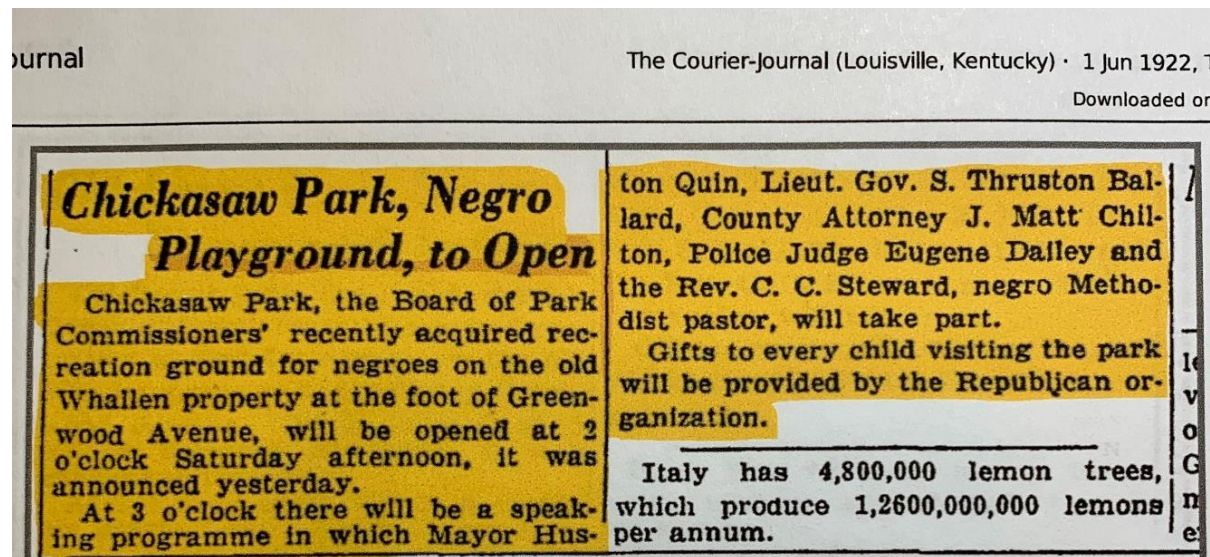


Chickasaw Park Lodge Buildings

First Chickasaw Park Lodge Building (1929)

Upon opening in June of 1922, Chickasaw Park was merely a bare bones “recreation ground” with no significant infrastructure and no park buildings. Priorities had to be made by the Board of Park Commissioners and the main priority in the parks early years was setting aside the land for the park itself. The infrastructure could come later. It was not until 1929 that a Lodge was built.



Courier-Journal, June 1, 1922

The Board of Park Commissioners engaged Clifford F. Reichert, a local architect and engineer to prepare plans and elevations for the Chickasaw Park Lodge. The draftsman noted on the plans was C. D. Russell. Reichert and Russell had a long history of architectural commissions with the Board in that they had designed buildings at Algonquin Park (gymnasium and auditorium) and at Shawnee Park (bandstand). The architectural firm was pleased enough with their designs for the Algonquin gymnasium and auditorium and with the Shawnee bandstand that they included an architect's rendering of each in a 1931 exhibition of their work at Louisville's Speed Museum. No plans for the Chickasaw Park Lodge were included in this exhibit. Reichert prepared the following documents in preparation for the 1st Lodge Structure:

2_Roof & Elevations

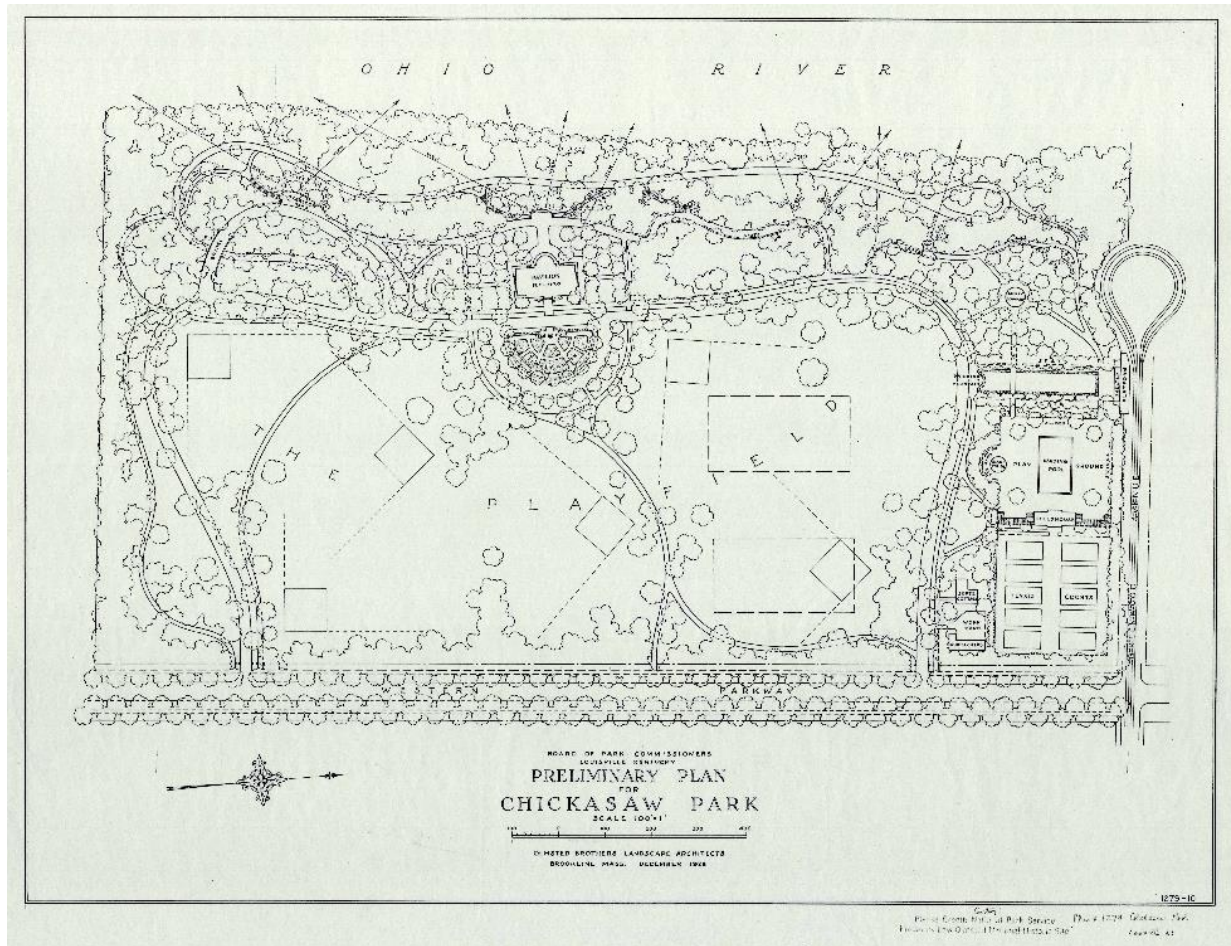
1_Floor Plan & Elevations

Author's note: For a more thorough examination of the 1931 exhibition please refer to "A History of the Profession of Architecture in Kentucky Hardcover – January 1, 1987 by C. Julian Oberwarth (Author), Jr. William B. Scott (Editor)." Clifford F Reichert and Carl D Russell's work can be viewed on page 184. The book notes that the photos depicted in the book are part of the Caufield and Shook Collection housed at the University of Louisville.

The Chickasaw Park Lodge was approached with practicality and economy in mind. Construction of the 1929 building incorporated portions of the former Whallen home into the new Lodge building design. While still at the design phase, Clifford Reichard and the Parks Board, commented that the "...field building in Chickasaw Park will lend itself admirably to reconstruction.... It will be surrounded by a porch and will be finished in stucco." [Source: January 30, 1929 Courier-Journal]

The 1929 Annual Report of the Board of Park Commissioners described the building as follows:

[At] the center of the park we find a cozy little shelter house... This was originally a two-story frame house which has recently been remodeled into a pleasing Italian type building at a cost of \$5,200.95. As we see, it is of stucco with hand hewn timbers as trim. The open patio, formed by a series of arches, extends around the entire building. In the rear of this house we discover ideally located picnic grounds. Beneath the shelter of wide spreading shade trees and on the banks of the Ohio River, we have an admirable view across the water to the Indiana Hills.



1923-12_Preliminary Plan

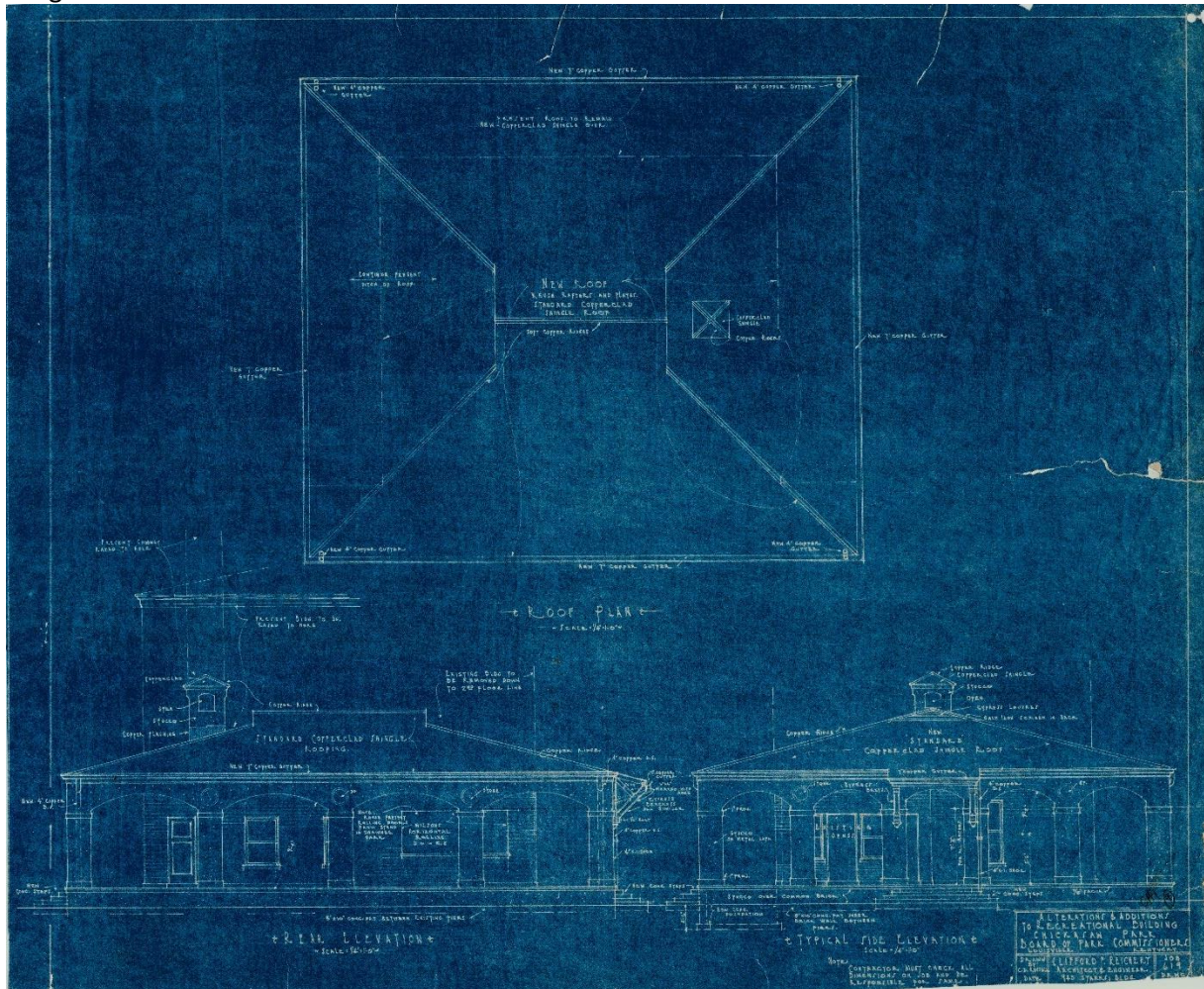
SOURCE OF GRAPHIC:

Louisville Parks and Recreation Flat Files/Louisville Parks & Recreation Records (Scanned 5 22 2020)

INDIVIDUAL TILE & FILE (IE NOT LOCATED IN FILE SUBFOLDER)

Note site placement of the 1929 Lodge and curvilinear lines of Chickasaw Road. The vistas from Chickasaw Park to the Ohio River were of paramount importance.

Lodge #1 1929



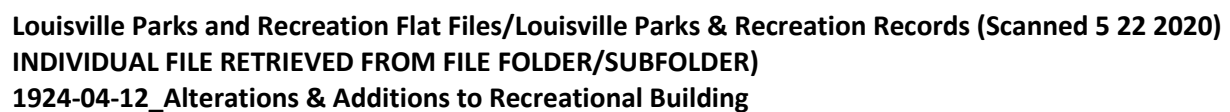
1_Floor Plan & Elevations

SOURCE OF GRAPHIC:

Louisville Parks and Recreation Flat Files/Louisville Parks & Recreation Records (Scanned 5 22 2020)

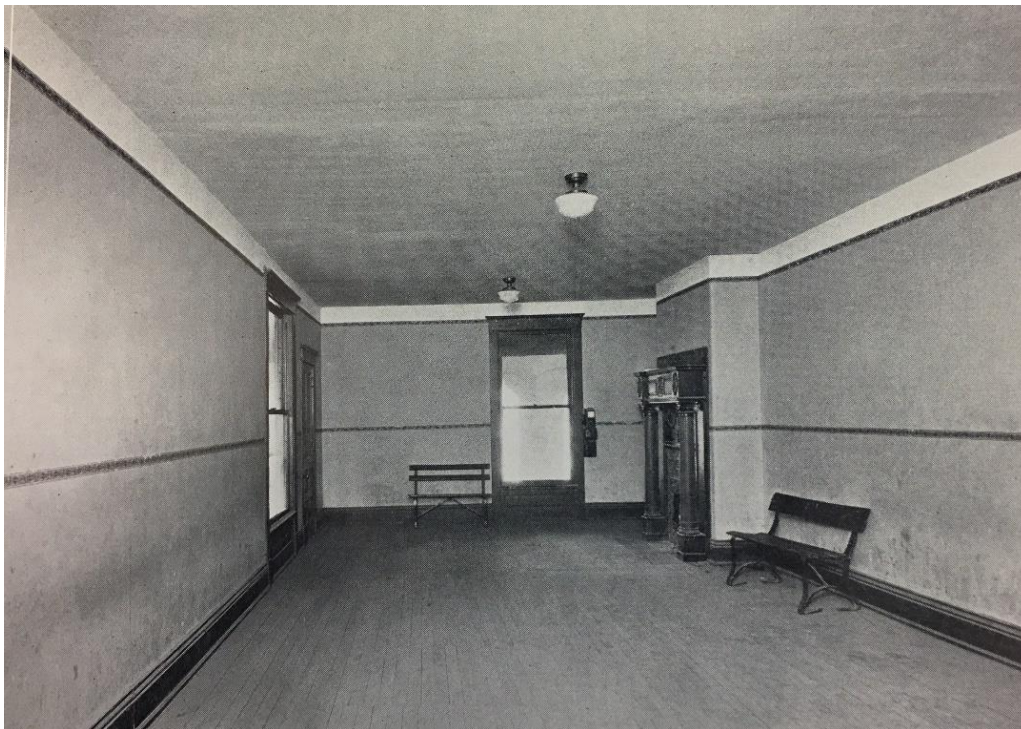
INDIVIDUAL FILE RETRIEVED FROM FILE FOLDER/SUBFOLDER)

1924-04-12_Alterations & Additions to Recreational Building





1929 Lodge Exterior. Note the loggia that wraps around the building
Source: University of Louisville Photographic Archives



1929 Lodge Interior Recreation Room. Note the fireplace and the park benches used as furniture.
Source: 1929 Annual Report



The image above is of Chickasaw Road which runs through Chickasaw Park. This image first appeared in the Board of Park Commissioners Report in 1929. The image is now archived at the University of Louisville Photographic Archives

Caption from the Board of Park Commissioners Annual Report, 1929:

Chickasaw Road—forming a wide semicircle drive-through Chickasaw Park

This road (which is shown in the above picture) is 4/5 of a mile in length and was constructed at a cost of \$21,370.95. Running through Chickasaw Park it has been appropriately named Chickasaw Road. From the baseball diamond, tennis courts, etc., it will be noted that Chickasaw Park is primarily a playground. However, this park can justly boast an attraction which it shares with but one other park in our entire system [Shawnee Park]. Directly west of it (paralleling the line of trees on the extreme left of the above picture) flows the beautiful Ohio River.

Caption from University of Louisville Photographic Archives:

A curve in Chickasaw Park in Louisville, Ky. Trees and open fields are [scattered] throughout the park. The building on the left in the distance is a Lodge.

Soon after the construction of the 1929 Chickasaw Lodge was completed, the Great Depression (1929-1939) would impact the entire country with a major economic downturn. Economic factors bubbled up in September of 1929 with the October 24, 1929, Stock Market Crash to follow. It became the “longest, deepest and most widespread economic depression of the 20th century.” [Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Depression]

The economic conditions brought about by the Great Depression are likely to have spilled over into allocation of funds for all of the parks in Louisville’s park system. By 1940, African American Courier-Journal staff writer Victor K. Perry reported on April 16, 1940 that, “chances appear slim for getting shelter houses erected at either Chickasaw Park or Seminole Park, according to S. Hannah, Superintendent of Parks, who said yesterday that the budget would not allow such expenditure. It appeared unlikely from his statements that any additional playground crew would be added to the two Negro parks.” Perry went on to remark that the “shelter house at Chickasaw Park is not large enough to accommodate... crowds.”



Courier-Journal, April 16, 1940

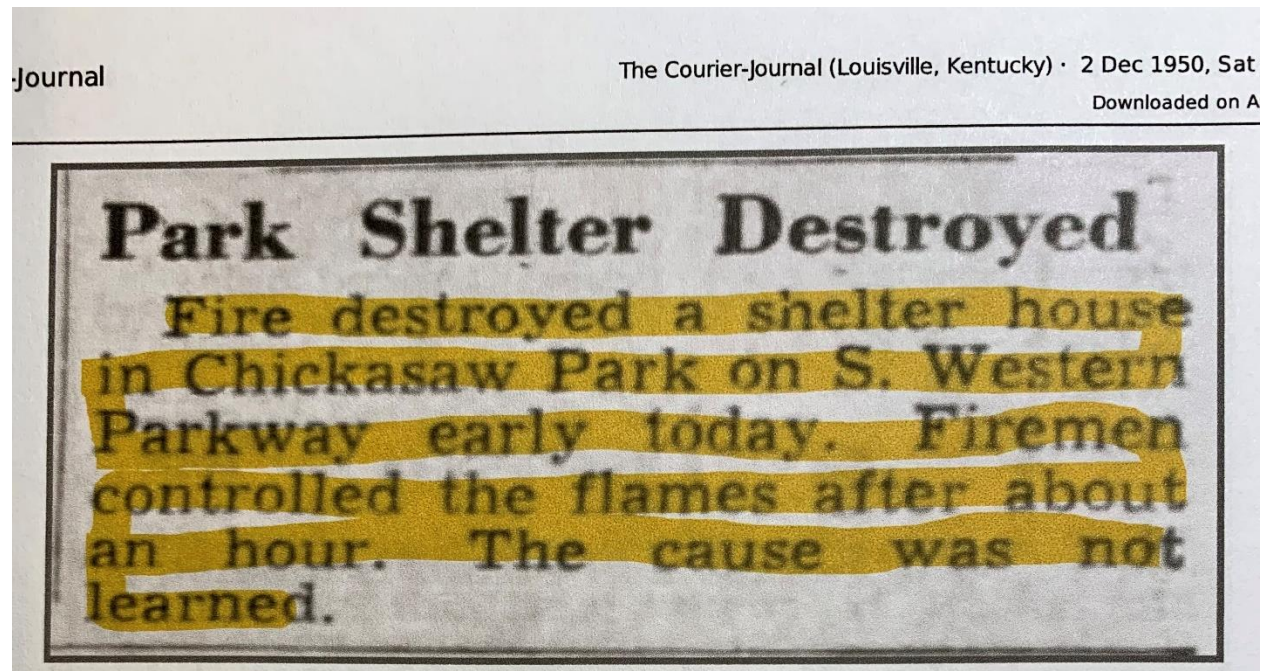
By 1943, the Louisville Parks and Recreation Annual Report boasted of the following assets in Chickasaw Park:

- 76.2 acres
- 1.3 miles roadways

- location-Western Parkway at Greenwood Avenue, on the Ohio River
- 1 shelter house and restrooms
- 1 refectory (communal dining hall)
- 1 bandstand
- lagoon (ice-skating and sleighing)
- 1 football field
- 1 softball field (lighted)
- 6 tennis courts (Clay)
- 4 horseshoe courts
- volleyball courts
- 1 wading pool
- picnic areas (ovens, tables and benches)
- playground areas and apparatus
- parking spaces
- landscaped

Second Chickasaw Park Lodge Building (1952)

The 1929 Lodge building was destroyed by a catastrophic fire on December 2, 1950. Despite the firemen's efforts to fight the fire's flames for over an hour, the structure was ultimately declared a total loss. No cause for the fire was ever determined.



Courier-Journal, December 2, 1950

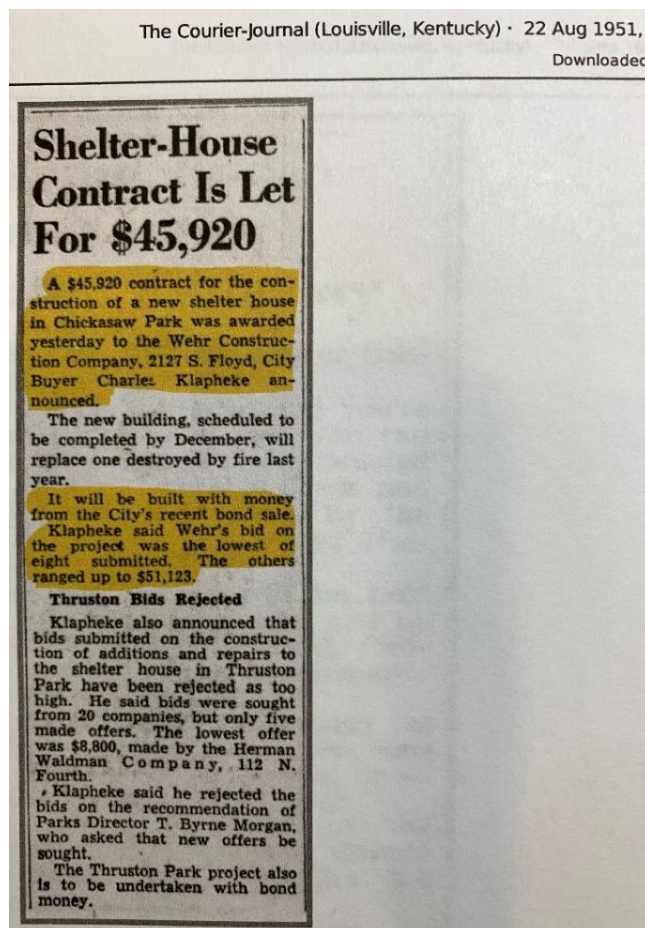
The loss of the 1929 Lodge caused considerable hardship to park patrons because, among other inconveniences, Chickasaw Park's restrooms were destroyed when the Lodge building went up in flames.

The Parks Department acted swiftly to remedy the situation. By July 1951, the Parks Department hired Berg & Dahl, Landscape Architects and City Planners to complete the design for a new Lodge building at Chickasaw Park.

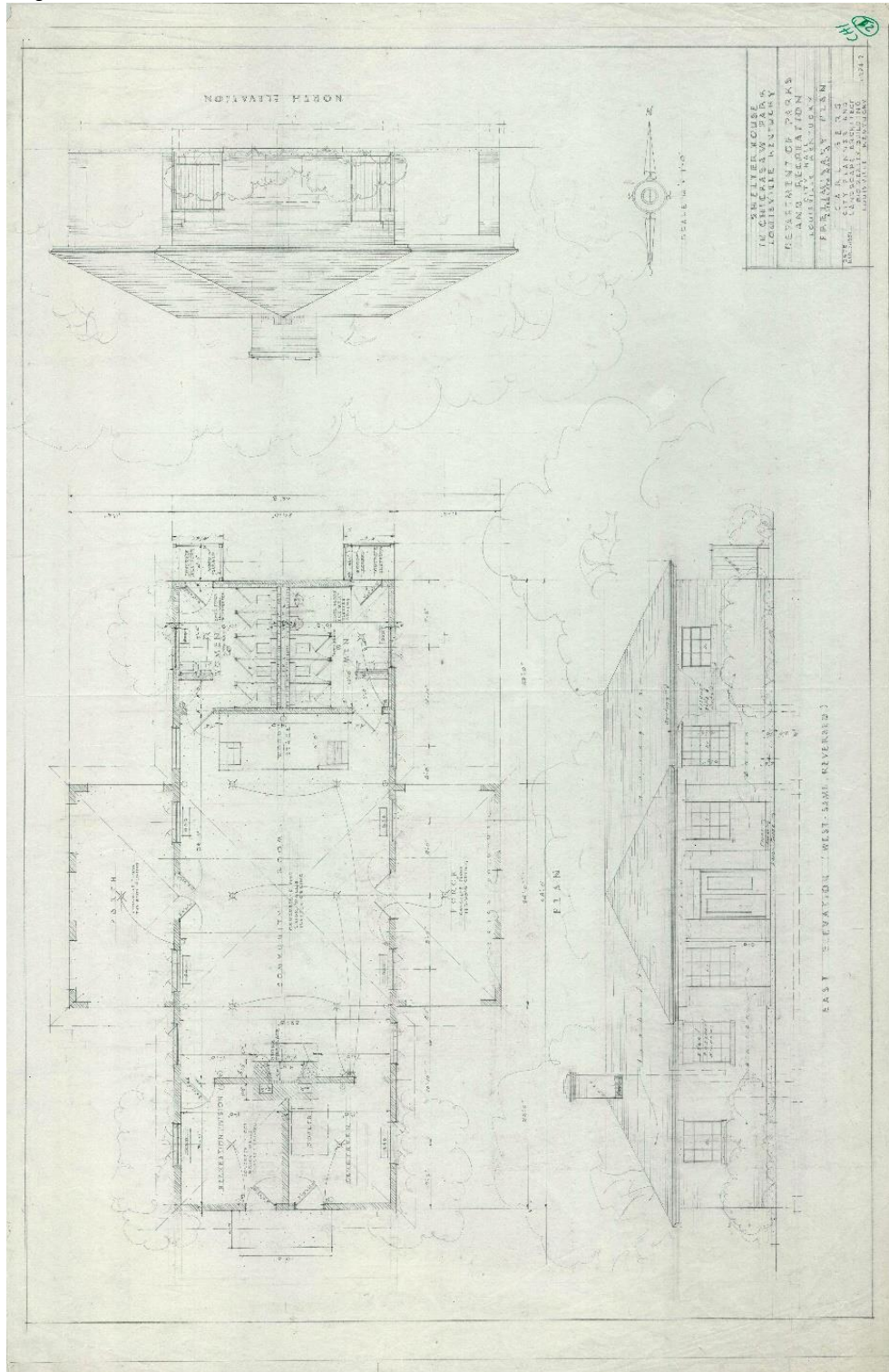
Berg & Dahl prepared the following documents for the 2nd Lodge Structure:

- 1_ Foundation Plan
- 2_ First Floor Plan
- 3_ East & North Elevations
- 4_ West & South Elevations
- 5_ Longitudinal & Cross Sections
- 6_ Roof Framing Plan & Trussed Rafter Details
- 7_ Heat, Light, Water & Plumbing Plan
- 8_ Construction Details – Sections
- 9_ Construction Details – Sections
- 10_ Construction Details - Cornice, Doors, Louvre & Fleur de Lis

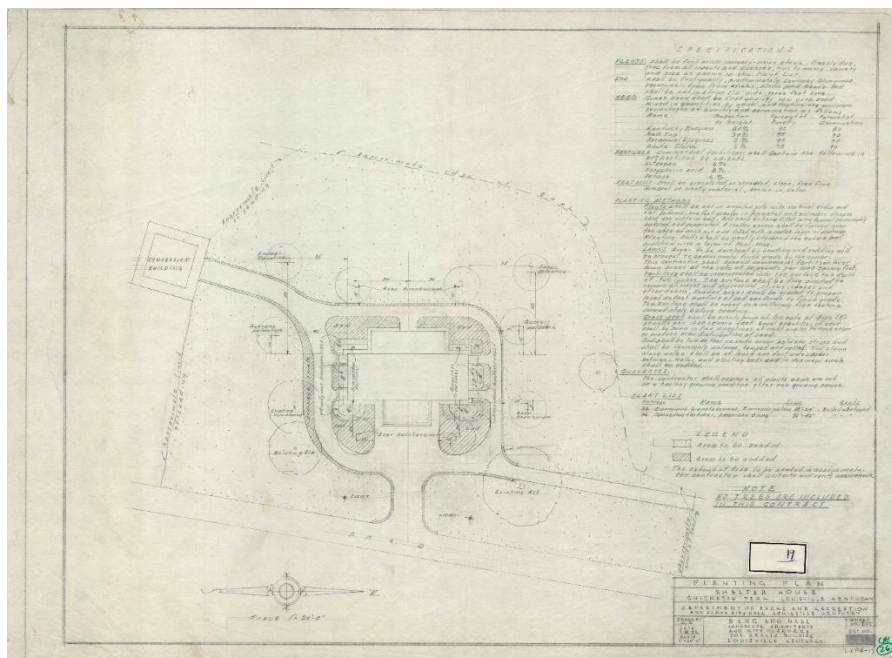
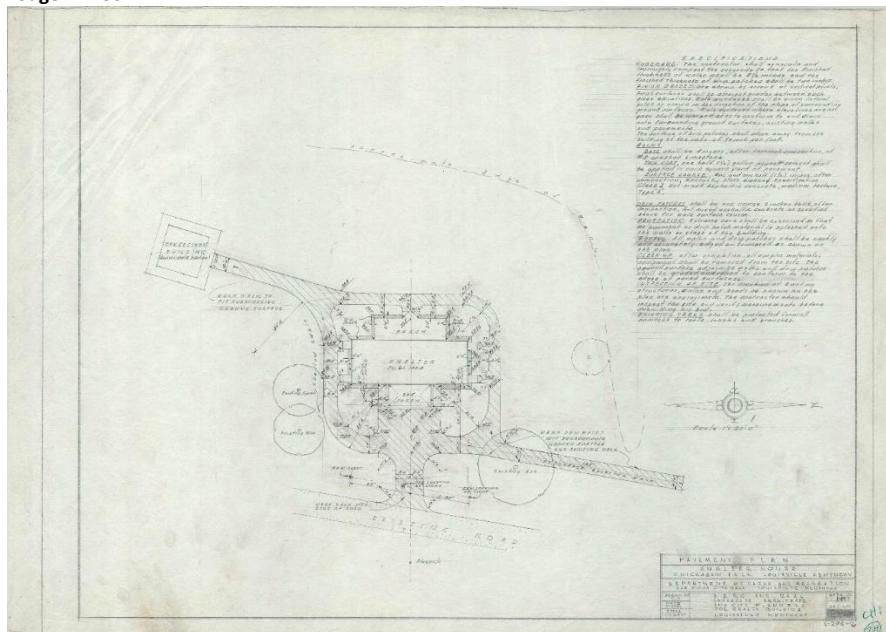
Soon thereafter, an article in the Courier-Journal indicated that a building permit, issued for construction of a “brick shelter house” was to be constructed at a cost of \$50,000. Wehr Construction Company was ultimately awarded the construction contract in the amount of \$45,920.

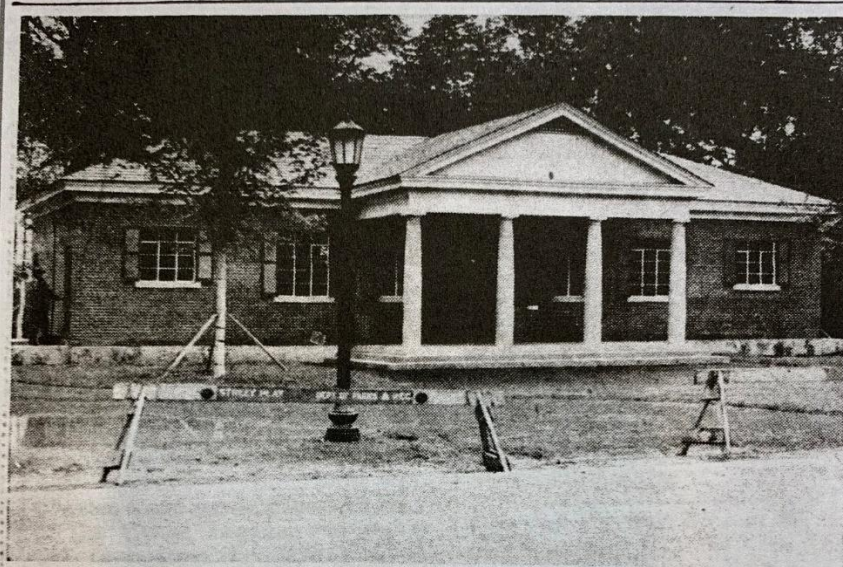


Courier-Journal, august 22, 1951



Lodge #2 1952





Courier-Journal Photo

READY AND WAITING, this \$46,000 shelter house in Chickasaw Park replaces one fire destroyed last year. If \$3,000 worth of furniture arrives in time, the building will be dedicated Tuesday when civic leaders tour parks during National Park Week.

May 21, 1952, Courier-Journal

New Lodge In Chickasaw Park Is To Be Dedicated Tuesday

Chickasaw Park Lodge, the new \$46,000 shelter house in Chickasaw Park, will be dedicated at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday.

On that day civic leaders will make a tour of Louisville parks and recreation centers as a part of the observance of National Park Week.

Speakers at the dedication will be T. Byrne Morgan, superintendent of parks; William A. Moore, City recreation superintendent; Charles Steele, executive secretary of the Urban League, and representatives from the Mayor's office.

The lodge then will be open to the public for reservations which should be placed a week in advance by calling the City Division of Recreation, MAgnolia 9060.

Between 100 and 150 persons

will go on the tour. The group will gather for a 12:15 p.m. lunch at the East Louisville Recreation Center, 622 E. Jefferson. In cars furnished by the Recreation Department they will leave at 2 p.m. with the first stop Thruston Park and then the Municipal Boat Harbor. Among other stops are Seneca Golf Course, Airport Playground, Iroquois Park, Cherokee Park, and the dedication ceremony at Chickasaw Park.

Hardwood Pioneer Dies at 88

Washington, May 21 (AP)—W. M. Ritter, 88 a pioneer in developing the Appalachian hardwood industry, died at his home today after a four-year illness. He was founder of the W. M. Ritter Lumber Company, Columbus, Ohio.

May 22, 1952, Courier-Journal



Courier-Journal Photo

CHICKASAW PARK'S new shelter house was dedicated yesterday by 65 civic leaders and park officials, including, from left, Mrs. Frances Parrish, administrative supervisor in the City Recreation Division, William A. Moore, City recreation superintendent, Charles Steele, executive secretary of the Urban League, and Parks Director T. Byrne Morgan.

Grandchildren Left \$202,279 By Mrs. Kirwan

Mrs. Sadie Doerhoefer Kirwan, Commodore Apartments, left the bulk of her \$202,279 estate in trust for three grandchildren, according to her will, probated yesterday in County Court.

Mrs. Kirwan, daughter of Basil Doerhoefer, a director of the American Tobacco Company, died May 13.

The grandchildren are children of Mrs. Lydia Kirwan Irvin, Battle Creek, Mich. The will stated that

65 Persons Tour City's Parks And Dedicate Shelter House

Sixty-five persons observed National Park and Recreation Week here yesterday by touring the city's parks.

They also took part in formal dedication ceremonies for the new \$46,000 shelter house in Chickasaw Park, which is for Negroes.

In a speech on the steps of the brick structure, Charles Steele, the Urban League's executive secretary, said he hoped that "this building will be the key-stone in the arch that will link all our parks together."

The new lodge is open to the

public. Reservations may be made through the City Division of Recreation.

Other dedication speakers were Mayor Farnsley, Mrs. Frances Parrish, administrative supervisor of the Recreation Division, Alderman W. W. Beckett, City Recreation Superintendent William A. Moore, Parks Director T. Byrne Morgan, and George Hendon, Jr., executive assistant to the Mayor.

Earlier in the afternoon, civic leaders making the park tour were guests of the Recreation Division at a luncheon at the East Louisville Recreation Center, 622 E. Jefferson.



1952-05-13
 SOURCE OF GRAPHIC:
 Louisville Parks and Recreation Flat Files/Louisville Parks & Recreation Records (Scanned 5 22 2020)
 INDIVIDUAL FILE RETRIEVED FROM FILE FOLDER/SUBFOLDER)
 1952_Cast Bronze Tablet Plan for Shelter House



1952-07-10_Design No. 2
 SOURCE OF GRAPHIC:
 Louisville Parks and Recreation Flat Files/Louisville Parks & Recreation Records (Scanned 5 22 2020)
 INDIVIDUAL FILE RETRIEVED FROM FILE FOLDER/SUBFOLDER)
 1952_Cast Bronze Tablet Plan for Shelter House

This new Lodge was dedicated on May 27, 1952, under the watchful eye of Charles P Farnsley, Mayor of Louisville. A cast bronze tablet affixed to the second Park Lodge building commemorates its construction.

Park officials selected National Park Week to formally dedicate the new Lodge structure. It was an opportunity for Park officials and civic leaders to show off the new building. As part of Park Week activities, park officials and 65 civic leaders went on a caravan tour of park facilities that included stops at Thruston Park, the Municipal Boat Harbor, Seneca Golf Course, the Airport Playground, Iroquois Park, Cherokee Park and the dedication ceremony for Lodge #2 at Chickasaw Park.

It was a moment of great excitement and progress for Chickasaw Park as Charles Steele, the Executive Secretary of the Louisville Urban League, spoke on the steps of the brick structure remarking "this building will be the keystone in the arch that will link all our parks together." Other speakers included Mayor Farnsley; Mrs. Francis Parrish, Administrative Supervisor of the Recreation Division; Alderman W. W. Beckett; City Recreation Superintendent William A. Moore; Parks Director T. Byrne Morgan, and George Hendon, Jr., Executive Assistant to the Mayor. Public officials indicated in newspaper accounts that "the [1929 Chickasaw] Lodge will be open to the public for reservations which should be placed a week in advance by calling the City Division of Recreation."

Almost from the moment the new Lodge Building was dedicated on May 27, 1952, there was a strong outcry about the inadequacy of the new Chickasaw Park structure. The Chickasaw Park constituency missed the broad open porches of the 1929 Park Lodge building. These open porches were particularly useful during inclement weather. Community members were so adamant about the lack of functional design that a delegation led by Rev. D. J. Hughlett formally complained to city officials. In a **June 3, 1952**, newspaper article Hewlett remarked that, "it's called a shelter house but you can't get in it for shelter... It's locked up and the police say you have to have orders to keep you out." This same newspaper article clarified that, "the building is kept closed except when being used by civic groups and the like upon reservation....Restrooms and porches are open to the public at all times." Recreation Superintendent William A. Moore responded with a conciliatory tone to Rev. Hewlett's delegation by saying that the usage rules may change if the majority of people are in favor of different building access policies.

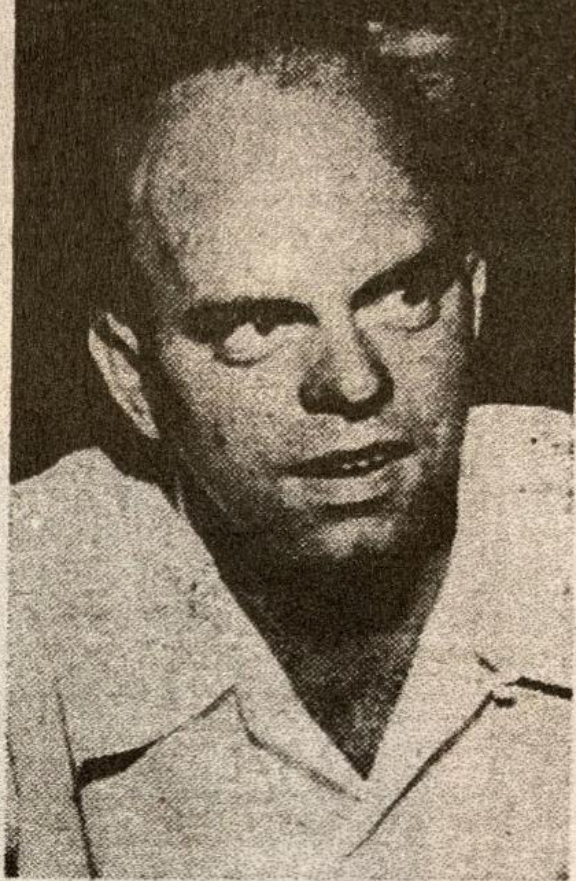


THE REV. D. J. HUGHLETT
Wants shelter house opened

the Rev. Daniel J. Hughlett, 2411 W. Walnut, complained about the way the new \$46,000 lodge-shelter house at Chickasaw Park is being used.

"It's called a shelter house, but you can't get in it for shelter," Mr. Hughlett said. "It's locked up and police say they have orders to keep you out."

The building is kept closed except when being used by civic groups and the like upon reservation. It is equipped with furniture



R. H. STOPHER
Complains about buses

and kitchen facilities. Rest rooms and porches are open to the public at all times.

Recreation Superintendent William A. Moore told the delegation that the City would probably change the present policy if it proved not to be a practical thing and the majority of the people wanted it otherwise.

Raymond H. Stopher, 1004 Carks Lane, representing another delegation, complained about the Louisville Transit Company's Hill

Mayor Will Consider New Park Facilities

Five ministers led by the Rev. F. S. Anderson of Broadway Temple, A.M.E. Zion Church, were assured yesterday by Mayor Farnsley that he will consider additional shelter house facilities in Chickasaw Park.

March 25, 1953, Courier-Journal

March 25, 1953 , Courier-Journal

Members of the African American community, particularly those represented by Louisville churches, continued to agitate for additional facilities at Chickasaw Park. Rev. F. S. Anderson of Broadway Temple, AME Zion Church, led a delegation of five ministers who lobbied Mayor Farnsley for additional shelter house facilities at Chickasaw Park.

1987 Renovations and Alterations to the Second Chickasaw Park Lodge Building (original dates from 1952)

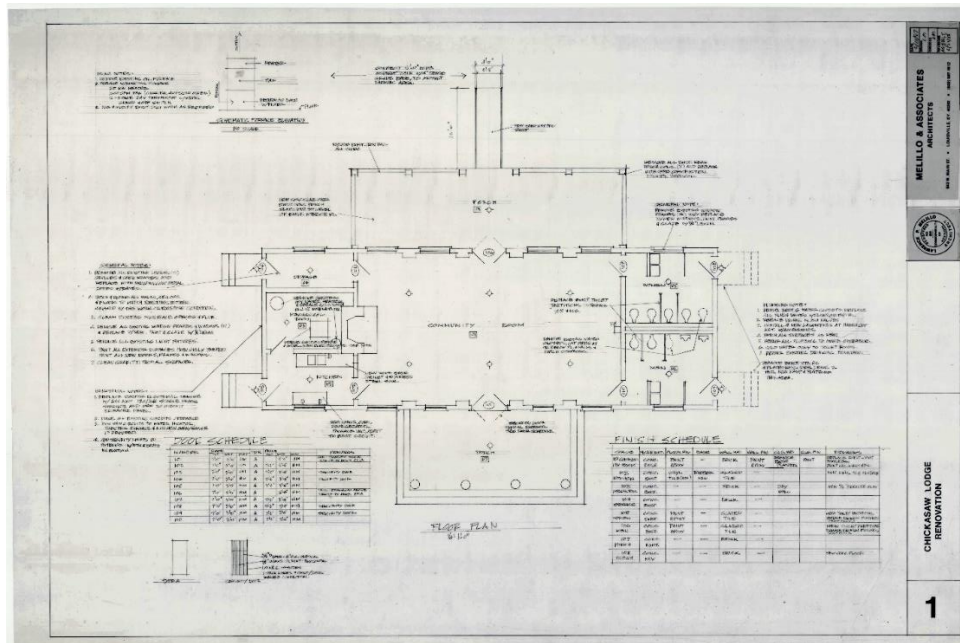
Lodge #2 RENOVATIONS 1987

1987-02-11_Lodge Renovation

In 1987, renovations were made to the 1952 Lodge building by Larry Melillo of Melillo & Associates Architects. Melillo and Associates prepared the following documents for the 2nd Lodge Structure renovation:

- 1_Floor Plan, Schedules & Details
- 2_Elevations & Ramp Plans
- 3_Elevations & Window Details

Lodge #2 RENOVATIONS 1987

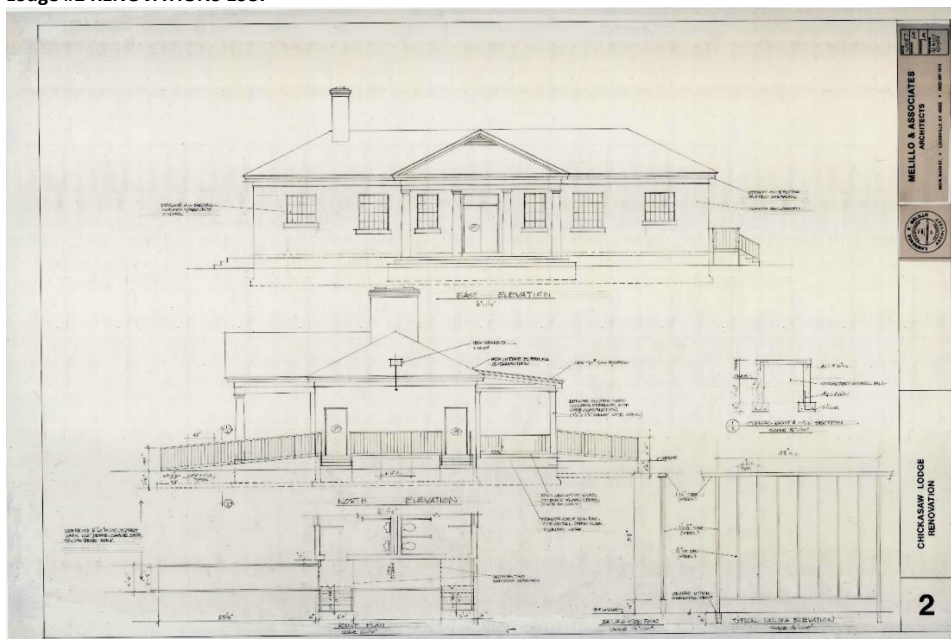


1_Floor Plan, Schedules & Details

Louisville Parks and Recreation Flat Files/Louisville Parks & Recreation Records (Scanned 5 22 2020)
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1987-02-11_Lodge Renovation

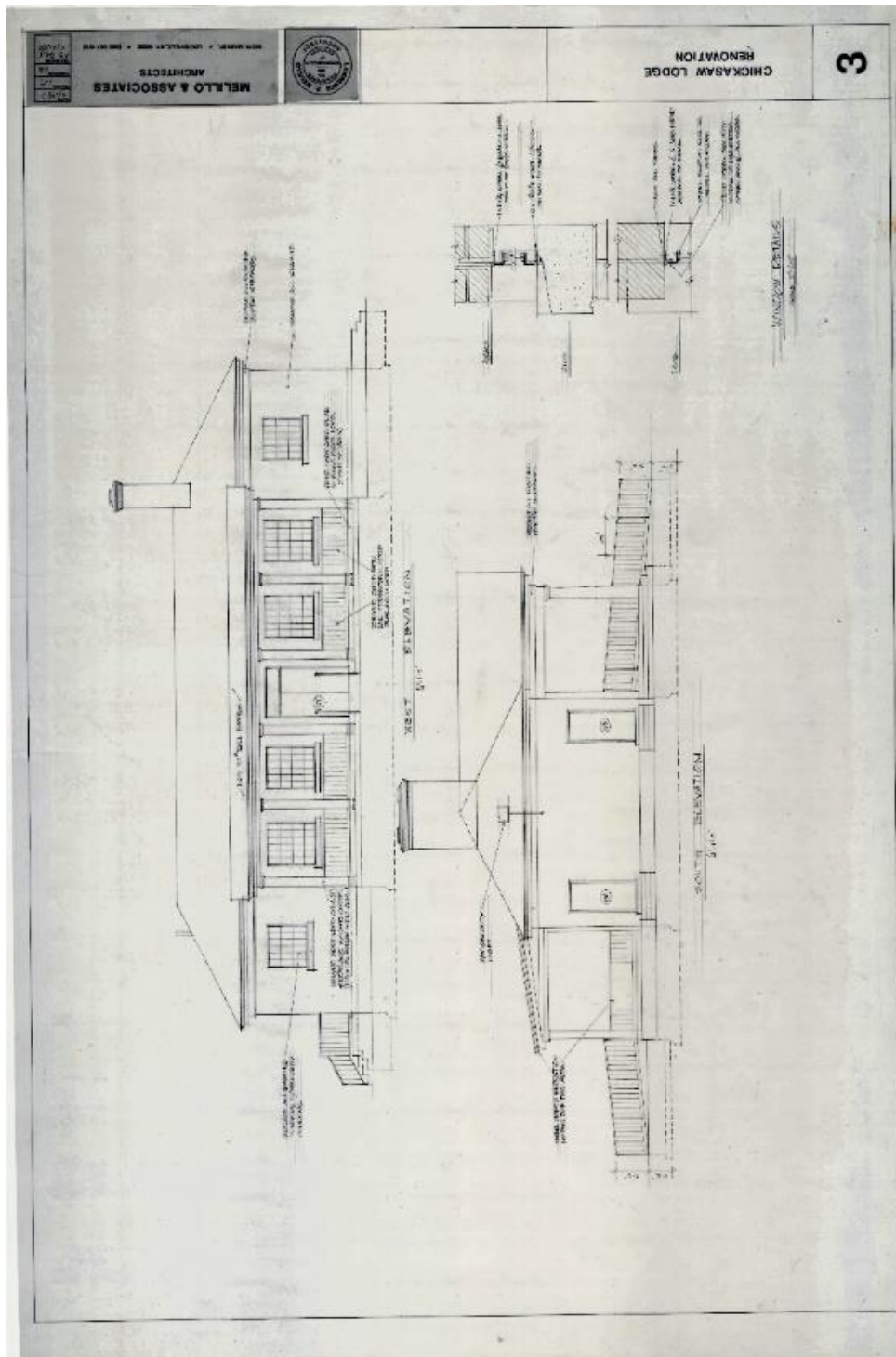
Lodge #2 RENOVATIONS 1987



2_Elevations & Ramp Plans

Louisville Parks and Recreation Flat Files/Louisville Parks & Recreation Records (Scanned 5 22 2020)
INDIVIDUAL FILE RETRIEVED FROM FILE FOLDER/SUBFOLDER)

1987-02-11_Lodge Renovation



3 Elevations & Window Details

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Louisville Parks and Recreation Flat Files/Louisville Parks & Recreation Records (Scanned 5 22 2020)
INDIVIDUAL FILE RETRIEVED FROM FILE FOLDER/SUBFOLDER)
1987-02-11_Lodge Renovation

END OF SECTION