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**The Edmonton Public Library:
An Architectural History of a Carnegie Library Building**

Percy Johnson

A Thesis

in

The Department

of

Art History

**Presented in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements
for the Degree of Master of Arts at
Concordia University
Montréal, Québec, Canada**

August 1994

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Abstract

The Edmonton Public Library: An Architectural History of a Carnegie Library Building

Percy Johnson

This thesis examines the influences involved in the designing of the Edmonton Public Library building. Completed in 1923 the building was designed by the Edmonton, Alberta based architectural firm of George Heath MacDonald and Herbert Alton Magoon. The roles played by the patron and specifically the librarian E.L. Hill and the Carnegie Corporation of New York are described. Other factors that directed the design including the access to builders and building materials in Edmonton are also noted.

This thesis contains an appendix in the form of a catalogue raisonné that lists the projects that Messrs. MacDonald and Magoon were involved with in Edmonton between 1904 and 1941.

It is intended that the model established by this thesis can be used to continue the research on the influences affecting the architecture of Western Canada.

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I would like to thank my thesis advisor Jean Bélisle, Department of Art History, Concordia University for teaching me more than he could possibly ever realize. Without his initial encouragement and continued support I would not have pursued a topic that some viewed as marginal. He has shown me what the field of academic research involves and for this I offer him my sincere thanks.

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I would also like to thank Loren Lerner, Concordia University who I have been very fortunate to work for. The allowances she has afforded me in regards to my work schedule was appreciated.

I must acknowledge the assistance of the many archivists and librarians at the institutions where I have searched for materials and Elyse Greenberg who copy-edited the text.

To my dear wife, Rita Sousa Johnson and our daughter Letitia, I profess my love for their patience when I could not come out and play.

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Introduction

In the era before material was readily disseminated via electronic means the importance placed on the establishment of a free public¹ library system was very high. A free public library was an essential element in promoting a town to potential settlers whose criteria for selecting a community to locate to included their being able to offer services such as access to public libraries which was considered to be essential to the cultural advancement of a city's inhabitants. As well as enticing new citizens, a library was seen as part of the foundation in the development of a city as a cultural and eventually a commercial centre. In the creation of institutions such as libraries, Western Canadian cities hoped to move away from a fur trading post mentality to an era of prosperity and permanence.

Since the focus of any institution is the building in which it resides, the construction of a purpose built building is essential to an institution's sense of being. Therefore whether a church for a religious congregation, a bank building for a financial institution or, in the case of a collection of books accessible to the general public, a public library building, a building designed for the specific purpose of its user remains essential to display an image of stability, confidence, and permanence. The purpose of this thesis is to outline the solutions arrived at

¹The term "free public" library may seem redundant to library users today however at the end of the nineteenth century there existed several libraries that charged users a membership fee and were not accessible to much of the general public.

when a growing city asked a local architectural firm to design a public library.

The Edmonton Public Library² (figure 1, 1922-1923, demolished 1968) was designed by the Edmonton based architectural firm of George Heath MacDonald (1882-1961) and Herbert Alton Magoon (1862-1941). The history of the movement to construct a building in Edmonton to house the public library's books began in the year following the 1907 passage of the Alberta Public Libraries Act. In the 14 years between 1908 and 16 May 1922 when the commission for a public library building was officially given to MacDonald and Magoon, several factors which ultimately influenced the design of the library occurred. It is the purpose of this thesis to examine these influences and to attempt to interpret their importance on the design of the Edmonton Public Library which was opened to the public on 31 August 1923, 15 and one-half months after the initial commission date.

Many of the areas discussed in this thesis have not been addressed in the scholarship on Canadian architecture, therefore it is necessary to construct a solid framework that may be built upon with further research. The thesis has been divided into six chapters. The first chapter introduces the idea of the importance of a public library to a developing region and specifically the importance of a

²For the purposes of this discussion the term "Edmonton Public Library" denotes the Carnegie funded library in Edmonton, which is the focus of this thesis. The appellation Carnegie never appeared in the official title of the library however it was recognized as being a library supported by the American foundation.

public library to Edmonton, Alberta in early decades of the twentieth century. In chapter two a brief biography on Messrs. Magoon and MacDonald will be given. The purpose of this section is to describe the training as well as the outside sources that influenced these two architects. Chapter three will deal specifically with the patron for this commission, namely the Edmonton Public Library Board. In that section Edmonton's chief librarian E.L. Hill will be identified as a patron who carefully researched contemporary solutions to the demands being placed on libraries and effectively communicated his findings to the architect. Chapter four will briefly outline the role of the Carnegie Corporation. The funding offered by this American philanthropic society will be noted both in reference to the example in Edmonton as well as in other North American centres. In chapter five the design of the Edmonton Public Library will be addressed. Factors involved in the commission, the interior and exterior features and the stylistic sources drawn upon, the use of the site, and the access to builders and building materials will be discussed. The final chapter notes the significance of the building to the architectural heritage of Edmonton and concludes that the factors that directed the designing of the Edmonton Public Library were consistent to the influences faced by the architects MacDonald and Magoon.³

³Thanks to the generosity of John A. MacDonald, the nephew of George Heath MacDonald, who is in possession of his uncle's archive which includes most of the projects by the firm MacDonald and Magoon, who allowed unlimited access to the collection making the reconstruction of a very complete picture of the steps involved in the design process possible. Many of the original tender submissions, sketches, bills, and receipts have been preserved in the

Chapter One

The Importance of a Public Library to a Centre Such as Edmonton, Alberta

Any aspect of the history of Edmonton or its surrounding region must acknowledge that Western Canada's economic base has always depended on primary resources.⁴ Whether describing the earliest years of the fur trade industry and the establishment of Edmonton House in 1795 or the subsequent agrarian or petrochemical based economic periods of prosperity, all periods reflect similar stages of rapid growth and ultimately equally sharp economic declines. Connected to these periods of economic growth are increases in the population base which in turn drive the demands for a greater number of religious, financial, and public institutions. One of the results of a period of sustained prosperity and a deemed increase in confidence of future prosperity may be seen as the establishment of a public library. The establishment of a public library building, the focal site for

collection that is separated by project. The two bundles in connection to the Edmonton Public Library contain approximately 1500 pieces. Material included in this collection will hereafter be referred to as included in the architects' files.

⁴Several sources offer a general description of the economic history of the region which assists in an understanding of the role the economy has on the regional architecture. See for example Michael Bliss's Northern Enterprises: Five Centuries of Canadian Business (Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1987), Harold Adams Innis's Essays in Canadian Economic History (Toronto, University of Toronto Press, 1956), and W.T. Easterbrook and Hugh G.J. Aitken's Canadian Economic History (Toronto: Macmillan Co. of Canada, 1975).

that public institution, is a symbol of confidence.

As is evidenced by the passage of the Alberta Public Libraries Act in 1907 there was a perceived need for access to libraries for the general population in Alberta. It should not be difficult to comprehend the importance of public libraries in the era before radio, television or the multiple other avenues of information that are today taken for granted. On a paternalistic level there was the belief by politicians at both the provincial and municipal levels that a public library would better educate and indeed assimilate much of the newly arrived immigrant population. This attitude is subsumed in descriptions of the role of public libraries from the period and is reflected in material terms by the collections created during the early twentieth century. The belief that good "Canadians" could be made is a fundamental element to an increase in a desire for more public libraries.

As will be described in chapter three in connection with the Public Library Board, which acted as the patron of the public library, the history of the Carnegie Public Library was indeed influenced by economic fluctuations. Following the passage of the Alberta Public Libraries Act the stage was set for the construction of a public library in Edmonton. In 1908, as required by the Public Libraries Act, a petition on the question of establishing a public library was circulated to the citizens of Edmonton. The petition failed to receive the required number of

signatures.⁵ In 1909, under the careful guidance of the newly hired Inspector of Schools for the District of Strathcona, E.L. Hill, a second petition was circulated. This second petition was successful and a by-law was passed soon thereafter appointing a library board that was responsible for purchasing a suitable site and erecting a library building.

In June 1910 a site was purchased on College Avenue (later renamed MacDonald Drive) overlooking the North Saskatchewan River. At about the same time Andrew Carnegie, the founder and head of the American philanthropic society the Carnegie Corporation of New York City, was approached for a grant to cover the costs of erecting a building. As will be described in chapters three and four the procedure for procuring a grant tended to be more difficult than immediately evident and the requests of Edmonton in 1910 were fruitless. When a grant was finally offered to Edmonton it was judged by the applicants to be insufficient. The applicants believed that a larger sum was required since the

⁵The failure of the petition in 1909 has been blamed on a variety of reasons including the desire by the majority of the newly arrived settlers to advance themselves in material areas. It must also be recognized however that the majority of these same settlers were probably illiterate, single men, who saw no purpose in a public library. It is ironic that the belief that women and children stood to benefit the most from a public library may be seen as both the cause and effect of the failure of the first petition. As noted the small number of women and children in Edmonton probably contributed to the failure of the petition since single men would have been oblivious to the need for a library. However, the lack of a public library would have probably influenced the choices made by potential settlers who would choose a city being able to offer services, such as a public library, instead of Edmonton. The use of services such as a new public library in the promotion of a city to newly arriving settlers was essential to the establishment of a city such as Edmonton in the early 1900s as can be seen in various advertisements promoting the city to outside sources.

continued growth of the city required a building considerably larger than the one dictated by Carnegie's guidelines. The resolution of the conflict between what was requested by the applicant and the deemed need as judged by Andrew Carnegie, and later his secretary James Bertram, was eventually resolved. Following a further postponement due to the outbreak of the First World War, an amount, based on the population of Edmonton⁶, was agreed upon by both sides and the work on the designs for a library was finally begun in 1922.

It should not be assumed that the years between 1909, the year of the passage of the petition to establish a library, and 1922 witnessed a continual call by the general public for the establishment of a public library. Indeed a circulating library did exist in Edmonton beginning at least as early as 1913. What was lacking was a building built specifically to house a library. While the Edmonton public library was housed in temporary quarters (figure 2) there was a continual rise and fall in calls for a distinct structure that the citizens of Edmonton could call their own. The factor of envy for the libraries of other cities can not be overlooked as both Strathcona (1912-1913) and Calgary (1910-1912), a city that Edmonton was constantly competing with for potential settlers as well as business

⁶The amalgamation of Strathcona in February 1912 immediately increased the population of Edmonton but Andrew Carnegie's reaction to arguments for an increase in funding based on this met with little support.

interests, possessed Public Library buildings.⁷ When, in 1922, the Edmonton Public Library Board called for a report on the construction of a new building its recommendations included the selection of the local architectural firm of MacDonald and Magoon as the designers for the Carnegie Public Library.

⁷E.L. Hill, the librarian for Edmonton from 1912 until his retirement in 1936, had been librarian in Strathcona and Calgary before being hired by the city of Edmonton.

Chapter Two

The Architects

As can be seen in the typed report by the Select Committee on the proposed library dated 16 May 1922 the recommendation of Messrs. Magoon and MacDonald to be appointed architects was written in by hand (figure 3). It is difficult to ascertain with certainty why this local firm was chosen to design the Edmonton Public Library. The justification for the selection will be further developed in the next chapter but the decision to choose MacDonald and Magoon was probably dictated by the pressure placed on the city of Edmonton by the Carnegie Corporation to begin work in 1922 or risk losing the promised grant. Whatever the grounds were for the choice of Magoon and MacDonald as the architects it was seemingly a last minute decision. Prior to hypothesizing as to the rationale of the selection it is important to identify who these two architects were, their backgrounds, training, and their contributions to architecture in Canada.

Herbert Alton Magoon was born in Warwick, County Arthabaska, Québec, on 4 July 1863. His parents, of Loyalist stock, were born in the same area. His father, Jacob Magoon, worked as a farmer until his death in 1900. Herbert Magoon attended the district school before going to the Brother's College in

Arthabaska, and eventually the business college in Sherbrooke.⁸ He clerked in a store for a short period before relocating to Chicago, Illinois, where he found work as a bookkeeper. It was while he was in Chicago that he first explored his interest in the field of architecture. The details of Magoon's education leading to his entrance to the architectural profession are unclear, however, references to Magoon's "taking up the study of architecture" and his "working in Chicago and Oelwyne" before becoming an "architect" is consistent with the pre-twentieth century practise of apprenticeship training.⁹

By 1896 Magoon had opened an office in Oelwyne (Oelwein), Iowa where he worked for four years. He returned to Canada in 1900 when he was hired as Company Architect by the Dominion Iron and Steel Company in Sydney, Nova Scotia.¹⁰ He left that position in 1902 and remained in Sydney returning to private practise forming the first of the three partnerships in which he would be involved. Magoon's partnership with E.D. Falconer lasted only two years,

⁸Biographical information, which is sometimes contradictory, has been drawn and compared from sources including Archibald O. MacRae's History of the Province of Alberta, 1912, Vol. 2 pp 893-894, Magoon's obituaries from RAIC Journal Vol. 18, May 1941, p.40 and the Edmonton Bulletin 1 April 1941, p. 9.

⁹Ibid. This manner of training and the movement away from it towards the academically orientated system that remains in place to this day is discussed in Kelly Crossman's Architecture in Transition: From Art to Practice, 1885-1906 (Kingston and Montréal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1987).

¹⁰It was while he was employed by Dominion Iron And Steel that he was introduced to his future partner, at that point a young draughtsman, by the name of George Heath MacDonald.

however the firm of Falconer and Magoon is credited with the design of various buildings in Sydney. Their commissions included office buildings and stores, private residences, the Bethany Baptist Church, and the General Hospital in Sydney.¹¹ No examples of Magoon's work in the United States, and few examples of his work in Nova Scotia, have been traced therefore making it difficult to calculate the importance of this period on his subsequent career in Edmonton.

It may be assumed however that his initial training in business and his later experience as the Company Architect for the Dominion Iron and Steel Company may have had the greatest influence on his future career. His role in his partnership with MacDonald, as is evidenced in the Public Library, was consistently as the Supervising Architect/Office Manager rather than as the partner responsible for the designing process. This remains consistent with most architectural partnerships and is not a discounting of Magoon's contribution to his partnership with MacDonald. Magoon, being employed early in his career by a company that would have encouraged the engineering aspects of architecture versus the design process, continually displayed characteristics consistent with a nineteenth century "structural engineer/architect" versus a "designer." Magoon's business and engineering skills were complemented by his design partner Heath

¹¹Magoon's obituary states that "he laid plans for the General Hospital in Sydney, N.S." but there is no evidence that these plans were executed.

MacDonald.

Magoon arrived in Edmonton in March 1904, and soon thereafter opened an office. He remained in practise by himself until 1907. In 1907 he formed the partnership of Magoon, Hopkins and James. His association with Edward C. Hopkins, the former Alberta Provincial Architect, and P. Leonard James, was short-lived, lasting for less than one year. Magoon worked without any formal partners from 1908 to 1911 when MacDonald officially became a partner in the firm of Magoon and MacDonald. Magoon's work in Edmonton was eclectic both in terms of style and purpose. He is credited with over 306 projects in Edmonton.¹² Examples of his work from this period include the Y.M.C.A. (figure 4) from 1906, the Knox Presbyterian Church from 1907 (figure 5), and the Ruthenian Girls School (figure 6) from 1912. Magoon, being one of few licenced architects practising in the region during the early twentieth century, quickly laid a foundation for a career that continued until his retirement in 1938.

The younger George Heath MacDonald was born in Murray Harbor, North, Prince Edward Island 16 January 1882.¹³ His parents William and Mercy C.

¹²Since this calculation is based on the projects noted in the Appendix (see note # 23) it does not include any projects that Magoon was associated with outside of Edmonton. However, it may be stated with confidence that the 306 projects made up the majority of Magoon's oeuvre.

¹³Biographical information has been drawn from various sources including John Blue's Alberta, Past and Present, 1924, Vol. III, pp. 284-285, and MacDonald's obituary from the Edmonton Journal, 3 May 1961, p. 49. While the obituary states MacDonald was born in 1883 most sources cite 1882 as the year of his birth.

(Bears) MacDonald were both second generation Canadians coming from British and United States Loyalist roots respectively. The MacDonald family was involved in farming and lobster trapping. At an early age George Heath apparently took a strong dislike to these two career options and so actively pursued his ability as an artist. At the age of 16 he left Murray Harbor to work as a draughtsman with the Dominion Iron and Steel Company in Sydney. It was in Sydney that MacDonald's association with Magoon began, first as a draughtsman and ultimately as a partner.

Influenced by the decline in building in the Sydney region, and a corresponding increase in the optimism for the future of the Canadian West and the soon to be named provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, Magoon and MacDonald made their way West to Edmonton in 1904. MacDonald continued to work as a draughtsman with Magoon while he completed his High School matriculation at Alberta College during the 1904-1905 and 1905-1906 academic years.¹⁴

After initially considering the architecture school at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, MacDonald decided on what he later referred to as "the new

¹⁴At Alberta College MacDonald was active in the football (soccer) and hockey teams and served as the president of the Athletic Association for the 1905-1906 term. In a brief biography on MacDonald the Alberta College yearbook College Echoes 1905-06 notes that "...his hands were to draw the plans of Alberta College, his orders were to direct its erection; in return, the College was to equip him for his future work" (p. 22).

course at McGill."¹⁵ It is difficult to assess the importance of the period as a student at McGill University in Montréal on MacDonald's future work. However, some of the recorded events from the time begin to develop a picture of its lasting influence. At McGill MacDonald received an education based on the Beaux-Arts principles popular at the time.¹⁶ In 1960 he noted that his schooling at McGill included a:

thorough knowledge of construction and of the work of the past, including the necessary utilitarian courses, [that] provided solid groundwork, lacking somewhat in general educational subjects such as Latin, which [he believed] would be of value to the student.¹⁷

The only student work located is a exercise for a third-year design problem dated March 1910. The work labelled "Design for a Clock Tower, Plans and Elevations" (figure 7) is the work of an already confident and mature draughtsman. This attempt to find a design solution for a hypothetical structure, whether a museum, stock exchange, or in this case a clock tower, has a long tradition in architectural training and is consistent with the approach taken by many architectural schools, including McGill, during the early twentieth century.

While a student at McGill, MacDonald encountered the architect and teacher

¹⁵This information is contained in a letter dated 17 October 1960 from G.H. MacDonald to John Bland, Director of the School of Architecture, McGill University. The letter was in response to a questionnaire sent out by Professor Bland to graduates of the School of Architecture.

¹⁶Crossman, Architecture in Transition.

¹⁷Ibid.

Percy Erskine Nobbs who he described as one of "two of this century's pioneer Canadian educators."¹⁸ MacDonald also received practical training during the summers including the summer of 1908 when he worked as a draughtsman in the office of Edward and William S. Maxwell. That firm's "Draughtsman's Time" sheets from November 1901 to March 1909 record the projects MacDonald was associated with which included work for a variety of corporate and individual clients.¹⁹ It is also important to recognize that during the years MacDonald spent in Montréal he began to develop a strong network of friends and colleagues which he utilized throughout his professional career.

At the most basic level the time spent in Eastern Canada would have subjected MacDonald to the region's architecture. His travel through Canadian cities that were experiencing rapid growth was supplemented by time spent in established centres.²⁰ While it was not unusual for architects from any period to

¹⁸This description is included in the dedication to MacDonald's Fort Augustus, Edmonton: Northwest Trails and Traffic (Edmonton: Douglas Printing, 1954). The other was Dr. John H. Riddell who was also a founding member of the Edmonton Public Library Board.

¹⁹The text of the draughtsman's time sheets are in the collection of drawings, letters etc. from the offices of William and Edward Maxwell held by in the Canadian Architecture Collection, Blackader-Lauterman Library of Art and Architecture, McGill University (Montréal).

²⁰Although there exists no record it may be safely hypothesized that MacDonald travelled to centres in the American North East during his school years. With the striking similarities of the Edmonton Carnegie Public Library and the Public Library of Boston, Massachusetts it is possible that MacDonald had seen and sketched this structure. For support of this theory see John Bland's "Overnight Trains to Boston and New York Made Montreal 'American', in Selected Papers from the Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada, Vol.II, edited by Christine Cameron and Martin Segger. Annual Meeting, 1977. Ottawa: Society for the Study

travel, the necessity to examine examples of various building types and the most up-to-date solutions to technological and design solutions has always been essential for regional architects and was a practise followed extensively by MacDonald, Magoon, and many of their patrons. The importance of on site examination of design solutions used in other locations and the use of other libraries as a model for the Edmonton library will be discussed in detail in chapter five.

MacDonald graduated with honours in 1911, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Architecture from McGill University. Upon his return to Edmonton his continued association with Magoon was formally recognized and the firm Magoon and MacDonald was formed. From the outset of the partnership it is evident that MacDonald assumed the role of designer and complemented Magoon's ability to act as the office manager who attracted clients. However, by the early 1920s MacDonald was becoming responsible for more and more of the managerial tasks as well as continuing in his role as the design partner of the firm. MacDonald's contributions were recognized with the name of the firm being changed to MacDonald and Magoon beginning in 1922.²¹ MacDonald and

of Architecture in Canada, 1982.

²¹The importance of this change does not seem to have been dictated by any ill will between the partners but rather as an acknowledgment by the elder Magoon of the contributions made by his partner MacDonald. An exact date for the change in name is difficult to ascertain since both versions were used throughout correspondence and in legal contracts, building applications, etc. for much of the early 1920s. It is important to note however that a large majority of the correspondence in relation to the Carnegie Library and all of the drawings show the name of the firm as MacDonald and Magoon.

Magoon remained partners until Magoon's retirement in 1938. MacDonald retired in 1958 after a career that spanned over 40 years as a licenced architect.

In addition to MacDonald's work and associations as an architect he was a founding member of the Edmonton Art Club, did work as a writer, being commissioned by the federal government to research and write two texts on early Edmonton history, and was an avid traveller and sports enthusiast. During the First World War he worked for the federal government in Toronto and Montréal supervising munition supplies.²² During the Second World War he designed several municipal aircraft hangers and other airport buildings that were used on the Northwest staging route to the Yukon. The importance of MacDonald's eclectic interests and his extensive travels across North America, which is documented in his firm's correspondence, influenced much of his work and must be acknowledged. For the purpose of this thesis MacDonald's travels are relevant to his design for Edmonton's Carnegie Public Library.

As already noted the firm of MacDonald and Magoon formed what must be called the most prolific if not the most successful architectural firm in the history of Edmonton. Their commissions included several building types in a variety of

²²Sources state that MacDonald worked in the United States during the First World War but there is no record of duration or location. Since MacDonald's son Alan Stewart was born in Québec in 1919 it is apparent that MacDonald spent some time in that province during 1919.

architectural styles (see Appendix).²³ Much of the partner's early work illustrates an ability to adapt to the wishes of clients from a variety of backgrounds rather than any adherence to popular styles or trends. It may be argued that their work was innovative and evidence of their innovative approach will be outlined in relation to Edmonton's Carnegie Public Library. However, due to the very nature of many of the firm's early patrons most designs either recalled the previous locales of newly arrived residents or were humble structures that were concerned less with stylistic innovations than with functionality.

MacDonald and Magoon were constantly aware of outside influences both by architectural periodicals and by firsthand examinations either by themselves or their well travelled and knowledgeable patrons. The sources that the Edmonton Public Library Board cited in its report on the future building are indicative of a patron knowing, within very strict parameters, what they required. It was not unusual for patrons to dictate their wishes to MacDonald and Magoon and the firm to carry out those wishes with little alteration. In many instances, including the commission of the Carnegie Public Library, the plans were required within a very short time frame. It may be argued that the time limitations placed on the architects dictated few innovations.

It merits mention that while most scholarship on the study of architecture

²³This appendix was created from work that the author did in connection with the City of Edmonton Building Permits issued between 1905 and 1941 where all permits issued to "architects" were entered onto a database and sorted in a variety of manners.

in Canada discusses the flow of stylistic influences from Central Canada to the West, there is evidence in the oeuvre of MacDonald and Magoon that there also existed a flow in the reverse direction. Supported by a network of satisfied clients who returned to the East, there are examples of requests for designs by clients in American cities such as New York City, New York and Rock Island, Illinois and several Canadian cities including an April 1948 design for the "Canadian Red Cross Society Proposed Blood Transfusion Depot" in Montréal. The evidence that there existed a network of both clients and architects that MacDonald and Magoon associated with is relevant to this discussion only in the sense that the label "regional architects" often carries connotations that are neither correct nor helpful in understanding the design concerns of many architects working throughout Canada.

Chapter Three

The Patron

Prior to examining the designs produced by Messrs. MacDonald and Magoon it is important to address the role played by the patron of the Edmonton Public Library. As with any commission the patron must be considered as influential in explaining to the architects the requirements that their designs must fulfil. The success of the design for the Edmonton Public Library was dictated by the relationship between the patron and the architect. It will be shown that the knowledge of the patron, and specifically those contributions offered by the chief librarian E.L. Hill, directed the designs produced by the architects. The ability of the patron to communicate successfully his wishes to MacDonald and Magoon allowed the architects to develop quickly designs. The plans, which were immediately accepted by the Carnegie Corporation, show advancements in library design principles clothed in a facade sympathetic to both site and surrounding buildings.

The history of the Edmonton Public Library Board begins on 30 November 1909 with the appointment of its first board. The members of that first board were Mayor Robert Lee (ex-officio), K.W. MacKenzie, B.A., Hon. N.D. Beck, Ald. J.E. Lundy, C. Ross Palmer, Louis Madore, and Professor J.H. Riddell.

The actions of the Edmonton Public Library Board members between 1909 and 1923, when the new Public Library building was officially opened, illustrate the role played by a knowledgeable patron. It is important to recognize that the influence of the patron in this commission included both the application of funds from the Carnegie Corporation as well as the directing of designs by the architects.

The minutes of the Edmonton Public Library Board between 1909 and 1923 outline periods of intense interest in the commissioning of a new building followed by periods where other matters dominated the board's attention.²⁴ To better appreciate the concerns faced by the board their actions need to be divided into two sections. The first area of concern to the board was with the daily operations of the library. To meet the objectives of serving the Edmonton population, library operations were initiated in temporary quarters on 27 March 1913.²⁵ The second area of concern to the board was with the construction of a permanent building that reflected the confidence of the board members in the future of Edmonton.

The daily operations of the library, the actual lending of books to the general population officially began in 1913. The hiring of E.L. Hill was important in relation to both the daily functioning of the library and, as will be discussed

²⁴Some of the other concerns faced by the board members included the difficulties in securing adequate funding from the Carnegie Corporation and the rise in hostilities connected to the outbreak of the First World War.

²⁵Operations began at the Strathcona Public Library on 13 March 1913. Strathcona had been amalgamated to Edmonton in 1912 but the plans for the library in Strathcona were initiated prior to the amalgamation.

below, in terms of the future of new building campaign. Before the 1923 opening of the new library, the Edmonton Public Library was housed in 1913 over a liquor store and a butcher shop in the Chisholm Block (Jasper Avenue and 104 Street). Concurrent to applying for funds for a new building from the Carnegie Corporation, the library was moved first to the Roberts Block (102 Street and 102 Avenue) on 28 October 1914 and then to the Civic Block (99 Street and 102 Avenue) on 15 September 1917 to save funds during the war years. Each of these temporary locations was in cramped quarters that reinforced the belief held by the public that a permanent site was needed for the Edmonton Public Library. Lending figures recording during the first calendar year of operations show that 279,392 volumes were lent by the two branches of Edmonton's libraries to a population of approximately 63,000.²⁶

While not documented by any source it must have been acknowledged by the general population that Strathcona (by February 1912 part of Edmonton) and Calgary, a city that Edmontonians gauged their progress against, both had structures whereas Edmonton continued to rent small inefficient and quite unattractive quarters. It seems fair to state that civic competition and jealousy contributed to a growing impetus to build Edmonton's first public library.

This attestation is further supported with the hiring of E.L. Hill in 1909.

²⁶Lending figures quoted in the "Historical Sketch: Edmonton Public Library" published in the brochure Opening of the New Building, MacDonald Drive, August 30th, 1923, p. 3.

Prior to his arrival Hill had been employed as Science Master of the Calgary High School and Secretary-Treasurer of the Calgary Public Library. He was an original member of the Calgary Public Library Board and had previously served as the Science Master of the Guelph Collegiate Institute and was connected to the Public Library in Guelph, Ontario. He had been involved in the establishment of both cities' new libraries and contributed to each city's Carnegie library building grant applications and eventual design campaigns. Hill's arrival in Strathcona coincided with the second circulation of a petition for a public library; the first one being unsuccessful. It is impossible to quantify the contribution Hill may have made to the success of the second petition however his contributions to the establishment of a permanent public library in Edmonton may be calculated with some precision.

Soon after the amalgamation of Strathcona to Edmonton, E.L. Hill was asked to assume the position of librarian for the city's two libraries.²⁷ Since the Edmonton Public Library had not yet initiated the circulation of books the task before Hill was concerned with the commencement of lending books as well as in finding a home for the North Edmonton branch library. With the opening of the Strathcona Public Library on 13 March 1913 the South Edmonton community had both a permanent home and circulation services. Edmontonians on the North side of the North Saskatchewan River had to wait for two weeks until 27 March 1913

²⁷Minutes of the Edmonton Public Library Board for 19 September 1912.

before they could borrow books and for another ten years until August 1923 before they saw the opening of a new Edmonton Public Library building.

Both prior to and concurrent with the introduction of lending services the application procedure for funding by the Carnegie Corporation was pursued by the Edmonton Public Library Board. While the Carnegie Corporation had granted the sum of \$60,000 (later increased to \$71,000 in 1913) this amount was deemed as insufficient by the board members precipitating a further delay in the commencement of the designing and eventual construction of a new building. Minutes from the 19 July 1912 board meeting state that the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved that in view of Mr. Carnegie having stated that \$60,000 is the largest sum he is disposed to grant to the City of Edmonton for a public library, this Board is of the opinion that this sum is insufficient for the purpose; that it is undesirable that the City should accept any sum which it would be necessary for the City to supplement with the consequence that the library erected only partly at Mr. Carnegie's expense should bear his name and be subject to his conditions; and that therefore this Board is of opinion that further negotiations with Mr. Carnegie be dropped, that in event of the City Council being of the same opinion this Board recommends that they consider the question of submitting to the ratepayers a Bylaw for raising a sufficient sum to construct a first unit of a Municipal Public Library.²⁸

This resolution was adopted in response to a letter from Andrew Carnegie addressed to Edmonton's Mayor Armstrong stating, in definitive terms, that

²⁸Minutes of the Edmonton Public Library Board for 19 July 1912.

\$60,000 would be the maximum contribution available to Edmonton. Carnegie further stated that this amount would only be forthcoming after firm guarantees were established on the amount to be contributed by the city's taxpayers.²⁹

The resolution passed 19 July 1912 seems to indicate an end to the negotiations for any grant from the Carnegie Corporation. A subsequent letter to James Bertram, secretary to Andrew Carnegie, dated 12 September 1912 takes an almost apologetic tone. The letter argues that the criteria for funding from the Carnegie Corporation for public libraries is prejudicial against a Western Canadian city that has a constantly increasing population. The letter further states that "it would be necessary to consider building values here [in Edmonton] as 50% dearer than in New York."³⁰ The letter concludes in light of these facts would Mr. Carnegie please reconsider his \$60,000 limit. The response to this and further calls for an increase in funding met with very limited sympathy.

In a letter from the Carnegie Corporation dated 15 January 1913 an increase of \$15,000 to a maximum of \$75,000 was offered. Enclosed with this letter was a copy of the pamphlet Notes on Library Buildings which offered guidelines on the

²⁹The tone of the resolution follows very closely the wording used by the Strathcona Library Board members who had similar problems with Carnegie funding. The concern over the appellation of Carnegie Public Library is also evident in other applications. The correspondence to the Carnegie Corporation relating to the application for funding is available on microfilm. For the purpose of this thesis the correspondence from Guelph, Ontario, Calgary and Edmonton, Alberta was carefully examined.

³⁰Letter from the City Clerk, city of Edmonton, Alberta, dated 12 September 1912. Carnegie Correspondence reel number 9.

plans and designs acceptable for a public library. In response to this increase the Edmonton City Council passed a resolution on 19 February 1913 that

...this Committee recommend that the Library Board prepare plans of a building suitable for the needs of the City of Edmonton, to cost not over \$200,000.00 and when these plans are prepared, that they be submitted to Carnegie Corporation by the Commissioners for their approval, and also asking for the grant of \$75,000.00 and that the City of Edmonton be permitted to furnish the balance of the money to complete the building.³¹

An additional letter from Edmonton's Industrial Commissioners' Office dated 9 January 1914 states that plans have been called for and that the Public Library Board is attempting to purchase sites surrounding the site already owned to ensure the proposed building will not be "cramped or dwarfed by its surroundings."³² The next correspondence on file with the Carnegie Corporation is dated 25 October 1917 and is signed by "E.L. Hill, Librarian." Aside from the passage of a resolution by the City Council there is no evidence found in any source that any actions were taken between 1913 and 1917 when Hill restarted actions leading to the eventual commencement of a building campaign. The interest expressed by Hill was preempted by a letter addressed to him from the secretary of the Carnegie Corporation dated 27 October 1919 stating that no application for library buildings or increases in grants would be considered "while the abnormal conditions prevail

³¹Resolution reprinted in a letter dated 24 February 1913 to the Carnegie Corporation. *Ibid.*

³²Letter signed by Geo. M. Hall, Industrial Commissioner, dated 9 January 1914. *Ibid.*

which have been created by the War."³³

As noted above the continued increase in circulation demands precipitated the relocation to larger premises in 1914. The need to save money further dictated a move to less expensive quarters in 1917. The move to larger and then less costly locations only reinforced the need for outside funding. To this end the increased activity by E.L. Hill, who had previously been involved in successful applications for the cities of Guelph and Calgary, can not be overlooked. By 1921, following a period of economic recovery and after the cessation of the hostilities connected to the First World War, it was decided that inquires as to funding should be continued.

An examination of the minutes from the Edmonton Public Library Board between 1921 and 1923, including the report of the Select Committee appointed to deal with the question of the proposed Carnegie Library building, and the Carnegie Corporation correspondence outlines how both the applicant and funding body, and ultimately the architectural firm MacDonald and Magoon, interacted to produce a building that reflected the perceived needs of a growing city and the wishes of an American philanthropic society. By 1921 both the funding agency and the Edmonton Public Library Board were anxious to arrive at a solution.

A typed submission (with handwritten inserts) to the Edmonton Public

³³Letter from the Carnegie Corporation to E.L. Hill, dated 27 October 1919. Ibid.

Library Board dated 10 March 1921 recommends that negotiations be re-entered with the Carnegie Corporation for the purpose of funding a public library.³⁴ The letter states that:

...in the opinion of this Board it is expedient and in the interests of the people of this city that a suitable building be erected for the purposes of the central library; that therefore it be referred to a Select Committee to take [handwritten insert of "to be composed of the Chairman, and Mrs. Cogswell, Mr. Howson, and the librarian"] what steps may be deemed necessary to ascertain:

(a) whether a suitable site may be secured in exchange for the present property of the Board [this was crossed out];

(b) whether a grant in aid of the Public Library and the erection of such library building can be secured from the Carnegie Commission, sufficient in amount to defray the cost or the greater portion of the cost thereof, [handwritten insert "such grant to be not less than \$100,000.00"] and that the said Committee report therein to this Board as early as convenient.

The mandate of the Select Committee was to ascertain whether funding was still available from the Carnegie Corporation for the construction of public libraries and whether the previously offered maximum of \$75,000 could be raised to a minimum of \$100,000. The response by the Select Committee contained six elements.

The "Report Regarding Carnegie Building" (14 April 1921) noted that negotiations in this matter had been carried out since 1910. It further recalled that

³⁴The submission is enclosed as an insert to the minutes of the Edmonton Public Library Board (paginated as p. 263A).

an original offer of \$60,000 had been increased to \$75,000 and that funding applications had been interrupted by the outbreak of the war. It offered that the Select Committee was of the opinion that the time for renewing negotiations had arrived since the hostilities had ended and the prices of construction materials had become more favourable. The committee, noting that the amount of a grant was based on population, suggested that the application be postponed only until the release of the most recent Dominion Census and that the application be based on this new information.

The report went on to ask the Public Library Board to consider whether the site currently owned by the library should be used or exchanged for another site, what provisions for future expansion of the building should be considered, what the total expenditure for the building should be, whether the plan and general design features should be decided upon at this time, whether the services of a local or outside architect should be retained and whether a competition for the designs should be held, and whether the Mayor and City Council should be approached in view of a joint action respecting the whole scheme.³⁵

The elements of this report show that by 14 April 1921 little progress had been made in procuring what was considered by the Edmonton Public Library Board as adequate funding for the construction of a Carnegie Public Library in

³⁵Included as an insert to the minutes of the Edmonton Public Library Board, dated 14 April 1921 (paginated as p. 268A and p. 268B).

Edmonton. Other salient points contained in this report were that the cost of materials had returned to more favourable levels and that matters including site, plans and general architectural features, and the selection of an architect had yet to be addressed. In a letter from E.L. Hill to James Bertram dated 17 November 1921 the negotiations for funding from the Carnegie Corporation were reopened for a final time. In the letter of 17 November 1921 Hill states:

We have been considering plans, and some of us thought that a building something of the type of the Somerville Library would be satisfactory. When I was East in 1914 I took occasion to visit the libraries in a number of American cities, including Washington, Boston, Springfield, and Somerville. I am, of course, pretty familiar with the Toronto libraries.³⁶

The letter goes on to describe the increase in circulation activities by the Edmonton Public Library. In the concluding sentence Hill states "our board hopes to take up with you very shortly the matter of grant [sic] for a building."³⁷

A letter to James Bertram dated 7 December 1921 co-signed by L.T. Barclay and E.L. Hill for the Edmonton Library Board and Mayor D.M. Duggan and the city clerk for the city of Edmonton applies for that grant for a building.³⁸

³⁶Letter from E.L. Hill to James Bertram dated 17 November 1921. Carnegie Correspondence reel number 9.

³⁷Ibid.

³⁸The letter that was sent to Bertram is contained in the Carnegie Correspondence reel number 9 dated 7 December 1921. A draft labelled "Draft for the Consideration of Board" is included in the minutes of the Edmonton Public Library Board. The final version remained unchanged from the early draft.

The letter noted many of the factors already mentioned, including the rapid and continued rise in the population of the city and the cost of building in Edmonton, that were hoped to solicit a sympathetic response to an increase in the funding.

An application for \$150,000 was defended on the grounds that:

The city of Edmonton is the capital of the Province of Alberta; it is the seat of the Provincial University of Alberta and it is an important and rapidly developing railway and commercial city. The character of the Provincial Parliament Buildings, of the group of the buildings of the Provincial University, of the other public buildings of the city, and the proximity of an hotel which has cost over a million dollars to erect, make it desirable that the Library building should be to some degree in keeping with its immediate surroundings.³⁹

The argument that a library building for a city of Edmonton's present and future stature was carefully presented using all possible means. The considerations placed before the Carnegie Corporation were not however unique. Almost all of the cities that returned to the Carnegie Corporation for an increase in funding presented a similar scenario. The step that quite possibly ensured an increase in funding for the Edmonton building was a personal interview with James Bertram by L.T. Barclay, the chairman of the Edmonton Public Library Board and Edmonton Mayor D.M. Duggan.

For the purpose of soliciting increased funding Barclay and Duggan travelled to New York City to meet with Bertram and plead their case. The meeting took place 13 February 1922. A letter from Bertram dated 27 April 1922

³⁹Ibid.

approved funds, based on the acceptance of plans, in the amount of \$112,500. The city of Edmonton would contribute the amount of \$37,500 for a building not to exceed the value of \$150,000. The question of funding had been solved but several other questions, including the selection of an architect and site for the new library, remained.

Minutes from the 13 April 1922 Public Library Board meeting note that the question of possible sites was discussed. The minutes state that a committee made up of the chairman L.T. Barclay, Mayor D.M. Duggan, and John MacDonald were appointed "to act with the city architect and city engineer to examine various library sites with a view to comparing relative costs of erection of a building thereon."⁴⁰ There remained a possibility of the Library Board securing an alternative site to the one already owned on MacDonald Drive or purchasing surrounding sites to ensure that a new building would not be overwhelmed by future buildings. As well, the question of architect and the possibility that the commission would go to a non-local architect, a local architect or even the office of the City Architect remained. These concerns were addressed in the report of the Select Committee respecting the proposed new building dated 16 May 1922 (figure 3).⁴¹

⁴⁰Minutes of the Edmonton Public Library Board from 13 April 1922.

⁴¹This report was included in the minutes to the Edmonton Public Library Board. The report was mostly typed but some handwritten additions were made.

The report included five points respecting the new building. The first three points deal specifically with the selection of site. The conclusion drawn by the Select Committee was that the MacDonald Drive site should be used. The basis for this recommendation was ostensibly the fact that the site was purchased pursuant to the by-law passed 21 June 1910. However, since the applicants had promoted the MacDonald Drive location as centrally located and in proximity to a fine new hotel (the Hotel MacDonald) the rationale for maintaining the site was probably never really in question. The consideration of alternative locations for the library will be discussed further in reference to MacDonald and Magoon's designs and the purposes that the building was designed to serve.

The fourth point addressed by the Select Committee's report deals specifically with the plans for the building. It is the first time that any mention of the actual look of the proposed building appears. It suggests the library buildings to be considered both for the exterior modelling and the interior plan. It notes that:

As to Plans. Your Committee have also taken into consideration the matter of Plans of the proposed Library. They are in favour of the erection of a building oblong in form, comprising one storey and high basement, with lantern lighting, to be built in stone and brick and conforming as nearly as may be to the elevations of the Library erected by the City of Washington, D.C. and the interior plan of the Somerville, Massachusetts Library [handwritten addition] and the Springfield, Massachusetts Library.⁴²

⁴²Ibid.

The general appearance, method of lighting, material to be used, and the sources for the exterior and interior design are noted in the brief description. The late addition of the Springfield, Massachusetts Library as a source to be examined for interior planning would be repeated in the selection of architect.

The fifth and final point addressed by the Select Committee dealt with the preparation of plans. Questions surrounding the selection of architect had been mentioned in previous minutes of the Public Library Board however no position had been taken on issues including whether a local or non-local architect should be hired or whether the plans should be selected following a competition. These points were ultimately addressed in point five which stated:

In view of the urgency of the matter and the request of the Carnegie Corporation of New York for the early submission for their approval of the Library Plans, and having regard to the delay and expense which would be entailed if the preparation of plans should be submitted to a competition amongst architects, your Committee are of the opinion that no such competition be recommended, and that the appointment of an architect should forthwith be made. They therefore recommend that [handwritten addition] "Messrs. Magoon and MacDonald" be appointed architects for and on behalf of the Board at such remuneration as shall be agreed upon and subject to such supervision and direction by the Board as may from time to time be prescribed by the Board.⁴³

The concerns raised in this passage as to the need to produce plans quickly to satisfy a request by the Carnegie Corporation, the decision to avoid the delay caused by a competition, and the recommendation of MacDonald and Magoon as

⁴³ibid.

architects, merit close analysis.

As Robert M. Lester, the secretary of the Carnegie Corporation of New York noted "by 1917 the Carnegie Corporation discontinued the practise of making grants for the erection of library buildings...."⁴⁴ However, in the case of Edmonton and other cities that had initiated a grant application prior to 1917, the offer of a grant for the erection of a public library was respected within certain time limits. The tone of urgency noted in the Select Committee's report is a direct reference to the implied suggestions by Bertram that the building should be begun during the 1922 building season or the offer of funding by the Carnegie Corporation might possibly be withdrawn.⁴⁵ With this in mind it seems that much more remarkable that the total amount of the grant was increased to \$112,500 at such a late date, in fact five years after the applications for grants were officially discontinued.

The next concern addressed in the final point of the Select Committee's report suggested that "having regard to the delay and expense... if the preparation of plans should be submitted to a competition amongst architects... the

⁴⁴Robert M. Lester, Forty Years of Giving: A Summary of the Benefactions of Andrew Carnegie and of the Work of the Philanthropic Trusts Which He Created (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1941), p. 92.

⁴⁵This was suggested in various letters by Bertram and acknowledged by Hill as well as other members of the Edmonton Public Library Board in their correspondence.

appointment of an architect should forthwith be made."⁴⁶ This suggestion implies that a competition would be preferred if time and money allowed. It must however be acknowledged that architectural competitions were almost non-existent in Edmonton during this period.⁴⁷ That a competition was considered by the committee points out the committee's wish to have designs of quality.

The final point dealt with by the Select Committee was the recommendation that Messrs. MacDonald and Magoon be appointed as architects. As previously noted it must be appreciated that the names of these architects were written in by hand whereas the rest of the passage had been typed. That the architects had not been officially selected until the meeting held 16 May 1922, when the Select Committee's report was voted on and accepted, (see bottom of figure 3, "Carried" and signed by "L.B." L.T. Barclay) begins to illustrate the speed in which the designs were produced. Since the recommendation of MacDonald and Magoon had not been referred to anywhere else it is difficult to positively identify why they were selected.

⁴⁶Ibid.

⁴⁷The rareness of architectural competitions in the Edmonton area dates back to the commissioning of the Alberta Legislature which was designed by the Provincial Architect. Other Provinces such as Saskatchewan and Manitoba held much publicized competitions but Alberta decided not to hold a competition for the design. In the case of the Public Library Building the decision not to hold a competition, due to lack of time and the additional expense, is symptomatic of other instances where competitions were decided against. Recalling that the economy of the region was in a constant state of flux it seems fair to say that the rapid shifts in building cycles influenced the limited number of architectural competitions.

Some factors may be offered which indicate that the selection of MacDonald and Magoon was neither rushed nor poorly considered. In fact, the selection of the Edmonton based architectural firm was in keeping with what E.L. Hill would have probably wanted since it allowed his close supervision of the design process. As already noted Hill was aware of library buildings throughout Canada and the Northern United States and was experienced in what would be required for the approval of designs by the Carnegie Corporation. Hill, as librarian and someone who would ultimately work in the structure to be designed, had researched the problems faced by other library buildings. The contributions of Hill in the design process which was expedited due to severe time constraints can not be overlooked.

As already noted Hill had been associated with the application for funds from the Carnegie Corporation and subsequent building campaigns for the Guelph, Ontario and later Calgary, Alberta library buildings. The correspondence between the Carnegie Corporation and these two cities describes two pictures each of which is noticeably different from that described in regards to Edmonton's application and eventual building campaign. In addition to the correspondence an inspection of the library buildings in these two centres shows how Hill had revised his views on the purpose of a library building and ultimately aligned himself to the mandate of a library as "effective accommodation" which was part of the doctrine as

espoused by Andrew Carnegie.⁴⁸

The designs for the Guelph Public Library (figure 8, 1901-1902), produced by the Guelph architect W. Frye Colwill, were severely criticized as:

having chosen a grandiloquent and expensive exterior, and allowed the interior to take care of itself. The exterior seems to be what has been called the 'pillarsham' style. The floor plan is so inadequate that it seems hardly worth while to criticise it in detail. There is no children's room, nor librarian's office, nor catalogue room.... It is difficult to get a good floor plan with a corner entrance....⁴⁹

These criticisms were addressed at least in part by Colwill and the application for a grant of \$20,000 was approved by Bertram in December 1902.⁵⁰ This amount was eventually increased to \$24,000. The correspondence between the Carnegie Corporation and the representatives of the Guelph library contain few references to E.L. Hill, however it may be assumed that Hill was aware of the problems encountered in the application and building design. The shortcomings of Colwill's design were avoided in both the Calgary and later the Edmonton designs which

⁴⁸While the full extent of the role played by E.L. Hill in the application and design process for Guelph is difficult to identify it is known that during the period of the application he was employed by the Guelph Public Library and he was aware of the application procedure and the eventual selection of architect and design.

⁴⁹The comments were offered by Edwin H. Anderson, chief librarian of the Pittsburgh Carnegie Public Library, who was requested to review the plans of Colwill in response to the application to increase the grant to Guelph by \$5000 to a total of \$25,000. A copy of the letter is contained in the Carnegie Correspondence under Guelph, Ontario reel number 10.

⁵⁰The early applications for the funding of public library buildings was not attached to the approval of designs however by the time Edmonton was requesting funding all designs had to be accepted prior to the approval of grant applications.

were readily accepted by the Carnegie Corporation.

Hill moved to Calgary in August 1907 and began his association with the Calgary Public Library Board. Hill's involvement with the Calgary application for funding from the Carnegie Corporation began with letters promoting the merits of Calgary and the needs for a Free Public Library in a developing Western Canadian city. His contribution to the selection of architect and final designs are also documented in various correspondence. By identifying some of the steps taken by Hill, on behalf of the Calgary Public Library Board, in securing funding for their library building, a correction of the mistakes made in connection to the Guelph structure may be seen. As well, the experiences Hill drew upon in reference to the later Edmonton application and building campaign begin to come into focus.

A letter from Hill to James Bertram dated 24 August 1908 is indicative of the approach taken by Hill in the selection and direction he offered to designing architects. After the problems encountered with the design for the Guelph building when the question of designing architect was introduced in Calgary Hill wrote a letter to Bertram and asked him whether he could:

suggest the names of any architects who have planned such a building as we propose to erect. You may recollect that Mr. Carnegie's proposed gift is \$50,000. If you have any sketches, plans or pictures of such a building as we could likely erect for the sum named, we shall be grateful for such assistance.... We shall also be grateful for information as to procedure regarding Mr. Carnegie's

approval of plans....⁵¹

A subsequent letter from Hill to Bertram dated 4 November 1908 states:

we have accepted plans of Messrs. McLean and Wright... the plans submitted are in our judgement superior to anything we have seen elsewhere. The building proposed embraces all the best features of modern library construction.⁵²

Hill's statements that the plans were superior to anything the board had seen elsewhere and that the designs "embraced all the best features of modern library construction" were supported in a letter from another member of the Calgary board, R.B. Bennett. Bennett's letter dated 16 April 1909 states that McLean and Wright were chosen following a call for designs from Canadian and American architects.⁵³

The most noticeable difference between the Guelph and Calgary buildings (figure 9, 1910-1911) is in the exterior features. The much criticized aspect of the Guelph Public Library Building, the use of a corner entrance was eliminated. The entrance on one side of the square plan allowed for easier circulation within the interior. Exterior ornamentation was limited with local Paskapoo sandstone being

⁵¹Letter from Hill to Bertram dated 24 August 1908, signed as E.L. Hill, Secretary, Calgary Library Board, contained in the Carnegie Corporation Correspondence reel number 5.

⁵²Ibid.

⁵³This statement is made in a letter from R.B. Bennett, future Member of Parliament and Prime Minister of Canada who was a member of the Calgary Public Library Board, dated 16 April 1909. The fact that persons of the stature of Bennett were members of Public Library Boards shows the importance placed on the selection of the boards during this period.

the dominant material surmounted by a copper roof which already being identified as an element common to many public buildings in Canada.⁵⁴

By 1911 when the Calgary Public Library was officially opened Hill was no longer employed by the Calgary Public Library Board. However, the experiences gained by Hill in connection to the designing of the Calgary and Guelph library buildings influenced his role as a member of the Edmonton Public Library Board. The importance of the contributions of a librarian in the design of library buildings is supported by comments from George H. (John) Locke, chief librarian for the city of Toronto during the early twentieth century. Locke's essay "Some Warnings in Regard to Planning Libraries" was directed at the architects and elected officials who did not seek the advice of librarians such as Hill. Locke stated:

No Library ought to be planned for any size of a community without the aid of a librarian who has had the experience in library planning. He is just as useful to the community which hopes to build as is an architect, because he can appreciate the problem from a professional point of view and can see the necessities from the social and practical point of view of the community to be served. Then comes the architect to whom the problem is now put in plain understandable terms, and he is asked to make the proportionate spaces and house in the plan in such a way that the exterior will be attractive and the inside economically efficient, and with such building materials and finish as will make for comfort, attractiveness and a minimum of expenditure for maintenance.

⁵⁴The use of a copper roof in building, while a feature common in centres such as Ottawa (e.g. The Parliament Buildings, Supreme Court of Canada, etc.), was not a common feature in Western Canadian architecture due to the severity of the winters.

One cannot expect Library Boards to know what is wanted. They are made up of men from as many vocations in life as there are members, and the bad examples of library construction are due almost entirely to a Board commissioning a local architect to build a library to cost say \$15,000, without any thought of asking the Inspector of the Public Libraries or any of the active librarians of the province to give them any advice. It is a clear case too often of the blind teaching the blind - and the monument of their folly can be seen in too many of our towns.⁵⁵

Where other Library Boards may have chosen not to seek the advice of librarians Edmonton's E.L. Hill was active throughout the design process of the Edmonton Public Library Building.

A final factor that deserves mention in regards to the probable influence played by Hill on the designs produced by MacDonald and Magoon stems from the fact that Hill's daughter, E. Marjorie Hill, was employed by the architects during the period of the library building's design. While the importance of this fact can not be overlooked, the role played by a novice architect, such as E. Marjorie Hill, on a project of the magnitude of the Edmonton Public Library, in an architects office in the early twentieth century, should not be over emphasized. There is no evidence that E. Marjorie Hill's role on the project extended beyond the normal level expected of a recently graduated architect. However it is quite likely that the father and daughter discussed the progress of the designs and that Hill's daughter was cognizant of the buildings suggested by the Select Committee

⁵⁵George H. Locke, "Some Warnings in Regard to Planning Libraries," Royal Architectural Institute of Canada. Journal III (May-June 1926).

as sources of design inspiration.⁵⁶

⁵⁶For more information on E. Marjorie Hill see Blanche Lemco van Ginkel's "Slowly and Surely (and Somewhat Painfully): More or Less the History of Women in Architecture in Canada," Bulletin, Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada. Vol. 17, no. 1 (March 1991): 5-11. In an interview cited in that article Hill notes that she worked on the Edmonton Public Library before going to New York City. Two letters in the Carnegie Library Correspondence note that E.M. Hill was working in New York City in 1923 and that she presented the plans for Edmonton's Library "with which she was very familiar" to Bertram.

Chapter Four

The Carnegie Corporation of New York

The importance of the Carnegie Corporation of New York in the funding of free public library buildings around the world has been documented in various sources.⁵⁷ For the purpose of this thesis the role played by the philanthropic organization merits mention specifically in connection to the manner in which the body directed the design produced by MacDonald and Magoon for the Edmonton Public Library Building. As noted above the majority of the direction from the Carnegie Corporation came to the architects via the patron. It should be appreciated however that by the time the Edmonton application was being considered the influence of the Carnegie Corporation and its secretary James Bertram on the designs chosen for libraries had increased beyond earlier levels.

The philosophy followed by the Carnegie Corporation of New York originated with its founder Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919). In an essay titled "Wealth" Carnegie stated his belief that the surplus funds of the wealthy should

⁵⁷The text by George S. Bobinski, Carnegie Libraries: Their History and Impact on American Public Library Development (Chicago: American Library Association, 1969) gives the most complete treatment on the subject in the United States. The only discussion on the subject of Carnegie libraries in Canada deals with Ontario examples, see Margaret Beckman, Stephen Langmead, and John Black's The Best Gift: A Record of Carnegie Libraries in Ontario (Toronto: Dundurn Press, 1984).

be shared with the common man in the form of partial assistance, and that the total funding of any project, the act of alms giving, was not beneficial to the long term improvement of the state of society.⁵⁸ In a second essay titled "The Best Fields of Philanthropy" Carnegie listed the avenues deserving of donations. He was of the opinion that universities, medical centres, public parks, meeting and concert halls, libraries, public baths, and churches all deserved assistance. He believed quite strongly however that the:

best gift [to any community was a free public library] provided the community will accept and maintain it as a public institution, as much a part of the city property as its public schools, and, indeed, as an adjunct to these.⁵⁹

It was this belief in the merits of public access to free libraries that directed the funding policy of the Carnegie Corporation.⁶⁰

Andrew Carnegie and, following his death in 1919, his personal secretary James Bertram, held firm beliefs on the purpose of a public library. They felt that the mandate of a library was summed up in the phrase "effective accommodation"

⁵⁸Andrew Carnegie, "Wealth," North American Review, CXLVIII (June 1889), pp. 653-654; reprinted in Edward C. Kirkland, ed., The Gospel of Wealth and Other Timely Essays (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1962).

⁵⁹Andrew Carnegie, "The Best Fields for Philanthropy," North American Review, CXLIX (December 1889), pp. 688-689; reprinted in above.

⁶⁰Recalling the description of Edmonton during the early twentieth century it is not difficult to see how the philosophy offered by Carnegie was congruent with the situation prevalent in Edmonton where access to a public library was perceived as essential to the educating of newly arrived settlers.

and this concept, they believed, was necessarily reflected in a successful design program. Recalling the problems mentioned in reference to the Guelph building the concerns of efficiency, when not addressed, lead to unsuccessful designs that hindered the success of any building.

The planning of a library may be viewed as addressing the needs of the users within a building. The needs of a library patron are not static. Indeed, during the early twentieth century, the perceived needs of library users were under constant consideration. The changing views on the mandate of a library, including the public's access to a library's collection, were revised during the period. While Andrew Carnegie offered no advice to grant applicants at the outset of his funding program the number of unsuccessful designs evident in the early years of the program dictated that some guidelines were necessitated.

The guidelines from the Carnegie Corporation were printed in various versions of a pamphlet including "Notes on Library Buildings [sic]" from 1911 and a subsequent publication "Typical Library Buildings" which was sent to Edmonton.⁶¹ The recommendations in these brochures focused primarily on the interior planning but suggestions on site were also offered. The concerns of Carnegie and Bertram dealing with effective accommodation remained consistent

⁶¹A letter from E.L. Hill to Bertram dated 3 January 1919 acknowledged the receipt of a copy of this pamphlet. There is no evidence that MacDonald and Magoon saw this or any other version of this pamphlet but they would have been aware of the general planning of a library through Hill.

throughout their suggestions.

In the 1911 version of the "Notes on Library Bilding [sic]" Bertram offered that a "Greek temple or a modification of it" was superfluous and wasteful.⁶²

Suggestions on specific details were that the:

- building should be rectangular;
- building should be one storey and basement, with outside staircase;
- building should be one large room subdivided by bookcases;
- the basement of the building should be four feet below grade;
- the ceiling in the basement should be nine feet and 12 to 15 feet in the main floor;
- the rear and side windows should be seven feet from the floor to allow for continuous wall shelving; and
- the building could have a lecture room as a subordinate feature in the basement.⁶³

The pamphlet offered six basic plans for the massing of a library which incorporated these specific suggestions (figure 10).⁶⁴ As will be shown in the next chapter the designs produced by MacDonald and Magoon for the Edmonton Public Library successfully adapted these suggestions to the local building requirements.

⁶²"Notes on Library Bldings [sic]." (New York: Carnegie Corporation, 1911).

⁶³Ibid. Reprinted in Beckman et al, The Best Gift, p. 114.

⁶⁴Reprinted in above, pp. 112-113.

Chapter Five

The Edmonton Public Library Building

The discussion to this point has addressed the history of the library movement in Edmonton, the training and background of the architects, the role and influence of the patron including the librarian E.L. Hill, and the role of the Carnegie Corporation. What remains to be examined in detail are the designs produced by MacDonald and Magoon which responded to all of the factors discussed thus far. In this chapter the issues of how MacDonald and Magoon approached this commission, the structures that they looked to for inspiration, and their access to a builder and building materials will be outlined. An understanding of the decisions leading to the final designs, designs produced in a very short period of time, illustrate how this Edmonton based architectural firm dealt with the influences that directed the majority of their work throughout their careers in Edmonton.

A. The Commission

MacDonald and Magoon officially received the commission for the Edmonton Public Library 16 May 1922. Although partially speculation some

reasons behind the selection of this Edmonton based firm can be offered. As noted in the final point of the Select Committee's report (figure 3) from 16 May 1922 there was a degree of urgency to initiate the design process to ensure the commencement of work in the 1922 building season. Rather than going to competition the Select Committee recommended selecting an architect "forthwith." The suggestion of Messrs. Magoon and MacDonald, written in by hand, was given.

Considering the sense of urgency felt by the select committee the choices available to them may seem somewhat limited. However, considering that Hill, in his capacity with the Calgary Public Library Board was not adverse to commissioning a non-resident as architect, the selection of a local architect should not be considered as an obvious choice. In fact the selection of an architectural firm that had designed libraries which had been approved for funding by the Carnegie Corporation may have been a guaranteed solution to the dilemma facing the Edmonton Public Library Board. The commissioning of a firm such as McLean and Wright or any other Eastern North American firm, while possibly considered by the board members, was not pursued.

It is possible that with the rise in patriotism following the end of the First World War the board members felt an obligation to hire a local architect.⁶⁵ If

⁶⁵This was the case with the employment of local returning soldiers who the Edmonton Public Library Board recommended be given work on the building of the new library building.

the selection of a local architect was indeed influenced by this factor it begins to account for the selection of MacDonald and Magoon. In 1922 the number of architects practising in Edmonton was limited and the number of firms who could successfully complete the designing of a structure such as the Edmonton Public Library in such a limited time frame was even smaller. If the selection was restricted to the selection of a local firm the choice was probably limited to the firm of MacDonald and Magoon. However, from the evidence presented in the various sources cited it seems that the selection of a local architect by the Edmonton Public Library Board was directed by the board's belief in MacDonald and Magoon's ability to understand the problems presented to them and translate the requirements of the proposed library building into acceptable plans.

In a letter from E.L. Hill to James Bertram dated 27 May 1922, 11 days after the selection of MacDonald and Magoon as architects, Hill states that "[b]y registered mail yesterday we sent you blue print copies of the plans prepared by Messrs. Magoon and MacDonald, architects of this city."⁶⁶ Hill noted that the plans "have not been developed so as to show heating, lighting, ventilation, etc. In general the layout resembles that of Somerville... I enclose a sketch prepared by the architect showing the position of the building on the property."⁶⁷ It is

⁶⁶Letter from E.L. Hill to James Bertram dated 27 May 1922. Carnegie Library Correspondence reel number 9.

⁶⁷Ibid.

likely that figure 11 is a copy of that sketch showing the initial concepts for the building as communicated by the patron to the architect.

The six blueprint copies sent to the Carnegie Corporation for approval would have probably included a depiction of the West and South Elevation (figure 12), the East and North Elevations (figure 13), two longitudinal and transverse sections (figures 14 and 15), and plans for the foundation and basement (figure 16), and the main and ground floors (figure 17).⁶⁸ While Hill assumed an apologetic tone in his letter of 27 May 1922 that some details had yet to be developed, the plans sent 26 May 1922 show an already carefully considered program. The fact that plans could be sent to New York for the approval of the Carnegie Corporation, less than two weeks after the commissioning of MacDonald and Magoon as architects, reinforces the importance of E.L. Hill in the development of the design concept.

Two sets of undated preliminary drawings show how the design architect, George Heath MacDonald approached the problems presented to him. The first set of drawings (figure 18) dealt with the arrangement of the interior. This was the area where Hill would have closely directed the architect. The movement away from the traditional closed stacked design of a library towards the Somerville plan and a more accessible stack arrangement was strongly promoted by Hill for

⁶⁸The linen drawings dated June 1922 which would have been the source for the blueprint copies sent to the Carnegie Corporation have had the electrical and some other details added in red pen.

the Edmonton Public Library.⁶⁹ However several aspects of the first plans drawn by MacDonald and Magoon differ from the version sent to the Carnegie Corporation.

An examination of the second version of the plans shows a close correspondence to the designs ultimately accepted. Two major changes in the second version were in the use of a rectangular versus square building and in the arrangement of the closed rooms within the building. The first designs show that the original concept called for a square or nearly square building. This was revised, possibly following the suggestions offered by the Carnegie Corporation's "Notes on Library Buildings [sic]" which recommended the use of a rectangular building. A second change made to the proposed building's design was in the positioning of the offices including the librarian's office which were relocated to the south side of the building. This afforded Hill and other workers a spectacular view of the North Saskatchewan River which was to the South of the building (compare figures 17 and 18).

These two changes to the interior arrangement appear to be the only

⁶⁹The importance of the Somerville Public Library design on the Edmonton building has already been mentioned. A letter from George Hill Evans, librarian for the Somerville library, dated 9 March 1922, in response to a letter from E.L. Hill dated 23 February 1922 reinforces this connection. The letter from Evans responds to Hill's enquiry on the use of artificial lighting, size of lecture hall and librarian's office, use of marble stairs, and installation of a vacuum cleaner. All of the suggestions put forth by Evans were incorporated into the designing of the Edmonton building. A copy of Evans's letter, marked "copy for Mr. MacDonald" is in the architects' files.

substantial revisions in the plans produced by MacDonald and Magoon. It may be assumed that once the function of the proposed library building (i.e. the interior arrangement) had been understood by the architects they were left alone to plan the building. They were directed to work with the sources suggested by the Select Committee in their designs for the exterior. This is consistent to the advice offered by George H, Locke who stated:

Then comes the architect to whom the problem is now put in plain understandable terms, and he is asked to make the proportionate spaces and house in the plan in such a way that the exterior will be attractive and the inside economically efficient, and with such building materials and finish as will make for comfort, attractiveness and a minimum of expenditure for maintenance.⁷⁰

In producing the plans for the Edmonton Public Library MacDonald and Magoon were influenced by the elevation of the Washington, D.C. Public Library, which was suggested as a source in the 16 May 1922 report of the Select Committee, and other libraries, including the Boston Public Library which was held up as the model for libraries.

Before discussing the decorative and stylistic sources utilized by MacDonald and Magoon the manner in which the architects were influenced by outside sources, including travel and contemporary architectural periodicals, may be mentioned again. There exists substantial evidence that MacDonald and Magoon

⁷⁰George H. Locke, "Some Warnings in Regard to Planning Libraries," Royal Architectural Institute of Canada. Journal III (May-June 1926).

travelled extensively to inspect buildings in connection with various commissions. However since there was such a severe time limit placed on the production of the designs for the Edmonton Public Library there was no time for either architect to travel to centres such as Somerville, Springfield, and Boston, Massachusetts or Washington, D.C.⁷¹ Therefore, once again the role of the librarian E.L. Hill, who often noted having visited libraries in many Canadian and American cities, must be mentioned.

In addition to whatever suggestions Hill may have offered through personal recollections and possibly sketches or even photographs of library buildings, the architects would have had access to contemporary architectural periodicals. The importance of this aspect on the design of the Edmonton library is difficult to ascertain since the firm's archive does not include its library. However, a listing of the Edmonton Public Library periodicals shows its collection from this time included American Architect, Architect's and Builder's Magazine, Architectural Records, Art Interchange, Construction, R.I.B.A Calendar, R.I.B.A. Journal (9 volumes), and Scientific American.⁷²

⁷¹Recalling that Magoon had spent his early career in Chicago, Illinois and the area around that American city and that MacDonald had attended McGill University in Montréal and possibly travelled to the Northern United States it is not unlikely that the two architects had some knowledge of library buildings in other cities. The only example of any direct influence from an outside source is an undated and unsigned set of three linen drawings for the Calgary Public Library. These drawings, probably by MacDonald, show that this building was probably visited.

⁷²The listing produced by the Alberta Association of Architects dates from circa 1923. Since MacDonald and Magoon contributed designs and descriptions of the Edmonton Public Library

Incorporating the suggestions made by the patron, as represented by E.L. Hill and the Select Committee of the proposed library building, and the Carnegie Corporation, the architects MacDonald and Magoon proceeded to design a building that took full advantage of a picturesque river valley site and showed a sympathetic awareness to the surrounding buildings. The architects developed an interior plan based on the most up to date concepts in library design providing an interior arrangement that was flexible to the needs of a growing city. They combined local and imported building materials to create an exterior consistent to the standards seen on other Carnegie Library Buildings.

B. Interior and Exterior Design Features

MacDonald and Magoon's design for the Edmonton Public Library building acknowledged the suggestions of the Carnegie Corporation's "Notes on Library Buildings [sic]."⁷³ The building was rectangular. The main floor was one large undivided room except for the offices of library workers and vault in the Southwest corner. The loan desk was positioned on the West wall and was

building to the American publication Architecture, and the Canadian publications Construction and the Journal of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada it is known that they were aware of architectural periodicals but any evidence of specific sources referential to the Edmonton Public Library building has not been found.

⁷³See note 62.

oriented so that the staff on duty faced the interior of the library (figure 19 and 20).⁷⁴ To the rear of the loan desk was the main vestibule and the two short staircases leading from the main entrance. Access to the stacks (library collection) on the lower levels was by a staircase near the centre of the main floor.

The dominant feature of the ground floor was the central stack room.⁷⁵ Enclosed by fireproof glass the room was accessible to the general public from the main floor by a staircase and on the ground floor by doors from the surrounding rooms. Surrounding the stack room were additional staff rooms including bathrooms, locker rooms, and a dining room, a cataloguing room, a 100 seat lecture room, a branch libraries office, and a juvenile department. The basement contained the boiler room, the fuel room, machinery room, shipping and receiving room, bindery, and a room for periodical storage.

Designed as the central distribution point for Edmonton's library system the library building was required to act as an administration centre as well as the central library for the city. The use of the building by outside groups for any

⁷⁴The importance placed on this feature which Hill described as "occupying a somewhat unusual position" may account for the early stage at which it was first drawn (July 1922) by the architects.

⁷⁵The requirement to design a stack room similar to that of the Somerville, Massachusetts library was referred to in the final suggestion of the Select Committee's 16 May 1922 report. The library was designed by Edward L. Tilton of New York City. The interior arrangement of the Public Library of Somerville and specifically its use of a more accessible or open stack room was held up as a model for future libraries in the 1920s.

purpose was opposed to by both the patron and architects.⁷⁶ Following a recommendation found in the Carnegie Corporation's "Notes on Library Buildings [sic]" the windows on the North and East walls allowed for book shelves to be placed underneath them. Additional bookshelves acted as room dividers allowing for adaptability to changing requirements.

The need for an elastic design that was adaptable to constantly changing needs was the dominant consideration placed before the architects. The solution offered by the architects, considering that MacDonald was trained in a Beaux-Arts tradition that promoted elasticity of design and open planning, is consistent with the firm's other work. However, the speed at which MacDonald and Magoon produced plans based on the problem proposed by Hill and the Edmonton Public Library Board is remarkable.

In addition to the reference of the interior arrangement of the Somerville Library MacDonald and Magoon made what appears to be a very specific reference to the Boston Public Library building and its mural program. On a longitudinal and traverse section diagram the architect denoted "space for fut. mural painting" (figure 15). Located in the central area of the main floor the inner

⁷⁶One thing that the architects and the librarian E.L. Hill did not want the library building to act as was an art gallery or exhibition centre. Correspondence in the architects' files and references in the minutes of the Edmonton Public Library Board show applications were made from various Edmonton associations to have room in the new building for the displaying of paintings etc. The allowance of room in a library building for use as an early form of an art gallery was done in the Calgary Library building.

parapet was bathed by natural light. While the murals never went beyond the planning stage the confidence shown in suggesting this feature illustrates the stature placed on the Edmonton Library building by its patrons and its designing architects.⁷⁷

For the exterior of the building the architects were directed to look at the elevation of the Washington, D.C. Public Library (figure 21).⁷⁸ However, aside from the general feel of the building's front elevation and its overall appearance created in part by its picturesque site, there seems to be few direct references to the Washington Library building in MacDonald and Magoon's designs. The reference to some elements used on the Washington building, including the fenestration pattern and a protruding pediment, are recalled in the Edmonton building however the inspiration remained quite limited.

The Edmonton Public Library's exterior incorporated a combination of Indiana limestone, and a face brick specially selected by the architects. The use of limestone recalled the nearby Hotel MacDonald. The library's roof was done in red Spanish tiles.⁷⁹ Four Doric columns with carved details near the top of the

⁷⁷The placement of a vase over the outer columns of the portico, a second reference to the Boston Public Library, supports an argument that the Boston Library building was being referred to in the architects' designs.

⁷⁸Select Committee's report of 16 May 1922 (figure 3).

⁷⁹It seems that the MacDonald and Magoon originally conceived the roof to be in copper (see figure 11) which would have referred to the MacDonald Hotel and other public buildings including the Calgary Public Library. The use of Spanish tiles is not common in public

fluting framed the three entrances, two entrances to the ground floor, and a central entrance to the main floor. Above each of the three entrances were arched windows. Arched windows were continued around the building on the main floor with rectangular windows below a string course allowing lighting to the ground floor. Between the doorway for the central entrance and the window above it was an entablature and pediment containing elements clearly identifying the building as a free public library.

Above the central entrance was a frieze with the inscription "Free to All" (figure 22). The ideal of free libraries, libraries accessible to all was the doctrine espoused by Andrew Carnegie, the founder of Free Public Libraries. Above the frieze within the pediment was an open book framed by carved oak leaves, the symbol of eternity and strength. Ornamentation in a very restrained manner was continued throughout the facade with various carvings. All ornaments were modelled in clay to half scale by the architects. The inscription "Edmonton Public Library" and "MDCCCXXII," the date the building was commenced in Roman numerals were carved in the pediment of the protruding portico. An element similar to the Boston Public Library were the vases above the outer columns of the portico (refer to figure 12).

buildings in Edmonton but may have referred to the residence of Alberta's Lieutenant Governor, known as Government House, in Edmonton. MacDonald and Magoon used Spanish tiles again in their commission for the Howard and McBride Funeral Parlor (1929).

C. The Site

Similar to most public library buildings, including the examples discussed in Boston, Washington, D.C., and Calgary, the Edmonton building was located on a picturesque, centrally located site. As shown in the early sketch for the Edmonton library building (figure 11) the architects wanted to make full use of the site. The location of the library on the North bank of the North Saskatchewan River afforded a spectacular for the library's users (figure 23). Somewhat in contradiction to the view of the Carnegie Corporation, which felt that a Greek temple or a modification of it was wasteful, the architects' early sketch gives the building the feeling of a temple located on the acropolis of a city.⁸⁰ The entrance of the library on the West side faced the recently developed public green space which included the Great War Veterans Association Memorial Hall (figures 23 and 24).

Located to the East of the library was the Grand Trunk Pacific's MacDonald Hotel (figure 25 and 26, 1912-1915). The hotel, designed by the Montréal architectural firm of Ross and MacFarlane, was located to be a dominant

⁸⁰Unfortunately there is no record of any comments from Bertram on the early sketch and its resemblance to a temple. It seems somewhat incongruous that the Carnegie Corporation did not see a connection between a Greek temple and a free public library in the manner that both buildings could be seen as symbols of democracy. It is likely that the comment that a Greek temple was wasteful was directed more to an over abundance of exterior ornamentation that would have unnecessarily increased the cost of a library building.

building on Edmonton's river valley. The importance of the MacDonald Hotel was acknowledged by the Edmonton Public Library Board who promoted the site of their proposed library building as nearby the "new hotel."⁸¹ The hotel's austere exterior in granite and Indiana limestone, surmounted by a steeply pitched copper roof was acknowledged albeit in a limited manner by MacDonald and Magoon's designs. The architect's selection of materials for the Edmonton Public Library building ensured a comfortable integration of the two buildings with neither overwhelming the other. Their insistence to use a face brick of a colour and quality not found in Edmonton shows the architects' desire to produce a handsome building. However, the desire to use a material not found in Edmonton also created problems.

D. The Builder and Building Materials

An often overlooked area in discussions of regional architecture is the access to builders and building materials. While the question of a qualified builder did not arise in connection to the Edmonton Public Library access to materials desired by the architect, specifically a face brick of a high quality, did introduce problems in the completion of the library building.

⁸¹References to the MacDonald Hotel appear in local reports of the library building and in correspondence to the Carnegie Corporation.

The general contractor for the library building was a company that had recently opened a branch office in Edmonton. Poole Construction of Regina, Saskatchewan was selected over five other Edmonton companies that had submitted tenders for a general contract that was to be the largest project in Edmonton for the years 1922 and 1923. Other tenders submitted came from the builders H.G. MacDonald and Company; J. Dunlop; Carter-Halls-Aldinger; Lees, Bigler and Moore; and Pheasey and Batson. Each of the five unsuccessful applicants had been associated with MacDonald and Magoon projects prior to 1922 so the builders work was known to the architects. However, based on the \$125,100 value of the tender submitted by Poole Construction, that company was chosen.⁸²

Several letters in the files of MacDonald and Magoon in connection with the library commission as well as other projects attest to the fact that the firm was aware of the most contemporary engineering features of building materials. Possibly drawing on an early career as architect for the Dominion Iron and Steel Company in Sydney, Nova Scotia Magoon showed a concern for the technical aspects of building design. Structurally the Edmonton Public Library building used reinforced concrete with structural steel roof trusses. Its interior arrangement and exterior design were complemented by technical considerations that produced

⁸²It must be noted that correspondence from the Edmonton Public Library Board shows that there was some concern prior to selecting Poole Construction over the selection of a non-local company even though Poole had recently (or concurrently) established a branch office in Edmonton. It is relevant that after this project Poole Construction remained in Edmonton and continues to be an active building company in that city.

an efficient library building.

MacDonald and Magoon were constantly attempting to improve the technical and aesthetic quality of buildings in Edmonton. An example of MacDonald and Magoon's attention to the use of building materials may be cited in connection to the library building. In response to questioning from the patron as to why the architects purchased a brick from outside of Edmonton when brick was available locally the architects offered a reply that outlines the problem they faced acquiring certain building materials. In a letter to Elmer Roper, a member of the Edmonton Public Library Board, dated 25 October 1922 the architects state that:

There is no face brick made in Edmonton. I will qualify this by saying that there is a tapestry wire cut brick made by two local firms suitable for garages and warehouses the local processes of manufacture and burning have not yet been perfected.

To secure the color and quality we required we made a careful canvass of Canada and the U.S. three Canadian bricks were available none of which were the shade we required, one Vancouver and one Toronto each at \$89 and 95 respectively per M. Moose Jaw was the only low priced brick \$50.00 but they cannot burn them an even color in their lighter shades and we could not have a spotted wall.

That left us U.S.A. firms to deal with their prices ran from \$90 to \$75 per M. and we canvassed about a dozen firms in all the brick we finally selected runs about \$77.00.

It is a sad commentary on our mountain freight rate that we can get a brick from St. Louis pay 20% duty and 10% ad valorem duty and the sales tax over several times as great a distance considerably

cheaper than we can get a similar brick from Vancouver.⁸³

The face brick of a quality and colour that the architects desired was supplied by the Kittanning Brick and Fireclay Company of St. Louis, Illinois.

As described in the letter from the architects the decision to select a face brick from a non-local supplier was not their first choice and was based on both economic and technical considerations. The ability to produce an evenly coloured brick was essential. The architects wanted an evenly coloured face brick to ensure the handsome appearance of the library building. Faced with the choices noted in their letter they decided to ask for samples from the Kittanning Brick and Fireclay Company. After receiving several samples the architects chose the colour of the brick that they desired and placed an order for enough bricks to complete the building. However, when the bricks arrived they were of an uneven colour. This precipitated a very strongly worded letter from the architects to the Canadian supplier for the American company, Webster and Sons, Limited of Montréal. The letter dated 19 September 1922 stated:

First car of No. 11 X Kittanning brick for Edmonton Library arrived and brick at the job. Our Inspector points out that the bricks are not to sample an on examination we find that they are not to sample 11X as ordered; in fact, they are all the colors you sent us to select from namely, 12, 8, 11,X., and many a deep yellow. If we had required vari-colored brick we could have secured a better shaped and

⁸³Letter from the architects to Elmer Roper 25 October 1922. A copy of the letter is in the architects' file.

textured brick locally at \$50.00 per thousand.⁸⁴

The letter from the architect concludes stating that "[t]hey are emphatically the worst I have ever seen."⁸⁵

Correspondence continued between the producer, supplier, architects, and builder for some time with a solution eventually proposed by the architects. Since replacement bricks could not be supplied either by the original American producer or any other firm the architect Magoon was forced to manually sort through the bricks supplied and select enough bricks of a consistent quality to complete the facade. The remaining bricks were used on the less visible sides and rear elevation. This scenario offers a description of the dilemma faced by all architects when attempting to use non-local building materials. The difference between regionally based architects and other architects is the increased limitations placed on regional architects to the supply of building materials.

The statement by the architects that they "could have secured a better shaped and textured brick locally"⁸⁶ denotes that adequate building materials were available in the Edmonton region. It was however the desire by the architects to improve the quality of the look of buildings in Edmonton that dictated that they

⁸⁴Letter to Webster and Sons Limited, Montréal from the Architects, 19 September 1922. Copy of the letter in the architects' files.

⁸⁵Ibid.

⁸⁶Ibid.

look outside the region for different types of materials. The architects' decision to use face brick included considerations of access to local builders, economics, and the architecture of the region.

The selection of face brick was originally a question of aesthetics. Still, by selecting face brick, with brick being a material familiar to local builders, the architects ensured that a local builder could work with the material. The cost of face brick, while greater than locally available brick, was affordable. Face brick presented a reasonably priced alternative to the red brick prevalent in the area and the use of brick would ensure that the Edmonton Public Library building fit into its surrounding while maintaining the slightly elevated appearance that the architects and patron would have wanted.

Chapter Six

Conclusion

The Edmonton Public Library building commission was presented to the Edmonton architects MacDonald and Magoon as a symbol of civic pride. The city of Edmonton had opened the twentieth century looking confidently to the future. By 1921 Edmonton boasted a population of 58,821 and a continually expanding economy. The city's citizens had exhibited a desire for reading materials accessible to all and the Edmonton Public Library Board desired a building to house its collection. The city required a library building of a stature reflective of its pride, confidence, and optimism.

The selection of MacDonald and Magoon to design the Edmonton Public Library was probably not a surprise for many locals. The two architects had already contributed extensively to the architecture of the region. Their work showed an ability to adapt to the wishes of their clients and a thorough understanding of both technical and stylistic solutions to a variety of building types. The requirements of the proposed library building as presented to them by the Edmonton Public Library Board were clear and concise. The designs prepared by the Edmonton architects show their answers to the problems that the commission presented.

When the Carnegie Corporation of New York noted that its offer of funding would not be held out forever the Edmonton Public Library Board and the librarian E.L. Hill took prompt action. In a letter to the Carnegie Corporation the Edmonton librarian E.L. Hill stated that:

Your applicants are in full sympathy with the purpose of your Corporation for the promotion, advancement and diffusion of knowledge among the people. By the establishment and maintenance of a free public library, the youth of the city are afforded facilities for acquiring a taste for good literature as well as for supplementing their education after having, in many cases, been compelled to leave school at an early age.⁸⁷

This letter initiated the events that lead to the creation of a permanent home for Edmonton's Public Library.

The direction offered by a patron such as E.L. Hill, who knew within very strict parameters what he wanted in a building, facilitated prompt and often successful design solutions from the architects MacDonald and Magoon. Hill's knowledge of the most contemporary solutions to the interior arrangements of library buildings greatly contributed to the architects' design. After communicating the requirements of the interior Hill suggested sources for the exterior. He then left it to the architect to, as stated by Toronto librarian George Locke:

make the proportionate spaces and house in the plan in such a way

⁸⁷Letter from E.L. Hill to the Carnegie Corporation dated 7 December 1921. Copy in the Carnegie Library Correspondence reel number 9.

that the exterior will be attractive and the inside economically efficient, and with such building materials and finish as will make for comfort, attractiveness and a minimum of expenditure for maintenance.⁸⁸

The Edmonton Public Library was designed in 1922 as the central library for Edmonton. However, with the outward expansion of the city and an increase to a population of 371,265 by 1966 the calls for a more modern building continued to grow. The considerations for the comfort of the users and staff members which were carefully dealt with by the architects in 1922 had changed. The dominant feature of the architects' design, an adaptability to the changing needs of library users and to the growth in the city's population, did not go far enough to ensure the survival of the building (figure 27).

⁸⁸George H. Locke, "Some Warnings in Regard to Planning Libraries," Royal Architectural Institute of Canada. Journal III (May-June 1926).

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Appendix

The purpose of this appendix is to offer a catalogue raisonné of the work done by the architects George Heath MacDonald and Herbert Alton Magoon in Edmonton, Alberta between 1905 and 1941. The listing begins in 1905, the year Edmonton first began to issue building permits, and concludes in 1941, the year Magoon retired and MacDonald and Magoon's partnership came to an end.

The listing presented here is drawn from a complete listing of the projects executed by architects in Edmonton between 1905 and 1941. To facilitate this listing the Edmonton Building Permits issued between 1905 and 1941 were examined. The names of patrons and builders were corrected when known. Costs were left as shown in the application for the building permits.

The information is provided in the following order

form	example
Patron	Mills JI
Permit number - year of permit	04-1905
Date of permit (year/month/day)	19050403
Type of building or work	House
Name of builder	Kelsey LF
Estimated cost of building	3800

The architects are cited as shown in the application; therefore there are inconsistencies in the name of the firm between the earlier name Magoon and MacDonald and the later name MacDonald and Magoon. The catalogue is ordered chronologically by the firms that the elder Magoon was associated with.

Herbert Alton Magoon

Mills JI
04-1905
19050403
House
Kelsey LF
3800

Shaw HV
05-1905
19050403
House
McDonald and Johnson
3336

Fietness CR
07-1905
19050403
House
Applicant
2800

Edmonton Printing Co
09-1905
19050412
Job Printing
Hay JS
800

Applicant not cited (Meth)
19-1905
19050508
Church
Fader and Bissey
2500

Alberta College
70-1905
19050626
College
MacDonald J
14500

All Saints Church
72-1905
19050627
Add (Church)
MacDonald and Johnson
6609

Tomlinson E
94-1905
19050717
Add (House)
Page T
1000

Battrick Mrs
115-1905
19050812
House
MacDonald and Johnson
1463

Bishop ET
131-1905
19050821
House
Millar JH
2500

Oliver F
147-1905
19050911
Add (Office)
Gardener WH
2525

McDonald CA
148-1905
19050912
Warehouse
Manson RJ
12525

McLear FA
160-1905
19050920
House
MacDonald and Johnson
1500

Greisbach WA
174-1905
19050926
House
MacDonald and Johnson
2200

Dristall A
208-1905
19051019
House
Millar JH
3500

Harrington and Mahoney
212-1905
19051024
Hotel
Applicant
20000

Madill RJ
277-1905
19051130
House
Muttart Bros
700

Madill RJ
278-1905
19051130
House
Muttart Bros
700

Madill RJ
279-1905
19051130
House
Muttart Bros
700

Madill RJ
280-1905
19051130
House
Muttart Bros
700

Madill RJ
281-1905
19051130
House
Muttart Bros
700

Herbert Alton Magoon (cont'd)

Madill KJ
 282-1905
 19051130
 House
 Muttart Bros
 700

Gallinger C
 395-1905
 19080727
 House
 Yuill J
 3500

Baldwin Prtg Publishing Co
 279A-1905
 19051205
 Warehouse
 Millar JH
 400

Morrow AA
 346-1906
 19060305
 House
 Muttart Bros
 3600

Hannah Mrs G
 373-1906
 19060312
 Office
 Muttart SH
 4000

McDonald
 392-1906
 19060322
 Store
 Churchill
 4000

Coony Je
 424-1906
 19060402
 House
 Muttart SH
 1000

German Lutheran Church
 467-1906
 19060411
 Church
 Twills JB
 1500

McConley Dr.
 480-1906
 19060414
 House
 Cameron Alexander
 4500

Smith Dr. HR
 483-1906
 19060417
 House
 Churchill
 3700

Whitilaw Jas
 492-1906
 19060418
 House
 Purcell and Foster
 4700

Blask Mrs AJ
 537-1906
 19060427
 House
 Anderson Cameron
 1500

Busle Mrs OH
 566-1906
 19060509
 House
 Builder not cited
 8000

Smith HR
 580-1906
 19060512
 Stable
 Killips WR
 459

Corsnor Mary
 625-1906
 19060528
 House
 Cannell & Spencer Const
 2780

Cristall A
 626-1906
 19060529
 Store & Office
 Copp John
 18000

Wilbert H
 655-1906
 19060609
 House
 Wilkens and Fiffe
 3500

Cromell Wm
 659-1906
 19060612
 House
 Applicant
 4000

Calhouse and Ferguson
 660-1906
 19060613
 Hotel
 Cannell & Spencer Const
 35000

Band JW
 707-1906
 19060625
 House
 Applicant
 2500

Telfor Bros, A McDonald Co
 766-1906
 19060718
 Warehouse
 Manson RJ
 32000

Herbert Alton Magoon (cont'd)

Magoon Herbert Alton 768-1906 19060718 House Kelsey LF 6500	Queens Ave. Presbyterian 345A-1906 19061012 Manse Anderson Cameron 4000	Gorman Sam J 449A-1906 19061108 Apartment & Warehouse Elliot RA 6000
Fife WA 785-1906 19060724 House Foster Wm 2400	Sommerville Geo and Sons 353A-1906 19061015 Store Mauseu 28000	Alberta College 503A-1906 19061222 Add (College) Builder not cited 3000
Pickering Bros 805-1906 19060801 House Armstrong and Snow 7000	Armstrong WR 367A-1906 19061017 Office Cannell & Spencer Const 5000	Ferguson Robert 51-1907 19070315 House Pheasey and Batson 4500
Huff J 847-1906 19060814 House Cannell & Spencer Const 5200	YMCA 368A-1906 19061017 YMCA May and Sharpe 50000	Lamire M 393-1907 19070513 House Copp and McKay 7000
Morris H 901-1906 19060831 Add (Store) Wood LB 2000	Sally C 428A-1906 19061031 House Cannell & Spencer 5000	Lamire M 394-1907 19070513 House Copp and McKay 3000
Grace Methodist Church 914-1906 19060906 Add (Church) Builder not cited 1900	Henderson Mrs J 447A-1906 19061108 House Porter and Manseu 5000	Lamire M 395-1907 19070513 House Copp and McKay 3000
Cameron CF 974-1906 19060921 Theatre Killips A 8000	Grinnick Mrs & Osborne Miss 448A-1906 19061108 House Elliot RA 8000	Lamire M 396-1907 19070513 House Copp and McKay 3000

Herbert Alton Magoon (cont'd)

Edm Baseball Association 441-1907 19070523 Grand Stand Gray Frank 5000	McMullin S 800-1907 19071021 Store & Office Manson RJ 6000	Hill RW 62-1908 19080303 House Hill RW 4500
Alberta College 523-1907 19070121 Add (College) Builder not cited 12000	Auld E 816-1907 19071026 Store & Office Porter GC 5000	Buck Mrs 271-1908 19080529 House Jennings Bros 1770
Oliphault Mrs 585-1907 19070221 House McRoberts 7000	Auld E 842-1907 19071111 Add (Store) Porter GC 2000	Pheasey and Batson 436-1908 19080814 House Pheasey and Batson 3000
Naukin S 586-1907 19070221 Add (Store) Pheasey and Batson 2000	Nankin S 851-1907 19071118 Add (Theatre) Applicant 1700	Pheasey and Batson 437-1908 19080814 House Pheasey and Batson 3000
McDonald DW 591-1907 19070223 Store Builder not cited 6000	Cameron CF 883-1907 19071130 Theatre *Remd* Cannell & Spencer Const 2500	Miles A 524-1908 19080921 House Muttart Bros 2000
McDonald DW 591A-1907 19070223 Repairs Builder not cited 1500	Hill RW 60-1908 19080303 House Hill RW 4500	Adams AJ 592-1908 19081015 House Jennings Bros 2000
McGevrge SR 722-1907 19070910 House Killips WR 2000	Hill RW 61-1908 19080303 House Hill RW 4500	Wesbut Andre 631-1908 19081106 Store & Office Dessault Mosses 20000

Herbert Alton Magoon (cont'd)

Shaw HV
678-1908
19081217
Stable
Bramley H
500

Goodridge TA
688-1908
19081229
Add (Hotel)
Applicant
7000

Millar-Cannell & Spencer
28-1909
19090206
Store & Office
Cannell & Spencer Const
30000

Canada. Gov't of Canada
75-1909
19090311
Annex to East Hall
Dunlop J
2800

Edmonton Iron Works
101-1909
19090320
Machine and Foundry
Pheasey and Batson
35000

Narkin S
201-1909
19090420
Store & Office
McKenzie A
9200

McKnight GF
247-1909
19090430
House
McKenzie A
2800

Eilers Lewis
256-1909
19090504
Store & Office
Applicant
30000

Litelan JW
260-1909
19090504
House
Kelsey LF
5000

Millar-Cannell & Spencer
436-1909
19090622
Add (Albert Blk)
Millar-Cannell & Spencer
10000

Sabattino T
447-1909
19090624
Store & Office
Johnson and Copp
20000

Cathan and Ferguson
456-1909
19090628
Add (Hotel King Ed)
Anderson Cameron
60000

Parlson Geo
466-1909
19090705
House
McKenzie Co.
2000

Parlson Geo
467-1909
19090705
House
McKenzie Co.
2000

Parlson Geo
468-1909
19090705
House
McKenzie Co.
2000

McAlpin G
530-1909
19090726
House
Simpson AE
2300

Millar-Cannell & Spencer
540-1909
19090729
Warehouse
Millar-Cannell & Spencer
1050

McDougall Meth. Church
732-1909
19090928
Church
May Chas
70000

Calhoun C
741-1909
19091004
Barn
McSporran
800

Scott Robt
754-1909
19091006
House
Scott R
1350

Millar JH
755-1909
19091006
House
Erwin E
2700

Herbert Alton Magoon (cont'd)

Millar JH 756-1909 19091006 House Erwin E 350	Edward Co. Ltd. 561-1910 19100726 Lime Kiln Applicant 1500	Tylar R 261-1911 19110411 Block Archibald 120000
Molson's Bank 130-1910 19100328 Bank Manson and Dunlop 40000	Shaw HV 569-1910 19100728 House Jennings Bros 1200	Hart LJ 328-1911 19110421 House Allen WH 9000
Bluoitt JG 190-1910 19100413 House Campbell Duncan 1200	McKenzie 620-1910 19100812 Addition Meridith Geo 900	Harkins 444-1911 19110505 Theatre Applicant 2000
Desilets Amos 209-1910 19100420 House Simpson AE 1800	Dr. Roberts IG 676-1910 19100826 House Meridith Geo 4500	Tylar R 864-1911 19110714 Add (Storey) Archibald 10000
Aclhouse JL 241-1910 19100428 House Kilroy 7000	Wills FI and Drewer AC 732-1910 19100908 Addition Jennings 5000	City of Edmonton 1006-1911 19110807 Fire Hall no. 4 Capitol Construction 12295
McKnight M 418-1910 19100617 House Porter GC 8000	Blackett and Dowell 901-1910 19101018 Store Jennings Bros 5000	Goodrich L 1102-1911 19110823 House Nesbitt and Miller 50000
City of Edmonton 427-1910 19100620 Grand Stand Goldionate Ja 20183	Scott Motor Co. 939-1910 19101026 Garage Applicant 6000	Mercer JB 1119-1911 19110825 Add (Storey) Applicant 15000

Herbert Alton Magoon (cont'd)

Edmonton Iron Works
1555-1911
19111020
Warehouse
Pheasey and Batson
5000

McDougall and Secord
5-1916
19160201
Alterations
Armstrong G
500

James Ramsey Ltd
46-1918
19180517
Warehouse
Hughes M
10000

Armit Co. Ltd
72-1918
19180710
Add (Store)
Nesbitt EM
12000

YMCA
9-1919
19190401
Recreation Room
Pheasey and Batson
7500

Fidelity Trust Co.
192-1919
19190827
Garage and Store
Karran FB
45000

Royal Curling Club
230-1919
19191120
Addition
Speers and McAfee
7000

Herbert Alton Magoon, Edward C. Hopkins and P. Leonard James

Fife A	Porter Jessie
44-1907	549-1907
19070314	19070625
House	House
McRoberts	Applicant
6000	8000

Picard JH
370-1907
19070508
Store
Builder not cited
5000

Larne S
403-1907
19070514
Add (Hotel)
Applicant
13000

East Mr.
452-1907
19070527
Terrace
Applicant
20000

Archibauld Arthur
508-1907
19070611
House
Copp John
22000

Bond JW
542-1907
19070622
Barber Shop
Builder not cited
4000

Herbert Alton Magoon and George Heath MacDonald

Alberta Milling Co. 1276-1911 19110915 Add (Mill) Yuill J 5000	Riddell JH 489-1912 19120723 House Armstrong 6800	Munroe MJ 1040-1912 19120508 Block Read-MacDonald-Brewster 38000
Strasser AF 1278-1911 19110915 House Jennings Bros 3400	Alberta College 490-1912 19120723 Addition Armstrong 25000	Blockitt JH Chas 1064-1912 19120511 House Kaman Bros 20000
Armstrong G 239-1912 19121216 Addition Applicant 40000	Riverview Land Co. 704-1912 19120411 Block Applicant 25000	Muttart SM 1092-1912 19120513 Building Applicant 75000
Marshall Wells 280-1912 19120224 Warehouse Goldsmith and Johnston 15000	Henry WT 912-1912 19120427 Addition and Alt Applicant 5000	Sloen Dr.J 1093-1912 19120513 Building Muttart SH 15000
Morkin TP 281 1912 19120224 Butcher Shop & House Goldsmith and Johnston 800	Tegler Robert 940-1912 19120430 Office Archibald Geo H 250000	Chaiman E 1133-1912 19120515 House McClenaghan 6000
Beaver Sec. Co. 453-1912 19120715 House Mallett C 4000	Wesley Sunday School 949-1912 19120430 Building (School) Dunlop-Johnson Const 36000	Ruthenian Girls School 1176-1912 19120518 Building (School) Read-MacDonald-Brewster 18000
Beaver Sec. Co. 454-1912 19120715 House Mallett C 4000	McKenney HW 957-1912 19120501 Warehouse Brewster 40000	Hetu Madame 1197-1912 19120521 Store & Office Marcel HF 7000

Herbert Alton Magoon and George Heath MacDonald (cont'd)

McJannet Hugh 1322-1912 19120601 House Campbell John D 3500	Robert CJ 288-1913 19130103 Apartment Read-MacDonald-Brewster 31000	MacDonald George Heath 1988-1913 19130815 House Kelsey LF 5000
Northern Invest. Agency 1386-1912 19120610 Block Lyll, Mitchel Co. 100000	Ramsey James 506-1913 19130310 Warehouse Oakes JW 20000	Palmer Captain Allen 2236-1913 19130923 Store & Office Dunlop-Johnson Const 40000
Robert CJ 1669-1912 19120629 House Hamilton H 5000	Bradburn and Thompson 685-1913 19130402 Store & Office Read-MacDonald-Brewster 45000	McDougall and Secord 493-1914 19140502 Store & Office Archibald Geo H 45000
Great Com Land Co. 1693-1912 19120703 Block Dunlop-Johnson Const 5000	Shaw HV 1052-1913 19130505 House Kelsey LF 23500	Bell, Auld and Huston 619-1914 19140520 Office Brown and Hargrave 35000
Hetu Madame 1715-1912 19120705 Block Marcel HF 150000	Northern Club 1090-1913 19130506 Foundation Carmichael Chas 8000	Ramsey James 622-1914 19140520 House Oakes JW 20000
Goodridge LE 2042-1912 19120814 Block Nelloby 50000	Newell CF 1260-1913 19130519 House Applicant 20000	Shaw HV 705-1914 19140530 Warehouse Carter-Halls-Aldinger 55000
Armstrong G 2414-1912 19120927 Store & Office Magoon and MacDonald 45000	McDonald Robert 1718-1913 19130703 Alt (Hotel) Read-MacDonald-Brewster 25000	Metals Ltd 949-1914 19140716 Warehouse Zenith Construction Co. 40000

Herbert Alton Magoon and George Heath MacDonald (cont'd)

McDonald A 996-1914 19140725 House Kelsey LF 7500	Hudson's Bay Co 212-1920 19200813 House Toby LF 6040	YWCA 395-1921 19210906 YWCA Pheasey and Batson 85000
Turner Joseph 54-1915 19150325 Store Nesbitt and Miller 14000	Hudson's Bay Co 213-1920 19200813 House Toby LF 4548	Empire Loan Co. 55-1922 19220322 Garage Lees-Bigler & Moore 20000
Abbott PB 78-1915 19150414 House McIntyre JR 4000	Hudson's Bay Co 214-1920 19200813 House Toby LF 4634	Marlonu TP 62-1922 19220331 Alt (Store) Cuthbertson N 3500
Hetu MB 139-1920 19200605 Store Meakins John 30000	Hudson's Bay Co 215-1920 19200813 House Toby LF 4828	McDougall Jas G 65-1922 19220403 Store Permanent Construction Co 15000
Hudson's Bay Co 209-1920 19200812 House Toby LF 5700	Hudson's Bay Co 216-1920 19200813 House Toby LF 4895	McKay WC 128-1922 19220420 House Sheppard HA 6000
Hudson's Bay Co 210-1920 19200813 House Toby LF 5762	Basonti Bros 283-1921 19210704 Store Toby LF 12000	Hills WT 312-1922 19220529 Apartment Brown and Hargrave 4000
Hudson's Bay Co 211-1920 19200813 House Toby LF 5931	MacDonald DH 387-1921 19210901 Alterations Ingram T 4000	Kitchen Hilliard 345-1922 19220606 Store & Office Applicant 45000

Herbert Alton Magoon and George Heath MacDonald (cont'd)

McDougall and Secord
 346-1922
 19220606
 Store
 Carter-Halls-Aldinger
 22500

Millwood S
 426-1922
 19220704
 Store
 Tohy LF
 9000

Andrew Paul
 492-1922
 19220802
 Building (House?)
 Brown and Hargrave
 12500

Ed'n Public Library Board
 531-1922
 19220816
 Library
 Poole Construction Co.
 150000

Conitobies A
 674-1922
 19221023
 Store
 Brown and Hargrave
 17500

Sommerville Hardware
 440-1923
 19230924
 Store
 Carter-Halls-Aldinger
 55000

Greene RL and Co.
 327-1924
 19240710
 Store
 MacDonald HG
 10000

Blowey Henry Co.
 396-1924
 19240819
 Alt (Store)
 Parney LD
 4000

Imperial Dancing Hall
 402-1925
 19250801
 Dance Hall
 McIntyre JR
 2500

Edmonton Hebrew School
 415-1925
 19250808
 School
 McIntyre JR
 26000

YWCA
 537-1925
 19251013
 Swimming Pool
 Poole Construction Co.
 45000

Imrie J
 399-1926
 19260712
 Add (House)
 McIntyre JR
 4000

Turner Joseph
 632-1926
 19261004
 Add (Store)
 Parney LD
 5000

McDougall and Secord
 42-1927
 19270303
 Garage
 MacDonald HG
 18000

Ramsey James Co
 303-1927
 19270525
 Building (Store?)
 MacDonald HG
 112000

McClory JA
 472-1927
 19270722
 House
 Arnett JL
 6000

Lymburn JF
 479-1927
 19270727
 House
 McSporrans
 10000

Great West Garment Co.
 559-1927
 19270830
 Sprinkler
 Parney LD
 2000

Revillon Victor
 739-1927
 19271104
 Garage
 McIntyre JR
 17000

Calhoun JC
 181-1928
 19280424
 Alt (Basement)
 Cameron Alexander
 10500

John Deere Plow Co.
 295-1928
 19280518
 Warehouse
 Permanent Construction Co
 85000

Herbert Alton Magoon and George Heath MacDonald (cont'd)**Canadian Bank of Commerce****341-1928****19280529****Bank****MacDonald HG****300000****Recreation Academy Ltd****350-1928****19280531****Building****Dunlop J****80000****Burns Holdings Ltd****700-1931****19310910****Alterations****Whitlaw CH****6000**

George Heath MacDonald and Herbert Alton Magoon

<p>City of Edmonton 211-1924 19240522 Repairs (Library) Poole Construction Co. 700</p>	<p>St. Peter's Luthern Church 61-1928 19280316 Church Schadeck Jas 13000</p>	<p>Friedman and Leibeiman 201-1929 19290406 Repairs (Theatre) Permanent Construction Co 60000</p>
<p>Evangelical Lutheran Syn 225-1925 19250521 College Poole Construction Co. 110000</p>	<p>Weber Bros 99-1928 19280330 Office Foote and Allyn 40000</p>	<p>Howard and McBride 345-1929 19290503 Funeral Parlor Dunlop J 30000</p>
<p>Salvation Army 513-1925 19250928 Citadel Dunlop J 30000</p>	<p>Ashdown Hardware 216-1928 19280430 Warehouse Poole Construction Co. 110000</p>	<p>Advance Runley Co. 472-1929 19290523 Warehouse Permanent Construction Co 63400</p>
<p>Alberta College 62-1926 19260317 College Poole Construction Co. 75000</p>	<p>Waterloo Manufacturing Co 449-1928 19280627 Warehouse McIntyre JR 7400</p>	<p>Eaton T. Co. 556-1929 19290606 Warehouse Claydon Co. Ltd 380000</p>
<p>McDougall and Secord 18-1927 19270129 Store Ingram T 11000</p>	<p>McConnell FJ 517-1928 19280719 Tire Repair & Service Dunlop J 11000</p>	<p>Willington Apts Lts 666-1929 19290627 Garage Dunlop J 25000</p>
<p>McDougall Jas 100-1927 19270408 Building Permanent Construction Co 13800</p>	<p>Western Steel Products 857-1928 19281115 Office & Warehouse Permanent Construction Co 30000</p>	<p>Scona Baptist Church 926-1929 19290903 Add (Church) Strass C 7500</p>
<p>Great West Garment Co. 750-1927 19271114 Add (Storey) Parney LD 9500</p>	<p>Western Transfer 38-1929 19290227 Barn MacDonald HG 25000</p>	<p>Imrie J 1087-1929 19291007 Garage Parney LD 1400</p>

George Heath MacDonald and Herbert Alton Magoon

<p>McDougall and Secord 361-1930 19300501 Office MacDonald HG 124600</p>	<p>Salvation Army Stores 66-1932 19320328 Alterations Schadeck Jas 2000</p>	<p>Crescent Furniture Co. 421-1935 19350815 Spray Room Parney LD 350</p>
<p>National Trust Co. 413-1930 19300509 Addition Frost and Allyn 50000</p>	<p>Empire Marble and Tile Co 71-1932 19320401 Add (Plant) Dunlop J 5500</p>	<p>City of Edmonton 629-1935 19351108 Transformer Northwest Construction 1485</p>
<p>Concordia College 590-1930 19300619 House Ingram T 9500</p>	<p>Corona Hotel Co. Ltd 267-1932 19320520 Hotel Poole Construction Co. 204000</p>	<p>Cristall A 482-1936 19360826 Store Foote Richard 11000</p>
<p>Concordia College 591-1930 19300619 House Ingram T 9500</p>	<p>Beulah Tabernacle 498-1933 19331002 Alterations Degalt Wm 1300</p>	<p>McMillan Jas G 515-1936 19360909 House McSporran 4000</p>
<p>Concordia College 592-1930 19300619 House Ingram T 9500</p>	<p>Taylor and Pearson 541-1933 19331025 Warehouse Foote and Allyn 12000</p>	<p>Hayward GE 581-1936 19360930 Alterations McIntyre JR 600</p>
<p>Concordia College 593-1930 19300619 House Ingram T 9500</p>	<p>Army and Navy Ltd 3-1935 19350105 Alterations Strass C 5000</p>	<p>Great West Distributors 654-1936 19361016 Add (Station) Nesbitt T 1500</p>
<p>Edmonton Bulletin 972-1930 19300926 Addition Whitlaw CH 11000</p>	<p>McIntyre JR 259-1935 19350702 Alterations McIntyre JR 4800</p>	<p>Hahn IE 216-1937 19370428 House McIntyre JR 9000</p>

George Heath MacDonald and Herbert Alton Magoon

Grace Lutheran Church 448-1937 19370624 Church Applicant 4500	Cristall A 987-1938 19380927 Store Batson CC 6000	er Building Ltd 1035-1939 19390923 Alterations Poole Construction Co. 40000
Sherman I 353-1938 19380509 Theatre Applicant 18000	King Edward Hotel 1157-1938 19381118 Alterations McSporran 4000	Canada. Gov't of Canada 1131-1939 19391025 Add (Hog Building) Poole Construction Co. 9000
Imperial Oil Co 495-1938 19380606 Garage McIntyre JR 18000	Royal George Hotel 1171-1938 19381130 Addition and Alt Batson CC 9000	Munro John 1205-1939 19391130 Store & Apartments Applicant 12500
Capital Theatre 667-1938 19380718 Alt (Theatre Seats) Trowth RH 1000	Gorman's Ltd 52-1939 19390306 Alterations Allyn Fredk L 1600	King's Hotel 1213-1939 19391206 Alterations McIntyre JR 15000
Cristall A 689-1938 19380726 Garage McIntyre JR 4700	Conora Hotel Co. 88-1939 19390325 Add (Storey) Poole Construction Co. 53000	Gelber N 1-1940 19400102 Alterations McIntyre JR 14000
Anthony Wm 703-1938 19380729 Office Applicant 400	Western Transfer 149-1939 19390412 Alterations Batson CC 1500	Calgary Brewing & Malting Co 61-1940 19400311 Alterations Poole Construction Co. 5000
Famous Players 757-1938 19380813 Alterations Applicant 30000	Order of Grey Nuns (Mtl) 887-1939 19390822 Hospital MacDonald HG 173000	Hook Signs Ltd 76-1940 19400319 Office Poole Construction Co. 5800

George Heath MacDonald and Herbert Alton Magoon

McDougall and Secord
 109-1940
 19400403
 Alterations
 Ingram T
 3000

King Edward Hotel
 610-1940
 19400704
 Addition and Alt
 Poole Construction Co.
 50000

Flynn Mrs T
 724-1940
 19400731
 Addition
 Applicant
 2000

Mills Motors Ltd
 780-1940
 19400810
 Add (Garage)
 Cote JN
 5000

Edmonton Motors
 804-1940
 19400813
 Addition
 Carlson A
 10000

Grand Hotel
 931-1940
 19400905
 Alterations
 McIntyre JR
 10000

Woolworth Co. EW
 1154-1940
 19401005
 Alterations
 Poole Construction Co.
 30000

Royal George Hotel
 1173-1940
 19401008
 Alterations
 McRae Robt
 6000

Canada. Gov't of Canada
 1209-1940
 19401011
 SteelWork/Assembly Pl
 Dominion Bridge Co.
 80000

Hudson's Bay Co
 1262-1940
 19401021
 Alterations
 McIntyre JR
 17000

St. Andrew's Church
 1270-1940
 19401022
 House
 Leeder Jas
 4500

Canada. Gov't of Canada
 1306-1940
 19401029
 Aircraft Assem.Plant
 MacDonald HG
 239000

Bank of Nova Scotia
 3-1941
 19410102
 Alterations
 McAfee D
 7500

Henry WT
 197-1941
 19410329
 Apartment
 Cote JN
 36700

Edm Public School Board
 1093-1941
 19410716
 School
 Allyn Fredk L
 62000

Swift Canada Co. Ltd
 1393-1941
 19410903
 Add (Storey)
 Poole Construction Co.
 30000

George Heath MacDonald

Amyst Mrs E
 838-1938
 19380901
 Alterations
 Cote JN
 9600

Connelly and McKinley
 1636-1941
 19411006
 Addition and Alt
 Morin Bros
 9500

Canada. Gov't of Canada
 1841-1941
 19411117
 Assembly Plant Bldg
 MacDonald HG
 650000

Franciscan Sisters
 1897-1941
 19411204
 Addition
 Haddon JC
 10000

University of Alberta
 87-1942
 19420219
 Add (Rink)
 MacDonald HG
 6400

University of Alberta
 88-1942
 19420219
 Infirmary
 MacDonald HG
 20100

Canada. Dept of Transport
 1284-1942
 19420825
 Building
 MacDonald HG
 350000

McDougall and Secord
 18-1943
 19430111
 Repairs (Fire dmge)
 Poole Construction Co.
 50000

Canada. Dept of Transport
 132-1943
 19430309
 Building
 MacDonald HG
 701500

Edmonton Cold Storage
 526-1943
 19430429
 Repairs
 McIntyre JR
 6000

Edmonton Box & Stove Co
 1138-1943
 19430713
 Add (Factory)
 Visser D
 18000

Edmonton Cold Storage
 1957-1943
 19430914
 Add (Storey)
 McIntyre JR
 12000

Lockerbie & Hole Ltd
 1989-1943
 19430917
 Alterations
 Ingram T
 4000

Lockerbie & Hole Ltd
 1990-1943
 19430917
 Alterations
 Ingram T
 4000

Lockerbie & Hole Ltd
 2236-1943
 19431020
 House
 Morin Bros
 2800

Wong Chas
 2296-1943
 19431029
 Add (Cafe)
 Wong Chas
 11100

Edmonton Box & Stove Co
 2379-1943
 19431109
 Boiler House
 Visser D
 2000

Figure 1



Figure 2

Figure 3

of the Wilmington Public Library Board:

Your Select Committee respecting the proposed new building for the Central Library beg to report as follows:

1. As to the site--Your Committee have examined the By-law presented to by the burgesses on the 21st June 1910. and find that the site now owned by the Board on College Drive was, under that By-law chosen by the burgesses and acquired by the Board for the purposes of the Library.
2. Your Committee are of opinion that this site is a suitable site for the purposes of the Central Library and having been designated in the By-law as the Library site your Committee are not able to recommend that this site should be set aside by your Board in favor of an alternative site, without the concurrence of the burgesses of the City.
3. Your Committee therefore recommend that the said site be definitely adopted as the site of the new Central Library.
4. As to Plans. Your Committee have also taken into consideration the matter of Plans of the proposed Library. They are in favour of the erection of a building oblong in form, comprising one storey and high basement, with lantern lighting, to be built of stone and brick and conforming as nearly as may be to the elevations of the Library erected by the City of Washington, D. C. and the exterior plan of the Somerville, Massachusetts Library, and the Springfield Massachusetts Library.
5. In view of the urgency of the matter and the request of the Carnegie Corporation of New York for the early submission for their approval of the Library Plans, and having regard to the delay and expense which would be entailed if the preparation of plans should be submitted to a competition amongst architects, your Committee are of opinion that no such competition be recommended, and that the appointment of an architect should forthwith be made. They therefore recommend that Mr. M. M. Mulvaney be appointed architect for and on behalf of the Board at such remuneration as shall be agreed upon and subject to such supervision and direction by the Board as may from time to time be prescribed by the Board.

Carried

July 16, 1922

Figure 4

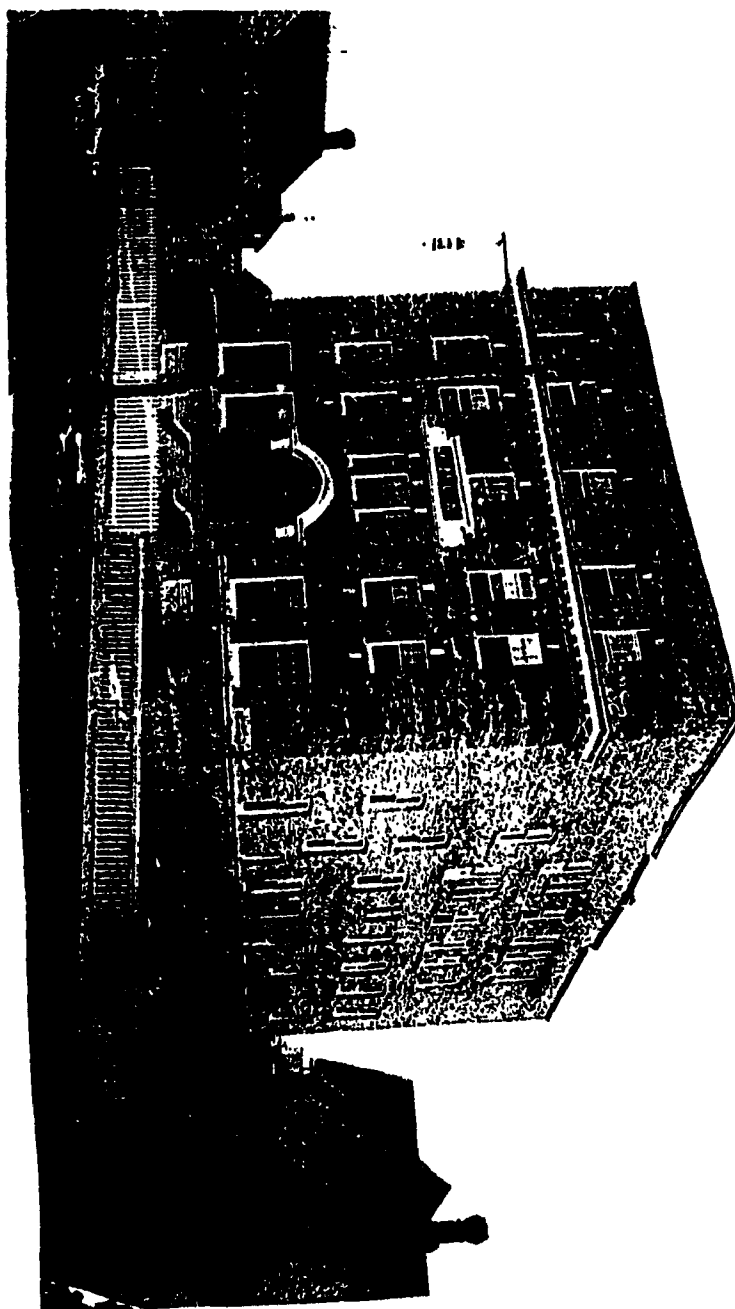


Figure 5

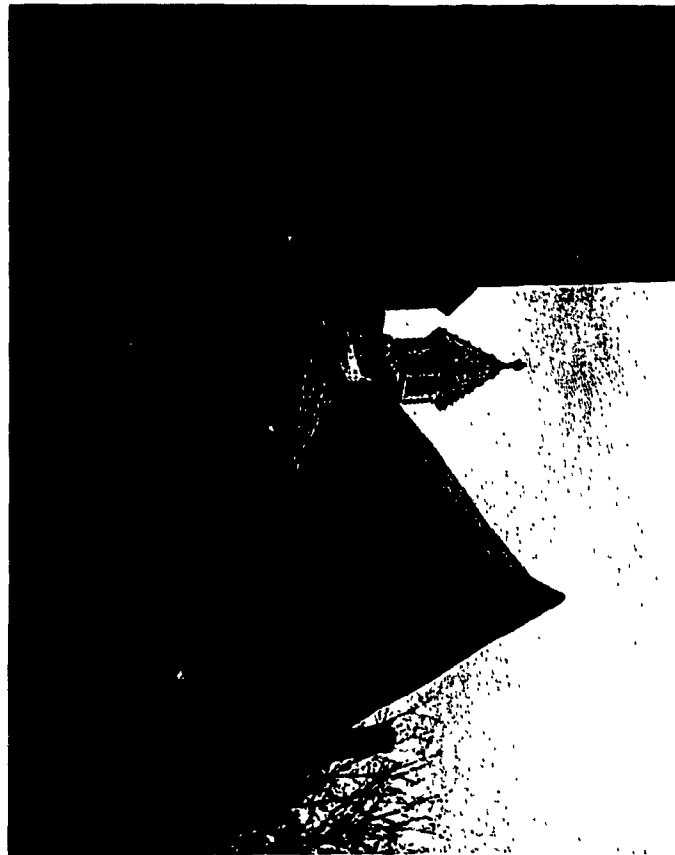


Figure 6



DESIGN FOR A CLOCK TOWER
PLANS AND ELEVATIONS
MCGILL ARCH. DEPARTMENT
THIS YEAR DESIGN PROBLEM
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0" MARCH 1910

Figure 7

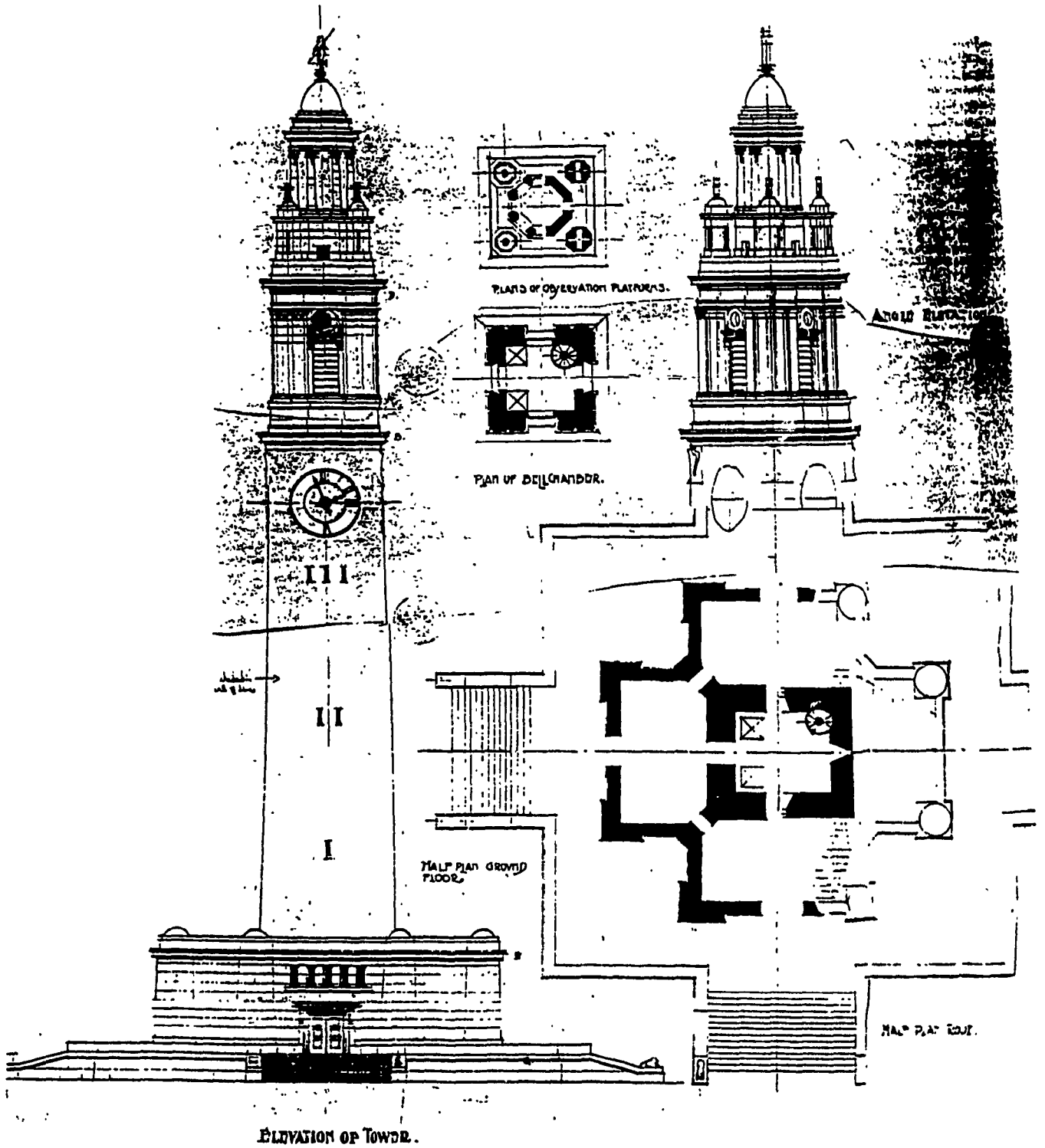


Figure 8



Figure 9

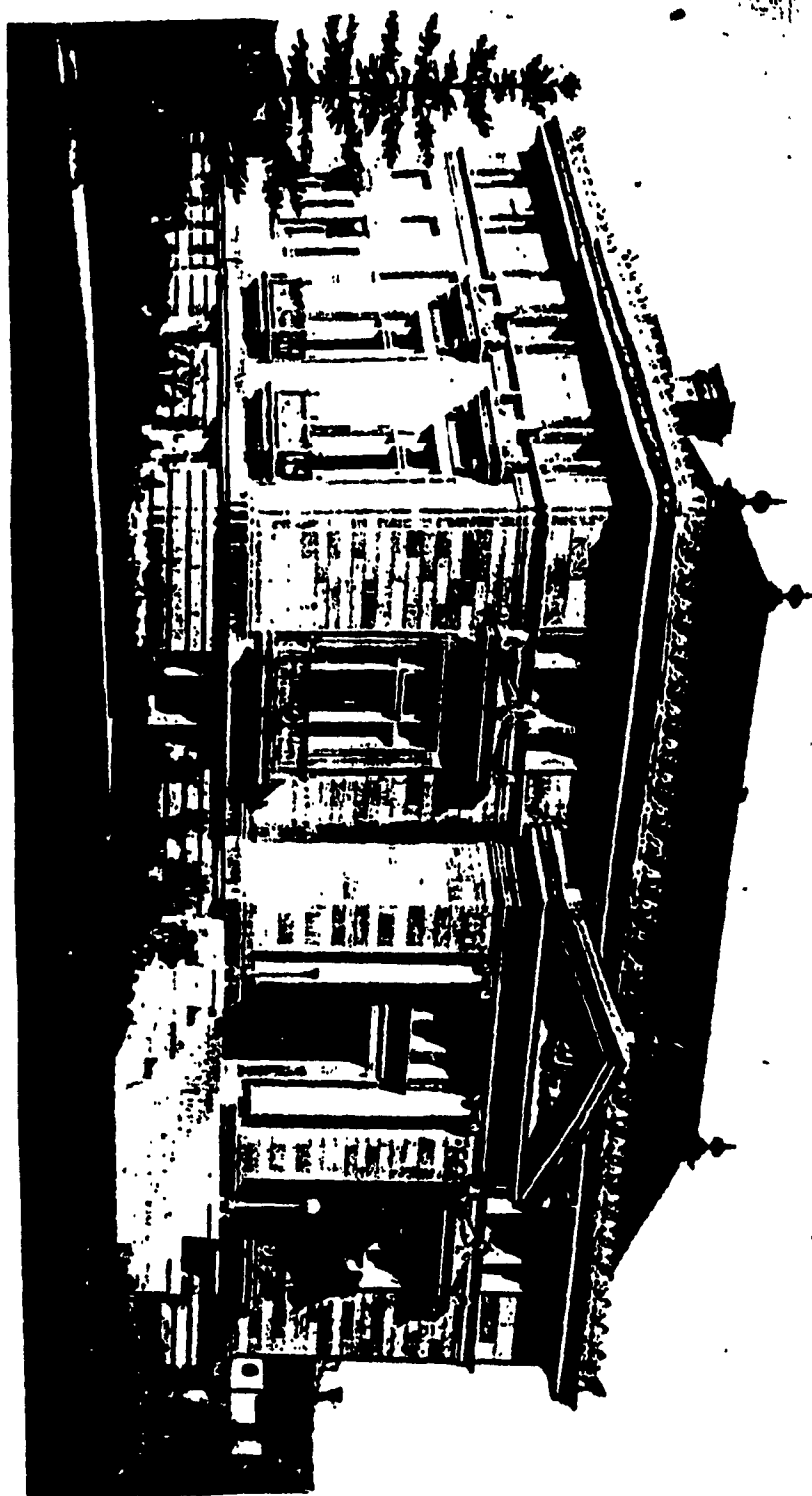


Figure 10

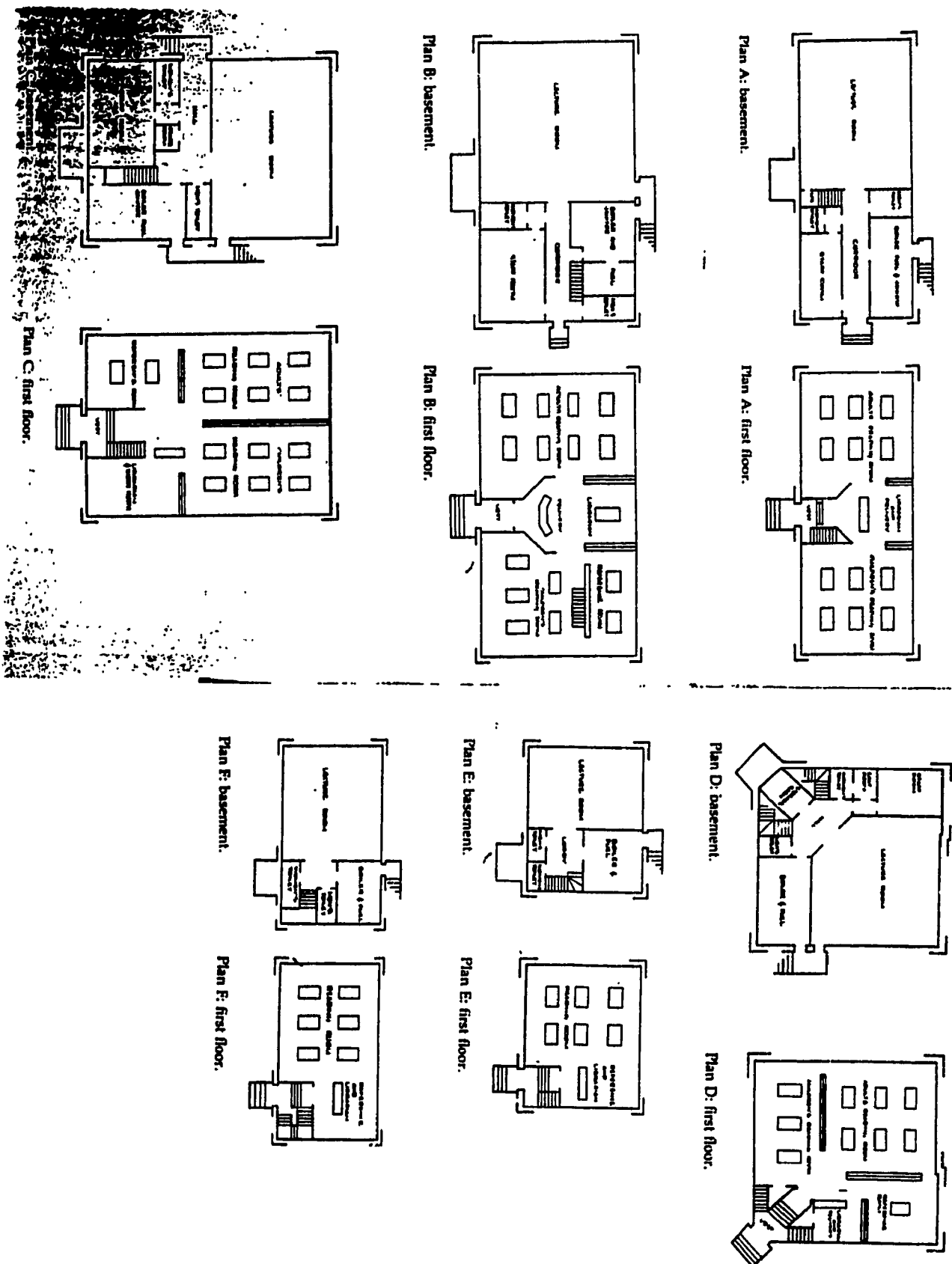


Figure 11

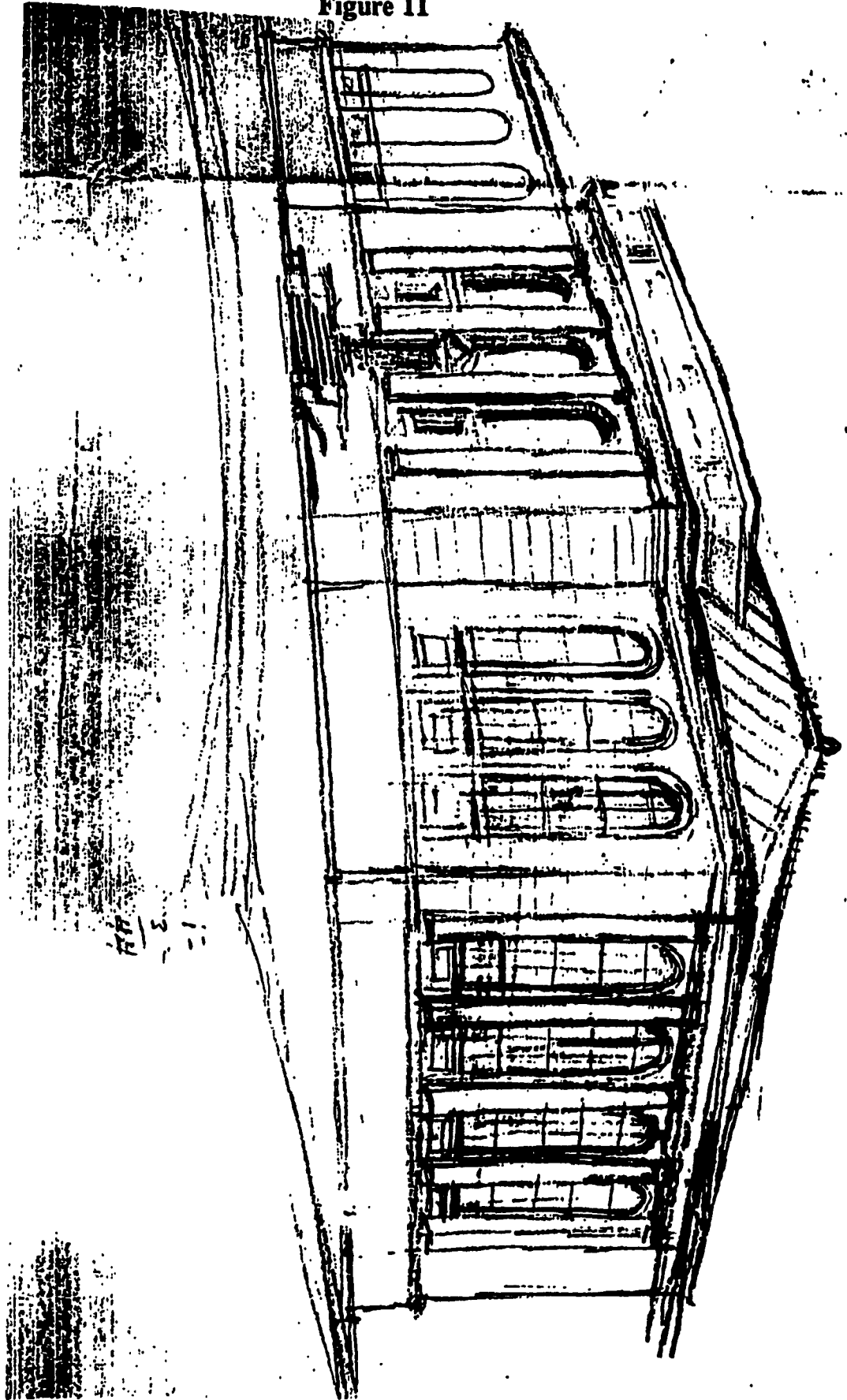
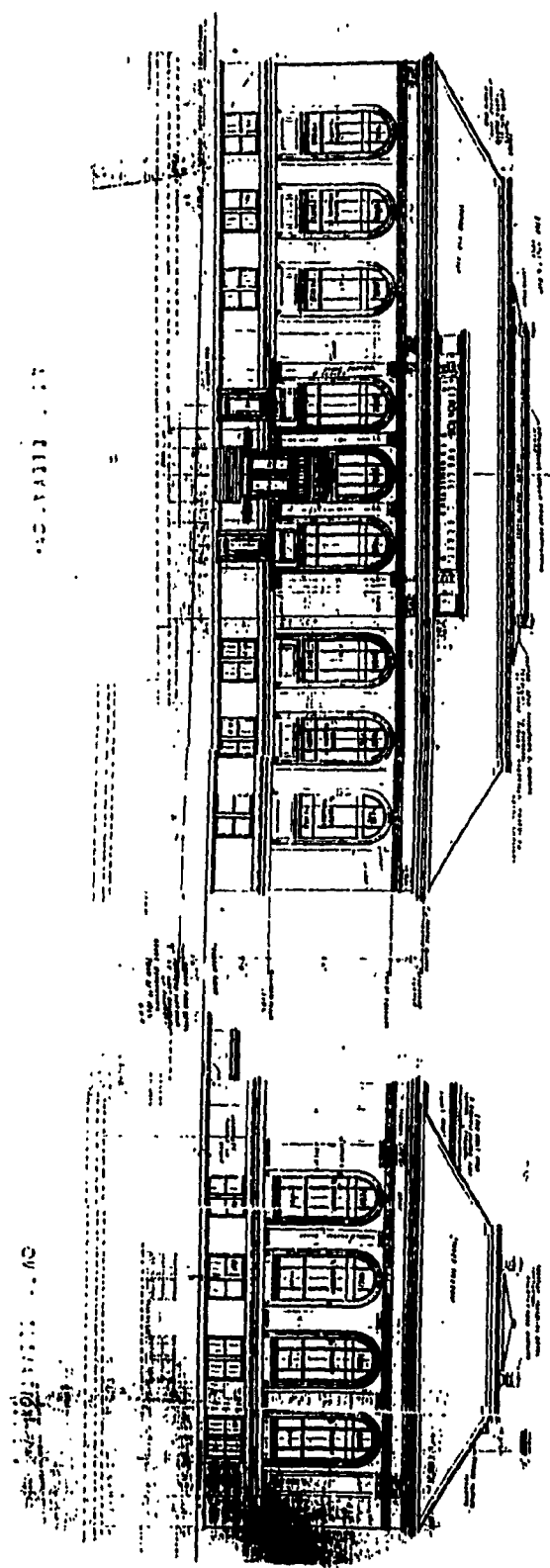


Figure 12



GENERAL BUILDING CONTRACTOR
 12345 MAIN STREET
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001
 TEL: (202) 555-1234

Figure 13

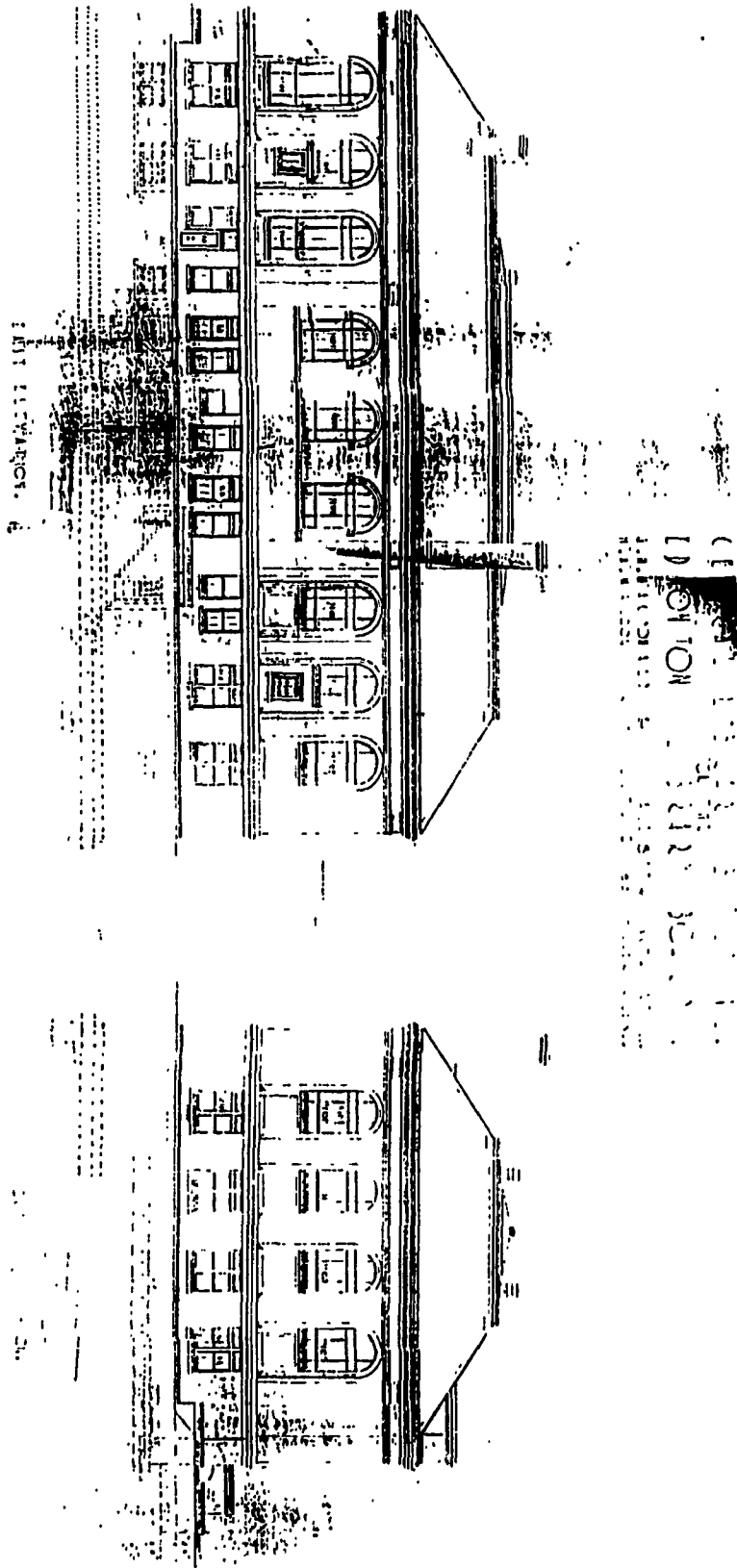


Figure 14

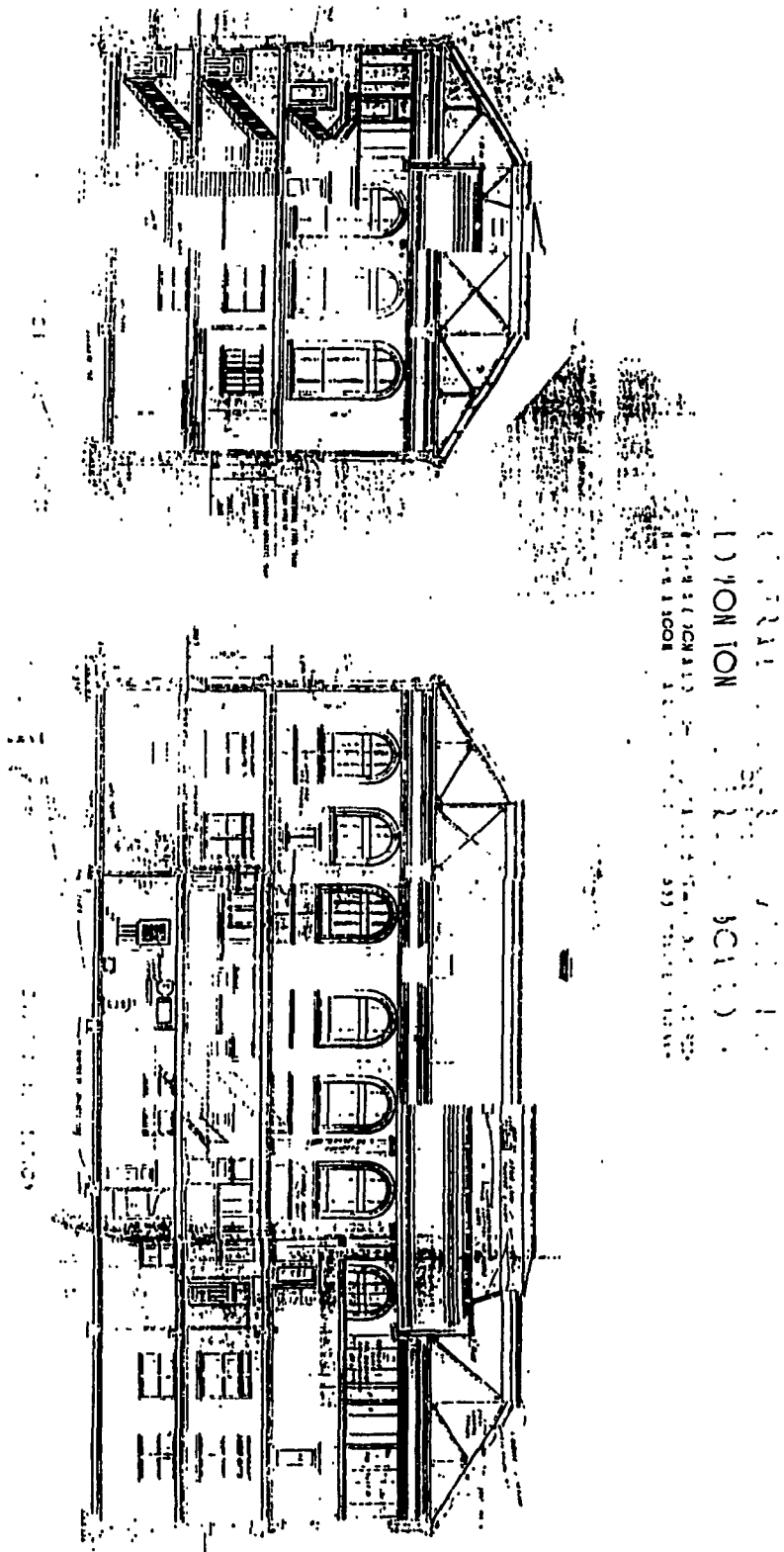


Figure 15

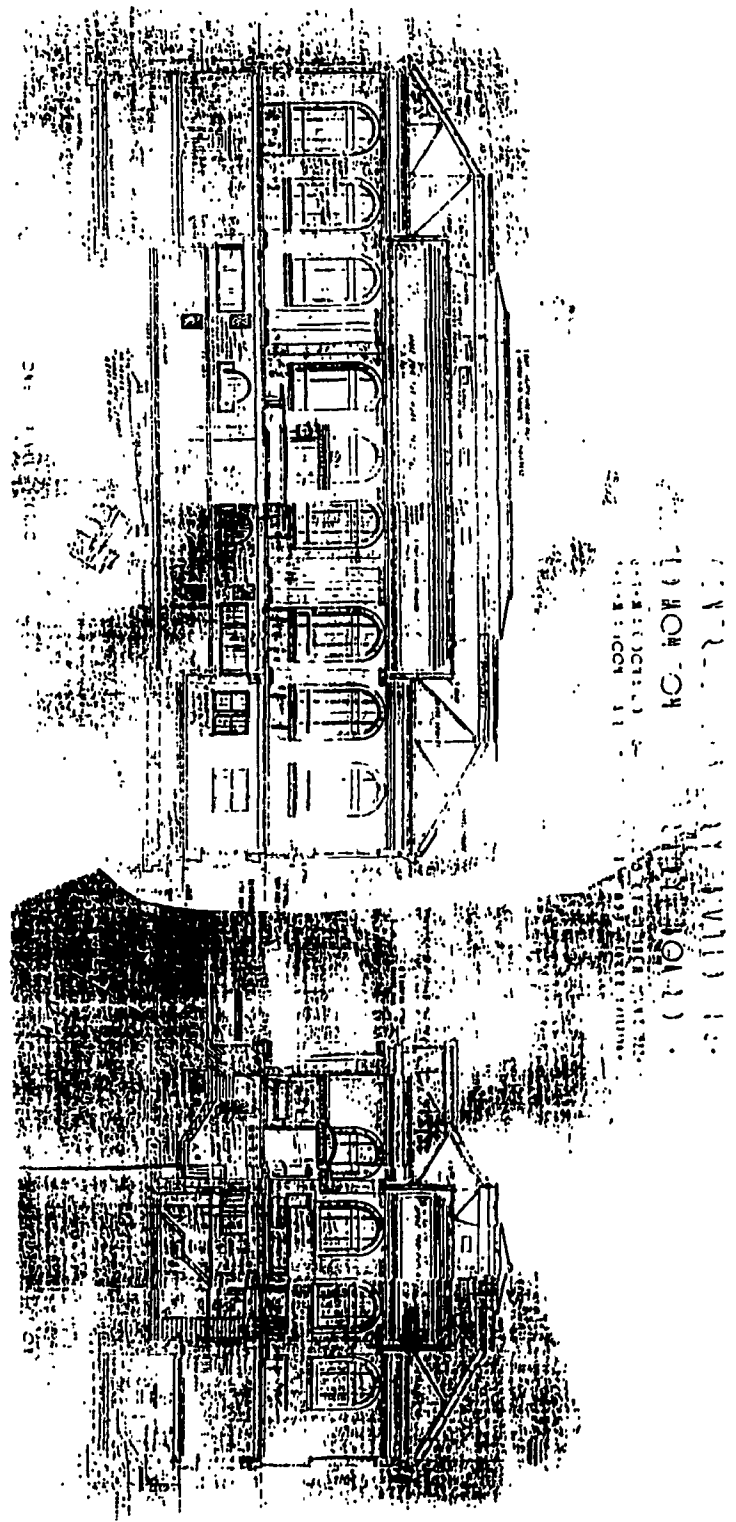


Figure 16

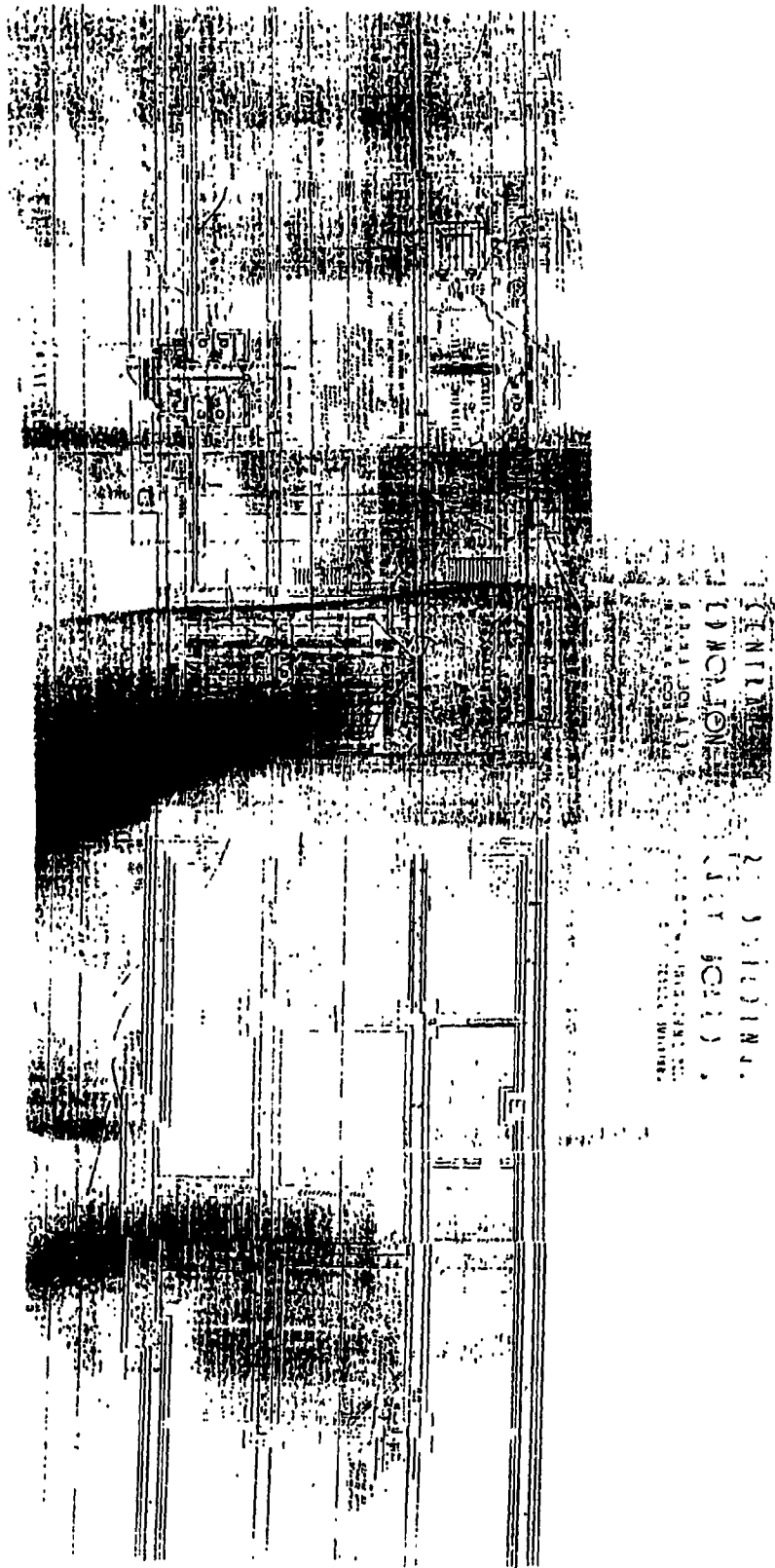


Figure 17

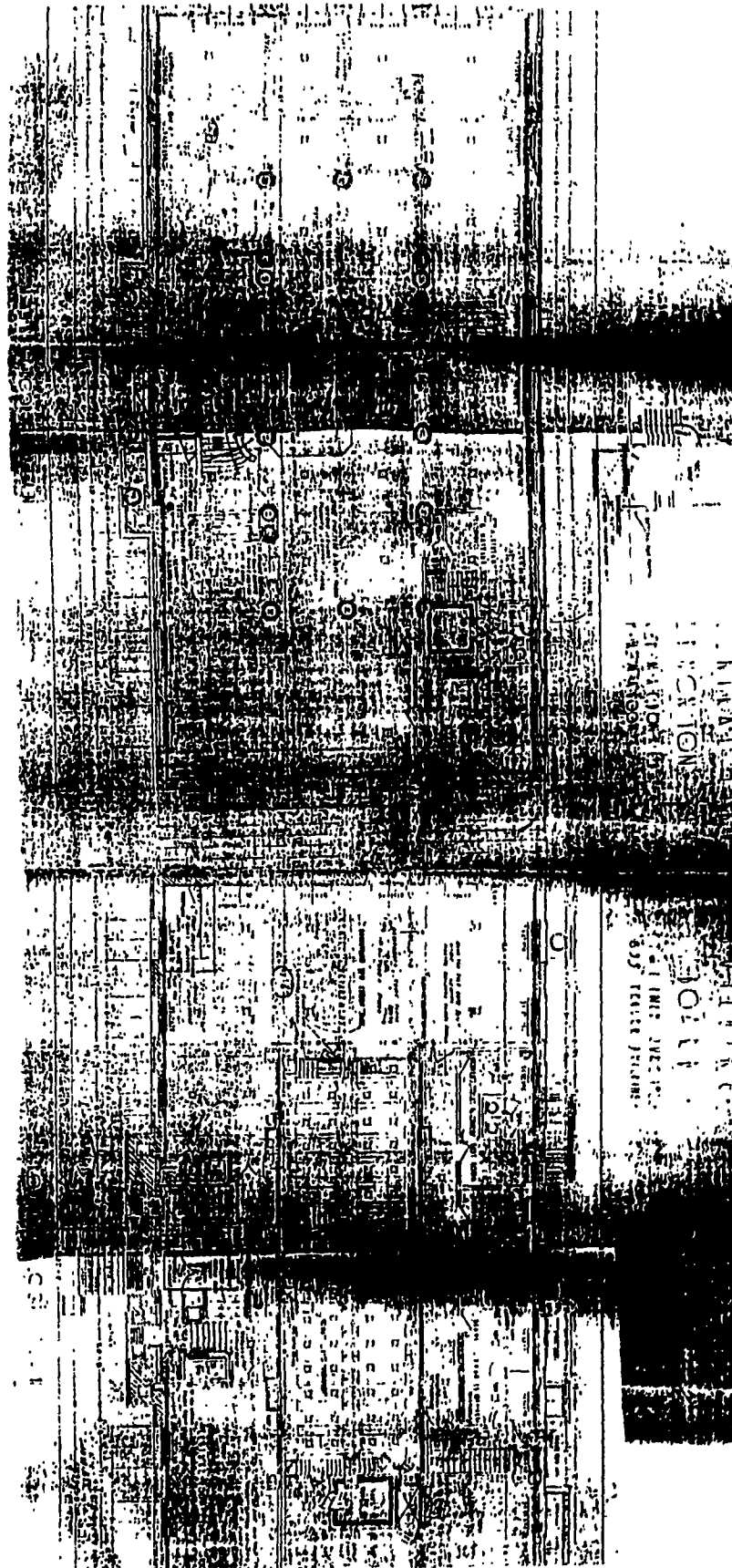


Figure 18

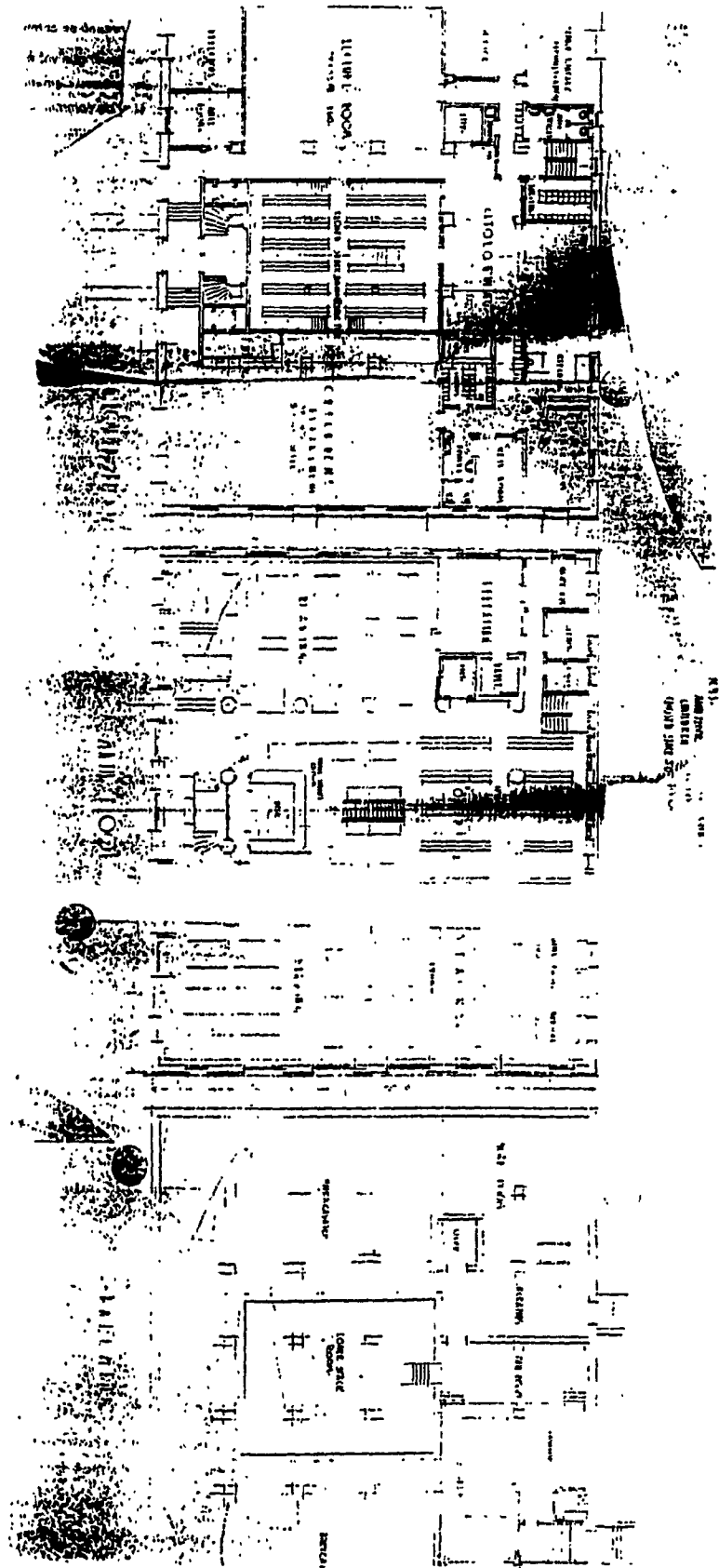


Figure 19

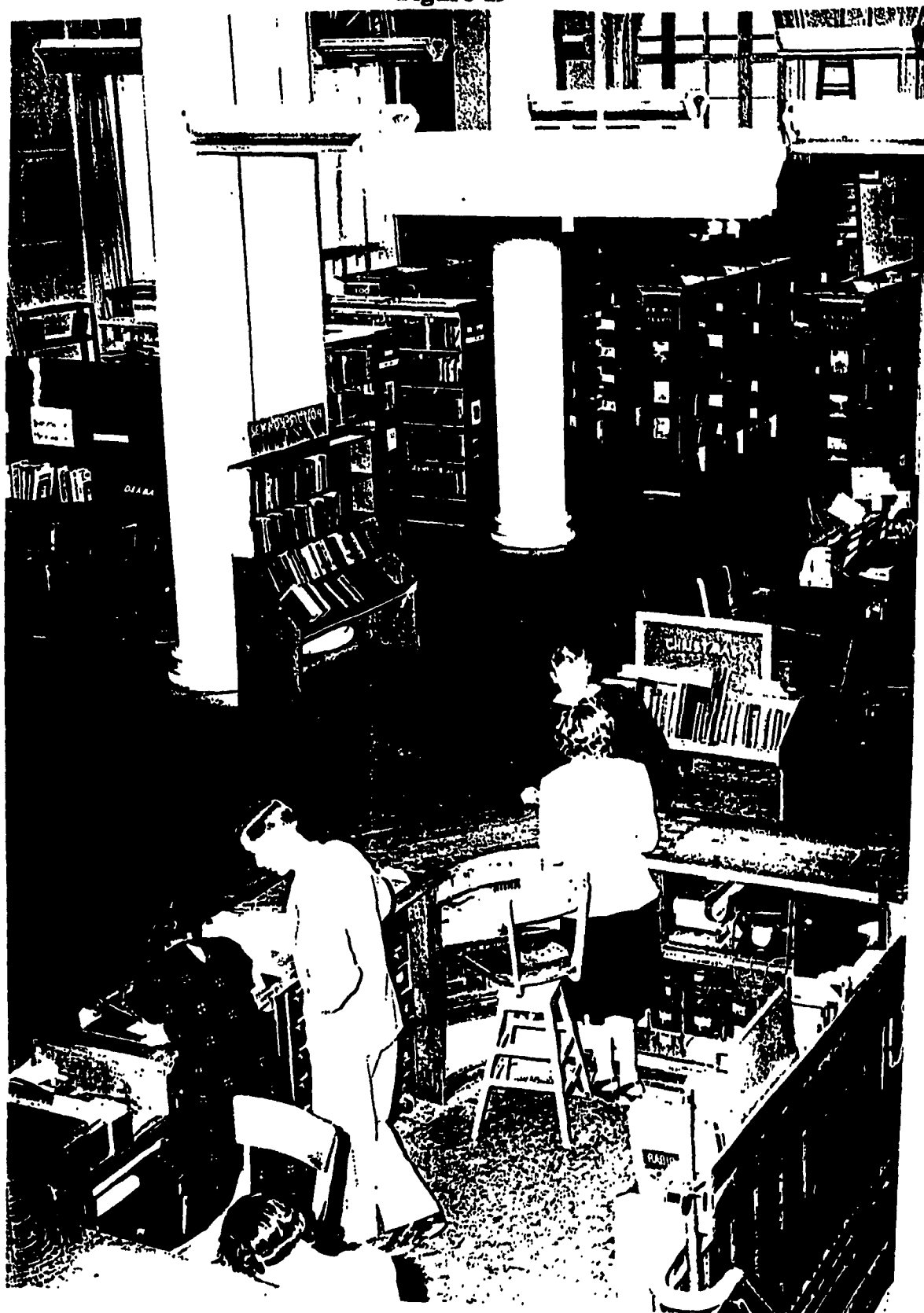


Figure 20



Figure 21



Figure 22



Figure 23

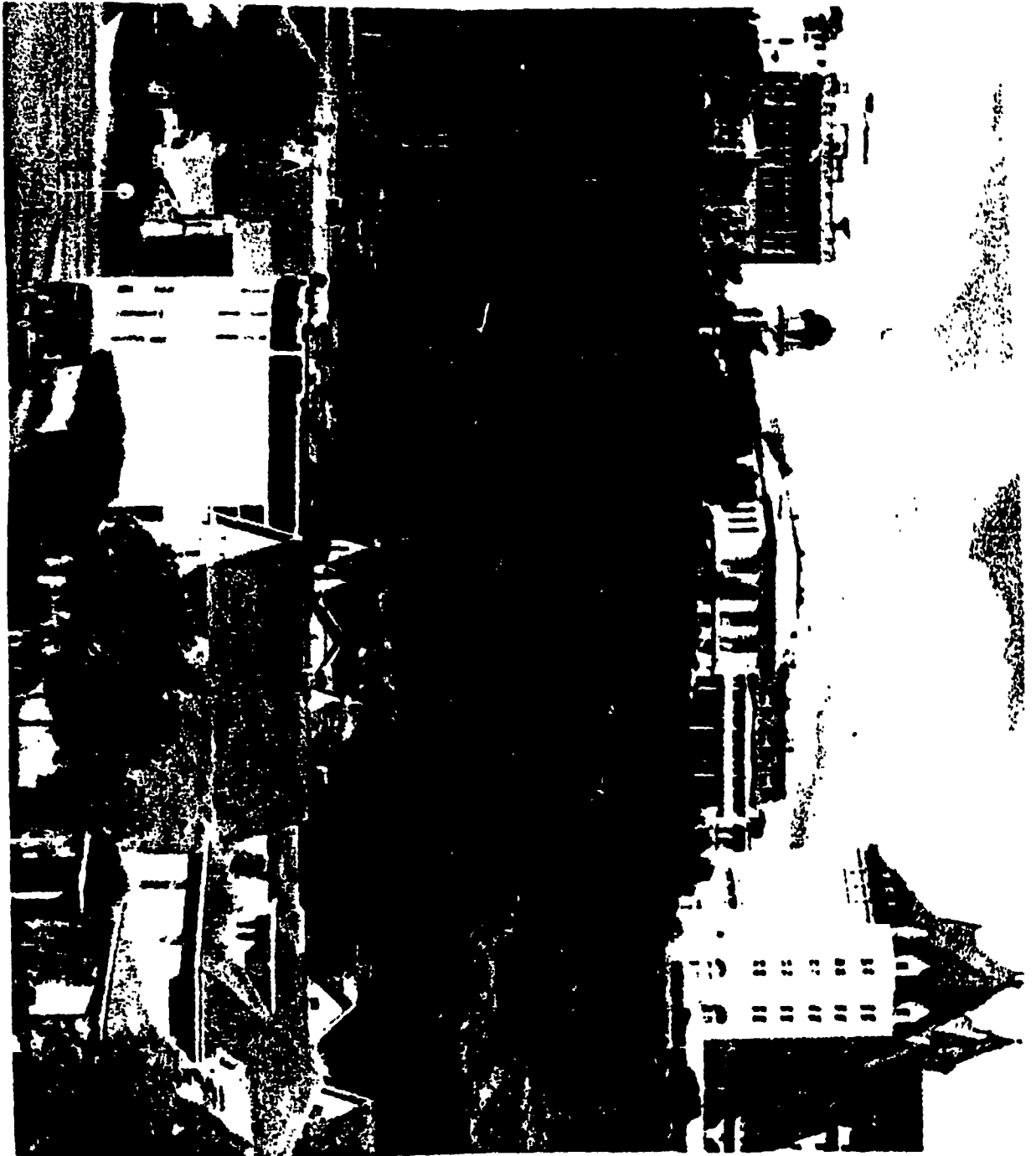


Figure 24

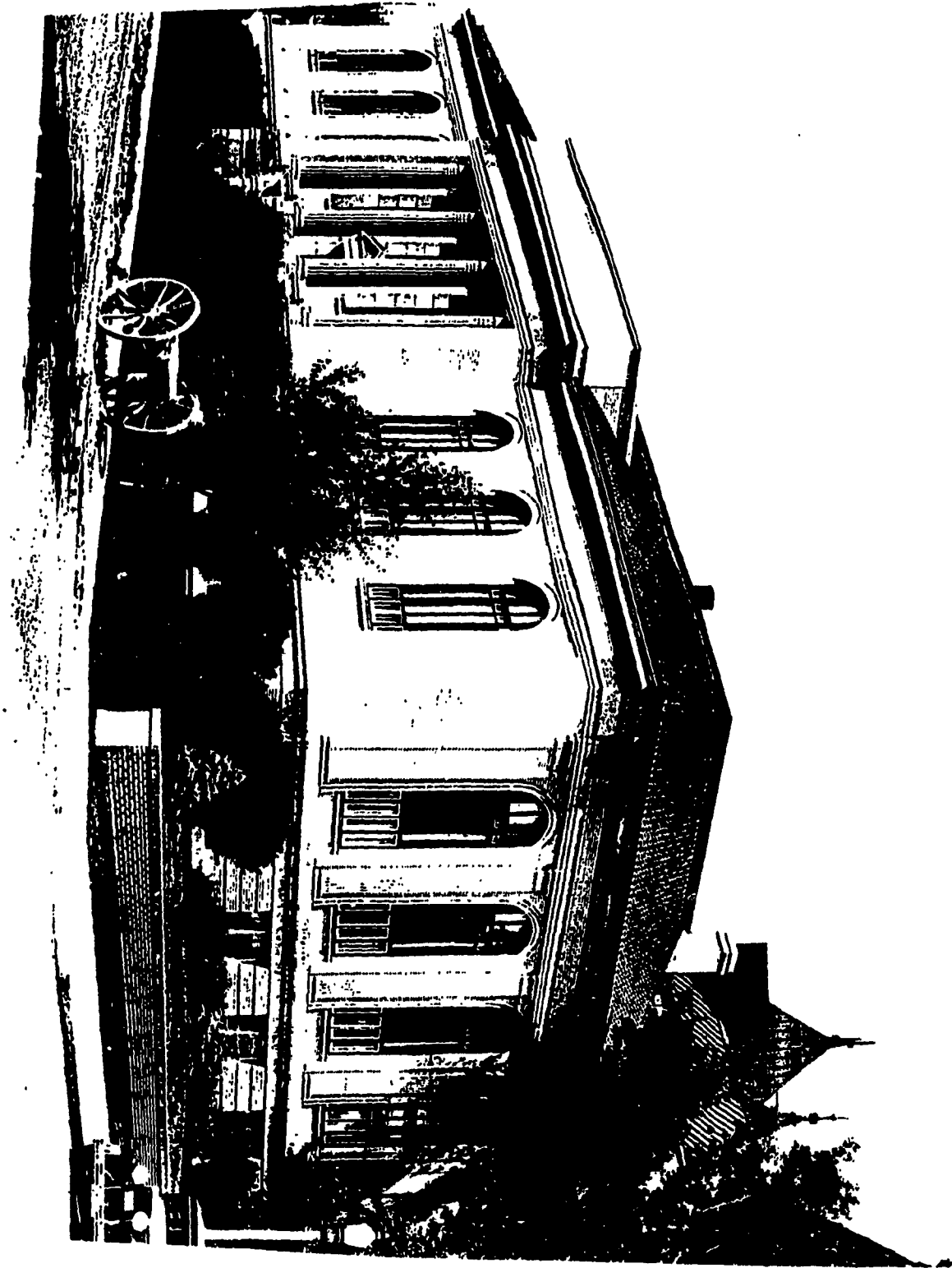


Figure 25



Figure 26

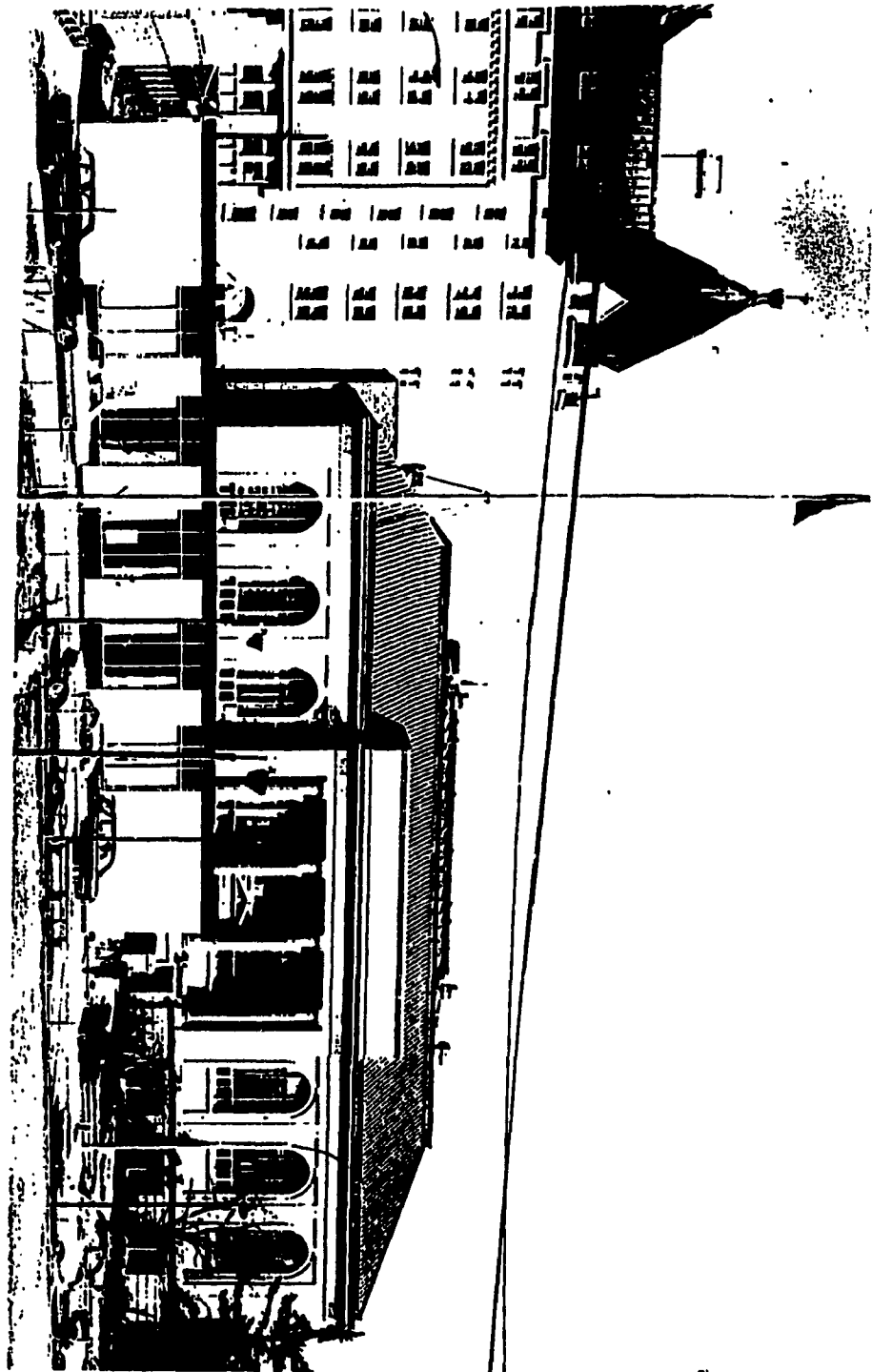


Figure 27

