

PIÑON BOARDING SCHOOL, CLASSROOM BUILDING
(Piñon Community School, Building 301)
Navajo Route 41 North of Navajo Route 4
Piñon
Navajo County
Arizona

HABS No. AZ-162-A

HABS
ARIZ
9-PIN,
1A-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

**Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Western Region
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California 94107**

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9 - PIN,
1A -

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

PIÑON BOARDING SCHOOL, CLASSROOM BUILDING

(Piñon Community School, Building 301)

HABS No. AZ-162-A

Location:

Navajo Route 41 North of Navajo Route 4
Piñon
Navajo County
Arizona

USGS Piñon Quadrangle (7.5)
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:
12.569890. 3995250

Present Owner:

Piñon Community School Board
P.O. Box 159
Piñon, Arizona 86510

Present Occupant:

Abandoned

Present Use:

None

Significance:

Classroom Building 301 at Piñon Community School was built in 1935 and is an example of the Pueblo Revival architecture that characterizes most of the PWA reservation school buildings of that era. It is one of the four largest classroom buildings built during the 1930's construction campaign that built 47 day schools on the Navajo reservation.

PART I. DESCRIPTION

EXTERIOR. Building 301 is an "L"-shaped, single story building which originally contained classrooms, a kitchen, administrative offices, a shop and storage. Aside from changes in room functions, the building has had no major alterations. [Figs. 1,2] Drawings dated 1954, show renovation plans to change the kitchen (NE corner) into the Principal's office. [Figs. 5,6] Building 301 is Pueblo Revival Style architecture, constructed of native Dakota sandstone that was cut, dressed, and laid by Navajo workers employed by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Exposed wood vigas support the flat roofs, and large wood canales lined with copper pass through the parapets to carry water off the roofs. [Figs. 3,7] Wood lintels span above doors and windows. Classrooms have banks of awning windows while wood double-hung windows are found elsewhere.

INTERIOR. The interior floors are wood and walls are painted plaster. Ceilings are painted exposed structure -- wood vigas with exposed wood decking.

MECHANICAL. In 1954 the old coal-fired boiler in the small basement of the classroom wing was removed and replaced by an oil-fired Well-McLain boiler which provided steam to cast iron radiators located in the classrooms. The administration area (Rooms 111, 111A, and 111B) received heat from three natural gas fired vertical wall furnaces. Room 112, which was once the library, was heated by a natural gas fired unit heater. Storage rooms 113 and 114 were not heated.

COST. According to an American Indian Engineering survey completed in 1978, the original cost of Building 301 was \$45,038.

PART II. HISTORY

In addition to providing classroom space, Building 301 served community needs as well. Attached to the large classroom wing is a long narrow wing extending to the west. Besides housing the Administrative Offices, the wing included shop and garage space for the community. According to Donald Parman in The Navajos and the New Deal, "proponents (of community day schools) often argued plausibly that the noneducational services were as useful to the Navajos as the actual classes." Parman also addressed the size of classroom buildings stating that, of the four largest, three had four classrooms and one had eight. Since Piñon's classroom building originally had four classrooms, it is apparent that it was one of the four largest built.

A new complex of buildings has been designed* for Piñon Community School which necessitates the demolition of Building 301.

*Architects: Lescher and Mahoney/DLR Group, Phoenix, AZ

PART III. SOURCES

Parman, Donald L. The Navajos and the New Deal
New Haven: Yale University Press, 1976

Threinen, Ellen. 1981. The Navajos and the BIA: A Study of Government Buildings on the Navajo Reservation. American Indian Engineering, Inc./Bureau of Indian Affairs

Other possible sources:

Indians at Work. Issues published from 1934 - 1936.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This survey is a mitigative recording required by a Memorandum of Agreement signed by the following parties:

Phyllis Badoni, Executive Director
Piñon Community School Board

Tom Tippeconnic, Assistant Area Director
Navajo Area Office, Navajo Area BIA

Jim Garrison
Arizona State Historic Preservation Office

Alan Downer, Historic Preservation Officer
Navajo Nation Historic Preservation Department

Robert Bush, Executive Director
Advising Council on Historic Preservation

The survey documentation was completed in July 1993 by Lescher and Mahoney/DLR Group with the cooperation of the following:

Piñon Community School Board
Bureau of Indian Affairs - Gallup Office
Bureau of Indian Affairs - Albuquerque Office
Arizona State Historic Presentation Office
Navajo Nation Historic Preservation Department
David Sloan and Associates, Architects

Prepared by: Brett A. Hobza
Affiliation: Lescher and Mahoney/DLR Group, Architects Phoenix, Arizona
Date: July 1993

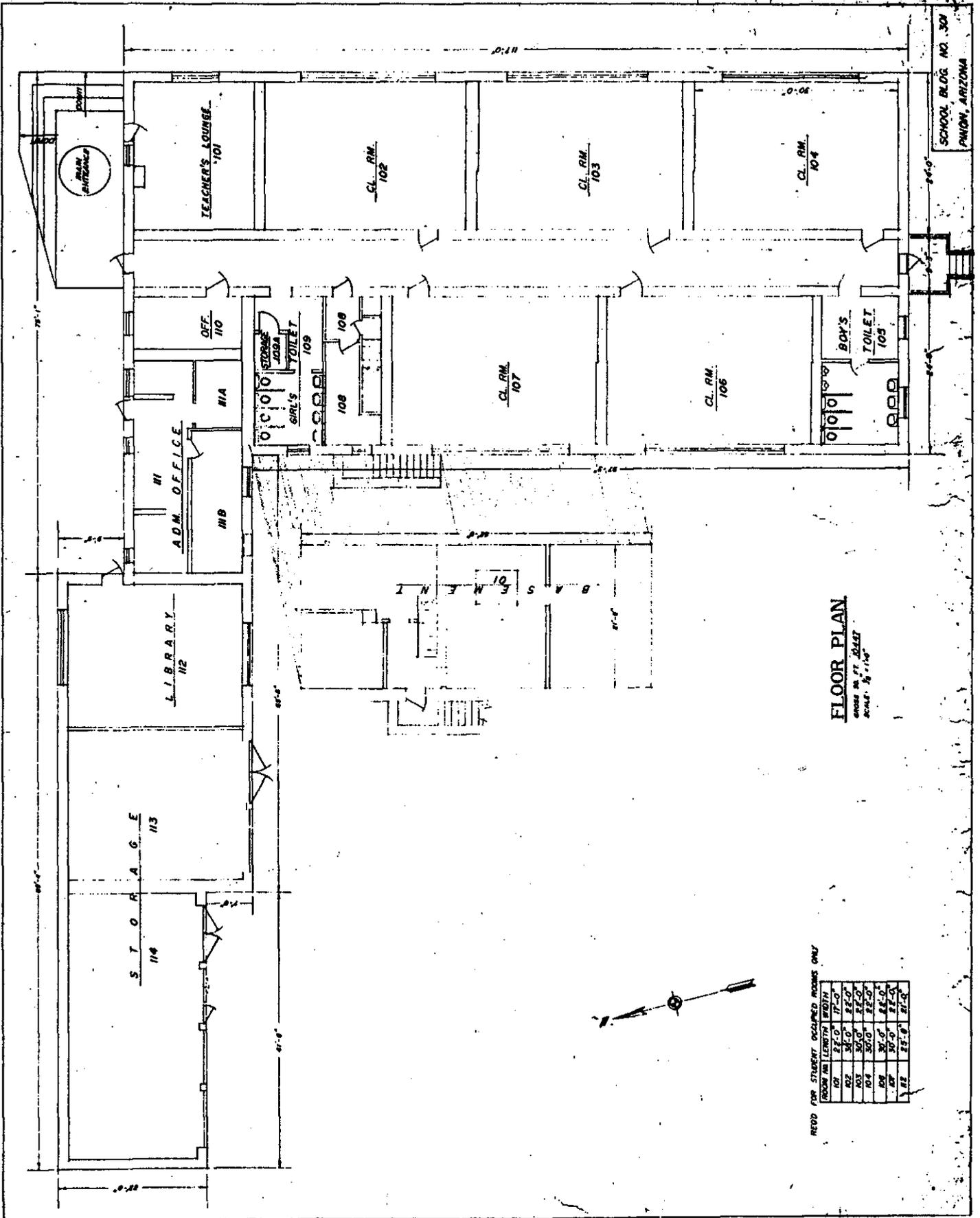


Figure 1. Floor Plan - Building 301

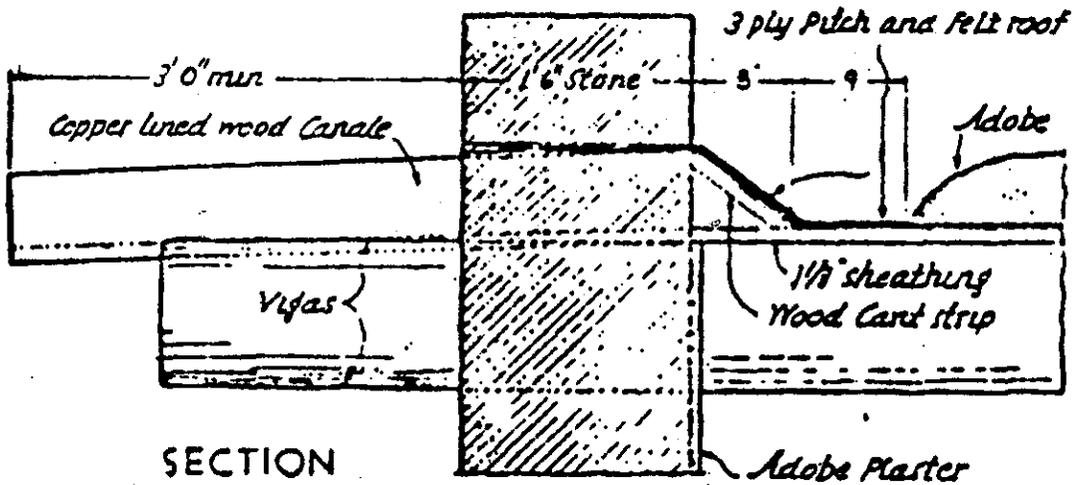
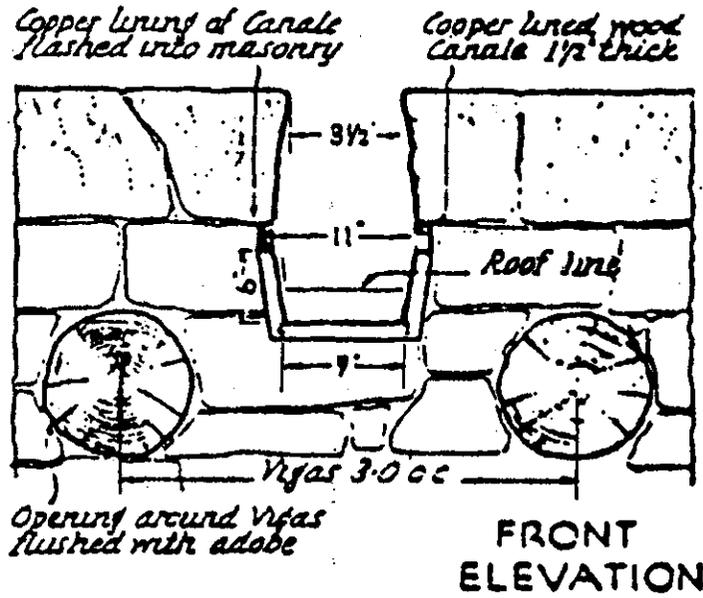


Figure 3. Parapet Detail

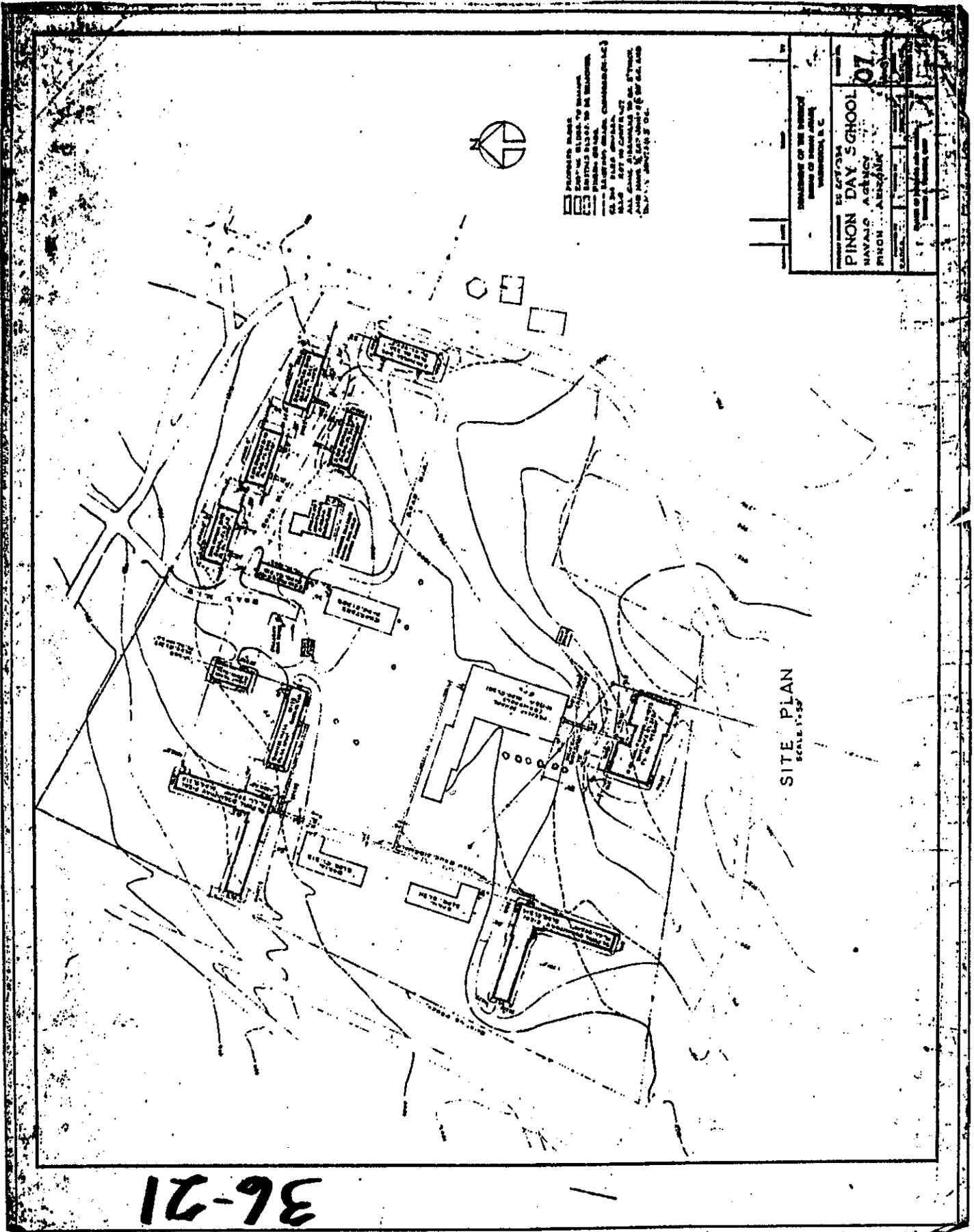


Figure 4. Site Plan - 1954

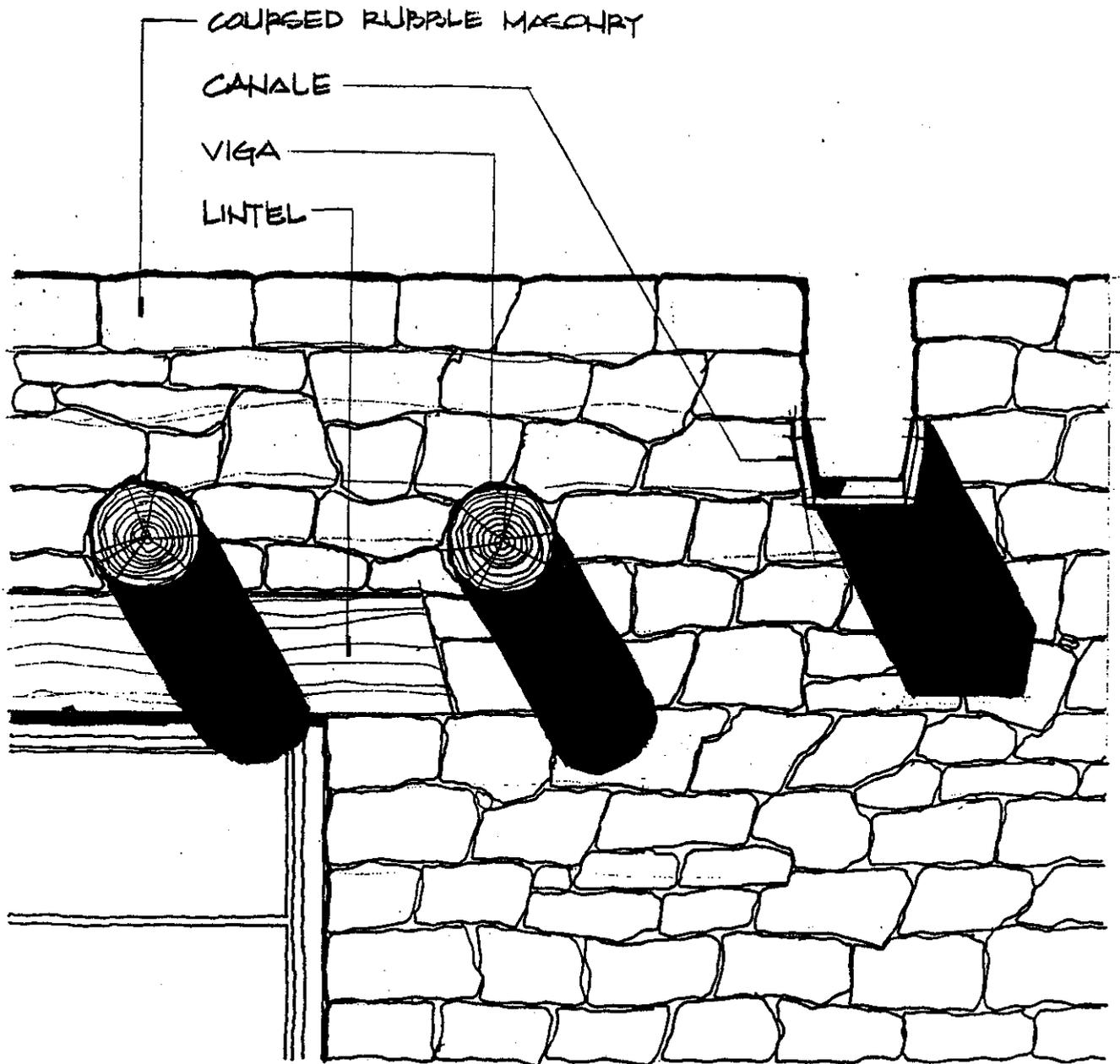


Figure 7. Elevation Detail - Building 301

DESCRIPTION OF ILLUSTRATIONS (Pages 4-10)

PINON BOARDING SCHOOL,
CLASSROOM BUILDING
(Building 3D1)
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- FIGURE 1 Photocopy of drawing (original drawing located at Bureau of Indian Affairs, Gallup Office). Delineator and data unknown.
FLOOR PLAN OF BUILDING 301
- FIGURE 2 Photocopy of drawing (original drawing located at Bureau of Indian Affairs, Gallup Office) Produced by an American Indian Engineering Survey, 1979.
FLOOR PLAN OF BUILDING 301 SHOWING MINOR ALTERATIONS.
- FIGURE 3 Photocopy of detail drawings (reproduced from The Navajos and the BIA: A Study of Government Buildings on the Navajo Reservation).
PARAPET DETAIL OF BUILDING 301 SHOWING VIGAS AND CANALE.
- FIGURE 4 Photocopy of civil engineering drawing (original drawing located at the Navajo Area Bureau of Indian Affairs, Window Rock, Arizona).
SITE PLAN OF PINON DAY SCHOOL, 1954. SHEET 07.
- FIGURE 5 Photocopy of architectural drawings (original drawing located at the Navajo Area Bureau of Indian Affairs, Window Rock, Arizona).
PLANS FOR INTERIOR REMODELING OF BUILDING 301, 1954. SHEET 1.
- FIGURE 6 Photocopy of mechanical/electrical drawings (original drawing located at the Navajo Area Bureau of Indian Affairs, Window Rock, Arizona).
PLANS FOR MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL REMODELING OF BUILDING 301, 1954. SHEET 2.
- FIGURE 7 Photocopy of drawing (original drawing located at Lescher and Mahoney/DLR Group, Phoenix Office). Brett A. Hobza, Delineator. June 1993.
DETAIL OF BUILDING 301 SHOWING MASONRY, CANALE, VIGAS, LINTEL, AND WINDOW.