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THE WARD HOUSE  
BLOODY LANE  
ANTIETAM NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD  
near, Sharpsburg, Maryland

prepared for  
Virgil Leimer  
Superintendent  
Antietam National Battlefield

11 May 1981

by  
Douglass C. Reed  
Preservation Associates, Inc.  
Box 202  
Sharpsburg, Maryland

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## Introduction

This paper delineates the investigation of a log building standing along Bloody Lane on the Antietam National Battlefield. For the purposes of this report the house will be referred to as the Ward House. Even though this effort focuses only on the Ward house it must be considered only a small piece within the overall complex picture of the history of the battlefield and surrounding region.

Of the 23,110 men killed at the Battle of Antietam on September 17, 1862,<sup>1</sup> fully 4,000 <sup>Casualties</sup> Confederate and Union soldiers ~~died~~ <sup>3 Surv</sup> in a furious ~~30-minute~~ engagement along a sunken road.<sup>2</sup>

That legendary sunken road located about one mile northeast of Sharpsburg, Md. is now called the Bloody Lane. It was the central position of the Confederate defenses in the battle that earned the infamous distinction of being the bloodiest day of the Civil War.

The effects of the destruction of men in such a conflict are obvious and in the case of Antietam is well documented. Other documentation gives, if not a complete picture, at least a fairly good indication of additional destruction to the topography, crops, woods and the built environment over which this great battle took place.

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<sup>1</sup>William A. Frassanito, Antietam (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1978), p. 47.

<sup>2</sup>The Morning Herald, September 1962, n.p.

It is the effects on the lives of the people, the battle trauma of having been innocently caught between two raging armies, that as yet remains to be told. How did the local inhabitants survive the immediate effects of the battle? Several farmers lost everything; their barns, houses, fences, crops and animals were all destroyed. Many residences in the town of Sharpsburg were badly damaged, the gardens were raided by the Confederates, the stables burned and animals stolen. How did the battle impact on the local economy and for how long? Was there any relief from the federal government? By what means did those people whose homes were destroyed provide shelter for their families until their new houses were built? Most importantly, are there lingering conflicts still raging on or about the Battle of Antietam?

Unfortunately, the answer to the last question appears to be yes. The local population had no choice when it was visited by the worst and most horrifying form of human associations, war. Though the Sharpsburg area was basically in support of the Union cause, there grew out of the Battle of Antietam a great deal of mistrust and open animosity by the inhabitants toward the federal government.

Since that fateful day of Sept. 17, 1862 there has been a continuous federal presence in the area. Often unwanted and dispised by the population. The location of the battle was certainly under no one's control. However, the claims for the damage that the local people made against the federal government

often resulted in long courts of inquiries. Samuel Mumma's farm was nearly totally destroyed during the battle yet his claim against the United States was not settled until October 15, 1888, long after his death.<sup>3</sup> Not only did it take an inordinate amount of time for the war claims to be settled, but often the amounts paid by the government were well below those claimed by the people. These long, drawn-out proceedings in the wake of a destructive battle left the local populace very bitter.

Shortly after the battle the federal government started to acquire land for the first national cemetery honoring the war dead. Though for many years there was no other federal acquisition of lands to protect the battlefield, there were constant reminders for the local people when permanent monuments and markers were set up for the visiting public.

The animosity the local people have for the government has been renewed and intensified in the last four decades because of the establishment of and the continuing land acquisition for the Antietam National Battlefield. The locals have often resented the destruction of buildings and the loss of the tax base the federal government causes when it acquires more ground. Though the buildings taken down may not have been part of the battle, they hold memories for the local families who lived in them.

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<sup>3</sup>U.S., Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Historic Structures Report-Antietam National Battlefield Site, by Francis F. Wilshin (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 28 August 1969), p. 41.

The symbolic relationship of a local populace trying to maintain its own separate identity in relation to its famous past could be the subject of a dissertation. Unfortunately, the limits and requirements of this paper will not allow it to address these issues.

Instead, only one small piece in the giant complex puzzle of the entire area known collectively as Antietam <sup>P Sharpsburg</sup> will be examined. That one small piece is a house located on the north side of the Bloody Lane. At least part of the house is said by the descendants of one family who owned it to have been there during the battle. The federal government maintains that the house was built after the battle, but is not sure whether there may have been some other house on the site at the time of the battle.

The house is in very poor condition and at present is a liability for the National Park. The park has owned the house since 1974 and now wishes to remove it. Their justification is that it is not original to the battle and it adversely impacts on the interpretation of the Bloody Lane.

On the other side of the issue are the descendants of a former owner and builder of the house. Arthur S. Ward, a grandson of the builder, firmly believes that the present structure was built from the ruins of the original that was damaged during the battle. He claims that all the foundation and much of the first floor are original and the second floor rebuilt. Mr. Ward states that "I am confirmed in the belief, that the removal of

the house is to commit historical vandalism."<sup>4</sup>

The only way the federal government can make a decision on the disposition of the house is to base their judgement on an examination of the structure, documentary research and the cultural value of the house relative to the battle. To a degree some of this research has already been done by the park. They have examined the ownership of the house and done a rather extensive investigation of the battle site in the middle of which this house sits. To some extent their documentation has been utilized in the following report.

The purpose of this effort was to examine the structure to try and determine the original construction date, the method of construction, subsequent improvements or repairs and whether or not the house was a significant material cultural resource. If the original construction was prior to the battle and portions of the initial house still remained, then this would lend weight to the argument for its salvation and restoration. If the house was built after the battle, yet it was a rare construction type, form or indicative of an early cultural living pattern, this too would argue for its restoration.

In order to establish the cultural aspects of the use of space within and immediately surrounding the house, a study was made to determine the uses of the rooms and how the families lived within the structure. Further research was done to attempt

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<sup>4</sup>Arthur S. Ward, "House," paper submitted to the Antietam National Battlefield Site, Sharpsburg, Md., 1975, p. 4.

to identify why the house was built as it was and where it was. If it was not built before the battle, why was the house placed on that historic land after the battle?

The method of study was by physical examination of the structure. Because of its condition and the park's desire to remove the structure, permission was granted by the park for any necessary dismantling in order to see the various framing systems of the walls, floors, and the roof. The archives of the Antietam National Battlefield were made available and Mrs. Betty Otto, the park historian, was very informative. The title search conducted by Paula Stoner in 1974 was consulted to establish the ownership of the property. Several local residents were interviewed for any possible knowledge they had about the structure or the people who lived there. The documentary evidence submitted by Mr. Ward which he believed to be proof of the existence of the house prior to 1862 was reviewed along with the original Sept. 21, 1862 Gardiner photos of the Bloody Lane. Several secondary sources about the battle were consulted. For comparative studies of the structure, three other buildings all located within the town of Sharpsburg were examined. They all were of a very similar construction and time period.

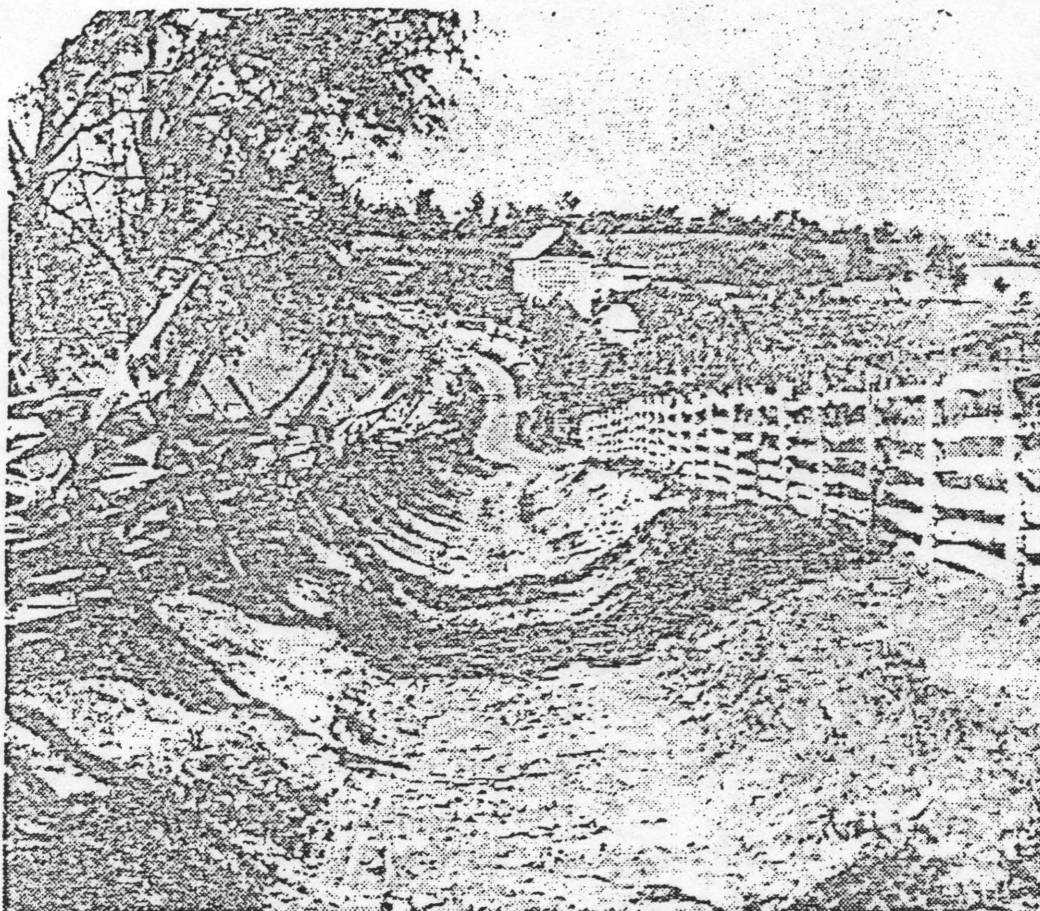
### The Site

The Ward House faces southwest and is located on the north side of the Bloody Lane approximately 400 yards east of the old Hagerstown Pike. It was built into a slightly rising hill inclined toward the west. The ground is striated with limestone ridges just to the north of the building, but tillable ground provided garden space between the house and the Roulette Farm lane 200 feet to the southeast of the house. The rest of the 4 acres and 13 perches of land that went with the house has been used as pasture for the grazing of horses.<sup>5</sup>

There were several outbuildings at various times none of which have survived except for one 1940's cinder block garage to the west of the house. Four and possibly five outbuildings can be seen in the 1877 photograph (refer plate 1, page 8).

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<sup>5</sup>The 1877 photo shows the lot in rough pasture and the local residents say the ground has always been used for pasture and a small garden.



BATTLE SCENE—This photograph of Old Sunken Road was taken in 1877. It was the site second of three major phases of the Battle of Antietam which will be reenacted Sept. 17 and 18. The road became known as "Bloody Lane" when 4,000 men died in 30 min.

*Long Cemetery in 3 hrs.*

# Plate 1: 1877 photograph of Ward House

View looking northwest with the Ward House on Bloody Lane just west of the Roulette Farm lane. The log walls were still exposed and corner braces can be seen in the original print.

Mrs. Edward Carter of Sharpsburg, Md. gave the author the above newsclipping from The Morning Herald. A clearer copy of the photograph can be seen in U.S., Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Antietam National Battlefield, Maryland, by Frederick Tilberg, National Park Service Historic Handbook Series No. 31 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1960; reprint ed., 1980).

## The Structure

The Ward log house was built in 1873 by James Ward. It is a two story with attic and full basement, three bay house facing southwest. The major construction was of braced vertical posts infilled with horizontal logs to complete the structural framing system.

The foundation walls were laid in close fitting limestone rubble. The joints between the stones were narrow and laid in clay mortar. The walls were covered with whitewash on the exterior. The interior of the basement walls were lightly coated with a rough cast and whitewashed. The basement was built into a hill and was directly accessible from a ground level exterior entrance in the southeast wall.

The log walls were constructed from salvaged material from one and possibly two older houses. These reused logs show signs of weather and rot damage from the previous structures. The weathered surfaces of many of the old logs now face the interior of the Ward House. Several of the logs exhibit the marks of construction from the earlier buildings where windows, doors, sill and top plates left their distinctive mortises and tenons and header cuts. There are a few of the corner notches on some log ends indicating that the older houses were interlocked at the corners with V notches.

In the building of the Ward House, instead of corner notching the logs, vertical posts were used at the corners and at

the mid-point of the two long walls. The only new pieces used in the log walls were these six posts and they were hewn from black walnut trees. (refer plates 2 through 7, pages 11-13).

The corner posts were mortised and tenoned to the sills and top plates and were secured by down braces. These braces were simply nailed to the posts and sills. The horizontal logs were also nailed in place against the posts and ~~no mortise or~~ tenon joints were used to make the frame rigid. The interstices between the logs were chinked with wood wedges driven hard into the cracks. The chinking was covered with a clay daubing and rendered with a lime finish. The whole interior and exterior was originally whitewashed. (refer plates 6 and 7, pages 12 and 13).

The roof was framed with small hewn poles spaced two feet on center and butt nailed at the peak. The rafter feet were butted and nailed against a false plate. The false plate was nailed on top the ends of the attic joists that extended beyond the top plates. These oversailing joist ends served as framing upon which was fastened the boxing.

The wood shingles were nailed to roof lath that allowed for a weather exposure of five inches on the north side and six inches on the south side of the roof. The existing lath indicates a standard butt shingle and not a double bevel side lap shingle that was commonly used in the Sharpsburg area. The roof is presently covered with twentieth century corrugated tin sheet metal roofing.



Plate 2: Southwest Elevation

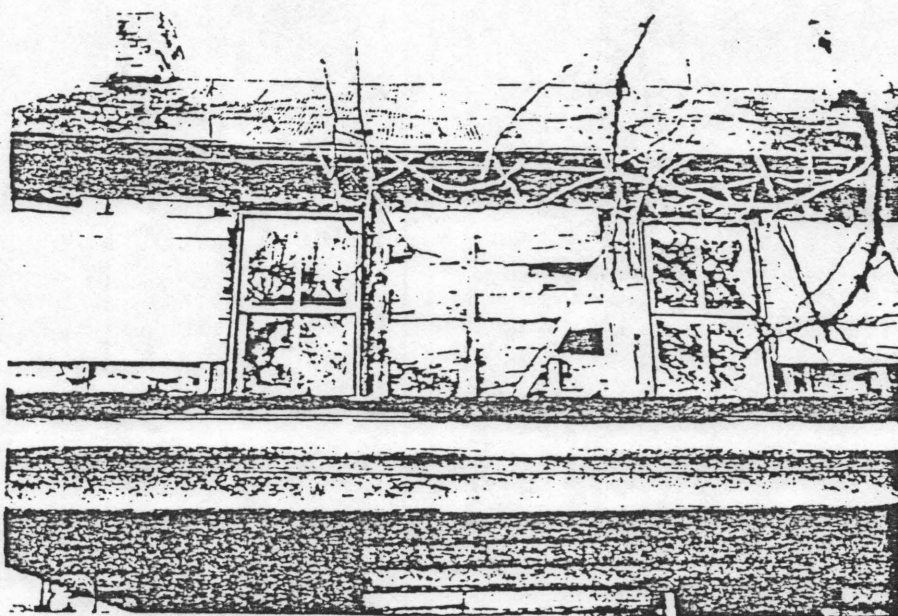


Plate 3

Southwest elevation, second story above porch roof. The story post is immediately left of right hand window. Post is mortised through scarf joint of top plate.



Plate 4

View looking east. Two first floor windows are covered by plywood.

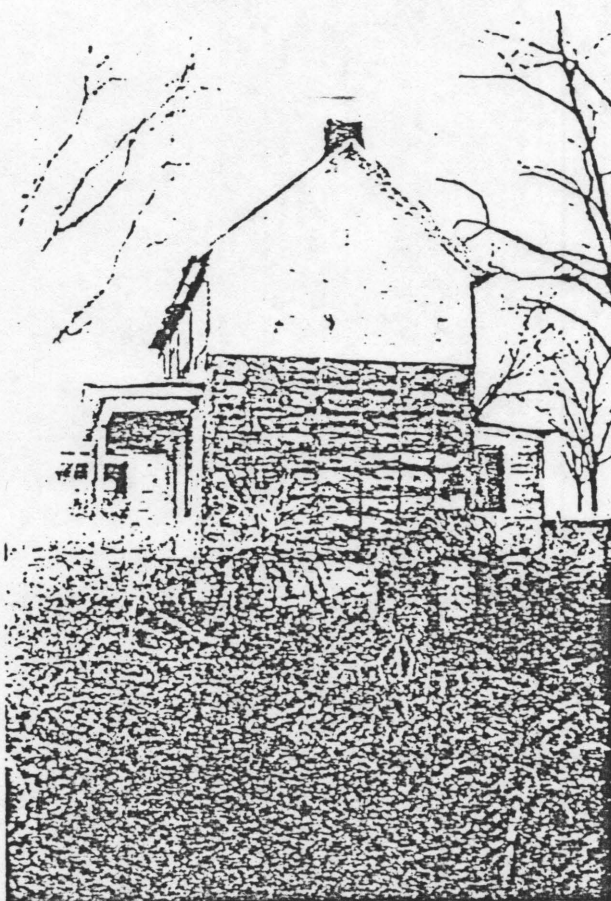


Plate 5

Southeast elevation showing house built into hill with basement level entrance. Front porch, siding, small room on back, and cinder block garage beyond front porch all added by Charles Lohman after 1918.

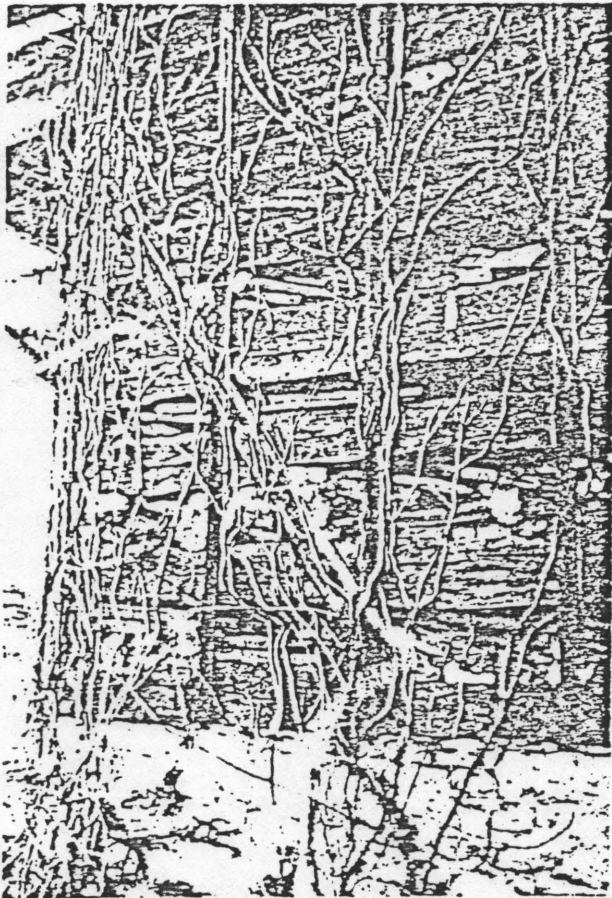


Plate 6

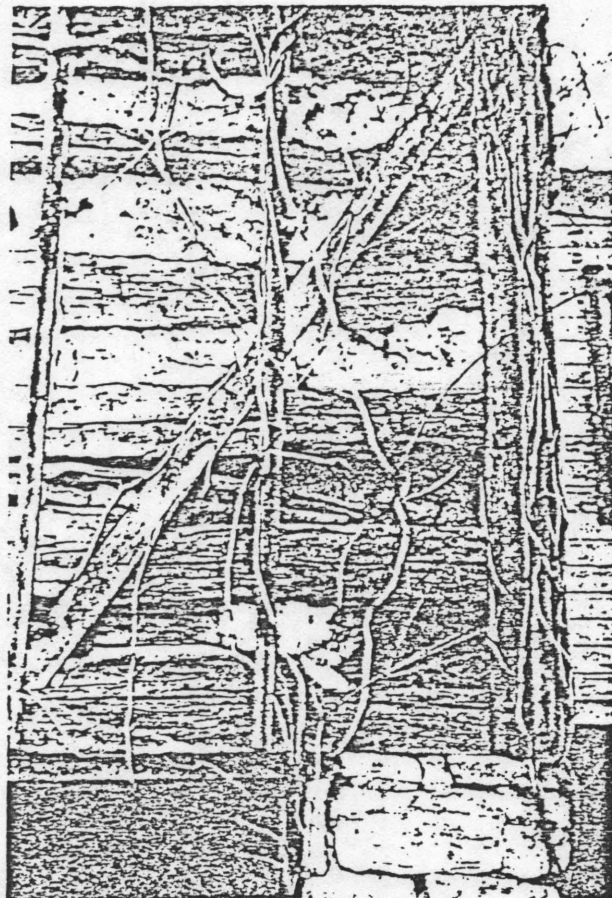


Plate 7

Plate 6: Southeast wall, south corner. Down brace and horizontal butt joined and nailed. Fourth log from foundation shows old joist pocket from earlier log houses. Wood chinking.

Plate 7: Southeast wall, east corner. Daubing was clay mixture finished with lime and the exterior painted with whitewash.

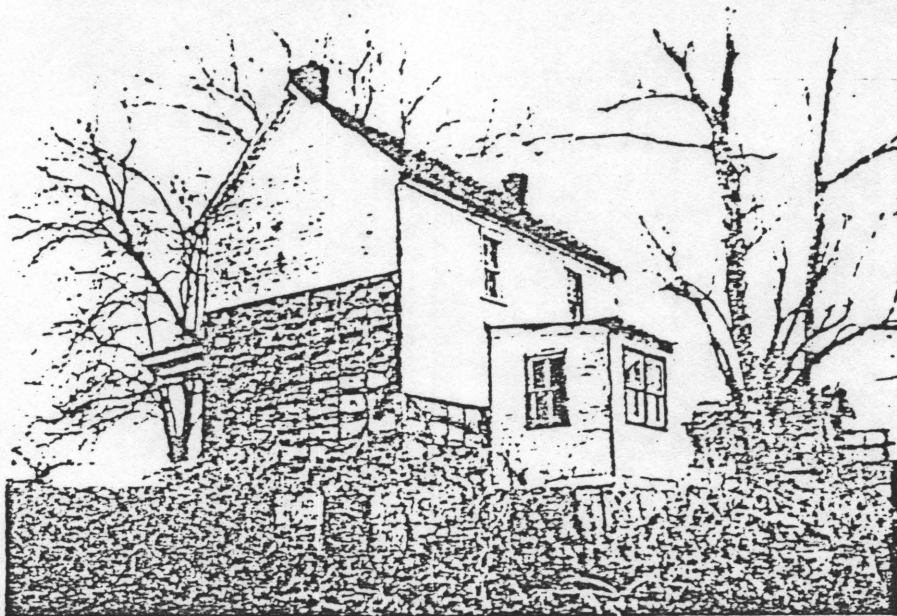


Plate 8: East corner, northeast elevation with small room addition, southeast elevation showing basement door.



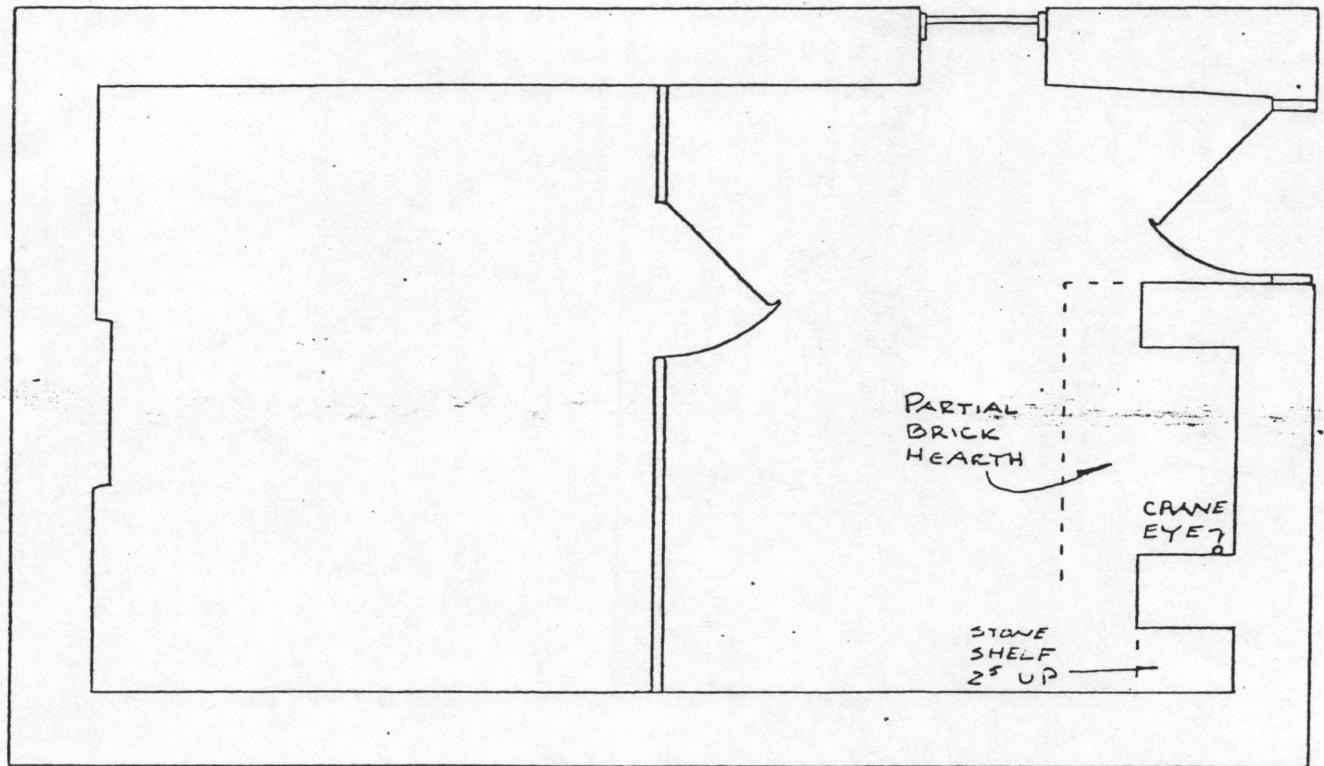
Plate 9: North corner, northeast elevation and small room addition with plywood over rear entrance.

The windows are two over two light double hung sash and no determination could be made as to the date of the sash. This type of sash was made and available in the area from the late 1860's to the 1930's or early 1940's. (refer plate 3, page 11).

The exterior doors are four light over two panel doors and probably date to the same period as the siding and the porch (refer plate 2, page 11). The cove top siding variously known as German, novelty or pattern 105 and the window and door trim was put on the house probably shortly after Charles Lohman bought the property in 1918. He also added the one story porch that extends across the front of the house. Typical of the regional characteristics, the exterior painting scheme is dark green trim with white siding.

The two rooms of the basement were entered via a board and batten door at ground level in the southeast wall. The walls and ceilings were painted with whitewash and the floors were dirt. The west room was a food preparation area and had a four foot stone fireplace with a brick hearth. There was one iron eye still in the side jamb of the firebox where a crane for a kettle was located. (refer plate 10, page 16).

The first floor was also entered from ground level in the front elevation. The opposing door in the northeast wall was a few steps off the ground. The front door was in the middle bay flanked by a window on each side. The exterior doors were to the east side of the centrally located story posts.



PLAN: BASEMENT

SCALE  $\frac{1}{4} = 1'$

The kitchen was twelve feet, ten inches by thirteen foot, nine inches. (refer plate 11, page 18). A tight-winder staircase was tucked into the northeast corner and a brick chimney built near the middle on the inside of the east gable wall. Originally the walls and ceiling were whitewashed, but later were plastered with wainscoating along the base of the walls.

The second room of the first floor was eleven feet six inches by fourteen feet. It was originally whitewashed and later plastered.

The second floor repeats the two room plan of the first floor as well as the same finishing schedule. There was one small closet built between the brick chimney and the front wall.

All of the floors in the house were made from yellow pine. They were tongue and grooved, planed on the top, rough sawn underneath, and surface nailed through the top of the flooring. The first and second story flooring varied in width but none was over six inches wide.

The interior doors were all of board and batten construction. They were hung on unmarked cast iron hinges. A few of the original hinges had been replaced with the drop pintel floral design hinges dating from around 1900. The doors were secured with cast iron rim set locks with porcelain knobs. They all dated from different periods. The earliest and probably only surviving original was patent dated 1868. The other locks were of late 19th or 20th century manufacture.

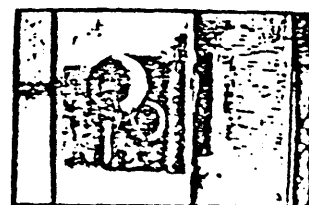
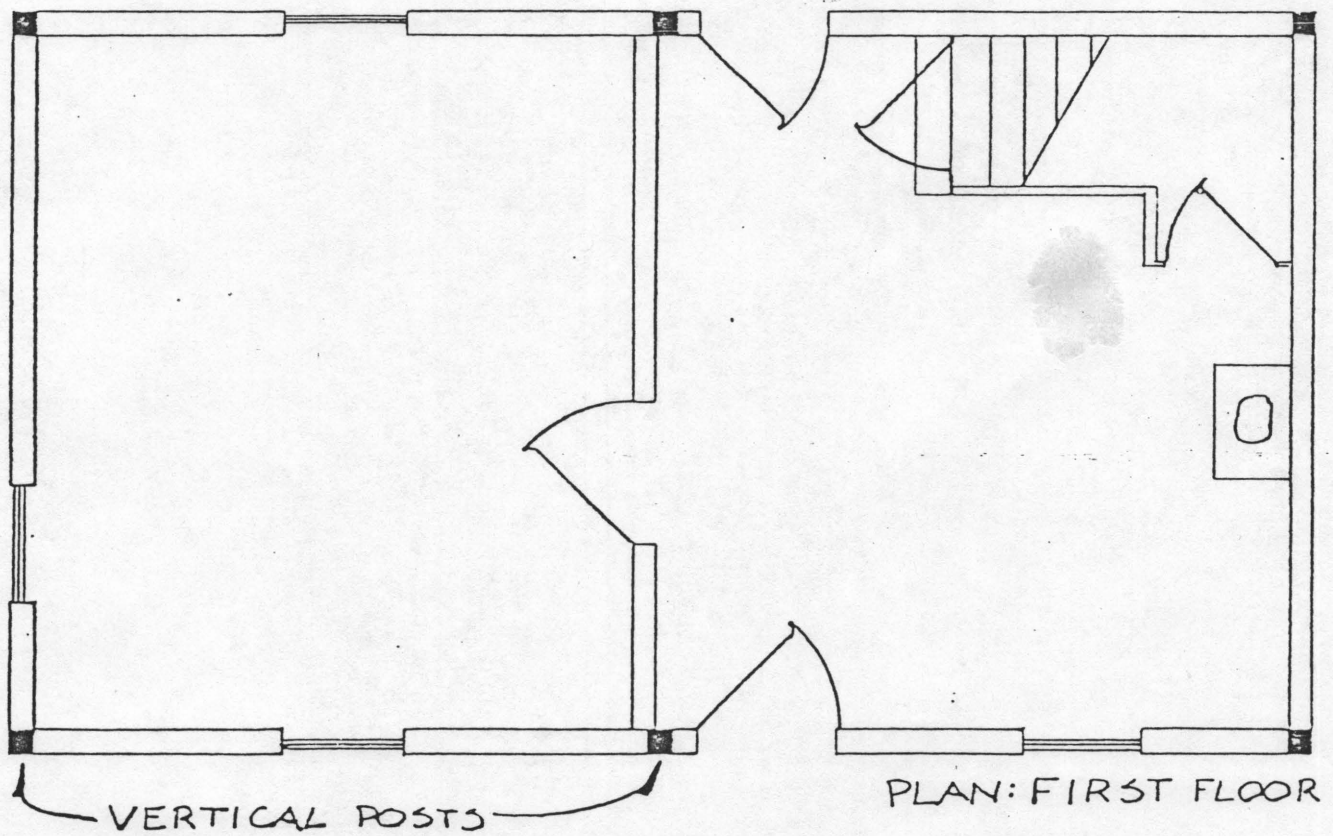
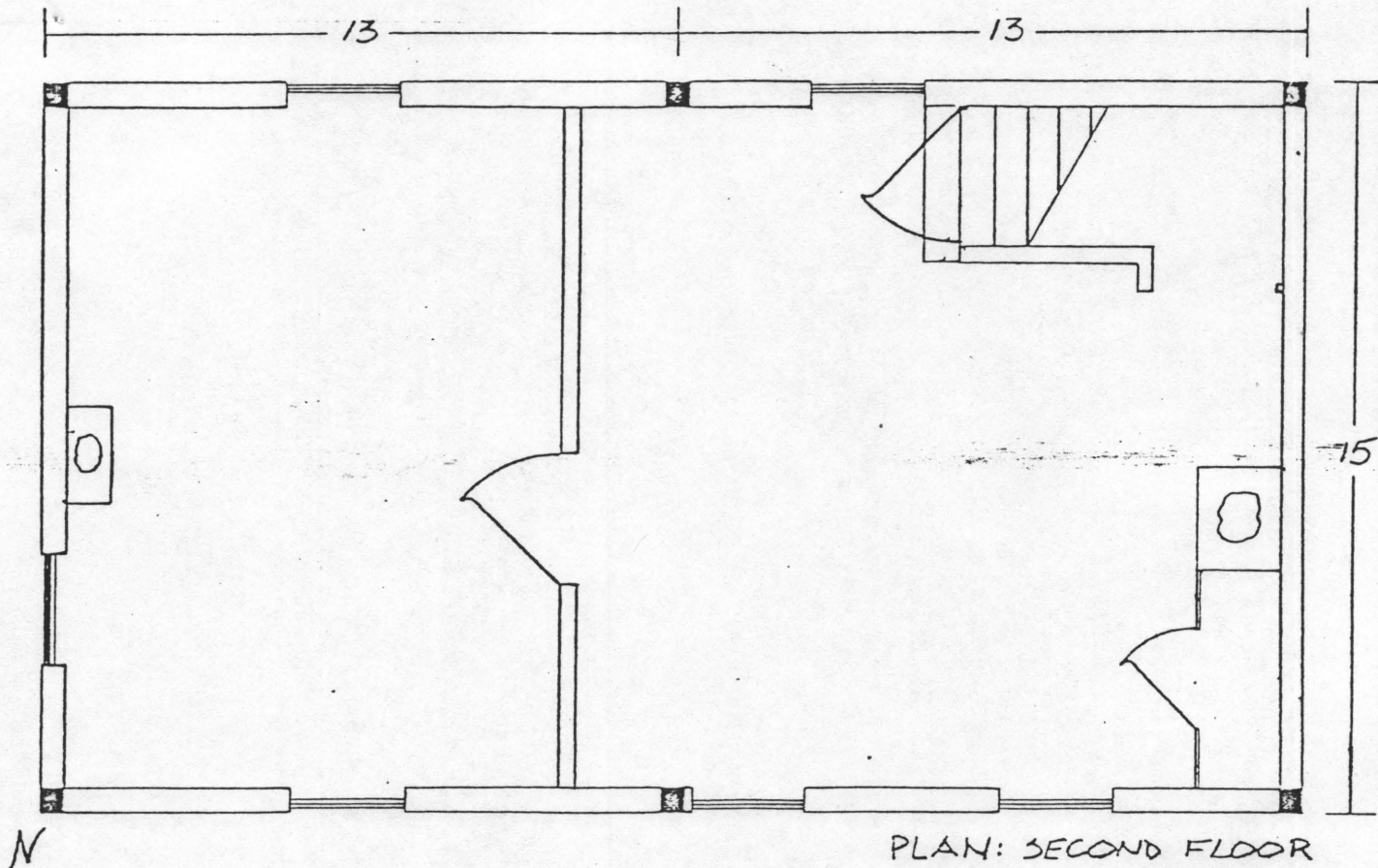


Plate 11  
1868 Lock Set

WARD-LOHMAN LOG HOUSE  
BLUDDY LANE SHARPSBURG MD

18  
Plate 12



SCALE: 1/4" = 1'

## The History

The Ward House was built on a parcel of land containing 4 acres and 13 perches. Previously, this small lot had been a piece to a large 303 acre farm owned by Jacob Mumma since May 6, 1796.<sup>6</sup> The farm eventually became the property of Samuel Mumma who on March 23, 1873 sold off a lot lying in the west corner of his land to James H. Ward. This was the first deed made which set forth the boundary description of the property where the Ward House presently stands. Though the 1873 deed mentions only a land transaction, and does not describe any improvements, this is not conclusive evidence the present house or an earlier house was not there prior to 1873.

However, there is virtually no documentary or physical evidence to date the structure earlier than 1873. The site of the house on Bloody Lane was between the Confederates and the Union troops. There was heavy artillery fire by both sides across the road. Had a house been standing on the present location of the Ward House, it may have escaped destruction by fire, but it could not have avoided the inevitable destruction by rifle fire and cannon explosives. The existing structure exhibits no evidence of fire, rifle or cannon shot. There is no piece of wood that shows any telltale mark of battle.

It seems unlikely that any house in this location could have survived where so many men died. More importantly, aside from

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<sup>6</sup>Washington County Land Records, Deed Book 1, page 764. Washington County Court House, Hagerstown, Md.

the conjecture of whether or not a house may have survived an intense exchange of shot and shell, it is very unlikely that a building in the vicinity of the Sunken Road would have gone completely unrecorded. No diary, journal, map, or military report made note of the house. No historian who was a first hand participant or a later researcher of the battle mentions it. There are no records of a house mentioned by deed or located on a map where the Ward House now stands. An 1856 Washington County map in the Washington County Court House shows no house on the north side of Bloody Lane.

The best indication that a house was not in this location during the battle is the absence of a claim made for it by Samuel Mumma. Until 1873 Mumma owned the ground upon which the house is now located. Had there been a house near the Sunken Lane built on his land, it surely would have been damaged by the battle. However, though Samuel Mumma issued a claim for damages against the United States government for his own home and barn destroyed by fire and all the other items he lost during the battle, no claim was made for this house. No one else could have made a claim for damages to a structure on the Mumma Farm except Samuel Mumma.

Unfortunately, none of the three Alexander Gardner photographs taken of the Bloody Lane shows the area where the house stands. All three photographs were taken just east of the location of the house and all are views to the east or southeast along the Sunken Road.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup>Frassanito, Antietam, p. 205.

One of Gardiner's photographs on page 22 shows a mound of debris that some argue was the remains of the Ward House. If this were true, it would indicate that a house stood on the site prior to the Battle of Antietam. However, examination of the photograph clearly establishes the original camera view was to the southeast toward the present tower at the end of Bloody Lane. Also, the pile does not appear to be the rubble of a destroyed house, but rather battle debris left from the clean up operations following Sept. 17, 1862. The site where the Ward House now stands was approximately one hundred yards to the west or the rear of the camera position.

In the case of the Ward House, the lack of supporting documentation that establishes a house on the site prior to 1862 is in itself evidence that there was no structure before the battle.

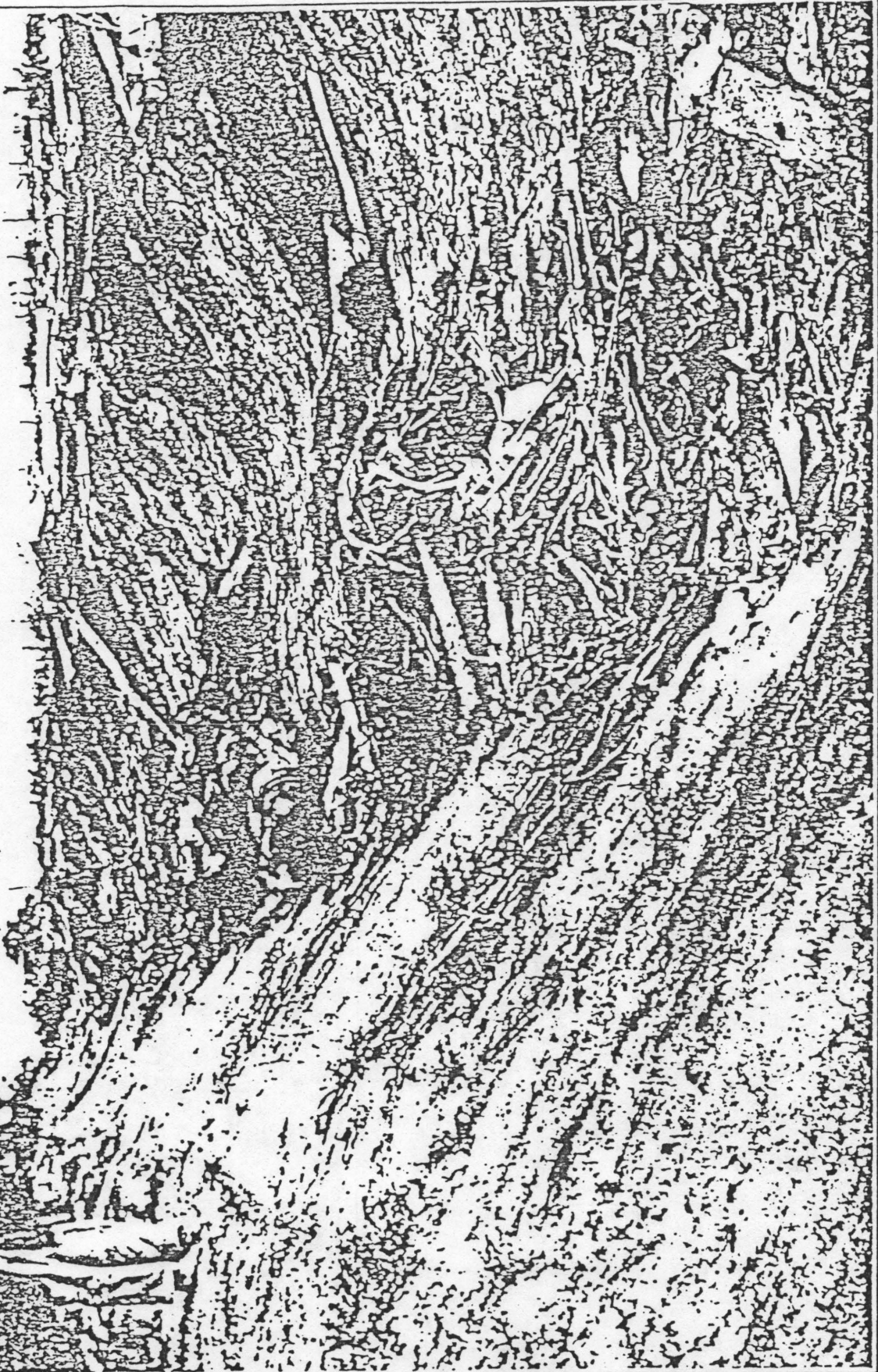
The physical evidence of the house indicates a post Civil War construction date. The style of the windows, the hinges and the one remaining cast iron rim set door lock all date from the two decades following the war. The cast iron lock was patented in 1868 and appears to be the original lock to the stair door. The door is in its original location.

The framing of the floors is also indicative of post Civil War construction practices. Prior to the 1860's, joists in the Washington County area were either hewn 4" X 6" or sawn 3" X 8". After the war the size of joists were reduced to sawn 2" X 8" or 2" X 6".<sup>8</sup> Half of the first floor and all of the second floor joists of the Ward House are sawn 2" X 6".

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<sup>8</sup>Field research conducted by the author has established the joist size pattern in relation to the dates mentioned above.

Taken by war time photographer Alexander Gardiner, 21 September, 1862. Looking southeast along Bloody Lane. The camera position was to the southeast of the present site of the Ward House. Copy of photograph in Frassanito; Antietam, p. 205.



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WHERE NUMBERS TOLD

There is no evidence that Samuel Mumma built the house - *Shirley Mumma*  
 after the battle and used it until he rebuilt his own home or *William*  
 rented it to a tenant farmer. It is known that by 1863 the  
 Mumma Farm house had been rebuilt and the family moved in by  
 that Winter. It seems unlikely that with so many relatives in  
 the Sharpsburg area, the Mumma's did not board with them until  
 their new house was built. Also, a temporary log house would  
 have taken several months to build, time that could have been  
 better spent on rebuilding a house. There is no record that  
 Samuel Mumma ever had tenant farmers working for him which could  
 have been a possible explanation for Mumma building a small house  
 where the Ward House now stands. There were no reasons or sup-  
 porting evidence to establish Samuel Mumma as the builder of the  
 Ward House.

All the evidence indicates that James Ward purchased an un-  
 improved piece of ground from Samuel Mumma in 1873 and in the  
 Spring and Summer of that year built the present house. This  
 can be seen by examining James Ward's financial background and  
 the construction of the house.

Two things are known about James Ward. He was a stone ma-  
 son before the Civil War and had financial difficulties as early  
 as 1878. Ward's discharge from the service of the United States  
 lists his occupation prior to enlistment as a stone mason.<sup>9</sup>  
 There is no evidence available to indicate if this was the occu-  
 pation he resumed when he left the army. However, the fact that

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<sup>9</sup>Ward Discharge, 25 October 1864, James H. Ward Papers,  
 Antietam National Battlefield Site, Sharpsburg, Md.

he was at one time a stone mason meant that he was probably familiar with the framing aspects of carpentry because masons generally built their own scaffolding. Also, masons and carpenters often worked in the same crews in the 19th century and Ward may have learned other carpentry skills by association with the other trades.

The Washington County Land Records and the Equity Court Records indicate that James Ward went bankrupt and was probably always in the poor class. In 1878 he had to mortgage his house and lot to Jacob Miller who in 1886 finally foreclosed on Ward.

Association with the construction trades at least as a stone mason and his poor financial situation combine to suggest that he built the house. The house now on Bloody Lane has a nicely laid foundation and a neatly erected log frame. However, there are many indications that the house was built by a non-professional builder, probably an owner built, do-it-yourself job. The economy of materials, the techniques used to frame the log walls and the location of the site all seem to fit with Ward's financial situation and his abilities.

The house was built on a small piece of ground in the western corner of the Mumma Farm. The ground was not suitable for farming because of the limestone ridges that ran north and south across the hill near the west border of the lot. There was good tillable ground below the ridge, but it may not have been convenient to farm. The corner lot was easily split off from the farm and bordered along Bloody Lane. This was an old, narrow

dirt road feeding three farms and joining the Hagerstown Pike on the west with the Boonsboro Pike to the south.

The only houses built along Bloody Lane were for poor people. One such person was Jerimiah Summers, the last slave in Sharpsburg. He was "given the use for life of a small cottage and garden plot facing the northerly stretch of the 'Bloody Lane' "<sup>10</sup>

Thus with a piece of ground not very suitable for farming and on a road where at least one other neighbor was poor, James Ward built his home. Probably because he did not have the money or the means to buy all new materials, Ward obtained an old log house, tore it down and used the old wall logs to build his house. The only new pieces used in the log wall framing system were the vertical posts.

The old log house was a horizontal log pen interlocked at the corners with V notches. Apparently this earlier house had never been sided and had eventually fallen into disrepair mostly from rot. Many of the logs show severe weathering and old areas of rot on the inside of the present structure. Ward made no attempt to simply reassemble the older log house because there probably was too much damage to the corner notches, or perhaps the earlier house was smaller than what he wanted to build. The longest elevation of the present house is twenty-six feet, but

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<sup>10</sup>U.S. Dept. of Interior., N.P.S., Historic Structure's Report, by Wilshin, p. 202. An accompanying photograph on page 203 shows Summers in front of a small log house covered with vertical siding and the yard surrounded by a rough board fence.

not one single log is longer than fifteen feet. Where longer logs were needed, they were spliced. Though log shells are difficult to date and read especially after they have been dismantled and rebuilt in a different configuration, it appears that the older log structure was built in the early 19th century.

Not only were the log walls built mostly of used materials, but the method of construction indicates either a lack of knowledge about corner-post log wall construction, or Ward was simply too poor to bother. The vertical corner posts were mortised and tenoned to the sills and the top plates, but all of the down braces and the horizontal wall logs were simply butt joined and nailed to the posts. It was typical in the other three houses of similar construction to butt nail the logs to the posts, but the down braces in the other buildings were all carefully mortised, tenoned and pegged to make a solid, rigid frame.

Also, the front elevation shows only a modicum of formality. Though it is a typical three bay, window-door-window arrangement, there is no equal spacing between the bays and the openings of the first floor do not align with those of the second. It seems that Ward was more concerned with the interior function than the exterior arrangement. The three other log buildings exhibit more formal and neater principal facades than the Ward House. (refer plates 14 and 15 on page 27).

Ward took advantage of his skills as a stone mason and built a full limestone basement six feet six inches from dirt floor to joists. There was a four foot stone fireplace used for



Plate 14: M. Howell Davis House, 201 W. Main St., Sharpsburg, Md. ca. 1850 post and log addition to stone house.

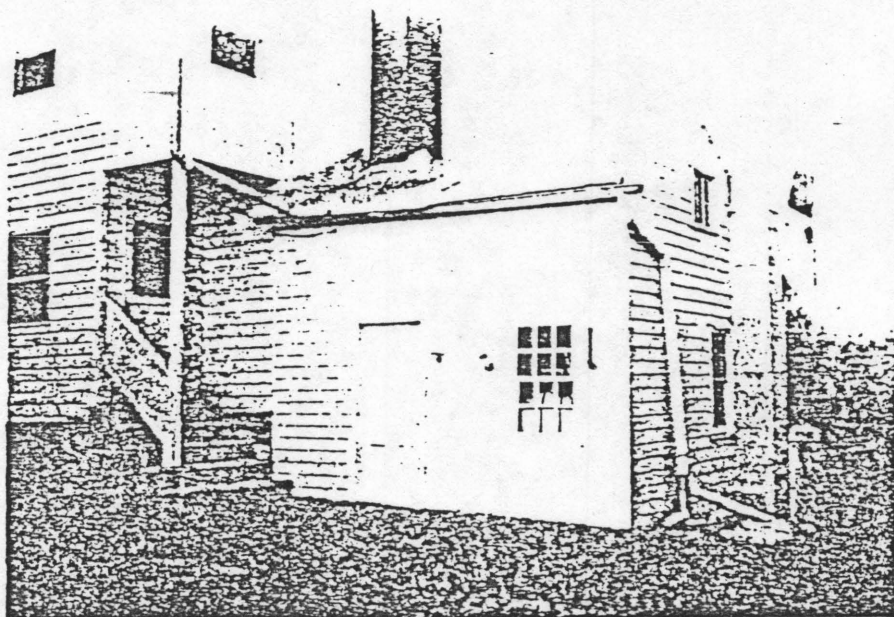


Plate 15: Eileen Whisner House, 132 E. Main St., Sharpsburg, Md. 1860's post and log addition to rear of frame house.

cooking purposes in the basement as well. The stonework was neatly laid and in some ways was better executed than the house that sits above it. The limestone walls were originally rendered in a light coat of clay plaster, and the walls and ceiling whitewashed.

The windows and door jambs show an economy of construction by not being notched and pegged into the logs above and below the openings. The rough jambs were simply pine boards toenailed into the logs.

The roof rafters were very thin hewn poles averaging three by three inches and butt nailed to a false plate nailed on the edge of the attic floor. The rafters were butt nailed at the peak and had no collar beams.

After the windows and doors were installed, James Ward's house was left exposed on the exterior and the interior and whitewashed. There was no front or back porch and no addition to the rear. The house in this condition was photographed in the Summer of 1877 indicating that four years after Ward built the house he had not had the financial resources, the opportunity or perhaps he did not care to improve the house with siding, porches or an addition. In light of the fact that one year after the picture was taken Ward had to mortgage the house, he probably did not have the money to improve his home beyond its initial construction phase.

Somehow Ward managed to retain ownership until April 1886 when Jacob Miller was forced to foreclose on Ward and sell the

house and grounds to Abraham Hoffmaster. Hoffmaster was probably a poor man also for he fell prey to creditors in December 1899 when trustees sold the house to Amanda Reynolds for \$462.00.

The next owner Charles Lohman purchased the property in 1918 and it is believed that Lohman improved the house with the exterior siding and the small eight foot by eight foot addition to the rear of the house. He was also responsible for most if not all of the interior improvements. The first floor kitchen was finished with plaster walls and ceilings and wainscoat was added around the lower half of the walls. The west room opposite the kitchen and the second story was also trimmed and plastered.

In the bedroom above the kitchen he added a closet and later he built the present front porch. Though there was never any indoor plumbing, electricity was installed sometime in the 1940's or 1950's. Lohman worked hard as a mechanic in his own garage<sup>11</sup> and was thrifty enough to be able to improve this small log house. However, Lohman's improvements were mostly asthetic in nature and never did he change the structural components of the house. Except for the small addition he built on the rear of the house Lohman either could not afford or did not feel the need to greatly enlarge or completely renovate the plan as built by Ward.

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<sup>11</sup>In the attic of the Ward House were found receipt books with Lohman's letterhead on the bills indicating he owned and operated a garage.

### The Cultural Space

The floor plans of all three levels of the house have not been altered since the original construction. There were two rooms divided laterally with the partitions at all three levels west of center. The larger room of each floor was in the east half, the smaller to the west. The first floor rooms were most nearly equal in size with the kitchen only one foot four inches wider than the room to the west.

The main room of the house was the kitchen. It was the only room entered from the outside with both the opposing front and back doors opening along the frame partition separating the kitchen from the west room. The area under the tightwinder stairs provided some storage for food stuffs and the brick chimney indicates that a cast iron stove was used to cook on and heat. It was likely that the opposing exterior doors were designed to be located in the kitchen so they could be opened in the Summer to carry away the heat of the cook stove. The house was too small to accommodate a central passage and this would have defeated the air circulation in the kitchen.

The first floor west room was not trimmed and plastered until the 1920's. Since the Ward's were not financially pretentious and had four children, the room was probably used more as a bedroom rather than a parlor.

The family sizes and the possible uses for the room by the Hoffmaster's and Reynold's are unknown, but the Lohman's improved

this room with a better wood trim than anywhere else in the house and plastered the walls and ceilings. They probably used it as a parlor.

The two rooms on the second floor were bedrooms and their function has likely never changed.

The basement level was accessible only by direct entrance from the exterior. This was a food preparation (east side) and food storage (west side) area. The east room had the stone fireplace that held a crane iron for one iron kettle. Since the 1877 photograph on page 8 shows two small buildings just to the east a few yards from the house, one of them was probably a smoke house. Also the garden was below the east side of the house. With the garden and smoke house close to the food preparation area in the basement, where they were convenient to each other, it would seem that some forethought went into the planning of the house and grounds.

The west room of the basement was the food storage area. It was surrounded high on three sides by earth and the fourth wall was a plastered frame partition to provide at least a minor amount of insulation. This room had no windows or vents and acted as a buffer against sudden changes in temperature. Because of its position in the hill and under the house, this room maintained a more constant temperature than anywhere else in the house. A cantilevered shelf across the west wall was where the open top food crocks were kept so mice could not get at the food. Other tables or shelves were used for the storage of canned

goods and nails in the joists indicate that many items were suspended from the ceiling.

The stone lined well was dug only a few steps north of the back door.

The small eight by eight addition the Lohman's built to the rear of the house remains unexplained in terms of function. It could not have been a kitchen at least until electric or gas stoves became available because there was no chimney for a cook stove. Also this area would have been a very small room for a kitchen. More likely, it was used as a pantry and storage area and during harvest time as a food preparation area for canning.

There were many other chores and daily living habits carried on by the inhabitants of the house, but the major interior spaces have been outlined.

### Ward's Architectural Expression

James H. Ward was a man who was struggling financially to provide a home for his family. In 1873 he bought a marginal piece of ground from Samuel Mumma and somehow acquired one and possibly two small log houses and dismantled them for the materials. Ward made a few new pieces for the house he built notably the corner posts and rafters. Presumably he purchased the rest of the building materials needed to finish his house.

Ward's intentions in the construction of his home were purely functional with little regard for formality in his architectural expression. He did not have the financial resources or a high enough position in the social strata to afford or care about a perfectly balanced symmetry on the front of his house.

That he did not have a lot of money to spend is evident in the lack of privacy and controlled movement within the house. There is no central passage to control access to the first floor rooms. The kitchen had to be entered to gain access to any part of the first or second floors. The second floor bedrooms have no halls to allow private access to each room. Instead, to get to the west bedroom, the occupants had to pass through the east bedroom. Also, there is no access to the basement from the interior of the first floor.

Log houses are often called poor men's houses. Though this is certainly not always the case, it was a form of construction affordable for people like Ward. By moving old logs to a site

and reassembling them, much of the expense was saved in the labor of manufacturing new wall logs. Another consideration of log walls is that though they were only meant to be a horizontal framing system, once the walls were raised, a roof put on and windows and doors installed, it was a liveable structure. The bare log walls were often whitewashed and served both as a framing system and the finished appearance. However, it was the mark of the owner or an indication of the intended use of the building if a log structure remained exposed. Generally, only those owners who simply could not afford to side the exterior or plaster the interior left their log houses exposed both to the public view and the weather. In the case of log outbuildings, these were seldom covered.

Ward's lack of funds was evident in the 1877 photograph of his home which clearly shows the exposed, whitewashed log walls. The fact that in 1878 he had to mortgage his house and in 1886 he lost the house due to bankruptcy, probably means that he never did have the opportunity to weatherboard the exterior or plaster the interior.

The 1877 picture also shows that Ward had not been able to provide a front porch with which to greet his neighbors and guests and no addition was built to the rear as extra work space for the family. However, though James Ward could not provide the latest stylistic architectural expression for his family, he did build a compact, neat and functional building that served his family well.

The only attempt at meeting the status quo Ward made was the fenestration of the front elevation. He had a three bay facade with the front door in the middle bay, but the openings are not symmetrically spaced across the front wall. Ward's primary consideration was for the framing. The reason the front door was not centrally located in the front wall was because Ward placed the story post exactly on thirteen foot centers between his two corner posts. Though structurally it was feasible and Ward had logs longer than thirteen feet, he put his post in the middle and moved his front door to the right. This caused the front door to be placed two feet off center.

Since the door entered into the kitchen, Ward decided to centrally locate the kitchen window between the southeast gable end wall and the front door. This means that Ward considered the placement of the window with respect to the exterior facade.

This does not seem to be the case for the placement of the window to the left of the front door. It is not centered between the northwest gable wall and the front door. On the interior of the room, the window is likewise not centered between the side walls. However, the rough opening of the window is exactly centered between the west front corner post and the middle story post. Ward's consideration of the placement of his openings with respect to the framing and not to the final appearance of the building indicates that he did not have the continuity of thought that a master builder would have had for his eventual finished product.

Though James Henry Ward in 1873 may not have been conscious of architectural styles or a master builder, he did erect a sound structure with some regard for the necessities of daily function in and around the house.

First, he chose a frame style that not only he could afford, but that was possible to build with a very small amount of outside labor. His posts were spaced fourteen feet apart from one inside edge of a post to the other inside edge on the gable ends. From the corner posts to the middle story posts the distance between them was approximately twelve feet three inches. None of the logs necessary for this type of construction were longer than could have been handled by an industrious man and a good horse.

The lack of skill as a master builder is evident by the fact that the frame is for the most part nailed together with 20d cut nails and not mortised and tenoned. There are a few mortise and tenon joints where the posts join the sills and top plates, but the braces and horizontal logs are simply nailed.

The lack of mortise and tenon joints in so much of the framing is unusual and not indicative of sound framing practices of the 19th century. The lack of these joints where the braces and horizontal logs meet the posts again bespeak of the economy with which Ward had to build his house. It is also possible that since he was a stone mason, he may not have had much experience with making mortise and tenons, but those that are in the structure appear to be well done. Either Ward did not feel that nailing the logs to the posts was inadequate or he may not have

endeavored to put the extra effort into the house because he did not intend for the house to last beyond his life time.

For whatever reason the framing was not more firmly pinned together, Ward did put some thought into planning the house. He chose a site that drained well and was just below the lee of a hill that would protect the house somewhat from the prevailing winds. He built the house into the hill to provide a cold storage area for his food and a convenient work space for the preparation of food in the basement. Since most food prepared for Winter was done in the hot Summer months, the fireplace in the basement kept the heat out of the regular family living quarters and provided a cooler place for his wife and children to work.

The Ward's had four children who lived in the house and though the house is quite small by our standards, it was fairly large for a family of six. It may be that Mr. and Mrs. Ward used the first floor west room off the kitchen as their bedroom while the four children split up between the two rooms upstairs.

Thus, it can be seen that James Ward was not a master builder but because of his association with the building trades, he was capable of building his own house. Ward was apparently not conscious of formal architectural styles, but because of his economic station in life, it is more likely that he was simply not concerned with stylistic aspects of polite architecture. However, he did execute a well built stone foundation and good site planning. The vertical post and log frame was nicely built and adequate for his needs.

### Conclusion and Recommendations

It seems quite apparent after examining all the available documentary and physical evidence that no house or structure existed on the site of the Ward House prior to 1873. There is no question that Ward did not own the ground until 1873 and that the house was built by 1877 as seen in the photograph of that date. The fact that the house, several outbuildings and grounds look well established in the photograph seems to indicate that the house was at least a few years old by the time the photograph was taken. From the evidence then, the present house and foundation have no significance to the Battle of Antietam and no historical attachment to the site until 1873.

The type of construction was not unique in the last half of the 19th century in the Sharpsburg area. Post and log construction had been used in at least three other known examples that still exist. There are probably other similarly constructed log houses, but unless they are uncovered may never be recognized as such.

As a cultural statement both as an architectural expression of a builder/owner and as living/working space, the Ward House exhibits no unusual or rare features. All through the Cumberland Valley there are hundreds of small vernacular houses tucked into hillsides with much of the same functionalism built into them as in the Ward House.

It is the opinion of this researcher then that the Ward House offers little in terms of significant cultural or historical

value that justifies its salvation. Because there are other examples of similarly built post and log houses in the area and since the house adversely impacts on the history of the Bloody Lane, the park should be allowed to remove the building.

However, since the house offers the opportunity to study the framing in detail, it is recommended that detailed architectural drawings be made of this house and submitted to the National American Engineering Record. Though there are other buildings nearby of similar construction, it is unlikely that the opportunity will ever present itself again to so thoroughly record this type of construction. Thus, the only significance the Ward House may have is in the opportunity to record it.

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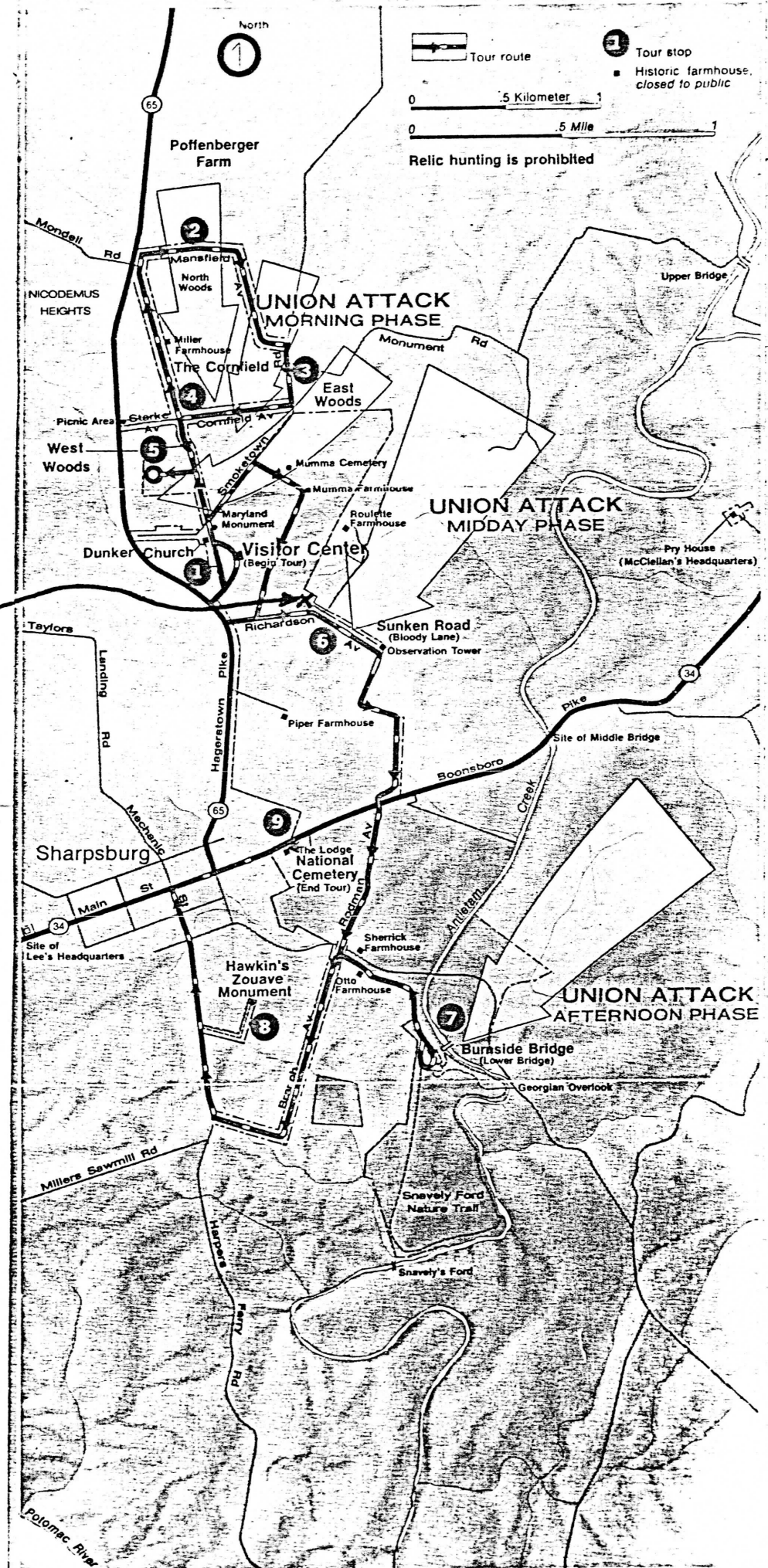
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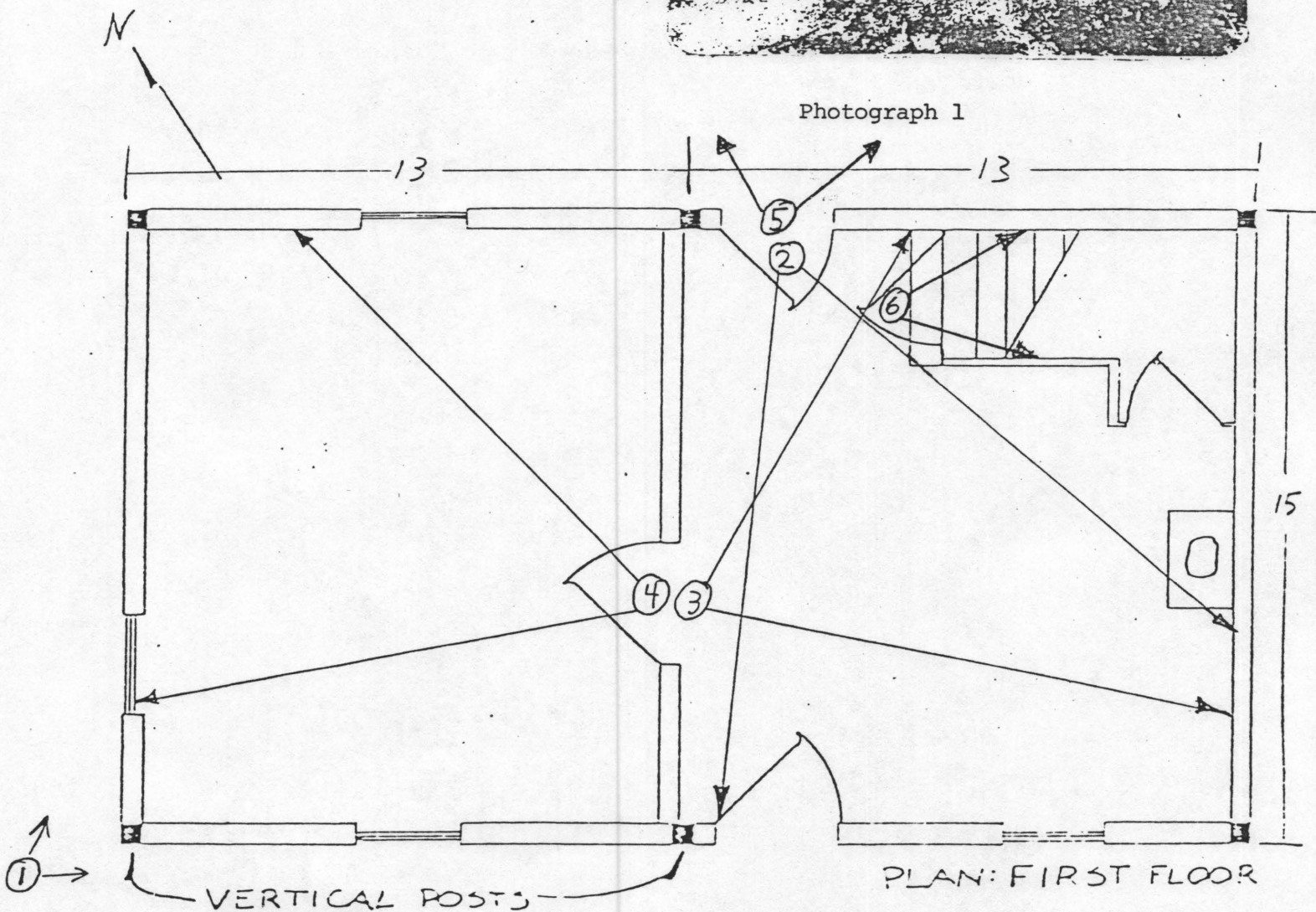
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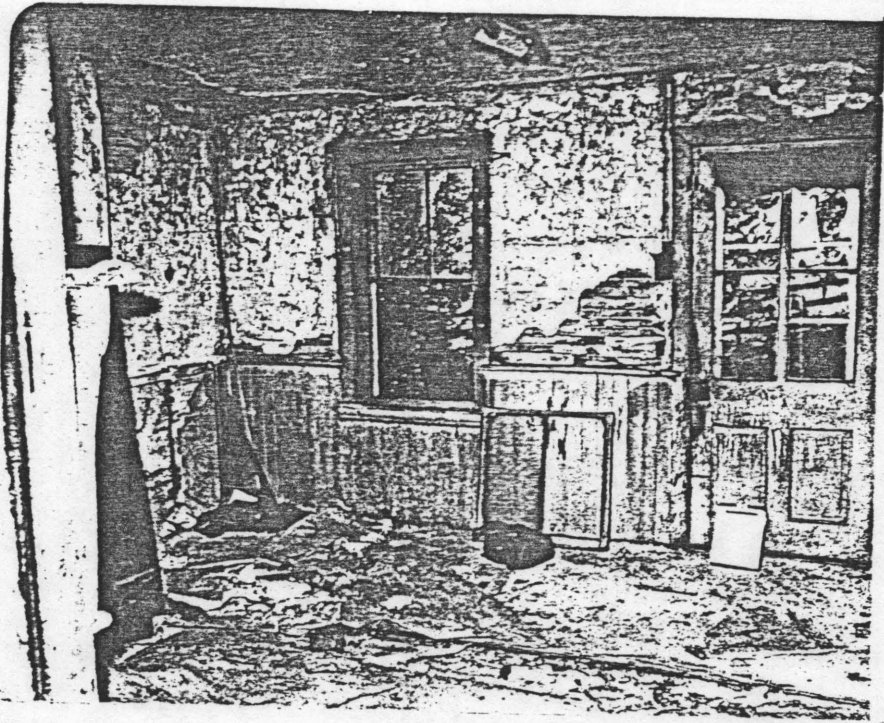
Ward, Arthur S. "House." Paper submitted to the Antietam National Battlefield Site, Sharpsburg, Md., 1975.

Location of Ward-Lohman  
Log House

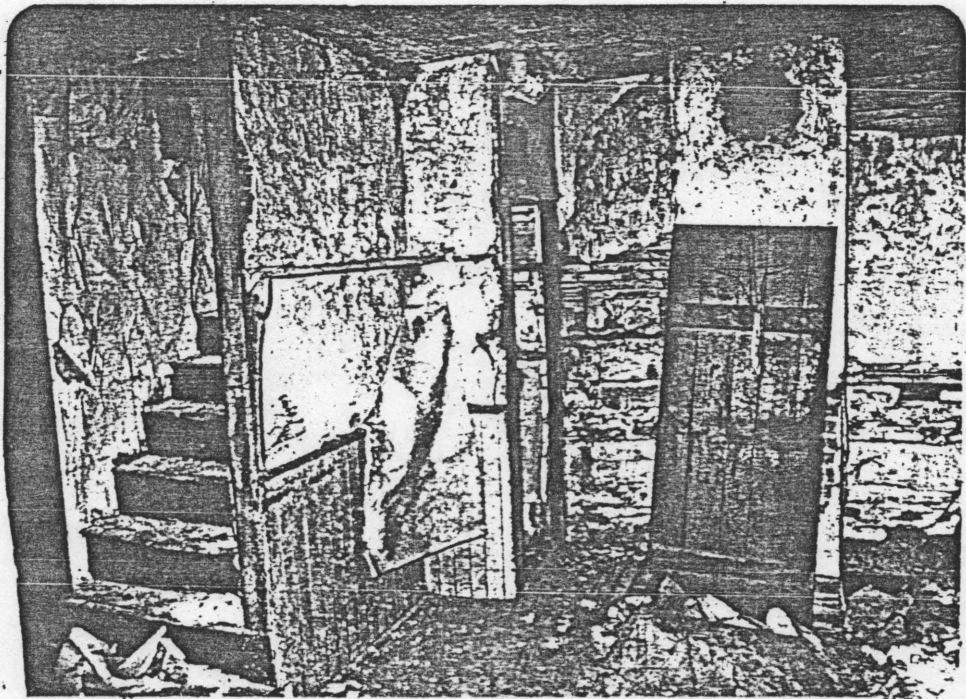


General view of Ward-Lohman log house, looking east and plan of first floor showing locations of following photographs

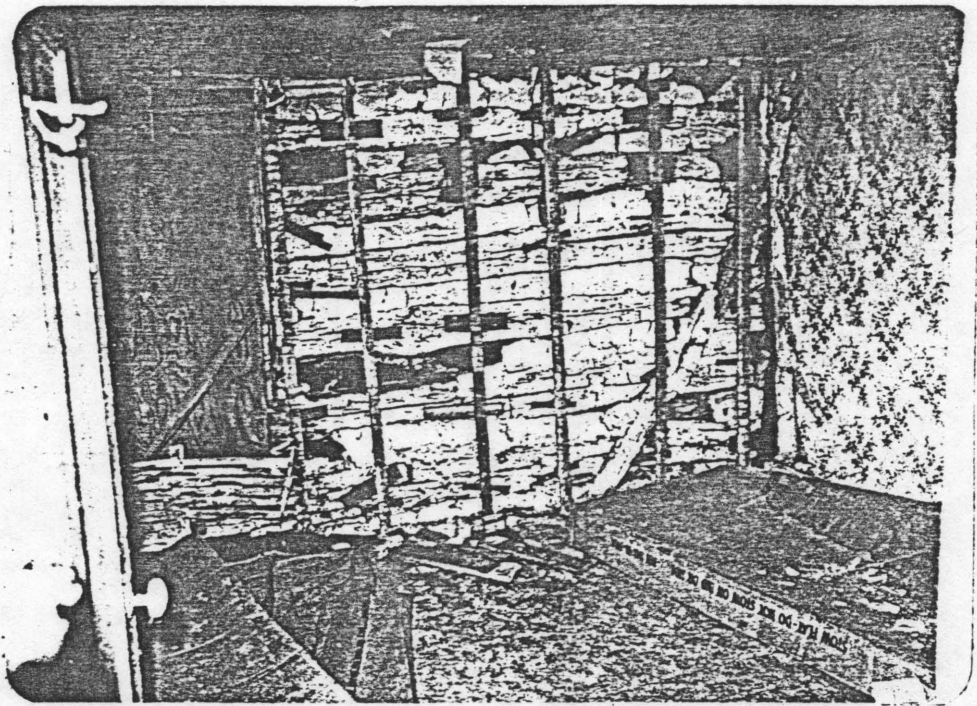




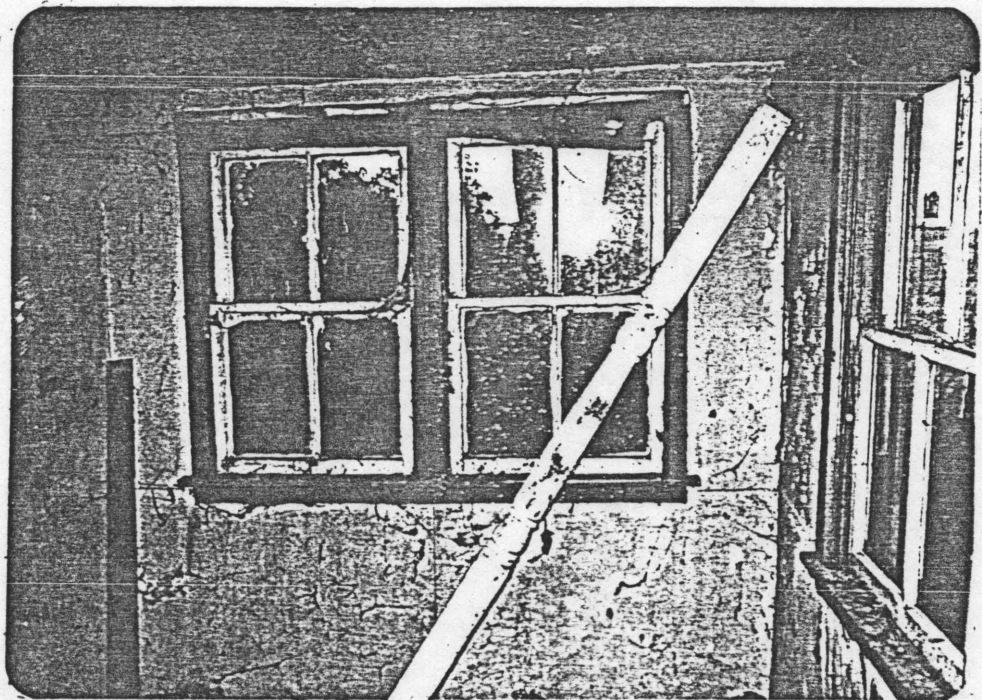
Photograph 2, first floor, large room



Photograph 3, first floor, large room



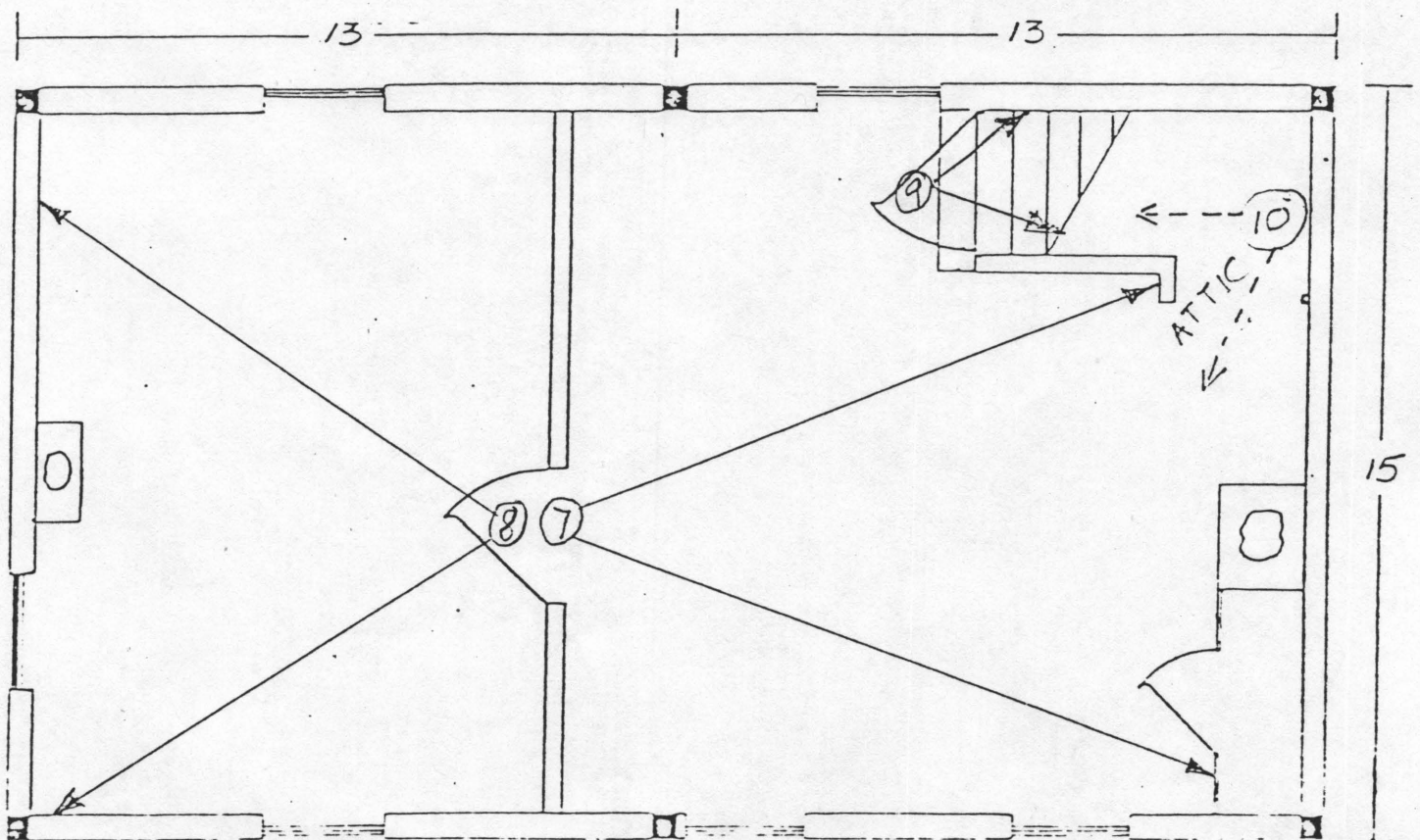
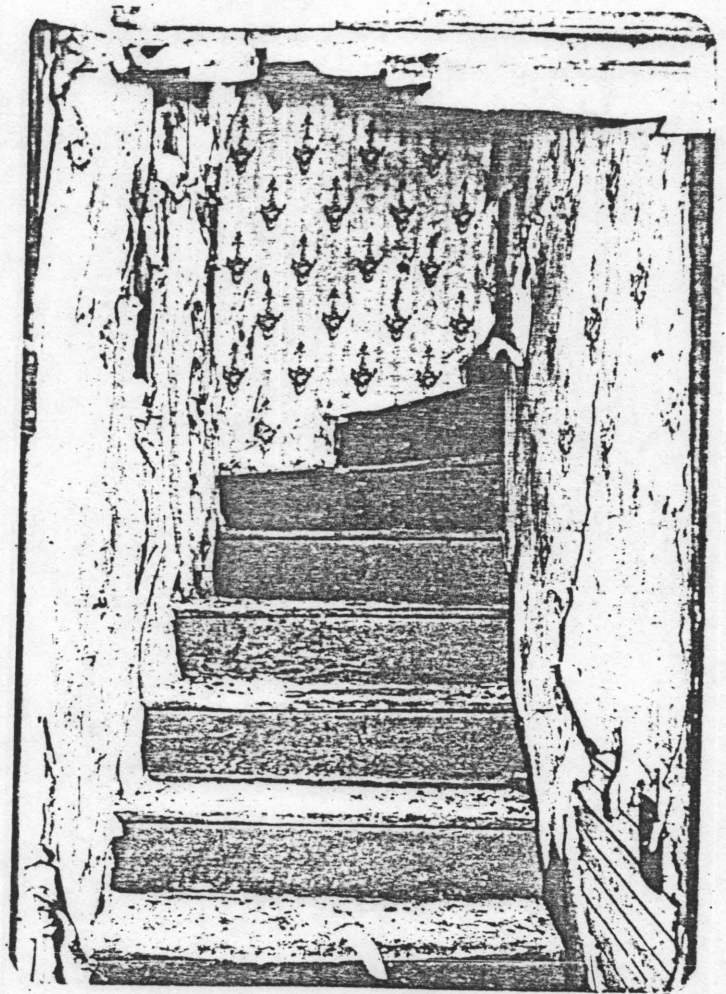
Photograph 4, first floor, small room



Photograph 5, first floor, back room,

Photograph 6

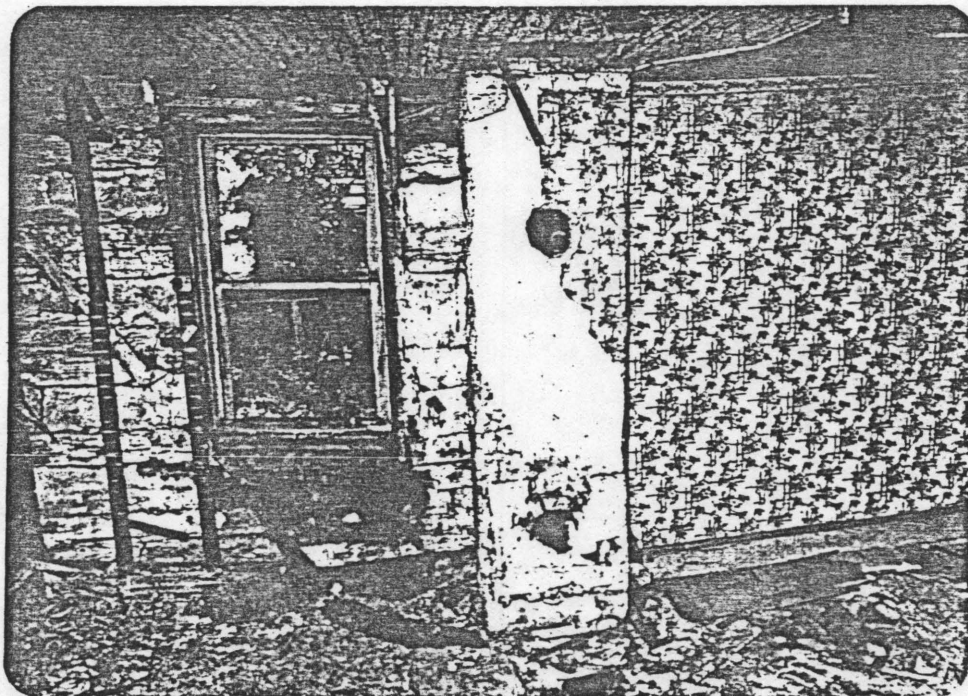
Stairwell from first to second story and plan of second floor, showing locations of following photographs



PLAN: SECOND FLOOR



Photograph 7  
Second floor large room



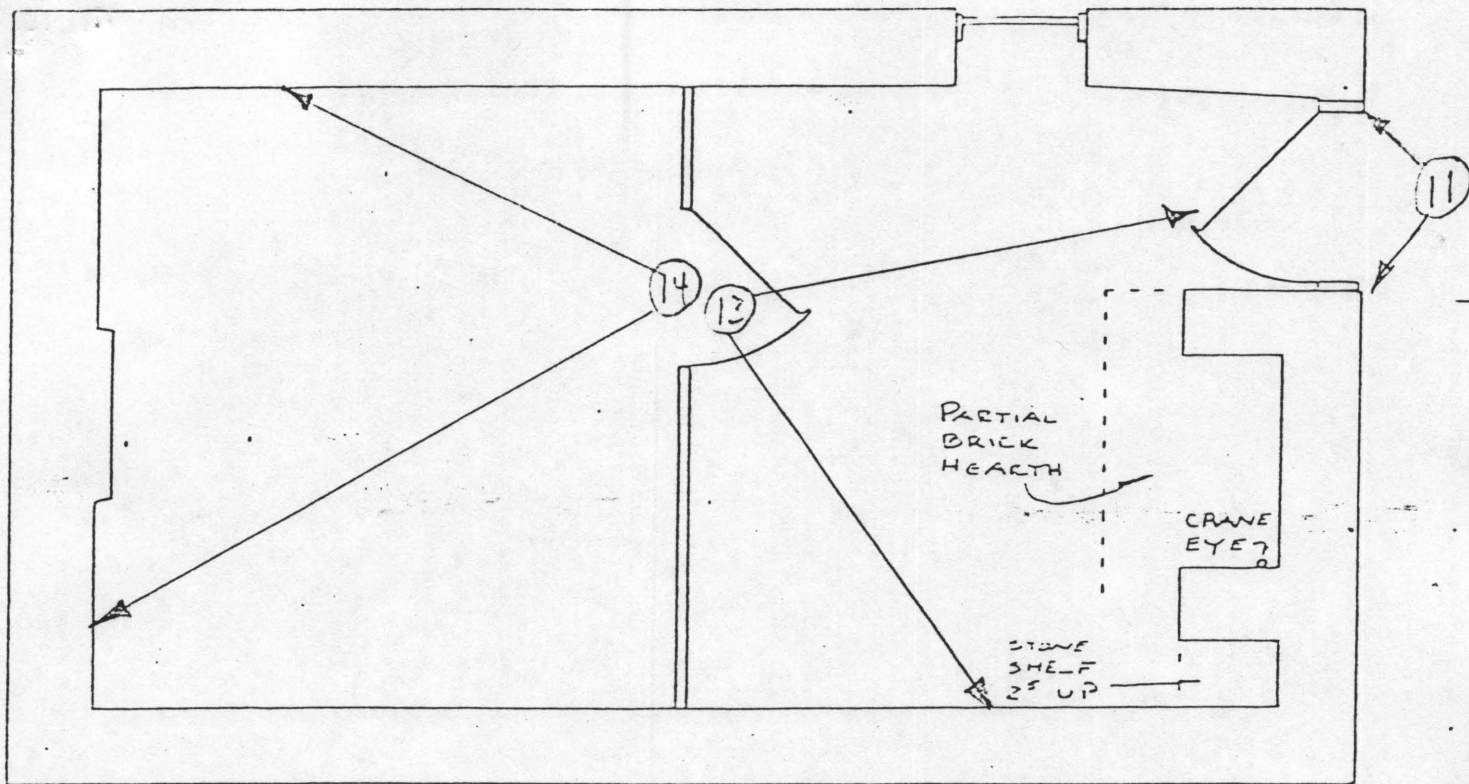
Photograph 8  
Second floor small room



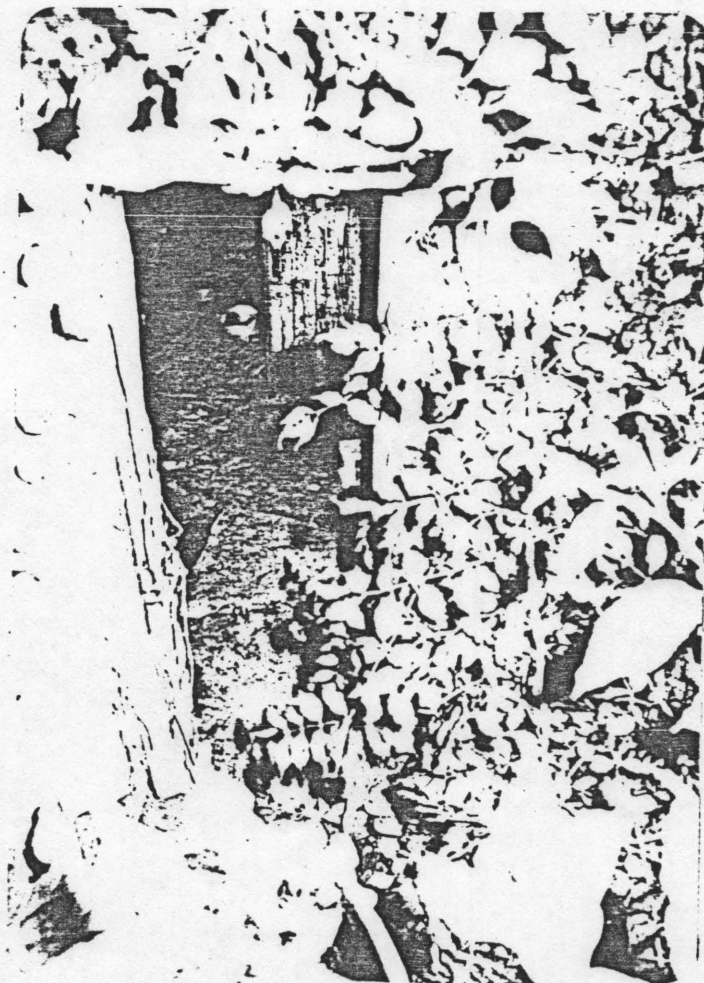
Photograph 9  
Stairs to attic



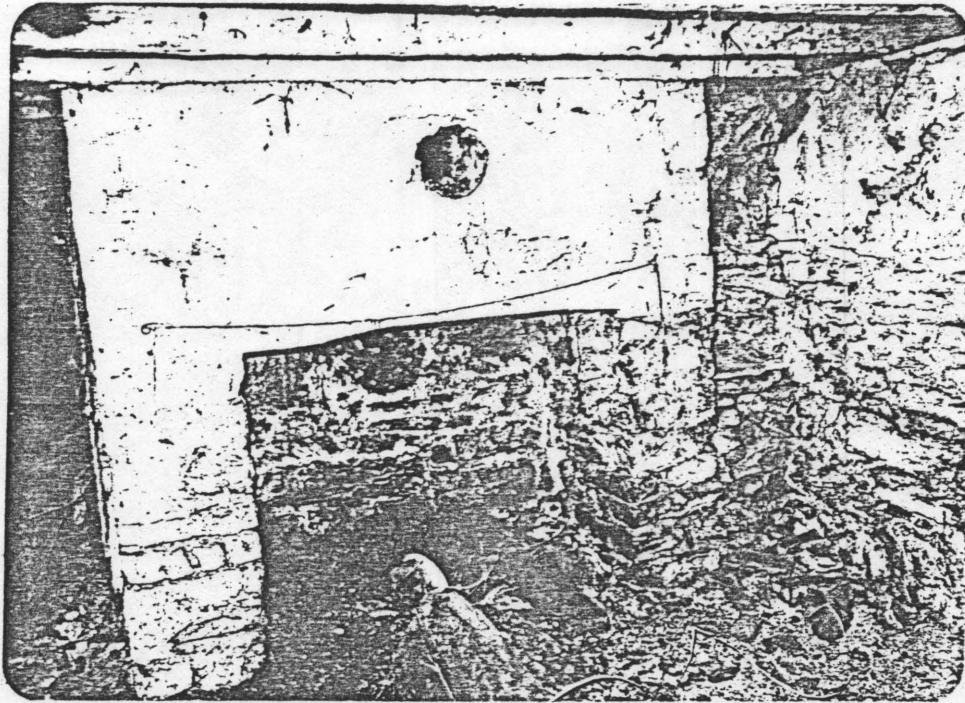
Photograph 10  
attic



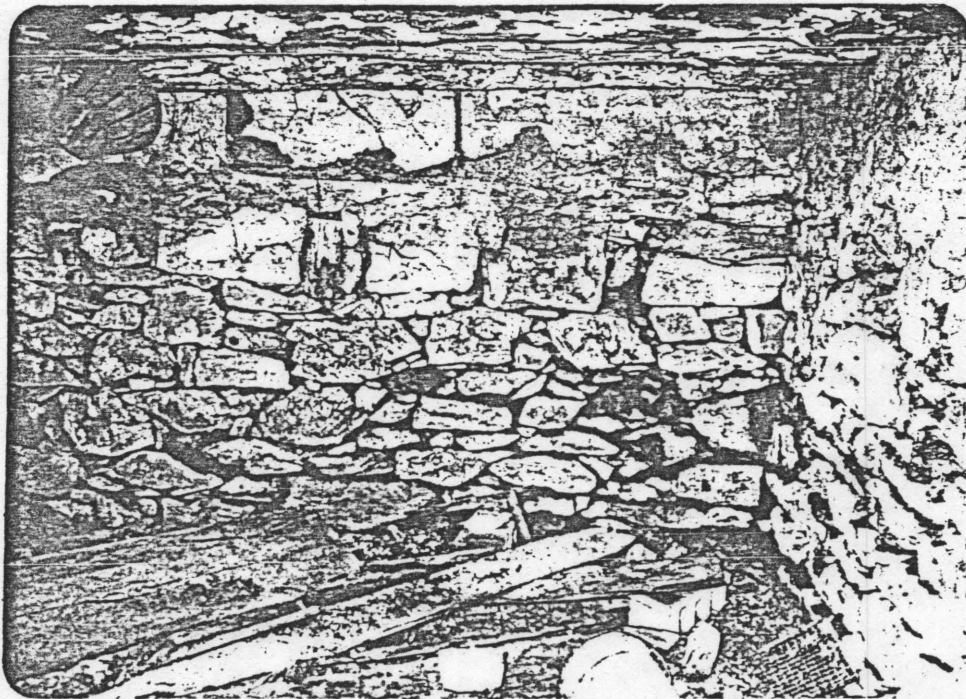
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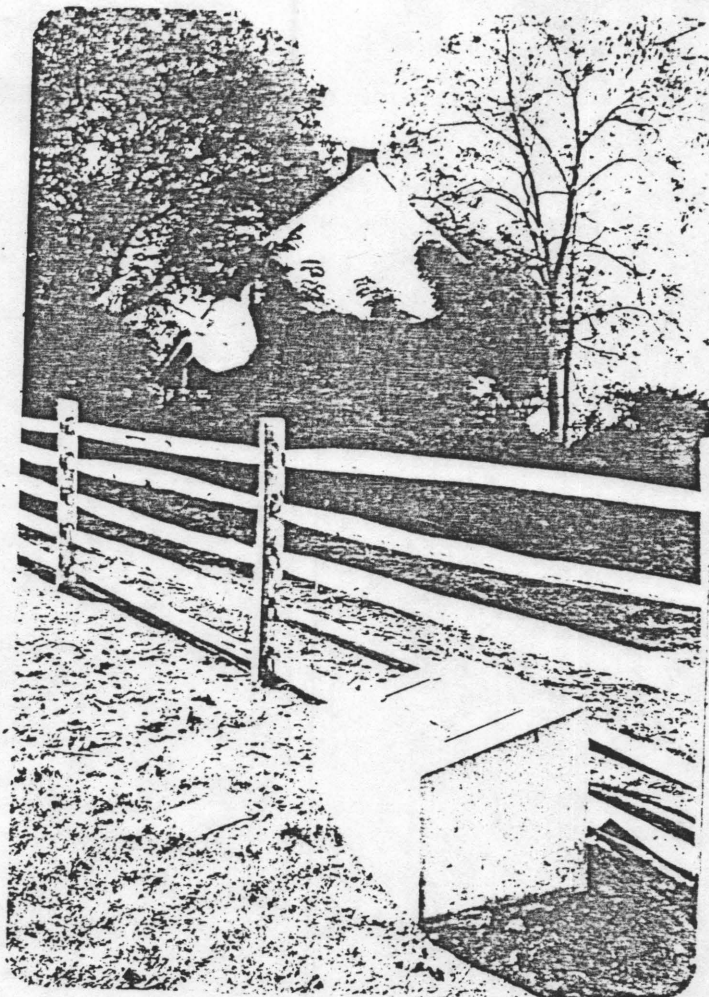
Photograph 11  
Entrance to basement



Photograph 12  
Brick Hearth in corner of outer basement room



Photograph 13  
Inner room of basement.



Photograph 14  
Fourteenth Indiana Monument in Bloody  
Lane looking northwest toward Ward-  
Lohman log cabin.



Photograph 15  
Text of Fourteenth Indiana Monument