National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Rock Creek Park
Washington, DC

Rock Creek Nature Center Historic Structure Report

2016





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Front cover: Rock Creek Park Nature Center and Planetarium

Rock Creek Nature Center
Historic Structure Report

2016

Rock Creek Park
Washington, DC

by

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ROCK CREEK PARK
NATURE CENTER
AND PLANETARIUM
5200 GLOVER RD

INTRODUCTION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AND ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

Executive Summary

Introduction
The purpose of the Historic Structure Report (HSR) for the Rock Creek Park Nature Center is to provide documentary, graphic, and physical information about the Nature Center's history and existing conditions. The HSR serves as a first phase planning tool to determine the appropriate methods of treatment and cyclical maintenance programs for the building. The HSR presents a comprehensive compilation of historical and technical data. It is prepared to minimize loss of character-defining features and materials and provides a basis upon which to address anticipated management objectives. This HSR presents a snapshot of the current state of this previously undocumented historic building.

The Historic Structure Report also safeguards future preservation efforts by defining compliance with The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties[1] and recommends an appropriate level of treatment in order to meet the National Park Service's mission requirement as outlined in NPS-28, Guidelines for the Management of Cultural Resources.

The Rock Creek Park Nature Center was constructed in 1959 as part of the Mission 66 initiative of the National Park Service. The Nature Center incorporated an existing building built by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in 1935. The Nature Center is identified as a contributing resource in the Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended Nomination and Boundary Increase), produced in 2014 by EHT Traceries.

Research Conducted to Produce the HSR
The following avenues were explored to gain a more thorough understanding of the Nature Center:

- Primary research into the Mission 66 initiative and reasons for its implementation
- Primary research into the Park Modern design idiom
- Primary and secondary historic research into the construction of the building
- Comparative architectural study of Mission 66 visitor centers in and around the National Capital Region
- Determination of the period of significance

Major Research Findings
Extant Condition
From the exterior and interior, the Rock Creek Nature Center appears to be good condition.

Extent of Historic Integrity
The Nature Center retains a high degree of integrity as the original construction materials for the character-defining features from the identified period of significance still exist.

Major Issues Identified
At this time no major issues have been identified.

Recommendations for Treatment and Use
The Rock Creek Nature Center is well suited for its current use as a museum and administration space. The recommended treatment is continued cyclical and preservation maintenance.

1 Kay D. Weeks and Anne E. Grimmer, *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties; with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, & Reconstructing Historic Buildings* (Washington, D.C., National Park Service, 1995).

Administrative Data

Name and Location Data

Preferred Structure Name:	Rock Creek Nature Center
Other Historic Names Used:	Nature Center
Park:	Rock Creek Park
Structure State:	District of Columbia
NPS Region:	National Capital Region
Administrative Unit:	Rock Creek Park
NPS Property Number:	
List of Classified Structures ID No.:	Not Listed
Square Feet	9,863 sq. ft.

National Register of Historic Places

Status:	Entered – Documented
Date:	30 October 1991
National Historic Landmark:	No
Significance:	Contributing
NR Information System No.:	91001524

Notes:

- At the time of the Rock Creek Park Historic District listing on the National Register in 1991, the Nature Center was not 50 years old, so the building was not specifically listed as a contributing resource.
- An Amended Nomination and Boundary Increase to Rock Creek Park is currently under review by the Keeper. The Nature Center is identified as a contributing resource.
- The 2012 *Mission 66-Era Visitor Centers, Administration Buildings, and Public Use Areas in the National Capital Region of the National Park Service Multiple Property Documentation Form* (Mission 66 MPDF) identifies the Rock Creek Nature Center as a contributing resource for the National Register.

List of Classified Structures – Management Information

The Rock Creek Nature Center is not listed in the LCS. When the current Rock Creek Park Historic District National Register Amendment and Boundary Expansion nomination is signed by the Keeper, the Nature Center will be added to the LCS.

Related National Park Service Studies

This is the first comprehensive study of the Rock Creek Nature Center since its construction in 1959. The following reports are listed in the National Capital Region CRBIB database as being associated with the Rock Creek Nature Center.

- Cultural Landscape Report, The Historic Trails of Rock Creek Park, February 2013
- Rock Creek Park Administrative History, 1985
- Historic Resource Study, 1990

Period of Significance

The Mission 66 Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) identifies a period of significance for associated structures as 1945-1972. This period of significance reflects the improvements made throughout the park following World War II and under the federally sponsored Mission 66 and Parkscape U.S.A. programs of the NPS. The contributing resources in Rock Creek Park that were constructed between 1941 and 1972 are integral to the modern development of the park and the park is recognized as an evolving cultural landscape. The period of significance for the Rock Creek Nature center is 1959-1972 because it was constructed in the year 1959.

Proposed Treatment of the Structure

The proposed treatment should be regular and cyclic maintenance. Research and site-visits conducted to produce the HSR revealed that the roof is nearing the end of its service life. The Nature Center should be re-roofed within five years.



PART 1

DEVELOPMENTAL HISTORY

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

CHRONOLOGY OF DEVELOPMENT AND USE

Historical Background and Context

History of Rock Creek Park

Human habitation in the environs of Washington DC, including Rock Creek, began as early as 10,000 – 20,000 years ago. Archeologists refer to this time in prehistoric life as the Paleo-Indian Period, during which human groups would have fashioned stone tools, fished, and hunted ample game in the area, including woodland caribou, elk, moose, black bear, mastodon, mammoth and musk ox.[1] Significantly later in history, Congress enacted legislation to create Rock Creek Park on September 27, 1890. Rock Creek Park, along with Yosemite and King's Canyon National Park in California, were part of the first post-Yellowstone National Parks established by the federal government.[2] When championing the bill to establish Rock Creek Park, Rep. William W. Grout of Vermont declared, "Let future generations, and as opportunities arise, develop this park into a thing of beauty, when there will be a million of souls here at the end of the next century."[3]

Grout would be happy to know that in 2015, more than 2.4 million people visited Rock Creek Park (Figure 1). It has served the public well, and continues to be a major recreation destination within the National Capital Region. Set aside when the countryside was relatively rural, Rock Creek Park is a roughly 1700-acre natural forested valley surrounded by a dense urban environment. At the time it was established, other great American urban parks such as Central Park in New York City, Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, and the Boston Metropolitan Park System were designed and built. Rock Creek Park was shaped by nature. Among the picturesque ravines and rolling hills, its key feature is Rock Creek, a meandering stream that bisects the Northwest quadrant of the District of Columbia and crosses the DC/Maryland border to connect with its source in Laytonsville, Montgomery County, Maryland.[4]

A Rock Creek Park National Register Historic District nomination form was listed in 1991; it identifies the park's strong association with the planning history of Washington, D.C. Rock Creek Park is significant as a cultural landscape that has been shaped by a number of planning agencies and efforts. In the park's earliest years, the Board of

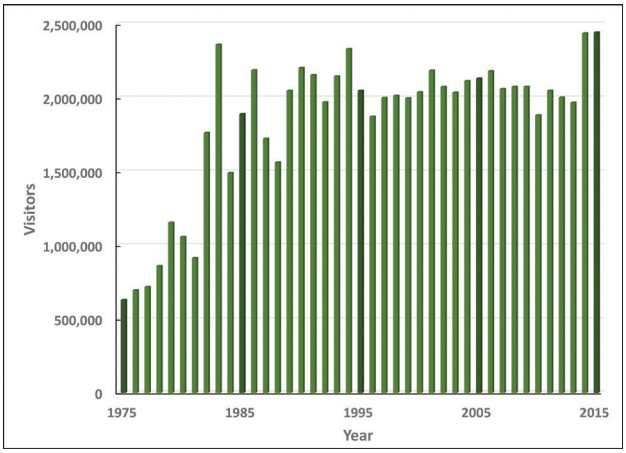


Figure 1. Rock Creek Park visitor statistics 1975-2015. *(https://irma.nps.gov/Stats/Reports/Park/ROCR)*

Control of Rock Creek Park operated without a comprehensive planning document for the park, but nonetheless adhered to a consistent policy in undertaking park improvements.[5] These ideas were formalized in later park planning documents, most prominently in the 1918 Rock Creek Park Plan by the Olmsted Brothers, the prestigious landscape architecture firm charged with creating a planning document to guide the park into the future.

The Olmsted Brothers surveyed the land in 1918 and prepared a comprehensive plan for the park with the intent of "permanent preservation of its wonderful natural beauty, and making of that beauty accessible to the people without spoiling the scenery in the process."[6] Within their report, the Olmsted brothers, Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. and his half-brother John C. Olmsted (Figure 2 and Figure 3, next page), identified three fundamental considerations for the park:

1. **Its interesting, varied, natural scenery must be saved intact insofar as possible, must in some respects be restored or perfected by intelligent, appreciative landscape development, and must not be replaced by other and more or less foreign types of "treatment".**

2. **The park must be opened up to the driving, riding, and walking public, but the roads, paths and other accompaniment of intensive use must be so located and so built that the essential qualities of the park are impaired in the least possible degree.**

1 William Bushong, *Historic Resource Study*, (Washington, DC: National Park Service, 1990), p. 7.
2 Barry McIntosh, *Rock Creek Park, An Administrative History* (Washington DC: National Park Service, 1985), and 26 Stat 492-95 of the Act.
3 Barry McIntosh, *Rock Creek Park, An Administrative History* (Washington DC: National Park Service, 1985), p.12.
4 Bushong, p. 1.
5 John Leibertz, *Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended Nomination and Boundary Increase)* (Washington DC: EHT Traceries, 2014), p. 8:31.
6 Olmstead Brothers, *Rock Creek Park Report*, December 1918.



Figure 2. Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.



Figure 3. John Charles Olmsted
(Image courtesy National Association for Olmsted Parks [http://www.olmsted.org/the-olmsted-legacy/john-charles-olmsted])

3. **Adequate transportation must be provided to and into the park for people dependent upon street car service.**

The Olmsted report continues to serve as a vital management document for the park to the present day.

During the 1920s, concern over rapid urbanization versus care of the environment caused Rock Creek Park to become a primary consideration in regional planning efforts. Indeed, parkland acquisition became a major objective across the country. The National Capital Park Commission acquired parkland in the District, Virginia and Maryland in an effort to protect Rock Creek's watershed and Rock Creek Park. [7]

In 1933, Rock Creek Park came under the management of the National Park Service, and the timing could not have been better. President Roosevelt's New Deal program affected the park positively, in that the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA) employed scores of people to provide maintenance work and park improvement. In particular, a residence for the caretaker of the park was constructed within the park, near Military Road. This would be the site of the future Nature Center.

7 Leibertz, 8:31.

History of the Caretaker's Residence

Constructed in 1935, the caretaker's residence took the architectural style of the then-popular Cape Cod house, an updated and modest version of the northeastern Colonial homes of early America. Labeled Minimal Traditional, several reasons reveal why this was the chosen style. First, materials could be moved easily and quickly due to the proliferation of the railroads. In the decades before 1900, bulky items used for construction, particularly lumber hauled from distant locations, were costly and time consuming to transport. Due to the new lower cost, dwellings across the country could be simply constructed with balloon framing and covered with wood sheathing. This served as an economical choice during the Great Depression, a time in which the home-building industry virtually stopped.[8]

The second reason that the Minimal Traditional style was adopted by the American public is that in 1934, the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) created a new method for using long-term, low-interest mortgages. The goal was to produce small homes the average working American could afford. Architects desperate for work after 1930 turned their attention to the design of a small house. One major little known bonus of FHA loans was that

8 Virginia S. McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses; the Definitive Guide to Identifying and Understanding America's Domestic Architecture* (Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 2013), p. 588.



Figure 4. Caretaker's residence.

they allowed all major appliances to be included in the home loan amount. As a result, the style was built widely built in the years 1935-1950.[9]

The caretaker's residence (Figure 4) was a five-bay, single story, wood frame house with a side-gable roof. Considered a massed-plan, this room arrangement made the best use of space for a small home. Mass-plan houses accommodated flexible interior plans and slowly replaced the traditional one-room-deep hall-and-parlor and I-house forms common to the Mid-Atlantic region. According to the definition provided by Virginia McAlester in her book, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, the caretaker's residence shows the typical features of a Minimal Traditional home:

- Roof eaves with little or no overhang
- Minimal added architectural detail
- Low or intermediate pitch roof
- Lack of dormers
- Double-hung, multi-paned windows
- Small and one story in height[10]

By 1950, postwar prosperity allowed for larger homes to be built and financed, and newer architectural styles became commonplace.

History of Mission 66

The funding and labor provided to parks by the CCC and the WPA before WWII was sorely missed during the war itself. Deterioration from deferred maintenance became plainly obvious to the scores of visitors who flocked to the parks seeking "outdoor recreation" (a new term in the American vocabulary) after the war. Between 1940 and 1950, visitation in the parks doubled while park funding decreased.[11] To address this mounting problem, several past directors of the National Park Service made funding requests to Congress during their tenure. When Conrad Wirth came to the helm in 1951, he conceived of a comprehensive plan that aimed to facilitate access to natural and historic resources and to conserve them. The ten-year plan included funding to construct more visitor facilities, to upgrade utilities, to hire more park staff and to provide them with adequate accommodations, and to protect natural resources. Under Wirth's direction, the NPS initiated the Mission 66 program, beginning in 1956 and concluding in 1966, at the agency's 50th birthday.[12]

Among the specific goals of the Mission 66 program was an effort to better serve visitors coming to the park in their cars. New buildings were planned in conjunction with extensive parking lots and new or realigned park roads. Managing visitor flow was the overwhelming reality of design and park planning. Congestion was to be avoided and circulation was critical.[13] The newly coined term "visitor center" was a new building type developed to accommodate these needs. The visitor center was meant to bring park museums and administration operations together in one central location that provided a control point and nexus for arrival, orientation, and park interpretation.[14]

The design of the new visitor centers was a move away from the rustic architectural style of grand lodges like the Old Faithful Inn in Yellowstone (Figure 5) and the Ahwahnee Hotel in Yosemite (Figure 6). The rustic style referenced "historically appropriate building materials and methods in order to impart the feeling of craftsmanship."[15] However, the planning of such large buildings was based on the concentration of overnight visitors and park personnel near park attractions. Expanding this concept would have led to unacceptable encroachment on park features and threaten to overwhelm park resources.[16]

The Park Service instead decided to embrace the architectural style of Modernism for its new visitor centers. The term Modernism in architecture is

9 McAlester, p. 589.
10 McAlester, p. 586.
11 National Register of Historic Places, Multiple Property Listing, *Mission 66-Era Visitor Centers, Administration Buildings, and Public Use Areas in the National Capital Region of the National Park Service*, 2012, E:2.
12 National Register of Historic Places, Multiple Property Listing, *Mission 66-Era Visitor Centers, Administration Buildings, and Public Use Areas in the National Capital Region of the National Park Service*, 2012, E:3.
13 Ethan Carr, *Mission 66, Modernism and the National Park Dilemma* (China, University of Massachusetts Press, 2007), p. 143.
14 Carr, p. 144; Sarah Allaback, *Mission 66 Visitor Centers: the History of a Building Type* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2000), pp. 24-25
15 Allaback, pg. 21-25.
16 Carr, p. 136; National Register of Historic Places, Multiple Property Listing, *Mission 66-Era Visitor Centers, Administration Buildings, and Public Use Areas in the National Capital Region of the National Park Service*, 2012, E:4.



Figure 5. The Old Faithful Inn in Yellowstone National Park and its proximity to Old Faithful Geyser on the left. (Image courtesy Yellowstone National Park Lodges [http://www.yellowstonenationalparklodges.com/wp-content/gallery/photos/YNP0810_OFI_exterior.jpg])



Figure 6. The Ahwahnee Hotel in Yosemite National Park. (Image courtesy Gray Line [http://d5u7p1d7v7r-wy.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/large.jpg])

liberally applied to an overarching movement that aimed to break away from traditional aesthetics. It reflects an effort by American architects to create a unique design idiom without historical references to the earlier architectural styles that dominated in Europe. The Modernist style blossomed throughout the cities and suburbs of post-war America, in part due to principles of functional planning and design, modern materials, and new building technologies. Modernist materials included "prefabricated structural elements, steel, concrete, and glass, all of which were mass produced"[17] and could be quickly and economically constructed without the employ of costly master craftsmen. The National Park Service's adaptation of the Modern movement was dubbed "Park Service Modern."

As Virginia McAlester explains, the Modern style contrasts sharply with traditional architecture in many ways. Some of the most prominent differences include rooflines, massing, window placement, ornamentation, and interior spatial organization. On the exterior, Modern (or Contemporary) style is often characterized by low-pitched gable or flat roofs with widely overhanging eaves; exposed roof beams, windows present in gable ends or just below the roofline in non-gabled facades, natural materials (wood, stone, brick, and concrete block), broad expanses of uninterrupted wall surfaces, and recessed or obscured entry doors.[18] In addition, Modern architecture typically makes an indistinct boundary between the indoors and out. Open terraces and patios are prominently featured, and window walls open interior rooms to outdoor spaces with the use of glass. The style was championed for its simplicity and ability to blend with the environment instead of compete with it.[19] In a park setting, this element proved substantial.

History of the Rock Creek Nature Center

The Rock Creek Nature Center deftly encompasses the tenets of the Park Service Modern style. It was designed by architects with the National Capital

17 National Register of Historic Places, Multiple Property Listing, *Mission 66-Era Visitor Centers, Administration Buildings, and Public Use Areas in the National Capital Region of the National Park Service*, 2012, E:4

18 McAlester, pg. 629.

19 Leibertz, 8:35.



Figure 7. Rock Creek Nature Center after construction was completed, 1960s. (Image NPS)



Figure 8. William Haussmann

Parks Office of Design and Construction and built in 1959. The ornament of the exterior is integrated into the surfaces and structure via the stone walls and vertical siding. The continuous banded windows and broad uninterrupted walls enclose spatial volumes on the inside, while the entrance window wall brings outdoor spaces inside the lobby. Typically in Mission 66 visitor centers, the "spatial progression of the facility often included wide entrances and exits, ramps and inclined planes, an open lobby, easy access to exhibit and auditorium areas, and significant views of natural features or historic sites (either from a terrace or through a window wall) to facilitate interpretive talks."[20] These features are extant in Rock Creek Park's Nature Center. Rock Creek Nature Center's design aptly considers the location and site, allowing for the structures' mass to be hidden from view on the rear elevation's downward slope.

The Nature Center's clever design exposes the talent of architect William Max Haussmann, a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania who worked for the National Park Service for 33 years. He came to the Washington, DC, area after working on the restoration of Colonial Williamsburg, and is credited with many restoration projects in the National Capital Region. Some of his restoration projects included the Arlington House in Virginia, Ford's Theatre and the Peterson House in Washington DC, the Old Stone House in Georgetown, and Great Falls Tavern along the C&O Canal in Maryland. He designed the Rock Creek Nature Center, the Harry T. Thompson Boat Center, the National Capital Regional Office building, the Netherlands Carillon Tower, and many bridges and overpasses on NCR parkways.[21] The Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended Nomination and Boundary Increase) describes the Nature Center as "one of the best representations of Haussmann's designs and is a significant example of how Modernism coalesces with the natural environment."[22] Haussmann went on to become the Chief of the National Capital Parks Office of Design and Construction in Washington, DC.[23]

The Rock Creek Nature Center is a Mission 66 success story. The building is used today exactly the way it was designed, as a centrally located visitor center, museum, interpretation space, and administration office.

20 *Installation of Fire Suppression Sprinkler Systems at the Rock Creek Park Nature Center, Public Horse Center and Maintenance Yard, Environmental Assessment (EA) / Assessment of Effect (AoE)*, 2011, p. 21.

21 Evision, Herbert, and Haussmann, William, *Oral History Interview of William M. Haussmann*, Interviewed by S. Herbert Evision, August 22, 1972, National Park Service, US Department of the Interior, Tapes 143 and 144.

22 National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, *Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended Nomination and Boundary Increase)*, 2014, 8:51.

23 Hammons, Vernon L., *A Brief Organizational History of the Office of Design and Construction National Park Service 1917-1962* (Washington, DC: GPO, 1963) Retrieved January 18, 2016.

Chronology of Development and Use

Physical Description Narrative
The text below is influenced largely by the ROCR Historic District Amended Nomination and Boundary Increase Section 7:

Integrated into the surrounding landscape, the Rock Creek Park Nature Center and Planetarium is a good representative of NPS Mission 66-era design. The Nature Center incorporates the structural elements of the existing caretaker's dwelling constructed in the 1930s. The Nature Center is composed of four distinct, but contiguous sections defined by the roof line: there is a shallow gable roof on the southern end, followed by butterfly roof at the center, with a shed and hip roof on the northern end. Three roof forms are covered with granular surfaced modified bitumen membrane roof system and the hip is covered with three tab asphalt shingles.

Set on board-formed concrete foundation with brick veneer, the wood-framed southern section incorporates the existing 1936 caretaker's dwelling. The six-bay section is clad with a combination of stone veneer and wood tongue and groove vertical siding. Typical fenestration consists of 1/1 windows with precast concrete sills. The southeast corner of the block features a recessed porch. The interior consists of offices, a small reading room, and support spaces.

The centrally located, V-shaped shed roof section serves as the focal point and primary entrance of the Nature Center. In this section, architect William Max Haussmann successfully integrated the building into its surrounding environment while incorporating character-defining features of the Modern Movement and Mission 66. The two-story section is banked into a hill, creating the effect of a single story from the façade. Set on a concrete-block foundation, the masonry structural system is primarily clad with stone veneer. The building is capped with a butterfly roof, a form widely utilized by Modern architects. The eastern side encompasses the majority of the interior, while the western side extends over the interior lobby and exterior concrete porch. As the west side butterfly wing rises above the porch, the roof is extended further to the west at its northern end, resulting in an angled portico; it is supported by three slender wood columns and anchored by a stone column. The porch provides access to the main entry, consisting of elongated pair of single-leaf, aluminum-framed glass doors set in a window wall. To the north of the porch, the stone-veneered wall is topped with banded 1-by-1 slider clerestory windows with a continuous precast stone sill. On the rear elevation, both the first and second stories are visible. The walls are left untreated, thereby exposing the concrete-block structural system. The concrete masonry units are painted. The rear elevation is defined by the first-story wood viewing deck accessed from the exhibition space. From the deck, a wood stair leads down to a nature trail to the east of the center.

A small recessed hyphen with a single-leaf door on the western elevation connects the butterfly roof section with the northern end hipped roof section of the planetarium. On the eastern elevation, a pair of exit doors lead to an ADA accessible ramp.

The one-story, northern section houses the planetarium. Set on a concrete foundation, the masonry building is clad with vertical wood siding and has no fenestration or additional ornamentation. An emergency exit opens on the northern elevation.

The Nature Center retains its integrity as it continues to reflect is historic period of significance. The building remains in its original location and setting with no obtrusions from new development. Typical to visitor centers, alterations include the infill or replacement of a number of the doors and windows. The character-defining massing, roof, covered entrance, deck, and stone veneer and vertical wood siding, however, remain intact. The building continues to house the nature center and planetarium, thereby retaining its integrity of association and feeling.

Architectural drawings detailing the chronological development of the Rock Creek Nature Center and Planetarium may be found in Appendix A.

Timeline

1935 Construction of Caretaker's Residence

- 2 bedroom, 1 bath single story frame residence with kitchen, living room, rear entry and service porch, living porch, and one fireplace in the living room.
- Interior stairs to partially excavated basement
- Clapboard siding, side gable roof 9:12 pitch
- Shed roof over shallow porch and living room bay window
- Multi-light, double hung windows of various sizes
- Chimney featured on roof of primary (west) façade

1958 The Nature Center Design Incorporated Caretaker's Residence

- EXTERIOR of former
  - » 9:12 pitch roof removed
  - » Shed roof over entry removed
  - » Chimney height lowered
  - » Bay window removed, made flat to façade
  - » Kitchen window on west elevation covered, kitchen window on south elevation made larger with three banded horizontal windows
  - » Two windows in the living room combined to make one large window
  - » All windows replaced with horizontal sliding aluminum
  - » Clapboard siding covered by new vertical siding and stone veneer skirt

- INTERIOR of former
  - » Partition wall between kitchen and dining room removed, converted into office and workshop
  - » Kitchen cabinets, appliances removed
  - » Living room divided into library and reception area
  - » Bathroom divided into women's and men's bathrooms
  - » Bedrooms converted into audio visual room and sound room
  - » Exhibit lab created
  - » Basement – Nature Workshop

1959 Construction of Nature Center

- Planetarium
  - » **FLOOR**: vinyl asbestos tile
  - » **WALLS**: painted CMU
  - » **CEILING**: plaster dome, paint
  - » **FURNITURE**: fixed benches arranged circularly

- Corridor (planetarium)
  - » **FLOOR**: vinyl asbestos tile
  - » **WALLS**: painted CMU and tongue and groove vertical paneling
  - » **CEILING**: plaster, paint

- Women's and Men's Restrooms
  - » **FLOOR**: ceramic tile with floor drain
  - » **WALLS**: 4"x4" tile wainscoting to 6'2", plaster above, clerestory windows
  - » **CEILING**: plaster, paint
  - » **FURNITURE**: four stalls in the women's, two stalls in the men's, two sinks each

- Utility Spaces (Utility room with pipe chase, janitor closet, children's reading room formerly storage space)
  - » **FLOORS**: vinyl asbestos tile
  - » **WALLS**: finished plaster and paint or exposed wood studs and metal lath
  - » **CEILINGS**: finished plaster and paint or exposed wood joists

- Lobby
  - » FLOOR: vinyl asbestos tile and Pennsylvania bluestone floor finish
  - » WALLS: north - bluestone surrounding copper fireplace hood as wide as the fire box opening and ceiling-height; south - tongue and groove fir paneling with window opening for reception attendants; east - glass and aluminum storefront-type exterior doors surrounded by large, fixed, floor to ceiling windows; west – painted CMU
  - » CEILING: exposed wood tongue and groove roof deck over glued laminated timber beams

- Exhibit
  - » FLOOR: cork floor tiles laid in herringbone pattern
  - » WALLS: (east) painted CMU with clerestory windows and a child-height fixed window featuring bee hive exhibit; - glass and aluminum storefront-type exterior doors with surrounding large, fixed, floor to ceiling window wall
  - » CEILING: exposed wood tongue and groove roof deck over and east-west running glued laminated timber beams
  - » FURNITURE: stand alone and wall-mounted exhibits including aquatic tanks and terrariums with live animals

- Stair
  - » FLOOR: steel stair with terrazzo treads and landing, vinyl asbestos tile
  - » WALLS: painted CMU, south - glass and aluminum storefront-type exterior door with surrounding large, fixed, floor to ceiling windows
  - » CEILING: plaster, paint

- Mechanical room
  - » FLOOR: vinyl asbestos tile
  - » WALLS: painted CMU, west - clerestory windows
  - » CEILING: exposed metal bar joists and deck above

- Storage Spaces – storage formerly elevator shaft, storage, boiler room
  - » FLOOR: vinyl asbestos tile, exposed painted concrete
  - » WALLS: painted or rough CMU, west - clerestory windows
  - » CEILING: exposed metal bar joists and deck above / ceiling in former elevator shaft is frame with gypsum board, painted

- Lower Lobby
  - » FLOOR: vinyl asbestos tile
  - » WALLS: painted CMU, tongue and groove fir vertical paneling
  - » CEILING: plaster, paint

- Auditorium
  - » FLOOR: vinyl asbestos tile
  - » STAGE: oak hardwood flooring
  - » WALLS: painted CMU, east - clerestory windows; east - glass and aluminum storefront-type exterior doors with surrounding large, fixed, floor to ceiling windows
  - » CEILING: metal lath and acoustical plaster, paint
  - » FURNITURE: seating for 104 arranged in rows facing stagew

1960 June 4th – Nature Center's grand opening with a dedication program conducted entirely by children

1969 Conversion of Former Elevator Shaft into Store Rooms

1975 New Exhibits Built in Exhibit Room

1977 Installation of Boardwalk Ramp and Platform

1979 Renovation

- EXTERIOR
  - » Remove existing shingles on planetarium, remove and reinstall existing gutters, roof deck to remain
  - » Install new asphalt fiberglass shingle roof on planetarium
  - » Install new plywood siding on planetarium, ½"
  - » Replace built up (BU) roof with new built up roof and insulation
  - » Install window unit air conditioners in offices
  - » Replace existing aluminum windows with insulated wood windows (?)
  - » Replace transom windows with fixed insulated glass or openings filled w/wood studs, exterior and interior panels to match
  - » Remove 3rd of 4 windows at library location of administration section
  - » Replace gutter system and fascia
  - » New through-wall mechanical units through existing stone veneer at administration section

- INTERIOR
  - » Fire alarm installed
  - » Intrusion alarm installed
  - » Remove existing AC baffles
  - » Remove door and frame to elevator shaft
  - » Remove vinyl asbestos tiles (VAT) in exhibit, lobby, administration section, auditorium
  - » Install carpet in administration section, lobby, corridor, lower lobby

- EXHIBIT
  - » Install carpet on floor and walls
  - » Remove windows on south elevation, infill
  - » Install new cork tiles at exit to balcony
  - » Remove entry doors

- AUDITORIUM
  - » Remove seating, replace with new seating @ 105 capacity
  - » New ceiling height
  - » Carpet floor and walls
  - » Remove windows, infill

1984 Construct concrete slab under Observation Deck stairs on east elevation

1988 Reroof

- Remove gravel
- Install new underlayment
- Retain existing 3" wood deck
- Install required flashing at penetrations (fiberglass or perlite)
- Install new metal drip edge (gravel stop) around entire perimeter of building
- New gutters and downspouts; aluminum 4" box type

1990 Auditorium Rehabilitation

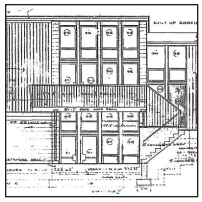
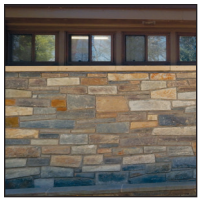
- DEMOLITION
  - » Remove carpet from drywall
  - » Remove acoustical panels
  - » Remove drywall ceiling to allow installation of screen and speakers
  - » Remove projection ports and portion of framing and panels to allow installation of new ports

- NEW WORK
  - » Install fabric on drywall or plywood finish

- » Provide acoustical panels on W wall
- » Provide handrail and cornice on N and S walls
- » Provide sliding fabric panels and tracks – not completed
- » Provide carpeting and cushion on stage and stairs – not completed
- » Provide projection ports
- » Install ceiling projection screen and speakers
- » Paint baseboards, wall surfaces, ceiling, podium, stage face, door and frame, exposed finish and rough carpentry, exposed electrical and mechanical equipment, devices, pipes, conduit, grilles, diffusers, etc., shelving
- » Paint clear finish on cornices and hand rails

1995 Maintenance and painting of Nature Discovery Room

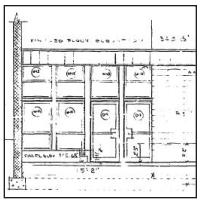
2007 Concrete pavers and bluestone reset and re-grouted, concrete at entry patio demolished and replaced

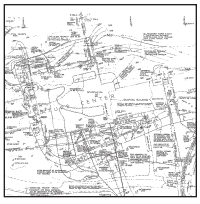


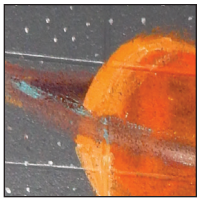




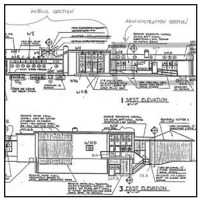







THE STRUCTURE

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

CHARACTER DEFINING FEATURES

AND CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Physical Description, Character-Defining Features, and Condition Assessment

Physical Description

The Building Feature Master List is an overall outline-format checklist used for creating a physical description of the Rock Creek Nature Center and its features. The hierarchical structure of the outline allows for an individual assessment of the features based on private industry standards adopted by the federal government. This UNIFORMAT system is commonly used by the facility management industry and is an accepted common standard. (ASTM E1557 Standard). See outline in Table 1.

A	**SUBSTRUCTURE**	
	A10	**FOUNDATIONS**
	A20	**BASEMENT CONSTRUCTION**
B	**SHELL**	
	B10	**SUPERSTRUCTURE**
	B20	**EXTERIOR ENCLOSURE**
	B30	**ROOFING**
C	**INTERIORS**	
	C10	**INTERIOR CONSTRUCTION**
	C20	**STAIRS**
	C30	**INTERIOR FINISHES**
D	**SERVICES**	
	D20	**Plumbing**
	D30	**HVAC**
	D40	**Fire Protection Services**
	D50	**Electrical**
E	**EQUIPMENT & FURNISHINGS**	
	E10	**Equipment**
	E20	**Furnishings**
G	**BUILDING SITE WORK**	
	G20	**Site Improvements**

Table 1: Outline of main UNIFORMAT II sections used in the description and assessment of the Nature Center

Condition Assessment

The condition assessment definitions used for this HSR are based on those outlined in the NPS PFMD's Asset Management Process (AMP), the Facilities Management Software System (FMSS), and the Facility Condition Assessment Survey (FCAS). For the purpose of this report, these definitions were strictly adhered to as a way to qualitatively assess the current condition of the Rock Creek Nature Center.

Qualitative Condition Ratings

GOOD

- Routine maintenance should be sufficient to maintain the current condition; and/or
- A cyclic maintenance or repair/rehabilitation project is not specifically required to maintain the current condition or correct deficiencies.

FAIR

- The feature generally provides an adequate level of service to operations, but
- The feature requires more than routine maintenance, and
- Cyclic maintenance or repair/rehabilitation work may be required in the future

POOR

- Feature requires immediate attention;
- Routine maintenance is need at a much higher level of effort to meet significant safety and legal requirements;
- Cyclic maintenance should be scheduled for the current year; and/or
- A special repair/rehabilitation project should be requested consistent with park requirements, priorities, and long-term management objectives.

Maintenance Deficiency Priority Ratings (10-Year Rating Period)

Minor – Short-Term/Long-Term Priority

- This rating indicates standard preventative maintenance priorities and preservation methods have not been followed; or
- There is reduced life expectancy of affected adjacent or related materials and/or systems within 5 to 10 years and beyond; or
- There is condition with a long-term impact within 5 to 10 years and beyond.

Serious – Immediate/Short-Term Priority

- This rating defines a deteriorated condition that if not corrected within 1 to 5 years will result in the failure of the feature; or
- A threat to the health and/or safety of the user may occur within 1 to 5 years if the ongoing deterioration is not corrected; or
- There is ongoing deterioration of adjacent or related materials and/or features as a result of the feature's deficiency.

Critical – Immediate Priority

- This rating defines an advanced state of deterioration which has resulted in the failure of a feature or will result in the failure of a feature if not corrected within 1 year; or

- There is accelerated deterioration of adjacent or related materials or systems as a result of the feature's deficiencies if not corrected within 1 year; or
- There is immediate threat to the health and/or safety of the user; or
- There is failure to meet a legislated requirement.

Not Rated
- The feature was not rated as it was not extant at the time of the report or is non-contributing, removed, and not planned to be replaced

Summary
Overall, the Rock Creek Nature Center (interior and exterior) meets the definition of "Good" condition and has an overall maintenance deficiency rating categorized as "Minor."

The features with the most serious maintenance deficiencies, taken from Table 1 on page 21, include:

- (32) Basement workroom wall – rust jacking at hot water tank
- (23) Mechanical room northwest corner – moisture infiltration and mold
- (31) Storage under stair, southeast corner – moisture infiltration and insects
- Administration section roof – ridge beam is deflected
- Administration section roof – brick chimney is deteriorating due to water infiltration and the freeze/thaw cycle – losing mortar, bricks are crumbling and falling out
- (16) Office & workroom ceiling – paint is cracking and peeling over a 4'x4' area
- Pedestrian paving at the entrance of the Nature Center is cracked

Code Compliance
Both NPS policies and federal regulations stipulate that when an historic structure is preserved and/or rehabilitated, attempts should be made to meet applicable nationally-accepted model building codes to the maximum extent feasible. Compliance with nationally-accepted codes does not automatically trigger a complete code-based upgrade. Alternative criteria exist for alterations to historic structures; these typically encourage flexibility in the literal application of the code intent.

The *Public Buildings Amendment of 1988* instructs Federal agencies to follow "to the maximum extent feasible," as determined by the administrator or head of the agency, the ". . .nationally recognized model building codes and other applicable nationally recognized codes such as electrical codes, and fire and life safety codes." The National Park Service intends to consult pertinent national, state, and local codes, and typically applies to most strident code requirements. The National Capital Regional Office (NCRO) Structural Fire Safety leader will be the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) for final determination of code applications for these structures.

The National Park Service has prepared Design Standards for all construction projects, including those affecting historic structures.[24] The design standard presents all codes that should be reviewed and includes the most recent copies of the following major codes and applicable laws, policies, codes, directives, standards, and NPS guidelines. The design standards present requirements for accessibility, civil, and environmental engineering, landscape architecture, architecture, including roofing and waterproofing, structural, mechanical, safety and fire protection, electrical, lighting, and sustainability disciplines.

Major codes, laws, standards, and guidelines that are part of the NPS Design Standards include:

- *Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standard* (ABAAS) for Federal Facilities
- *International Building Code* (IBC)
- *International Existing Building Code* (IEBC)
- *National Fire Protection Association 101* (NFPA 101), Life Safety Code
- *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966* (NHPA), amended
- *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings* (36 CFR 68), 1995
- *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* and the *Guidelines*

24 Denver Service Center. "Design Standards." *Denver Service Center Workflows*. National Park Service, Department of the Interior. 2009. Accessed at <http://www.nps.gov/dscw/dstandards.htm> on March 6, 2012. Condition Assessment Introduction National Park Service 167.

for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes

- *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeological Documentation*
- *Uniform Code for Building Conservation*
- *Building Construction and Safety Code* (NFPA 5000)
- *National Fire Protection Association 70* (NFPA 70), National Electrical Code
- I*nstallation of Lightning Protection Systems* (NFPA 780)
- *Code for the Protection of Cultural Resource Properties* (NFPA 909)
- *Code for the Fire Protection of Historic Structures* (NFPA 914)
- *Safeguarding Construction, Alteration, and Demolition Operations* (NFPA 241)
- *Director's Order (DO) 5oB, Risk Management* (Manual 50B)
- *Director's Order (DO) 58, Structural Fire Management* (Manual 58)
- *5 U.S.C § 7902* (Safety Program)
- *15 U.S.C § 2225* (Fire Prevention and Control)
- *29 U.S.C § 668* (Occupational Safety and Health)
- *40 U.S.C § 619* (Construction, Alteration, and Acquisition of Public Buildings)

Character-Defining Features

Each historic building is unique, with its own identity and its own distinctive character. Character refers to all those visual aspects and physical features that comprise the appearance of every historic building. Character-defining features (CDFs) include the overall shape of the building, its materials, craftsmanship, decorative details, interior spaces and features, as well as the various aspects of its site and environment. Identifying and preserving a building's character-defining features is essential.

Character-defining features are defined in Director's Order 28 *Cultural Resources Management Guidelines* (DO-28) as follows:

> A prominent or distinctive aspect, quality, or characteristics of a historic property that contributes signifi cantly to its physical character. Structures, objects, vegetation, spatial relationships, view, furnishings, decorative details, and materials may be such features.

In order to ascertain the important aspects of a building for future reference and analysis character-defining features must be recorded. These are prominent or distinctive aspects, qualities, and characteristics of a historic property that contribute significantly to its physical character as represented at the time of intervention or treatment. The process used in this assessment for determining the CDFs was adapted from the US National Park Service Preservation Brief No. 17 (PB17) – *Architectural Character: Identifying the Visual Aspects of Historic Buildings as an Aid to Preserving Their Character*, by Lee H. Nelson and are in accordance with The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and NPS Management Policies and Guidelines, specifically DO-28, Cultural Resource Management Guidelines.

The brief divides the assessment of CDFs into three steps:

1. Identify the Overall Visual Aspects
2. Identify the Visual Character at Close Range
3. Identify the Visual character of Interior Spaces, Features and Finishes.

The purpose of PB17 is to help the owner or the architect identify those features or elements that give the building its visual character and that should be taken into account in order to preserve them to the maximum extent possible. PB17 recommends:

- There are different ways of understanding old buildings. They can be seen as examples of specific building types, which are usually related to a building's function, such as schools, courthouses or churches.
- There are many other facets of an historic building besides its functional type, its materials or construction or style that contribute to its historic qualities or significance. Some of these qualities are feelings conveyed by the sense of time and place or in buildings associated with events or people. A complete understanding of any property may require documentary research about its style, construction, function, its furnishings or contents; knowledge about the original builder, owners, and later occupants;

and knowledge about the evolutionary history of the building. Even though buildings may be of historic, rather than architectural significance, it is their tangible elements that embody its significance for association with specific events or persons and it is those tangible elements both on the exterior and interior that should be preserved.

- Therefore, the approach taken in PB17 is limited to identifying those visual and tangible aspects of the historic building. While this may aid in the planning process for carrying out any ongoing or new use or restoration of the building, this approach is not a substitute for developing an understanding about the significance of an historic building and the district in which it is located. If the various materials, features and spaces that give a building its visual character are not recognized and preserved, then essential aspects of its character may be damaged in the process of change.

- A building's character can be irreversibly damaged or changed in many ways; examples include inappropriate repointing of the brickwork, alterations to masonry openings, removal of a distinctive porch, changes to the roof covering, replacement of the window sash, adding or removing wings or ells of a building, changes to the major room arrangements, painting previously unpainted woodwork, and changes to the setting around the building, etc.

In summary, the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties embody two important goals: 1) the preservation of historic materials and, 2) the preservation of a building's distinguishing character. By succeeding at these two goals, it is likely that a building's historic integrity will be preserved.

CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES OF ROCK CREEK NATURE CENTER

SETTING

- Siting on hill top of Rock Creek Park with surrounding forest
- Relationship of building to front entrance, approach, drive, and parking lot

EXTERIOR

Shape and Mass

- Distinct mid-century modern, flat shape and horizontal massing of the building

Openings

- Banded window and door openings and their arrangement
- Hierarchy of openings across the front of the building

Projections

- Large, sweeping roof overhang forms portico over front entrance
- Wooden observation deck and stairs from exhibit space

Roof Construction

- Asphalt-shingle pyramidal roof over planetarium
- Butterfly roof plan over exhibit space and lobby
- Wide and low stone chimney
- Low-pitched roof over administration section

Materials

- Locally sourced granite veneer
- Vertical tongue and groove wood siding
- Glass
- Painted concrete masonry units
- White asphalt shingles
- Integrity of materials

INTERIOR

Exposed Structure

- Glued laminate timber beams and exposed wood tongue and groove roof deck

Individual Spaces

- Hierarchical organization of interior spaces (administrative vs. visitor space)
- Layout of rooms in relation to visitor circulation
- Separation of public rooms and services rooms (mechanical, plumbing, electric, HVAC)
- Integrity of plan

Related Spaces and Sequence of Spaces

- Connections between rooms and hallways

Interior Features

- Soaring ceiling heights
- Stone wall and full-height copper fireplace hood
- Metal stair and wood inlaid balustrades
- Clear absence of historical detail and ornament
- Recessed fluorescent lights and canister track lights

Surface Materials and Finishes

- Vinyl asbestos and vinyl composite tile
- Acoustical carpet on walls
- Painted plaster wall and ceiling finishes
- Acoustical plaster on ceiling
- Acoustical tile on ceiling
- Ceramic tile floor and wainscoting in restrooms

Table 2: Rock Creek Nature Center Character-Defining Features (CDFs).

Room #	Room Name
1	Planetarium
2	Equipment Room
3	Corridor, Planetarium
4	Women's Restroom
5	Corridor, Exhibit
6	Janitor's Closet
7	Men's Restroom
8	Utility Room, Pipe Chase
9	Nature Discovery Room
10	Exhibit Hall
11	Lobby
12	Office
13	Bookstore
14	Stair
15	Office with Fireplace
16	Office and Workroom
17	Office Women's Restroom
18	Office Men's Restroom
19	Sound Lab Office
20	Kitchen
21	Library
22	Corridor and Stair
23	Mechanical Room
24	Former Elevator Shaft
25	Storage Room
26	Boiler Room
27	Corridor, Mechanical
28	Auditorium
29	Projection Booth
30	Lower Lobby
31	Storage Under Stair
32	Basement Workroom
33	Corridor, Workroom

Table 3: Room names.

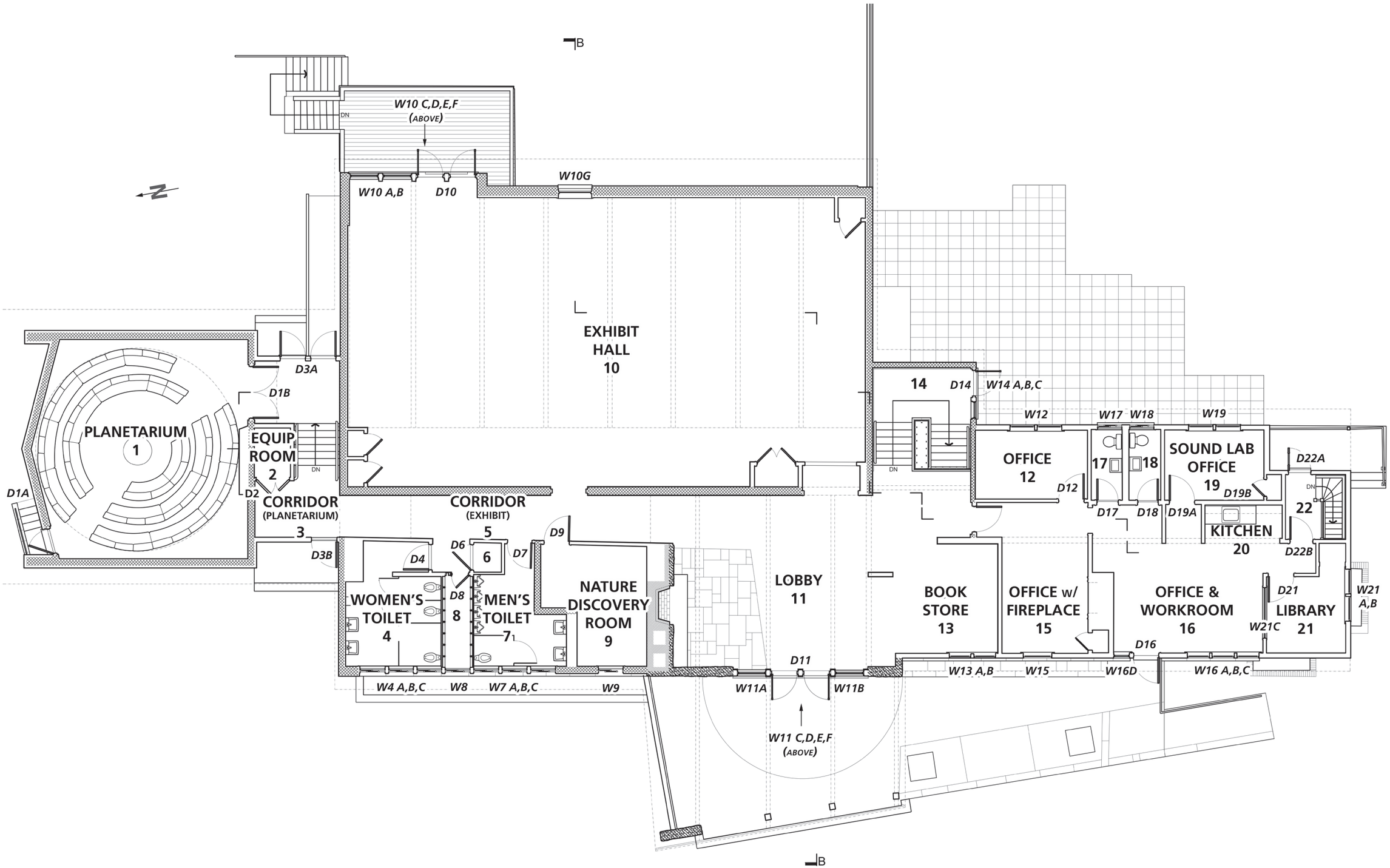


Figure 9. Main Level Rooms

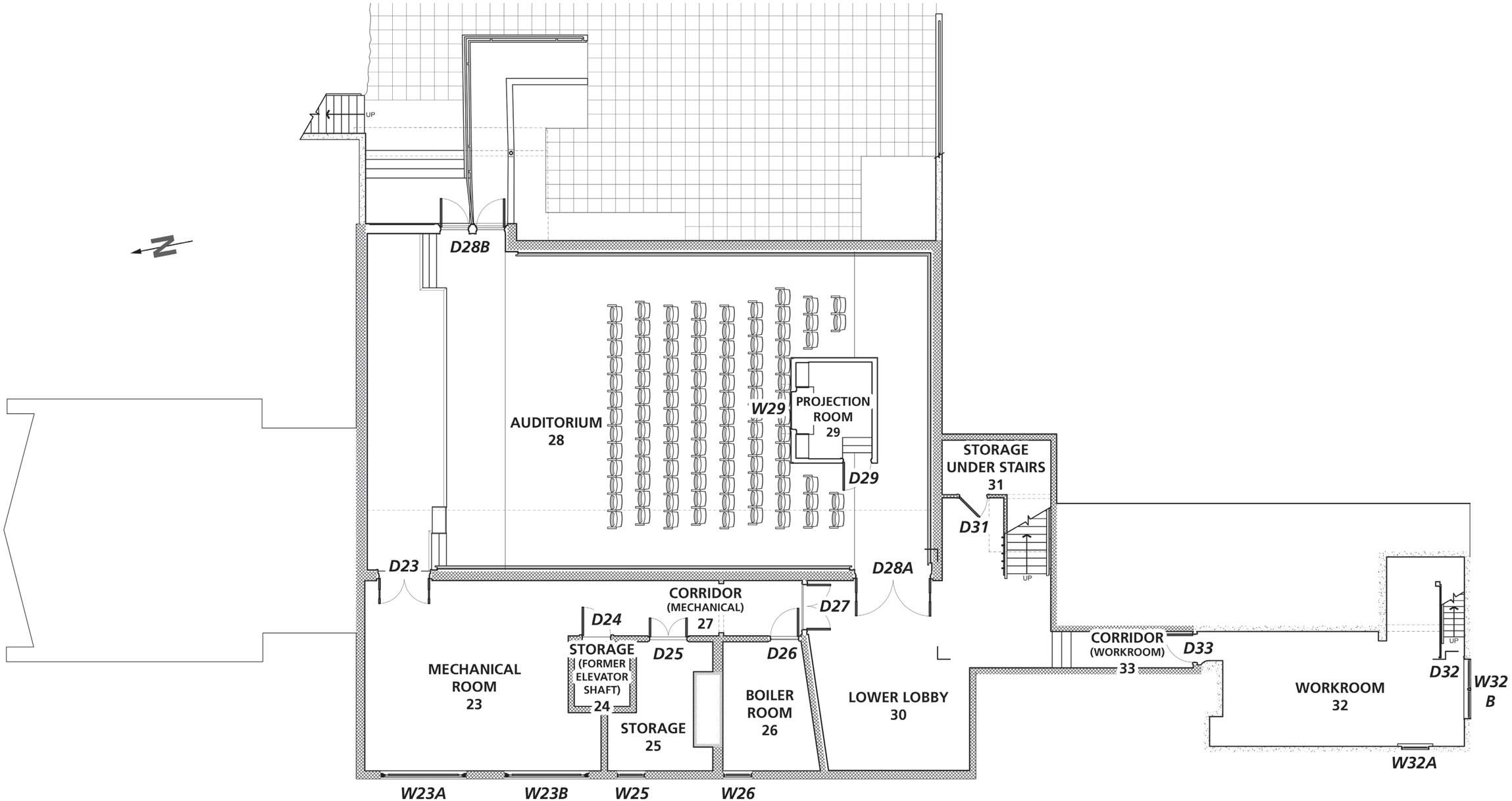


Figure 10. Lower Level Rooms

A SUBSTRUCTURE	*(ROOM #) LOCATION NAME*	CONDITION RATING	DEFICIENCY RATING
A10 FOUNDATIONS			
A1010 Standard Foundations			
A1010-01 Foundation Walls			
– Board-formed concrete			
	Administration Section	Good	Minor
A1030 Slab on Grade or Fill Foundations			
A1030-01 Standard Slab on Grade			
4" Concrete slab on grade			
	(1) Planetarium	Good	Minor
	(2) Equipment Room	Good	Minor
	(3) Corridor, Planetarium	Good	Minor
	(23) Mechanical Room	Good	Minor
	(24) Former Elevator Shaft	Good	Minor
	(25) Storage Room	Good	Minor
	(26) Boiler Room	Good	Minor
	(27) Corridor, Mechanical	Good	Minor
	(28) Auditorium	Good	Minor
	(29) Projection Booth	Good	Minor
	(30) Lower Lobby	Good	Minor
	(31) Storage under Stair	Good	Minor
	(32) Basement Workroom	Good	Minor
	(33) Corridor, Workroom	Good	Minor
A20 BASEMENT CONSTRUCTION (LOWER LEVEL)			
A2020 Basement Walls			
A2020-01 Construction			
Board-formed concrete			
	(32) Basement Workroom	**Fair**	Minor
	(33) Corridor, Workroom	Good	Minor
Concrete masonry units (CMU), 8"x16" stacked horizontally			
	(23–31) Public Section	Good	Minor
A2020-04 Interior Skin			
No finish			
	(31) Storage Under Stair	**Fair**	Minor
Paint			
	(23) Mechanical Room	Good	Minor
	(24) Former Elevator Shaft	Good	Minor
	(25) Storage Room	Good	Minor
	(26) Boiler Room	Good	Minor
	(27) Corridor, Mechanical	Good	Minor
	(30) Lower Lobby	Good	Minor
	(32) Basement Workroom	Good	Minor
	(33) Corridor, Workroom	Good	Minor

Table 4: Detailed feature condition and deficiency ratings by UNIFORMAT II outline.

B SHELL	*(ROOM #) LOCATION NAME*	CONDITION RATING	DEFICIENCY RATING
B10 SUPERSTRUCTURE			
B1010 Floor Construction			
B1010-01 Structural Frame			
Wood joists			
	(12) Office	Good	Minor
	(13) Bookstore	Good	Minor
	(15) Office with Fireplace	Good	Minor
	(16) Office & Workroom	Good	Minor
	(17, 18) Admin Office Restrooms	Good	Minor
	(19) Sound Lab Office	Good	Minor
	(20) Kitchen	Good	Minor
	(21) Library	Good	Minor
	(22) Corridor & Stair	Good	Minor
Steel 14" OC lengthwise			
	(4, 7) Public Restrooms	Good	Minor
	(5) Corridor, Exhibit	Good	Minor
	(6) Janitor Closet	Good	Minor
	(8) Utility Room, Pipe Chase	Good	Minor
	(9) Nature Discovery Room	Good	Minor
	(10) Exhibit	Good	Minor
	(11) Lobby	Good	Minor
B1010-02 Floor Decks and Slabs			
Metal deck and concrete subfloor			
	(4, 7) Public Restrooms	Good	Minor
	(5) Corridor, Exhibit	Good	Minor
	(6) Janitor Closet	Good	Minor
	(8) Utility Room, Pipe Chase	Good	Minor
	(9) Nature Discovery Room	Good	Minor
	(10) Exhibit	Good	Minor
	(11) Lobby	Good	Minor
B1020 Roof Construction			
B1020-01 Structural Frame			
2"x10" Wood rafters 16" OC, hipped			
	(1) Planetarium	Good	Minor
2"x10" Wood rafters 16" OC			
	Administration Section	**Fair**	Minor
	(3) Corridor, Planetarium	Good	Minor
	(13) Bookstore	Good	Minor
	(14) Stair	Good	Minor
2"x12" Wood rafters 16" OC			
	(4, 7) Public Restrooms	Good	Minor
	(8) Utility Room, Pipe Chase	Good	Minor
	(9) Nature Discovery Room	Good	Minor

B SHELL	*(ROOM #) LOCATION NAME*	CONDITION RATING	DEFICIENCY RATING
B10 SUPERSTRUCTURE			
B1020 Floor Construction			
B1020-01 Structural Frame (continued)			
7”x17 7/8” Glued laminated timber beams			
	(5) Corridor, Exhibit	Good	Minor
	(10) Exhibit	Good	Minor
5¼”x13” Glued laminated timber beams			
	(11) Lobby	Good	Minor
B1020-03 Roof Decks and Slabs			
3” Wood tongue and groove roof deck			
	(5) Corridor, Exhibit	Good	Minor
	(10) Exhibit	Good	Minor
	(11) Lobby	Good	Minor
Plywood			
	(12–22) Administration Section	Good	Minor
B1020-04 Canopies			
	(11) Lobby Entrance	Good	Minor
B20 EXTERIOR ENCLOSURE			
B2010 Exterior Walls			
B2010-01 Exterior Skin			
1”x6” V-joint vertical tongue and groove plywood siding over CMU			
	(1) Planetarium	Good	Minor
	(3) Corridor, Planetarium	Good	Minor
1”x6” V-joint vertical tongue and groove redwood siding over CMU			
	(4, 7) Public Restrooms	Good	Minor
	(8) Utility Room, Pipe Chase	Good	Minor
	(9) Nature Discovery Room	Good	Minor
1”x6” V-joint vertical tongue and groove redwood siding over clapboard			
	(12–22) Administration Section	Good	Minor
4” Stone veneer over CMU			
	(4, 7) Public Restrooms	Good	Minor
	(8) Utility Room, Pipe Chase	Good	Minor
	(9) Nature Discovery Room	Good	Minor
	(11) Lobby	Good	Minor
4” Stone veneer over clapboard			
	(12) Bookstore	Good	Minor
	(15) Office with Fireplace	Good	Minor
	(16) Office & Workroom	Good	Minor
	(21) Library	Good	Minor

B SHELL	*(ROOM #) LOCATION NAME*	CONDITION RATING	DEFICIENCY RATING
B20 EXTERIOR ENCLOSURE			
B2010 Exterior Walls			
B2010-01 Exterior Skin (continued)			
	Brick veneer over board-formed concrete		
	(12) Office	Good	Minor
	(17, 18) Admin Office Restrooms	Good	Minor
	(19) Sound Lab Office	Good	Minor
	(21) Library	Good	Minor
	(22) Corridor & Stair	Good	Minor
B2010-03 Interior Walls			
	See section C3010 Interior Wall Finishes.		
B2010-07 Balcony Walls and Handrails			
	(3) Corridor, Planetarium	Good	Minor
	(10) Exhibit	Good	Minor
	(11) Lobby	Good	Minor
	(23) Corridor & Stair	Good	Minor
B2010-08 Exterior Soffits			
	Plywood soffit		
	(1) Planetarium	Good	Minor
	(3) Corridor, Planetarium	Good	Minor
	(4, 7) Public Restrooms	Good	Minor
	(8) Utility Room, Pipe Chase	Good	Minor
	(9) Nature Discovery Room	Good	Minor
	(12–22) Administration Section	Good	Minor
	Exposed 3” tongue and groove wood deck		
	(10) Exhibit	Good	Minor
	(11) Lobby	Good	Minor
B2020 Exterior Windows H/W			
See Table 6 for specific window information.			
B2020-01 WIndows			
	Aluminum insulated, some tempered	Good	Minor
B2020-02 Storefronts			
	Fixed storefronts including associated doors		
	Aluminum insulated, some tempered	Good	Minor
B2030 Exterior Doors			
See Table 8 for specific interior / exterior door information.			
B2030-01 Glazed Doors			
	Steel		
	(22) Corridor & Stair	Good	Minor
B2030-02 Solid Doors			
	Wood		
	(3) Corridor, Planetarium	Good	Minor
	(16) Office & Workroom	Good	Minor
	Steel		
	(1) Planetarium	Good	Minor

B SHELL	*(ROOM #) LOCATION NAME*	CONDITION RATING	DEFICIENCY RATING
B30 ROOFING			
B3010 Roof Covering			
B3010-01 Roof Finishes			
	White asphalt shingles		
	(1) Planetarium	Good	Minor
	Single-ply SBS bitumen membrane		
	Remaining structure	Good	Minor
B3010-04 Flashings and Trim			
	Entire structure	Good	Minor
B3010-05 Gutters and Downspouts			
	4" Box aluminum		
	Entire structure	Good	Minor
B3020 Roof Openings			
B3020-01 Roof Openings and Supports			
	Stone chimney		
	Public Section	Good	Minor
	Brick chimney		
	Administration Section	**Fair**	Minor
	Plumbing, mechanical VTRs (x10)		
	Throughout	Good	Minor

C INTERIORS	*(ROOM #) LOCATION NAME*	CONDITION RATING	DEFICIENCY RATING
C10 INTERIOR CONSTRUCTION			
C1010 Partitions			
C1010-01 Fixed Partitions			
	Entire structure	Good	Minor
C1010-04 Interior Ballustrades and Screens			
Metal ballustrades			
	(14) Stair	Good	Minor
Wooden ballustrades			
	(22) Corridor & Stair	Good	Minor
C1010-05 Interior Windows			
¼" Plate glass			
	(21) Library	Good	Minor
	(29) Projection Booth	Good	Minor
C1020 Interior Doors			
See Table 8 for specific interior / exterior door information.			
C1020-01 Standard Interior Doors			
Solid core birch			
	Entire structure	Good	Minor
C1020-02 Glazed Interior Doors			
	(23) Mechanical Room	Good	Minor
	(28) Auditorium	Good	Minor
C20 STAIRS			
C2010 Stair Construction			
C2010-01 Interior Stair Structure including handrail and finish			
Steel, ½-turn stair			
	(14) Stair	Good	Minor
Wood, winding stair			
	(22) Corridor & Stair	Good	Minor
Concrete, straight run			
	(3) Corridor, Planetarium	Good	Minor
C2010-02 Exterior Stair Structure including handrail and finish			
Wood, straight run			
	(10) Exhibit	Good	Minor
Concrete, straight run			
	(3) Corridor, Planetarium	Good	Minor
	(22) Corridor & Stair	Good	Minor
	East Elevation Outdoor Patio	Good	Minor

C INTERIORS	*(ROOM #) LOCATION NAME*	CONDITION RATING	DEFICIENCY RATING
C30 INTERIOR FINISHES			
C3010 Wall Finishes			
C3010-02 Plaster Wall Finishes			
	(12–22) Administration Section	Good	Minor
C3010-03 Gypsum Wallboard Finishes			
	(12) Office	Good	Minor
C3010-04 Tile Wall Finishes			
	(4, 17) Women's Bathrooms	Good	Minor
	(7, 18) Men's Bathrooms	Good	Minor
C3010-05 Paint Wall Finishes			
	(12–22) Administration Section	Good	Minor
	(3) Corridor, Planetarium	Good	Minor
	(5) Corridor, Exhibit	Good	Minor
	(9) Nature Discovery Room	Good	Minor
	(10) Exhibit	Good	Minor
	(11) Lobby	Good	Minor
	(23) Mechanical Room	Good	Minor
	(25) Storage Room	Good	Minor
	(26) Boiler Room	Good	Minor
	(27) Corridor, Mechanical	Good	Minor
	(30) Lower Lobby	Good	Minor
	(32) Basement Workroom	Good	Minor
	(33) Corridor, Workroom	Good	Minor
C3010-06 Wall Covering			
1"x6" V-joint vertical tongue and groove fir paneling			
	(3) Corridor, Planetarium	Good	Minor
	(5) Corridor, Exhibit	Good	Minor
	(30) Lower Lobby	Good	Minor
Acoustical fabric paneling			
	(28) Auditorium	Good	Minor
C3010-07 Acoustical Tiles and Panels Adhered to Walls			
	(19) Office with Sound Lab	Good	Minor
	(29) Projection Booth	Good	Minor
C3010-99 Other Wall Finishes			
Acoustical carpet			
	(1) Planetarium	Good	Minor
	(10) Exhibit	Good	Minor
	(28) Auditorium	Good	Minor
C3020 Floor FInishes			
C3020-01 Tile Floor Finishes			
Ceramic tile			
	(4, 7) Public Restrooms	Good	Minor
	(17, 18) Admin Office Restrooms	Good	Minor

C INTERIORS	*(ROOM #) LOCATION NAME*	CONDITION RATING	DEFICIENCY RATING
C30 INTERIOR FINISHES			
C3020 Floor Finishes (continued)			
C3020-03 Wood Floor Finishes			
Oak			
	(28) Auditorium Stage	Good	Minor
C3020-04 Resilient Flooring			
Vinyl asbestos tile			
	(14) Stair	Good	Minor
	(23) Mechanical Room	Good	Minor
	(27) Corridor	Good	Minor
	(29) Projection Booth	Good	Minor
C3020-05 Carpet			
	(1) Planetarium	Good	Minor
	(3) Corridor, Planetarium	Good	Minor
	(5) Corridor, Exhibit	Good	Minor
	(9) Nature Discovery Room	Good	Minor
	(10) Exhibit	Good	Minor
	(11) Lobby	Good	Minor
	(12–22) Administration Section	Good	Minor
	(28) Auditorium	Good	Minor
	(30) Lower Lobby	Good	Minor
C3020-06 Stone			
2" Pennsylvania blue stone random rectangular			
	(11) Lobby	Good	Minor
C3020-08 Painted and Stained Flooring			
Paint			
	(24) Former Elevator Shaft	Good	Minor
	(26) Boiler Room	Good	Minor
C3020-99 Other Flooring and Floor Finishes			
Aggregate coating			
	(32) Basement Workroom	Good	Minor
	(33) Corridor, Workroom	Good	Minor
C3030 Ceiling Finishes			
C3030-02 Metal Lath / Wood Lath and Plaster			
	(12–22) Administration Section	**Fair**	Minor
	(30) Lower Lobby	Good	Minor
	(32) Basement Workroom	Good	Minor
	(33) Corridor, Workroom	Good	Minor
C3030-04 Acoustical Ceiling Tiles and Panels			
	(28) Auditorium	Good	Minor
C3030-05 Wood Ceilings			
	(5) Corridor, Exhibit	Good	Minor
	(10) Exhibit	Good	Minor
	(11) Lobby	Good	Minor
C3030-06 Painted and Stained Ceilings			
	(12–22) Administration Section	Good	Minor
	(30) Lower Lobby	Good	Minor
	(32) Basement Workroom	Good	Minor
	(33) Corridor, Workroom	Good	Minor

D SERVICES	*(ROOM #) LOCATION NAME*	CONDITION RATING	DEFICIENCY RATING
D20 PLUMBING			
D2010 Plumbing Fixtures			
D2010-01 Water Closets (Toilets)			
	(4, 17) Women's Bathrooms	Unrated	Unrated
	(7, 18) Men's Bathrooms	Unrated	Unrated
D2010-03 Lavatories (Sinks for Hand Washing)			
	(4, 17) Women's Bathrooms	Unrated	Unrated
	(7, 18) Men's Bathrooms	Unrated	Unrated
D2010-04 Sink (Service Sinks)			
	(6) Janitor Closet	Unrated	Unrated
	(26) Boiler Room	Unrated	Unrated
D2010-06 Drinking Fountains			
	Outdoor, West Elevation	Unrated	Unrated
D30 HVAC			
D3020 Heat Generating System			
D3020-03 Gas Powered Boiler			
	(26) Boiler Room	Good	Minor
D3030 Cooling Generating System			
D3030-01 Chilled Water			
	(23) Mechanical Room	Good	Minor
D40 FIRE PROTECTION			
D4030 Fire Protection Specialties			
D4030-01 Fire Extinguishing Devices			
Wall-mounted fire extinguishers			
	(5) Corridor, Exhibit	Good	Minor
	(10) Exhibit	Good	Minor
	(20) Kitchen	Good	Minor
D4090 Other Fire Protection Systems			
D4000-01 Electrical with Battery Back-up Smoke Detectors			
	(1-33) One in Each Room	Good	Minor
D50 ELECTRICAL			
D5010 Electrical Service and Distribution			
D5010-05 Panels			
Panel A, 3-phase, 4-wire, 120/208V, 100A 30 circuit			
	(23) Mechanical Room	Good	Minor
Panel A, 3-phase, 4-wire, 120/208V, 200A 35 circuit			
	(23) Mechanical Room	Good	Minor
D5020 Lighting and Branch Wiring			
D5020-02 Lighting Equipment			
	Entire Structure	Good	Minor
D5030 Communications & Security			
D5030-01 Fire Alarm System		Good	Minor
D5030-04 Public Announcement (PA) System		Good	Minor
D5030-08 Security System		Good	Minor

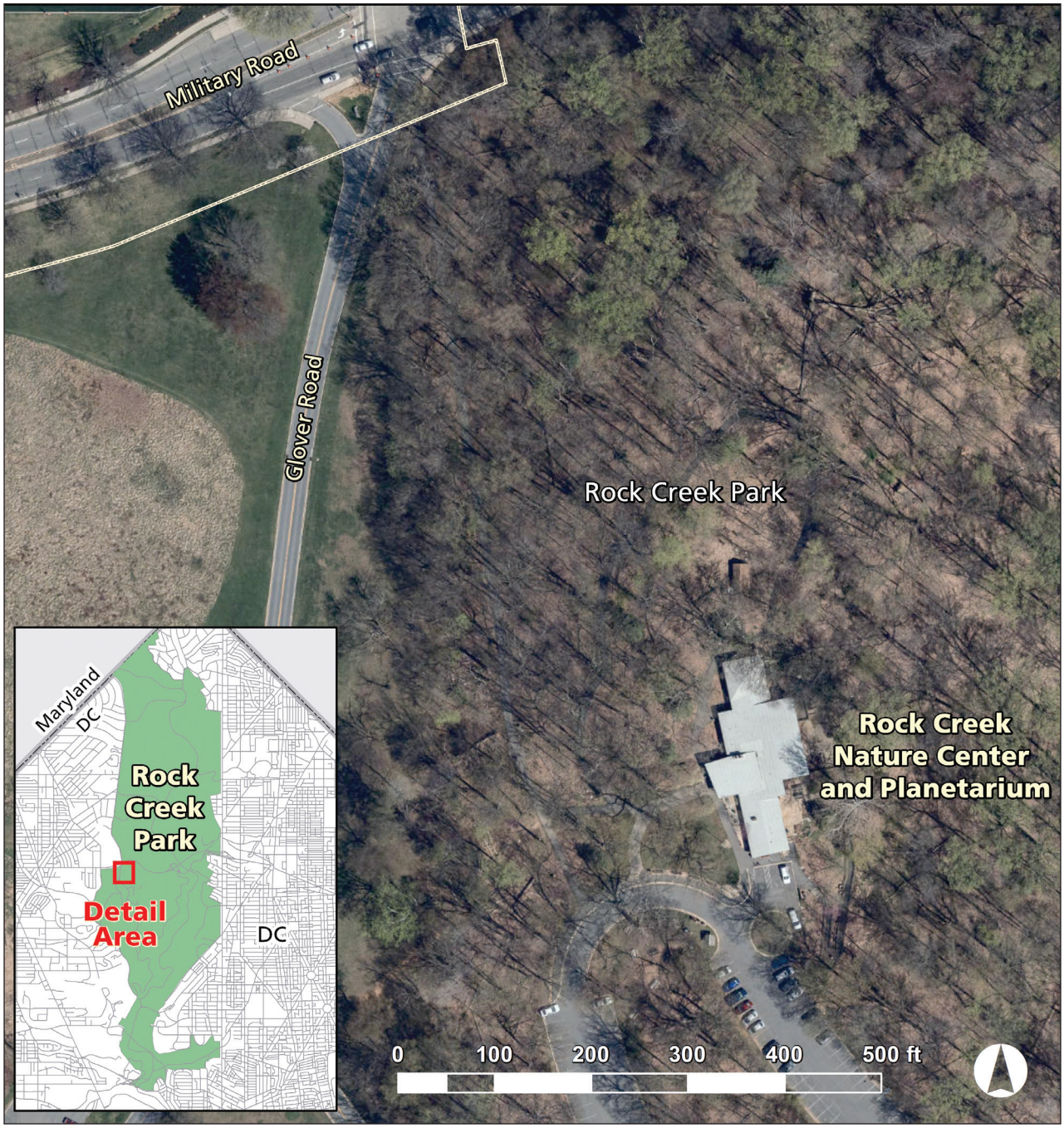
E EQUIPMENT & FURNISHINGS *(ROOM #) LOCATION NAME*	CONDITION RATING	DEFICIENCY RATING
E10 EQUIPMENT		
E1020 Institutional Equipment		
E1020-03 Laboratory Equipment		
Aquatic tanks & terrariums		
(10) Exhibit	Good	Minor
E1020-05 Auditorium and Stage Equipment		
Screen, microphones, projectors		
(28) Auditorium	Unrated	Unrated
LCD Ceiling-Mounted Projector		
(28) Auditorium	Unrated	Unrated
SciDome Planetarium Instrument, 2012		
(1) Planetarium	Unrated	Unrated
E20 FURNISHINGS		
E2010 Institutional Equipment		
E2010-03 Seating		
(1) Planetarium	Good	Minor
(28) Auditorium	Good	Minor

G BUILDING SITE WORK	*(ROOM #) LOCATION NAME*	CONDITION RATING	DEFICIENCY RATING
G20 SITE IMPROVEMENTS			
G2020 Parking Areas		Good	Minor
G2030 Pedestrian Paving			
G2030-03 Paved Surfaces			
ADA access ramps			
	(3) Corridor, Planetarium	Good	Minor
	(28) Auditorium	Good	Minor
Precast concrete block			
	East Elevation	Good	Minor
3" Asphaltic Concrete and Tinted Seal			
	West Elevation	Good	Minor
G2040 Site Development			
G2040-01 Fencing and Gates			
	East Elevation	Good	Minor
G2040-02 Retaining Walls			
	East Elevation	Good	Minor
G2040-03 Exterior Furnishings			
Benches			
	West Elevation	Good	Minor
Lamps			
	East Elevation	Good	Minor
G2040-05 Signage			
Park sign "Rock Creek Park Nature Center and Planetarium 5300 Glover Rd"		Good	Minor
G2040-99 Other Exterior Furnishings			
Flagpole			
	West Elevation	Good	Minor
Drinking Fountain			
	West Elevation	Good	Minor
G2050 Maintained Landscapes			
G2050-02 Erosion Control Measures			
	West Elevation	Good	Minor

Setting

Rock Creek Nature Center Site

The site of the Nature Center is along Military Road in Washington, D.C., within the boundary of Rock Creek Park. The local geographic area is composed of diverse terrain including the Rock Creek valley's slopes, creeks, streams, rocky outcrops, and woodland. The Nature Center sits at a high elevation on the crest of a hill west of the creek. It is reached from two directions, either from the north via Glover Road, or from the south via Grant Road or Ridge Road. The parking area at the Nature Center is confined by an oval-shaped drive and entered at the southern end of the loop. The Nature Center is located at the north end of the loop. The building is approached from the southwest side and entered at the west.



A10 FOUNDATIONS
A1010 Standard Foundations
A1010 01 Foundation walls or CMU

A1030 Slab on Grade or Fill Foundations
A1030 01 Standard Slab on Grade

Condition: Good
Deficiency: Minor

Treatment Recommendation: Routine maintenance should be sufficient to sustain the current condition.

Standard Foundations

The administration section is supported by a board-formed concrete foundation that was built for the original caretaker's residence in 1935. The structure created to form the Rock Creek Nature Center incorporated the caretaker's residence. The former home was converted into the administration section of the new building. The new design sections are supported by concrete masonry units. The new section was constructed in 1959. (See Figure 11 and Figure 12.)

Figure 11. 1959 construction photo shows the north side of the former caretaker's residence during conversion and the CMU as foundation material for the new structure. The 9:12 pitch roof has been removed and a new 1:12 pitch roof is in place. The chimney will be shortened by more than half.



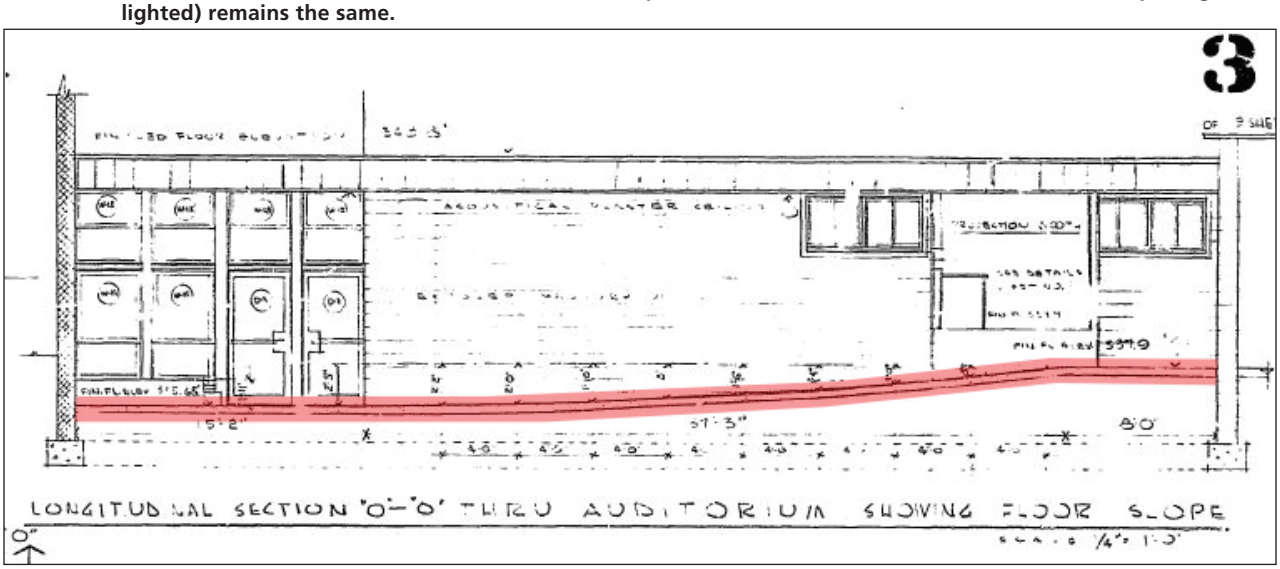
A10 Foundations

Access to the foundations is limited. The administration section of the building has a crawl space access door located in the BASEMENT WORKROOM (32). However, a warning is posted on the door that says the area contains asbestos and should not be entered without proper training and equipment. The good structural condition of the basement walls would indicate that the foundations are in good condition.

Slab on Grade Foundations

The entire lower story of the Rock Creek Nature Center, including the administration section, is 4" concrete slab on grade. The PLANETARIUM (1) and CORRIDOR (3) are also 4" concrete slab on grade. The grade in the AUDITORIUM (28), is sloped towards the stage to facilitate better viewing of the projection screen or the events at the front of the room. No cracks, moisture, or other evidence of degradation is visible on any of the slab.

Figure 12. Section drawing from 1959 plans shows windows on the east wall of the auditorium that were filled in during the 1979 renovation. The storefront doors were replaced with fire-rated steel doors. The floor slope (highlighted) remains the same.



A20 BASEMENT CONSTRUCTION
A2020 Basement Walls
A2020 01 Construction
Board-Formed Concrete
Concrete Masonry Units (CMU), 8"x16" Stacked Horizontally

A2020 04 Interior Skin
No Finish
Paint

Condition: Fair to Good
Deficiency: Minor

Treatment Recommendation: Where the walls are not degraded, routine maintenance should be sufficient to sustain the current condition. The concrete spalling in the administration section requires patching and the moisture-affected corners in the public section should be monitored for moisture infiltration quarterly.





Figure 13. Board formed concrete in the basement workroom (above). Concrete masonry units in the mechanical corridor (below).

Basement Walls
The basement walls of the administration section are constructed of board-formed concrete from the original caretaker's residence. The remaining structure's basement walls are constructed of stacked 8"x16" concrete masonry units (Figure 13).

The basement walls in the administration section are in fair condition where a former water main penetrates the concrete at the northwest corner. The main has been capped and is no longer in use. The area has been patched previously. Evidence of spalling in the concrete to the depth of the exposed pipe shows rust jacking and deterioration. (See Figure 14 and Figure 15.)

The remaining basement walls appear to be in good structural condition despite clear signs of moisture infiltration in specific locations. The exterior corners of the MECHANICAL ROOM (23), LOWER LOBBY (30), and the storage room under the STAIRS (31) show efflorescence. In each of these cases both sides of the exterior walls that form the corner are below grade. The affected area in the MECHANICAL ROOM (23) is at the northwest corner, where an air intake duct is connected to the clerestory window and exposed at grade. This connection point may be the source of the water infiltration.

Water is present on the walls in the storage room under the STAIRS (31). Insects are present. Unabated moisture and continued efflorescence could begin to undermine the integrity of the concrete masonry units. Regular cleaning of the walls and monitoring to determine the source of the moisture on the walls should be part of the building maintenance.

A20 Basement Construction

Paint is deteriorating on the walls in the MECHANICAL ROOM (23), STORAGE ROOM (25), and BOILER ROOM (26). A reapplication of paint is required. The insects (*armadellidium vugare*) present cannot survive more than a day without water. They feed primarily on decaying matter and they themselves cannot damage structures (Figure 16).[1]



Figure 14. **(left to right) Northwest corner of basement workroom; detail of basement wall.**



Figure 15. **(left to right) Efflorescence evident in northwest corner of mechanical room; southwest corner of lower lobby.**

1 www.planetnatural.com



Figure 16. Southeast corner of storage room under stairs; detail of insects (*armadellidium vugare*).

B10 Superstructure

B10 Superstructure
B1010 Floor Construction
B1010 01 Structural Frame
Wood Joists
Steel Joists, 14" OC Lengthwise

B1010 03 Floor Decks and Slabs
Wood Subfloor
Metal Deck and Concrete Subfloor

Condition: Good
Deficiency: Minor

Treatment Recommendation: Regular maintenance should be sufficient to sustain the current condition.

The floors of the administration section are constructed of wood joists with wood subfloor. The floors of the 1959 design are constructed of steel joists, metal deck and concrete subfloor. The floors throughout the building are in good condition.

B10 Superstructure
B1020 Roof Construction

B1020 01	Structural Frame
	2"×10" Wood Rafters, 16" OC Hipped
	2"×10" Wood Rafters 16" OC
	2"×12" Wood Rafters 16" OC
	7"×17 7/8" Glued Laminated Timber Beams
	5 1/4"×13" Glued Laminated Timber Beams
B1020 03	Roof Decks and Slabs
	3" Wood Tongue and Groove Roof Deck
	Plywood
B1020 04	Canopies
	3" Wood Tongue and Groove Roof Deck
	Plywood

Condition: Good
Deficiency: Minor

Treatment Recommendation: The administration roof ridge beam deflection should be investigated further and treatment recommended as required.

The roofs of the administration section (12-22), PLANETARIUM CORRIDOR (3) and the PLANETARIUM (1) are wood framed with 2”x10” rafters and feature plywood deck. The administration roof has an almost flat, side gable roof plan and the PLANETARIUM’s roof is pyramidal to conceal the domed ceiling underneath. The roofs over the PLANETARIUM CORRIDOR (3), BOOKSTORE (13), and STAIR (14) are shed-type in profile that visually blend with the shed roofs of the LOBBY (11) and EXHIBIT (10) rooms. The PUBLIC RESTROOMS (4, 7), UTILITY SPACES (6, 8), and NATURE DISCOVERY ROOM (9) are constructed of 2”x12” wood rafters with plywood deck. The LOBBY (11) and EXHIBIT ROOM (10) roofs are constructed of 5 1/3”x13” and 7”x17 7/8” glued laminated timber beams with 3” wood tongue and groove deck.

The roof construction is in good condition except where the ridge beam of the administration section is deflected. (See Figure 17 and Figure 18.) Access to the structural members of the roof over the administration section is limited due to the extremely low, 1:12 pitch. The area of deflection on the roof corresponds to an area of cracking and peeling paint on the ceiling of the OFFICE & WORKROOM (16) but is unrelated to the beam. No moisture is present. The cause of the deflection needs to be investigated.

B10 Superstructure



Figure 17. Roofline of the Rock Creek Nature Center from the south end of the administration section to the north end of the planetarium. The butterfly roof of the lobby and exhibit hall is in the center.

Figure 18. Administration section roof shows ridge beam deflection.



B20 Exterior Enclosure
B2010 Exterior Walls

B2010 01 Exterior Skin (Not Finish)
- 1"×6" V-Joint Vertical Tongue and Groove Texture 1-11 Plywood Siding over CMU
- 1"×6" V-Joint Vertical Tongue and Groove Redwood Siding over CMU
- 1"×6" V-Joint Vertical Tongue and Groove Redwood Siding over Clapboard
- 4" Stone Veneer over CMU
- 4" Stone Veneer over Clapboard
- Brick Veneer over Board-Formed Concrete

B2010 03 Interior Skin

Please see Section C3010 Interior Wall Finishes

B2010 07 Balcony Walls, Handrails, and Guardrails
- Steel and Wood

B2010 08 Exterior Soffits
- Plywood Soffit
- Exposed 3" Tongue and Groove Wood Decking

Condition: Good
Deficiency: Minor

Treatment Recommendation: Regular maintenance should be sufficient to sustain the current condition.

Administration Section Exterior Skin

The exterior walls of the administration section are composed of tongue and groove vertical redwood siding applied directly over the clapboard. At the base of the administration section on the west façade is stone veneer to the level of the concrete window sills. The south, gable-end of the administration section is wood tongue and groove siding, and the eastern elevation shows tongue and groove redwood siding with brick veneer at the level of the basement walls and foundation. The condition of these elements is good (Figure 19).

Public Section Exterior Skin

The exterior walls of the public section of the Nature Center include the east, west, and north elevations. The exterior is primarily vertical redwood tongue and groove siding. The west elevation features the main entrance, which is visually highlighted with solid stone masonry, rough-cut in irregular courses (Figure 20). The entrance canopy includes three fir 8” square column supports and a 1’ deep by 3’ wide solid masonry stone column . To the left of the entry is an area of stone veneer to the level of the clerestory windows, and be-

B20 Exterior Enclosure



Figure 19. (left to right) West side of administration section, showing tongue and groove siding and stone veneer. Rock Creek Nature Center, south elevation. East side of administration section, showing tongue and groove siding and brick veneer.



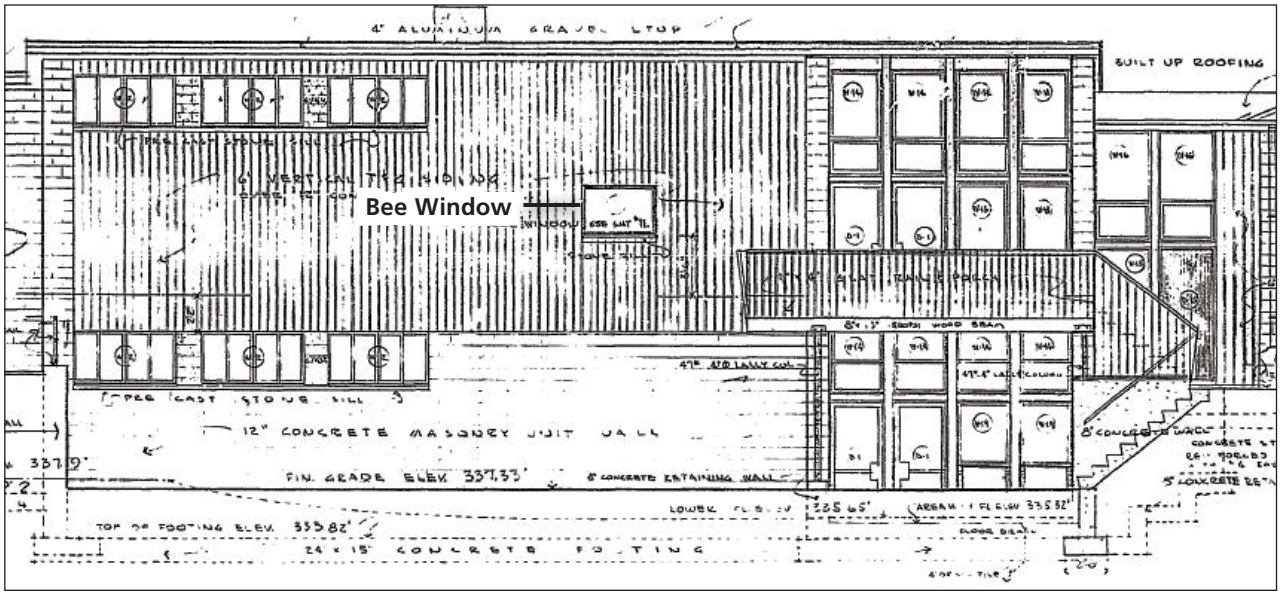
Figure 20. Rock Creek Nature Center entrance on the west elevation shows stone, vertical siding, and window wall.



Figure 21. West elevation of the planetarium, with plywood tongue and groove siding. This was applied in 1979.



Figure 22. Exterior walls of the exhibit space on the main floor and auditorium space at the lower level. Both levels originally featured clerestory windows (see drawing below) that were filled in during the renovation in 1979. In addition, the lower level auditorium exit was a duplicate of the upper level exhibit hall window wall assembly. It was also filled in in 1979 and the storefront exit doors were replaced with hollow metal fire-rated doors.



B20 Exterior Enclosure

yond is the wood tongue and groove-clad PLANETARIUM (1), on each of its western, northern and eastern elevations (Figure 21).

The exterior walls of the east elevation are composed of redwood tongue and groove vertical siding, concrete block, and a window wall at the balcony of the exhibit space. All of the exterior walls of both the administration section and public section are in excellent condition.





Figure 23. Interior of window wall and storefront doors in exhibit hall (above). Exterior of exhibit hall balcony and solid, filled-in wall of auditorium exit doors (below).

Balcony Walls and Handrails

The EXHIBIT HALL (10) features a balcony and straight run stairs. The balcony is constructed with redwood planking and redwood flat balustrades (Figure 22 andFigure 23). The condition is good but the wood should be cleaned of biological growth annually. The handrails do not meet minimum Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standard (ABAAS) or International Building Code (IBC) requirements for graspability.

The junction of the steel lally column with the wooden beam under the balcony is an area that should be closely monitored for degradation. (See Figure 24 through Figure 26 below.)





Figure 24. (left) Stairs show moderate biological growth. (above) Balcony support shows signs of wood rot.



Figure 25. (above) Rail at retaining wall perpendicular to east elevation. (below) Soffit at northeast corner of planetarium





Figure 26. (above) Exposed deck of entrance canopy, an extension of the lobby roof.

B20 Exterior Enclosure

B20 Exterior Enclosure
B2020 Exterior Windows
B2020 01 Windows
Aluminum Frame, Double-Pane, Insulated Glass, Some Tempered

B2020 02 Storefronts - Fixed Aluminum Storefront Windows Including Associated Doors
Aluminum Frame, Insulated, Some Tempered

Condition: Good
Deficiency: Minor

Treatment Recommendation: Regular maintenance should be sufficient to sustain the current condition.

All of the original windows of the 1959 design were replaced in 1979 with aluminum frame, double-pane, insulated windows, with the exception of two. These two windows are single light, fixed, uninsulated windows with wooden frames located at the top of the window wall of the LOBBY STAIRS (14), Figure 27. All the windows are in good condition. The window types and sizes of the Rock Creek Nature Center are described in Table 5 and 6, respectively. Types of windows are illustrated in Figure 28.

The storefront doors are also in good condition. They appear at the west elevation main entrance LOBBY (11), Figure 29; the EXHIBIT HALL (10) balcony, Figure 30; and the LOBBY STAIRS (14), Figure 31.



Figure 27. Window Wall at Stairs

Table 5: Window Types.

Window Types	
A	Aluminum Slider
B	Aluminum Double-Hung
C	Aluminum Fixed
D	Aluminum Slider with Mullions
F	Hollow Metal Fixed
Windows types that have been removed are not represented	

Figure 28. Window Types.



Type A: Clerestory aluminum sliders located in the public restrooms, and utility room pipe chase.



Type D: Aluminum slider with mullions in the mechanical room.



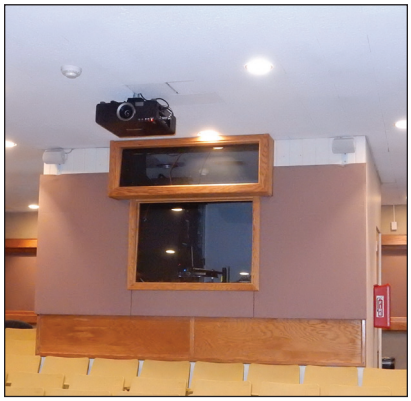
Type B: Aluminum double hung windows appear in the administration section.



Type F: Interior hollow, metal fixed window in the library (above) and projection booth (below).



Type C: Aluminum insulated, tempered, and fixed, as seen in the administration section.



B20 Exterior Enclosure

Table 6: Window Schedule.

Window Schedule					
Mark from Present Drawings	**Mark from 1980 Renovations**	**Quantity**	**Size**	**Type**	**Type Description**
W26	1	1	3'0" x 2'2"	A	Insulated
W13 A,B W16 A,B,C	2	5	2'8" x 6'2-1/4"	B	Insulated
W16 D	3	1	2'0" x 6'2-1/4"	B1	Insulated, Tempered, Fixed
W11 C,D,E,F	4	4	3'4" x 3'8"	C	Insulated
W11 A,B	5	2	3'4" x 6'2-5/8"	C	Insulated, Tempered
W4 A,B,C W7 A,B,C W8, W9	6	8	3'0 x 2'2"	A	Insulated
W23 A,B	7	2	9'0" x 2'2"	D	Insulated
W10 C,D,E,F	8	4	3'4" x 5'0"	C	Insulated
W10 A,B	9	2	3'4" x 6'2-5/8"	C	Insulated, Tempered
W10 G	10	1	4'0" x 3'0"	C	Insulated
W14 A	11	1	2'0-7/8" x 6'2-5/8"	C	Insulated, Tempered
W14 C	12	1	2'0-7/8" x 6'3-1/2"	C	Insulated
W14 B	13	1	3'4" x 6'3-1/2"	C	Insulated
W12, W19, W21	14	3	3'0" x 6'2-1/2"	B	Insulated
W17, W18	15	2	3'0" x 3'2"	A	Insulated
W32 B	16	1	6'5" x 4'4"	B	Insulated
W32 A	17	1	3'0" x 4'4"	B	Insulated
W21 C	18	1	6'0 x 4'0	F	1/4" Plate Glass
W15	19	1	3'6" x 6'2-1/4"	B	Insulated



Figure 29. Window wall and central storefront doors in the lobby.



Figure 30. Window wall and right side doors in the exhibit hall.



Figure 31. Window wall and left side storefront door in the stairwell.

B20 Exterior Enclosure

B20 Exterior Enclosure
B2030 Exterior Doors
B2030 01 Glazed Doors
Steel

B2030 02 Solid Doors
Wood
Steel

Condition: Good
Deficiency: Minor

Treatment Recommendation: Regular maintenance should be sufficient to sustain the current condition. The doors are in very good condition. One of the auditorium exit doors has a broken closer that should be repaired. The left side planetarium entrance door requires paint.

Door types and sizes of the Rock Creek Nature Center are described in Table 7 and 8, respectively. (See images in Figure 32.)

Table 7: Door Types.

Door Types	
1980	
A	Single Solid Core Birch
B	Hollow Metal Exterior Door
D	Pair Solid Core Birch
E	Pair Wood with Fir Paneling
F	Aluminum (black) and Glass Storefront Exterior Door
I	Plywood Access Door
1959	
K	Single Flush Solid Core Birch Exterior Door
L	Pair Flush Solid Core Mahogany
M	Single Flush Solid Core Birch Interior Door
N	Pair Flush Solid Core Mahogany with Lights
O	Aluminum (silver) and Glass Storefront Exterior Door
P	Pair Flush Solid Core Birch with Rectangular Light
Doors that have been removed are not represented	

Table 8: Door Schedule.

Door Schedule						
Mark from Present Drawings	**Mark from 1981 Renovations**	**Mark from 1959 Plans**	**Size**	**Type**	**Frame Type**	**Room Name from Present Drawing**
D1 A		D6	3'0" x 6'8" x 1-3/4"	K	Wood	Planetarium
D1 B		D8	3'0" x 7'0" x 1-3/4"	L	Wood	Planetarium Entrance
D2 South	1		(1) 1'8" x 6'8" x 1-3/4"	E	Wood	Equipment Room
D2 North			(2) 1'8" x 6'8" x 1-3/4"		Wood	Equipment Room
D3 A North		D5	3'0" x 7'0" x 1-3/4"	K	Wood	Corridor, Planetarium
D3 A South	3	1981 DRAWINGS INDICATE THIS DOOR WAS EXISTING, BUT IT WAS ADDED DURING THE 1979 RENOVATION		K	Wood	Corridor, Planetarium
D3 B		D5	3'0" x 7'0" x 1-3/4"	K	Wood	Corridor, Planetarium
D4	8	D9	3'0" x 7'0" x 1-3/4"	M	Wood	Women's Restroom
D6		D10	3'0" x 6'8" x 1-3/4"	K	Wood	Janitor's Closet
D7	9	D9	3'0" x 6'8" x 1-3/4"	M	Wood	Men's Restroom
D8		D11			Wood	Utility Room, Pipe Chase
D9			INSTALLED IN 1995		Wood	Nature Discovery Room
D10 North		D1	3'0" x 7'0" x 1-3/4"	O	Wood	Exhibit
D10 South		D1	3'0" x 7'0" x 1-3/4"	O	Wood	Exhibit
Closet 10 A	6		2'6" x 6'8" x 1-3/4"	A	Wood	Exhibit
Closet 10 B	4		2'6" x 6'8" x 1-3/4"	A	Wood	Exhibit
Closet 10 C	5		2'6" x 6'8" x 1-3/4"	A	Wood	Exhibit
Closet 10 D	7		2'4" x 6'8" x 1-3/4"	D	Wood	Exhibit
D11 North	10		3'0" x 7'0" x 1-3/4"	F	Aluminum	Lobby
D11 South	11		3'0" x 7'0" x 1-3/4"	F	Aluminum	Lobby
D12			INSTALLED AFTER 1980		Wood	Office
D14			3'0" x 7'0" x 1-3/4"	F	Aluminum	Stair
D16		D2	3'0" x 7'0" x 1-3/4"	K	Wood	Office and Workroom
D17		D12	2'6" x 6'8" x 1-3/4"	M	Wood	Women's Restroom
D18		D12	2'6" x 6'8" x 1-3/4"	M	Wood	Men's Restroom
D19 A			3'0" x 6'8" x 1-3/4"	A	Wood	Sound Lab Office
D19 B		D12	2'6" x 6'8" x 1-3/4"	M	Wood	Sound Lab Office Closet
D21	16		3'0" x 6'8" x 1-3/4"	A	Wood	Library
D22 A		EXTERIOR STEEL WITH LIGHT				Corridor and Stair
D22 B	17	D10	3'0" x 6'8" x 1-3/4"	M	Wood	Corridor and Stair
D23		D14	2'8" x 6'8" x 1-3/4"	P	Wood	Mechanical Room
D24			INSTALLED IN 1995		Wood	FORMER ELEVATOR SHAFT
D25		INFORMATION ABSENT FROM SCHEDULES				
D26		D6	3'0" x 6'8" x 1-3/4"	M	Wood	Boiler Room
D27	21	D14	2'6" x 7'0" x 1-3/4"	D	Wood	Corridor, Mechanical
D28A		D13	4'0" x 7'0" x 1-3/4"	N	Wood	Auditorium
D28 B North	19		3'0" x 7'0" x 1-3/4"	B	Hollow Metal	Auditorium
D28 B South	20		3'0" x 7'0" x 1-3/4"	B	Hollow Metal	Auditorium
D29		A		M	Wood	Projection Booth
	25		2'2" x 2'2" x 1/2"	I	Wood	Basement Workroom (access to crawl space)

B20 Exterior Enclosure

Figure 32. Door details.



Auditorium exit door closer.





The steel exit doors in the auditorium are fire-rated for safety.



Planetarium entrance doors.



In the planetarium corridor, the 1959 existing wood door is on the left and a 1979 new wood door is on the right. It was installed where there was formerly a window. A difference in hardware can be observed.



(left to right) Exterior glazed steel door located at the corridor and stair; planetarium corridor; utility room; planetarium exit; and projection booth.

Door details (continued).



Planetarium doors to corridor.



Mechanical Room doors to stage.



Mechanical Room doors to Lower Lobby.



Auditorium entrance.

B30 Roofing

B30 Roofing
B3010 Roof Covering
B3010 01 Roof Finishes
White Asphalt Shingles
Single-ply SBS Bitumen Membrane

B3010 04 Flashings and Trim

B3010 05 Gutters and Downspouts
4" Box Aluminum

B3020 Roof Openings
B3020 01 Roof Openings and Supports
Stone Chimney
Brick Chimney
Plumbing, Mechanical VTRs x 10

Condition: Fair
Deficiency: Minor

Treatment Recommendation: The roof should be replaced within the next 5 years. Flashing should be cleaned annually, specifically the north-facing flashing. The gutters and downspouts should be cleaned seasonally. The brick chimney requires repointing with some replacement of material in kind.

Roof Finishes
The asphalt shingles and bitumen roof membrane are nearing the end of their service life. The current roof dates from 1988. Shrinkage and fabric loss are evident on both the membrane and shingle surfaces. The shingles are beginning to curl, which decreases their surface coverage. (See Figure 33 to Figure 35.)

Flashings and Trim, Gutters and Downspouts
Flashing at the roof transitions and openings is in good condition. The trim around the administration and public sections consists of gravel stops. It is in good condition, although the roof membrane is pulling away from it. The gutters and downspouts are 4" aluminum type, painted, and secured by spike and ferrule hangers. They are in good condition but require cleaning of leaves and other biological debris. (See Figure 36 and Figure 37.)

Roof Openings
The roof openings on the Rock Creek Nature Center include two chimneys and 10 vents through the roof (VTRs). The flashing around both chimneys is in good condition and the stone chimney is in good condition. The brick chimney shows signs of water infiltration and the subsequent effects of the freeze/thaw cycle. The bricks are delaminating and falling out of the chimney stack. (See Figure 38 and Figure 39.)



Figure 33. Asphalt shingles of the planetarium pyramidal roof. Flat bitumen membrane roof of the public section and the administration section.



Shingles are separating and curling.



Figure 34. Flat bitumen membrane roof of the public section



Roof membrane is shrinking away from the gravel stop flashing. (Key for scale.)



Figure 35. Repair caulk and lap sealant are dried and cracking.

B30 Roofing



Figure 36. North-facing flashing showing biological growth.



Figure 37. Gutter of administration section shows blockage.



Figure 38. Stone chimney shows some repair of mortar cracking with caulk.

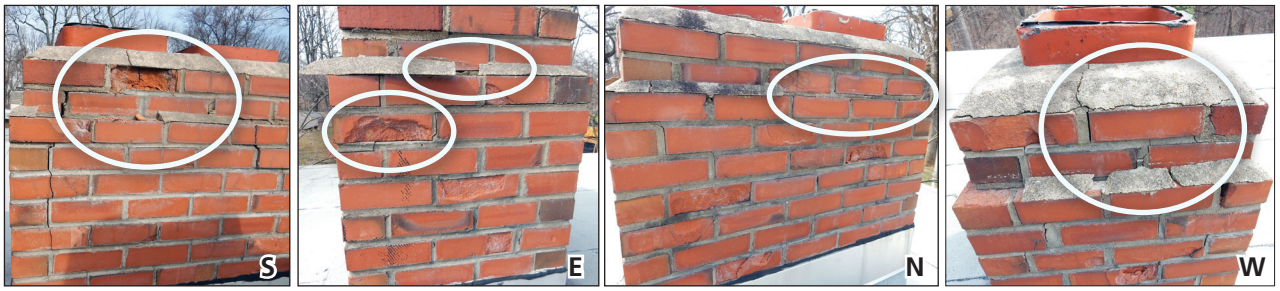


Figure 39. Chimney stack shows evidence of loose and missing mortar, brick delamination, and brick crumbling on all sides. (left to right) South, east, north, and west sides.

C10 Interior Construction

C10 Interior Construction
C1010 Partitions
C1010 01 Fixed Partitions

C1010 04 Interior Balustrades and Screens
Metal Balustrades
Wooden Balustrades

C1010 05 Interior Windows
1/4" Plate Glass

C1020 Interior Doors
C1020 01 Standard Interior Doors
Solid Core Birch

C1020 02 Glazed Interior Doors

Condition: Good
Deficiency: Minor

Treatment Recommendation: Regular maintenance should be sufficient to sustain the current condition.

The fixed partition walls include wood or metal studs, masonry and concrete walls. All partition walls are in excellent condition, as are the balustrades, interior windows and doors. (See Figure 40 and Figure 41, below.)



Figure 40. Steel and wood balustrade at lobby stairs.



Figure 41. Wooden balustrade leading to the basement workroom

C20 Stairs

C20 Stairs
C2010 Stair Construction
C2010 01 Interior Stair Structure including Handrail and Finish
Steel 1/2-Turn Stair
Wood Winding Stair
Concrete Straight Run

C2010 02 Exterior Stair Structure including Handrail and Finish
Wood
Concrete Straight Run

Condition: Good
Deficiency: Minor

The handrails do not meet minimum Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standard (ABAAS) or International Building Code (IBC) requirements for graspability.

Treatment Recommendation: Regular maintenance should be sufficient to sustain the current condition.

See Figure 42 through Figure 48.



Figure 42. Steel stair with terrazzo treads and landing.



Figure 43. Wooden winding stairs from corridor to basement workroom.



Figure 44. Concrete straight-run stair with aluminum handrail.



Figure 45. Wooden stair at exhibit balcony.



Figure 46. Concrete straight-run stair at east elevation between auditorium and planetarium.



Figure 47. Straight run stair at east elevation patio.



Figure 48. Half-turn stair at corridor and stair exit.

C30 Interior Finishes

C30 Interior Finishes
C3010 Wall Finishes

C3010 02 Plaster Wall Finishes

C3010 03 Gypsum Wallboard Finishes

C3010 04 Tile and Terrazzo Wall Finishes
4" x 4" Ceramic Tile

C3010 05 Paint Wall Finishes

C3010 06 Wall Covering
1" x 6" V-Joint Vertical Tongue and groove Fir Paneling
Acoustical Fabric Paneling

C3010 07 Acoustical Tiles and Panels Adhered to Walls

C3010 99 Other Wall Finishes
Acoustical Carpet

Condition: Good
Deficiency: Minor

Treatment Recommendation: Regular maintenance should be sufficient to sustain the current condition. Paint or touch-up painting is required on the west wall of the exhibit hall.

The walls in the administration section are largely plaster and lath and date from the original construction of the caretaker's residence in 1935 (Figure 49). Of room re-configuration work done in the last decade, the OFFICE (12) has a gypsum wall that was created to enclose the office space from the OFFICE WITH FIREPLACE (15). Both public and administration restrooms feature tile wainscoting, all in good condition (Figure 50).

The majority of walls throughout the building have a painted finish, whether constructed of plaster, gypsum, vertical wood paneling or CMU. The painted surfaces are in good condition. The west wall of the EXHIBIT HALL (10) shows some wear (Figure 51). The entrance to the PLANETARIUM (1) features a whimsical scene of outer space (Figure 52). The east wall of the LOBBY (11) features an unfinished mural of Rock Creek flora and fauna painted in 1978 (Figure 53). The NATURE DISCOVERY ROOM (9) features a large painted mural but it is free standing and not painted directly on the wall (Figure 54).

Other wall coverings include stained wood paneling, acoustical fabric paneling, acoustical tiles and acoustical carpet. All of these are in good condition.

The LOBBY (11) features west and north stone walls with a large recessed fireplace centered in the latter. A 4" thick reinforced concrete cantilevered hearth projects from the level of the firebox 14" from the floor. The stone wall is in good condition. The hearth bears a perpendicular crack that extends through the slab.

A 20-ounce copper hood covers the fireplace and extends vertically to the ceiling at an incline of 12". Water staining on the copper hood shows that water has collected at the base of the ceiling beam and fallen onto the sloped hood. Because the stone chimney flashing above this is in good condition, it appears the water infiltration is not a current issue. The copper hood should be cleaned.



Figure 49. Painted plaster walls in administration section.



Figure 50. Painted plaster walls above wainscot.



Figure 51. Painted CMU in exhibit hall.



Figure 52. Painted mural above planetarium entrance doors.

C30 Interior Finishes

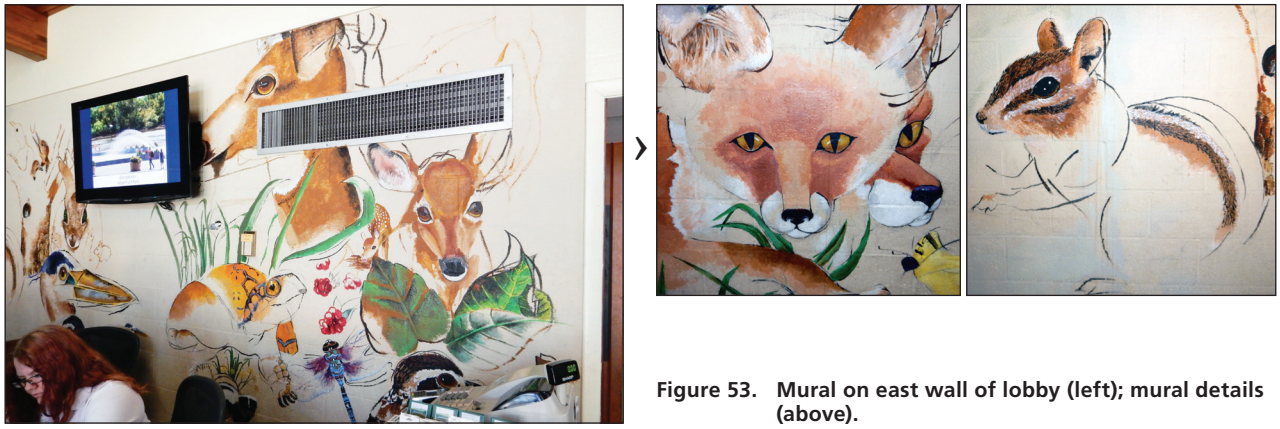


Figure 53. Mural on east wall of lobby (left); mural details (above).



Figure 54. Mural in nature discovery room.



Figure 55. Various wall finishes in the exhibit corridor.



Figure 57. Acoustical wall tiles in the office with sound lab.



Figure 56. Acoustical fabric paneling and acoustical carpet in the auditorium.



Figure 58. Acoustical carpet on the east wall of the exhibit hall.

C30 Interior Finishes



Figure 59. Perpendicular crack in hearth slab.



Figure 60. Water staining present on copper hood over fireplace.

C30 Interior Finishes

C30 Interior Finishes
C3020 Floor Finishes
C3020 01 Tile Floor Finishes
Ceramic Tile

C3020 02 Terrazzo Floor Finishes

C3020 03 Wood Floor Finishes
Oak

C3020 04 Resilient Flooring

C3020 05 Carpet

C3020 06 Stone
2" PA Blue Stone, Random Rectangular

C3020 08 Painted and Stained Flooring
Paint

C3020 99 Other Flooring and Floor Finishes
Aggregate Coating

Condition: Good
Deficiency: Minor

Treatment Recommendation: Regular maintenance should be sufficient to sustain the current condition. The crack in the terrazzo landing of the lobby stairs should be repaired so that it does not become a tripping hazard. The hardwood floor of the stage requires cleaning and a protective finish applied. It should be noted that the building continues to contain asbestos materials in the resilient flooring. Some chipping and deterioration from water infiltration is present. A hazardous materials professional should evaluate the vinyl asbestos tile (VAT) to determine if it is a danger to the human occupants of the Nature Center.

Both the public and administration restrooms feature ceramic tile flooring that is in very good condition (Figure 61). Terrazzo finish exists on the treads and landing of the LOBBY STAIRS (14). The landing of the LOBBY STAIRS shows a sizeable east-west surface crack near the exit door and window wall (Figure 62). Because the stairs are steel, the crack is likely superficial in the terrazzo finish and caused by the downward pressure of the adjacent parallel wall.

The stage in the AUDITORIUM (28) is constructed of oak (Figure 63). The wood boards show evidence of use and wear over the past 56 years. Blind nails driven between the tongue and groove portions of the boards are beginning to be visible on the surface (Figure 64). This is a result of years of sanding and refinishing that gradually removes surface layers of the wood. Pressure from users of the stage

C30 Interior Finishes

also creates movement in the boards and loosens the joint between boards.

Resilient flooring appears primarily in the MECHANICAL ROOM (23) and utility areas that service the public section of the Nature Center. Vinyl asbestos tile (VAT) was initially installed in 1959 and subsequently replaced with carpet in 1979, but only in some areas. Remnants of green VAT can be seen in the closet of the OFFICE WITH FIREPLACE (15) (Figure 65 and Figure 66). It is unknown whether the VAT exists under the carpet. The remaining VAT appears to be original, and not vinyl composite tile (VCT) (Figure 67 to Figure 72).

Carpet covers the large majority of the floors in the Nature Center (Figure 73). It is in good condition. In the case of the EXHIBIT HALL (10), carpet replaced earlier cork flooring. Remnants of this can be seen on the floor of CLOSET (10D) (Figure 74).

Two-inch flagstone known as Pennsylvania bluestone comprises the flooring material in the LOBBY (11) (Figure 75). The stone floor is directly in front of the fireplace. This area was designed to serve as a reception area per the original plans.

An aggregated coating has been applied to the floor in the BASEMENT WORKROOM (32). Some chipping is present (Figure 76).



Figure 61. Tile in the men's public restrooms.



Figure 62. Crack in terrazzo landing.



Figure 63. Stage at the north end of the auditorium.



Figure 64. Blind nail revealed in space between boards. (Pen for scale.)



Figure 65. Remnant of green VAT in closet.



Figure 66. Layers of flooring include carpet, green VAT, Masonite, and hardwood floor.



Figure 67. VAT floor at the kitchen counter.

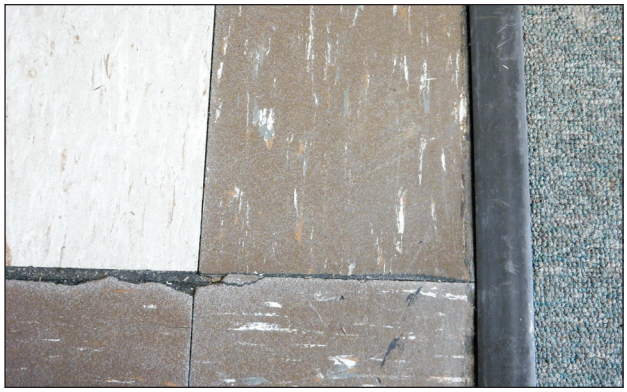


Figure 68. Detail of kitchen VAT floor with chipping.



Figure 69. Junction of terrazzo tread with VAT floor at the lobby stairs.



Figure 70. Chipping and degradation of VAT in the mechanical room at the northwest corner where there is also water infiltration.



Figure 71. VAT floor in the mechanical room corridor.



Figure 72. VAT in projection booth.

C30 Interior Finishes



Figure 73. Carpet flooring in the Nature Center hall.



Figure 74. Remnant of cork floor in a closet of the exhibit hall.



Figure 75. Flagstone in the lobby.



Figure 76. Aggregate coating on the cement slab in the basement workroom. (Pen for scale.)

C30 Interior Finishes

C30 Interior Finishes
C3030 Ceiling Finishes

C3030 02	Metal Lath / Wood Lath and Plaster
C3030 04	Acoustical Ceiling Tiles and Panels
C3030 05	Wood Ceilings
C3030 06	Painted and Stained Ceilings

Condition: Good
Deficiency: Minor

Treatment Recommendation: Regular maintenance should be sufficient to sustain the current condition. Further investigation into the cause of the peeling paint on the ceiling of the office & workroom is required. The peeling paint is probably the result of incompatible materials or heat during application. The ceiling should be scraped and repainted. No moisture was observed at this location. However, the ceiling of the southeast corner of the nature discovery center shows water staining and compromised paint.

See Figure 77 toFigure 80.



Figure 77. Office and workroom ceiling shows peeling paint. View looking northwest, towards door and fixed sidelight.



Figure 78. Peeling paint on the north side of the light fixture (top); south side of light fixture (bottom).



Figure 79. Southwest corner of the nature discovery room.



Figure 80. Detail of water staining and peeling paint.

D20 Plumbing

D20 Plumbing
D2010 Plumbing Fixtures
D2010 01 Water Closets (Toilets)
D2010 03 Lavatories (Sink for Hand Washing)
D2010 05 Sink (Service Sink)
D2010 06 Drinking Fountains
D2090 Other Plumbing Systems
D2090 99 Other Special Plumbing Systems

Condition: Unrated
Deficiency: Unrated

Treatment Recommendation: N/A

The functionality of the plumbing fixtures and systems was not addressed. The images (Figure 81 to Figure 83) document the physical condition of the units and fixtures only. They are in excellent condition.



Figure 81. Water closets: (left to right) administration restroom; women's restroom (ADA compliant); boiler restroom; men's public restroom urinals; women's public restroom stalls.



Figure 82. Lavatories and sink: (left to right) two women's restroom; administration restroom; boiler restroom.



Figure 83. Drinking fountain at the western elevation. The original fountain was cast cement (above, foreground).

D30 HVAC

D30 HVAC
D3020 Heat Generating System
D3020 02 Hot Water Boiler

D3030 Cooling Generating System
D3030 01 Condensing Unit at Exterior, Air Handlers

Condition: Good
Deficiency: Minor

Treatment Recommendation: N/A

The fuctionality of these systems was not evaluated.



Figure 84. Hot water boiler and detail.



Figure 85. (left) Gas meter in basement workroom. (right) Radiant baseboard heat throughout public section.



Figure 86. (left) Air handlers in mechanical room. (right) Detail of pump for air handlers.

D40 Fire Protection

D40 Fire Protection
D4030 Fire Protection Specialties
D4030 01 Fire Extinguishing Devices
Wall-Mounted Fire Extinguishers

D4090 Other Fire Protection Systems
D4090 01 Hard-Wired with Battery Back-up
Smoke Detectors

Condition: Good
Deficiency: Minor

Treatment Recommendation: Rock Creek Park plans to install a fire suppression system at the Nature Center.

Fire extinguishers are wall-mounted in the EXHIBIT HALL (10), EXHIBIT CORRIDOR (5), KITCHEN (20), LOWER LOBBY (30), inside the PROJECTION BOOTH (29), PLANETARIUM (1), and at the CORRIDOR (3) and STAIR (14). The AUDITORIUM (28) has two extinguishers. A smoke detector is ceiling mounted in every room of the nature center. They are checked for functionality annually.







Figure 87. (left to right) Auditorium, exhibit hall, and kitchen fire extinguishers.



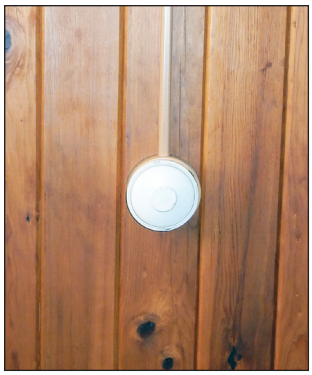


Figure 88. (left to right) Smoke detector in lower lobby and lobby. The electrical wire in the lobby is surface mounted as there is no interstitial space in this ceiling.

D50 Electrical

D50 Electrical
D5010 Electrical Service and Distribution
D5010 05 Panels
Panel A, 3-Phase 4-Wire
120/208V 100Amp 30 circuits
Panel B, 3-Phase 4-Wire
120/208V 100Amp 35 circuits

D5020 Lighting and Branch Wiring
D5020 02 Lighting Equipment

D5030 Communications and Security
D5030 01 Fire Alarm System
D5030 05 Public Announcement (PA) System
D5030 08 Security System

Condition: Good
Deficiency: Minor

Treatment Recommendation: The electrical service, lighting, PA system, fire and security alarms are functioning without any problems.

See Figure 89 and Figure 90.



Figure 89. (from top left) Main electrical distribution panel, electric meter in mechanical room, remote meter for PEPCO, main circuit breakers in mechanical room.



Figure 90. (top, left to right) Fire alarm enunciation panel; fire enunciator panel maintenance record and certification and second fire alarm enunciation panel; (left) fire alarm enunciator and security system motion detector.

E10 Equipment

E10 Equipment
E1020 Institutional Equipment
E1020 03 Laboratory Equipment
Aquatic Tanks and Terrariums its
E1020 05 Auditorium and Stage Equipment
Screen, Microphones, Projectors

Condition: Good
Deficiency: Minor

Treatment Recommendation: The laboratory equipment and auditorium equipment were not rated for functionality. The physical condition of these items is good. The auditorium was rehabilitated in 1990 with a new ceiling screen, projection ports and speakers.

The PLANETARIUM (1) projector was replaced in 2012. The projector is a SciDome Planetarium Instrument.



Figure 91. (above) Fish tank in the exhibit hall, left; terrarium in exhibit hall, right. (below) Planetarium projector (left); projection equipment in the projection booth, right.



E20 Furnishings

E20 Furnishings
E2010 Fixed Furnishings
E2010 03 Seating

Condition: Good
Deficiency: Minor

Treatment Recommendation: The planetarium seating is in good condition. The auditorium seating was replaced during the 1979 renovation. The planetarium seat cushions were recently replaced. The seats are in good condition and require only regular maintenance to sustain the current condition.

The PLANETARIUM (1) seating is composed of three semi-circular rows of benches with reclined backs. The PLANETARIUM seats 70. The AUDITORIUM (28) seats 105.



Figure 92. (above) Seating in the planetarium and (below) in the auditorium.



G20 Site Improvements

G20 Site Improvements
- **G2020 Parking Areas**
- **G2030 Pedestrian Paving**
  - G2030 03 Paved Surfaces
    - ADA Access Ramps
- **G2040 Site Development**
  - G2040 01 Fencing and Gates
  - G2040 02 Retaining Walls
  - G2040 03 Exterior Furnishings
    - Benches
    - Lamps
  - G2040 05 Signage
  - G2040 99 Other Exterior Furnishings
    - Flagpole
- **G2050 Maintained Landscapes**
  - G2050 02 Erosion Control Measures

Condition: Good
Deficiency: Minor

Treatment Recommendation: The paved surfaces on the exterior of the building are in good condition but do show some cracking of concrete. The west elevation main entrance has a crack parallel to the top step, and at the location of the load-bearing columns and stone column. Regular maintenance of this crack is required so that it does not become a tripping hazard. A structural investigation should be conducted to determine the cause of the cracking and to recommend treatment. The sloped circular portion of the pavement nearest the entrance doors was replaced in 2007. he east elevation rear patio is paved with precast concrete pavers. It is in excellent condition.

Leaf litter should be cleaned seasonally so that positive site drainage away from the building can be re-established.

Fencing exists at the rear, east elevation. It is built of wood and in very good condition. Three retaining walls exist at the rear elevation, perpendicular to the auditorium (28). Two of the walls form the parapet sides of the ADA ramp that exits the auditorium. These are in good condition. A large retaining wall extends from the southeast corner of the auditorium. The wall is constructed of board–formed concrete and shows a significant vertical crack that extends the height of the wall and the depth of the wall. A structural investigation should be conducted to determine the cause of the cracking and to recommend treatment. The crack is likely being exacerbated by rust-jacking of the steel railing post.



Figure 93. Patio of the west elevation shows some cracking; detail of cracking at right.



Figure 94. (left) Crack at the front steps of the main entrance, west elevation; (center) detail of crack and repair attempt with caulk; (right) pre-cast concrete pavers on the west elevation patio.



Figure 95. (left) A wooden post and rail fence follows the ADA accessible path from the parking lot to the rear of the building; (right) detail of railing.



Figure 96. Parapet retaining walls at the accessible auditorium ramp.

The benches on the drive approach are originals from 1959, although the wood may be newer. They are in excellent condition, as are the lamps, signage, and flagpole.

Erosion control measures are in good condition. Regular maintenance will require cleaning biological debris from the below-grade drain at the window well of the west elevation, north of the main entrance. Water leaking from this area is likely contributing to the moisture infiltration at the northwest corner of the MECHANICAL ROOM (23).



Figure 97. (top left) Retaining wall at east elevation and (bottom left) retaining wall in 1959 during construction; (right) crack detail.



Figure 98. (left) Lamppost at rear, east elevation; (right) Concrete and wood benches line the semi-circular approach of the parking lot, signage, and flagpole.



Figure 99. Detail of concrete and wood bench.

G20 Site Improvements



Figure 100. West elevation window well, north section, left of the main entrance.



Figure 101. Window well at west elevation detail.


ROCK CREEK PARK
NATURE CENTER
AND PLANETARIUM
5200 GLOVER RD

PART 2

TREATMENT AND WORK RECOMMENDATIONS

TREATMENT AND USE

ALTERNATIVES FOR TREATMENT

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Treatment and Work Recommendations

Development Alternatives
In the General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement (GMP) for Rock Creek Park (2006), the National Park Service considered four alternatives for development of the park. Although the alternatives in the plan deal with broad site issues, a specific treatment and use was identified for the Visitor Facility Zone, which includes the Nature Center.

In the plan, the Visitor Facility Zone is identified as requiring a high degree of maintenance and intervention to accommodate concentrated visitor use. Historic buildings within the Visitor Facility Zone are maintained in keeping with NPS policies and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the protection of cultural resource values.

Alternative A:
Improved Management of Established Park Uses
Alternative A would modify current management to improve visitor safety, better control traffic volumes and speeds through the park, enhance interpretation and education opportunities, and improve the protection of park resources. It generally would retain the current scope of visitor uses.

Alternative B:
Continue Current Management/No Action
Alternative B would continue the current management pattern into the future. It represents the "no action alternative" required by the Council on Environmental Quality (1978) guidelines for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Alternative C:
Non-motorized Recreation Emphasis
Alternative C would permanently eliminate automobile traffic along three segments of Beach Drive and better control traffic volumes and speeds elsewhere. Management of resources other than traffic would be the same as in Alternative A.

Alternative D:
Mid-Weekday Recreation Enhancement
Alternative D would eliminate automobile traffic along three segments of Beach Drive from 9:30a.m. to 3:30p.m. each weekday. Management of resources other than traffic would be the same as in Alternative A. This would be the environmentally preferred alternative.

Specific to the Rock Creek Nature Center, the Visitor Facility Zone alternatives are described below:

Visitor Facility Zone Alternative A would improve park information, interpretation, and education services. Under this alternative, the Visitor Facility Zone would occupy about 1 acre (less than 0.1 percent of the park). Potential actions that could be implemented to improve visitor services include converting the Lodge House to a visitor contact station and upgrading the Rock Creek Nature Center and Planetarium.

Specifically, the Nature Center area would continue to serve as the park's primary facility for environmental education and natural history interpretation. The building would first be evaluated for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, and then rehabilitated and/or expanded to improve the effectiveness of programs for the public. Improvements may include additional classroom space, a covered group shelter for bad weather, and staff offices. The planetarium would be upgraded, including increased seating capacity. Rehabilitation of the building would be aesthetically compatible with the natural setting. Expansion of the structure would be within the existing grounds of the center.

Visitor Facility Zone Alternative B would continue to use the existing facilities for park introduction and information services. Under this alternative, the Visitor Facility Zone would occupy about 3 acres (0.1 percent of the park).

Visitor Facility Zone Alternative C would improve park interpretive, educational, and information services. Under this alternative, the Visitor Facility Zone would occupy about 1 acre (less than 0.1 percent of the park). Potential actions that could be implemented to improve visitor services would be identical to those described for Alternative A and could include converting the Lodge House to a visitor contact station and upgrading the Rock Creek Nature Center and Planetarium.

Visitor Facility Zone Alternative D would improve park interpretive, educational, and information services. Under this alternative, the Visitor Facility Zone would occupy about 1 acre (less than 0.1 percent of the park). Potential actions that could be implemented to improve visitor services would be identical to those described for Alternative A and could include converting the Lodge House to a visitor contact station and upgrading the Rock Creek Nature Center and Planetarium.

Table 9: Summary of Key Differences among the Alternatives

Park Feature	Alternative A: Improved Management of Established Park Uses	Alternative B: Continue Current Management/No Action	Alternative C: Non-motorized Recreation Emphasis	Alternative D: Mid-Weekday Recreation Enhancement
Rock Creek Nature Center	Rehabilitate and expand the Nature Center in order to improve effectiveness of public programs. Upgrade the planetarium.	Maintain current configuration.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.

Table 10: Summary of Impacts of the Alternatives

Park Feature	Alternative A: Improved Management of Established Park Uses	Alternative B: Continue Current Management/No Action	Alternative C: Non-motorized Recreation Emphasis	Alternative D: Mid-Weekday Recreation Enhancement
Rock Creek Nature Center	• Little effect on air quality because traffic patterns would not change from Alternative B and traffic would remain in the airshed. • Carbon monoxide levels would be below National Ambient Air Quality Standard. • The airshed's ozone status would not be affected. • Best management practices would ensure that effects from construction would be negligible. • No impairment of air quality resources.	• Carbon monoxide levels would increase compared to the current conditions because of traffic increases. However, carbon monoxide levels would remain well below the national Ambient Air Quality Standard. • No impairment of air quality resources.	• Effects would be the same as Alternative A. Although Alternative C would reroute traffic that would use Beach Drive under Alternative A or B, no traffic would be diverted to outside the airshed.	• Effects would be the same as Alternative A. Although Alternative D would reroute traffic that would use Beach Drive during mid-day period under Alternative A or B, no traffic would be diverted to outside the airshed.

A comparison of the alternatives is presented in Table 9.

The Preferred Alternative

The preferred alternative in the final GMP is Alternative A. Alternative A would not impair park resources or values. The goals of Alternative A are to preserve traditional visitor experiences and activities, enhance natural, cultural, and scenic values in the park, assert control over non-recreational use of park roads to improve the safety and quality of the experience for visitors participating in non-motorized recreation, and to optimize the use of structures for purposes such as interpretation, visitor contact, and park administration.

Part of the General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement compared the potential effects of each alternative on the surrounding environment. A comparison of the impacts is shown in Table 10.

Alternative A continued to be the preferred option. Apart from these alternatives, the GMP does not specify any particular interior or exterior treatment for the Rock Creek Nature Center. This is largely due to the fact that before 2009, the Nature Center was not old enough to be considered historic for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Now that the Nature Center is more than 50 years old, it will warrant further research for individual nomination to the NRHP.

National Register Eligibility and Period of Significance

The Rock Creek Park Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1991 under National Register Criteria A, B, and C, with a period of significance from 1791 to 1941. It did not include the Nature Center. The new nomination—the Rock Creek Park Historic District Amendment and Boundary Expansion—is an amendment to the Rock Creek Park Historic District and proposes an increase in the historic district boundaries, an expanded Period of Significance, and the inclusion of National Register Criterion D.

The amended nomination expands the district's Period of Significance. The nomination includes archeological sites with a period of significance of 3000 to 600 B.C.E. and C.E. 1740 to 1800 and it expands the park's existing (1791 to 1941) period of significance to 1972. The new periods of significance represent the contribution of Rock Creek Park's archeological sites in understanding prehistoric settlement, colonial tenant farming, Civil War battlefields and sites, and African-American tenants. With respect to the Nature Center, the expansion of the existing period of significance reflects the inclusion of the park's continued development as a historic cultural landscape, including improvements made following World War II and under the federally sponsored Mission 66 and Parkscape U.S.A. programs of the NPS from 1956 to 1972.

The Nature Center is currently identified as a contributing resource to the park's National Register nomination. The period of significance for the Nature Center is 1959 to 1972. The research efforts for this HSR suggest that the Rock Creek Nature Center would individually qualify for the National Register under Criterion C for resources that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction, in this case, Mid-Century Modern.

Summary of Treatment Options

The Secretary of the Interior has defined four categories of treatment for historic structures: preservation, restoration, rehabilitation, and reconstruction, which are defined as follows:

Preservation: "The act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity, and materials of an historic property. Preservation focuses on the maintenance and repair of existing historic materials and retention of a property's form as it has evolved over time."

Restoration: "The act or process of accurately depicting the form, features, and character of features from other periods in its history and reconstruction of missing features from the restoration period. Restoration is undertaken to depict a property at a particular period of time in its history."

Rehabilitation: "The act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical, cultural or architectural values. Rehabilitation acknowledges the need to alter or add to a historic property to meet continuing or changing uses while retaining the property's historic character."

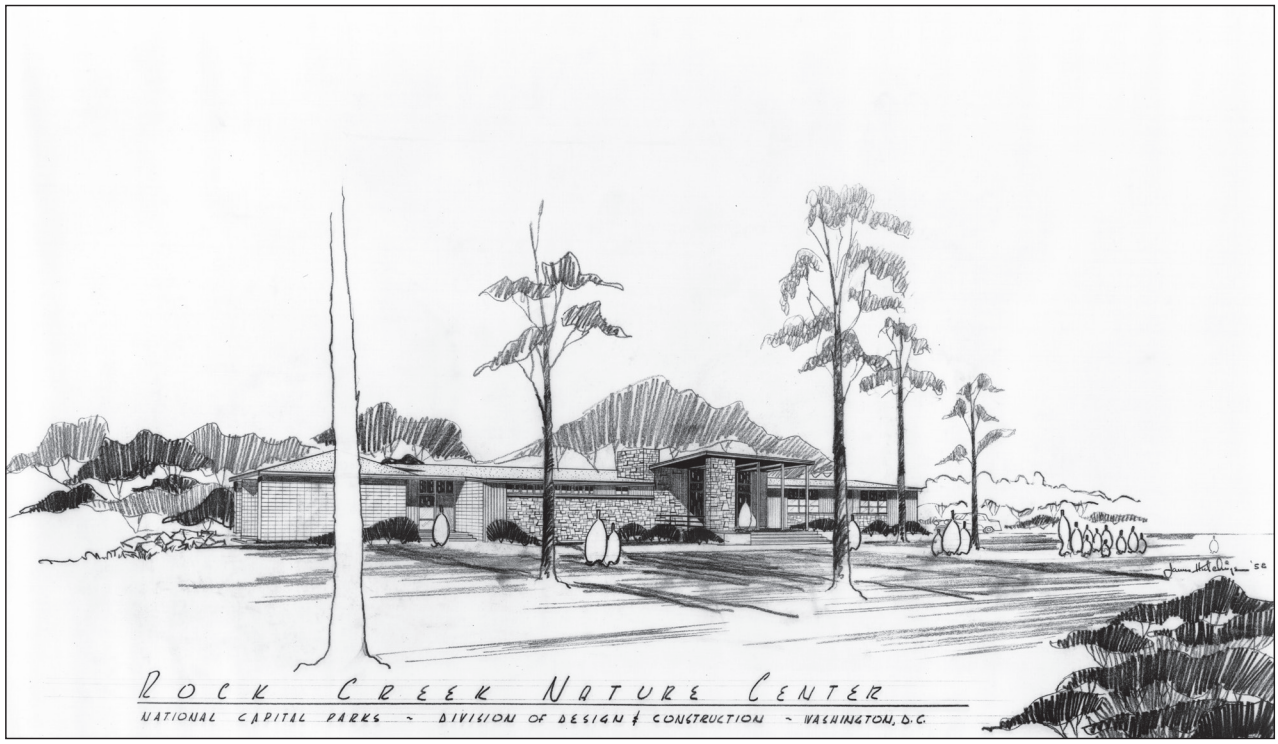
Reconstruction: "The act or process of depicting, by means or new construction, the form, features and detailing of a non-surviving site, landscape, building, structure or object for the purpose of replicating its appearance at a specific period of time and in its historic location."

Recommended Action

As the Nature Center is an intact structure, reconstruction is not viable. Likewise, the Nature Center has not changed in appearance since it was initially constructed, so restoration is also negated as a treatment option. The consideration of the re-

maining treatment options, rehabilitation and preservation, therefor rests on the significance of the structure, its physical condition, and its intended use as defined by the park GMP and its *Preferred Alternative*.

Preservation provides an option as a baseline for the development of other options. It is effectively the "no-action" alternative from the GMP. *Rehabilitation* is the desired treatment for both the interior and exterior of the structure in keeping with Preferred Alternative of the GMP. However, in the absence of an approved treatment document for *rehabilitation*, the *preservation* methodology consists of the continued preservation maintenance of the exterior and interior of the structure.


ROCK CREEK NATURE CENTER
NATIONAL CAPITAL PARKS - DIVISION OF DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION - WASHINGTON, D.C.

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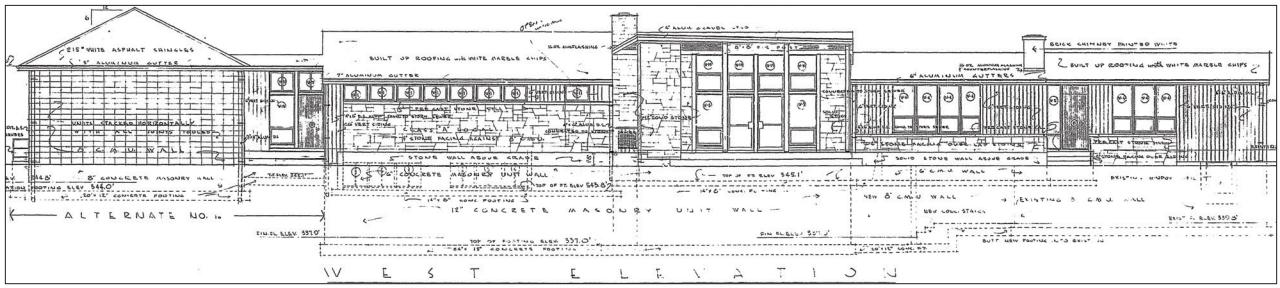
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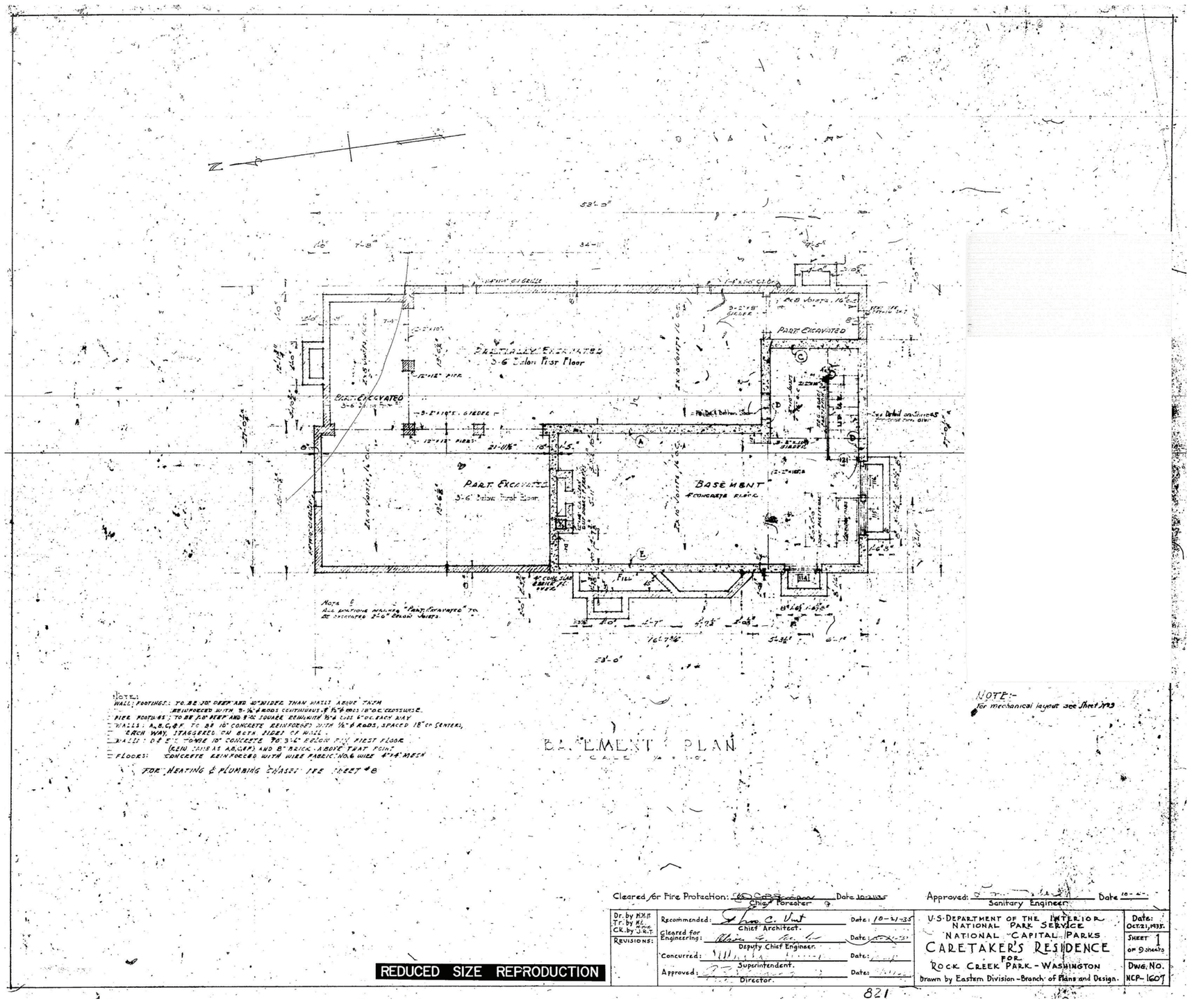
Rock Creek Park Maintenance Files. Rock Creek Park Headquarters and Maintenance Building, Glover Road, N.W., Washington, D.C.


BUILT UP ROOFING with WHITE MARBLE CHIPS
ALTERNATE NO. 1
WEST ELEVATION

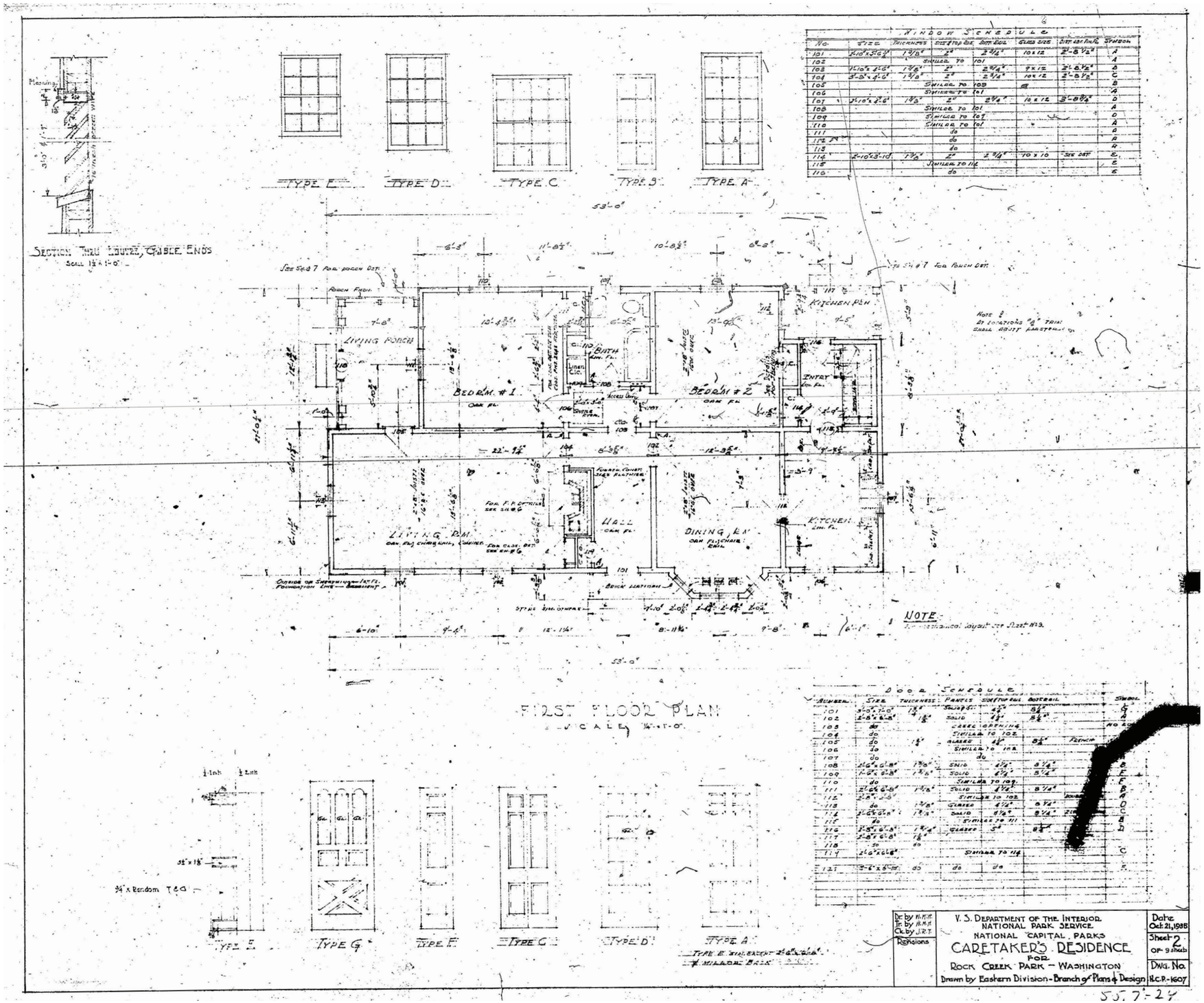

NATURE CENTER

APPENDIX A

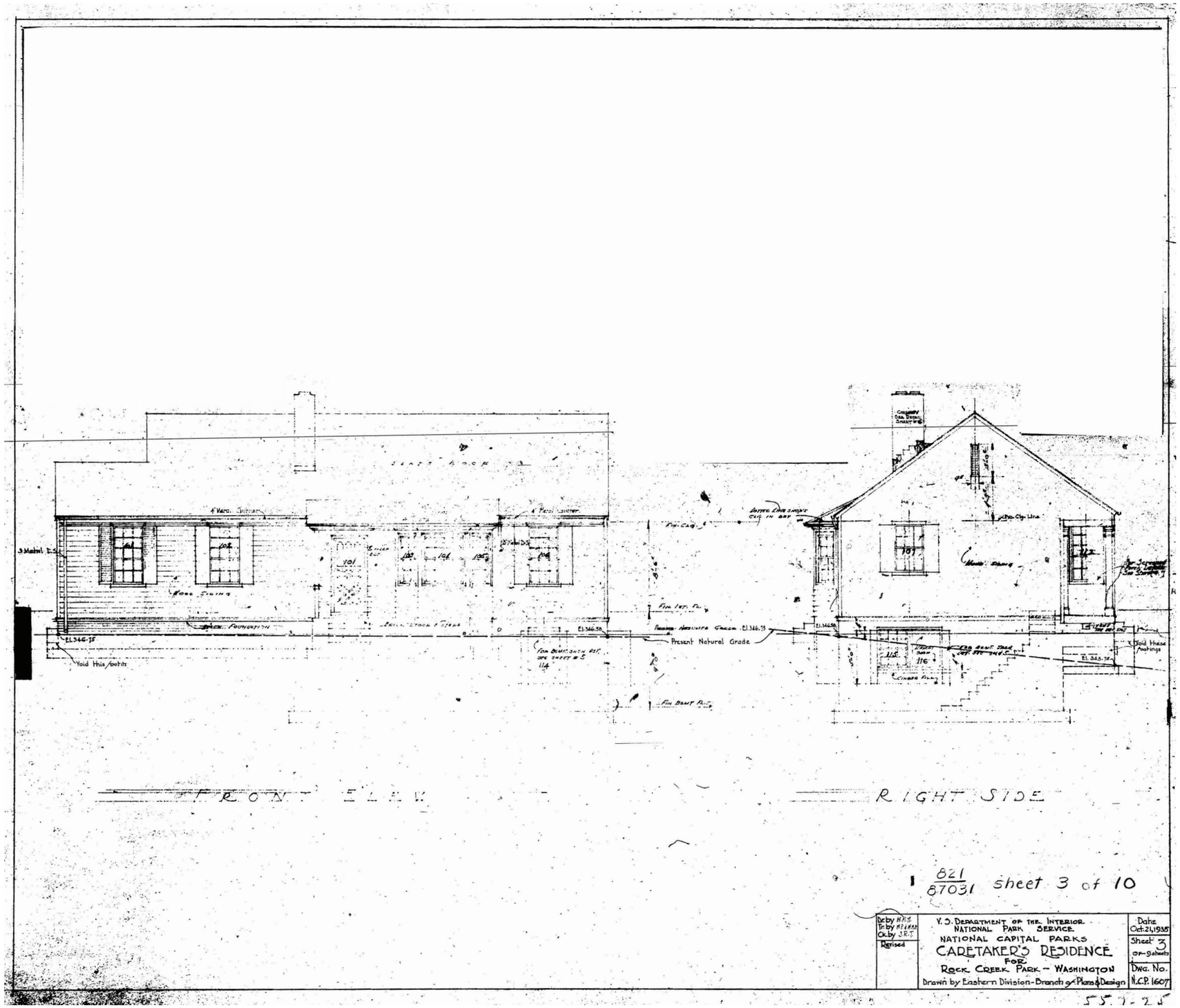
DRAWINGS



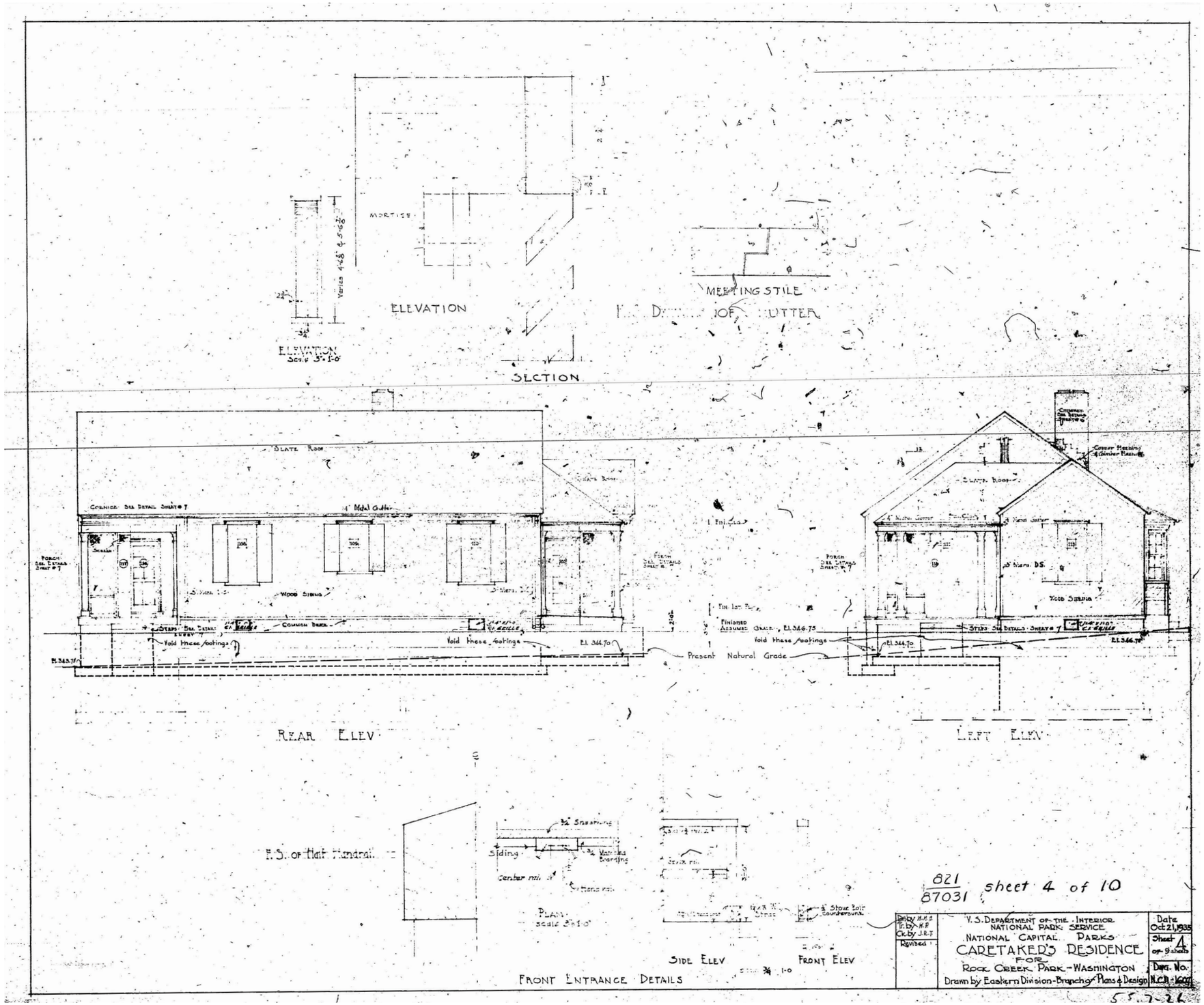
Drawing 1. 1935 Plan for Caretaker's Residence, Basement.



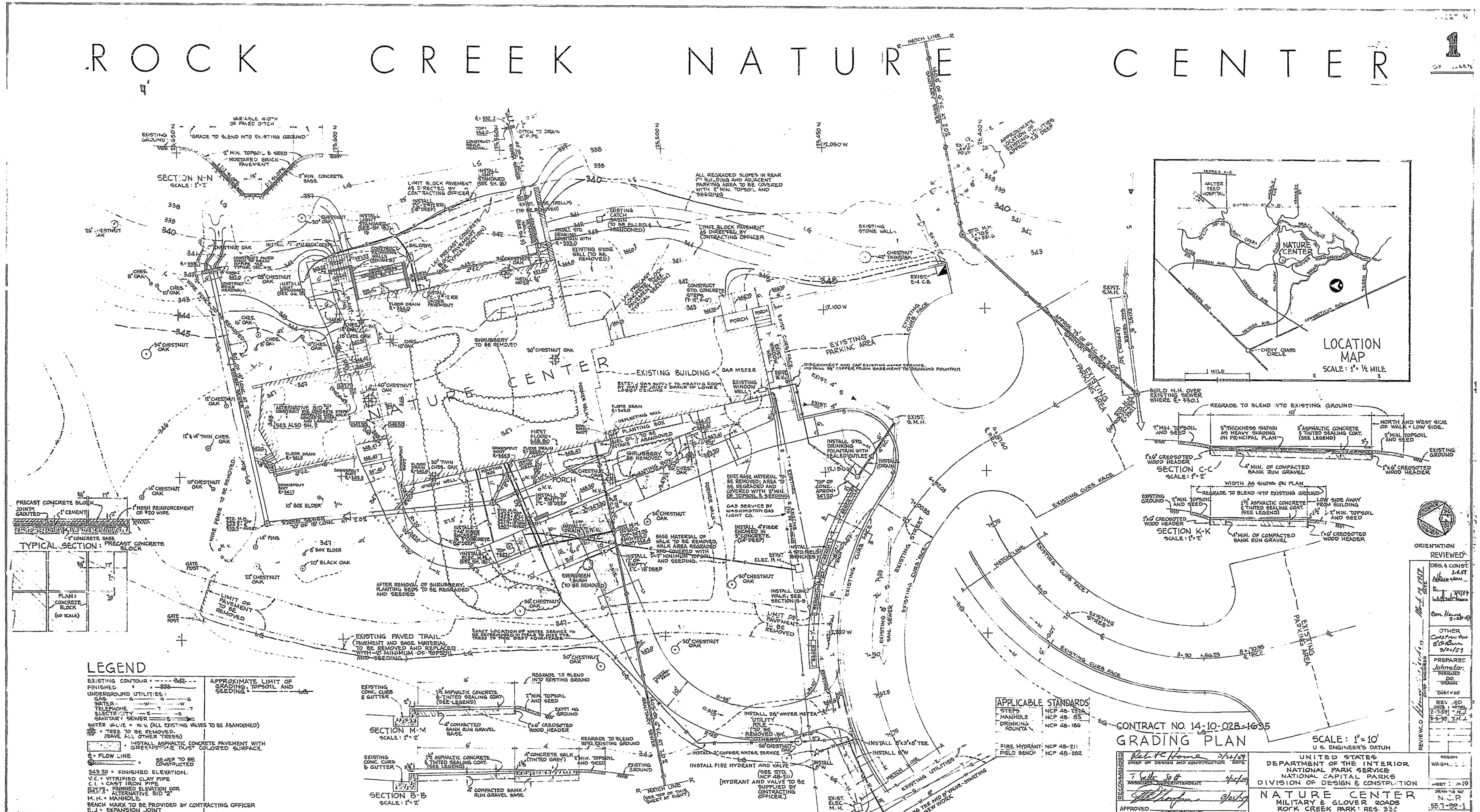
Drawing 2. 1935 Plan for Caretaker's Residence, First Floor.



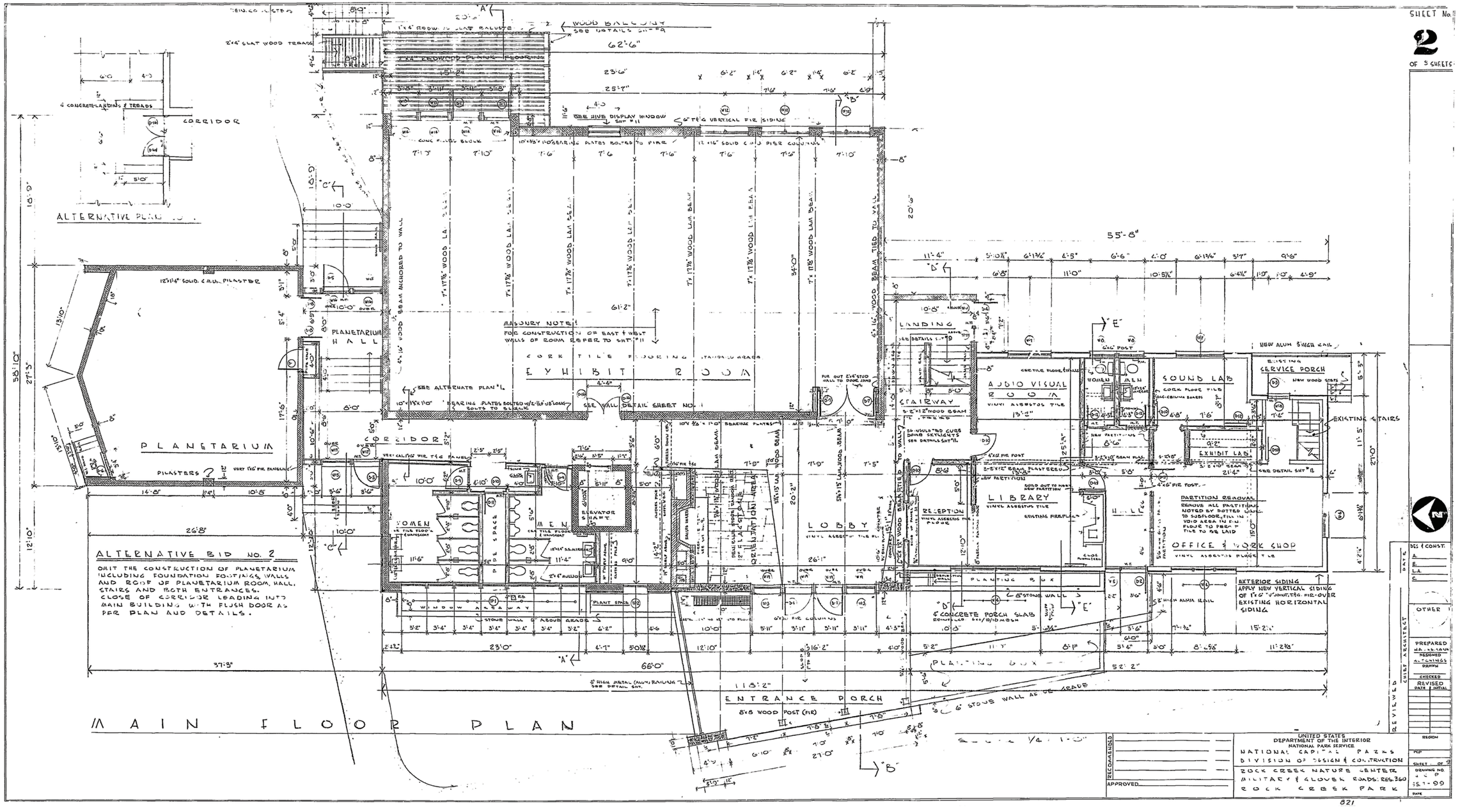
Drawing 3. 1935 Plan for Caretaker's Residence, West (Front) and South (Right) Elevations.



Drawing 4. 1935 Plan for Caretaker's Residence, East (Rear) and North (Left) Elevations.



Drawing 5. 1959 Rock Creek Nature Center Grading Plan.



Drawing 6. 1959 Rock Creek Nature Center Main Floor Plan.

LOWER LEVEL FLOOR PLAN
SCALE 1/4"=1'-0"

SECTION "M"-"M" THRU EXIT AREAWAY
SCALE 1/2"=1'-0"

LONGITUDINAL SECTION "O"-"O" THRU AUDITORIUM SHOWING FLOOR SLOPE
SCALE 1/4"=1'-0"

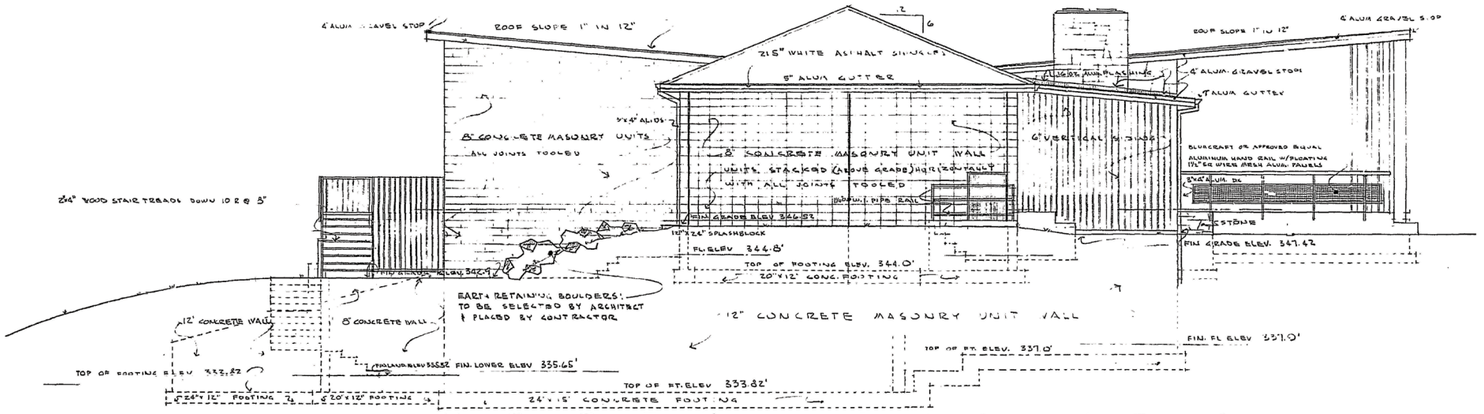
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL CAPITAL PARKS
DIVISION OF DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION
ROCK CREEK NATURE CENTER
MILITARY & CLOVER ROADS: RES 360
ROCK CREEK PARK

PREPARED: HUSHAUL
DESIGNED: HUTCHINGS
DRAWN:
CHECKED:
REVISED DATE | INITIAL:
REGION:
PCP:
SHEET 3 OF 9
DRAWING NO. N.C.D. 55-1-39
DATE: 8-1-39

FILMED at 36x

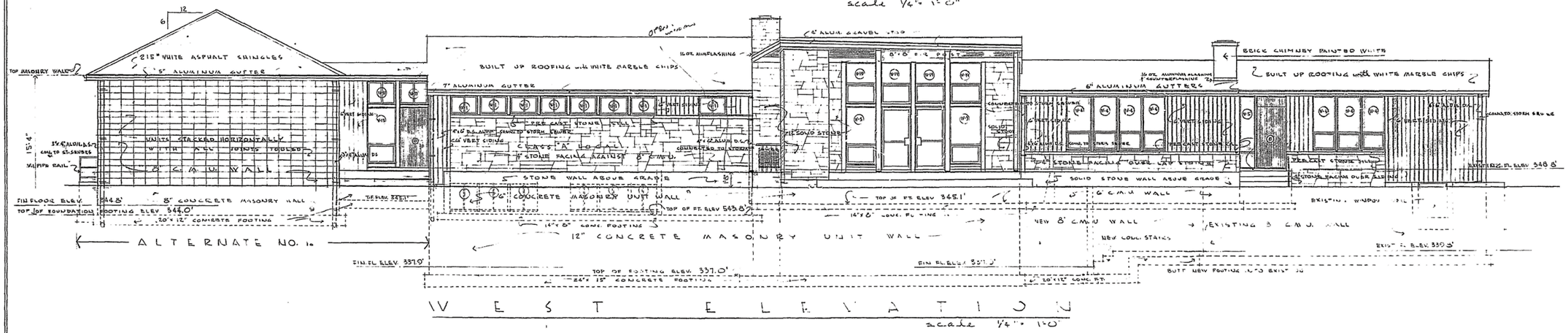
Drawing 7. 1959 Rock Creek Nature Center Lower Level Floor Plan.

SHEET No
4
OF 3 SHEETS



NORTH ELEVATION

scale 1/4" = 1'-0"



WEST ELEVATION

scale 1/4" = 1'-0"

ROOF DOWN SPOUTS:

ALL DOWN SPOUTS ON WEST ELEVATION TO BE CONNECTED TO ONE FOOTING DRAIN AND RUN OFF TO THE SOUTH ALONG THE FRONT OF THE BLDG AND ACROSS PARKING LOT TO MAN HOLE.

PREPARED
HAUSMANN & DESIGNED
ANTON NOLL DRAWN
CHECKED
REVISED
DATE | INITIAL

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL CAPITAL PARKS
DIVISION OF DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION
ROCK CREEK NATURE CENTER
MILITARY & GLOVER ROADS: 285 360
ROCK CREEK PARK

REGION
PCP
SHEET NO. OF 19
DRAWING NO. NCP
553-99
DATE

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Drawing 8. 1959 Rock Creek Nature Center North and West Elevations.

SHEET No. 5 OF 9 SHEETS

SOUTH ELEVATION

PLAN OF RETAINING WALLS 1/4"=1'-0"

SECTION "A" 1/4"=1'-0"

SECTION "B" 1/4"=1'-0"

SECTION "C" 1/4"=1'-0"

SEGMENT I

SEGMENT II

SEGMENT III

SEGMENT IV

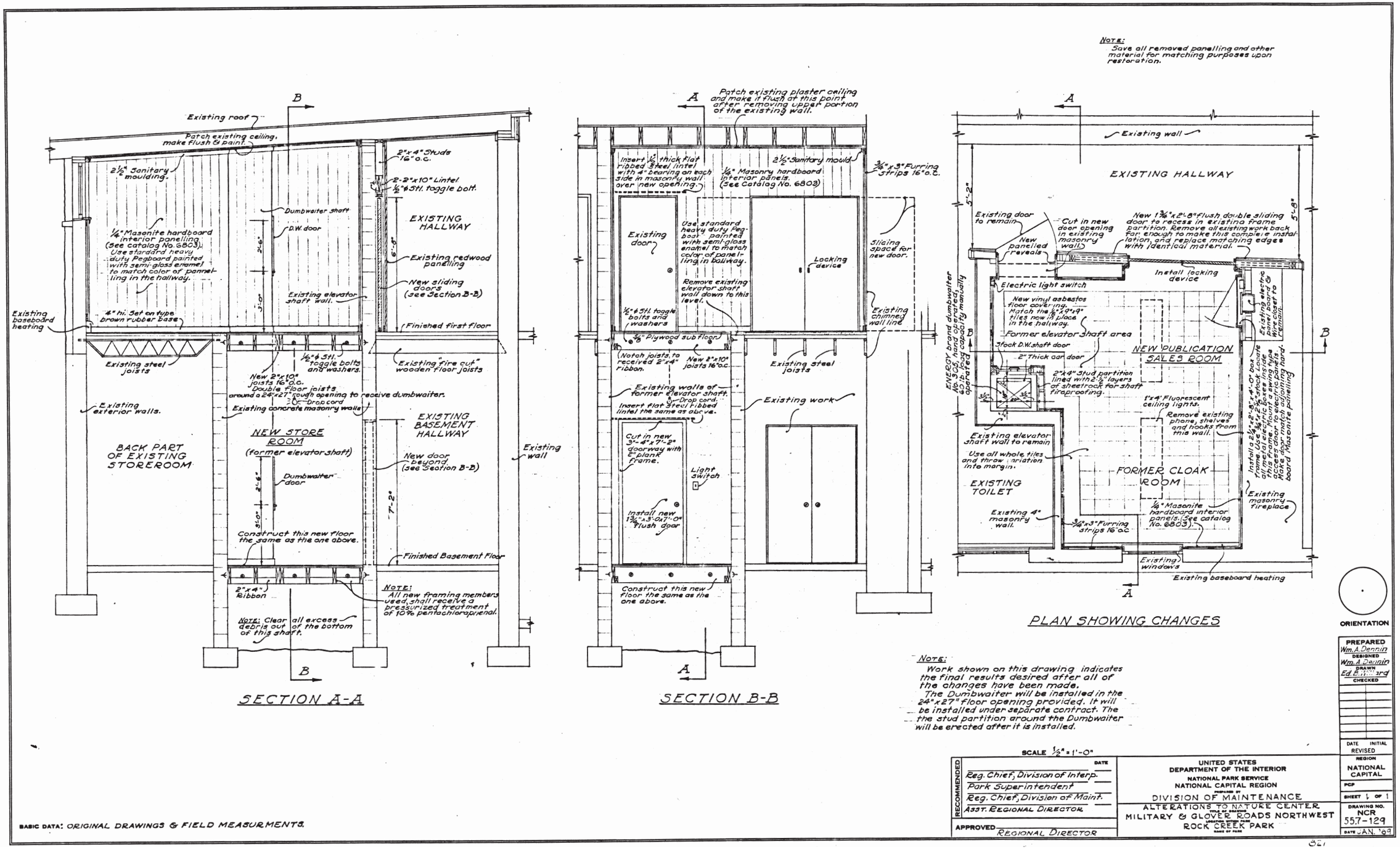
REINFORCED CONCRETE RETAINING WALLS

EAST ELEVATION

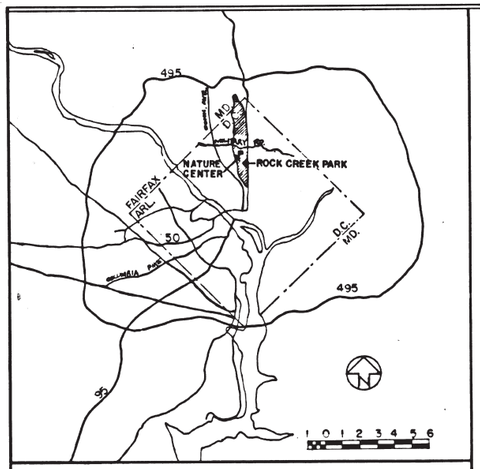
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL CAPITAL PARKS
DIVISION OF DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION
ROCK CREEK NATURE CENTER
ROCK CREEK PARK

PREPARED
DESIGNED
DRAWN
CHECKED
REVISED DATE | INITIAL
REGION
NCP
SHEET 3 OF 13
DRAWING NO
NCP 55.1-5
DATE

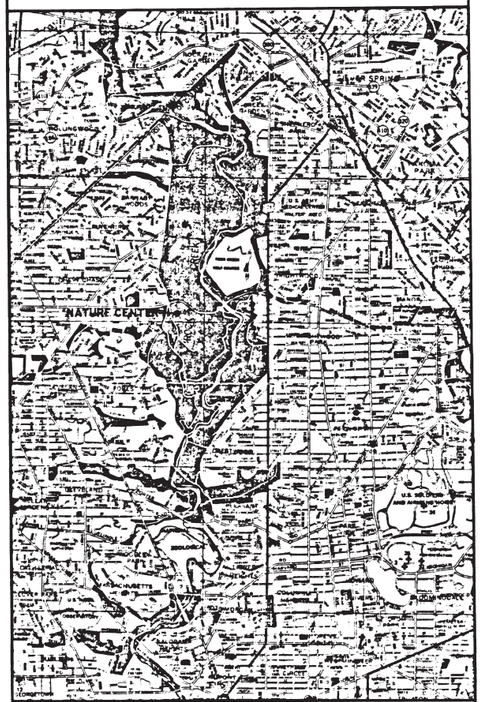
Drawing 9. 1959 Rock Creek Nature Center South and East Elevations



Drawing 10. 1969 Alterations to Nature Center



VICINITY MAP



LOCATION MAP

BASIC DATA

REHABILITATION OF NATURE CENTER ROCK CREEK PARK

National Capital Region
Washington, D.C.

Chapman, Miller & Layne · Architects
Washington, D.C.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Department of the Interior

SHEET INDEX

TITLE	SHEET NO.	DRWG. NO.
COVER SHEET	1.	
FLOOR PLANS - ARCHITECTURAL	2.	
PART SITE PLAN - MECHANICAL	3.	
FLOOR PLANS - MECHANICAL	4.	

REDUCED SIZE REPRODUCTION

RECOMMENDED
S/ RICHARD G. HUBER, Assistant Manager (ACTING) 3/15/79
S/ DONALD F. BENSON, Associate Manager D.S.C. (ACTING) 3/30/79
S/ JAMES J. REDMOND, Superintendent (ACTING) 3/13/79
APPROVED LOWELL V. STURGILL, Director - Region (ACTING) 5/2/79 Date

PRELIMINARY DRAWINGS
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DENVER SERVICE CENTER

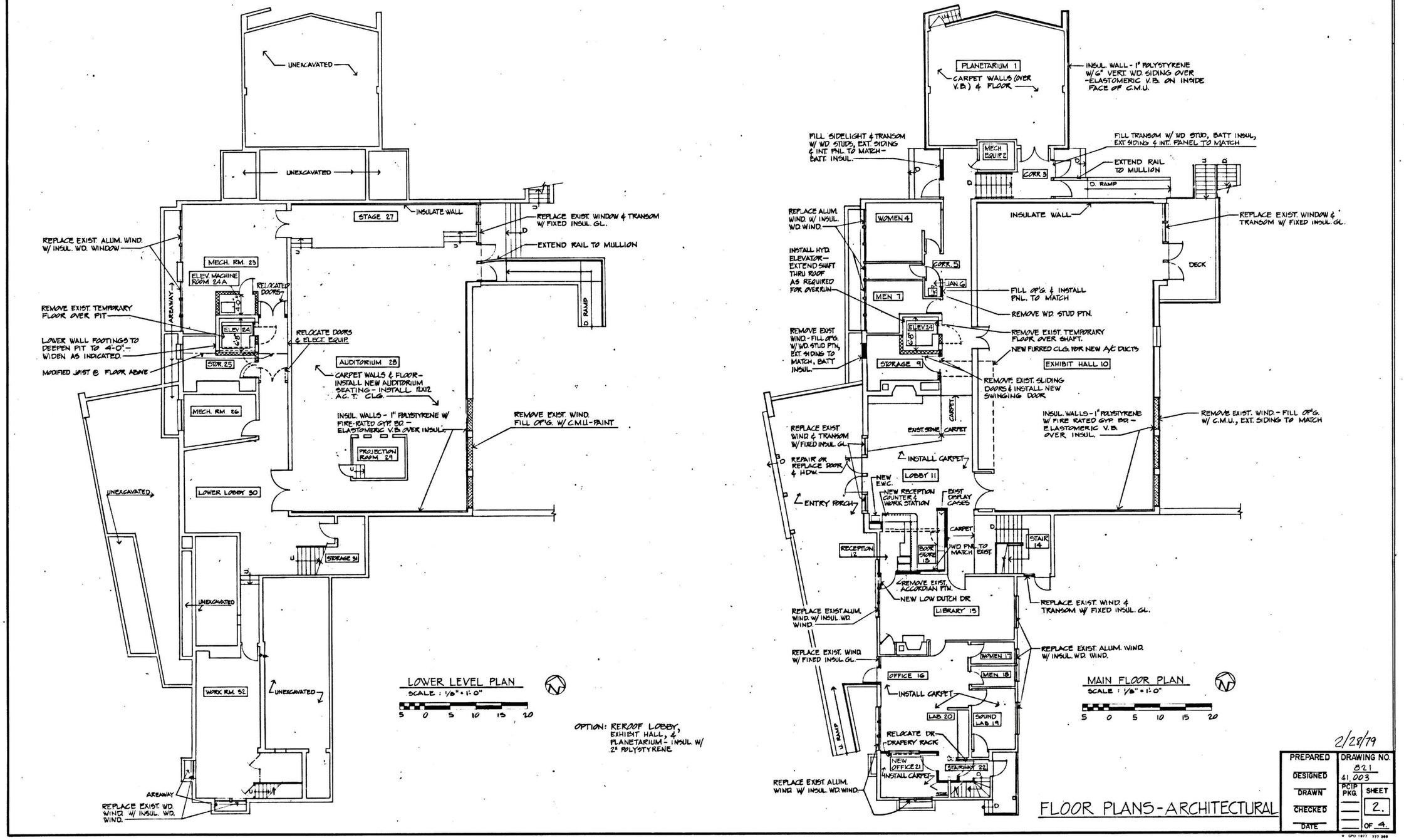
PREPARED
DESIGNED
DRAWN
CHECKED
DATE

IFB 3450-79A 2/28/79
TITLE OF DRAWING
REHABILITATION OF NATURE CENTER
LOCATION WITHIN PARK
NATURE CENTER
NAME OF PARK
ROCK CREEK PARK
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION — DIST. OF COLUMBIA COUNTY — STATE

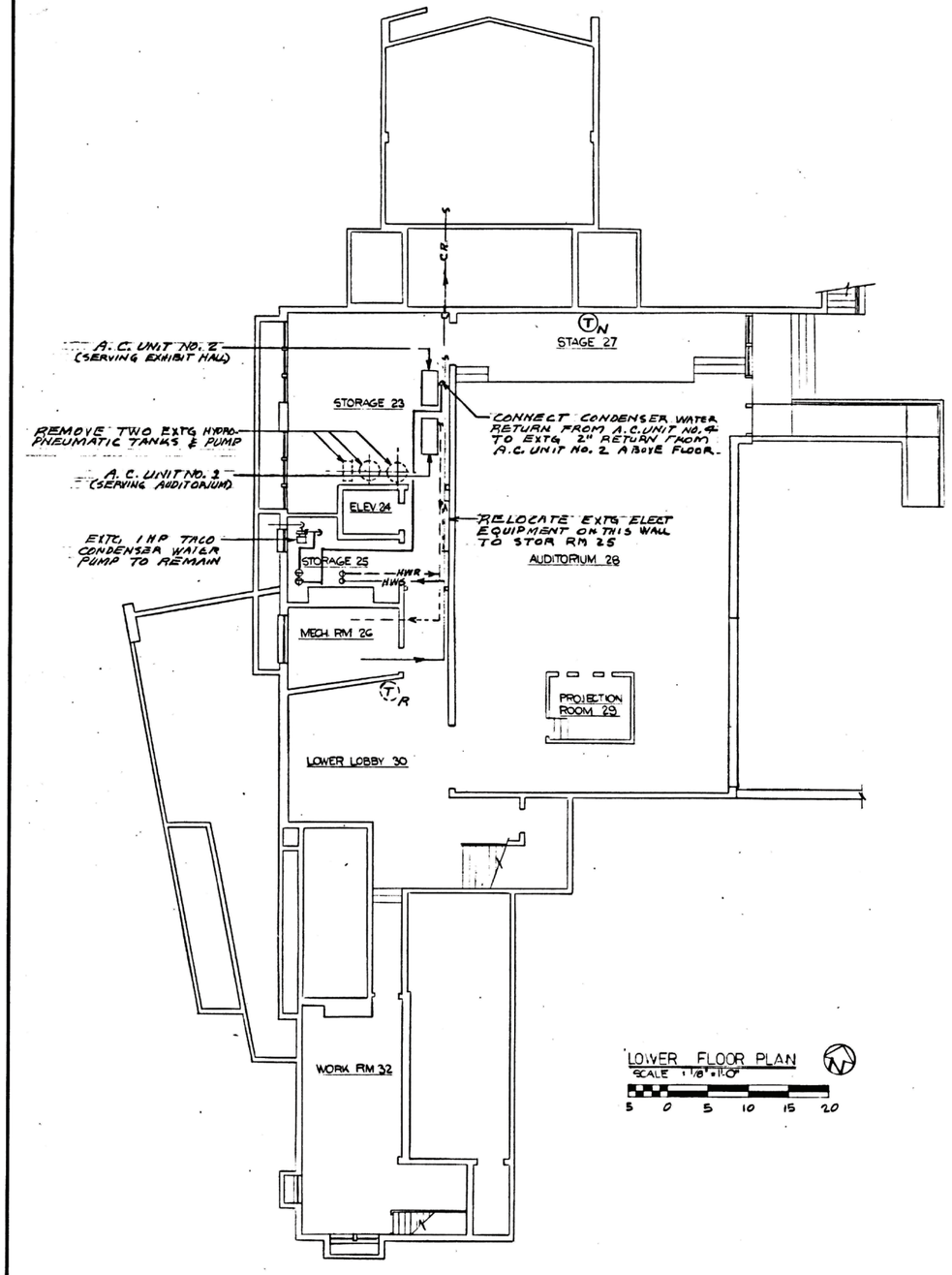
DRAWING NO 821 41,003
PCIP PKG.
SHEET 1.
OF 4

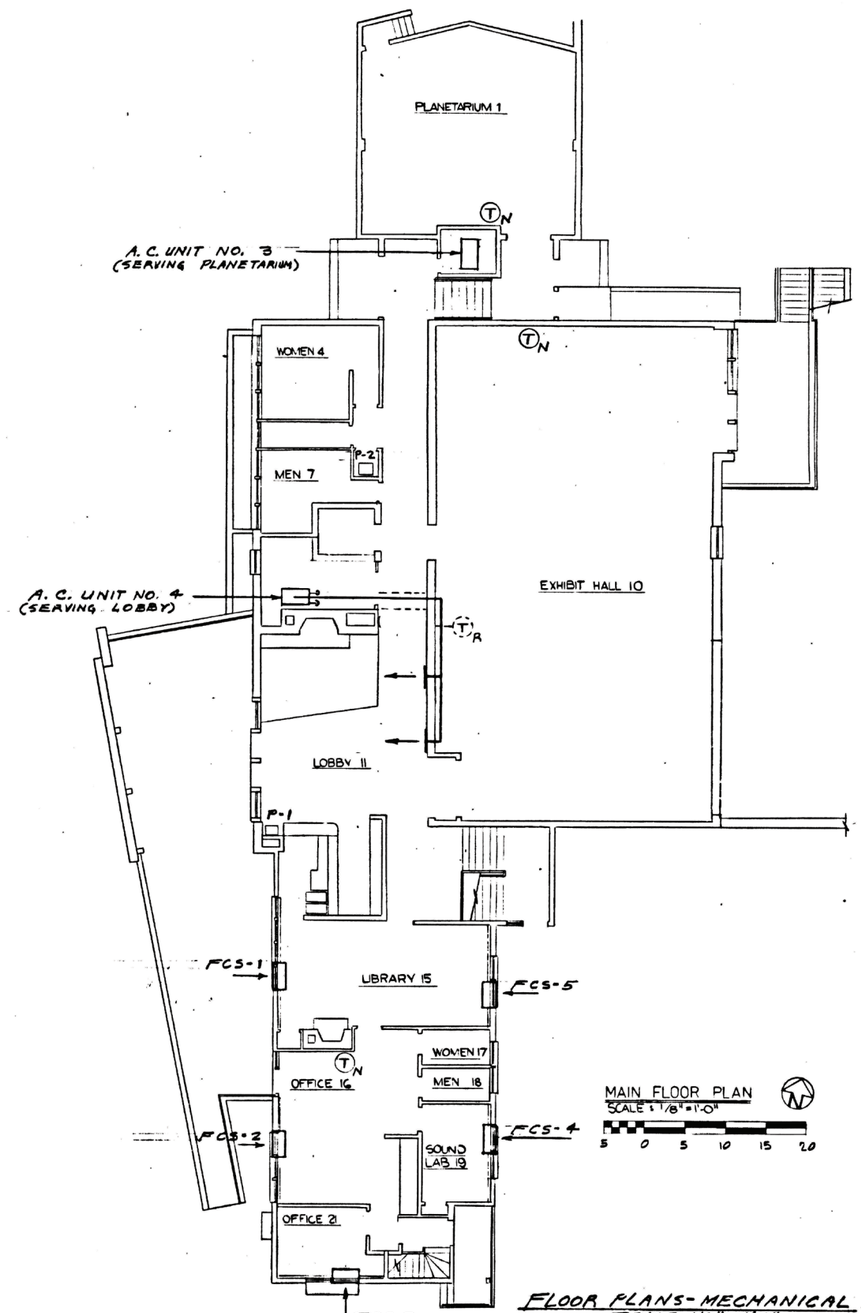
GPO 1974 678 709

Drawing 11. 1979 Rock Creek Nature Center Rehabilitation, Cover Sheet



Drawing 12. 1979 Rock Creek Nature Center Rehabilitation, Floor Plans - Architectural



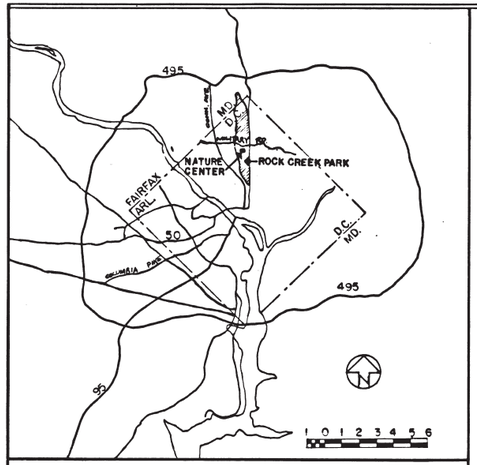


2/28/79

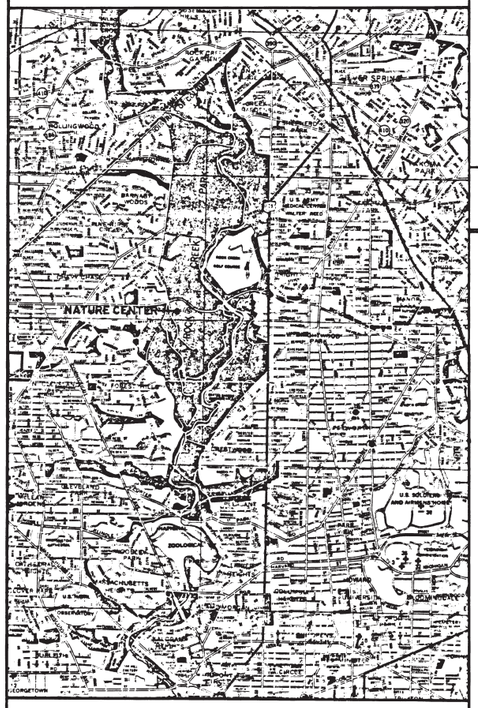
PREPARED	DRAWING NO.
DESIGNED	821
DRAWN	41,003
CHECKED	PCIP PKG. / SHEET 4
DATE	OF 4

FLOOR PLANS - MECHANICAL
SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0"

Drawing 13. 1979 Rock Creek Nature Center Rehabilitation, Floor Plans - Mechanical



VICINITY MAP



REHABILITATION OF NATURE CENTER ROCK CREEK PARK

National Capital Region
Washington, D.C.

Chapman, Miller & Layne · Architects
Washington, D.C.

ABBREVIATIONS

a.b.	anchor bolt
a.c. or a/c	air condition
ac.	acoustic
ac.t.	acoustic tile
adj.	adjustable
a.f.f.	above finish floor
a.h.	air handling
alum.	aluminum
alt.	alternate
approx.	approximately
aux.	auxiliary
@	at
blkg.	blocking
bd.	board
bot.	bottom
brg.	bearing
bsmt.	basement
b.u.	built-up
C	channel
cab.	cabinet
clg.	ceiling
℄	centerline
c.t.	ceramic tile
c.o.	clean out
clo.	closet
col.	column
conc.	concrete
cond.	condenser
const.	construction
cont.	continuous
c.m.u.	concrete masonry unit
c.j.	construction or control joint
corr.	corridor
cu.ft.	cubic foot
c.w.	cold water
det.	detail
dia., ⌀	diameter
dim.	dimension
dr.	door
dn.	down
d.s.	downspout
dwg.	drawing or drawings
ea.	each
elec.	electric
el/elev.	elevation
eq.	equal
equip.	equipment
exist., extg.	existing
exh.	exhaust
exp.	exposed
e.j.	expansion joint
ext.	exterior
e.w.c.	electric water cooler
F.	Fahrenheit
fin.	finish or finished
fix.	fixture
fl.	floor
f.d.	floor drain
f.r.	fire rated
ft.	foot or feet
ftg.	footing
g.p.m.	gallons per minute
galv.	galvanized
ga.	gage or gauge
gl.	glass
g.s.	gravel stop
gyp.	gypsum
hdcp.	handicapped
hdw.	hardware
hdwd.	hardwood
hgt.	height
h.m.	hollow metal
horz.	horizontal
h.p.	horse power
h.w.	hot water
in.	inch or inches
i.d.	inside diameter
insul.	insulation
int.	interior
jan.	janitor
jst.	joist
jt.	joint
k.w.	kilowatt
lab.	laboratory
lav.	lavatory
lib.	library
lin.ft.	lineal feet
maint.	maintenance
max.	maximum
mfr.	manufacturer
m.o.	masonry opening
mech.	mechanical
met.	metal
met.th.	metal threshold
min.	minimum
misc.	miscellaneous
N.I.C.	Not in Contract
no. or #	number
o.c.	on center
o.d.	outside diameter
off.	office
opg.	opening
opp.	opposite
oz.	ounce or ounces
P. or /	per
ptn.	partition
plas.	plaster
plas.lam.	plastic laminate
pl., ℗	plate
pnl.	paneling
plywd.	plywood
ptd.	painted
p.a.	public address
P.V.C.	polyvinyl chloride
rad.	radius or radiator
resil.	resilient
r.	riser
reinf.	reinforcement
rm.	room
req.	required
sht.	sheet
spec.	Specification(s)
S.S.	stainless steel
S.T.C.	Sound Transmission Class
std.	standard
stl.	steel
struc.	structural
stor.	storage
sq.	square
sq. ft.	square feet
susp.	suspended
temp.	tempered
terr.	terrazzo
th.	threshold
t./toil.	toilet
tr.wd.blkg.	treated wood blocking
t.	tread
typ.	typical
u.h.	unit heater
u.v.	unit ventilators
v.a.t.	vinyl asbestos tile
vert.	vertical
V.B.	Venetian blind
wd.	wood
wind.	window
wsct.	wainscot
w.p.	waterproof or waterproofing

MATERIALS

C.M.U.
CONCRETE
GRAVEL
METAL
STUD PARTITION SEE SHT. 2 FOR TYPES
PLYWOOD
GYP. BOARD
WOOD-ROUGH
WOOD-FINISH
BATT INSULATION
RIGID INSULATION

AS CONSTRUCTED
CONTRACTOR: CX-3000-9-9010
COUNTY CONSTRUCTION, INC
5161 RIVER RD. BUILDING NO.36
WASH. D.C. 20016

This drawing has been prepared in compliance with Preliminary/ Comprehensive Design Drawing No. 821 / 41,003
Approved by LOWELL V. STURGILL ACTING REGIONAL DIRECTOR on 8/2/79 Date
Associate Manager D.S.C. 8/23/79 Date

CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DENVER SERVICE CENTER

PREPARED
JM DESIGNED
DD, MC DRAWN
KL CHECKED
8/23/79 DATE

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Department of the Interior

SHEET INDEX

TITLE	SHEET NO.	DRWG. NO.
COVER SHEET	1.	
FLOOR PLANS	2.	
ROOF PLAN & DETAILS	3.	
EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS	4.	
WALL SECTIONS	5.	
RECEPTION AREA & DETAILS	6.	
FINISH SCHEDULE	7.	
DOOR SCHEDULE & DETAILS	8.	
WINDOW SCHEDULE & DETAILS	9.	
WINDOW DETAILS	10.	
ELEVATOR — ALT.#1	11.	
DTLS.-ALT. 1, SHELVING-BASE BID	12.	
ROOF FRAMING PLAN - STRUC.	13.	
NOTES & ALT.#1 — STRUC.	14.	
GEN. NOTES — MECHANICAL	15.	
FLOOR PLANS - MECHANICAL	16.	
FLOOR PLANS - ELECTRICAL	17.	

DETAIL NO. 1/2 SHEET NO. WHERE SHOWN
6/9 3 WINDOW NO.
5 DOOR NO.
4 PARTITION TYPE

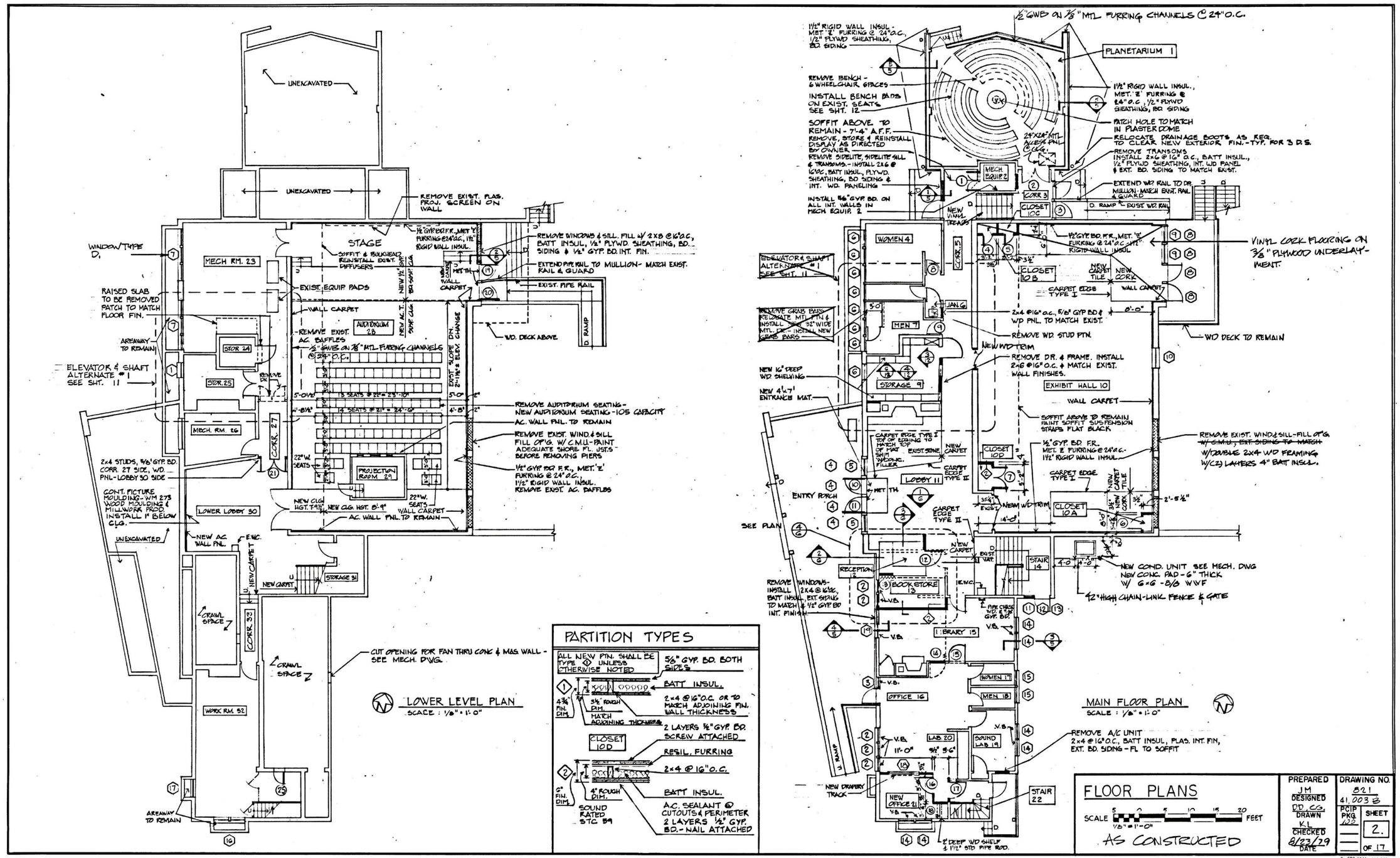
AS BUILT SET - JAN 15, 1981
IFB 3450 - 79A

TITLE OF DRAWING
REHABILITATION OF NATURE CENTER
LOCATION WITHIN PARK
NATURE CENTER
NAME OF PARK
ROCK CREEK PARK
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION — DIST. OF COLUMBIA COUNTY — STATE

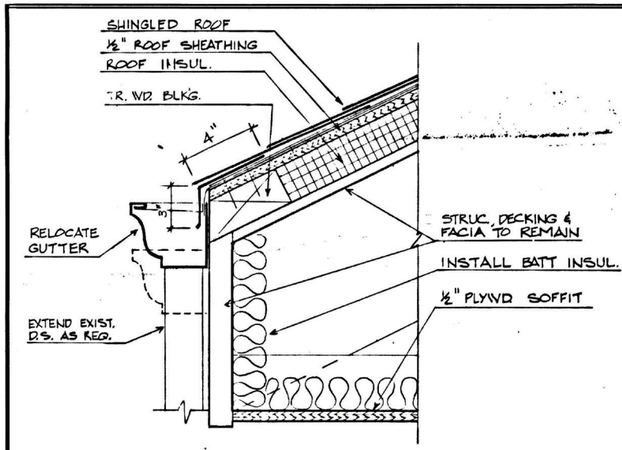
DRAWING NO. 821 41,003B
PCIP PKG 153
SHEET 1. OF 17

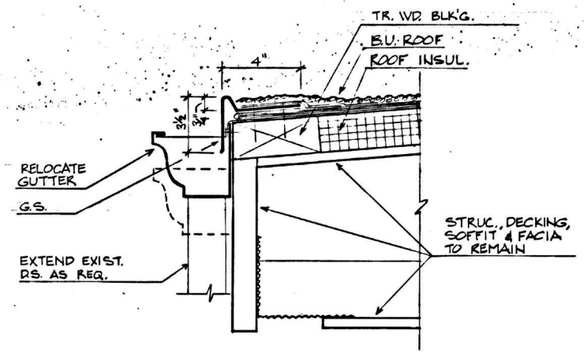
GPO-1974-678-709

Drawing 14. 1981 Rehabilitation of Rock Creek Nature Center, "As-Constructed" Cover Sheet

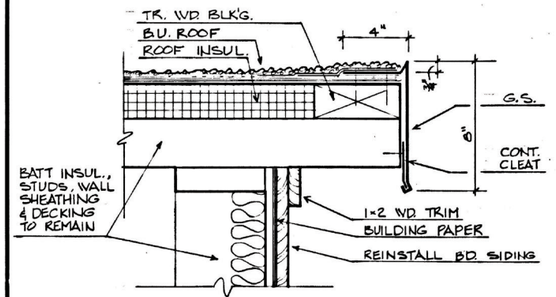


Drawing 15. 1981 Rehabilitation of Rock Creek Nature Center, "As-Constructed" Floor Plans

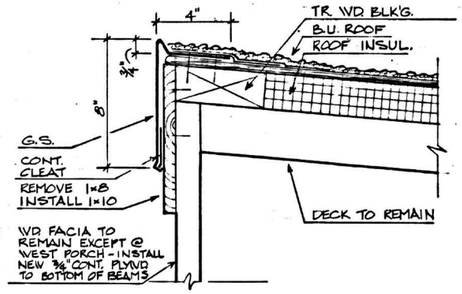




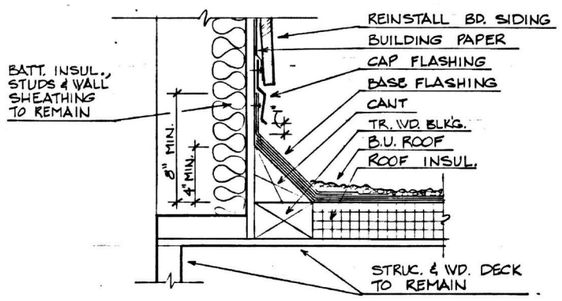
2 GUTTER @ SHINGLE ROOF
3"=1'-0"



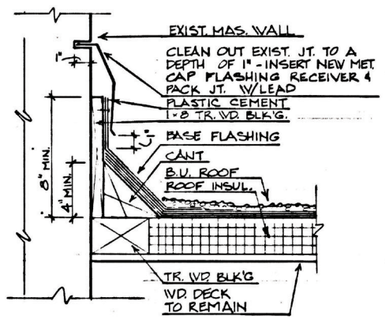
3 GUTTER @ B.U. ROOF
3"=1'-0"



4 GRAVEL STOP @ B.U. ROOF
3"=1'-0"

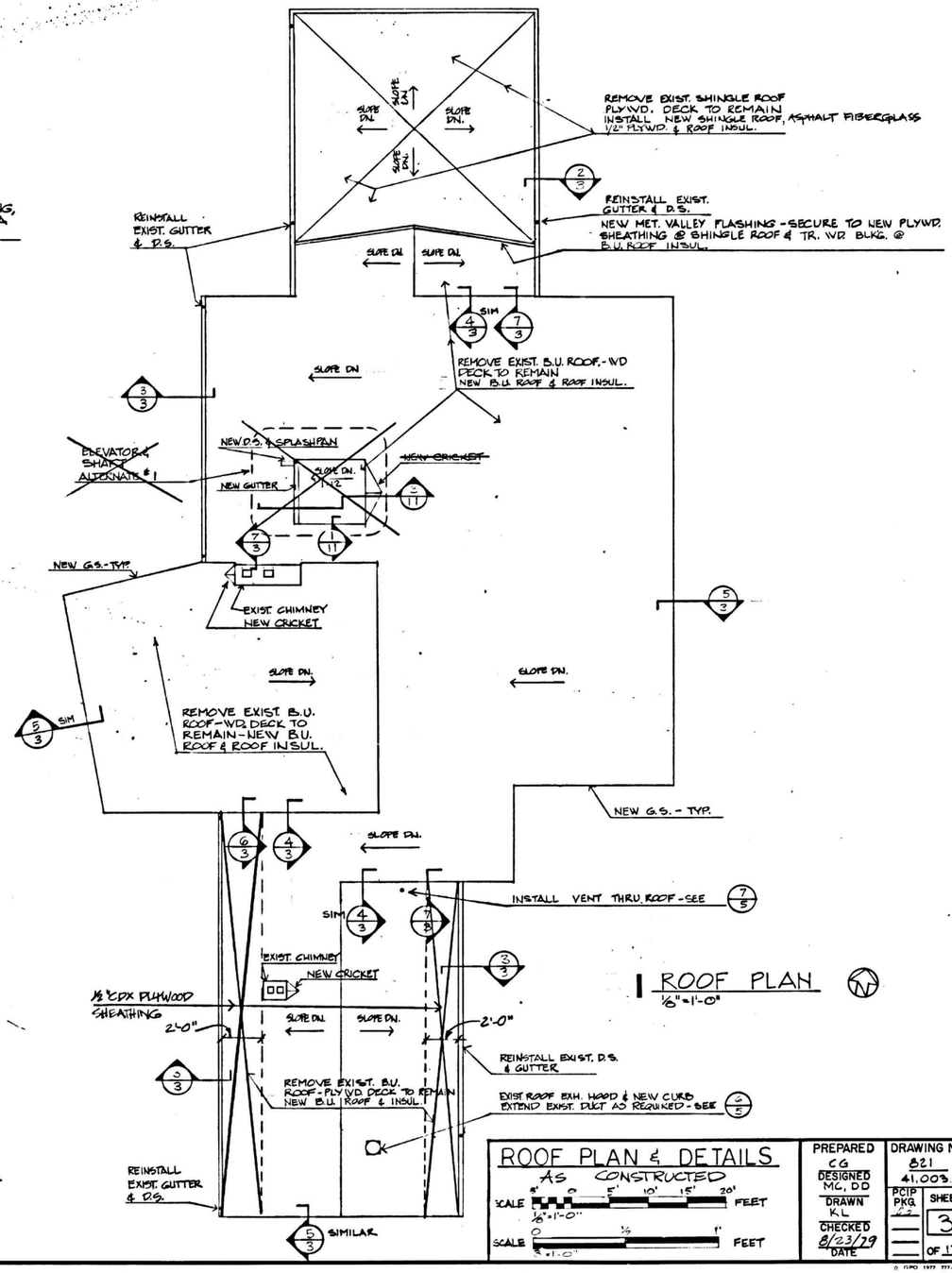


5 GRAVEL STOP @ B.U. ROOF
3"=1'-0"



6 FLASHING @ FRAME WALL
3"=1'-0"

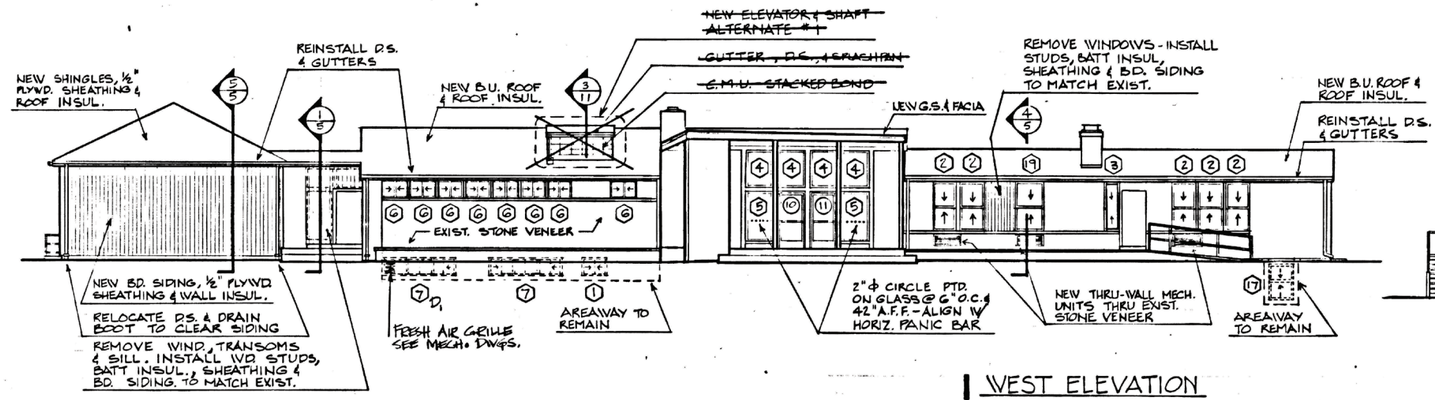
7 FLASHING @ MASONRY WALL
3"=1'-0"



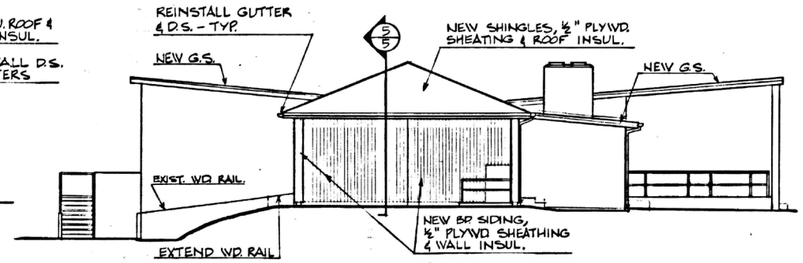
1 ROOF PLAN
⅛"=1'-0"

ROOF PLAN & DETAILS AS CONSTRUCTED	PREPARED CG
SCALE ⅛"=1'-0" 0 5' 10' 15' 20' FEET	DESIGNED MG, DD
SCALE 3"=1'-0" 0 ½ 1' FEET	DRAWN KL
	CHECKED 8/23/79 DATE
	DRAWING NO. 821 41,003-E
	PCTP PKG. 2.2
	SHEET 3 OF 17

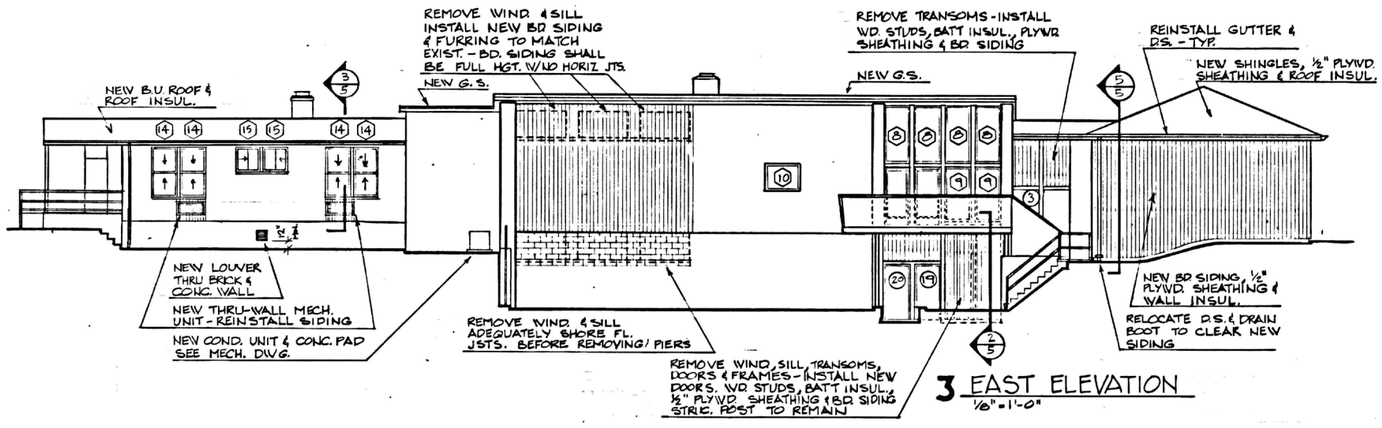
Drawing 16. 1981 Rehabilitation of Rock Creek Nature Center, "As-Constructed" Roof Plan and Details



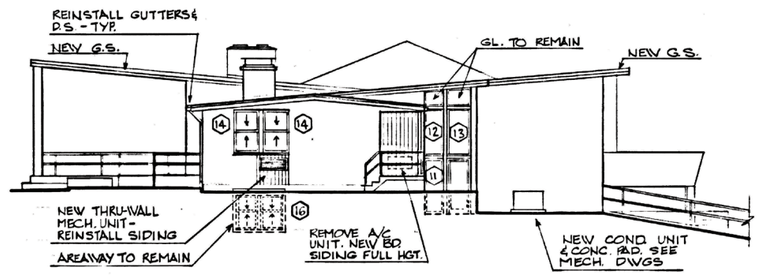
1 WEST ELEVATION
⅛" = 1'-0"



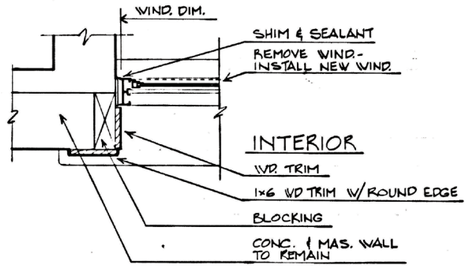
2 NORTH ELEVATION
⅛" = 1'-0"



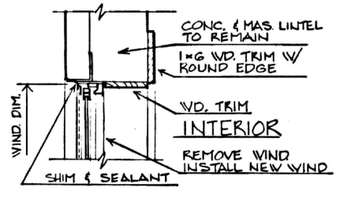
3 EAST ELEVATION
⅛" = 1'-0"



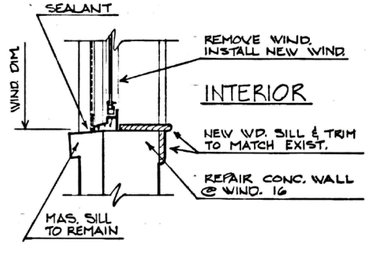
4 SOUTH ELEVATION
⅛" = 1'-0"



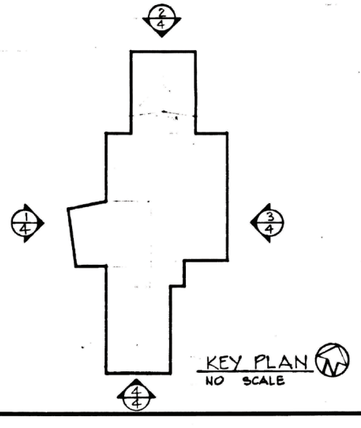
5 JAMB
1½" = 1'-0"



6 HEAD
1½" = 1'-0"



7 SILL
1½" = 1'-0"



~~NOTE: ALL EXT. WD. SIDING & TRIM SHALL BE STAINED~~

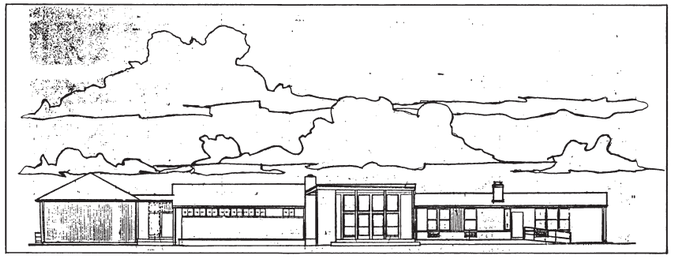
EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS
AS CONSTRUCTED

SCALE 5' 0 5' 10' 15' 20' FEET
⅛" = 1'-0"

PREPARED	JM
DESIGNED	MC, DD
DRAWN	KL
CHECKED	8/27/79 DATE
PCIP PKG.	—
DRAWING NO.	821 41,003 E
SHEET	4 OF 17

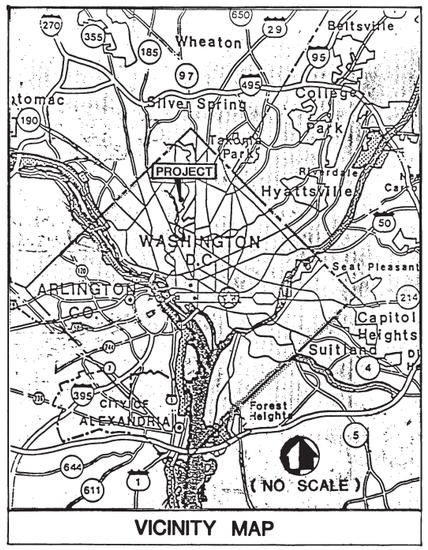
GPO 1977 777-360

Drawing 17. 1981 Rehabilitation of Rock Creek Nature Center, "As-Constructed" Exterior Elevations



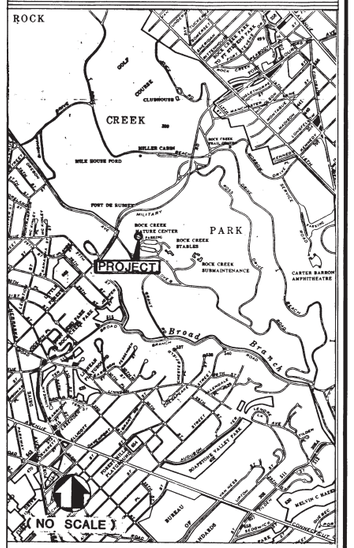


AUDITORIUM REHABILITATION
NATURE CENTER
ROCK CREEK PARK



VICINITY MAP





LOCATION MAP

SHEET INDEX

SHEET	SUB SHEET	TITLE OF SHEET
1		COVER SHEET
2	A-1	FLOOR PLANS
3	A-2	ELEVATIONS
4	A-3	DETAILS
5	E-1	EXISTING ELECTRICAL PLANS AND DEMOLITION
6	E-2	NEW ELECTRICAL PLANS

BASIC DATA

RECOMMENDED	DATE
CHIEF, DESIGN SERVICES	5/8/90
SUPERINTENDENT, Rock	5/11/90
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	5/11/90
APPROVED: DIRECTOR, NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION	5/11/90

NO.	BY	DATE	REVISIONS

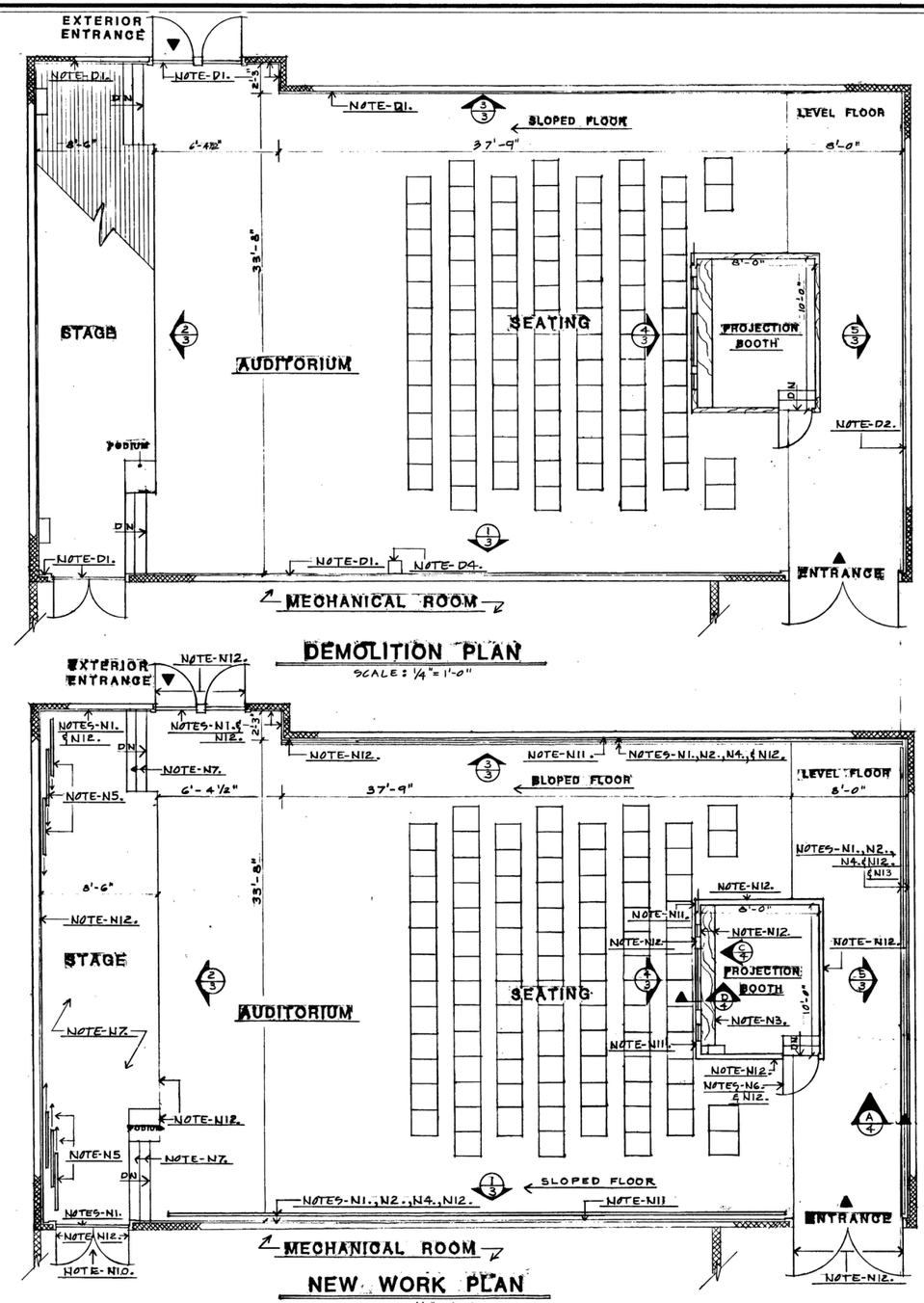
COVER SHEET
TITLE OF DRAWING

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE - NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION
OFFICE OF DESIGN SERVICES

AUDITORIUM REHABILITATION
TITLE OF PROJECT
NATURE CENTER 5200 GLOVER RD. N.W. WASH. D.C.
LOCATION WITHIN PARK
ROCK CREEK PARK
NAME OF PARK

PREPARED S.B.E D.M.
DESIGNED S.BRISCOE
DRAWN STAFF
CHECKED
DWG. NO. 821 87,166
DATE 11/8/89
SHEET 1 OF 6

Drawing 18. 1990 Rock Creek Nature Center Auditorium Rehabilitation, Cover Sheet



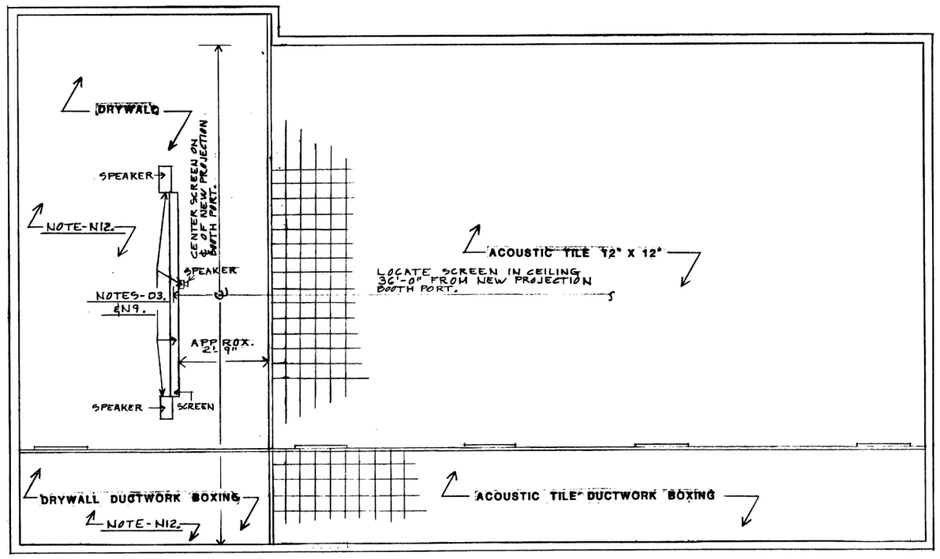
DEMOLITION PLAN

SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

NEW WORK PLAN

SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

BASIC DATA



REFLECTED CEILING PLAN

SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

Architectural Notes

Demolition Notes

D1. Remove carpet from drywall finish.
D2. Remove acoustical panels.
D3. Remove portion of drywall ceiling finish to allow installation of screen and speakers.
D4. Remove speaker shelf.
D5. Remove projection ports and portion of framing and panels to allow installation of new ports.

New Work Notes

N1. Provide fabric on drywall or plywood finish.
N2. Provide acoustical panels on this wall.
N3. Provide shelving.
N4. Provide handrail and cornice on this wall.
N5. Provide sliding fabric panels and tracks.
N6. Provide sign.
N7. Provide carpeting and cushion on stage and stairs.
N8. Provide projection ports.
N9. Install Government furnished ceiling projection screen and speakers.
N10. Provide astragal and gaskets on doors and frame.
N11. Provide mounting brackets for Government installed speaker.
N12. Paint:
- A. Baseboards (match floor finish color)
- B. Wall surface (color to be selected by the COR)
- C. Ceiling (color to be selected by the COR)
- D. Podium
- E. Stage face
- F. Door (one-side) and frame
- G. Exposed finish and rough carpentry
- H. Exposed electrical and mechanical equipment, devices, pipes, conduit, grilles, diffusers, etc. (match nearest, wall/floor surface color)
- I. Cornices and handrails (clear finish only)
- J. Booth port frames, doors, frames and trim.
- K. Shelving

N13. Provide drywall for this wall.

Note: See specifications for additional requirements.

Architectural Legend

A-A	- VENEER GRADE
APS	- AMERICAN PLYWOOD ASSOCIATION
DN	- DOWN
EXIST	- EXISTING
GYP	- GYPSUM
INT	- INTERIOR
O.C.	- ON CENTER
PWD	- PLYWOOD
STL	- STEEL
TYP	- TYPICAL
W/	- WITH

- CINDER BLOCK
- GYPSUM BOARD
- METAL
- ACOUSTICAL PANEL OR TILE
- WOOD FINISH FLOORING
- GLAZING
- PLYWOOD
- WOOD SIDING
- DIAMETER
- AT
- WOOD SCREWS
- INTERIOR ELEVATION IDENTIFICATION NUMBER
- ELEVATION SHOWN ON SHEET
- SECTION IDENTIFICATION LETTER
- SECTION SHOWN ON SHEET

W-1 scale 7 0 2 4 6 8 10 feet

NO.	BY	DATE	REVISIONS

A-1

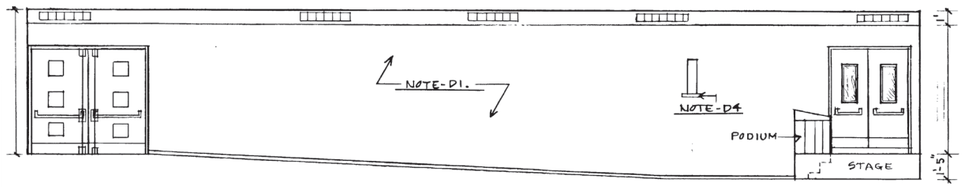
FLOOR PLANS
TITLE OF DRAWING

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE - NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION
OFFICE OF DESIGN SERVICES

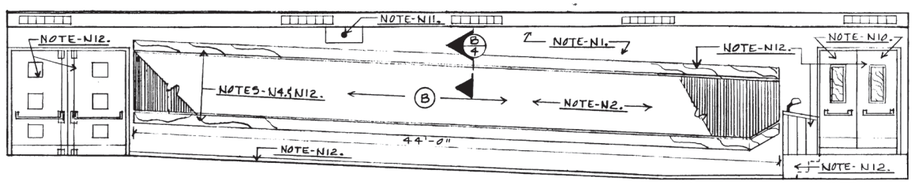
AUDITORIUM REHABILITATION
TITLE OF PROJECT
NATURE CENTER 6200 GLOVER RD. N.W. WASH. D.C.
LOCATION WITHIN PARK
ROCK CREEK PARK
NAME OF PARK

PREPARED BRISCOE/MCLEAN
DESIGNED S. BRISCOE
DRAWN STAFF
CHECKED
DWG. NO. 821 87,164
DATE 11/8/89
SHEET 2 OF 6

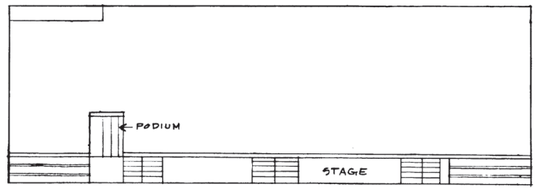
Drawing 19. 1990 Rock Creek Nature Center Auditorium Rehabilitation, Floor Plans



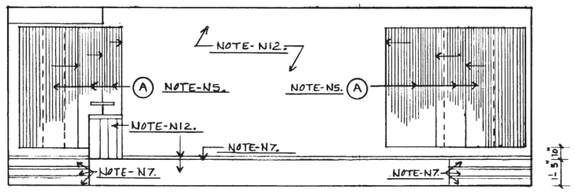
EXISTING NORTH ELEVATION 1/2
SCALE: 1/4"=1'-0"



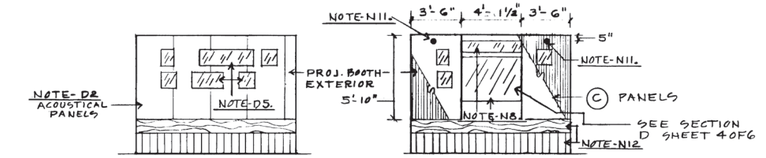
NEW NORTH ELEVATION 1/2
SCALE: 1/4"=1'-0"



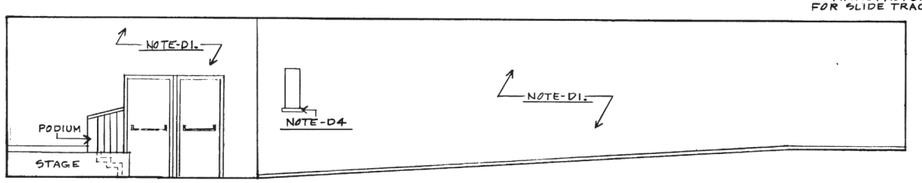
EXISTING EAST ELEVATION 2/2
SCALE: 1/4"=1'-0"



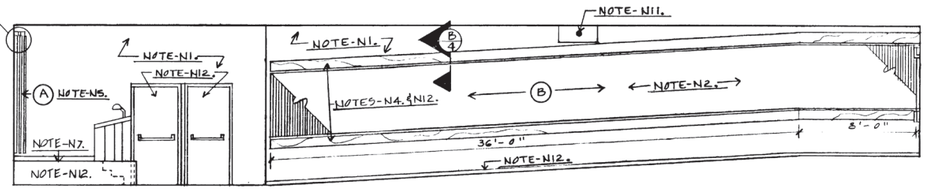
NEW EAST ELEVATION 2/2
SCALE: 1/4"=1'-0"



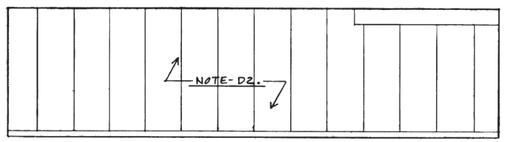
EXISTING WEST ELEVATION NEW WEST ELEVATION 4/2
SCALE: 1/4"=1'-0"



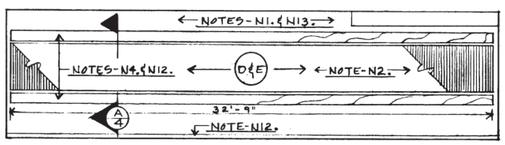
EXISTING SOUTH ELEVATION 3/2
SCALE: 1/4"=1'-0"



NEW SOUTH ELEVATION 3/2
SCALE: 1/4"=1'-0"



EXISTING WEST ELEVATION 5/2
SCALE: 1/4"=1'-0"



NEW WEST ELEVATION 5/2
SCALE: 1/4"=1'-0"

Acoustical Wall Panel Schedule

I.D. MARK		Width x Height x Thickness	Qty.	Model No.
A	-	48" x 96" X 1 1/8"	6	A108 WP
B	-	48" X 42" X 1 1/8"	22	A108 WP
C	-	44" X 42" X 2 1/8"	3	A208 WP
D	-	48" X 42" X 2"	6	A200 WP
E	-	52 1/2" X 42" X 2"	2	A200 WP

NOTE:
SEE DRAWING NO. 821/87,165 - NCR FOR PANEL FABRICATION DETAILS.

1/4"=1' 2 0 2 4 6 8 10 scale feet

BASIC DATA

A-2

ELEVATIONS
TITLE OF DRAWING

NO.	BY	DATE	REVISIONS

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE - NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION
OFFICE OF DESIGN SERVICES

AUDITORIUM REHABILITATION
TITLE OF PROJECT
NATURE CENTER 5200 GLOVER RD. N.W. WASH. D.C.
LOCATION WITHIN PARK
ROCK CREEK PARK
NAME OF PARK

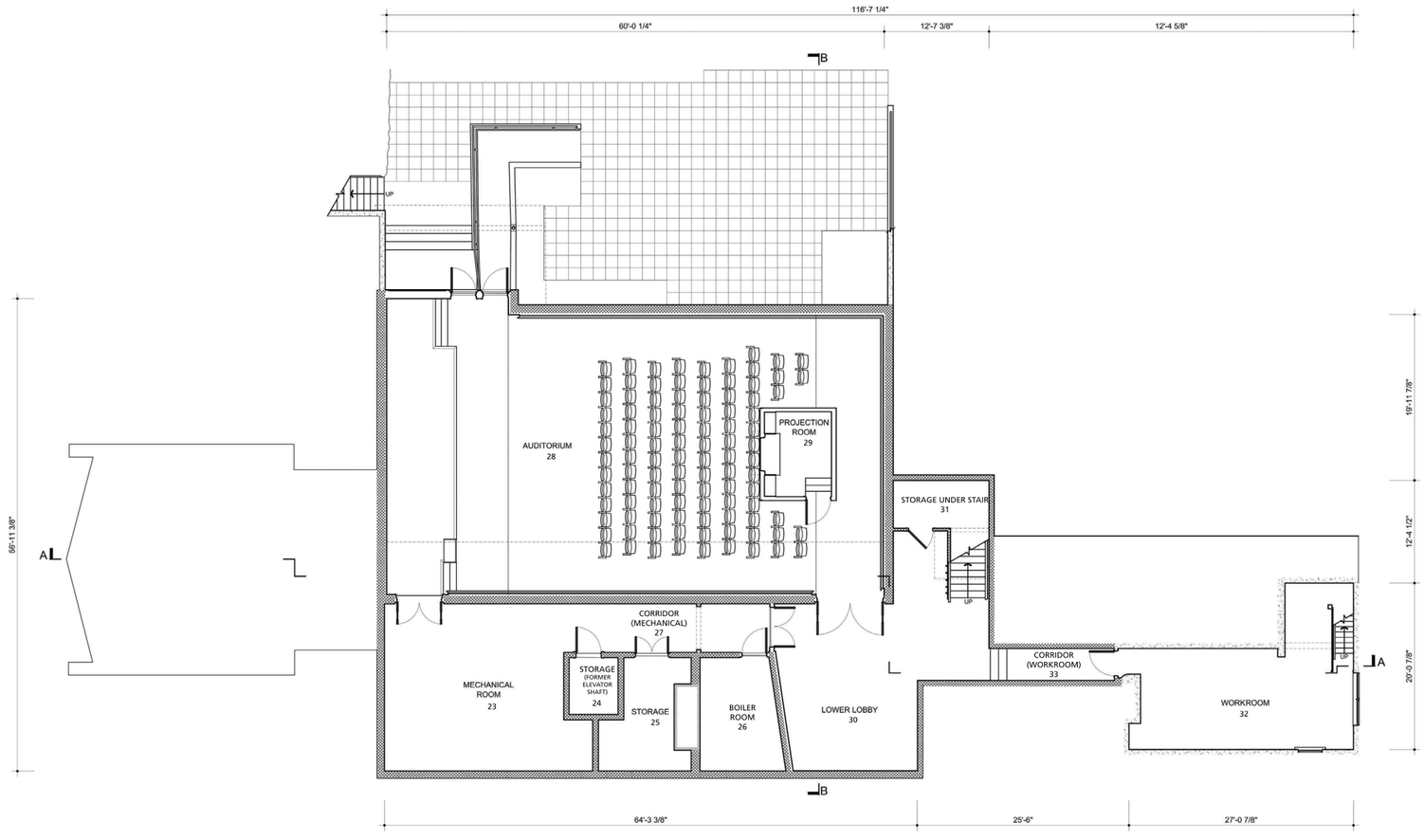
PREPARED BRISCOE/MCLEAN
DESIGNED S. BRISCOE
DRAWN STAFF
CHECKED
DWG NO. 821
87,164
DATE 11/8/89
SHEET 3 OF 6

Drawing 20. 1990 Rock Creek Nature Center Auditorium Rehabilitation, Elevations

ROCK CREEK NATURE CENTER AND PLANETARIUM

Rock Creek Park was established by Congress in 1890. Jurisdiction for the park was transferred to the National Park Service (NPS) in 1933 and, two years later, a small wood frame caretaker's residence was built in the center of the park. In 1959, the Rock Creek Nature Center and Planetarium was constructed at the site, incorporating elements of the residence. It was built as part of the Mission 66 program, an NPS program undertaken to upgrade visitor facilities in the national parks across the country. The Nature Center was designed in the International Style modernism popular at the time, by architect William Haussmann of the NPS National Capital Parks Office of Design and Construction. The Nature Center is notable for its V-shaped butterfly roof, and for the use of wood and fieldstone to complement the building's natural setting.

The documentation of the Rock Creek Nature Center and Planetarium was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) of the Heritage Documentation Programs (HDP) division of the NPS, Richard O'Connor, Chief. The project was sponsored by the National Capital Region, NPS, Craig Chenevert, Historical Architect. Project planning was coordinated by Catherine Lavoie, Chief, HABS. The field work was undertaken and the measured drawings were produced by Project Supervisor Mark Schara, AIA, HABS Architect; by HDP Architects Jeremy Mauro and John Wachtel; and by Architect Angelivette Nieves Viruet (Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico). Assistance was provided by the Nature Center staff.



LOWER LEVEL PLAN

3/16"=1'-0" 1:64

FEET 0 1 5 10 20 3/16"=1'-0"

METERS 0 1 2 4 6 1:64

NOTE: TOILET ROOM AND KITCHEN FIXTURES SHOWN GENERICALLY

DRAWN BY: ANGELIVETTE NIEVES VIRUET \ MARK SCHARA
ROCK CREEK DOCUMENTATION PROJECT, 2016
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

ROCK CREEK NATURE CENTER AND PLANETARIUM
5200 GLOVER ROAD NORTHWEST WASHINGTON DISTRICT OD COLUMBIA
ROCK CREEK PARK

SHEET 1 OF 4 SHEETS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY DC-251

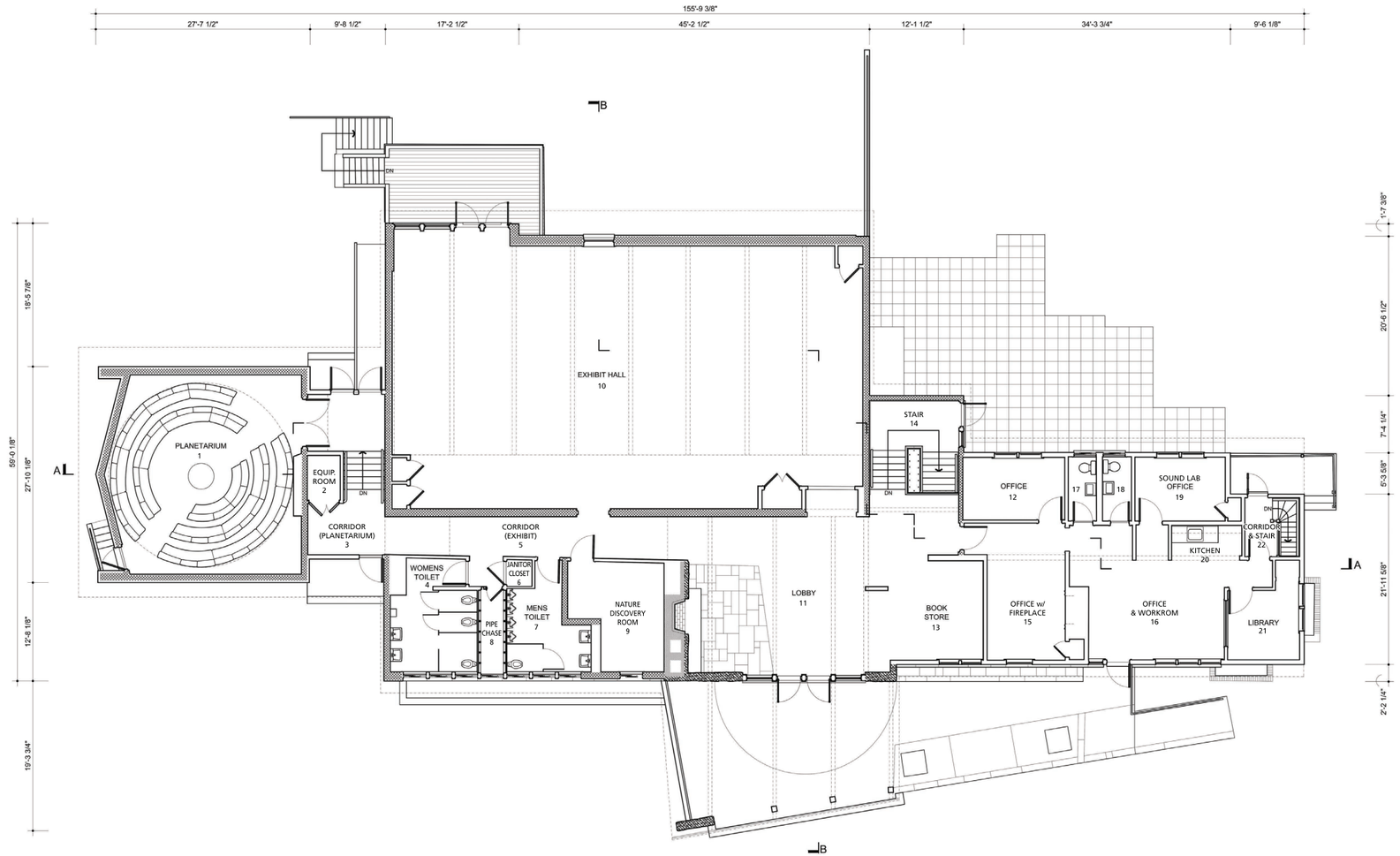
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Drawing 21. 2016 HABS Documentation, Lower Level Plan



WEST ELEVATION

3/16"=1'-0" 1:64



MAIN LEVEL PLAN

3/16"=1'-0" 1:64

0 1 5 10 20 FEET

3/16"=1'-0"

0 1 2 4 6 METERS

1:64

DRAWN BY: ANGELIVETTE NIEVES VIRUET \ MARK SCHARA

ROCK CREEK DOCUMENTATION PROJECT, 2016
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

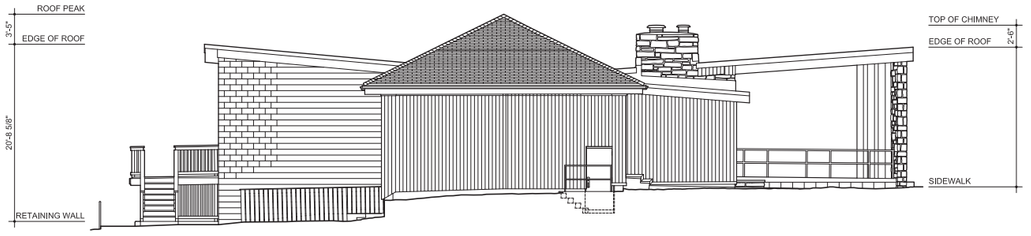
ROCK CREEK NATURE CENTER AND PLANETARIUM
5200 GLOVER ROAD NORTHWEST WASHINGTON DISTRICT OD COLUMBIA
ROCK CREEK PARK

SHEET 2 OF 4 SHEETS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY DC-251

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS WASHINGTON DC 20540-4910

Drawing 22. 2016 HABS Documentation, West Elevation and Main Level Plan



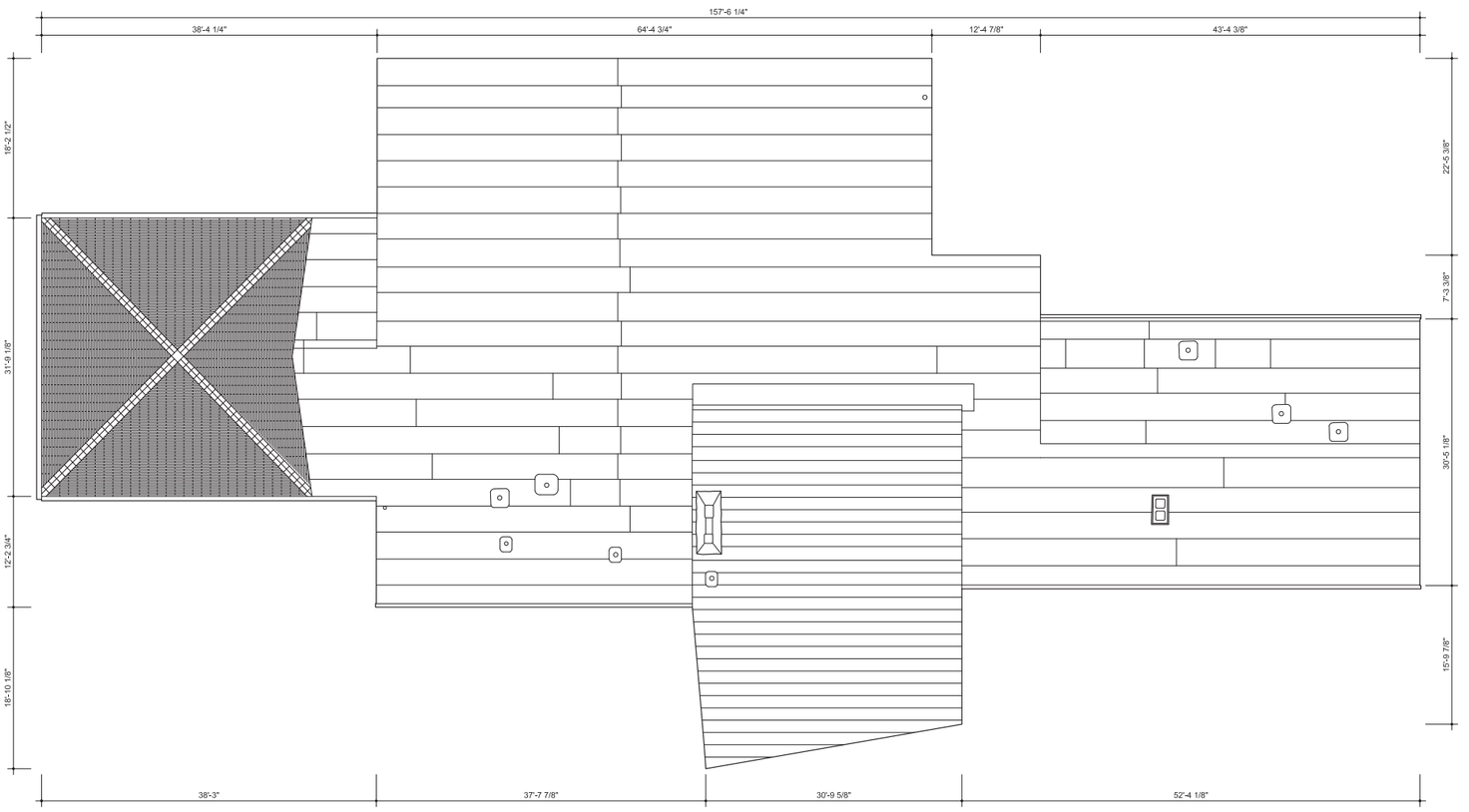
NORTH ELEVATION

3/16"=1'-0" 1:64



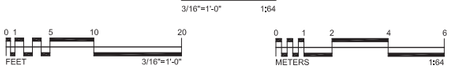
SOUTH ELEVATION

3/16"=1'-0" 1:64



ROOF PLAN

3/16"=1'-0" 1:64



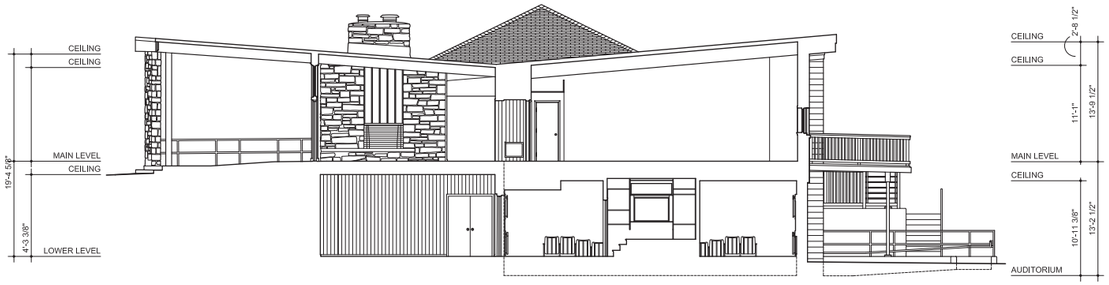


DRAWN BY: ANGELIVETTE NIEVES VIRUET \ MARK SCHARA

ROCK CREEK DOCUMENTATION PROJECT, 2016 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR	ROCK CREEK NATURE CENTER AND PLANETARIUM ROCK CREEK PARK 5200 GLOVER ROAD NORTHWEST WASHINGTON DISTRICT OD COLUMBIA	SHEET 3 OF 4 SHEETS	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY DC-251	LIBRARY OF CONGRESS BUCK NUMBER

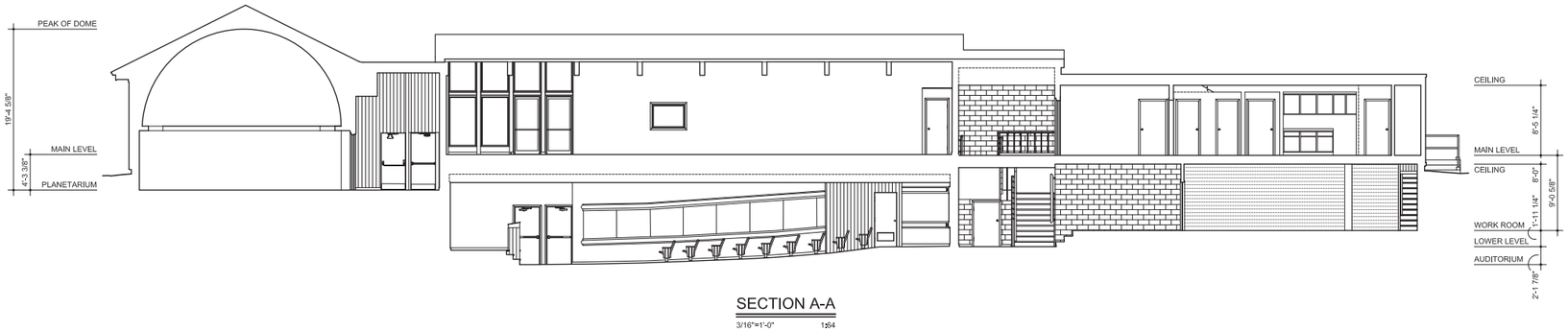
IF REPRODUCED, PLEASE CREDIT THE HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, NAME OF DELINEATOR, DATE OF DRAWING

Drawing 23. 2016 HABS Documentation, North / South Elevations and Roof Plan



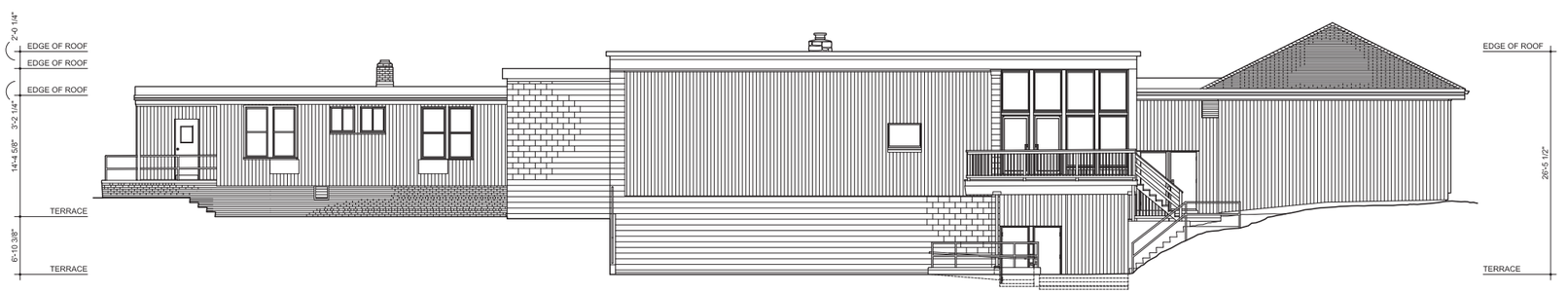
SECTION B-B

3/16"=1'-0" 1:64



SECTION A-A

3/16"=1'-0" 1:64



EAST ELEVATION

3/16"=1'-0" 1:64



ROCK CREEK NATURE CENTER AND PLANETARIUM
5200 GLOVER ROAD NORTHWEST WASHINGTON DISTRICT OD COLUMBIA
ROCK CREEK PARK

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY DC-251

SHEET 4 OF 4 SHEETS

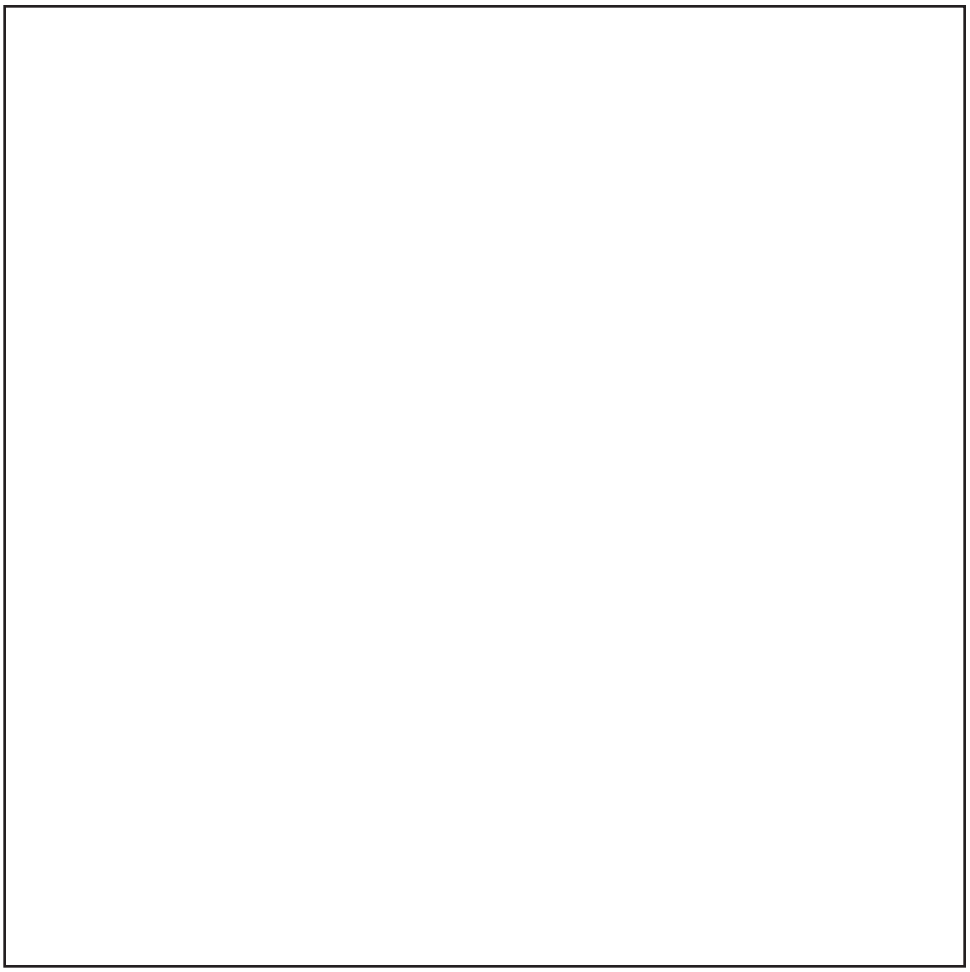
DRAWN BY: ANGELVETTE MEVES VIRUET \ MARK SCHARA

ROCK CREEK DOCUMENTATION PROJECT, 2016
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Drawing 24. 2016 HABS Documentation, Sections and East Elevation

For more information, please contact:

Cultural Resource Manager
Rock Creek Park
3545 Williamsburg Lane, NW
Washington, DC 20008




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