

Au Sable Light Station
Grand Marais Vicinity
Alger County
Michigan

HABS No. MI-317

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REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Mid-Atlantic Regional Office
Department of the Interior
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

AU SABLE LIGHT STATION

AT AN ISOLATED POINT ALONG THE SOUTHERN SHORE OF LAKE SUPERIOR SITS THE AU SABLE LIGHTHOUSE, CONSTRUCTED IN 1873-74 TO PROVIDE A BEACON FOR THE SAFE PASSAGE OF COMMERCIAL SHIPPING VESSELS. AT THE TIME OF ITS CONSTRUCTION, IT WAS THE ONLY LIGHT ALONG AN EIGHTY MILE STRETCH OF HEAVILY TRAVELED LAKESHORE. SUDDEN STORMS AND THICK FOG LEFT NUMEROUS SHIPWRECKS THAT DOT THE SOUTHERN SHORE, LABELING THIS AREA THE "GRAVEYARD COAST." AU SABLE POINT WAS MADE PARTICULARLY TREACHEROUS BY A SHOAL WHICH STRETCHES NEARLY ONE MILE INTO THE LAKE AND IS ONLY SIX FEET DEEP IN PLACES.

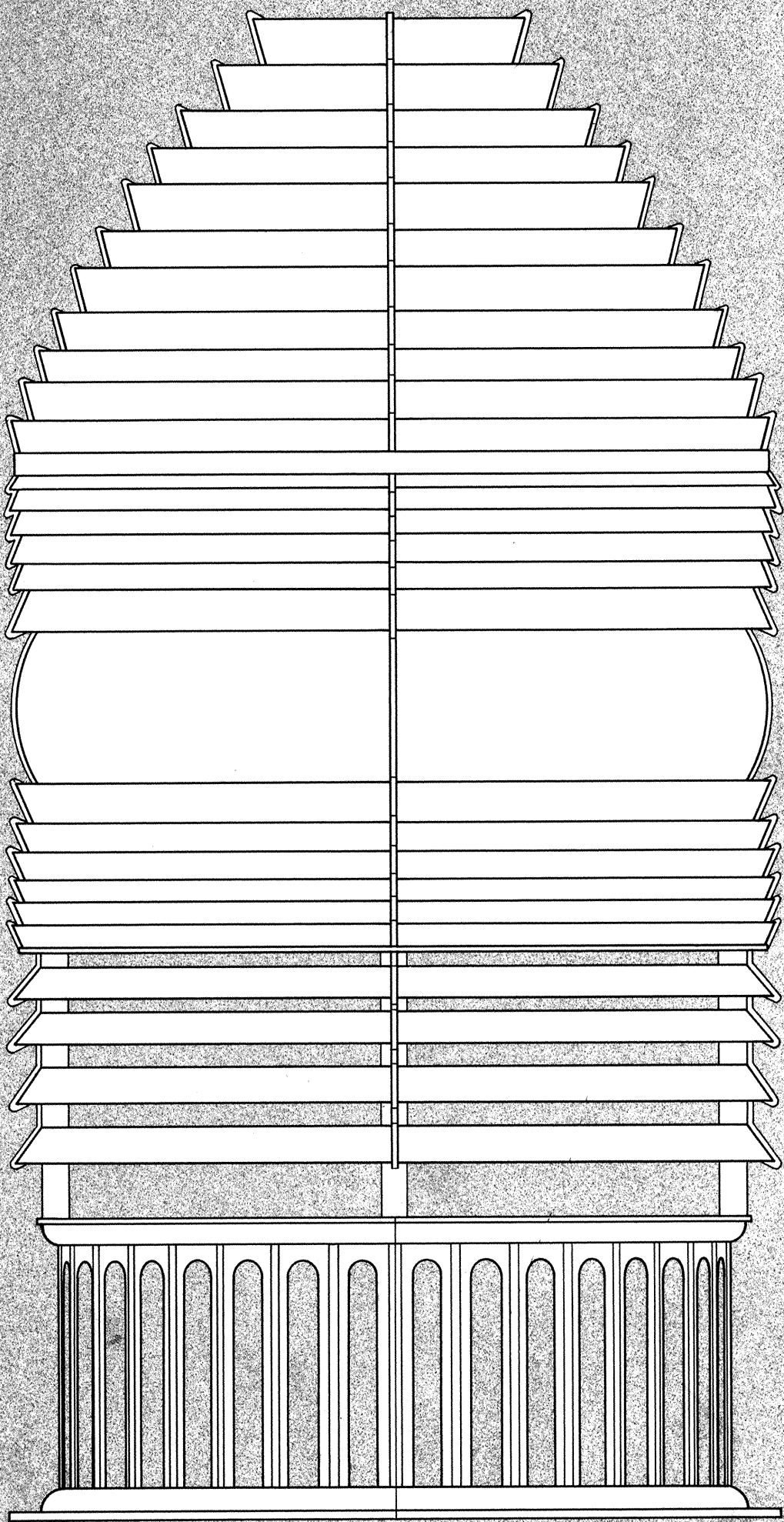
THE DEMAND FOR THE AU SABLE LIGHT WAS CREATED BY A BOOM IN THE SHIPPING TRADE, THE RESULT OF THE DISCOVERY OF RICH MINING DEPOSITS AND THE SUBSEQUENT CONSTRUCTION OF SAULT SAINT MARIE CANAL IN ORDER TO FACILITATE TRADE. BECAUSE THE AU SABLE LIGHTHOUSE ALLOWED FOR SAFE SHIPPING THROUGH THIS AREA FOR THE FIRST TIME, IT PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN STIMULATING INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE THROUGHOUT THE GREAT LAKES. SHIPS LOADED WITH LUMBER, IRON ORE, COPPER, COAL AND GRAIN AS WELL AS THE LARGE IRON AND STEEL FREIGHTERS, MADE THEIR WAY ALONG THE LAKESHORE.

THE SITE ORIGINALLY CONSISTED OF THE LIGHT TOWER AND ATTACHED KEEPER'S DWELLING, BOAT HOUSE, AND PRIVY. A FOG SIGNAL WAS ADDED IN 1897, A SECOND KEEPER'S DWELLING IN 1909. THE DESIGN OF THE BRICK LIGHT TOWER IS TYPICAL OF THOSE CONSTRUCTED IN SCATTERED AREAS THROUGHOUT THE GREAT LAKES DURING THE NINE-

TEENTH CENTURY, REPRESENTING THE STANDARDIZATION OF PLANS GENERATED BY THE U.S. LIGHTHOUSE BOARD. THE LIGHT TOWER IS 91 FEET HIGH AND RISES A TOTAL OF 110 FEET ABOVE LAKE SUPERIOR. IT IS BRICK WITH CUT STONE LINTELS, SILLS AND FOUNDATION. THE LANTERN ATOP THE TOWER HOUSES A THIRD ORDER, FIXED FRESNEL LENS WHICH EMITS A BEAM OF LIGHT IN AN ARC OF 270 DEGREES OVER THE LAKE.

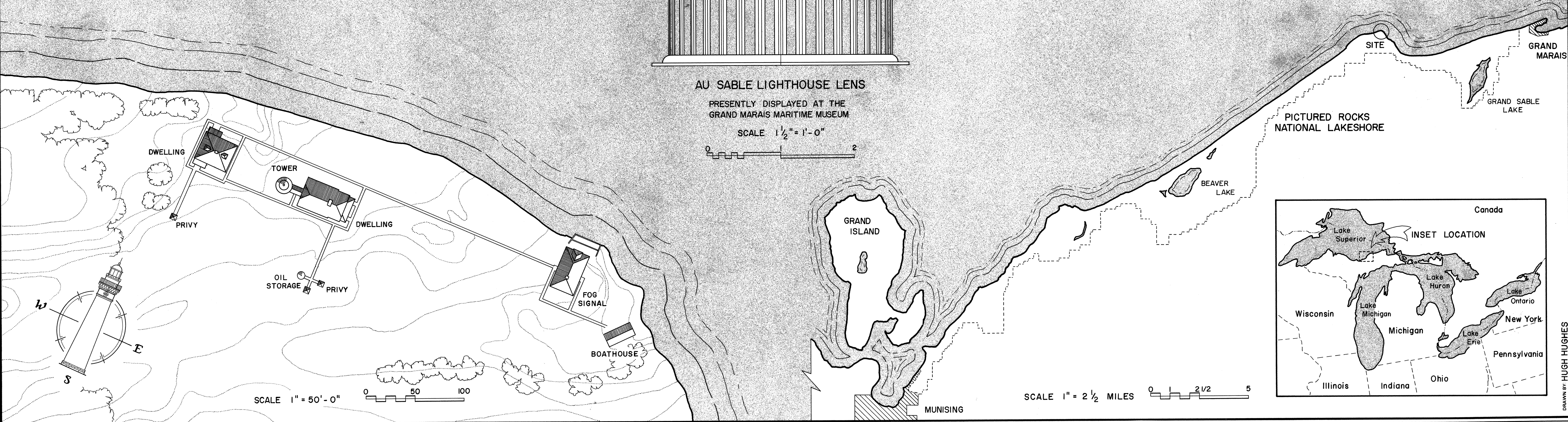
THE LIGHTHOUSE WAS AUTOMATED IN 1958. NO LONGER REQUIRING THE PRESENCE OF A FULL TIME KEEPER, THE BUILDINGS WERE ABANDONED. ON JANUARY 12, 1968 THE SITE, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE LIGHT TOWER, WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AS PART OF THE PICTURED ROCKS NATIONAL LAKESHORE. THE COAST GUARD CONTINUES TO OPERATE THE LIGHT AS AN UNMANNED FACILITY.

DOCUMENTATION OF THE AU SABLE LIGHT STATION WAS UNDERTAKEN BY THE WASHINGTON D.C. OFFICE OF THE HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY (HABS) DIVISION OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE. THE PRINCIPALS INVOLVED WERE ROBERT KAPSCH, CHIEF, HABS/HAER; KEN ANDERSON, AIA, CHIEF, HABS. THE RECORDING WAS CONDUCTED AT THE AU SABLE LIGHT STATION DURING THE SUMMER OF 1988 BY PROJECT SUPERVISOR HUGH HUGHES (UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO) AND ARCHITECTURE TECHNICIANS JEFF BOSTETTER (MIAMI UNIVERSITY), MELLONEE RHEAMS (TEXAS TECH. UNIVERSITY), ERIC SCHMIDT (UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON).

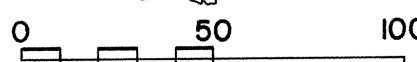


AU SABLE LIGHTHOUSE LENS
PRESENTLY DISPLAYED AT THE
GRAND MARAIS MARITIME MUSEUM

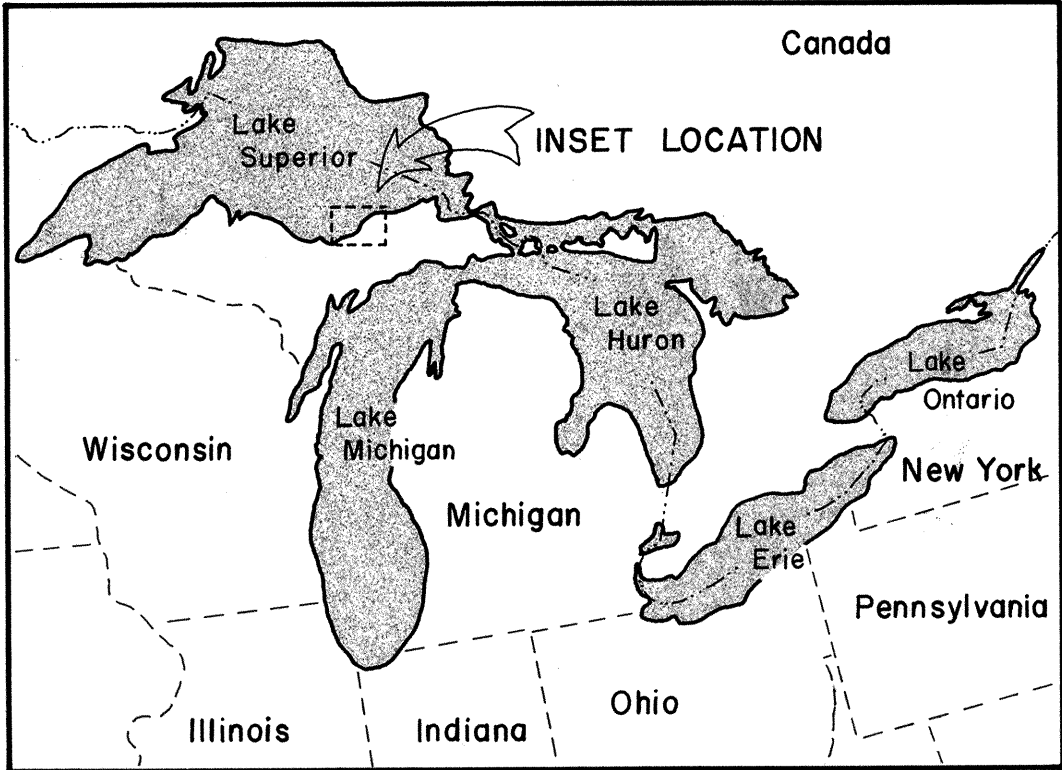
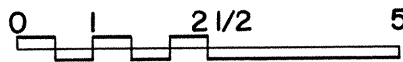
SCALE 1 1/2" = 1'-0"



SCALE 1" = 50'-0"



SCALE 1" = 2 1/2 MILES



AU SABLE LIGHT STATION
ALGER COUNTY

GRAND MARAIS VICINITY

PICTURED ROCKS NATIONAL LAKESHORE
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

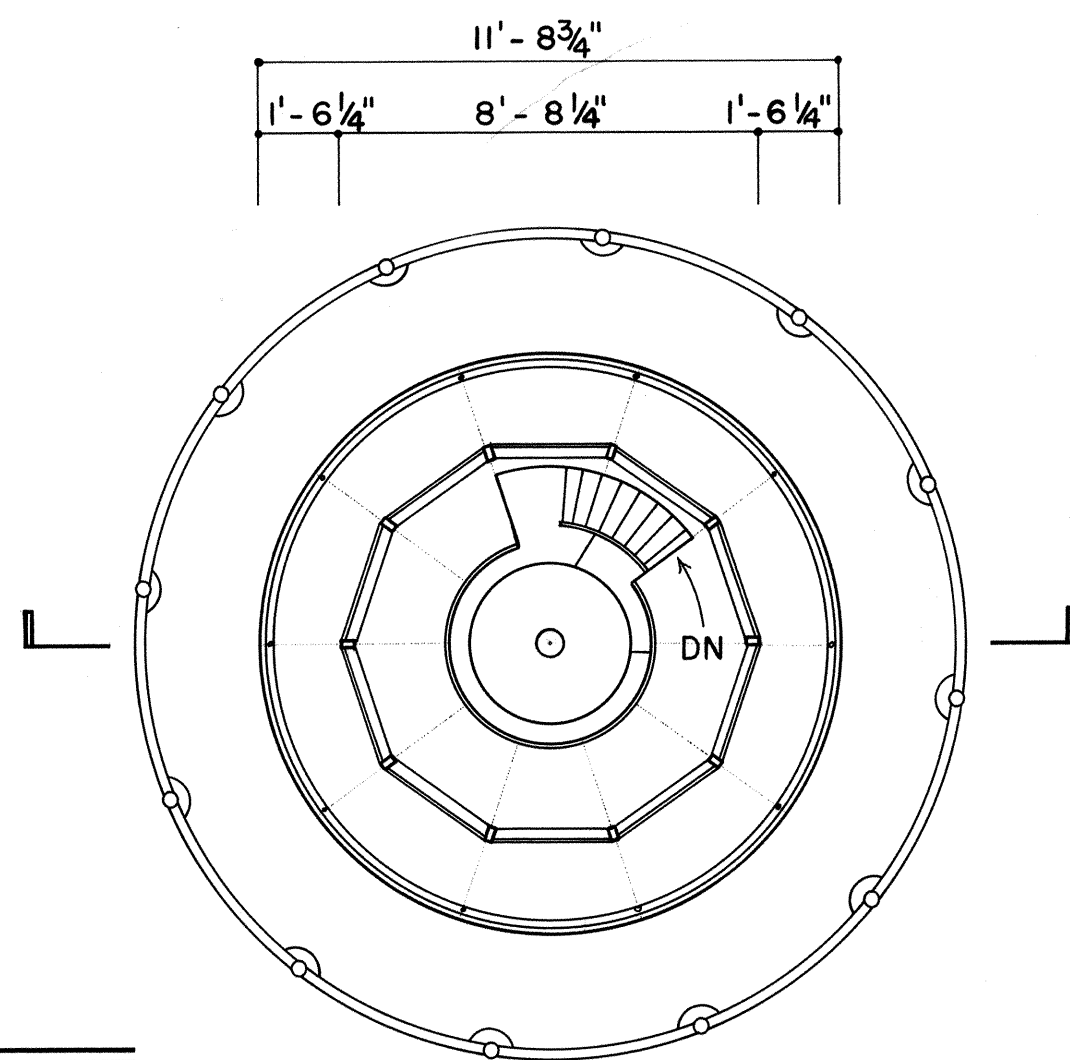
HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 1 OF 7 SHEETS

SURVEY NO.
MI-317

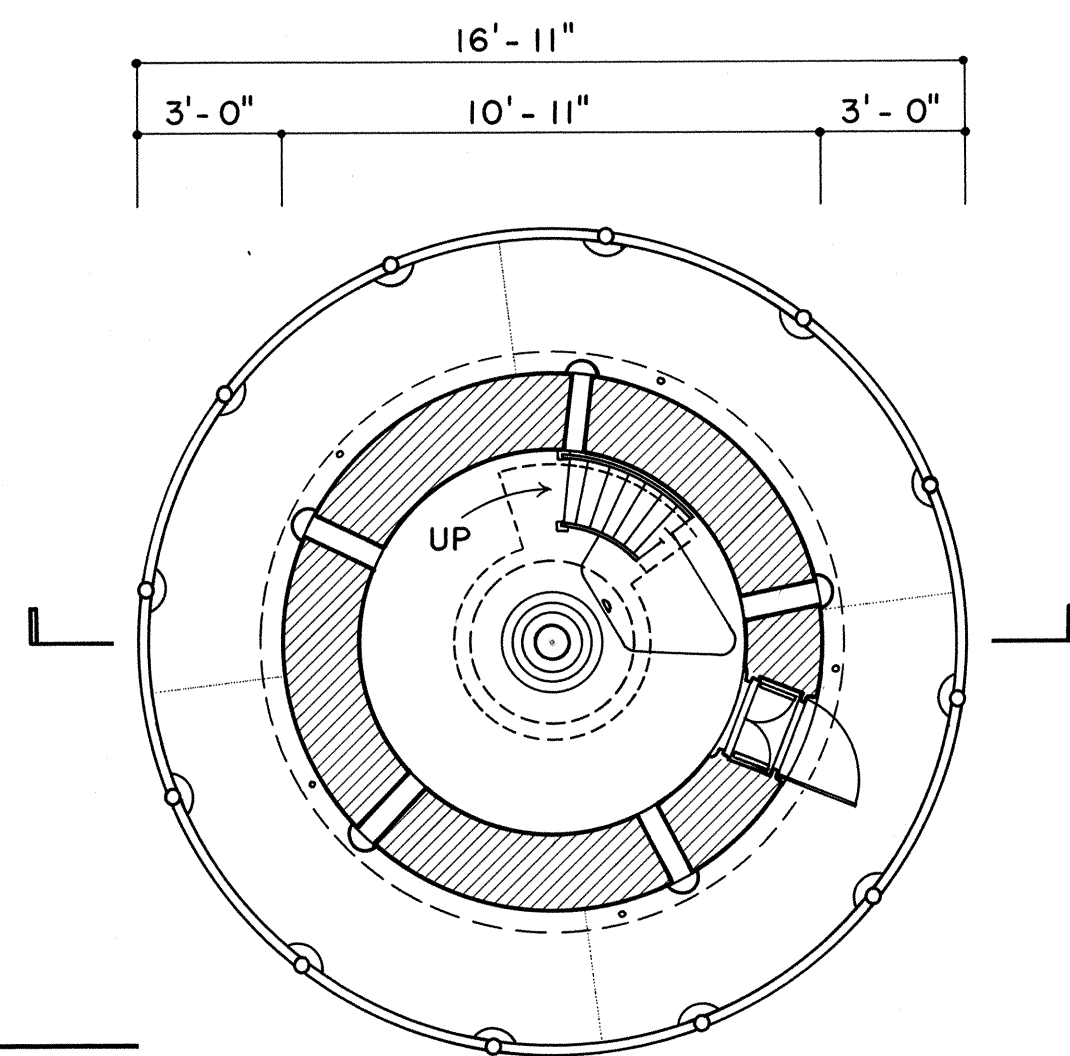
MICHIGAN

NAME AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURE
AU SABLE LIGHT STATION
ALGER COUNTY
MICHIGAN
IF REPRODUCED, PLEASE CREDIT: HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, NAME OF Delineator, DATE OF THE DRAWING

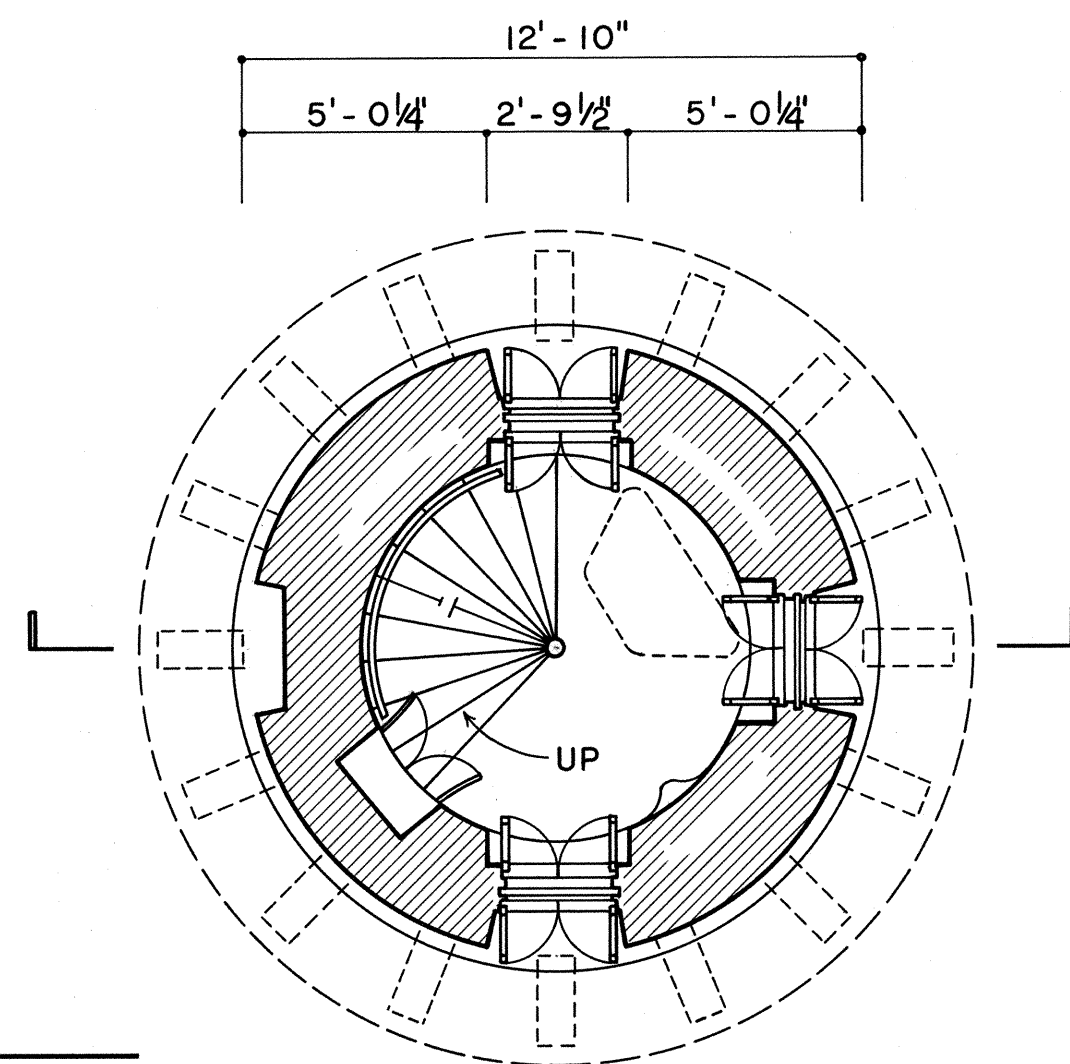
UPPER LANTERN



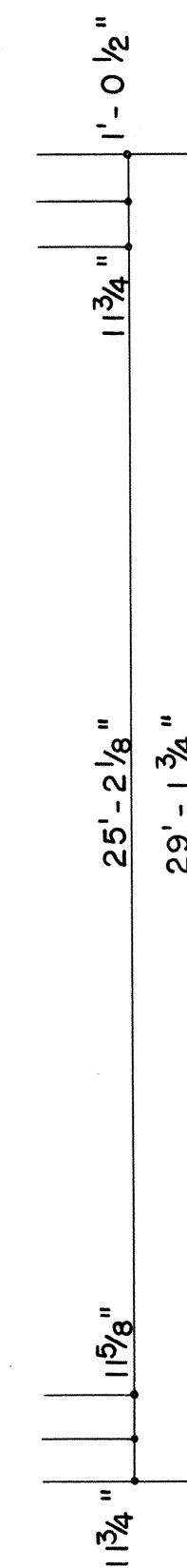
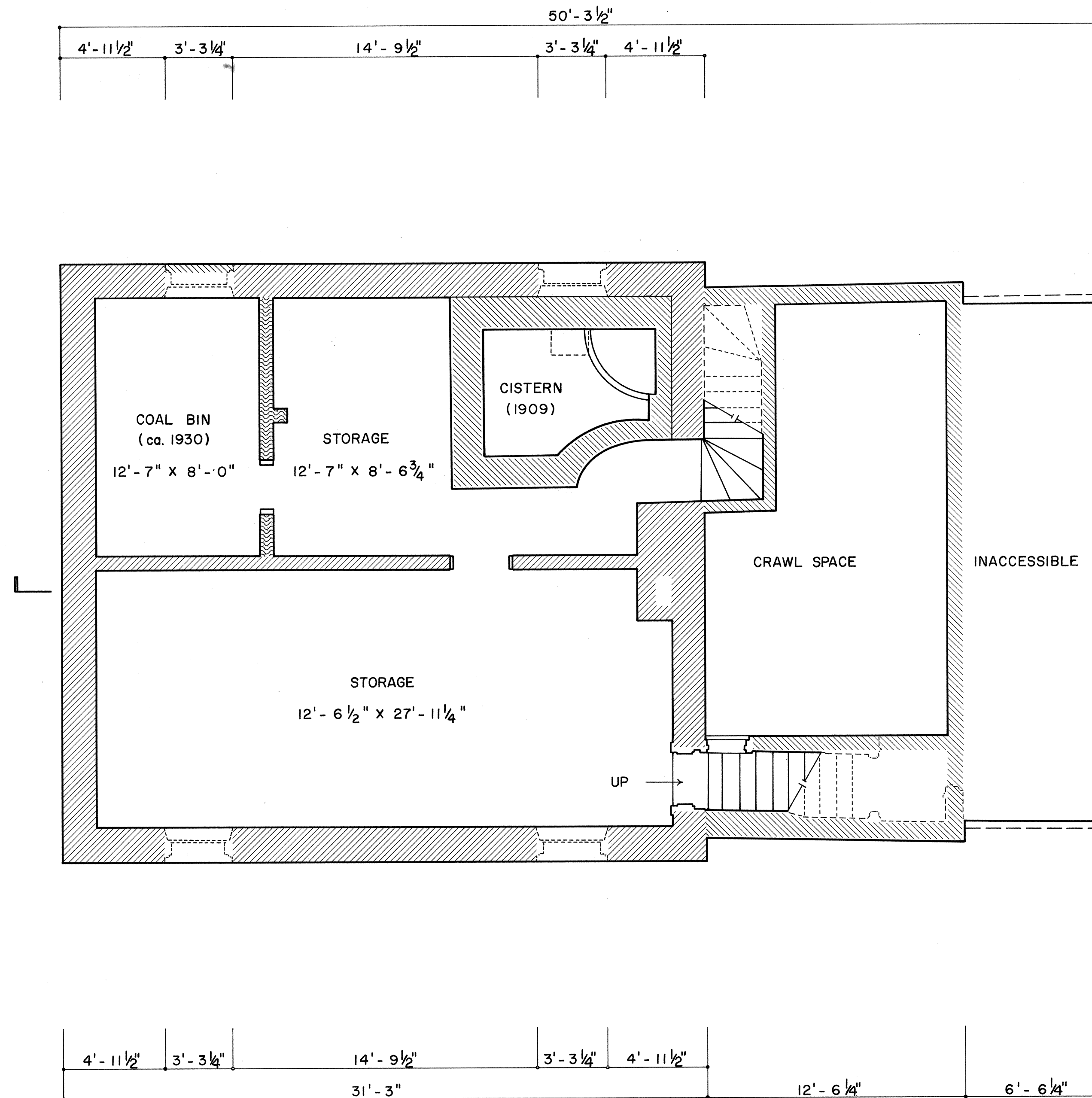
LOWER LANTERN



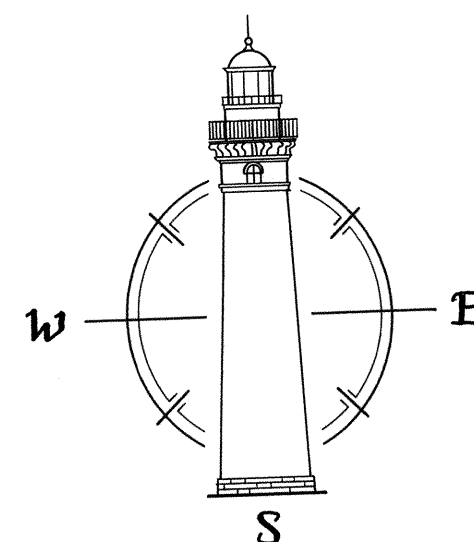
WATCH ROOM

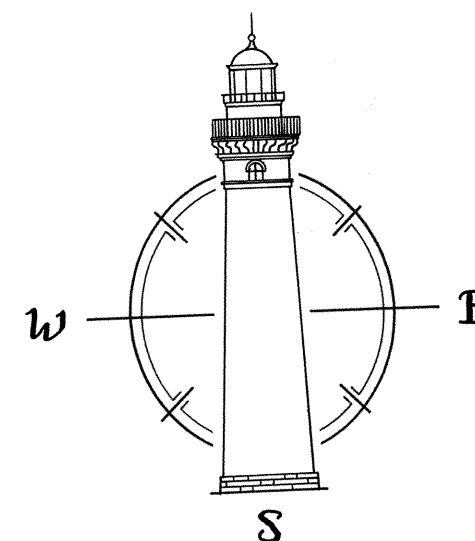
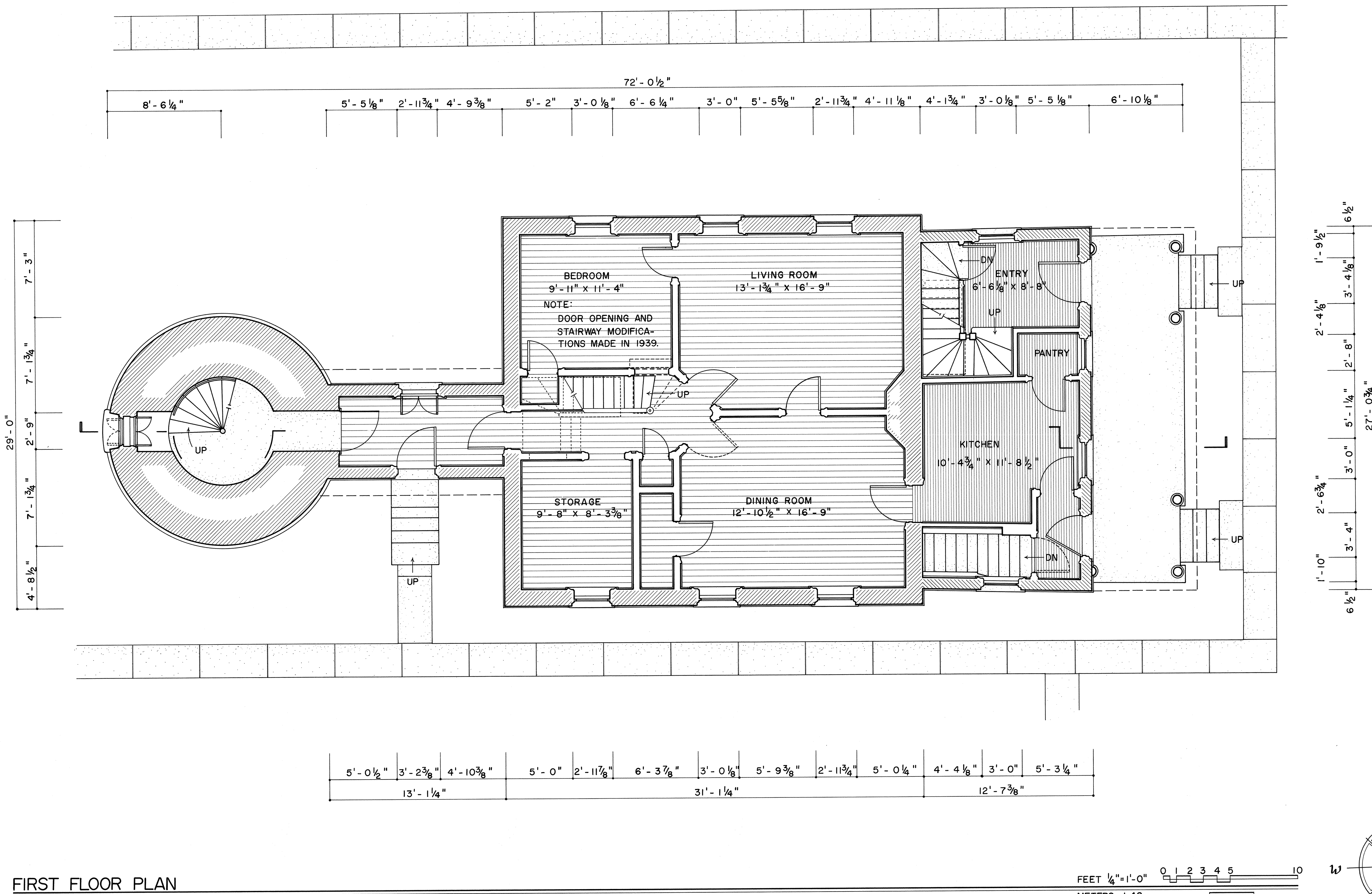


BASEMENT PLAN



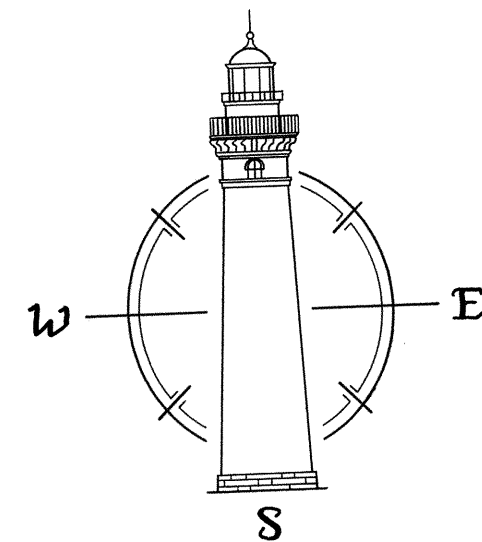
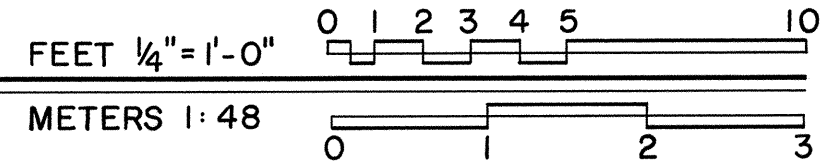
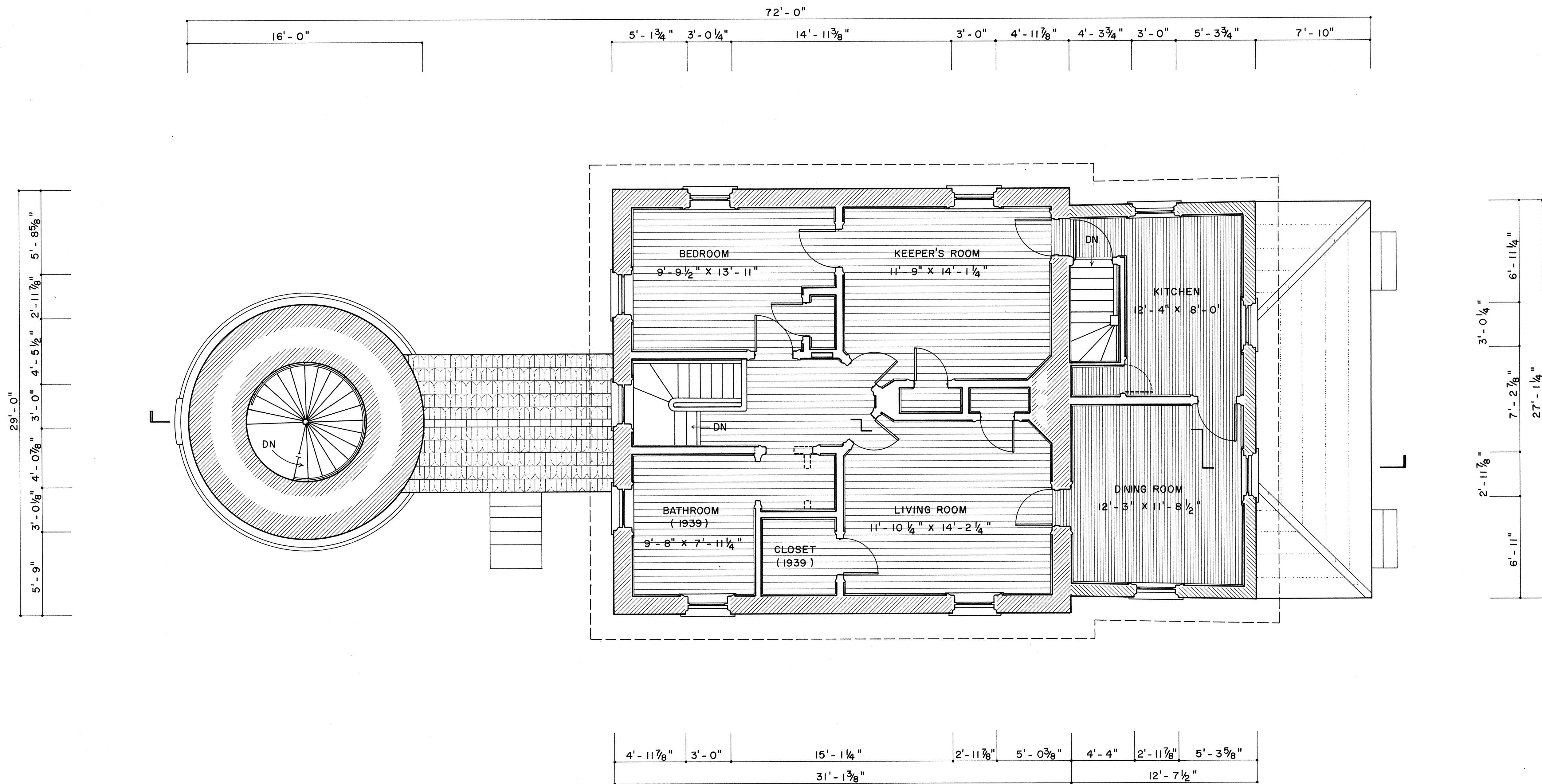
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METERS 1:48 0 1 2 3

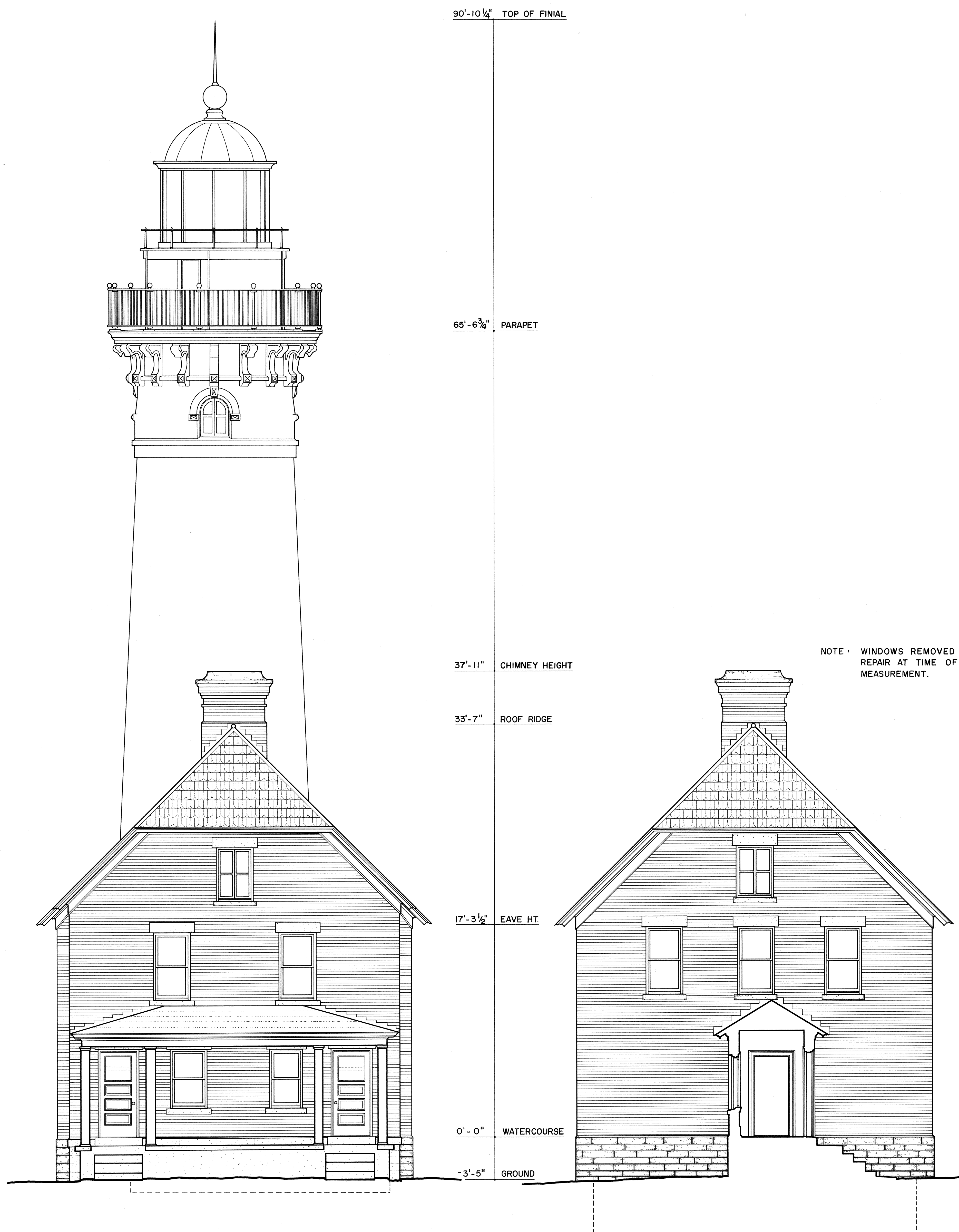




FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SECOND FLOOR PLAN





EAST ELEVATION

WEST ELEVATION

FEET $\frac{1}{4}'' = 1'-0''$ 0 1 2 3 4 5 10
 METERS 1:48 0 1 2 3

DRAWN BY: HUGH HUGHES

PICTURED ROCKS NATIONAL LAKESHORE
 SUMMER 1988
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

GRAND MARAIS VICINITY

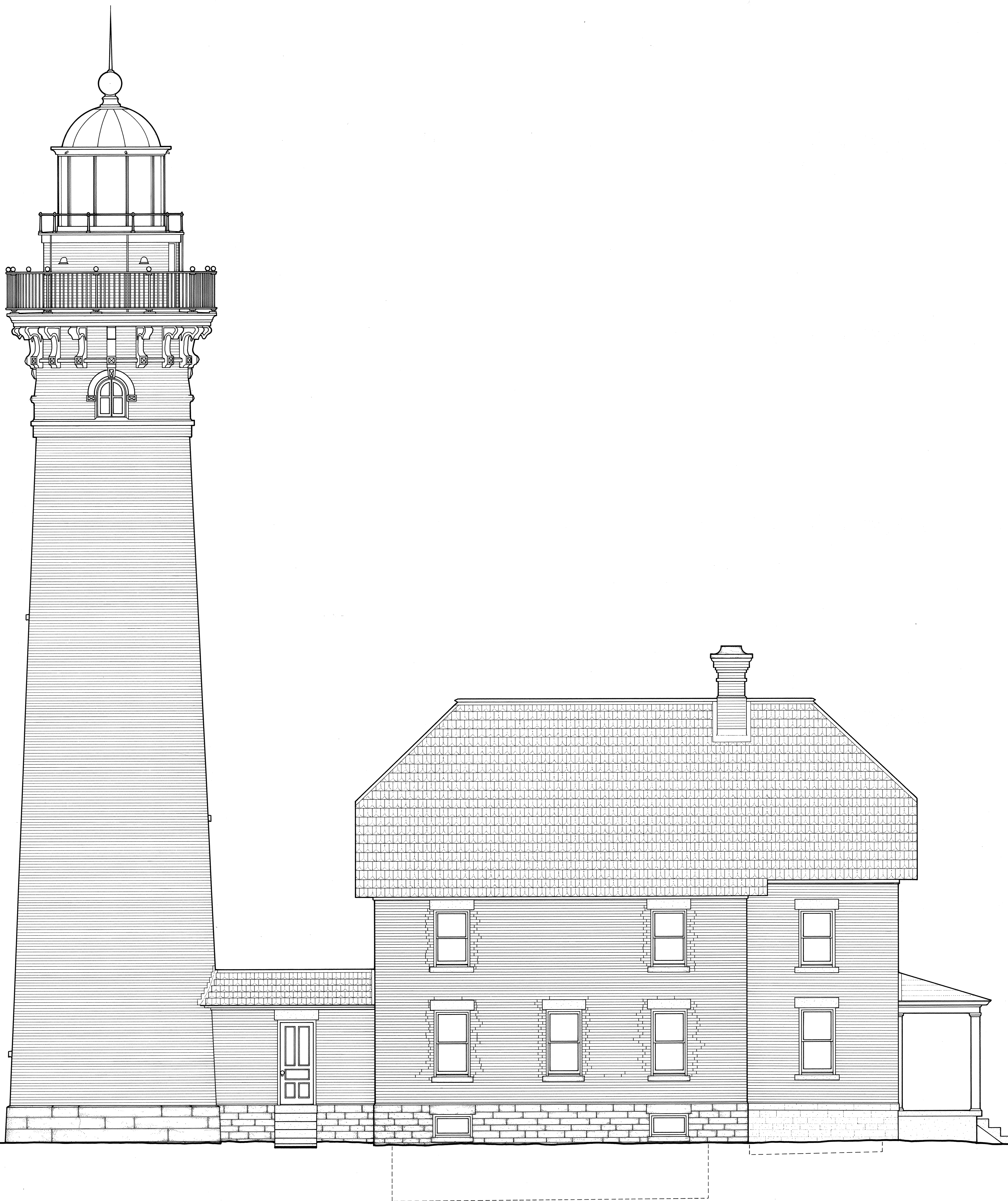
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SOUTH ELEVATION

FEET $\frac{1}{4}'' = 1'-0''$ 0 1 2 3 4 5 10
 METERS 1:48 0 1 2 3

DRAWN BY: HUGH HUGHES

PICTURED ROCKS NATIONAL LAKESHORE
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 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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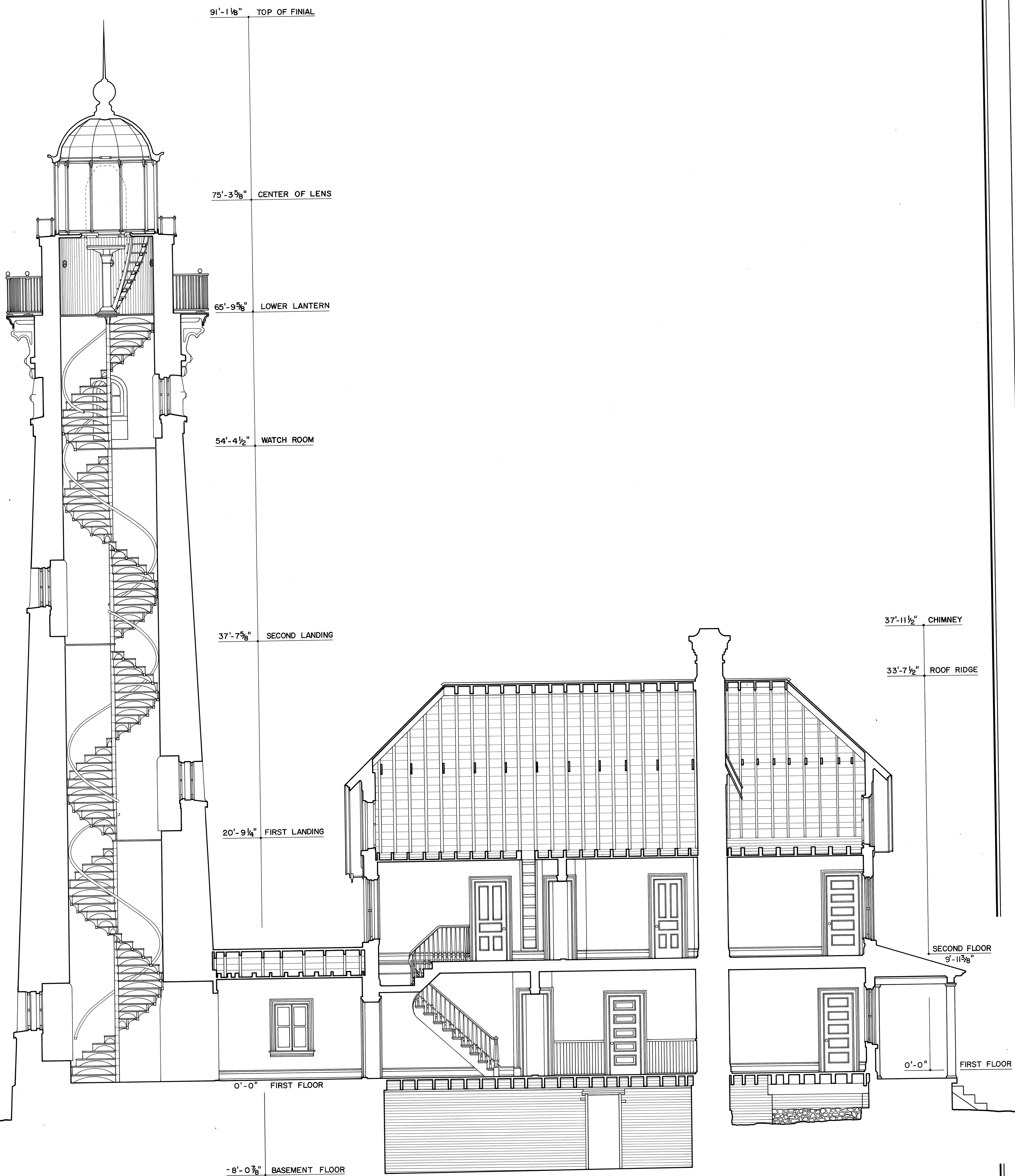
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SECTION

1/4" = 1'-0"

METERS 1:48

0 1 2 3 4 5 10

0 1 2 3

DRAWN BY: JEFF BOSTETTER; inked by HUGH HUGHES

PICTURED ROCKS NATIONAL LAKESHORE

SUMMER 1988

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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