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IMPORTANT NOTE—If you reside or have your principal office in the localities of a Chapter or Chapters of The Institute which are opposed to the "Architects' Roster" or the "Register of Architects Qualified for Federal Public Works", do not answer or fill out the questionnaire.

CITY OF Elmira

JUN 6 1946

STATE OF New York

EDMUND R. PURVES DATE.....

*Central N.Y. Dept.*

**QUESTIONNAIRE FOR ARCHITECTS' ROSTER AND/OR REGISTER OF ARCHITECTS QUALIFIED FOR FEDERAL PUBLIC WORKS**

TYPING IS MANDATORY. PARTNERSHIPS SHOULD MAKE A JOINT RETURN ONLY. Pink copy is to be retained by the author; other copies to be mailed to The American Institute of Architects, 1741 New York Avenue, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

- 1. (a) FIRM (individual or partnership) Robert Turner Bickford
- (b) FORMER FIRM, if any Pierce & Bickford
- 2. BUSINESS ADDRESS 215 West Water Street, Elmira, New York
- J. H. Pierce & H.H. Bickford in 1891 - until 1932
- 3. YEAR ESTABLISHED H.H.Bickford dec. 1929; J.H.Pierce retired 1932

4. PERSONAL HISTORIES OF PRINCIPALS	Name of Principal	Name of Principal
	<u>Robert Turner Bickford</u>	

Furnish data complete, but keep to essentials. Describe each member of firm individually; if more than two, append extra sheets.

- (a) Date of Birth May 9, 1894
- (b) Education B. of Arch. Cornell Univ. Coll. of Arch. 1916  
Traveled studying Architecture in Europe
- (c) Experience Prior to Own Practice  
(Give architect or architectural firm affiliations, positions held, and approximate dates of employment.)  
Pierce & Bickford
- (d) Commenced Practice January 20, 1920 - Junior partner in Pierce & Bickford  
1920-1925
- (e) Number of Years a Principal Full partner 1925-1929-1932

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(f) **Architectural Licenses**

(Give State, Number and Year Issued.)

New York State - Jan. 30, 1920 - 1534

Pennsylvania - July 21, 1920 - 122A

(g) **Professional Societies and Offices Held**

Member A.I.A. since 1923 - (Cent. N.Y. Chapter Past Pres.)  
Arch. League of New York (N.Y.C.), N.Y. State Soc. of Arch.

(h) **Service in World Wars I and II.** (Append data if desired.)

I. Emergency Fleet Corp. (Planning dry docks & buildings)  
II. Kept office open, additions, etc. to war industry plants.  
Planned a glider factory built for D.P.C. - Sponsored by  
Army Air Corps.

(i) **Civic Activities**

Dir., Pres. and Treas. R. T. Turner Corporation  
Trustee Elmira Savings Bank  
Trustee and Secretary Arnot Art Gallery  
Chairman, Elmira Planning Commission  
Elmira City Club, Elmira Golf & Country Club, Rotary, S.A.R.,  
and Torch Club.

**5. CONSULTANTS USUALLY EMPLOYED:**

(If a member of your staff, so state)

(a) **STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS**

Name of Firm or Individual Thomas H. McKaig,  
Business Address Buffalo, New York  
Herbert Adams, Odessa, N. Y.

(b) **HEATING & VENTILATING ENGINEERS**

Name of Firm or Individual Davis & McGlenn - for heating and ventilating  
Business Address Elmira, New York

(c) **ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS**

Name of Firm or Individual Robson & Woese - for electrical wiring and H & V  
Business Address Syracuse, New York  
Howard M. Sharp - for lighting and electrical work  
Snyder, New York

(d) **PLUMBING OR SANITARY ENGINEERS**

Name of Firm or Individual Usually done in office - sometimes Davis &  
Business Address McGlenn (above)

(e) **LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS**

Name of Firm or Individual Allyn Hoffman  
Business Address Elmira, New York

**6. OTHER REMARKS RE QUALIFICATIONS:**

(Append extra sheet if necessary)

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**7. SUMMARY OF PROJECT COSTS:**

	Largest Single Job	All Jobs Valuation	Annual Average
Work Completed 1930-1940	Riverside School Elmira, N.Y.	235,000	
Work Completed 1941-1946	Schweizer Aircraft Corp. Elmira, N.Y. (factory at Chemung Co. Airport)		
Current Work under construction or working drawings authorized	Includes a number of projects for public and private in sketch stage. Working drawings are under way for an Academic Building for Elmira College.		

**8. REPRESENTATIVE WORK FOR WHICH YOU WERE ARCHITECT OR WERE ASSOCIATED WITH OTHERS:**

(a) Three Projects Not Exceeding Cost of \$300,000:

Name of Project	Cost	Location	Owner
Bank	35,000	Elmira, N.Y.	Elmira Savings Bank
School	125,000	" "	Thos. K. Beecher School
Store	250,000	" "	Gorton Coy.

(b) Three Projects Costing From \$300,000 to \$1,000,000:

Name of Project	Cost	Location	Owner
Bank	460,000	Elmira, N.Y.	Elmira Bank & Trust Co.
School	501,000	" "	Southside High School
School	333,000	" "	Parley Coburn School

(c) Three Projects Costing Over \$1,000,000:

Name of Project	Cost	Location	Owner
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....

**9. PHOTOGRAPHS/PHOTOSTATS:**

The author submits herewith photographs or photostats (size 8" x 10") of several buildings for which he has been the Architect, as follows: (N.C.A.R.B. presentation acceptable.)

Other photographs will be added to those enclosed, when they are available.

**10. COLLABORATION WITH JUNIOR ARCHITECTS:**

(a) If an established individual or firm, are you willing to collaborate with other firms or individuals which would permit junior architects to qualify and help further their professional careers?

(b) If in private practice at this time, name associates (if additional architects are to be added to your organization) for the purpose of qualifying:

(c) If not in private practice at this time, name established architect or firm with whom you have agreed to collaborate, for the purpose of qualifying:

11.(a) I/We wish to be  } included in the **Architects' Roster**  
do not wish to be

(b) I/We would like to be  } considered for the **Register of Architects Qualified for Federal Public Works**  
do not wish to be

I/We hereby certify that the above is a true statement of facts.

Name of Firm or Individual Robert Turner Bickford

Signed by all Principals: Robert T. Bickford



# A Complete Neighborhood School Plant

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## The Riverside School, Elmira, New York



Entrance Detail, Riverside School, Elmira, New York. — Robert T. Bickford, Architect, Elmira, New York.

The construction of a new school in the city of Elmira, N. Y., to replace the old Riverside School, had been felt as a pressing need for several years. The original building had been erected in 1889, and during the half century of its existence this section of the city had not only grown, but also the changing demands of the educational system and of community uses had made its facilities entirely inadequate.

Therefore, one of the city's first projects as a part of its participation in the P. W. A. program was to provide a suitable building to serve this district. Mr. Robert T. Bickford, registered architect, was engaged by the board of education, and under his supervision the building was designed and constructed.

The school property faces a residential street of average, well-kept homes. The neighborhood is composed of established property owners. On the east, and adjoining the school grounds, is a large public park containing ample play space and playground equipment. The park contains no concessions or commercial facilities, and therefore provides an excellent area for the use of children.

The problem confronting the architect had several important considerations. Lack of available space in other schools made it necessary to retain the existing building during the construction of the new one. Present-day educational methods required that several special purpose rooms be provided, and these must be properly related to the age groups of the students using them. Other facilities were necessary which would serve for community activities and at the same time contribute to the primary function of providing adequate educational facilities.

Because the building was to be started at the beginning of winter, the architect decided on the steel skeleton-frame type of construction, with reinforced concrete foundations and floor systems and a steel roof deck. This method permitted the outside shell of the building to be completed in the least possible time, and thereby enclose the building so that the interior work could be carried on during the severe winter weather.

The exterior design of the school is an interesting adaptation of American classic architecture with a distinctly modern feeling. Walls are of variegated soft tones of red brick trimmed with Indiana limestone. The windows are wood, with the exception of the shower rooms which are of aluminum, and in the boiler room where they are of steel. All exterior doors and frames are also made of steel.

The entrance vestibules are lined with soft brown Appalachian marble surmounted by a plaster cornice. In the floors are recessed mats surrounded by quarry tile borders.

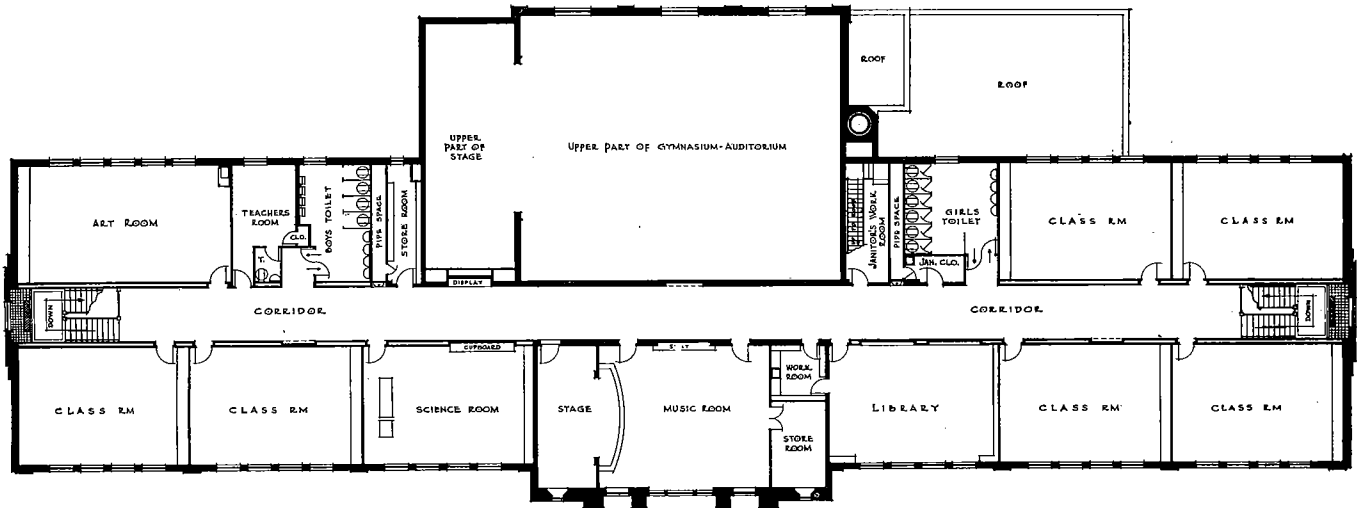
All interior partitions are built of cinder blocks with a lime plaster finish. Classroom floors are of maple to harmonize pleasantly with the birch wardrobes and bookcases. Corridors have quarry tile floors in variegated shades of buff blending into dull reds. The corridor walls have a cream-toned glazed brick wainscot shoulder height.

Flanking the main entrance lobby are the

offices. To the right is the administrative suite of a business office, a supply room, and the principal's office. The location, being central, allows for the control of the gymnasium directly across the corridor, and also for most efficient general administration. The communication and signal systems are controlled from this point. Being near the main entrance allows the principal to carry on all necessary contacts with the public with a minimum of disturbance to both students and teachers.

On the left of the entrance lobby is the medical examiner's suite, consisting of a waiting room, a consultation room, and a completely equipped examination room. This suite provides ample facilities for all of the normal clinical activities, both medical and dental.

Adjoining the two office groups on the first floor are six standard, 40-pupil classrooms, in addition to a large first-grade room, a kindergarten unit, toilets, teachers' room, and janitors' closets.



Second Floor Plan, Riverside School, Elmira, New York. — Robert T. Bickford, Architect, Elmira, New York.

All classrooms are equipped with built-in wardrobes for the pupils and a private locker and bookcase for the teacher. Additional bookshelves are provided near the teacher's desk for storage of active texts and reference books. All blackboards are of natural slate with sections of corkboard near the classroom door for the posting of bulletins. There is a continuous rack around the top of the blackboard from which can be displayed specimens of the students' work. The lighting fixtures are controlled by a photoelectric relay which automatically turns on the lights whenever the daylight is insufficient.

The kindergarten is a large room with its own exit to the outdoors' kindergarten playground. At the far end is a large fireplace with bookshelves on either side. At the opposite end of the room are a coatroom, a storage room, and a toilet room. These rooms are grouped around an alcove with a large opening toward the classroom to allow adequate teacher control of the entire group. The storage room is equipped with shelves to receive activity materials, in addition to cupboards with space for storage of each child's personal

supplies. This type of individualized storage has been found to be of material assistance in teaching the children to be orderly.

The combination auditorium-gymnasium is located opposite the front entrance and opens also toward the park. This location is central for carrying out its educational functions, and in addition makes it easily accessible to the public without the necessity of entering any other part of the building. By means of careful development of the grounds in relation to the quiet dignity of the building, a spaciousness has been achieved that is in pleasing harmony with the park approach.

The room itself is ample for all games, including basketball; and when used for civic purposes has a seating capacity of approximately 400. The auditorium seating is of the folding type, and when not in use is stored on trucks housed under the stage. The ceiling is of acoustic material, and the walls, above the glazed brick wainscot, are of painted cinder blocks laid in a random ashlar pattern. The combination of the ceiling and wall materials gives a proper acoustical balance so that both music and speech are heard without

distortion. The stage, which is of proper size for the presentation of school plays, has a ceiling equipped for the suspension of backdrops and scenery. Footlights and border lights are provided and all lighting is controlled by a standard dimming arrangement, which permits the diversified effects required in the presentation of a school play.

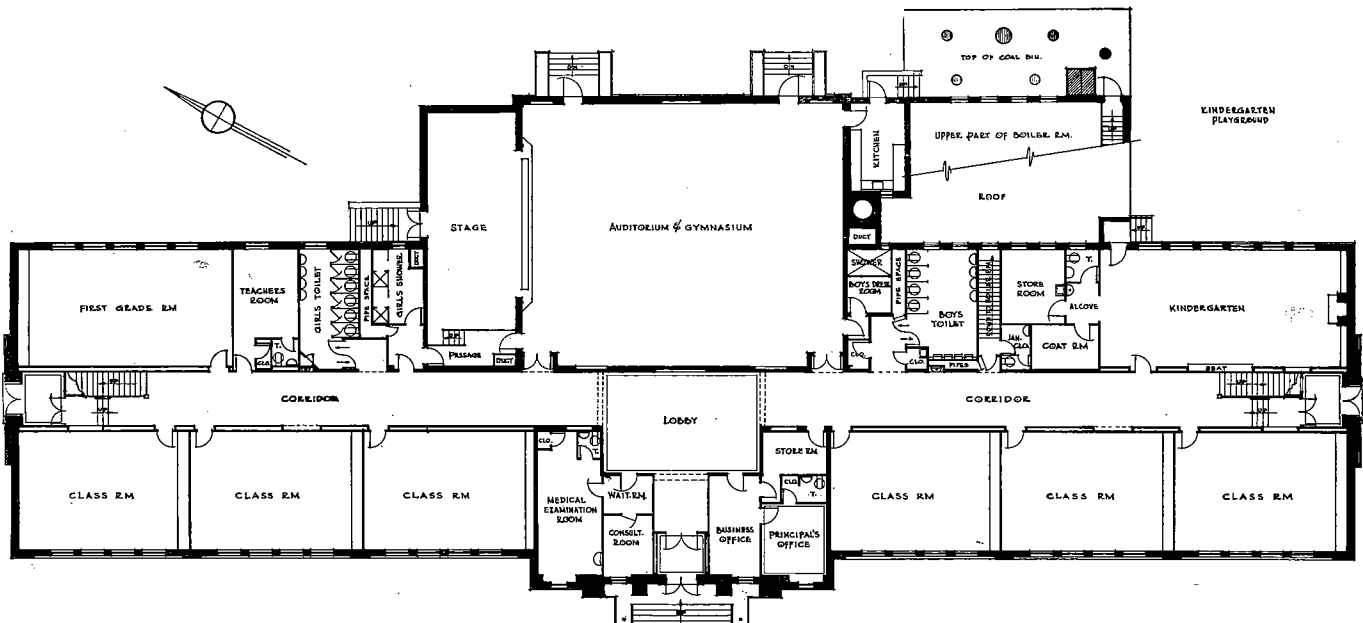
The floor of the main room is marked for various types of games.

Small shower and dressing rooms are provided for both boys and girls. A small kitchen is available for the preparation of light lunches when desired for community activities.

On the second floor of the building are 6 more classrooms. There are also an art room, a science room, a music room, and a library, in addition to toilets, teachers' room, and storage rooms.

The art room has ample light and contains storage cupboards for all kinds of materials and equipment. Suitable means of display are provided for the work of the students.

The science room has an instructor's table at one end and a large display case for speci-



First Floor Plan, Riverside School, Elmira, New York. — Robert T. Bickford, Architect, Elmira, New York.

mens along the side. Additional storage space for supplies is available directly across the hall so that the instructor may have adequate material accessible for projects.

The music room with its adjoining stage is designed to serve both for musical and dramatic instruction, and for small community meetings which would not require the use of the auditorium. A room opening off from the main room is provided for the storage of music and for the student's instruments. The ceiling of the music room is treated with acoustical materials and the walls are ornamented with appropriate plaster designs which give it a definite musical character in keeping with its primary purpose.

The library, too, has a dual function. It houses reference material for the students and teachers, and also serves as the neighborhood branch of the city's main public library. The bookshelves have a capacity of about 2500 volumes. There are racks for magazines and periodicals, and all the necessary equipment for a small, efficient library. Opening off from the library near the charging desk is a workroom. New books are delivered to this room where they are unpacked and marked. There are large storage cupboards and a sink, which

permit the repairing of books thereby keeping the maximum number of volumes in a serviceable condition.

The other rooms of the building were each given careful study. The teachers' rooms are furnished simply but in good taste. There are adequate storage rooms on each floor to accommodate the supplies required for the various types of instruction. Janitor's facilities are ample and arranged for efficient maintenance of the building.

The unit system of steam heating is employed and is supplied by two stoker-fed boilers. Service access to the building is arranged to cause no interference with other activities.

The school was built at a total cost of \$247,706 or about 36 cents per cubic foot. This includes the demolition of the old building, landscaping and sidewalks, and furniture and equipment.

The character of the design of the building blends harmoniously with the residential atmosphere of its surroundings. Its use has created a development of neighborly interests and a feeling of community pride in its acquisition.

Superintendent of Schools, Oscar F. Kerlin,

under whose administration this school was constructed in 1939, has this to say of the Riverside School: "The structure was designed only after a careful study of all the functions we wished the school to perform. After four years' use we can say that it has met perfectly all our requirements and expectations. The principal and teachers agree with me upon this point."

#### Construction and Equipment Details

Exterior trim, *Indiana Limestone*.

Roof, *Truscon "Ferrobord"* roof deck; built-up pitch and gravel.

Insulations, roof, *Celotex*.

Floors, classroom, maple; gymnasium, maple.

Acoustical material, music room, cork tile.

Corridor and stair treads, quarry tile.

Windows, boiler room, *Detroit Steel Products*.

Heating, split system, thermostatic control.

Boilers, *International Heater*.

Stokers, *Iron Fireman*.

Unit heaters, *Nesbitt*.

Temperature control, *Johnson Service*.

Ash hoist, *Gillis & Geoghegan*.

Lighting, indirect with automatic and manual control.

Program clocks, *International*.

Intercommunicating telephones, *International*.

Photoelectric equipment, "Electric Eye" *General Electric*.

Sanitary installation, *Standard Sanitary*.

Blackboards, slate.

Gymnasium equipment, *American Seating*.

Laboratory stools, demonstration table, and aquaria, *Kewanee Mfg. Co.*





# ELMIRA SAVINGS BANK

ROBT. T. BICKFORD, ARCHITECT.

ELEVATION OF WEST END OF BANKING ROOM

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VIEW IN LOBBY UNDER MEZZANINE SHOWING  
TELLER'S WINDOWS

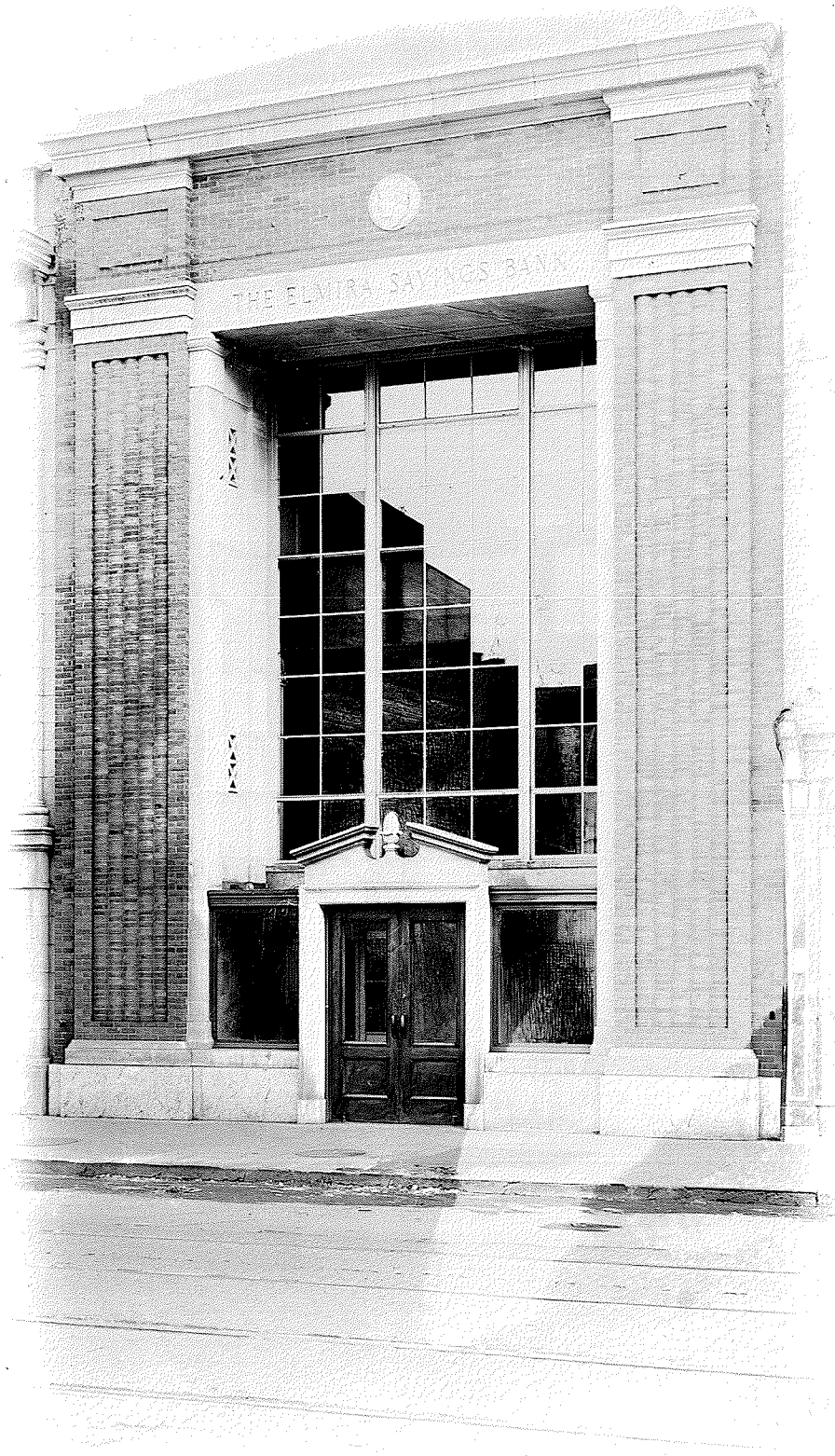
BIRCE & BICKFORD

VIEW LOOKING TOWARDS VAULT AT EAST  
END OF LOBBY SHOWING THE CLOCK

CORNER BANKING ROOM IN WOMEN'S SPACE

BIRCE & BICKFORD

















Loans



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DETAIL OF MAIN ENTRANCE FEATURE

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ARCHITECTS,  
215 West Water Street,  
ELMIRA, N. Y.

PARLEY COBURN SCHOOL.

SENT OUT

MAY 9 - 1946

ROBERT T. BICKFORD  
ARCHITECT

GENERAL VIEW OF SOUTH FRONT

PIERCE & BICKFORD,  
ARCHITECTS,  
215 West Water Street,  
ELMIRA, N. Y.

PARLEY COBURN SCHOOL

SENT OUT

MAY 9 - 1946

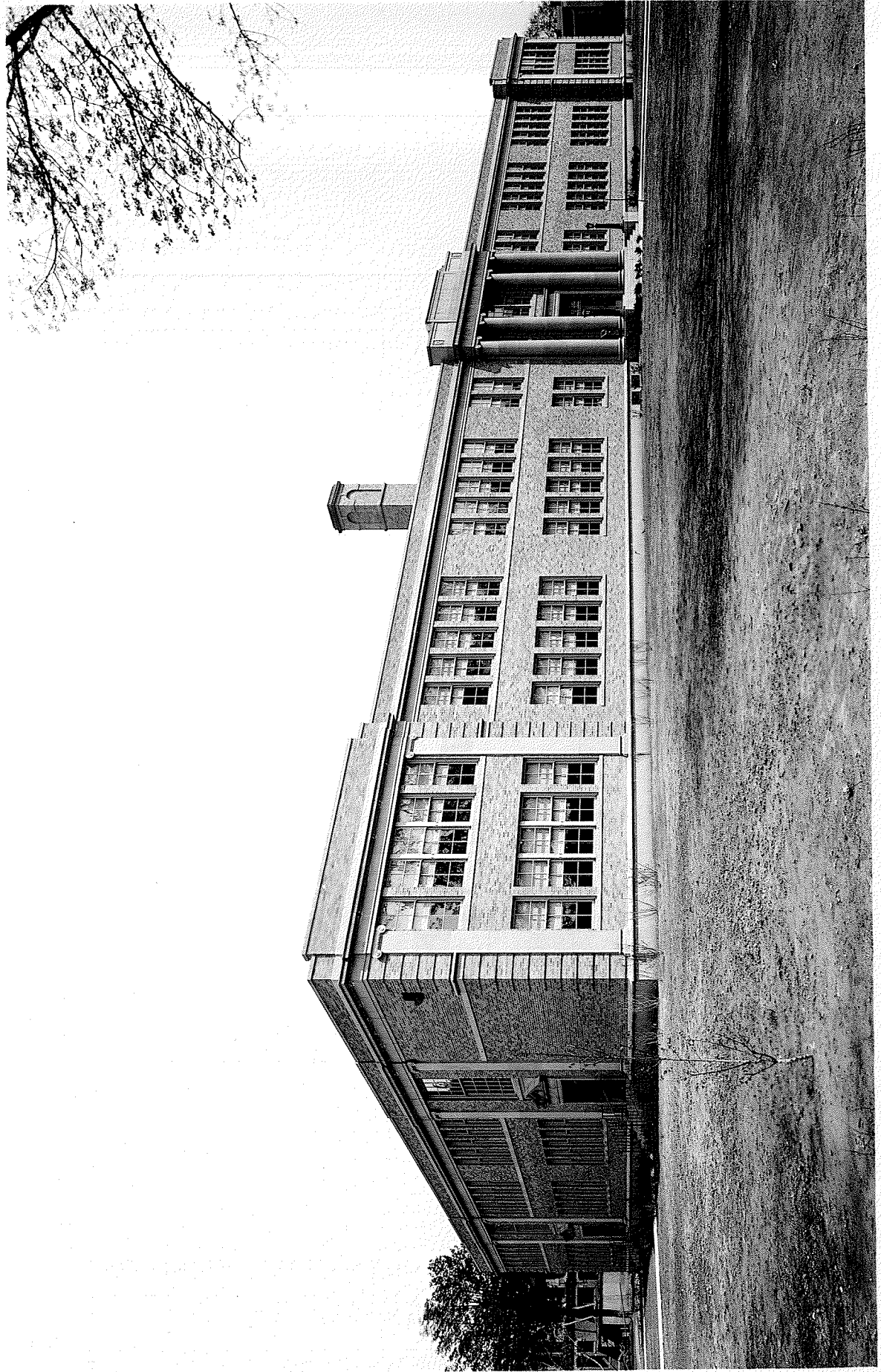
ROBERT T. BICKFORD  
ARCHITECT



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STORE - GORTON COY.

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SENT

MAY 9

ROBERT T  
ARCHIT

FRED T. LO

Photograph

421 West Church

ELMIRA, N



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