
**VICKSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK
SHIRLEY HOUSE**

**HISTORIC STRUCTURE
REPORT**

**Cultural Resources, Southeast Region
National Park Service**

2004



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Southeast Region
National Park Service
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2004
Historic Structure Report
SHIRLEY HOUSE
Vicksburg National Military Park
Vicksburg, Mississippi
LCS#: 001362

Previous page: photo taken in 1868 (negative on
file Vicksburg NMP).

The historic structure report presented here exists in two formats. A traditional, printed version is available for study at the park, the Southeastern Regional Office of the NPS (SERO), and at a variety of other repositories. For more widespread access, the historic structure report also exists in a web-based format through ParkNet, the website of the National Park Service. Please visit www.nps.gov for more information.

Recommended by



3-18-04

Chief, Cultural Resources

Date

Southeast Regional Office

Recommended by



3-14-04

Associate Regional Director,

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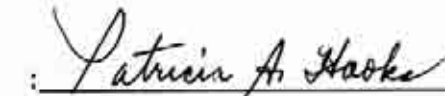
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Superintendent,

Date

Vicksburg National Military Park

Concurred by



4/7/04

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Foreword

We are pleased to make available this historic structure report, part of our ongoing effort to provide comprehensive documentation for the historic structures and landscapes of National Park Service units in the Southeast Region. Many individuals and institutions contributed to the successful completion of this work. We would particularly like to thank the staff at Vicksburg National Military Park, especially the park's Superintendent William O. Nichols and its Historian Terrence Winschel, whose documentation of the building's history has been indispensable in compiling the present report. We hope that this study will prove valuable to park management and others in understanding and interpreting the historical significance of the Shirley House at Vicksburg National Military Park.

Chief
Cultural Resource Division
Southeast Regional Office
January 2004

Executive Summary

The Shirley House is the only structure remaining from the Civil War era in the battlefield portion of Vicksburg National Military Park (VICK NMP) and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its associations with the events of 1863. The house, which was at the center of the Union battle lines, survived the 47-day siege that ended in the surrender of the city on July 4, 1863. Abandoned by the Shirley family after the siege, the house deteriorated badly until establishment of VICK NMP on February 21, 1899, and the house's purchase from the Shirley family by the Federal government the following year. The house underwent extensive repairs and restoration in 1902, although the restoration was somewhat hampered by inadequate funding. In 1931, the house's historic integrity was significantly diminished by an ill-considered "reconditioning" of the building by the park's War Department superintendent, who began use of the building as a residence for himself and his family. In 1933, administration of the property was

transferred to the NPS, and a comprehensive historic structure report was developed for the house in 1939. Unfortunately, no funds were available for restoration until the 1960s. In 1965- 1966, the NPS produced another historic structure report that documented not only the twentieth century alterations to the building but also outlined the shortcomings of the 1902 restoration. Much of the interior was gutted in order to assess the building's structure, but due to inadequate funding, restoration was limited to the exterior. The house has been closed to the public since that time, and the interior remains structurally unstable and devoid of many of its historic finishes.

Restoration and interpretation of the Shirley House is called for in the park's General Management Plan¹ (GMP), Interpretive Prospectus (IP), and Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP). The park has planned to restore and rehabilitate the Shirley House (PMIS #37425) with goals of completing the exterior restoration initiated in 1966 and carrying through with interior restoration to allow for interpretation of the building's role in the battle and siege of Vicksburg. Due to the proximity of the Illinois Monument, the majority of the park's 1,000,000 annual visitors stop to examine this area, yet the house is inaccessible and cannot be appropriately interpreted in its present condition.

1. Vicksburg General Management Plan, July 1980, p. 22.

This Historic Structure Report (HSR) was requested to coordinate and condense earlier research and to assess the present condition of the historic structure. Archival material relating to the construction and later treatment of the historic building, most of which can be found in the archives of VICK NMP, was reviewed and two investigations of the historic building were conducted in June and August of 2001 by Historical Architect, Jon Buono and Architectural Historian, Tommy Jones. Special attention was given to evidence of surviving historic fabric which would corroborate historical accounts and construction logs prepared during the various restoration projects.

The Shirley House is a one- and- a- half story, side- gabled house with two brick chimneys. The wood- framed structure is built on brick foundation walls, with access to the basement at the rear and side elevations. Many of the building's character- defining features have been reconstructed during previous restorations, but some of the original finish materials is extant today. On the interior, some of the flooring, doors, baseboards, and door casing and trim are original as is the paneled staircase and arch in the central hall. Presently, none of the exterior finishes can be considered historic, with the exception of areas of the brick foundation and chimneys.

The recommended treatment for the Shirley House (and its immediate environs) will preserve existing historic fabric and much of the

previously- restored fabric while restoring the exterior and interior to facilitate exhibition and interpretation of the house. Significant spaces that should be preserved and restored include both porches and the front balcony, the entire first floor, the main room on the second floor, and the basement dining room. Significant features that should be preserved and restored include the staircase, bannisters, and hallway arch; mantelpieces; original flooring, baseboard, and other trim; existing plaster walls and ceilings; and most existing doors and windows. In addition, the rear yard and Shirley family grave sites should be preserved. Missing or damaged features that should be restored include some wall framing on both the first and second floor, some flooring and thresholds, most plaster walls and ceilings, deteriorated exterior woodwork, the wood shingle roof, windows, hardware, shutters, and the east foundation configuration with open bays between piers. The existing basement stairs should be removed, and the historic stairs to the north porch should be reconstructed, as specified by architect Orville Carrol.

Exterior walls should be insulated along with first floor ceilings where that can be accomplished without removing existing finishes. A new electrical system, fire suppression system, and security system should also be installed.

Construction of one staff rest room could be considered for the basement, but is not necessary given the park's current plans for staffing. The building can be readily made handicapped accessible by the installation of a lift from the basement porch into Room 103A, with very little impact on the historic building. However, there are significant landscape issues that will have to be addressed before access to the lift could be made wheelchair accessible. The building will be heated but no other climate control is proposed for the building.

A Structural Analysis, Historic Furnishing Plan, and an Exhibit Plan will also be required to achieve these recommendations. In addition, a sub- surface inspection of the existing drainage system should be performed.

Administrative Data

Locational Data

<i>Building Name:</i>	James Shirley House
<i>Building Address:</i>	One Shirley Circle
<i>NPS Orgcode:</i>	5600
<i>Location:</i>	Vicksburg NMP
<i>County:</i>	Warren
<i>State:</i>	Mississippi

Related Studies

Carroll, Orville W., *Historic Structures Report, Part I: Architectural Data Section on Shirley House*, July 1965, 133 pages.

Carroll, Orville W., *Historic Structures Report, Part II: Architectural Data Section on Shirley House*, September 1965, 12 pages.

Wilshin, Francis F., *The Shirley House*, October 1939, 198 pages.

Real Property Information

Acquisition Date: 1933, transfer from War Department; 1900, purchased from Alice Shirley Eaton

Improvement/Modification Costs \$8000+ since 1902

Seismic Zone: I
Construction Type: Type V

Numbering Information

LCS#: 001362
Structure Number: HS- 001

Size Information

Total Floor Area: 6000 SF
First Floor Area: 2000 SF
Additional Floor Area: 2000 SF
Total Basement Area: 2000 SF
Finished Basement Area: 0 SF
Unfinished Basement Area: 2000 SF
Roof Area: 2900 SF
Perimeter Length: 200 LF
Number Of Stories: 3
Number Of Rooms: 18
Number Of Bathrooms: 0

Building Code Information

Applicable Codes: NFPA 101,
ANSI- All7.1
Occupancy Classification: R
Hazard Of Contents: Ordinary

Proposed Treatment

Preservation of existing historic fabric and a large degree of restored fabric, restoration of interior and exterior for exhibition and interpretation.

Cultural Resource Data

National Register Status: Entered - Documented
National Register Date: 12/09/1977
National Historic Landmark: No
Significance Level: National

Short Significance Description: House is nationally significant under NR Criterion A as only building surviving from battle period. Used as Union field hospital and as headquarters for the 45th Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

Part I

Developmental

History

Historical Background & Context

Editor's note:

The text in this section has been adapted from *Alice Shirley and the Story of Wexford Lodge* (Eastern National Publishing, 1997) edited by Terrence J. Winschel, Vicksburg National Military Park Historian.

Vicksburg was a young community when Nicholas Gray moved to the “Hill City.” A native of Wexford County, Ireland, Gray was a picturesque and adventuresome figure. Arrested for his participation in the Irish Rebellion, he was imprisoned from 1803- 1806.

Upon his release, he decided to leave the land of his birth and seek his fortune elsewhere. He came to America about 1808 and settled in New York City. In 1815, Gray was named Register of the Land Office of the Mississippi Territory and settled in Washington in Adams County. He moved to Vicksburg in the 1830s and, on August 1, 1837, purchased a tract from T.H. Goodall on which he built the home he called “Wexford Lodge.” The house was a prominent landmark in Warren County, two miles east of the city on the Jackson road, the main thoroughfare into the city and the direct road between Vicksburg and the state capital of Jackson. Little more than ten years later, however, Gray decided to move.

On December 5, 1849, the following notice appeared in the *Vicksburg Weekly Whig*:

For Sale

A most desirable residence in a healthy location, 2 1/2 miles from town. The dwelling is 40 by 60 feet, containing nine rooms, seven large ones and a wide passage. There is on the premises a cistern, a spring of never failing water, stable, hen-house, etc. Attached 14 acres of good rich land, a variety of fruit trees, fine range for cattle, winter and summer. Also a 16 acre lot adjoining and well suited for building and gardening. Either or both will be sold very low for cash. The title is indisputable - possession will be given immediately to purchaser.

Apply to N. Gray, or N. G. Bryson, Esq.

Five days later, Gray deeded the property to Ben Johnson, but in little more than a year, he too offered Wexford Lodge for sale. On January 1, 1851, he conveyed the property to James Shirley.

James & Adeline Shirley

Captain James Shirley, or Judge Shirley as he was known in Vicksburg, was a native of New England. Born in Goffstown, New Hampshire, on May 5, 1794, Shirley was a handsome and ambitious young man who applied himself academically; and would later work diligently to achieve fortune and status. He studied law at Dartmouth College and graduated in 1818. Shortly after graduation he moved to Albany, New York, where he established a legal practice, but soon moved to Augusta, Georgia, where he assumed charge of an academy. While there, he met Harriet Wadsworth of Norwich, Connecticut, and they were married in Wilkes County, Georgia, on June 26, 1820. Unfortu-

nately, Harriet died in 1825, either while giving birth to their son, James Jay, or from complications which followed the delivery, leaving her husband a widower with an infant son.

After his wife's death, Shirley moved with his young son to Florence, Alabama, then to Huntsville, practicing law in both places. During the course of his travels, he met Adeline Quincy, an accomplished woman from Boston, Massachusetts, who was "one of the Boston medal scholars" and a favorite great-niece of John Hancock. In 1835 they were married and a short time later moved to Mississippi where he established both a residence and law practice in the thriving city of Vicksburg.

James and Adeline had four children, the first of whom, Frederick, was born in 1836, shortly after their arrival in Vicksburg. A second child born to the couple simply referred to as "our little baby" in family correspondence, died in either the late 1830s or early 1840s.

On May 2, 1844, the Shirleys welcomed into the world a daughter whom they named Alice Eugenia. Four years later, the youngest child, Robert Quincy, was born. Named for James's brother Robert and Adeline's maiden name, he was "a good healthy boy very lively and active."

When they first moved to Vicksburg, the Shirleys lived on the northeast edge of town, not far from Cedar Hill Cemetery. "Everyday and sometimes several times in the day," recalled James Shirley, "we were called to witness the solemn scene of some fellow mortal on his journey home. . . . Although death is certain to

all, still it is unpleasant to have it always before our eyes." The processions at times seemed endless, especially as yellow fever epidemics frequently raged through Vicksburg in the mid- nineteenth century.

A New Home

To escape the recurring plague of yellow fever, Judge Shirley sought to move his family to a healthier location, which led to his purchase of Wexford Lodge in 1851. James wrote to his brother, "We have fine health and rather a pleasant situation and an agreeable neighborhood- very thickly settled. We abound in fruit peaches pears apples & melons. There passes by our door every day peaches pears and watermelons of the finest kind enough to load a Steam Boat." By year's end he was pleased to inform his brother, "We are finishing [renovating] our house & will have a very good & comfortable one." In February 1852, James boasted, "Our house is nearly finished- - makes quite a good appearance- - & very comfortable."

In partnership with a Mr. Graybill, a lawyer from Georgia, James Shirley gained a reputation as an excellent jurist and established a lucrative practice. He also dealt in real estate and the sale of agricultural produce. Although the record is not clear, he may even have been part owner of a steamboat. His earnings from these ventures enabled him to make improvements to his plantation and to purchase slaves.

The following account of the Shirley House was written by Alice Shirley Eaton to chronicle her family's experience before and during the

siege. Her memoirs appeared in the *Fredonia Censor* (New York) on May 30, 1900.

In the early [18]60's my home was on a small plantation of one hundred acres, in Warren County, Mississippi, two and a half miles back of Vicksburg. The house was built after the southern fashion, a story and a half in height, a wide hall in center, large rooms on each side, ceilings high, upper and lower porch in front, and veranda in the rear. It stood on a high elevation somewhat back from the [Jackson] road. A driveway describing a semi- circle passed the door, and a wide walk ran from the front porch to the road, which was reached from that point by a flight of steps. This walk was bordered with red flowering quince, fragrant white syringas and roses, while close to the edge bloomed violets, jonquils and hyacinths. On one side of the porch was a beautiful pink crape myrtle, and on the other grew an althea tree. The rustic summer house made of grape vines and roots with beds of flowers all around it, was a great delight to me, as was also a little vegetable garden where my brother Quincy and I planted our names in peas, lettuce and radishes.

I must not forget to mention the little garden in the rear, which was my father's special pride, and which kept us so bountifully supplied with vegetables and small fruits and also boasted of one row of peanut hills.

The kitchen and four other buildings where the servants slept were on either side of the gardens and they were all quite comfortable, had good fireplaces and plank floors. It would seem very odd in the north to have an outside kitchen. In a hard storm, or on a cold day, the hot biscuits and cakes, of which there were usually several relays during the meal, had to be carried very quickly across to our basement dining room to keep them from getting wet or cold, but nobody gave a



Figure 1 One of earliest known views of Shirley House, c. 1863. VICK Coll.

thought to such small matters those days—comfort and convenience were of little importance then.

Outbreak of War

Throughout the 1850s, the Shirleys watched with mounting anxiety as the divisiveness of sectionalism spread across the land. The spirit of compromise, which had maintained the bond of union, was replaced by deep suspicion as the North and South drifted further apart. Following John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry in 1859 and a heated presidential election in 1860, the nation was ripe for civil war.

The citizens of Vicksburg and Warren County sent Union delegates to the secession convention held in Jackson, but only one other county, Adams, voted in favor of maintaining the union of states under the Constitution. On January 9,

1861, Mississippi became the second state to leave the Union and quickly joined her sister Southern states in forming the Confederate States of America. Jefferson Davis, a resident of Warren County, was elected provisional president of the new nation. Three months later, on April 12, Fort Sumter was fired upon and civil war became a reality.

The Shirleys were deeply troubled by these events and with justification feared that Vicksburg would suffer the ravages of war. Outspoken in their support of the Union, the family was ostracized by the community and kept to themselves throughout the war years. Through the newspapers, Judge Shirley and his family kept informed of the progress of the war and privately celebrated each victory of Mr. Lincoln's armies. Together they prayed for a speedy end to the war and longed for the day the Union would be restored.

James Shirley's fear for the safety of Vicksburg was well founded, for control of the Mississippi

River was of paramount importance to both North and South. Vicksburg was situated on high bluffs overlooking a bend in the river, and President Abraham Lincoln himself said, "Vicksburg is the key. The war can never be brought to a close until that key is in our pocket." In the spring of 1863, combined Union land and naval forces under Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant and R. Adm. David Dixon Porter began a campaign to provide Mr. Lincoln with that key to victory.

In the winter of 1862- 1863, Grant marshalled his forces at Milliken's Bend and at Young's Point in Madison Parish, Louisiana, opposite Vicksburg. In late March he launched his army on a bold move south through Louisiana while in mid- April Porter's gunboats and transports ran past the Confederate batteries on the bluffs at Vicksburg.

Rendezvousing below the city, the fleet transported Grant's army across the river into Mississippi, and in a brilliant campaign, Grant pushed his army deep into Mississippi, defeating Confederate forces at Port Gibson on May 1, Raymond on May 12, and two days later capturing the state capital of Jackson. Then turning west again, Grant's troops defeated Confederate forces at Champion Hill on May 16 and the next day routed them from Big Black River Bridge.

The Vicksburg Campaign

Flush with victory, the Union army pushed across the Big Black River and drove hard toward Vicksburg. The rattle of musketry and

roar of cannon late on the afternoon of May 18 announced Grant's arrival at the gates of Vicksburg. Although greatly frightened by the prospect of a battle in their own yard, the Shirleys rejoiced to see the Stars and Stripes again.

Unfortunately for the Shirleys, Wexford Lodge was situated between the lines and caught in the crossfire of warring armies. Amidst the storm of shot and shell, the Shirleys were eyewitnesses to the great drama which unfolded around them in the summer of 1863. Young Frederick Shirley was sent to Indiana, while daughter Alice Shirley Eaton was attending the Central Female Institute in Clinton, Mississippi. Their parents and their young brother Quincy remained at home. As the conflict drew closer to the Shirley home, Judge Shirley took the train to Clinton to retrieve his daughter. He arrived Monday, May 11, stayed in Clinton on the 12, but Wednesday morning, with the arrival of the Union soldiers, the depot was burned and tracks removed. Mr. Shirley was confined to Clinton until Sunday May 17, when he began to walk the forty- mile distance back to Vicksburg, preceded by the Union advance. Alice Shirley heard nothing of her family except rumors until mid- July. She began the trip home on Tuesday July 21.

Alice Shirley's memoirs from 1900 record her mother's experience:

The Confederates, knowing that they must soon retreat behind their fortifications at Vicksburg, began their preparations by destroying what they could outside, and burned all the houses in the vicinity; but my mother's persistent refusal to go out of



Figure 2 View from the southeast during the Siege of Vicksburg, June 1863. HABS MISS, 75-VICK, V. 3-2.

hers, and her determination to prevent its destruction, delayed its being set on fire until the Federals made their appearance on the hills to the east of us. The poor fellow who was appointed to do the work, while holding the ball of blazing cotton to the corner of the house, was struck by a bullet of the pursuing vanguard, and crept away under the shelter of some planks, where he died alone. His body was found the next day and was buried under the corner of the house.

My mother and the old home were greeted with a shower of bullets and shell from the advancing army. One shot passed her as she stood in an open doorway. A piece of shell struck the top of a chimney and tore

it away, and passing into an upper room, shattered a bedstead. She thought rapidly; the thing to be done was to hang out a flag of truce, and quickly she secured a sheet to a broom handle, and sending it by our carriage driver to the upper front porch where it might be seen from a distance, it was soon waving a truce to the bullets.

The first officers rushed in half expecting to find Confederates hidden away ready to betray them, and were not easily persuaded to believe that we were Union people, and my mother had some talking to do.

Now all was confusion and excitement. The great hosts advanced rapidly, and the house, the grounds, the road, and the woods behind were soon alive with Union soldiers, and that same after noon the fighting began. Bullets came thick and fast, shells hissed and screamed through the air, cannon roared, the dead and dying

were brought into the old home. War, terrible war, had come to our very hearthstone, and here my mother and brother remained for three days. The two house servants stayed by them. Household treasures were soon destroyed under the ruthless hand of the soldier. Daguerreotypes prized so highly by the family, letters, valuable papers, etc. quickly disappeared. A dinner set of beautiful china which had been packed away in a box for safe keeping, was taken out, piece by piece, and smashed. Mother saved out of the set a teapot and several plates. The teapot I have now. Choice books were carried off, furniture was destroyed, but through the kindness of some officers our trunks and the best of our furniture were saved; among these were the piano and melodeon.

Quincy was delighted to go into the trenches and do a little fighting for his country. Those three days must have been a time of great distress to my mother, and I think she never entirely recovered from the strain caused by the war. She has told me that she and the two house servants sat most of the time in the chimney corner, where the bullets might not strike them. Meanwhile, our carriage driver and others of our colored men were digging a cave in the side of a hill in the valley some distance back of the house, for her to move into, as [Major] General [James B.] McPherson had said she must not stay at the house, as it was no place for a woman. At daylight on the fourth day [May 21] she left, the soldiers making a narrow opening through their ranks for her to pass.

Here, in this miserable cave, a blanket strung across the opening, with her trunk and a rocking chair, all her possessions available then, and half sick, my father found her a few days later, and stayed there himself until he was taken sick. With no beds to sleep on, no decent food, and weary with his long, hot journey, what

wonder he was sick! They moved to the house of a planter a few miles farther out, where they remained a few weeks, when the shells began to reach them there, and they were by Gen. Grant's personal direction, moved three miles farther back still, into an empty negro cabin. Here they stayed, living a forlorn existence until the surrender. It was here that your mother's father [Chaplain John Eaton, Jr., of the 27th Ohio Volunteer Infantry] first found them. My father's brother Uncle Robert Shirley [of Goffstown, New Hampshire], had requested him to hunt up our family and give to them what assistance he could.

The Fourth of July, 1863, was a day of great joy to my father. Half sick and worn out with the long strain, his horses and carriages and servants gone, his home a wreck; yet he was a proud and happy man to be able to walk into town under the old flag, the bands playing the National airs, and the Stars and Stripes waving from the Court house.

After the Surrender

The Shirleys moved into a vacant house in Vicksburg while they considered their future. Although their house was badly damaged and many of their personal belongings destroyed, they looked toward to the future with hope. That optimism, however, was soon shattered when James Shirley died suddenly on August 9 at the age of 69. Overwhelmed with grief, Adeline, Alice, and Quincy soon left Vicksburg altogether.

Quincy was the first to leave. True to his word given during the siege, General Grant recommended Quincy for a cadetship at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. On October 10, 1863, Quincy left Vicksburg.



Figure 1 View of Shirley House, c. 1875. VICK Coll.

burg in the company of Grant en route to a school where he would be fitted for West Point. Young Shirley entered the Academy in 1865, but failed to pass his first year. With difficulty, he improved his grades and passed the first year curriculum in 1867. Academic troubles continued to plague the young cadet, however, and on July 2, 1868, he was dismissed from West Point. It is not known if Quincy ever returned to Vicksburg. He later married Margaret Parks, but their marriage was short-lived as he died in 1879.

In the midst of the turmoil which followed the surrender of Vicksburg, Alice Shirley, then only 19 years of age, met Chaplain John Eaton, colonel in the 63rd U.S. Colored Infantry. Serving as general superintendent of freedmen for the Department of the Tennessee, he was in Vicksburg establishing camps for freedmen. The fol-

lowing year on September 29, 1864, the couple “eloped up the river” and married in Toledo, Ohio. Although opposed to the marriage, Adeline Shirley eventually made her home with them and spent the rest of her life with Alice and John Eaton.

1864-1902

Wexford Lodge was uninhabitable following the surrender, and the vacant house was used as a small pox hospital by U.S. occupation forces in 1864 before being abandoned altogether. Three years later, in June of 1867, Adeline Shirley filed a claim with the War Department against the United States Government for damages to her property, and General Ulysses S. Grant sent a letter on Mrs. Shirley’s behalf testifying to her “unflinching loyalty, demonstrated at great risk” during the siege of Vicksburg. He earnestly requested that favorable action be taken on her claim, but the claim was denied when Congress passed a law for



Figure 3 View of Shirley House, c. 1890. HABS MISS, 75-VICK, V. 3-4

bidding expenditures for repair of a house damaged by the occupation of U.S. troops in a state recently in rebellion.

In the decades which followed the Civil War, the house was neglected and fell into decay. During Reconstruction, attempts by white Democrats to wrest political control from the Republicans led to bloodshed. On December 7, 1874, a riot erupted along the Jackson road outside Vicksburg, and many blacks took refuge in Wexford Lodge. The building was stormed by

the whites, and seven blacks were killed in the melee.

Adeline Shirley, while residing in Ohio with the Eatons, became ill and at the age of 77 passed away in March 1888. The necessary arrangements were made for her burial in Vicksburg, and on March 12, Adeline Shirley was interred next to her husband in Cedar Hill Cemetery, not far from their old home.

Wexford Lodge continued to decay and by the end of the century was in ruins. Shortly after the establishment of Vicksburg National Military Park in 1899, the Federal government initiated efforts to purchase the building and

grounds from Alice Shirley Eaton for the purpose of restoring the house and opening it as a war memorial. Capt. William T. Rigby, resident commissioner of the Vicksburg National Military Park Commission, contacted Mrs. Eaton and asked if she would take \$20 per acre for the property to be included in the park. She replied:

My father died soon after the siege, as much a sacrifice for his country as any soldier who fell in battle, and my mother, left to depend upon me in her last years, went down to her grave mourning the treatment she had received from the Government. No, Capt. While I am deeply interested in the Park and would not ask an unreasonable price, as some are doing, I think we have made sacrifices enough.

That same year, Congress approved an appropriation to compensate the Shirleys for damages to the house during the siege. Alice considered the sum compensation enough for only a “small part of our loss”; yet, she was somewhat assuaged and outlined the conditions under which she would be willing to sell the house. Preservation (restoration) of the house was her first priority. “The house was the most conspicuous object in the American

lines,” she wrote, “and naturally should be so in the park.” Alice believed that “preservation of my old home would make more real the whole situation to any visitor in the future.” Mrs. Eaton went on to write, “I think I ought to receive for my property not less than \$2,500 and I would like to bury by the old house my father and mother, whom the war drove from it.”

In fulfillment of Mrs. Eaton’s request, the remains of James and Adeline Shirley were removed from Cedar Hill Cemetery and interred behind the house on April 21, 1900. The following month, on May 14, Alice sold the property (the house and 60 acres) to the Federal government at \$25 per acre. Captain Rigby immediately requested funds for restoration of the building, but his request was denied. It was not until May 20, 1902, that the Secretary of War authorized funding for restoration of Wexford Lodge, which was now referred to as the “Shirley House” in park correspondence. When notified of the secretary’s decision, Alice Eaton wrote Rigby, “I certainly am very happy to hear that the old home is to be preserved and restored. . . Yes, indeed, I am delighted to get such good word.”

Chronology of Development & Use

Editor's note:

Portions of the text in this section have been adapted from *Alice Shirley and the Story of Wexford Lodge* (Eastern National Publishing, 1997) edited by Terrence J. Winschel, Vicksburg National Military Park Historian.

On August 1, 1837, Nicholas Gray purchased a tract of land two miles east of the city on the Jackson road, the main thoroughfare into the city from the state capital of Jackson. Although it is assumed that he built the house he called Wexford Lodge a short time later, there are no known records or documents describing the initial construction, the character of the building's framing and some architectural details support a construction date in the late 1830s. The earliest description of the house, however, comes from an announcement in the *Vicksburg Weekly Whig* on December 5, 1849, that the house was being offered for sale.

The dwelling is 40 by 60 feet, containing nine rooms, seven large ones and a wide passage. There is [sic] on the premises a cistern, a spring of never failing water, stable, hen- house, etc. Attached 14 acres of good rich land, a variety of fruit trees, fine range for cattle, winter and summer. Also a 16 acre lot adjoining and well suited for building and gardening.

Five days later, Gray deeded the property to Ben Johnson, and there are no further records until Johnson's deed of the property

to Judge James Shirley on January 1, 1851. The area was described then as an “agreeable neighborhood- - very thickly settled.”

Within the first year of ownership, James Shirley wrote to his brother that he was “finishing [renovating] our house & will have a very good & comfortable one.” In February 1852, James boasted, “Our house is nearly finished- makes quite a good appearance- & very comfortable.” Unfortunately, he offered no details of the work performed or the extent of any alterations to the existing structure. Investigations in 1965, however, did show that the framing material for the back porch and Room 103 was circular-sawn, in contrast to the hewn and sash-sawn lumber used in the main body of the house. This suggests that the back porch and rear room were added by the Shirleys in the 1850s, apparently replacing an earlier porch that did not span the width of the house.¹ The earliest known photographs of the house date to the 1860s, following the Shirley family’s purchase and after the house had reached its historic configuration.

The first detailed description of the house was recorded on May 30, 1900, when Alice Shirley described the house:

In the early [18]60's my home was on a small plantation of one hundred acres, in Warren County, Mississippi, two and a half miles back of Vicksburg. The house was built after the southern fashion, a story and a half in height, a wide hall in center, large rooms on each side, ceilings high, upper and lower

porch in front, and veranda in the rear. It stood on a high elevation somewhat back from the [Jackson] road. A driveway describing a semi-circle passed the door, and a wide walk ran from the front porch to the road, which was reached from that point by a flight of steps. This walk was bordered with red flowering quince, fragrant white syringas and roses, while close to the edge bloomed violets, jonquils and hyacinths. On one side of the porch was a beautiful pink crape myrtle, and on the other grew an althea tree. The rustic summer house made of grape vines and roots with beds of flowers all around it, was a great delight to me, as was also a little vegetable garden where my brother Quincy and I planted our names in peas, lettuce and radishes.

I must not forget to mention the little garden in the rear, which was my father's special pride, and which kept us so bountifully supplied with vegetables and small fruits and also boasted of one row of peanut hills.

The kitchen and four other buildings where the servants slept were on either side of the gardens and they were all quite comfortable, had good fireplaces and plank floors. It would seem very odd in the north to have an outside kitchen.

In a hard storm, or on a cold day, the hot biscuits and cakes, of which there were usually several relays during the meal, had to be carried very quickly across to our basement dining room to keep them from getting wet or cold, but nobody gave a thought to such small matters those days- comfort and convenience were of little importance then.

The Civil War

In May 1863, the Shirley house was caught in the crossfire of warring armies. Again, it was the Shirley’s daughter who described what happened.

1. Evidence of this alteration is noted in Orville Carroll’s Weekly Field Reports, June 11, 1965.



Figure 4 View from the southwest, taken during Federal occupation in 1863 and one of the earliest images of the house. VICK Coll

The Confederates, knowing that they must soon retreat behind their fortifications at Vicksburg, began their preparations by destroying what they could outside, and burned all the houses in the vicinity; but my mother's persistent refusal to go out of hers, and her determination to prevent its destruction, delayed its being set on fire until the Federals made their appearance on the hills to the east of us. The poor fellow who was appointed to do the work, while holding the ball of blazing cotton to the corner of the house, was struck by a bullet of the pursuing vanguard, and crept away under the shelter of some planks, where he died alone. His body was found the next day and was buried under the corner of the house.

My mother and the old home were greeted with a shower of bullets and shell from the

advancing army. One shot passed her as she stood in an open doorway. A piece of shell struck the top of a chimney and tore it away, and passing into an upper room, shattered a bedstead. She thought rapidly; the thing to be done was to hang out a flag of truce, and quickly she secured a sheet to a broom handle, and sending it by our carriage driver to the upper front porch where it might be seen from a distance, it was soon waving a truce to the bullets.

The Shirleys moved into a vacant home in Vicksburg where the family discussed their future. Unfortunately, James Shirley did not survive the siege and died on August 9 at the age of 69. Overwhelmed with grief, Adeline, Alice, and Quincy eventually left Vicksburg.

Neglect and Ruin 1868-1902

Wexford Lodge was uninhabitable following the siege of Vicksburg. The vacant house was



Figure 5 View from the southeast, about 1899. HABS File No. MISS, 75-V. 3-12.

used as a smallpox hospital by U.S. occupation forces in 1864, then abandoned altogether. In June of 1867, Adeline Shirley filed a claim with the War Department against the United States Government for damages to her home; but the claim was denied. Congress had passed a law forbidding expenditures for repair of a house damaged by the occupation of U.S. troops in any state “recently in rebellion.”

During the turbulent period of Reconstruction, the abandoned home was once again the scene of bloodshed. On December 7, 1874, shortly after white Democrats reasserted their political

power, a bloody riot ensued. In the fighting which erupted between whites and blacks along the Jackson road, many blacks took refuge in Wexford Lodge. The building was stormed by the white mob, and seven blacks were killed in the melee.

By the end of the century, Wexford Lodge was in near- complete ruin. During the creation of Vicksburg National Military Park (established in 1899), the building and grounds were purchased from the Shirleys’ daughter, Alice Shirley Eaton, for the purpose of restoring the house and opening it as a war memorial.

Preservation of the house was her first priority. “The house was the most conspicuous object in

the American lines,” she wrote, “and naturally should be so in the park.” Alice believed that “preservation of my old home would make more real the whole situation to any visitor in the future.”

In partial fulfillment of Mrs. Eaton’s demands, the remains of James and Adeline Shirley were removed from Cedar Hill Cemetery and interred behind the house on April 21, 1900. The following month, on May 14, Alice sold the house and 60 acres to the Federal government for \$25 per acre. Captain Rigby immediately requested funds for restoration of the building, but his request was denied. It was not until May 20, 1902, that the Secretary of War authorized funding for restoration of Wexford Lodge, which was by then referred to as “the Shirley House” in park correspondence.

The condition of the Shirley House was very poor. In addition to loss from neglect and decay, scavengers had apparently stripped the house of most of its siding and windows and much of its interior woodwork as well. The front porch and balcony were completely missing and even the brick piers of the rear porch and much of the brick foundation were missing, presumably demolished in order to salvage the brick. The wood-shingled roof, which may not have been replaced since the house was built, had deteriorated as well, and the west gable and most of the roof on that side of the house had collapsed entirely. Even after creation of the park, vandalism and decay contin-



Figure 6 View of front entrance, 1899. VICK Coll.



Figure 7 View of front of house, 1900. HABS File No. MISS, 75-VICK. V. 3-5.



Figure 8 View of rear of house, 1900. Note collapsed roof on west side. HABS File No. MISS, 75-VICK. V. 3-7.



Figure 9 View of west end of house, 1900. HABS File No. MISS, 75-VICK, V. 3-6.



Figure 10 View of east end of house, 1900. HABS File No. MISS, 75-VICK, V. 3-8.

ued. In March 1902, a group of visitors set a small fire in the “front east room” of the house, although the extent of the damage done at that time is not known.²

1902 Restoration

Park Engineer E.E. Betts prepared the specifications for restoration of the house, although

2. William T. Rigby, to Alice Shirley Eaton, Letter Book 8, March 29, 1902.

he complained that the \$3,000 authorized for repairs would allow the commission “to restore the foundation and enclose the house, but will hardly permit of replastering the rooms.”³ Nevertheless, on June 2, 1902, the Commission sent out invitations for bids on the work. By the bid closing date, June 21, the commission had received seven bids, ranging from \$2,375 to \$7,419.50; but, since the low bidder could not post bond and the other bids were substantially above \$3,000, all of the bids were rejected.

Efforts to increase the appropriation failed; but, on August 4, the Commission issued a “New circular letter” inviting proposals “for restoring the Shirley House...approximately to the condition in which it was at the beginning of the siege in 1863.” This time, there were three bidders; but, since the low bidder’s proposal was “vague and inexact,” the War Department agreed to the next- lowest bidder, E. J. McGraw, whose plans and specifications were deemed “clear and explicit.”⁴ On September 18, 1902, the contract was awarded to McGraw, thus beginning the first of three major restorations or renovations that the structure underwent in the twentieth century.

Unfortunately, McGraw’s specifications for his work have not been located, although the five sheets of plans that he submitted remain in park files. (See Appendix A). Much of what was done to the house in 1902, then, can only be inferred from the photographs that he took of the

3. Edward Bearss, “Vicksburg National Military Park, Administrative History,” unpublished MSS in SERO-CRS archives, p. 36.
4. Vicksburg NMP, Acc.# 305, cat# Vick-4281, Box 5, Folder 113.

ruined building prior to restoration and from subsequent examinations of the building. It is clear, however, from Wilshin's study and from later investigations by the National Park Service (NPS) that compromises were made in 1902, most of them probably due to the severely limited project budget.

Little, if any, work was done in the basement beyond repairs to the brick foundation nor did the budget apparently allow for restoration of the second floor. Nevertheless, Francis F. Wilshin, who investigated and developed a historic structure report on the house in 1939, believed that the 1902 work was "apparently a sincere effort... to restore the building as nearly as possible to the original."⁵ Whatever shortcomings there might have been in the restoration - and there were several - they did nothing to dampen the Commission's satisfaction with McGraw's work, which was completed on November 15.

As the commission chairman wrote McGraw: "Please accept our thanks for the thorough manner in which you have done the work and for the generous spirit in which, during its progress, you construed and carried out the specifications in regard to it."⁶ For the next twenty-eight years, the Shirley House was used as park headquarters and occupied by a custodian or caretaker "whose services were procured especially for the purpose of preserving the structure."⁷

5. F. F. Wilshin, "The Shirley House," unpublished MSS dated October 28, 1939, p. 73.

6. William T. Rigby to McGraw, November 26, 1902.

7. F. F. Wilshin, p. 76.



Figure 11 View from southwest after restoration work accomplished September 26 to November 14, 1902. HABS File No. MISS, 75-VICK, V. 3-9.



Figure 12 North (rear) elevation after the restoration work accomplished September 26 to November 14, 1902. Note large pile of debris at lower right. HABS File No. MISS, 75-VICK, V. 3-11.

William T. Rigby, who had spearheaded creation and development of the Vicksburg National Military Park, maintained an abiding interest in the park for the rest of his life, and, during the time, few changes were made to the Shirley House. The only known alterations during the period were replacement of the wooden front porch floor and steps with

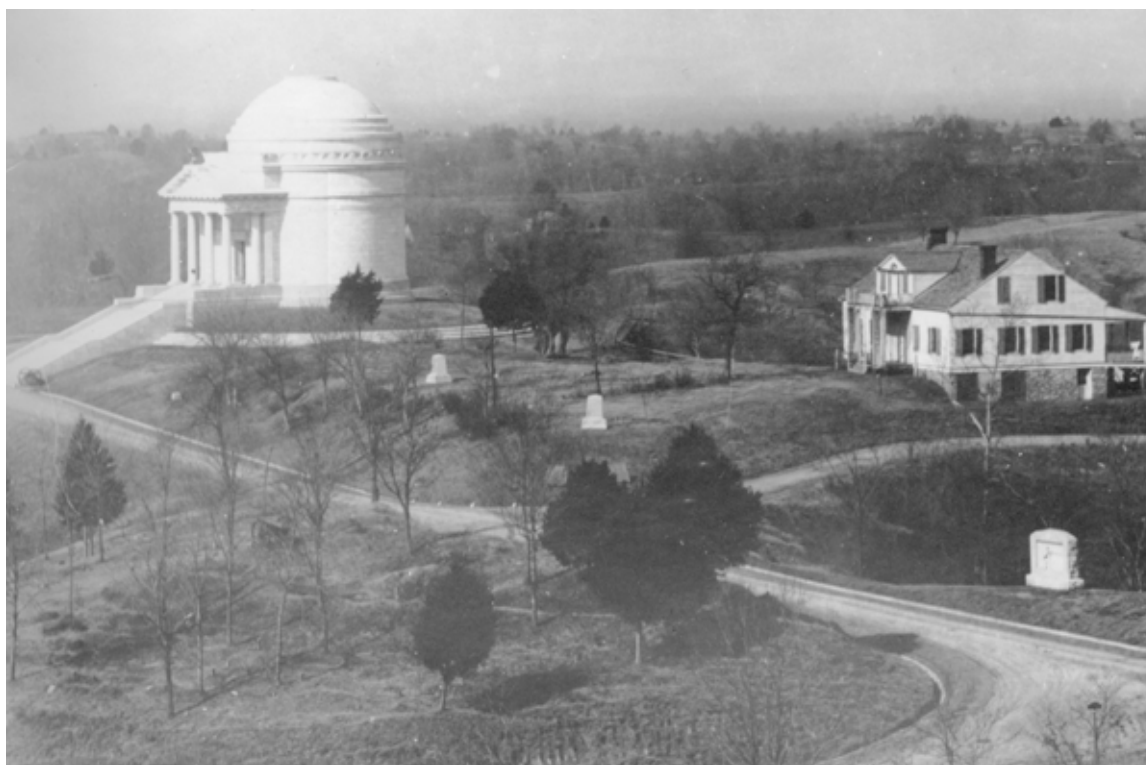


Figure 13 View to west of Shirley House and Illinois Memorial, 1908. VICK Coll.

concrete about 1914 and installation of a “composition” roof about 1921.⁸

Although apparently occupied as a residence, the house remained without electricity, plumbing, or heating except from the coal-burning fireplaces. Rigby’s death in 1929, however, signaled the beginning of another precipitous decline in the fortunes of the historic building.

1931 “Reconditioning”

One year following Rigby’s death, Major J. B. Holt was appointed superintendent for the

park and immediately laid plans to remodel the Shirley House as a residence for the superintendent and his family.

On May 13, 1930, he wrote the Quartermaster-General his proposal for “reconditioning” the house, a move that would result in almost as much damage to the historic building as had occurred during the three decades of neglect that followed the Civil War. Expressing his willingness and that of his family to occupy the house, “if normal living conditions can be obtained,” Holt included an estimate for improvements and a request for an appropriation of \$5,000 in the fiscal year 1931.⁹ On May 22, 1930, Major John T. Harris, Assistant Quartermaster-General for the War Department,

8. F. F. Wilshin, p. 74.

9. F. F. Wilshin, p. 75.



Figure 14 View from southeast, August 1936. HABS MISS, 75-VICK, V. 3-16

replied to Holt's letter, informing him that "the work on the extensive scale outlined by you would change the character of this house completely."

Harris went on to state that the department only wanted "the house to be maintained as it existed during the battle" and that "no modern installations are desired." Holt apparently altered his proposal to the Department's satisfaction, an appropriation of \$4,000 was made, and work got underway in the spring of 1931.

Holt clearly had his own agenda for the Shirley House, however. In May 1931, the Quartermas-

ter-General's office was shocked to learn that the house was being "remodeled and modernized" after a large article appeared in one of the New Orleans newspapers, decrying the treatment of the house. The Department immediately cabled Holt, pointing out that the appropriation was "to restore the house to its original condition and no other action is authorized." "Report in detail just what is being done now," the cable demanded. That same day Holt replied to the Commanding General, IV Corps Area, informing him that the reports of remodeling were "untrue" and that "all old original material" was being preserved "as much as possible." Unfortunately, the reports were true indeed; and, by the time Holt was done, he had made no fewer than twenty-six



Figure 15 .View from north, 1939, showing Major Holt's enclosure of the rear porch and garage addition. VICK Coll.

significant alterations to the interior and the exterior of the house as well as several more on the grounds. As Wilshin pointed out in his study of the house a few years later, “much of the original character of the house was lost” as a result.¹⁰

The extent and nature of Holt's alterations are astounding, especially given the Quartermaster-General's response to his initial funding request. The house was wired for electricity, floor furnaces were installed in several rooms, and

plumbing added for the first time, using the historic cistern on the west side of the house as a septic tank. Three bathrooms were installed, one by completely reconfiguring the historic rooms at the west end of the back porch which were now connected to the main hall by a new door opening. The east end of the back porch was enclosed for a kitchen, which was connected to the northeast room by a new doorway that Holt created out of one of the windows on the north side of the historic room. Holt also installed $1\frac{1}{4}$ "- or $3\frac{3}{8}$ "- thick, $1\frac{1}{4}$ "- wide oak flooring¹¹ over the original floors in the house and, in his most egregious act, replaced the historic wooden mantel pieces in the two front rooms with rusticated stone mantels.

10. See Wilshin, pp. 79-84, for specific changes identified as having occurred in 1931.

11. Evidence of this alteration is noted in B. L. Flicksinger's Weekly Field Report to EODC, September 6-16, 1966.



Figure 16 View of Room 105, 1940, after replacement of Holt's stone mantelpiece. HABS MISS, 75-VICK, V. 3-21.

The small closet under the main staircase was also removed, the walls extended, and a staircase created to the basement dining room, which had been the only finished room in the basement. The remainder of the basement was excavated, partitioned, and finished to create three additional rooms, a bath, and a hallway.

The attic, which had apparently not been restored in 1902, was reconfigured by the addition of closets and a bath and "masonite insulating board" used to finish walls and ceilings. On the exterior, changes were no less extensive and included the construction of a

wood-framed garage off the northwest side of the house, enclosure of the space beneath the back porch for a carport, and installation of concrete steps and walkways in front of the house. There were also alterations to the fenestration at the basement level; the back porch was screened; louvers were added to the east, west, and north gables; and the trellis was removed from the front porch.¹²

National Park Service, 1933 to present

In August 1933, by Executive Order of the President, administration of the Vicksburg National Military Park was transferred from the War

12. These changes were documented by F. F. Wilshin, "The Shirley House," October 28, 1939, pp. 78-85.



Figure 17 Central hallway, looking north, 1940. Note glass added in back doors. HABS File No. MISS, 75-VICK, V.3-20.



Figure 18 View north in Room 200, May 1965, showing fiber board ceiling installed by Major Holt in 1931. VICK Coll.

Department to the National Park Service, part of a major shift that doubled the size of the NPS with the stroke of a pen. Unfortunately, the damage had already been done to the historic Shirley House, damage that is still visible after nearly 70 years of NPS administration.

Character- altering changes continued to be made to the house even under the NPS, which continued to use the house as park headquarters until a new headquarters building was completed in the summer of 1937. Most of the changes were the result of continuing use of the house as a residence, a use that went on until 1965. In 1934, a wood floor was installed over the historic brick floor in the old basement dining room and glass replaced solid panels in the upper portions of the front and back doors of the house. The next year, doors and windows were weather- stripped and canvas awnings were installed at most of the windows.

Louvered blinds were also installed at the front windows, presumably because the 1902 blinds had deteriorated. Unfortunately, the blinds matched the character of the historic blinds but were about six inches too short for the openings. Also in 1935, the roofs of the front and back porches, which Holt had roofed with asphalt roofing, were reroofed with metal. In 1938, the remaining dirt floor in the basement was concreted and the fireplaces and chimneys were completely rebuilt. Along with that work, Holt's stone mantels were demolished and replaced with wooden mantels. In addition, the sand finished plaster that had been used throughout the house in 1902 was torn out of the southeast parlor and replaced with smooth plaster, which was covered with a Colonial Revival wallpaper. The remainder of the first floor rooms were also repainted at that time. Also in 1939, the front porch was screened while the screening that had been installed on the balcony a year or two earlier was removed.¹³

In the summer of 1939, investigation of the historic Shirley House was begun by Francis F. Wilshin, a Junior Research Technician with the National Park Service. The report that he produced in October 1939, was the first comprehensive report on the history, significance, and physical condition of the Shirley House, and it remains an invaluable resource on the history and historic character of the house. Wilshin concluded his report with a recommendation that the house be restored a second time.¹⁴ Unfortunately for that recommendation, the house continued to be used as a residence for the superintendent for another twenty years and not until the early 1960s was another restoration of the house contemplated.

Second Restoration 1965-1966

The genesis of this second restoration project is not clear; but, in September 1962, funds were appropriated for “architectural research” on the house. This was followed in November by a project proposal for restoration of the exterior of the Shirley House while rehabilitating the interior for continued residential use. For unknown reasons, expenditure of the funds apparently did not begin until April 1965, when NPS architect Orville Carroll began compilation of another historic structure report on the house.¹⁵ The house was still occupied by the



Figure 19 View of front of house, 1940, showing screening of porch and balcony. VICK Coll.



Figure 20 View south of hall, November 1965. VICK Coll.

park’s administrative officer and his family when Carroll began his work; but, in May 1965, they moved out so that the building could be more thoroughly investigated. By July, the first floor bathroom and Holt’s added partitions had been removed along with gas space heaters, floor furnaces, gas piping, and “excess wiring.” The following month, the concrete porch floor and steps that had been installed around 1914 were removed.

13. These changes were also documented by F. F. Wilshin, pp. 78-85.

14. F. F. Wilshin, pp. 127-128

15. The work completed in 1965-1966 is well documented by the weekly field reports and other documents submitted to EODC at that time.

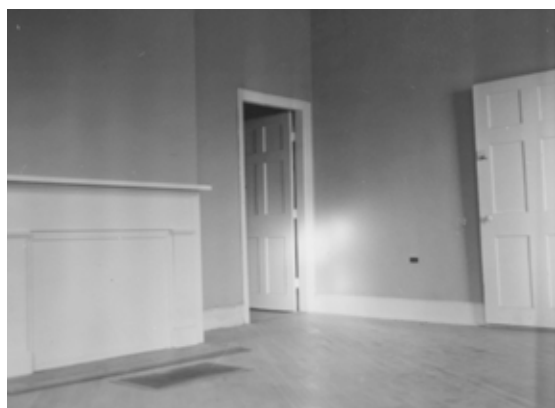


Figure 21 View northeast in Room 101, November 1965. VICK Coll.

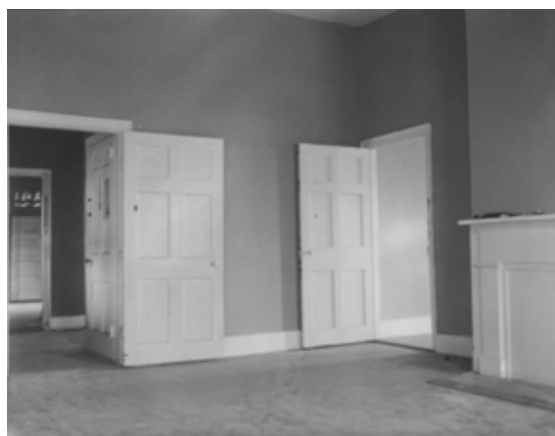


Figure 22 View southeast in Room 102, November 1965. VICK Coll.

Although Wilshin had thoroughly documented the alterations that had been done in the 1930s, much less was known about the condition of the building's structure. As Carroll's investigation proceeded over the next few months, the house's numerous structural defects became increasingly clear. Slowly, finishes were removed to expose the structure for inspection, beginning with the basement ceiling boards and the siding over much of the west and north

sides of the house. Deteriorated sills had allowed the house to settle as much as three inches across its south side and a lesser amount on the north. The attic floor was severely deformed and the entire roof structure of the back porch had separated from the house by two or three inches. Even the end-gable walls of the house had been deformed as the structure slowly deteriorated from rot and termite infestation.

Even though the interior of the house appears to have been gutted in 1902, it also became apparent that budget constraints in 1902 had not allowed for proper repair of the building's structure. In several cases, repairs were made in 1902 that conformed to sagging sills, bulging walls, and other defects. As a result, by the time structural repairs were finally completed in 1966, it had become necessary to essentially gut the interior of the house for a second time.

In the historic structure report that Carroll completed in the fall of 1965, he depended heavily on Wilshin's work; but, being an architect, Carroll also cast a more-critical eye on treatment of the house in 1902. He noted the obvious alterations after 1930, which included enclosure of the east end of the back porch; but he also criticized the overall quality of the 1902 restoration, concluding that "we are dealing with a structure that was completely altered in its outward appearance by lack of understanding and attention to the minute details that give these early buildings their character."¹⁶ Clearly, in his opinion, a tight contract schedule, an ex-

16. Orville Carroll, draft of proposal for work on Shirley House, SERO files.

tremely limited budget, and ignorance had compromised the 1902 restoration to a degree that had not been identified by Wilshin.

Carroll discovered that the rear porch was not fully enclosed, as had been previously assumed and he even found evidence for an earlier porch that did not extend the width of the house. Beneath modern sheetrock in the west rear addition, he found random- width, square- edged poplar boards applied horizontally to the wall studs, noting that these boards were scribed and cut to the weather- boarding. He also found two original foundation sills and six floor joists under the west addition and noted that the floor boards under the “west 25 feet” of the addition were original and appeared to be poplar. He noted that all of the original roof rafters and ceiling joists on the back porch had apparently been removed and reused in 1902 or in 1931 and that all of the historic porch floor and wall framing members that had survived were circular sawn. While Carroll also noted that the wooden members in the main house are either hand hewn or vertically sawn, he did not point out that his discoveries indicated that the Shirleys had replaced the original back porch in the 1850s or early 1860s.¹⁷

Carroll also identified significant problems with the character of the exterior woodwork, most of which dated to 1902. In his reports, he notes that he located six, fourteen- foot pieces of the original weatherboarding on the north wall of the house. Inexplicably, he identified

17. Carroll, Weekly Field Reports, June 4 and June 11, 1965.



Figure 23 View north in 102, showing doors into Room 103, November 1965. VICK Coll.



Figure 24 View north from Room 105 into Room 104, November 1965. VICK Coll.

this material as “blue poplar,” a term whose meaning is not known. Examination of historic photographs showed that the 1902 siding did not replicate the reveal of the original siding; but, more significantly, Carroll found some of the original beaded weatherboard above the ceiling in Room 103, while that used in 1902 was plain 1 x 6 boards. The park recently procured a



Figure 25 View north in Room 200 after removal of fiber-board ceiling, November 1965. VICK Coll.



Figure 26 View west in Room 103, with original board wall intact, pointing out Civil-War-era bullet hole. VICK Coll.

piece of siding, along with an historic note where the writer claims to have retrieved the siding from the house in 1901, prior to the building's restoration. This piece of siding is not beaded; but may have come from the rear addition (which might not have used beaded siding since it was a later addition).

Carroll also determined that the 1902 use of a drip cap and skirt board around the perimeter of the house was also not correct and noted slight differences between the original fanlight in the south gable and the fanlight used in 1902 (which was probably a stock item), differences that are corroborated by the historic photographs. Differences in the placement and detailing of some window openings were also noted by Carroll; but these are not apparent in the photographs and were not unexplained.

By September of 1965, Carroll had completed Part 2 of the HSR, which included what would eventually be more than twenty sheets of drawings. In November, molding and trim samples were sent to the EODC to determine their paint chronology. In the process, he made one of the most common mistakes in determination of historic finishes for a restoration by specifying the *original* colors when, in most cases, those colors had probably long since been painted over by 1863. Whether or not lab analysis was ever conducted on these samples has not been determined.

Other findings included fragments of the original window shutter louvers and areas of wall plaster, all of which were found above the ceiling boards in the basement. None of these artifacts has survived.

In addition, Carroll identified numerous inconsistencies between the foundation as it was restored in 1902 and as it appears in historic photographs. In particular, he identified the fact that the basement dining room (002) and “pump room” (003) were the only original

rooms in the basement and that the remainder of the foundation of the house was mostly brick piers. These he proposed to restore. While most of his assessment of the accuracy of the foundation was probably accurate, the basis for his conclusion that basement window and door openings had flat headers rather than the shallow relieving arches constructed in 1902 cannot be identified.

In order to make repairs to the foundation wall, piers, and chimney stems, Carroll salvaged handmade bricks from a house wrecking in Port Gibson, Mississippi. These materials, along with shutter hinges and window glass were secured from the same site in January 1966. Old, rough-sawn lumber was also procured from another building for the exposed decking on the back porch. The use of this antique material only further confuses present ability to interpret the accuracy of the house's treatment during this period. For features that were entirely missing, Carroll searched for examples on other historic buildings in the area. Manufacture of the existing downspout funnels, or boots, for example, was based on examples in Vicksburg dating from the 1860s. He also acquired wooden barrels to be used for the drainage system, although it is unclear if they are the same as the barrels presently at the site.

By the end of the year, Carroll had completed his specifications and drawings and the project was put out for bid in January 1966. Carroll went to great lengths to interest local contractors in bidding on the project, but construction was booming in the area and the interest was simply not there. When the bids were opened



Figure 27 Excavated foundation at southeast corner of house, 1965. VICK Coll.

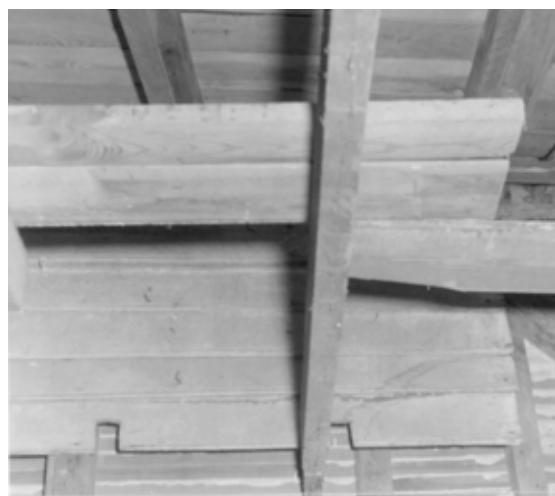


Figure 28 View of original beaded siding found above ceiling of Room 103, November 1965. VICK Coll.



Figure 29 Views of front of house after removal of exterior siding to investigate structural condition, July 1965. VICK Coll.

on February 10, there was only one bid, and it was nearly twice the \$37,450 in the project budget. Still sure of their initial estimates, or else unable to alter them, Carroll recommended that the project be commenced with day labor, to which the EODC quickly agreed. With his work complete, Carroll was re-assigned and he was replaced by James S. Askins and Bobby L. Flicksinger, who began implementation of Carroll's restoration plan. Progress was monitored by architect Henry Judd of the EODC.

A small crew of two carpenters and two laborers was set to work, first removing the wooden floor from the basement dining room and the interior door and window casings, baseboard and other trim from the exterior walls of the house so that repairs could be made to the framing.

It was determined that the building had sunk 1-½ to 3 inches due to termite damage and rot. Progress reports noted that it was difficult to procure the 10 x 10 cypress sills. By the end of May 1966, the building had been raised off of its foundation walls and sill replacement was underway. Deteriorated original studs in the north wall, some of which appeared to have been moved from their original location, were spliced and repaired. The Southern Pacific Lumber Co., Inc. of Jackson, Mississippi provided the heavy framing members. The 2 x 8 joists (1902) and flooring in the southeast room (105) and part of the entrance hall (100), which were not original and were damaged from rot and termites, were replaced with 3" by 12" joists, which more closely matched the original. At this time also, the four, easternmost, brick piers (1902) and the concrete slab (1931) under the rear porch were removed, along with the chimney tops above the roof line.

In June of 1966, after receiving an excessive bid for millwork from a company in Baton Rouge, the proposal was made to have all the millwork reproduced at the NPS shop at Harper's Ferry, Virginia. Whether the present siding was actually produced at Harper's Ferry has not been determined, but presumably it was.

During the month of July, door frame headers and cripples were removed from the north wall and new timbers, mortised into the summer beam, were treated with pentachlorophinal, a popular wood preservative at the time. Corner braces were laid out and cut; and when repairing the studding in the north wall, originals were supplemented with new ones to pick up nail spacing for the weatherboarding.

Twenty-four feet of the top plate was also removed on the west wall, which had been almost completely rebuilt in 1902. Mortises were laid out and cut to receive studs and one corner brace. All the west wall studs were five to six inches short, due to a 4 x 6 that was fixed to top of the 4 x 8 plate in the original restoration. The three original studs in the west wall were half-lapped and returned to their original locations. All others were replaced by 3- $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 3- $\frac{1}{2}$ " and 3- $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 4" rough-sawn cypress. The gable and main walls were forced back to fit the new plate; and, throughout the house, major structural intervention was deemed necessary.

As a result of the work that was necessary to repair and stabilize the house's structure, which included the use of numerous jacks as well as a come-along to wench the walls back into place, all of the plaster ceilings on the first floor were "loosened" and ultimately had to be taken down.

Holt's asphalt and metal roofing materials were stripped from the building in July, but efforts to preserve the historic sheathing boards were largely unsuccessful. The report for July 25 through August 5 noted the "Howel-type" roof



Figure 30 Views of front (upper image) and rear (lower image) of house, May 1966. VICK Coll.



Figure 31 View east after removal of floor in Room 105, May 1966. VICK Coll.

trusses that Mr. Carroll had “knowingly placed” at critical junctures in the roof framing and which allowed retention of more of the original rafters and joists. While new window headers were being fitted, it was discovered that many were changed in 1902. All the new headers were built to conform to a pair found to be “most original.”

Since the north foundation wall was in such poor repair, porch beams had to be bolted to the main house sill beam and countersunk, using 1- $\frac{1}{4}$ ” cypress plugs to resemble the original 1- $\frac{1}{4}$ ” cypress tree nails. Doing this took the weight of three 10” x 10” and two 8” x 10” off the unstable portions of the foundation wall.

In September 1966, sheet metal was ordered for the dormer flashing and valleys. Status reports stated that the new cornice, which was presumably manufactured at Harpers Ferry, was difficult to apply; but, by the end of the month, roof sheathing had been installed and new wood shingles were being applied. Work had also begun framing the front porch roof and balcony, but already it was clear that the project

would be halted for lack of funds. Work apparently continued through the fall but, by the end of December, was halted with the building “weatherproof and secure” but still incomplete.¹⁸ Additional funds for the project were released in the fall of 1967, which apparently allowed for completion of the exterior work, presumably including most repairs to the foundation; but the interior remained only a shell. See Appendix B for the report issued when work was suspended on the house in 1967.

One of the omissions necessitated by lack of funds was installation of a metal roof covering over the front porch. As a result, within a few years, the front porch that had been rebuilt in 1967 was deteriorating; and, by the early 1980s, it was in ruinous condition. Likewise, the posts on the back porch were rotting and, in 1982, funding was secured to make repairs to these porches. There may also have been additional work on the foundation at that time as well; but, unfortunately, work records have not been located to document work that has occurred since 1967

18. Memo from Vicksburg Superintendent to Regional Director, November 15, 1966.

Chronology of Development & Use

1830- 1839	“Wexford Lodge” built by Nicholas Gray
January 1, 1851	Judge James Shirley purchases and, in early 1852, completes renovation of Wexford Lodge
May 18, 1863	Skirmishing begins in vicinity of Shirley House
July 4, 1863	Pemberton surrenders Vicksburg to Grant
August 1864	House used by Union army as smallpox hospital; not occupied as a residence after that
December 7, 1874	Racial clash at Shirley House as local Republicans are ousted from power
1899	Vicksburg National Military Park established
April 1900	Alice Shirley Eaton has parents re- interred in back yard of Shirley House
May 14, 1900	Alice Shirley Eaton sells family home and 60 acres to the Federal Government
First Restoration	
May 20, 1902	War Department authorizes repair of the house, Park Engineer E.E. Betts prepares the specifications
August 4, 1902	Request for bids sent out
September 4, 1902	Vicksburg National Military Park (NMP) sends contracts to Washington recommending McGraw bid
September 11, 1902	Memo from War Department agrees with McGraw Co. estimate
September 19, 1902	Contract signed
October 6, 1902	Work begins on house; “several walking sticks” made from deteriorated posts on north side of house; sent by Rigby to selected members of Illinois Commission and former Sgt. Maj. W.F. Crummer of 45th Illinois
November 14, 1902	Restoration complete at cost of \$3,000.00

Chronology of Development & Use

January 19, 1903	Tourist brochure by Illinois Central Railroad Company shows images from 1868 after Shirleys abandoned home and images by the McGraw Co. from September and November of 1902
1906	Park employee Louis Sweet and family use the house as a residence after the departure of General Culver. There was no intent to use the house as a museum, although the park was beginning to acquire a collection of objects associated with the campaign and siege
c. 1914	Wooden front porch floor and steps replaced with concrete
c. 1921	Wood- shingled roof covered with asphalt “composition” roofing
“Reconditioning” and Additions	
May 13 1930	New Superintendent, John B. Holt requests funds to “recondition” Shirley House to make livable for “first class occupant”
May 22, 1930	Quartermaster General of War Department prohibits any modern installations, orders simple maintenance
May 15, 1931	Cable telegram to Holt from Fort McPherson questions reports that house is being remodeled and modernized, against orders; report is required
May 15, 1931	Holt sends telegram stating that reports of remodeling were unauthorized and untrue and completes extensive remodeling and modernization of the house.
1932	Fire damages basement mantel
August 1933	Shirley house stewardship transferred to National Park Service (NPS)
1934	NPS architect H.H. Davis draws plans of house; wood floor installed in basement dining room and glass panels installed in front and back doors
1935	Awnings and louvered blinds installed; porches roofed in metal
July 1937	The administrative offices of Vicksburg NMP are moved from Shirley House to a new building
1938	Remainder of dirt floor in basement is paved with concrete; both chimneys rebuilt

Chronology of Development & Use

1939	“The Shirley House” produced by F.F. Wilshin; Holt’s stone mantels replaced with appropriate wooden mantels; 1902 plaster in southeast room replaced with smooth- finish plaster; interior of house repainted; front porch and balcony screened
1940	Bookshelves and window seat added in northeast corner of Room 105
1958	Cistern on west side of house turned into a septic tank
September 1962	Funds appropriated for “architectural research” on Shirley House
April 1965	Orville Carroll begins research and building investigation for development of a historic structure report
May 1965	Last residents of Shirley House move out
September 1965	“Historic Structures Report, Part II, Architectural Data Section on Shirley House” and “Shirley House Restoration Specifications” produced by Orville W. Carroll
Second Restoration	
January 1966	Requests for bids for restoration of exterior and rehabilitation of interior of Shirley House
April to September 1966	Onsite restoration involving raising of structure off foundation to repair/replace deteriorated beams, sills, etc.; extensive structural work elsewhere; interior of house is essentially gutted
December 1966	Last of funds expended
February 1967	Status report on stalled project issued by Bobby L. Flicksinger
October 1967	Additional funding for restoration of Shirley House scheduled for release
1983	Repairs to front and rear porches

Chronology of Development & Use

Physical Description

The Shirley House is a one- and- a- half story, side- gabled house with two brick chimneys. The wood- framed structure is built on brick foundation walls, with access to the basement at the rear and side elevations. The front, south- facing elevation has a central double- door entry beneath a portico, the roof of which is balustraded as a balcony. Above the balcony is a gabled, pedimented dormer that features a door with sidelights surmounted by a lunette and flanked by double- hung windows. The rear elevation has a raised porch on brick piers and is enclosed at the west end.

Note: Floor plans of the existing structure may be found at the end of this section.

The first floor has a symmetrical Georgian plan with a long central hall flanked by two rooms on each side. At the rear of the hall are four folding doors accessing the back porch, which is enclosed at the west end. A staircase along the west side of the central hall rises to the attic, which is divided into three major spaces. These rooms are expressed in the roof geometry, with the stairs rising to a center room beneath the north- south gables flanked by unfin-

Physical Description



Figure 32 South elevation, NPS SERO 2001.



Figure 33 View of house from southwest. NPS SERO 2001

ished spaces beneath both the east and west gables. Stairs descend to the basement beneath the main staircase. The basement is divided by a brick wall running east to west, with the north side of the basement partitioned into a large space, historically used as a dining room, lo-

cated in the northwest side of the basement and a bathroom and smaller utility spaces on the northeast side.

Character-Defining Features

Most of the building's character-defining features on the exterior have been restored or reconstructed during previous restoration projects. Since the time of the siege and the following years of neglect, the house has undergone two major restoration projects (1902 and 1965-66), and very little of the original finish material remains today. On the interior, much of the flooring; at least five doors, frames, and casing; baseboard; and some other moldings are original as is the paneled staircase and arch. Presently, none of the exterior finishes can be considered



Figure 34 View of north facade, with headstone for Shirleys' graves partially visible at left. At right foreground is the footprint of Major Holt's garage. NPS SERO 2001.

historic, with the exception of areas of the brick foundation and chimneys.

The most prominent features on the exterior are the front porch and pedimented gable. The porch, features four columns- - boxed, paneled, and slightly tapered- - which support a balustraded roof balcony at the second floor level. This is the porch from which Adeline Quincy Shirley reportedly secured a sheet to a broom handle, hoping to signal a truce. The projecting dormer wall features four slender engaged columns framing a door and two windows and surmounted by a pedimented gable



Figure 35 View to southwest. NPS SERO 2001.

with a small lunette above the door. On the back porch, four folding doors are an unusual feature and, from the interior, mask the asymmetry of the exterior porch enclosure. Although the threshold appears continuous from the inside hall, only four panels access the porch, the western panel leads to the room



Figure 36 View of front portico and second floor balcony. NPS SERO 2001.

created by enclosing the west end of the porch. It is not known at what date the porch was enclosed, except that it occurred prior to the siege

in Vicksburg in 1863, but it may have been one of the many improvements done by the Shirley's after they purchased the house in 1851.¹⁹ Other character-defining features on the exterior include the beaded weatherboarding, the flush-laid, tongue-and-groove siding on the porch walls, the 12/12 and 8/8 double-hung windows (minus their historic shutters), and the paneled doors at the front and rear entries.

The historic plan of the house has been partially restored with the removal of partitions

19. Terrence J. Winschel, "Alice Shirley and the Story of Wexford Lodge," p. 6.

and divisions created in previous rehabilitation projects. The central hall is flanked on the east by a pair of rooms that are joined to each other by large folding doors and, on the west, by two rooms that are connected to each other by a single door on the east side of the fireplaces. The plan allowed for a variety of uses, but the rooms on the eastern side of the house were undoubtedly used as a double parlor while those on the west were probably used as bedrooms. The small rooms at the west end of the back porch were apparently connected to the rear bedroom, and one of them may have functioned as a dressing room.

Stairs in the back porch led to a dining room on the northwest side of the basement. On the second floor, a large room runs the width of the house, lit at each end by windows in the north- and south-facing gables. Its original use is not known, although Alice Shirley's writing references a bedstead on the second floor being damaged by cannon fire. The rooms on each side of the main room were probably not finished historically and were most likely used for storage.

The paneled staircase and the pilasters and arch that divide the hall are the most notable architectural features surviving in the house. The staircase has survived intact, although the small closet beneath it was extended in the 1930s to allow for an interior stair to the basement. Parts of the flooring, some of the baseboard, several of the original doors and some original hardware have also survived and



Figure 37 View northwest along Union Avenue. NPS SERO 2001.

contribute significantly to the building's historic character. All of the mantels, which were replaced during Major Holt's "reconditioning" in 1932, were reconstructed in 1939 according to their historic appearance. Differences in paint layering clearly distinguish doors and woodwork of different eras. Original doors are approximately 1- 1/4" thick while those installed in 1902 are generally 1- 3/8" thick.

The house's raised basement takes advantage of the site's terrain and increases the amount of living and storage space. Historic accounts describe the dining room as being in the basement, surely along the northwest side where there is a door which led to the backyard and

kitchen house. Although subdivided in the 1930s, the eastern side of the basement was originally only partially enclosed, with the piers left open or fitted with a gate.

Site

Vicksburg National Military Park is on the western boundary of the Gulf Coastal Plain, in a belt known as the "Loess Hills" that parallels the Mississippi River. These hills derive their name from the wind- deposited soil called loess, which covers the bedrock to a significant depth.²⁰

The soils, which cover about 60 percent of Warren County, are easily eroded on slopes and

20. Vicksburg NMP Environmental Assessment, September 1979, p.19.

Physical Description



Figure 38 View of basement and porches on north side. NPS SERO 2001.



Figure 39 View of historic masonry at dining room door. NPS SERO 2001.

account for the hilly landscape surrounding the Shirley House. The house is built into a sharp slope, characteristic of the very abrupt formations nearby and along local rivers. Although loess will stand in sharp cliffs for a long period of time, it is highly erodible if the surface is disturbed and not stabilized and properly drained.

The front yard has been terraced uniformly level for a distance of 105 feet from the house

southward toward the Jackson Road, which itself is some 141 feet away. Vehicular traffic, natural erosion and grading of the road over the years has produced a cut approximately 10'-6" deep in front of the Shirley House. To reach the roadway from the property there is a set of concrete steps, constructed in 1931²¹, which replaced an earlier "flight of steps," the material of which is not certain but was probably wood.²²

The grade surrounding the house has changed considerably since the Civil War. Most notable are the effects of the building of Union Avenue on the east side of the house. Parts of Jackson Road to the south are historic and the front of the house was once accessed by a circular drive, which left the road near what is now the bottom of the Illinois Memorial steps. To the rear of the house is the gravestone of James and Adeline Shirley, whose remains were removed from Cedar Hill Cemetery in Vicksburg and interred behind the house in 1900 just prior to the sale of the property to the Federal government. The gravestone was erected by their daughter Alice Shirley Eaton. Historical accounts by Mrs. Eaton state that there was a kitchen and four sleeping quarters for slaves to the rear of the house. All five buildings were reportedly destroyed during the early stage of the Union siege, probably in order to salvage wood for constructing fortifications.²³ Nothing is known about the smokehouse, stables, privy and other outbuildings which would have ex-

21. Wilshin, p. 110.

22. Orville W. Carroll, Part I Architectural Data Section, July 1965, p.14.

23. F. F. Wilshin, "The Shirley House," unpublished MSS dated October 28, 1939, p.6.

isted on the site, but they too were probably torn down for the wood that they contained.

Foundation

Historically, the house sat on brick piers, the brick partition walls that create Rooms 002 003, and a continuous brick foundation and retaining wall across the south (front) and west sides of what is now enclosed as Room 001.

The foundation walls are around 12- 1/2" thick and set in what is generally an 8- course common bond. The walls rise to nearly 9', but the front yard was graded to leave the top of the foundation only about 18" above grade, which drops rapidly on the sides of the house to expose the full height of the foundation on the sides and rear. Whitewashed historically, the foundation was painted on more than one occasion in the twentieth century, with colors ranging from white to gray to red.

Structure

The house was constructed on a conventional braced frame, typical of the mid- nineteenth century. Original framing material can be generally identified as being sash sawn, i.e., using a reciprocating saw. Later material, probably including some of the Shirley's early modifications to the rear of the house, is nearly all



Figure 40 View of northeast corner of frame. NPS SERO 2001.



Figure 41 View of typical first floor ceiling framing. NPS SERO 2001.



Figure 42 View of roof framing showing added plywood reinforcement. NPS SERO 2001.



Figure 43 View of south slope of roof and west chimney. NPS SERO 2001.



Figure 44 View of typical first floor window and finishes. NPS SERO 2001.

circular sawn. Dimension of framing members is also useful in distinguishing material from different eras. Original studs and joists tend to be around 3" thick, while later replacements are generally closer to 2" thick. At the west end of the building, framing elements that were replaced in 1902 can be readily identified by the size of the studs.

Exterior Finishes

Roof and Gutters The end- gabled roof is transversed by two gabled dormers. The area of the main roof is 2,515 square feet and is covered with wood shingles that were installed in September 1966. Specifications called for the shingles to be heart cypress, or Western Red Cedar, 18" long, and in widths ranging from 3- 1/2" to 10"

There are roof- hung, half- round gutters with round downspouts on the north and south sides of the house. A distinctive historic feature of the roof are the wooden troughs set against the sidewalls of the dormers. They are 15" wide and constructed with tongue- and- groove, pressure- treated, kiln- dried lumber. They are a safeguard against water infiltration into the dormer walls, channeling the run- off from the dormer roofs to the gutters that drain the main sheds of the roof. Water from both the front and rear gutters is drained at both ends of the building where the downspouts come together at a boot, which drains into a rain barrel. The rain barrels are fixed in place and mask a connection to an underground drainage pipe.

Siding and Trim The house is covered in weatherboarding, each board beaded along its lower edge. Walls under the porches, on the south face of the front dormer, and within the pediment on the front dormer, are paneled with flush-laid, tongue-and-groove boards. All of the exterior siding, both flush and lap, was replaced in 1965. Window and door openings are trimmed with a plain narrow casing and beaded stop. Corners are finished with 3" boards and a corner bead. All of this material dates to 1965 as well.

Front and rear porch decks are wood-framed and have been variously finished with 5" tongue-and-groove cypress and pressure-treated pine. Front porch columns are boxed and paneled, approximately 1'-1-5/16" square (under the capital), 11'-10" tall, with modified Tuscan capitals and shallow wooden plinths.

Four narrow wooden strips are mounted between the columns, originally intended as a trellis for climbing roses or other vines. The balustrade around the second floor balcony is approximately three-feet high with 4" posts and 1"-square balusters. Back porch columns are also boxed but unpaneled and about 7-1/2" square with a plain built-up plinth, a simple fillet at the neck, and a crown molding capital.

Windows and Doors None of the original windows has survived. There are five types of sash windows used in the house. Most of the double-hung windows throughout the house have 12/12 sash, typically around 3'-1" by 5'-8". Windows on the north side of Room 103 have



Figure 45 View of typical siding and corner trim. NPS SERO 2001.

9/9 sash, and are typically 2'-5" by 5'-8". A single window with 6/6 sash, 2'-5" by 4'-1", is at the west end of Room 103. Windows in the north and south dormers have 8/8 sash and are generally 2'-7" by 3'-11". In addition, two double-hung windows with 3/6 sash and measuring 2'-4" by 3'-2" and one window with 8/12 sash and measuring 3'-1" by 4'-10" are found on the north and west sides of the basement respectively.

The front door opening is 6'-0" by 8'-7" and has two six-panel doors and a six-light transom. The back door opening is 8'-8" by 8'-6" with four eight-panel doors and no transom.



Figure 46 View of original woodwork on staircase, with scraped areas exposing the brown paint used in 1902. NPS SERO 2001.

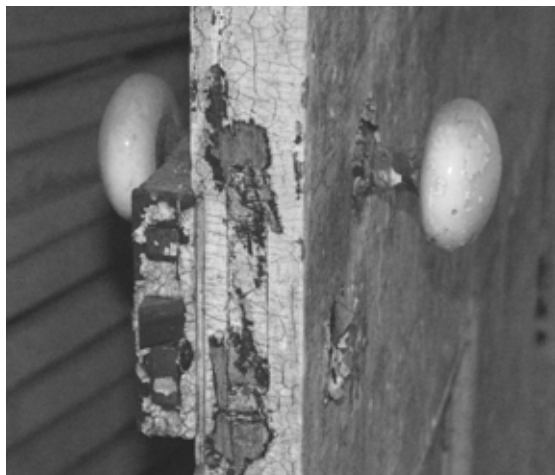


Figure 47 View of typical original rim lock and porcelain knobs. NPS SERO 2001

Interior

In the advertisement for sale, “Wexford Lodge” was described as a house with “seven large” rooms and two small rooms. Most likely, these were the four large rooms and the “wide pas-

sage” on the first floor, the large room on the second floor, the basement dining room, and the two small rooms that the Shirleys added on the back porch before the Civil War and that are depicted in Sharpe’s plans of 1902. The partition that created the two rooms on the porch has been lost but the space that encompassed the two rooms remains. Total square footage for the existing main floor is about 2,100 s.f.

Stairs ascend to the second floor where there are three more spaces. The center room is connected to the hall on the main floor by an open staircase and also opens to the balcony above the front porch. It may have originally been intended for use as a ball room. Roof truss with sawn and hewn curvatures indicate the possibility that the ceiling was intended to be coved or arched. The character of framing and finish material in the adjacent rooms suggests that they were not finished until the 1930s.

Originally, the basement could be reached from the first floor only via the stairway in the back porch. In 1932, a second stairway to the basement was created through what had been a closet under the staircase to the second floor. At least one room (002) in the basement was apparently finished and used by the Shirleys as a dining room. Another small, brick-walled room (003) may also be a historic space, perhaps used as a pantry. The bathroom (004) is clearly a twentieth-century addition, and it is unclear if there were historically any other finished spaces in the northeast side of the basement, since . The south side of the basement was apparently always unfinished.

Plaster: Most of the original plaster has been lost from the building, much of it replaced in 1902. However, significant amounts of original plaster may be present on the chimney breasts and fragments may survive elsewhere.

Paint: Existing woodwork, including doors, is a mixture of original material and material installed in 1902. The original woodwork in many areas was grained and can be identified by a base coat of white paint under a layer of dark brown paint. The budget in 1902 did not allow reglazing and all woodwork that had been grained originally was apparently painted brown to mimic the earlier finish. As a result, the first coat of paint on replacement material added in 1902 is brown.

Hardware: A few of the original door hinges, rim locks, and door knobs remain in the building, but most have been lost. Typically, white porcelain knobs would have been used at primary doors while dark mineral knobs would have been used at closets and other secondary locations. Metal knobs characterize the hardware that replaced missing elements in 1902.

Room 100

Measuring 12' wide and running 35' - 9" north to south, this central hall encompasses about 429 s.f. At the south end is the house's main entrance and at the north end are doors to the back porch. A staircase to the second floor ascends to the north along the northwest side of this space while the stairs to the basement descend to the south beneath the main staircase. Doors originally opened from the hall to the



Figure 48 View of "fancy" hinges originally used at most primary doors. NPS SERO 2001.



Figure 49 View of butt hinges used at folding doors. NPS SERO 2001.

four main rooms on this floor; but most of the wall between the hall and Room 105 is now missing. The closet that originally existed beneath the stairs was replaced by the existing basement stairs in 1932.

Flooring: The hall measures 12' east to west and 35' - 9" north to south. Approximately the rear (north) half of the floor has its original, sash-



Figure 50 Central hall, view to north. NPS SERO 2001.

stair to basement, NPS SERO 2001.



Figure 51 View of rear of staircase and extension for 1932

sawn, 5-1/4" to 6-1/2", tongue- and- groove flooring. The remainder of the flooring is random- width and may have been salvaged from elsewhere in the house except for four runs of modern 3-1/4" tongue- and- groove flooring near the foot of the stairs.

Walls and Ceiling: Walls and ceilings were originally plaster on wood lath, all of which was apparently replaced in 1902. No plaster or lath remains on the ceiling, which was set at approximately 12' - 4". The 1902 lath and plaster

survive at the south end of the west wall, at the north end of the east wall, and under the stairs.

Doors: The front doors are 5'-11 1/2" x 8'-7 1/2" and are circa 1965 reproductions of the original double doors. The doors at the rear of the hall are 8' - 8" x 8' - 6", four-leaf folding doors that are historic. Three leaves open to the back porch; the fourth opens into the room that was added to the west end of the back porch prior to 1864.

The door to the basement was originally used at the closet under the stairs. It is 2'-9" by 7'-4", 1-5/8" thick, and is probably original. It is fitted with a rim lock and mineral knob that are probably original.

Trim: A 10" beaded baseboard is used at the stairs and on the west wall between the stairs and the door to Room 101. The remaining baseboard between that door and the front door and at the north end of the east wall is also beaded but only 8" high. Both runs are probably original.

Door casing has a beaded stop and a molded backband. The casing at the doors to Rooms 102 and 104 is original; that at the door to 101 dates to the 1902 restoration. The casing at the rear doors is a modern reproduction of the original. Plain 1" by 6" boards are used to case the basement door and date to 1932 when the doorway was moved. No casing survives at the front door.

Paneled pilasters about 11" wide and a shallow arch divide the hall in half. Both pilasters and arch use casing similar to that used at doors and windows. Most of the material in these features is original.



Figure 52 View of main staircase. NPS SERO 2001



Figure 53 View of basement stairs from hall. NPS SERO 2001.



Figure 54 View to northwest in Room 101. NPS SERO 2001.

Staircase: The space is distinguished by a paneled staircase ascending to the north from just south of the archway. Risers are $8\text{'-}\frac{1}{2}\text{'}$ high; treads are $10\text{'-}\frac{3}{4}\text{'}$ wide.

The skirting and the paneling below is certainly original material, except where the paneling was extended when the basement stairs were installed in 1932. Some of the balustrade is original and some dates to 1902, but a paint study would be necessary to distinguish which elements belong to which era. The newel post is turned from $3\text{'-}\frac{5}{8}\text{'}$ stock and is about $3\text{'-}8\text{'}$ high. Bannisters are constructed of a plain

round railing, and pickets are rectangular, 1' x $\frac{1}{4}\text{'}$.

Room 101

Located at the southwest corner of the main floor and used originally as a bedroom, this room measures $21\text{'-}6\text{'}$ east to west and $17\text{'-}8\text{'}$ north to south. This room along with Room 102 appears to have suffered the worst damage during the period of neglect in the nineteenth century.

Flooring: About $7\text{'-}9\text{'}$ of the flooring on the west side of the room has been replaced by $3\text{'-}\frac{1}{4}\text{'}$ tongue- and- groove flooring. About three

feet of the flooring on the east side of the room has also been replaced as has a two-foot square near the center of the room. On the west side of the floor, there is also a 16" by 30" opening that was probably created in 1932 for a floor furnace. The remainder of the flooring appears to be the original tongue- and- groove material, 4- 3/4" to 6- 1/2" wide.

Walls and Ceiling: Much of the west wall and ceiling were reconstructed in 1902. Ceiling height is 12'3" and only the 1902 lath survives. Plaster (some of which could be original) survives on the chimney breast. Plaster and wood lath also survive at the east end of the north wall and on the entire east wall, all of it presumably dating to 1902.

Windows and Doors: One six- panel door, 3'- 4" by 7'- 2" by 1- 1/4" thick opens on the east wall to the hall. Another six- panel door, 3'- 2" by 7'- 4" by 1- 3/8" thick opens on the north wall to Room 102. The hall door has Victorian spindle hinges and a rimlock with metal knobs. The door to 102 is hung with modern butt hinges and has a rim lock with a porcelain knob and probably dates to 1902. A third door with its frame is stored in this room. It measures 3'- 4" by 7'- 2" by 1- 1/2" and may have originally been used at the opening between 102 and 103.

Two typical 12/12 windows are located on the south wall and two on the west wall. Both are modern reproductions of the original and neither is cased.



Figure 55 View of historic door between Rooms 100 and 101. NPS SERO 2001.



Figure 56 View of reconstructed mantle in Room 102. NPS SERO 2001.

Trim: A typical beaded baseboard, 8- 1/2" high and probably original, remains on the east wall and on the east side of the north wall.

Fireplace: The mantel is 6'- 1" wide and 4'- 1" high and is a recreation of the original. The



Figure 57 View northwest in Room 102, looking through wall framing into Room 103. NPS SERO 2001.

firebox is covered by modern dry wall and could not be examined but was probably rebuilt along with the modern brick hearth, as was done in Room 102.

Room 102

Adjoining Room 101 on the north and probably also used as a bedroom, Room 102 measures 17'-7" by 21'-5". As in 101, much of the historic fabric here was lost prior to 1900.

Flooring: All of the original floor boards have been lost. Existing flooring is 3-1/4" tongue-and-groove, probably installed in 1902. On the west side of the floor, there is also a 16" by 30" opening that was probably created in 1931 for a floor furnace.

Walls and Ceiling: Much of the west wall and ceiling had to be reconstructed in 1902. Plaster on wood lath survives on the east wall, and at the east end of the north wall. All plaster and lath have been removed from the ceiling, but

plaster remains on the chimney breast, some of it probably original.

Windows and Doors: The room has two typical double-hung windows located on the west wall. On the north wall, both of the original window openings were replaced with doors when 103 was constructed prior to 1864. Doors and frames have been removed from both of these openings. The door to the hall is a typical six-panel door, 3'-4" by 7'-3" by 1-3/8". It is hung with modern butt hinges but is still fitted with a rim lock and mineral knobs.

Trim: Baseboards, probably original, are typical, 8" to 8-1/4", and survive on the east wall and at the east end of south wall. Windows are uncased. Casing survives at both doors; backband is missing from the header of the hall door.

Fireplace: The mantel is 6'-1" wide and 4'-1" high and is a reconstruction. The mantel shelf is split at the west end but is otherwise intact. The firebox and hearth have both been rebuilt using modern brick.

Room 103

Constructed prior to 1864 by enclosing part of the rear porch, this room measures 24'-8" east to west and 9'-10" north to south. At some point, perhaps when it was originally constructed, the room was partitioned by a wall set about 14'-8" from the west end of the existing space. This space was enclosed for use as a kitchen in 1932, with the floor being raised to make it level with the interior floors.

Flooring: Flooring is modern, circular- sawn, tongue- and- groove boards in random widths, 3- 1/4" to 6- 1/4" wide.

Walls and Ceiling: Walls and ceilings were originally boarded but all material has been removed. The ceiling is set at 9'- 3".

Windows and Doors: The present room has three window openings, two on the north wall and one on the west. All three are double-hung. The east window on the north wall is 2'- 5" by 3'- 10", 6/6. The other two windows are 2'- 4" by 5'- 8", 9/9. All sash are reconstructions.

In addition to the missing doors (inserted in what were previously window openings on the north wall), a door opens to the hall (101) at the east end of the north wall. The opening is 2'- 8" by 8'- 6" but is only partially framed. It was originally closed by one of the leaves of the folding doors at the north end of the hall. A fourth door opening, 2'- 8" by x 6'3," connects this room to the back porch. The door is a modern six- panel door, hung upside down; but the threshold appears to be historic.

Trim: None of the door or window casing survives except at the hall door, where part of the casing may be original.

Room 104

Located at the northeast corner of the house, this room was probably used as a parlor or sitting room. This room and Room 105 apparently

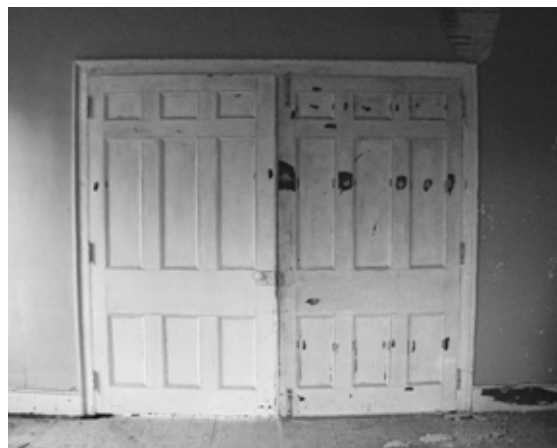


Figure 58 View of double doors between Rooms 104 and 105. NPS SERO 2001.



Figure 59 View from Room 105 of double doors in Figure 42. NPS SERO 2001.

did not require as much reconstruction in 1902 as did the rooms on the west side of the house.

Flooring: Much of the flooring is original, tongue- and- groove, 4- 1/4" to 6- 3/4" wide. Near the center of the north side of the room, a small area about 4' by 5' has been patched with modern 3- 1/4" tongue- and- groove flooring.



Figure 60 View east from hall into Room 105. NPS SERO 2001.

Walls and Ceilings Plaster on wood lath survives on the south wall and over most of the west wall. Plaster and lath are missing from the other walls and from the ceiling.

Windows and Doors: A pair of typical, double-hung windows, 12/12 and 3'-1" by 5'-8", appear on the east wall and another pair on the north wall. Both date to the 1960s.

In addition to the door from the hall on the west, a pair of folding doors connect this room to the front parlor (Room 105). The doors are original, have nine panels each, and measure

4'-0" by 7'-6" by 1-1/2" thick. Butt hinges, which may not be original, have movable pins, and the doors are fitted with a rim lock and porcelain knobs.

Trim: Typical baseboard, 8"-8-3/8" high, remains on the south and west walls but is missing elsewhere. Casing remains at both door openings but is missing from all four windows.

Room 105

Adjoining Room 104 on the south, this room was probably used as a formal parlor, which could be combined with 104 by throwing open

the large folding doors that connect the two rooms. The room measures 17'-5" by 21'-4".

Flooring Original flooring has been entirely replaced by modern tongue- and- groove flooring, 3- $\frac{1}{4}$ " to 6- $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide.

Walls and Ceiling: Part of the framing for the west wall has been removed, including that for the door opening connecting this room to the hall. Plaster on wire lath remains on the north wall, along with remnants of a Colonial Revival wallpaper that may date to the late 1930s when the wall was replastered. Plaster also remains on the chimney breast but is missing elsewhere in the room.

Windows and Doors: A pair of typical, double- hung windows, 12/12 and 3'-1" by 5'-8", appear on the east wall and another pair on the south wall. In addition to the folding doors on the north wall, there was also originally a door to the hall on the west wall. Framing for this opening has been removed, but the door and door frame that are now stored in Room 101 may have been used at this opening.

Trim: The only trim that remains in this room is historic casing at the folding doors.

A wooden mantle is installed at the reconstructed fireplace on the east wall. It was installed in 1939 when Major Holt's rock fireplace was removed.

Basement

The house has a full basement, enclosed by the brick foundation walls except at the east end



Figure 61 View of mantle piece installed in Room 105 in 1939. NPS SERO 2001.



Figure 62 View east of stairs added in 1932. NPS SERO 2001.



Figure 63 View east in Room 001. NPS SERO 2001.



Figure 64 View of western end of dining room. NPS SERO 2001.

where wood- framed walls between brick piers finish the enclosure. Historically, the house sat on brick piers and the brick partition walls that create Room 002, which was the Shirley's dining room, and Room 003, which may have been a pantry. Until 1932, there was no interior access between the first floor and basement. The remainder of the space was historically unfinished, although there may have been some sort of store room in the southwest side of the basement.

Room 001 The southern half of the basement (001) probably remained unfinished historically, although the western end appears to have

always been lit by a window and may have been used for storage.

The floor is concrete, with the western third dating to 1932 and the remainder installed in the 1960s. The eastern third of the floor has been covered with dirt, apparently to represent its original condition. Walls are the brick foundation walls, except at the east end where wood- framed walls fill the openings on either side of the chimney and form the partition that created the bathroom in 1932.

Room 002: According to historical accounts by Alice Shirley Eaton, the dining room was located in Room 002, which is accessible to the porch stair and the rear dependencies and has a fireplace. The room is 32'- 6" by 16'- 6" with a ceiling height of approximately 9 feet. White-

wash on ceiling joists indicates that the room did not originally have a ceiling, although Major Holt installed a board ceiling in 1931 that was removed in 1965.

Walls are formed by the brick foundation walls, which were apparently historically kept white-washed. Walls were extensively repaired in the 1960s with the extent of the repairs clearly evident in the use of Portland mortars, which are grey in color. A few sections of brick pavers remain from what was presumably the historic flooring in this room. Historically, the only access to the basement was through a side door or via a rear door accessed by the porch stair.

Room 003: Brick walled, Room 003 measures about 5'-6" east to west and 7'-6" north to south. A door on the west wall connects to 002 and a small window opens on the north wall to a part of the basement that was probably historically unfinished. This room may have served as a pantry.

Rooms 004- 006: These rooms were created in 1931 with wood- framed walls partitioning the space. Room 005 was created as a bathroom and, although the north wall is entirely missing as is a bath tub, the toilet and sink remain in place.

Attic

The attic is divided into three spaces, but the center space (200) is probably the only one that was historically finished. About 18' wide and 35' long, it sits above the central hall on the main floor, to which it is connected by the house's

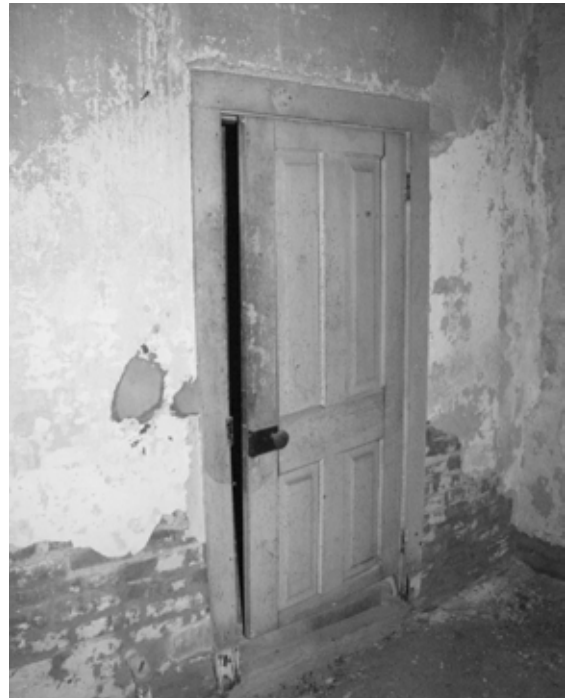


Figure 65 View of door to Room 003. NPS SERO 2001.



Figure 66 View northwest in Room 200. NPS SERO 2001.

main staircase. Framing for the room is 6- $\frac{1}{2}$ ' wider than the hall below, which means that the weight of the partitions on the east and west sides of the room do not bear directly on the side walls of the hall below.



Figure 67 View south in Room 200. NPS SERO 2001.

west end where much of it must have been replaced in 1902.



Figure 68 View southwest in Room 200. NPS SERO 2001.

Flooring: Flooring is typical random-width tongue- and- groove flooring, much of it probably original to the space, except around the

Walls and Ceilings: Since there is no evidence that these were plastered, walls and ceilings in Room 200 were originally boarded, but it is not clear if the existing boards that survive on the side walls and the west end of the attic are historic. Tongue- and- groove boards, 5- 1/2" wide, remain on parts of the south, west, and east walls. Nails and remnants of fiber board indicate that the east and west attic rooms were finished with fiber board panels, probably in 1932.

Windows and Doors: A pair of typical double-hung windows with 12/12 sash light each end of the attic. A pair of double- hung windows with 8/8 sash light the north dormer, and another

pair flanks the door and sidelights in the south dormer.

The door that opens to the balcony above the front porch is 3'-0" by 6'-2" by 1-3/8". It has two vertical molded panels in the lower portion of the door and two glazed openings in the upper portion covered by screened louvers. It has apparently been altered, probably in 1932, but to what extent is not clear since it does not show clearly in historic photographs. Flanking the door are sidelights, each with four lights above a molded panel 1'-5" by 1'-7-3/8".

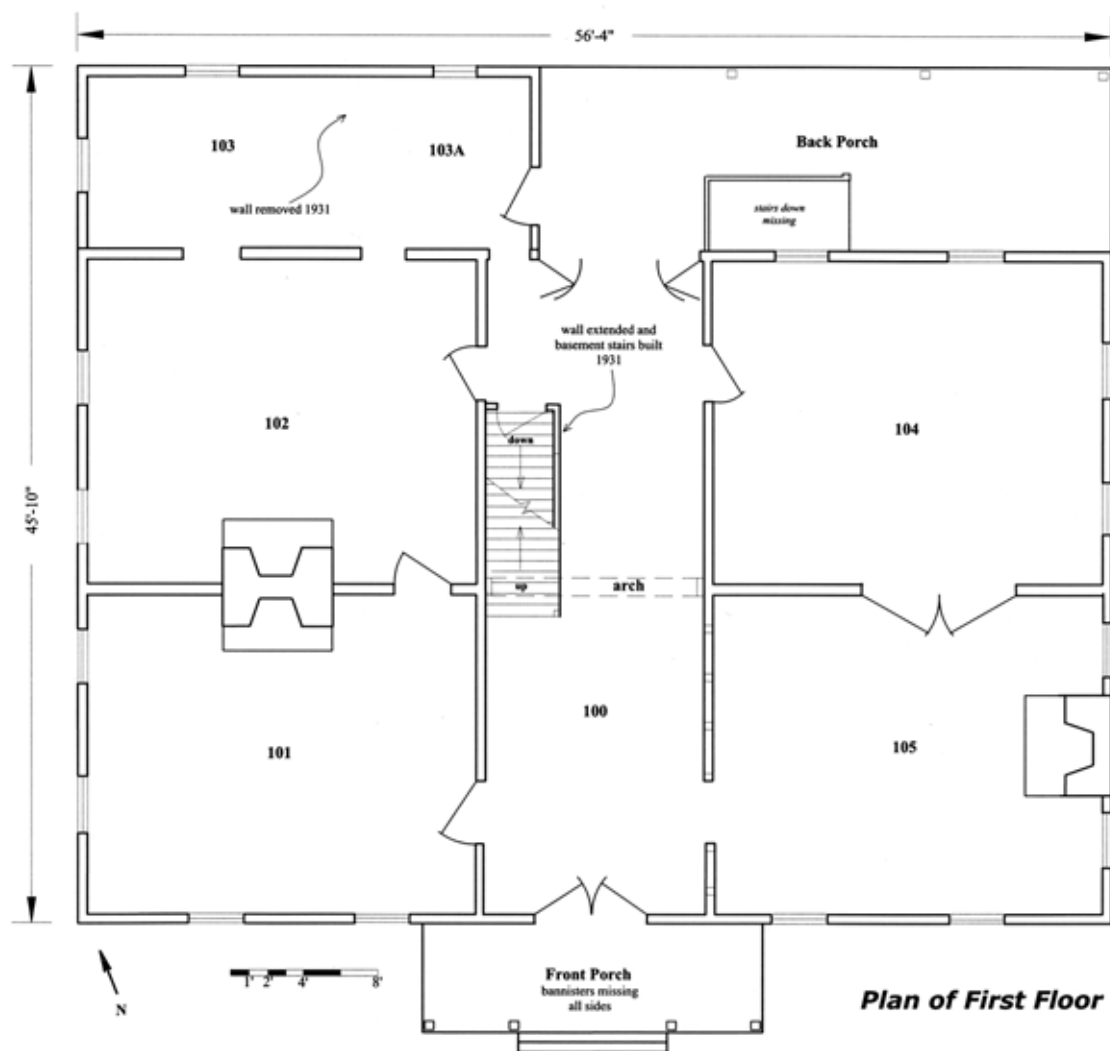
Doors originally existed to connect Room 200 with the east and west sides of the attic, but both of these are missing and there are no frames. Frames may never have existed since there is a mortise for a hinge on one of the studs

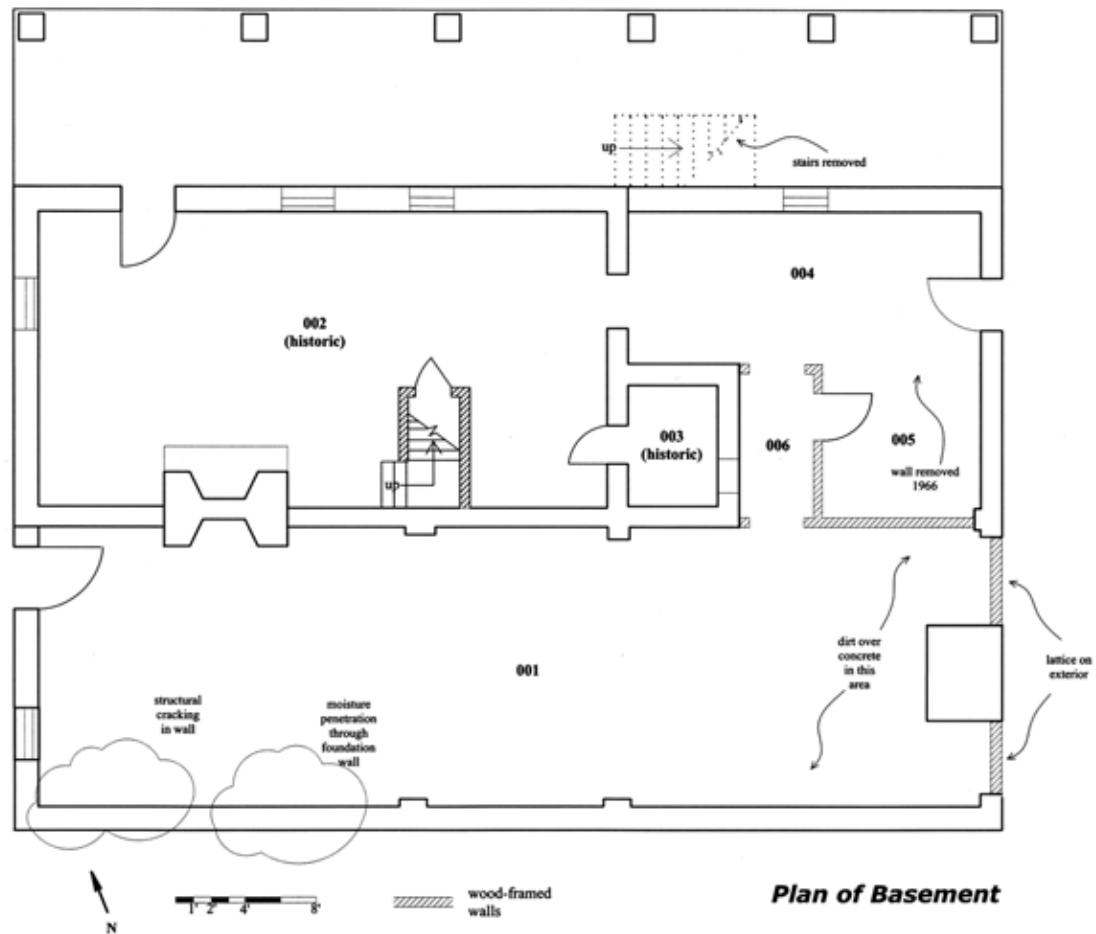
where the door to the west side of the attic was probably located. Smaller access panels were added in 1932 between Room 200 and the closets constructed on the north and south sides of each end of the attic.



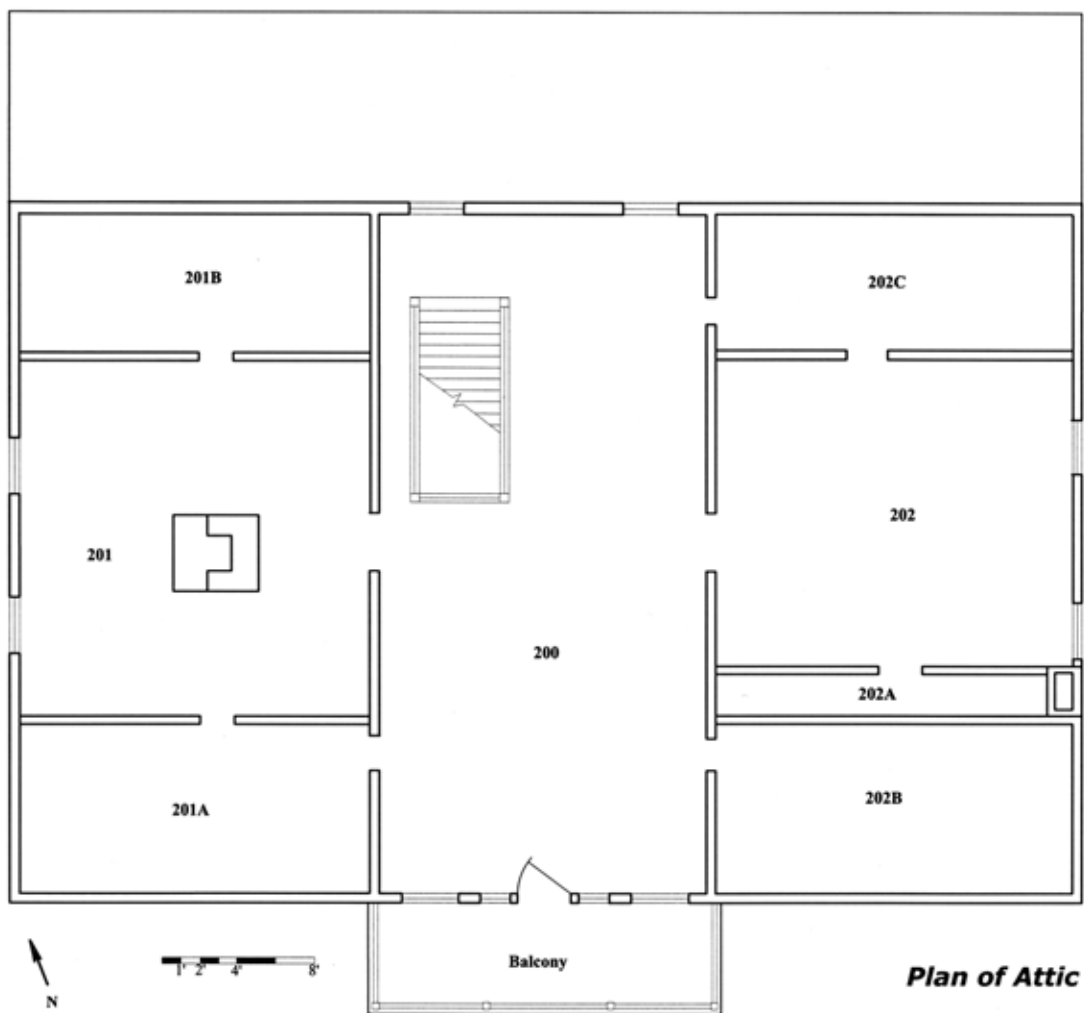
Figure 69 View to northeast in Room 200. NPS SERO 2001.

Physical Description





Physical Description



Part II

Treatment & Use

Treatment & Use

Vicksburg National Military Park (NMP) in its entirety is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.¹ The interpretive theme of Vicksburg National Military Park as stated in the park's General Management Plan (GMP) is the Siege of Vicksburg, with that battle being placed in the context of the Civil War. The siege was a turning point in the war and marked the beginning of the end of the Confederacy.

Restoration of the Shirley House is a Resource Management Objective of the park's GMP² and is recommended in the park's Interpretive Prospectus (IP) and Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP). According to the GMP, the house and grounds should be interpreted in the wartime context.

1. Vicksburg General Management Plan, July 1980, p. 20.
2. Vicksburg General Management Plan, July 1980, p.39.

Written after the 1966 exterior restoration project, the GMP states that, “because of its popularity and potential for interpretation, the interior of the Shirley House also will be restored and opened to the public.”³ The GMP also states the necessity of a furnishings study and plan to ensure the proper setting of field furniture, military equipment, etc.

To present the park’s theme effectively, the GMP proposes that the existing field interpretive exhibits be simplified. According to the GMP, the restored Shirley House, together with the battlefield, will enable visitors to understand more clearly the battle and troop dispositions, the deployment of attacks, and the course of the battle.⁴

In accordance with the Impact Mitigation measures outlined in the GMP,

Plans for the use, interpretation, repair, and/or restoration of the Shirley House will avoid any unwarranted change in the quality of the aspects of the resource that qualified it for the National Register of Historic Places.

Appropriate adaptive use of the Shirley House will be designed and implemented so as to not leave portions of the structure vacated or unused. Regular maintenance will protect the cultural resource.

3. Vicksburg General Management Plan, July 1980, p. 22.

4. Vicksburg General Management Plan, July 1980, p. 21.

Park personnel will provide interpretation and security when the Shirley House is open to the public; thus the potential damage associated with increased visits will be held to a minimum.⁵

In treatment of the Shirley House, adverse effects will occur if:

- its operational use (by visitors and staff) takes precedence over the preservation of the resource’s character- defining features;
- its operational performance (cumulative R value, seasonal interior temperature, convenience of design) takes precedence over the preservation of the resource’s character- defining features;
- the introduction of safety features (to comply with current building codes) destroys or obscures the resource’s character defining features;
- or, if the demands of the structure, such as the re- classification of occupancy loads, necessitates substantial alteration to the building’s historic structural system.

Requirements for Treatment and Use

The Shirley House is an integral component of the presentation of the Vicksburg story and is the sole surviving structure from the 1863 siege, in the park.

The National Park Service Cultural Resources Management Guideline (DO- 28) requires

5. Vicksburg General Management Plan, July 1980, p.43.

planning for the protection of cultural resources “whether or not they relate to the specific authorizing legislation or interpretive programs of the parks in which they lie.”

Therefore, the Shirley House must be understood in its own cultural context and managed in light of its own values so that it may be preserved unimpaired for the enjoyment of present and future generations.⁶

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) also mandates that federal agencies, including the National Park Service, take into account the effects of their actions on properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register and give the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment.

NHPA regulations (36 CFR 800.10) mandate special requirements for protecting National Historic Landmarks. Section 110(f) of the Act requires that the Agency Official, to the maximum extent possible, undertake such planning and actions as may be necessary to minimize harm to any National Historic Landmark that may be directly and adversely affected by an undertaking. Examples of adverse effects include, but are not limited to:

1. Physical destruction of or damage to all or part of the property;
2. Alteration of a property, including restoration, rehabilitation, repair, maintenance,

6. "Cultural Resource Management Guidelines," 1997, p. 1.

stabilization, hazardous material remediation and provision of handicapped access, that are not consistent with the Secretary's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (36 CFR part 68) and applicable guidelines;

3. Removal of the property from its historic location;
4. Change of the character of the property's use or of physical features within the property's setting that contribute to its historic significance;
5. Introduction of visual, atmospheric or audible elements that diminish the integrity of the property's significant historic features;
6. Neglect of a property which causes its deterioration; and
7. Transfer, lease, or sale of property out of Federal ownership or control without adequate and legally enforceable restrictions or conditions to ensure long-term preservation of the property's historic significance.

Treatment of the building should be guided by the International Building Code, including that code's statement regarding historic buildings:

3406.1 Historic Buildings. The provisions of this code related to the construction, repair, alteration, addition, restoration and movement of structures, and change of occupancy shall not be mandatory for historic buildings where such buildings are judged by the building official to

not constitute *a distinct life safety hazard* [emphasis added].

Threats to public health and safety will be eliminated, but because this is an historic building, alternatives to full code compliance are recommended where compliance would needlessly compromise the integrity of the historic building.

Alternatives for Treatment and Use

Presently, the park has planned to restore and rehabilitate the Shirley House, as defined in PMIS #37425. The park's project aims to complete the exterior restoration of the structure initiated in 1966 and to carry through with an interior rehabilitation that would correct structural deficiencies and restore historic finishes.

Due to the proximity of the Illinois Monument (1904- 1906), the majority of the park's 1,000,000 annual visitors stop to examine this area, which is located roughly two miles from the tour entrance and Visitor Center. Currently, the Shirley House is inaccessible to the public and its condition precludes appropriate interpretation.

In the broadest sense, three alternative approaches to the treatment of the Shirley House can be identified: preservation, rehabilitation, and restoration. Each of these approaches is fundamentally different and each has a different impact on the existing historic building.

The first alternative, preservation, would seek simply to repair existing material and maintain the existing character of the building, making those repairs and alterations that are necessary (1) to secure the building and its contents against further deterioration, (2) to eliminate threats to life safety, and (3) to make improvements to the building's fire detection system. A preservation approach would maximize the amount of existing historic material that can be retained and would require the least investment of Park resources. However, this alternative is not recommended because it does not allow for the adaptive use of the Shirley House interior, as directed in the Vicksburg NMP GMP. Due to the unstable nature of the building in its incomplete state of restoration, simple preservation of the existing structure would only allow for an exterior interpretation and would not permit any interior usage. The quantity of historic material remaining does not support such a conservative treatment of the structure, although historic features which have survived the damage and alterations incurred since 1863 should be preserved and not replaced or removed. These include the brick foundation walls, original wood members of the floor and wall structures, the first floor staircase, some doors, and scattered sections of interior woodwork and plaster.

The second alternative, rehabilitation, would subsume the concerns of the first and would also seek to make improvements and/or alterations that would increase the building's utility

to park visitors and others that use the building. As proposed at one time by the park, these programmatic alterations include designating space for a bookstore, exhibits, staff offices, and public rest rooms. These alterations would require improvements in accessibility for the disabled and installation of new building systems and/or equipment.

In its present state, the Shirley House cannot be adequately interpreted, except as a placeholder for the story of the Shirley family and their involvement in the Vicksburg siege. Such limited use of a residential-type resource generally encourages deferred maintenance, following the proverb “out of sight, out of mind,” and supports the recommendation for rehabilitation.

Furthermore, the stripped-out condition of the structure would allow the installation of new services to facilitate security, fire safety, and

environmental controls with minimal destruction of existing historic fabric.

In light of the structure’s existing condition, selective rehabilitation of the structure is recommended. However, this rehabilitation should not be conducted wholesale and must avoid any adverse effects, as outlined above.

The third alternative, restoration, would seek to return the building to its historic appearance in the year 1863. Unfortunately, there are few family records and only minimal descriptions of the house’s details, forcing restoration guidelines to be based solely on photographic and physical evidence. Although this data does not provide enough information for a complete restoration, it does confirm the presence of many character-defining details. The recommended restoration of these features is detailed in the Recommendations for Treatment & Use.

Recommendations for Treatment & Use

The recommended treatment for the Shirley House and its immediate environs is rehabilitation which preserves existing historic fabric and a large degree of restored fabric, restores the exterior and significant interior spaces, and facilitates exhibition and interpretation of the structure.

Carefully assigning the programmatic usage of the Shirley House will insure proper preservation and allow for accurate interpretation of the structure's most significant spaces. These spaces include: the porches, the entire first floor (Rooms 100- 105), the dining room in the basement (Room 002), and an open zone stretching from the main hall, through the central stair and into the second floor (Rooms 100- 200).

This section of the HSR is divided into two sections: General Comments, and Specific Recommendations according to the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards*.

References to Room Numbers and Drawing Notes correspond to drawings on pp. 83- 85 at the end of this section of the HSR.

General Comments

No parking space allocation is recommended for the yard of the house. Parking along Union Avenue, should be limited to staff and delivery parking. The rear yard of the house was the historic site of slave quarters and a kitchen house and should be preserved. Archaeological investigation of the yard could probably provide evidence for the smokehouse, privy and other ancillary structures that were also present.

Changes to exterior visitor circulation are recommended to include a new path system which would link the rear of the house to the sidewalk near the Illinois Monument, following the general route of the Shirley's historic circular driveway. Consultation will be necessary with Cultural Landscape experts and archaeologists, as this route is adjacent to historic earthworks.

In correcting interior structural deficiencies repairs should match the character of the historic structural system. The addition of steel beams or reinforced concrete is not recommended.

A Furnishings Study must be completed to provide guidelines for appropriate usage of first-floor interpreted spaces.

As the front entrance to the house can only be accessed from the Jackson Road by a long stairway, it is not logical to make that a wheelchair-accessible entrance. Handicapped-accessibility

will be provided by the addition of an exterior lift between the north basement porch and the interior of Room 103A.

Auxiliary storage, if necessary, and any on-site office for staff should be limited to the attic.

The inclusion of public restrooms at the Shirley House is not recommended. Given the popularity and heavy visitation of the Illinois Monument area, the construction of a public restroom could expect a high level of usage. Experience at many historic sites has shown that the addition of visitor amenities to historic structures can impose extreme demands on the resource. The usage pattern of a site which attracts 1,000,000 visitors annually could overwhelm the capacity of any facilities that might be included in the house. In most cases, the maintenance requirements of toilet facilities will eventually subsume the on-going preservation treatment of the resource.

In conclusion, there is not ample room in the Shirley House to facilitate the visitor demand that might be expected without serious damage to the resource. If public restrooms are deemed necessary to the area, they should be constructed in a new building, in a location appropriate with the cultural landscape of the battlefield.

A staff rest room could be installed in the basement in Room 001B, but that too is not recommended, since it would require installation and maintenance of a septic system on the site. Accessibility

though somewhat inconvenient, facilities are available at the nearby maintenance building for staff use.

Installation of a new electrical system will be necessary. Utility upgrades should include installation of telephone service, a fire prevention system, and a security system.

Insulation of the first and second floor wood framed walls and ceilings is recommended. Climate control should be limited to heating equipment. Once a furnishings plan and collections list are established, the necessity for more extensive environmental controls can be explored.

Preservation

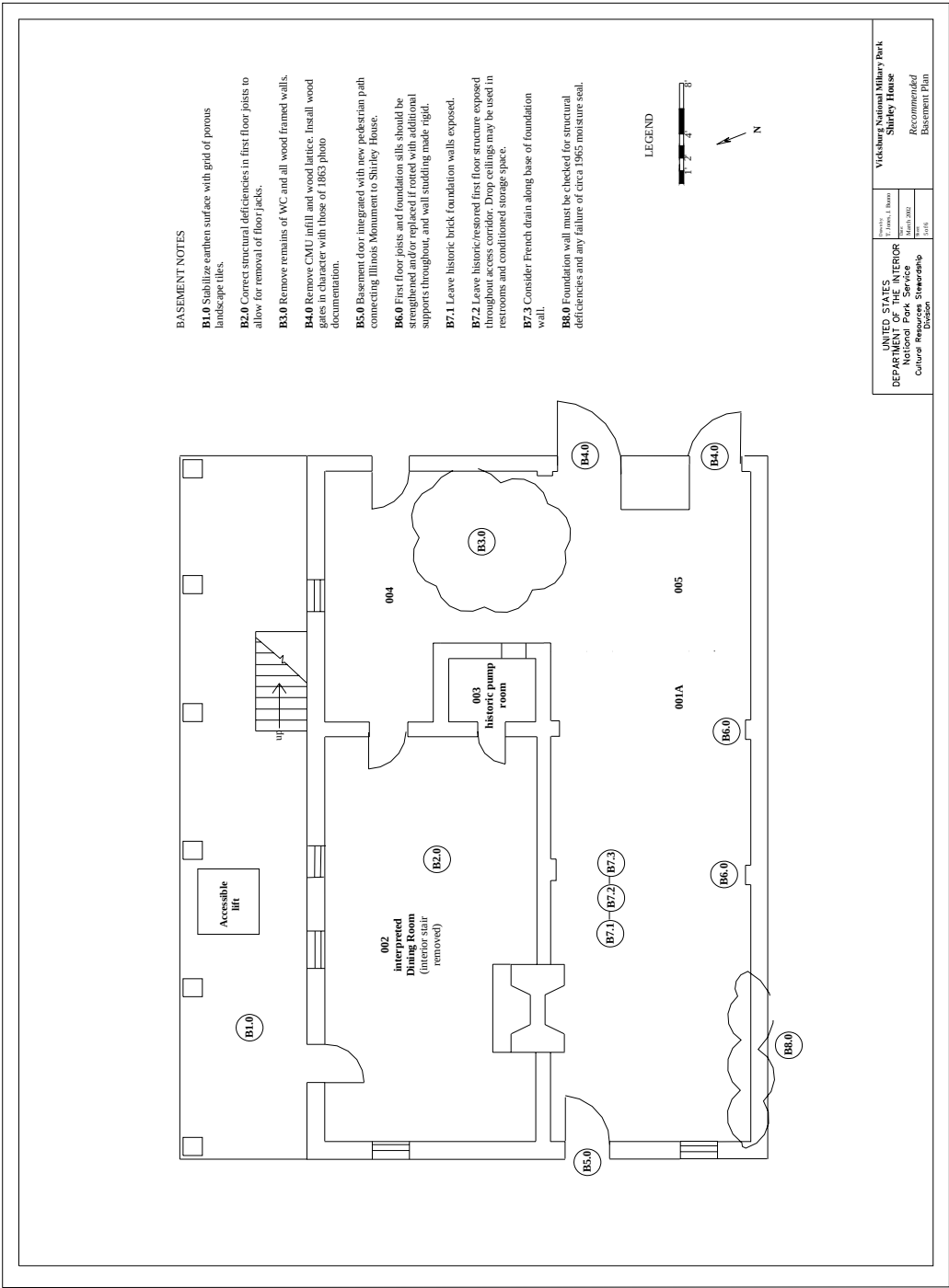
- I. Preserve the building's existing floor plan, including the configuration of the front and rear porches, the basement dining room and pantry, and the ball room in the attic.
2. Preserve the staircase and hallway arch.
3. Repair and preserve existing historic flooring throughout the building.
4. Repair and preserve existing mantelpieces.
5. Preserve existing doors and windows.
6. Preserve the rear yard and Shirley family grave sites.

Restoration

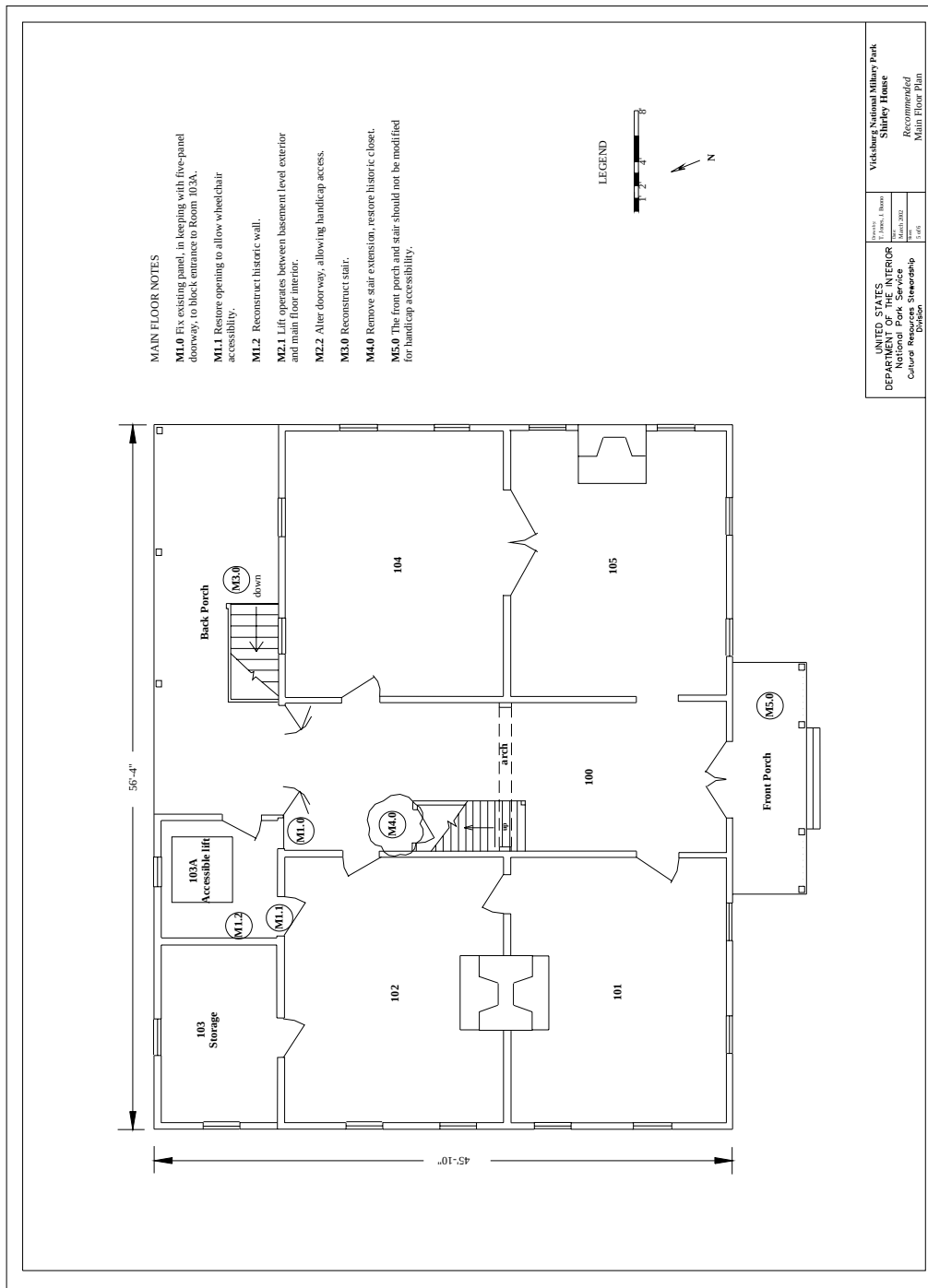
1. Restore the original first- floor stair configuration by removal of the basement staircase and reconstructing the closet under the main staircase.
2. Reconstruct missing historic walls on east side of hall, between 101 and 102, between 102 and 103, and between 103 and 103A.
3. Restore plaster walls and ceilings on first floor.
4. Replace missing wood flooring throughout, including thresholds, to match existing historic material.
5. Repair and restore baseboards, door casing, and other interior woodwork, preserving historic material and replacing missing material to match original.
6. Repair and restore deteriorated exterior woodwork including siding, shutters, porch members and sills.
7. Re- roof the structure using sawn wooden shingles.
8. Repair windows, hardware, shutters.
9. Perform sub- surface inspection of drainage system and repair as necessary.
10. Reconstruct the missing north porch stairs as specified by Orville Carrol.
- II. Restore historic foundation configuration with open bays between piers on east and northeast, fitted with wood gates for storage access.

Rehabilitation

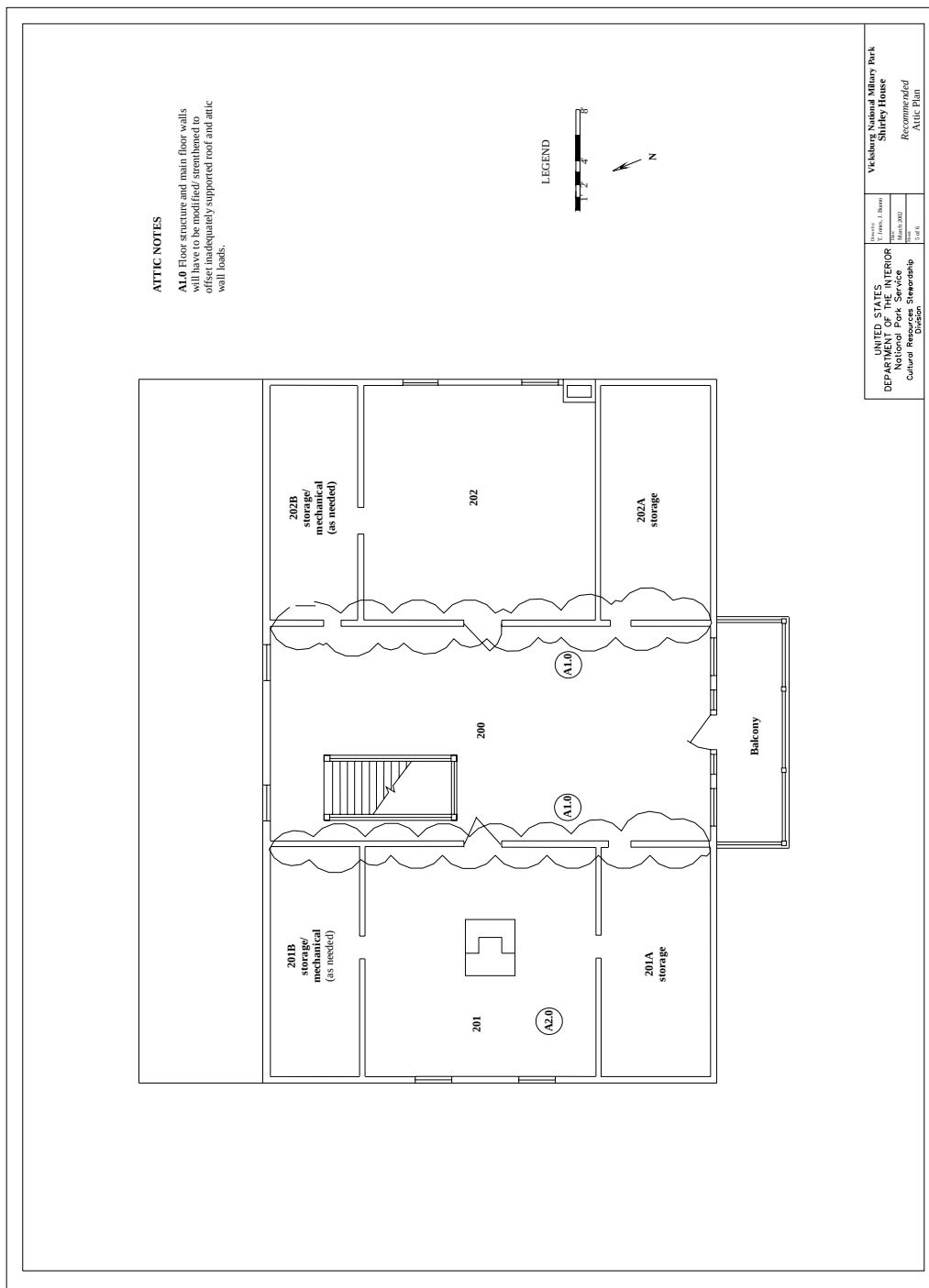
1. Insulate all exterior wood frame walls and attic space, including the addition of a vapor barrier on exterior walls.
2. Install fire suppression system with concealed sprinkler heads throughout building.
3. Install security system.
4. Install electrical system to meet needs of fire, security functions, and exhibition, with concealed outlets and all wiring routed through concealed conduit.
5. Install exterior lift between the north basement porch and the interior of Room 103A
6. If needed, construct one staff rest room in basement. (Room 001C)
7. Install heating system for all levels.
8. After development of furnishing plan and collection list, assess need for environmentally- controlled Interpreted/Collections Zone rated at 55° F interior temperature at exterior design low temperature. Because of limited space (no closets) and sealed chimneys, for duct routing, a high velocity mini duct system such as Unico, should be investigated.



Recommendations for Treatment & Use



PART 2 TREATMENT AND USE



Recommendations for Treatment & Use

Reference

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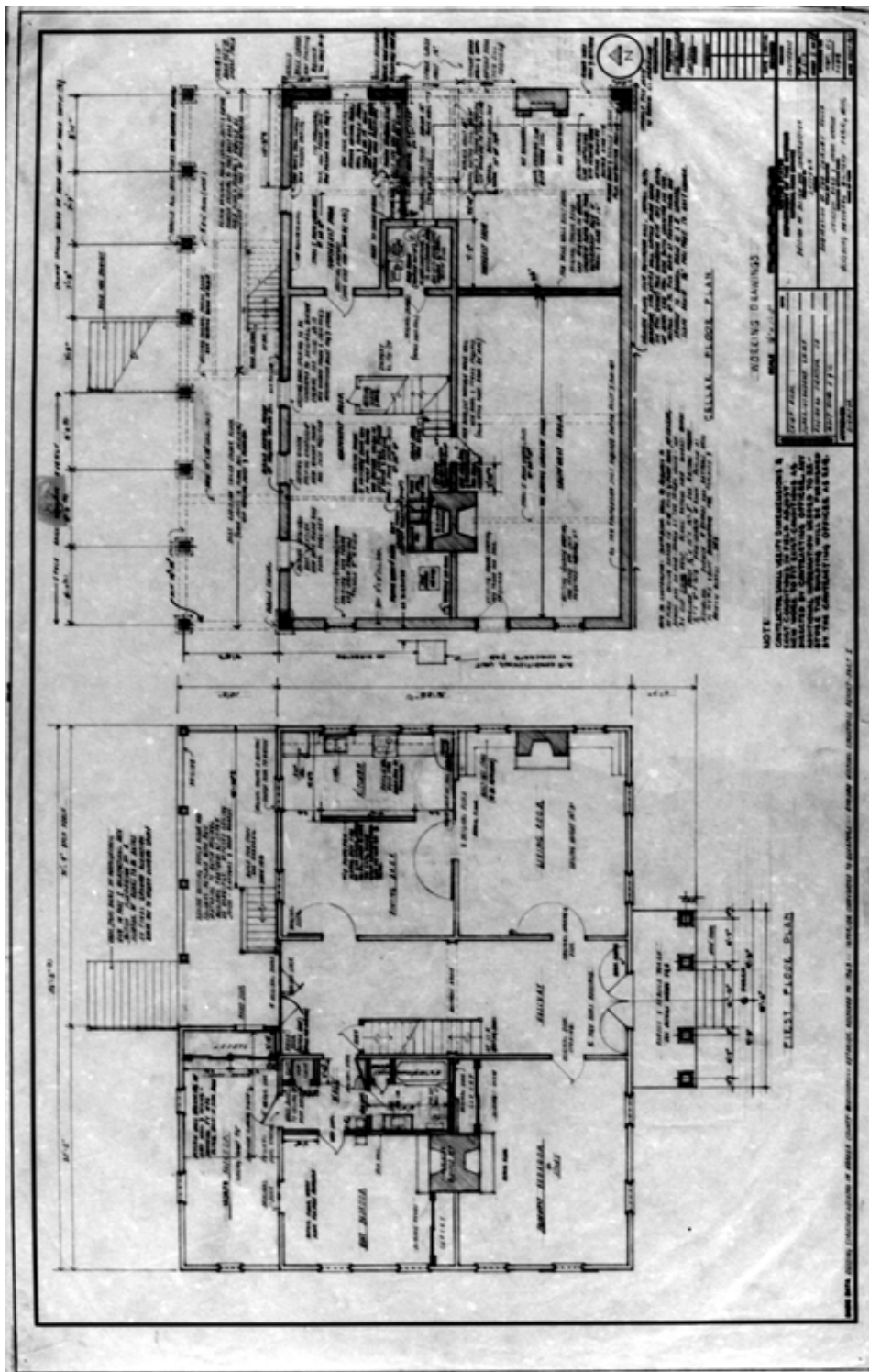
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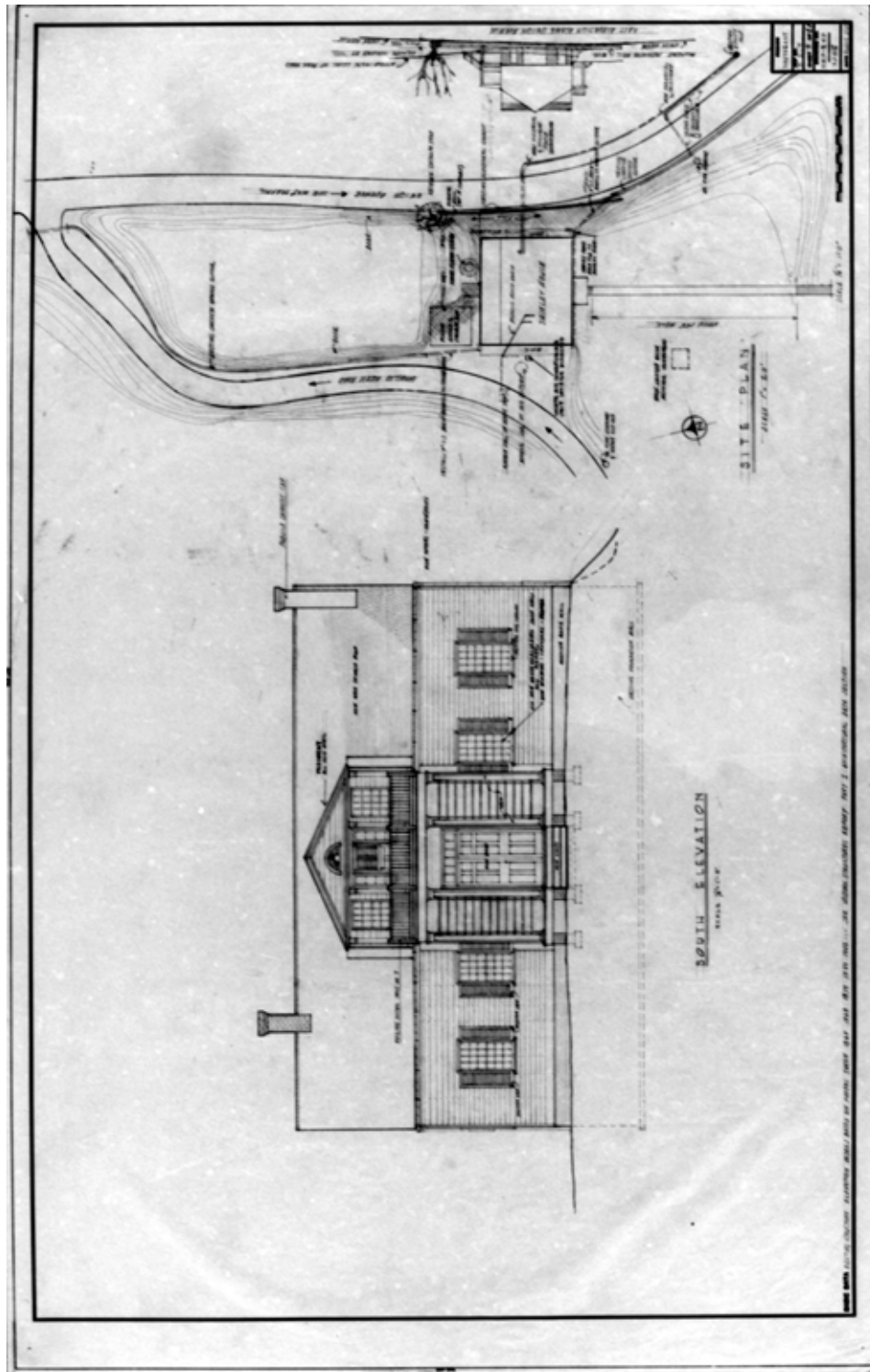
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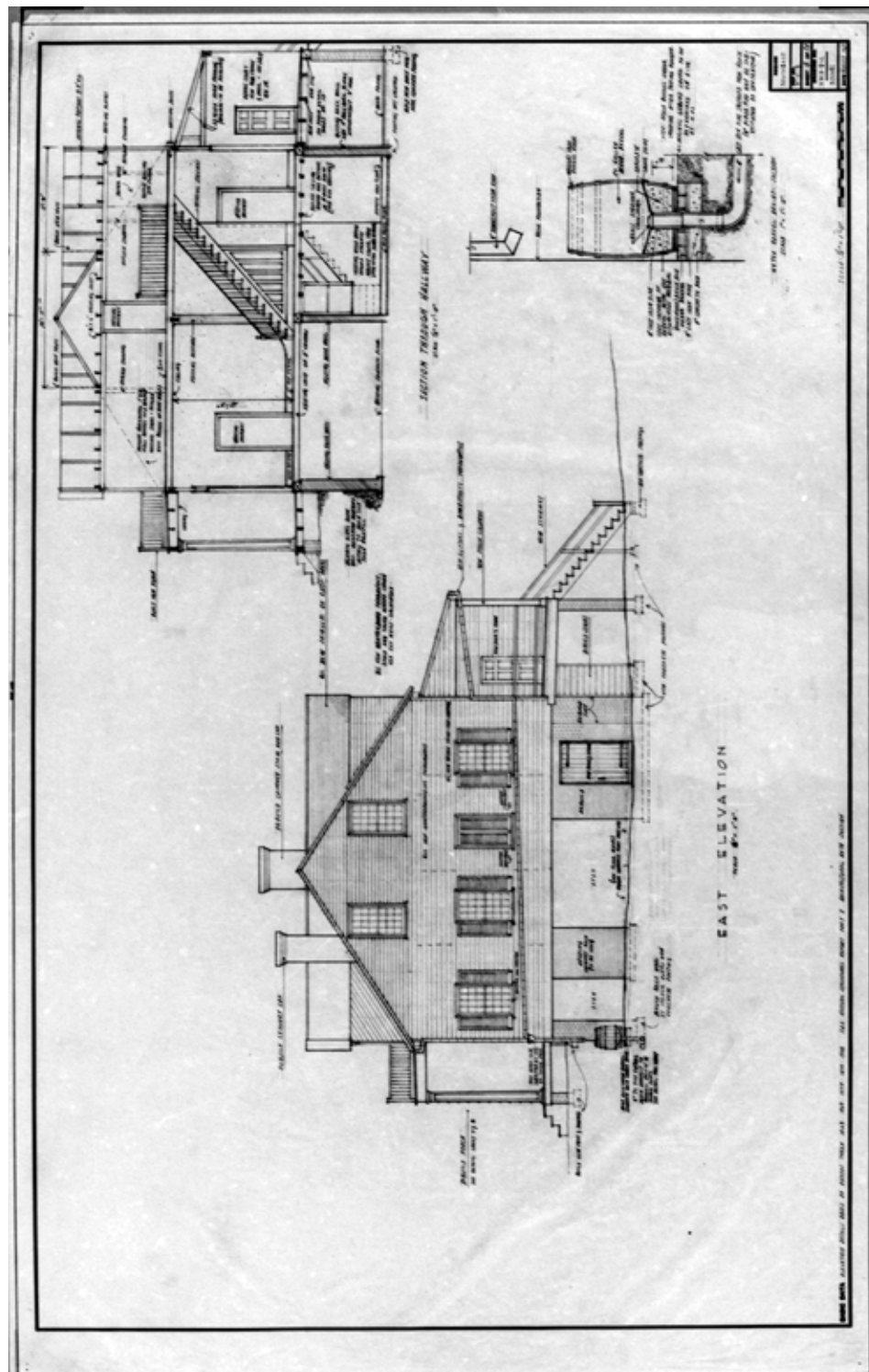
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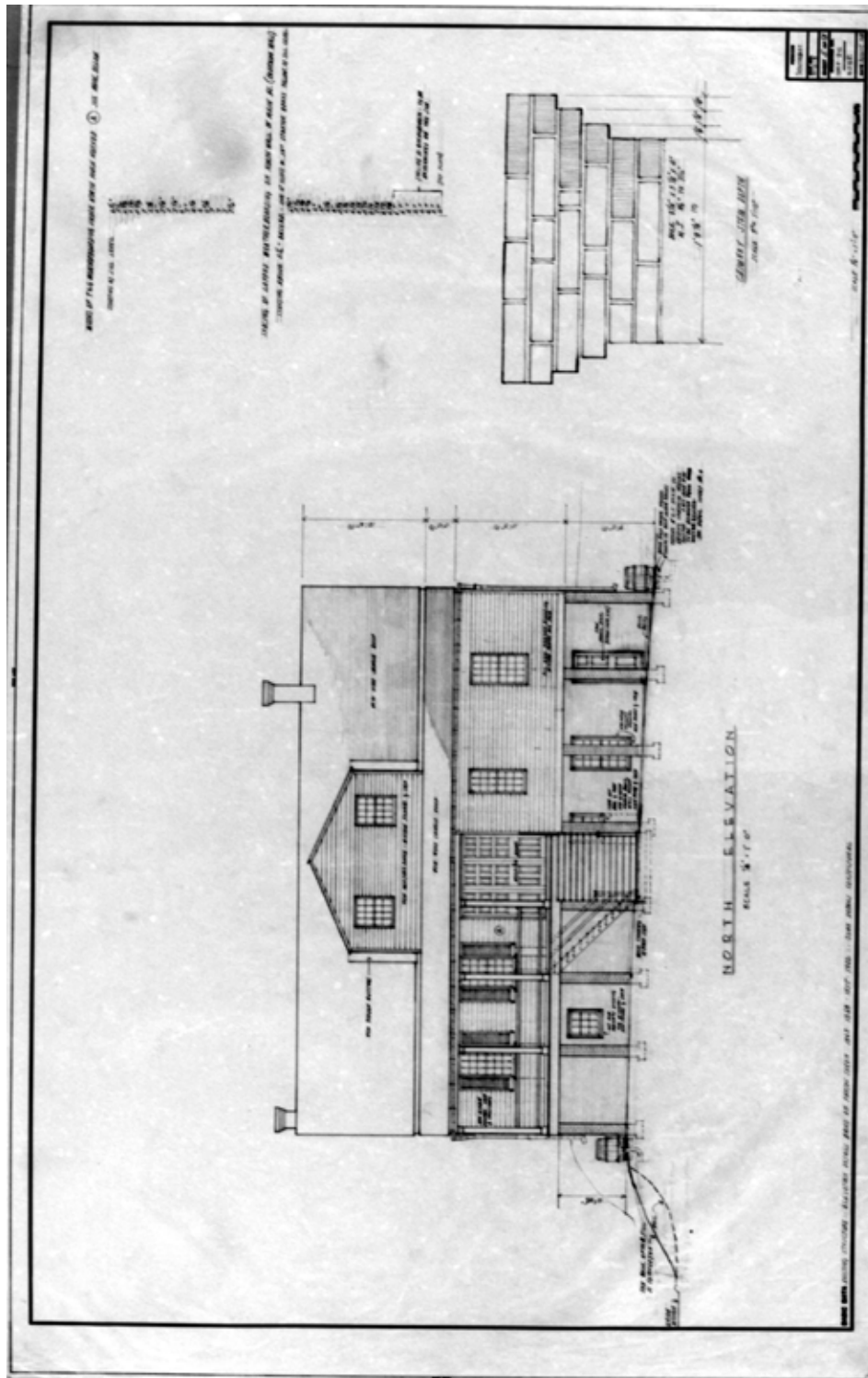


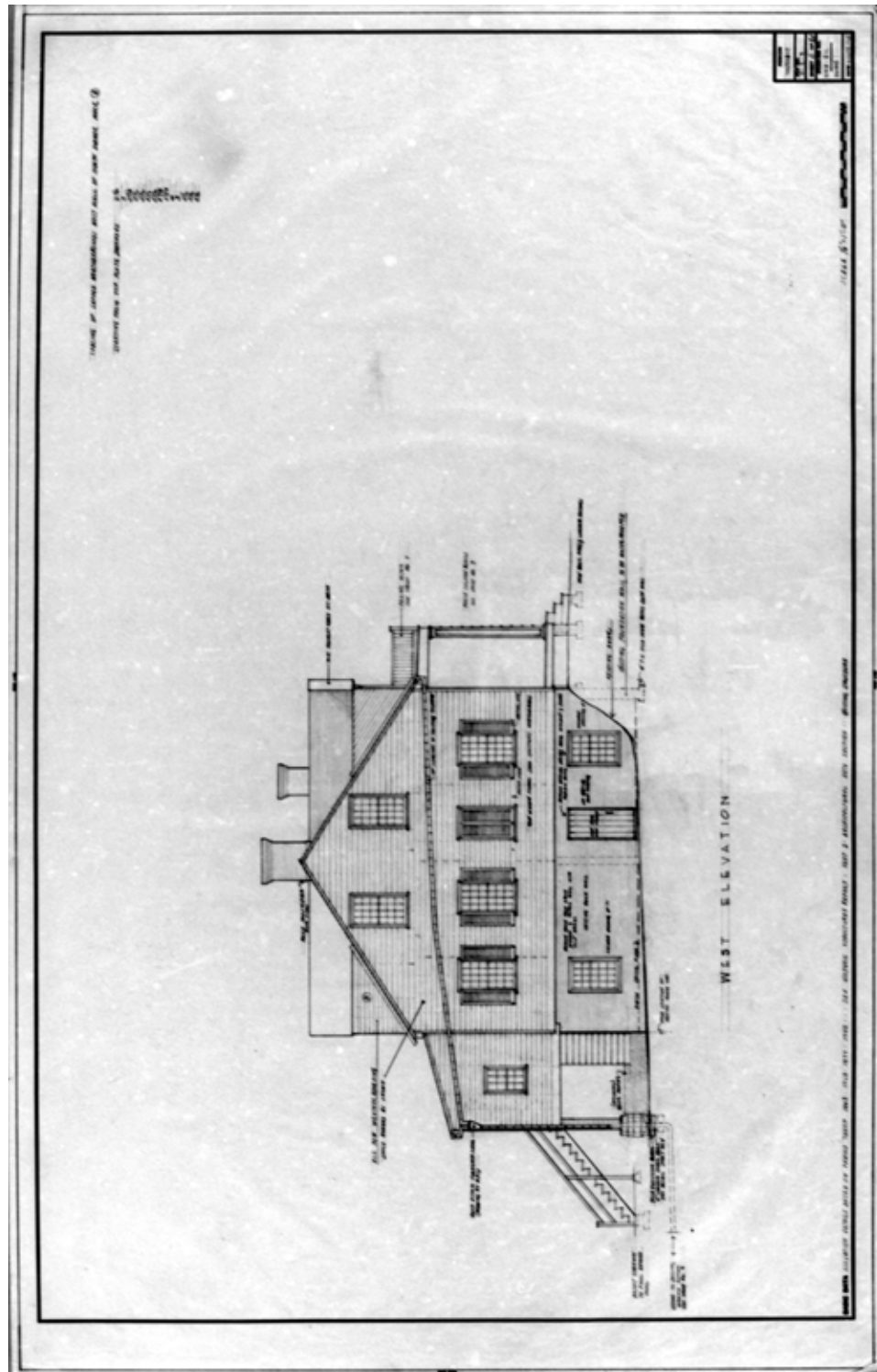
1965 Drawings

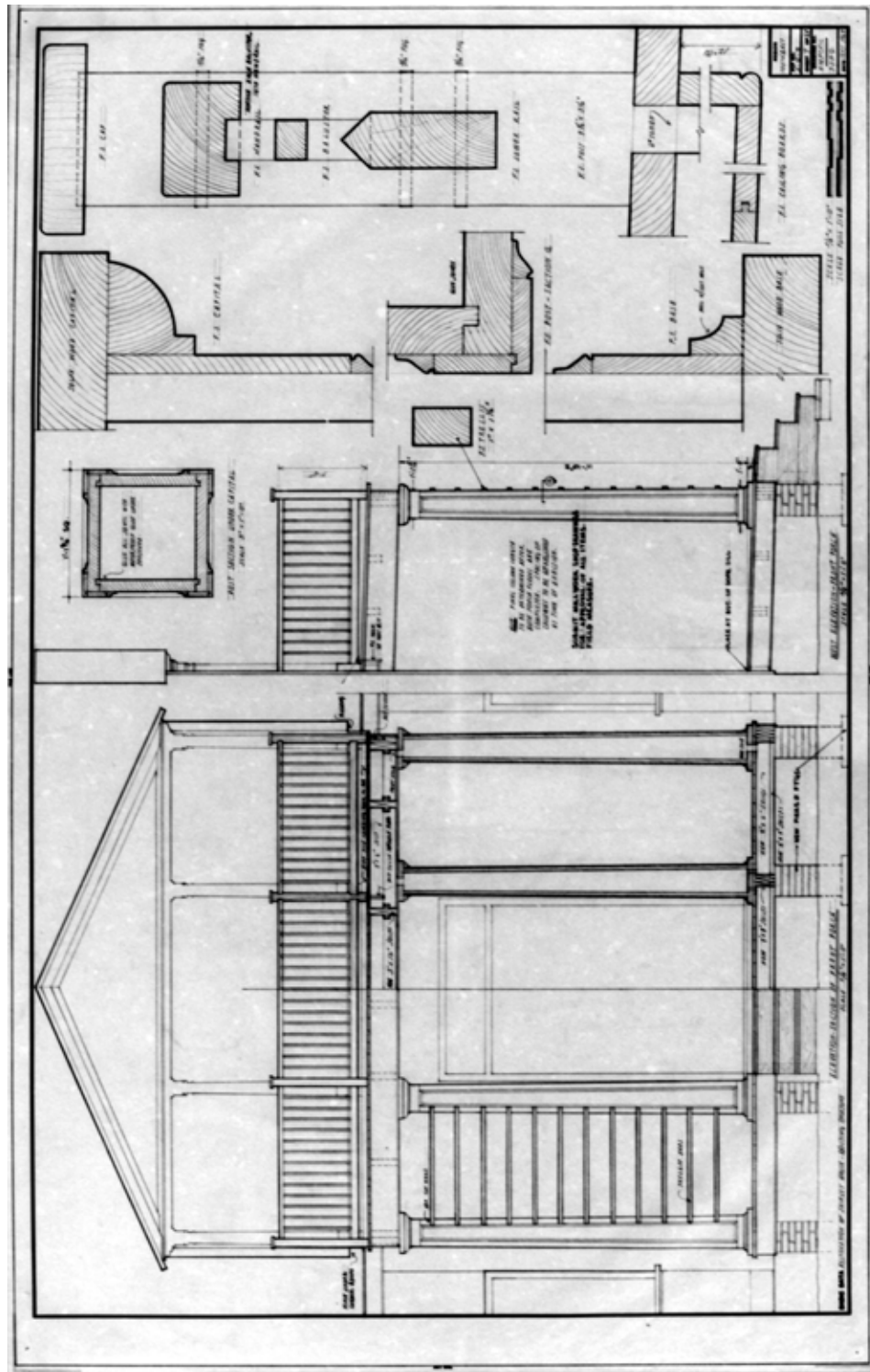


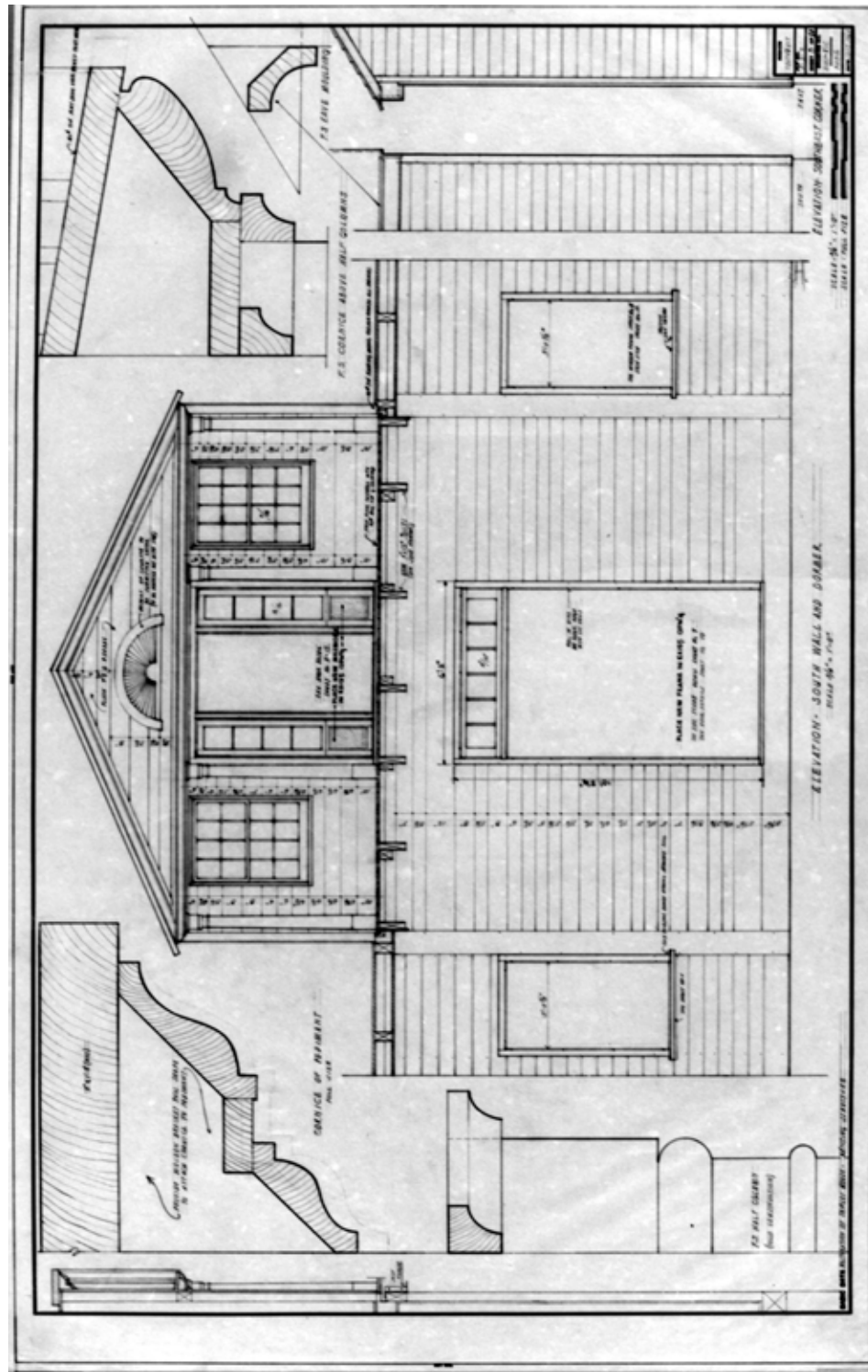


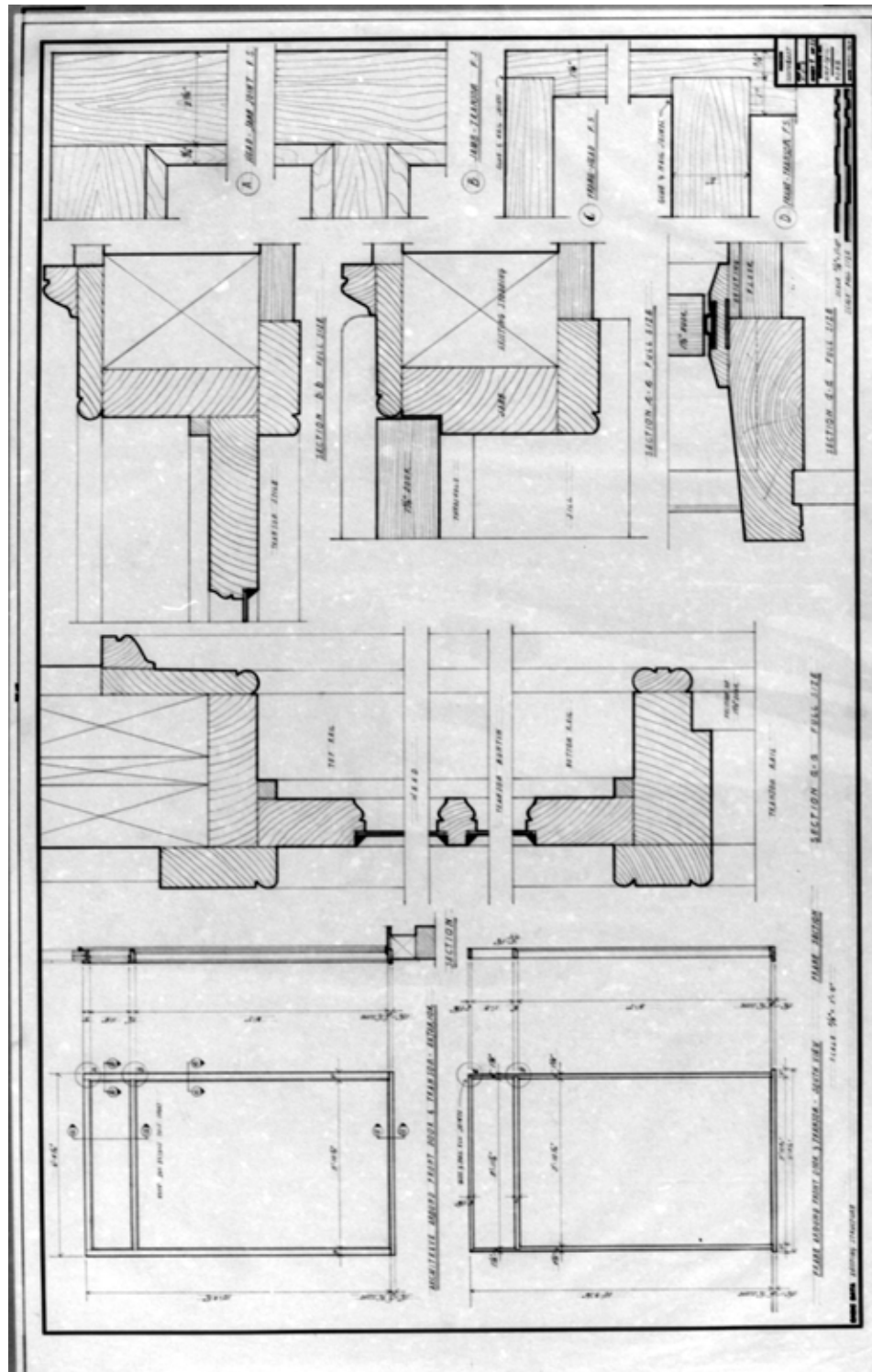


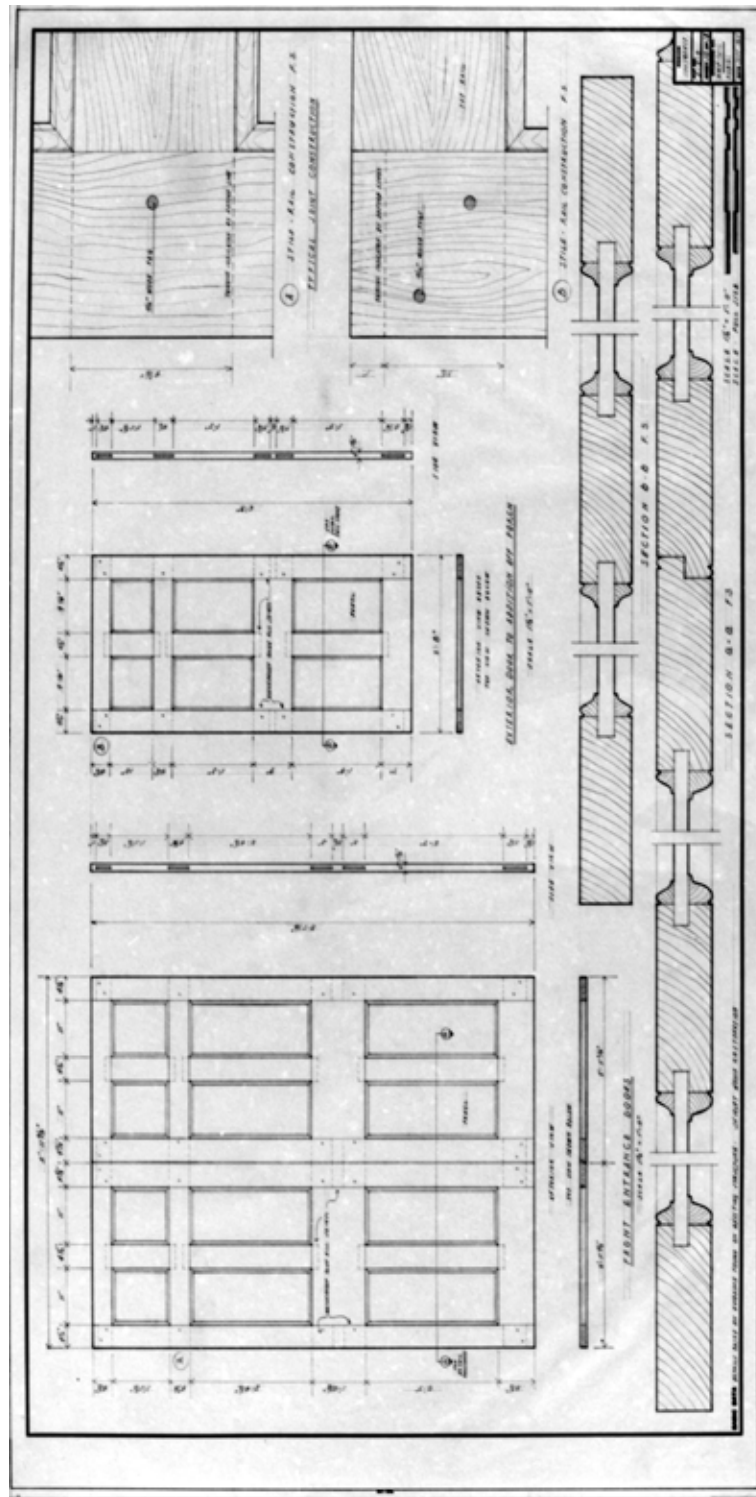


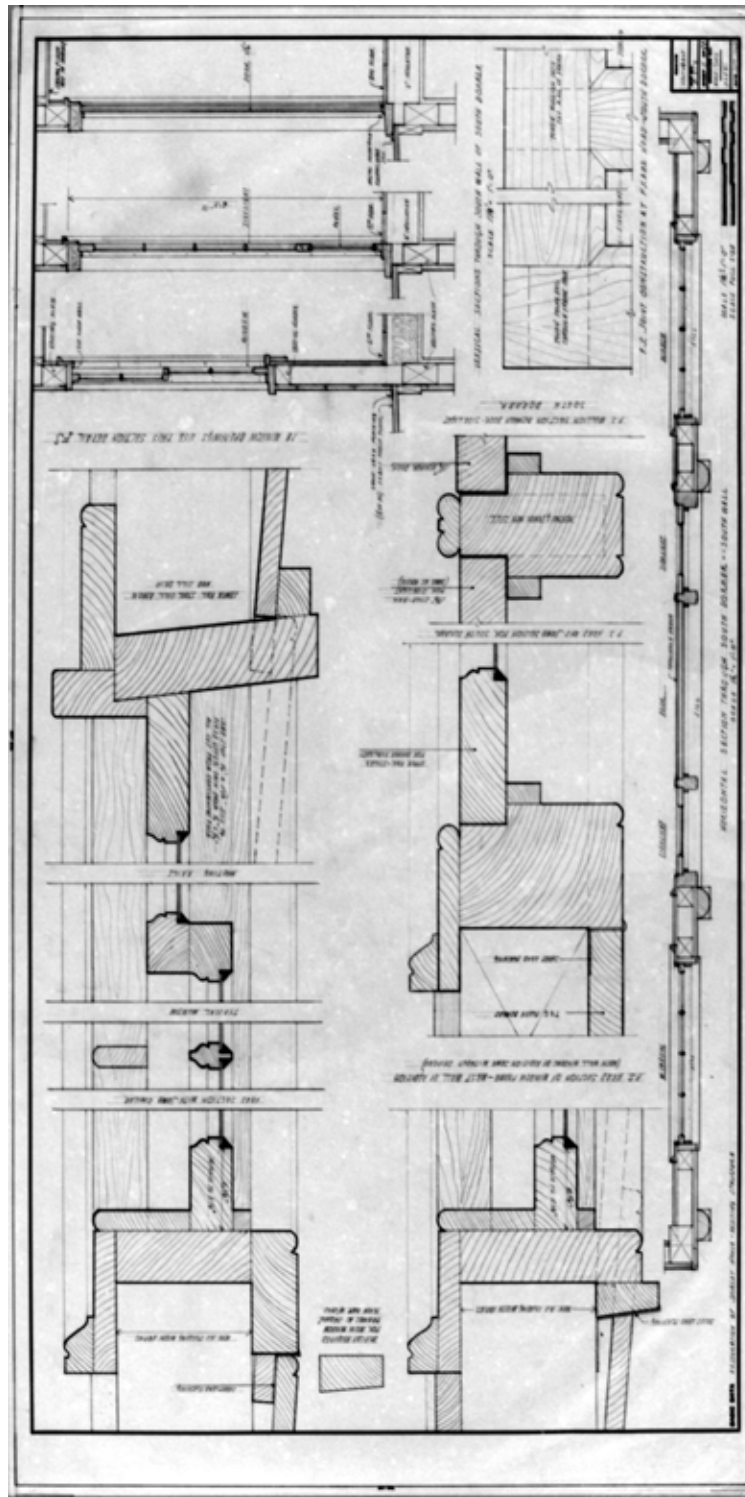


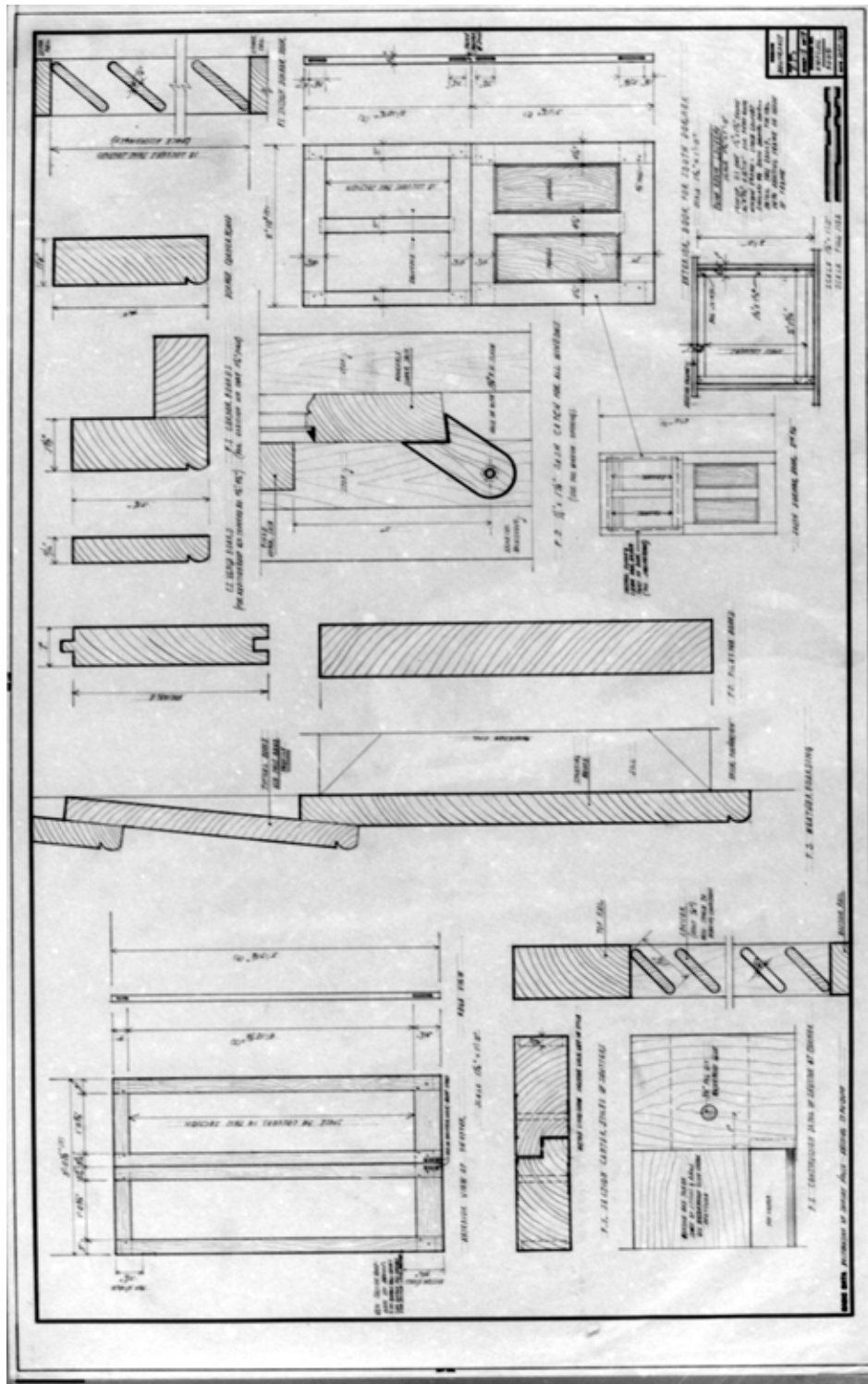


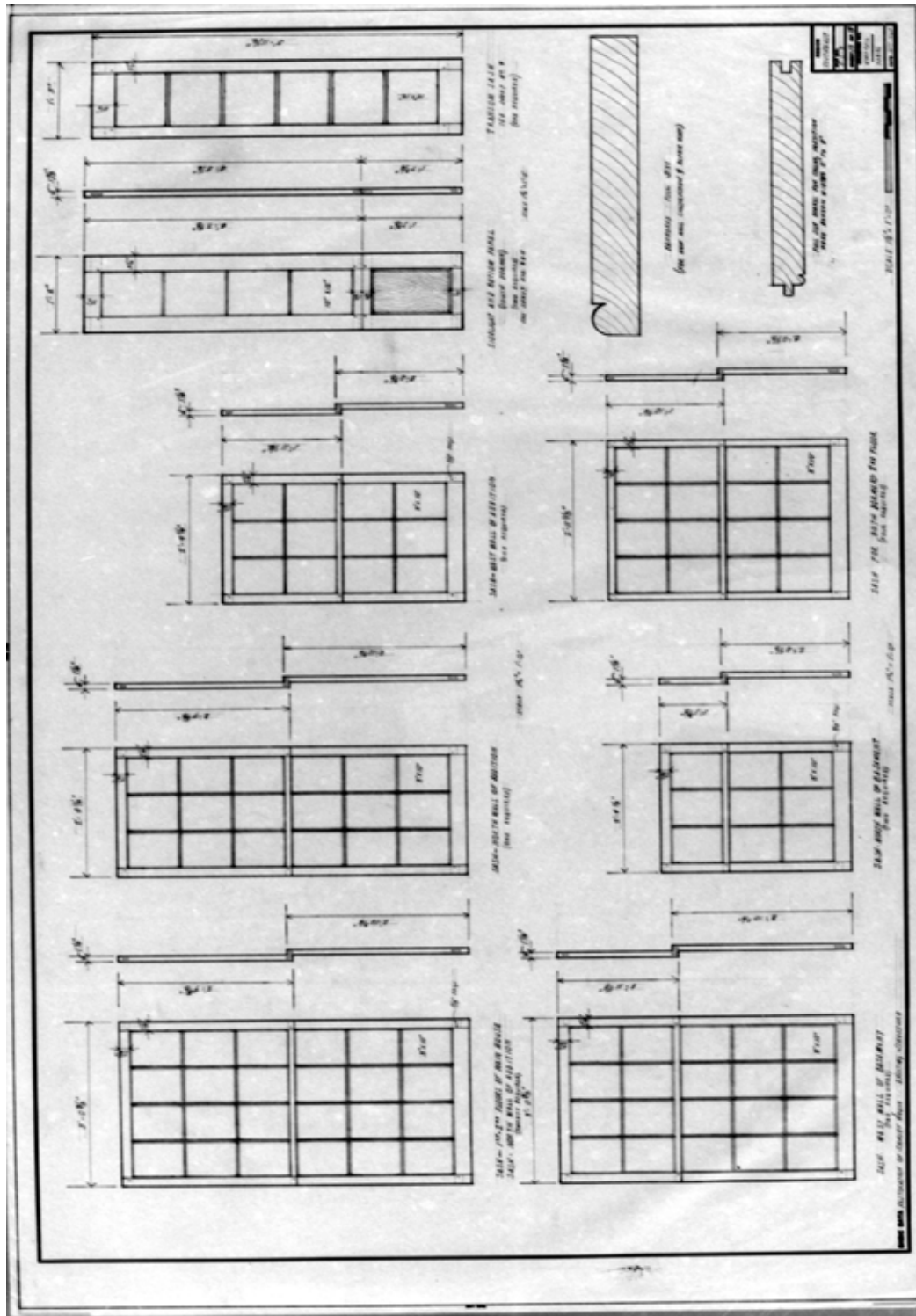


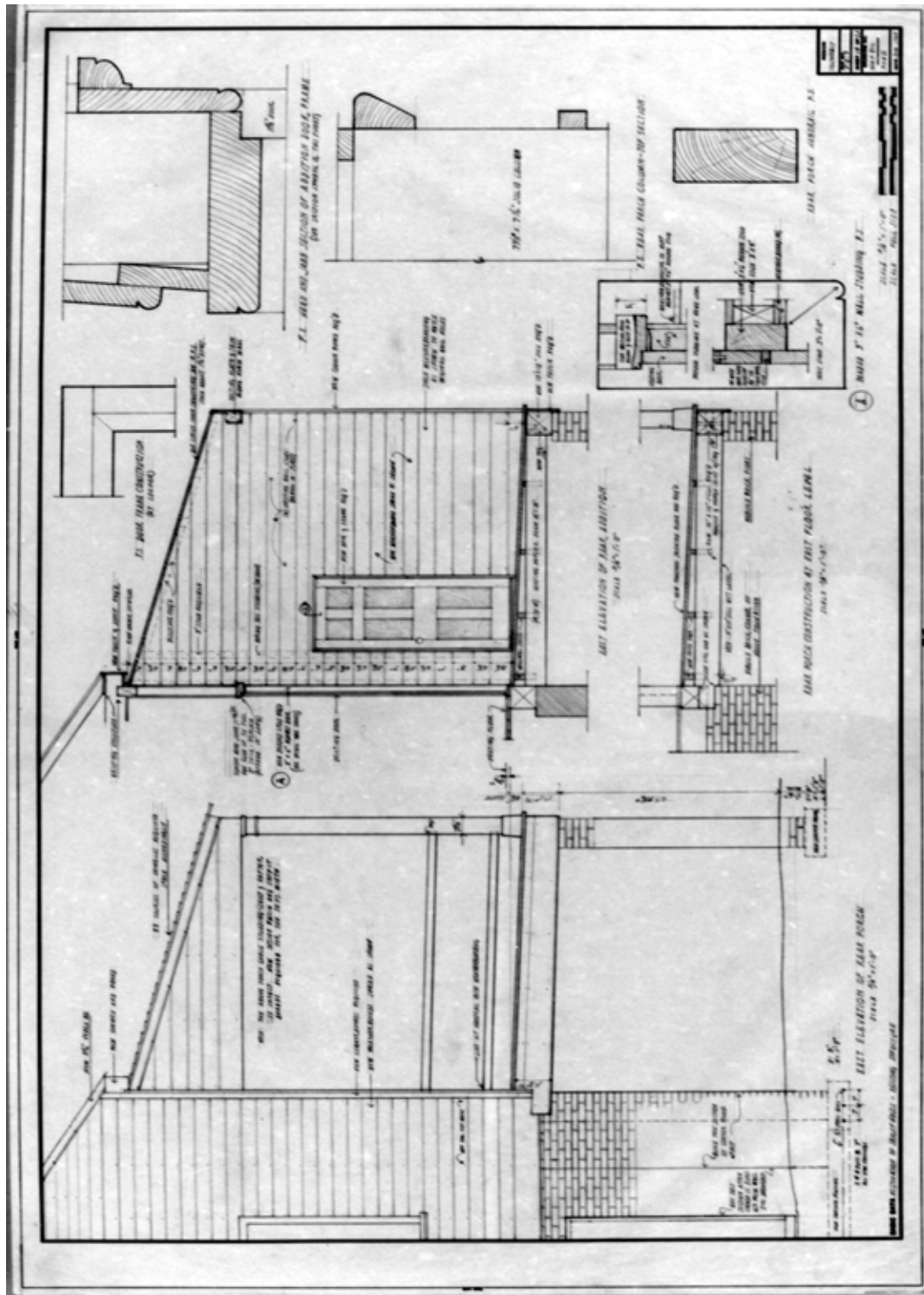


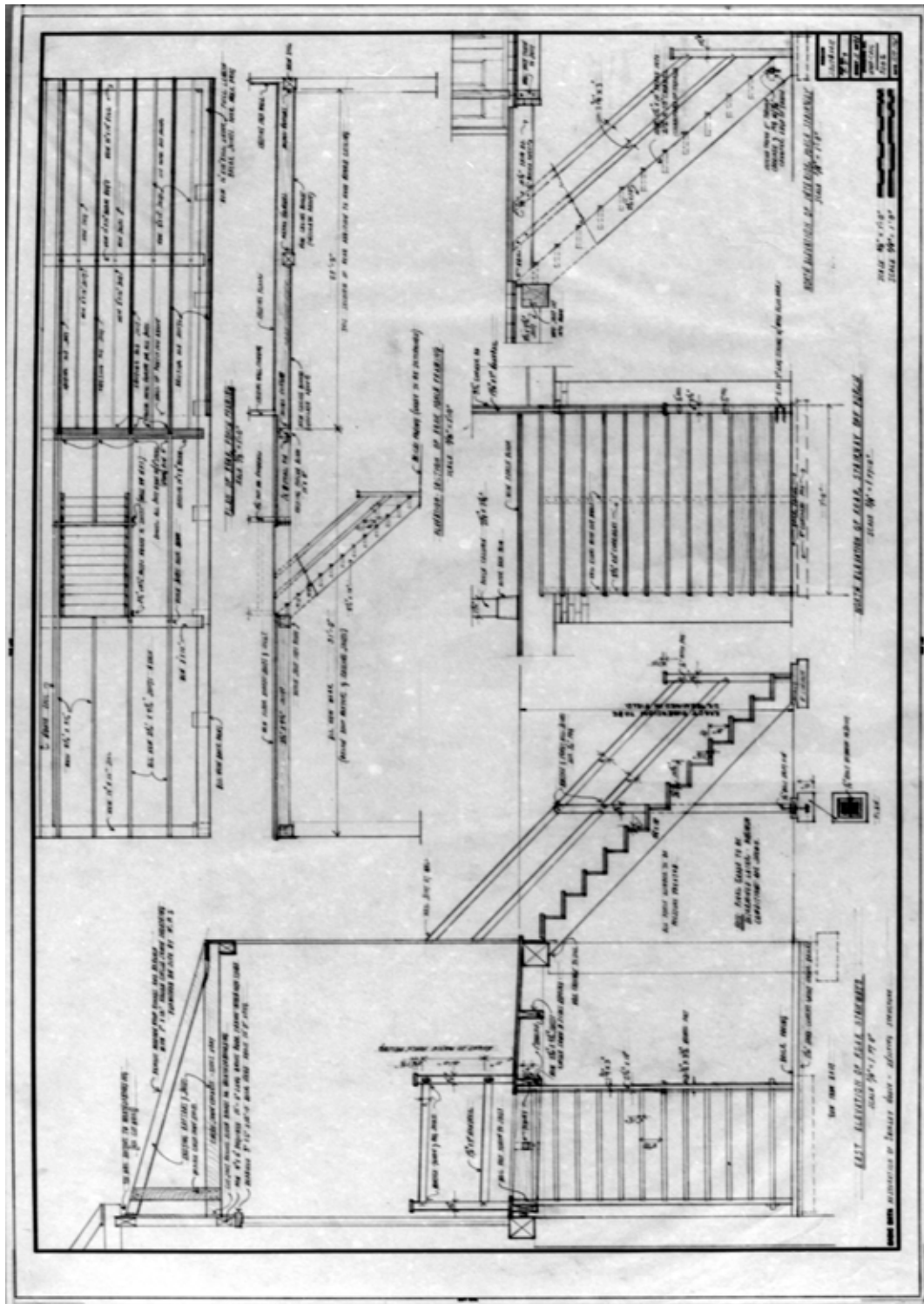


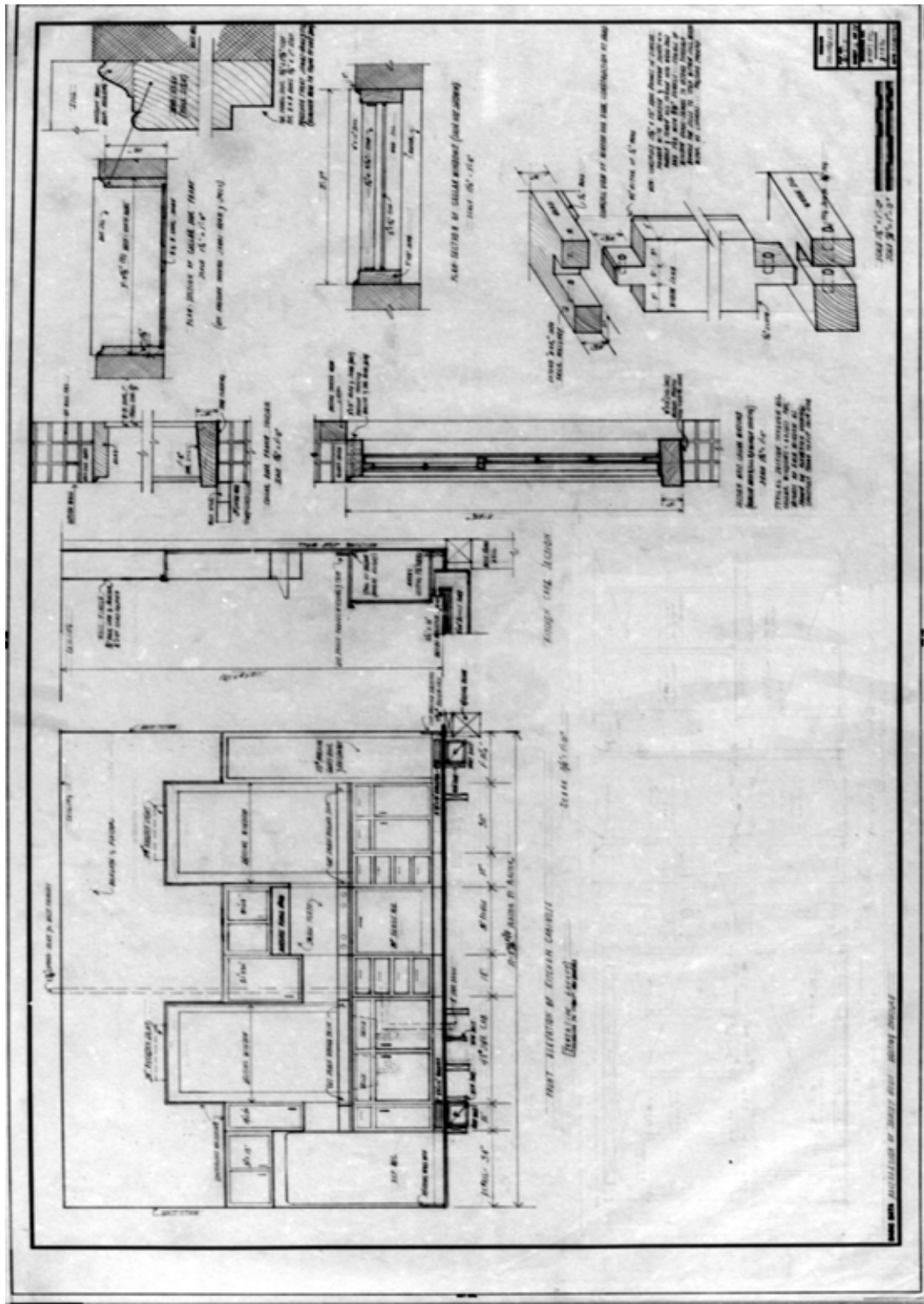


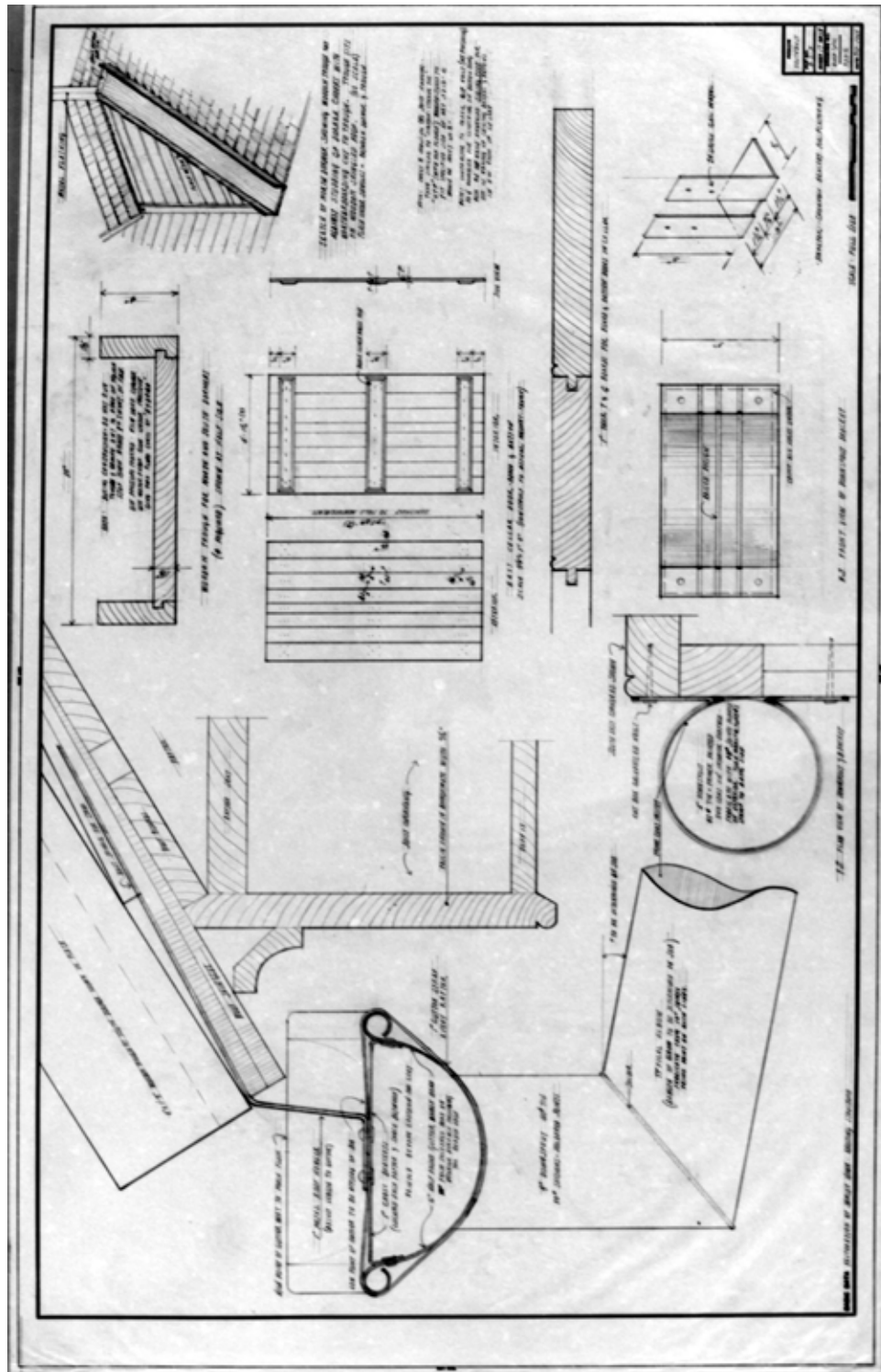






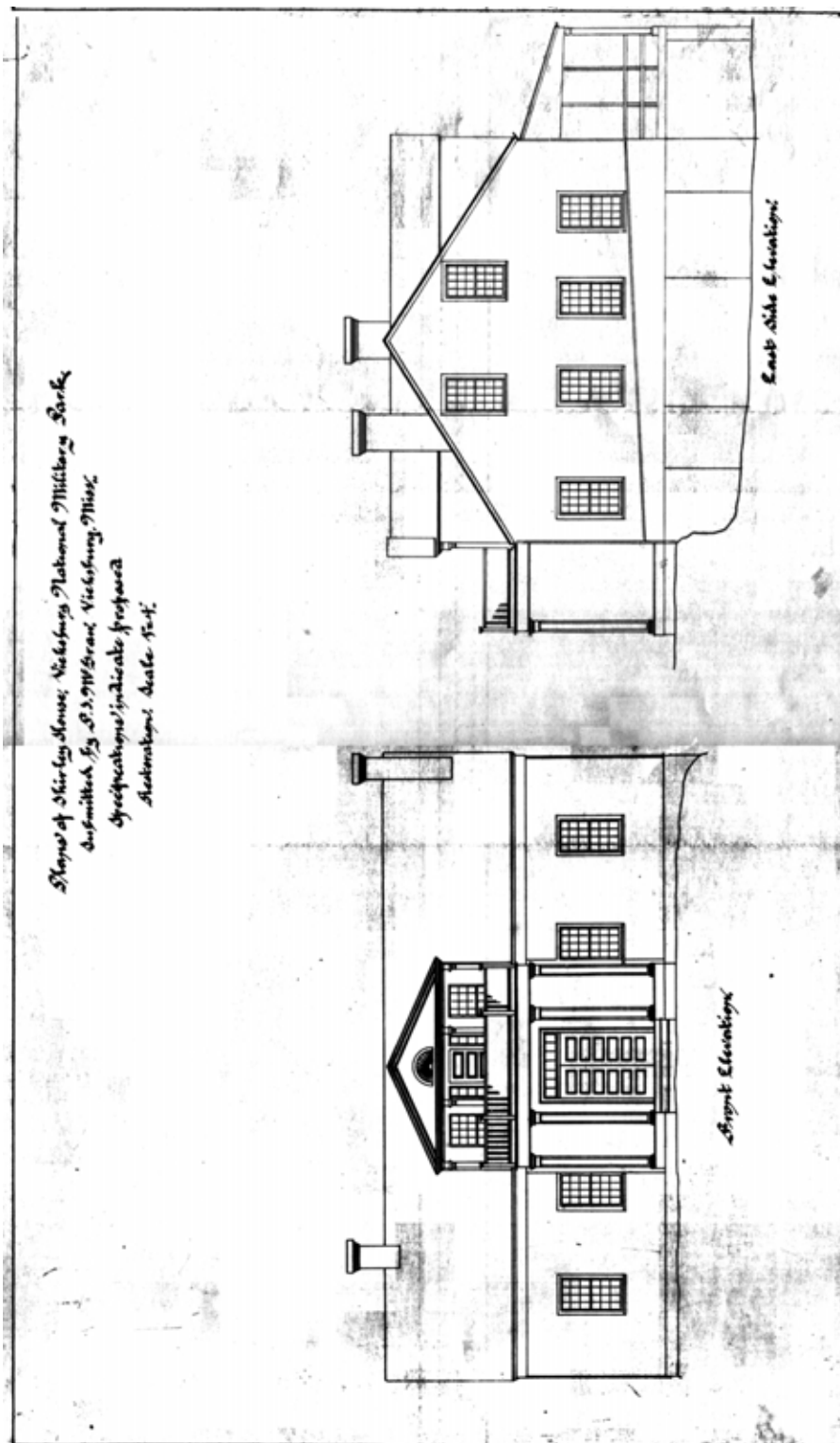


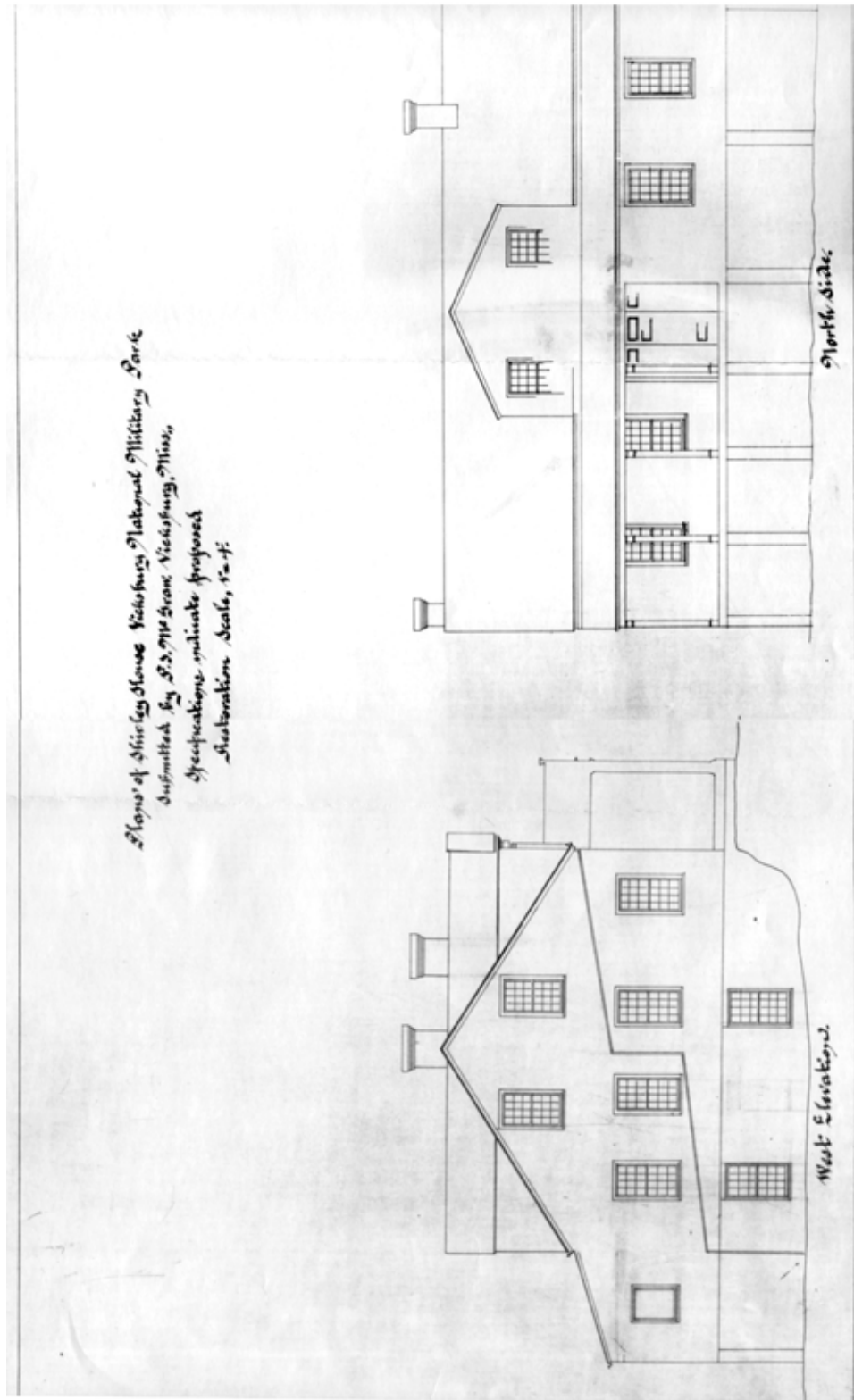


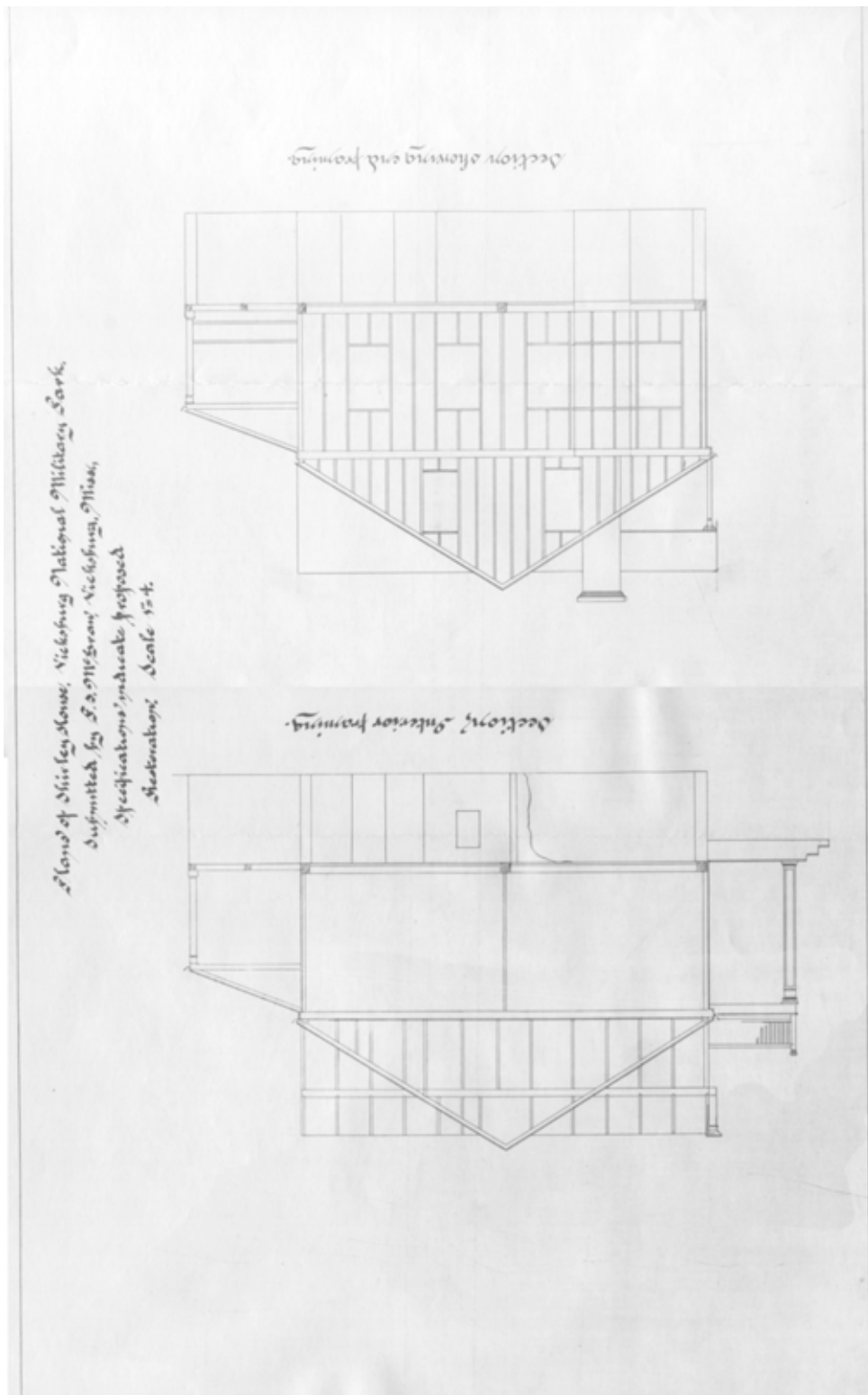


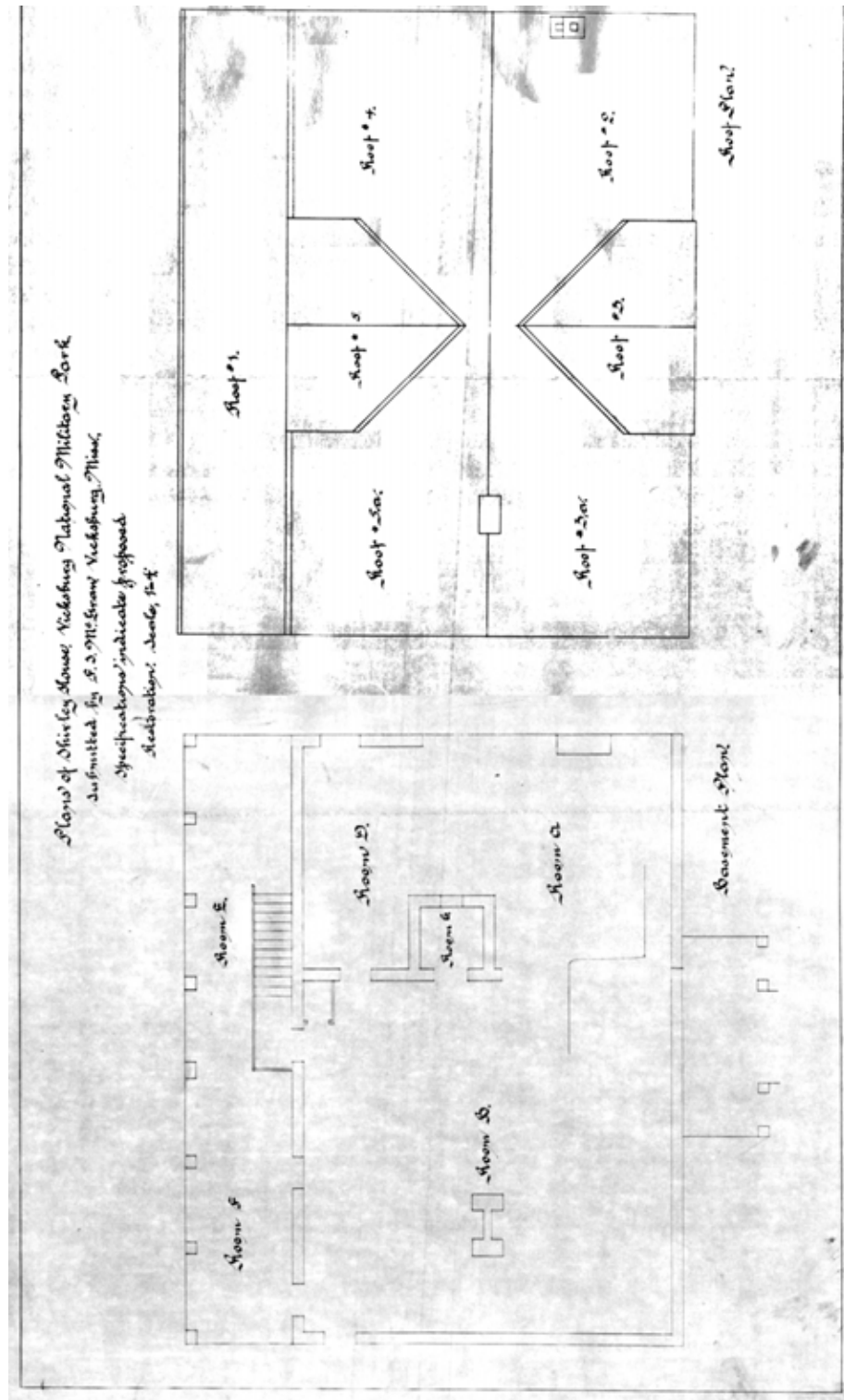
1965 Drawings

1902 Drawings

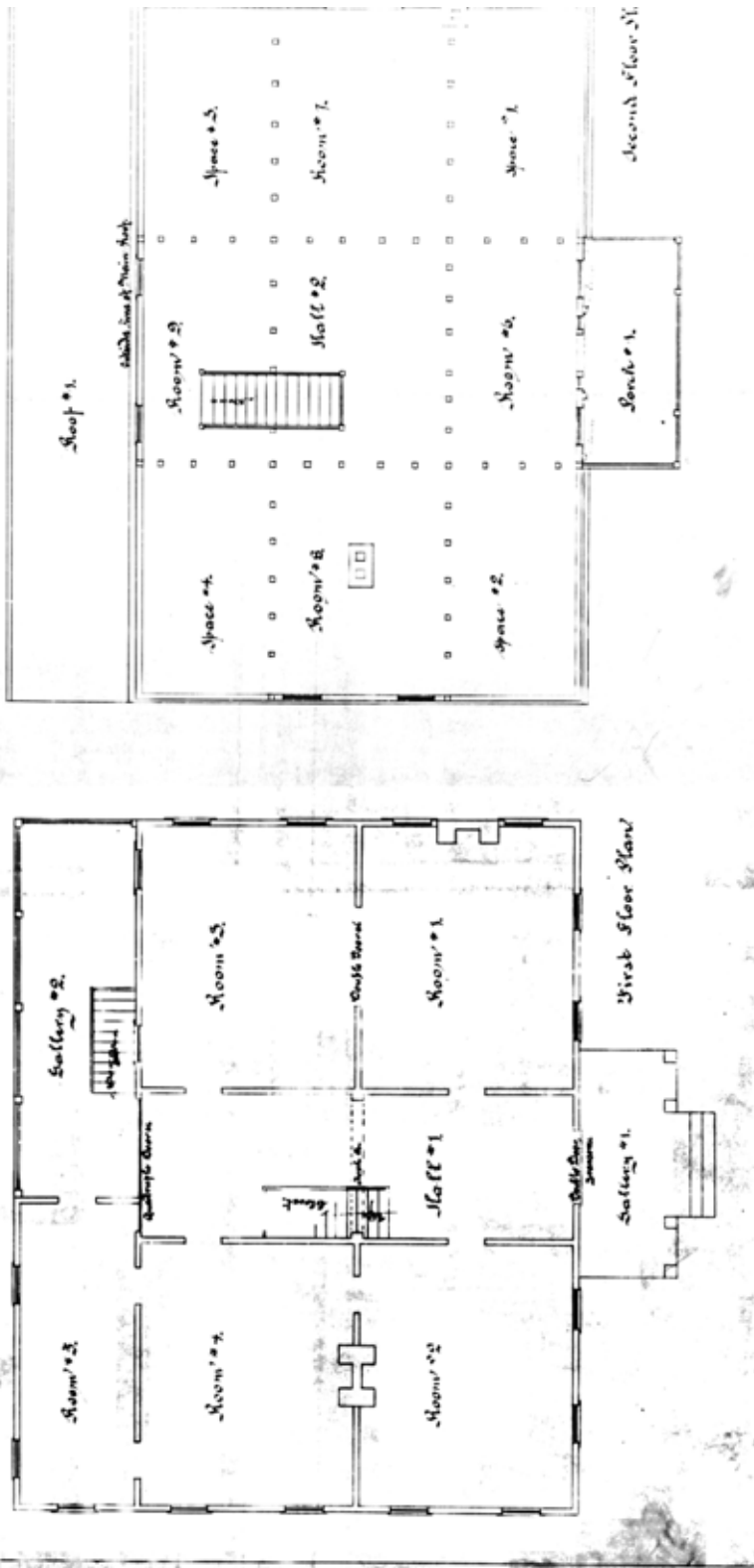








Plans of Shirley House, Vicksburg National Military Park
 Submitted by S. D. Mendenhall, Vicksburg, Miss.
 Specifications indicate proposed
 restoration? Scale, 1/4"



1967 Status Report

STATUS REPORT OF SHIRLEY HOUSE

February 8, 1967

The following comments will be a working field report and a work completed to date report requested of by Supt. W.R. Sund. These comments will cover the exterior of Shirley House as to work completed and work yet to be done, and to serve as a reference to help in completion of the Shirley House project.

The exterior of the building has been (weathered in), all siding applied, all windows and doors set in place and secured. However, windows and doors are not fitted and hinged. Roof shingles have been applied but have not received any treatment of Hydrozo water repellant and wood preservative.

The exterior of the building and windows and doors have received one coat of "Sherwin Williams" undercoater and one coat of "Sherwin Williams" A-100 exterior flat white Latex house paint. The second floor south porch and the north porch deck have received one coat "Sherwin Williams" undercoater and two coats of "Devoe" porch and floor enamel English Walnut Cat. #7791-01N.

Mr. Carroll's specifications on page 8-2 Painting and Finishing reads "Front double doors, rear quadruple hallway doors, both interior and exterior surfaces, varnish graining," but on page 4-9 Carpentry and Millwork reads "Hallway doors first floor north wall," and "Apply 2 coats of green paint on exterior as specified over one coat primer."

Upon removing all old paint from all quadruple doors, I found that the interior of the doors looked to me to be a dark varnish while the exterior of all doors looked to have a first finish of green paint.

Mr. Carroll also calls for bright green to be used on shutters, lunette, dormer door (page 8-2 Painting and Finishing), Green paint has been purchased from Sherwin Williams paint store, this color is listed as "Valour" green. This paint is also Flat Latex. However, time and weather has not permitted this paint to be applied.

The structure was rebuilt and restored before the foundation was rebuilt to afford some support under the building and make removal and replacement of 10" x 10" x 18' hewed green cut cypress beams and sills a much easier task. If the foundation had first been removed and rebuilt even in small sections, it would invite trouble and possible injury since all beams and sills had center rot and some were completely decayed. This

would allow the building to settle more and create more structural problems.

Because of fund shortage, the foundation is unstable. The worst sections of the foundation walls have been made a little more secure by placing more weight on these areas by using padding blocks and wedges. Further precautions have been taken by placing pipe jacks under main floor partitions to maintain a more equal distribution of weight on foundation walls and hold off any sudden settling of center partition beams.

After building piers for north porch and addition, caution should be taken in removing north foundation wall for rebuilding, as the two 10" x 10" beams on the ends have only been made fast with 1-1/4 tree nails and are supported by foundation wall only. However, the three center beams have been bolted up through the main house sill and will hold, if caution is again exercised. I believe the two ends would be held better by the use of needles, stiff legs and jacks with a wide foot pad on this soft area of ground. After corners are rebuilt, then the wall should be drawn up in turn under each half lap.

At south foundation wall, as Mr. Carroll's drawings and specifications point out, the ground must be dug out to lay seepage and drain tile across the entire length of the building and to poison the ground upon backfilling for eliminating termites.

It will be a big help in rebuilding and waterproofing the south foundation wall, if first the front porch is needled from existing foundation wall out far enough to clear work area to dig out under porch at least two feet on sides and in front of porch for clearance enough to pour footings and build up piers to hold porch while foundation is being worked.

The remaining ground on either side of porch should be dug in a stair stop form so as to prevent the backfill from acting as a wedge upon the new wall. If this system is used, it is best to use wide steps.

All outside wall sills at this time are level but the two inside partitions sills have dropped about one and one-half to two inches. It is my opinion that these sills should be raised back to their proper positions, which I believe to be a straight line from one foundation sill to the foundation sill opposite. This can best be accomplished by letting a contract for bid to a reputable house mover with proper equipment and a full knowledge of his responsibilities by taking the entire weight of the building straight and level upon jacks and off the foundation enough to free the top row of foundation brick. In so doing, this raise the center beams to a straight and level line. Sufficiently heavy equipment

should be used to hold the house in this position until the entire foundation has been rebuilt and has set up enough to withstand the pressure of the house. In raising the house, the main roof ridge should be watched closely, also dormer checks and double joints under dormer walls should be braced before house is raised.

The upstairs floor will not be level, but this can be corrected by furring up all floors to a line so the main floor ceilings remain straight and level. Upstairs flooring should be replaced since the existing flooring was cut in sections to allow least resistance while pulling the outside (north and south) walls back into proper position.

Pipe jacks in the basements can be removed without danger except the one under laminated 6 x 8 in southwest room, and the one under original 10 x 10 partition beam in northwest room at basement wall entrance. This beam should have steel pins or an angle bracket bolted to it and the main wall sill. After the house is returned to foundation and center sills have been raised, this will also raise the low areas in second floor and roof eave at both dormer cheeks. I believe that a firm truss can be made of the main roof rafters and dormer rafter plate. These can be shimed and furred together and then bolted on both sides of ridge. If the double joists under each dormer wall about middle ways of each joint were jacked up to allow about a two inch crown in each of them before the trusses were bored and bolted, this would throw the weight of the roof back to the outside walls it was before the dormer rafter plate was cut to allow for a standard size door height. However, even with this, I believe new joists alongside the old ones is a necessity.

Sheet metal covering old upstairs porch was deferred due to shortage of funds. It has also deferred installation of gutters, shutters, rebuilding of chimneys, flood coats of Hydrozo to be applied to roof shingles, spray application of pentachlorophenol on all dimensional lumber and beams, joints and rafters. The north porch flooring was specified to be rough circle sawn one side, but because of the need to close over the floor joists and use materials on hand and finish profile of building, standard 5/4 random width dressed both sides was purchased and applied. I believe a light sandblasting on the bottom surface will help the looks a great deal and be as rough as needed.

Construction of outside steps for either porch has not been accomplished, and there is no material available on the job for this purpose.

In revising existing foundation bricks, the old paint must first be removed. This should be accomplished by using a spray application before the foundation is worked on. The paint remover for this project can be found in the storage shed at the maintenance compound (Strip-It, 65

gals). There is also a 55 gal. drum of Maldane for poisoning ground in front of building when backfilled, and to soak entire ground in basement and under north porch area; and a 55 gal. Drum of pentachlorophinol in the garage at Shirley House. The entire south basement room has received this treatment. (Maldane) (Maldane is a concentrate and should be mixed with water to a ratio of 40 parts water to one part Maldane. Pentachlorophinol was to be used to treat all studs, joints, rafters, beams and all other raw unpainted dimensional material. East and south walls have received two coats of penta, but north and west walls received only one coat. Ceiling joists in front half of hallway have received one coat. All other ceiling and floor joists have received none. Upstairs studs and plates as well as rafters have received none, nor has the addition or roof sheathing of north porch.

Upon removing and repairing of rafters and joists of north porch, we found the rafter ends unable to hold nails. These were replaced with new rough cut cypress rafters and joists which need a coat of used motor oil and penta, or a coating of penta and green walnut hulls. This will age the new lumber to closely match the old sheathing applied in porch roof.

The ceiling boards which were milled to be applied immediately under the addition have been stacked against the north wall of the northwest room of the basement. The other boards have been milled with a beaded edge at the tongue; these are meant for the wood partition at the east end of basement between the northeast and southeast rooms.

The ceiling boards and batts removed from the northeast room of the basement and the pump room are stored in the garage behind the house. Some short places of original flooring boards, and to fill in holes made by removing floor heaters.

Interior trim from windows and doors was removed from old frames and stored in pump room of basement. These are not original and I believe it would be better if those were not reused. All light fixtures that were removed were also stored in the pump room.

In the south room of the basement there are 14 - 3" x 10" x 22' rough cut cypress timbers. These were ordered to place alongside the old original floor joists in northwest room of basement and northeast room of the west end of the south room, and under dormer walls to add strength to original joists.

There are also two 3" x 12" x 22' rough cut yellow pine, which are to be placed on the north side of the partition beam of the southeast room, directly over the existing restroom in basement, to match new joists in

southeast room. These can also be used as needles for stabilizing and holding front porch while footings and piers are being built.

The steel "I" beams shown in the drawings were not ordered. The one shown on drawings in the east end of the south room of the basement will now be deleted, since this end will be open and exposed to public view. This is why there are heavier joists in this area than were called for on the drawings.

Two short lengths of original baseboard have been found and stored in the garage.

For all millwork to be done to complete this project, I would suggest H.J. Beach (text unclear) Cabinet and Millwork, Magee, Mississippi. (Phone 466-3422)

Nails for all interior work are stored in the basement of the house. These were ordered from Tremont Nail Co., Wareham Mass., and also from Wheeling Corrugating Company, Tulane Building, Room 328, 3308 Tulane Ave., P.O. Box 32316, New Orleans, Louisiana. If more nails are needed it would be wise to order well ahead as it was about two months before we got ours.

For any specific type or amount of lumber, we found it best to contact Kenneth Drummond, Southern Pacific Lumber Co., Jackson, Mississippi. (Phone 948-0682) He will go all out to be of help. He is also affiliated with Copiah County Lumber Co., Hazlehurst, Mississippi, which is a small mill, and our source of supply of heavy timbers. Any large dimensional material they don't have or cannot get, they will cut or resaw. Ken Drummond is a very well known person around Mississippi, and very well informed.

Sherwin Williams Paint Store is the best for prices on paint. Their address is 1514 Walnut Street, Vicksburg.

The Maldane was ordered from Jim Peters, National Chemsearch Corp., 1426 Sheffield, Jackson, Miss, (Phone 362-3896) as was the drum of Strip-It paint remover.

The pentachlorophenol was ordered from Sunford Products Corp., Jackson, Mississippi.

For all metal framing and welding now finished and all joists hangers and tie brackets that need to be made up, Stanley Machine Works, 1609 Levee St., Vicksburg, Mississippi, has been very cooperative.

Appendix B

The steel "I" beams shown on the drawings under floor joists can be ordered from Mississippi Steel and Iron Co., Inc., High and Monroe Street, Jackson, Mississippi. (Phone 353-1656)

Bids for gutters and downspouts can be recalled from Enterprise Plumbing Co., 709 China Street, Vicksburg, Miss., Cloud Sheet Metal Works, 2627 Washington Street, Vicksburg, Miss. Or Fuller Sheet Metal Works, 115 W. Griffith, Jackson, Miss. (Phone 353-8573)

On the drawings you will notice that two downspouts empty into a boot and from this boot one downspout empties into a rain barrel. There is also a note that a detail of this boot will be submitted at a later date. I have seen several boots such as this on several different houses, and from the drawings I believe the one most likely for a copy would be found at 1333 Jackson St., Vicksburg.

The plumbing and electrical work has been looked over by a few contractors. The most interested parties are: Cloud Plumbing Co., 2201 Washington St., Vicksburg, Miss. And Enterprise Plumbing Co., 709 China St., Vicksburg. There have been a few electrical and heating contractors come around to talk about bids on the work yet to be accomplished. Ace Electric was contacted by James Askins during the very early stages of the work.

Scaffolding can be rented as well as many other tools at J.M. Fly Rent All, 2700 Washington, Vicksburg.

Hand saw, blades and most any other tools that need sharpening can be taken to R.L. Stewart, 1609 Grove St., Vicksburg, who has proved to be a good tool man.

A problem of moisture collecting in the basement and rising to the upstairs has developed. This has occurred since we have closed the building tight enough to stop air circulation. I found that this moisture would dissipate with proper air circulation. I found that this moisture would dissipate with proper air circulation. I believe it should have some type of dehumidifier, but most of these are prohibitive to operate in this building. All I could think of doing was to put several blocks of cattle salt in different locations in the basement to absorb most of this moisture. This does work, but some mornings are worse than others and circulation of air is found to be necessary. During the winter months I believe this should be checked frequently by park personnel, and if moisture exists, arrange air circulation to dissipate. This problem can be overcome when interior is completed by barring all ground under house and covering with four mill visqueen plastic sheets, sealing all joints and laps, and putting ballast over this for

concrete floors or sand and brick. Foundation will be coated with bondex and this will eliminate the moisture. It has already brought another problem of mildew on the painted surfaces in the basement and spots of mildew have shown up on the exterior as well.

The exterior of the house has received one coat of primer and one coat of exterior flat white Latex paint from Sherwin Williams and it needs another good coat of paint to look its best.

For any glass that needs replacing, there have been several pieces stored in the storehouse at the cemetery. This is all old glass, and was bought to be installed in the sash and for future use.

The quadruple doors (north end of Hallway) have just been set in the opening and should be removed and strips glued to both sides as well as top and bottom, and they can then be made to fit as they should. The hardware for these doors is now stored in the basement with the cut nails. There is also quite a collection of old hardware, gathered by Mr. Carroll, stored in the back drafting office at the visitor center.

All doors and windows to be placed in the foundation wall while rebuilding are stored on the main floor of the house to keep from too much moisture.

Thresholds for all doors and louvers for pump room are also stored in main floor of house.

In the south room of the basement, there are two stacks of brick; one stack has red and gray paint on the brick. These are from the four piers removed from the north porch, since they are not in the proper location. New piers will go directly under porch posts. According to specifications, all brick shall be special, handmade reproductions, oversize, measuring 2-1/4" x 4" x 8-1/4". Fifty (50) per cent of brick quantity may exceed these dimensions by 1/8". I would think if we go one way to larger brick, it will be all right to go smaller and use what we have on hand. The other stack of brick in the south room of the basement is brick from the basement floor of the northwest room. Most all of these are good enough to put back. There is a house wrecker in Port Gibson who has a good supply of proper brick if needed.

There is a different pattern layout of brick in the northwest room where these bricks go. There is an area approximately 6'6" x 2'6" having a diagonal pattern and has been left undisturbed. When replacing the brick in this room, the brick lays parallel to the north wall in straight rows laying east and west. As you can see, the fireplace hearth has been built over the top of the old hearth. If Mr. Carroll's specifications are read

Appendix B

carefully and the drawings are studied, I believe the rest will be self explanatory.

(signed)

Bobby L. Flicksinger

1967 Status Report



As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

NPS D- 95 March 2004