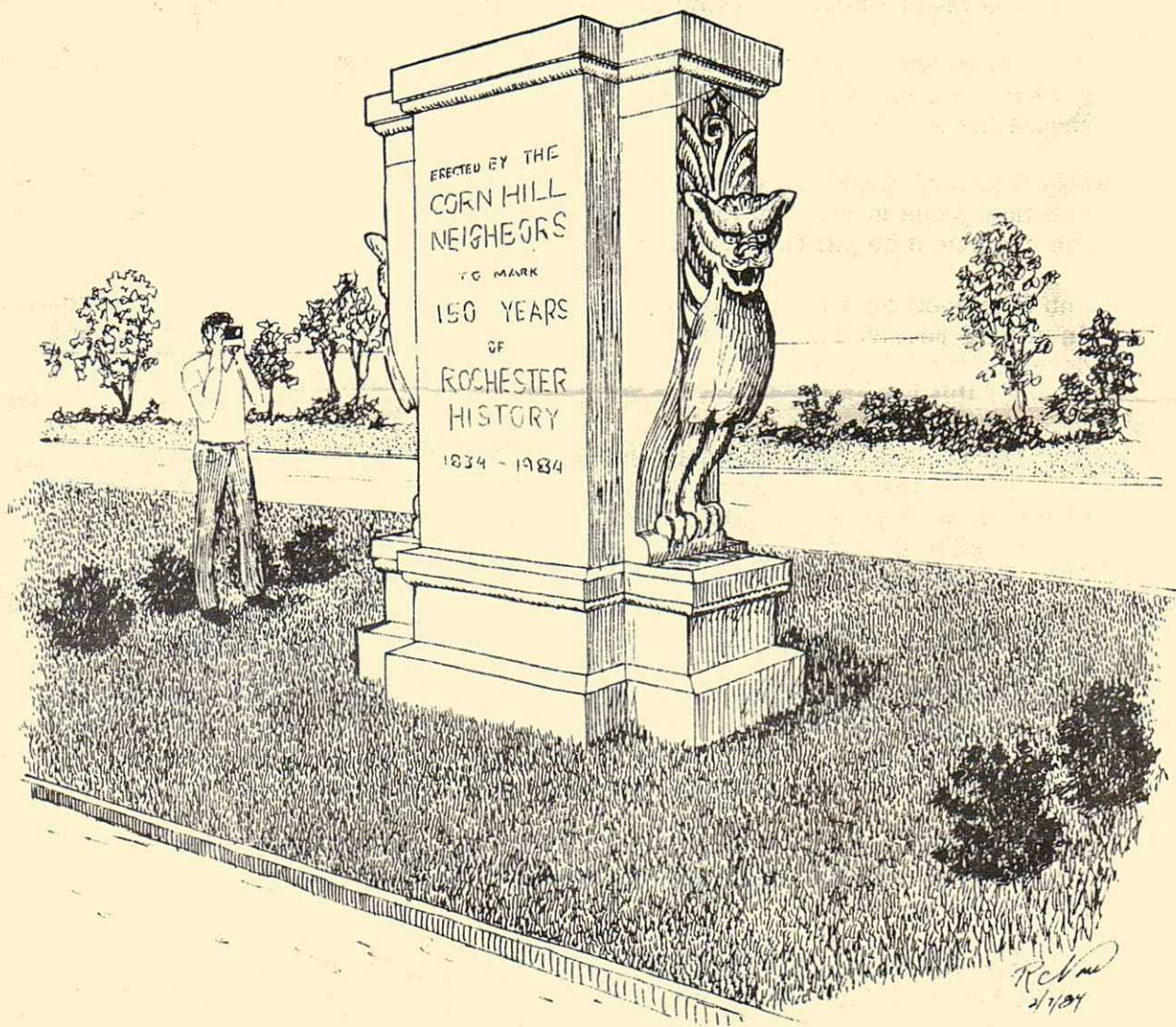
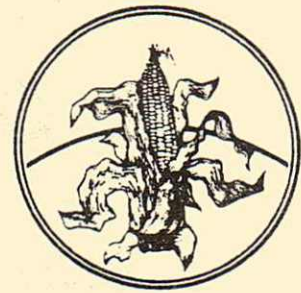


HISTORICAL RECORD INFORMATION RELATED TO THE GRIFFIN  
MONUMENT CONSTRUCTION - ITEM 615.200010004

# CORN HILL GAZETTE



## NOVEMBER 1984

---

## "Griffin" Project - Final Report

---

On Monday morning October 29, the Corn Hill neighbors formally presented the Sesqui monument to the City of Rochester. The weather could not have been better for this auspicious occasion. Unseasonably warm they call it, but it certainly reflected the pride of the neighborhood in being able to bring about such a project. Russ Klabouch opened the ceremony with a few remarks on the history of Corn Hill. Kay Hood mentioned a number of people who were helpful in the many processes leading to final approval. I then thanked the various trades who contributed to the construction and handed a framed document to Mayor Ryan symbolizing the presentation. Mr. Ryan expressed the appreciation of the City to the Corn Hill Neighbors for the gift and then the gathered crowd adjourned to the tent where a delightful spread of wine & goodies, organized by Lynn Baldwin and company, awaited.

In remarks before presenting the monument, I attempted to dispel the confusion surrounding the name for the carved beasts which form the focal point of the piece. They are not griffins. Griffins are mythical beasts with eagle's heads and lion's body and guarded the treasury of the gods back when those guys were still in business. Our beasts have lion's heads and feathered bodies but also dragon like wings and a rather satanic tail curling up the back. These fellows guarded the Elwood Building back when it was still standing at the N.E. corner of Main and State. Their appearance is probably the product of the fertile and bizarre imagination of J.G. Cutler, architect of the Elwood Building or one of his staff; (perhaps chem-

ically induced?) Cutler was a strong proponent of Gothic architecture and wierd creatures are no strangers to the genre. So strong was his affection for the style that when his estate was disclosed, monies were left to build Cutler Union on the old U of R campus provided it be Gothic. It is.

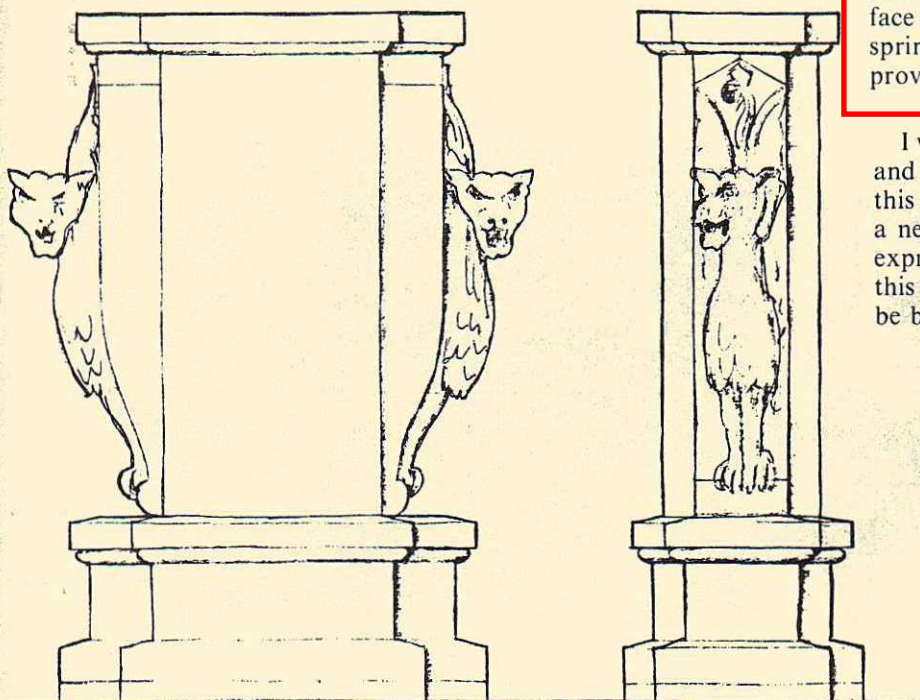
The Elwood building was put up in 1879 by Frank Elwood in memory of his father Issac R. Elwood. To serve it's seven stories, Cutler designed a chute which collected mail on the ground floor and was so successful that he acquired a patent, plus a fortune selling it. The Elwood Building was demolished in 1966 and replaced by the Crossroads Building.

Our little project put the "Elwood Cats" back to work after an 18 year vacation up in Charlotte. They had been up on the 6th floor overlooking Main & State Streets, but now they direct their stony glare over Corn Hill from Exchange Boulevard.

The design of the piece is classical; stacking one carefully proportioned piece upon another until a unified whole is achieved. Its basic form, a vertical shaft with a beast on each end, was dictated by the existing sculptures and never varied much over the dozen or so preliminary sketches. All the new limestone had to be laid out to fit around the antique sandstone and with the help of Alden C. McGuire this was carried out and the blocks ordered. For the tasks of setting the stone John C. Pilato Jr. and his crew at the "Village Builders" were chosen and they acquitted themselves admirably. A four foot deep excavation was filled with concrete to form the foundation and for two weeks thereafter stone was laid upon stone each pinned to the other with stainless steel pins. A concrete block core formed a stable mount for the sculptures and their retaining bars and with the help of a 20 ton crane, the last blocks were put in place in mid October. Final grouting of the joints was done as the master craftsman from Trott Monuments cut the inscription. A duplicate inscription will be cut on the east face as soon as weather and schedule permit, perhaps next spring. As a final garnish, the Beautification Committee provide plantings in time for the dedications.

I would like to say for the record that it has been an honor and a privilege as well as a pleasure to be associated with this project. People all over the City and suburbs now have a new appreciation for Corn Hill and are not hesitant to express it. Many neighborhood residents share my hope that this is not the last but merely the latest such projects to be built by the Corn Hill Neighbors. We shall see.

Ray Nau



## CRIME PREVENTION - GENESEE SECTION

Dear Neighbors:

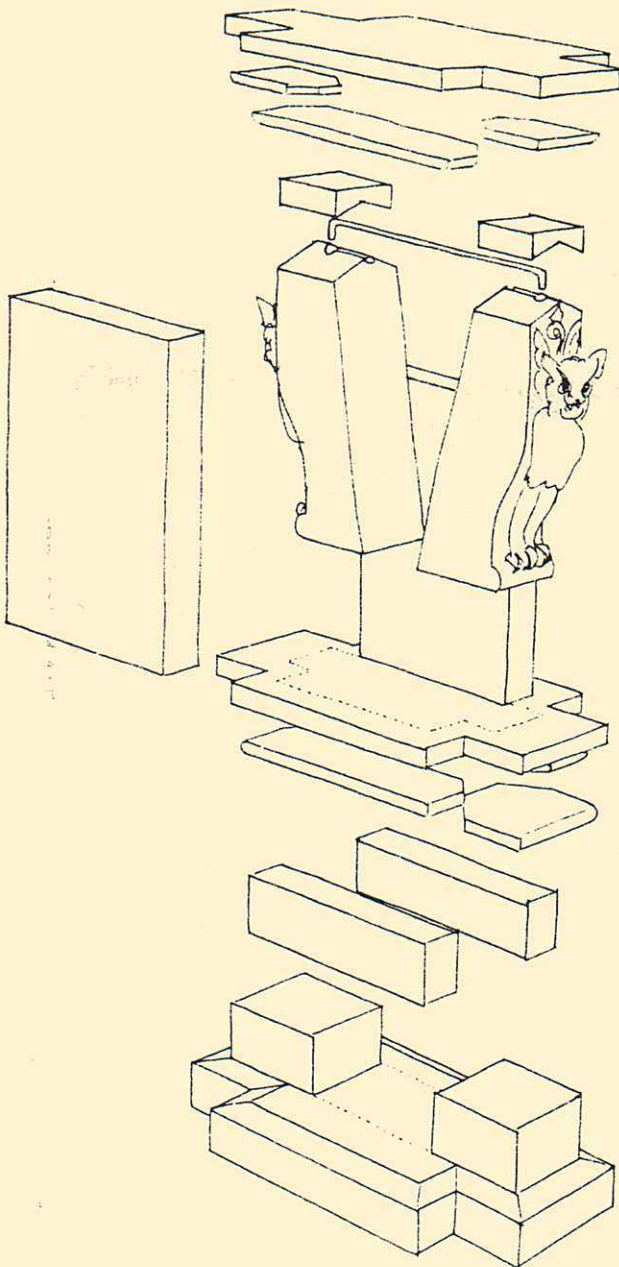
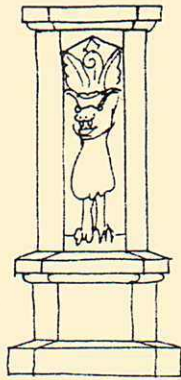
Many of you may wonder what happens when you call the Police. Our Office of Emergency Communications currently employs close to 140 civilians working around the clock seven days a week to answer your call for help. With the imminent arrival of 911 sometime soon, our Office of Emergency Communications (O.E.C.) is gearing up to answer an additional 40% more calls for service. This may not seem too astronomical until you know that in 1983, this office handled over 333,000 calls, an added 40% would mean close to half a million calls for services of some type. The OEC, as we refer to them, are those people who send you an ambulance, the Fire Dept., Police services and a host of other agencies. This enormous and generally thankless operation appeared to run itself as I took a quick tour of the office on the fifth floor of the Public Safety Bldg., several weeks ago. Most of the new 911 equipment is in place awaiting it's cue. The operators, supervisors, and dispatchers are always busy discussing a problem and its solution. In their language, there are three basic types of calls. **Priority One** calls are those where a crime is in progress. Priority One calls are dispatched immediately with a response time within five minutes. **Priority Two** calls require a Police report where the crime or incident is not in progress. Priority Two calls are dispatched up to five minutes after your call arrives. **Priority Three** calls are minor service requests such a parking complaint. Priority Three calls may be dispatched up to thirty minutes after your call arrives.

Genesee Section has six patrol car areas within it's boundaries. Should the car in your particular patrol area be busy, the next closest available patrol car will be sent, even if it means that car is several miles away. Usually this doesn't happen, but sometimes it does and that might cause you to wait a few extra minutes which may seem much longer to you. Car #233 which services Cornhill, has boundaries of West Main St. from the Inner-loop west to Jefferson Ave., south to Bronson Ave., east to Ford St. and the bridge and north along the west side of the river to the Inner-loop. This area is one of the smaller car areas due to it's dense population. We hope you'll be patient with the people who handle your calls, they have an enormous job to do and a great desire to do it well. Remember our number is **428-6666** for any Police service and keep watching for the arrival of the new 911 system.

Officer Pete Snyder  
Genesee Section - Crime Prevention

If anyone is interested in joining Pactac the next training meeting will be on Thursday, November 15, at 6:00 - 10:00 pm at the Genesee Section Office. Contact Al Rayburn - 325-3770 or Pete Snyder - 428-7234.

We are looking for volunteers to work as Crossing Guards in the Corn Hill area. In interested please call Pete Snyder at 428-7234, for further information.



# FOR FIRST APPROVAL

ARCHITECTURAL STONE SALES, INC.

BOX 637

BEDFORD, INDIANA

PHONE 279-2421

JOB NO.

808

BUILDING: CORN HILL MEMORIAL

LOCATION: ROCHESTER, N.Y.

PROJECTS:

APPROVAL:

CLIENT: A.C. MCGUIRE, INC.

ADDRESS: ROCHESTER, N.Y.

STONE  
SEL. BUFF

FINISH  
Smooth

REVISIONS

SHEET

DATE MADE BY

5/16/84

W

4

1  
CF

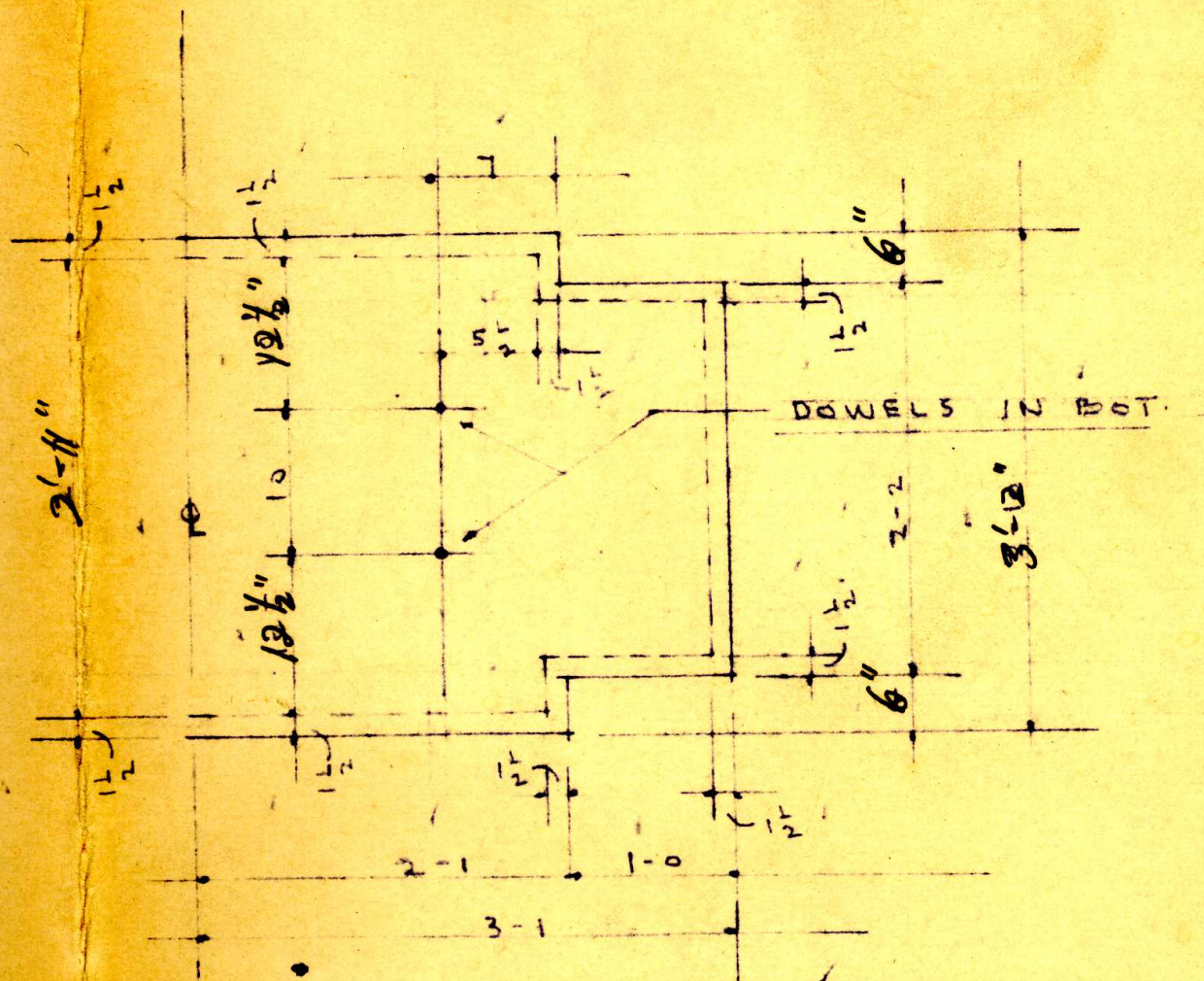
10/1/84

$$\frac{3}{4} = 1 - 0$$

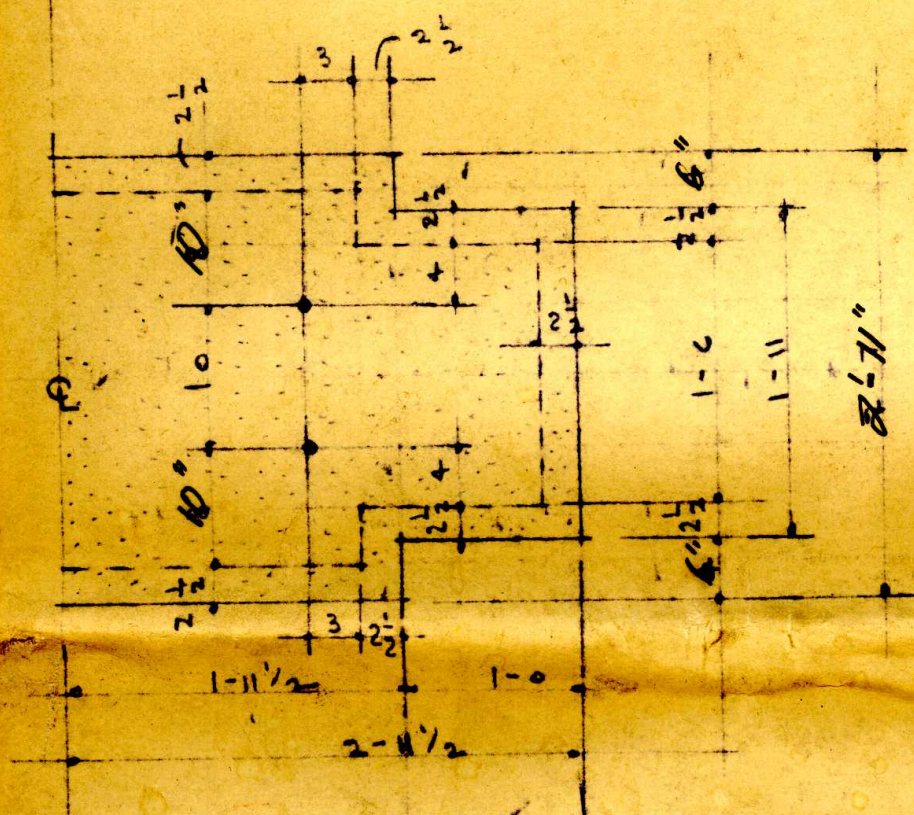
EXISTING CARVED STONE

$$3/4 = 1 - 0$$

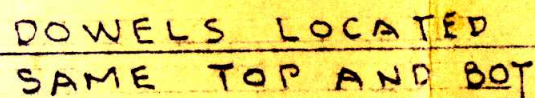
VERIFY 1-6

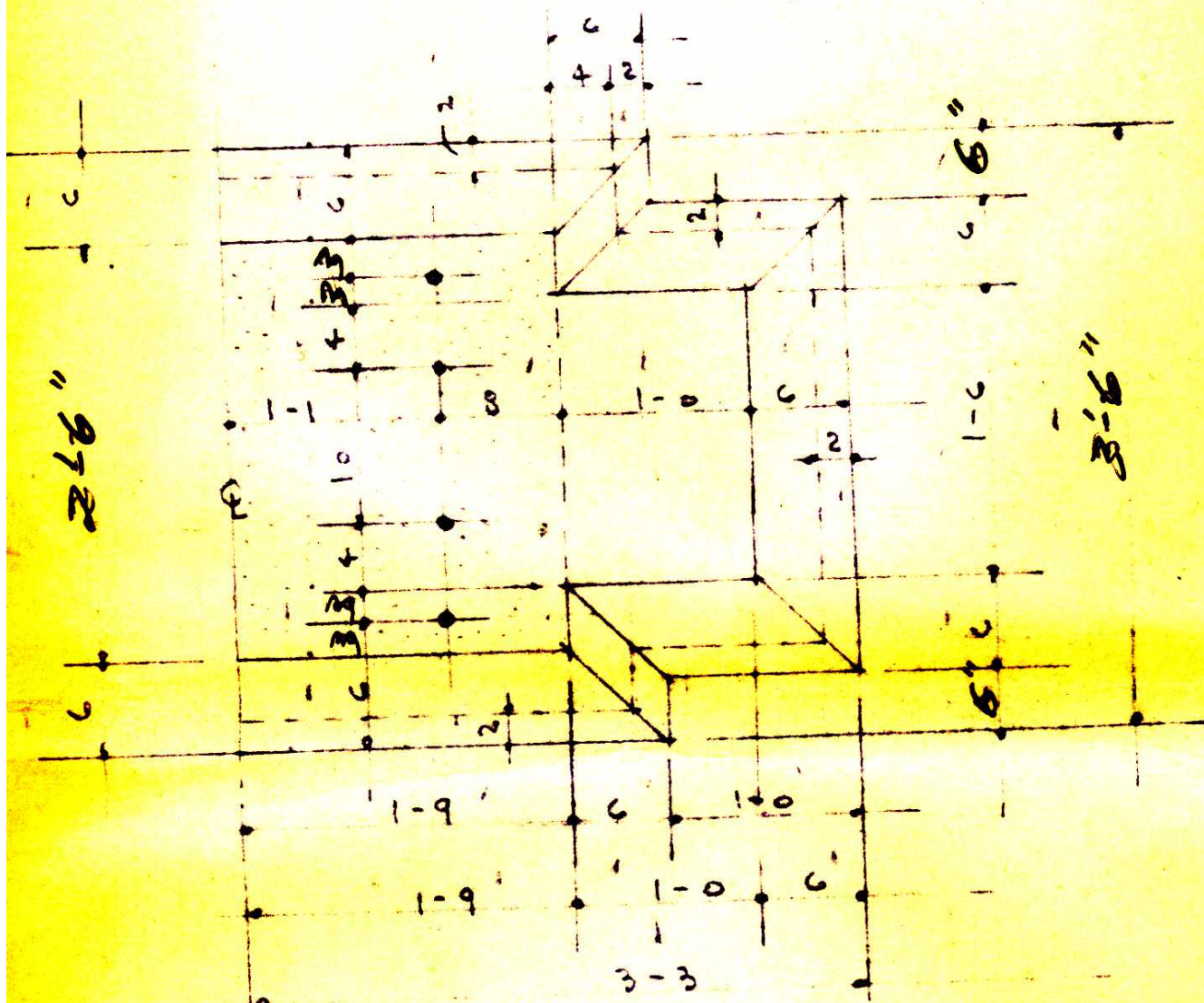


PLAN AT (H)  
3/4 = 1-0



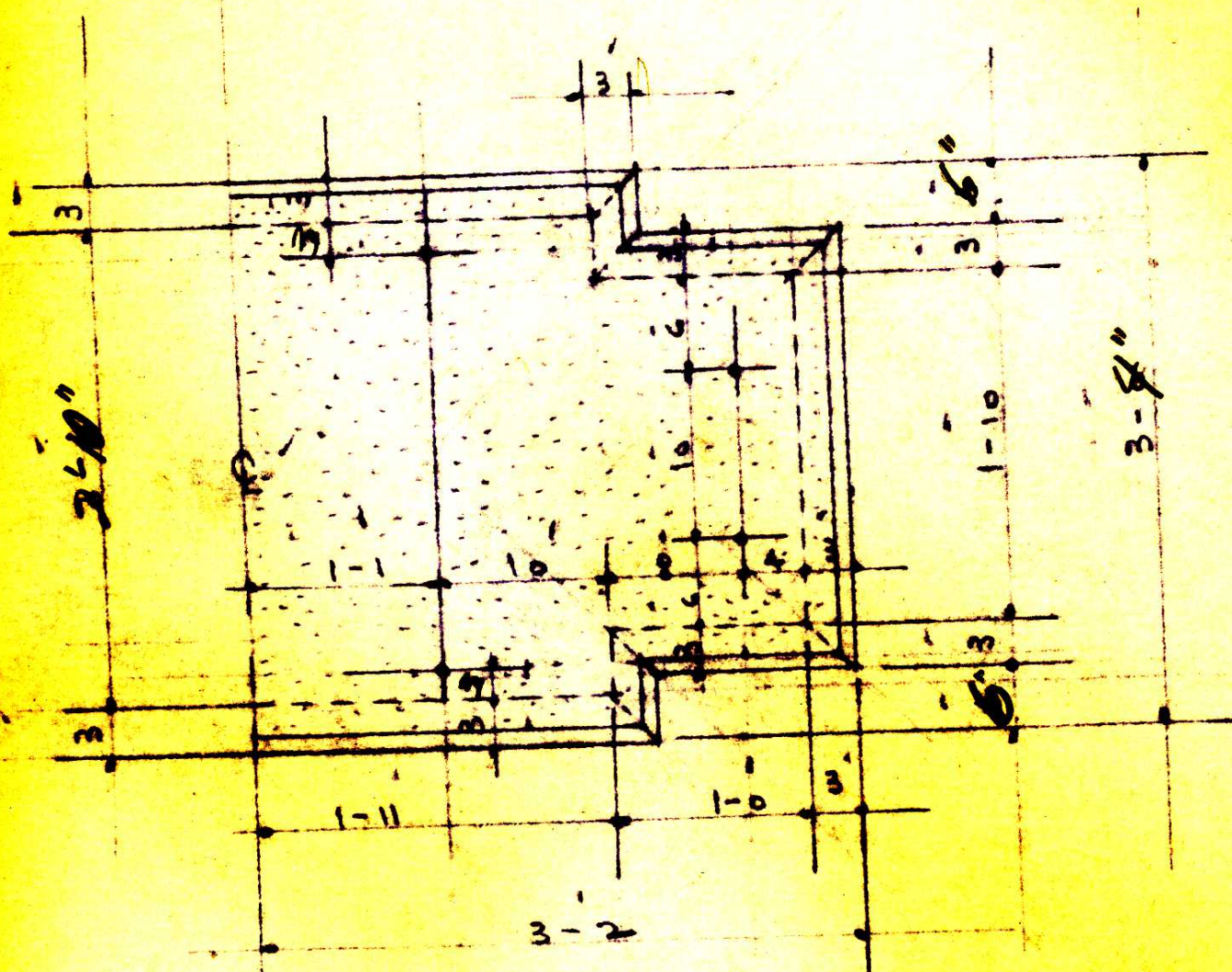
PLAN AT (G)


$$3/4 = 1 - 0$$

$$3/4 = 1 - 0$$



PLAN AT (D)

3/4 = 1-0



PLAN AT (C)

3/4 = 1-0

11-2 1/2

GIVE NET HEIGHT OF  
EXISTING STONE

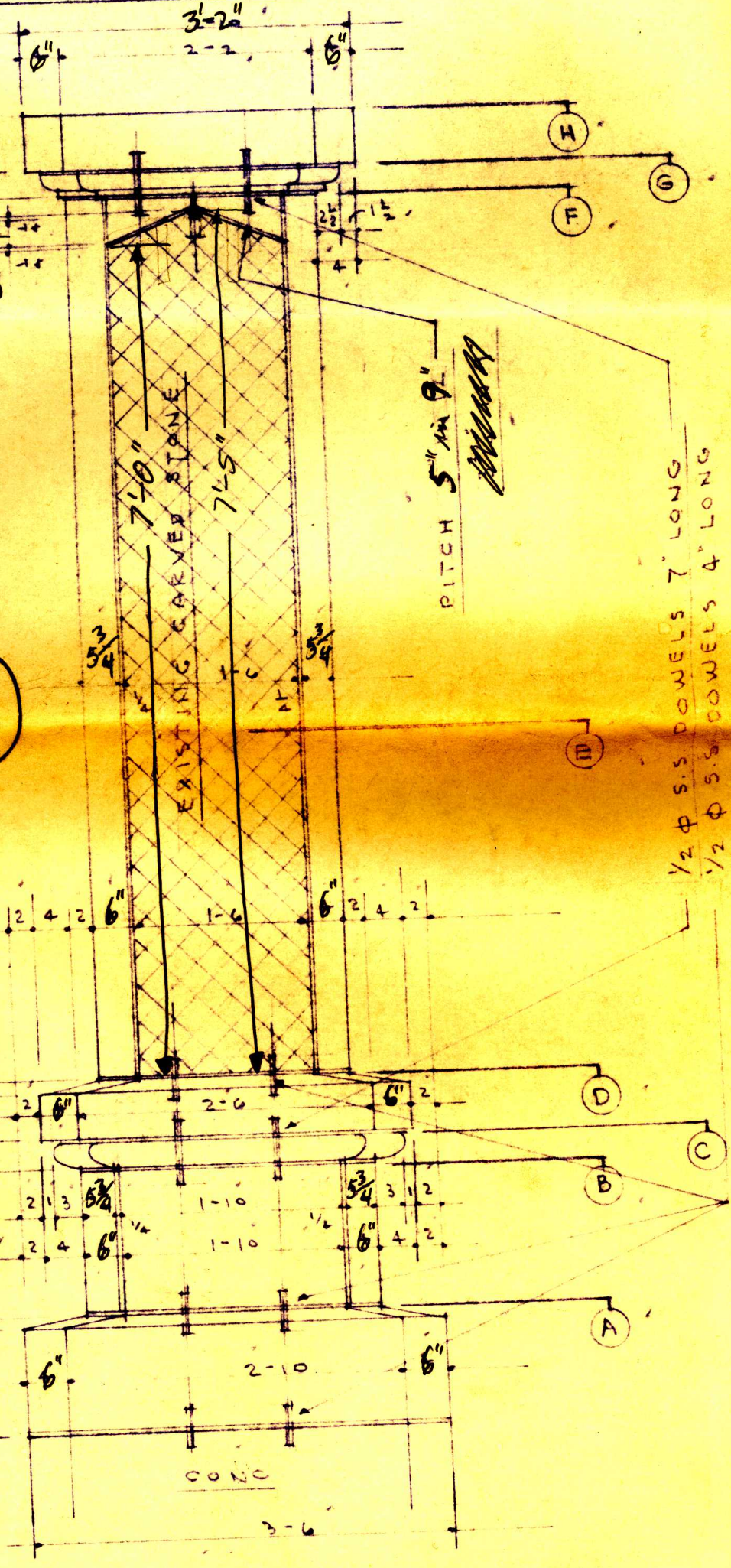
7'-6 1/2"

7'-5"

EXISTING CARVED STONE

PITCH 5" in 9"

1/2"  $\phi$  S.S. DOWELS 7' LONG  
1/2"  $\phi$  S.S. DOWELS 4' LONG



2 ENDS THUS

$3/4 = 1-0$

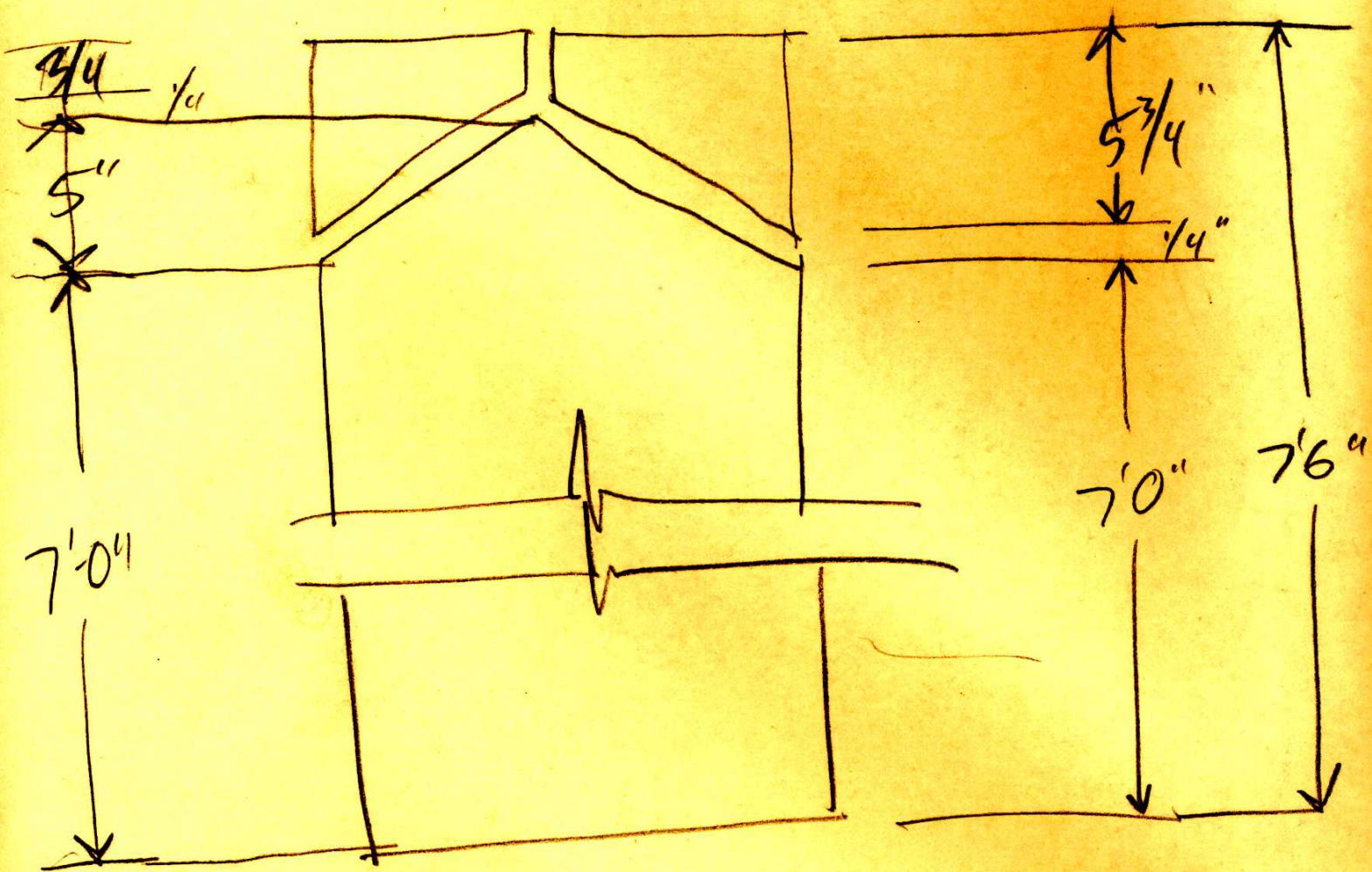


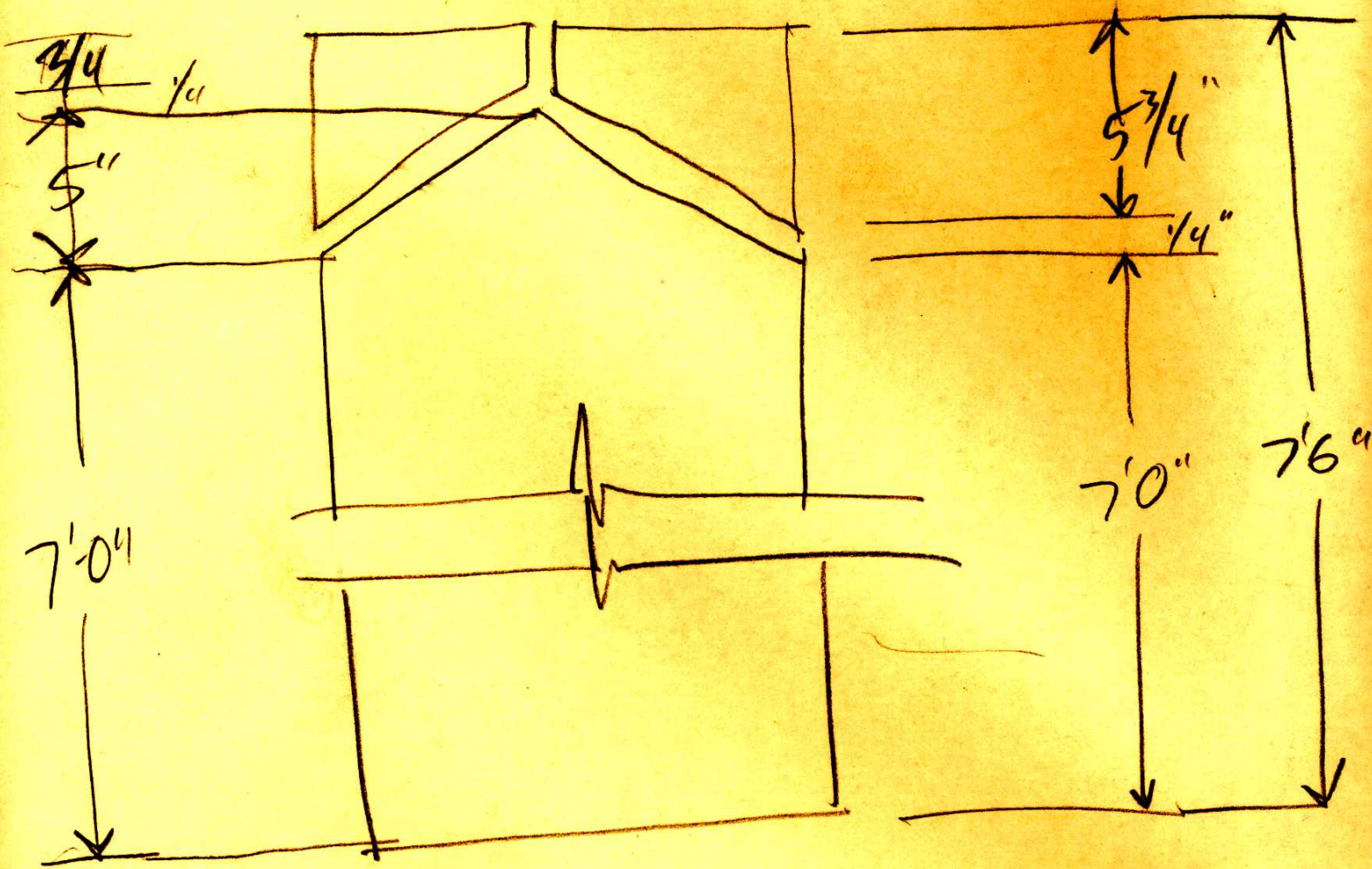
SEE FULL SIZE DETAIL NO. 1

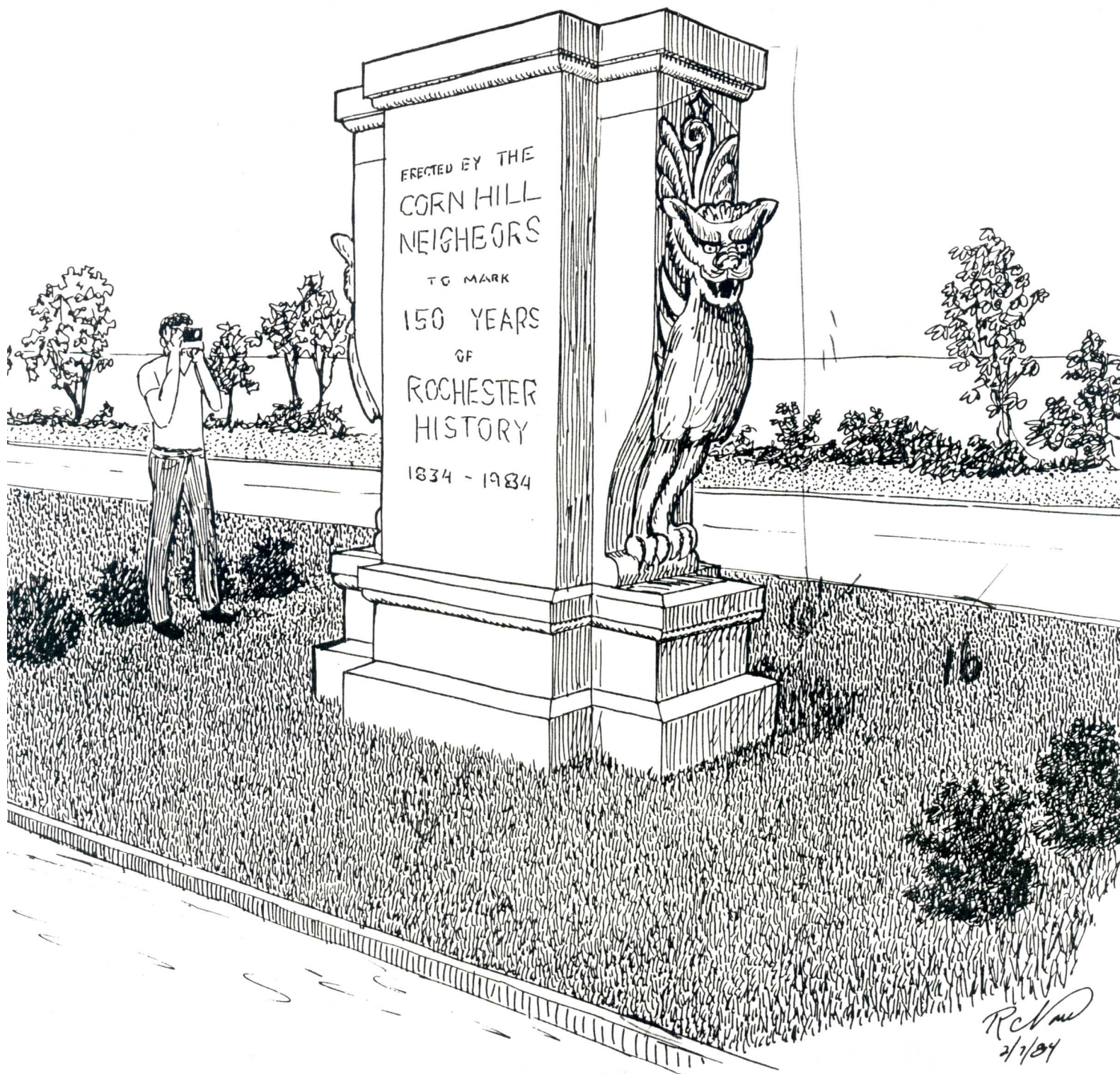
 $11-2\frac{1}{2}$ 

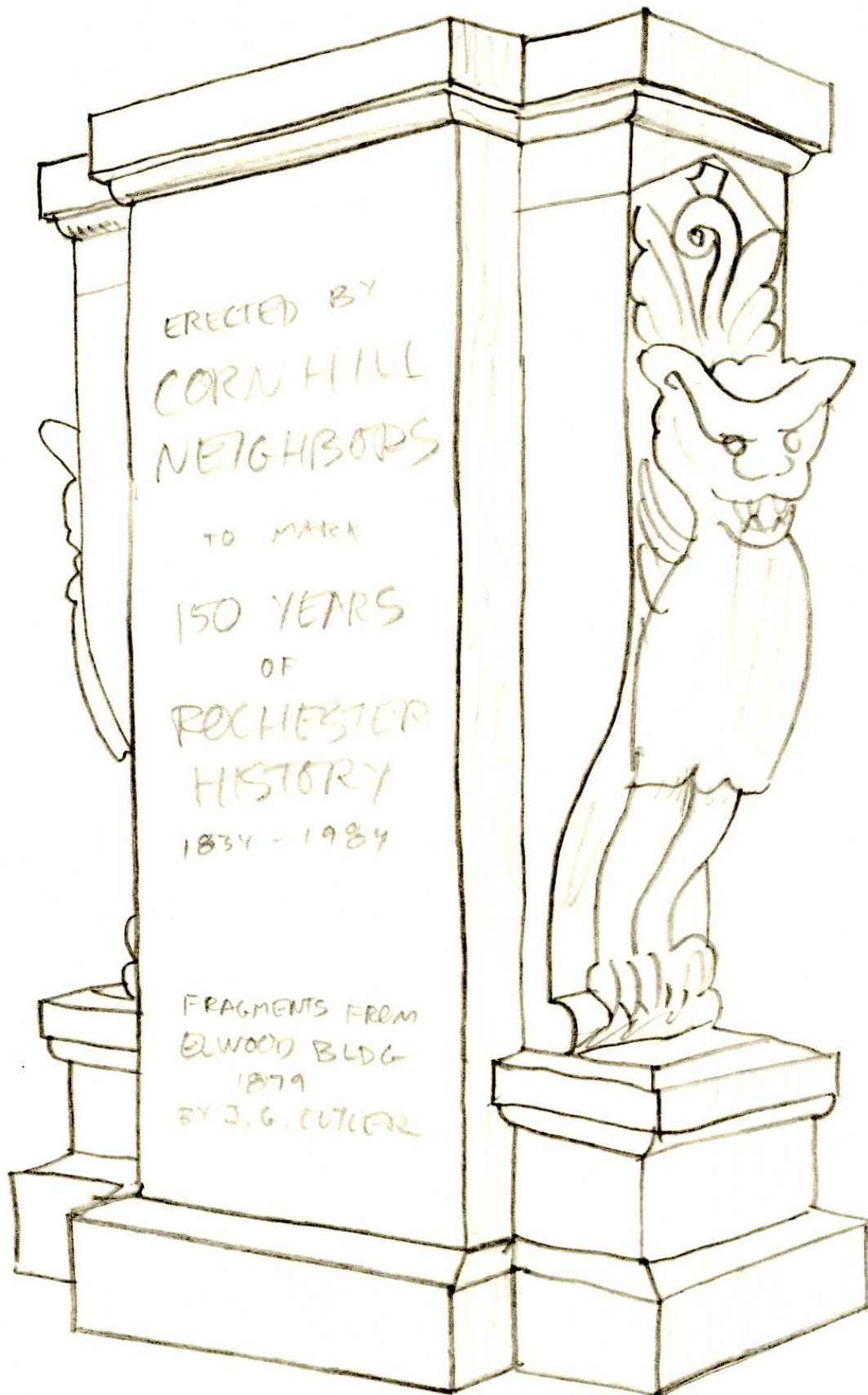
FRONT AND BACK THUS

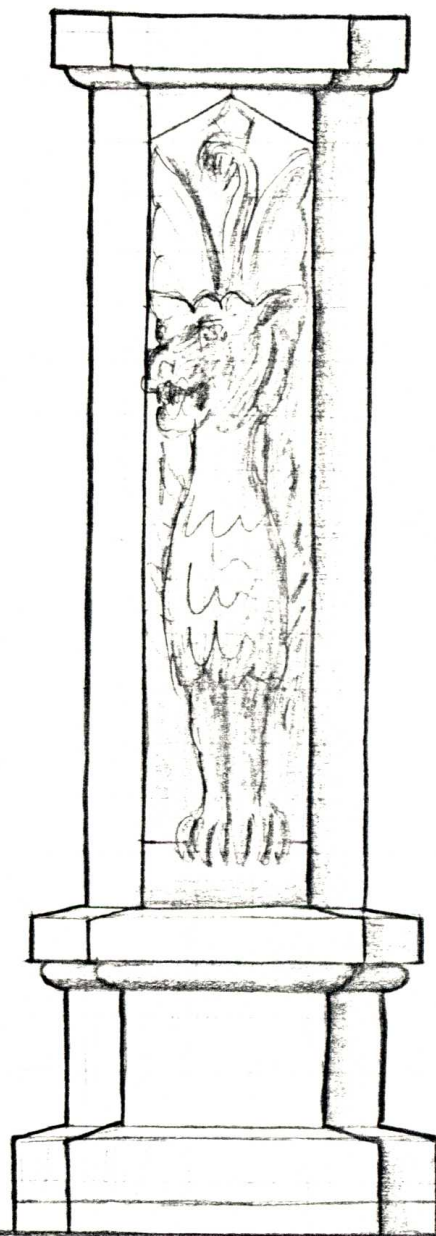
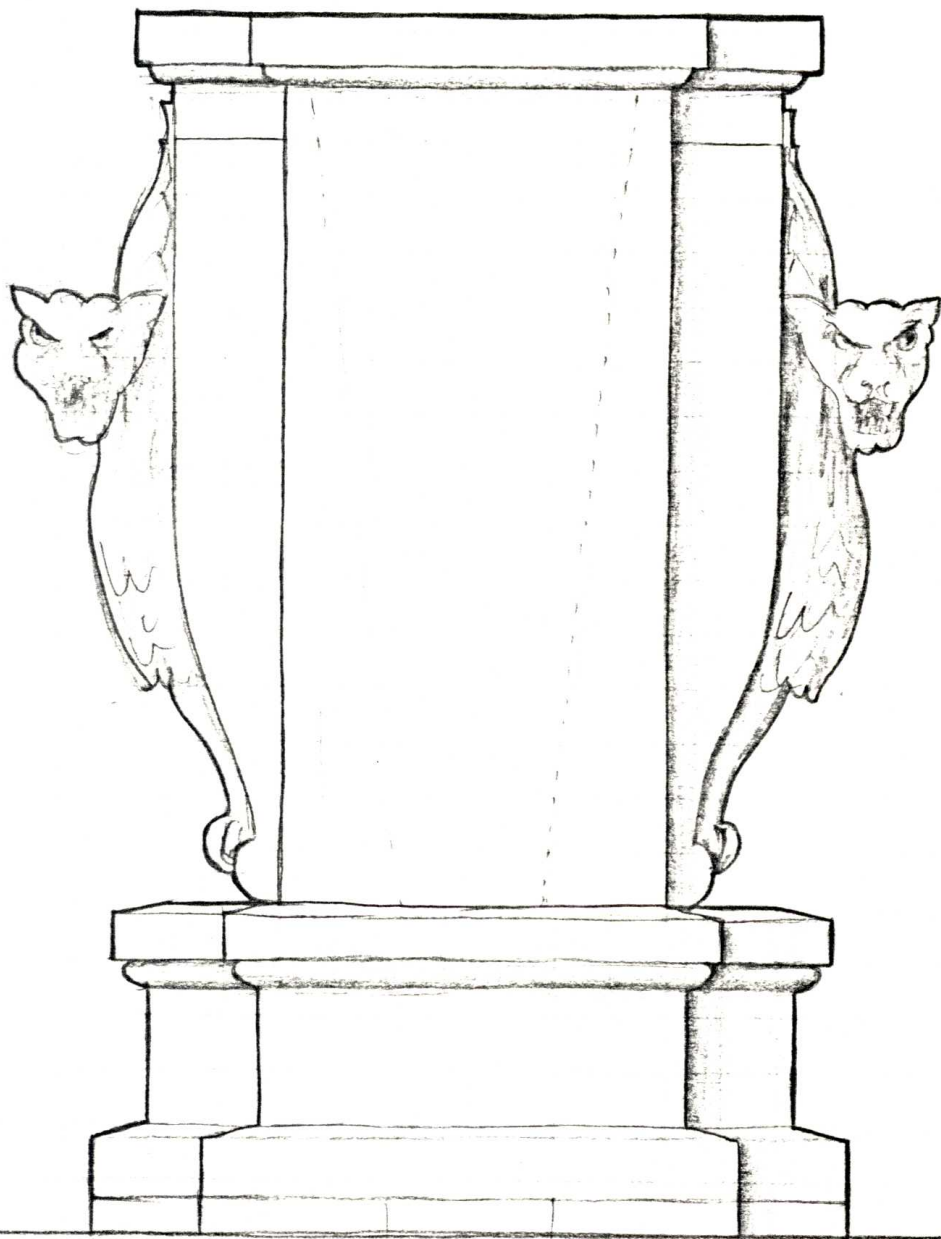
$$3/4 = 1 - 0$$

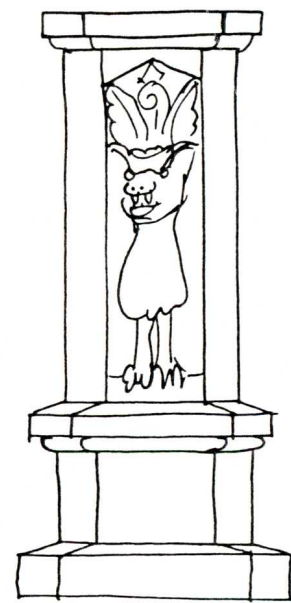
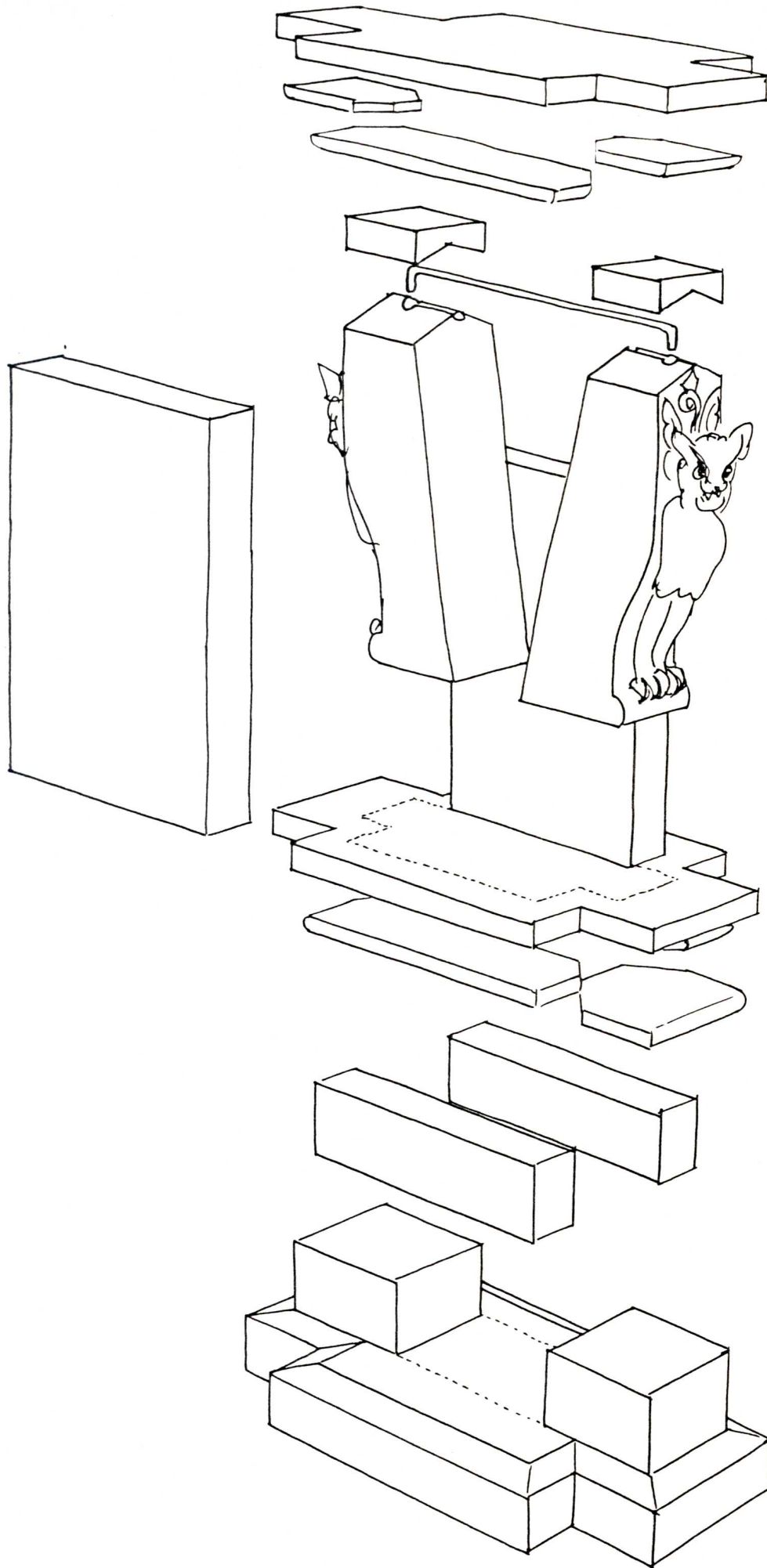












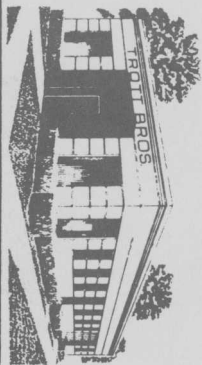




SEPT. 5, 84

# TROTT BROS. CO., INC.

TELEPHONE 473-3271  
1120 Mt. Hope Ave. • Rochester, N.Y. 14620  
MONUMENT BUILDERS  
SINCE 1883



CORN HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOC. INC.

55 TROUP STREET

ADDRESS ROCHESTER NY 14608

PHONE

CEMETERY

LOT NO. RGE. SEC.

LETTERING

MATERIAL

ON-SITE ENGRAVING ON THE  
HISTORICAL MARKER FOR THE  
CORN HILL ASSOCIATION  
PER LETTERING PLAN ATTACHED

.....\$480.00

NET CASH, 10 DAYS AFTER COMPLETION

ACCEPTED:

DATE:

KEEP THIS COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS

TOTAL COST

TYPE FACE IS TIMES ROMAN

7"

2"

4"

4"

4"

4"

4"

4"

4"

4"

4"

4"

4"

4"

4"

6"

3"

FRAGMENTS FROM

ELWOOD BUILDING

1879 J.C. CUTLER ARCH.

2"

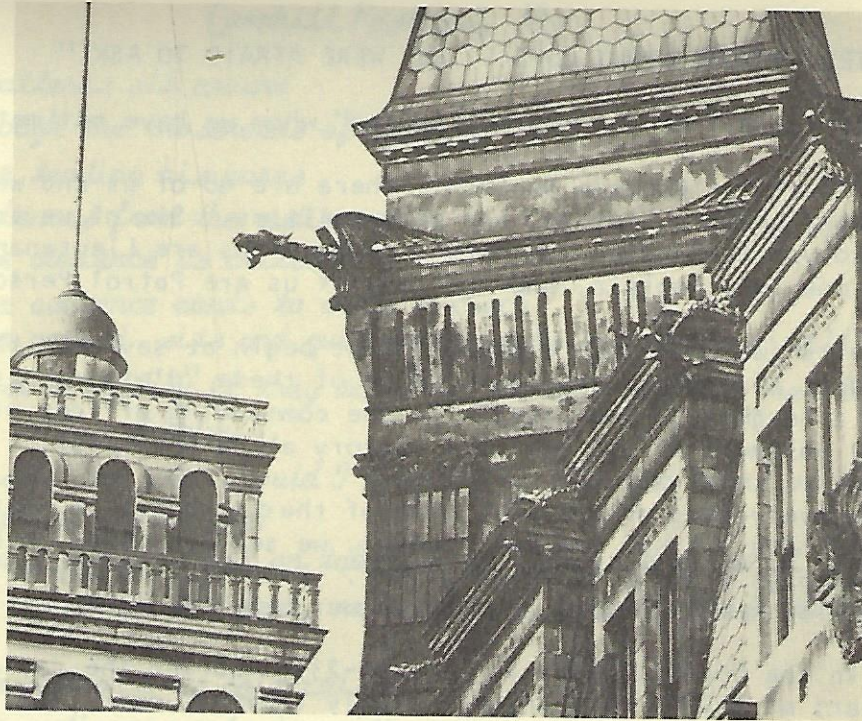
1 1/2"

2"

2 1/2"

2"

2"



#### CORN HILL SESQUICENTENNIAL GIFT TO COMMUNITY NEEDS NEIGHBORHOOD INPUT

At November's Board of Directors Meeting, a resolution was passed to spend up to \$10,000 of CHNA funds to install in the neighborhood two carved stone lion griffins salvaged from the Elwood Building during its demolition in 1967. This resolution was passed in response to Sesquicentennial Inc.'s request from the neighborhood for a cash gift to the city and from the neighborhood's decision to spend its gift on a suitable commemorative marker or markers to the historic Corn Hill Neighborhood.

The Citizen's Committee on Fine Art and Archives - responsible for recommending the appropriate disposition of the lion griffins - has given preliminary approval to CHNA to incorporate the griffins into a marker or markers but has reservations about our choice of locations.

Their reservations will delay the city's approval process and necessitate CHNA's reconsidering both the location of the lion griffins and the design contest for their incorporation into a marker or markers.

The CHNA Griffin Group needs neighborhood feedback to support our decisions on the location approved by the city engineer and whether to pursue a design competition which could cause further delays.

Our original completion schedule was to coincide with the annual Corn Hill Arts Festival in July. We want to stick with that schedule and need your support to get the site approval we need to proceed.

There will be a brief informational meeting following the RG&E presentation at the general meeting on January 9, 1984. If you have a preference in locations or are interested in entering a design competition, you are urged to attend. If you are unable to attend, but have suggestions, you are urged to put them in writing and send them to Kay Hood at 102 Troup Street, Rochester, N. Y. 14608. Please respond, we need your input.

## LION GRIFFINS - Brief History

The lion griffins which the Corn Hill Neighborhood Association plans to restore as part of a commemorative marker or markers to the neighborhood spent the first eighty-eight years of their public existence overlooking Main and State Streets from the seventh story of the Elwood Building. (see photo) (arrow)

The Elwood Building stood at the corner of Main and State Streets where the Crossroads Building now stands. It was designed by James G. Cutler, who invented the first mail chute for this nineteenth century highrise, made a fortune on the patent and manufacture of the mail chute, and became mayor of Rochester in 1904.

The Elwood Building, constructed in 1879, competed in height with the Powers Building until the Wilder Building topped them both in the 1880's. The Elwood Building was famous for the gargoyles protruding from its tower, one of which is still on view at the Memorial Art Gallery. The griffins were not much visual competition for the gargoyles, but because they are carved stone, not metal covered wood, they have outlasted the gargoyles and can be restored to outdoor display.

Since the demolition of the Elwood Building as part of the Genesee Crossroads Urban Renewal Project in 1967, the griffins have been in storage as city property until a suitable use for them could be found.



WHAT IS A GRIFFIN, ANYWAY? (see photo)

A griffin or griffon is, by definition, a mythological beast with the hindquarters of a lion and the head and wings of an eagle. If the winged beast is depicted with the head of a lion and claws of a bird, it is called a lion griffin. The architectural creatures that CHNA plans to restore appear to be lion griffins, referred to as griffins for the sake of brevity. D & D enthusiasts say they fit the description of chimeras or sphinxes. We doubt that, but who knows, do you? If you are able to identify these beasts as something other than griffins, please let us know.