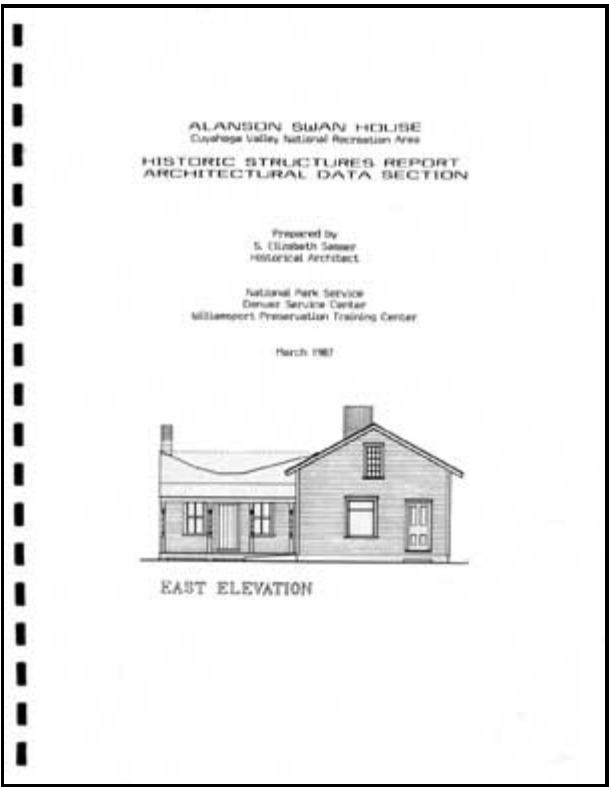


CUYAHOGA VALLEY

Alanson Swan House
Historic Structures Report
Architectural Data Section



**ALANSON SWAN
HOUSE**
Cuyahoga Valley National
Recreation Area
**HISTORIC STRUCTURES
REPORT
ARCHITECTURAL DATA
SECTION**

Prepared by
S. Elizabeth Sasser
Historical Architect

March 1987

National Park Service
Denver Service Center
Williamsport Preservation Training Center

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to document and evaluate the architectural fabric of the Alanson Swan House (H.S. 470) according to National Park Service policy, standards, and guidelines for treatment of cultural resources. It is intended to provide management with technical data and recommendations necessary to determine appropriate levels and strategies of treatment for the resource. The research for this report was completed by the Williamsport Preservation training Center (WPTC) during the spring and summer of 1986, in conjunction with building stabilization and weatherization work on the other structures at Everett Village. In the original WPTC proposal for work at Everett Village, a preliminary assessment of the condition of the Swan House indicated that the level of deterioration in the structure was such that an attempt to restore the building to any period would entail such massive fabric replacement as to be, in effect, a reconstruction. It was recommended at that time that the structure be documented to NPS-28 standards, and that demolition be reviewed as an option.

The structure has not been nominated to the National Register, and a management treatment or level of significance has not been specifically identified. The General Management Plan gives only a proposed treatment for Everett Village as a whole, by adaptive reuse for a compatible function. However the Swan House is recognized as having considerable local and regional historical associations. Due to its early date of construction there are three potential periods of interpretive significance; the initial settlement period of the area, the canal period, and the post-canal era. One of the goals of the present investigation was to determine the physical evolution of the structure as it relates to these periods.

No historical data section has been completed on the Swan House, and no comprehensive historical research has been done on Everett Village. A search of the Park historical and interpretive data files did not disclose any historical photographs, drawings, or documentary sources pertaining to the Swan House. Architectural record drawings have been completed and were included in Architectural Evaluations of Historic Structures, Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, Ohio by Foit-Albert Associates under contract to the Denver Service Center. These drawings are on file in the Park and the Denver Service Center. An archeological assessment and test excavations were conducted by the Midwest Archeological Center in September 1986. Because of the lack of historical source materials, the present report is based almost solely on the physical evidence. The format for presentation of architectural features was adopted for two reasons. The photographs are used to show as clearly as possible the existing conditions and the degree of deterioration present in the structure. The associated sketches are included to simplify the discussion of features by placing them in a visual context and reducing the mass of superfluous detail. Documentation was complicated by the large amount of trash and debris in the building, and by the generally unsafe condition of the structure.

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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Historical data relating to the origins and development of Everett Village has not been documented in any systematic fashion. However the settlement and evolution of the community follows the main patterns in the development of the region. The Alanson Swan House (H.S. 470) spans virtually the entire period of Euro-American occupation of the Cuyahoga Valley, and in its physical evolution recapitulates the major economic cycles and socio-cultural influences that shaped the history of the area.

In 1881, William Henry Perrin noted in his History of Summit County that, "The building now occupied by Alanson Swanson at 'Johnnycake' or Everett, was built by Henry Iddings before 1820, and was the first in the village."^[1] This would date the earliest probable construction to the post-1795 expansion into the Western Reserve sponsored by the Connecticut Land Company. This initial settlement period was characterized by an isolated, agrarian subsistence economy, remote from eastern centers of population and commerce. The opening of the Ohio and Erie Canal through the Cuyahoga River Valley in 1827, contributed to a rapid expansion in population and a shift to a market economy based on the availability of cheap, efficient transportation.^[2] Shortly after the opening of the canal, Alanson Swan bought Henry Iddings property, and in subsequent land purchases acquired a total of 500 acres, including most of what is now Everett Village.

One of the effects of the canal was to develop a service industry catering to the needs of canal operators and users. Alanson Swan was involved in a number of business ventures based on this need. In 1835, he and a Mr. Smith erected a store, the second building at Everett, which carried goods "selected with a view to demand on the canal at that point."^[3] The following year Smith sold his interest to Swan, who then sold and repurchased the store several times in the following years. Starting with an inventory worth approximately \$500.00, the business grew to handle about \$2,000.00 worth of goods. In 1842, Swan expanded his operation to include a barn and warehouse for storage of hay and grain to maintain a livery stable of 300 horses and mules used to draw canal boats and packets. The packet company subsequently failed and Swan lost the bulk of his investment in the livery business. It is likely that the failure of the packet company was linked to a general decline in canal business brought about by competition from the railroads, which by the 1850s, began to monopolize transport of passengers and goods.^[4]

Despite his business reversals Swan remained in Everett Village, where as a licensed minister in the Methodist Episcopal Church, he was identified with "the religious and moral improvement and growth" of the community. Education appears to have been among his civic interests as he is recorded as having deeded an acre of land to the local school district in 1838, where a small frame school house was later built. In the early 1870s, he sold all of his property to Alexander Stewart, with the exception of the house in which he continued to live "to an advanced old age". An 1891 survey map of Boston Township also shows the property in his name.

The date of Alanson Swan's death and the immediate disposition of his property is unknown. The National Park Service acquired the property in 1978 from Mrs. Marjorie D. Morgan. She had acquired the house and land in 1976 from Mr. Dewey Osborne. Mrs. Morgan's grandfather Mr. Baxter had resided in the house for a number of years until his death in the early 1970s. Following his death the structure has been vacant except for brief use as a ceramics workshop around 1974-5.[5] Under the terms of the property acquisition agreement, the Morgan family will retain use of the land surrounding the house until 1988. Since its purchase by the National Park Service, no treatment of the structure has been undertaken other than boarding up window and door opening with plywood. The structure was reported to be in poor condition at the time of its transfer to the federal government. The reviewing appraiser noted that the structure was "suitable for storage purposes only".[6]

Notes:

[1] Perrin, William Henry. History of Summit County. Baskin and Battey Historical Publishers, Chicago. 1881. p.539.

[2] Hunt, William J. An Assessment of Archeological Resources Associated With Several Structures in Historic Everett Village, Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, Ohio, (Draft report). Ms. on file at the National Park Service, Midwest Archeological Center, Lincoln, Nebraska. 1986. pp. 21-30.

[3] op. cit., p. 540.

[4] op. cit., pp. 21-30.

[5] Phone conversation with Mr. J.D. Morgan, 4-19-86.

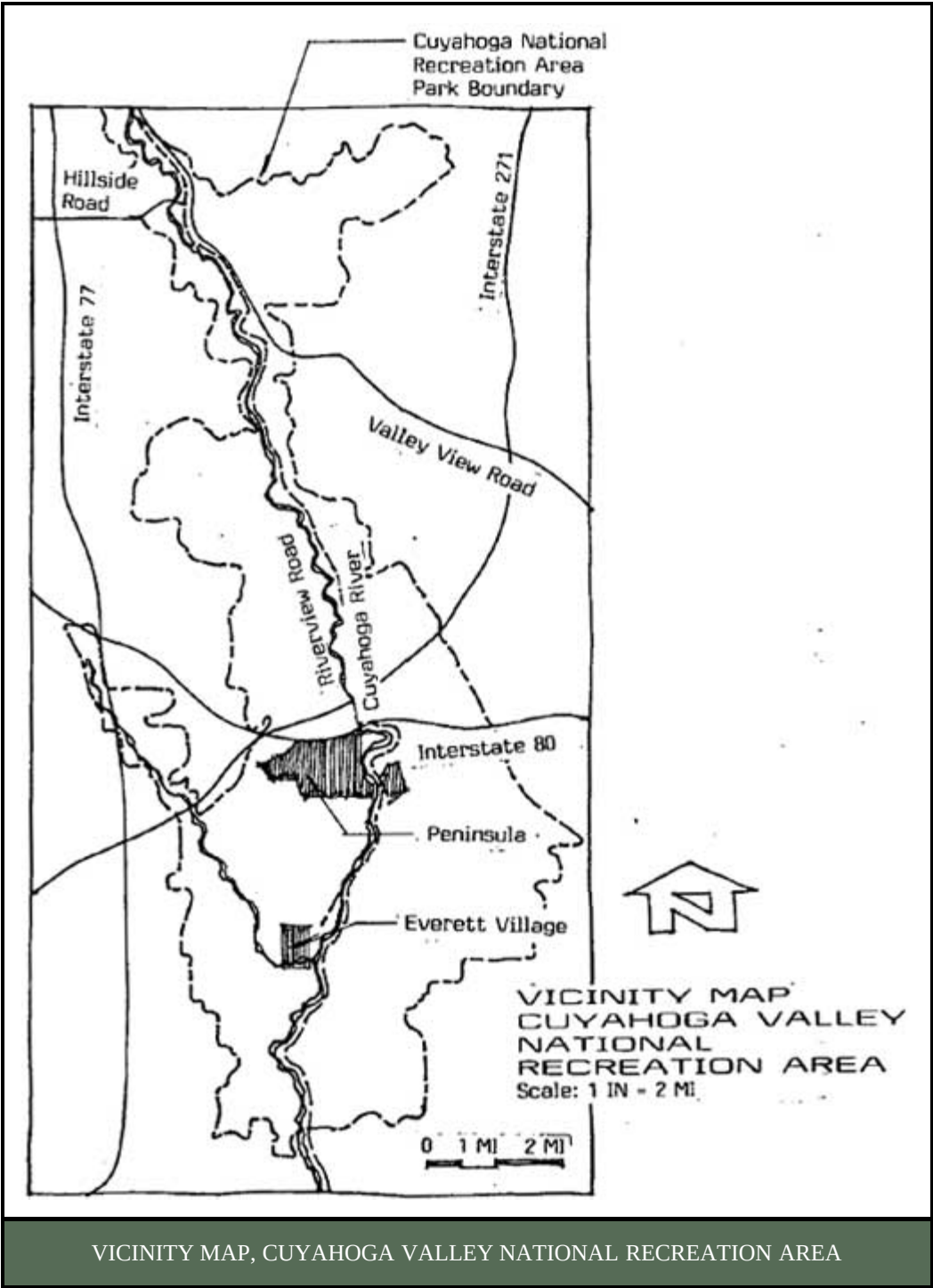
[6] Certificate of Reviewing Appraiser, Tract No. 114-53, November 2, 1977.

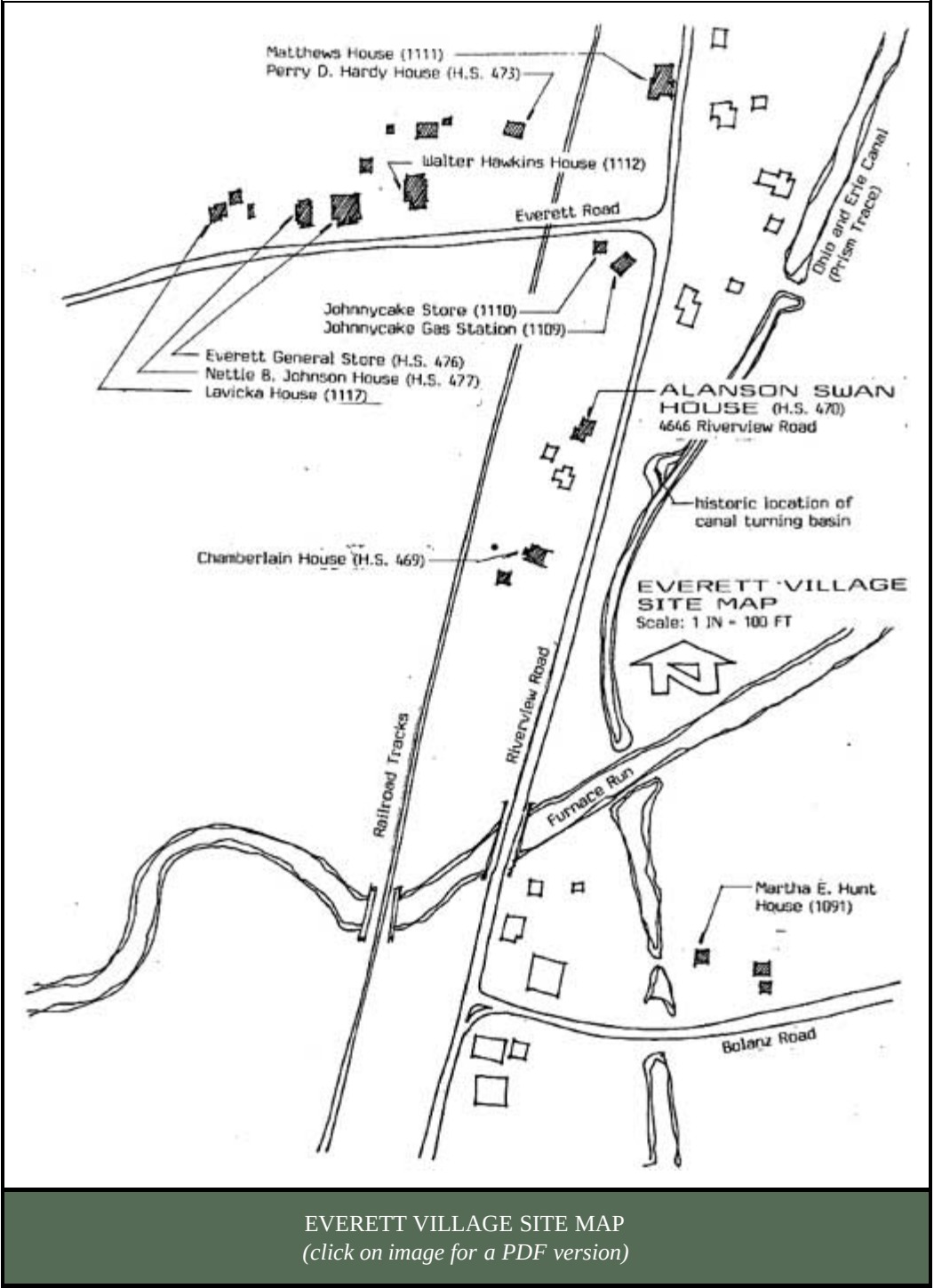
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SITE AND VICINITY MAPS





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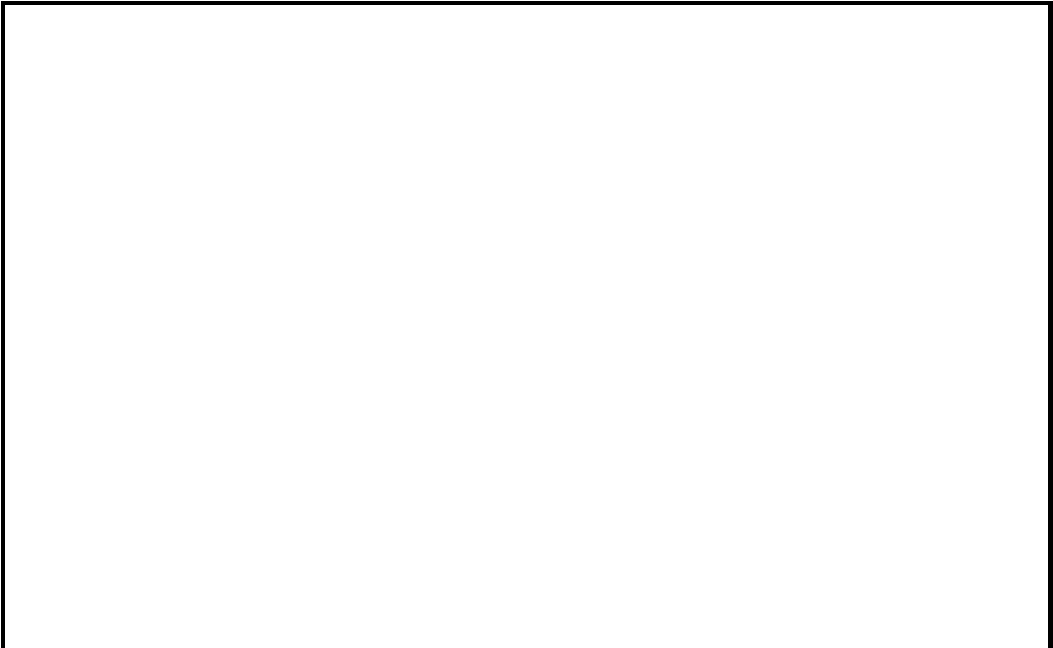
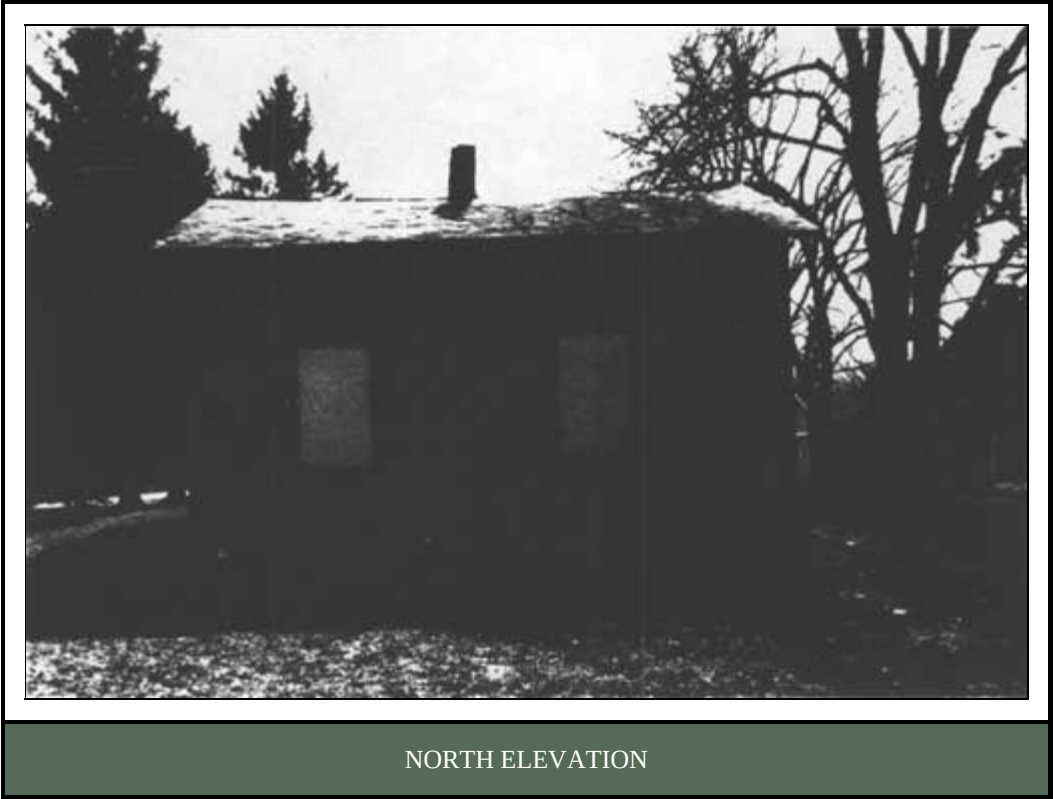
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EXTERIOR CONDITIONS





NORTH AND EAST ELEVATIONS OF MAIN WING



SOUTH AND EAST FACADES



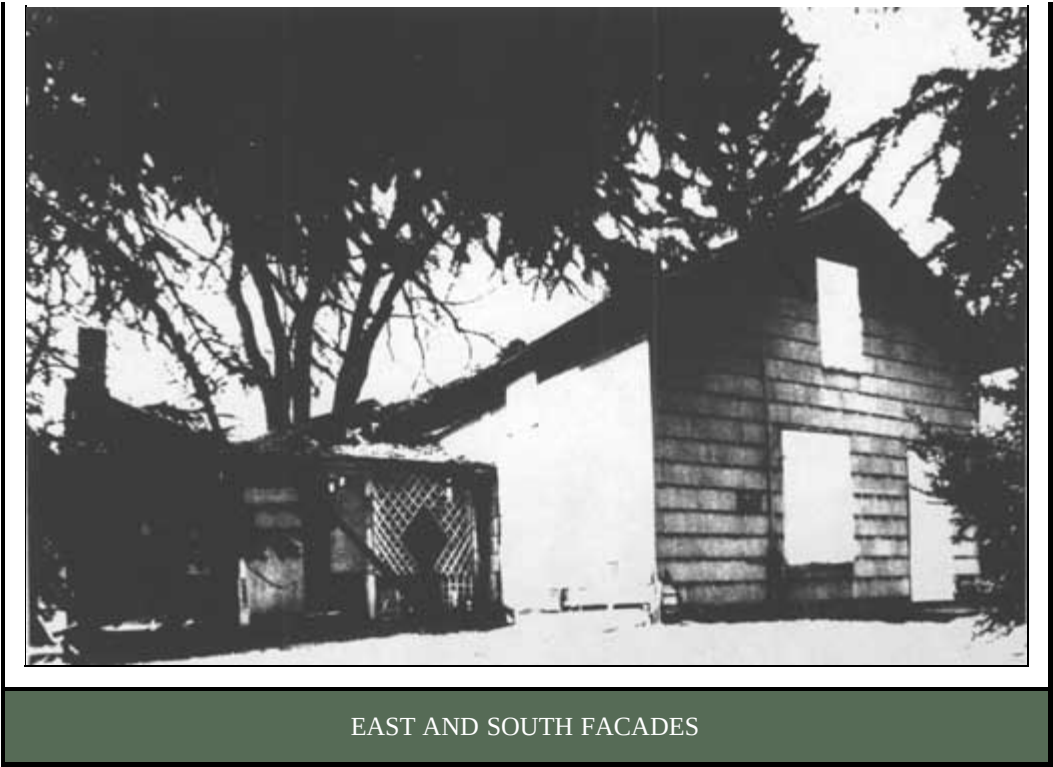


SOUTH ELEVATION OF KITCHEN ELL

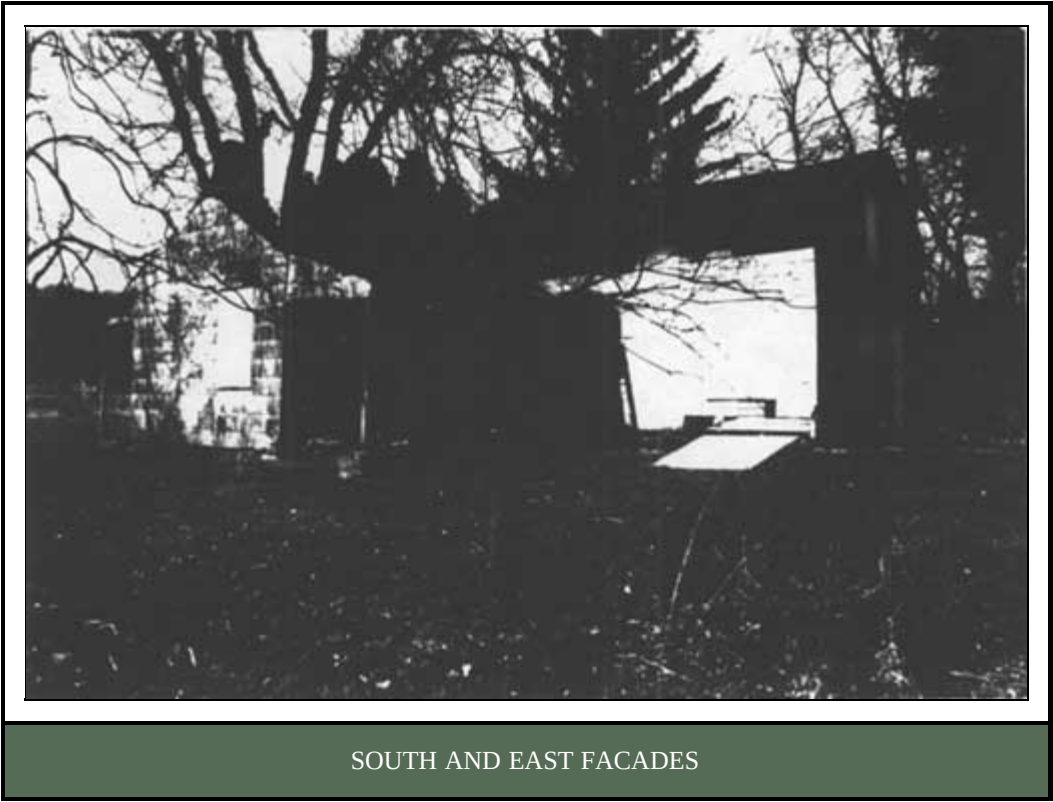


EAST ELEVATION OF MAIN WING



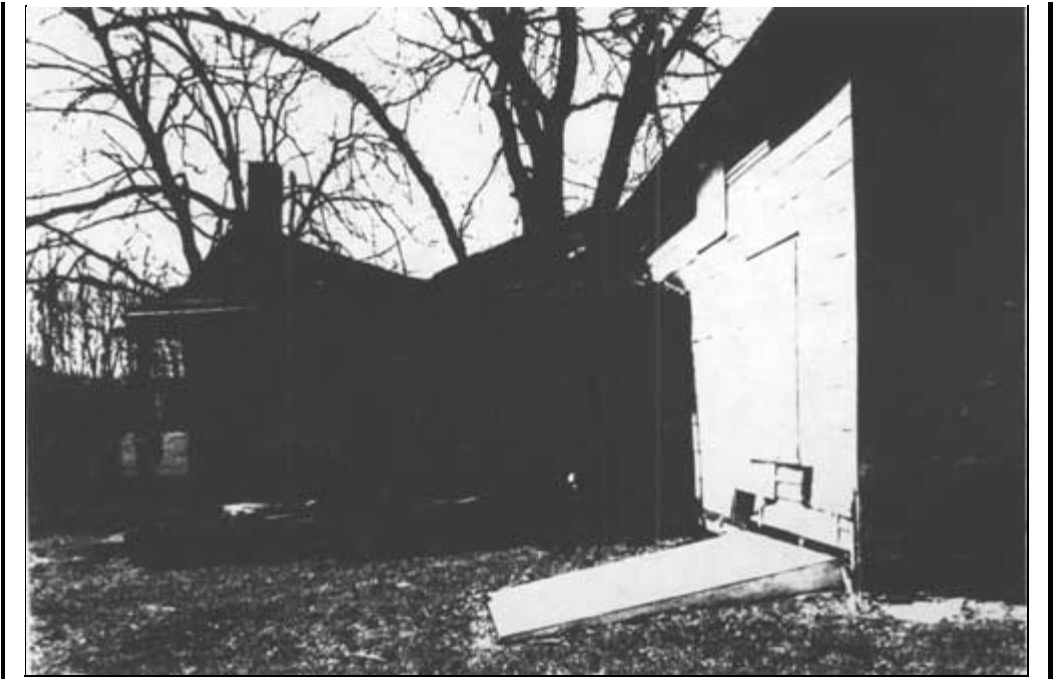


EAST AND SOUTH FACADES



SOUTH AND EAST FACADES





EAST ELEVATION OF KITCHEN ELL

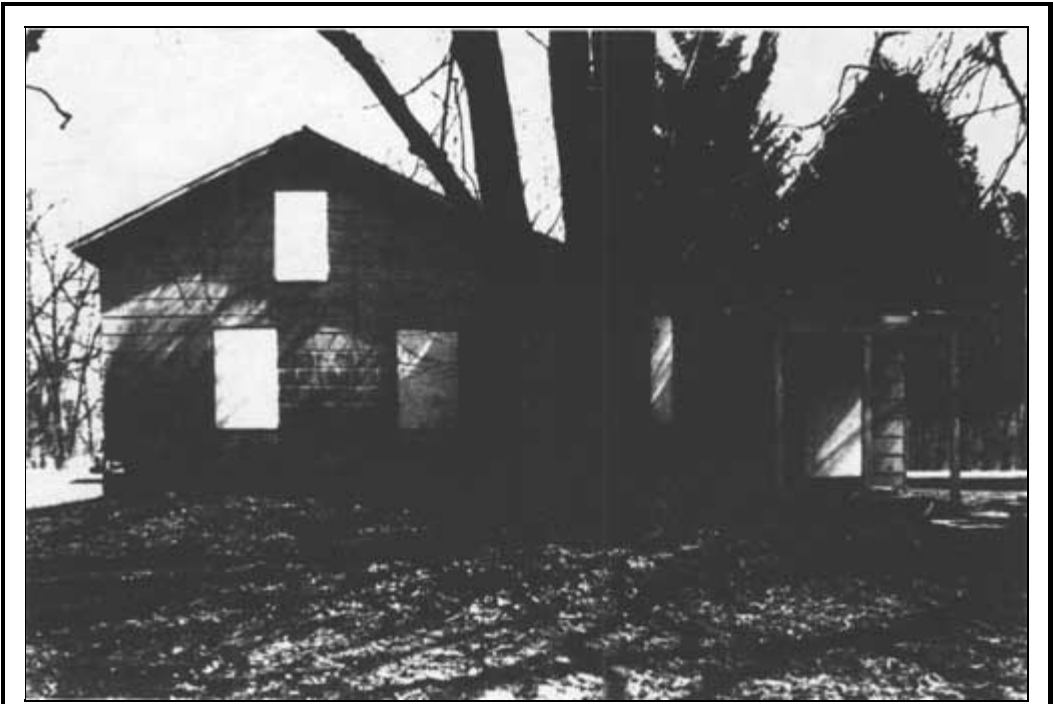


WEST AND SOUTH ELEVATIONS



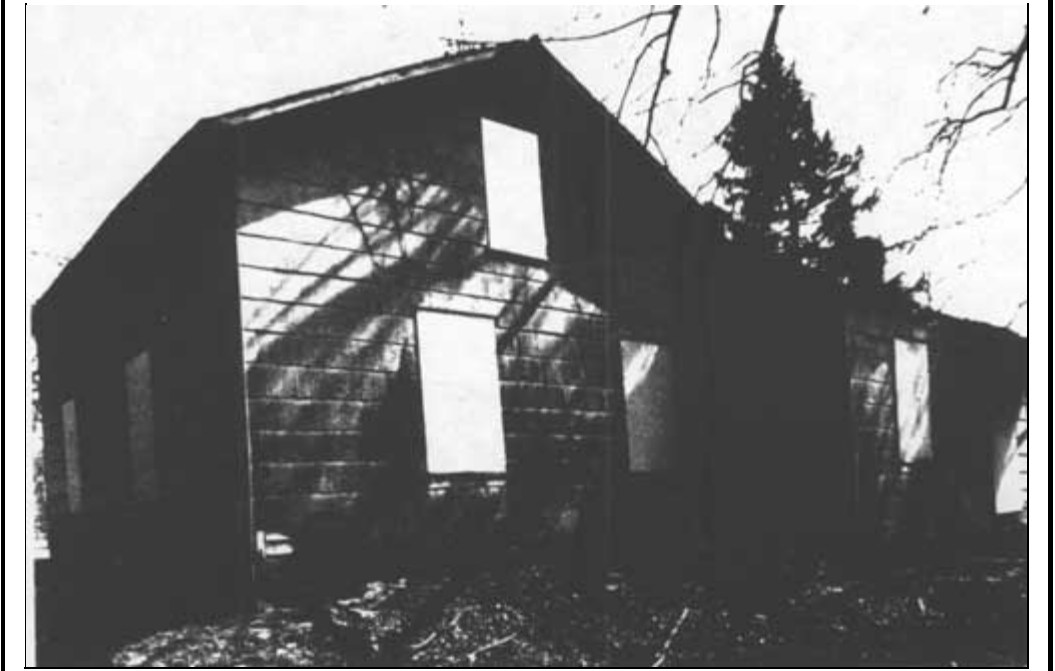


REAR PORCH



WEST ELEVATION

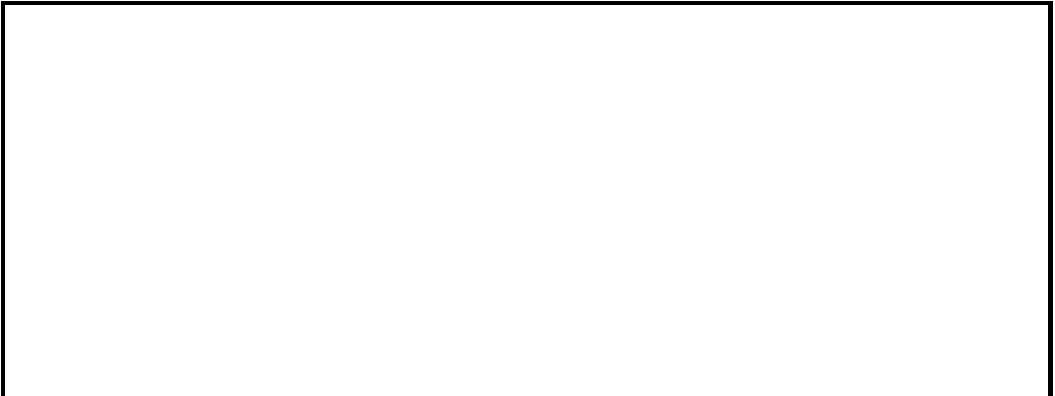


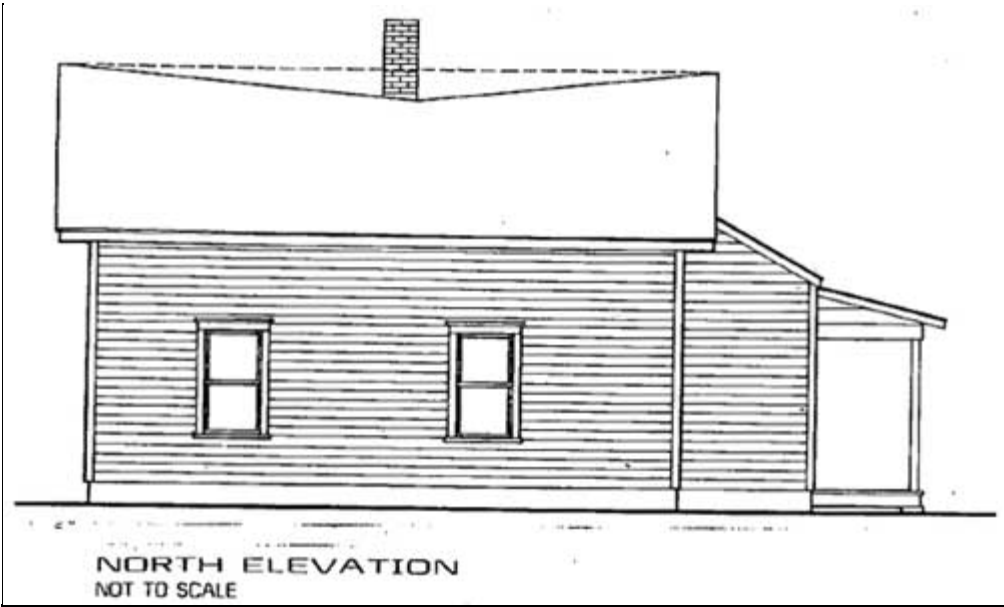


WEST AND NORTH FACADES

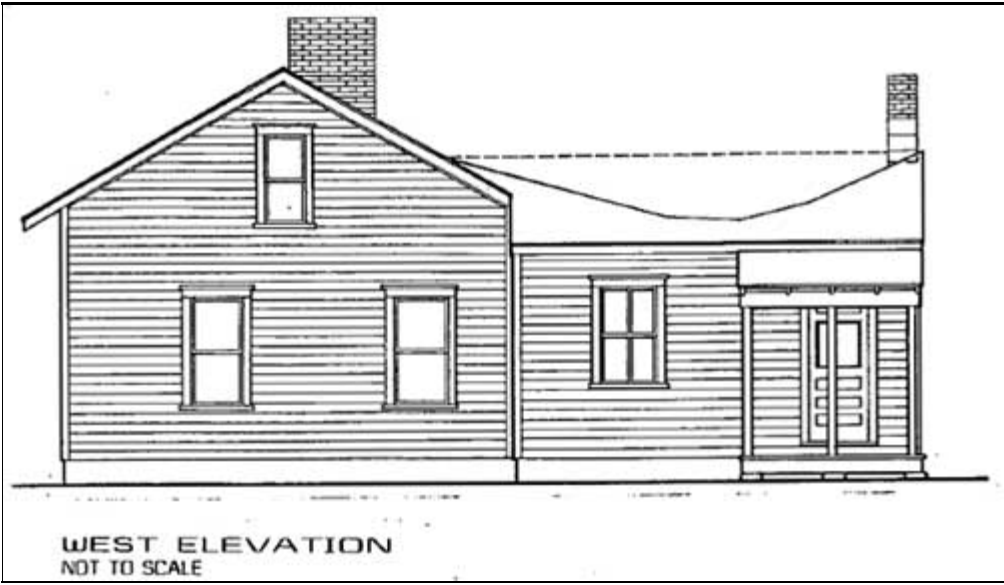


EAST ELEVATION





NORTH ELEVATION



WEST ELEVATION



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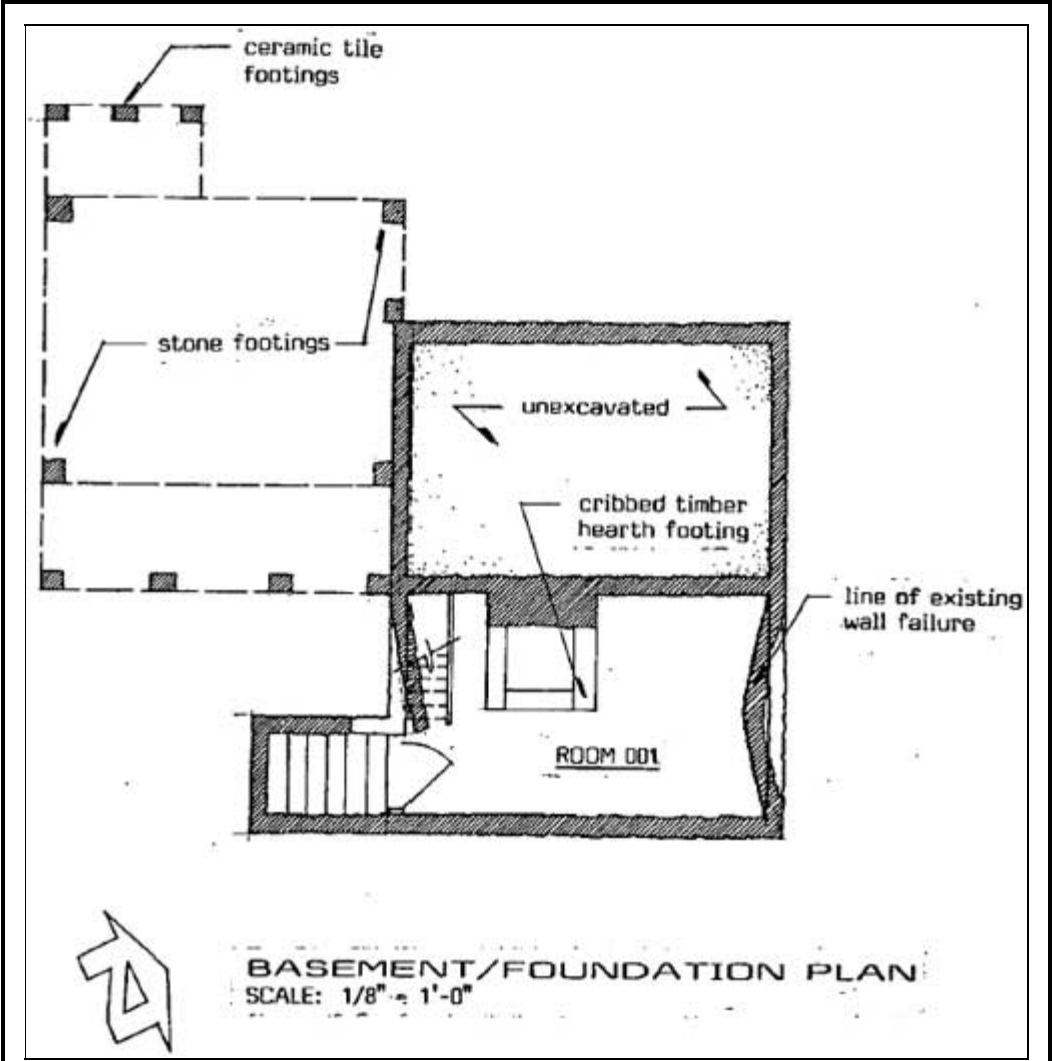
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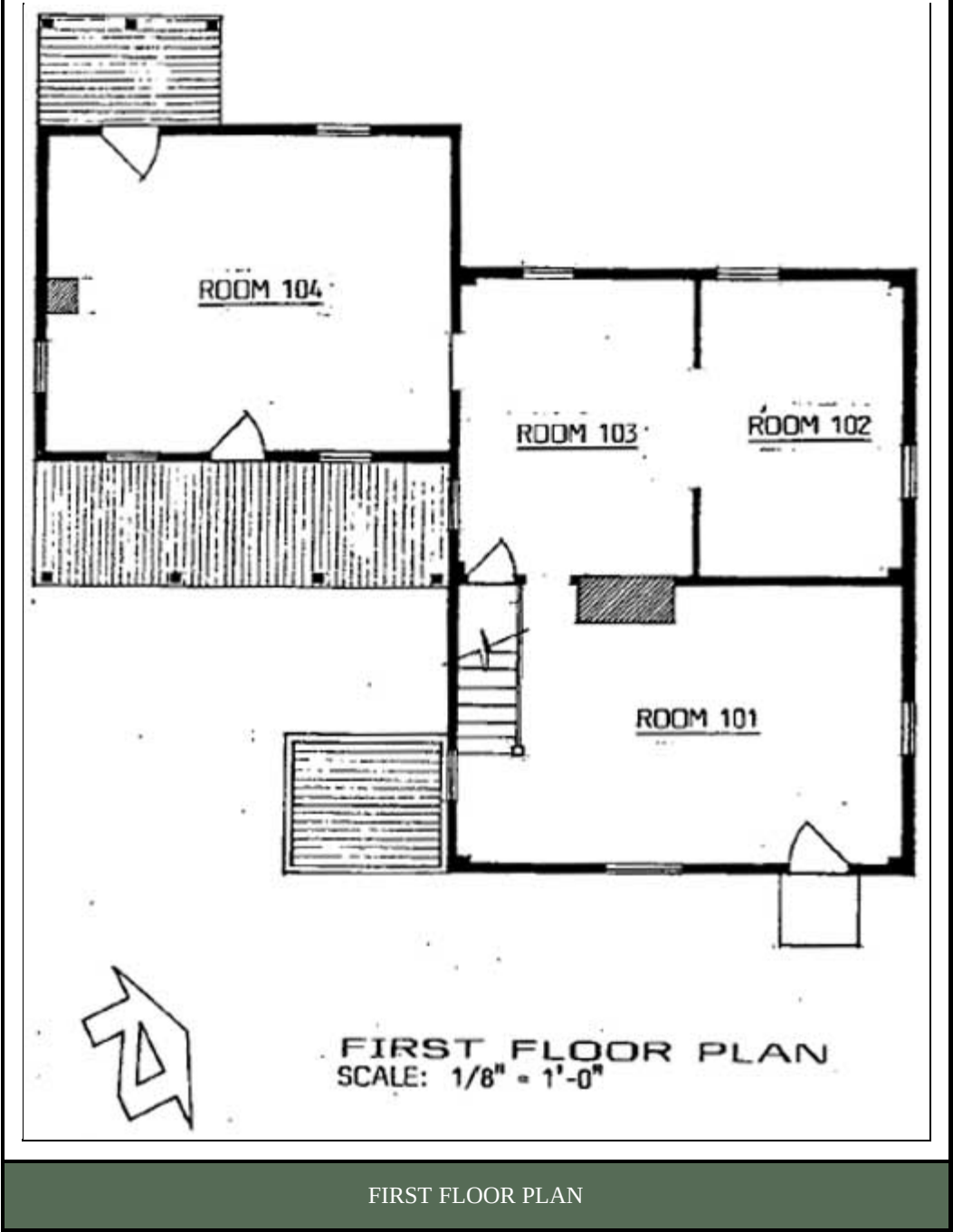
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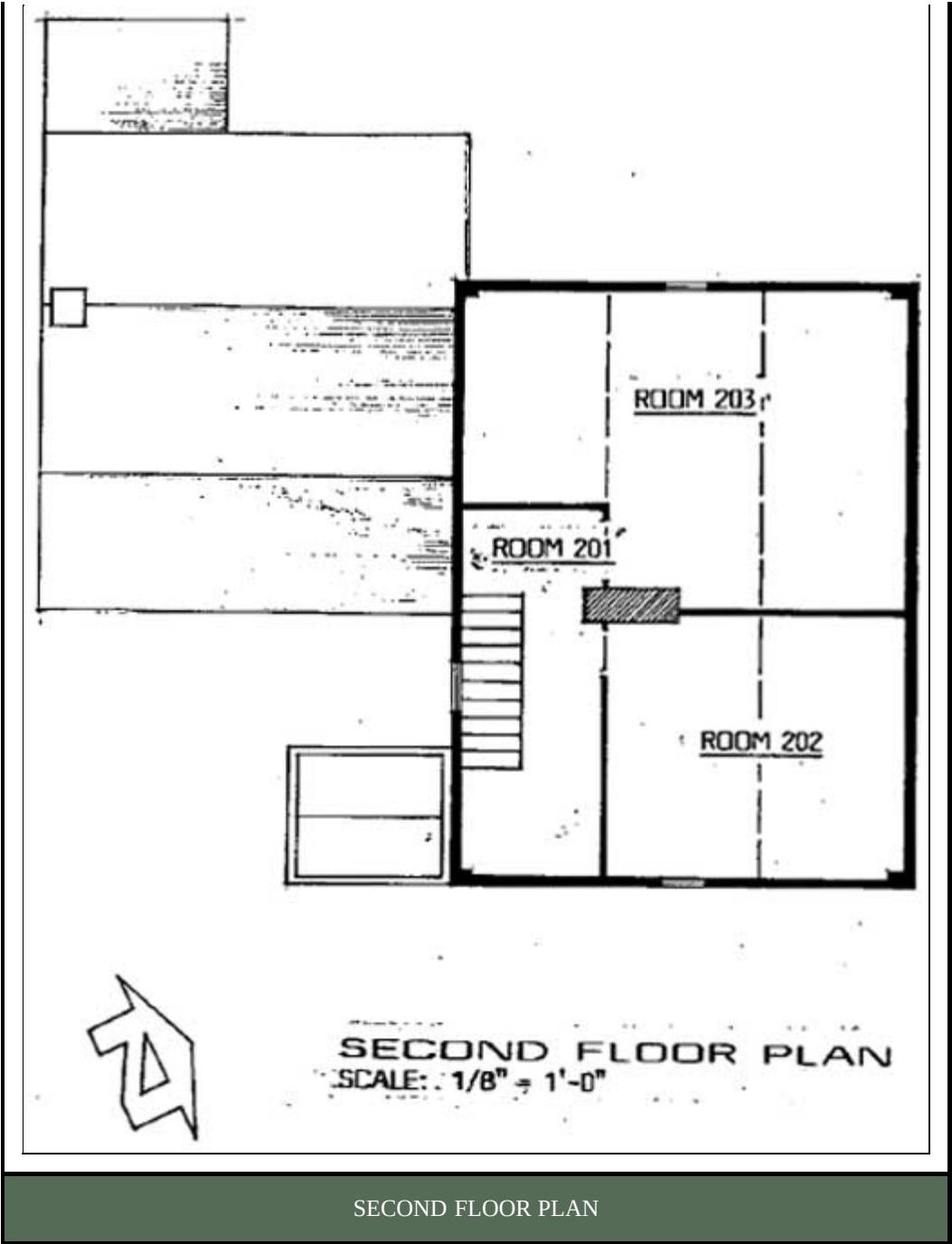


FLOOR PLANS



BASEMENT/FOUNDATION PLAN





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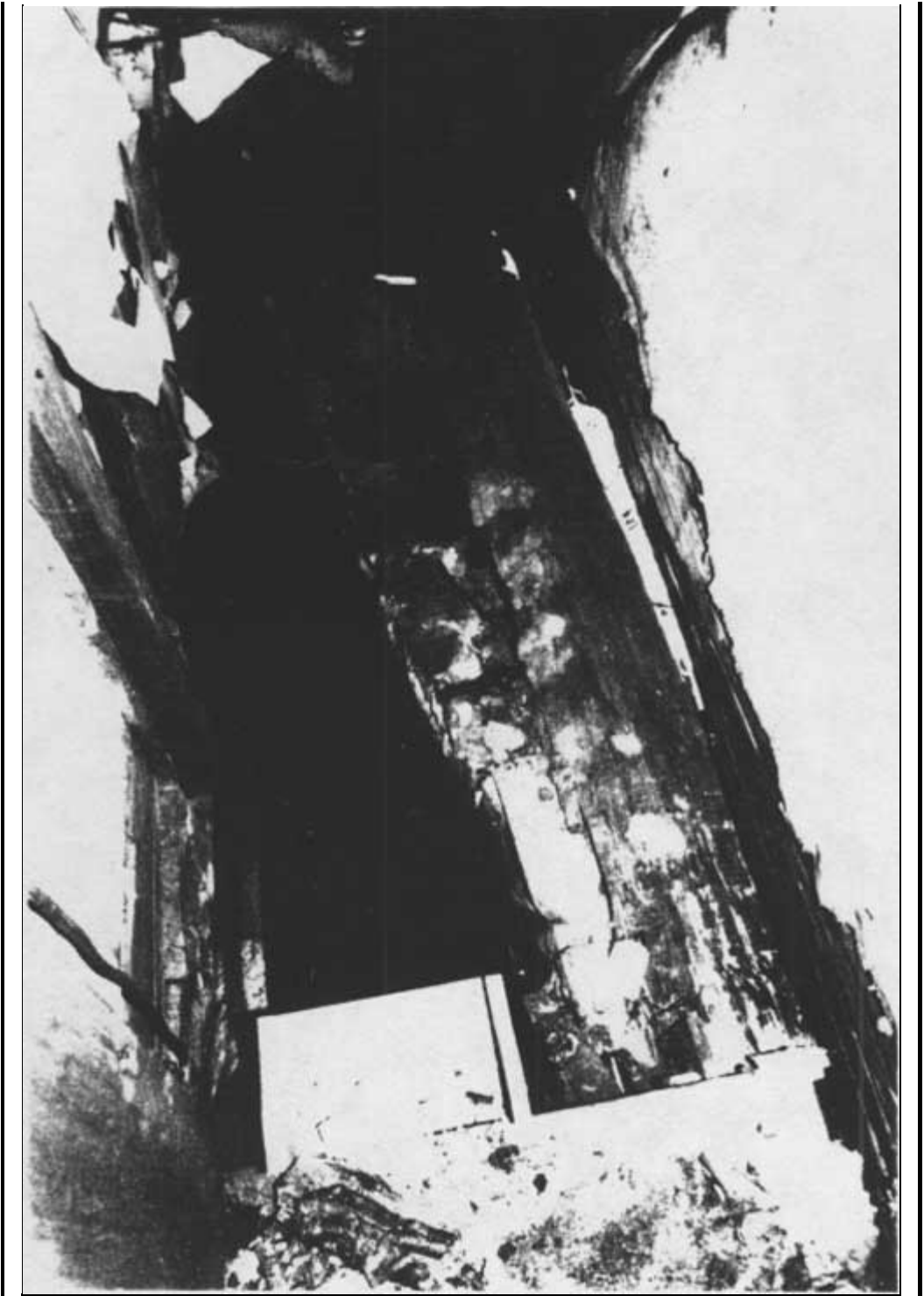
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INTERIOR CONDITIONS





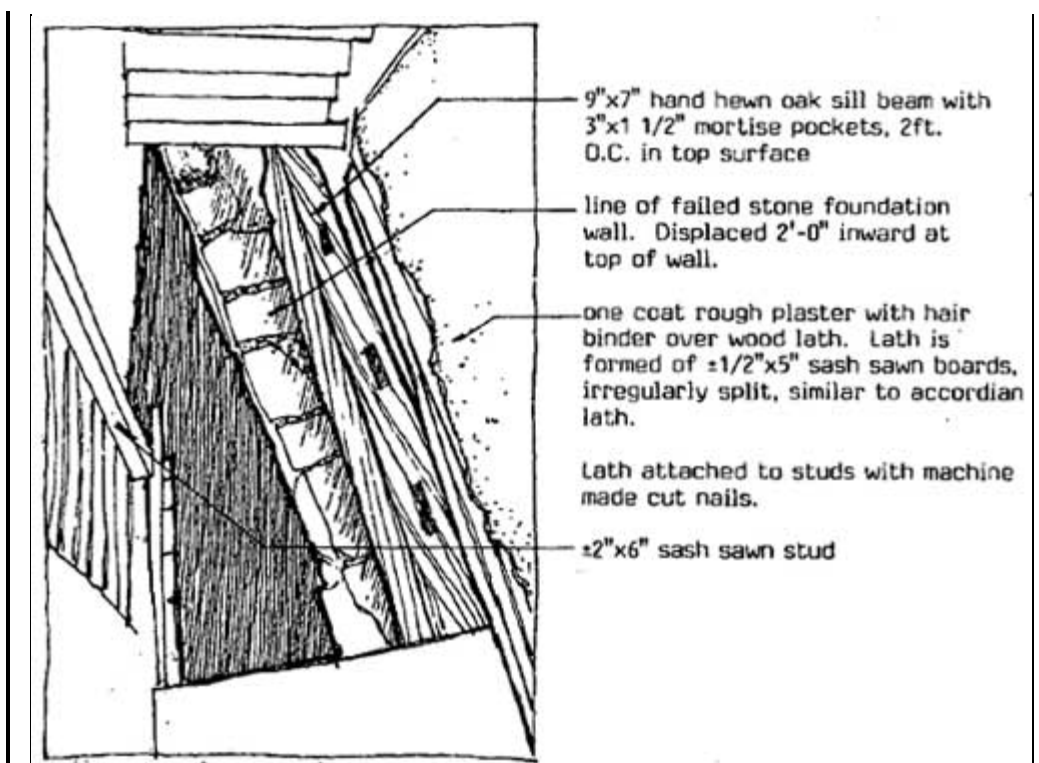
1. Room 103 East Wall - Entrance to Cellar



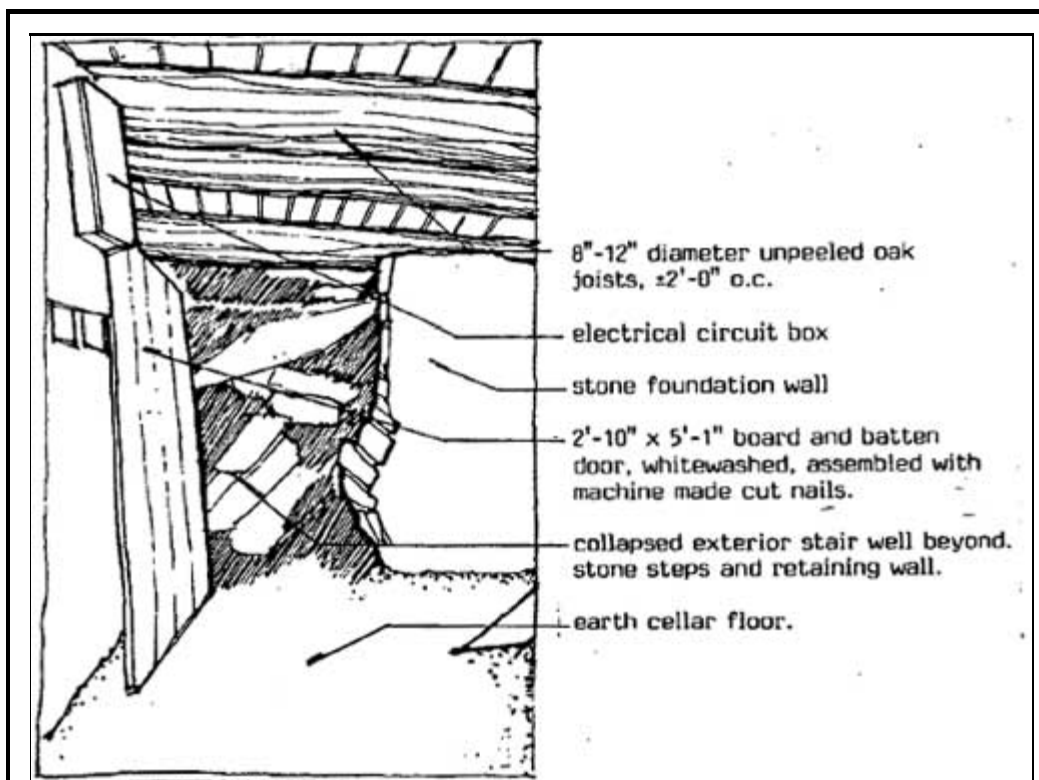


2. Room 001 South Wall of Cellar Exterior Stair Well

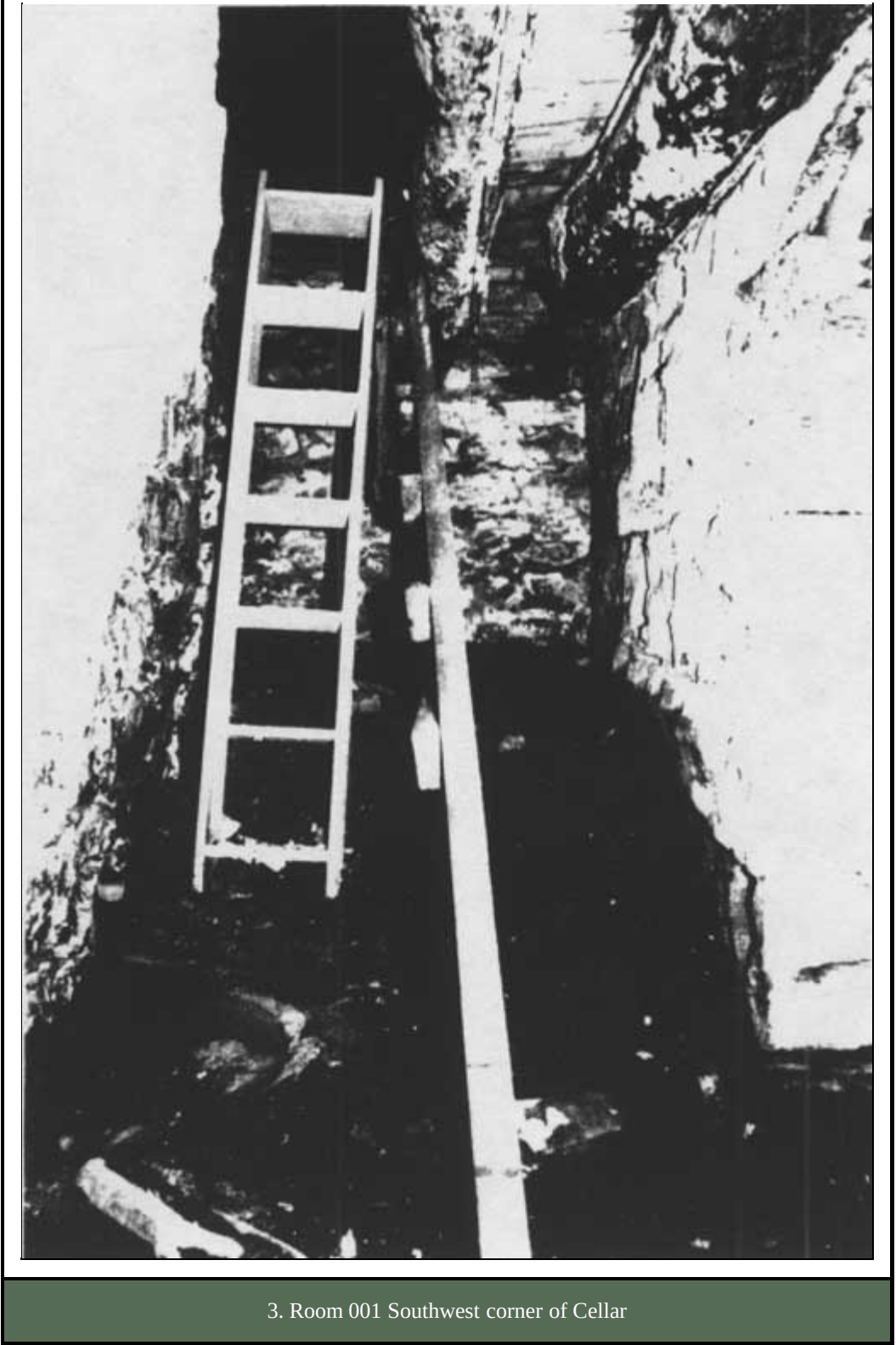




1A. Room 103 East Wall - Entrance to Cellar



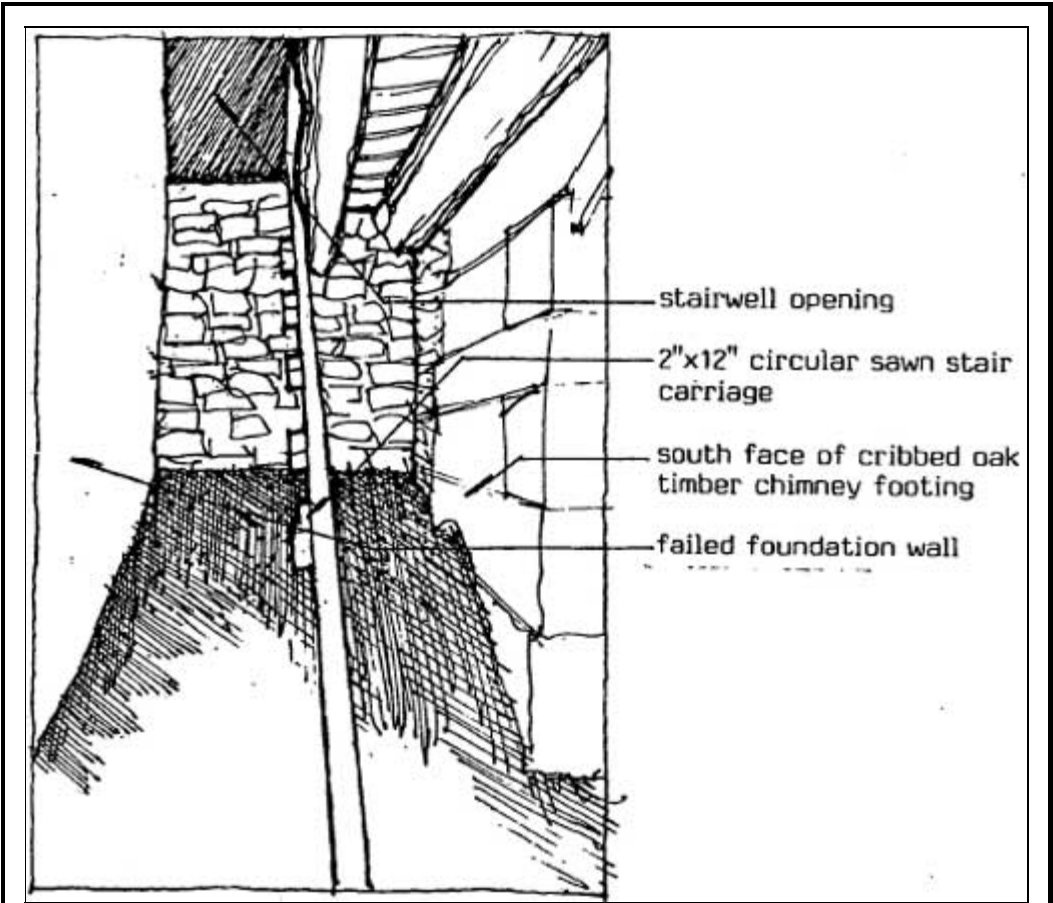
2A. Room 001 South Wall of Cellar Exterior Stair Well



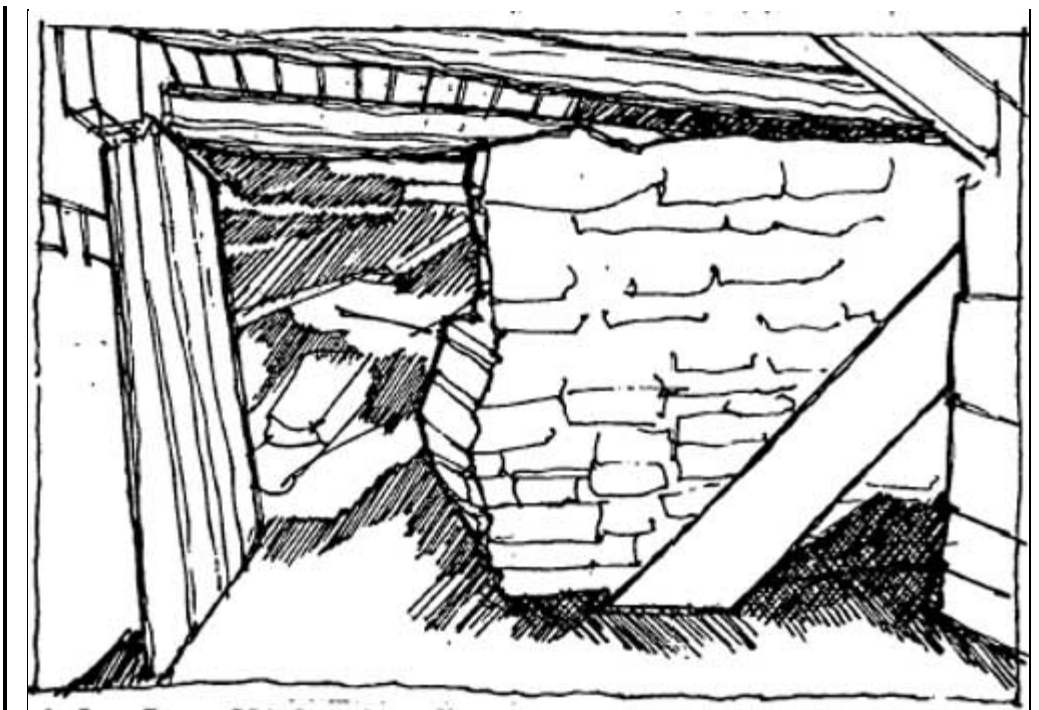
3. Room 001 Southwest corner of Cellar



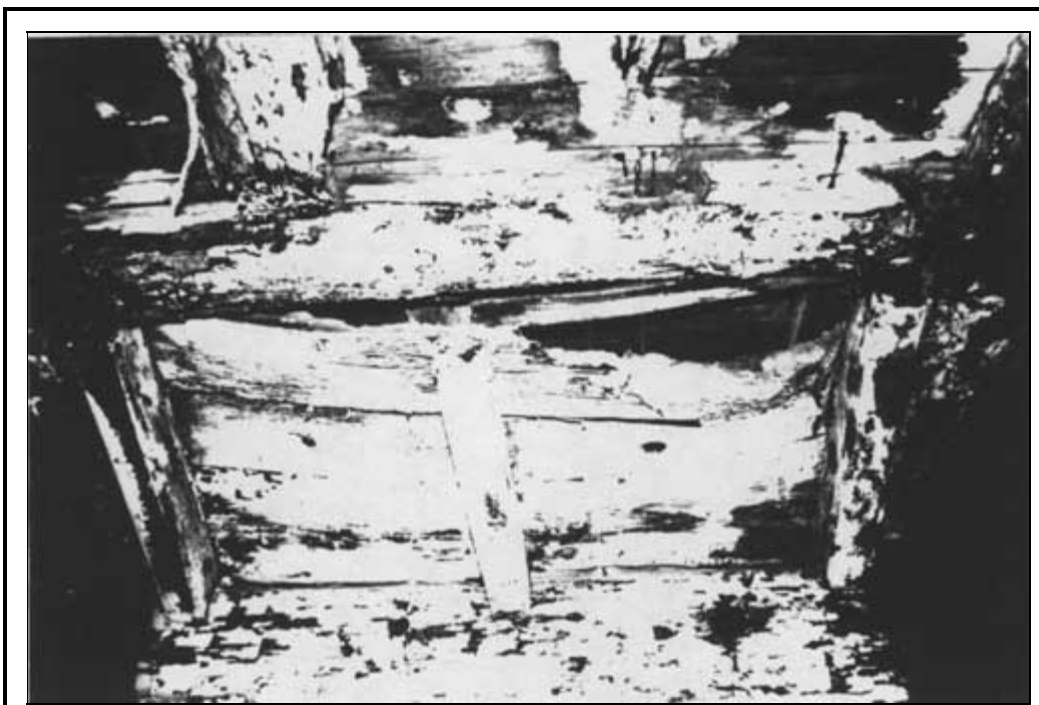
4. Room 001 South Wall of Cellar



3A. Room 001 Southwest corner of Cellar



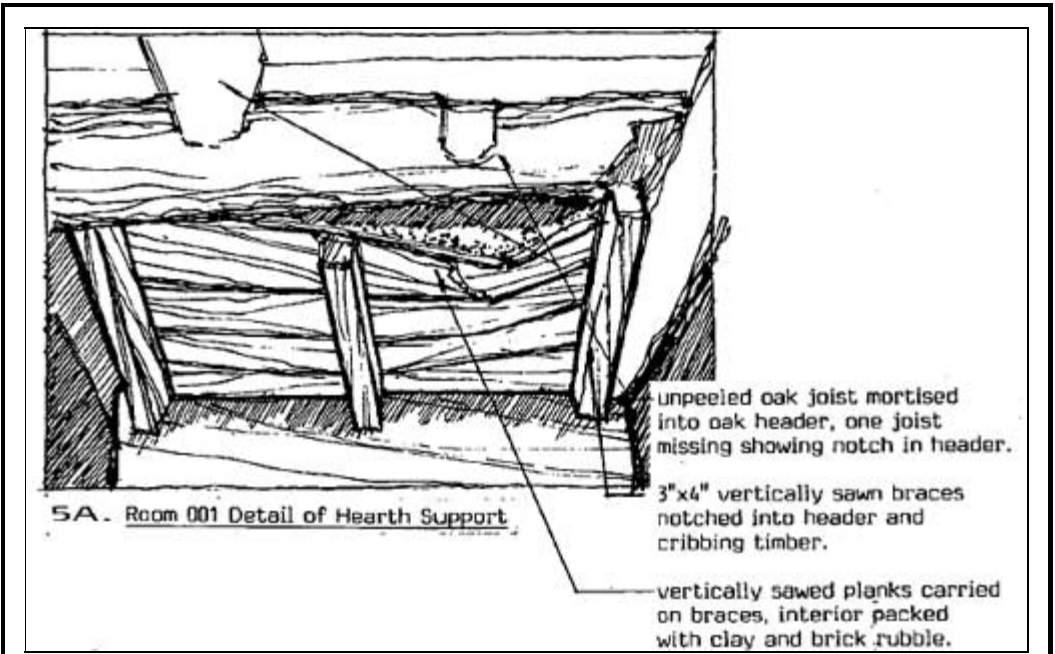
4A. Room 001 South Wall of Cellar



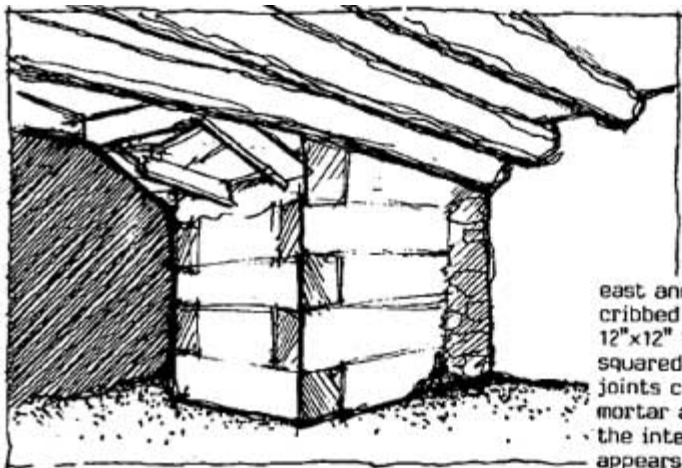
5. Room 001 Detail of Hearth Support



6. Room 001 West Wall of Cellar Cribbed timbered chimney footing



5A. Room 001 Detail of Hearth Support



east and north faces of
cribbed timber feature.
12"x12" to 12"x16" hand hewn
squared oak timbers. Horizontal
joints chinked with lime
mortar and small stones.
the interior of the feature
appears to be packed with
earth and rubble.
The entire feature is approximately
5'x6', including a 2'-0" stone
buttress at the west wall.

6A. Room 001 West wall of Cellar
Cribbed timber chimney footing

6A. Room 001 West wall of Cellar Cribbed timber chimney footing



7. Room 001 Cribbed timber chimney footing



8. Room 001 Cribbed timber chimney footing North face

South and east faces of cribbed timber feature. This feature appears to represent a footing for a large masonry fireplace and chimney, no longer extant. The feature dates to the original construction of the house as evidenced by the spacing of the log joists on either side of the feature, and the manner of notching in the hearth support header. The stone buttress on the west side of the feature shows continuity with the masonry work of the west foundation wall.



7A. Room 001 Cribbed timber chimney footing

The size of the feature suggests that the original fireplace was used for cooking as well as heating, predating the general introduction of cast iron stoves for both purposes in the 1830s. It is also unlikely that cast iron stoves would have been generally available in the area before the completion of the Ohio and Erie Canal in 1827.

7A. Room 001 Cribbed timber chimney footing



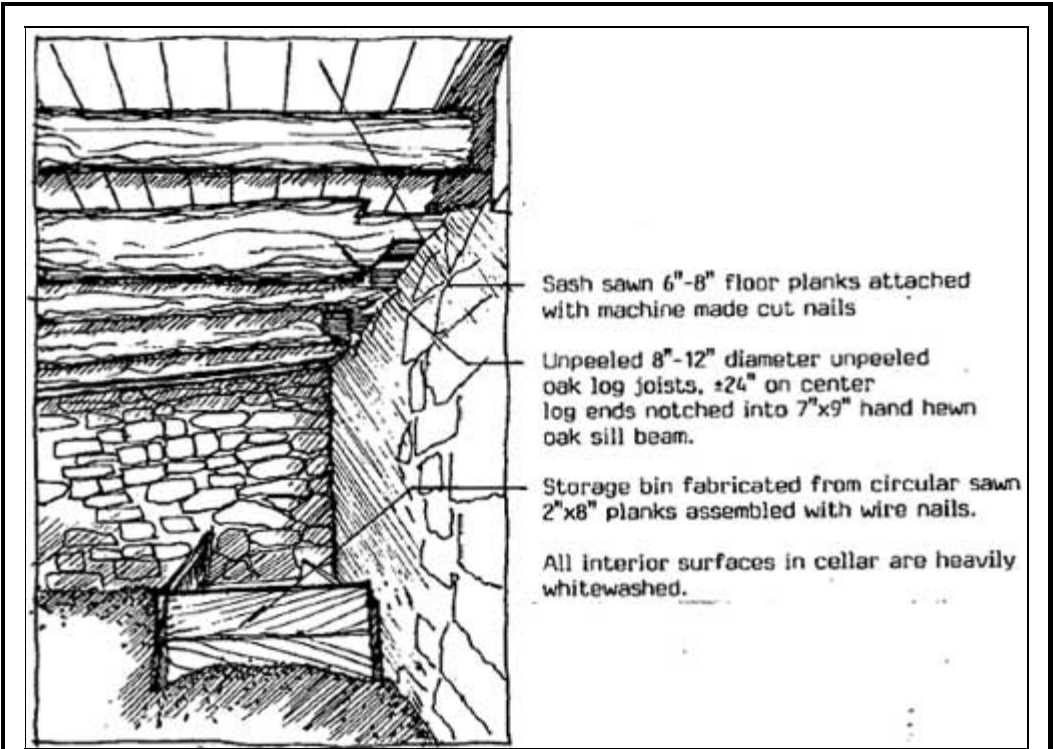
8A. Room 001 Cribbed timber chimney footing North face



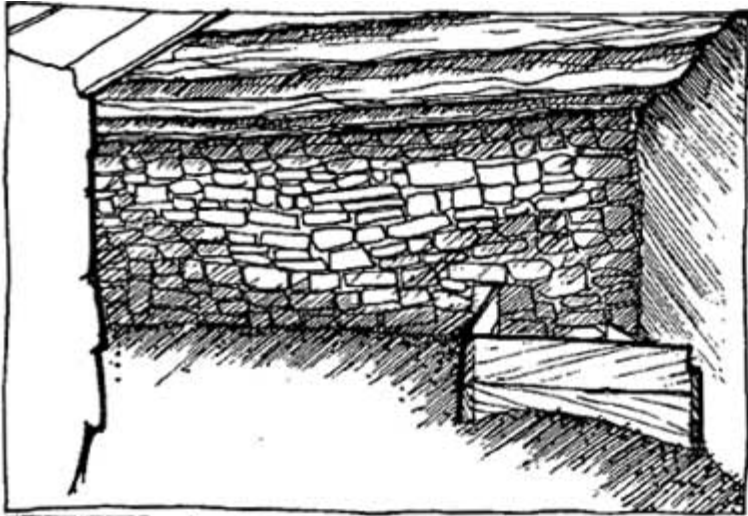
9. Room 001 Northeast Corner



10. Room 001 North wall of Cellar



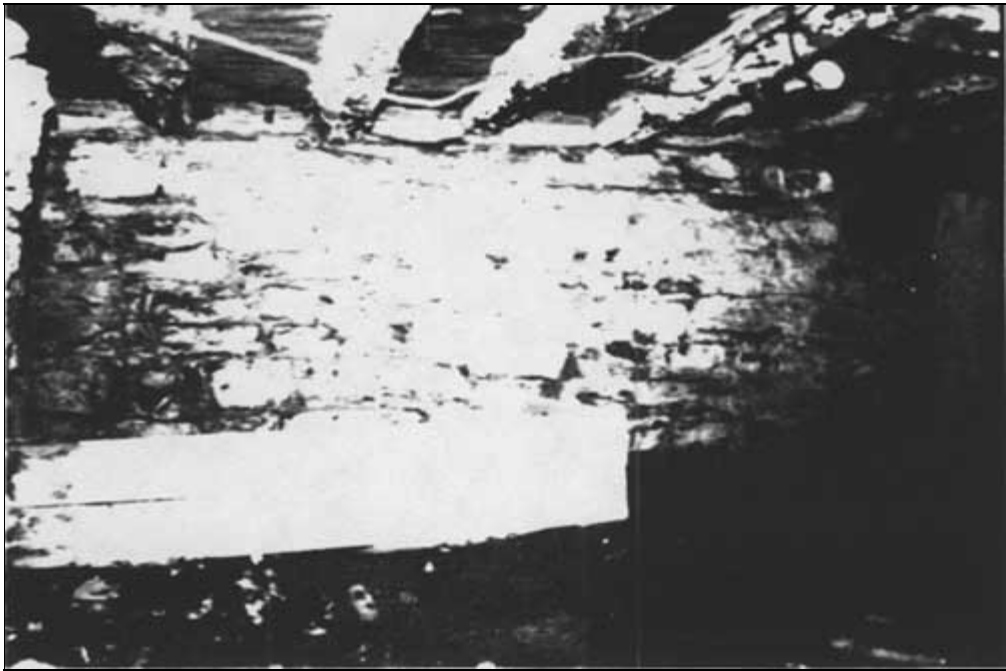
9A. Room 001 Northeast Corner



10A. Room 001 North Wall of Cellar

Uncoursed rubble stone foundation wall, approximately 6 ft high. when this photograph was taken in March 1986, the wall had developed a bulge at its midsection, with a lateral displacement of about 2'-0". The upper third of the wall collapsed in September 1986, leaving the north sill beam unsupported except at its extreme ends over a span of approximately 9'-0".

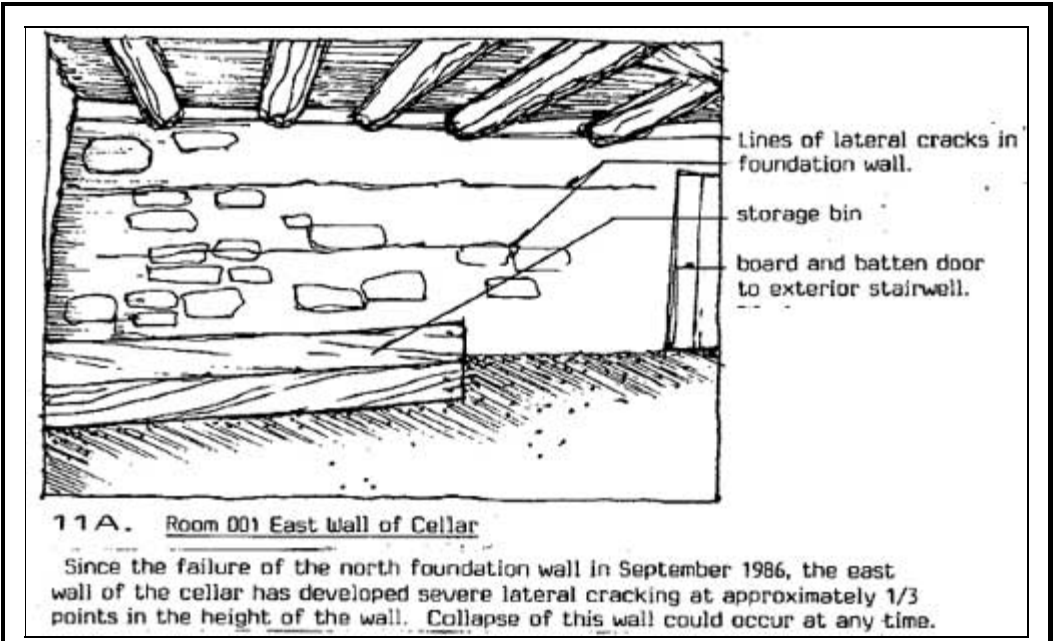
10A. Room 001 North Wall of Cellar



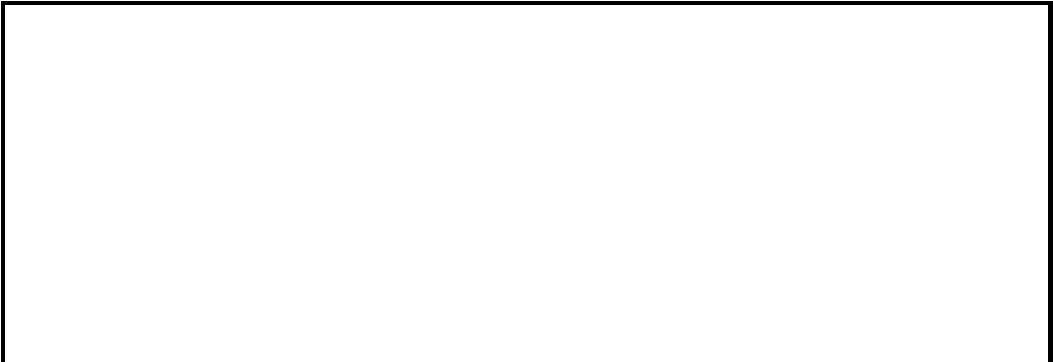
11. Room 001 West wall of Cellar

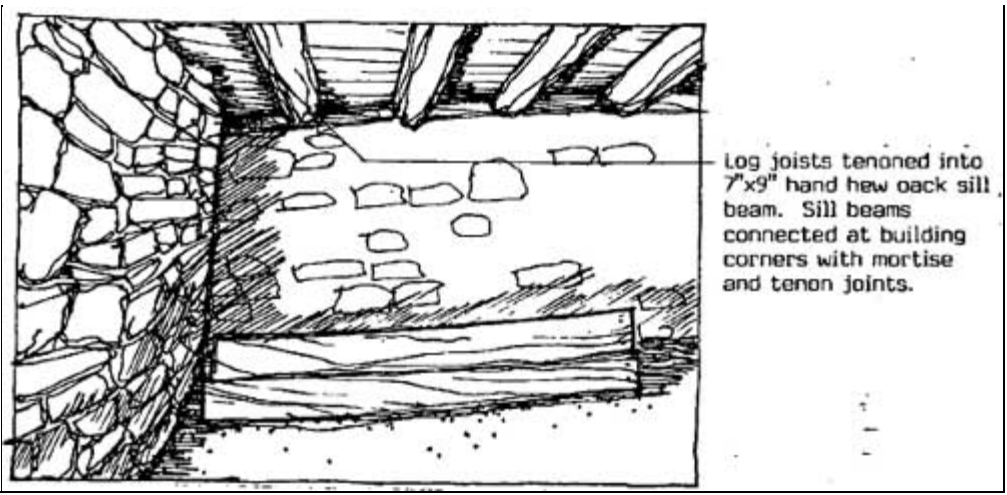


12. Room 001 Northwest Corner of Cellar

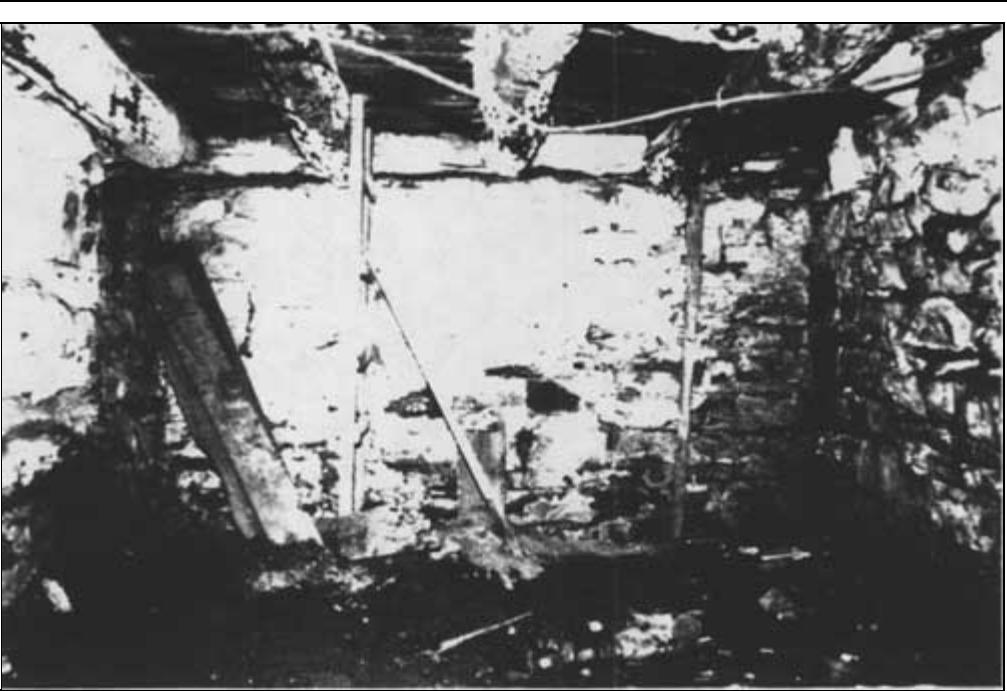


11A. Room 001 West wall of Cellar





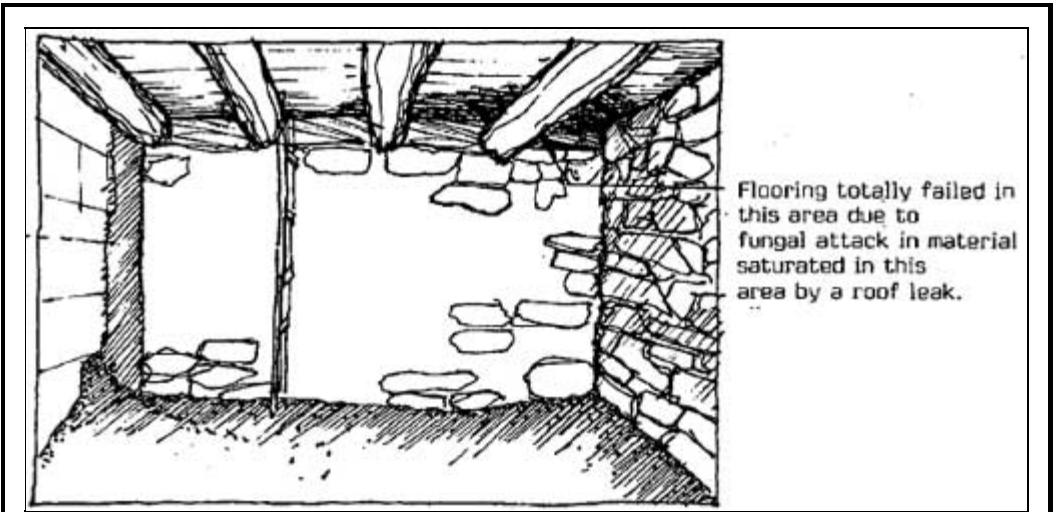
12A. Room 001 Northwest Corner of Cellar



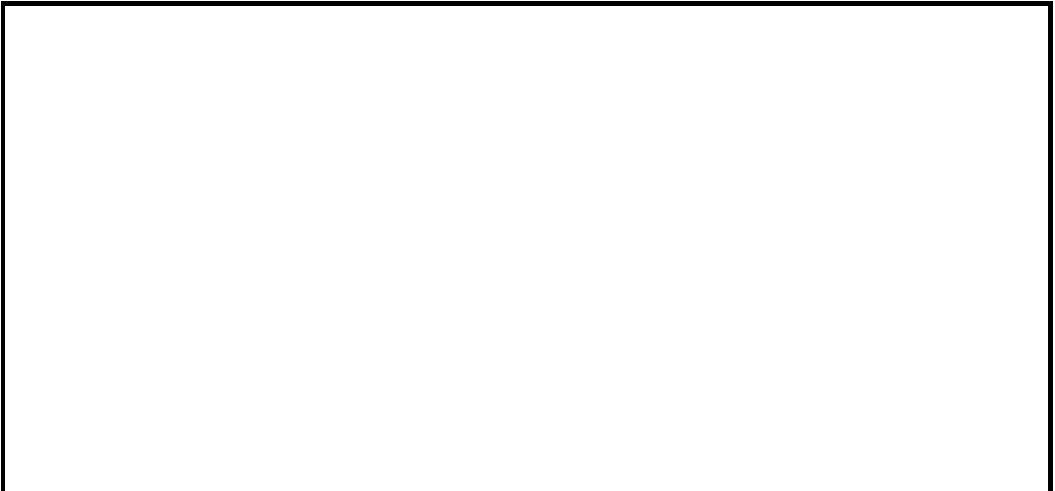
13. Room 00 East wall of Cellar

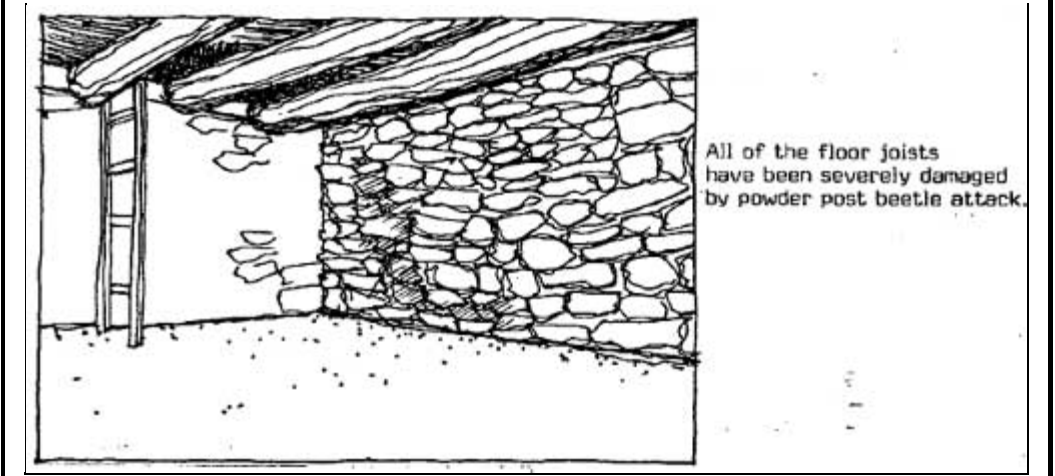


14. Room 001 Northeast Corner of Cellar

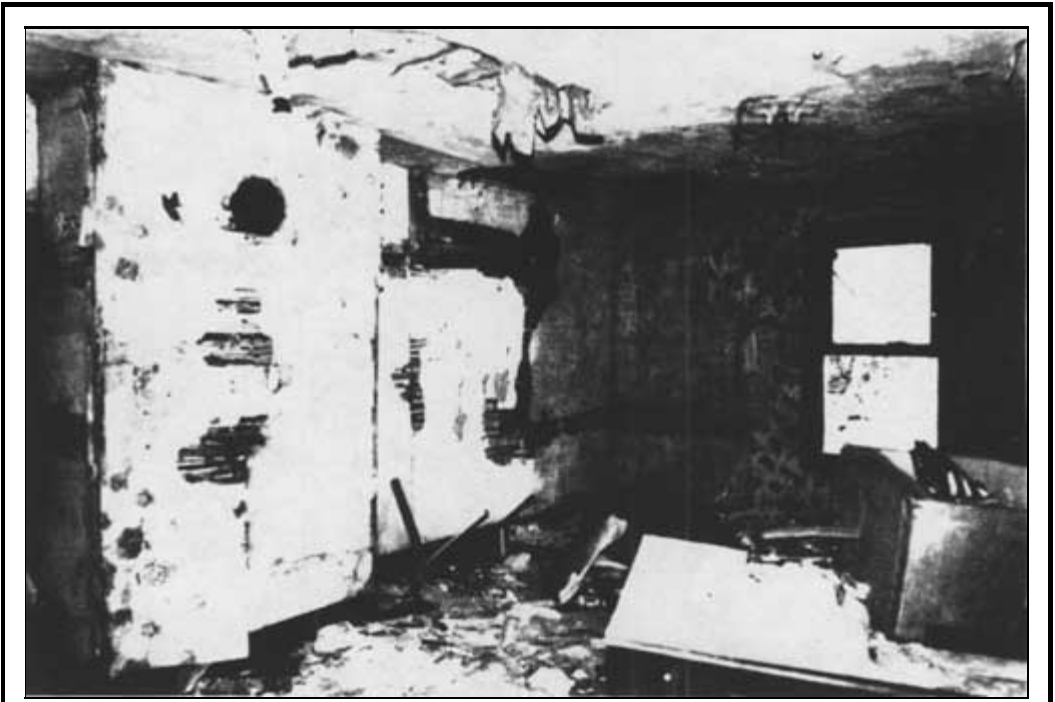


13A. Room 001 East wall of Cellar

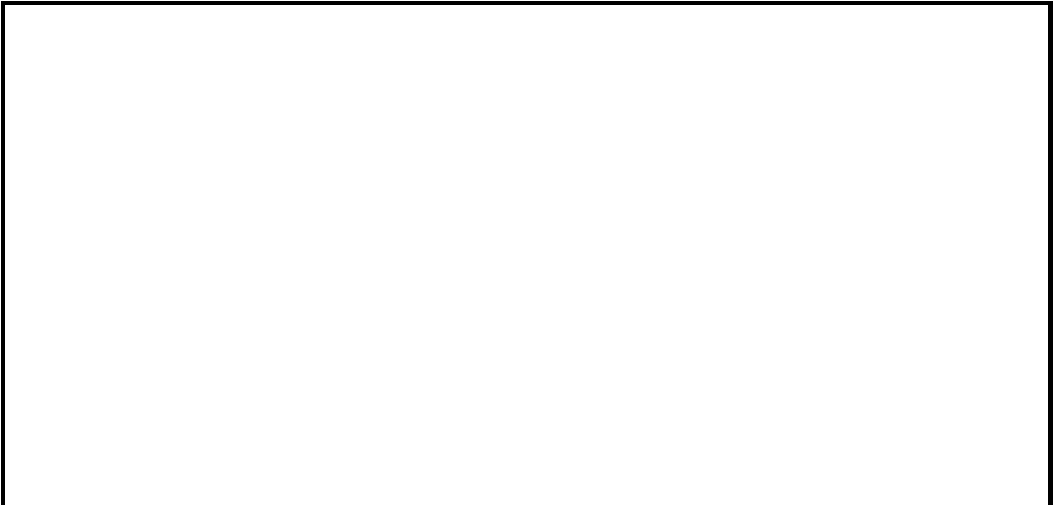


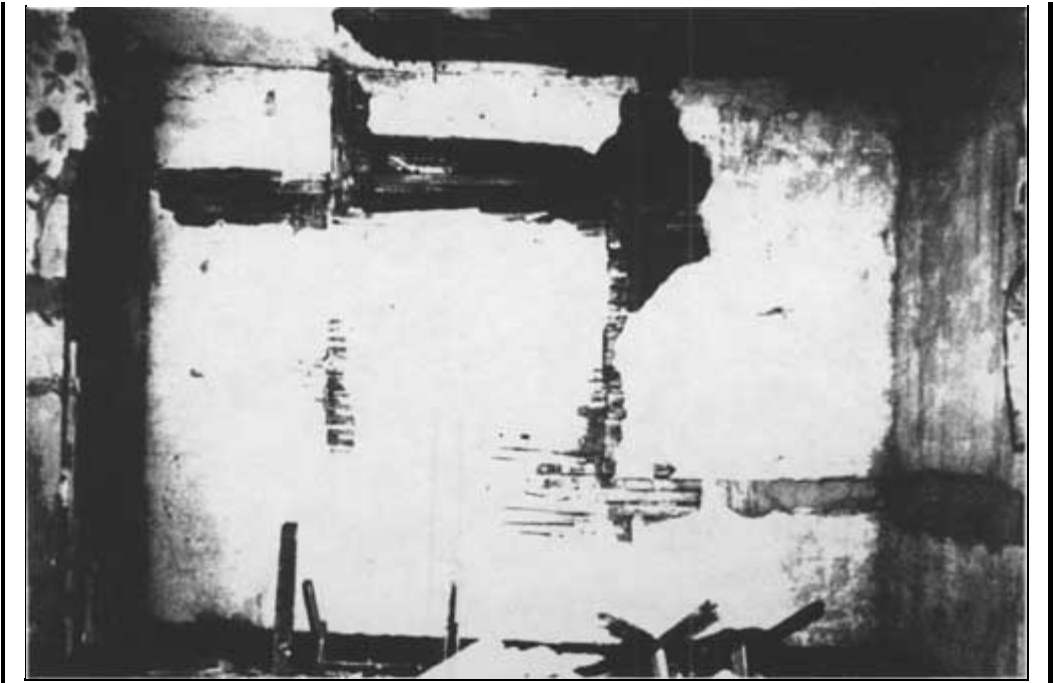


14A. Room 001 Northeast Corner of Cellar

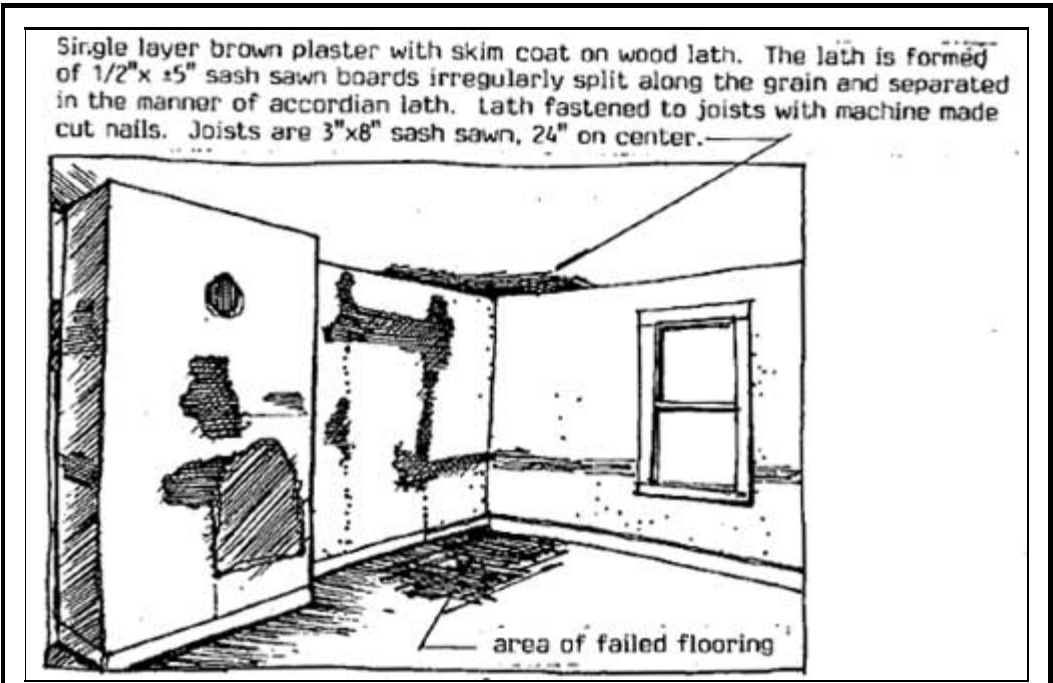


15. Room 101 Northwest Corner

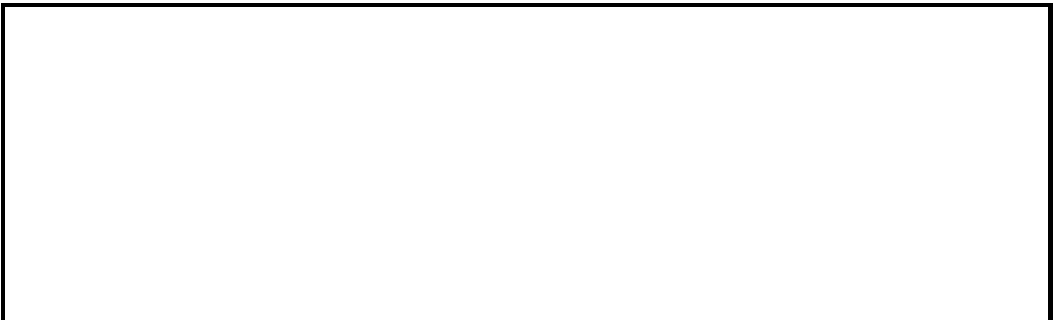


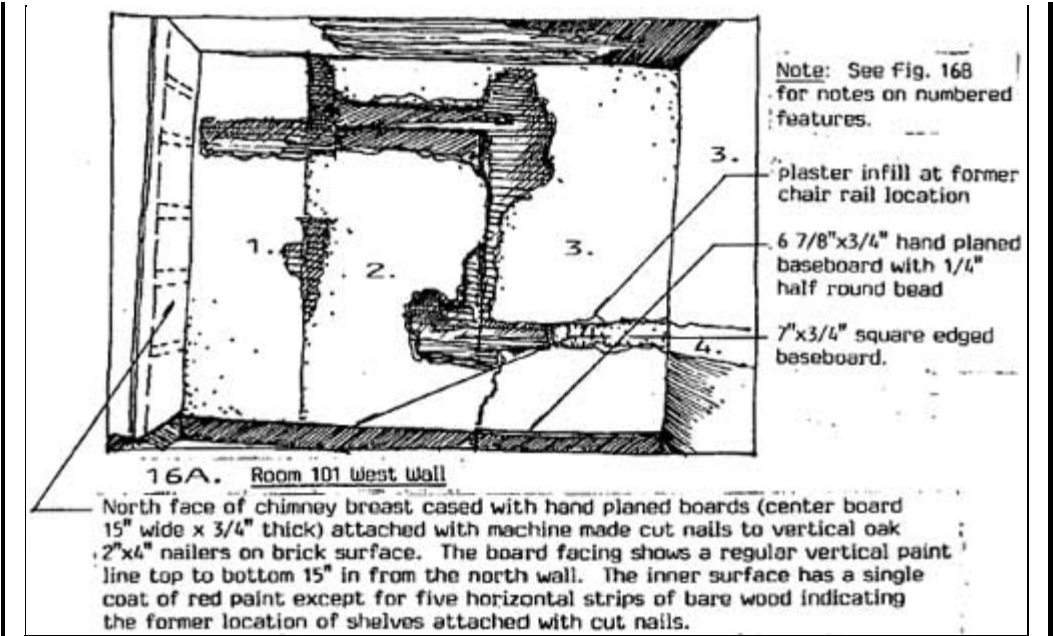


16. Room 101 West Wall



15A. Room 101 Northwest Corner



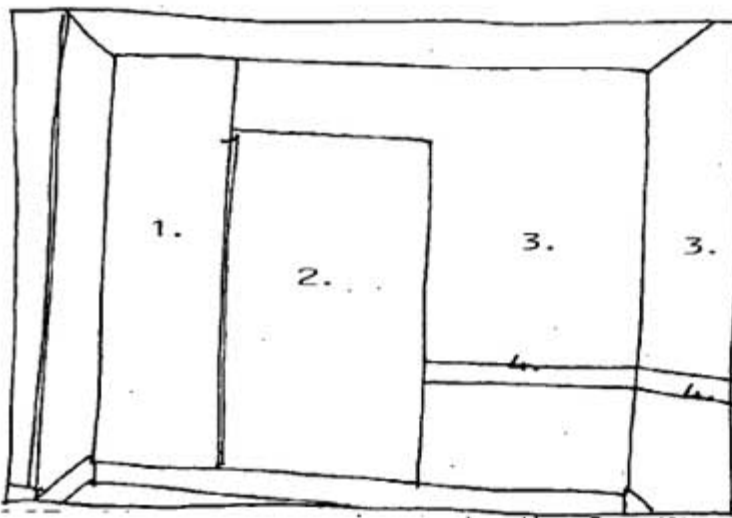


16A. Room 101 West Wall



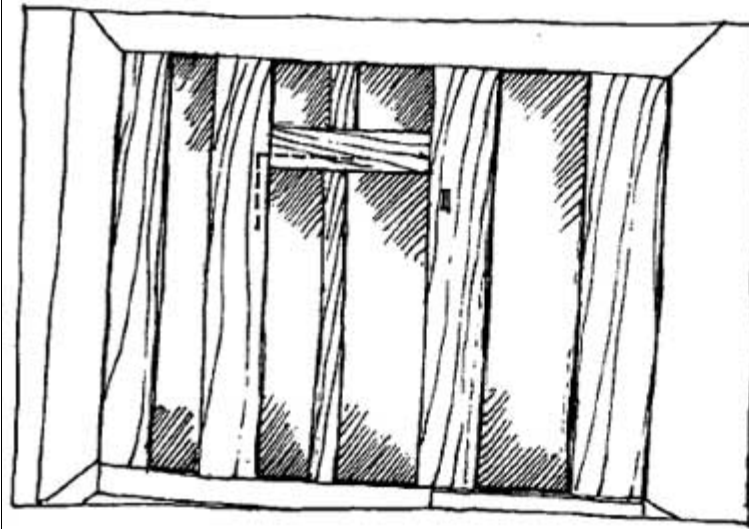
Key to Numbered Features Figure 16A

1. Hard white plaster patch terminating in a continuous, hard-edged vertical joint in lath and plaster from the top of the baseboard to the ceiling, 2'-4" north of the corner of the chimney breast. Some of the lath is reused sash sawn lath with the embedded heads of broken off cut nails found underneath the plaster, the remainder is circular sawn regular 1 3/8"x3/8" lath. All of the lath is attached to the underlying boards with wire nails. This feature in association with the ghost shelf locations on the chimney breast indicate the location of a corner cupboard. The use of wire nails indicates 20th century work.
2. Single layer brown plaster patch with white skim coat. This area is 3'-3'-0" wide with regular vertical joints in lath and plaster, and extends approximately 6'-2" above the floor. The lath is formed of 1/2"x 5" sash sawn boards irregularly split along the grain and separated in the manner of accordion lath. It is attached to the underlying vertical board planks with machine made cut nails. One anomolous element is the presence of a single piece of circular sawn lath, vertically placed, running from the top of the baseboard to the upper edge of the patch adjacent the vertical joint described in note 1. The split lath is nailed on top of and through the circular sawn lath with cut nails. No vagrant nail holes were found to indicate that the split lath in this area was reused.
3. Single layer of coarse brown plaster with skim coat over sash sawn, accordion split lath attached with machine made cut nails. This plaster is continuous from the west wall to the north wall.
4. Infilled 4" wide horizontal plaster patch 28" above the finished floor. This patch represents the probable location of a chair rail. It is continuous from the north wall to the west wall and terminates at the northern edge of the plaster patch discussed in note 2.

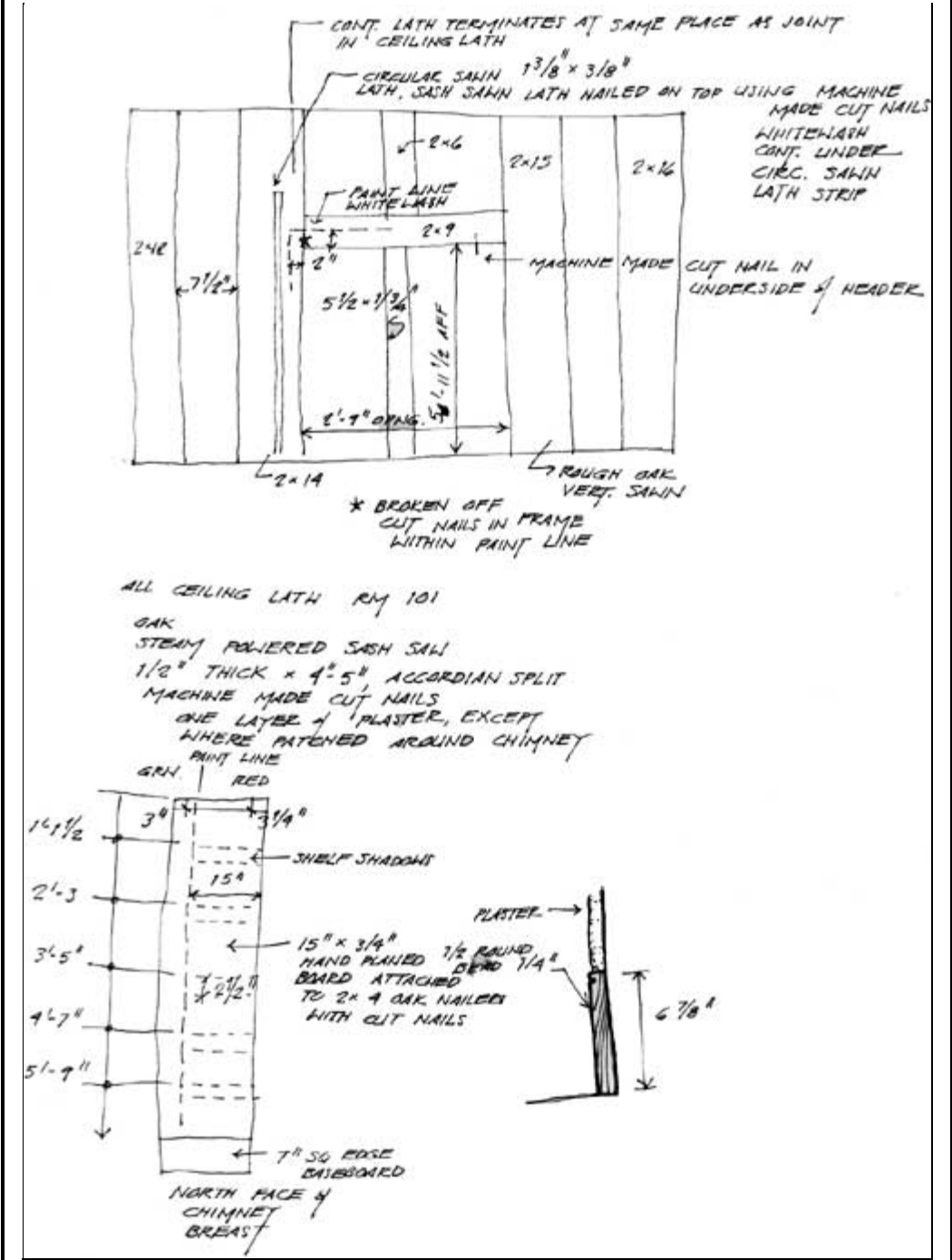


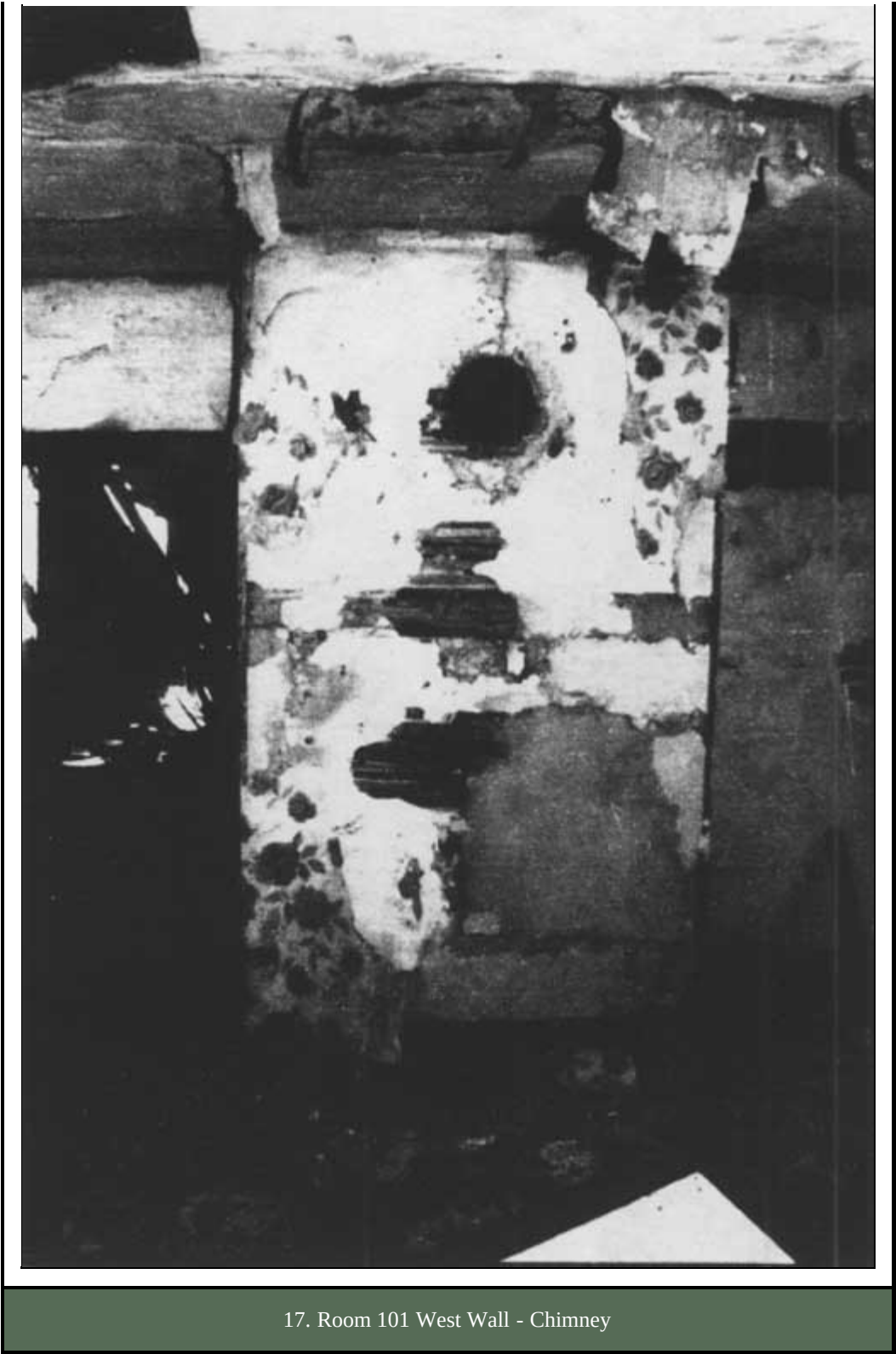
16B. Schematic of Lath and Plaster Locations Room 101 West Wall

2"x12" to 16" oak planks appear to be hand hewn. The 2"x9" horizontal member is the header for a former door opening. Its bottom edge is 5'-11 1/2" above the floor. The surface of the planks is whitewashed underneath the the applied wood lath. On the upper left corner of the header and plank intersection a 2" wide strip of bare wood indicates the ghost of a door casing. Broken off square nails within the outline show the method of attachment of a frame. However, the nails did not protrude enough to determine the method of their manufacture. A square mortised hole approximately 3/4"x 2" in the right jamb appears to have received a pintle for a wrought iron strap hinge.

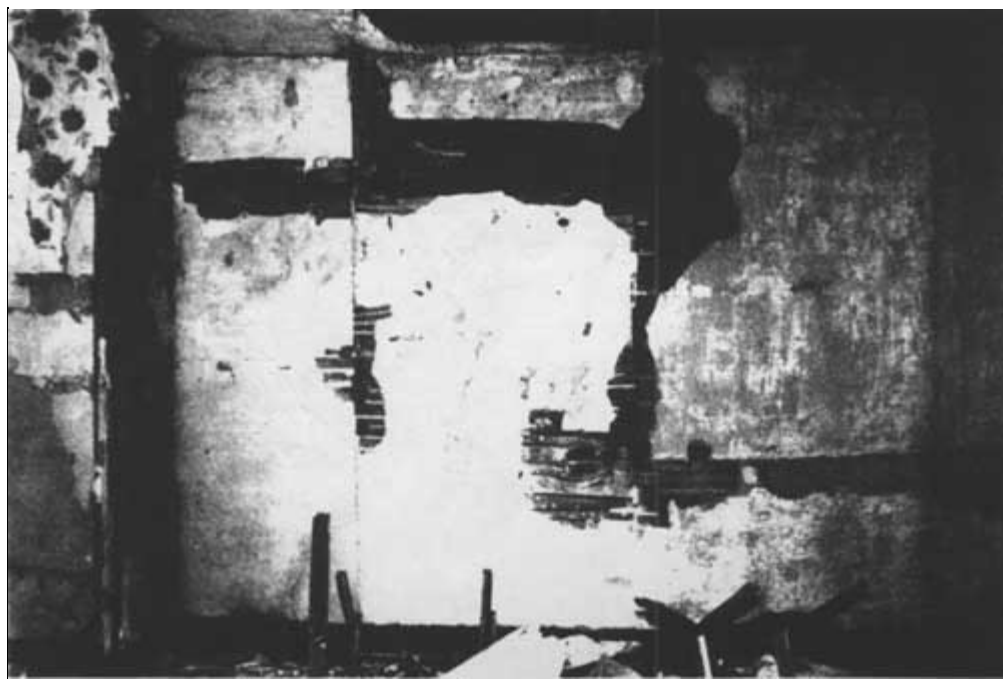


16C. Schematic of Plank Partition Room 101 West Wall

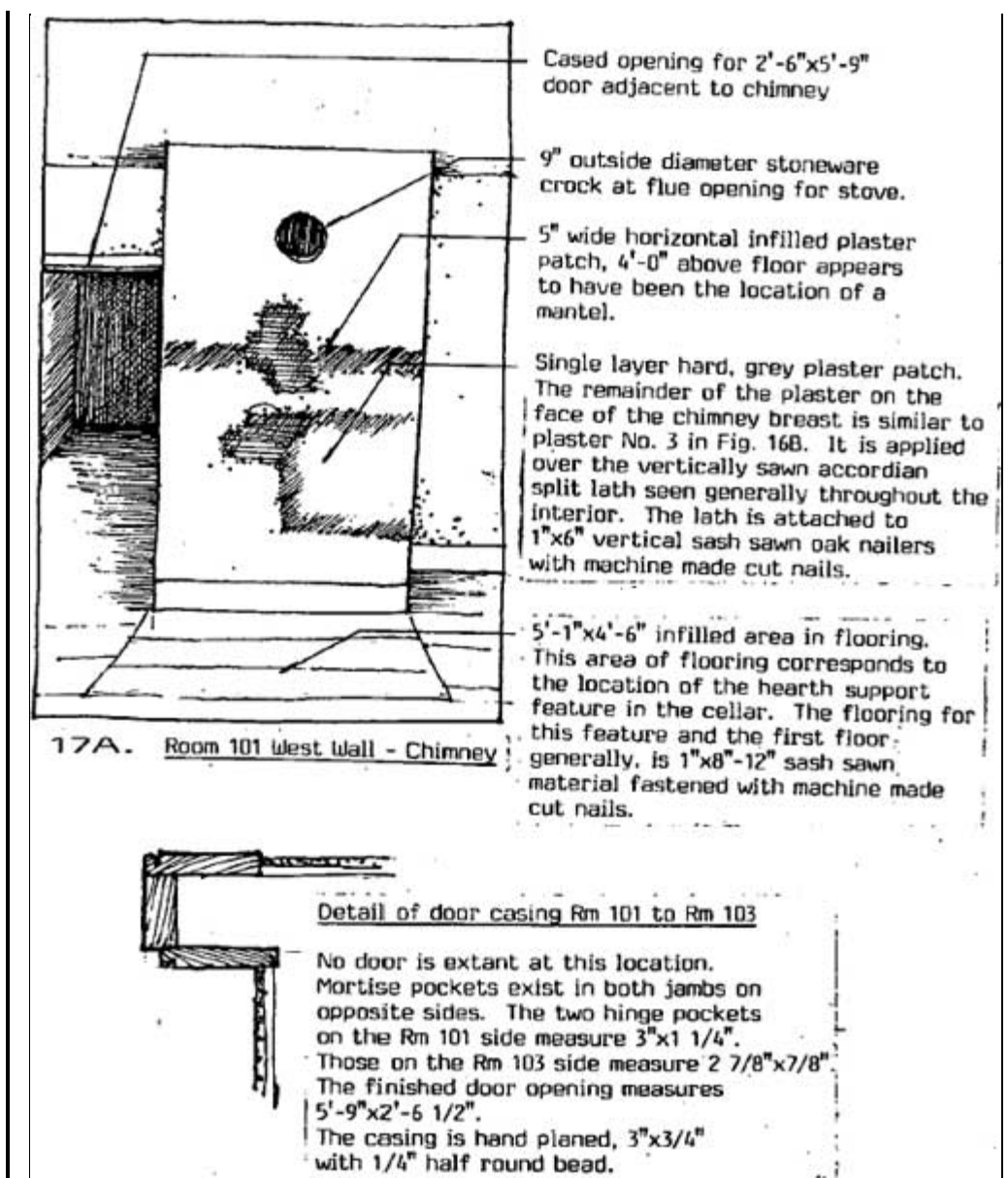




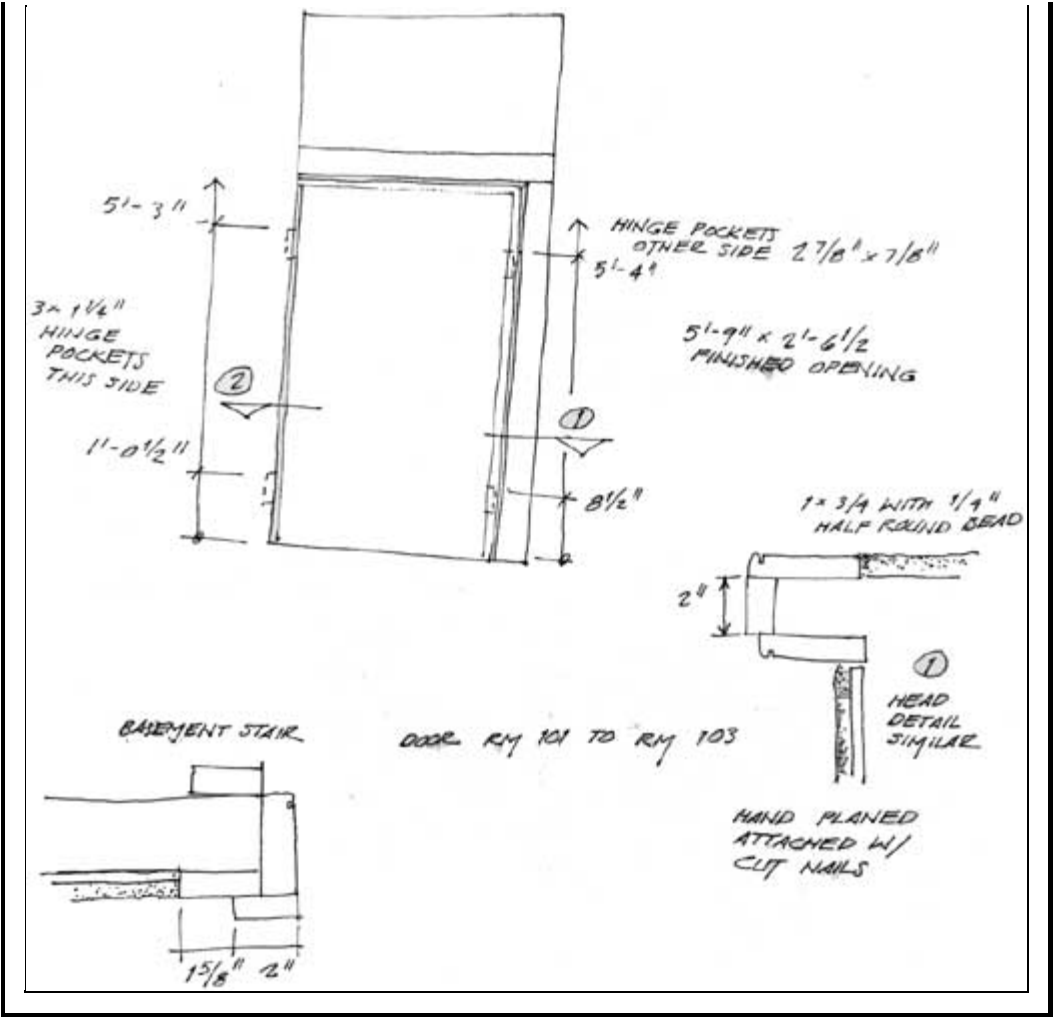
17. Room 101 West Wall - Chimney

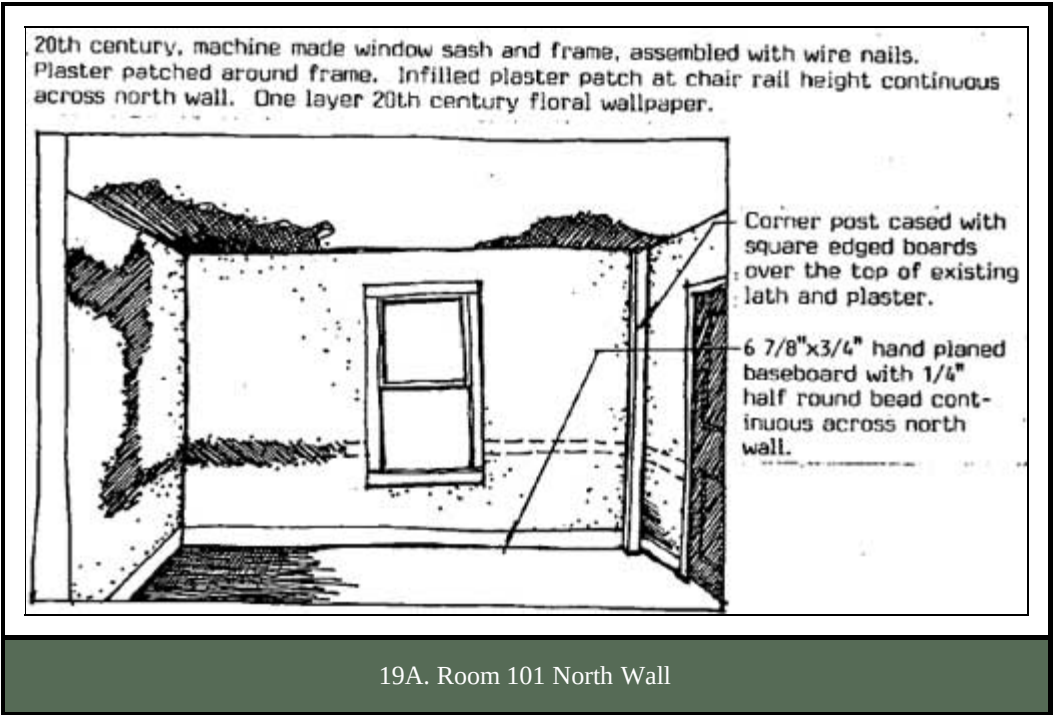


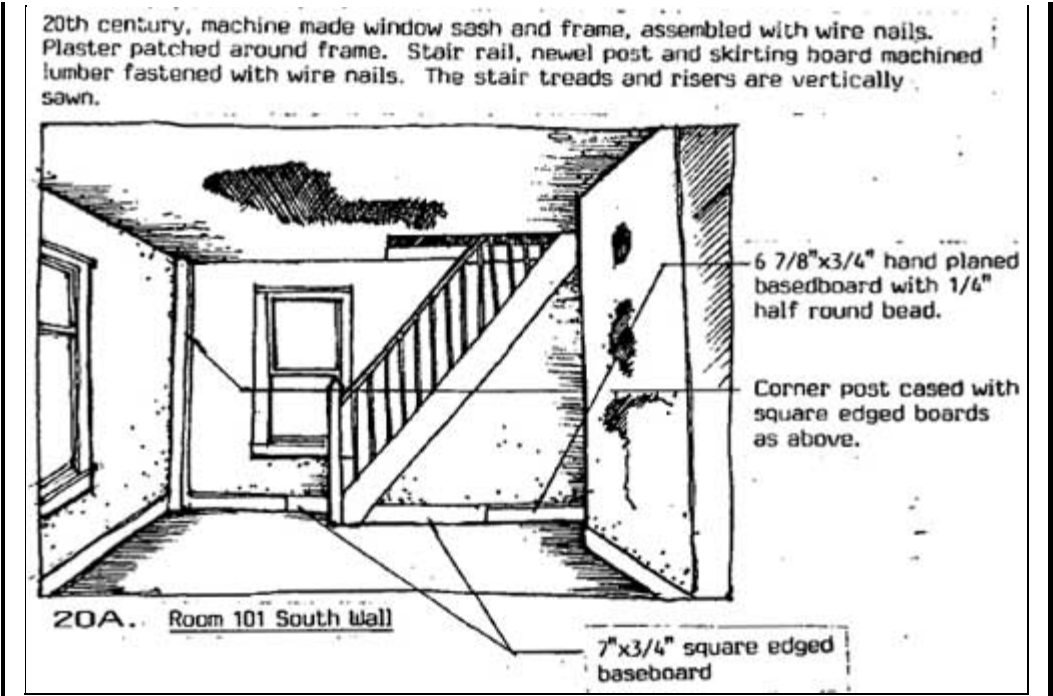
18. Room 101 West Wall



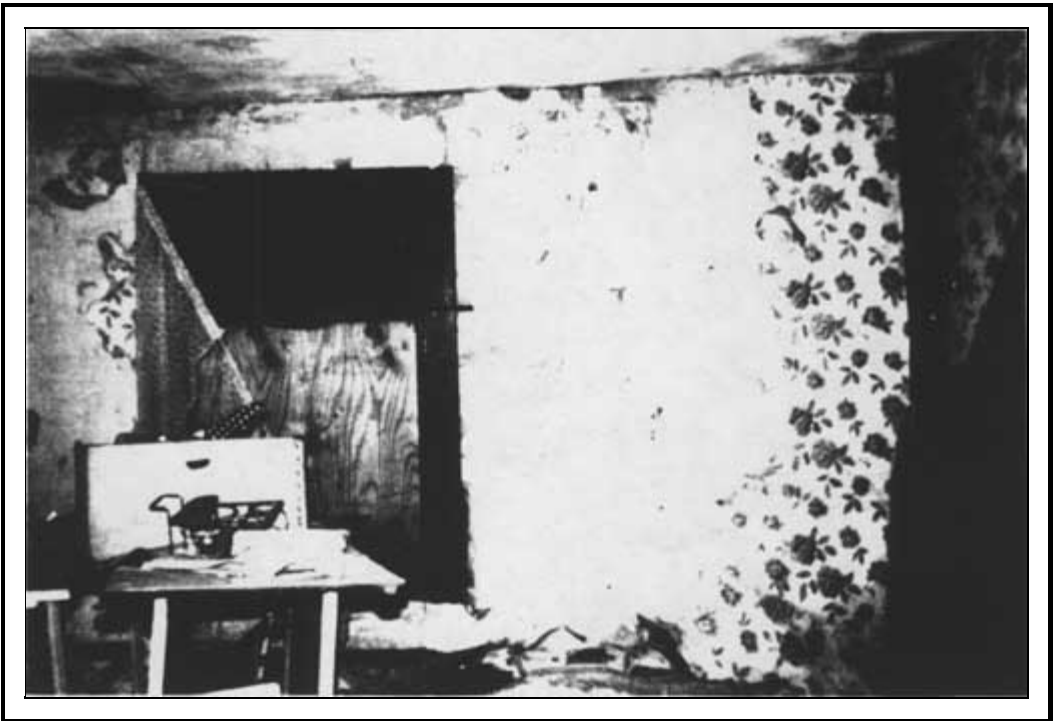
17A. Room 101 West Wall - Chimney







20A. Room 101 South Wall

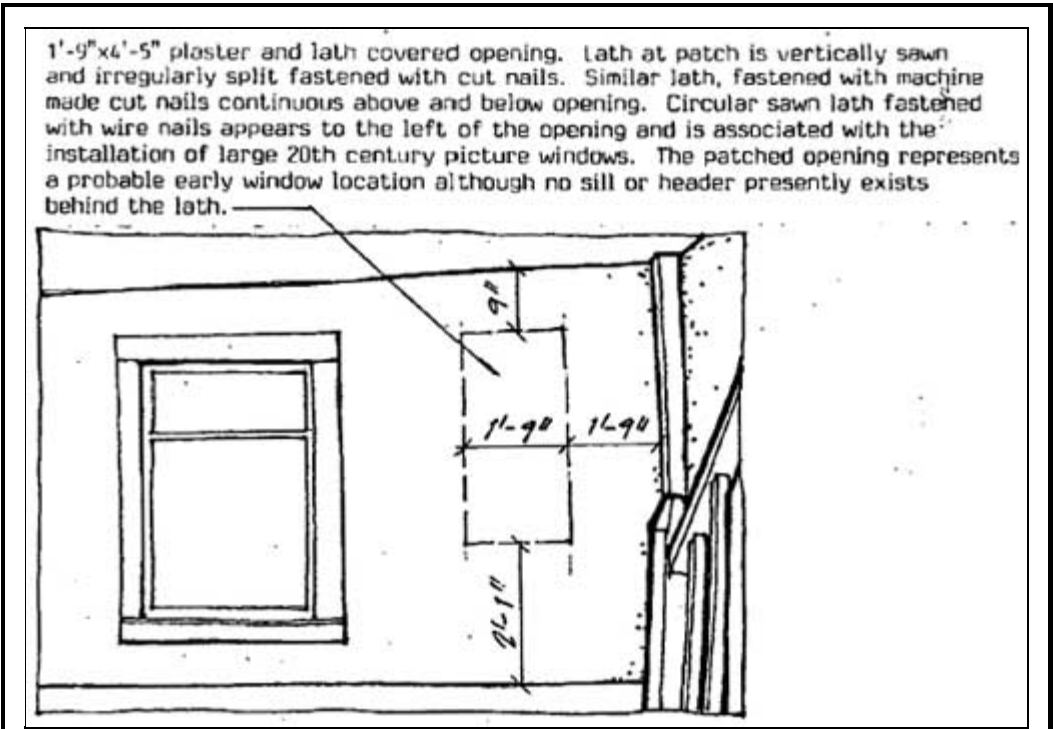


21. Room 101 Southeast Corner

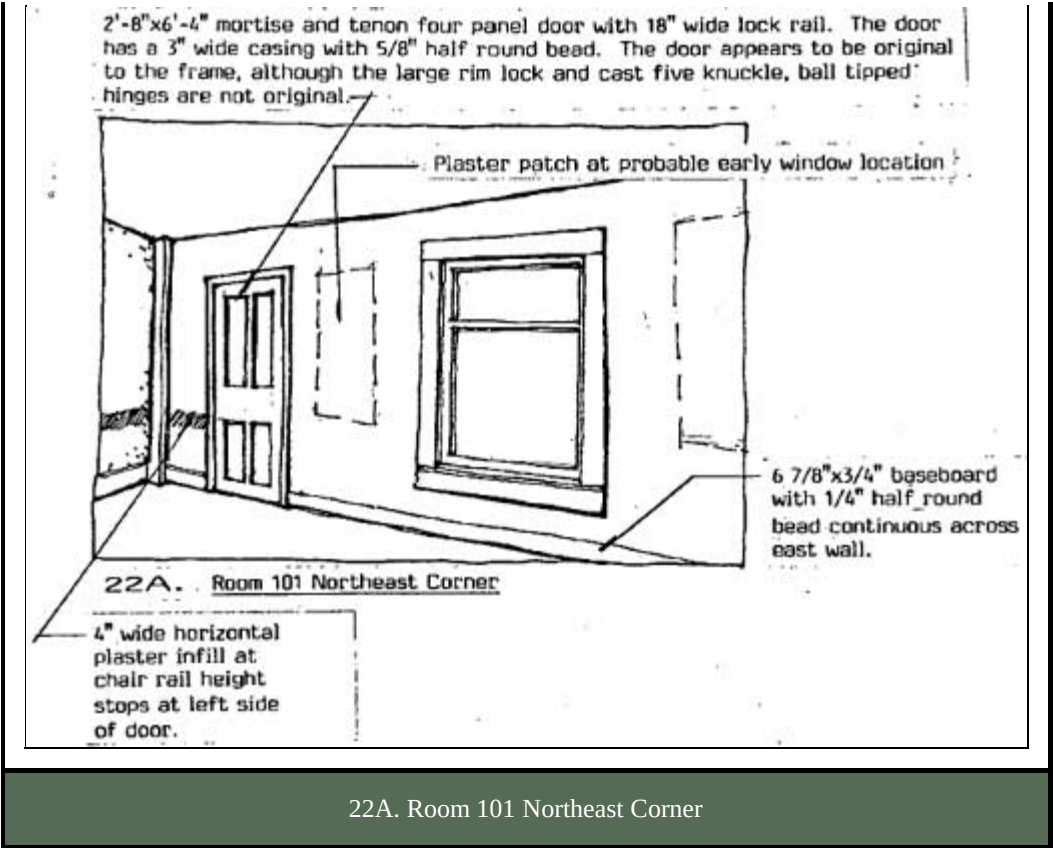




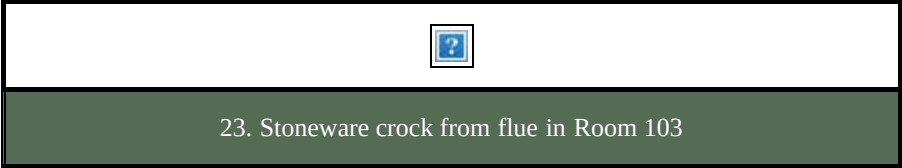
22. Room 101 Northeast Corner



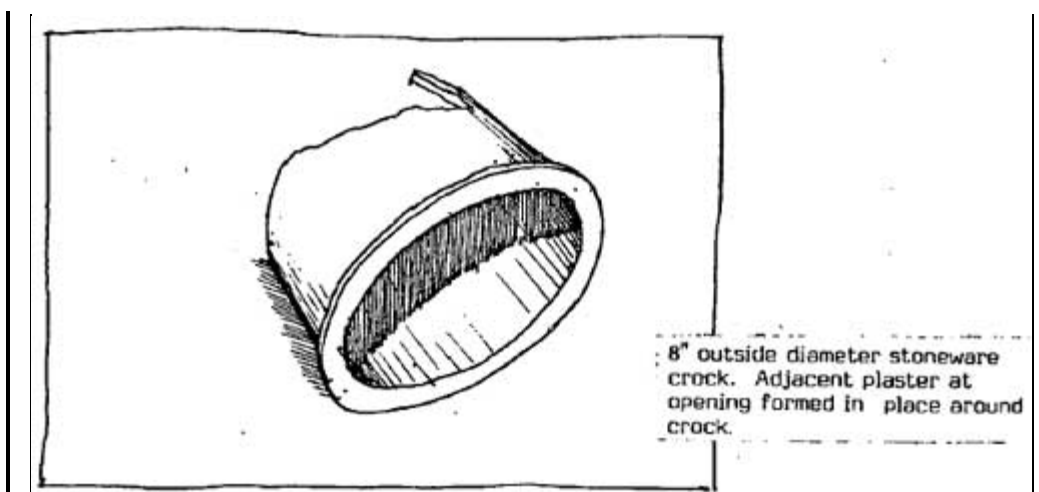
21A. Room 101 Southeast Corner



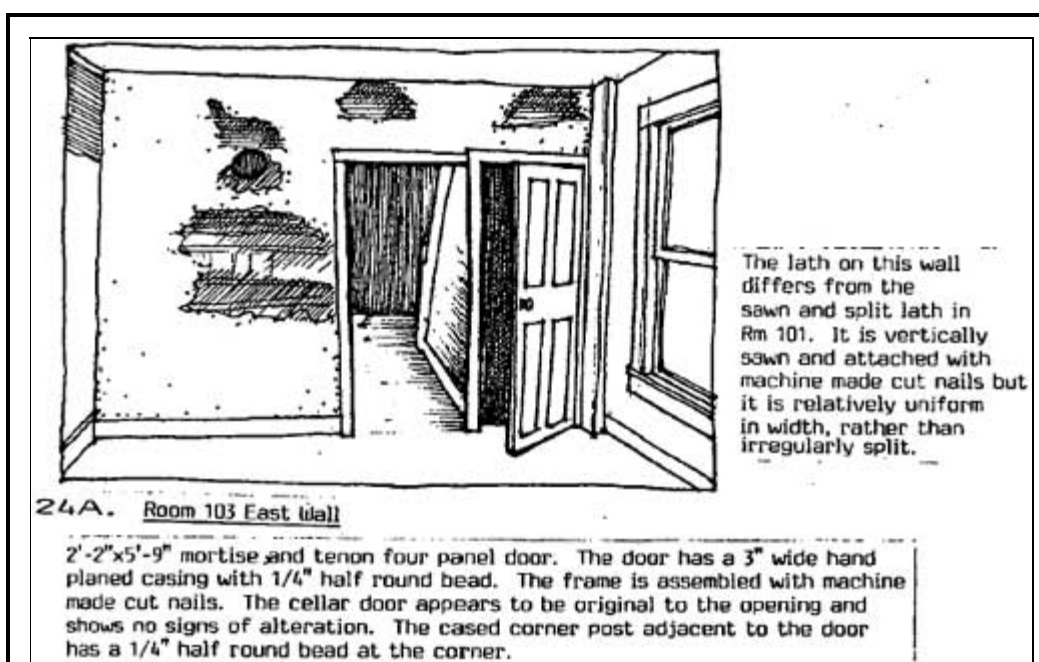
22A. Room 101 Northeast Corner



24. Room 103 East Wall



23A. Stoneware crock from flue in Room 103



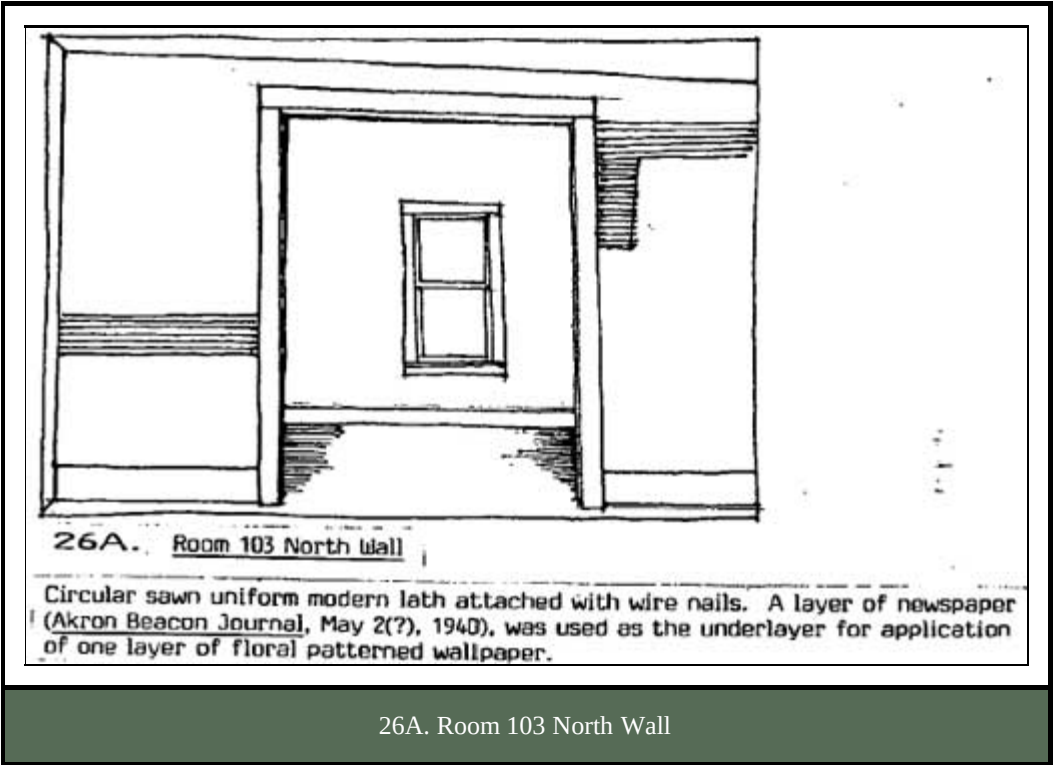
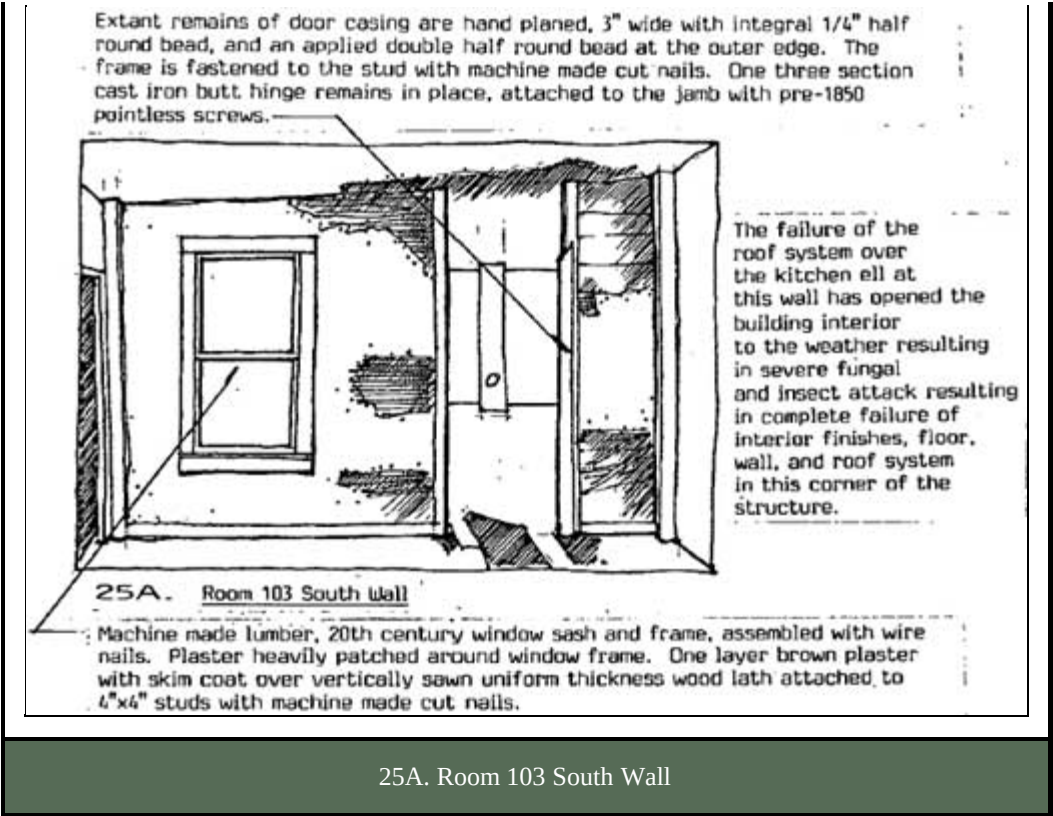
24A. Room 103 East Wall



25. Room 103 South Wall



26. Room 103 North Wall

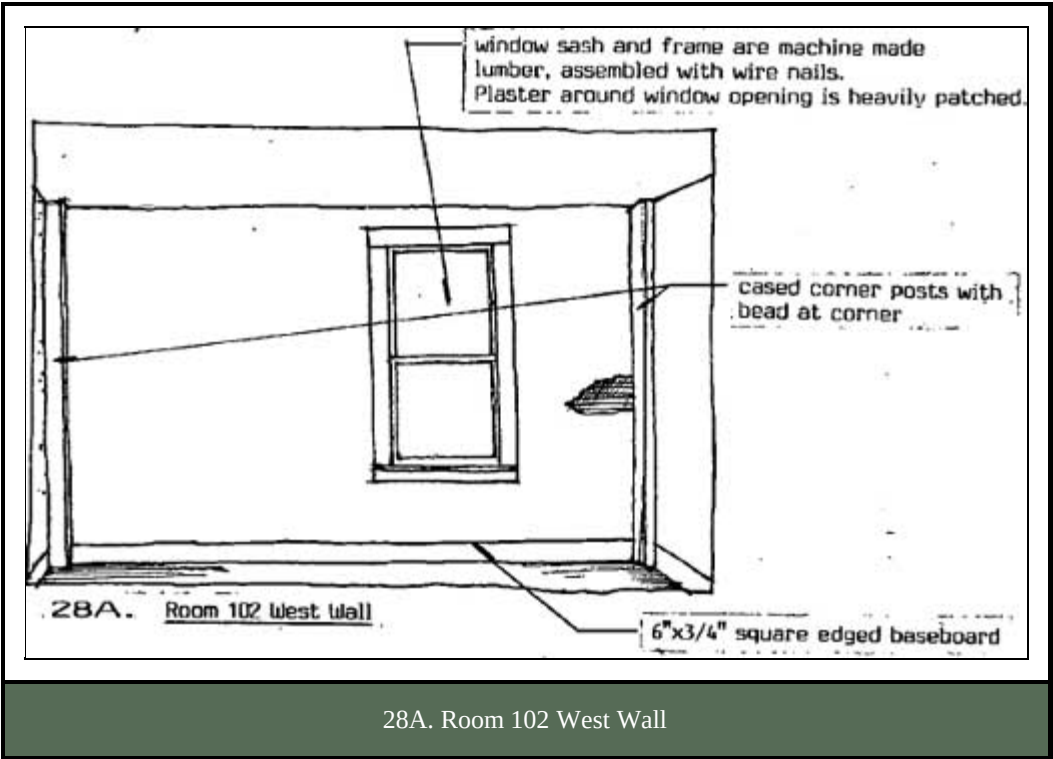
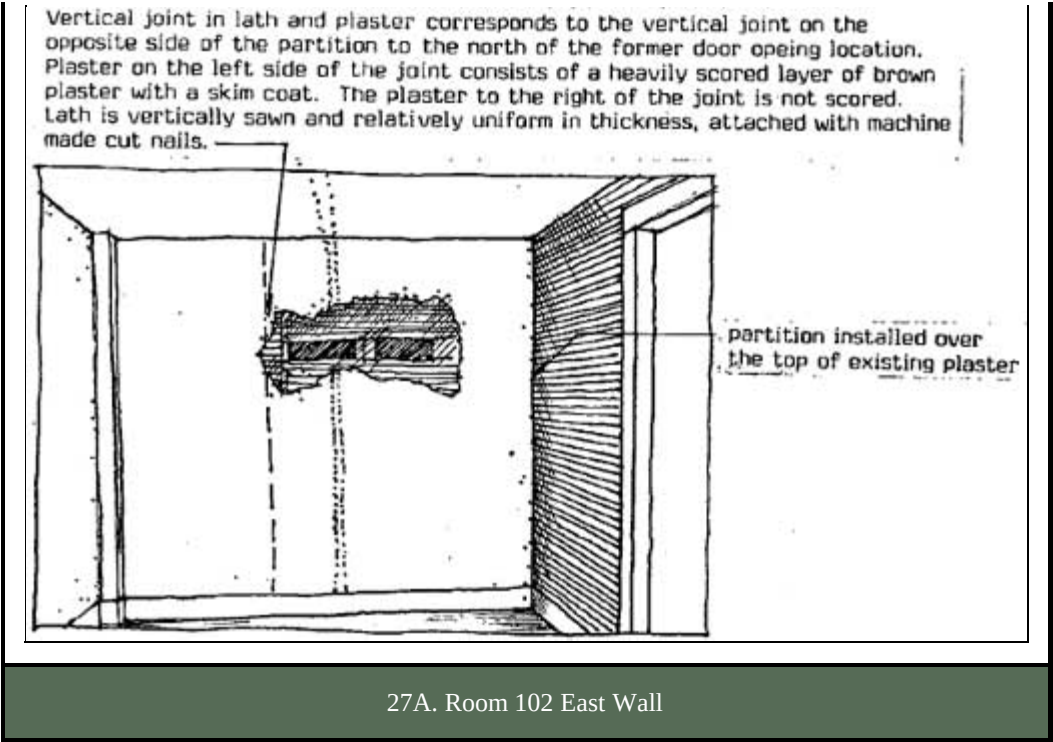


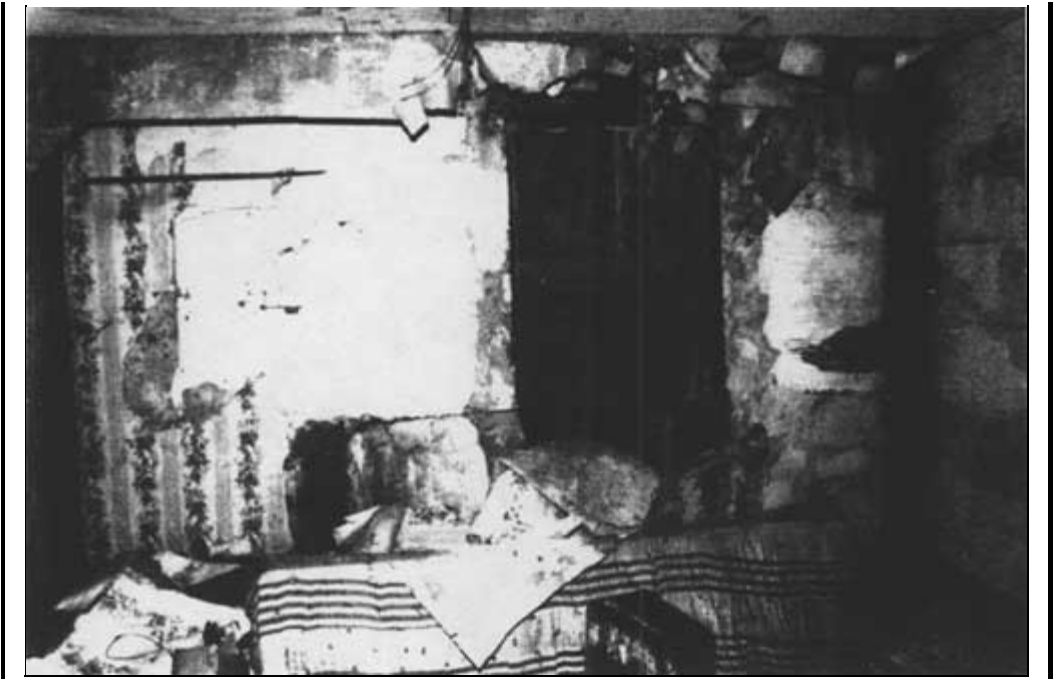


27. Room 102 East Wall

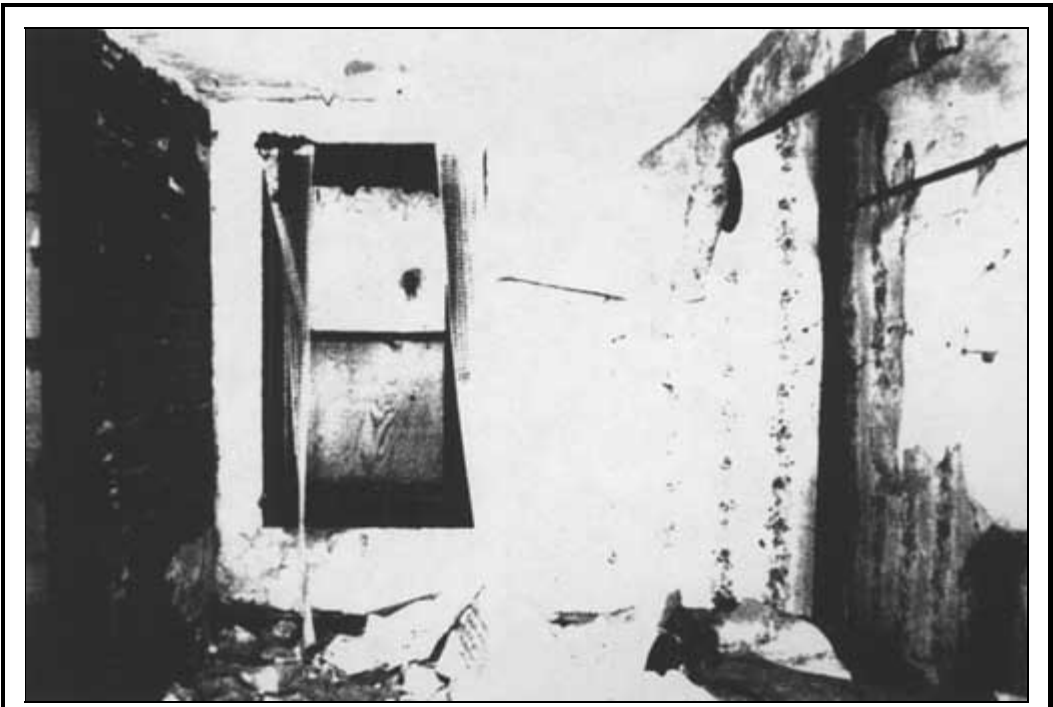


28. Room 102 West Wall



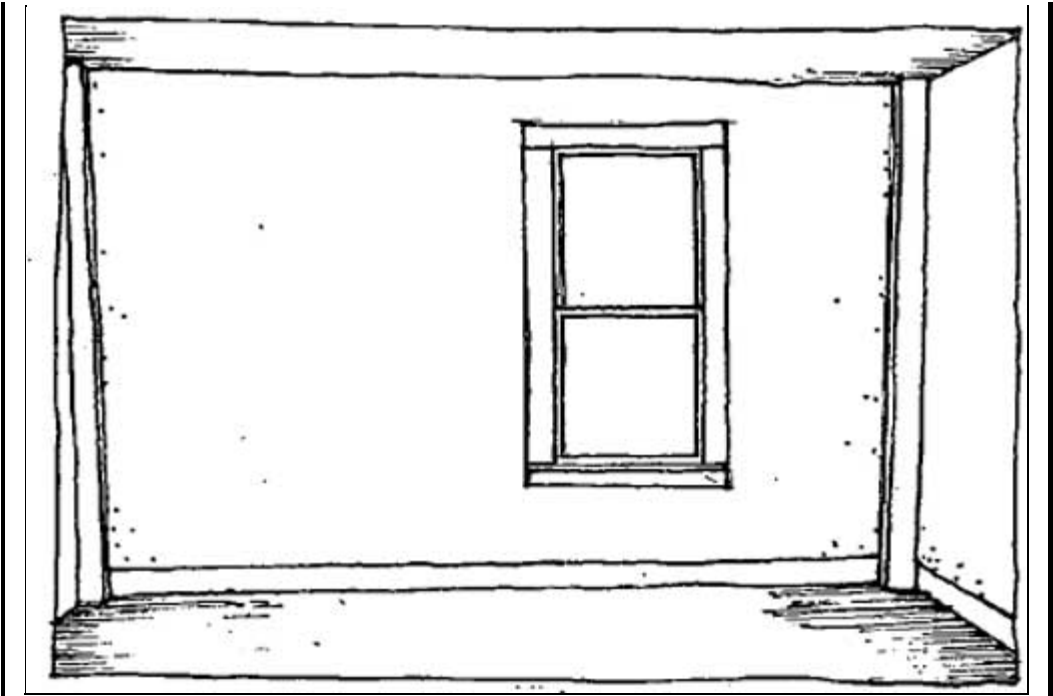


29. Room 102 North Wall

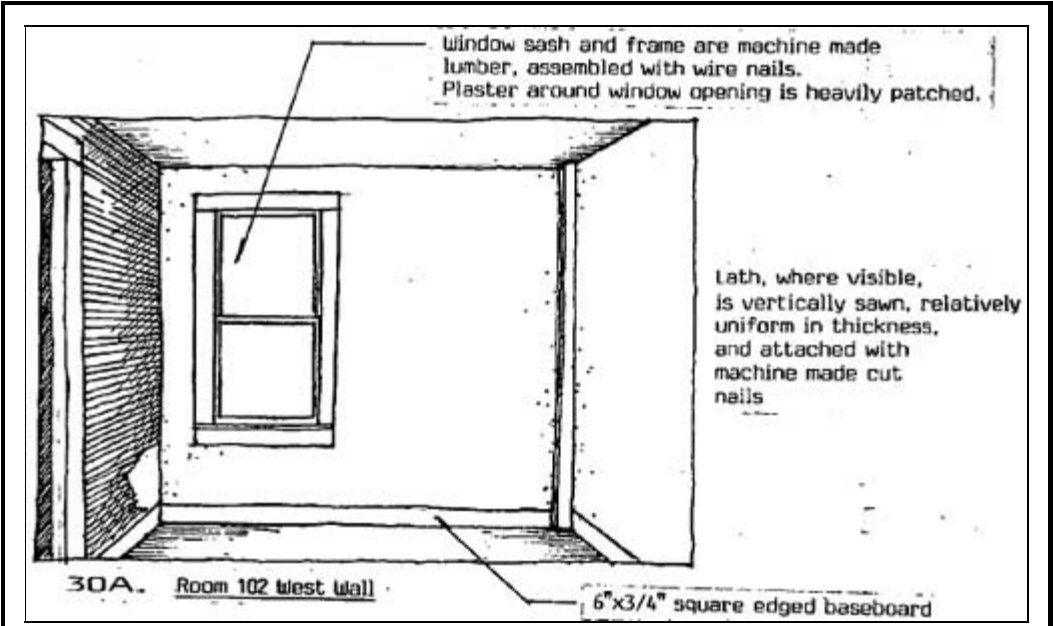


30. Room 102 West Wall





29A. Room 102 North Wall



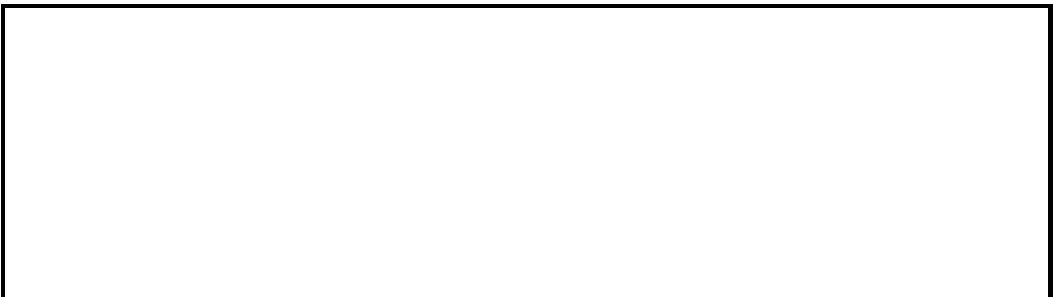
30A. Room 102 West Wall

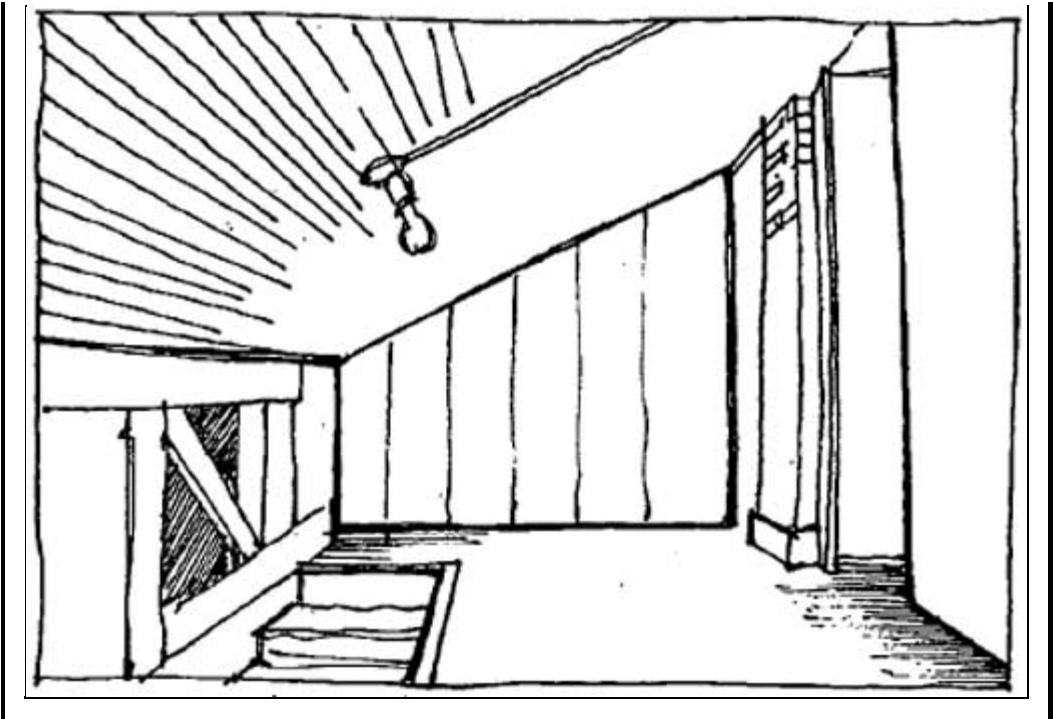


31. Room 201 West Wall

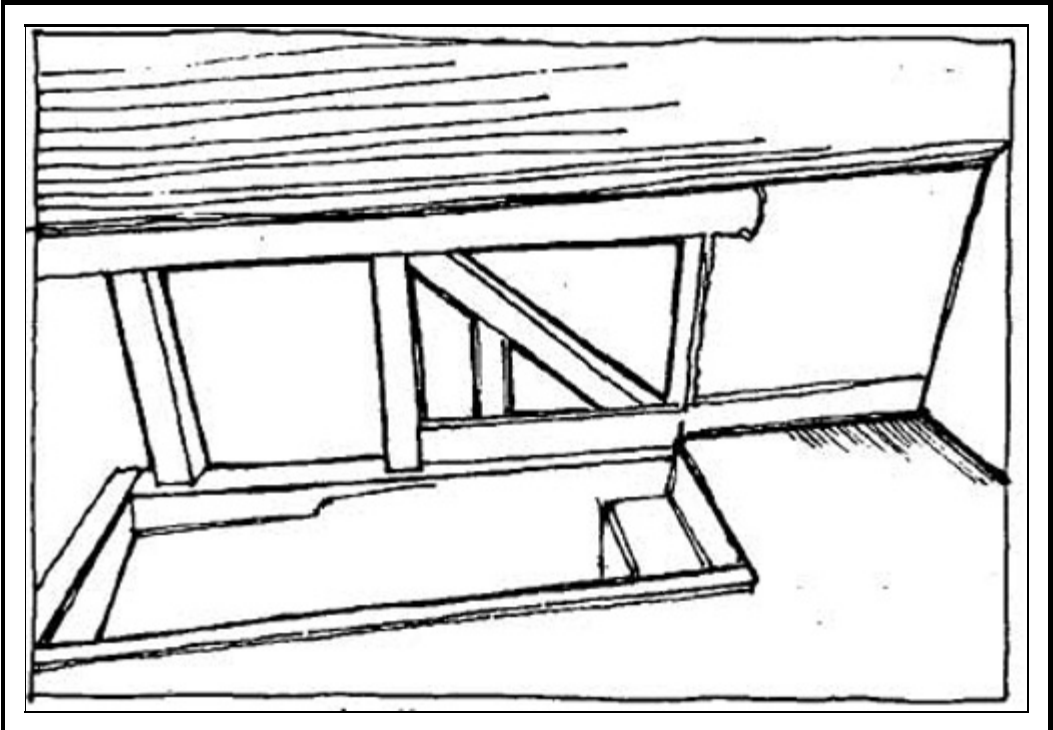


32. Room 201 Stair at South Wall





31A. Room 201 West Wall

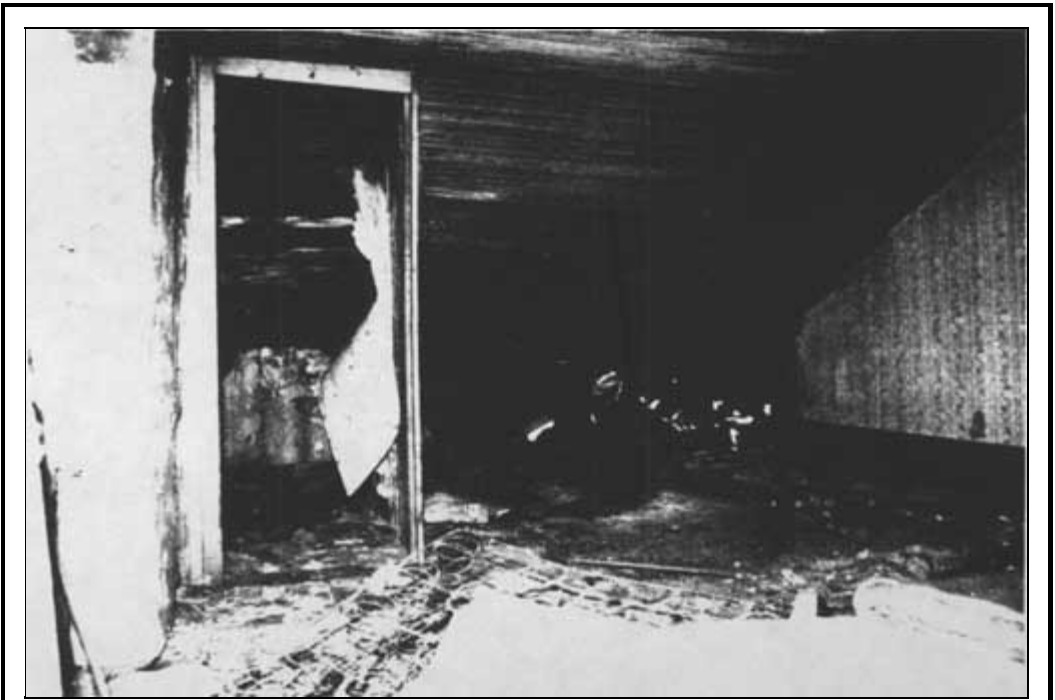


32A. Room 201 Stair at South Wall



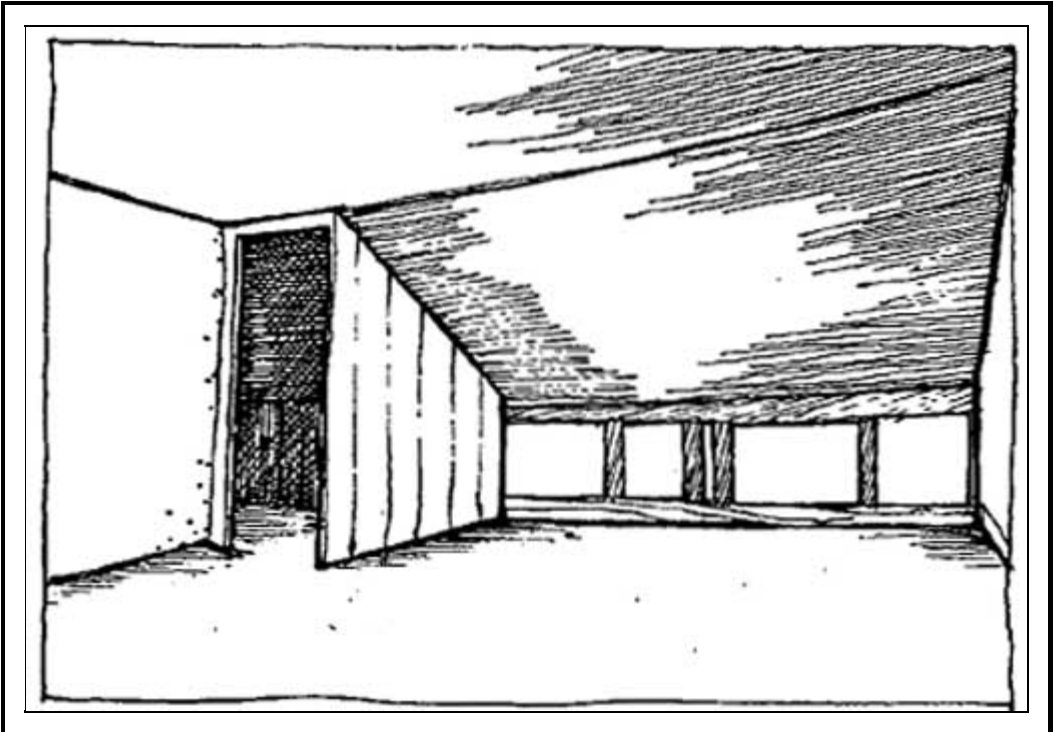
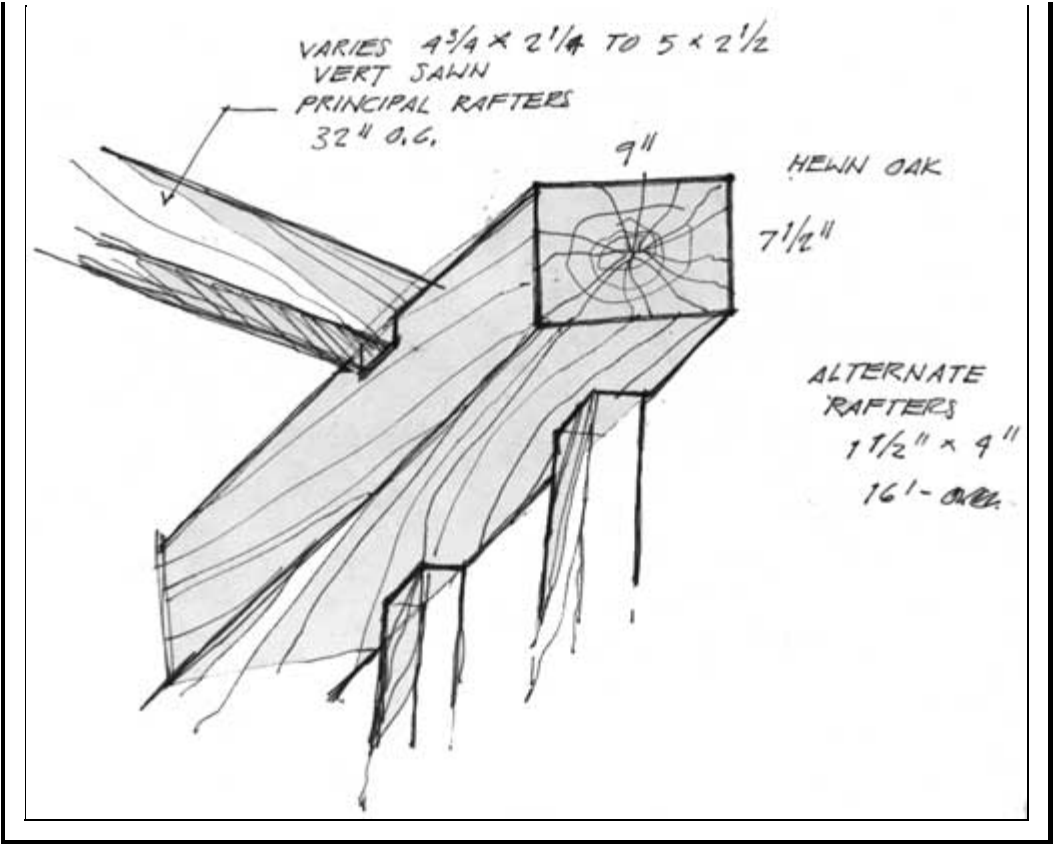


33. Room 203 Southeast Corner

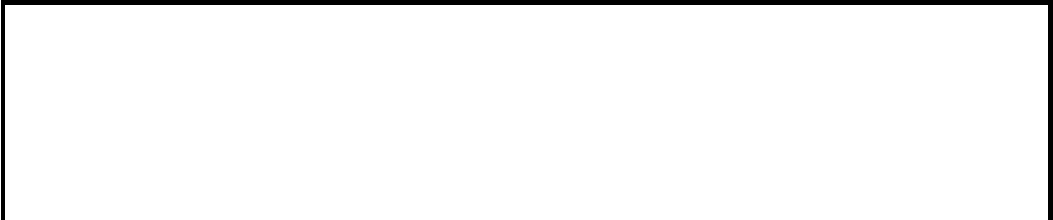


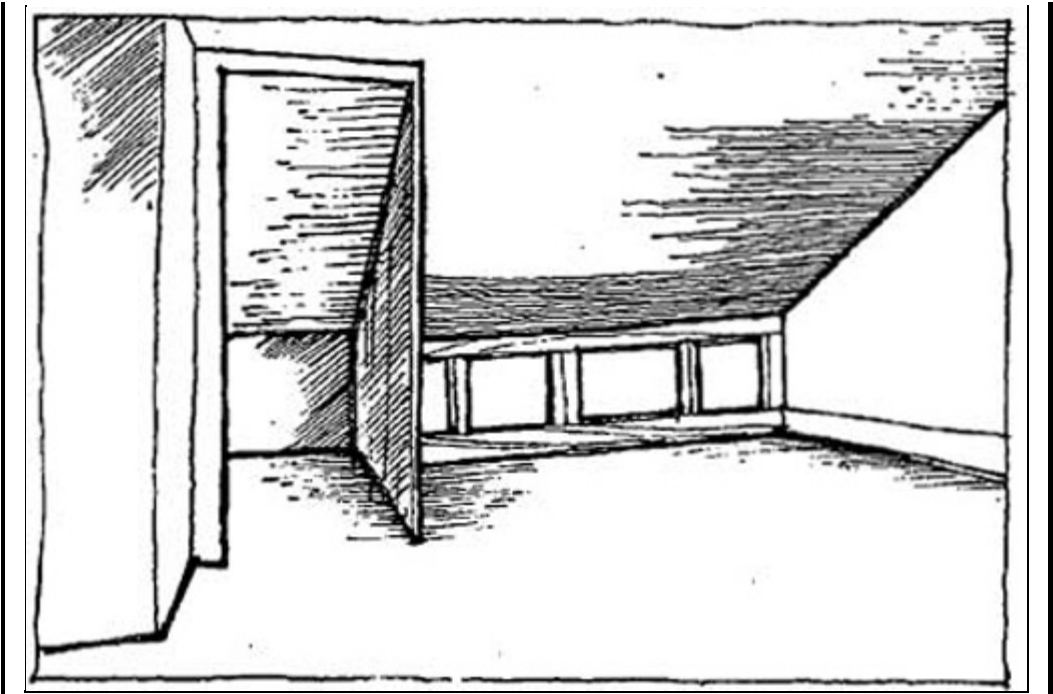
34. Room 203 Southwest Corner





33A. Room 203 Southeast Corner





34A. Room 203 Southwest Corner



35. Room 203 East Wall

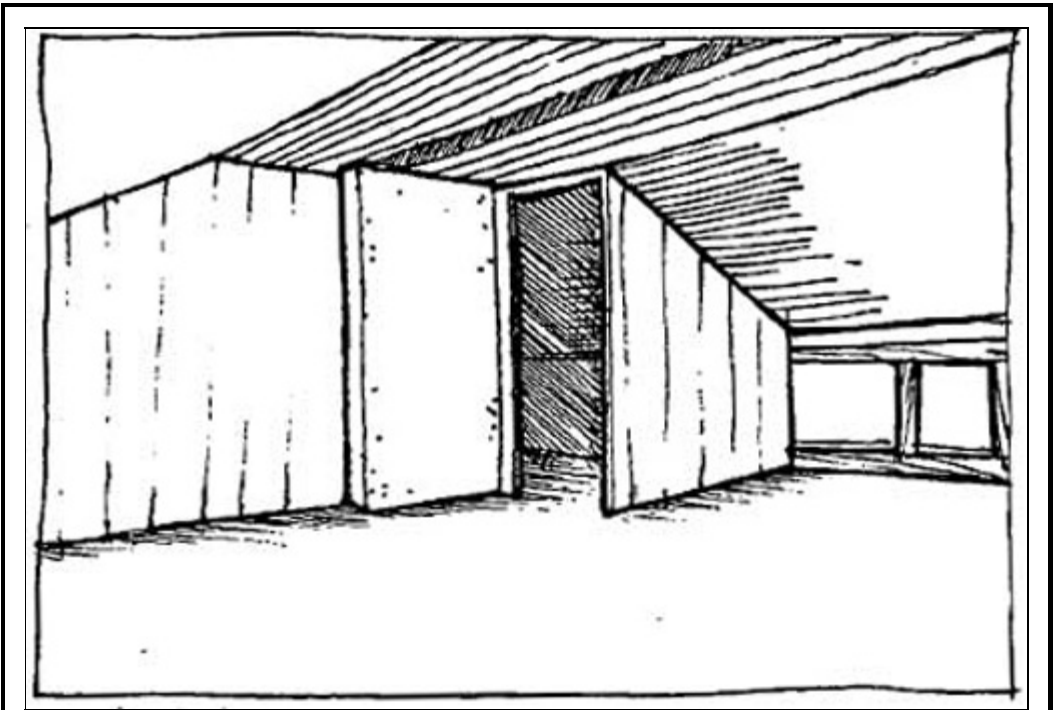




36. Room 203 Southeast Corner



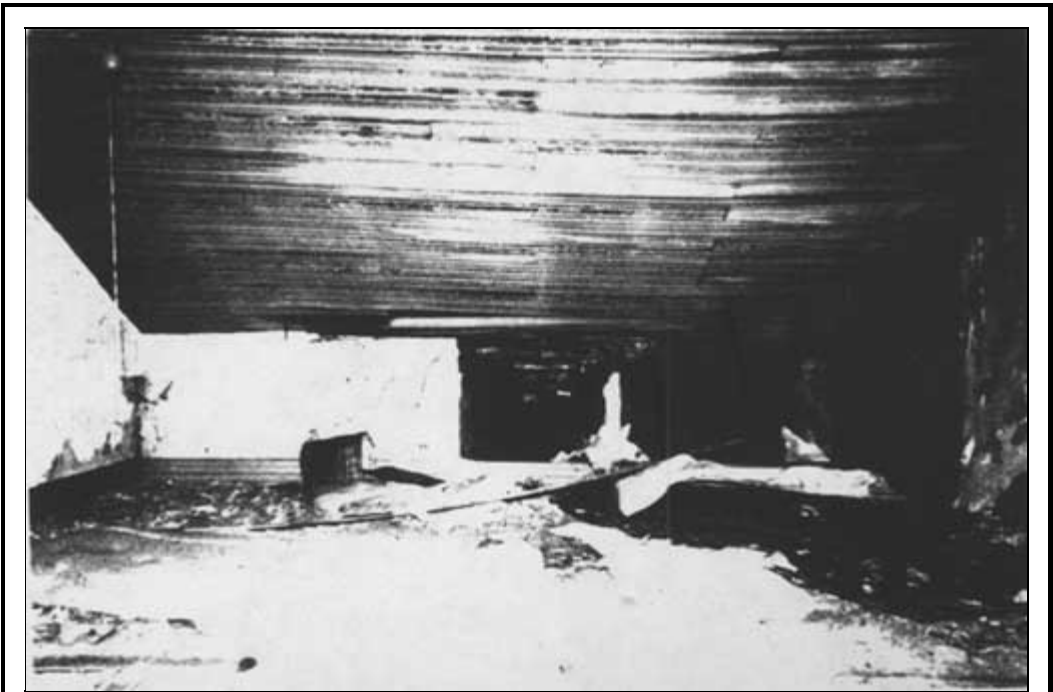
35A. Room 203 East Wall



36A. Room 203 Southeast Corner

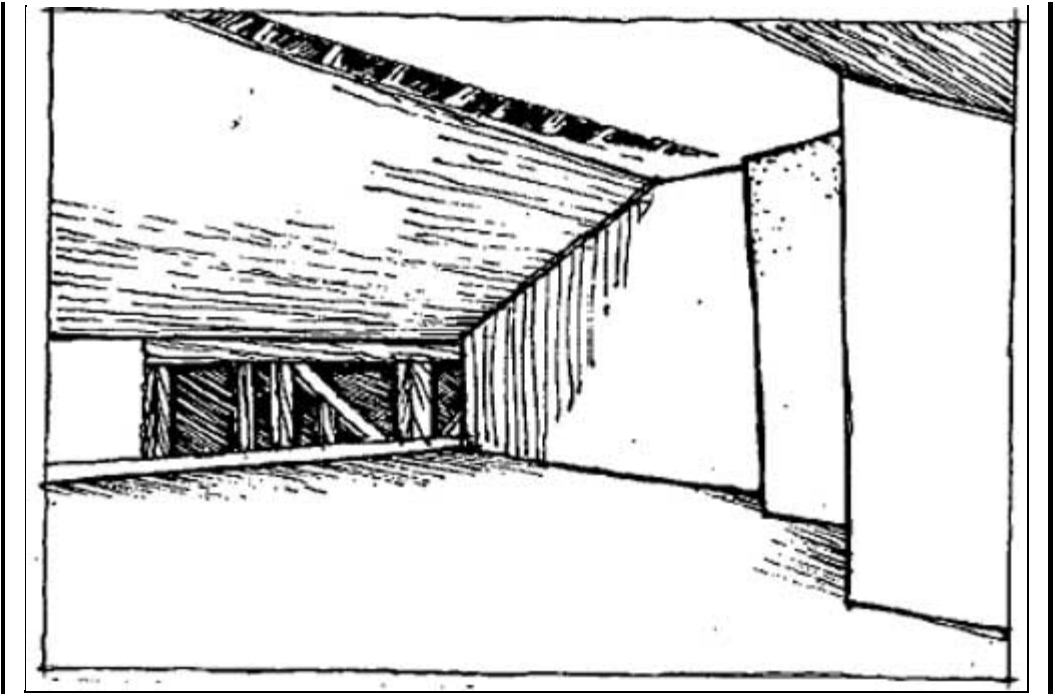


37. Room 203 Northeast Corner

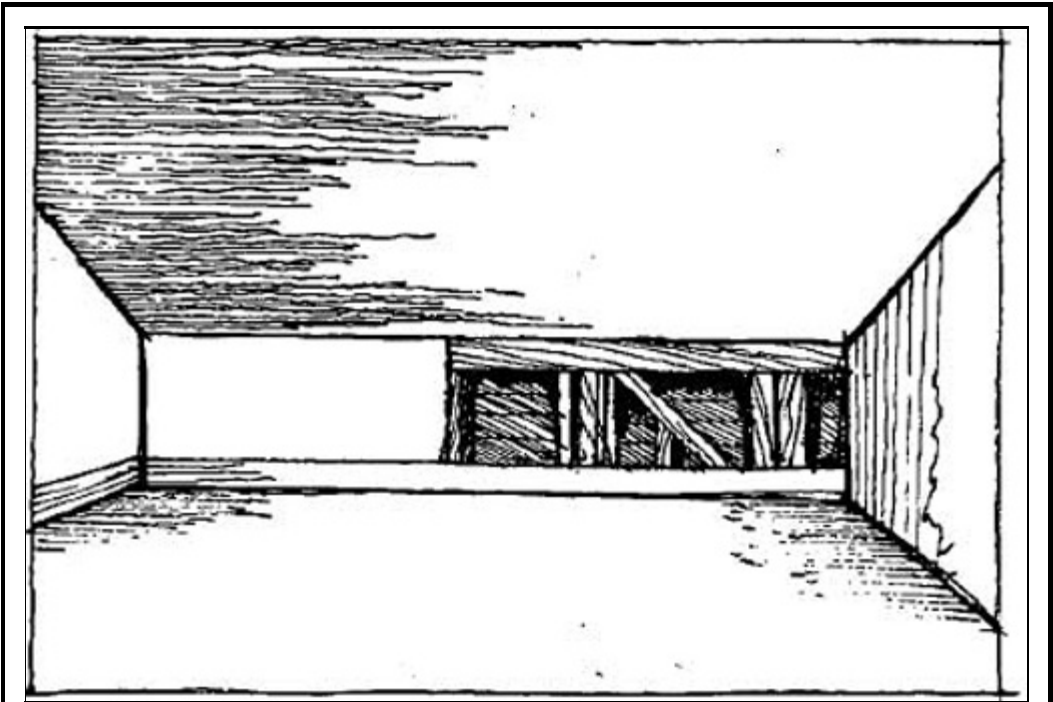


38. Room 203 North Wall

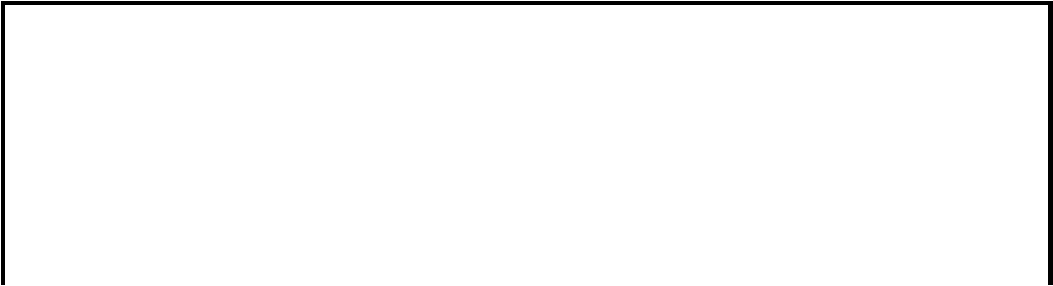




37A. Room 203 Northeast Corner



38A. Room 203 North Wall



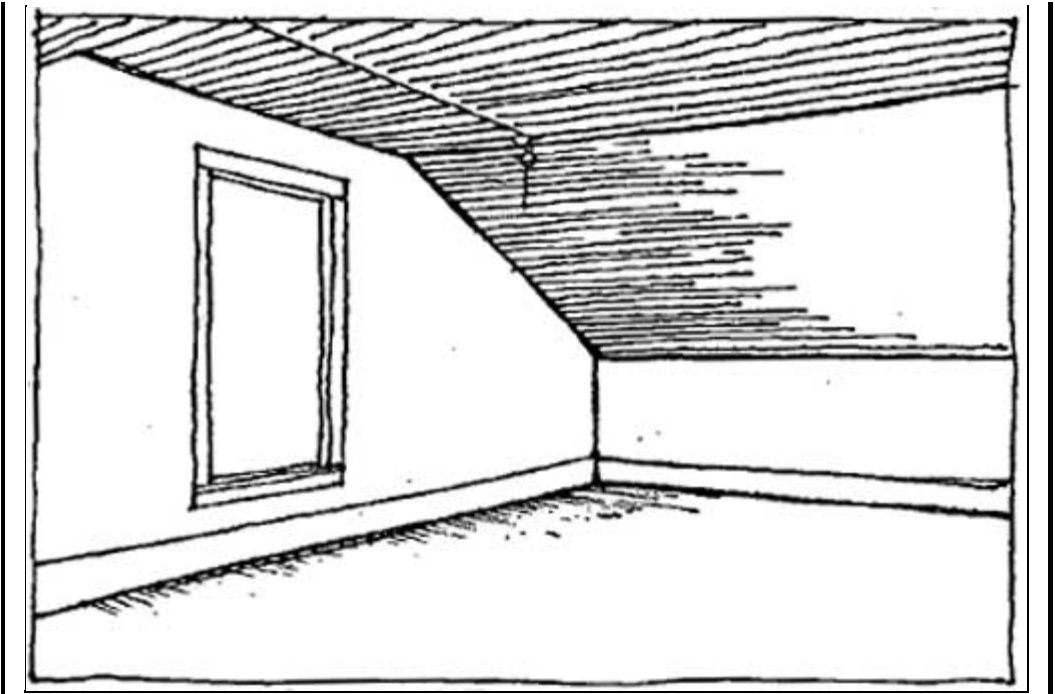


39. Room 203 Northwest Corner

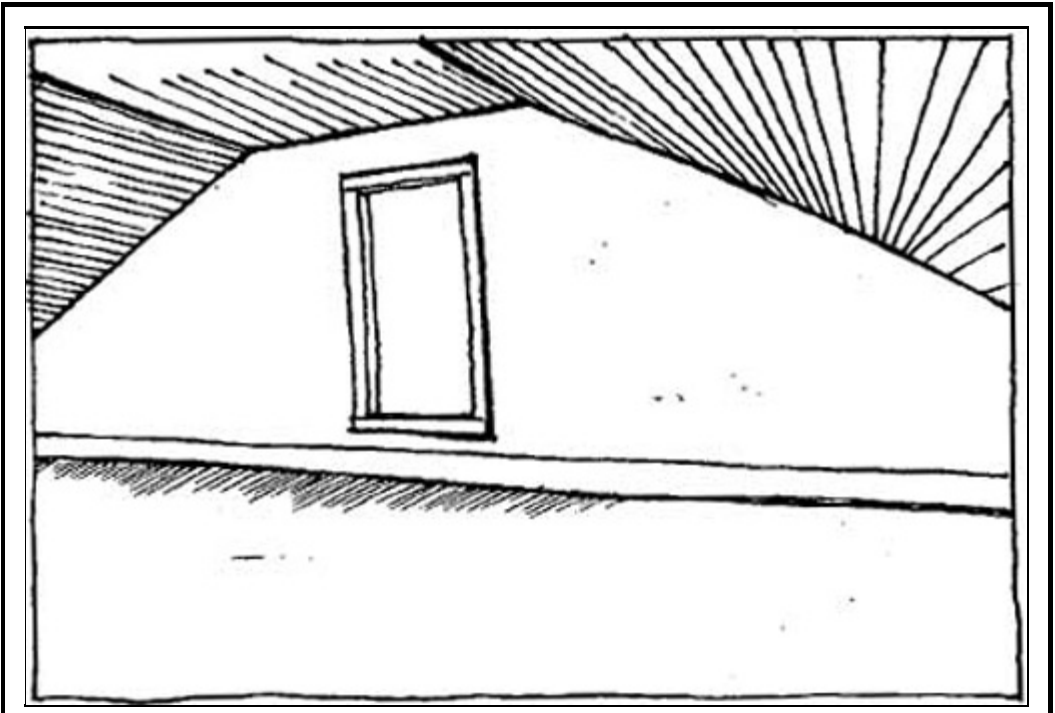


40. Room 203 West Wall



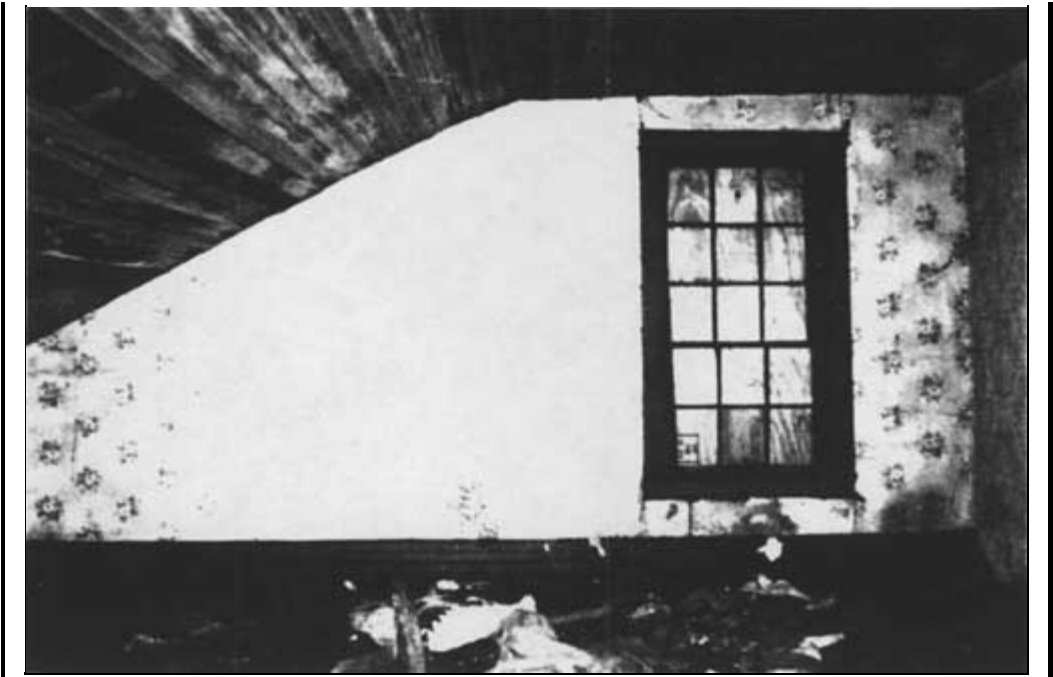


39A. Room 203 Northwest Corner

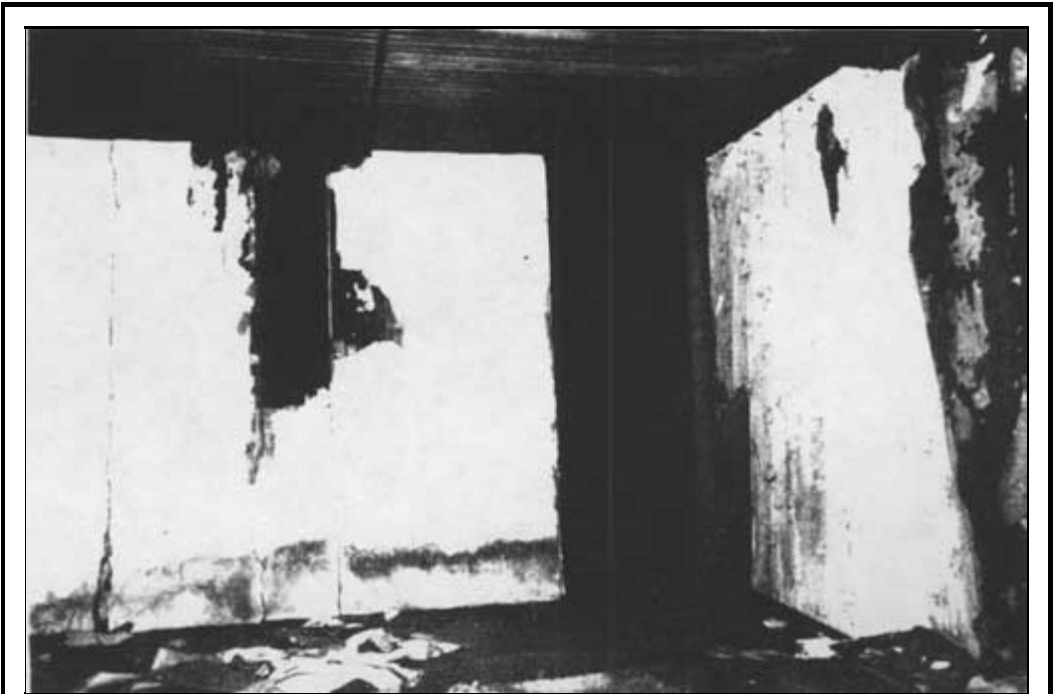


40A. Room 203 West Wall



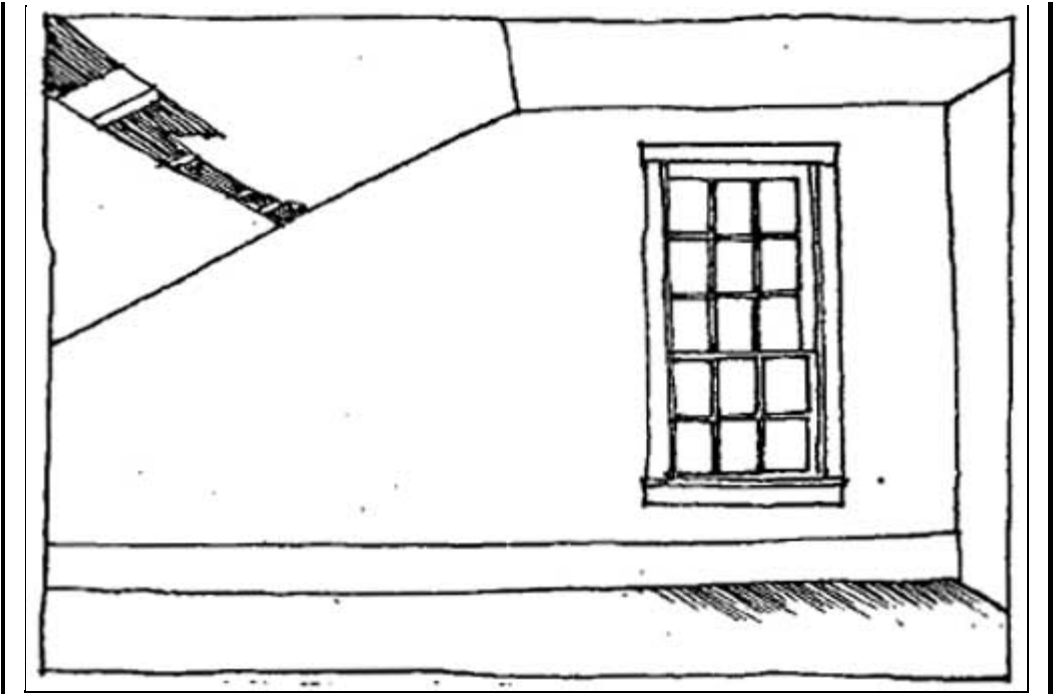


41. Room 202 East Wall

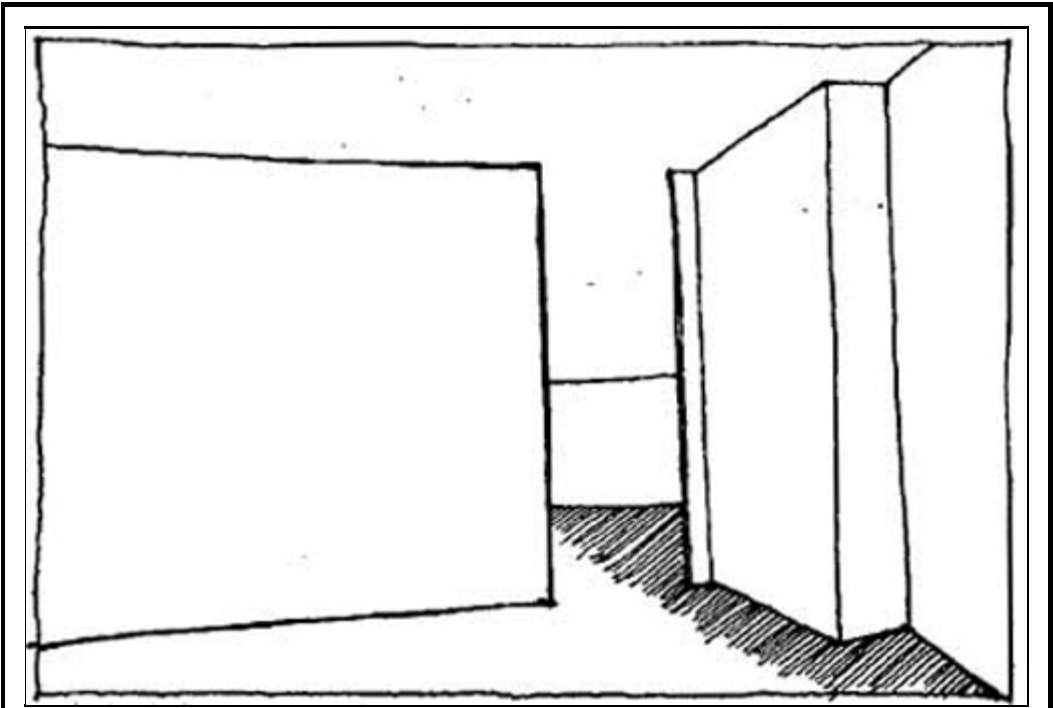


42. Room 202 South Wall





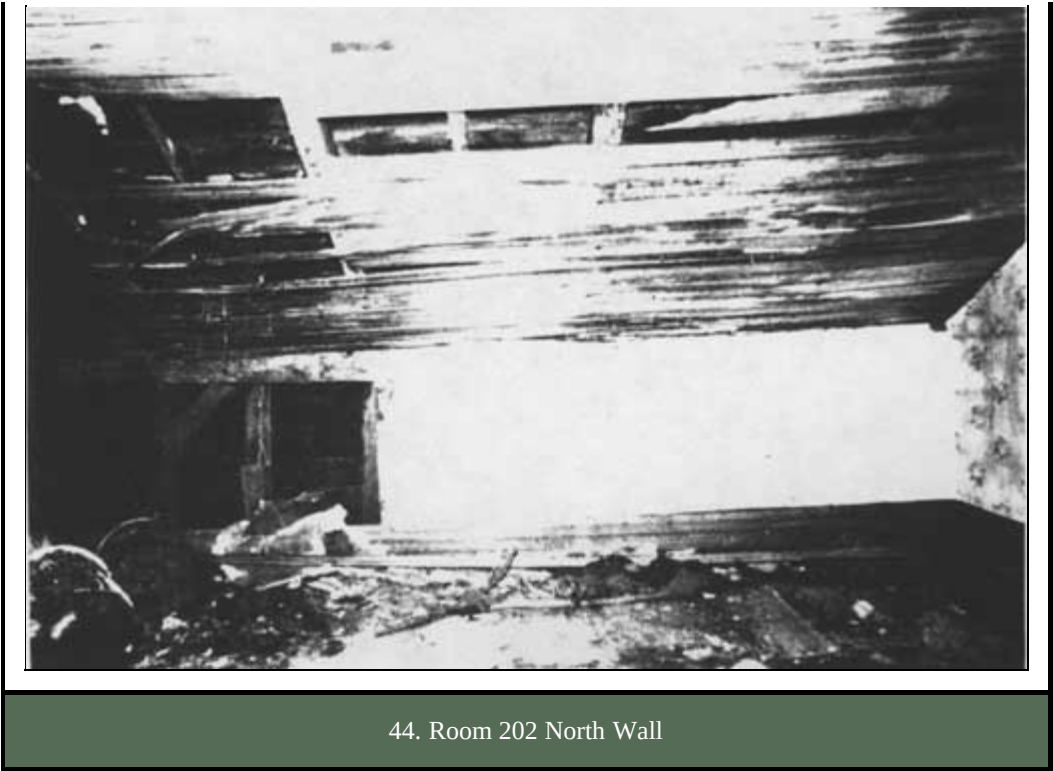
41A. Room 202 East Wall



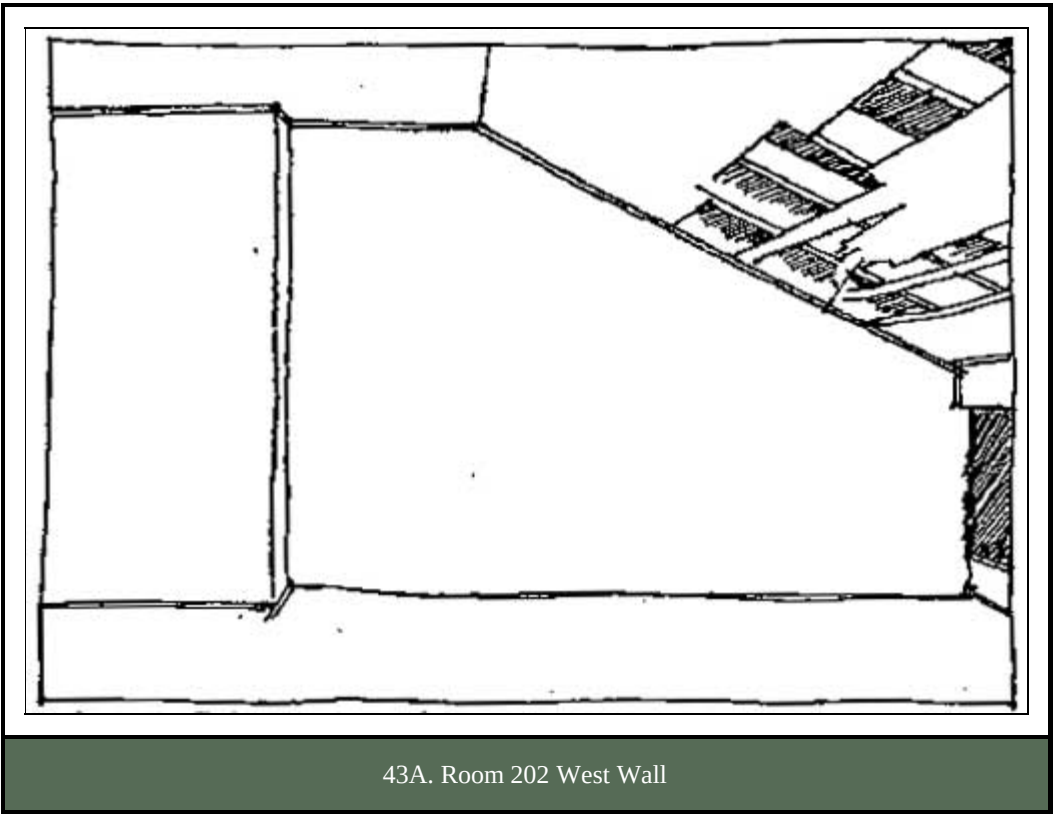
42A. Room 202 South Wall



43. Room 202 West Wall

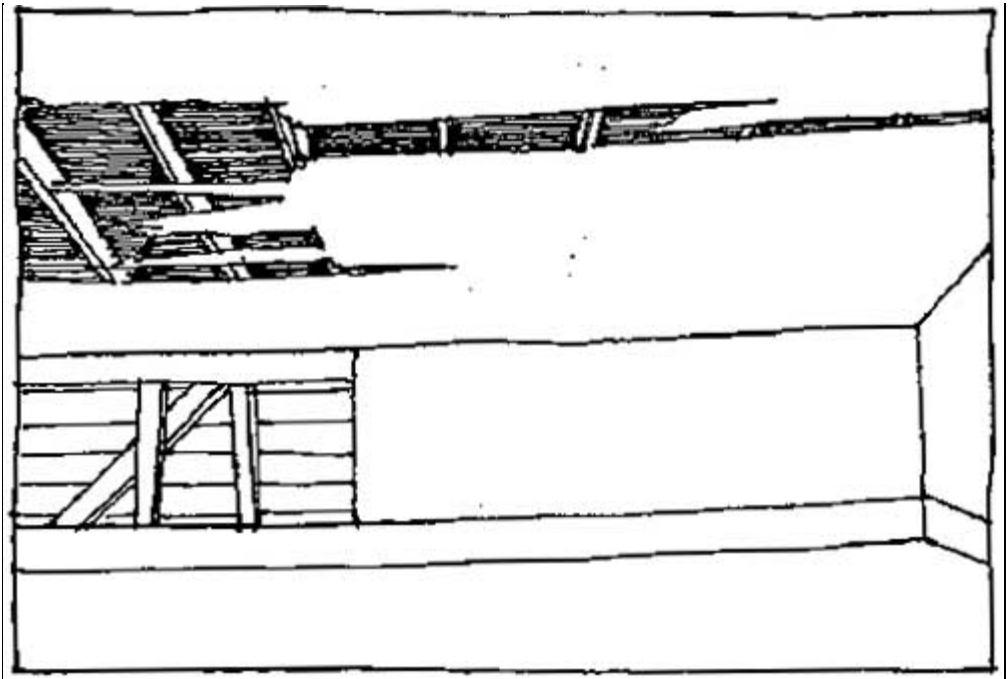


44. Room 202 North Wall



43A. Room 202 West Wall





44A. Room 202 North Wall

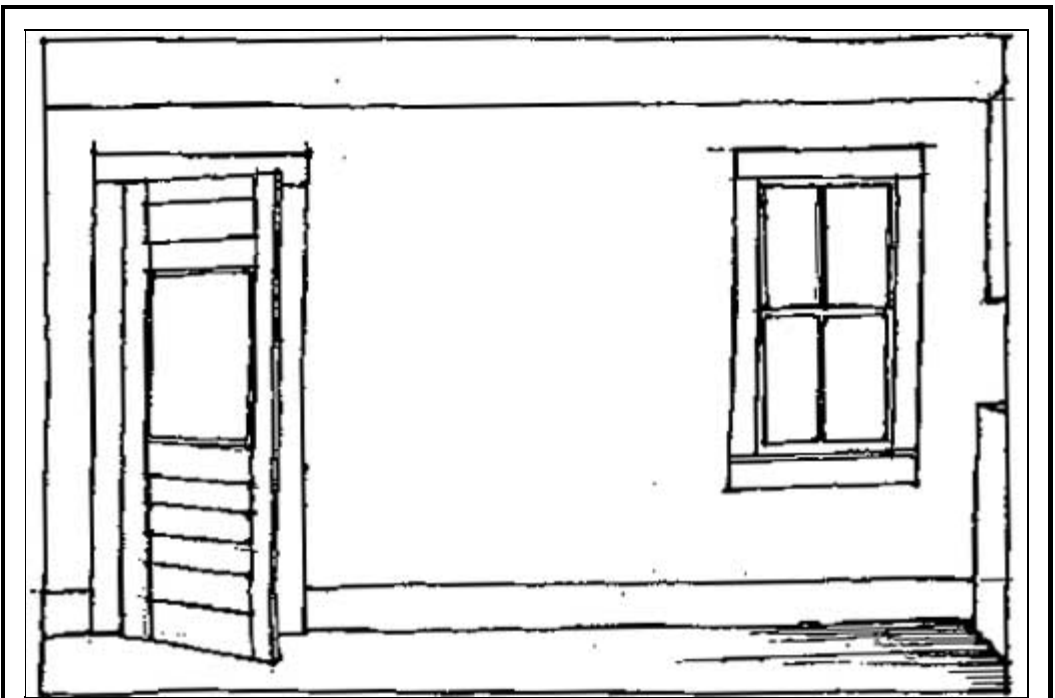


45. Room 104 West Wall



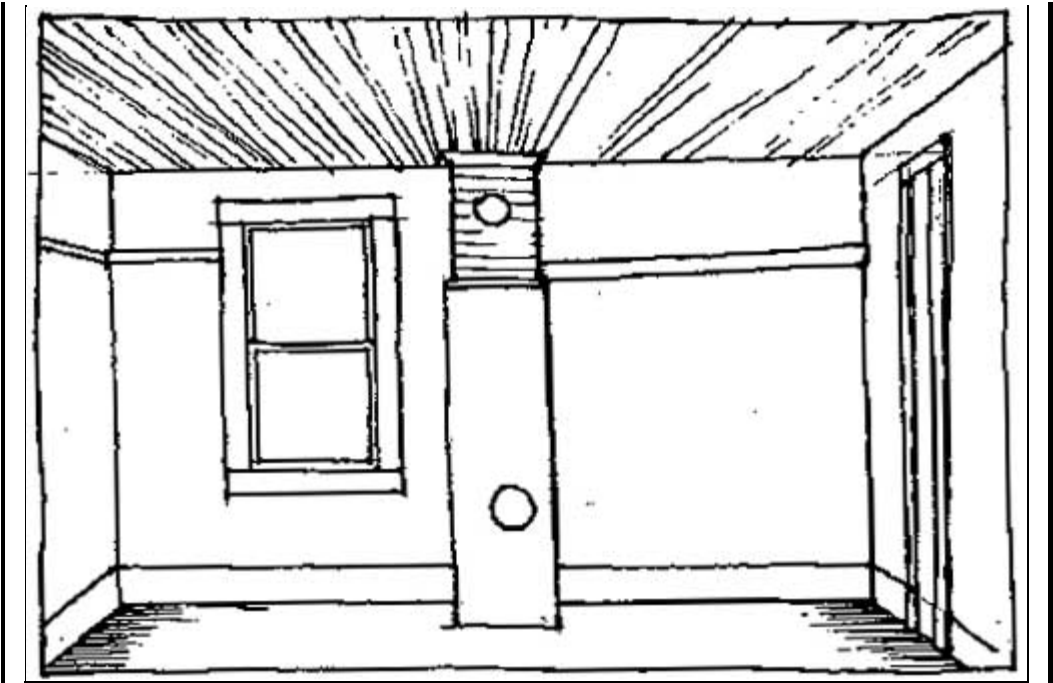


46. Room 104 South Wall

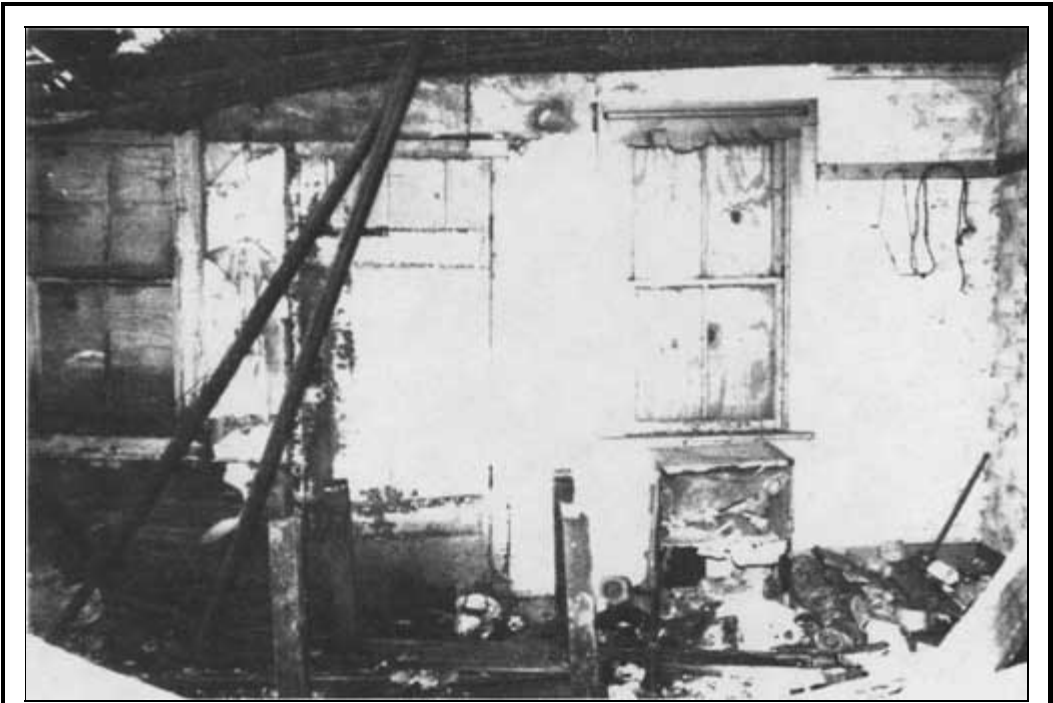


45A. Room 104 West Wall



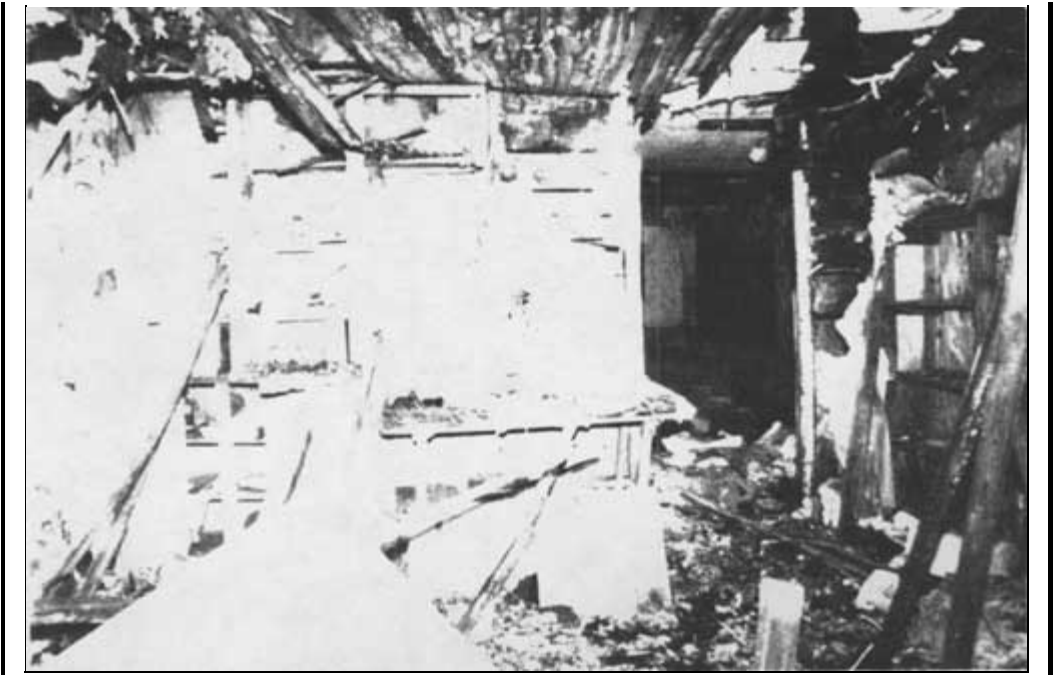


46A. Room 104 South Wall



47. Room 104 East Wall

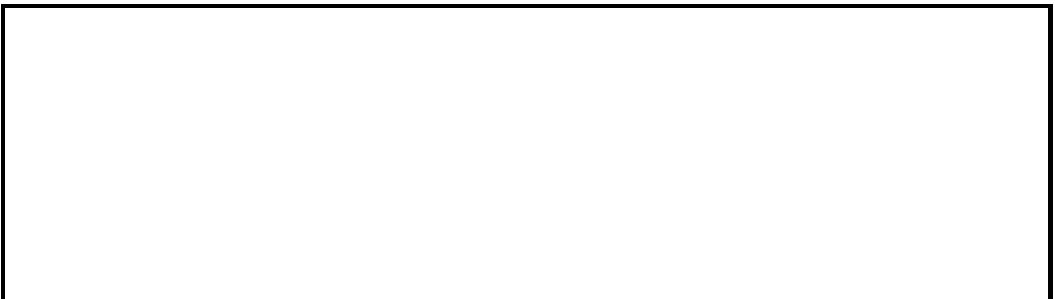


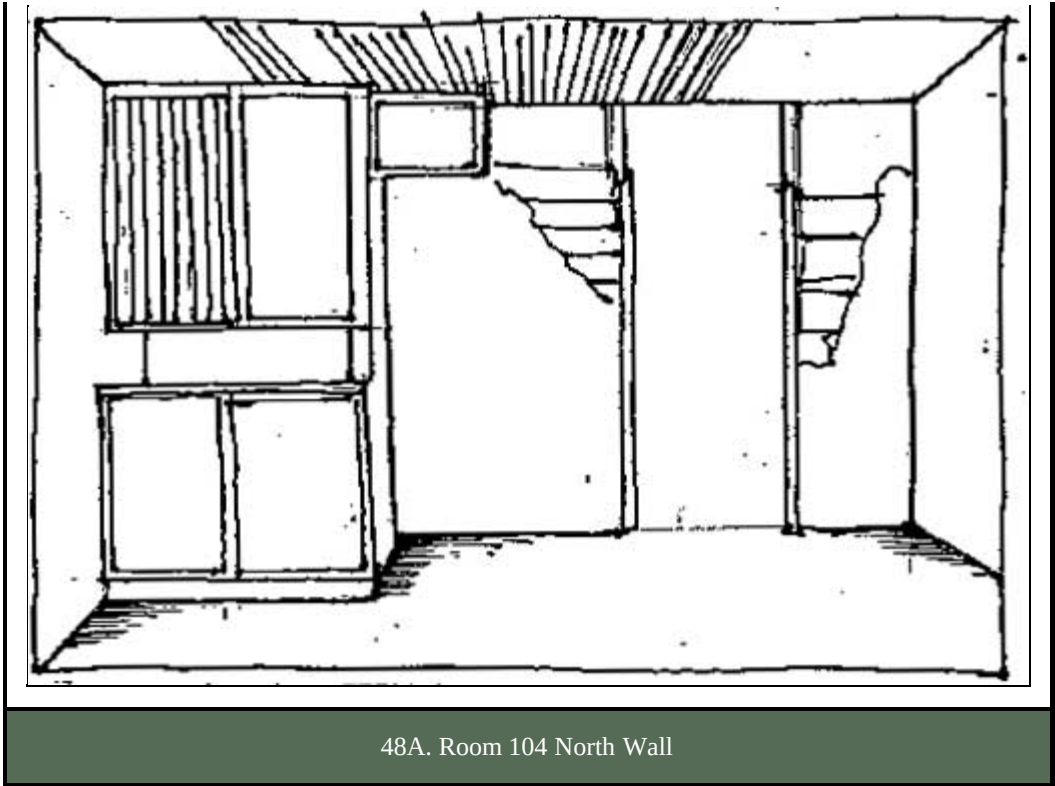


48. Room 104 North Wall



47A. Room 104 East Wall





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Matthews House (1111)
Perry D. Hardy House (H.S. 473)

Walter Hawkins House (1112)

Everett Road

Johnnycake Store (1110)
Johnnycake Gas Station (1109)

Everett General Store (H.S. 476)
Nettie B. Johnson House (H.S. 477)
Lavicka House (1117)

ALANSON SWAN
HOUSE (H.S. 470)
4646 Riverview Road

historic location of
canal turning basin

Chamberlain House (H.S. 469)

EVERETT VILLAGE
SITE MAP
Scale: 1 IN = 100 FT



Railroad Tracks

Riverview Road

Furnace Run

Martha E. Hunt
House (1091)

Bolanz Road

Ohio and Erie Canal
(Prism Trace)