SAN FRANCISCO FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING HABS No. CA-2866
San Francisco Civic Center Historic District
50 United Nations Plaza
San Francisco
San Francisco County
California

BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Pacific West Region
333 Bush Street, Suite 500
San Francisco, CA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY

SAN FRANCISCO FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING HABS No. CA-2866

Location: 50 United Nations Plaza, San Francisco, San Francisco County, California

Located on a large parcel immediately northwest of Market Street in downtown San Francisco, the building is bounded by Hyde Street to the west, McAllister Street to the north, Leavenworth Street to the east, and Fulton Street/United Nations Plaza to the south. The building's main façade faces south. The building is located within San Francisco's Civic Center.

USGS San Francisco North Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 10.0551562.4181615.

Present Owner: United States Federal Government
General Services Administration, Region 9
450 Golden Gate Avenue, 3W
San Francisco, California 94102

Present Use: Vacant, awaiting rehabilitation for use as General Services Administration (GSA) offices.

Significance: The Federal Office Building is a contributor to the San Francisco Civic Center National Historic Landmark District. The district is significant for its excellent examples of Classical architecture and Beaux Arts and City Beautiful movement planning principals. The Civic Center, including the Federal Office Building, is integrated through the arrangement of buildings on axes and harmony of style, color, materials, scale, massing, and rhythm.

The Civic Center is also significant as the site of important international events such as the signing of the United Nations Charter 1945 and the signing of treaties with Japan 1951. In addition, the Federal Office Building is significant as the 12th Naval District Headquarters during World War II.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of Erection: Original plans for the building are dated October 10, 1932. Construction began early in 1934, and the building was occupied in May 1936. The building was formally dedicated May 16, 1936.[1]

2. Architect: Noted local architect Arthur Brown Jr. (1874-1957) designed the Federal Office Building as well as three other major buildings in San Francisco's Civic Center. The first was the San Francisco City Hall in 1912, which Brown designed along with his then partner, John Bakewell Jr. From 1925 to 1932, he worked on the design and construction of the War Memorial Opera House in collaboration with architect Albert Lansburgh and then completed the matching Veterans Building.[2] The Federal Office Building was dedicated on May 16, 1936 and was the last of the major buildings constructed as part of the Civic Center plan.

Born in Oakland, Brown studied engineering at the nearby University of California, Berkeley. After graduation, from 1897 to 1903, he attended the preeminent architecture school of the day, the École des Beaux Arts in Paris where he studied in the *atelier libre* of Victor Laloux. By 1905 Brown had returned to the Bay Area and established an architectural partnership with fellow École des Beaux Arts graduate John Bakewell Jr.[3] Brown's civic commissions completed with Bakewell and after the partnership dissolved in 1928, included Berkeley City Hall (1909), Pasadena City Hall (1927), and the Federal Triangle buildings for the Department of Labor and Interstate Commerce Commission in Washington D.C. (1935). In addition to his government projects, Brown also designed numerous commercial, educational, and residential buildings.

Brown's work strongly exhibits the influence of his education at the École des Beaux Arts through his use of Classical styles, grandiose formal designs, order, symmetry, and ornamentation. According to architectural historian Richard Longstreth, "Of all California architects, Bakewell and Brown were regarded by their East Coast colleagues as preeminent exemplars of Beaux Arts ideals."[4] Even as architecture trended toward modernism in the 1940s, Brown's projects continued to exhibit the Beaux Arts principals of formal composition, although they were more minimalist in ornamentation than his earlier works.[5]

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[1] Mendel, Mesick, Cohen, Waite Architects. "Historic Structure Report: United States Federal Office Building 50 United Nations Plaza, San Francisco, California" (1982), 18.
[2] Mendel et al., "Historic Structure Report," 3.
[3] Ibid., 3.
[4] Richard Longstreth, *On the Edge of the World: Four Architects in San Francisco at the Turn of the Century* (New York: Architectural History Foundation, 1983), 297.
[5] Mendel et al., "Historic Structure Report," 4.

Brown employed his École des Beaux Arts training in architecture and planning at several world's fairs; Brown was on the architectural board of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco and the 1933 Chicago World's Fair. Brown also designed the Horticulture Building at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition.[6] He later served as chair of the Golden Gate International Exposition held on Treasure Island in the San Francisco Bay in 1939-1940 and designed major structures for it.[7]

3. Original and Subsequent Owners, Occupants, and Uses: Congress appropriated funds for the building in 1927, and the City of San Francisco donated the block bounded by Fulton, Leavenworth, McAllister and Hyde Streets.[8] The property has been owned continuously by the United States Federal Government since and is currently administered by the General Services Administration.

4. Builder, Contractor, Suppliers:
   - General contractor -- Great Lakes Construction Company of Chicago[9]
   - Granite subcontractor -- Kingsland Granite Company of Fresno[10]
   - Stone carving -- appears to have been by the California Cut Stone and Granite Works[11]
   - Exterior architectural terra cotta, facing brick and interior floor tile -- Gladding McBean Co., San Francisco[12]
   - Aluminum door and window frames -- Aluminum Company of America[13]
   - Exterior glazing -- Wm. F. Fuller & Company, San Francisco[14]
   - Standard office lights -- H.A. Framburg and Company, Chicago. Installed by Boyd Lighting Fixture Company, San Francisco[15]
   - Architect-designed lighting fixtures -- manufactured by Schewitzer Brothers Inc., Los Angeles[16]
   - Elevators -- Pacific Elevator & Equipment Company, San Francisco[17]
   - Mechanical equipment for elevators -- General Electric Company[18]

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[6] James Charleton, "National Register of Historic Places Inventory--Nomination Form: San Francisco Civic Center" (1984), 8:11.
[7] Charleton, "National Register of Historic Places Inventory," 10 and 11.
[8] Mendel et al., "Historic Structure Report," 13.
[9] Ibid., 18.
[10] Ibid., 65.
[11] Ibid., 65.
[12] Ibid., 66 and 75.
[13] Ibid., 80.
[14] Ibid., 71.
[15] Ibid., 90.
[16] Ibid., 90.
[17] Ibid., 94.

- Elevator cab interiors -- Moline Furniture Works[19]
- Bronze elevator doors -- Forderer Cornice Works, San Francisco[20]
- Asphalt and cork tiles -- believed to be supplied by the David E. Kennedy Company[21]
- Bronze window hardware -- Yale & Towne Manufacturing Company, Stamford, Connecticut[22]
- Heating and ventilating contractor -- James A. Nelson, San Francisco[23]

5. Artists: The plaster models of the coffered ceiling, an ornamental wall sconce and chandelier, and a stair balustrade were sculpted by the artist Anthony DiLorenzo.[24]

6. Original Plans and Construction: Plans for the Federal Office Building are dated October 10, 1932. Construction bids were received February 28, 1933. The drawings showed a five-story building with attic and basement. The building was generally rectangular in plan with a large central courtyard. In the interim between design and bids, the presidential administration changed from Herbert Hoover to Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Roosevelt's administration allowed the bids to lapse, and the decision was made to review the documents with the goal of reducing the costs from the original $3,050,000 budgeted. A number of cost cutting measures were taken including removing the fifth floor and attic of the McAllister Street side of the building and substituting less expensive materials such as terra cotta for granite on certain exterior building sections. A second round of bids was solicited, and the successful contractor bid $2,513,000.[25] The building was completed and occupied in May 1936.

7. Alterations and Additions: At the exterior, the building is almost unchanged. During World War II, the courtyard was filled with temporary wood structures to accommodate the 12th Naval District Headquarters. These temporary structures were removed in approximately 1960.[26]

   Some changes have been made at the roof. The nine-inch square quarry tiles that originally covered the flat portion of the sloped roof were replaced with built-up asphalt roofing in 1950 by Cooper Brothers of San

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[18] Ibid., 94.
[19] Mendel et al., "Historic Structure Report," 94.
[20] Ibid., 94.
[21] Ibid., 76.
[22] Ibid., 81.
[23] Ibid., 83.
[24] Ibid., 37 and 78.
[25] Ibid., 18.
[26] Ibid., 27.

Francisco.[27] When constructed, twenty-one skylights were located on the flat area of the main roof above the south, east, and west lengths of the building. The skylight superstructures were removed in the 1940s but the bases still remain and are covered with built-up asphalt roofing.[28]

At the interior, the principal public spaces--the main, stair, and elevator lobbies--are all intact, although the passenger elevator cab interior finishes were replaced with contemporary materials in the 1980s. At the main first floor lobby, ramps were installed in the 1980s to provide universal access to the first floor corridors.

Similarly, the interior corridors are largely intact. Alterations are limited to the basement and attic corridors. In these areas ceiling-mounted fluorescent fixtures with plastic diffusers were installed in approximately 1970. The attic was originally lit in part by the skylights that were removed in the 1940s.[29]

The office spaces are the most altered areas of the building. Over the years, most of the original metal and glass office partitions have been removed. In more recent decades, some offices have been subdivided with sheet metal stud walls.[30] In most rooms, the original 12-inch square asphalt tile is intact but has been covered with wall-to-wall carpeting; much of the carpeting appears to date to the 1980s. In most offices the original plaster ceiling has been covered with acoustical tile ceilings, and the original chain-hung incandescent lighting fixtures have been replaced with suspended fluorescent lighting. Some offices were originally fitted with metal counters and cabinets; all of these have been removed.

During construction a sprinkler system was installed in specific areas of the building such as the incinerator room, fire hose racks and some locations in the attic and boiler room. Additional sprinklers were installed on all floors in phases between 1974 and 1979.[31]

B. Historical Context:

Civic Center Design

Located in the center of the city, San Francisco's Civic Center occupies twelve city blocks and features eight major historic buildings: City Hall (1913-1916), Exposition Auditorium (1915), Public Library (1916), California State Building

[27] Ibid., 55.
[28] Mendel et al., "Historic Structure Report," 40 and 72.
[29] Ibid., 40.
[30] Ibid., 42.
[31] Ibid., 92.

(1926), War Memorial Opera House and War Memorial Veterans Building (1932), Department of Public Health Building (1932), and Federal Office Building (1936). Reflective of City Beautiful Movement ideals, the complex is unified through the arrangement of the buildings on axes with the Civic Center Plaza and City Hall serving as the focal point. Harmony of the buildings is further achieved through uniformity of monumental massing and size, materials, color, and Classical style.

The municipal reform advocated by the City Beautiful movement was inspired by the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. The formal Court of Honor section of the fair was given the moniker "the White City" because of its large white Classical buildings. Employing Beaux Arts planning principles, the buildings were laid out around a central lagoon and exhibited harmony of styles, massing, materials, and overall grandeur. The design influenced architecture and city planning throughout the country and inspired the City Beautiful movement. Many municipalities commissioned city parks and civic center plans based on the White City and its Beaux Arts planning principals. Only San Francisco's Civic Center came close to realizing its City Beautiful plan.[32]

The devastating 1906 earthquake and fire destroyed San Francisco's first City Hall, which had been completed in 1897. Plans for a replacement building revived discussions on creating a plan for an entire Civic Center. Architect Bernard J.S. Cahill had been commissioned by Mayor James D. Phelan in 1899 to create a plan, but it was not implemented. Continuing his ambitions to influence and improve the architecture of the city, Phelan in 1904 helped found the Society for the Improvement and Adornment of San Francisco. The Society invited Chicago architect and urban planner Daniel Burnham to provide a plan for the city. Burnham, along with his business partner John W. Root, oversaw the construction of the World's Columbian Exposition and its White City. A major proponent of the City Beautiful movement, Burnham created plans for Chicago, Washington D.C., Cleveland and Manila.[33]

Burnham's plan for the City of San Francisco was delivered from the printer the day before the earthquake struck the city on April 18, 1906. Burnham's plan languished while the city was rebuilt using the existing street pattern. In 1909 he was asked to revive the civic center portion of his overall plan, which was redesigned by his deputy architect, Willis Polk.[34]

At this same time, plans were being developed for a major international fair to be held in San Francisco in 1915, the Panama-Pacific International Exposition. The construction of the Civic Center became linked with plans for the exposition. The directors of the exposition company decided to build an auditorium in the Civic

[32] Charleton, "National Register of Historic Places Inventory," 8:2.
[33] Mendel et al., "Historic Structure Report," 7.
[34] Charleton, "National Register of Historic Places Inventory," 8:3.

Center as a lasting reminder of the exposition and its grandeur. Vice-president of the company, James Rolph, ran for mayor in 1911, and with his win, plans for the exposition and the Civic Center proceeded.[35]

Burnham's plan for the new civic center shifted the plaza from its current location to a site at the intersection of Market Street and Van Ness Avenue. Cahill argued that Burnham's plan was too expensive and infeasible and proposed a slightly modified version of his own 1904 scheme.[36] Cahill's plan maintained the basic street patterns and property lines, which made his plan more expedient to use.[37] The Burnham plan was defeated by the public, and in January 1912, the City's board of supervisors endorsed Cahill's 1909 civic center plan. The plan consisted of a central plaza with City Hall, State Building, Public Library, Opera House, and Exposition Auditorium all facing the plaza. The site of the Federal Office Building was unspecified.[38]

Architects John Bakewell Jr. and Arthur Brown Jr. received the commission for the new City Hall, and construction began in April 1913. Although not the first building completed, it was the first designed, and the designs of the subsequent buildings echoed the spirit and details of City Hall in style, material (grey granite or terra cotta to match), height, lines, and placement.[39] The City Hall design exemplified Beaux-Arts Classicism and is considered one of the finest examples of the style in the United States.[40]

John Galen Howard, Frederick Meyer, and John Reid began work on the design of the Exposition Auditorium in July 1913, and it opened January 5, 1915, in time for the Panama-Pacific Exposition. The City Hall was completed the next year in 1916. The San Francisco Public Library designed by George Kelham was constructed from 1915-1917. The State Building designed by Walter Bliss and William Faville was not completed until 1926.[41]

The War Memorial complex expanded the Civic Center westward across Van Ness Avenue with a matched pair of buildings, the Opera House and Veterans Building. The committee selected Arthur Brown Jr. to design both buildings with G. Albert Lansburgh, an architect largely known for his theater work, collaborating on the Opera House.[42] Construction was completed in 1932. Brown also planned the Memorial Court between the two buildings, which was designed by landscape architect Thomas Church and installed in 1936. The Department of Public Health Building by architect Samuel Heiman was also

[35] Charleton, "National Register of Historic Places Inventory," 8:3.
[36] Ibid., 8:3.
[37] Mendel et al., "Historic Structure Report," 8.
[38] Charleton, "National Register of Historic Places Inventory," 8:3.
[39] Mendel et al., "Historic Structure Report," 8.
[40] Charleton, "National Register of Historic Places Inventory," 8:8.
[41] Ibid., 8:5.
[42] Ibid., 8:5.

completed in 1932.[43] The Federal Office Building was the last major building of the Civic Center to be constructed. Construction began in 1933 and was completed in 1936.

As a unit, the buildings of the Civic Center work together and illustrate the formal planning principals of the City Beautiful movement. The War Memorial buildings extend the lines of City Hall when viewed from the east. When viewed from the west through the War Memorial Court, the Civic Center buildings create an axis that terminates with the City Hall dome. The City Hall, Exposition Auditorium (now the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium), Public Library (now the Asian Art Museum), and California State Building, along with the 1995 San Francisco Main Library, all face the Civic Center Plaza, the central feature of the group; and create a uniform court of grand, large-scale civic buildings. Similarly, the Public Library's Fulton Street façade and the colonnade of the Federal Office Building define a unified principal planning axis that directs the eye from Market Street to City Hall.[44]

Civic Center Political History

In the 1940s and 1950s, the San Francisco Civic Center was the site of events of international significance. From April 24 to June 26, 1945, the United Nations Conference on International Organization met in the Civic Center buildings. Heads of state and delegates representing fifty countries attended. The United Nations Charter was drafted in the Veterans Building, and the Charter was signed in an eight-hour ceremony in its auditorium (Herbst Theater). Ceremonial events and speeches took place in the Opera House, and welcoming ceremony, concerts, and public gatherings were held in the Exposition Auditorium.[45]

On September 8, 1951, representatives from forty-nine nations met at the War Memorial Opera House and signed a general peace treaty with Japan, returning full sovereignty to that nation after World War II. In a separate treaty between Japan and the United States, Japan relinquished claims to land outside its home islands and granted the United States permission to station armed forces within its borders.[46] In the subsequent decades, the Civic Center continued to be the site of important social and political events and has served as the site for distinguished visitors, political events, state funerals, and even strikes and protests.

Federal Office Building Design

Soon after the Civic Center plan was adopted in 1912, the block bordered by Fulton, Hyde, McAllister, and Leavenworth Streets was considered for a Federal Office Building. However, the project was not undertaken until March 1928

[43] Charleton, "National Register of Historic Places Inventory," 7:10.
[44] Ibid., 8:8.
[45] Ibid., 8:6.
[46] Ibid., 8:7.

when Congress appropriated $3,050,000 for the building and the City of San Francisco donated the site.[47]

Arthur Brown Jr., architect of San Francisco's City Hall (with John Bakewell Jr.) and the recently constructed War Memorial Complex, was selected to design a Class "A" Federal Office Building for San Francisco.[48] In December 1932 Brown's plans for the building were approved in Washington D.C., and on February 28, 1933, the project was sent out to bid.[49]

With the Great Depression influencing the national economy and politics, the incoming Roosevelt administration decided to let the bids lapse.[50] Brown was asked to modify his original design to reduce costs. In order to accomplish this goal, the east and west wings were brought to the north side at the full height to create terminal pavilions, but the fifth story and attic were removed from the McAllister Street (north) side of building. In the center of the McAllister façade, the building was stepped back and clad in terra cotta rather than the granite used on the other facades. With a bid of $2,513,000, Great Lake Construction Company of Chicago won the project and served as general contractor.[51]

Arthur Brown Jr., was the architect of more buildings in the Civic Center than any other individual and much of its cohesiveness is due to his repetition of architectural motifs. The Federal Office Building was the fourth of Brown's designs for the Civic Center and continues many of the architectural themes of the City Hall, the Opera House and the Veteran's Building. Typical of Classical designs, Brown arranged each of his Civic Center buildings into three horizontal zones. The lowest zone, comprised of one or two floors of rusticated masonry, served as a base for the upper floors. Mascarons, carved faces, with headpieces of corn, wheat, cat tails, and oak leaves were used in place of keystones at some first floor windows. Brown's middle or principal zone was marked by a colonnade of colossal Doric columns spanning two stories. At City Hall the columns were used on all four facades. At the Opera House, Veterans Building and Federal Office Building, they were employed only on the principal façade. A cornice and balustrade top this zone. Finally, the uppermost zone was stepped back and treated as an attic story. In all four designs, a low roof (clad in batten seam metal) caps the building.

Because of the narrow street in front of the Federal Office Building, a full façade view was not possible from Market Street. To emphasize the angled view from Market Street and Civic Center Plaza, the primary viewpoints to the building, at the southeast and southwest corners, Brown designed re-entrant (concave) corners

[47] Mendel et al., "Historic Structure Report," 13.
[48] Ibid., 13.
[49] Ibid., 18.
[50] Ibid., 14.
[51] Ibid., 17 and 18.

creating architecturally significant secondary entrances without detracting from the central, primary entrance.[52]

Federal Office Building Construction

Construction of the Federal Office Building began in early 1934, and the building was completed in early 1936.[53] The building was occupied in May 1936 and was officially dedicated May 16, 1936.[54] Despite the grandeur of its exterior and location within the Civic Center, the Federal Office Building function was primarily to house offices and had few public spaces. According to a 1936 article in the *Architect and Engineer,* "The Building is entirely devoted to housing government officials and is essentially an office structure, having no monumental interior treatment, except the vestibule."[55] Only a few spaces such as the entrance lobby and the Commandant's Office were richly detailed. Most rooms had the character of a standard office with demountable partitions dividing the larger rooms.

According to the original plans for the building, it was designed to house a large number of federal agencies:

- Board of Inspection and Survey
- Civil Service Commission
- Criminal Investigator
- Department of Agriculture
    - Bureau of Public Roads
    - District Office
    - Forest Service
- Department of the Interior
    - Geological Survey
    - Indian Services
- Employee Compensation Commission
- Inspector of Naval Materials
- Internal Revenue Agents
- Interstate Commerce Commission and Federal Trade Commission
- Naval Reserve
- Navy Department
- Public Works Department
- Treasury Department
    - Bureau of Industrial Alcohol
    - District Engineer and Supervising Architect
    - Internal Revenue Collector and Intelligence

[52] Mendel et al., "Historic Structure Report," 16.
[53] Ibid., 18.
[54] Ibid., 18.
[55] Ibid., 15.

  - Narcotic Services
  - Public Health
- Veteran's Bureau
- War Department, Pacific Division

During World War II, the building was known as the Navy Building or 12th Naval District Headquarters. To provide much needed space, temporary wood structures were built in the courtyard completely filling the ground-level area. These were later removed circa 1960.[56] During the war, the skylights on the attic were covered and later removed, likely because of citywide blackouts enforced when an enemy air raid was possible.

In the late 1940s, Fleet Admiral Chester William Nimitz occupied the Commandant's suite of rooms on the third floor of the Federal Office Building, which included a ceremonial circular office, waiting room, aide's office, private office, and dressing room.

Nimitz had been appointed the Chief of the Bureau of Navigation in 1939. In December 1941, after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the war escalated, and Nimitz was designated Commander in Chief of the Pacific Fleet and Pacific Ocean Areas. He continued to serve in this capacity until December 19, 1944, when he was promoted to the newly created rank of Fleet Admiral. In this role, on September 2, 1945, Nimitz was the United States signatory to the formal surrender ceremony held on board the *USS Missouri* in Tokyo Bay. In late 1945, Nimitz was appointed as the Chief of Naval Operations, a position from which he retired in 1947. He was then made the Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Navy in the Western Sea Frontier. It was during his time as Special Assistant that Nimitz likely occupied the Commandant's suite at the San Francisco Federal Building.

The building continued to function as a federal office building until 2007 when a new federal building was constructed in San Francisco. It is currently being renovated and will house GSA offices.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The building exemplifies the Classical style, in particular the Beaux Arts tradition with features such as rusticated base, semicircular arched openings, colossal attached columns, and low-pitched roof with balustrade. In addition, the Federal Office Building contributes to the integrated plan and architecture of the San Francisco Civic Center,

[56] Mendel et al., "Historic Structure Report," 27.

and its harmony of ornamentation, massing, and materials that embody the City Beautiful movement concepts.

2. Condition of Fabric: Overall, the building has been well maintained and is in good condition. The roof system in poor condition and is failing. Asbestos floor tiles and pipe insulation are located throughout the building.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall Dimensions: The Fulton and McAllister Street (south and north) sides of the building measure 370 feet, and the Hyde and Leavenworth Street (west and east) sides of the building measure 223 feet. The interior courtyard is 234 feet 3 inches from east to west and 91 feet 7 inches north to south. The building is 97 feet in height. The total floor area is 350,214 gross square feet.

2. Foundations: The building rests on a poured concrete foundation.

3. Walls: Although the walls appear to be load-bearing masonry, they are composed of a steel skeleton with cladding. On all facades, from the basement to just above the sill level of the first floor windows, the walls are sheathed in smooth-faced, gray granite ashlar blocks. On the Leavenworth and McAllister Street sides of the building, the site adjacent to the basement is further excavated exposing the basement walls. At the Leavenworth Street side, a ramp provides access to the basement level. At the McAllister Street side, there are below-grade light wells.

On the Fulton, Leavenworth, and Hyde Street sides of the building, the wall surfaces from the basement through the fourth story are all gray granite. Above the smooth ashlar blocks of the lowest section, the remainder of the first and all of the second story are rusticated granite blocks with beveled arises and deeply recessed joints. A simple projecting belt course caps the rustication. Above is a two-story section with smooth wall surface recessed behind colossal Doric columns on the Fulton Street façade and attached pilasters on the Leavenworth and Hyde Street facades; all are gray granite. Balustrades span the gaps between the columns or pilasters, and panels are located between the third and fourth floor windows. A simple cornice with dentil course divides the fourth and fifth stories and is surmounted by an interrupted balustrade that wraps the recessed fifth floor. Terra cotta blocks face the walls of the fifth floor, which is topped by a simple molded cornice.

At the three entrance arches of the Fulton Street (primary) façade, cartouches take the place of the keystone and feature American Bald Eagles holding an olive branch or stars and stripes shields with garlands.

Over alternate windows on the first floor of this façade, the keystones are Classical mascarons, carved faces, with headpieces of corn, wheat, cat tails, and oak leaves. Distinctive concave corners (reentrant corners) at the southeast and southwest corners of the building frame secondary entrances.

The Hyde and Leavenworth Street (west and east) facades are identical and continue much of the architectural ornament of the Fulton Street façade. Colossal Doric pilasters span the third and fourth floors, and Classical mascarons are located above every third ground floor window.

The McAllister Street façade is the least ornamented of the four faces of the building. At the east and west ends are pavilions that match the Hyde and Leavenworth Street facades; they are clad in gray granite with colossal pilasters at the third and fourth stories, and Classical mascarons are located above select first floor windows. The central section recedes and is clad in terra cotta finished to look like gray granite. Like the other facades, this section has a rusticated base. There is a glazed arched entrance at center. The central section (third and fourth stories) has flat terra cotta and is topped by a simple cornice with dentil course and interrupted balustrade. Unlike the other facades, there is no fifth floor or attic on this side of the building.

The walls of the courtyard are faced with gray, granite-finished brick laid in a Flemish bond. Jack-arched lintels top the windows, and continuous string courses consisting of headers span the walls at the sill level of the first floor windows. At pedimented central bays on the north and south courtyard facades, the walls are terra cotta above a granite foundation. Belt courses and cornices on the courtyard walls are also terra cotta.

4. Structural Systems, Framing: The structure is a steel frame clad with gray granite and terra cotta block. The floors system consists of reinforced concrete beams topped with slabs and 4-inch topping slabs. The topping slabs have channels to accommodate utilities.

5. Porches Stoops, Balconies, Porticos, Bulkheads: The main entrance at the Fulton Street façade and the entrance at the reentrant southwest corner are at grade, and there is no need for stairways or landings. Because of the down slope in grade from west to east, the entrance at the southeast reentrant corner is raised and is accessed by a granite semi-octagonal staircase. A third granite stairway with simple rectangular block granite cheek walls leads to the entrance on the McAllister Street side of the building. Basement level entrances at the Leavenworth Street side are flush with the bottom of the ramp. None of the entrances of the building are covered.

Two small balconies are located on the southwest and southeast corners of the third floor.

6. Chimneys: A single brick chimney projects through the flat roof of the McAllister Street wing and is attached to the east wall of the five-story plus attic Hyde Street wing. It is clad in gray brick laid in a Flemish bond with a simple sheet-metal cap. It is not visible from the surrounding streets.

7. Openings:

   a. Doorways and Doors: The main entrance to the building is located in the center of the Fulton Street (south) façade and consists of three pairs of glazed doors in glazed, semi-circular arched openings. The doors lead to the entrance lobby. Similar glazed arched entrances occur at the re-entrant (southeast and southwest) corners of the building and on the McAllister Street facade. Each arch contains paired, aluminum, single-action doors surrounded by an aluminum framework of vertical and horizontal mullions and muntins that create divided lites. Cast aluminum door surrounds with egg-and-dart motif divide the doors and transoms from the larger glazed opening.

      The courtyard is accessed through similar arched openings but these doors and framework are bronze instead of aluminum.

      At the Leavenworth Street basement level, the entrance doors are bronze and glazed in the upper half with four lites and four-lite transoms.

   b. Windows: At all stories at the perimeter of the building and the courtyard, the exterior windows are rectangular wood sash and most are grouped in pairs. Each window is composed of four-over-four, double-hung sash. The exceptions are the arched, aluminum glazed openings that surround the entrances (See a. Doorways and Doors).

      At the basement level, some windows have hinged steel grates, and many are glazed with original obscure glass.

      At the perimeter of the building, the first floor windows are topped by wood, paired, four-lite transoms while those on the third floor have wood, paired two-lite transoms. The second, fourth, and fifth floor windows do not have transoms. The pattern of transoms at the courtyard windows matches those at the perimeter, except at

the first floor, where there are two-lite transoms over each window rather than four-lite.

The attic dormers have wood, three-over-three, double-hung sash.

8. Roof:

a. Shape, Covering: The building's roof is composed of two sections: a combination flat and sloped roof over the attic of the five-story portion of the building and a flat roof over the four-story McAllister Street wing. The combination roof has a flat central section flanked by steeply sloped sides, which are clad in 4-foot wide pans of a light gray lead-coated copper with vertical batten seams. Dormer roofs, ridge rolls, gutters, and cheek walls are also covered with lead-coated copper. The flat section of the combination roof is clad in built-up asphalt roofing. Air-handling equipment is located on the flat portion of the roof. The flat-roofed McAllister wing is covered with built-up asphalt roofing.

Remnants of weather monitoring equipment, some of which was installed soon after the building was constructed, are located on the roof.

b. Cornice, Eaves: At the top of the fourth story, there is a granite cornice consisting of a plain entablature with dentil course. Above, at the fifth story, the building steps back. Topping this story is a simple molded terra cotta cornice.

c. Dormers, Cupolas, Towers: Fifteen identical dormers are located on the three sides of the attic roof that face the courtyard. Barrel vaults with simple molding at the eave top the dormers. Each dormer has a three-over-three lite window that faces the courtyard.

When constructed, twenty-one skylights were located on the flat portions of the attic roof; these have been removed with only the concrete curb base remaining.

9. Exterior Lighting: At the exterior of the building, there are three major lighting types: ornate sconces at main, southwest, southeast, and north entrances; less elaborate sconces at the courtyard; and light standards at the courtyard and the basement level at the Leavenworth Street side. Bracket lanterns and lamp standards are two-tone cast aluminum with a "soft lustrous satin finish."[57]

[57] Mendel et al., "Historic Structure Report," 90.

The ornate sconces are composed of a three-part foliate brackets that support the cylindrical lanterns. The lanterns have four curved lites, bases ornamented with an acanthus pattern, a bell-shaped top with fishscale pattern, small foliate brackets that attach the top to the cylinder, and a scallop final.

The courtyard sconces are composed of a single curved bracket supporting a square lantern with beveled edges, a base ornamented with an acanthus pattern, a squared bell-shaped top, and an acorn finial.

The lamp standards are supported by an octagonal pole and stepped base. The lantern matches the details of the courtyard sconces.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans: The basement through the fourth floors are rectangular in plan arranged around a central courtyard. At the fifth floor and attic, the McAllister Street wing was omitted creating a "C"-shaped plan. Each floor is a double-loaded corridor, and, because of the interior courtyard, most rooms have natural daylighting.

2. Entrance Lobby: Accessible from the three arched openings on the Fulton Street facade, the entrance lobby is the primary public space and the most richly detailed in the building. The plan of the lobby is symmetrical; it is a long rectangular space with semi-spherical apses at each end. The three arched entrance openings of the exterior wall face three corresponding rectangular openings in the north wall of the room, which lead to the elevator lobby and corridors beyond.

   A barrel-vaulted ceiling with apses covers the two-story space. Lower arches over the exterior doors intersect the main vault. Molded plaster hexagonal coffering with rosettes covers the barrel portion of the ceiling, and diamond-shaped coffering with tablet flowers covers the apses.

   Cast stone blocks clad the walls of the lobby topped by a classically detailed cornice with egg-and-dart molding. The three openings on the north wall are surrounded by Classical molding with entablature and pediment all framed in blind arches. Stairs lead to the outer openings, and a ramp, a 1980s addition, leads to the center opening.

   The flooring is terrazzo divided into diamond shapes with a marble border and two-tiered baseboard. Three chain-hung, bronze and glass lanterns illuminate the room (see 10. Mechanical Equipment: b. Lighting for more detail).

3. Stairways: Open stair halls are located at the southeast and southwest corners of the building extending from the basement to the fifth floor. The stair halls are placed diagonal to the corridors, on axis with the re-entrant corners of the building. Arches separate the stair halls and lobbies from the main corridors. The stair lobby floors are terrazzo divided into diagonally oriented squares surrounded by marble border and baseboards.

   The stairs consist of a steel structure with terrazzo risers, treads, and inner stringers. Balustrades composed of brass balusters and a brass and aluminum handrail line the stairs. The balusters are stylized curvilinear supports in brushed gray crowned with gold bound foliate tops and finials. On the courtyard wall of the stair hall, large windows occur at first through fourth floors.

   Enclosed stairs are located at the northeast and northwest corners of the building on the interior side of the double-loaded corridor, extending from the basement to the attic floor. These stair halls are much simpler in character than those at the front of the building. A pair of bronze ten-lite French doors with four-lite transom separates the stair hall from the corridors. Stair lobby floors are terrazzo divided into squares surrounded by pink marble trim.

   The stairs consist of a closed string with steel risers and terrazzo treads. Balustrades composed of simple brass balusters and handrails line the stairs and terminate with a brass newel post.

   Two steel spiral stairs connect the fifth floor and attic rooms at southeast and southwest corners of the building.

4. Elevator Lobbies: The first floor south elevator lobby is an extension of the elaborate main lobby and repeats many of the same design motifs. The ceiling has hexagonal coffering with plaster rosettes, and walls are cast stone with a classically detailed cornice. Terrazzo with brass dividers and marble border covers the floor, and a marble baseboard surrounds the room.

   On the north wall, a large rectangular opening containing a pair of French doors, sidelites, and large transom leads to the courtyard. All window and door muntins are bronze. Pairs of elevators openings are located on the east and west wall of the room and are fitted with the original three-paneled, bronze, two-leaf doors. Other bronze elements include a decorative cast mail box, framed building directory, bulletin board, and clock. Two telephone booths are located at the southeast corner of the lobby at the juncture with the corridor. Lighting is provided by two chain-hung bronze and glass lanterns.

The south elevator lobbies on the basement and second through fifth floors are similar in plan to that of the first floor and form "T" configurations with the corridors. On these floors, the four elevator portals have three-panel, double-leaf painted steel doors. Like the window and entrance of the first floor lobby, on the second through fourth floors, each lobby has a window on the north wall facing the courtyard. The fifth floor lobby does not have a window, but rather a skylight. At the basement, the floor is hexagonal quarry tile and on the second through fifth floors terrazzo flooring was used. The interiors of the elevator cabs have had their original finished removed and are currently finished with stained oak panels and molding. Baseboards and handrails are bronze, and the floor is covered with modern carpet. These elevators run from the basement to the fifth floor.

The north elevator lobbies are similar in configuration and finishes to the south elevator lobbies. Although elevator openings are fitted with bronze doors on the first floor and painted steel on the second through the fourth floors, there are two rather than four elevator openings, and elevator cabs were never installed.

A freight elevator is located in the east wing of the building. The cab is accessed through doors that slide shut from the top and bottom and an interior metal accordion gate. The freight elevator runs from the basement to the fifth floor.

5. Flooring: In the primary public spaces, such as the main entrance lobby, elevator lobbies, and southwest and southeast stairwells, terrazzo with bronze dividers is used. At the main lobby, there are 16-inch gray terrazzo squares laid diagonally with a 10-inch pink marble border. Similarly, the first floor south elevator lobby has the same flooring with 15 ½-inch terrazzo squares and 6-inch marble borders.

In the basement through fifth floor corridors, the flooring is hexagonal, 9-inch square, red-brown quarry tile with a border of 9 inch pink marble on the first through fifth floors. The border in the basement corridor is square red-brown quarry tile. The attic corridor is a red-colored concrete slab scored with 12-inch squares.

Offices throughout the building have 12-inch square asphalt tiles in two-tones, brown and buff, with a brown 12-inch asphalt tile border. Most of the tile is intact but has been covered by carpeting.

Several offices have two-toned 12-inch square cork tile including: Collector of Internal Revenue, (Room 263); Agent in Charge of Internal Revenue (Room 429-431); Board Room--Navy Department (Rooms 238-

244); General Inspector--Supply Corps (Room 318); and Regional Forester (Room 534).

Oak floors were used in the Commandant's Suite (Rooms 325-327). In the Commandant's circular office, the oak flooring is laid with an eight-sided star design at the center and a herringbone pattern radiating outward.

Toilet room floors are alternating cream and gray 4 ¼-inch square ceramic tiles surrounded by a gray ceramic tile border.

6. Wall and Ceiling Finish: Structurally, the walls are poured concrete, structural clay tile and brick. Some of the office divisions are plaster applied to metal lath.[58]

In the main entrance lobby, the most ornate space in the building, the walls are cast-stone block finished with sand-rubbed texture to match light buff limestone. The ceiling consists of a barrel-vaulted ceiling with apses at the east and west ends. Coffering composed of hexagons and rosettes covers the barrel vault, and diamond coffers with tablet flowers and shell motif cover the semi-circular ceilings of the apses. The coffering is a soft, light-weight plaster finished with light sandblasting to give the appearance of limestone. The south first floor elevator lobby and secondary vestibules have the same hexagonal coffering pattern but the ceilings are flat. In all areas with this decorative ceiling, the plaster was applied to the metal and the assembly was hung from steel framing.[59]

In the corridors, the walls are plaster applied to structural clay tile. Four-inch wide marble trims the door frames, and 18-inch high gray marble baseboards line the floors. The corridor ceilings are barrel-vaults consisting of plaster-on-metal lath suspended from structural framing members.[60] The ceilings are divided from walls by a 6-½-inch plaster cornice. The corridor intersections are defined by shallow plaster ribs with plaster groin vaults. The basement corridor walls and ceiling are similar to floors above but have lower ceilings. The baseboards and door trim in basement and attic are hollow metal.

The walls of the offices are primarily plaster over structural clay tile or metal lathe. Typical office baseboards are 7 ¾-inch high wood with ovolo molding. Originally, demountable steel partitions with metal and glass panels divided the offices. Most have been removed but some survived in some areas of the building. More recently, some offices have been divided with sheetrock walls. When constructed, the office ceilings were

[58] Mendel et al., "Historic Structure Report," 77.
[59] Ibid., 78 and 79.
[60] Ibid., 79.

plaster and metal lath suspended from the steel structural system. Currently, most offices have acoustical tile or suspended lay-in ceilings.

A few of the more ornate offices have wood wainscoting. In the restrooms, marble wainscoting and ceramic tiles clad the walls with plaster above.

7. Openings:

a. Doors and Doorways: A large number of door types are located throughout the building. The most common interior doors are described below.

The most numerous doors are the glazed oak doors with transoms leading from the corridors to offices spaces. These doors measure 3 feet wide, 6 feet 11 inches tall and 2 inches deep. The doors consist of a molded wood panel with textured glass lite above. Operable, single-lite oak transoms with textured glass top each door.

The doors to the toilet rooms are similar the office doors and are oak with textured glass. The dimensions are 2 feet 7 ½ inches wide and 6 feet 10 ½ inches tall. These doors do not have transoms.

The office doors between the demountable office partitions are two-panel, hollow-core, metal doors measuring 3-feet wide and 6 feet 11 ½ inches tall.

The doors to utility spaces, such as the electrical and janitor's closets, are wood with two panels and are a variety of sizes.

Pairs of bronze ten-lite French doors with four-lite transoms lead to the fire stairs. These doors are similar to those leading to the courtyard at the first floor.

In the round Commandant's office, the doors are three-panel oak curved to conform to the curvature of the walls.

Metal doors of various sizes and types are used in the basement offices. The doors are paired or single with variables such as: glazing, transom, single panels, and double panels.

Modern, wood hollow-core doors have been used in some of the more recent office alterations.

b. Windows: Because of the building's double-loaded corridor plan, most rooms have natural daylighting through windows facing the exterior or courtyard. On the building's interior, the windows are set in slightly recessed openings. The windows have simple trim and sills and many sit above radiators. Most are covered with metal venetian blinds.

8. Decorative Features and Trim: In addition to the entrance, elevator, and stair lobbies described above, there are several offices that have decorative features and trim.

The Board Room--Navy Department Rooms (Room 238-244) and Collector of Internal Revenue (Room 203) have low, paneled wainscoting extending to the sill level. A combination wood and plaster cornice tops the walls.

The rooms of the Commandant's Office Suite (Rooms 325-327) are the most ornate offices in the building. These rooms are located in the southwest corner of the third floor in one of the reentrant corners of the building. The Commandant's formal office is circular in plan with curved doors and transoms. A fireplace with an ornate, verde antique marble, Rococo-style mantelpiece and wood paneling above is located on the northeast wall. The oak flooring is laid with an eight-sided star design at the center and a herringbone pattern radiating outward. Paneled wainscoting lines the lower walls, and the upper walls are divided into sections by wood trim. A combination wood and plaster cornice crowns the walls. A suspended chandelier hangs from an ornate plaster medallion in the center of the room. Wall sconces flank the fireplace and window.

The General Inspector, Supply Corps office (Room 318) is located in the southeast corner of the third story. The space is rectangular with rounded corners. Paneled wood wainscoting lines the base of wall, and a wood and plaster cornice crowns the walls. The original two-toned cork floor is intact under the current carpeting. The original chandelier has been replaced with a fluorescent fixture. Four historic wall sconces remain. The office of the Agent in Charge of Internal Revenue (Rooms 429 and 431) and National Forester's Office (Room 534) have finishes similar to the General Inspector, Supply Corps office but the wall corners are not curved.

9. Hardware: Most of the original window and door hardware is intact. The windows have their original recessed bronze sash lifts. Similarly, most of the doors have their original "Yale" door closer, lockset, hinges, door stops, and bronze transom knobs. Some have bronze letter slots.

10. Mechanical Equipment:

a. Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation: A central heating plant is located in the basement. A Boiler Room (B047), which is dropped below the basement floor level, houses three boilers and related pumps, valves, pipes, and sump pit. An Engineer's Room and Switchboard Room are also located in the basement. The original down-fed, low-pressure, steam vacuum system, with cast-iron radiators is still in place. The steam supply mains run through the pipe space below fifth floor, and vacuum return mains are located in the tunnel beneath the basement corridor. Risers connect the system to the individual radiators on each floor.[61] In the corners of the attic floor, there are machine rooms with motors and fans that vent the toilet rooms in the floors directly below. An elevator room is also located in the attic.

b. Lighting: There are two categories of light fixtures originally installed at the building's interior: standard government contract fixtures in offices and secondary spaces and architect-designed ornamental fixtures in public spaces, such as lobbies, corridors, and stair halls, and specific high-profile offices.

Government standard fixtures were specified by the Treasury Department and were used in numerous government buildings.[62] In the case of the San Francisco Federal Office Building, these standard fixtures were contracted to H.A. Framburg and Company of Chicago for manufacture and Boyd Lighting Fixture Company of San Francisco for installation. Nine fixture types were used in the building including: suspended globes, pendants, ceiling-mounted globes and sconces, and simple cord-hung porcelain sockets. These standard fixtures were simple in character and most had white, milk-glass globes. They were used in offices, utility spaces, and the basement and attic corridors. Most of these fixtures have been replaced with modern fluorescent fixtures, suspended or ceiling mounted; very few original standard fixtures remain.

The ornamental fixtures were designed by the building's architect Arthur Brown Jr..[63] They were manufactured by Schweitzer Brothers Inc. of Los Angeles. Ornamental fixtures included lanterns of three sizes, sconces, and chandeliers. The lanterns and sconces found in the public spaces are bronze with portions painted with dark blue enamel. The lanterns are cylindrical with scrolled

[61] Mendel et al., "Historic Structure Report," 83.
[62] Ibid., 90.
[63] Mendel et al., "Historic Structure Report," 85.

brackets from the suspension chain to the glass frames. Individual scrolled brackets support the wall sconces. The chandeliers and wall scones found in private offices are bronze with pewter finish; some have leaf work in old brass.[64] Most of the lanterns and wall brackets in the public areas have survived. Fewer office chandeliers and sconces are intact.

c. Plumbing: The building is fully plumbed with two women's and two men's toilet rooms on each floor from the basement through fifth floor. The original water closets, wall-mounted lavatories and marble partitions are extant.

Original American Standard china drinking fountains are located at the southwest and southeast corners of the building. Modern drinking fountains accessible to the handicap have also been installed in the building. Water closets with porcelain sinks are located in many offices.

Sprinklers were originally installed in the incinerator room, boiler room, and fire hose racks and cabinets. In the 1970s sprinklers were installed in phases on all floors.[65]

11. Original Furnishings: It appears that when the building was occupied in 1932, most departments brought the furniture they had used in their previous offices, and new furniture was not specially ordered for the building.[66] No moveable furniture from this early period remains.

Single and paired built-in telephone booths are located adjacent to the elevator lobbies on each floor from the basement through the fifth floors. The booths had oak wainscoting and black structural glass walls. The booth or booths are marked with bronze and glass "telephone" signs. The telephones were removed around 1982, and few have been replaced.

The Dressing Room of the Commandant's Suite (Rooms 325-327) is fitted with simple, wood, built-in dresser cabinets with cedar linings.

Laboratory benches and metal cabinetry, most likely from the 1940s or 1950s, remain intact in Room 605.

D. Site:

[64] Ibid., 90.
[65] Ibid., 92.
[66] Ibid., 93.

1. General Setting and Orientation: The San Francisco Federal Office Building occupies an entire block bounded by Fulton, Hyde, McAllister, and Leavenworth Streets. Between Hyde and Market Streets, Fulton Street is closed to through traffic and is primarily a pedestrian corridor called United Nations Plaza. The block of Leavenworth Street between Fulton and McAllister Street on the east side of the Federal Office Building is also closed to through traffic and part of the United Nations Plaza pedestrian corridor.

2. Historic Landscape Design: Historically, Fulton Street was open to automobiles, but in 1975 the road was closed to create United Nations Plaza designed by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin. Currently, an allée of trees lines the plaza in front of the Federal Office Building's Fulton Street façade. Sidewalks border the west and north sides of the building, and a service ramp is located to the east.

   The courtyard retains its historic formal configuration with central north/south and east/west axes and secondary north/south axes with round planting beds at the centers. A continuous light well surrounds the courtyard interrupted only at the entrance pavilions. When constructed, the courtyard had low plantings but no trees. Currently, large trees dominate the space.

3. Outbuildings: There are no outbuildings associated with this structure.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Architectural Drawings: Plans for the Federal Office Building are dated October 10, 1932. Some plans were revised October 6, 1933. Plans showing the truncation of the fifth floor and attic are dated July 12, 1935 and September 24, 1935. Copies of the historic drawings are appended to this report.

   A perspective rendering of the Federal Office Building is also available at the Bancroft Library, University of California Berkeley:

   Brown, Jr., Arthur. "Proposed Federal Office Building." Drawing. June 24, 1931.

B. Early Views:
   "Aerial View of Civic Center." Photo Id#AAB-7532. February 19, 1945. San Francisco Public Library.
   "Anti-Castro group of young people before the Federal Building." Photo Id# AAK-0846. April 20, 1961. San Francisco Public Library.

"Bay Area students picketing in front of Federal Building recalling the day the first atomic bomb fell in Hiroshima." Photo Id#AAK-0825. August 6, 1960. San Francisco Public Library.

"Construction of Federal Building at Civic Center." Photo Id#AAC-4883, 4884, 4885, 4887, 4888, 4889, 4891, 4892, 4893, 4894, 4895, 4896, 4897, 4898, 4899, 4900, 4901, 4903, 4904, 4906, 4907, 4912. January 29, 1934 - February 26, 1935. San Francisco Public Library.

"F.B.I. file room at the Federal Building." Photo Id#AAC-4878. October 8, 1957. San Francisco Public Library.

"Federal Building on Fulton Street." Photo Id#AAC-4882. April 22, 1936. San Francisco Public Library.

"Federal Building, Fulton and Market Streets." Photo Id#AAC-4913. 1938. San Francisco Public Library.

"Federal Group, from Market St." Photo Id#AAC-4876. c. 1957. San Francisco Public Library.

"Harry Bridges and his wife Nancy leave the Federal Building after his release from jail." Photo Id#AAA-6284. August 24, 1953. San Francisco Public Library.

"Paul Armstrong, president of the Federal Business Association, operating heavy machinery at the construction site of the Federal Building in the Civic Center." Photo Id#AAC-4902. January 18, 1933. San Francisco Public Library.

"San Francisco Women for Peace marching before the Federal Building." Photo Id# AAK-0857. April 25, 1962. San Francisco Public Library.

"Steam shovel operator Joseph Bush posing with gravestone uncovered during excavation for Federal Building in Civic Center." Photo Id#AAD-6227. April 22, 1936. San Francisco Public Library.

"View of Federal Building from Hyde Street." Photo Id#AAC-4879, 4911. June 3, 1938. San Francisco Public Library.

"Weather Bureau atop Federal Building." Photo Id#AAF-0209. January 13, 1949. San Francisco Public Library.

C. Interviews: No interviews were conducted for this project.

D. Bibliography:

Charleton, James H. "National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form: San Francisco Civic Center." 1984.

Longstreth, Richard W. *On the Edge of the World: Four Architects in San Francisco at the Turn of the Century*. New York: Architectural History Foundation, 1983.

Mendel, Mesick, Cohen, Waite Architects. "Historic Structure Report: United States Federal Office Building 50 United Nations Plaza, San Francisco, California." 1982.

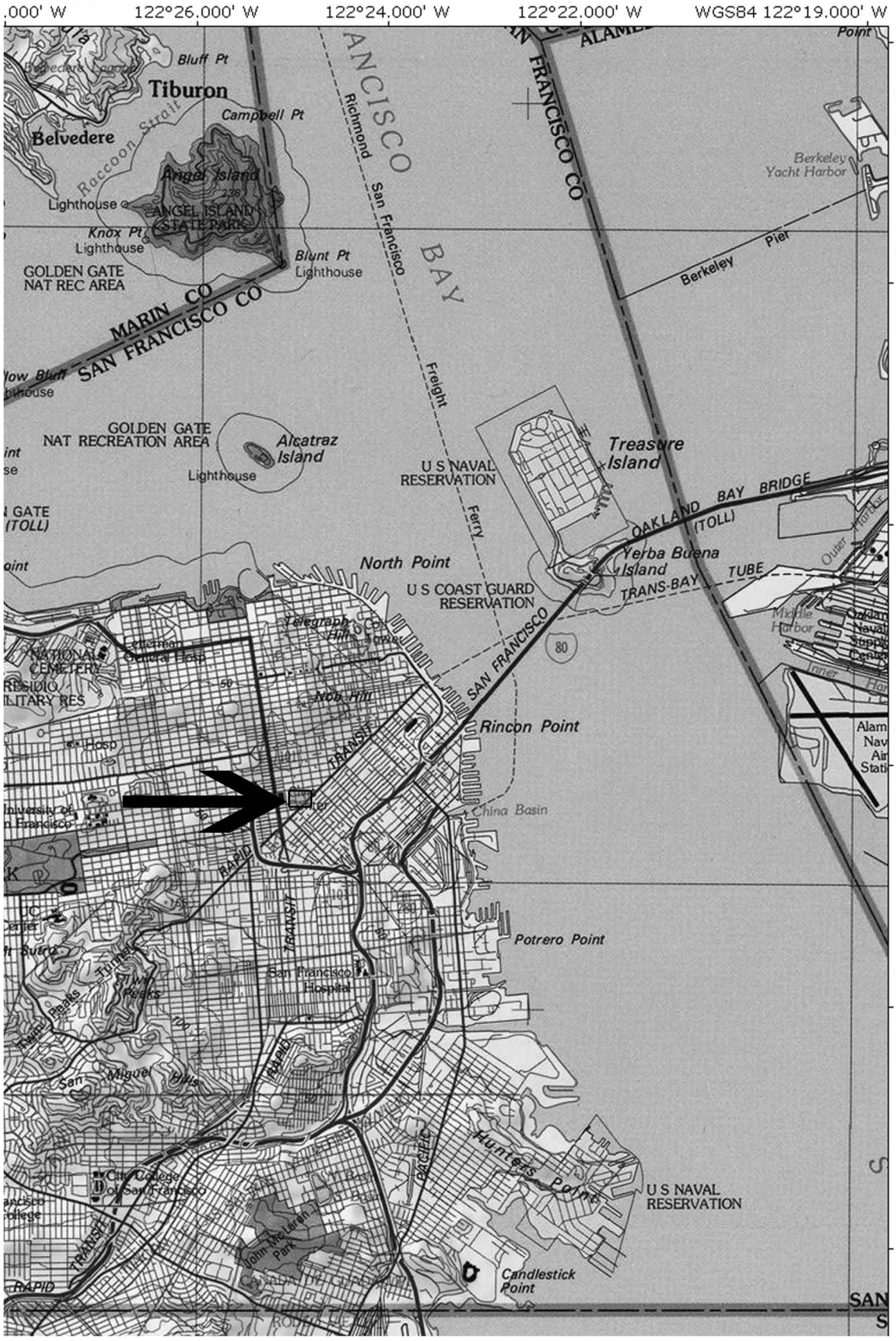
E. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: This report relies primarily on the 1982 Historic Structures Report on the Federal Office Building prepared by Mendel, Mesick, Cohen, Waite Architects and the 1984 National Register Nomination of the San Francisco Civic Center by James Charleton, which appears to have been based on the 1976 National Register Nomination of the San Francisco Civic Center by Michael Corbett.

Additional research could be conducted at a variety of repositories including: the General Services Administration, National Archives and Records Administration, San Francisco Public Library, California Historical Society, San Francisco Heritage, and University of California, Berkeley libraries.

F. Supplemental Material: copies of the original plans for the building as well as drawings reflecting current conditions are appended to this report.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

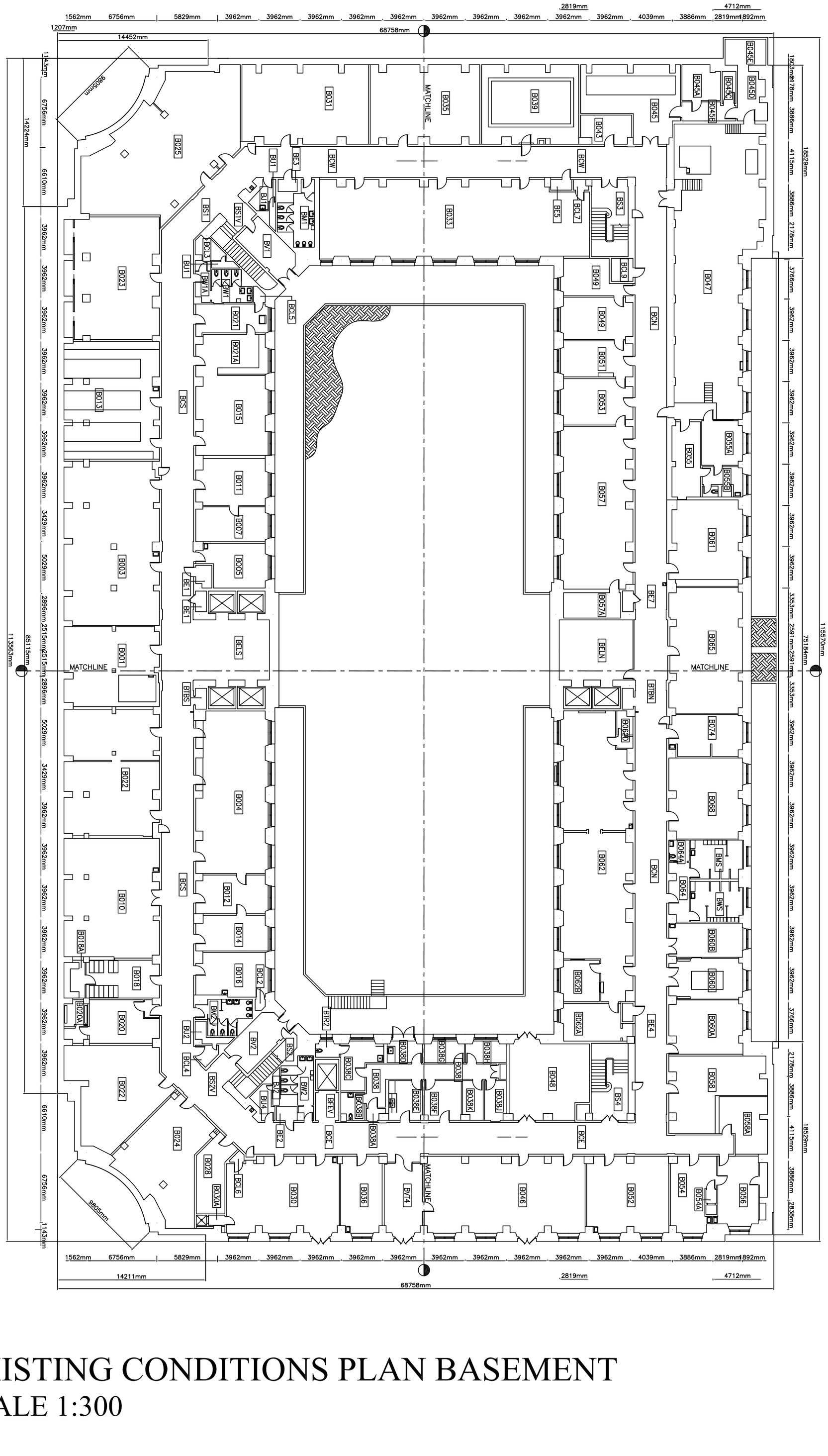
HABS documentation of the San Francisco Federal Office Building (50 United Nations Plaza) was completed in accordance with directives stipulated in the *Memorandum of Agreement Among GSA, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the California State Historic Preservation Officer, Regarding the Rehabilitation, Seismic Upgrade, and Tenant Improvements of the Federal Office Building, 50 United Nations Plaza, San Francisco, California*. The project was sponsored by the United States General Services Administration, Pacific Rim Office. Documentation was undertaken by Architectural Resources Group, Inc. between January and March, 2010. Jody R. Stock, Architectural Historian, authored the Draft HABS Historical Report. Lacey Bubnash prepared the Draft Supplemental Material. Shayne E. Watson, Architectural Historian, produced the Draft HABS black and white photographs. Elaine Jackson-Retondo, Ph.D., of the National Park Service, Pacific West Region, reviewed the HABS documentation.



SAN FRANCISCO FEDERAL BUILDING LOCATION MAP
50 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA
NOT TO SCALE

SITE PLAN
NOT TO SCALE

APPROXIMATE NHLD BOUNDARY



EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN BASEMENT
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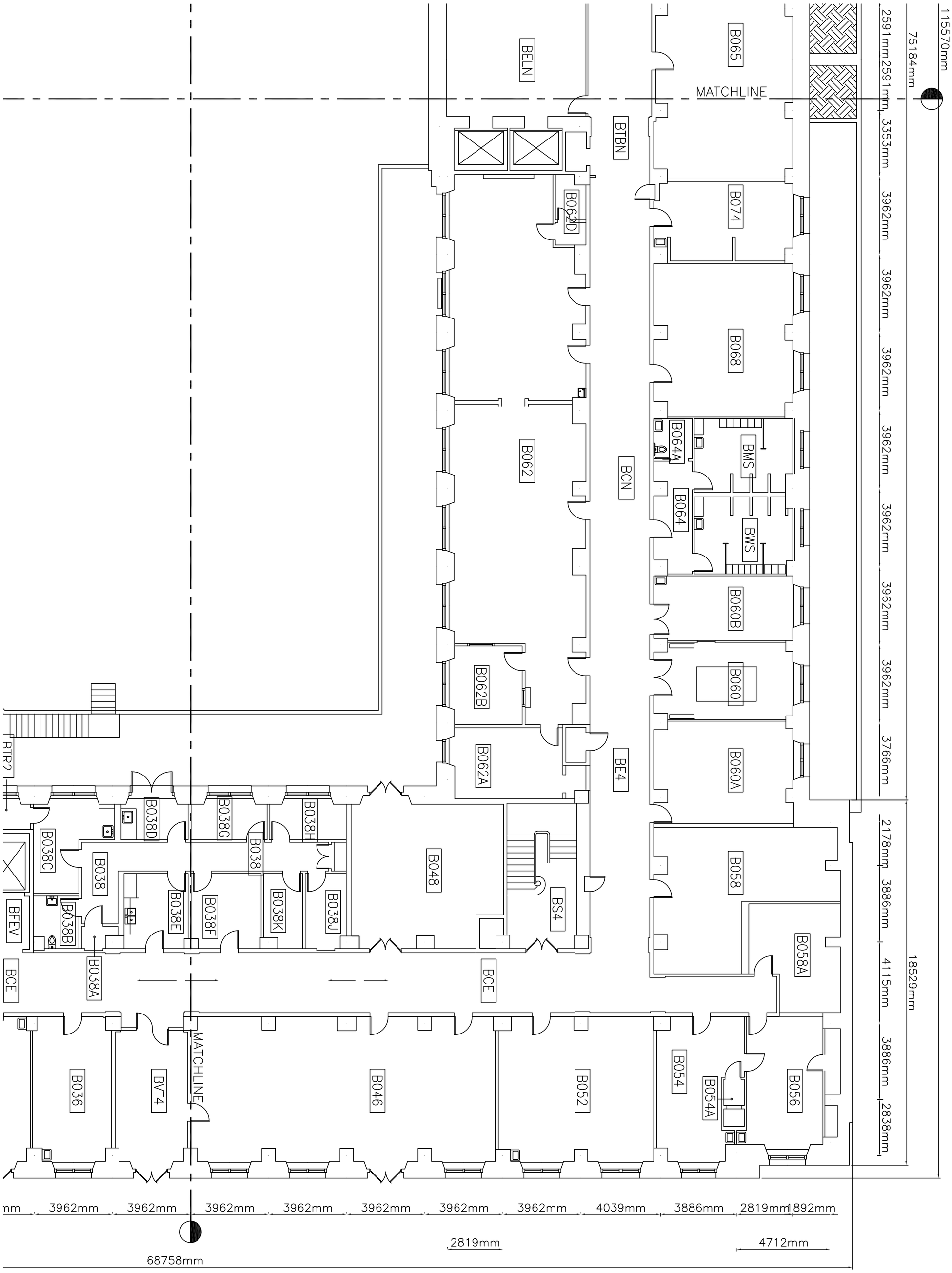
KEY PLAN



EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN BASEMENT - NORTHEAST

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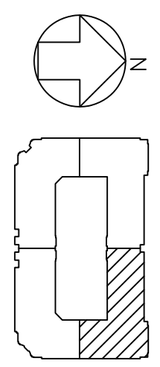

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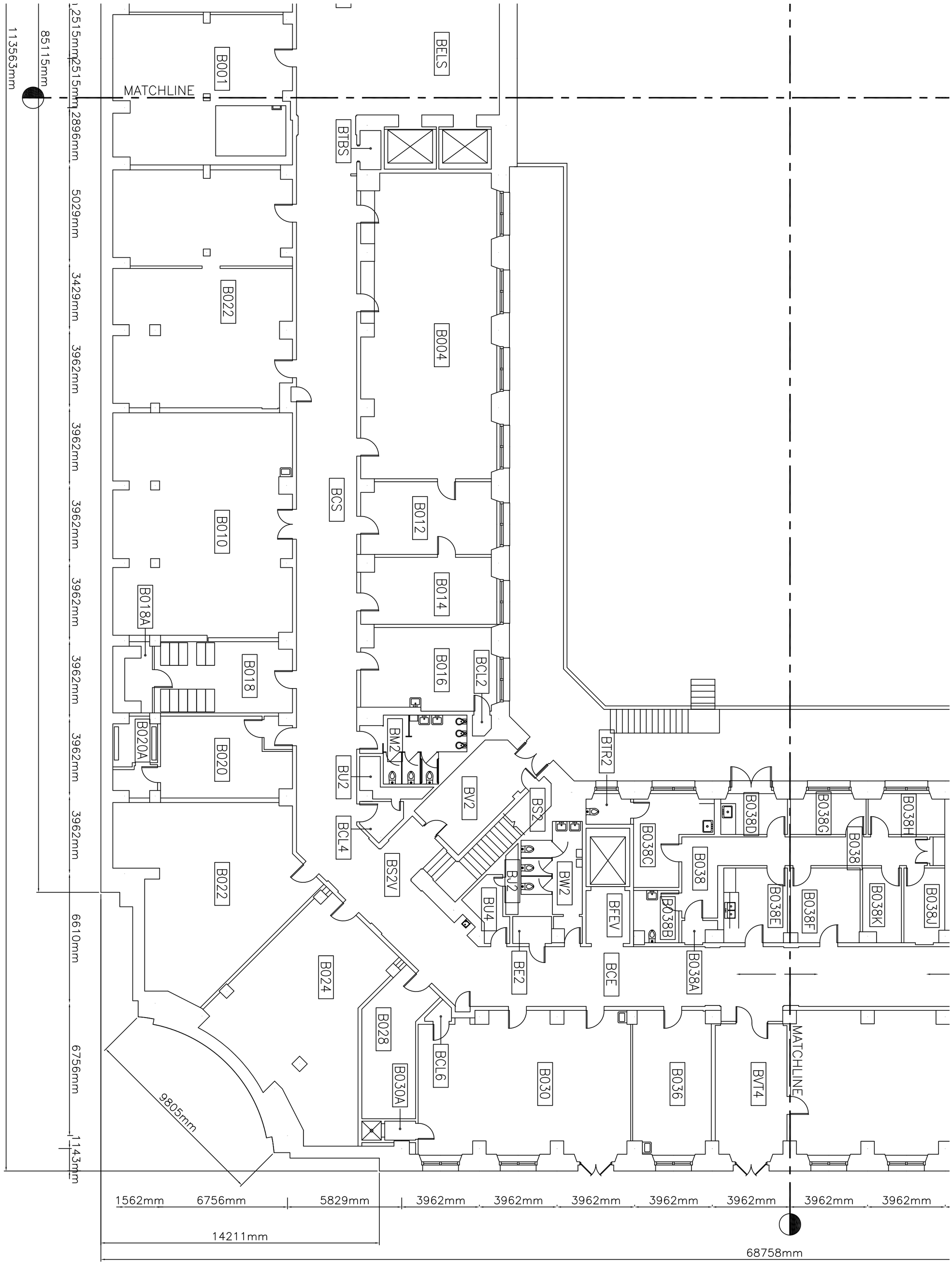

EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN BASEMENT - SOUTHEAST

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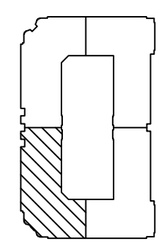

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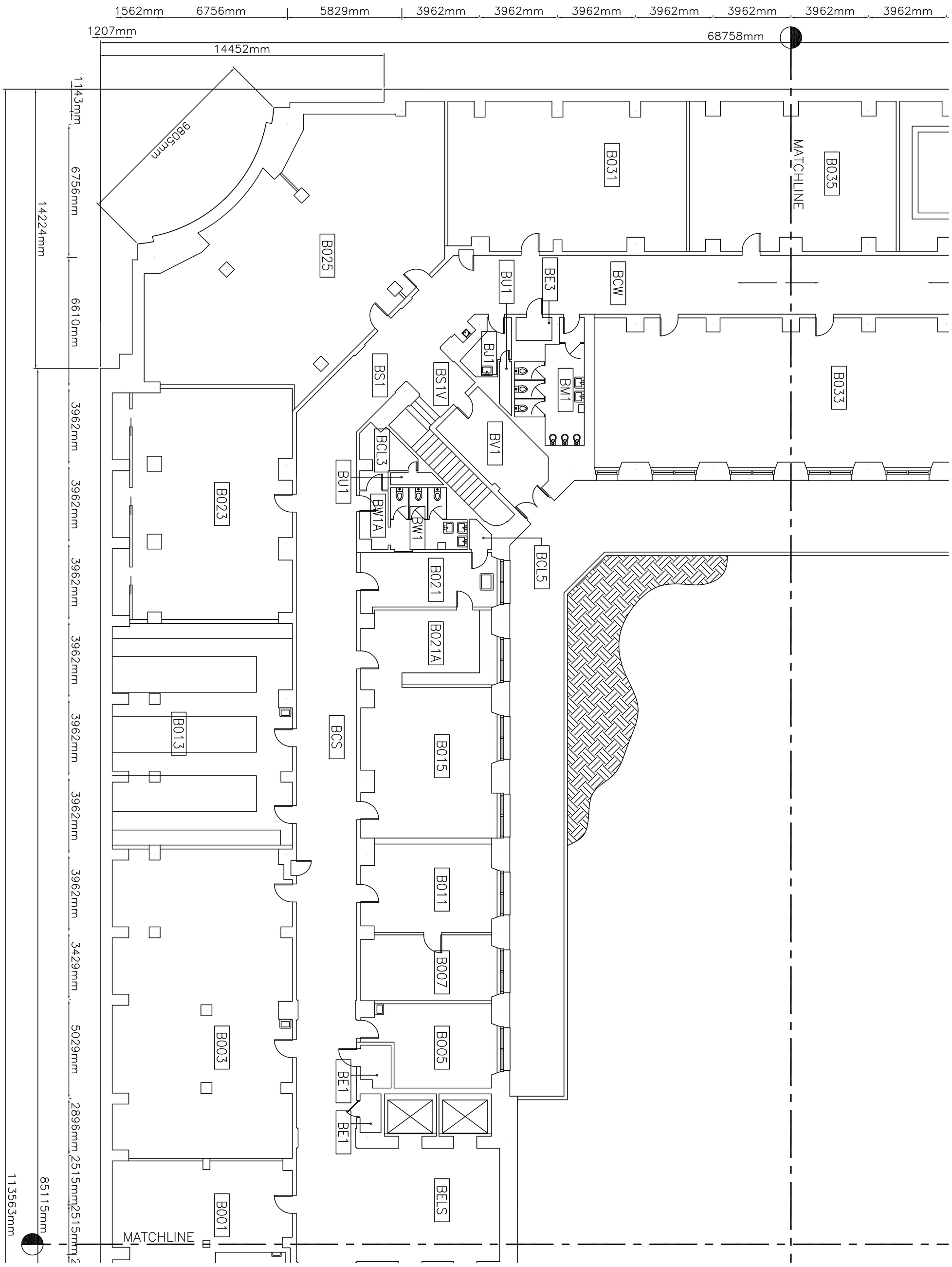

EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN BASEMENT - SOUTHWEST
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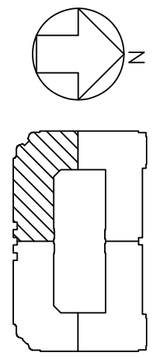

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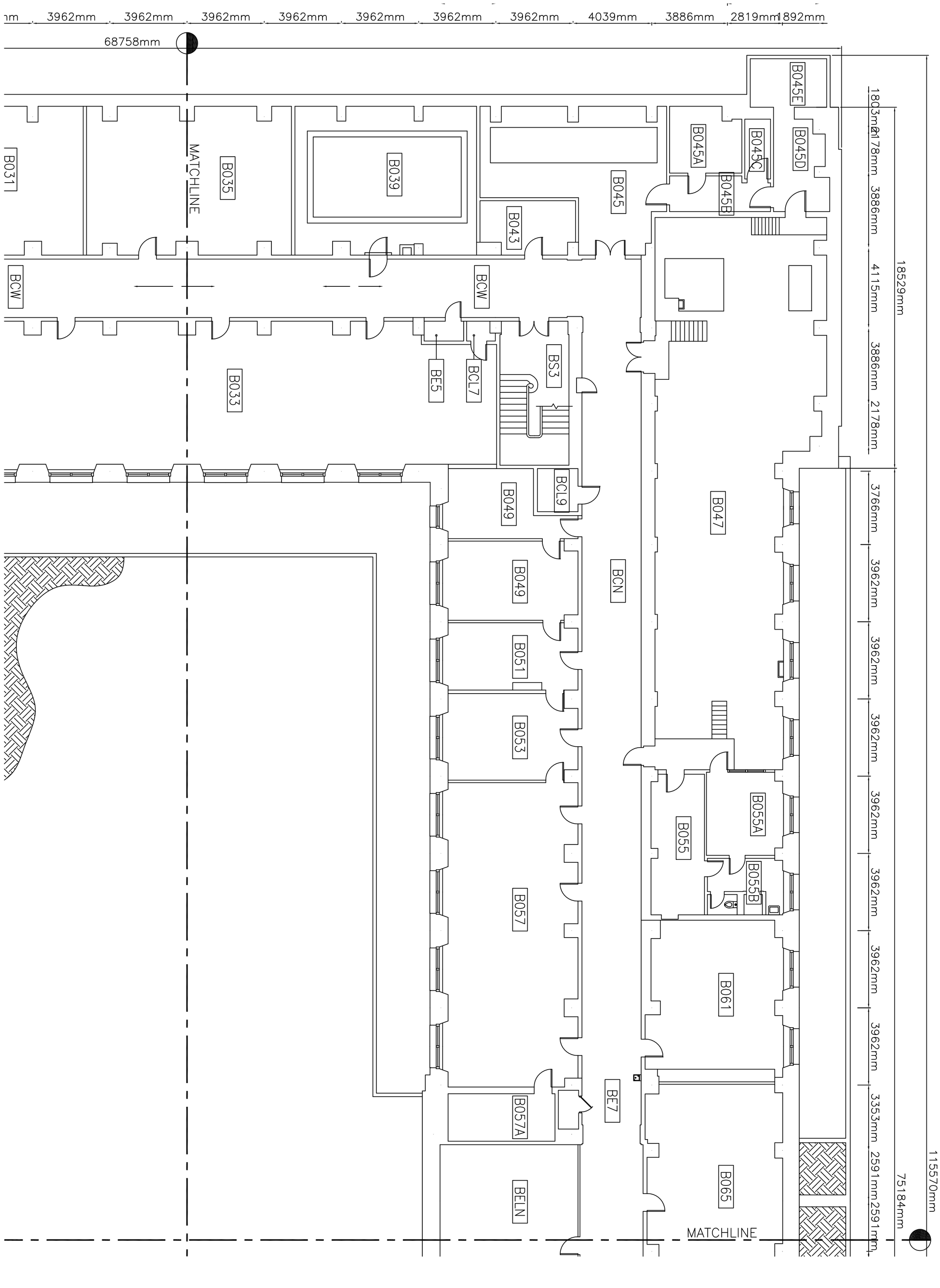

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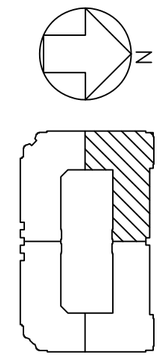

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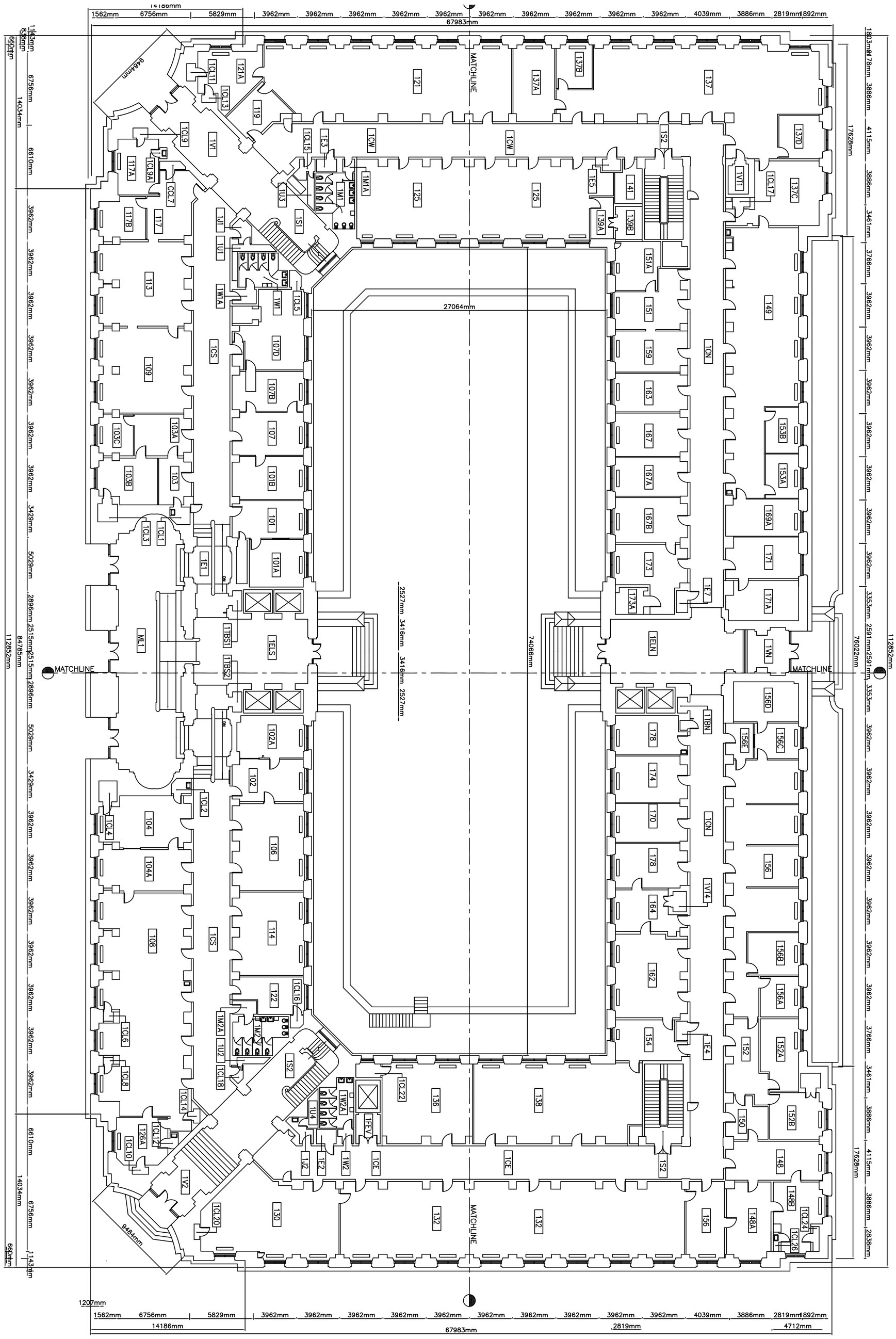
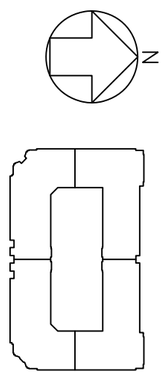


EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN FIRST FLOOR
SCALE 1:300



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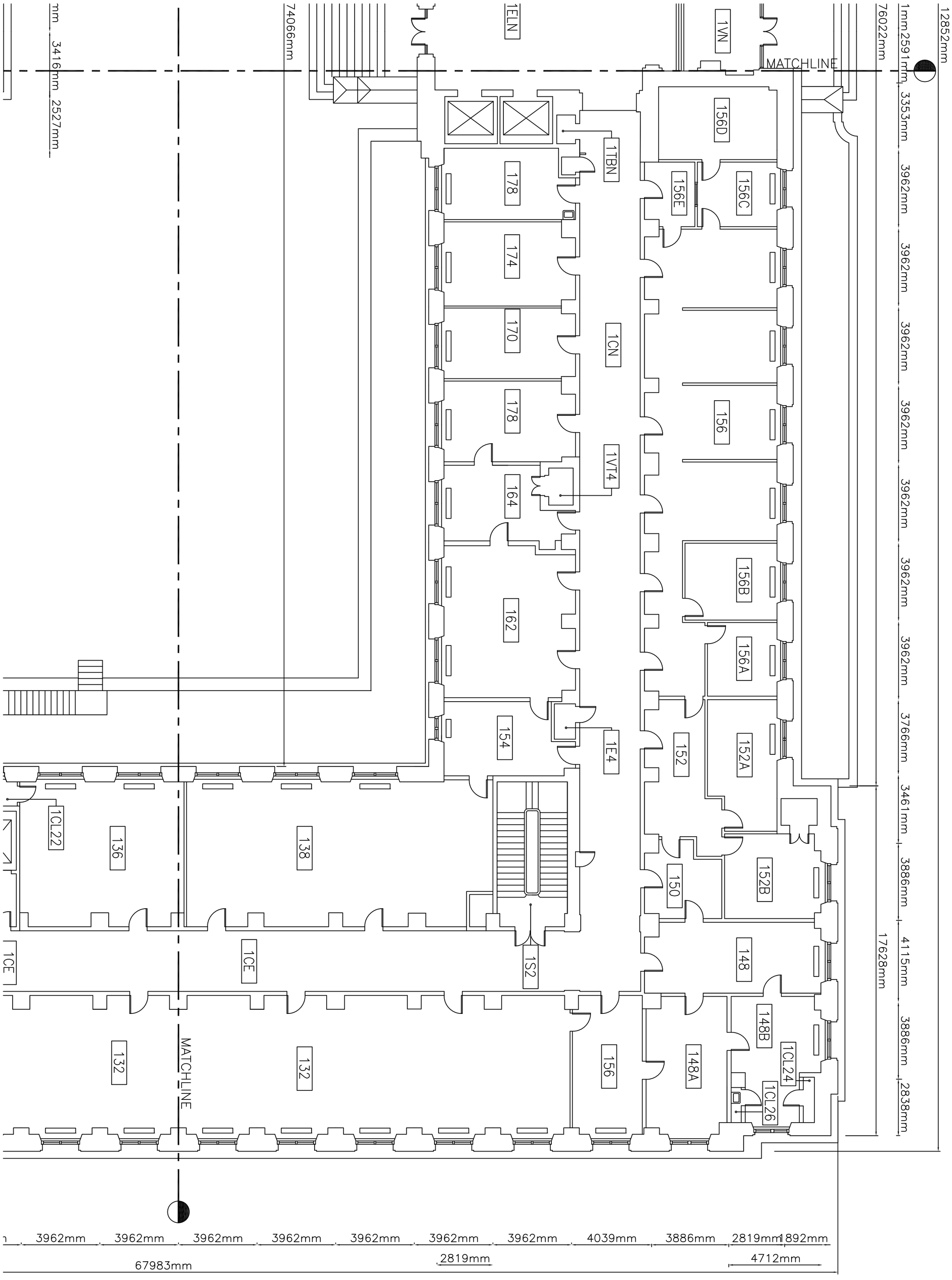

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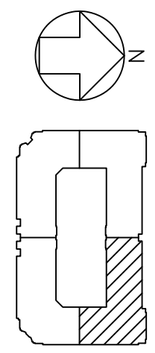

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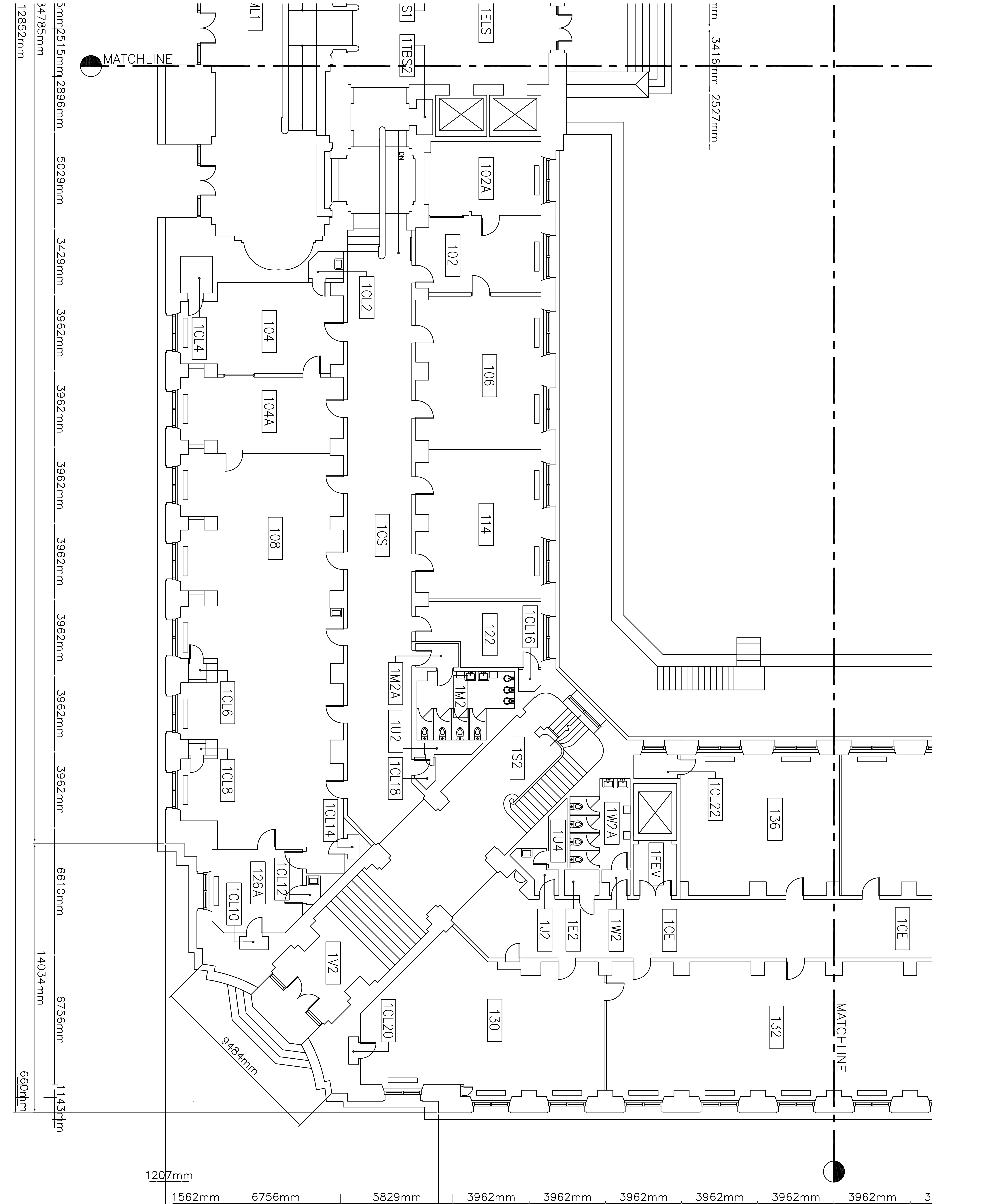
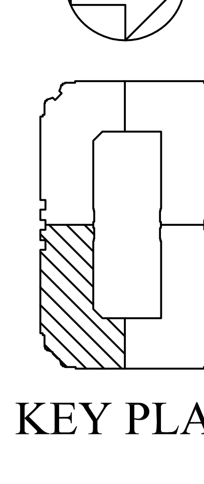


EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN FIRST FLOOR - SOUTHEAST

SCALE 1:300



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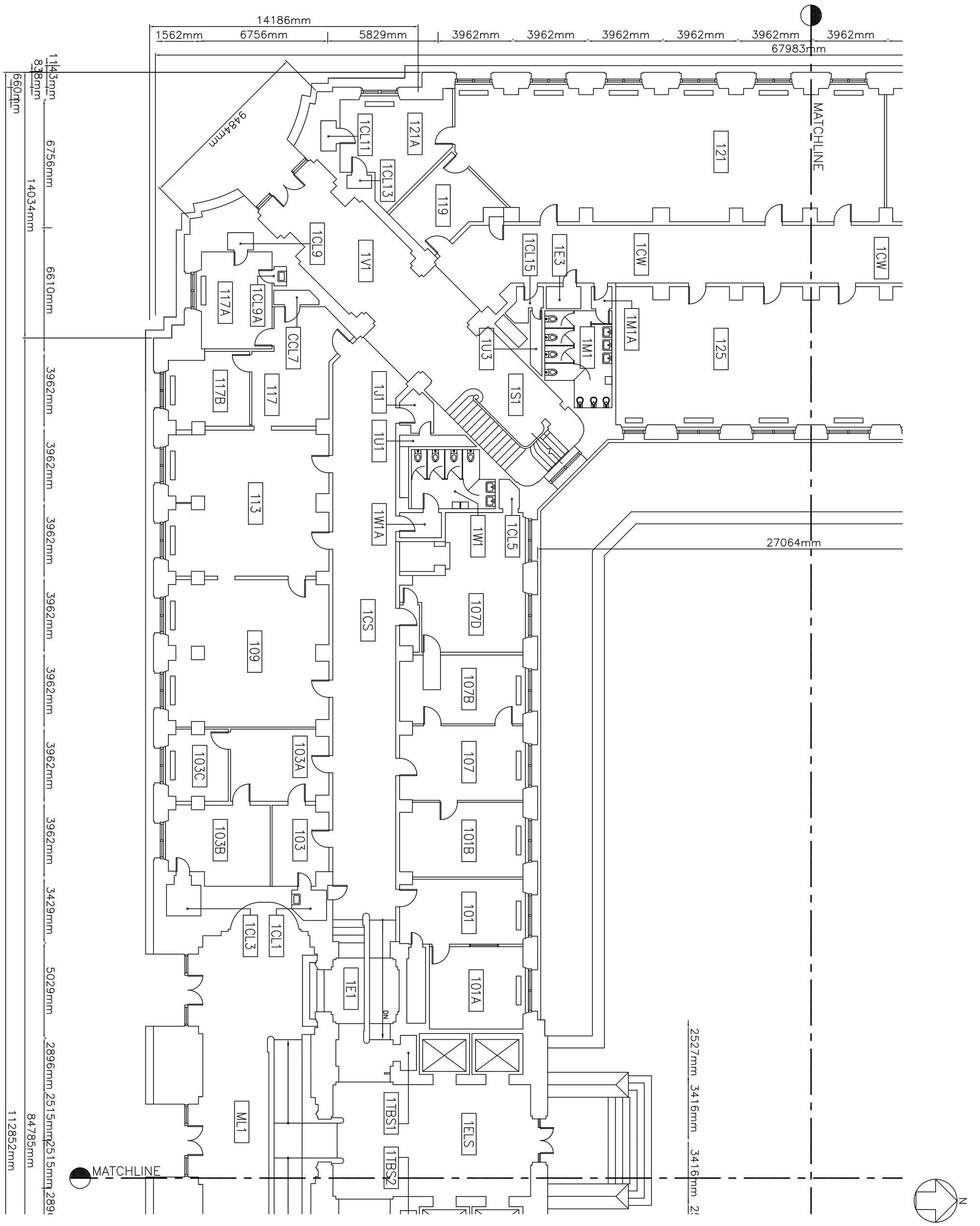
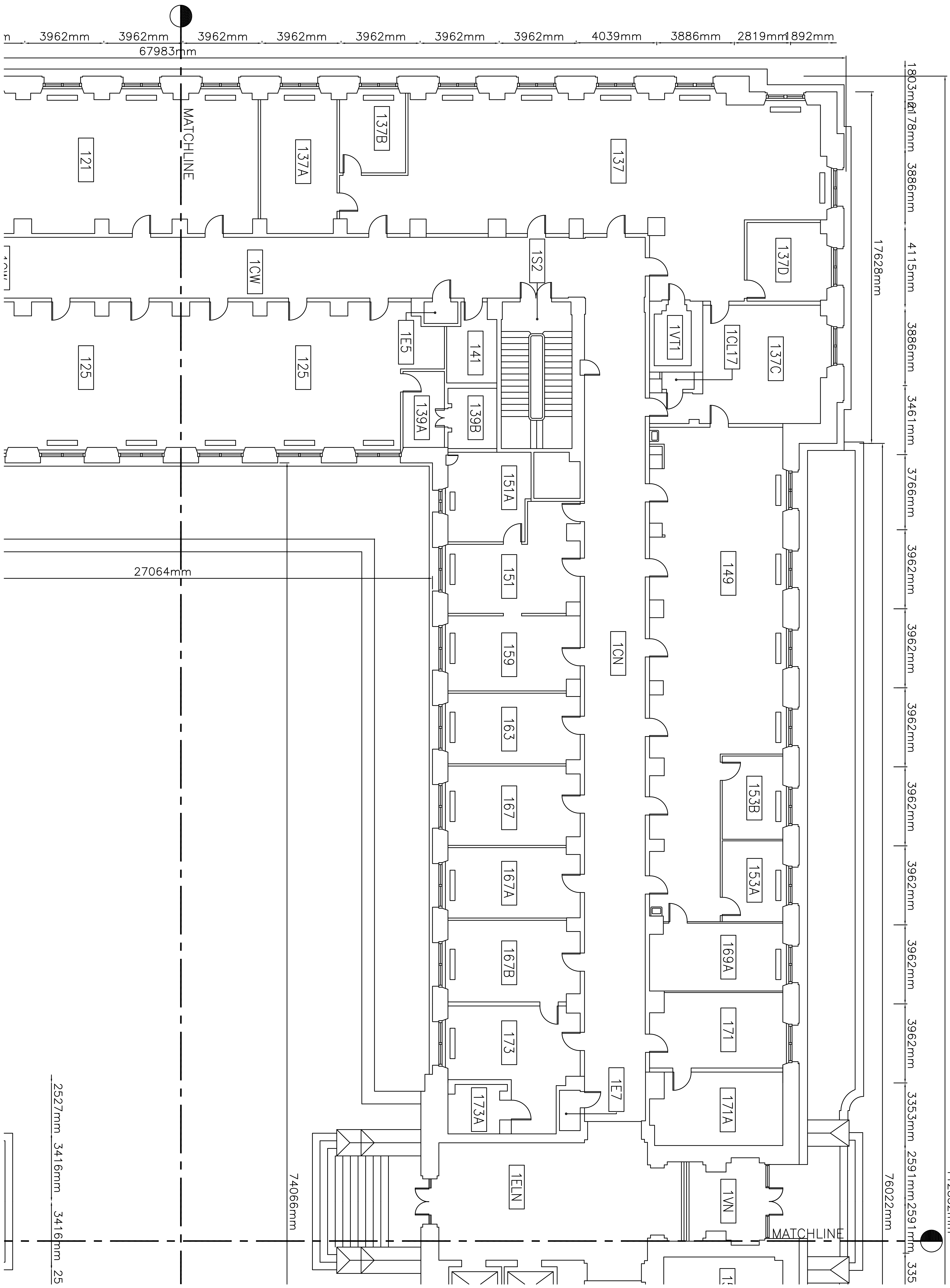


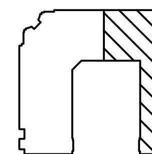
EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN FIRST FLOOR - SOUTHWEST
SCALE 1:300

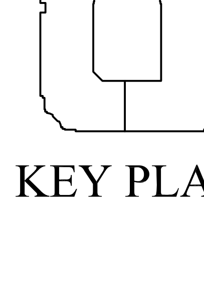
KEY PLAN



EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN FIRST FLOOR - NORTHWEST

SCALE 1:300





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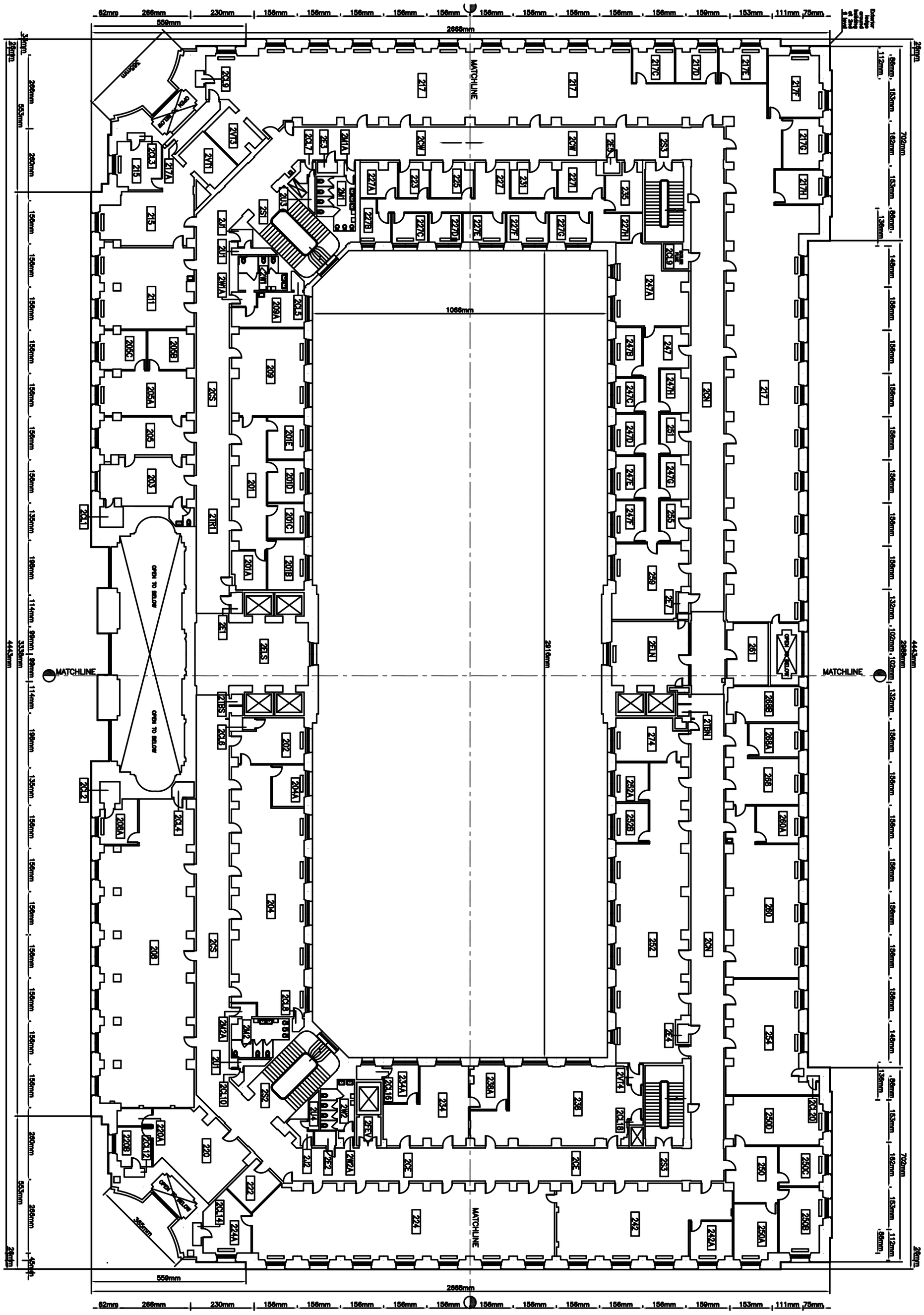
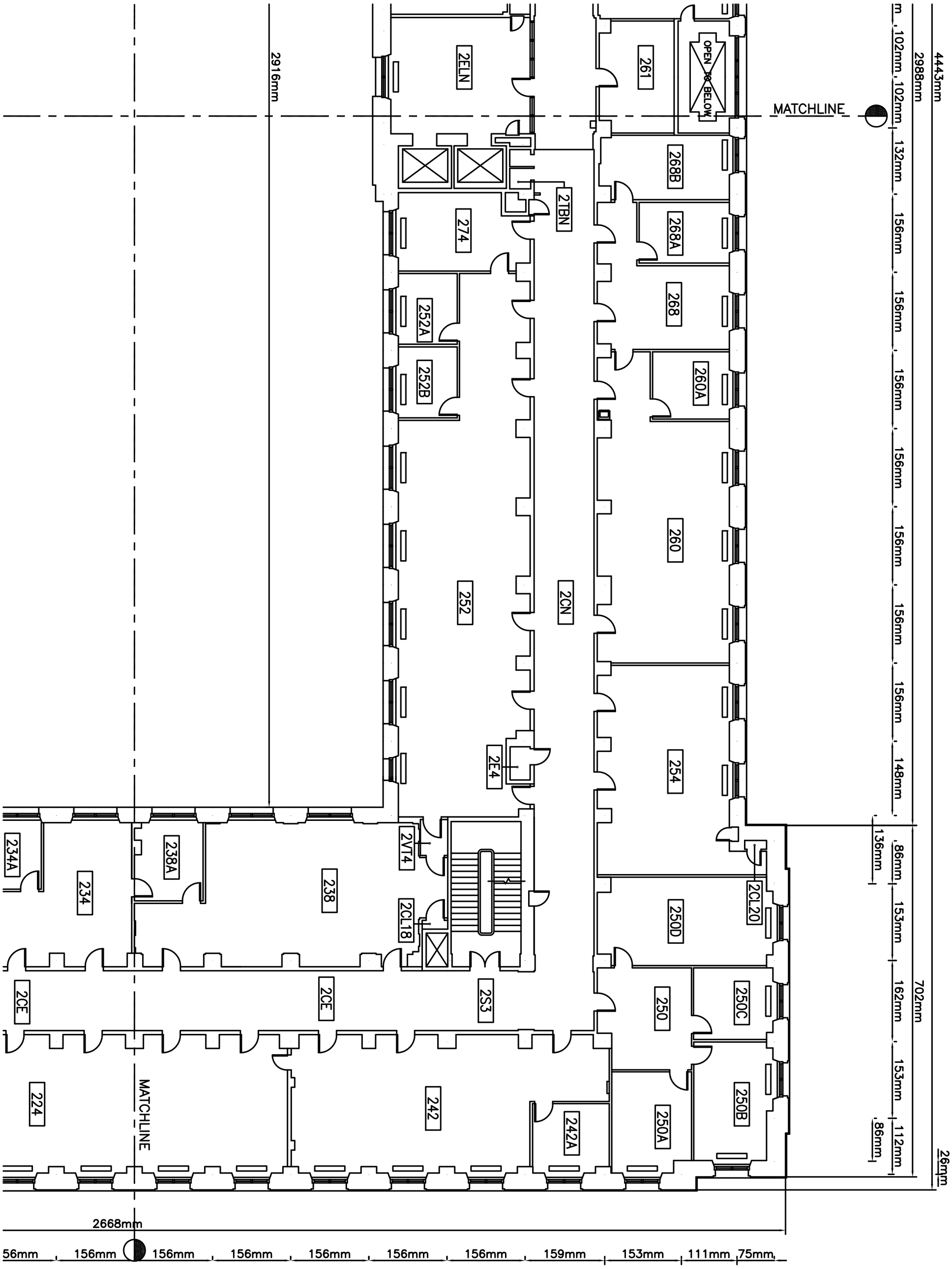


EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN SECOND FLOOR

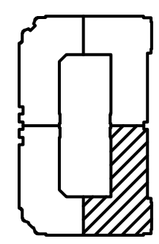
SCALE 1:300

KEY PLAN



EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN SECOND FLOOR - NORTHEAST

SCALE 1:300



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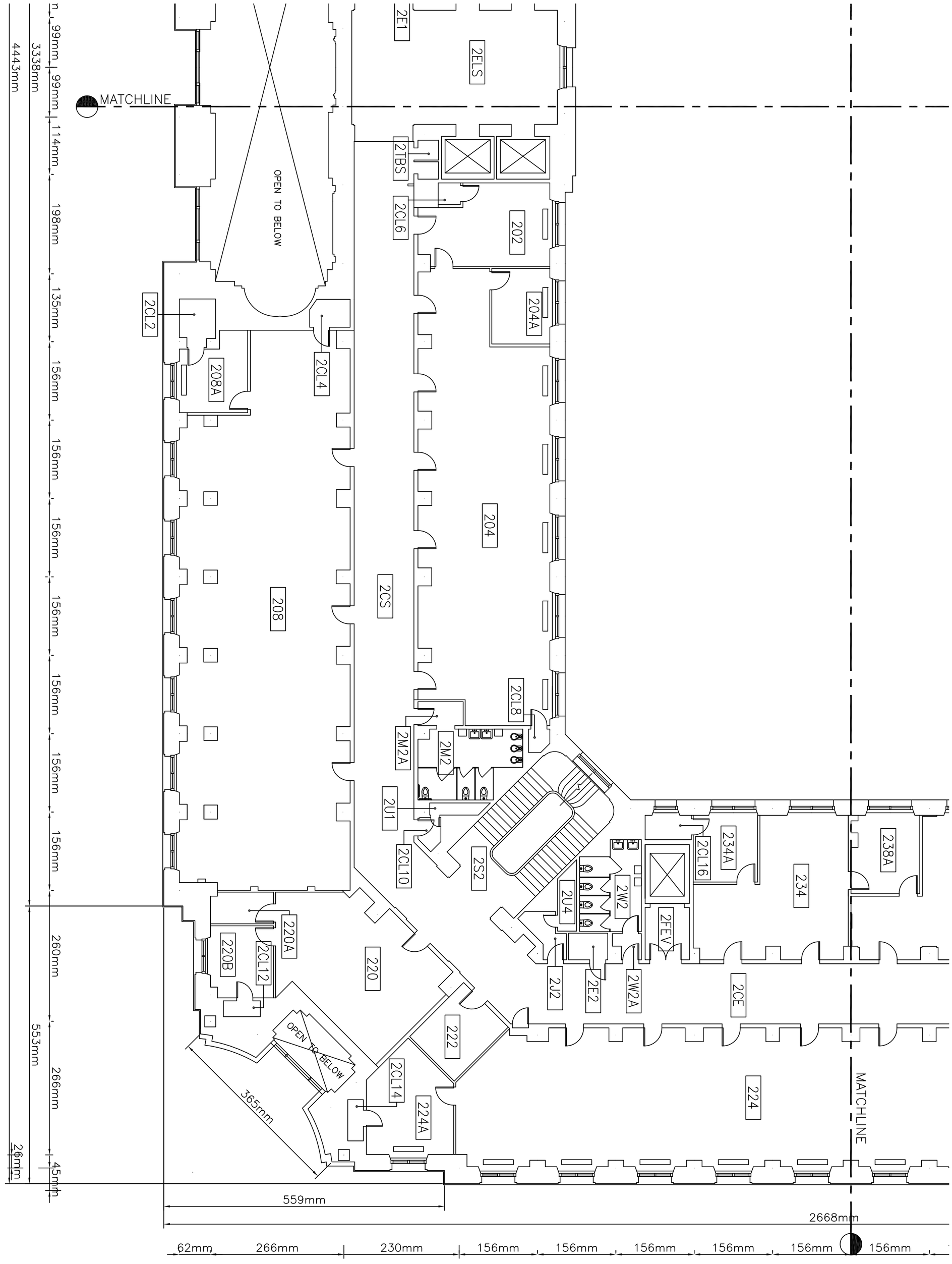
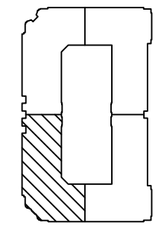


EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN SECOND FLOOR - SOUTHEAST
SCALE 1:300



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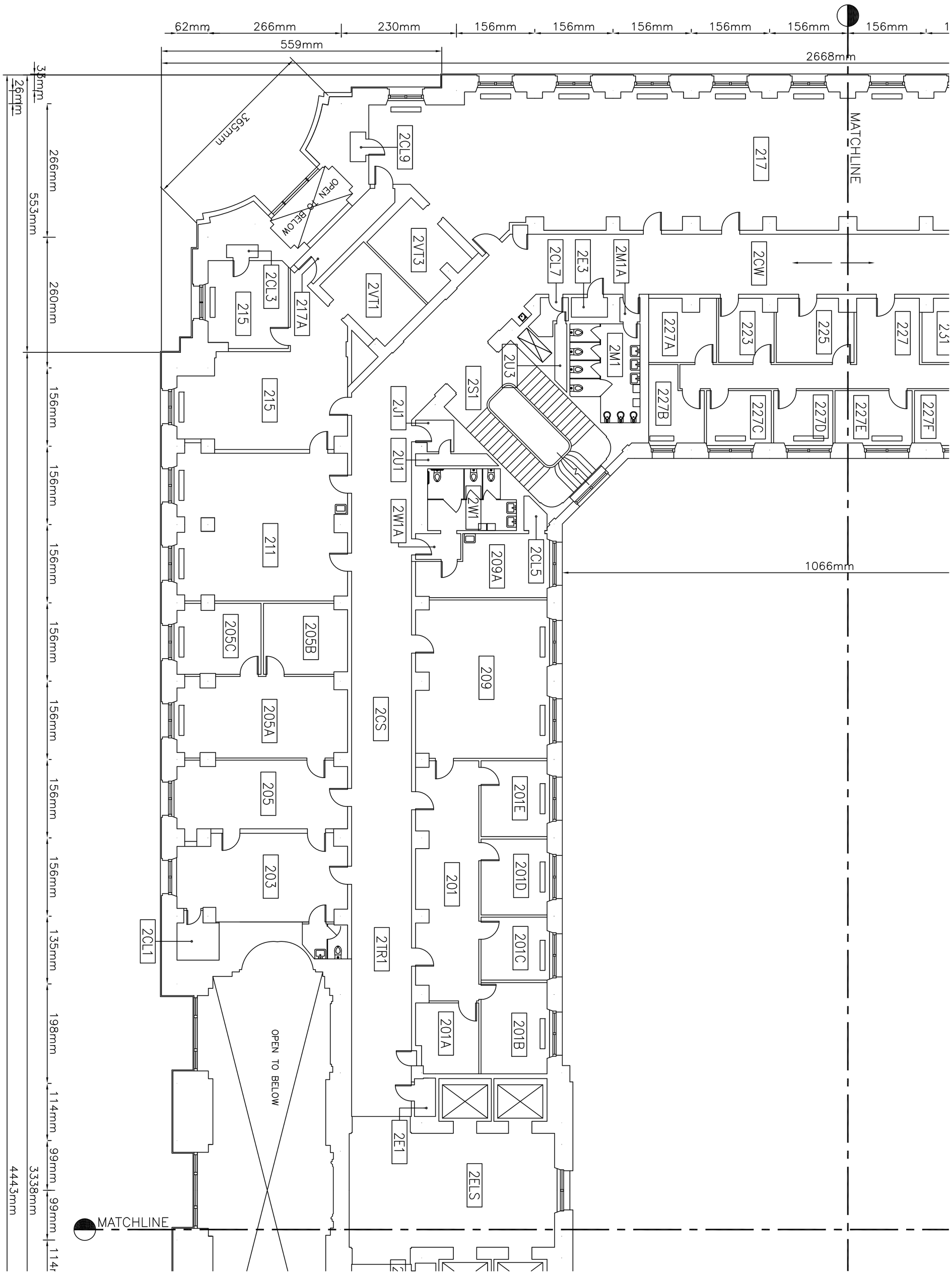
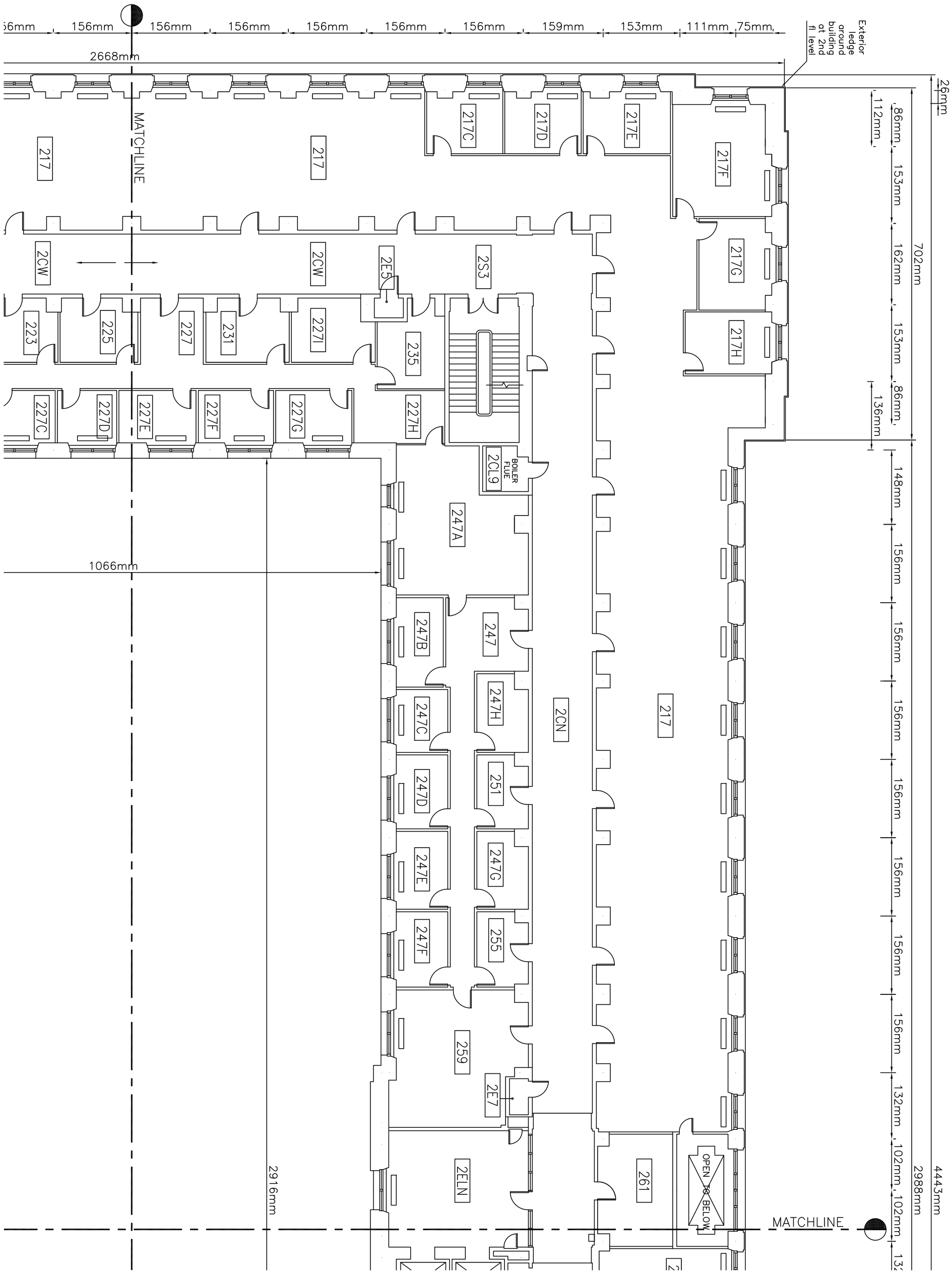
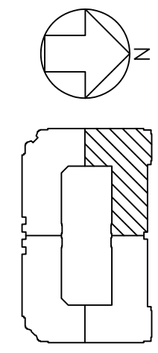


EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN SECOND FLOOR - SOUTHWEST
SCALE 1:300

KEY PLAN



EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN SECOND FLOOR - NORTHWEST
SCALE 1:300



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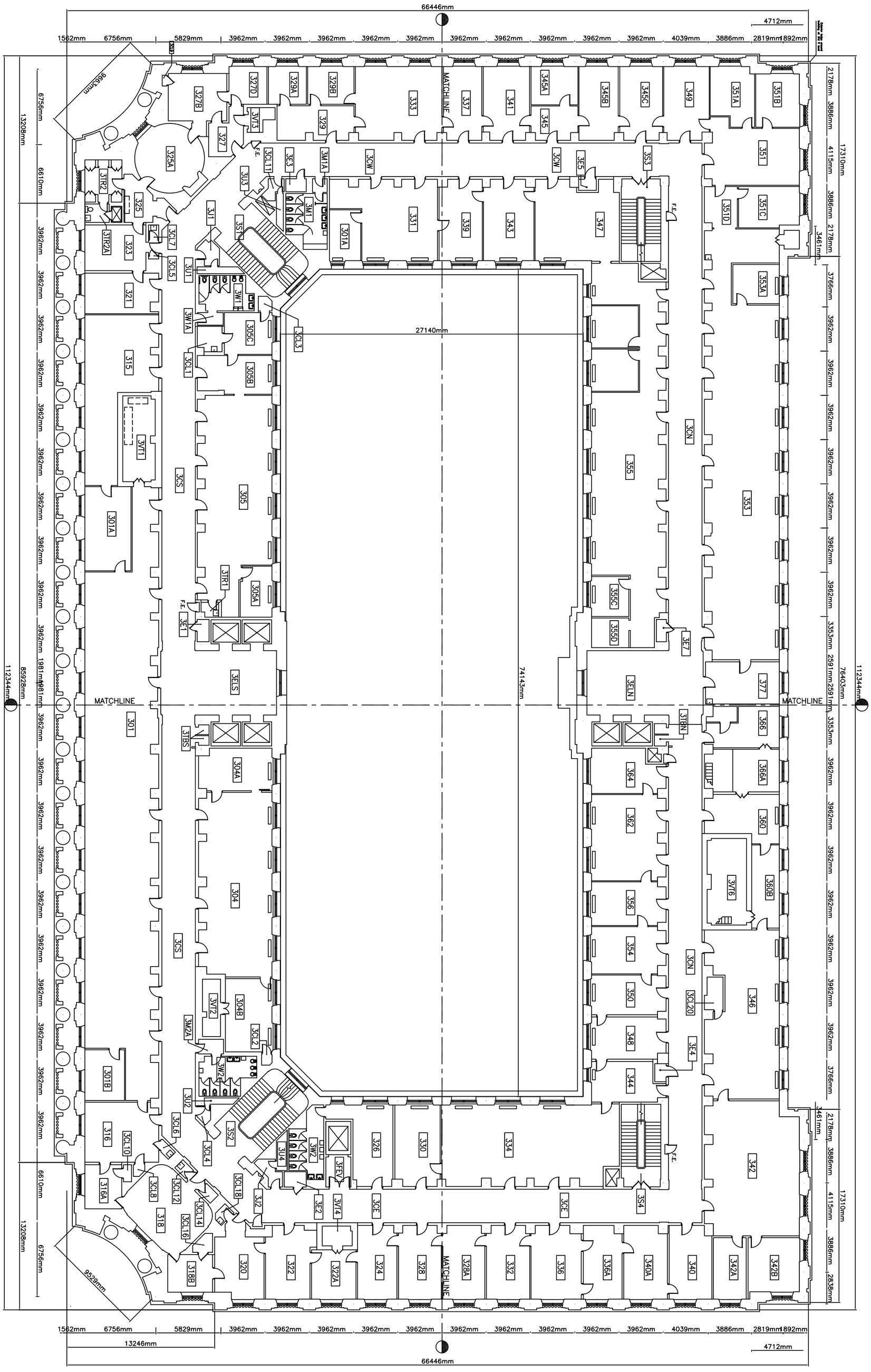
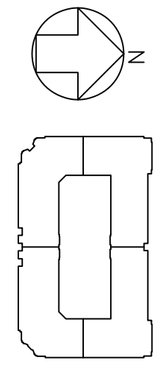


EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN THIRD FLOOR
SCALE 1:300



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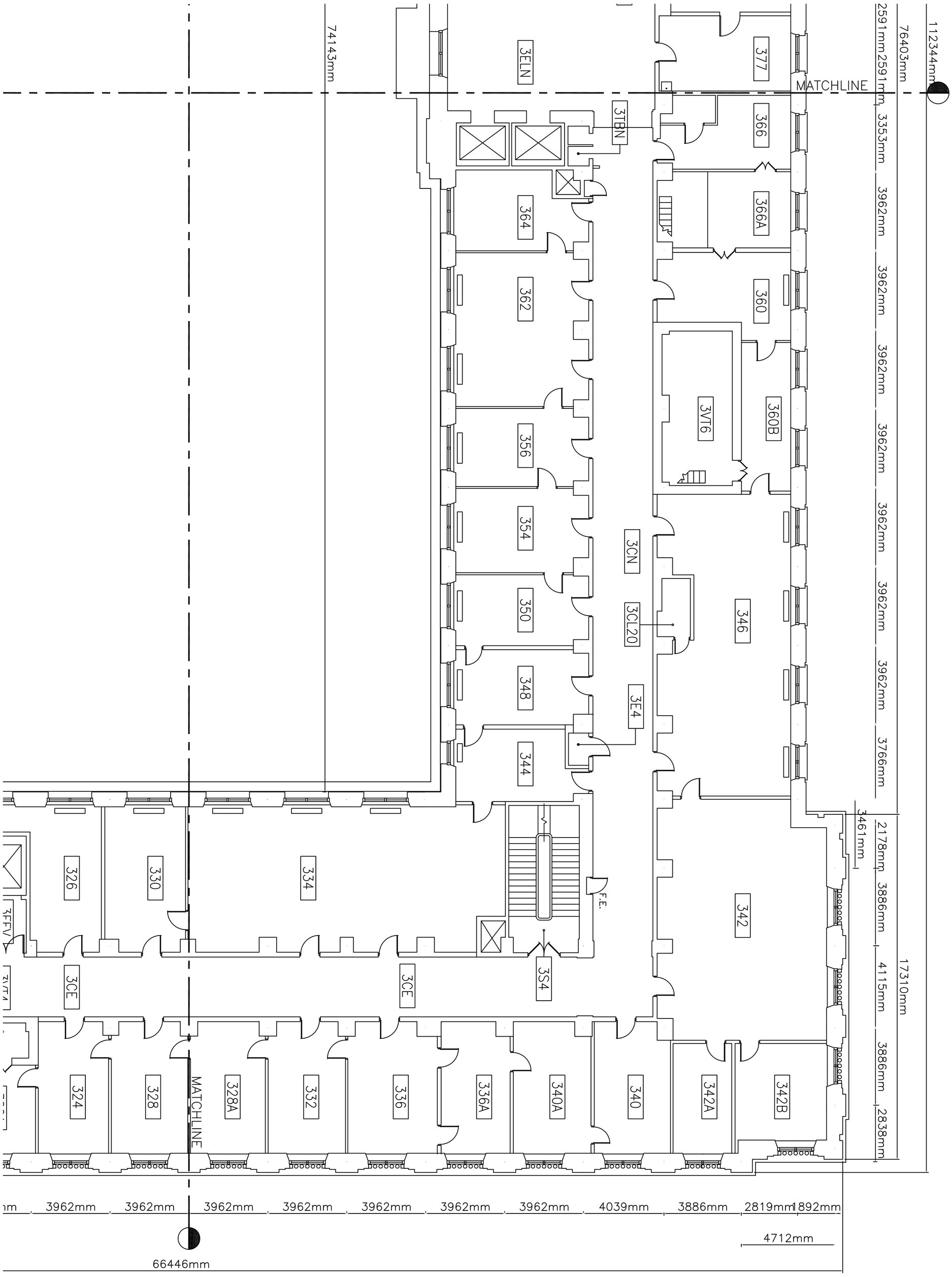
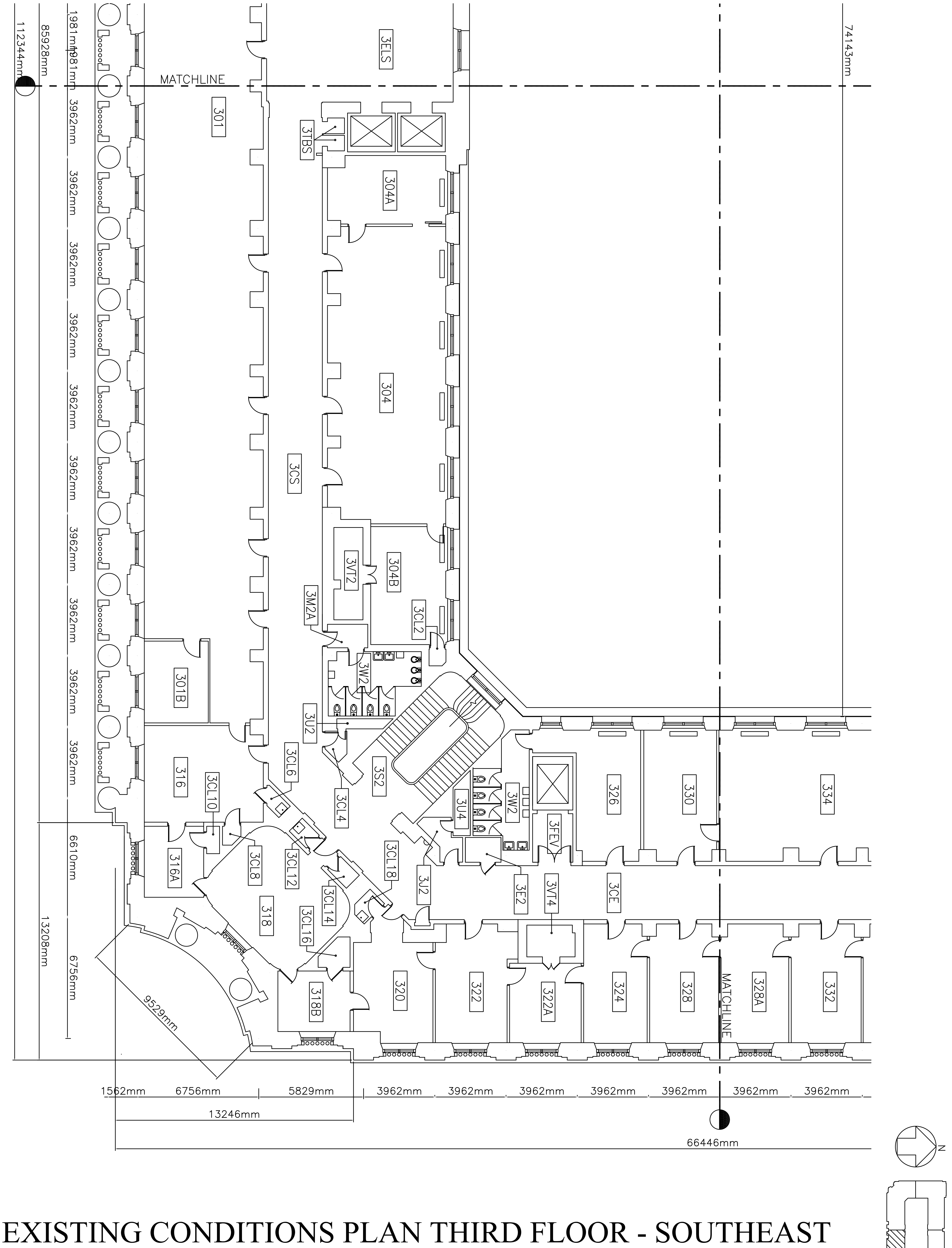


EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN THIRD FLOOR - NORTHEAST

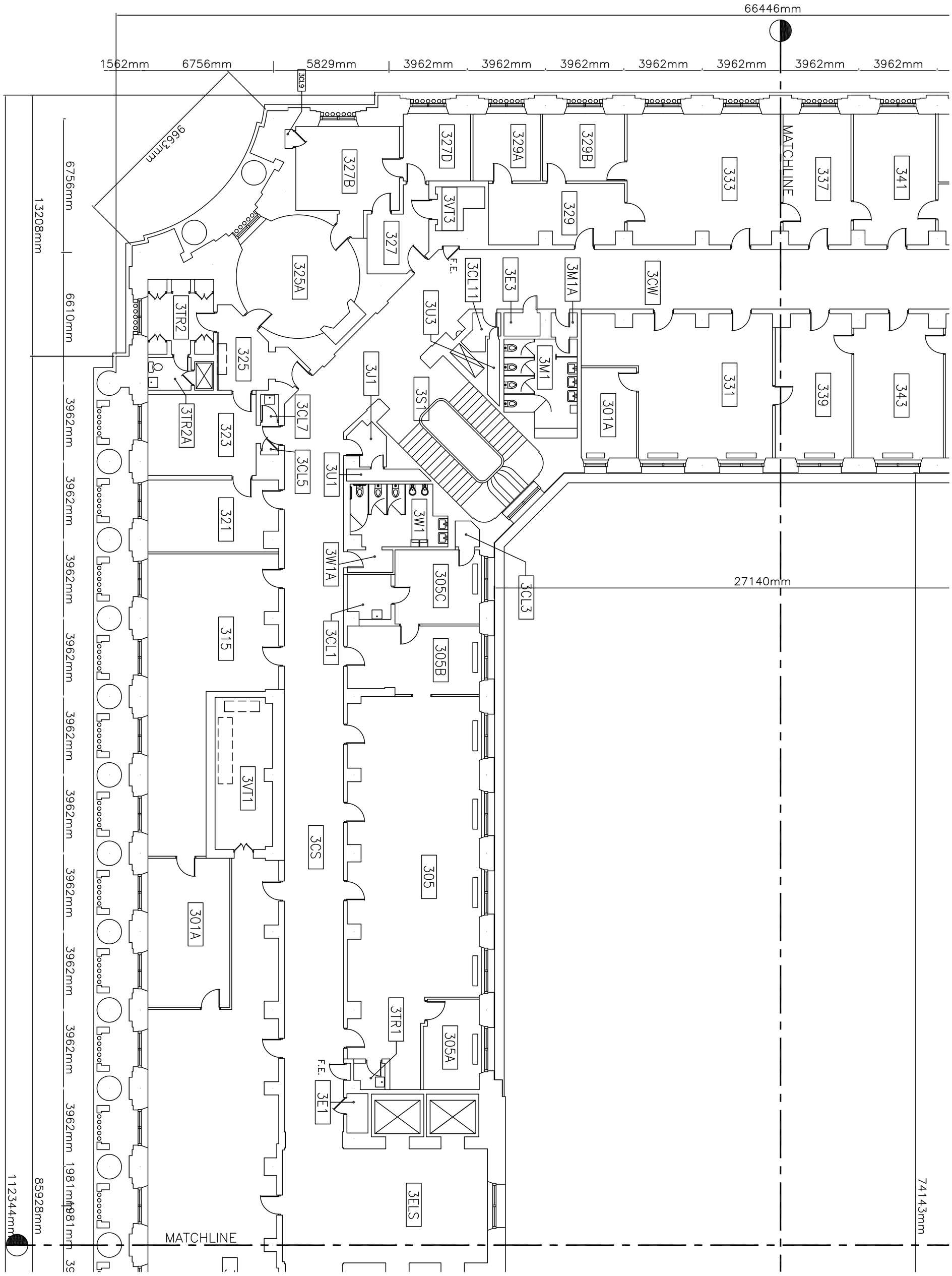
SCALE 1:300

KEY PLAN



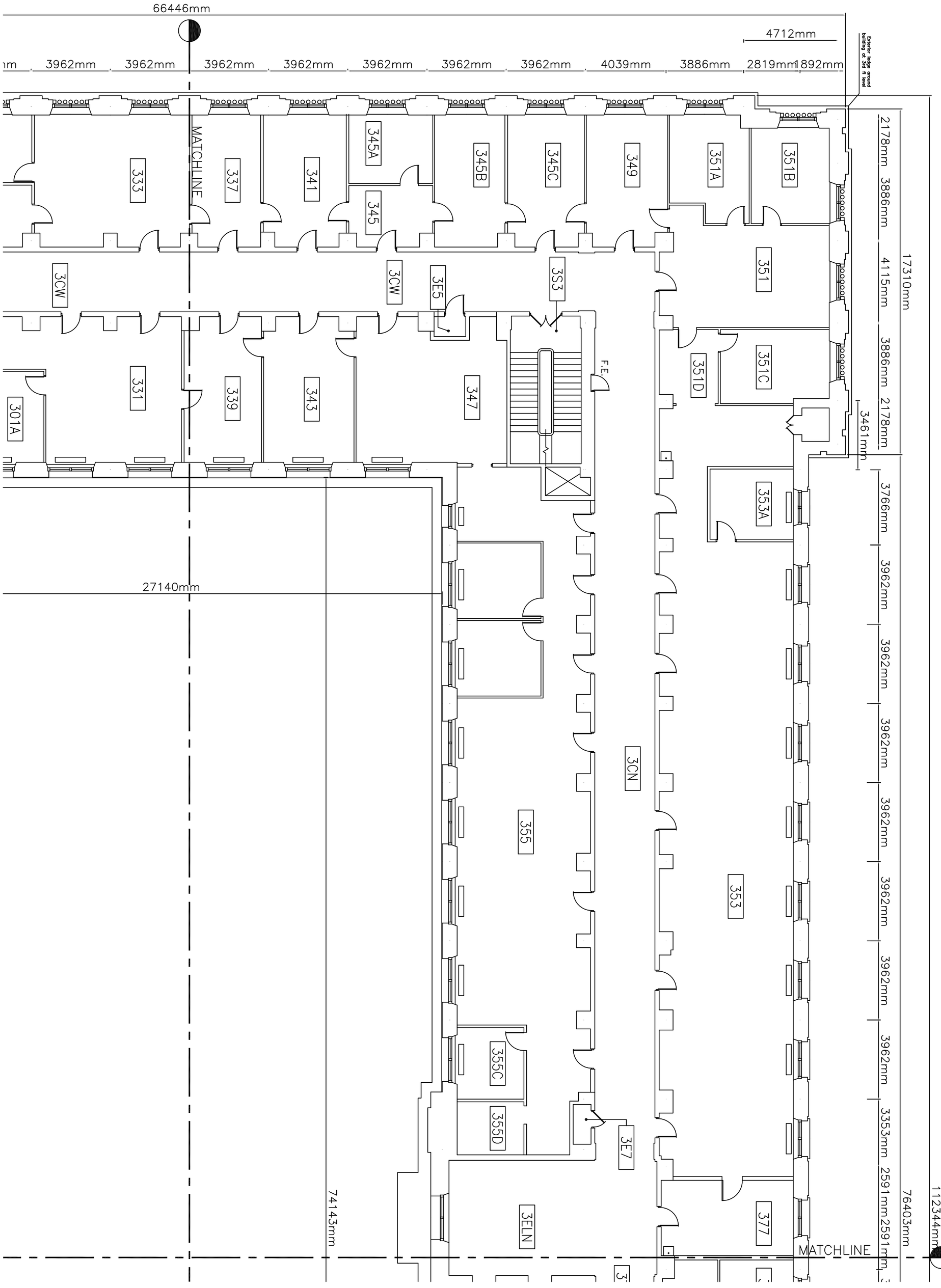
EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN THIRD FLOOR - SOUTHEAST

SCALE 1:300



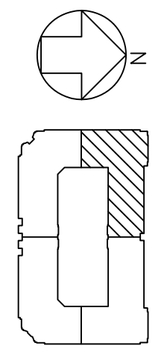
EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN THIRD FLOOR - SOUTHWEST
SCALE 1:300

KEY PLAN



EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN THIRD FLOOR - NORTHWEST

SCALE 1:300



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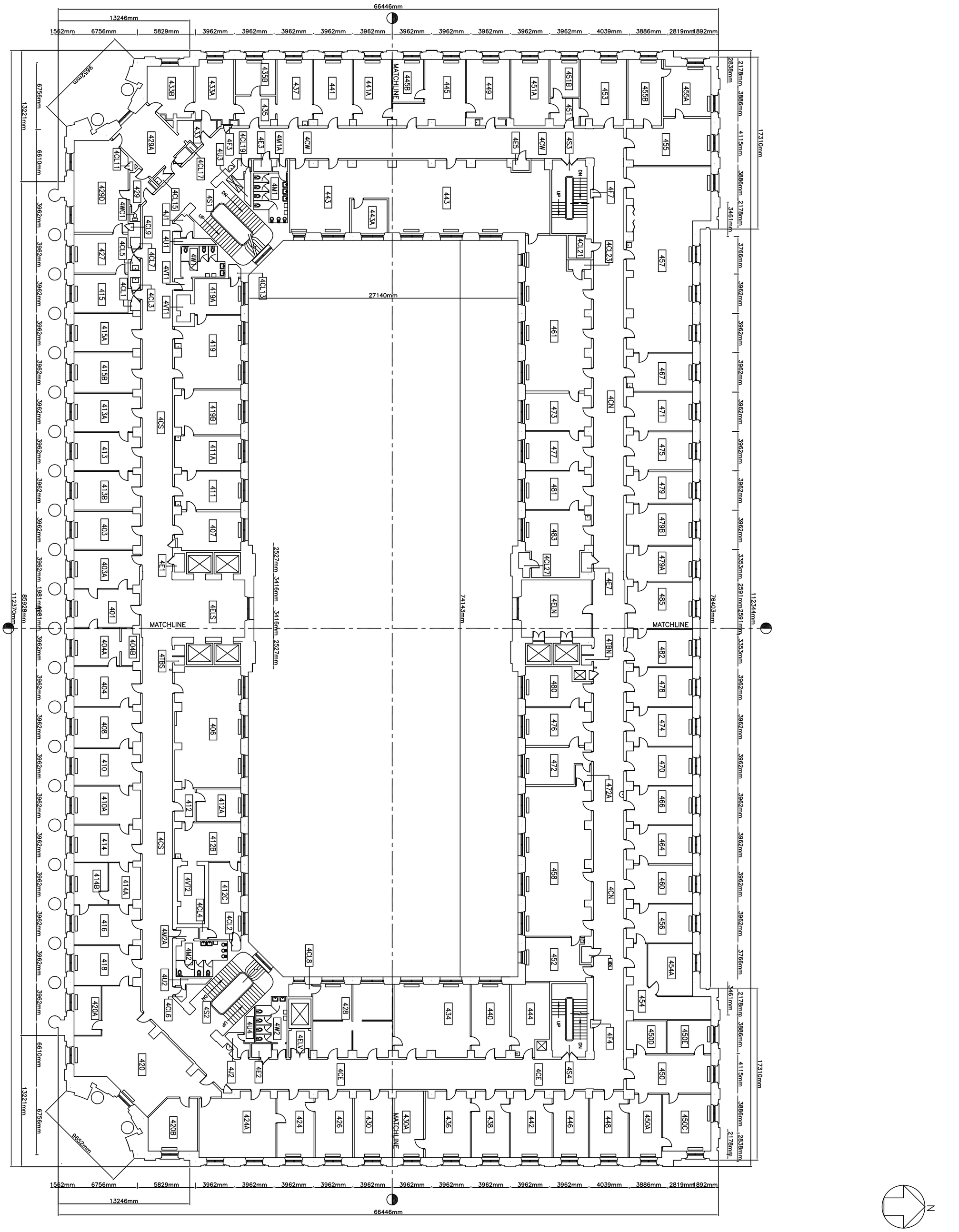
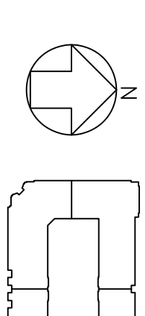


EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN FOURTH FLOOR
SCALE 1:300



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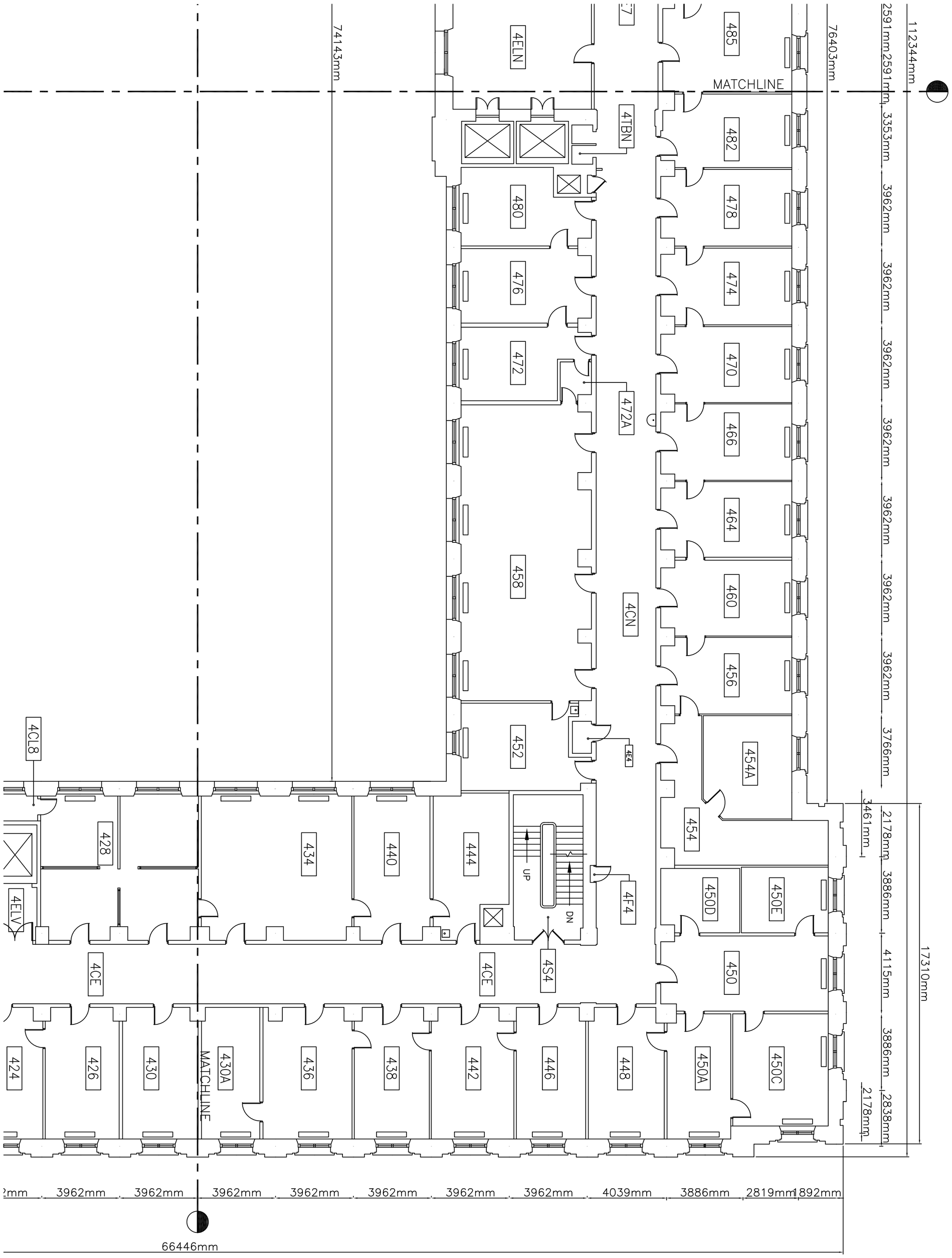
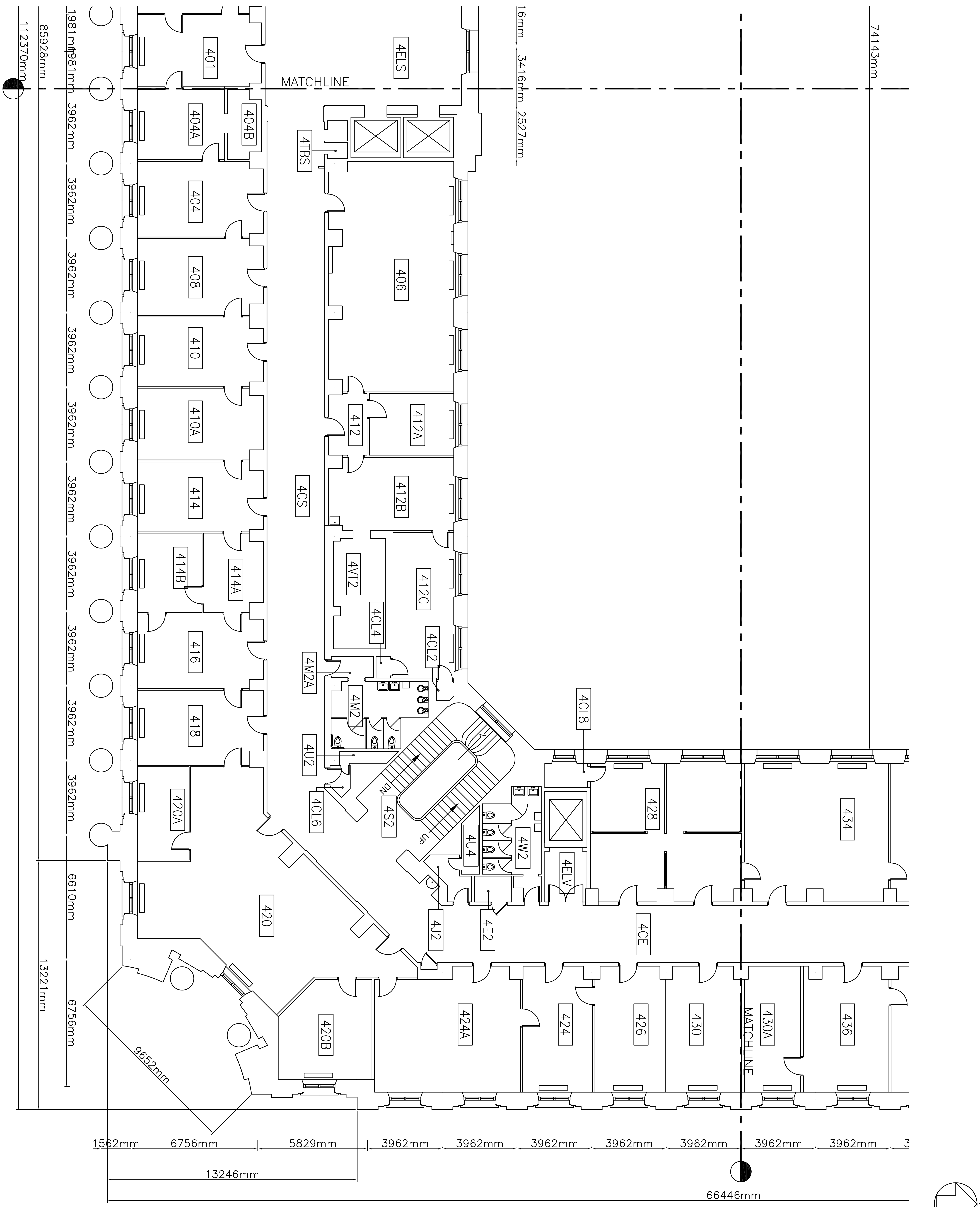
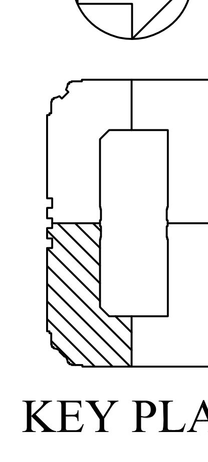


EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN FOURTH FLOOR - NORTHEAST
SCALE 1:300

KEY PLAN



EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN FOURTH FLOOR - SOUTHEAST
SCALE 1:300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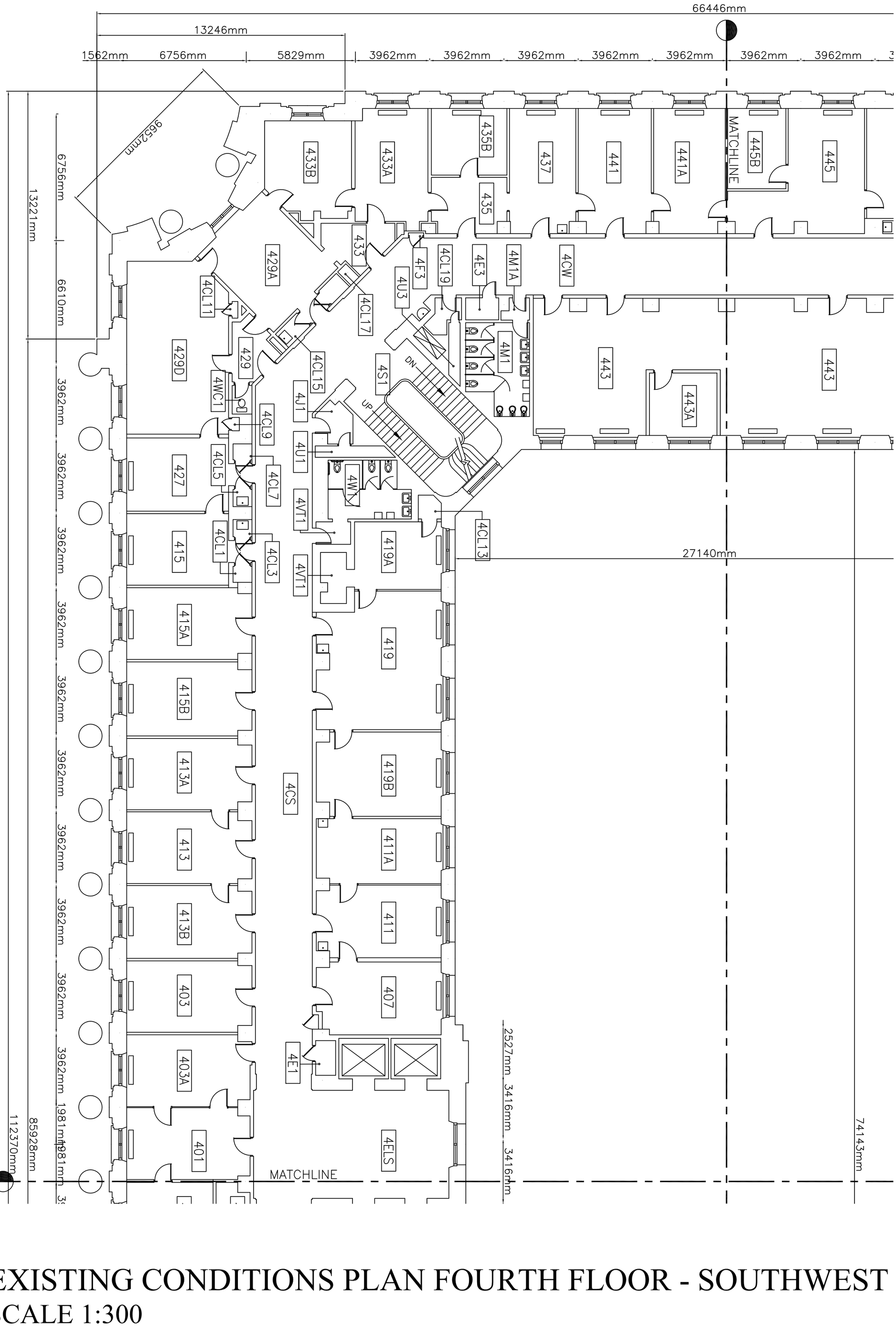
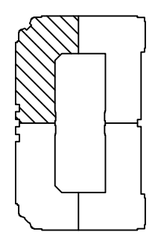


EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN FOURTH FLOOR - SOUTHWEST
SCALE 1:300



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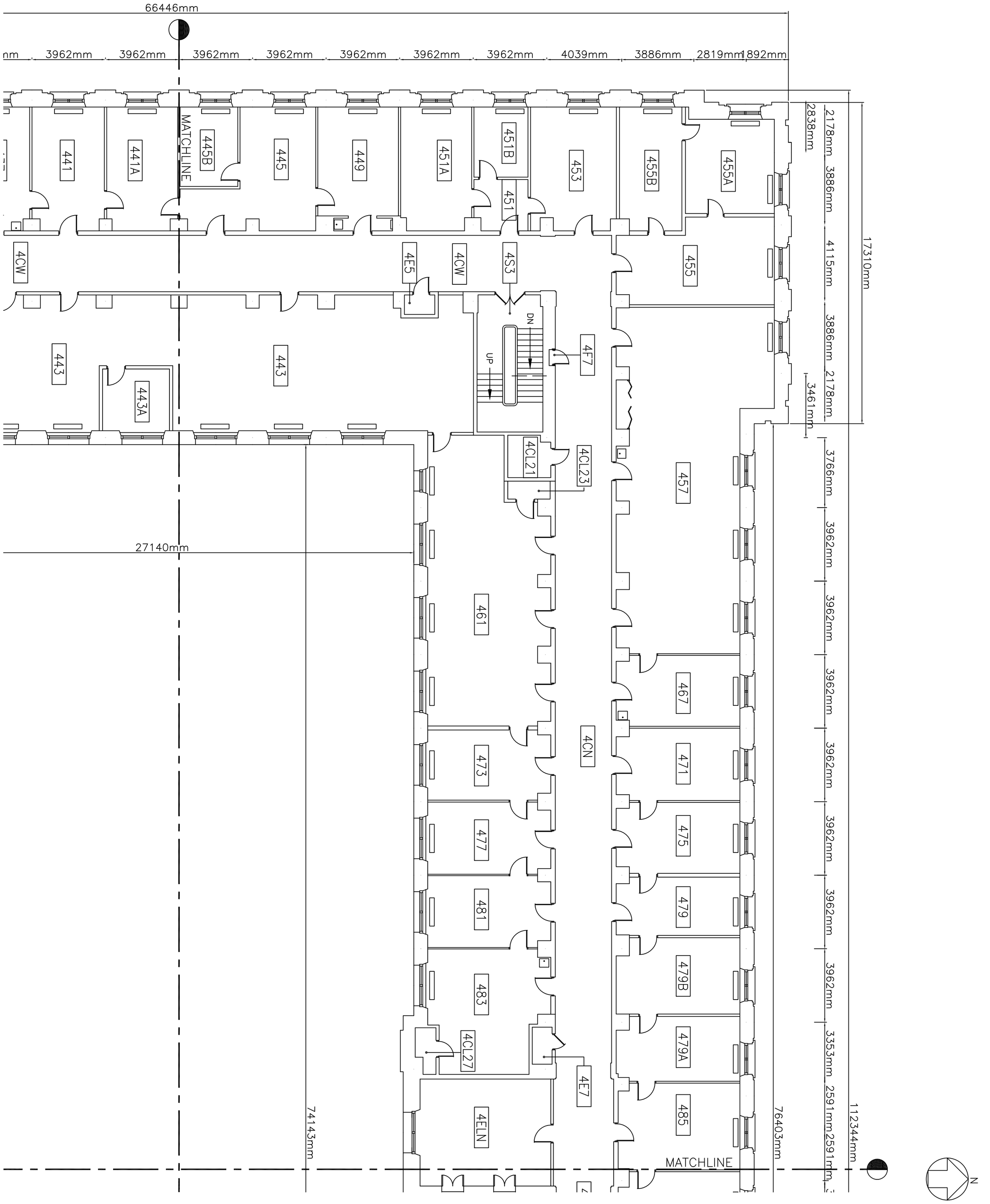
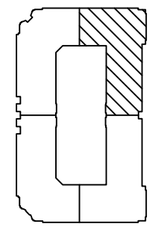


EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN FOURTH FLOOR - NORTHWEST
SCALE 1:300



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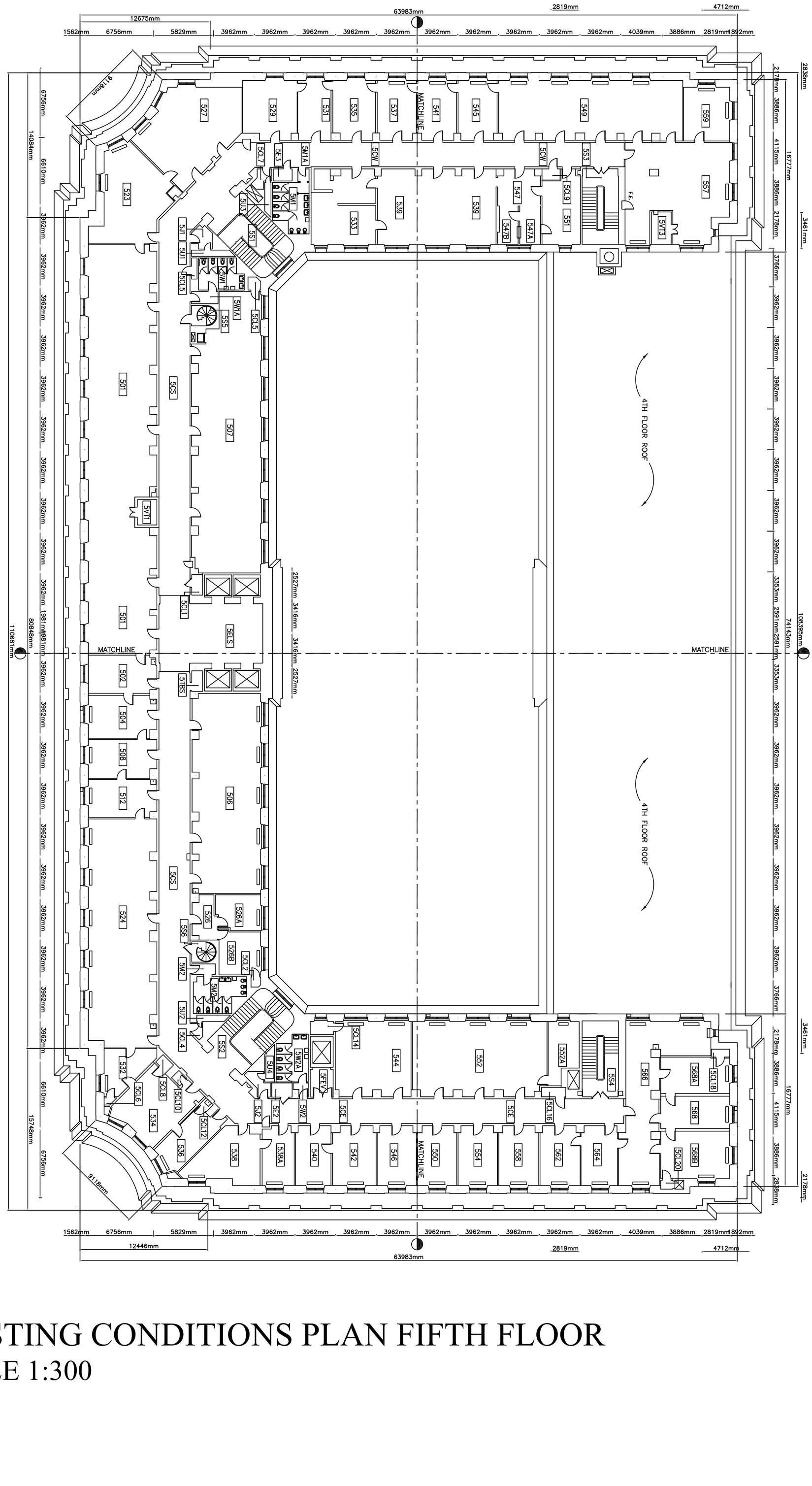
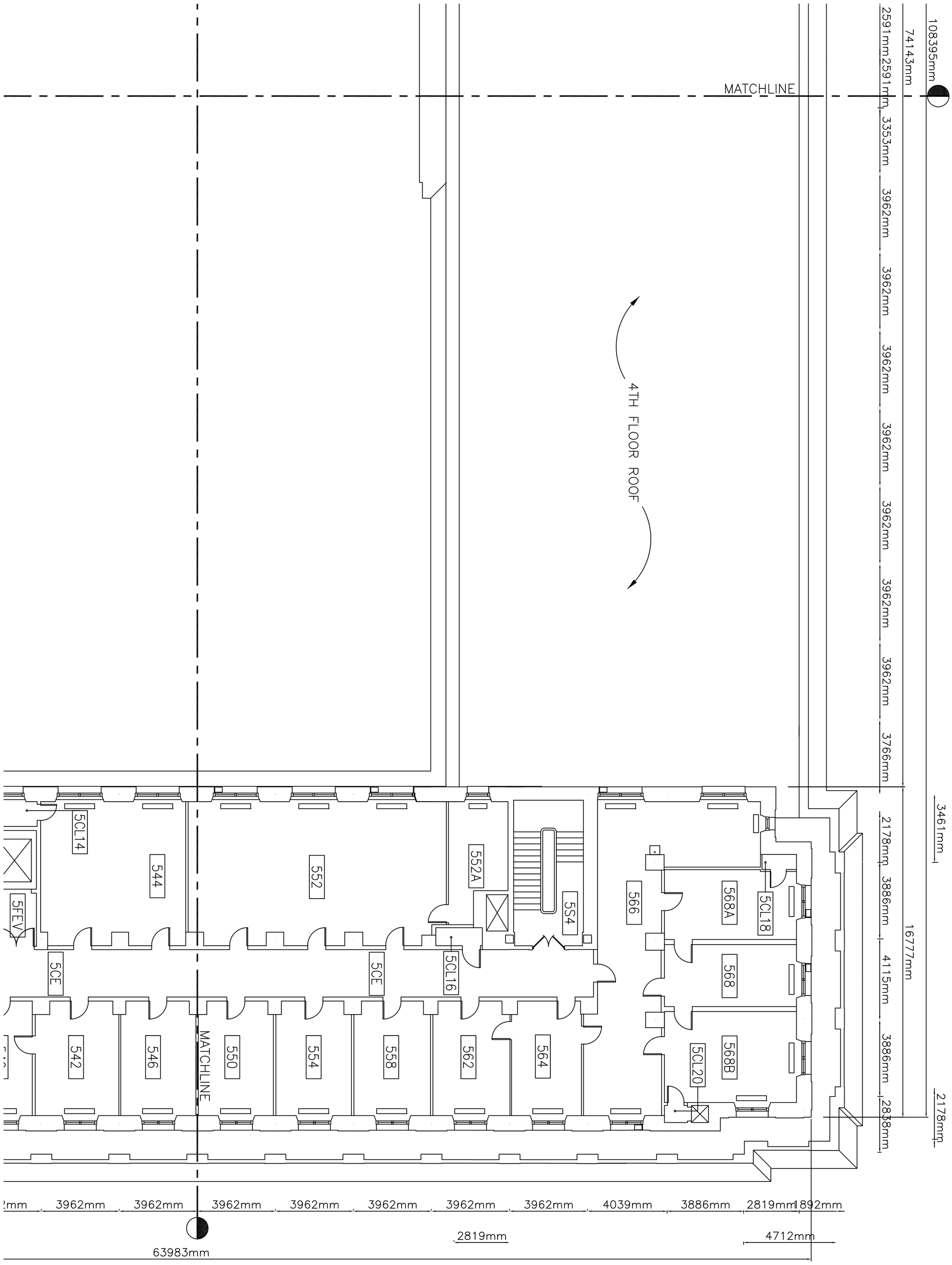


EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN FIFTH FLOOR

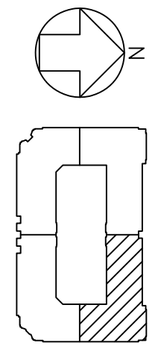
SCALE 1:300

KEY PLAN



EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN FIFTH FLOOR - NORTHEAST

SCALE 1:300



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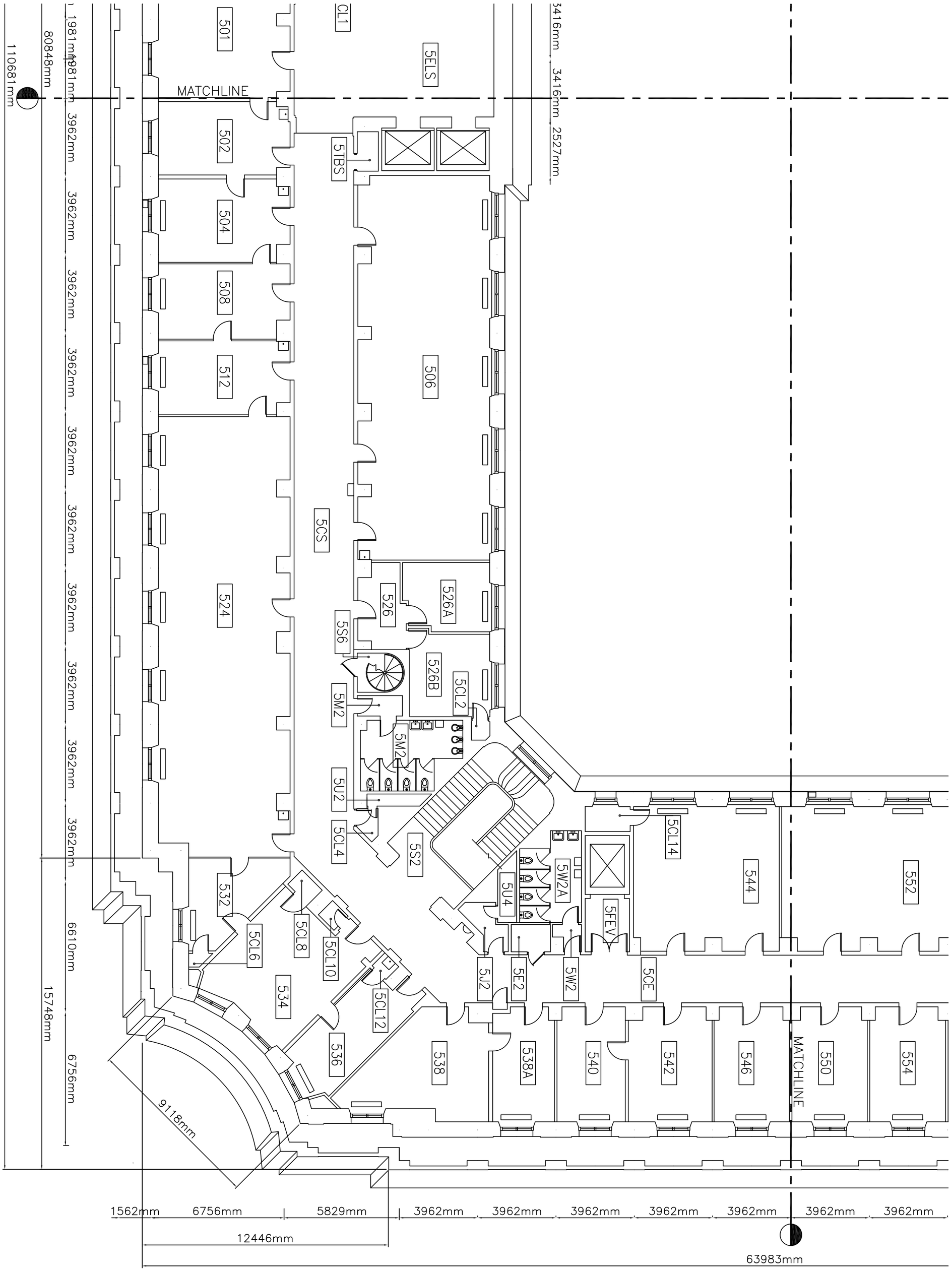
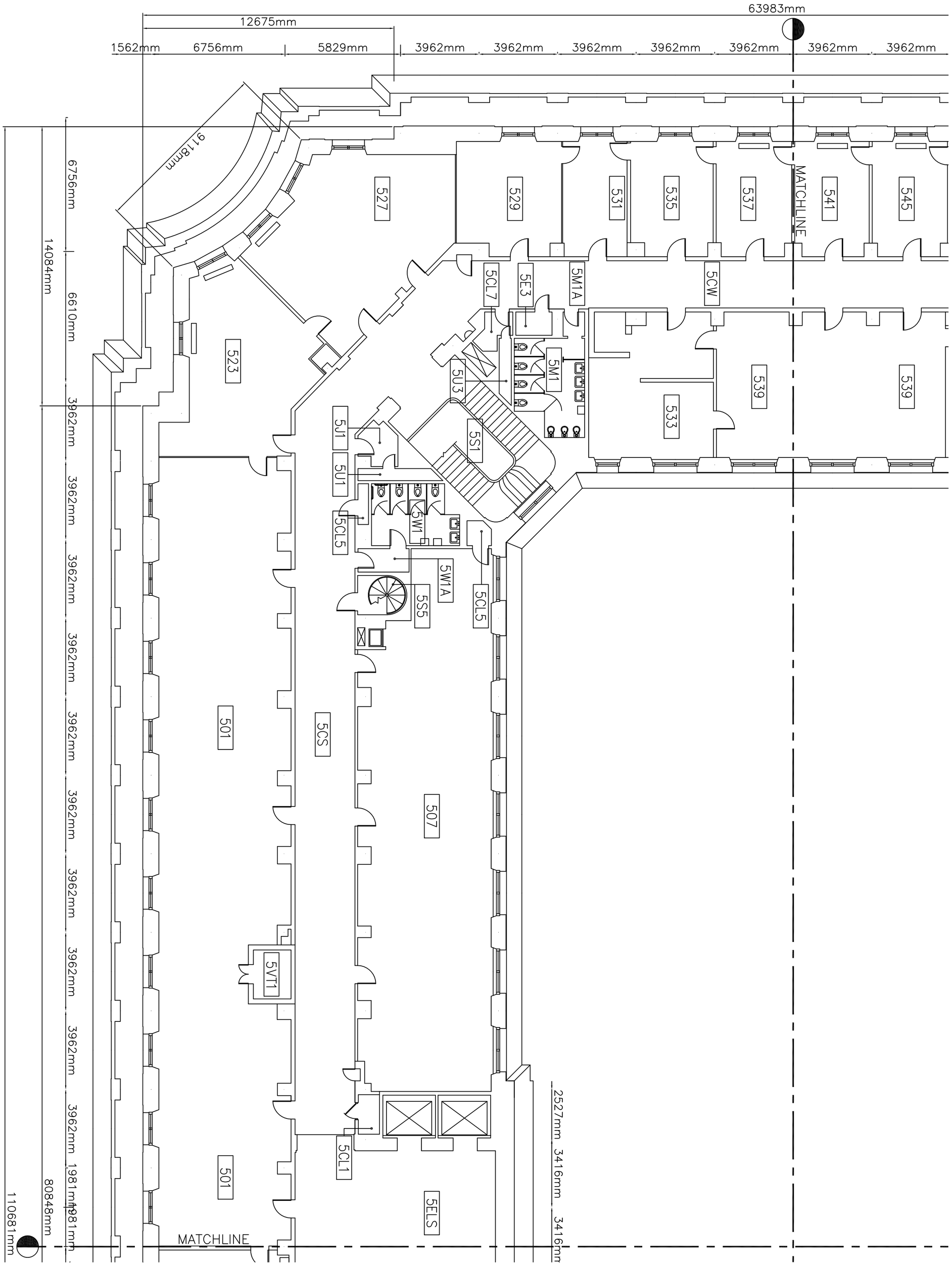


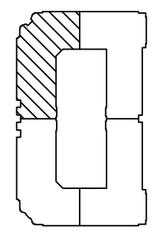
EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN FIFTH FLOOR - SOUTHEAST

SCALE 1:300

KEY PLAN



EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN FIFTH FLOOR - SOUTHWEST
SCALE 1:300



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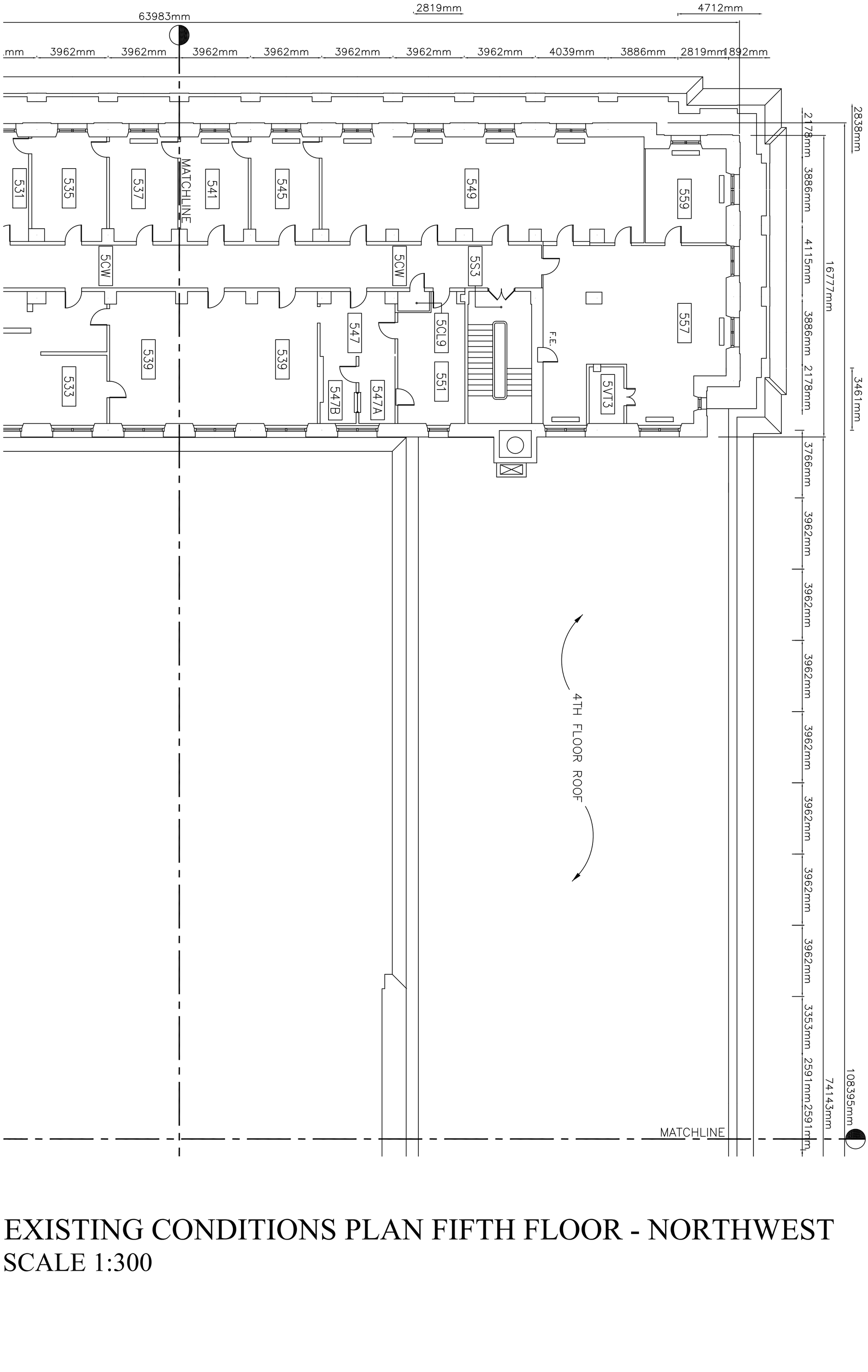
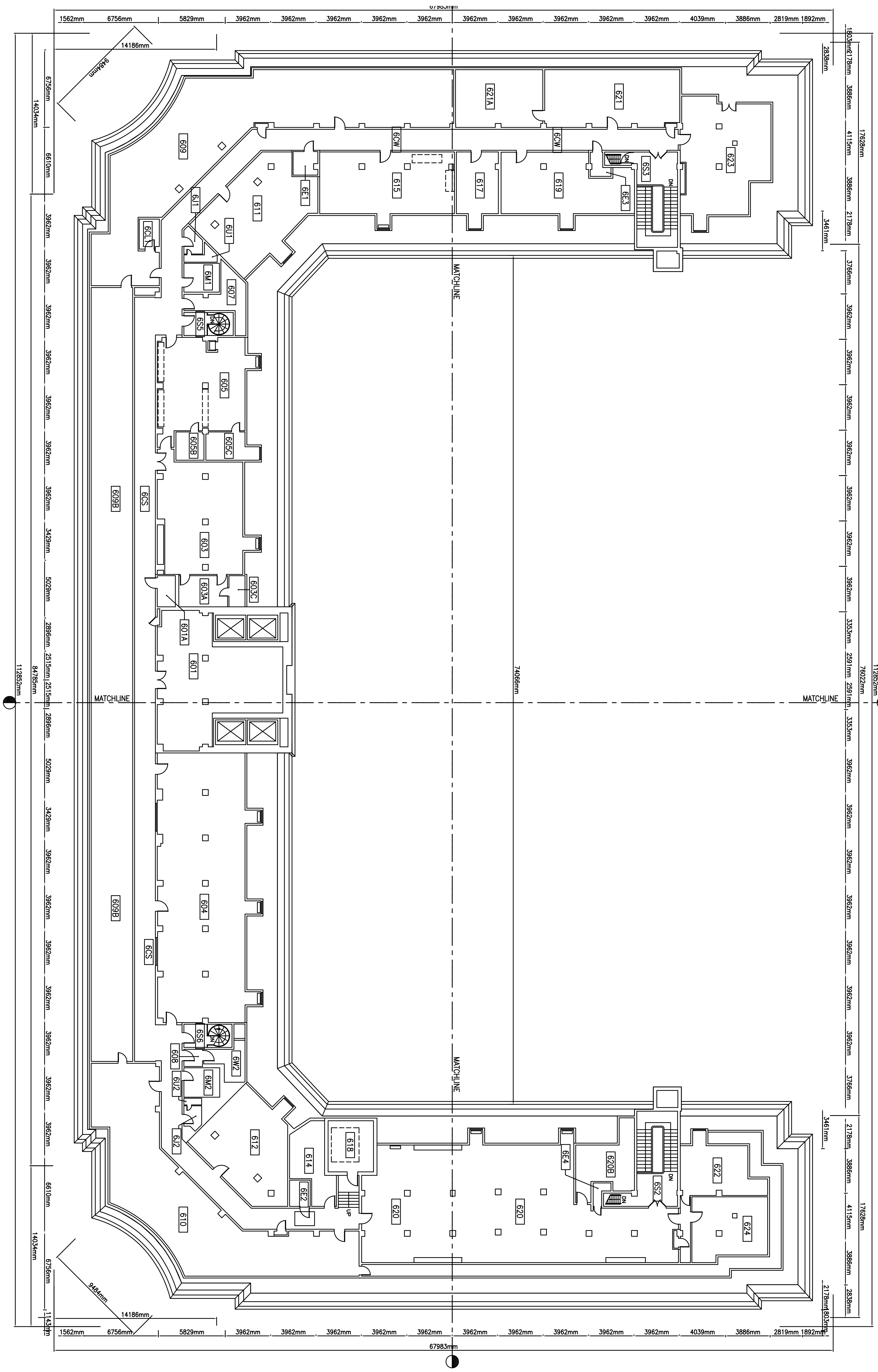


EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN FIFTH FLOOR - NORTHWEST

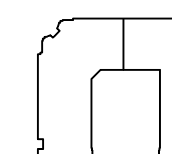
SCALE 1:300

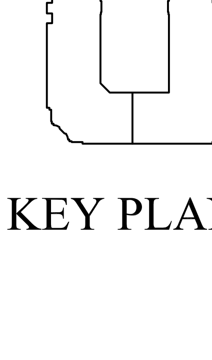
KEY PLAN



EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN ATTIC

SCALE 1:300





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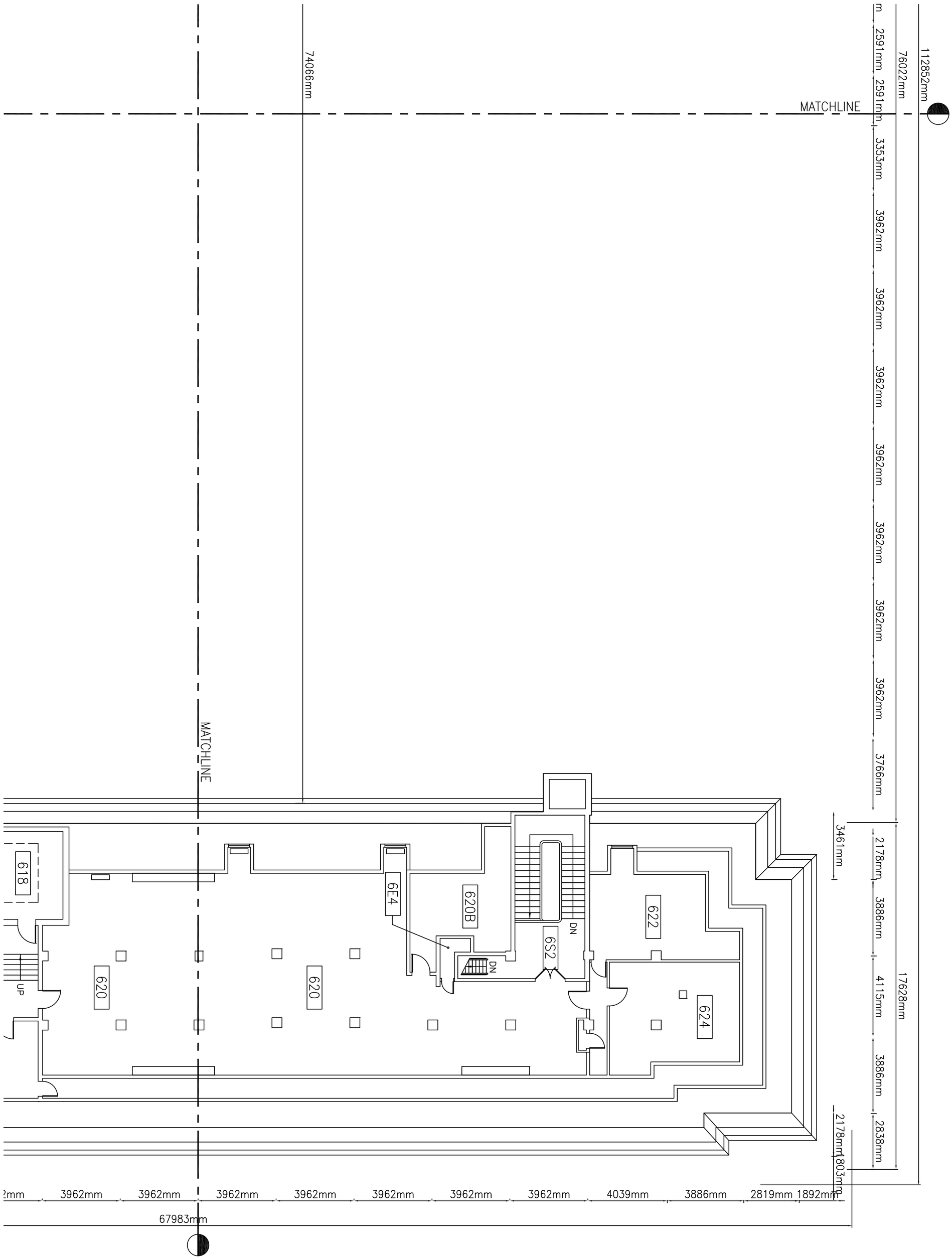
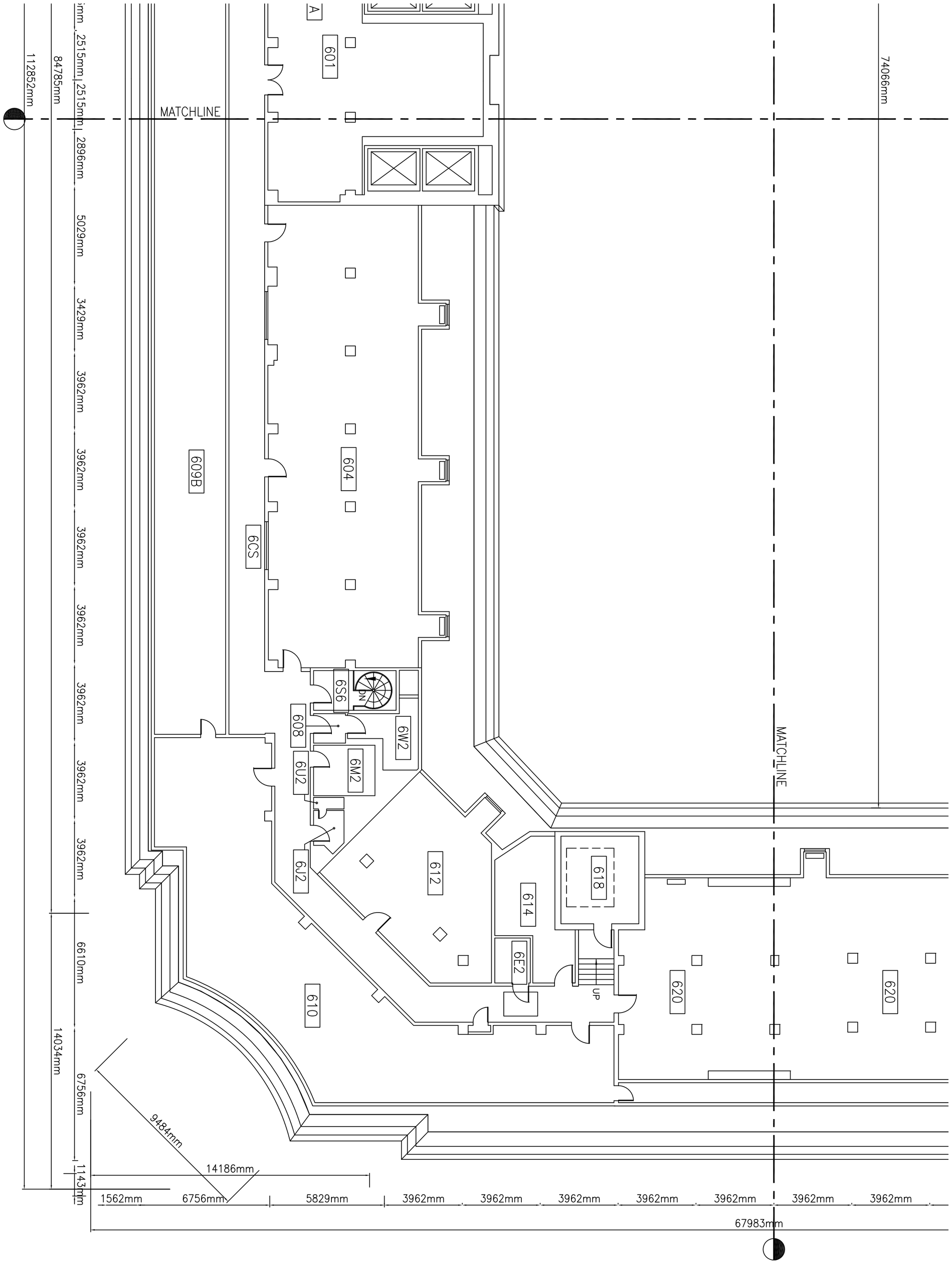


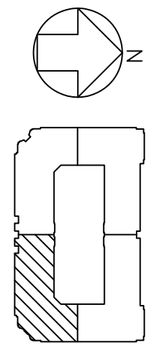
EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN ATTIC - NORTHEAST

SCALE 1:300

KEY PLAN



EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN ATTIC - SOUTHEAST
SCALE 1:300



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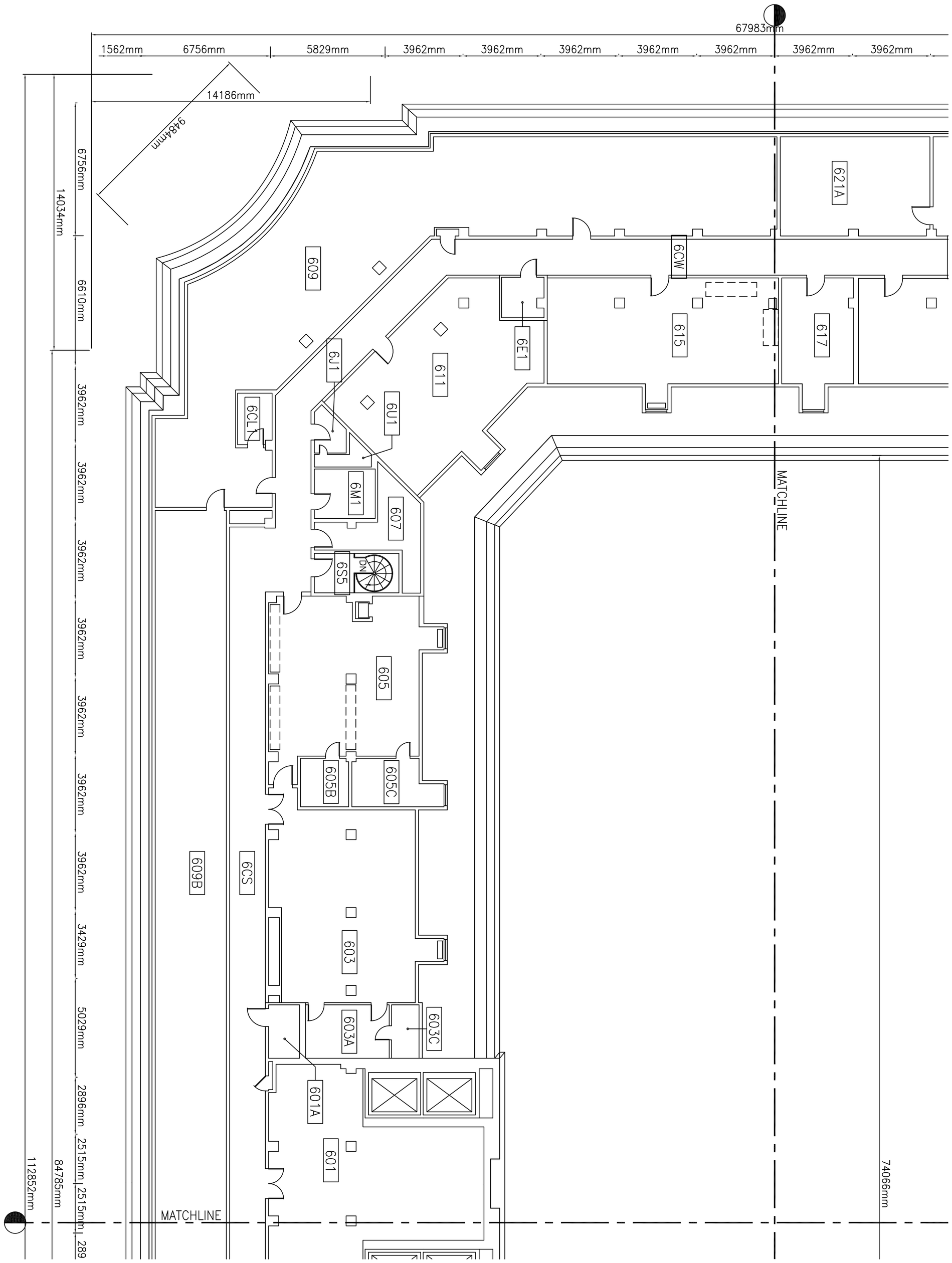
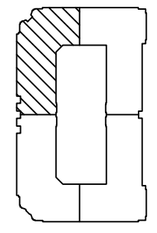


EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN ATTIC - SOUTHWEST
SCALE 1:300



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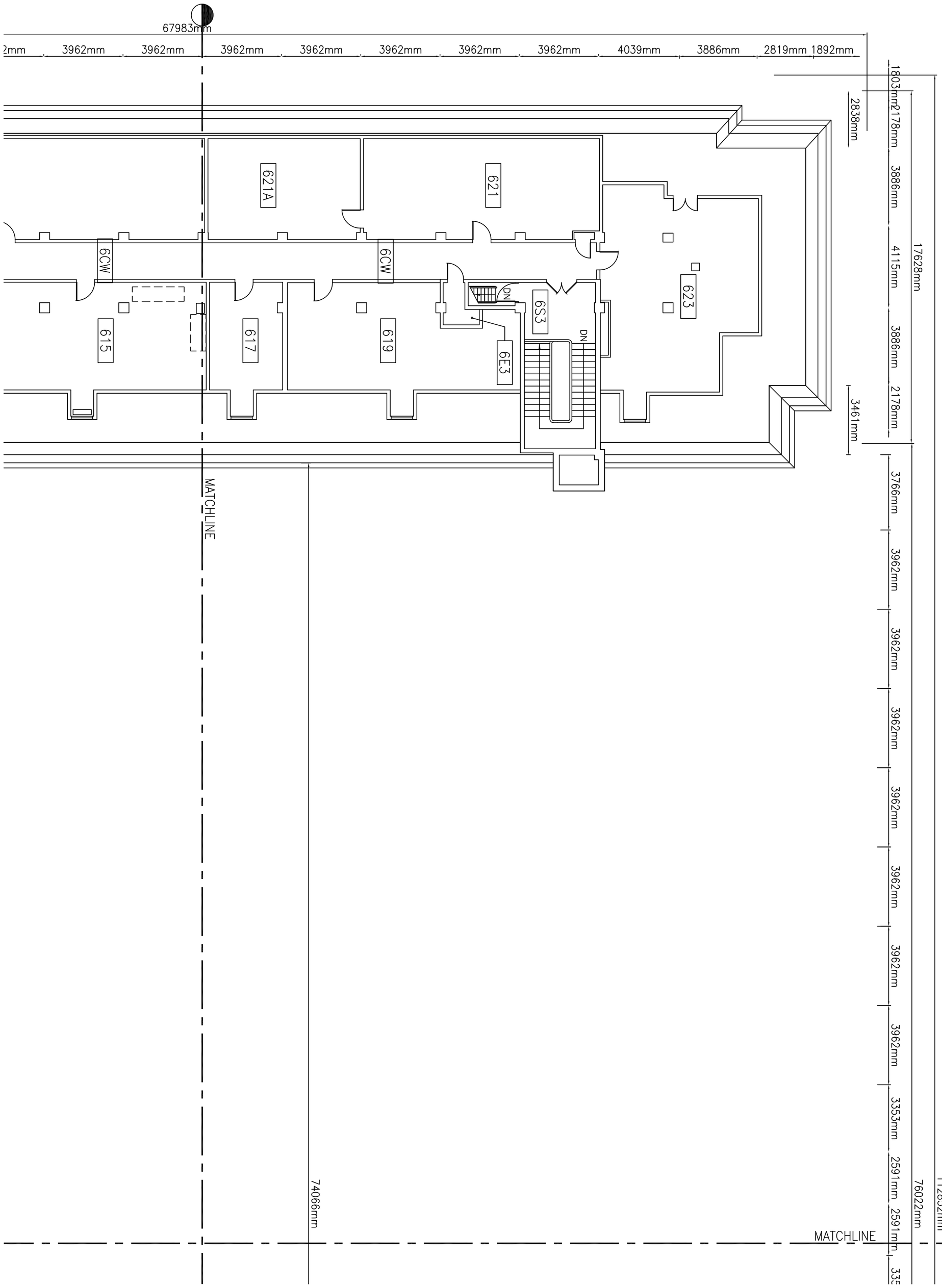
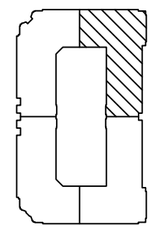


EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN ATTIC - NORTHWEST
SCALE 1:300



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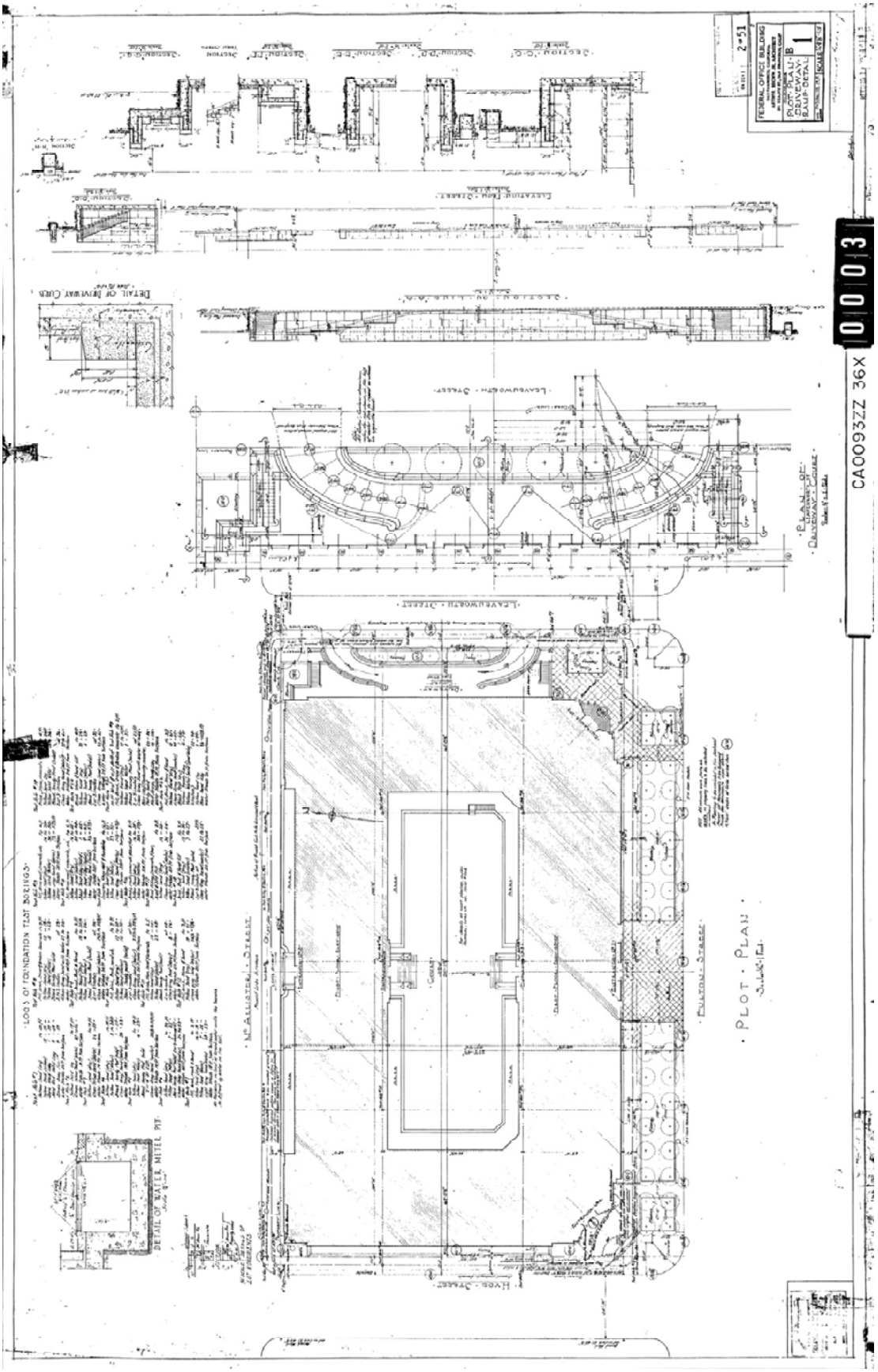
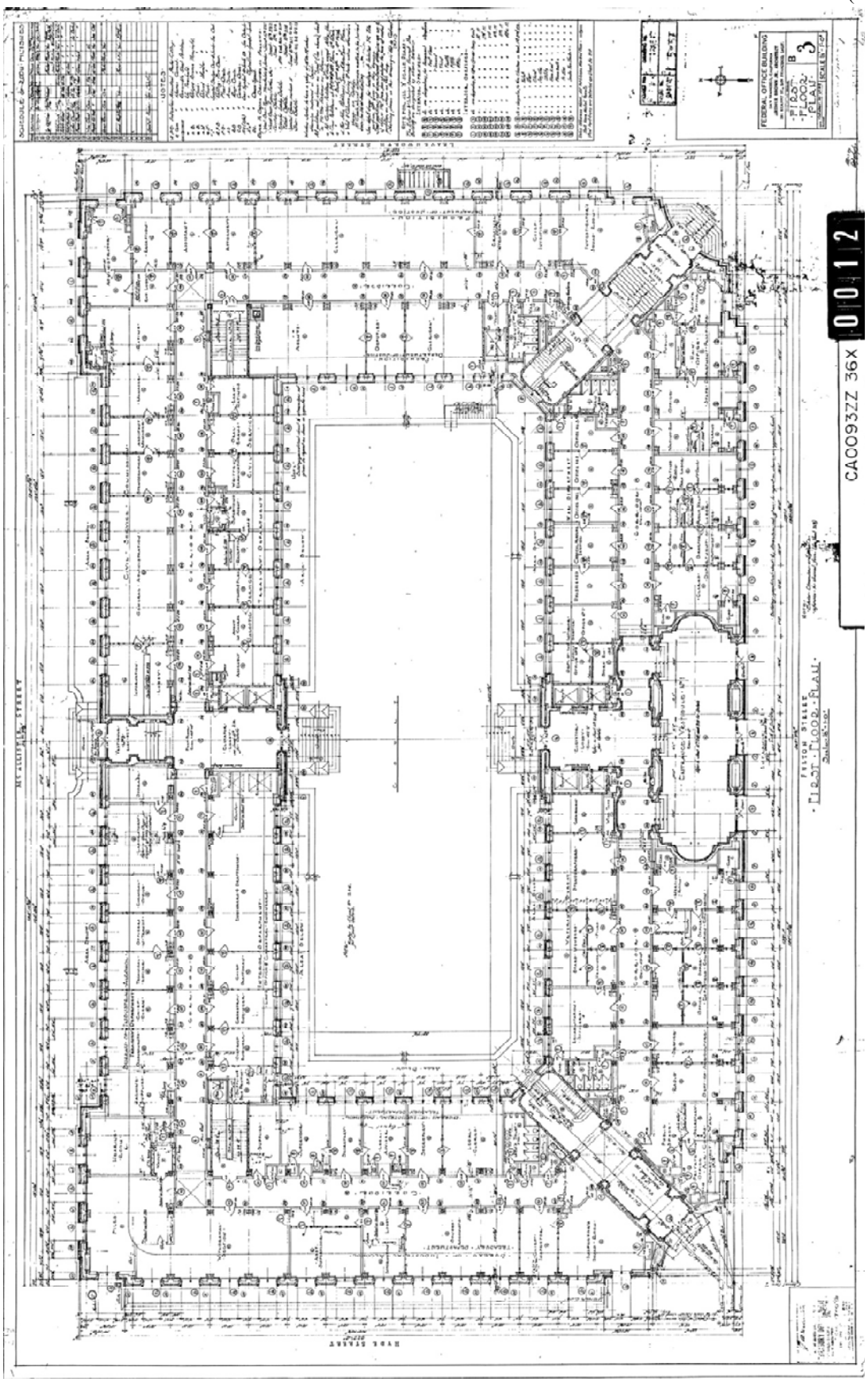
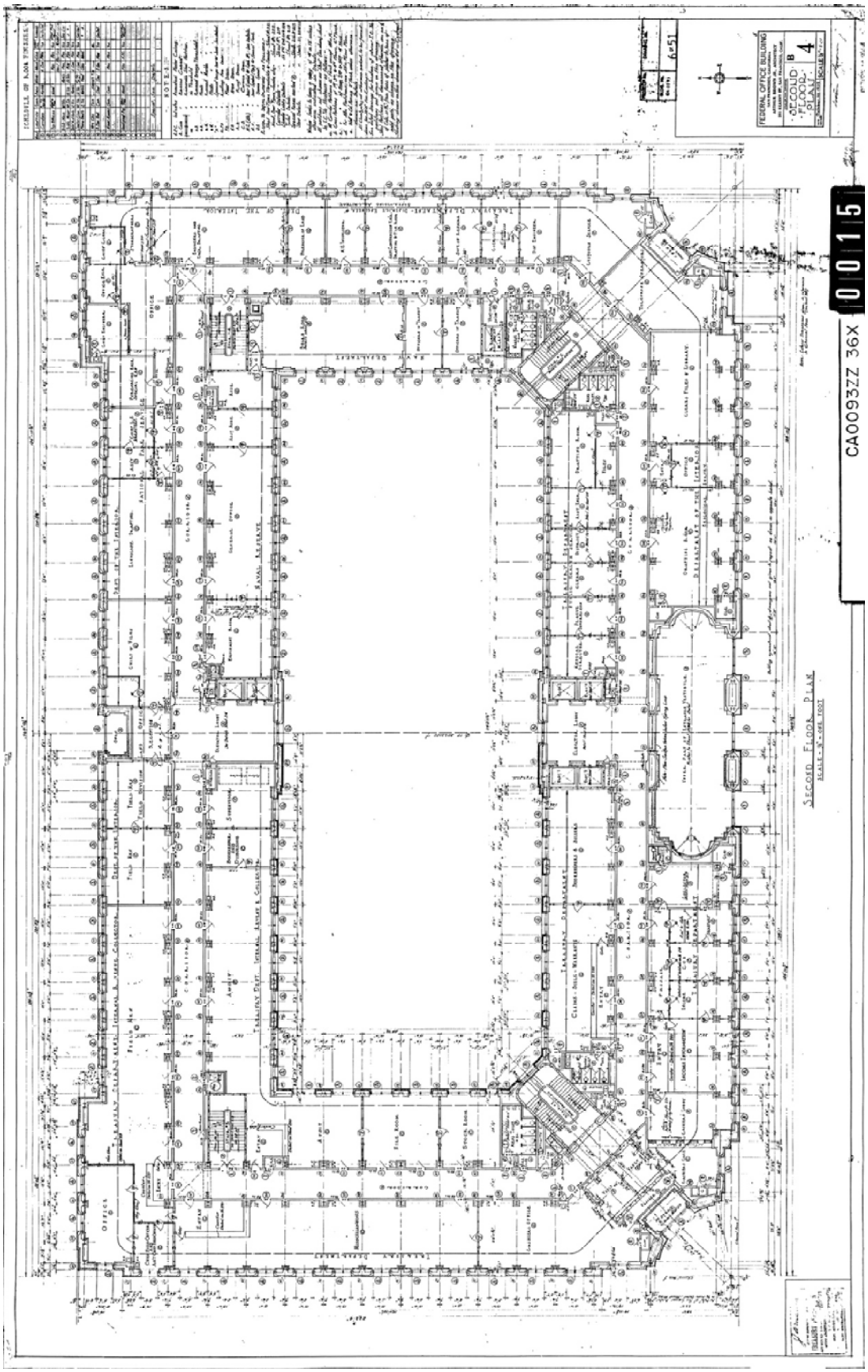


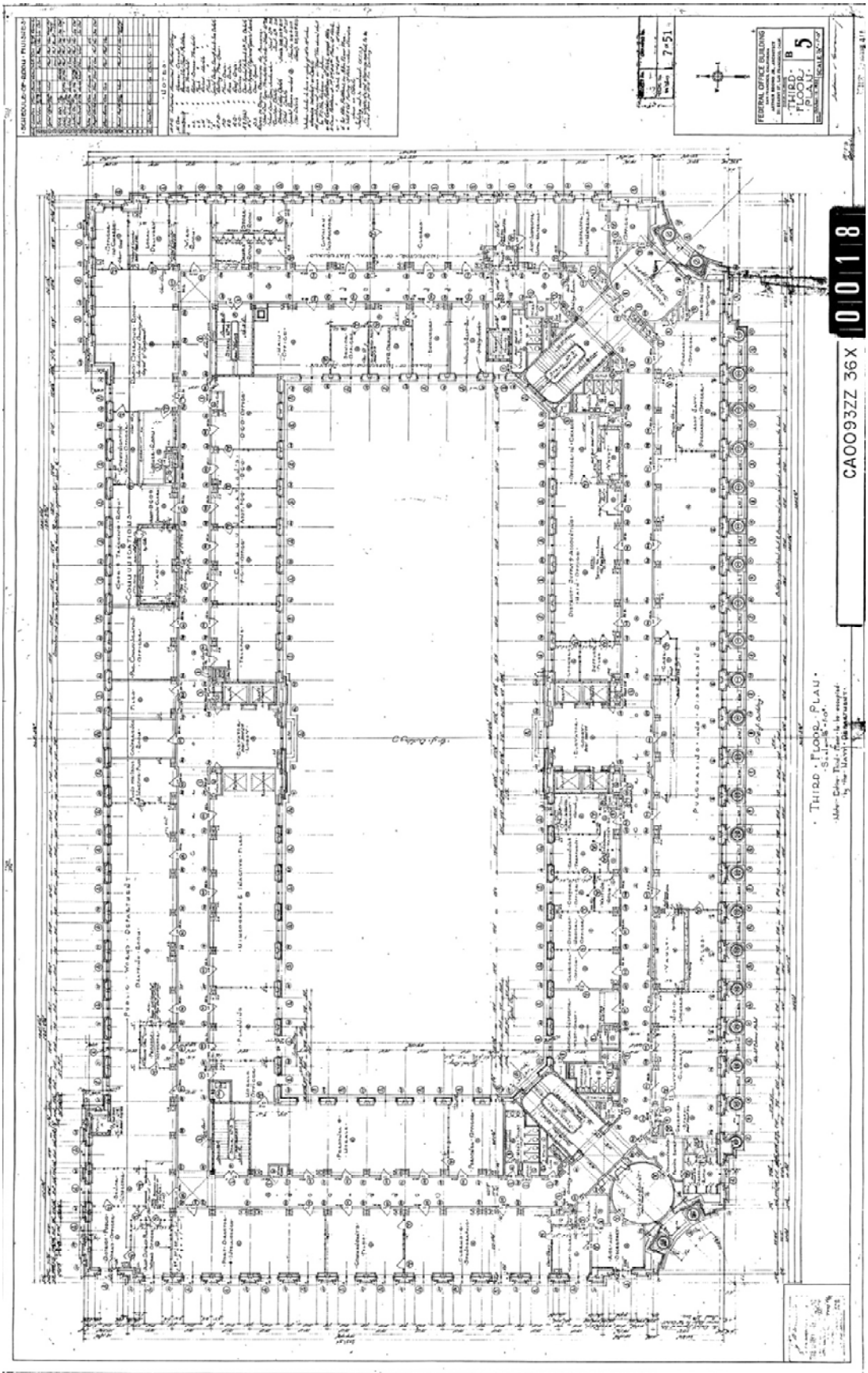
SAN FRANCISCO FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING
ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION DRAWING
SHEET B1 - PLOT PLAN, DRIVEWAY, RAMP DETAIL,
10/10/1932



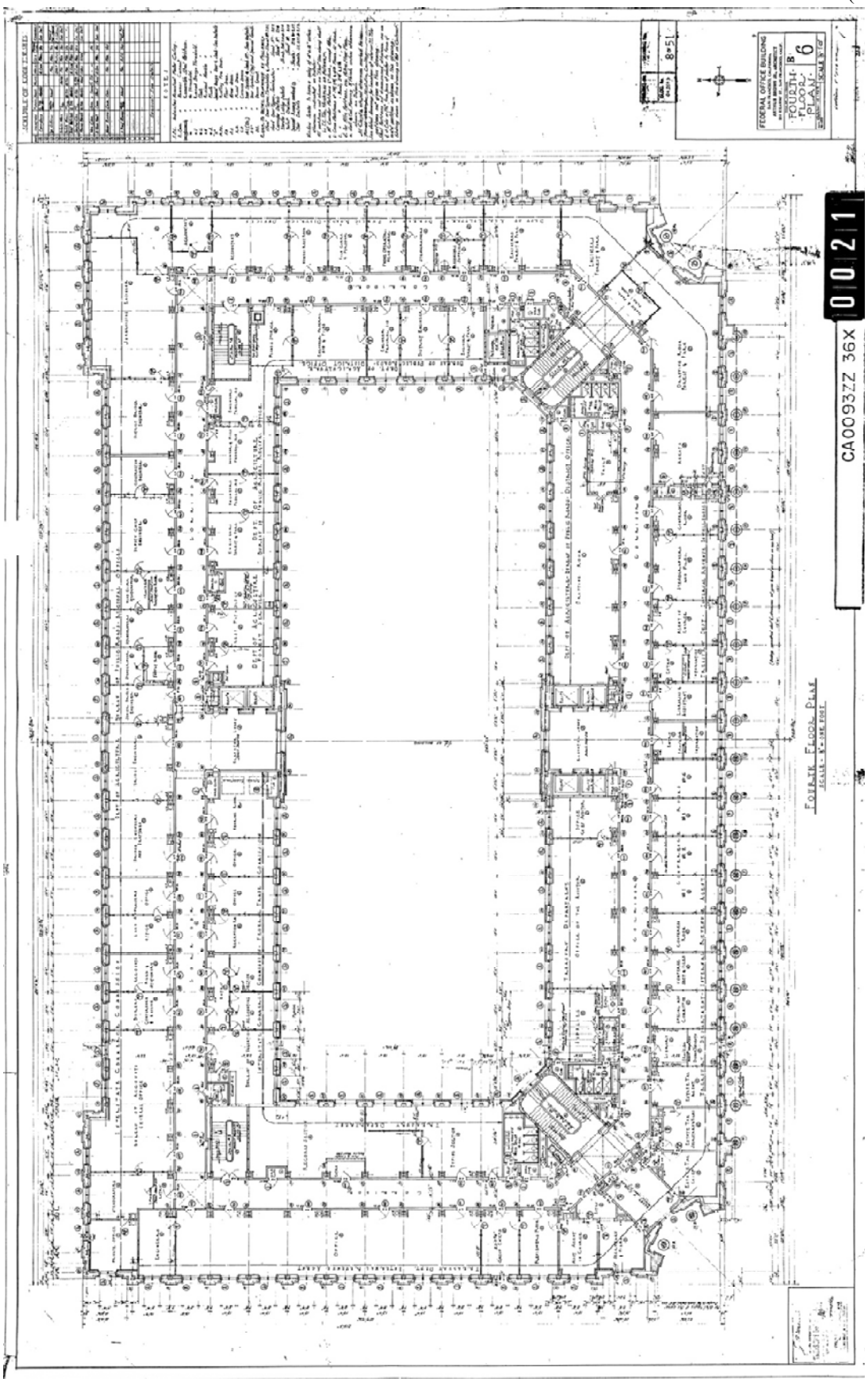
SAN FRANCISCO FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING
ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION DRAWING
SHEET B3 - FIRST FLOOR PLAN, 10/10/1932



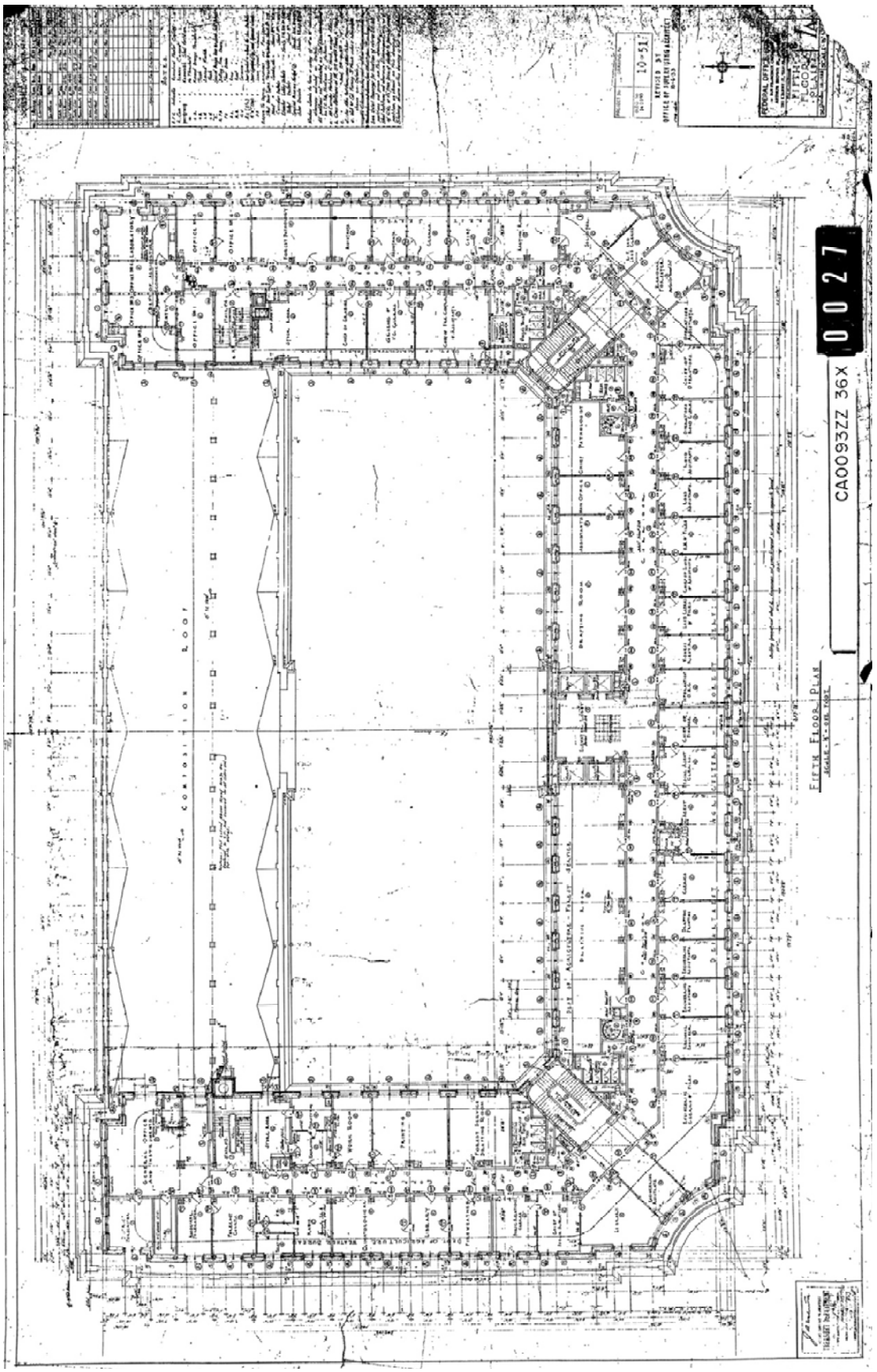
SAN FRANCISCO FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING
ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION DRAWING
SHEET B4 - SECOND FLOOR PLAN, 10/10/1932



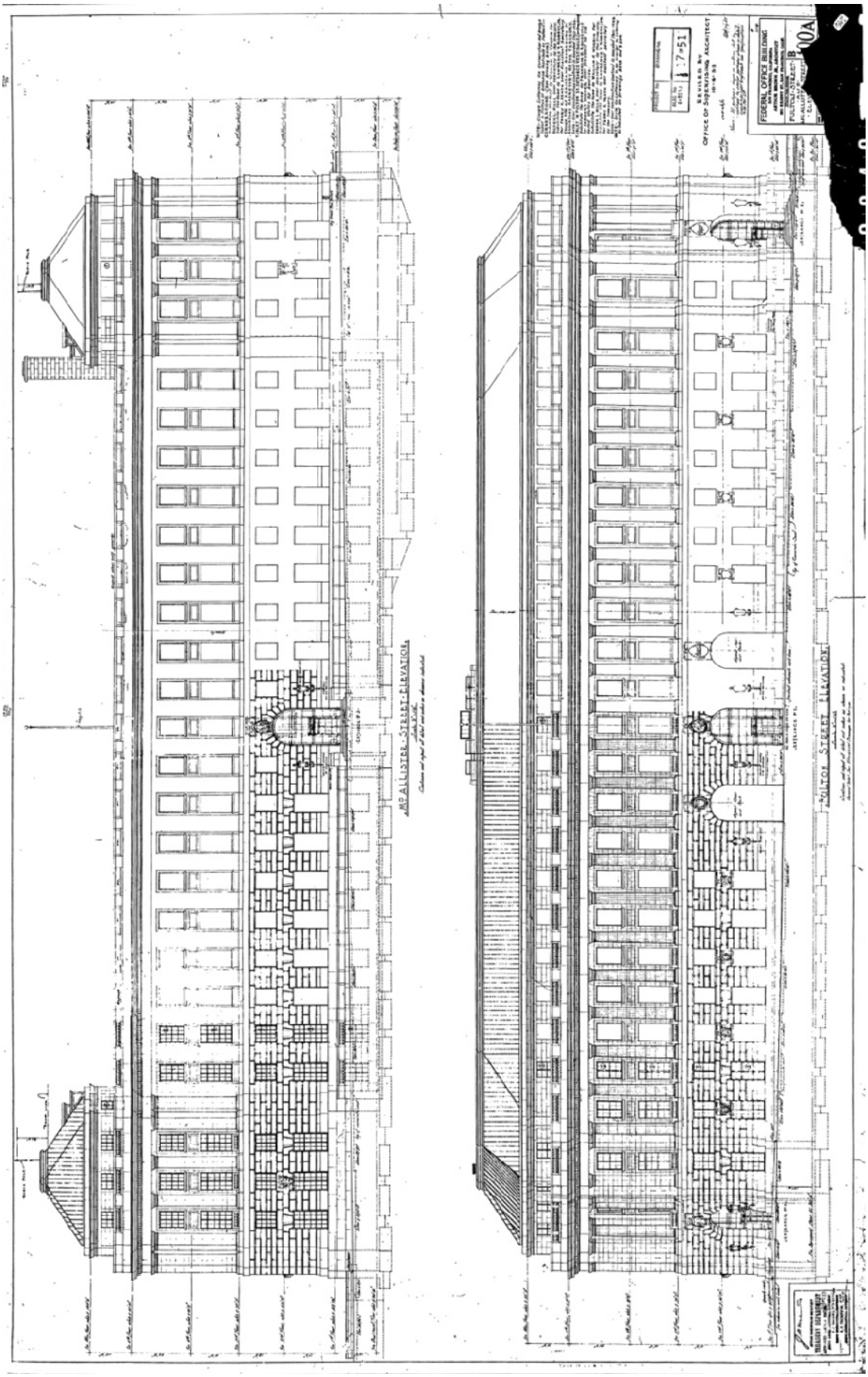
SAN FRANCISCO FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING
ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION DRAWING
SHEET B5 - THIRD FLOOR PLAN, 10/10/1932



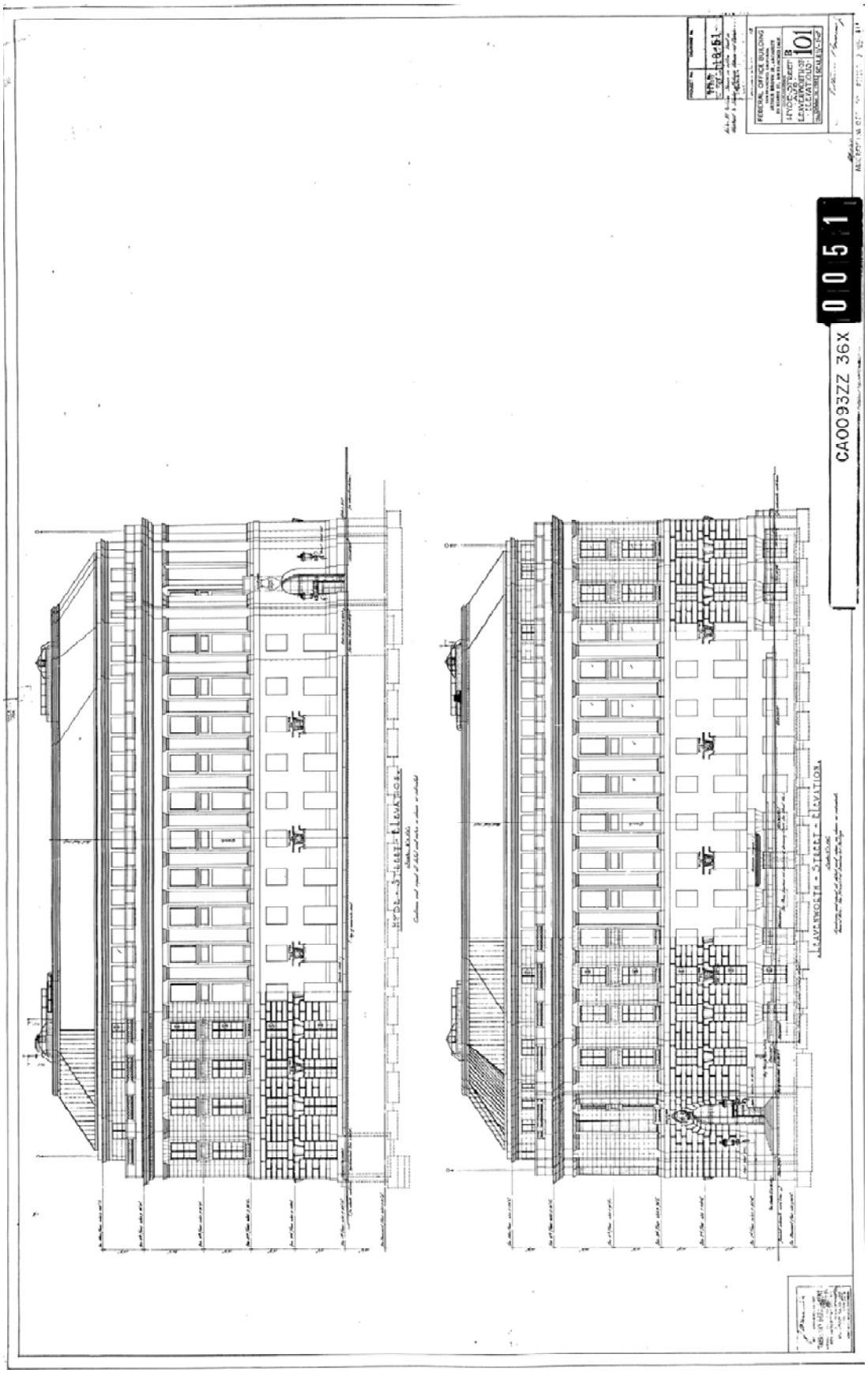
SAN FRANCISCO FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING
ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION DRAWING
SHEET B6 - FOURTH FLOOR PLAN, 10/10/1932



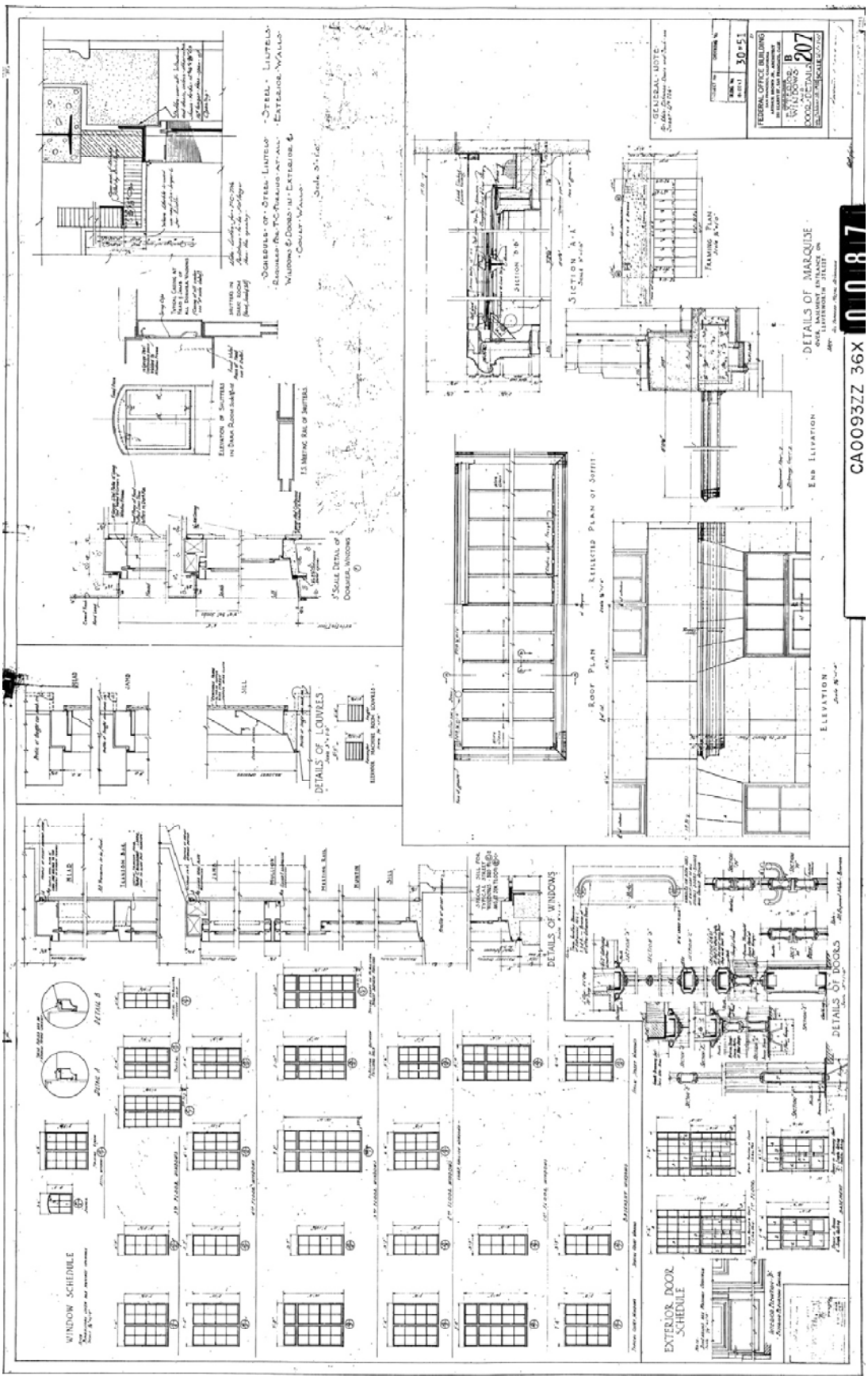
SAN FRANCISCO FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING
ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION DRAWING
SHEET B7A - FIFTH FLOOR PLAN, REVISED BY THE OFFICE OF SUPERVISING ARCHITECT, 10/6/1933



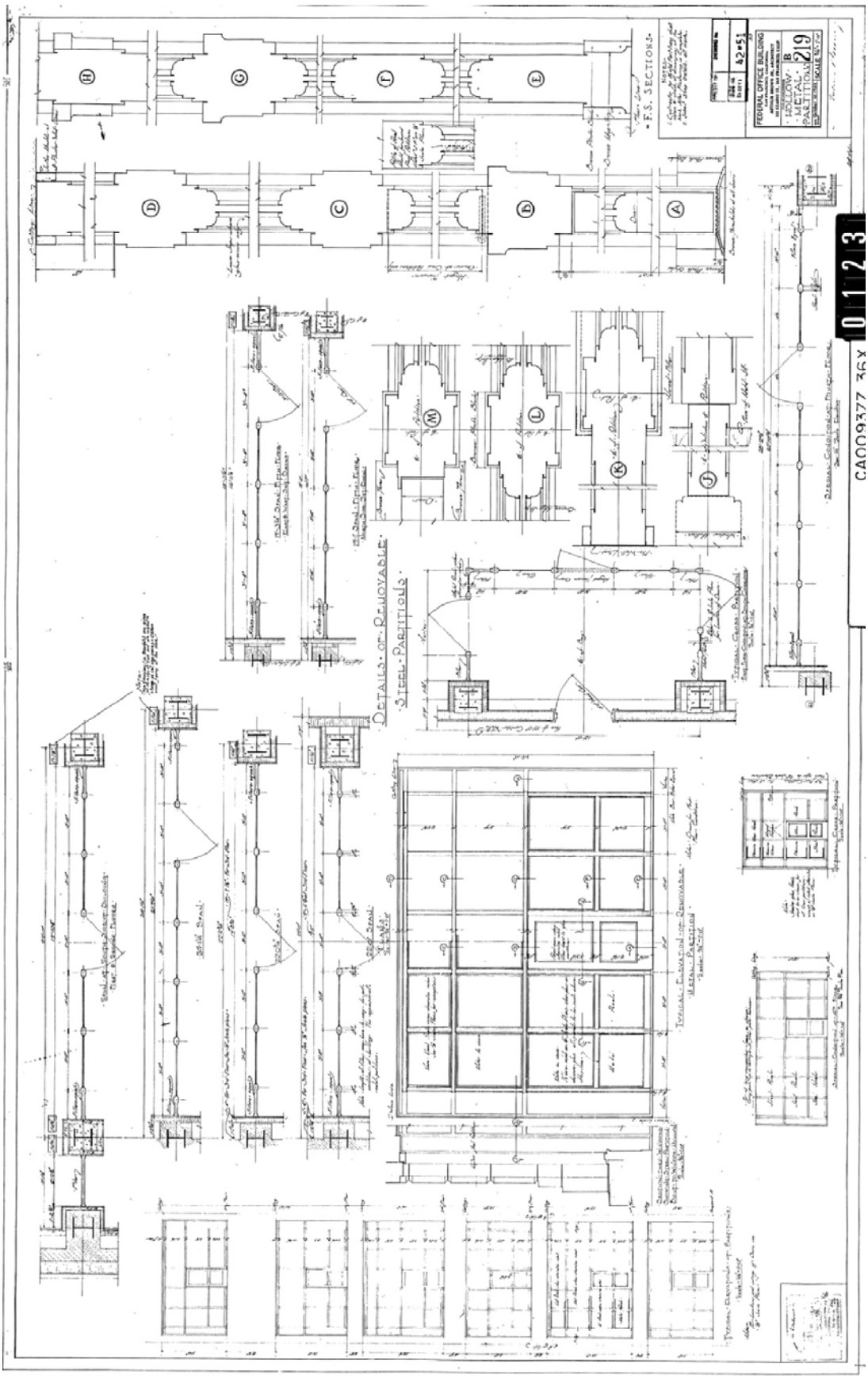
SAN FRANCISCO FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING
ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION DRAWING
SHEET B100A - FULTON STREET AND MCALLISTER STREET ELEVATIONS, REVISED BY THE OFFICE OF SUPERVISING ARCHITECT, 10/6/1933



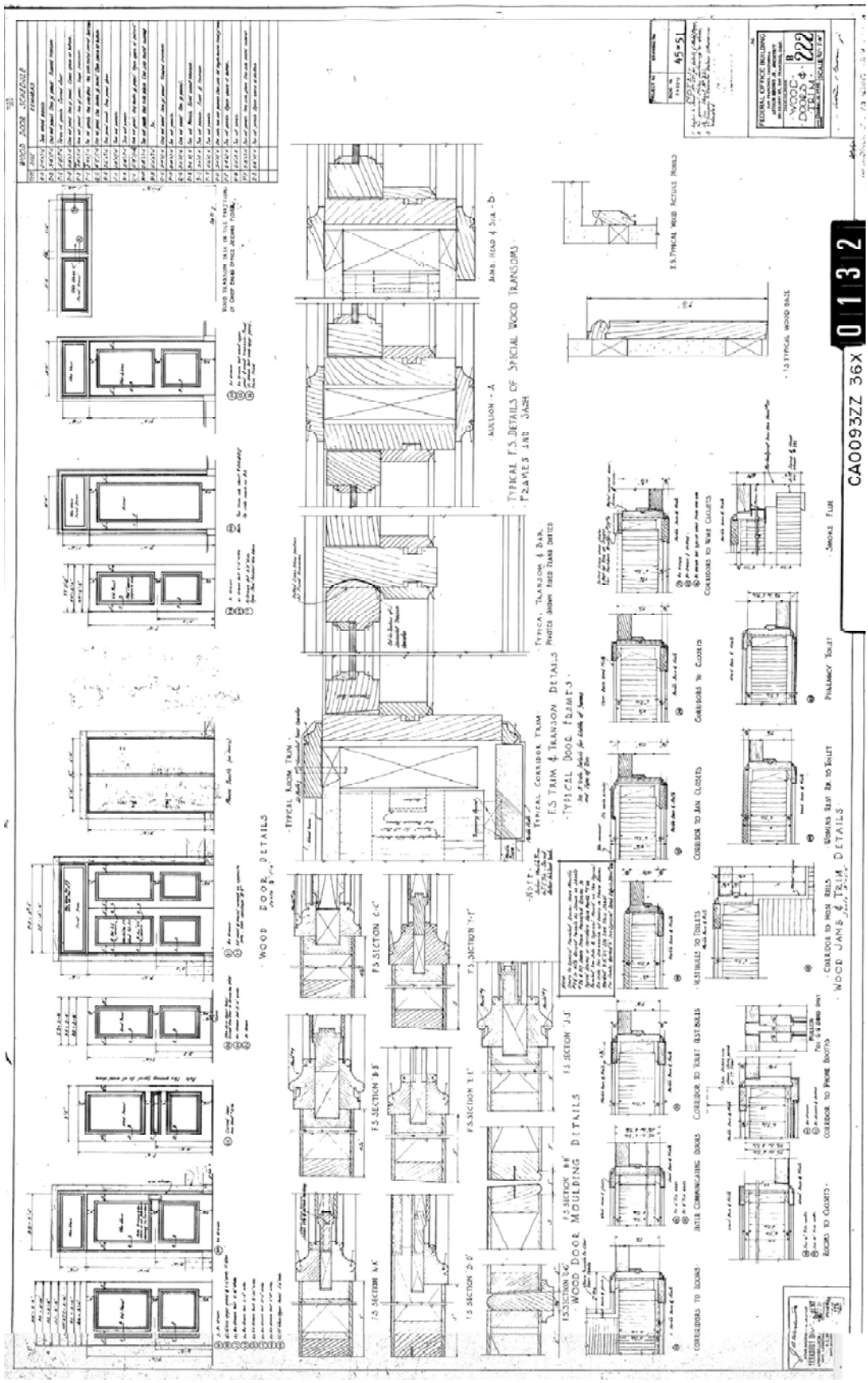
SAN FRANCISCO FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING
ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION DRAWING
SHEET B101 - HYDE STREET AND LEAVENWORTH STREET ELEVATIONS, 10/10/1932



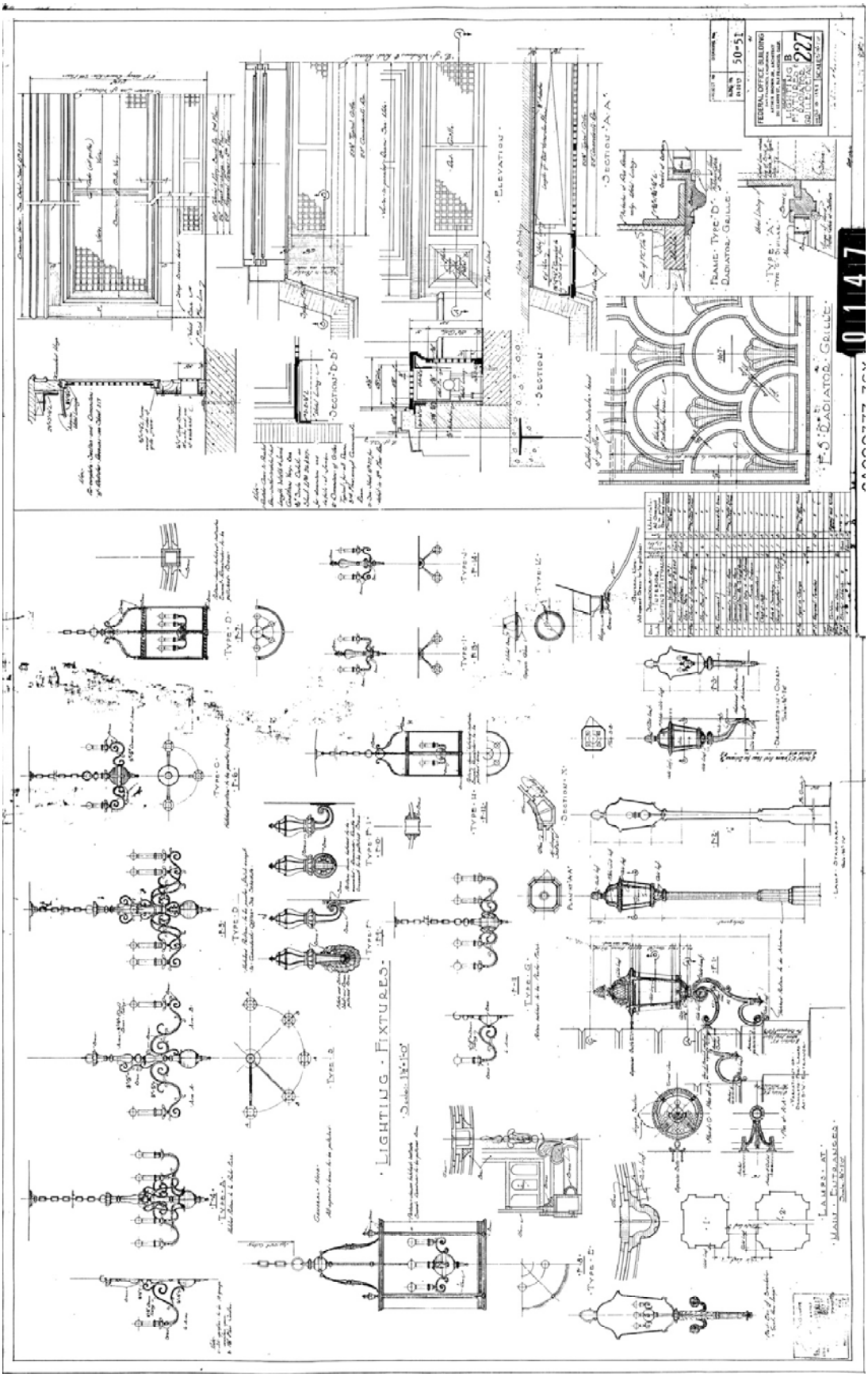
SAN FRANCISCO FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING
ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION DRAWING
SHEET B207 - EXTERIOR WINDOWS AND DOOR DETAILS, 10/10/1932



SAN FRANCISCO FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING
ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION DRAWING
SHEET B219 - HOLLOW METAL PARTITIONS, 10/10/1932



SAN FRANCISCO FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING
ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION DRAWING
SHEET B222 - WOOD DOORS AND TRIM, 10/10/1932



SAN FRANCISCO FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING
ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION DRAWING
SHEET B227 - LIGHTING FIXTURES AND RADIATOR GRILLE DETAIL,
10/10/1932