

FORT HANCOCK, HOSPITAL WARD  
(Fort Hancock, Building No. 353)  
On Pennington Drive, West of Hartshorne Drive  
at the Fort Hancock Proving Ground  
Fort Hancock  
Monmouth County  
New Jersey

HABS No. NJ-1209-I

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
Northeast Region  
Philadelphia Support Office  
U.S. Custom House  
200 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, P.A. 19106

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

FORT HANCOCK, HOSPITAL WARD  
(Fort Hancock, Building No. 353)

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Location: On Pennington Drive, West of Hartshorne Drive at the Fort Hancock Proving Ground, Fort Hancock, Monmouth County, New Jersey

USGS Sandy Hook, NJ-NY Quadrangle  
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:  
18 585550 4479950

Significance: This World War II era wood frame structure has been identified as a contributing structure to the Fort Hancock and Sandy Hook Proving Ground Historic District because of the role that Fort Hancock played during World War II as the headquarters for the harbor defenses of New York and the New York Subsector. During 1945 and 1946 Fort Hancock served the nation as a primary reception center for troops returning from European theater of operations, before being demobilized and discharged. Between 1943 and 1948 the Sandy Hook batteries, because of development of the atomic bomb and missiles and the successful application of new principals of amphibious warfare, were phased out and disarmed. This building was typical of the temporary wood frame structures built throughout the United States during World War II. Building No. 353 was constructed as a hospital ward, where a number of patients requiring similar treatment might be accommodated.

Description: This one story wood frame structure, one of two hospital wards built in 1943 at Fort Hancock, was constructed in accordance with Office of the Quartermaster General (O.Q.M.G.) standard plans for type W-1 hospital wards and remained relatively unaltered through its use by the National Oceanographic & Atmospheric Administration.

Exterior:

The structure foundations are cinder blocks supporting the wood frame floor system above a two foot high open space. The exterior walls are covered with horizontal drop siding. The roof is covered with tar paper. There are no gutters but the overhanging eave helps with rainfall. Sheet metal chimney stacks are utilized.

The wooden windows are 6 over 6 light sash with screens on the exterior. The exterior doors are panelled wood and glass in a double swinging type at the porch on the east side and on the south side at grade.

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The porches consist of a wooden deck on joists raised three steps above grade. They are covered by a tar papered wood roof on rafters every 2'0" o.c. They are enclosed by 2 x 4 handrails and screens.

Interior:

A partition, finished with hardboard on 2 x 4 studs, divides the south end of the structures into small rooms, perhaps offices. Ceilings are similarly finished in hardboard with battened seams. The flooring is also hardwood.

History:

The permanent post of Fort Hancock consisted primarily of yellow brick structures built from 1896 to 1939 to house the army units assigned to the Sandy Hook Coastal Batteries defending New York harbor. With the advent of World War II the post was greatly expanded to accommodate the increased demands of the expanding army.

With the construction of temporary wood frame structures based on standard Office of the Quartermaster General (O.Q.M.G.) plans, building No.353 was built to expand the post hospital complex.

After World War II this structure was used as storage by the army and after the closing of the fort in 1972 by National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration. For the past several years the building has been abandoned.

Source:

National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination Form  
Fort Hancock and the Sandy Hook Proving Ground Historic District  
Dr. Harry Butowsky, NPS  
Dated: June 20, 1982

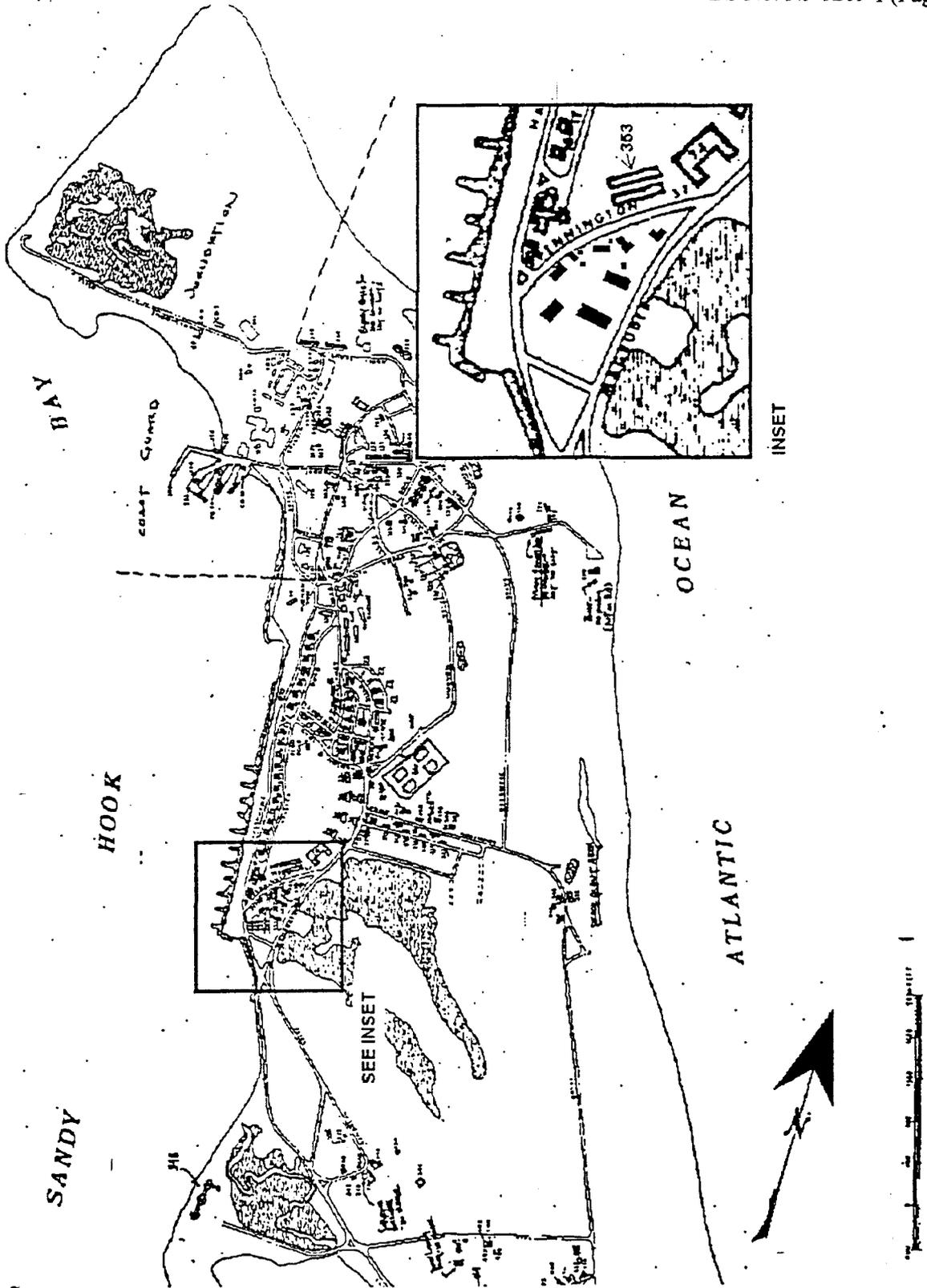
Draft Historic Structures Report, Architectural Data Section (Volume III)  
Fort Hancock Structures, 1918-1978 Sandy Hook Unit, Gateway National  
Recreation Area, New Jersey  
Denver Service Center, National Park Service  
U.S. Department of The Interior, August 25, 1988

Plan files, Gateway National Recreation Area, New Jersey

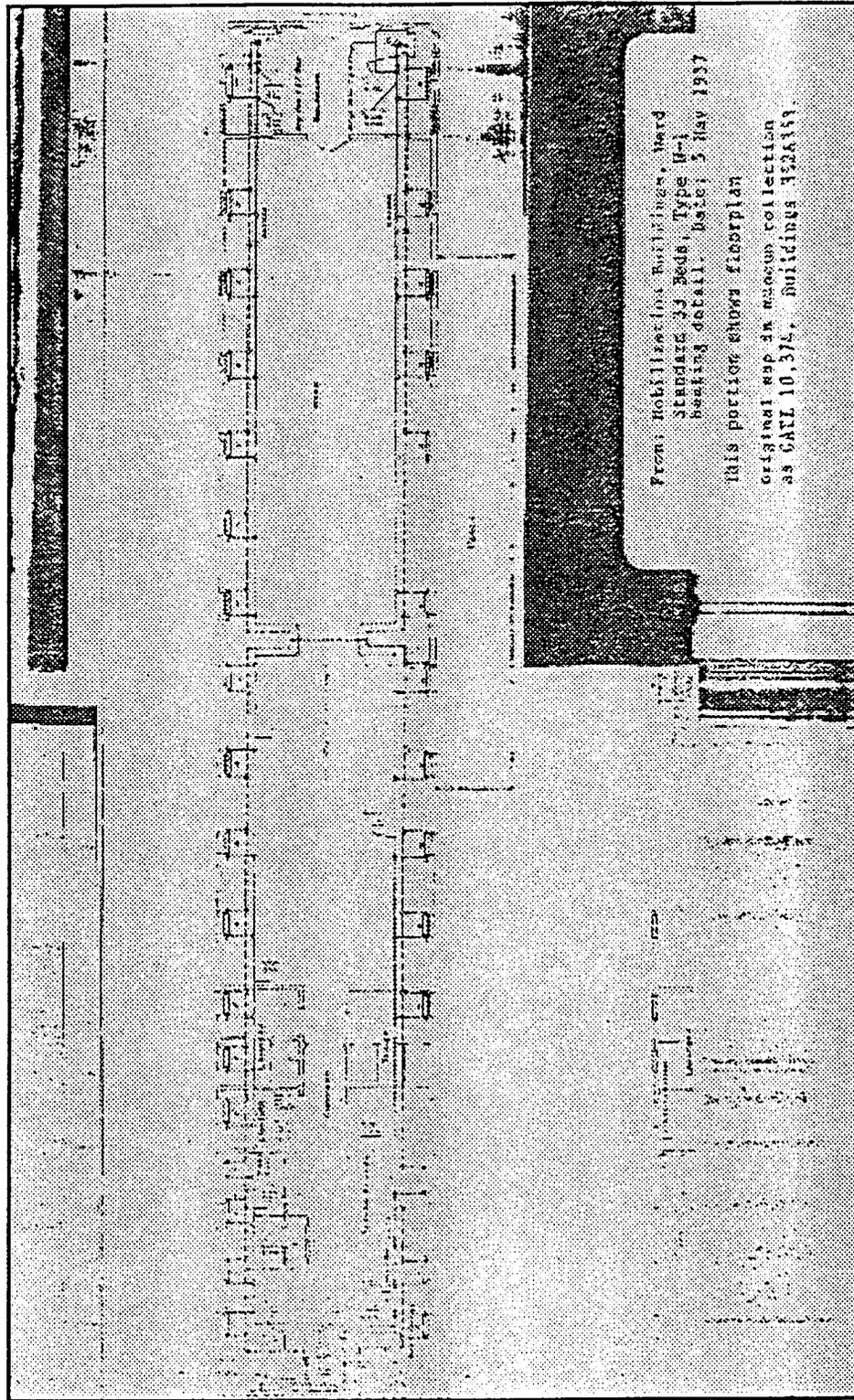
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September / October 1993

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13 September 1993

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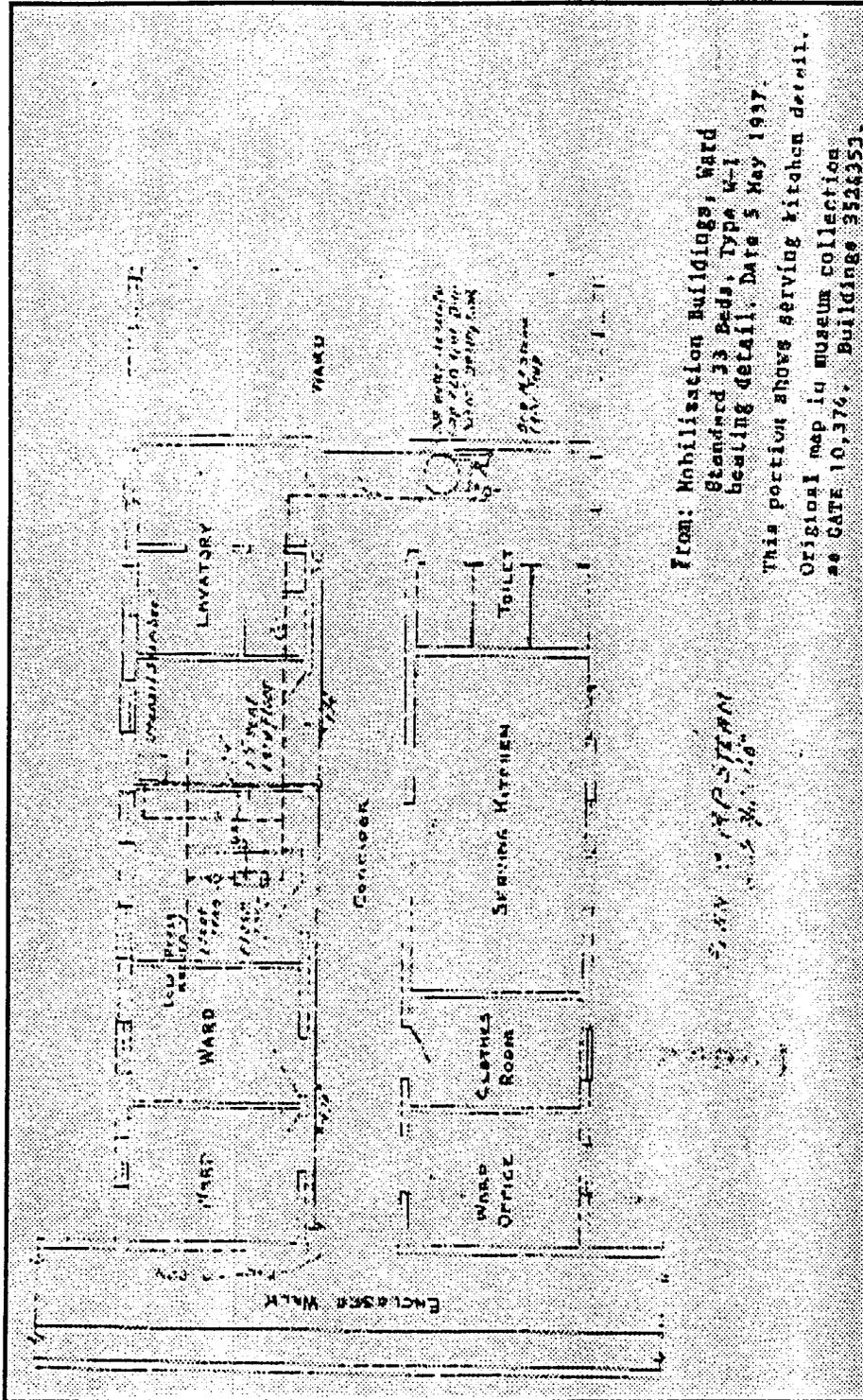


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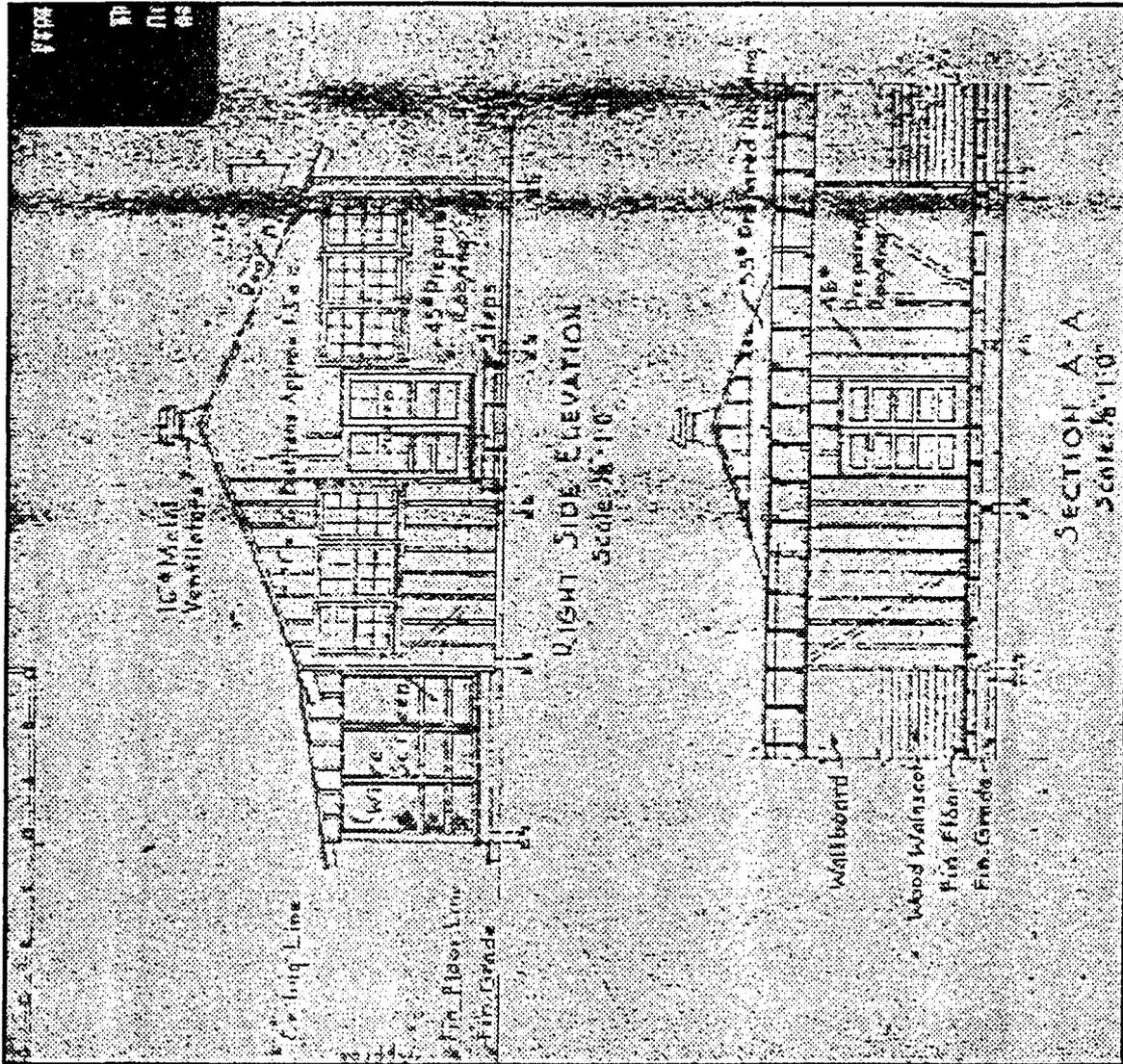


FLOOR PLAN - DRAWN 1937

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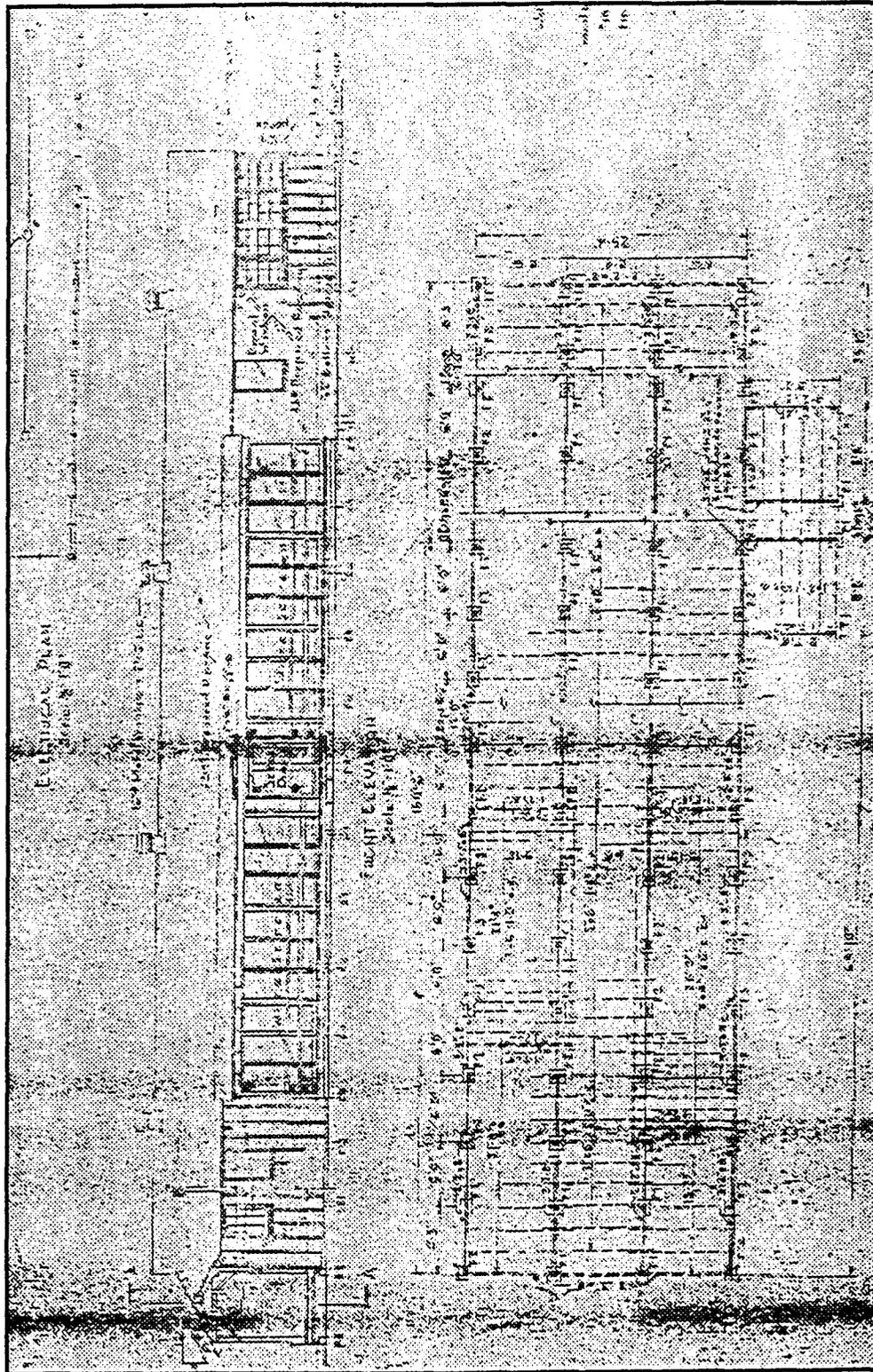


SERVING KITCHEN FLOOR PLAN - DRAWN 1937



RIGHT ELEVATION & SECTION - DRAWN 1937

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FRONT ELEVATION & FRAMING PLAN - DRAWN 1937