

JEFF. SMITHS PARLOR MUSEUM
(Soapy Smith Museum)
(Soapy's)
Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park
Skagway and White Pass Historic District
321 Second Avenue
Skagway
Municipality of Skagway Borough
Alaska

HABS AK-223
HABS AK-223

BLACK AND WHITE FILM PHOTOGRAPHS
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS
FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

JEFF. SMITHS PARLOR MUSEUM

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Within Skagway, cardinal directions are colloquially oriented with reference to the city's street grid instead of true north. The north-south axis is aligned with Broadway, making "north" closer to northeast. The photo captions follow this convention.

The building is not square; camera standards were set plumb unless otherwise indicated.

Additional general perspective views that include this structure can be found within the photographs of the City of Skagway (HABS AK-15).

INDEX TO BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS

Robert C. Park, photographer, October 2022

- | | |
|----------|--|
| AK-223-1 | White false front of Jeff. Smiths Parlor Museum seen fronting Second Avenue on the right. View to southwest. |
| AK-223-2 | Jeff. Smiths Parlor Museum (also called "Soapy's") and grounds on the right. The Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park Visitor Center (HABS AK-291) and Administrative Building (HABS AK-292) are seen in the background on the south side of Second Avenue across Broadway. View to southeast. |
| AK-223-3 | Rear of the building, sitting within a metal fence line, north of the railroad tracks. The gable-roofed structure in the foreground is the World War II Commissary (HABS AK-227). Twin Dewey Peaks seen in background. View to northeast. |
| AK-223-4 | Seen from the south, the rear of the Jeff. Smiths Parlor Museum and its modern outbuilding, constructed by the National Park Service to house modern fire suppression, heating, and electrical systems. Objects from the park's George & Edna Rapuzzi Collection feature prominently on concrete risers against the side of the building. View to northeast. |
| AK-223-5 | The west lawn of the building includes circulation paths to the rear entrance, seating, interpretive panels, and objects from the NPS George & Edna Rapuzzi Collection. View to north. |

JEFF. SMITHS PARLOR MUSEUM
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- AK-223-6 The rear of Jeff. Smiths Parlor Museum is visible on the left. The building in the foreground is the historic Itjen House, owned by the National Park Service and operated by Alaska Geographic. View to northwest.
- AK-223-7 Front entrance to the Jeff. Smiths Parlor Museum. The building is contributing resource #301 to the Skagway & White Pass District National Historic Landmark. View to south.
- AK-223-8 North elevation with scale. View to south.
- AK-223-9 Three sections of the structure (identified by varying roof gable heights) that make up the Jeff. Smiths Parlor Museum. Also shown is the formal front entrance with beveled horizontal siding and false front contrasted by the more vernacular board and batten siding along the west wall. View to southeast.
- AK-223-10 A jail cell door was removed by park maintenance staff for rehabilitation and the wall was covered by plywood at the time of photography. The jail cell door was not operable and applied to the exterior of the structure. View to northeast.
- AK-223-11 The rear of the Jeff. Smiths Parlor Museum as seen from outside the fence line and across the adjacent railroad tracks. The modern utility outbuilding to the east houses to fire suppression, heating, and electrical systems. View to north.
- AK-223-12 The formal front entrance on the north side of the building with a false front facade and beveled siding contrasted to the vernacular board and batten siding of the east wall. View to southwest.
- AK-223-13 Detail of east wall showing board and batten siding, varying heights of gabled roofing, wood roof shingles, and jail cell bars applied to the exterior of the window. View to southwest.
- AK-223-14 The building was rehabilitated by the National Park Service and opened as a museum space in 2016. The completed interiors include museum objects on display from the George & Edna Rapuzzi Collection. Shown here are two animatronic figures: Jefferson Randolph (Soapy) Smith at the bar and Dangerous Dan McGee seated. View to southeast.
- AK-223-15 Detail of the bar scene with animatronic Jeff "Soapy" Smith. View to southeast.
- AK-223-16 Replicas of historic newspapers line the west wall of Room 1. Dangerous Dan McGee seated in the corner. View to southwest.
- AK-223-17 Dangerous Dan McGee and Lady Lou (named from Robert Service poems) sit inside Room 1. View to southwest.
- AK-223-18 Animatronic figure Lady Lou, is featured on the "loo." View to south.

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- AK-223-19 Room 1, the bar scene of the Jeff. Smiths Parlor Museum. View to north.
- AK-223-20 Room 2 features both original and replica gambling artifacts from the original saloon. View to southwest.
- AK-223-21 Metal objects feature prominently on both the wall and the ceiling of Room 2. View to northeast.
- AK-223-22 View of Room 3, looking into Room 2 where the potbelly stove is seen. View to northwest.
- AK-223-23 Taxidermied interlocked moose specimens on display along back wall of Room 3. Also shown are the collection of framed Klondike Gold Rush era photographs, letters, and memorabilia (some original, some replicas). View to southwest.
- AK-223-24 Detail of diorama at the south end of the building with taxidermied moose, wolf, and ermine; plus an impressive collection of display moss and real moose droppings for authenticity. Oral histories capture the story of the interlocked moose and photograph on the wall shows them, as found. Museum curators and conservators worked extensively to conserve the diorama and ready it for public viewing. Also seen is the reflection of HABS photographer, Rob Park, and his large-format camera. View to south.



SIGNIFICANCE

THE JEFF. SMITHS PARLOR MUSEUM BUILDING WAS THE HEADQUARTERS FOR JEFFERSON RANDOLPH "SOAPY" SMITH DURING HIS TENURE AS SELF-ANOINTED MAYOR OF SKAGWAY, ALASKA DURING THE FIRST YEARS OF THE 1897 KLONDIKE GOLD RUSH. FROM THERE HE CONTROLLED A GANG OF CON MEN ESTIMATED AT BETWEEN 200 AND 300 STRONG. AT SMITH'S PARLOR, J.D. FRANK STEWART, A RETURNING GOLD MINER, WAS ROBBED OF HIS GOLD, WHICH LED TO SOAPY'S DEATH IN A GUN BATTLE WITH FRANK REID AT THE FRONT OF THE JUNEAU WARF, IN SKAGWAY, ON THE EVENING OF JULY 8, 1898. THE PARLOR WAS INTIMATELY ASSOCIATED WITH SOAPY AND HIS GANG DURING THAT EARLY LAWLESS PERIOD OF SKAGWAY'S EXISTENCE WHEN "HOLD-UPS, ROBBERIES, AND SHOOTINGS WERE PART OF THE DAILY ROUTINE." SOAPY, OF COURSE, WAS ONE OF THE MAIN CHARACTERS OF THE KLONDIKE STAMPEDE.

THE MUSEUM BUILDING IS ALSO ASSOCIATED WITH THE SKAGWAY FIRE DEPARTMENT, MARTIN ITJEN, GEORGE RAPUZZI, AND EARLY SKAGWAY TOURISM. ITJEN ARRIVED IN ALASKA IN 1898 AS A STAMPEDER, BUT NEVER MADE IT TO THE KLONDIKE AND RETURNED TO SKAGWAY TO SETTLE DOWN. IN THE NEXT TEN YEARS, HE DEVELOPED A TOUR OF GOLD RUSH SKAGWAY AND IN THE 1930S PURCHASED AND REMODELED THE BUILDING AND TURNED IT INTO THE JEFF. SMITHS PARLOR MUSEUM AS ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS ON HIS TOUR. HE WAS AN ACTIVE PROMOTER OF SKAGWAY'S FRONTIER MYTHOLOGY AND EARLY TOURISM BUSINESS AND RAN THE PARLOR MUSEUM UNTIL HIS DEATH IN 1942.

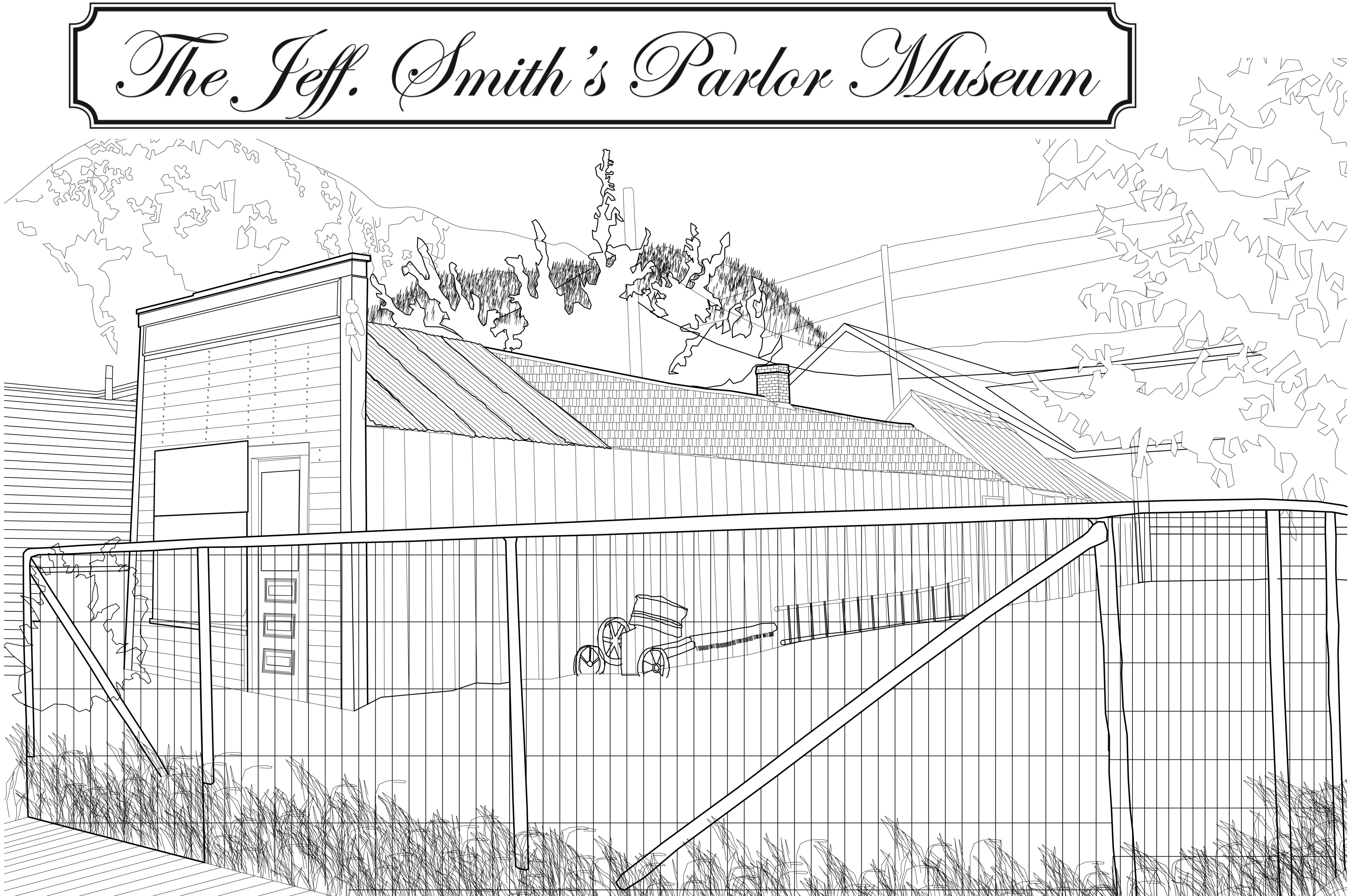
BORN IN SKAGWAY, ALASKA IN 1899, GEORGE RAPUZZI CONTINUED IN ITJEN'S FOOTSTEPS AND WAS ALSO AN EXTRAORDINARY COLLECTOR OF GOLD RUSH MEMORABILIA. RAPUZZI ACQUIRED THE BUILDING FOLLOWING ITJEN'S DEATH IN 1942. HE MOVED THE MUSEUM TO SECOND AVENUE IN 1963, REMODELED IT ONCE AGAIN AND REOPENED THE MUSEUM FOR ANOTHER 10-15 YEARS.

FOLLOWING RAPUZZI'S DEATH IN 1986, THE MUSEUM PASSED, ALONG WITH A LARGE COLLECTION OF MEMORABILIA AND ARTIFACTS RELATED TO SKAGWAY HISTORY, TO HIS NIECE, PHYLLIS BROWN, WHO IN APRIL 2007 SOLD IT TO THE RASMUSON FOUNDATION. THE RASMUSON FOUNDATION PLANS TO DONATE THE MUSEUM TO THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AND SKAGWAY AND THE WHITE PASS DISTRICT NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK IN EARLY 2009.

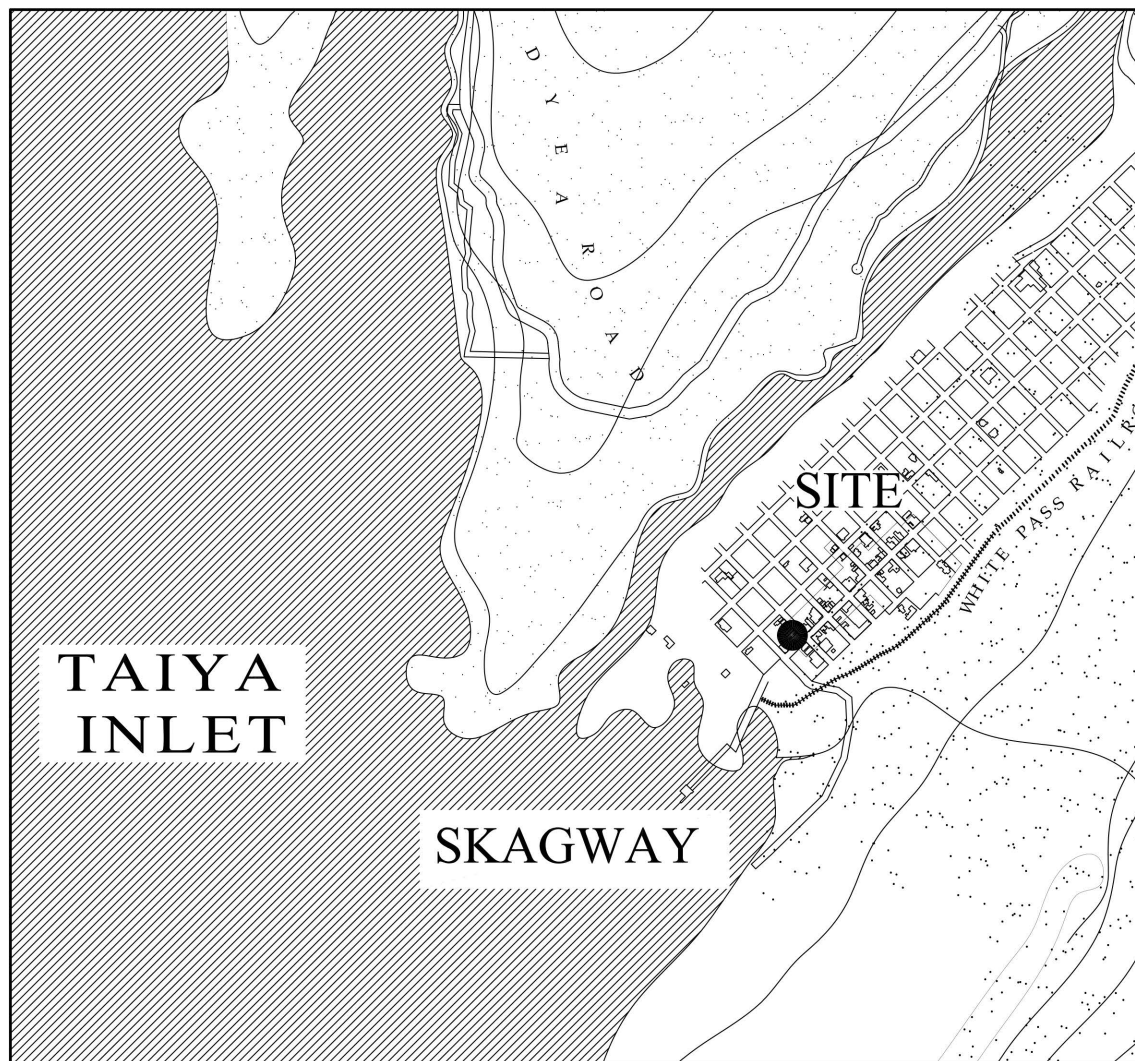
THIS BUILDING IS A CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE TO THE SKAGWAY AND WHITE PASS DISTRICT NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK. IT IS SIGNIFICANT NOT ONLY FOR ITS ASSOCIATION WITH THE KLONDIKE GOLD RUSH PHENOMENON BUT ALSO FOR THE POST GOLD RUSH INDIVIDUALS WHO OWNED AND MAINTAINED THE BUILDING TO KEEP THE STORY OF SKAGWAY IN THE MIND OF THE TOURING PUBLIC FOR OVER A HUNDRED YEARS.

THIS PROJECT WAS EXECUTED UNDER THE PROGRAM DIRECTION OF CATHERINE LAVOIE, ACTING MANAGER OF HABS AND VICTOR KNOX, ACTING ALASKA REGIONAL DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE. DOCUMENTATION WAS CARRIED OUT DURING THE SUMMER OF 2008 UNDER THE GENERAL DIRECTION OF STEVEN M. PETERSON, SENIOR HISTORICAL ARCHITECT AND GRANT CROSBY, HISTORICAL ARCHITECT; LISL COADY, MAGGIE FERNANDEZ, TARA IKENOUE AND HARUNA MADONO, ARCHITECTURAL INTERNS WITH THE ALASKA REGIONAL OFFICE.

HAIGH, JANE G., KING CON: THE STORY OF SOAPY SMITH, FRIDAY 501: WHITEHORSE, YUKON, 2006, P.67.
CLIFFORD, HOWARD, THE SKAGWAY STORY, ALASKA NORTHWEST PUBLISHING COMPANY: ANCHORAGE, AK, 1975.



1 STATE MAP SCALE 1" = 375 MILES 0 100 200 300 400 500 MI 1 CM = 322 KM 0 200 400 600 800 KM



2 TOWN MAP SCALE 1" = 2000 FT 0 500 1000 2000 CENTIMETERS 1:24,000 0 200 400 600



3 VICINITY MAP SCALE 1" = 135 FT 0 100 200 300 CENTIMETERS 1:1600 0 10 20 40 60 80

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TEAM MEMBERS

LISL COADY	INTERN, B.ARCH CANDIDATE '09	NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
GRANT CROSBY	HISTORICAL ARCHITECT	NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
MAGGIE FERNANDEZ	INTERN, M.ARCH CANDIDATE '10	NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
TARA IKENOUE	INTERN, M.S. HPRES CANDIDATE '09	NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
HARUNA MADONO	INTERN, M.ARCH CANDIDATE '10	NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

JEFF SMITH'S PARLOR MUSEUM
KLONDIKE GOLD RUSH NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

ALASKA

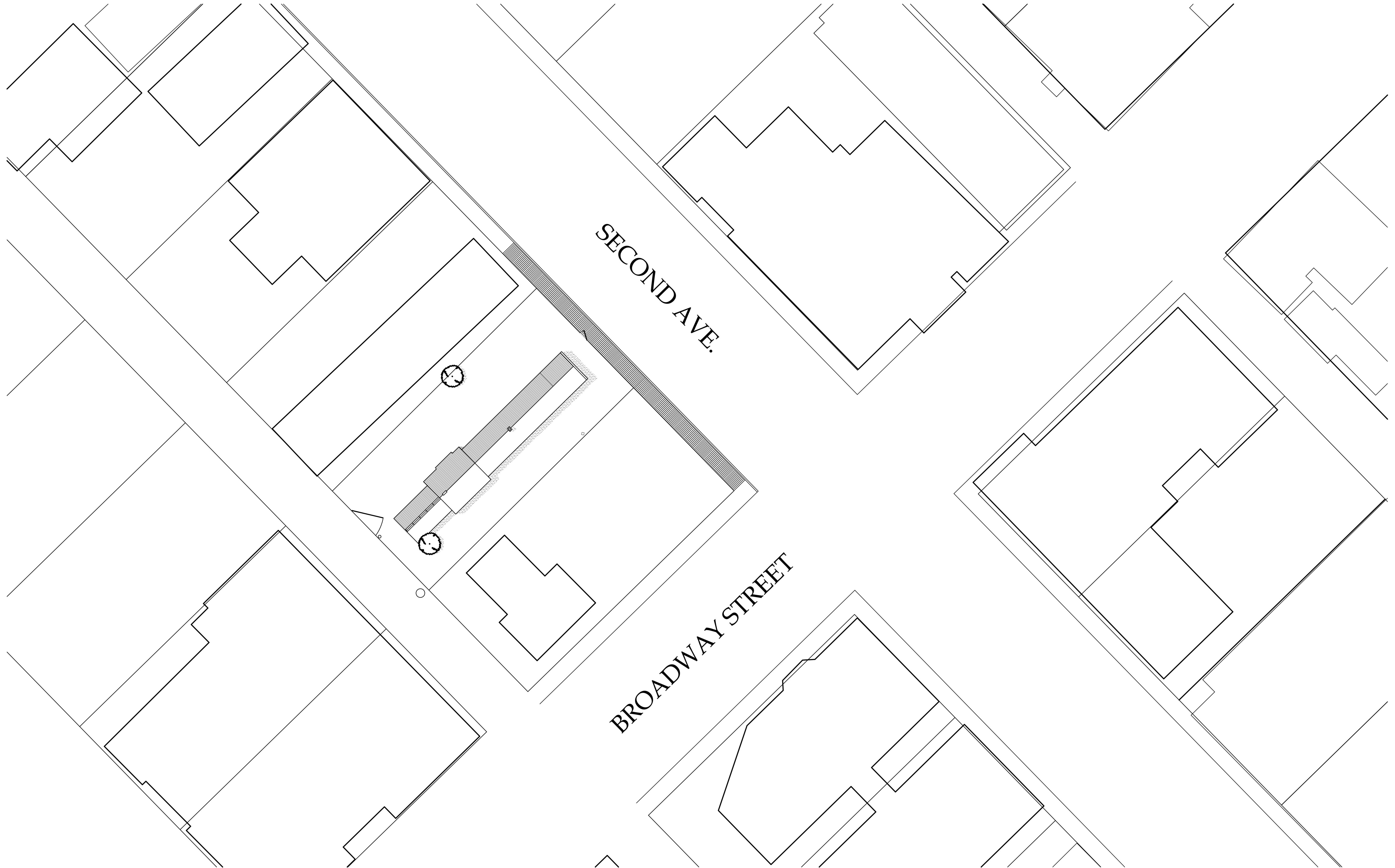
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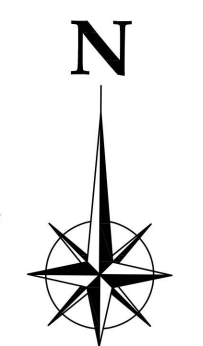
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SITE PLAN



SCALE: FEET 1/16" = 1'-0" 0 4' 8' 16' 32'
CENTIMETERS 1:192 0 1 2 4 6 10



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SKAGWAY

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KLONDIKE GOLD RUSH NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

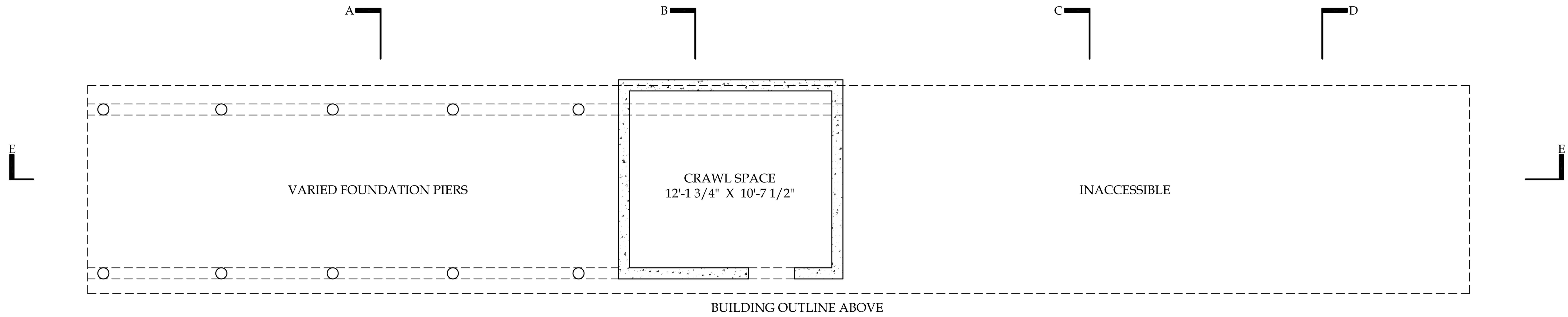
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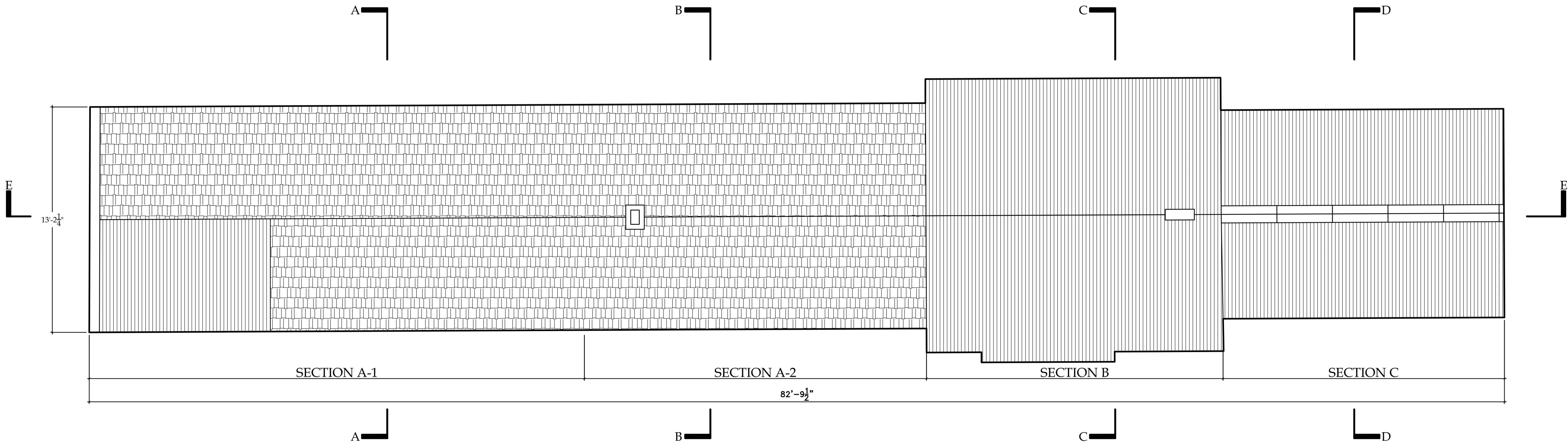
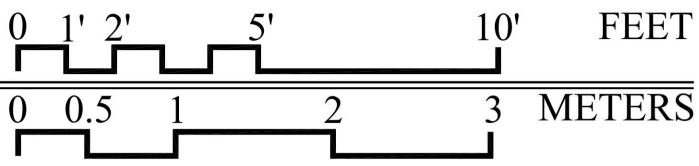
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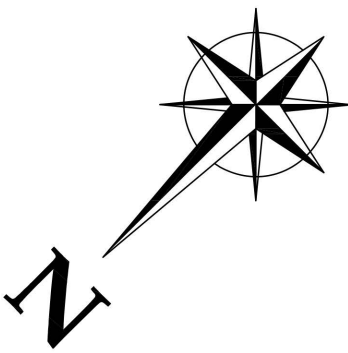
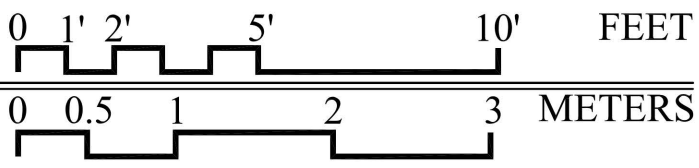
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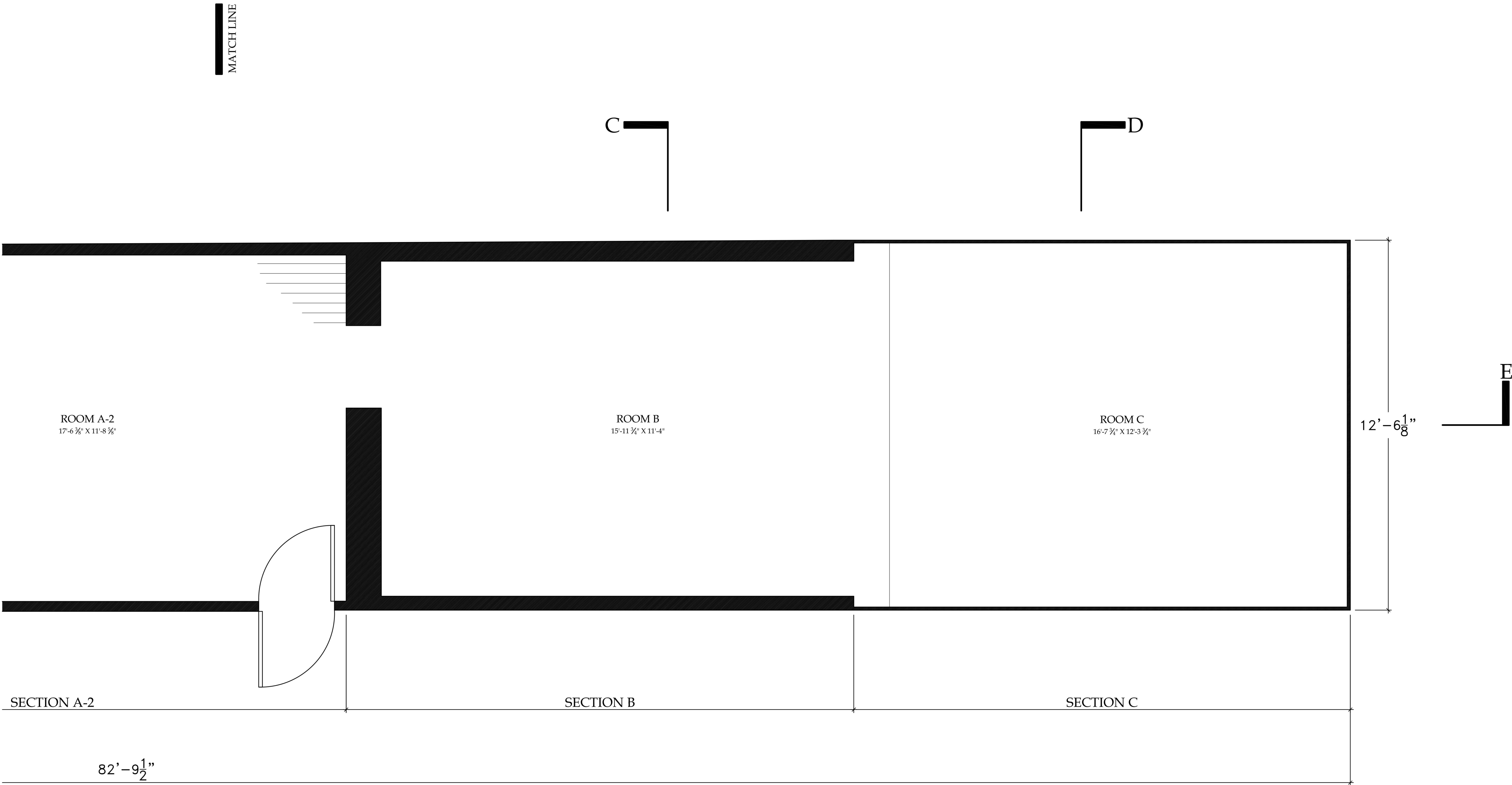


CRAWL SPACE
SCALE: 1/4" = 1' - 0"



ROOF PLAN
SCALE: 1/4" = 1' - 0"





FLOOR PLAN (SOUTH)
SCALE: 1/2" = 1' - 0"

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KLONDIKE GOLD RUSH NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

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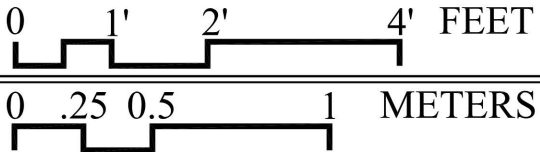
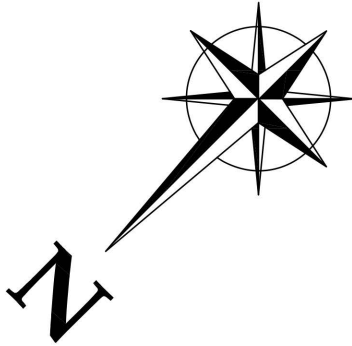
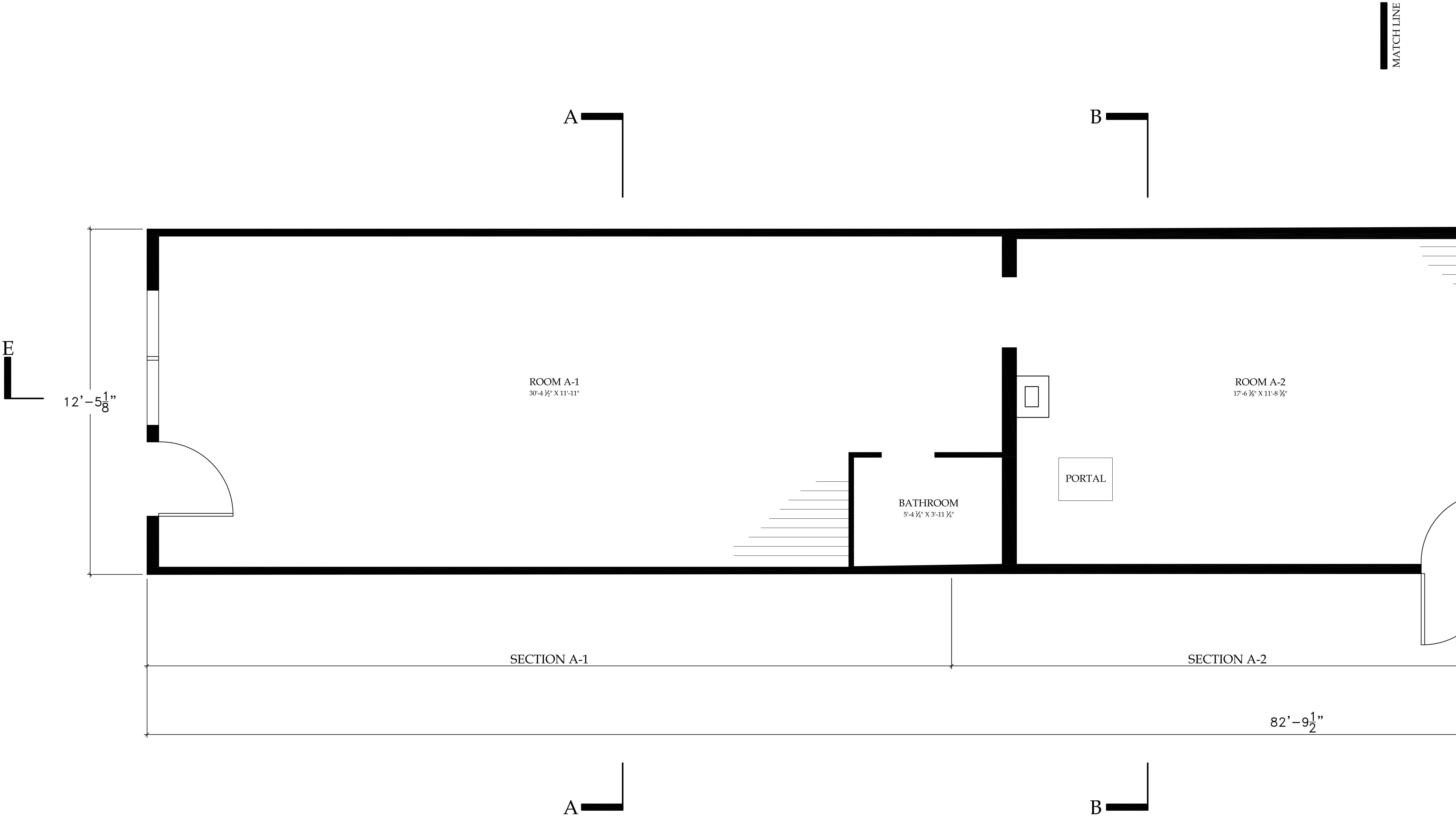
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FLOOR PLAN (NORTH)

SCALE: 1/2" = 1' - 0"



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

SKAGWAY

JEFF SMITH'S PARLOR MUSEUM
KLONDIKE GOLD RUSH NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

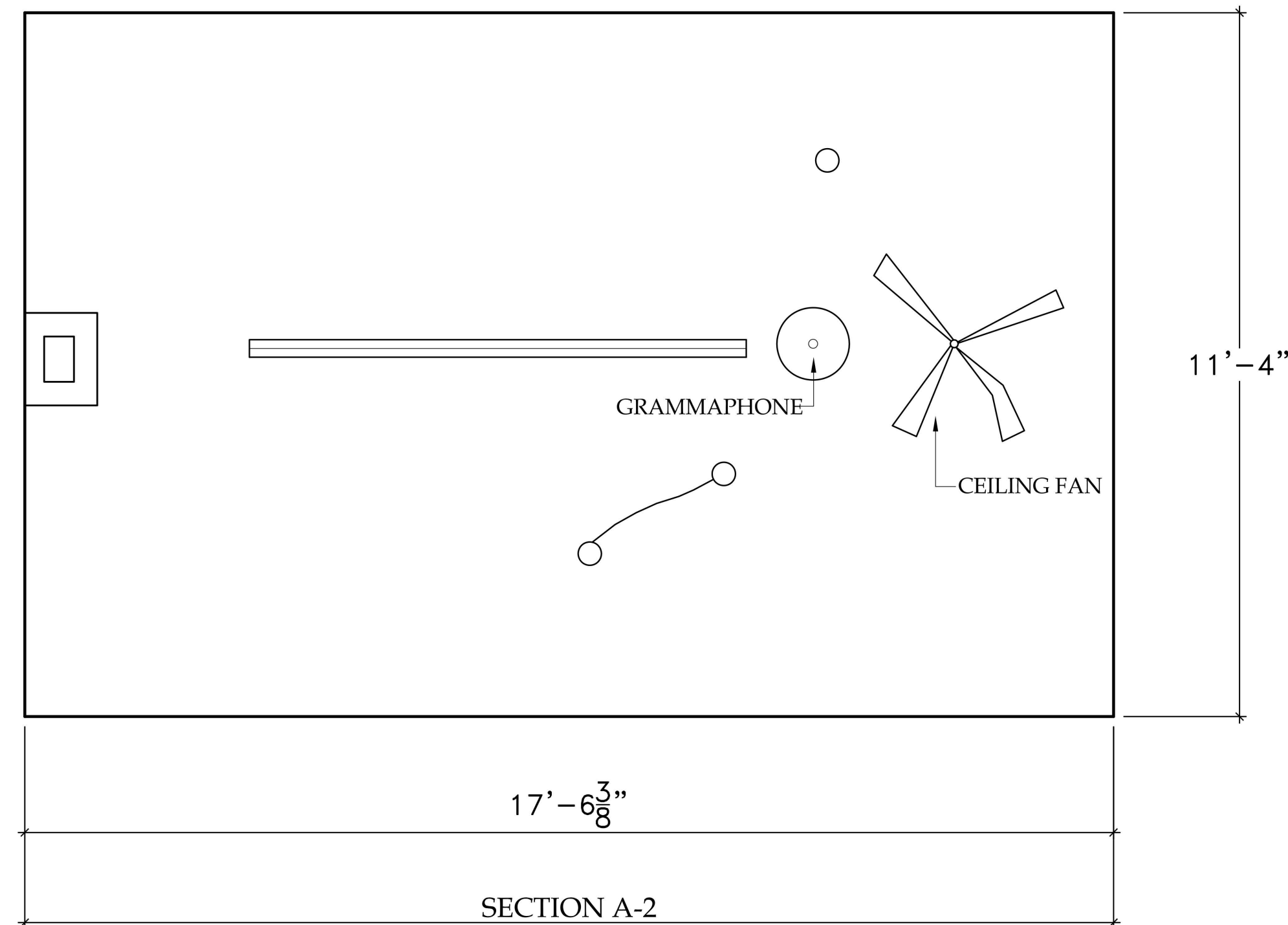
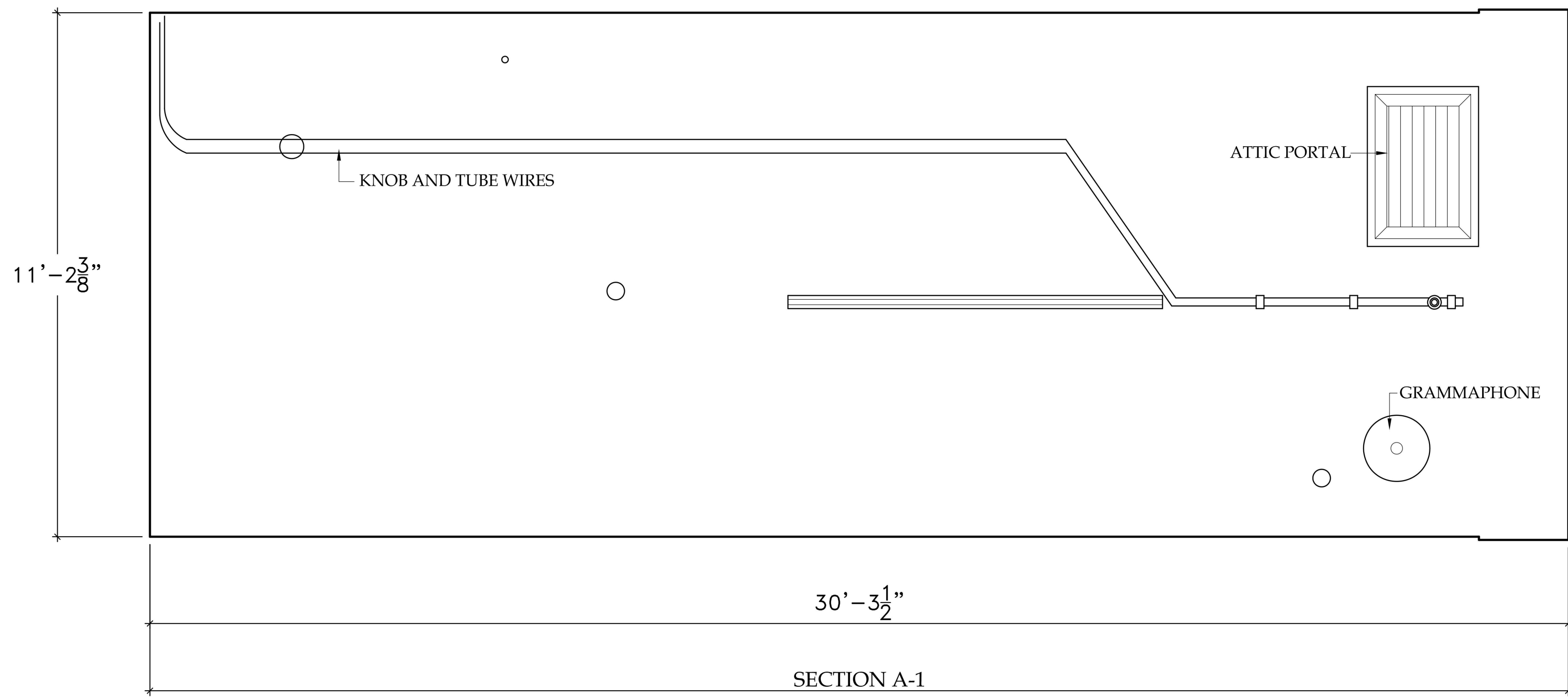
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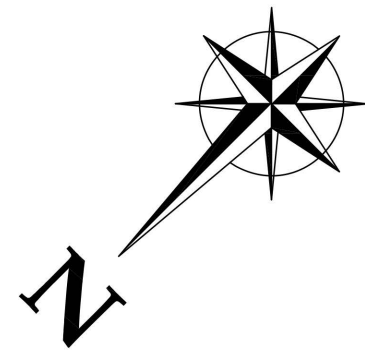
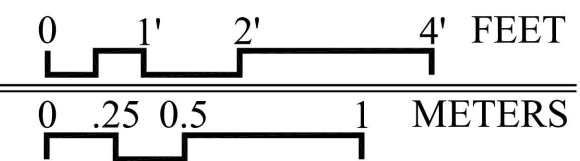
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REFLECTED CEILING PLAN (SECTION A)

SCALE: 1/2" = 1' - 0"



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

SKAGWAY

JEFF SMITH'S PARLOR MUSEUM
KLONDIKE GOLD RUSH NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

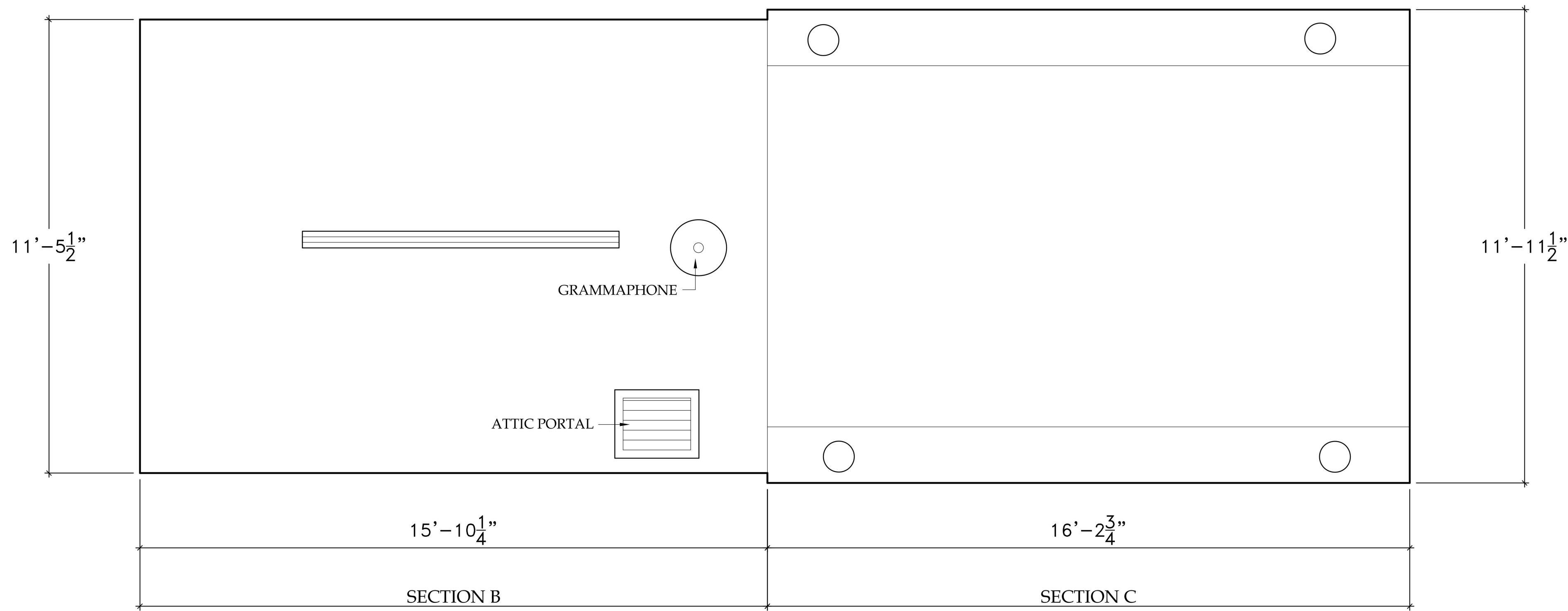
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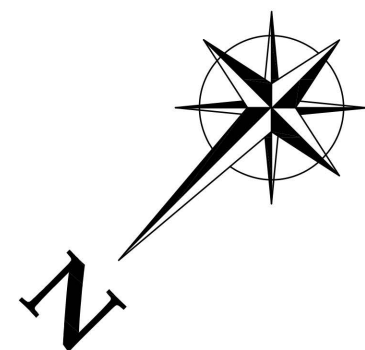
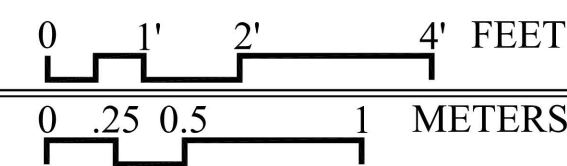
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REFLECTED CEILING PLAN (SECTION B AND C)

SCALE: 1/2" = 1' - 0"



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

SKAGWAY

JEFF SMITH'S PARLOR MUSEUM
KLONDIKE GOLD RUSH NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

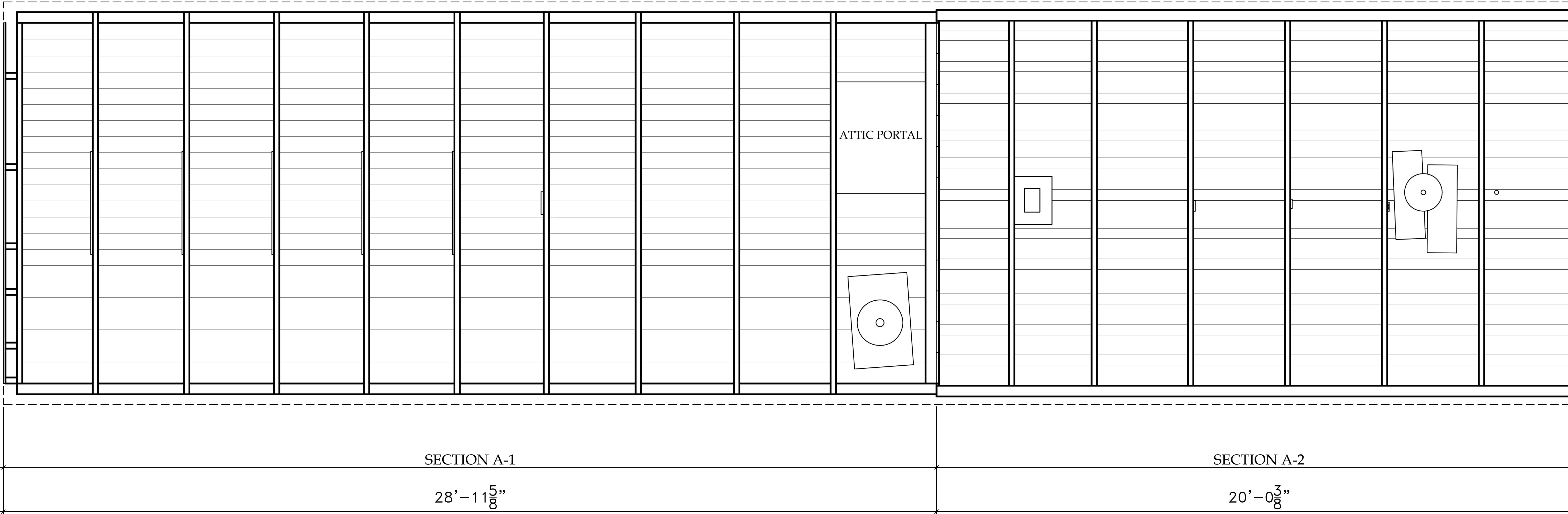
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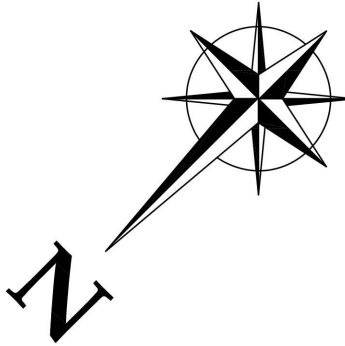
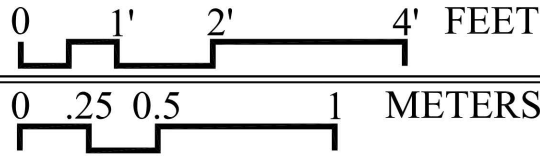
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PENCE NUMBER

E
12'-6"



ATTIC PLAN (NORTH)
SCALE: 1/2" = 1' - 0"



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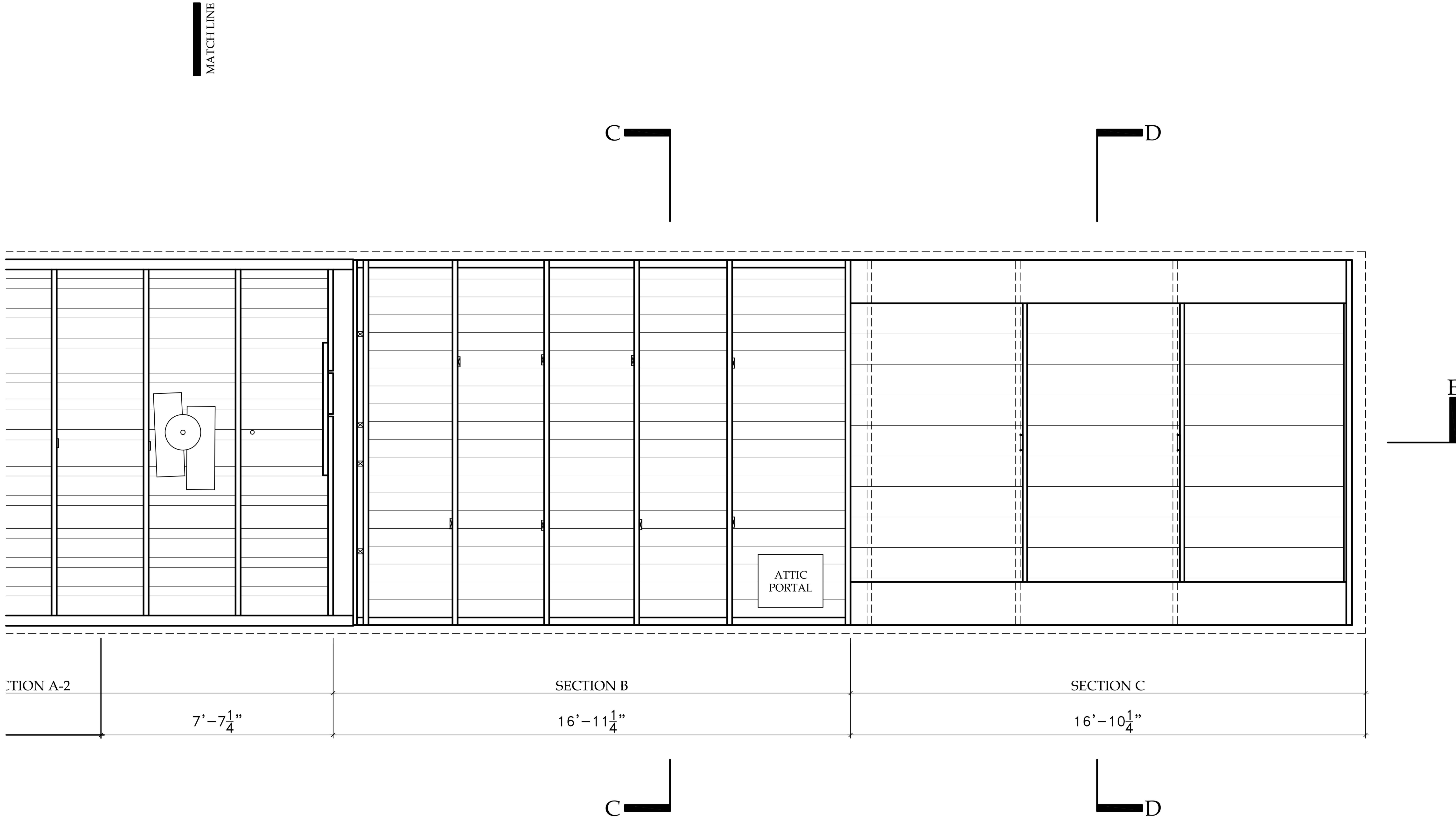
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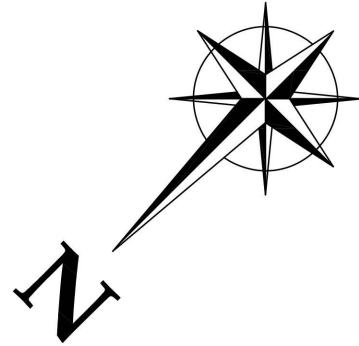
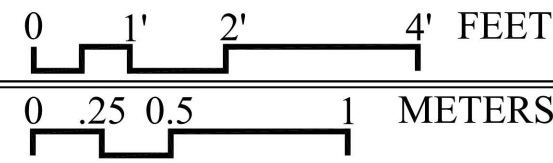
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ATTIC PLAN (SOUTH)
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KLONDIKE GOLD RUSH NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

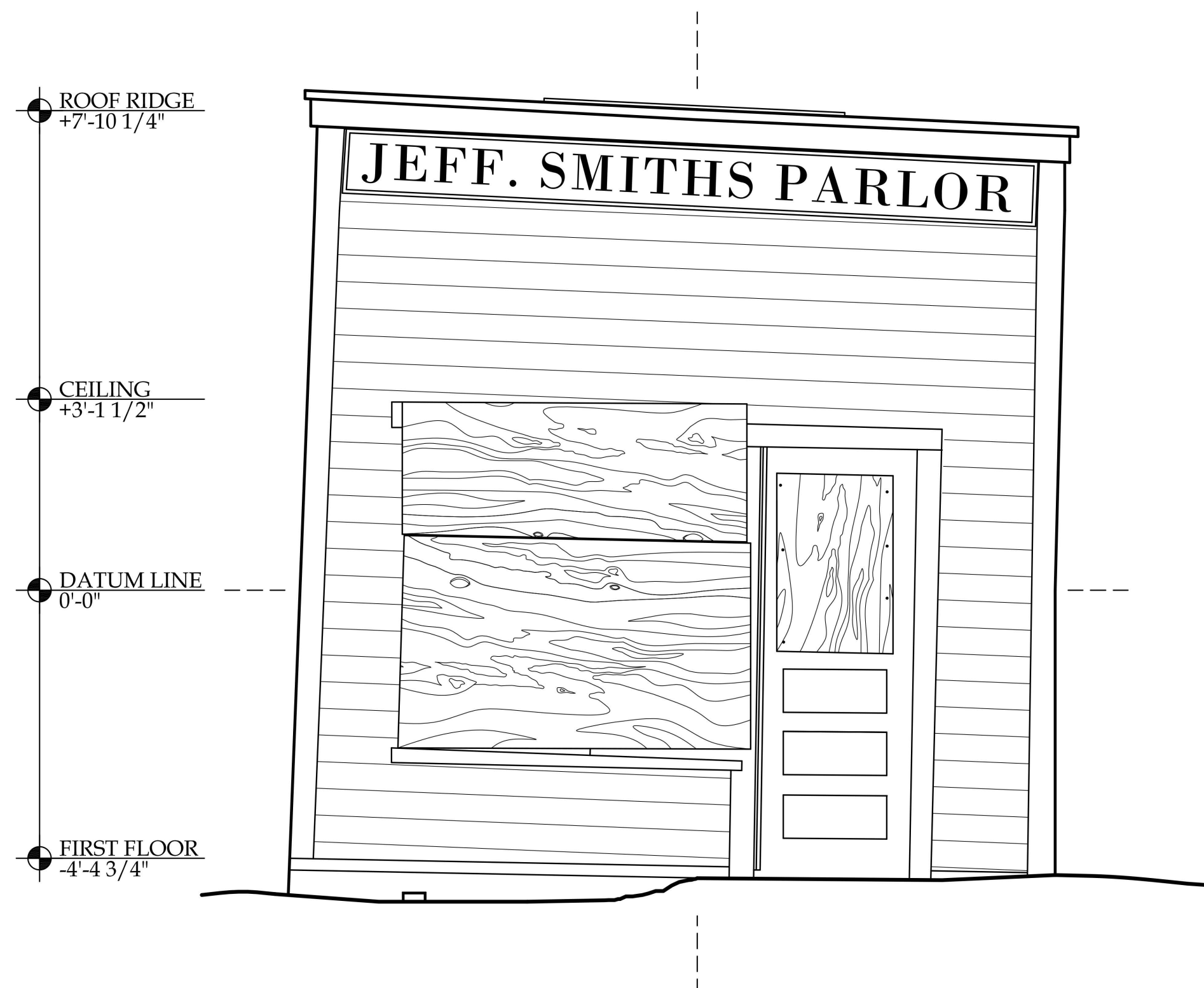
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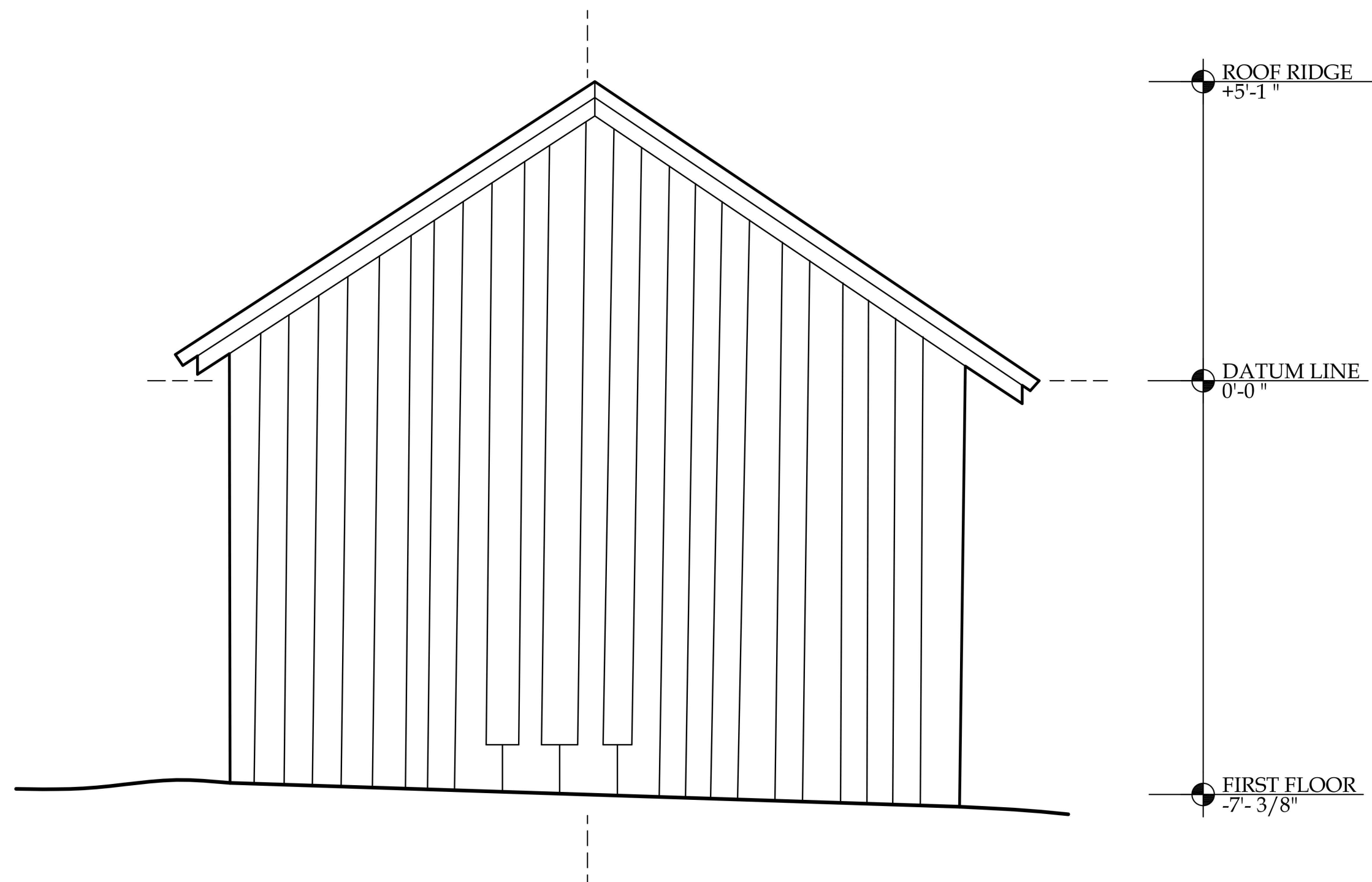
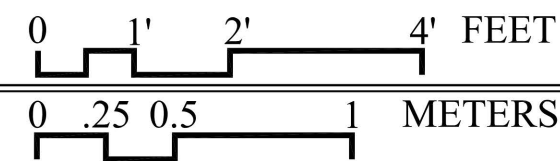
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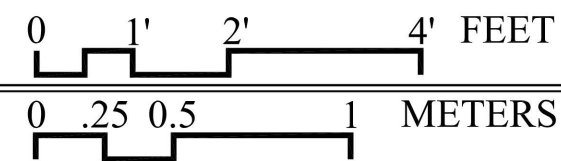
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NORTH ELEVATION
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SOUTH ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/2" = 1' - 0"



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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

SKAGWAY

JEFF SMITH'S PARLOR MUSEUM
KLONDIKE GOLD RUSH NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

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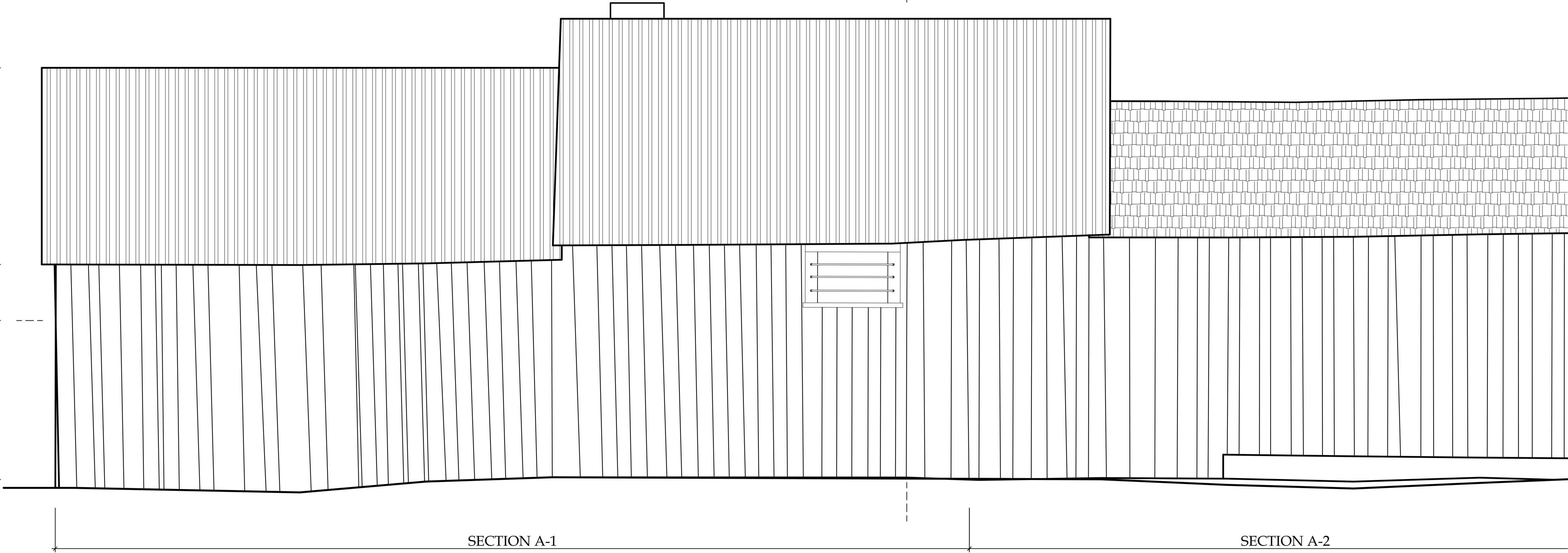
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ROOF RIDGE
+8'-1/8"

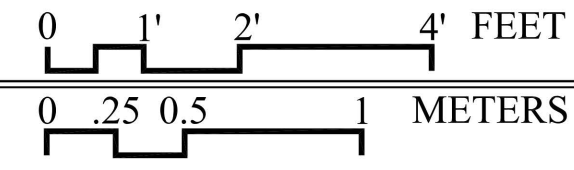
ROOF
+1'-9 1/4"

DATUM LINE
0'-0"

FIRST FLOOR
-5'-1/2"



EAST ELEVATION (SOUTH)
SCALE: 1/2" = 1' - 0"



MATCHLINE

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

SKAGWAY

JEFF SMITH'S PARLOR MUSEUM
KLONDIKE GOLD RUSH NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

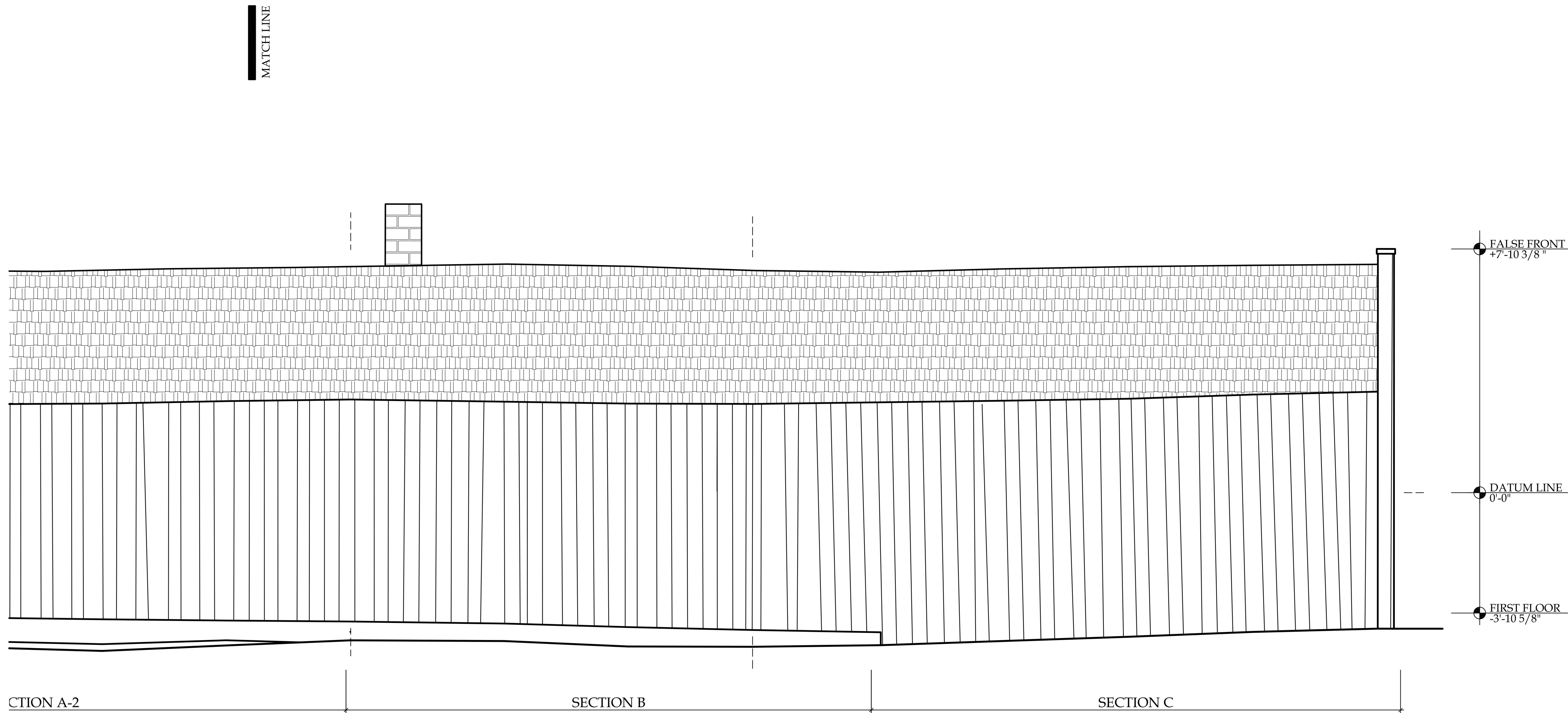
ALASKA

SURVEY NO.
AK-2223

HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 11 OF 20 SHEETS

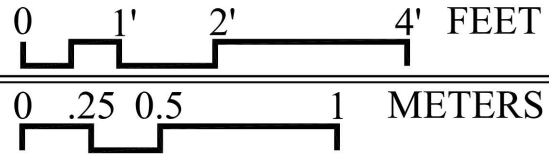
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EAST ELEVATION (NORTH)

SCALE: 1/2" = 1' - 0"



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SURVEY NO.
AK-223

HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 12 OF 20 SHEETS

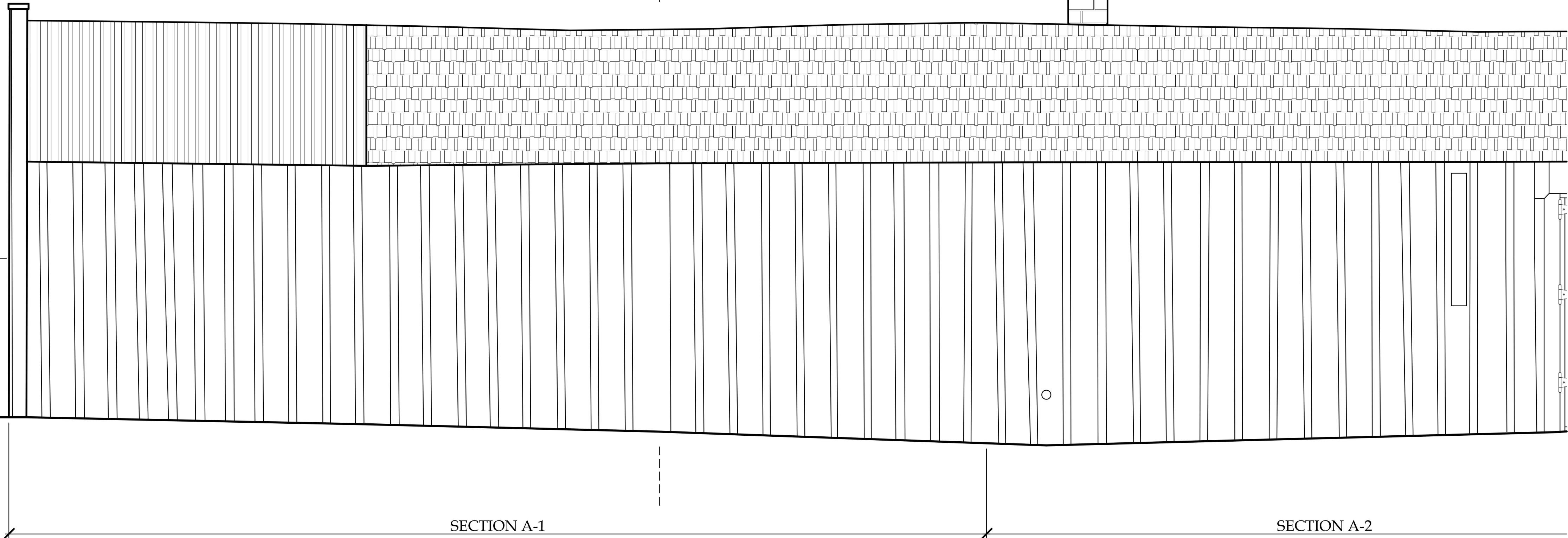
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FALSE FRONT
+7'-6 1/2"

DATUM
0'-0"

FIRST FLOOR
-4'-6 3/8"

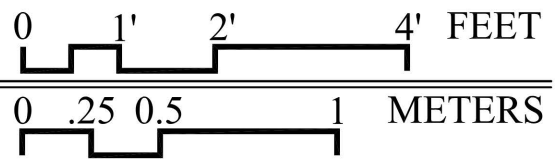


MATCH LINE

ARCTIC MEAT COMPANY
(1899 - 1907)

WEST ELEVATION (NORTH)

SCALE: 1/2" = 1' - 0"



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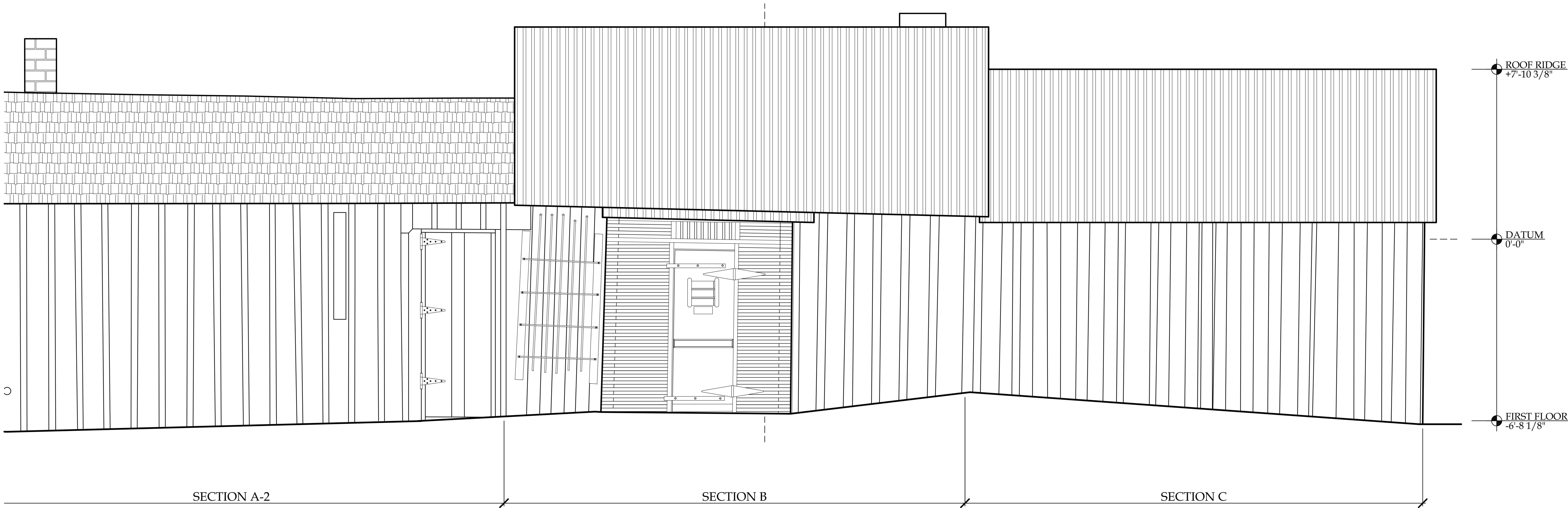
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HISTORIC AMERICAN
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DATE OF CONSTRUCTION
1907

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WEST ELEVATION (SOUTH)
SCALE: 1/2" = 1' - 0"

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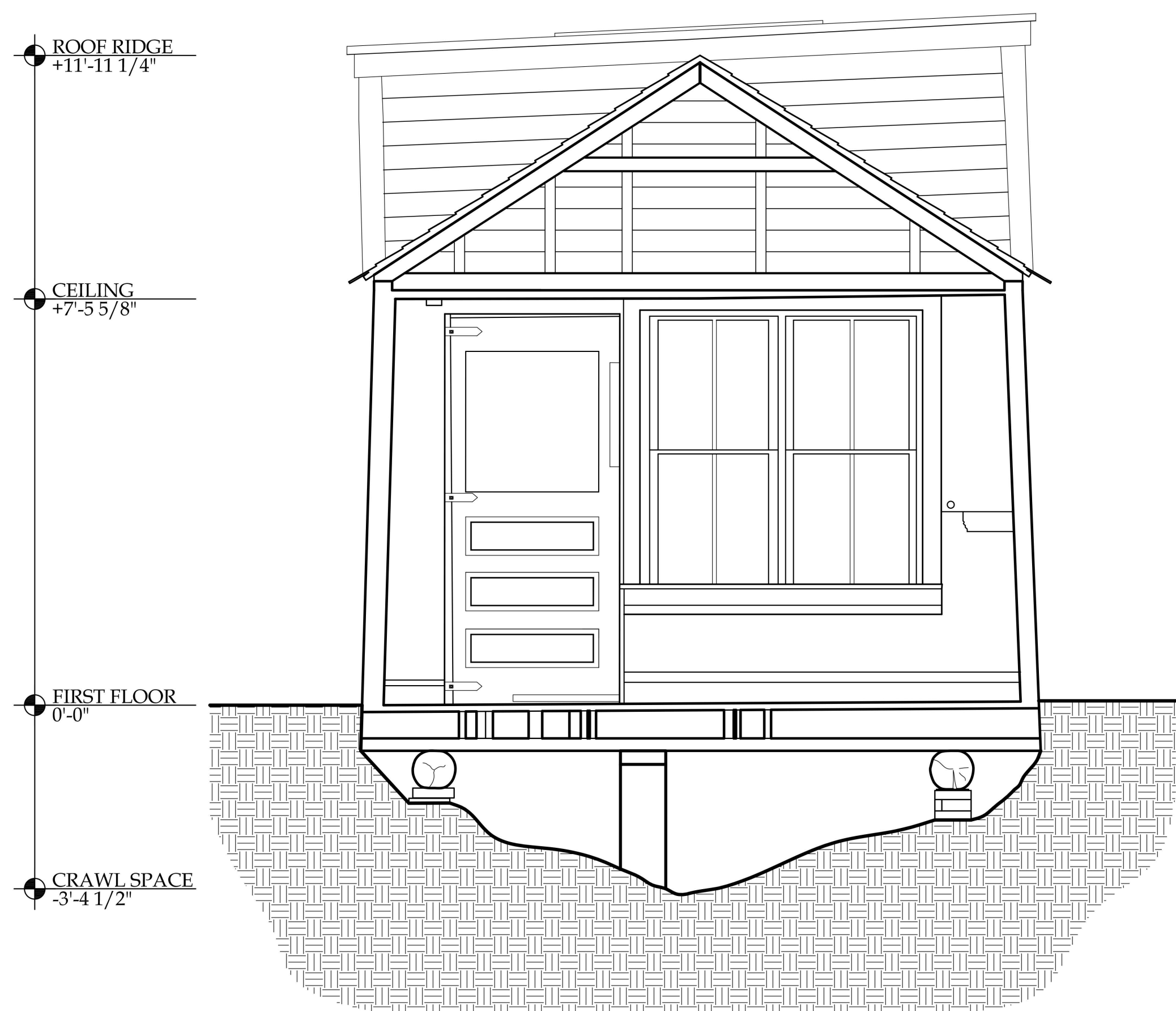
ALASKA

SURVEY NO.
AK-2223

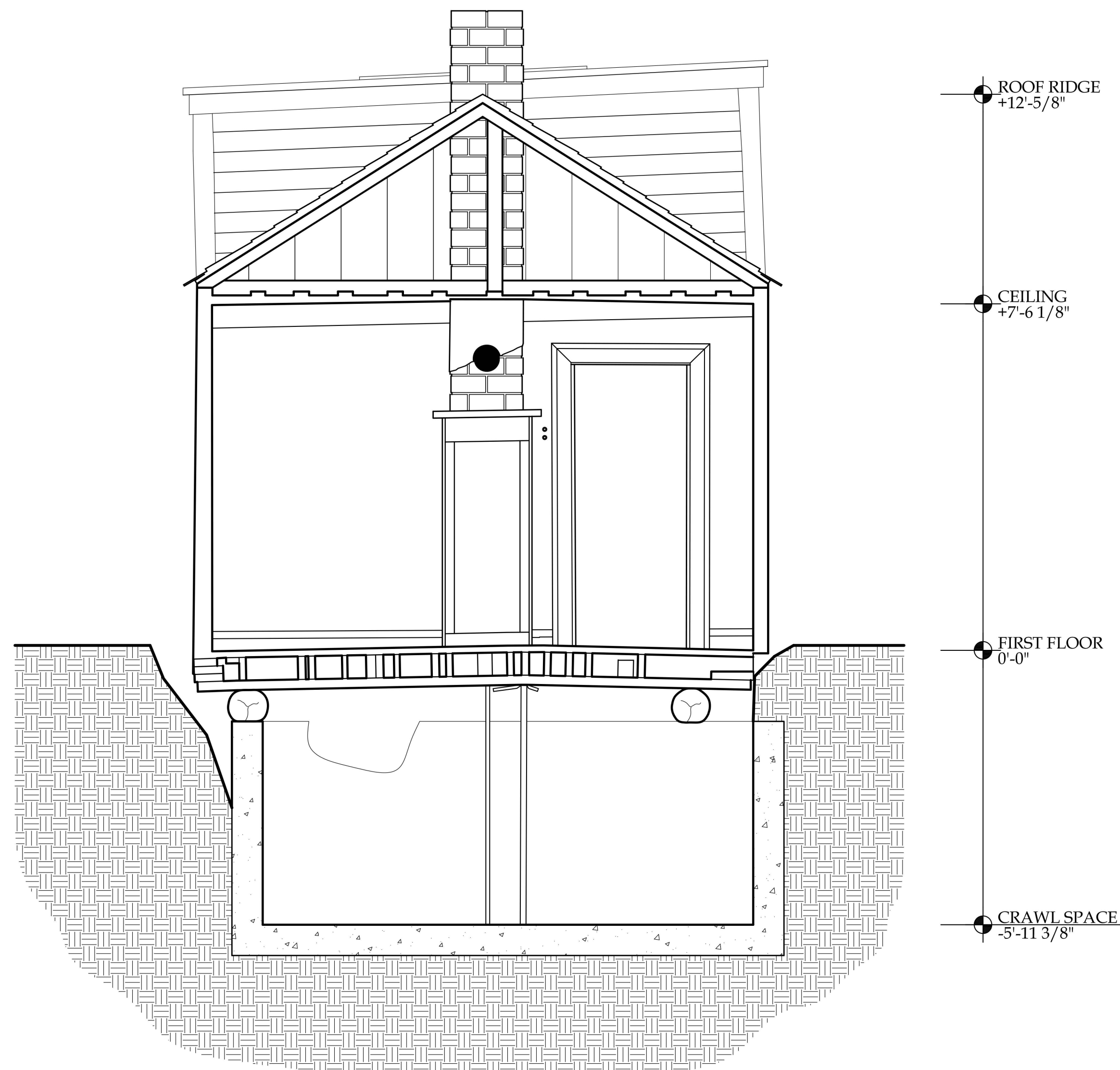
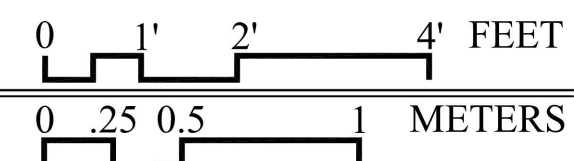
HISTORIC AMERICAN
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DATE OF CONSTRUCTION
1900-1910

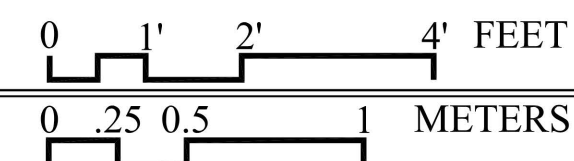
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SECTION A-A
SCALE: 1/2" = 1' - 0"



SECTION B-B
SCALE: 1/2" = 1' - 0"



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MATERIALS LIST:

SECTION A-1

FOUNDATION:

10" DIAMETER ROUGH SAWN SPRUCE TREE
6" X VARIOUS SIZED FLOOR JOISTS

FLOOR:

1" X 12" SUBFLOOR

5 3/8" X 3/4" TONGUE AND GROOVE DOUGLAS FIR FLOOR

EXTERIOR WALLS:

BOARD AND BATTEN SIDING 1"X12" BOARD, 1" X 4" BATTEN
1" X 12" HORIZONTAL TONGUE AND GROOVE SIDING
BUILDING PAPER

2 1/4" X 4 1/4" ROUGH SAWN DOUGLAS FIR STUDS (NORTH END OF BUILDING)

ATTIC FRAMING:

2"X 4" TOP PLATE
2"X 3 3/4" CEILING JOIST
1" X 12" CEILING BOARDS
?? 'V' GROOVE SIDING CEILING BOARDS
1" X 11 1/2" VERTICAL BOARDS
3/4" X 3 1/2" A.F. TONGUE AND GROOVE COLLAR TIES
2" x 3 3/4" RAFTERS
1" X 4" SKIP SHEATHING
CEDAR SHINGLES
CORRUGATED METAL ROOF PATCH

SECTION A-2

FOUNDATION:

10" DIAMETER ROUGH SAWN SPRUCE TREE
6" X VARIOUS SIZED FLOOR JOISTS

FLOOR:

1" X 12" SUBFLOOR

3/4" X 3 3/8" TONGUE AND GROOVE DOUGLAS FIR FLOOR

EXTERIOR WALLS:

BOARD AND BATTEN SIDING 1"X12" BOARD, 1" X 4" BATTEN
1" X 12" HORIZONTAL TONGUE AND GROOVE SIDING
1" X 12" VERTICAL BOARD SIDING
BUILDING PAPER

ATTIC FRAMING:

2"X 4" TOP PLATE
2" X 4" CEILING JOISTS
1" X 3" TONGUE AND GROOVE CEILING BOARD
1" X 12" CEILING BOARD PLANKS
BRICK CHIMNEY- 4 1/4" X 9" HANDPRESSED BRICK, MORTAR JOINTS APPROX. 1/2"
CEDAR SHINGLES
1" X 4" SKIP SHEATHING
7/8" X 3 7/8" KING POST

SECTION B:

FOUNDATION:

INACCESSIBLE

FLOOR:

SHEET LINOLEUM
EXTERIOR WALLS:
BOARD AND BATTEN SIDING 1"X12" BOARD, 1" X 4" BATTEN
BUILDING PAPER
2" X 4" STUDS

ATTIC FRAMING:

2" X 3" TOP PLATE
2" X 3" CEILING JOIST
1" X 4" VERTICAL AND DIAGONAL BRACING

2" X 2 1/2" ATTIC STUDS
3/4" X ? SHIPLAP SIDING
1" X 7" CEILING BOARDS
1 1/2" X 2 3/4" RAFTERS
1" X 4" SKIP SHEATHING
3 3/4" X 1 1/2" COLLAR TIE
CORRUGATED METAL ROOF

SECTION C:

FOUNDATION:

INACCESSIBLE

FLOOR:

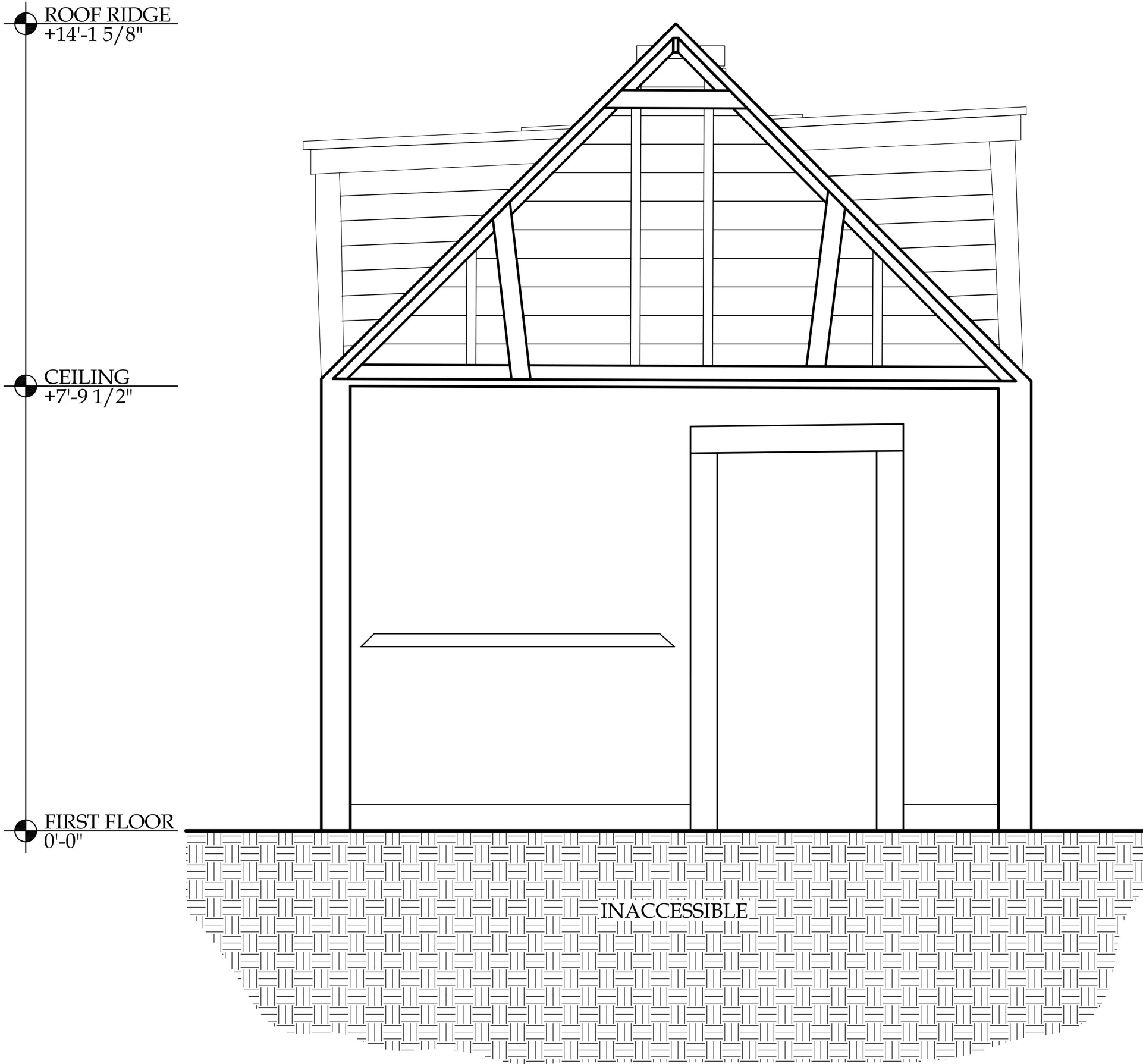
INACCESSIBLE

EXTERIOR WALLS:

BOARD AND BATTEN SIDING 1"X12" BOARD, 1" X 4" BATTEN
BUILDING PAPER

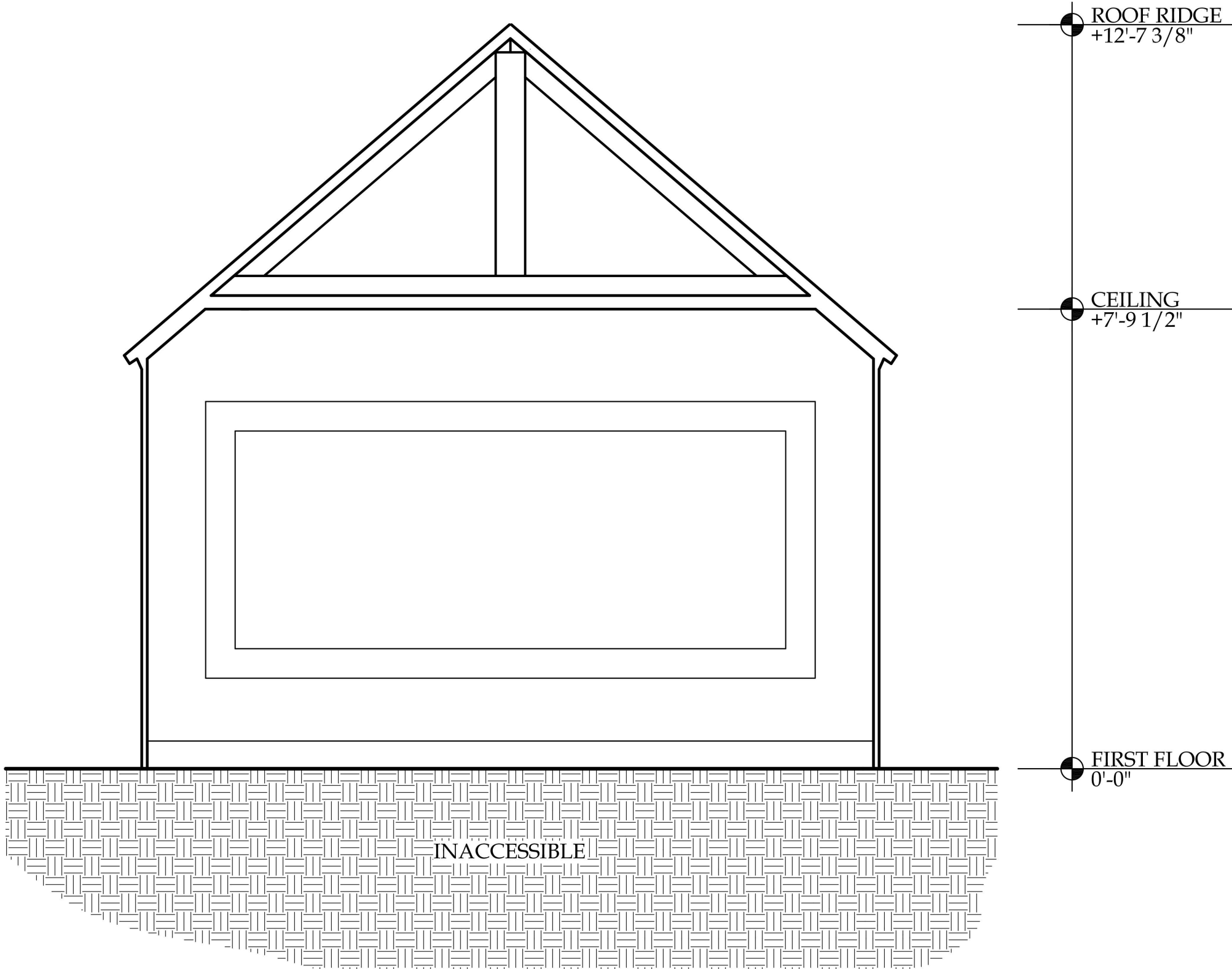
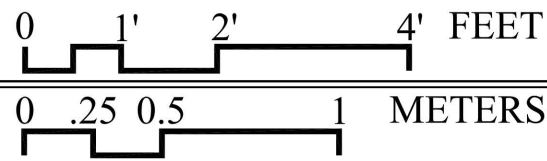
ATTIC FRAMING:

3/4" X 8 3/4" BEVELLED SHIPLAP BOARD
1" X 6" COLLAR TIE
1" X 12" CEILING BOARDS
1" X 6" CEILING JOIST
1" X 6" KING POST
1 3/4" X 4" ROUGH SAWN DOUGLAS FIR RAFTER
1" X 6" SKIP SHEATHING
1" X 11 1/2" SUB ROOFING
PLYWOOD PATCHES
CEDAR SHINGLES
CORRUGATED METAL ROOF



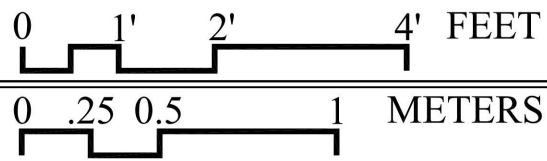
SECTION C-C

SCALE: 1/2" = 1' - 0"



SECTION D-D

SCALE: 1/2" = 1' - 0"



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HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY
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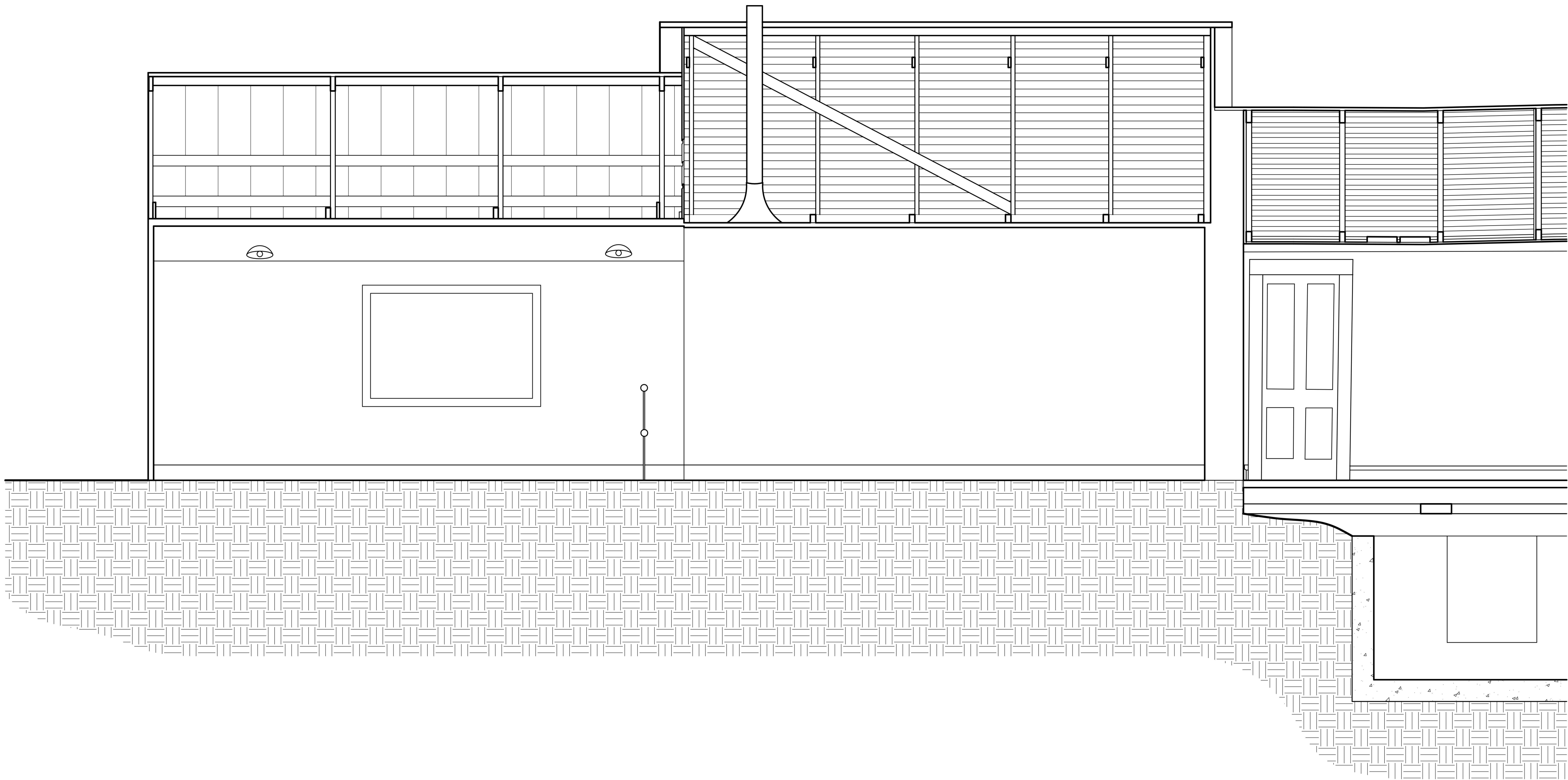
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
ENGINE NUMBER

ROOF RIDGE B
+14'-5 7/8"

ROOF RIDGE C
+12'-5 7/8"

CEILING
+7'-9 1/2"

FIRST FLOOR
0'-0"



MATCH LINE

SECTION E-E (SOUTH)

SCALE: 1/2" = 1' - 0"

0 1' 2' 4' FEET
0 0.25 0.5 1 METERS

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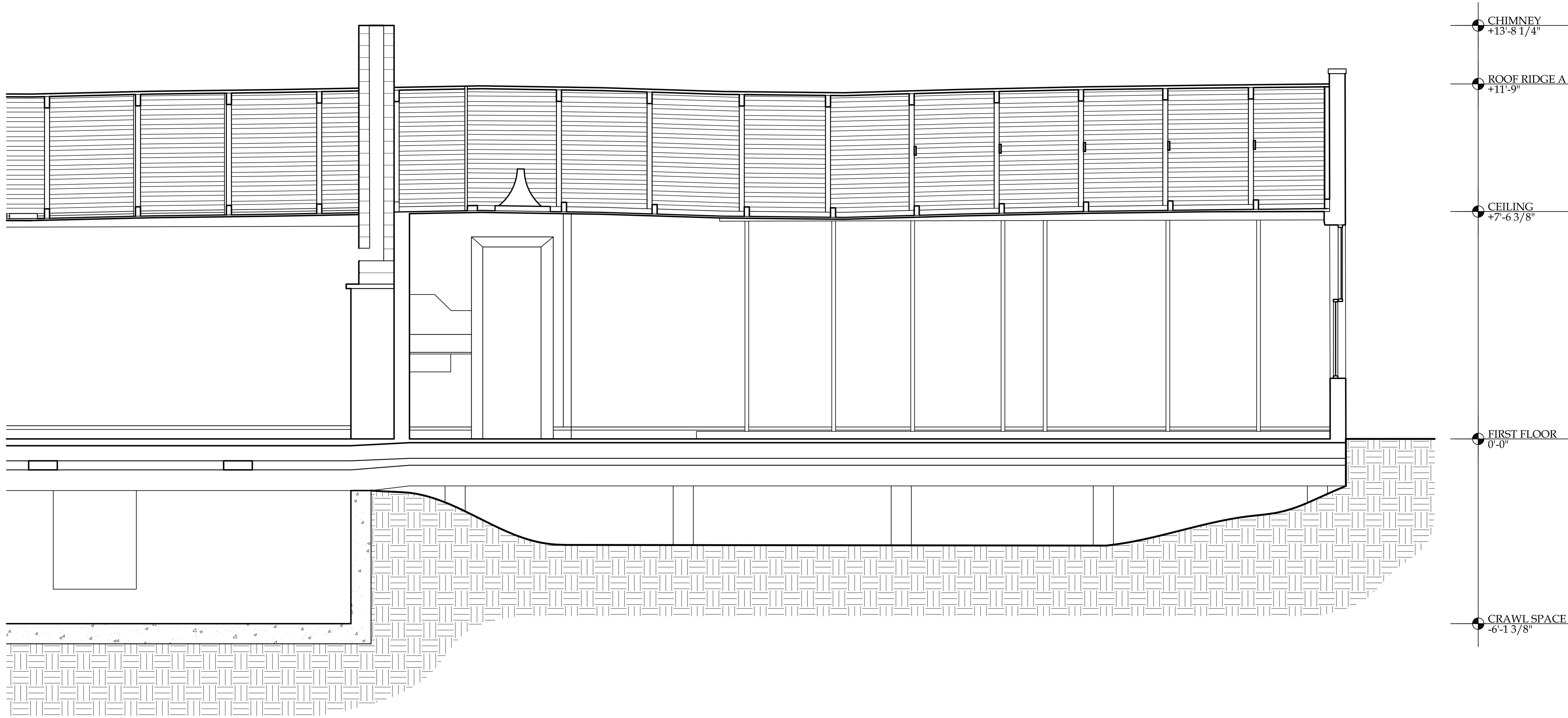
ALASKA

SURVEY NO.
AK-223

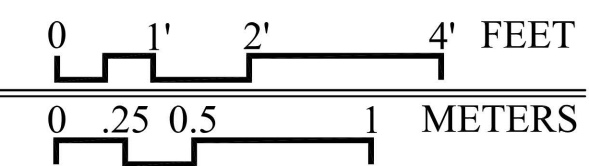
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SECTION E-E (NORTH)
SCALE: 1/2" = 1' - 0"



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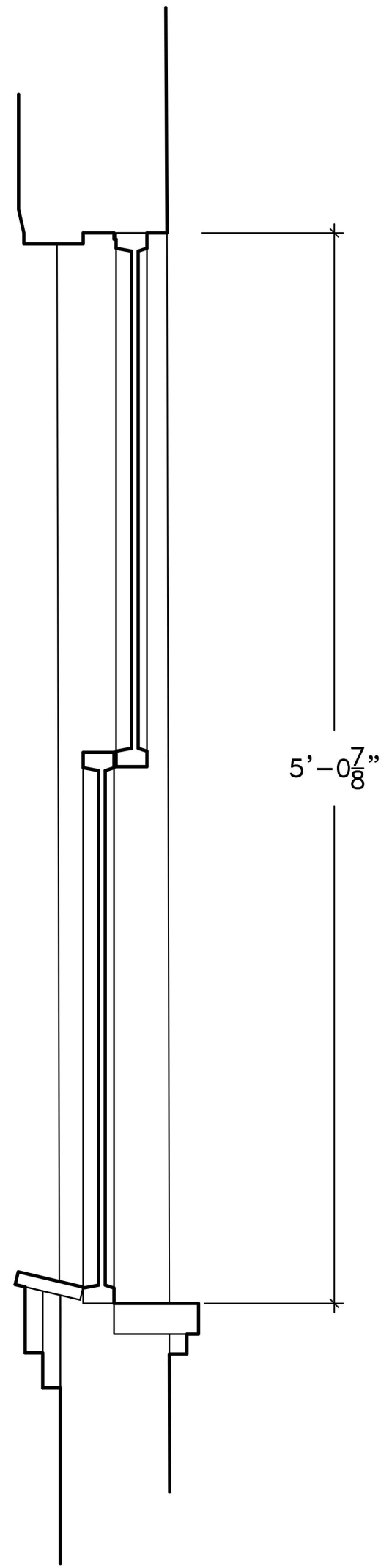
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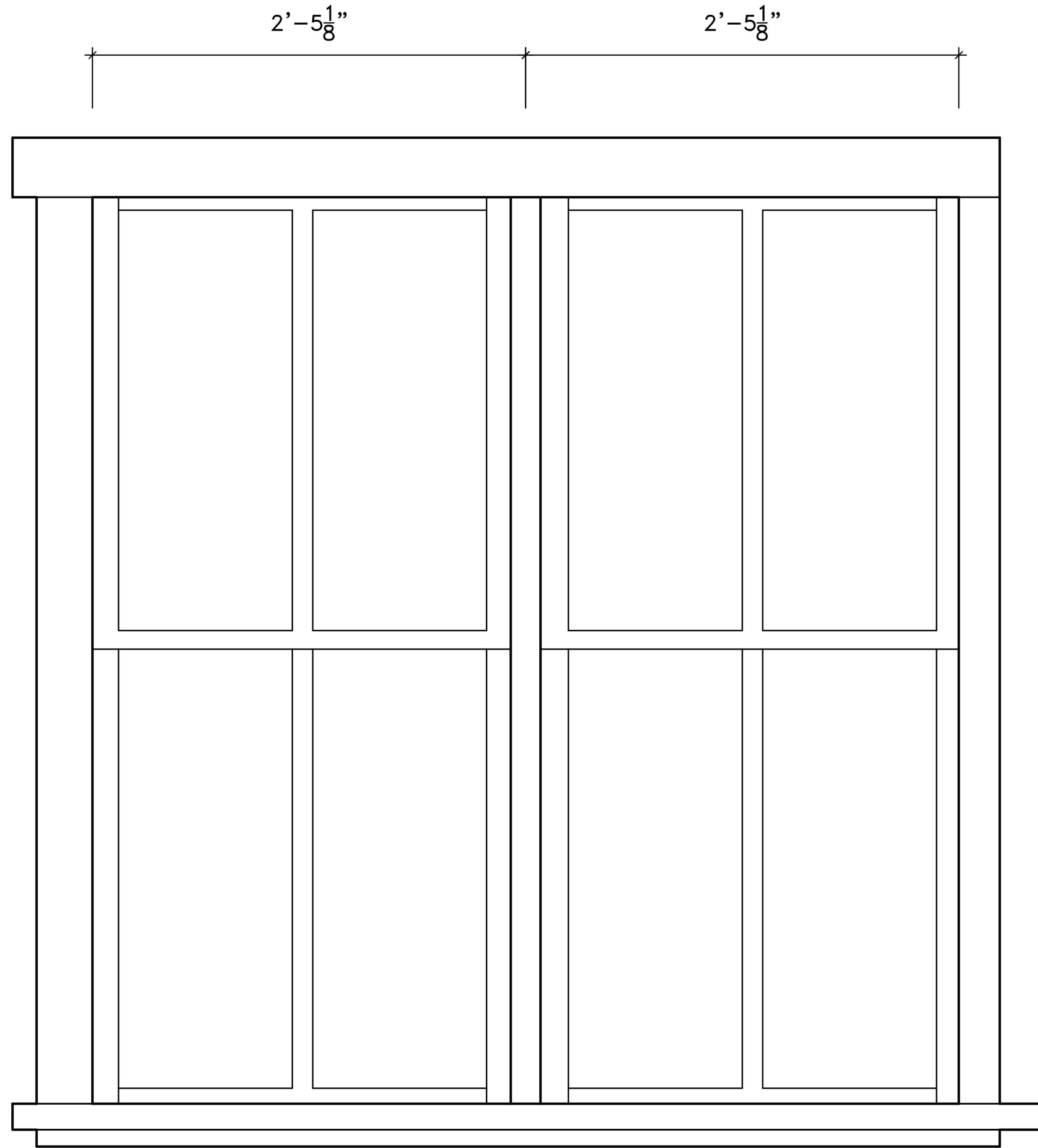
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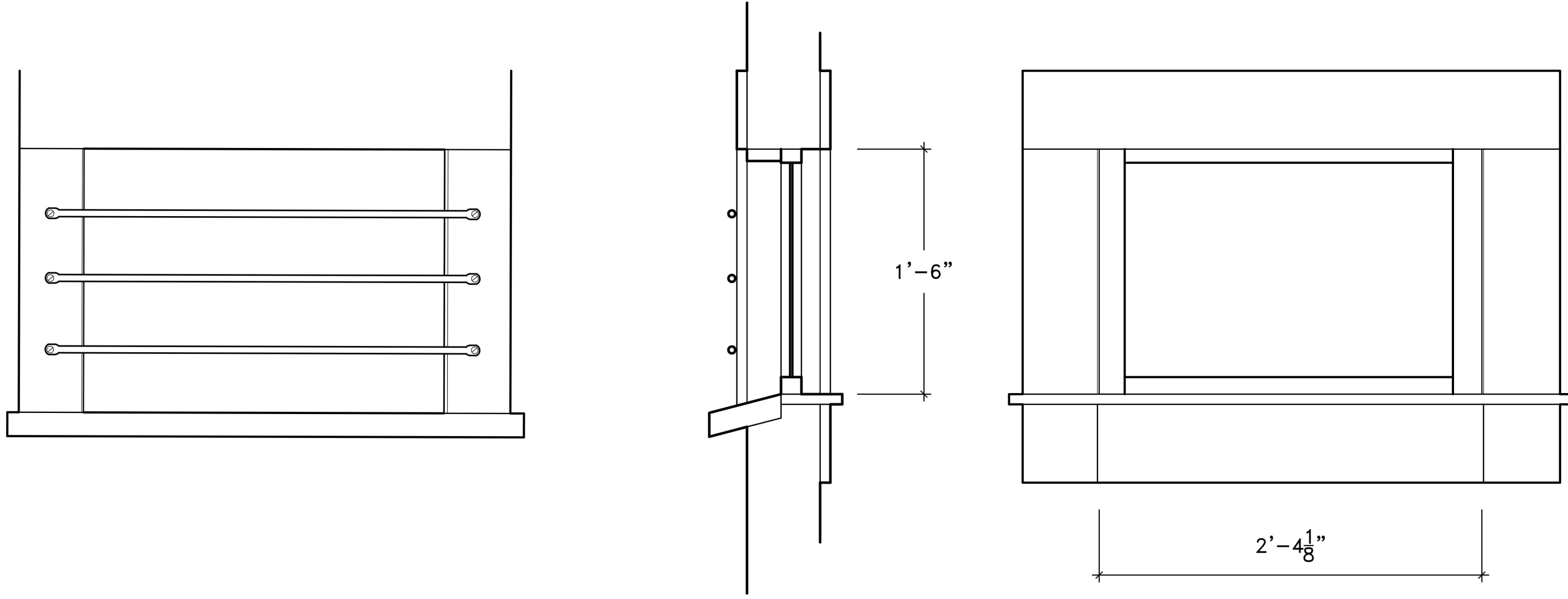
WINDOW DETAIL ROOM A-1

SCALE: 1 1/2" = 1' - 0"



WINDOW DETAIL ROOM B

SCALE: 1 1/2" = 1' - 0"



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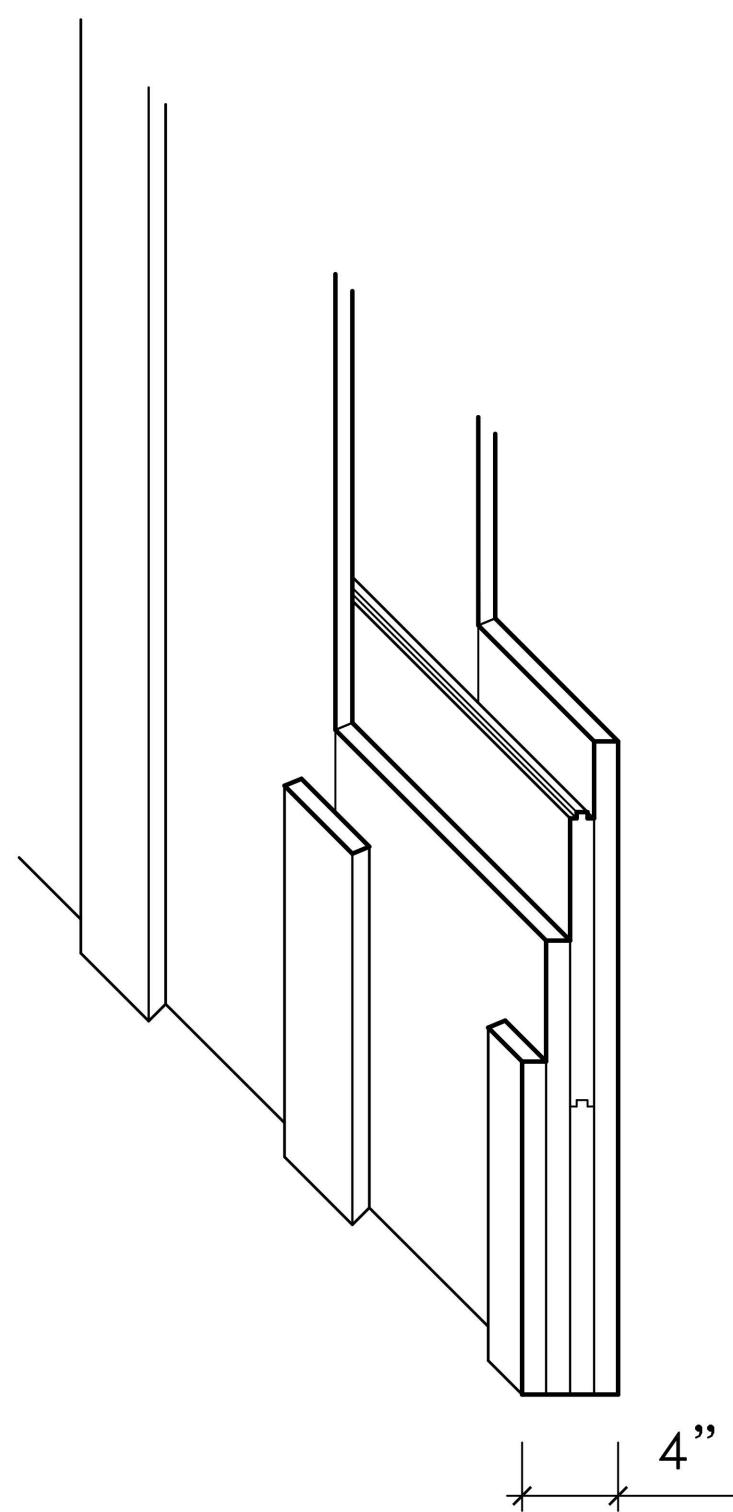
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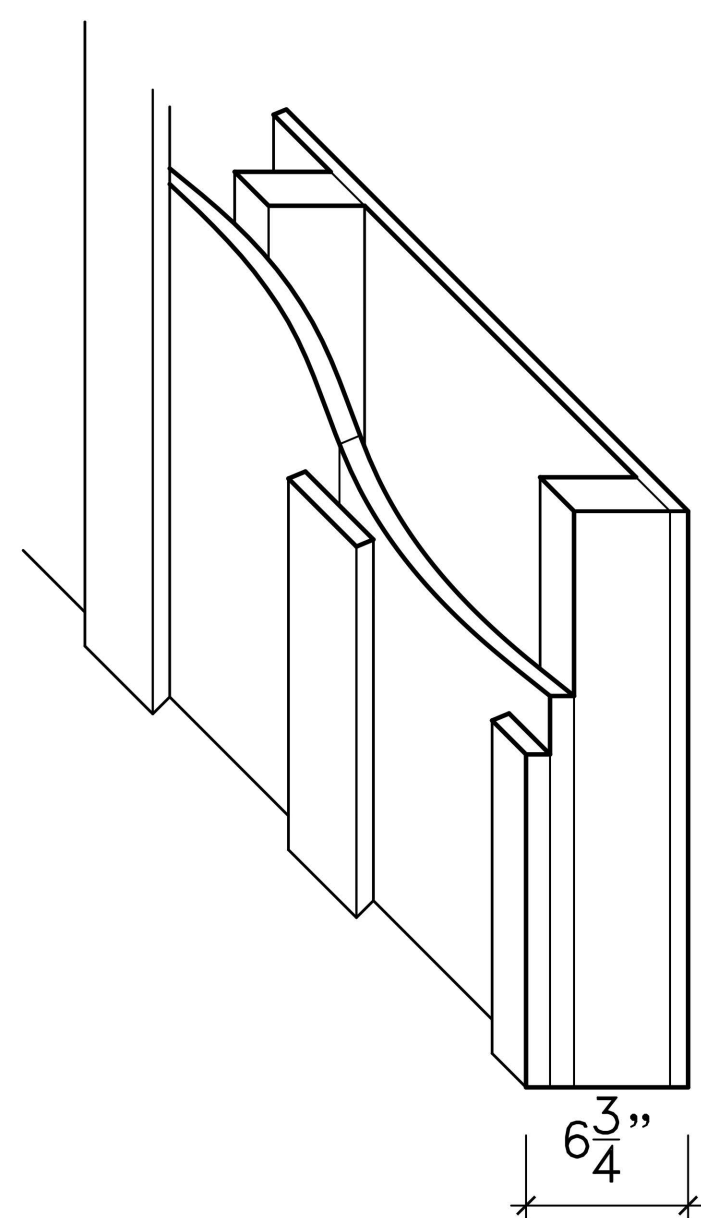
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
PHOTODUPLICATION SERVICE

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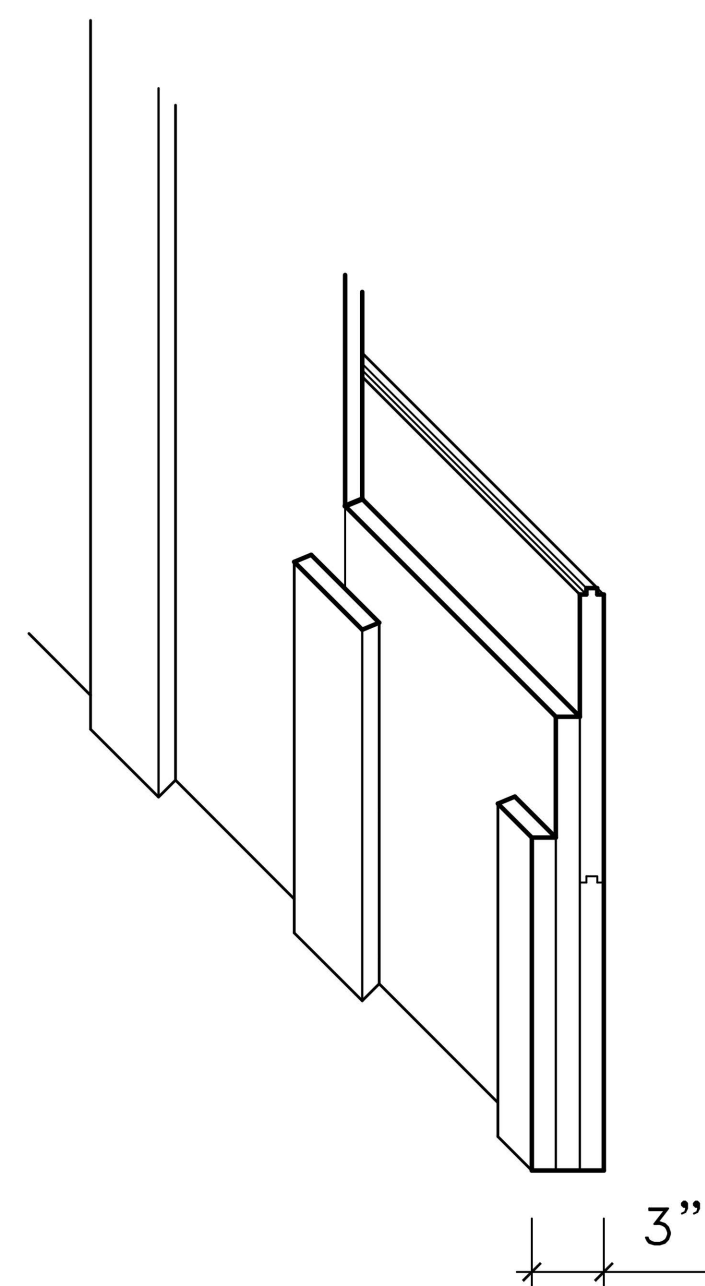
WALL TYPE ROOM A-1

SCALE: 1 1/2" = 1' - 0"



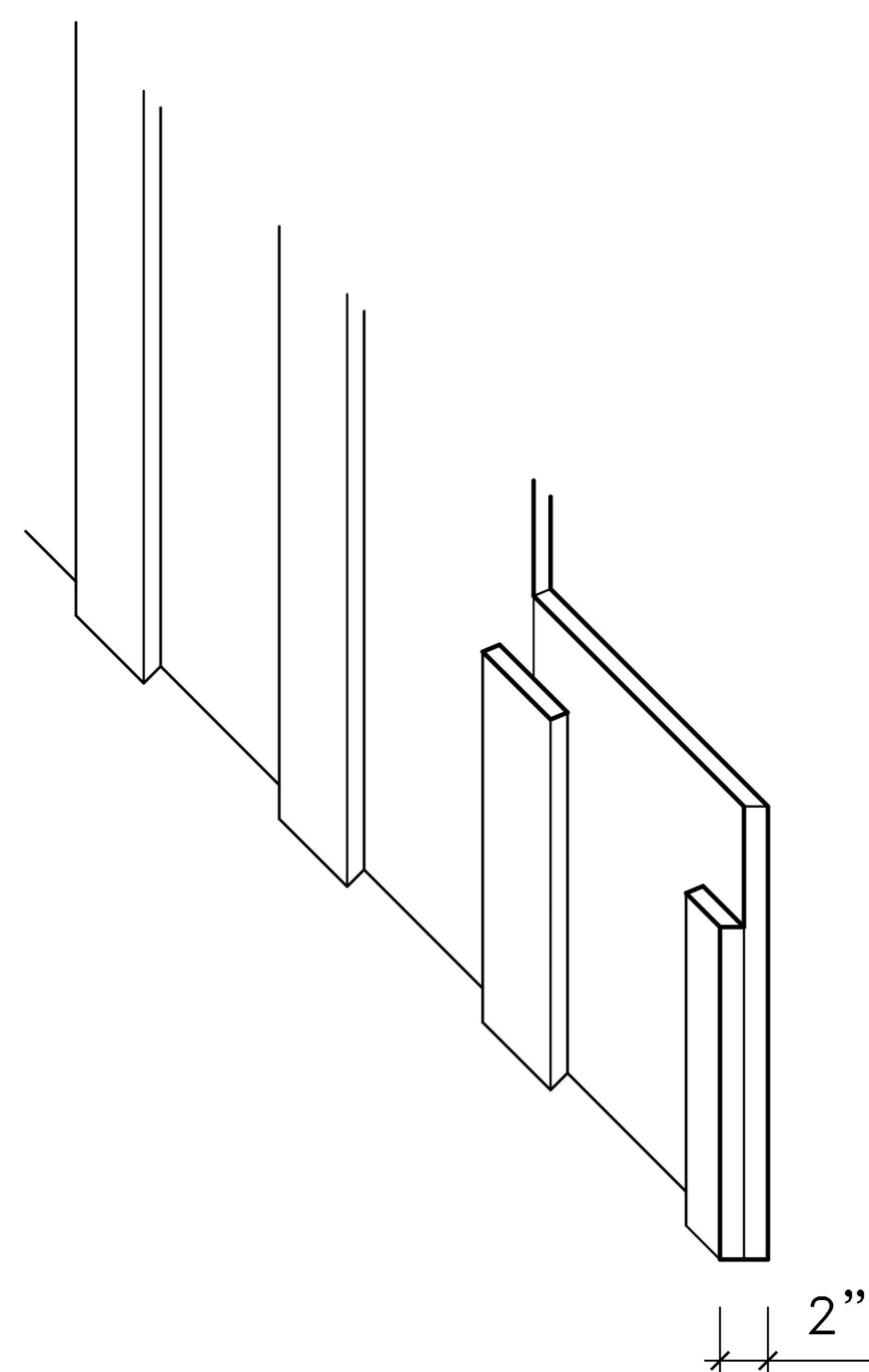
WALL TYPE ROOM B

SCALE: 1 1/2" = 1' - 0"



WALL TYPE ROOM A-2

SCALE: 1 1/2" = 1' - 0"



WALL TYPE ROOM C

SCALE: 1 1/2" = 1' - 0"

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