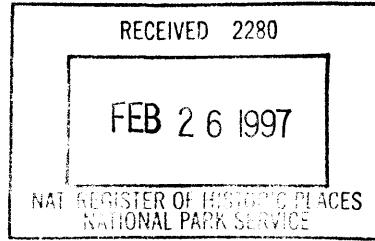


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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Bemis Hall

other names/site number 5EP611.6

2. Location

street & number 920 North Cascade Avenue [N/A] not for publication

city or town Colorado Springs [N/A] vicinity

state Colorado code CO county El Paso code 041 zip code 80903

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments [].)

[Signature] Signature of certifying official/Title February 19, 1997 Date

State Historic Preservation Office, Colorado Historical Society
~~State or Federal agency and bureau~~

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments [].)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register
See continuation sheet [].
- determined eligible for the
National Register
See continuation sheet [].
- determined not eligible for the
National Register.
- removed from the
National Register
- other, explain
See continuation sheet [].

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper Date 3.28.97
Edson W. Beall

Bemis Hall
Name of Property

El Paso / Colorado
County/State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not count previously listed resources.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing.

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Historic Resources of Colorado College,
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/education related housing

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/education related housing

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY
REVIVALS/Tudor Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
walls STONE
STUCCO
roof OTHER
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

SOCIAL HISTORY

ARCHITECTURE

Periods of Significance

1908-1946

Significant Dates

1908

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Biscoe, Maurice B.

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State Agency

Federal Agency

Local Government

University

Other:

Name of repository:

Special Collections Archives, Colorado College Library

Bemis Hall
Name of Property

El Paso / Colorado
County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A. Zone 13 Easting 515090 Northing 4299750 B. Zone Easting Northing

C. Zone Easting Northing D. Zone Easting Northing

[] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Andrea J. Lucas

organization Colorado College date 13 September 1996

street & number 14 E. Cache La Poudre telephone (719) 389-6704

city or town Colorado Springs state CO zip code 80903

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name The Colorado College, c/o Office of the President

street & number 14 E. Cache La Poudre telephone (719) 389-6700

city or town Colorado Springs state CO zip code 80903

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Bemis Hall, El Paso County, Colorado
(Historic Resources of Colorado College MPS)

Section number 7 Page 1

Description

Bemis Hall is an historic building on the Colorado College campus which meets the registration requirements specified in the Multiple Property Documentation Form "Historic Resources of Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado." Bemis Hall was erected as a women's dormitory in 1908, during Colorado College's historic development. The building is associated with the historic context "The Growth of Colorado College During President Slocum's Administration and the Impact of Cripple Creek Prosperity, 1888-1917." The property type represented is the residential and social collegiate building. The building retains a high degree of historic integrity which conveys the building's importance for its association with the historical evolution of the college campus and the social life of women students and its significance as representative of the Tudor Revival style, its construction of Colorado ignimbrite¹, and its representation of the work of architect Maurice B. Biscoe.

Bemis Hall is a massive three-and-a-half-story, Tudor Revival style dormitory building located on the west side of Cascade Avenue on the campus of Colorado College, slightly northwest of the institution's first permanent structure, Cutler Hall (Photograph 1). The building's overall design is formal and symmetrical, with a central hall set back on an east-west axis leading to two large wings on either side with a central dining hall wing projecting from the rear (Photograph 9). The dormitory has a steeply pitched, gabled roof with flared eaves, intersected on each end by projecting wings and punctuated by rows of small gabled dormers (Photograph 11). A roof plan showing the dormers for the building is included herein.

The building is constructed of Castle Rock ignimbrite stone used for several early buildings on the campus, including Cutler Hall. The rock-faced, coursed stone is of fairly regular width, with narrow courses traversing the building at the level of window lintels on the lower stories. These narrow courses add a sense of horizontality to the building. Narrow courses also follow other important architectural features, including the parapet and the wide ledge of the porch. Vermont green slate covers not only the roof but the sides and faces of the small dormers around the building (Photograph 12). Sitting approximately 300 feet back from the street, Bemis forms the southern part of the "Bemis Quadrangle," a women's residential quadrangle, flanked on the west by McGregor Hall (1903), and on the east by Ticknor Hall (1898) and Montgomery Hall (1889-91). Located on the southern curve of the drive linking the women's buildings, Bemis Hall faces north.

Two major half-timbered projecting gabled wings anchor the building to the east and west; a

¹Ignimbrite is a light colored volcanic stone used for building material. The rock is a welded tuff which is similar in appearance to rhyolite but is produced by different geological processes (Loeffler 1996b).

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Bemis Hall, El Paso County, Colorado
(Historic Resources of Colorado College MPS)

Section number 7 Page 2

smaller half-timbered gable rises from the center of the building. Six small gabled dormers also span the steep roof on the north. Two small, gabled, projecting frame porches with half-timbering and flared eaves flank a one-story, flat roofed, enclosed central porch. The stone porch has five large multi-light windows; the bottom course is composed of casement windows. The segmental arches of the entrance porches echo those of the stone porch windows, which face a long rectangular terrace enclosed by a low stone wall. Above the voussoirs of the stone porch windows is a flat parapet, defined by a simple stone molding at roof level. Entrance to Bemis Hall is via six shallow stairs of light buff limestone.

Half-timbering ornamenting the upper story of the building gives the surface of Bemis Hall considerable texture and contrast beyond that of the coursed, rock-faced ashlar of the lower level. The dark gray color of the timbers is set off by the light buff colored stucco facing between the timbers. The woodwork embellishing the walls of the upper two floors of the facade and across the entire building includes lowered panels of half-timbering extending into the spandrels of the second story windows.

The symmetrical nature of the facade is repeated on the other sides of the building. To the west, the steep slope of the roof is punctuated by gabled dormers (Photograph 10). Two smaller dormers flank a larger double windowed dormer with half-timbering on the gable end. Half-timbered rectangles extend from below shallow eaves to just above the first floor windows. The symmetry of the building is slightly altered here with an oversized window with diamond-shaped leaded glass lights (Photograph 2). This is the location of the apartment originally constructed for the Dean of Women and now used as the apartment for the residence hall director.

From the southern face of the building extends a large, gabled, Tudor Revival style dining hall (Photographs 3 and 4). Half-timbering extends to the base of the steep roof on the gable end, broken in the center with the segmental arch of the large southern window. Along the length of the dining room, shallow stone buttresses alternate with five large casement windows.

For many years, Bemis Hall was the social center for women on the Colorado College campus. The interior was designed so that the public rooms are on the first floor and student rooms on the upper floors accommodate eighty-three women. Included in this nomination are plans for each floor of the building. On the southern side of the first floor, a large English-style refectory accommodates 250 diners (Photographs 7 and 13). The ribbed and vaulted ceiling of five bays with hammer beam trusses is distinctly reminiscent of medieval halls, and may have been inspired by the dining room of Harvard University's famous Memorial Hall, to which it bears a striking resemblance.²

²Memorial Hall was designed by Ware and van Brunt in 1866-68 and constructed in 1870-78.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3 Bemis Hall, El Paso County, Colorado
(Historic Resources of Colorado College MPS)

On the south wall of the dining room is a large window crowned by a shallow segmental arch. Windows are also arrayed along the east and west walls, with five banks of windows to the west, the bottom of which are casements, and three banks to the southeast. The remainder of the eastern wall is panelled, and behind it lies the kitchen. Dark wood wainscot rises to a height of about nine feet around the periphery of the hall.

A musicians' gallery supported by slender iron pillars of Tuscan order projects approximately ten feet into the dining hall on the north. The sole entrance to the balcony is through the second floor of the residence hall. A door to the west beneath the balcony leads to the "Exile Room," a smaller rectangular dining room designed for more intimate gatherings.

On the east side of the building are found the kitchen and small storage rooms. Public rooms located on the north side include a large common room opposite the dining hall, a reception room, and various housing offices (which are found on the first floor as well as throughout the basement). On the extreme eastern end of the first floor is the one-story Cogswell Theatre, with a separate entrance and foyer.

The parlor, a large, open central space of one story on the north side of the building, was designed for social gatherings large and small and had as its centerpiece a large wooden chimneypiece extending to the ceiling. Four large ceiling beams span the room, joined together by smaller wood sections which resemble the wood used on the adjoining hallway wainscotting (Photograph 8).

The parlor looks onto the porch through large windows above a cushioned banquette which runs the length of the room. Wainscot extends to about two-thirds of the height of the room. Large pairs of panelled wooden pocket doors are on the east and west walls, while to the south, four sets of double glass doors, each with twenty-one lights, lead onto a wainscotted hallway, then to the glass doors of the dining room.

Alterations

Alterations to Bemis Hall have been of appropriate scale and compatible materials to the original building. The earliest exterior alteration to Bemis was the 1943 addition of a small enclosed porch extending south of the dining room. The porch was built of stone similar to the main hall and provided a separate entrance to the Cogswell Theater, a small theater completed in 1910 to which the only entrance previously had been through the residence.

In 1956, with the influx of G.I. Bill students, a new dining room addition, Taylor Dining Hall, was constructed off of the east wing of Bemis Hall. The dining hall was named after Judson Bemis's daughter, Alice Bemis Taylor, a major Colorado Springs benefactor in her own right, and the

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Bemis Hall, El Paso County, Colorado
(Historic Resources of Colorado College MPS)

Section number 7 Page 4

College's first woman trustee. Unusual in an era in which campus buildings were constructed of either brick or concrete, the one-story Taylor Dining Hall extension is notable for the attempt of the builders to match its stone to the original building. It is perhaps an indication of the importance of Bemis Hall to the College that the building's architectural integrity was respected to a degree unusual in the post-war era.

The addition otherwise corresponds to the somewhat streamlined and square styling of the 1950's (Photograph 6). Taylor Dining Hall is a one story rectangular extension directly east from Bemis. It has three sets of aluminum framed windows on each of its north and south walls. The main entrance is to the west, with a small porch on the northeast corner.

Other minor exterior alterations to Bemis Hall include a handicapped accessible ramp to the northeastern entrance, steel fire escapes on the southern wall, glass block windows in the central showers, and a concrete loading dock on the building's southeast corner.

The interior of Bemis Hall has remained largely unchanged except for renovating the bathrooms, enclosing interior stairways with fire doors and similar code-based renovations, and creating a connection to Taylor Dining Hall. The two most notable features of the building, the dining hall and parlor, remain as they were originally. Cogswell Theater, in the basement of the building, was not used after the 1950's and was converted into the Residential Life laundry in the 1970s. Concerned for possible future uses of the space, the renovators kept the original stage, floors, and woodwork. A plywood shell was built over the original features.

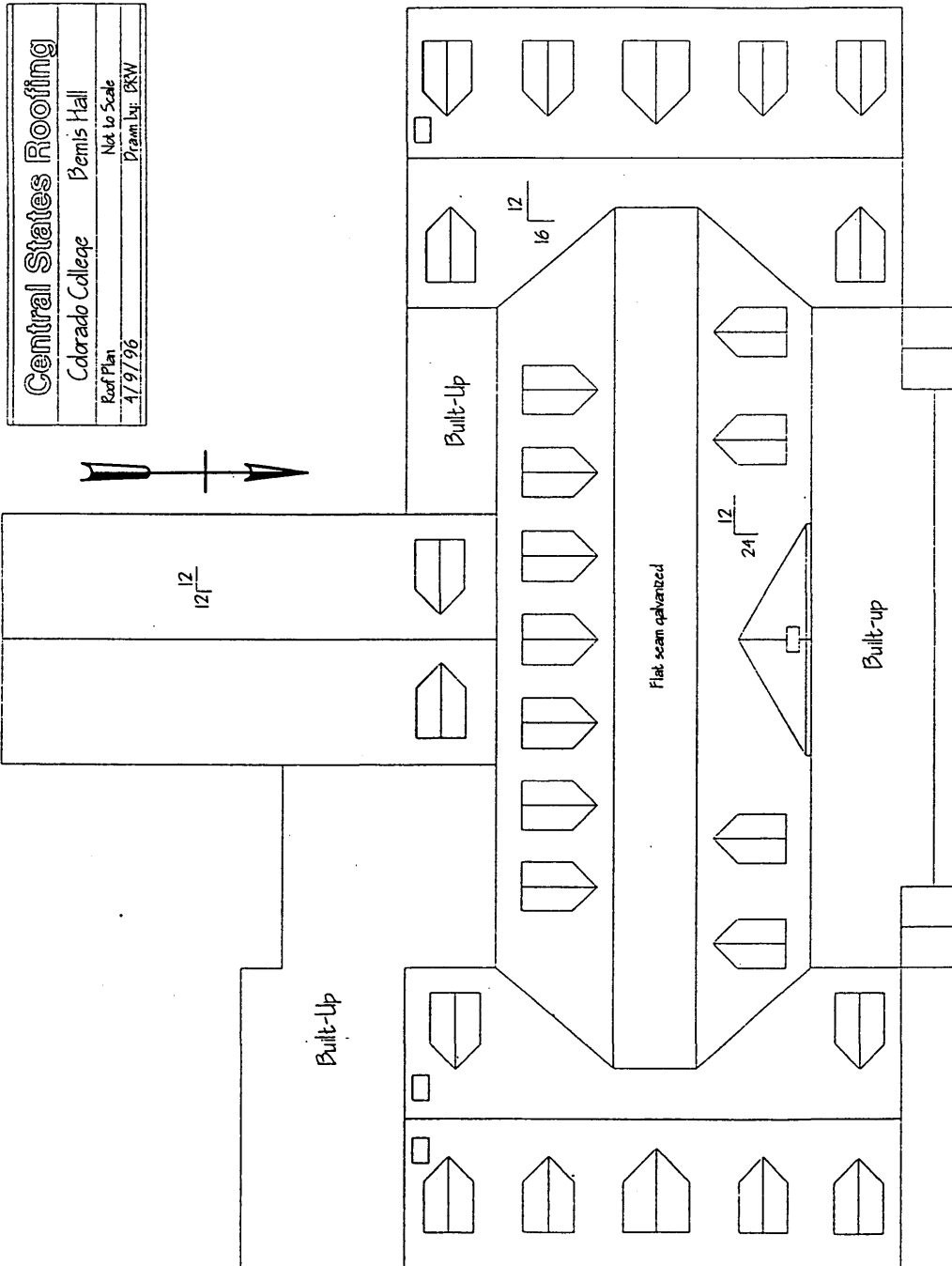
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Bemis Hall, El Paso County, Colorado
(Historic Resources of Colorado College MPS)

Section number 7 Page 5

BEMIS HALL: Roof and Dormer Plan



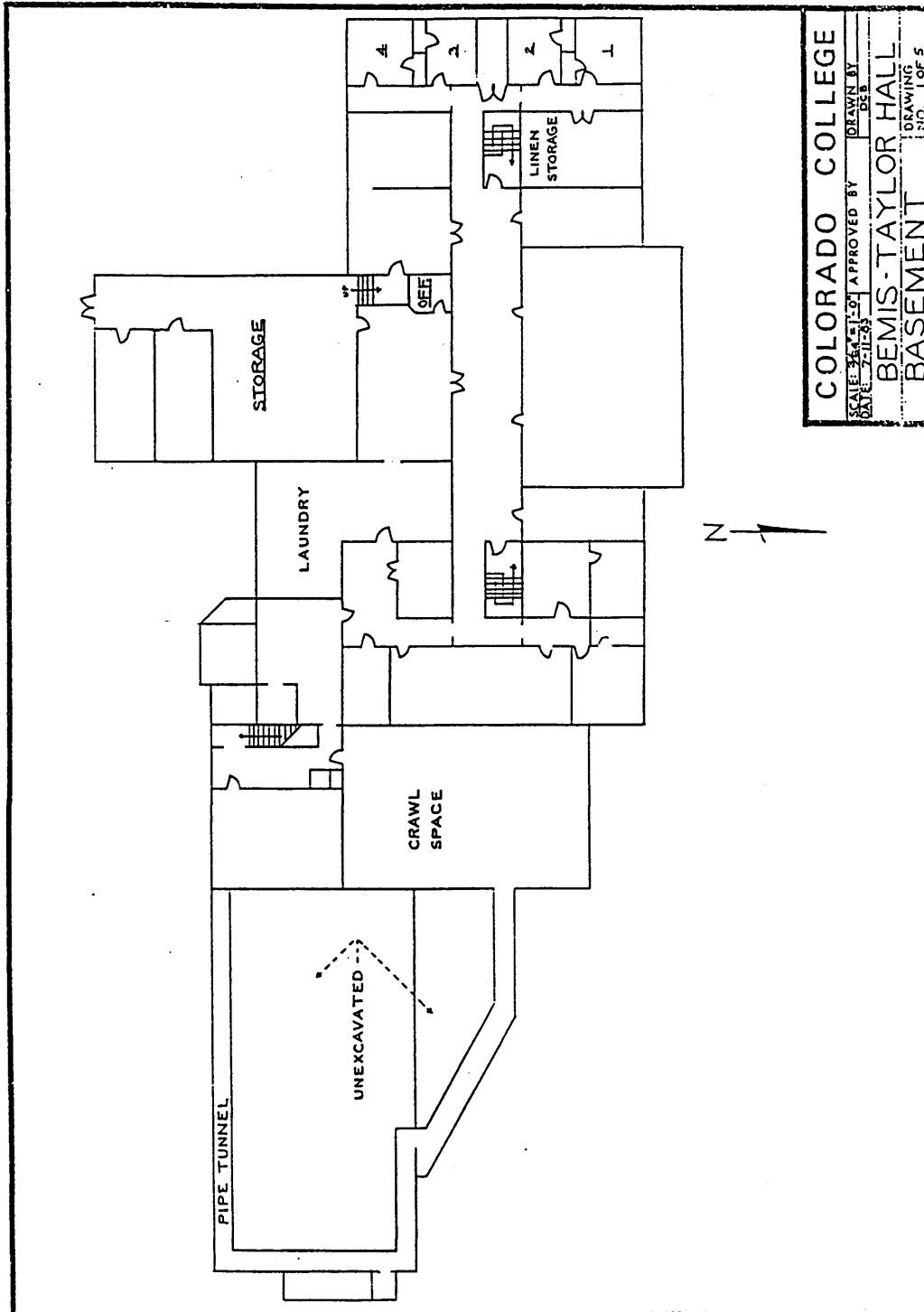
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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Bemis Hall, El Paso County, Colorado
(Historic Resources of Colorado College MPS)

Section number 7 Page 6

BEMIS HALL: Basement Plan



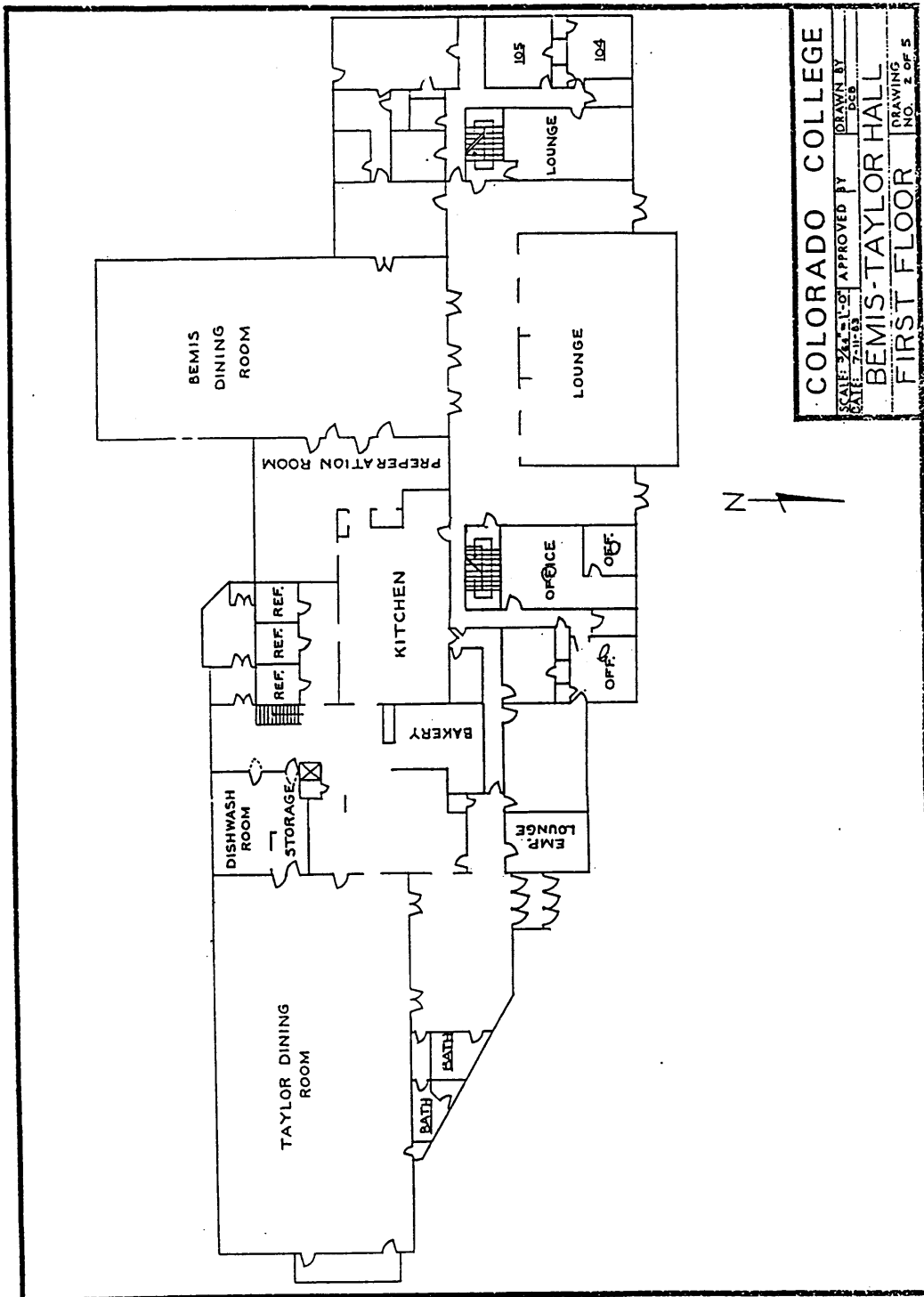
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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 7

Bemis Hall, El Paso County, Colorado
(Historic Resources of Colorado College MPS)

BEMIS HALL: First Floor Plan



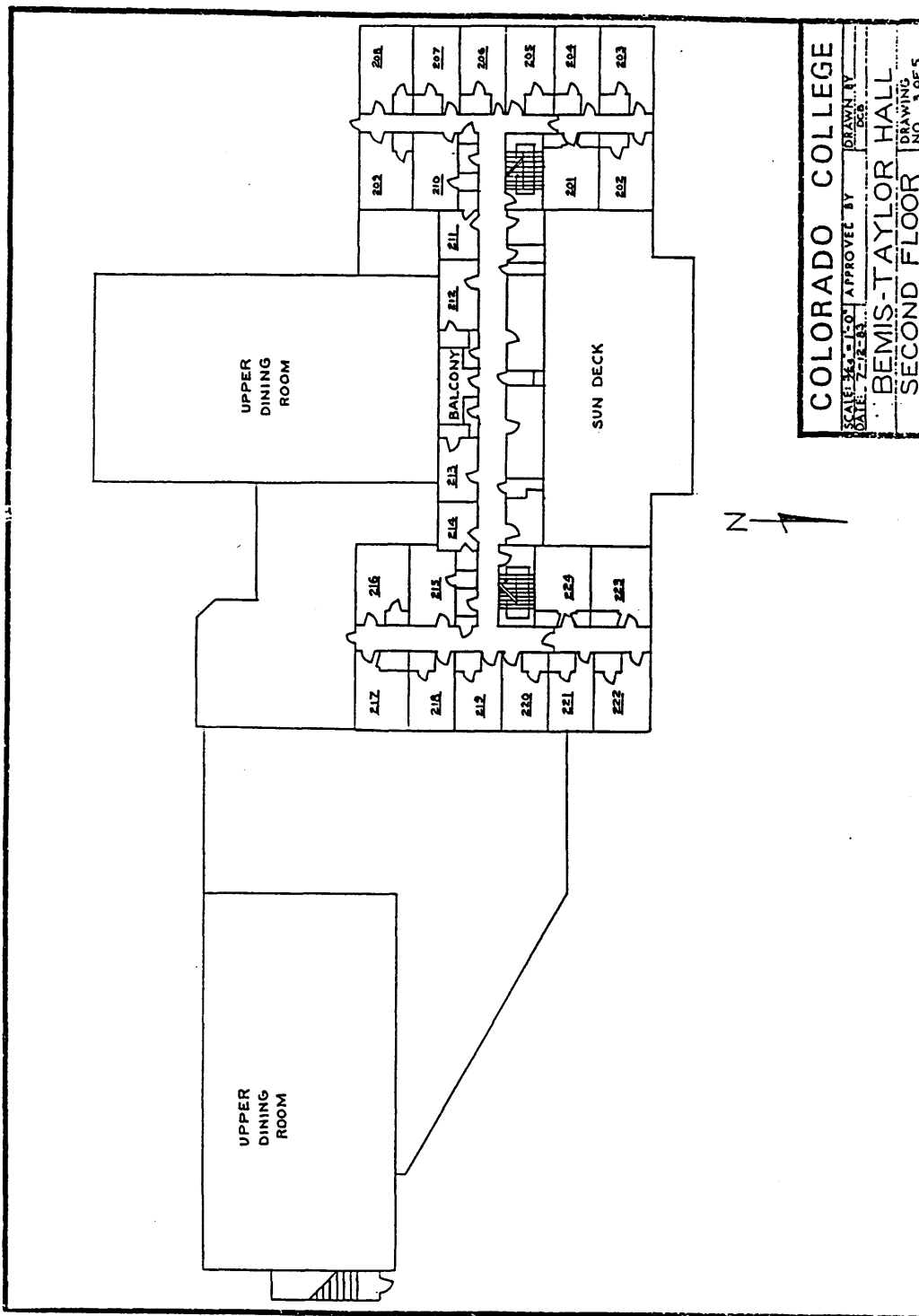
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Bemis Hall, El Paso County, Colorado
(Historic Resources of Colorado College MPS)

Section number 7 Page 8

BEMIS HALL: Second Floor Plan



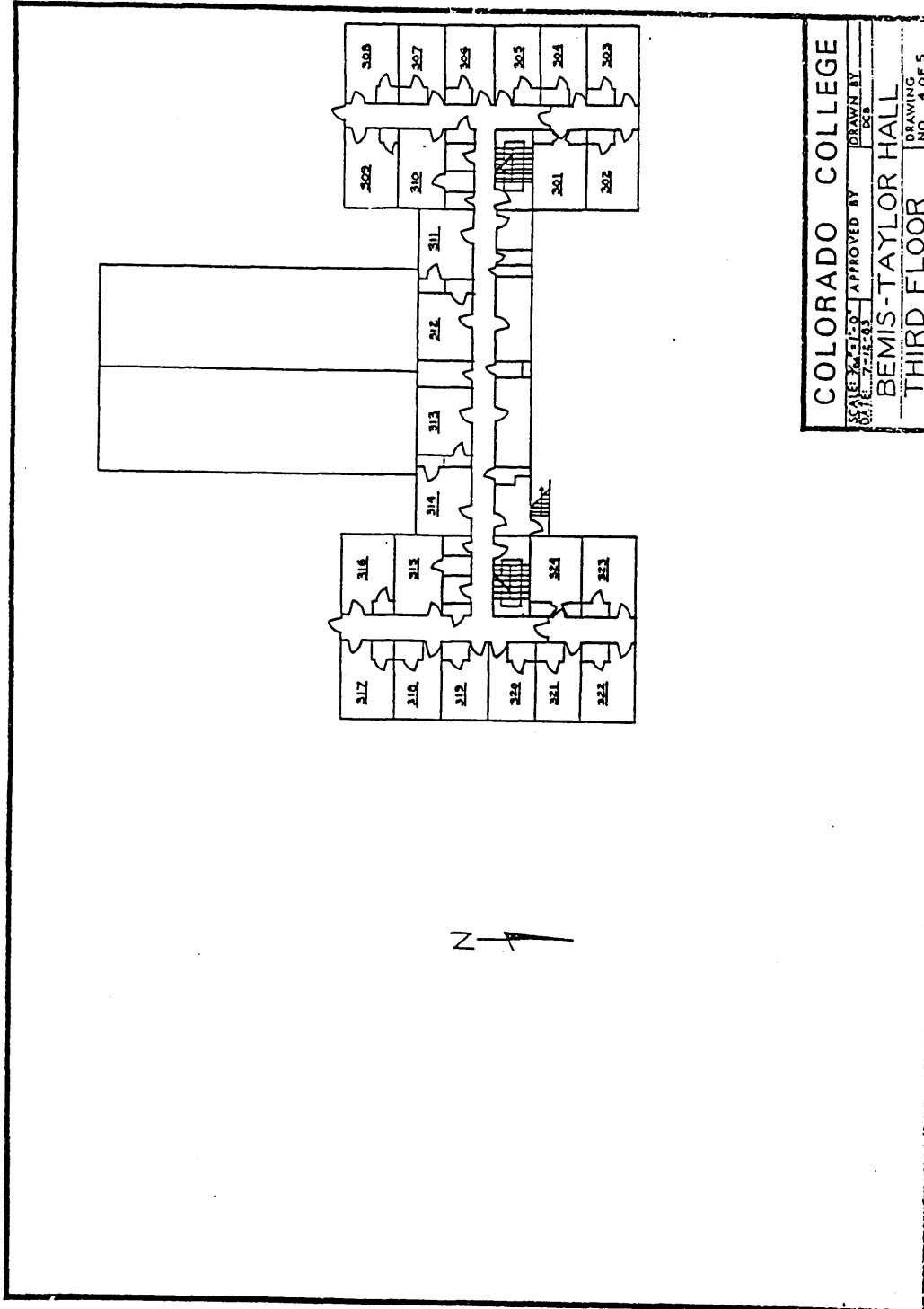
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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 9

Bemis Hall, El Paso County, Colorado
(Historic Resources of Colorado College MPS)

BEMIS HALL: Third Floor Plan



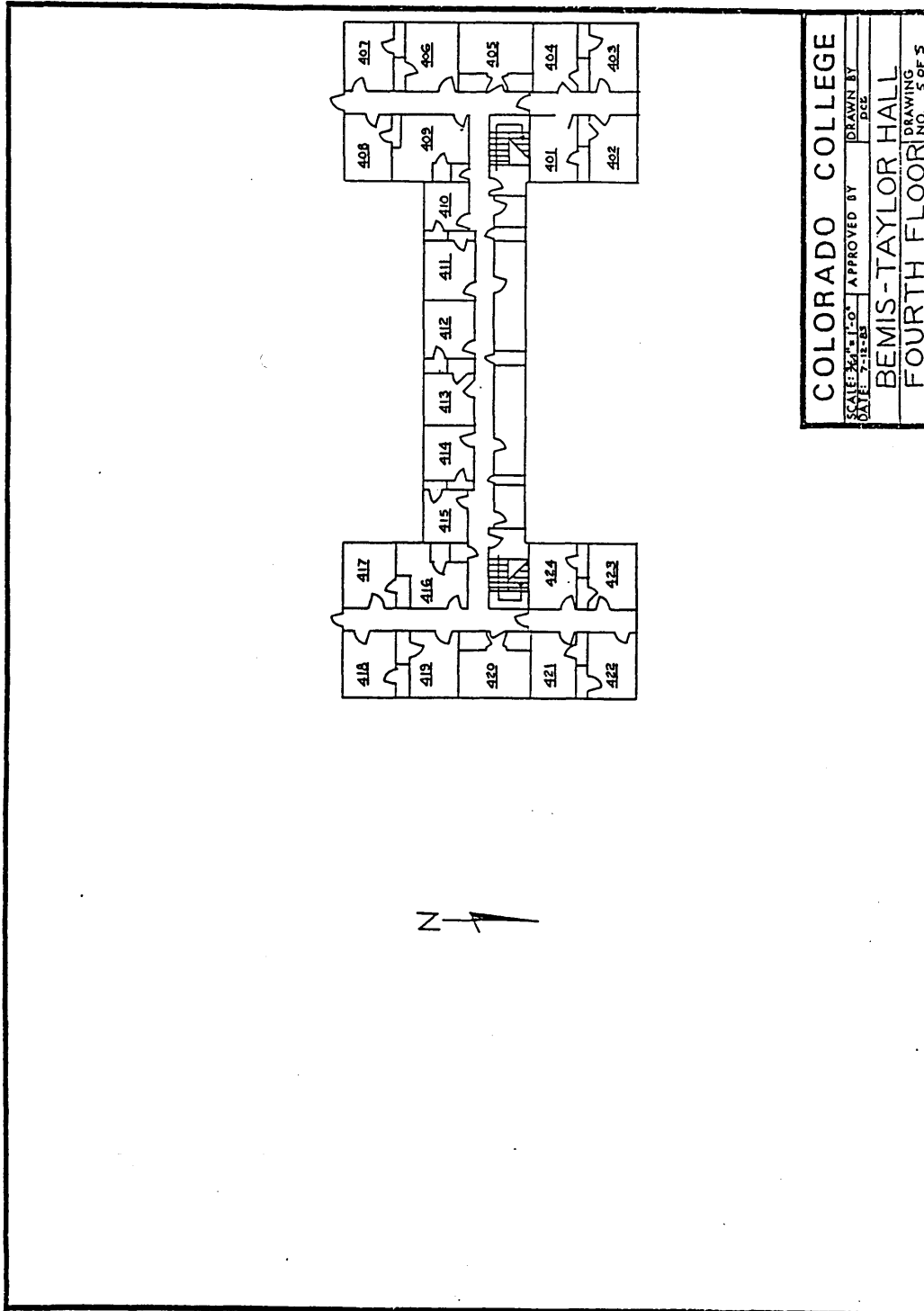
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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 10

Bemis Hall, El Paso County, Colorado
(Historic Resources of Colorado College MPS)

BEMIS HALL: Fourth Floor Plan



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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 11

Bemis Hall, El Paso County, Colorado
(Historic Resources of Colorado College MPS)

Statement of Significance

Bemis Hall is significant in several categories identified in the Multiple Property Documentation Form "Historic Resources of Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado." Bemis Hall is significant under criterion A for its association with education and social history, and under criterion C for its architecture. The building is significant for its association with the historical development of Colorado College campus as a coeducational liberal arts college, having been erected in 1908 as a women's dormitory and dining hall. The building is also significant for its association with the social history of Colorado College as it served as a focus for the social life of women on the campus. The building is a significant representative of the Tudor Revival style in Colorado Springs and reflects the English-inspired architectural themes chosen for the Colorado College campus. The building is significant for its construction of Castle Rock ignimbrite, a building stone which was used for several major buildings at the College and which has been described as "the classiest building material used in Colorado Springs" (Loeffler 1996b). The building is also significant for its representation of the work of architect Maurice Biscoe, as an example of his application of the Tudor Revival style to collegiate facilities and the design of a women's dormitory embodying early twentieth century philosophies for such institutional buildings. The period of significance for the building, 1908-1946, begins with the date of construction of Bemis Hall and extends through the historic period when the building served as an important center of social life on the college campus.

Colorado College was founded as a coeducational institution, a pragmatic decision based on the scarcity of qualified students and the lack of funds for construction of gender-separate schools. The inclusion of residential facilities for women students presented a challenge for the College, which required that women from outside Colorado Springs reside in campus buildings in order to protect the students and develop a "high type of character and cultivation among all the student body" (Colorado College Tiger February 28, 1908). Sororities, which eased housing problems at other colleges by providing residential facilities for women, were strictly social organizations at Colorado College. Three women's dormitories were erected on the campus between 1891 and 1903, and, in 1908, continued growth of the student population resulted in the construction of Bemis Hall. The largest donors toward the construction of the dormitory were General William Jackson Palmer, founder of Colorado Springs and Colorado College, and Judson M. Bemis, who made his fortune in the manufacture of cloth and paper bags before he arrived in Colorado Springs in 1881 for his wife's health.

The building was designed by architect Maurice B. Biscoe, who had arrived in Denver in 1905 to supervise work on St. John's Episcopal Cathedral and stayed in the city for another fifteen years. In 1913, Biscoe became the second president of the Colorado Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. Biscoe was popular in artistic and social circles and designed many fine homes for wealthy clients, as well as the Dickinson Branch Library and the Clayton School for Boys in Denver

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Bemis Hall, El Paso County, Colorado
(Historic Resources of Colorado College MPS)

Section number 8 Page 12

and the Myron Stratton Home in Colorado Springs. After completing Bemis Hall, Biscoe designed a men's all-purpose building and gymnasium for Colorado College, Cossitt Hall.

Biscoe was known for his knowledge of historical styles, and created with facility buildings in the English, French, and Colonial Revival styles. It was the Tudor Revival style to which Biscoe turned in designing Bemis Hall, a harmonious choice on a campus looking to the Eastern Seaboard and to England to establish an iconographical link to established higher education and located within a city which boasted many English style homes. The Tudor Revival style gave the massive dormitory a domestic appearance, while its walls of Castle Rock ignimbrite harmonized with the surrounding buildings and provided a solid, finely crafted aspect. As Rutherford W. Witthus noted, Biscoe's "attention to detail, his thorough knowledge of historical styles, his awareness of the special needs of clients, and his sense of beauty in architecture were the special aptitudes which brought him clients who demanded exacting architectural services" (Noel and Norgren 1983:190). Biscoe returned to Boston about 1920 and joined Andrews, Rantoul and Jones, successor firm to Andrews, Jacques and Rantoul, the architecture company responsible for the Boston and Equitable Buildings in Denver, and Colorado College's Palmer Hall. The firm became Andrews, Jones, Biscoe and Whitman in 1925 (Noel and Norgren 1987:190).

The era's perception of the special needs of women students were translated into the architectural design of Bemis Hall and women's college residences around the country. For example, early women's residences were likely to be multi-purpose buildings, especially in women's colleges. A single building might include classrooms, dining facilities, dormitories, administrative offices and professors' lodgings so that students need not venture into the outside world. In coeducational institutions, classroom facilities could not be placed in a women's dormitory, but many other functions could. Thus, Bemis included, in addition to a dining hall and sleeping quarters, the office of the Dean of Women, her private living quarters, a large lounge, an "Exile Room," and the Cogswell Theater.³ When the building was completed, its English architecture and interior design received national attention (Reid 1979:67).

³Charles Klauder and Herbert Wise wrote in their 1929 College Architecture in America, "A dormitory of the simplest type for women must have features peculiarly its own. It must have several important rooms for purposes other than lodgment, for it is more nearly a home than is a men's dormitory" (Klauder and Wise 137). They go on to list a number of specific elements required in a women's dormitory, including "a vehicle approach within a few feet of the entrance....A suitable alcove or similar space immediately inside the entrance for an attendant....An attractive common room of generous dimensions [with] a fireplace of liberal size....One suite for the house mother" (Klauder and Wise 137). These characteristics, listed within the chapter on women's lodgings but not within that for men, are all present in Bemis Hall.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 13

Bemis Hall, El Paso County, Colorado
(Historic Resources of Colorado College MPS)

In the early years of its use, the character of the women residing in Bemis Hall was carefully monitored by Ruth Loomis, the first Dean of Women. She created strict rules to protect the virtues of the women in her charge. Curfews were well regulated--Bemis and other dormitories were locked each night at the 10 p.m. curfew, midnight on weekends--and it was well established that if a girl stayed out all night by accident or design, she was expected to pack her bags for home in the morning. Mindful of a fire which burnt down an early dormitory, there were semi-annual fire drills conducted at the women's dormitory by members of the Colorado Springs Volunteer Fire Department. For these, girls with wide skirts were required to wear their gym bloomers underneath. Women were not permitted to smoke or drink on or off campus, and all social occasions which mixed the sexes required two faculty chaperons (Reid 1979:67). Many of these rules continued to be enforced well into the twentieth century.

At the turn of the century, educational theorists began to rail against the large universities which had begun to dominate American higher education. They called for a "return to the ideals of the traditional American college--an intimate community of undergraduate students and teachers with shared intellectual and social values, and emphasizing the development of character and culture" (Turner 1984:215). One of the major proponents of the small college movement, Ralph Adams, wrote that the residential college was important to the development of "personal honor, clean living, good fellowship, obedience to law, reverence and the fear of God--all these elements are implied in the word character" (Turner 1984:212). President Slocum, in his dedication speech for Bemis Hall referred to these ideals by saying, "There are great opportunities for good in this building. It is a home for the college student, where the atmosphere is to be that of refinement and cultivation and where the best ideals of a noble life can be realized" (Gazette Telegraph October 31, 1908).

Colorado College had always been a small residential college, but as a recently constructed western school it selected architectural themes popular at established institutions to express the small college ideal. Biscoe incorporated in Bemis Hall references to the English medieval university through Tudor Revival styling, and in particular the large, medieval-style dining hall was the perfect setting for the small community of scholars. So, too, was the building's siting, not westward toward the mountains and frontier, or eastward to the plains, but oriented instead toward the other stone buildings housing women scholars.

True to the desire by students and faculty alike that the new building provide "a place where the men and women of the College can come together under dignified and cultivated conditions" (Colorado College Tiger 1908:7), Bemis Hall did become the center of campus social life. Meal services in the other women's residence halls ceased as the Bemis dining room was large enough to accommodate all the women on campus. Three meals a day were served in the dining room and the lounge became the gathering place for women students before each meal (Reid 1979:67). Only

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Continuation Sheet

Bemis Hall, El Paso County, Colorado
(Historic Resources of Colorado College MPS)

Section number 8 Page 14

two weeks after the dedication of the hall, The Tiger chronicled a dinner party given for the senior men by Dean Loomis and the Senior Girls in which "the men greatly enjoyed the chance to eat in dignity on the raise [sic] platform," and later attended the regular evening prayers (Colorado College Tiger, 1908:3). After its completion in 1910, numerous student productions in Cogswell Theater drew yet more students and faculty to Bemis Hall.⁴

Not all activities around Bemis were so officially sanctioned. Bemis quadrangle, the landscaped area faced by the college women's dormitories, also became the site of much late night song and revelry. The Tiger wrote up the following affair in 1924:

Friday's Serenade All-College Affair

The first all college serenade in the history of the college was given Friday night. The serenade took place in the quadrangle, and was well received by the C.C. coeds....Art Gow's orchestra furnished the music for the affair. A few of the latest jazz numbers were given by the orchestra. This was followed by "Colorado C. Men." All of the fraternities sang one song each....The following fraternity songs were given: "Sweetheart of Sigma Chi;" "Dream Girl of Pi Kappa Alpha;" "Phi Delta Theta for Aye;" "Kappa Sigma, Queen of Friendship;" "Fiji Honeymoon;" and "The Loving Cup." The Betas did better than the others and managed to produce good harmony....In addition to the fraternity songs, all the men sang, "The Black and the Gold" and "Our Colorado" (Colorado College Tiger, 1924:3).

As the campus expanded and other facilities were built replacing those once offered exclusively in Bemis, the building continued to be favored by faculty and students for the purposes it was originally built: living, dining and socializing. As Colorado College historian Juan Reid noted, "Campus social life centered in the women's residence halls, particularly Bemis" (Reid 1979:67).

⁴Cogswell Theater was heavily used by students until the construction of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center in 1936, funded in large part by Alice Bemis Taylor. The new Center included a theater which students then used for their productions. Use of the Cogswell Theater was revived with the appointment of Woodson "Chief" Tyree in 1943 as drama director. At that point, the separate entrance was built. Cogswell again fell out of favor, and was not used after the 1950s for most student theatrical events. As mentioned above, it was turned into the residential life laundry room in the 1970s. However, that did not stop the use of Bemis Hall for theatrical productions. In 1977-78, a group calling itself the Historical Hysterians put on a semester of plays and lectures in the large common room entitled "Bemis Hall Revisited, 1908-1978," dealing with the history of the college and Bemis Hall.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary consists of the footprint of the building plus ten feet on all sides.

Boundary Justification

The boundary was drawn to include the entire building and its immediate historic setting and to exclude other buildings and newer landscaping features. Within the campus, there are no legal subdivisions such as lots and blocks.

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Index to Photographs

Information that is the same for all photographs:

Name of the Property: Bemis Hall
City and State: Colorado Springs, Colorado

Photo
Number Information

Current Photographs

- 1 Photographer: Kathy Brandt
 Date: August 1996
 Location of Original Negative: Colorado College, Development Office
 Description of View: Front of building, view south

- 2 Photographer: Kathy Brandt
 Date: August 1996
 Location of Original Negative: Colorado College, Development Office
 Description of View: West side of building showing leaded glass window, view east

- 3 Photographer: Kathy Brandt
 Date: August 1996
 Location of Original Negative: Colorado College, Development Office
 Description of View: Main dining hall window and stone porch addition, view northeast

- 4 Photographer: Marshall P. Kean
 Date: October 1995
 Location of Original Negative: Colorado College, Development Office
 Description of View: Southeast portion of building, view northwest

- 5 Photographer: Marshall P. Kean
 Date: October 1995
 Location of Original Negative: Colorado College, Development Office
 Description of View: Taylor dining hall addition in foreground with east side of original building beyond, view west

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Photo
Number Information

- 6 Photographer: Kathy Brandt
Date: August 1996
Location of Original Negative: Colorado College, Development Office
Description of View: East end of original building with Taylor dining hall addition on left, view southeast
- 7 Photographer: Kathy Brandt
Date: August 1996
Location of Original Negative: Colorado College, Development Office
Description of View: Original dining room, view south
- 8 Photographer: Marshall P. Kean
Date: October 1995
Location of Original Negative: Colorado College, Development Office
Description of View: Parlor, view east

Historic Photographs

- 9 Photographer: Unknown
Date: circa 1950
Location of Original Negative: Colorado College Library, Special Collections Archives
Description of View: Front of building, view south
- 10 Photographer: Unknown
Date: circa 1920
Location of Original Negative: Colorado College Library, Special Collections Archives
Description of View: Rear of building across Washburn Field with McGregor Hall to the left, view northeast
- 11 Photographer: Unknown
Date: circa 1970
Location of Original Negative: Colorado College Library, Special Collections Archives
Description of View: Roof and dormers of original building, view northwest

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Photo
Number Information

- 12 Photographer: Unknown
 Date: Unknown
 Location of Original Negative: Colorado College Library, Special Collections Archives
 Description of View: Detail of slate faced dormer window on dining hall and top floor
 dormers, view northeast
- 13 Photographer: Unknown
 Date: circa 1910
 Location of Original Negative: Colorado College Library, Special Collections Archives
 Description of View: Original dining room, view south

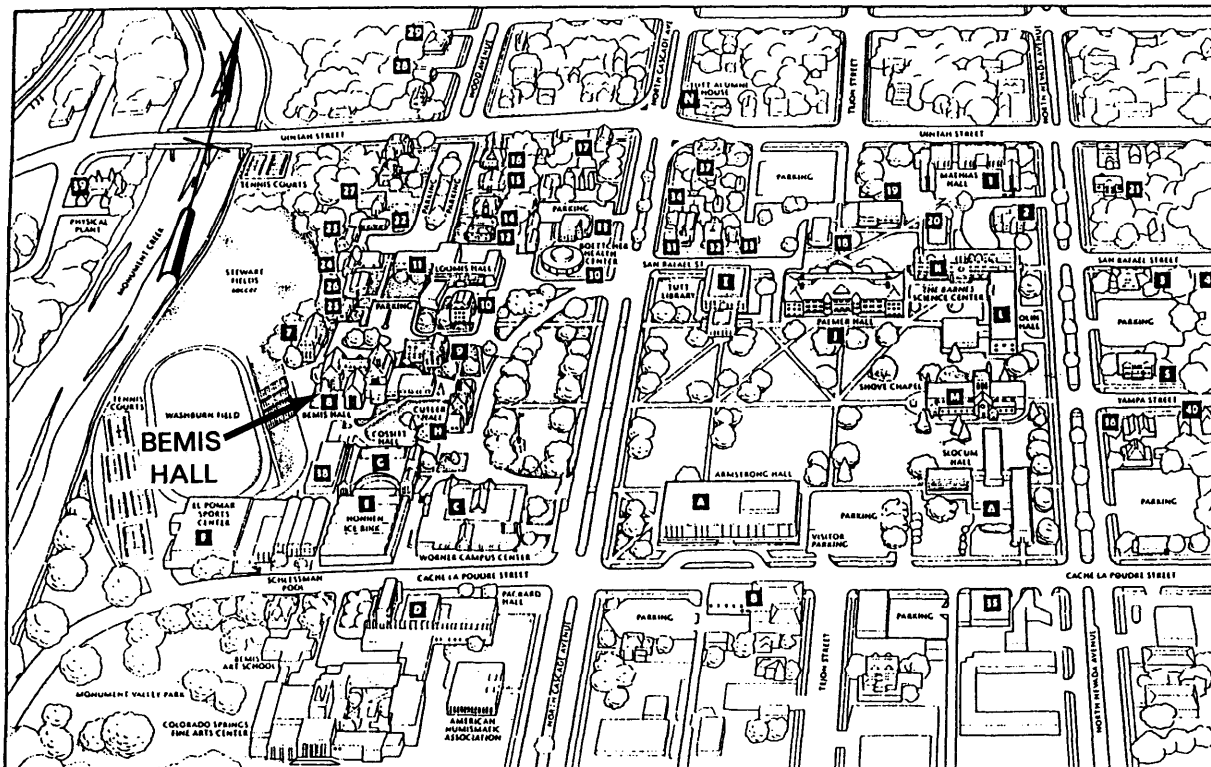
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BEMIS HALL: Campus Location Map



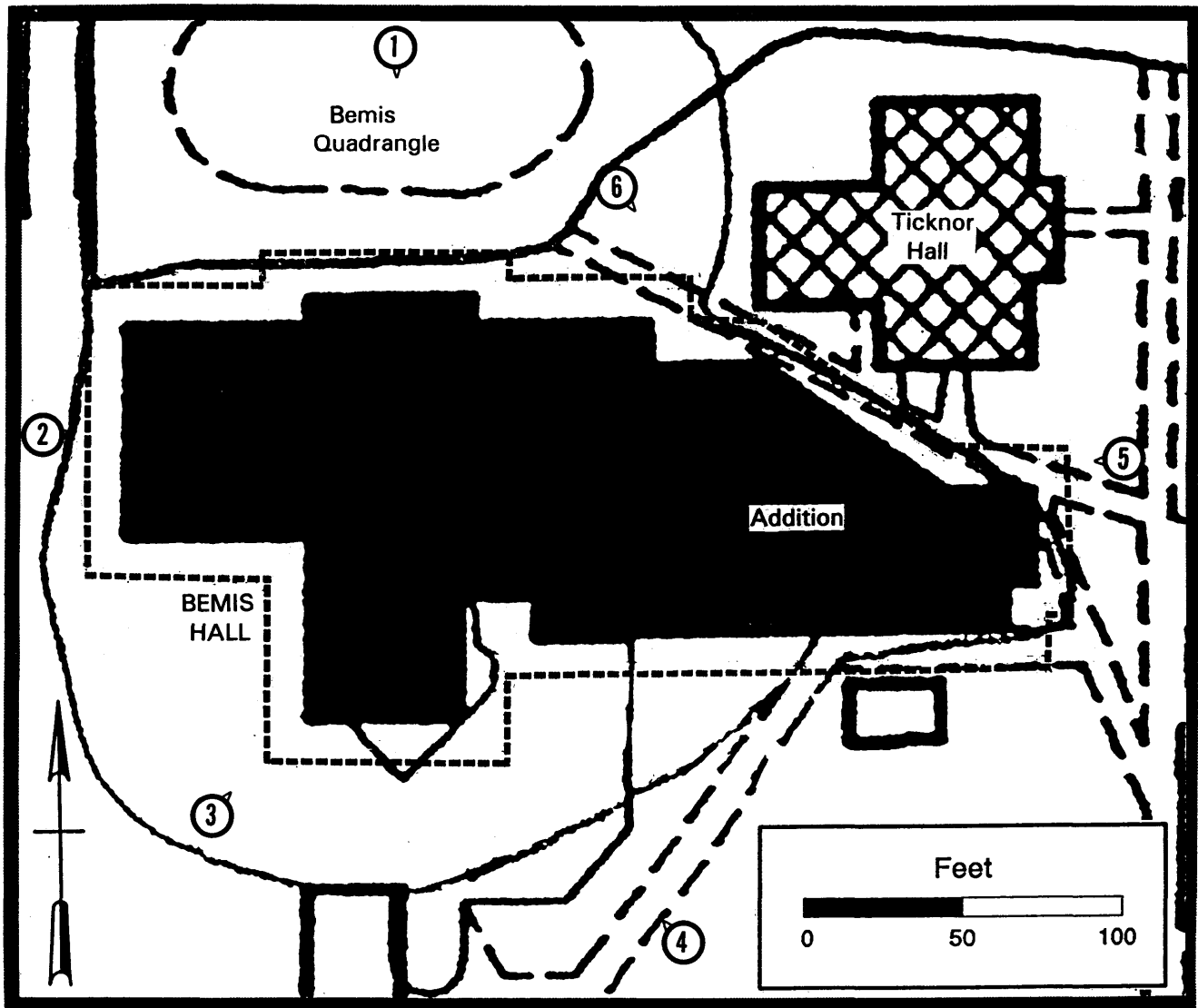
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BEMIS HALL: Sketch Map



SOURCE: Enlarged and labelled extract of Exhibit 1 in Manning et al (1993). Dashed line indicates boundary of nominated area; circled numbers indicate exterior photographs and camera direction.