

Saving St. Augustine's Architectural Treasures

Hotel Ponce de Leon

The *Saving St. Augustine's Architectural Treasures* project has conserved and digitized an irreplaceable collection of the earliest drawings of architects John Carrère (1858-1911) and Thomas Hastings (1860-1929). In 2010 Flagler College received a prestigious Save America's Treasures grant administered by the National Endowment for the Humanities to help preserve architectural drawings for the National Historic Landmark Hotel Ponce de Leon and the Flagler Memorial Presbyterian Church in St. Augustine, Florida. During the two-year project, over 260 drawings were conserved and reproduced digitally by the University of Florida Smathers Libraries.



Carrère and Hastings were two of the most significant American architects of the late 19th and early-20th centuries. Their firm designed more than 600 buildings,

including the New York Public Library and the House and Senate Office Buildings in Washington, D.C. In 1885 multi-millionaire industrialist Henry Flagler initiated a grand scheme to turn the Florida coast into the "American Riviera." The Hotel Ponce de Leon (1885-1887), now Ponce de Leon Hall at Flagler College, was the first and the flagship of Flagler's resort empire. This palatial Spanish Renaissance Revival hotel, with Italian, French and Moorish influences, was the first major commission for Carrère and Hastings.

Comprised of original, fragile drawings on cloth, silk and paper, as well as blueprints and copies, the collection is the largest known archives documenting the firm's earliest work. Unfortunately, many of the drawings for the Hotel had been "lost" for decades. Stored in a boiler room under high Florida temperatures and humidity, and exposed to insects and rodents, the few people who knew of their existence were unaware of their historical significance. As a result, this treasure trove of drawings remained unknown and endangered until their rediscovery in 2004.

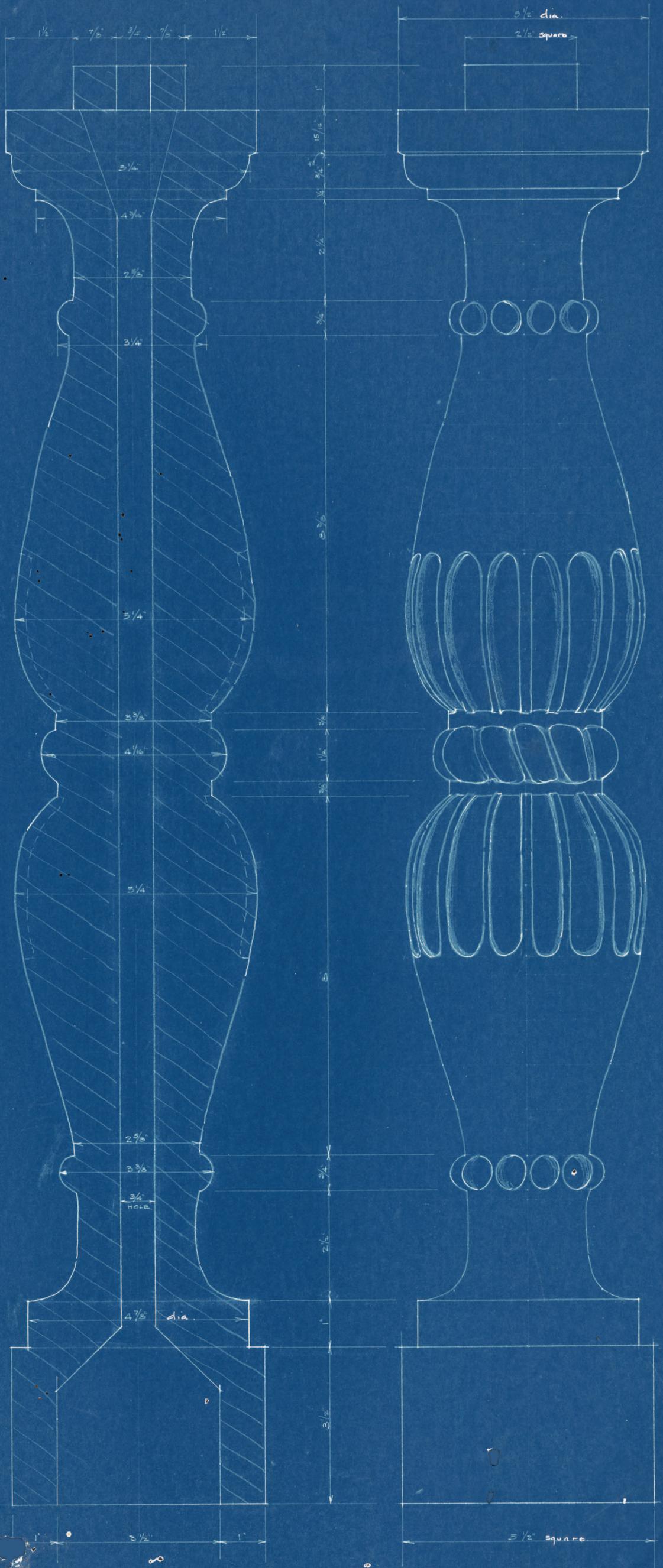


Detail of rolled drawing before conservation

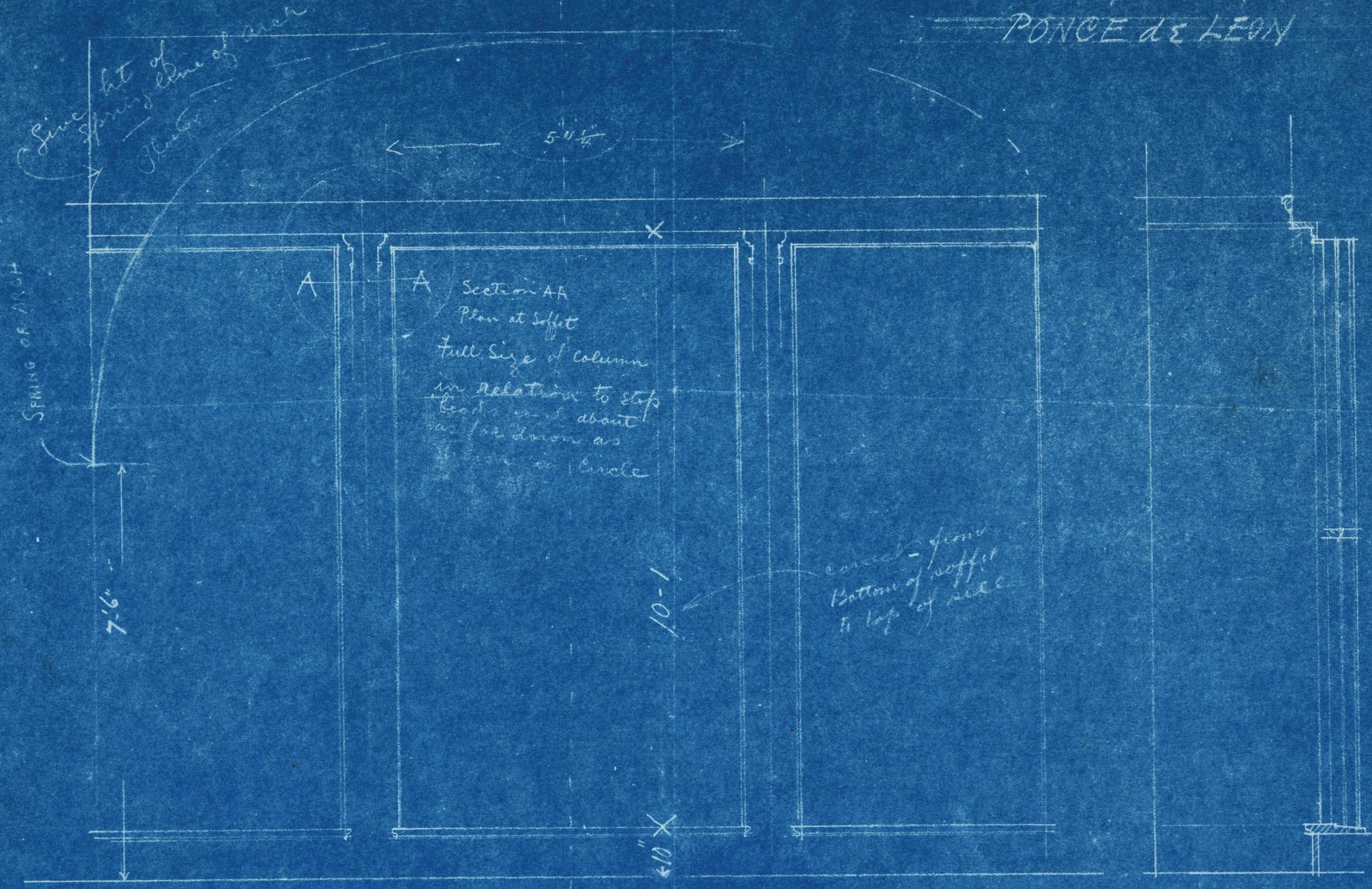


Corner detail before conservation

Many of the drawings could not be handled because they literally were crumbling on the shelf, and even items in stable condition were in jeopardy due to increasing demand by researchers. These drawings, which had been unavailable to scholars for years, are fully accessible now that they have been properly conserved and digitized by the UF Libraries Conservation Unit and Digital Library Center. All digital images are available online at <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/caha> and information about the project is available at <http://flaglerdrawings.wordpress.com>.



DINING ROOM WINDOWS
PONCE DE LEON



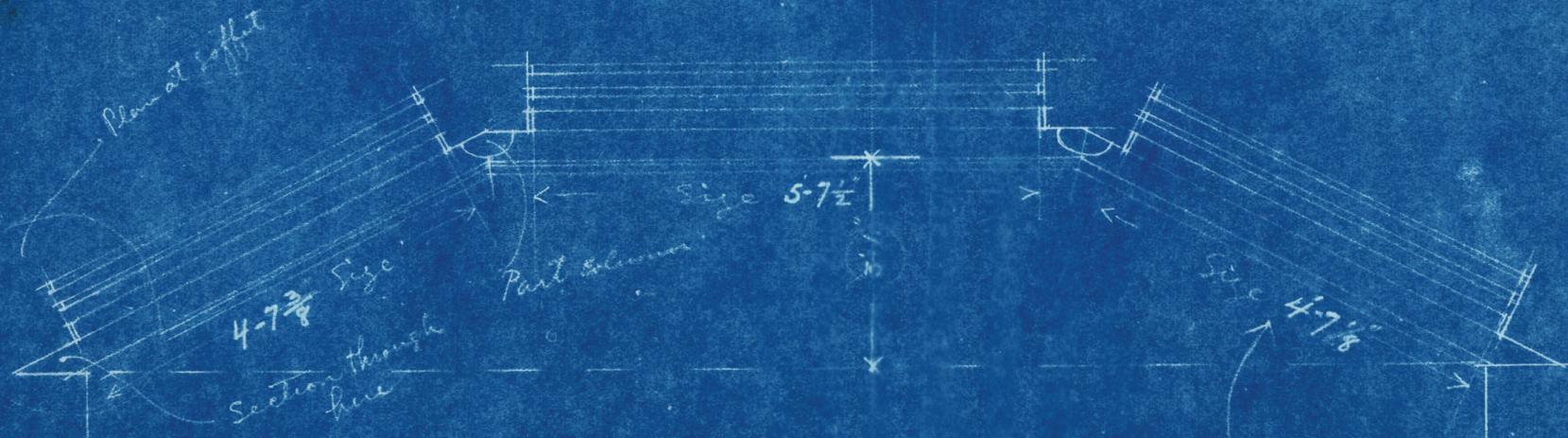
SPRING OF ARCH

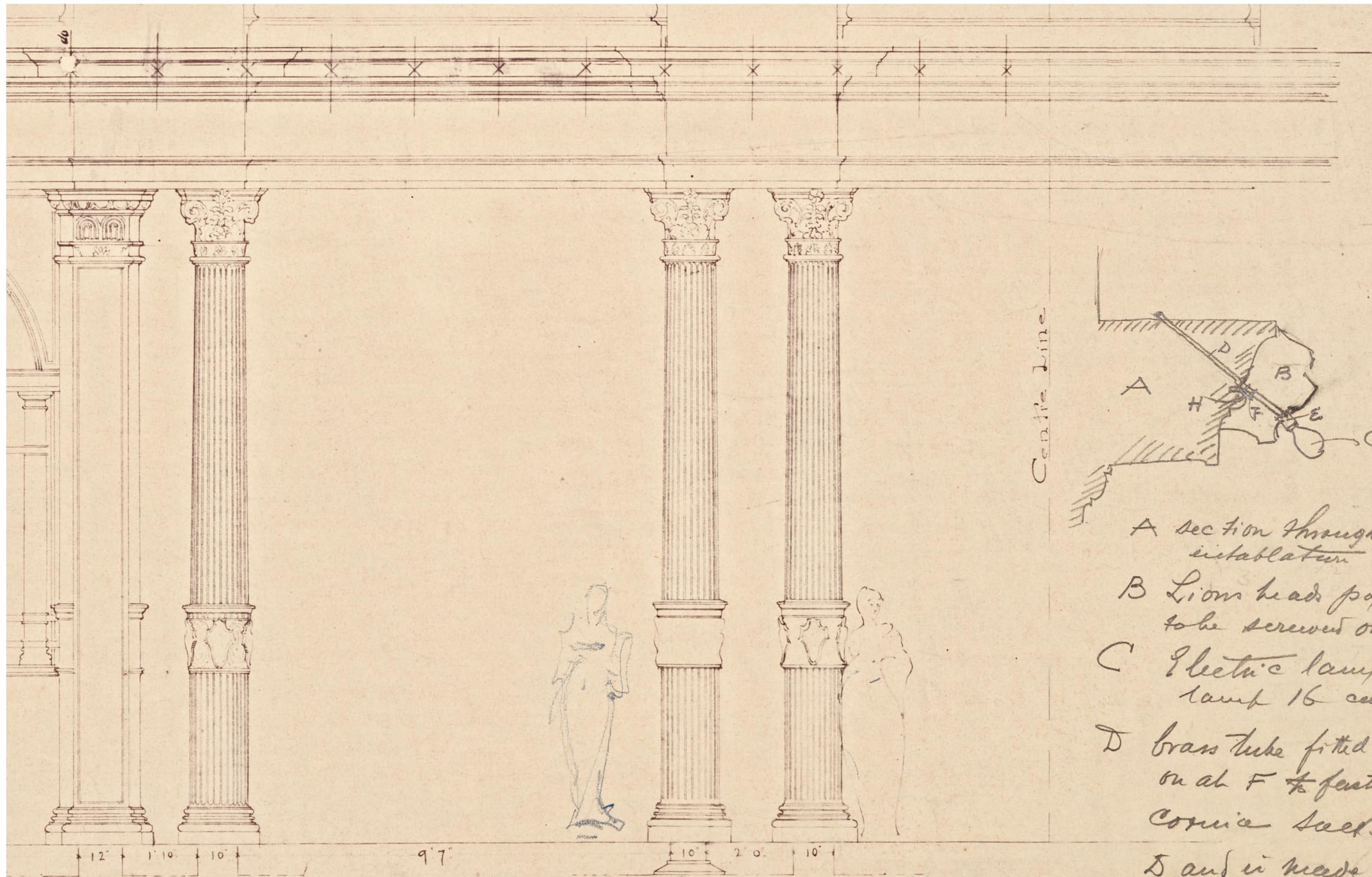
Give ht of spring line of arch
Plaster

A Section AA
Plan at Soffit
Full size of column
in relation to steps
beads and about
as far down as
possible in circle

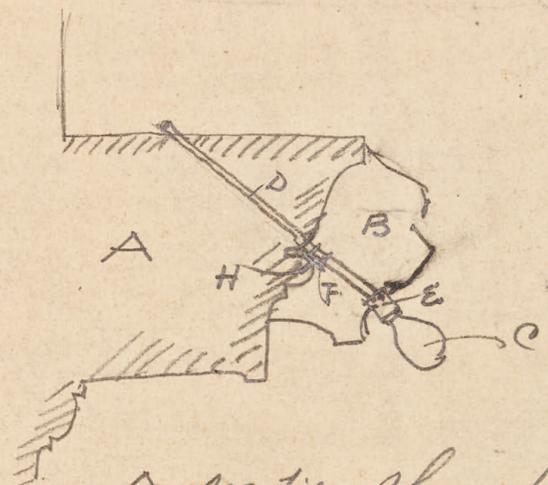
connect from
bottom of soffit
to top of side

We have full size
Section taken through
here -





Centre Line



- A section through Cornice of main installation over columns -
- B Lion heads papier mache gilded to be screwed on -
- C Electric lamp - ordinary lamp lamp 16 candle lamp.
- D Brass tube fitted with a flange at bottom on at F to fasten by screw H to cornice socket & screws on to D and is made to fit -

View through Dining Room.

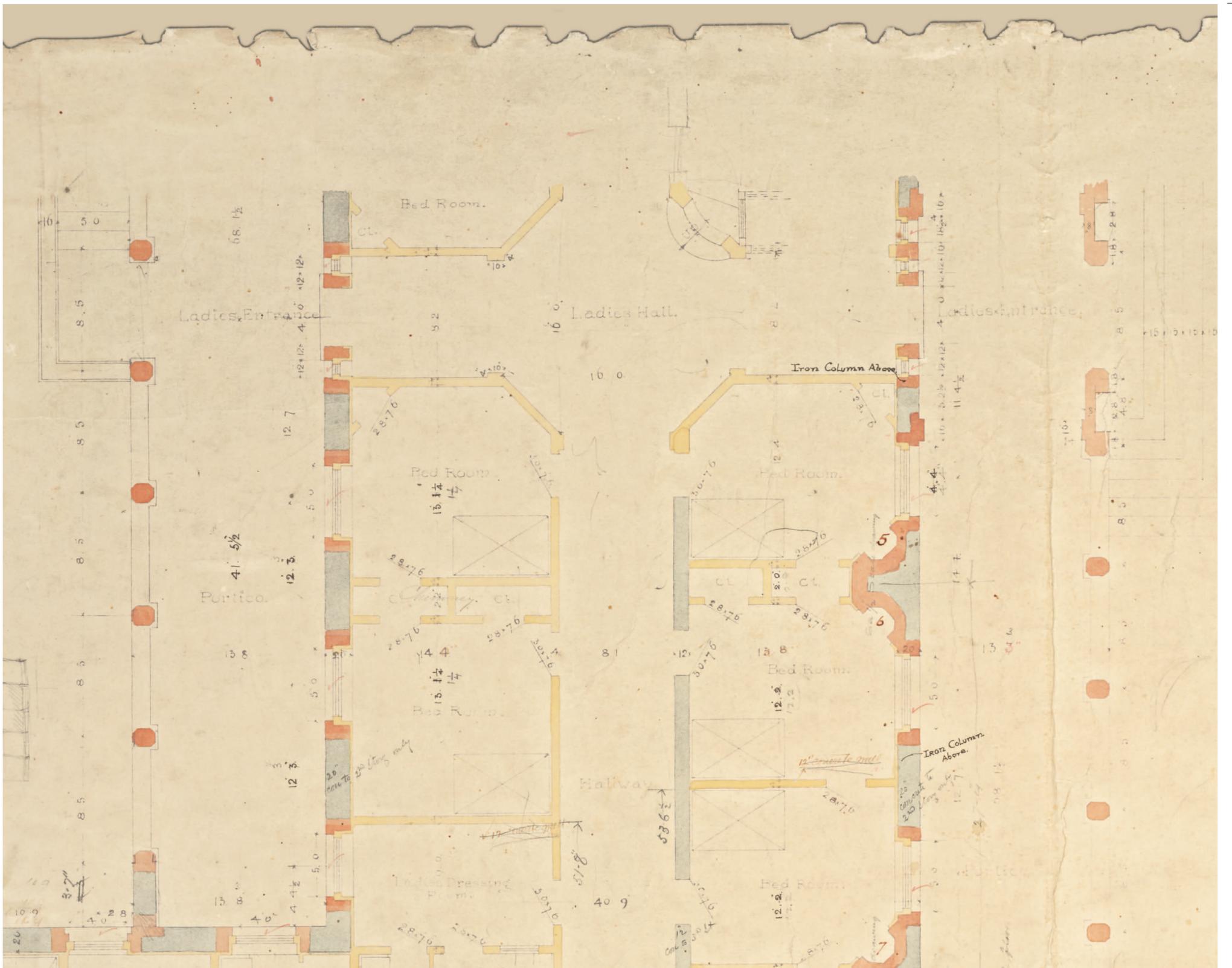
Scale 1/2 inch = 1 foot.

DETAIL DRAWING

706 We send a Model with piece of Cornice according to template you furnished with B, D, E, F, & H in place. We also send several extra heads & sockets - 125 of each being ordered.

PLAN No. 73

All you will need to do is to space heads according to * shown on elevation to indicate center of each head. Then bore hole for tube D at proper angle, put D in and screw it on, wire socket through D which is hollow then screw on heads & all ready for lamps -



Note: (1) In East Wing (as shown on Plan No 1) rooms in count are 14. 0. Outside rooms also 14. 0. Hallway remains 8. 1. otherwise exactly same as in West wing, excepting arrangement of Toilet & Dressing Room for which special plans will be given.

Note No 2. for framing plan See Basement.
 — No 3 Floor Beams of 1st floor Hallways to be dropped One Inch below top of other beams for marble floor. See Section
 — No 4. Construction of Floors of Portico not to be decided upon until experiments have been made with Wards system.

