

Texas Historical Commission Staff (FR), 10/24/83

Official Texas Historical Building Marker without post for
attachment to brick
Jefferson County (Order #7440)
Location: 400 Walnut, Beaumont

CENTRAL FIRE STATION*

THIS STRUCTURE WAS BUILT IN 1927
TO HOUSE THE BEAUMONT FIRE DEPART-
MENT, ORGANIZED IN 1881. DESIGNED BY
THE ARCHITECTURAL FIRM OF LIVESAY
AND WIEDEMANN, THE BUILDING WAS
CONSTRUCTED ON THE SITE OF TWO
EARLIER FIRE STATIONS. INFLUENCES
OF THE SPANISH RENAISSANCE REVIVAL
STYLE, WHICH WAS POPULAR AT THE
TIME, ARE EVIDENT IN THE RED BRICK
ORNAMENTATION AND THE GEOMETRIC
TILE WORK UNDER THE EAVES OF
THE ROOF. **

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK - 1983***

*1/2 inch lettering
**3/8 inch lettering
***1/4 inch lettering

APPROVED

Francis Rickard
5/29/84

APPLICATION FORM FOR OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
P.O. Box 12276, Austin, Texas 78711

RECEIVED
AUG 17 1983
TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

A written history, signed by the author, must accompany this form before it will be accepted.

JEFFERSON County July 5, 1983 Date

1. Central Fire Station
Title of marker

2. Central Fire Station - Headquarters Building
Name of building, cemetery, public square, park, archeological site, etc., where marker is to be placed.

3. 400 Walnut
Marker site (street address or highway number)

4. Beaumont
City or nearest city. If marker is to be placed on a highway or in a small community, you must briefly explain how to get there from nearest town shown on a Texas Highway Department road map. For example, "Marker will be in Bastrop Beach, which is 6 miles southeast of Angleton on FM 523."

5. N/A (Marker to be placed on building)
Distance (miles, yards, feet) and direction (north, south, east, west) of subject from marker site. For example, "Subject is 1/2 mile southwest of marker site."

6. City of Beaumont P. O. Box 3827 Beaumont, TX 77704
Owner of marker site Address City

7. Jefferson County Historical Commission 1005 23rd St. Beaumont, TX 77706
Sponsor of marker Address City

8. Clare Benckenstein 1005 23rd Street Beaumont, TX 77706
County chairman Address City
"I have reviewed the narrative for this marker and attest to its accuracy."

9. C. A. Shelton, Fire Chief 400 Walnut Beaumont, TX 77701
Person to whom marker is to be shipped Street Address City
Note: If marker is to be placed on a highway right-of-way, it will automatically be shipped to your district highway engineer.

10. Brick
Surface to which marker will be attached (i.e., wood, brick, stucco over stone) if not on post

ORDER FORM

Please consult page 7 for specifications of the markers available. Check the items desired below. Then mail this application and narrative history, together with a check made payable to the TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION, to the address above. No applications will be accepted unless payment is included. If marker application is cancelled after the inscription is written, the Texas Historical Commission will deduct the cost of writing the inscription from the refund.

HISTORICAL MARKERS

5% state sales tax must be added to the price, except if purchased by a tax exempt organization.

<u>City of Beaumont - TAX EXEMPT</u>		With Tax
<input type="checkbox"/> 16" x 12" grave marker (comes with mounting bar)	\$175	\$183.75
<input type="checkbox"/> 16" x 12" building marker with post	\$225	\$236.25
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 16" x 12" building marker without post	\$175	\$183.75
<input type="checkbox"/> National Register plaque	\$35	\$36.75
<input type="checkbox"/> 27" x 42" subject marker with post	\$575	\$603.75
<input type="checkbox"/> 27" x 42" subject marker without post	\$525	\$551.25
<input type="checkbox"/> 18" x 28" subject marker with post	\$325	\$341.25
<input type="checkbox"/> 18" x 28" subject marker without post	\$250	\$262.50

MARKER REPLICA PAPERWEIGHT

This item should be ordered at the same time marker is ordered. Indicate quantity desired. Allow six months for completion of marker for receipt of paperweight.

<input type="checkbox"/> 3" x 4" plastic paperweight mounted with replica of marker	\$ 75	With tax \$ 78.75
<input type="checkbox"/> Medallion paperweight, allows four lines of engraving	\$ 25	\$ 26.25

DIRECTIONAL SIGNS

Please indicate quantity desired and location:

24" x 24" Historical Markers In City sign \$ 65 With Tax
\$ 68.25

These will be placed by the District Highway Engineer

Black and white (for farm-to-market roads, state and U.S. highways)

Green and white (for interstate highways)

18" x 22" Historical Marker (in black and white only) . \$ 65 With tax
\$ 68.25

For city and county roads. Applicant must supply post.

- With arrow pointing straight ahead
- With arrow pointing left
- With arrow pointing right

CUT AND DETACH ON DOTTED LINE

THE BEAUMONT CENTRAL FIRE STATION

Fire was a major concern of the citizens of the timber town of Beaumont, Texas, in the early 1880's. A fire at one of the lumber mills on September 8, 1881, led to the organizational meeting of the Beaumont Fire Company Number One, which was officially established on December 19, 1881.¹ To raise money for firefighting equipment, a Grand Fireman's Ball was held on October 18, 1881; a total of \$56.85 was collected.² A rotary engine force pump was purchased. Two mules, "Kate" and "Rody," and the fire equipment were kept in a small wooden fire hall located where the Julie Rogers Theatre now stands.³

In April, 1887, the city of Beaumont purchased land on the north-east corner of Walnut and Mulberry for \$1,113.00.⁴ The address remains today, 400 Walnut. A wooden structure was built where the present Central Fire Station now stands.

Beaumont became an oil boom town following the Spindletop gusher in 1901. At that time \$300,000.00 was spent on new construction in the city. "The housing of modern municipal facilities began in 1902, when construction of a city hall, fire station, and "calaboose" was voted by the people."⁵ The wooden structure was dismantled, and the new building was built on the site in 1903.

Following a second oil boom in 1925, Beaumont experienced more growth. The city government at this time was headed by Mayor J. Austin Barnes and City Manager Ollie J. Bloyd. Bond issues were passed to, "improve the quality of life in Beaumont", and plans for a new central fire station began.⁶

The architectural firm of Livesay and Wiedemann were hired by the city in April, 1926. In December, 1926, plans were completed and construction of the \$85,000.00 brick structure was set to begin.⁷ The construction firm of McDaniel Brothers was awarded the contract with Howard McDaniel named contractor.

Involved in construction of Central Fire Station was the relocation of a cemetery. A number of fire dogs, "Old Man," "Mutt," "Bob," and "Spot" were buried in small boxes under the slab before the two entrances of the 1903 Station; stone markers marked the graves. There was also a marker for "Major," an old fire horse. Plans were to be made to place the remains under the concrete floor of the new fire "barn."⁸ It was not known until recently the fate of the markers when a construction company clearing Susie Laden's land in Lakeview near Vidor, Texas, found the markers. It was learned that the land had once been owned by a retired firefighter, Ed Gross. The markers have now been returned to the Beaumont Fire Department and are being restored. They will be given a place of honor in the present Central Fire Station.

While the station was under construction, a cornerstone laying ceremony was held. The Reverend Tom Minyard of First Christian Church officiated at the dedication service held on Thursday, August 18, 1927.⁹ The building was dedicated in memory of Bob Glass who lost his life in the line of duty on Christmas day of 1914. Mayor J. Austin Barnes also spoke during the dedication. Persons attending the ceremony were: City Manager Paul B. Millard; City Commissioners, Tom Livesay and Howard McDaniel and other officials; the first Beaumont Fire Chief, Ed Eastham; Fire Chief S. D. O'Connor and a platoon of firemen in dress uniform.

A copper box was placed behind the stone eagle on the west side of the building by Chief S. D. O'Connor. Placed in the copper box were individual metal plates imbedded with 10 cent pieces of the present day and bearing the names of every fireman serving in the department in 1927. Also, included were letterheads of the city administration and of the Beaumont Fire Department and other records.⁹ The Beaumont Enterprise wrote that Beaumonters would have, "to await the rolling of many years of time across the horizon of Beaumont before they, (the content of the box), are again gazed upon."

The Central Fire Station was constructed with a structural steel frame on a reinforced concrete foundation on shallow dug footings. The station is a two story, modified Spanish Renaissance style of architecture as depicted by roof design and masonry decorations. The exterior building materials were face brick and wood with red spanish clay tiles for the roof. This style of architecture was popular in the area at the time. The Y.M.C.A. and many fine homes in the area built in the same era are testaments to this. The south and west facades are the most decorative as they overlook Mulberry and Walnut Street. The exterior brick is a light color with dark brick wainscot and trim. The dark contrasting brick accents the double hung wood windows and door jams. A geometric red, green and blue tile freize is located under the eaves. Stone eagles are found under the wide entrances. There is a large entrance door opening on to the west. There are six large entrances for fire equipment on the first floor; five on the south side and one on the west. There is a pedestrian entrance near the corner of the west side. Stone coffered soffits are at the eaves and bracket lights are located on either side of the wide entrances. Windows are located above the entrances on the second floor for architectural balance. The north and east sides of the building which each face parking lots are less decorative but, have the same light brick with dark wainscot trim. The tile freize is not present, nor are the windows as eleborately decorated with the dark brick. The former mechanic shop, a part of the original structure, juts from the north side. The same light brick with dark trim is used on this extension.

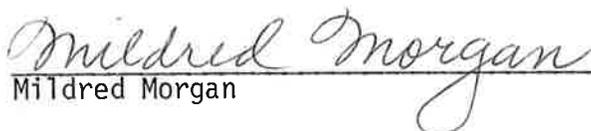
The interior of the building was divided into space for the firefighting equipment, some offices, and a kitchen on the first floor and into a large dormitory, a classroom, a communications center and offices on the second floor. The attic was used for storage.

There have been few alterations in the central fire station since 1927. The red tile roof was replaced with an asphalt roof in 1948 by Tommy Booth, of

Booth Termite and Roofing. At this time, external gutters were added, and the dedication plaque was moved from the south side of the building to the west side. The first floor remains as it was originally built with the exception of lowering the ceilings in the offices in 1972. The second floor ceilings were also lowered and the following changes were made: 1) Four offices were partitioned for the fire prevention division in 1972; 2) The classroom was divided into five offices and a conference room for the arson division in 1980; 3) Part of the dormitory was converted into a photography room in 1975; 4) A staff lunchroom was added in 1981. The building was air-conditioned in 1967 with no physical changes made. The attic remains unchanged. The mechanics shop is used for storage.

The Central Fire Station remains the heart of the fire department even though on May 1, 1981, all the modern firefighting equipment was moved to the new College Street Station. The very modern communication system, as well as the Fire Chief's office, and all other administrative offices remain in the building. The first floor, where the equipment was housed, has been transformed into a museum. There are fire trucks dating from the very earliest made, early alarm systems, and many other pieces of firefighting equipment.


Carol Flatten


Mildred Morgan

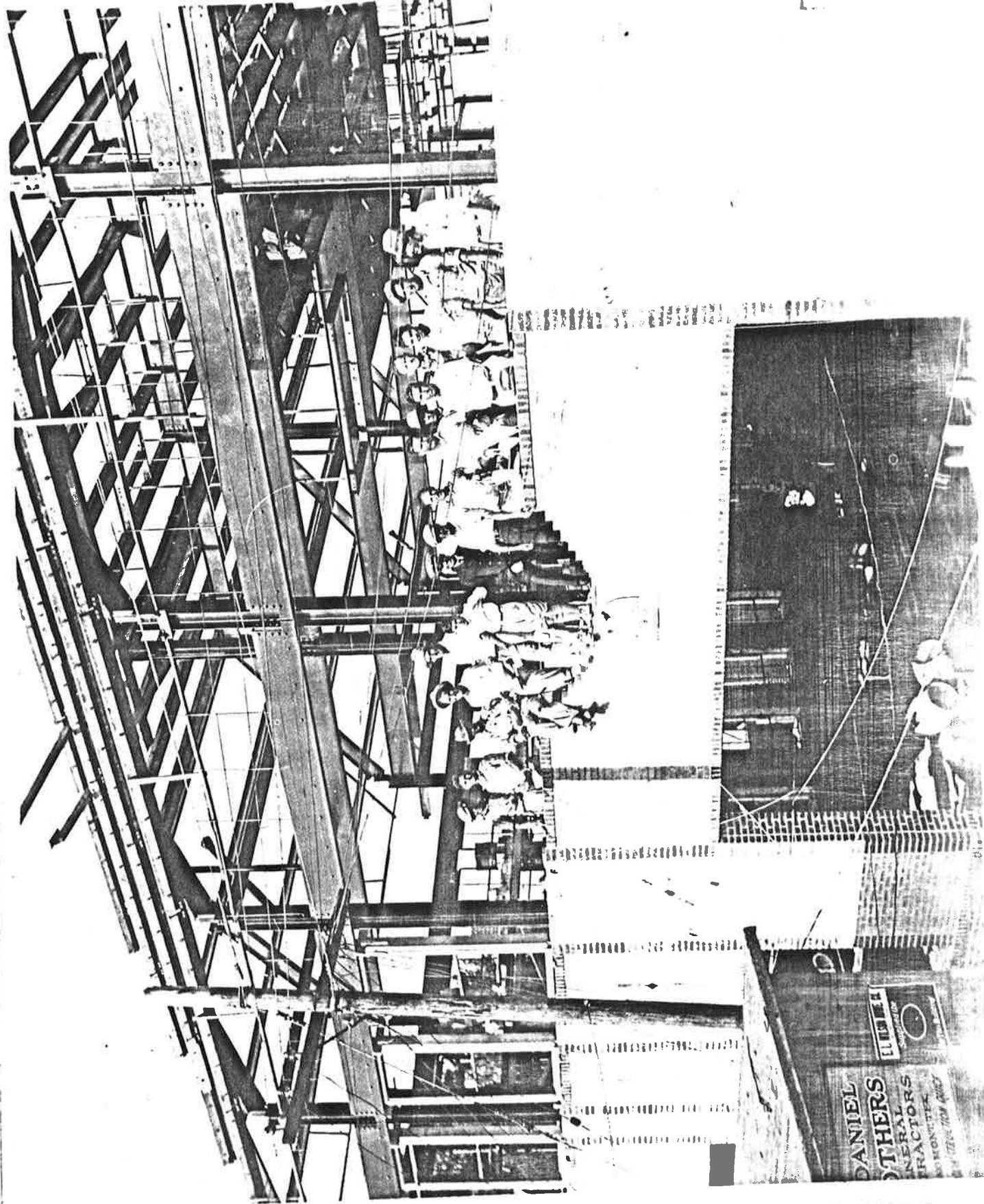
FOOTNOTES

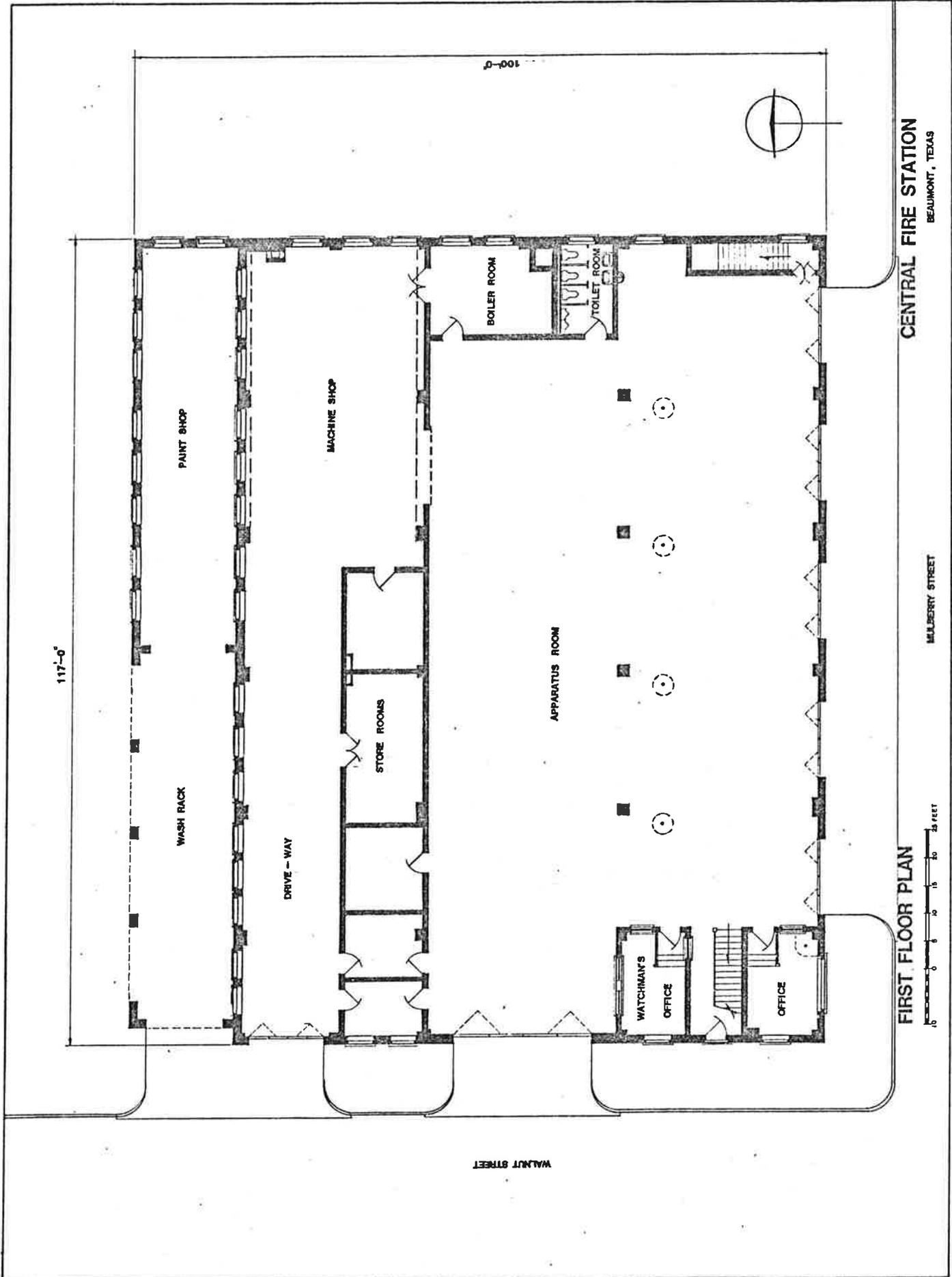
- ¹State Firemen's & Fire Marshals' Association of Texas, 1876-1976 100 Years, 1976, pp. 46-48.
- ²Beaumont Enterprise.
- ³Beaumont Enterprise.
- ⁴Land Deed, Jefferson County Deed Record.
- ⁵Judith Walker Linsley and Ellen W. Rienstra, Beaumont A Chronicle of Promise, Woodland Hills, California: Windsor Publication, 1982. pp. 67, 73, 83.
- ⁶Federal Writers' Press, Beaumont A Guide to the City and Its Environs, Houston, Texas: The Anson Jones Press, Circa 1930. pp. 89, 131.
- ⁷Judith Walker Linsley and Ellen W. Rienstra, Beaumont A Chronicle of Promise, Woodland Hills, California: Windsor Publication, 1982, pp. 94.
- ⁸Beaumont Enterprise, 1927.
- ⁹Beaumont Enterprise.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Federal Writers' Press, Beaumont A Guide to the City and Its Environs, Houston, Texas: The Anson Jones Press, Circa 1930.
- State Firemen's & Fire Marshals' Association of Texas, 1876-1976 100 Years, 1976.
- Judith Walker Linsley and Ellen W. Rienstra, Beaumont A Chronicle of Promise, Woodland Hills, California: Windsor Publication, 1982.

Construction 1927





117'-0"

100'-0"

WASH RACK

PAINT SHOP

DRIVE - WAY

MACHINE SHOP

STORE ROOMS

APPARATUS ROOM

BOILER ROOM

TOILET ROOM

WATCHMAN'S

OFFICE

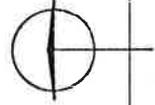
OFFICE

WALNUT STREET

MULBERRY STREET

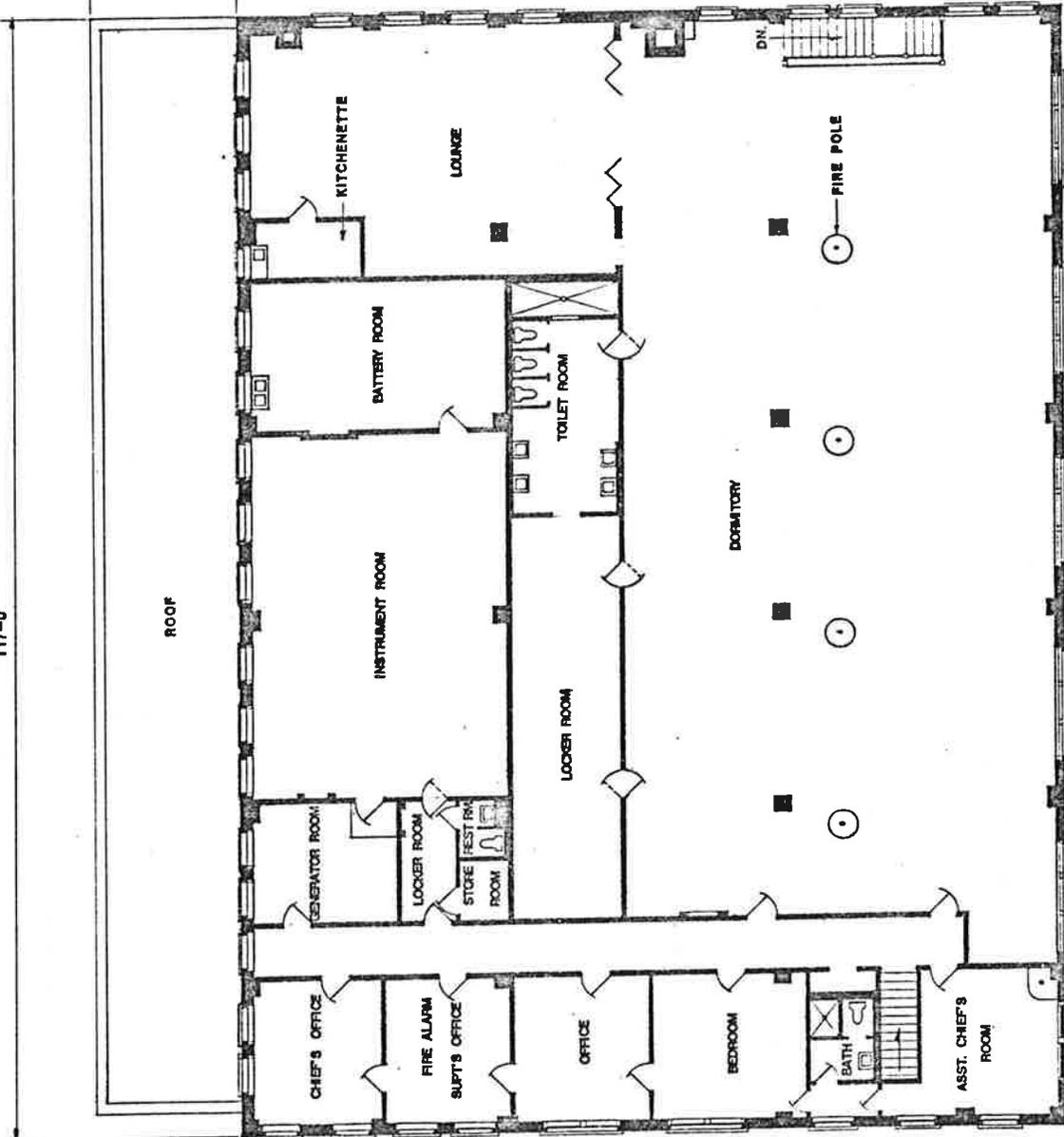
CENTRAL FIRE STATION
BEAUMONT, TEXAS

FIRST FLOOR PLAN



117'-0"

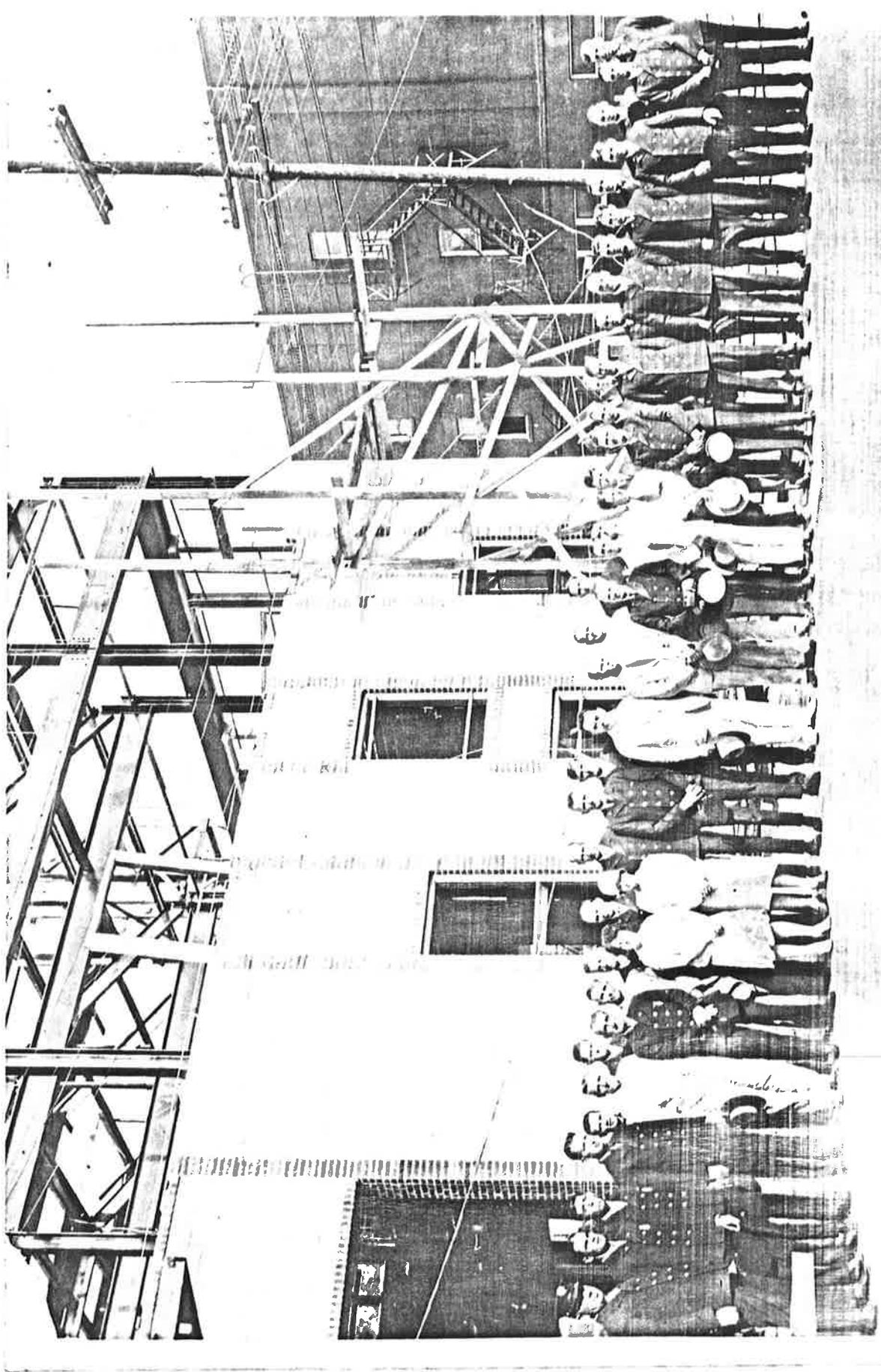
ROOF

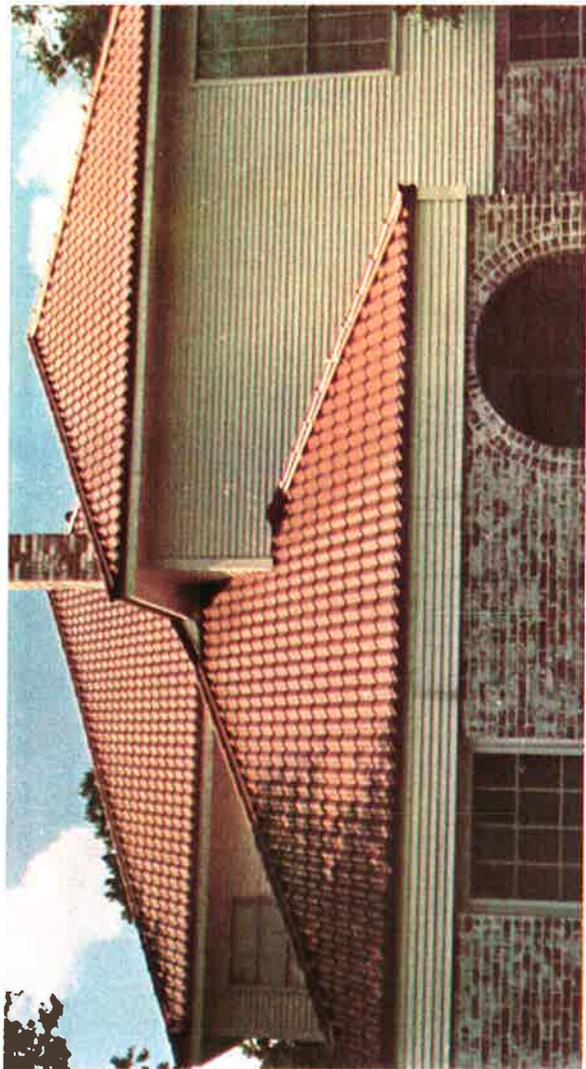


CENTRAL FIRE STATION
BEAUBONT, TEXAS

SECOND FLOOR PLAN

Dedication Ceremony
Aug. 1927





STILE™

STEEL TILE ROOFING



metal sales
manufacturing corporation



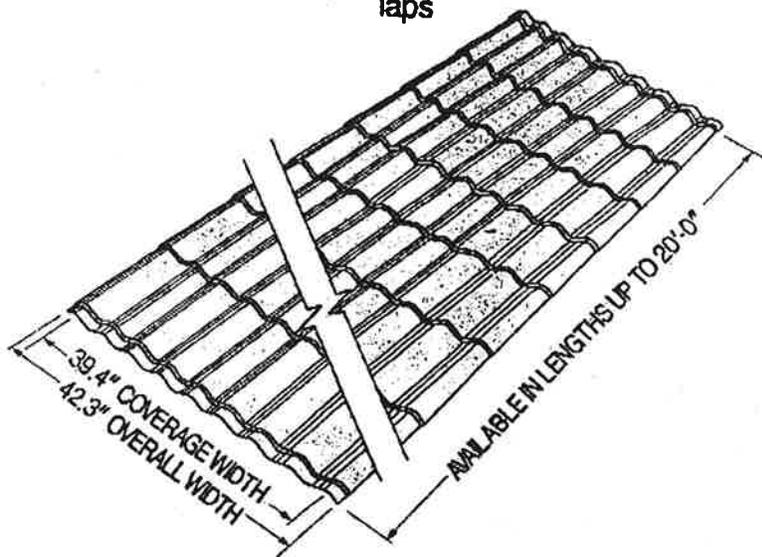
**Installation
and
Details**

INFORMATION

B. PRODUCT INFORMATION

1. Stile Metal Roofing Tile System

Material	Hot dipped galvanized steel sheets
Coating	Upper surface — Fluorocarbon paint system Lower surface — Epoxy Based Undercoat
Colors	Spanish Clay, Riviera Sand, Tudor Brown, Slate Gray, White
Thickness	26 gauge material (.019ga.)
Covering Width	39.4 inches (total width 42.3")
Standard Lengths	3 feet through 20 feet at one foot increments Each step appears twelve inches apart
Nominal End Lap	1 1/2 inches
Weight/Foot ²	1 pound
Roof Pitch	Minimum recommended pitch is 3 in 12 Roofs less than 3 in 12 require sealant in all side laps



C. ITEMS TO CONSIDER WHEN ORDERING STILE

1. Stile Panel Widths

The covering width of Stile is 39.4 inches which converts to 3.283 feet coverage. To determine the number of Stile panels required on a 48' long roof, divide the width of the roof by the covering width of the Stile panels (example: $48.00 \div 3.282 = 14.625$). Round up to the next highest number, therefore fifteen Stile panels would be required for the 48' long roof.

2. Stile Panel Lengths

Stile panels are available in lengths from 3' to 20' in one foot increments. On runs requiring more than one panel, the endlaps should be staggered to avoid having four thicknesses of panels lapped together. An example would be a 28' run where 15' and 13' lengths of panels would be a be ordered. The panel layout would show a 13' panel at the bottom of the run and a 15' panel at



