

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

SENT TO D.C.

12-22-05

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name **Westervelt Christian Church**
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number **103 West Main Street** _____ Not for publication
city or town **Westervelt** _____ vicinity
state **Illinois** code **IL** county **Shelby** code **173** zip code **62565**

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William L. ... ISHPA
Signature of certifying official

12-15-2005
Date

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency _____
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

State or Federal agency and bureau

American Indian Tribe

Westervelt Christian Church
Name of Property

Shelby County, IL
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain):	_____	_____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 1 </u>	buildings
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	sites
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	structures
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	objects
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 1 </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

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

Westervelt Christian Church
Name of Property

Shelby County, IL
County and State

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
Religious: Religious Facility

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
Religious: Religious Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
Late 19th and Early 20th Century Revivals: Classical Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation **Concrete**

Roof **Tin, Asphalt Shingles**

Walls **Brick**

other **Stone; Concrete**

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Westervelt Christian Church
Name of Property

Shelby County, IL
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)

- 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.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance 1921

Significant Dates N/A

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Harris, Charles

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Westervelt Christian Church
Name of Property

Shelby County, IL
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository **University of Illinois at Champaign; Shelby County Historical and Genealogical Society, Shelbyville, IL**

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property **Less than 1 acre**

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

1 **16 340053 4371631** 3 _____

2 _____ 4 _____

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

Westervelt Christian Church
Name of Property

Shelby County, IL
County and State

II. Form Prepared By

name/title **June McCain; William Gatlin**

organization **Shelby County Genealogical Society**

date **September 2005**

street & number **151 S. Washington**

telephone **217/744-2260**

city or town **Shelbyville**

state **IL**

zip code **62565**

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:
Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name **Westervelt Christian Church, c/o Lyle Locke, Head Elder**

street & number **301 Main Street**

telephone **217/738-2262**

city or town **Westervelt**

state **IL**

zip code **62565**

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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1 **Westervelt Christian Church** **Shelby County, IL**

Narrative Description

General Description

The Westervelt Christian Church, built in 1921, is located at 103 Main Street in Westervelt, a small central Illinois community about eight miles northwest of Shelbyville. The two-story building, which occupies the corner lot at the intersection of Main Street and Chestnut Street, is built of red brick with wood, stone and concrete decoration. The Classical Revival building is rectangular in shape and is located in a residential/commercial mixed-use neighborhood. A small frame utility building with a shed roof sits to the west of the building on the same property. The shed is non-contributing.

East elevation

The primary front of the building faces east and is set back from the street. The front presents a symmetrical main building with a recessed wing to the north. The main building is dominated by a massive pedimented portico. The triangular pediment is supported by two, two-story Doric columns flanked by two-story brick pilasters with stone caps and bases. A stone belt course separates the first floor from the basement on all faces.

The front consists of three bays. Double hung windows with one-over-one panes with concrete sills are symmetrically placed on the two outer bays on the first and second floors, with smaller double hung windows on the basement level. The center bay is marked by the pediment. Under the pediment is a paired double-hung window with a concrete sill. Wooden double doors with full glass lights are framed by a decorative concrete surround. Nine concrete steps rise from street level and have wide brick balustrades capped with stone.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2 **Westervelt Christian Church** **Shelby County, IL**

The pediment is outlined with a wide wooden entablature that continues as a cornice around all facades. The brick frieze contains a round stone disc carved with the date "1921." Above the cornice is a low brick parapet wall capped with stone. The roof is flat.

The east front of the wing is symmetrical and two bays wide. The south bay has double-hung windows on all three levels, while the north bay has the window only on the second floor. Directly below the window are double doors with glass lights that allow entrance from street level. These doors are capped with a triangular wooden pediment.

South elevation

The south elevation faces Chestnut Street and has five bays. The north and south bays are slightly recessed from the inner bays, which are in turn slightly recessed from the center bay. The center bay has dual two-story brick pilasters flanking a large two-story window. Wide muntins in an H-shaped configuration divide it into six faces with a horizontal muntin about two-thirds up the vertical muntins. The result is a large rectangular window flanked by two narrow vertical windows under two smaller windows flanking a square window. The lower quarter of the large rectangular window has two inset double-hung windows.

Each of the four side bays has symmetrical windows on the basement, first and second floors. The upper windows have concrete sills.

The center bay is capped with a triangular pediment resting on the brick pilasters. The pediment is outlined by the same wide entablature which continues as a cornice line. A low brick parapet capped by stone rises above the cornice.

On the west end of the building is a small one-story wing. There are no windows on the south front of the wing.

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Section 7 Page 3 **Westervelt Christian Church** **Shelby County, IL**

West elevation

The rear of the building faces west. The one story wing is centered on the main building. It has two double hung windows with concrete sills. A coal chute door is visible.

On the walls of the main building there are windows on the basement, first floor and second floor on the north side of the wing, while south of the wing the windows appear only on the second floor and basement. The cornice with the parapet transverses the face and two chimneys are visible.

To the north is a recessed wing. One set of windows appear on the three levels. A small bell tower is visible on the northwest corner of the roof. The tower is square with wood pillars, open sides and a hipped roof.

North elevation

The north facade is five bays and similar to the south side of the church. The series of recessed bays is repeated and two-story brick pilasters support a triangular pediment. The central bay has triple windows on all three levels. The flanking bays have single windows on all three levels. The northwest bay has a window on the second floor while a door allows access from the ground level. The northeast bay has windows on the first and second floor only.

The roofline is similar to the south elevation, except for the bell tower in the northwest corner.

Interior

The front doors of the main building open to a small vestibule which opens to the auditorium. The two-story auditorium occupies most of the first floor. Two small

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Section 7 Page 4 **Westervelt Christian Church** **Shelby County, IL**

classrooms flank the vestibule. Ten rows of theater-style seats are divided by a center aisle. At the west end of the auditorium is a raised dais for the pulpit. The walls curve to give the dais a slightly rounded look. Behind the wall are the baptistery and two dressing rooms.

The south wall contains the large stained glass window. It is flanked by two sets of windows. A choir loft is located at the east end of the auditorium, above the vestibule and classrooms. The north wall opens to additional seating and a second balcony.

The walls are covered in white plaster. The coffered ceiling is oak and plaster. In the center a coved cornice opens to a skylight with stained glass. The skylight was originally open to natural light, but the exterior was covered with roofing material at some point.

The ground-level door on the wing opens to a stairway accessing both balconies and the basement. Additional stairs are found at the west end of the wing.

The basement contains a large dining room. There are kitchen and mechanical rooms under the small western wing. A large Sunday school room occupies the basement of the north wing. There are two additional classrooms in the basement.

Statement of Integrity

The Westervelt Christian Church retains sufficient integrity for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. There have been no major alterations to the exterior of the building as evidenced by a historic photograph from the church's dedication in 1923. Roofing material covers the exterior of the skylight but cannot be seen from street level. There have been no significant alterations to the first floor interior. In the basement a coal room was converted to a women's restroom while a portion of the furnace room was converted to a men's restroom. A partition which divided the Sunday school room was removed. None of these alterations detracts from the overall integrity of the building.

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Section 8 Page 5 **Westervelt Christian Church** **Shelby County, IL**

Statement of Significance

Summary

The Westervelt Christian Church is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as a good local example the Classical Revival Style. The building reflects the major features that marked Classical Revival architecture in the period from the 1890s to the 1920s. It also meets Criteria Consideration A for religious properties because it derives its primary significance from architectural distinction. Its period of significance is 1921, the year it was built.

History of Westervelt

The village of Westervelt was formed in 1904. The C&E I Railroad built a line from Findlay, Illinois, to St. Louis. A depot was established on the level prairie terrain about four miles southwest of the pioneer village of Brunswick. Businesses, including a blacksmith shop and general store, moved from Brunswick to the new depot. Community leaders soon built a two-room schoolhouse and later built a four year high school.

Westervelt began experiencing tremendous growth shortly after its establishment. A report in the *Shelbyville Democrat* (June 1, 1911) noted that due to a shortage of building lots, George Deering of Shelbyville, decided to convert his 40 acres abutting the northern boundary of Westervelt into lots for sale. Of the 54 lots that were platted, Deering sold 31 and the remaining were sold by the National Realty Company of St.

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Section 8 Page 6 **Westervelt Christian Church** **Shelby County, IL**

Louis. The company had arranged a promotional three-day sale, which included a raffle for a free lot. All of the lots were sold by noon of the third day.

In 1917, Westervelt was hit by a deadly tornado that swept through the Midwest, in which almost two hundred people were killed and over twelve hundred people were injured. It was reported that the tornado caused an estimated five million dollars worth of property damage; in Westervelt six people were killed and nine buildings were completely destroyed. The amount of damage caused in the community alone was estimated at \$21,150. The Evangelical church, the religious institution in the community at the time, was among the buildings destroyed. The parsonage sustained \$1200 worth of damage. (*Shelbyville Daily Union*, Tuesday May 29, 1917.) The church was subsequently rebuilt; the dedication for the new building took place on September 1, 1918.

History of Westervelt Christian Church

The Westervelt Christian Church was the second church built in Westervelt. The original members of the Westervelt Christian Church moved from the Antioch Church near Brunswick. They originally met in the IOOF Lodge Building. As the congregation grew, members needed a church building of their own. Dr. Kerr and Charles Donnel, a prominent grain dealer, were influential in building the new church. The church leaders hired local architect Charles Harris to design the new building. Harris was a graduate of the University of Illinois and designed a number of churches in central Illinois, including the Methodist Church, also in Westervelt. Harris employed design techniques such as rounded walls and carefully placed structural supports and exposed ceiling beams to

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Section 8 Page 7 **Westervelt Christian Church** **Shelby County, IL**

improve acoustics. The church was dedicated in 1923. In addition to meeting the needs of the congregation, the church was also a civic center and hosted public lectures and graduations.

Architectural Significance

Charles Harris designed a Classical Revival building for the Westervelt Christian Church. Architects have long adapted classical language for modern buildings, returning to the Greek and Roman styles again and again. The Classical Revival style enjoyed a reemergence in the United States following the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. The "Great White City" was to be designed by the best-known architects of the day and the classical language was the common bond chosen to unite the work of these various masters. The buildings at the fair were photographed and those photos were widely distributed, sparking a renewed interest in classical forms that continued into the 1920s.

Like earlier revivals of classical forms, the Classical Revival of this time relied on Greek and Roman styles. Buildings typically were monumental in scale. They were based on simple geometric forms arranged symmetrically. Typically they had massive pedimented porticoes, employing columns with simple Ionic capitals. The surfaces were flat and devoid of excessive ornamentation. Windows were usually large single-light sashes. Rooflines were plain, with parapets a popular feature.

Harris incorporated many of these stylistic features in his design of the Westervelt Church. The building is composed of three rectangles. Doors and windows are symmetrically balanced on the main elevations. The primary façade is dominated by the two-story pedimented portico. This feature is repeated on the north and south facades

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Section 8 Page 8 **Westervelt Christian Church** **Shelby County, IL**

where pilasters support triangular pediments. Even the ground floor door on the north wing recreates the feature on a smaller scale. The use of an English basement gives the two-story building greater mass. The simple stone belt and unadorned cornice are characteristic of Classical Revival style. The roofline is without ornamentation, also standard for the style.

The Westervelt Christian Church has excellent integrity and is a good local example of a style that was widely popular style in the United States in the early 1920s. The only other Classical Revival building in Westervelt is the Grace United Methodist Church, also designed by Charles Harris. The Methodist Church lacks the dominating temple front that distinguishes the Christian Church building. In addition, the Methodist Church has a prominent brick bell tower that reflects a Gothic influence. The General Baptist Church in Moweaqua, the Abundant Life Assembly of God church in Bethany and the Assumption Presbyterian church are the Classical Revival churches most comparable to the Westervelt Christian Church. These were also designed by Charles Harris, but are located in neighboring communities.

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Section 9 Page 9 **Westervelt Christian Church** **Shelby County, IL**

Bibliography

Gordon, Beulah. *Here and There in Shelby County*. Shelby, IL Shelby County Historical and Genealogical Society, ed., 1973.

Hamlin, Talbot. *Architecture Through the Ages*. New York: Putnam, 1953.

Harris, Charles. Westervelt Church Blueprints, 1921. In the possession of Robert Harris, Charles Harris's son, Moweaqua, Illinois.

Harris, Robert. Oral History Tapes, 1999, 2000. RR Moweaqua, IL. Pertaining to his father's (architect Charles Harris) life and career.

Kimmel, Betty Martin. *Westervelt Christian Church History*. Shelbyville, IL: 1980.

Rifkind, Carole. *A Field Guide to American Architecture*. New York: New American Library, 1980.

Shelby County Democrat, Shelbyville, IL. "Town Lots for Sale – Finely Located – Well Drained." October 1, 1903.

Shelbyville County Democrat, June 1, 1911.

Shelby County Historical and Genealogical Society. *Westervelt, Illinois, 1904 – 2004. Centennial History*. Shelbyville, IL: 2003.

NPS Form 10-900-a
OMB No. 1024-0018
(8-86)

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Section 9 Page 10 **Westervelt Christian Church** **Shelby County, IL**

Shelbyville Daily Union, Tuesday May 29, 1917.

Documentation Relating to Charles Harris. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois, Archives
Research Center.

Wharmby, David. *Westervelt Christian Church History*. Lincoln, IL: Lincoln Bible
Institute, 1959.

Westervelt Christian Church files, 1901 – 1903.

Windsor Gazette. "A New Town in Ridge Township." April 16, 1903.

NPS Form 10-900-a
OMB No. 1024-0018
(8-86)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 11 **Westervelt Christian Church** **Shelby County, IL**

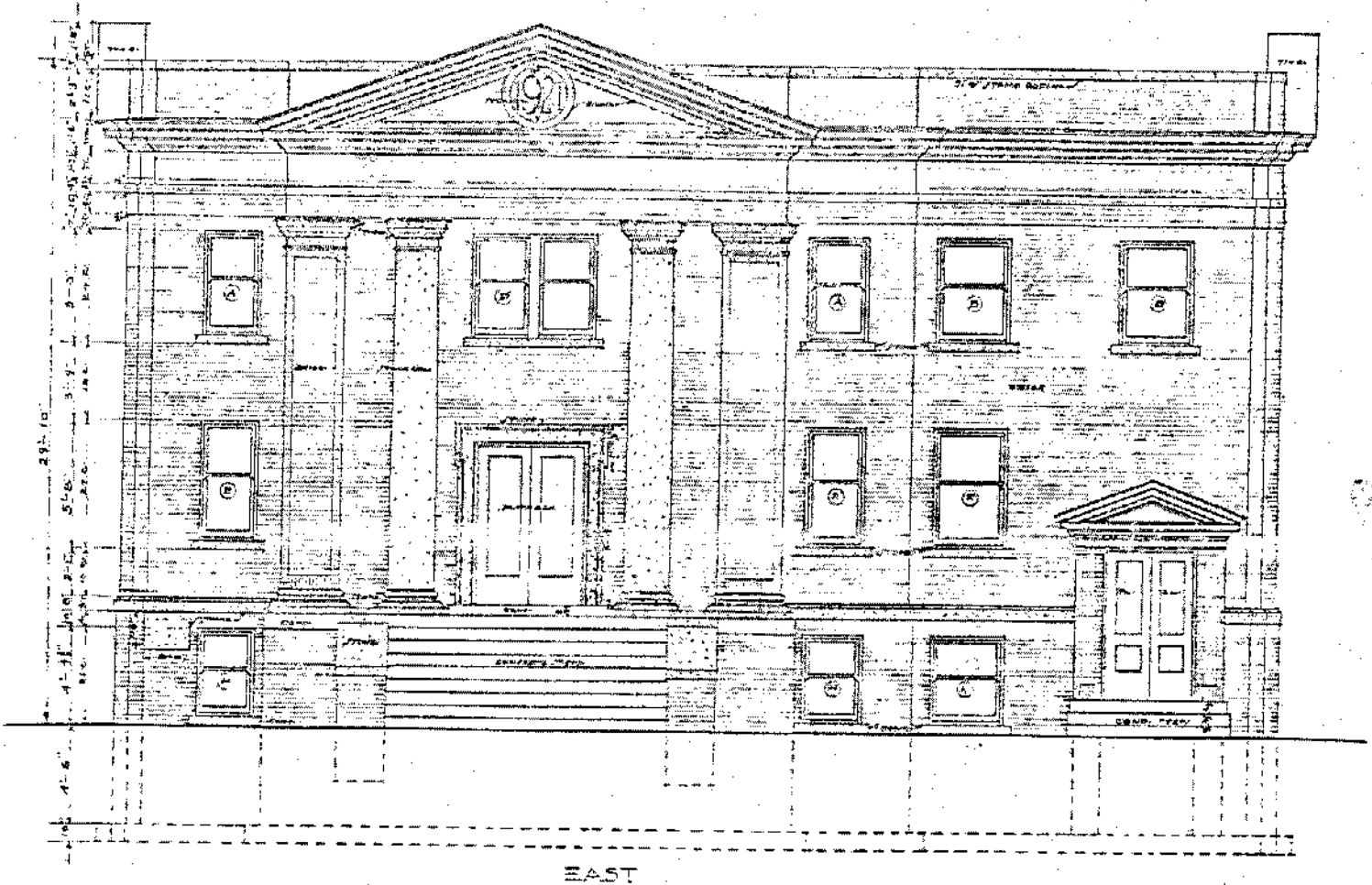
Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 1 and 2 of the Block 3 of the Original Town of Westervelt located SW, SW corner of Section 15, T12, R3E of the 3rd Principal Meridian known as Ridge Township, Shelby County, Illinois.

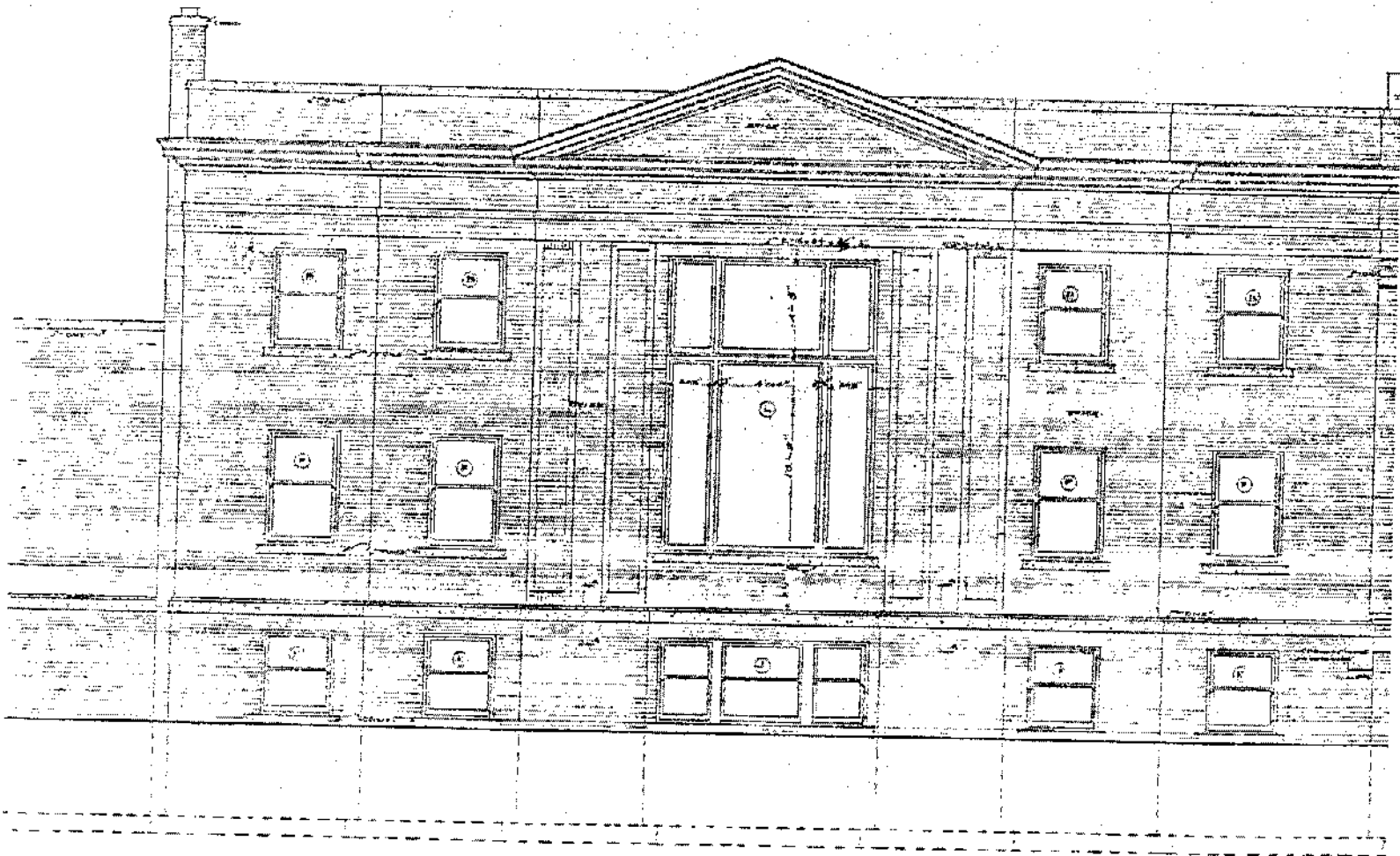
Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the church building and surrounding land historically associated with the Westervelt Christian Church.



ELEVATION
SCALE 1/4"

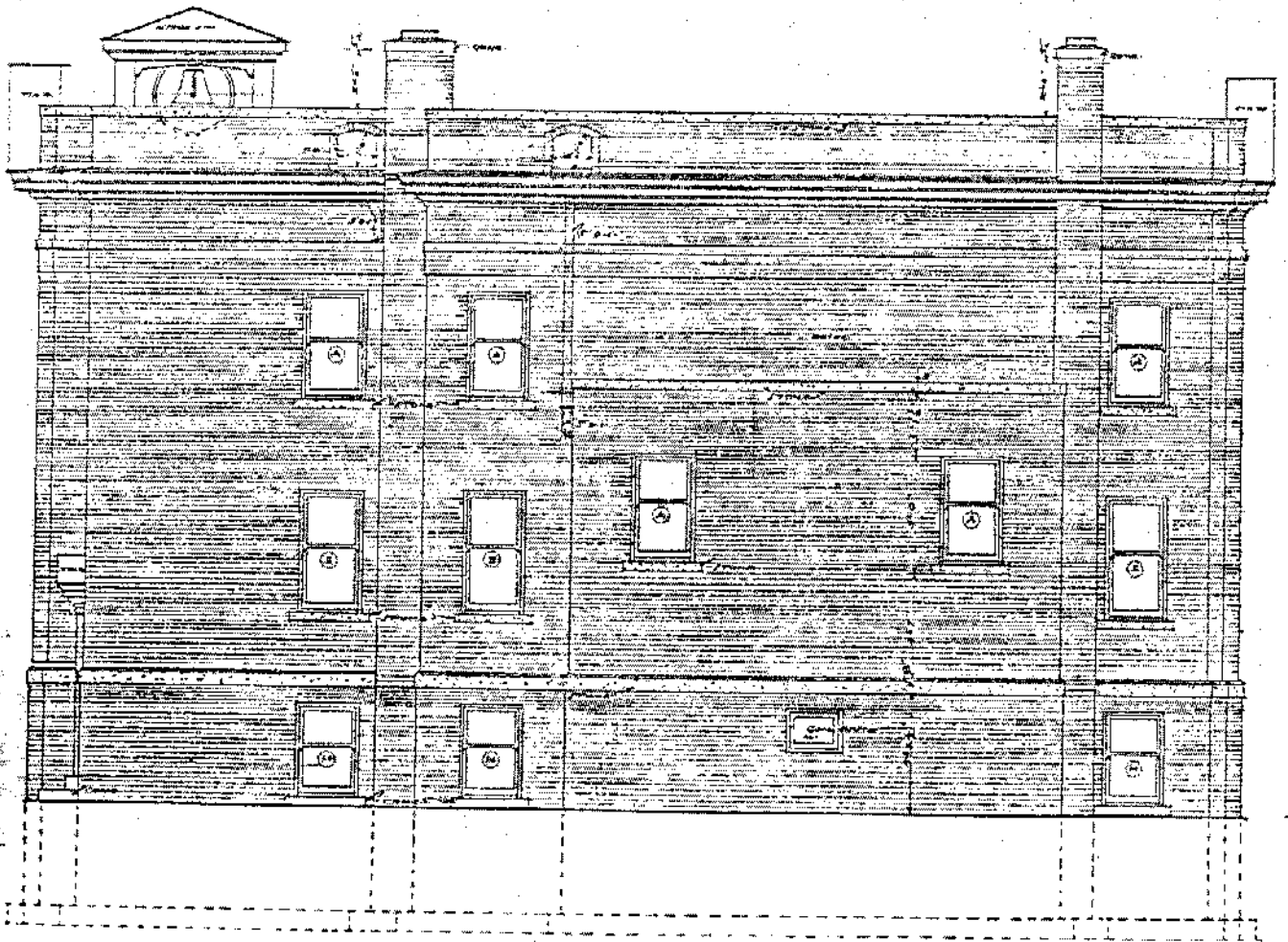
Westervelt Christian Church
Shelby Co, IL



SOUTH

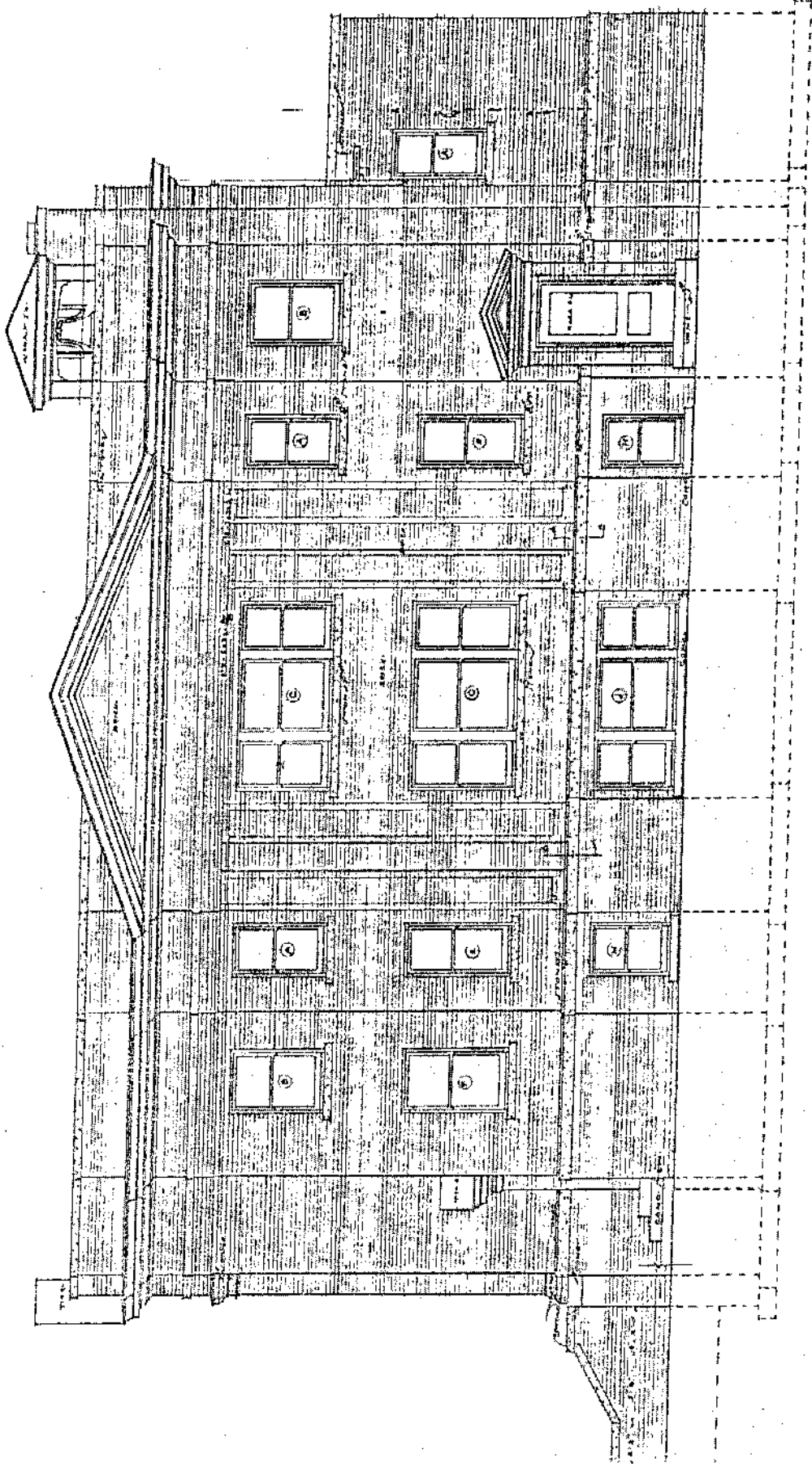
Westervelt Christian Church
Shelby Co, IL

15
16



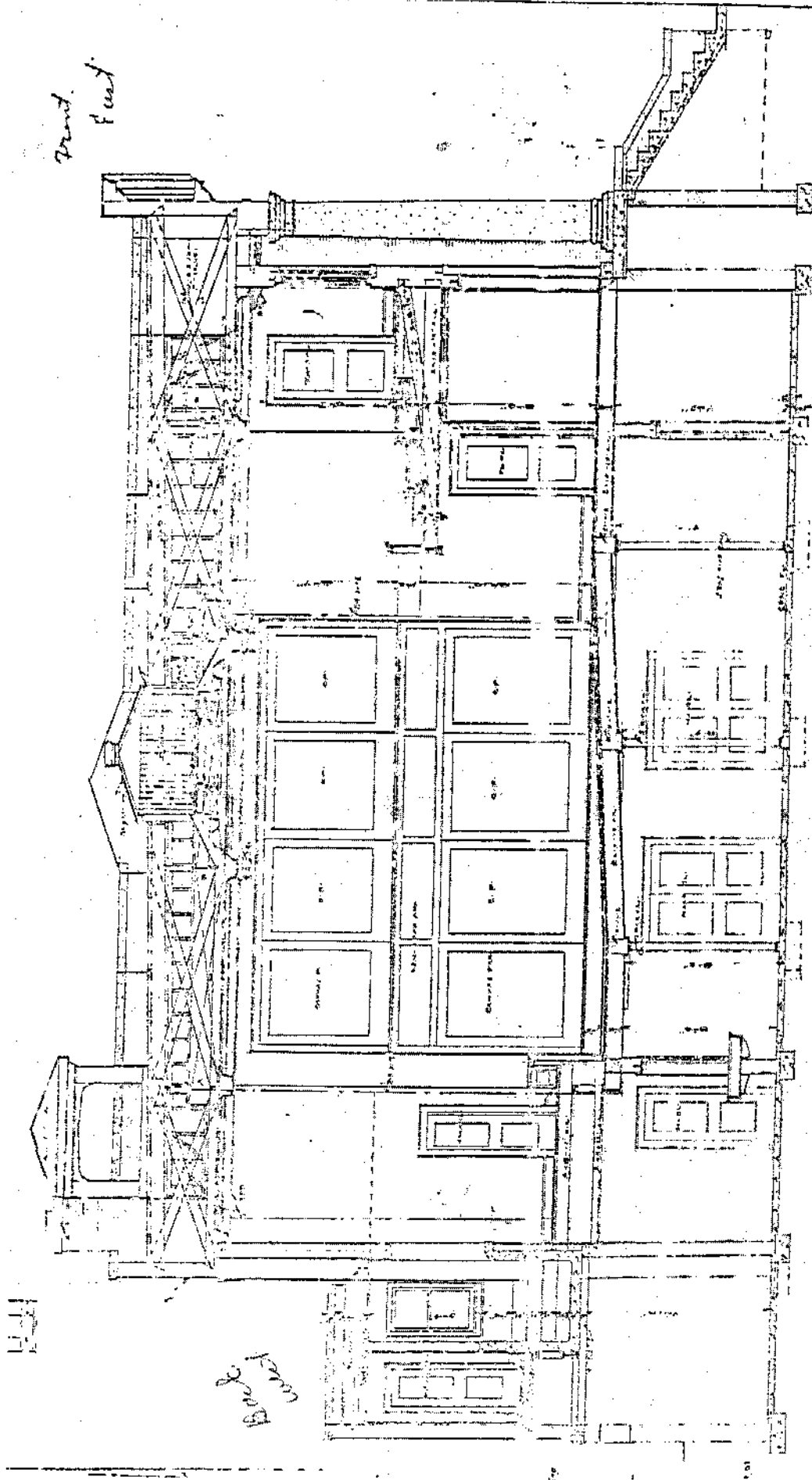
West

Westervelt Christian Church
Shelby Co., IL



NORTH

Westervett Christian Church
Shelby Co., IL



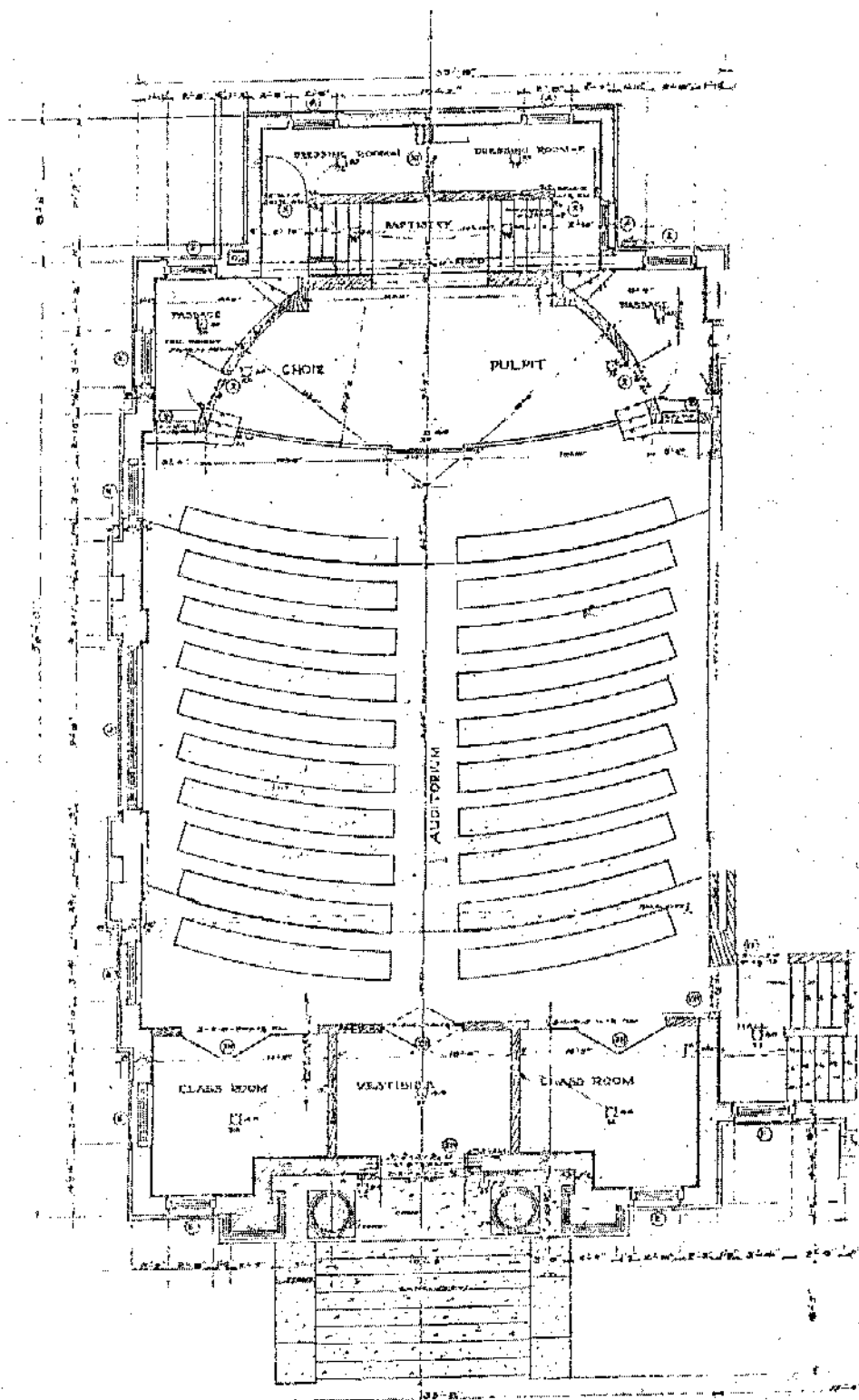
*Print.
Foot*

*Board
Floor*

LONG SECTION
1/4" = 1'-0"

Interior North Side

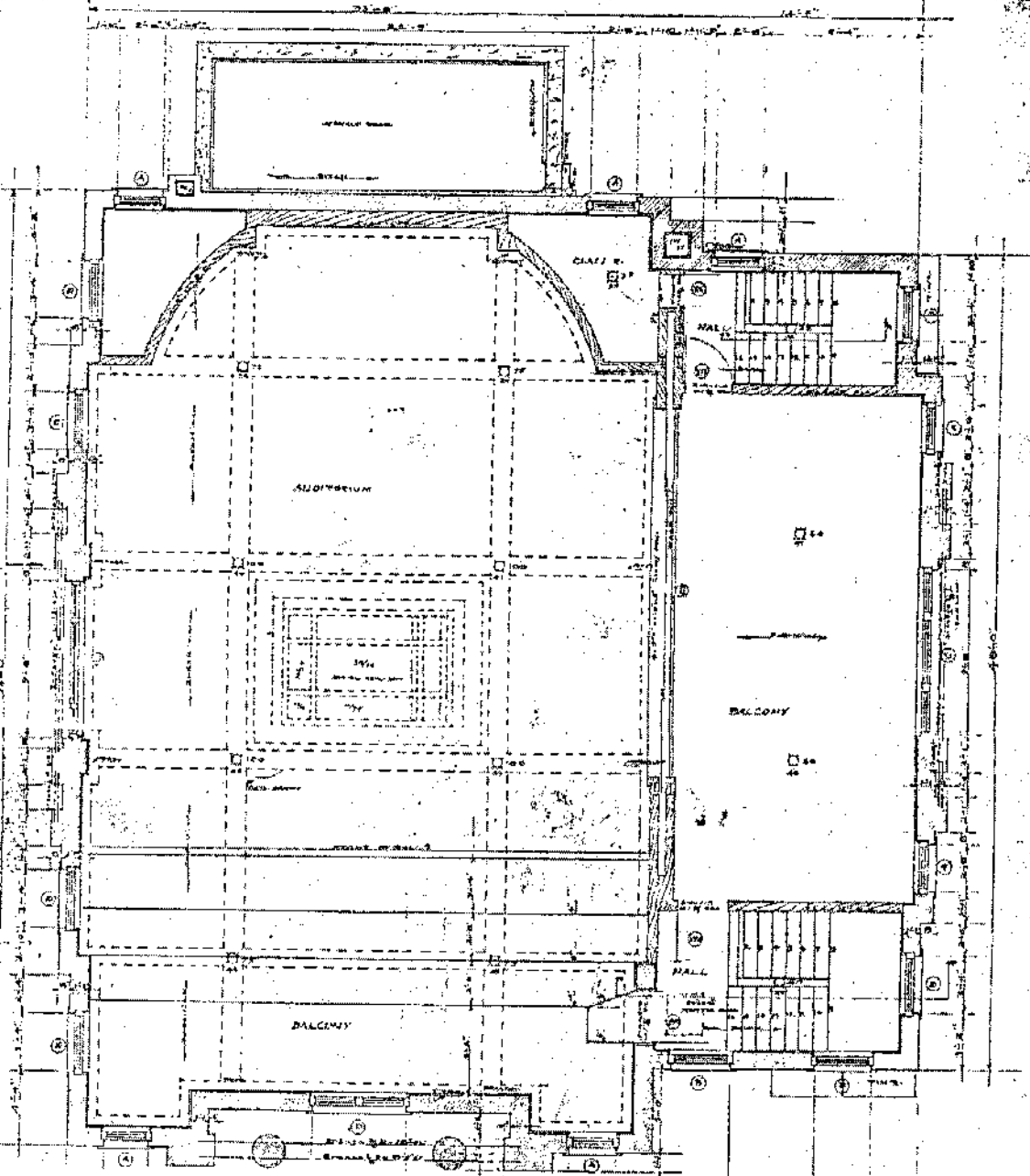
*Westervelt Christian Church
Shelby Co, IL*



PLAN OF FIRST FLOOR
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"

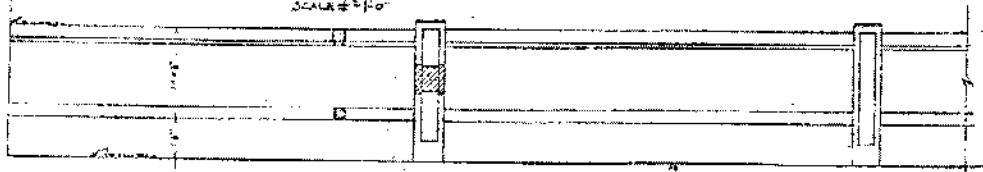
Westervelt Christian Church
Shelby Co, IL

NOTE-ALL TRIM ABOVE HAS TO BE PLAIN RED OAK
ALL FLS- MAPLE

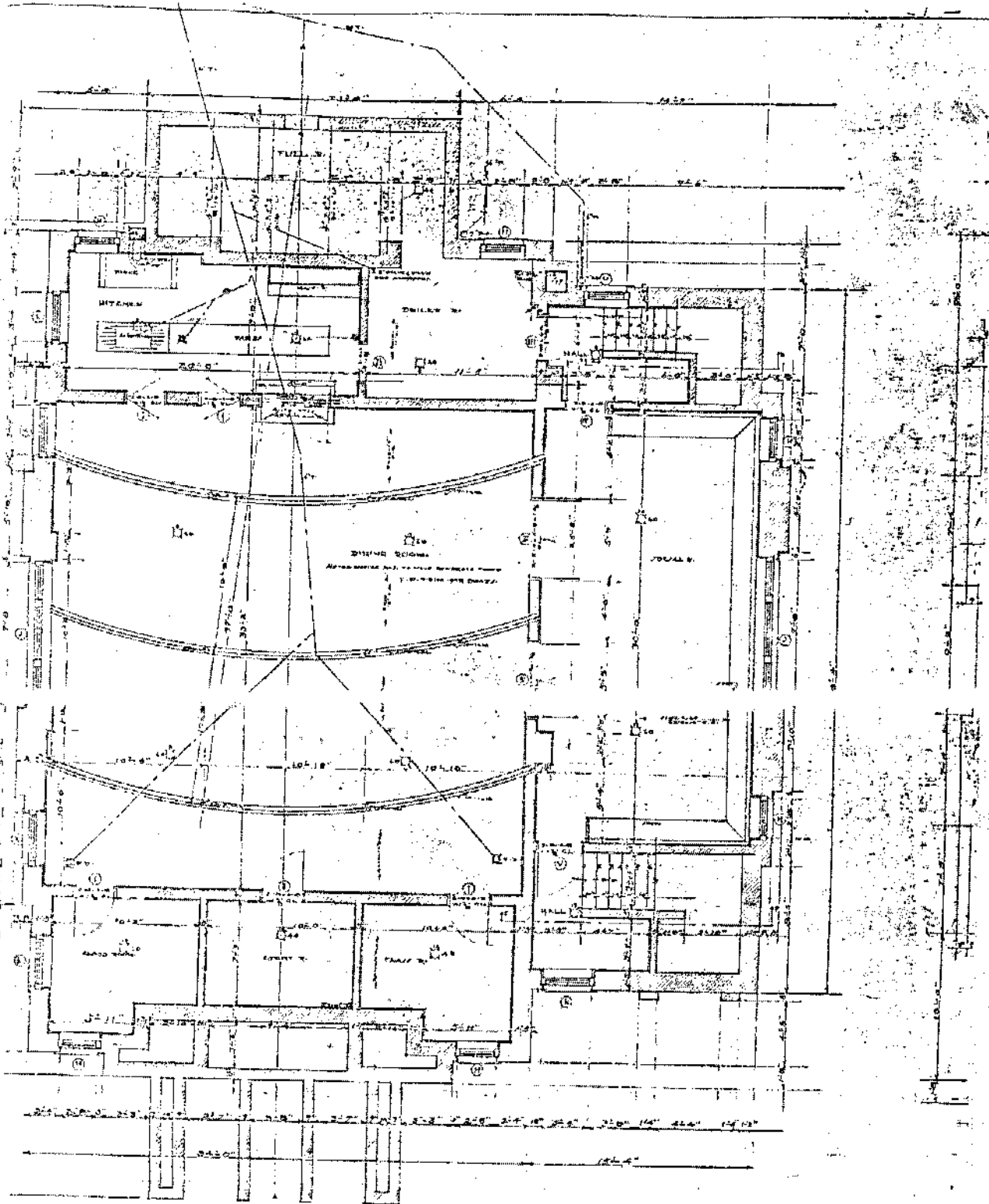


PLAN OF BALCONY

SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"



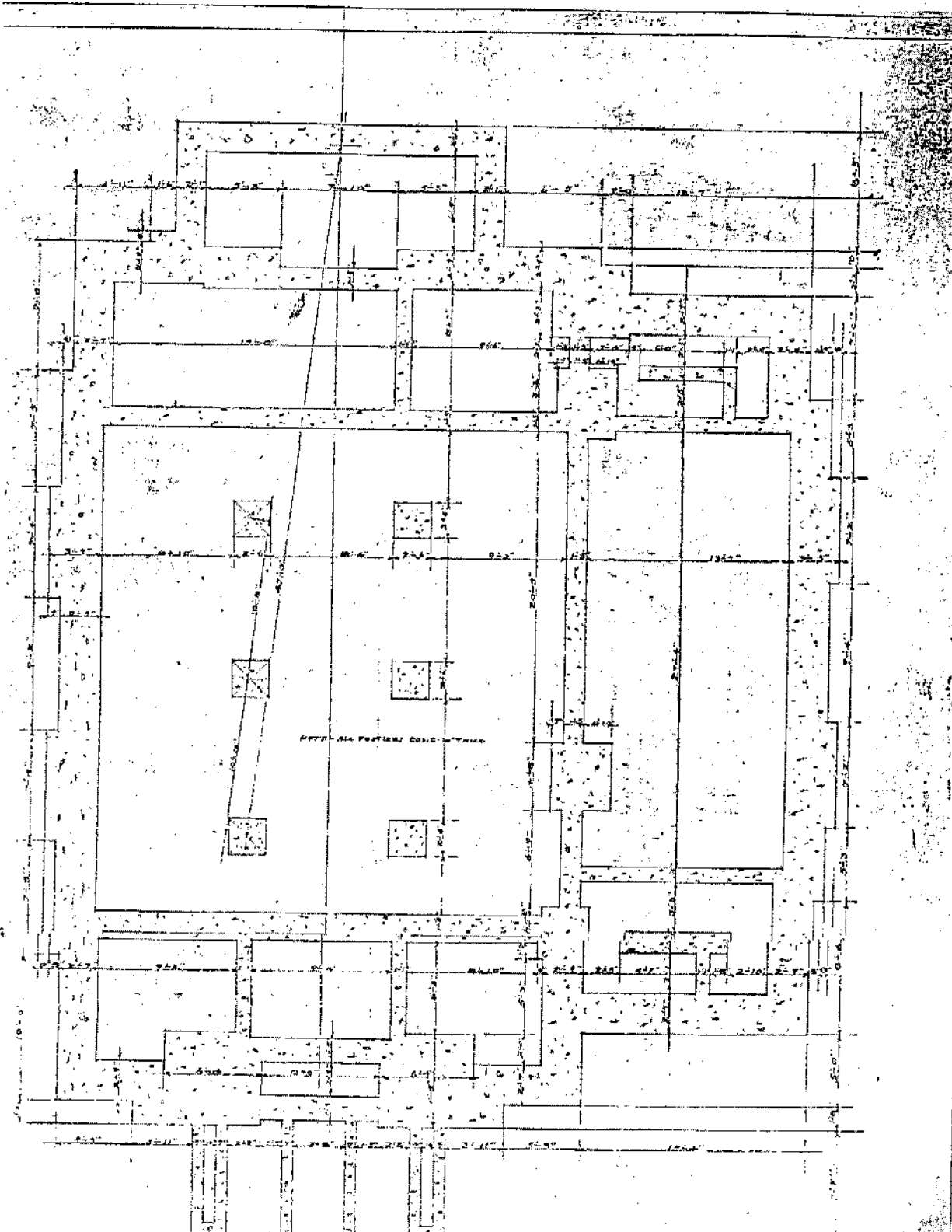
Westervelt Christian Church
Shelby Co., IL



PLAN OF BASEMENT
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

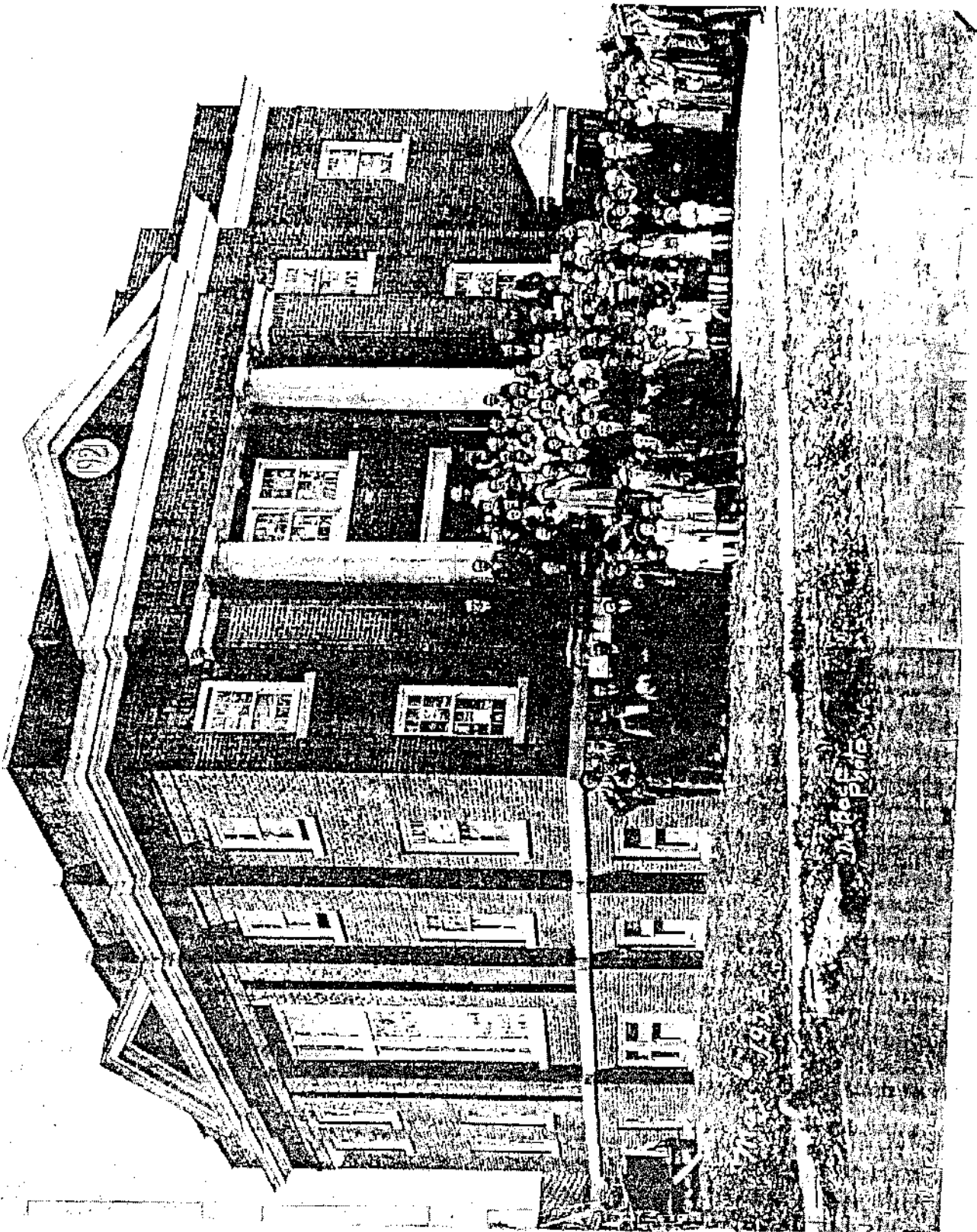
Westervelt Christian Church
Shelby Co., IL

Westervelt Christian Church, Shelby Co, IL



PLAN OF FOOTINGS

PLANS FOR CHRISTIAN CHURCH
WESTERVELT ILLINOIS
CHARLES HARRIS ARCHT. DRENNAN-ILL.



Westervet Christian Church Shelby Co., IL

Redwood Bay
May 2, 1928

Number, NHD, Action, Date, Multiple Name

ALASKA, WRANGELL-PETERBURG BOROUGH-CENSUS AREA,
F/V CHARLES W (Schooner),
Middle Harbor, W Float, Slip 299,
Petersburg, 05000285,
LISTED, 2/06/06

CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES COUNTY,
U.S. Court House and Post Office,
312 N. Spring St.,
Los Angeles, 06000001,
LISTED, 2/09/06

COLORADO, BOULDER COUNTY,
Colorado Chautauqua,
900 Baseline Rd.,
Boulder, 06000179,
NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATED/LISTED, 2/10/06

COLORADO, MOFFAT COUNTY,
Castle Park Archeological District,
Address Restricted,
Dinosaur vicinity, 06000355,
LISTED, 1/03/06

COLORADO, PROWERS COUNTY,
Granada Relocation Center,
23900 County Rd. FF,
Granada vicinity, 06000180,
NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATED/LISTED, 2/10/06

IDAHO, TETON COUNTY,
Hollingshead Homestead,
107 West 1200 N. Teton Cty Rd.,
Tetonia vicinity, 06000002,
LISTED, 2/09/06

ILLINOIS, COOK COUNTY,
Hanson, Anton, E., House,
7610 S. Ridgeland Ave.,
Chicago, 06000008,
LISTED, 2/09/06

ILLINOIS, COOK COUNTY,
Marywood Academy,
2100 Ridge Ave.,
Evanston, 06000007,
LISTED, 2/09/06

ILLINOIS, JACKSON COUNTY,
Fuller, R. Buckminster, and Anne Hewlett Dorr Home,
407 S. Forest Ave.,
Carbondale, 06000012,
LISTED, 2/09/06

ILLINOIS, SHELBY COUNTY,
Westervelt Christian Church,
103 W. Main St.,
Westervelt, 06000009,
LISTED, 2/09/06