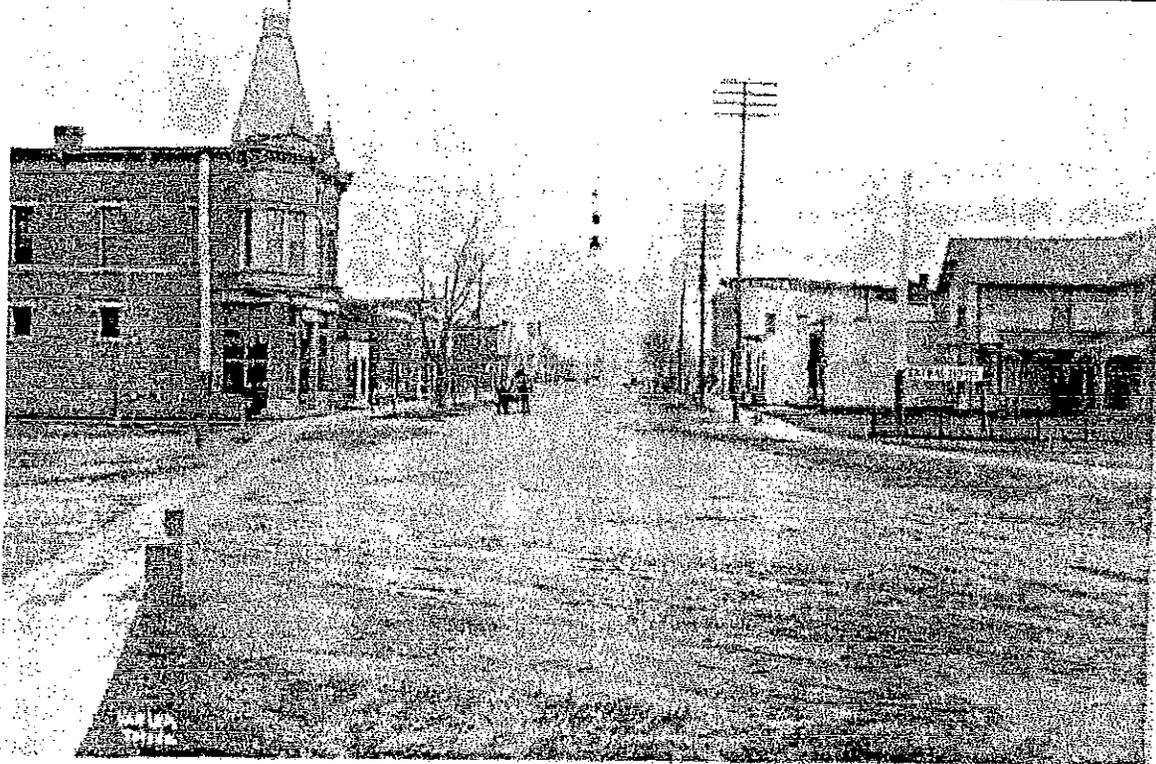


Figure 3-Picture of the original town

During the 1850's, Whitehouse saw the development of its business and industry with a saw mill, two general stores, a wagon business, a plow manufacturer, and various hotels and saloons. The biggest boost to the development of Whitehouse came when the Toledo and Illinois Railroad was organized in July, 1853. This line ran from Toledo, Ohio through Whitehouse and continued on to Danville, Illinois, which is located in the extreme east-central portion of Illinois. It would eventually run through the Maumee Valley and connect at Danville with the Great Western Railroad, a transcontinental line. The first 75 miles of track was completed by July 17, 1855, and on September 23, 1856 it was consolidated with the Lake Erie-Wabash and St. Louis Railroad. The railroad did carry both freight and passengers, though having a grain elevator made Whitehouse a logical place for farmers to buy and sell their produce. Thus, freight was a much more important cargo.

Whitehouse was not officially platted until July 5, 1864. Because a majority of the original settlers were farmers, there was no demand for a town center, but this changed when the railroad announced its plan to come through the area. The official plat was laid out by Captain John R. Osborne. The Village Green, presently the park across the street from the Pythian Hall, was established on land donated by Osborne and Mrs. Edward Whitehouse (located in Sections 2 and 35, respectively) (Whitehouse Historical Society, 1989).

After the arrival of the railroad, the largest growth the new village experienced came with the establishment of stone quarries, an important industry in Northwest Ohio even today. The first, known as the "Big Quarry," opened in 1860. It is now a summer swimming spot and is stocked with trout for fishing.

According to the residents of Whitehouse, other significant events in their history are: the dozen times the town was voted dry, only to reopen for saloons to once again sell alcohol; the County Surveyor finding the corner of Providence and Lucas Streets so the Pythian Hall could be built on the proper land; the fire of July 1, 1903 which originated in Canfield's Hardware Store on Waterville and Providence Streets and destroyed 15 dwellings and businesses and 14 barns; and the Great Bank Robbery of April, 1931 headed by the infamous "Pretty Boy Floyd," whose gang stole \$2,500 (Whitehouse Historical Society, 1989).

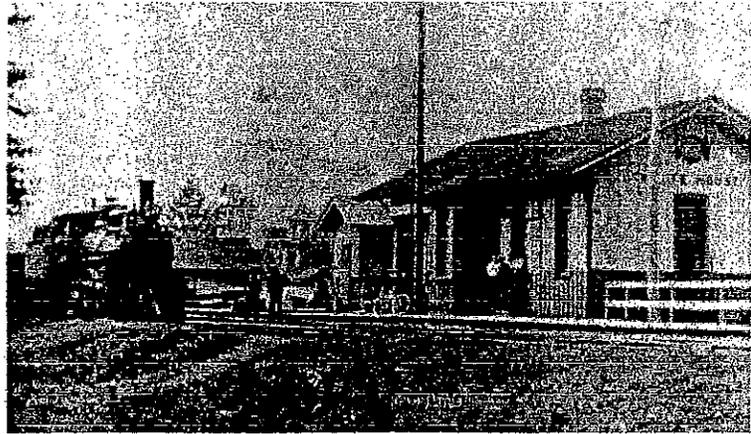


Figure 4-Whitehouse Rail Station, Whitehouse, Ohio

Whitehouse in the 20th Century

Whitehouse continues to be a growing community in the last half of the 20th century. It is an attractive place for people to live and work, bringing in new and keeping existing businesses. A large industrial park in the 60's and the American Can Company plant in the 70's are the most notable of the newcomers.

The town had no trouble surviving the closing of the railroad, one of the reasons for its growth. The last passenger train ran in 1959, and the last freight train ran around 1979. The Norfolk & Western Railway, successor of the Wabash, closed the section of track from Maumee to Whitehouse in 1989. Industrial and commercial enterprises simply use trucks, so the once vital rail service is no longer of such importance (Whitehouse Historical Society, 1989).



History of the Pythian Organization





HISTORY OF THE PYTHIAN ORGANIZATION

Fraternal Organizations in the Late 1880's

Americans have belonged to voluntary organizations since the early history of this country. These groups have played a critical role in the diversity that distinguishes the American people. Organizations are important to the individual because they, among other things, provide fellowship and give reinforcement and support for desired values and behavior. A person who is a member of such a group tends to have a better self-image and is less likely to feel alienated and powerless.

New organizations have consistently appeared throughout American history, the vast majority originating during the late 1800's when America experienced one of its greatest waves of immigration. Though founded in 1864, the Pythian organization encountered its largest growth during this same period. According to Schmidt, there were 3 broad reasons that people were attracted to fraternal organizations at that time:

Economic Security - During the late 1800's the United States government provided no social programs like social security, disability, or welfare. Therefore, if a husband died or became sick or injured, his wife and children were left penniless. Some fraternal organizations provided benefits to a member's family like burial costs, while some offered insurance as low as 1/20th the cost of an established insurance company. Still others raised money for charities or established homes for the orphaned and the aged.

Social Prestige - Before modern forms of entertainment like TV's, radios, cars, or even movies, the fraternal organization was often the only place where a person could feel social prestige, especially in small, rural towns. Many organizations allowed certain groups within the organization to dress up in special costumes and participate in public events. This participation was important and impressive to others, non-members in particular, by being different. "Brothers" had a sense of privilege because they knew a secret password or handshake, unknown even to their families.

Fraternal Fantasy - These organizations were purposefully structured to impart a sense of worth and importance to the common man. Local meetings were held in a "castle," a "court," or a "grotto" instead of a hall. The highest ranking officer was named a "Worshipful Grand Master," a "Supreme Potentate," or a "Grand Chief Orient" instead of a president. Last, the members were called "knights," "shriners," "eagles," or "elk" (Schmidt, 1980).

History of the National Organization

The Order of the Knights of Pythias finds the roots of its principles dating back to about 500 BC (Brief history of the Order of Knights of Pythias). This order is based on the values exemplified by Damon and Pythias, two members of the Pythagorean Brotherhood, whose friendship was so deep that one was willing to die in place of the other (Schmidt, 1980). Founded by the philosopher Pythagorus, the Pythagorean Brotherhood was an exclusive group based on friendship, benevolence, and charity and had rigorous tests that one had to pass before becoming a member. Justus Rathbone, an

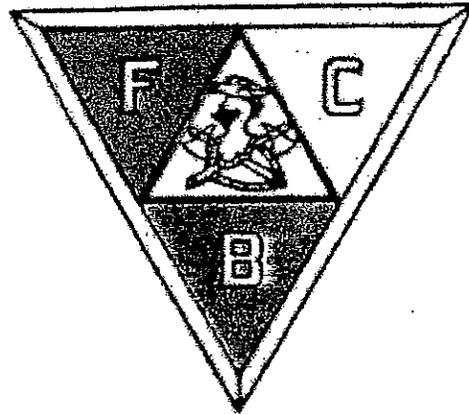


Figure 5-The Pythian Crest

American, became intrigued by this group and their ideas shortly after the Civil War, when the homelands of many people were ruined and the need for friendship and brotherhood was immense. He founded the Knights of Pythias on February 19, 1864 in Washington, DC on the same three principals of the original brotherhood as well as on the Bible. Rathbone incorporated the rigorous testing necessary for acceptance into Pythagorus' group as ritualistic activities in his group (Brief history of the Order of Knights of Pythias).

There are more than 3,000 lodges in the United States and Canada which are arranged in a hierarchical manner with three tiers. The Supreme Lodge has jurisdiction over the Supreme Domain and 55 Grand Lodges which, in turn, have jurisdiction over the Grand Domain and more than 3,000 local lodges. Four auxiliary groups are associated with the Knights of Pythias: the Pythian Sisters, an authentic group of relatives of the Knights; the Dramatic Order of Khorassan, a tighter, closer group of Pythians; the Junior Order Princes of Syracuse, boys 14-21; and the Military Department, a patriotic duty of Pythians. The Pythian Sisters have their own auxiliary junior group, the Sunshine Girls.

The Knights have a set of principals by which they try to live. Besides cooperation and good will, service is believed to be the way to happiness, and friendship is essential. Family is most important, but one should take an interest in public affairs at all levels. One should also take an interest in bettering society and should respect the law and love the flag. In return, the organization guarantees a better life and an association with a group which "will lead to a higher plane of living and thinking" (The Pythian Story).

Current Activities of the National Organization

The Pythian Sisters and the Knights of Pythias are still a very strong presence in many areas of the country. Their main goal today is to provide help for the needy, mostly through monetary donations. As mentioned above, one major focus of the Knights is service. They believe in three principals of life: friendship, benevolence, and charity. These three principles have lead the Knights to pursue projects like homes for the aged and for the young, higher education facilities, financial assistance, hospitalization, blood banks, kiddy kamps, and

scholarships. They have set out canisters for donations at numerous establishments and have also had a Star-a-thon telethon every year which is carried by quite a few television stations around the nation. This helps them raise money for their national charity, the United Cerebral Palsy organization. Of their current goal of \$100,000 they have so far raised \$68,096. This money is coming from states all over the nation. The National Order of Pythians have also donated over \$14,000 to the victims of the Oklahoma City bombing.

Even today, the auxiliary organizations reach out to younger generations. An example of this is the Sunshine Girls, an active organization for hundreds of young women nationwide. The National Order of Pythians also publish the "Pythian International," a national magazine devoted to news for members of the Pythian society (Pythian International, 1995).

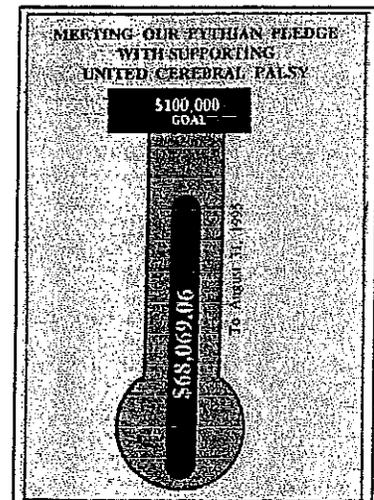


Figure 6-Chart of Donation level

Pythian Sisters of Whitehouse, Ohio

Contributions By State TO AUGUST 31ST	
Arizona	\$ 186.73
California	179.00
Delaware	60.00
Florida	721.97
Hawaii	90.00
Idaho	903.58
Illinois	501.83
Indiana	4,136.70
Iowa	1,100.62
Kentucky	79.55
Maine	342.00
Massachusetts	27,912.07
Michigan	1,029.74
Minnesota	38.75
Missouri	1,800.42
Montana	437.35
Nebraska	461.63
New Hampshire	1,811.18
New Mexico	95.00
New York	407.60
North Carolina	6,102.50
Ohio	4,757.63
Oklahoma	1,972.97
Oregon	2,125.40
Pennsylvania	783.36
South Carolina	3,257.91
Tennessee	3,277.66
Texas	930.93
Virginia	176.00
Washington	1,036.70
Wisconsin	1,130.36
TOTAL \$68,069.06	

Listings of Donation by Area

The Pythian Hall in Whitehouse, Ohio began in 1888. Its founder was Adison Hill, who was originally a member of a chapter in Indiana. On a local scale, the Pythian Sisters of Whitehouse remain constant with the national organization. Although the national chapter started only 24 years earlier, they still aimed for a certain consistency in their goals and practices, so that if a Pythian was in another area, they could visit a different lodge and still be able to take part in the activities (personal interviews, 1995).

A minutes book dating from September 19, 1890 to July 25, 1896, gives a good idea of what a typical meeting would be like. The meeting always had an opening, which was said to be in due form. Roll call of officers and the number absent would be recorded. Then they had reading of the minutes of the previous meeting, which needed to be approved. Elections were held if needed and then business was discussed. Finally, the lodge was said to close in due form (minutes).

Historically, the Knights of Pythias contributed a great deal to the communities with which they were associated. The Pythians in Whitehouse, for example, used to raise money and provide food and shelter for the needy. Many of those activities continue today. Currently, the Pythian Sisters are raising money for the national organization to support the United Cerebral Palsy organization. They also raise Pennies for Heaven, which will help pay off a rest home in Medina, Ohio. The lodge also serves as a gathering place for gifts for needy homes.



Although the Pythians do serious work for the needy, they also leave time for social activities and functions. The Pythians Sisters currently hold bazaars, dinners, bake sales, holiday parties, and mother-daughter banquets (personal interviews, 1995).





History of Pythian Hall
#447



HISTORY OF PYTHIAN HALL #447

Acquisition of the Property

The first records associated with the Pythian Hall in Whitehouse have been traced to Captain John R. Osborne. As mentioned in a previous section, Captain Osborne and Mrs. Edward Whitehouse donated sections of land they owned to layout the original town of Whitehouse. As land was platted and developed, the Pythian lot was purchased by Edwin Gilson in 1866 from Osborne. The legal description of the property is the north 30 feet of lot 94 of the original plat of Whitehouse, and the address today is 6761 Providence Street. This parcel was sold to A. D. Demuth (Trustee) on November 9, 1891. A building which stood on the property at that time can be seen on the map dated 1875, although there is nothing that has defined the specific use of the structure.

In 1891, A. D. Demuth transferred the property to the Whitehouse Pythian Lodge. In the minutes of the Knights' meetings there is a chronology of events that are important. First, on May 9, 1891, the members voted to build a lodge at a cost not to exceed \$3,500. On May 23 of the same year, the Knights purchased the lot for \$450. The minutes of July 25, 1891 tell of a construction bid by D. Hefflebower, which was accepted at \$2,987. Finally, on September 19, 1891, the Knights planned the dedication for the building during the second week of November, 1891.

Construction of the Building

In 1891, construction on the building began (personal interviews, 1995). The material used on the building is brick in addition to pressed metal trim. Also, there is some stone half way up the exterior walls that wraps horizontally around the building and a similar strip near the base of the structure.

The characteristics of the building are simple and fairly typical of the commercial structures of the period. The building is rectangular and approximately 65 feet long by 24 feet wide by 34 feet high. Although the plan of the building is uncomplicated, the trim, dentils, and other structural details express power and stateliness. When originally constructed, the building was only two stories high with no basement and the main entrance centered in the front on Providence Street.

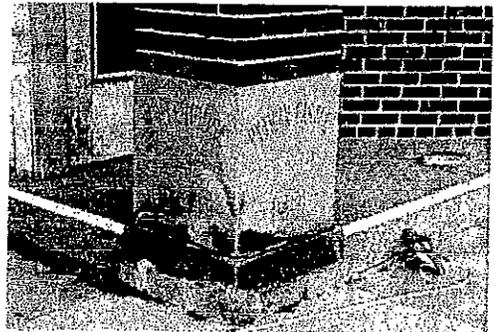


Figure 7-Corner Stone of the Pythian Castle in White house (South west corner of building)

Alterations to the Building



Figure 8-Pythian Castle before addition of basement and removal of tower. Also Showing the grocery store on the first floor(1900)

Starting with the most significant change in 1917, local legend says that the entire building was raised in order to add a basement, but historical photographs reveal this was not the case. After counting the rows of bricks on the existing structure and comparing that number to a similar count of bricks on a picture taken prior to the renovation, it has been established that no height was added to the building; it was simply held up while a basement was dug out underneath. To add headroom in the basement, the floor at ground level was raised at the same time.

The addition of a basement required certain alterations to the building, including the installation of three stairways. The first set of stairs was placed in the northwest corner of the building to be used as the main public entrance. This completely changed the appearance of the west (front) elevation because the storefront was raised, and the front door was no longer in the center. A second set of stairs was added in the southeast corner of the building and lead directly to the basement so there could be public access to the basement, which contained a billiards room. The final set of stairs starts at the back door on the north side and goes down to the basement and up to the 1st- and 2nd- floors (personal interviews, 1995).

The addition of a basement required certain alterations to the building, including the installation of three stairways. The first set of

Another significant change to the hall was made at the same time as the addition of the basement. The Knights' meeting minutes list a payment of \$176 to the United States Roofing Company to remove the tower in the northwest corner. When the roof was refurbished, the tower was torn down due to the difficulty in re-roofing it (minutes). This change altered the feeling that the building expressed, as it went from the tallest building in town to one of normal stature.

Finally, there were changes completed at different times that are significant. First was the removal of burners that heated each individual floor. These burners had exhaust stacks on the south side of the building. It may be inferred that the burners were removed at about the same time that electric heat became available. The second change was the installation of the fire escape on the north side of the hall; it is not known when the fire escape was added, but photographs indicate that a 2nd-floor window was enlarged at the time to provide egress. The last of the changes was the removal of the kitchen that existed in the basement. One may infer that this took place when the restaurant left the building between 1920 and 1930 (personal interviews, 1995).

Uses of the Building

From the time that A. D. Demuth owned the building the town has shown an interest in it and its continuing use. The first transfer was on January 20, 1904 from Demuth to Michael Goodman. Goodman was a blacksmith from Germany, which leads us to believe that he worked

on the first floor for a short period of time. Next, there was a grocery store in the building owned by Jon and Maud Struder. One use reported by residents of Whitehouse was a summer movie theater in the 1920's and 1930's. According to the current Pythians, there was also a restaurant and a draft board; luncheons were sometimes held in the hall (personal interviews, 1995).

On February 25, 1914 the Knights of Pythias obtained complete ownership of the building. From that point on, the Knights and the Sisters used the building exclusively as their meeting hall and social center. Before that time they used only the second floor. From 1891 up to the present the Knights and the Sisters have held many functions, meetings, and luncheons (personal interviews, 1995).

For the 104 years that the Whitehouse Lodge #447 has existed it has been a landmark for the village of Whitehouse. Even through all of the changes in the past the building will always be one which residents can look to as a link to the beginning of their town's history.

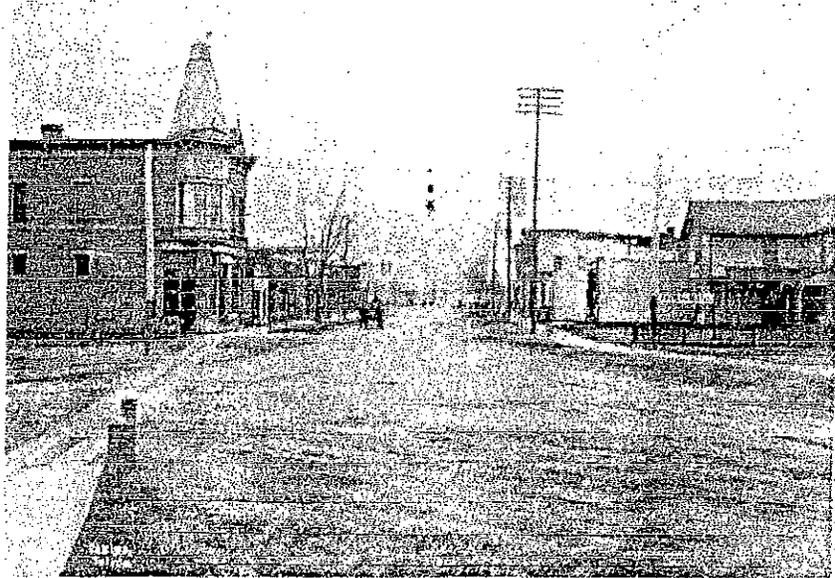


Figure 9-Castle on the main street corner of the town of Whitehouse (1900)



Verbal Description



VERBAL DESCRIPTION

Introduction

In order to note the features and elements which help convey the building's visual character, the Pythian Hall underwent a detailed visual inspection. This inspection began on the exterior where observations of the building's location, shape, roof and roof features, openings, projections, and other characteristics were noted. Later, the inspection moved to the interior to note the building's individual spaces, features, finishes, and other attributes. A schedule of interior details was also developed, which can be found in the later part of this section under the heading **Room By Room Description**.

Exterior Description

The Pythian Hall is located on the southeast corner of Providence and Lucas Streets with the principal facade facing west. The building is immediately adjacent to residential and

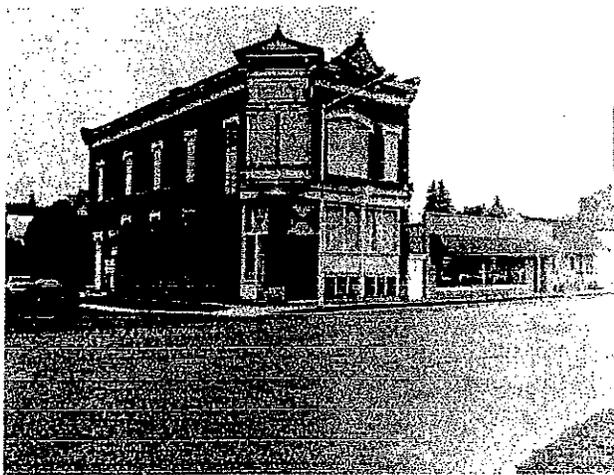


Figure 10-Front elevation of Pythian Hall

commercial buildings and is set back a few feet from the street curb. The hall is also situated across the street and south of the town park (the Village Green).

This two-story building is rectangular in shape with a flat roof that slowly slopes down towards the east (from front to back). As a corner building, it has two prominent elevations: the west elevation, which lies on Providence Street, and the north elevation which faces Lucas Street. The other two elevations are less distinctive and overlook a residential building on the east side and a commercial building on the south side.

In addition to its prominent location, the hall stands out among the Providence Street structures for its tall proportions, its red common brick pattern, and, most important, its Victorian detailing. This detailing can be seen on the cornices and window lintels and especially on a 2nd-floor oriel window on the northwest corner of the building. The oriel window is one of the building's most distinctive elements.

West Elevation - The west (front) elevation is 3 bays wide. At grade level, a recessed entrance with opaque transom lite is located at the north end of the facade. Next to this corner entry are 2 large display windows. Below the windows are wooden kickplates and 6 opaque "daylight" basement windows. Just above the storefront windows is a simple stamped metal cornice with a decorative console at the south end; above it is a soldier brick course with every other brick recessed. On the 2nd-floor level are 3 windows. A large three-part arched window

opening is centered on the elevation; within the opening is a large $2\frac{1}{2}$ fixed window which is flanked by narrow $\frac{1}{1}$ double-hung "sidelites." To the south of this is a smaller $2\frac{1}{2}$ double-hung wood window with drip mold. On the northwest corner is a distinctive three-sided oriel containing four $2\frac{1}{2}$ double-hung wood windows. The oriel, which projects off the building at a 45° angle and has a gabled pediment and flat roof, is sheathed in metal with stamped decorative panels above and below the windows. The elevation's roofline is adorned with a deep-bracketed, metal cornice with consoles and a pediment bearing the Pythian crest. Also visible from Providence Street is an exterior basement entrance on the south elevation.

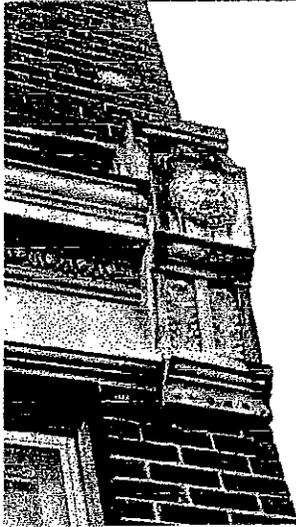


Figure 11-Cornice Detail

North Elevation - The north elevation is roughly 5 bays deep. An ornate bracketed metal cornice runs the full depth of the north wall, wrapping around from the west elevation. The whole rests on a cut stone sill.

Along the 2nd-floor level are four $2\frac{1}{2}$ double-hung windows with decorative pressed metal hood molds. As previously mentioned, a fifth window was converted to a door leading to the fire escape. All of the windows rest on a continuous stone sill. (The window openings are currently covered with plywood but are intact underneath.)

Three single-lite 1st-floor hopper windows are

centered below the 2nd-floor windows. These also have a decorative hood molding and stone sill but are roughly half the size of the upper-level windows. There are 5 smaller $2\frac{1}{2}$ double-hung basement windows at grade level; for security reasons, wire mesh has been nailed over the wood frames.

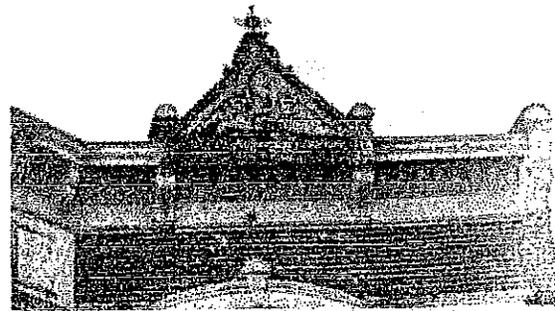


Figure 12-Roof Detail



Figure 13-Roof line

There are 3 doors on the north elevation. Two are located at ground level at the back end of the building, and one is on the 2nd-floor over the fire escape. All three are wood panel doors with a transom lite and a stamped metal hood mold. The western-most ground floor door has been sealed with insulation on the inside and is inoperable.

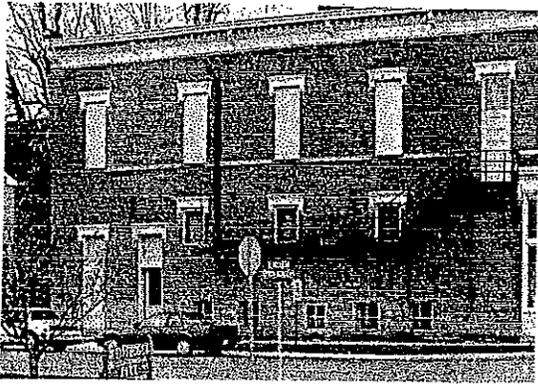


Figure 15-Side elevation

from a smaller commercial building next door. There are consequently few significant features on this elevation. Notable are four $2\frac{1}{2}$ double-hung basement windows; one hinged, four-lite, 1st-floor window; 4 star-shaped anchor bolts; and an enclosed, arched door opening at the east end of the elevation. There is an enclosed basement stair at the west (front) end of the wall and 2 exterior brick chimneys, which are anchored to the wall with metal straps. The roofline is gradually stepped down from the west to east.

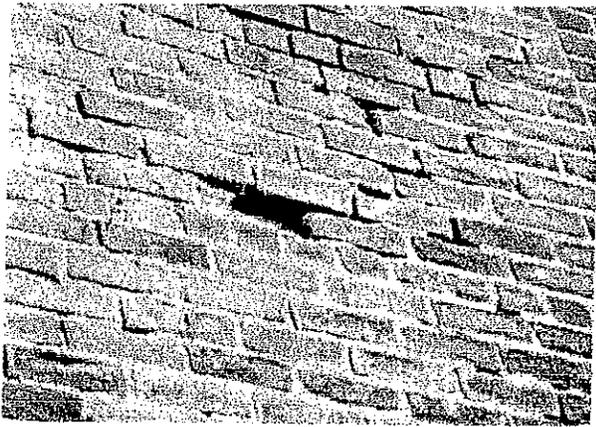


Figure 16-Brick detail

roof. Structurally, however, the building appears to be sound and, overall, in good condition.

Interior Description

The Pythian building has a large, open plan with one main room on the 1st- and 2nd-floors. The most common elements in the building are the exterior walls, which are plaster over brick.

East Elevation - The east (rear) elevation is devoid of ornament. There are three $2\frac{1}{2}$ double-hung windows. The largest is centered on the 2nd-floor over the inside stairway. This arched window has a raised brick lintel and sill and has been covered with plywood. The other two windows were created for ventilation in the bathrooms. A gutter catches run-off from the sloped roof, which is diverted by a downspout on the south side of the wall.

South Elevation - A narrow alley on the south side of the building separates the Pythian Hall

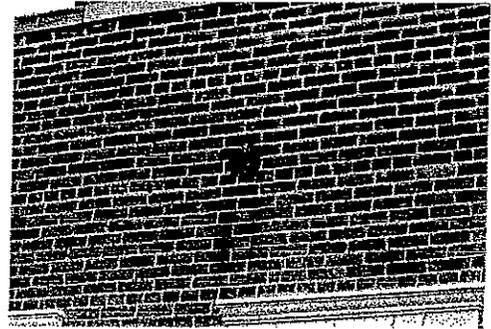


Figure 14-Anchor bolt

General Condition - A close inspection of the exterior walls reveals some interesting craftsman detailing. The brick walls, for example, are laid in a pattern of seven stretcher courses, alternating with one row of headers. The condition of the brick varies throughout the building. There is some deterioration and spalling of brick, particularly on the north elevation along the sidewalk. In this area, the brick has also been "etched" with graffiti. Other areas of deterioration include the metal cornice and oriel window, which are chipped, rusted, and discolored in spots. Waterstains in the 2nd-floor meeting room indicate some weaknesses in the

Interior walls are wood studs with lath and plaster. The floors are wood joists with wood sub-flooring. The ceilings are lath and plaster.

Staircase - The entrance most commonly used is on the north (side) elevation. This door opens to a large staircase area, which is the main connecting space between the three floors. The landing on grade has a men's restroom at one end. A second landing, 4 steps down from the first, has a women's restroom. The basement floor is 3 steps further down. A landing on the 1st-floor level leads through double doors into a kitchen/meeting room. Further up is another large landing, which leads to a steep, enclosed stair to the 2nd-floor.

Second Floor - The 2nd-floor of the Pythian Hall is the area that has historically been for members only, to serve the functions and the rituals of the organization. The floor is thus divided into 3 distinct spaces, progressing from an open hallway to an anteroom and, finally, to the meeting room,



Figure 17-Stairs

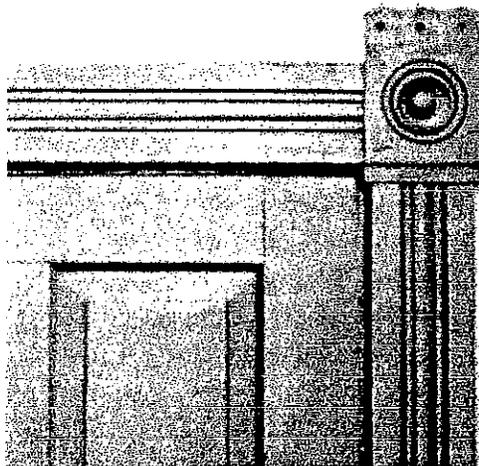


Figure 18-Door detail

eye corner blocks. Carpeting covers all floors on this level.

There is a small closet off the hallway and 2 other doors. One provides direct egress from the meeting room; the other leads to the anteroom. This second door is double-hinged with a bell and latch on

where the secret rituals of the Pythians were performed.

The hallway is located at the head of the stairs. It has a dropped ceiling, wainscoting, and two $2\frac{1}{2}$ double-hung windows (currently enclosed on the outside with plywood). All windows have deep wood trim and bull's-

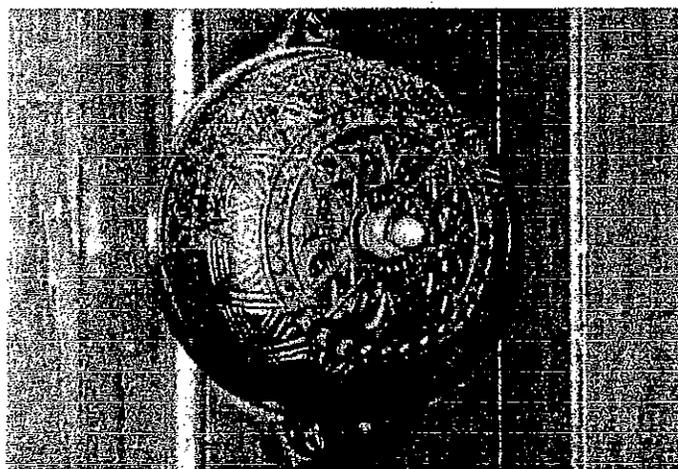


Figure 19-Door bell



the inside. On the west wall of the anteroom, double doors, which have decorative hinges and doorknob hardware, lead to the meeting room. The right door has a large peephole drilled in the center top half.

The meeting room is a large, undivided space with an elevated stage at the west (far) end and 2 closets. One of these closets leads off the elevated stage and is the oriel window overlooking Providence and Lucas Streets. The walls are lath and plaster and have original interlocking beadboard wainscoting throughout. Door and window trim and deep baseboards are original. The walls and ceiling are wallpapered but were painted over at some point in time. An exterior door was also added on the north wall (in an existing window opening) with the installation of a metal fire escape outside.

First Floor - The 1st-floor kitchen/meeting room is the area most frequently used today. It is a large, undivided space with an L-shaped counter and cabinets in the northeast corner of the room. The room is accessed from the rear stair through double, wood panel doors with a single glass lite. The formal entrance at the front of the building is a short, enclosed stair. There are 3 single-lite windows on the north wall and one smaller single-lite window on the south wall. Two large display windows comprise the west (front) wall. All windows have deep wood trim and bull's-eye plinth blocks. There are 2 opaque windows over the front stairwell entry. Original wood flooring is intact, except in the kitchen area where linoleum has been laid over it.

Basement - The basement, which was added to the building in 1917, is divided into 3 rooms. Directly off the stairs in the east (rear) end of the basement is a room once used as a kitchen. At one time, according to the Pythian Sisters, there was a dumbwaiter which went up to the 1st-floor; it has since been removed. This room, like all the others at this level, has a concrete slab floor and masonry block interior walls. The ceiling is finished with acoustic particle board. There is a sump pump in the southeast corner of the room and an electrical box on the east wall.

A doorway in the northwest corner of the room leads to a hallway, a furnace room, and a billiard room. The furnace room has walls which are masonry block with plaster. There is one ²/₂ double hung window on the south wall. The walls, floor, and ceiling are covered with black soot indicating that the room may have originally been a coal room. Two furnaces are set on concrete pads near the south wall with extensive ductwork along the ceiling.

At the far end of the hallway is the billiard room. At the northwest corner of the room (beneath the 1st-floor stairs) is an internal cut corner with enclosed storage space. There are two ²/₂ double-hung windows on the north wall, 2 on the south wall, and 2 large 3-lite reinforced glass "daylight" windows overlooking the west (front) curb.

Near the southwest corner of the room is a large five-panel exterior door that leads to an exit from the basement. The exit is a poured concrete/brick foundation corridor. There is a small single-pane window on the east (rear) wall of the vestibule. The concrete stairs lead to an exterior door that opens to Providence Street.

Room By Room Description

As mentioned earlier, a schedule of each room's interior detailing was prepared. The following are the room by room schedules.

Second Floor Room Schedule

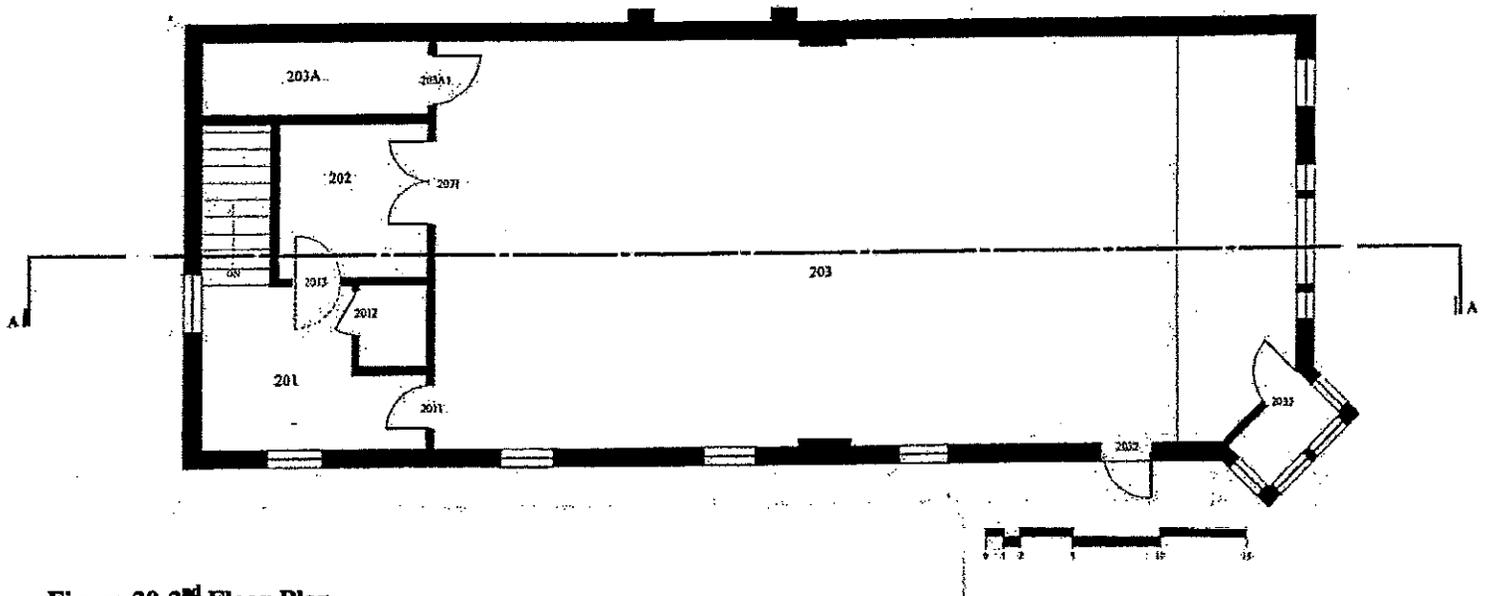


Figure 20-2nd Floor Plan

ROOM 201

Floor

Wooden sub-floor, carpeted.

Ceiling

Drop ceiling with a 2'x2' grid.

Walls

North wall - painted plaster on brick wall.

East wall - paneling on painted plaster on brick.

West, south walls - painted plaster and lath on wood framed wall.

Baseboard

10" tall wood with grooves.

Doors

#2011 - hollow wooden paneled with 5" mold trim; bulls eye plinth block.

#2012 - same as #2011

#2013 - same as #2011 but double hinged and has a centered bell.

Windows

Two windows, dimensions 28"x2 1/2"; same common trim as door #2011; east window covered with paneling.

ROOM 202

Floor

Wood sub-floor with carpet.

Ceiling





Painted lath and plaster.

Walls

Wood stud frame with lath and painted plaster.

Baseboard

1/2" tall.

ROOM 203

Floor

Wood sub-floor, carpet; 8" elevated stage on west end.

Ceiling

Lath and plaster with painted wallpaper.

Walls

South, west, north walls - brick with plaster, painted wall paper; two 12"x16" vents in the center of north and south wall.

East wall - wood frame, lath and plaster, wall paper, painted; 3'-9" tall wainscoting with 3 1/2" beads interlocking.

Doors

#2031 - South door - hollow paneled; 4 1/2" trim with bull's-eye plinth block; keyhole lock and handle.

North door - hollow paneled; 5" trim with bull's-eye plinth block; keyhole lock and handle; 2" peephole.

#2033 - Solid paneled; transom lite; 4 1/2" trim with bull's-eye plinth block; keyhole lock and handle.

Windows

One picture window, west wall, size 8'-2"x7'-1 1/2"; inside pane size 4'-4"x3'-7"; outside pane size 1'-3"x3'-7"; six glass panels; 4 1/2" trim, 4 bull's-eye plinth blocks. Four windows, north wall, size 2'-8"x7'-1/2", 2 panes 3'-8"x2'-8"; 4 1/2" trim with bull's-eye plinth blocks.



First Floor Room Schedule

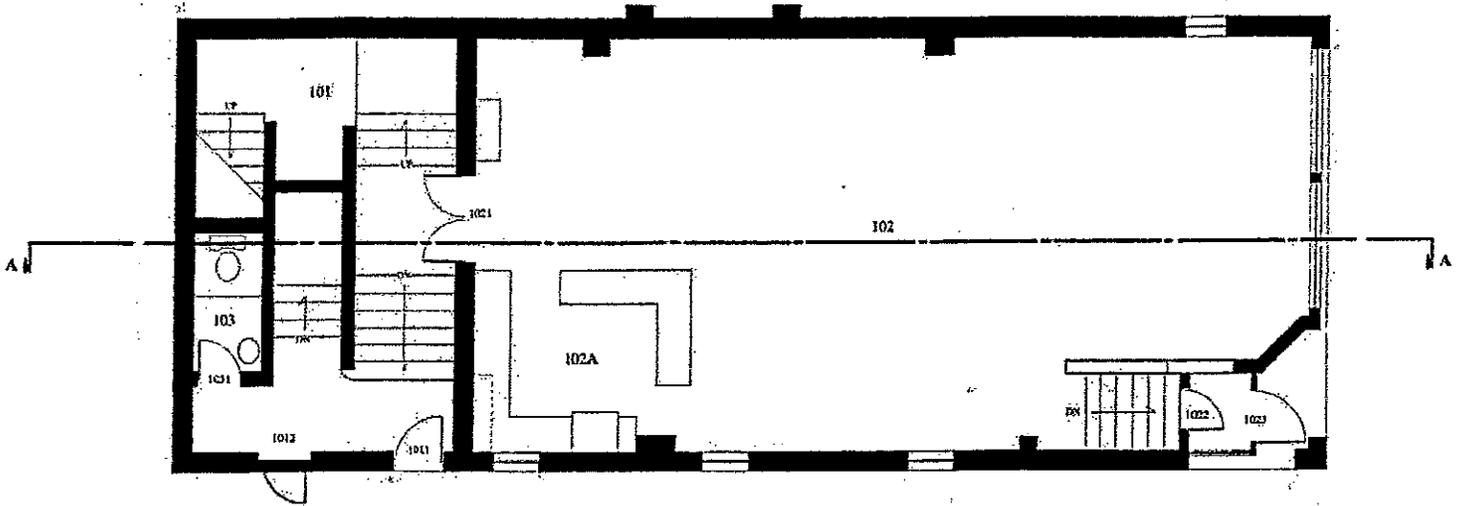


Figure 21-1st Floor Plan

ROOM 101 (Staircase Area)

Floor

Concrete

Ceiling

Lath and Plaster

Walls

North, east, south walls - brick with plaster.

West wall - wooden frame with lath and plaster.

Center partition half wall near the west end - poured concrete.

Doors

#1011 - hollow wooden, five paneled, with no handle, locks at the top and bottom.

#1012 - hollow wooden, five paneled with the top panel in glass, with key hole lock; inoperable.

ROOM 102 (Meeting/Dinning Room)

Floor

Floor joists at 16" on center with 6" diagonal base flooring; finish wood floor with 3 1/2" to 3" wide strips.

20"x20" heat vent along the south wall floor.

Ceiling

Lath and plaster.

Walls

North, west, south walls - plaster on brick with a 16"x13" heat vent, north wall only.

East wall - wood frame with lath and plaster.

North-west partition wall - wood frame.

Doors

#1021 - South door - hollow wooden with five panels, no handles with dead bolts.

North door - hollow wooden with five panels, top panel Plexiglas; keyhole lock and handle.

#1022 - hollow wooden with two panels; key hole lock and handle.

#1023 - hollow wooden with two panels, top panel Plexiglas; dead bolt lock, handle and latch.

Windows

West wall - one picture window, two panes.



South wall - one window, painted common trim of bull's-eye and plinth block.
North wall - three windows, same as south wall window except different location of hinges and openings.

ROOM 103

Floor

Concrete slab with carpet; elevated wood floor under toilet

Ceiling

Plaster with FRP on top.

Walls

Same as ceiling; 7"x11" vent on south wall above the toilet.

Doors

#1031 - hollow wooden with five panels; 4" trim

Windows

Existing window covered.



Basement Room Schedule

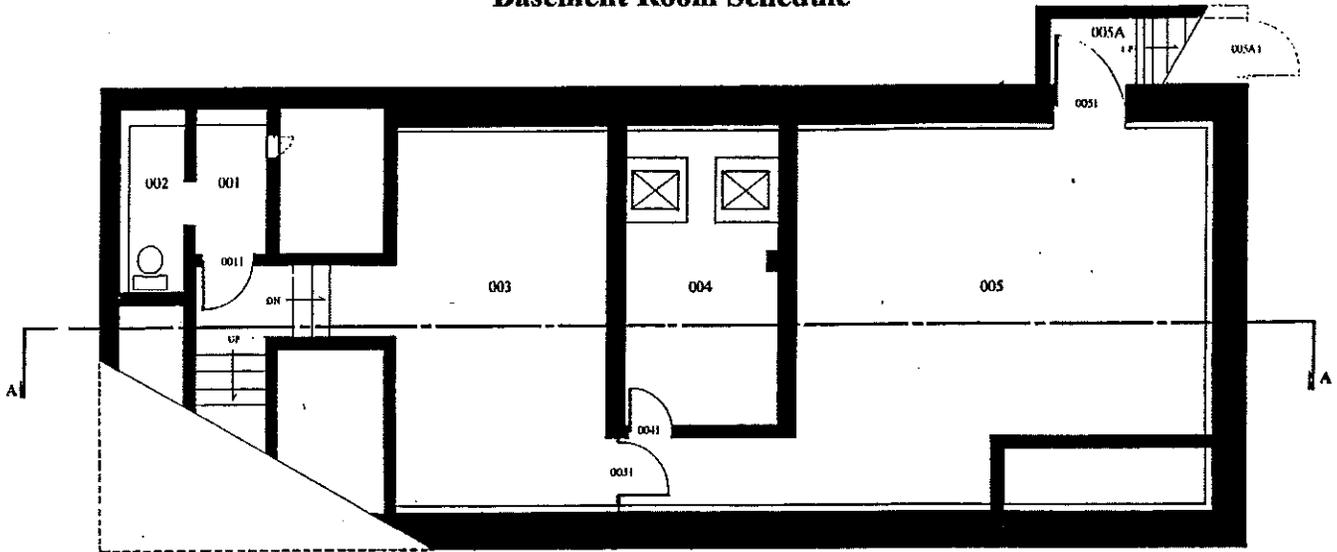


Figure 22-Basement Plan

ROOM 001 (Sitting Room)

Floor

Carpet with padding on concrete floor.

Ceiling

Lath and plaster

Walls

West wall - masonry block, painted plaster.

South wall - concrete ledger with paneling above window.

Doors

#0011 - hollow wooden with two panels; 4" trim.

ROOM 002 (Women's Restroom)

Floor

Linoleum on concrete.

Ceiling

Lath and plaster

Walls

East, south walls - brick with plaster on poured concrete half wall.

North wall - wooden frame, lath and plaster, 7"x11" vent.

West wall - brick with plaster.

ROOM 003 (Old Kitchen)

Floor

Concrete slab.

Ceiling

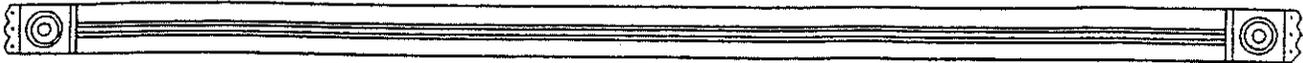
Acoustical particle board in 32"x16" squares.

Walls

North, south walls - bottom half poured concrete from foundation; brick with plaster on upper half.

East, west walls - masonry block with plaster.





Doors

#0031 - hollow wooden with five panels; trim extended to wall and foundation.

Windows

Double hung, double pane.

ROOM 004 (Furnace Room)

Floor

Concrete slab.

Ceiling

Lath and plaster

Walls

South wall - concrete foundation with brick and plaster above.

North, east, west wall - brick with plaster.

Doors

0041 - wood frame with cardboard; 6" trim

Windows

One on south wall, double hung double pane.

ROOM 005 (Pool Room)

Floor

Concrete slab.

Ceiling

Acoustical particle board in 32"x16" squares.

Walls

South, north walls - poured concrete foundation with brick and plaster above.

East wall - brick with plaster.

Windows

West wall - two single glass, inset into wall; rest of windows are double hung with double pane.

ROOM 005A (Exit/Entrance Corridor to Pool Room)

Floor

Concrete slab

Ceiling

Wooden joists with plywood.

Walls

North wall - poured foundation wall with brick above.

South, east, west walls - brick.

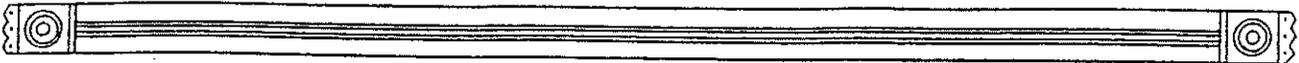
Door

#005A1 - solid wood; 4" trim.



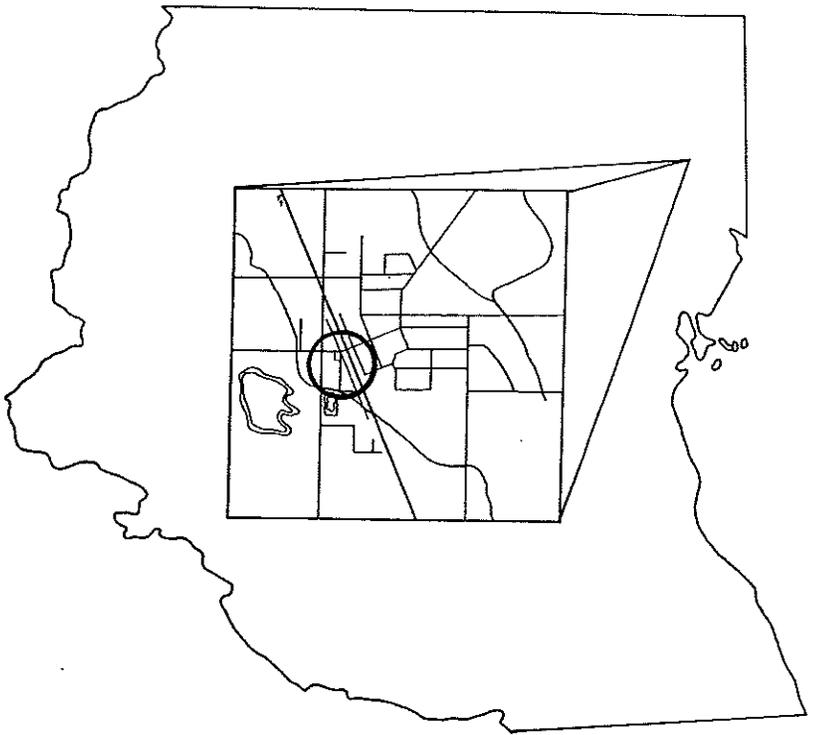
Appendixes





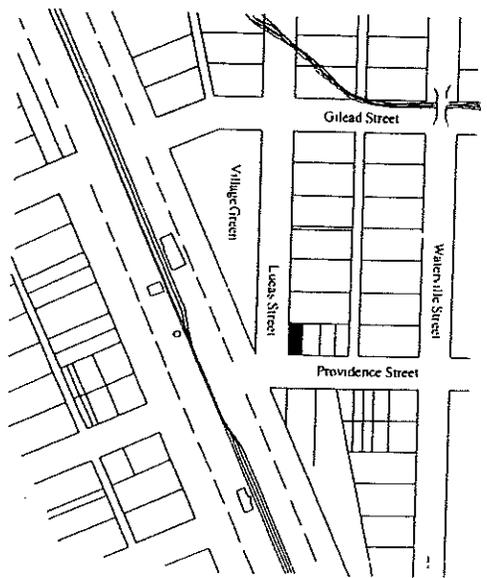
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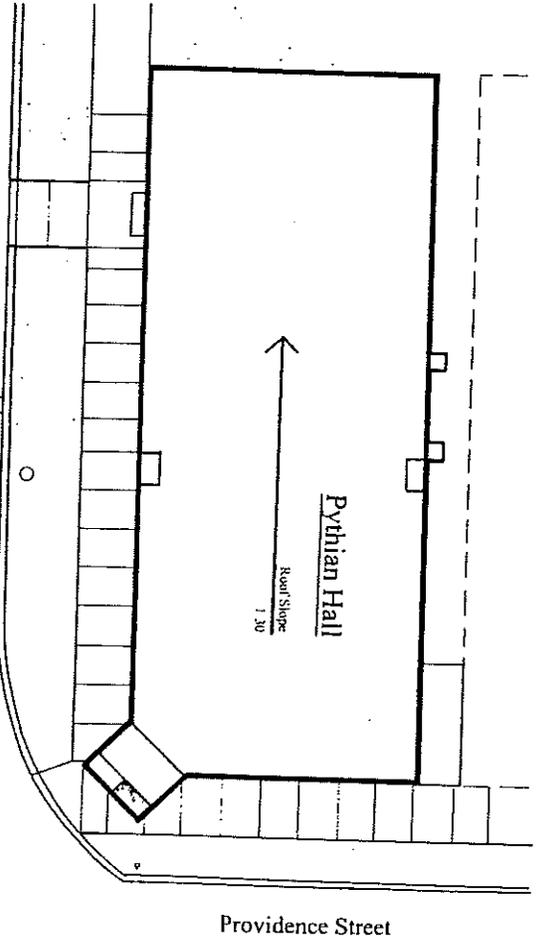


Whitehouse Location Map

Drawing Title	Sheet No.
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North Elevation	3
South Elevation	4
West Elevation	5
East Elevation	5
Second Level Floor Plan	6
First Level Floor Plan	7
Basement Floor Plan	8
Building Section	9



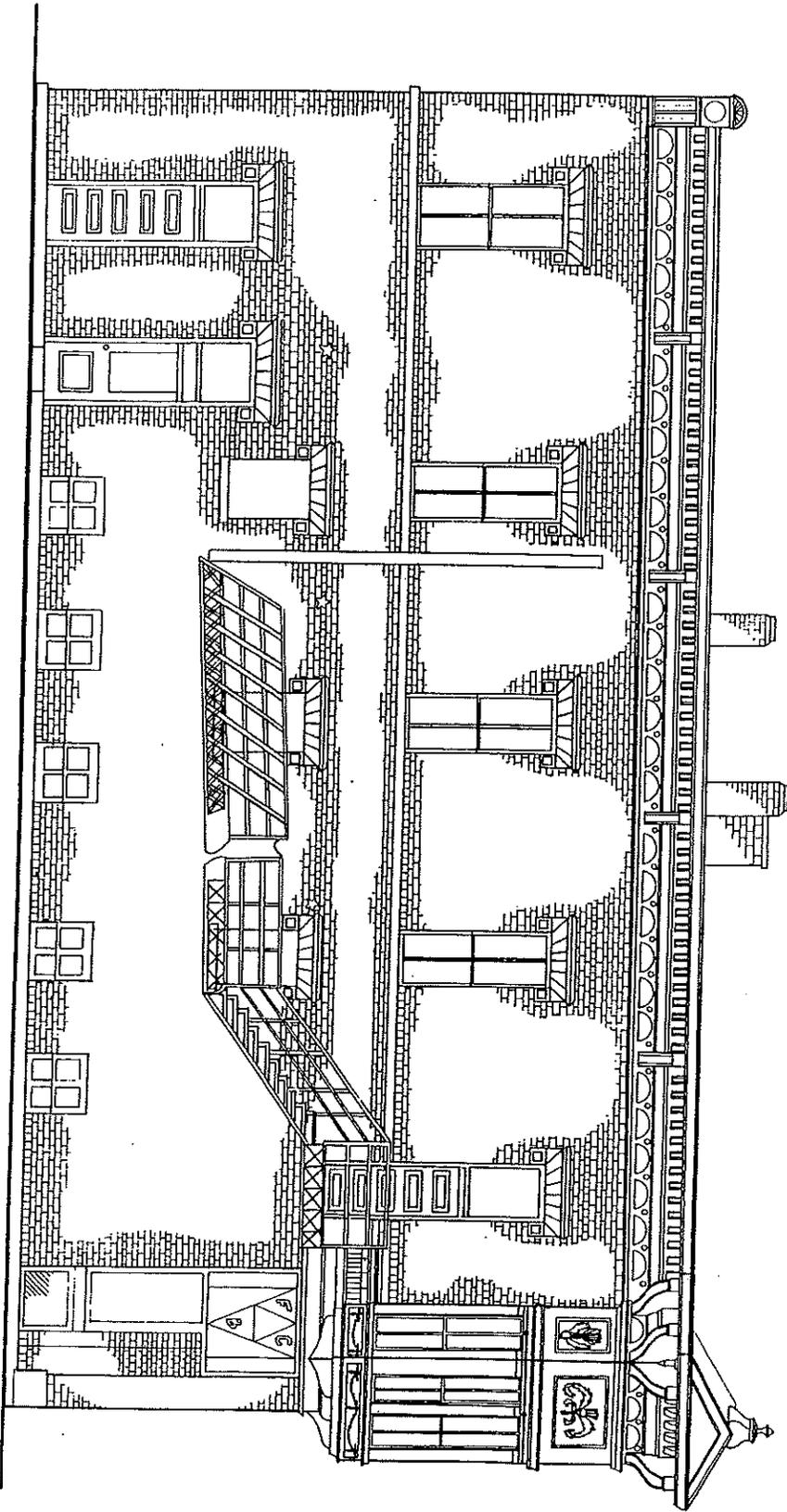
Whitehouse Site Plan



Building Lot Site Plan



North Elevation

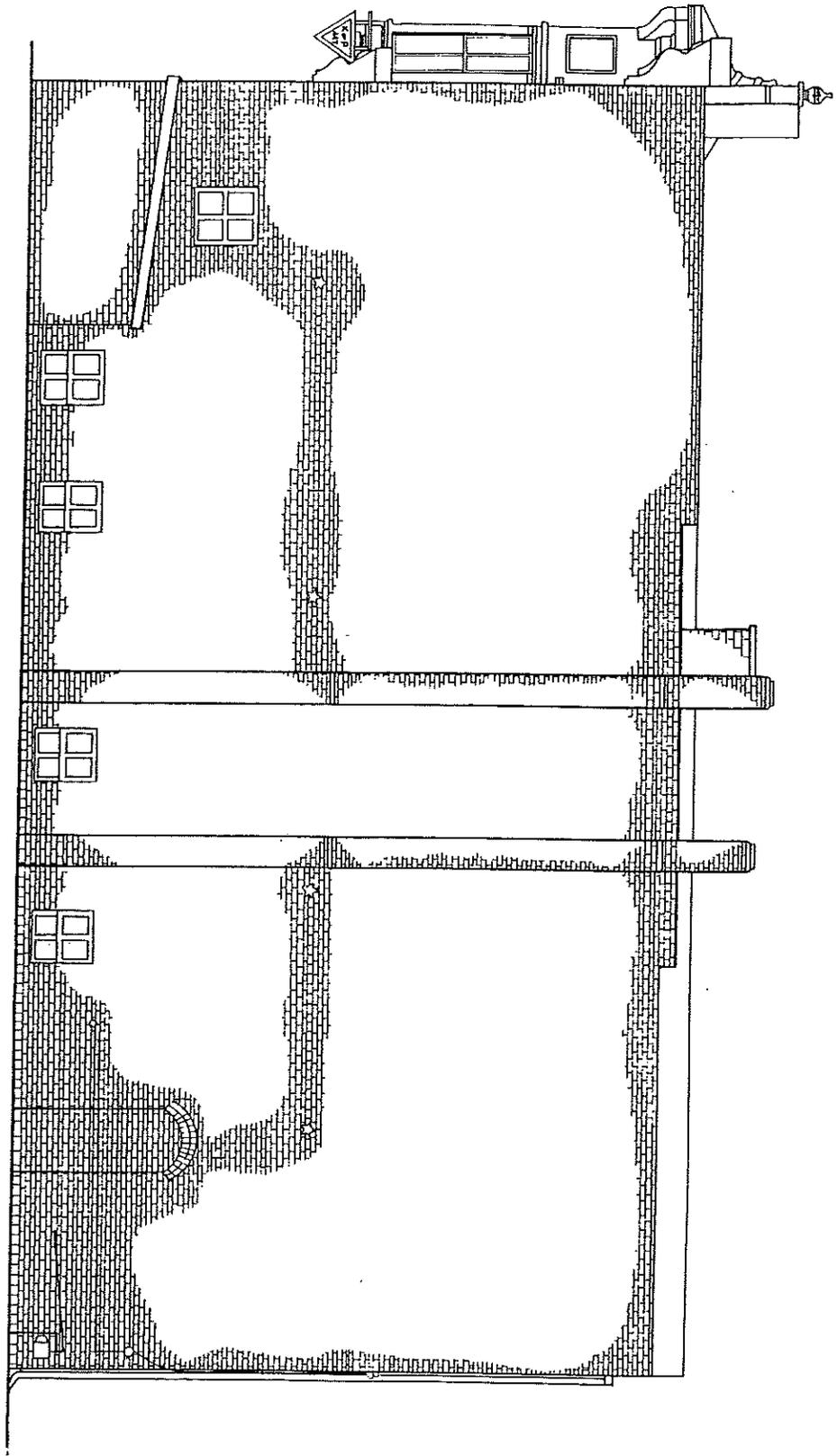


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Pythian Hall Study
Whitehouse, Lucas County, Ohio
November 1995

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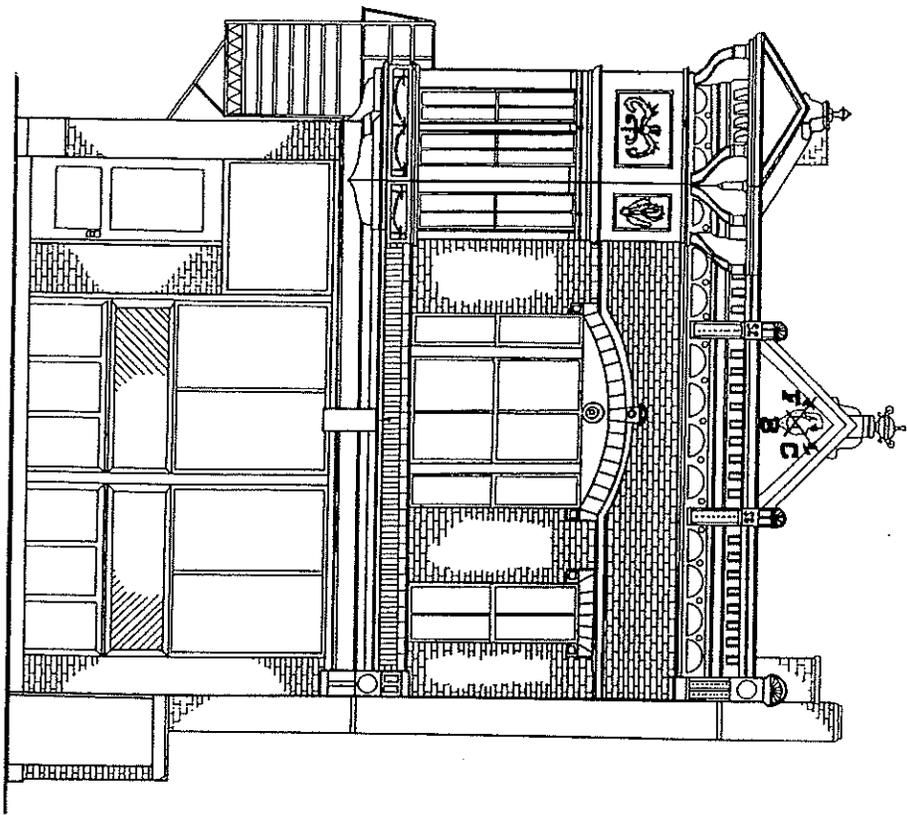
South Elevation



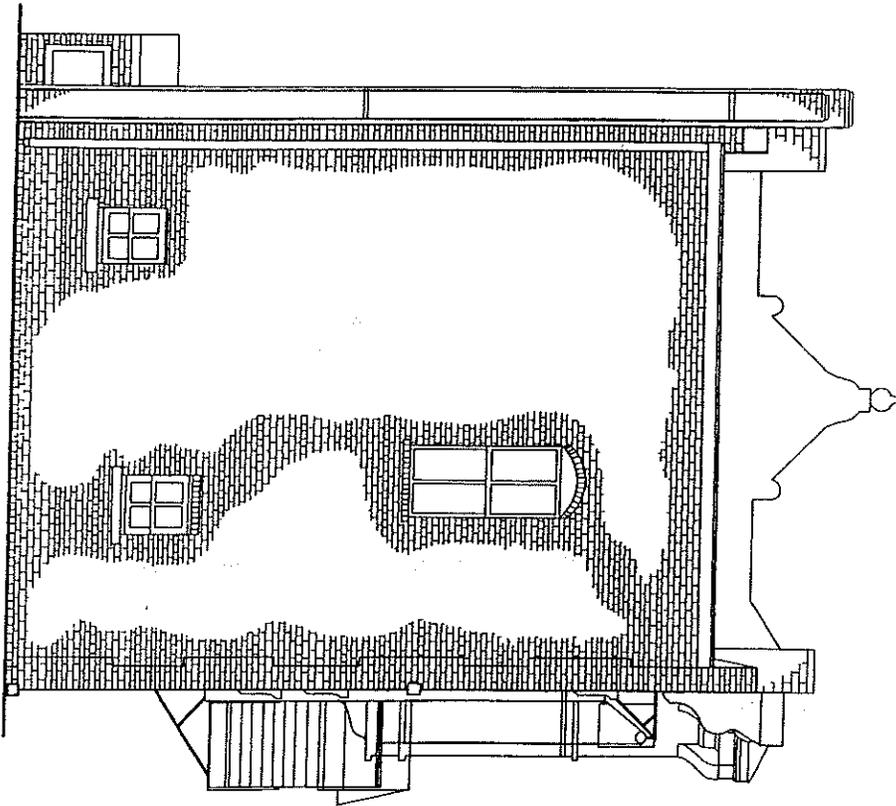
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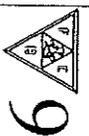
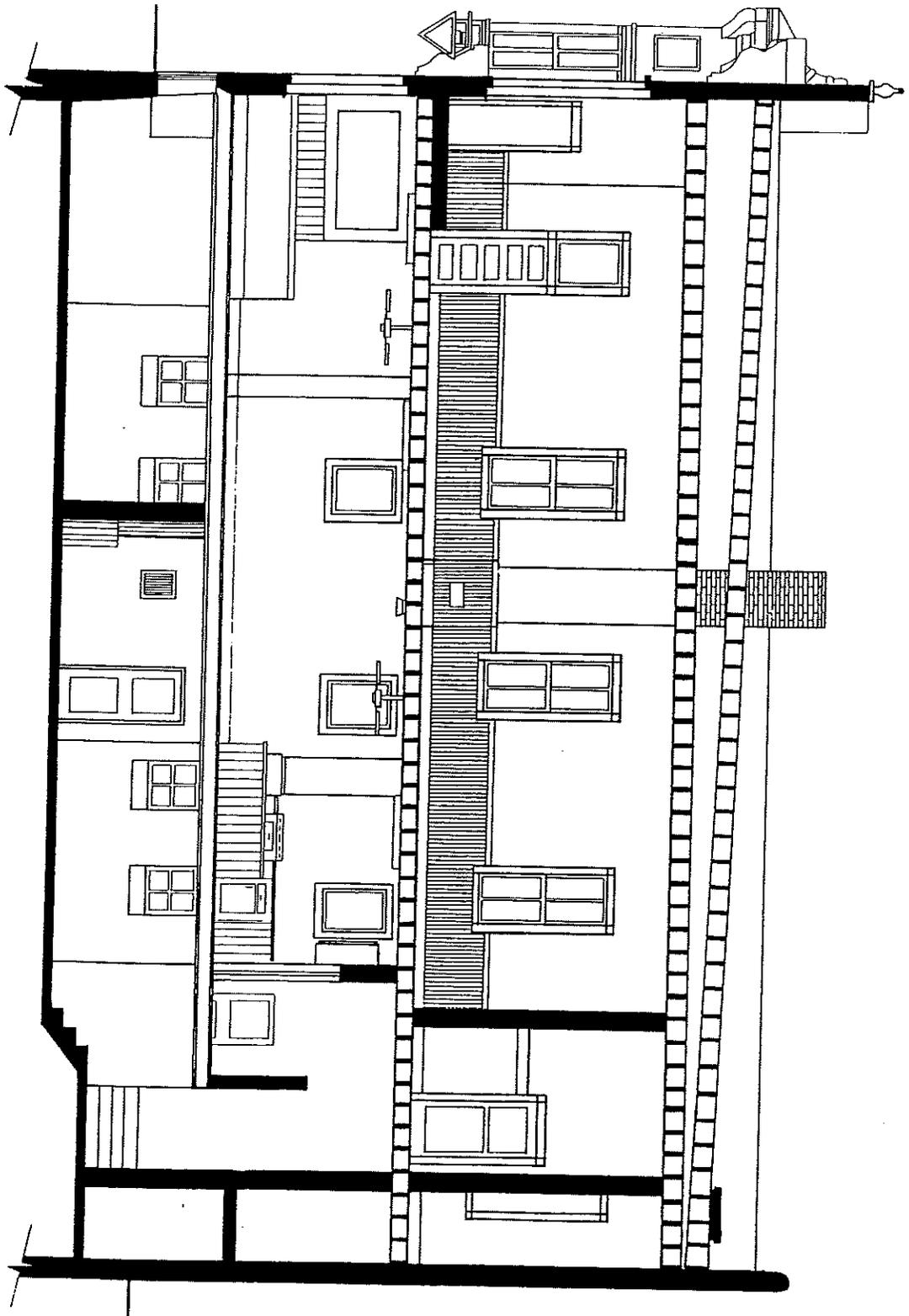
West Elevation



East Elevation



Building Section A-A

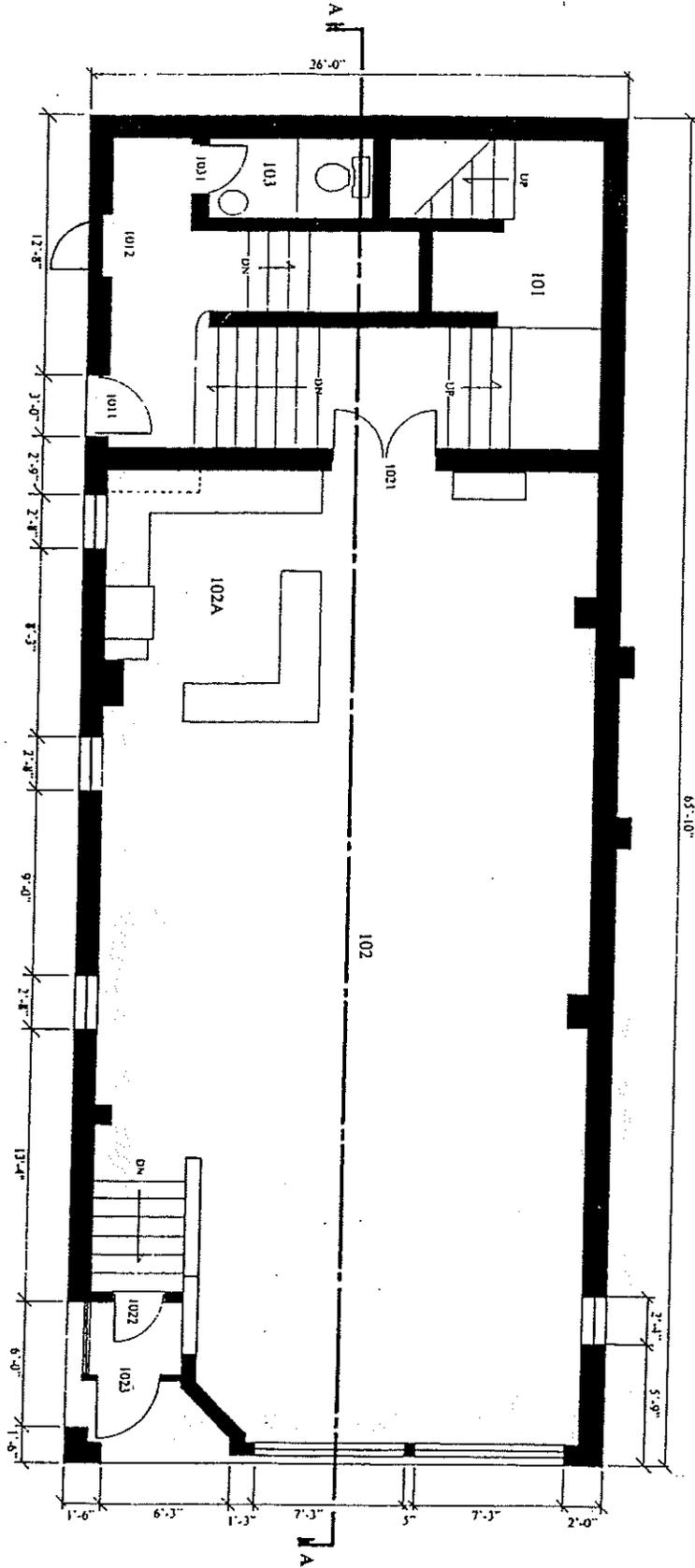


Pythian Hall Study
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First Level Floor Plan

Room No.	Room/Area
101	Staircase
102	Meeting/Dining Room
102A	Kitchen Area
103	Men's Restroom

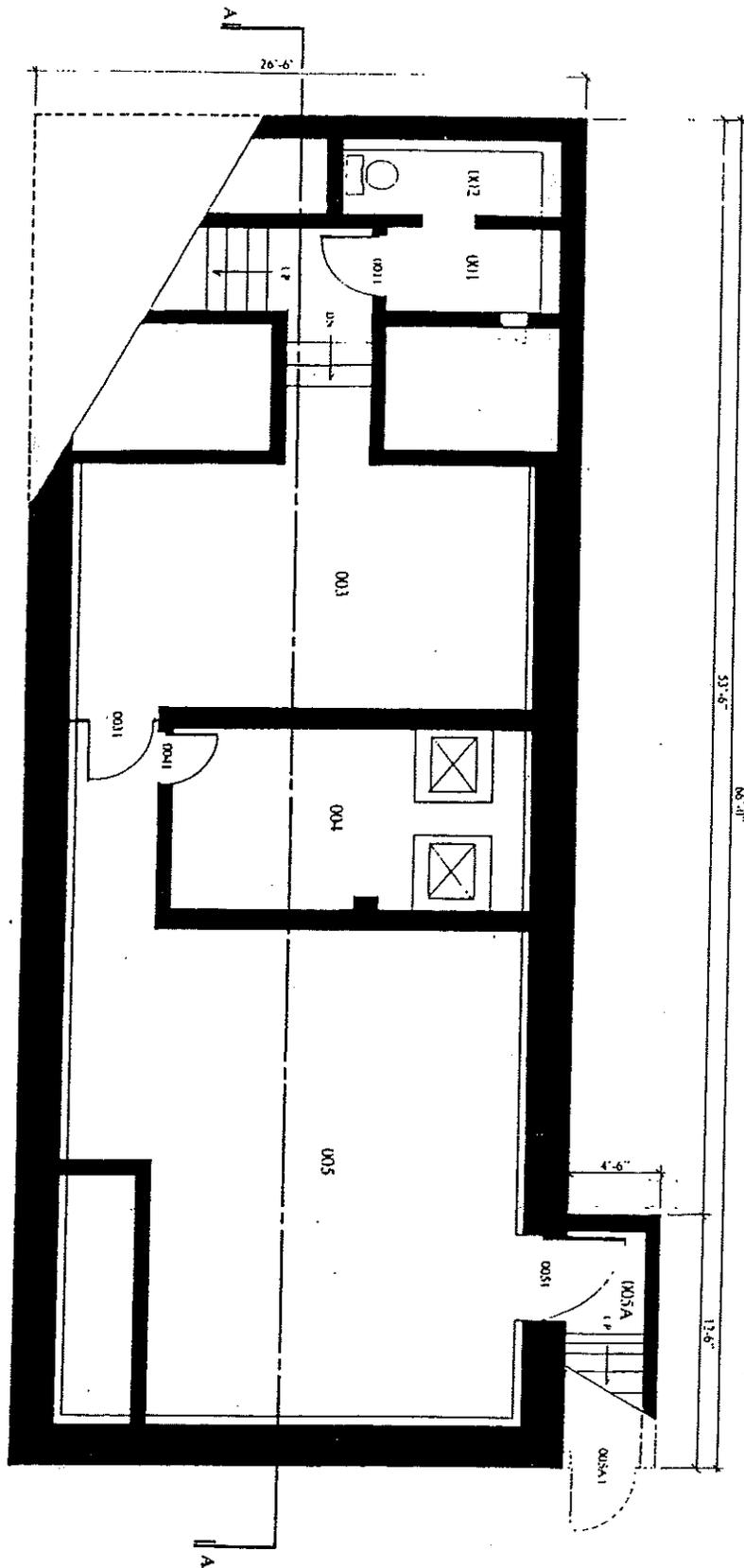


Pythian Hall Study
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Basement Floor Plan

Room Schedule	Rm. No.	Room/Area
	001	Sitting Room
	002	Women's Restroom
	003	Old Kitchen
	004	Furnace/Storage Room
	005	Poolable Room
	005A	Exit/Entrance Corridor to Pool Room

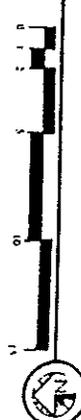
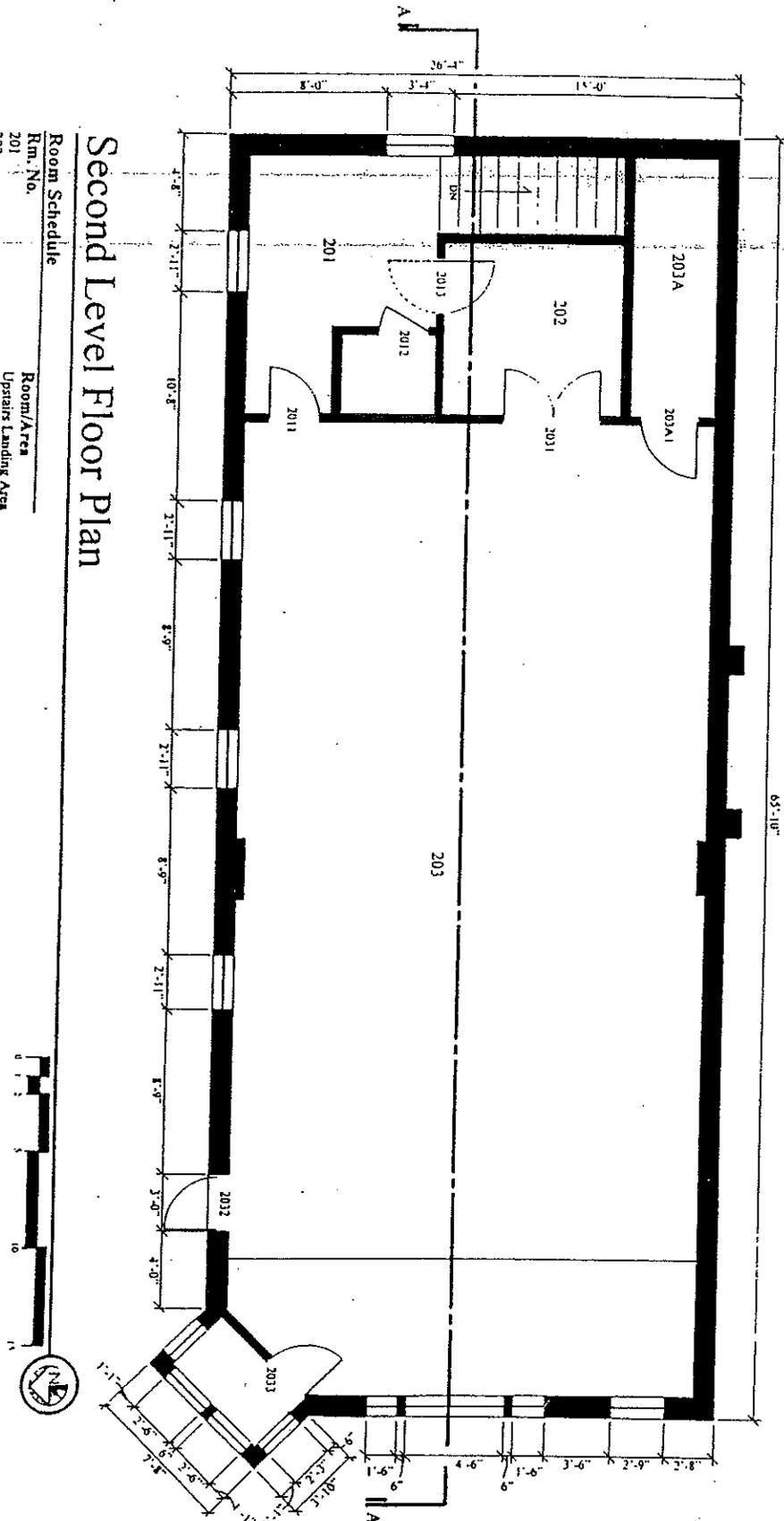


Pythian Hall Study
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Second Level Floor Plan

Room No.	Room/Area
201	Upstairs Landing Area
202	Anti Room
203	Original Meeting Room
203A	Storage Room



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