from cheers of basketball fans and delicate strums on a harp to a solemn stillness broken only by the occasional flappings of birds.

To students who pass by the building daily, the "No Trespassing" signs attached to fences serve to deter entry, although a curious mind cannot be kept from exploring, if only in thoughts.

**ABOVE:** A diver's platform remains next to the swimming pool. **MIDDLE:** Wood remnants remain primarily in only one area of the building, next to the women's swimming pool.

Photos and story by Scott Williams

Various items reveal hints of the past. Rusty gym lockers and radiators litter the basement level. Old-time woodwork still graces the frames of remaining doors, and bits of broken glass with patterns engrained hang above, next to bare light bulb filaments without shells.

Pipes run along the stone walls, some sway and creak in the wind and provide service only as perches for weary birds.

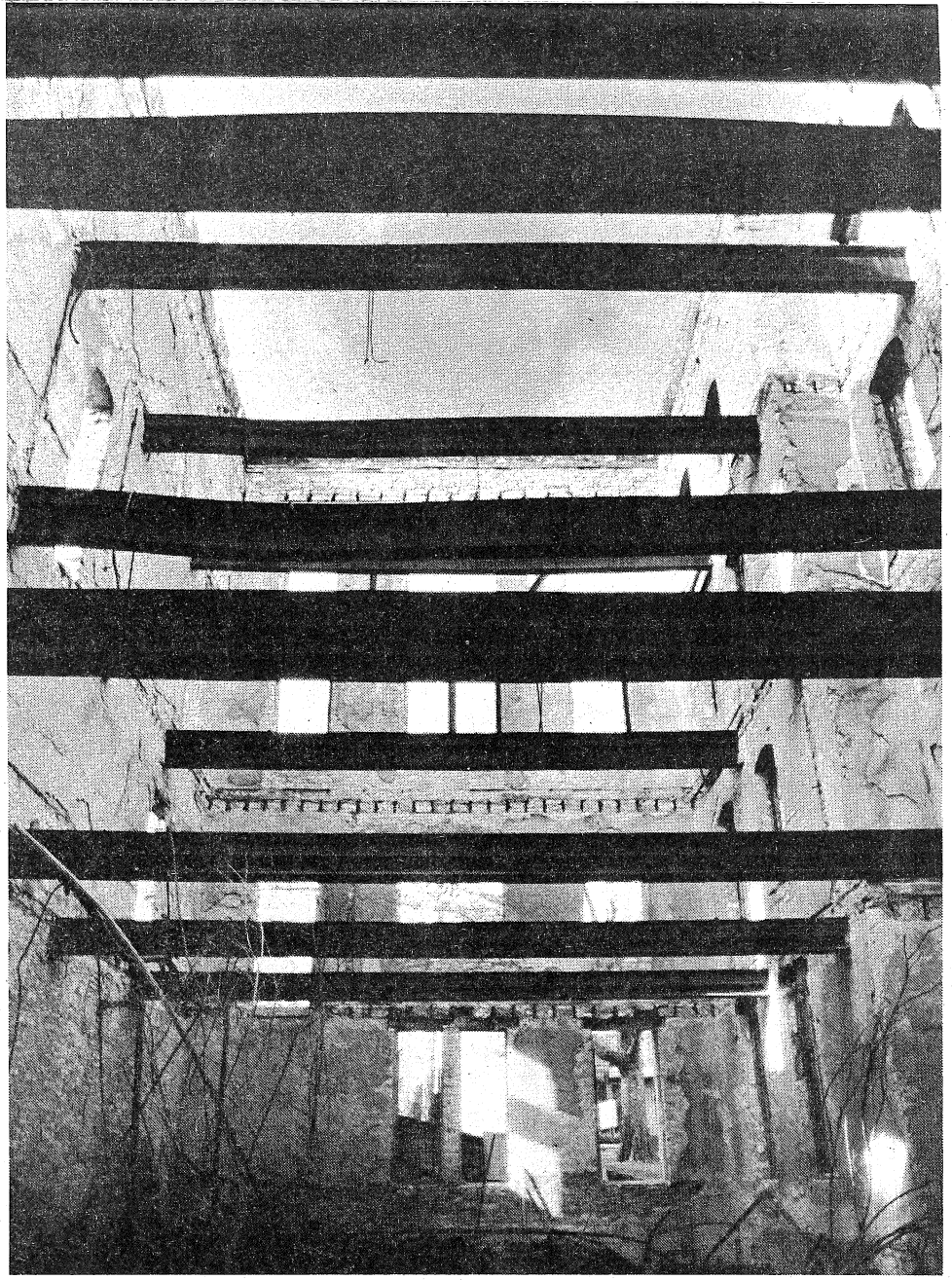
The two swimming pools contain scattered pieces of trash covering the tiny tiles which line the pools' floors.

Showers remain without curtains or drips.

The contents of file drawers have since vanished, but the cabinets remain, scattered and rusted.

The only wooden stairway still standing has six precarious-looking steps which cling to the structure. Only the dead air above leads to the second floor.

The years of seasonal changes have virtually erased the evidence of fire — the char has washed away. The observer sees only the shell, and with it a suggestion of destruction reminiscent of war.



Looking up from the basement of Nichols, steel beams stripe the sky. A point of interest to Nichols' construction lies in the fact that steel reinforcement was not in common use when the structure was built.