

VISION OF JOHN A. ROBINSON

Winter - 1936

It will be remembered that in the winter of 1936 the Auditorium was just a skeletized structure, which was boarded up where the brick walls and glass front are now, and was covered with tar paper and the dome was a ribbed concrete slab.

My wife and I were members of the Stone Church Choir. I was in the bass section, sitting next to George Hulmes, who was the President of the Choir at that time, and my wife was over in the contralto section.

Now, Apostle E. J. Gleazer was the speaker that morning. I had always loved to hear him talk. To use my own expression, "He never pulled his punches." He chose his text on the "Redemption of Zion" and I thought: This is going to be pretty good.

During the singing of the anthem my eyes were directed to the big window in the south end of the Stone Church over the balcony. I began to note particularly what beauty was in the playing of the lights at that time of day, which seemed to be just perfect - the light came through from the sun, and I forgot all about Brother Gleazer. As I was contemplating the beauty of the sunlight through those windows, the whole front of the church just faded away and as I stood there, a marvelous view was given me, for the Auditorium was finished as perhaps we see it today. But my eyes were directed to the dome and I saw it was copper-covered. Then I began to observe ether progress and look around and I was standing in what is now the Hedrikite Temple Lot, but no buildings were on it. There were two cross-walks that met in the center; one led from the Auditorium to the Stone Church - that was the north and south walk; and there was also an east and west walk. I looked down the east walk (to my left, facing the Auditorium) and there I saw "The Temple" - magnificent beyond description. Now, I didn't see many of the details of the Temple, I just saw the beautiful building that was there and the spot it was on. I didn't see enough of the Temple to see in detail, except the magnificent part of it that appeared like unto the Nauvoo Temple.

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Then I began to notice the highways around the Stone Church. There was no more Lexington Street, but the church faced Kansas Street on the same foundation where it is now. The first thing I noticed was that Lexington Street, as it curves around in front of the Stone Church now, was closed in the vision, and the street that the church was facing was Kansas, which runs straight on and makes that a "Temple Square".

A big highway was back (south) of the Auditorium, leading east and north from West Lexington Street, through the Brighamite 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ -acre plot, and turning north into Walnut. There were 63-1/3 acres in the original Temple Lot.

As I noted before, the Auditorium had a copper-covered dome. Now as the story goes, the copper dome was a checking point for my after reference, for if a different type dome covering was installed, the other predictions might be unfulfilled. So when, years later, copper was chosen, it increased my faith in what I saw.

Story of the Copper Dome

Three kinds of covering for the concrete dome were offered, one by Sheffield Steel for a stainless steel roof. Others of the Committee thought that copper or stainless steel would be beyond our ability to finance and they suggested an aluminum covering, but Bishop DeLapp held out strongly for the copper dome and President Frederick M. Smith also, because of his observance of the copper domes in Europe hundreds of years old. So my vision of a copper dome was "on the beam".

I also saw the Auditorium finished as it is now, with a white stone front and the present brick was covered with this white stone.

As I sat in the choir, all of this was transpiring in my mind and then I heard Brother Gleazer pounding the pulpit and he was saying: "I will build Zion, saith the Lord."

The Use of the Stone Church

The Stone Church was no more used for congregational gatherings. Again, I was in the interior of the Stone Church, but I don't know where I was not up in the choir yet; and there I saw the soft glow of lights.

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and heard the organ playing soft music and people coming and going, those who came in to pray and worship. Twenty-six years later, 1962, the Stone Church bulletin announcement reads: "The Stone Church Sanctuary will be open daily, during the day and evening, for meditation and prayer." This corroborates my vision.

In order to make this a matter of record, I wrote to President Frederick M. Smith something like this: I told him of the experience I had had and "know that you are deeply interested in this and that you have had a vision of the things to come. I want to submit to you this experience." I told him the whole thing, even about E. J. Gleazer pounding the pulpit and saying: "I will build Zion."

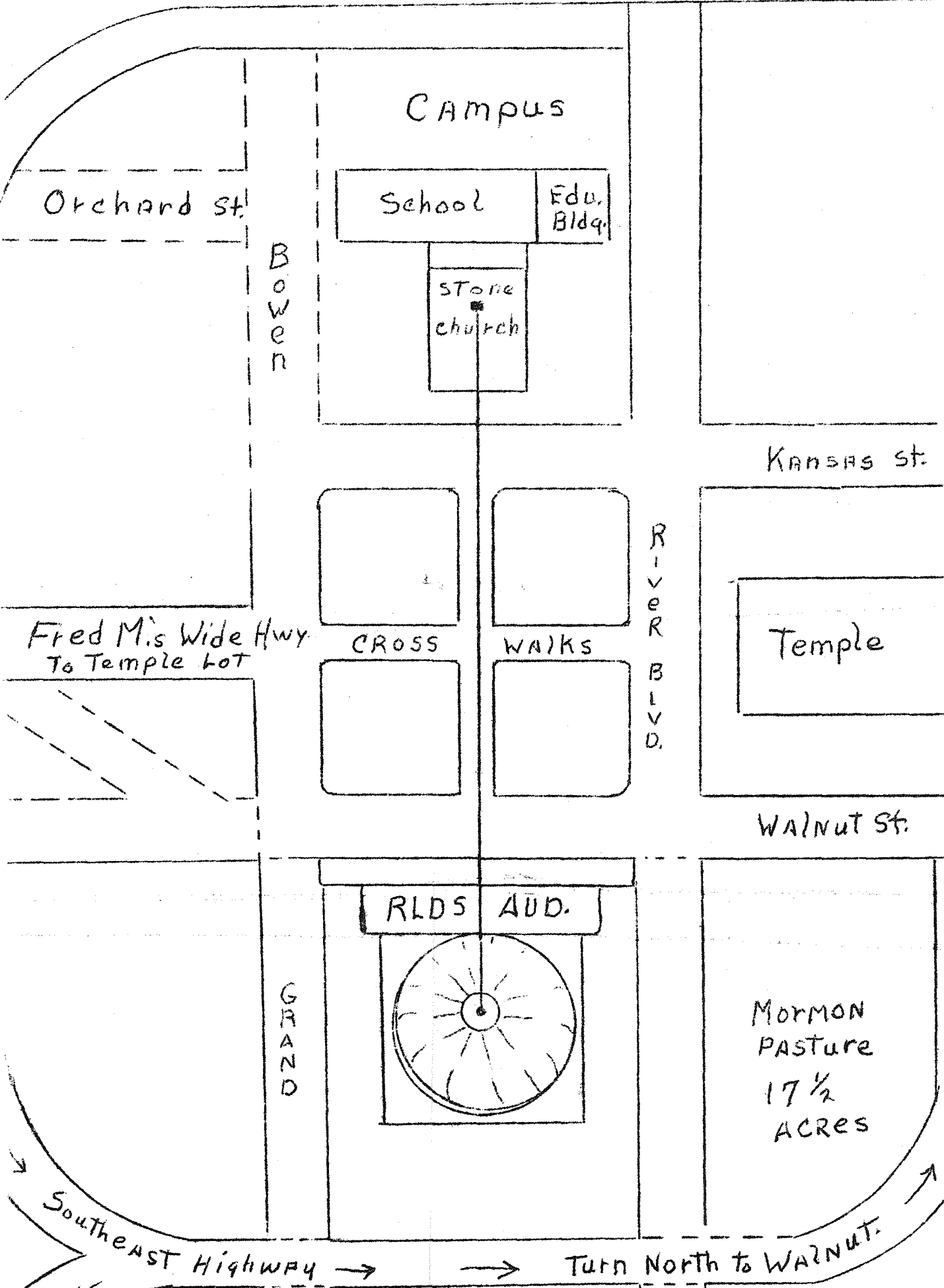
Some people don't realize how much a lot of the folks feel that we are in the process of the redemption of Zion. Maybe that was given to me because I have lived to be as old as I am (82) and can be helpful to them.

After I wrote this letter I got a reply from Fred M. that said he was very much interested in my account of the finishing of the Auditorium, of, shall we say, the "day-dream", as he meant it was a vision in the day. "There was only one thing that you missed," he said, "that was the great highway coming up Walnut Street and ending at the Temple Lot, dividing those inside streets from the big highways."

I saw a building north of the Stone Church, where we have built the Education Building. That building was carried over to Bowen Street and in it was an auditorium seating possibly 2,500 people. What we have built is only a start on the finished structure of my vision.

(As dictated on
October 17, 1962
to Thelma Kenepp)

N.



by Vincent.

PLAT of ORIGINAL TEMPLE LOT

INDEPENDENCE Mo.

SHOWING THE TRACT SOLD BY J.H. FLOURNOY
TO EDW. PARTRIDGE DEC 19, 1832

P: Pole = 16.5 Lk: Link = 0.66

DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: Beg 40 P. W of the SE cor. Sec. 3-49-32, thence W. 120 P thence N. 16 P 10 LK thence N 40° E. 10 P thence N. 21° E. 14 P thence N 15° E 20 P. thence N. 42° E. 34 P thence N. 55° E 30 P thence N. 64° E. 40 P. thence N. 70° E. 17 P 15 LK. thence S 122 P 17 LK. to beg. Cont 6327 Ac.

The above tract may also be described as Beginning at the intersection of the E line of Union Ave with the E of Lexington St thence SWstly on the E of said Lexington St 2732' to the N-S E of Sec. 3; thence S. 270.6' thence E. on the S. line of said Sec. 1980.0' thence N. 2025.2' to beg. Cont 6327 Ac.

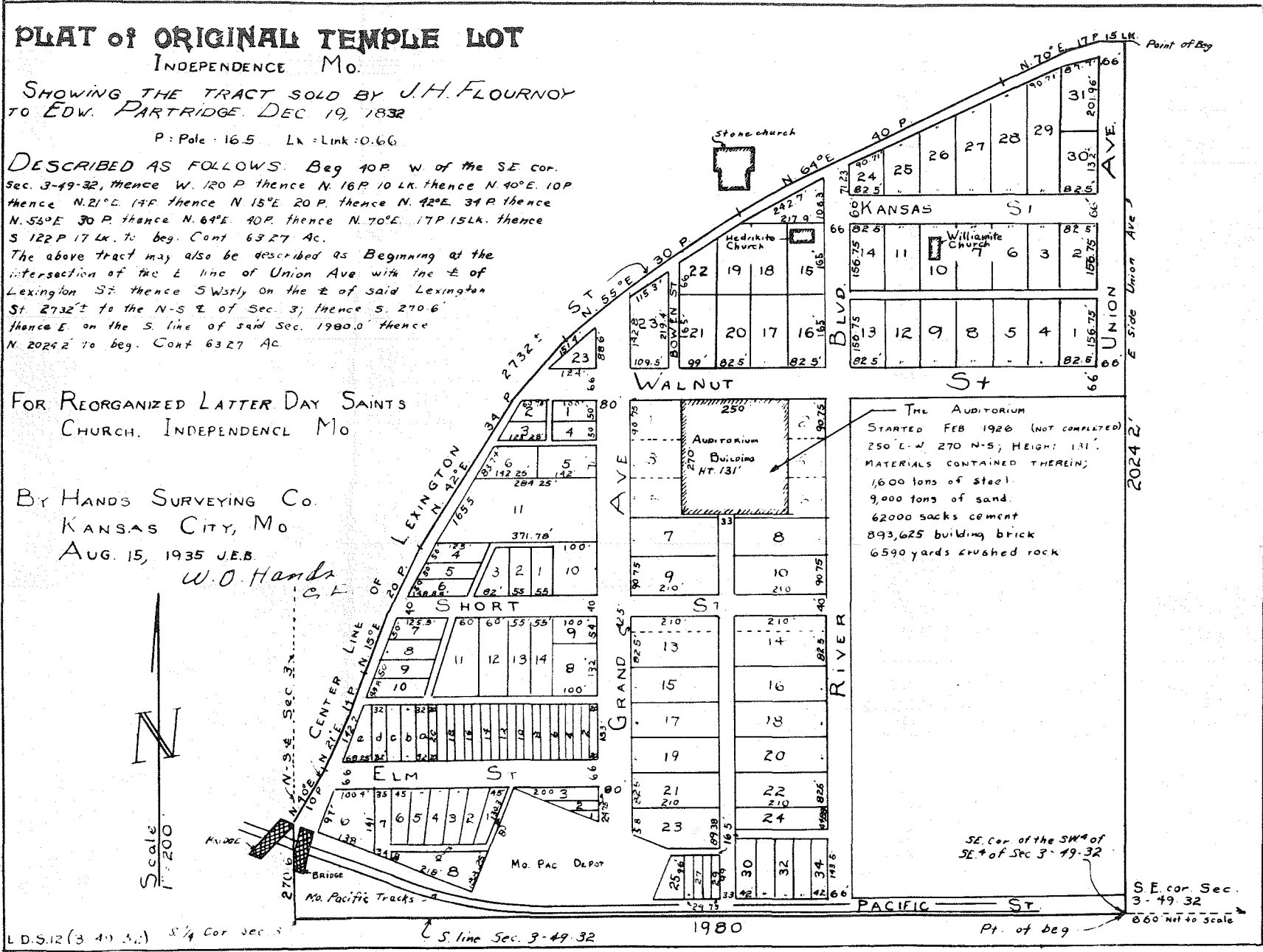
FOR REORGANIZED LATTER DAY SAINTS
CHURCH. INDEPENDENCE MO

BY HANDS SURVEYING Co.
KANSAS CITY, MO
AUG. 15, 1935 J.E.B.

W.O. Hands



Scale
1" = 200'



L.D.S. 12 (3 4) 3.1)

1/4 Cor Sec 3

S line Sec. 3-49-32

1980

Pt. of beg

SE. cor. Sec. 3-49-32
660' not to scale