

# Spokane Register of Historic Places Nomination

*Spokane City/County Historic Preservation Office, City Hall, Third Floor  
808 Spokane Falls Boulevard, Spokane, Washington 99201-3337*

## 1. Name of Property

Historic Name: John A. Finch Elementary School  
And/Or Common Name: Finch Elementary School

## 2. Location

Street & Number: North 3717 Milton Street  
City, State, Zip Code: Spokane, WA 99205  
Parcel Number: 25013.0026

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> residential
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes, restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes, unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other

## 4. Owner of Property

Name: Spokane School District #81  
Street & Number: 200 North Bernard Street  
City, State, Zip Code: Spokane, WA 99201  
Telephone Number/E-mail: Mark Anderson – 509-354-5900 (contact)

## 5. Location of Legal Description

Courthouse, Registry of Deeds	Spokane County Courthouse
Street Number:	1116 West Broadway
City, State, Zip Code:	Spokane, WA 99260
County:	Spokane

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Title: John A. Finch Elementary School Nation Register of Historic Places  
Date: 11-22-2013  
Federal  State  County  Local   
Depository for Survey Records: Spokane Historic Preservation Office

## 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**  
(see nomination, section 8)

**Condition**  
 excellent  
 good  
 fair  
 deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check One**  
 unaltered  
 altered

**Check One**  
 original site  
 moved & date \_\_\_\_\_

*Narrative statement of description is found on one or more continuation sheets.*

## 8. Spokane Register Criteria and Statement of Significance

**Applicable Spokane Register of Historic Places Categories: Mark "x" on one or more for the categories that qualify the property for the Spokane Register listing:**

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Spokane 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 history.

*Narrative statement of significance is found on one or more continuation sheets.*

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

*Bibliography is found on one or more continuation sheets.*

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 5.65 acres (246,175 square feet)

Verbal Boundary Description:

Verbal Boundary Justification: Nominated property includes entire parcel and urban legal description.

## 11. Form Prepared By

Name and Title: Jim Kolva

Organization: Jim Kolva Associates LLC

Street, City, State, Zip Code: 115 South Adams Street, Spokane, WA 99201

Telephone Number: 509-458-5517

E-mail Address: jim@kolva.comcastbiz.net

Date Final Nomination Heard:

## 12. Additional Documentation

Map:

Photographs:

13. Signature of Owner(s)

*SJA*

14. For Official Use Only:

Date nomination application filed: 1/17/16

Date of Landmarks Commission Hearing: 2/17/16

Landmarks Commission decision: Approved

Date of City Council/Board of County Commissioners' hearing: \_\_\_\_\_

**I hereby certify that this property has been listed in the Spokane Register of Historic Places based upon the action of either the City Council or the Board of County Commissioners as set forth above.**

*Megan Duvall*

2/18/16

**Megan Duvall**  
**City/County Historic Preservation Officer**  
City/County Historic Preservation Office  
Third Floor – City Hall  
808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.  
Spokane, WA 99201

Date

Attest:

Approved as to form:

*Lerita Hester*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

*Michael J. Pardo*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant City Attorney

## DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

### **Description -Summary**

Finch Elementary School is in the northwest quadrant of the City of Spokane, within the Audubon Neighborhood, and in the northeast corner of Audubon Park. The one-story red brick and white terra cotta building fronts on Milton Street, Providence Avenue forms its northern boundary, and the grass turf and scattered pine trees of Audubon Park open to the south and the west. The surrounding single-family neighborhood consists of smaller bungalows and cottages built in the late 1920s to the mid-1940s. The original one-story terra cotta-trimmed brick school was built in 1923-1924. Additions were constructed in 1926 and 1930 that extended the original building north and south, and 1946, when the “U” shape and auditorium were completed. The full build-out of the school under the architect George M. Rasque, retained the design and character of Julius Zittel, the original architect. Finally, a major project was completed in 2014 that retained the historic exterior, while modernizing the classrooms, enlarging the auditorium/gymnasium, and adding a bank of classrooms along the west side. The new addition on the west side closed in the “U” and created an internal courtyard.

The classroom building is one story in height, and transitions from a concrete foundation, brick walls with terra cotta belt course, a parapet wall capped with a white terra cotta coping course, and a composition roof topping the building. Rising above the building mass is the Kalwall and metal panel of the gymnasium in the northwest quadrant of the building. Originally shorter, the gymnasium was expanded and elevated seven additional feet in the 2014 modernization. As a result of the modernization, the addition of classrooms to the west end created a square donut floor plan. Symmetrical, the west addition is composed of eight window bays, each with five sections of fixed metal sash, an office bay, and one double-door entry bay set in a modulated brick wall.

## CURRENT APPEARANCE (2015)

### **Front Façade (East – 1924 Original Classrooms, 1926 and 1930 Additions)**

Symmetrical and horizontal, the front façade is embellished by the projected and centered entry portico (Tuscan order). The front façade, extending north and south of the centered main entry, is nearly symmetrical and strongly horizontal, stretching almost one block along Milton Street. Composed of three layers, the concrete foundation wall, diminishing in height from south to north, the wide middle brick band composed of the entry bay and flanking window bays, and the terminating brick ceiling/parapet band, the façade is formally detailed and well-articulated. The brick patterns common to the three major facades include a soldier course atop the foundation wall; common bond for the main wall; stacked and soldier courses detailing in the entry piers, blank end walls, and framing the window openings; and basket weave bond between the window heads and terra cotta belt course. The rug-faced brick is variegated in color from dark brown to red.

Rising from the concrete foundation wall, the elaborate front entry projects from the façade plane. Three concrete steps provide access to the concrete platform fronting the red terra cotta tile entry landing. Wide brick piers topped with square terra cotta capitals form the recessed entry vestibule and support the terra cotta entablature. The piers are embellished with vertically oriented panels in which wrought iron light fixtures are mounted. Stacked headers and soldier

courses with corners marked by white terra cotta tiles, articulate the panels. Set inward of the piers are white terra cotta Tuscan columns that provide additional support to the entablature. The smooth columns are created by formed terra cotta blocks and topped with simple capitals detailed with egg and dart, and quatrefoils. JOHN A FINCH SCHOOL, incised in the terra cotta, crosses the entablature frieze. A common bond brick band of the parapet wall separates the entablature from the pediment. The pediment crown, a molded terra cotta cartouche--a scroll wrapping an open book—and panel incised with “EDUCATION IS THE APPRENTICESHIP OF LIFE,” tops the wall above the main entry.

Recessed behind the wall plane is the entry alcove with four multi-light (2 columns, 3 rows) wood doors and triangular cut multi-light diamond pattern transom windows above. A brick soldier course, over which the aluminum numbers “3717” are applied, frames the top of the opening. The transoms are divided into three sections that correspond to the doors below—a centered double door and flanking single doors. The doors are wood with an upper panel of six lights and a recessed wood panel in the lower quarter.

Each wing flanking the centered entry portico, from center to corners, consists of one paired window bay over a low sill, a group of five windows over low sills, one group of four windows over high sills, and a second group of five windows over low sills. Subtly different in each wing is the placement of the one single window bay. Both are over high sills, but vary in their placement between window groupings. Corresponding to wardrobes in the classrooms, the northerly window is next to the slightly projecting east end, and the southerly is between the end group of five window bays and group of four bays. Anchoring the end of each wing is a blank brick wall that projects about a foot forward of the façade plane. Other than a rectangular pattern formed by single stacked stretcher courses and soldier courses with white terra cotta squares marking their intersecting corners, the wall panel is unadorned.

Terminating the façade wings (including the blank sections at the ends) above the tops of the window bays, and framed by slightly projecting header courses at the bottom and top, is a frieze band of basket weave coursed brick. Above the brick coursing is a terra cotta belt course that projects from the wall. The white belt course of terra cotta blocks alternating from plain to a Celtic cross pattern, a common bond parapet wall, and a terra cotta coping course complete the wall. These elements reoccur on the north and south facades over the span of three additions.

Terra cotta and brick coursing, white terra cotta sills and corners, stacked stretcher jambs, and soldier course heads accentuate the window openings. Within each opening-- single, paired, group of four, or group of five; the terra cotta sills extend beyond the sash to the edge line formed by the stacked stretcher jambs. Terra cotta squares mark the intersection of the stretcher and soldier courses in the upper corners of the window openings. The window openings contain metal-clad (original sash replaced in the 2014 modernization) double-hung sash. Although the window sash consists of three sizes, the configuration of all is six over six lights.

#### **North Façade – Providence Avenue (1926, 1946, and 2014 Additions)**

The north façade is composed of the 1926 and 1946 additions with the 2014 addition forming the northwest corner. The façade carries the same motif - brick patterns, terra

cotta, and window configurations as the original building, but the 1946 addition includes the auditorium which rose above the classroom wings. The northeast corner, 1926 addition, consists of a group of five windows (classroom) and a single high-sill narrow window (wardrobe). A recessed door opening, flanked on the west by a window that matches that of the east side (wardrobes), begins the wall of the 1946 addition.

The opening, which rises to the same height as the window bays, is topped by a brick soldier course that, if extended, would run into the flanking window heads. The entry consists of two metal doors with six-light upper glass panels. Above is a fixed transom window with triangular-cut multi-light diamond pattern. A flush-mounted pedestrian door, row of ten windows, another flush-mounted pedestrian door, and pair of high sill windows extend to the high wall of the gymnasium. The gymnasium/auditorium wall projects slightly forward (north) of the classroom wing and terminates the detailing of the original building.

The Rasque design for the auditorium suggests Art Deco-Moderne in its form and massing in creating a tripartite form. The north elevation is symmetrical with a central entry/lobby salient that is lower than the main wall, but rises nearly to the level of the classroom building. Lower in height and flanking the sides are featureless brick buttresses set back slightly from the salient. Both the buttress and entry walls, as well as the auditorium wall, are topped with white terra cotta coping courses. The salient detailing also includes, just below the coping, a fluted soldier brick course (bricks set at an angle to create edges and voids). Above the salient, detailing on the auditorium wall includes three widely spaced courses of dark brown brick headers.

Visible above the terra cotta coping course of the original gymnasium walls is the elevated section comprised of Kalwall and metal panels. Because the elevated Kalwall section is set back from the original auditorium walls, the flat roof appears to project beyond the façade plane. A horizontally patterned metal fascia clads the edges of the roof.

The entry wing is approached by a straight run of six concrete steps and landing flanked by low square buttresses. The double-door entry is centered in the wall and flanked by single window bays on each side. The mezzanine level above has corresponding bays with a centered large window bay and flanking smaller windows identical to those of the first floor. A flat metal-faced canopy, suspended to the wall by iron rods, projects over the entry landing. Iron mounting plates are affixed to the wall on either side of the centered window to anchor the rods. White terra cotta tiles frame the double-door entry as well as the mezzanine window above. Framing the identically configured flanking windows are projecting terra cotta sills, stacked header jambs, and soldier course heads with inset terra cotta tiles marking the corners. The sash is two-over-four-light sash. The large centered window is fixed and composed of eighteen-light sash (six columns, three rows). The doors are metal with six-light glass panels in the upper section.

On the west side of the auditorium's north wall and set back slightly from the façade plane is a smaller low wing that originally housed the boy's dressing room. A paired window bay, framed similarly to the other windows, is centered in the brick wall and composed of brick coursing and a terra cotta sill. The sash is metal-clad double-hung with two-over-four lights. A metal portico supported by square metal posts extends westward from the west wall and covers the entry landing. Two solid metal slab doors are within the wall.

Rising above the dressing room wing and set about fifteen feet south, the north wall of the 2014 wing extends westward. A low foundation wall supports the one-story addition that is composed of dark brown brick and capped with a gray metal flashing. The façade from east to west contains a panel of variegated brick detailed by intersecting soldier and stacked stretcher courses. Centered in this panel, the six-window sections consist of vertically-arranged aluminum sash divided horizontally in the upper third into two glass panels. The outside sections are operable. Recessed in the dark brown brick wall west of the six-window-group is a fixed, vertically oriented, six-panel window section that abuts a blank brown brick wall that projects north from the façade plane. Low masonry walls and a wrought iron gate provide storage for two dumpsters that are approached by an asphalt drive.

#### **West Façade (2014 Addition)**

Containing twelve classrooms and support spaces, the west addition is differentiated from the original building by brick color, modulation of the façade, and configuration of window sash. From the northwest corner, the upper portion of the auditorium/-gymnasium is visible. Above the original boy's dressing room are two groups of three windows (one more group of three further south was covered over by the 2014 addition). The double-hung metal-clad sash has six-over-six lights.

The west façade is composed of an elevated gray foundation wall, and dark brown brick walls, capped with gray sheet metal flashing. A row of eight variegated brick rectangles set within a low horizontal field of dark brown brick suggests the motif of the original facades. The window bays are set in a field of variegated brown to red brick patterned similarly to the bays of the original facades (1924, 1926, 1930 and 1946). Eight window bays, corresponding to classrooms, one entry bay, and one office bay are symmetrically arranged along the façade that extends westward in two steps. The centered westerly segment consists of two equally-sized brick panels framed by dark brown brick along the sides and top, and the gray foundation wall. The flat variegated brown-to-red brick panels are inset with a five-section metal sash window bay. The window sections consist of vertically-arranged sash divided horizontally in the upper third into two glass panels. The outside sections are operable. This same pattern is repeated in the receding wall segments—single window bays flanking the central segment, a recessed entry bay on the north side, and a recessed office bay on the south side, and, finally two classroom bays at each end.

Detailing that is interpreted from the original facades is evident in the variegated brick fields that surround the window bays. Stacked stretcher courses that frame the jambs and solidier courses that frame the tops of the window groupings extend to the edges of the field to be terminated by the dark brown brick frame and the gray foundation wall. Sills consisting of white-glazed masonry units frame the bottoms of the windows. The sills extend beyond the sash into the side-framing stretchers, and transition to brick belt courses extending horizontally to the dark brown brick. White masonry squares are inset to mark the intersections of brick belt courses.

### **South Façade (1930, 1946, and 2014 Additions)**

The south façade consists of the 1930 and the 1946 additions, with the south end of the 2014 west addition in the southwest corner. The façade carries the same pattern, materials, and window configurations of the front (east) and north facades. Because of the gradient of the site, the concrete foundation wall is high (about five feet). Windows in the 1930 addition include, from the southeast corner to the west, a high-sill narrow wardrobe window, group of five classroom windows, another wardrobe window, and another group of five classroom windows.

A recessed entry within the 1946 addition marks the end of the 1930 classroom addition. Four concrete steps, and a handicap ramp sloping down to the east, provide access to the double-door entry. Although the door opening is lower in height than the flanking window bays, the brick pattern in the wall above the opening rises to the same height as the window heads. The jambs of the opening are detailed with stacked stretchers that climb to a white terra cotta square marking the intersection with a brick soldier course. The top of the door opening is also detailed by a brick soldier course that terminates into terra cotta squares. Within the brick-course-frame is a basketweave brick pattern.

The entry doors consist of six-light upper glass panels, lower wood panel, and three-light sidelights over wood panel with corresponding transom sections, two lights over the sidelights and twelve lights over the doors. West of the entry, the 1946 wing includes a partial basement (boiler room) and an exterior entry well. The window sash configurations within each of the classrooms west of the entry are composed of groups of six sashes, that are slightly narrower than those east of the entry (1930 addition).

West of the classroom, two single windows flank a recessed niche and correspond to a group of offices between the classrooms. A fixed twelve-light window and a six-light transom occupy the middle portion of the recessed wall. (This niche is depicted as an entry in the 1946 plans, but does not appear to have been built as drawn.) A deviation from the original design motif is the addition of a bay window in the classroom west of the office at the west end of the 1946 addition. The bay projects out about three feet and contains a pair of windows on its south face, and single windows in each of the angled faces. A white terra cotta window head wraps the bay with a slightly projecting cornice and ribbed copper roof above.



To the west of the bay window is a single window and a window-pair to complete the façade. The eight windows in this wall segment west of the niche are the same size and configuration, six-over-six lights. A recessed entry bay, approached by eight concrete steps and a broad landing, marks the juncture of the 1946 and 2014 additions. Composed of soft gray metal panel and glass panels, the entry is divided into two bays, one a double-door entry and the other glass panels. The doors are aluminum frame with two vertically-aligned glass panels, the upper one larger than the lower. Above the doors is a fixed four-light transom. The sidelight consists of eight glass panels set in aluminum sash: a transom of the same dimensions as over the door, and four glass panels below with the same dimensions as the doors. Above the transoms is a flat metal canopy that projects over the entry landing and bridges the two additions. The southwestern corner, except for a flush-mounted flat slab metal door, is a blank wall consisting of the foundation wall, dark brown brick, and a metal flashing capping the parapet.

### MODIFICATIONS

#### **1924 Finch School Building**

The original classroom building was built in 1924 based on plans by Julius Zittel. The plans called for a two-room classroom with girls' and boys' toilets, support staff and principal's office, supply room and a general purpose room. The corridor was only single-loaded along the west side of the building. The front façade for the "Centre Unit" indicates that the low sill windows were offices and classrooms, while the high-sill windows were the boys' toilets on the south end and the girls' toilets on the north end. The prominent Classical entry portico embellished with intricately detailed white terra cotta, decorative white terra cotta belt course, and decorative brick patterns, the basketweave, for example, set the motif for future expansions and eventual build-out of the Finch School.

An article in the *Spokane Daily Chronicle* on July 10, 1923 showed a sketch of the front elevation of the new school and reported that this was the first unit of a twelve-room school with a U Shape, and that it was the latest in school architecture.

#### **1926 Classroom Expansion**

Julius Zittel was again selected to complete the project in accordance with plans largely based on those completed in 1923. The 1930 project included the addition of classrooms 3 and 4 to the north end of the building. Classroom 3 faced the east and contained a bank of five low sill windows and a single low sill window at the north end of the classroom to provide light to the wardrobe. Classroom 4 formed the north end of the building from which the future westerly extension would be made. The classroom projected east 17-inches from the main façade and displayed a blank wall on the front side (east) and a grouping of five windows and a single window providing light to the wardrobe on the west end. A careful inspection of the east façade reveals a slight difference in brick surface at the junction of the original and addition.

**1930 Classroom Addition**

Julius Zittel was again assigned by the Board to draft plans for a three-room addition to the south end of the building. Rooms for the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grades were provided, and the building turned the corner with the 6<sup>th</sup> grade classroom extending the building to the west. The front façade was configured similarly to that of the 1926 expansion to the north, and continued the theme of the original façade as designed by Zittel. A single window bay (wardrobe), a group of five window bays with a low sill, and a blank end wall (east) that projected slightly east of the main façade plane, continued the symmetry of the building. The south façade featured two groups of five window bays (classrooms) over a single low sill and two narrow single-bay openings that provided light to the wardrobes. The brick patterns framing the bays, the frieze band, the decorative white terra cotta belt course, and low parapet wall carried the detailing of the front façade. A careful inspection of the east façade reveals a slight difference in brick surface at the junction of the original and addition.

**1946 Classroom Building**

George M. Rasque completed the plans for the substantially expanded and completed Finch School. District patrons finally got their auditorium and sufficient classrooms to meet the Post-War growth. The north-south corridor would now serve another tier of four classrooms along the west side. Six classrooms, including kindergarten, would be added to the south wing. The north wing would provide one classroom, girls' and boys' toilets, storage, a clinic, arts and crafts room, general purpose room, kitchen, auditorium (and lunch room) with a stage and music room, storage for instruments, and girls' and boys' dressing rooms. The auditorium contained a ticket window and a projection booth on the mezzanine. The auditorium terminated the westward extent of the north wing. The U-shaped floor plan originally envisioned by Zittel had been realized. Rasque continued the look that had begun with Zittel in 1923 but hinted at the modern with the composition and massing of the entry and lobby to the auditorium. A careful inspection of the north and south façades reveals a slight difference in brick surface and color at the junction of the original and addition.

**2014 Addition to West Side**

In 2014, the Finch School completed a modernization and remodel of the historic 1923-1946 building with the construction of a new addition to the rear (west). This project filled in the "U" shaped floor plan and elevated the roof and ceiling of the gymnasium some seven feet. The existing classrooms, special purpose rooms, and offices were modernized and the gymnasium was expanded.

A description of the addition is described above.

**Site**

The Finch School is in the northeast corner of Audubon Park with Milton Street forming the east boundary and Providence Avenue forming the north boundary. The 5.65-acre site blends into parkland to the west and to the south. Not part of the historic school site is the triangular parking area east of Milton Street that was acquired in conjunction with the 2014 expansion project.

Small single-family houses formerly occupied this property. South of the school building is a parking lot along the east boundary with access from Milton Street. West of the parking lot is an asphalt play area, typical court games, and school playground equipment. Volleyball courts are further south, and to the west of the school are baseball/softball diamonds that extend to the west edge of the park.

The discussions about the possible site for a new school in the Audubon district by the School Board began in October 1922. On January 8, 1923, a deed on the Audubon property was presented to the Board. The Finch Estate donated the land for the new school to the City of Spokane and from the City of Spokane to School District No. 81.

The first Sanborn Insurance map (Vol 1, p113) to depict the Finch School was published in 1925, and shows the school as built in 1924.

**The 1957 Sanborn** (Vol. 5, p511) depicts the school as built after the 1946 expansion and includes the “H”-shape modular classroom building that was placed in the open area of the “U” of the building in the 1950s.

**Areas of Significance –****Category A Broad Patterns of Spokane History, Education****Category C Architecture****Significant Dates – 1924, 1926, 1930, 1946, Completion of Construction (period of significance 1924-1946)****Architect – Julius Zittel and George Rasque****Builder: Spokane School District No. 81****Summary**

Finch Elementary School, named after Spokane mining investor and philanthropist John A. Finch, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 2014. The building was nominated under Criterion A, for its contribution to the history of education in Spokane, and under Criterion C, at the local level, as an outstanding example of early public school architecture in Spokane. Accordingly, the building is significant under categories A, Broad Patterns of Spokane Educational History, and C, Architecture.

Finch was one of five grade schools built by Spokane School District 81 during the 1920s to serve the expanding residential neighborhoods of the city: Hutton, completed in 1921, Finch in 1924, Arlington in 1926, and Wilson in 1926. Harding Elementary School, a one room frame building, was constructed in 1925 but served students only until 1938 when it was vacated. These schools were the first of the “modern” school plans with a single story and all classrooms with access to the ground floor. Two junior high schools were also constructed in the 1920s: Havermale Junior High School, 1927, and Libby Junior High School, 1928.

Construction, based on the design plans of Julius Zittel, one of Spokane’s most influential architects, began in 1923, when the initial two-room school was constructed. A two-room addition, also designed by Zittel, was completed soon thereafter in 1926. A final three-room addition, Zittel’s last contribution to the building was completed in 1930. Zittel had invoked the Neo-classical mode for his building with the prominent and elegantly detailed front entry and the use of decorative brickwork and terra cotta banding. Although plans were discussed for further expansion in the late 1930s and early 1940s, the exigencies of World War II delayed such action.

In 1946 plans by prominent Spokane architect George Rasque (who specialized in school buildings) were executed in another major addition. The one-story brick building, with attached auditorium/gymnasium, is an excellent example of institutional architecture utilizing terra cotta trim with classical design elements, and interior wood trim and paneling. It retains outstanding exterior architectural integrity and integrity of key interior characteristics, such as a fireplace and bay window in one of the classrooms. An addition on the west side that filled in the opening of the U-shape plan was completed in 2014. The historic south, east and north facades retained the essential character of the original building and the additions of 1926, 1939, and 1946.

**HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

The following narrative about the development of the Spokane school system is adapted in large part from the National Register Nomination for John A. Finch School (Emerson, Oct. 2013, listed on 1/8/2014). Discussion about Spokane elementary schools was derived in part from a 1989 centennial publication "First Class for 100 Years."

The first school in Spokane was opened by Spokane Garry, a Spokane Indian, in 1870. This was followed by Protestant missionary, Henry T. Cowley who came as the first white school teacher and established the first public school in Spokane. Cowley's arrival coincided with the organization of the first Spokane school district in what was then Stevens County. District No. 8 covered the area between the Spokane River and Hangman Creek. James Monaghan was the superintendent of the Stevens County schools, and Cowley's school became part of the new district. At the formation of Spokane County in 1879, J.J. Browne was appointed superintendent of the newly designated Spokane School District No. 41. Maggie M. Halsell was elected, in the first county election held in 1880, to succeed Browne.

In the year 1889, downtown Spokane was destroyed by fire in August, Washington became a state in November, and the Spokane schools were reorganized as School District No. 81. David Bemis, a Canadian and school administrator, was hired as superintendent of the district. Bemis in his ten-year stint is largely credited with getting the district on its feet by promoting a local bond issue that provided \$250,000 for system improvements, and subsequently the original Spokane High School and six elementary schools were built.

The new high school was built in 1891 and rapidly increasing enrollment required the construction of a north side high school, North Central, in 1908. The original high school then became South Central. School bond levies of 1907 and 1909, coinciding with the rapid growth of the city, were approved to continue the building of new schools in Spokane. In 1910, fire again struck Spokane and destroyed the South Central High School. Voters approved a bond for a new school, and Lewis and Clark High School was opened in 1912.

As reported in "First Class for 100 Years," by 1890 Spokane had constructed six elementary schools (Central [within South Central High School], Bancroft, Lincoln, Irving, Bryant, Franklin [Franklin replaced in 1909]), and by 1900, Spokane had constructed eleven more (Whittier, Emerson, Logan, Longfellow, Edison, Washington, Garfield, Hawthorne, Grant, Lowell [1919, extant, privately owned], and Holmes. Eighteen elementary schools were built between 1900 and 1910, the heyday of school expansion [McKinley, 1903 [extant, privately owned], Adams, 1908; Jefferson, 1908, and the second Franklin, 1909, are extant. The next ten years through 1920, saw the construction of Mann, Alcott, Yardley, Rockwood, and Cowley. (Spokane Public Schools 1889-1989, 11/1989) Rockwood's span though would be quite short, only four years, since it was replaced by Hutton in 1921. Cowley school, built in 1918, is privately-owned and listed on the Spokane Historic Register. Two existing schools that followed Hutton in the 1920s include Finch (1924) and Wilson (1926).

Several of the original buildings in addition to Finch remain from the early years. They include Adams, Hutton, Franklin, Jefferson, and Wilson that continue to serve the children of District 81. While Hutton School was undergoing expansion and rehabilitation (2014-15), Hutton students attended Jefferson Elementary on 37<sup>th</sup> and Grand Boulevard (which was replaced by a new Jefferson nearby). Hutton's completion in the fall of 2015, again left the old Jefferson School vacated and awaiting its next chapter which may be to house Franklin students when that building is remodeled in 2016. Extant former, but privately-owned, elementary schools include Cowley, Lowell, and McKinley. Cowley is currently listed on the Spokane Register and has been converted to housing.

### **The Approval and Building of Finch School**

The following history is derived from the Record Books of the Spokane School Board meeting minutes, *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, and city of Spokane Building Permits.

### **Spokane School Board Record Book J – 9/26/1921 – 8/25/1926**

#### **Site Proposed for New School**

The story of Finch School begins at an October 9, 1922 (P83) meeting of the District 81 Board of Directors. "Resolution Regarding Ground Near Audubon School" "The chairman of the Building and Grounds Committee (B&GC) reported that a portion of the northeast corner of Audubon Park might be secured for a school site." Dr. Eikenbary made a motion in that regard that was approved by the board.

In the following board meeting, October 23, 1922 (P85), the B&GC reported of the progress of the committee, but no details were recorded. At the same meeting a "Petition from Audubon Patrons" was submitted in a request for a new school building. The request was placed in the file.

At the beginning of the new year 1923, on January 8<sup>th</sup> (P105), the board would have good news for the Audubon patrons: "Deed on Audubon Property." "The Secretary presented a deed from the Finch Estate to the City of Spokane and from the City of Spokane to School District No.81 on donated school site in Audubon Park." The Board gave thanks to the Finch Estate, the Park Board, and the City Council.

Further, in that meeting, "Building at Audubon Park," Mr. Campbell presented a question of the same.

#### **Finch School is Named**

In its February 26<sup>th</sup> meeting (P113), "Name School Site," the board voted to call the new school site in Audubon Park, the John A. Finch School.

#### **Architect Selected for New School**

"Plans for Finch School" was a topic of discussion on the June 11, 1923 meeting (P144) of the Board. It was authorized to confer with architect Julius Zitel [sic] regarding plans for a new building.

“Finch School” again appeared on the agenda at the June 18<sup>th</sup> meeting (P144).

“...consulting Julius Zittel [sic] who presented a tentative sketch of a two room unit for the John A. Finch School and after the matter had been gone into detail ... Zittel was instructed to prepare plans and specifications for the central unit.”

At the same meeting it was decided to “Employ Engineer” to establish the grades on the Finch grounds.

### **Plans for Finch School and Authorization for Bids**

On July 9<sup>th</sup> (P150) the Board accepted the plans presented by Zittel, and authorized the advertisement for construction bids.

The Last Edition, July 10, 1923 (p6:3), of the *Spokane Daily Chronicle* reported the unveiling of the plans. “**FRONT ELEVATION OF THE FIRST UNIT OF THE NEW JOHN A. FINCH SCHOOL,**” captioned the sketch of the front façade. Although not indicated in the Board minutes, the two-room plan was the first phase of a 12-classroom building. According to the explanation of the drawing:

“Education is the apprenticeship of life” is the motto to be recorded in stone above the main entrance of the new John A. Finch school, the first unit is shown herewith.

This initial unit will contain two class rooms, with the principal’s room, public office, teachers’ restroom, supply room, boys’ and girls’ lavatories, all on the ground floor. The first unit will measure 163x36 feet as pictured above and will cost \$46,000. Bids will be opened July 23.

When completed the building will contain 12 class rooms in the form of a large hollow square with the west side open. This building is the latest in school architecture, according to Julius Zittel, whose plans and specifications were approved by the school board last night. The school faces east on Hilton [sic] Street, directly north of Audubon park.

At the Board meeting of July 23<sup>rd</sup>, “Bids For Finch School,” the 13 bids for general contract, 8 bids for heating, and 6 bids for plumbing were accepted.

Two days later, on July 25<sup>th</sup>, at a special meeting of the Board (P154, P155), the bids were reviewed and the winning bidders selected. F.E. Martin won the job with a low bid of \$34,196 with the first alternate for use of terra cotta rather than cast stone (an additional amount of \$1,390). James Smyth Plumbing and Heating won the bid for heating with a bid of \$5,357.; and Standard Plumbing & Heating Co.’s bid of \$2,744 won the plumbing contract.

The July 26, 1923 (p3:3) issue of the *Spokane Daily Chronicle* reported the Board action of the special meeting the night before: “**DELIBERATE ON COST OF SCHOOL.**” The article noted that the final alternative was not yet decided and that “For Additional \$5055 Martin Will Erect a Class A Building” “... practically fireproof, and including reinforced (sic) concrete floor construction.”

“Alternatives for Finch School” were discussed at the July 28<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. It was decided to use the Red Oak finish and that the alternatives for terrazzo floors and reinforced concrete not be used.

### **Finch School is Completed**

Permit No. 20503 issued on August 16, 1923 to School District #81 in the amount of \$48,000 for the new Finch School. No builder or architect was listed on the permit.

The February 1, 1924 *Spokane Daily Chronicle* in its “FLASHES from GRADE SCHOOLS” touted “NEW SCHOOL IS MODEL OF UP-TO-DATE CONSTRUCTION.” (p13:1) A photo of the new school was included.

Fifty-two students enrolled in various classes opened the new John A. Finch grade school last Monday. The new school building, shown above, is located in the northwest part of the city near Audubon park. Situated among the pine trees, the new school is one of the most attractive and finest in Spokane’s system of public educational institutions. While the building is not complete, it has a new type of architecture assuring the greatest degree of safety to the students against fire as it is planned to have all rooms on the ground floor through the construction of a U shaped building. Miss Margaret Richardson is the principal.

“Finch School Completed” read the Board minutes from March 10, 1924. The Board voted for acceptance of the new Finch School.

As the year ended, a “Delegation from the Finch School” requested an additional teacher at the December 22<sup>nd</sup> Board meeting (P284).

### **Addition Built in 1926**

“Committee from Finch School” attended the January 11, 1926 Board meeting. Less than two years after completion of the new school, Mr. Royer and the committee from Finch School District made the request for an addition to Finch School.

A week later, at a January 19<sup>th</sup> Special Board meeting (P386-91) for bond election, a \$690,000 bond issue was discussed. Included on that agenda were a new Wilson Grade School and an addition to the existing Finch School.

“Discuss Building Program,” was a topic of the March 12<sup>th</sup> Board meeting (P425) wherein: “Mr. Pratt stated that the most urgent need was the building of the new



Arlington site and a six room school at Wilson, also a two room addition at the Finch School.”

At its April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting (P425), “Building Addition at the Finch,” the Board instructed Mr. Zittel to prepare and submit plans of the proposed addition [two more rooms].

Mr. Zittel presented plans at the June 14, 1926 Board meeting (P455) for an additional two rooms for Finch School. Meeting in special session on June 23, the Board approved the plans and authorized the call for bids.

The *Spokane Daily Chronicle* announced on its front page of July 8, 1926 (1:5), “**START BUILDING PROGRAM MONDAY.**” “**Three Schools Will Be Under Way With Expenditure of \$195,000.** Spokane’s \$690,000 school building program will begin in earnest Monday evening when bids for the Woodrow Wilson school and the two-room addition to the Finch school will be opened, Robert A. Wilson, secretary of the board of education, announced today. ... “The Wilson school ... is expected to cost about \$60,000, while the addition to the Finch school will cost approximately \$20,000.” “In addition, the plans for the new Arlington school, to be built at Prospect and Francis at a cost of \$115,000, will probably be accepted.”

At the Board meeting of July 15 (p468), “Award Contract for Finch School Addition,” the general contract for the addition was awarded to Meyers and Telander for an amount of \$12,595. The heating contract was awarded to John Smyth for \$2,078.

Permit No. 26043 was issued on July 30, 1926 to School District 81 for additions to Finch School with a value of \$14,673. Meyers & Telander were listed as Builder and Julius A. Zittel as Architect. The Board accepted the addition to Finch School at its December 27, 1926 meeting and discussed enrollment at the Audubon and Finch schools.

Only a year elapsed before a “Committee from Finch School” petitioned the Board, at its December 27, 1927 meeting (p142), for an additional room.

A “Delegation from Finch School” again approached the Board in its January 14, 1929 meeting (p241). Mr. Tenglund, Mr. Shaw, and Mr. Oldershaw “...spoke regarding an addition to take care of two additional grades.” As the year drew to a close, the Board, at its meeting of December 17, 1929 (p322), “Contemplated [a] Building Program” that included additions to Finch, Wilson and Hutton grade schools. At its last meeting of 1929, December 30<sup>th</sup>, the Board voted to approve a bond issue of \$625,000 for the March election. Additions to Hutton, \$45,000, and Finch, \$25,000 and other schools were included. Also approved was a new high school in the Hillyard district [the future Rogers].

### **1930 Addition to Finch School**

On April 9, 1930, Julius Zittel was again selected by the Board (p348) to complete the next addition to Finch School. At its April 28<sup>th</sup> meeting (p356) “Julius Zittel, Architect

Finch Addition Present” showed the plan of the original sketch of the building and recommended that three rooms be added and placed at the southeast portion of the building. He was authorized to prepare plans. On May 26<sup>th</sup>, the Board (p366) accepted the “Plans and Specifications For Finch Addition...” The board meetings of June 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> (p343 and p378) accepted the 17 general contractor bids, and 11 heating and plumbing bids, and awarded the “General Contract on Finch School” to W.L. Weld for \$17,200 with Frank L. Burson Plumbing and Heating Co. receiving that bid at \$2,510.

Permit No. 36918 was issued on July 1, 1930 to School District No. 81 for an addition to Finch with a value of \$17,200. W.L. Weld was listed as builder. “Progress of Finch School” was reported in the July 28<sup>th</sup> Board meeting (p386), and “Work on Finch Delayed” was reported to the Board on August 11<sup>th</sup> (p388). There was a three-week delay “...on account of lack of terra cotta.” Finally on the Board meeting of October 27<sup>th</sup> (p412), “Finch School Ready for Inspection.” In addition, “Delegation Present From Finch re: Portable Building” (p411). The delegation requested moving a portable unit from Longfellow School; apparently, the additional classrooms were already overcrowded. “Accepted Addition to Finch” was the action of the Board in its meeting of October 29<sup>th</sup> (p414). The final payment of \$985.50 to Mr. Zittel for services as architect was authorized by the Board on October 30<sup>th</sup> (p415).

A couple of years passed before the patrons of the Finch district were again at the Board. In its meeting of November 28, 1932 (p161), the Finch P.T.A. requested that grades 7B and 7A continue for next summer and that grade 8B continue the first semester of next school year. The Board action: “Request for Additional Grades at Finch Denied.”

The September 3, 1936 edition of the *Spokane Daily Chronicle* (p17:1) “**TEACHERS READY FOR SCHOOL OPENING; ASSIGNMENTS MADE FOR FALL TERM**” listed the teachers and their assignments for the new school year. **Finch School** – Margaret Richardson, principal; 3, 2A, Gladys M. Smith.

“Finch P.T.A. Committee Request Auditorium of Finch,” was a topic of the October 14, 1936 Board meeting (p46). Mr. Blade, acting as spokesman, addressed the Board stating that they had made a survey of the Finch School District, that there were 308 children in the District, 285 of that number being in the Finch School, that they were very anxious that the school be provided with an auditorium either by permanent addition to the main building or a portable.

The *Spokane Daily Chronicle* would report on January 9, 1937 (Final Fireside Edition, p6:4) that “**SCHOOL PROGRAM DEPENDS ON VOTE.**”

A three-year program of modernizing Spokane school buildings will be undertaken if voters approve a proposed one mill additional school levy at the March election.

The school board voted Friday evening to submit the matter to voters. The additional one mill levy would raise, in three years, \$210,000 for the

\$250,000 program proposed. After a survey of needed repairs and modernization of buildings by Orville C. Pratt, superintendent; Frank J. Williamson, building superintendent, and Alex J. Turnbull, building committee chairman, an estimate of \$375,000 was made, but this was pruned to \$250,000.

Projects proposed in the bond election included improvements at Lewis and Clark and North Central high schools, and additional rooms at Havermale junior high and Libby junior high. "Auditorium, two rooms and heating plant at Finch school would cost \$40,000." "At Wilson, a four-room addition, \$25,000, is planned." ... "Smaller amounts would be spent at Rogers high and at the following grade schools: Bancroft, Bemiss, Cooper, Emerson, Jefferson, Logan, Mann, McKinley, Sheridan, Stevens, Willard, Wilson."

"Finch P.T.A. Request Portable Building." Mr. Blade made the request at the May 26, 1937 Board meeting (p107). Mr. Williamson of the District would investigate.

#### **Architect George Rasque Selected to Plan PWA School Projects**

Another year would pass before the topic of the Finch auditorium was reported in the Board minutes, July 18, 1938 (266). "Selection of Projects for Application," the Board included an auditorium at Finch School, \$40,000, in its grant application to the PWA (Public Works Administration). Two architects were contracted to prepare the applications. Mr. Arthur Cowley for Project 1, and Mr. Rasque for Project 2. Board meetings in August reported the progress on the application. On August 10<sup>th</sup> (p274) "Mr. Rasque Reports on PWA Project #2" that would include 18 schools for a total cost of \$412,004 of which the school district would assume the sum of \$266,602.60. The board adopted a resolution authorizing the grant application. On August 15<sup>th</sup> (p276), "Resolution Presented for Adoption" for the 18-schools application was approved. Finch would have additional classrooms; an auditorium; and boiler, fuel room, and equipment in the amount of \$49,850. The total bond request was \$418,000.

Apparently the Finch project had not yet been built as evidenced by "Finch delegation re: Proposed auditorium" scribed at the November 27, 1940 Board meeting (p66). The delegation would report "...patrons were dubious as to the advisability of placing a temporary auditorium at the school, that they would prefer that the sanitary conditions at the building be corrected instead. Mr. Denman, the principal, presented data which showed a very material anticipated increase in enrollment in the next few years, and it was generally felt that the proposed auditorium would be inadequate for their needs." Board member Beil motioned that the temporary auditorium be eliminated with the idea that a permanent project be included for first consideration when funds are available and the installation of a portable [classroom] was authorized.

In May 1941, the Board would authorize portables from Wilson School to be moved to Finch School.

World War II would begin with the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

The Board would again approve a portable for Finch. On November 26, 1942, "Construction of three portables approved." The War Production Board had approved portables to be constructed for Hutton, Field, and Finch schools.

The war took precedence over the building of schools, but at the January 12, 1944 (p434) Board meeting "Patrons urge the raising of funds at the coming election for building programs." A large delegation representing a number of schools attended the meeting. Mr. Paul Connery, Mr. E.R. Daisley, and Mr. John Armenia spoke of the "...necessity of building in certain sections due to overcrowded conditions particularly the Field, Finch and Wilson districts." It was pointed out that other governmental units were taking steps towards a postwar program to provide work for returning soldiers. A lengthy discussion by the Board followed. At the April 12, 1944 Board meeting (p462), a resolution to issue \$3,400,000 in bonds that had been approved by voters in the March 14<sup>th</sup> election was approved.

#### **Architect George Rasque Selected to Design Addition to Finch School**

The Board meeting of February 14, 1945 (Book O, p43) discussed the "Selection of architects and execution of plans for Field and Finch." Whitehouse and Price were selected for Field School, and on February 28<sup>th</sup> (p82), the Board would appoint George Rasque as architect for the Finch School Addition.

At the March 14, 1945 meeting (p83), the Board received the plans by architect Rasque together with other data relative to the proposed improvements. The Board approved a motion to forward the plans to Dr. Hart for his study and recommendations. In April, the Board met on the 25<sup>th</sup> (p107) and noted progress on the plans for Finch and Field schools. They discussed "...certain recommendations on the part of the consultants affecting the Finch addition were presented for consideration." "Superintendent Shaw would meet with Rasque to consider these recommendations and that their decisions would be considered the opinion of the Board. On May 7<sup>th</sup> Germany surrendered in Europe. At the July 11<sup>th</sup> meeting (page 139), the Board approved the plans and specifications for Finch and called for presentation of bids on August 1<sup>st</sup>. After a couple of days delay, the Board met in special session on August 6<sup>th</sup> to open the bids. Four firms bid for the general contract, three firms for the heating and plumbing, and 5 bids for the electrical. At its regular meeting on August 8<sup>th</sup>, the Board discussed "Finch School Construction." "The War Production Board, in considering our request for priorities in consideration of the Finch addition, has requested the Board to pledge itself that no workers will be employed on the construction prior to October 1, 1945." Japan would surrender on August 14<sup>th</sup>.

World War II had ended, but congestion in the construction pipeline was not yet relieved. At the August 22, 1945 meeting of the Board (p157) "Re: Finch Contracts," "Mr. Rasque ...reported on a meeting of the contractors and architects. Certain recommendations were made for postponement of future building for a period of six months due to the

uncertainty of the labor and material situation. Mr. Rasque, however, advised that a number of his contracts were going ahead and in view of possible wage increases, he doubted that any saving would be effected by re-advertising for bids on the Finch School. He indicated that there would be a possibility of increased costs by re-advertising and taking new bids.” “Action postponed on award of Finch Contract” and bids would be taken under advisement with a meeting set on September 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss.

Finally, on September 4<sup>th</sup>, the Board met to take final action on bids for the Finch School addition. Superintendent Shaw presented correspondence from State Superintendent Wanamaker and advised that she recommended to the State Department of Social Security a grant to School District No. 81 in the amount of \$70,600 for construction of the addition to the Finch School. She also advised as to the necessary procedure under state rules for approval of grants. Superintendent Shaw recommended rejection of bids and re-advertising. He further recommended that bids be called on the enlarged plan with the same alternatives previously specified. Increasing population in that locality indicated a trend beyond previous estimates. A vote to reject bids was approved. Also the Board requested Aid in excess of 28% allowed by the State Department to be requested.

At a special meeting of the Board on September 17, 1945 (page 163) the bids were opened. Seven general contractors bid on four alternates. Heating and plumbing, and electrical bids were opened as well. In the ensuing discussion it was asked if the entire project should be awarded or should it be only that portion originally set up in the bond issue. On the basis of a 28% grant from the State there was still a considerable deficit from the amount originally appropriated. One board member took the position that “... there was a distinct obligation to provide adequate facilities for the children of those crowded districts and that every effort should be made to furnish necessary facilities in such districts by appraising the entire program of the bond issue to ascertain what savings might be possible by reducing expenditures where a more recent survey would indicate a lesser need.”

The Board discussion continued to the September 26<sup>th</sup> meeting (page 164). The Northwest Community Club, and a large delegation representing the patrons of Field and Finch schools, were in attendance. Mr. Evans, President of the Club detailed some of the handicaps to the children attending such as portable buildings, the undesirable conditions of the double shift, and so on. Pages 166 and 167 were devoted to minutes of this discussion. One strong opinion was that money should not be appropriated until it is at hand. If funds in excess of the levy were allocated to one school, another might suffer.

To the contrary, Mr. Lucas outlined the situation from a general viewpoint. He pointed out that several emergencies existed in some schools for adequate space while others have not experienced the same situation; that there was not an equality of need throughout the system. Particularly referring to the Finch and Field schools, he pointed to the fact that the Finch school was at present time using four portables and still has to operate on a double shift basis in four classes, and surveys indicate a steady growth in the

school population in that area. It was his opinion that the Board had a direct moral obligation to meet such situations to the best of their ability and that each case should be studied on its particular need. He felt that this approach would have popular support by school patrons.

A vote was finally called. Three for and two against the motion to award the entire amount for the Finch project, subject to the approval of the State Social Security Department.

**Permit no. 79084 issued on November 11, 1945**

F.E. Martin was listed as Builder, and Geo. Rasque as architect. The value of the alterations and addition was \$285,000.

A report to the Board in the meeting of March 13, 1946 (p211) reported: "...work is proceeding as rapidly as possible under present conditions and available materials." Work proceeded and various change orders were approved by the Board for ceiling tiles; lockers; lighting fixtures; sidewalks, gutters and paving of Milton Street; additional funds requested by subcontractors; venetian blinds through March 26, 1947. The school was practically completed with the exception of the linoleum "...which could not be obtained at any definite date." Finally on May 12, 1948 the Board approved the adjusted extras and payment. Mr. Falquist of the Board commended F.E. Martin, contractor "for the splendid manner in which he had performed his contract on the Finch School to the point of supplying superior materials to what had been specified."

On November 9, 1951, a permit was issued to move a frame building from Webster School to Finch with a value of \$1,000.

On August 25, 1952, permit No. 14103 was issued to build a new frame classrooms building with a value of \$17,000 to Bismark Builders.

In the following year, April 17, 1953, Selkirk Company built frame classroom additions with a value of \$51,627 (B17347).

**2014 Modernization and Expansion**

As funded in the Spokane Schools 2009 Bond Program, the modernization and expansion of the Finch Elementary School, added thirteen additional classrooms in the new west wing, expanded the gymnasium, and modernized all other classrooms and offices. The historic exterior, the east, north and south facades were renovated and windows replaced.

**Julius A. Zittel (1869 – 1939)**

Born in Germany in 1869, Julius Zittel crossed the Atlantic at age 13, studied architecture during his stay in Chicago, and came to Spokane in 1887. He began his career in Spokane in the office of established architect Herman Preusse where he eventually became a partner under Preusse & Zittel. Ten years after his arrival in Spokane, Zittel served occasionally as State Architect which he held concurrently with the partnership

with Preusse. As a partner with Preusse until 1913, the firm designed Gonzaga College, the Victor block, Spokane City Hall, St. Aloysius Catholic Church and the Carnegie Library building (on Cedar). Zittel was married to Alice Shanks in 1889. His partnership with Preusse ended in 1910. In 1912, Zittel formed a partnership with Archibald Rigg, as Zittel and Rigg Architects; in the same year he was also appointed as State Architect by Governor Ernest Lister. As State Architect, he designed Showalter Hall, Monroe Hall, the Plant Utilities Building, Senior Hall, and Sutton Hall at Eastern Washington College (1915-1923). Other state buildings included the old Main Building at the Washington School for the Blind (1915) annex buildings for the Custodial School at Medical Lake, barracks building for the Orting Soldiers Home, cottages for the School for Girls at Grand Mound, the gymnasium and boy's shop for the Boy's Training School at Chehalis, and the laundry building and power plant for the Western State Hospital at Steilacoom. Zittel's other major buildings include Mt. St Michael Mission (1915) and Benewah County Courthouse in St. Maries, ID (1924). In addition to his architectural practice, he also founded and was president of Citizen's Savings and Loan Society. Zittel practiced until his retirement in 1934 and managed the Spokane Hotel until his death in 1939.

### **George M. Rasque – 1891 - 1977**

Born in Boscobel, WI in 1891, George Rasque moved to Spokane in 1922. He began his career in Spokane with a variety of companies as a draftsman and joined G.A. Pehrson Architect in 1924. From 1925 to 1938 he owned the firm George M. Rasque, Architect. In 1933, Rasque served as State Architect and designed the Walla Walla State Penitentiary Powerhouse and Warehouse. At the completion of his degree in architecture, his son, George W., joined his father to form George M. Rasque and Son, Architects (1938 to 1945). His son, a Naval officer, was killed in action in the Pacific during WWII. On the Eastern campus, Rasque designed Martin Hall, Hargreaves Hall, Rowles Hall, and the Hall of Sciences (1937-1962). He also designed the Eastern State Hospital Administration Building (1933), and on the State Hospital campus, Roosevelt Hall (1935). Rasque, in concert with John Graham Jr. Architects of Seattle, designed Spokane's Baxter Veteran's Hospital in 1947 (now VAMC).

Rasque worked on some 40 School projects in Spokane and Eastern Washington between 1940 and 1969. In 1938 Rasque was selected by the School Board to prepare a grant application to the PWA (Public Works Administration) for school construction. Mr. Arthur Cowley prepared Project 1, and Mr. Rasque, Project 2, which would include 18 schools for a total cost of \$412,004 for which the school district would assume the sum of \$266,602.60. In addition to Finch, Rasque's other Spokane schools included the Browne Elementary School addition (1953), Hawthorne School remodel (1940), Irwin Elementary School (1946), Lewis and Clark High School (1946), and additions at Roosevelt, Sheridan, Stevens, Whittier, and Willard elementary schools. He also completed additions for the Spokane Trade School.

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Spokane School District No. 81. Floor Plans for Finch Elementary School  
1923. Milton Street Elevation, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Plan. Julius A. Zittel  
1926. Elevation Plans, Floor Plan, Details Drawing. Julius A. Zittel  
1930. Elevation Plans, Floor Plan. Julius A. Zittel  
July 1945. Additions and Alternations Plans. George M. Rasque



*Spokane Daily Chronicle*

- . "Front Elevation of the First Unit of the New John A. Finch School." 7/10/1923. p6:3. (Last Edition)
- . Deliberate on Cost of School. 7/25/1923.
- . "Flashes from Grade Schools: New School is Model of Up-To-Date Construction." 2/1/1924. p13:1.
- . "Start Building Program Monday." 7/8/1926. p1:5.
- . "School Program Depends on Vote." 1/9/1937. p6:4. (Final Fireside Edition).

Spokane School District No. 81 Board Meeting Minutes, Book J (9/26/1921-8/25/1926) through Book O (7/14/1944-10/4/1948).

## **MAPS, PHOTOS, DRAWINGS, ARTICLES**

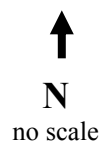


USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle. Spokane NW, Wash. 1974. Photorevised 1986

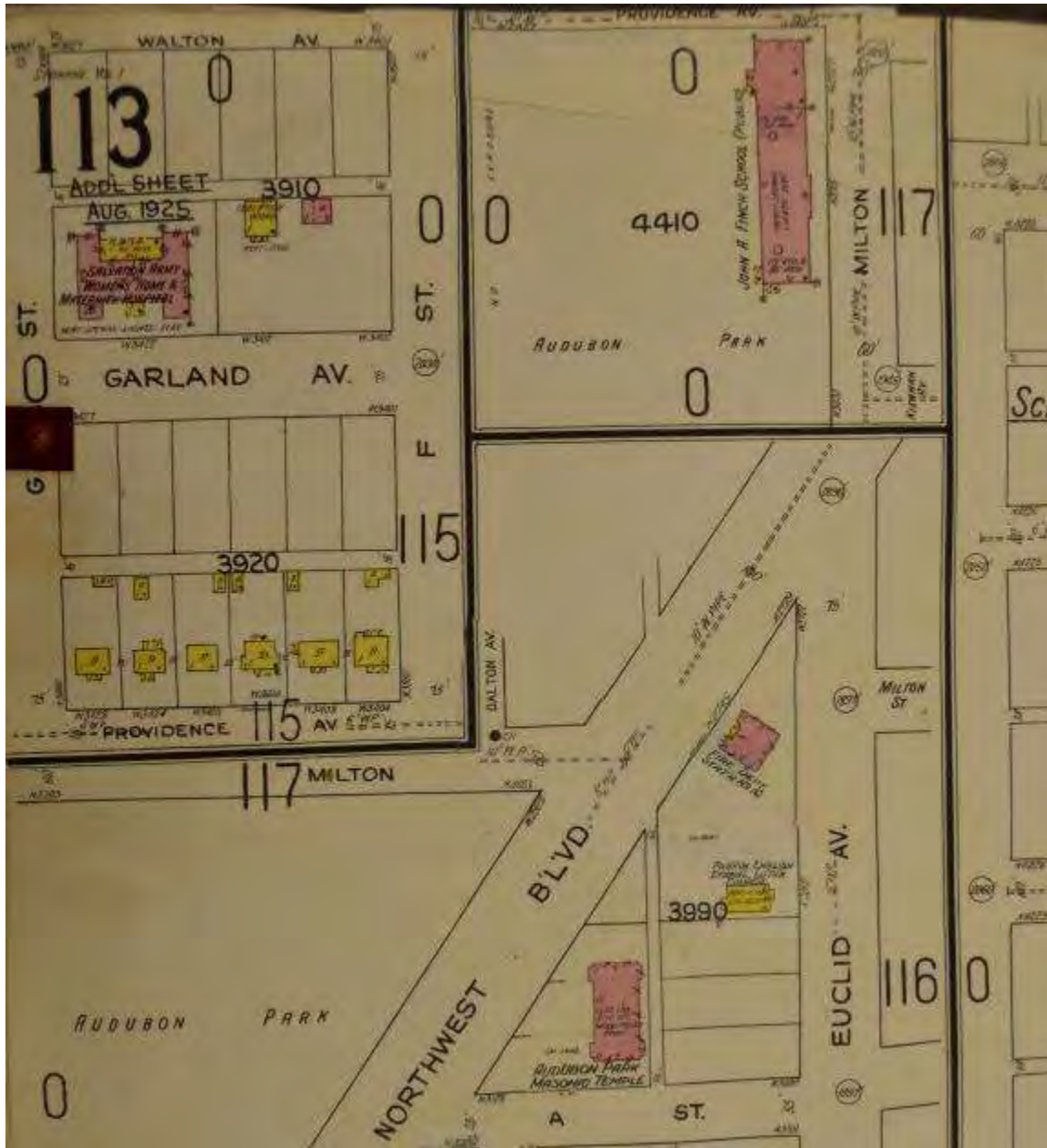
## FINCH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SITE LOCATION



**FINCH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
AERIAL PHOTO**







Sanborn Insurance Rate Map  
1910, corrected to August 1925, Vol 1, page 113



Sanborn Insurance Rate Map  
1952, corrected to June 1957, Volume 5, Page 511

## **PHOTOS AFTER 2014 Modernization & Addition 2015 EXTERIOR**

Photos taken 12/3/2015



Photo 1 - SE Corner - East & South Facades - Looking NW



Photo 2 - NE Corner - East & North Facades - Looking SW





Photo 3 - NW Corner - Looking SE



Photo 4 - New West Wing Addition - Looking East



Photo 5 - SW Corner Showing New West Wing & Historic South Facade



Photo 6 - South Facade - Looking North Juncture of New West Wing and Historic Wing





Photo 7 - East (Front) Facade Showing Main Entry - Looking West



Photo 8 - East Facade Showing Wall and Window Detail - Looking West.



#9 - North Facade - Looking SW Between East Entry and Gymnasium



Photo 10 - Gymnasium & Entrance - Looking SW Toward New Addition





Photo 11 - NW Corner Showing West Wing Addition - Looking South



Photo 12 - Juncture of New West Wing and Historic South Facade



Photo 13 - South Facade - Historic Entry & Juncture of Historic Addition to South Wing



Photo 14 - Parapet, Belt Course & Brick Pattern- Typical





Photo 15 - Main Entry - East Facade



Photo 16 - Main Entry Pediment



Photo 17 – Front Entry



Photo 18 - Front Entry Capital





Photo 19 – Front Entry Vestibule - Looking West



Photo 20 - Looking North Along East Hall From Main Entry



Photo 21 - Looking South Along East Hall-From Main Entry



Photo 22 - South Hallway- Looking East From West End





Photo 23 - Classroom 120 - Looking West



Photo 24 - Classroom 120 – Looking North at Historic Fireplace



Photo 25 - West Hallway - Looking North



Photo 26 - Classroom 127 - Looking South - Typical New Classroom in West Wing





Photo 27 - Courtyard - Looking East at Historic South & East Wings With 2014 Addition



Photo 28 - Courtyard - Looking Southwest - Historic Wing and West Addition



Photo 29 – New Gymnasium (Original Expanded)



Photo 30 - Lunch Room/Multipurpose



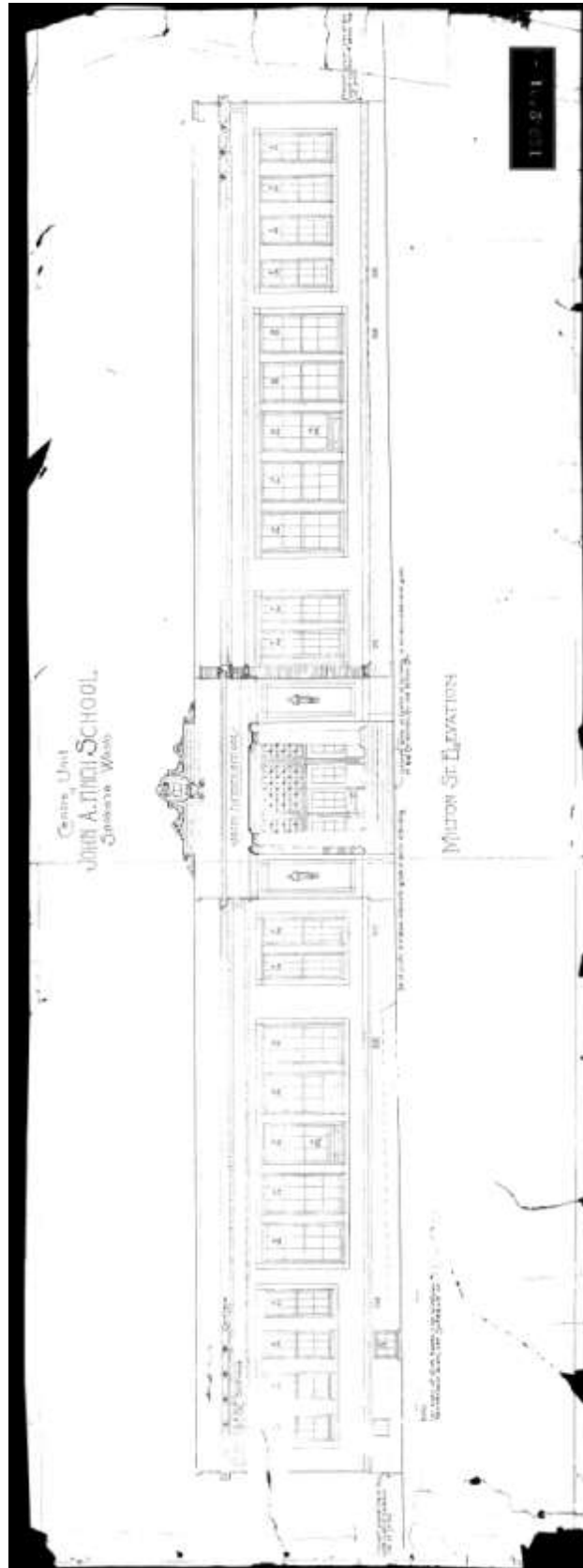


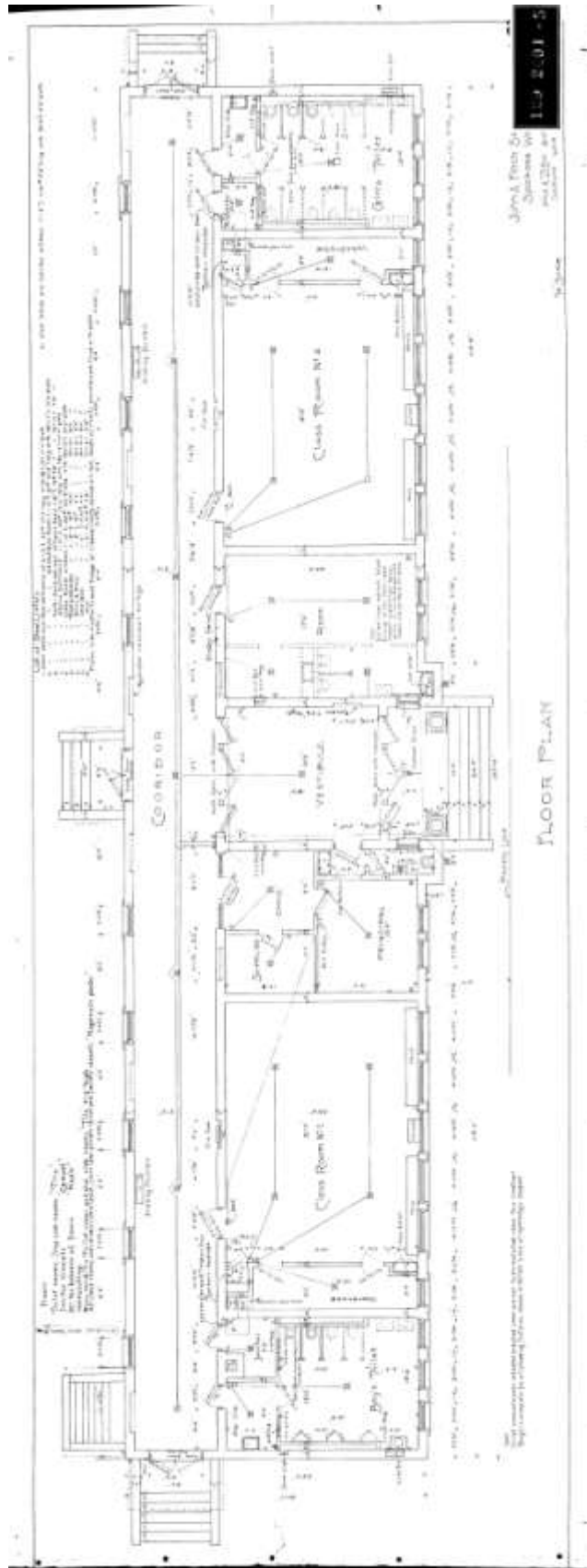
Photo 31 - Library - Looking North

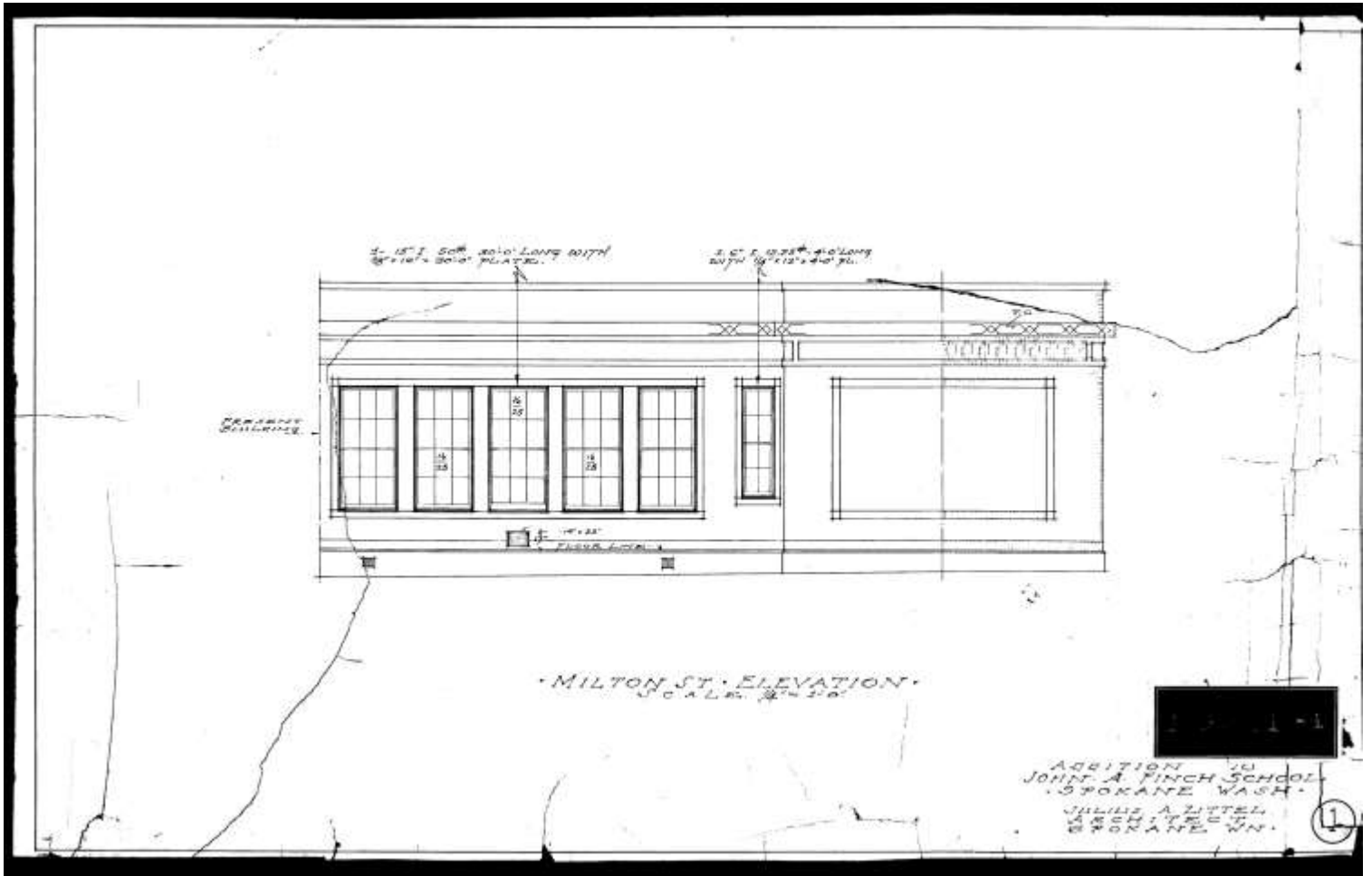


**ELEVATION AND FLOOR PLAN OF  
HISTORIC BUILDING  
1924 AS-BUILT**

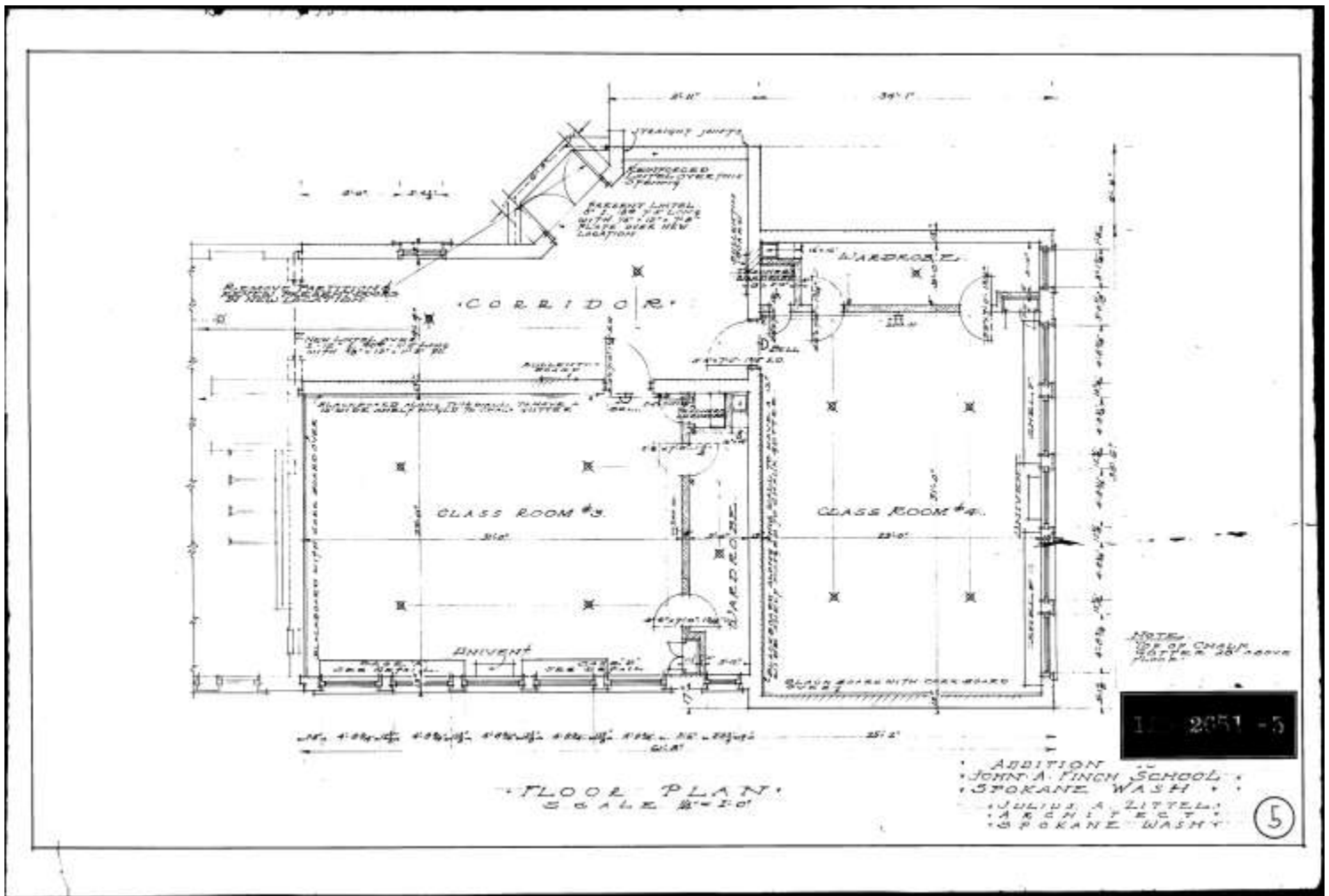




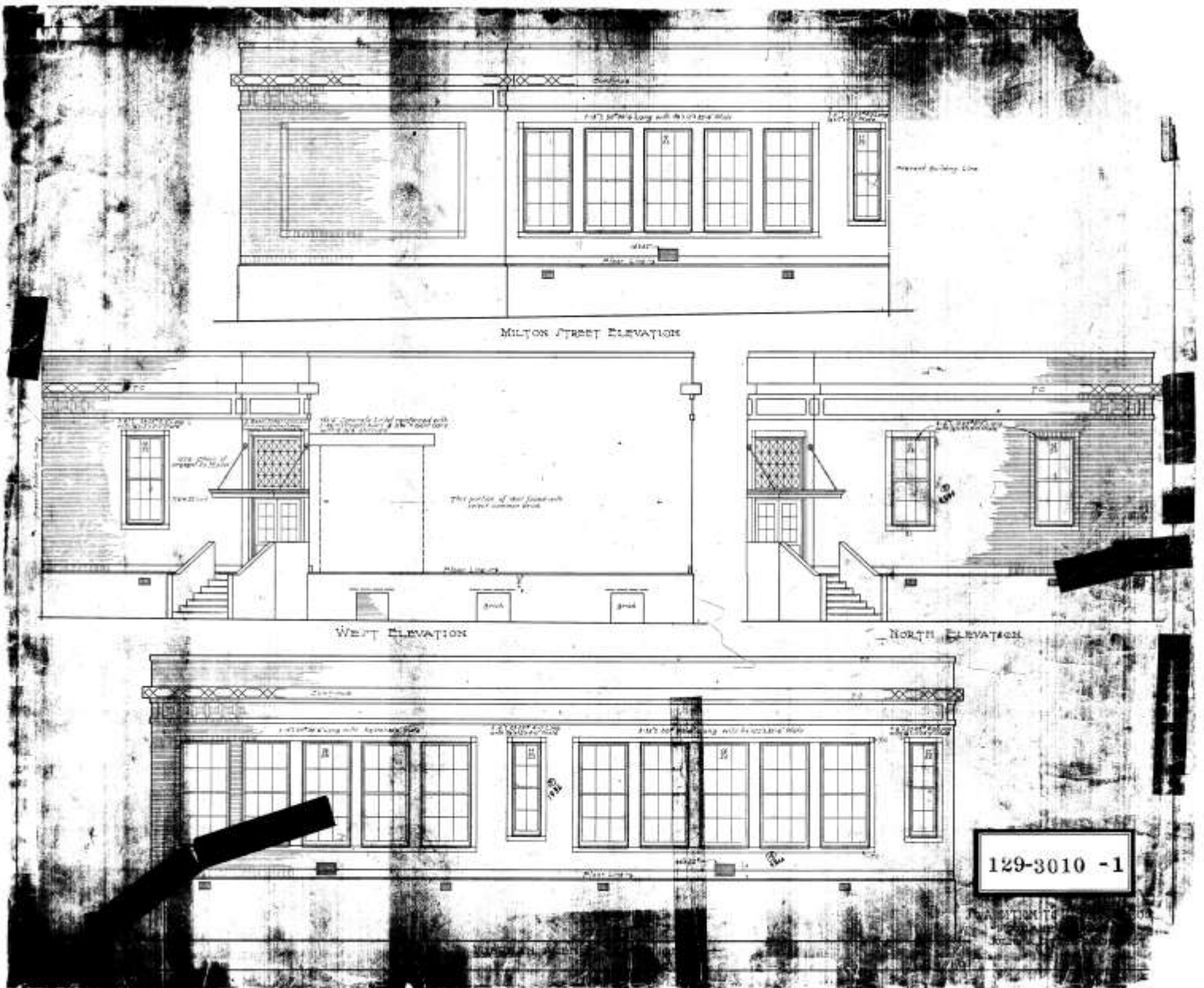




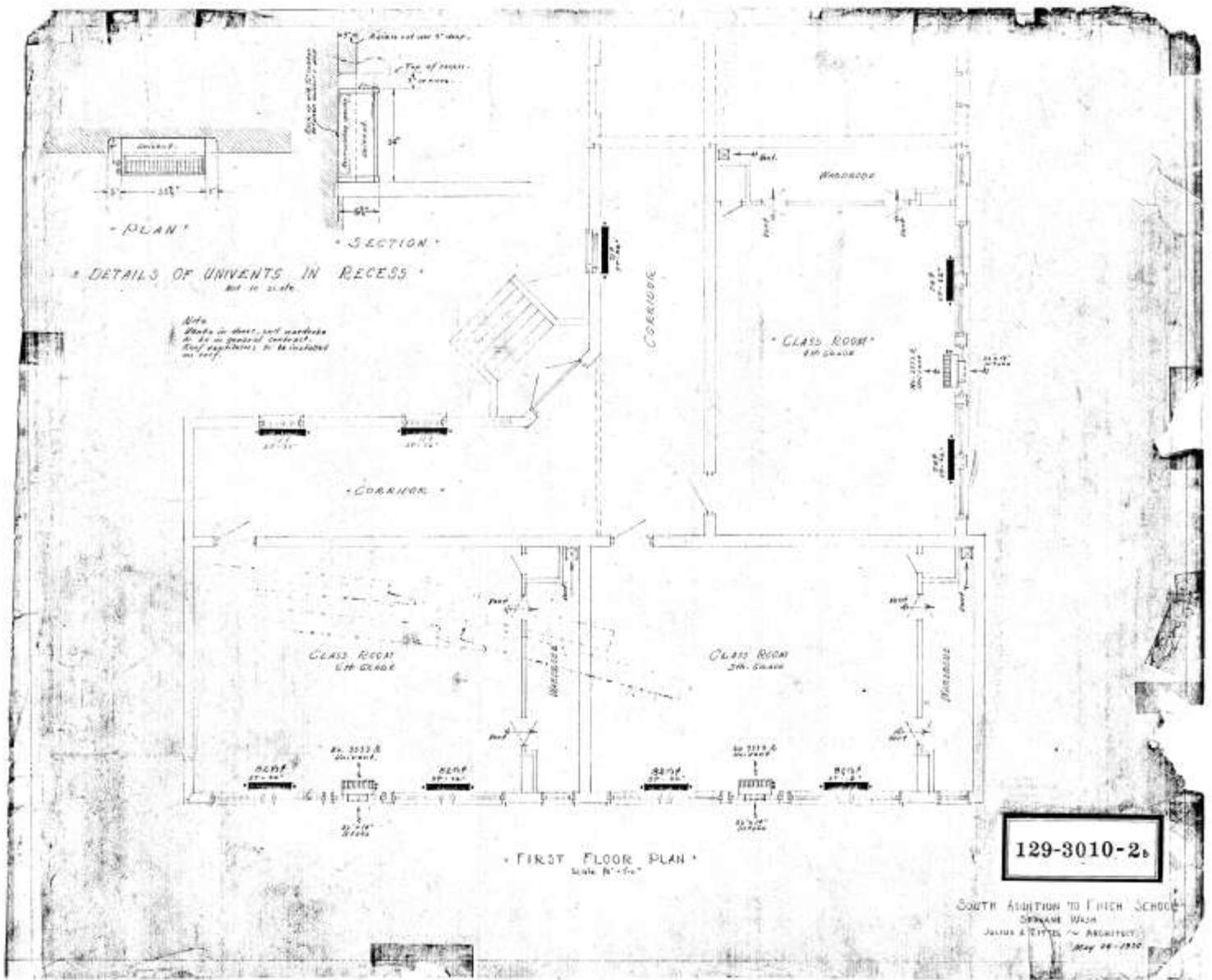
**PLANS OF HISTORIC BUILDING  
1926 ADDITION EAST ELEVATION  
(North End)**



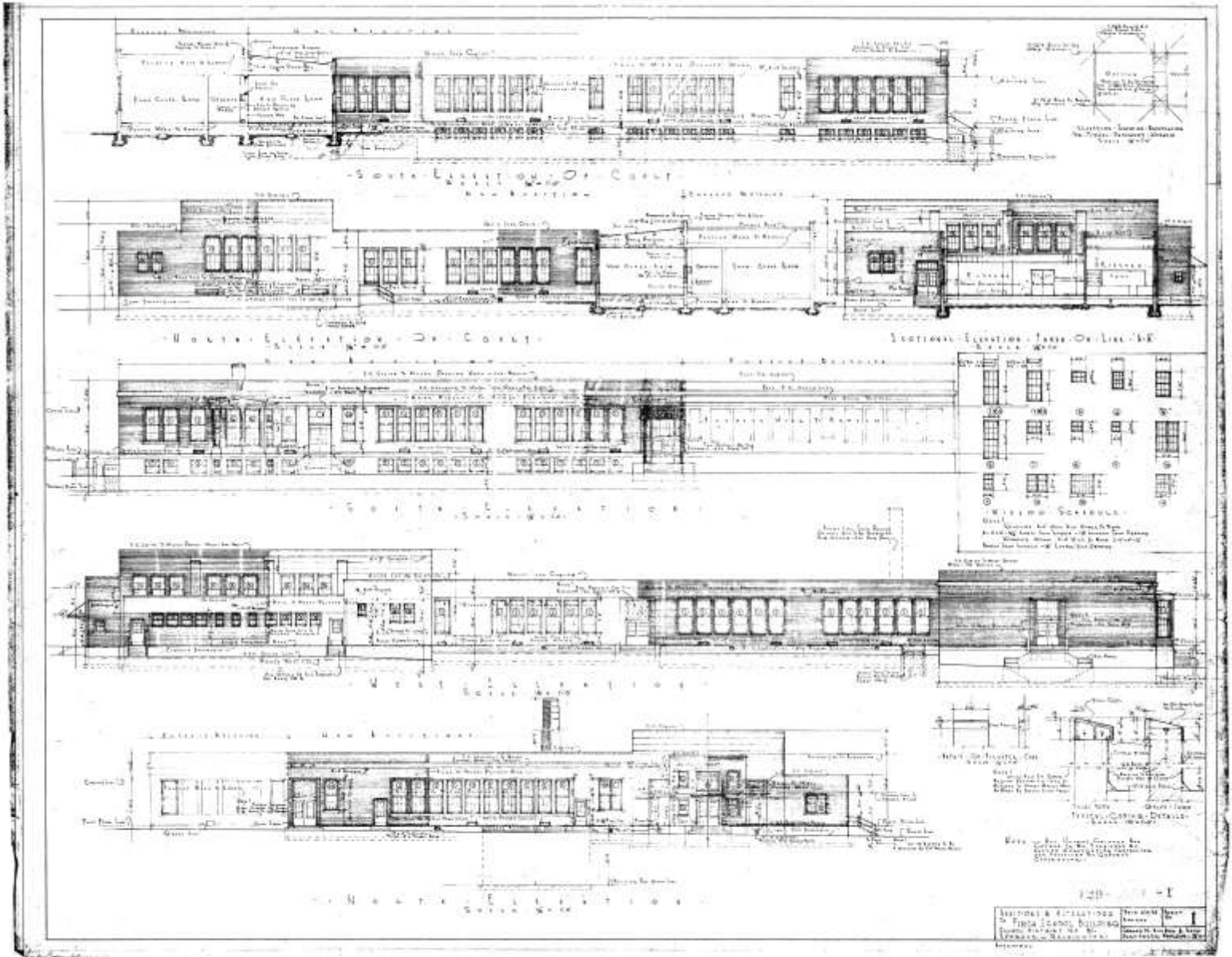
**PLANS OF HISTORIC BUILDING**  
**1926 ADDITION FLOOR PLAN**  
(North End)



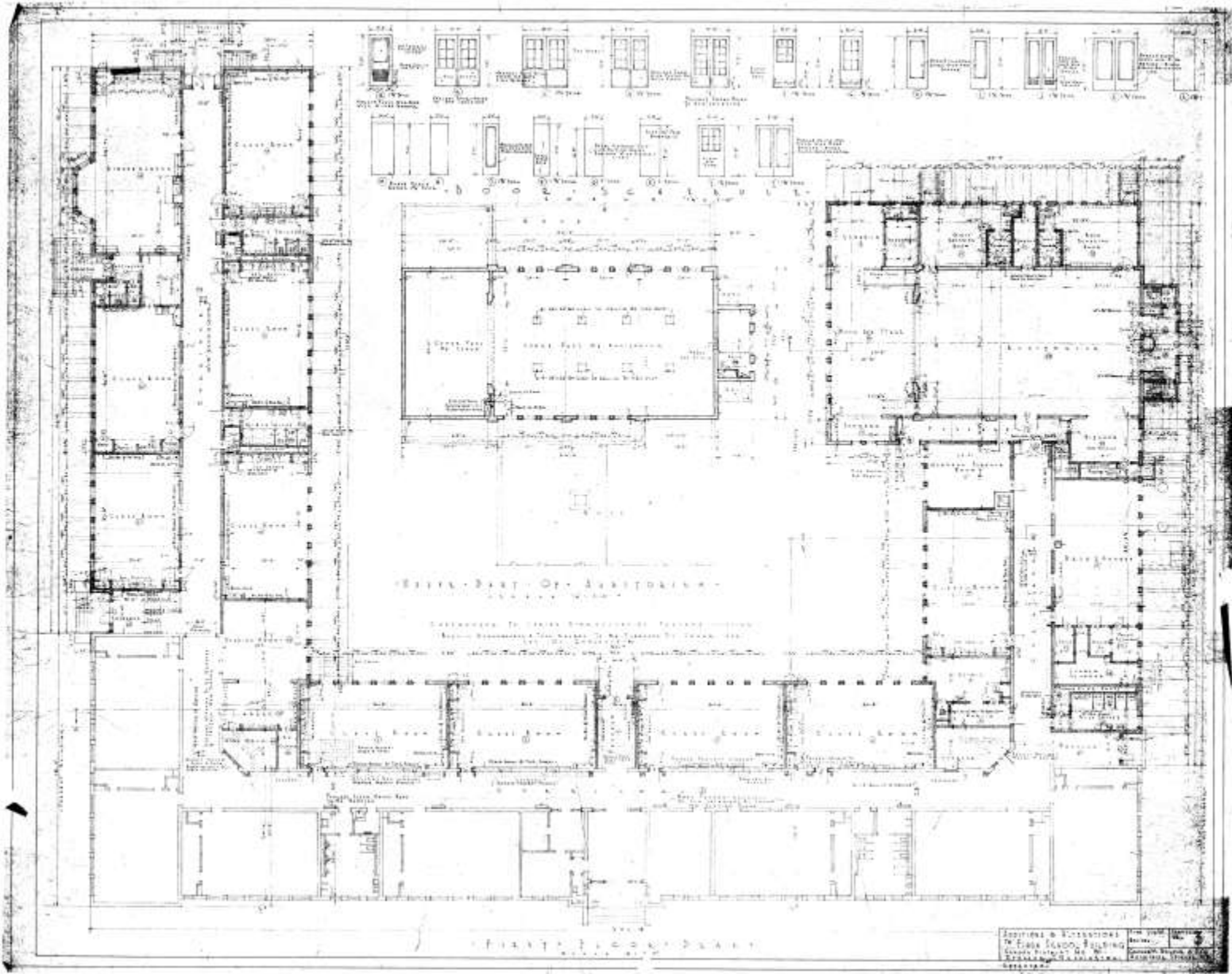
**ELEVATIONS OF 1930 BUILDING ADDITION  
(South End)**



**FLOOR PLAN OF 1930 BUILDING ADDITION**

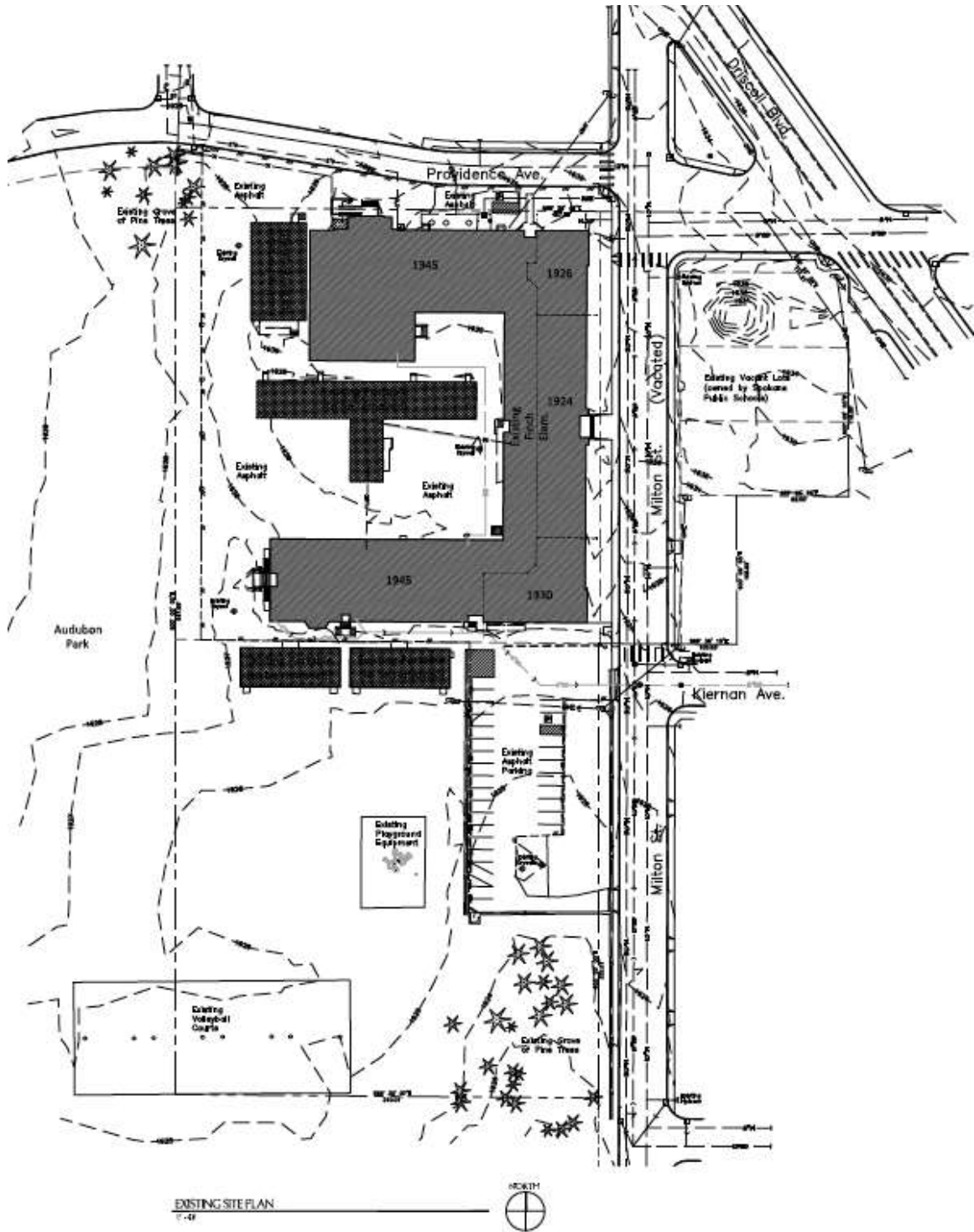


**ELEVATIONS OF 1946 BUILDING**



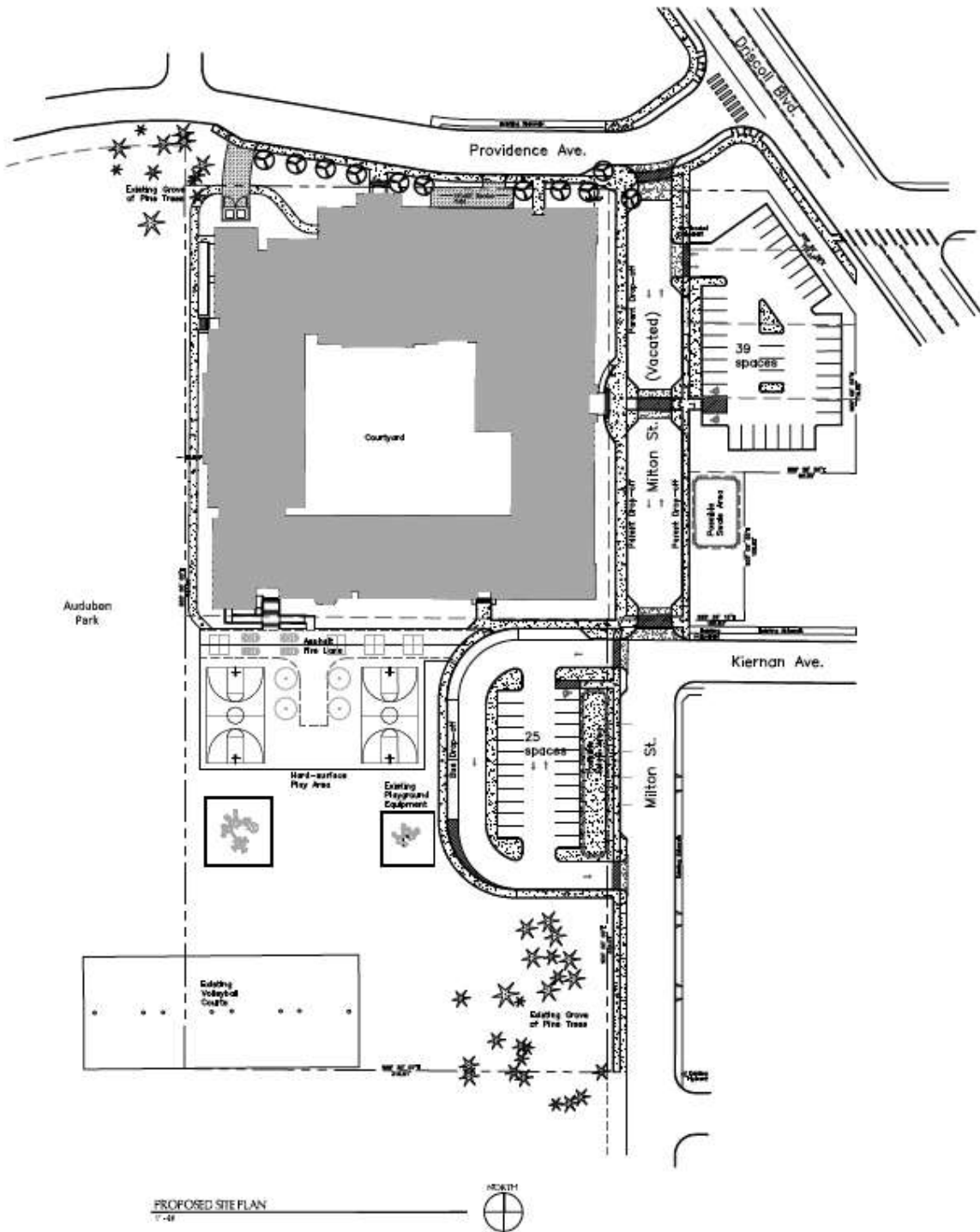
**FLOOR PLAN OF 1946 BUILDING**





**SITE PLAN PRIOR TO 2014 ADDITION & MODERNIZATION**

## **DRAWINGS AND PLANS OF 2014 ADDITION & MODERNIZATION**

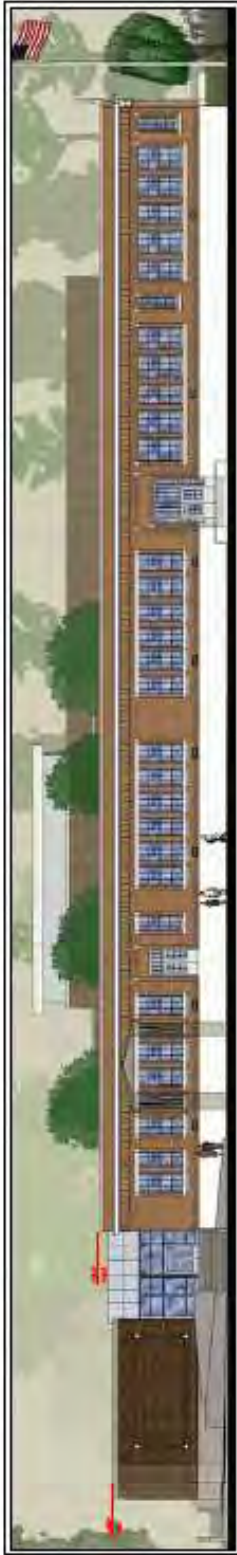


Proposed Elevations:  
Finch Elementary School  
Spokane Public Schools  
3717 N. Milton St., Spokane, WA

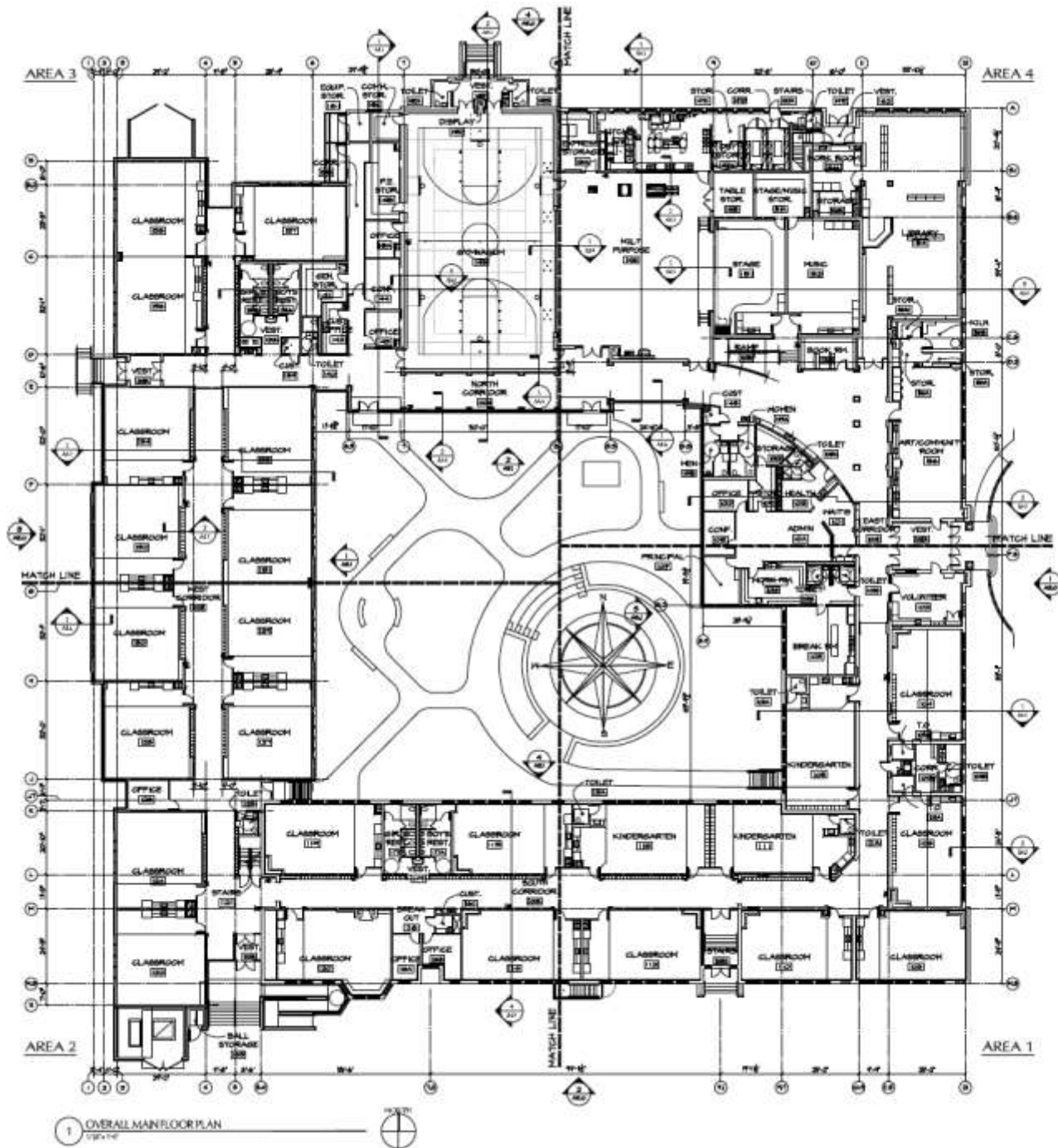
MMEC ARCHITECTURE + INTERIORS  
300 W. Washington  
Spokane, WA 99201  
Phone: 509.325.1111  
Fax: 509.325.1112  
www.mmeccorp.com

Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"  
Date: 10/20/11  
Project: Finch  
Sheet: 0305  
Rev: 01

A3



Elevations



Revisions


RECORD DRAWING  
 These drawings are to be used  
 for Construction Purposes

REGISTERED ARCHITECT  
 DUSTIN C. MITCHELL  
 STATE OF WASHINGTON

OVERALL MAIN FLOOR PLAN  
 Finch Elementary School Modernization & Addition  
 Spokane Public Schools  
 3717 N. Milton St., Spokane, WA

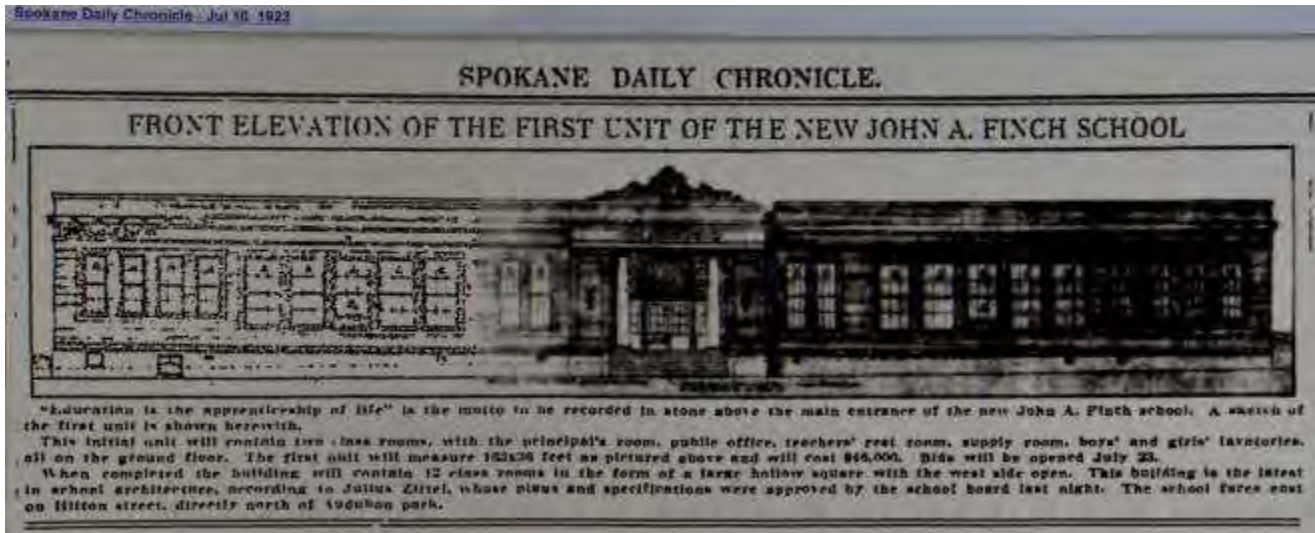
**MMEC**  
 ARCHITECTURE + INTERIORS  
 Spokane, Washington  
 509.325.4488  
 www.mmeccorp.com

Date: 4-18-18  
 Drawn by: MDC  
 Checked by: SCA  
 Scale: 1/2" = 1'-0"  
 File: 04-20  
 Sheet No:

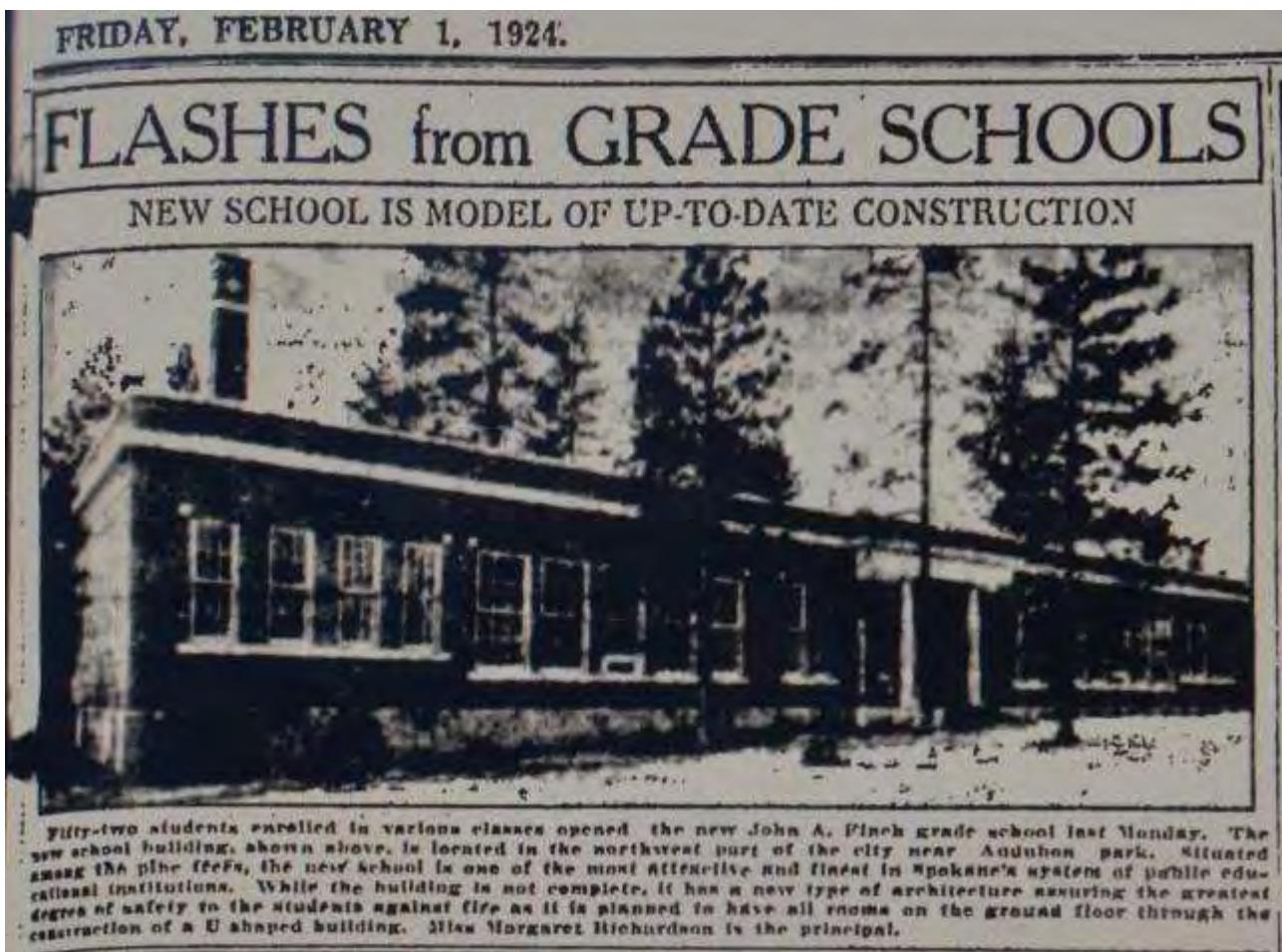
A.2.1



## NEWS ARTICLES



*Spokane Daily Chronicle. 7/10/1923. p6:3.*



*Spokane Daily Chronicle. 2/1/1924. p13:1.*