NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018 Expires 5/31/2020

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

National Register of Historic Places
Date Listed 3-15-2016
NRIS No. 16000088
Oregon SHPO

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Arleta Branch Library

other names/site number Wikman Building

Name of Multiple Property Listing N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

street & number 4420 SE 64th Avenue ☐ not for publication

city or town Portland ☐ vicinity

state Oregon code OR county Multnomah code 051 zip code 97206

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this **X** nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property **X** meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: ___ **national** ___ **statewide** **X** **local**

Applicable National Register Criteria: **X** **A** ___ **B** ___ **C** ___ **D**

Christine Curran 1.19.16

Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Arleta Branch Library
Name of Property

Multnomah Co., Oregon
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- [X] private
- [ ] public - Local
- [ ] public - State
- [ ] public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

- [X] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		site
		structure
		object
1	0	**Total**

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION: Library

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE: Professional

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:
Colonial Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE, Poured
walls: WOOD; BRICK
roof: ASPHALT COMPOSITION
other: WOOD; GLASS

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity).

Summary Paragraph

Constructed in 1918 using Carnegie Corporation grant funds, the Colonial Revival-style Arleta Branch Library, more recently known as the Wikman Building, was designed by well-known Portland architect Folger Johnson. The one-story, irregularly-shaped building is located at 4420 S.E. 64th Avenue in southeast Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon. Situated on a flat urban lot on the northeast corner of SE 64th Avenue and S.E. Holgate Boulevard, the 5,665-square-foot building occupies nearly all of its .18-acre, 80' x 100' lot, with the main facade fronting west onto S.E. 64th Avenue and the secondary facade facing south to Holgate Boulevard. The wood frame structural walls are faced in red brick, and the shallow-pitch hip roof has simple eave details and is crowned with a glazed cupola. The symmetrical fenestration pattern, centrally-placed public entrances on the west and south elevations, and hierarchy of classically-influenced ornament are all illustrative of the Colonial Revival style. The site has minimal landscaping that is composed primarily of two sycamore trees foundation plantings. The building retains a high degree of historical integrity, with exterior alterations limited to removal of the original wood railing along the roofline, the addition of an accessibility ramp and some interior alterations made after the building's tenure as a library. Because it is no longer used as a library, the Arleta Branch Library building may have lost some integrity of association and feeling. However, it is located on its original lot, and the building's historic integrity in the areas of setting, design, materials and workmanship are all clearly evident, allowing it to effectively convey its overall historic design, appearance, and function.

Narrative Description

Setting and Landscape

Set within a predominantly residential area of southeast Portland in the Laurelwood Plat, the Arleta Branch Library is located in the southernmost portion of the Foster-Powell neighborhood, approximately five miles southeast of the Willamette River and Portland's commercial center. (Figs. 1-4) The immediate environs include the triangular Laurelwood Park across S.E. Holgate to the south, early- to mid-twentieth century residential neighborhoods surrounding in all directions, and some low-density commercial development along S.E. Foster, a busy northwest-to-southeast arterial one block south of the library building.

The irregular-shaped library building is set back from SE 64th Avenue about 20', and from S.E. Holgate (the secondary street elevation) approximately 5'. A paved alley runs behind the building to the east. The original, simple planting scheme seems to remain largely in place, in spirit if not in actual plant material. Foundation plantings along the west and south sides of the building remain. A sycamore tree at the southwest (front) corner of the property and another at the northeast (rear) corner of the lot behind the library both appear to date to the building's 1918 construction (Figs. 1-2, 5 and 23)

Exterior Description

The 1918 Arleta Branch Library building was designed and built in the Colonial Revival style, and exhibits many of the characteristics and classical architectural details typical of that style. The building displays a hierarchy of scale and detail that diminishes in size and elaboration from the visible and public spaces in the front, to the less-visible or private spaces at the rear. The common wall materials, window frames and sills, and eave treatment gracefully tie each section of the building together to form a cohesive unit. These characteristics of scale and continuity, along with the balanced, symmetrical presentation and relatively simple

architectural details all neatly illustrate the classical elements of the Colonial Revival style as conceived by Beaux Arts-trained architect Folger Johnson.

The building is basically composed of three volumes, each designed for a specific function. (Figs. 2 and 5-7) The primary front hip-roof volume (oriented north-south and measuring 35' by 70') presents the main facade and entrance, and originally housed the Reading Room. A secondary hip-roof volume is set perpendicular to the main portion of the building (which is oriented east-west and measures 36'2" by 27'), and historically served as the Lecture Room. Nestled within the "L" formed by the larger volumes is a 24'6"-square, flat-roof section that is not visible from the street. This smaller volume was originally designed and continues to encompass the Librarian's Room, a kitchen, restrooms, storage, and stairs to the rear basement, and continues to serve in a similar capacity. (Figs. 7 and 14) The angles of the building at the rear form a small courtyard at the northeast corner of the lot that is accessible from the Reading Room. (Fig. 14; Photo 6)

The bilaterally symmetrical front (west) facade displays the most architectural detail, with secondary and rear elevations diminishing in scale and decorative expression while still remaining true to the classical roots of the Colonial Revival style. As viewed along the south side elevation, the rear volume is subordinate to the front volume, being recessed slightly and differentiated with simpler window and door details. The northeast quadrant of the building, not visible from the street, is even more modest yet still reflective of the style. All components of the building display wood multi-paned windows, brick-faced exterior walls, brick quoins, and moulded eave, cornice and window frame details. (Photos 1-8)

The library has a continuous poured concrete perimeter foundation with a partial basement in the rear portion of the building, which accommodates the utility and heating systems, a small second restroom, and janitor's storage space. The basement area beneath the Reading Room was filled to form a concrete interior floor in that room. (Figs. 13 and 14) The walls are wood framed and faced on the exterior with red brick laid in a running bond. A flush brick soldier course encircles the building at the foundation/water table level, and slightly-projecting quoins of red brick at the corners provide relief and classical detail. Other elements expressed in brick include the blind panels on the east elevation, which are suggestive of windows and transom lights. (Figs. 15-17; Photos 2-4, 8)

The moderately-pitched (7-in-12) intersecting hip roof was originally clad in wood shingles that have been replaced with modern asphalt composition roofing.[1] The 30" entablature, which encircles the entire building, consists of a wood board frieze with rosettes at the building corners, and a boxed eave with dentil and cornice mouldings. Tin-lined wood gutters are integrated into the cornice/eave design; round metal downspouts are attached to the corners with butterfly straps. (Photo 8)

The building originally included a 1'11" decorative wood rail along the west, north and south eave lines of the main (front) volume; this element was removed sometime between the late 1930s and the early 1960s as indicated in historic photographs. (Figs.17, 23-25 and 29) The center of the main roof ridge is crowned with a delicate octagonal cupola with multi-paned arched windows set above louvered wood panels on each face, and topped with a tin-over-wood finial-shaped roof. A wood balustrade with turned wooden urns, a feature similar to that on the main north-south roof, originally encircled the cupola, but was removed sometime before 1963.[2] (Figs. 18, 23 and 24; Photo 7)

The rear intersecting hipped roof is set perpendicular and slightly subordinate to the roof on the main portion of the building. The flat roof of the rear square volume extends directly from the eaves of the intersecting hips, and thus is smoothly integrated into the overall design with continuous eave details throughout. (Figs 15, 16;

[1] Original plans indicate the wood shingles were to be installed with every fourth course doubled, resulting in a subtle striping pattern on the roof. It is unclear from historic photographs if this design feature was carried out.
[2] This feature is evident a 1937 historic image, but absent in views from 1963.

Photo 5) The original red brick and concrete chimney, which served as a furnace flue and ventilator, has been replaced with a tall metal pipe flue (no date).

The windows and doorways provide much of the architectural detail and visual interest to the building's exterior. Typical of the Colonial Revival style, fenestration is regular and symmetrical, primarily composed of large, wood-framed, multi-paned windows in balanced arrangements. (Figs. 15-17; photos 1, 3 and 4) Window surrounds throughout include brick architraves and cast stone sills, with some openings displaying short imposts and cast stone keystone details.[3] Windows in the front main volume, three on either side of the main entrance, are all round-arched in form. The front facade sash are eight-over-eight double-hung, and those on the north and south elevations are twelve-pane fixed sash with solid wood panels filling the opening below.[4]

On the south elevation of the rear volume, six-over-six double hung wood sash windows are topped with three-pane transom lights, all with flush brick architraves and concrete (cast stone) sills.[5] The east exterior wall of the Reading Room (facing the alley) presents a windowless facade with blind window-sized panels outlined in brick. (Figs. 15 and 16; Photos 4 and 5)

The small, flat-roof section of the building at the rear has the least amount of architectural detail, yet does not deviate from the Colonial Revival mode. Foundation, wall and eave details match the rest of the building, but windows are four-over-four double-hung wood sash and one eight-over-twelve sash, all with blind panels indicated in brick above the windows. (Photos 5 and 6)

The projecting central entrance portico is the most prominent and stylistically expressive element on the building. (Photo 7) The portico is defined by four slender Composite order columns with matching pilasters, which support a classical entablature of frieze, dentil course, moulded cornice and gable roof. An open wood rail with turned balusters embraces the portico, and wood lattice panels fill the north and south side openings, as originally designed. (Fig. 19; Photo 7) Within the portico, which has a wood paneled, arched ceiling, the single, full-light entrance door is flanked on either side by glazed sidelights and larger fixed-sash windows with turned wood spindle grilles. The solid transom is capped with a fan panel. A concrete plaque identifying the building as the "Public Library Arleta Branch" remains in place over the front door. (Figs. 22 and 24)

The less ornate south side entrance, which provides exterior access to and from the Lecture Room, consists of a single door with four-light transom that is marked by a small, shallow projecting entryway. This modest but elegant entrance includes Tuscan order columns with corresponding pilasters supporting a full entablature with a broken segmental-pediment roof. (Fig. 20; Photos 3 and 4)

The most modest and least-visible doorways are located on the east (rear) elevation. The courtyard entrance consists of a pair of ten-light French doors with a solid, wood, paneled arch above, mimicking the front elevation's arched windows and door detail. (Photo 6) A second, even more modest rear basement-level door with an eight-over-eight double hung window-as-transom and single sidelight provides access to and from the "working" area of the building. (Fig. 15; Photo 5)

Interior Description

The exterior massing and heirarchy of the Arleta Branch Library is mirrored in its original interior layout and finishing, although the interior spatial configuration has been slightly altered.

[3] Steven J. Phillips, *Old House Dictionary*, (Washington D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1992), pp 99-100.
[4] The original design called for two eight-over-eight double hung wood sash and two fixed, twelve-light sash on the south end wall. The solid panel may have been employed in order to gain interior wall space for the perimeter book shelves.
[5] Brick architraves are labeled as "jack" arches on original drawings; this feature is also known as a flat arch.

The 33' by 68' main, open space originally served as the Reading Room, and was entered through a projecting vestibule. The floors in the Reading Room were concrete, and the room was furnished with built-in book cases on the perimeter walls, as well as free-standing shelving and tables in a regular arrangement. (Fig. 21, 28, 31 and 32) A librarian's desk and "Atlas Case" were fixtures on the east wall, and free-standing furniture was included as part of the architect's design for the building. The coved ceiling is classically detailed with straight and egg-and-dart-motif wood mouldings and a plaster frieze above a moulded picture rail. The 16' 11"' ceiling height and large windows on three sides created an open, well-lit space for reading and learning.

The Reading Room retains its concrete floor, lath-and-plaster walls, cornice detailing, original windows and doors, window and door into the Librarian's Office/Room, and the Atlas Case. All of the original furniture and many of the built-in features have been removed; the vestibule, perimeter bookcases, and Librarian's desk no longer remain. Original pendant light fixtures had been replaced by florescent ceiling lighting by 1963, and no original fixtures appear to remain anywhere in the building. The volume was divided by the installation of a partition wall and mezzanine at the northern end of the room, which apparently necessitated the removal of some original trim. This feature has been removed and replaced with a partition wall in the same general location, although the new wall has carefully preserved all remaining trim and cornice detailing in place. (Fig. 7; Photo 9)

The building's other large room was designed to serve as a Lecture Room, enjoyed by neighborhood patrons for lectures, meetings, and other formal and informal community gatherings. Smaller (measuring about 25' by 36'), and more modestly detailed than the Reading Room, the Lecture Room was designed with Douglas fir floors, wood baseboards, lath-and-plaster walls, and coved ceilings with simple moulding at the cornice level. (Fig. 7; Photo 12).

The Lecture Room retains many historic features and finishes, including original flooring, wood trim, plaster walls, windows and doors. A moveable platform originally located at the east end of the room, for use as a stage, and bench seating along the north and south walls no longer remain. (Fig. 14) Although alterations that were made by Multnomah County (multiple partitions and dropped ceiling system) have been removed, the room has been re-partitioned, with work carefully preserving all trim and architectural detail in place.

The smaller, square, tertiary space housed the librarian's room, kitchen, a women's bathroom, closet space, hallway, and split stair to the basement. (Fig. 14; Photos 14-17) Today, all of these basic spatial arrangements, as well as many of the details and finishes, remain intact. The Librarian's Room was designed with access to the Reading Room (via a door and a window) and the kitchen, as well as a storage closet with multiple shelves. All of these elements, along with the original baseboards, chair rail, windows, cornice moulding, doors and trim, remain intact and in good condition. The wood flooring has been covered with modern carpet, but presumably remains intact beneath.

The kitchen retains its original layout, including cabinets and cupboards with hardware, cool cupboard in the northeast corner under the counter, wood wainscot and trim, and windows and door. (Photo 15) The countertop and flooring have been replaced with modern materials. The adjacent women's bathroom has newer fixtures and counter, but retains the original hexagonal-tile flooring, tile baseboards, plaster walls, medicine cabinet, and original window and door with hardware.

The split stair to the rear exit and basement is also intact, retaining the original simple rail of square balusters and newel posts. The wood staircase is split, with an exterior door at the landing, before leading to the basement. (Photo 17) The exterior doorway, which opens onto a parking area at the rear of the building, is original, including three-pane sidelight and eight-over-eight double-hung sash window above, but the original door has been replaced.

As expected, the basement of the building has poured concrete (foundation) walls and a concrete slab floor. This utilitarian part of the building houses the furnace, storage areas, a janitor's room, and a small second

bathroom. (Photo 18) Other than changes to the mechanical systems to meet modern needs, little has changed in this area. The original doors, trim, and bathroom sink remain in place and in good condition.

Overall and in spite of the spatial changes to the Reading and Lecture Rooms, the interior of the Arleta Branch retains a high degree of integrity of design, materials and workmanship in the finishes and architectural features and details.

Alterations

The Arleta Branch Library remained virtually intact until after it was sold in 1973. Exterior changes are limited to the addition of an entrance ramp for accessibility purposes, removal of decorative railing at the eave and cupola, and removal of some of the landscape features evident in the original drawings, primarily those in and around the rear courtyard. The brick ramp, while located at the front of the building, is compatible in materials and in its clear deference to the symmetry of the original building facade. Its low stature and overall design is such that it does not detract significantly from the building's balanced Colonial Revival character. The removal of the decorative eave balustrade and matching rail encircling the cupola occurred sometime after 1937 and 1963, respectively. Although these elements were characteristic of the Colonial Revival style, their absence does not significantly impact the remaining overall integrity of the building. The original exterior doors on the front, south side and rear basement access have been replaced with modern doors, but the and entrance details and opening sizes remain intact. In addition, the original front door(s) have been replaced with a single, full-light door, and the rear basement access door, originally a four-pane half-light door, has also been replaced with a modern solid door (no dates).

The rear courtyard was originally conceived in a cruciform design, with a birdbath at its center; . It is assumed that the design was carried out as designed, but no remnant of that small designed landscape remains visible. Both large sycamore trees on the property appear to date to the period of construction. The root system of the tree at the northeast (rear) corner of the building is encroaching on and causing damage to the building's foundation, and is scheduled be removed, but the tree at the southwest corner (front) of the property remains in place.

On the interior, both the Reading Room and the Lecture Room were partitioned in the early 1970s when the building was converted to non-library use. These changes have been updated (in 2015), but the spaces remain partitioned. Other alterations, which occurred prior to the current ownership, include the removal of built-in bookshelves, removal of the entrance vestibule, light fixture replacements, removal of moveable furniture, some minor modern updates to the kitchen and bathrooms, and heating system upgrades. Although the early 1970s loss of the built-in bookcases and other original features of these rooms is unfortunate, much of the original architectural detail remains in place and is being preserved in the current remodel.

Overall, the Arleta Branch Public Library building retains a high degree of historical integrity that allows it to convey its period of construction and its original function, as well as its Colonial Revival style, both inside and out.

Arleta Branch Library
Name of Property

Multnomah Co., Oregon
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

[X] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

[ ] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

[ ] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

[ ] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

[ ] A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

[ ] B removed from its original location.

[ ] C a birthplace or grave.

[ ] D a cemetery.

[ ] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

[ ] F a commemorative property.

[X] G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION

Period of Significance

1918-1971

Significant Dates

1918 - Date of construction

1971 - Library closure

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (if applicable)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Folger Johnson, Architect

McHolland Brothers, Contractors

Period of Significance (justification)

The 1918 to 1971 period of significance encompasses the entire fifty-three year period during which the Arleta Branch Public Library functioned in its originally-intended use, that of a local neighborhood branch of the Library Association of Portland's public library system. The opening date of 1918 reflects the date at which the building was completed and opened its doors as a library, and the closing date of 1971 is the year the building ceased serving as a library. Two years later, in 1973, it was sold out of the Library Association of Portland's ownership.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Criteria Consideration G is being applied because the period of significance for the Arleta Branch Library spans through 1971, six years beyond the current fifty-year threshold. Although the Portland Library Association began discussing changes to its branch library system in the early 1960s and ultimately made the recommendation to consolidate the Arleta and Lents branches in 1967, the Arleta Branch Library continued in use until 1971. The building retained not only its original, intended use but its physical integrity through this time period, and saw no significant changes in physical characteristics or function until it was "decommissioned" as a library in 1971, and sold in 1973.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations).

The 1918 Arleta Branch Library is locally significant under National Register Criterion A in the areas of Education and Social History for its association with and illustration of the public library ideals and systems that were in force during the early twentieth century. Utilizing grant funds from the Carnegie Corporation, this is one of thirty-one Carnegie libraries built in Oregon, and one of seven built in the Portland area during the 1910s and early 1920s. Its Colonial Revival style is typical of this period of architecture in general, as well as being reflective of the guidelines set forth by the Carnegie Corporation with regard to library design specifically. Designed by Portland architect Folger Johnson and built by local contractors the McHolland Brothers in 1918, the Arleta Branch Library was the sixth Carnegie library to be constructed as part of the Library Association of Portland's (now Multnomah County's) branch library system. The surrounding neighborhood enjoyed the Arleta Branch both as a source of educational enrichment and as a community meeting place until 1971, when the Arleta and Lents libraries were merged and housed in the newly-constructed Holgate Library. The Library Association of Portland sold the building in 1973 to Multnomah County, who converted the building to a new commercial/office use. The years during which the building served as a library form the period of significance, 1918 to 1971. During this period the library apparently underwent few, if any, alterations to the interior or the exterior; the changes evident today were made after the building was sold and converted from library to office use. Mid- to late twentieth-century alterations to the exterior and the interior of the building do not detract from its associative significance under Criterion A, and it continues to clearly reflect its original design and function.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Arleta Branch Library is locally significant in the areas of Education and Social History, which in this case seem to be significantly intertwined. The Library is an important component of Portland's historic system of public libraries, conceived in the early twentieth century as a collection of buildings–all but Central Library constructed with Carnegie funds–to promote public education and good citizenship in the community. In the area of Education, the building is a local representation of the period in which public libraries were being recognized and promoted for their importance to the democratic ideal of an informed citizenry.[6] According to

[6] Cheryl Gunselman, "Pioneering Free Library Service for the City, 1864-1902: The Library Association of Portland and the Portland Public Library," *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 103:3 (Fall, 2002), pp. 321 and 324.

one source, in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries "There was a widespread conviction that universal literacy was necessary, and there was much enthusiasm for education for its own sake... [There] emerged a popular awareness of the importance of the public library to the people, and as the people began to express themselves more freely..., the public library became a necessity."[7] In an effort to meet this need, private reading rooms and libraries were established as early as 1856 by members of Portland's well-off merchant class, who donated space and collections for use by subscribers.

The 1901 passage of an Oregon state law allowing for the creation of public, tax-supported libraries was quickly followed in 1902 by the establishment of a free library system in Portland when the free Portland Public Library merged with the subscription library operated by the Library Association of Portland (LAP), resulting in a free public library in Portland under the Library Association of Portland name.[8] By 1903, the library became a "system," with book stations set up in the rural parts of the region, providing reading opportunities to those not within ready reach of the main library collection in Portland. In 1907, the first three branch libraries opened at Albina, East Portland and Sellwood, firmly establishing the Library Association of Portland as a system, with resources available for use by residents of the Portland region.[9] The Arleta Branch Library was one of several branches eventually built as part of this free public system. The subject building anchored the Arleta Branch, which had operated at several different neighborhood locales since the early 1900s. Upon its completion it was immediately a popular and successful part of the LAP system.

As a Carnegie Library, the Arleta Branch is also eligible under Criterion A for its association with trends in the area of Social History as a "...local representation of the nationwide movement for free public libraries in cities of all sizes spearheaded by [Andrew] Carnegie..."[10] Steel magnate and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie granted funds for the construction of free public libraries across the United States between 1886 and 1919, and the City of Portland requested and received a total of $165,000 for the construction of a total of seven branch library buildings, including Arleta. The funding was contingent upon the provision of city-owned property for construction of the buildings, as well as the dedication of ten percent of the grant amount every year for the staffing and maintenance of the libraries.[11] The Corporation did not provide direct design review, but some guidance and suggestions were provided. Although not built to any of the specific plans outlined by the Carnegie Corporation in their "Notes on Library Bildings" [*sic*], the Arleta Branch Library design reflects the basic requirements of Carnegie libraries of the time, and includes not only a Reading Room, but a separate Lecture Room for public use.[12] Van Slyck notes that "A direct comparison of the plans of Carnegie and non-Carnegie libraries...reveals that Carnegie-financed buildings tended to put greater emphasis on rooms devoted to public service. Carnegie libraries...were more likely to include children's rooms, reference rooms, and lecture halls, and less likely to reserve a room for the use of their trustees than libraries funded in other ways."[13]

On a broad scale, it has been suggested that libraries, "...in addition to offering resources for self-education, have also served as vehicles for social control...," and have also served to promote "...conventional middle-class values, especially during the Progressive Era, when libraries often functioned as a tool for the Americanization of a diverse immigrant population."[14] This description certainly applies to the Arleta Branch; the building served for over fifty years as a community center for the surrounding early- to mid-twentieth

[7] Historian Jesse Shera in Gunselman, "Pioneering Free Library Service for the City," p. 324.

[8] This was H.B. 2, a law passed in 1901 through the primary advocacy of the Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs. The law authorized "...incorporated cities to levy taxes to create public libraries and [set] out provisions for the governance and maintenance of said libraries." From State of Oregon website "Oregon Library Laws - History," http://www.oregon.gov/osl/ld/pages/resources/laws/history.aspx. Accessed May 2015.

[9] Penny Hummel, "Making the library be alive: Portland's librarian, Mary Frances Isom," (Portland, Oregon: Multnomah County Library, December 2009), p. 9.

[10] Chrisanne Beckner, "Oregon City Carnegie Library," National Register Nomination Form (2014), p. 10.

[11] The other libraries in Portland built using Carnegie funds were the Albina and East Portland Libraries (both 1911), the East Portland and Gresham Libraries (both 1913), the St. Johns Library (1914), and the South Portland Library (1921).

[12] Abigail A. Van Slyck, *Free to All: Carnegie Libraries and American Culture, 1890-1920.* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995), pp. 38-39.

[13] VanSlyck, *Free to All...*(1995), pp. 33-34.

[14] Gunselman, "Pioneering Free Library Service for the City," p. 324.

century neighborhoods, hosting a variety of meetings, educational programs and lectures, including meetings of the Mount Scott Improvement club and the Mount Scott Mental Culture club, bible study sessions, well baby clinics, community singing events, first aid classes, and opportunities for "foreign people to study the American language."[15] The library was designed with this social function in mind; in addition to the Reading Room, the building includes a dedicated Lecture Room that accommodated multiple community uses.

Brief Portland and East Portland Development History

Early Portland development was initiated in 1843-44 when William Overton and Asa Lovejoy claimed land on the west bank of the Willamette River along one of the few natural inlets, the location where the city was later located. On the east side, American settlers James and Elizabeth Stephens began laying out the new town site of East Portland around 1850, and the original East Portland plat was filed in 1861.[16] The city of East Portland was incorporated in 1870, and was described in 1873 as "...a picturesquely located city, being surrounded by some striking rustic scenery."[17] Despite the early dates of settlement and platting of East Portland, the area remained largely agrarian until the 1880s. Not until the construction of bridges across the Willamette and the advent of the streetcar did East Portland began to experience serious speculative development.
Increasing growth and advancement for Portland, seen in the period between the mid-1880s and about 1920, was due in no small part to the expansion of the City's transportation system. The early road system reflected Portland's position as the region's major shipping point, and the central city's street pattern was broken by market roads such as Foster Road, Sandy Boulevard and Cully Boulevard. These are among the few east side arterial streets not rigidly aligned with the city's dominant orthogonal grid, which was due to the fact that they follow the historic routes of Native American trails. Foster Road was one of the most important east-west streets, used during the pioneer era by settlers and farmers to travel from the area around Philip Foster's place near Eagle Creek to East Portland, Milwaukie and Portland to sell produce and purchase supplies.[18] (Figs. 1, 4 and 8)

The effects of bridge construction were particularly evident on the east side of the Willamette, where, in conjunction with the development of the streetcar system, they helped to change the shape of the city from a concentrated core of commercial development surrounded by residential areas to several commercial areas dispersed throughout a larger region.[19] Early bridges not only physically linked the two sides of the river; in 1891 the separate communities of Portland and East Portland consolidated to form the single city of Portland.

The first streetcars (horse or mule cars) appeared in Portland in 1872 with a line along S.W. First Avenue. Soon after the construction of the Morrison Bridge in 1887 (the first bridge to be built), "...horse cars were serving East Portland and steam trains were extending their service eastward into the suburbs."[20] Five years later, in 1892, streetcar service ran from Portland to the east-side community of Lents along S.E. Hawthorne and Foster Road, and was later extended on the Montaville, Mount Tabor and Mount Scott trolley lines.[21] This early public transit system affected city planning and growth by allowing workers to live further from their places of work. "Streetcars tied neighborhoods and towns together that previously had developed as separate

[15] Portland *Morning Oregonian*, May 6, 1920, page 13; other events were announced in Oregonian newspapers between 1920 and 1940.
[16] Karen Zisman et al, "Portland's Eastside Historic and Architectural Resources, 1850-1938", National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form (Washington D.C.; Dept. of the Interior, National Park Service, 1988; updated 2012), p. E-6.
[17] E. Kimbark MacColl, *The Shaping of a City: Business and Politics in Portland, Oregon 1885 to 1915.* (Portland, Oregon: Georgian Press Co., 1976), p. 117.
[18] Liza Mickle and Nicholas Starin, "East Portland Historical Overview & Historic Preservation Study," (Portland: City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, 2009), pp. 11 and 18. Foster Road would later be the route of the Mt. Scott streetcar line, running one block south of the Arleta Branch Library.
[19] Carl Abbott, *Portland: Gateway to the Northwest (Northridge, Cal.: Windsor Publications, 1985), p.* 52.
[20] John T. Labbe, *Fares Please! Those Portland Trolley Years.* (Caldwell, Idaho: The Caxton Printers, Ltd., 1980), 20.
[21] Mickle and Starin, "East Portland Historical Overview...", p. 18.

settlements. The basic pattern was one of nodes of residential-commercial development with relatively large spaces in between."[22]

The automobile first appeared in Portland in the late 1890s, and although the streetcar system's popularity peaked in about 1919, routes continued to serve the east side communities, generating additional commercial and residential growth until the mid-twentieth century.[23] Foster Road, reputed to be the widest thoroughfare in the city, accommodated both streetcar and auto traffic.

As residential areas continued to expand, neighborhood schools and other institutions developed to serve growing populations outside of Portland's urban core, including areas that were still fairly rural. Social organizations flourished during the turn-of-the-century "Progressive Era" as social reform and improvement were promoted. Many of the lodges and meeting halls, as well as other community buildings such as schools and libraries, formed the cornerstones of the neighborhoods they served.

While inner East Portland was urbanized in the 1880s and 1890s, the transition from rural to suburban in outlying areas was delayed until the population increased and there were improvements in transportation and utilities, all of which encouraged the development of land further from the urban core. "Settlements that were once separated from Portland and from each other by farm and forest were gradually absorbed into Portland or connected to Portland ..." and new residential areas were supported by the small-scale commercial development that was creeping eastward along the streetcar routes."[24] (Fig. 8) By the early years of the twentieth century, new residential development had expanded beyond the eastern bounds of early East Portland (around E. 39th Avenue), and a November 1908 vote resulted in Portland's annexation of a large area containing the Foster-Powell, Mt. Scott-Arleta and most of the South Tabor neighborhoods.[25]

The Foster-Powell Neighborhood

According to the "Foster-Powell Neighborhood Plan," Foster-Powell is one of the ten neighborhoods that presently make up the Outer Southeast Community Plan Area" of Portland.[26] Foster Road, an old farm-to-market route named for early settler Philip Foster, delineates the triangular-shaped neighborhood's southern boundary, Powell Boulevard forms the northern edge, and the area spans east to S.E. 82nd Avenue. (Fig. 4) Most of the land in the neighborhood was historically rural, composed of early donation land claims with farms scattered throughout. As was typical of growing towns and urban areas throughout the region, the larger land holdings in parts of outer East Portland were divided over time into increasingly smaller parcels. Small business districts matured around streetcar lines as neighborhood commercial centers with attendant residential development, churches, schools and other business and social establishments were built along and near the line. The Mt. Scott line, which operated from 1892 until the mid-twentieth century, ran from downtown Portland across the Hawthorne Bridge to SE 50th, south to Foster Road to SE 72nd, and then further east to the community of Lents.[27] This extension of the streetcar from downtown and inner southeast Portland "...transformed the Foster-Powell region from a pastoral mecca of farmlands and woodlands to a thriving, growing and busy 'streetcar suburb'" and "...a commercial and social hub of this suburban community."[28] With stops at 63rd and 65th Streets, the streetcar provided easy access to the Arleta Branch Library and the immediately-surrounding commercial district.

[22] Mickle and Starin, "East Portland Historical Overview...", pp. 14-15.
[23] Steven Dotterrer, "Railroad Era: Cities and Towns," in *Space, Style and Structure: Building in Northwest America*, ed. by Thomas Vaughan and Virginia Guest Ferriday. (Portland: Oregon Historical Society, 1974) p. 448.
[24] Zisman, et. al., "Portland's Eastside...," p. E9; Mickle and Starin, "East Portland Historical Overview...", p. 15; Michael Harrison, "Foster-Powell Neighborhood Plan," City of Portland Bureau of Planning (March 1996), p. 7.
[25] Mickle and Starin, "East Portland Historical Overview...", p. 15; Harrison, "Foster-Powell...," p. 7.
[26] Harrison, "Foster-Powell...," p. 1.
[27] Harrison, "Foster-Powell...," p. 7; Mickel and Starin, "East Portland Historical Overview...", p. 19.
[28] Harrison, "Foster-Powell...," p. 7; Portland *Morning Oregonian*, "Better Car Service Up," December 22, 1922.

Streetcar line builders and promoters often collaborated with real estate companies, designing and developing neighborhoods with the streetcar commuter in mind. Between about 1890 and 1920, land developers platted thousands of acres on the east side of the Willamette River in an area extending between 1½ and six miles from Portland's downtown core.[29] A 1906 Portland city map shows the patchwork character of outer eastside growth. The Laurelwood plat (in which the Arleta Branch Library is located) was not yet included, and portions of land in the vicinity appeared to remain undeveloped while adjacent areas had already been platted for subdivisions. (Fig. 8) Laurelwood was in fact platted and dedicated in October of 1903 by George W. Brown (surveyed by C.M. Thomas). (Fig. 9) Brown had been directly involved with the 1891 incorporation of the East Side Railway Company, and by the early twentieth century was obviously engaged in land development and real estate as an adjunct to his rail development endeavors.[30] Within two weeks of the October 15, 1903 platting of the neighborhood, newspaper advertising and promotion of lots was in full swing in the *Oregonian*.[31] The presumed namesake of the Arleta Branch Library, the neighborhood plat known as Arleta Park 3, had also been platted in 1903 by C.M Thomas, but was not yet marked on the 1906 map.[32] Although the general area was identified as "Arleta," it does not appear that there was historically a formal Arleta neighborhood.

As the population increased on the east side there was a commensurate need for amenities; schools and other institutions appeared even in areas that were still fairly rural, in anticipation of the inevitable expansion. As early as 1909, the Portland library system was reaching into what is now the Foster-Powell area in the form of reading rooms (the "Arleta Reading Room") and eventually the Arleta Branch Library.[33]

The Portland Library Systems

The first library in Portland, in operation in 1856, consisted of a rented reading room that was sponsored in part by Portland's first mayor, Hugh O'Bryant.[34] By 1863 this subscription library was organized, supported and available for use by Portland's merchant elite–William S. Ladd, Henry Failing, Judge Matthew Deady, Henry Corbett and a number of others–who formed the Mercantile Library Association having raised $2,500 for a reading room and library.[35] The name was later changed to the Library Association of Portland [LAP], an "elite" institution in that it was open only to those who paid a membership fee and quarterly dues.[36]
The LAP library was initially located in a rented room on the second floor of Benjamin Stark's building at 66 First Street, with Harvey W. Scott appointed the first librarian.[37] The library's first major bequest came in 1883 from Stephen Skidmore in the sum of $5,000. This was followed several years later by additional substantial gifts and estate bequests, which ultimately allowed for the construction of a two-story library building at 7th and Stark Streets that opened in 1893.[38]

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[29] Mickle and Starin, "East Portland Historical Overview...", p. 15.

[30] Gail E.H. Evans-Hatch and D. Michael Evans-Hatch, "The Development of Sellwood-Moreland: History Context Statement of the Sellwood-Moreland Neighborhood, Portland, Oregon," (Portland, Oregon: Sellwood-Moreland Improvement League, May 1999), p. 33.

[31] "Laurelwood" plat map, 1903. Available via Multnomah County, Oregon Geographic Information Systems website, <http://www3.multco.us/slv/?Viewer=SAIL> Accessed June 2015. See also the Portland *Morning Oregonian* Classified Ads, October 28, p. 8; *Sunday Oregonian*, November 1 and November 8, 1903, both p. 24.

[32] There were four "Arleta Park" neighborhood plats in Portland. The first, known as "Arleta Park," is located in northeast Portland, and was platted in 1902 by R.S. Greenleaf. "Arleta Park 2" and "Arleta Park 4" are located south of Woodstock, between S.E. 82nd and S.E. 92nd Avenues, and were platted by H.L. Chapin in 1903 and 1904 respectively. Chapin was partners with T.B. Potter, whose daughter's name was Arleta, hence the name of the plats. "Arleta Park 3" is located just southeast of the Arleta Branch Library on the south side of S.E. Holgate, adjacent to the Laurelwood Plat in which the Library is located.

[33] In 1909 the Arleta Reading Room was located at 43 Foster Road. Portland City Directory, 1909, page 166.

[34] E. Kimbark MacColl, *Merchants, Money and Power: The Portland Establishment 1843-1913* (Portland: The Georgian Press, 1988), p. 194.

[35] Ibid; Multnomah County, "Multnomah County Library Administrative History," (n.d.), n.p.

[36] Hummel, "Making the library be alive...," p. 4; . MacColl, *Merchants, Money and Power...*, p. 194.

[37] MacColl, *Merchants, Money and Power...*, p. 195; Multnomah County, "Multnomah County Library Administrative History," (n.d.), np. Benjamin Stark was an early pioneer merchant in Portland, having arrived in 1845. Harvey W. Scott was a newspaperman and editor of the *Oregonian* newspaper from the mid-1860s to the early 1870s.

[38] MacColl, *Merchants, Money and Power...*, pp. 194-195; "Central Library History," Multnomah County Library website,

In the meantime, a second, separate, library was established by prominent Portlanders as a free public library that received no public funds.[39] "Committed to the principle of a free public library as a necessity for the progress and welfare of the city, a group of citizens had organized the small library in 1891, originally calling it the People's Free Reading Room and Library Association. In 1900, the name was changed to the Portland Public Library (PPL)."[40]

In 1900, Portland pioneer merchant John Wilson died, leaving his collection of nearly 9,000 books, maps and other materials to the LAP with one condition: that the material be offered as a free reference library, available to anyone. In order to accept the Wilson collection under the terms of the gift, the organization entered into an unusual public-private agreement in which the LAP provided the building, fixtures and collection, and the City paid for the services, thus creating a free publicly-supported library.[41]

With the passage in 1901 of the Oregon state law allowing for tax support of libraries, the City was legally able to tax its citizens to support the library, and in 1902 the LAP began officially operating the first tax-supported free public library in Oregon.[42] The same year, the LAP merged with the Portland Public Library, absorbed the collection and staff of the smaller institution, and hired professionally-trained librarian Mary Frances Isom as Head Librarian. It quickly became apparent that the 1893 Stark Street library building was no longer large enough to house the collection and the patronage, and so the Central Library, designed by Portland architect A.E. Doyle, was built on 10th Street between 1911 and 1913.[43]

Mary Frances Isom was a 1900 graduate of Pratt's Library School in New York, and she would prove instrumental in the development of Portland's library system. Isom arrived in Portland in 1902 bringing with her a philosophy learned during her time at Pratt. The school's approach was considered at the time to be "...at the apex of current best practices within librarianship" and included not only free and public access, but also a focus on cataloguing, library organization, children's access to the library, and bringing books (and ultimately library facilities) to outlying areas.[44] In an effort to attract library customers in rural parts of Multnomah County, Isom "...succeeded by the end of 1903 in placing three book stations in the east county communities of Bridal Veil, Gresham and Fairview."[45] More were added in the following years. The first branch libraries opened in 1907, in partial fulfillment of Isom's vision of a modern library system, which consisted of "...a new central building [and] a chain of branch libraries through the city, carefully placed, suitably housed and properly equipped..."[46] Although the City of Portland had earlier turned down the offer of a Carnegie grant, it soon became clear that Carnegie funding would be needed to successfully fulfill the goal of a city-wide system. In 1911 and 1912 the city requested and received $105,000 and $60,000 respectively for the construction of seven branch library buildings, one of which was to be the Arleta Branch.[47]

Carnegie Libraries in Oregon

Steel magnate Andrew Carnegie began his philanthropic activities in 1886 in the United States, and ultimately donated money for the construction of public libraries throughout the world. "He donated $56 million for 2,509

<https://multcolib.org/central-library-history>. Accessed June 2015.

[39] Multnomah County, "Multnomah County Library Administrative History," (n.d.), n.p; Gunselman, "Pioneering Free Library Service...," p. 327.

[40] Gunselman, "Pioneering Free Library Service...," p. 327. Although the names of the Portland library organizations can produce some confusion, the clear difference was that the Library Association of Portland was only available to those who could pay to use it; the Portland Public Library was free to all.

[41] Hummel, "Making the library be alive...," p. 4; Gunselman, "Pioneering Free Library Service...," p. 327.

[42] Hummel, "Making the library be alive...," p. 4.

[43] Gunselman, "Pioneering Free Library Service...," p. 331; Multnomah County Library, "Central Library History." Albert E. Doyle was the architect of this building, but the design was heavily influenced by Mary Isom. Alfred Staehli, "Central Building, Public Library," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, Section 8, n.p.

[44] Hummel, "Making the library be alive...," p. 3.

[45] Ibid., p. 6. "The deposit stations consisted of a single box with 50-100 books, providing basic informational resources to remote areas that were often in desperate need of them."

[46] Ibid., p. 10.

[47] Multnomah County Library Administrative History, n.p.

library buildings worldwide: $40 million of that granted for 1,670 library buildings in 1,412 American cities."[48] Although no specific building designs were required or stipulated by the Carnegie Corporation, after 1911 general recommendations were developed and issued by James Bertram, the Corporation's Secretary. At the urging of librarians, and in an effort to avoid cost overruns stemming from unnecessarily opulent and inefficient designs, Bertram met with leading authorities on library design and management and produced "Notes on Library Buildings," which provided communities with guidance on building design and layout. Bertram claimed that use of these guidelines and "...judicious pressure on architects in communities usually resulted in a desirable building."[49]

The Carnegie Corporation funded the construction of thirty-one of Oregon's public libraries in twenty-five communities. The first of these grants was made to the City of Eugene around 1904, with the library construction completed by 1906. The last library built using Carnegie funds was the Grants Pass Public Library, completed in 1920.[50] By 1910, Carnegie had made grants to Ashland, Baker City, Salem, and The Dalles, which were soon followed by grants to Albany, Dallas, Enterprise, Grants Pass, Hermiston, Hillsboro, Hood River, Klamath Falls, La Grande, McMinnville, Marshfield, Medford, Milton-Freewater, Newberg, Oregon City, Portland, Pendleton, Union and Woodburn.[51] Grants ranged in size from $5,000 (for the Hermiston library) to $25,000 for the Baker and Pendleton buildings. The city of Portland requested and received $165,000 in funds for the construction of seven branch libraries (the Central Library having already been built). After several years of giving for library construction, Carnegie changed his views on donating funds for large main libraries in favor of providing support for the construction of branch libraries.[52] The Portland projects fit neatly into this revised approach as well as following librarian Mary Isom's vision for the development of Portland's system.

Four of Oregon's Carnegie Libraries have been demolished, and only ten of the original thirty-one are still in use as public libraries, two of which are in Portland. Many are being used for other community purposes such as bookstores, art centers and government offices.[53]

The Arleta Branch Library Building

It appears that the first area library to serve the Arleta/Mount Scott area began as a reading room, and was established just after the turn of the twentieth century. In early 1906, a library station was established at Arleta, and was "placed in the Laurelwood pharmacy under the care of B.B. Kavanaugh."[54] Three years later, the station was made one of the regular county reading rooms with a paid librarian, and in that year made its first appearance in city directories.[55] By 1912, it seems the neighborhood was meeting to discuss the need and desire for a larger facility: "Managers of the Arleta Branch Library held an open meeting at the library rooms on the Foster road...attended by a large number of residents and patrons. The history of the library, its struggles, difficulties and final success, was set forth... It was reported that the patronage has been steadily on the increase especially among the young people of the neighborhood... It is hoped in the course of time that the Arleta Branch Library will be housed in a permanent home."[56] According to city directories, the location shifted several times during the 1910s.[57] The need for a local public education and gathering space was made

[48] Sally Donovan, "Umatilla County Library," National Register nomination form (1997), p. 8:15.
[49] Bobinski, *Carnegie Libraries*, p. 58.
[50] Jim Scheppke, "Public Library Buildings in Oregon: A Historical Sketch," *Oregon Library Association Quarterly* 15:3 (July 2014), p. 9.
[51] Ibid.; Jim Scheppke, "Carnegie Libraries in Oregon," Oregon Encyclopedia (2015). <http://oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/carnegie_libraries_in_oregon/#.VYTlvksnE-c>
[52] Bobinski, Carnegie Libraries, p. 70-73.
[53] Scheppke, "Public Library Buildings in Oregon...," p. 9; Alice LaViolette, "Original Locations of all 32 Carnegie Libraries in Oregon," (Salem, Oregon: Oregon State Library, 2012). The four library buildings known to have been demolished include Eugene (the first built, in 1906), Grants Pass (the last built, in 1921), Klamath Falls, and Ontario.
[54] Portland *Oregonian* "Books for New Library," (February 28, 1906), p. 16.
[55] Portland *Oregonian, "Will Open Library," (January 28, 1909), p. 9.*
[56] Portland *Oregonian*, "Arleta Library Holds Open Meeting, (July 7, 1912), p. 5.
[57] The earliest directory-listed location was at 43 Foster Road in 1909. In 1911 it was listed at 6431 Foster Road SE ("Arleta

abundantly clear with the 1913 announcement that the Arleta School would be used as a social and education center.

> It is proposed through this center to keep abreast with modern educational ideas... Lectures are to be given, moving pictures of an educational character used and a night school will be maintained for the adults and for others who have not had the advantage of early training. [...]
>
> As the southeast portion of the city has no clubhouse, it is intended to make the schoolhouse the neighborhood clubhouse. It will be open for public meetings having for their purpose civic improvement and the discussion of matters of interest to the community.
>
> Although Arleta has an excellent branch library there is no lecture-room and the people who desire to avail themselves of the opportunities offered by the central building have been compelled to bring these lectures to Arleta by using the assembly hall as a lecture room. [...] It is hoped to offer moving pictures of an educational character [and] if sufficient interest is shown a chorus under a good leadership will be organized.[58]

With the expansion of the transportation system and the commensurate growth of residential neighborhoods east of Portland, including the area around Arleta/Mt. Scott, the need for a larger, new, permanent library building became apparent.

The Mount Scott library committee met in October 1917 to start a campaign to raise money for the purchase of a site:

> The Carnegie library fund having set aside $15,000 for a modern library building, the residents of the Mount Scott district, embracing a large and populous district in the southeast part of the city, have started a campaign to raise the necessary $1800 with which to buy a lot. A mass meeting will be held in the Arleta Branch Library building, 4533 Sixty-seventh avenue Southeast, tonight at 7:30 o'clock, when the campaign for the $1800 will be started.
>
> The library will be located on a lot 80x100 feet, at the corner of Forty-fifth avenue and Sixty-fourth street Southeast, in what is the geographical center of the Mount Scott district. There are between 2500 and 3000 families in the district who would be served. The present library in the district is inadequate for the needs of the greater community, and the committee has pointed out that by obtaining the library building the district would then have not only a modern library, but also a free auditorium for public meetings, lectures and children's entertainments and the nucleus for community center work. [...] The site is owned by Gus Meyer and is at present occupied by a building which would be razed for the library.[59]

With a fast-approaching deadline of December 31, 1917, the local committee succeeded in raising the money to purchase the lot, which was required for the receipt of the Carnegie grant funds (which were a portion of the $60,000 grant from 1912.

Portland architect Folger Johnson designed the building using his earlier St. Johns library design as a template.[60] Although the new library did not follow directly the plans presented by Bertram in his "Notes on Library Bildings," many of the ideal characteristics were still met through Johnson's designs (which had been previously approved by the Corporation for the St. Johns building). "The ideal Carnegie library was a one-story rectangular building with a small vestibule leading directly to a single room; where necessary, this room was subdivided by low bookcases that supplemented the bookshelves placed around its perimeter... The basement

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Reading Room"); the library moved in 1912 to the Cheever building at 4521 65th Street. By 1914 the library was located at 4533 67th Avenue SE where it remained until the new building was constructed. According to Multnomah County Library's Holgate Library history, a station was opened in the Lents neighborhood in 1904, and another in Arleta in 1906. Multnomah County Library, "Holgate Library history" webpage, <https://multcolib.org/holgate-library-history> Accessed May 2015.

[58] Portland *Sunday Oregonian*, "Social Center is Opened at Arleta," (September 28, 1913), p. 12.

[59] Portland *Oregonian*, "Campaign to Begin, Mount Scott People Raise Funds for Library Site." October 29, 1917, p. 10.

[60] Ibid. Accompanying this newspaper article was a photograph of the St. Johns Branch Library, with the caption, "St. Johns Branch Library, after which Mount Scott building will be modeled."

had a lecture room, a heating plant, and 'conveniences' for staff and patrons."[61] Bertram had even made suggestions for ceiling heights and the placement of windows, both accommodated in the new Arleta design. As noted in the *Oregonian* article of February 10, 1918,

> Plans for the structure are being prepared by Folger Johnson, architect, and the contract for construction has been awarded to McHolland Bros.
>
> The funds with which this building will be erected are part of an appropriation of $60,000 made two years ago by the Carnegie Institute... The books will be supplied by the Multnomah County Library Association.
>
> The library will be of the Virginian colonial type of architecture.
>
> The principal material used in its construction will be red brick and the trimmings will be of cast stone. In size it will be the same as the St. Johns Library... The arrangement of the rooms within, however, will be different. The building will contain a main reading-room, a children's reading-room, a story-hour room, a librarian's room, a kitchenette and the usual accessories.
>
> The land upon which the new library is to be built was given to the library association by the residents of Arleta, who, by subscription in their own community, raised a fund of $1800 with which to purchase it.
>
> The committee of Arletans by whom this fund was raised consists of A.E. Spier, chairman; H.W. Gillis, J.K. Ross, J.R. Leach, W.D. Lockwood and William Woodham.[62]

The Arleta Branch Library opened September of 1918. According to the Library Association's annual report for 1918, the cost of construction was just under $18,000, with an additional $1,500 for furniture and fixtures.[63]

> The most noticeable achievement of the year was the erection of the Arleta branch library building. The local fund for the purchase of the site was collected late in the fall and the deed to the lot at the corner of 64th Street and 45th Avenue was presented to the Library on December 20, 1917. After many delays, due to the war time difficulty of securing proper materials and competent workmen, the library moved to the new building early in September.[64]

The branch was immediately popular as both a place of learning and as a community center and meeting place. The Lecture Room provided ample space for a variety of functions, from English language learning to well baby sessions. (Fig. 26) Three years after its completion, the Arleta Library was praised for its growth: "Arleta Library is receiving praise from officials of the Portland Library association because of the growth of its book circulation during the last 12 months."[65]

The Branch's popularity continued into the early 1960s, at which time the Library Association of Portland "...took a close look at library services...[and found that] the model of providing many small branches...had worked well earlier in the century–when few people drove–but the public now preferred to access broader collections at larger buildings that could spaced farther apart."[66] The Arleta Branch closed when the new Holgate Branch opened in 1971 (replacing both the Arleta and the Lents branches), and the LAP transferred ownership of the building to Multnomah County. After an interior remodel that included partitioning the Reading Room and the Lecture Room, as well as the addition of the Reading Room mezzanine, the building served as the headquarters of the Multnomah County Community Action Agency [MCCAA] from 1973 to 1988.[67] The MCCAA was a County-based anti-poverty program, Chaired by Ms. Lea Wikman. Following her untimely death in 1982, the name of the building was officially changed to the "Wikman Building," in her honor. The MCCAA relocated in 1988, and the Multnomah County Department of Community Justice occupied the

[61] VanSlyck, *Free to All...*(1995), p. 37.
[62] Portland *Sunday Oregonian*, "Arleta Will Have Carnegie Library." February 10, 1918, p. 59.
[63] Library Association of Portland, "Fifty-fifth Annual Report of the Library Association of Portland, Oregon," (Portland, 1918), p. 29.
[64] Ibid. The McHolland Brothers were listed as building contractors in Portland as early as the 1900 census.
[65] Portland Morning *Oregonian*, December 15, 1921, page 7. The total circulation of 68,999 volumes for the year exceeded that of the Lents neighborhood (immediately east) by over 30,000.
[66] Multnomah County, "The Wikman Building/Arleta Library Surplus Report," (December 2011), p. 4.
[67] Multnomah County, "...Arleta Library Surplus Report," p. 5.

building until 2011.[68] In 2014 the property was sold into private ownership, and it is currently being renovated for a new use.

Architect Folger Johnson

Folger Johnson practiced architecture in Portland for nearly 40 years, between 1911 and 1950, and was responsible for the design of several dozen buildings in Oregon, including four of Portland's seven Carnegie libraries.[69] He was born in 1882 in Columbus, Georgia to Walter and Florence Verstille Johnson. After finishing high school, he went on to graduate from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1902, and then received his Bachelor's Degree in Architecture from Columbia University in 1910.[70] He engaged in further study at the École des Beaux Arts in Paris, before returning to the U.S. to work "...as a designer in the office of a New York architect who was designing buildings for the Florida building boom...". He then came to Portland in 1911 and formed a partnership with McDonald F. Mayer. The firm Johnson & Mayer was active until it was dissolved in 1917. Three Carnegie libraries were designed during the Johnson & Mayer years, the Gresham Library (1913), St. Johns Branch (1913) and the Umatilla County Carnegie Library in Pendleton. Johnson "...was granted his architectural license in 1919 (grandfathered in as part of the new State Board of Architect Examiners)," and practiced solo until 1920, during which time he was responsible for the design of two more Carnegie libraries, one in Hermiston (1918) and the Arleta Branch building (1918). In 1925 he became associated with Jamieson Parker; they became partners, eventually adding Carl H. Wallwork to the firm, which was known as Johnson, Parker & Wallwork.[71] That partnership ended after about three years, and Johnson again worked on his own. He continued to practice, both alone and in affiliation with other Portland architects, until his retirement in 1965.

In addition to his practice, Johnson was active in civic affairs in Portland, serving on the Portland Planning Commission, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Portland Art Commission. He was appointed State Director of the Federal Housing Administration in 1940, a position he held until 1950. He retired from the firm of Johnson and Parker in 1965, and died in 1970 at the age of 88, leaving his second wife, Shelby Payne Johnson, and a son, Folger Johnson, Jr.[72]

The Arleta Branch Library was the fourth of seven libraries in Oregon designed by Johnson or his firm, and was modeled after his design of the St. Johns Library of 1913 (extant).[73] Many of Johnson's designs were in the revival styles (Mediterranean, Tudor and Colonial Revival), and were visually pleasing and well-executed, displaying careful design and an attention to detail were most certainly attributable, at least in part, to his experience at the École in Paris. The Arleta and St. Johns libraries are the only two of his library designs in the Colonial Revival vein, a style introduced to Portland in the late nineteenth century through the influence and designs of William M. Whidden.[74]

[68] Multnomah County, "...Arleta Library Surplus Report," p. 5.

[69] Unless otherwise noted, biographical information on Folger Johnson was derived from Richard Ellison Ritz, *Architects of Oregon* (Portland: Lair Hill Publishing, 2002), pp 212-213, and personal communication with Brian Waldo Johnson (Folger Johnson's grandson).

[70] Columbia University, *Catalogue of Officers and Graduates of Columbia University...* (New York: Columbia University, 1916), p. 788.

[71] Sally Donovan, "Umatilla County Library," National Register nomination form (1997), p. 8:16.

[72] Ibid.

[73] The earlier buildings were the Gresham Carnegie Library (1913), listed in the National Register; The St. Johns Carnegie Library (1913); and the Umatilla County Carnegie Library (1916), listed in the National Register. Also designed by Johnson and constructed in 1918 was the Hermiston, Oregon Carnegie Library, listed in the National Register.

[74] William J. Hawkins III and William F. Willingham, *Classic Houses of Portland, Oregon: 1850-1950* (Portland: Timber Press, 1999), p. 213. The other Carnegie libraries in Portland were designed in the Tudor Revival and Mediterranean styles.

Comparative Analysis

The Arleta Branch Library building is one of the thirty-two Carnegie libraries that were constructed in Oregon in the early years of the twentieth century; of those, twenty-eight remain standing. Seven were built in Portland with funds from the two grants that were received from the Carnegie Corporation in 1911 and 1912.[75] All seven of Portland's Carnegie buildings are extant, although only two still function as libraries. Three are National Register-listed, and all are considered by the State Historic Preservation Office to be potentially eligible for listing.

Portland requested Carnegie funds for the purpose of developing a branch library system (the main Central Library had already been constructed in 1912, designed by A.E. Doyle in close collaboration with Mary Isom), and the Arleta Branch was one of the last of those buildings to be constructed. While it has seen some relatively minor interior alterations, the building retains a high degree of exterior integrity, the interior spatial arrangement is largely discernable, and many of the interior details and finishes remain intact. As the penultimate Carnegie library constructed in Portland and one of the last in Oregon (of those remaining), the Arleta Branch Library represents the final phase of Carnegie library construction both in Portland and in Oregon.

The only Portland Carnegie building that stylistically compares to Arleta is the 1913 St. Johns Library, which served as the model for the Arleta Branch. The St. Johns Library employs the same Colonial/Georgian Revival style, including brick-faced exterior, arched windows, and central classical portico, and retains a high degree of historical integrity. Both were designed by Johnson and they are very similar in their balanced, symmetrical, classical exterior presentation. The St. Johns Branch continues to be used as a library, and appears to retain a high degree of historical integrity.

The other five Portland Carnegie branch library buildings include the following:

Albina Carnegie Library. Located at 216 N.E. Knott Street, the 1911 Albina Branch library is currently used as a bookstore that is owned by Multnomah County. Designed by Ellis Lawrence in the Spanish Colonial Revival style, the building has a large rear addition, but its historical integrity otherwise appears to be fair to good.

East Portland Carnegie Library. Now converted to offices, the East Portland Branch is located at 1110 S.E. Alder Street. This Mediterranean style building, which was constructed in 1911, was designed by A.E. Doyle, who also designed the Central Library building. The East Portland Carnegie Library retains a high level of historical integrity and is listed in the National Register.

Gresham Carnegie Library. The Gresham Pioneer Museum is the current occupant of the former Gresham Carnegie Library, located at 410 N. Main Street in Gresham. The building was built in 1913 in the Tudor Revival style after designs by Folger Johnson. This building retains a high degree of integrity and is listed in the National Register.

North Portland Carnegie Library. The 1913 North Portland Branch library is located at 512 N. Killingsworth Street, and was designed by Jacobberger and Smith in the Tudor Revival style. It retains very good historical integrity and is still in use as a branch library.

South Portland Carnegie Library. Located at 2909 S.W. Second Avenue, this was the last of Portland's Carnegie Libraries to be constructed. Designed by Folger Johnson in the Mediterranean Revival style, the 1921 South Portland Branch library is listed in the National Register as part of the South Portland Historic District.

[75] Hummel, "Making the library be alive...," p. 10. According to the State Historic Preservation Office Historic Sites Database (http://heritagedata.prd.state.or.us/historic/), there are currently 25 public and/or institutional libraries in Portland built between 1911 and 1969. Only the seven discussed here were funded with Carnegie grants.

Conclusion

The Arleta Branch Library, as one of seven Carnegie libraries built in the city of Portland, is locally significant in the area of Social History for its association both with the substantial philanthropic activities of steel magnate Andrew Carnegie and its role as a community center in the Arleta/Mt. Scott area of east Portland. It is also significant in the area of Education as one of a set of libraries built with the intention of expanding the original Library Association of Portland's system of free public libraries for the citizens of Portland.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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1903 November 8, Classified Advertisements, "Laurelwood," page 24.
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1909 January 24, "Notes of the Portland Public Library," section 2, page 10.
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1909 January 31, "Notes of the Portland Public Library," section 4, page 10.
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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
___ previously listed in the National Register
___ previously determined eligible by the National Register
___ designated a National Historic Landmark
___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #_____
___ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #_____

Primary location of additional data:

_X_ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
_X_ Other
Name of repository: Multnomah Co. Library

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

Arleta Branch Library | Multnomah Co., Oregon
Name of Property | County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage; enter "Less than one" if the acreage is .99 or less)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84: N/A
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	45.490483°	-122.597079°		3			
	Latitude	Longitude			Latitude	Longitude	
2				4			
	Latitude	Longitude			Latitude	Longitude	

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Arleta Branch library is located at 4420 SE 64th Avenue in Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon. The nominated area is defined as the entirety of the .18-acre, 80'x100' tax lot (Block 8, Lots 14 and 15 of the Laurelwood Plat) identified by Multnomah County as property identification number R204593 on tax map 1S2E8CC, tax lot 19400.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated area boundary includes all of the .18-acre property historically associated with the Arleta Branch Library, which is identified on Multnomah County tax map 1S2E8CC, tax lot 19400. The library building is the only contributing historic resource on the property.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Liz Carter date 24 June 2015
organization N/A telephone (541) 343-6499
street & number 1375 E. 22nd Avenue email lizcarterhp@gmail.com
city or town Eugene state OR zip code 97403

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Regional Location Map**
- **Local Location Map**
- **Tax Lot Map**
- **Site Plan**
- **Floor Plans (As Applicable)**
- **Photo Location Map** (Include for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map and insert immediately after the photo log and before the list of figures).

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 pixels, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log - Photos 1-8, 10-12, 14-18

Name of Property: Arleta Branch Library
City or Vicinity: Portland
County: Multnomah **State:** OR
Photographer: Liz Carter
Date Photographed: 7 June 2015

Photo Log - Photos 9 and 13

Name of Property: Arleta Branch Library
City or Vicinity: Portland
County: Multnomah **State:** OR
Photographer: Rahim Abbasi
Date Photographed: November 2015

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 1 of 18: (OR_MultnomahCounty_ArletaBranchLibrary_0001)
Front (west) elevation, facing southeast.

Photo 2 of 18: (OR_MultnomahCounty_ArletaBranchLibrary_0002)
Front (west) elevation, facing east.

Photo 3 of 18: (OR_MultnomahCounty_ArletaBranchLibrary_0003)
South side elevation, facing northeast.

Photo 4 of 18: (OR_MultnomahCounty_ArletaBranchLibrary_0004)
South side and portion of rear (east) elevations, facing northwest.

Photo 5 of 18: (OR_MultnomahCounty_ArletaBranchLibrary_0005)
Rear view (east and north elevations), facing southwest.

Photo 6 of 18: (OR_MultnomahCounty_ArletaBranchLibrary_0006)
East elevation detail of courtyard, facing west.

Photo 7 of 18: (OR_MultnomahCounty_ArletaBranchLibrary_0007)
Front entrance portico detail.

Photo 8 of 18: (OR_MultnomahCounty_ArletaBranchLibrary_0008)
Corner wall and eave detail.

Photos Continued:

Photo 9 of 18: (OR_MultnomahCounty_ArletaBranchLibrary_0009)
Reading Room, north end, with partition wall in place.

Photo 10 of 18: (OR_MultnomahCounty_ArletaBranchLibrary_0010)
Reading Room, south end.

Photo 11 of 18: (OR_MultnomahCounty_ArletaBranchLibrary_0011)
Reading Room, east wall and southeast corner.

Photo 12 of 18: (OR_MultnomahCounty_ArletaBranchLibrary_0012)
View of Lecture Room, facing north.

Photo 13 of 18: (OR_MultnomahCounty_ArletaBranchLibrary_0013)
Lecture Room, view facing east with partition wall in place.

Photo 14 of 18: (OR_MultnomahCounty_ArletaBranchLibrary_0014)
Librarian's Room, view facing southwest.

Photo 15 of 18: (OR_MultnomahCounty_ArletaBranchLibrary_0015)
Partial view of kitchen with original cabinetry.

Photo 16 of 18: (OR_MultnomahCounty_ArletaBranchLibrary_0016)
View of women's restroom on main floor.

Photo 17 of 18: (OR_MultnomahCounty_ArletaBranchLibrary_0017)
Rear door and stair to basement.

Photo 18 of 18: (OR_MultnomahCounty_ArletaBranchLibrary_0018)
Basement, view looking north from basement stairs.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

List of Figures
(Resize, compact, and paste images of maps and historic documents in this section. Place captions, with figure numbers above each image. Orient maps so that north is at the top of the page, all document should be inserted with the top toward the top of the page.

Figure 1: General Location Map
Figure 2: Local Location Map
Figure 3: Multnomah County tax map, with subject property indicated.
Figure 4: USGS topographic map detail with subject property indicated
Figure 5: Current site plan of Arleta Branch Library.
Figure 6: Current basement floor plan of Arleta Branch Library.
Figure 7: Current main floor plan of Arleta Branch Library.
Figure 8: Detail of 1906 map of Portland, with location of Arleta Branch Library indicated.
Figure 9: Laurelwood Plat map, 1903, with location of subject property indicated.
Figure 10: 1908-1909 Sanborn map with site of subject building indicated.
Figure 11: 1925 Sanborn map with "Public Library Arleta Branch" indicated.
Figure 12: 1950 Sanborn map with "Public Library Arleta Branch" indicated.
Figure 13: Original foundation plan, 1918.
Figure 14: Original first floor plan, 1918.
Figure 15: Original drawings of front (west) and rear (east) elevations, 1918.
Figure 16: Original drawings of north and south side elevations, 1918.
Figure 17: Original architectural wall and window detail drawing, 1918.
Figure 18: Original detail drawings of cupola and rear Reading Room door, 1918.
Figure 19: Original detail drawings of front door entry, 1918.
Figure 20: Original detail drawings of south side entrance, 1918.
Figure 21: Original drawings, Reading Room plan and wall elevations, 1918.
Figure 22: Original drawings of map case, exterior plaque and furniture details, 1918.
Figure 23: Arleta Branch Library, circa 1920 view of southwest corner.
Figure 24: Arleta Branch Library, circa 1920 view of entrance portico.
Figure 25: Arleta Branch Library, 1923, view of south side elevation.
Figure 26: Undated image of baby clinic taking place in Lecture Room.
Figure 27: Arleta Branch Library, 1937 view of front (west) elevation.
Figure 28: 1937 interior view of Reading Room.
Figure 29: Arleta Branch library, 1963 view of front (west) elevation.

List of Figures Continued:

Figure 30: Arleta Branch library, 1963 view of southwest corner.

Figure 31: 1963 interior view of Reading Room, looking north.

Figure 32: 1963 interior view of Reading Room, looking south

Figure 1: General Location Map (Courtesy Google Maps),
Latitude/Longitude Coordinates: 45.490483° / -122.597079°

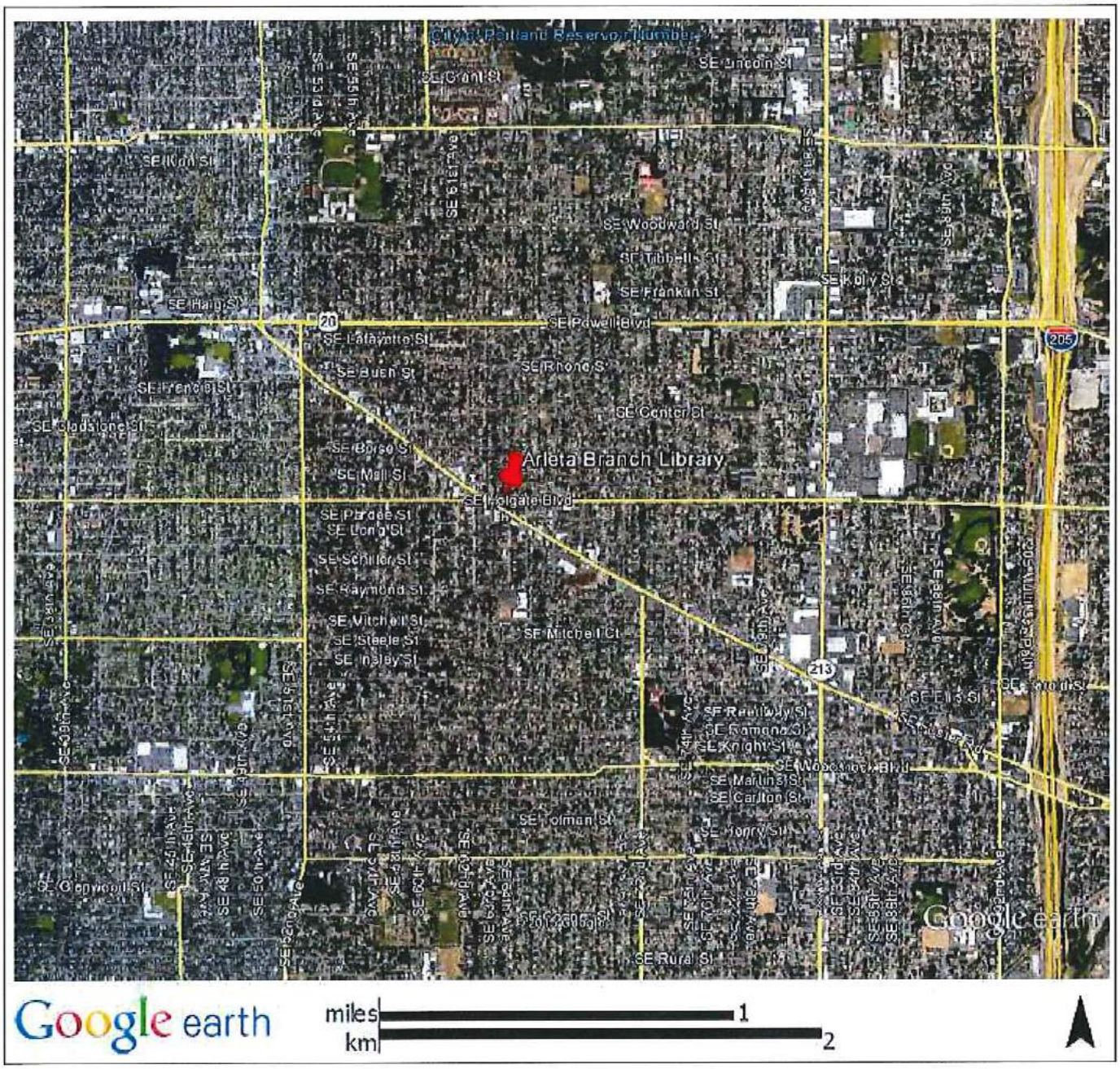

Figure 2: Local Location Map (Courtesy Google Maps),
Latitude/Longitude Coordinates: 45.490483° / -122.597079°

Figure 3: Multnomah County tax map, with subject property indicated.

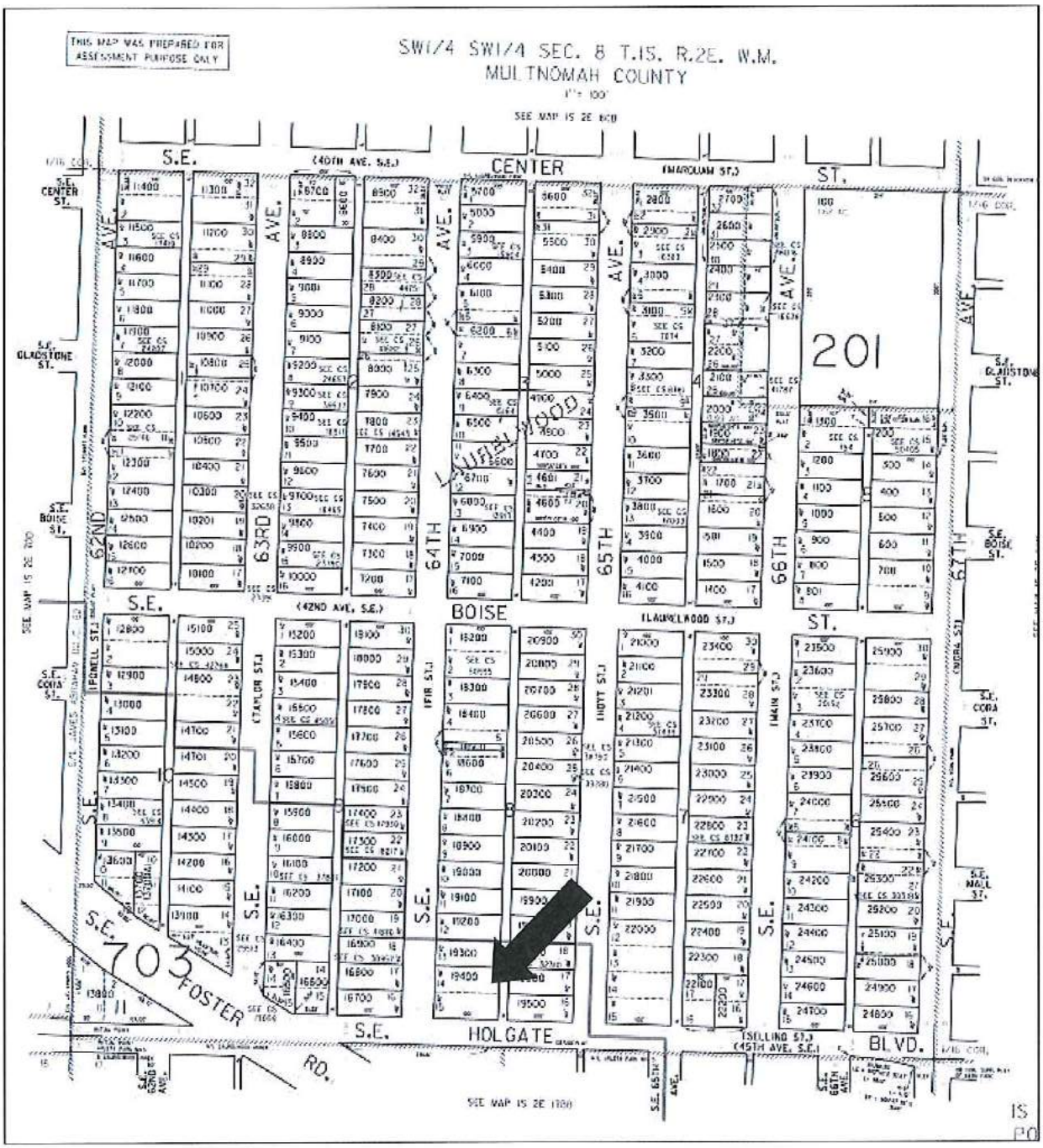

Figure 4: USGS topographic map detail with subject property indicated. Triangular area bound by Foster Road, Powell Boulevard and S.E. 82nd Avenue is the Foster-Powell Neighborhood.

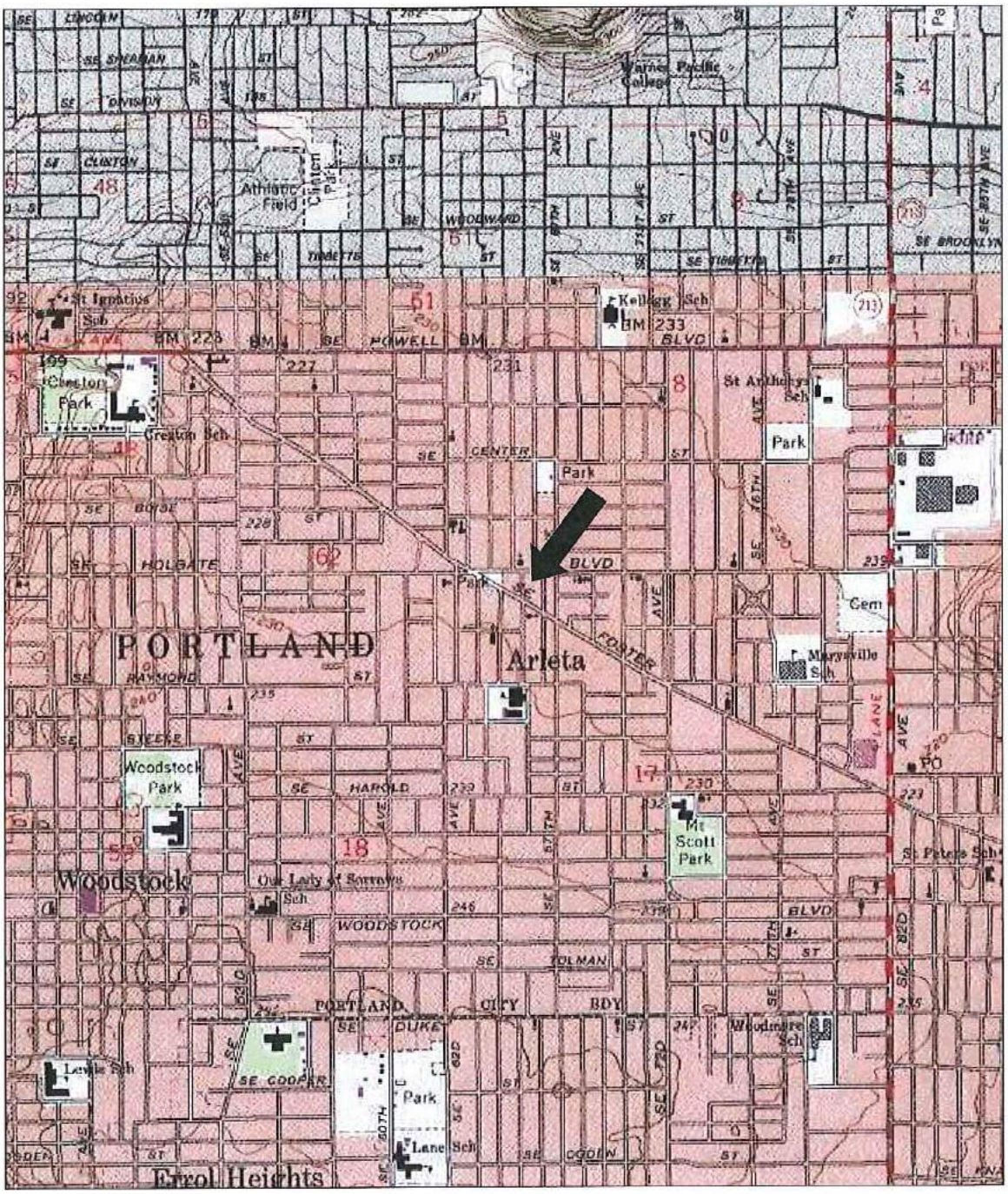

Figure 5: Current site plan of the Arleta Branch Library building.

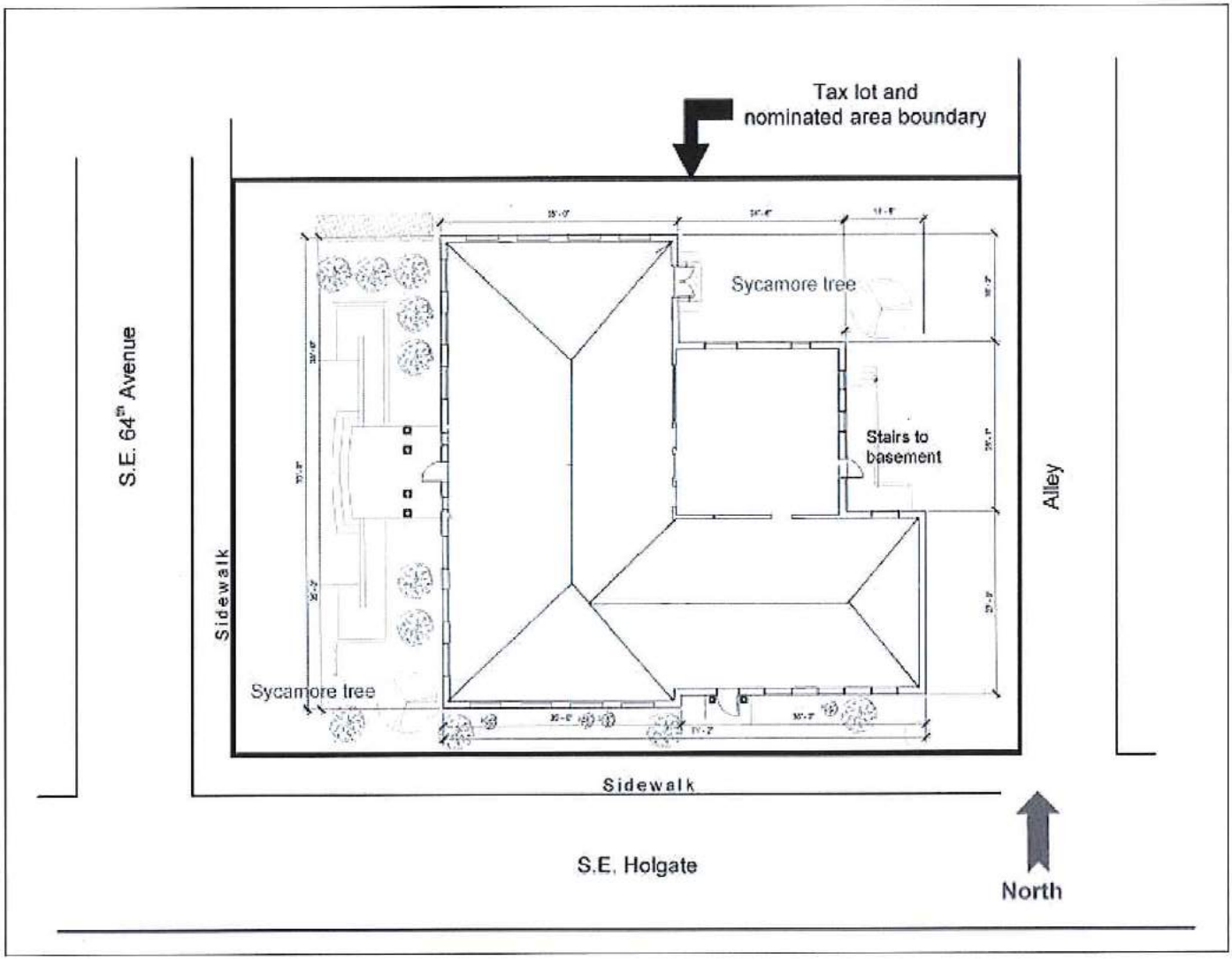

Figure 6: Current basement floor plan of the Arleta Branch Library building.

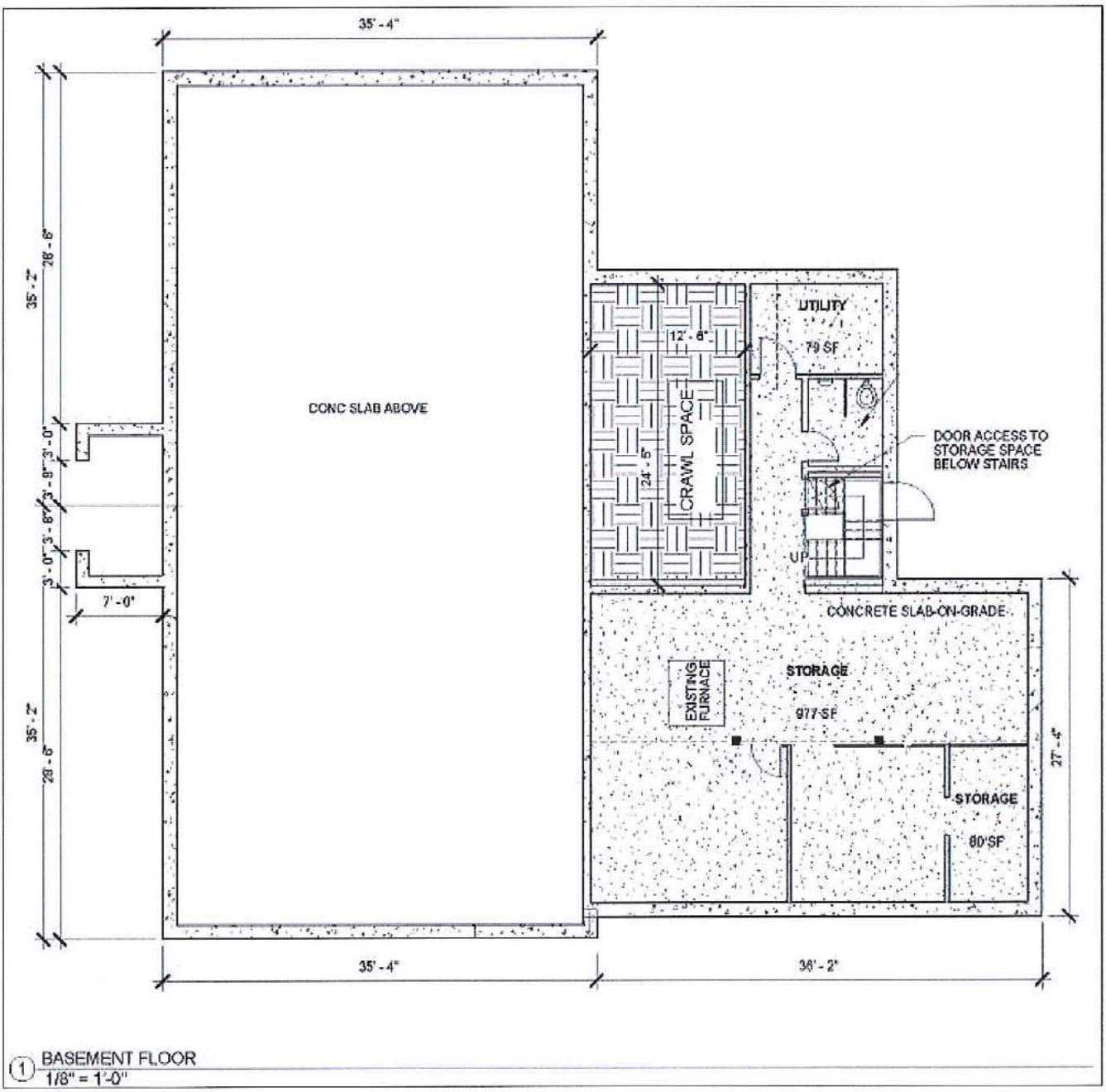

Figure 7: Current first floor plan.

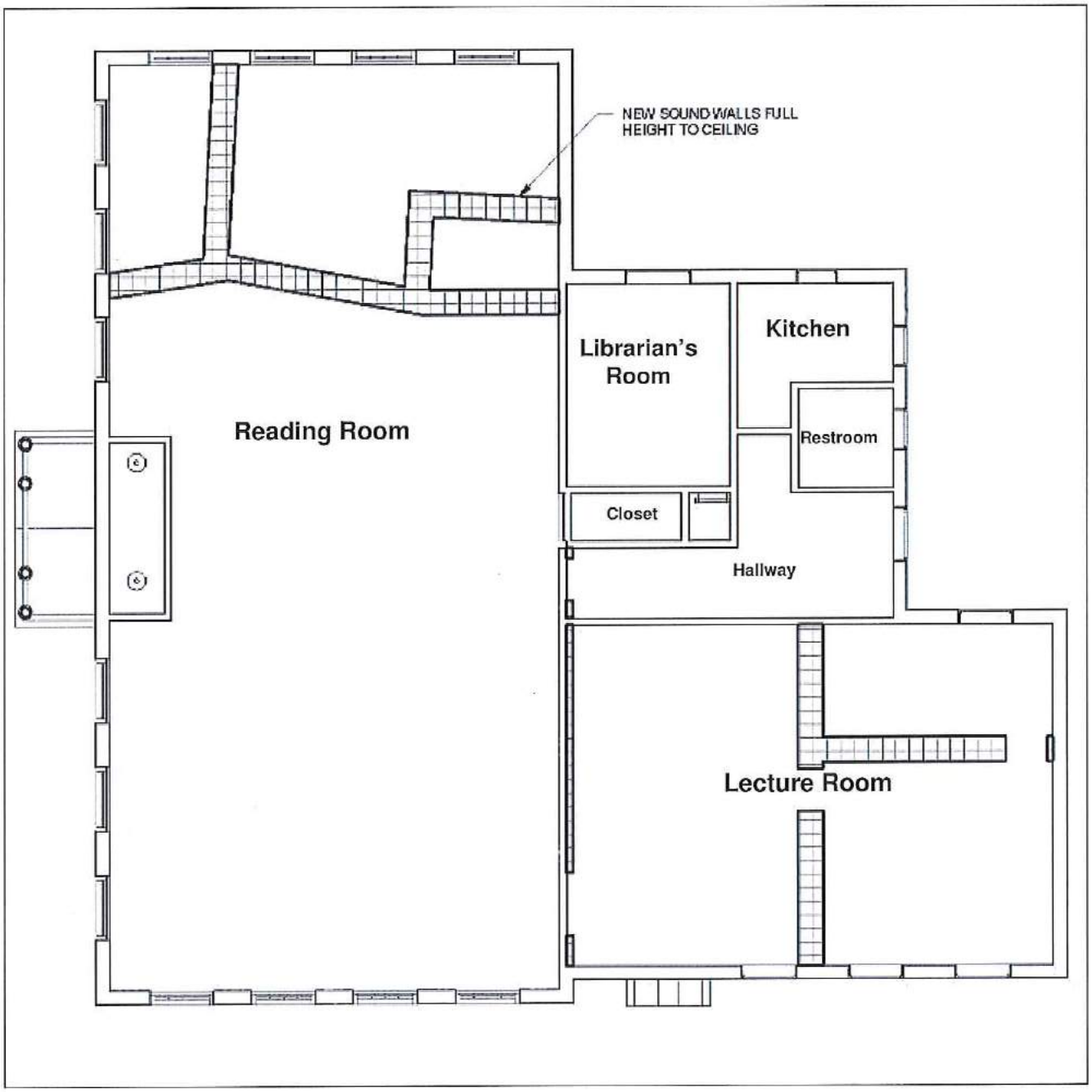

Figure 8: Detail of 1906 map of Portland, with location of Arleta Branch Library indicated. Source: City of Portland Archives.

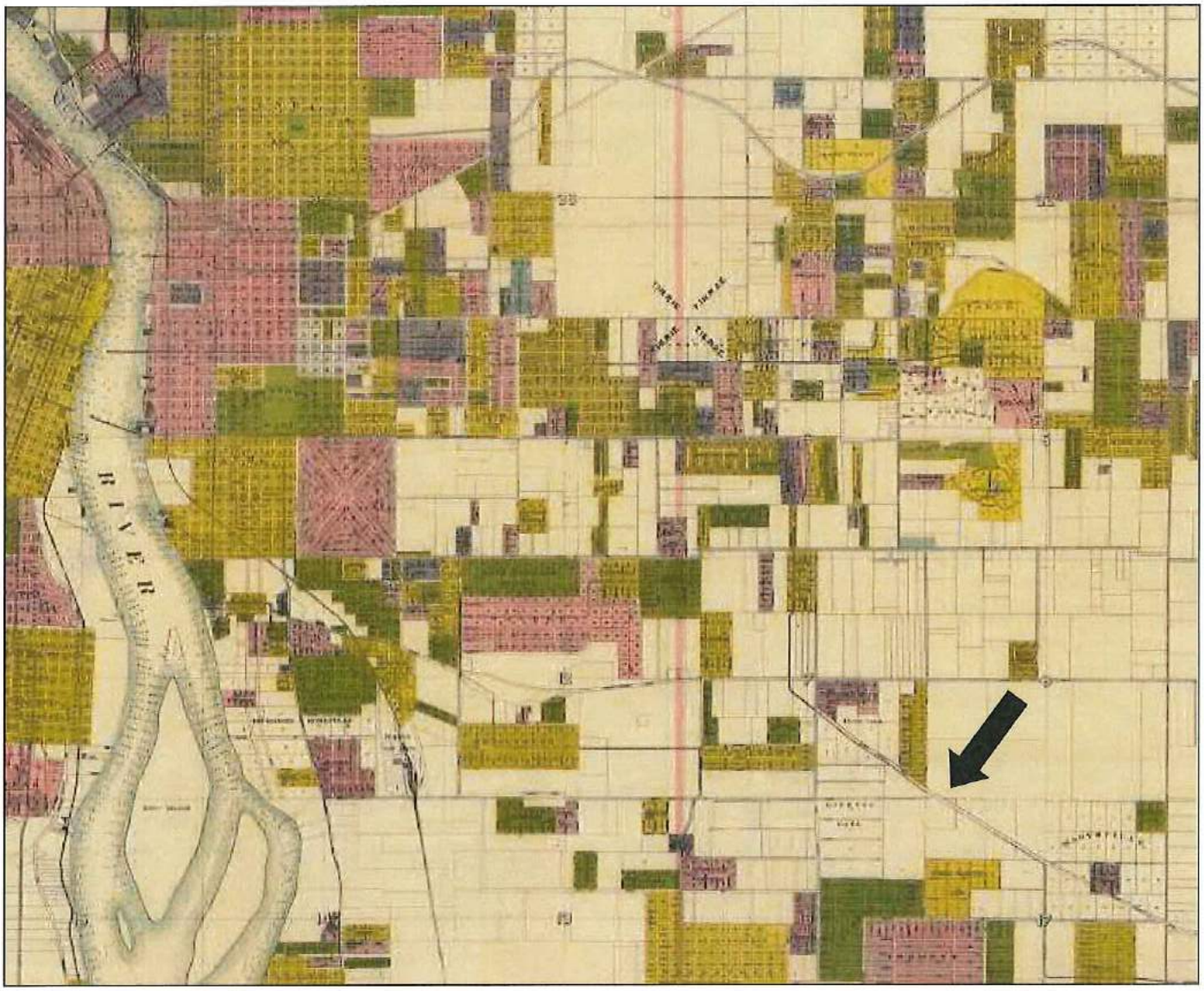

Figure 9: Laurelwood Plat map, 1903, with subject property indicated. Courtesy Multnomah County.

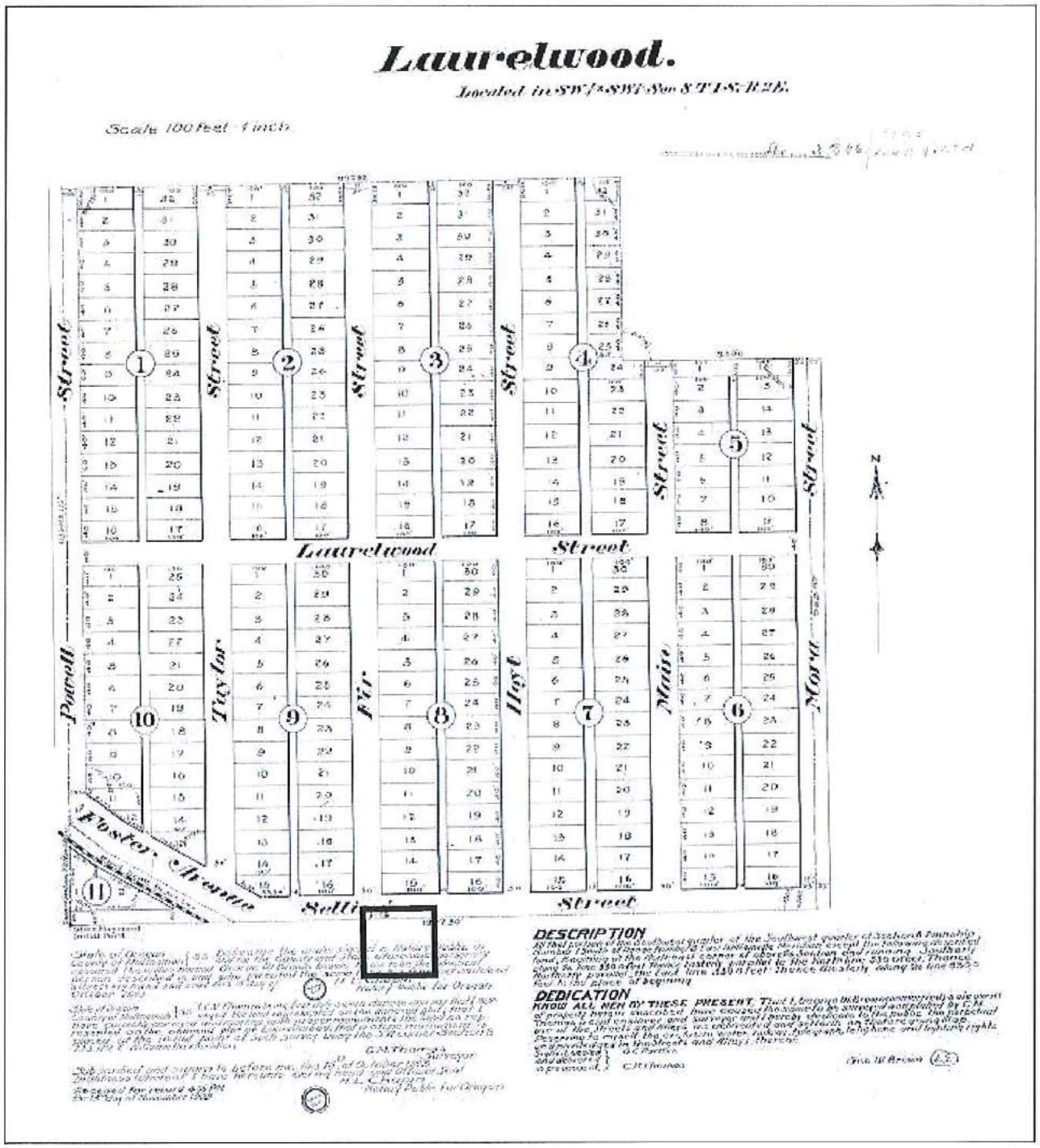

Figure 10: 1908-1909 Sanborn map with site of subject building indicated.

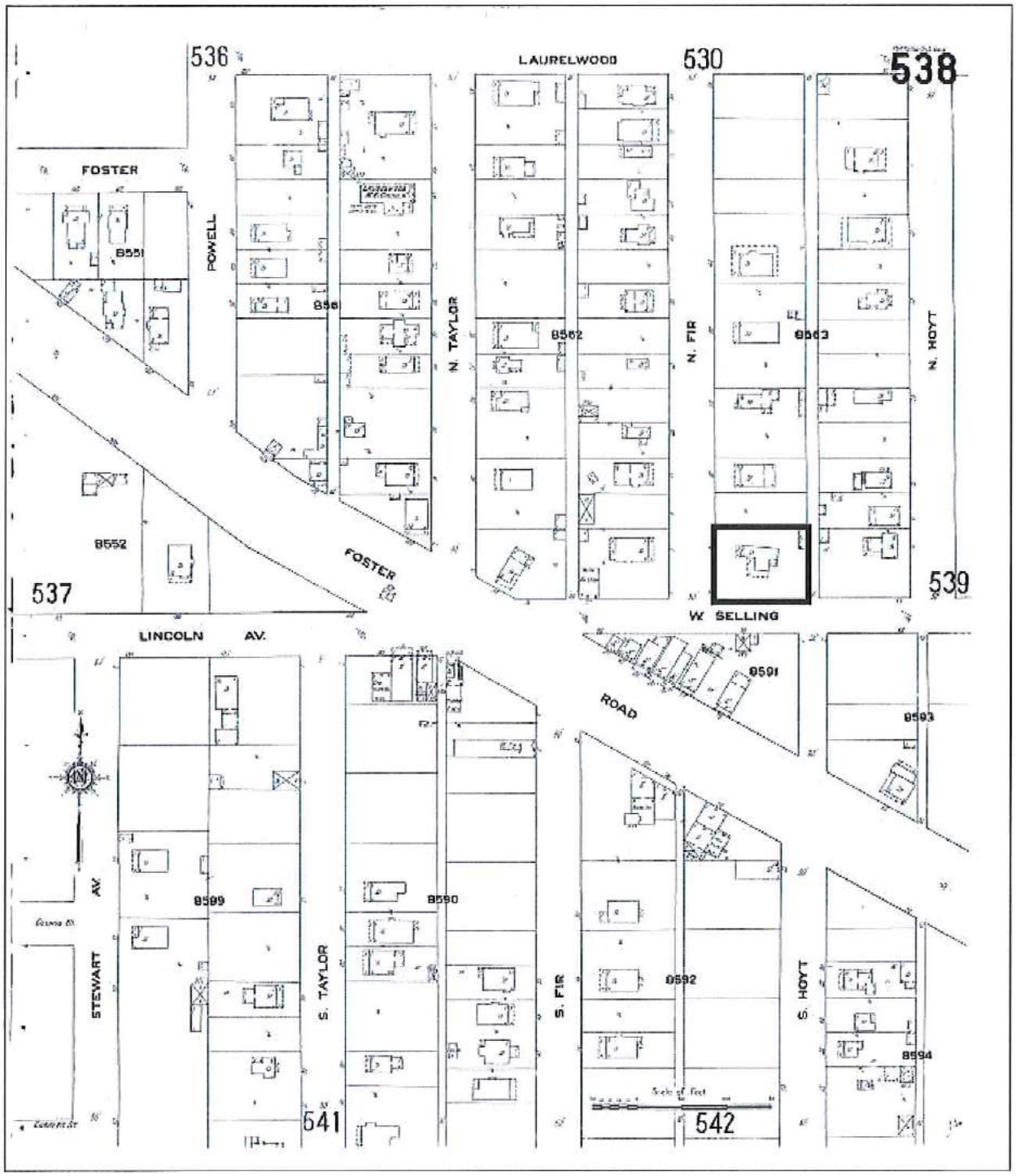

Figure 11: 1925 Sanborn map with "Public Library Arleta Branch" indicated.

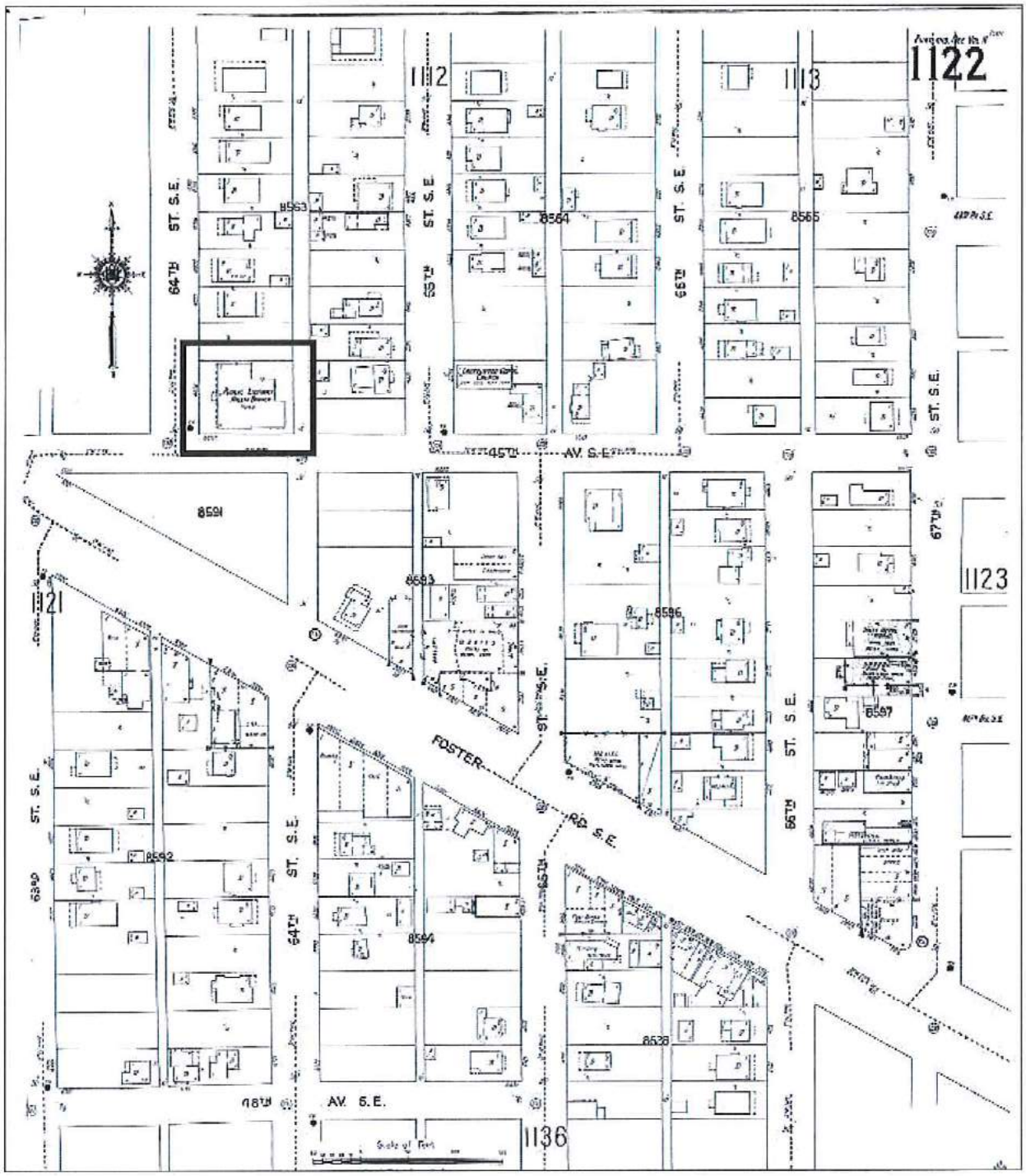

Figure 12: 1950 Sanborn map with "Public Library Arleta Branch" indicated.

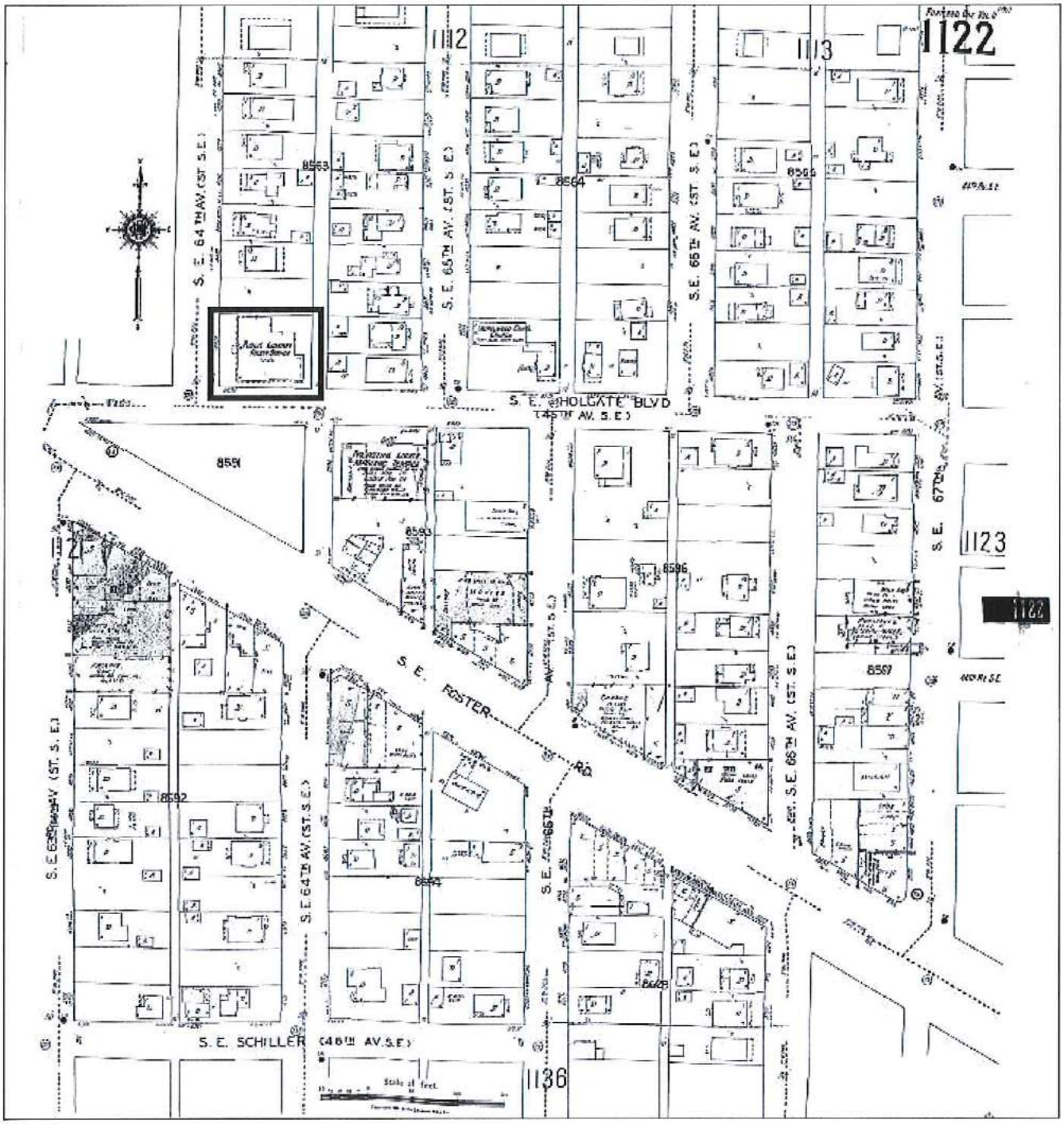

Figure 13: Original foundation plan, 1918.

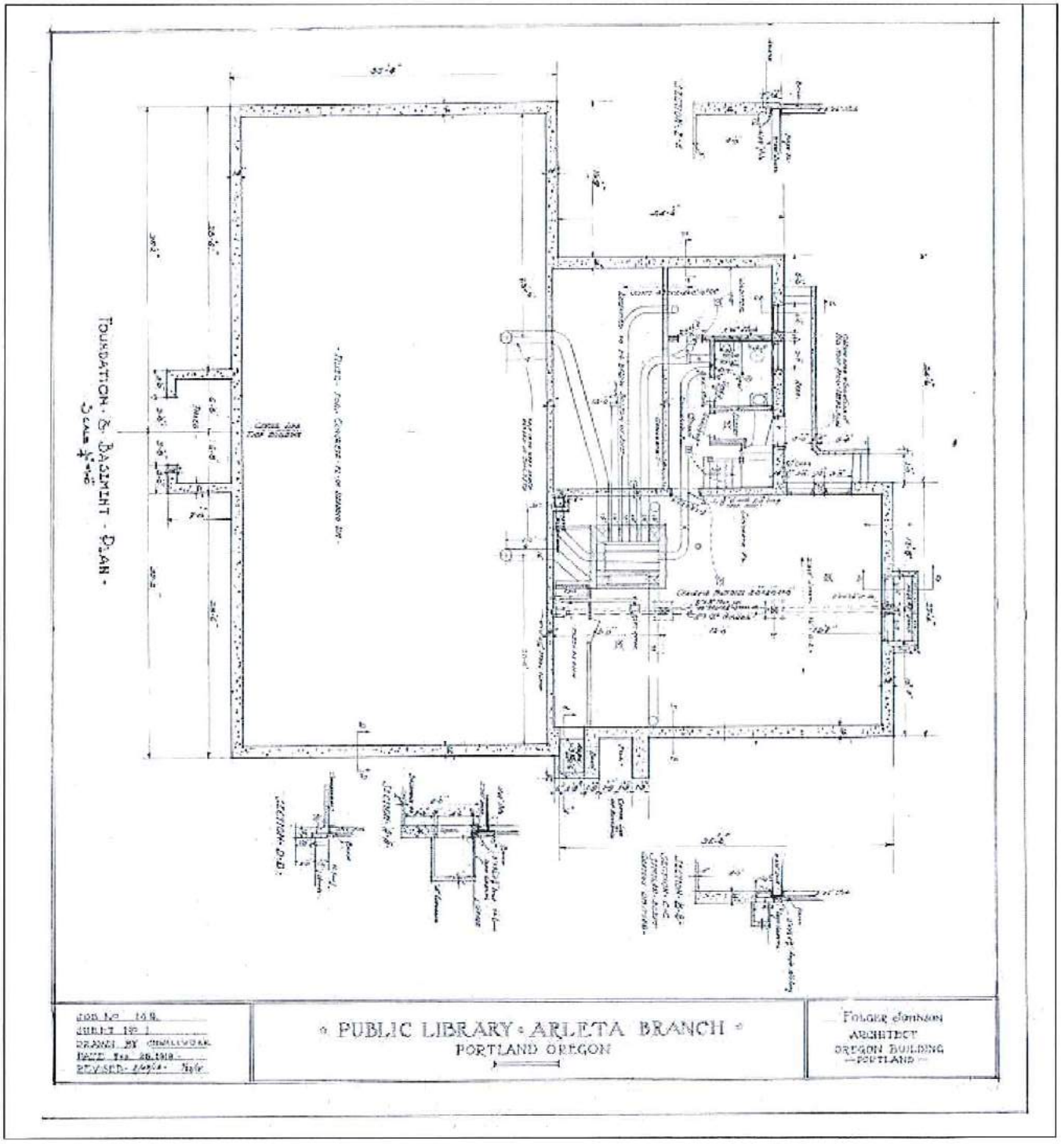

Figure 14: Original first floor plan, 1918.Note landscape scheme for courtyard at upper right (northeast) corner of building.

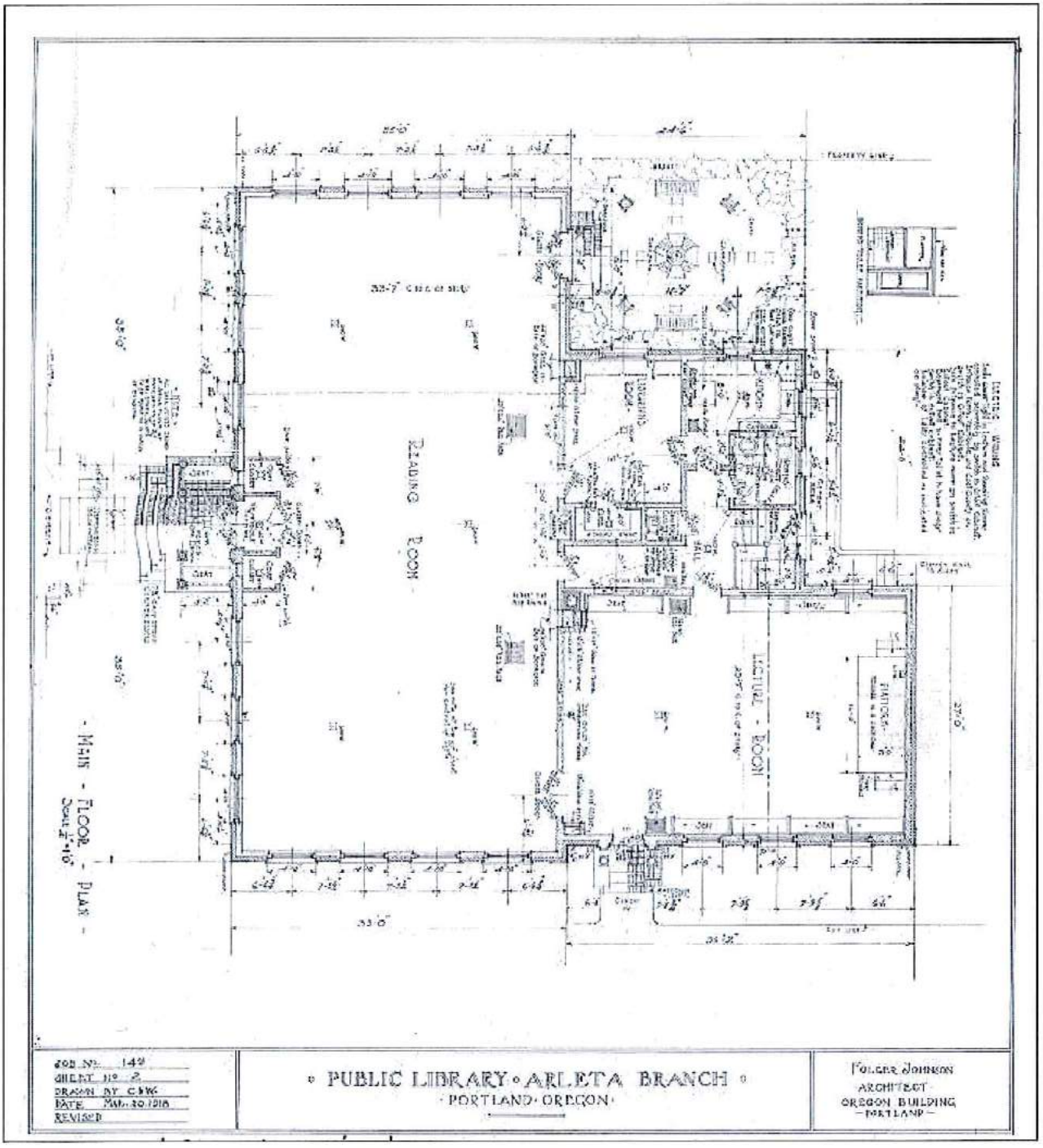

Figure 15: Original drawings of front (west) and rear (east) elevations, 1918.

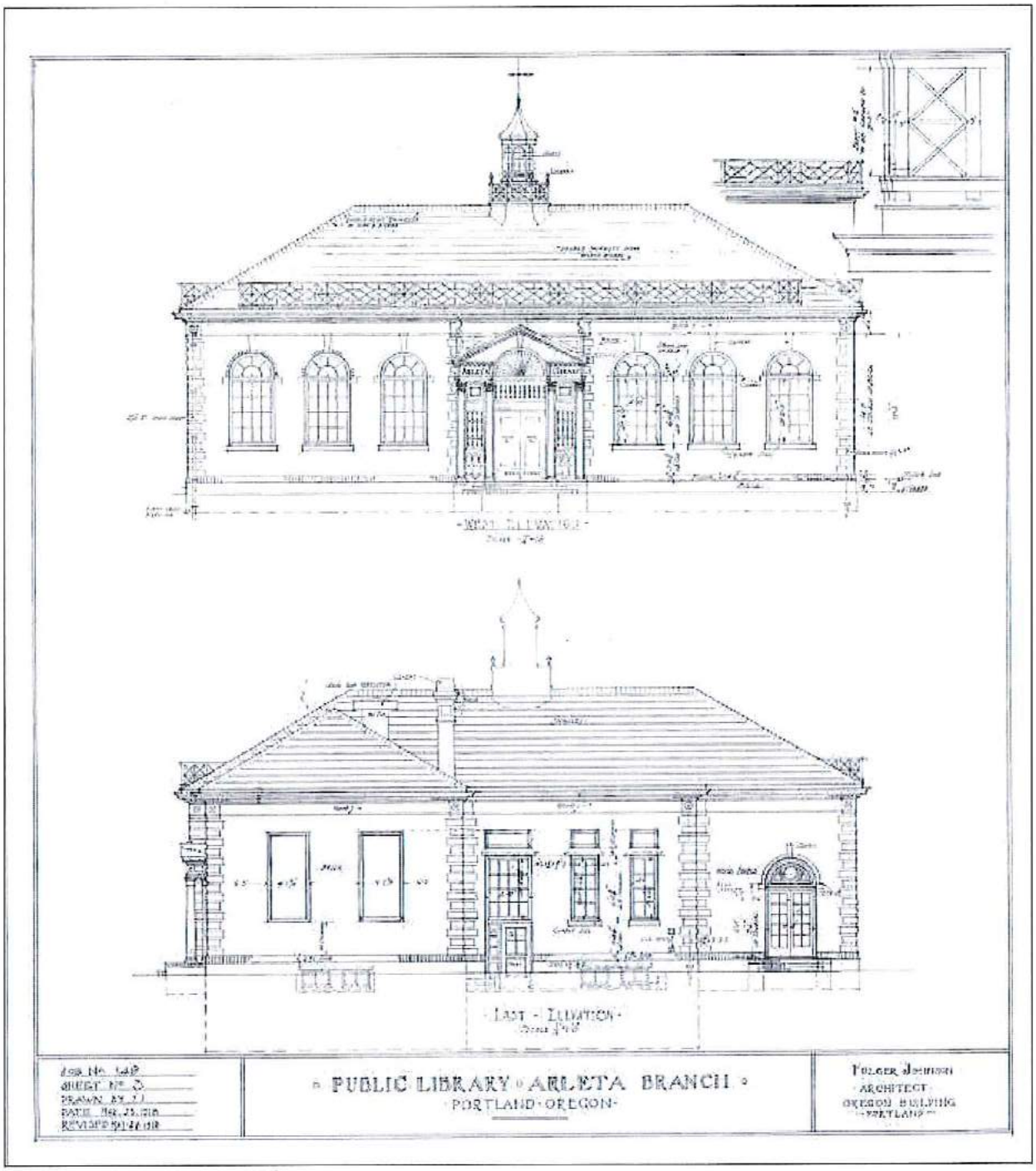

Figure 16: Original drawings of north and south side elevations, 1918.

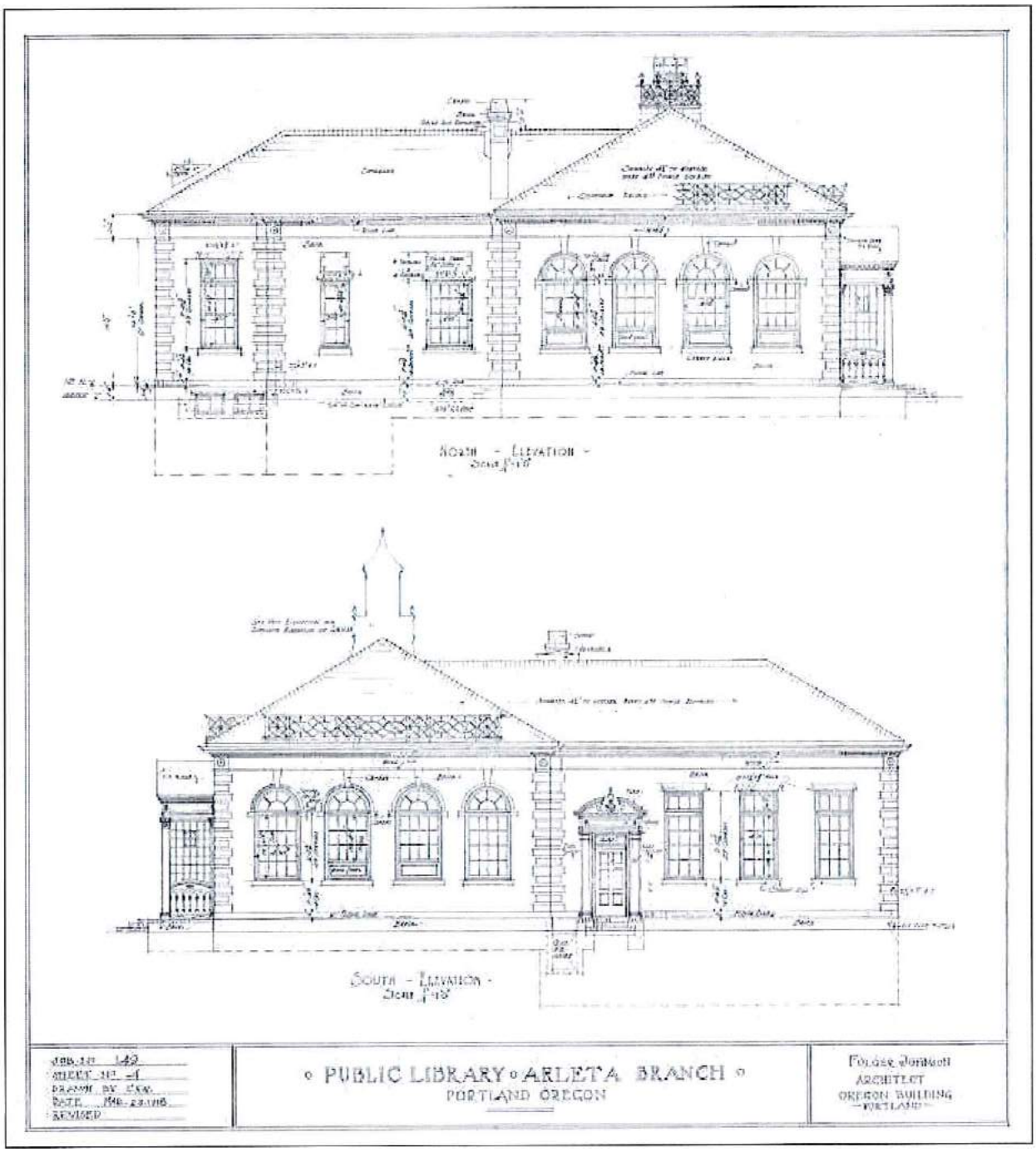

Figure 17: Original architectural wall and window detail drawing, 1918

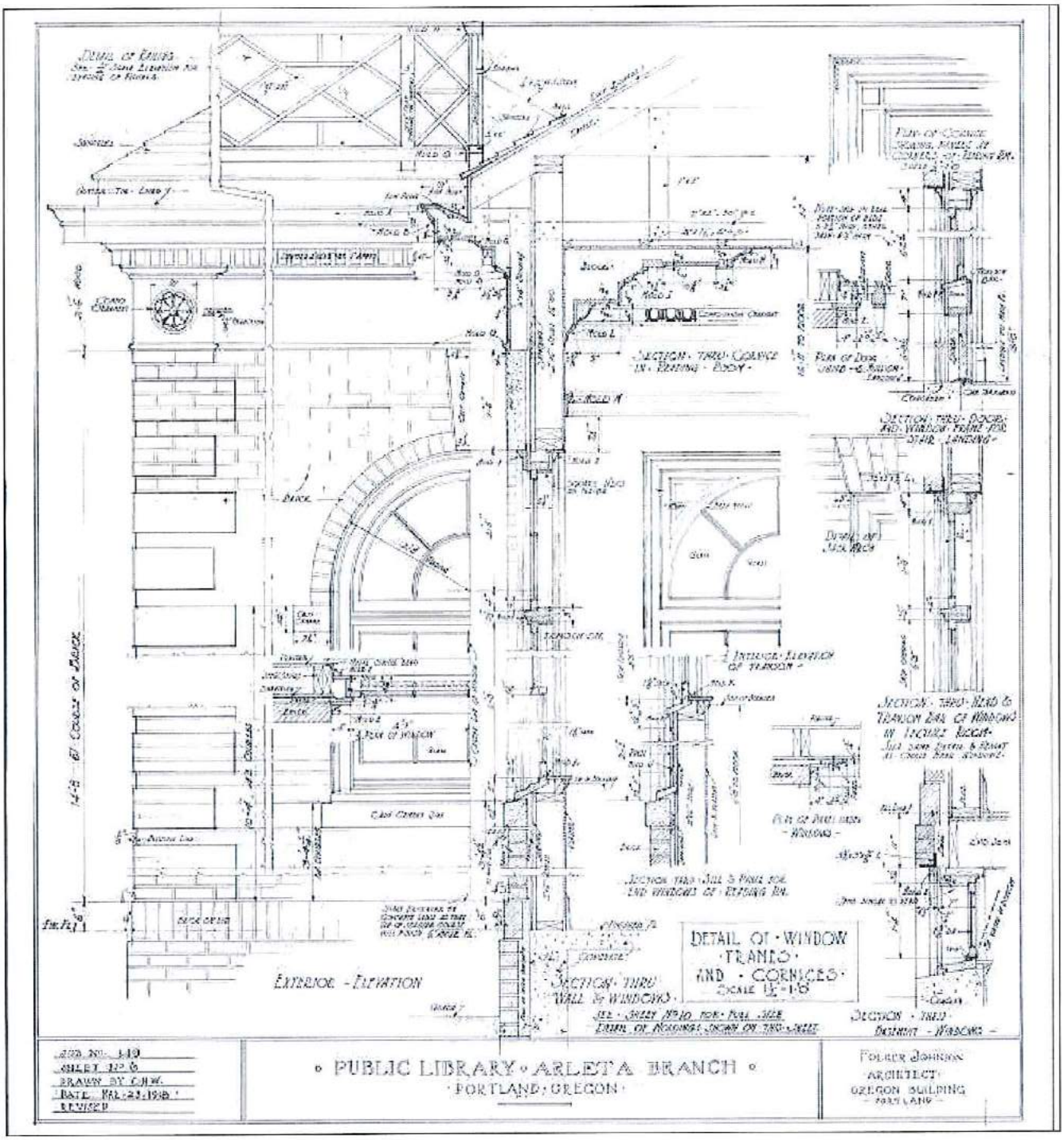

Figure 18: Original detail drawings of cupola and rear Reading Room door, 1918.

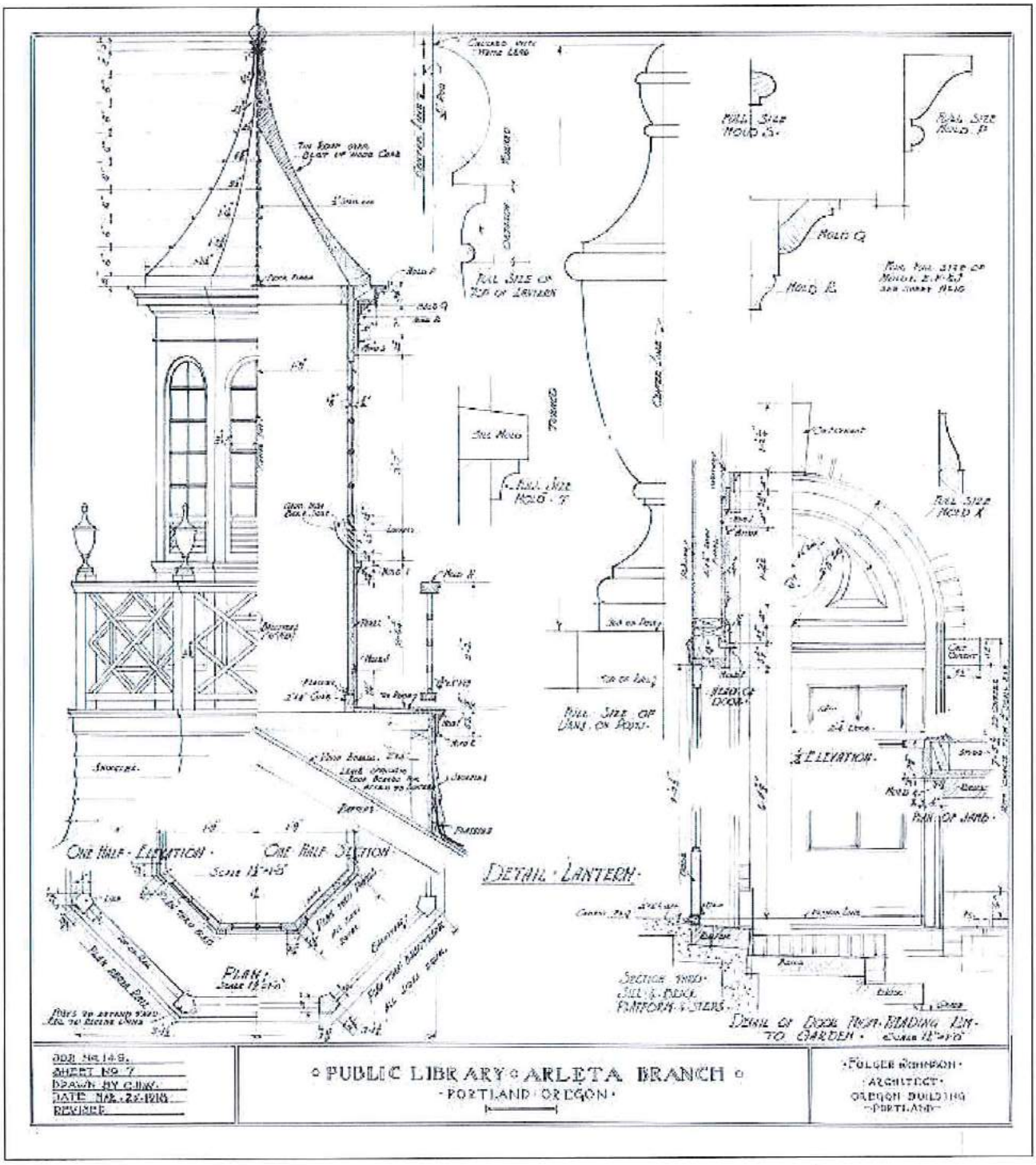

Figure 19: Original detail drawings of front door entry, 1918.

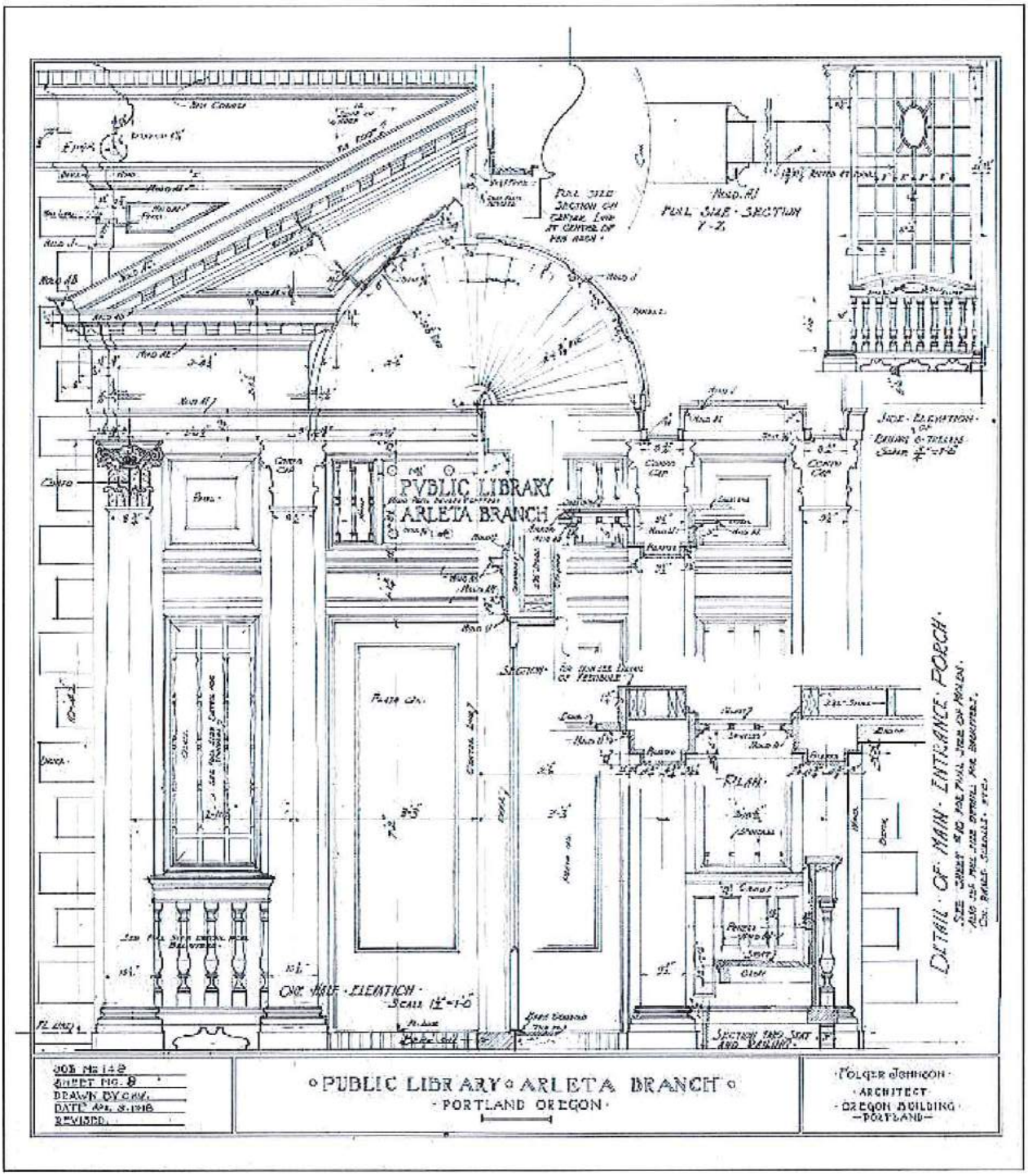

Figure 20: Original detail drawings of south side entrance, 1918.

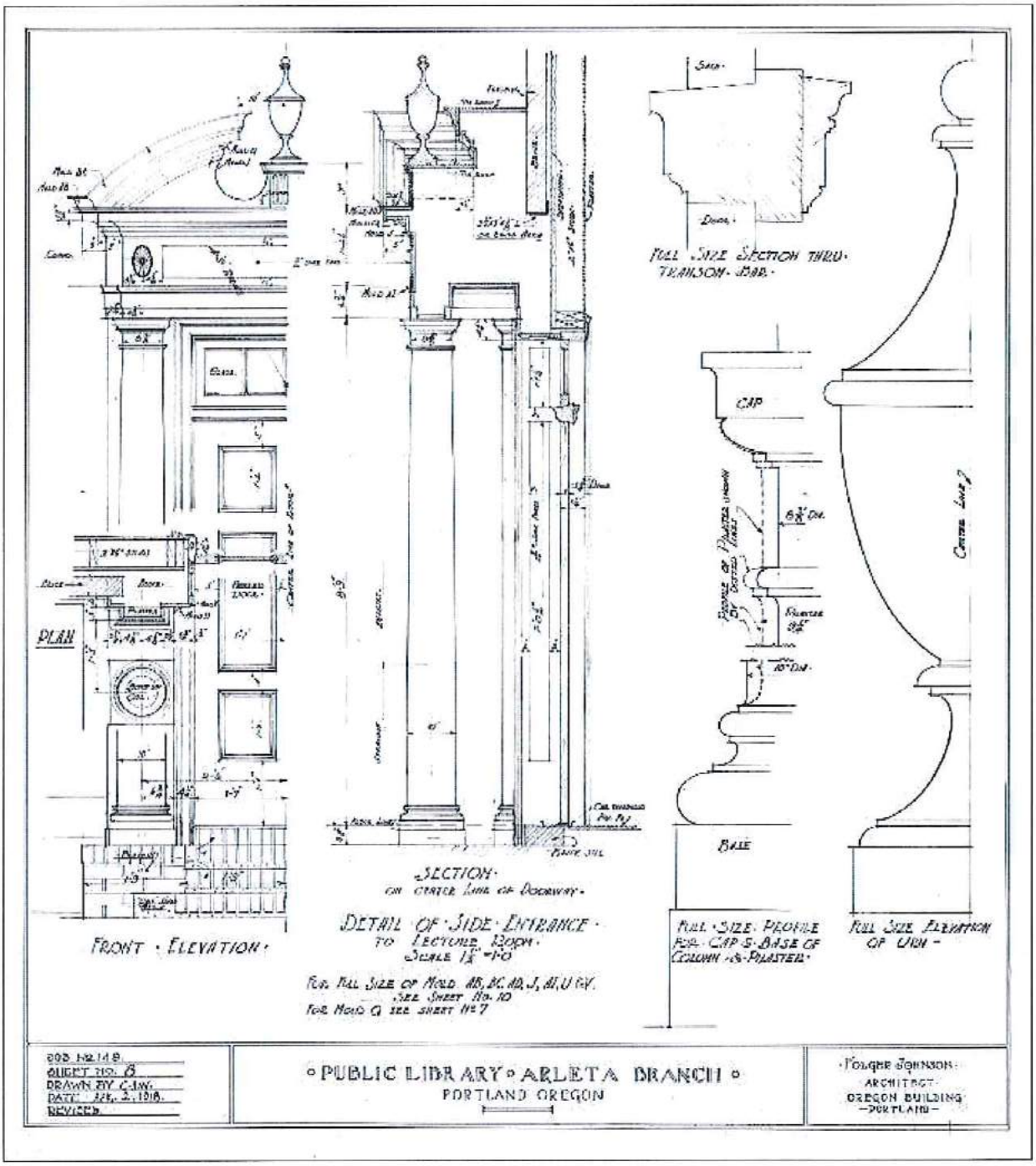

Figure 21: Original drawings, Reading Room plan and wall elevations, 1918.

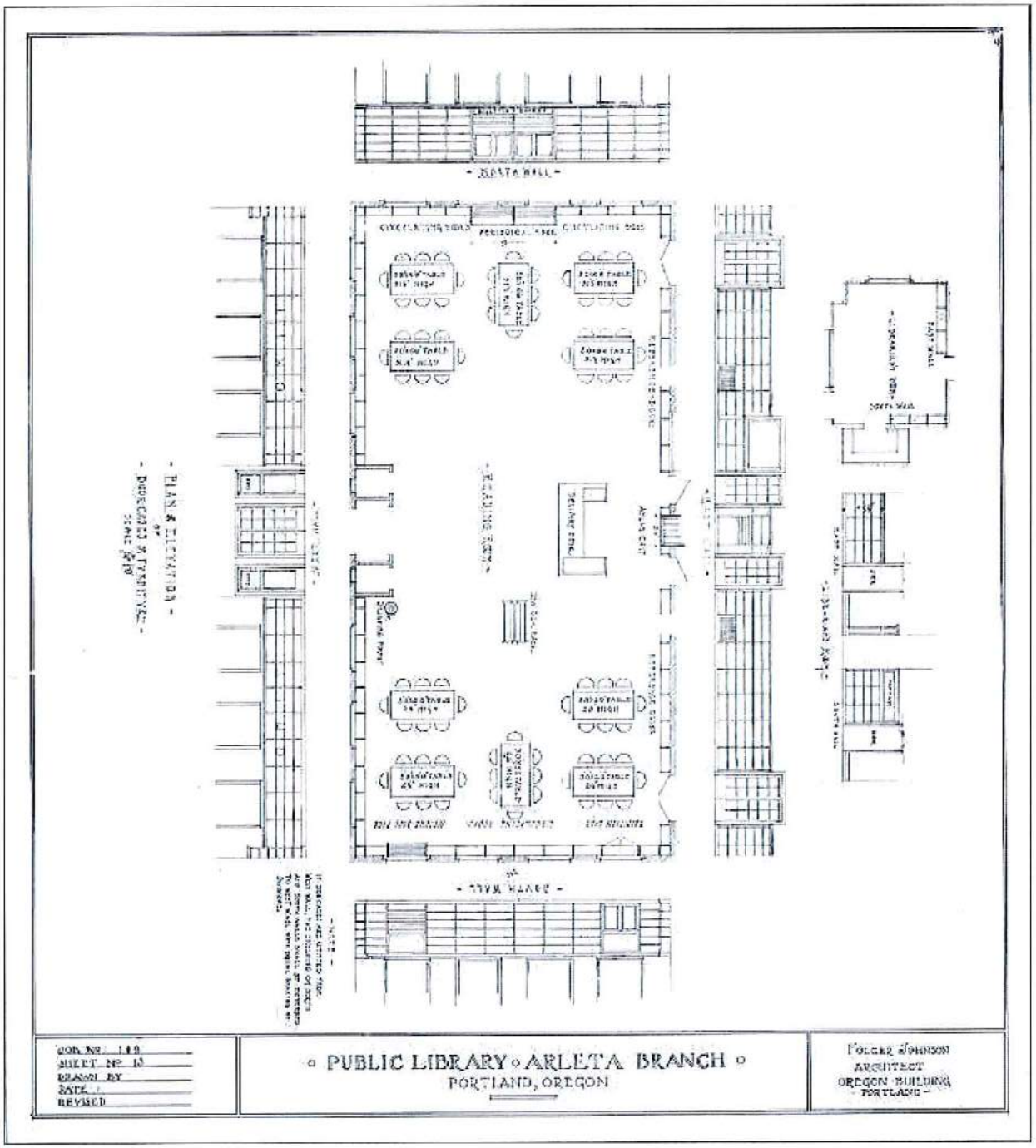

Figure 22: Original drawings of map case, exterior plaque and furniture details, 1918.

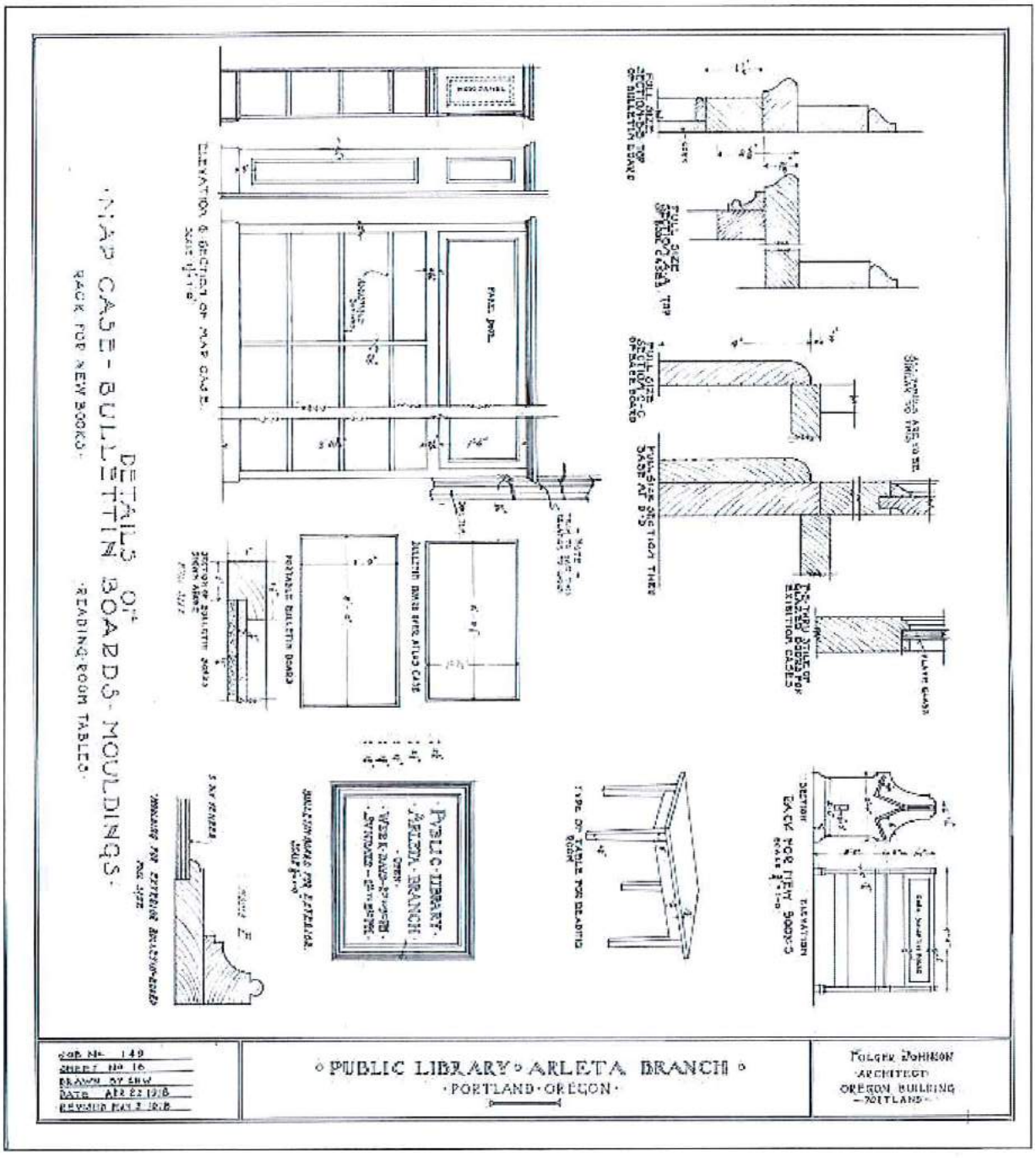

Figure 23: Circa 1920 view southwest corner of Arleta Branch Library, looking northeast. Photo courtesy of Multnomah County Library.

Figure 24: Circa 1920 view of Arleta Branch Library entrance portico. Photo courtesy of Multnomah County Library.

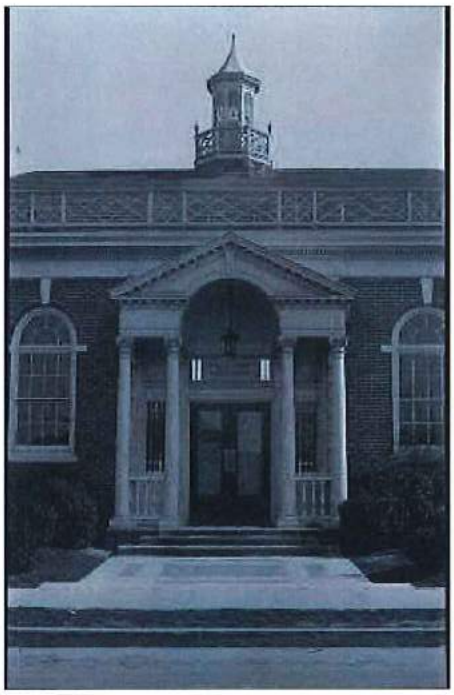

Figure 25: 1923 view of south side elevation of Arleta Branch Library, looking north/northeast. Photo courtesy of Multnomah County Library.

Figure 26: Undated (likely 1920s or early 1930s) image of baby clinic taking place in Lecture Room. Photo courtesy of Multnomah County Library.

Figure 27: 1937 view of front (west) elevation of Arleta Branch Library. Photo courtesy of Multnomah County Library.

Figure 28: 1937 interior view of Arleta Branch Library, northern end of Reading Room with Librarian's desk and office at right. Photo courtesy of Multnomah County Library

Figure 29: 1963 view of front (west) elevation of Arleta Branch Library.
Photo courtesy of Multnomah County Library.

Figure 30: 1963 view southwest corner of Arleta Branch Library, looking northeast.
Photo courtesy of Multnomah County Library.

Figure 31: 1963 interior view of north end of Reading Room.
Photo courtesy of Multnomah County Library.

Figure 32: 1963 interior view of southern end of Reading Room.
Photo courtesy of Multnomah County Library.

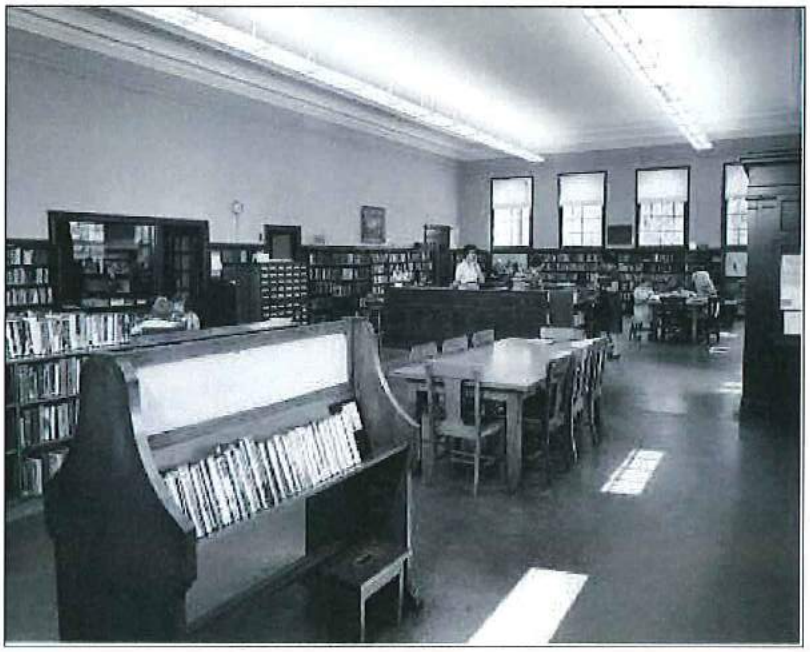

Photo 1 of 18: Front (west) elevation, facing southeast.

Photo 2 of 18: Front (west) elevation, facing east.

Photo 3 of 18: South side elevation, facing northeast.

Photo 4 of 18: South side and portion of rear (east) elevations, facing northwest.

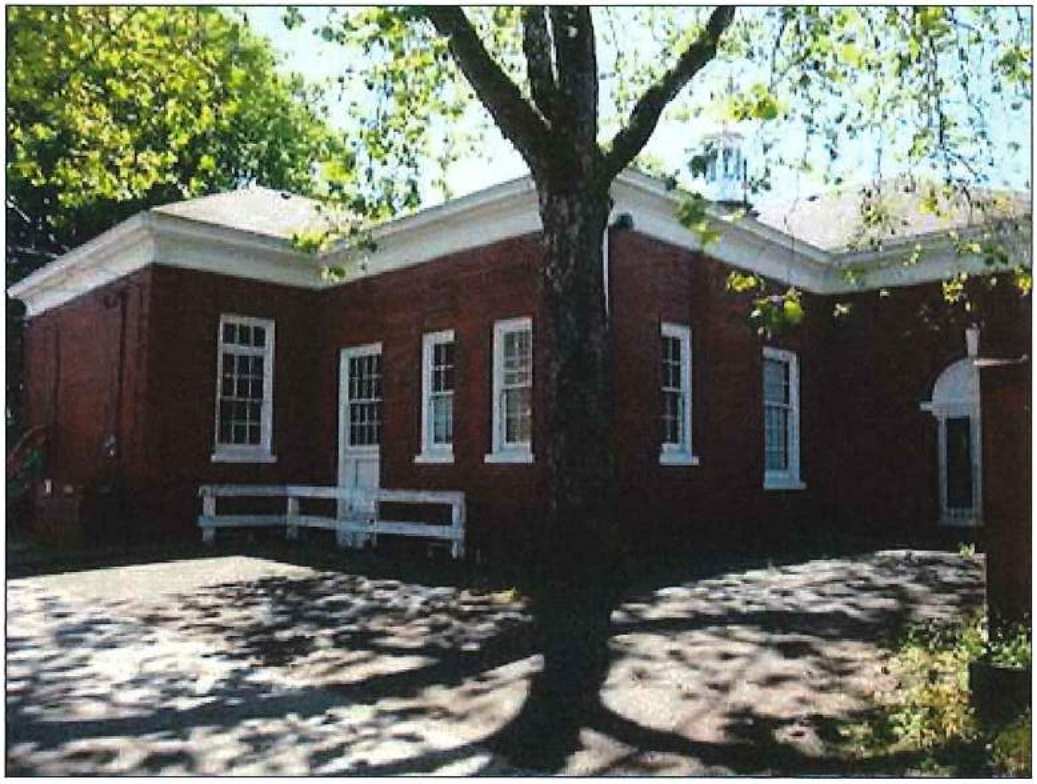

Photo 5 of 18: Rear view (east and north elevations), facing southwest.

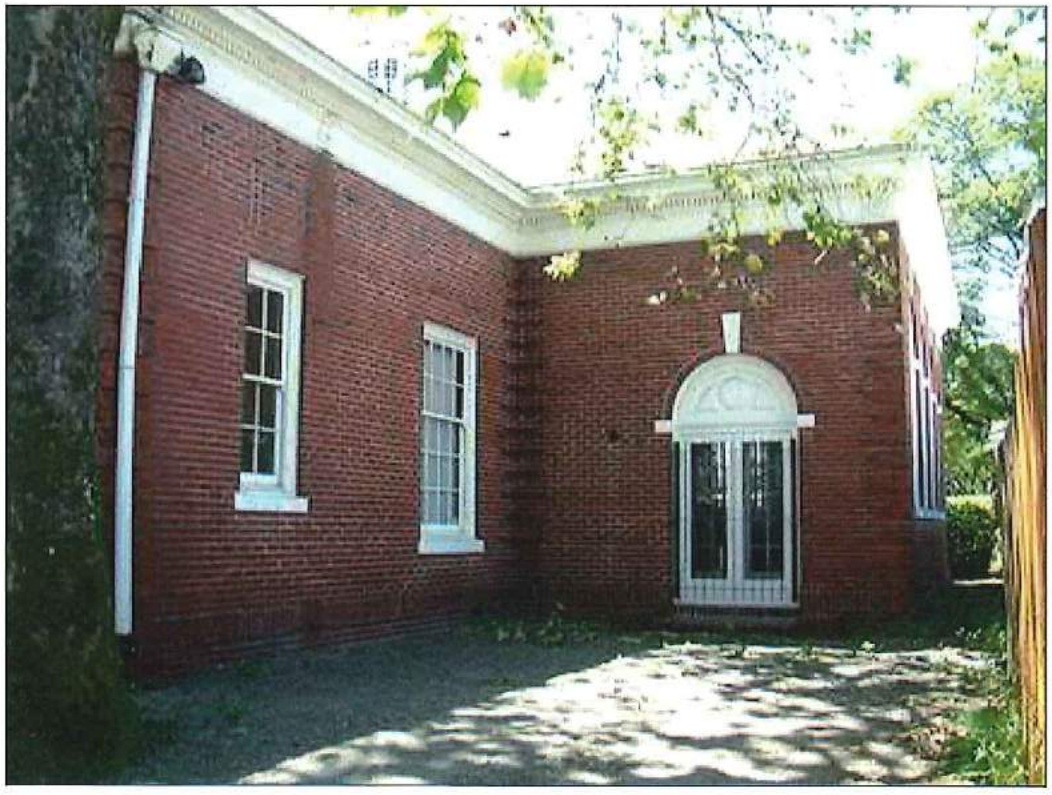

Photo 6 of 18: East elevation detail of courtyard, facing west.

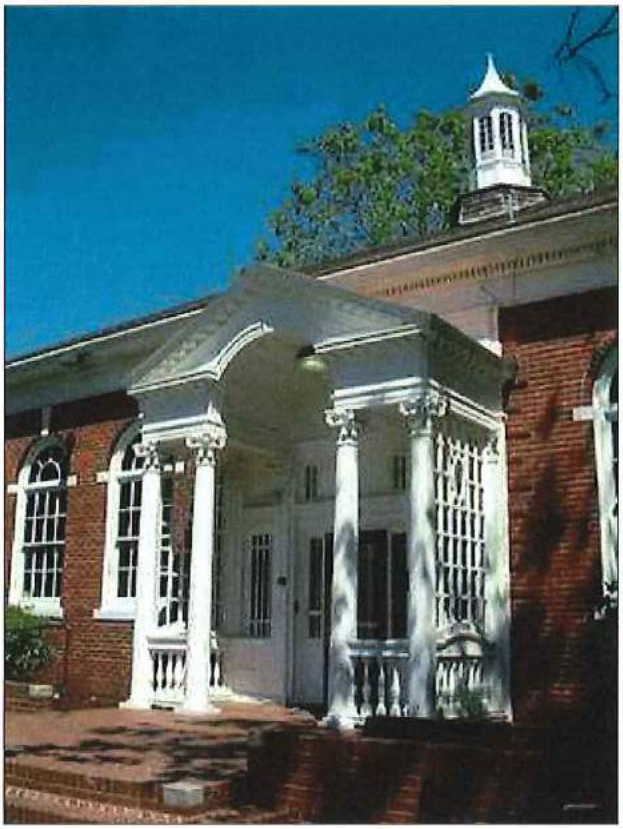

Photo 7 of 18: Front entrance portico detail.

Photo 8 of 18: Corner wall and eave detail.

Photo 9 of 18: Reading Room, north end, with partition wall in place.

Photo 10 of 18: Reading Room south end

Photo 11 of 18: Reading Room, east wall and southeast corner.

Photo 12 of 18: View of Lecture Room, facing north.

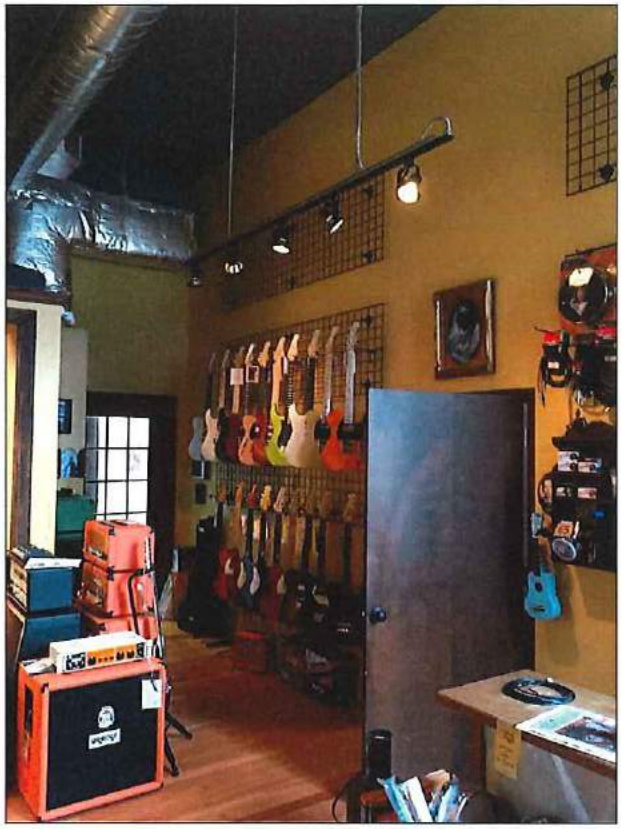

Photo 13 of 18: Lecture Room view facing east, with partition wall in place.

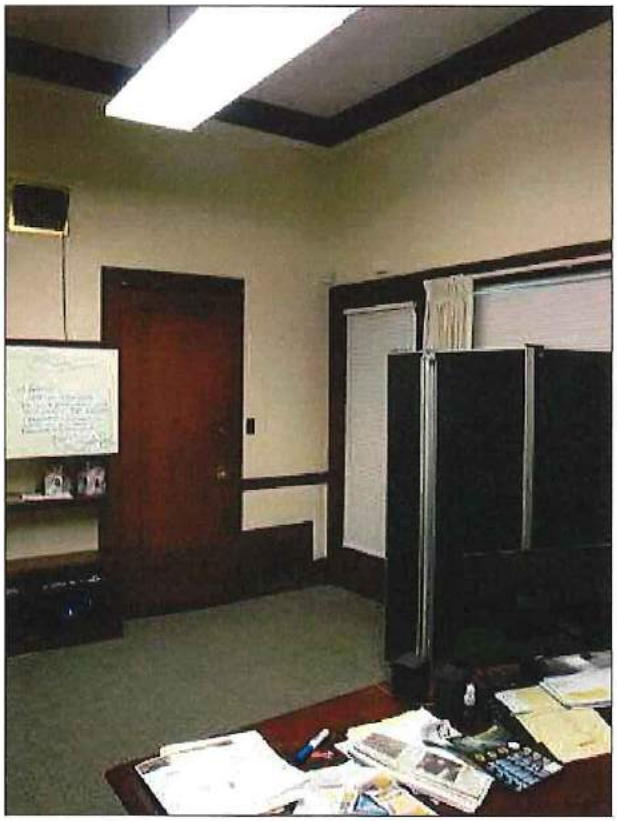

Photo 14 of 18: Librarian's Room, view facing southwest.

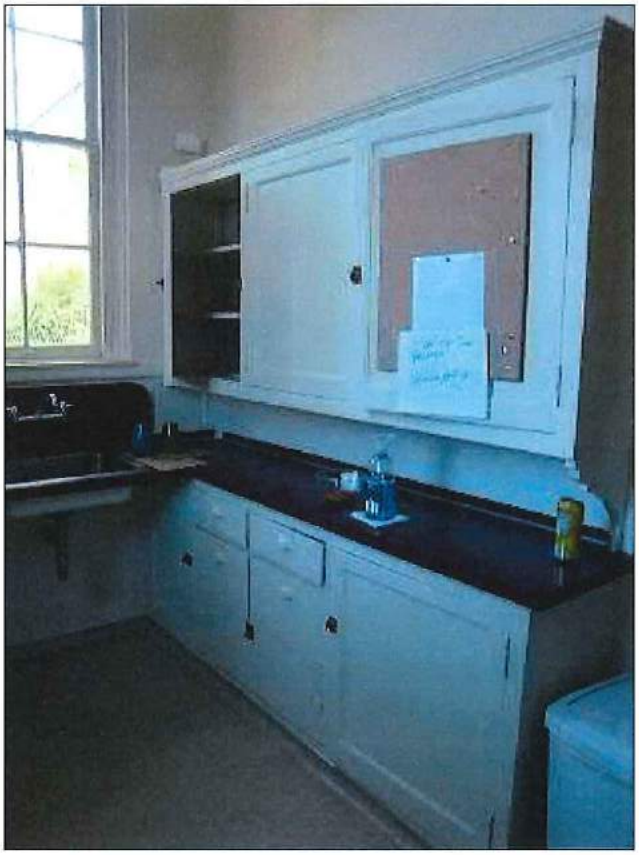

Photo 15 of 18: Partial view of kitchen with original cabinetry.

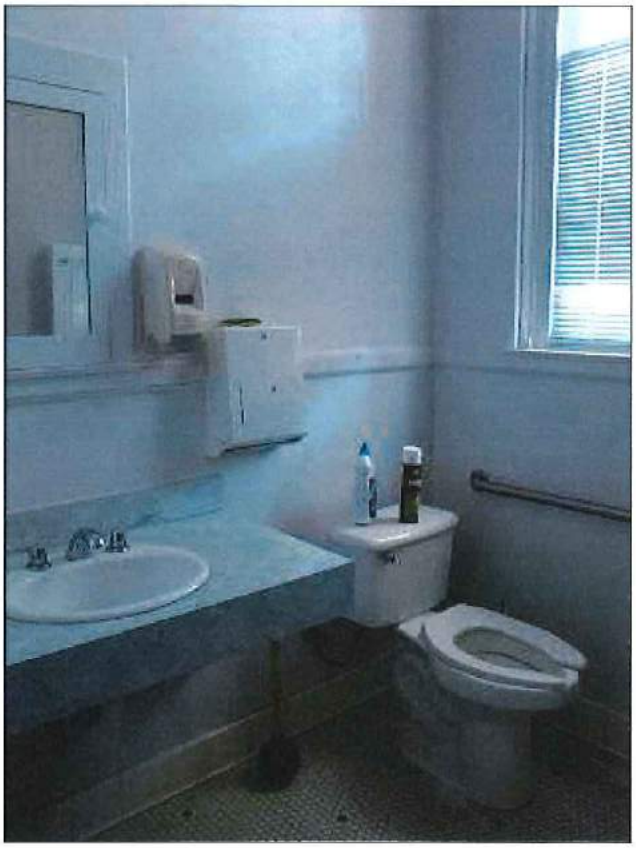

Photo 16 of 18: View of women's restroom on main floor.

Photo 17 of 18: Rear door and stair to basement.

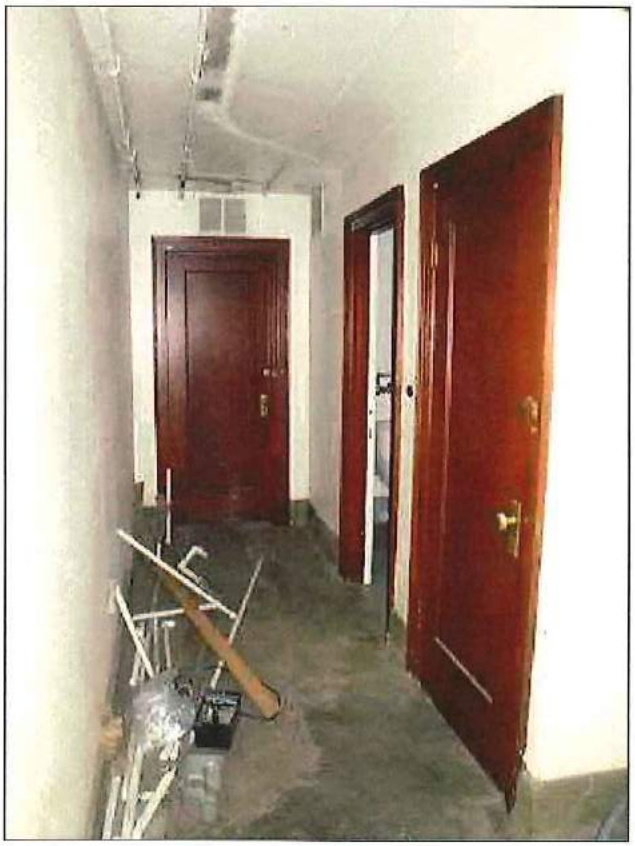

Photo 18 of 18: Basement, view looking north from basement stairs.