



*Official stewards for the preservation  
of Riverside and Fairmount Cemeteries.*

# *Riverside Cemetery*

DENVER'S PIONEER CEMETERY  
5141 BRIGHTON BLVD. • DENVER, COLORADO 80216

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## *Riverside Cemetery*

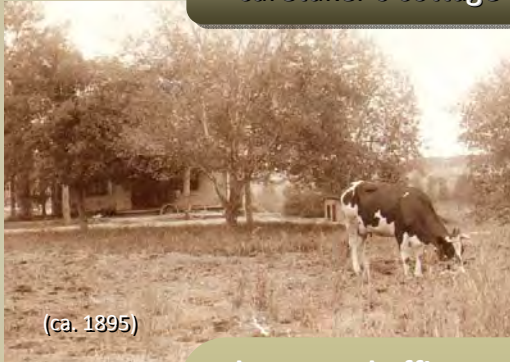


**Mt. Prospect Hill, Denver's first cemetery  
was founded in 1859**

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## Riverside Cemetery

The first office was in the caretaker's cottage



(ca. 1895)

The second office and some time chapel was the "old stone house".

- Unknown who designed/built it
- Exactly when
- How much it cost to build
- It also served as a holding tomb.



(ca. 1990)

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## Riverside Cemetery



SOURCE: <http://files.usgwarchives.org/co/denver/directories/den76ab.txt>

H.C. Lowrie was a civil engineer, hired by the Riverside Cemetery Association in 1876, to survey the cemetery laying out the blocks, lots, and plots. He also designed and oversaw construction of the intricately patterned roads still used today. He was elected Denver City Engineer and designed the city's sewer system.

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## Riverside Cemetery

"There is no more difficult work or enterprise, in such a country as that surrounding Denver than the selection and creation of an attractive and desirable cemetery. The naked prairie, treeless and almost verdureless, with but slight inequalities of surface, and total absence of rocks or ridges, would seem to present about as hopeless a basis for an attractive cemetery as one could well imagine."

-Rocky Mountain News March 29, 1879



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## Riverside Cemetery

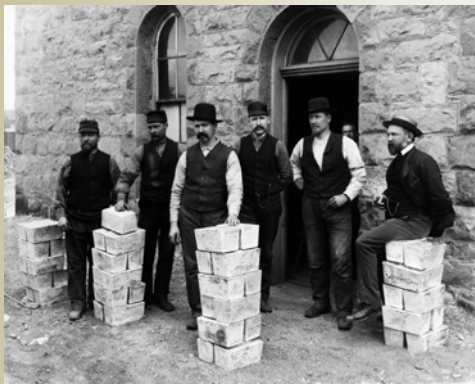


Photo Credit: Western History/Genealogy Dept.,  
Denver Public Library

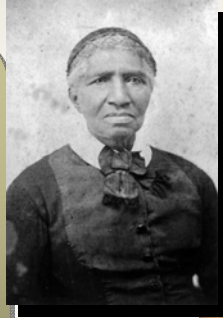


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## Riverside Cemetery

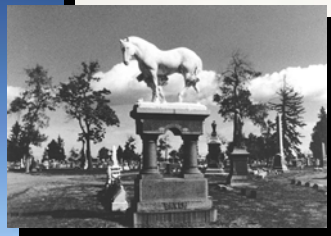
The list of those buried at Riverside reads like a Who's Who of Colorado history and reflects the ethnic diversity of the early pioneers—

- Aunt Clara Brown
- Capt. Silas Soule
- Matsudaira Tadaatsu
- Miguel Antonio Otero
- Three territorial governors  
John Evans  
Samuel H. Elbert  
John L. Routt
- Over 1,200 Civil War Veteran's, including three Medal of Honor recipients.



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## Riverside Cemetery



Riverside is home to a collection of rare and unique monuments including—

- The Baker Horse
- Lester Drake Cabin
- Wise Monument
- Largest collection of zinc monuments in the U.S.

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## Riverside Cemetery

In 1890, another cemetery is founded on the plains east of Denver by the Fairmount Cemetery Association.



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## Riverside Cemetery

Riverside and Fairmount collaborated to build Colorado's first crematory, known as the Denver Crematory. Architect Frank Edbrooke, was commissioned to design the office, chapel and crematorium. Construction on the mission prairie style building began in 1903. The site was chosen to be near the existing greenhouse, built about 1883, because it had a well. The building did not have electricity, heat or plumbing,



(ca. 1910)



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## Riverside Cemetery

Riverside Cemetery  
circa 1945



© 2014 Fairmount Heritage Foundation

## Riverside Cemetery



**But water has not been the only cause for landscape change at Riverside:**

- In early cemeteries without endowments, such as Riverside, the families landscaped their own plots. Families of means hired gardeners; others did it themselves. If the family died out or moved on, that care stopped leaving the plantings to fend for themselves and eventually dying out.
- Plant disease—Dutch elm 1960's.

The changing landscape at Riverside, is as much a part of its history as the stories of the people buried there.

Water has always been an issue at Riverside; too much due to flooding or not enough due to drought.

**Most recently:**

- Denver flood of 1965
- Drought early last decade

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# Riverside Cemetery

In recent years, most of the talk about water at Riverside has focused on the effects that the **LACK** of water has had on the landscape. **BUT** the impact irrigation water has had on the rare, irreplaceable monuments has never been discussed, *so let's take a look...*

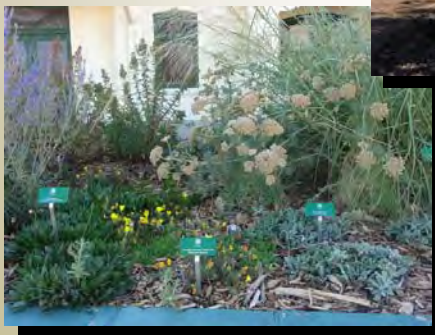


*This DAMAGE cannot be reversed; these monuments are gone forever.*

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# Riverside Cemetery

## Riverside Revival



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One vision for  
this National  
Historic District;  
BUT not ours.



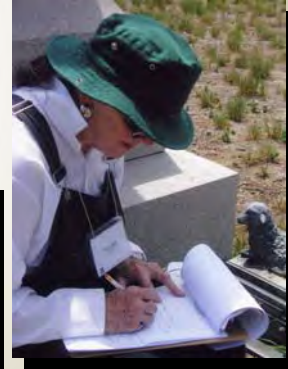
Riverside Cemetery was designated a National Historic District in 1994.

What would  
happen to  
these  
gravesites?



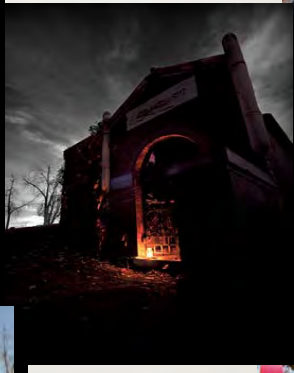


## Preservation



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## Tour Program



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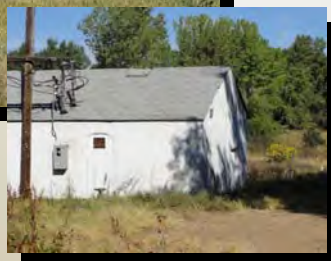


## Wildlife



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## Riverside Wetlands Nature Center



Development of a low impact, accessible, education center in the wetlands area would include:

- Pathways
- Interpretative Signage
- Education Center (the old pump house)
- An outdoor science lab



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## Riverside Cemetery

### Riverside Partners

- Riverside Family Members
  - Colorado Assoc. for Lawn Care Professionals
  - Hardy Boy Plants
  - Front Range Community College
  - Denver Botanic Gardens
  - Colorado Green Growers Association
  - Colorado State University
  - Colorado State Forest Service
  - Colorado State University Master Gardeners
  - Colorado State University Plant Select
  - Metro State College
  - Iris Colorado
  - Denver Rose Society
  - Denver Boy Scouts
  - Colorado Preservation Inc.
  - History Colorado
- Just to name a few...



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## Riverside Cemetery

Fairmount Heritage Foundation seeks additional partnership opportunities to realize Riverside's full potential for future generations.



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February 27, 2014



# A Brief History- The Site

- 1881: Denver Union Stock Yard Company founded
- 1886: The stockyards officially opened in current location
- 1900: Stockyards cover 105 acres
- 1906: Denver Livestock Exchange incorporated as nonprofit to promote and regulate sales in the yards



Photo Credit: Denver Public Library

# A Brief History- The Show

- 1859: Elephant Corral in LoDo used for livestock shows and auctions
- 1898: National Stock Growers Convention- creation of National Livestock Association (riot)
- 1906: First official show opened under a circus big top
- 1906: Formation of the Western Stock Show Association and beginning of longtime relationship with Denver Union Stockyard Company (landowner)
- 1907 & 1908: shows held under “monster” 150 x 175 tent



# The Building Chronology

- 1898: First portion of Denver Union Stock Yard Exchange built



Photo Credit: Denver Public Library

# The Building Chronology

- 1909: National Amphitheater (Arena) completed



Photo Credit: Denver Public Library



# The Building Chronology

- 1917 & 1919: Additions to Union Stock Yard Exchange completed



Courtesy of Thomas J. Noel from his book *Riding High: Colorado Ranchers & 100 Years of the National Western Show*.

# The Building Chronology

- 1952: Denver Coliseum dedicated



Courtesy of Thomas J. Noel from his book *Riding High: Colorado Ranchers & 100 Years of the National Western Show*.





Photo Credit: Denver Public Library

# The Building Chronology

- 1973: Construction of the Hall of Education, Beef Palace, Horse Center & National Western Club on north side of Arena
- 1989 voters approve \$30 million Stock Show expansion
- 1991 Expo Hall and Stadium Hall Open
- 1995: National Western Events Center, Paddock & Horse Barn open

# Why talk about historic resources?

- Creating/maintaining a unique sense of place and identity
- Reuse as a sustainable model for older structures
- Coordination with the neighborhood plan and the community's desire to retain heritage
- Economic incentives and tools



# How do you decide what's historic?

2007 CDOT Analysis- Federal agencies and projects using federal funds must take into account effects of actions on historic properties

- Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- Section 4(f)

# National Register Historic Districts

Historic Districts recognize a set of buildings, or ensemble, that together meet the criteria, even though each individual structure in the district may not.

Historic Districts are a good way to recognize *cultural landscapes*.

Cultural Landscapes are “a geographic area, including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife or domestic animals therein, associated with a historic event, activity or person or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values.”

# National Register of Historic Places

- Provides honorary distinction
- Does not prohibit demolition or modification
- Qualifies a structures for tax incentives and grant programs
- Property owners, historical societies, preservation organizations, governmental agencies, and other individuals or groups can begin the process but designation requires owner consent
- Factors into decision-making if a federal agency is involved



# Benefits of National Register Designation

20% federal preservation tax credit for qualified rehabilitation (no cap)

20% state tax credit for qualified rehabilitation (\$50,000 cap)

Qualification for federal grant programs such as Save America's Treasures

Qualification for state grant programs, namely those of the State Historical Fund

# Determined Eligible: Individually



Livestock Exchange/Denver Union Stock Yard Building  
Owner: Livestock Exchange Building

1917

# Determined Eligible: Contributing to a District



Denver Coliseum, 1951  
Owner: City & County of Denver



National Western Stadium Arena, 1909  
Owner: National Western Stock Show Association



McConnell Welders, 1930  
Owner: McConnell Denver Properties



Western Stock Show Association Bldg., 1917  
Owner: Tom Anthony



# Other Structures Eligible as Part of District

National Western Coffee Shop, 4699 Marion Street Owner: 4699 Marion Street, Inc.	1917
Artist Studio, 4701 National Western Drive Owner: Neorama LLC	1918
Le Mouton Noir (Historic Sheep Market), 4877 National Western Owner: Le Mouton Noir	1922/1929
King Energy, 5012 National Western Drive Owner: Western Stock Show Association	1900/1920
Livestock Bridge & Flyover Owned by Denver	1951

# Cattle Pens/Catwalks- No determination



# How Can this be Done?



Example: Lowry





# Successful Example: Fort Worth Stock Yards



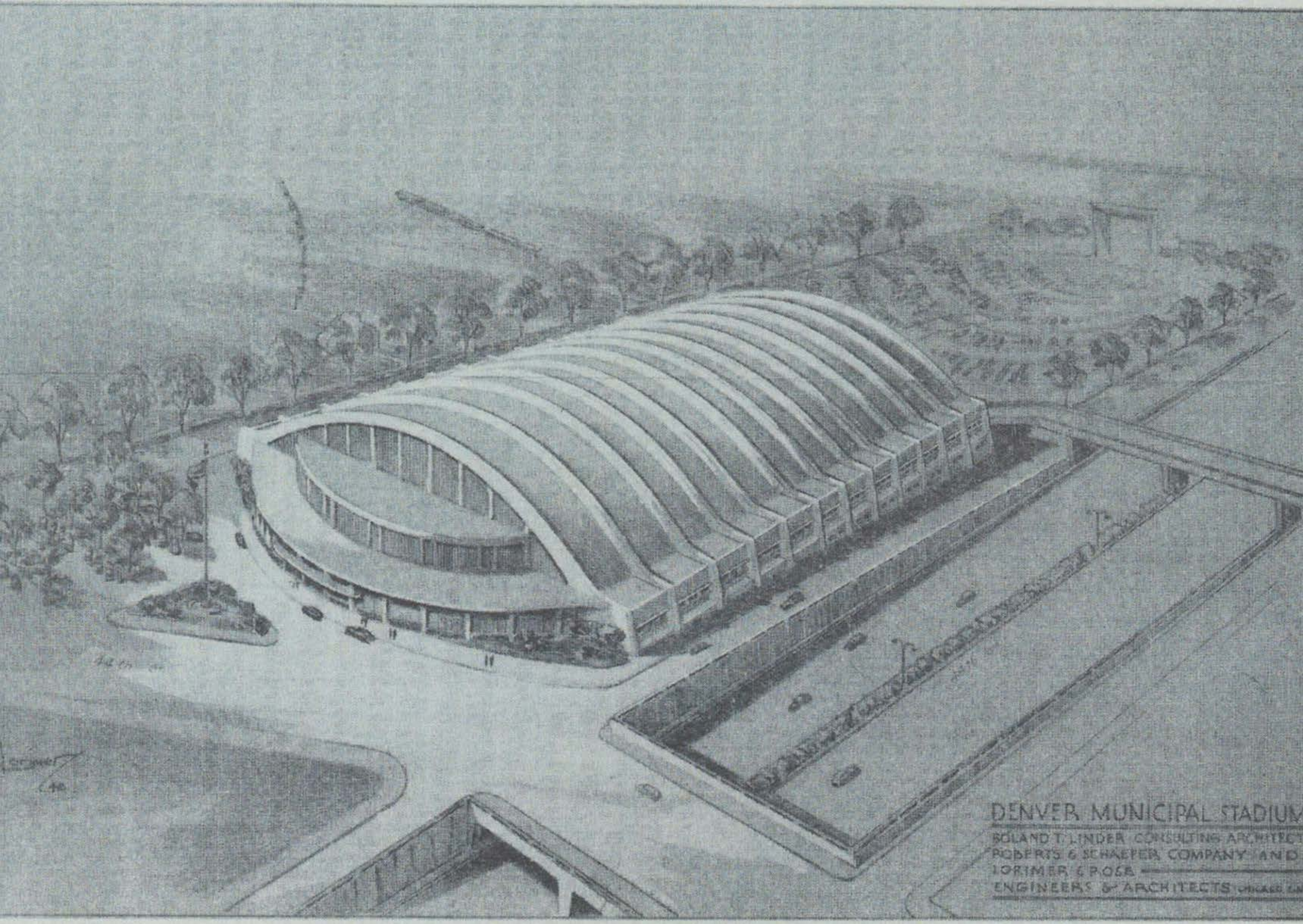
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Denver, CO 80203  
(303) 534-5288  
[www.historicdenver.org](http://www.historicdenver.org)

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Sources:

- Noel, Thomas J. Riding High: Colorado Ranchers and 100 Years of the National Western Stock Show. Golden, CO: Fulcrum Publishing, 2005.
- Simms, Willard E. Ten Days Every January. Denver, CO: Record Stockman Publishing Co., 1980.
- I-70 East Environmental Impact Statement: Results of an Intensive Cultural Architectural Survey, Denver and Adams Counties, Colorado, 2007.





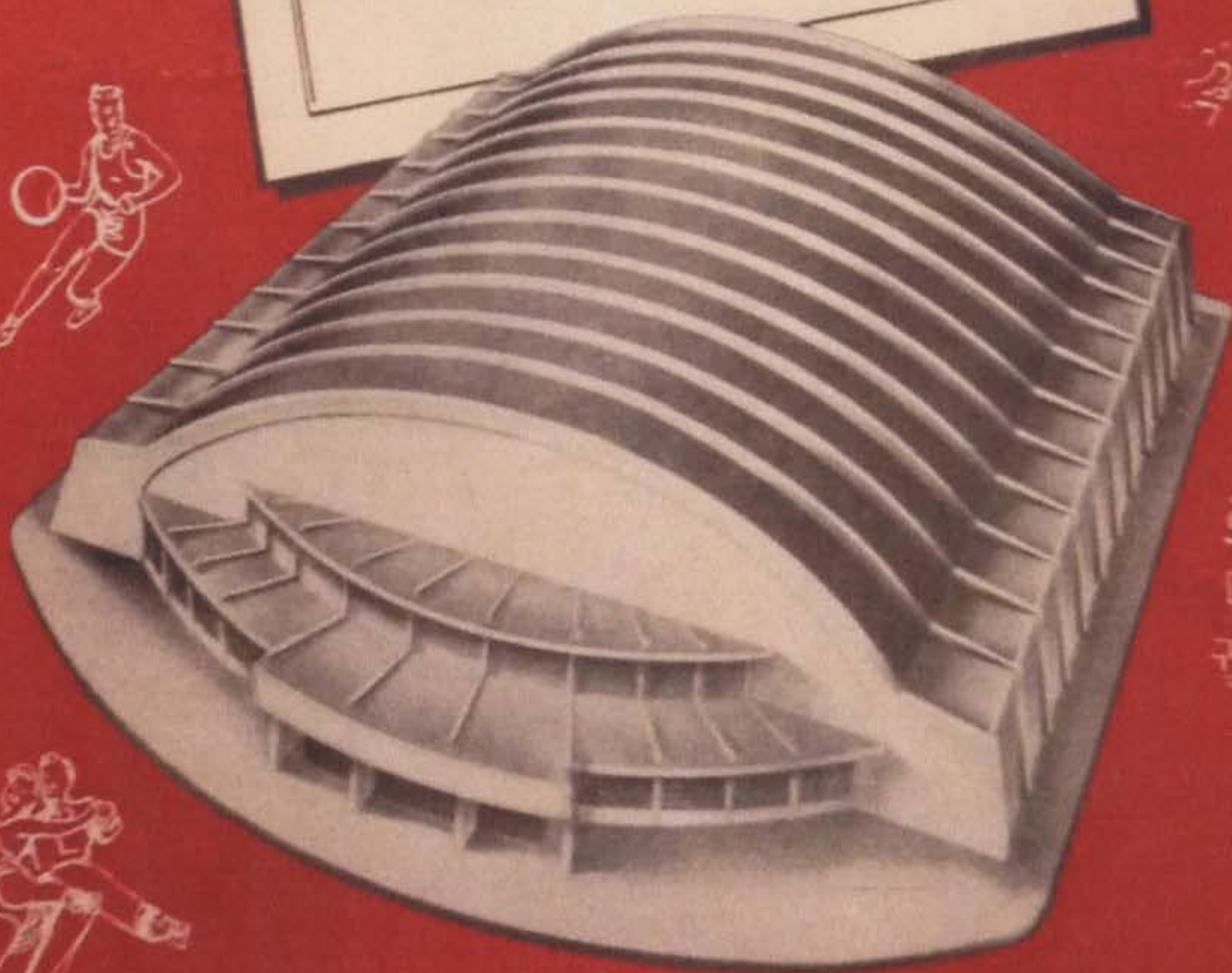
DENVER MUNICIPAL STADIUM  
ROLAND T. LINDER CONSULTING ARCHITECT  
ROBERTS & SCHAEFER COMPANY AND  
TORMER, CROSBY  
ENGINEERS & ARCHITECTS CHICAGO ILL.



Denver's  
*"Salute to the Soil"*

DEDICATION  
of the  
**DENVER COLISEUM**

January 10, 1952 • 8:00 p.m.







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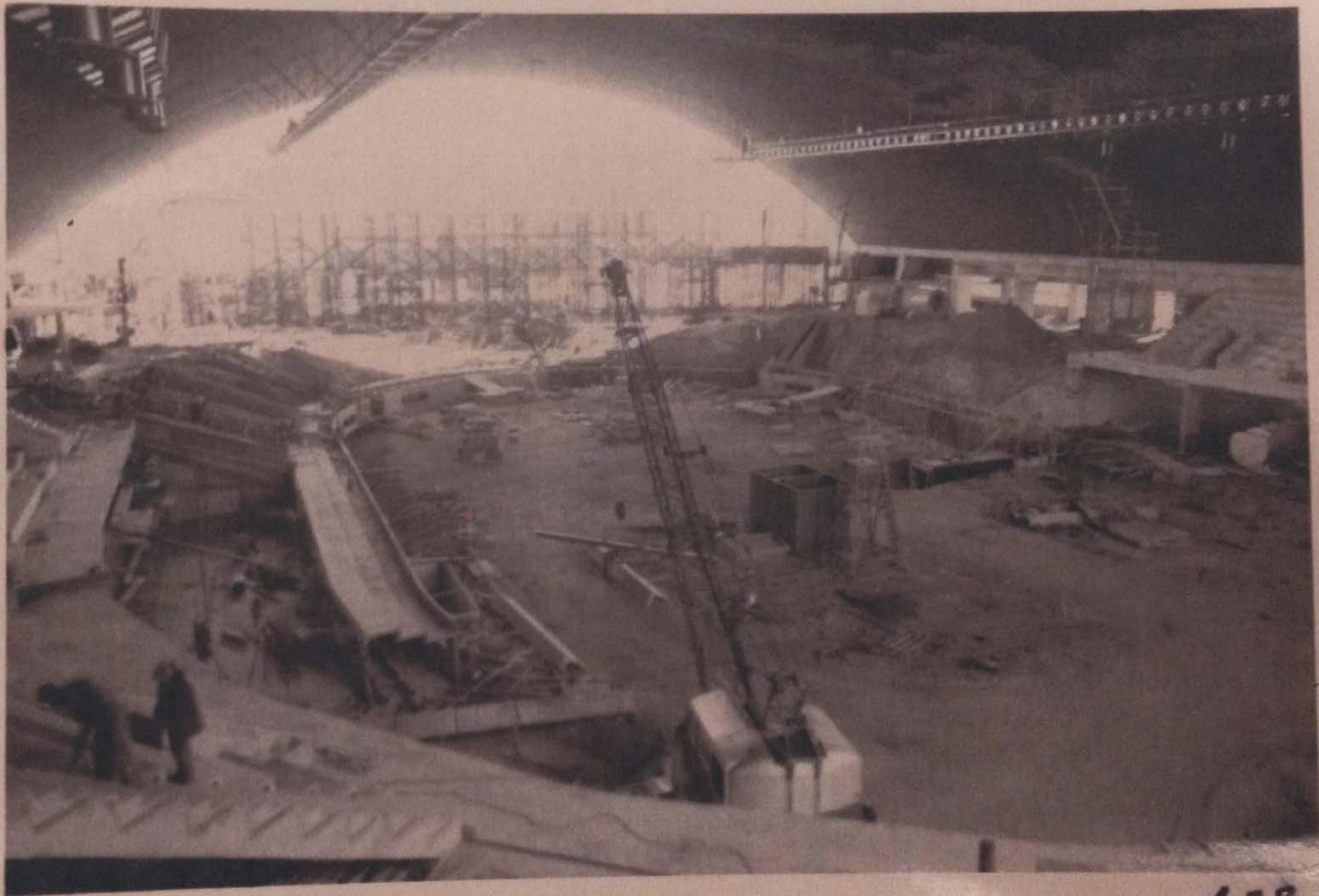




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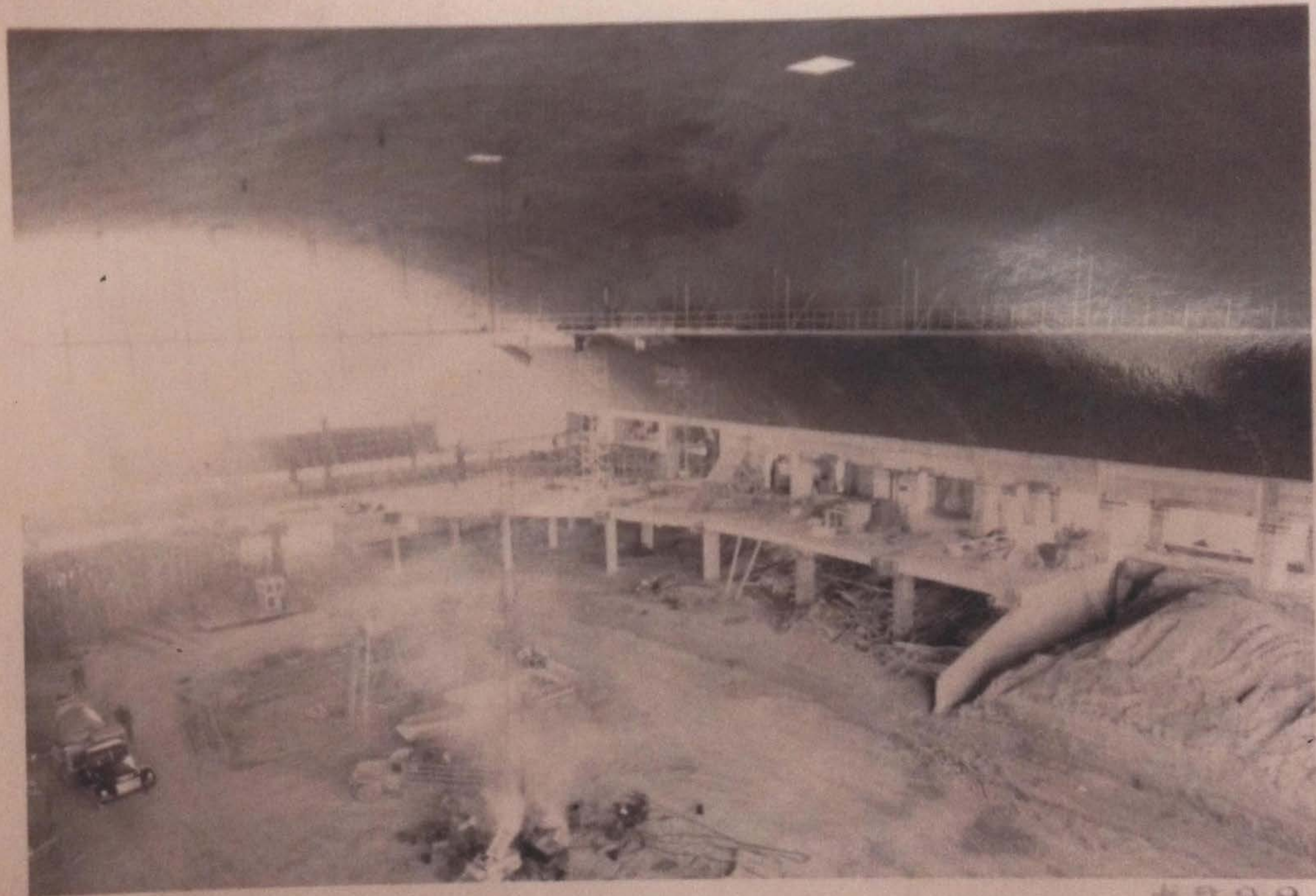




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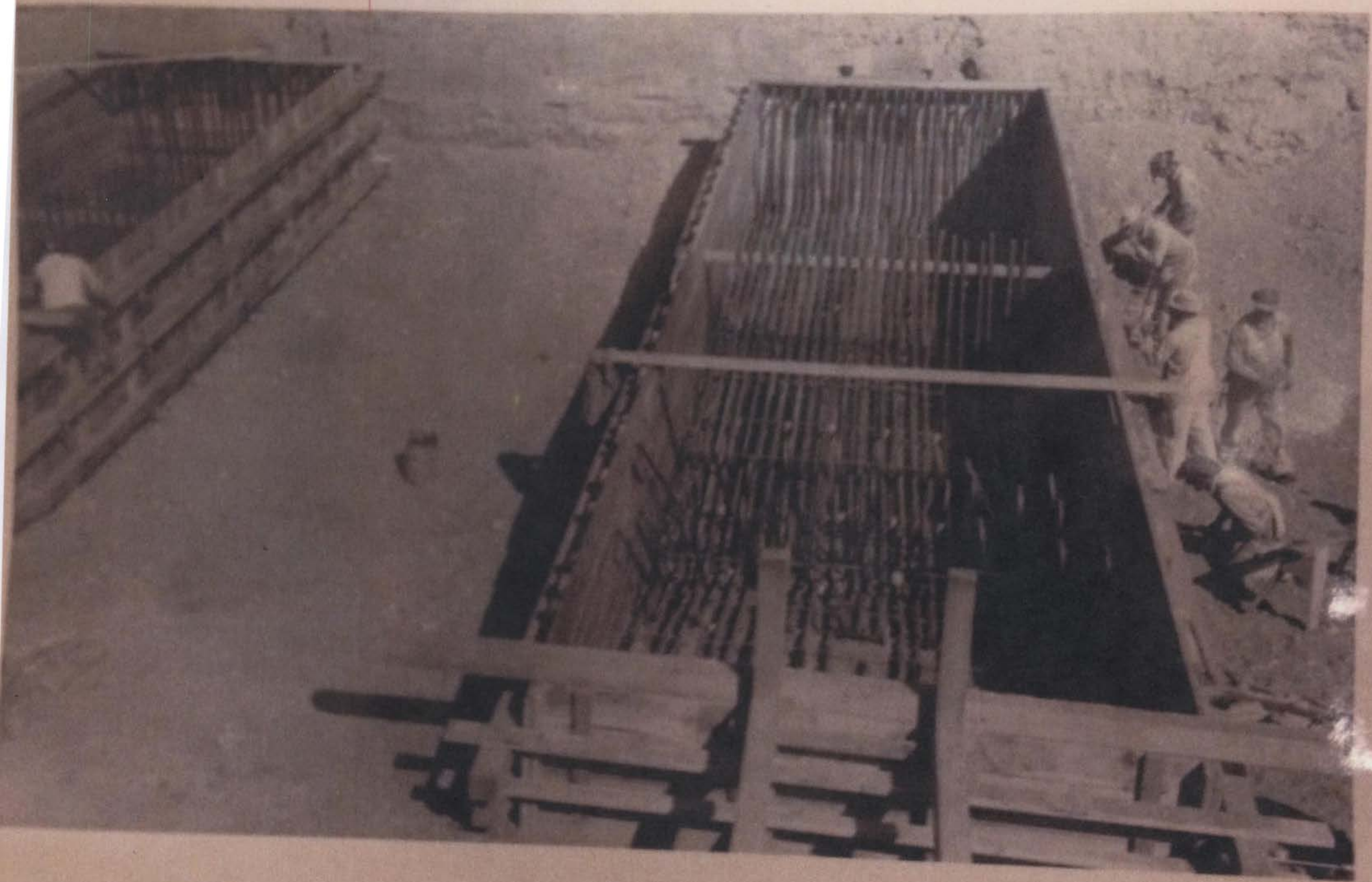
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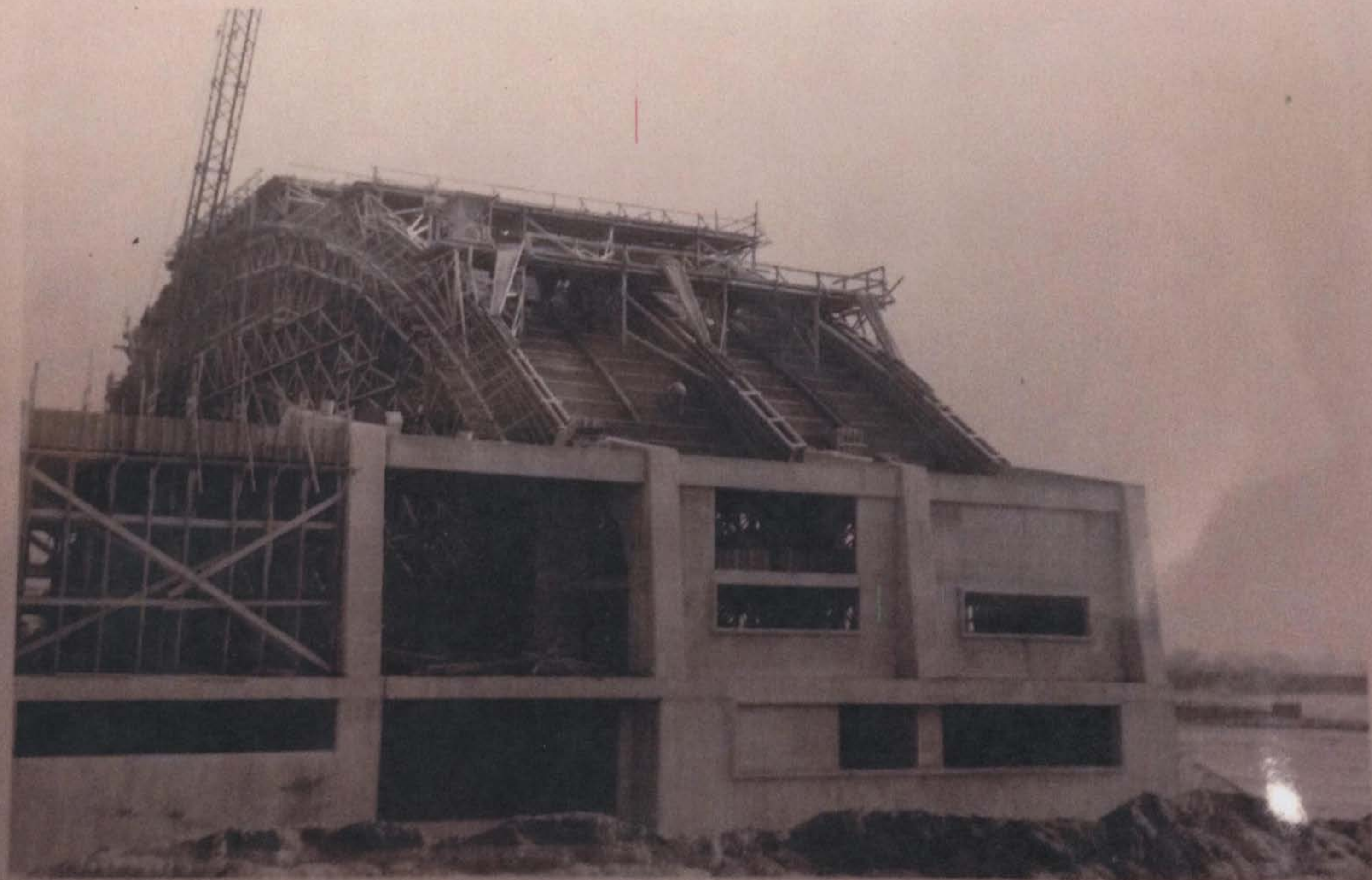




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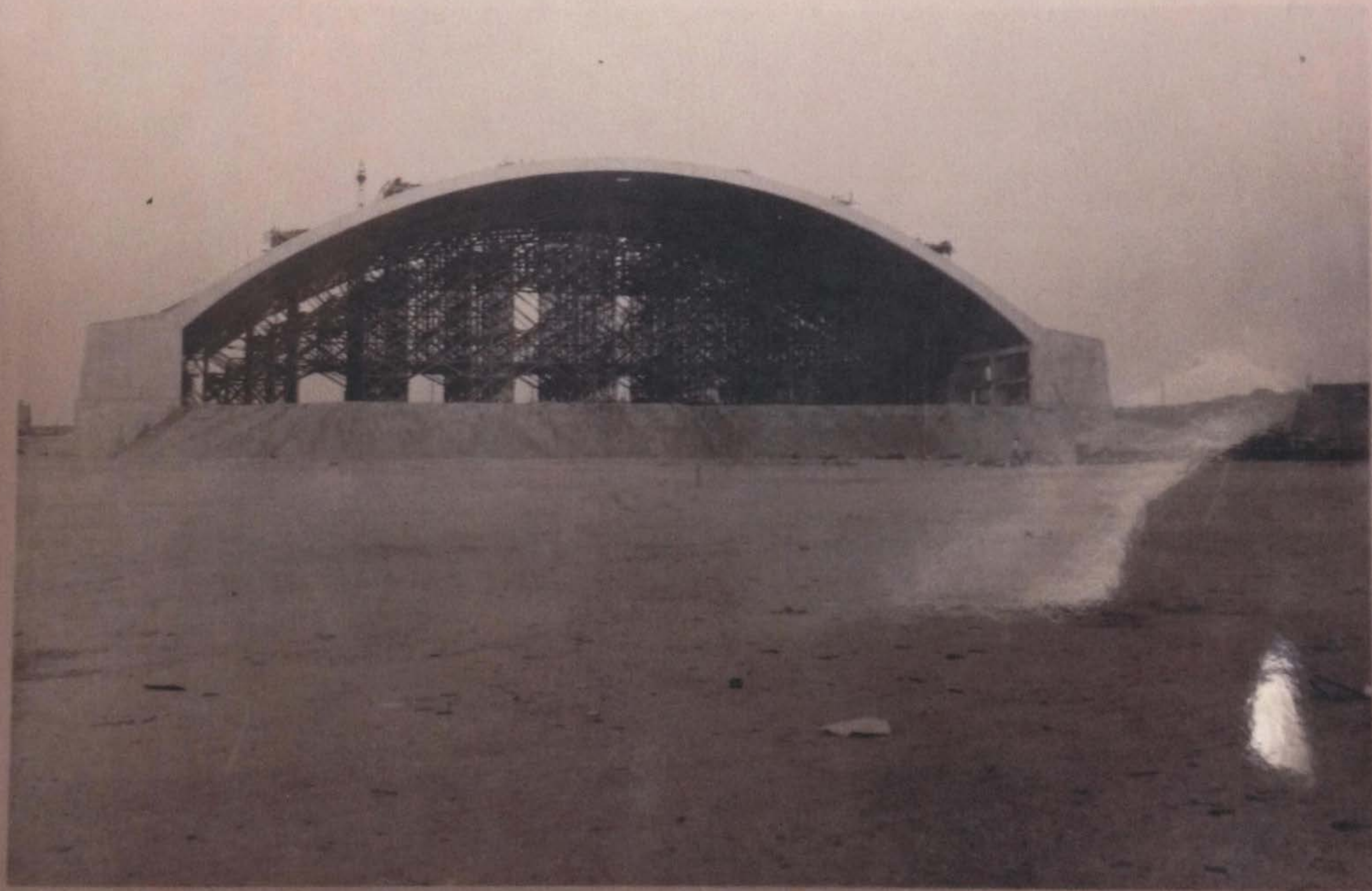




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APR 27 '30

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APR 27 '50

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APR 3 '50

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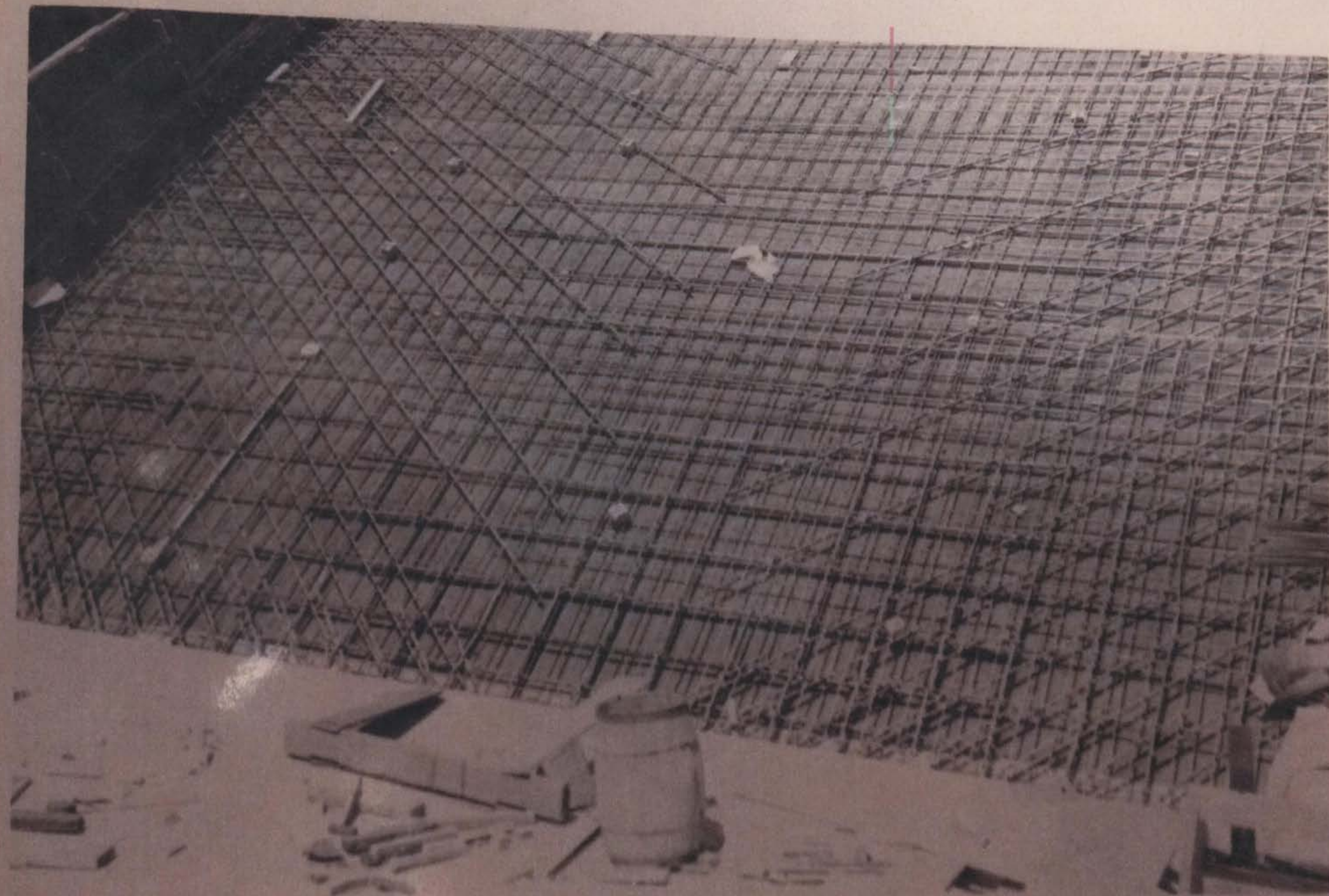




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Denver Coliseum