HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

ARCHITECTURAL DATA, PART I

Preparatory to the Restoration of the

GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER HOUSE

Saratoga National Historical Park

Schuylerville, New York

May 1959

by

Henry A. Judd

Architect

RECOMMENDED

_____ Date_____

Act Supervising Architect, Historic Structures

_____ Date_____

Chief, HSDC

Architectural Data Section
Historic Structures Report
for
General Philip Schuyler House
Saratoga N - H - P -
by Henry A. Judd May, 1959

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I. FOREWORD

The repairs to the Schuyler House made under the direction of the later A. J. Higgins of Richmond, Virginia then Regional Architect about 1951 and the limited restoration campaigns of 1956 and 1958 under Architects Henry A. Judd of EODC left behind no comprehensive reports on the fabric. Work was started before the present reporting system was inaugurated.

Very little basic structural investigation was done and very few records if any kind were made--either written, photographic or drawn before 1956. In that year, with the appropriation of funds for some interior work, came the first opportunity to open up the fabric, especially the oldest part of the main house. Extensive photographic coverage was made and a large set of measured drawings (16 sheets, mostly records of the framing) prepared before replastering. No formal and complete written reports were compiled at that time, although many memoranda of record were filed. When the money had been spent, the project closed down. It was impossible then to tell when, if ever, the general restoration of the house would be resumed.

In the summer of 1958 the project was resumed as our acquaintance with the fabric developed we found it to be a very interesting one. With later features stripped off,

what remained seemed to become less "American" and more Dutch. Unfortunately there are not many New York frame Dutch houses left and we have had little chance to inspect them or to study the subject. A brief view of the brick Van Alen House near Kinderhook (1737 with later additions) shows some surprising parallels of construction with our house at Schuylerville. I am pleased--ever proud--of the amount of pertinent information our field men have uncovered.

In his investigations Architect Judd was assisted by Architect A. W. Franzen and Buildings Restoration Specialist Cordie Whittington. Student Architect Douglas Schroeder, University of Michigan, prepared some of the record drawings and assisted in many other ways. Architect Thomas Wistar, Jr. drew the rendered perspectives included in this report.

The reports of the various Park Historians, especially Messrs. Wilshin, Shedd, Snell, Olsen, and Luzader were consulted. Some of these contained information important to an understanding of the structure.

Perhaps the most unusual feature of the house is the massive chimney base of the old kitchen. We must know more about it before we can recreate a complete exhibition house. The whole nature of General Schuyler's operations at this place need to be investigated and understood. We do not believe that documentary searching has gone far enough.

We have done just enough ourselves to believe that there will be a considereable reward for a small amount of additional work. We would enjoy doing it ourselves if we could be allowed the time.

The intention of this report was to set down in writing the most important facts we have learned about the house so far. We hope it will soon be permitted to soon remove the later additions so the examination may be completed. This is necessary for the preparation of working drawings and with them to prepare a final Historic Structure Report.

Charles E. Peterson
Supervising Architect
Historic Structures

Philadelphia March 29, 1959

II. THE SCHUYLER ESTABLISHMENT AT SARATOGA

A. Pioneering on the Fishkill

Philip Pieterse Schuyler, an immigrant from Amsterdam in the mid 17th century, founded the Schuyler family in America. His second son, Peter Schuyler, the first mayor of Albany, New York, acquired numerous grants of land; the most extensive was in what was called the "Saratoga Patent". His home in that area was the "First Schuyler House" referred to in this report. (Part III-B)

Philip John Schuyler, who built the present house, belonged to the fourth generation of Schuylers in America and was the grandson of Peter Schuyler. He played a minor part in the French and Indian War serving under General William Johnson at Crown Point and Col. John Bradstreet with whom he became a very close friend. In 1761 Schuyler sailed to England to settle Bradstreet's accounts with the War Office. During this trip he purchased hardware for his Albany home "The Pastures" and probably some of that we now find in the Saratoga House.

In 1763, on the death of his father, he acquired a one-third part of his grandfather's land and from the estate of an uncle he received additional lands in the Saratoga Patent. Here he developed water power for his saw and grist mills as well as the first water-powered flax mill in the province. He maintained a fleet of ships (a schooner and three sloops) on the Hudson. His house was located conveniently close both to the

falls of the Fishkill and the Hudson River where these facilities were developed.

Schuyler was instrumental in the promotion of the early canal system and the Inland Lock Navigation Company. It was while employed on a canal survey that his son, John Bradstreet Schuyler, an occupant of this house, became ill resulting in his death a few days later.

Schuyler had a keen interest in farming and the raising of grains which he processed in his grist-mills. He showed a particular interest in flax and the processing of it into linen. He was a remarkable man and his headquarters at Saratoga deserve studies hardly yet begun. They will be necessary to laying out the grounds of this house, which had numerous dependencies.

In 1768 Schuyler was elected to the New York Assembly and was frankly hostile to the British rule. On June 15, 1775 he was appointed one of four Major Generals under Washington and assigned command of the Northern Department. During the Battle of Saratoga Schuyler's Saratoga buildings were burned by General Burgoyne, but replacement started at once. His new house - erected at that time - is the subject of this report.

Schuyler held public office continuously from 1780 through 1798 when ill health forced his retirement.[1]

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1. John A. Krout, Dictionary of American Biography, New York, 1935, Vol. 16, p. 476-480.) A few other items have been added.

B. A Colonial Lumber Camp

One of the earliest and most thorough descriptions of the Schuyler establishment at Saratoga (now Schuylerville) was left by Anne Grant (McVickers) in her memoirs of her visit to America in the mid-18th century:

".....Thirty miles or more above Albany, in the direction of the Flats, and near the far-famed Saratoga, which was to be the scene of his future triumph, he had another establishment. It was here that the colonel's political and economical genius had full scope. He had always the command of a great number of those workmen who were employed in public buildings, &c. Those were always in constant pay; it being necessary to engage them in that manner; and were, from the change of the seasons, the shutting of the ice and other circumstances, months unemployed. All these seasons, when public business was interrupted, the workmen were employed in constructing squares of buildings in the nature of barracks, for the purpose of lodging artisans and labourers of all kinds. Having previously obtained a large tract of very fertile lands from the crown, on which he built a spacious and convenient house; he constructed those barracks at a distance, not only as a nursery for the arts which he meant to encourage, but as the materials of a future colony, which he meant to plant out around him. He had there a number of negroes well acquainted with felling of trees and managing of saw-mills, of which he erected several. And while these were employed in carrying on a very advantageous trade of deals and lumber, which were floated down on rafts to New York, they were at the same time clearing the ground for the colony the colonel was preparing to establish.

"This new settlement was an asylum for every one who wanted bread and a home: from the variety of employments regularly distributed, every artisan and every labourer found here lodging and occupation: some hundreds of people, indeed, were employed at once. Those who were in winter engaged at the saw-mills, were in summer equally busied at a large and productive fishery. The artisans got lodging and firing for two or three years, at first, besides being well paid for everything they did. Flax was raised, and dressed, and finally they did. Flax was raised, and dressed, and finally spun and made into linen there; and as artisans were very scarce in the country, every one sent linen to weave, flax to dress, &c. to the colonel's colony. He paid them liberally; and having always abundance of money in his hands, could afford to be the loser at first, to be amply repaid in the end. It is inconceivable what dexterity, address, and deep policy were exhibited in the management of this new settlement; the growth of which was

rapid beyond belief. Every mechanic ended in being a farmer, that is a profitable tenant to the owner of the soil; and new recruits of artisans from the north of Ireland chiefly supplied their place, nourished with the golden dews which the sagacious projector could so easily command. The rapid increase and advantageous result of this establishment were astonishing. 'Tis impossible for my imperfect recollection to do justice to the capacity displayed in these regulations. But I have thus endeavoured to trace to its original source that wealth and power which became, afterwards, the means of supporting an aggression so formidable." 2

While Anne Grant mentions the rapid growth and the many activities at Saratoga, she makes little mention of specific buildings. The Schuyler house of that period is referred to as "spacious and convenient". She also mentions that there were several saw-mills and barracks.

From a quick review of the many Schuyler papers in the New York Public Library the writer found that some construction was underway at nearly all times. The construction of small houses and barns, probably for the use of the many tenants, was most often referred to. Many of the people in Schuyler's employ leased their dwellings and land from him. The leases were often paid for by cutting logs and delivering them to Schuyler at his mills.

There are also many letters referring to the construction or repairs of his water-powered mills for sawing lumber and grinding grain. 3

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2. Anne Grant (McVickers), Memoirs of an American Lady, London, 1808, 2 Vols., pp 188-192, Vol. II. This visit took place about a quarter of a century before the War of the Revolution when the present house was begun. Presumably the settlement developed still further in the intervening years.)
3. In a Schuyler letter now at the New York State Library, we find a description of the grist mill on Fish Creek which a friend of Schuyler wished to duplicate.

In a letter Schuyler wrote from Saratoga on December 19, 1795 leaving instructions for the disposal of property of his late son's estate, he mentions three or four structures, two of which would be located on the home grounds:

"....On the loft of the wagon house there is about one hundred bushels of corn and a quantity of oats....In the root cellar is a quantity of potatoes....Inclose you an account of the board and plank which are at the upper mill....Be so good as to have them brought to the landing." 4

Further mention of saw-mills is found in a letter from Philip Schuyler to his son John B. Schuyler at Saratoga, dated at Albany December 12, 1787:

"I would not advise you to build a new Saw Mill, the upper one will answer all your purposes after next year. The lower one should be so far repaired as it may work next year..." 5

After these logs were sawed into plank, boards and lath they were shipped to the various markets. Many were floated down the Hudson to Albany and New York City where they were sold for Schuyler by merchants located there. The following is an agreement between Schuyler and a New York merchant; dated March 16, 1772.

"Articals of Agreement made, concluded and fully agreed upon between Philip Schuyler Esq. of the County of Albany on the one part and Gerard DePeyster of the City of New York merchant on the other. "Witness, whereas the aforesaid Philip Schuyler Esq.

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4. Schuyler Papers, New York Public Library, hereafter NYPL. Judging from the large quantity of materials and produce stored in the loft of the wagon house it must have been a rather substantial building. Only a small amount of exploratory excavation has been done. The root cellar site was located and excavated during the summer of 1958. A part of the foundations are still in place. Near the bottom of the cellar a 1801 one cent coin was found. This coin shows no sign of wear.

5. Schuyler Papers, NYPL

is accustomed to send yearly for sale to the City of New York White and Pitch pine Boards and Plank of Different Dimensions, the sale of which the aforesaid Gerard DePeyster is willing to undertake, it is therefor mutually Agreed upon by the parties Aforesaid that the said Gerard DePeyster shall sell the aforesaid Boards and Planks on the terms following.
To Wit
1st that for every Board of one inch thick and fourteen feet long, and every Plank of one inch and a half thick and fourteen feet long, the said Gerard dePeyster shall be allowed the sum of one penney New York Currency. Including all charges of storage piling and every other charge and the sum of two pense on plank of greater dimensions." [6]

The following letter concerning what is now the Military Academy gives an idea of the scope of Schuyler's interests and his connection in the building business:

"Office of Finance
Decem 3. 1781

Dr. Sir
I am to inform you that you are much underbidden in the contract for West Point. It would have been particularly agreeable to me that a Gentleman of your Character and extensive influence should have been engaged in the Business but as a Friend of the Public you will I doubt not be happy that they are more cheaply served. I have the honor to be with great Respect

Sir
Your most obt.
and
humble servant
Robt Morris [7]

Philip Schuyler Esqr"

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6. Schuyler Papers, New York State Library, State Education Building, Albany. This agreement defines the difference between boards (1") and plank, (1-1/2"). Apparently the carriage of the Schuyler mills were limited to logs not exceeding fourteen feet in length. All flooring in the Schuyler house was found to be within this length.

7. Schuyler Papers, NYPL, Box 42

Numerous references were found requesting shoes made at Saratoga. [8]

A similar establishment to that at Saratoga was maintained by Schuyler at Cosby Manor, on the Mohawk at what is now Utica, New York.[9]

C. The Earlier Houses

The existing house is the third Schuyler house on this general site. The exact location of the two earlier houses is not known but probably can be determined by further exploratory excavations. The first house was owned and occupied by the grandfather of General Schuyler and was destroyed while the latter was still a child. The second house was inherited by Schuyler after the death of an uncle. Some references state that this house was erected by General Schuyler. In either case, we are almost sure that he enlarged it. Anne Grant described this building as a "spacious and convenient house". General Burgoyne, the British invader, said of this house:

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8. The following is typical:
"....I send you some measurements for shoes for my servants here which please to have made...."
Schuyler Papers, NYPL; Letter from Philip Schuyler to John B. Schuyler, dated at Albany December 5, 1787.

9. Cosby Manor was named after William Cosby, Governor of New York, (1731-35) who held much of the original land grant in the area. Schuyler purchased most of this land, in later years, from the Cosby heirs for a small group which included himself and General John Bradstreet, a retired British Officer of the French and Indian War. Schuyler's son, John Bradstreet Schuyler (who later lived at the Saratoga house) was named after this British officer. Upon General Bradstreet's death in 1773, Schuyler became executor of his estate, a position which lead to many law suits. Further reference to this establishment can be found in the Schuyler Papers in the New York Public Library and in the Pioneers of Utica, M. M. Bagg, Utica, New York, 1877; Curtis & Childs Printers and Publishers; Chapter 1 and Appendix.

"....General Schuyler had likewise a very good dwelling house, exceeding large storehouses, great saw mills and other out buildings, to the value altogether of perhaps ten thousand pounds..."[10]

Benson J. Lossing, a historian who visited the Saratoga area about 1845, wrote:

"....The house of General Schuyler was elegant for the times, and was very pleasantly situated upon the south banks of the Fish Kill or Fish Creek. It was rebuilt after the war, but in a style much inferior in beauty and expense...."[11]

A few days before General Burgoyne surrendered the British troops to General Gates in mid-October 1777, bringing to a close the Battle of Saratoga, Burgoyne ordered that this second house, the mills, barns and other buildings on General Schuyler's Saratoga property be burned under the apprehension that they would afford cover and protection to the American troops.[12]

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10. James Phinney Baxter, The British Invasions from the North, The Campaigns of Generals Carleton and Burgoyne from Canada, 1776-1777, Albany, N. Y., 1887, pp. 301-2.

11. Benson J. Lossing; The Pictorial Field Book of the Revolution;

12. Apparently the house had been badly abused by the British troops for on September 24, 1777, about three weeks before it was burned, Colonel Varick wrote to Schuyler in Albany:
"....He was in your house found it ruined, no windows in and the paper all torn down...."
Schuyler Papers, NYPL

III. PHYSICAL HISTORY

According to long-standing local tradition the present Schuyler house has been little changed from its original form in November 1777. This tradition, I find, was based only on the fact that the building had never been furnished with modern conveniences such as electricity, plumbing and central heating.

Our architectural investigations made during the summers of 1956 and 1958 indicate that the tradition is very wrong and that the house had been extensively altered at two different times since it was built. Very little of the original appearance of the house remains. The foundation, basic framing, a part of the brick nogging, and the floors, however, remain from the earliest work. The first alteration was done by General Schuyler, about 1787, some ten years after the original construction. A great deal of the work done at that time remains in place today and can be preserved. The second alteration was done well after General Schuyler's death and in another style after the house had left the Schuyler family.

The floor plan and the construction of the Schuyler House seems more or less typical of the Dutch communities along the Hudson, insofar as there is anything left to study. The large unheated center hall - with exterior entrances both front and rear - and the fireplaces and chimneys on the end walls of the adjoining rooms is seldom found in neighboring New England.

The Schuyler House framing, very much like our modern post and beam construction, is typical of the houses viewed by the writer in that area and down the river. This framing, with basically uniform spacing, is nogged with brickwork which serves as insulation and fire proofing and as a base on which to plaster the interior walls. In the Schuyler House, this nogging is of unburned brick. The contemporary little Neilson House at Bemis Heights is framed and nogged in the same manner.[13]

A. The House as Built in 1777

Earlier research has shown that the present house was built in the amazingly short time of only thirty days. A war was still going on, materials and labor were hard to come by and winter was fast closing in. The house as erected that November was a rather crude and simple affair. On November 6, 1777, a few days after work had started on the new house, Schuyler wrote in a letter to John Jay:

"....What further buildings are necessary may be cheaply and speedily erected as the frame of the whole house can be sawed, boards and every other material procured at the cheapest rates. The new house which I began the 1st instant, and which will be under cover and have two rooms finished by the 15th instant, unless the weather should prove remarkably wet, but observe that it is only a frame house, 60 feet long, 21 broad, and 2 stories high, filled in with brick...." [14]

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13. The Van Alen House, 1737, at Kinderhook, New York, which appears to be all masonry is also framed with a nogging of brick but has brick exterior finish similar to our modern veneers. The Darrow House, near Easton, New York, said to be built in 1777, the same year as the Schuyler House, is typical of the New England construction. However, many moulding details are almost identical to those found in the Schuyler House. Some of the craftsmen and the moulding planes used may be common to both jobs.

14. Schuyler Papers, NYPL

The Marquis de Chastellux, in his visit to Saratoga in December 1780, three years after the house was built, thought the house to be a farm converted to temporary living quarters. He wrote of his visit:

"....General Burgoyne....left the farm standing which is at present the only asylum for its owner.
It is here that Mr. Schuyler lodged us in some temporary apartments he fitted up until happier times allow him to build a better house." 17

By the following letter from Schuyler to Congress, dated at Saratoga, November 4, 1777, we know that no farm buildings were salvaged from the fire and it must have been the present house that was referred to by Chastellux:

"....On the 2nd instant two British Officers on their way to Canada took shelter in a violent storm of rain in my little hut, the only remains of all my buildings in this quarter." 18

Nearly a year after Chastellux's visit we find General John Stark, apparently quartered in the Schuyler House, writing to General Schuyler at Albany:

"I am happy in the opportunity of announcing the arrival of Mrs. Schuyler and her two daughters at Saratoga - and while I have the pleasure of her agreeable company, I regret nothing but that the accomodations are not equal to their rank and sex." 19

Former Park Historian, Charles W. Snell, in his "A Report on the History, Construction and Social Use of the General Philip Schuyler Summer House at Schuylerville (Old Saratoga) N. Y.", dated April 16, 1951, quotes from the numerous references and

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17. William L. Stone, Ed., Visits to the Saratoga Battle Grounds, 1780-1880, Albany, N. Y. p. 75

18. Stone, p. 76

19. Schuyler Papers, NYPL

This letter states only two rooms were expected to be completed on the 15th, not the whole house. A more definite statement as to the time involved in the original construction is contained in a letter Schuyler wrote on November 28, 1777, four weeks after work had started:

"On the first instant I began a house, on the 19th I had two rooms and a cellar kitchen finished and on the 30th instant I shall discharge my carpenters." [15]

In a letter from General Schuyler to Varick dated at Saratoga, November 10, 1777, we find mention of the day the frame of the house was erected:

"Mrs. Schuyler begs if an opportunity offers that you will send her a pair of Andirons that were formerly here. A white wash brush or two that have been used and two Brooms.
The House was raised on Saturday /November 8/ two rooms and a cellar kitchen will be finished by Saturday next /November 15/ but I believe on account of the Dampness we shall not move in Untill the Seventeenth." [16]

The house as built that November was, as Schuyler wrote, 60' x 21' and two stories high plus attic and basement. It is the front section of the existing house. A study of the fabric as well as the contemporary accounts cited above indicate that this building was a simple structure referred to as a barracks or a temporary home. However, the framing done at that time is superior in workmanship to any subsequent work on the house.

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15. Lloyd W. Smith Collection, Morristown National Historical Park Library, Morristown, New Jersey.

16. Schuyler Papers, NYPL, The framing of a house was precut and the joints indexed (usually by cutting matching roman numerals in each member) before any of the members were erected. After all framing members were ready extra men were called in for a day to help raise and assemble them.

correspondence found pertaining to conditions in Saratoga and the constructions of the Schuyler house in the fall of 1777. A long excerpt from his report is included as Appendix D in this report.

The importance in the salvage of the iron work from the burned buildings and the difficulties in procuring additional iron work and other materials required is clearly shown in this correspondence.

Colonel Richard Varick, a former aide to General Schuyler, wrote him at Albany on October 12, 1777, to inform him of conditions at Saratoga:

"No Part of your Buildings have escaped their Malice except the Necessary & your upper Saw Mill which is in the Same Situation we left it--Hardly a Vestage of the Fences is left except a few Rails of the Garden."[20]

In General Schuyler's answer to this letter dated the same day he stresses the urgency for the salvage of iron work and nails and his intention of rebuilding his mills and house immediately:

"I sent up Tom and another servant to pick up the iron work of the Buildings which the enemy have burnt. If you can possibly procure some hands to assist I wish you to do so. Iron and nails are at present so very scarce and I wish that what can be saved should be carried to the Mill House at the Upper Mill which Major [M] informs me is entirely standing. If I am not too indisposed I propose riding up to Morrow or next day....

"I intend immediately to have my mills rebuilt and some house Erected." [21]

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20. Schuyler Papers, NYPL

21. Lloyd W. Smith Collection, Morristown NHP

The correspondence also shows the problem of procuring suitable craftsmen, masons in particular, for work on the new buildings. Most of these craftsmen were hired at a very high rate of pay from neighboring communities; however, a few were acquired from the ranks of the American Armies and at least two masons were prisoners of war from the British troops.

A-1. Plan

There is a great deal of physical evidence still in the building revealing its appearance as first built. The house was one room deep. The first floor was divided into a parlor on the south, a dining room on the north and a large entrance - stair hall, typical of the region, in the center. On the second floor there was a large bedroom at either end, a small bedroom with an adjoining storage room in the center front and a hall and closet in the center rear. This closet, incidentally, is the only room in the house where the original finish remains undisturbed. It should be carefully preserved. There is no indication that the attic was sub-divided at this time.

A-2. Basement

The basement was divided into three major rooms. The room to the north was probably the general storage area. Provisions were made so that this room could be kept locked. The original door with its wooden cased lock is still in place. An original window serving this space (found after the removal of the rotted front porch) was furnished recently with vertical

iron bars for security (see Illustration No. 8). These bars appear to be made from iron salvaged from the carriage of an old power-driven mill saw, possibly from the mill burned by Burgoyne.

The center room, also provided with lock and key, is now referred to as a wine cellar. There are shelves along the inner walls and there are numerous meat hooks in the joists. Just inside the doorway is a trap door opening to the pantry above. This would have provided a means to pass food to the dining room without walking through the house. There is a former window opening which has been filled in with stone masonry. There is no evidence that this opening has ever been used in connection with the present house. This is one of the factors which lead us to believe that the foundation belonged to an earlier structure (possibly the second Schuyler House).

The basement room to the south is the original kitchen which Schuyler referred to in his letter of November 28, 1777. In the northwest corner of this room a small area was partitioned off. There was access to this partitioned area from the outside through a small door located in an areaway at the front of the house. This small door, now bricked up on the inside, with its hardware and areaway, was found entire and in perfect working condition when we removed the rotted front porch floor. The interior door with its hardware has been found - along with one door jamb. The rest of the partition is now missing.

The original kitchen fireplace is still intact and shows very little sign of wear. Apparently it was used for cooking only a limited period of time until the present detached kitchen building was built. The flue was cut off when changes were made to the upstairs rooms about 1787, and is now inoperable.

A-3. Doors and Windows

After the plaster had been removed in 1956 a detailed study of the framing revealed the location of all original windows. None of them remains unchanged. The originals were casements hinged at the side, 2 lights wide and 4 lights high (rather than the 4 light wide and 5 light high double hung windows existing today). There were twelve windows, six to a floor, on the front elevation of the house in the same locations as the existing windows except for the center window on the second floor directly over the entrance frame which was blank. In the original house a partition stood at this point. There were only two windows on the rear elevation, one to each floor in the central hall. It is interesting to note that the Schuyler mansion "The Pastures" in Albany (General Schuyler's year-around home) is arranged in the same manner. There were two small windows on each end of the house to light the attic area. One original casement jamb remains in place. From it we have a clear indication of the original window size, its construction and the original paint colors for the house. Our first indication that the windows might have been casements was found in a reference to "window hinges" in the following letter from John Lansing to General Schuyler at Saratoga:

"Albany Nov 12th 1777

Dear General
The bearer has in charge a stove with about twelve Feet pipes, a pair of and-Irons two wash brushes and a couple Brooms forty pair of door hinges eight pair window do. and four chimney Bars." [22]

Glass for the windows had been sent up about a week earlier as is indicated by the following letter dated at Albany, November 6, 1777, from Colonel Lewis to General Schuyler at Saratoga:

"....I wrote you the day before yesterday acknowledging the receipt of youre and acquainting you I had forwarded the Nails you wrote for. Likewise a grindstone and a Box of Glass for Mrs. Schuyler, Whatever Materials are needed to carry on the Buildings at Saratoga, I should be obliged to you to write me for."....[23]

The framing of the house indicates that there were two original exterior doors on the first floor. There was also a hatchway or bulkhead entering the basement from outdoors in the rear. Its masonry walls are still in place. The structure is now indoors under a later addition. The exterior doors were in the entrance hall, one the main entrance in the front in the same location as the existing door and the other directly opposite in the rear. (A door was restored to this location by the Park Service in the summer of 1956.) A third entrance was cut into the rear wall of the dining room soon after when the detached kitchen was erected.

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22. Schuyler Papers, NYPL. Eight pair of window hinges were all that would have been required for the six windows on the front elevation and two windows on the rear elevation. Four chimney bars would have been required for the four fireplaces on these same two floors. Forty door hinges are more than have ever been required for this house but Schuyler was busy on other structures.)

23. Schuyler Papers, NYPL

Interior doors were generally where now located. Framing for a second door to the parlor from the hall was found. We have found no evidence as to when this might have been used. Perhaps it never was.

The doors throughout the house vary greatly in style and age. Most are definitely from the 1787 alteration or later. A few, such as the parlor door and the door to the second floor closet may date from the original construction.

A-4. Exterior Finish

Weatherboarding - When we removed a section of the present weatherboarding, we found that the original weatherboarding had been reused as sheathing. These boards were sawed 1 3/16" x 12" (not tapered) with the outside face dressed with a hand plane. On the lower edge of the face there is a 1/2" bead. Weathering marks indicate that these boards were laid nine inches to the weather. They had never been painted. All existing door and window frames were installed after this weatherboarding was reapplied as sheathing.

Shingles - The earliest shingle were, very probably, like those used a few years later in the construction of the detached kitchen. These, a few of which are still in place in an area long protected by a later addition, are 18" long and

laid 6" to the weather. They were rived and shaved to a smooth tapered surface.[24]

Gutters - Holes, about 3/4" square, were found in the rear plate of the house. (We haven't been able to study the front plate) They are spaced about four feet on center and vary in height to form a continuous pitch dropping about 2-1/2" in the length of the building. They, very probably, were left by the hangers for roof gutters. It is quite probable that the gutters were a hollowed half section of a log hewn to a rectangular shape. Gutters of this type were used in the restoration of the Hasbrouck House in Newburg and on the Van Cortland House in Tarrytown. (By hollowing a half log it was possible to work with the grain of the wood to assure drainage with a minimum of rotting.)

A-5. Interior Finish

Walls - The interior walls were plastered directly on the brick nogging and the plaster was whitewashed. (Mrs. Schuyler

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24. In a bill to Alexander Hamilton, Esqr., Schuyler's son in law, from Stevens and Hubbell, merchants from New York, dated December 12, 1785 we find "700 Cedar Shingles Shaved & Jointed". To shave a shingle would be to dress the face to a smooth surface with a draw knife. When this was done they were usually tapered so as to fit tighter when lapped on the roof. Jointing would be to dress the edges straight and square.

ordered white wash brushes during the first week of construction.)

Ceilings - The ceiling joists, dressed to a smooth surface by a hand plane--but not moulded on the edges--were left exposed and the underside of the flooring above became the finish ceiling. In most places this was neither whitewashed nor painted. An original closet off the second floor hall still retains this finish. All other rooms have been altered.

Trim. Apparently there were no mantels at the fireplaces during the early years. In the north bedroom, under the oldest type of mantel in the house, we find that the walls have been whitewashed four times and yellow-washed once before the mantel was installed.

There probably were no chair rails at this time all existing chair rails date from later alterations. Except for a few short sections of six inch beaded baseboard, little original interior trim remains.

A-6. Floors

Basement - Wooden floors were installed on sleepers bedded in earth in the basement before the basement partitions were built. These floors are still in place and in remarkably good shape today. The gravel soil in which the house was built has done an excellent job of drainage to help preserve this floor.

Upper Floors - The flooring of the first and second floor was also installed before therooms were partitioned off.

they must have been protected by carpeting or painted floor cloths. All floorboards are cut from 14 foot long stock. This must have been the limit of the carriage of Schuyler's sawmill which escaped being burned by Burgoyne. This is also the only length referred to in the agreement with Gerard DePeyster, dated March 16, 1772.

All floors were tongue-and-groove, a typical board has two tongues, one on each edge, and the next board has two grooves, one on each edge, etc.

A-7. Fireplaces

There were five fireplaces in the original house all of which still remain. The basement fireplace appears very much as first built but now has no flue. The fireplaces in the parlor and dining room had stone backs and jambs, each member a single piece, installed in the same way that the cast iron jambs, so popular in later years, were installed. All these stones are still in place and show many years of use. The two fireplaces on the second floor were lined with brick. They have since been altered and relined. Apparently all hearths, except that in the basement, were built with paving brick eight inches square and about two inches thick. A few of these still remain in the dining room and north bedroom. The

basement hearth was of ordinary brick.

There were probably no mantels until the house was altered in 1787.

B. Detached Kitchen

The detached kitchen must have been built within a few years after the main house. The woodwork seems to relate it to work done before 1787. The basement kitchen fireplace shows signs of only a very limited use.

The detached kitchen frame is cut and assembled in much the same way as that of the main house but it is not as nicely finished and the members are not uniform in spacing as in the main house.

B-1. Plan

The ground floor area of the kitchen, now one room, was divided into the main kitchen, a small storage room and a small hall with stairway to the second floor. Ghosts of the board partitions that divided these rooms are clearly defined on the ceilings. The floor in later years was so badly worn that they show no evidence of the walls which otherwise might have enabled us to locate the position of the doorway from the kitchen to the storage room.

The second floor was divided into three rooms by two parallel walls running north and south.

The original stairway occupied the same space as the existing stairway but ran in the opposite direction.

B-2. Doors and Windows

Evidence found in the framing of the first floor shows that there was only one window, a double casement, and four exterior doorways in the original construction. Three of the door openings and the window were in the main room. One door was on the north wall in the same location as the existing door. Two of the door openings and the window were on the south wall. One door frame shows no evidence of use and may never have been completed. The second door opening, a few feet to the right, shows many years of wear and hard use. This is the door that would have been used when going between the kitchen and the main house. It is possible that a porch or shed roof may have covered this door and extended across the back of the main house to include the exterior door to the dining room (c.1787) and the basement hatchway. We will not be able to determine this accurately until the post-Schuyler rear tier of rooms are removed. The fourth door opening was located on the west elevation (front of the house) in the same location as the existing window. This doorway opened into a small entrance hall with access to the kitchen and to a stairway leading to the second floor. A small piece of both jambs remain which give us the size of the door and the direction of the swing.

The double casement was on the south wall of the main room. Part of the original framing still remains and ghosts of the other members of the framing and of the hinges are clearly visible.

B-3. Exterior Finish

On the north side of the kitchen a few of the original weatherboards remained in place and were uncovered when the post-Schuyler porch was removed. They are still unpainted and show very little signs of weathering. They are similar to the original weatherboarding on the main house except that they have no bead on the lower face edge.

Across the top weatherboard is a cleat with ghost marks of former rafters. This cleat appears to be a part of the original construction. Apparently a porch or an enclosed room has always extended across the north side of the kitchen.

A few of the original shingles remain where they had been protected by later additions. They show many years of weathering and may have been exposed close to fifty years before being covered. (A sawed wood shingle with rift grain when properly applied will last an average of forty years. A rived and dressed shingle where no cross grain is exposed to the weather should outlast the sawed shingle by many years.) These shingles of heart pine are 18 inches long with 6 inches exposed to weather.

B-4. Interior Finish

The interior finish of the kitchen was whitewashed directly on the framing and brick nogging. The joists and

the underside of the flooring above were whitewashed. No plaster was used for many years after original construction and very probably not during General Schuyler's lifetime. There is some evidence that colored washes may have been used at one time.

There is no evidence that any casing or other trim was used at door and window openings in the original construction.

B-5. Chimney, Fireplace and Oven

Removal of the post-Schuyler chimney revealed the base of the original chimney and fireplace. The original chimney was the same width as the existing but extended out from the building about five feet. A part of this base appears to be the ash pit from an oven. It is very probable that one or possibly two outside ovens were built to do the large amount of baking that would have been required to supply the Schuyler enterprises in the area. A small fragment of an oven which opened to the kitchen was found and preserved, for further study. A conjectural restoration of this area is included in this report, however this requires further study and will be the subject of a separate report.

C. HOUSE AND KITCHEN AS ALTERED ca. 1787

In documents of 1786 we find the first definite evidence that work had been started to convert the Schuyler House into a more livable year-around home. Large quantities

of materials started to arrive, many of them from merchants in New York City who acted as agents to Schuyler in the sale of lumber floated down the Hudson from Saratoga. The following is from Schuyler's account with one of these merchants, "Stevens and Hubbell":

1786

July 1	668 lbs. nails	697		26:18:10
October 16	1 cask 20d nails 198 lbs.	6107		8:13: 3
	1 do 24d do 112 lbs.	do		4:18: 8
1787				
March 31	1 cask 10d nails wt 182 lbs.	9/	L	7: 4: 1
	500 ft. 12 x10 glass	120/		30: -:
	15-1/2 gallon Spirits	6/6		5: -: 9 [25]

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25. Schuyler Papers, NYPL. The larger nails listed in the 1786 account would be required first in the framing and initial changes to the house. The following Spring smaller nails were purchased for probable use in the trim and finish. The glass purchased is the same size as that in the existing double hung windows.

On June 25, 1787 Ebenz Stevens wrote to Schuyler from New York:

"Dear Sir

By Capt. Ryckman you will receive 100 C WT white lead and six gallons of oil.....[26]

This same year we find in Schuyler's account with Leonard Gansevoort:

Sept. 27	1 Keg white lead Wt 23W	11d	1: 2:11
	2W white Vitriol 4/1 Gallo Lins Oil		-:11: -
Sept. 29	1 Keg White lead Wt 25W	11d	1: 2: 1
Oct. 1	1W White Vitriol		-: 2: -
Nov. 8	1 Sash Tool Vitriol [27]		

Probably the best summary we have about the alterations of this period is contained in a letter from Philip Schuyler to his daughter, Mrs. Angelica Church, dated at Albany, May 28, 1788:

"I....From your letter of the 3rd of March I am led to believe that you have not received the letter of mine which announced your Brother's marriage with Miss Rensselaer. They reside at Saratoga, which I have put in good order, the house which I built there in 1777 I have altered and

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26. Schuyler Papers, NYPL.

27. Schuyler Papers, New York Public Library

repaired. It is now a neat and very commodious box, and Johnny's attention affords me hopes that he will prosper, since he has taken to business his mind seems to expand, and although he is not a man of bright genius, yet I have reason to think he will evince a sound judgement".....[29]

We are able to get a fairly clear picture of these Alterations and repairs because a very large percentage of them still remain today. Many items such as hardware have been reused in later additions.

A floor plan of the house was found several years ago among the Schuyler Papers in the New York Historical Society, New York City. The Parts of this drawing were made by two different hands, probably many years apart. The earlier part shows the original front section of the house plus an early addition labeled "Fathers Office". (This room is now missing) The interior wall dimensions shown on this section of the drawing check accurately with the existing building. These dimensions gave us our first clue for the restoration of the entrance hall. Physical evidence found later checked with the drawing. This early part of the drawing was drawn to scale, 1/10 inch to a foot, and may have been drawn by

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29. Olney Collection, Yale University Library

General Schuyler or by his son John B. Schuyler who lived in the house from 1787 until his death in 1795. In later years a proposed addition was sketched in free hand and not to any scale. This shows a proposed rear tier of rooms and a front porch similar--but not quite like--those that are on the house today. A study of the structure of these additions indicate that they could not have been built before the 1820's and probably not until ca. 1840.

After studying the drawing and comparing it with the building, the writer believes that we have, in the early scaled part of the drawing, a fairly accurate floor plan of the house as altered by General Schuyler in 1787.

C-1. Plan

It is probable that the room referred to as "Father's Office" was added during the alterations of ca. 1787. As is shown in the scaled part of the early floor plan, the interior dimensions of this room were 14' - 4" wide by 11'-7" deep. This would have made the exterior dimensions about 15' wide by 12' deep. This room is now entirely missing. Some framing members found reused in the attic, have rafter cuts to fit a seven inch pitch shed roof on a room twelve feet deep. These may well be the original rafters from Father's Office.

The front rooms of the house remained in basically the same arrangement as when first erected. A partition was moved about two feet in the small front center room (nursery) on the second floor to permit the installation of the center

window over the front entrance.

C-2. Doors

Many of the doors in the house, including the front entrance door and frontispiece with pediment, appear to date with this alteration. The frontispiece was installed after the original weatherboarding had been reused as sheathing.

The interior doors vary greatly in style and are probably of many different periods. The style and construction of the bedroom doors and the dining room door would indicate that they date from this alteration.

C-3. Hardware

Most of the original door hardware has been found reused in later additions to the house. On the first floor brass cased locks with concealed screws were used. These are identical to the locks Schuyler purchased in England for use in the "Pastures" his Albany home.

The locks on the second floor are iron cased but the works are almost identical to that of the brass cased locks. Hinges throughout the house, except for those on the front entrance door, are HL's made of wrought iron. They vary in size and in the pattern of the knuckle. The front door is hung on strap hinges 39 inches long. The door is secured by a dead bolt in a large iron case which measures 7" x 15" x 2".

C-4. Windows

The original casement windows in the main part of the house were removed at this period and replaced with double

windows, many of which still exist. New windows were installed in the south wall of the parlor and in the nursery directly over the frontispiece where no windows existed in the original structure. The windows in the north end elevation may have been installed at this time. The frames have since been replaced so evidence of the original installation is no longer clear. The window in the end wall of the south bedroom is of a later period.

Probably two windows were installed in the new room called "Father's Office". No evidence of the fenestration of this now missing room has been found.

The two original casements on the rear elevation were removed and not replaced because this area was now covered by the new room. No new windows were added to the rear elevation of the original part of the house.

The original double hung windows, ca. 1787, were the product of a skilled craftsman. All exterior casings were moulded and a part of the jambs, not planted as we find in the later frames. A section was hollowed out from the side jambs to form weight pockets. The weights were of cast lead, the pully, concealed by the bottom sash at meeting rail height, was of wood.

There is no evidence that either doors or windows in the detached kitchen were changed at this time.

C-5. Exterior Finish

The original weatherboarding was removed and reapplied as sheathing and a new tapered weatherboarding was applied with an average of 5-1/2 inch exposure to the weather. This weatherboarding was painted with a lead and oil paint. The color was probably considered white at that time but, compared to our modern white paints of today, it would be referred to, probably, as "ivory". The color of early lead paints can be matched by tinting our more highly refined lead paints with equal parts of raw umber and raw sienna and a few drops of prussian blue. Much of this 1787 weatherboarding still remains in place.

The roof was only ten years old and probably still in good shape. It is doubtful if it was reshingled at that time.

C-6. Interior Finish

Apparently the interior of the house was almost completely refinished during this alteration. Chair rails were installed in all rooms except the parlor and nursery. New casings were required at the new and larger windows. New baseboards, with a moulded edge similar to the moulded window stops, were installed. A cornice moulding was put up in the rooms on the first floor.

Apparently all plaster was new. The ceilings were lathed and plastered for the first time.

The wood lath used at this period at first confused us because they were sawed rather than rived. Dr. Henry C. Mercer, in his essay "DATING OLD HOUSES", stated that sawn lath are not found before 1830. Schuyler's main business here was lumbering and we assume that he utilized the saw mills for all phases of the work where advantageous. A letter from Philip Schuyler to his son John B. Schuyler at Saratoga, dated at Albany, April 3, 1789 confirms our thoughts:

> "....I wish you would saw three good white pine logs into ceiling lath and send them down with the first raft. I also want about two hundred and fifty laths of an inch thick, those may be sawed out of refuse boards." 29

The following is probably a follow up to that order:

"Albany June 12, 1789

My Dear Child,-

The day after you left this I sent for the lath which you informed me had arrived from Saratoga. The servant found none, I went myself and there was none.- either you have been deceived in your information, or the person who took the short lath also took the others. Who that was I do not know. If possible pray send them without delay. The weather is now sufficiently light for a small raft - let me know who was to take the lath to New York.

Of the boards which you showed me, Mr. Rossloem (?) who lives with Mr. Hale took 250, he says by your order. The whole are very badly sawed. I fear Johnathan drinks too much rum to make good work. A drunkard is never to be depended on.

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29. Schuyler Papers, NYHL

Pray send the Inclosed by a safe conveyance. We all join in love to you, to Eliza & the child. Embrace them for me. Yours Affectionately

P. Schuyler"[30]

The fireplaces in the bedrooms were reduced in size and mantels were used for the first time in the house. The mantel in the north bedroom remains undisturbed. The one in the south bedroom was extensively altered to a classical style. When paint was removed from the mantel evidence of the earlier mouldings were found. A new mantel has been made to duplicate the original pattern. The mantel found in the dining room may date from this period. It has been so badly altered and damaged that it is now difficult to date. The mantel in the parlor dates from later alterations.

John Bradstreet Schuyler continued to live in the house until his death in 1795, however, we find that he erected a house on State Street in Albany in 1791-92 and rented it to his brother Rensselear. He also thought of a new house in 1793, probably to be erected at Saratoga, as is indicated by the following excerpt from a letter of Philip Schuyler to John B. Schuyler at Saratoga, dated at Albany, November 22, 1793:

"....Do not forget to have a sufficiency of boards and plank sorted and put by for a larger home.

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30. Schuyler Papers, New York Public Library

Mr. Bloodgood has promised to give you a bill of Scantling. I believe every piece except the beams and rafters can be sawed."....[31]

During the years John B. Schuyler lived at Saratoga, he received constant supervision and advice from his father on conducting the business and maintaining the property. Many letters have been found about repairs and the building of new mills and tenant houses, but no further references have been found to indicate any major changes to the house or kitchen during this period. One item, probably the finishing touch to the house, is mentioned on page 117 of Schuylers Saratoga account book:

"May 17, 179[illegible]. To cash for Paper Hangings paid John Taylor Dr. 4-10- " [32]

This probably refers to the wallpapers found in the Hall and Parlor during our investigations in 1956. These two wallpapers have recently been reproduced for us by the "Imperial Paper and Color Corporation" of Glens Falls, N.Y.

John B. Schuyler died in the fall of 1795 and in December of that year Schuyler gave orders for the removal of his late son's belongings from the house and to have them driven to Albany. These orders were carried out in January 1796. Correspondence pertaining to this gives some idea of

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31. Schuyler Papers, New York Public Library
There is no evidence that this house was ever built.

32. Schuyler Papers, New York City Public Library

of the outbuildings and furnishings at that time. Below is Schuyler's letter written from the Saratoga house:

"Saratoga December 19, 1795

Sir

I inclose you a letter for the tenants on several of my lots requesting that to ride two days for me in the course of the present winter. Those who do not comply will be charged with ten shillings for each day which I will pay you-

On the left of the wagon house there is about one hundred bushels of corn and a quantity of oats. If it is more convenient for you to send me oats and corn from Waterford or Halfmoon it is in your option so to do. I wish to have them sent the first good sleding as I have but little grain for my horses at Albany. All the furniture, beef and other things which are to go to Albany you will please to send to my house and give the persons who carry it each a bill of what he takes-

The Franklin in the wagon house is to be sent down last-

I shall send for the horse sleds in the winter.

In the root celler is a quantity of potatoes, please to sell them for me, reserving what you may want for your family use. The other garden stuff is at your service as at present.

Please to take account of any farming utinsels, chains & etc. and give me a list thereof the like to be returned at the Experation of the lease or paid for at your option.

Inclose you an account of the board and plank which are at the upper mill belonging to the Estate of my late son. Be so good as to have them brought to the landing for which I will pay you, and also the rails on the same paper I have noted the board and plank now at the landing belonging to the Estate.

Mr. Robert Parkes has engaged the boards planks and rails, and when he is ready to raft you will please to deliver the whole to him-

The bedstead, bedding, chairs, stove and the white cupboard with anything that may be therein are to be left here, as also the maple wood writing table- the other furniture in the south room is to be sent down.

Be so good as to send down the wheat as fast as it is threshed. It may be convenient to send the chairs on the sleds loaded with wheat or other grain, or the flaxseed which is in the wagon house loft.

The pork and beef in the cellar, as also the paint kegs (?) of oil must be sent down unles you should be able to sell the beef and pork here.

The green chairs belong to Mr. Toll (?) please to deliver them when he sends for them.

Please to deliver the Negro man Lisbon five bushels of corn whenever he sends for it.

Be so good as to send down the Phaeton top which lays in the Wagon house with the very first sleds that carries a load down.

If any person wants to buy the Log Carriage please to sell it.

And as I have not time to copy this letter please to bring me a copy thereof when you come to Albany.

Most sincerely wishing you health and happiness I am

Your Obedient Servant
Ph. Schuyler

To Richard Davis Esq." 33

We have no record on how the house was used after the death of John Bradstreet Schuyler in 1795 until his son, (General Schuyler's grandson) married and moved into the house in 1811--unless we interpret the above letter to indicate that Schuyler leased the building to Richard Davis. General Schuyler may have retained the house as a summer office until his death in 1804. No papers have been found which give light on this subject. During this period there was no let-up in the activities at Saratoga. New mills were built and more tenant houses and barracks were erected.

Philip Schuyler II, son of John Bradstreet Schuyler and grandson of General Philip Schuyler lived in the house

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33. Schuyler Papers. New York Public Library

from 1811 until he lost the property in the financial panic of 1837. He would be the first occupant of the house to have raised a large family and require additional rooms. The old General's family, while large, was already grown up when the house was built. John B. Schuyler had only two children, one of whom died in infancy. Philip Schuyler II, who had five daughters, could conceivably have required extra space and erected the rear of rooms and the front gallery in the late 1820's or early 1830's. We know that they were erected before it was sketched by Benson J. Lossing during his visit to the area in 1848. The house was then out of the Schuyler family. Old maps we have tentatively dated 1837 drawn in connection with the partition and disposal of the Schuyler property indicate that these additions had not yet been made at that time. (Illustration 1).

D. AFTER THE SCHUYLERS

D-1. The Strover Period

In 1839 the house was purchased by George Strover of Schuylerville, who probably erected the rear tier of rooms soon afterwards. A study of his papers which were kept by the late Mr. W. Snyder, a local reisdent, failed to reveal what work he had done on the house. Many accounts were found for building materials, but for which of his numerous properties was not specified.

Apparently Strover remodeled the kitchen soon after he purchased the place. Interior partitions were removed. Double-hung windows were added and the one casement removed. The fireplace and chimney was rebuilt eliminating the brick ovens. The new fireplace was smaller than the original. (It was again reduced in size in later years.) A water warming vat was installed in the place of the ovens.

After Strover's death the property passed to his heirs who did very little to the house except maintenance, and that not too good. Mr. George Lowber, Strover's son-in-law, willed his interest to the house to the Park Service at his death. The balance of title was obtained from the other Stover heirs. No documents of that period seem to be available for study.

The son of Strover was in Paris

D-2. Park Service Work Before 1956

Soon after the Park Service acquired the house it was put in good repair and the exterior painted. This was done under the Regional Office in Richmond with very little architectural inspection. Some rotted parts were removed and replaced; but a great deal more of this still remains to be done.

D-3. Park Service Work in 1956

In the summer of 1956, the writer and Building Restoration Specialist Whittington made some preliminary investigations and started the interior restoration on the original front section of the house. Only $18,352 was available for this work which included the electrical installation, heating and the water supply and fire protection. The writer started a set of measured drawings of the building as it was opened up. These drawings - a large set in considerable detail - were continued by Architect A. W. Franzen later in the year.

All plaster in the front section of the building, with the exception of small sections on the second floor and ceilings, was in very bad condition. Plaster was literally held up only by the numerous layers of paper left on the walls. (Nine layers were found in the parlor.) In many places this plaster had received many patches over the years. The plaster had originally been applied directly to the sun-dried brick nogging which, by its very nature, is a poor plaster backing. Wire lath was now applied to the walls and new plaster over it. This plaster was allowed to stand at least a year before the new reproduction wallpapers were applied.

The central hall which had been completely altered from its original form was restored. Evidence to support the scheme was found in the floor plan in the New York Historical Society. A careful study of the flooring was

made to locate ghosts of the former partition walls indicated on this drawing. By wetting the floors with a sponge these outlines were fortunately revealed themselves clearly. The measurements thus obtained checked almost exactly with the dimensions on the old drawing.

A trap door was found in the hall floor which no one could account for. We found that by restoring the missing partitions that this trap door was actually in the old pantry and provided almost direct access from the wine and food cellar to the dining room. Even the hinge outlines could be read clearly.

IV. EXISTING CONDITIONS

A. PLAN

As we have seen above the original partitions of the front rooms of the house have been restored to their condition at the time of Schuyler's death. The rear tier of rooms which date from a later period remains unchanged.

B. FOUNDATION WALLS

B-1. Age of Walls

The foundation walls of the original 60' x 21'-6" house enclose a basement used for a kitchen and storeroom. There are many indications that these basement walls are older than the present house. They may have been present and survived the fire when General Burgoyne burned Schuyler's house in October, 1777. The walls, about two feet thick, are built from field stone laid in clay flaked with lime.

B-2. Basement Windows

There is evidence of four window openings in the front (west) wall, allof which had been closed in. These openings are not lined up with the windows in the rooms above and appear to have no relation to the home part of the building. When we removed the rotted flooring from the front porch we were able to see that three of these openings had been used with the present house. The northernmost opening still had a window frame in position. The sash is now missing but four vertical iron bars at the front face are still in place. These iron ratchet edged bars appear to be made from iron salvaged from the carriage of an old powered saw. The second opening we find was filled with stone laid in mortar which seems to match that found in the walls of the rear tier of rooms. There is no evidence here of a sash or frame. This opening is partly under the front door and would have been difficult to use in connection with the existing building. In the third opening we found a frame and door complete with hardware protected by a stone areaway. It had been bricked up from the inside only. When this fill was removed we found the unit complete and in good working order. The fourth opening had a frame and areaway similar to that found in the third opening. Instead of a door we found fragments of an old sash. The inside of this opening was left bricked in for the time being.

B-3. Outside Stairway

The existing basement stairs (now indoors) run down in a stone masonry incline built along with the original foundations. When first built this would have been an outside hatchway. The wooden stair itself is old but not original.

The foundations walls of the rear tier of rooms is rather crudely built with the exterior surface stuccoed. There is no basement.

Evidence of a wall outside the southeast corner of the house was found. Benson J. Lossing mentions in his book sitting on a second story porch at the rear of the house. There is evidence that a room and porch could have been there, but it would date with the rear tier of rooms.

B-4. Kitchen Foundations

The foundation walls of the kitchen building match closely those of the main house except that there is no basement and their interior face is not as well laid up.

Excavations behind (east) of the kitchen revealed an old foundation tied into the chimney base. This foundation might well be the base of an old outside oven. Schuyler had slaves and employed a great number of other men and would have required means of preparing food for them somewhere in the vicinity.

B-5. Outbuildings

Just east and adjoining this oven base we found the

foundation of a privy. Its location and the artifacts uncovered seem to indicate that it post-dates the oven.

To the right of the privy foundation is a pit roughly four feet in diameter and six feet deep, which appears to be rather recent construction. It may have been dug as a dry well to the kitchen sink during the Strover or Lowber occupancy of the house. This would place it in the latter part of the 19th or early part of the 20th century.

C. FRAMING

The framing of the original section of the house is post-and-beam spaced 4'0" on centers. All members are heart pine and are morticed, tenoned and pegged at all joints. With few exceptions these framing members are in as good a condition today as when they were put in place 181 years ago. The spaces between the posts were filled with a sun-dried brick laid in clay. Later patches are of a burned brick and lime mortar. From these patches it was possible to determine what areas of the walls are in their original condition and what have been subsequently altered.

The framing for the rear tier of rooms is largely of second hand material and it is rather poorly assembled. It is very much in contrast to the work in the front section of the house. Among the second hand materials in the roof framing are four rafters which would fit a room the size of "Father's Office" as indicated on the old floor plan.

During recent years the grade was built up too high around the house and in some places earth was actually piled against the woodwork. Where this occurs against original heart pine sills we find, in most cases, a section can be cut out and the sill repaired. Where it occurs in the later rear section of the house we find that the sills have completely rotted away and will need complete replacements if that part of the building is to be retained.

A freak roof cricket was built, when the rear tier of rooms was erected, to shed water from the kitchen roof away from the newly erected addition. This cricket was not successful and leaked for many years. As a result of this condition, timbers of both the kitchen and the rear tier of rooms has rotted so badly that it will require complete reconstruction in that area. The treads of the small rear stairway in this area were so decomposed that the stairs were no longer safe. If the post-Schuyler rear rooms were to be saved, the end sills and a large proportion of the framing and finish would have to be replaced.

The kitchen framing is very similar to that of the main house although the framing members here are not uniformly spaced. Nearly all members of this frame--except floor joists--have rotted very badly, and some sections are now completely missing. The kitchen frame must be largely rebuilt--which will probably be the most difficult job in the restoration.

D. DOORS AND WINDOWS

Doors and window frames were repaired, where necessary, by the Park Service in 1951.

A few of the window frames require further study to determine their age. From architectural investigation it is evident that the house built in 1777 had windows only in the front elevation and in the rear wall opening into the center hall. It is interesting to note that the Schuyler Mansion in Albany is built in this same manner. The existing double-hung type front windows are all of one date, circa 1787, when they were put in to replace the earlier casements. The windows in the end walls are of a later period. One is a fairly recent replacement.

E. EXTERIOR FINISH

The weatherboards on the main section of the house are largely those applied in circa 1787. They are in general in good repair and will require very little work.

F. ROOF

The roof on the main house is covered with 36" split surface shingle,--or stakes--rather than the 18" rived and dressed shingles generally used in Schuyler's time. Many of the original 18" shingles can still be found in a section of the kitchen roof where it had been covered and protected.

The roof to the post-Schuyler rear tier of rooms would require a new built-up asphalt and paper roof if this section of the house were to be retained. The kitchen roof

requires a great deal of repair.

The floor of the post-Schuyler front porch had rotted so badly that we removed it completely. The boards were a fairly recent replacement. If this porch were to be retained it would require a complete new platform including framing. The main posts not original to the porch would require some repair. The roof would require a new built-up asphalt and paper surface. The condition of the roof boards has not been ascertained but evidence of recent leaks indicate that sections of it must be rotted. Part of the front cornice of the main house has rotted where subjected to water from a leak at the junction with the porch.

G. INTERIOR FINISH

The room interiors on the first and second floors in the main front section of the house were largely restored during the summer of 1956 and 1958 and can now be completed in relatively short time. All walls were replastered and ceilings rebuilt or repaired as needed.

G-1. Walls

In the parlor eight layers of wallpaper were removed by Museum Specialist McClure of the Vanderbilt Mansion staff. Samples of the top seven were saved and put on file. The eighth layer down was carefully removed and cleaned. What sheets could be salvaged were put back up on the newly plastered walls. Only enough to cover the west wall could be saved.

This paper was composed of sheets about 22 inches wide by 28 inches long rather than the continuous rolls we know today.

The other three walls of the room were papered with a careful reproduction of the paper printed on rolls by Katzenbach and Warren, a leading firm of New York City. The Supervising Architect, Historic Structures, arranged for the reproduction of this paper.

On the fireplace wall of the parlor a ninth layer of paper was found. This paper, with light gray background and small wheat sheaves pattern in green has been reproduced by the Imperial Paper and Color Corporation of Glens Falls, New York, as arranged by the writer, and has been applied in the dining room, where we found no paper fragments big enough to reconstruct a pattern.

On the walls of the hall small fragments of paper were found partly under patches in the plaster. This paper, with a white and dark grey lattice and flower pattern on a gray background, is apparently of the 18th century. It has also been reproduced by the Imperial Paper and Color Corporation and is now applied to the new plaster walls in the same room.

The second floor rooms were apparently not papered in Schuyler's time. Evidence of whitewash can be found in every room. Preparations have been made so that the walls and ceilings can be refinished with whitewash.

G-2. Floors

Floors throughout the old front section of the house are the original. They are random width boards about 1-1/4" thick and face nailed with wrought iron finish nails. They are milled so that alternate boards have two groves and two tongues. They show very little sign of wear and were, in all probability, covered with painted floor cloths, carpets or matting. The Schuyler family was known to have used painted floor cloths in another house about 1754 and a large pre-Civil War floor cloth was found on the entrance hall floor. While goint through the Schuyler Papers in the New York Public Library a few references to carpet purchases were turned up. Carpets are also mentioned in the list of furnishings removed from this house in 1795. (Note: They were also used in Congress Hall, Philadelphia, at this time).

G-3. Rear Rooms

No work has yet been done to restore the post-Schuyler rear tier of rooms. If they are to be retained the framing members will require a great deal of repair before interior work could be undertaken. Many of the walls would have to be replastered and some floor boards replaced. All plaster and lath was removed from the west or interior walls of the rear rooms so that the original exterior rear wall of the main house could be studied.

G-4. Kitchen

Plaster was removed from the walls of the kitchen. We find that in Schuyler's time these walls had been only whitewashed rather than plastered. No window in the kitchen dates back to the Schuyler period. And only one of the four original doors still remains.

An original door in the west wall of the kitchen wing that entered into a stair hall leading to the second story rooms over the kitchen, is now filled by a mid 19th century window. A door frame still in place in the southwall was blocked up by a stairway in the rear tier of rooms when they were built. This is the door that was used for access to the dining room area during schuyler's time. The frame of this doorway shows many years of use before the rear addition was built.

The existing kitchen fireplace and chimney were obviously mid-19th centure with 20th century repairs and alterations. When a section at the base of this fireplace was removed we found the outline of the original fireplace. With this information it was decided to remove the balance of the existing fireplace. When this was done we found, remarkably enough a fragment of an early brick oven opening which will help us determine with reasonable accuracy the size and layout of the interior fireplace and oven.

Outside the east wall of the kitchen there is a large rectangular projection at the chimney base which was probably the foundation for an oven or more probably two ovens, one small and one quite large. We haven't completed our study of ovens and those shown in our drawings are conjectural and based on the information we now have available.

It is quite probable that the main house as Schuyler knew it had a porch on its east side at the corner it makes with the kitchen wing protecting the access from kitchen to dining room and possibly extended to cover the cellar hatchway. This can not be determined until we are able to remove the post Schuyler rooms and make a careful study of that area.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

The floor plans in Appendix VIII e show the building as it now stands and a preliminary to the probable arrangement at the time of General Schuyler's death in 1804. The two perspective sketches by Architect Wistar show how the exterior would appear if restored to that period.

This restoration would require the removal of the post-Schuyler front porch the pantry addition at the juncture of Kitchen and dining room and the post-Schuyler rear tier of rooms. If the present front porch were to be saved it would have to be almost completely reconstructed. The floor and deck framing recent replacements, were badly rotted so they were removed, thus revealing the basement windows and early wall finishes. The surface of the porch roof would have to be replaced if saved and, judging from evidence of leaks, a great many roof boards would also require replacements. The six columns could be patched and saved; however, they are not the original columns even to the present porch.

The framing to the post-Schuyler rear tier of rooms was of inferior wood and poorly constructed, and many sections of it are now rotted beyond repair and are unsafe for public use. This whole later addition would virtually have to be torn down and reconstructed if the present mid-19th century

appearance were to be maintained. Retention of the front porch and post Schuyler additions would add many thousands to the cost of the restoration.

"Father's Office" projecting from the rear wall of the house should be reconstructed. We know its location and size by an old floor plan. Reused members found in the attic of the rear addition are the proper number, size and length to have been used for the normal pitched roof over this room. We have fragments of plaster from its walls so we can duplicate the interior finish. Door and window locations will be conjectural. A porch should probably be reconstructed between the office projection and the kitchen.

In the front rooms we need to construct two mantels, one for the parlor and one for the dining room. A door must be placed in the opening at the rear of the hall leading to "Father's Office." The door has already been made and the lock is on hand but new hinges must be made. The door from the dining room to the post-Schuyler pantry to the right of the fireplace should be removed and the wall patched and papered to match the rest of the room.

Painting and papering is basically complete on the first floor but must still be done on the second.

It would be possible to save some of the heavy split shakes put on by the Park Service but as long as

about 50% of the roof must be renewed it would be practical to replace all shingles now with a shingle which would match those old ones found on a section of the kitchen.

The kitchen will require a very large amount of reconstruction and repair. Every effort should be made to save original members where possible. The porch on the north side of the kitchen unit should be reconstructed. New fireplace, ovens and chimney for the kitchen must be erected. Its exact layout will be subject to further study.

The exterior should be painted the original dull shade of ochre which is clearly visable when modern paints are removed. This color can be reproduced by using raw sienna, raw umber and a small amount of prussian blue.

Some revision of the existing electric system will be required.

The general grade around the house should be lowered. The area in general should receive an archeological investigation to determine grades, outbuildings and gardens. Some outbuildings have already been located and others known to have existed must still be located.

VI. COST ESTIMATE

Removal of post-Schuyler additions and further study	1,500
Construction Father's Office and rear porch	1,200
Painting	1,200
Electrical	300
Shingle roofs, rebuild eaves	1,800
Restoration of Kitchen and service porch	19,000
Residing rear wall of house	2,000
New Mantels (front section)	300
Masonry (new kitchen chimney, foundations and repairs)	2,700
Grading	1,500
10% for Contingencies	3,150
Total	34,650

Note: This estimate is subject to whatever discoveries are made during the progress of the job. The fabric has not yet been completely available for inspection.

APPENDIX F

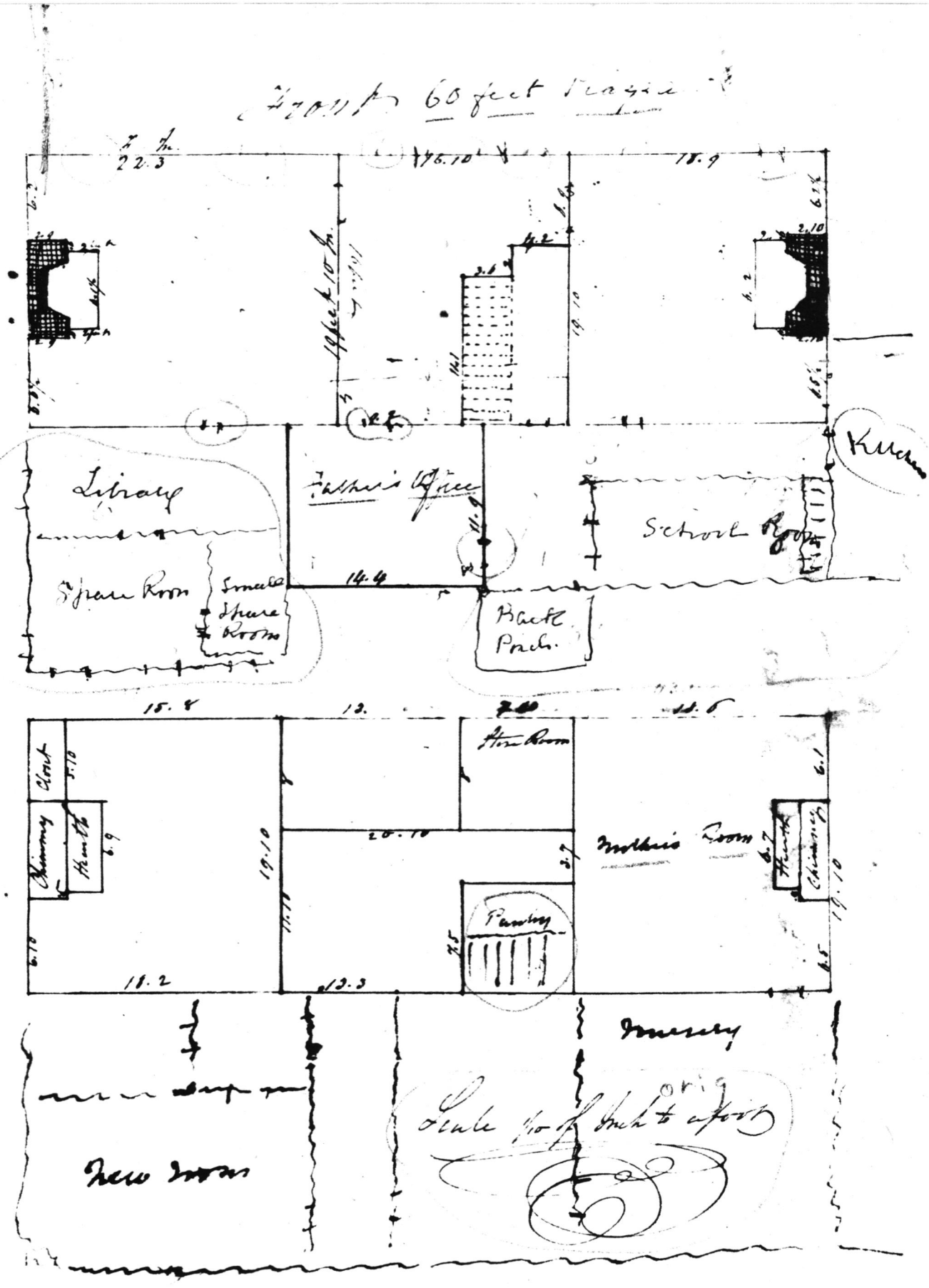
DRAWINGS

1 Photostat, Floor Plan, New York Historical Society
2 Sketch, Front or North Elevations as Proposed Restoration
3 Sketch, Rear or South Elevations as Proposed Restoration
4 First Floor Plan, Preliminary Study of Restoration
5 Second Floor Plan, " " " "
6 NHP - SAR 3051 Sheet 1
7 " " " " 2
8 " " " " 3
9 " " " " 4
10 " " " " 5
11 " " " " 6
12 " " " " 7
13 " " " " 8
14 " " " " 9
15 " " " " 10
16 " " " " 11
17 " " " " 12
18 NHP - SAR 3054
19 HABS Schuyler Kitchen Floor Plans
20 " " " North and East Elev.
21 " " " South and West "
22 " " " Sections

DRAWING NO. 1

EARLY FLOOR PLAN

This MS floor plan was found among the Schuyler Papers in the New York Historical Society collection (New York City). The straight line part of the drawing was drawn to a scale of 1/10 inch to a foot and corresponds very closely to the front section of the house as built. This may well have been drawn by General Schuyler or his son John B. Schuyler. The freehand part of the drawing showing a proposed addition at the rear of the house and a proposed piazza at the front was done in a different ink and by a different hand, probably many years after the original section. The original of this drawing shows a faint outline of figures which do not show in the reproductions. These figures showed the total perimeter of each of the front rooms, probably to determine the wallpaper required.


Front 60 feet Street
22.3
176.10
18.9
Library
Father's Office
School Room
Spare Room
Small Spare Room
14.4
Back Porch
15.8
13.
20.10
Store Room
Mothers Room
Pantry
18.2
13.3
New Room
Nursery
Scale ½ of Inch to a foot

DRAWING NO. 2

RESTORATION SKETCH - FRONT VIEW

Looking at the house from the northwest, this view shows the house as it would look when restored to the 1804 period. The two story high front porch is removed. There are no windows on the north end wall. The pantry addition in the corner of the house and kitchen wing is gone. A door has been placed in the west wall of the kitchen wing. The roof of the service porch on the north end of the kitchen building has been dropped below the kitchen eave.

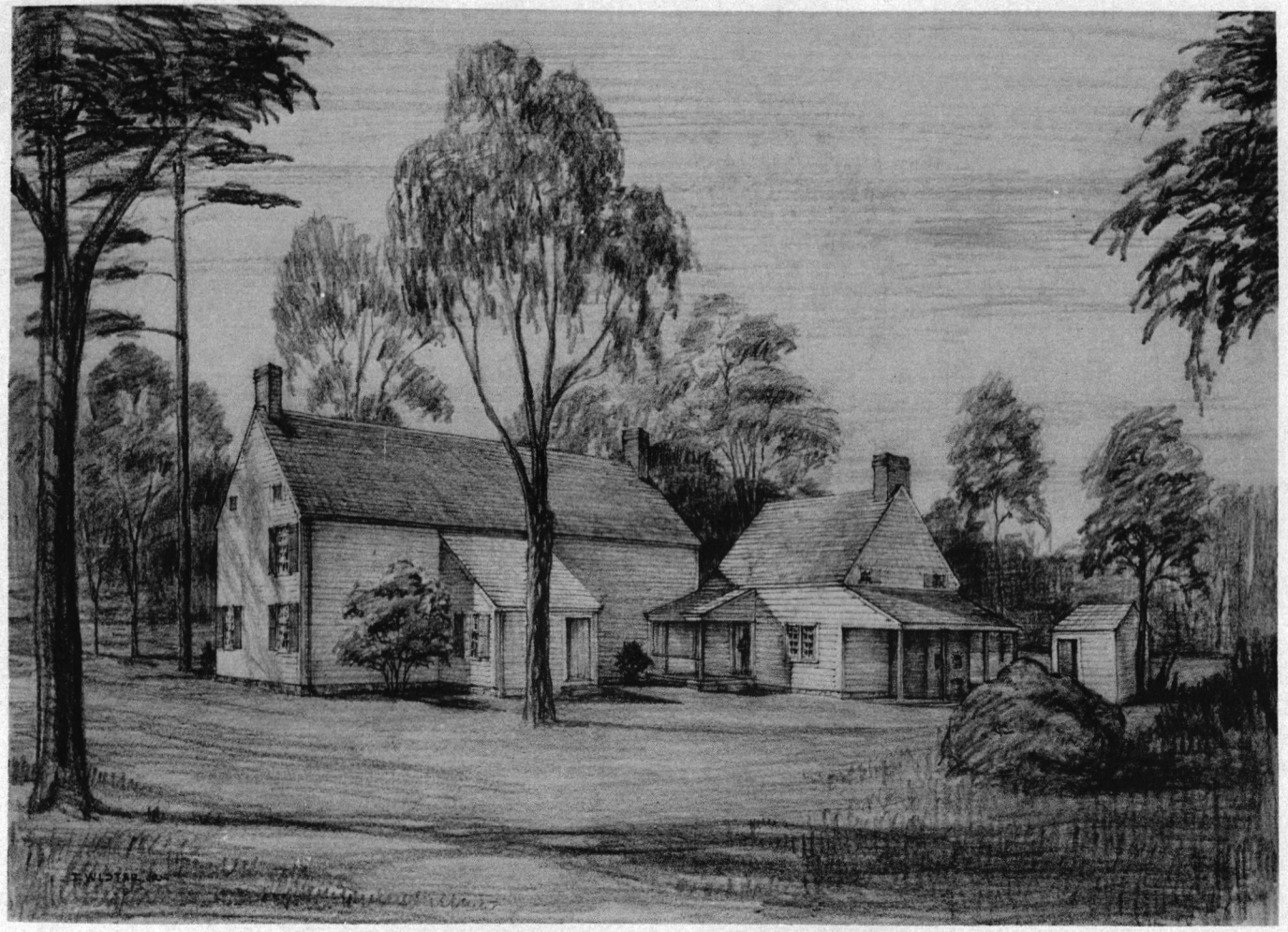
DRAWING NO. 3

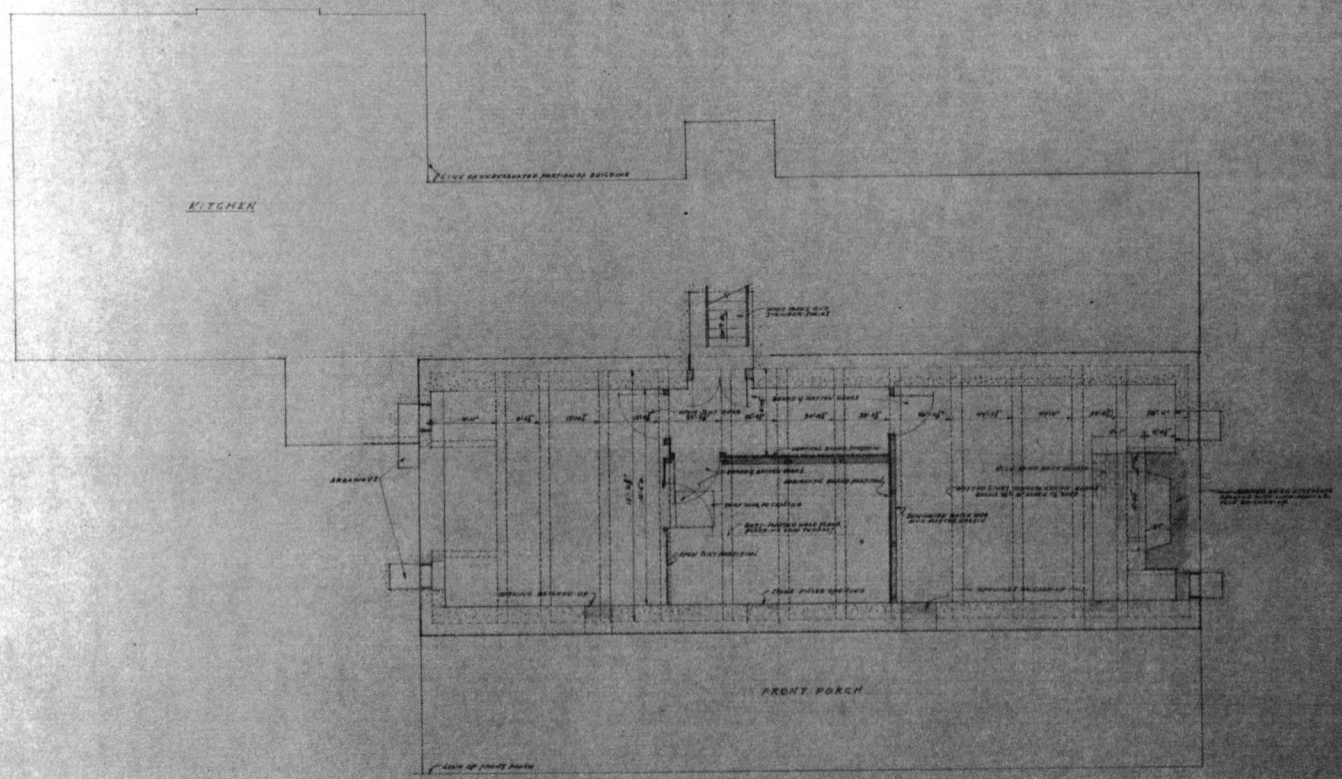
RESTORATION SKETCH - REAR VIEW

Looking at the house from the southeast, this view shows the house as it would look when restored to the 1804 period. The two story high addition along the back of the main house has been removed and only the first floor projection called "Father's Office" is seen on the back wall. The porch protecting the passage from kitchen to dining room is shown. An original double casement window is shown in the south wall of the kitchen and the outdoor brick ovens can be seen under the porch roof on the east wall of the kitchen building.

Pencil Rendering
Made 1958
By T. Wistar, Jr.

Neg. No. EODC-459



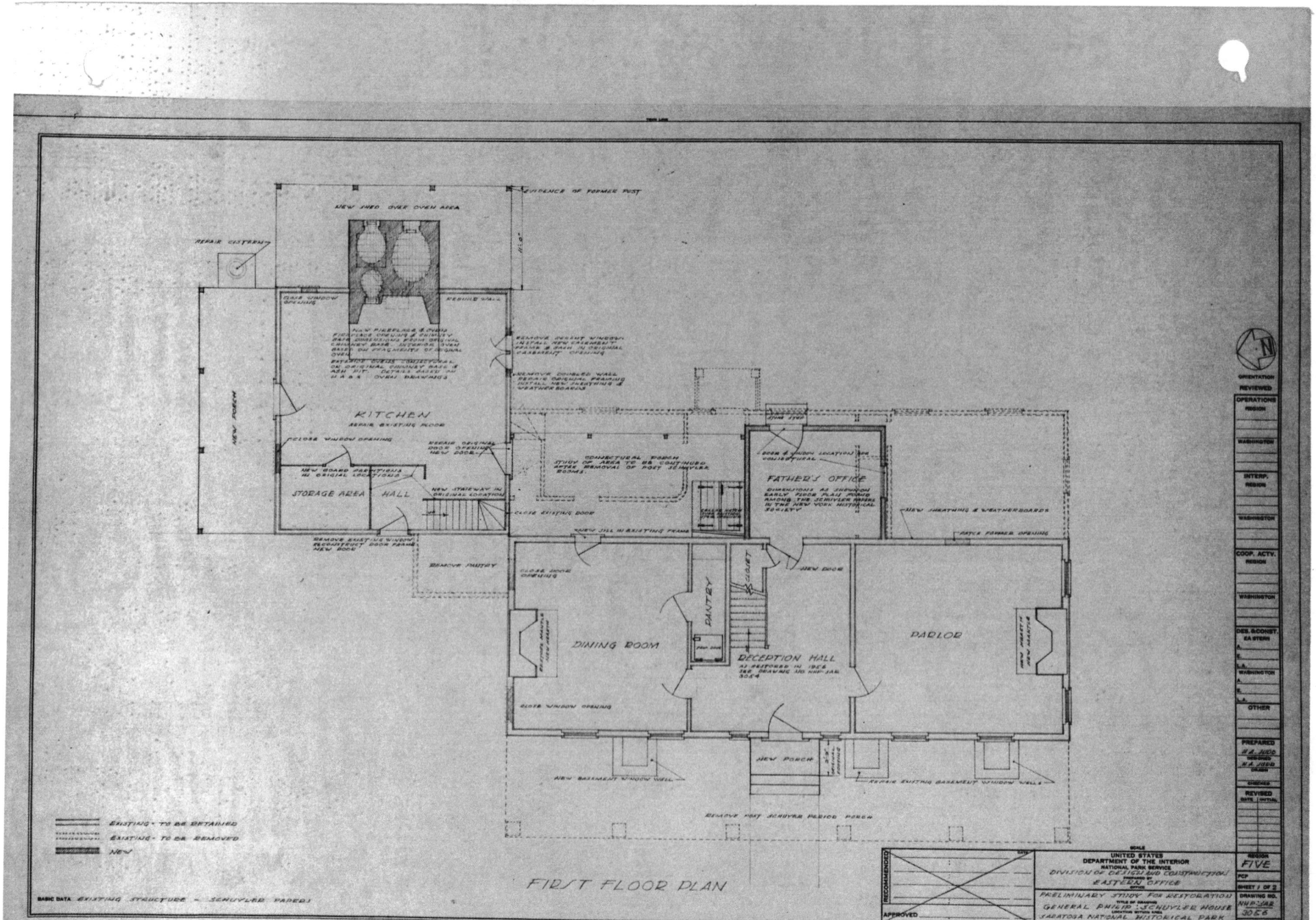


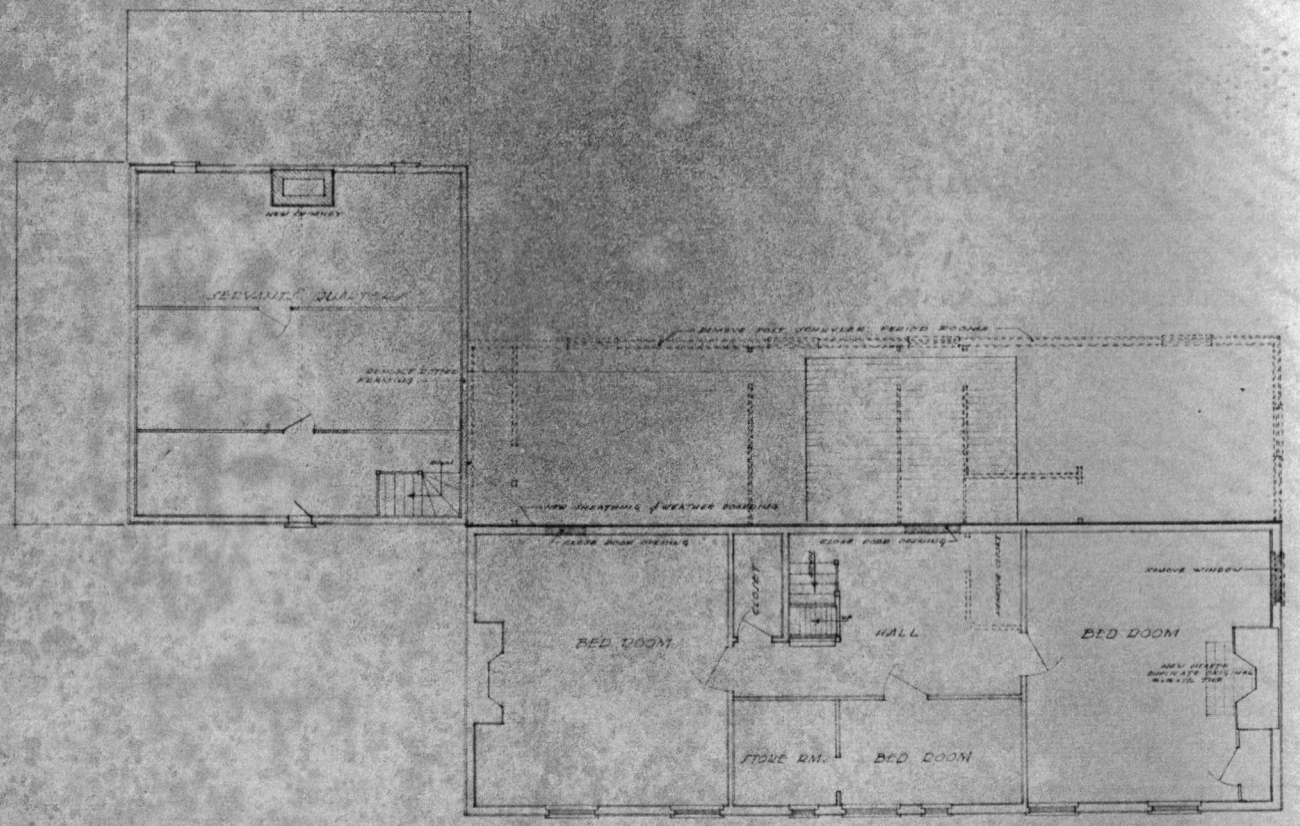
BASEMENT PLAN

BASIC DATA FIELD DIMENSIONS JULY 1956

APPROVED

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DIVISION OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
FIELD REPRESENTATIVE, EASTERN OFFICE
CONDITIONS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND RESTORATION
GENERAL CONDITIONS GOVERNING CONTRACTS
SARATOGA NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK


NEW SHED OVER OVEN AREA
EVIDENCE OF FORMER POST
REPAIR CISTERN
CLOSE WINDOW OPENING
REBUILD WALL
NEW FIREPLACE & OVEN
REMOVE DOUBLE HUNG WINDOW. INSTALL NEW CASEMENT FRAME & SASH IN ORIGINAL CASEMENT OPENING
REMOVE DOUBLED WALL. REPAIR ORIGINAL FRAMING INSTALL NEW SHEATHING & WEATHERBOARDS
KITCHEN
REPAIR EXISTING FLOOR
NEW WORK
CLOSE WINDOW OPENING
REPAIR ORIGINAL DOOR OPENING NEW DOOR
NEW BOARD PARTITIONS IN ORIGINAL LOCATIONS
STORAGE AREA
HALL
NEW STAIRWAY IN ORIGINAL LOCATION
CONJECTURAL ROOM
STUDY OF AREA TO BE CONTINUED AFTER REMOVAL OF POST SCHUYLER ROOMS.
CLOSE EXISTING DOOR
NEW SILL IN EXISTING FRAME
REMOVE EXISTING WINDOW RECONSTRUCT DOOR FRAME NEW DOOR
REMOVE PANTRY
FATHER'S OFFICE
DIMENSIONS AS SHOWN ON EARLY FLOOR PLAN FOUND AMONG THE SCHUYLER PAPERS IN THE NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEW SHEATHING & WEATHERBOARDS
PATCH FORMER OPENING
CLOSE DOOR OPENING
PANTRY
CLOSET
NEW DOOR
DINING ROOM
RECEPTION HALL
AS RESTORED IN 1926 SEE DRAWING NO. NHP-SAR 3004
PARLOR
CLOSE WINDOW OPENING
NEW PORCH
NEW BASEMENT WINDOW WELL
REPAIR EXISTING BASEMENT WINDOW WELLS
REMOVE POST SCHUYLER PERIOD PORCH
EXISTING - TO BE RETAINED
EXISTING - TO BE REMOVED
NEW
BASIC DATA EXISTING STRUCTURE - SCHUYLER PAPERS
FIRST FLOOR PLAN
ORIENTATION
REVIEWED
OPERATIONS REGION
WASHINGTON
INTERP. REGION
WASHINGTON
COOP. ACTV. REGION
WASHINGTON
DES. & CONST. EASTERN
WASHINGTON
OTHER
PREPARED
CHECKED
REVISED
RECOMMENDED
APPROVED
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DIVISION OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
EASTERN OFFICE
PRELIMINARY STUDY FOR RESTORATION
GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER HOUSE
SARATOGA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
REGION FIVE
PCP
SHEET 1 OF 2
DRAWING NO. NHP-SAR 3005



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

Key :

- EXISTING TO BE RETAINED
- EXISTING TO BE REMOVED
- NEW

BASIC DATA: EXISTING STRUCTURE, SCHUYLER PAPERS

SCALE 1/4 INCH = 1 FOOT

RECOMMENDED — DATE

APPROVED — DATE

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DIVISION OF DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION
EASTERN OFFICE

PRELIMINARY STUDY FOR RESTORATION
GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER HOUSE
SARATOGA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

REGION FIVE
PCP
SHEET 2 OF 2
DRAWING NO. NHP/SAR 3056
DATE 2-25-69

ORIENTATION REVIEWED

OPERATIONS REGION
WASHINGTON

INTERP. REGION
WASHINGTON

COOP. ACTV. REGION
WASHINGTON

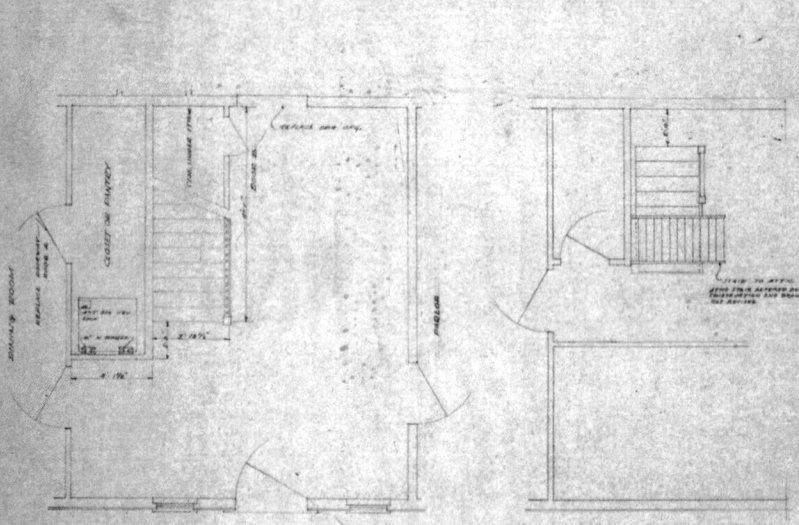
DES. & CONST. C.A. STERN
A.
E.
L.A.
WASHINGTON
A.
E.
L.A.

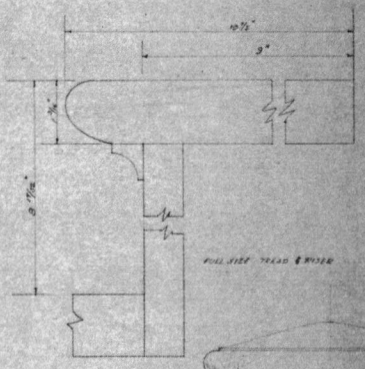
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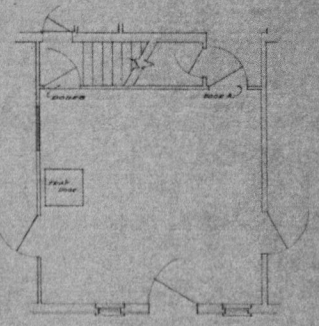
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H.A. HIGH
DESIGNED
H.A. HIGH
DRAWN

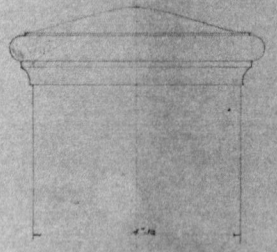
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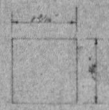
REVISED
DATE | INITIAL

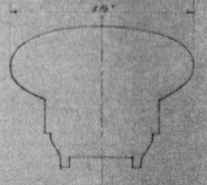


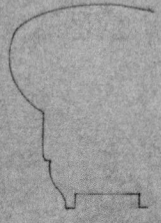


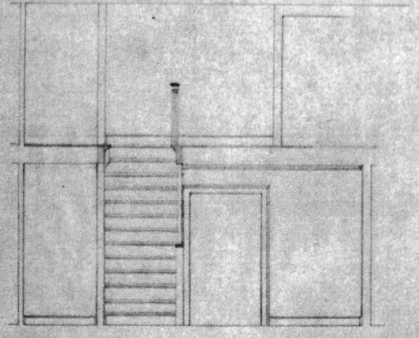


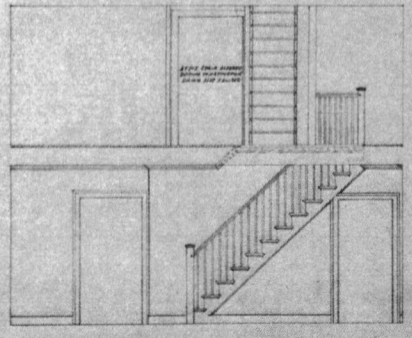












CONJECTURAL RESTORATION OF RECEPTION HALL AND STAIRWAY

BASIC DATA

ORIENTATION REVIEWED

OPERATIONS REGION — WASHINGTON

INTERP. REGION — WASHINGTON

COOP. ACTV REGION — WASHINGTON

DES. & CONST. — W.J. STERN — A. — E. — L.A. — WASHINGTON — A. — E. — L.A.

OTHER

PREPARED W.J. STERN DRAWN

CHECKED

REVISED DATE | INITIAL

RECOMMENDED — DATE — APPROVED

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DIVISION OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
PREPARED BY FIELD REPRESENTATIVE - EASTERN OFFICE
SECTION

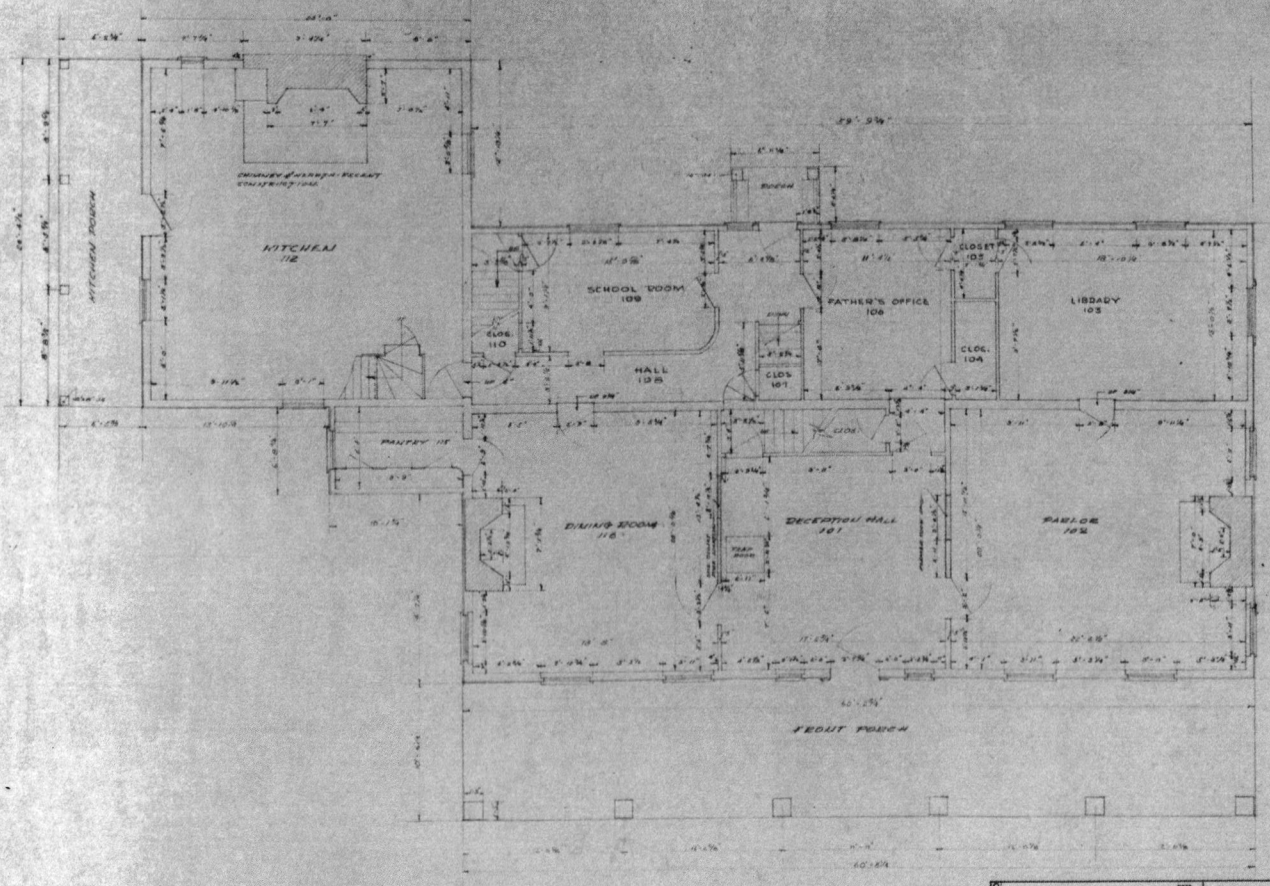
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TITLE OF DRAWING
GENERAL SERVICES AGENCY, SCHUYLERVILLE, N.Y.
LOCATION (STATE AND)
SARATOGA NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK
NAME OF AREA

DRAWING NO. NHP SAR 3027

SCALE 3/8" = 1'-0"

SHEET 2 OF 3

DATE JUNE 25



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SCALE 1/4 INCH = 1 FOOT

BASIC DATA: FIELD DIMENSIONS MAY 12, 1956

RECOMMENDED _____ DATE

APPROVED _____

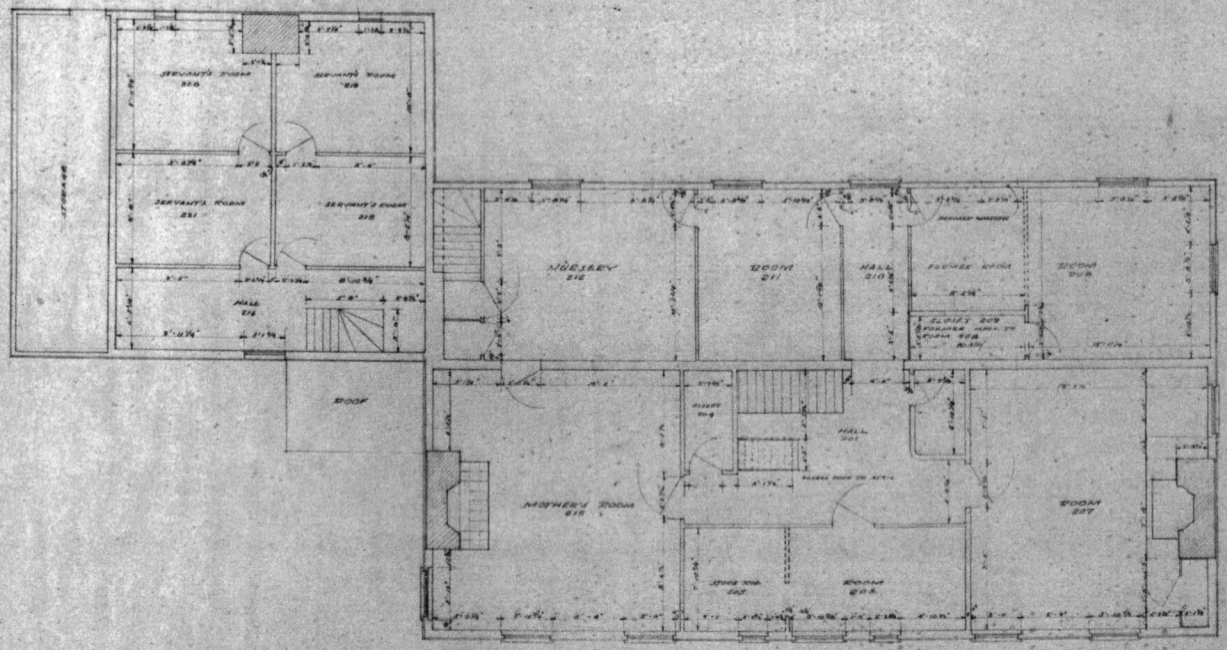
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DIVISION OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
PREPARED BY
FIELD REPRESENTATIVE EASTERN OFFICE
OFFICE

CONDITIONS BEFORE 1956 RESTORATION
TITLE OF DRAWING
GENERAL SCHUYLER HOUSE - SCHUYLERVILLE, N.Y.
LOCATION WITHIN AREA
SARATOGA NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK
NAME OF AREA

ORIENTATION REVIEWED
OPERATIONS REGION
WASHINGTON
INTERP. REGION
WASHINGTON
COOP. ACTV. REGION
WASHINGTON
DES. & CONST. EASTERN
A.
E.
L.A.
WASHINGTON
A.
E.
L.A.
OTHER
PREPARED
DESIGNED
DRAWN
CHECKED
REVISED
DATE | DETAIL

REGION PYLE
RCP
SHEET 3 OF 5
DRAWING NO. SHAPE 246
3-49
DATE

(6)



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

SCALE 1/4 INCH = 1 FOOT

BASIC DATA FIELD DIMENSIONS MAY 1938

(7)

ORIENTATION

REVIEWED

OPERATIONS REGION

WASHINGTON

INTERP. REGION

WASHINGTON

COOP. ACTV. REGION

WASHINGTON

DES. & CONST. EASTERN

A.

E.

L.A.

WASHINGTON

A.

E.

L.A.

OTHER

PREPARED

DRAWING

C. A. RUDE

CHECKED

REVISED

DATE | INITIAL

RECOMMENDED

DATE

APPROVED

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DIVISION OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
PREPARED IN
FIELD REPRESENTATIVE, EASTERN OFFICE
DETAIL

CONDITIONS BEFORE 1938 RESTORATION
TITLE OF DRAWING
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LOCATION (STATE, AREA)
SARATOGA NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK
NAME OF AREA

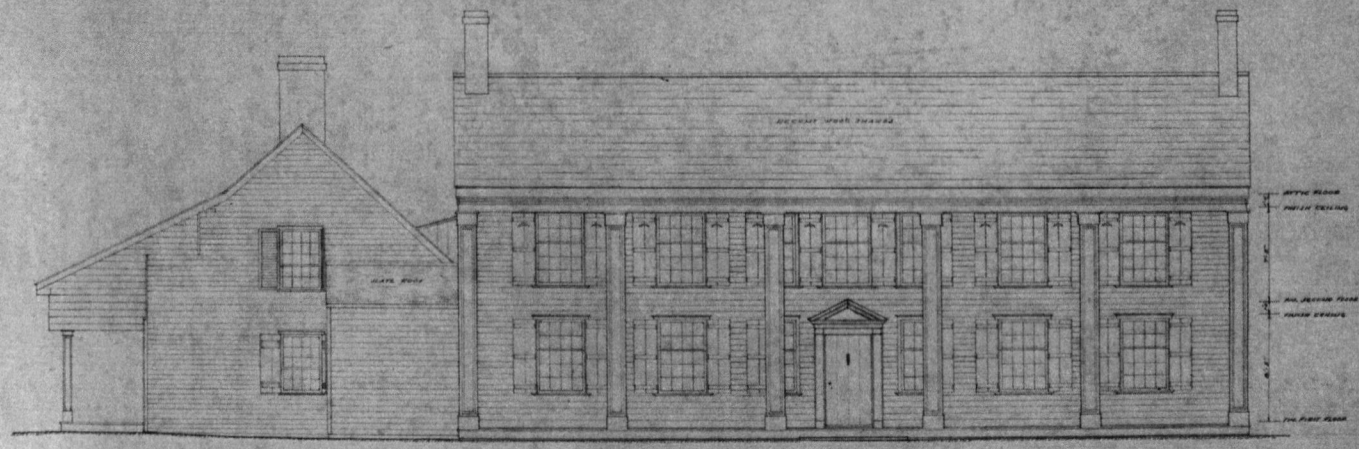
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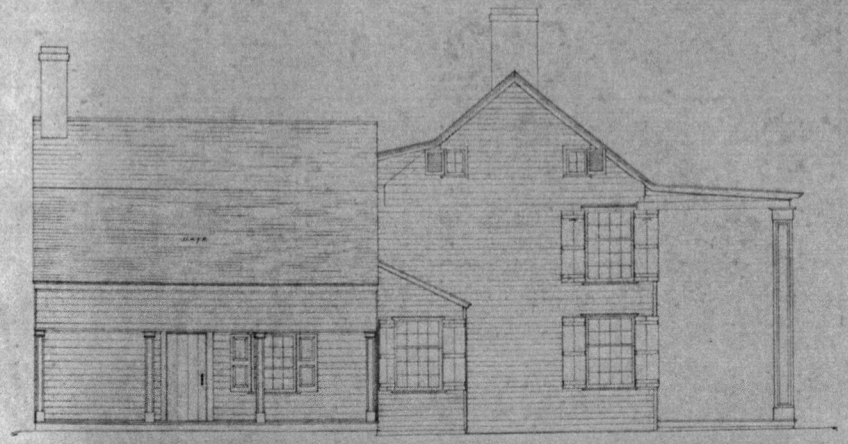
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DRAWING NO. NHP-SH-3051

DATE NOV. 15, 1938



WEST FRONT ELEVATION



NORTH END ELEVATION

BASIC DATA FIELD DIMENSION MAY, 1956

SCALE 1/8 INCH = 1 FOOT

RECOMMENDED _____ DATE

APPROVED _____

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DIVISION OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
FIELD REPRESENTATIVE - EASTERN OFFICE

CONDITIONS BEFORE RESTORATION

GENERAL CONTRACTOR MOSIE - SCHUYLERVILLE, N.Y.

SARATOGA NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK

ORIENTATION

REVIEWED

OPERATIONS REGION

WASHINGTON

INTERP. REGION

WASHINGTON

COOP. ACTV. REGION

WASHINGTON

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L.A.
OTHER

PREPARED
DESIGNED
DRAWN
CHECKED

REVISED
DATE | DETAIL

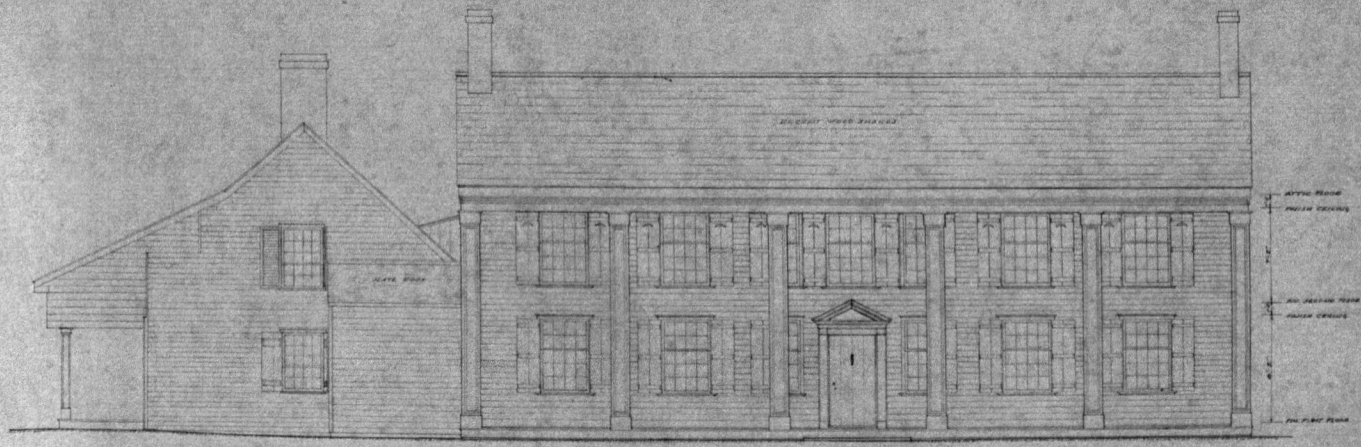
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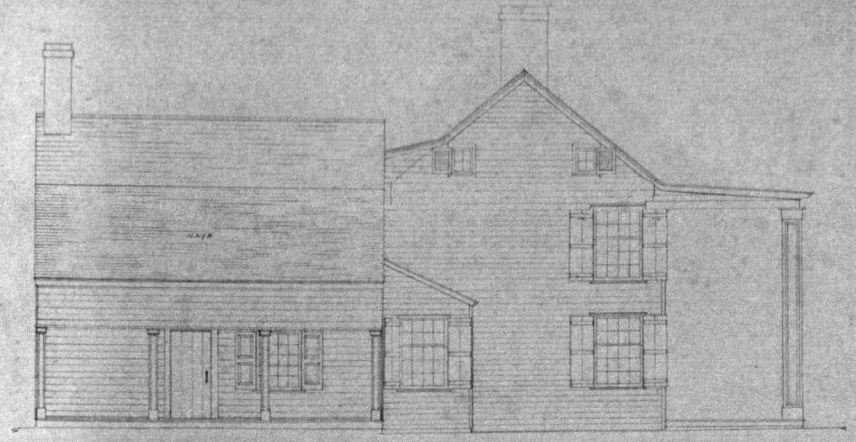
SHEET 8 OF 8

DRAWING NO. NHP-SAR 3001

DATE 1956 / 8 / 1958



WEST FRONT ELEVATION



NORTH END ELEVATION

BASIC DATA: FIELD DIMENSIONS - MAY, 1956

SCALE 1/8 INCH = 1 FOOT

RECOMMENDED

DATE

APPROVED

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DIVISION OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
PREPARED BY
FIELD REPRESENTATIVE - EASTERN OFFICE
DESIGN

CONDITIONS BEFORE 1935 RESTORATION
TITLE OF DRAWING
GENERAL SCHUYLER HOUSE - SCHUYLERVILLE, N.Y.
LOCATION WITHIN AREA
SARATOGA NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK
NAME OF AREA

REGION: FIVE
FOR:
SHEET 1 OF 2 SHEETS
DRAWING NO.: NHP-SAR 3051
DATE: 1956 / DATE

ORIENTATION REVIEWED

OPERATIONS REGION
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INTERP. REGION
WASHINGTON

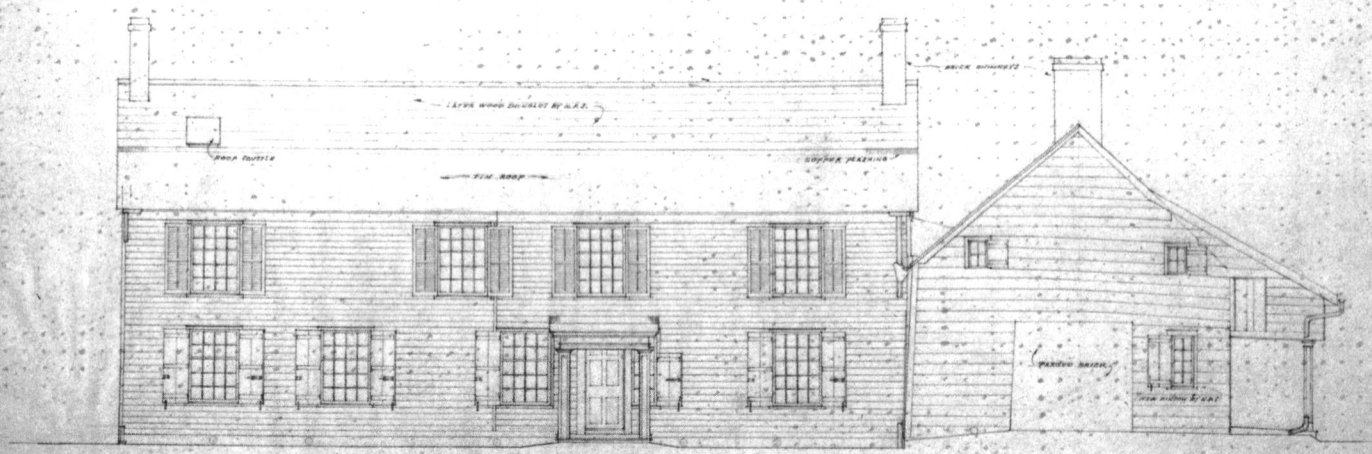
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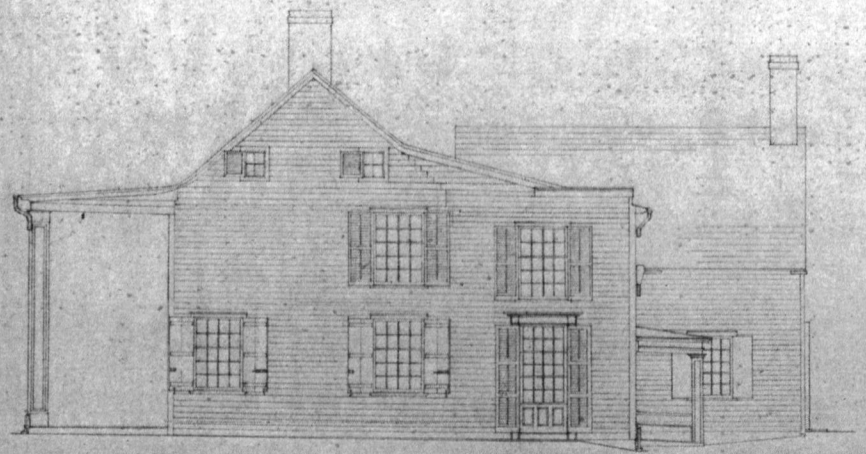
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PREPARED
DESIGNED: H.A. JUDD
DRAWN:
CHECKED:

REVISED
DATE | DETAIL





BASIC DATA: FIELD DIMENSIONS JULY 1965

SCALE 1/4" = 1 FOOT

RECOMMENDED
DATE
APPROVED
DATE

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DIVISION OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
PREPARED BY
FIELD REPRESENTATIVE - PATTERSON OFFICE
TITLE
CONDITIONS BEFORE 1960 RESTORATION
TITLE OR DESCRIPTION
GENERAL SCHUYLER HOUSE SCHUYLERVILLE N.Y.
LOCATION WITHIN AREA
SARATOGA NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK
AREA OR PARK

DESIGN
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DRAWING NO.
NHP/SH
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OPERATIONS REGION
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WASHINGTON

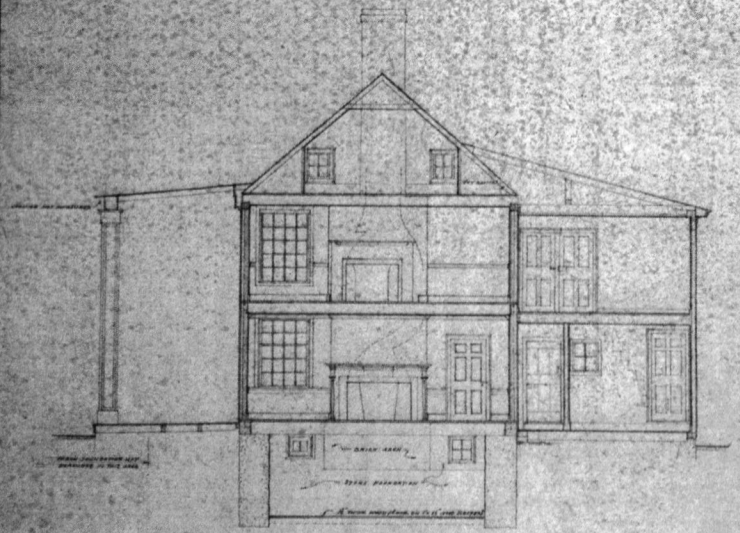
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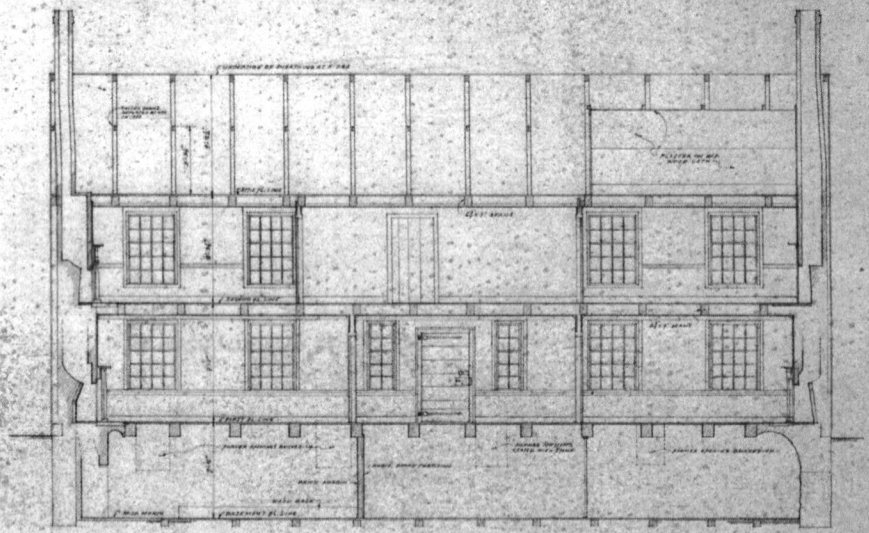
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DATE | INITIAL



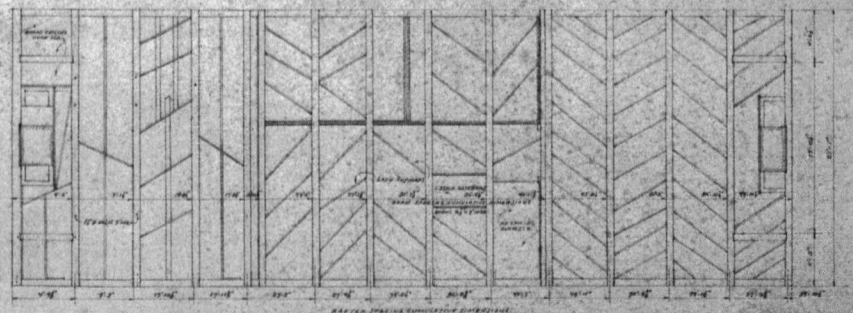
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TAKEN THRU DINING ROOM AND SOUTH BACKROOM



LONGITUDINAL SECTION LOOKING WEST

TAKEN THRU FIREPLACE OPENINGS



ATTIC PLAN

FLOOR BOARDS NOT SHOWN TO EXPOSE LAYOUT OF JOISTS

BASIC DATA: FIELD DIMENSIONS JULY 1956

(10)

RECOMMENDED

DATE

APPROVED

DATE

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DIVISION OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

PREPARED BY FIELD REPRESENTATIVE - EASTERN OFFICE

CONDITIONS BEFORE 1956 RESTORATION
TITLE OF DRAWING

GENERAL SCHUYLER HOUSE - SCHUYLERVILLE, N.Y.
LOCATION WITHIN AREA

SARATOGA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
NAME OF AREA

ATTIC PLAN

ORIENTATION REVIEWED

OPERATIONS REGION

WASHINGTON

INTERP. REGION

WASHINGTON

COOP. ACTV REGION

WASHINGTON

DES. & CONST. EASTERN

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DATE | INITIAL

SCALE 1/4 INCH = 1 FOOT

REGION FIVE

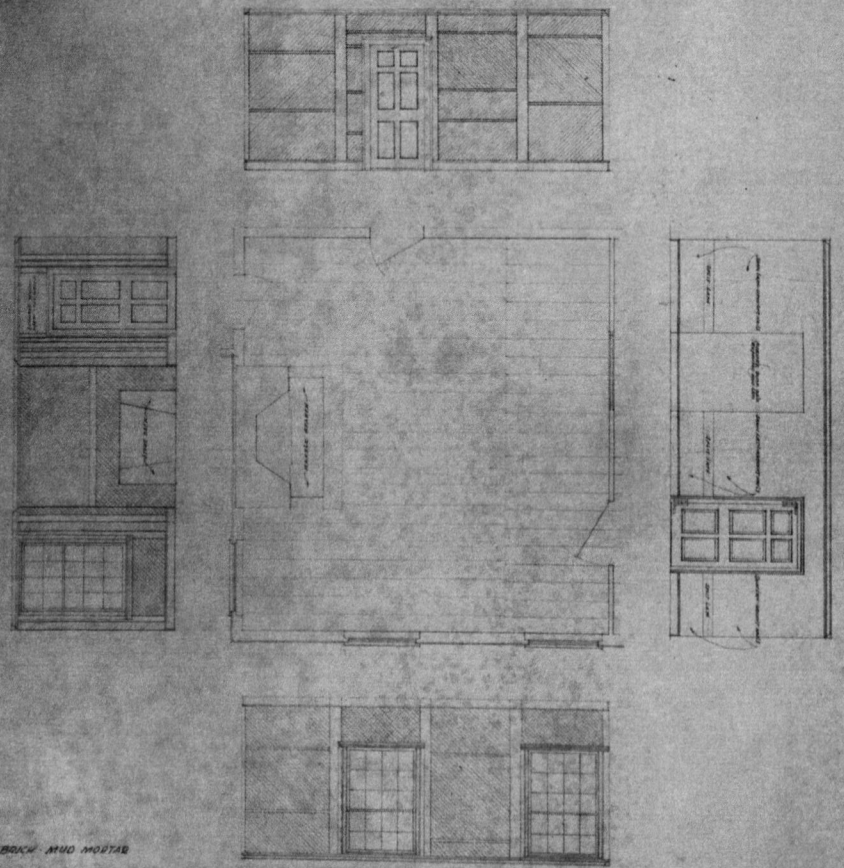
PCP

SHEET 6 OF 10

DRAWING NO. NHP/ GEN

DCP 6

DATE



SUN DRIED BRICK - MUD MORTAR

KILN DRIED BRICK - LIME MORTAR

PRESSED BRICK - LIME MORTAR

DINING ROOM 116

BASIC DATE: FIELD DIMENSIONS JUNE 1966

(13)

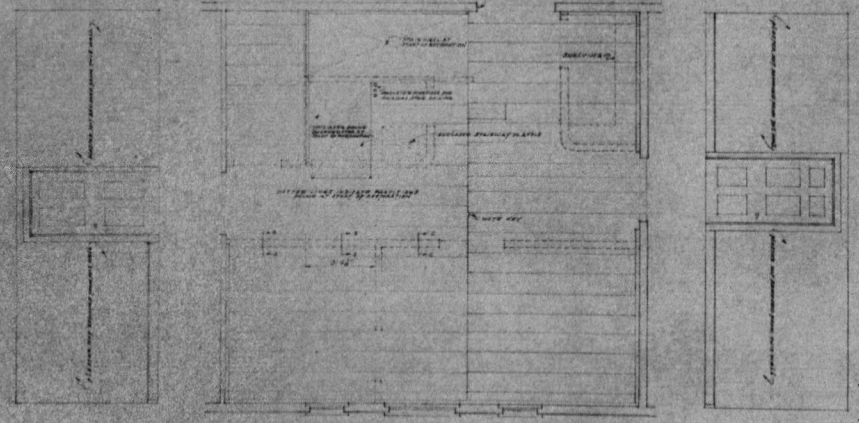
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DIVISION OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
PIKE'S PEAK
DENVER, COLORADO
GENERAL SCHEDULE PROJECT - MAINTENANCE
SAFFORD ARIZONA HISTORIC PARK

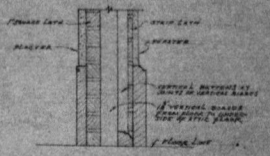
APPROVED

DATE

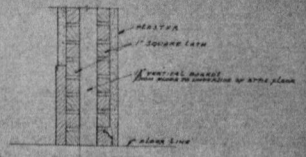
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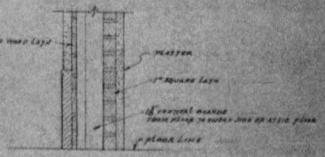




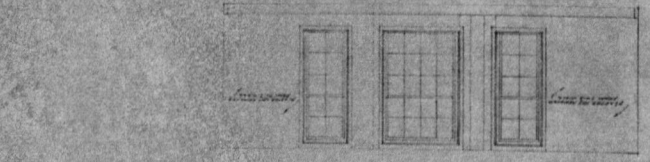
SECTION "C-C"



SECTION "B-B"



SECTION "A-A"



UPSTAIRS HALL

SUN DRIED BRICK-MUD MORTAR

SUN DRIED BRICK-LIME MORTAR

BURNED BRICK-LIME MORTAR

BASIC DATA: FIELD DIMENSIONS JUNE 1944

(14)

ORIENTATION REVIEWED

OPERATIONS REGION

WASHINGTON

INTERP. REGION

WASHINGTON

COOP. ACTV. REGION

WASHINGTON

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L.A.

OTHER

PREPARED

REVISED DATE

RECOMMENDED

APPROVED

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DIVISION OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

FIELD REPRESENTATIVE: A. BALTZAR GARCIA

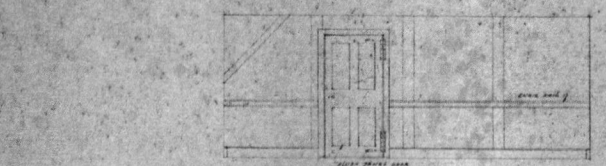
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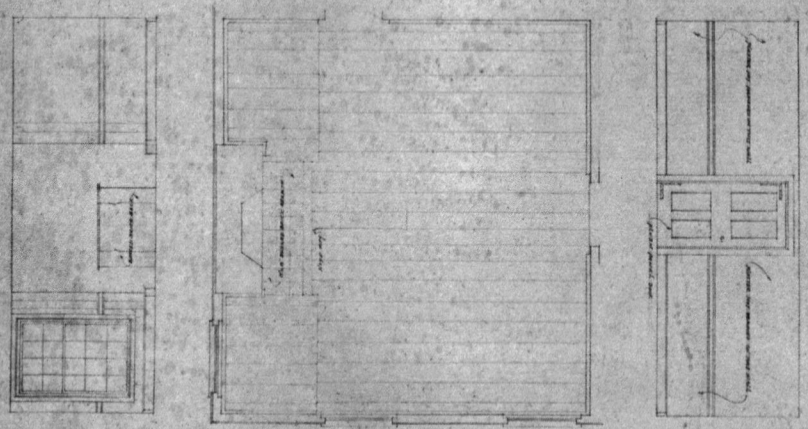
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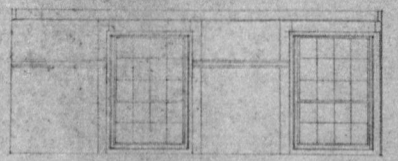
SARATOGA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

SHEET 6 OF 8

SUPERSEDES NO. SUP-SARA 3781







SUN DRIED BRICK - MUD MORTAR

SUN DRIED BRICK - LIME MORTAR

BURNED BRICK - LIME MORTAR

ROOM #215

BASIC DATA: FIELD DIMENSIONS JUNE 1966

ORIENTATION

REVIEWED

OPERATIONS REGION

WASHINGTON

INTERP. REGION

WASHINGTON

COOP. ACTV. REGION

WASHINGTON

DES. & CONST. SYSTEMS

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OTHER

PREPARED

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CHECKED

REVISED

RECOMMENDED

APPROVED

SCALE 1/2 INCH = 1 FOOT

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DIVISION OF ORIGINAL AND CONSTRUCTION
DRAWN BY
FIELD REPRESENTATIVE - EASTERN OFFICE

CONDITIONS BEFORE FIRE RESTORATION
TITLE OF DRAWING
GENERAL SUTLER'S HOUSE - SCHUYLERVILLE, N.Y.
LOCATION WITHIN AREA
SARATOGA NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK
NAME OF AREA

REGION
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REF
SHEET # OF #
DRAWING NO.
NHP/SAR
3021
DATE

APPENDIX B

ILLUSTRATIONS

1. Schuyler House and Vicinity, ca. 1837
2. Sketch of Schuyler House, ca. 1848
3. Front Elevation August 1958
4. Rear Elevation July 1956
5. North Elevation June 1958
6. Original Weatherboarding
7. Basement Stairway
8. Basement Window, North Room
9. Basement Access Door, South Room from Exterior
10. Basement Access Door, South Room from Interior
11. Rotted House Sill under Front Porch
12. Rotted Corner of Original Sill NW Corner
13. Junction of Post Schuyler Pantry to Main House
14. Rotted Sill at Chimney Base, South Wall
15. Grade above Sill Level, South Wall
16. Rotted Interior Sill of Post Schuyler Addition
17. Rotted Exterior Sill of Post Schuyler Addition
18. Kitchen from Northeast during Investigation July 1958
19. Exploratory Excavations East of Kitchen (North Half)
20. Exploratory Excavations East of Kitchen (South Half)
21. Conditions of North Wall of Kitchen
22. Original Shingles
23. Interior, Second Floor over Kitchen
24. Rotted Kitchen Frame under Cricket

25. Original South Entrence Frame to Kitchen

26. Original Casement Window Location inKitchen

27. Ghost of Former Kitchen Partitions

28. Interior North Wall of Kitchen (West Half)

29. Interior West Wall of Kitchen (North Half)

30. Interior West Wall of Kitchen (South Half)

31. Original Kitchen Stairway Location

32. Original Kitchen Stair Landing, Second Floor

33. Fragment of Original Kitchen Stair Newel Post

34. Original Door Location, Second Floor Kitchen

35. Exploratory Excavations of Kitchen Chimney Base

36. Post Schuyler Kitchen Fireplace

37. Outline of Original Fireplace Base

38. Chimney with Fireplace Removed

39. Fragment of Original Oven

ILLUSTRATION 1

Section of a map of Saratoga (now Schuylerville) believed to have been made about 1837 when the property was subdivided and sole. In the center is the Schuyler House--a T shape with a detached kitchen--before the addition of the rear tier of rooms. The Champlain Canal shown was not constructed for many years after General Schuyler's death. This map would indicate that the T shape of the house still existed at the time the canal was built and possibly until 1837 if the dating of this map is correct.

The view shows several outbuildings--as yet unidentified--and a formal garden about which title is known.

Original in New York State Library
EODC Neg. No. 60

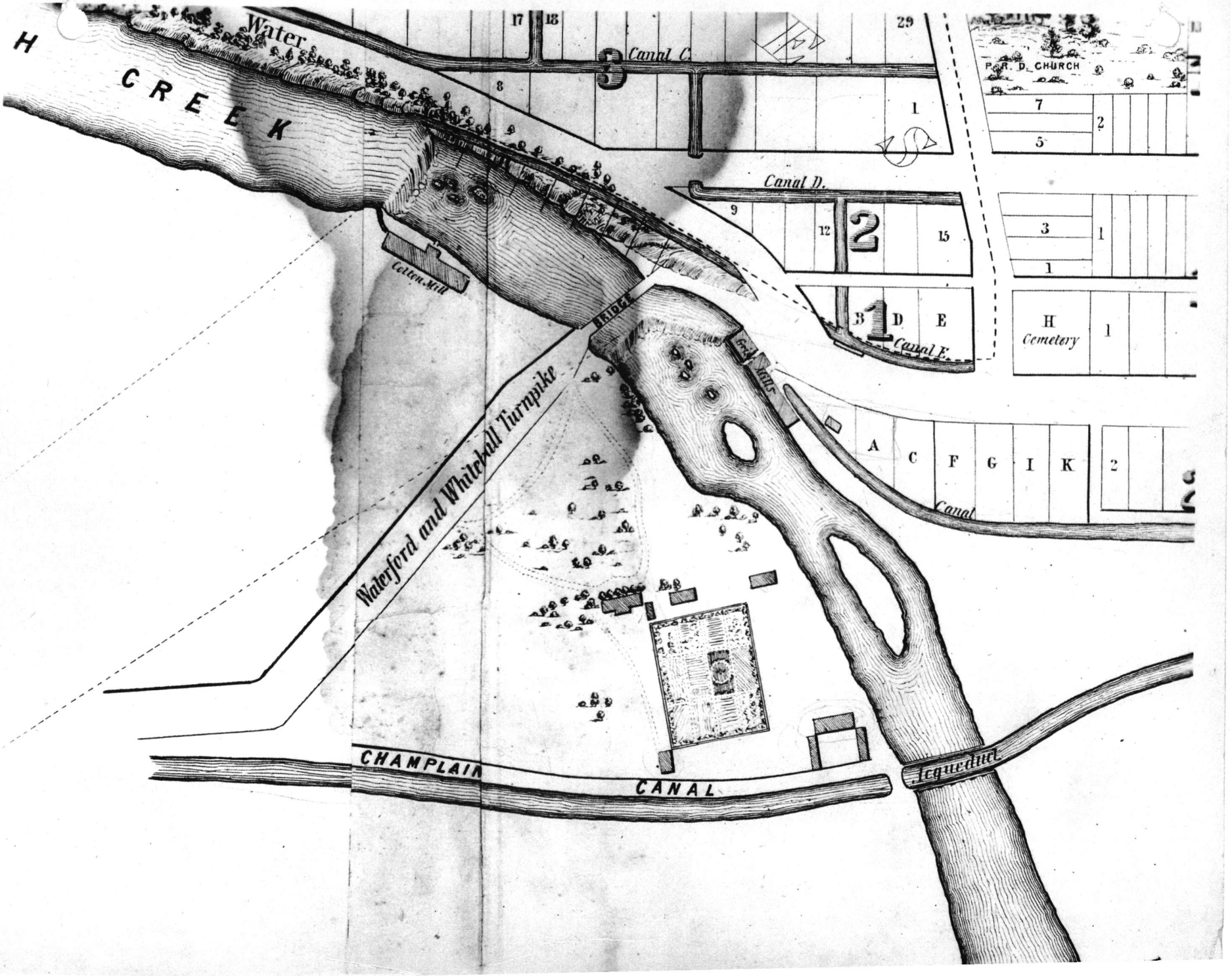

H
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Canal C.
29
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P. R. D. CHURCH
7
5
2
Canal D.
9
12
2
15
3
1
1
Cotton Mill
BRIDGE
B
1
D
E
Canal E.
H
Cemetery
1
Grist Mills
Waterford and Whitehall Turnpike
A
C
F
G
I
K
2
Canal
CHAMPLAIN
CANAL
Aqueduct.

ILLUSTRATION 2

Engraving of Schuyler House circa 1850 from The Hudson, from the Wilderness to the Sea by Benson J. Lossing. The house appeared at this period very much as it does today. The kitchen has since been altered. Rooms shown on far left were removed and the area converted to an open porch. Our studies revealed a part of the foundation, plaster and remains of framing to these rooms.

Windows and doors in front are not accurately delineated. The arch at end of porch could not have existed. The porch roof has not adequate pitch for shingles.

EODC Neg. No. 457

An outline sketch of events to which allusion has just been made is



THE SCHUYLER MANSION.

ILLUSTRATION 3

Front or west elevation, showing condition of house in August 1958.

Ph. H.A. Judd, 1958
EODC Neg. No. 489



ILLUSTRATION 4

Rear elevations of house and kitchen July 1956.

Note post-Schuyler rear tier of rooms abutting kitchen which was originally a separate and independent structure. Leaks at this junction over the years has so rotted the area below in both kitchen and rear rooms that a large section of framing will require complete replacement.

Ph: H. A. Judd, 1956

Neg. No. EODC37

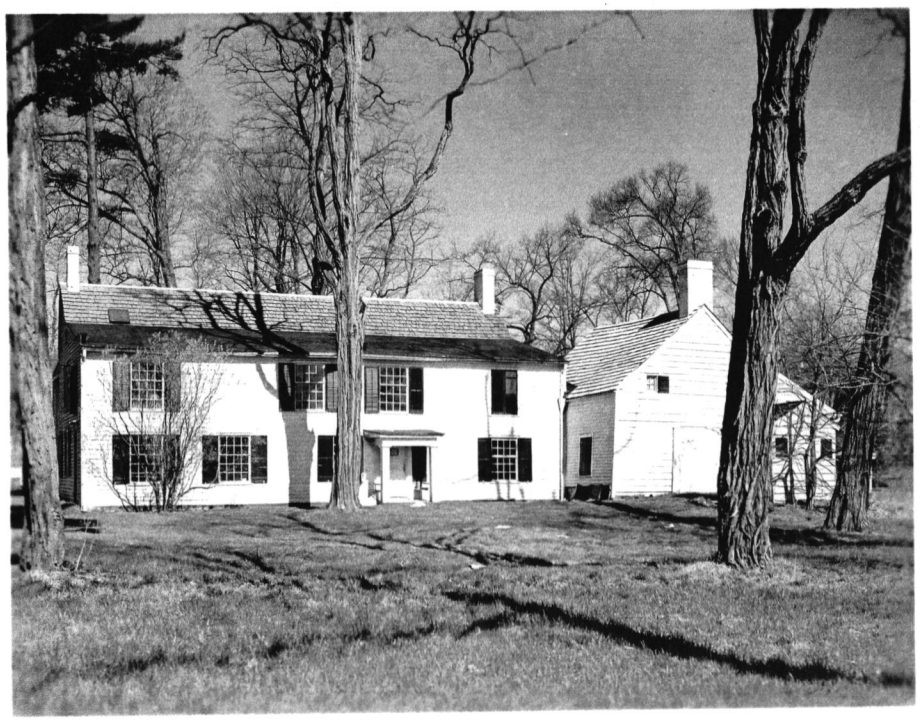


ILLUSTRATION 5

View of north end of house and kitchen in June 1958.

Note flat pitch of Porch roof and poor matching of siding from the porch to the House.

Kitchen porch was once enclosed to make additional rooms (circa 1850). The original roof in this area intersected at wall just below roof of main kitchen.

Ph. H. A. Judd, 1958
Neg. No. ECDC 490



ILLUSTRATION 6

Sheathing under existing weatherboarding was original weatherboarding to house circa. 1777. They were removed and reapplied as sheathing when existing weatherboarding and windows were installed in circa. 1787.

Ph: H. A. Judd, 1958
Neg. No. EOHC 491

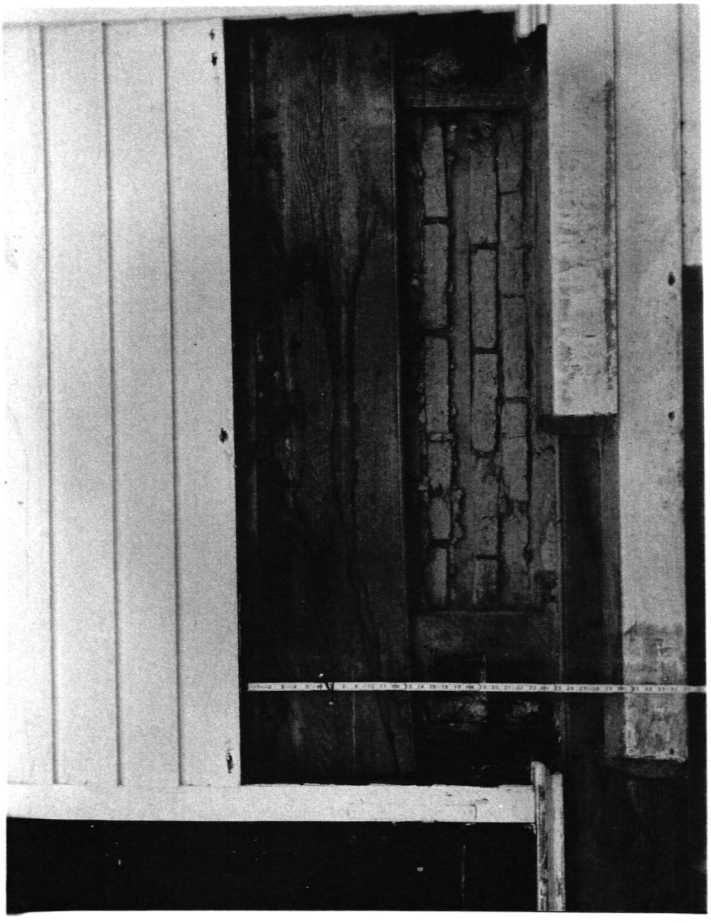


ILLUSTRATION 7

Basement stairway from basement.

Stone hatchway enclosing stairway is a part of original wall. Until the post-Schuyler rear tier of rooms were built this would have been an outside hatchway. We have been unable to remove structure above to study line or original hatch cover.

Wood steps are not original.

Ph: H. A. Judd, 1958
Neg. No. EODC 491

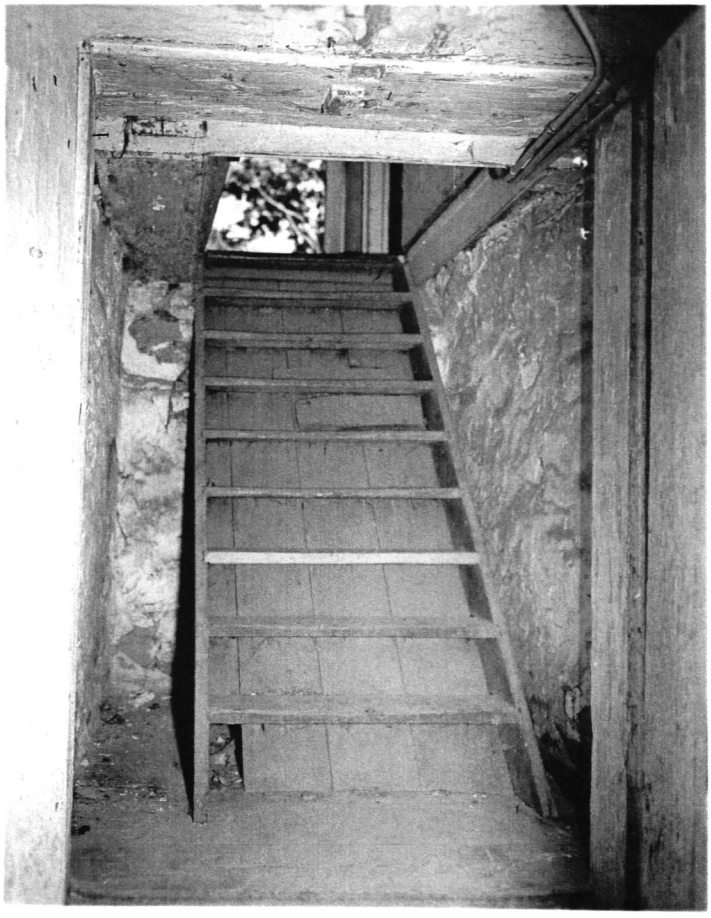


ILLUSTRATION 8

Basement window found after removal of floor from post-Schuyler front porch. Notched iron bars appear to be salvaged from carriage of old power saw, possibly from one of Schuyler's saw mills burned by General Burgoyne.

Ph: H. A. Judd, 1958
Neg. No. EODC 493

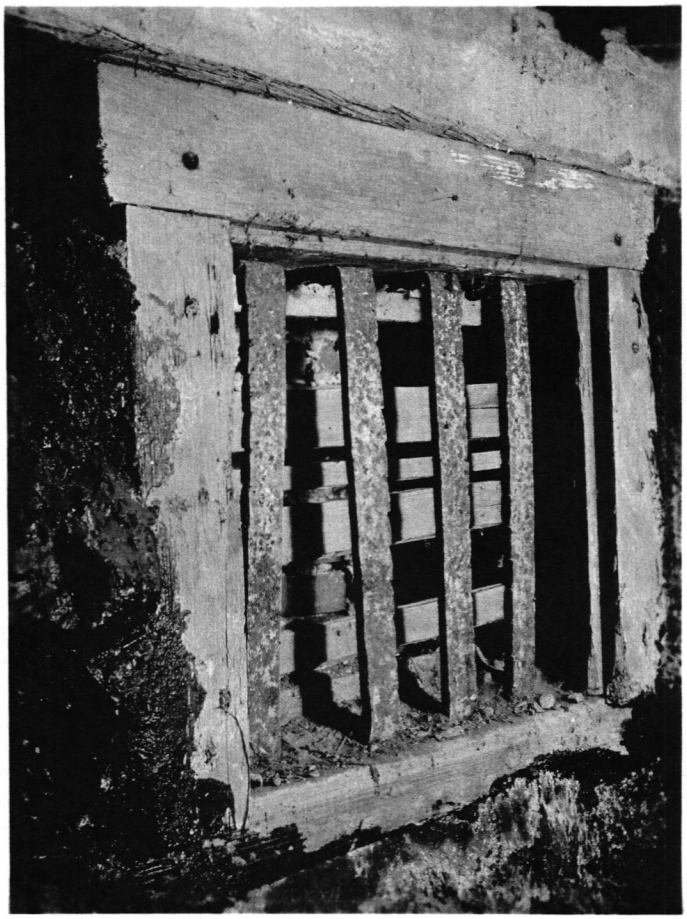


ILLUSTRATION 9

Outside of basement opening as found after removal of porch floor. Opening was found complete including whitewashed stone window well. (See Illustration 10).

Ph: H. A. Judd, 1958
Neg. No. EODC 494

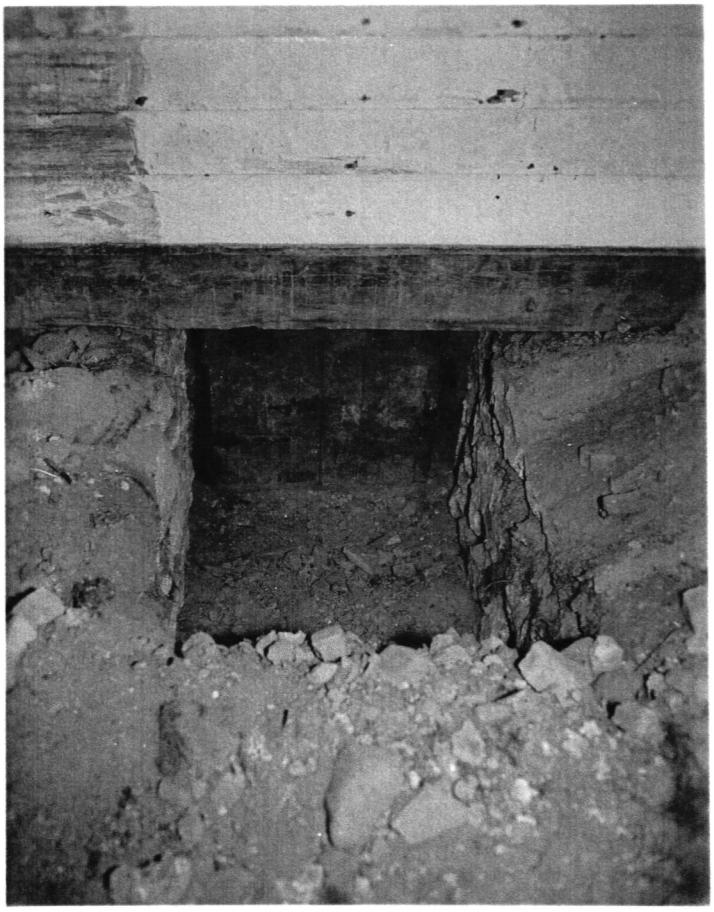


ILLUSTRATION 10

Interior of basement opening which was bricked up when post-Schuyler front porch was added to house. When bricks were removed opening was found complete and in good working order (see Illustration 9).

Ph: Charles H. Hutchins, 1958
Neg. No. EODC 495

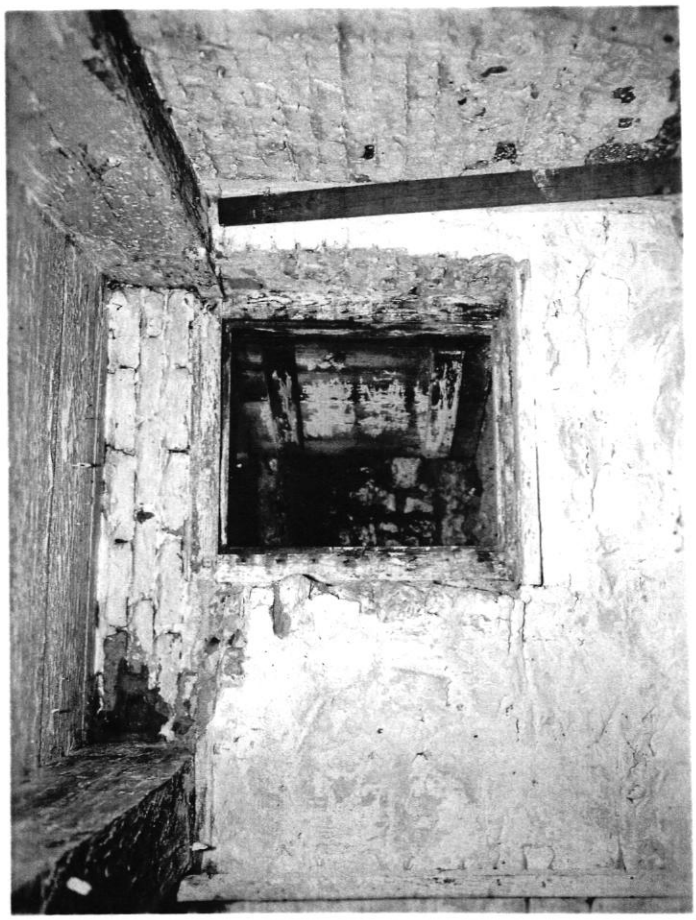


ILLUSTRATION 11

Rotted original main sill of house under front porch. Note knife and pencil pushed into rotted wood. This rotted area has been cut away and the sill patched.

Ph: H. A. Judd, 1958
Neg. No. EODC 496

ILLUSTRATION 12

Sill and corner at northwest corner of main house. Note knife and pencil pushed into rotted wood. Rot was caused by grade level at top of foundation.

Ph: H. A. Judd, 1958
Neg. No. HODC 497

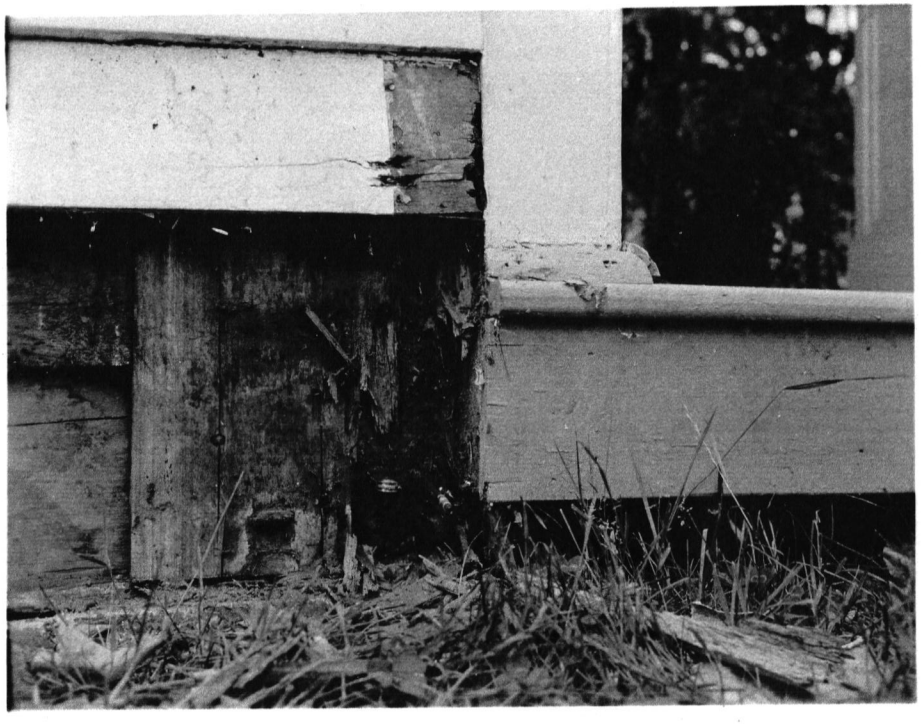


ILLUSTRATION 13

Chimney base and sill at north end of main building where post-Schuyler pantry adjoins building. Note knife in rotted wood sill at junction of building. Entire main sill of house under pantry has rotted and must be replaced. This would be very difficult without removing post-Schuyler pantry.

Ph: H. A. Judd, 1958
Neg. No. EODC 496



ILLUSTRATION 14

Sill at south end of main house where it butts chimney base. Rot was caused by grade level being raised to top of foundation. Grade around entire house should be lowered to prevent future damage such as shown here.

Ph: H. A. Judd, 1958
Neg. No. EODC 499



ILLUSTRATION 15

Sill at south end of main house. Note that grade is two inches above bottom of sill. Grade at this point was lowered eight inches during summer of 1958.

Ph: H. A. Judd, 1958
Neg. No. EODC 500



ILLUSTRATION 16

Inside sill of rear tier of rooms. We cannot determine why this sill, fourteen feet from an outside wall, should be rotted. A large section needs replacing if the post-Schuyler rooms are to be saved.

Ph: H. A. Judd, 1958
Neg. No. EODC 501



ILLUSTRATION 17

Still at work end of year; tier of rooms is rotted away. Still must be replaced, studs painted and the floor, inside rebuilt if these post-Sophyter rooms are to remain.

Ms: H. A. Judd, 1938
Reg. No. RMC 502

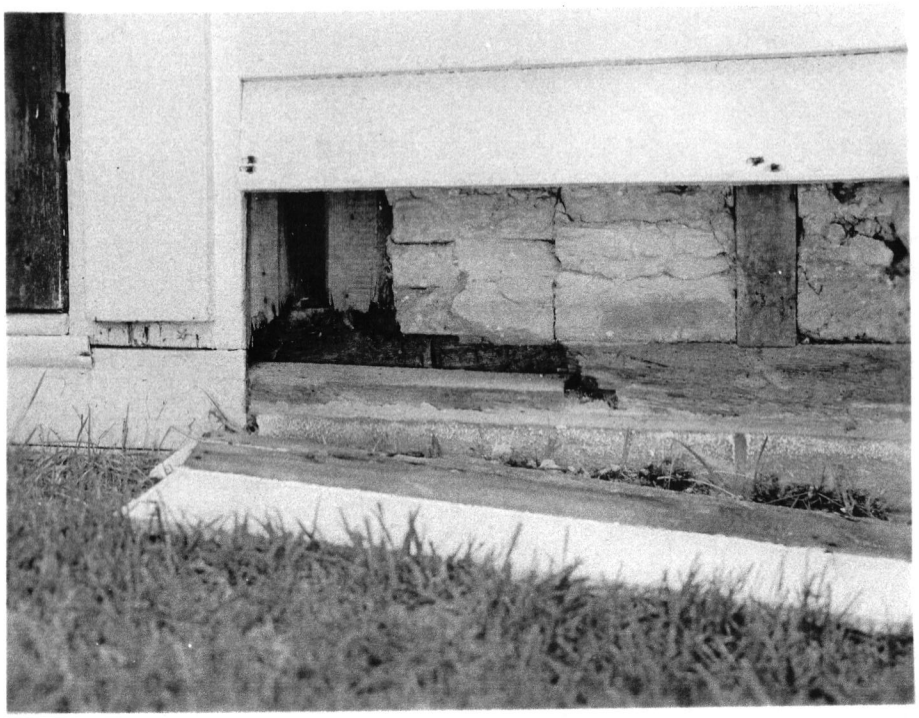


ILLUSTRATION 18

View of kitchen from northeast during a study of the building and the surrounding area in July 1958.

Weatherboarding on upper section over door is a part of the original siding. This area has always been protected by a porch or rooms. Note cleat for rafters on upper section of weatherboarding. Plaster below this area is wall of former rooms (see Illustration 1). Below corner of building is an old cistern in which the top two feet is far more recent than the area below.

Ph: Charles H. Hutchins, 1958
Neg. No. EODC 503



ILLUSTRATION 19

View from second floor window showing northern half of area east of kitchen. (See illustration for southern half.)

On lower right is base of old chimney and oven. Just above on upper right is an old privy pit. Building above is existing privy. Pit in center is probably a dry well for waste from the kitchen sink. Only coal ashes and a fairly modern enameled pan were found when excavating this pit. Stone work at lower left is corner of cistern.

Ph: Charles H. Hutchins, 1958
Neg. No. EODC 504



ILLUSTRATION 20

View from second floor window showing southern half of area east of kitchen (see Illustration for northern half).

At lower left is a part of the old chimney and oven base. Above is old privy pit. At upper right below edge of modern concrete wall is a can which covers fragments of what may be an old corner post. This post is eleven feet from the kitchen wall and may have been a support under a roof which covered the oven area.

Ph: Charles H. Hutchins, 1958
Neg. No. EODC 505



ILLUSTRATION 21

Close-up of north wall of kitchen. Note sill is completely missing at corner of building and bottom of posts are rotted. Brick nogging in both bays shown is original.

Ph: Charles H. Hutchins, 1958
Neg. No. EODC 506

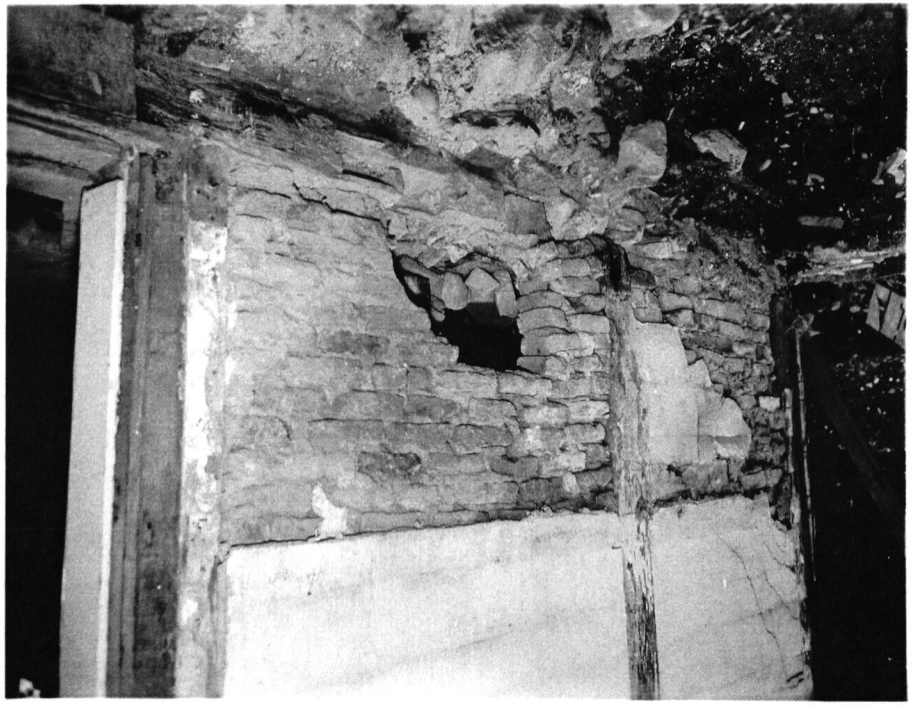


ILLUSTRATION 22

Original wood shingles on kitchen roof where covered by the cricket. Shingles are heart pine 18 inches long rived and dressed both sides.

Ph: H. A. Judd, 1958
Neg. No. EGDC 507

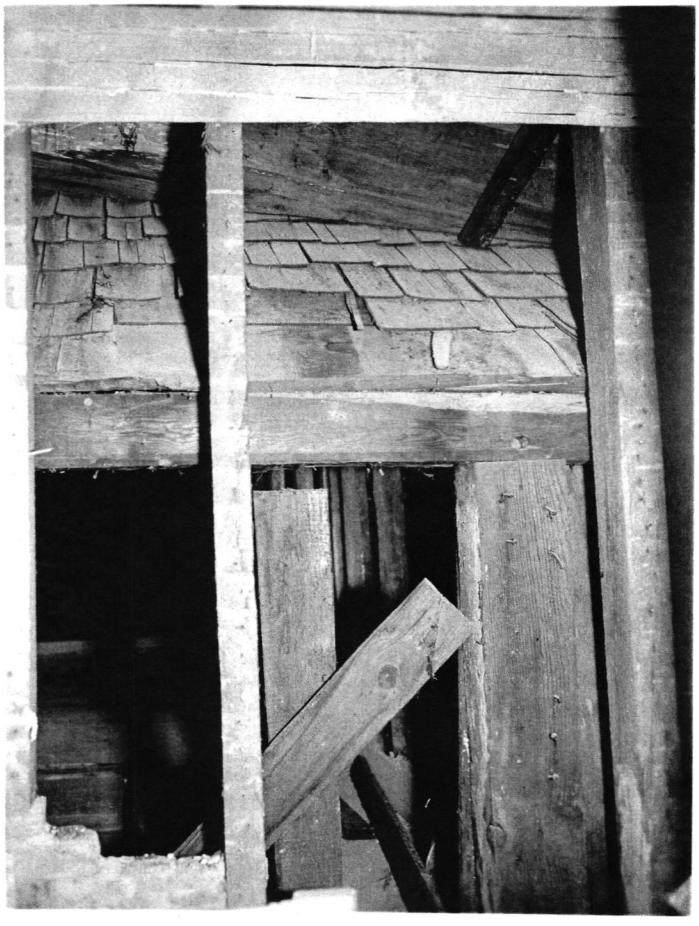


ILLUSTRATION 23

Interior of second floor room over kitchen.

Original walls were whitewash applied directly to the brick nogging, framing and underside of roof boards. Original ceiling boards above collar joists are now missing.

Ph: Charles H. Hutchins, 1958
Neg. No. EODC 508

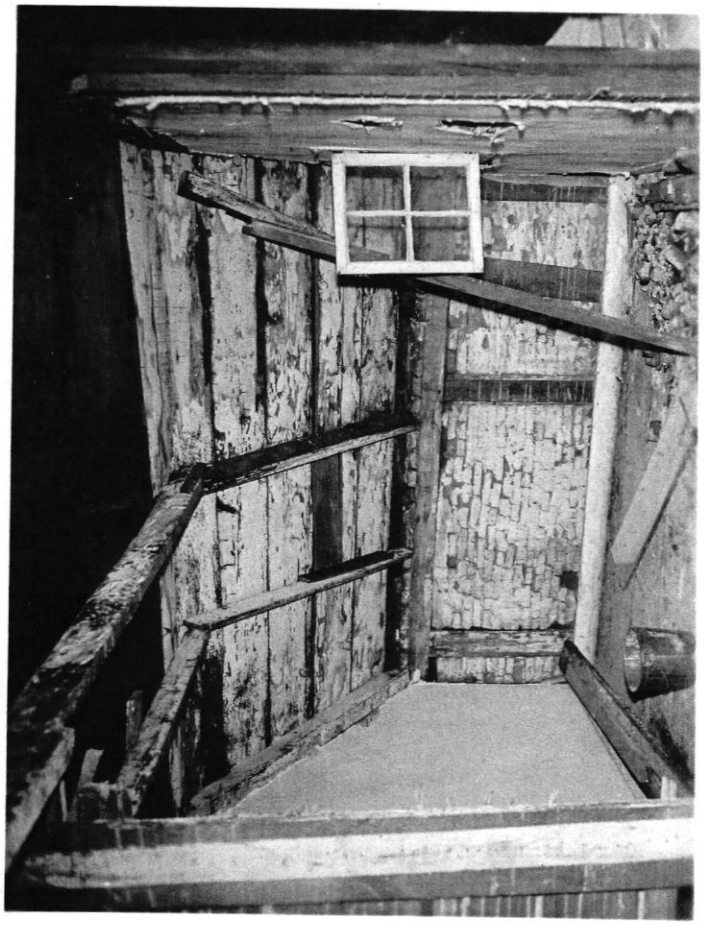


ILLUSTRATION 24

Kitchen plate and rafter ends under area of cricket are so rotted that they must be removed and replaced.

Ph: H. A. Judd, 1958
Neg. No. EODC 509

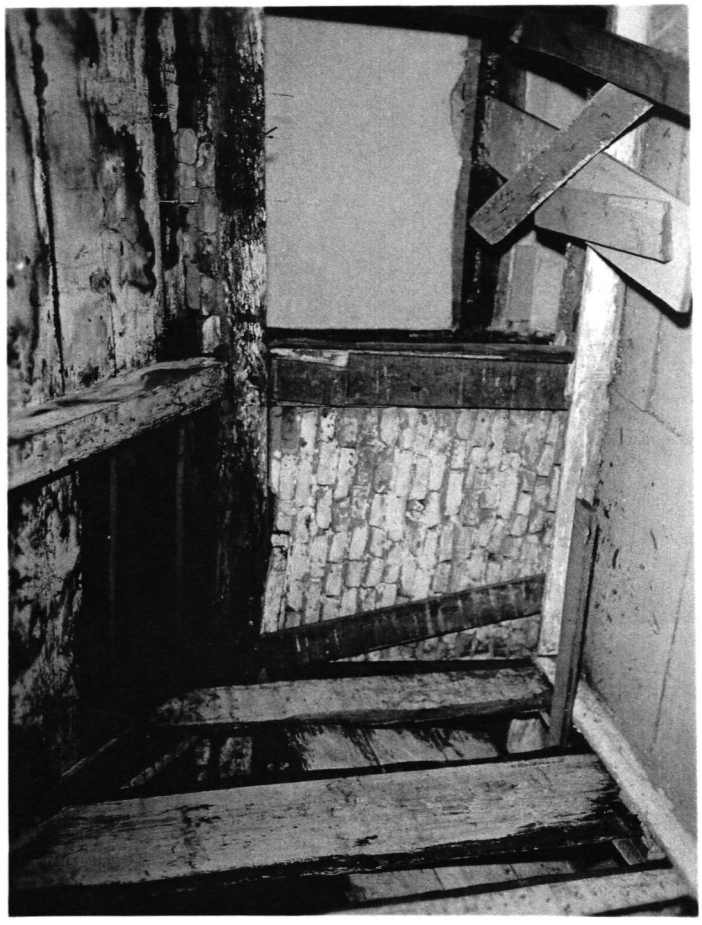


ILLUSTRATION 25

South wall of kitchen showing original exterior door frame. Stairway in post-Schuyler rear tier of rooms which crosses doorway is badly rotted at base and is much too steep for public use.

Ph: H. A. Judd, 1958
Neg. No. EODC 510

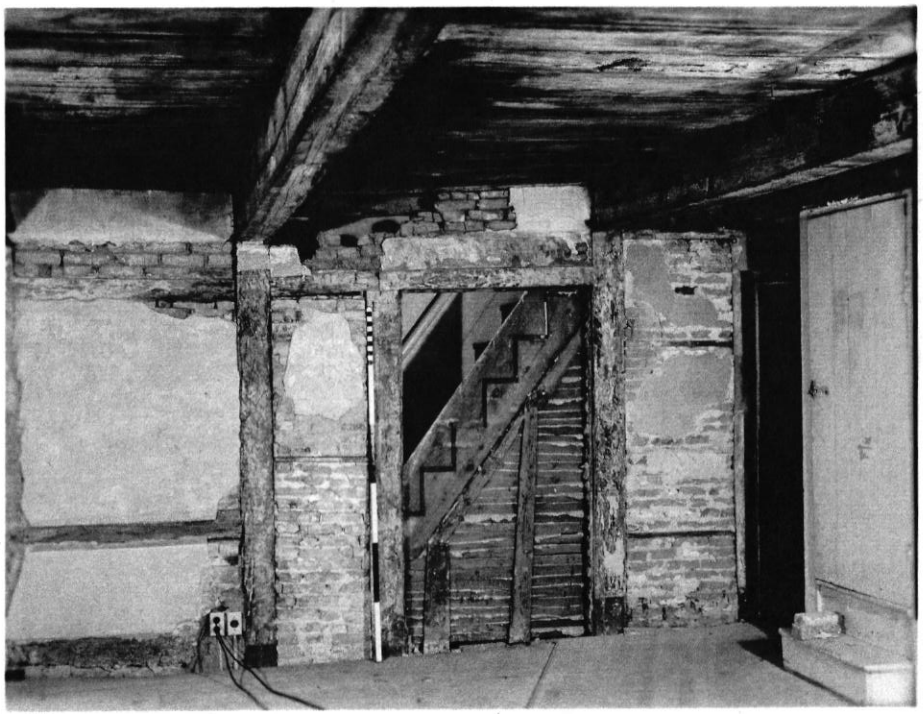


ILLUSTRATION 26

Location of original casement window in south wall of kitchen. Marks of H hinges can still be found on post at left. Existing window frame is in 20th century wall added over original wall.

Ph: Charles H. Hutchins, 1958
Neg. No. EODC 511

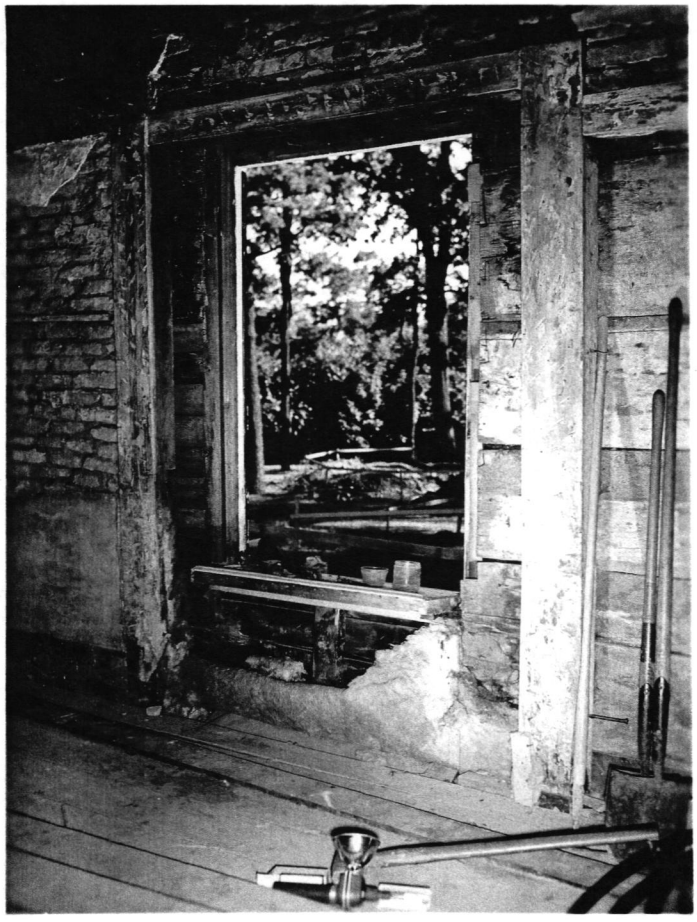


ILLUSTRATION 27

Dark line in kitchen ceiling is the ghost of a former partition which divided area into main kitchen, stair hall and entry and storage room. Original stairway ran in opposite direction to existing stairway shown. The window shown occupies space of original doorway.

Ph: Charles H. Hutchins, 1958
Neg. No. EODC512

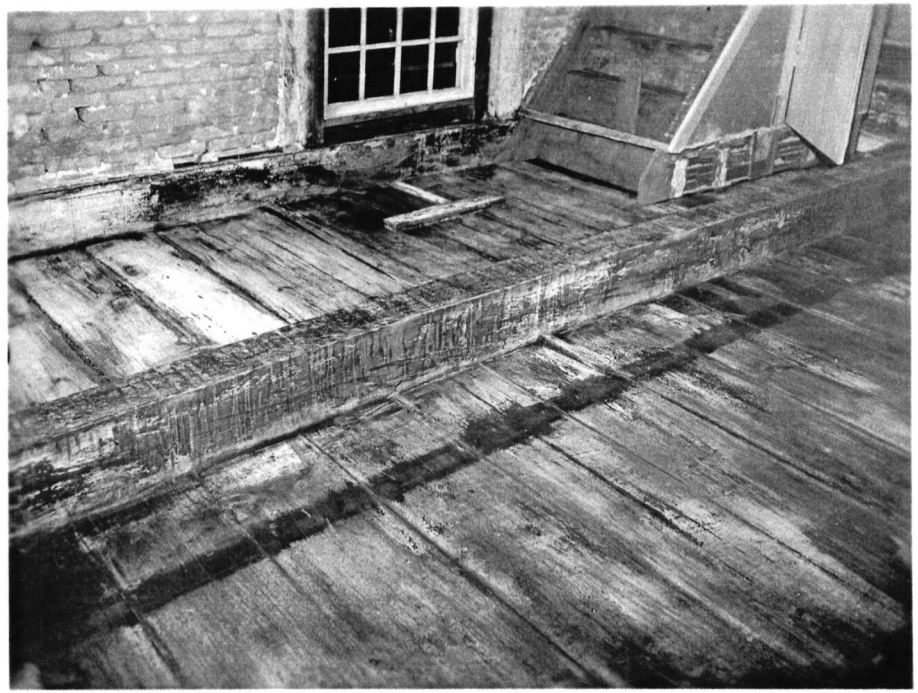


ILLUSTRATION 28

North wall at northwest corner of kitchen. Nogging at left is original. Note ghost in ceiling intersects post-Schuyler window. Door opening at right is original but door is not. First plaster used after whitewash is shown between joists.

Ph: H. A. Judd, 1958
Neg. No. EODC 513

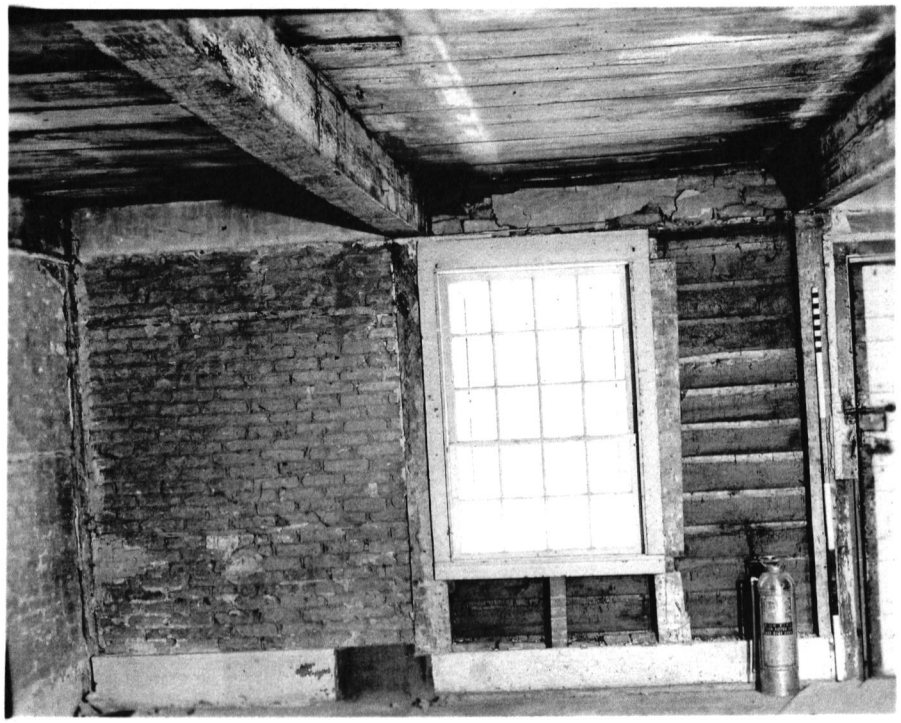


ILLUSTRATION 29

West wall at northwest corner of kitchen. Nogging in three brick bays shown is original and is in area of original store room. Dark line on ceiling is ghost of original position. Whitewash at base of brick is original wall finish. Window is in location of original stair hall door.

Ph: H. A. Judd, 1958
Neg. No. EODC 514



ILLUSTRATION 30

Original kitchen stairway ran in opposite direction from existing stairway. Window is in location of original stair hall doorway. Pass door in wall under stairs is to post-Schuyler pantry.

Ph: H. A. Judd, 1958
Neg. No. EODC 515

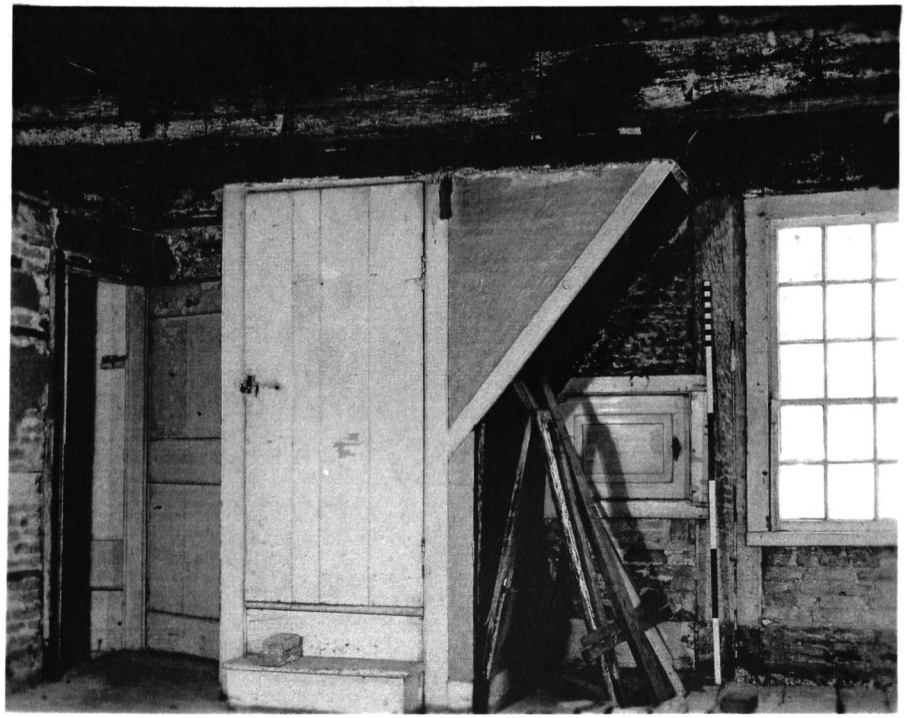


ILLUSTRATION 31

View under existing kitchen stair.

Whitewash on wall is original kitchen wall finish.

Here whitewash outline shows angle and direction of

original kitchen stairway.

Ph: Charles H. Hutchins, 1958
Neg. No. EODC 516



ILLUSTRATION 32

Second floor landing of original kitchen stairway. Arrow points to location of former newel post. (See illustration .) Floor board just behind newel location is worn where people turned on the ball of their foot to go down the hall or stairway.

Ph: Charles H. Hutchins, 1958
Neg. No. EODC 517



ILLUSTRATION 33

Top of kitchen stair; new post remains where it was cut off when ceiling was installed.

(See illustration .)

Ph: Charles H. Hutchins, 1958
Neg. No. EODC 518



ILLUSTRATION 34

Arrows point to former stud locations in joist of second floor over kitchen. In original kitchen one door, rather than two, was in this area. Center partition seen through doorway was added in post Schuyler years.

Ph: Charles H. Hutchins, 1958
Neg. No. EODC 519



ILLUSTRATION 35

Laborer excavating old chimney and oven base east of kitchen - May 1958.

Ph: H. A. Judd, 1958
Neg. No. EODC 520



ILLUSTRATION 36

Post-Schuyler fireplace and water heating unit before removal.

Ph: H. A. Judd, 1958
Neg. No. EODC 521

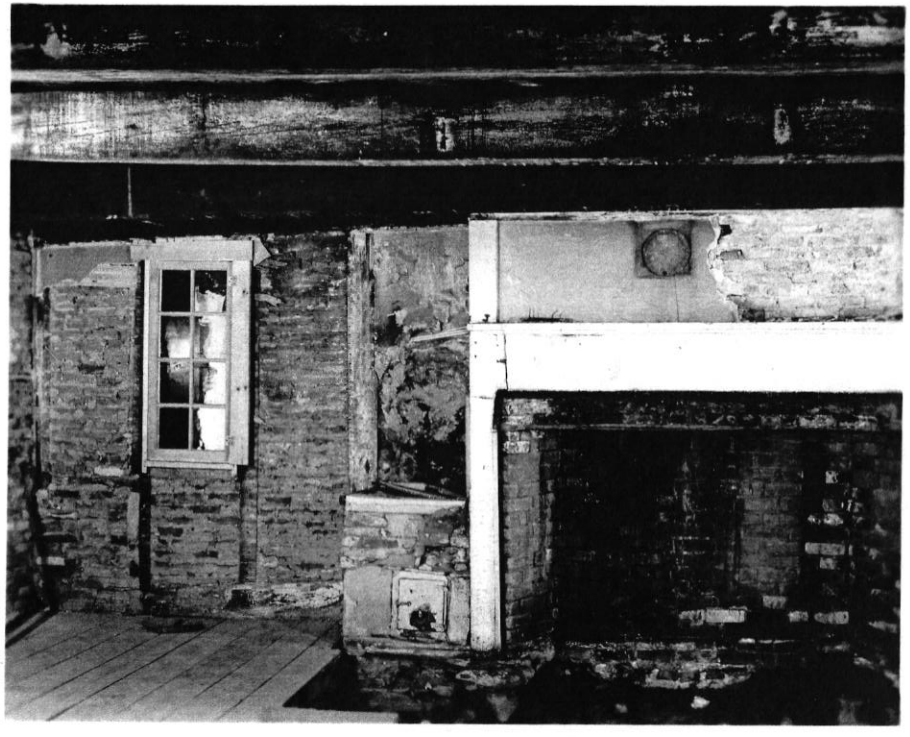


ILLUSTRATION 37

Base of post-Schuyler kitchen fireplace chipped away to reveal outline of original fireplace.

Ph: H. A. Judd, 1958
Neg. No. EODC, 522



ILLUSTRATION 38

Chimney wall after removal of post-Schuyler fireplace. Note outline at base of original fireplace opening and outline of oven at left. (See illustrations and .)

Ph: Gordie Whittington, 1958
Neg. No. EODC 523

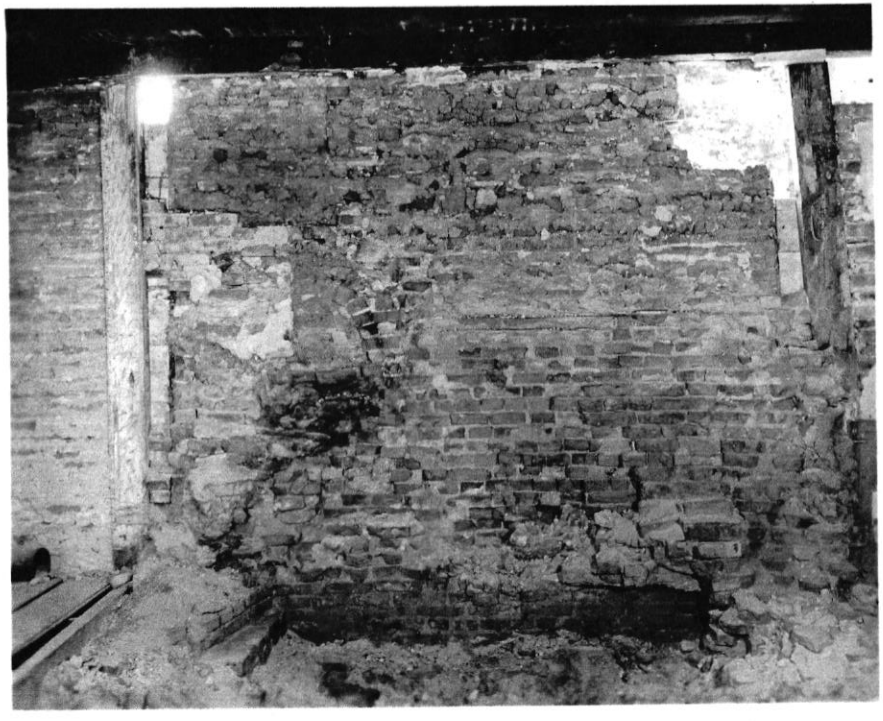
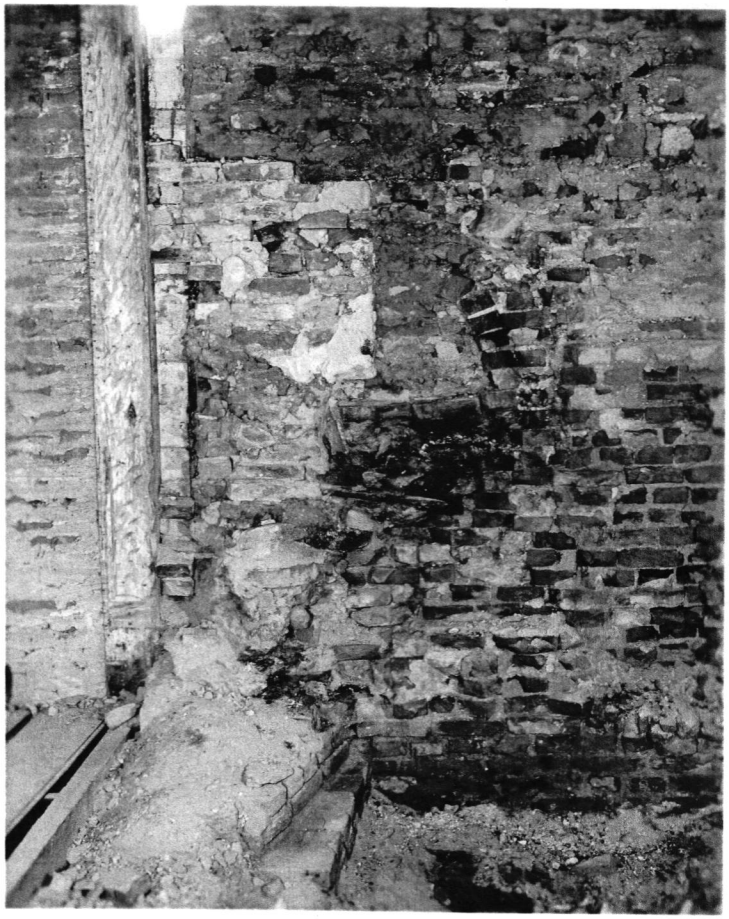


ILLUSTRATION 39

Close-up of left side of chimney after removal of post-Schuyler water heating vat. In lower center note line of original fireplace jamb. In center of picture is outline of an oven. There are four periods of masonry represented in this picture.

Ph: Gordie Whittington, 1958
Neg. No. EODC 524



APPENDIX C

PUBLISHED DESCRIPTIONS

1. Anne Grant
2. John Henry Brandow
3. Benson J. Lossing

Grant, Anne (McVickar); Memoirs of an American Lady, London, 1808

2 Vols. (University of Penna. Library) pp 188-192
Vol. II

/General Schuyler's Establishment Near Saratoga/
C. 1758-1768

"Philip, since known by the title of General Schuyler, whom I have repeatedly mentioned, had now, in pursuance of the mode she pointed out to him, attained to wealth and power; both which were rapidly increasing. His brother Cortlandt, (the hand - some savage) who had, by her advice, gone into the army, was returned from Ireland, the commander of a company; and married to a very pleasing and estimable woman, whose perpetual vivacity and good humour threw a ray of light over the habitual reserve of her husband; who was amiable in domestic life, though cold and distant in his manner. They settled near the general, and paid a degree of attention to Madame that shewed the filial tie remained in full force.

"The colonel, as he was then called, had built a house near Albany, in the English taste, comparatively magnificent, where his family resided, and where he carried on the business of his department. Thirty miles or more above Albany, in the direction of the Flats, and near the far-famed Saratoga, which was to be the scene of his future triumph, he had another establishment. It was here that the colonel's political and economical genius had full scope. He had always the command of a great number of those workmen who were employed in public buildings, &c. Those were always in constant pay; it being necessary to

engage them in that manner; and were, from the change of seasons, the shutting of the ice, and other circumstances, months unemployed. All these seasons, when public business was interrupted, the workmen were employed in constructing squares of buildings in the nature of barracks, for the purpose of lodging artisans and labourers of all kinds. Having previously obtained a large tract - very fertile lands from the crown, on which he built a spacious and convenient house; he constructed those barracks at a distance, not only as a nursery for the arts which he meant to encourage, but as the materials of a future colony, which he meant to plant out around him. He had there a number of negroes well acquainted with felling of trees and managing saw-mills; of which he erected several. And while these were employed in carrying on a very advantageous trade of deals and lumber, which were floated down on rafts to New York, they were at the same time clearing the ground for the colony the colonel was preparing to establish.

"This new settlement was an asylum for every one who wanted bread and a home: from the variety of employments regularly distributed, every artisan and every labourer found here lodging and occupation: some hundereds of people, indeed, were employed at once. Those who were in winter engaged at the saw-mills, were in summer equally busied at a large and productive fishery. The artisans got lodging and firing for two or three years, at first, besides being well paid for every thing they did. Flax was raised,

and dressed, and finally spun and made into linen there; and as artisans were very scarce in the country, every one sent linen to weave, flax to dress, &c. to the colonel's colony. He paid them liberally; and having always abundance of money in his hands, could afford to be the loser at first, to be amply repaid in the end. It is inconceivable what dexterity, address, and deep policy were exhibited in the management of this new settlement; the growth of which was rapid beyond belief. Every mechanic ended in being a farmer, that is a profitable tenant to the owner of the soil; and new recruits of artisans from the north of Ireland chiefly supplied their place, nourished with the golden dews which the sagacious projector could so easily command. The rapid increase and advantageous result of this establishment were astonishing. "Tis impossible for my imperfect recollection to do justice to the capacity displayed in these regulations. But I have thus endeavoured to trace to its original source that wealth and power which became afterwards, the means of supporting an aggression so formidable."

Grant, Anne (McVicker); Memoirs of an American Lady, London, 1808, 2 Vols. (University of Penna. Library) pp. 164-167; 171-173

[A description of the house at "The Flats" the home of Madam Schuyler, General Schuyler's aunt, with whom he spent much of his youth.]

..... "Be it known, however, that the house I had so much delight in recollecting, had no pretension to grandeur, and very little to elegance. It was a large brick house of two or rather three stories (for there were excellent attics), besides a sunk story, finished with the exactest neatness. The lower floor had two spacious rooms, with large light closets; on the first there were three rooms, and in the upper one four. Through the middle of the house was a very wide passage, with opposite front and back doors, which in summer admitted a stream of air peculiarly grateful to the languid [sic] senses. It was furnished with chairs and pictures like a summer parlour. Here the family usually sat in hot weather, when there were no ceremonious strangers.

"Valuable furniture (though perhaps not very well chosen or assorted) was the favourite luxury of these people; and in all the houses I remember, except those of the brothers, who were every way more liberal. The mirrors, the paintings, the china, but above all, the state bed, were considered as the family Zeraphim secretly worshipped, and only exhibited on very rare occasions. But in Colonel Schuyler's family the rooms were merely shut up

to keep the flies, which in that country are an absolute nuisance, from spoiling the furniture. Another motive was, that they might be pleasantly cool when opened for company. This house had also two appendages common to all those belonging to persons in easy circumstances there. One was a large portico at the door, with a few steps leading up to it, and floored like a room; it was open at the sides, and had seats all round. Above was either a slight wooden roof, painted like an awning, or a covering of lattice-work, over which a transplated wild vine spread its luxuriant leaves and numerous clusters. These, though small, and rather too acid till sweetened by the frost, had a beautiful appearance. What gave an air of liberty and safety to these rustic porticos, which always produced in my mind a sensation of pleasure that I know not how to define, was the number of little birds domesticated there. For their accomodation there was a small shelf built round, where they nestled, sacred from the touch of slaves and children, who were taught to regard them as the good genii of the place, not to be disturbed with impunity.

"At the back of the large house was a smaller and lower one, so joined to it as to make the form of a cross. There one or two lower and smaller rooms below, and the same number above, afforded a refuge to the family during the rigours of winter, when the spacious summer rooms would have been intolerably cold, and the smoke of prodigious wood fires would have sullied the elegantly clean furniture. Here, too, was a sunk story, where the kitchen

was immediately below the eating parlour, and encreased the general warmth of the house. In summer the negroes resided in slight outer kitchens, where food was drest for the family. Those who wrought in the fields often had their simple dinner cooked without, and ate it under the shade of a great tree. One room I should have said, in the greater house only, was opened for the reception of company; all the rest were bed-chambers for their accommodation, while the domestic friends of the family occupied neat little bed-rooms in the attics, or in the winter house. This house contained no drawing-room; that was an unheard-of- luxury; the winter rooms had carpets; the lobby had oil-cloth painted in lozenges, to imitate blue and white marble. The best bed-room was hung with family portraits, some of which were admirably executed; and in the eating-room, which, by the bye, was rarely used for that purpose, ware some fine scripture paintings, that which made the greatest impression on my imagination, and seemed to be universally admired, was one of Esau coming to demand the anticipated blessings; the noble manly figure of the luckless hunter, and the anguish expressed in his comely though strong featured countenance, I shall never forget. The house fronted the river, on the brink of which, under shades of elm and sycamore, ran the great road towards Saratoga, Stillwater, and the northern lakes; a little simple avenue of morella cherry trees, inclosed with a white rail, led to the road and river, not three hundred yards distant."

Grant, Anne (McVickar); Memoirs of an American Lady, London, 1808,
2 Volumes (University of Pennsylvania Library)
p. 141

/Possessions of General Schuyler's Grandfather/

"When the old colonel died, he left considerable possessions to be divided among his children, and from the quantity of plate, paintings, &c. which they shared, there is reason to believe he must have brought some of his wealth from Holland,....."

Grant, Anne (McVickar); Memoirs of an American Lady, London, 1808,
2 Vols. (University of Penna. Library)
pp 176-178

[Description of the Barn at the Flats]
period 1758 - 1768

"Adjoining to the orchard was the most spacious barn I ever beheld; which I shall describe for the benefit of such of my readers as have never seen a building constructed on a plan so comprehensive. This barn, which as will hereafter appear, answered many beneficial purposes besides those usually allotted for such edifices, was of a vast size, at least an hundred feet long, and sixty wide. The roof rose to a very great height in the midst, and sloped down till it came within ten feet of the ground, when the walls commenced; which, like the whole of this vast fabric, were formed of wood. It was raised three feet from the ground, the beams resting on stone; and on these beams was laid, in the middle of the building, a very massive oak floor. Before the door was a large sill, sloping downwards, of the same materials. About twelve feet in breadth on each side of this capacious building were divided off for cattle; on one side ran a manger, at the abovementioned distance from the wall, the whole length of the building, with a rack above it; on the others were stalls for the other cattle, running also the whole length of the building. The cattle and horses stood with their hinder parts to the wall, and their heads projecting towards the threshing floor. There was a prodigious large box or open chest in one side built up,

for holding the corn after it was thrashed; and the roof, which was very lofty and spacious, was supported by large cross beams; from one to the other of these was stretched a great number of long poles, so as to form a sort of open loft, on which the whole rich crop was laid up. The floor of those parts of the barn, which answered the purposes of a stable and cowhouse, was made of thick slab deals, laid loosely over the supporting beams. And the mode of cleaning those places was by turning the boards, and permitting the dung and litter to fall into the receptacles left open below for the purpose; from thence, in spring, they were often driven down to the river, the soil, in its original state, not requiring the aid of manure. In the front of this vast edifice there were prodigious folding doors, and two others that opened behind."

Brandow, John Henry, The Story of Old Saratoga, 2nd Ed., Albany, 1919

(p. 326) "Description of Mansion No. 3. Only the main structure, 22 by 60 feet, was built at that time; additions on the east side and also the present kitchen were put on later. The cellar extends under the whole of this part, and is deep, dry and airy. It is divided into three parts. The south end has in it a large fireplace, and for a while was used as the kitchen; the center one was the wine cellar, and the north end was used as a storeroom for provisions, but not vegetables. The vegetable cellar was separate from the house and was located about twenty-five feet from the southeast corner of the main house. The floor timbers are of oak 10 by 12 inches in size and four feet apart.

"On entering the house you first pass under the spacious veranda 10-1/2 by 60 feet. One tradition says originally there was no veranda, only a Dutch porch over the front door, with side seats. But this is disputed. At all events there have been several changes here, for we have been told by those who can remember, that the first pillars were round, coated with stucco, and that they were not so high as the present ones by several feet. Mr. George Strover, after he came into possession, raised the roof of the veranda to let more light into the upper rooms, and substituted the present square pillars for the round ones. The main door is made of two thicknesses of plain boards laid at right angles to each other. It is furnished with the conventional brass knocker, but the hinges, and especially the lock, are

curiosities. The lock is iron 7 by 15 inches in size and 2 inches thick and furnished with a prodigious key, about the size of the key to the Bastile preserved at Mount Vernon.

(p. 328) "Entering you find yourself in a large reception hall 17 x 19 feet. The ceiling is 9 feet 3 inches high. The original stairway, with its landing and turn, was long ago replaced by the present enclosed staircase. The hall is flanked on the left and right by spacious rooms; on the left by a room 18 by 20 feet used by the Schuylers as the dining room, now the sitting room; on the right by the parlor 20 by 22 feet. This room is still adorned by paper put on by Philip Schuyler, 2d, in preparation for the marriage of his daughter Ruth to Mr. T. W. Ogden, of New York, in 1836. The paper on the room immediately above it was also renewed at the same time. All of these rooms are beautifully lighted by spacious windows which retain the original small panes of glass. The great fire-places at either end of the house are also left undisturbed; in fact the present occupants have very considerately endeavored to keep the house in its original state, that is, so far as necessary repairs would admit. Back of the parlor is a long room formerly used as a guest chamber, and which was assigned to Lafayette during his visit here to the Schuylers in 1824. This is now used as a museum and contains many interesting relics. Opening out of the reception hall to the east is a smaller room which was used by General Schuyler and all his successors as an office. Between this and the guest chamber just mentioned is

a passage through a closet; a door once led from this to an addition or L which ran to the east and which contained two guest chambers on each floor. This was removed after the property changed hands. In the rear of the present sitting room, you pass into a hallway which leads on the right to a back door, and on the left to the kitchen; across this hall from the sitting room is the school room of the Schuylers, now used as the dining room. This tier of three rooms with the rear hall and kitchen were (p. 329) added by General Schuyler, and are all one step lower than the floor of the main edifice. Passing through this rear hall to the north you come to the great kitchen, which is by no means the least interesting part of the house. It is 23 by 25 feet interior dimensions. The opening in the fireplace is 7 feet wide by 4 feet high. The old brick oven on the left has been removed. Just to the left, as you pass out doors, the milk-room was formerly situated, surrounded with lattice work and containing sunken places in the stone floor to keep the butter cool.

"Above the kitchen are four rooms. In the second story of the main house are seven bedrooms, most of them very large, and all provided with ample closet room. On the third floor is found just one's ideal of a colonial attic, stored with quaint old relics. In the north end of this attic is a very pleasant and spacious bedroom with sloping sides. All the doors were originally fitted with large brass locks, but all save two were stolen soon after the departure of the Schuylers. The house is full of fine old furniture, quite in keeping with the style and age of the

structure, and which helps amazingly in one's effort to think himself back into the times of the fathers.

"A few feet to the north of the present wood-house formerly stood a much larger one. In the second story of this were the slaves' quarters. The present well is the same from which General Schuyler and all his distinguished guests slaked their thirst. There were also several penstocks on the premises which poured forth their waters in perennial streams.

"The spacious grounds in front were not so full of trees in the early part of the century as now. They were then arranged in clumps and considerable space was given to shrubs and lawn. At that time a lawn ran unobstructed from the rear of the house eastward to the banks of the (p. 330) canal. The lilac bushes at the bottom of the excavation southeast of the house are descendants of the large ones that once ornamented the garden of house No. 2, burned by Burgoyne. The children were provided with great swings hung in the trees, and permanent see saws nicely made and painted dark green.

"The rebuilding of his house by General Schuyler was no doubt a necessary preliminary to the rehabilitation of his business enterprises here, that he might have a place of shelter while restoring his mills, etc., which had been destroyed. His reasons for rebuilding were no doubt, first, because he had faith in the ultimate success of the cause for which the States were struggling, and was ready to prove his faith by his works; secondly, because

because there was a great demand in the country at that time for such merchandise as he could produce; and thirdly, that he might encourage by his example the fugitive farmers to return to their homes."

Lossing, Benson J., The Pictorial Field-Book of the Revolution, New York, 1860, Volume I.

(Page 34) "It was under the influence of this sentiment, so natural to every American, and a strong desire to make a personal visit to the classic grounds of my country, and portray their features before every ancient lineament should be effaced, that, during the sultriness of midsummer, I left behind me the cares of business life within the confines of our commercial metropolis, and commenced a pilgrimage to the most important localities connected with the events of the war for our national independence. For many years, as I occasionally saw some field consecrated by revolutionary blood, or building hallowed as a shelter of the heroes of that war, I have felt emotions of shame, such as every American ought to feel, on seeing the plow leveling the breast-works and batteries where our fathers bled, and those edifices, containing the council-chambers of men who planned the attack, the ambuscade, or the retreat, crumbling into utter ruin. While England erects a monument in honor of the amputated leg of a hero who fought for personal renown, we allow these relics, sanctified by the deeds of soldiers who were more than heroes as the world regards heroism, to pass away and be forgotten. Acquisitiveness is pulling down walled fortresses; the careless agriculturist, unmindful of the sacredness of the ditch and mound that scar his fields, is sowing and reaping where marble monuments should stand; and improvement, a very Cambyses among achievements of labor of

former times, under the fair mask of refined taste, is leveling nearly all that remains of the architecture of the Revolution. To delineate with pen and pencil what is left of the physical features of that period, and thus to rescue from oblivion, before it should be too late, the mementoes which another generation will appreciate, was my employment for several months; and a desire to place the result of these journeyings, with a record of past events inseparably connected with what I have delineated, in an enduring form before my countrymen, has given birth to these pages.

"I resolved to visit the scenes of the northern campaigns during the summer and early autumn. With the exception of the historic grounds lying around New York and among the Hudson Highlands, the fields of Saratoga, in point of importance and distance, invited the initial visit."

(Page 73) "They also wantonly set fire to several buildings on the way by order of Burgoyne himself; and among others, when they crossed the Fish Creek, the mansion of General Schuyler, his mills and other property, amounting in value to twenty thousand dollars, were destroyed by them.

"The house of General Schuyler was elegant for the times, and was very pleasantly situated upon the south bank of the Fish Kill or Fish Creek. It was rebuilt after the war, but in a style much inferior in beauty and expense. It is still standing, and in the present possession of George Strover, Esq. The broad

lawn in front is beautifully shaded with venerable trees; and the falls of the Fish Creek close by contribute, by their music and wild beauty, much to the interest of the scene. The mill was also rebuilt in the same style. In the engraving is given a correct representation of it. Many of the logs in the dam are the same that curbed the stream in the time of the Revolution; and I was told that little was wanted to make the whole appear as at that period, but that the surrounding hills should be covered with dense woods."

APPENDIX D

Excerpt from

A REPORT ON THE HISTORY, CONSTRUCTION AND SOCIAL USE OF THE GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER SUMMER HOUSE AT SCHUYLERVILLE (OLD SARATOGA), N. Y.

by

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April 16, 1951

C. Contemporary Letters relating to the Construction of the House at Saratoga

1. Colonel Morgan Lewis (Quartermaster General in Gates' Army) to Schuyler, dated Albany, October 20th 1777:

"I this Morning received your's of Yesterday's Date and shall endeavour to send you the things wrote for. Mill Saw files I have none of nor can I procure any. shall send in Room thereof flat Files which I believe will answer the Purpose.

"The Albany Carpenters refuse going to Saratoga upon any Conditions, beg you will advise me how many Mr. Flylton has under him, and how many more will be necessary...."(8)

2. Col. Varick to Schuyler, dated Albany, October 21, 1777:

"Your Favor of the 20th with the Model of a Bolt were delivered this Morning.

"I Agreeable to Your Request I have procured all the Iron Work for your Mill Except the Eye Bolts and 7 of the Bolts for which You sent Model & Keys for all. These will be done this Day & shall be dispatched to You in the Morning.

"Colo. Lewis informs me that two Blacksmiths were sent to You Yesterday, and which I suppose will be sufficient for your purpose....

"Genl. Burgoyne & Riedesel with their Retinues are still here, they give Mrs. Schuyler no small trouble. The formers Dispatches are not yet compleated, I believe he shall leave to Morrow if the Weather be favorable.

"On Saturday he mentioned to Mrs. Schuyler with Tears in his Eyes his situation; - that he had received so much Civility from you, & again repeated by Mrs. Schuyler, whose property he had destroyed, but pleads that it was tho't necessary to save his Army. He behaves with Great Politeness & seems to be more free in Conversation on the Subject of his Campaign which he says has been a very Bloodly one as Even he knows considering the numbers of his Army. He acknowledged our Superiority in the woods & says he would have given all his Indians Provincials & Volunteers for 50 British Troops. He values them at less than 1/2 Farthing per Cart Load.

"Enclose you a letter from Mr. Hancock. It was opened by Gates, whether accidentally or not I know not - Major Rensselaer delivered It to me open. I think he recd. It from Van Schaick Gates; Conduct is at least Exceptionable in this that he did not enclose It to You with an Apology, but what can we expect considering past Conduct.

"Mrs. Schuyler is very Anxious to know where you quarter, she wishes you to take Mr. Riff(?)'s House & is resolved to pay You a Visit as soon as her Company leaves her, & Matters are arranged here....

"P.S. Genl. Gates told Mrs. Schuyler he had put some Things in your Way, he had left You a Company of Carpenters. - We doubt it."(9)

3. J. Lansing, Jun. to Schuyler, dated Albany, October 22, 1777:

"I send by Congt the Iron work mentioned in your Letter to Colo. Varick, three Iron Potts & the Box with Scythes--The Stones I cannot find, nor can any Body here give any information respecting them.

"Colonel Lewis informs me that he has sent up to Blacksmiths. The Trowels are not yet completed.

"To Morrow is fixed for General Burgoyne's Departure...."(10)

4. General Schuyler to J. Lansing, Jun, dated Saratoga, October 23, 1777:

"The Carpenters under Capt. Thayre being ordered to Join Colo. Baldwin, you will please to proceed to Schenectady and procure as large a number there as you possibly can, also as many Masons as you can get. I am so much in want of Masons that you must allow them extraordinary wages rather than not procure them."(11)

It thus appears that Schuyler was employing Continental Soldiers from Captain Thayre's Company, Colonel Jeduthan Baldwin's detachment of engineers and artificers, to construct his house at Saratoga. The main portion of Gates' army, however, left Saratoga within three or four days following the surrender and Captain Thayre' company also arrived at Albany on October 24.(12) Apparently Varick, in his letter of October 21, had correctly estimated the value of Gates' offer of assistance.

5. J. Lansing, Jun. to Schuyler, dated Albany October 25, 1777:

"I am honored with your Favor of the 23d which was delivered me yesterday eving.

"I could not get any Masons of the Town to go up to Saratoga except Nicholas Jarolleman who is reputed a good Workman - He has engaged to take with him his Apprentice, who he informs me is as good a Mason as himself.

"I have agreed to pay him Sixteen Shillings per Day and his Apprentice twelve. Enormous Wages but absolutely necessary to induce them to work.

"Mr. Glen of Schenectady to whom I have applyed for Assistance has promised to send two on Monday, nor can I prevail upon Jarrolleman to go up before.....

"General Burgoine proposes to set off to Morrow....."(13)

6. Varick to Schuyler, dated Sat. October 25, 1777:

"Yesterday I was honored with your Favor of Thursday /Oct. 23/ am happy to hear the Iron Work is come safe to Hand.

"The Clevisses & pins were to have been sent off Yesterday, but the Servants neglected calling for them at the Blacksmiths Shop they will be sent on this Day.

"Genl. Burgoyne & his Suite are still here Nor is it certain that they will go to Morrow. We are disappointed from Day to Day.

"Mrs. Schuyler has a Great Deal of Trouble with them, and her Servants....."(14)

7. Lansing to Schuyler, dated Albany, October 27th, 1777:

"As Colonel Varick informs me that you will be in want of more Masons then you mention in your Letter to me and as I find it impracticable to procure any here I shall instantly set off for Schenectady and endeavor to send you four or five in addition to those already agreed with. The Rain which we have had all Day has hitherto detained the two that were to go from here: but they will go off on the Morrow.

"General Burgoine & Train have at last decamped - They sett off early this Morning....."(15)

8. Lansing to Schuyler, Letter dated Albany, October 29, 1777:

"I send you by the Bearer two British Soldier who are Masons by Trade and prisoners - These I procured by the Intervention of General Philips /Phillips/, who by giving them permission to enter your Employ has removed their Scruples respecting the Safety of that Measure. The others I could not prevail to go voluntarily.

"The Saw Mill Keys, which Mrs. Schuyler informs me were not come to Hand on Saturday, were put in the Cart which Dick drove, and I doubt are found before now, however to

prevent your being at a loss I have directed Mr. Mynderse to have a Couple more made, and shall send them as soon as finished. The Trowels I cannot get made until to Morrow as a Number of Horses which require Shoeing and which are directed to preceed all other work are now at the Shops.

"Last Night I gave orders to your Guard to hold themselves in Readiness to go off to Day. I was met this Morning by Colonel Van Schaick who informs me that he had been directed that none of the Troops should be suffered to leave the Town, and that he had in express Terms prohibited the Guard from Marching - Upon receiving this Information I immediately applied to General Gates and requested him to counter mand his order - In Answer, he observed that the Men composing the Guard were destitute of Cloathing: that their pay had not been settled for some Time past and that Colonel Van Schaick was very anxious that they should rejoin the Regiment; that for those Reasons he would be necessitated to order the Guard to join Colo. Van Schaick's Regiment and send up a Captain and fifty Men to Saratoga to relieve such as were there - I endeavored to obviate the Difficulties he stated; but to no purpose - His Determination is fixed. In consequence, I suppose he will order some of the Easterns for the purpose.

"The Rifle-men and Light Infantry being encamped on the Hill back of the House render the Tenure on which the potatoes are held exceeding precarious - Mrs. Schuyler has detained the Servants for the purpose of securing them.

"The Servants will be sent up to Morrow. Your fencing on the Hill is mostly appropriated by the Troops and applyed to sheltering them, and all that can be obtained from the officers is a promise that they will not suffer the Materials to be burned or destroyed...."

"General Burgoyne Suite and Visitors have entirely discomposed the Aconamy of the Family and have given no small degree of Trouble to Mrs. Schuyler. They intend to stay till Wednesday.

"A Blacksmith accompanies the Masons - I send you the Keys by the Bearer - Two of the Guards go with the Masons for Fear they should repent of their Bargain."(16)

9. Varick to Schuyler, dated Albany October 30, 1777:

"Your very polite favor of the 25th Inst. was delivered me on Monday. - since which the weather has been so boisterous that no opportunity had offered to write to You.-

"In consequence of your Letter Mr. Lansing set out for Schenectady immediately, there he found Colo. Yates who had already procured two & Mr. Lansing procured two More, I hope they will be with You this Day, if not already there.-The two in Town seem very loath to move, however I shall importune them.

"Jeaherm [?] says he gave the Iron Work in Charge to Colo. Rensselar & knows Nothing of the Iron for the Scythes.- Some are making & Mr. Lansing will take them up. As also some writing Paper. I will send You more by Mrs. Schuyler who will pay You a Visit in two or three Days. She is exceedingly anxious to be with You.-

"Genl. Arnold is growing better very fast, he requests his Compliments to You he is in Expectation of Accompanying You to Congress - He is not satisfied with Genl. Gates" Convention, he believes we might have caught them on more advantageous Terms than we have.-

"During Burgoyne's stay here, he gave Arnold great credit for his Bravery & Military abilities, especially in the action of the 19th whenever he spoke of him & once in the presence of Gates. Politicks were very freely talked of & they were pretty free on the subjects; Burgoyne & Kingston were very polite, also Lord Petersham - his aid.- Burgoyne thinks lightly of Skene.

"The Weather has been so unfavorable as to preveny my waiting on Major Ackland I shall do It in the Morning & comply with your Request.- I am sorry that the Rain has impeded Your Building. I hope the Cold will not set in soon to injure Your Work....

"Great Part of Gates' Army is still here, they have destroyed almost all the Fences in the Vicinity of the Town among others You have a great share of Loss. Mrs. Schuylers Poultry & Gardens have suffered in Defiance of Every Order or threat.

"The Water is exceedingly high here & the Roads almost impassable when we shall get rid of the Soldiers God only knows...."(17)

10. Varick to Schuyler: dated Albany November 1, 1777:

"Since I had the pleasure of writing to you by Mr. Lansing Nothing new has occurred. The Weather has been so beautiful that Mrs. Schuyler apprehended You would set out this Morning to meet her. She therefore sends the Bearer to inform You that she will not set out till Monday when if the weather is good she will do herself the pleasure to wait on You & will no Doubt be happy of meeting you half way or rather at Still Water. I shall accompany her up & return immediately.

"Genl. Arnold is growing better daily. As also Major Ackland. The General censures Gates' detaining the Troops, he says they ought of joined Genl. Washington by this Day.

"Gates is billotting 1500 in and about this place. It creates great uneasiness...."(18)

11. Schuyler to Congress, dated Saratoga, November 4, 1777:

Schuyler wrote in part, "On the 2nd instant two British Officers on their way to Canada took shelter in a violent storm of rain in my little hut, the only remains of all my buildings in this quarter." Towards the close, he stated, "in less than twenty days, I shall nearly complete a comfortable house for the reception of my family."(19)

12. Varick to Schuyler, dated Albany, November 5, 1777:

"Agreeable to Your Request I send You the Frames by Peter Mellon which is the quickest Conveyance I know of: The Chimney stands & Bars are now making as soon as these are done they shall be sent on with the Stove pipe, which Mr. Shepherd is to pick out this Morning.- You say the Bar 2 to be 5 feet long but mention nothing of the Length of the other two....
"Mr. Rensselaer says he thinks he has Hinges sufficient, these shall be sent in the Waggons with the Other Articles.
"Neither Seal Wax or Wafers are to be had in Town - I enclose you what I have.-
"I have wrote to Mr. Glen & Reed. an answer last Night. It shall be complyed with. Inclose you a Letter from him... my best Respects to Mrs. Schuyler." (20)

13. Morgan Lewis to Schuyler, dated Albany November 6, 1777:

"I wrote the Day before Yesterday acknowledging the Receipt of Yours and acquainting you that I had forwarded the Nails you wrote for, likewise a Grind Stone, and a Box of Glass for Mrs. Schuyler. Whatever Material are necessary to carry on the Buildings at Saratoga, I should be obliged to you to write me for.
"Colo. Hamilton Genl Washingtons aid....have arrived here on public Business, in consequence of which a Brigade is ordered to join Genl. Washington, which is I believe less than they expected...." (21) My best Respects to Mrs. Schuyler."

14. General Schuyler to John Jay, dated Saratoga, November 6, 1777:

"As I shall shortly be altogether out of public life, I am earnestly engaged in building me a house at this place, that I may be as far out of the noise and hustle of the great world as possible....my hobby-horse has long been a country life; I dismounted once with reluctance, and now saddle

him again with a very considerable share of satisfaction, and hope to canter him on to the end of the journey of life; I dismounted once with reluctance, and now saddle him again with a very considerable share of satisfaction, and hope to canter him on to the end of the journey of life...."

"What further buildings are necessary may be cheaply and speedily erected, as the frame of the whole house can be sawed, boards and every other material procured at the cheapest rates. The new house, which I began on the 1st instant, and which will be under cover, and have 2 rooms finished by the 15th instant, unless the weather should prove remarkably wet; but observe that it is only a frame house, 60 feet long, 21 broad, and 2 stories high, filled in with brick."22)

15. Lansing to Schuyler, dated Albany, November 7, 1777"

"I was Yesterday afternoon honored with your Favor of the 5th Instant, and immediately went to Town to endeavor to procure the Masons out of the Brigade stationed here; but could neither find General Gates or Colonel Greaton (who commands Nixon's Brigade) at their quarters. I shall this Morning wait on Gates for an order for four Masons and send them up instantly, if they can be got. Those from Schenectady Mr. Glen informs were to set off on Wednesday, but lest you should have received information from that Quarter since the Date of Mr. Glen's Letter (which, I think, was of the 3rd) I shall venture to send up those I can procure.

"The Bearer has in Charge six Hay Forks, a piece of smoaked Beef, two Tongues, and Mr. Cadmen's Diamond which he begs you to return as soon as the glass is set.

"Mary is much at a loss as to the Disposition of the Milch Cows, which are daily milked by some Rascal before the Men she sends for that purpose get to them. She requested me to beg Mrs. Schuyler's Directions on the Subject - Mary thinks it best to put them in your pasture before the House. I shall send over a couple of the Guards to watch the cows all Day and try to detect the thieves.

"The Bars for the Chimneys are not yet completed.

"Patterson's Brigade is ordered to join the Southern Army in Pennsylvania....My best Respects wait on Mrs. Schuyler. The family are all well." (23)

16. Lansing to Schuyler, Albany November 8, 1777:

"Upon application to General Gates for permission to take some Masons out of the Troops stationed here, he informed me that he could not suffer any to be drafted out of them but that if I would go to Schenectady he would give me

an Order to Colonial Van Schaick to deliver me all the Masons of his Regiment - The Order being furnished I set off for Schenectady and found that four had already been sent off - I procured three more who will leave Schenectady this Morning." (24)

17. Varick to Schuyler, Albany 8, 1777:

"Nothing new has occurred since Mine of the 5th. Except that Glovers & Pattersons Brigade are under Orders to march for the South Ward immediately. So that the Barracks begun at Cayman's will remain as a Monument of Gates' Folly.-

"General Arnold is growing better very fast. He is in Good spirits, then he had a slight Touch of the Gout....

"The Chimney Irons are not yet finished. I shall hurry them as fast as possible. Miss Peggy & the young Gentleman are very Well. They join in Love to you and Mrs. Schuyler....(25)

18. General Horatio Gates to Schuyler, dated Albany, November 9, 1777:

"As the Hoists, Major Stevens bespoke at Your Saw Mill, for the Ordnance Store, to be erected here, are exceedingly Wanted; I desire You will Order so many of the Batteau Men, Now at Saratoga, as are necessary to raft them down the River to Albany to be immediately employed in that Work.

"As there is great danger of Wood being wanted for the use of this garrison, and the General Hospital, I must request you will spare all the Batteaux men you possible can from above, as we have Scows in plenty, A great deal of Wood cut, and only want Hands that are proper to transport it to the City. If more men are wanted at Saratoga, I will send you a Company or two from Van Schaick's Regiment - provided they can be Quarter'd until the Barracks are built." (26)

19. Varick to Schuyler, dated Albany, Sunday Noon, November 9, 1777:

"....The Stove Pipe & Chimney Bars will be sent to Morrow or next day if the latter be ready.-

"As Charles has little to do with his Cart I shall send him to Saratoga, especially as his every Look & Action evinces him to be too lazy to remain here. Miss Peggy and the Family are very well.... With Every Respectfull & Good wishes to Mrs. Schuyler & Yourself." (27)

20. General Schuyler to Varick, dated Saratoga, November 10, 1777:

"Mrs. Schuyler begs if an opportunity offers that you will send her a pair of Andirons that were formerly here.

A white wash brush or two that have been used and two Brooms.

"The House was raised on Saturday /November 8/ two rooms and a cellar kitchen will be finished by Saturday next /November 15/ but I believe an account of the Dampness we shall not move in Untill the Seventeenth." (28)

21. Varick to Schuyler; dated Albany, November 12, 1777, 8 OClock 8 A.M.

"Yesterday Afternoon I was favored with Your Favor of the 10th Instant....

" I am sorry to inform You that both Mr. Rensselaer & Mr. Shepard have deceived about the Chimney Irons. They are not done Yet, occasioned by the Variety of public Work which has employed Shephard's Hands - He promises to compleat them to Day.

"The Andirons shall be sent agreeable to Mrs. Schuyler's Request. Mary has but one white Wash Brush which she is averse to parting with, as she has It now in Use - I shall endeavor to procure two in Town as also the Brooms.

"I am happy to hear Your Building is in such Forwardness, but at the same Time apprehend Your being delayed for want of the Irons.-

"Your Letters to Merrs. Jay & Dygert shall be forwarded by the first safe conveyance. None has yet offerred.

"Genl. Arnold, tho much weakened is growing better slowly, he begs his Compliments to you and Mrs. Schuyler - Lincoln is mending very fast." (29)

22. Lansing to Schuyler, dated Albany, November 12, 1777:

"The Bearer has in Charge a Stove with about twelve feet pipe, a pair of Andirons, Two white wash Brushes and a couple of Brooms forty pair of Door Hinges, eight pair of Window Do. and four Chimney Bars...." (30)

23. Varick to Schuyler. Dated Albany, Thursday, November 13, 1777 - 2 OClock P.M.:

"Incl. Your Directions by Mr. Lansing to send up a Stove. I have accordingly fixed the Pipe you sent for before & It will be sent up in the morning.

"The Chimney Bars will not be Done till Evening. The want of Coals has been assigned among other causes of Delay.... The Stands will be sent afterwards, Shepard says they are not immediately wanted, however, he is to do them without delay.-

"Mr. Lansing promises to send the Brushes & Brooms as well as Andirons to Morrow....My respects to Mrs. Schuyler." (31)

24. Varick to Schuyler, dated Albany, November 16, 1777, 1 OClock A.M.

"Your Favor of the 14th 12 OClock was delivered me Yesterday Afternoon on my Return from Schenectady.

"As no one of our Family can inform me where the Baggage Waggon is, I have Directed Charles to take the Stoves in his Ox Team which Mr. Lansing has ordered up.-

"The Leather for the Servants & the Cloth for Mittens also go up in a Cask, a small Ball of Thread is delivered in Charge to Matthew; as there is not a sufficient Quantity of Thread; I shall send two pounds of Flax as soon as It is pitched which with the Flax & thread sent, will do.-

"Mr. Shepherd has not done the Saratoga Kettle Nor will Mary part with any of hers upon any Terms. She says she dare not do it.- I shall press him to do it & when done, I shall send it in your Baggage Waggon.

"I send both large Stoves, on a Supposition that you prefer them to the Small one, as I had no Directions which to send before. I sent you that which had not been in use here lately.-

"Mr. Glen informed me on Friday that he could get, the Shingle Cutters, to move Yet.-

"With most Respectful Compliments to Mrs. Schuyler."

"Mr. Lansing tell me Potts has your Waggon."(32)

25. Lansing to Schuyler, dated Albany, November 22, 1777:

"Your Favor of the 15th was delivered me on Thursday.

"As there was no Ratteen in the Indian Store, I have instead of it, taken Coating, which may perhaps answer the purpose for which the Ratteen was designed. Con will deliver you ten Yards of green Coating and the Annual Register of 1774. The Magazine I cannot find...."

"Mr. Cadmus goes off on Monday or Tuesday with him I shall send the Iron Pots, which Mrs. Schuyler requested of Miss Peggy...

"The Flour which was to be sent from Saratoga is much wanted for the Hogs, what was sent down in the waggon being expended." (33)

26. Varick to Schuyler, dated Albany, November 26, 1777 10 OClock P.M.

"Agreeable to Your Request I have ordered the Horses to be shoed & send them by your Servant - By him You will also receive the Trowels.

"I have had the Iron Work sorted & picked out by Mr. Graham & shall send for it to Morrow. - The Stove will then also be put up.

"The last Flag is come up from New York Yesterday, but Nothing is come from Mr. Ludlove for You, Somethings, sent for by Lady Acland are arrived but am sorry to find the Porter & Oysters left behind.

"Genl. Gates informs me You have a Letter from Congress, We are anxious to know the Contents, if proper to be communicated, which we expect to hear by Mrs. Schuyler....

"Genl. Arnold has been very ill while I was at Saratoga but is now Much better - his Spirits seem to be increased this Eveng....(34)

27. Schuyler to a Friend, dated Saratoga, November 28, 1777:

"On the first instant [November 1st] I began a house, on the 19th I had two rooms and Cellar Kitchen finished and on the 30th Instant I shall discharge my carpenters."(35)

REFERENCES

8. General Phip Schuyler Papers, New York Public Library, N. Y. Cit, Letter No. 1138.

9. Ibid., Lettr No. 2342.

10. Ibid., Lettr No. 1065.

11. This letteris in the Collections of the Philip Schuyler Mansion, Alany, N. Y.

12. See Baldwir Judthan, The Revolutionary Journal of Col. Jeduthan Bdwin, 1775-1776. Edited with a memoir by Thomas William Baldwin. Bangor, printed for the De Burrians, 1906. (Sartoga Microfilm Roll No. 8), p. 125: to Albany 36 M. this prced march was ocationed by our hearing that the Enemy ws coming up the River & had burnt Espoas.
Oct. 19, atAlbany, the Troops much fatigued.
Oct. 23, Cat. Low came down.
Oct. 24, atAlbany, Capt. Thayre came down."

13. Schuyler Paprs, N. Y. Public Library, Letter No. 1066

14. Ibid., Lettr No. 2343.

15. Ibid., Lettr No. 1067

16. Ibid., Lettr No. 1068

17. Ibid., Lettr No. 2344

18. Ibid., Lettr No. 2345

19. New York Hitorical Collections for 1879, p. 191

20. Schuyler Paprs, N. Y. Public Library, Letter No. 1069

21. Ibid., Lettr No. 1139

22. The Correspadence and Public Papers of John Jay, 1763-1781, Edited by Hary P. Johnson, New York and London, 1890, Vol. I, p. 71.

23. Schuyler Paprs, N. Y. Public Library, Letter No. 1069.

24. Ibid., Lettr No. 1070

25. Ibid., Letter No. 2347

26. Ibid., Letter No. 735

27. Ibid., Letter No. 2348

28. Mr. Lloyd W. Smith's Manuscript Collection.

29. Schuyler Papers, N. Y. Public Library, Letter No. 2349

30. Ibid., Letter No. 1072.

31. Ibid., Letter No. 2350.

32. Ibid., Letter No. 2350.

33. Ibid., Letter No. 1074.

34. Ibid., Letter No. 2352

35. Mr. Lloyd W. Smith's Manuscript Collection.

T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S

Foreward.....

Acknowledgements.....

Physical History

1777 House.....

KITCHEN CA 1780

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IV PHYSICAL HISTORY

According to a long standing local tradition the Schuyler House was little changed from its original building in November 1777. This tradition, I find, was based on the fact that the building had never been furnished with modern conveniences such as electricty, plumbing and central heating which we all take for granted today.

The studies made by the architects of the Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction during the summers of 1956 and 1958 indicate that the tradition is very wrong and that the house had been extensively altered at two different times since it was built. Very little of the original house remains with the exception of the foundation, basic framing and a part of the brick nogging. The first alteration was done by General Schuyler, circa 1787, about ten years after the original construction. A great deal of the work done at that time remains in place today and can be preserved. The second alteration was done after General Schuylers death.

A. Earlier Houses

The existing house is the third Schuyler House to be erected on this general site. The exact location of the two earlier house is not known but may be determined by further archeological research. The first house was owned and occupied by the grandfather of General Schuyler and was destroyed when General Philip Schuyler was still a child. The second house was inherited by General Schuyler after the

C. House and Kitchen as Altered c. 1787

In 1786 we find the first definite documentry evidence that work was started to convert the Schuyler House into a more livable year-around home. Large quantities of materials started to arrive, many of them from merchants in New York City who acted as agents to Schuyler in the sale of lumber floated down the Hudson from Saratoga. The following are from Schuylers account with "Stevens and Hubbell", one of the New York merchants:

"1786						
July 1	668 lbs. Nails		@97		26 : 18 : 10	
October 16	1 cask 20d Nails 198Lbs.		@107		8 : 13 : 3	
	1 do 24d do 112Lbs		do		4 : 18 : 8	
1787						
March 1	1 cask 10d Nails wt 182 lbs		9/	L	7 : 4 : 1	
	500 ft 12 x 10 Glass		120/		30 : - : -	
	15 ½ Gallo Spirits		6/6		5 : - : 9	
	312 gallons N.York Rum	@ 2/7			4 : 1 : 4	
	1 bbl Sugar	@ 67/			6 : 9 : 10	
	1 bbl for Rum				- : 6 : ½	

(. Schuyler Papers, NYPL)

On June 25, 1787, Eben[z] Stevens

house or kitchen during this period of time. One item, probably the finisihing touch to the house is mentioned on page 117 of Schuylers Saratoga account book:

" May 17, 1791 To cash for Paper Hangings paid John Taylor Dr. " 4-10- 18

(18. Schuyler Papers, New York Public Library)

This probably refers to the wallpapers found in the Hall and Parlor during our investigations in 1956. The se two wallpapers have recently been reproduced for us by the "Imperial Paper and Color Corporation" of Glens Falls, New York.

John B. Schuyler died in the fall of 1795 and in December of that year Schuyler gave orders for the removal of his late son's belongings from the house and to drive them to Albany. These orders were carried out in January 1796. Correspondence pertaining to this gives some idea of the outbuildings and furnishings at that time. Below is Schuyler's letter written from the Saratoga house:

"Saratoga December 19, 1795

Sir

I inclose you a letter for the tenants on several of my lots requesting them to ride two days for me in the course of the present winter. Those who do not comply will be charged with ten Shillings for each day which I will pay you -

On the loft of the wagon house there is about one hundred bushels of corn and a quantity of oats. If it is more convenient for you to send me oats and corn from Waterford or Halfmoon it is in your option so to do. I wish to have them sent the first good sleding as I have but little grain for my Horses at Albany. All the furniture, beef and other things which are to go to Albany you will please to send to my house and give the Persons who carry it each a bill of what he takes -

The Franklin in the Wagon house is to be sent down last -

I shall send for the Horse sleds in the winter.

In the root celler is a quantity of potatoes please to sell them for me, reserving what you may want for your family use. The other garden stuff is at your service as at present.

Please to take Account of any farming utinsels, chains & etc and give me a list thereof the like to be returned at the Experation of the lease or paid for at your option.

Inclose you an account of the board and plank which are at the upper mill belonging to the Estate of my late son. be so good as to have them brought to the landing for which I will pay you, and also the rails on the same paper I have noted the board and plank now at the landing belonging to the Estate.

Mr. Robert Parkes has engaged the boards planks and rails, and when he is ready to raft you will please to delive r the whole to him-

The bedstead, bedding, chairs, stove and the white cupboard with anything that may be therein are to be left here, as also the maple wood writing table - the other furniture in the south room is to be sent down.

Be so good as to send down the wheat as fast as it is threshed. I may be convenient to send the chairs on the Sleds loaded with wheat or other Grain, or the flaxseed which is in the wagon house loft.

The pork and beef in the cellar, as also the paint Kegs(?) of oil must be sent down unles you should be ableto sell the beef and pork here.

The green chairs belongs to Mt. Toll(?) please toDeleiver them when he sends for them.

Please to deliever the Negro man Lisbon five bushels of Corn whenever he sends for it.

Be so good as to send down the Phaeton top which lays in the Wagon house with the very first sleds that carries a load down.

If any person wants to buy the Log Carriage please to sell it.

And as I have not time to copy this letter please to bring me a copy thereof when you come to Albany.

Most sincerely wishing you health and happiness I am

Your Obedient Servant
Ph. Schuyler

To Richard Davis Esq." 19

(19. Schuyler Papers. New York Public Library)

We have no record on how the house was used after the death of John Bradstreet Schuyler in 1795 until his son, (General Schuyler's Grandson) married and moved into the house in 1811 unless we interpet the above letter to indicate that Schuyler leased the building to Richard Davis. General Schuyler may have retained the house as his Summer Office until his death in 1804. No papers have been found which give light on this subject. During this period there was no let up in the activities at Saratoga. New Mills were built and more tenant houses and barracks were erected.

Philip Schuyler II, son of John Bradstreet Schuyler and grandson of General Philip Schuyler lived in the house from 1811 until he lost the house in the financial panic of 1837. He would be the first occupant of the home to have raised a large family and require additional rooms. The Generals family, while large, was largely grown when the house was built. John B. Schuler had only two children, one of whom died in infancy. Phillip Schuyler II who had five daughters, could conceivably have required extra space and erected the rear teir of rooms and the front gallery in the late 1820's or early 1830's. We know that they were erected before Benson J. Lossing's trip to the area in 1848. when the house was out of the Schuyler family. Old maps tentatively dated 1837 for an aid in disposing the Schuyler property indicate that these additions were not made at that time.

POST SCHUYLER HOUSE

In 1839 the house was purchased by George Strover, who may have erected the reir teir of rooms soon after aquiring the house. A study of his papers failed to reveal what work he had done on the house. Many accounts were found for building materials, however it was not listed to which of his numerous properties the materials were intended. Apparently he remodeled the kitchen soon after he purchased the house. Interior partitions were removed. Double Hung windows were added and the one casement removed. The fireplace and cimney was rebuilt eliminaing the brick ovens. A water warming vat was installed in their place.

After Strovers death very little was done to the house except maintenance, and that not too good, until the house was aquired and stabilized by the National Park Service in the 1950's.

Soon after the Park Service aquired the House the put in good repair and had the exterior painted. Some rotted sections were removed and replaced, however a great deal more of this remains to be done.

In the summer of 1956, the writer and Building Restoration Specialest Whittington did some preliminary investigations and started the interior restoration on the front and original dection of the house. The writer started a set of measured drawings of the building as found. These drawings were continues by Architect A. W. Franzen later in the year.

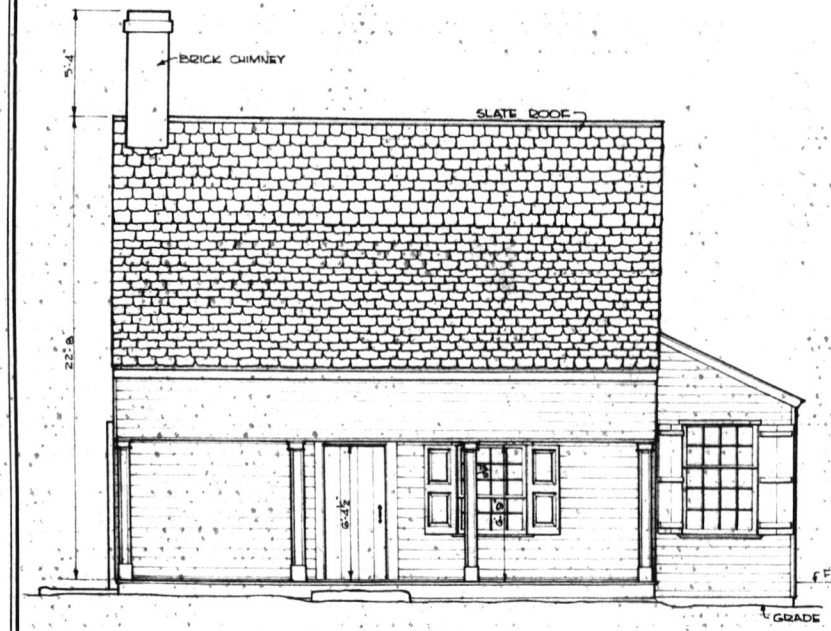
All plaster in the front section of the building, with the exception of small sections on the second floor and ceilings was in very bad condition. Plaster was literaly held up by the numerous layers of wall-paper left on the walls. (Nine layers were found in the parlor) In many places this plaster had received many patches over the years. The plaster had been applied directly to the sun dried brick nogging which by its very nature is a poor plaster backing. Wire lath was applied to the walls and new plaster applied. This plaster was allowed to stand at least a year before the reproduction wallpapers were applied.

The central hall which had been completely altered from its original form was restored. Original evidence for this restoration was found in the drawing found in the New York Historical Society. A careful study of the floor was made to locate ghosts of the former walls indicated on this drawing. By wetting the floors with a sponge these outline s were very clear. The measurements thus obtained checked amost exactly with the dimensions on this old drawing. There was a trap door in the hall floor when we found it for which no one could account for. We found that by restoring the original partitions that this trap door was in the pantry and provided access from the wine and food cellar.

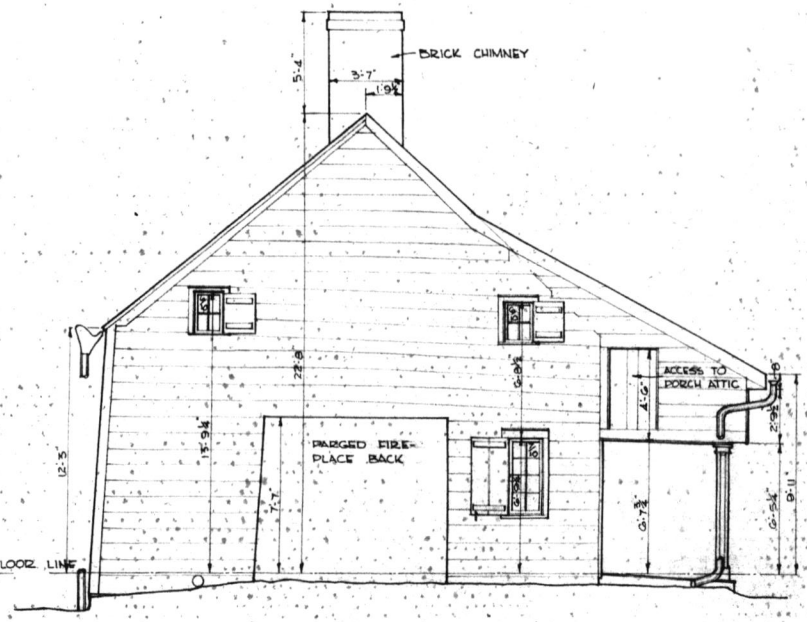
After the plastered ceiling was removed we found the outline of the top tread of the stairway and the outline where the cornice moulding had run in the stair opening. A ghost of the rail and balusters were found on the underside of a joist. With this information we were able to restore the stairway and entrance hall with very little conjecture.

Two mantels had been altered in later years. After paint removal on these mantels we were able to determine the original members and the later additions and changes. By removing the later additions we were able to pattern original mouldings from ghosts remaining on the remaining original members.

TRIM LINE



NORTH ELEVATION
SCALE ¼"-1'-0"

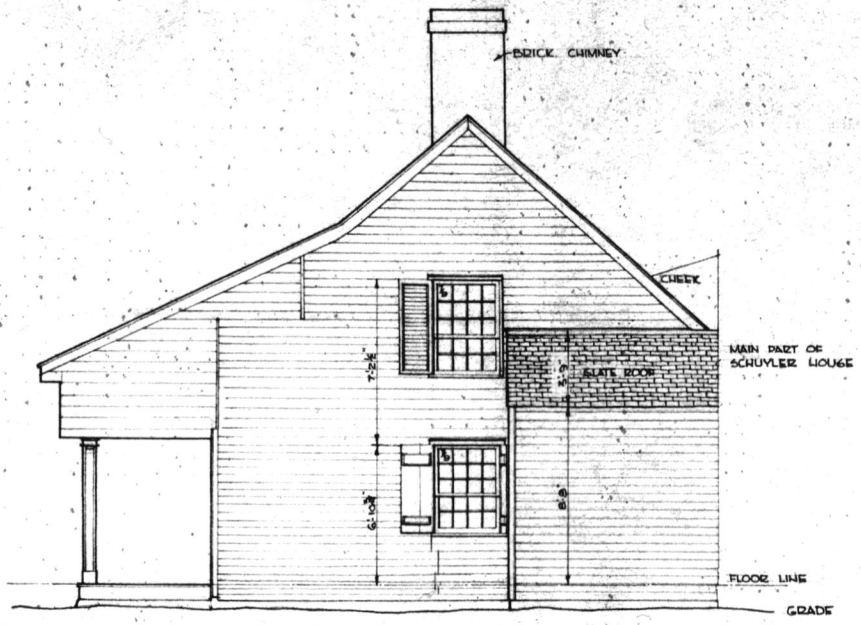


EAST ELEVATION
SCALE ¼"-1'-0"

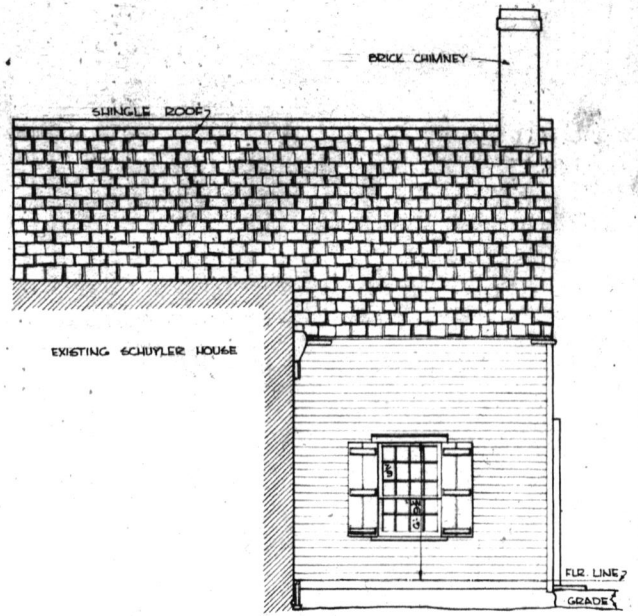
UNDER DIRECTION OF UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN	NAME OF STRUCTURE: GENERAL PHILLIP SCHUYLER HOUSE - KITCHEN	SURVEY NO.	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY SHEET OF SHEETS	LIBRARY OF CONGRESS BRICK MASONRY

TRIM LINE

TRIM LINE



WEST ELEVATION
SCALE ¼"=1'-0"



SOUTH ELEVATION
SCALE ¼"=1'-0"

UNDER DIRECTION OF UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN

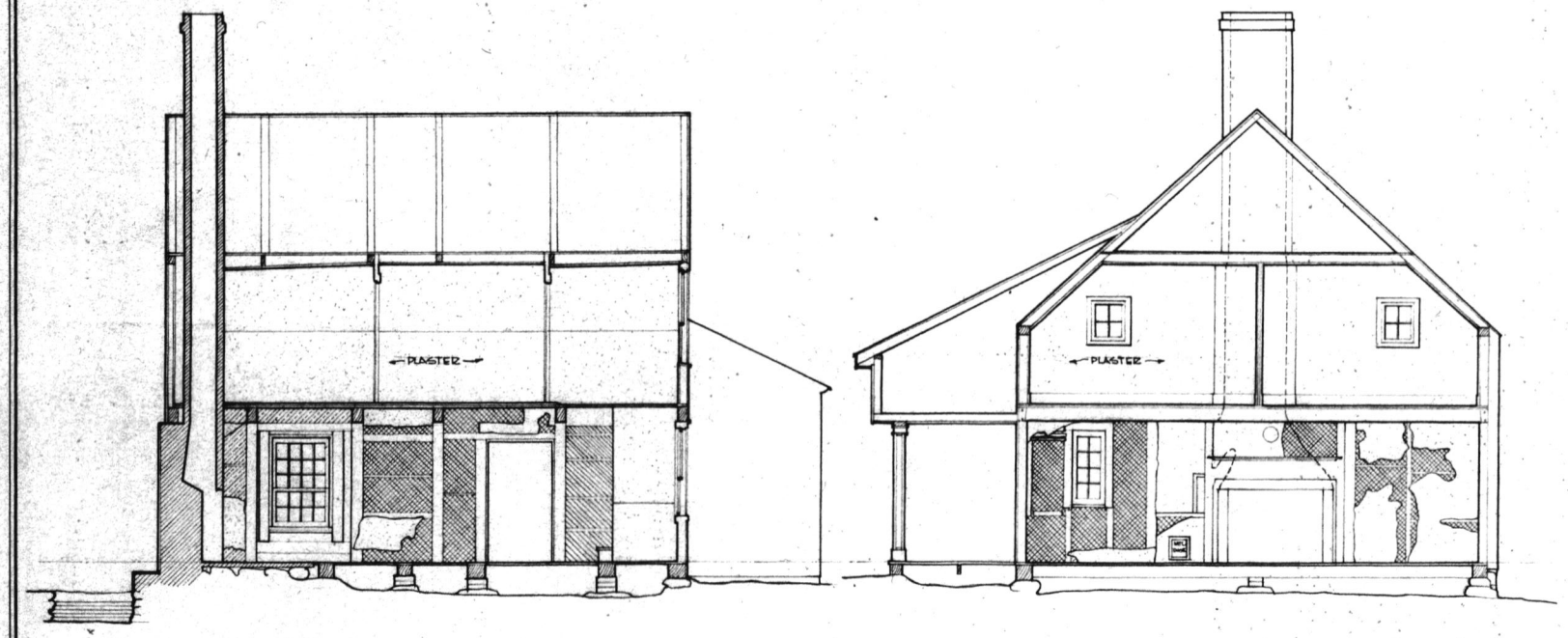
NAME OF STRUCTURE
GENERAL PHILLIP SCHUYLER HOUSE - KITCHEN

SURVEY NO.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET OF SHEETS

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS BRICK HOUSES

TRIM LINE



SECTION A-A
SCALE ½"=1'-0"

SECTION B-B
SCALE ½"=1'-0"

MUD BRICK NOGGING
LIME MORTAR
MUD BRICK NOGGING
MUD MORTAR
BURNT BRICK
CEMENT MORTAR

UNDER DIRECTION OF UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN

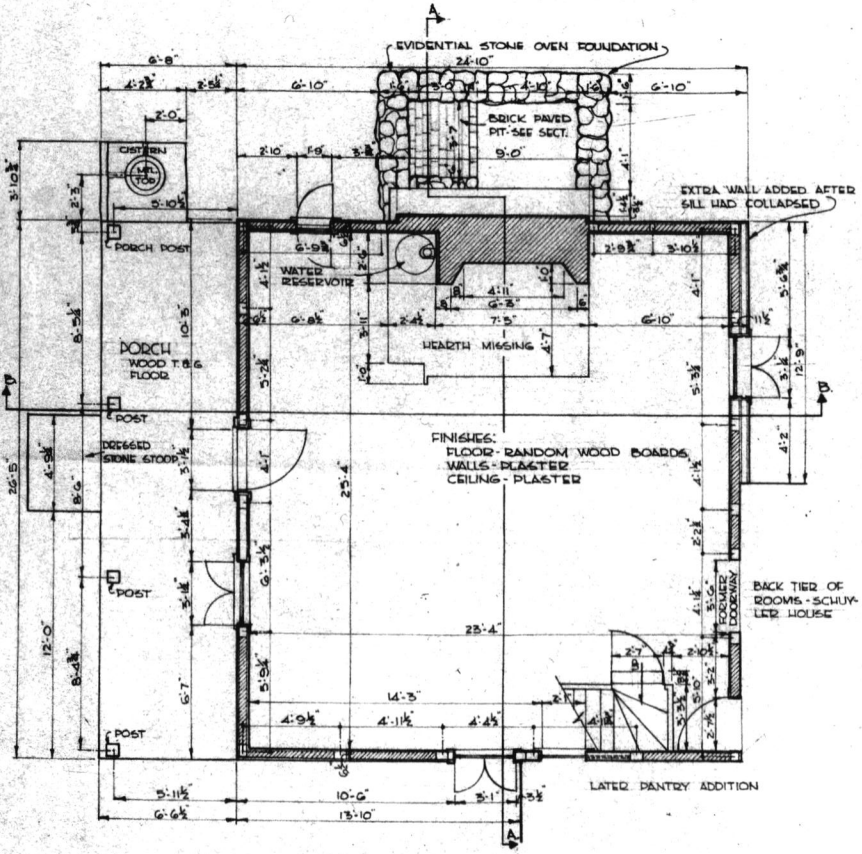
NAME OF STRUCTURE
GENERAL PHILLIP SCHUYLER HOUSE - KITCHEN

SURVEY NO.

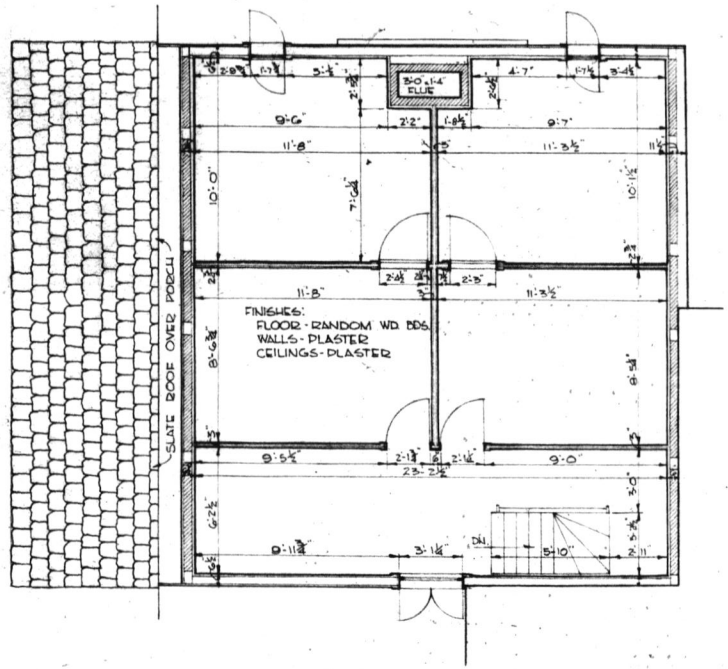
HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET OF SHEETS

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
BRICK NUMBER

TRIM LINE



FIRST FLOOR PLAN
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"



SECOND FLOOR PLAN
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"

D.F. SCHROEDER - DEL.

UNDER DIRECTION OF UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN	NAME OF STRUCTURE: GENERAL PHILLIP SCHUYLER HOUSE - KITCHEN	SURVEY NO.	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY SHEET OF SHEETS	LIBRARY OF CONGRESS BRICK BUILDING