CONCORDIA
ST. CROIX, USVI

PREPARED FOR THE
ST CROIX LANDMARKS SOCIETY
ESTATE WHIM, ST CROIX, USVI

PREPARED BY
CARIBBEAN VOLUNTEER EXPEDITIONS
BOX 388, CORNING NY 14830 USA

MARCH 1995

Estate Concordia, St. Croix, USVI

Introduction

In March 1995, Caribbean Volunteer Expeditions measured and photographed the ruins at Estate Concordia for the St. Croix Landmarks Society. Director, Barbara Hagen Smith and George Tyson provided CVE with background information about the estate. Volunteers from CVE included Anne Hersh, Corning, NY; Carl Berwanger, of Ottawa, Canada; Jane and Mike Frederick of Beaufort, SC, William Bakker of St. Croix also spent many hours in the field helping with this project.

General Description of the Site

The site is across the Centerline Road from Estate Whim, in the western end of St. Croix. The site consists of a large factory building, windmill, ruins of at least 16 slave dwellings, a walled yard with an arched building, several auxiliary buildings, a more recent cistern on the hill to the east, and a cemetery. The site was very overgrown with low thorny vegetation; measuring was difficult. The site had apparently been bulldozed in the past, and there were large piles of tree stumps, branches, and debris piled up in some areas- in some cases against the ruins. Presently a road runs through the site, leading to a farm to the north.

Building A: Factory

This is a very large T shaped building- about 194 feet by 100 feet. The building was often changed, and we see evidence of openings which have been closed in; additions, and adaptations of the building reflect the advances in sugar technology. Walls were stone- about two feet thick, with some brick at openings, or in some walls. Some of the remaining walls are 20 feet high. Most of the windows are splayed; with wood lintels, or with elliptical arched openings. There is no longer a roof, or floors, though some timbers still remain. The building is on a hill, and has two levels. The northern section of the building was apparently a two story storage area; and had a cistern with an arched opening from inside the building at the west end. These walls are generally intact, though the east section of the north wall has fallen inward. South of this area are two cisterns and more recent brick arches. At the south

end of the building are foundations which were used for steam equipment. Part of a chimney remains.

Building B: Windmill

There is a windmill about 24 feet to the south of the factory building. This area was very overgrown. All openings had been closed in, since it was apparently converted to a cistern. It appears to be about 25 feet high; with a diameter of about 27 feet.

Building C: Auxiliary Buildings

To the south of the road, are several structures. One structure had most of three walls intact- it appears to be rectangular about 30 feet by 22 feet. This may have been a residence. Extending to the south about 60 feet are stone foundations and a slab.

Building D: Walled Yard and Building

About 145 feet to the north of the factory building is a large walled area about 180 feet long. The walls range from three to six or more feet high, with a rounded top and piers with pyramidal tops at intervals and at corners and gate posts. Some of the metal hardware remains on the gate posts. Built into the south wall was a small building about 6 feet x 8 feet. Inside the walled area is an unusual structure of about 23 feet by 29 feet, with thick walls, and an arched roof construction. The details of the tops of the walls and the piers have been crafted with care.

Building E: Slave Dwellings

There are remains of at least 16 dwellings; the area was very overgrown; and there were piles of debris which might have covered other walls. These dwellings were laid out in rows to the east of the factory building. We find 13 small buildings about 15 feet by 25 feet, built of stone, and plastered. The wall height is about 7 to 8 feet high. Some of these have masonry gable ends. In some, the corrugated metal roofs are still in place. Some buildings have evidence of a dividing partition across the center. The windows and door openings are different in each building. Generally doors face west; there may be one, two, three or four doors per building. Windows are often on all sides. The doors and windows are splayed, with an arch, and wood lintel. Some buildings were lived in fairly recently; masonry block, electrical boxes are used. Since the site slopes from east to west, some of these houses have elevated floors and steps to grade on the west side. One larger structure 51

feet by 19 feet is on the south end. To the north are two very long units; one is 125 feet by 16; doors are about 10 feet on center, and face west. The building had been divided with partitions running east -west. Part of the corrugated metal roofing remains. Another building parallels this building, 20 feet to the east; it has apparently been partially demolished and only part of its walls are intact.

Building F: Cistern

A more recent cistern sits on the hill to the east of the slave dwellings. This is 26 feet by 33 feet with three foot wide walls which are tapered out at the bottom.

Area G: Cemetery

To the north of the site is a cemetery area; the area was very overgrown, and had apparently been bulldozed in the past. We could only find one small tomb, with no inscription, with a sloped gable top. There were other mounds in the area, which may have been burial places.

G CEMETERY

TAMARIND

APPROXIMATE LOCATIONS

BOABAB

PILE OF STUMPS VEGETATION & DEBRIS

D WALLED YARD AND BUILDING

ROAD

LOW WALL ALONG ROAD

TAMARIND

E DWELLINGS

TREE

DIRT ROAD

N

F CISTERN

A FACTORY BUILDING

TAMARIND

B WINDMILL

C AUXILIARY BUILDINGS

FOUNDATION WALLS

SITE PLAN 1 inch = 40 feet
ESTATE CONCORDIA, ST CROIX, USVI

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AREA D - WALLED YARD AND BUILDING
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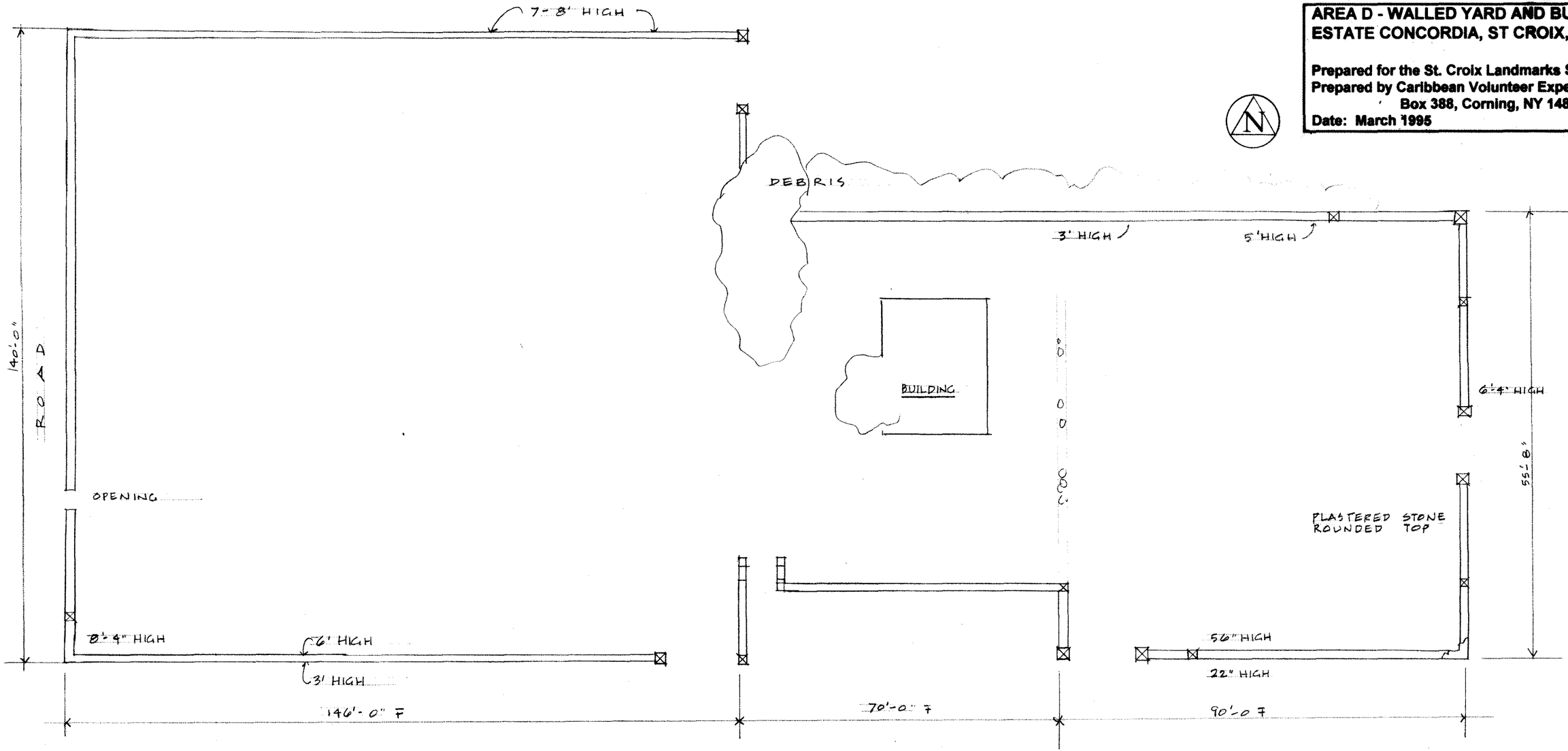
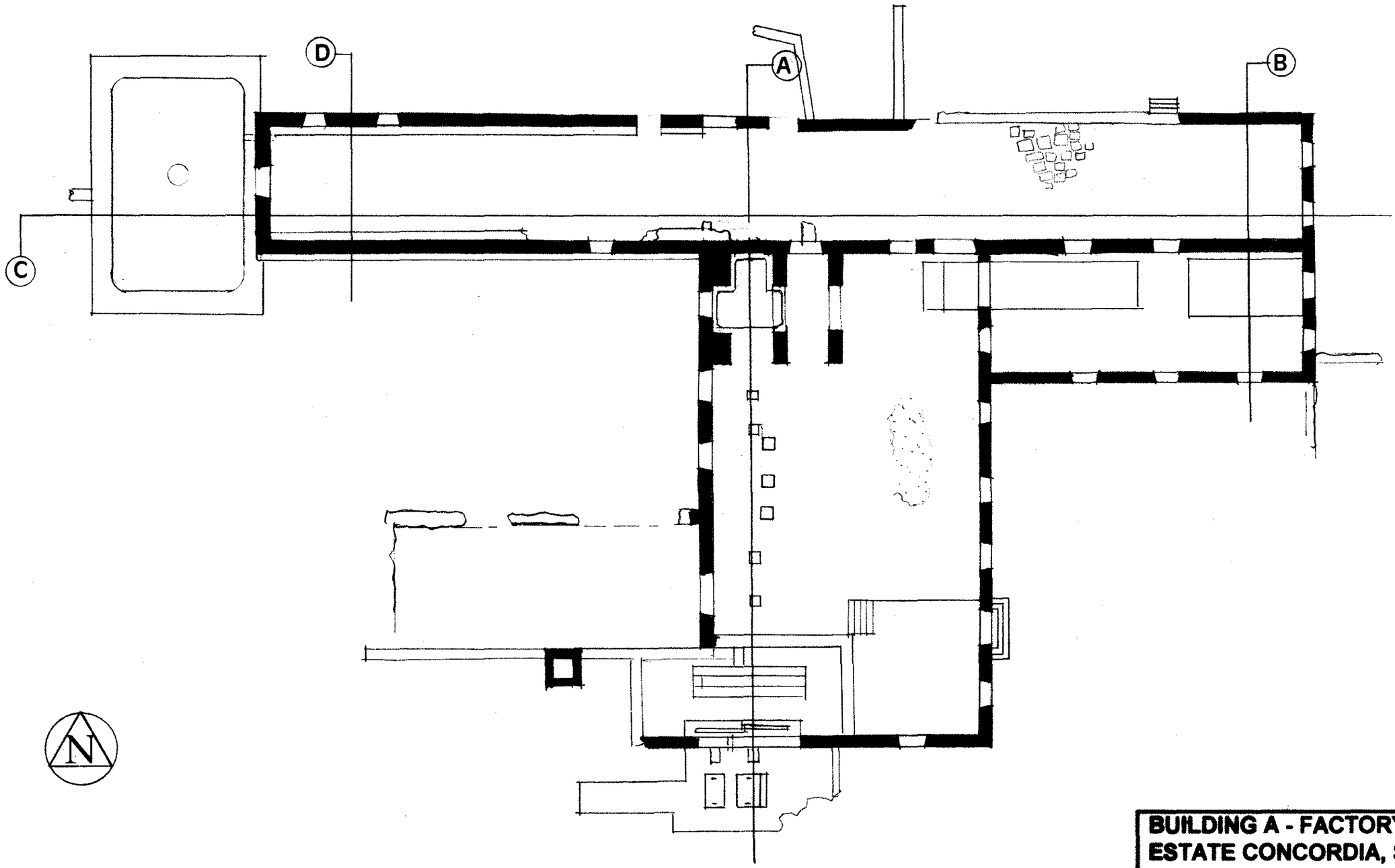


PLAN OF AREA 1/16"=1'-0"



FLOOR PLAN 1 inch = 16 feet

BUILDING A - FACTORY BUILDING
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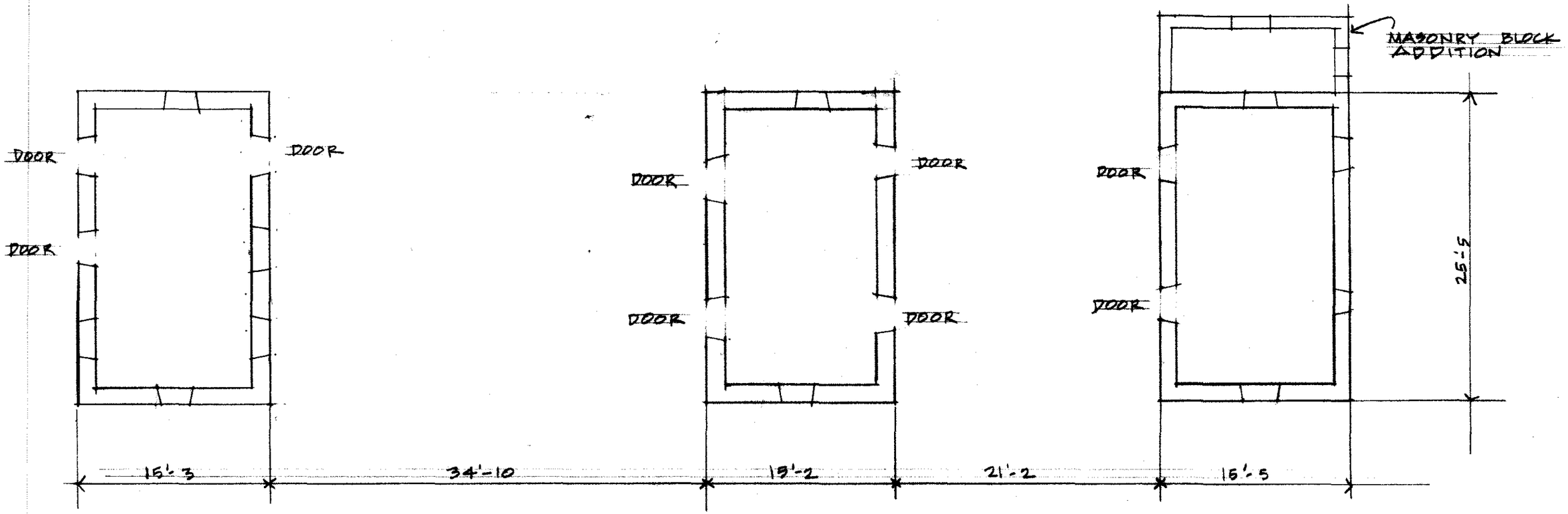

TYPICAL SLAVE DWELLINGS
1/8"=1'-0"

BUILDINGS E- SLAVE DWELLINGS
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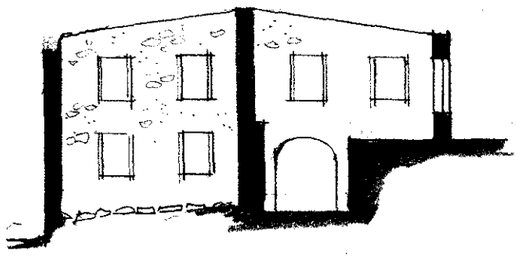
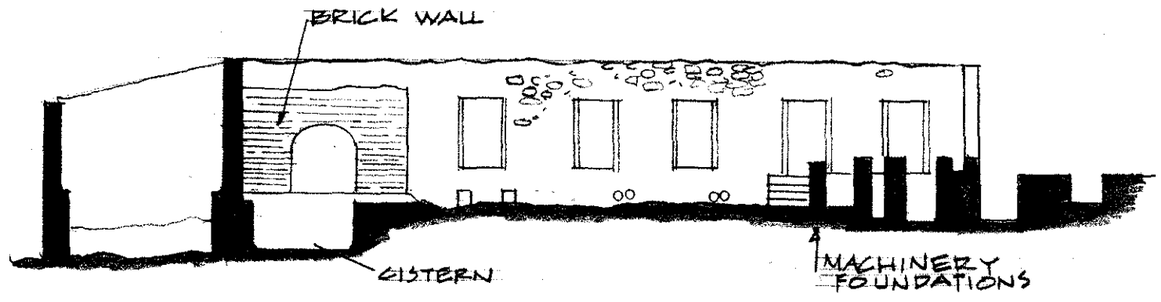
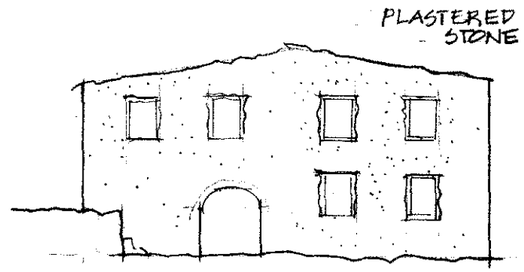


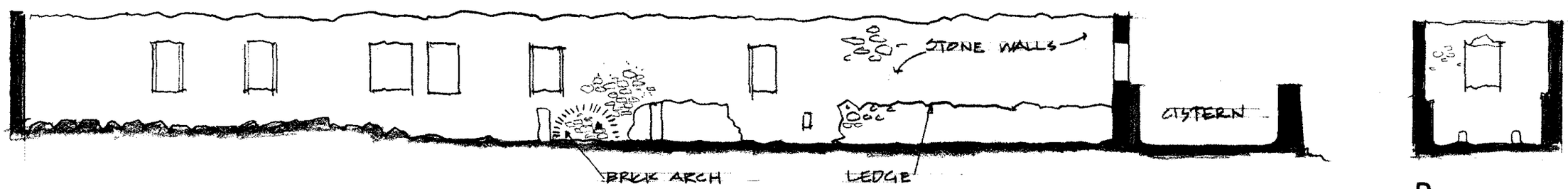
SECTION B 1 inch = 16 feet



SECTION A 1 inch = 16 feet



EAST



D

SECTION C 1 inch = 16 feet

BUILDING A - FACTORY BUILDING
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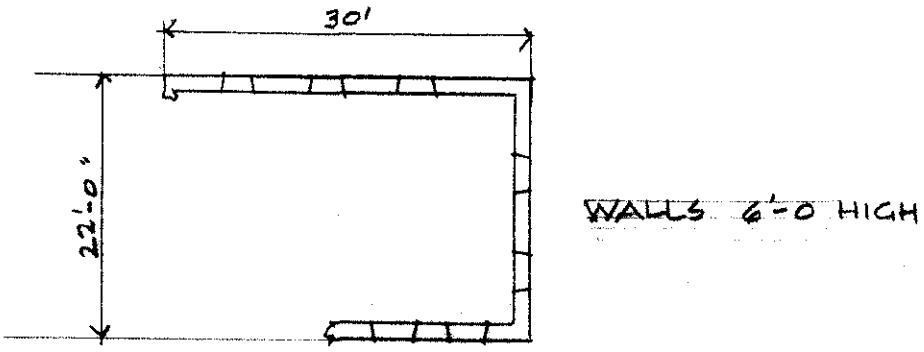
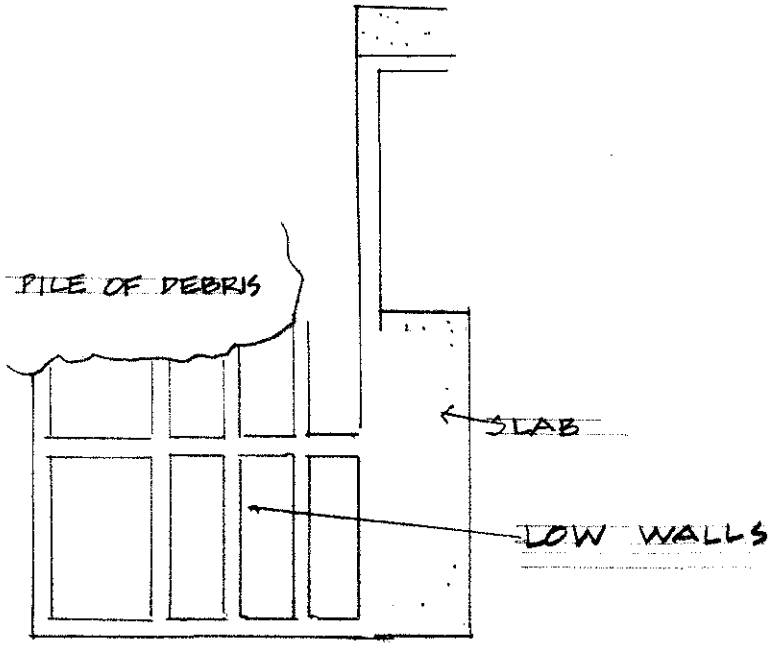
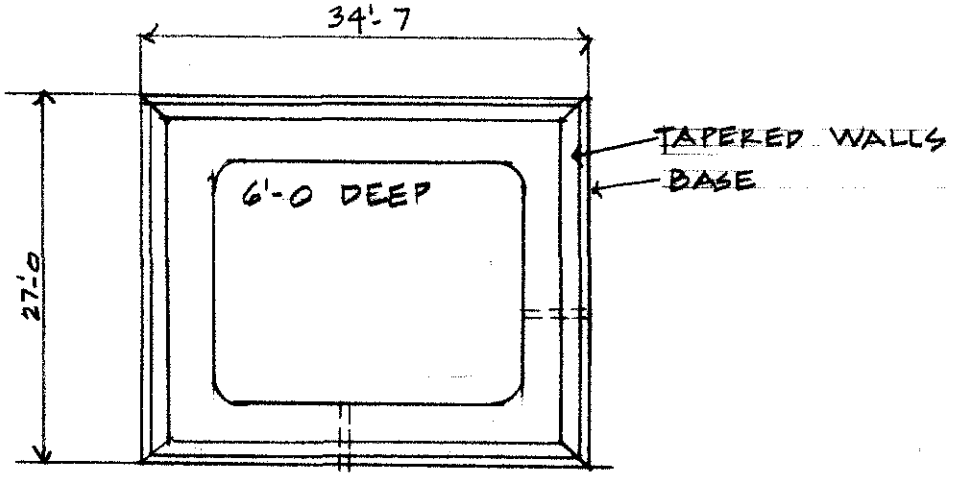




BUILDINGS C

1/16" = 1'-0"



BUILDING F/CISTERN

1/16" = 1'-0"

BUILDINGS C AND F
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FACTORY

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SLAVE DWELLINGS

WINDTOWER

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WALLED YARD AND BUILDINGS

CEMETERY