

The City of Seattle

Landmarks Preservation Board

Mailing Address: PO Box 94649 Seattle WA 98124-4649 Street Address: 700 5th Ave Suite 1700

Landmark NOMINATION Application

| Name: | John Rogers Elementary School |
|---------------------|---|
| Year Built: | 1955-1956 |
| Street and Number: | 4030 NE 109 th Street, Seattle WA 98125 |
| Assessor's File No. | 272604-9114 |
| Legal Description: | That portion of Section 27, Township 26 North, Range 4 East, W.M., records of King County, Washington, described as follows: Beginning at a point 30 feet South and 90 feet West of the Northeast corner of the West half of the West half of the Southeast quarter of the Southwest quarter; Thence South 121.5 feet; Thence Easterly to point 159 feet South of said Northeast corner; Thence South to the Southeast corner of said West half of the West half; Thence West to the Southwest corner; Thence east to the point 30 feet South of the North line of said subdivision; Thence east to the point of beginning. |
| Plat Name: | N/A Block: Lot: |
| Present Use: | Elementary School (grades K-5) |
| Present Owner: | Seattle School District <u>Owner's representative:</u> Rebecca Asencio, Capital Planning Manager Seattle Public Schools Mail Stop 22-336, PO Box 34165 Seattle WA 98124-1165 Email: rsasencio@seattleschools.org / Phone: 206-252-0551 |
| Original Owner: | Seattle School District |
| Original Use: | Elementary School (grades K-5) |
| Architect: | Theo Damm |
| Builder: | Nels Mortensen, general contractor |
| Submitted by: | David Peterson Historic Resource ConsultingDate: June 29, 2021PO Box 115 / Seattle WA 98111 / 206-376-7761 / david@dphrc.com |
| <u>Reviewed by:</u> | (Historic Preservation Officer) |

Administered by The Historic Preservation Program the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods "Printed on Recycled Paper" John Rogers Elementary School 4030 NE 109th Street Seattle Landmark Nomination





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> BOLA Architecture + Planning Seattle

> > June 29, 2021

John Rogers Elementary School 4030 NE 109th Street Seattle Landmark Nomination

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Cover: Historic photograph of the building, looking to the southeast in 1958 from the Seattle Public School Archives (266-4); and current image of building's west facade.

1. INTRODUCTION

Background

This report documents a Seattle public school property, John Rogers Elementary, located at 4030 NE 109th Street in the Meadowbrook/Matthews Beach neighborhood.¹ The building is a one-story masonry and steel Modern-style structure constructed in 1956. This report was written at the request of Seattle Public Schools in order to ascertain its historic significance.

Research

This report was written and researched by historic resource consultant David Peterson in collaboration with Susan Boyle of BOLA Architecture + Planning. Unless noted otherwise, all images are by the author and date from February 2021.

Sources used in this report include:

- Material on file at Seattle School District Archives, including photographs, complete sets of original drawings, and repair/renovation drawing sets up to the present time.
- Newspaper, book, city directories, and maps referencing the property (see bibliography).
- Historic photographs from the Seattle Municipal Archives and University of Washington Libraries Special Collections.
- Due to ongoing coronavirus closures and restrictions, King County historic tax records and material on file at the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) microfilm library were unavailable.

Research also included several site visits to view and document current conditions of the neighborhood, site, and building.

Special thanks to Meaghan Kahlo, the Seattle Public Schools Archivist, for assistance with research.

Seattle's Landmarks Process

(Note: This section summarizes information for readers unfamiliar with the local landmark process.)

Historic landmarks are those individual properties that have been recognized locally, regionally, or nationally as important resources to the community, city, state, or nation. Official recognition is provided by listing in the State or National Registers of Historic Places and locally by the City of Seattle's designation of a property as historic landmark. The local landmarks process is a multi-part proceeding of three sequential steps by the Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board:

- 1) a review of the nomination and its and approval or rejection
- 2) a designation

¹ There is also a John R. Rogers Elementary School (Frederick Heath, 1907) in Tacoma, which is unrelated to the subject school. It is named after the same person, an early governor of Washington (1895-1901).

3) negotiation of controls and incentives by the property owner and the City's Historic Preservation Officer and its approval by the Landmarks Preservation Board

A final step in this landmarks process is passage of a designation ordinance by the City Council. These steps all occur with public hearings to allow input from the property owner, applicant, the public, and other interested parties. Seattle's Landmarks Preservation Board is quasi-judicial, with the Board ruling rather than serving as in advisory capacity to another commission, department, or agency.

The City's Preservation Ordinance (SMC 25.12.350) requires a property to be more than 25 years old and to have "significant character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City, state, or nation, if it has integrity or the ability to convey its significance, and if it falls into one (1) of the following categories:"

| Criterion A. | It is the location of, or is associated in a significant way with, an historic event with a significant effect upon the community, City, state, or nation. |
|--------------|---|
| Criterion B. | It is associated in a significant way with the life of a person important in the history of the City, state, or nation. |
| Criterion C. | It is associated in a significant way with a significant aspect of the cultural, political, or economic heritage of the community, City, state or nation. |
| Criterion D. | It embodies the distinctive visible characteristics of an architectural style, or period, or of a method of construction. |
| Criterion E. | It is an outstanding work of a designer or builder. |
| Criterion F. | Because of its prominence of spatial location, contrasts of siting, age, or scale, it is an easily identifiable visual feature of its neighborhood or the City and contributes to the distinctive quality or identity of such neighborhood or the City. |

More than 460 individual properties have been designated as local landmarks under the city ordinance, along with others located in one of eight historic districts. Anyone can prepare a landmark nomination. However, the Landmarks Board's review cannot consider future changes or uses, or other land use issues.

2. PROPERTY INFORMATION

| Historic/Current Name: | John Rogers Elementary School |
|-------------------------|---|
| Location: | The property is located between NE 110th and 105th Streets, on the east side of 40th Avenue NE, in the Meadowbrook/Matthews Beach neighborhood. |
| Address: | 4030 NE 109 th Street, Seattle WA 98125 |
| Assessor's Parcel No.: | 272604-9114 |
| Plat/Block/Lot: | Unplatted |
| Legal Description: | That portion of Section 27, Township 26 North, Range 4 East, W.M., records of King County, Washington, described as follows: Beginning at a point 30 feet South and 90 feet West of the Northeast corner of the West half of the West half of the Southeast quarter of the Southwest quarter; Thence South 121.5 feet; Thence Easterly to point 159 feet South of said Northeast corner; Thence South to the Southeast corner of said West half of the West half; Thence West to the Southwest corner; Thence North to a point 30 feet South of the North line of said subdivision; Thence east to the point of beginning. |
| Construction Date: | 1955-1956 |
| Original Designer: | Theo Damm, architect |
| Original Builder: | Nels Mortensen, general contractor |
| Original/Present Use: | Elementary School (grades K-5) |
| Original/Present Owner: | Seattle School District |
| Owner's Representative: | Rebecca Asencio Capital Planning Manager Seattle Public Schools Mail Stop 22-336, PO Box 34165 Seattle, WA 98124-1165 Email: rsasencio@seattleschools.org Phone: 206-252-0551 |

3. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Neighborhood Context

John Rogers Elementary School is located in the Meadowbrook/Matthews Beach neighborhood, between NE 110th and 105th Streets, on the east side of 40th Avenue NE. *[See Figs. 1-7 for current maps, aerial photos, and neighborhood context views]*

The surrounding blocks are almost completely residential in character, typically consisting of ca. 1940s – 1970s single family houses on 7,000 to 10,000 square foot landscaped lots. Single family houses from the period 1910s to 1930s occur sparsely; however, there are several on the north side of NE 110th Street just west of the school. The area is notable for treed streets and yards, and it has one of the most extensive tree canopy coverages in Seattle. Thornton Creek, an open waterway with the largest watershed in the city, runs through the neighborhood in front and back yards of residences. The creek just touches the southwest corner of the subject property on its southeastwards course towards Lake Washington.

One block west of the subject site's playfield is Meadowbrook Pond, a 10-acre park and water feature owned by Seattle Public Utilities that serves as a stormwater detention and flood control facility for Thornton Creek.

One block west of Meadowbrook Pond, and a half mile west from the subject site, is the sizable Nathan Hale High School, and Meadowbrook Park, playfield, and Community Center. The high school was established in 1962 and its buildings date from 1962-1972. North of the high school, across NE 110th Street, is Jane Addams Junior High School, which was originally built in 1949 by the Shoreline School District. All of these facilities have received additions and remodels over the past decades.

One half mile east of the subject site is Lake Washington and the Burke Gilman Trail. One and a half miles to the southeast is Matthews Beach Park, the only public lakefront park in Seattle north of Sand Point. The park is also the location of the outlet for Thornton Creek.

Site

This mid-block, hillside site is a long, narrow, north-south oriented parcel that measures approximately 332 feet by 1,251 feet. The parcel is nearly rectangular, except for the northeasternmost corner, measuring 134 by 120 feet, which is excluded. The east and west sides of the parcel are almost entirely shared property lines with adjacent single family houses, rather than rights of way—although 40th Avenue NE extends less than one block south of NE 109th Street along the school property's west side. There is a significant grade change across the site, dropping approximately 85 feet from northeast to southwest property corners.

The north half of the parcel is occupied by the school, and the south half by a playfield. The playfield is largely level, open, and grassy, with a baseball field and backstop fencing at its south end. Prior to original construction of the subject school, the north half of the property was steeply sloped, requiring regrading to create a level building site. This work resulted in an even steeper 50 foot-high slope behind the school at the northeast property corner, which today is covered in heavy vegetation and mature trees.

The school site is largely paved with asphalt, which on the west and south sides of the school serves as a hardscaped playground. An "island" of playground equipment has been installed in recent decades near the center of the playground, consisting of wood chips retained by a low concrete wall decorated with a band of commemorative donor tiles. There are three portable school buildings at the south end of the site.

The school site sits approximately 10 feet above the grass playfield, bermed, and separated by a chain link fence. The two levels are connected at the midpoint of the parcel by two sets of concrete stairs and an accessible, zig-zag ramp.

Access to the school is provided by a vehicular drive aisle from the north off NE 110th Street, or from the west along NE 109th Street. These two meet in a circular drive in front of the school main entrance. There are two terraced parking lots at the north end of the site which accommodate approximately 35 automobiles in total. Service access to the school is from the east end of the lower parking lot.

Building Description

The subject building, John Rogers Elementary, is a Modern-style school designed by architect Theo Damm and constructed in 1955 for the Seattle School District. With the exception of three free-standing portable buildings installed on the grounds, this 40,352 square-foot facility is contained within a single building. It serves grades K-5 in fourteen classrooms. *[See Figs. 8-72 for current photos of the building]*

Exterior and Structure

The school has an irregular, roughly L-shaped plan that measures overall 184 by 373 feet at its greatest dimensions. The building is generally oriented north-south, but at a slight northwest-southeast angle that is roughly parallel to the nearby foot of a steep eastern slope, in order to maximize the open space on the building's west side. The school is organized on the interior by an L-shaped, double-loaded central corridor. The entire building is one story, but room heights vary depending on size and use.

The north part of the building features the main entry, offices, gymnasium, combination lunchroomauditorium, a two-room kindergarten unit, and support spaces, clustered around the short portion of the central corridor. The south part of the building is a long rectangular bar measuring approximately 246 by 76 feet, which holds all of the classrooms, arranged along a double-loaded corridor. The classroom wing also includes the library, which is dimensionally equivalent to two classrooms with no central demising wall. This wing contains the primary boys' and girls' bathrooms, behind which there is an exterior covered playcourt.

The building structure is wood frame or concrete block with veneer brick walls on concrete strip footings, which support exposed glulams or open web joists and the flat parapetless roofs. The roofs are supported at exterior walls by steel wide-flange columns in typical structural bays measuring 9.67 feet, which are connected at the roofline by welded steel C-channels. The steel columns are expressed on the exterior facades, creating a rhythmic, gridded effect when taken together with the slightly recessed fenestration and other exterior wall elements. Between columns are infill walls composed of structural

brick.² Partial-height walls with a continuous sill height support banks of aluminum frame windows. A typical classroom unit consists of three structural bays, and measures 29 feet total in width.

Windows are aluminum sash throughout the building, typically following a gridded lite pattern that varies slightly by location. A typical classroom window within one structural bay is composed of six equally sized lites in a 2 high by 3 wide grid, separated by two heavy vertical mullions. All sash are fixed except the lower center lite, which features hopper-style operation. The vertical aluminum mullions, which extend to the underside of the steel C-channel frame, hold cement asbestos board panels in a continuous row above the glazed lites. These panels are visible above the windows on the interior.

At all classroom windows, a continuous line of louvered aluminum sun shades, affixed to the steel columns, project approximately 2.75 feet from the exterior wall at the top of the glazing.³

Windows at the kindergarten units are similar but larger, with a 3 by 3 grid of lites, and sit at a lower sill level. At these locations, the center lite is operable, and there is no exterior sun screen.

Some building spaces, such as the gymnasium, kitchen, and boiler room, are constructed of tilt-up concrete walls which are exposed on the exterior and have painted finishes. Windows in these spaces, where they occur, are typically punched openings or skylights. The gymnasium exterior also features engaged square concrete pilasters in 12-to-13-foot structural bays. Additionally, the gym's roof is gabled and low-slope, rather than flat.

Both face brick and structural brick are used in the construction of the building. At all locations, bricks are laid in a one-third running bond pattern, and are painted a pale pink color, a non-original condition. At a few exterior wall locations, the paint has peeled, betraying the original untreated colors of mottled reds and yellows on each brick.

The main entry of the school is approached from the northwest, where a circular drive allows student drop-off. From this angle, only a small portion of the building is visible, giving the school an informal and unimposing relationship to the single family houses across the street. The main entry is recessed under a thin-profile flat roof, and the exterior walls are clad with white-specked red matte-glazed ceramic tiles. Two sets of steel frame double doors, with transoms, provide building access.

To the north of the recessed entry is the high, glazed, segmentally curved east wall of the lunchroomauditorium. In scale and proportion it presents the most formal aspect of the school to the neighborhood. The window wall is 19.5 feet in height, and features seven window bays separated by steel beam columns in approximately 9 foot intervals, bracketed at the ends by solid face-brick wall segments. Windows here are aluminum sash in a regular 6 by 2 grid, each subdivided by a wide aluminum mullion. All lites are fixed except for a single operable hopper-style lite per window at the bottom of each bay. The windows sit on painted concrete bulkheads and are surmounted by concrete asbestos panels (which are subdivided by the window mullion, but are not visible on the interior). The outermost two window bays on each side of the wall are braced with highly visible diagonal steel beams installed in 1993-94 as part of a seismic upgrade project.

² Identified on the original 1955 architectural drawings as "SCR brick," or Structural Clay Research brick, a proprietary name developed in 1952 by the Structural Clay Products Institute (SCPI) for structural hollow brick.

³ Sun shades are identified on the original 1955 architectural drawings as "aluminum jalousies."

To the south of the entry is the north or side facade of the two-room kindergarten unit. On the east side, the kindergarten unit presents a bilaterally symmetrical facade with a center recessed wall segment containing two doors with transom, flanked by a single kindergarten classroom on each side.

Continuing to the south side of the kindergarten unit, the school administrative offices are visible behind the kindergarten unit, with south facing windows.

Extending southward from the administrative offices is the long classroom wing. The west facade consists of twelve structural window bays on each side of a wider, 13.67 foot recessed building entry. The entry is emphasized as a visual focal point by a projecting roof and fin walls surround that matches the depth of the nearby projecting sun screens. In recent decades, non-original planter beds made of concrete block have been installed in front of this facade, and planted with shrubs and small trees.

The south facade of the classroom wing is windowless, with a center projecting building entry similar to that on the west facade, reached by four concrete steps. The exterior walls of this facade are clad with large, offset cement asbestos board panels, rather than brick, apparently to ease future building expansion. The panels are painted white.

The east facade of the classroom wing resembles the west facade, but without the center recessed entry. Instead, centered on the east facade is the covered playcourt, extending 30 feet eastward from the adjoining walls. The perimeter of the court is a low concrete stem wall with steel columns set in concrete bases at 8 foot increments at the east side and 10 feet on the north and south sides. There are double doors in a 7 foot tall wall at the center bay on the south side. The steel columns are enclosed with full-height chain link fencing. Exposed, open web steel joists support a laminated timber flat roof. The playcourt is paved with concrete, and measures approximately 71 by 42 feet.

Building Interior

Typical interior finishes throughout the building include painted plaster walls, vinyl tile flooring, wood baseboards and trim, and glued acoustical tile ceilings. Fixtures provide florescent lighting. Ceiling heights vary by room size and use.

Main Entry and Corridors – The main entry lobby opens onto a short corridor that provides immediate access to the school offices, lunchroom-auditorium, and two classrooms in the kindergarten unit. The lobby features 8 foot ceilings and exposed brick walls on the south and west sides. The main corridor measures approximately 90 feet long and 13 feet wide. The easternmost part of the main corridor ramps up almost 3 feet then turns southward to reach the classroom wing. There is also a narrow corridor leading northward behind the lunchroom-auditorium, providing a rear entry to the auditorium stage, kitchen, boiler room, and deliveries door. A recessed accordion wall at the base of the main corridor ramp allows the lunchroom-auditorium to be used independently from the rest of the school building.

The classroom wing corridor is approximately 10 feet high and wide, and 246 feet long. There are recessed metal lockers along its length in front of classrooms. Skylights occur in regular intervals to provide daylight. There is a door to the exterior with transom at the far south end, as well as the centered entry/exit on the west facade, at the end of a short ramped side corridor. Classroom doors are recessed off the corridor, and are sometimes accompanied by small, adjacent hallway recesses intended for wastepaper receptacles. Under the classroom wing corridor there is a pipe tunnel (excavated space

between corridor wall footings) with approximately 4.5 feet of clearance; access hatches are visible at either end of the hallway floor.

Kindergarten unit – The two-classroom kindergarten unit is somewhat separate from the rest of the school, at the northwesternmost extreme of the building, and accessed directly from the school's main entrance lobby. Each of the two classrooms has its own bathroom, and separate doors to the playground. The kindergarten rooms measures 30 by 40 feet, with additional space for storage and a large coat room. Classrooms sit two feet lower in elevation than the main entrance lobby, requiring a ramp down to classroom level upon entry. Ceiling heights are approximately 10 feet.

Lunchroom-Auditorium – This multifunctional room has an approximately triangular or pie-wedge shaped plan, which introduces non-perpendicular relationships between some adjacent rooms. The ceiling height in this room is approximately 19.5 feet, and the main open floor area measures approximately 58 feet deep by 40 to 50 feet wide. There is a raised platform stage at the east end of the room, framed by a birch proscenium, and accessed by wood stairs on each end of the stage. The back of the stage includes room for curtains, equipment, and a rear door to a service corridor. The west wall of the lunchroom-auditorium is segmentally curved and entirely glazed, with red quarry tile sills, and roll-up shades. Along the north wall are doors to the kitchen. The kitchen is finished with quarry tile floors and full-height glazed tile walls.

Gymnasium – The gym is rectangular in plan, measuring approximately 41 by 72 feet, and has an 18 foot ceiling height. The room is windowless except for twelve equally-spaced skylights. The wood decking ceiling is supported by five gently pitched, inverted V-shaped glulams. Walls are clad with acoustical panels above 7 feet, set flush into the wall. Floors are polished hardwood court decking.

Typical classroom – Typical classrooms measure 29 by 32.5 feet in plan (942.5 square feet in area), with floor to ceiling heights at approximately 10.5 feet. The glazed exterior wall consists of three structural window bays, delineated by two exposed glulams overhead. Three skylights on the opposite side of the room from the window wall provide balanced natural lighting. Classrooms feature chalkboards, built-in cabinetry, and closets.

Library – The library is located near the midpoint of the classroom wing corridor, and is equivalent to two classrooms with the middle wall removed. As such, the middle structural support is not a glulam, but rather a partial wall with two mid-span support posts. Floors are carpet.

Main bathrooms – At the midpoint of the classroom wing corridor are the main boys' and girls' bathrooms. Finishes include tile floors, glazed structural tile wainscot, along with period plumbing fixtures, and original metal stall dividers.

Portables

At present there are three portable classroom buildings on the property, located south of the main school building. Two are manufactured structures from recent decades. The third appears to date to the 1950s or 1960s, and is wood frame construction, with horizontal shiplap siding and a flat roof. As these are temporary elements, they are not included in this landmark nomination.

Summary of Primary Alterations

The school district and the city retain extensive records of permits and drawings for alterations to the subject property. Most are related to maintenance issues and are not significant.

The most significant alteration to the property was the addition of exposed steel bracing at four of the seven window bays of the lunchroom-auditorium west wall, adjacent to the school's main entry. The work was related to seismic upgrades performed in 1993, and designed by Martens/Chan Inc. Consulting Engineers. The project also included bracing at the exterior covered playcourt, and reinforcing beam/pilaster ties to the glulam beams in the gym, but this work was minor and occurred in considerably less visible locations.

4. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

A. The Development of the Meadowbrook/Matthews Beach Neighborhood

John Rogers Elementary School and playfield are located between 105th and 110th Streets NE, and NE 40th and 41st Avenues, in an area where the Meadowbrook and Matthews Beach neighborhoods overlap. These solidly residential neighborhoods are now subcomponents of the larger Lake City area of northeast Seattle, which has an expansive automobile-oriented commercial core located along Lake City Way approximately one and a half miles to the northwest of the school. Historically, the patterns of land development in the area were shaped by the Thornton Creek watershed; late 19th-century logging, farming, and dairies; early 20th century summer home development along Lake Washington to the east; the Bothell Road (now Lake City Way) on the west; and the northward growth of Seattle neighborhoods to the south along an early arterial spine, 35th Avenue NE. *[See Figs. 73-91 for historic images of the neighborhood]*

Topographically, the core of the Meadowbrook/Matthews Beach area is a broad, crescent-shaped plain surrounded by often steep hillsides. The plain is formed by two branches of Thornton Creek, where they join and empty into Lake Washington at Matthews Beach Park. The creek is the largest watershed in Seattle, draining 12 square miles from Northgate to Shoreline.

Until 1891, no part of present-day Seattle north of Lake Union and the ship canal was incorporated into the city limits. Between 1910 and the early 1940s, the northernmost city boundaries were set at 85th Street north of Green Lake, and 65th Street north of Laurelhurst. The Wedgwood neighborhood to the south of the school was largely undeveloped until after World War II. The subject site and surroundings were part of unincorporated King County and lacked municipal services until the early 1950s. Seattle streetcars did not reach the area as it was beyond city limits.

Native Americans of the Duwamish tribe were the first residents of the area. The lakeshore provided fishing and hunting grounds. During the winter, tribes lived in large cedar longhouses, each home to 25 to 30 members of family groups. In the mid-1800s, there was a large settlement on Ravenna Creek at Union Bay and a smaller settlement at the mouth of Thornton Creek at Matthews Beach.⁴ During summers, the families scattered to collect food, and lived in temporary shelters.

⁴ Thrush, pp. 250-251, 254.

The first Euro-American to the lake was probably Isaac Ebey around 1850, who called it Lake Geneva but continued on and settled at Whidbey Island. With the Treaty of Point Elliott in 1854, the Duwamish lost their rights to the lake and surrounding land.⁵

The Meadowbrook/Matthews Beach area was surveyed in the 1850s and logged into the 1870s, with much of the land owned by the Puget Mill Company of Port Gamble. Early Euro-American settlers, attracted by donation land claims and homesteads or newly-cleared land, began to arrive thereafter. One of the first was Charles Becker (ca. 1853-1899), who emigrated around 1874 from Germany, and operated a butcher shop in downtown Seattle. With his savings he acquired 160 remote acres corresponding to the area from 100th to 110th Streets NE, and from NE 25th to 35th Avenues. Other German settlers followed, including the Henry Ohland (1846-1925) and August Fischer (1856-1940) families, who by the early 1890s had purchased much of Becker's acreage around the fork of Thornton Creek, corresponding to day to the area around Nathan Hale High School. The families cleared and drained the low-lying land, established dairy farms, and grew feed and produce for market. The large Fischer farmhouse, constructed around 1912, remains standing on the hillside at 3017 NE 105th Street, overlooking the former farm property (now Meadowbrook Playfield Park).⁶ The Ohland's farm spanned from 105th to 110th Streets NE, and from 35th to 40th Avenues NE, just west of the subject site.

Access to the area was initially limited to water transport, as there were no roads connecting to Seattle. In 1887, the Seattle, Lake Shore & Eastern Railway (today the route of the Burke Gilman Trail) was built along the Lake Washington shoreline by a group of investors including Thomas Burke, Daniel Gilman, David Denny, and George Kinnear. The railroad was initially constructed to connect Ballard with the coal fields near Issaquah, and to haul lumber and other goods, but sightseeing passengers became another revenue source. A stop on the railroad was called "Lake," located at the foot of what is now 115th Street, and the area began to attract light residential and lake cabin development along the shore. A stop near 100th Street was called "LaVilla," where there was also a dock, near the north side of the inlet later known as Matthews Beach. In 1892, the Seattle, Lake Shore & Eastern became part of the larger network of the Northern Pacific Railroad.

By 1895, historic maps show a single overland dirt road, corresponding to NE 105th Street, connecting the Lake Washington shore at LaVilla to the subject area's farming community. The road then turned south at approximately 32nd Avenue NE and followed the topography to connect to the small settlements of Ravenna and Yesler, near today's University Village on Union Bay, and the rest of Seattle to the south. In 1891, Ravenna was annexed into the Seattle city limits, and was therefore shortly thereafter served by a streetcar line, making it the nearest convenient stop for the Fischer, Ohland, and neighboring families. Because the Fischer and Ohland large landholdings and farms were located on either side of what became 35th Avenue NE, 35th Avenue by about 1905 had become the preferred alignment southward towards Ravenna and Yesler, rather than 32nd Avenue.⁷

From about 1890 until 1894, the Maple Leaf Saw Mill operated near the LaVilla train stop, at about NE 100th Street and 49th Avenue NE. The name "Maple Leaf" began to be associated with the entire area now called Meadowbrook and Matthews Beach, but the name did not persist; over time it became more associated with the current Maple Leaf neighborhood, one and a half miles to the southwest. When the nearby available timber was depleted, the Maple Leaf Saw Mill closed. In 1896—lacking any nearby

⁵ Wilma, David. "Seattle neighborhoods: Lake City—Thumbnail history," HistoryLink essay 3449, July 18, 2001, www.historylink.org.

⁶ "The Fischer Farm in Meadowbrook," Wedgwood in Seattle History, February 3, 2013, wedgwoodinseattlehistory.com.

⁷ 35th Avenue NE corresponded to the survey line dividing Sections 27 and 28 in the township and range system.

alternative for educating their children—the Fischer and Ohland families established a school in a former bunkhouse for saw mill workers near the mill site. The two families hired Howard Hanson as teacher, and supplied firewood for heating the building.⁸ Other local children in the rural community began to attend as well, and the school was called Maple Leaf School.

In 1906, the logged-off area around the former saw mill site—hills overlooking Lake Washington—were purchased from the Puget Mill Company by a group of real estate speculators, who platted it as the Lake Shore View Addition. Directly to the north, another group in 1906 platted the L-shaped Lake Side City Addition, which included land west and north of the subject site. Between 1906 and 1910, two more large plats followed, encompassing in the entire hillside from what is now NE 95th Street to NE 125th Street, and to a depth of approximately one-third to one-half a mile inland from the shore. One of these plats—called the Lake City Addition—included the previously-mentioned "Lake" stop at about NE 115th Street on the lakeshore railroad, thus lending its name to the greater Lake City neighborhood that coalesced later. However, hillside lots sold slowly and development remained spotty in the area for decades. The valley floor to the west remained farms, dairies, and pastures.

Another early landowner in the area was John G. Matthews. Some time before 1907, he purchased a large, L-shaped swath of land directly south of the subject site. However, he did not plat it for development. The property extended from what is now NE 105th Street to NE 90th Street, and between 40th and 45th Avenues NE. It also included the land between NE 90th and 95th Streets from 45th Avenue NE to the Lake Washington shoreline, which corresponds approximately today to Matthews Beach Park and the mouth of Thornton Creek. Matthews arrived in Seattle from Kentucky around 1910, lived on Capitol Hill with his wife and children, and had a successful career as a an attorney and logger. He allowed locals to access the lakefront beach on his property.

By 1910, there were enough families in the Meadowbrook/Matthews Beach area that a larger, purposebuilt schoolhouse was required. By that time, the Fischer and Ohland families had established the Maple Leaf School District. In 1910 they and their neighbors built a new Maple Leaf School, at the southeast corner of NE 105th Street and 35th Avenue NE, between the Ohland and Fischer properties, approximately four blocks southwest of the subject site. The two-room frame school was eventually expanded to three rooms.

At the western edge of the neighborhood, the Bothell Road between 1911 and 1918 was improved and paved with brick, as a consequence of increased automobile and truck travel during the early 20th century. The route had originally been a primitive roadway connecting Ballard with Bothell since the 1890s, but was re-routed to join Seattle's street network on the east side of Green Lake and to follow the hillside topography on the west edge of the Thornton Creek valley. Today known as Lake City Way, the roadway for a period in the 1920s was called "Victory Way." The improved road opened up the area northeast of Seattle for development.

In 1922, a branch of the Fischer family, the Blindheims, established the LaVilla Dairy in the neighborhood. Recognizing that the increasingly busy Bothell Road was an ideal location for reaching customers, Ole Blindheim built a pasteurization plant just off the Bothell Road (Lake City Way NE) where it would be convenient for buyers. Located at 10228 Fischer Place, he also graded and named the road to it. Instead of herding his own cattle, Blindheim collected raw milk from other farmers, and received milk brought by boat from Bothell to the lakeshore dock at LaVilla which was then transported to the

⁸ "Maple Leaf," Thompson & Marr, p. 200. Howard Hanson later became a prominent attorney and Washington state legislator; the Howard Hanson dam and reservoir in King County were named after him.

plant by wagon. The operation merged with another dairy around 1930.⁹ The building remains extant at that location (although repurposed), and is one of the few physical remnants of the dairies that once characterized the Meadowbrook/Matthews Beach area.

In 1926, a larger Maple Leaf School building was constructed at the northeast corner of 32nd Avenue NE and NE 100th Street, a few blocks southwest from the old one, which was no longer adequate. The project was again undertaken by the Fischers and other local families. The almost 6-acre site was donated by August and Wilhelmina Fischer, who included a clause in the deed that allowed them to continue to water their cows at a spring on the property. The new one-story, 8-room school, designed by Seattle architect William Mallis, was constructed of brick. Unlike the previous school building, it had plumbing and electricity.¹⁰

During the 1920s, August Fischer slowly retired from farming, and began to sell off his property in increments. He platted in two phases the land between Lake City Way NE and 35th Avenue, and between NE 100th and 105th Streets. In addition, his 40 acres of farmland bounded by 30th and 35th Avenues NE, and NE 105th and 110th Streets (the present site of Nathan Hale High School), was sold around 1930 and opened as the 9-hole Meadowbrook Golf Course in 1931.¹¹ Thornton Creek ran through the middle of it. Although the course closed in 1959, the name "Meadowbrook" eventually became associated with the neighborhood as a whole.

In the 1920s, Lake City Way outside the Seattle city limits attracted automobile focused strip development, and it became a popular location for numerous clubs, restaurants, and speakeasies, following Washington State's 1916 prohibition law. Tourist cabins and motels provided lodging for travelers. After the repeal of Prohibition in 1933, the clubs and associated nightlife flourished openly, with reports of gambling and prostitution.¹² One establishment, the Jolly Roger at 87th and Lake City Way, was a designated Seattle landmark until it was destroyed in a fire in 1989. By the mid-1930s, a built-up commercial core began to develop around the intersection of Lake City Way and NE 125th Street, which remains at present.

In 1934, although the Meadowbrook/Matthews Beach area remained lightly developed, 35th Avenue NE was paved and arterialized, eventually becoming the area's primary connection to Laurelhurst, the University District, and Seattle to the south.¹³

During and after World War II, increasing numbers of military workers at Sand Point Naval Air Base and pent-up housing demand led to a surge of development in the area. Platted lots finally began to sell. The Wedgwood neighborhood to the south was originally developed by Albert Balch in 1941 as military-only housing on the west side of 35th Avenue NE between NE 80th and 85th Streets. Surrounding blocks were rapidly built out afterwards, as standard, non-military tract housing developments.¹⁴ Over the decades,

 ⁹ "The Fischer Farm in Meadowbrook," Wedgwood in Seattle History, February 3, 2013, wedgwoodinseattlehistory.com.
 ¹⁰ Thompson & Marr, "Maple Leaf," p. 200. The old school building on 105th was then sold to the Veterans of Foreign Wars and used as the Maple Leaf Community Clubhouse until it was demolished in 1952.

¹¹ "Bothell course name changed; opens July 25," Seattle Times, July 12, 1931, p. 23.

¹² Wilma, David. "Seattle neighborhoods: Lake City—Thumbnail history," HistoryLink essay 3449, July 18, 2001, www.historylink.org.

¹³ "Along the Road: The Evolution of 35th Ave NE," Wedgwood in Seattle History, August 11, 2020, wedgwoodinseattlehistory.com.

¹⁴ Wilma, David. "Seattle neighborhoods: Wedgwood—Thumbnail history," HistoryLink essay 3462, July 24, 2001, www.historylink.org.

the Wedgwood and Meadowbrook neighborhoods merged together, with 35th Avenue NE developing into a commercial spine.

In 1944, the Shoreline School District was formed. It absorbed many small independent schools including Maple Leaf School, which was still outside of the Seattle city limits at that time. In 1949, the 40-room, 1,250-student Jane Addams Junior High School was built by the Shoreline District on 17 acres of former farmland at 34th Avenue NE and NE 110th Street, across the street from Meadowbrook Golf Course.¹⁵

A momentous event in the neighborhood was annexation by Seattle, which had been discussed by north end communities since the 1940s. Between January and March 1953, Meadowbrook and the subject site were annexed, by popular vote of the neighborhood. By 1954, Seattle's northernmost city limit was extended further and was set at NE 145th Street, where it remains today. Following this action, the existing schools in the neighborhood, such as Maple Leaf School, were taken over by the Seattle School District.¹⁶

John G Matthews' extensive property directly south of the subject site remained largely undeveloped into the 1950s. Around 1924, he moved to a house at Matthews Beach, and died there in 1937. His estate was not settled until 1950. In 1951, the city of Seattle purchased the waterfront portion of Matthews' property and made it a city park, but due to lack of funding, spent the next decade completing improvements.¹⁷ The other tracts were platted incrementally and sold for single family house lots in the 1950s and 1960s.

Increased development in the area led to a critical need to install infrastructure. In 1952, the Lake City Sewage Treatment Plant at the site of today's Meadowbrook Pond was constructed, two blocks west of the subject site. The facility was approved by voters in 1948 to replace the septic systems commonly in use. During this period, the entire area was rebuilt with an underground trunk sewer system prior to annexation, and was considered the largest sewer district in the state.¹⁸ The plant incompletely treated the sewage before it was emptied into Lake Washington. In 1956, the treatment plant had to receive an addition which doubled its capacity, due to unyielding growth in the district. In the late 1960s, a new system rediverted sewer lines to the West Point Treatment Plant in Magnolia, and the Lake City plant was removed as part of regional efforts by Metro to clean up the Lake Washington.¹⁹ It was the last facility to stop discharging treated sewage into the lake.²⁰

In 1960, the City of Seattle purchased Meadowbrook Golf Course for use as a playfield and as the location for the new Nathan Hale High School, which was completed in 1963. The Parks Department and the School District developed the property jointly, so that the southern half of the former golf course became Meadowbrook Park and Playfield, with a neighborhood community center built as well.

¹⁵ Thompson & Marr, "Jane Addams Junior High School," p. 4.

¹⁶ Thompson & Marr, p. xii.

¹⁷ "Matthews Beach Park Bath House, Summary for 9300 51st AVE / Parcel ID 3426049135 / Inv # DPR062," Seattle DON Seattle Historical Sites inventory, ca. 2000; and "Matthews Beach in the 1930s," Wedgwood in Seattle History, February 10, 2013.

¹⁸ "North end to vote on sewer," Seattle Times, August 29, 1948, p. 13.

¹⁹ "Lake City's Metro sewer line gets pumping test," Seattle Times, February 23, 1967, p. 33.

²⁰ Wilma, David. "Lake City Wastewater Treatment Plant stops discharging treated sewage into Lake Washington on March 30, 1967," HistoryLink essay 2731, October 13, 2000.

As farmland was paved over during the 1940s through the 1960s, and housing was built through the 1980s, Thornton Creek flooded more often, impacting area homes and the high school. In 1992, efforts by Meadowbrook residents to mitigate flooding led to the creation of the Meadowbrook Detention and Sedimentation Pond in 1996 on the site of the former sewage treatment plant. The project was intended to provide storage for stormwater, reduce sediment and flooding, and to provide wildlife habitat. In 2015, the project was enlarged, and is maintained by Seattle Public Utilities.

B. Historic Overview of John Rogers Elementary School

The subject building opened in 1955 as John Rogers Elementary School, during a period of postwar expansion for the Seattle School District. The neighborhood around it had been annexed into the Seattle city limits only one year before. *[See Figs. 92-101 for historic images of the school]*

The first grade school in the vicinity of the subject site was the old Maple Leaf School, a small frame building located near NE 98th Street and 49th Avenue NE, approximately three blocks north of what is now Matthews Beach Park, near the Burke Gilman Trail. It had originally been built as a bunkhouse for workers at a sawmill that was located at Matthews Beach in the 1890s. The school served the relatively rural surrounding community, operating out of the building from 1896 until 1910, when it burned down. In later decades, the Maple Leaf School operated out of two other campuses, with substantial brick structures—first at the southeast corner of NE 105th Street and 35th Avenue NE during the 1910s through the 1920s, and later at the northeast corner of NE 100th Street and 32nd Avenue NE during the 1930s through 1970s.²¹

During the first half of the 20th century, Seattle's city limits did not extend farther north than 85th Street, and much of unincorporated King County beyond 85th Street was known as Shoreline. Maple Leaf School became part of the Shoreline School District in 1944. In 1953, Maple Leaf and other neighborhoods northeast of Seattle were annexed into the City of Seattle, after a vote by area residents the previous year, and the schools were absorbed into the Seattle School District. The expansion coincided with a dramatic increase in the number of families and children living in north Seattle.

Maple Leaf was the only elementary school serving the greater Lake City area prior to the early 1950s, and additional school space was soon needed to relieve overcrowding.²² In May 1953, Seattle School District officials visited and selected the subject site as the location for a new school. The 4.19 acre tract, corresponding to the north part of the site, was purchased from Erroll Smith in June 1953.²³ At the time of purchase, the site was pasture, with a horse barn, chicken house, and a small apple orchard, as evidenced by a 1953-54 survey. Six months later, the School Board authorized purchase of another tract directly to the south, from Dora B. Ashleman, corresponding to today's playfield.²⁴ Her two story frame house, garage, greenhouse, and chicken coop on site were demolished shortly thereafter.

On the east half of the subject site's playfield, a new all-portables school called Matthews Elementary was hastily erected and opened in late September 1953. These buildings were situated at NE 105th Street and 40th Avenue NE, at the south end of what is now the subject building's playfield. Matthews

²¹ Thompson & Marr, "Maple Leaf," pp. 200-201.

²² Thompson & Marr, "Cedar Park," p. 47.

²³ "Contract let for portable classrooms," Seattle Times, June 27, 1953, p. 2; Thompson & Marr, "Rogers," pp. 259-260. The site had previously been used it as a hog farm and cornfield, and before that, was part of the LaVilla Dairy.

²⁴ "School Board asks levy for kindergartens," Seattle Times, December 12, 1953, p. 2.

School consisted entirely of ten portable buildings, eight of which functioned as classrooms, and it accommodated 260 students.²⁵

Within the first year of operation, the portable buildings were determined to be inadequate for the increasing needs of the school, and it was apparent that a larger, permanent facility was required for the area. At a meeting of the School Board in June 1954, architect Theodore Damm was hired to develop the school design, which was to include 15 to 16 classrooms, a combination auditorium/lunchroom, a gymnasium, and playcourts.²⁶

At another School Board meeting that month, Matthews Elementary was renamed John Rogers Elementary School, in honor of John Rankin Rogers, an early governor of Washington. During his administration from 1895 to 1901, Rogers sponsored early legislation providing financial aid to schools that served as the foundation for the modern public school system in the state.²⁷ John Rogers Elementary School, still housed in portables, welcomed students under the new name in September 1954.

In November 1954, Damm's preliminary design for the subject building was approved by the School Board, and in March 1955 the final plans were approved. Building contracts were awarded in May 1955, with Nels Mortensen as the general contractor. Construction work began immediately thereafter.

A contemporary newspaper article stated that the building was expected to cost \$479,887, which was below original estimates at a square-foot cost of \$11.12. Construction was expected to be completed in about nine months. The design provided 14 classrooms, two kindergartens, an auditorium, lunchroom, gym, covered playcourt, and administration offices, and was designed for future expansion. Describing the structure, the article continued:

"The building will have steel columns with brick exterior walls. Laminated-wood beams and wood studding will be used inside, with plaster finish on walls and acoustical-tile ceilings in the classrooms. The gymnasium and boiler room will be of reinforced concrete construction, with acoustical treatment on the walls. Built-up, mopped-on roofs will contain plastic sky domes for interior lighting. Aluminum window sash will be used throughout. The heating system will be hot water, with unit ventilators in classrooms. Birch cabinet work and composition floors are specified."²⁸

The school was completed and occupied in the spring of 1956.²⁹ A building dedication ceremony was held later that year, on November 15.³⁰

Class sizes at John Rogers Elementary grew steadily for the following decade. In 1960, there were 689 students, which required the addition of five portable classrooms. In 1963, enrollment peaked at 779. Afterwards, enrollment began to steadily decline until reaching a nadir of 425 students in 1973.

²⁵ Thompson & Marr, "Rogers," pp. 259-260; "New school will open," Seattle Post-Intelligencer, September 20, 1953, p. 39.

²⁶ "Board reveals plan to build 5 new schools," Seattle Times, June 5, 1954, p. 12.

²⁷ Thompson & Marr, "Rogers," p. 260.

²⁸ "Contracts awarded for school," Seattle Times, May 8, 1955, p. 36.

²⁹ "New beauty," Seattle Times, November 16, 1956, p. 2.

³⁰ Seattle School Board records index note cards for John Rogers Elementary, SPS Archives.

Under the Seattle School District's desegregation plan, John Rogers School (K-3) was paired with Madrona (K, 4-6), at 1121 33rd Avenue, for the 1979-1980 school year.³¹ The school's attendance area had been predominantly White for decades. In 1950, the federal census tract surrounding the school was 99.7% White. By 1980, the census tract demographics were 86.0% White, 10% Asian, and 2% Black.³² For 2020, census tract data listed 82.8% White, 10.5% Asian/Pacific Islander, 1% Black, and 5.7% other minority groups.

Presently, the school teaches grades K-5 and has an enrollment of approximately 350 students.³³

C. The Original Designer, Architect Theo Damm (1902 – 1984)

The original designer of John Rogers Elementary School was Seattle architect Theodore Harold Damm. Born on August 10, 1902, he was raised in Seattle, and studied architecture at University of Washington in 1921-1922 for just one year. He left without a degree and began working in Seattle, where he was employed initially as a framing superintendent by architect Floyd A. Naramore in 1920-1921, and subsequently in the office of architect Victor Voorhees in 1923-1933 where he was a draftsman and construction superintendent. During this time in the early part of his career he reportedly was responsible for the design of an eclectic Spanish style commercial building for Puget Power and Light, known as the Greenwood Block, at 8420 Greenwood Avenue N (1926).³⁴ *[See Figs. 102-105 for other work by Theo Damm]*

Damm moonlighted during his employment with Voorhees. Projects credited to him during this time include the design of the Phillip Vizio Residence at 4202 W Lander Street (1926), the remodel of a masonry brick apartment building for Chris Boysen at 2914 Avalon Way SW (1926), and an appliance store for Ware & Hosey at 4740 California Avenue SW (1928). According to a small advertisement in a neighborhood newspaper, Damm's first office was located at 4532 California Avenue SW, near his home at 2714 36th Avenue SW in West Seattle.³⁵ The three cited buildings from the 1920s and many later ones were situated in the same neighborhood.

At the end of 1928, Damm passed the Washington State registration exam and received a certificate to practice architecture. He left Voorhees' firm and established a solo office in 1933 in the middle of the Great Depression. During the 1930s he designed several residences, including houses for W. P. Brezeau (1938), F. H. Rodgers (1938-39), and W. R. Burton (1939). He went on to design a range of commercial and institutional buildings, including the following:

- V. L. Miller Building, 6031 Airport Way S (1940)
- Irwin Chiropractic Clinic / Courtesy Accounting, 4411 California Avenue SW (1947)³⁶

³² Yoon et al., Census Tract 800 (for 2010; tract numbers may vary each decade but boundaries typically do not).

³³ "About John Rogers," John Rogers Elementary School, https://rogerses.seattleschools.org/About/about_john_rogers. ³⁴ Information about Damm's life and career are cited by Houser in the 2014 DocomomoWEWA website, "Architects" and Michelson, PCAD, "Damm, Theodore H. (Architect)." Most of Damm's projects are listed in Ochsner, *Shaping Seattle Architecture*, 2014, p. 431. Several others are subjects of City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods historic property survey inventories.

³⁶ Mimi Sheridan, of the Sheridan Consulting Group, describes this building as "distinctive ... a good and intact example of the Streamline Moderne style, with a glass block window and a curved corner and canopy ... (and) potentially eligible under Criterion D as it maintains the distinctive Streamline Moderne building characteristics" in her "West Seattle Junction Historic Resources Survey," March 2016, pp. 20, 47.

³¹ Thompson & Marr, "Rogers," p. 260.

³⁵ West Seattle Herald, June 7, 1934, p. 6.

- Laurelhurst Community Club Gym, Laurelhurst School 4530 47th Ave NE (1949-1950)
- Alki Masonic Temple, 4736 40th Avenue SW (1950)
- Westside Ford / Huling Brothers Chevrolet Dealership building, Seattle (1952-1953 demolished)
- Alki Elementary, 3010 59th Ave SW (1954)
- John Rogers Elementary School, 4030 NE 109th Street (1954-1956), a 16-classroom school, \$480,000, built by Nels Mortensen
- Seattle Engineering Department's West Maintenance & Engineering Shops (1956)
- Noble, Jonson & Derrig Accounting Office, unknown address (1956)
- West Seattle High School Gym (1958-59)
- Ballard High School Alternations and Addition, 1418 NW 65th Street (1958-1959)
- Beverly Elementary School, 5221 168th Street SW, Lynnwood (1959), a 20-clssroom, \$522,936 building built by Venne Beauchamp Construction
- First Maplewood Elementary, Edmonds (1961, demolished), a 20-classroom, \$561,305 building, built by Shaffer Construction.³⁷
- Seattle-King County Department of Public Health Building, Bellevue (1960, demolished)
- Sky Lane Bowl (1955, altered), 6203 Corson Avenue S
- Elford Residence, Broadview (unknown address or date, altered)³⁸

The largest project from Theo Damm's mid-career period was the Seattle Municipal Building, Seattle (1958-1962, demolished), on which he served as the local associate architect with J. N. McCammon Associates, Dallas, as the prime designer. This project, a 12 story, \$7 million International Style structure, featured marblecrete precast concrete panels, metal curtain walls, and a rooftop garden.³⁹

Damm entered into a short-lived partnership from 1960 to 1966 with his son, a former employee and associate in his firm. Architect Harold James Daum (1929 – 1997) was born in Seattle and educated at the University of Washington, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in Architecture in 1950. He served as draftsman and architect in Damm's office from 1951 to 1959.⁴⁰ Daum changed the spelling of his original last name to correspond with the pronunciation of Damm.⁴¹ The partnership, Damm, Daum and Associates, was responsible for two other Seattle school projects: the 14-room Graham Hill Elementary School, at 5149 S Graham Street (1960-1961), and the addition to Alki Elementary School at 3010 59th Avenue SW (1965-1967).

Theo Damm was a member of the American Institute of Architects according to directories dating from 1956, 1962 and 1970s.⁴² He also served on several AIA committees, and was appointed to lead Seattle's Air Pollution Control Board in 1958, after which he drafted an early pollution control ordinance for the city in the early 1960s, reviewed and consulted on the new city hall (prior to becoming a member of the design team), and was a member on the Seattle Zoning Board of Adjustors in the late 1960s. In 1964 he ran unsuccessfully for a position on the Seattle City Council. He retired from his practice in 1973 and died in Seattle on January 17, 1984 at the of 81.

³⁸ This residence is cited as a contemporary addition and remodel of a "NW MCM home by Theo Damm" by GroupArchitects. ³⁹ The design of the Municipal Building is credited to the J. N. McCammon, and it is similar to another of that firm's buildings.

³⁷ Beverly and First Maplewood Schools are cited by Harding, pp. 71, 77.

Damm presumably took on the role of permitting and supervision as a consultant to the prime architect.

⁴⁰ Michelson, PCAD, "Daum, Harold James (Architect)," and "Damm, Theodore H. Architect (Practice)."

⁴¹ Staples, Alice. "Along Realty Row," Seattle Times, August 21, 1960, p. 30.

⁴² AIA and Broker, 1956, 1962 and 1970.

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Note:

The abbreviations below are used in source citations for the following figures and images:

| DON | Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, Seattle Historic Building Inventory |
|-------|--|
| КСТА | King County Tax Assessor |
| MOHAI | Museum of History and Industry |
| PSRA | Puget Sound Regional Archives, historic tax assessor records |
| SMA | Seattle Municipal Archives |
| SPL | Seattle Public Library |
| SPSA | Seattle Public Schools Archives |
| UWSC | University of Washington (Libraries) Special Collections |

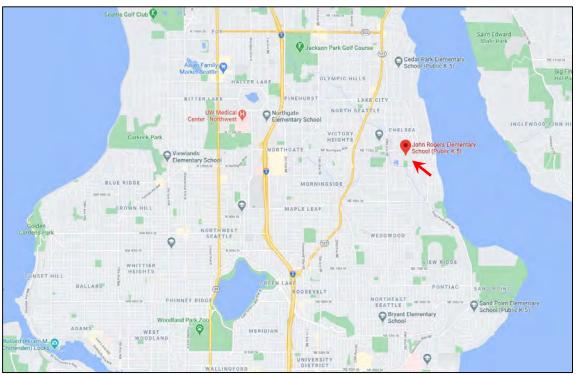


Fig. 1 – Approximate location of subject parcel indicated by marker and red arrow. North is up. (Google Maps 2021)

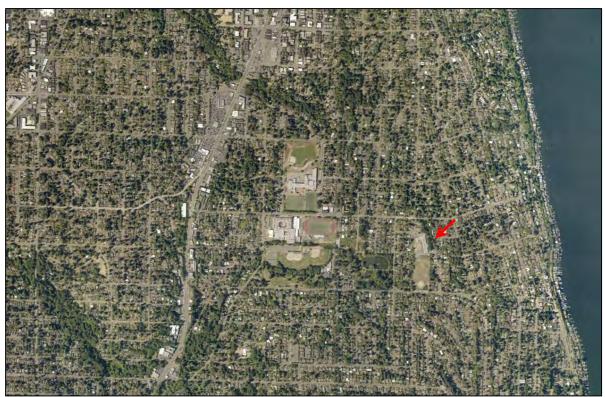


Fig. 2 – Aerial photo of the neighborhood; subject building indicated by red arrow. North is up. The large campuses of Jane Addams Junior High and Nathan Hale High School are visible west and northwest of the site. Lake City Way NE is visible at left of center, running north-south. (SDCI GIS)



Fig. 3 – Aerial photo of the subject site. North is up. Red dotted lines indicate the tax parcel. (SDCI GIS)

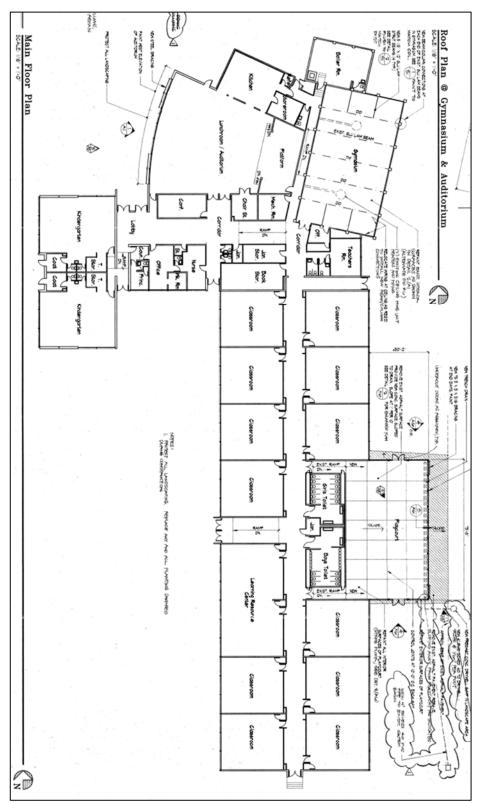


Fig. 4 – Diagrammatic plan of John Rogers Elementary School. The plan shows the entire building in one drawing, something not available in the original 1956 plans. (from Schreiber & Lane, Architects, "Seismic Hazard Mitigation," Sheet A1, 1993)



Fig. 5 – View north towards subject school from south end of playfield. Portables visible at middle; school building indicated by arrow.



Fig. 6 – Context: View west on NE 109th Street from school entry.



Fig. 7 – Context: View east on NE 109th Street towards subject property, indicated by arrow. (Google Streetview 2020)



Fig. 8 – View north from front of school towards parking lots



Fig. 9 – View south from school parking lots toward school building



Fig. 10 – View southeast towards school entry from NE 109th Street and 40th Avenue NE



Fig. 11 – View north from student drop-off at main entry



Fig. 12 - View east towards lunchroom-auditorium exterior



Fig. 13 – School main entry



Fig. 14 – West facade of lunchroom-auditorium



Fig. 15 – School main entry



Fig. 16 – Kindergarten unit north facade, to the right of the school main entry



Fig. 17 – View southeast of boiler room, gymnasium, kitchen, north facades



Fig. 18 – South and west facades in panoramic photo from playground.



Fig. 19 – View southeast to school entry area, showing south facade of kindergarten unit at right.



Fig. 20 – West facade, kindergarten unit



Fig. 21 – West facade, kindergarten unit, detail of exterior entry



Fig. 22 – West facade, kindergarten unit and classroom wing



Fig. 23 – South facade, kindergarten unit (left), and west facade, classroom wing (right)



Fig. 24 – South facade, kindergarten unit (left) and school offices (right)



Fig. 25 – West facade, classroom wing, showing building entry from playground



Fig. 26 – South and west facades of the school; view north from playground



Fig. 27 – View east across playground, showing west facade of classroom wing (left) and portables (right)



Fig. 28 – View east across playground, showing west facade of classroom wing (left) and portables (right)



Fig. 29 – View east across playground, showing portables (left) and playfield (right)



Fig. 30 – West facade of classroom wing, detail showing original brick coloration.



Fig. 31 – West facade of classroom wing; detail of sun shades (two images)



Fig. 32 – South facade of classroom wing



Fig. 33 – South facade of classroom wing, detail of entry and cement asbestos board panels



Fig. 34 – East facade of classroom wing, showing covered playcourt in distance



Fig. 35 – South facade of covered playcourt on east side of classroom wing



Fig. 36 – East facade of covered playcourt on east side of classroom wing



Fig. 37 – East facade of classroom wing, showing gymnasium in distance



Fig. 38 – East facade of classroom wing, north part, showing teacher's lounge and building entry



Fig. 39 – East facade of north part of classroom wing, view south, showing covered playcourt in distance



Fig. 40 – East and north facades of gymnasium



Fig. 41 – East and north facades of boiler room, view west to parking lot



Fig. 42 – Portables at south end of playground



Fig. 43 – Portables at south end of playground

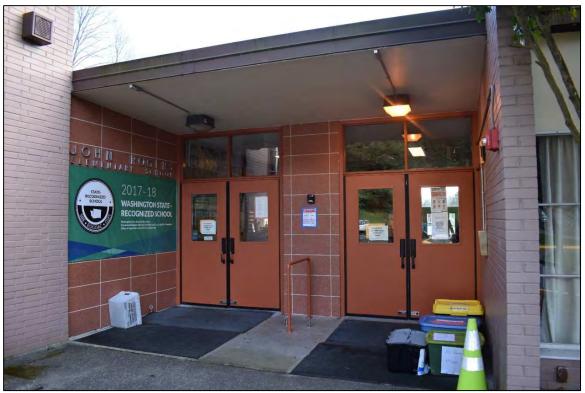


Fig. 44 – School main entry at northwest building corner



Fig. 45 – Interior, main entry lobby, view west to main entry doors



Fig. 46 – Interior, main entry lobby, view east to central corridor; school offices visible at right. Note ramp.



Fig. 47 – Interior, school offices



Fig. 48 – Interior, corridor behind lunchroom-auditorium



Fig. 49 – Interior, lunchroom-auditorium, view west from stage. Some window shades are closed.



Fig. 50 – Interior, lunchroom-auditorium, view west. Some window shades are closed.



Fig. 51 – Interior, lunchroom-auditorium, detail of windows

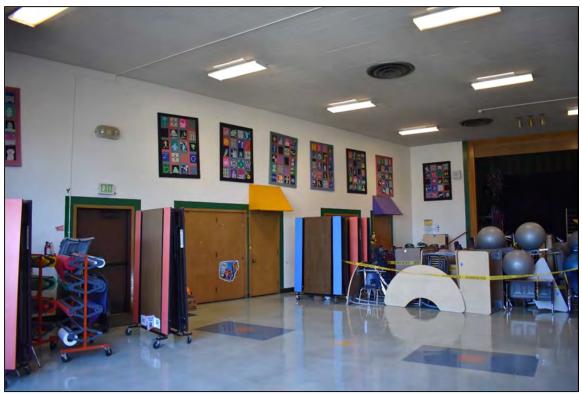


Fig. 52 – Interior, lunchroom-auditorium, view north. Doors lead to kitchen.



Fig. 53 – Interior, lunchroom-auditorium, view east to stage.



Fig. 54 – Interior, lunchroom-auditorium, view of stage and proscenium.



Fig. 55 – Interior, kitchen.



Fig. 56 – Interior, gymnasium



Fig. 57 – Interior, gymnasium, detail of skylights and glulams

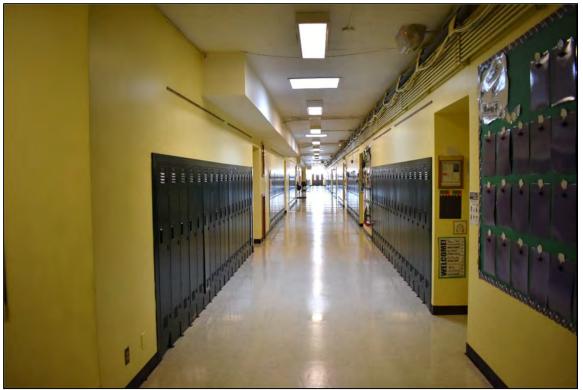


Fig. 58 – Interior, corridor at classroom wing



Fig. 59 – Interior, corridor at classroom wing, entry from playground on west facade

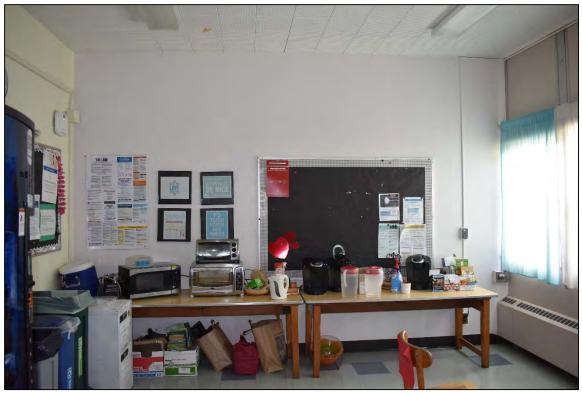


Fig. 60 – Interior, teacher's lounge.



Fig. 61 – Interior, storage room.



Fig. 62 – Interior, typical classroom.



Fig. 63 – Interior, typical classroom.



Fig. 64 – Interior, typical classroom.



Fig. 65 – Interior, typical classroom, showing windows and exterior sun shades.



Fig. 66 – Interior, typical classroom, detail of skylight.



Fig. 67 – Interior, library



Fig. 68 – Interior, library



Fig. 69 – Interior, students' restroom



Fig. 70 – Interior, students' restroom



Fig. 71 – Interior, covered playcourt



Fig. 72 – Interior, covered playcourt

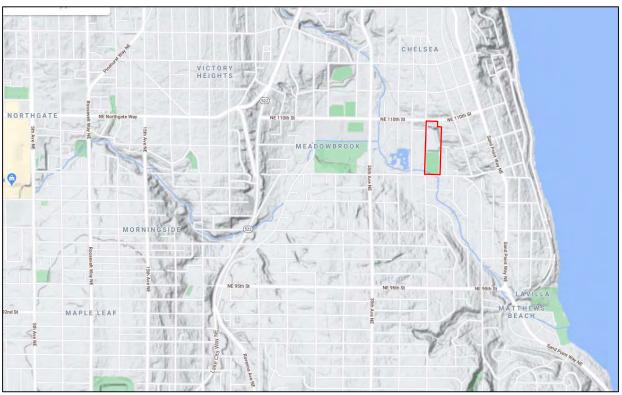


Fig. 73 – Topographical map of the neighborhood. North is up. Subject site indicated by red box. Note crescent-shaped plain formed by Thornton Creek's lower watershed. (Google Maps)

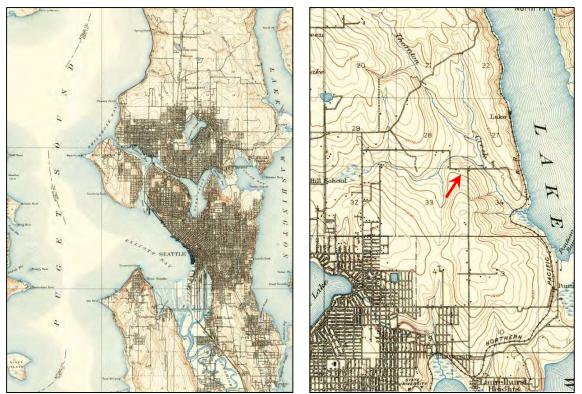


Fig. 74 – 1909 map and detail showing population centers at that time. North of Green Lake was rural. The arrow indicates the intersection of 35th Avenue NE and NE 105th Street. (US Geological Survey, 1909)



Fig. 75 – 1937 aerial photo of the neighborhood. Subject parcel highlighted with yellow shading. (KCTA GIS)



Fig. 76 – 1949 map showing built-up urban areas in pink. The subject area remained less developed, shown in green and white. Subject site indicated by red rectangle. (US Geological Survey, 1949, detail)



Fig. 77 – 1959 aerial photo of Lake City Way, with Meadowbrook Golf Course & Jane Addams Junior High at right. Nathan Hale High School was built in 1962 on the golf course site. Subject site is out of frame at right, approximately two blocks east of the golf course. (SMA 29898)



Fig. 78 – 1964 aerial photo view of the neighborhood, view north with Matthews Beach Park at center. Subject building indicated by arrow. (SMA 47358)



Fig. 79 – August Fischer family home (ca. 1912) at 3017 NE 105th Street. (DON)



Fig. 80 – LaVilla Dairy building (1929) at 10228 Fischer Place, one of the few remaining remnants of the dairies that once characterized the neighborhood. (Joe Mabel/Wikimedia Commons)



Fig. 81 – 1912 view south showing sightseers on the Bothell Road along Lake Washington. (Paul Dorpat)



Fig. 82 – 1939 view of Matthews Beach at lower right. Sand Point Golf Course (est. 1927) visible on hilltop at left. (Paul Dorpat, collection of Ron Edge and Dan Eskenazi)



Fig. 83 – 1942 view of Lake City Way NE at NE 125th Street. (UWSC SEA0387)



Fig. 84 – 1950s view of the Jolly Roger, a restaurant at 87th and Lake City Way. (Paul Dorpat, Ron Edge)



Fig. 85 – 1956 view of the neighborhood, showing Lake City Treatment Plant (now site of Meadowbrook Pond) at northwest corner of NE 105th Street and 39th Avenue NE, one block west of subject property. (SMA 53896)



Fig. 86 – 1956 view of the neighborhood, showing Lake City Treatment Plant (now site of Meadowbrook Pond) at northwest corner of NE 105th Street and 39th Avenue NE, one block west of subject property. Subject building is visible in the distance and indicated by arrow. (SMA 53897)



Fig. 87 – 1956 view of the neighborhood; detail of previous photo; subject building indicated by arrow. (SMA 53897)



Fig. 88 – 1960 view of Thornton Creek behind house at 4107 NE 103rd Place, a few blocks south of the subject site. (SMA 65556)



Fig. 89 – 1963 view east at 41st Place NE and 107th Street NE, one half-block east of the subject site. (SMA 173678)



Fig. 90 – 1963 view west at 41st Place NE and 107th Street NE, one half-block east of the subject site. School portables on the subject site are visible at the end of the street. (SMA 173677)



Fig. 91 – Two views of Meadowbrook Pond, located on the former site of the Lake City treatment plant. (upper: Leslie Seaton, lower: Joe Mabel, both Wikimedia Commons)

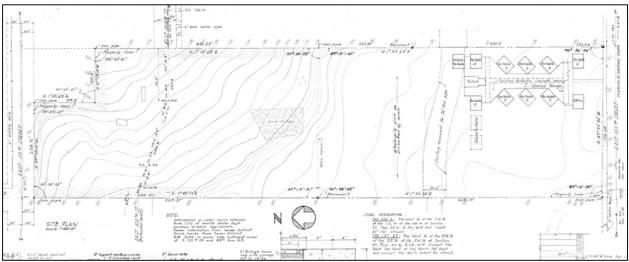


Fig. 92 – 1955 site plan showing all-portables Matthews Elementary at southeast property corner. North is left. (Detail, John Rogers Elementary School, Theo Damm, sheet A-1, March 18, 1955) (SPSA)



Fig. 93 – 1954 view of Matthews Elementary, the all-portables school originally built on the site. (SMA 195567)



Fig. 94 – 1955 view of the subject site under construction, at right. Lake City Treatment Plant visible at left. Portables of Matthews Elementary visible at lower right. (SPSA 266-1)

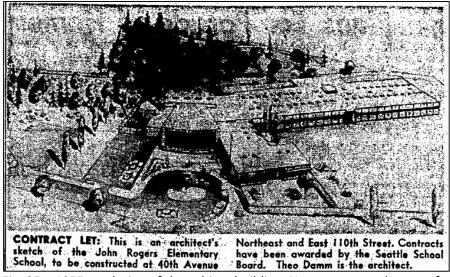


Fig. 95 – 1955 rendering of the subject building. Note separate play area for kindergarten unit. (*Seattle Times*, May 8, 1955, p. 36).



Fig. 96 – 1958 view of John Rogers Elementary School from the northwest. (SPSA 266-4)



Fig. 97 – 1960 aerial westward view of John Rogers Elementary School. The playfield is still under construction. (SPSA 266-2)



Fig. 98 – 1960 view of the school from the southwest. (SPSA 266-3)

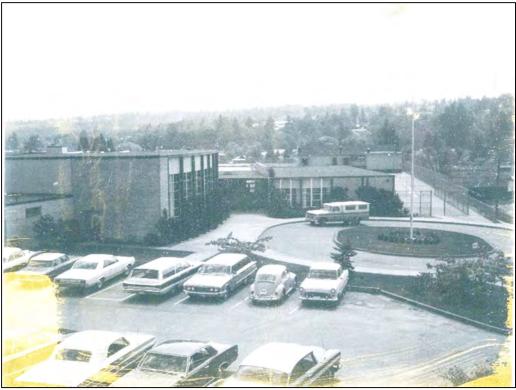


Fig. 99 – 1960s view of John Rogers Elementary School, from the northwest. (SPSA 266-6)



Fig. 100 – 1957 class photo, John Rogers Elementary School. (SPSA 266-10)



Fig. 101 – 1988 interior view of lunchroom/auditorium. (SPSA 266-5a)



Fig. 102 – 1950s photo of Theo Damm, his wife, and son Harold Damm (later spelled Daum). (Ancesttry.com, DennisKemper75)



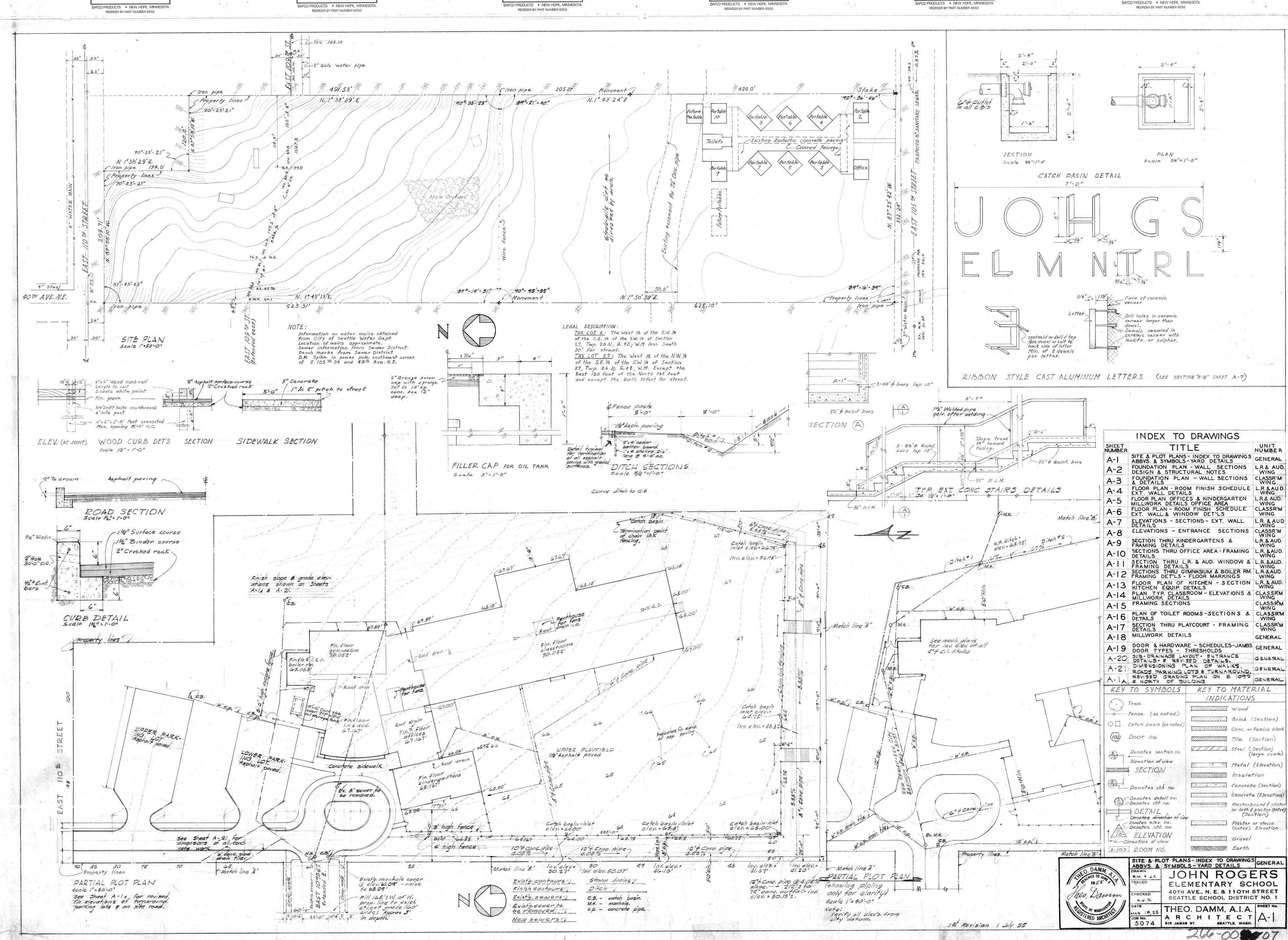
Fig. 103 – (Two photos) Damm's office on First Hill, at 516 James Street (left, demolished), The office appears to have originally been a small one-story Classic Box style dwelling. In ca. 1953 he adapted and remodeled the dwelling to serve as a commercial office building, which he shared with the law office of D. A. Weyer architect. In ca. 1960-1961 he designed a two-story Modern style remodel and second floor addition (right). By that date the building was occupied by Damm's firm and the law office of Weyer, Roderick, Schroeder and Stearn (Werner W. Lenggenhager photographer, Seattle Public Library). (SPL spl-wl-bui-00028 and 00019)



Fig. 104 – Alki Elementary School additions (Theo Damm, 1954) shown at left of the original 1913 school. (SPSA 202-9)



Fig. 105 – Alki Elementary School additions (Theo Damm, 1954). (SPSA 202-2)



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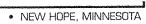


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| 97949 107 | 145 | DIRECTOR'S OFFICE | | 3H. trowel | Wd. base | | Dade 5'h. | Enamel | P: p/, | Painted | | Painted | Fir |
| un transdati eta | a sha kashadhir ang kabular | GYMN, STORE RM, | analaman analog (1997), and (1998), and (199 | Vinyl-ast | 4" set- an rubber cove | e - See - Alexandre - Alexandre (M) See Helle Militar | n de non- | e da en els segura que segura que els seguraria. | γ - του μόρου του ματατικά του του του ματά τη ανατική εξιδιαία του κάτι του | ogeneelike protikoet wurde kourneeliker | a | Aca, tile *, | 1 8, |
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| | , | ". 8 | | | | | | | - Air spac - W. F. bldg, | e paper, | | 3/4" lath ¢ j | plas |
| | | | • | 44 | / | DETAL | L (5) | *** | Diag ship sheathing | lap | | · / | anti- a anti-a |
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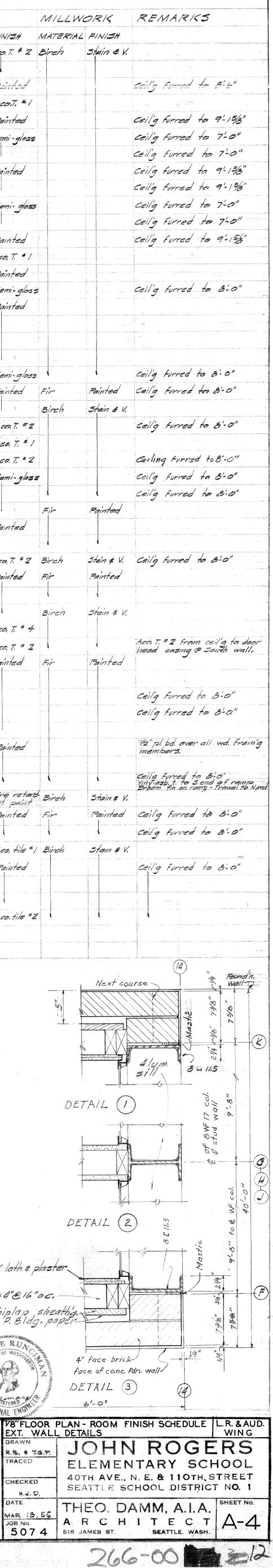
4'-0¾" to ∉ Kindergarten wing. Reversed DETAIL (7)

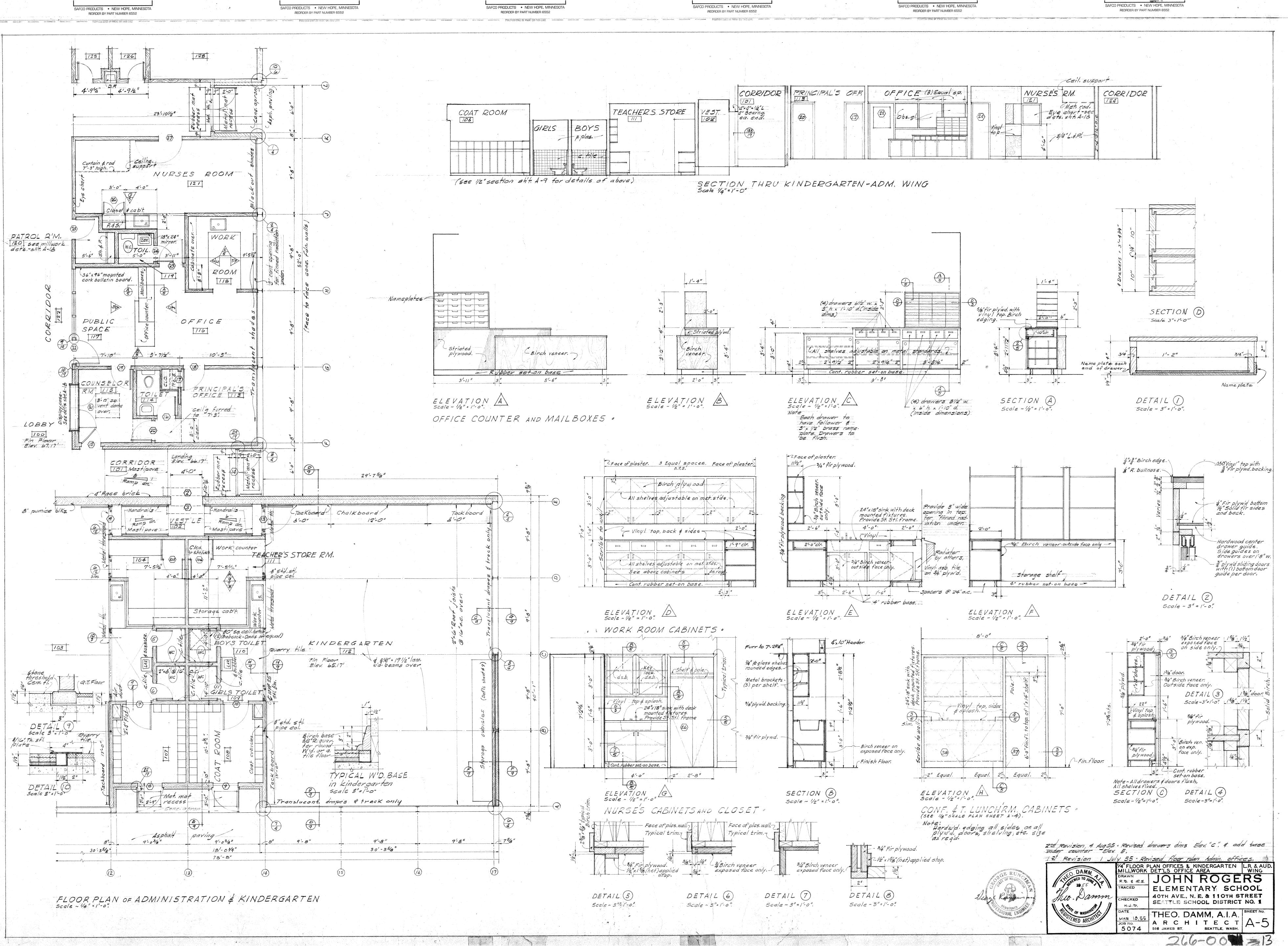
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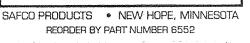
DETAIL 6) Reversed H.J. O.

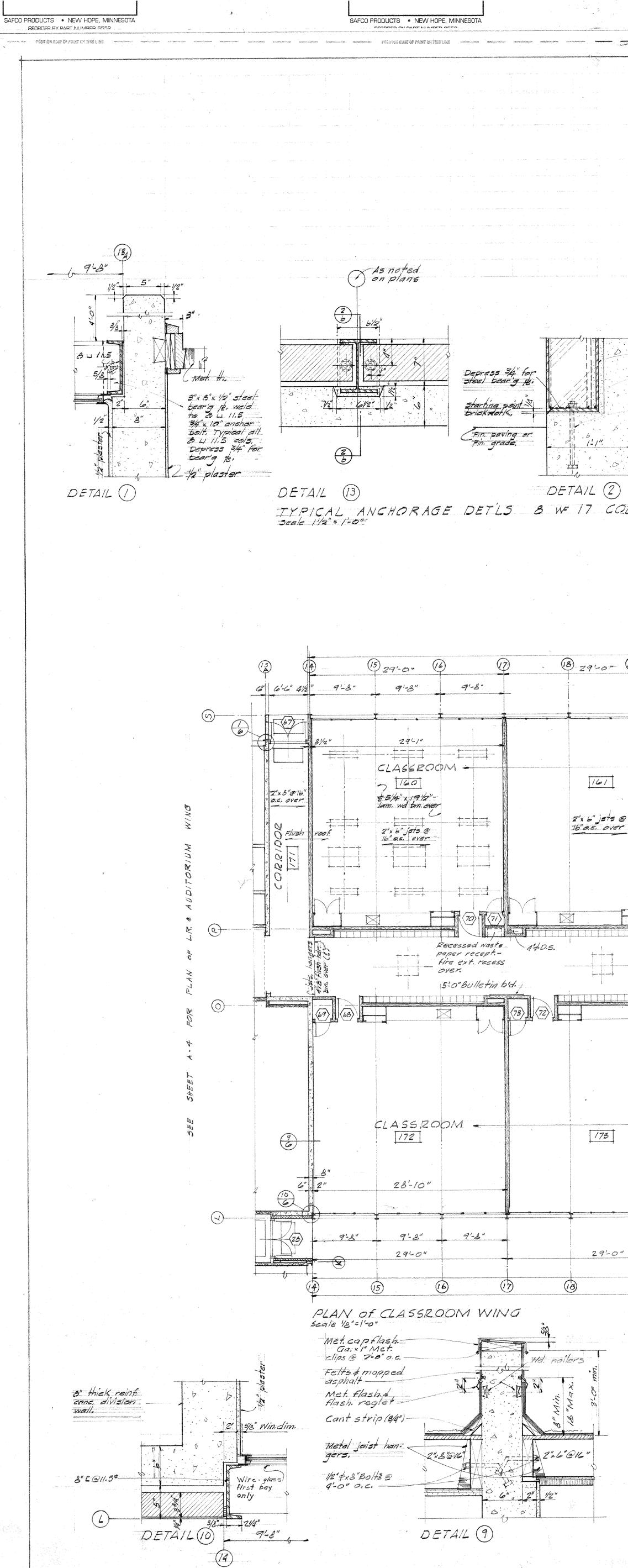






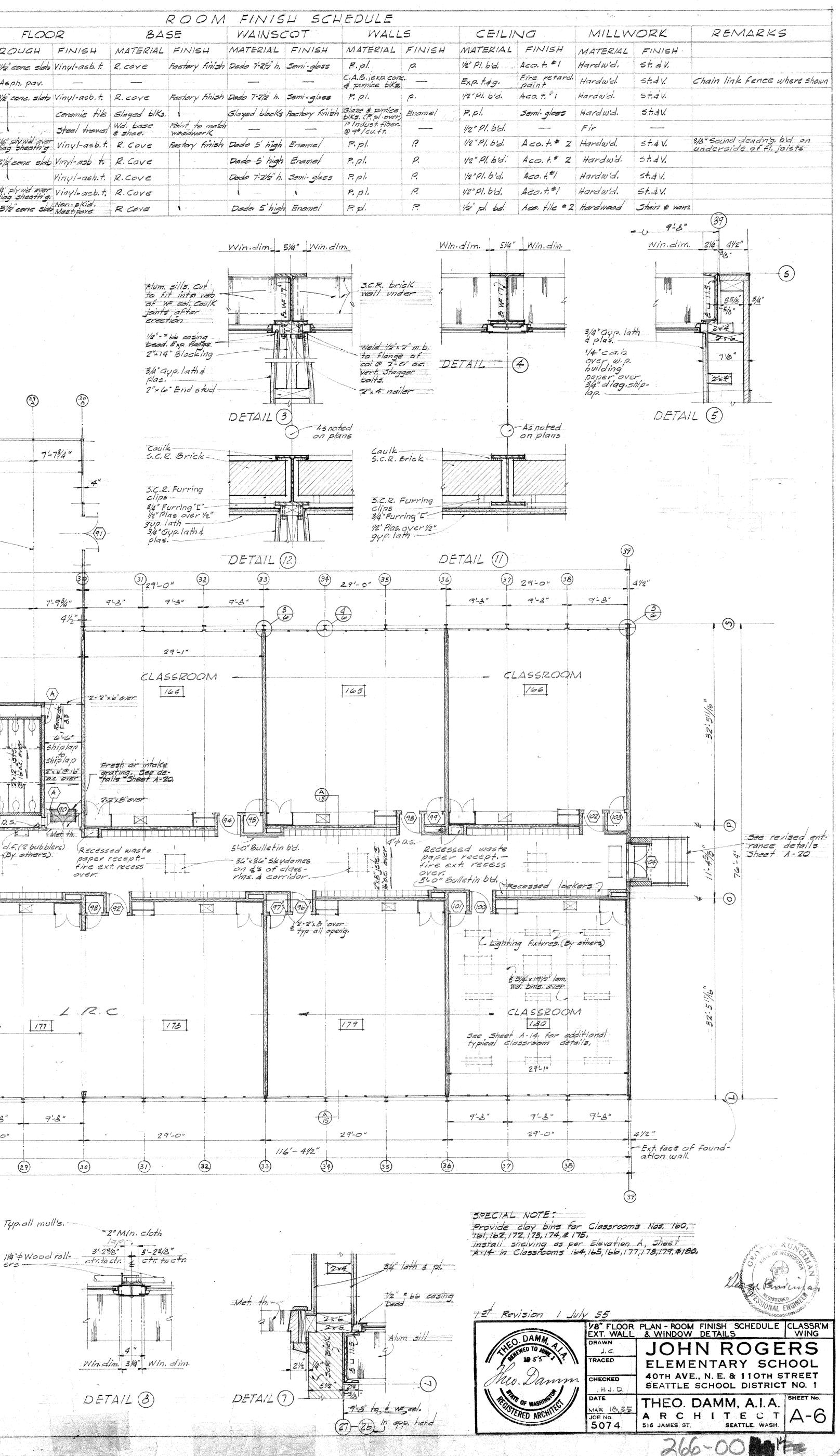


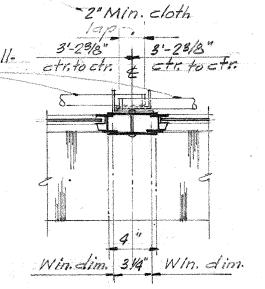


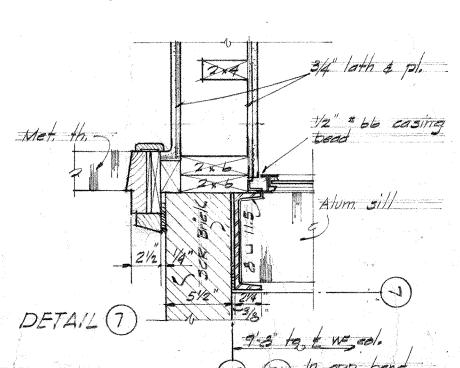


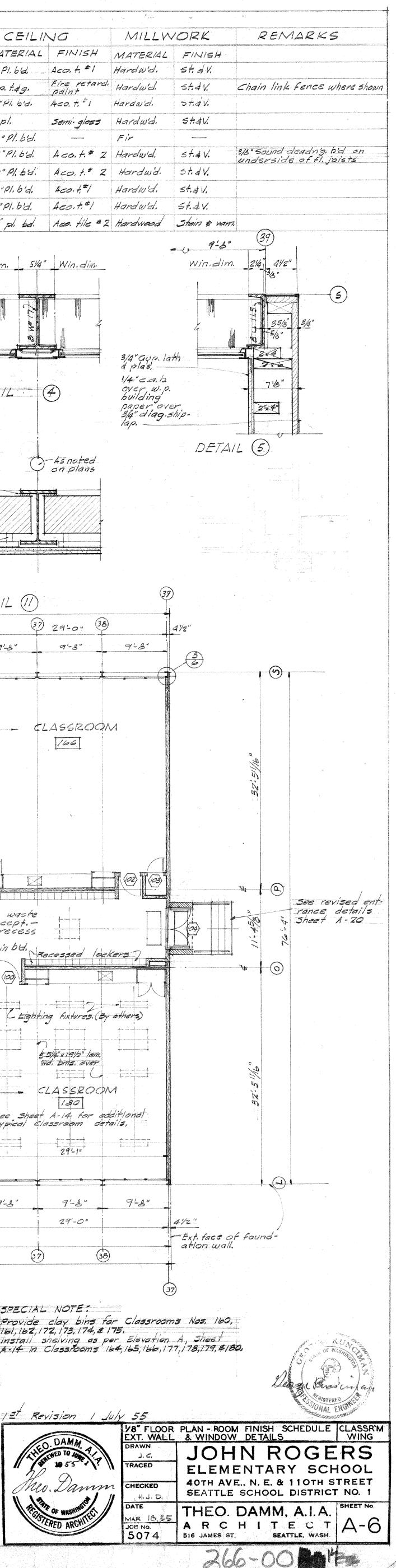
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| $ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$ | 5'-0" Bulletin by. | Recessed paper rec fire ext. over. | Net the difference of the second seco | BLO"Bulletin bid. 7-2"x12" over BLO"Bulletin bid. 7-2"x12" over FAN ROOM & JAN. CLOSET 169 Fin Fir to und. Fin Fir to und. Fin Fir to und. Fir to und. Fi | |
| $\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$ | | | 29110 | Flush root and so Flush root and so OM [175] 9'-9" R.Fln. Eley. 57.167' | 29'-1" |
| | | | 29'-04 | 6'-93/4" 6'-93/4" 13'-71/2" | 9'-8" 29'-0" |

AFCO PRODUCTS • NEW HOPE, MINNESOT SAFCO PRODUCTS • NEW HOPE, MINNESOT REORDER BY PART NUMBER 6552 REORDER BY PART NUMBER 6552 un analyzation and a second and a ROOM FINISH SCHEDULE BASE WAINSCOT WALLS CEILING FLOOR MATERIAL FINISH MATERIAL FINISH MATERIAL FINISH FINISH MATERIAL FINISH OUGH 1/2" Pl. b'd. Aco. t. #1 Hardw'd. "cone, slats Vinyl-asb. t. R. cove Factory finish Dado 7'2/2" h. Semi-gloss B.pl. C.A.B.; exp. conc. & pumice blks, Eire retard. Hardwich. Exp. t.dg. and in the second s sph. pav. paint 1/2" Pl. b'd. Aco. t. * 1 Hardwid. eone, slab Vinyl-asb.t. R. cove Factory Finish Dado 7-21/2 h. Semi-glass P.pl. D. Glaze & pumice bika. (P. pl. over Semi-gloss Hardwid. Ceramic tile Glaged blks, Glazed blacks Factory Finish 1" Indust. fib. @ 9#/cu.ft. 1/2" Pl. bid. Fir Steel trowel & shoe. -----ag sheating Vinyl-asb.t. R. Cove 1/2" Pl. b'd. Aco.t. # 2 Hardwid. Factory Finish Dado 5 high Enamel P.pl. "a" cone stab Vinyl-ast to R. Cove 1/2" Pl. b'd. Dado 5 high Enamet P.pl. Aco. +=1 1/2" Pl. b'd. Vinul-ash.t. R.Cove Dado 7:21/2" h. Semi-gloss P. pl. Hardw'd. " plywid ever Vinyl-asb.t. R. Cove iag sheath'g. Ble"cone sab Non-skid. Ble"cone sab Mastipave R. Cove Aco. +. #1 1/2" Pl. b'd. Hardw'd. P.pl. Dade 5 high Enamel P. E. 12" pl. pd. Win.dim. 51/4" Win.dim. Win.dim. 51/4" Win.dim. Alum, sills, cut to fit into web J.C.R. brield wall under of WE col. Caulk joints after erectión 1/2"-" be casing bead, Exp. flange Weld 1/2"x 2" m,b, 2"+14" Blocking - to flange of col @ 2-0" ac. DETAIL (\mathcal{A}) 3/4° Gyp. lath\$ plas. vert. Stagger polts, 2"x 6" End stud-2"x 4 nailer lap. $\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ A \end{pmatrix}$ DETAIL (

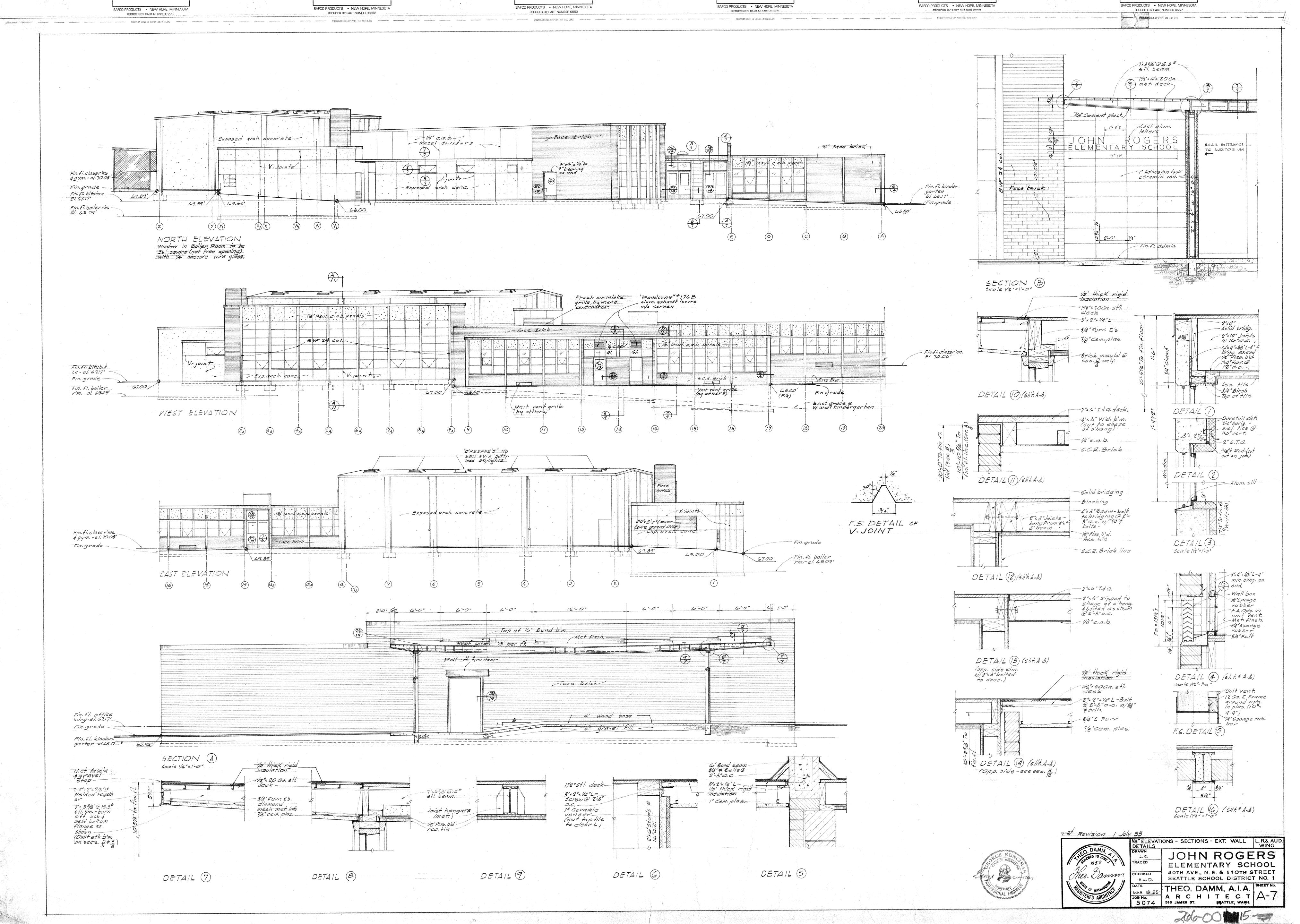


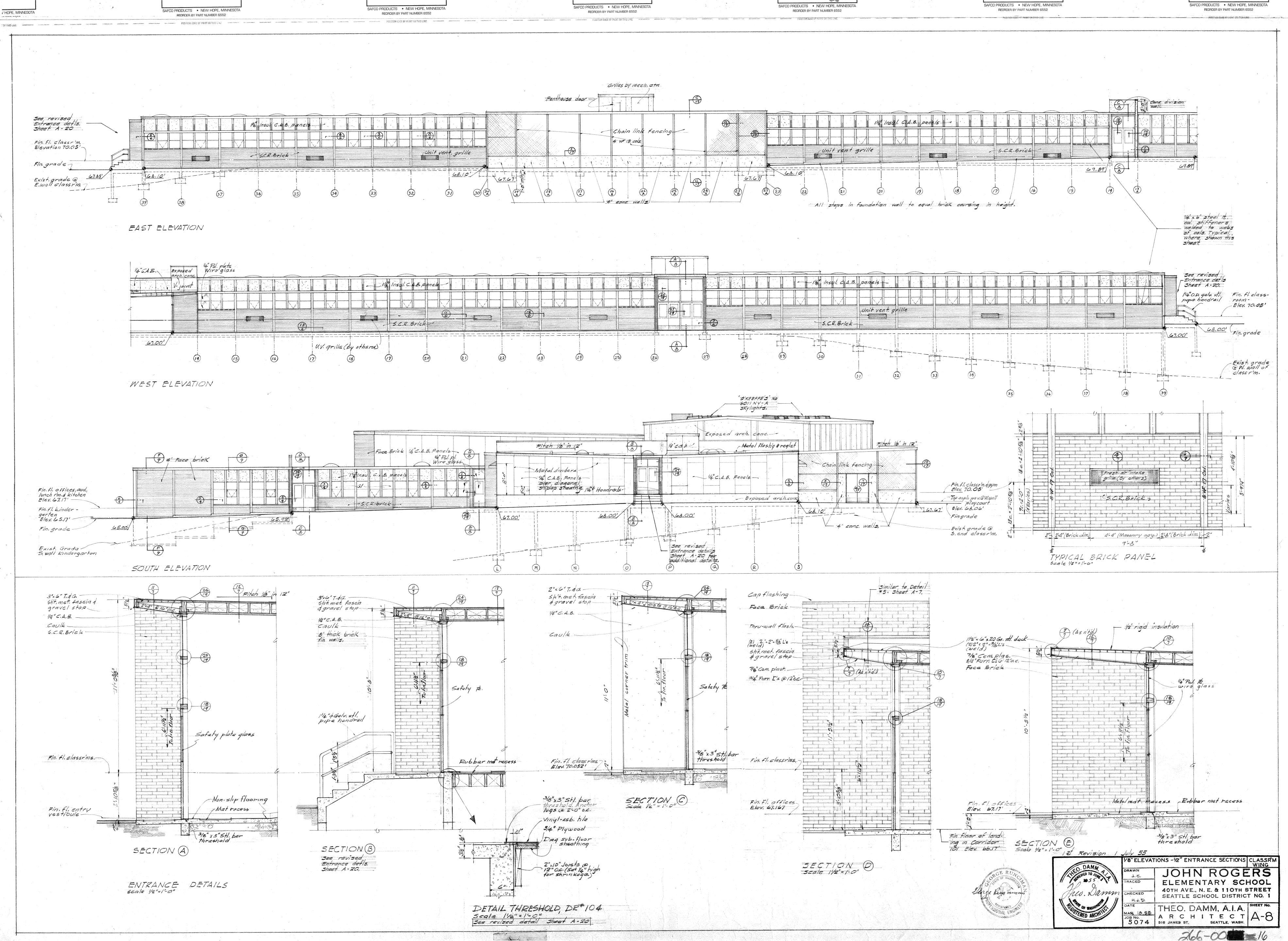


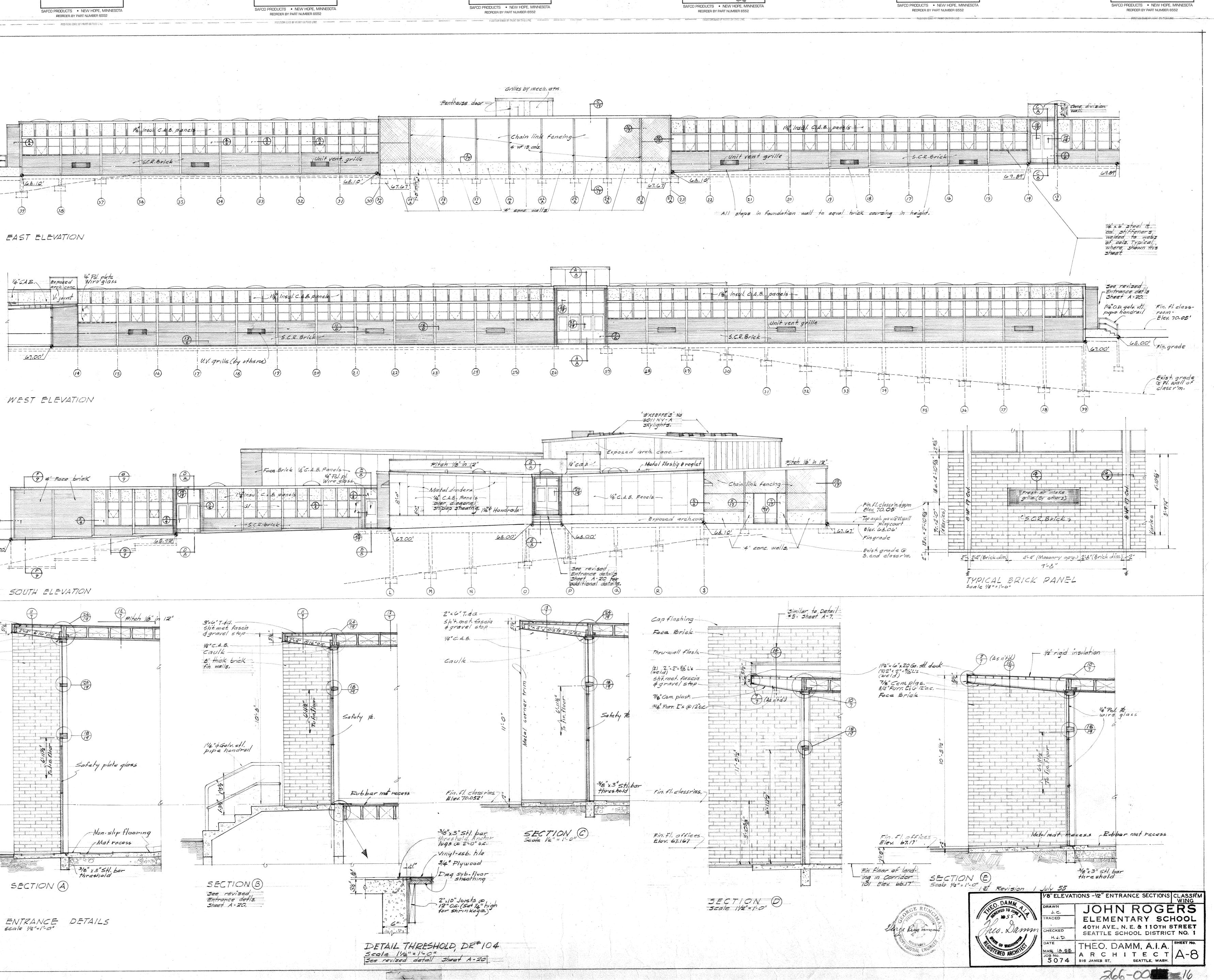






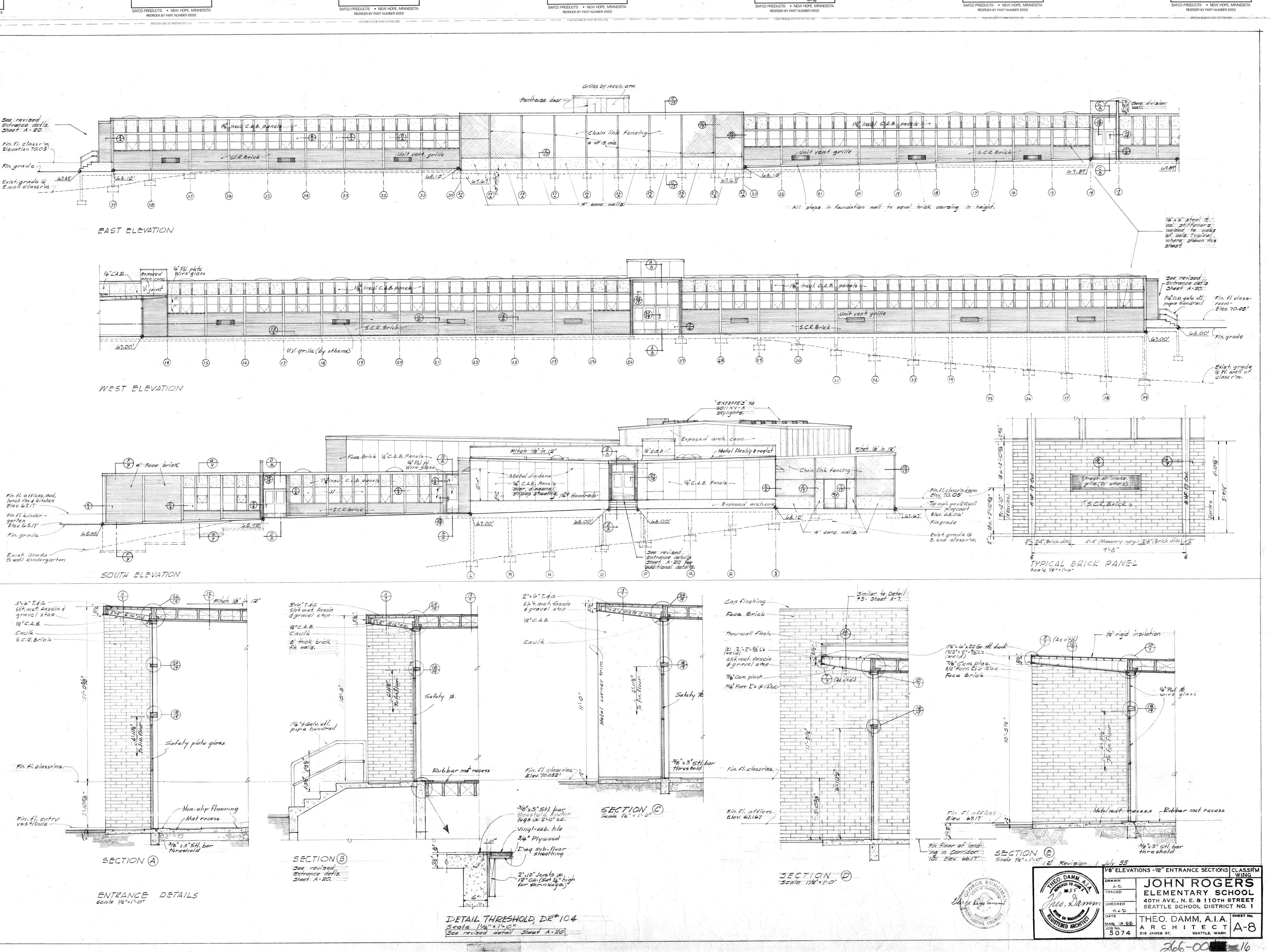


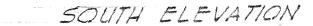


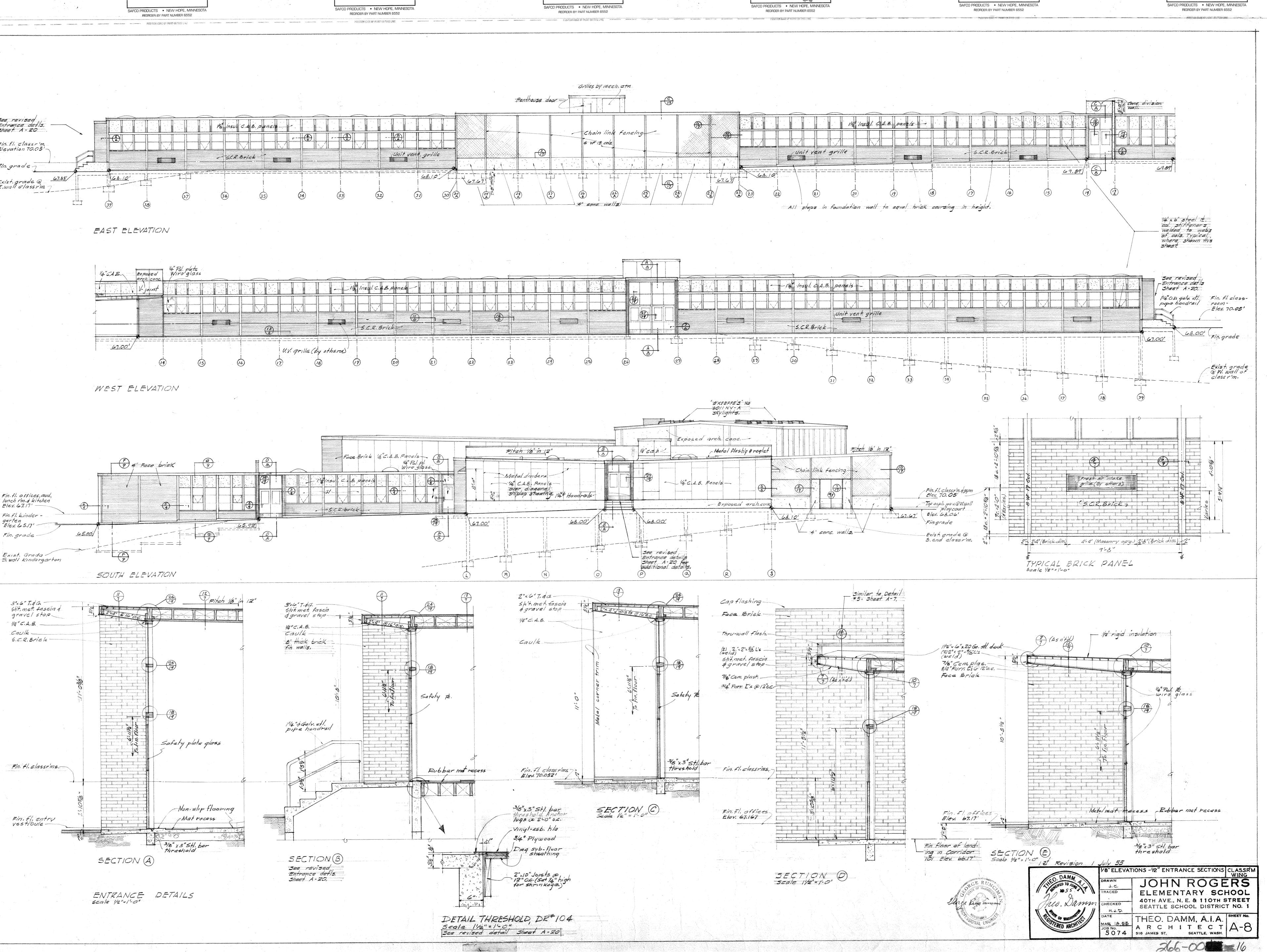


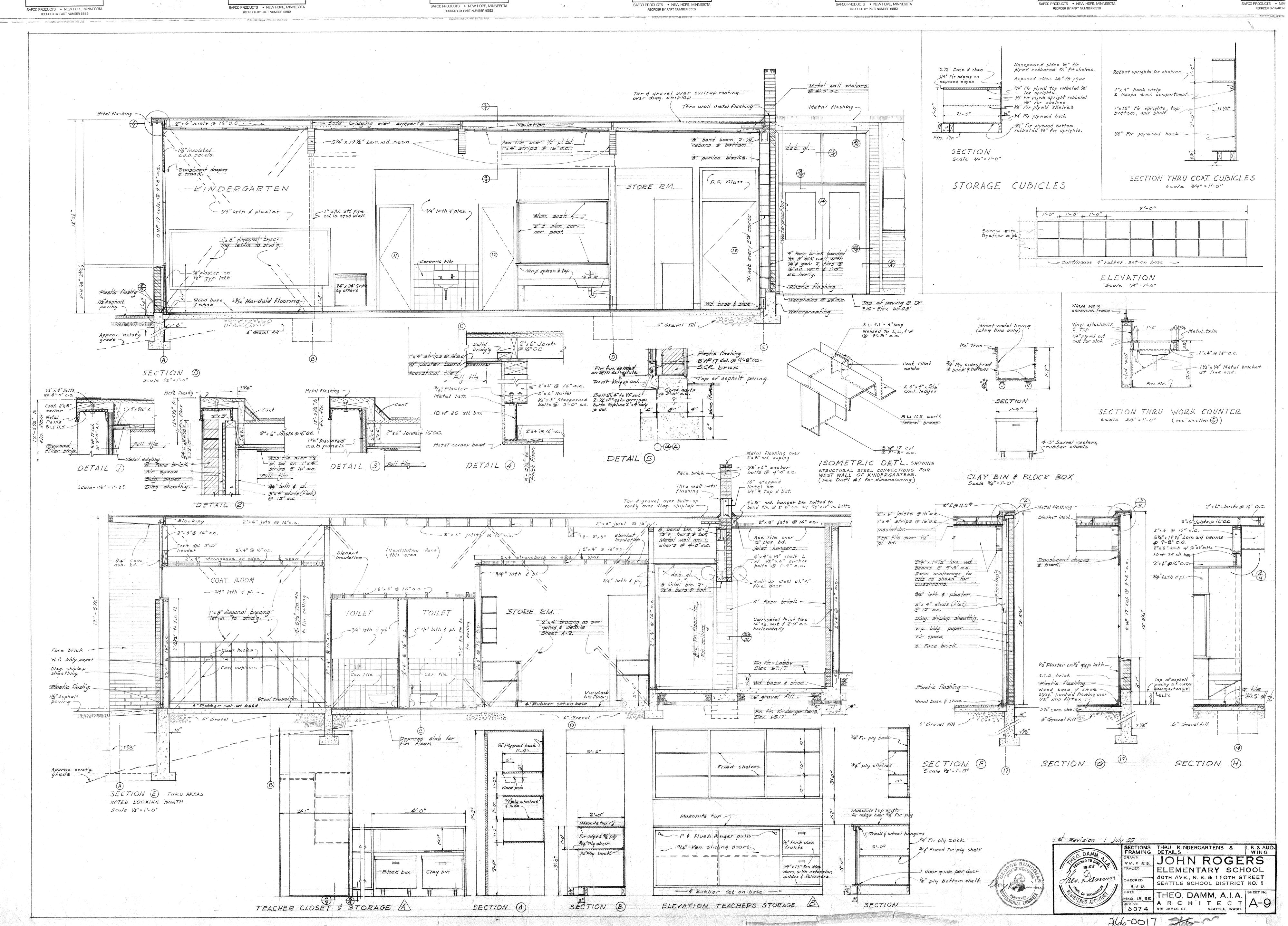
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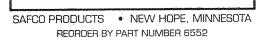
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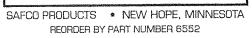


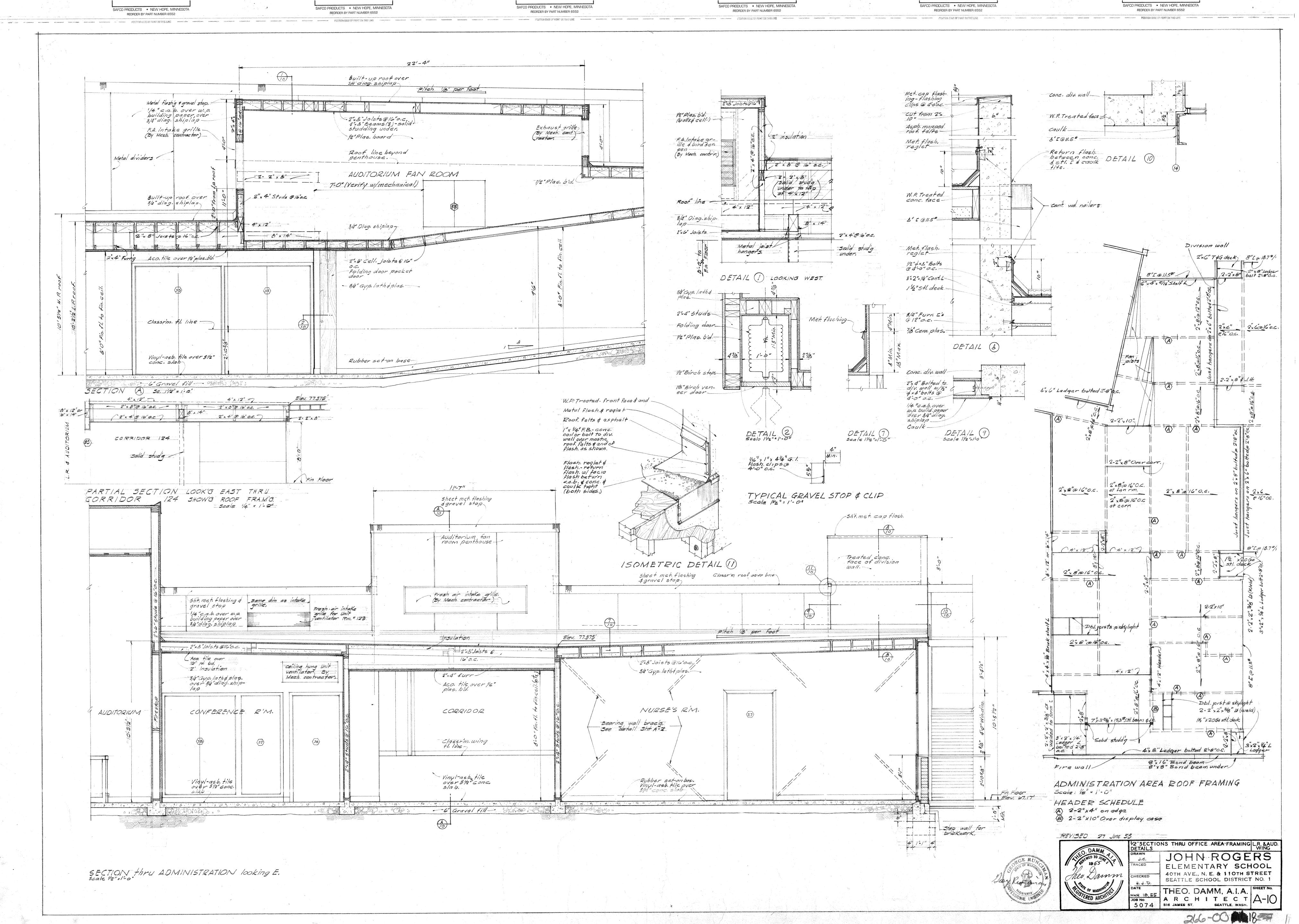


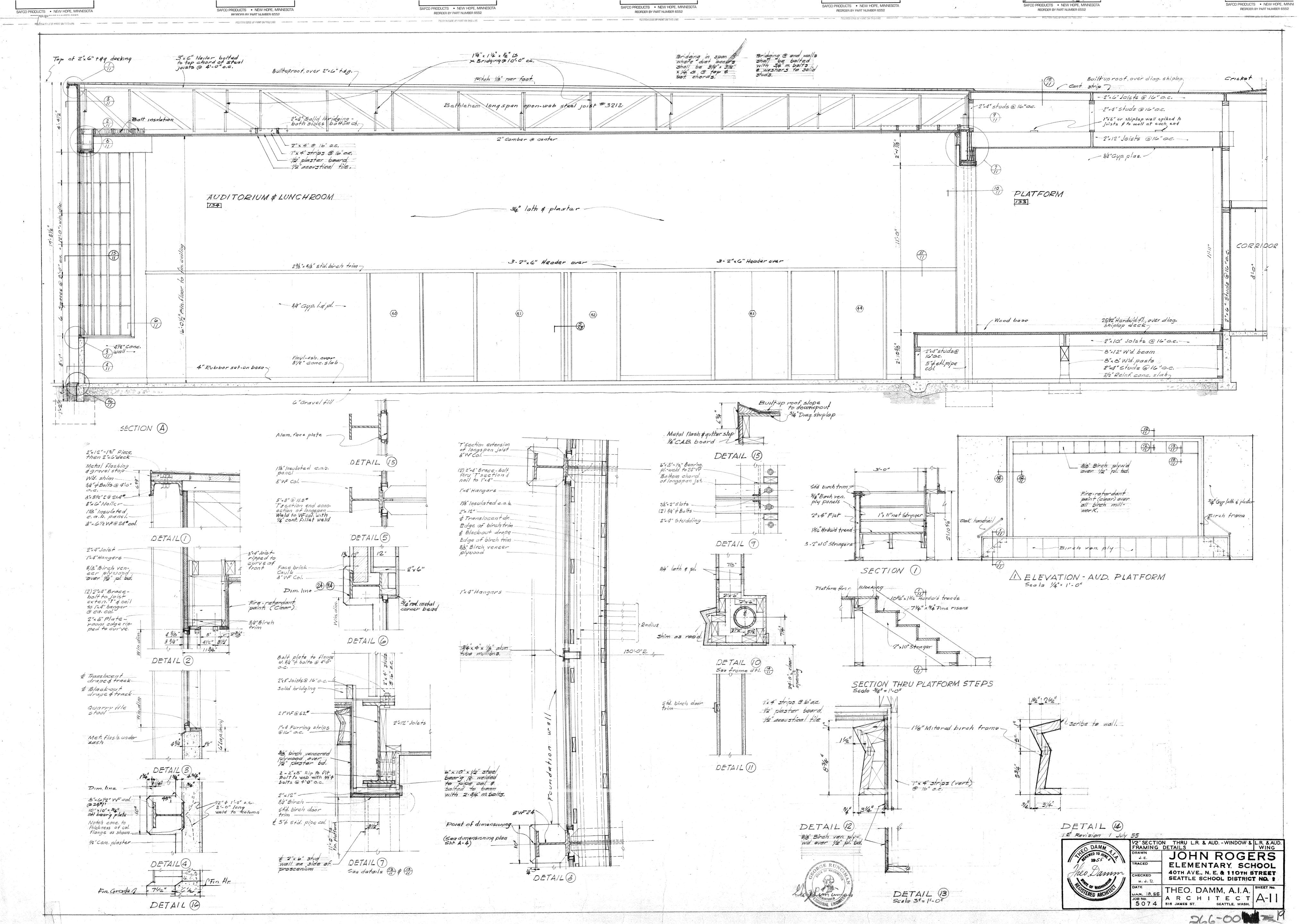


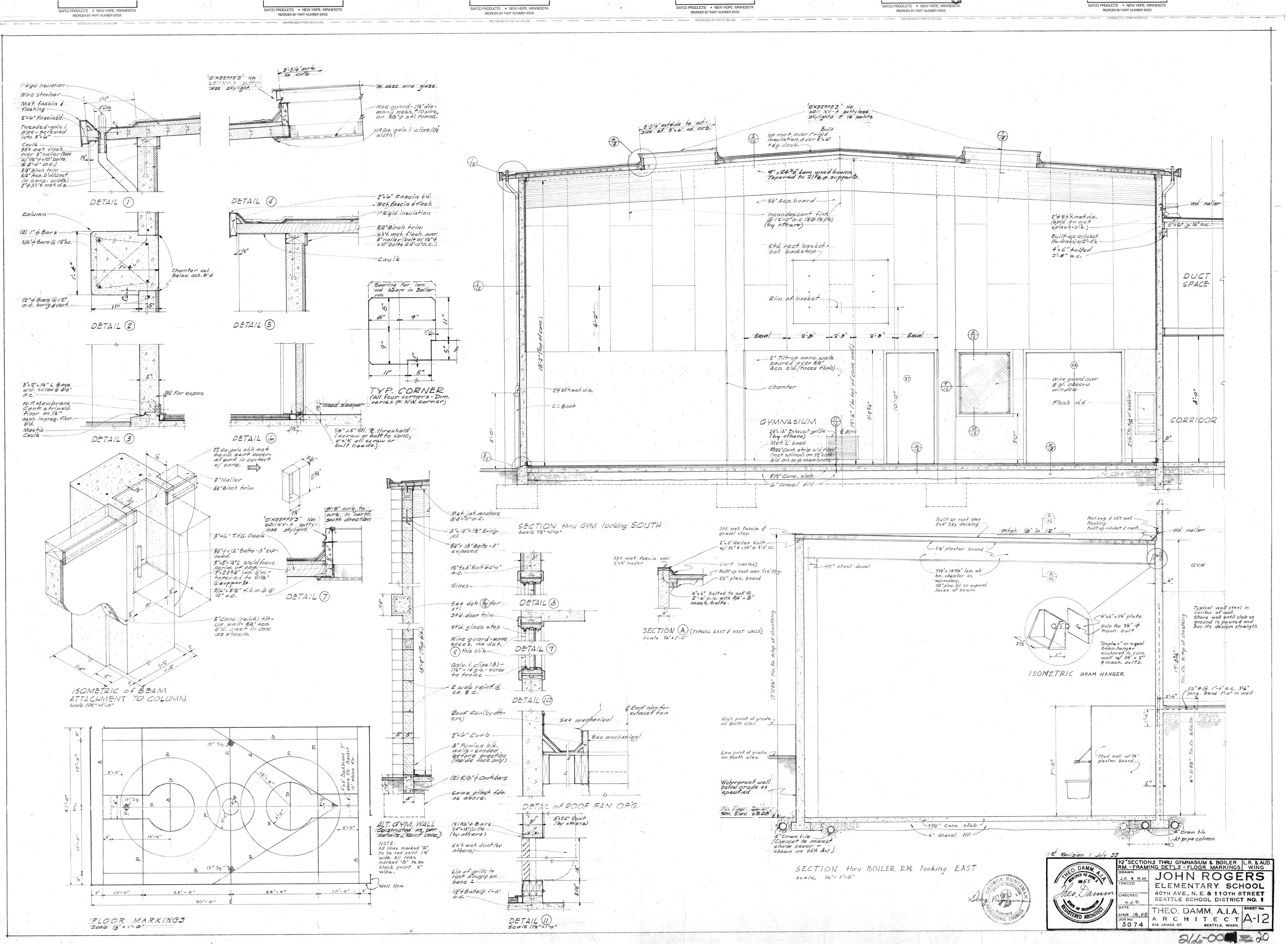


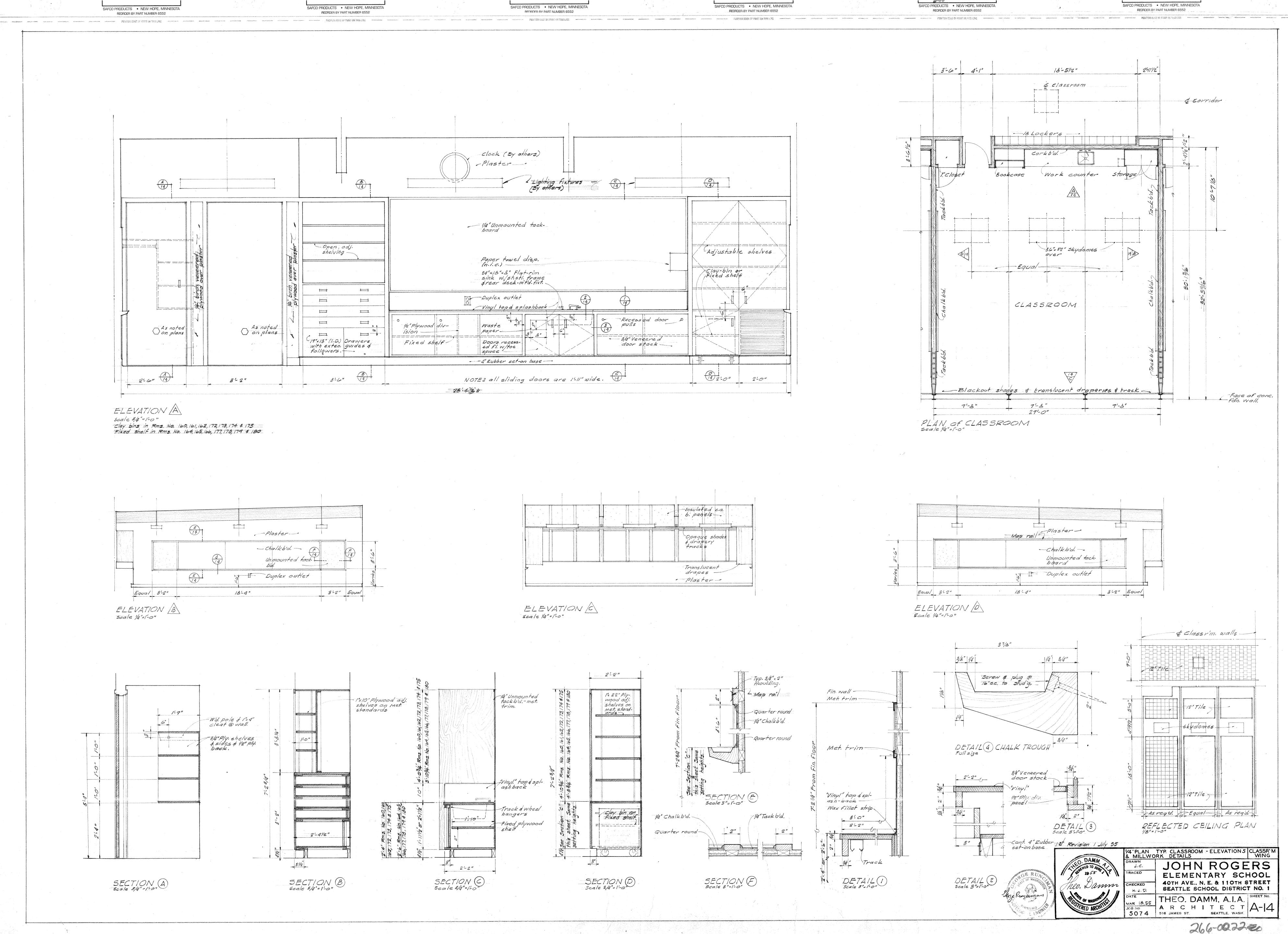


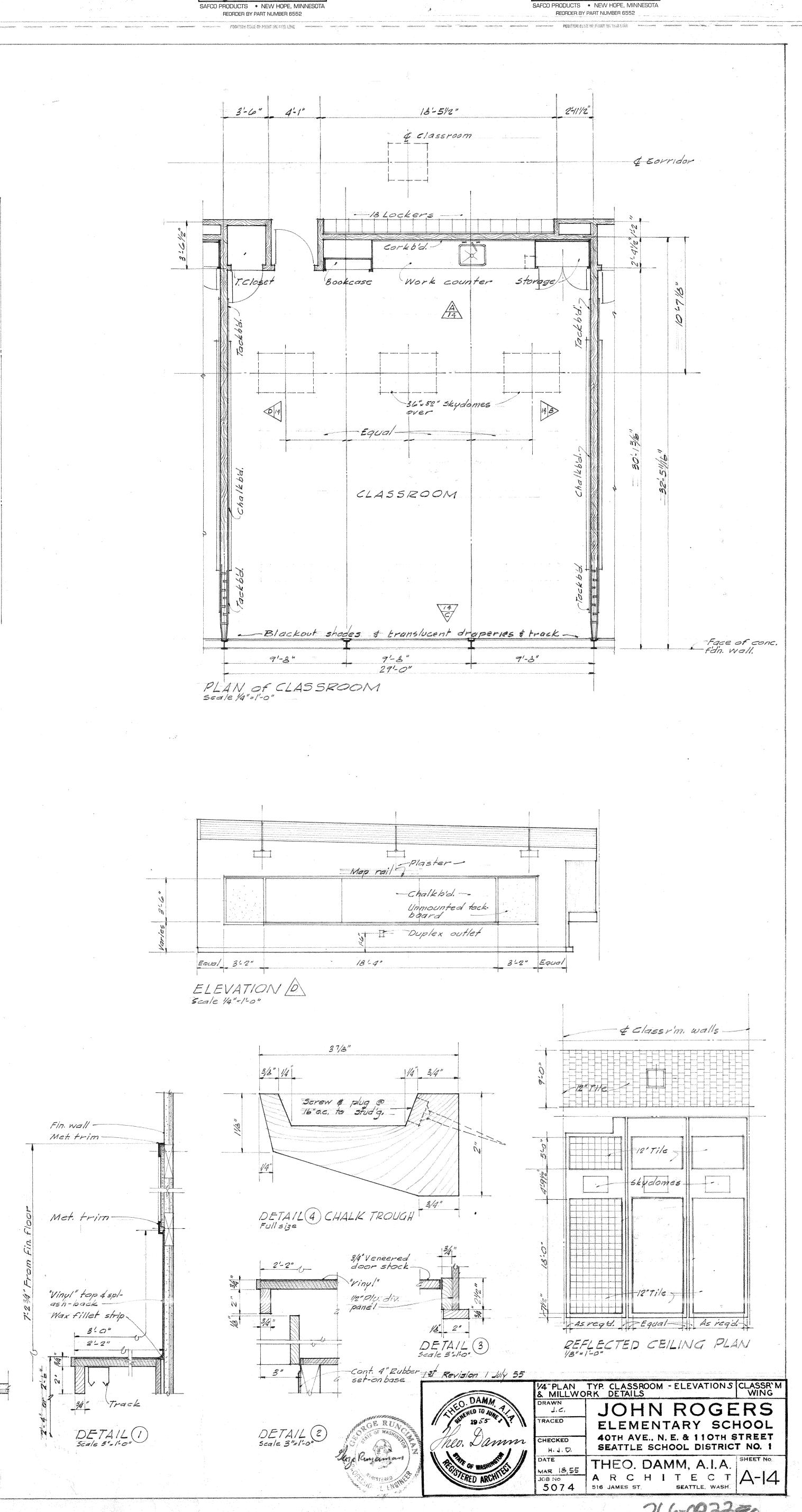


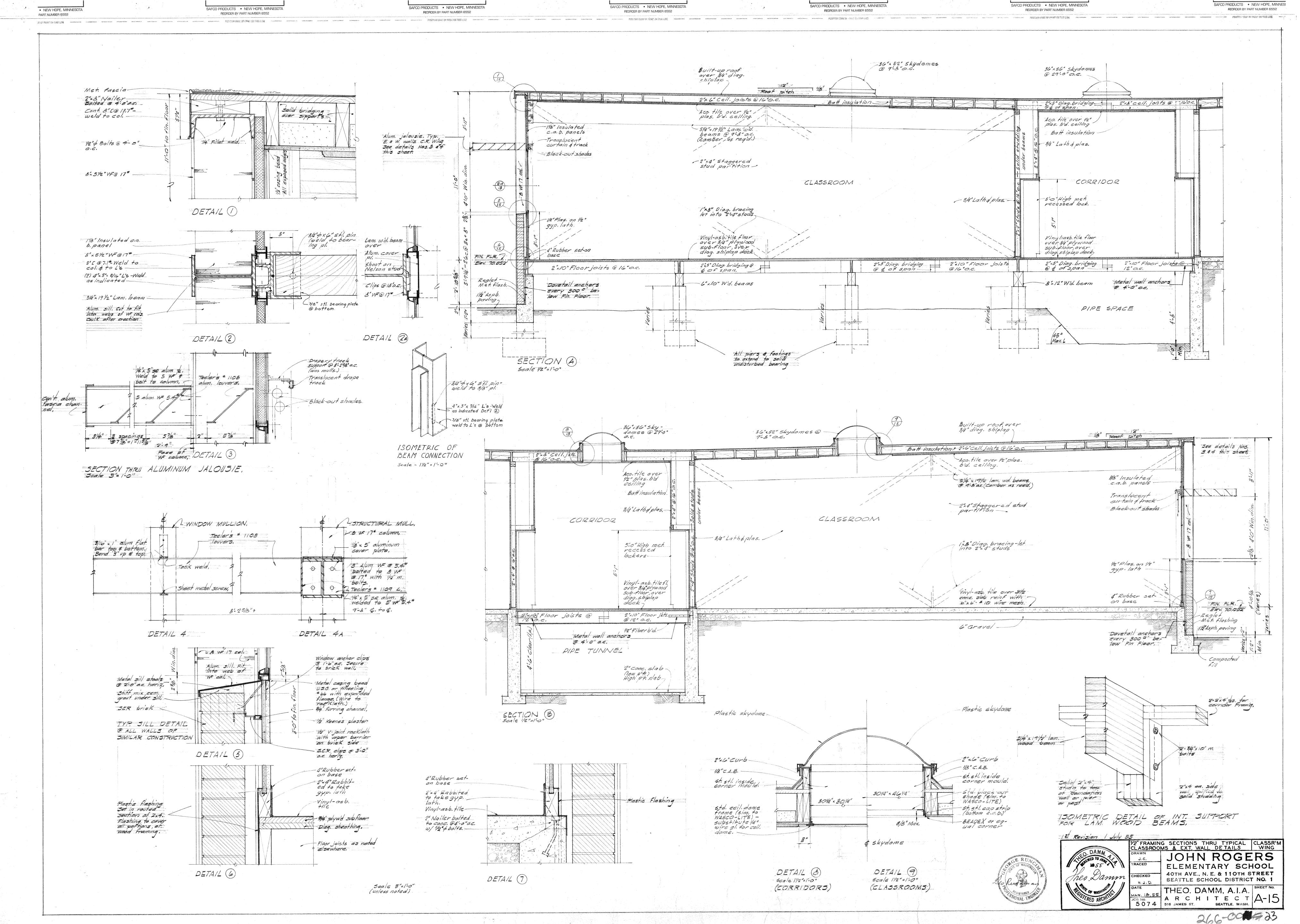












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