United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Bancroft School

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 4300 Tracy Avenue N/A not for publication

city or town Kansas City N/A vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Jackson code 095 zip code 64110

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this _X_ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property _X_ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide _X_ local

Mark A. Miles Nov 21, 2011

Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles, Deputy SHPO Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register ___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register ___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Bancroft School
Name of Property

Jackson County, Missouri
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- [X] private
- [ ] public - Local
- [ ] public - State
- [ ] public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

- [X] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
1	0	**Total**

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/School

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/
Classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE
walls: BRICK
roof: ASPHALT
other: TERRA COTTA
STONE

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [ ] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [ ] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [x] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [ ] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- [ ] A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- [ ] B removed from its original location.
- [ ] C a birthplace or grave.
- [ ] D a cemetery.
- [ ] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- [ ] F a commemorative property.
- [ ] G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
1909 - 1922

Significant Dates
1909, 1913, 1922

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Smith, Charles A. (Architect)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
____previously listed in the National Register
____previously determined eligible by the National Register
____designated a National Historic Landmark
____recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
____recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
____recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

_X_State Historic Preservation Office
____Other State agency
____Federal agency
_X_Local government
____University
_X_Other
Name of repository: **Missouri Valley Special Collections, KCPL**
Western Historical Manuscript Coll., UMKC

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.7 acres

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	15	364087	4323319	3			
2				4			

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Rosin, Principal, and Rachel Nugent, Associate

organization Rosin Preservation, LLC date September 2011

street & number 215 W. 18th Street, Ste. 150 telephone 816-472-4950

city or town Kansas City state MO zip code 64108

e-mail elizabeth@rosinpreservation.com and rachel@rosinpreservation.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:**
  - A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
  - A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Photographs.**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Larabee Services, LLC c/o Carl Larabee

street & number 803 Gladstone Avenue telephone 913-530-6788

city or town Kansas City state MO zip code 64124

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

SUMMARY

The Bancroft School at 4300 Tracy Avenue, Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri sits atop a hill within a predominantly residential neighborhood on the east side of midtown Kansas City. The two-story building with has a raised basement. A rusticated limestone foundation supports the concrete structure and brick walls. The irregularly-shaped building has a flat roof and two projecting wings on the south and west elevations. The Bancroft School was constructed in three phases between 1909 and 1922, with each phase employing the same façade organization and materials as the previous phase. The main block of the building was built in two parts in 1909 and 1913. It exhibits a symmetrical Classical Revival form embellished with restrained Flemish ornament, such as the brick diamond pattern and arched stone ornament at the parapet. The symmetrical massing, brick construction, pilasters, and terra cotta trim communicate elements of the building's Classical Revival style. Many of the original interior features and finishes are extant, including the original configuration of corridors and classrooms and the original interior wood doors and trim. While it has experienced some alterations, primarily the replacement of windows, these changes do not diminish one's understanding of the building as a public school from the era of its construction. It maintains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association with its period of significance (1909 – 1922).

ELABORATION

SETTING

The Bancroft School stands at the center of the lot occupying the north half of the block bounded by quiet residential streets: East 43rd Street on the north, Tracy Avenue on the east, and Forest Avenue on the west. One- to three-story single-family dwellings occupy narrow city lots on the blocks surrounding the school. Troost Avenue, two blocks to the west, is a major commercial thoroughfare *(see Figure 1)*.

The lot surrounding the Bancroft School is relatively flat, although the west half of the lot is lower than the east. Stairs and a sloped drive address the change in grade, as the entire lot slopes down from east to west. The majority of the lot is paved with faded remnants of striping for elementary school playground games. A chain-link fence encircles the property. Public sidewalks line the perimeter of the lot. Concrete stairs and a concrete walk with flanking non-historic brick pavers connect the main entrance to the public sidewalk on the east side of the property. The sloped drive at the rear of the building connects a small asphalt parking area immediately west of the building with East 43rd Street on the north side of the property. Narrow grassy strips between the public sidewalk and the chain-link fence contain mature deciduous trees.

EXTERIOR

The Bancroft School is a two-story building with an irregular footprint. The tapestry brick walls have restrained Flemish ornament. The façade is divided into three vertical parts, reflecting the "base-shaft-capital" arrangement typical of the Classical Revival style. The building was constructed in three phases. The unified façade, however, does not express the three separate building campaigns *(see Figure 2)*. The main block was begun in 1909 with the construction of the center pavilion and south wing. Construction of the north wing in 1913 created an I-shaped main block. The main block is symmetrical around the center pavilion, with projecting pavilions at the north and south ends. A small wing, part of the original construction, projects westward from the center of the main block on the rear elevation. The final two-story south addition, completed in 1922, is attached to the south end of the main block. The south addition contains the auditorium and gymnasium.

The building foundation is limestone. Increasing amounts of the stone are exposed as the grade changes and the lot slopes down to the south and west. The walls of the base above the stone foundation are brick set in a common bond pattern with every sixth course a rowlock course. Single and paired windows pierce the walls. A limestone beltcourse encircles the building to cap the raised base.

Two-story brick pilasters divide the upper two stories on the front and rear facades of the main block into bays. The pilasters have plain limestone bases and terra cotta caps with simple geometric shapes. Each bay contains a pair of windows with a single limestone sill.

A tall parapet rises from the terra cotta beltcourse that encircles the building above the second-story windows. Dark gray header and stretcher bricks form a Flemish style diamond pattern that ornaments the parapet. The parapet and terra cotta coping encircle the main block and the 1922 addition.

The center pavilion on the east elevation contains the main entry *(see Photo 6)*. Battered brick pilasters flank the wood-framed entry, which has multi-light transom and sidelights. A limestone panel above the door has "Bancroft School" carved in relief. The first story contains a limestone bay window. Rectangular window openings are cut into the shallow-arched recessed panels. The arches have exaggerated keystones. Tall, narrow fresh air vents flanking the bay window are also set within shallow-arched recessed panels with exaggerated keystones. A terra cotta beltcourse beneath the second-story windows becomes a small shaped parapet above the bay window. The limestone panel at the center of the parapet contains the image of an open book carved in relief. The second story contains single narrow windows flanking a tripartite window.

The tall parapet above the second story contains a center vent and blind outer panels, each framed with soldier course brick. Plain terra cotta shields are centered above each panel. A shallow-arched parapet ornamented with scrolls and a center ball tops the terra cotta coping.

Soldier course bricks frame blind panels and terra cotta diamond shapes on all elevations of the ventilation stacks that rise above the roofline on the rear (west) elevation.

The center pavilion on the north elevation projects outward slightly from the façade *(see Photo 5)*. It contains a wood-framed entry with a limestone nameplate. The raised basement contains single rectangular windows. Tall, narrow windows flank the arched brick panel at the center of the pavilion. Within the panel there are windows with tall pointed arches and corbelled brick frames at the second story and short, square window openings at the first story. The arched panel has terra cotta ornament at the keystone and the spring points of the arches.

The west wing at the center of the main block has single windows on all elevations. The terra cotta belt course has simple, geometric shapes articulating the corners of each façade. The low parapet has a terra cotta beltcourse and coping.

The south addition does not have two-story pilasters but the east facade exhibits the same patterns of fenestration and materials as the main block. The north and south elevations of the addition have paired windows. The west elevation is a blank brick wall. The addition contains a terra cotta beltcourse and a much shorter parapet with terra cotta coping.

The single and paired multi-light wood doors on all elevations are historic. The secondary entrance to the ground level on the rear elevation has a non-historic metal slab door. Non-historic aluminum windows fill the historic masonry openings on all elevations. The aluminum windows have an operable hung lower sash and three fixed upper panels. The top panel is opaque. Painted plywood covers some window openings on all elevations.

INTERIOR

The main entrance on the east elevation opens to a small ground-floor vestibule with glazed brick walls and ceramic tile floors *(see Photo 8)*. Paired wood doors with sidelights and large transoms open into the center stair hall. The stairs lead from the ground level up to the main corridor on the first floor. The first and second floors have wide double-loaded corridors that run north-south *(see Figures 6 and 7)*. Classrooms flank the long, straight corridors. The corridors have polished concrete floors with integral concrete baseboards, plaster walls, and wood chair and picture rails. Acoustical tiles are adhered to the ceiling of the first-floor corridor. The second-floor ceiling is plaster *(see Photo 11)*.

Open stairwells stand at the north and south ends of the main block. These wide concrete stairs have concrete and plaster knee walls with wide wood caps *(see Photo 10)*. The north stairwell leads to an exit at ground level. The south stair leads to the 1922 addition which contains an exit on the west end of the south elevation.

The classrooms have tongue and groove wood floors, wood bases, chair rails, and picture rails, and wood frames around the chalkboards with integrated wood chalk trays *(see Photo 14)*. The ceilings are either plaster or acoustical tile. Some rooms have non-historic composite floor tiles or carpet. Each classroom has a coat room. The narrow coat rooms have linoleum tile floors, beadboard wainscoting, and plaster walls and ceilings. Many of these rooms retain historic hardware. The classrooms and coat rooms retain their historic wood corridor doors, which have two wood panels topped by a glazed panel and large operable transoms. All of the classrooms and corridors have non-historic light fixtures.

The west wing, centered on the rear elevation of the main block, contains the boiler room and mechanical spaces on the ground floor. A large open room (formerly an assembly room) with tall ceilings occupies the space on the first floor. This room has carpeted floors, plaster walls with wood trim, and acoustical tiles on the ceiling. Across the corridor, a short flight of stairs leads to a small office suite *(see Photo 9)*. This space is within the stone bay window visible on the front elevation. The west wall of this room has a band of multi-light windows that face the first-floor corridor.

The second floor contains a small office suite on the west side of the corridor at the center of the main block. A series of historic doors, multi-light windows, and transoms lines the corridor at this location. The classroom opposite this space contains a single door flanked by bands of multi-light vertical pivot windows *(see Photos 12 and 13)*.

The attic space in the center pavilion is accessible from a spiral staircase in the office suite on the second floor. This enclosed, unfinished space was indicated on historic plans as the “Foul Air Gathering Space.”

The ground floor does not have the same continuous corridor as the upper floors. A foundation wall intersects the corridor at the north end of the center pavilion, indicating the north wall of the 1909 building *(see Figure 5)*. The corridors have concrete floors and plaster walls. The northeast corner room was the lunchroom/cafeteria. Two large rooms south of the center pavilion were historically the boys’ and girls’ bathrooms. The west bathroom retains plumbing fixtures and toilet partitions while the east bathroom does not retain any fixtures. The exposed

stone walls in the ground floor classrooms are painted. The remaining walls are painted brick and plaster. The floors have composite tile flooring and the ceilings are either exposed concrete beams or acoustical tile affixed directly to the structure. These rooms have fewer and simpler finishes than rooms on the upper floors.

Classrooms occupy the east end of the south addition. The finishes are similar to the classrooms in the main block, although the floors are concrete. The gymnasium and auditorium are stacked at the west end of the south addition *(see Figures 4 and 6)*. The sunken gym has wood floors and plaster walls. Large steel ceiling beams are exposed *(see Photo 15)*. The balcony has wood bleachers that are accessible from the ground-floor corridor.

The auditorium retains its historic wood and metal seats and sloped concrete floor *(see Photo 16)*. The wood stage has a simple, rectangular proscenium. Plaster dentils ornament the coffered ceiling. Acoustical tiles are affixed to the flat ceiling between the plaster beams. Decorative plaster nameplates with a large “B” set within a cartouche top the side entrances to the backstage areas flanking the stage. The historic light fixtures are missing.

INTEGRITY

The Bancroft School retains excellent integrity in the areas of location, setting, design, materials, and workmanship. On the exterior and the interior, the property clearly conveys its historic educational function, while the massing, materials, and ornament communicate its vernacular Classical Revival style. Although the original windows have been replaced, the new fenestration does not alter the historic masonry openings. The corridors, gymnasium, and auditorium remain substantially intact. The majority of the classrooms retain their original configurations and finishes. Overall, the building clearly communicates feelings about and associations with its original design and educational function.

SUMMARY

The Bancroft School at 4300 Tracy Avenue, Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri is locally significant under Criterion C for the area of ARCHITECTURE. The Bancroft School is an excellent example of an early twentieth century public grade school building. The two-story brick and concrete building was constructed in three phases, beginning in 1909 and ending in 1922. Charles A. Smith, architect for the Kansas City School Board, designed the building with the tripartite façade organization of base-shaft-capital, characteristic of the Classical Revival style. The building has two-story brick pilasters and a tall brick parapet embellished with a Flemish cross pattern and ornamental terra cotta. In keeping with the distinctive characteristics of Progressive Era public school design that emphasized safety, cleanliness, and ventilation, fenestration patterns maximized natural light and fresh air in the classrooms. The fireproof structure has concrete floors, brick walls, wide corridors, and open stairwells. Symmetrical massing, brick construction, limestone and terra cotta trim, and cornice details communicate elements of the Classical Revival style, which was popular nationwide and commonly applied to educational buildings at this time. The Bancroft School retains most of its historic interior and exterior features, clearly representing its historic function and property type as a public grade school built in the early twentieth century. The period of significance for the Bancroft School is 1909 to 1922, beginning with the date of construction for the south section of the main block and ending with the construction date for the gymnasium and auditorium addition.

ELABORATION

The Bancroft School is a highly-intact example of a public grade school building constructed in the early twentieth century for the Kansas City, Missouri School District. Kansas City School Board architect Charles A. Smith designed the center pavilion and south wing in 1909. The north wing was added in 1913, completing the symmetry of the main block of the building. The south addition constructed in 1922 contained classrooms as well as the stacked auditorium and gymnasium.[i] The Bancroft School retains the exterior features that reflect a restrained version of the Classical Revival architectural style and the interior features that exemplify a Progressive Era grade school.

The two-story building exhibits a simplified version of the three-part base-shaft-capital façade configuration typical of the Classical Revival style. A limestone beltcourse caps the plain brick base of the ground-floor level. Brick pilasters with simple limestone bases and capitals divide the façade into regular bays in the two-story “shaft” portion. A tall parapet with terra cotta

ornament and a Flemish cross pattern executed in dark gray brick forms the "capital." The front (east) façade of the main block is symmetrical around a prominent entrance, a common feature in many public school buildings constructed during this era. The tapestry brick is laid in a variety of bond patterns across the building to create visual interest and distinguish spaces. The massing, symmetry, and restrained ornament communicate the simple, refined Classical Revival style often employed on civic and institutional buildings from the early twentieth century.

The interior of the Bancroft School contains the important identifying features of a Progressive Era public grade school building. Wood doors with large, operable transoms line the long, double-loaded corridors on each floor. The wide corridors and open stairwells are concrete, as is the building structure. The corridor doors access narrow coat closets and adjacent classrooms. The perimeter walls of the spacious classrooms contain banks of tall windows. The windows and transoms complement the building's integrated ventilation system. Tall louvered vents flanking the main entry on the front elevation draw fresh air into the building and stacks at the rear vent stale air. The original wood and brass controlling mechanism for the ventilation system is extant *(see Photo 17)*. Large bathrooms designed to accommodate multiple students occupy space in the basement. These specially designed measures to improve safety, cleanliness, and ventilation address issues central to the Progressive Movement.

EARLY-TWENTIETH CENTURY SCHOOL ARCHITECTURE[ii]

Standardization efforts among school districts, initiated during the Progressive Era (1900-1930), affected school curricula, teacher qualifications, teaching materials, and even school designs.[iii] Architects and educators published plan books for school buildings, similar to those that popularized residential designs. Their ideal school was two or three stories tall with a symmetrical facade and a flat roof. Limestone, pressed metal, or terra cotta trim commonly ornamented red brick walls using elements from one of the revival architectural styles popular during this period, although the expression of style was typically restrained. Articulated entrances centered on the symmetrical front elevation and parapets or cornices were the most ornate elements of school buildings.[iv]

Materials and design elements reflected a concern for safety. Fireproof materials, such as concrete, steel, and masonry, were widely used for building structures. Brick, concrete or stone clad the exterior of the structure, while combustible woodwork was minimized on the interior.

[i] Smith is not specifically listed on the building permit as the architect for the addition, but as it was constructed during Smith's tenure as Kansas City Board of Education architect, it is presumed that he designed the addition.
[ii] Information on early-twentieth century school architecture comes from Elizabeth Rosin and Rachel Nugent, National Register of Historic Places Nomination for "Trenton High School," 21 April 2010, Rosin Preservation, LLC, Kansas City, Missouri, unless otherwise noted.
[iii] Brenda Spencer, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, *Historic Public Schools of Kansas*, 22 April 2005, E-18.
[iv] Spencer, E-20.

Wide hallways and stairways enabled efficient evacuation of a school in the event of an emergency. These features were often highlighted in promotional literature published during a school's construction or upon opening.

School buildings evolved from the vernacular one-room schoolhouse to have multiple classrooms arranged on either side of a double-loaded corridor. The most common floor plans were T, I, L or U-shaped.[v] Large expanses of windows admitted natural light and fresh air. Operable transoms aided in ventilating the corridors. Elaborate ventilation systems were also designed to extract "foul air" and introduce fresh air into classrooms, offices, and corridors. Gymnasiums, auditoriums, libraries and cafeterias served specialized functions. Auditoriums and libraries were often utilized by the larger community for meetings and other functions. By the 1910s school buildings also had specially-designed areas for the study of science, home economics, and agriculture, industrial and manual training.

The design of the Bancroft School clearly illustrates these standards. It is a fireproof concrete structure with wide corridors and stairwells. On the exterior, the brick walls have decorative terra cotta and ornamental brick patterning that present restrained elements of Classical Revival styling. On the interior, the I-shaped corridors are lined with classrooms The classrooms have banks of windows and large transoms above the doors to provide natural light and promote air circulation. A historic addition contains the auditorium and gymnasium. The basement historically contained a manual training room and a playroom as well as the restrooms.

HISTORY OF THE BANCROFT SCHOOL[vi]

Between 1904 and 1907, three two-room frame school buildings were constructed on the southeast corner of East 43rd Street and Tracy Avenue. A fourth building was moved to the site from East 39th Street and Warwick Boulevard in August of 1908[vii] to accommodate increased student enrollment. Less than one year later, however, a building permit was issued to build a new two-story, 100' x 86' "Bancroft Schoolhouse" of brick and stone with a concrete roof *(see Figure 11)*.[viii] The new building opened in April 1910, educating 406 neighborhood students in nine classrooms. A second permit was issued in 1913 to build an additional 85' x 72' brick and reinforced concrete structure *(see Figure 12)*.[ix] This section completed the symmetrical main block and contained 18 additional classrooms. Enrollment grew to 920 children by the early

[v] Spencer, E-20.
[vi] Information about the history of the Bancroft School comes from Cora Campbell, "History of the Bancroft School," 1922, Bancroft School vertical file, Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City (Missouri) Public Library, unless otherwise noted.
[vii] City of Kansas City, Historic Preservation Commission Office, Building Permit # 44249 (8/5/1908).
[viii] City of Kansas City, Historic Preservation Commission Office, Building Permit # 9374 (7/12/1909).
[ix] City of Kansas City, Historic Preservation Commission Office, Building Permit # 10864 (2/26/1913).

1920s. A third permit was issued in 1922 to construct a brick and concrete addition to house the gymnasium, auditorium, and additional classrooms.[x]

In 1904 the Bancroft School was named in honor of the noted American historian and politician George Bancroft. It served students in kindergarten through sixth grade who lived in an area bounded by Gillham Road on the west, Woodland Avenue on the east, East 40th Street on the north, and East 47th Street on the south. The Bancroft School served the children in this neighborhood until it closed in 2000. The property remained vacant until the school district sold it to a private entity in 2009.

CHARLES A. SMITH, ARCHITECT

Charles Ashley Smith was born in Ohio in March 1866 but moved with his family to Iowa in 1874. Smith began his architectural career in Des Moines at age 16 as a draftsman in the firm Bell & Hackney.[xi] When William Hackney decided to open an office in Kansas City in 1887, Smith moved with him. Smith worked with Hackney on designs for the Kansas City Board of Education and several new schools and additions are attributed to both men. When Hackney died in 1898, Smith was appointed his replacement as architect for the Board of Education. Charles A. Smith retired from the position in 1936, having designed over 50 renovations and new school buildings in 38 years. Smith designed public elementary, middle, and high school buildings in a wide variety of exterior cladding materials, sizes, floor plans, and popular architectural styles.

Early in the twentieth century, Smith was noted for designs that incorporated "scientific ventilation and other sanitary features."[xii] Although there is no reference to specific systems, these features were reportedly adopted in other public school designs across the country.[xiii] In addition to being a member of the Kansas City chapter of the American Institute of Architects, Smith was also a member of the American Society of Heating & Ventilating Engineers.[xiv]

During his tenure as architect for the Board of Education, Smith was also a principal in the prominent local firm Smith, Rea & Lovitt from 1910 to 1921. This firm designed the YMCA Building at 1822-28 The Paseo and the Kansas City Club at 1228 Baltimore.[xv] Throughout his career, Charles A. Smith designed many notable civic, commercial, religious, and residential buildings in Kansas City. Charles Smith died in 1948.

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[x] City of Kansas City, Historic Preservation Commission Office, Building Permit # 75223 (8/14/1922).
[xi] Carrie Westlake Whitney, "Charles A. Smith," *Kansas City Missouri: Its History and Its People. 1800-1909*, Vol. II (Chicago: The S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1908) 643.
[xii] "Charles A. Smith," *Men of Affairs in Greater Kansas City, 1912* (Kansas City, MO: The Kansas City Press Club, 1912) 224.
[xiii] "Charles A. Smith," 224.
[xiv] Whitney, 644.
[xv] The YMCA Building at 1822-28 The Paseo was listed in the National Register of Historic Places 9 September 1991 under the *Historic Resources of the 18th and Vine Area MPS*. The Kansas City Club was listed in the National Register on 9 November 2002.

CONCLUSION

The Bancroft School was constructed between 1909 and 1922 as a grade school building with all of the features and amenities recommended for public schools of the period. Kansas City Board of Education architect Charles A. Smith adopted the Classical Revival style for the project, in keeping with popular trends in public school architecture as well as his own personal design aesthetic. The Bancroft School retains the distinctive Progressive Era characteristics integral to its design such as the brick and concrete fireproof structure, the wide corridors and stairwells, and integrated ventilation system. Most of the classrooms retain their original configurations and finishes. The corridors, auditorium, and gymnasium are substantially unaltered. The Classical Revival details, including the tripartite façade organization and the sparse brick, limestone, and terra cotta ornament are extant and clearly communicate the function of this building as a public school.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Campbell, Cora. "History of the Bancroft School." 1922. Bancroft School vertical file, Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City (Missouri) Public Library.

"Charles A. Smith." *Men of Affairs in Greater Kansas City, 1912*. Kansas City, MO: The Kansas City Press Club, 1912.

City of Kansas City, Historic Preservation Commission Office, Building Permit # 44249 (8/5/1908).

City of Kansas City, Historic Preservation Commission Office, Building Permit # 9374 (7/12/1909).

City of Kansas City, Historic Preservation Commission Office, Building Permit # 10864 (2/26/1913).

City of Kansas City, Historic Preservation Commission Office, Building Permit # 75223 (8/14/1922).

Ford, Susan Jezak. "Charles Ashley Smith. Architect. 1867-1948." Missouri Valley Special Collections: Biography. Kansas City, MO: Kansas City Public Library, 1999.

Spencer, Brenda. National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, *Historic Public Schools of Kansas*. 2005.

Whitney, Carrie Westlake. "Charles A. Smith." *Kansas City Missouri: Its History and Its People. 1800-1909*. Vol. II. Chicago: The S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1908.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Bancroft School occupies Lots 1 through 6, Block 2 of Wightman & Henderson's Troost Avenue Addition subdivision of Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary of the nominated resource includes the parcels of land historically associated with the property.

Name of Property: Bancroft School

City or Vicinity: Kansas City

County: Jackson **State:** Missouri

Photographer: Brad Finch

Date Photographed: July 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number:
All digital images labeled as follows: MO_JacksonCounty_BancroftSchool_#.tif

1 of 17. North and east (front) elevations of main block, view southwest.

2 of 17. Front (east) elevation of main block and 1922 addition, view southwest.

3 of 17. South elevation of 1922 addition, view northwest.

4 of 17. Rear (west) elevation of main block and 1922 addition, view southeast.

5 of 17. North elevation, view south.

6 of 17. Center pavilion, front (east) elevation, view west.

7 of 17. Tracy Avenue and east elevation, view south.

8 of 17. Entry vestibule, main block, view southwest.

9 of 17. Entry stair and office on first floor, view east.

10 of 17. South stairwell in main block (typical), view southwest.

11 of 17. 2nd floor corridor with historic classroom and coat closet doors and transoms (typ.), view north.

12 of 17. 2nd floor office suite with historic wood doors, transoms, and trim, view southwest.

13 of 17. 2nd floor classroom with pivot sashes, view southeast.

14 of 17. 2nd floor classroom with wood floors and trim, plaster walls and ceilings (typ.), view southeast.

15 of 17. Gymnasium in 1922 addition, view southwest.

16 of 17. Auditorium in 1922 addition, view northwest.

17 of 17. Historic ventilation system control, view south.

Figure 1. **Location Map**

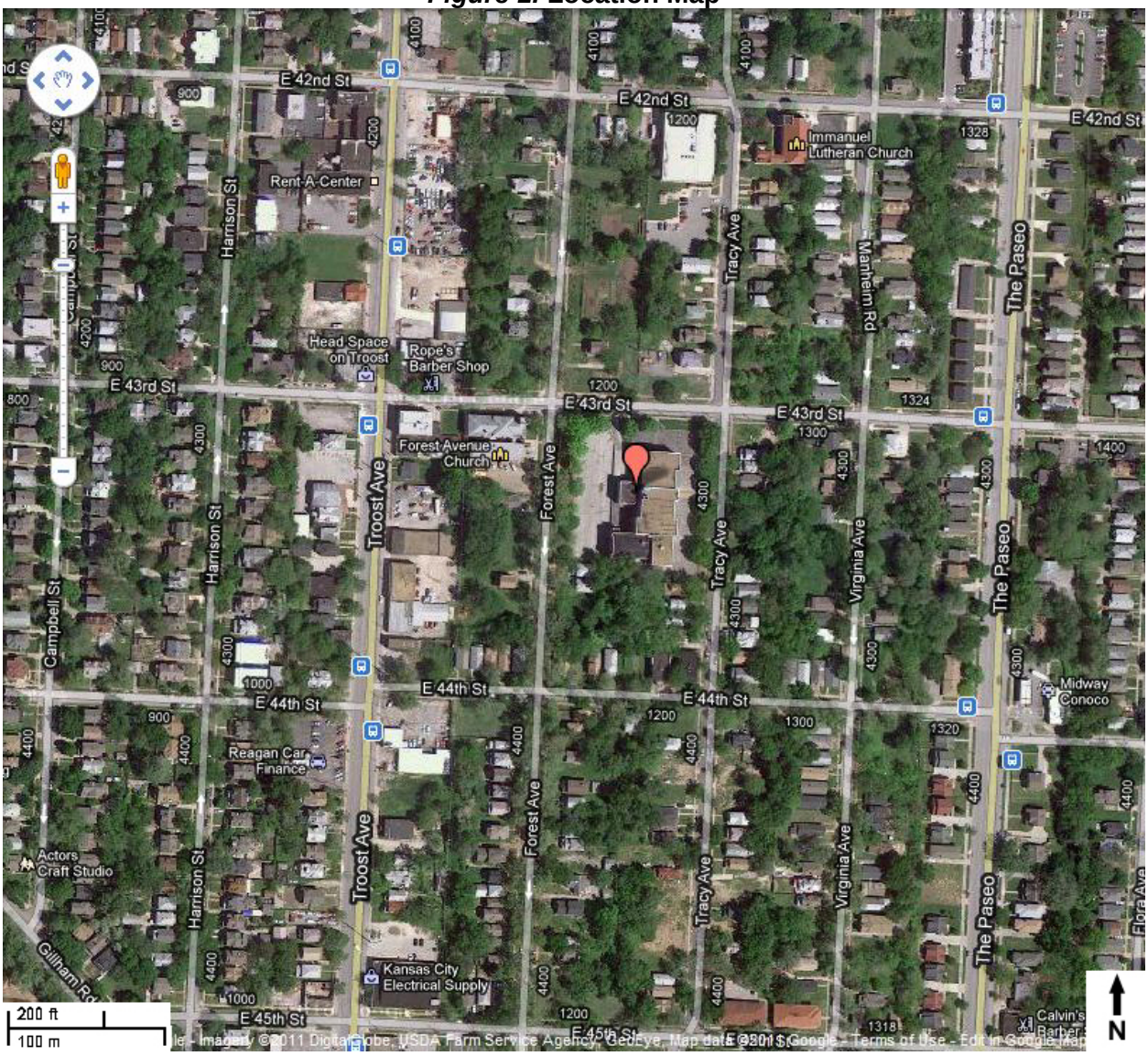


Figure 2. **Aerial view of building with construction dates.**

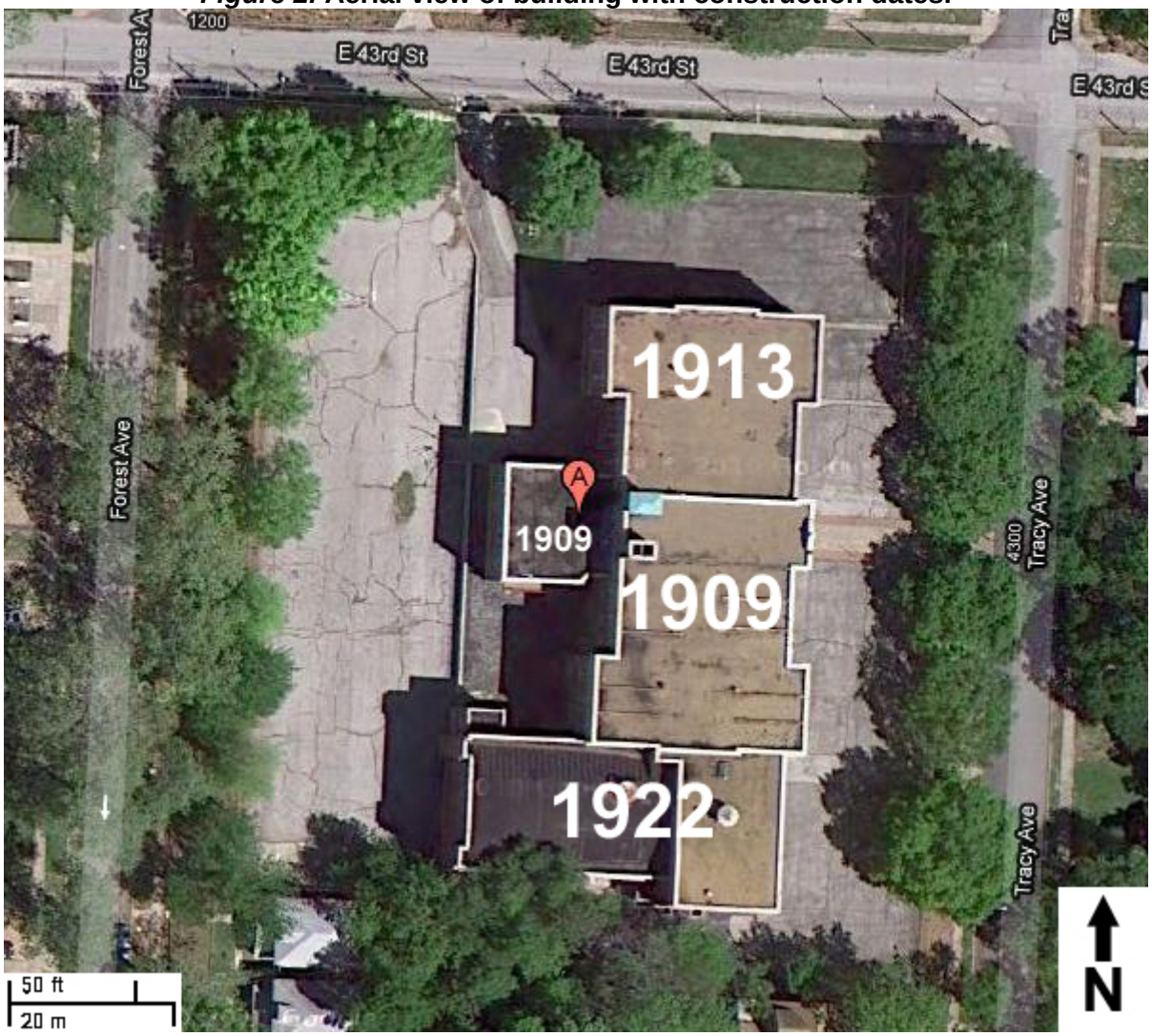


Figure 3. **Exterior photo map**

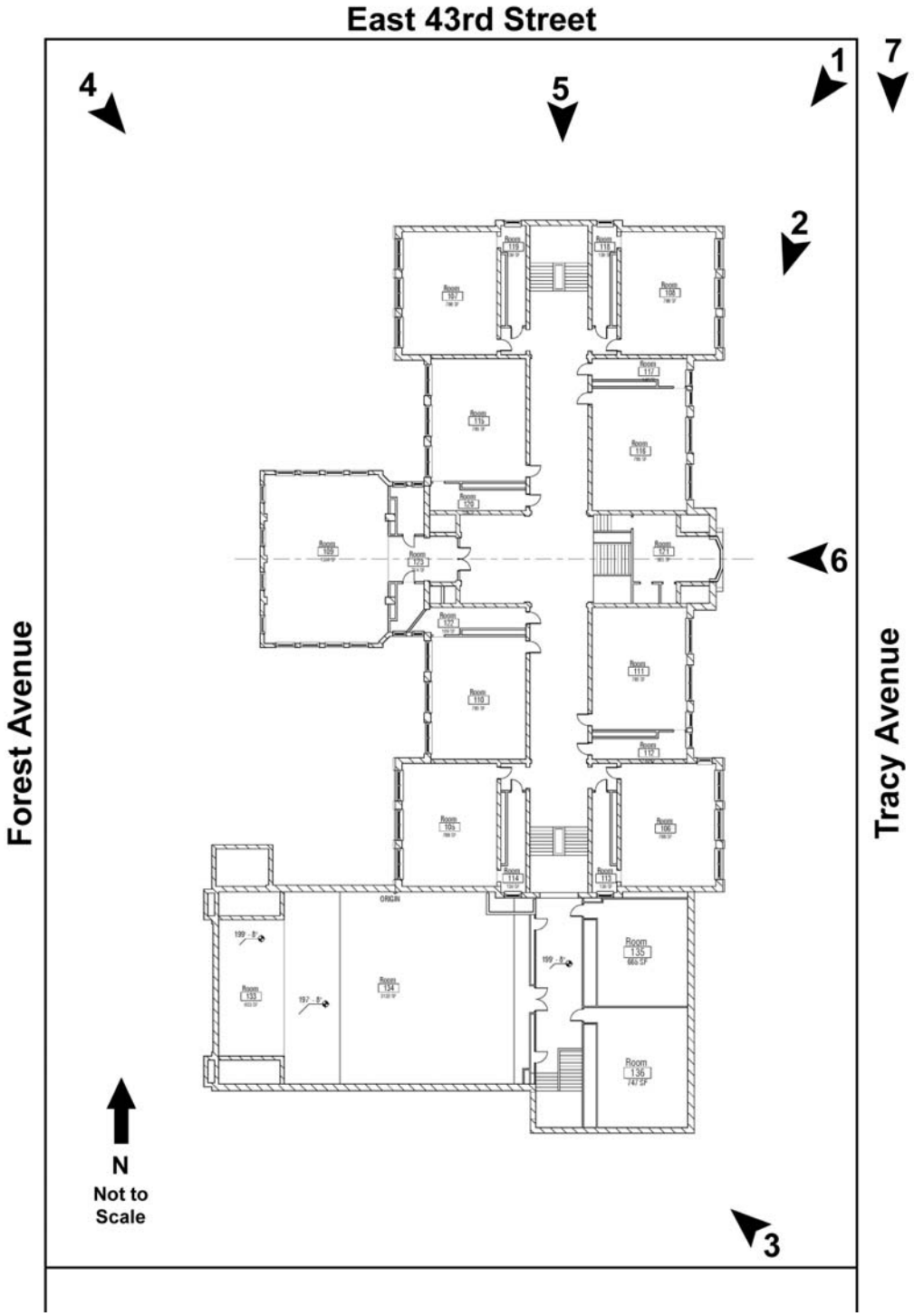


Figure 4. **Sub-basement plan and photo map.**

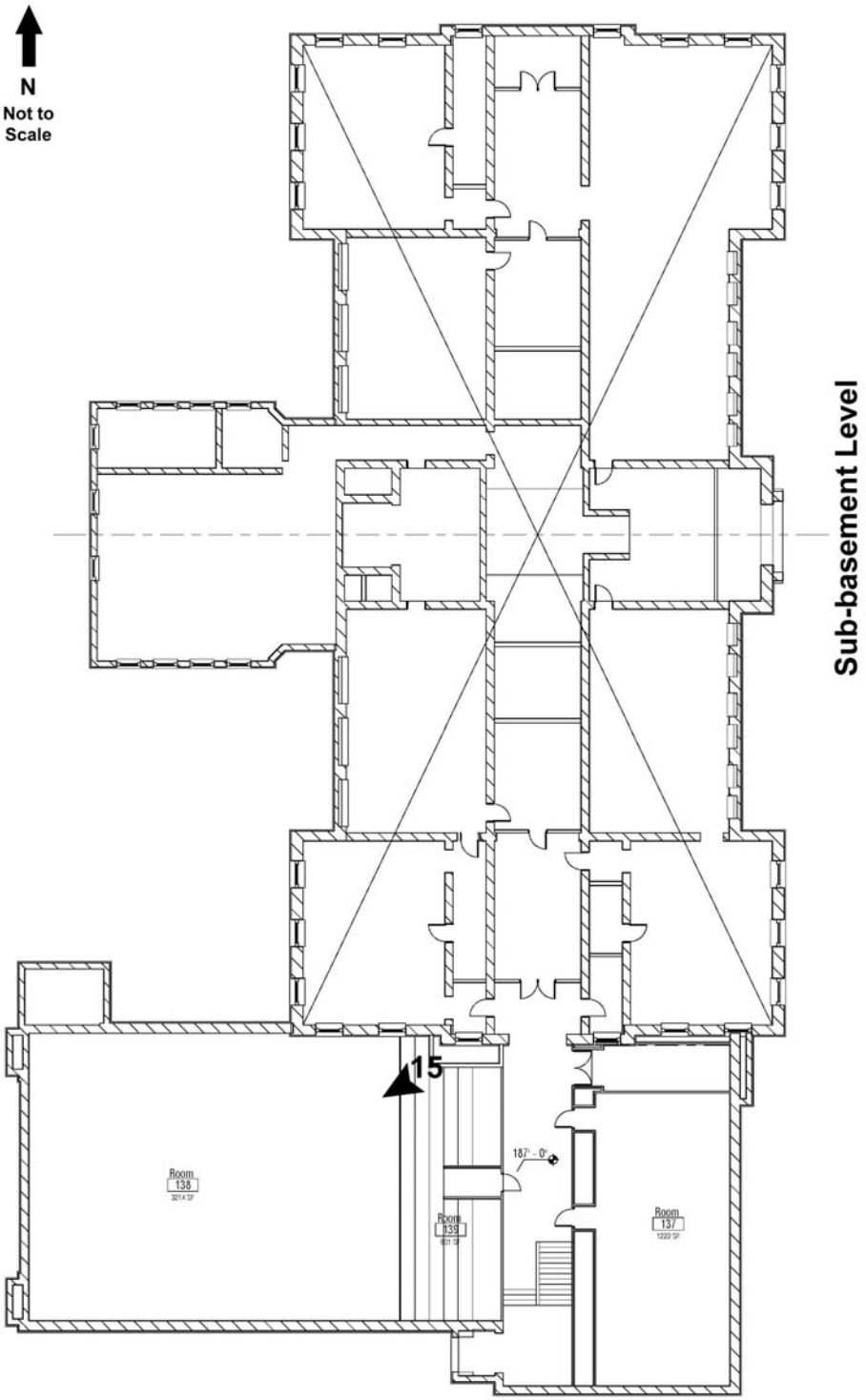


Figure 5. **Ground Level plan and photo map.**

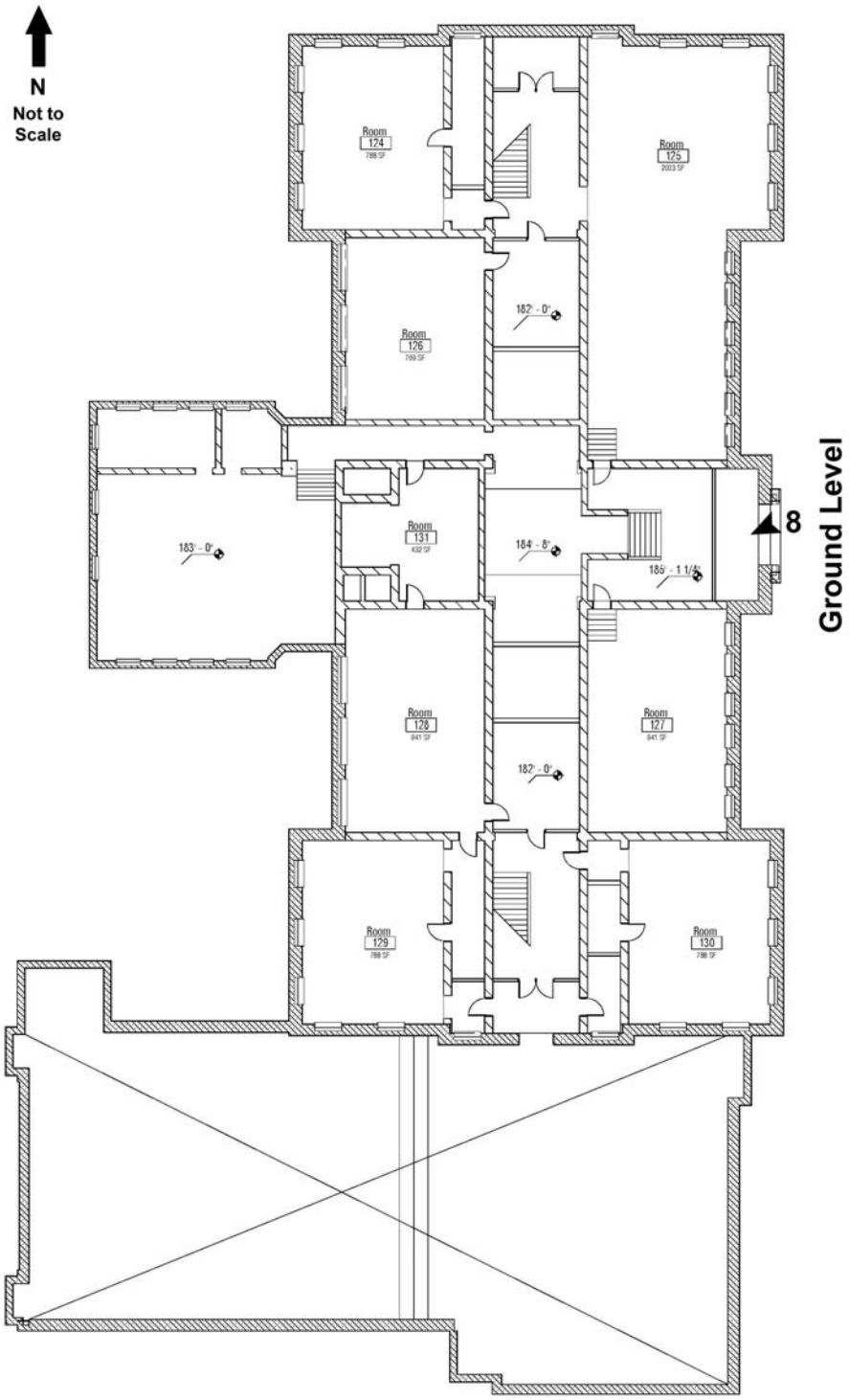


Figure 6. **First Floor plan and photo map.**

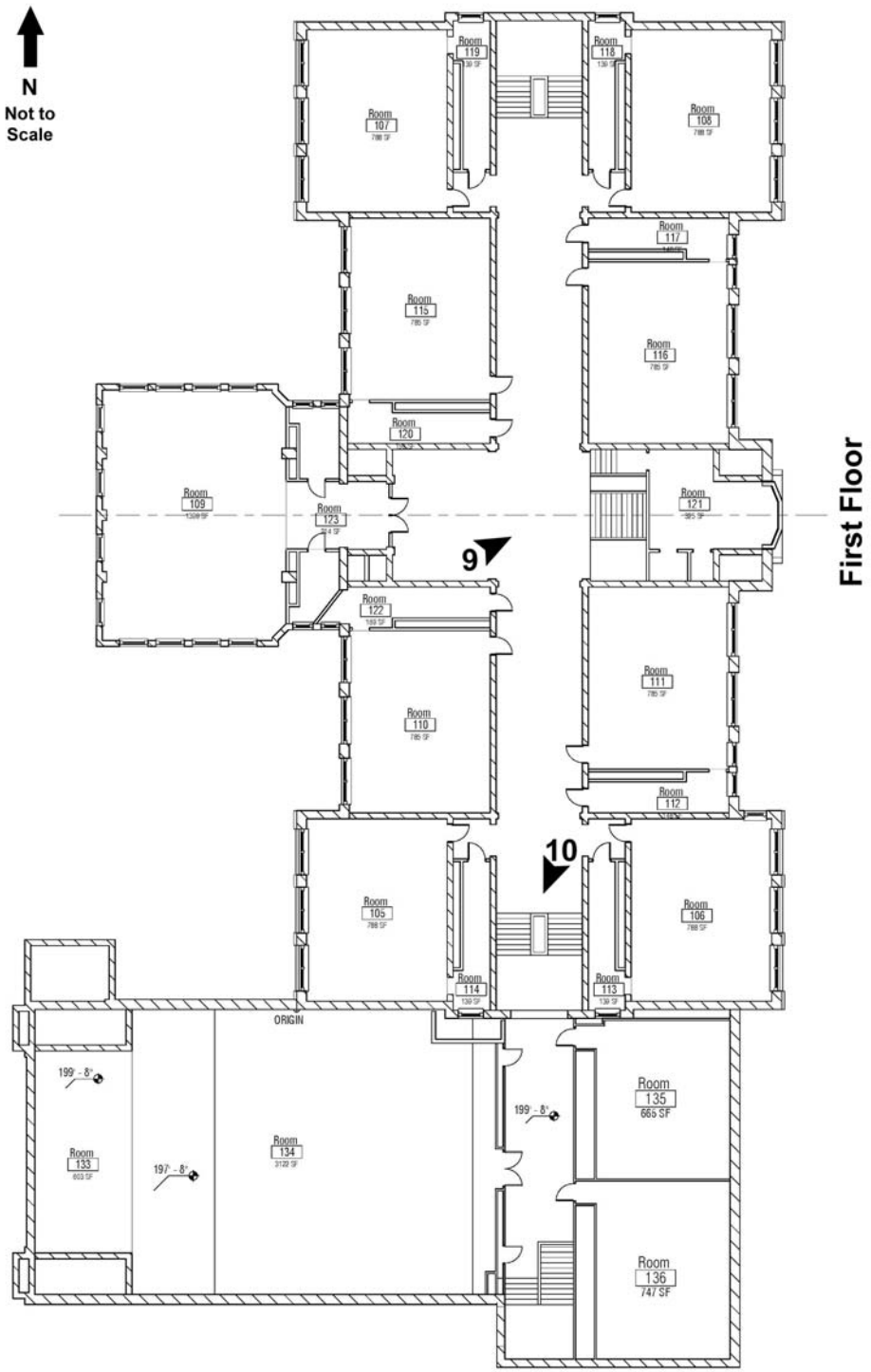


Figure 7. **Second Floor plan and photo map.**

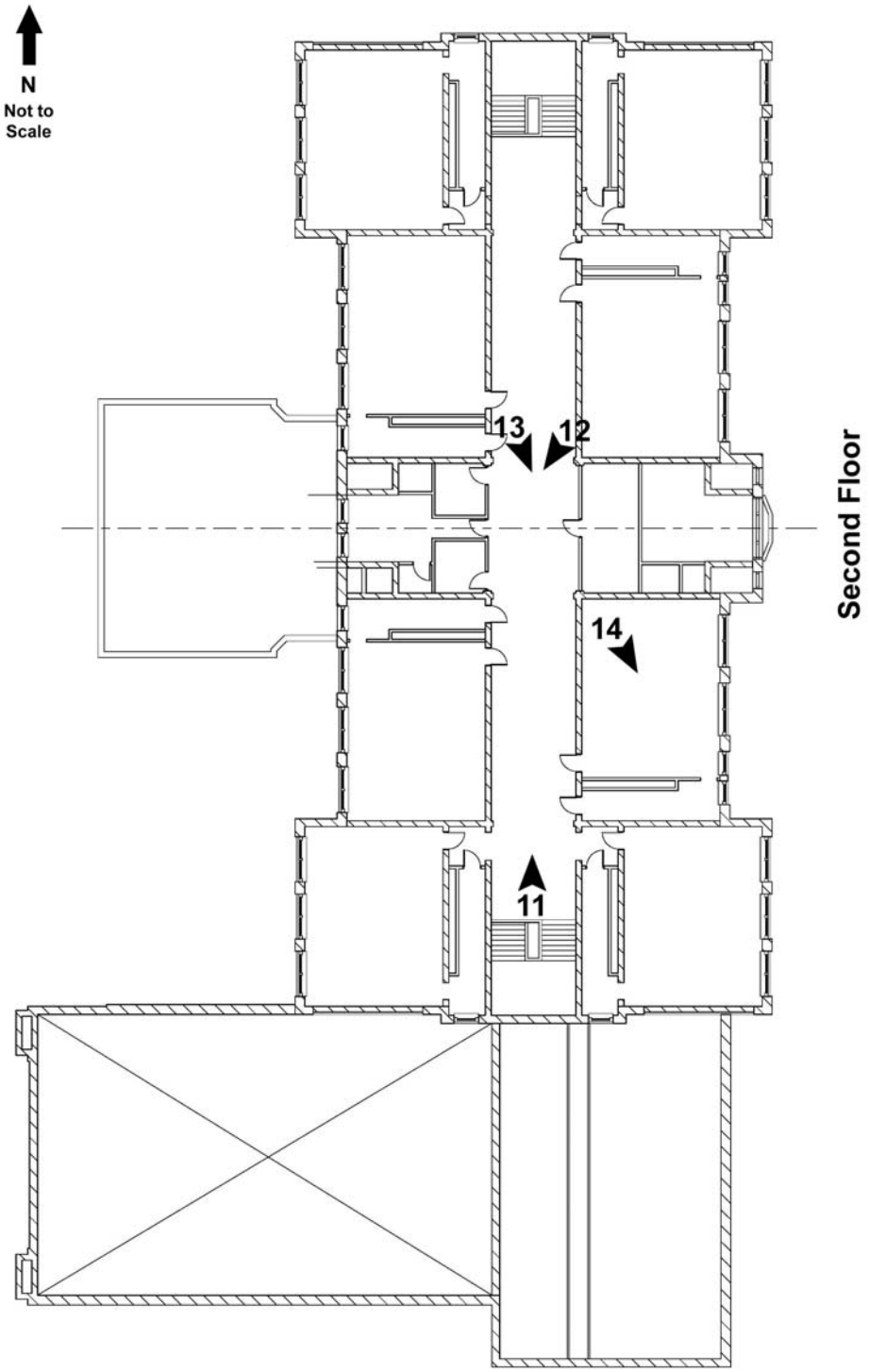


Figure 8. **Front (east) elevation, from historic plans (1909).**

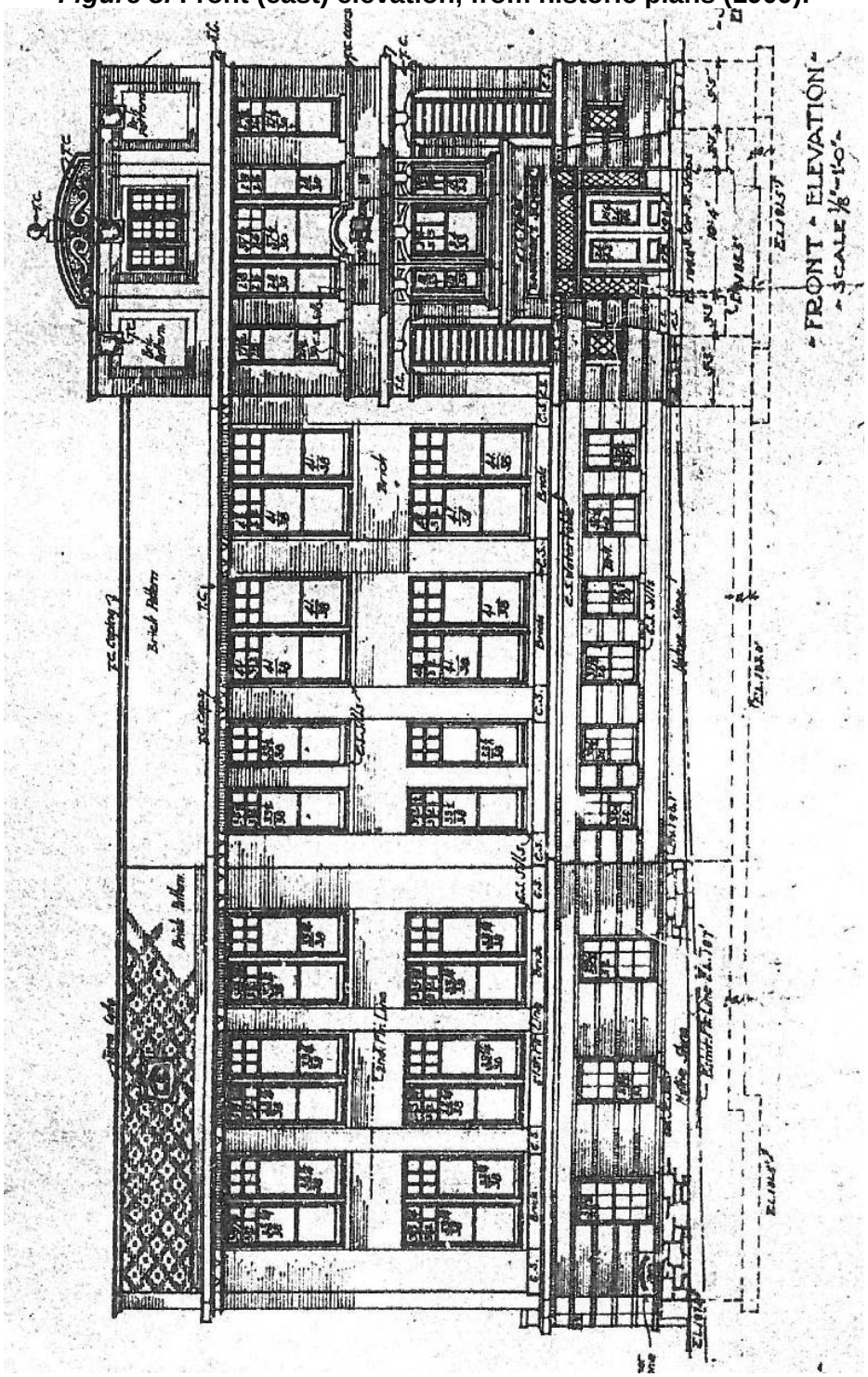


Figure 9. **South elevation, from historic plans (1909).**

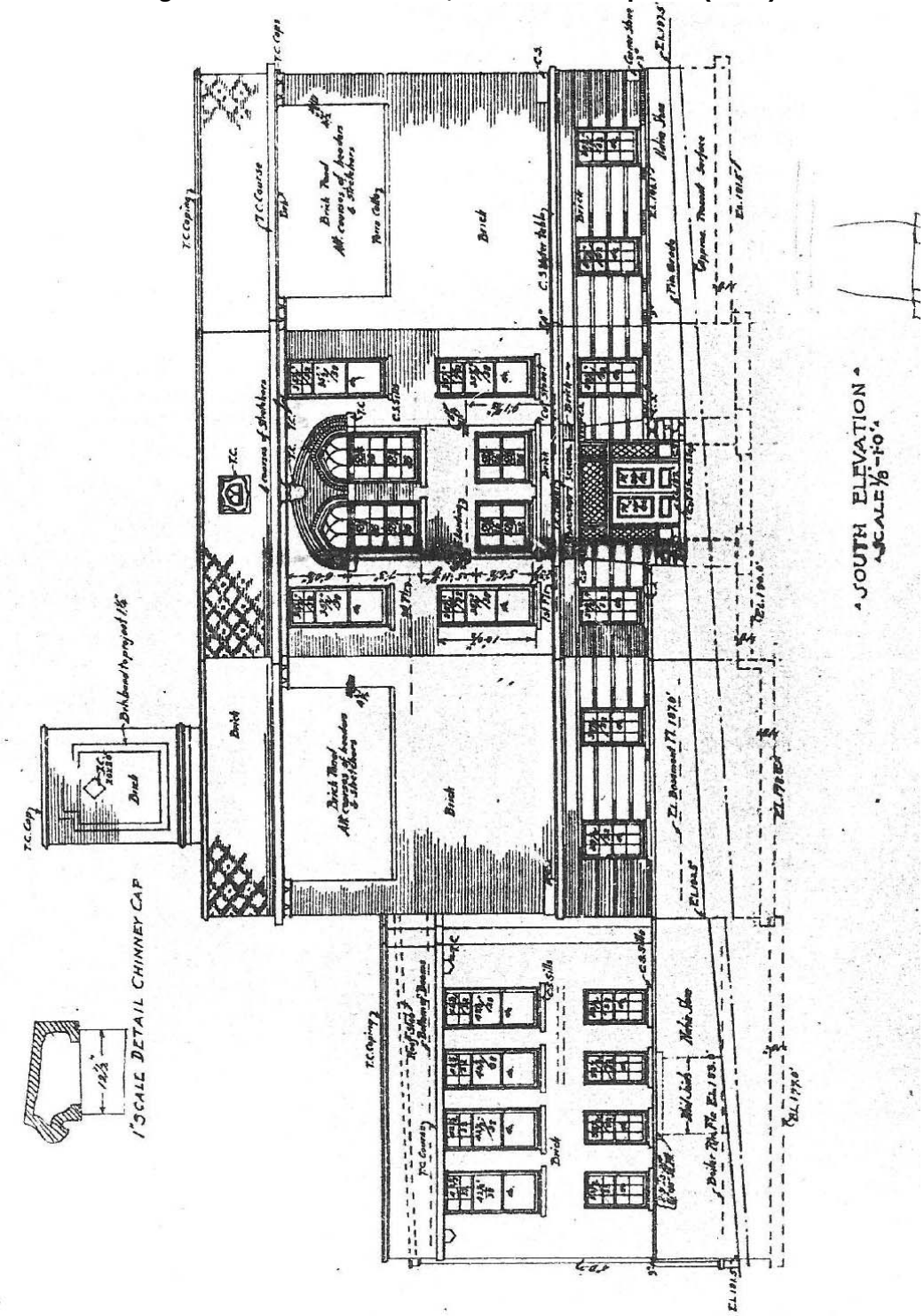


Figure 10. **West elevation, from historic plans (1909).**

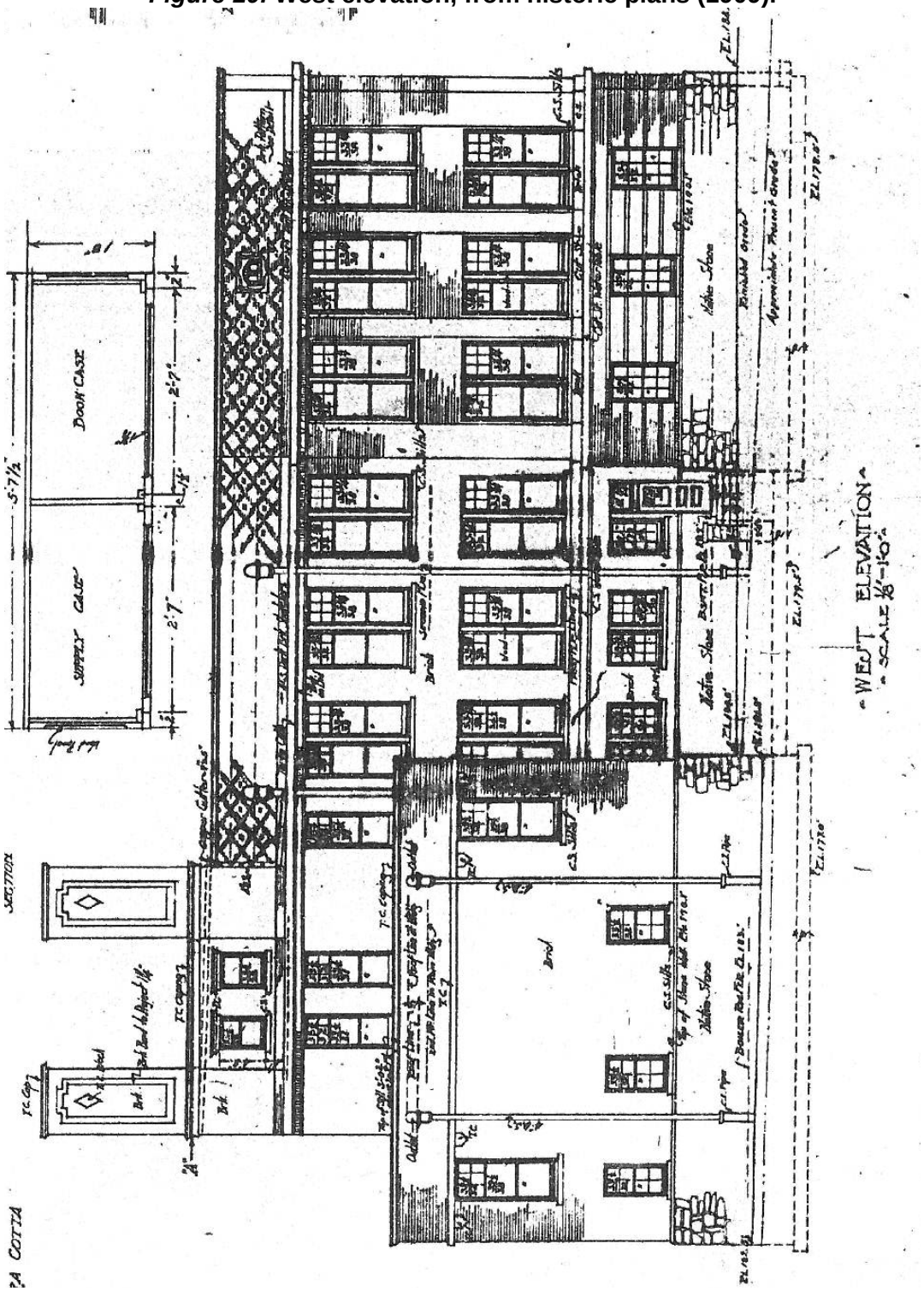
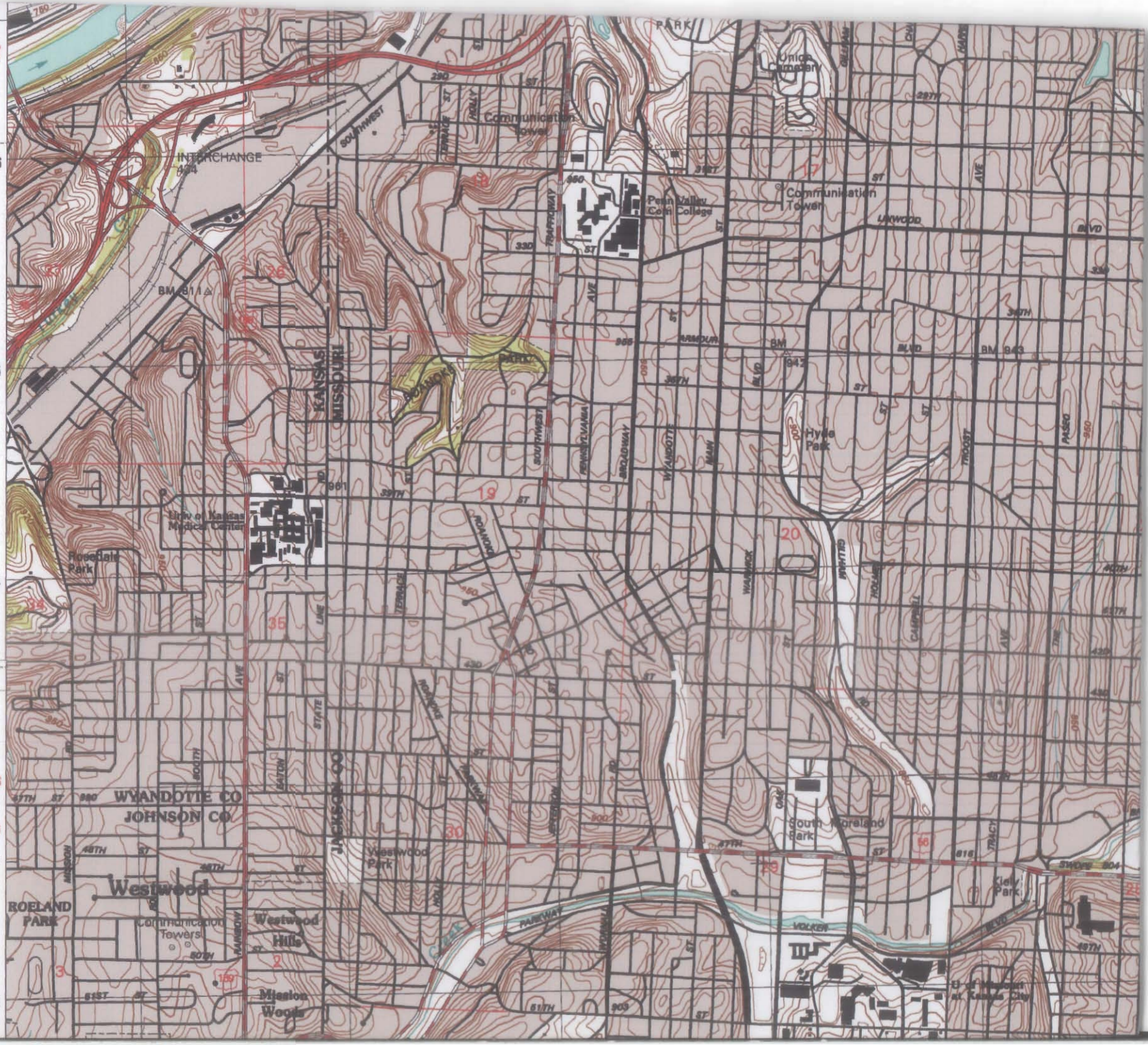


Figure 11. **Historic photograph, c. 1910.**

Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Missouri Public Library.

Figure 12. **Historic photograph, c. 1913.**

Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Missouri Public Library.



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JACKSON COUNTY,
MISSOURI
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BURCROFT SCHOOL

BANCROFT SCHOOL

BANCROFT SCHOOL

OFFICE
UPSTAIRS
& TO LEFT

CAUTION

205

HEATING COIL
3
OPEN
CLOSED
HEATING COIL
4
OPEN
CLOSED
HEATING COIL
2
OPEN
CLOSED
HEATING COIL
5
OPEN
CLOSED