AN HISTORICAL DATA SECTION

FOR AN

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

ON THE

FORDYCE BATHHOUSE
ARKANSAS HOT SPRINGS

for the United States Department of Interior
National Park Service, Southwest Region

Wilson Stiles
Witsell and Evans, P.A.
Little Rock, Arkansas

Order # PX7029-0-0582

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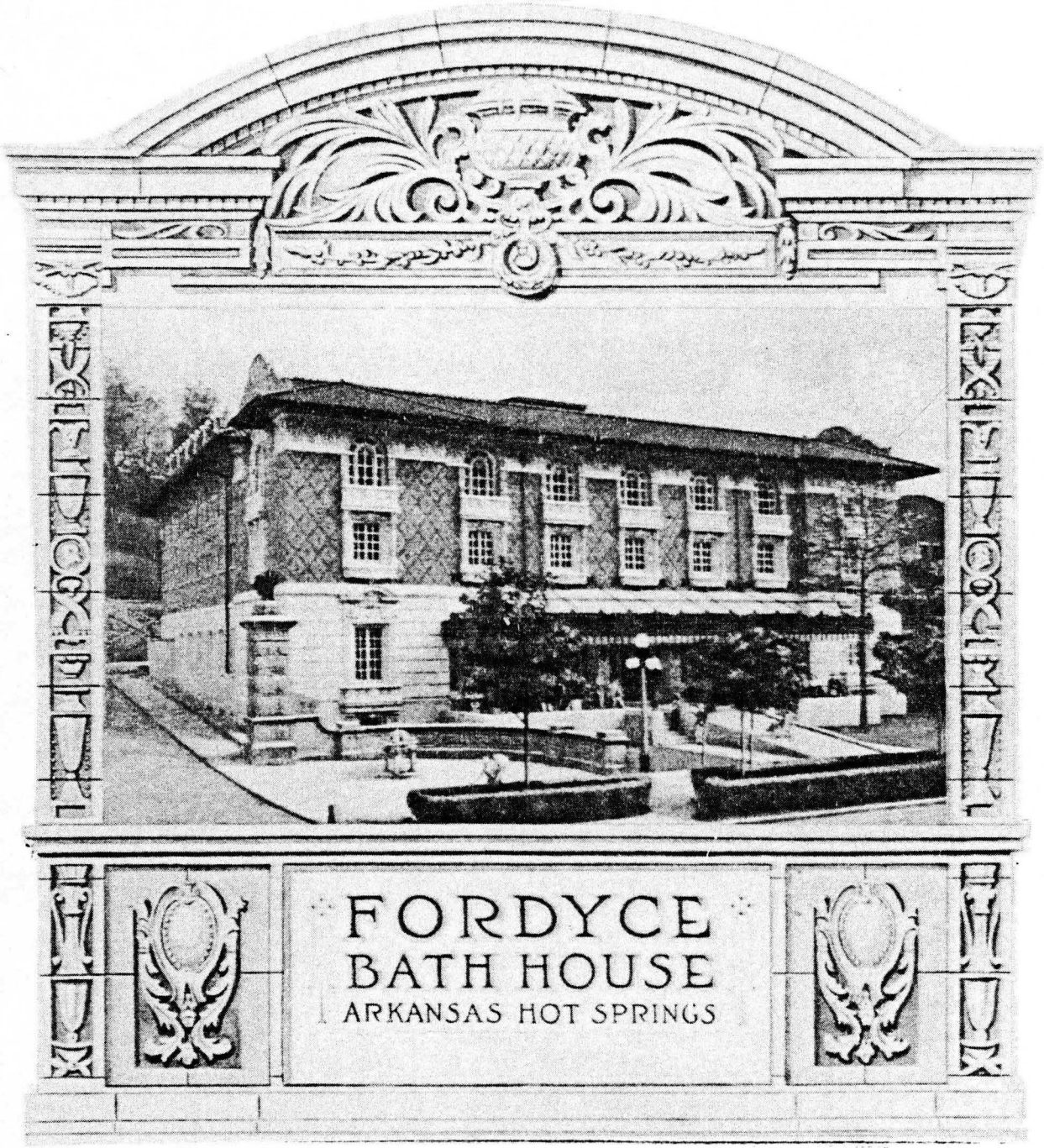

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This historic structures report is a narrative based on written, graphic, and oral documentation tracing the evolution of the Fordyce Bathhouse. Only facts from documents are presented, and there are few assumptions or speculations since no fabric analyses were conducted. Because this report is totally dependent upon documentary resources, several people played an important role in helping assemble all the material relevant to the building's history. I would like to extend my thanks to the following for their cooperation and generosity:

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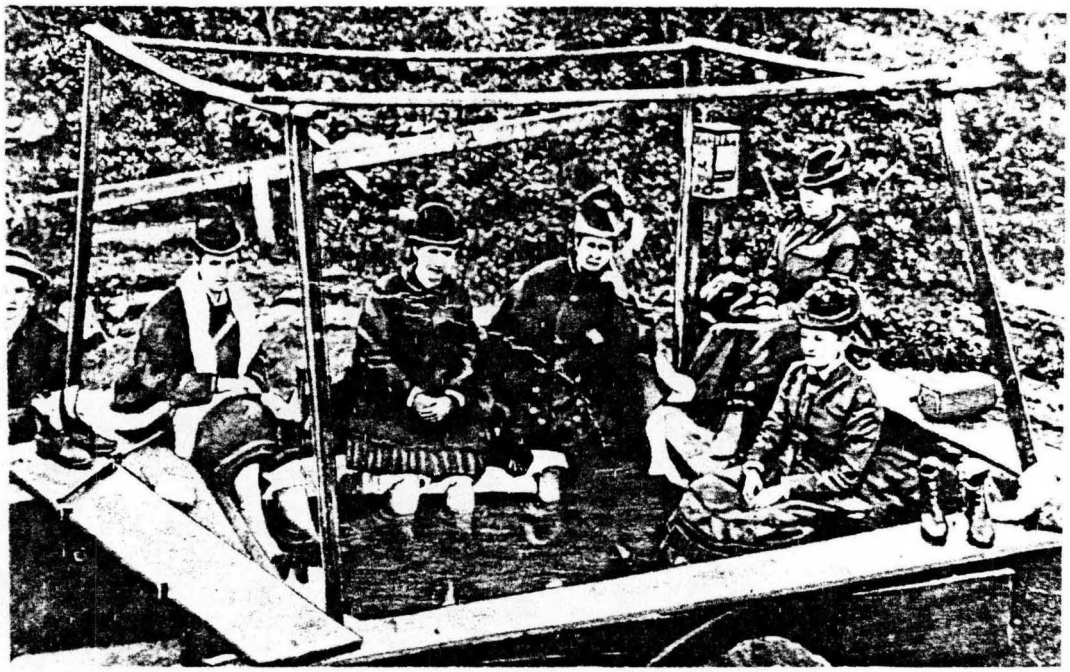
INTRODUCTION

"The most palatial and best equipped bathing establishment in the world has been completed in this, the world's most famous health and pleasure resort...." These words of the local newspaper, the Sentinel Record, announced to the public the opening March 1, 1915, of the Fordyce Bathhouse on the Hot Springs Reservation. It had been speculated that this was not merely just an opening of a new bathhouse, but the beginning of a new era, bringing Hot Springs into the "Golden Age of Bathing" in luxury and technical advances comparable to the health spas of Europe.

But the Fordyce Bathhouse was more than a building, it was a monument, or a symbol of the "miraculous" healing power of the thermal waters. Hot Springs had for some time had the reputation of curing a number of maladies such as rheumatism, gout, malaria, alcohol and drug addictions, constipation, paralysis, syphilis, etc. It was the health-restoring waters that brought the entrepreneur Samuel W. Fordyce of Huntsville, Alabama, and St. Louis, Missouri, to Hot Springs. Suffering from a Civil War injury, Fordyce was given only six months to live late in 1872. In the spring of 1873, he made his first trip to Arkansas for the baths and returned in 1874. Not only had his health improved, his curiosity had been peaked by the investment possibilities in Hot Springs.



"Fordyce Bath House in 1835", postcard (HSNP).

In 1875, he built in partnership the Arlington Hotel (and later rebuilt the same) and moved his family to Arkansas in 1876. Over the next two decades he built the Eastman Hotel, the Palace Bathhouse, and a theatre. He also purchased the horse car line, and bought the Hot Springs Water, Gas and Electric Light properties.[1] Then in 1914 and 1915, he constructed, sparing no expense, the Fordyce Bathhouse (on the site of the old Palace) as a testimonial to the healing waters. As he stated in his "Autobiography," "I felt I owed my life to Hot Springs."

But S. W. Fordyce's monument gained mostly only the flowery apellations, for little financial gain was made. The demise of Fordyce Bathhouse was inevitable. As early as 1918, his son, John R. Fordyce, wrote that "the investment in this bathhouse...was not a good one," and that the investment was "one of sentiment only."[2] From the beginning, there was friction and jealousy among the bathhouses because of the Fordyce's magnificence.[3] Also the Fordyce's rates on bath tickets were set as the highest on Bathhouse Row because of its finer appearance and better facilities, and this resulted in the gaining of business of the other attractive bathhouses with the lower rates.[4] Net earnings in the early years were never very much, and if depreciation had been taken into consideration, profit would have been negligible.[5]

The decline in the bathing industry was also part of the reason for the Fordyce's demise. In the mid-1940's, when the United States was regaining its strength from the Depression, bathhouse patronage was up, but after 1946, there was a sharp decline at all bathhouses. By this time, advancements in medical technology, such as penicillin, were replacing the usefulness of the mysterious healing waters. The Fordyce in 1946 gave 87,167 baths while in 1961 only 23,566 baths were given. By 1957, the Fordyce was operating in the red, and the facts that the bathhouse suffered damaging operating losses annually and the decline of the volume of bathing made it impossible for the Fordyce to obtain financing to meet their operating expenses.[6]

In 1958, the Fordyce was offered for sale at the price of $175,000.[7] It was proposed in 1961 that the Fordyce be adaptively used as a visitor center for the Hot Springs National Park rather than building a new structure on the Arlington Lawn.[8] But in 1962 the National Park Service decided not to acquire the Fordyce Bathhouse for conversion into a visitor center.[9]

Throughout the next several years, various public and private organizations were interested in purchasing the Fordyce, but the Service did not give favorable consideration to the proposals because they were introducing business functions foreign to the purposes for which the Park was established.

In 1962, the Mountain Valley Water Company was interested in obtaining the Fordyce for regular bathhouse purposes as well as office and business functions.[10] That same year, the bathhouse was closed, and in a feasibility study it was proposed that both the Fordyce and Maurice Bathhouses be town down.

In 1963, the Fordyce family inquired if the bathhouse could be converted to some other use such as a parking garage, a drug store, or a health center for physical fitness and weight reduction.[11] Also in 1963 a buyer from Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, was interested in converting it into a second physical medicine center similar to the Libbey Memorial.[12] In 1965, converting the bathhouse into a parking garage was reconsidered and proposed by the Assistant Regional Director of Operations, Southwest Region,[13] and in 1968 it was recommended that the Fordyce be used as a tourist information center for the City of Hot Springs.[14]

It was requested in 1972 to turn the Fordyce into the Ouachita Regional Counseling and Mental Health Center.[15] Also, in 1972, "Ripley's Believe it or Not!" was interested in converting it into a museum,[16] and Miss Blanche Thebom, formerly with the Metropolitan Opera, projected her thoughts to the Park Superintendent of forming a "Foundation for the Performing Arts" at the Fordyce.[17] The following year, the Cromwell firm in Little Rock prepared a report recommending the

Fordyce be converted into a museum, restaurant, or shops, singularly or in combination.[18]

No plans for conversion were ever realized, and no purchaser was ever found. Even though the building has been allowed to deteriorate since its closing in 1962, it is still one of the most beloved buildings in Hot Springs. In 1974, the architectural significance of the Fordyce Bathhouse was recognized when it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places, with the Bathhouse Row nomination, as the "finest of the group."[19]

[1]Samual W. Fordyce, "Autobiography" (dictated in 1919).

[2]J. R. Fordyce to J. F. Manier, 18 July 1918, J. R. Fordyce Papers, Arkansas History Commission, Little Rock, Arkansas.

[3]S. W. Fordyce to J. R. Fordyce, 24 January 1917, Arkansas History Commission.

[4]"Brief Analysis of Fiscal History of Fordyce Bathhouse" (compiled May 1962), Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[5]Ibid.

[6]Ibid.

[7]B. L. Neimeyer to D. S. Libbey, 3 September 1958, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[8]Regional Director to Superintendent, 3 April 1961, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[9]Conrad Wirth to C. P. Fordyce, 10 December 1962, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[10]Ibid.

[11]R. O. Mulvany to S. E. Regional Director, 14 March 1963, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[12]Abe Ohringer to Park Superintendent, 17 October 1963, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[13]E. M. Lisle to National Park Service Director, 2 March 1965, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[14]S. E. Regional Director to National Park Services Director, 25 July 1968, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[15]Memorandum to S. W. Regional Director, 9 May 1972, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[16]Memorandum to S. W. Regional Director, 9 August 1972, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[17]Memorandum to S. W. Regional Director, 7 November 1972, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[18]Cromwell, Neyland, Truemper, Millett and Gatchell, Inc., "Historic Structures Report Hot Springs National Park," November 1973.

[19]"Bath House Row," 11 September 1974, United States Department of Interior National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places Inventory.

CHAPTER I

HISTORY OF THE STRUCTURE

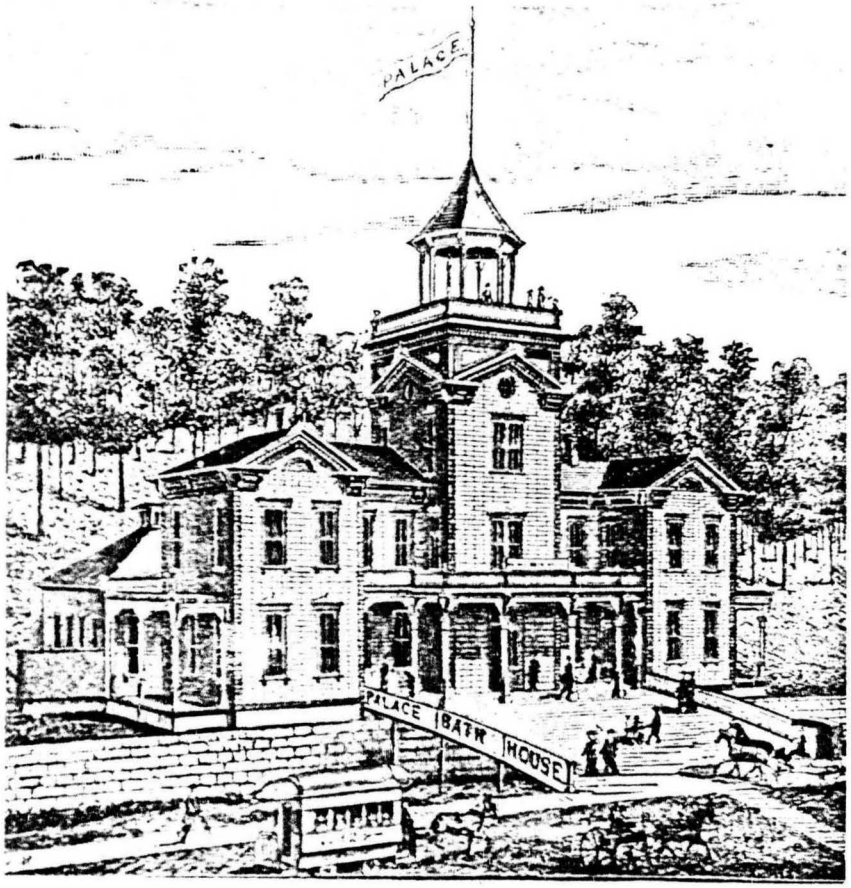
I. History of the Structure

A. OWNERSHIP

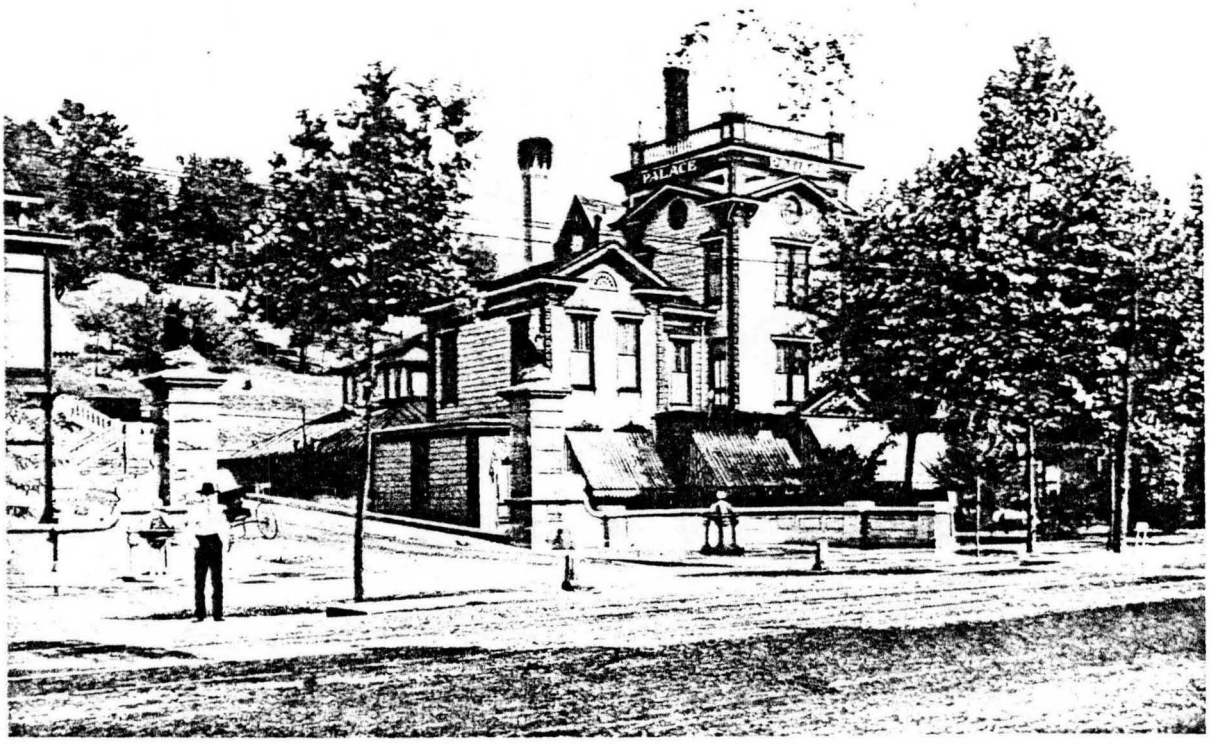
January 1, 1907, Samuel W. Fordyce of St. Louis, Missouri, renewed his former lease of 1892 for another fifteen years of bath house site #7, known as the Palace Bath House site.[1] Already by 1910, the Hot Springs Reservation Superintendent was recommending that Fordyce erect a new bathhouse.[2] Neither the Superintendent nor the Medical Director could recommend specifically what would be necessary to make the Palace a "first class house", but did suggest:

> There will have to be installed a sterlizing plant, a complete system of modern ventilation, with fans to withdraw and also to inject air into the various rooms; a refrigerating plant in lieu of the cooling tank; enlargement of the cooling rooms; and the installment of Scotch Douche tables....I am inclined to believe, without having made a thorough investigation, that it would be vastly better for you to erect a new bath house, especially in view of the fact that the Maurice right next to you have [sic] arranged to rebuild, and from the plans which have been submitted, their new house will be a perfect modern, splendidly equipped, and magnificent bathing palace....It is only a question of time until all of the bath houses will be modern, first class, magnificent institutions, and those which are not will necessarily be relegated to the rear as cheap, fourth of fifth class places.[3]

Even though the concessions contract of the Palace would not expire until December 31, 1921, S. W. Fordyce was in agreement that the best thing to do was to build a new bathhouse.[4] In 1910 he was anxious to hire a Little Rock architect, but wanted to delay design work until the Maurice was almost completed in order that he could avail himself of any improvements they could make, as well as to find out if he could



Palace Bath House (Mary Hudgins collection).



Palace Bath House ca. 1905, postcard (Mary Hudgins collection).

build a "more attractive and convenient house than the Maurice House."[5]

In December of 1910, Fordyce was granted assurance that he could continue operation of the Palace until he desired to construct a new building.[6] By October of 1913, plans and specifications from the office of architects George R. Mann and Eugene John Stern of Little Rock had been received in Washington requesting approval.[7] Because the lessees felt the Palace was unsafe to continue operations, it was closed December 31, 1913, in order to begin preparations for construction of a new bathhouse.[8]

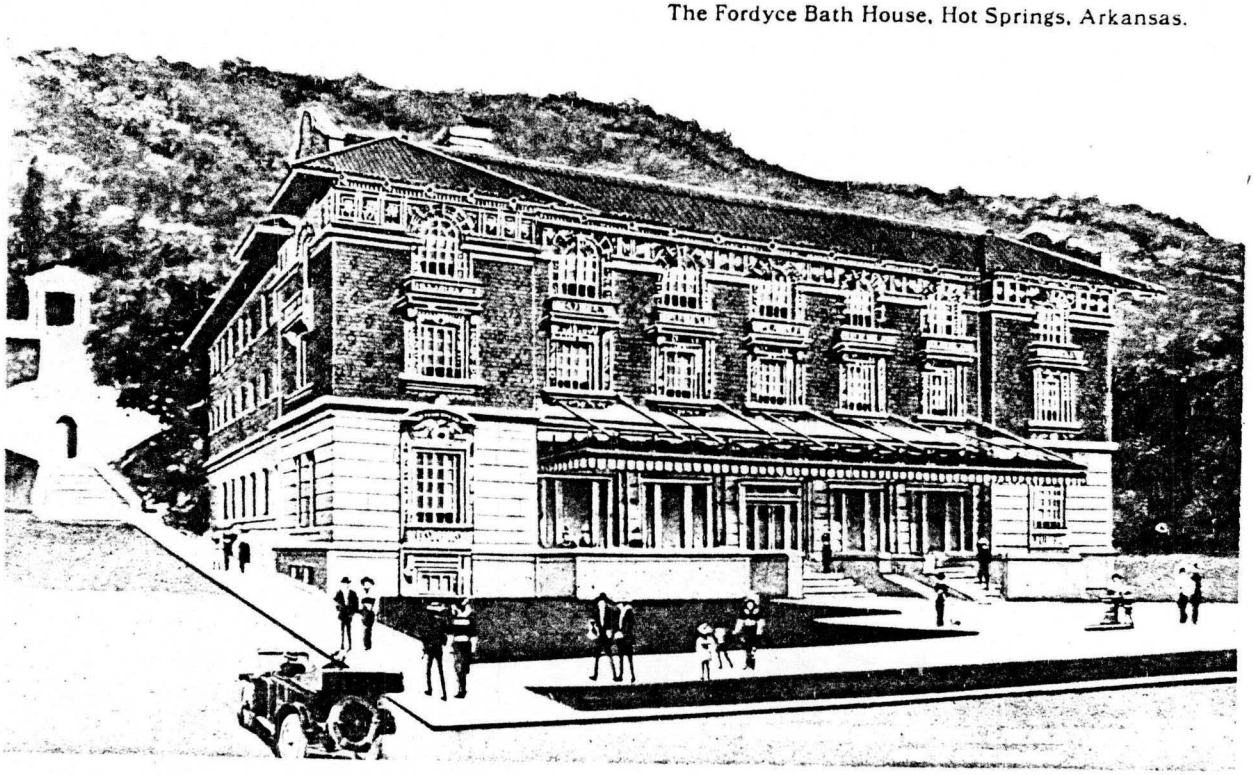
William T. S. Curtis, S. W. Fordyce's lawyer, wrote the Secretary of Interior in March of 1914 requesting that in preparation of the contract and lease for what was then known as "The Palace Bathhouse" be changed to "The Fordyce".[9] He also asked that the lease be taken in S. W. Fordyce's own name and assigns instead of a joint stock company.[10] Approval was granted to change the bathhouse name to "The Fordyce" March 31, 1914, by the Assistant to the Secretary of the Interior.[11]

A contract between the Department of the Interior and S. W. Fordyce was entered into May 26, 1914, in relation to the Palace Bathhouse Site #7, on the Hot Springs Reservation, and the "enlargement thereof authorized by the Department,

February 18, 1914, and the construction thereon of a building at an approximate cost of $150,000, such building to be completed by January 1, 1915."[12] The "enlargement" referred to above could be the one granted in an indenture March 30, 1914, (though the dates did not exactly coincide) occupying the space "located beneath and extending downwards to a depth of seven feet...from the level of the basement floor, of the new bathhouse now in process of construction on said Site #7, extending twenty-five feet...in width, paralell [sic] with and along the eastern side of the front line of said Bathhouse Site #7...for the purpose of collecting, savings, and storing therein water...."[13]

There was some question of whether it was legitimate for S. W. Fordyce to have a contract in his own name leasing a bathhouse site, since he was a stockowner in the Arlington and New York Hotel Companies operating respectively the Arlington and Eastmen bathhouses. This matter was brought to the attention of the Park Superintendent April of 1915,[14] but the new contract was executed and completed in S. W. Fordyce's name leasing to him for a period of twenty years from June 1, 1915, the Fordyce Bath House Site #7 together with sufficient hot water to supply thirty bath tubs.[15]

S. W. Fordyce, December 29, 1916, desired to assign all his interest in the Fordyce Bathhouse lease to S. W. Fordyce, Jr. as a trustee for his (Jr.'s) brother, John R. Fordyce.



Fordyce Bath House, postcard with grounds incorrectly rendered (Mary Hudgins collection).

Neither of the two was found to be in violation of Section 3 of the Act of March 3, 1891 (26 Stat., 842), regulating that they not be stockholders of any other bathhouse on the reservation, and the request for assignment was approved January 26, 1917.[16]

In 1931, the family ownership became a corporation, changing from Fordyce Bathhouse to Fordyce Bath House, Inc. The capital ownership was listed as being over $239,000. Stock was issued to the Fordyce family to the extent of $150,000, representing a loss in excess of $89,000. The issuing of this stock then allowed it to be pledged as collateral for loans. There was a total of 1500 shares of stock, and 750 of those by 1933 were pledged to the Arkansas National Bank as security for a note in the amount of $29,000.[17] The financial condition of Fordyce showed no signs of improvement, so the directors of the Arkansas National Bank decided to protect their interest by taking an active hand in the management of the bathhouse, with the president of the bank, Fred Rix, having authority.[18] Legally, the Fordyce family still retained ownership and control, but the Arkansas National Bank had the upper hand.

From a corporation, the Fordyce was changed to a co-partnership in 1942. This, however, did not help the bathhouse's financial situation, for the bathing business was gradually declining.[19] On July 1, 1962, the Fordyce suspended oper-

ation. The news release stated that the park was introducing whirlpool tub services, and that due to operating and plant problems, it was impossible for the Fordyce to gear into the intial phases of the conversion program, so the management requested permission to suspend operations pending solutions to the problems.[21]

The bathing industry in Hot Springs did not increase, so the family felt they could not justify re-opening the Fordyce for business. Even though it closed in 1962, the concessions contract (#14-10-00100-558) was not terminated until December 31, 1974.[22] The possessory interests of the bathhouse were appraised early in 1973 (by an independent appraiser hired by the Division of Land Acquisition, S. W. Region) for $60,000, but were later revised to $28,000. In 1974, another appraisal estimated the value to be $1.00. In 1976, the Park Service requested the Fordyce family to donate the possessory interests, but the two parties reached an impasse. On September 30, 1976, it was announced that the United States would take possession of the bathhouse on November 1, 1976, with the payment of $472.63, representing the depreciated book value of the possessory interests as of December 31, 1974. Even though on October 20, 1974, Powell Fordyce returned the check, the Field Solicitor in 1977 reaffirmed that the Park Service still held legal title to the Fordyce heirs' possessory interests.[23] The Fordyce family initiated legal action against the Service, but as of September of 1980, no agreement had been reached.

[1]Lease, January 1, 1907, Hot Springs National Park Central Files, Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas.

[2]H. H. Meyers to S. W. Fordyce, 22 December 1910, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[3]Ibid.

[4]S. W. Fordyce to H. H. Meyers, 24 December 1910, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[5]Ibid.

[6]H. H. Meyers to S. W. Fordyce, 28 December 1910, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[7]A. C. Miller to C. R. Trowbridge, 25 October 1913, Legislative and Natural Resources Branch, Record Group 79, National Archives, Washington, D. C.

[8]Hot Springs National Park Superintendent to the Secretary of Interior, 8 January 1914, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[9]W. T. S. Curtis to Secretary of Interior, 27 March 1914, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[10]Ibid.

[11]A. C. Miller to C. R. Trowbridge, 31 March 1914, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[12]Assistant Secretary to C. R. Trowbridge, 26 May 1914, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[13]Indenture, 30 March 1914, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[14]Chief Clerk of Department of Interior to W. P. Parks, 22 April 1915, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[15]S. W. Fordyce to W. P. Parks, 21 June 1915, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[16]J. J. Cotten to W. P. Parks, 19 January 1915, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[17]T. J. Allen to National Park Service Director, 14 March 1933, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[18]Ibid.

[19]"Brief Analysis of Fiscal History of Fordyce Bathhouse" (compiled May 1962), Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[20]News Release, 1 July 1962, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[21]Ibid.

[22]Briefing Report by Brewster Lindner, 12 December 1977, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[23]Ibid.

I. History of the Structure

B. DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

George R. Mann and Eugene John Stern, Architects, filed with the Superintendent's Office of the U. S. Reservation at Hot Springs, Arkansas, on September 13, 1913, the complete plans and specifications for the Palace Bath House.[1] They requested that the Department of Interior pass on the project so construction could begin as soon as possible. "The plans and specifications as filed are in exact accordance with intentions of the owner's ideas, and we believe you will find them complete, and illustrating a structure as up to date, of its type, as is possible to design."[2] S. W. Fordyce asked the Secretary of Interior in October for approval so he could have all the material on the ground ready for construction by January 1, 1914, the date when the contractor was scheduled to raze the old Palace Bathhouse.[3]

The architects for the bathhouse, Mann and Stern, became noted in Hot Springs for the Fordyce designs, and were later commissioned to design the Hale, Quapaw, Ozark, and Government Free Bathhouses, as well as the Arlington Hotel.[4] George Mann, himself, had already been known for his designs of the St. Louis (Missouri) City Hall, the Arkansas State Capitol, and the Pulaski County (Little Rock) Courthouse, all of which were classical style buildings.[5] It was only after

Stern became a partner of Mann's that the Spanish style buildings, such as the Fordyce, started to appear. It could be that it was Stern who was responsible for the design of the Fordyce, especially since he continued in that mode after their partnership dissolved.

No early drawings of the Fordyce could be found to be in existence. All known possible sources were exhausted (including the Fordyce family, Hot Springs National Park, Denver Service Center, National Archives, various collections of Fordyce papers, and two architectural firms which evolved out of Mann and Stern), but some early correspondence described the architects' intentions.

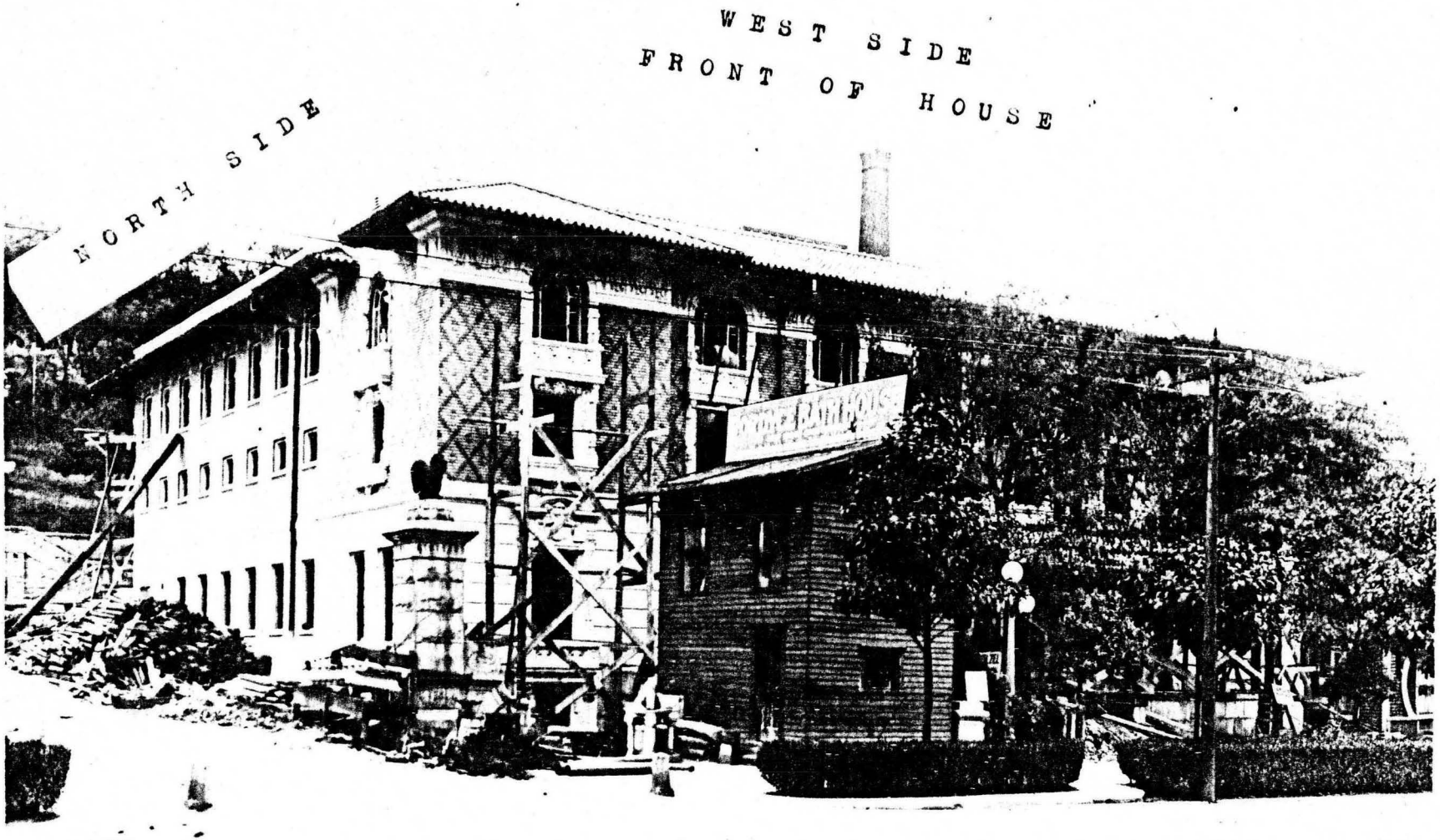
George Mann wrote in November of 1913 estimating the cost of construction as $150,000 for the (still referred to as) Palace Bathhouse, and described its construction:

> It is proposed to erect the building strictly fireproof in every respect, the architectural style of which, will be Spanish Renaissance. The first story of the front portion of the building will be of white glazed terra cotta. The second story will be of a light buff brick in two shades so as to form a diaper pattern, the trimmings of the second story to be of white glazed terra cotta. The hip roof in front to be of Spanish tile. The interior finish of the building will be of the highest class, using marble and tile wherever it is to the advantage of the work to do so. The building will be provided with two elevators, one for men and one for women and will have every facility possible for the comfort not only of the bathers, but of patrons who wish to use the bath house more or less as a club or resting place.

Permission was granted, after the fact, for closing the Palace Janauary 13, and water rent was suspended as of January 1.[11]

Mann and Stern submitted an amended set of plans with comments on water cooling and storing, structural work, and mechanical equipment (see letter from Mann and Stern) on January 17, 1914.[12] The Supervising Architect of the Treasury had requested that he not have to review the plans again, so the Secretary of Interior requested the Superintendent of the U. S. Capitol Building and Grounds to review the revised drawings, and to determine if those revisions met the requirements of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury.[13] In a memo, apparently from the Capitol Superintendent, dated February 9, 1914, there were still some unanswered questions (see "Memoranda")[14], and February 26, Mann and Stern submitted the final corrections on structural work and mechanical equipment (see Mann and Stern letter).[15]

The Department of Interior granted approval of the plans and specifications March 2, 1914, and gave permission to begin work on the new bathhouse.[16] The Park Superintendent's report for March of 1914 stated that excavation was underway for the new reservoir on the site of the Fordyce Bathhouse. In August, the forms were removed from the reservoir,[17] and in September, the springs were connected with the reservoir under the Fordyce.[18]



Fordyce Bath House

Front View of Fordyce Under Construction, October 20, 1914 (National Archives).

By October, the basic structure of the Fordyce Bathhouse had been practically completed with the exception of some tile roofing, doors and windows.[19] At this time, they employed a large force of workers to speed up progress on the interior. The Superintendent reported October 20 that the job was eighty pèrcent (80%) complete:

> The work of installing the white tile wainsscoting in the mens' bath hall has been practically completed, and the work of installing white tile wainscoting in the ladies department will be commenced in a day or two. A corps of plasteres are at work on both the second and third floors and are making rapid progress. Carpenters are engaged in the finishing work, and the plumbing, heating, and ventilating work is well in hand. The plumbers are now setting the bath tubs, all of which are now on the ground, with the exception of one tub which was broken in transit. No marble work has as yet been installed, but I am informed that one carload of marble was shipped from Peoria, Illinois on the 18th instant, and all other marble necessary in the building I am assured will be shipped within a short period of time....
>
> The individuality of the architectural design of this bathhouse is exquisite, and when finally completed, will be one of the most elaborate buildings on Bathhouse Row. From the best information obtainable at the present time, the approximate cost of this bath house when completed will be $175,000. The builders are still of the opinion that the bathhouse will be completed by January 1, 1915.[20]

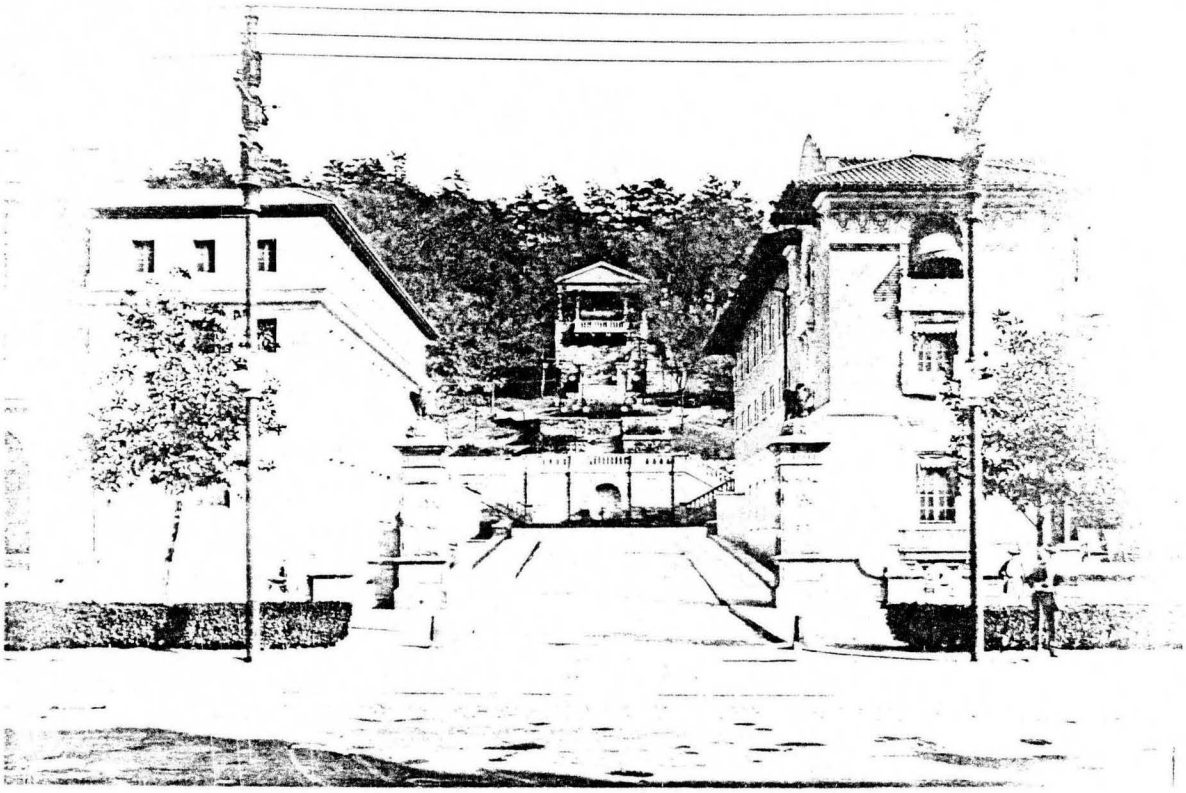
The Janaury 1 opening proved to be too optimistic. S. W. Fordyce on January 8, reported he was not able to complete the building on time due to the strikes with the brick layers and marble setters, but anticipated the bathhouse's opening between the middle of February and the first of March.[21] Extention until March 1 for completion was granted by the Department of Interior January 20, 1915.[22]

Rear View of Fordyce Under Construction, October 20, 1914 (National Archives).

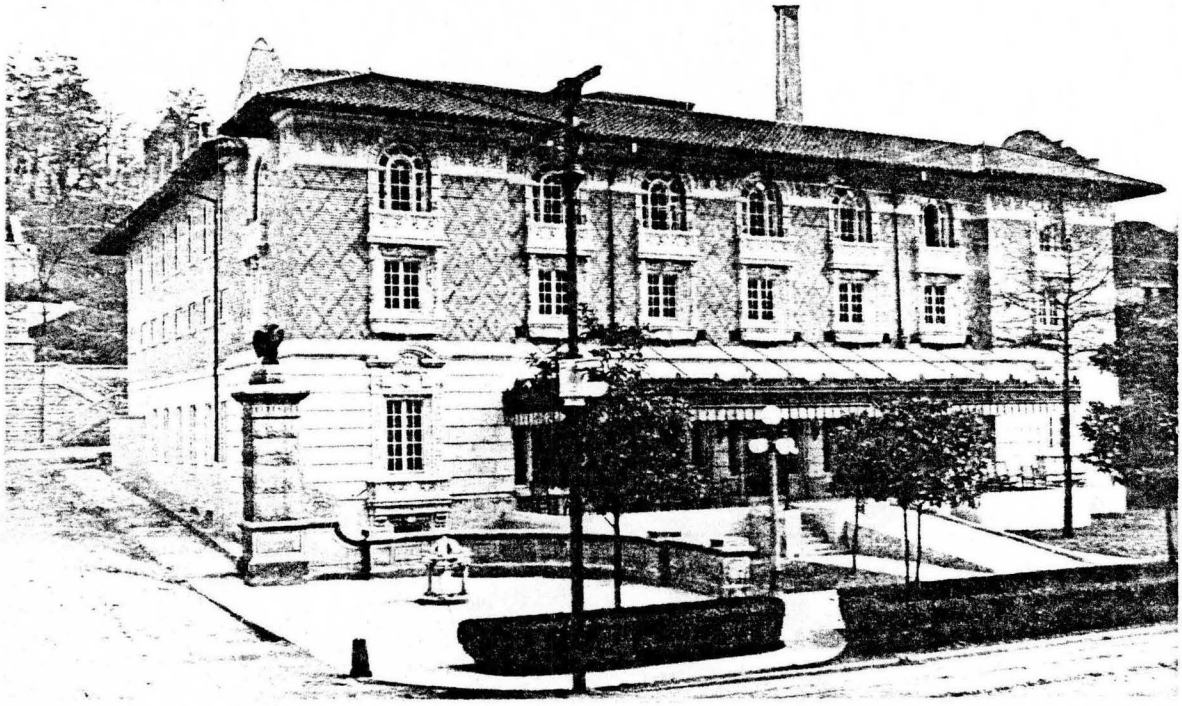
The architects found that during construction several changes from the approved plans in the building were necessary, and presented the changes on the various floors that were already made without authority on February 15 (see Mann and Stern letter).[23] The Superintendent felt the changes were made for the greater convenience and comfort of the patrons. "This is a most magnificent structure and it appears that no expense has been spared in order to arrive at the highest degree of perfection, and I am informed by the owner that when all the details have finally been completed and the house thoroughly equipped, the expenditure will approximate $200,000."[24] Approval for the changes was made February 27,[25] the day the Fordyce was completed.[26]

The total cost of the Fordyce Bathhouse in 1915 was $141,819.88 for the structure, $48,089.01 for machinery and equipment, and $22,840.66 for furniture and fixtures, making the total expenditure $212,749.55.[27]

On Monday, March 1, 1915, the Fordyce Bathhouse opened for business. It was described as being nearly twice as large as any other bathhouse in Hot Springs,[28] (approximately 31,000 square feet[29]), and this monument was built as a testimonial to the fact that S. W. Fordyce's life was spared and health completely restored by the "wonderful life-giving waters."[30] This Spanish Renaissance style "bathing palace" was lauded as being the "finest bathing establishment in the



Entrance to the Reservation with Fordyce to the right, October, 1915 (HSNP).



Exterior View of the Fordyce, from 1916 Maintaining a Standard (Mary Hudgins collection).

world, the most palatial and best equipped, and the most practical, complete, and luxurious bathhouse" the world had known.[31]

[1]Mann and Stern to Superintendent, 13 September 1913, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[2]Ibid.

[3]S. W. Fordyce to Secretary of Interior, 17 October 1913, Legislative and Natural Resources Branch, Record Group 79, National Archives, Washington, D. C.

[4]George R. Mann, Untitled autobiographical sketch, Little Rock, 6 October 1932. (Typewritten).

[5]Ibid.

[6]G. R. Mann to C. R. Trowbridge, 10 November 1913, National Archives.

[7]Supervising Architect of the Treasury to the Secretary of Interior, 2 December 1913, National Archives.

[8]A. C. Miller to C. R. Trowbridge, 10 December 1913, National Archives.

[9]Ibid.

[10]C. R. Trowbridge to the Secretary of the Interior, 8 January 1914, National Archives.

[11]L. C. Laylin to C. R. Trowbridge, 13 January 1914, National Archives.

[12]Eugene Stern to C. R. Trowbridge, 17 January 1914, National Archives.

[13]A. C. Miller to Elliott Woods, 26 January 1914, National Archives.

[14]Memoranda, 9 February 1914, National Archives.

[15]Mann and Stern to C. R. Trowbridge, 26 February 1914, National Archives.

[16]L. C. Laylin to C. R. Trowbridge, 2 March 1914, National Archives.

[17]J. A. Jordon to C. R. Trowbridge, 1 September 1914, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[18]C. R. Trowbridge to Secretary of Interior, 3 October 1914, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[19]W. P. Parks to Secretary of Interior, 20 October 1914, National Archives.

[20]Ibid.

[21]S. W. Fordyce to W. P. Parks, 8 January 1915, National Archives.

[22]Bo Sweeney to W. P. Parks, 20 January 1915, National Archives.

[23]E. J. Stern to W. P. Parks, 10 February 1915, National Archives.

[24]W. P. Parks to Secretary of Interior, 26 February 1915, National Archives.

[25]W. P. Parks to S. W. Fordyce, 2 March 1915, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[26]W. P. Parks to Secretary of Interior, 27 February 1915, National Archives.

[27]J. R. Fordyce to Secretary of Interior, 14 July 1927, from Annual Report of 1927 as cited in 1962 Brief Analysis of Fiscal History, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

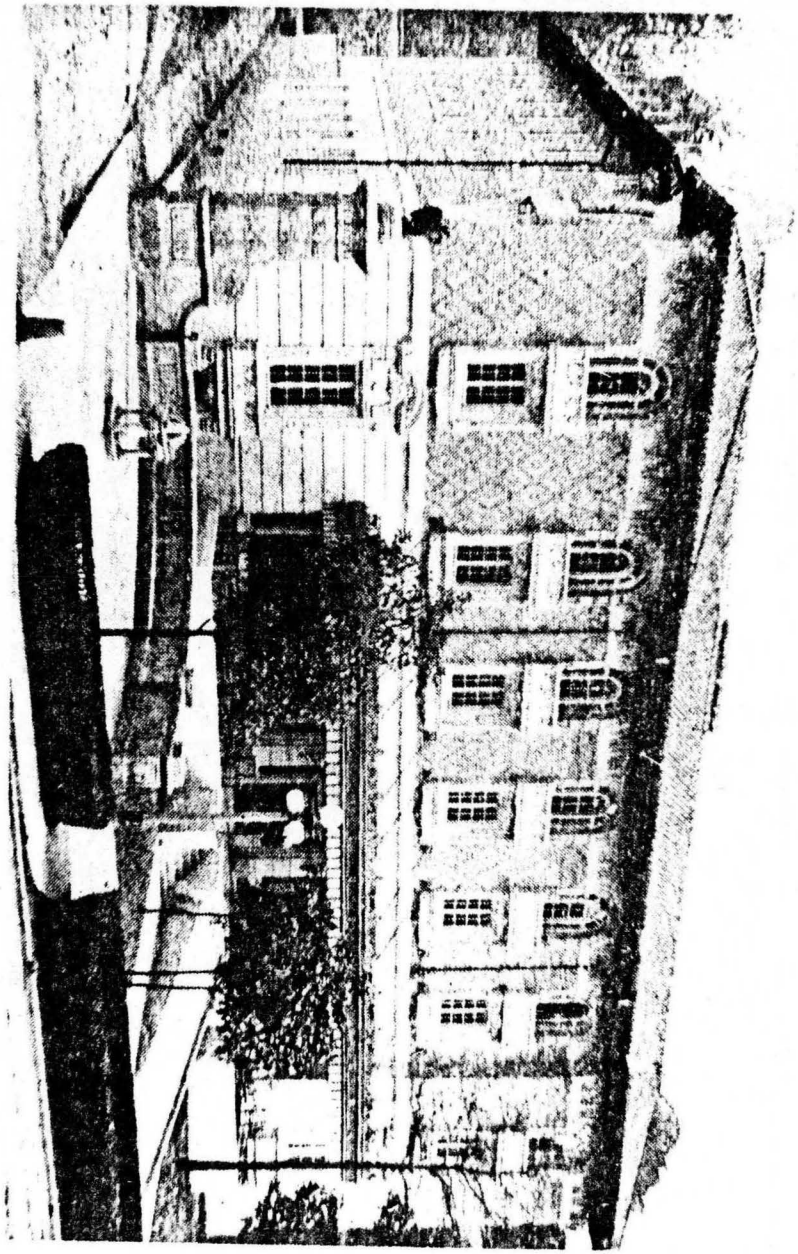
[28]Advertisement, Sentinel Record, 28 February 1915, p. 6.

[29]Memo from Regional Architect to Regional Director, 15 March 1961, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

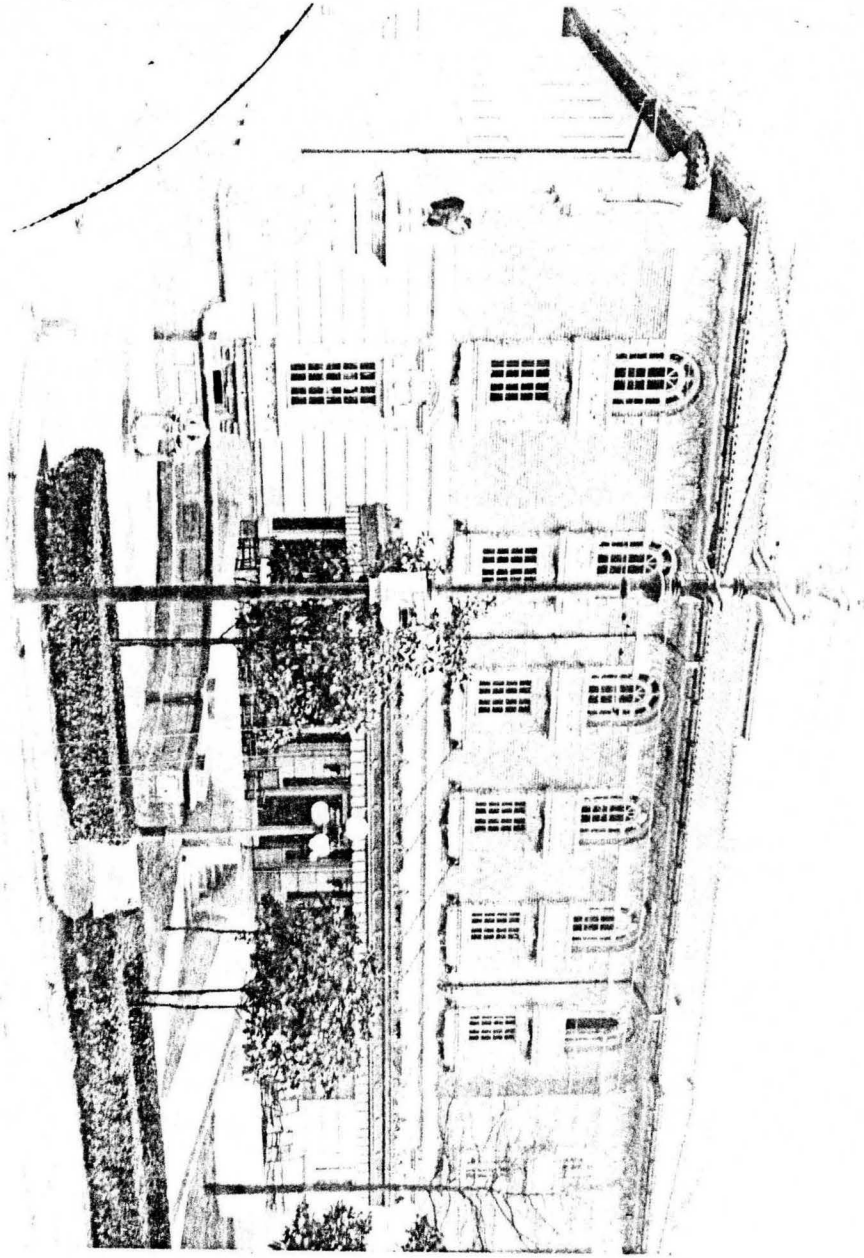
[30]"Fordyce Bathhouse Opens to the Public", Sentinel Record, 28 February 1915, p. 1.

[31]Ibid.

Exterior View of the Fordyce, from 1916 Cutter's Guide (Mary Hudgins collection).

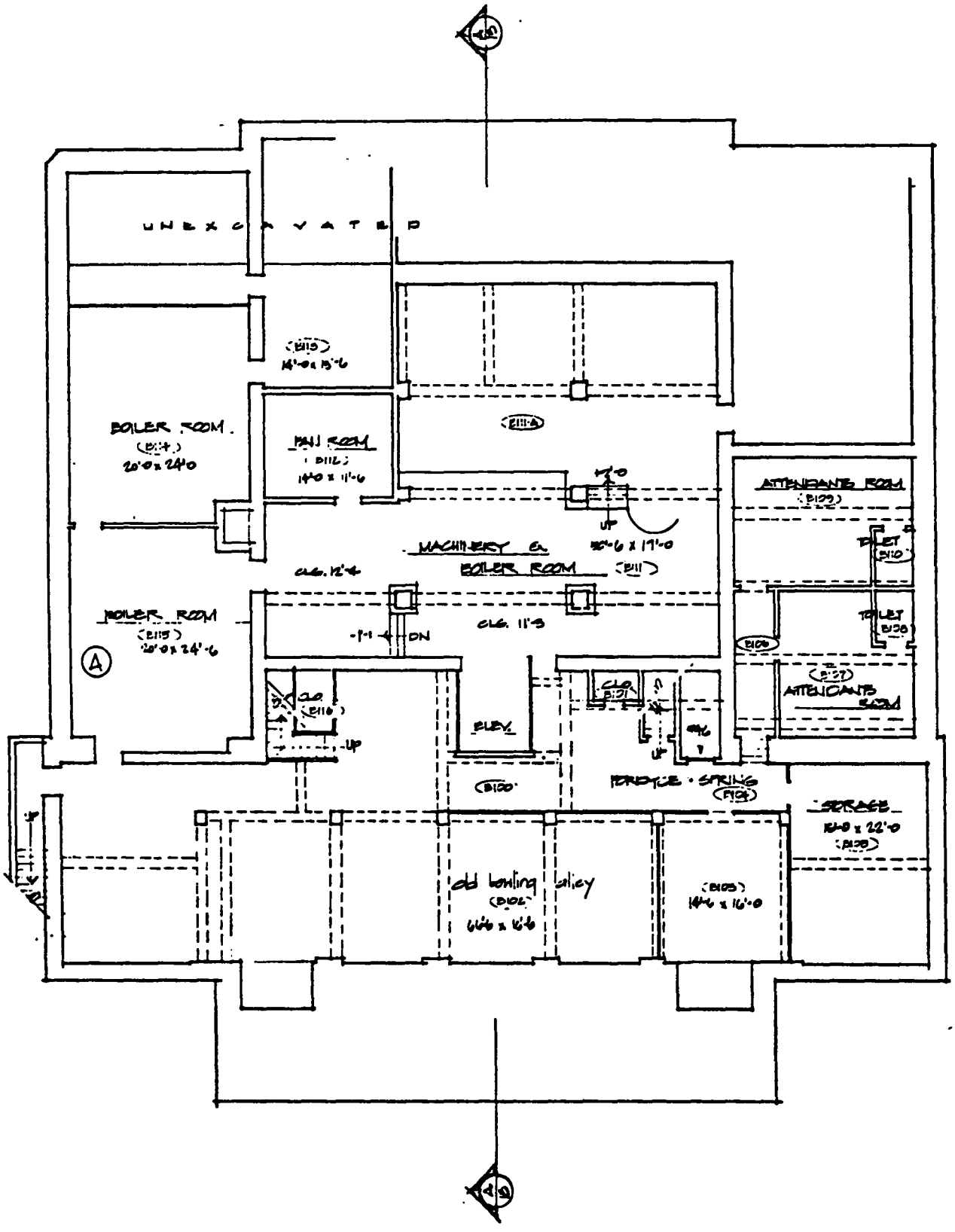


"Latest of Fordyce Bath House", shortly after completion (HSNP).



CHAPTER II

BUILDING SPACES



Measured Drawings - Basement, July 30, 1973
(Cromwell Firm) 1/16" = 1'.

II. Building Spaces

A. BASEMENT - BOWLING ALLEYS, FORDYCE SPRING, AND ATTENDANT'S QUARTERS

When the Bath House opened for business, the basement of the Fordyce featured two regulation bowling alleys[1] for bathhouse patrons and a few other authorized persons.[2] In 1932, the manager of the Fordyce wrote to invite the other bathhouse managers to use the alleys when the repairs were finished: "For some reason the alleys were not made use of last winter....I am having the floor at the upper end of the alleys repaired and will have it in readiness shortly after the first of the month."[3] But in 1934 (in a report in connection with the extension of the lease) a memo stated that the alleys again were "out of repair and not used."[4] In 1942, a request was made by the manager to the Park Superintendent to allow an old Fordyce employee to "set pins and take care of our bowling alleys during the next three months"[5] By 1954, the alleys were apparently again in a state of disrepair, for the Superintendent recommended the "obsolete bowling alley installation should be removed and the basement space thereby released be available for more suitable bathhouse use."[6]

The attendants' quarters were located in the basement from the building's construction,[7] but apparently they were never the most desirable. The 1934 inspection report stated that there was a bit of seepage from the basement rear walls:

Bowling Alley, from Life Begins at the Fordyce (Mary Hudgins collection).

> This condition has existed for a long while but there might be a danger of its continuance to the main foundations....The attendants quarters are badly located and do not allow of much improvement with the exception of perhaps new plastering....I would recommend that these (bowling) alleys be taken out and the space used for attendants quarters, using the present space occupied by these quarters as a storage space.[8]

In 1935, the Superintendent reported to the NPS Director:

> The basement in particular needs considerable repair to the painting and plastering and this should be especially cared for....These (attendants') quarters are in poor condition and a great deal could be done to improve them....If it is not desired to use the bowling alleys space for the new attendants' quarters, then the existing quarters need a general overhaul and repair and repainting.[9]

Since the bowling alleys continued to be used after this date, the attendants' quarters were apparently refurbished.. The Fordyce manager reported in 1952 that they could make the attendants' quarters more comfortable and attractive "without too much expense and will start working on it while we are not too busy and in process of renovation."[10]

While the builders were excavating, a spring of approximately 140 degrees F. and of "enormous capacity was developed."[11] Known as the "Fordyce Spring" and registered by the government as Spring Number 46, the visitors were able to see the hot water bubbling from the earth in a display covered with glass where it entered the coils "enroute to the tanks and the tubs, without being exposed to the air, thus losing none

of its radio-active properties."[12] However, in an interview in July of 1980, John R. Fordyce, III reported that the spring on display was not connected to the bath plumbing, but was merely a runoff. It was recommended in 1934 that the spring display be closed[13], but no correspondence showed any follow-up.

[1]"Fordyce Bath House Opens to the Public," Sentinel Record, 28 February 1915, p. 1.

[2]Joseph Bolten to H. H. Julian, 26 January 1928, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[3]Elizabeth Gibson to T. J. Allen, 23 September 1932, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[4]G. C. Bolten to T. J. Allen, 27 August 1934, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[5]B. L. Neimeyer to P. O. Patraw, 15 January 1942, Fordyce Bathhouse Papers, University of Arkansas Library Special Collections, Fayetteville.

[6]D. S. Libbey to B. L. Neimeyer, 9 August 1954, Special Collections.

[7]Sentinel Record, p. 1.

[8]Bolten to Allen.

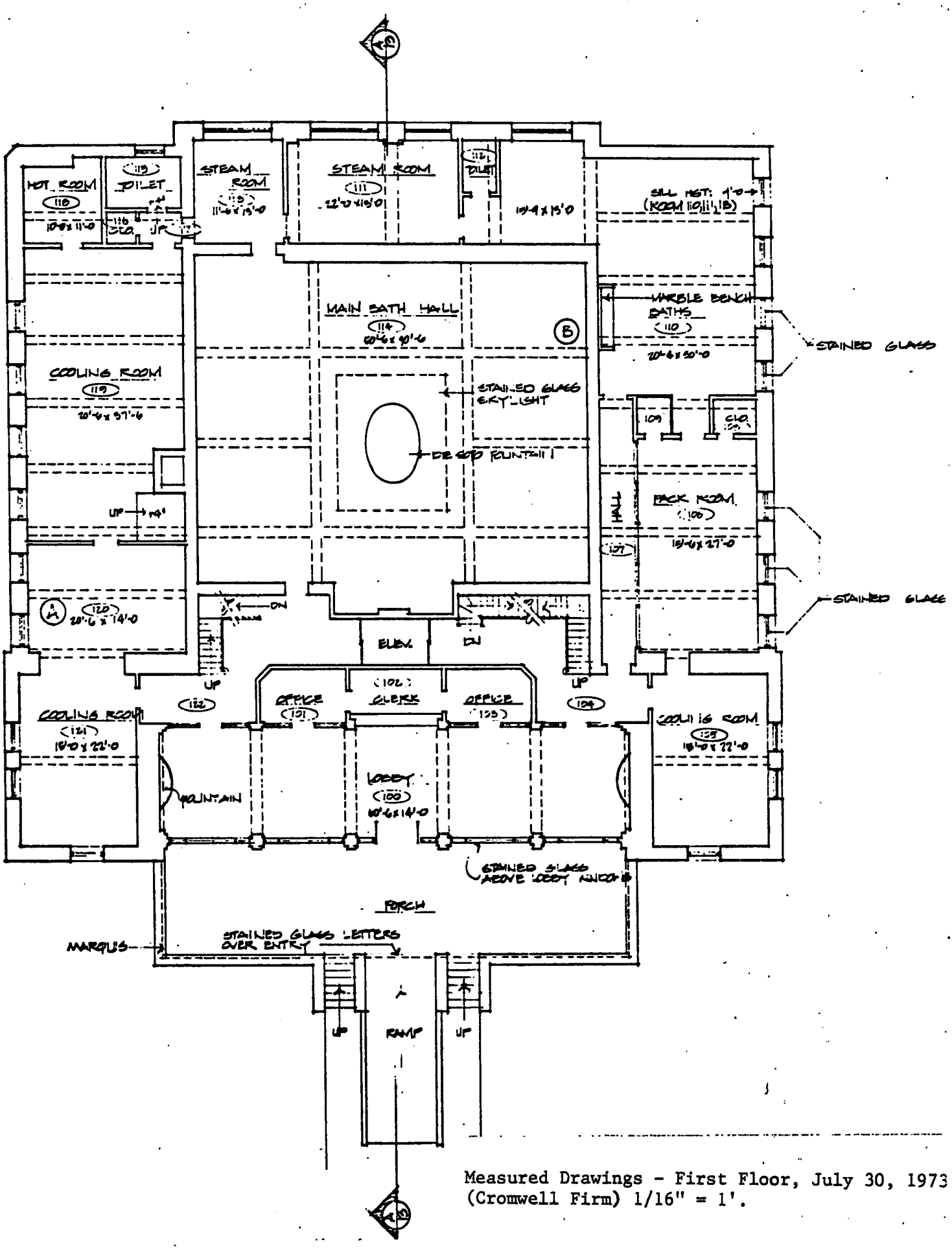
[9]T. J. Allen to National Park Service Director 22 January 1935, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[10]B. L. Neimeyer to Mr. Fordyce, 18 November 1952, Special Collections.

[11]Health Awaits You at the Fordyce Baths, advertising booklet (Little Rock: Democrat P. and L. Co., n.d.).

[12]Sentinel Record p. 1.

[13]Bolten to Allen.



Measured Drawings - First Floor, July 30, 1973
(Cromwell Firm) 1/16" = 1'.

II. Building Spaces

B. FIRST FLOOR - LOBBY AND OFFICES

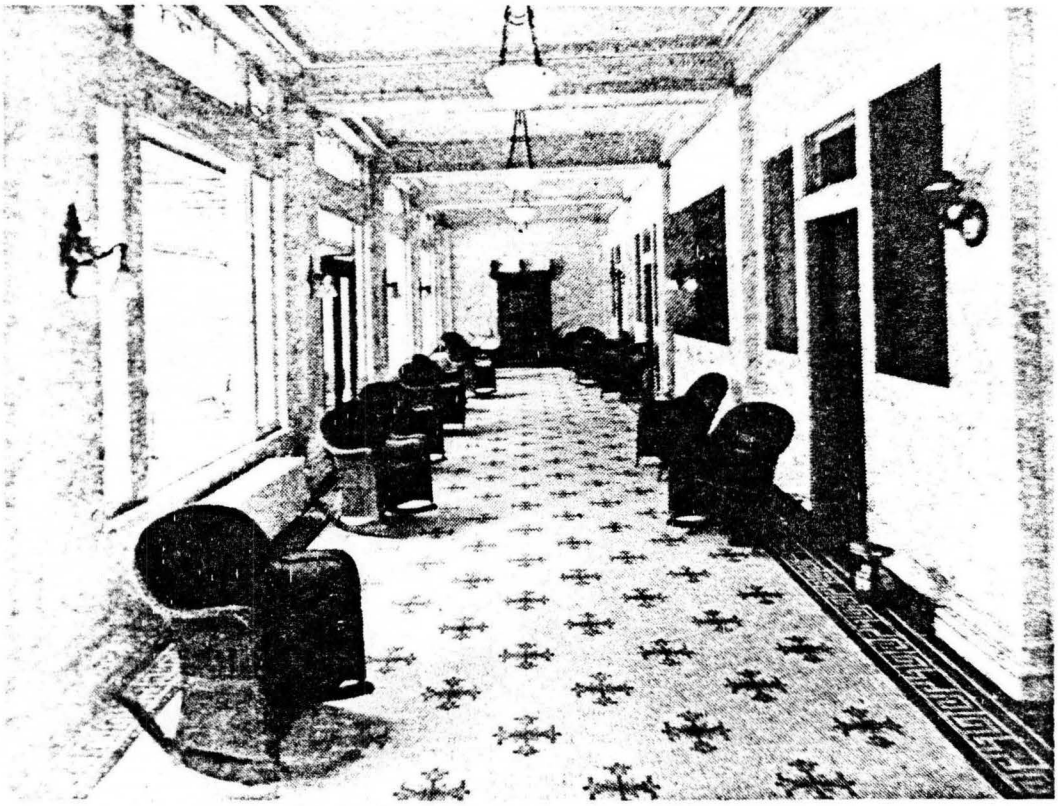
In entering the Fordyce, the bather found himself in the lobby of marble walls, tile floors, and plate glass windows. The space measured approximately 12 by 60 feet.[1] The clerk's office, with the lockers for valuables, was located in front of the entrance doors, and to the right was the private office of the manager.[2] Another space mentioned was the check room,[3] probably to the left of the clerk's. At either end of the lobby was a wall hot-water fountain with cupids and shells of faence tile.[4]

[1]"Fordyce Bath House Opens to the Public," Sentinel Record, 28 February 1915, p. 1.

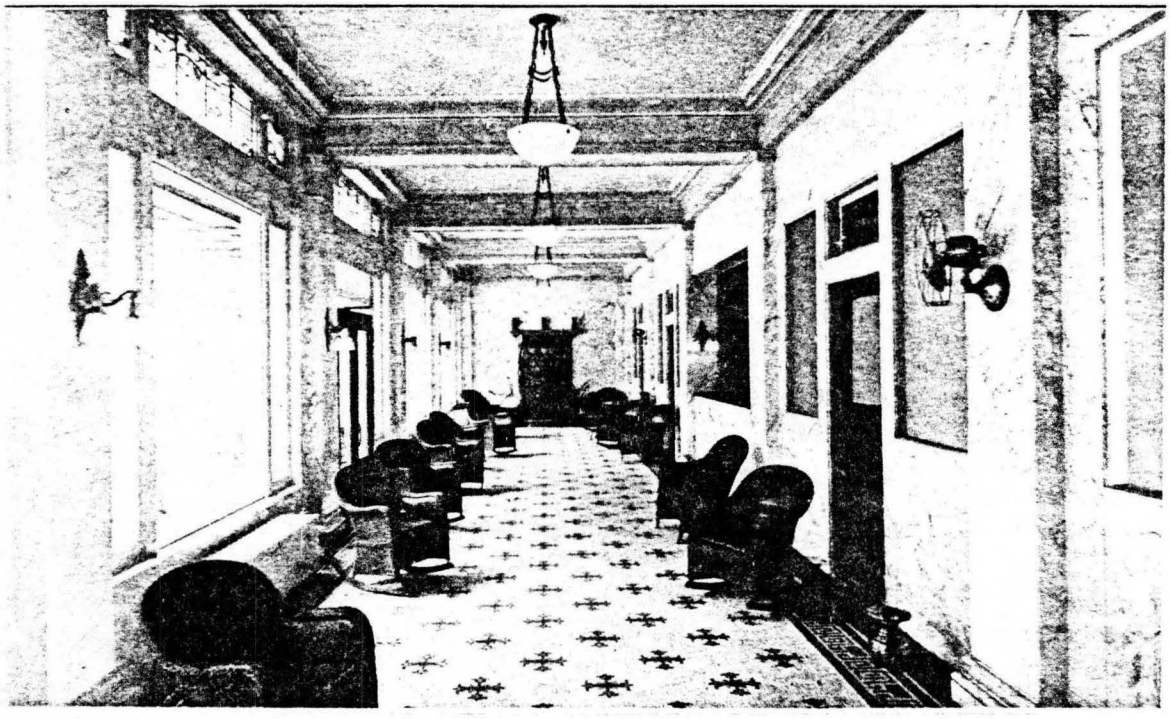
[2]"Beautiful and Luxurious Establishment," Arkansas Gazette, 28 February 1915, p. 7.

[3]Sentinel Record, p. 1.

[4]Gazette, p. 7.

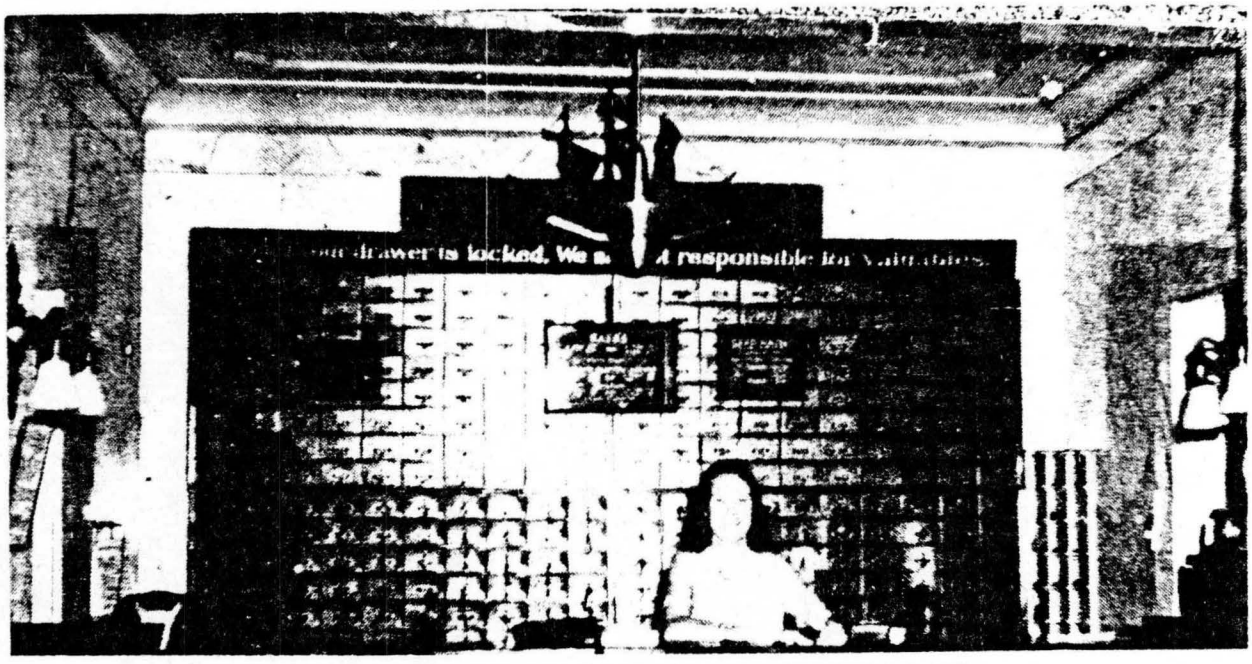


Lobby, from 1916 Cutter's Guide (Mary Hudgins collection).



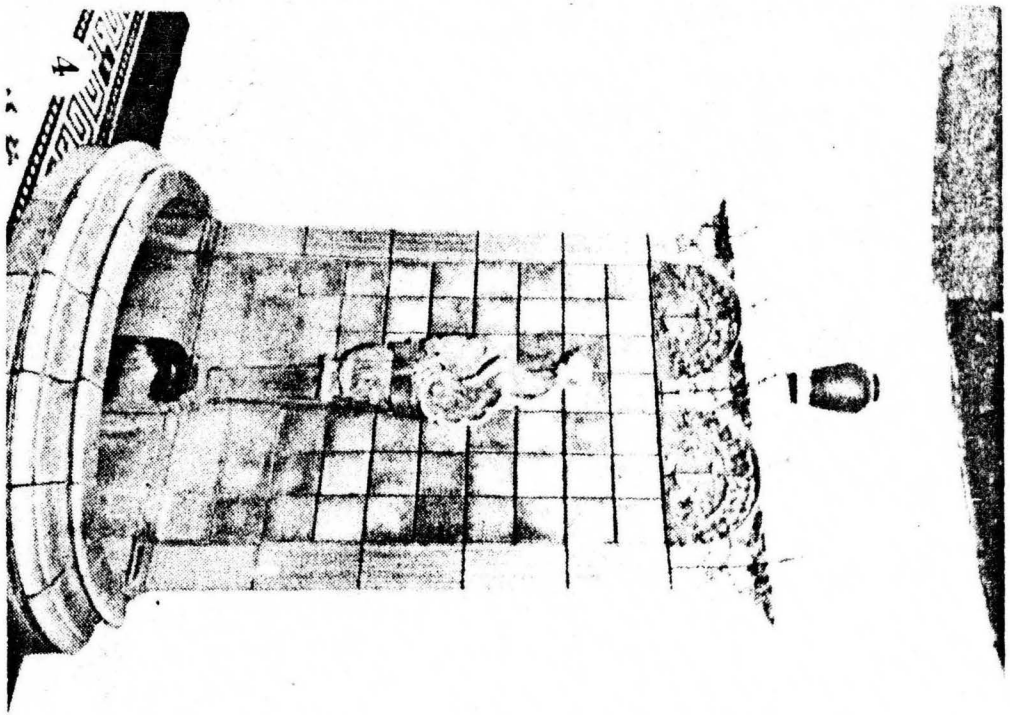
Lobby, from 1916 Maintaining a Standard (Mary Hudgins collection).

Office, from Fordyce Bathhouse (HSNP).

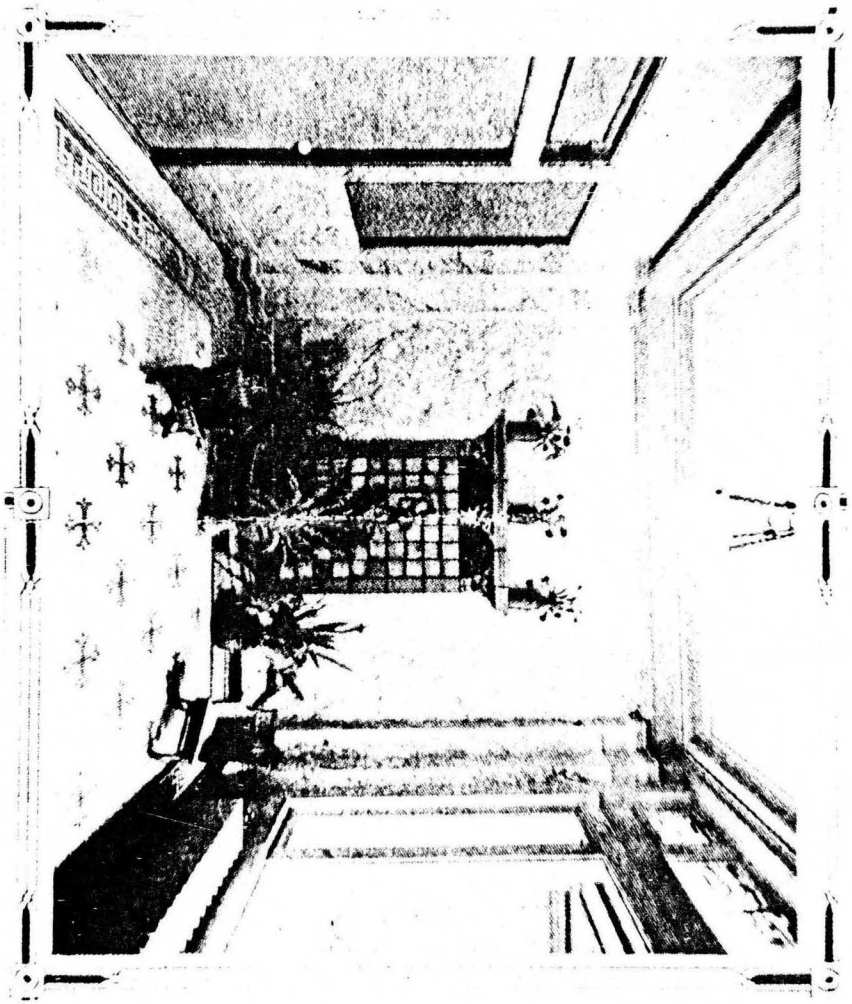


Registration Desk, from The Fordyce Baths (HSNP).

Fountain, from The Fordyce Baths (HSNP).



Hot Water Drinking Fountain in Lobby, from Health Awaits You at the Fordyce Baths (HSNP).



II. Building Spaces

B. FIRST FLOOR - BATHING HALLS

On the first floor were located the two principal bathing halls, one for men and the other for women. In 1915, it was reported that they both had identical equipment, but the men's was one-third larger than the women's.[1] The individual bath rooms, measuring 7' x 10',[2] surrounded a great court in the men's hall with an art glass skylight and marble benches below "reminiscent of the luxury of old Rome."[3] In the center of the men's court was located the DeSoto Fountain, sometimes called the "Fountain of Youth".[4] Even though this feature was mentioned from the very beginning, it was for some reason not pictured in the court in some early photographs. In 1926, J. R. Fordyce requested that the fountain be moved from the bath hall to the front lawn of the Fordyce,[5] but records did not indicate if this plan were realized. It was said that "no part of this edifice gives a more complete effect of its impressive beauty than this court...about which bathers repose, sipping meanwhile the health-giving waters as it flows from the historic-sculptured fountain representing DeSoto receiving a drink of water from an Indian maid."[6]

[1]"Fordyce Bath House Opens to the Public", Sentinel Record, 28 February, 1915, p. 1.

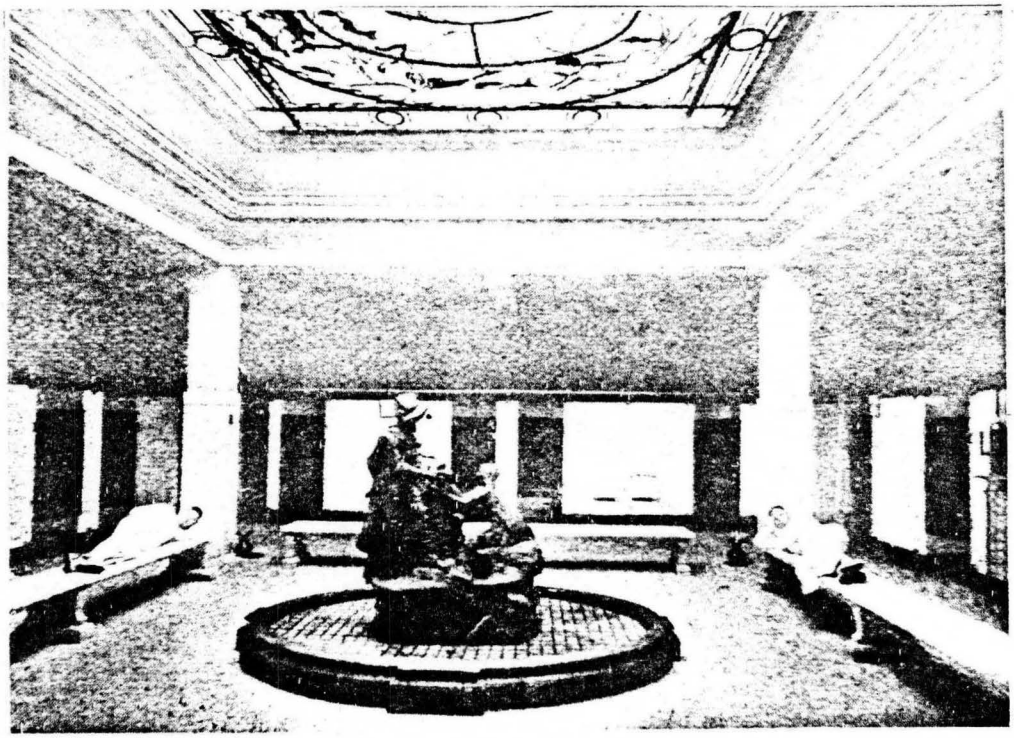
[2]Ibid.

[3]Health Awaits You at the Fordyce Baths, advertising booklet (Little Rock: Democrat P. and L. Co., n.d.), p. 14.

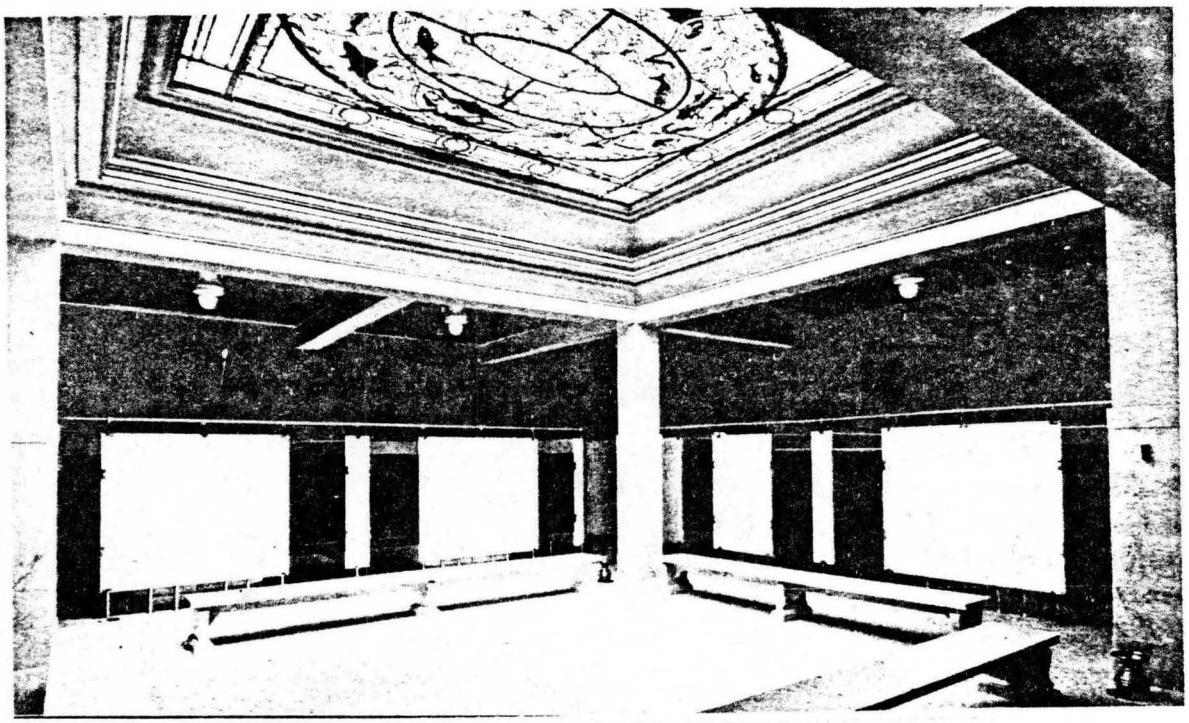
[4]Fordyce Bath House, advertising booklet (St. Louis: Woodward Press, [ca. 1915]).

[5]Joseph Bolten to J. R. Fordyce, 8 October 1926, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[6]Health Awaits, p. 14.

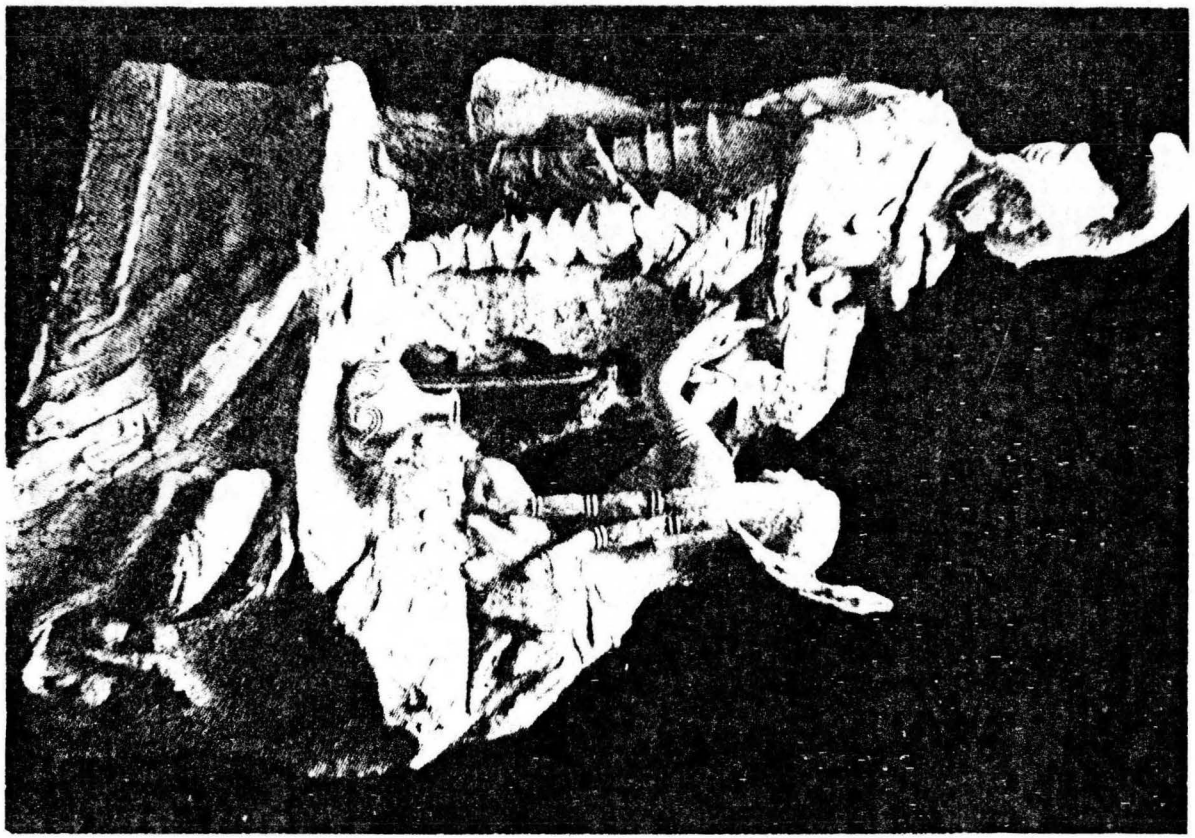


Men's Bath Court with DeSoto Fountain, from 1916 Cutter's Guide (Mary Hudgins collection).

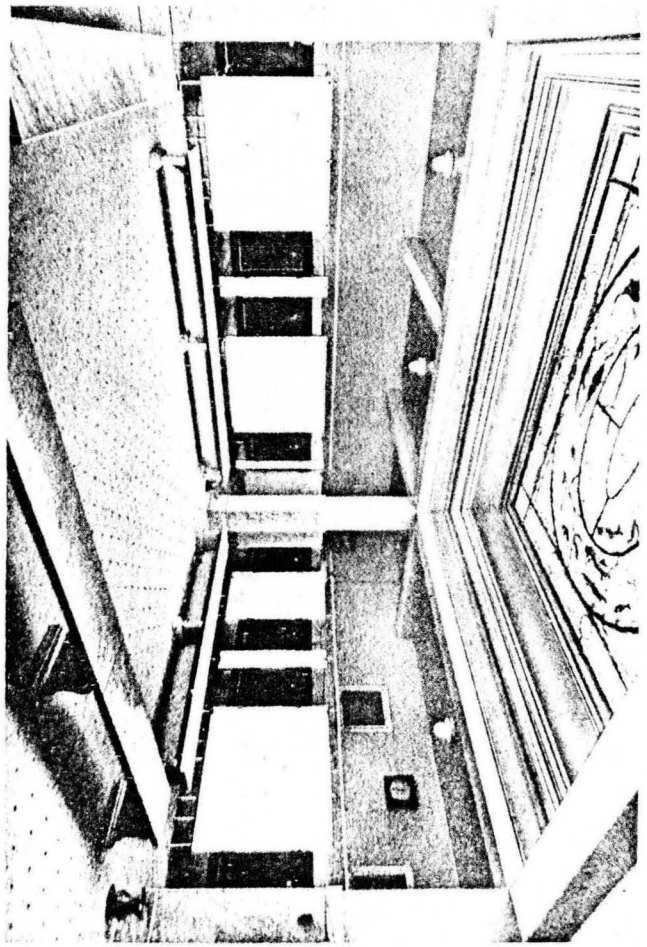


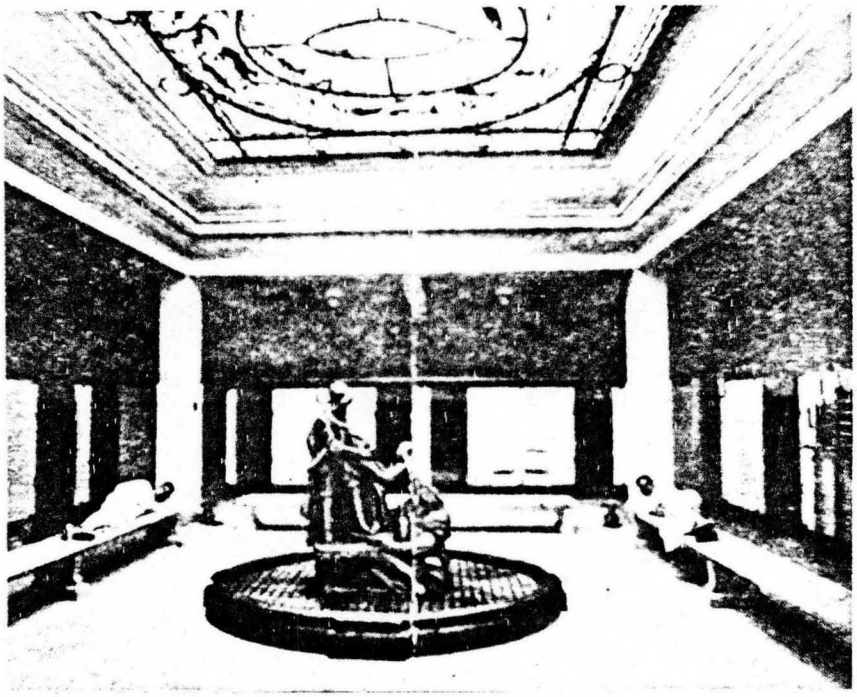
Men's Bath Court without Fountain, from 1916 Maintaining a Standard (Mary Hudgins collection).

"DeSoto Fountain in Center of Main Bath Court", from Fordyce Bath House (HSNP).

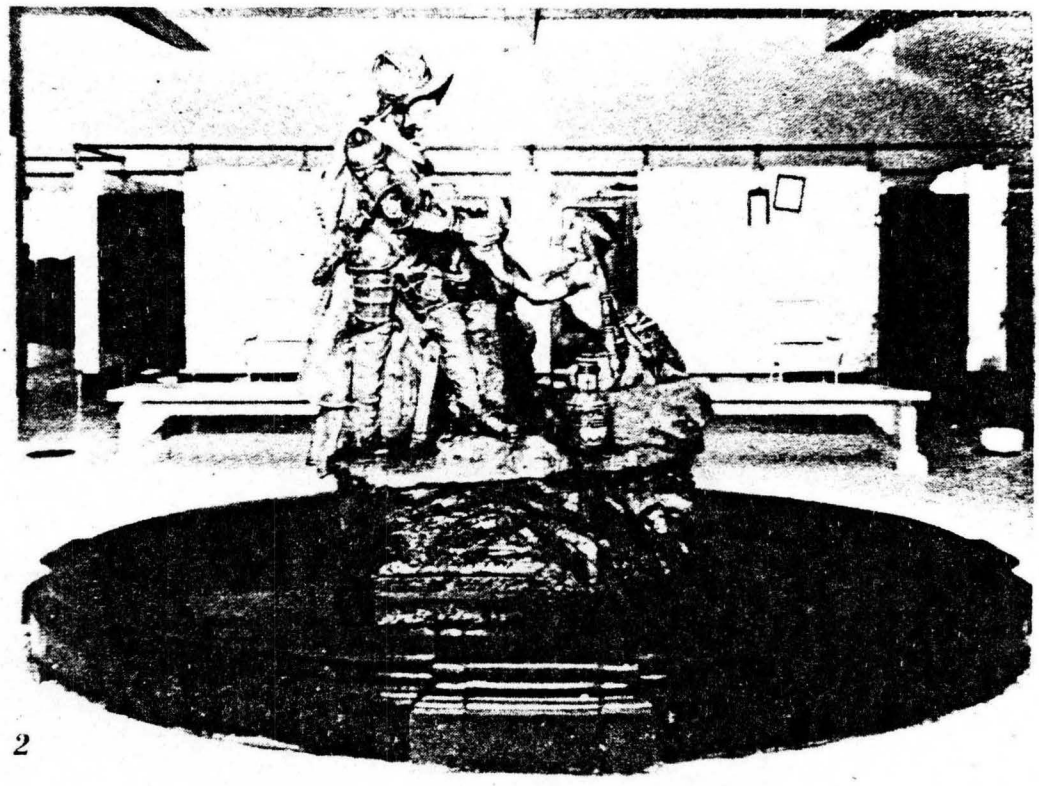


Men's Bath Court without Fountain, from Fordyce Bath House (HSNP).





Men's Bath Hall, from Health Awaits You at the Fordyce Baths (HSNP).



DeSoto Fountain, from The Fordyce Baths (HSNP).

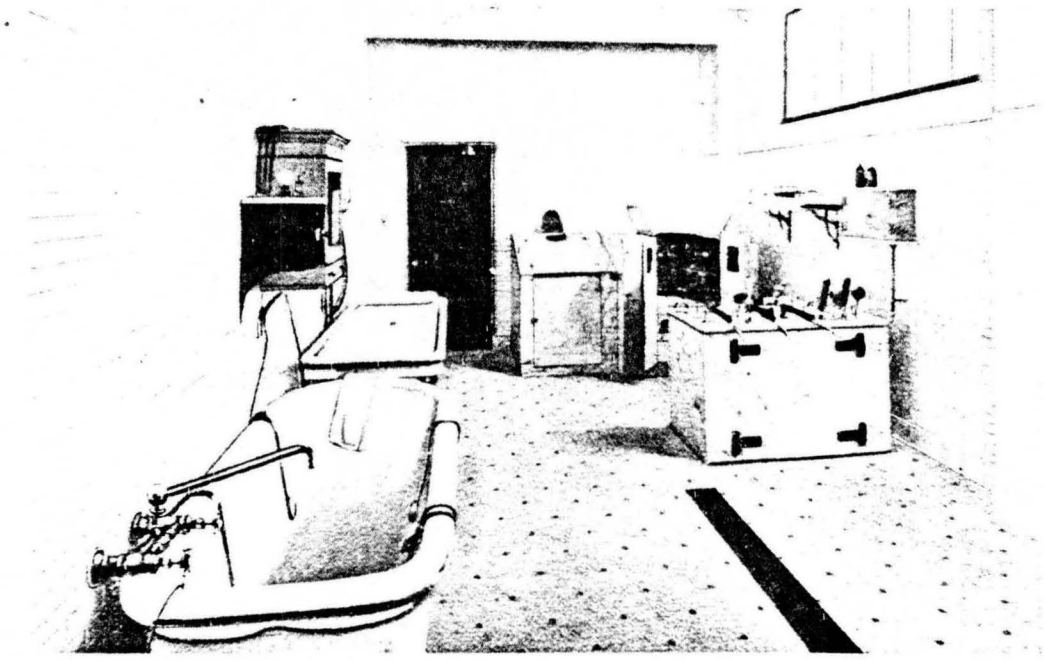
II. Building Spaces

B. FIRST FLOOR - THERAPY, PACK, AND COOLING ROOMS

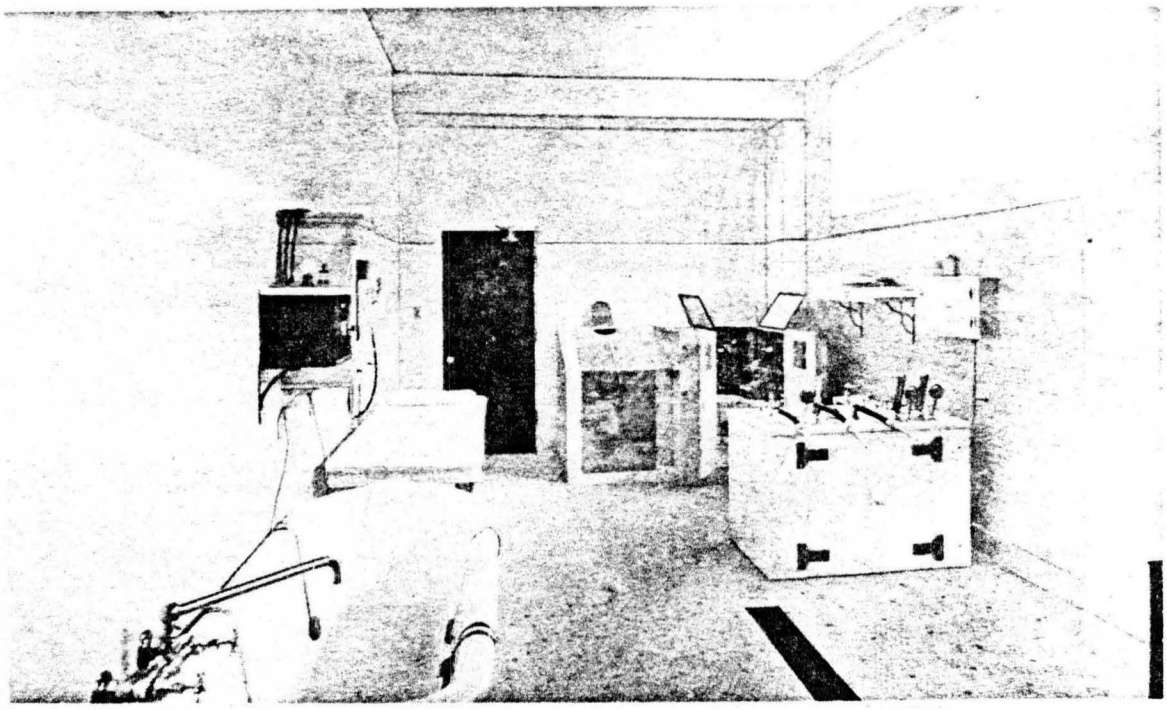
The typical bathhouse patron, after his bath, was able to avail himself to the various other departments of hydro-therapy, electro-therapy, and thermo-therapy.[1] Apparently the hydro- and electro-therapy departments were combined, which was the bather's first stop after his bath.

In 1915, the hydro-therapy room included such equipment as the violet ray, "Litz" [sic], Bad-Neugeim, Schei-Bad and the electrical bath and hot and cold douches.[2] Early booklets also included listings of sun-ray cabinets, frigid cabinets, devices for sprays,[3] and sitz baths.[4] In 1918 a bathhouse patron was given a cash settlement for an alleged burn which he claimed to have sustained in the "Electric Cabinet," but no mention is made of in what department this device was located.[5] In 1921, authority was granted to remove the hydro-therapeutic equipment from the bathhouse because there was not sufficient demand to keep it in operation.[6]

After the hydro room, one went to the thermo-therapy department with cabinets for dry or hot baths, and cabinets for natural vapor baths, enveloping all but the bather's head.[7] After this room one passed through the Turkish hot room, temperature 150 degrees F.; then to the pack room, 70 feet



Hydrotherapy Department, from Fordyce Bath House (HSNP).



Hydrotherapy Department, from 1916 Maintaining a Standard (Mary Hudgins collection).

long and twenty feet wide. After this room, the bather proceeded to the needle and shower "of the latest and most scientific type," then to the cooling room, a room 40 by 20 feet.[8]

[1]"Fordyce Bath House Opens to the Public," Sentinel Record, 28 February 1915, p. 1.

[2]"Beautiful and Luxurious Establishment," Arkansas Gazette, 28 February, 1915, p. 7.

[3]Fordyce Bath House, advertising booklet (St. Louis: Woodward Press, [ca. 1915]), p. 14.

[4]Health Awaits You at the Fordyce Baths, advertising booklet (Little Rock: Democrat P. and L. Co., n.d.), p. 14.

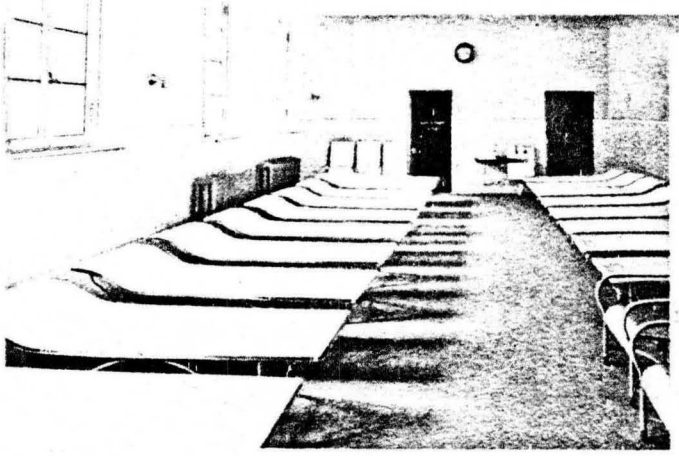
[5]J. F. Manier to J. R. Fordyce, 4 May 1918, J. R. Fordyce Papers, Arkansas History Commission, Little Rock.

[6]W. P. Parks to J. R. Fordyce, 1 June 1921, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[7]Health Awaits, p. 14.

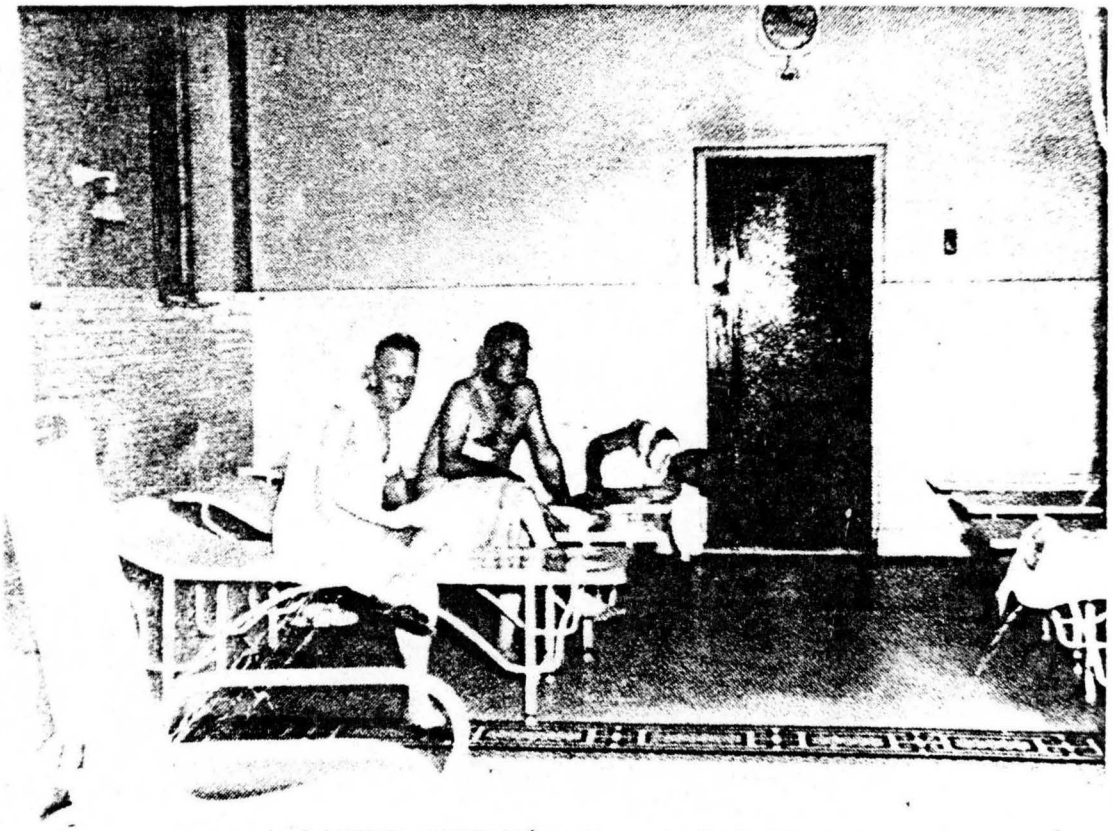
[8]Sentinel Record, p. 1.

Pack Room, from Fordyce Bath House, (HSNP).

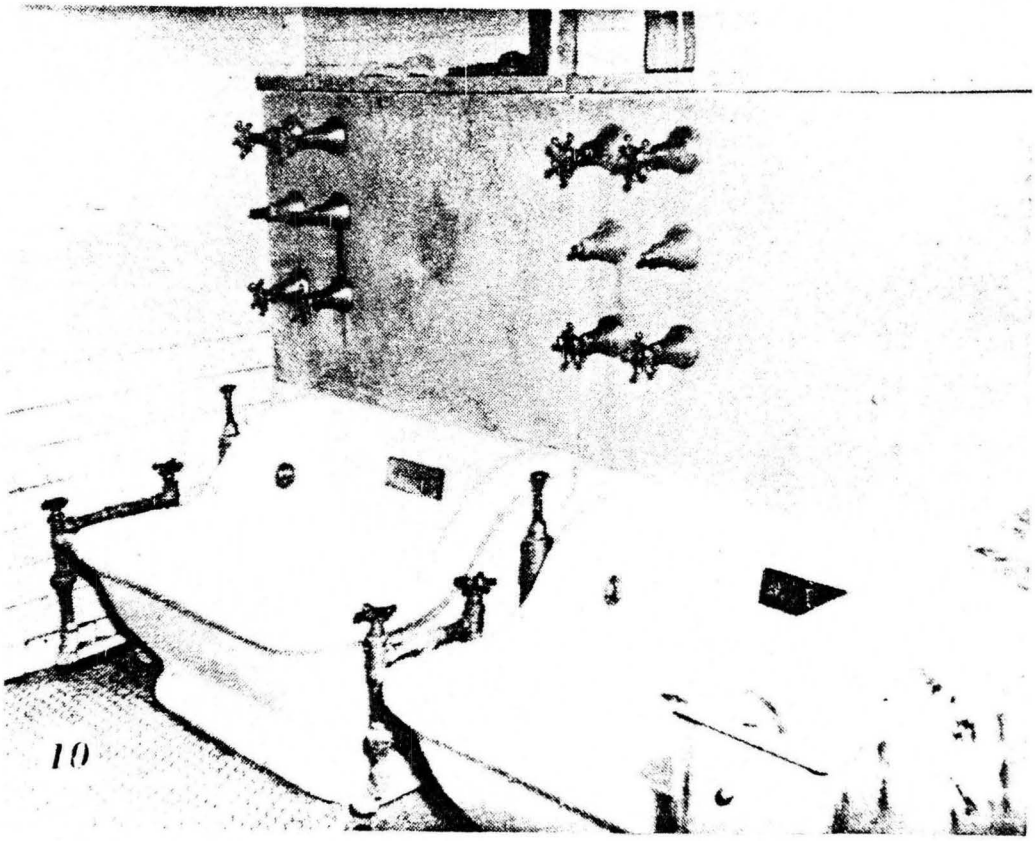


"Where Hot Packs are Applied", from The Fordyce Baths (HSNP).

Cooling Room, from Fordyce Bathhouse (HSNP).



Cooling Room, from The Fordyce Baths (HSNP).



Sitz Bath Equipment, from The Fordyce Baths (HSNP).

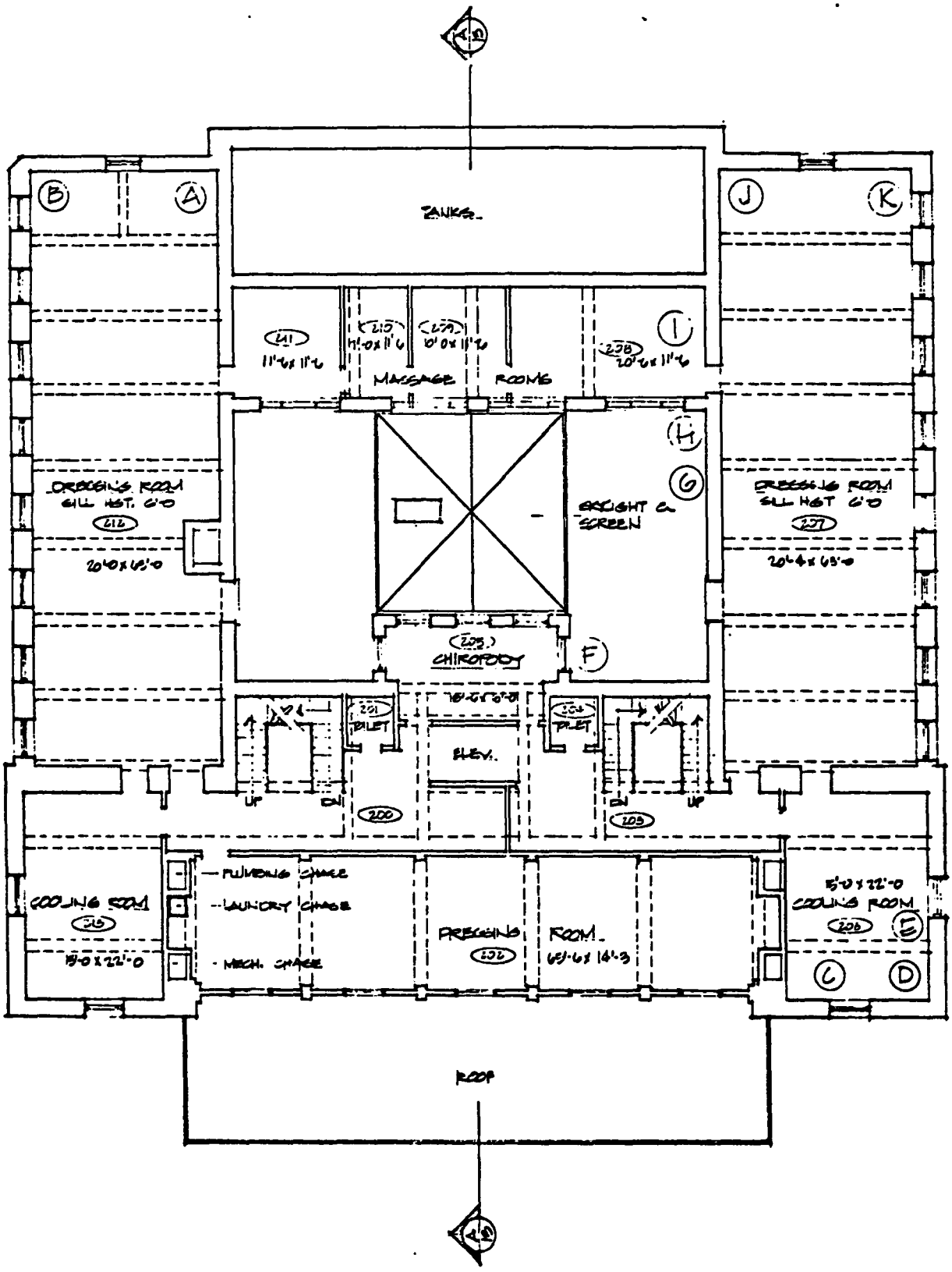
The Sitz bath is part of the modern Fordyce equipment. This bath is indicated in infections and benign hypertrophy of the prostate and in chronic rectal and genitourinary diseases.

First step is the hot tub bath when taking the regular course of baths. Every attendant is under government supervision and has passed government requirements. While in the tub the patient is massaged to increase circulation and stimulate secretion of the skin.

Hot or cold towels, soaked in natural water, are applied to affected parts in the pack room. This procedure is considered very beneficial in certain ailments.

Regular Bath, Sitz Bath, Hot and Cold Towel Packs, from Life Begins at the Fordyce (Mary Hudgins collection).

"Men's Pack Room with Cooling Room Beyond", from Health Awaits You at the Fordyce Baths (HSNP).



Measured Drawings - Second Floor, July 30, 1973 (Cromwell Firm) 1/16" = 1'.

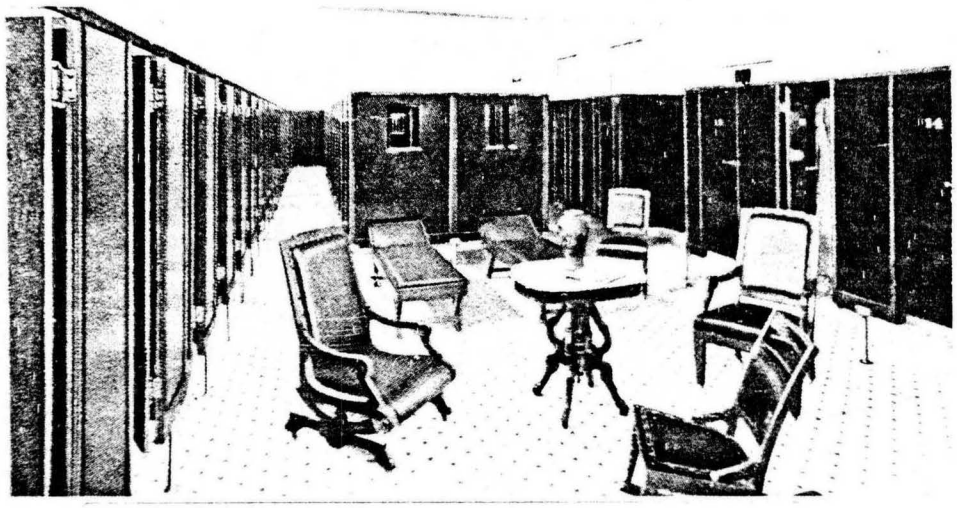
II. Building Spaces

C. SECOND FLOOR - DRESSING ROOMS, LOCKERS, COOLING ROOM, MASSAGE, MECHANO-THERAPY, AND CHIROPODY

After leaving the first floor cooling room, the bather proceeded to the cooling room on the second floor "sumptuously furnished with sanitary equipment."[1] Also on this floor at the head of the stair landings were rooms containing 1,000 private sterilizing lockers where the bathers' robes and towels were placed, thus insuring absolute privacy and sanitation. From this room, the patron passed to any one of the 285 private dressing rooms.[2] In 1954, the Park Superintendent found the dressing room conditions unsatisfactory:

> The rooms for both the men and women's quarters - dressing rooms and related facilities - appear in need of modernization, rehabilitation, etc., in order to present more satisfactory working conditions. Adequate ventilation through use of exhaust fans appears desirable. This will be conducive to good employee morale.[3]

Also found on the second floor was the massage department and the mechano-therapy department, a "chamber of scientific wonders, exhibiting to the novice every conceivable mechanical exercise device and ingenious 'Zander-gymnastic' equipment."[4] Devices such as mechanical horses were found which would rock, trot, pace, or canter, regulated by an electric motor.



Dressing Room, from Fordyce Bath House (HSNP)

The row boats were provided to duplicate all the motions and benefits of rowing exercise[5] "au natural".[6] Also included were oscillators, vibrators, machines for exercising and developing the trunk of the body and upper and lower extremities.[7]

The first mention of a chiropody department was in 1918 when the Fordyce manager was given permission in an unsigned letter (though probably written by J. R. Fordyce) "to secure other furniture and appliances to enable us to operate a first-class department of chiropody...for about $375.00"[8] In 1939, a Mr. Harrison (the chiropodist?) reported that in November of 1936, he purchased a new chiropody cabinet, electric sterilizer, electric drill and electric oscillator.[9]

[1]"Fordyce Bath House Opens to the Public," Sentinel Record, 28 February 1915, p. 1.

[2]Ibid.

[3]D. H. Libbey to B. L. Neimeyer, 9 August 1954, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[4]Health Awaits You at the Fordyce Baths, advertising booklet (Little Rock: Democrat P. and L. Co., n.d.).

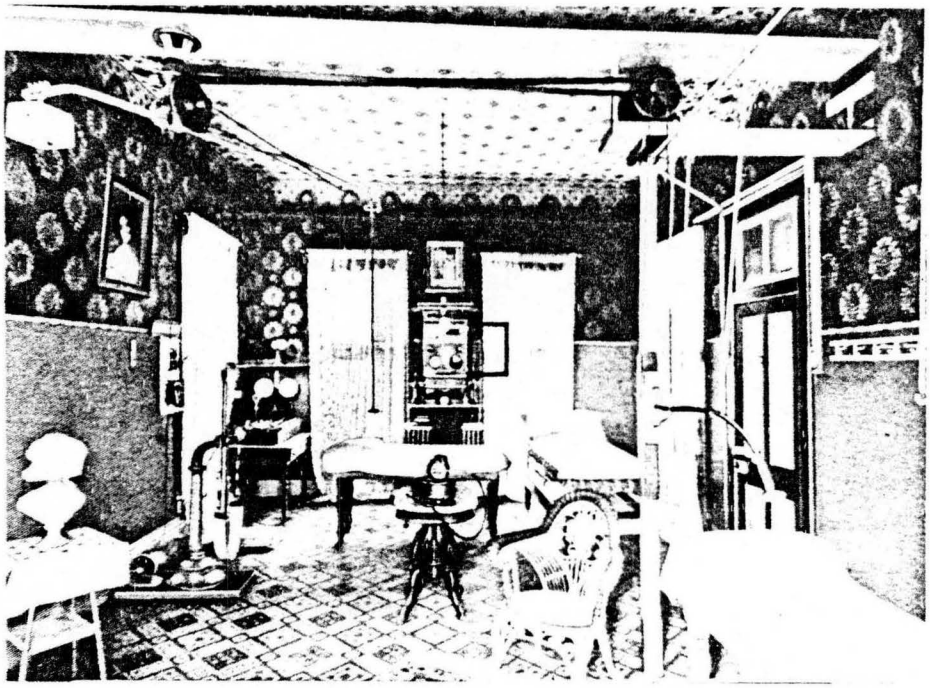
[5]Sentinel Record, p. 1.

[6]Fordyce Bath House, advertising booklet (St. Louis: Woodward Press, [ca. 1915]), p. 15.

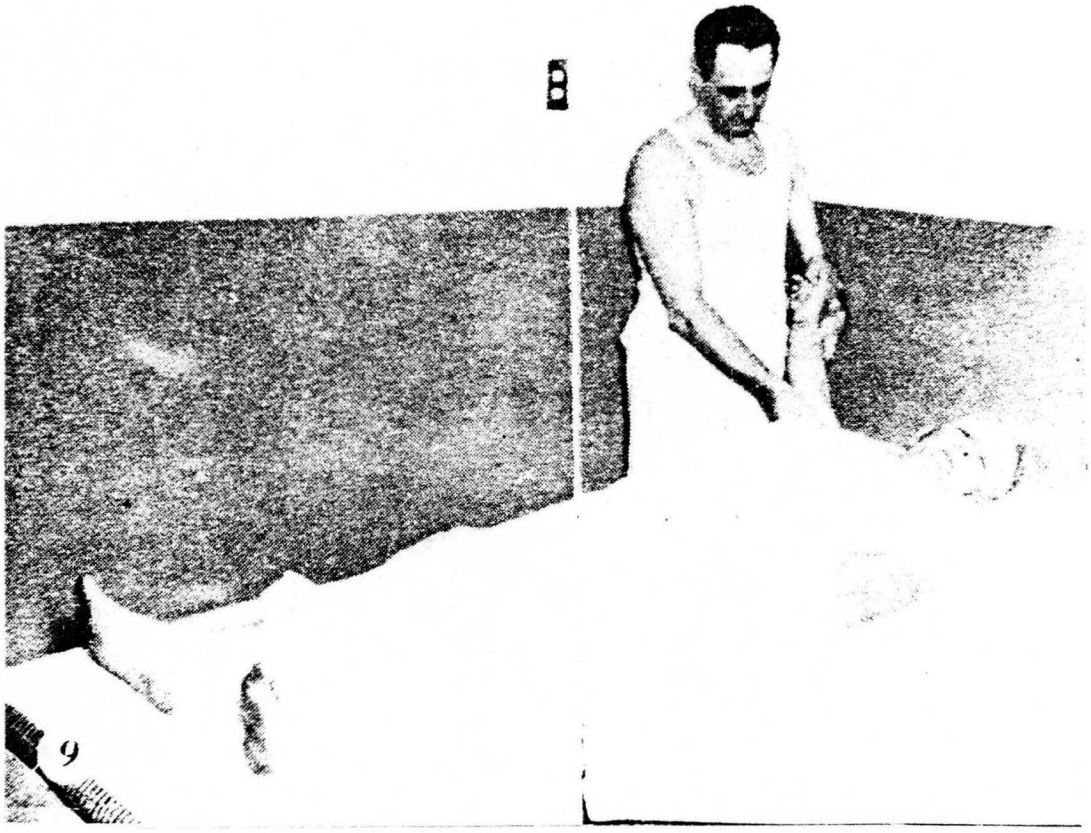
[7]Sentinel Record, p. 1.

[8]J. R. Fordyce(?) to J. F. Manier, 18 July 1918, J. R. Fordyce Papers, Arkansas History Commission, Little Rock, Arkansas.

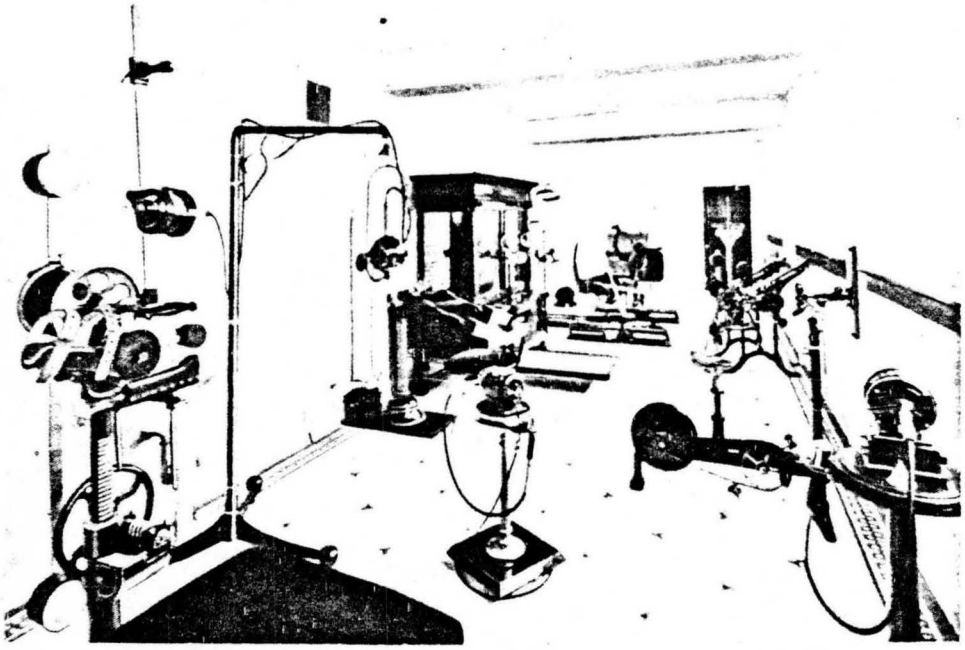
[9]J. S. Harrison to George Bolten, 22 March 1939, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.



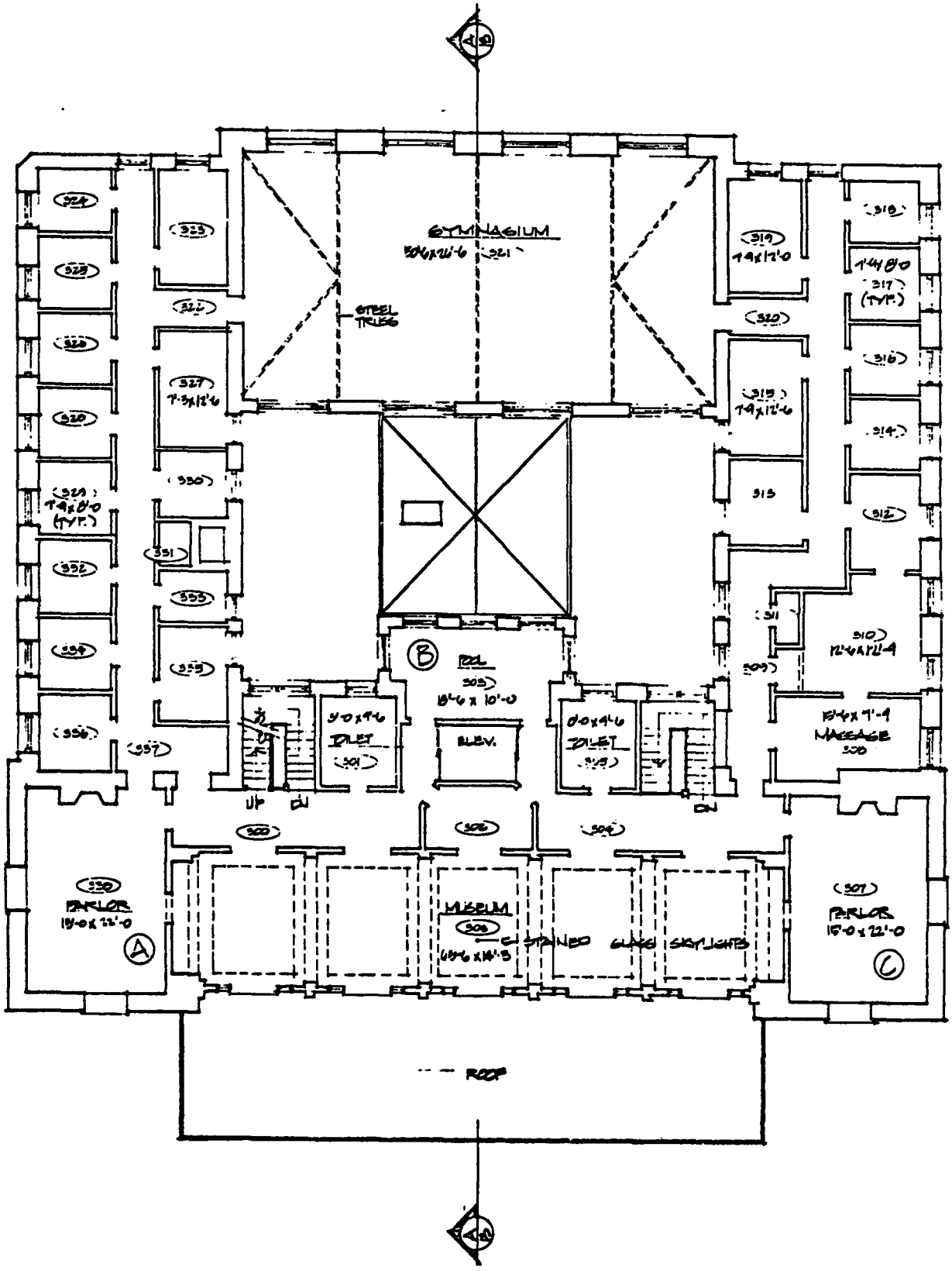
Massage Department, from Fordyce Bath House (HSNP).



Massage Department, from The Fordyce Baths (HSNP).



Department of Mechano-Therapy, from Fordyce Bath House (HSNP).



Measured Drawings - Third Floor, July 30, 1973 (Cromwell Firm) 1/16" = 1'.

II. Building Spaces

D. THIRD FLOOR - STATEROOMS, ASSEMBLY ROOMS, AND PARLORS

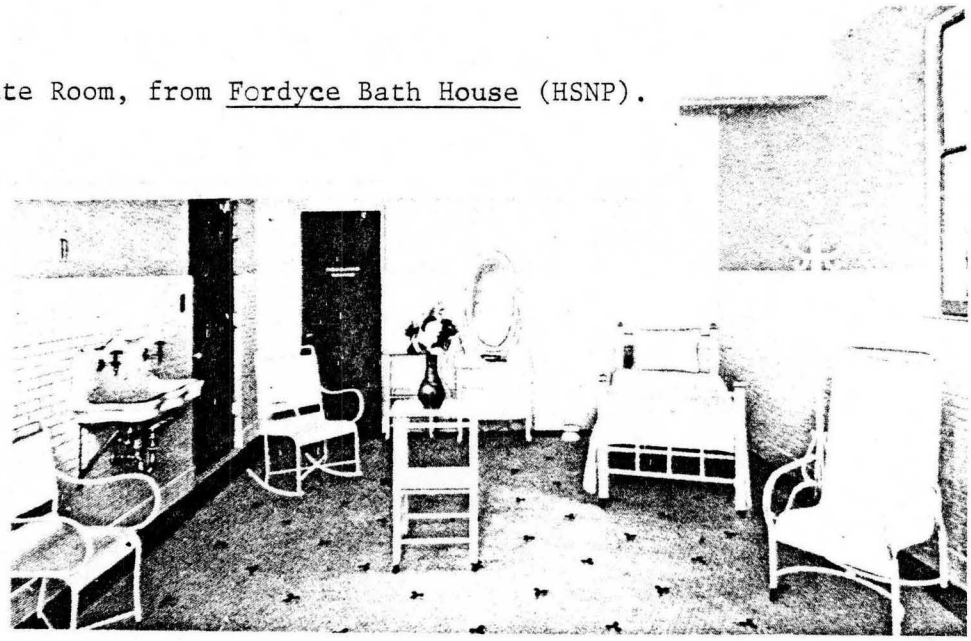
On the third floor were twenty-two private staterooms, 8 by 12 feet, with hot and cold running water, telephones, bed, dresser and chair, and the service of valet and maid.[1]

"Without a doubt, the most beautiful room in the house," the assembly room (or palm room or sun parlor, as it was sometimes called) was the gathering place for bathers of both sexes where they read letters, met friends, listened to music, and played games.[2] The room was described as being approximately 100 by 20 feet, with the ceiling made of art glass divided into five panels.[3]

In 1915, the room at the north end was the gentlemen's parlor and billiard room which contained a billiard and pool table.[4] The south end was the ladies' parlor and music room which was "supplied with handsome furnishings and a concert grand piano."[5] Both rooms contained open fireplaces and drinking fountains of hot and cold water.[6]

The 1934 inspection report indicated the gentlemen's parlor became an office: "On the other end of the lobby (third floor) there is an office room which I believe is used by Colonel Fordyce."[7] It was believed that shortly thereafter

State Room, from Fordyce Bath House (HSNP).



this room was used by Byron Neimeyer as the manager's office.[8]

[1]"Fordyce Bathhouse Opens to the Public," Sentinel Record, 28 February, 1915, p. 1.

[2]"Beautiful and Luxurious Establishment," Arkansas Gazette, 28 February 1915, p. 7.

[3]Sentinel Record, p. 1.

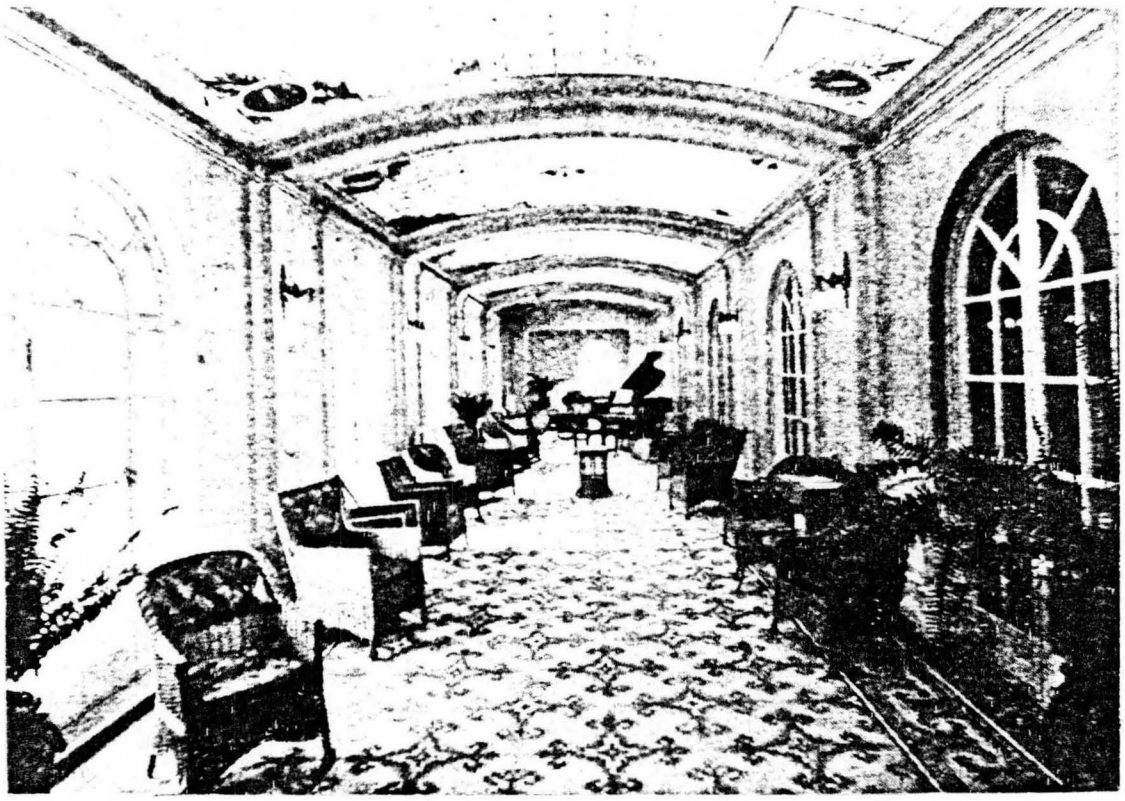
[4]Ibid.

[5]Ibid.

[6]Arkansas Gazette, p. 7.

[7]G. C. Bolton to T. J. Allen, 27 August 1934, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

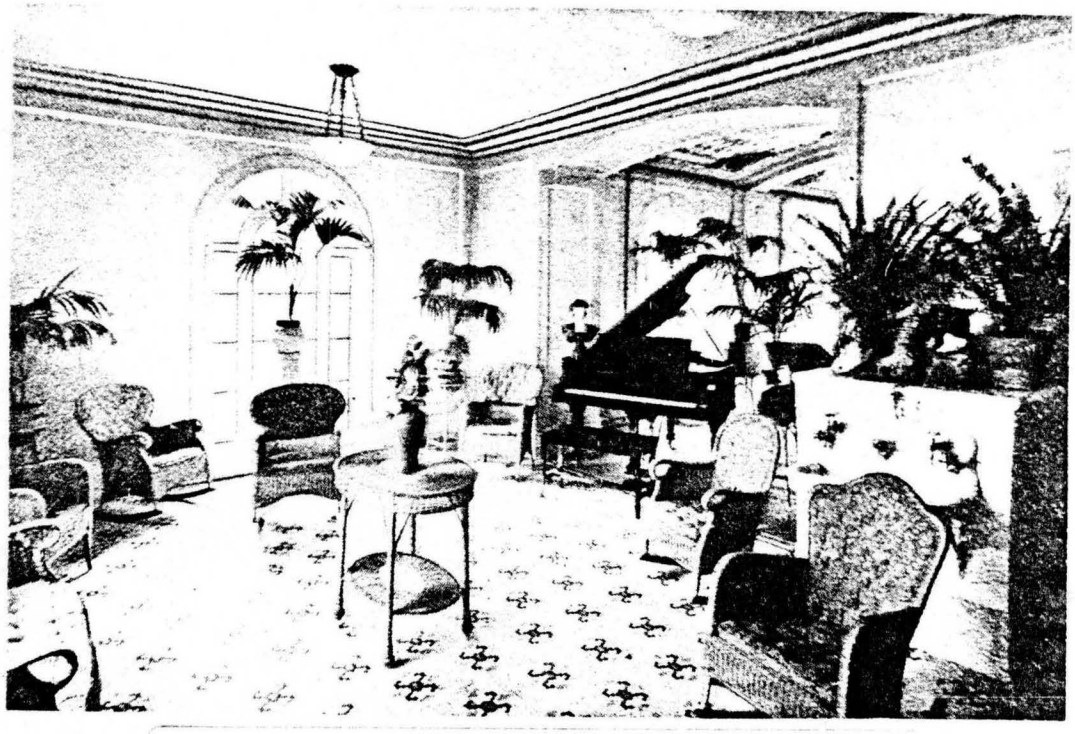
[8]Interview with Powell Fordyce, St. Louis, Missouri, July 1980.



Assembly Room, from 1916 Cutter's Guide
(Mary Hudgins collection).

Assembly Room, from Health Awaits You at the Fordyce Baths (HSNP).

Gentlemen's Parlor or Billiard Room, from Fordyce Bath House (HSNP).



Ladies' Parlor or Music Room, from Fordyce Bath House (HSNP).

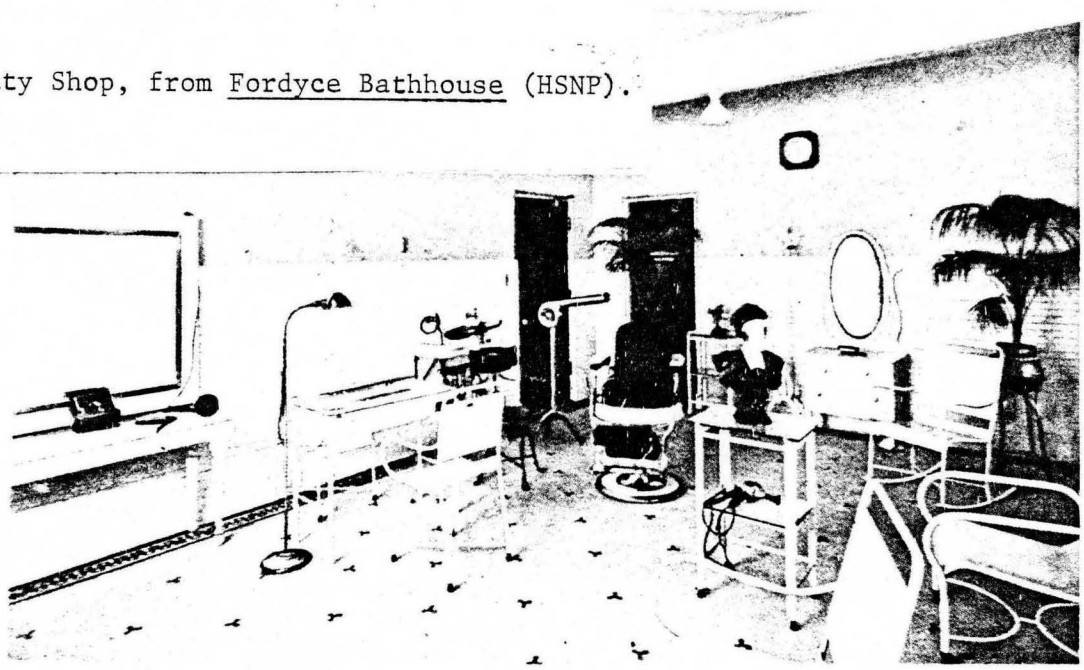
II. Building Spaces

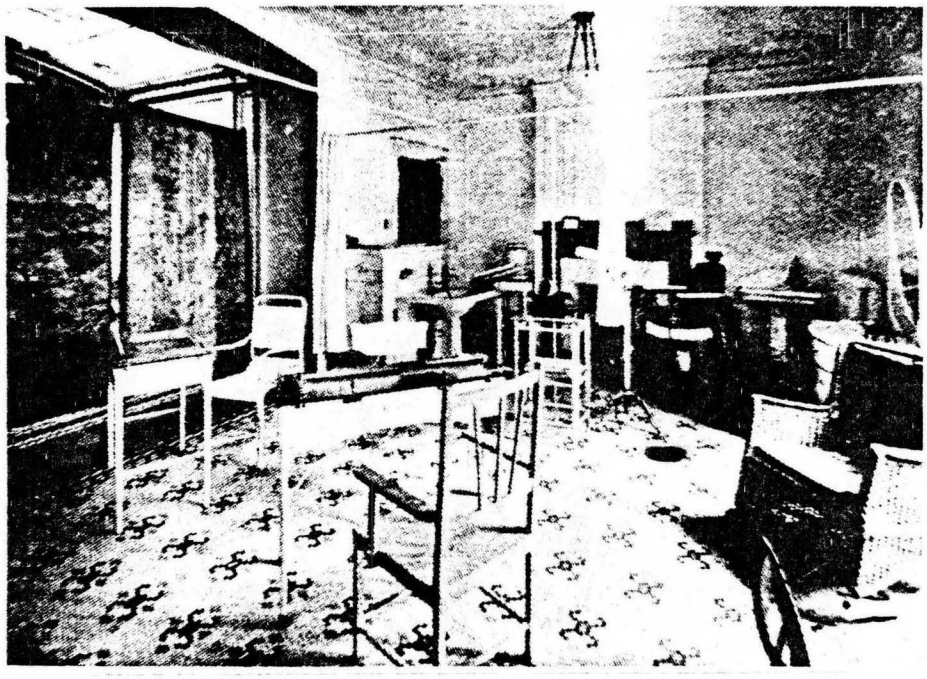
D. THIRD FLOOR - BEAUTY SHOP

J. R. Fordyce in December of 1914, before the bathhouse opened, requested to install a "sanitary" barber shop on the third floor. "You know that with the many contagious diseases coming to Hot Springs it is almost impossible for a man to receive the proper barber service in commercial shops."[1] Permission was denied for the installation of a barber shop,[2] but it was recorded that a beauty shop for women existed from the bathhouse's beginning.

The Gazette article about the Fordyce's opening in February of 1915 stated that the women had on the third floor a completely equipped manicure, hairdressing, and massage department.[3] In the booklet Fordyce Bath House (which was not dated, but was probably the earliest advertising document published around 1915) the beauty shop was pictured in a room different from the other later photos. This room was probably to the east of the ladies' parlor. However, in another early booklet, Health Awaits You at the Fordyce Baths, where most all the illustrations duplicate the photographs in the previously mentioned booklet, the beauty shop was shown in what was the ladies' parlor, with the same tile floors, fireplace, and segmental arched opening onto the assembly room. However, in this enigmatic booklet, the old

Beauty Shop, from Fordyce Bathhouse (HSNP).





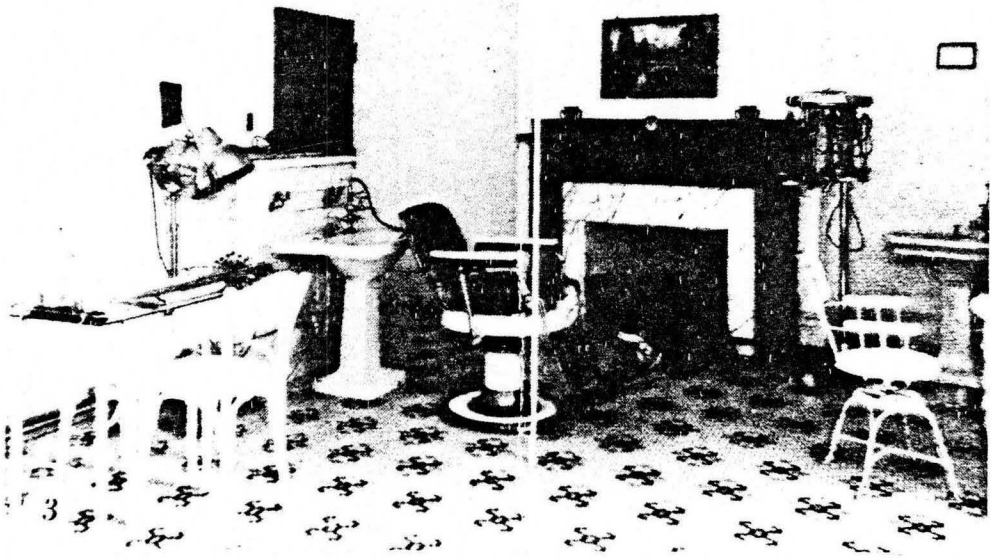
Beauty Shop, from Health Awaits You at the Fordyce Baths (HSNP).

photo of the ladies' parlor (called the music room) was included as well, even though the booklet stated that the beauty shop opened to the south of the assembly room "completely equipped and in charge of an experienced operator."[4]

In 1920, the ladies' parlor apparently still was not the beauty shop, because the manager requested permission to provide music in the bathhouse "music room",[5] and the request was granted February 4.[6] No mention was made of why and when the ladies' parlor or music room became the beauty parlor. But there was an invitation to attend the formal opening of the Fordyce beauty shop January 16, 1928, and perhaps this was when the space changed uses.[7]

In the 1934 inspection, the assistant superintendent stated that there was a beauty parlor off of the assembly room. "This should be brought up to date in the manner of equipment."[8] A record of expenditures showed $35.00 was spent in 1934 and $170.40 in 1936 in beauty shop equipment.[9] In 1944, the Acting Superintendent acknowledged the Fordyce's submitting new rates for services in their "recently reopened beauty parlor".[10] The beauty shop had been closed for some time because they were unable to get a satisfactory operator. A competent beautician had been employed and this service was again available at the Fordyce Bathhouse.[11]

In a booklet, published around 1939, it was stated: "The beauty parlor at the Fordyce is completely equipped for all



Beauty Shop, from The Fordyce Baths (HSNP).

Beauty Shop, from Life Begins at the Fordyce (Mary Hudgins collection).

kinds of beauty work. After the bath you may relax in quiet comfortable surroundings while a competent beauty operator makes you feel and look your best. Permanent waves, facials, finger waves are all part of this special Fordyce service."[12] Yet in the Superintendent's "Specific Comments" ca. 1963, he said that the Fordyce at one time operated a beauty parlor, but they discontinued its operation years ago.

[1]J. R. Fordyce to W. P. Parks, 21 December 1914, Legislative and Natural Resources Branch, Record Group 79, National Archives, Washington, D. C.

[2]B. Sweeney to S. P. Parks, 28 December 1914, National Archives.

[3]"Beautiful and Luxurious Establishment," Arkansas Gazette, 28 February 1915, p. 7.

[4]Health Awaits You at the Fordyce Baths, advertising booklet (Little Rock: Democrat P. and L. Co., n.d.), p. 16.

[5]W. P. Parks to NPS Director, 14 January 1920, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[6]W. P. Parks to J. F. Manier, 4 February 1920, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[7]Letter to Mrs. Mattar, 12 January 1928, Fordyce Bathhouse Papers, University of Arkansas Special Collections Fayetteville, Arkansas.

[8]G. C. Bolton to T. J. Allen, 27 August 1934, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[9]B. L. Neimeyer to C. Powell Fordyce, 13 May 1940, Special Collections.

[10]G. C. Bolton Memorandum, 26 August 1944, Special Collections.

[11]Noble J. Wilt to NPS Director, 2 September 1944, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[12]Life Begins at the Fordyce, advertising booklet (Connelly Press, [ca. 1939]).

II. Building Spaces

D. THIRD FLOOR - GYMNASIUM

The third floor gymnasium was in 1915 "undoubtedly the largest in the State of Arkansas, and one of the best equipped."[1] Measuring 70' x 30', it featured turning poles, a spring board, horizontal bars, punching bags, striking dummies, giant strides, flying trapeze, traveling rings,[2] pulling machines, vaulting horses, etc.[3]

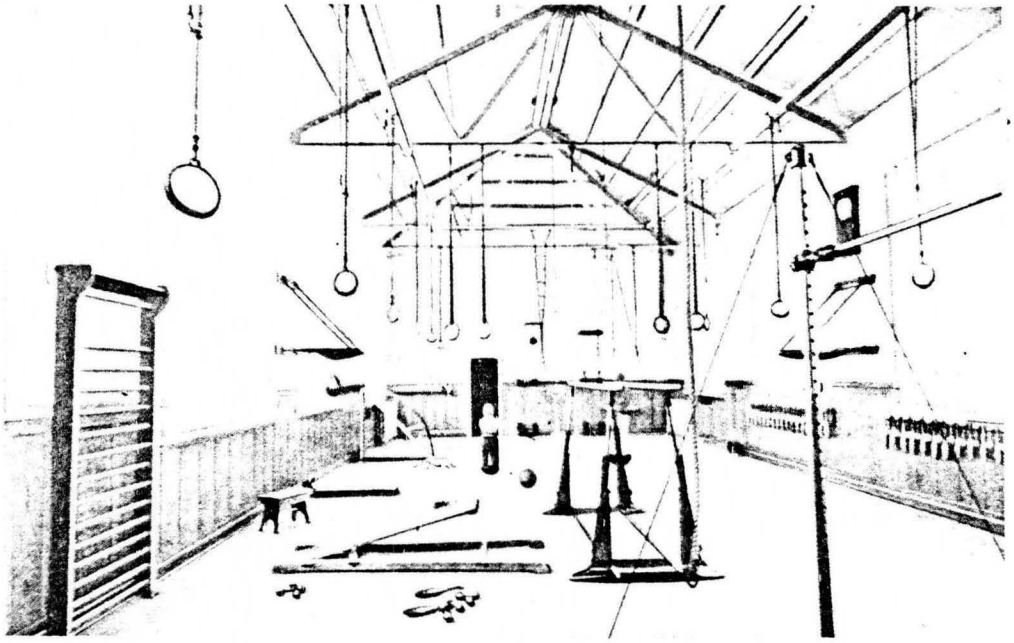
In 1921 permission was granted by the National Park Service for a bathhouse to employ a physical director who would direct the activities in the gymnasium with a "reasonable and proper charge" from the patrons.[4] Physical culture classes were held in the gym[5] and pugilistic training bouts also took place there.[6]

Records showed that some new gym equipment was purchased for $188.35 in 1936,[7] and in 1949, the floor was sanded and varnished.[8]

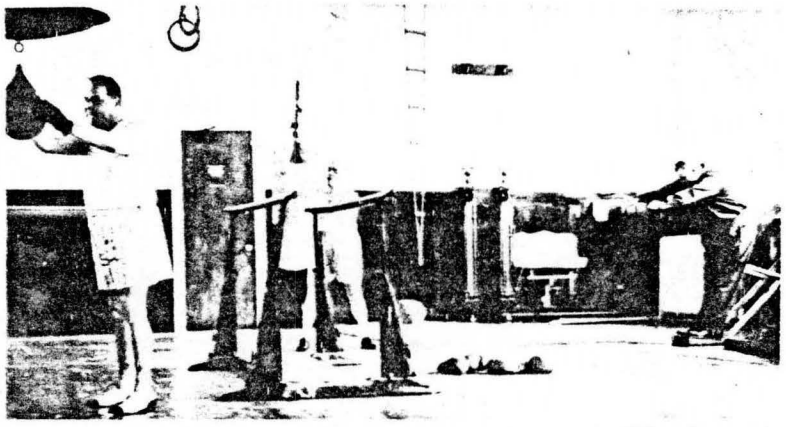
[1]Fordyce Bath House, advertising booklet (St. Louis: Woodward Press, [ca. 1915]), p. 16.

[2]"Fordyce Bath House Opens to the Public," The Sentinel Record, 28 February 1915, p. 1.

[3]Fordyce Bath House, p. 16.



Gymnasium, from Fordyce Bath House (HSNP).



Gymnasium, from Life Begins at the Fordyce
(Mary Hudgins collection).

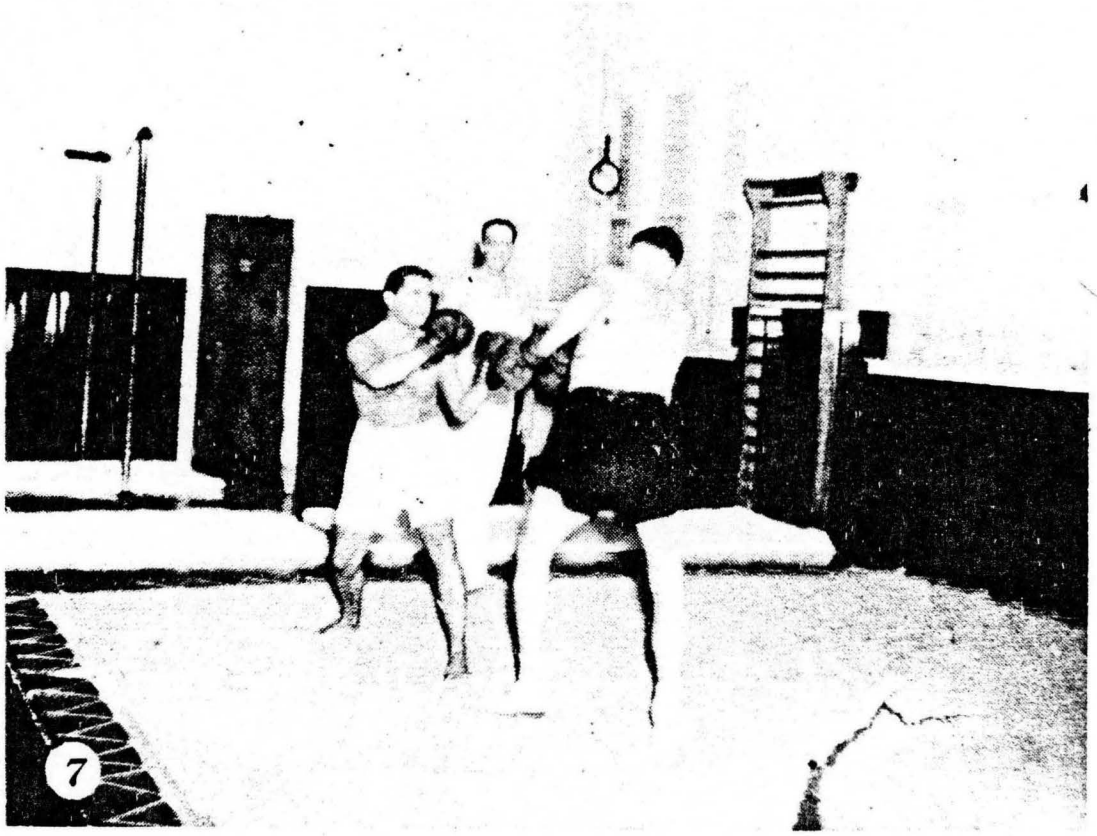
[4]Stephen Mather to J. R. Fordyce, 11 February 1921, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[5]Talbot Shelby to C. H. Waring, 7 November 1923, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[6]Frank Stearns to J. P. Bolten, 5 January 1929, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[7]B. Neimeyer to Powell Fordyce, 13 May 1940, Fordyce Bathhouse Papers, Special Collections of the University of Arkansas Library, Fayetteville.

[8]Ledger, 1949, Special Collections.

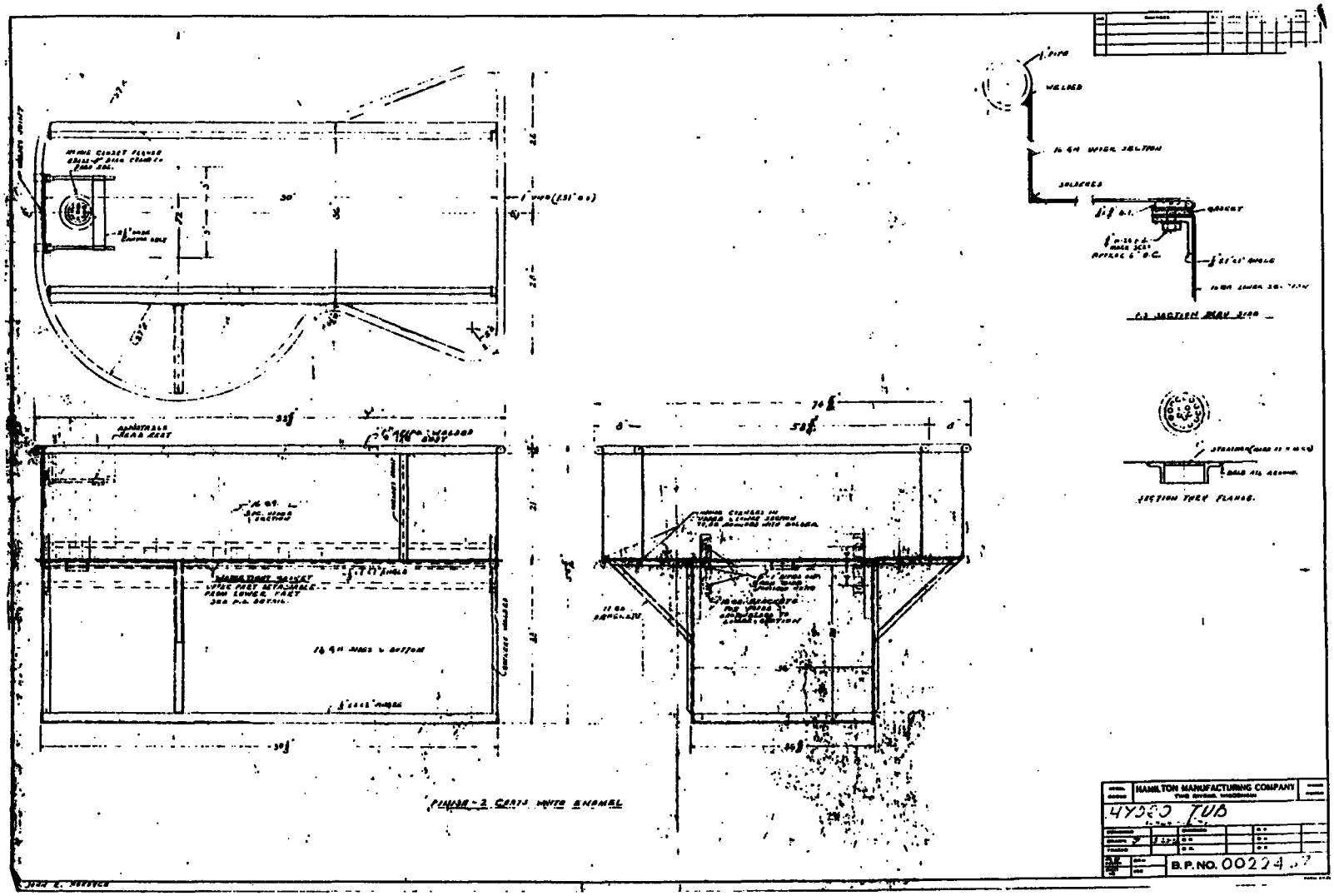


Gymnasium, from The Fordyce Baths (HSNP).

II. Building Spaces

D. THIRD FLOOR - HUBBARD TUB

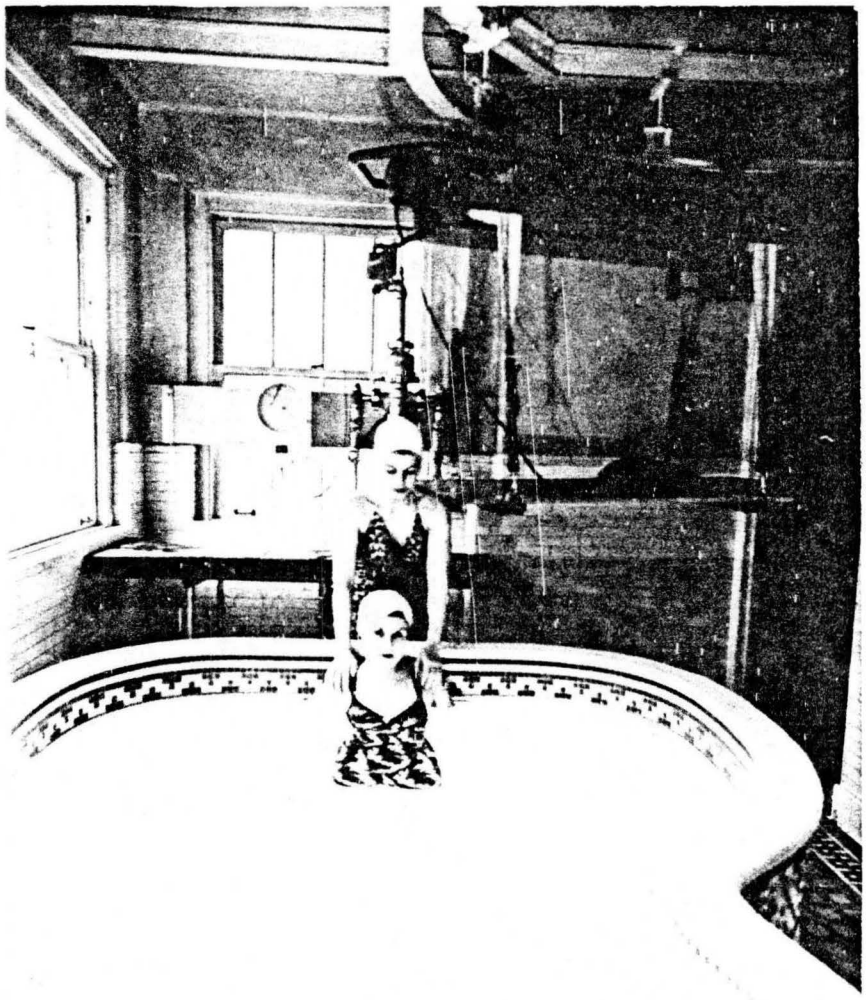
July 29, 1930, the Fordyce Bathhouse applied for permission to install special equipment for the treatment of infantile paralysis, arthritis, and neuritis, and on October 2, the National Park Service approved the installation of these facilities.[1] This was the first reference to the proposed remodeling of the Fordyce for under-water muscle re-education treatment. In the beginning, this was quite an ambitious proposal, and for the next five years, very little was mentioned as to the implementation of the plan, probably due to the decline in bath-ticket sales during the Depression. Then in 1935, J. R. Fordyce prepared some plans showing modifications of the bathhouse consisting of several Hubbard tubs and smaller pools,[2] and later that year, Eugene Stern, one of the two original architects for the bathhouse, made some sketches of the proposed plan.[3] Several sets of drawings of the proposed alterations, none of which was alike, were found from four different sources (National Archives, Denver Service Center, University of Arkansas Special Collections, and the Blass architectural firm in Little Rock), but no additional correspondence was found with them to clarify the various design stages.



Hubbard Tub, August 23, 1938 (Blass firm).

October 30, 1936, the Park Superintendent wrote the National Park Service Director for approval and included prints of the proposed alterations, making out of date the plans he submitted October 14.[4] At this point, the bathhouse wished to install a therapeutic pool and a battery of four Hubbard tubs,[5] but in November, J. R. Fordyce amended that request and asked for permission to install only one Hubbard-Currence Underwater Therapy Tank.[6] The Ille Electric Corporation quoted a price of $1,650.00 for the price of the tank complete with two electric turbine agitators, special thermostatic mixing valve (45 to 55 gallons capacity per minute), dial thermometer, headrest, overhead carrier, and stretcher.[7] December 1, 1936, the National Park Service Director approved the installation of one Hubbard-Currence Underwater Therapy Tank, provided a competent physiotherapist would be employed to superintend the giving of these baths.[8]

There was some question if the bathhouse floor structure could carry the load of the tub, but J. R. Fordyce assured the Park Superintendent that it was more than adequate. Water depth in this tub would be eighteen inches, and since the tub itself was sheet metal, it would be much lighter than one of the ordinary tubs made of porcelain. This brought the load to about 100 pound per square foot, which was perfectly safe for floors reinforced to carry 600 pounds.[9] Approval was given to install the Hubbard tub in the space previously used as the mercury rub room December 29, 1936.[10]



Hubbard Tub, March 1, 1939 (HSNP).

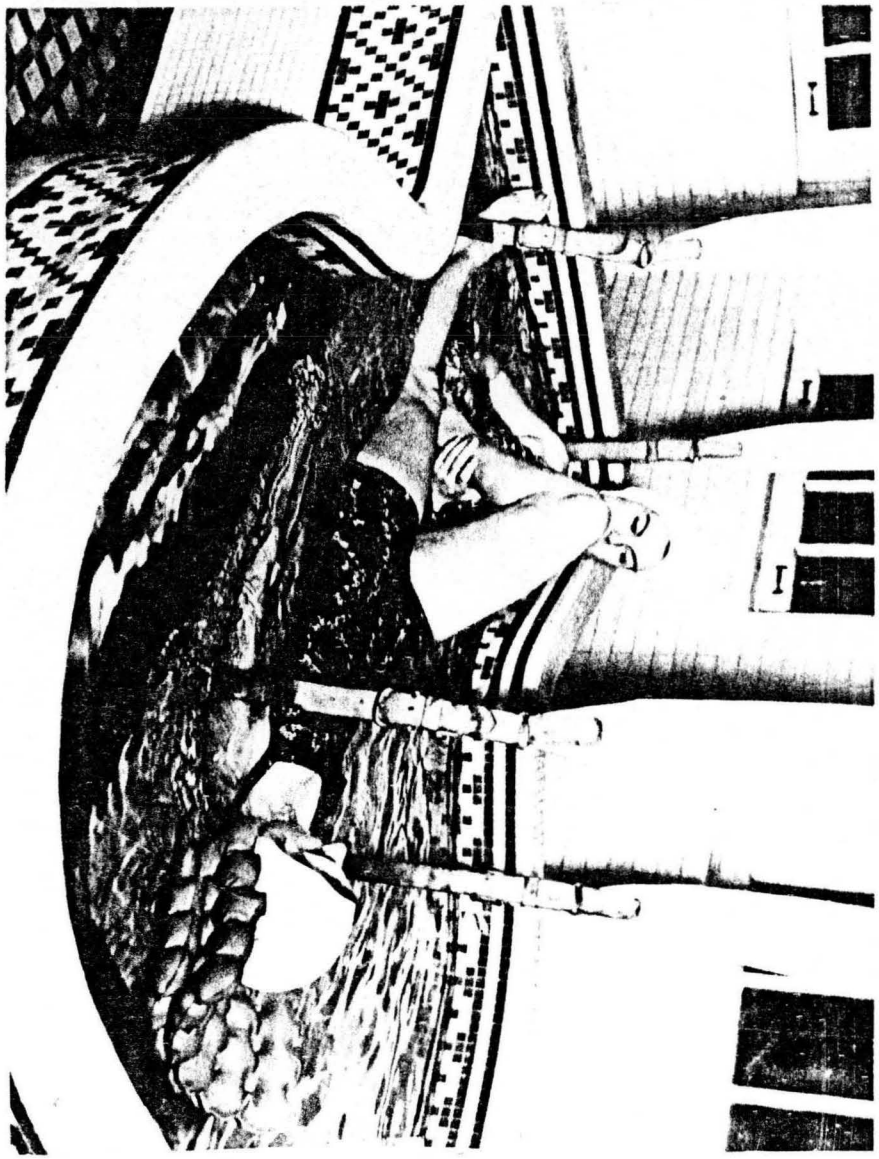
Two years passed and still the tub had not been installed. The National Park Service Director wrote in December of 1938 that Fordyce was still desirous of installing the Hubbard, and that the approvals were still in effect.[11] However, by this time the proposed location had changed to a room adjacent to the massage department where they had to remove some "unused electrical apparatus" (electro-therapy?).[12] The Park Superintendent was not altogether pleased with the change in spaces for its installation:

> I still believe there would be a problem arising for consideration which entails facilities for the proper handling of those using the Hubbard tub. It would be necessary to have suitable treatment rooms as an adjunct to this installation, as it is thought unsafe to move patrons of the Hubbard-Currence tub after their treatments to the existing pack and cooling rooms which would be some distance away from the Hubbard tub installation.[13]

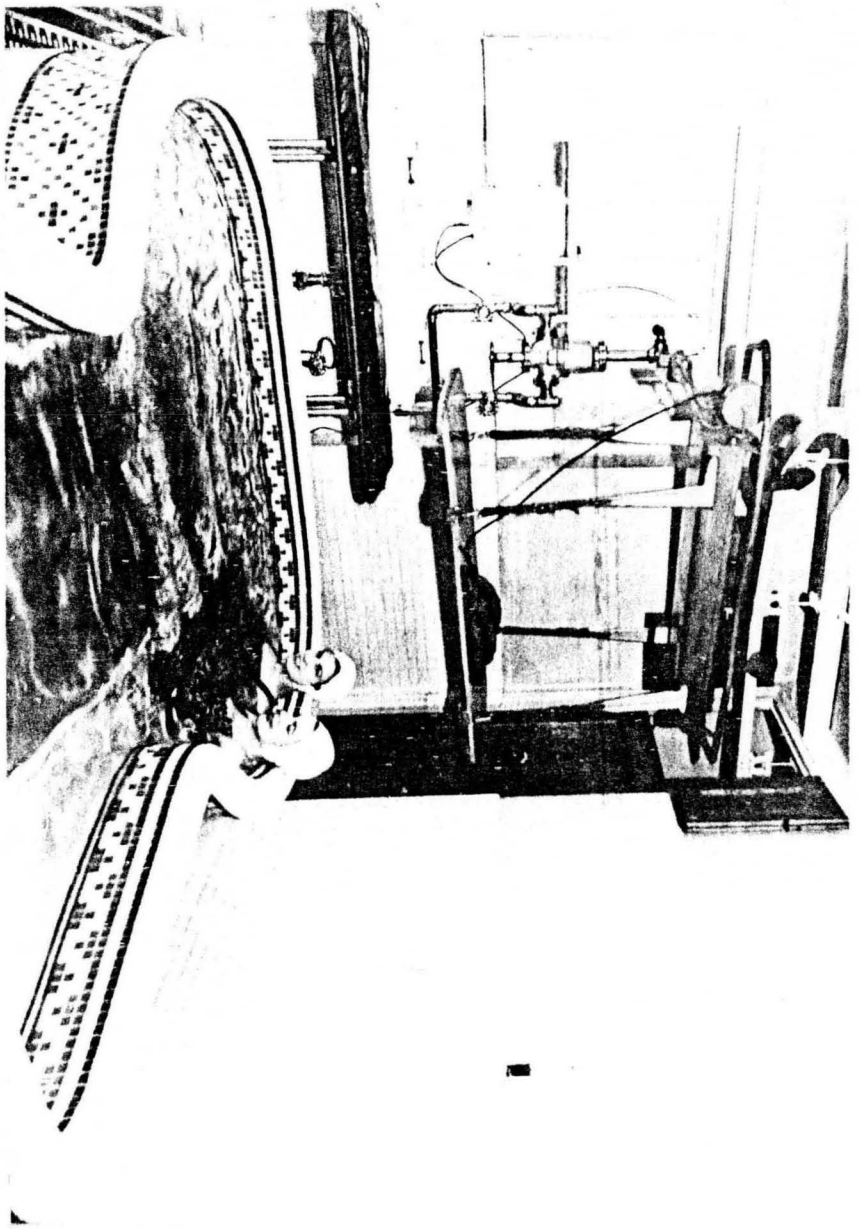
J. R. Fordyce proceeded with the plans for the tub, and apparently its location was reconsidered, for it ended up on the third floor in what must have been the mercury room.

Fordyce wrote the bathhouse manager referring to the tile for the Hubbard tub as being manufactured by the Mosaic Tile Company of Ganesville, Ohio. The prevailing color was light green, and he recommended the walls be painted light green as well. He also noted:

Hubbard Tub, March 1, 1939 (HSNP).



Hubbard Tub, March 1, 1939 (HSNP).



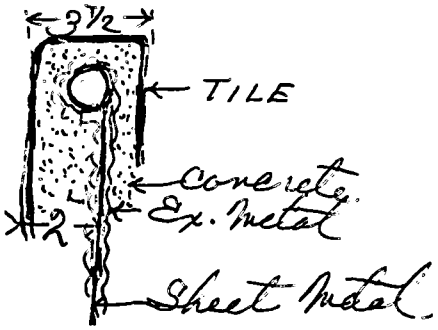
> ...the overall thickness of the walls of the tub is 3 or 3-1/2 inches and that the top rim is flat (see diagram). I think you had better get the steel over the tub in place first and then finish up that in the halls. Get the metal in the tub in place with the scratch coat also the floor. Get the Engineer to saw off the four handrail supports. We will get some other way to support the rails....Check the enclosed blueprint and send it to Memphis Power Equipment Company[14]

The following month, Fordyce revised his sketch and wrote:

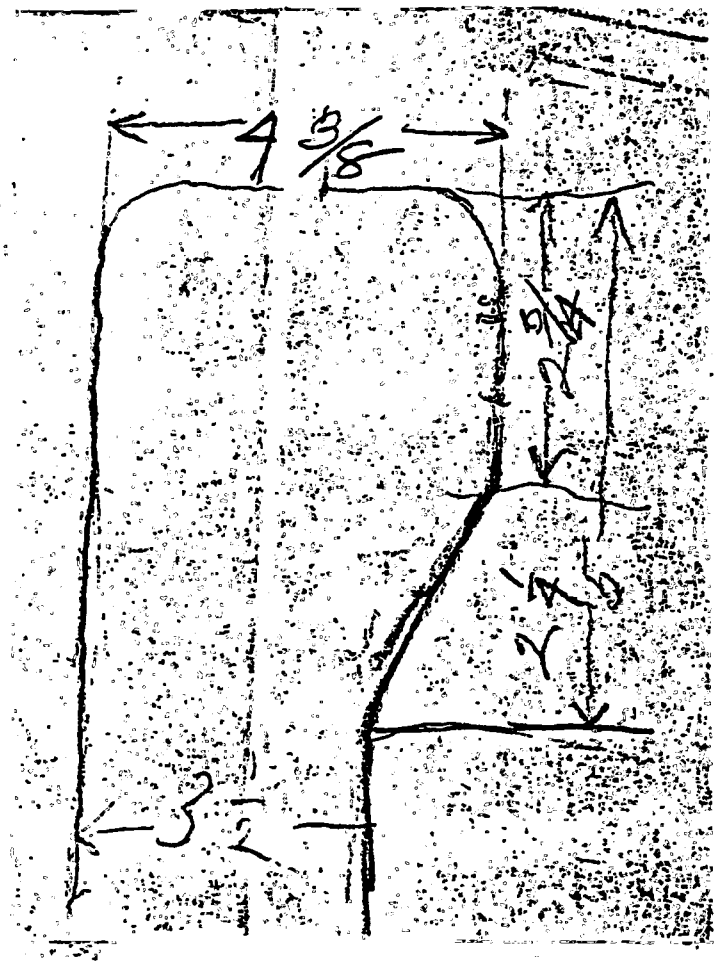
> I worked up the top rim...please have the tile setter make the rim according to this (sketch) as I have sent this to the manufacturers who are making the brackets which are to fit this rim. Please note that the top is 4 and 3/8" and the straight face on the outside is 2 and 3/4".[15]

Authority to operate the Hubbard-Currence Underwater Therapy Tub was granted April 1, 1939,[16] and service began April 7.[17] But by July 23, 1942, the Fordyce manager was requesting to suspend its operation August 1, 1942, and to discontinue the water rent effective October 1, 1942, because of lack of demand for this service and the inability to secure competent operators.[18] Authorization was granted September 1.[19]

In December of 1946, permission was requested to reopen the "Deep Bath" to which it was becoming more commonly referred.[20] February 27, 1947, the Fordyce was authorized to resume operations of the Hubbard tub "especially designed for use in treating unambulatory patients suffering from arthritis and kindred ailments, and the after effects of infantile



Sketch of Top Rim of Hubbard Tub Wall by John R. Fordyce, January 31, 1939 (U. of A. Special Collections).



Revised Sketch of Top Rim by John R. Fordyce, February 14, 1939 (U. of A. Special Collections).

paralysis."[21] However, the Fordyce manager, on June 19, 1947, returned the authorization unsigned because they were unable to find an operator.[22] Records did not indicate if the Hubbard tub services were ever again provided.

[1]A. E. Demaray to Park Superintendent, 2 October 1930, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[2]J. R. Fordyce to T. J. Allen, 31 July 1935, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[3]J. R. Fordyce to A. B. Cammerer, 5 December 1935, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[4]D. S. Libbey to National Park Service Director, 30 October 1936, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[5]D. S. Libbey to National Park Service Director, 21 November 1936, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[6]J. R. Fordyce to D. S. Libbey, 16 November 1936, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[7]F. W. Ille to J. R. Fordyce, 23 November, 1936, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[8]A. B. Cammerer to D. S. Libbey, 1 December 1936, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[9]J. R. Fordyce to G. C. Bolton, 14 December 1936, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[10]D. S. Libbey to J. R. Fordyce, 29 December 1936, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[11]A. B. Cammerer to Hot Springs National Park Superintendent, 20 December 1938, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[12]Ibid.

[13]G. C. Bolton to National Park Service Director, 29 December 1938, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[14]J. R. Fordyce to B. L. Neimeyer, 31 January 1939, Fordyce Bathhouse papers, University of Arkansas Library Special Collections, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

[15]J. R. Fordyce to B. L. Neimeyer, 14 February 1939, Special Collections.

[16]Assistant Secretary to Hot Springs National Park Superintendent, 1 April 1939, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[17]1939 Annual Report, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[18]Newton B. Drury to B. L. Neimeyer, 1 September 1942, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[19]P. O. Patraw to B. L. Neimeyer, 10 September 1942, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[20]B. L. Neimeyer to Thomas Boles, 1 December 1946, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[21]Memo to Secretary of the Interior, 27 February 1947, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[22]Ibid.

The Deep Bath and Therapeutic Pool

★ For each treatment the curative hot water is changed and the temperature regulated according to the need of the patient. Guide rails along the side under the water aid the patient in steadying himself while walking in the water. Along each side is a seat so the patient can sit and exercise the affected parts if desired.

★ This pool accommodates one patient at a time. Trained operators with degrees in Physiotherapy administer individual treatments in privacy according to the directions of registered physicians who have passed an examination by the Federal Board and have been licensed by the State of Arkansas.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE BATHS OR ON HOT SPRINGS, WRITE: BYRON L. NEIMEYER, MANAGER

THE FORDYCE BATHS

HOT SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK, ARKANSAS

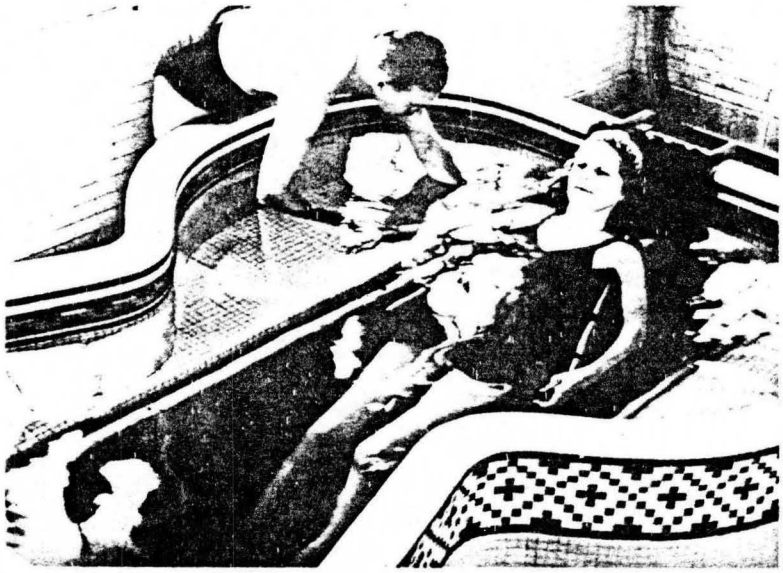
Embodying the good features of baths at European spas with the added advantages of American mechanical apparatus, the Deep Bath and Therapeutic Pool at the Fordyce Baths offers the latest methods for administering aid to sufferers of arthritis, paralysis, and other mobid conditions in the waters of Hot Springs National Park.

★ For many years the successful treatment of these ailments have been carried on in this world-famous spa. This equipment will facilitate the giving of treatment in extreme cases with greater effectiveness and a minimum of discomfort.

★ The treatments may be given from a plinth, as shown in this picture, as well as affording the patient a chance to walk in the water and exercise muscles.

(Additional information on the back.)

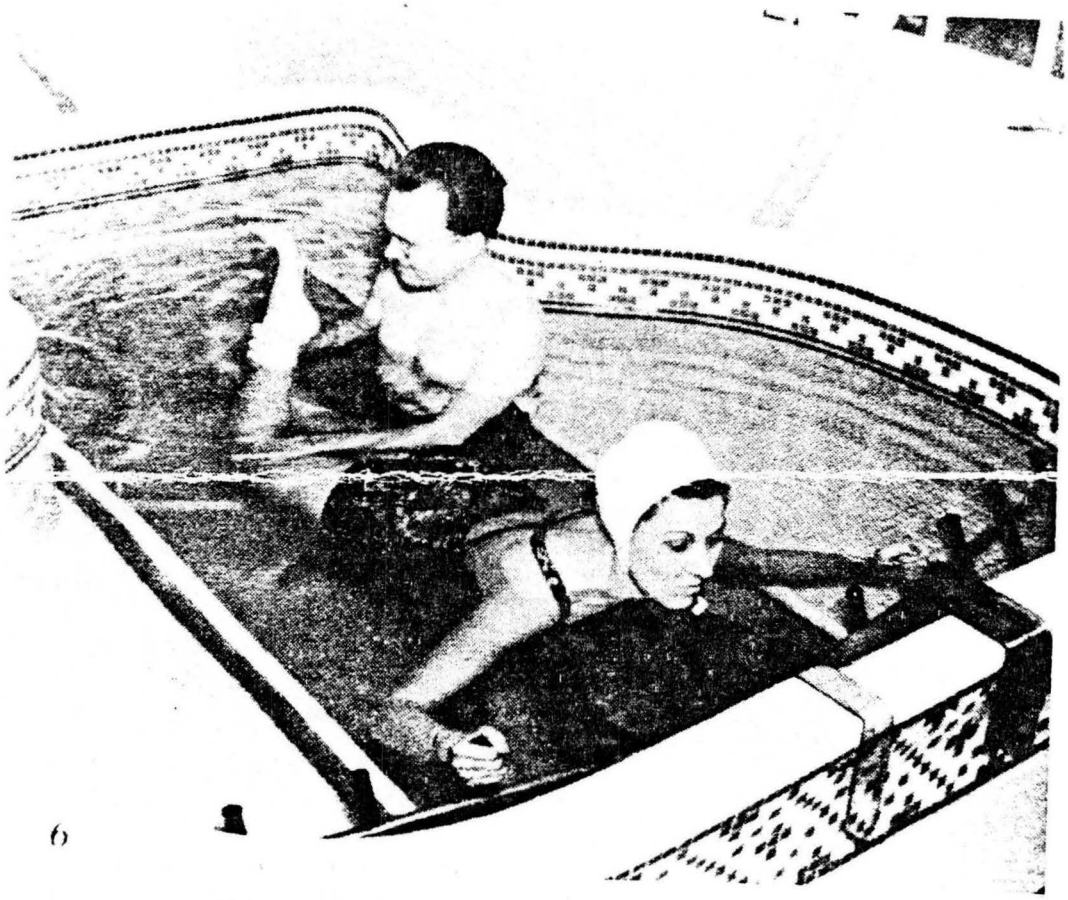
Hubbard Tub, from Life Begins at the Fordyce (Mary Hudgins collection).



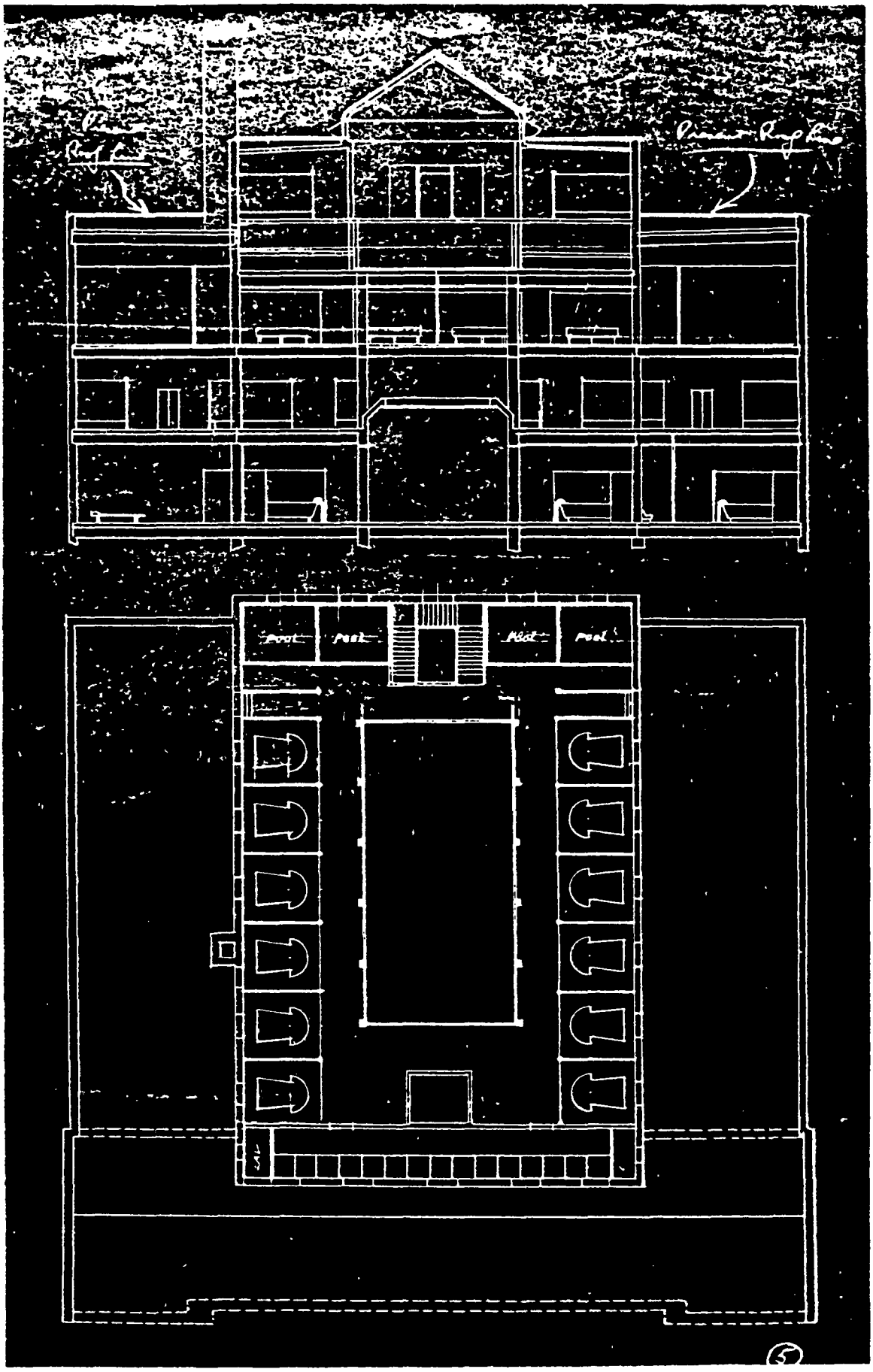
THE FORDYCE HUBBARD TUB

The Hubbard Tub is used for the treatment of arthritis, muscular and joint diseases and is serviced by a certified physiotherapist. The Fordyce Hubbard Tub is exclusive in Hot Springs with the Fordyce Bath House. In this large specially built tub it is possible for the patient, in complete privacy, to receive underwater treatment for muscular and joint disorders. In this type of therapeutic tub the water is changed for every patient. The equipment includes an electrical hoist, by which the patient who is unable to enter the tub alone, is lifted into it in a reclining position. In the tub the patient reclines comfortably on a plinth while the physiotherapist works. The patient, if able, may also move about in the large tub, using muscles he would be unable to manipulate out of water.

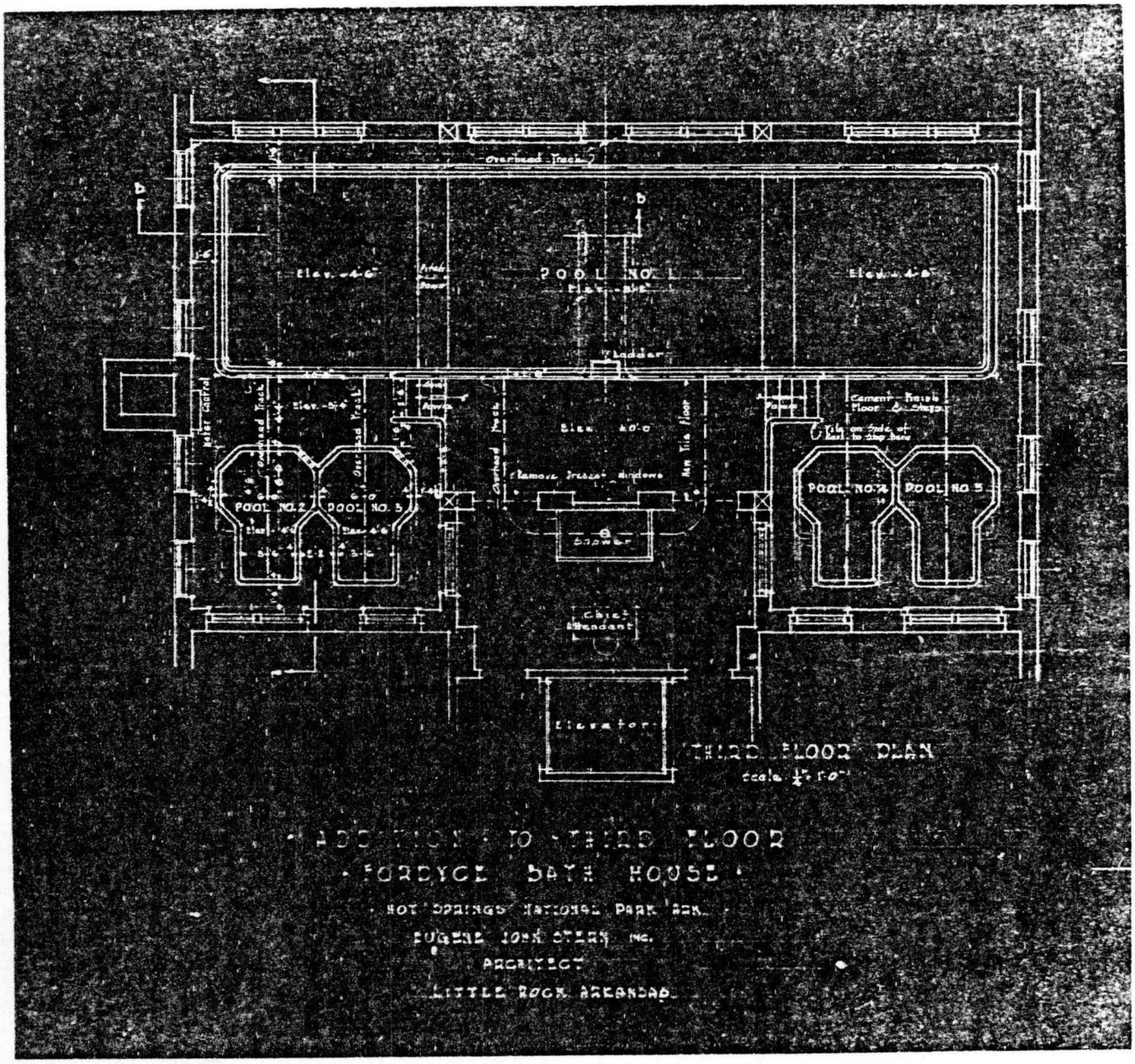
Hubbard Tub, from Life Begins at the Fordyce (Mary Hudgins collection).



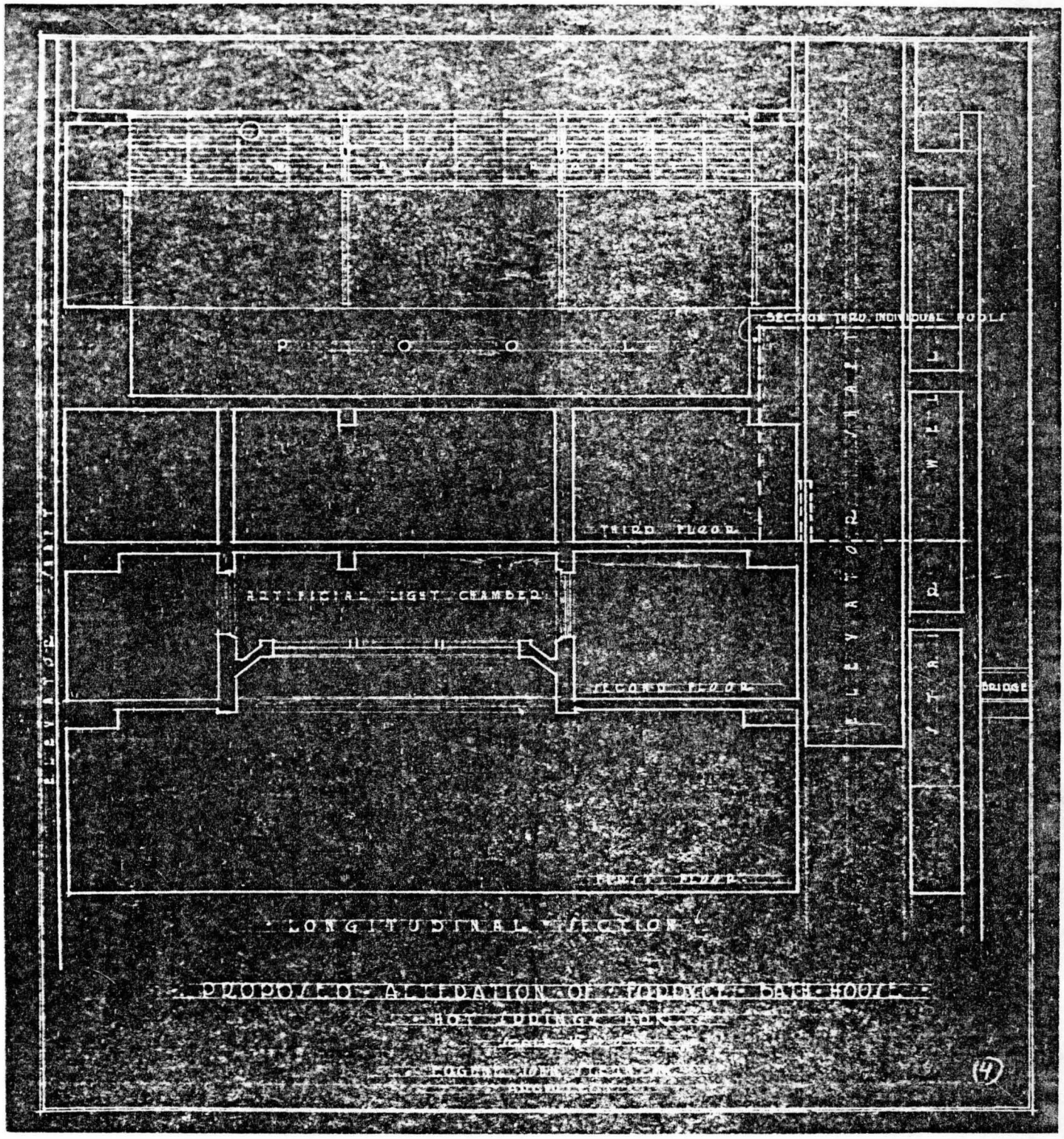
Hubbard Tub, from The Fordyce Baths (HSNP).



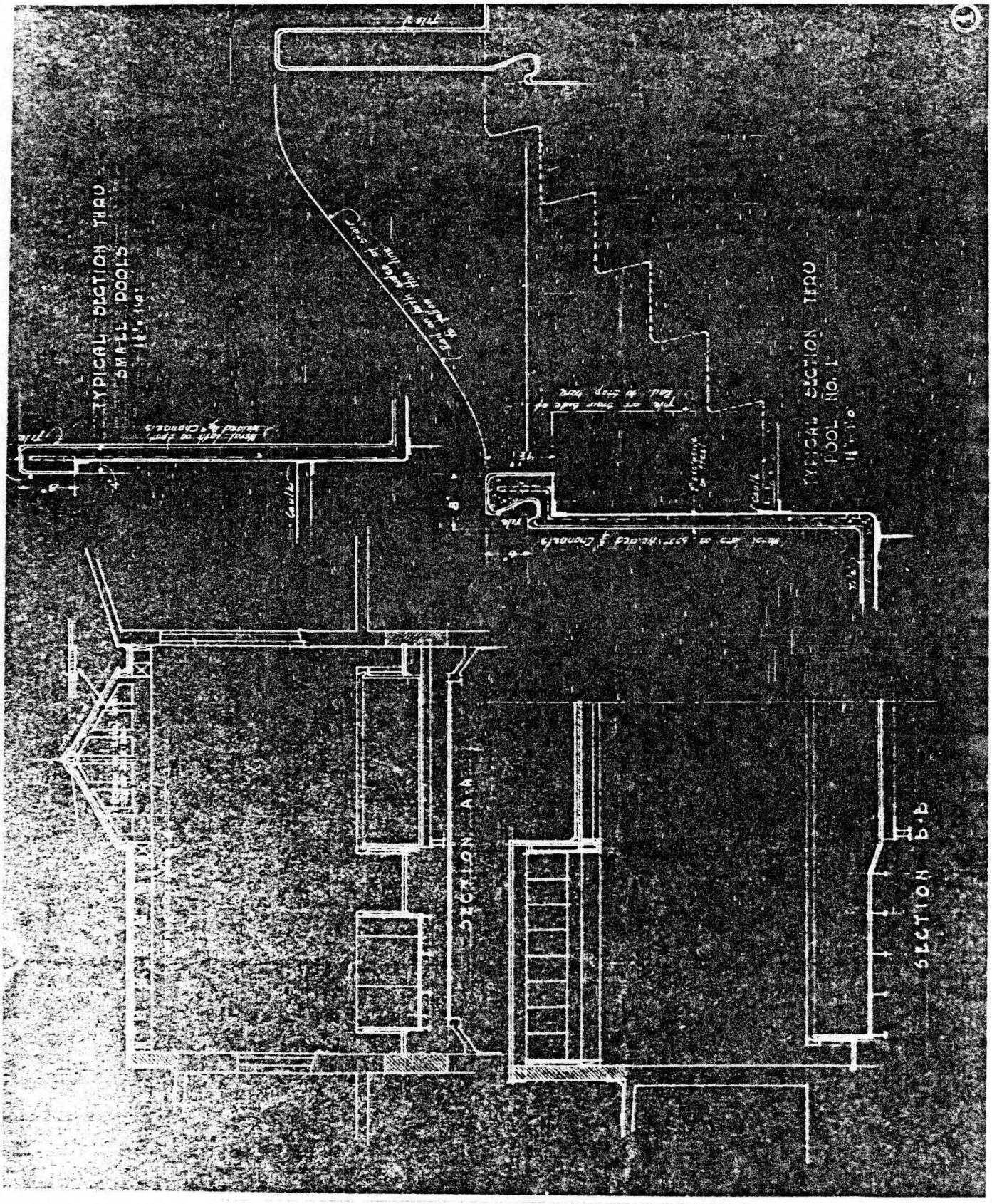
Proposed Alterations - Plans and Section, ca. 1935 (National Archives) illus. not to scale.



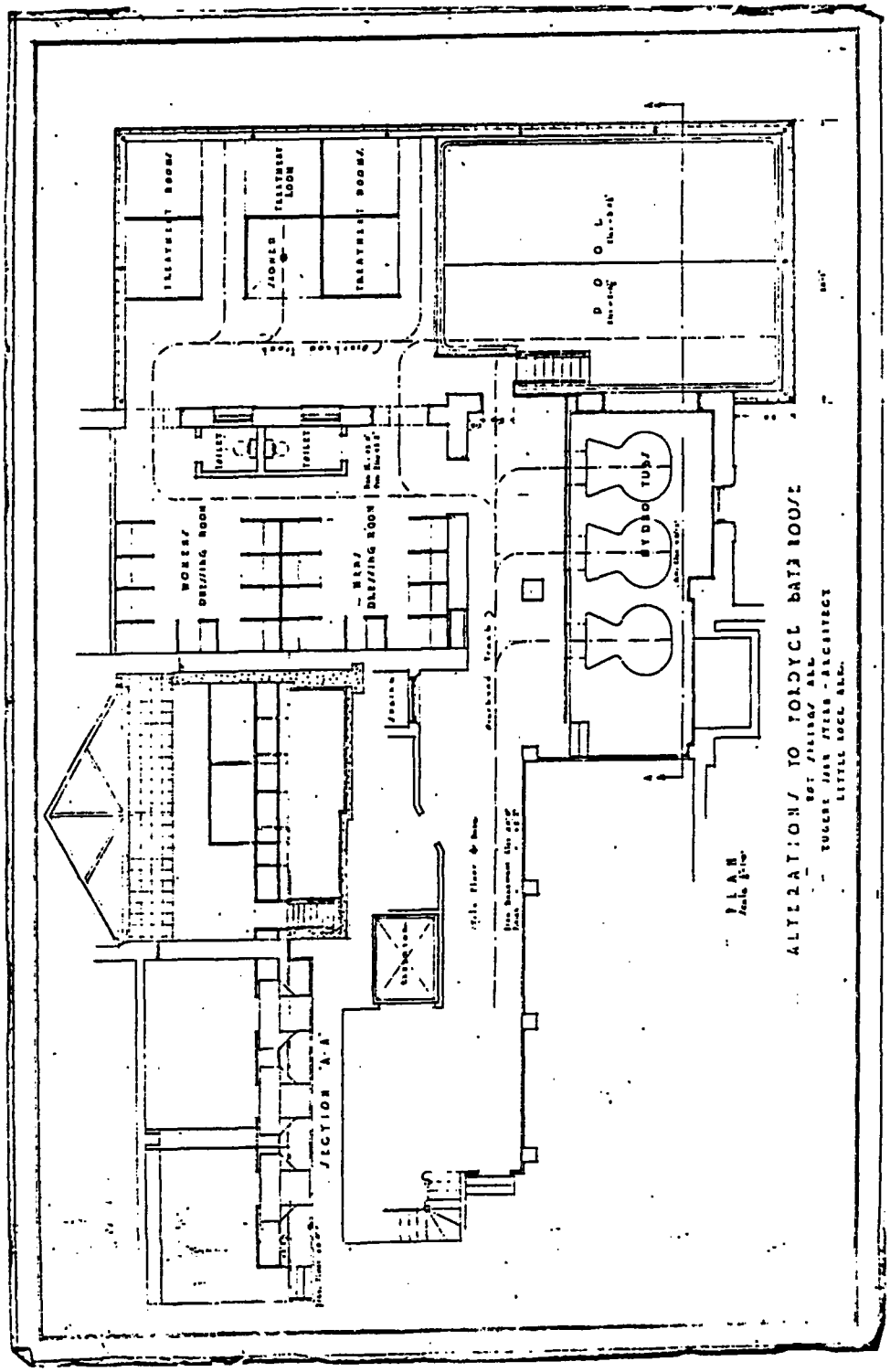
Proposed Alterations - Third Floor, ca. 1935 (National Archives) illus. not to scale.



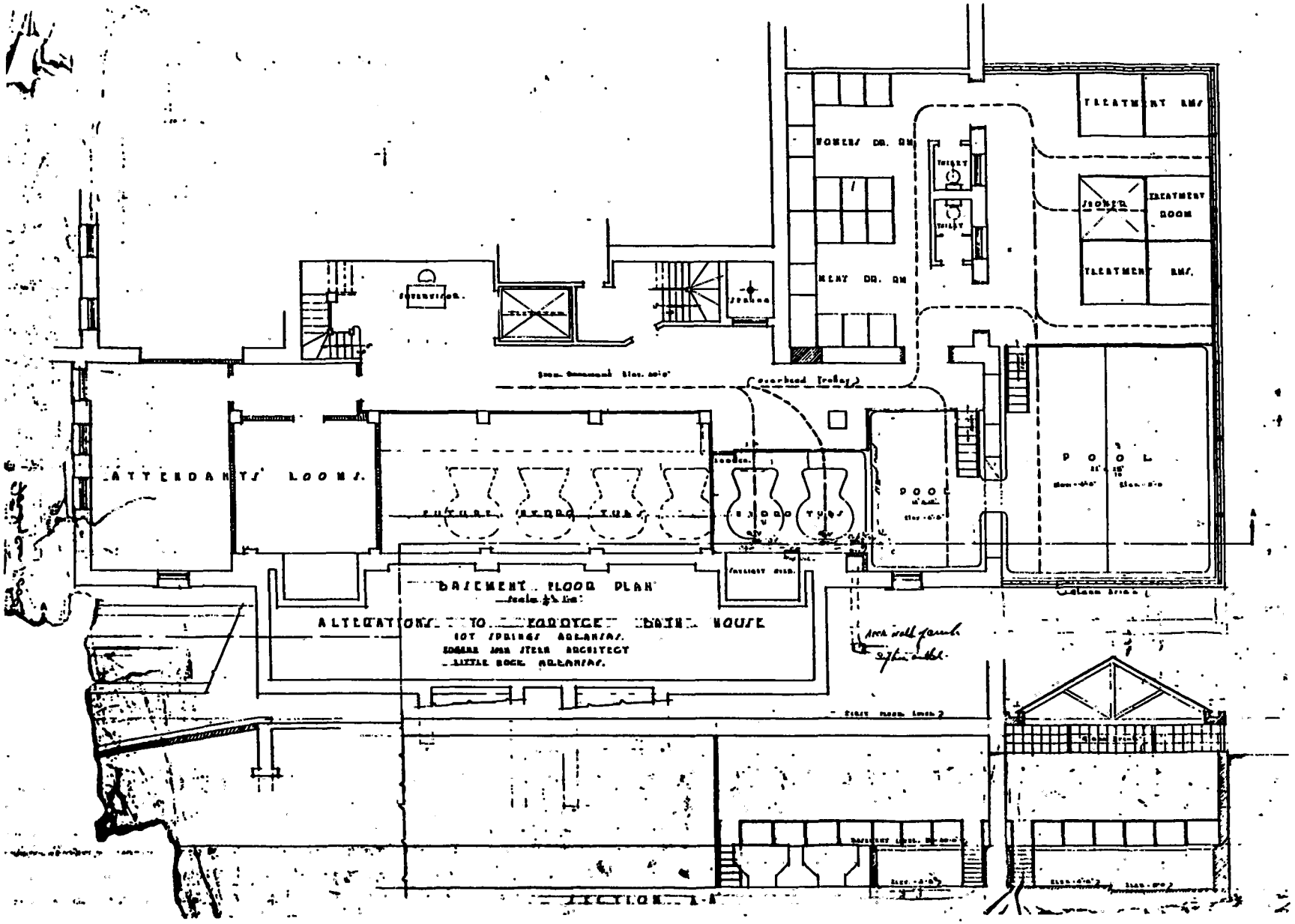
Proposed Alterations - Longitudinal Section, ca. 1935 (National Archives) illus. not to scale.



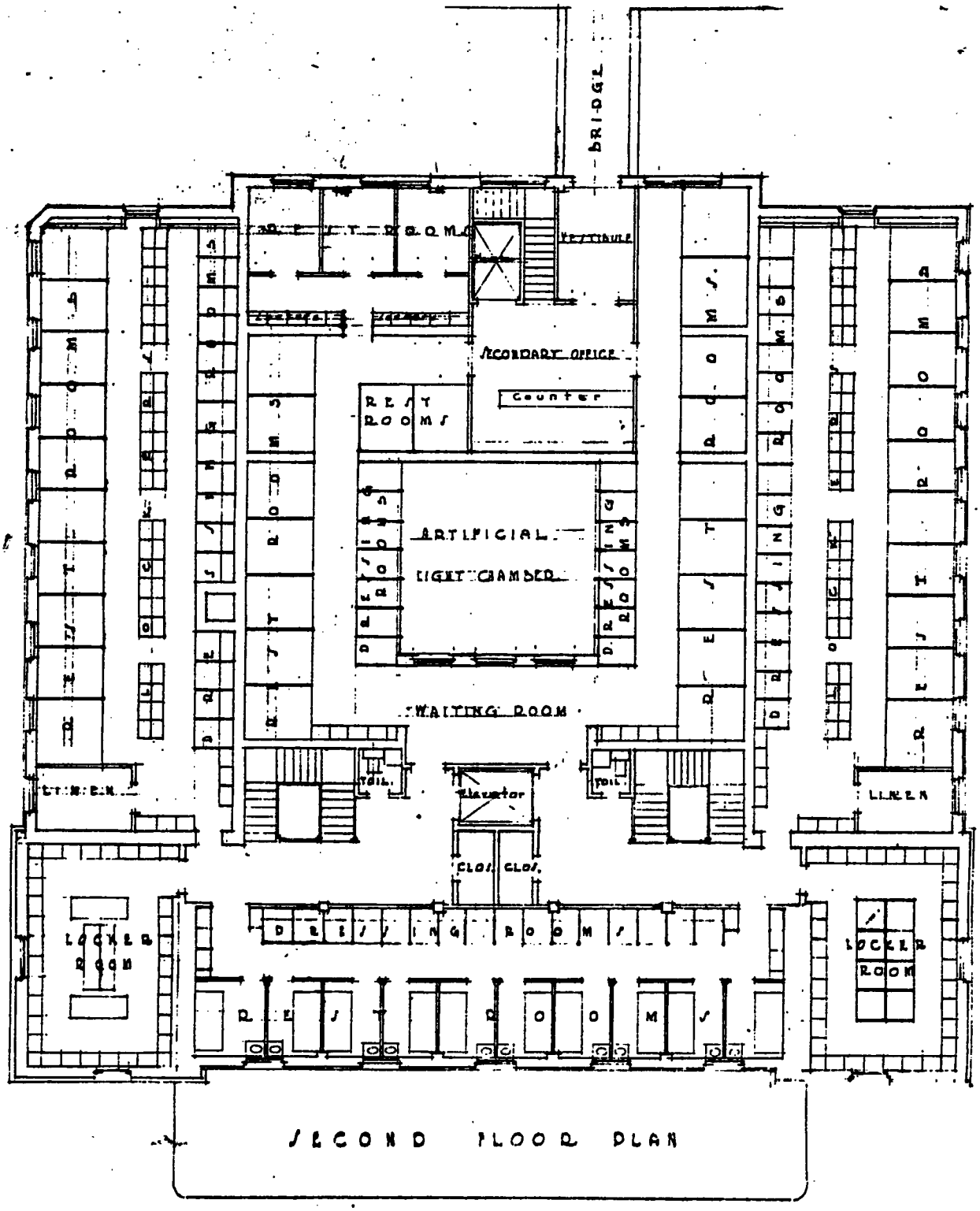
Proposed Alterations - Third Floor Details, ca. 1935 (National Archives) illus. not to scale.



Proposed Alterations - Basement, ca. 1936
(Blass firm) 1/16" = 1'.

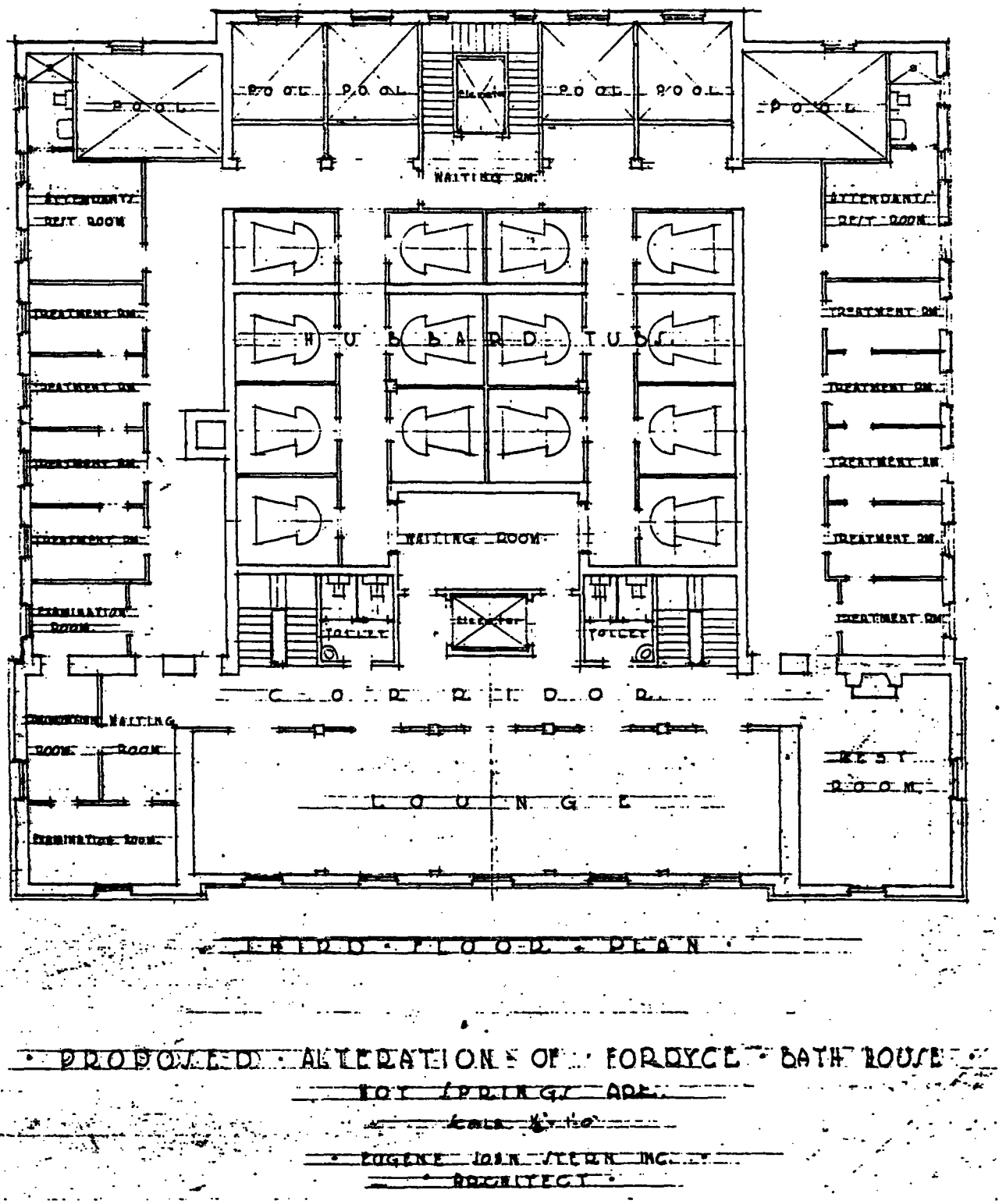


Proposed Alterations - Basement, ca. 1936
(Blass firm) 1/16" = 1'.

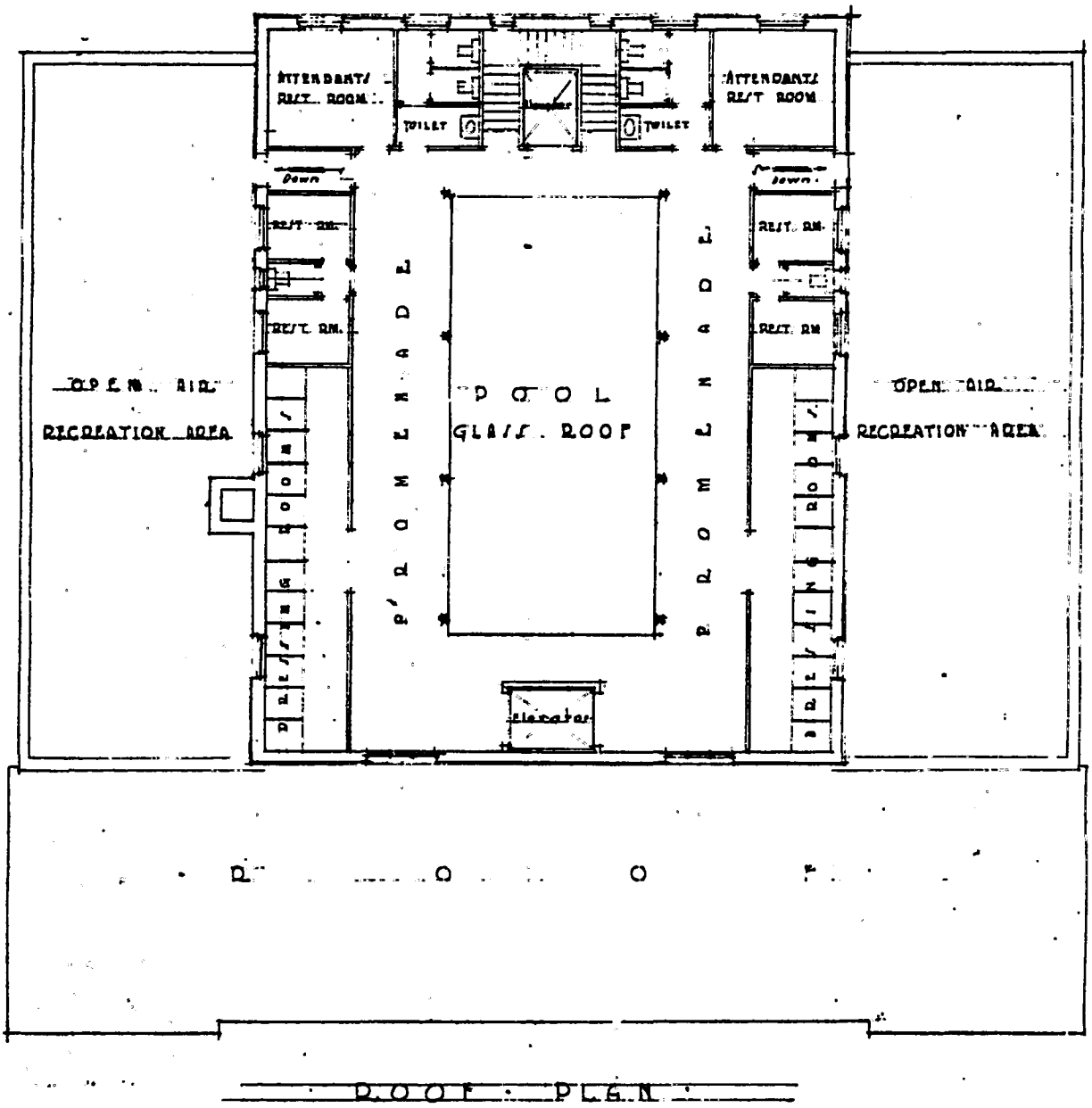


PROPOSED ALTERATION OF FORDYCE BATH HOUSE
HOT SPRINGS ARK.
SCALE 1/16" 1'-0"
EUGENE JOHN STEIN INC.
ARCHITECT

Proposed Alterations - Second floor, ca. 1936 (Blass firm) 1/16" = 1'.



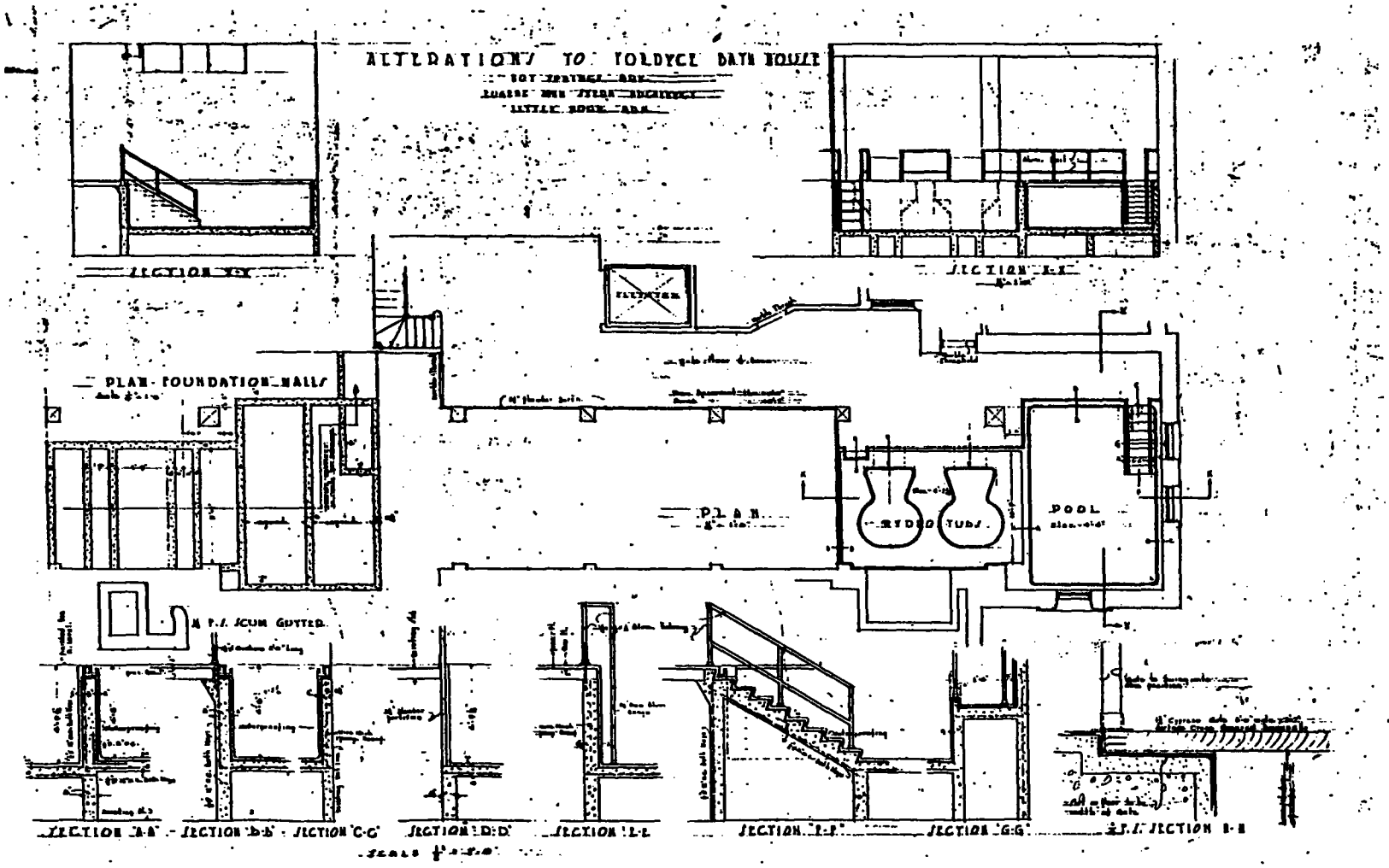
Proposed Alterations - Third floor, ca. 1936
(Blass firm) 1/16" = 1'.



ROOF PLAN

PROPOSED ALTERATION OF FORDYCE BATH HOUSE
HOT SPRINGS ARK.
SCALE 1/16" 1'-0"
EUGENE JOHN STERN INC.
ARCHITECT

Proposed Alterations - Roof, ca. 1936
(Blass firm) 1/16" = 1'.



Proposed Alterations - Details, ca. 1936
(Blass firm) 1/16" = 1'.

II. Building Spaces

E. ROOF GARDEN AND SUN ROOF

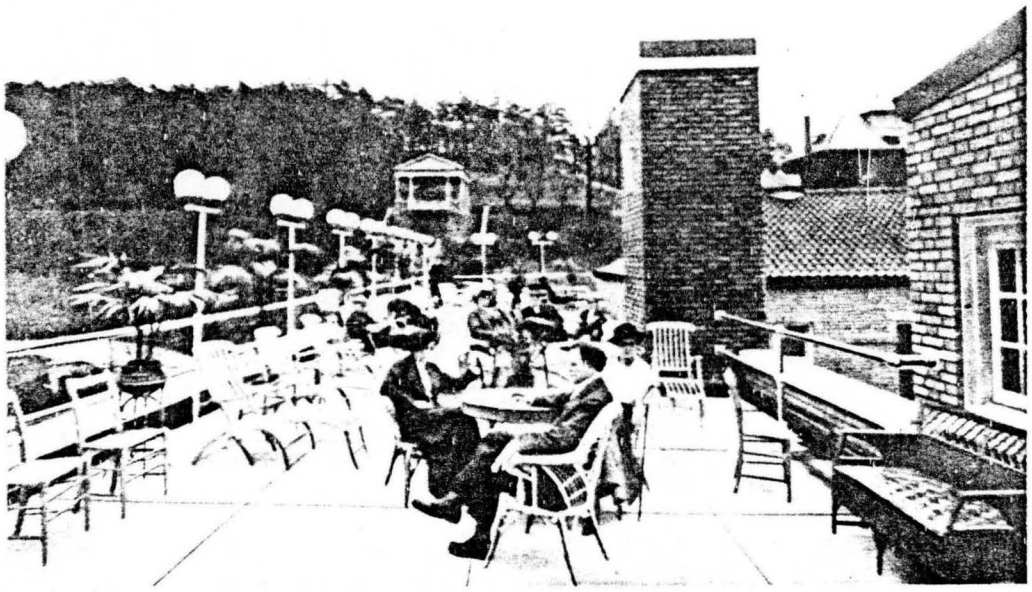
On top of the Fordyce was the celebrated roof garden containing between 5,000[1] and 6,000 square feet.[2] Supposedly it was the only roof garden in Hot Springs,[3] and a later booklet stated that the bathhouse patron could get a complete tan in total privacy on the sun roof. Only at the Fordyce was nude sunbathing possible.[4]

[1]"Fordyce Bath House Opens to the Public," The Sentinel Record, 28 February 1915, p. 6.

[2]"New Fordyce Baths Opens to the Public," Hot Springs New Era, 27 February 1915, p. 1.

[3]S. W. Fordyce to Senator Sam Taylor, 20 March 1916, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[4]Life Begins at the Fordyce, advertising booklet (Conelly Press, [ca. 1939]).

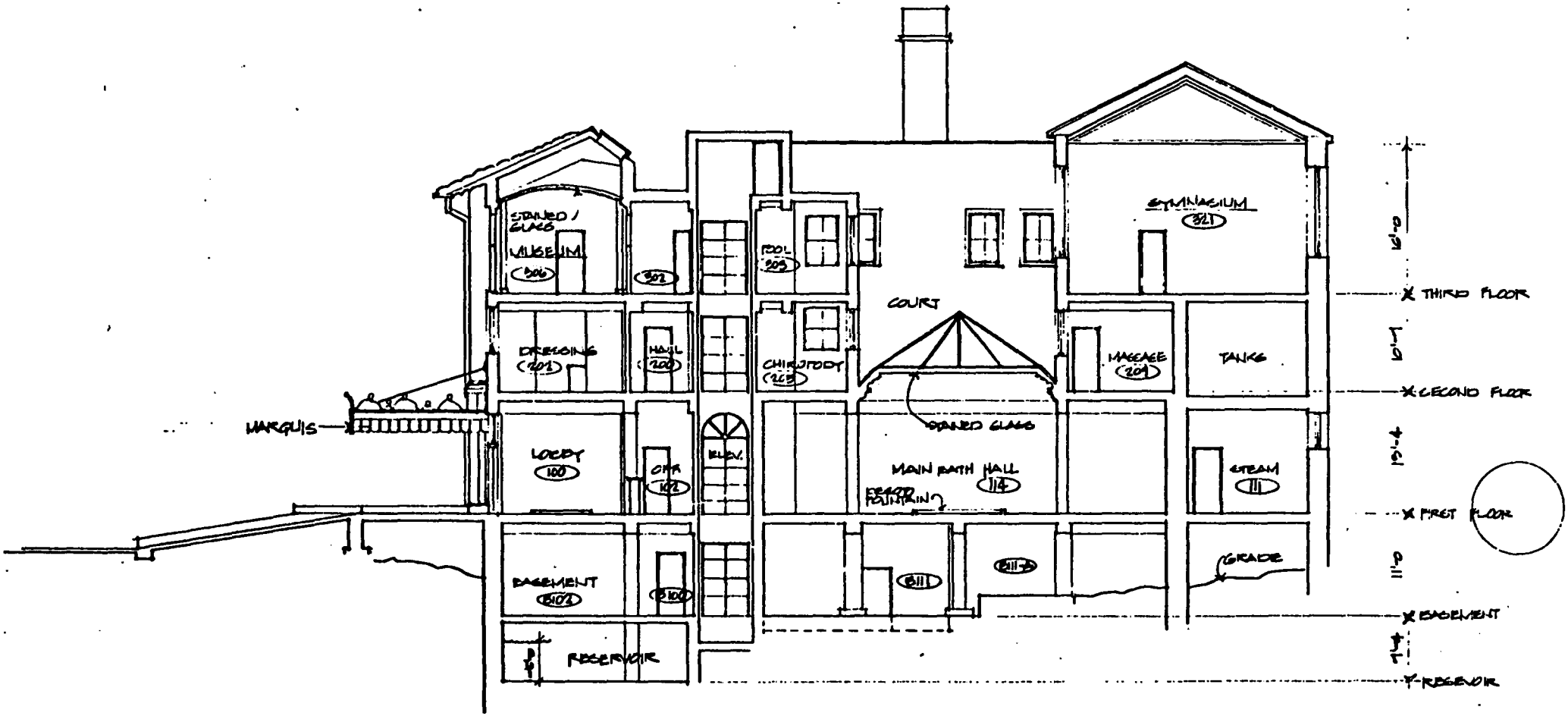


Roof Garden, from Fordyce Bath House (HSNP).

Sun Roof, from Life Begins at the Fordyce
(Mary Hudgins collection).

CHAPTER III

BUILDING MATERIALS AND ELEMENTS



Measured Drawings - Longitudinal Section,
July 30, 1973 (Cromwell Firm))1/16" = 1'.

III. Building Materials and Elements

A. ROOF

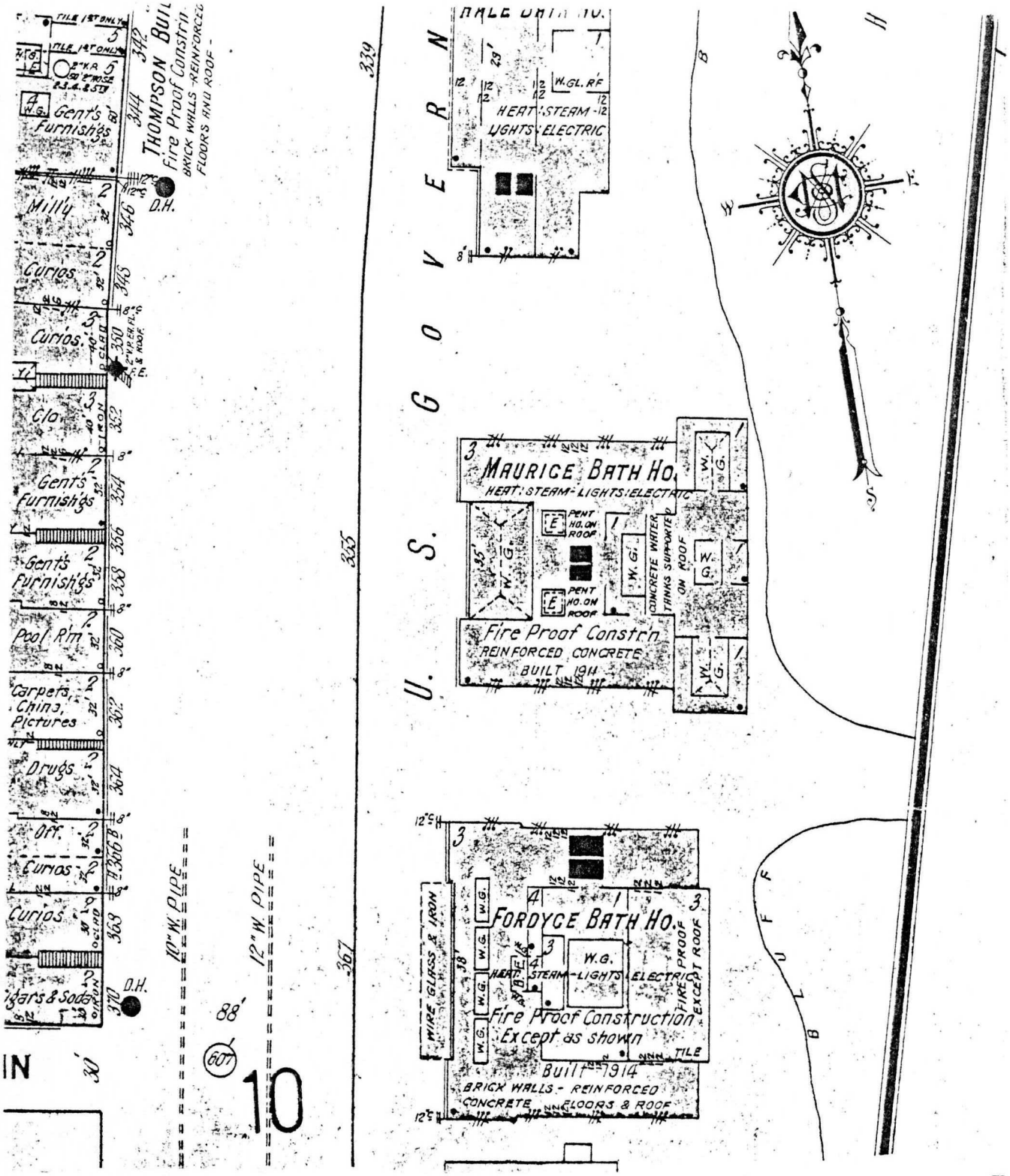
The Gazette in 1915 reported the roof of the Fordyce Bath House to be formed of red Spanish tile.[1] In 1925, the manager of the bathhouse reported: "The roof has been repaired, and the two recent rains, one of which was heavy, failed to penetrate."[2] The 1934 inspection report stated that the flashing was loose in many places and that repairs for leakage were necessary.[3] Records indicated that in 1944 and 1945 the Forydce was "reroofed", with $300.00 being spent for two layers of 15# felt and asphalt in 1944, and in 1945, $974.50 was spent on the continuation of the roofing contract.[4]

[1]"Beautiful and Luxurious Establishment," Arkansas Gazette, 28 February 1915, p. 7.

[2]Manager to J. R. Fordyce, 15 September 1925, Fordyce Bathhouse Papers, University of Arkansas Library Special Collections, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

[3]G. C. Bolton to T. J. Allen, 27 August 1934, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[4]Ledger, Special Collections.



Roof of Fordyce from Sanborn Insurance Map, June 1915 (same as 1925 update).

III. Building Materials and Elements

B. MASONRY

The foundation of the Fordyce Bathhouse was described as being Batesville stone (an Arkansas product), being the "highest grade stone on [sic] the world, taking polish like marble."[1] The lower story was reported to be of cream-colored enamel brick and tile, while the second and third floors were of brown and light yellow pressed brick, the darker working out a diamond bond in front and Flemish bond on the sides and back.[2] Around all the front windows and frieze were highly ornamental designs in terra cotta suggesting water subjects such as shells, starfish, dolphins, mermaids, aqautic birds and plants. Over each main window was the head of Neptune, the god of water.[3] The front terrace was floored with red "promenade" tile.[4]

Both tile and marble were used in abundance at the Fordyce. Glazed tile wainscoting was found in the bathhouse, and the floors were of ceramic tile worked out in soft colors of green, yellow, red, and black in a field of white.[5] Marble was used for walls, floors, wainscoting and partitions. The staircases were described as being of pink marble. It is unclear exactly what kind or kinds of marble were employed, for in the 1915 newspapers often the marble is mentioned as being Italian,[6] or English veined Italian.[7] However, in the

early advertising booklets it is said to be of Vermont marble.[8] During the construction of the bathhouse, the Superintendent reported to the Secretary of Interior that "one carload of marble was shipped from Peoria, Illinois... and all other marble necessary in the building I am assured will be shipped within a short period of time."[9] At each end of the lobby was a fountain of hot water of faence tile with cupids and shells, all colors in soft neutral tints in contrast to the grays of the marble.[10]

When the plans and specifications were being amended to meet the approval of the Department of Interior, Mann and Stern stated that all the main footings were to be carried down to rock. The reinforced concrete was designed with a unit stress of 16,000 pounds for the steel and 650 pounds for concrete.[11] Cracking appeared early in 1916 in the floor of the mechano-therapy room.[12] J. R. Fordyce believed it to be because of uneven settling of the foundations, for part of the building was on solid rock and part was on slate. He also speculated that the cracking could have been caused by breaking one of the walls to get in some big tanks.[13]

Some new pipes were installed in 1931 by the Park under the ramp in the front of the bathhouse tearing up part of the concrete surface. In objecting to the patching the Park had intended to do, J. R. Fordyce described the original ramp as being sprinkled with novaculite chips to give it a rough surface to prevent bathers from slipping.[14]

The 1934 inspection report recommended that the building's brick be cleaned,[15] and in 1947, the outside brick and terra cotta was cleaned and repointed for $1,629.23.[16] One exterior wall was waterproofed in 1946.[17]

[1]"Fordyce Bathhouse Opens to the Public," Sentinel Record, 28 February 1915, p. 1.

[2]"Beautiful and Luxurious Establishment," Arkansas Gazette, 28 February 1915, p. 7.

[3]Ibid.

[4]Ibid.

[5]Ibid.

[6]Ibid.

[7]Sentinel Record, p. 1.

[8]Health Awaits You at the Fordyce Baths, advertising booklet (Little Rock: Democrat P. and L. Co., n. d.) , p. 14.

[9]W. P. Parks to Secretary of Interior, 20 October 1914, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[10]Gazette, p. 7.

[11]E. J. Stern to C. R. Trowbridge, 17 January 1914, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[12]J. F. Manier to J. R. Fordyce, 19 May 1916, J. R. Fordyce Papers, Arkansas History Commission, Little Rock, Arkansas.

[13]J. R. Fordyce to J. F. Manier, History Commission.

[14]J. R. Fordyce to G. L. Collins, 8 April 1931, Fordyce Bathhouse Papers, University of Arkansas Library Special Collections, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

[15]G. C. Bolton to T. J. Allen, 27 August 1934, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[16]Ledger, Special Collections.

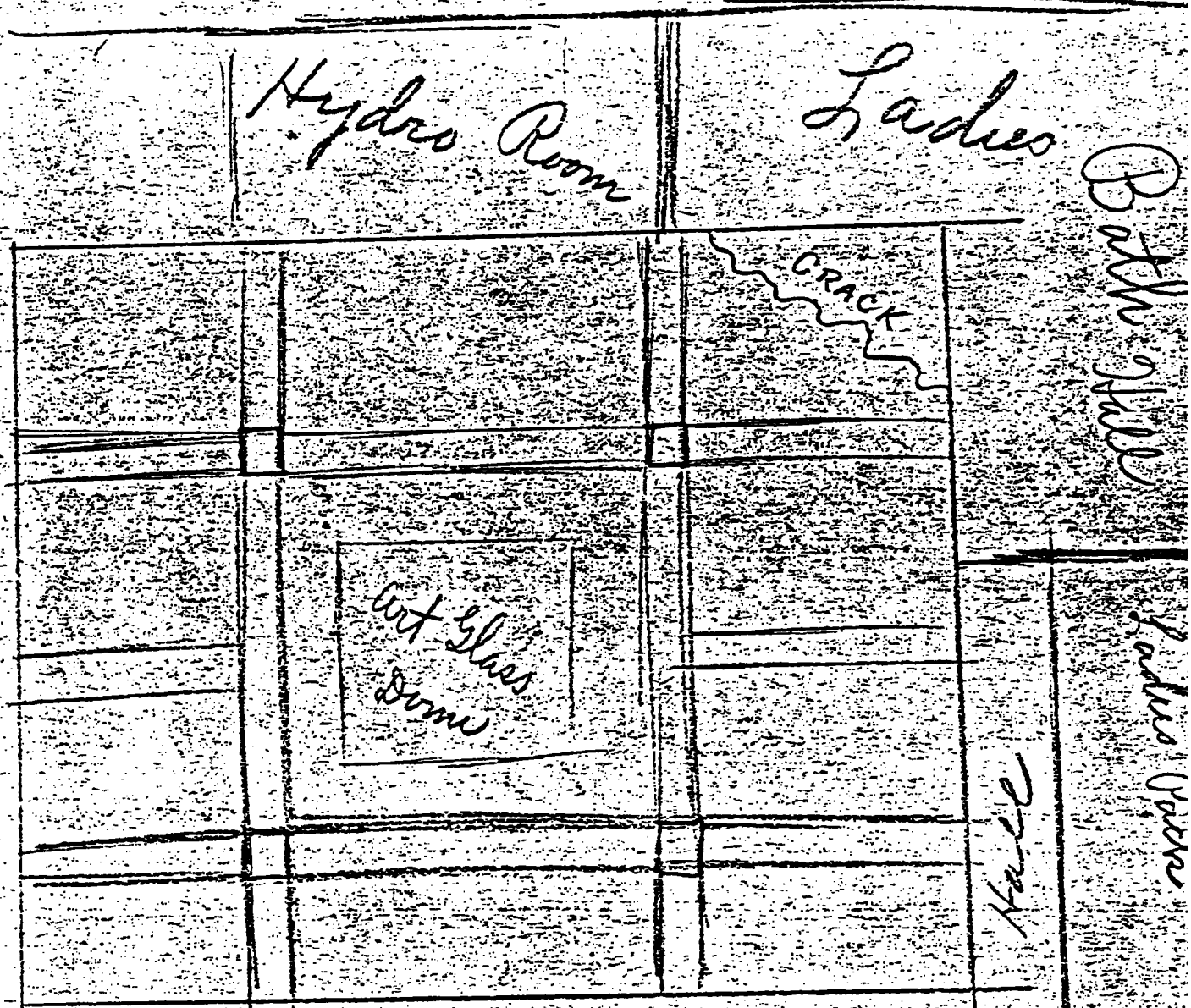
[17]Ibid.

2nd Story Floor

showing the location of the Crack in Floor of Mechano-Da

Women's Dressing Rooms

Men's Dressing Rooms



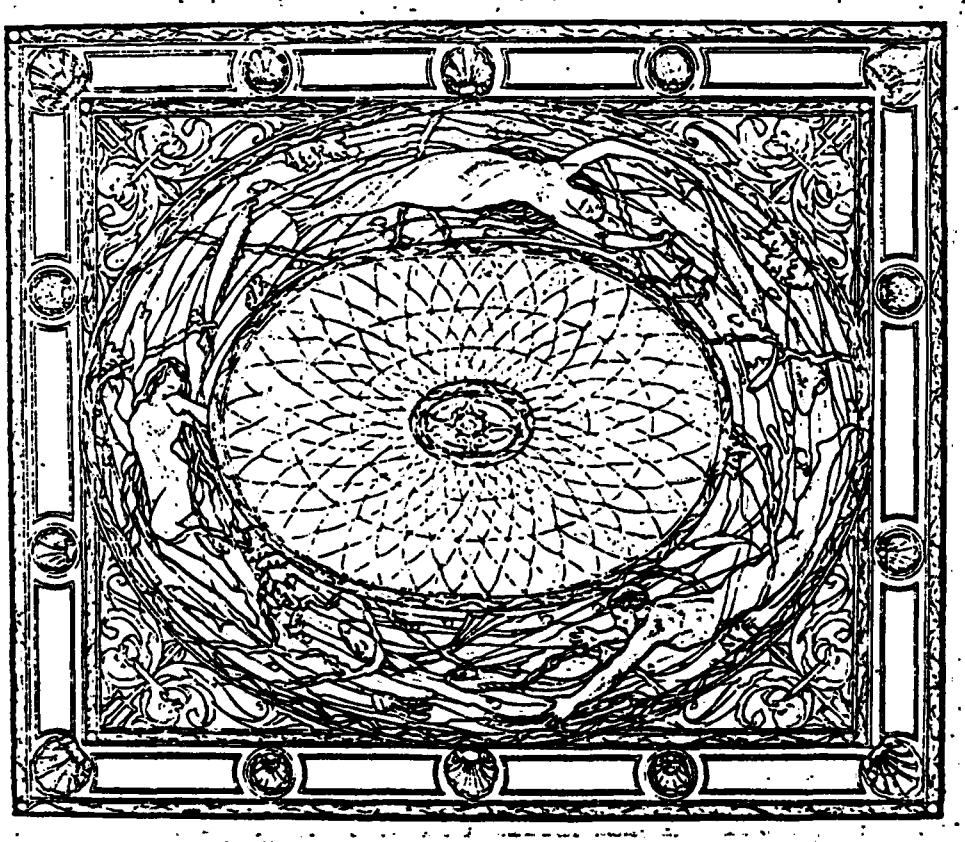
Ceiling of 1st Floor
showing crack in
South West corner of
men's Bath Hall

III. Building Materials and Elements

C. GLASS AND WINDOWS

One of the most significant features of the Fordyce was the extensive amount of stained glass, or "art glass" found in the bathing halls, lobby and assembly room. An early advertising booklet described the men's bathing hall skylight as containing "approximately 8,000 pieces of glass, worked into a design representing Neptune's daughter, mermaids, and seafish in a swirl of water."[1] The Sentinel Record of 1915 described the assembly room, or palm room, ceiling being divided into five panels of art glass with the designs representing "music, art, science, etc."[2] Mentioned in the Gazette of 1915 on the front of the building was the copper and stained glass marquee suspended by chains.[3]

It is not documented who produced these works in stained glass. There is a possibility that the Binswanger Glass Company was responsible. Binswanger in Memphis, Tennesse, went out of the stained glass business in 1962, but some of their employees recalled that the company did the original glass work, possibly by Joe Sugarman who was head of the art glass division.[4] Larry Saunders (now of Saunders Stained Glass in Brighton, Tennessee) who worked on the repair work of the Fordyce's glass from 1945 to 1955, believed his father could have been involved with the original installation.[5]

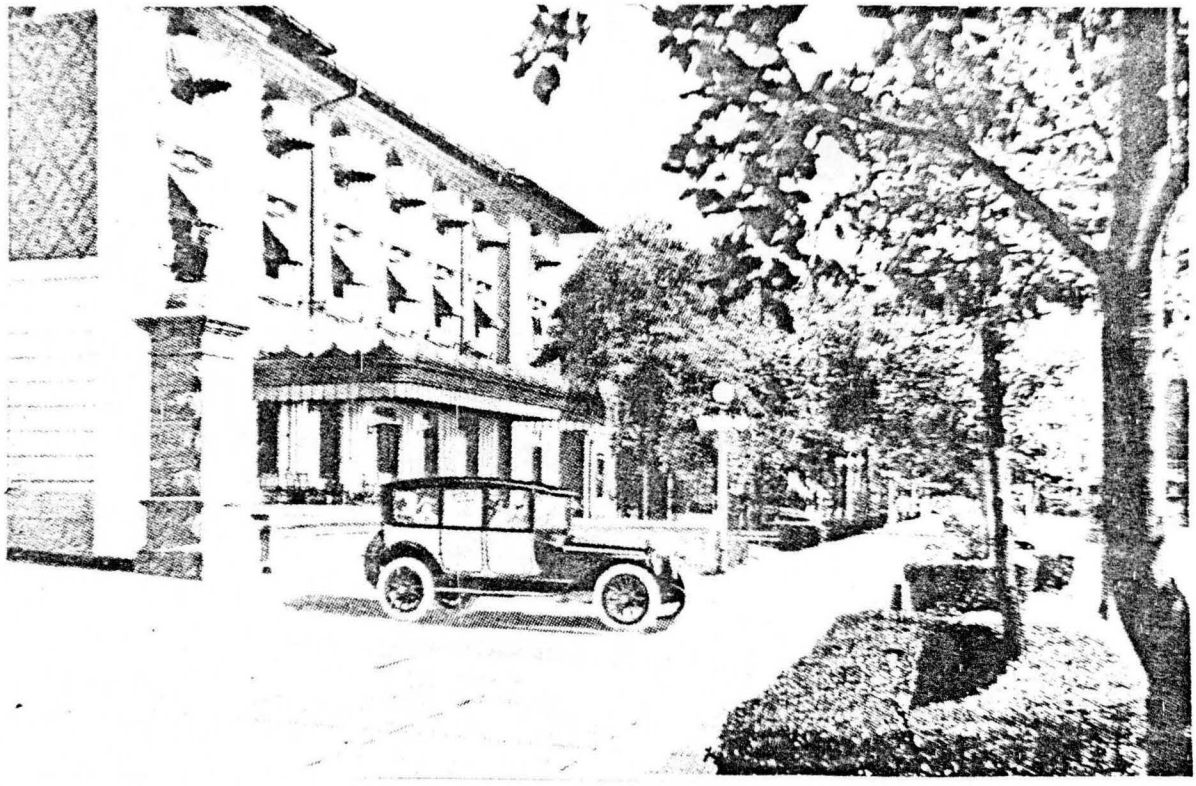


Stained Glass Skylight in Men's Bath Court,
from Fordyce Bath House (HSNP).

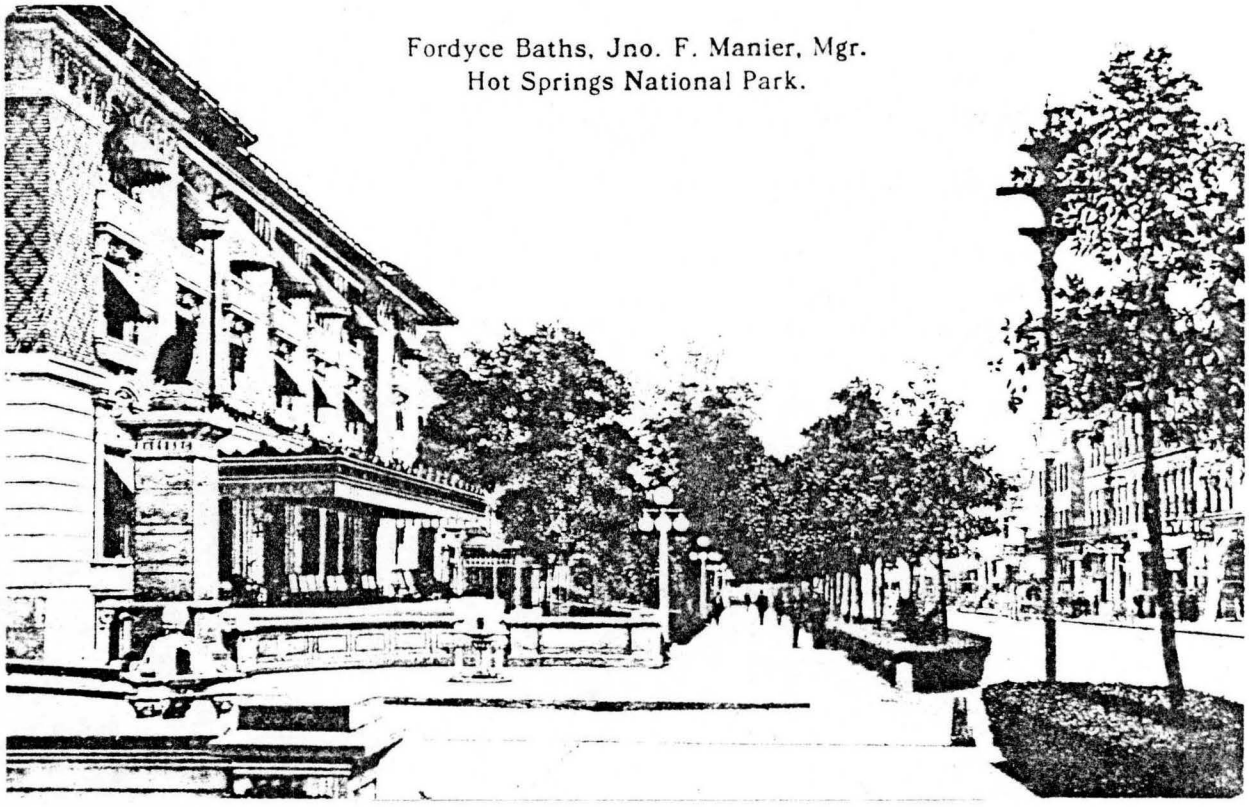
However, Powell Fordyce had always believed that the glass was done by Tiffany Studios in New York.[6] In addition to the art glass transoms in the lobby, the Bathhouse also featured five large plate glass windows, 10 by 12 feet.[7]

Early and late photographs showed the Bathhouse both with and without awnings over the windows, though no descriptions or expenditure records exist that related to the awnings. A balance sheet of July 1917, showed a note of $18.75 being spent for supplying fly screens on the ladies' bath room and three basement windows, where none had been before.[8]

January 17, 1921, the Fordyce manager recorded that the blasts from excavating the site of the new Platte Bathhouse caused the Fordyce to vibrate, and that a small piece of art glass was broken from a flying piece of brick.[9] The assembly room's glass ceiling was cleaned in 1925.[10] It was recommended that the Fordyce repair or replace all broken windows, regardless of whether they were on the front or rear elevation, in 1935.[11] A 1938 receipt from Pittsburg Plate Glass Company showed a piece of polished plate glass was replaced, approximately 68 by 80 inches.[12] The glass on the front porch was repaired in 1945 for $46.05, and in 1948, the materials cost $578.36 for window and skylight glass for use in repair of skylight over bath hall and the front porch (Labor for paint, skylight repairs, and front porch repairs was $3,046.77.). The 1945 and 1948 repairs mentioned only



Exterior Windows with Awnings, from Fordyce Bath House (HSNP).



Exterior Windows with Awnings, 1922 postcard (Mary Hudgins collection).

Arkansas Glass Company and Valley Glass Company, with no reference to Binswanger.[13] A complete overhaul of the glass of the marquee roof covering the front porch was advised, before renewing the concessions contract, by the Superintendent in 1954.[14]

[1]Health Awaits You at the Fordyce Baths, adveritising booklet (Little Rock: Democrat P. and L. Co., n.d.), p. 14.

[2]"Fordyce Bath House Opens to the Public," Sentinel Record, 28 February 1915, p. 1.

[3]"Beautiful and Luxurious Establishment," Arkansas Gazette, 28 February 1915, p. 7.

[4]Bob Adams, interview, Little Rock, Arkansas, June 1980.

[5]Larry Saunders, interview, Brighton, Tennessee, June 1980.

[6]Powell Fordyce to Wilson Stiles, 3 September 1980.

[7]Sentinel Record, p. 1.

[8]Balance sheet, July 1917, J. R. Fordyce Papers, Arkansas History Commission, Little Rock, Arkansas.

[9]J. F. Manier to Parks Superintendent, 17 January 1921, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

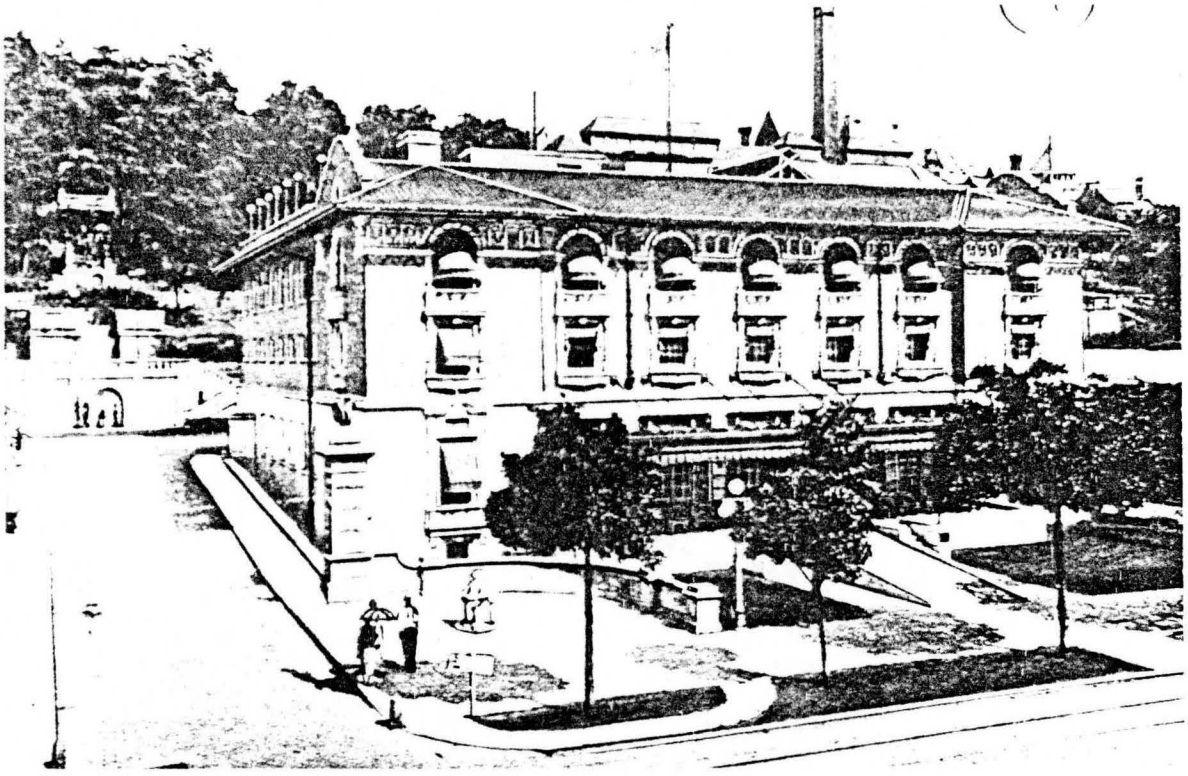
[10]J. F. Manier to J. R. Fordyce, 15 September 1915, Fordyce Bathhouse Papers, University of Arkansas Library Special Collections, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

[11]T. J. Allen to Director, National Parks Services, 22 January 1935, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

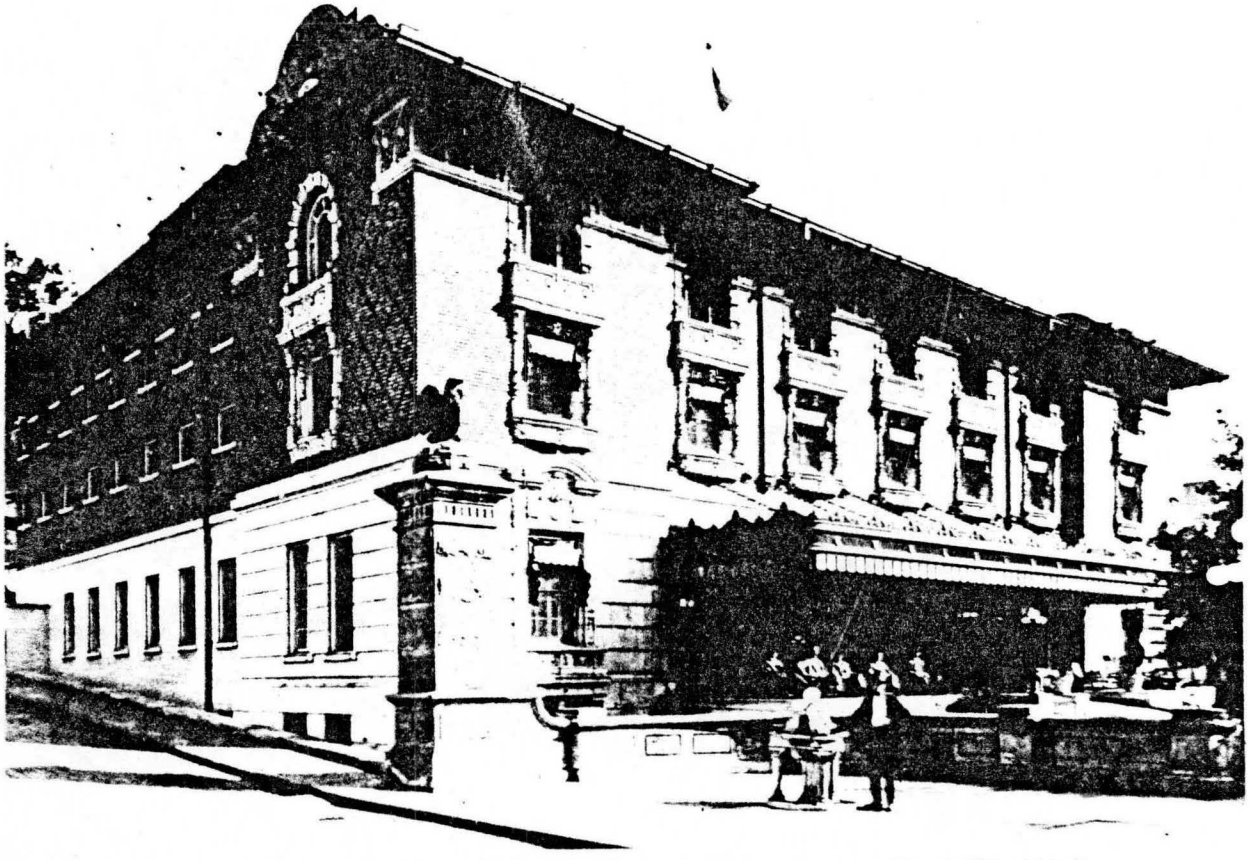
[12]Receipt from Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company, 23 July 1938, Special Collections.

[13]Ledger, Special Collections.

[14]D. S. Libbey to B. L. Neimeyer, 9 August 1954, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.



Exterior Windows with Awnings, postcard (HSNP).



Early View of Fordyce (HSNP).

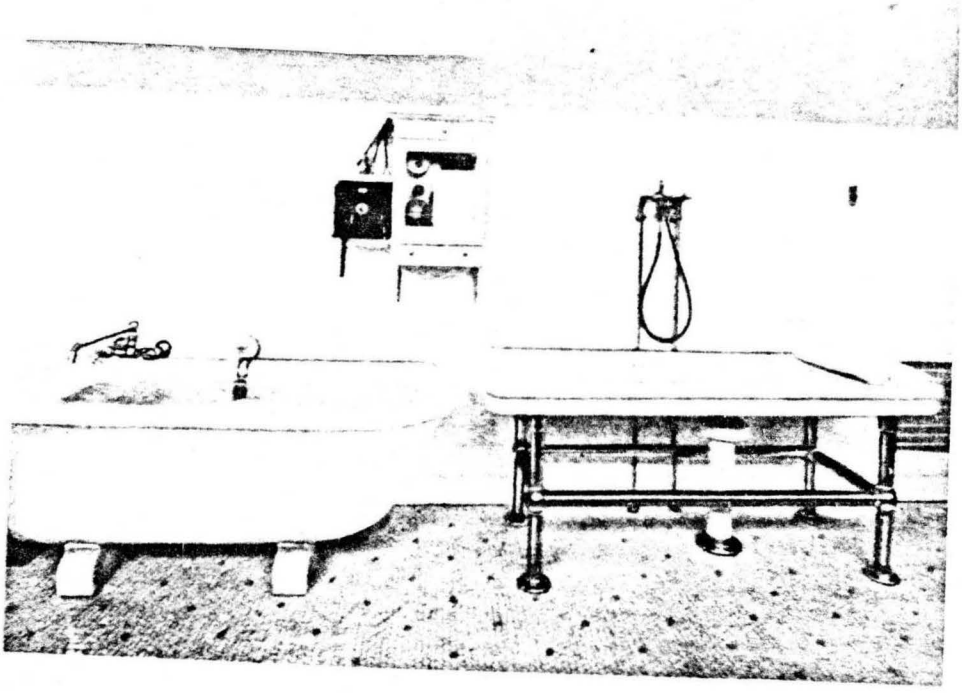
III. Building Materials and Elements

D. TUBBAGE

The Fordyce was ready on November 14, 1914, to resume the use of water from Spring #26 to supply the tubs and other bathing equipment.[1] The contract of May 26, 1914, provided for a total of 30 tubs, but only 29 were installed at the time of the opening in 1915. There were 21 tubs on the men's side, 7 on the women's side, and one in the hydrotherapy room.[2] When the architects' final plans were approved in February of 1915, the Department of Interior specifically stated that they were approved insofar as they did not reduce the number of tubs below 30.[3] Water rent was paid for 30 tubs even though just 29 were installed, but on February 23, 1916, permission was granted to install the other tub in the ladies' department. All of the tub fixtures were reportedly made of solid nickel.[4]

In July of 1921, the Department approved the installation of three additional tubs in the space that had been used as the hydrotherapy department, making a total of 33 tubs for regular bathing purpose.[5] The Fordyce manager stated that the bathhouse would not required their use until January of 1922,[6] yet no records indicated if they were a actually installed. In 1932, the Fordyce requested permission to reduce their tubbage by five tubs - from 30 to 25, effective

Individual Bath Room, from Fordyce Bath House (HSNP).



July 1.[7] In May of 1933, four more tubs were disconnected, making a total of 21 in operation. January 1, 1935, one tub was reconnected, and two more were reconnected July 1, 1936, and another two July 1, 1937. In 1941, 4 more tubs were reconnected, bringing the total baths to 30 as required in the original contract.[8] Application to install four more tubs was made December 8, 1947, yet the prospectives of 1958 showed only 30 in existence.

The Superintendent's report of 1954 recommended the removal of the obsolete thermometer conduits for the bathtubs which would provide more sanitary conditions:

> It was noted that in addition, prescribed thermometers are being used which are in accordance with regulations which have prevailed for many years. It is recognized the rather unique thermometer conduits and thermometers were installed with a view to providing, as a unit, tubs with built-in thermometers, but experience has established such have proven difficult to clean and apparently it has not been possible to replace the built-in thermometers when necessary. The conduits should be closed with a porcellanized surface or an effective cement filling.[9]

[1]J. R. Fordyce to W. P. Parks, 14 November 1914, Hot Springs National Park Special Collections.

[2]W. P. Parks to Secretary of Interior, 26 February 1914, Legislative and Natural Resources Branch, Record Group 79, National Archives, Washington, D. C.

[3]W. P. Parks to S. W. Fordyce, 2 March 1915, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[4]Fordyce Bath House, advertising booklet (St. Louis: Woodward Press, [ca. 1915]), p. 13.

[5]National Park Service Director to W. P. Parks, 15 July 1915, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[6]J. F. Manier to W. P. Parks, 20 July 1921, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[7]Superintendent to National Park Service Director, 5 August 1932, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[8]Memorandum, 1941, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[9]D. S. Libbey to B. L. Neimeyer, 9 August 1954, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

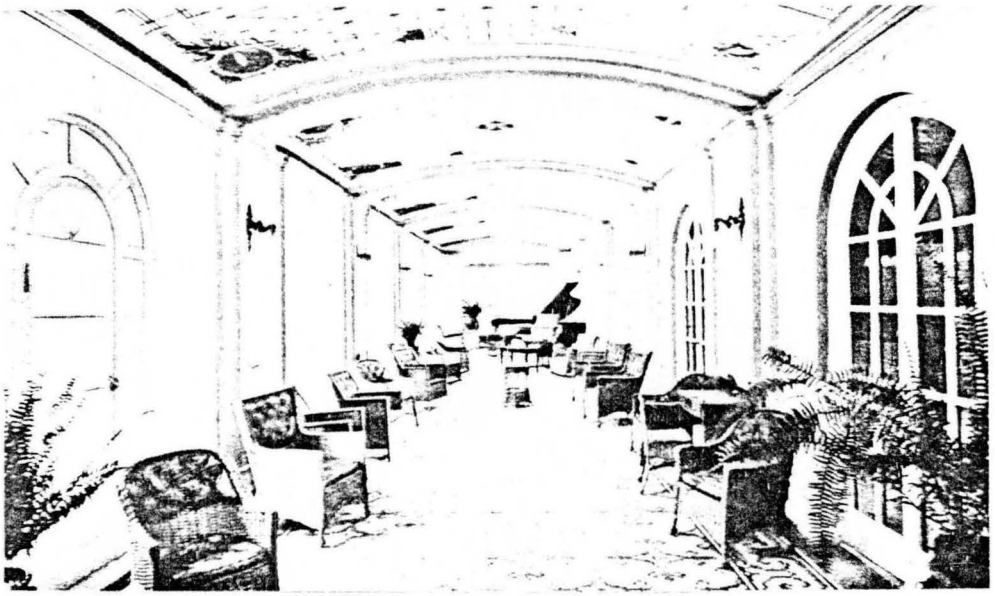
III. Building Materials and Elements

E. FURNITURE

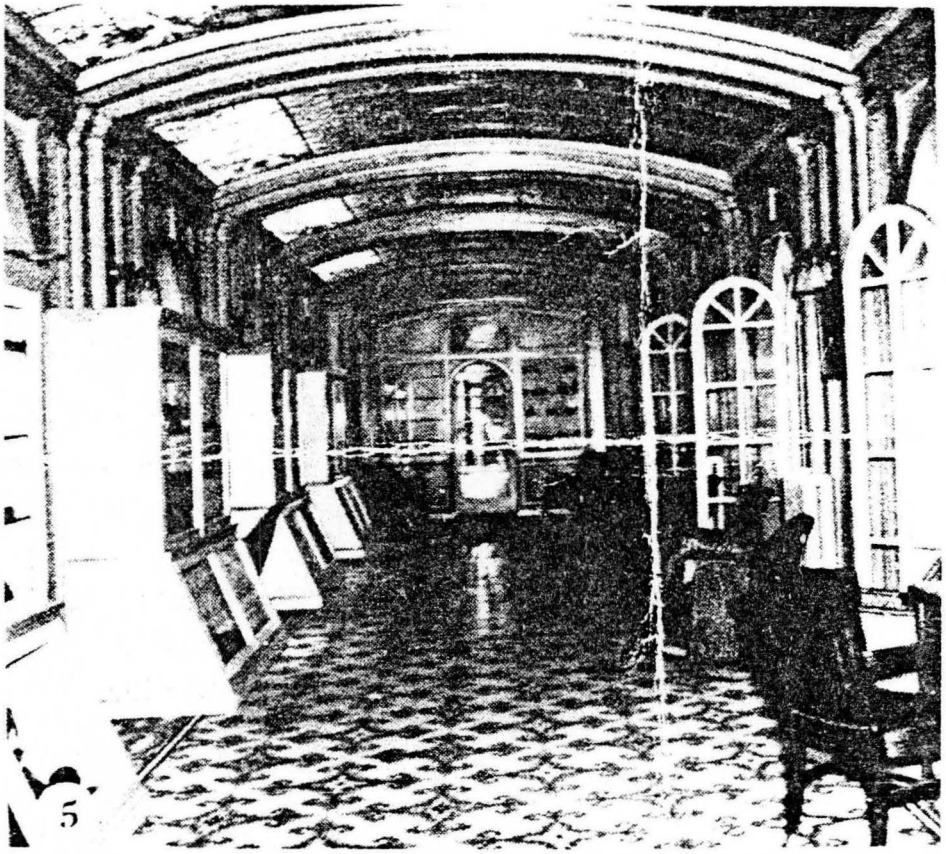
The early newspaper articles have given the most complete description of furniture. In the assembly room the furniture was of art reeds tinted grey and upholstered in grey leather.[1] In the ladies' parlor was found a concert grand piano, and in the gentlemen's parlor a billiard and pool table.[2] The men's bath court featured marble benches, and the cooling rooms' furniture was porcelain enameled.[3] Furniture in the needle and shower room was porcelain enamel as well. The early advertising booklet stated the Turkish hot room, the pack room had a double row of porcelain cots,[4] and the Sentinel Record described them as being "solid porcelain" with nickel legs.[5]

The clerk's office contained 245 solid bronze lockers for the bathers' valuables.[6] On the roof garden were found steamer and reclining chairs.[7] One thousand private sterilizing lockers were found on the second floor[8] (where the bathers' robes and towels were placed) which were made of metal.[9] The 285 individual private dressing rooms were made of mahogany stained birch.[10] Furniture in the state rooms, consisting of a bed, dresser, and chairs, was of white enameled metal.[11] (Note: The furniture can be seen in the photographs grouped with their respective spaces in Chapter II.)

The installation of the cabinets in the assembly room for the display of the Fordyce Collection of Indian relics was quite an enigma. In 1917, J. R. Fordyce wrote his father, Samuel Fordyce: "I think the relics are worth fully $150.00 in addition to what you have paid...I would like to keep them together and if the Bath House has not room for them, I would like to have the case and the relics moved out to your house in the country."[12] The undated booklet, Health Awaits You at the Fordyce Baths, stated that in an alcove was the famous collection of Indian relics collected by Colonel John R. Fordyce. In the adjacent sunroom were on exhibition, maps, books, and other documents relative to the DeSoto Expedition to Hot Springs, and data relating to the early French occupation.[13] Powell Fordyce in 1931 wrote his father, J. R. Fordyce congratulating him on his article he wrote about Indians. He went on to say: "The next time you write one, I suggest that more reference be made to the fact that the collection is kept at the bath house...."[14] Yet in 1934, a payment was made to Hot Springs Mill Work Company for $200.00 for the cabinets for display of Indian relics.[15] A memo around 1937 said that J. R. Fordyce temporarily loaned to the corporation all of his collection of curios and Indian relics, and that these articles had been installed in attractive cases on the third floor of the bathhouse. It was suggested by John R. Fordyce, Jr., that his father, J. R. Fordyce, prepare statements to be affixed to each case, identifying the various articles in the collection so as to



Stained Glass Skylight in Assembly Room, from Fordyce Bath House (HSNP).



Assembly Room and Historical Exhibits, from The Fordyce Baths (HSNP).

enhance the interest of visitors.[16] In an interview, J. R. Fordyce, III, recalled that he felt the existing cabinets were installed when the "cabin" (now known as the Ricks home) where they were kept was sold in 1937.[17]

Various furniture repairs and replacements were made throughout the years. In 1925 it was reported: "Most of the porch furniture has been painted and enameled....Lee is still enameling the iron cots and chairs...."[18] The 1934 inspection report recommended:

> The Cooling Room on the first floor in the women's section should be brightened up with new furniture. This should be in the form of metal cots and chairs. In fact, one of the things tending to dim the possibilities in this house is the old style and unsanitary equipment, furniture, found in all the Cooling Rooms. The old style upholstered furniture must give place to more sanitary equipment....The dressing booths seem to be too plentiful....The staterooms...equipment such as beds and chairs should also have attention.... Paint, plaster and more paint seems to be the immediate needs with the acquisition of more modern and sanitary furniture equipment in the Cooling Rooms and bath halls is disgusting to note that the chairs and lounges have through the years of usages gotten their leather covers rotted through the perspiring bathers whom [sic] have used them. I don't think I would like to use this sort of equipment at all. It should be removed and new installed.[19]

In 1943 the cooling room furniture was repaired and reupholstered for $321.50. Slip covers were purchased and leather covers were replaced for $143.61 in 1944. $704.21 was the 1946 expenditure for the additions to lounge furniture and repairs to cooling room furniture. Records also indicated $200.00 was spent in 1949 on recovering some miscellaneous furniture.[20]

The Fordyce manager wrote in August of 1952:

> We are using the same lobby chairs that I understand were purchased when the house was built in 1915. They have been kept in repair and reupholstered many times. I thought when Mrs. Fordyce came back to Arkansas, we would decide whether to purchase new ones or re-do the ones we have. There are twenty-seven chairs and two writing desks now in use in the lobby.[21]

Ten of the lobby chairs were reported to have been painted and reupholstered in November of 1952,[22] and new lobby furniture was purchased in December of 1952 for $1,153.80.[23]

[1]"Beautiful and Luxurious Establishment," Arkansas Gazette, 28 February 1915, p. 7.

[2]"Fordyce Bath House Opens to the Public," Sentinel Record, 28 February 1915, p. 1.

[3]Ibid.

[4]Fordyce Bath House, advertising booklet (St. Louis: Woodward Press, [ca. 1915]).

[5]Sentinel Record, p. 1.

[6]Ibid.

[7]Ibid.

[8]Ibid.

[9]Gazette, p. 7.

[10]Ibid.

[11]Fordyce Bath House.

[12]J. R. Fordyce to S. W. Fordyce, 25 August 1917, J. R. Fordyce papers, Arkansas History Commission, Little Rock, Arkansas.

[13]Health Awaits You at the Fordyce Baths, advertising booklet (Little Rock: Democrat P. and L. Co., n.d.), p. 15.

[14]Powell Fordyce to J. R. Fordyce, 22 December 1931, Fordyce Bathhouse Papers, University of Arkansas Library Special Collection, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

[15]B. L. Neimeyer to Powell Fordyce, 13 May 1940, Special Collections.

[16]Memorandum, ca. 1937, Special Collections.

[17]J. R. Fordyce, III, interview, Little Rock, Arkansas, July 1980.

[18]Letter to J. R. Fordyce, 15 September 1925, Special Collections.

[19]G. C. Bolton to T. J. Allen, 27 August 1934, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[20]Ledger, Special Collections

[21]B. L. Neimeyer to S. W. Fordyce, III, 15 August 1952, Special Collections.

[22]B. L. Neimeyer to S. W. Fordyce, III, 18 November 1952, Special Collections.

[23]B. L. Neimeyer to D. S. Libbey, 10 December 1952, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

III. Building Materials and Elements

F. PAINT

The O'Brien Paint Company published a booklet around 1916 entitled Maintaining a Standard which advertised the company's product "Liquid Velvet" which was used to paint the Fordyce. In a letter included in the booklet, mention was made of the interior only. All colors were reportedly soft and fast, and admired by the thousands of visitors that viewed them.[1]

In the text of the booklet, it mentioned the soft, rich, color tones effected through the use of O'Brien's Liquid Velvet, which was used exclusively as a finish for the walls and ceilings throughout the building, presenting "a marvelous panorama of color and beauty." The paint was described as flat wall enamel in "most delicate tints". The moulding of the dome in the men's bath hall was specifically mentioned as being highly tinted in colors to match the art glass dome.[2] According to the Gazette article announcing the opening of the Fordyce, the dressing rooms had apple green tinted walls.[3]

Probably due to the excessive humidity, the bathhouse was painted partially or totally every year. In 1952, the manager referred to the "regular fall painting".[4] In 1943, $524.97 was considered an ordinary annual expenditure for

paint materials. Nearly all the outside of the Fordyce was painted in 1947 for $1,741.02. The ledger for the years 1942 through 1949 showed paint and labor expenses each year averaging about $900.00.[5]

In a 1961 credit receipt, a Sherwin-Williams paint was used. The color was SK-1 Driftwood White.[6]

[1]Maintaining a Standard, advertising booklet (South Bend, Indiana: Peerless Press, [ca. 1916]).

[2]Ibid.

[3]"Beautiful and Luxurious Establishment," Arkansas Gazette, 28 February 1915, p. 7.

[4]B. L. Neimeyer to S. W. Fordyce, III, 15 August 1952, Fordyce Bathhouse Papers, University of Arkansas, Library Special Collections, Fayetteville.

[5]Ledger, Special Collections.

[6]Receipt from Sherwin-Williams, Special Collections.

CHAPTER IV

ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

AND

ELEVATOR

IV. ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS AND ELEVATOR

The original electrical fixtures[1] and hardware trimmings[2] were of oxidized silver. Large rails around the roof garden, placed to insure safety, were supplied with large globes containing electric lights.[3] Throughout the Fordyce, electrical conduits were run into the floor slab to keep them from being unsightly.[4]

In 1934, the wall clocks were reported to have been in a deteriorated state,[5] and since they could not be repaired, it was recommended that they be replaced.[6] New clocks were purchased and old ones repaired in 1945, and more were installed in 1947. In 1950, 24 more electric clocks were purchased.[7]

New fluorescent lighting was added in 1945 and 1948.[8] Also in 1948 a Talkaphone communication system was installed, and in 1949 a Musak music system was added.[9] From the 1959 audit report it was determined that the Fordyce installed outdoor floor lighting at a cost of $147.42.[10]

It was decided to install only one elevator rather than two as originally intended. The single elevator was intended to serve both men and women, with two sets of doors of obscured glass so it would not be possible to see from one hall to the other.[11] Men and women were not carried at the same

time. The architects specified that the elevator would go to the basement, and a pit 3'6" below the basement floor would be provided at the base of the hatchway.[12] S. W. Fordyce contracted with the Otis Elevator Company for installation in the bathhouse.[13] Specifications for the elevator were sent to the Interior Department,[14] but it is not known if the specifications in the Appendix of this report were the ones Fordyce sent to Washington or the ones the Supervising Architect of the Treasury sent to the Secretary of Interior.[15] In 1944, a new interlocking door was installed in the elevator,[16] and Otis Service Department in 1961 recommended installation of a new gate with electric contact, hoistway door hanger covers, overhead sheave and counterweight guards, and a counterweight bumper.[17] These improvements were probably not realized due to the bathhouse's closing in 1962.

[1]"Beautiful and Luxurious Establishment," Arkansas Gazette, 28 February 1915, p. 7.

[2]Fordyce Bath House, advertising booklet (St. Louis: Woodward Press, [ca. 1915]), p. 13.

[3]"Fordyce Bathhouse Opens to the Public," Sentinel Record, 28 February 1915, p. 9.

[4]Mann and Stern to C. R. Trowbridge, 26 February 1914, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[5]G. C. Bolton to T. J. Allen, 27 August 1934, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[6]T. J. Allen to National Park Service Director, 22 January 1935, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[7]Ledger, Fordyce Bathhouse Papers, University of Arkansas Library Special Collections, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

[8]Ibid.

[9]Ibid.

[10]B. L. Neimeyer to R. Gregg, 23 February 1960, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[11]E. J. Stern to C. R. Trowbridge, 17 January 1914, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[12]Ibid.

[13]Mann and Stern to C. R. Trowbridge, 17 April 1914, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[14]Ibid.

[15]Supervising Architect of the Treasury to Secretary of Interior, 2 December 1913, Legislative and Natural Resources Branch, Record Group 79, National Archives, Washington, D. C.

[16]Ledger.

[17]Otis Elevator Company to Fordyce Bathhouse, 24 October 1961, Special Collections.

CHAPTER V

MECHANICAL SYSTEMS

V. MECHANICAL SYSTEMS

S. W. Fordyce, from his earliest conception of his new bathhouse, was concerned about the means of securing a permanent supply of water as well as preserving the waters' natural "healing" qualities. The hot springs were reported to contain radium, but the old method of cooling exposed the water to the air, and it lost from eight- to nine-tenths of its radium properties.[1] The water necessarily had to be cooled since the water directly from the springs was too high in temperature for bathing purposes. Rather than have the water run into tanks to cool where it was exposed to the air, Mr. Fordyce proposed a cooling system of pipes or a kind of refrigerating device where the water would not be exposed until it reached the tubs.[2] Fordyce was assured in 1913 that he would be permitted to continue using the water from Spring #26, and in addition, connect with and pump from the reservoir adjoining the bathhouse on the southwest corner.[3]

George Mann, architect for the Fordyce, in November of 1913, addressed the issue of storing and cooling the waters by proposing to utilize the fan in connection with the heating plant for the water cooling:

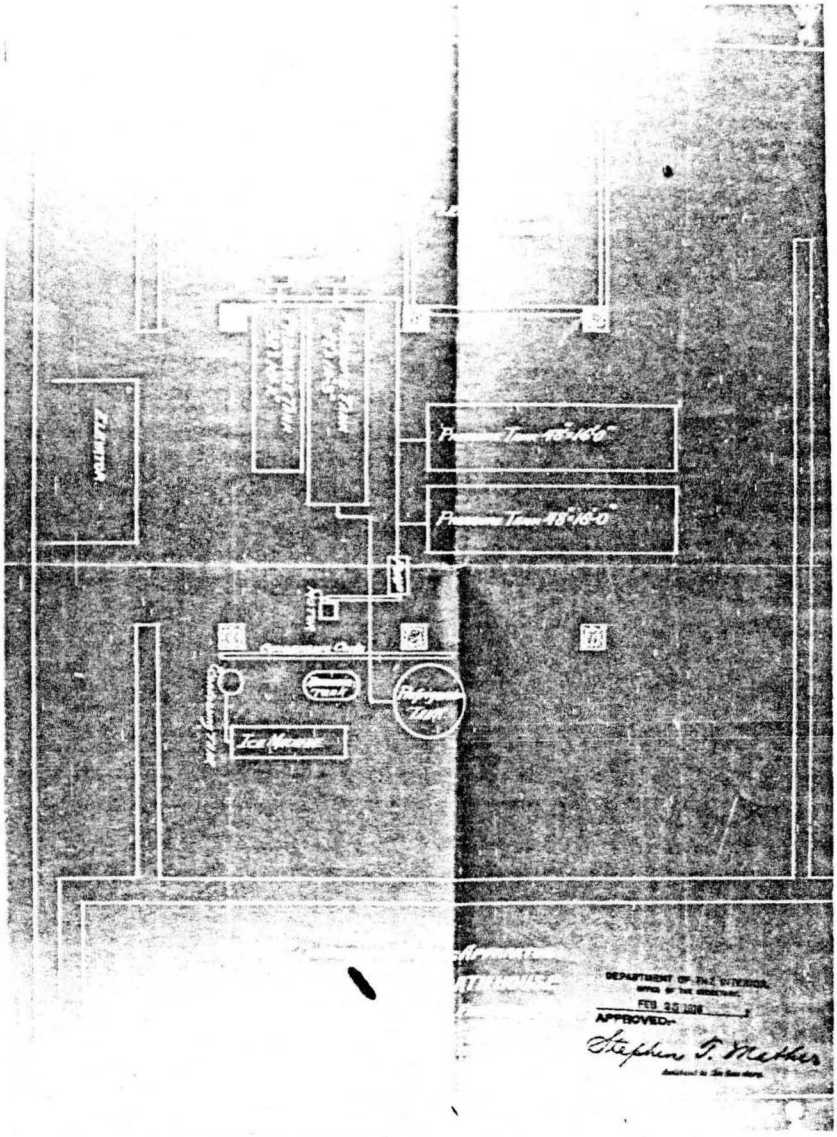
> The government now requires that all bath houses be heated and ventilated with what is generally known as the hot blast system. This system is specified for the heating and ventilation of the Palace Bath House. The system contemplates bringing into the building by means of a fan a volume of air sufficient to change the air throughout the building on an average of say every 10 minutes. The air first passes through

what is known as tempering coils. These coils are heated by steam and are designed to bring air up to about 60 degrees of heat. The air then passes through the fan and is divided in the plenum chamber, one portion passing through other heating coils where it is brought up to a temperature of say 140 degrees. The tempered air and the hot air is then mixed at the base of a flue carrying it to each particular room, by means of a thermostatic controlled damper so that any degree of heat in any room can be obtained. The plan that I have devised places in front of the regular tempering coils - coils through which would circulate the hot water piped directly from the springs and would be cooled by the large volume of air passing through the same with the additional cooling that would be obtained by having a constant spray of water upon these pipes. The evaporation of this water will greatly increase the cooling result. This water will also act as an air washer for the air passing through the same into the building. The hot water would then be carried to enclosed tanks and would not come in contact with the outside air until it reaches the tubs. This system will do away with the open cooling tanks now in use.[4]

In January of 1914, Mann and Stern elaborated on their plans and changes for the water cooling system and heating and ventilation systems:

We have gone into the matter of water supply from the spring very thoroughly and find that we can supply the building by means of gravity provided we lowered our tanks to the position we now have them in the drawings...instead of placing them over the roofs of the gymnasium as originally contemplated, also...we found that the Southerly side of the building where the heating plant was located on the original plan was of a hard rock formation and very difficult to excavate and we reversed our basement arrangement and placed the boilers, fans, etc. of the heating plant on the opposite side of the building....

Regarding the system of storing and cooling the water, we beg to report as follows: The spring from which the water will be piped has an elevation at the inlet to the pipe of 24'6" above datum, datum being established at 4'4" below the first story



Cooling Apparatus, February 1916 (HSNP).

finished floor, the inlet from the spring being about 12" below the present level of the top of water in the spring. A 4" pipe line will be brought from the spring to the basement of the building and diverted two ways after entering the building, one line to supply the fixtures with hot water direct, and other branches off for cooling the water with a by-pass arrangement to allow the water to flow into the storage tanks direct. The line for cooling the water will flow through four stacks of vento cooling coils of standard 60" vento 5-3/8" on center, each stack to contain 21 sections making 84 in all, or a total of 1208 square feet of cooling surface.

A number 6 Siroco or number 8 multivane fan to operate at 300 revolutions a minute will draw the outside air through these vento stacks discharging the air through re-heating coils into the plenum chamber from which same is distributed to the various rooms through galvanized heat ducts as shown on the plans.

Each stack of vento coils will carry an independent flow of water and will be controlled at either end with valves and thermostatic regulations to release the water so that it may pass on the storage tanks after being reduced to the desired temperature by air passing through the vento cooling coils.

Two stacks of vento coils heated by steam from the heating plant will be set between the outer air and the water cooling coils to prevent the freezing of the water in these coils when the outside temperature is below the freezing point and are to serve as an auxiliary to provide additional heat to bring the temperature air up to the proper temperature during the coldest weather. There will be four steel covered tanks of standard tank construction properly reinforced placed in the rear of the building as shown on the above drawings. Details of the piping, valving and by-pass arrangements giving control over the flow and temperature of the water will be provided as shown on the plans above referred to.

An additional supply of water from the reservoir under the building will be piped through a pressure tank for use in connection with the supply from the spring outside the building....[5]

The Secretary of Interior expressed concern about the gravity system of supplying water, for the Department was endeavoring in the future to do away with furnishing water by gravity to the bathhouses.[6] But the architects assured the Department that the storage tanks could be filled by gravity from the springs or filled by the pumps in the basement.[7]

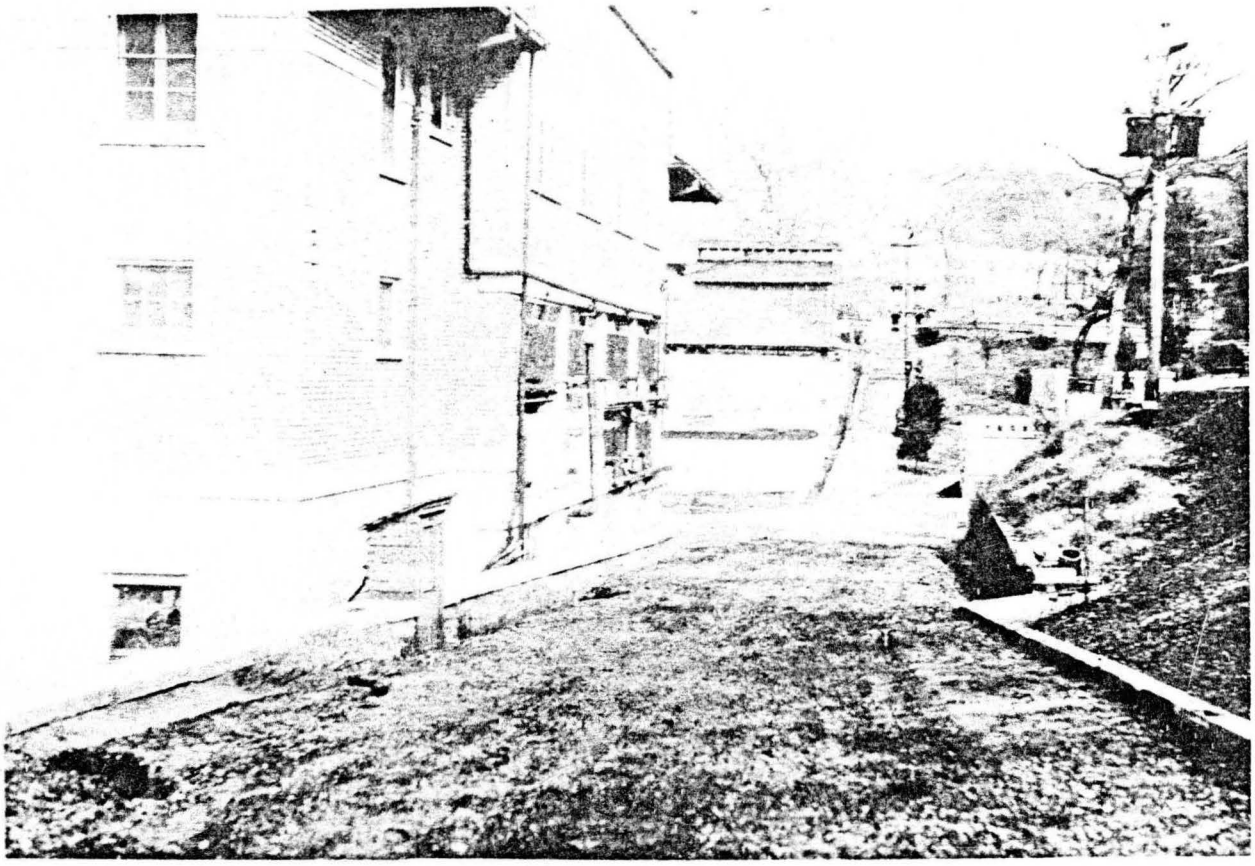
Apparently the old reservoir proved to be inadequate, for in March of 1914, the Superintendent was authorized to spend $1,200 for the construction of a new hot water reservoir in the vicinity of the Fordyce.[8] This reservoir, holding 70,000 gallons of water handled the overflow from the springs, for a new spring was discovered while excavating for the foundations.[9] Total cost of the reservoir ended up being $2,966.25.[10]

When the bathhouse opened March 1, 1915, the Gazette reported eight cold water tanks carefully arranged to cool the hot waters and, at the same time, preserve the natural gases.[11] However, from the first day of business it was realized that the facilities for cooling water had not been properly figured out, and the bathhouse operated at a considerable disadvantage because of it.[12] J. R. Fordyce experimented with the erection of a cooling tower on the roof of the bathhouse which cooled the water from 135 degrees to about 5 degrees below the atmosphere.[13] Cost was about $500, and after the tower was installed and proved successful, the approval was granted June 10, 1915.[14]

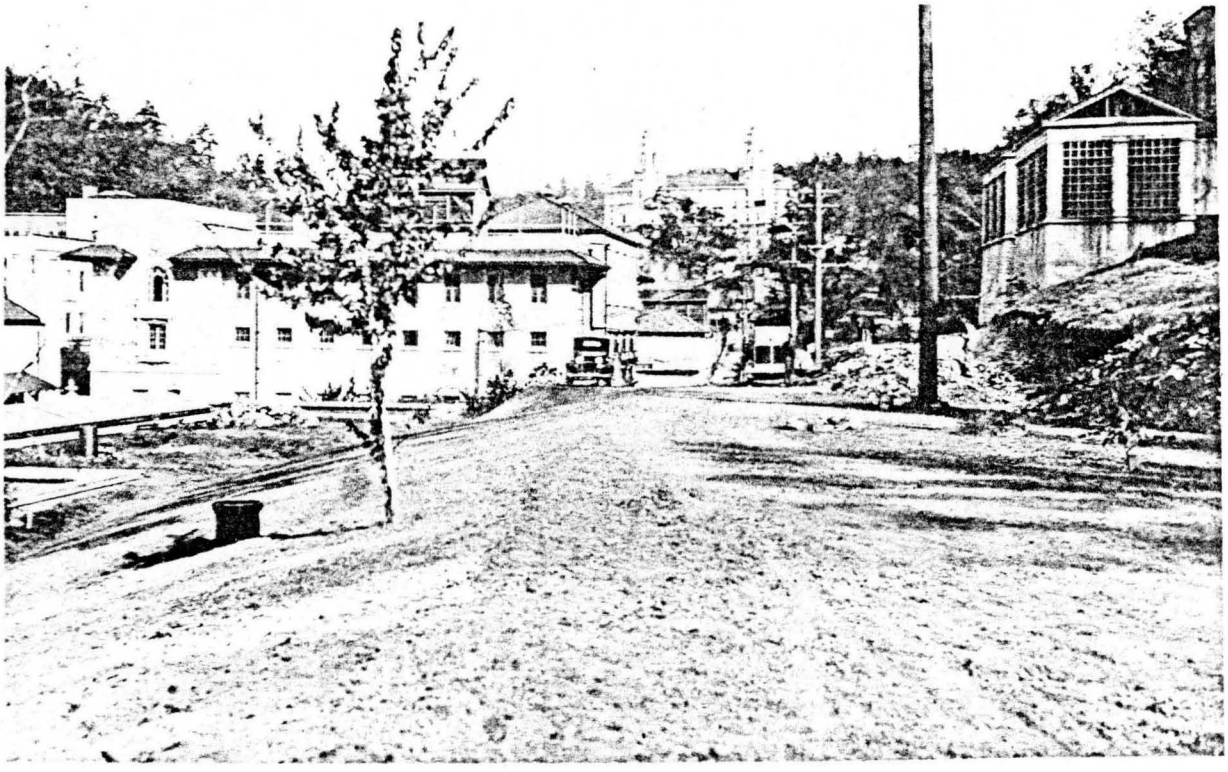
In 1921, permission was given to install a fuel tank underground adjacent to the east of the bathhouse in a position that would not interfere with the future comfort station.[15]

The promenade behind Bathhouse Row was under construction in 1934, and the Superintendent recommended either rearrangement of the Fordyce' piping and cooling tanks or building an additional structure designed to match the bathhouse to shield the equipment from the view of the promenade.[16] In 1935, the Fordyce decided not to make any changes to its system pending action of the government's providing cooled water from a central tank.[17] But in 1936, the National Park Service Director advised that, because the plan for the central cooling system had been rejected, the Fordyce should proceed with the construction of its own new cooling tank.[18] In July of the same year, J. R. Fordyce submitted the following proposal:

> The present cooling house or tower is to be taken down and another is to be constructed and placed on the northeast corner of the building. This is to be of the same general character, that is, a sprinkler pipe is to be installed over a stack of baffle boards. The water dripping over one and the other of these baffle boards if cooled by the air current. There are six of these units, six feet high and the water accumulated is retained in galvanized iron tanks, three feet wide and 12 inches deep and ten feet long. These six tanks are all connected to the same pipe. The water is conveyed to the eight iron tanks which are now located at the back of the house in the same place they have been all along.
>
> In order to mask this structure from persons on the mountain, there is to be constructed on the east wall of the bath-house and on the north wall a screen which has been designed by Mr. Eugene John Stern,



"Existing Ramp" at Rear of Fordyce before pipes were removed (HSNP).

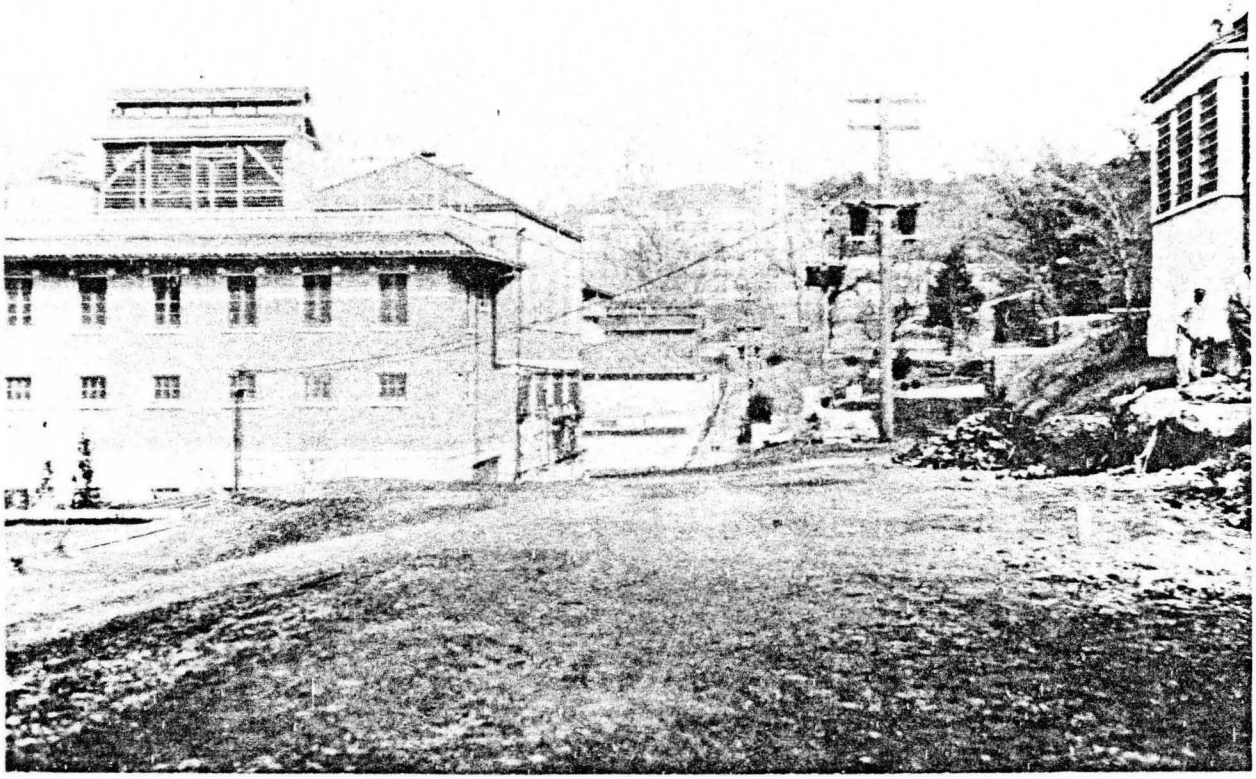


Looking North between Fordyce and Army Bath (HSNP).

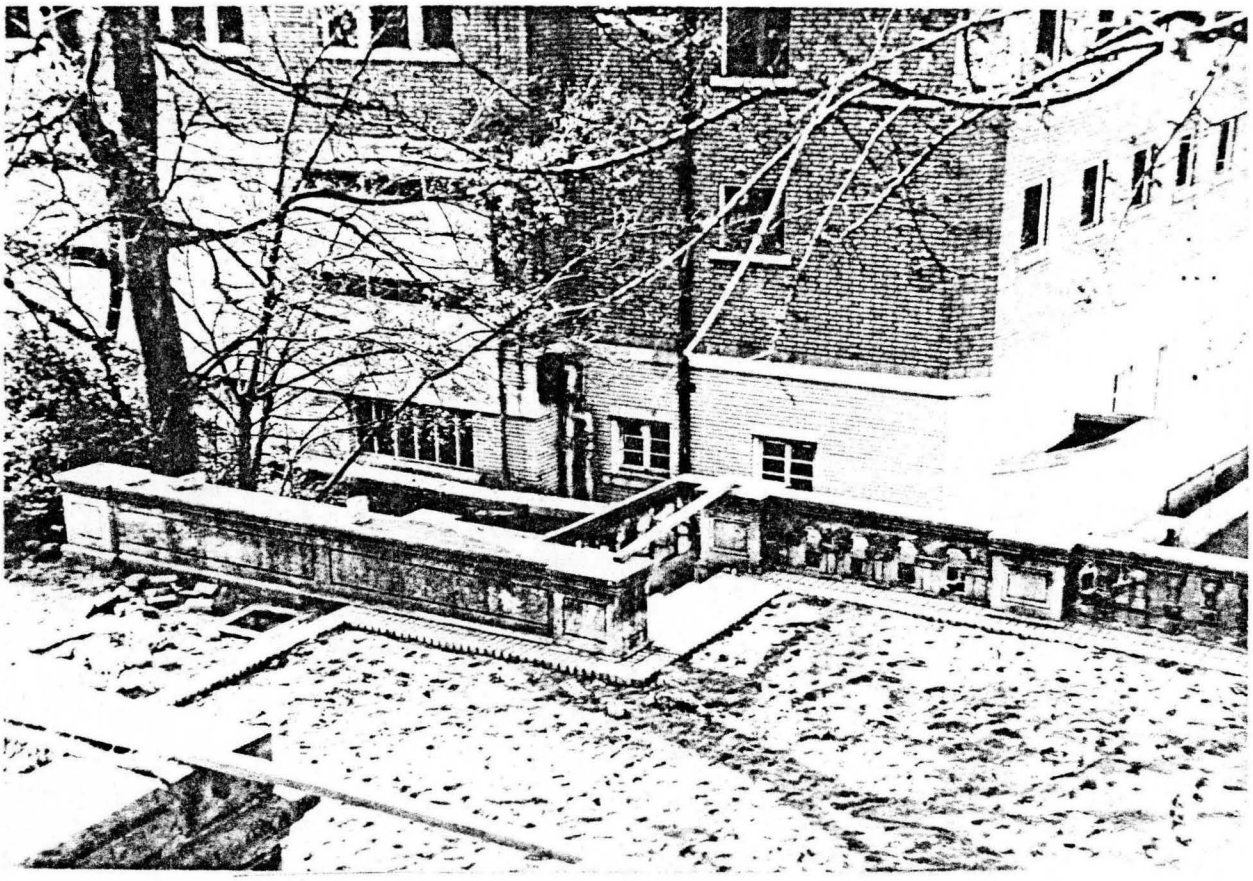
> the original architect of the bath-house. In order to make the back of the bath-house symmetrical as well as artistic, another screen is to be constructed at the south side of the gymnasium roof. This will give a very pleasing and artistic appearance as the cooling structure has already been proved that it is efficient, there will be no question as to its proper operation....
>
> In addition to the work above outlined, it is proposed to take all the projecting pipes away from the back of the Bath-house and place them on the inside. The openings through which the tanks can now be seen will be closed by a plastered screen. This plaster will be put over an expanded metal made of rust proof material....It will be coated with a paint which will match the color of the brick work at the back of the Bath-house and will not be obtrusive.[19]

The Superintendent felt that the proposed new cooling tower would be just as offensive as the present, except that it would be superior in structure and architecturally more in harmony with the bathhouse. He believed the best solution was to continue use of the present cooling system, make some minor repairs, install a fine mesh screen, place new supports under the structures, and build a wall across the rear of the bathhouse to screen the tanks, etc., from the promenade.[20]

At the time these decisions were being made, the Fordyce's lease was up for renewal. The Park Service Director approved the retention of the present cooling system, but required the remodeling be committed in writing before the lease was to be renewed.[21] J. R. Fordyce pledged to repair the present tower, remove pipes from rear of the bathhouse, and build a stucco wall to cover the exposed tanks at the rear.[22] In



Promenade Location Looking North Between
Fordyce and Army Bath (HSNP).

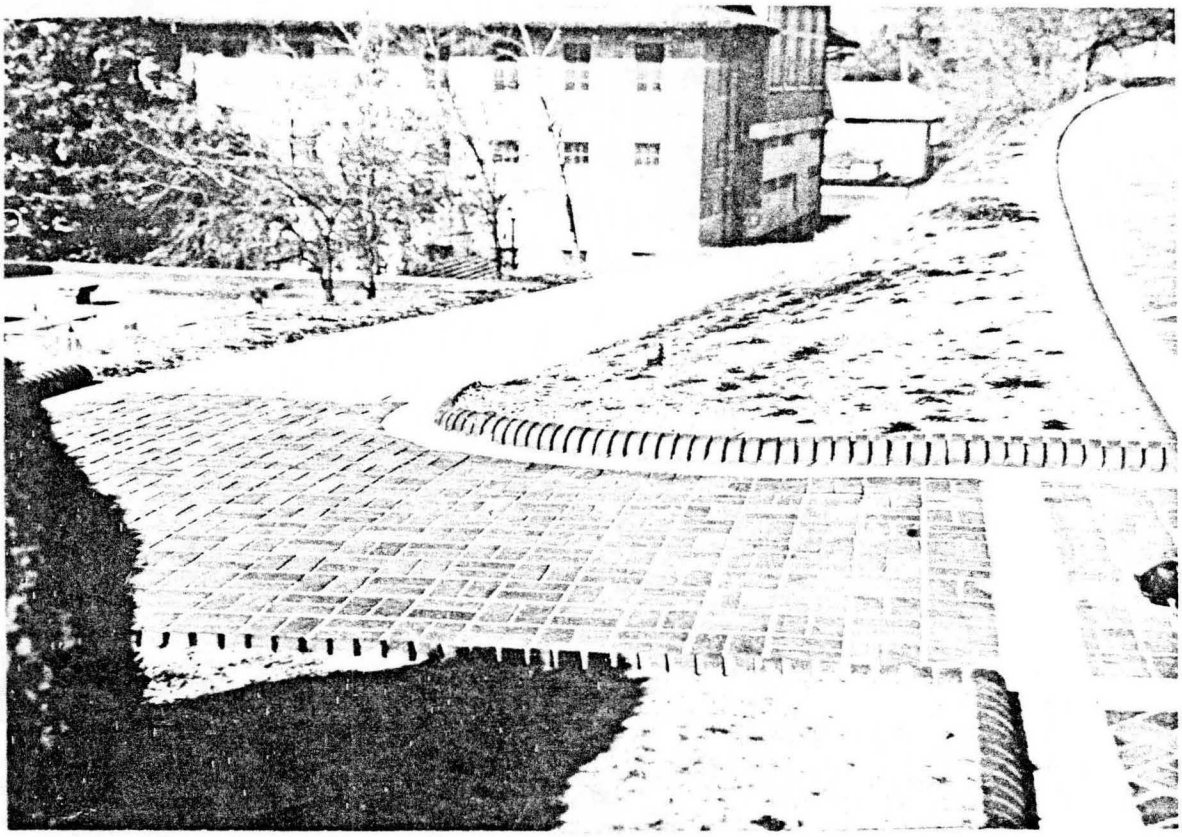


Rear of Fordyce after pipes were removed,
promenade construction photo ca. 1934 (HSNP).

March of 1937, the Superintendent inspected the improvements of the cooling tower. He noted that the external pipes were removed, and the tanks were painted an aluminum color, but the stucco enclosure flush with the wall had not been installed.[23] "Although consideration is being given to the installation of a central hot water cooling system, it will doubtless be many months, at the very best, before such a system can be installed, and it appears desirable that the rear of the bathhouse be improved so that the visitors will not view the unsightly tanks."[24] The Fordyce manager in a report of expenditures for 1936 showed two payments being made ($227.70 and $180.00) for the "new cooling tower".[25] Apparently, these were for labor only, and no mention was made or payment indicated of the screening wall.

To the heating system, a damper and thermostatic controls to make the boilers operate automatically were added in 1942.[26] In 1952, the manager reported receiving a bid of $1,375.00 for auxiliary heating units to be used during summer months in the pack rooms, rather than using the large central system when in the summer only those two rooms needed to be heated.[27]

A 50-gallon water cooler tank was replaced in 1959 for $716.75.[28] The Park Superintendent in 1961 reported that spots of gray paint on the south side of the red tile roof were unsightly. The Fordyce manager stated that the spots



Side and Rear of Forydyce from Promenade
ca. 1934 (HSNP).

View from Promenade with Fordyce to the
Right (HSNP).

were not paint, but stains of "accumulation of 25 years of hot water spray blowing on the roof."[29] He noted that there used to be a cooling tower on the roof of the bathhouse, and since he mentioned "25 years", apparently the tower was removed around 1940.[30]

[1]S. W. Fordyce to H. Myers, 1 July 1913, Hot Springs Naional Park Central Files.

[2]Ibid.

[3]Superintendent to S. W. Fordyce, 5 July 1913, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[4]G. R. Mann to C. R. Trowbridge, 11 November 1913, Legislative and Natural Resources Branch, Record Group 79, National Archives, Washington, D. C.

[5]E. J. Stern to C. R. Trowbridge, 17 January 1914, National Archives.

[6]A. C. Miller to C. R. Trowbridge, 22 January 1914, National Archives.

[7]G. R. Mann to C. R. Trowbridge, 23 January 1914, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[8]A. C. Miller to S. T. S. Curtis, 19 March 1914, National Archives.

[9]"Beautiful and Luxurious Establishment," Arkansas Gazette, 28 February 1915, p. 7.

[10]W. P. Parks to Secretary of Interior, 23 January 1915, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[11]Arkansas Gazette, p. 7.

[12]W. P. Parks to Secretary of Interior, 23 January 1915, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[13]J. R. Fordyce to W. P. Parks, 2 June 1915, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[14]Secretary of Interior to W. P. Parks, 10 June 1915, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[15]S. T. Mather to J. R. Fordyce, 11 February 1921, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[16]T. J. Allen to J. R. Fordyce, 12 February 1934, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[17]B. L. Neimeyer to J. R. Fordyce, 19 July 1935, Fordyce Bathhouse Papers, University of Arkansas Library Special Collections, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

[18]A. B. Cammerer to T. J. Allen, 4 January 1936, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[19]J. R. Fordyce to D. S. Libbey, 14 July 1936, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[20]D. S. Libbey to National Park Service Director, 13 October 1936, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[21]A. B. Cammerer to D. S. Libbey, 29 October 1936, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[22]J. R. Fordyce to D. S. Libbey, 2 November 1936, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[23]D. S. Libbey to J. R. Fordyce, 4 March 1937, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[24]Ibid.

[25]B. L. Neimeyer to Powell Fordyce, 13 May 1940, Special Collections.

[26]Ledger, Special Collections.

[27]B. L. Neimeyer to S. W. Fordyce, III, 15 August 1952, Special Collections.

[28]B. L. Neimeyer to H. R. Gregg, 23 February 1960, Special Collections.

[29]H. G. Borden to B. L. Neimeyer, 25 May 1961, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[30]Ibid.

CHAPTER VI

SITE

VI. SITE

When the Mann and Stern drawings were submitted to the Secretary of Interior for approval, it was noted the bathhouse occupied a greater depth than was covered by the old lease of the Palace.[1] The increase in depth to ninety feet had been approved verbally in April or May of 1913, but no written documentation could verify this.[2] January 22, 1914, the Assistant to the Secretary wired that the size of the leased site as agreed to was one hundred feet front by ninety feet deep.[3] However, the ninety feet proved to be inadequate in depth, and another request was made for extending it to ninety-four feet, two inches. January 30, 1914, approval was granted for extension of the Palace Bathhouse site from seventy-eight feet to the depth of ninety-four feet, two iches.[4] The corrected and final description of the Fordyce Bathhouse site, covering approximately 2/10 acre, was submitted May 20, 1914, by J. R. Fordyce:

> Commencing at a point 90' from Station #6 on the plan of the front of the bathhouse line, as shown on the plan filed in the Department May 12, 1891; running thence along said line in a northerly direction 100' thence easterly 25'11", thence southerly 0'8-1/2", thence easterly 65'3", thence southerly 21'10-1/2", thence easterly 3', thence southerly 54'10", thence westerly 3', thence southerly 21'10-1/2", thence westerly 65'3", thence southerly 0'8-1/2", thence westerly 25'11" to the point of commencement, being more particularly known as Bathhouse Site Number 7.[6]

[1]C. R. Trowbridge to Secretary of Interior, 19 January 1914, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

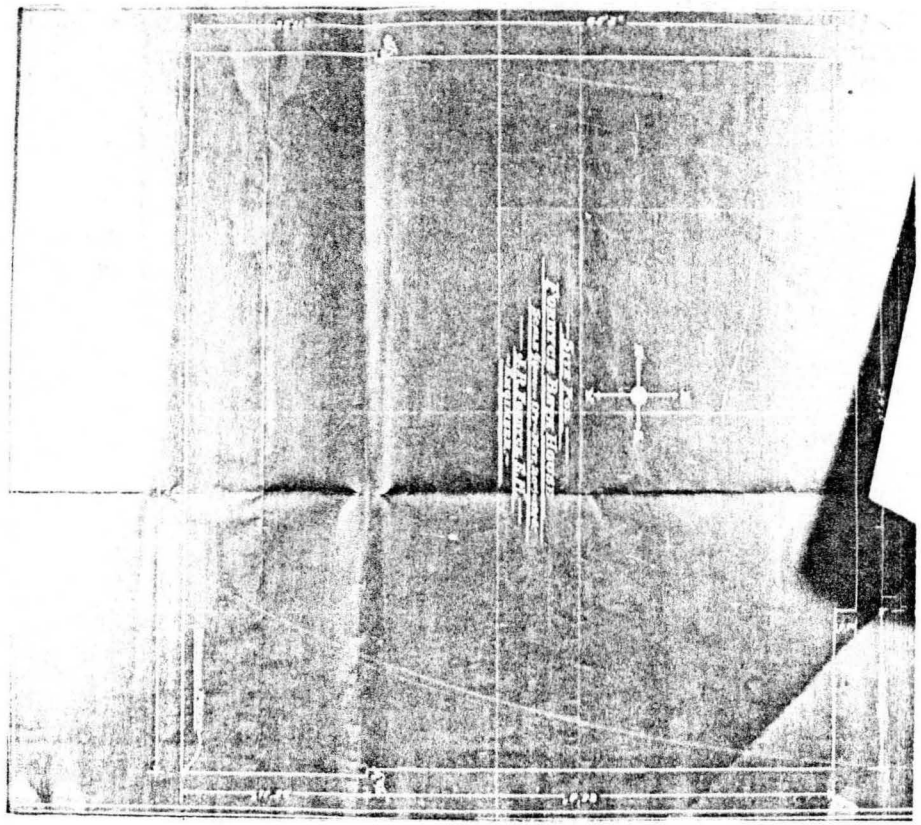
[2]Ibid.

[3]A. C. Miller to C. R. Trowbridge, 22 January 1914, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

[4]C. R. Trowbridge to Secretary of Interior, 27 January 1914, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

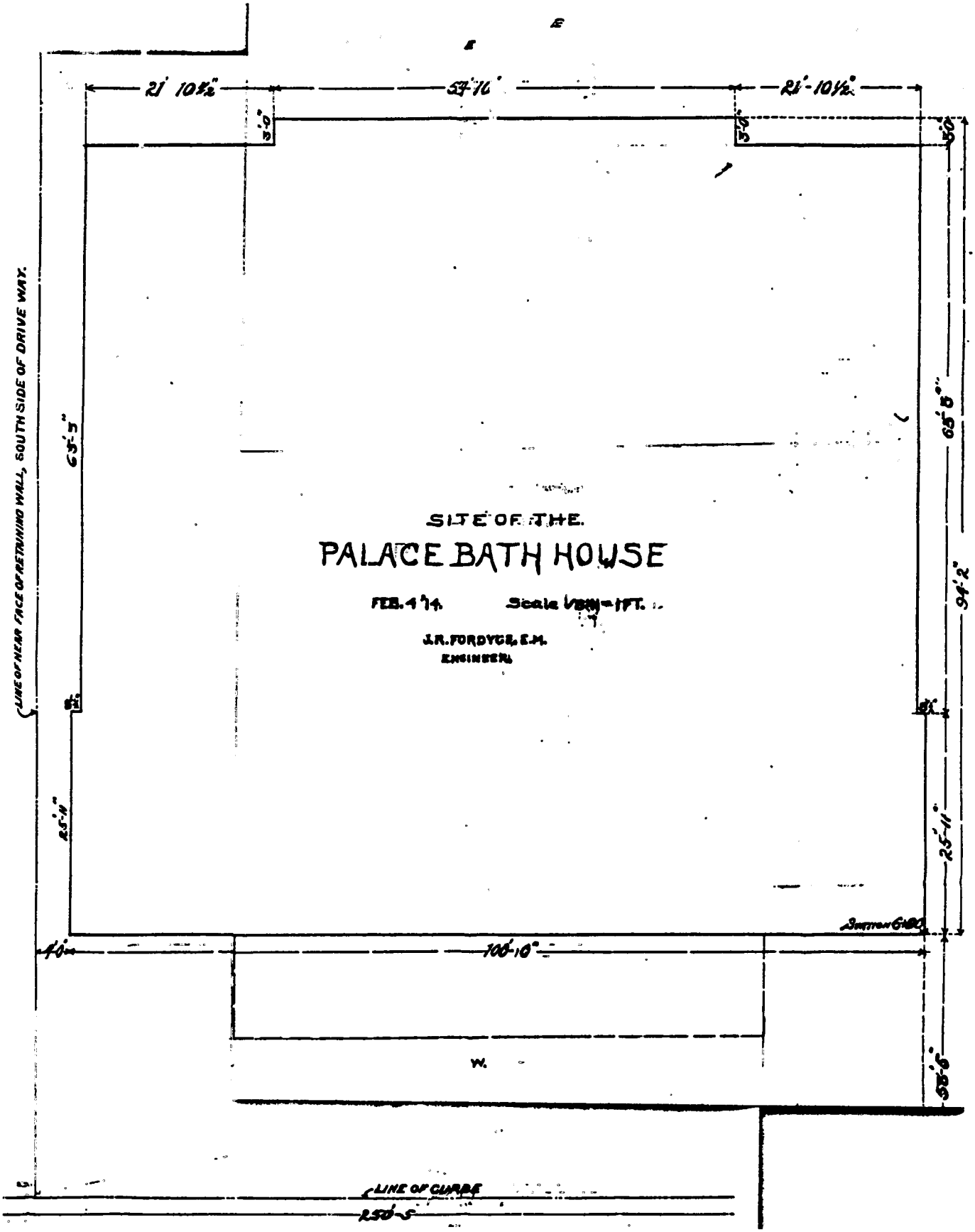
[5]A. C. Miller to C. R. Trowbridge, 18 February 1914, Legislative and Natural Resources Branch, Record Group 79, National Archives, Washington, D. C.

[6]H. R. Gregg to B. L. Neimeyer, 19 April 1960, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.



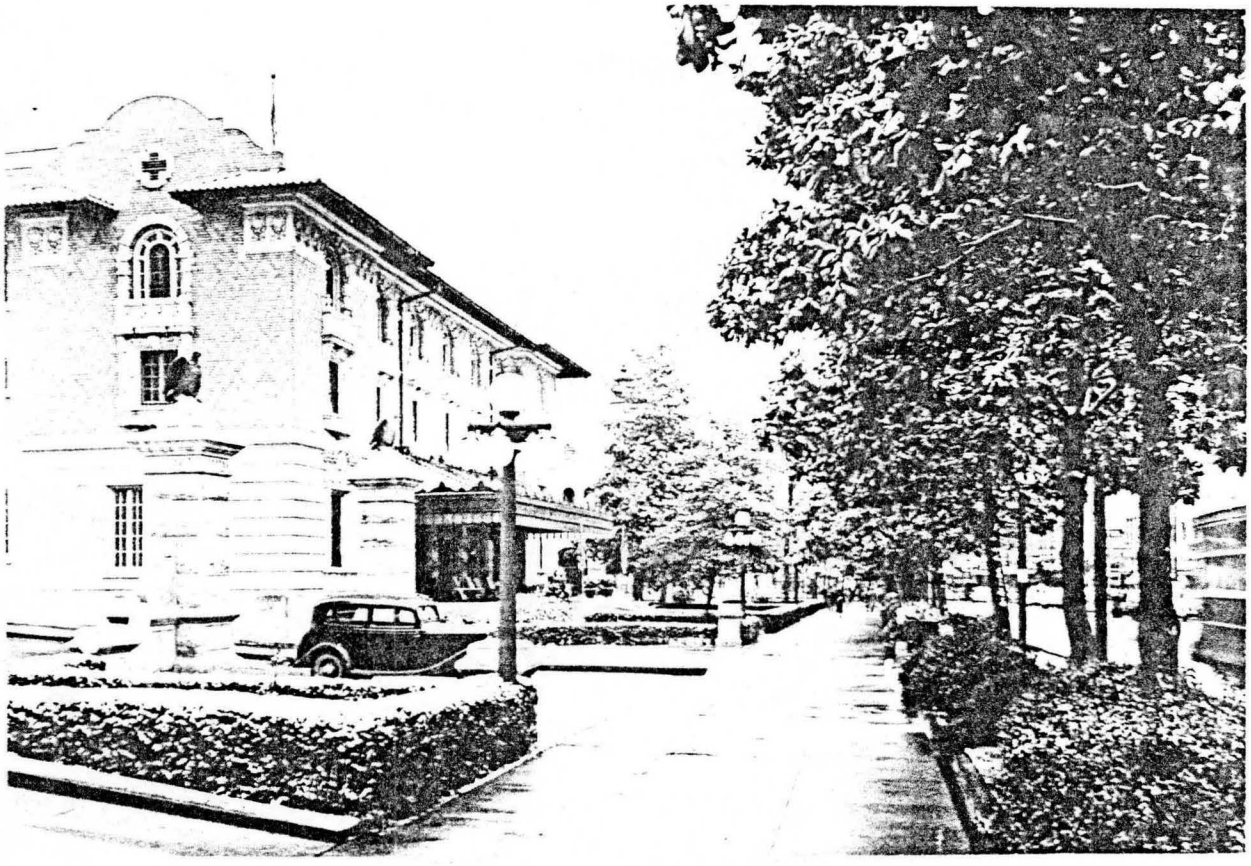
Site Plan of Fordyce, May 20, 1914 (HSNP).

Location of Fordyce on Bath House Row, from 1922 Rules and Regulations (HSNP).

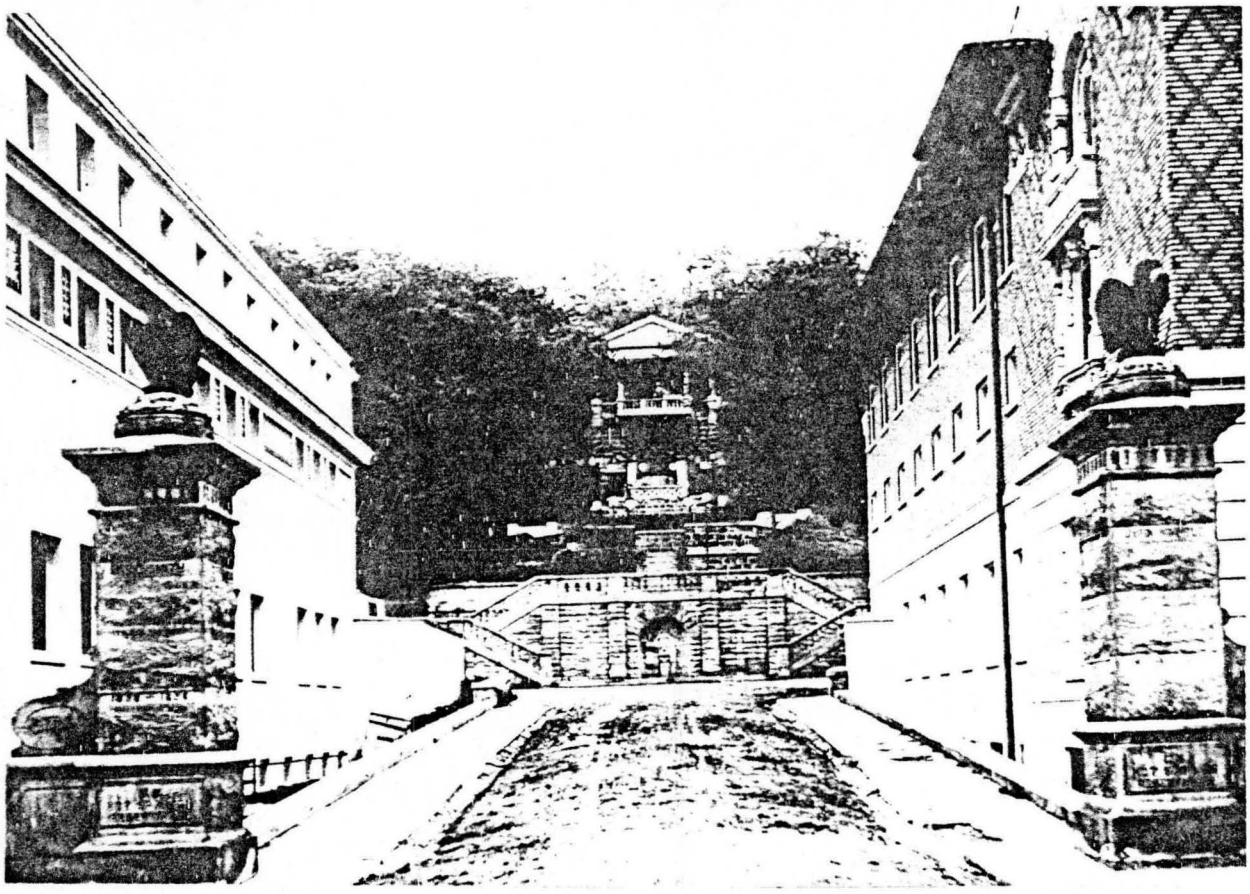


Site Plan of Fordyce, February 4, 1914 (National Archives).

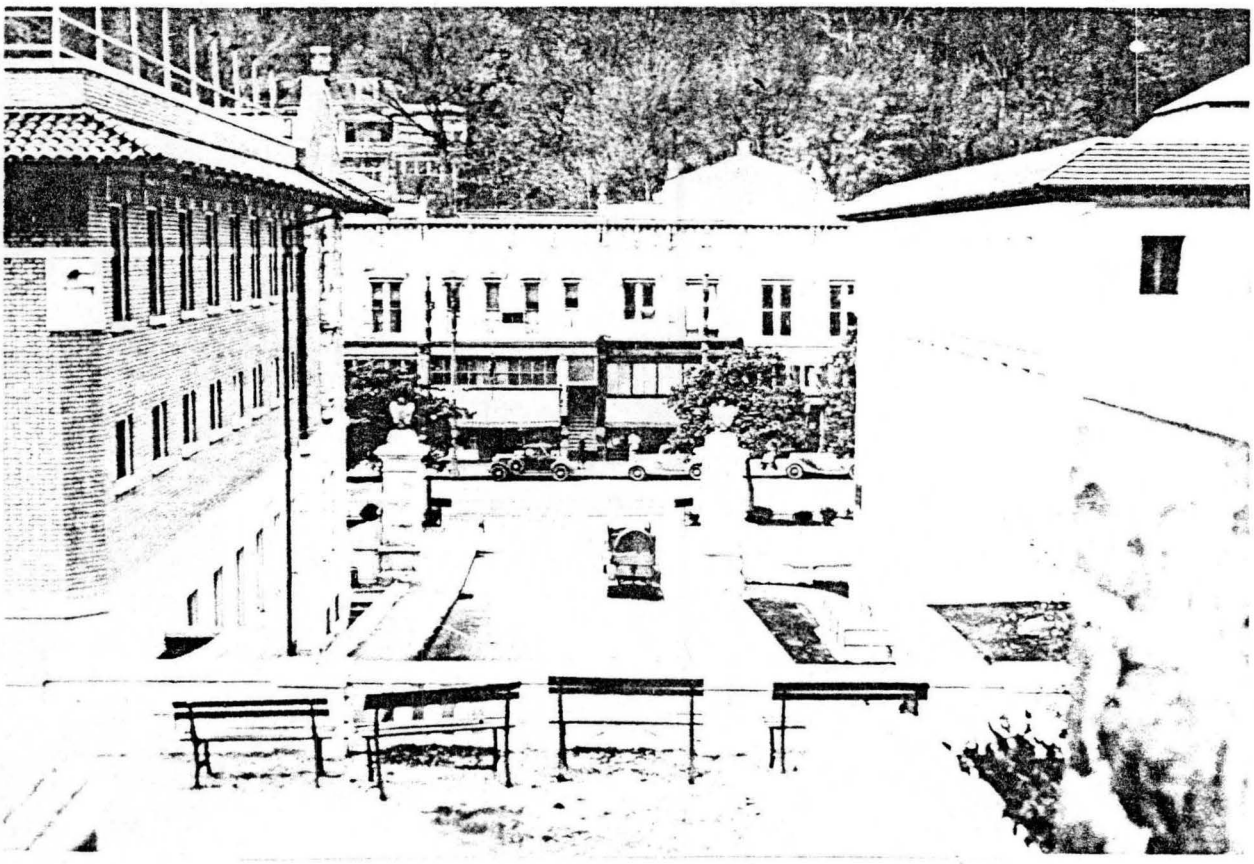
View of Central Avenue (HSNP).



View of Fordyce in Winter (HSNP).



Entrance to Reservation with Fordyce to the Right (Mary Hudgins collection).



View from Bandstand with Fordyce to the Left (HSNP).

CONCLUSION

What makes the Fordyce Bathhouse most significant is its architectural and historical integrity. Its imposing Spanish Renaissance style facade, its extravagant plan, its richness of detail, and its magnificent art glass make up not just an extraordinary bathhouse, but a monument to the thermal waters. The fact that S. W. Fordyce built his bathhouse as a testimonial to the healing powers of the hot springs makes this structure an important built representation of the historic roots of the city.

The National Park Service is considering adaptively using the Fordyce Bathhouse as an interpretation center for the Park visitors. At present, the tourist can gain little understanding of what constituted the bathing experience, especially the medicinal and social values, during Hot Springs' "Golden Age". Because of the Fordyce's scale and dynamic spaces, the flexibility needed in a visitors' center can easily be accommodated with many interpretive possibilities.

The location of the Fordyce, in the middle of Bathhouse Row is an ideal for the pivotal project needed to stimulate interest in conserving downtown Hot Springs. With bathing business declining and more bathhouses closing, it is important that action not be delayed. Implementation of plans

for the interpretation center in the Fordyce Bathhouse would be more than preserving one of Arkansas' finest landmarks, for its preservation would aid in restoring vitality to one of the most unique inner-cities in the country.

DOCUMENTATION

Letters

Photographs

Drawings

SERVICES TO OTHER DEPTS.

December 2, 1913.

Review of drawings and specifications for the Palace bath house on the Hot Springs Reservation, Hot Springs, Ark., requested by the Interior Department on October 23, 1913.

Drawings and specifications by architects, George R. Mann and Eugene J. Stern.

- - - - - - - - - - - -

The general arrangement , illustrated by the plans, appears satisfactory for the purpose for which the building is intended.

STRUCTURAL WORK.

Inasmuch as this office has no knowledge regarding the character of the soil under the footings it is not possible to pass on the adequacy of the foundations.

In the reinforced concrete design the stresses are generally higher than accepted good practice would allow. Attention is particularly called to girders K-2 and B-2, and also to the pier under the northerly end of girder K-2, which appear to be greatly over-stressed.

In several instances adjoining vent flues extending up through the floors cut off all means of support for the slabs for a distance of several feet in length.

Due to the lack of drawings, showing the details of construction, it is not clear whether reinforcement will be properly placed to guard against reverse bending moments over the supports.

Paragraph 47 of the specification allows the contractor to modify the reinforcement to suit the material he desires to use, which would make any approval given to the drawings in their present condition void.

It is noted that the piping is to be run in the floor slabs, but no details are given and it is not stated to what piping reference is made. Generally such construction is not considered satisfactory, and under certain circumstances might be very objectionable.

MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT.

Plumbing.

The plumbing appears to be sufficient , except in regard to hot and cold water tanks. The specification does not state who is to furnish these tanks, or what the construction of same is to be.

It is not considered advisable to use single-phase A.C. motor of 10 H.P. for hot and cold water pumps when 500-volt D.C. current is available and used for other motors.

Wiring.

The use of iron armored conduit is considered unnecessarily expensive, enameled or galvanized conduit being deemed sufficient.

Feeders for fan and pump motors should be specified.

Heating.

The type of vacuum valve specified confines the furnishing of same to one manufacturer. I would suggest that specification be modified to permit greater competition.

Paragraph 260-B requires throttle valves for pump. As pump is specified to be electrically-driven, no throttle valve is necessary.

Paragraphs 292-301 require rooms to be heated to temperature marked on plans. These temperatures are not indicated on plans, and it is not possible to state whether apparatus will heat the rooms to the desired temperature.

Specification requires "Vento" heaters, but does not state whether same are to have wide or narrow sections.

The fire-brick lining of boiler setting is not required with the Kewanee boiler.

Elevators.

Elevators are specified to run to basement. This will necessitate a pit 3' 6" deep below basement floor at the base of each hoistway. No pits are indicated on drawings;and

the walls enclosing the spring appear to interfere with the landing of one of the elevators in basement.

The specifications for elevators does not go sufficiently into detail to insure the installation of a first-class machine. Copy of specification suggested for use is transmitted herewith.

Supervising Architect.

GAZETTE BUILDING
PHONE 2311

LITTLE ROCK
ARKANSAS

GEORGE R. MANN
EUGENE J. STERN
ARCHITECTS

January
Seventeenth
Nineteen fourteenth

Mr. C. R. Crowbridge, Sup't.,
Hot Springs Reservation,
Hot Springs, Ark.

Dear Sir:-

Re: Palace Bath House,
Hot Springs, Ark.

Referring to the criticisms expressed in your letter of December 13th., we beg to advise you as follows:

We are sending you under separate cover by this mail a revised basement plan, first story plan, second floor plan, third floor plan, roof plan, a sheet of heating details also showing our method for storing and cooling the water from the springs, also four drawings showing a revised reinforced concrete layout.

Our delay in answering the above was caused by the fact that we have gone into the matter of water supply from the spring very thoroughly and find that we can supply the building by means of gravity provided we lowered our tanks to the position we now have them in the drawings above referred to instead of placing them over the roofs of the gymnasium as originally contemplated, also from the fact that we found the Southerly side of the building where the heating plant was located on the original plan was of a hard rock formation and very difficult to excavate and we reversed our basement arrangement and placed the boilers, fans, etc. of the heating plant on the opposite side of the building.

It was decided by the owner to install but one elevator instead of two as originally shown and this necessitated some slight change in the arrangement of the different floors all of which is clearly shown on the drawings mentioned above. It is intended to run this elevator to serve both men and women, to have the doors leading to the elevator of obscure glass so that it will not be possible to see through from one hall to the other. Also it is the intention to operate this elevator so that men and women will not be carried at the same time.

Regarding the system of storing and cooling the water, we beg to report as follows: The spring from

BUILDING
ONE 2911

LITTLE ROCK
ARKANSAS

GEORGE R. MANN
EUGENE J. STERN
ARCHITECTS

which the water will be piped has an elevation at the inlet to the pipe of 24'6" above datum, datum being established at 4'4" below the first story finished floor, the inlet from the spring being about 12" below the present level of the top of water in the spring. A 4" pipe line will be brought from the spring to the basement of the building and diverted two ways after entering the building,-one line to supply the fixtures with hot water direct, the other branches off for cooling the water with a by-pass arrangement to allow the water to flow into the storage tanks direct. The line for cooling the water will flow through four stacks of vento cooling coils of standard 60" vento 5 3/8" on center, each stack to contain 21 sections making 84 in all, or a total of 1208 square feet of cooling surface.

A number 6 Sirocco or number 8 multivane fan to operate at 300 revolutions a minute will draw the outside air through these vento stacks discharging the air through re-heating coils into the plenum chamber from which same is distributed to the various rooms through galvanized heat ducts as shown on the plans.

Each stack of vento coils will carry an independent flow of water and will be controlled at either end with valves and thermostatic regulations to release the water so that it may pass on to the storage tanks after being reduced to the desired temperature by air passing through the vento cooling coils.

Two stacks of vento coils heated by steam from the heating plant will be set between the outer air and the water cooling coils to prevent the freezing of the water in these coils when the outside temperature is below the freezing point and are to serve as an auxiliary to provide additional heat to bring the tempered air up to the proper temperature during the coldest weather. There will be four steel covered tanks of standard tank construction properly reinforced placed in the rear of the building as shown on the above drawings. Details of the piping, valving and by-pass arrangements giving control over the flow and temperature of the water will be provided as shown on the plans above referred to.

An additional supply of water from the reservoir under the building will be piped through a pressure tank for use in connection with the supply from the spring

BUILDING
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LITTLE ROCK
ARKANSAS

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ARCHITECTS

outside the building described above.

In connection with the other points raised in the Treasury Department's letter, we beg to state as follows:

Structural Work: All the main footings will be carried down to rock.

The questions raised regarding reinforced concrete design are all answered in the amended drawings filed herewith, and in this connection, we beg to state that we are using a unit stress of 16,000 pounds for reinforcing steel and 650 pounds for concrete.

Due consideration has been given to the construction around heat and vent flues and the proper construction will be used to give uniform efficiency.

The piping except conduits will all be carried under the ceilings and hung from the reinforced concrete beams and slabs.

Mechanical Equipment: The hot and cold water tanks will be bought by the owner and their design and construction will be along the lines of the best modern practice.

All motors throughout the building will be 220 volt A.C. 3 phase, as this is the only current available.

The throttle valves referred to for pump should read "cut off valves" and refers to the valves for cutting off the pump when repair is needed.

The temperature to which rooms are to be heated are shown on the amended plans filed, above referred to.

The vento heaters to be used will be 9 1/3" wide.

As regards the fire-brick lining for boiler setting, the specifications will be made to read that this shall comply with the manufacturers' specifications and recommendations in this connection.

Elevators will go to the basement and a pit 3'6" below the basement floor will be provided at the

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HONE 2911

LITTLE ROCK
ARKANSAS

GEORGE R. MANN
EUGENE J. STERN
ARCHITECTS

base of the hatchway.

In conclusion, we beg to state that the son of the lessee, Mr. John Fordyce, a practical and competent structural engineer will erect this building and buy all materials and appliances therefor and the department is given every assurance that nothing but the highest class of materials, appliances, etc. will be purchased for installation in this building as it is the intention of the lessee to build this structure as near perfect as possible.

As per your request, we are returning herewith the copy of the elevator specification sent us with your letter.

We respectfully request that the department take early action in connection with this matter so that the work may proceed and should it facilitate matters, we stand ready to meet a representative of the Department either in Hot Springs or Washington to bring matters pending to a close.

Very truly yours,

MANN & STERN, Archts.

By [signature]

MEMORANDA.

PALACE BATH HOUSE, HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS.

REVIEW OF PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS
FEB. 9, 1914.

(References are to the paragraphs in the report of the Supervising Architect's Office).

STRUCTURAL WORK:

Paragraph #1: The Architect's letter of Jan. 17th explains that all the main footings are to be carried down to rock. The only information given on plans and specifications is a section of the column footings on Sheet #101, which fixes the bottom of the footings at 2'0" below the basement floor.

Paragraph #2: Girder B 2 has been increased in depth. Girder K 2 has been decreased in both dimensions and the reinforcing cut down, but the framing bearing on it has been changed. No change has apparently been made in the pier.

Paragraph #3: This condition has apparently been remedied.

Paragraph #4: Typical details have been furnished but not checked.

Paragraph #5: The clause objected to has been omitted.

Paragraph #6: Specification has been changed so that only electric conduits are run in the floor slab. This is not unusual but is not the best practice.

MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT:

PLUMBING:

Paragraph #1: The Architect's letter of Jan. 17th explains that the Owner will furnish hot and cold water tanks, but this is not covered in the specification.

Paragraph #2: ~~No change has been made in the specification.~~ The Architect's letter explains that 500 volt D.C. current is not available, and the D.C. motor specification has been changed to correspond.

WIRING:

Paragraph #1: Changed as recommended.

Paragraph #2: This change has apparently not been made.

HEATING:

Paragraph #1: This change has not been made.

Paragraph #2: Change made as recommended.

Paragraph #3: Temperature has been marked on plans but system has not been checked by this office as to adequacy to heat the rooms to the desired temperature.

Paragraphs 4 and 5: These changes have not been made.

ELEVATORS:

Paragraph #1: The layout of the elevators has been changed and a pit provided.

Paragraph #2: The specification recommended has been included, with certain changes in matters which apparently do not apply to this building. The run of the elevator has been changed from 58'9" [redacted] as given in the specification of the Supervising Architect's Office, which is apparently correct. ft 36'-0"

Note: Other changes than those recommended have been made in the specifications but they do not appear to be important.

GAZETTE BUILDING
PHONE 2911

LITTLE ROCK
ARKANSAS

GEORGE R. MANN
EUGENE J. STERN
ARCHITECTS

February
Twenty-sixth
Nineteen fourteen

Mr. C. R. Trowbridge, Sup't.,
United States Reservation,
Hot Springs, Ark.

Dear Sir:-

We beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 24th inst. with enclosure of a memorandum from the supervising architect's office reviewing the plans and specifications for the Palace Bath House, dated February 9th., 1914. In reply to the points discussed in this memorandum, we beg leave to advise you as follows:

STRUCTURAL WORK

Par. #1: Will repeat what we stated in our letter to you of January 17th, viz: That all main footings will be carried down to rock bearing and the section of column footing shown on sheet #101 is typical and is not intended to confine the depth of footings at two feet below basement floor level.

Par. #2: The Supervising Architect apparently regards #B 2 and K 2 as being satisfactory, Regarding the pier on which girder #K 2 rests. (Revised plan-girder B 214). We beg to advise you that this girder now rests on a reinforced concrete column marked #9 on our revised drawing and does not take any bearing on the brick pier.

Par. #6: This system is in general use and as the nature of the construction will not permit us to run the conduits in any other way without making them unsightly or else increase the cost of construction considerably, we respectfully request that the conduits be permitted to be carried in the slabs.

MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT

WIRING Par. #2: Proper provisions will be made to bring feeders for fan and pump moter and would be installed in accordance with the best engineering practice.

HEATING: Par.#1. The Department's suggestions will be followed and in asking for bids on heating, other types of

GAZETTE BUILDING
PHONE 2911

LITTLE ROCK
ARKANSAS

GEORGE R. MANN
EUGENE J. STERN
ARCHITECTS

vacuum valves will be considered.

Par. #4: We have answered this question on page #3 of our letter to you dated January 17th and stated that the sections of the Vento heaters would be 9 1/8 inches wide which are the wide sections.

Par. #5: The specifications call for a Kewanee or Herbert boiler, the latter requiring fire-brick lining and we repeat our answer in our letter to you of January 17th-that the boiler setting will be in accordance with the manufacturers' specifications and directions.

Trusting that this will clear up all pending questions in connection with this building and that the final approval of the department be given for the erection of this building, we beg to remain

Very truly yours,

Mann & Stern

S/F

E BLDG.
NE 2911

LITTLE ROCK
ARKANSAS

GEORGE R. MANN
EUGENE J. STERN
ARCHITECTS

February
Tenth,
19 15.

915.

RE-Fordyce Bath-house.

Dr. Parks, Superintendent,
U.S.Reservation,
Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Dear Sir:-

During the construction of the above building it was found necessary to make various changes, and we are sending you ~~herewith~~ one set of plans as originally approved by the Interior Department and blue prints of the different floor s showing how the building was actually arranged during construction.

The changes from the approved plans, generally, have been as follows:-

BASEMENT PLAN-Attendents Room lowered to same level as Public Lobby.

Spring Room changed.

Pump, strainer, and motor moved to room next to plenum chamber.

FIRST FLOOR---Linen closet omitted, shower relocated, room enlarged, and drinking fountain changed in Men's Cooling Room.

Marble partitions omitted in Cabinet Room.

Vapor and head exposed cabinets interchanged in Women's Bath Hall.

Drinking fountain changed in Women's Pack Room.

Drinking Fountains added in Women's and Men's Cooling Room.

SECOND FLOOR--Waiting Room and Department of Mechane-Therapy added over Men's Bath Hall in front of

TE BLDG.
NE 2911

LITTLE ROCK
ARKANSAS

GEORGE R. MANN
EUGENE J. STERN
ARCHITECTS

Dr. P. #2.

SeCOND FLOOR--cooling tanks.
(Contd)

915.

Dressing stalls relocated in Men's and Women's Dressing Rooms.

Linen closets changed in Dressing Rooms.

Men's Massage Room changed to Men's Mercury Room.

Dressing Rooms next to the elevator changed to closets.

Linen cabinets added to each end of Men's Dressing Room over Lobby.

Drinking fountains placed in both Men's and Women's Cooling Room.

THIRD FLOOR--Gymnasium increased in width.

Shower and Toilet omitted in Men's Private Dressing Room.

Plan of Men's and Women's private dressing rooms changed.

Floors changed from tile to wood in dressing Rooms.

Men's Mercury Room chnaged to Library.

We trust that you will see fit to recommend to the Interior Department the approval of the changes made.

Very truly yours,

Mann & Stern, Architects.

EJS-R

S. W. FORDYCE.
COMMONWEALTH TRUST BLDG.
ST. LOUIS, MO.

St.Louis,Mo., June 21st,1915.

Mr. W. P. Parks,

Supt. U.S. Hot Springs Reservation,

Hot Springs, Ark.

Sir:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of yours of the 11th ulto enclosing a copy of the lease which has been duly executed and completed, and intended for my use, providing for the leasing to me for a period of 20 years from June 1st,1915, the Fordyce Bath House Site No. 7, on Hot Springs Reservation, together with sufficient hot water to supply 30 bath tubs for the same period of time.

Thanking you for your kindly attention to this matter, and always with respect, I beg to subscribe myself,

Very truly yours,

S. W. Fordyce

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
HOT SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK
HOT SPRINGS, ARK.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

October 8, 1926.

Colonel John R. Fordyce,
Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Dear Colonel Fordyce:

I have your letter of October 8, addressed to Mr. Stephen T. Mather through this office, requesting permission to remove the DeSoto fountain from the men's department of your bathhouse to a point outside the house, on Bath House Row.

Will you please furnish me with a plan, showing just where you contemplate placing the fountain, so that I may give full information to Mr. Mather in submitting the request for consideration.

Respectfully,

Joseph Bolten, M. D.,
Superintendent.

SAMUEL W. FORDYCE
(1901-1948)
WALTER R. MAYNE
(1913-1975)

C. POWELL FORDYCE
NELSON W. HARTMAN
G. CARROLL STRIBLING
JOSEPH RENARD
EDGAR G. BOEDEKER
EDGAR T. FARMER
FREDERICK M. SWITZER III
G. CARROLL STRIBLING, JR.
THOMAS E. TONEY III
JAMES D. ECKHOFF
JOHN S. STEINER
LEO V. GARVIN, JR.
MARTHA A. MOODY
MARY WEBSTER MURPHY
GARY L. VINCENT

FORDYCE & MAYNE
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS
120 SOUTH CENTRAL AVENUE - SUITE 1100
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63105
(314) 863-6900
CABLE ADDRESS "FOLITE"

W. W. DALTON
FREDERICK M. SWITZER,
COUNSEL

WASHINGTON OFFICE
910 17TH STREET N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
(202) 833-5700
JOHN LEWIS KELLY

PLEASE REPLY TO
ST. LOUIS OFFICE

September 3, 1980

Mr. Wilson Stiles
Witsell & Evans
1008 Cumberland
Little Rock, Arkansas 72202

Dear Mr. Stiles:

Thank you for your letter of August 14th regarding the Fordyce Bathhouse. Since it came my brother, Edward W. Fordyce and I have both been going through our old files and records in order to see if we can find anything which might be of interest at the present time. I am sorry to say that most of my records consist of old financial reports and things of that sort rather than the pictorial documentation that you wish. I did find one advertising pamphlet which is about 20 pages in length and which shows on the front that S. W. Fordyce is owner and John F. Manier is the manager of the Bathhouse. This was apparently printed before the Bathhouse was given by S. W. Fordyce to my father, John R. Fordyce in 1917. If you wish a copy of this pamphlet I will be glad to send it to you. Some of the information now in the possession of the Interior Department indicates that they have a copy of this pamphlet. On the back of the pamphlet is a picture of the stained glass window in the Bathhouse which I have always understood was bought from Tiffanys.

In your letter you mentioned the fact that you have found no reference to where the stained glass was bought, but you say that the Binswanger Glass Company repaired it several times, and that you believe they did the original work. Where is that glass company located, or where was it located when it did the original work.

In the Arkansas magazine published a few months ago I read a story about a man who lived in Arkansas who is very well known for his work in stained glass. Some of the pictures

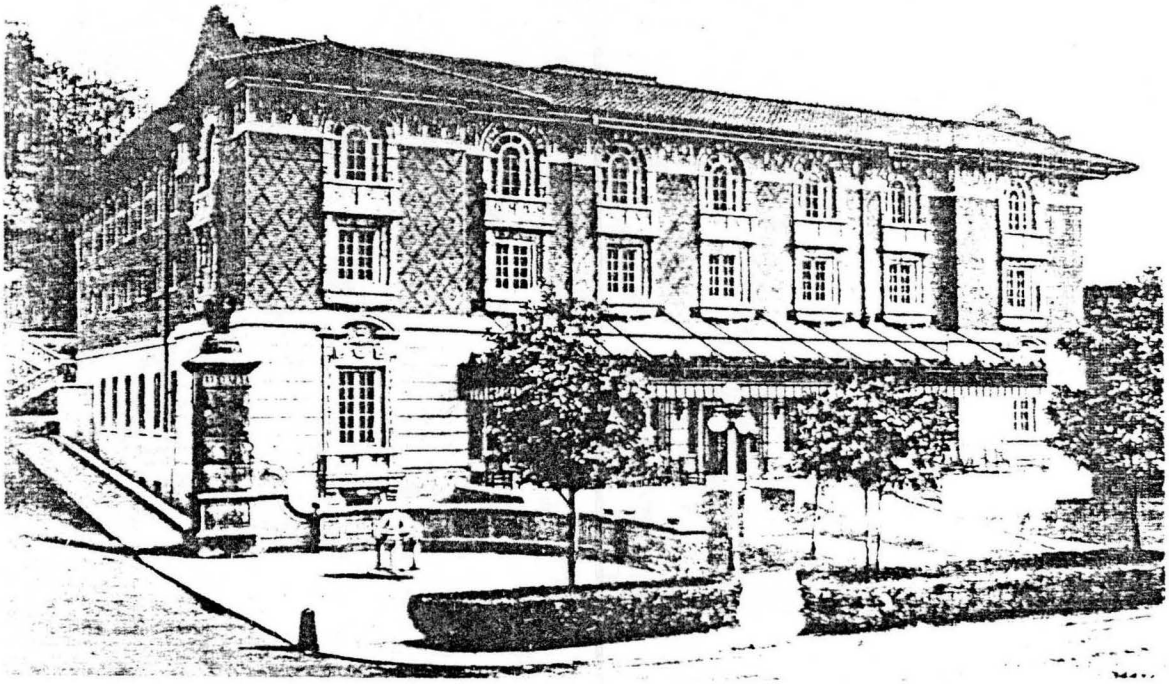
shown of him indicate that he is exceptionally skilled in this work. Would not he, or some other stained glass expert, be able to identify the work of Tiffany? If you want me to write to this man and ask him to look at the stained glass in the Bathhouse I will be glad to do so but at the present time I have lost his address. Do you know his name and address?

We will keep on looking through our old papers and will of course put aside anything which we think might be of interest.

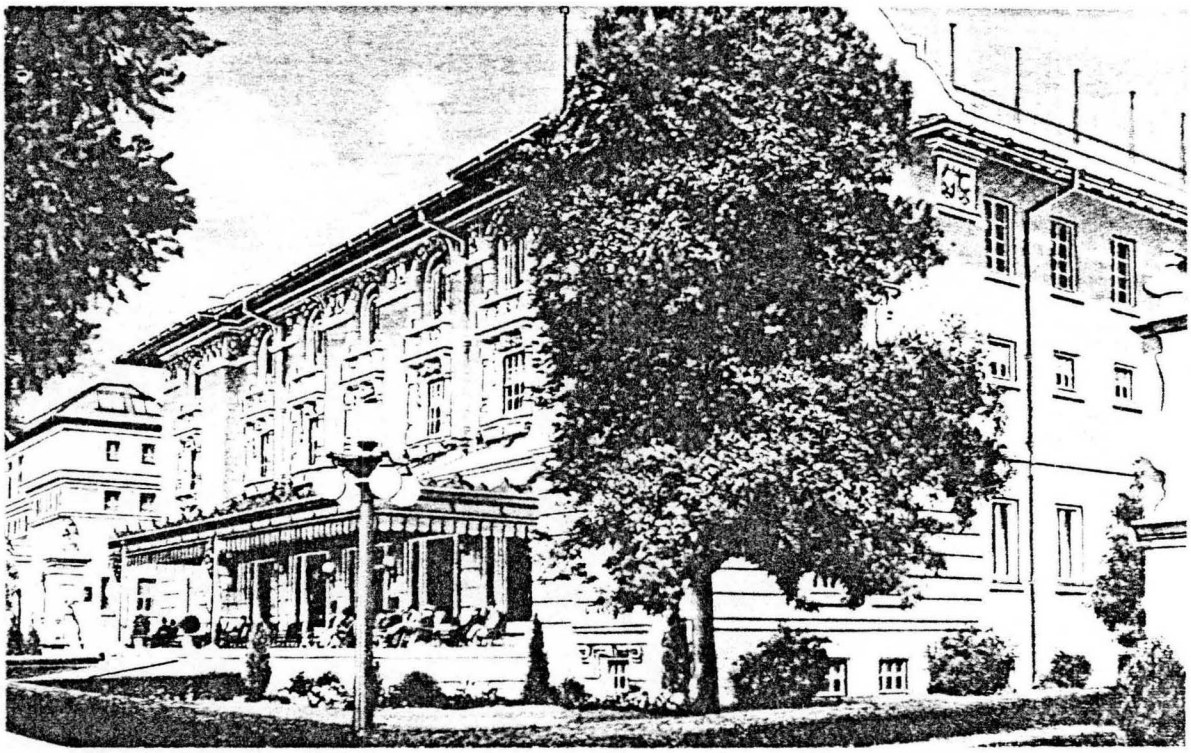
Very sincerely yours,

C. Powell Fordyce

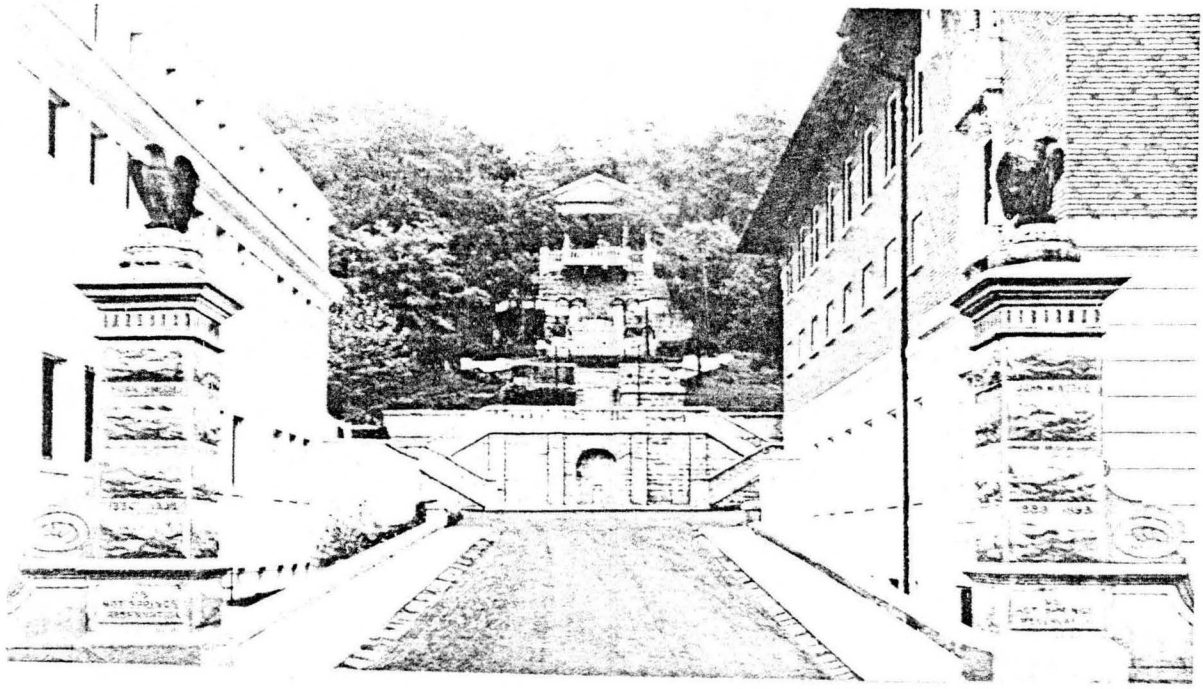
CPF/jv



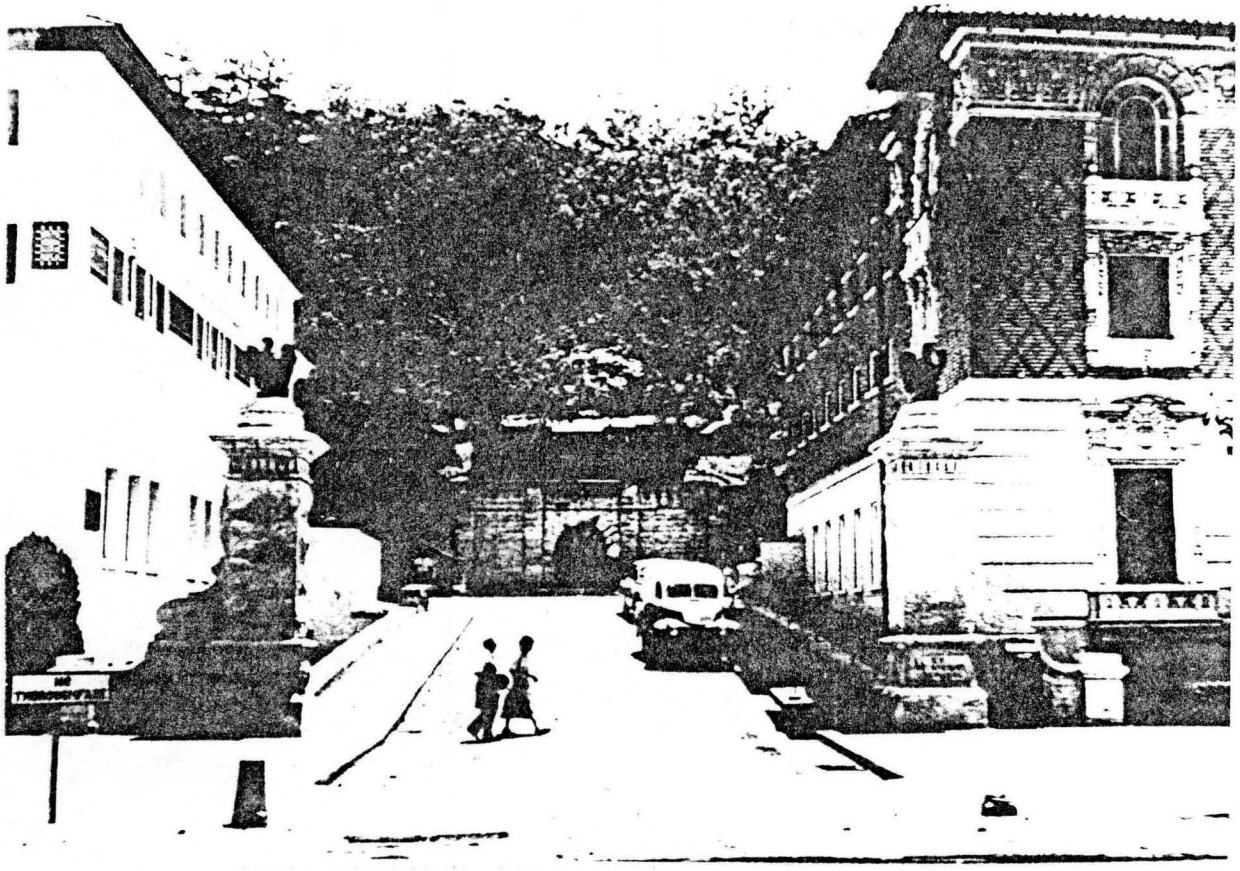
Postcard of Fordyce (Mary Hudgins collection)



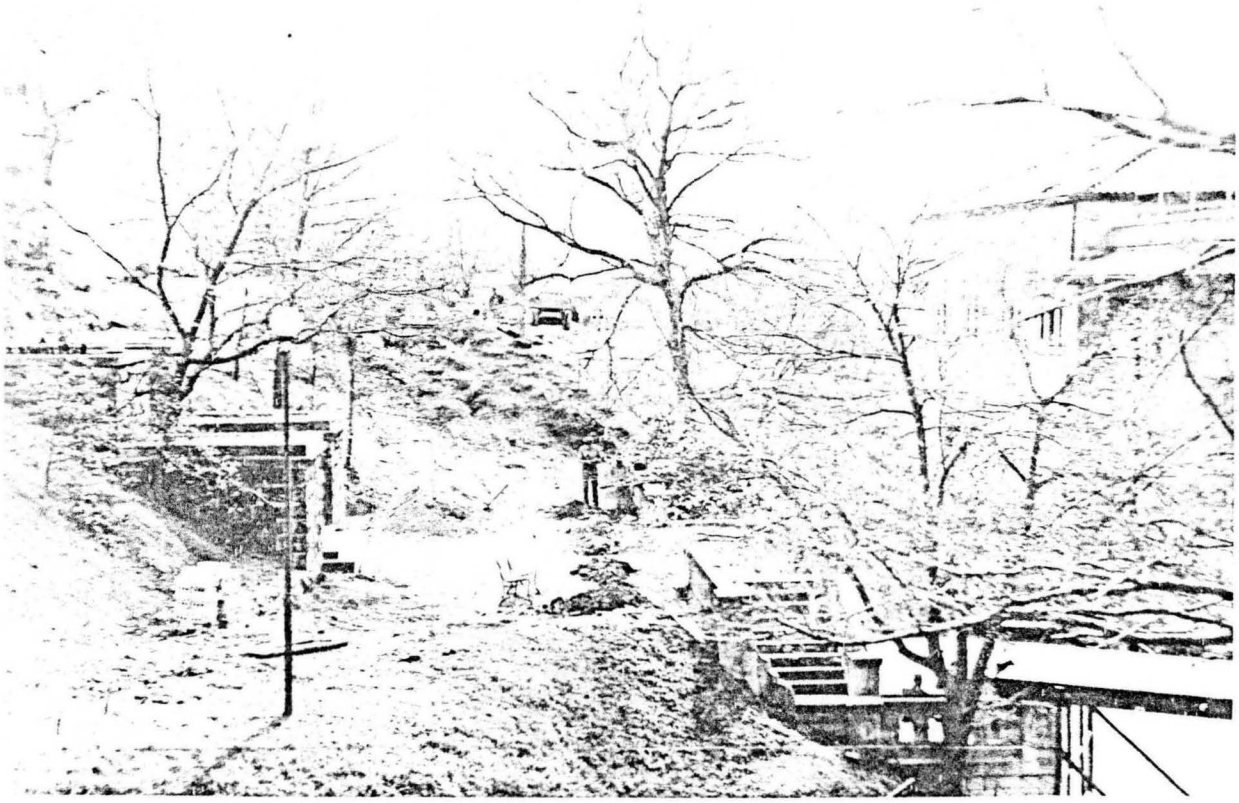
Postcard of Fordyce (Mary Hudgins collection)



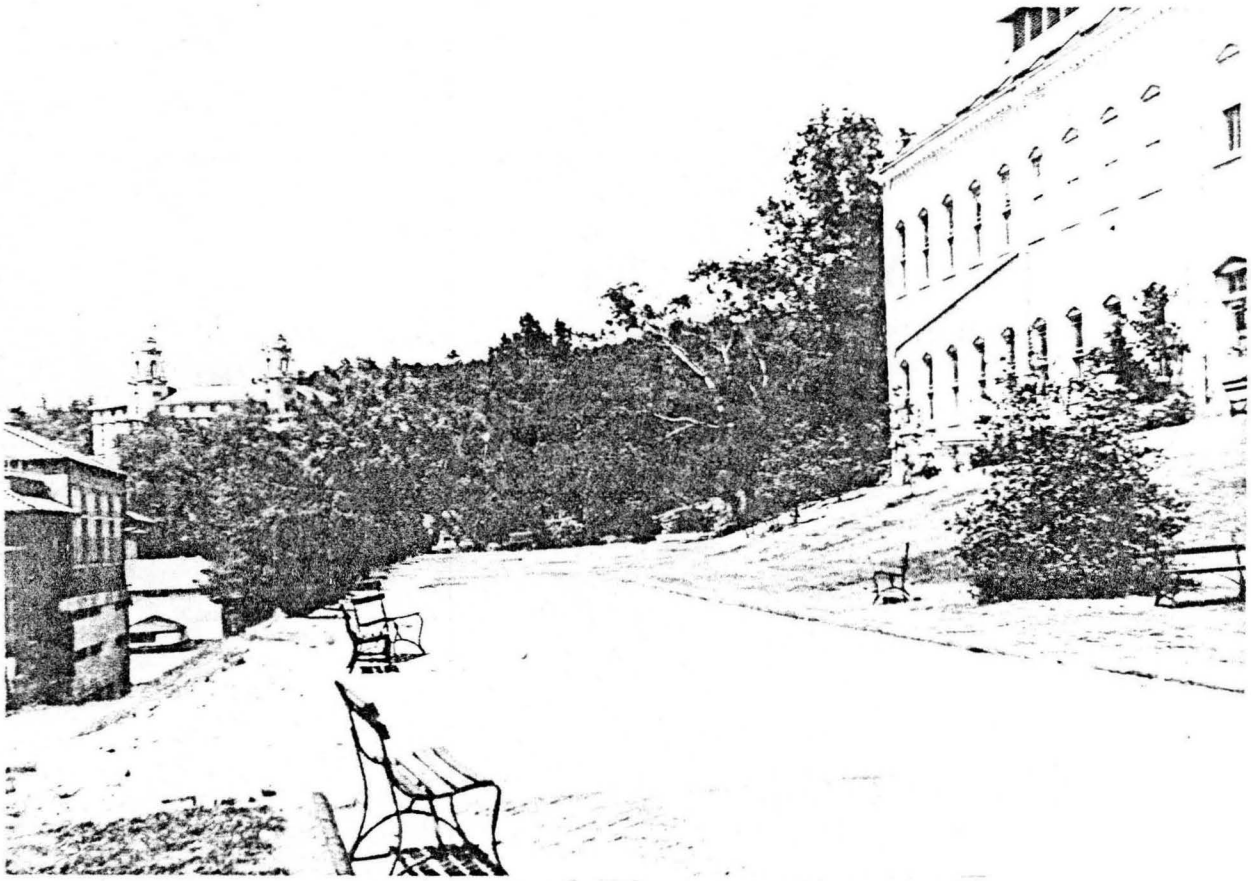
Entrance to Reservation with Fordyce to the Right, from Fordyce Bath House (HSNP).



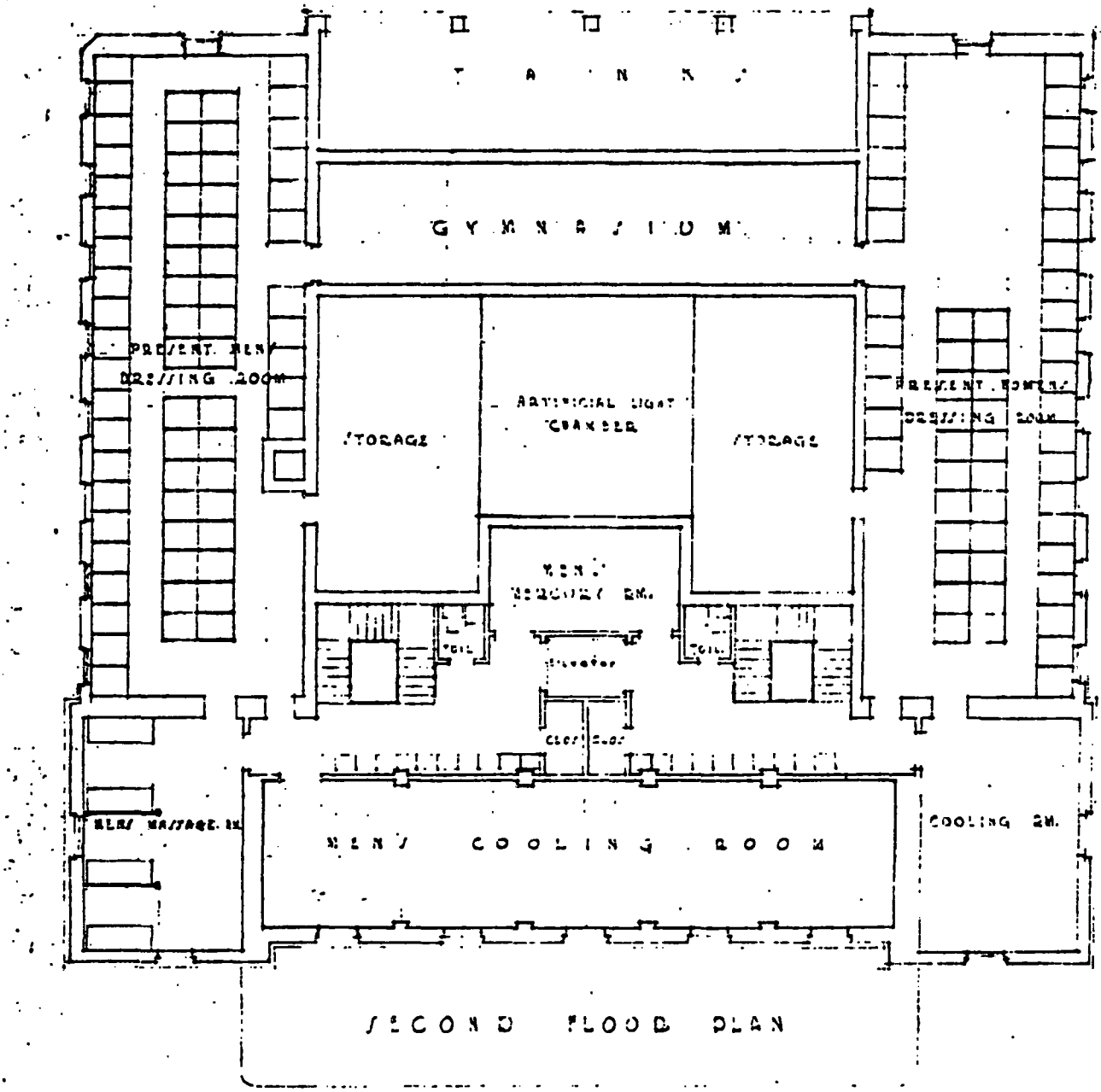
Entrance to Reservation with Fordyce to the Right (HSNP).



Rear of Fordyce to the Right, ca. 1934 (HSNP).



Rear of the Fordyce to the Left, ca. 1934 (HSNP).



PROPOSED ALTERATION OF FORDYCE BATH HOUSE

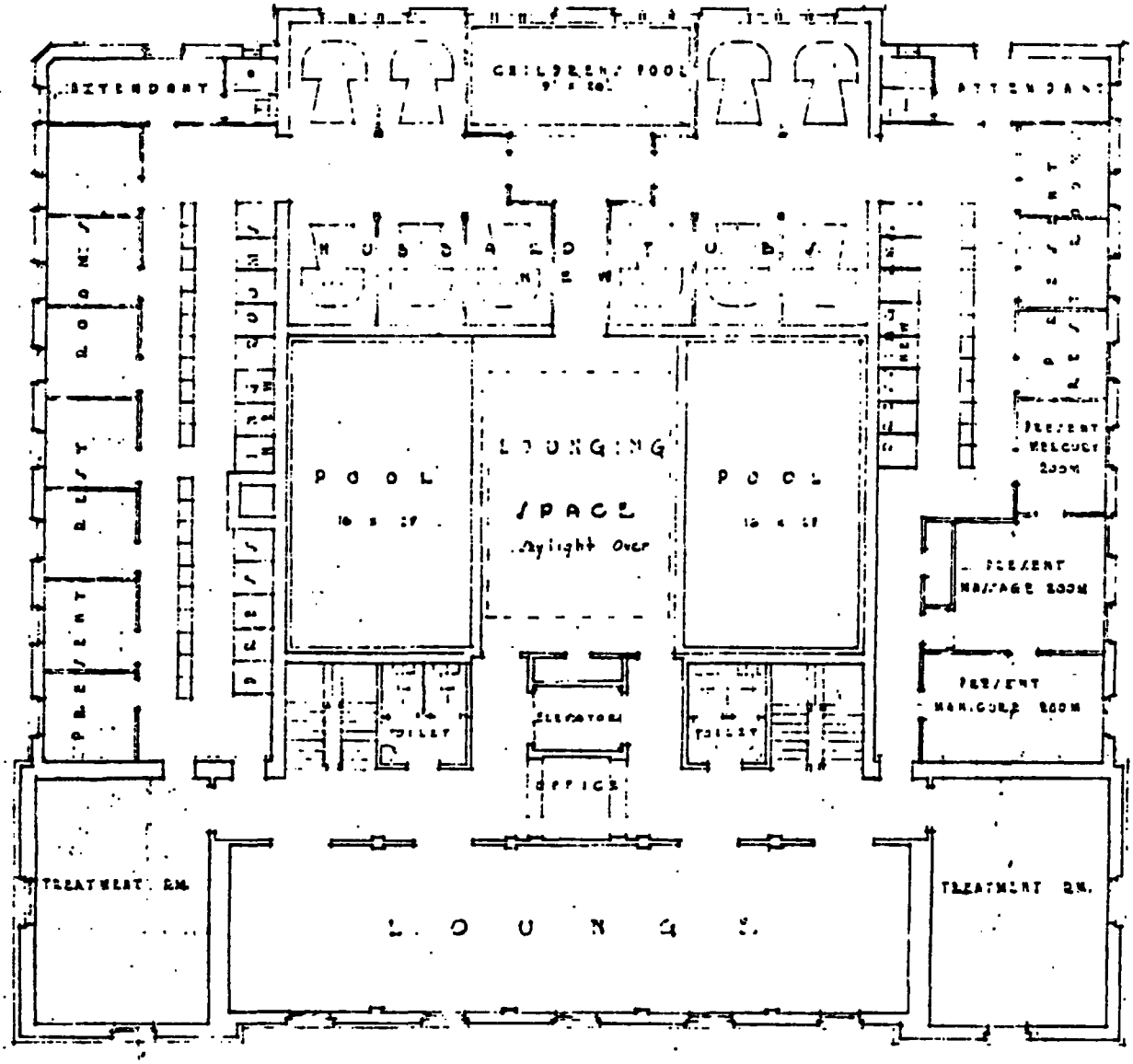
HOT SPRINGS, ARK.

SCALE 1/16" = 1'

EUGENE JOHN STERN, INC.
ARCHITECT

128/4|007
SHEET 1 OF 3

Proposed Alterations - Second Floor, ca. 1936 (Denver Service Center) 1/16" = 1'.



THIRD FLOOR PLAN

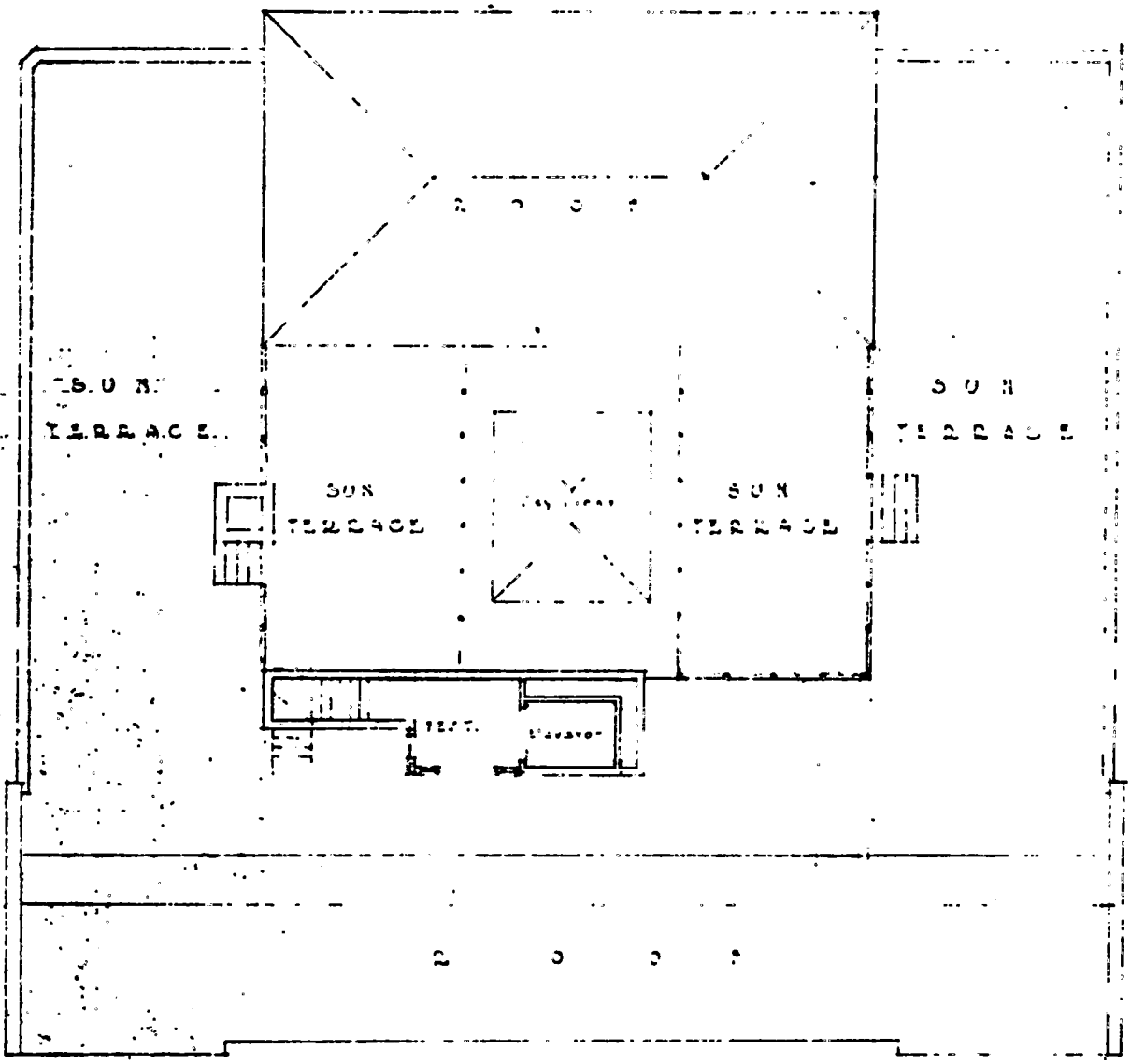
PROPOSED ALTERATION OF FORDYCE BATH HOUSE
HOT SPRINGS, ARK.

SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

EUGENE JOHN STERN INC.
ARCHITECT

128/41007
SHEET 2 OF 3

Proposed Alterations - Third Floor, ca. 1936
(Denver Service Center) 1/16" = 1'.



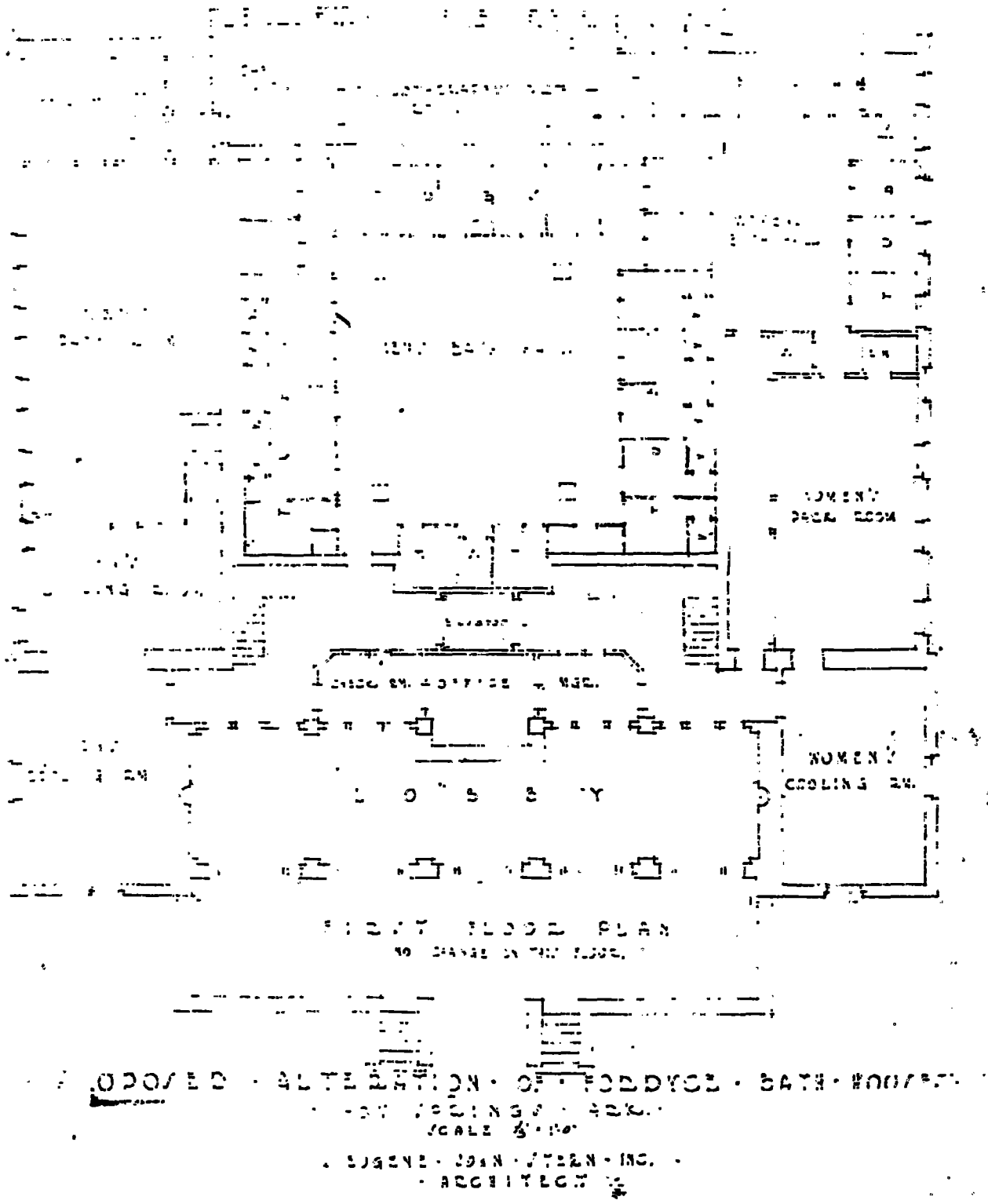
ROOF PLAN

PROPOSED ALTERATION OF FORDYCE BATH HOUSE
HOT SPRINGS, ARK.

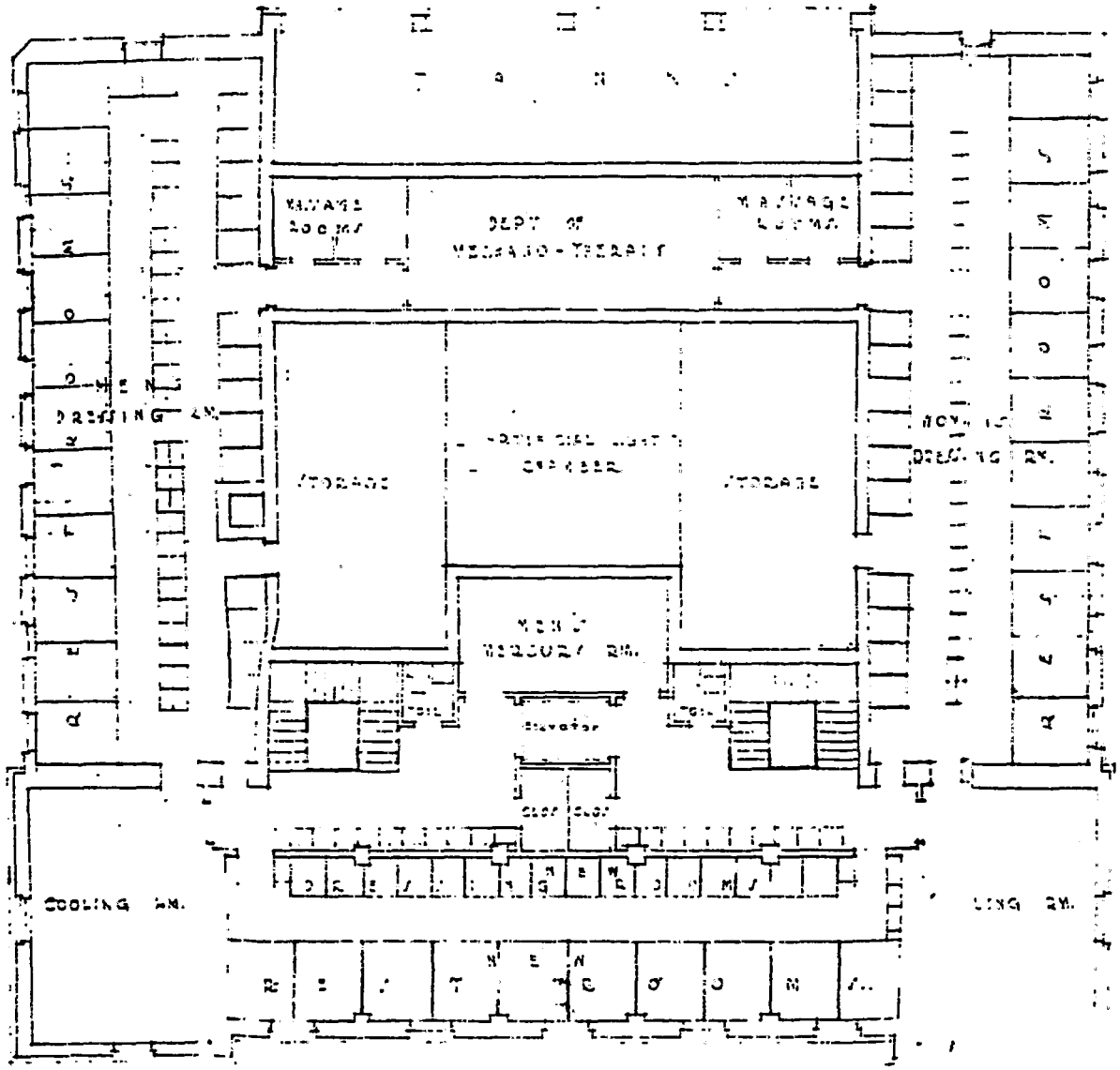
EUGENE JOHN ITTNER INC.
ARCHITECTS

128/41,007
SHEET 3 OF 3

Proposed Alterations - Roof, ca. 1936 (Denver Service Center) 1/16" - 1'.



Proposed Alterations - First Floor Plan
(U. of A. Special Collections) 1/16" = 1'.



Proposed Alterations - Second Floor Plan
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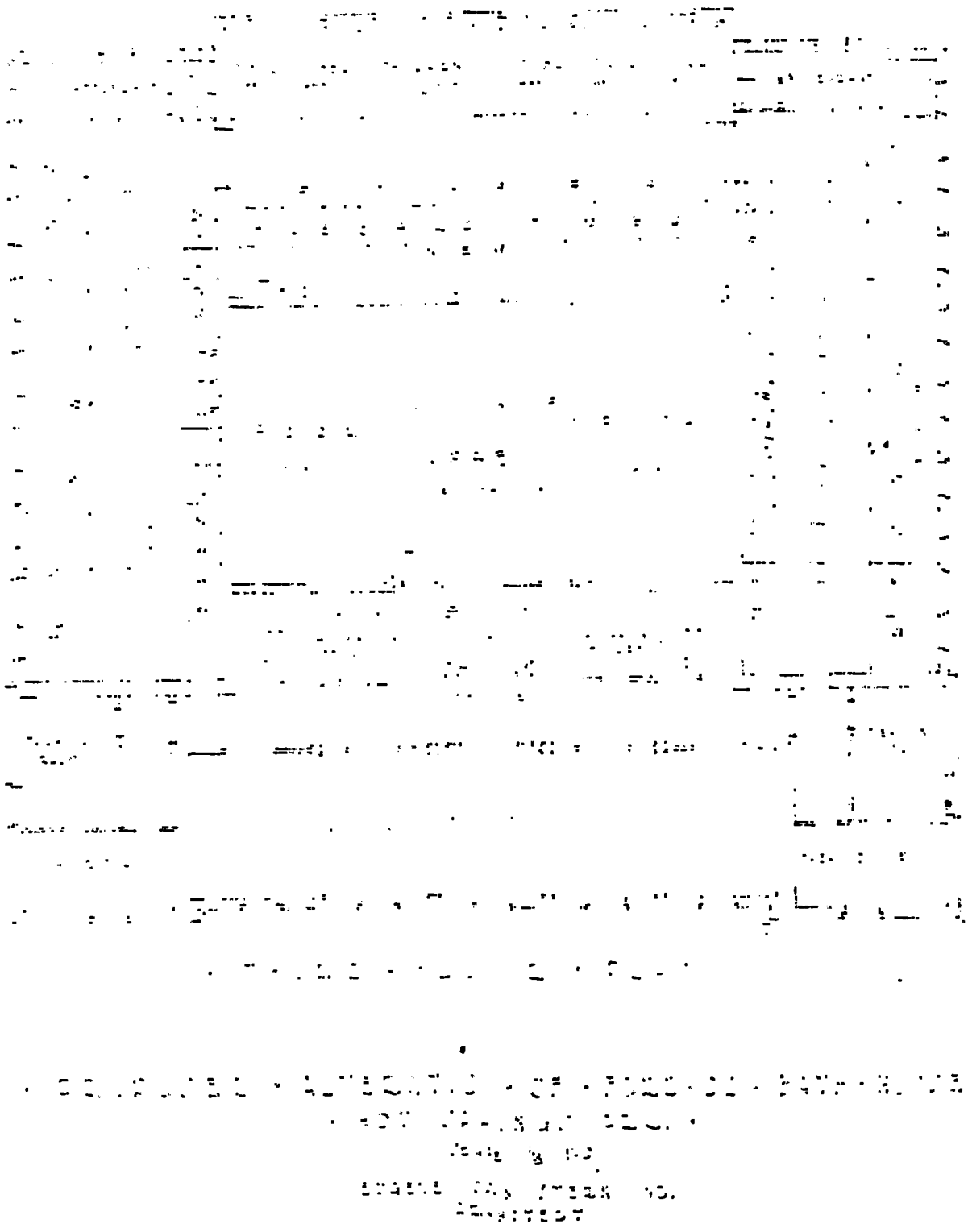

Proposed Alterations - Third Floor Plan
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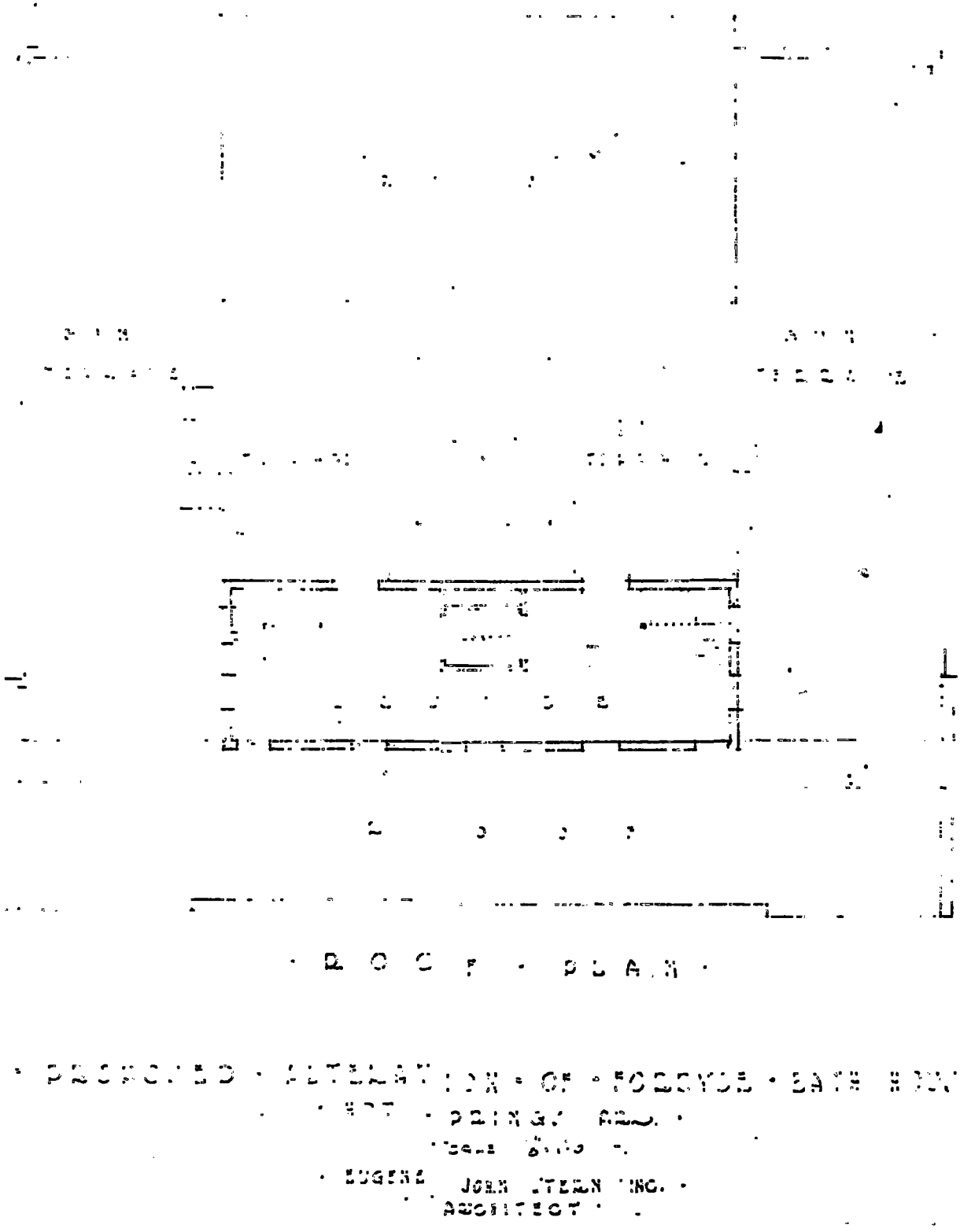
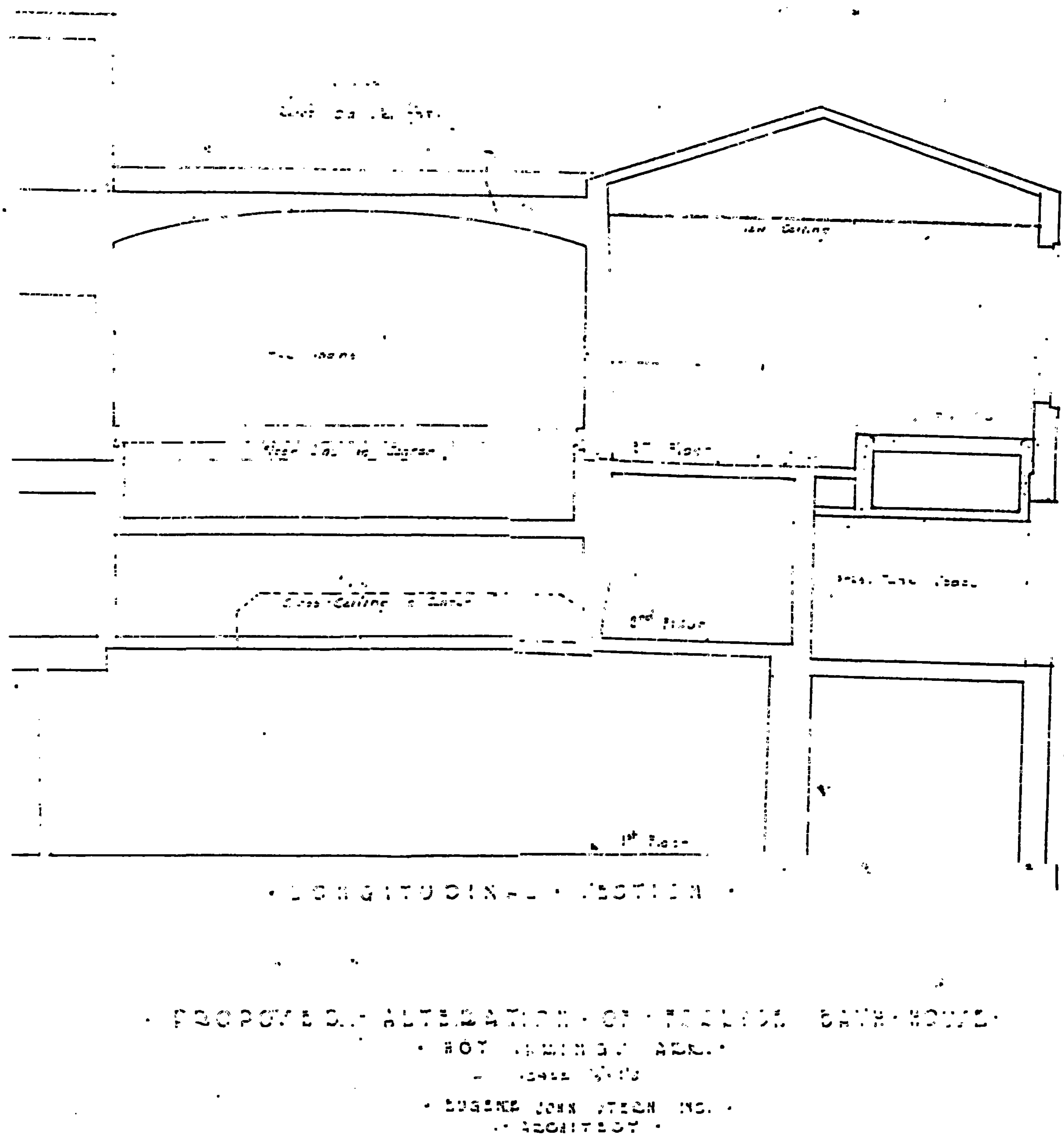


Proposed Alterations - Roof Plan (U. of A. Special Collections) 1/16" = 1'.



Proposed Alterations - Longitudinal Section
(U. of A. Special Collections) 1/16" = 1'.

ELECTRIC PASSENGER ELEVATORS.

Machine is to rest on a new heavy plank floor which is to be secured to an approved arrangement of steel beams furnished by this contractor, and secured to the framing shown on drawing.

79. Guides.-Car guides are to be cold-rolled or planed steel, of best quality, T section not less than 4½ by 3 3/8 inches, and must weigh not less than 14 pounds per linear foot.

80. Guides for counterweights shall be T section, not less than 2¾ by 2 inches, and must weigh not less than 7 pounds per linear foot.

81. All guides shall be securely fastened in place with approved heavy pattern clamps, secured to walls or framing of hoistway. Brackets are to be used in connection with clamps wherever necessary.

82. Where supports for car guides are more than 12 feet apart that portion of guide between such supports shall be stiffened with two 2½ by 3½ inch angles, weighing not less than 4.9 pounds per foot, or one 7-inch channel, weighing not less than 9.75 pounds per linear foot.

83. Ends of guides shall be tongued and grooved, forming matched joints, and where not reenforced shall be fitted with splice plates.

84. Splice plates for car guides shall not be less than 12 inches long, secured to each guide with four 5/8-inch bolts; plates for counterweight guides shall not be less than 9 inches long, secured to each guide with four ½-inch bolts.

85. Guides shall be erected perfectly plumb, and all shimming shall be done with metal.

86. Winding machine. - To be acceptable under this specification, machine must be made by manufacturers of large experience and generally recognized merit, and they must have had machines complying with specification requirements in successful operation for at least two years.

87. Machine must have all parts made to standard dimensions, using templates, jigs, etc., to secure complete interchangeability in all machines of the same size made by this manufacturer.

88. The proportion of all members shall be such that the maximum fiber stress under maximum duty specified shall not exceed the following values:

Cast iron, 2,000 pounds per square inch.
Gun iron, 3,000 pounds per square inch.
Bronze, 3,000 pounds per square inch.
Steel, 8,000 pounds per square inch.

89. Capacity and speed. - Elevator must have the capacity to lift a full live load of 2,000 pounds, exclusive of weight of car and cables, at a minimum speed of 175 feet per minute.

90. A variation of 15 per cent above this speed is the maximum permissible under all conditions of load up or down.

91. Travel. - Machine must permit a car travel of 58 feet 9 inches, more or less, from basement floor to fourth floor, but the present travel will be from first to fourth floor only.

92. Bedplate. - Bedplate to be cast iron, in one piece, with stiffening ribs to accurately maintain alignment of parts secured thereto. Pads accurately planed or milled must be provided as seats for all parts secured to bedplate. Cap screws shall be used to secure parts to bedplate wherever possible.

93. The use of brackets or other extensions bolted to bedplate to secure parts thereto will not be permitted.

94. Bedplate shall preferably be provided with raised edges to prevent oil dripping off, and if not so provided the machine must be set in a pan not less than 2 inches deep, and constructed of No. 22 United States standard gauge galvanized steel with wired edges and thimbles around anchor bolts.

95. Winding drum. - Winding drum to be of cast iron, accurately turned and spirally grooved for cables. The grooves are to be of sufficient length to accommodate at least one turn of each hoisting and drum counterweight cables in addition to that required for the future travel of the car. Cables to be secured to drum by passing same through drum face and clamping same inside of drum.

96. Drum must be mounted between bearings, not overhung, and shall be secured to gear by bolts through flanges or by means of a flexible drive. Keying drum or gear to shaft must not be depended upon to do any driving of drum. Bearings for drum shaft shall be lined with antifriction metal provided with means for taking up wear and with continuous oiling devices, and shall be of such proportions that the maximum pressure in bearing shall not exceed 350 pounds per square inch of bearing surface.

97. Type of machine. - Machine shall be of the duplex worm-gear type, with motor, brake, and drum mounted on a single self-contained base.

98. Worms. - Worms shall be right and left hand, cut from solid stock with shaft, and shall have a pitch diameter not less than 4 inches. No thrust bearings on worm shaft will be permitted.

99. Gears. - Gears shall have bronze rims. Intermeshing teeth shall be of spiral form, accurately cut, and meshing with minimum backlash. Worm path may be cut from center of spiral teeth or may be cut at one side, with a pitch circle sufficiently smaller than that of the spiral to prevent worm paths meshing, but must be cut from solid stock with spiral gear.

100. Worm wheels shall be of equal size and of such diameter relative to that of drum that the maximum pressure between worm and gear shall not exceed 2,200 pounds per gear.

101. Rims shall be secured onto cast-iron centers by turned or threaded bolts driven or screwed into reamed or tapped holes, with end of bolt headed over after being screwed up tight. Bolt holes through the joint between the rim and center will not be permitted

102. Gears shall be formed and fitted to standards to permit interchangeability.

103. Gears must be so perfectly fitted that no appreciable vibration will be felt in car at any speed or load within the limits specified, and shall operate without appreciable noise.

104. Gear cases. - Cases for inclosing gears to be constructed of cast iron of ample strength, arranged to hold a body of oil. Centers of gear shafts and distance between centers of worm and gear shafts shall be nonadjustable, and shall be the same in all machines of one size to permit interchangeability of gears. Gear cases shall be provided with handholes for inspection of gears and removal of worm, and with stuffing box for worm shaft arranged to prevent rattling at all tensions of packing.

Motors. - Motors to be wound for volts direct current. Contractor must verify voltage before commencing work. They are to be of design adapted to elevator service, and must be capable of developing the required power and starting torque and of withstanding temporary overloads of at least 50 per cent and shocks occasioned by frequent starting under heavy loads. Bearings to be of the self-oiling type. Motors must be designed to operate practically without noise.

Compounding. - The motors must be compound wound, to give a starting torque of 19 times full load running torque with not exceeding 135 per cent full load running current.

Field coils. - Field coils must be form wound and so secured that they may be readily removed without unwinding.

Armatures. - Armatures must have slotted cores, with windings thoroughly insulated and secured firmly in place. They must be balanced both mechanically and electrically and be well ventilated and easily removable. The end of each armature shaft shall be provided with a square or slotted opening to receive crank for turning machine by hand.

Commutators. - Commutators to be of drop-forged or hard-drawn copper of highest conducitivity, insulated with mica or micanite of even thickness and proper hardness to insure uniform wear, and must run free from sparking or flashing at the brushes at any load up to specified full load or during change of load. They must have ample bearing surface and radial depth for wear.

Brushes. - Brushes to be of carbon of such cross-sectional area as will not cause sparking, burning, or blackening of commutator at load specified.

Brush holders. - Brush holders to be of such design that no chattering will result from continuous use. Collective adjustment of brushes to be made by means of rocker, and individual brush tension is to be maintained by a spring. If the motors are of the interpole type, the rocker arms may be omitted.

Insulation. - The frame of each motor must have an insulation resistance from the field coils, armature windings, and brushes of not less than 1 megohm. Motors must be capable of standing a breakdown test of 1,500 volts alternating current for one minute.

Heating effect. - Each motor is to be run continuously at full load for two hours, and at the expiration of that time the temperature of the armature and fields shall not exceed 50° C. and of the commutator 55° C. above the temperature of the surrounding atmosphere. Temperature to be

measured by the thermometers shielded by cotton waste in a manner approved by department's agent.

Efficiency. - Bidders are required to state in their proposal the rated horsepower output of the motors, the efficiency of which must not be less than follows: One-half load, 82 per cent; and full load, 87 per cent. If shunt field resistance is used in making shop test, it is to be understood that the losses in the field rheostat will not be included in calculating motor losses.

Shop test. - The efficiency, heating effect, insulation resistance, starting torque, etc., of each motor shall be determined by actual test in the presence of department's authorized agent, who shall determine the test conditions.

Efficiency test shall be by stray power method and torque test by magnetization (i. e., reduction of speed with 135 per cent full-load current and with series field in circuit).

The test to be made at the shop where motors are constructed, and to begin within 10 days after receipt of notice from contractors of their readiness to commence test; and to be at the expense of the contractors, except traveling and other necessary expenses of the department's agent.

Delayed tests to be as hereinbefore specified.

The Supervising Architect reserves the right to waive the shop test, and require contractor to submit test sheets of each motor in triplicate for approval, it being understood that those portions not waived shall be exacted when the apparatus is installed, if not performed at the shop as specified above.

Brakes. - Each brake pulley is preferably to be the face of coupling between armature and worm shafts. In any event the brake pulley must be shrunk or keyed direct to worm shaft.

Each brake leather must be in two sections, either of which is a complete brake, and will be effective on failure of the other half.

The area of the brake leather shall not be less than 60 square inches per shoe. Brake shoes to be applied by gravity or a spring and in either case the pressure must be adjustable.

Brakes to be released by an electromagnet. Each magnet must be fitted with a device to cut resistance in series with brake coil when solenoid core is fully lifted, or must be compound wound with series coil in series with motor series field.

The circuit of each brake magnet must be opened by the several safety devices so as to apply the brake at both limits of travel; when car attains excessive speed; when operator removes hand from car-switch lever or brings it to stop position; when the emergency switch is opened; and on failure of current.

Finish of machines. - Each machine is to be filled, rubbed down, and painted one coat before leaving the shop. When erected and ready for operation it is to be finished with one additional coat of paint of tint approved by custodian. All other new iron work to be painted 2 coats of best quality black asphaltum paint.

Wrenches. - A complete set of wrenches for each elevator machine is to be furnished and mounted in a suitable hardwood frame, located where directed by the custodian.

Type of control. - The elevator control is to be of the full magnet type, consisting of an operating switch in car electrically connected with controller magnets which make the various connections governing direction, acceleration and speed.

All switches are to be of the butt type, actuated by solenoids direct; no long-stroke solenoids, dashpots, racks, pinions, pilot motors, cams, or sliding contacts (except in car switch) will be permitted.

Each controller shall consist of a first quality black enameled slate panel of ample size and not less than 1½ inches thick, securely fastened to an angle iron frame. Switches to be mounted on the front of the board and resistances and connections on the back. Solenoids either front or back. All parts to be readily accessible for renewal and adjustment.

Each controller must contain the following appliances which must perform the functions specified:

Potential switch. - A double pole solenoid operated main-line switch which, when opened, will completely disconnect motor and brake circuits must be provided. This switch may or may not operate in conjunction with car switch, but must be opened by the several safeties hereinafter specified.

Direction switches. - Direction switches may make and break circuit and must reverse motors under control of operator. These switches must be plainly marked "Up" and "Down"; must be interlocked mechanically or electrically; and must be provided with magnetic blow-outs.

Each brake circuit to be closed by a switch coincident with operation of direction switches.

Accelerating switches. - Accelerating switches shall cut out resistance in series with armature by successive steps, so as to give a gradual acceleration of car, and limit the maximum accelerating current to 35 per cent in excess of the speed-load running current, with controller set for five-second acceleration. The closing of these switches may be controlled by counterelectromotive force, current strength or fall of potential through resistance.

The switch which cuts out series field shall be operated independent of any time element in order to positively prevent reversal of series field.

Controllers must permit of slow-down before making stop and must also produce a dynamic braking action on stopping.

Controllers must prevent the admission of more current than is necessary to lift the maximum load. In event that a relay is necessary, same must be self-restoring.

All contacts shall have brass or copper for one face and carbon for the other, with cushion springs, or shall have copper to copper contacts with auxiliary carbon break of such proportions that maximum current density shall not exceed 100 amperes per square inch of contact area.

If carbon to copper contacts are used the contact cutting out series field must be arranged to cut resistance in series with field when same is cut out, or a graphite block

must be used in lieu of carbon.

Acceleration and dynamic resistances shall be cast iron, insulated with mica and mounted to give uniform contact pressure between grids at all temperatures. Resistances in connection with shunt field, solenoids, etc., shall be wound on noncombustible bases and mounted so as to be readily removed.

If the shunt field of motor is left in circuit when machine is at rest, resistance must be inserted in series with same to limit the current consumed to 2 per cent of full-load current of motor.

All wiring on controllers shall be neatly arranged and securely fastened in place; must be readily accessible and easily traced. A complete wiring diagram must be furnished to custodian.

All parts of controllers must be rugged in design to withstand hard usage of elevator service.

Guide grips. - New guide grips of first-class design, which become operative whenever the maximum speed limit is exceeded in descending, must be provided on each car. Guide grips shall not have less than 1/8-inch clearance.

The grips must be operated by a cable passing through a clamping device controlled by a centrifugal governor and around a drum under the car. When the rope is clamped the drum is to revolve and operate the guide grips by means of screws.

In lieu of above, cable may pass around a block-and-fall device under car which, when cable is clamped, will operate guide grips.

The guide grips shall be tested by dropping car with a net load on the platform equal to two-thirds the maximum load specified.

The total distance traveled by the car after the rope has been cut shall be not less than 6 feet nor more than 9 feet. Car must not be out of level, when grips have set, more than ½ inch in each foot of length between guide rails. Governor must be set for 140 per cent of contract speed.

Provision must be made to release guide grips without going under the car.

The test is to be made before connecting the cables. It is to be made at the building, in the presence of the department's representative, who will advise the department when a satisfactory test has been made.

141. Automatic limit switches. - Switches operated from drum shaft must be provided to slow down and stop car at upper and lower landings independent of operator. The variation in point of stopping with no load and full load on car shall not exceed 12 inches.

Ultimate limits. - Limit switches are to be provided in hoistway which open potential switch when car travel is exceeded in either direction. These limits shall be located at least 6 inches beyond the maximum travel at which automatic limits stop car.

All limit switches are to be butt contact copper to carbon break, of ample size. If limits break main line circuits, current densities shall not exceed twice that specified for controller contacts.

Speed governors. - A centrifugal governor must be provided to cut off each motor current at determined maximum speed. If this governor is used to operate the guide grips, it must perform both operations independently; the motor current to be cut off before the speed at which the guide grips operate has been attained.

146. Slack-cable switch.- A safety switch must be provided for cutting off current if for any reason the car is suddenly checked in hoistway while descending or upon the breaking of one or both of the hoisting cables.

147. Car-switch stop. - The car switch must be provided with an attachment which will bring the switch to stop position if for any reason the operator removes his hand from the switch lever.

148. Emergency switch. - A switch which may be used by operator to open the controller circuit through the potential switch in case of accident is to be provided in car.

149. Cable separate from and similar in construction to the car-switch cables must connect the emergency switch to the controller.

150. Buffers. - Two extra-heavy spring buffers supported on substantial steel framing are to be provided for car and two for counterweights.

151. Sheaves. - All sheaves are to be cast iron of as large diameter as conditions will permit, grooved to accommodate the size cables used. Separate sheaves for drum and car counterweight cables shall be provided where space permits.

152. Wherever space permits, all sheaves shall be pressed onto steel shafts. Sheaves turning but not sliding on shafts shall be fitted with bronze bushings. Sheaves turning and sliding need not have bushings.

153. Bearings for sheaves shall be lined with anti-friction metal, shall be split horizontally to permit examination of shaft, shall be provided with compression grease cups, and shall be so proportioned that the maximum bearing pressure shall not exceed 350 pounds per square inch. Provide copper drip pans under bearings of overhead sheaves.

154. Cables. - The elevator is to be provided with 6 cables - 2 hoisting cables, 2 drum counterweight cables, and 2 car counterweight cables. The cables connected to drum are to be of such length that there will be at least one complete turn of each on the drum at any position of the car.

155. All cables are to be best Swedish iron, standard hoisting rope, 5/8 inch diameter, consisting of 6 strands 19 wires each, wound about a hemp core or center.

156. Cables to be secured to car and counterweight frames with thimble shackles.

157. Counterweights. - The car is to be counterweighted directly. The load is to be partially counterweighted at back of drum.

158. The total overweight must not exceed one-third the maximum load.

Cars. - The present cars are to be reused. Cars shall have new best quality compressed-cork flooring not less than ½ inch thick securely fastened to present wood floor. Entrance to each car to be provided with checkered brass threshold, flush with cork.

Provide handhole with brass cover in floor of each car for access to guide grip screw.

Each car shall also have new guide shoes.

Guide shoes shall be fitted with removable wearing gibs; must be mounted to permit self-alignment and be provided with spring take-up for side play and first-class guide-lubricating devices.

Provide new roof on each ornamental cage. New roof to have a removable panel in top for emergency exit. Provide removable panels in sides of cages for access to new hoistway limits. New parts of cages to be furnished to match present portions.

Annunciators. - A new electric annunciator of the needle type, with metal case finished to harmonize with the car, is to be placed in each car. Each annunciator is to be connected to a separate battery and to push buttons at each landing.

Annunciator wiring in the hoistway is to be run in iron conduit.

Light fixtures. - Each car is to have a new electric fixture of simple design finished to match inclosure, fitted with 1 Edison base keyless socket and 8-inch diameter prismatic reflector properly connected by means of all necessary wires, etc., to the electric wiring of the building. Furnish new flexible cable from outlets in place to cars.

A flush snap switch is to be mounted in car for control of the electric light.

Tablets. - This contractor will be required to furnish and install near each elevator machine a polished black enameled slate tablet not less than 1¼ inches thick, or, if mounted with controller board of same thickness, having mounted thereon one double-pole single-break knife switch and one 150-volt deadbeat direct-current voltmeter and one direct-current ammeter of capacity 10 per cent greater than the maximum starting or accelerating current. Both instruments are to be of the D'Arsonval type, inclosed in iron dustproof cases of design suitable for mounting on the tablet. The scales must be large and plain, that of the voltmeter being such that each division indicates not more than 2 volts. Bidders must state in proposal sheet the make of the instruments they propose to furnish.

Ammeter is to be connected in the circuit by means of two single-pole switches in such a manner that the instrument may be cut out of the circuit without the service remaining interrupted or any change of connections being necessary. All connections to be made on back of tablet by means of copper lugs to which the motor leads and mains hereinafter provided are to be soldered.

Connections. - This contractor is to remove the feeders from switchboard to the present elevator machines as noted on the plans and install in lieu thereof new feeders of size noted for supplying both the old and new elevator at each end of the building.

New switches and fuses are to be provided on switchboard and the bus bars are to be made larger, as noted on drawings. A fuse tablet, inclosed in a steel cabinet, is to be provided at each end of the building, as shown on drawings.

All connections from switchboard in place to each new elevator machine, controller, etc., and also the connecting up of the present electric elevators to the new feeder must be made by this contractor.

All conductors are to be run in steel conduit terminating in approved conduit fittings except such connections between controller and motor as may be so short as to be self-supporting and these must be fully protected from abrasion or other mechanical injury. Present conduits from switchboard to present elevator machines may be used as noted on drawings.

Conductors inside the building must be rubber-covered, well-tinned, soft-drawn copper of highest conductivity, made in strict accordance with the latest edition of National Electrical Code, and must have a distinctive marking of the maker.

All conductors, No. 8 Brown & Sharp gauge and larger, are to be made by soldering wires in cup lugs.

No joints or splices will be permitted in feeders except at outlets.

Wiring system must test free from short circuits or grounds and the insulation resistance between conductors and between conductors and ground must not be less than 1 megohm.

Where size of conductors is not given, the capacity must be such that the maximum current carried will not exceed the limits prescribed by the National Electric Code, and the drop in potential must not exceed 3 per cent at full load.

(1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Arkansas	
COUNTY	
Garland	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

1. Fordyce Bathhouse

"Bath House Row", placed on National Register September 11, 1974.

Description *

The present original appearance of the Fordyce Bath House marks it as one of the handsomest on Bath House Row. Built 1914-15, it is in the Italian-Spanish Revival, which was primarily a western revival, and had little influence on the East Coast. Mem who made the style famous were George Washington Smith, Van Pelt and Maybury, Reginald Johnson in California, and J.J.B. Benedict in Colorado. Regional variation of note is the New Mexican Revival led by Hendrickson of Rapp and Rapp, and John Gaw Meem of Santa Fe.

Built of tapestry brick in a losenge pattern, and terra cotta, a favorite building material of the style, the design is marked by good proportions and the overhanging Italianate roof. The marquee is of glass and copper, and has a parapet enriched with Greek motifs. Under the cornice the heavy frieze is embellished with a vase design, and the first floor is treated with rustication in terra cotta. The windows are of special interest, as the upper parts of them - - that is, the third story windows are arcua ted and are treated with the Gibbs surround, or the heavy rustication which the Englishman Gibbs borrowed from the Italians. A richly worked balcony separates these windows from the second floor ones which are more in the manner of the Spanish Plateresque, having colonettes on either side of a lintel enriched with a carved head. The ends of the building are finished with curvilinear gables. All the exterior needs is a good washing, as it is in excellent condition, and under no circumstances should it be sand-blasted as that would destroy the surface of the brick.

Designed by Mann and Stern, architects of Little Rock, the interior was given special attention. There is a large atrium which forms a kind of atrium, lighted by a skylight, which has a notable stained glass design in the skylight. There is a spacious "museum" room, which has a vaulted ceiling, and is treated with carefully detailed woodwork, and the entrance lobby is also worthy of note. It has pilasters and rich decoration, and carefully cleaned and restored, would make a handsome entrance to this fine building.

Significance:*

As few of the great spas of the 19th century in America are still in existence, the Bath House Row in Hot Springs takes on additional significance. This building is the finest of the group, and is an outstanding example of the Spanish-Italian Revival. The entire group, with their beautiful planting, and the fine Italian Revival fountain which adjoins this building, is the finest row of bath houses left in America. With the new master plan, of which this survey is a part, this building could easily be restored, and with added functions, become an important part of the new master plan. As the American public tires of the infinite standardized motel, such variations as Bath House Row take a new signigicance and importance, as a valuable part of our heritage. It is also one which the American public is taking a renewed interest in, as it travels more and can afford longer vacations.

*Prepared by Frederick D. Nichols, Langhorne Professor of Architecture, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia. 22901

National Archives.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

Form 1684

GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, VICE-PRESIDENT   NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT   BELVIDERE BROOKS, VICE-PRESIDENT

RECEIVED AT S. W. COR. [illegible]
TELEPHONE MAIN [illegible]

[illegible] GOVT LC

HOTSPRINGS ARK FEB 27 1[illegible]5

SECRETARY INTERIOR

WASHINGTON DC

12-4-17

FT [illegible] BATH-HOUSE COMPLETED AND READY TO OPEN FOR BUSINESS TODAY [illegible] AND WATER SUPPLY WILL BE TURNED ON IN THE ABSENCE OF INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CONTRARY WIRE BASIS OF [illegible] IN ORDER THAT WATER RENTAL MAY BE COLLECTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

PARKS SUPT

1240PM

SOURCES CONSULTED

The compilation of historical data on the Fordyce Bathhouse was totally dependent on the documentary resources which recorded the evolution of the building. Unfortunately, the records were scattered and incomplete, but there was enough information gathered that helped to assemble many missing links.

Of the books, the most valuable sources for illustrations were the advertising publications that the Fordyce distributed. They were not dated, but I was able to approximate when three of them were printed. For the most complete early descriptions of the bathhouse, the 1915 newspaper articles covering its opening were the best sources.

No original drawings of the Fordyce were found, even though there was an abundance of correspondence showing the drawings were on file in Washington at the National Park Service offices. Most of the letters and memos relating to the Fordyce were transferred to the National Archives, but no trace of the early architectural drawings was found. There were found, however, many sets of drawings of the proposed alterations in the 1930's at the National Archives, the University of Arkansas Library, the Denver Service Center, and the Blass architectural firm. Even though many

of the drawings were quite similar, they were not alike.

Bathhouse correspondence was an invaluable tool for documenting the building fabric. The Hot Springs National Park has in its central files mostly carbon copies of letters, arranged in chronological order, that relate to the Fordyce. These were incomplete in that many were cover letters for other correspondence being forwarded to Washington. The papers at the National Archives helped to fit many of the pieces together, yet still much was still a mystery. Two uncatalogued collections in Arkansas of Fordyce material played a significant role in documenting the building's history through correspondence. The University of Arkansas Library has many bathhouse letters as well as pages from a ledger which dates from 1942 to 1949. The Arkansas History Commission uncovered in a recent move an uncatalogued collection of Fordyce papers which had been misplaced probably since the 1930's or 1940's.

Even though the bathhouse has remained in the Fordyce family until recently, the Forydces were never very active in bathhouse business. Because the bathhouse was not a primary source of income, the family members had other invested interests, and left the business responsibilities to the manager. Agnes Neimeyer, the widow of the Fordyce's manager of thirty years had few dealings with bathhouse business, and kept no records of her husband's.

The one source I would recommend persuing for further study would be Powell Fordyce of St. Louis, the family patriarch and archivist. After litigation between the Fordyce family and the United States has been completed, he would probably allow his records to be perused.

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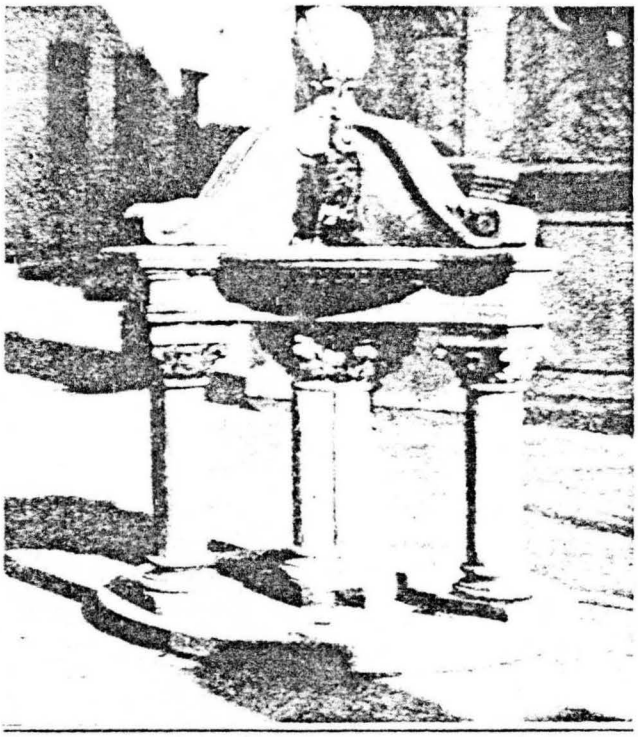

"He who comes here to drink,
will come to drink again."

Fountain in Front of Fordyce ca. 1924 (HSNP).