

*Detail of Architectural Drawing No. 2 of the Nauvoo Temple (see Figure 2.3), drawing, 1842 or 1843, William Weeks, LDS Church Archives. This is an original architectural drawing by architect William Weeks. This enlarged photograph shows details of the angelic weather vane placed at the top of the steeple.*

# 7

Williams Weeks, an early convert to Mormonism, was selected as the architect for the Nauvoo Temple. As part of a family of builders, he had acquired skills in the archi-

## CHAPTER SEVEN

### EARLY SKETCHES AND ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS OF WILLIAM WEEKS

tecture of New England while working with his father. Examination of his work indicates that he was an architect of the Greek Revivalist school. The excellence of his drawings demonstrates both skill and competence. Laurel B. Andrew, after studying his



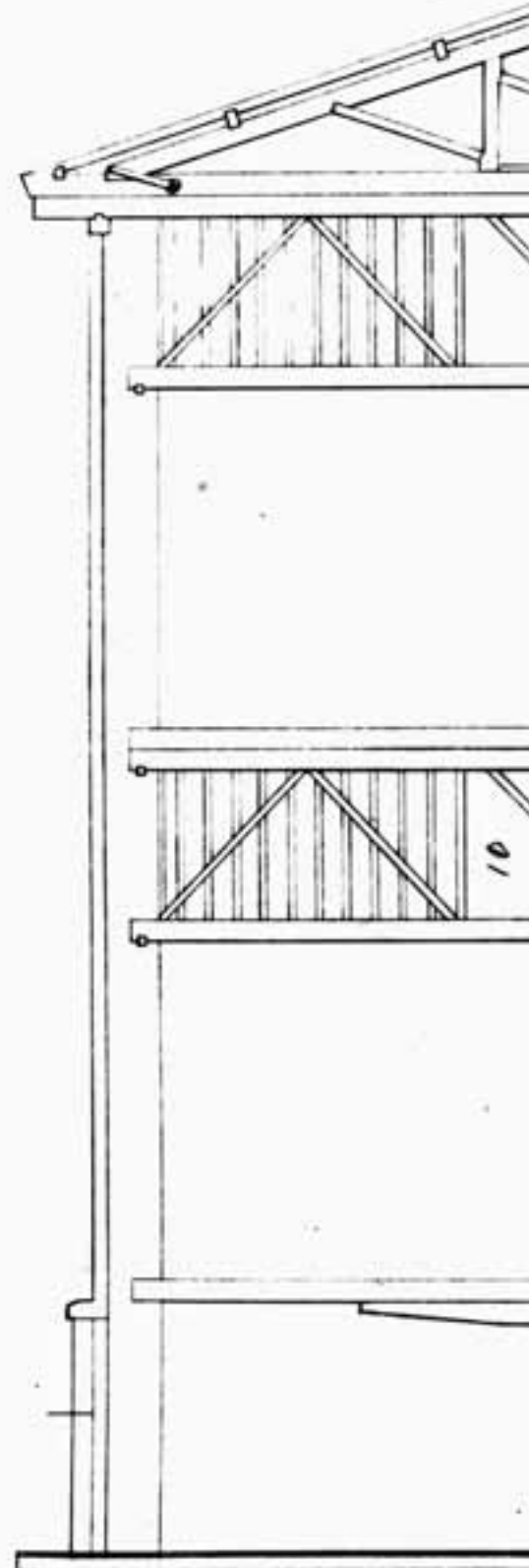
sketches, observed: “The evolution of the Nauvoo Temple as seen in these drawings offers a unique opportunity to study the coming of age of a frontier builder-architect as he worked towards a satisfactory accommodation of architectural tradition with a desire for original expression. Weeks’s designs demonstrate his familiarity with the traditions of New England, but they also record the influx of modern ideas from the 1840s as transmitted primarily through the medium of architectural hand books. His final plans do not depend on a specific source and are novel in their adaptation of architectural motifs. They demonstrate by comparison with the earlier plans a greater proficiency in handling the architectural vocabulary.”<sup>1</sup>

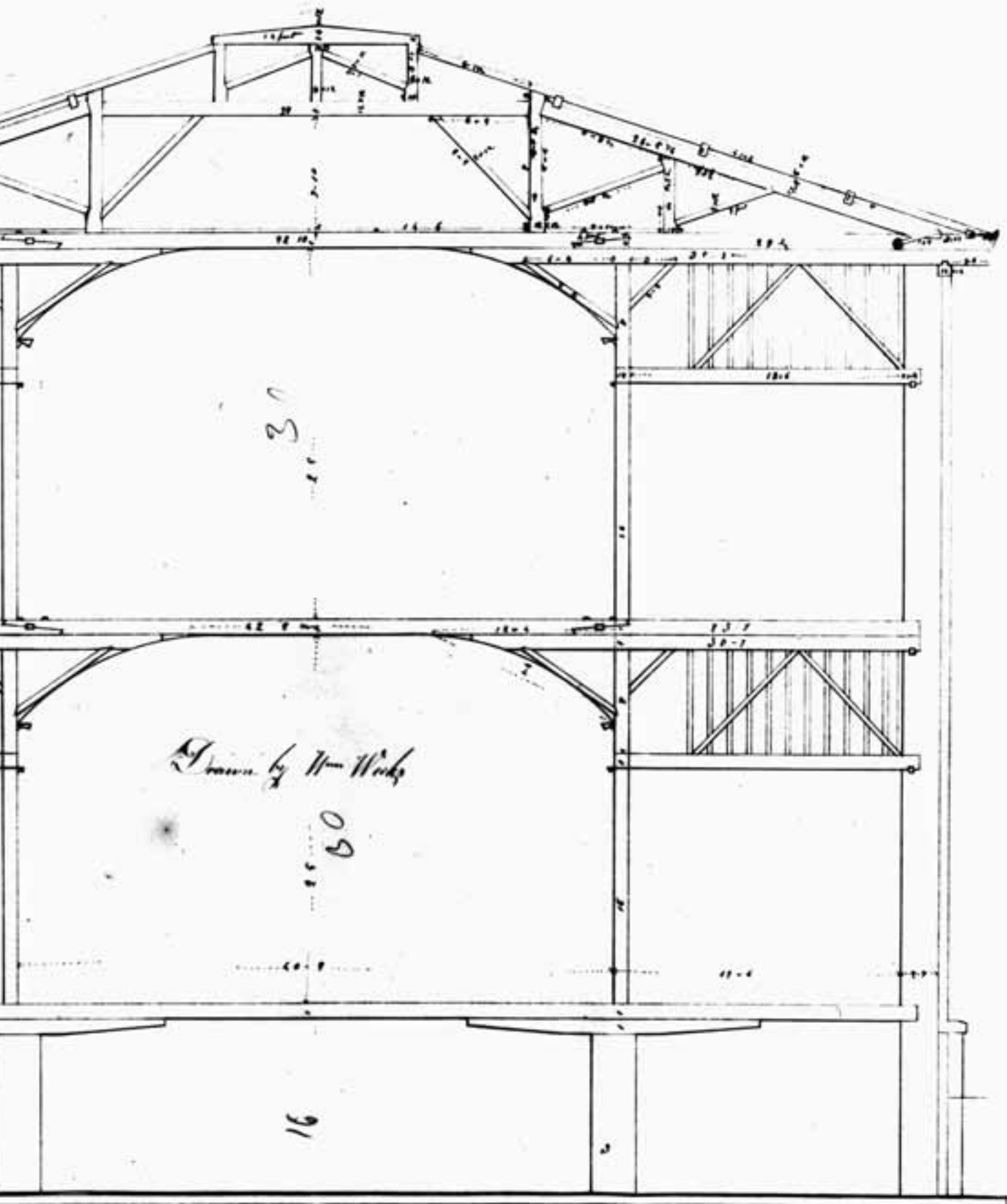
A number of William Weeks’s temple drawings still exist and are in the possession of the Church. They are available for careful examination. Though some are preliminary sketches, they still furnish valuable insights into the size and features of the building. By permission of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, they have been reproduced in this book. The drawings have been used throughout the book and are found in chapters 2 (Figures 2.1–2.3), 4 (Figures 4.2–4.3), 6 (Figures 6.9, 6.13), and 8 (Figures 8.8–8.9). Additional Nauvoo Temple architectural drawings are included on the pages that follow (Figures 7.1–7.11).

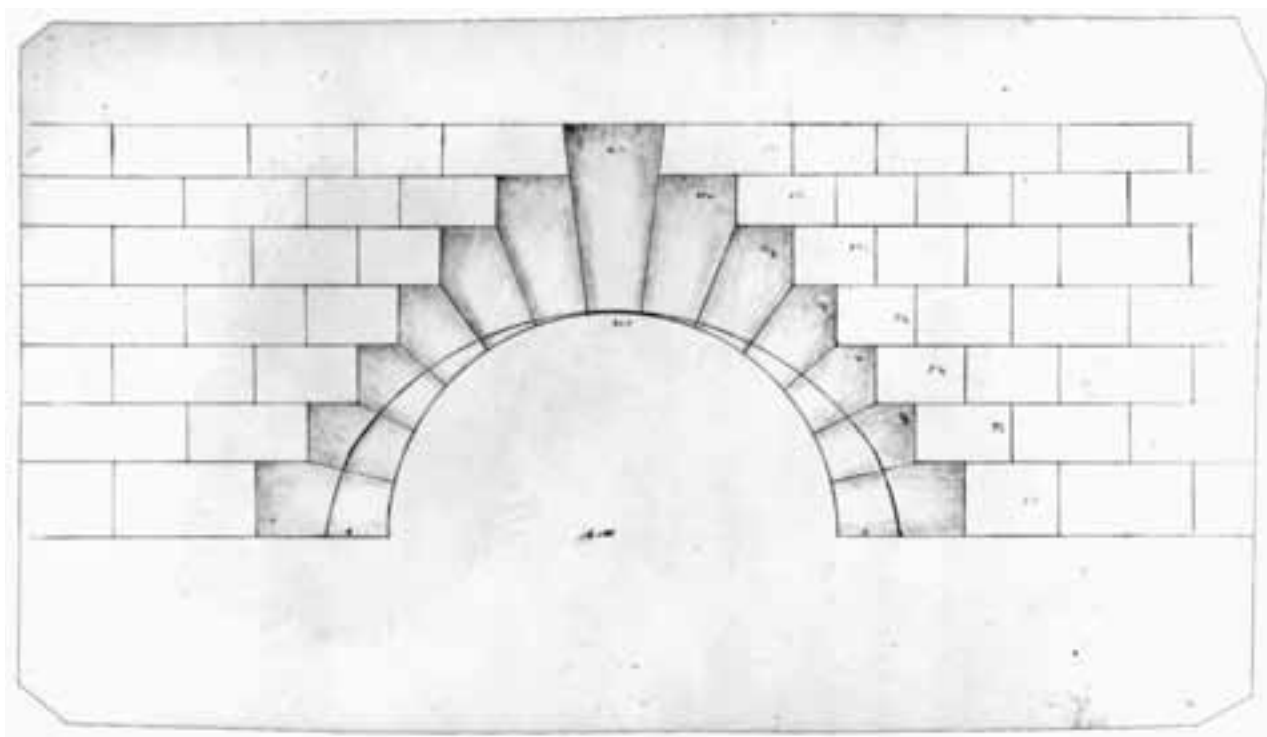
#### NOTE

1. Laurel B. Andrew, *The Early Temples of the Mormons* (Albany: State University of New York Press, 1978), 62.

*Figure 7.1 Cross-Sectional View of the Temple Framework, drawing, 1840s, William Weeks, LDS Church Archives. This is an original architectural drawing by architect William Weeks showing the structural framework of the temple. It clearly shows the half-story mezzanines at the sides of the arch on both the first and second story levels.*







*Tower Dimensions Based on Original William Weeks Drawings (see Figure 7.4 at right)*

<i>Section</i>	<i>Height</i>	<i>External Diameter</i>
Base or pedestal up to belfry	29 feet	29 feet wide
below attic roof	16 feet 6 inches	
above attic roof	12 feet 6 inches	
Belfry up to clock	20 feet	22 feet
Clock up to observatory	10 feet 8 inches	22 feet
Observatory up to dome	16 feet	17 feet
Dome	7 feet 10 inches	13 feet or 14 feet at base
Rod, ball, and angel (weather vane)	12 feet 8 inches	Angel was 7 feet long?
Total overall height	96 feet 2 inches	

*Figure 7.2 (Top) Stone Coursing around Top of Main Windows, drawing, 1840s, William Weeks, LDS Church Archives. Notice the detailed stonework, which is remarkable even by today's standards.*

*Figure 7.3 (Bottom) This is a summary of tower dimensions taken from careful examination of drawings by architect William Weeks.*

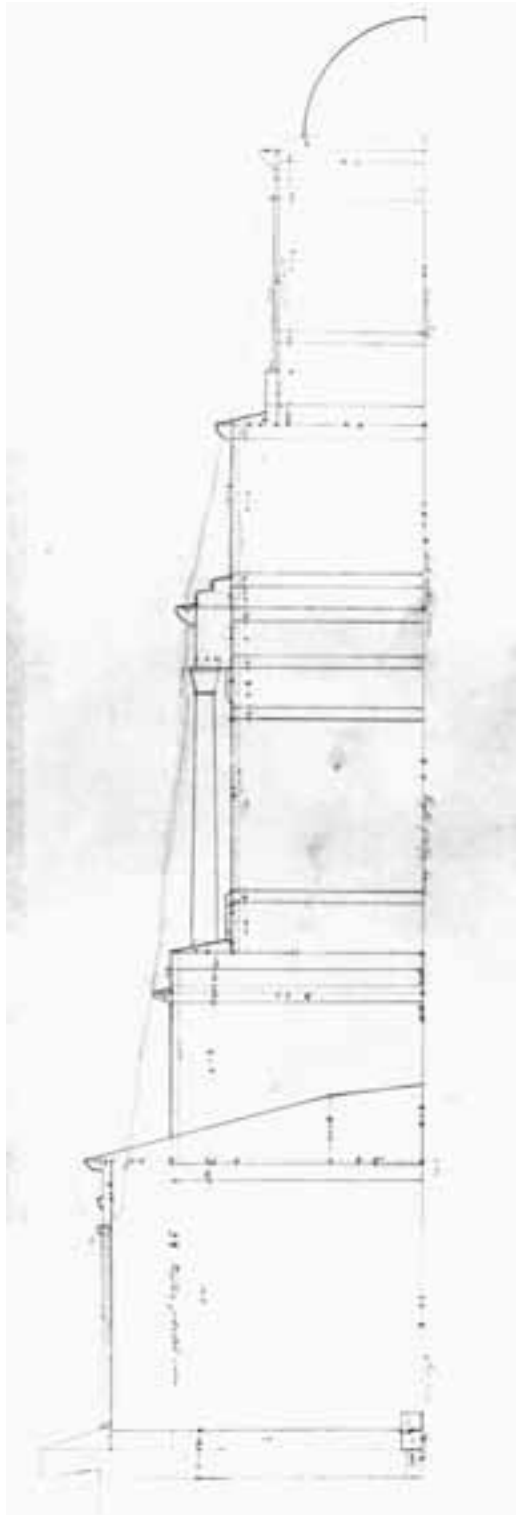


Figure 7.4 (Above left) Half-Sectional View of Tower Structure, drawing, 1840s, William Weeks, LDS Church Archives.

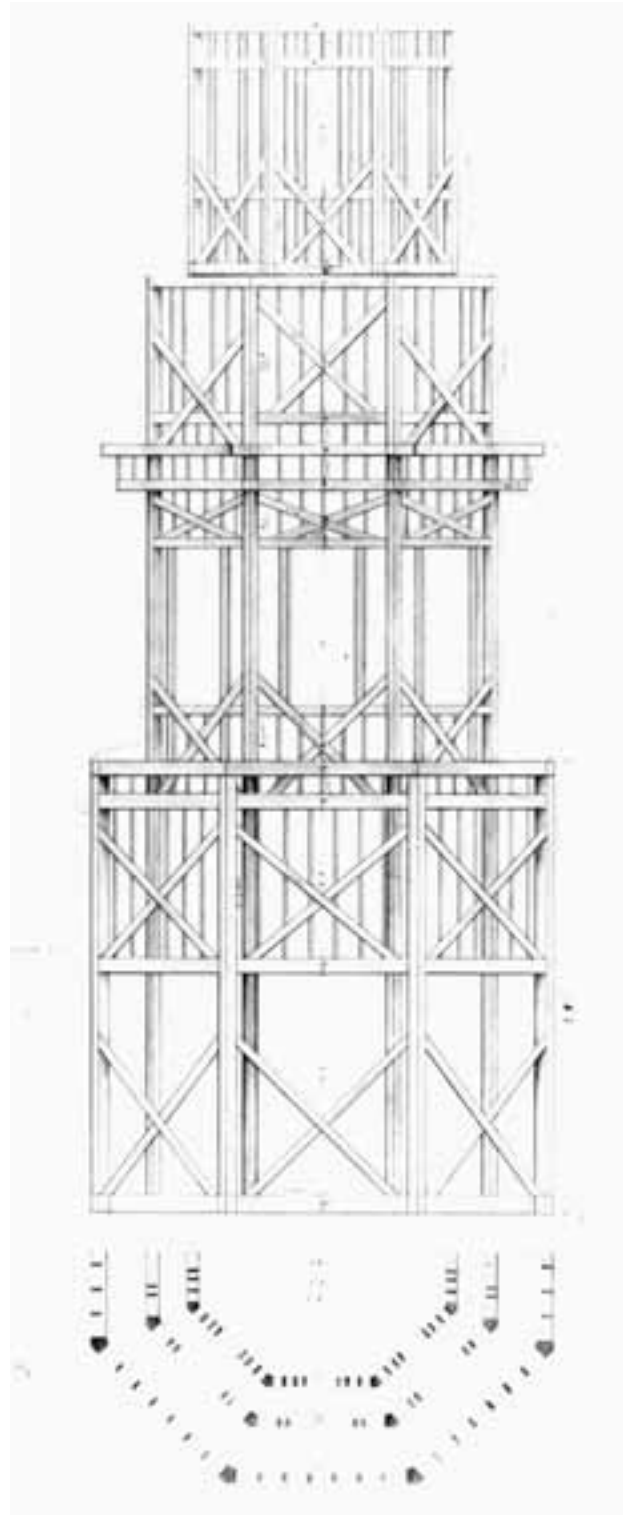
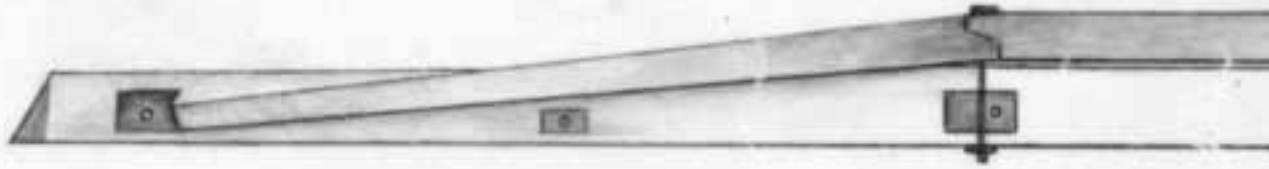
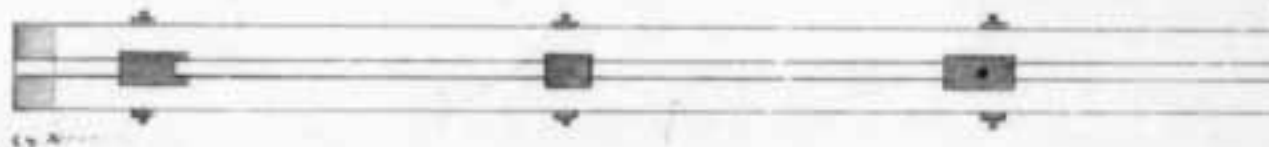
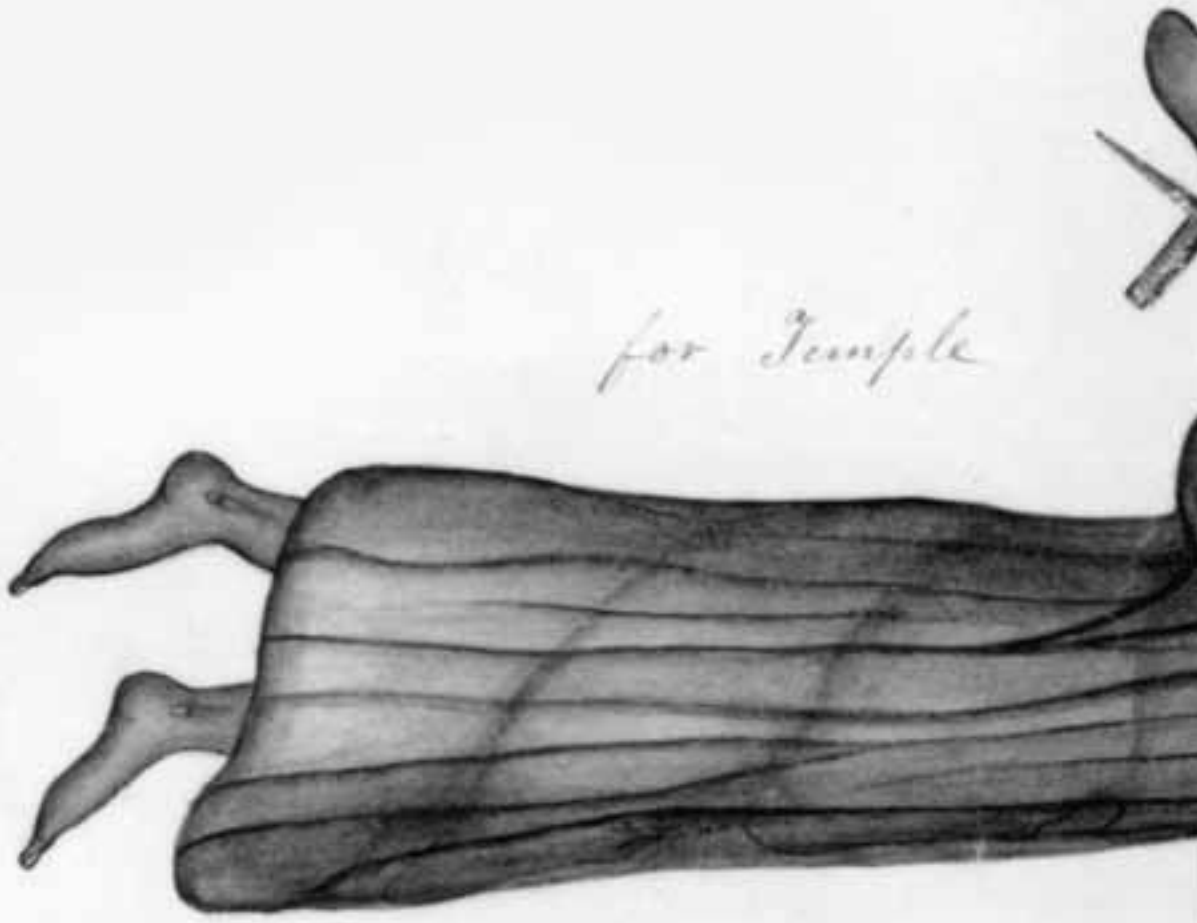
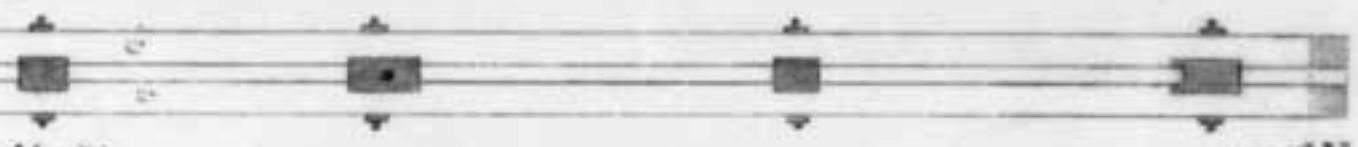


Figure 7.5 (Above right) Structural Framework of the Temple Tower, drawing, 1840s, William Weeks, LDS Church Archives.

Figure 7.6 (Next page) Proposed Angelic Weather Vane, drawing, 1840s, William Weeks, LDS Church Archives.

for Temple

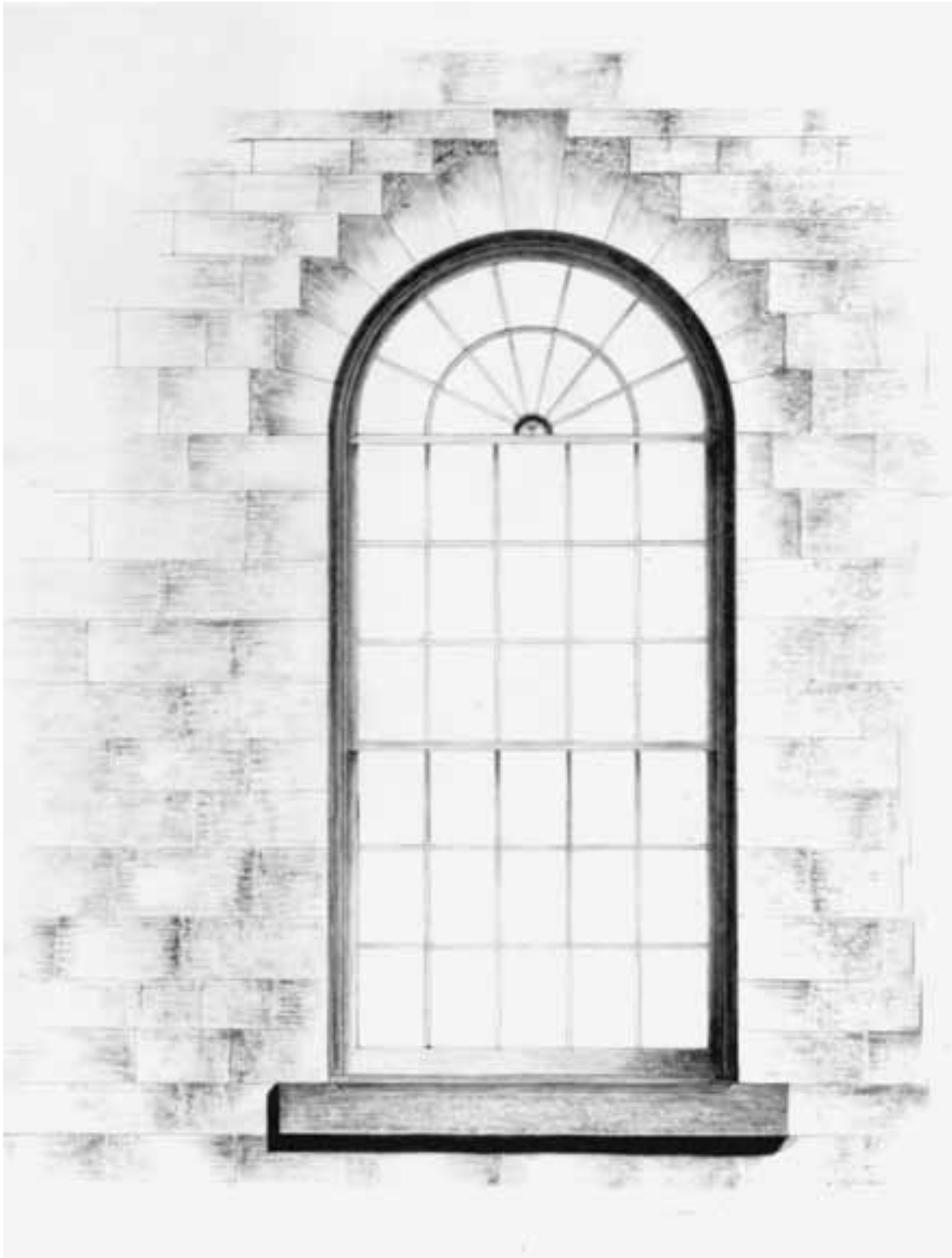




26-82







*Figure 7.7 Design of the Main Windows, drawing, 1840s, William Weeks, LDS Church Archives. It shows the design for the placement of the forty-seven main windows in the walls of the temple. These windows were divided into three sections, a lower sash, an upper sash, and a fanlight section at the top. The windows were 10 feet 1 inch in height and 4 feet 10 inches wide.*

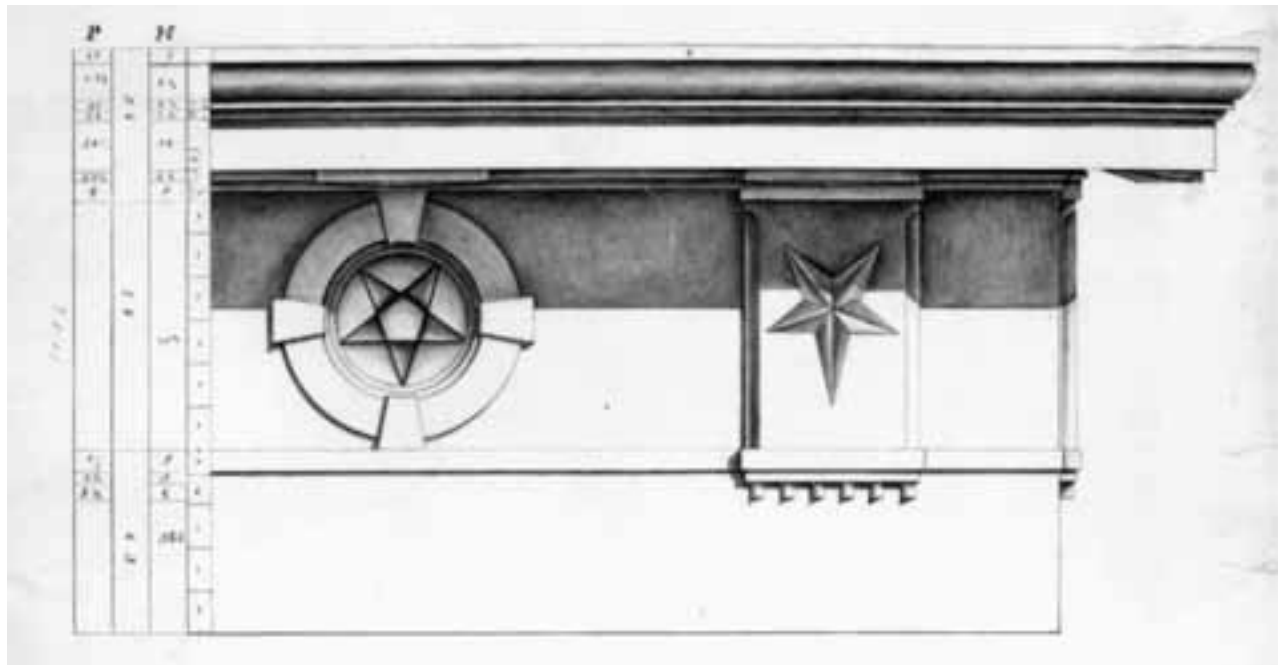
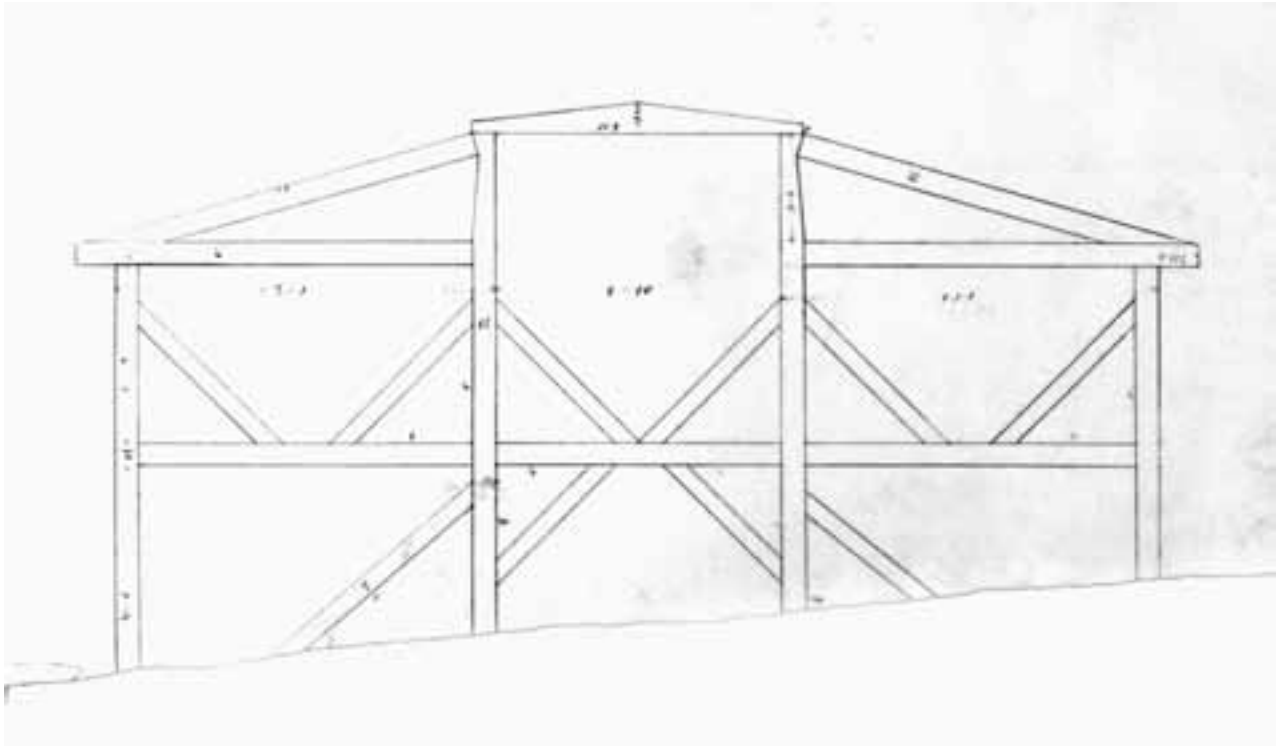


Figure 7.8 (Top) End Framing for West Front Attic, drawing, 1840s, William Weeks, LDS Church Archives. This drawing shows a detail of the framing and roof line of the west front attic section.

Figure 7.9 (Bottom) Small Round Star Window and Star Stone, drawing, 1840s, William Weeks, LDS Church Archives. This is an original architectural drawing by architect William Weeks. This drawing clearly shows the design of the small round star windows that furnished illumination for the second-story mezzanine. It also provides a clear drawing of the star stones that were placed above each pilaster.

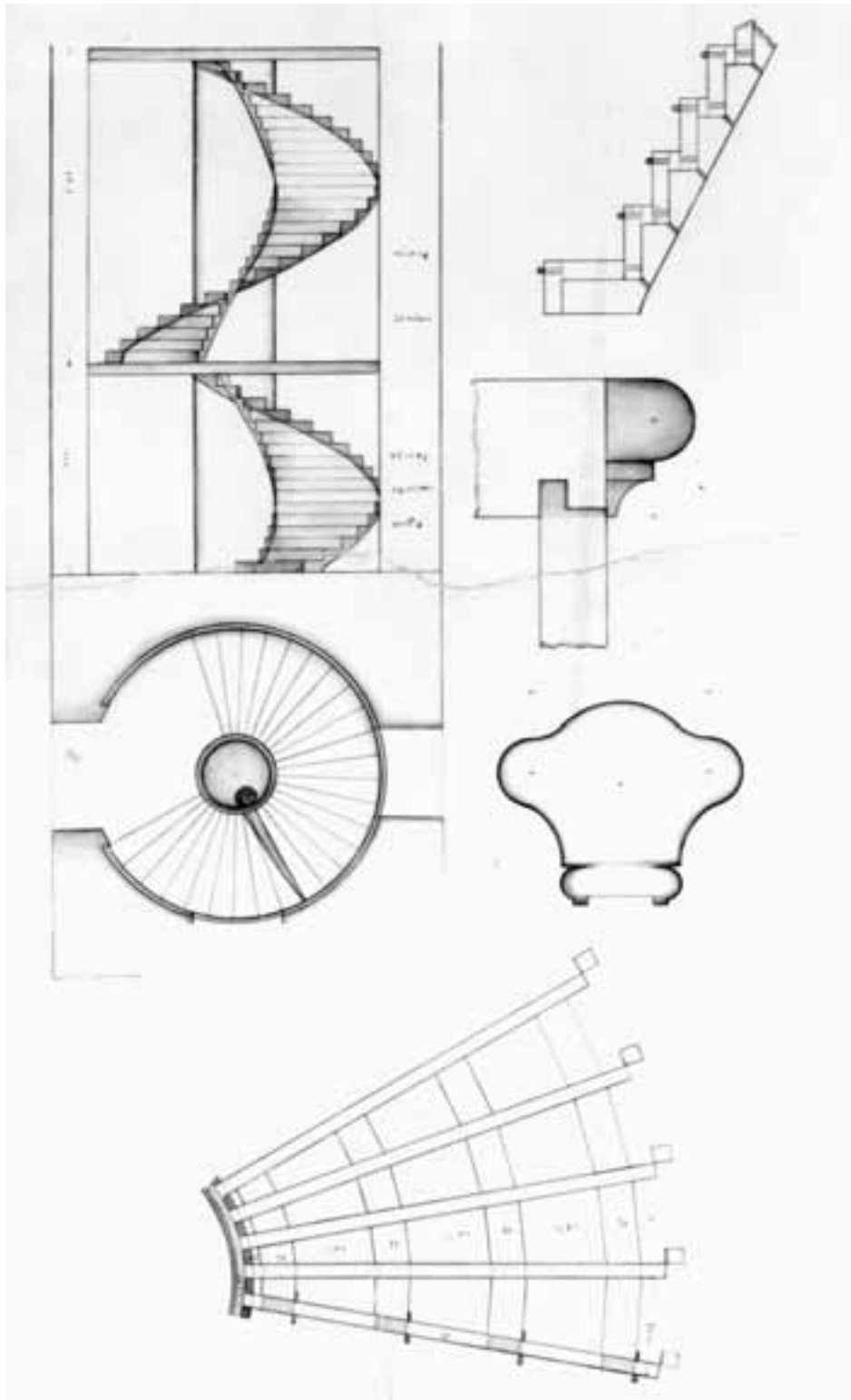


Figure 7.10 *Design of Circular Stairways*, drawing, 1840s, William Weeks, LDS Church Archives. This is an original architectural drawing by architect William Weeks. The open area of the stairway was 6 feet across.

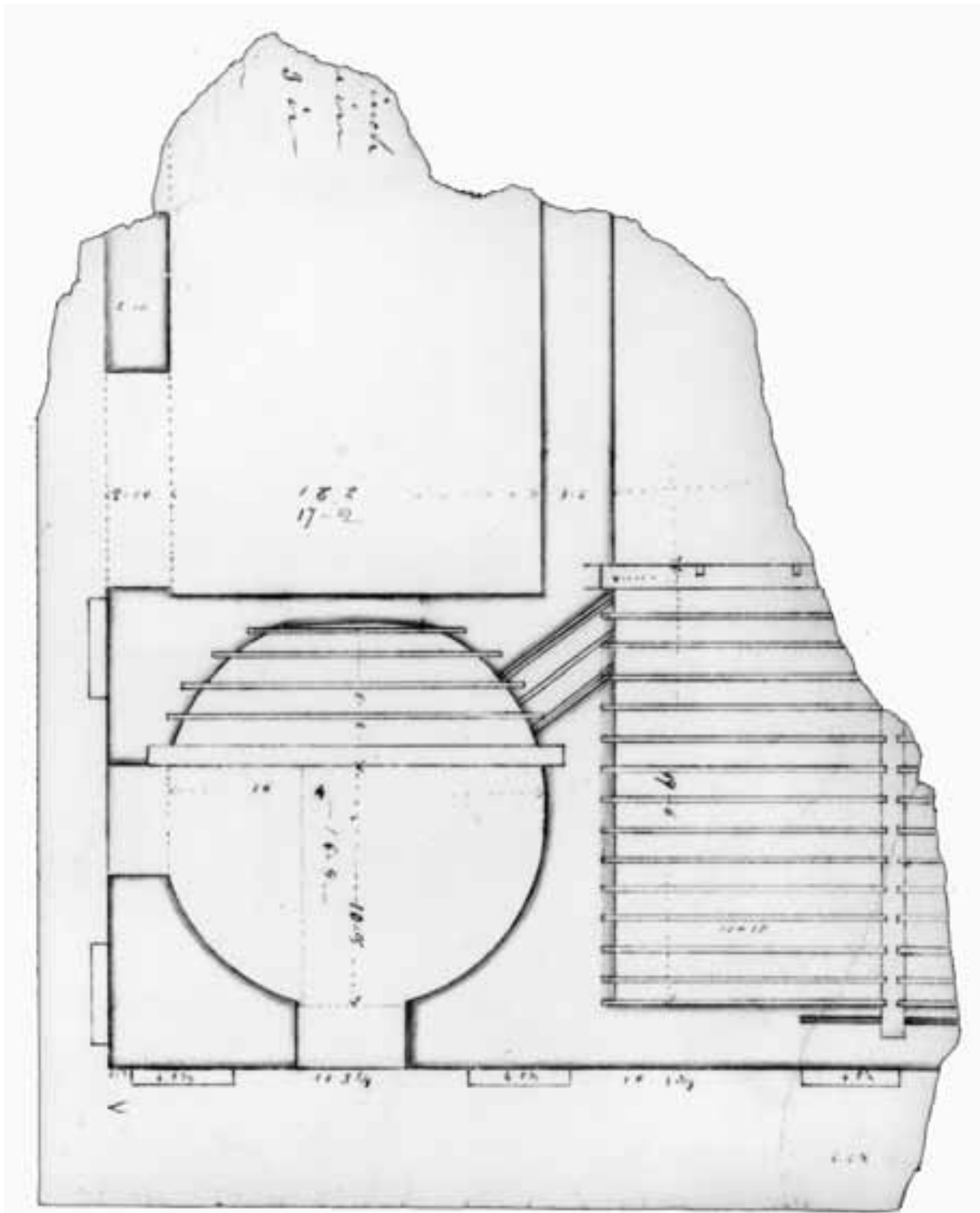
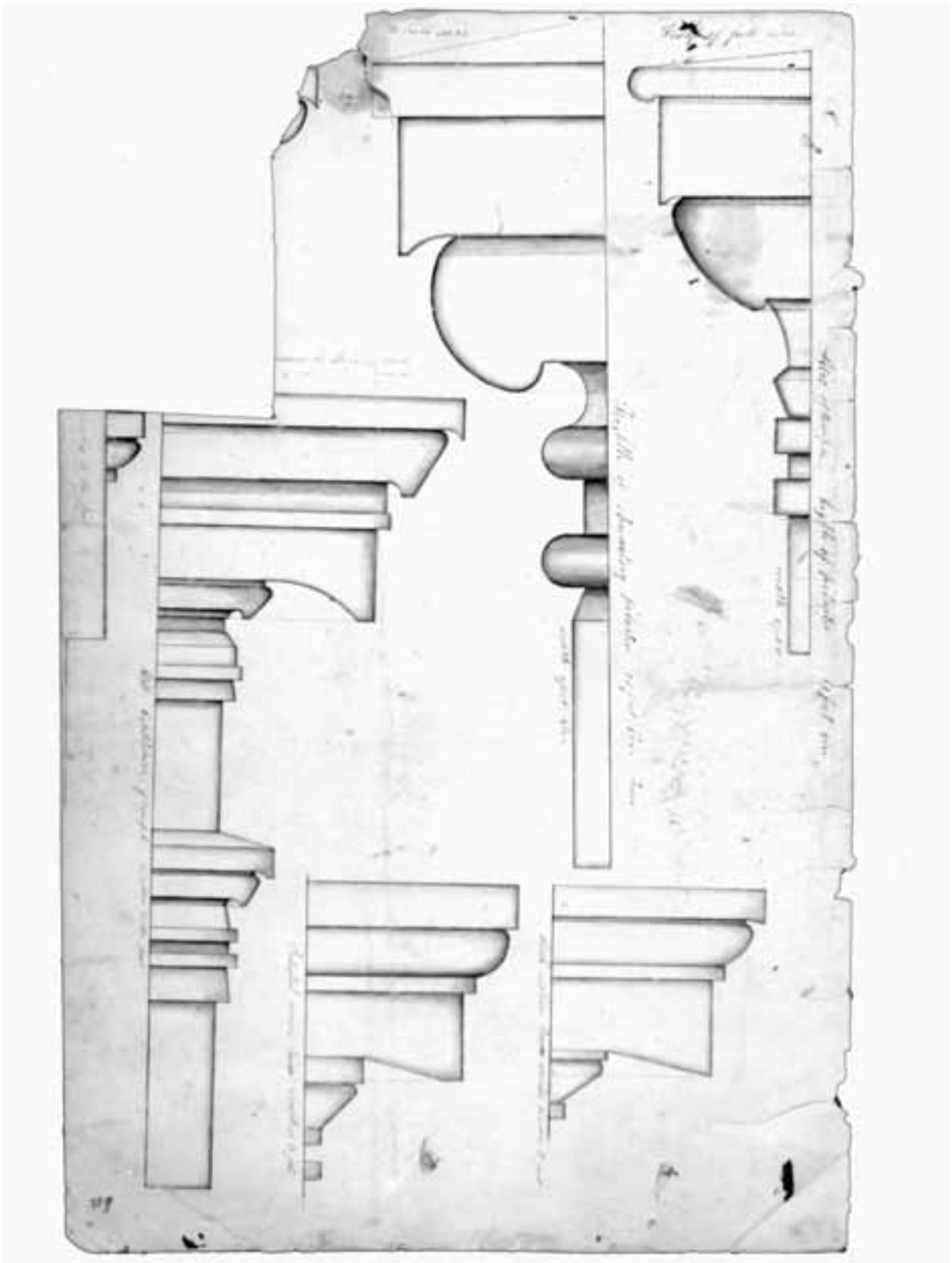


Figure 7.11 Fragment of Design for Southeast Stairwell at Level of First Mezzanine, drawing, 1840s, William Weeks, LDS Church Archives. This is an original architectural drawing by architect William Weeks. It provides helpful information on measurements and is a good illustration of how floor joists were designed for and used in the building.



*Attic Entablature, drawing, 1840s, William Weeks, LDS Church Archives.*