

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
450 Main Street
Skagway
Skagway
Alaska

HABS AK-244
HABS AK-244

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 20240-0001

ADDENDUM TO:
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Skagway and White Pass Historic District
450 Main Street (southwest corner at 5th Avenue)
Skagway
Municipality of Skagway Borough
Alaska

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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

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Note: 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 State Street, making "north" closer to northeast. The photo captions follow this convention.

Captions written by Susannah Dowds, Historian, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, 2018.

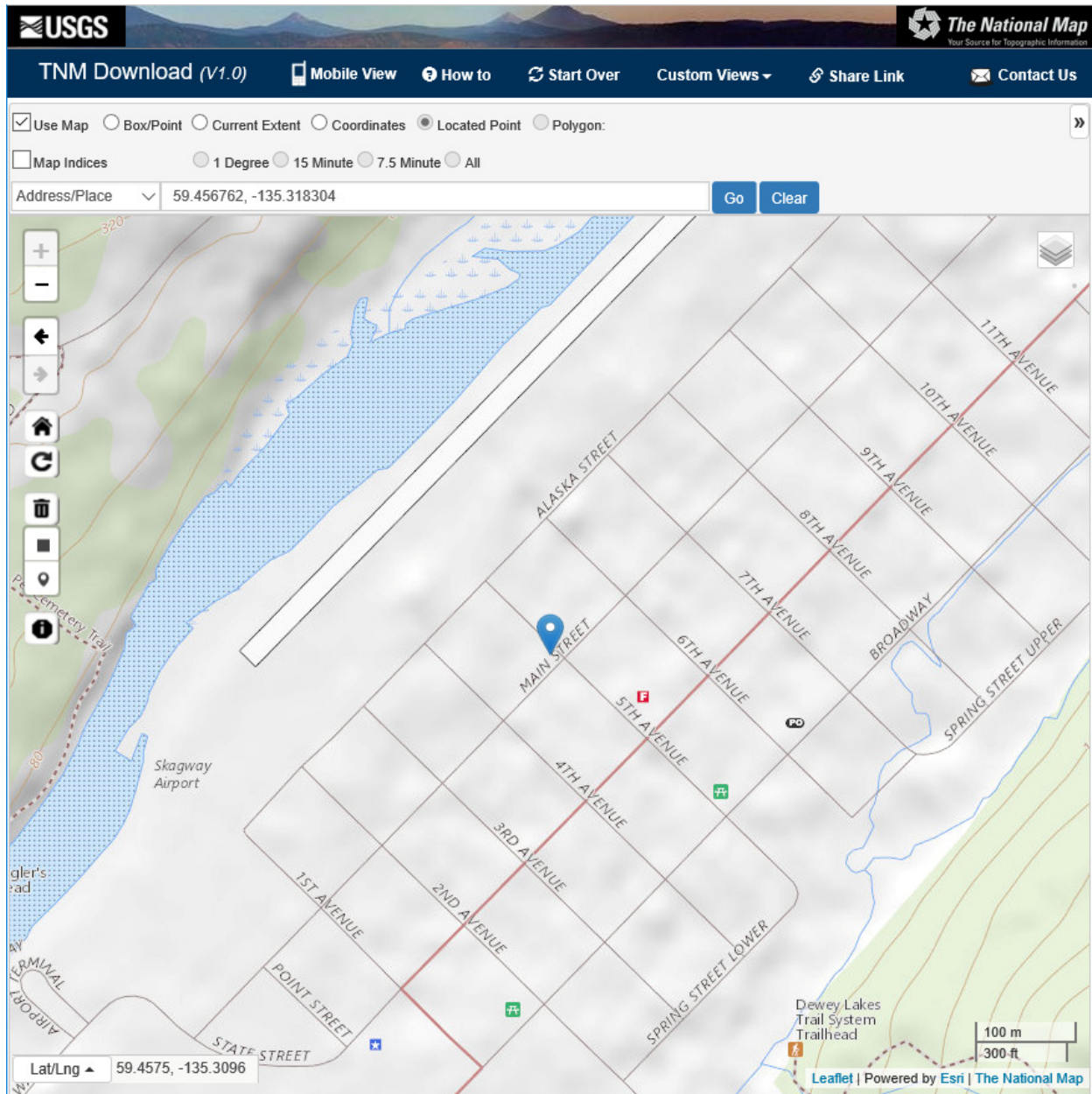
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Robert Lyon, photographer, September 2015

- | | |
|----------|---|
| AK-244-1 | Sanctuary view facing north, showing pews and part of the octagonal vaulted ceiling. The interior walls are finished with a chair rail and vertical board wainscot. Built in 1901, the First Presbyterian Church started as a Methodist-Episcopalian Church. The building was sold to the Presbyterian congregation after a 1916 fire. |
| AK-244-2 | Sanctuary view facing east from the altar, showing pews and part of the octagonal vaulted ceiling. Three openings framed by matching casing and corner blocks are present in the northeast interior wall. The middle opening leads to the primary entrance in the northeast corner tower. The other two openings are alcoves used for additional seating. |
| AK-244-3 | Pews in sanctuary. The cast iron opera house chairs with wood seats and backs have been preserved in their original configuration. |

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
HABS AK-244
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Location Map



The First Presbyterian Church is located at longitude: 59.456762, latitude: -135.318304. This point represents the front door. It was obtained by Jen Larsen, Biological Wildlife Technician & GIS Specialist, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, in August 2019 working with historical building spatial layers within ArcMap (NAD83).

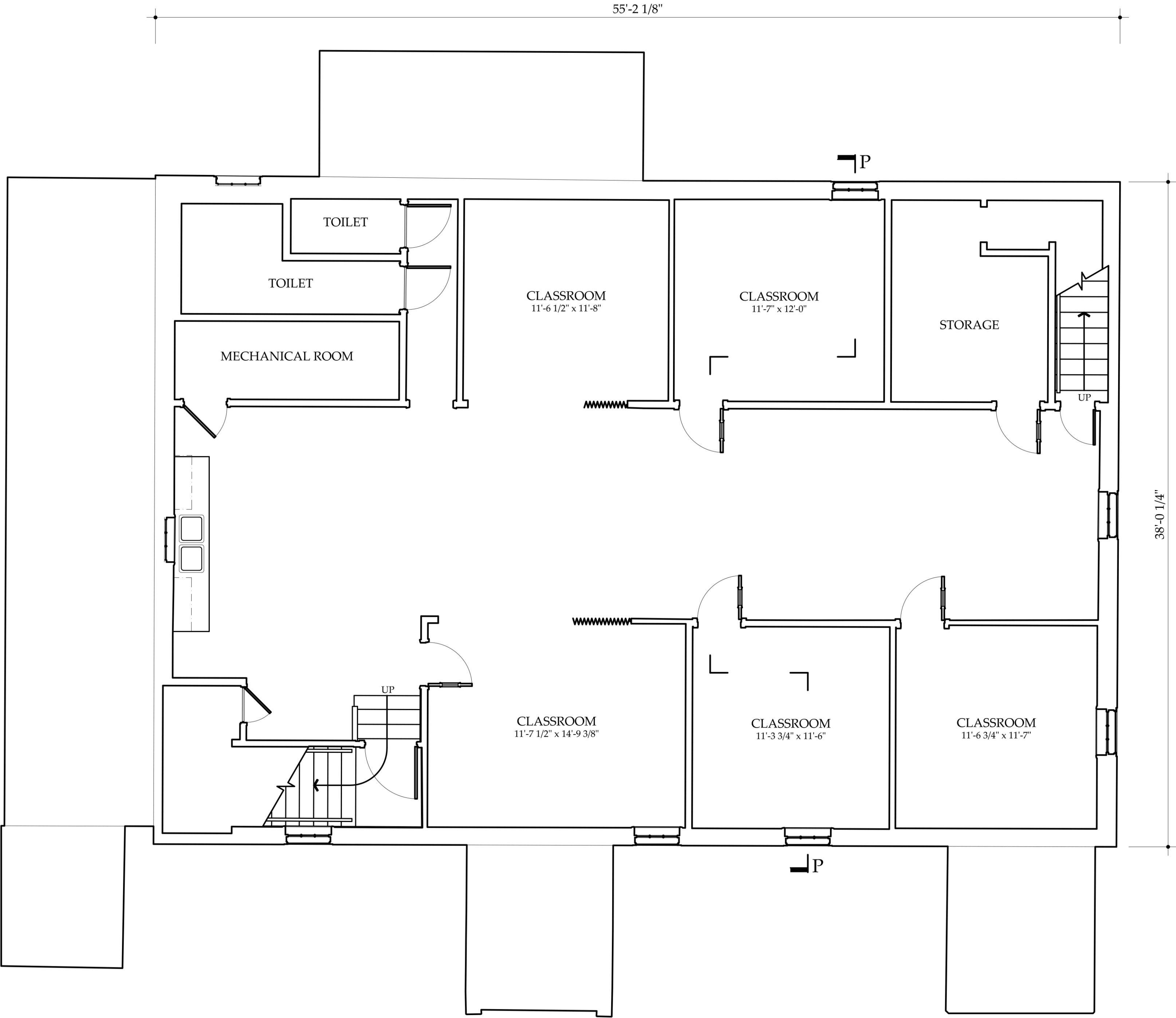
Map source: The National Map, U.S. Geological Survey, accessed August 23, 2019, <https://viewer.nationalmap.gov/basic/>.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

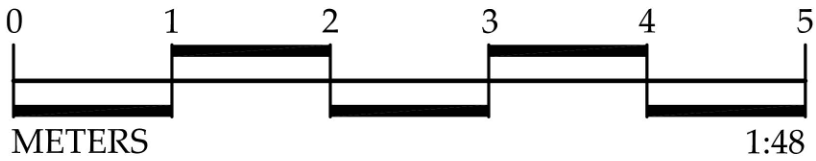
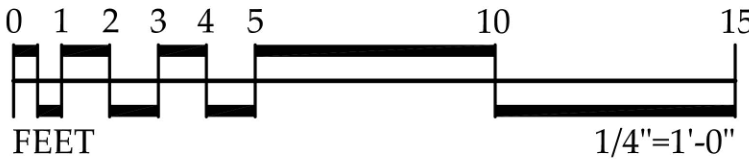
Arriving in Skagway in the summer of 1899 as part of the Klondike gold rush, the Rev. J. J. Walter, superintendent of missions in Alaska for the Methodist church, undertook the fundraising to build a substantial, two-story stone school building, housing classrooms on the first floor, and an auditorium on the second which could be used for religious services. The following year, the building (now City Hall) was sold to the U. S. District Court for use as a federal courthouse. With the profits from the sale, the Methodists built a handsome new church on the corner of Fifth Avenue and Main Street.

The church was built of wood frame construction, sheathed with horizontal weatherboards. The upper level of the prominent corner entrance tower, the north end gable (with Gothic arch cutout), and the pediments of the two east entrance porches were sheathed with shingles. The building's rectangular footprint is belied by its unusual octagonal sanctuary, an arrangement popular with nonconformist denominations at the time. Cast iron opera house chairs, with wood seats and backs, were installed to provide seating.

In 1917, the Methodists ceased operations in Skagway, and sold their church to a Presbyterian



BASEMENT PLAN
1/4"=1'-0" 1:48



congregation. The basement level was inserted beneath the church, 1956-59. The altar, originally located in today's overflow space, was shifted 45 degrees into a new chancel addition, at an unknown date. An addition, housing a ramp at the building's south side, was completed in 2000.

The documentation of the First Presbyterian Church was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) program of the Heritage Documentation Programs (HDP) division of the National Park Service (NPS), Richard O'Connor, Chief. The project was sponsored by the Alaska Regional Office (ARO), NPS, Jennifer Pederson Weinberger, Cultural Resources Team Leader. Additional funding was provided by the Rasmuson Foundation. Project planning was coordinated by Catherine Lavoie, Chief, HABS; and by Grant Crosby AIA, Regional Historical Architect, ARO. The field work was undertaken and the measured drawings were produced by Project Supervisor Mark Schara AIA, HABS Architect; and by HDP Architects Jeremy Mauro and John Wachtel. Assistance was provided by Anne E. Matsov, Historical Architect, ARO. Additional assistance was provided by Pastor Ryan Mandeville of the First Presbyterian Church.



DRAWN BY: JOHN WACHTEL
SKAGWAY DOCUMENTATION PROJECT, 2014
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
450 MAIN STREET SKAGWAY MUNICIPALITY OF SKAGWAY BOROUGH ALASKA

HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 1 OF 5 SHEETS

SURV. NO.
AK-244

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CORNER BLOCK
SANCTUARY

12"=1'-0" 1:1

WINDOW SILL
STAIR HALL

12"=1'-0" 1:1

CHAIR RAIL
SANCTUARY

12"=1'-0" 1:1

DOOR JAMB PLINTH
SANCTUARY

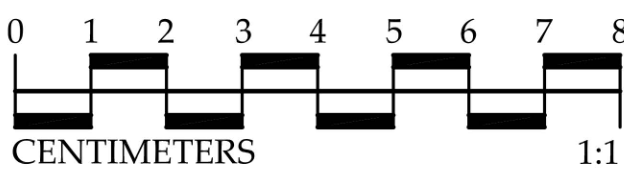
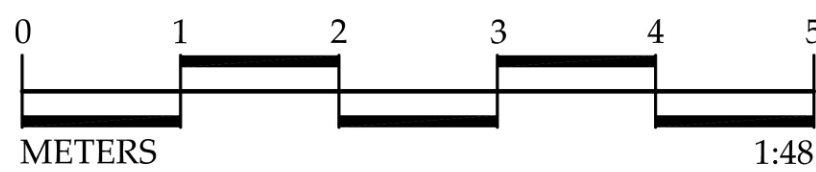
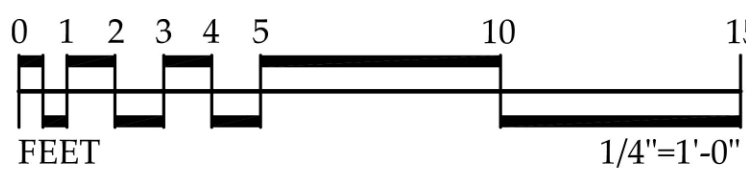
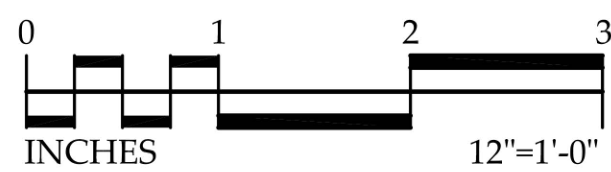
12"=1'-0" 1:1

BASEBOARD
SANCTUARY

12"=1'-0" 1:1

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

1/4"=1'-0" 1:48



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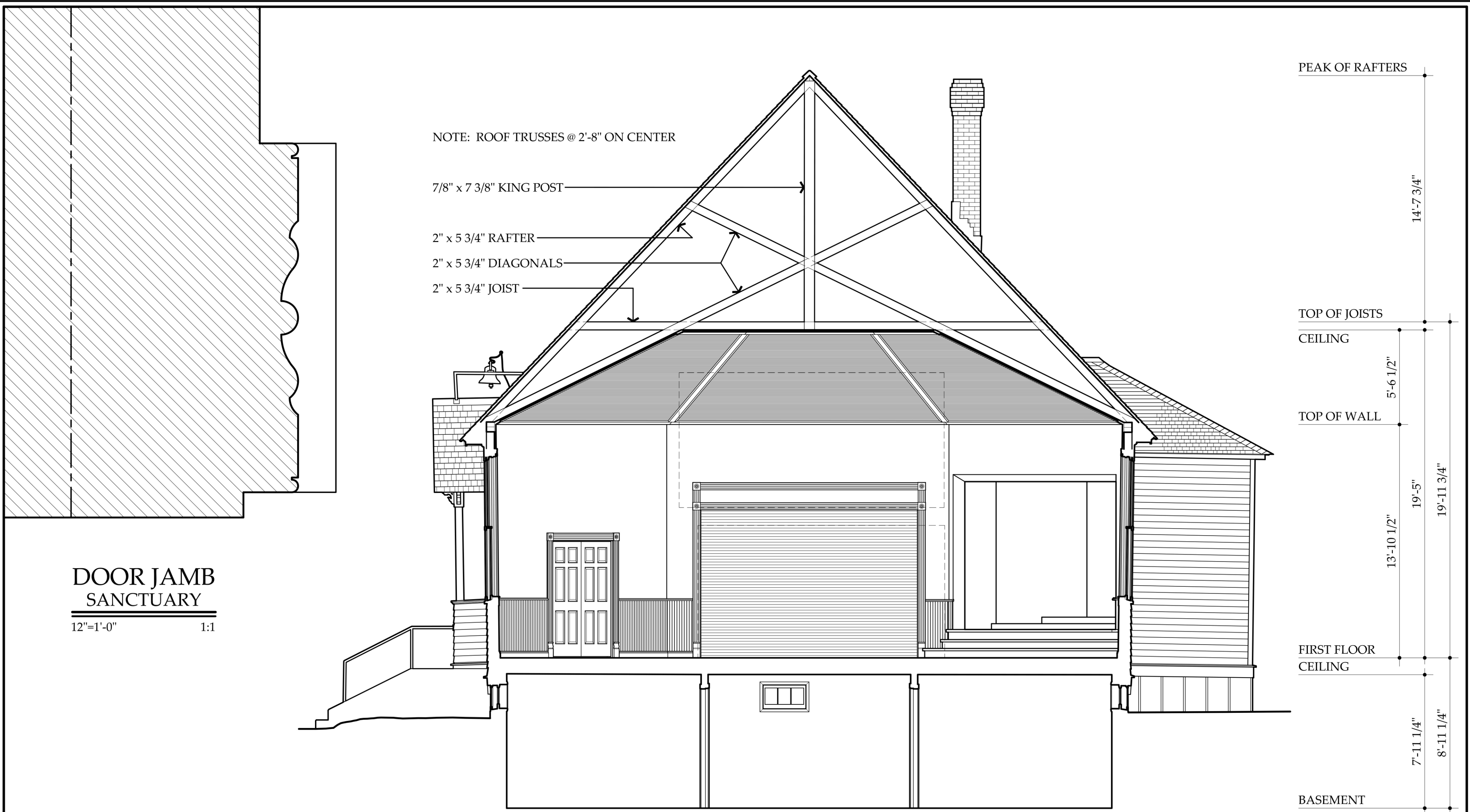
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
450 MAIN STREET SKAGWAY MUNICIPALITY OF SKAGWAY BOROUGH ALASKA

HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 2 OF 5 SHEETS

SURVEY NO.
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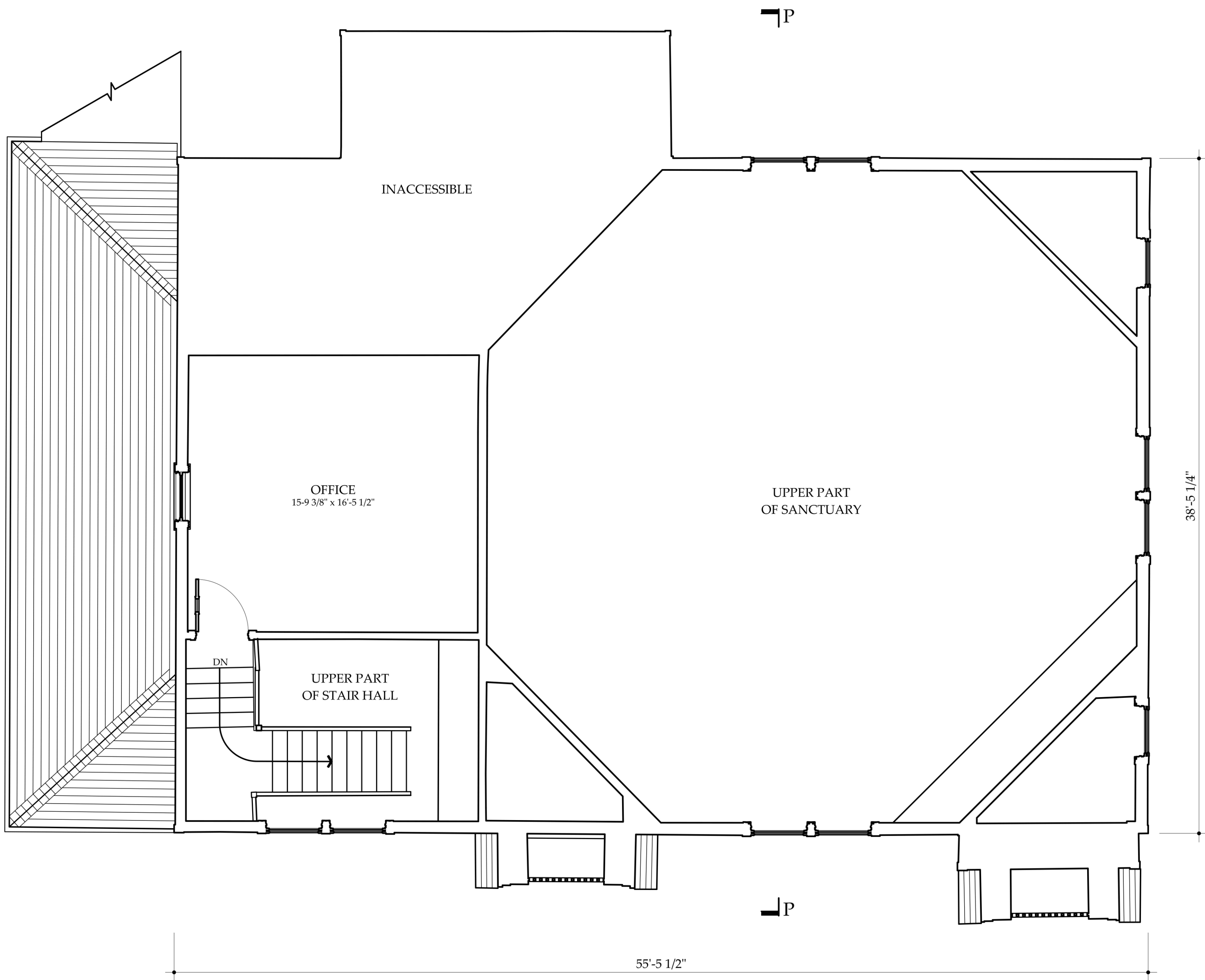
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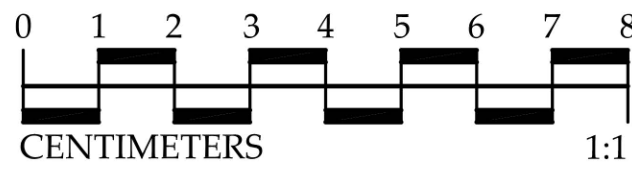
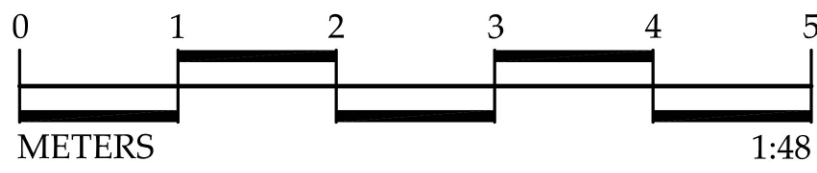
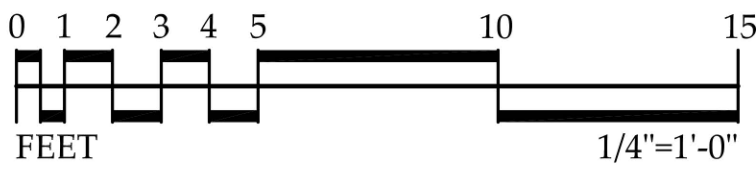
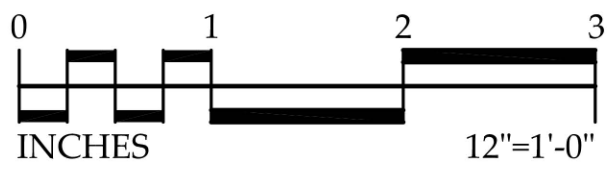


DOOR JAMB
SANCTUARY
12"=1'-0" 1:1

SECTION P-P
1/4"=1'-0" 1:48



SECOND FLOOR PLAN
1/4"=1'-0" 1:48



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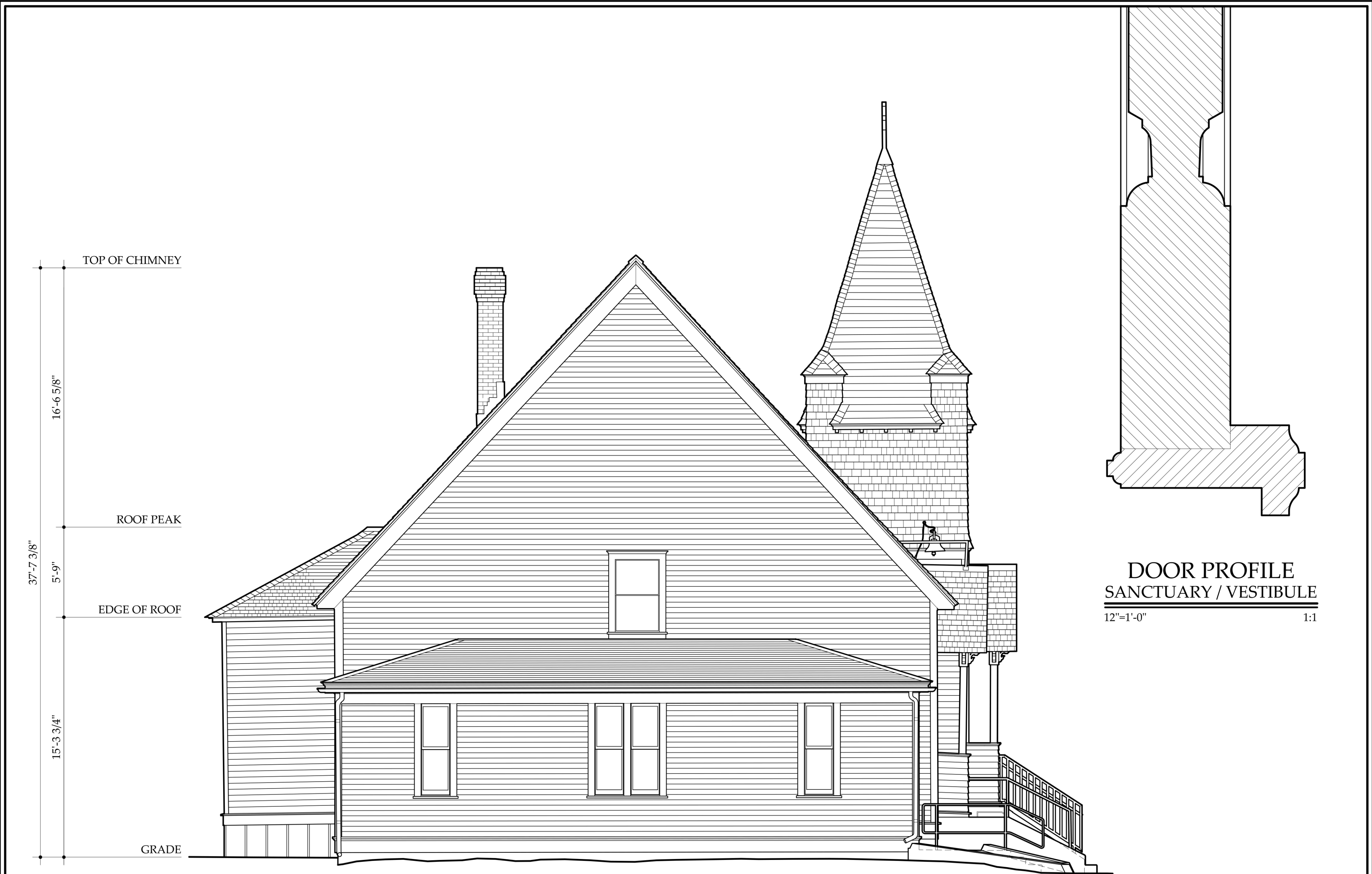
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HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 3 OF 5 SHEETS

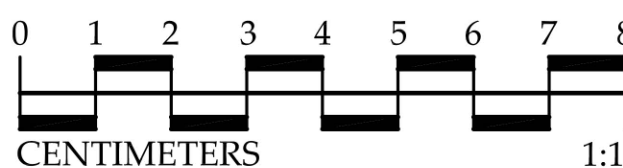
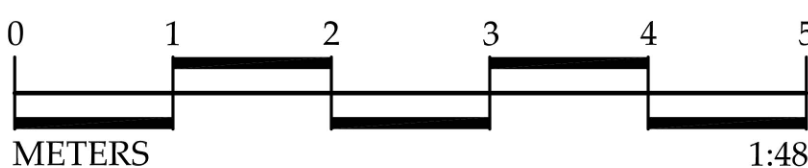
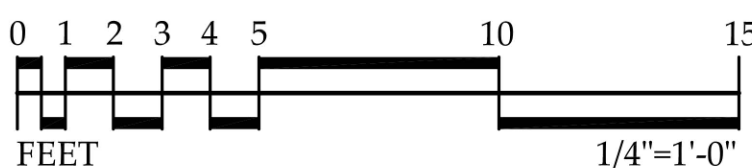
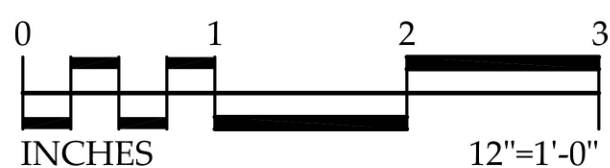
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SOUTH ELEVATION
1/4"=1'-0" 1:48



EAST ELEVATION
1/4"=1'-0" 1:48



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HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 4 OF 5 SHEETS

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TOP OF CROSS
9'-9 1/8"
ROOF PEAK
22'-2 7/8"
EDGE OF ROOF
49'-2 3/8"
14'-1 3/8"
DRIP EDGE
3'-1"
SIDEWALK



BRACKET
PORCH
12"=1'-0" 1:1

NORTH ELEVATION
1/4"=1'-0" 1:48



ROOF PEAK
22'-3 7/8"
EDGE OF ROOF
2'-1 1/2"
38'-10 3/8"
ROOF PEAK
2'-9"
EDGE OF ROOF
11'-8"
GRADE

WEST ELEVATION
1/4"=1'-0" 1:48

0 1 2 3
INCHES
12"=1'-0"

0 1 2 3 4 5 10 15
FEET
1/4"=1'-0"

0 1 2 3 4 5
METERS
1:48

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
CENTIMETERS
1:1

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