

Oregon Historic Site Form

Foster Facility
5205 86th Ave
Portland, Multnomah County

LOCATION AND PROPERTY NAME

address: <u>5205 SE 86th Ave</u> <input type="checkbox"/> apprx. addr	historic name: <u>Foster Facility</u>
<u>Portland</u> <input type="checkbox"/> vcnty <u>Multnomah County</u>	current/ other names: <u>Steele Site Facility, Phillip Foster Elementary School</u>
Optional Information assoc addresses: (former addresses, intersections, etc.) location descr: (remote sites)	block nbr: <u>SEC</u> lot nbr: <u>R99</u> tax lot nbr: <u>R33581</u> township: _____ range: _____ section: _____ 1/4: _____ zip: _____

PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS

resource type: <u>Building</u> height (# stories): <u>1</u>	total # eligible resources: <u>0</u> total # ineligible resources: <u>2</u>
elig. evaluation: <u>not eligible/non-contributing</u>	NR status: _____ (indiv listed only; see Grouping for hist dist)
primary constr date: <u>1962</u> (c.) <input type="checkbox"/> secondary date: _____ (c.) <input type="checkbox"/> (optional--use for major addns)	NR date listed: _____
primary orig use: <u>School</u>	orig use comments: _____
secondary orig use: _____	prim style comments: _____
primary style: <u>Northwest Regional</u>	sec style comments: _____
secondary style: _____	siding comments: _____
primary siding: <u>Wood Sheet</u>	architect: <u>Dukehart & Kinne</u>
secondary siding: _____	builder: _____
plan type: <u>School (General)</u>	
comments/notes:	

GROUPINGS / ASSOCIATIONS

survey project name or other grouping name	<u>PPS Historic Building Assessment 2009</u>	<u>Survey & Inventory Project</u>
farmstead/cluster name:		external site #: <u>367</u> (ID# used in city/agency database)

SHPO INFO FOR THIS PROPERTY

NR date listed: _____
ILS survey date: 6/26/2009
RLS survey date: 6/26/2009
Gen File date: _____
106 Project(s)



ARCHITECTURAL / PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

(Include expanded description of the building/property, setting, significant landscape features, outbuildings, and alterations)

Summary Description

The Foster Facility is situated in southeast Portland at 5205 SE 86th Avenue. The school campus consists of a primary L-shaped classroom and an administrative building (367A). A detached portable (367P1) is located at the south end of the property. The dominant architectural feature of the building is the multiple gable roof with a dramatic overhang that covers an exterior walkway, a characteristic of the Northwest Regional style. The fenestration is comprised primarily of grouped metal frame windows.

Architectural Description

The Foster Facility is situated in southwest Portland at 5205 SE 86th Avenue. The 3.60-acre rectangular parcel is surrounded by a mixture of single family residences, commercial buildings, and recent multi-family residential developments. Buildings on the campus include a detached portable building, an L-shaped classroom, and an administration building. Playfields and an asphalt covered parking area occupy the north and east portions of the campus.

The Foster Facility features an L-shaped version of the finger plan. The primary school building is a single story wood frame structure that rests on a poured concrete foundation. Cladding consists of plywood siding with narrow battens covering the joints between the panels. Intersecting gable roofs cover the two wings of the L-shaped building. The fenestration is comprised primarily of grouped metal frame windows with louvers. The building features characteristic elements of the Northwest Regional style including broad roof overhangs, plywood siding, fixed windows with louvers, and expressed structural system.

The principal entry to the building is from the north, which proceeds from the doorway into a lobby flanked by the office and the cafeteria. A double loaded corridor extending north to south provides access to the classroom and community spaces. An exterior walkway covered by the overhang of the gable roof connects the classrooms in the south end of the building. The primary community spaces for the school are provided in the cafeteria and playground.

The classrooms are primarily rectangular with built-in cabinetry lining an interior wall. The beams that support the gable roof are visible in the classrooms. Several of the classrooms have been subdivided with interior partition walls. Many classrooms also feature blonde wood paneling and moldings. Ventilation for the classrooms is provided either through an operable awning panel or a louvered ventilation panel in the metal frame windows. Univents provide heat for the classrooms. Tubular fluorescent light fixtures are suspended from the ceiling.

Alterations

Minimal alterations have been made to the building and campus since the construction of the school in 1962. In response to the need for classroom space, the portable was added in 1966 (Facility Profile). Several of the spaces have been subdivided to provide additional classroom and office spaces. Some rooms contain partition walls with one way windows to facilitate the building's use as an alternative school (Mt. Scott Learning Centers Website). Most of the original finishes, including classroom built-ins, are intact.

HISTORY

(Chronological, descriptive history of the property from its construction through at least the historic period [preferably to the present])

Statement of Significance

Built in 1962, Foster Elementary School was one of the later buildings constructed during a period of modernization and new construction initiated by Portland Public Schools (PPS) after World War II. In 1945, the citizens of Portland approved a ballot measure that provided \$5,000,000 over five years to construct, improve, and rehabilitate its public school buildings (Portland Public Schools 1945: 2). The ballot measure enabled PPS to respond to the explosive growth in school-age children that had occurred in the city as a result of the arrival of defense plant workers and their families, as well as the deferred maintenance arising from the lack of funds during the depression (Portland Public Schools 1945: 2-3). Beginning with this initial bond measure, PPS embarked on an effort to improve its school facilities through renovations, additions, and new construction of over fifty schools between 1945 and 1970.

For the new building program, PPS schools adopted the call of architects and school planners across the country for new types of schools. Nationally known architects including Richard Neutra, the Walter Gropius led Architects Collective, and the Perkins Will architectural firm promoted new school types that reflected both evolving educational practices and design philosophies (Ogata 2008: 567-568; Perkins and Cocking 1949: 238-246). Emphasizing the need for economy and rapid construction, the designers adopted new materials that were standardized and mass produced including steel, plywood, glass block, and aluminum. In many buildings, architects achieved flexibility through the building's structure by employing non load-bearing partition walls and zoned ventilation and heating systems. Folding walls and moveable cabinets provided additional flexibility intended to enable teachers to rearrange rooms based on lesson plan and activities (Ogata 2008: 568).

Although many of the architects for schools in Portland continued to design their schools to be extensible, designers turned away from the two-story schools with centralized massing popularized by Naramore and Jones. Instead many architects adopted the principles of the Modern movement and its regional variant, the Northwest Regional style, choosing to express functional areas through massing and materials to create innovative forms (McMath 1974: 628). Classrooms featured extensive built-ins that included sinks, slots for bulky rolls of paper, and coat storage. Many buildings incorporated interior courtyards which facilitated access to the outdoors and expanded the opportunities for passive ventilation and daylighting, a hallmark of the Northwest style.

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In response to the significant growth experienced in southeast Portland in the second half of the twentieth century, the district acquired land at 5205 SE 86th Avenue for \$23,000.00. Named for Philip Foster, a pioneer settler from main who owned a well-known farm east of Portland, the school was constructed for \$179,377.77 (Snyder 1979: 238; Portland Chronology Binder). To meet the demand for additional classroom space, the portable was added in 1966. However, by the mid 1980s enrollment at many schools in Portland was declining. In 1982 the Foster School, along with Adams, Washington, and Sacajawea, was closed as a cost savings measure (Oregonian.12-31-1982). The building is currently leased to Mt. Scott Learning Centers as an alternative School (Mt. Scott Learning Center Website).

The architects of the Foster Facility, Dukehart & Kinne, had substantial experience in the design of public buildings in Oregon. The practice Dukehart & Kinne was formed by John Kistner Dukehart and Elizabeth Pennock Kinne in 1953. Born in Portland in 1908, Dukehart attended Portland Public Schools throughout his childhood, followed by Reed College. He obtained a degree in Architecture from the University of Pennsylvania in 1931. From 1924-1926 Dukehart worked at the firm A.E. Doyle as a draftsman, followed by the office of Johnson & Wallwork, where he eventually became a partner. Elizabeth Pennock was also born in Portland in 1908. In 1926 Pennock entered the Architecture program at the University of Oregon where she became one of only 6 or 7 women studying architecture. Although the Great Depression forced Pennock to withdraw from the program before obtaining her degree, she found work as a draftsman in the Portland firm of Johnson, Wallwork & Johnston. Pennock continued in her position after Johnston left the partnership. Pennock and Dukehart met at Johnson & Wallwork and continued to work together once Dukehart made partner in 1934. In 1939, Pennock married Bruce Kinne, another architect employed in the firm. Elizabeth Pennock Kinne continued to work with Dukehart after he established his own firm in 1947 - John K. Dukehart & Associates. In 1953, Elizabeth Pennock Kinne became partner in the new firm Dukehart & Kinne. Elizabeth Pennock Kinne and John Dukehart worked on many significant Portland buildings including the Town Club, buildings for Reed College, and the Binford Apartment complex in Portland. Other experience with educational facilities came from the design of the Harvey Scott Memorial Library and the Jefferson School of Optometry at Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon (Ritz 2003: 116-117, 226-227).

Despite the retention of its finger plan and many exterior and interior finishes, the Foster Facility is recommended as not eligible for the NRHP. The school was built in response to the residential development in southeast Portland during the PPS program of post-war construction, but its role in that expansion was not significant. It is therefore not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A. Although designed by a successful architecture firm in Portland, archival research does not indicate that the school was a major commission. However, the building is a good example of the use of finger plan schools to facilitate rapid construction. Furthermore the building's expression of the Northwest Regional Style is not distinguished when compared to other schools constructed during the same period. The school building is therefore not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C.

RESEARCH INFORMATION

(Check all of the basic sources consulted and cite specific important sources)

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Title Records | <input type="checkbox"/> Census Records | <input type="checkbox"/> Property Tax Records | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Histories |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sanborn Maps | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biographical Sources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SHPO Files | <input type="checkbox"/> Interviews |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Obituaries | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newspapers | <input type="checkbox"/> State Archives | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic Photographs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City Directories | <input type="checkbox"/> Building Permits | <input type="checkbox"/> State Library | |

Local Library: Multnomah County Library University Library: Portland State University Library
Historical Society: Oregon Historical Society Other Repository: PPS Archives

Bibliography: Bibliography

McMath, George. "A Regional Style Comes to the City." In *Space, Style and Structure: Buildings in Northwest America*. Ed. Thomas Vaughan, 467-499. Portland: Oregon Historical Society, 1974.

Mount Scott Learning Center - Middle School. <http://www.mtscottlearningcenters.org/centers.htm>. Accessed August 20, 2009.

Ogata, Amy F. "Building for Learning in Postwar American Elementary Schools." *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, Vol. 67, no. 4, December 2008: 562-591.

Oregonian "Portland Schools Saving \$599, 190 with 4 closures." 12-31-1982.

Perkins, Lawrence B and Walter D. Cocking. *Schools*. New York: Reinhold Publishing Corporation, 1949.

Portland Public Schools Chronology Binder.

Portland Public Schools. *Repairing, Rehabilitating and Modernizing the School Plant*. Portland: Portland Public Schools. Office of the Superintendent, 1945.

_____. Foster Elementary School. Facility Plan..

_____. Foster Elementary School. Facility Profile.

Ritz, Richard. E. *Architects of Oregon. A Biographical Dictionary of Architects Deceased – 19th and 20th Centuries*. Portland: Lair Hill Publishing, 2003.

Sanborn Map Company
1924-1928, 1908-Dec. 1950 Sanborn Maps, Multnomah County Public Library, Portland, Oregon. Available at:

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<https://catalog.multcolib.org/validate?url=http%3A%2F%2F-sanborn.umi.com.catalog.multcolib.org%3A80%2F>. Accessed June 16, 2009.

Snyder, Eugene E. Portland Names and Neighborhoods. Their Historic Origins. Portland: Binforrd & Mort Publishing; 1st edition 1979.



East elevation facing southwest



East elevation and roof overhang



North elevation facing southwest



Portable facing southwest



West elevation facing east

**Foster Facility
Exterior Photos
ENTRIX 2009**



Gymnasium facing west



Classroom facing north



Classroom built-ins



Corridor facing south

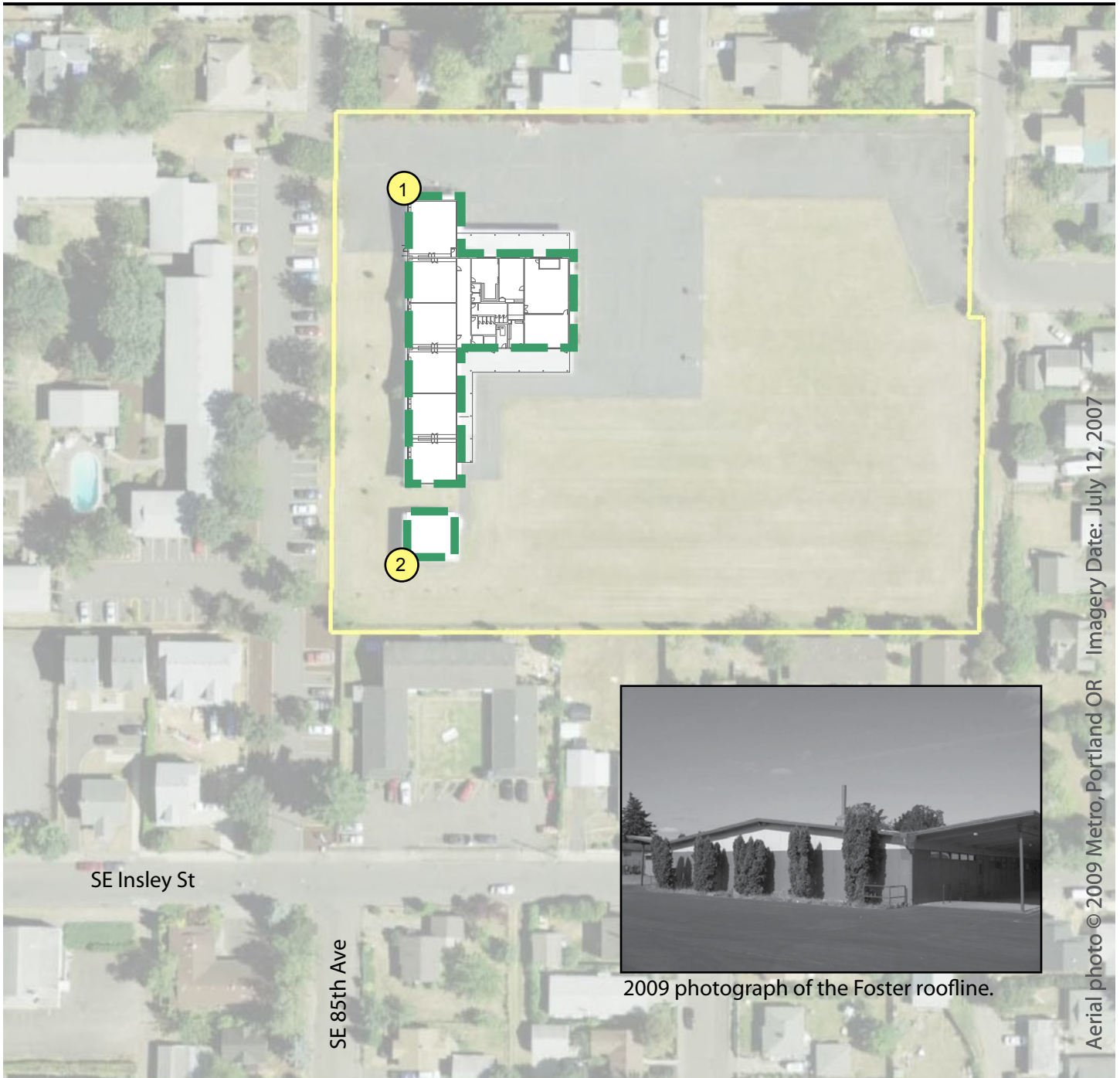


Interior portable

Foster Facility

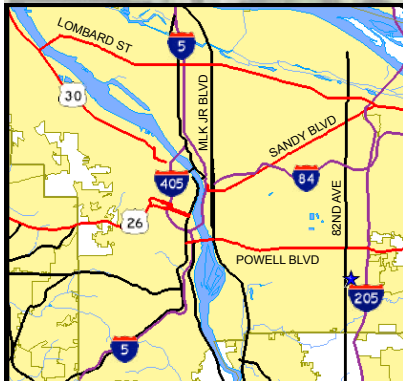
5205 SE 86th Ave, Portland OR, 97266

[View Site in Google Maps](#)






2009 photograph of the Foster roofline.

Aerial photo © 2009 Metro, Portland OR Imagery Date: July 12, 2007



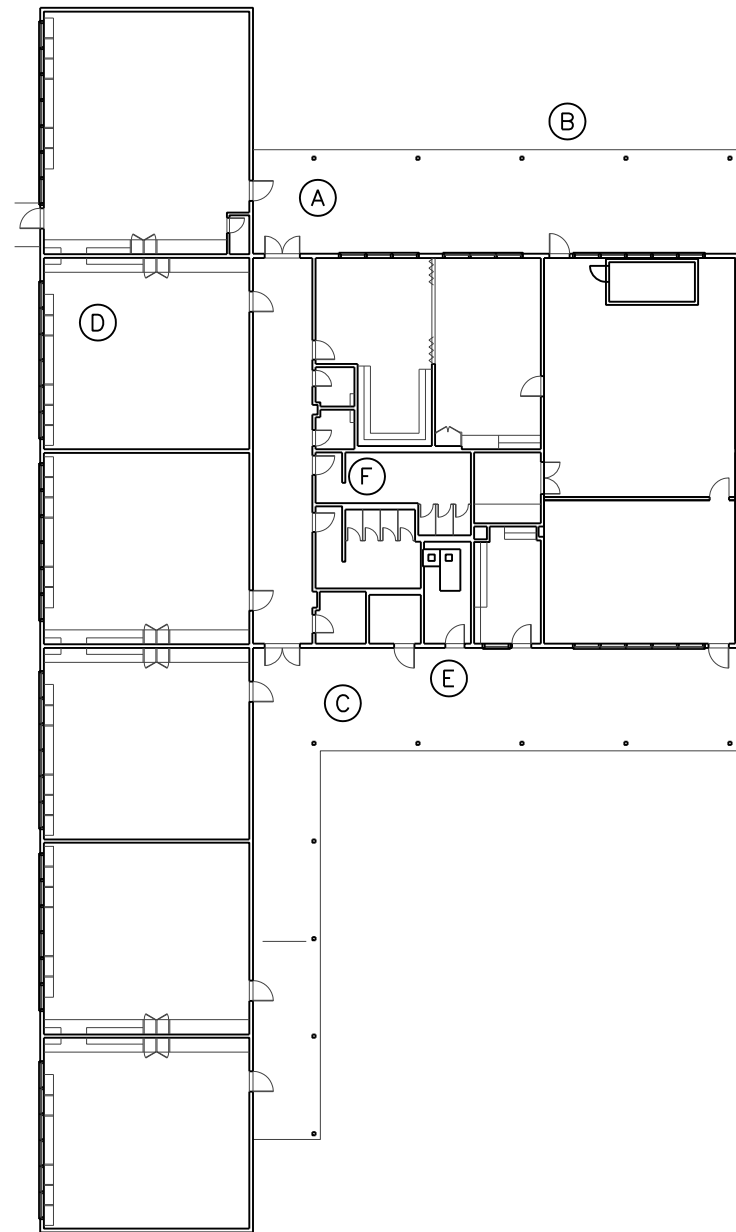
Historical Significance and Building Integrity

-  Contrib: High Significance
-  Contrib: Moderate Signif.
-  Non-Contributing



Building Periods

1. Main Building (367A), 1962
2. Classroom Add (367P1), 1966



KEYNOTES:

- (A) THE PRINCIPAL ENTRY TO THE BUILDING IS FROM THE NORTH INTO A LOBBY, FLANKED BY OFFICE AND THE CAFETERIA.
- (B) THE ROOF OF THE EAST WING PROJECTS APPROXIMATELY TEN FEET TO CREATE A COVERED PASSAGEWAY THAT LEADS TO THE ENTRY.
- (C) THE INTERSECTING SHED AND GABLE ROOFS ON SOUTH AND EAST ELEVATIONS EXTEND TO CREATE AN EXTERNAL CORRIDOR FOR THE SOUTH WING. THE ROOF IS SUPPORTED BY GLULAMINATED BEAMS THAT REST ON NARROW STEEL COLUMNS.
- (D) TYPICAL CLASSROOMS FEATURE BLONDE WOOD PANELING AND BUILT-INS. THE GLULAMINATED BEAMS THAT SUPPORT THE ROOF ARE EXPOSED.
- (E) A BRICK CLAD CHIMNEY WITH A STEEL PIPE THAT PROVIDES VENTILATION FOR THE INCINERATOR PROJECTS FROM THE WEST SIDE OF THE BUILDING.
- (F) SOME OF THE CLASSROOMS WERE PARTITIONED TO CREATE ADDITIONAL OFFICES AND STORAGE SPACES.

GENERAL NOTES:

- (1) THE BUILDING FEATURES CHARACTERISTIC ELEMENTS OF THE NORTHWEST STYLE INCLUDING BROAD ROOF OVERHANGS, PLYWOOD SIDING WITH NARROW BATTENS, FIXED WINDOWS WITH LOUVERS, AND A EXPRESSED STRUCTURAL SYSTEM.
- (2) THE FENESTRATION IS COMPRISED PRIMARILY OF GROUPED METAL FRAME WINDOWS WITH LOUVERS.



FOSTER FACILITY – 367

5205 SE 86TH AVE 97266

PPS HISTORIC ASSESSMENT



DRAWING: ANNOTATED PLAN

DATE: Sept. 4, 2009

1 FOSTER FACILITY – 1ST FLOOR
SCALE: 1" = 30'-0"

