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BRINGHURST HOUSE
HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT
ARCHITECTURAL DATA SECTION

PART II

by
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Independence National Historical Park

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

July 1995

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Preface

The Bringhurst House in Germantown, Pennsylvania has been a part of Independence National Historical Park since December 1973 when it was donated to the National Park Service by the Germantown Savings Fund Society. Since that time it has housed an apartment for a park employee with the bulk of the structure leased out to a local law firm. Since its acquisition by the National Park Service, it has been intended that the Bringhurst House would serve as a support structure for the Deshler-Morris House next door, however, no planning or funding has occurred to make this intention a reality.

The basic historical research for this house was conducted by Anna Coxé Toogood starting in 1974 and is contained in the Historic Structure/ Furnishings/ Grounds Report, Deshler-Morris House, Bringhurst House, Historical Data Section completed in June 1980. Ms. Toogood produced a well researched and clearly written background history for the Bringhurst House which provided indispensable archival data from which this report draws heavily. Throughout this investigation, I have attempted to seek out physical evidence of early building construction and subsequent alterations and to carefully ascribe a building chronology tied to the archival history. I was greatly assisted and encouraged in this endeavor by William Brookover, Chief Historical Architect at Independence National Historical Park.

Executive Summary

The research behind the Historic Structure Report for the Bringhurst House was aimed at answering a few basic questions.

When was the house originally constructed and by whom ?

What is its historical significance of the site ?

What is the historical or architectural significance of the surviving building fabric ?

How should the NPS manage the site ?

Like most of the 18th and 19th century buildings which survive in the Delaware Valley area, the Bringhurst House in Germantown has been modified numerous times and contains building fabric from several distinct architectural periods. After many months of archival research and on-site investigations, it was possible to trace the development of the house from its initial construction through several major renovation campaigns.

Building Chronology:

The earliest discernible house on the site has been largely demolished, however its cellar survives along with some rarely seen structural elements known as corbel stones. These are stones that project from the stone cellar walls and originally supported the early timber floor framing. It is possible that this cellar represents one of the earliest identified structures surviving in downtown Germantown and dates from the late 17th to early 18th century. Little is known about the first generation of houses that were built by the German and Dutch immigrants who settled Germantown. They were probably mostly small one story houses with steeply pitched roofs and small windows. Most of these structures probably disappeared during the late 18th century when the town became a fashionable address for wealthy Philadelphians.

It is not clear exactly when the earliest house was constructed on the site. A large tract of land including the present house site was purchased by George Bringhurst, Sr. in 1726. Bringhurst either moved his young family into an existing house or built a new one sometime thereafter. By the middle of the 18th century a small stone addition had been built along the south side of the earlier house. The thick stone walls of this addition appear to have survived largely intact up to the second floor height. The appearance of the Bringhurst House during the time of Washington's residency in the Deshler-Morris House next door cannot be fully known given the destructive renovations of the 19th century, however it likely consisted of a simple vernacular house with an addition to the south and a small kitchen wing to the rear. Multiple outbuildings behind the house would have housed a barn, stables and workshop.

Mid-19th Century Alterations

As far as can be discerned from the archival record, the early house and its addition survived until around 1834 when the property was sold out of the Bringhurst family. At that time, a major renovation was carried out in which the earliest house was nearly totally removed and its addition was heavily altered. Due to the extent of this renovation, it would be impossible to restore the house to its appearance during the 18th century.

The resulting appearance of the house after the ca.1834 renovation was a simple five-bay stuccoed house with a central hall and simple Grecian detailing. This house was in turn altered about 20 years later with the addition of a brick kitchen wing to the rear containing a new main staircase.

Victorian Renovation

Around 1895 another addition was added to the house, this time replacing the simple gabled roof with an elaborate Queen Anne style gambrel roof. This roof included decorative dormers and cornices. Other changes included Victorian window sash and paint colors. At this point in the house's development, the juxtaposition of multiple building periods combined to produce a richly layered structure which reflected the developmental history of Germantown.

Late 20th Century "Restoration"

Judging from the photographic record, the house remained relatively unchanged until around 1960. During a period of rediscovery of Germantown's colonial architecture, the owners of the house attempted to give the house the appearance of an 18th century structure. The Victorian roof was stripped of its dormers and ornamental cornices. In addition, the smooth scored stucco was stripped from the street front revealing crudely laid stonework which was never intended to be exposed. Instead of restoring the house to an earlier appearance, the result of this unfortunate renovation was a confused and incoherent structure.

Architectural Significance

As an individual structure, the Bringhurst House has little significance. It is not a great work of architecture nor is it associated with an important person or event. Due to its location, however, it contributes greatly to the interpretation and appreciation of the townscape of Germantown in general and of the highly significant Deshler-Morris House in particular. The Bringhurst House has tremendous appeal as a richly developed vernacular structure and provides an effective contrast to the quiet Georgian architecture of the Deshler-Morris House next door. Luckily, the most recent alterations to the Bringhurst House were relatively minor and could be reversed with a minimal amount of work. This would return the house to an appearance which

would be authentic and would enrich the surrounding area.

NPS Management Options

It would be totally inappropriate to attempt to restore this house to its appearance during the 18th century. There simply isn't enough of the early building fabric surviving on which to base a plausible reconstruction. However, the house presents the NPS with some opportunities to augment the interpretation and protection of the important and sensitively restored Deshler-Morris House next door. The Bringhurst House is an important element of Germantown's Market Square and its preservation helps to maintain the historic townscape around the Deshler-Morris House.

The size and location of the Bringhurst House allow it to serve as the location for various support functions which would otherwise be housed within the Deshler-Morris House. Toilet rooms, storage rooms and even heating and cooling equipment could all be housed in the Bringhurst House, protecting the Deshler-Morris and its contents from the likelihood of damage from these elements.

There is space in the Bringhurst House for multiple apartments for park staff which could be used to bolster the maintenance and protection of the site. Other space could be used for visitor orientation and classrooms. In balance it would seem that the wise use of the resources of the Bringhurst House could substantially augment the preservation and interpretation of the Deshler-Morris House.

PART 1. DEVELOPMENTAL HISTORY

Chapter 1

Historical Background

The historical background for this property was largely researched by Anna Coxo Toogood and is contained in a section of the Historic Structure/Furnishings/ Grounds Report, Deshler-Morris House, Bringham House, Historical Data Section. That document was completed in June 1980 and contains administrative and historical data sections for the Bringham House. The report was intensively researched and well written and has proven extremely useful in the analysis of the surviving architectural fabric. The following section of this report will discuss those portions of the archival record which were found to have bearing on the construction chronology of the Bringham House.

As is commonly the case for structures of similar age and status, the archival record for the Bringham House contains few solid references to the actual structures on the site until late in the 18th century and serves mainly as a backdrop of potentially useful information for understanding the building itself. A careful interpretation of the family history, the site's chain of title, and a general knowledge of the early history of the area allows for a conservative set of assumptions as to the early building activities on the site.

The site on which the present Bringham House stands is a portion of a larger parcel which changed hands numerous times from the late 17th century until its purchase in 1726 by George Bringham, Senior. The rectangular lot purchased at this date measured 193.5 feet across the Market Square front and 792 feet in depth. Considering the site's frontage on the main road and market square of Germantown, it is possible that there were early structures already in existence when Bringham assumed ownership. If no house existed, then George is likely to have constructed a home soon after his purchase. By 1726 he had married the daughter of John Ashmead, the adjacent land owner, had children and was prosperous enough to afford to purchase the Germantown property. It is likely that the earliest cellar room of the present house survives from a house constructed by George Bringham around 1726 or represents an even earlier house.

The Market Square property which George Bringham, Senior purchased in 1726 remained undivided until 1751 when, in his declining years George began to subdivide and sell some of his property. In May of 1751, he advertised in the Pennsylvania Gazette for the sale of some of his land, including a large section of the tract on which his house stood. This land was offered in three lots "fronting the market-place, each containing in breadth thirty-six feet, and in depth seven hundred

and ninety two feet" (see Figure #2). This land included slightly more than the southeastern half of the property starting at a line which corresponds to the southern wall of the existing house. As is described in detail in Chapters B and C, the southern end of the house represents an addition to the side of an earlier house. Bringhurst's intention subdivides his large property along the side of this addition strongly suggesting that it was standing by 1751, because the property was not actually sold in these increments.

George's lots were subsequently purchased by David Deshler, although in a slightly different manner of subdivision. In September of 1751, Deshler purchased a sixty foot wide strip of Bringhurst's land, leaving Bringhurst with another forty feet of frontage along the main street (see Figure #3). The remaining forty foot wide lot was eventually purchased by David Deshler soon after the death of George Bringhurst, Senior in early 1752.

The first concrete reference to a house on the site of the existing Bringhurst House is found in George's will of 1752. In this document, George directed that some of his real estate be sold to pay his debts "with this proviso that if possible my house where-in I now dwell with some part of my land and buildings lying contiguous and convenient thereunto be reserved and kept for the use and benefit of my wife and children..."

At the time of the death of George Bringhurst, Senior, his oldest son John appears to have been residing in another house on his father's land. The inventory of George, Senior's estate itemized "house and Lot whereon the widow lives" as well as the "house John Bringhurst Dwels in". It is possible that John's house was also an early house which already existed when George, Senior bought the property.

In 1753, John Bringhurst purchased the house and its lot from his father's estate. When this lot was subdivided from the remainder of the original 1726 Bringhurst tract the resulting property line passed through the northern wall of George Bringhurst, Senior's old house. This meant that half of this wall was actually on the north side of the new property line, a common condition among row houses but a potential annoyance for freestanding structures. The property line was subsequently redrawn including the northern half of the wall within the lot of the old house. This new boundary line was described in a deed from 1763 and in all subsequent deeds. Instead of a straight line running the full 792 foot depth of the properties, the new line started at the northeast corner of the house, ran along the northern wall for 21 feet, turned south for 7 inches and then continued west for the remaining distance. The offset in the property line corresponds very closely with the dimensions of the early cellar found in the present house, suggesting that the cellar survives from a house that existed at the time of George, Senior's death in 1752 and which most likely dates from 1726 or earlier.

A deed from 1763 shows the sons of George Bringhurst, Senior, George and John, as parties to a deed which further confirms the location and identity of the early house. In this deed, John sold his brother his "one fifth part of and in a Certain Two Story Messuage or Tenement & of a piece or lot of ground whereon the same Messuage is erected fronting the Germantown Market Place (It being the late dwelling or Mansion House of the late George Bringhurst Senr...) By this deed, it is seen that the house that passed to George Bringhurst Junior was indeed a house occupied by his father.

Federal Tax of 1798

A notable exception to the cryptic quality of most 18th century public records is the so-called Window Pane Tax of 1798. This tax records the size of the house, the number of windows and panes and the size of other outbuildings such as kitchens, barns, sheds, workshops etc. It is instructive to read through the tax records of the other Germantown houses for comparison. There are numerous log and frame houses mentioned in the list. Occasionally a house was listed as being in bad repair and was given a low valuation. Others houses were listed as having no cellar, apparently lowering its valuation also.

In the case of the Bringhurst House, the tax records list two houses, both of stone and both owned by the Widow of George Bringhurst. No kitchens are listed, suggesting that they were contained within the body of the house. One of the houses measured 21 feet by 18 feet with two stories. It had five windows with a total of 75 window lights. The other house measured 15 feet by 24 feet also with two stories. It had 3 windows with a total of 38 window lights. In addition to these houses, the tax recorded a frame barn and a frame shop.

Township Taxes of 1783-1800

The records for the Germantown Township tax assessments offer a few more clues to the number of houses on the Bringhurst property through the last two decades of the eighteenth century. From 1783 until 1800, the Bringhurst property was consistently listed as having one stone house. The value of the house did not change. By comparison, there are other assessments for nearby properties that record more than one house. This information is important when compared to the Federal Tax of 1798 which clearly records the presence of two houses. The most likely explanation is that there was a sizable addition built to an earlier house which could appear as a complete house. Since the Federal Tax for 1798 records buildings in more detail than the township assessments, the tax assessor of 1798 recorded the existence of two distinct structures.

19th Century History

Few pertinent archival sources from the 19th and 20th centuries have been located which directly describe building activities on the site, however, the existence of historic photographs dating from as early as 1859 document the degree to which

the house has evolved and allow for reasonable interpretation of the written records.

When Robert Bringhurst, the last Bringhurst to occupy the property, died in 1832, his estate went to the Orphan's Court for settlement. When advertised for sale in The Germantown Telegraph in 1833, the property was described as containing two houses. The property was subsequently purchased in 1834 by Susannah Mason, a widow who resided there until her death in 1844. The property was then owned by a succession of members of the Ashmead and Schaeffer families. It is the author's opinion, judging from the character and design of the surviving building fabric, that there were three distinct phases of significant building activities during the 19th century and that these phases are associated with the property's ownership by the following individuals: Susannah Mason, from 1834 until 1844; George Ashmead, from 1845 until 1875; Rev. William Ashmead Schaeffer, from 1892 until 1907.

The earliest view of the east facade of the Bringhurst House dates from the late 1850s and shows a large singular house with a fanlit central doorway, smooth scored stucco and dormers on the roof. It is obvious that the two houses that existed on the site prior to 1834 have been replaced with the house which still largely remains on the site. The initial phase of alterations almost certainly occurred after the site's purchase by Susannah Mason. The eastern block of the house was again altered during the second phase of alterations, likely occurring during the 1850s, during which time the rear brick extension was added.. It is the opinion of the author that the earliest photos show the house after the second phase of changes. As subsequent 19th century photos show, the eastern front of the house remained relatively unchanged from the 1830s until the 1890s when the Victorian gambrel roof and dormers replaced the simple gabled roof. A close inspection of the surviving building fabric, described later in this report, made some progress in sorting the sequence and character of these changes.

Insurance Surveys

The only records which might still provide more detailed information about the houses on the site are fire insurance records. No records for the property were found in the Contributionship records or in the INA records. There is a possibility that some policies were written by the Franklin Fire Insurance Company, of which there are many thousands of unindexed records at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Eventually these records will be indexed and should be consulted for possible Bringhurst House records.

Brief Physical Description of House

Located at 5448 Germantown Avenue, the Bringhurst House appears to consist of two generally distinct sections. Fronting Germantown Avenue is a two story stone section with a steep gambrel roof. To the rear is a two story brick extension with a low pitched shed roof. Upon closer examination, these two sections can be broken down further into more units, showing how the house grew incrementally throughout the 18th and 19th centuries.

Eastern Front Stone Section

Viewed from Germantown Avenue, the house presents a symmetrical facade with a fan-lit entry door occupying the center of five bays. These five bays are not evenly spaced, however the windows are all identically sized with six over six sash. The stone masonry of this facade is exposed and consists of very crudely laid rubble stone. The character and quality of the stonework suggest that it was intended to be covered with stucco. In fact the north and south ends of the house are stuccoed and historic photos confirm that the east facade was also covered with stucco until the early 1960s. Subtle irregularities in the exposed masonry point to changes and alterations and provide important clues to the house's history.

The roof over the front stone section is a steeply pitched gambrel, currently covered with a standing seam lead-coated stainless steel roof. On the rear of this roof are three highly ornamented Victorian dormers. Along with the small arched-top windows high in the north and south gable ends, these are the only exterior clues to the Victorian vintage of the gambrel roof. Similar dormers were removed from the front of the roof in the early 1960s along with similarly ornamented cornices and bargeboards.

There is a cellar below the eastern stone section of the house but it extends only below the northeastern room and the center hallway. There is a shallow crawl space below the southeastern rooms.

The interior plan of the eastern stone section consists of a central hall running from the front door to a rear door. A small vestibule is located on the outside of this rear door. Along the south side of the center hall are currently two rooms, however, it is apparent that this was a single large room with a fireplace on its south wall until recently. On the north side of the hall was a small parlor in the front with a dog-leg stair behind. Like the large room across the hall, this room has been subdivided and altered but it is easily discerned. The overall floor plan of this section of the house, with its stairway tucked into a corner, is quite similar to that of the 18th century Deshler-Morris House next door. Without further investigation, it is easy to assume that the dog leg stair occupies a corner of the eastern stone section of the house.

Indeed, the four exterior corners of this section describe a regular rectangle that includes the dog-leg stair and is topped by the gambrel roof.

The second floor plan of this eastern stone section of the house is generally the same as the first floor. The large room south of the hall has been subdivided into two smaller rooms. The northern room still retains most of its historical features including a simple wood mantel (plate #41), a mixture of mid-19th century door and window casings and a variety of 19th century door types.

In the hallway, a small closet has been recently installed and a bathroom occupies the small room over the rear door vestibule. In the ceiling of the center hallway is a modern pull-down attic stair which gives access to the third floor space. Until recently there was an open stringer stair to the third floor just south of the present pull-down stair. Most of the pieces of the earlier stairway are stored on the third floor including the newel post, handrail, balusters and treads.

The third floor covers the entire rectangular area above the eastern stone section of the house. Accessed by a single stairway in the central hallway of the second floor, the third floor is divided into four bedrooms and a hall closet. Each of the four bedrooms has a single window on the either the north or south gable. In addition, the western bedrooms and the hallway have a dormer window in the gambrel roof. Similar dormers were present in the eastern pair of bedrooms but these features have been removed and roofed over. Although many of the floorboards on this level are damaged or missing, and the stair has been dismantled, most of the architectural fabric of this level remains in relatively good condition. The interior openings for the eastern dormers remain. It would not appear to be very difficult to repair these rooms and use them for an apartment or office space.

Above the third floor is an attic level. Accessed by a steep ship's ladder, this space is floored with tongue and grooved wood boards and occupies the entire space below the upper slope of the gambrel roof. There is a single small arched top window at each end of the room in the north and south gable walls.

Rear Extension

The rear wing of the house consists of two identifiable sections. The larger section, attached to the rear of the stone house, appears to be a brick rectangle of two stories with a low shed roof. There is a cellar beneath this section of the house which curiously extends beneath the main stair in the eastern section of the house, a situation that will be explained later in this report. A small two story brick addition was built at the western end of the main rear extension. There is no cellar below this last section and its roof lines up with the adjacent shed roof.

On the ground floor of the rear extension, a hall runs along the south wall providing access to a series of small rooms along the north wall. Most of the interior

partitions appear to be of recent vintage, consisting of gypsum drywall with modern doors and trim. A glazed china cupboard occupies a small niche in one of the rooms and contains diamond patterned muntins not unlike the small attic windows in the gables of the eastern section of the house. Another notable feature is an unusual door frame located at the western end of the hallway in the extension. Prior to the construction of the small western addition, this doorway would have served as the exterior door for the main rear extension. Close examination reveals that this is a thick planked frame with evidence of a glazed transom bar, features which identify it as a late-18th or early-19th century exterior door frame. It is possible that this element was salvaged from another part of the house reused in the construction of the rear extension.

An examination of the door and window casings of the western extension reveals the consistent use of a molding profile which is also found in some sections of the eastern stone section of the house (see plates # 34 and # 35). This molding profile is also found on the window and doors associated with the main stair of the house, seemingly within the eastern section of the house.

A small enclosed stair along the north wall of the rear extension provides access to the modern apartment on the second floor. Below this stair is the only stairway to the cellar areas. It is noteworthy that all of the door casings associated with these two stairways are of the same design as the door and window casing found in the Victorian-era bedrooms of the third floor. In addition, this enclosed stair runs directly into the second floor room of the small brick addition to the west of the main rear extension. This fact suggests that the rear stairway was not included in the original construction of the main rear extension, but was only added when this section was extended to the west, at a similar date to the construction of the Victorian gambrel-roofed third floor of the eastern section of the house.

Survey and Analysis of Existing Building Fabric

In order to structure this investigation and to make the resulting report easily understood, the following basic method was employed. Armed with available archival data and an understanding of 18th and 19th century building practices, all visible building fabric was inspected. Once a rough idea of the temporal relationships of the various parts of the house was developed, a working hypothesis was constantly refined to try to rationally reconstruct the building chronology and to find a reasonable degree of fit between the archival evidence and the building fabric. In this house, strong physical evidence was found to separate major construction and renovation campaigns, but aside from the stone walls, little actual building fabric has survived from the earliest periods to provide any detail of the plans and architectural features of the earliest house.

In the following sections of this report, it is intended to describe the architectural fabric in each section of the house in detail and to try to distill the major construction periods and the degree to which fabric from each period has survived. While many of the conclusions are based on fragmentary evidence, it is hoped that the information is presented in such a way as to leave ample room for further resolution or reinterpretation as new information is found during future renovations. This is a complicated structure since it has been heavily altered many times during its history. This report should serve as a foundation on which to build upon as additional clues come to light.

Analysis of the Basements:

18th and 19th Century Construction Periods

It is often the case that some of the most useful information about the construction history of a house can be found in the cellar. In the case of the Bringhurst House, the cellar holds most of the key elements for sorting out the complex series of renovations that were carried out. A comparison of the cellar plan with that of the first floor quickly reveals that significant changes have occurred and that there are probably more than one renovation campaign represented.

It is known from the archival history that the property was purchased by George Bringhurst Senior in 1726. As was discussed in Chapter A, Bringhurst purchased a large lot fronting Germantown's main street, now called Germantown Avenue, and its market square and either occupied an existing house or built a new house. While this earliest house could have been built of log construction, no evidence, either physical or archival has been found to suggest this. At the time of George's death in 1752, there were at least two houses on his property. His widow was occupying a house and his son John was dwelling in another. John was most likely occupying a house which sat just north of his father's house, on the site of the

present Armat house. As was stated in the first chapter, John's house also may have been standing on the property when it was purchased by his father in 1726.

Cellar Section 1, Period 18-1(c. 1726)

Some clues to the size and location of the early house of George Bringhurst Senior can be found in the cellar below the stone eastern front of the house. On the cellar floor plan, (Figure 5), the early cellar space is labeled Section 1. This cellar room appears to have survived numerous major renovations to the rest of the house above and was almost certainly part of the house that was standing when George Bringhurst Senior died in 1752. The depth of Section 1 along the northern edge of the property coincides with the curious offset in the northern property line. The fact that the property line moves back 7" to the south around the northwestern corner of the early cellar suggests that not only was the cellar, and the house above, standing before 1763, but also that another structure or a rear kitchen wing may have existed behind the house.

Early features which survive in the cellar space of Section 1 include an infilled door opening on the eastern wall and numerous projecting stone corbels on the eastern and western walls which would have once supported the early timber floor framing. The use of corbels is not a feature common to the masonry buildings of the Delaware Valley of the colonial period. A few other examples are known to exist at other early Germantown buildings such as Wyck, the Dirk Jansen House and at a few of the early buildings at Rittenhouse Town. At the Bringhurst House, the corbels would have supported a heavy timber sill that would in turn have supported the timber floor joists. These corbels would have supported a first floor level almost two feet lower than the present level. The east wall of the cellar has retained only one of its corbels, however it appears that the top half of this wall has been largely reconstructed, removing most of the projecting stones. During this same rebuilding of the east wall, the early cellar doorway was walled in with stone. It is likely that the exterior cellar stairway was filled in and survives beneath the present front stoop. Archaeological study of this stairway could help to date the original construction of the house as well as the first major renovation of the 19th century. It is quite possible that level of the street in front of the house was raised, necessitating the raising of the first floor.

The floor framing which survives over the early cellar likely dates from the same renovation campaign that saw the rebuilding of the east wall and the raising of the first floor. The layout of this framing corresponds with the current plan of the first floor with its center hallway. Evidence of a stairway at the rear of the hall exists in the first floor framing in the form of a rectangular framed opening, not floored over. (See plate #17). The existence of this stair opening is an important clue for understanding the construction chronology of the house. It clearly belongs to a later period than the early cellar, and was in turn covered up during a later renovation.

Other features found in the early cellar that likely relate to the 19th century period are the chimney foundation on the north wall and the doorway in the west wall leading into the western cellar room. The chimney base supports a hearth at the level of the existing first floor and appears to have been built up against the earlier masonry cellar wall. The western doorway appears to have been cut through an existing masonry wall rather than having been carefully built into it. During the installation of this door, some of the corbel stones were removed. (See plate # 18).

In summary, there appear to be features from a c.1726 house surviving in the cellar of Section 1 of the present Bringham House. The 19th century renovations that produced the present house resulted in the raising of the first floor, the infill of the eastern cellar door and the removal of most, if not all, of the early house above the cellar level. Included in the newer structure above was a stairway to the cellar from the hall above, a feature that was in turn removed when another renovation campaign added a new stairway in a rear extension.

Cellar Section 2, Period 18-2 (c. 1751)

To the south of Section 1 is another stone section of the house. This part of the house, labeled Section 2 on the cellar plan, probably represents the surviving fabric of an addition to the Period 18-1 house. This addition is most likely the second house referred to in the U.S. Direct Tax of 1798. As was discussed in Chapter A, George Bringham, Senior advertised to sell off part of his property in 1751, proposing to subdivide his land along a new boundary line that corresponded to the location of the south wall of Section 2 of the house. This suggests that Section 2 was already standing and provided a convenient point at which to draw a new boundary. This argument is supported by the fact the property was never actually subdivided along this line. Instead, in September 1751 David Deshler purchased a plot that began eight feet further south of Section 2.

There is no full cellar below Section 2 however there is a crawl space sufficiently deep to allow for entry and examination of the architectural fabric. The crawl space is subdivided by a north-south foundation wall of loosely laid rubble stone. Above the space is a timber floor system of floor joists with tongue and groove flooring. Around the perimeter of the crawl space are a number of features whose juxtaposition and layering offer strong evidence about the building chronology. (See Figure #12 and Figure #13). On the east wall can be seen the bottom of an infilled doorway. On the south wall are stone features which are probably foundations for chimneys. While there appear to be bases for two chimneys, in the house above, there is only a single wide chimney breast in the floors above..

Interior wall plaster can be seen on the surface of the east, south and west walls, just below the level of the current first floor. This plaster finish describes a finished interior wall surface that predates the current floor system. The apparent

chimney bases on the south wall were also built over the plaster surfaces, confirming that they too were later additions to the space. Pockets in the stone masonry of the south wall can be seen close to the soil that carried the original timber floor joists. The original floor level would have been compatible with the early first floor level of Section 1. The timber first floor system that currently exists is of a different character from that found in Section 1. The joists are larger and more evenly spaced and the flooring is of consistent width. The fact that there are no hearths framed into the floor joists around the two chimney bases further suggests that the floor system postdates the renovation campaign in which the floor was initially raised and the pair of chimneys inserted.

In summary, it appears that when originally constructed, Section 2 consisted of an addition to Section 1 with thick stone walls to the east, south and west and a wooden floor placed close to the ground. At some unknown date, the floor was raised up to the present level with the wooden floor joists probably resting on the present central rubble stone wall and on the short stone walls that were built up against the east and west perimeter walls. The original eastern doorway was infilled at the bottom to create a window and two chimneys were constructed to serve rooms above. At a still later date, possibly coinciding with the late 19th century alterations to the roof, the two chimneys were removed from their bases and replaced by the single wide, shallow chimney breast above. This change necessitated the replacement of the entire floor system in order to accommodate the new location of the fireplace and hearth above.

Once the cellar and crawl space areas of Section 1 and Section 2 have been examined, the following questions emerge:

1. Were these two sections the two houses listed in the 1798 U.S. Direct Tax and the same two houses mentioned in the sales advertisement of 1833?
2. Where are the early fireplace foundations, especially for the large kitchen hearths? No evidence was found to show the location of any of these early features.
3. At what date were the two early sections of the house combined to form the large structure that basically survives?

Cellar Section 3, Period 19-2 (c. 1845)

Attached to the west wall of Section 1 is a long rectangular basement room, labeled on the Cellar Floor Plan as Section 3. This space appears to have been constructed as an addition to the earlier sections in a single construction campaign. Judging from the exterior brickwork and the interior architectural features of the spaces above this cellar, it would appear that this section was constructed around the middle of the 19th century. A curious scar can be seen in the stonework of the eastern

wall of this cellar room. (See Figure #12). This section of wall is the exterior of the foundation of Section 1 and resembles the springing for a large arch, possibly the foundation for a kitchen hearth. It is possible that the erection of this section entailed the total removal of a rear wing of the original house, including the kitchen. Without more physical evidence, it is impossible to fully understand the early design of this section of the house.

Another mystery which deserves further scrutiny concerns the lack of stone walls above the west and south walls of the cellar in Section 1. The obvious answer is that the west and south walls of the ca.1726 house were removed during one the 19th century renovation campaigns. Another possible scenario could be that one or both of these walls never existed. It is possible that the ca.1726 house was built of logs, having a stone walled cellar, but no stone walls higher up. In the opinion of the author, the existence of the corbel stones to carry the first floor framing makes this theory unlikely. Another theory could be that a kitchen or shed was originally attached to the rear of the house and that there was never a western wall. It may be possible to find some telling evidence on the northern gable wall of Section 1. It should be possible to open up the hollow section of wall to the north of the house's main stairway to see if the masonry on the northwestern corner of Section 1 ever turned the corner.

To make an educated conjecture about the design of the rear of the earliest house from such incomplete remains is impossible given the lack of definitive information about Germantown's early housing. Other than a few photos, sketches and written descriptions, there is very little known about the early domestic architecture of Germantown. Most of the houses that fronted the main street and that have survived or are known from photos date from the second half of the 18th century or later. While these structures are generally similar to other stone houses of the Southeast Pennsylvania region, not only are they mostly the second generation of house on the site, but their apparent orderliness and uniformity mask the intensive use of the rear properties. Germantown developed a reputation for the production of high quality goods such as stockings, wagons and carriages. In the alleys and rear properties of the houses, there developed an elaborate array of sheds, barns, shops, stables and other back buildings in which these activities took place.

Throughout the 18th and early 19th centuries, the Bringhursts were engaged in the manufacture of harnesses, saddles and eventually wagons and carriages. These activities must have been carried out in the wood barn and shop which appear in the 1798 tax survey. Other buildings could also have existed before or after the 1798 survey. A similar group of such buildings is depicted in a nearby house in a fire insurance survey from 1840. The house and its associated sheds, kitchen and shop are all attached and arranged along the side property line. A particularly important feature of this drawing is the location of the kitchen. It is separated from the house by a wood framed shed. This location for a kitchen makes sense when one considers that

the kitchen would probably have been used to feed the numerous workers employed in the light industrial activities carried out behind the house. At least one other example of this arrangement survives in the Dirk Jansen House at 6112 Germantown Avenue and can be examined. In the two cases mentioned, the kitchen had a cellar while the open ended shed did not. This pattern of building may explain the total lack of any identifiable early structure to the rear of the surviving stone section at the Bringhurst House. All such constructions would have been swept away during the mid-19th century when the brick extension, Section 3, was constructed.

In summary, examination of the building fabric visible in the cellar areas of the house strongly suggests that during the 18th century, there was a small c.1726 house with a c.1751 addition to its south end. In the 19th century, during the first major renovation, the 18th century structures were vastly altered and overbuilt. A second renovation extended the house to the west and also impacted the interior of the eastern portion of the house that had already been rebuilt. A third renovation during the late 19th century further altered the overall house. To provide clarity for further analysis, the construction and renovation periods as found will be referred to in the following manner:

c.1726 house:	<u>Period 18-1</u>
c.1751 addition:	<u>Period 18-2</u>
c.1834 renovation:	<u>Period 19-1</u>
c.1850 renovation:	<u>Period 19-2</u>
c.1895 renovation:	<u>Period 19-3</u>

Analysis of the Architectural Fabric Above the Cellars- 19th Century Construction Periods

The first major renovation to the house occurred C.1834, after the property had been sold out of the Bringhurst family. During this renovation, Period 19-1, the pair of stone structures along Germantown's main street were vastly altered, combining them into a single unified structure. During the second phase of renovation, Period 19-2, a large two-storied brick extension was added and the interior of the eastern section was slightly altered to accommodate the enlarged plan of the overall house. Significantly, the present dog-legged stair is located within the Period 19-2 rear extension. A third renovation at the close of the 19th century, Period 19-3, was generally confined to the replacement of the gabled roof over the eastern section of the house with a Victorian gambrel roof.

First Major Renovation Phase: Period 19-1 (c. 1834)

The first major renovation of the 18th century structures that appear to have survived on the property until after the death of the last Bringhurst family owner, likely occurred around 1834. No drawings or photographs have been located to

describe the property either before or immediately after this first major renovation. The earliest photographs of the house that have been located show the eastern front as it existed sometime after the Period 19-2 renovation, however, it is likely that this side of the house was little changed during the second 19th century renovation campaign. As rebuilt during the Period 19-1 renovation, the eastern facade was organized into 5 bays with a central entry door. The nine large six-over-six windows were much larger than the windows found in the earlier 18th century Germantown houses. The east facade was covered in a smooth stucco scored to resemble cut stone blocks and the south gable end, as seen in the historic photos, was covered with a much rougher stucco. The treatment of the principal facade was an important component of many 18th and 19th century structures in Germantown and survived on the Bringhurst House until the early 1960s when it was removed to reveal the stonework.

It is difficult to be sure exactly when the two 18th century portions of the house were combined into a contiguous whole. Although the property was listed as having two houses when advertised for sale in 1832, it is possible that another house was standing to the rear of the main house and that the Germantown Avenue structures had already been combined. As was discussed in the first chapter, Robert Bringhurst had purchased the property from his father's estate in 1812 and continued to reside there until his death in 1832. It is quite possible that the modifications to the house referred to as Period 19-1 were carried out during his ownership. The only piece of written evidence that this was not the case is the reference to two houses in the 1832 newspaper advertisement. The next owner, the widow Susannah Mason, bought the property in 1834 and resided there until her death in 1844. The author has tentatively concluded that the Period 19-1 renovation was carried out soon after her purchase.

Examination of the surviving building fabric in the cellar of Section 1 strongly suggests that the early 18th century house of George Bringhurst, Senior was almost totally destroyed during renovation of Period 19-1. While the cellar walls remain generally intact, the floor level above was raised with new framing. There are currently no surviving stone walls above either the south or west cellar walls of Section 1. Since the stucco was removed from the eastern wall, it is possible to see the character and detailing of the stonework in the wall. There is no discernible evidence that the eastern wall above the cellar level of Section 1 survives from the earlier house. Except for some alterations in stonework around the central doorway, this portion of the wall probably dates from Period 19-1. The northern wall above the early cellar was probably also reconstructed, however its stucco covering conceals the evidence. After the Period 19-1 renovation, the eastern section of the house had large six-over-six double hung windows, much larger than the nine-over-six windows that were recorded in the 1798 tax survey for one of the two houses. A new doorway and stoop were constructed at the location of the 18th century cellar entry stair. Inside of the new doorway was a narrow hall with a stair at its end and a small parlor to the

north. To the south of the hall were two small chambers, each with a fireplace. The door and window casings shown in plates #30 and #31 are found on the two floors of eastern portion of the house. The profile of these casings are almost identical to comparable features at Wyck, a nearby house that was substantially altered in 1824. This molding profile can be found in houses in this area built from the 1820s through the 1840s.

During Period 19-1, the stone structure to the south of the earliest house was also totally altered. On the eastern facade, a careful inspection of the exposed stonework reveals that much of the 18th century masonry was left standing, in contrast to the upper walls of Section 1 to the north. It appears that, to accommodate the raised floor levels of the house, the eastern wall of Section 2 was heightened and all of the masonry openings were altered. The eastern door into Section 2 was partially walled in and a window was inserted into the remaining opening. The other three windows in this section of wall were raised and enlarged. This evidence corresponds with the evidence from the crawl space that proved that the first floor level had been raised above the level of the original 18th century structures. Another important piece of information gleaned from the stonework of the east facade is the lack of a joint in the stonework between Section 1 and Section 2. This adds weight to the theory that the east wall of Section 1 was totally removed and replaced with new construction while the east wall of Section 2 was left in place and altered.

With the main body of the house rebuilt into a regular five bay structure, a simple gabled roof was constructed over the top. The ridge of this roof was parallel to Germantown Avenue and a brick chimney stack rose from each gable end. On the eastern side of the roof were a pair of gabled dormers. The ridge of the roof was centered over the old cellar room of Section 1. This allowed the chimney serving the two rooms to the north of the center hall to rise straight up through the ridge at the north gable. On the south end of the house, visible in the early photo shown in Plate #3, the greater depth of Section 2, now incorporated into the Period 19-1 house, required that the rear of the roof continue down to form a distinct saltbox profile (See Figure 11). During the replacement of the roof Ca. 1895, the rafters were removed and the western walls were raised to a full two storied height. However, the second floor ceiling joists and wide attic floor boards of Period 19-1 were all left in place and still remain in place (see Plate #43 and Figure #14). In the floor structure of the third floor, immediately above the house's main stairway, can be seen the ends of these attic floor joists. Prior to the replacement of the roof with the Victorian gambrel, these joists projected beyond the western wall of the house where they supported the cornice and rafter ends. To the south of these joists, in the same floor structure, can be found a summer beam that supports the Period 19-1 attic floor joists at their western ends where the roof originally continued down to form the saltbox roof (See Plate #44 and Figure #15).

The interior plan of the house after the Period 19-1 renovations contained a

central hall with a stair running from cellar to attic. The central hall and a room to its north occupied space directly above the early Period 18-1 cellar. Two rooms to the south of the hall were within the shell of the heavily altered Period 18-2 structure. If the Period 19-1 house extended any farther to the west than the cellar of the Period 18-1 house, no evidence of it survived the construction of the Period 19-2 western addition. When that addition was added, with its graceful stair, the Period 19-1 stairway was removed from the cellar to the second floor. Since the Period 19-2 stairway only served the first and second floors, the uppermost run of the earlier stair was retained to give access to the attic space. This section of stairs was left in place during the addition of the Victorian gambrel roof in Period 19-3 only to be dismantled in the 1960s and replaced with a modern pull-down attic stair. The floor framing of the third floor includes the opening for the attic stair and appears to confirm that the stairway dates from Period 19-1. Fortunately, most of the pieces of the stairway, including the newel post, handrail, balusters, treads and nosing returns were stored in the third floor. The design of the rail and newel post (See Plate #42) suggest that they date to the second quarter of the 19th century. The subtly curving shape of the newel contrasts with the newel found on the existing main stair (See Plate #40) on the first floor and helps to separate the two features in time by at least a decade or two.

Second Major Renovation Phase: Period 19-2 (c. 1850)

It is difficult to pinpoint the date of the second major renovation to the house. As was discussed in the first chapter, the property was acquired by George Ashmeade in 1845, only a decade after its purchase, with two houses, by Susannah Mason. Ashmeade owned the house until 1875 and could have undertaken a sizable renovation at most any time during his ownership, however the architectural character of the features that survive from this renovation, in particular the stairway and the interior millwork, appear to date from the earlier end of the period. A date of Ca.1850 as therefore been ascribed to the renovation of Period 19-2.

While the previous renovations to the house resulted in a larger structure by totally reconstructing two smaller ones, the renovation of Period 19-2 achieved a similar transformation to the interior scale of the house. The central hallway was cleared of its stair and extended to the western wall of Section 2. The construction of a sizable rear extension allowed for the installation of an elegant dog-leg stair in a similar position to the stair at the Deshler-Morris House next door. After these improvements, the house achieved a level of sophistication more in keeping with its immediate neighbors.

All of the early historic photos show the eastern front of the house after the completion of the Period 19-2 renovation. While most of the appearance of the house in the photos derives from the previous renovation, some features can be seen which

likely date from the Period 19-2 renovation. It is believed by the author that the entry doorway was altered during this time to include the fanlight over the door. The now exposed masonry of the east facade shows evidence of alterations around the doorway, particularly around the fanlight. The existence of the re-used door frame in the rear of the Period 19-2 western extension suggests that a different doorway once occupied the eastern facade. (See First Floor Plan for location). The re-used door frame contains evidence of a transom bar above the door. Another alteration to the exterior can be seen in the historic photo shown as Plate #1. This photo, from 1861, shows the southeast corner of the Bringham House. A window on the south end of the house, near the east end of the wall, appears to have been recently cut into masonry. The rough stucco appears to have been patched around the new opening.

As stated above, the Period 19-2 renovation included the construction of a large two story brick extension to the west of the existing stone house. A full basement extends under of all of this new addition and abuts the western wall of the Period 18-1 cellar. On the first floor, the west wall of the early house appears to have been totally removed from its stone basement wall. From the first floor up to the ceiling of the second floor this wall was replaced with a thick wood framed wall. This wall abuts the dog-legged stair, a feature that is wholly contained within the Period 19-2 addition. The fact that this stairway is part of the rear addition is not readily apparent because the Victorian gambrel roof extends over the top.

The roof of the Period 19-2 addition is a simple shed roof. As originally constructed, this shed roof must have extended over the dog-legged stairway and intersected the western wall and roof of the Period 19-1 house. The interior of the rear addition must have accommodated a kitchen and its ancillary spaces, although, except for a stove flue, no trace remains of any of these functions. This small flue can be seen in the western wall of the addition.

Third Major Renovation Phase: Period 19-3 (c. 1895)

Sometime around 1895-1899, the house received another major alteration. The entire roof system of the eastern stone portion of the house, dating from the Period 19-1 renovations, was removed and replaced with a tall gambrel roof with dormer windows on the east and west. This new roof had decoratively cut wood shingles and was ornamented with pierce carved wood cornices and bargeboards running up the gables. The top run of the Period 19-1 stairway continued to rise from the second floor center hall and now accessed a suite of four bedrooms on the third floor. In order to accommodate this construction, the west wall of the stone house was heightened to a full two stories. This erased the saltbox profile of the south gable end. The new third floor also extended over the dog-legged stair at the east end of the Period 19-2 addition, giving the appearance that the front section of the house was regular rectangle instead of L-shaped. To further reinforce this appearance, the north wall of the stairway was built out with wood framing, lath and stucco, visually

moving the corner of the front house section farther west. (See floor plans). This scenario explains the curious situation that currently exists, namely that around the northern window overlooking the stair landing, the wall appears to be over 24" thick, with solid masonry on the inside and hollow wood construction on the outside.

It is believed by the author that the small brick addition at the extreme western end of the house dates from approximately the same period as the Victorian roof. The interior architectural millwork that survives in this addition is similar in design to that found in the Victorian third floor rooms.

Other alterations that date from the Period 19-3 renovation include the replacement of the window sash of the eastern facade with Victorian two-over-two sash. The historic photo shown in Plate #5 portrays the house with Victorian detailing still complete. On the interior of the house, it appears that the pair of small rooms on the first floor south of the hall were combined at this time into a single large room.

20th Century Alterations: Period 20-1 (c. 1960)

After 1948, the property was owned by the Germantown Savings Bank and was used as office space. During this period, the large south rooms of the first and second floors were subdivided into smaller chamber and the walls were covered with wood paneling. It is presumed by the author that these spaces probably had Victorian period mantels until this time. The stair to the third floor was removed and its pieces stored in the third floor. New partitions were built in the first floor of the Period 19-2 rear extension and all traces of the earlier kitchen were removed.

The changes to the exterior, dating from sometime after 1960, were much more unsympathetic to the character of the house than those to the interior. The eastern front of the house stripped of its stucco and the rubble stone beneath was repointed with hard gray cement. The two-over-two window sash were removed and replaced with six-over-six and the outer trim of the window frames was removed. At the roof level, the Victorian dormer windows were totally removed as were the pierce carved cornices and bargeboards. The decorative wood shingle roofing was replaced with slate. One can only surmise that the owners of the house were attempting to remove all of the Victorian elements and to restore the house to an earlier appearance. Unfortunately, the result was simply the defacement of the house and the creation of an appearance which has no historical basis.

Recommendations for Management

The management of the Bringhurst House represents an increasingly common challenge for the administrators of the National Park Service. Included among the resources of the parks are numerous historic structures which may not contribute directly to the interpretive goals of the park but which are significant and sometimes well preserved examples of local vernacular architecture. In the past, these buildings were routinely removed during the creation of a typical park. Current NPS guidelines, reinforced by Section 106 compliance procedures, encourage the preservation of these structures to the same standards as the parks' primary resources. Unfortunately, the lack of funding for such care often leads to the neglect and eventual demolition of these buildings. In the case of the Bringhurst House, a strong case can be made for preserving the structure as an important backdrop to the Deshler-Morris House, strengthening both the interpretation of the site as well as its protection and maintenance.

Site Management and Interpretation

The historical significance of the Deshler-Morris House derives from its use as a temporary residence for President George Washington during 1793 and 1794. While the majority of the house has been restored to its appearance during the 1790s, a conscious decision was made to retain features in the rear of the house and in the garden which relate to the occupation of the house by the Perot and Morris families throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. As an urbane townhouse, the interpretation of the Deshler-Morris House is highly dependent on the continued preservation of the intimate streetscape around it.

Similarly, part of the intrinsic value of the Deshler-Morris garden is its contrast with the relative density of the Germantown streetscape. Many of the buildings along this stretch of Germantown Avenue, including the much altered Bringhurst House, share a common history with the Deshler-Morris House and garden. The subtle layering of historic periods is evident on most of the buildings and the Bringhurst House is one of the more prominent houses on the street. A careful restoration of the east facade of the house to its appearance after ca. 1895 would reinforce the value all of the historical periods which are represented around the Market Square and would serve as an effective backdrop for its highly significant neighbor, the Deshler-Morris House.

In addition to its value as an historical backdrop, the proximity of the Bringhurst House offers the potential for valuable support facilities for the operation of the Deshler-Morris House. It could provide a place for visitor orientation and educational programs as well as storage and restrooms. The location of these functions in the Bringhurst House would measurably lessen the wear and potential for fire at the Deshler-Morris House.

Resource Protection and Maintenance

The remoteness of the Deshler-Morris House from Independence National Historical Park presents many obstacles to the park's ability maintain and protect it. There is currently a one bedroom apartment in the Brighthurst House which is assigned to a law enforcement park ranger. The speed with which this individual can respond to alarms or activities at the Deshler-Morris House is of tremendous value to the park. There is ample space within the Brighthurst House for additional apartment units. The assignment of one of these units to a park employee in the Maintenance Division could greatly aid the maintenance and preservation of the site. This individual could be responsible for many basic preventive maintenance activities such as cleaning gutters and downspouts, minor painting and carpentry, and basic operation of the mechanical system. Currently, many such minor maintenance activities are routinely deferred at great risk to the sensitive historic fabric of the buildings and their contents.

MARKET SQUARE

Main Street

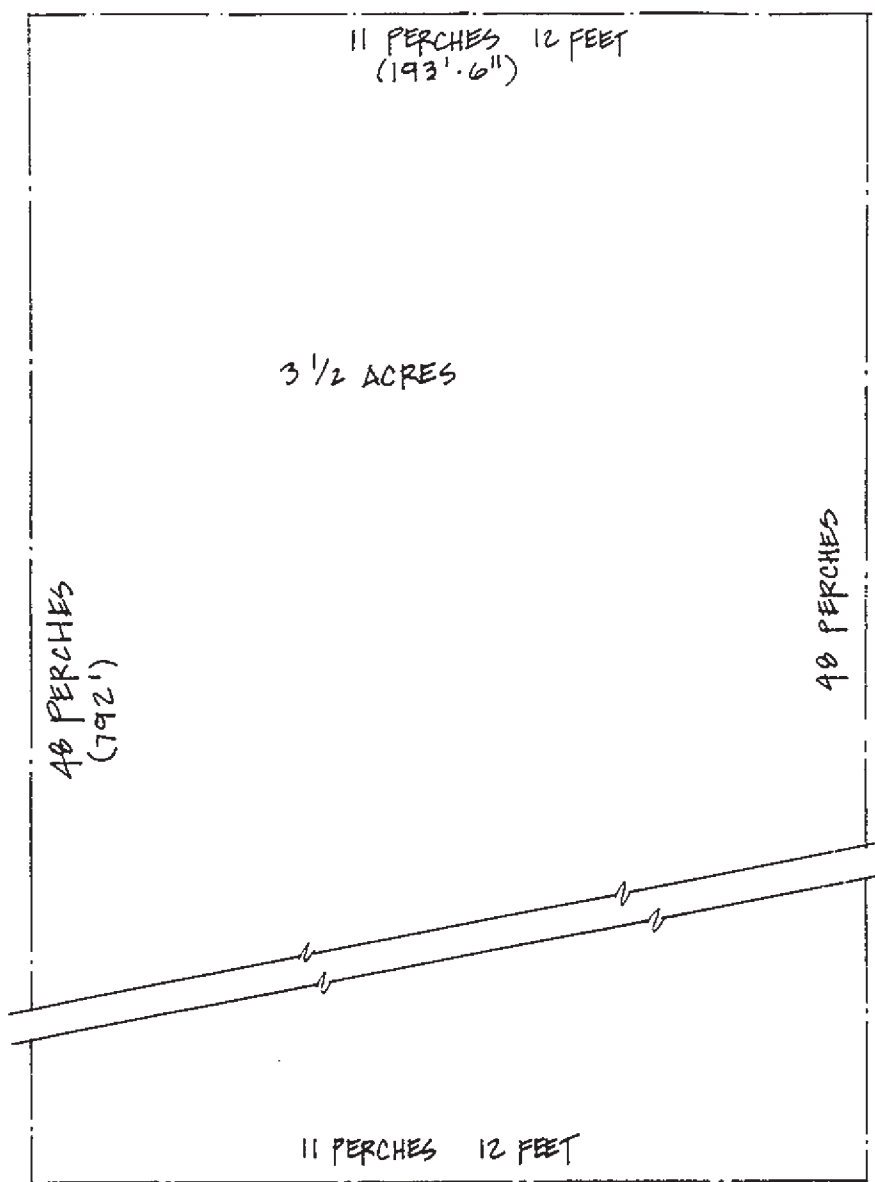


Figure 1. Plot plan of the lot purchased by George Bringhurst, Sr. in 1726.

MARKET SQUARE

Main Street

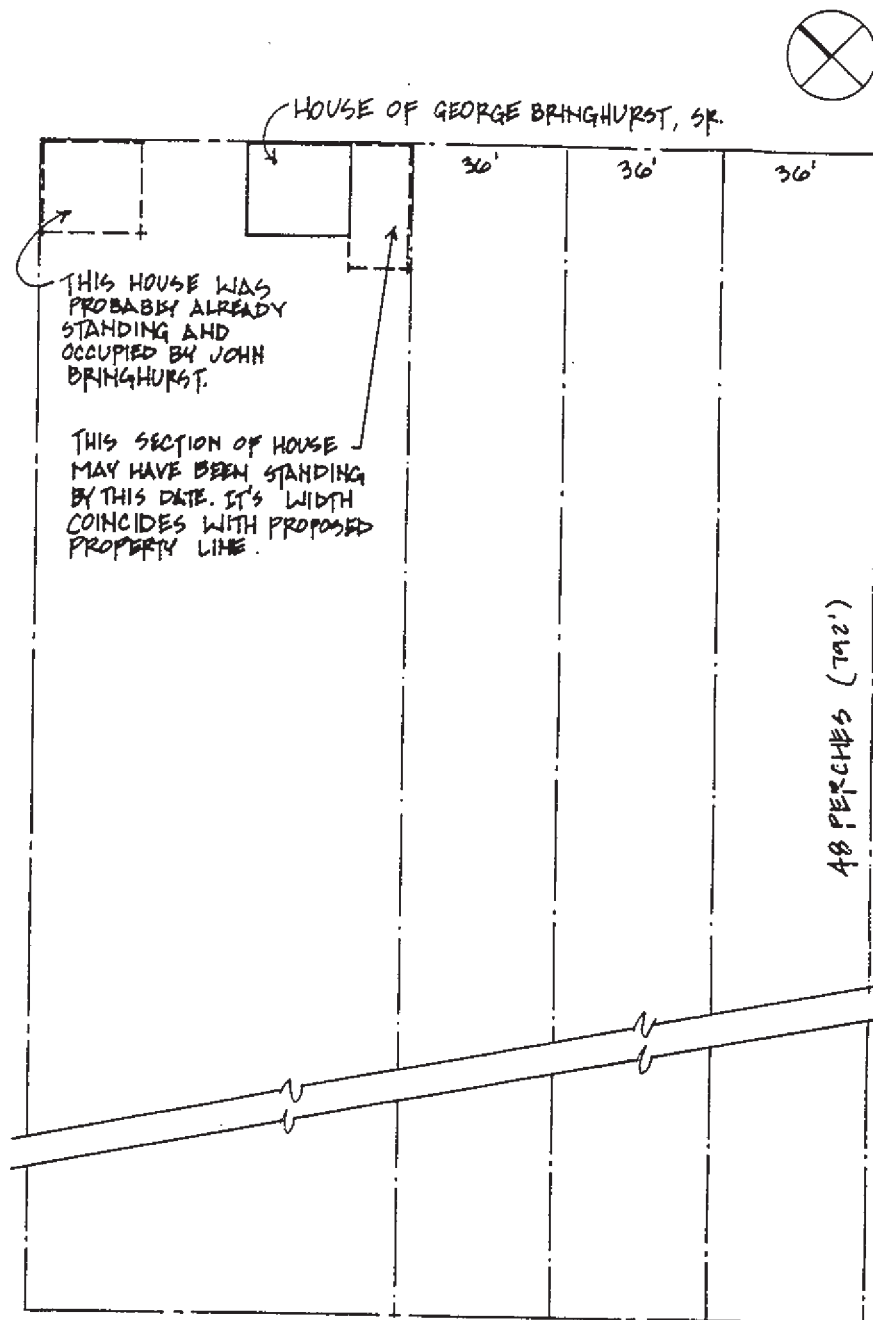


Figure 2. Plot plan of George Bringhurst's property showing location of lots offered for sale in 1751. This exact subdivision was not realized.

MARKET SQUARE

Main Street

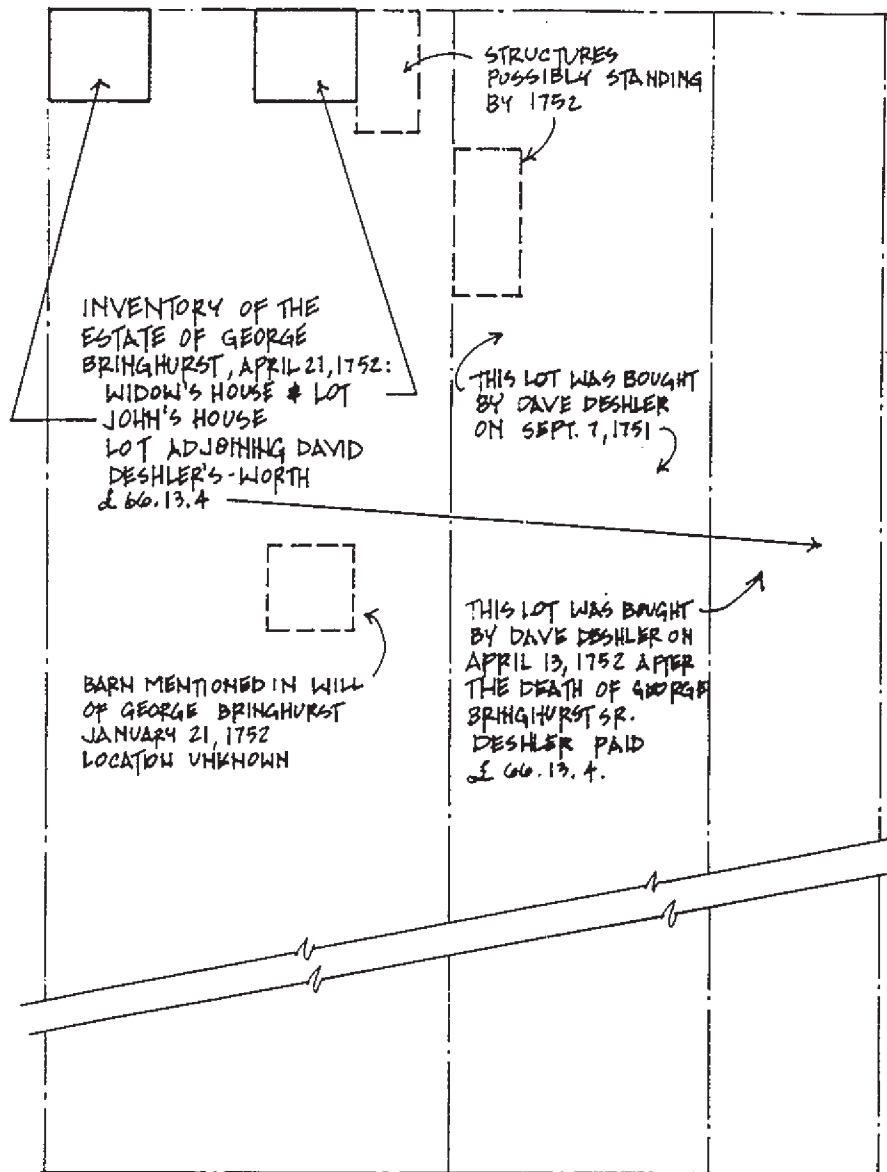


Figure 3. Plot plan showing development of Bringhurst lot soon after the death of George Bringhurst, Sr. in 1752.

MARKET SQUARE

Main Street

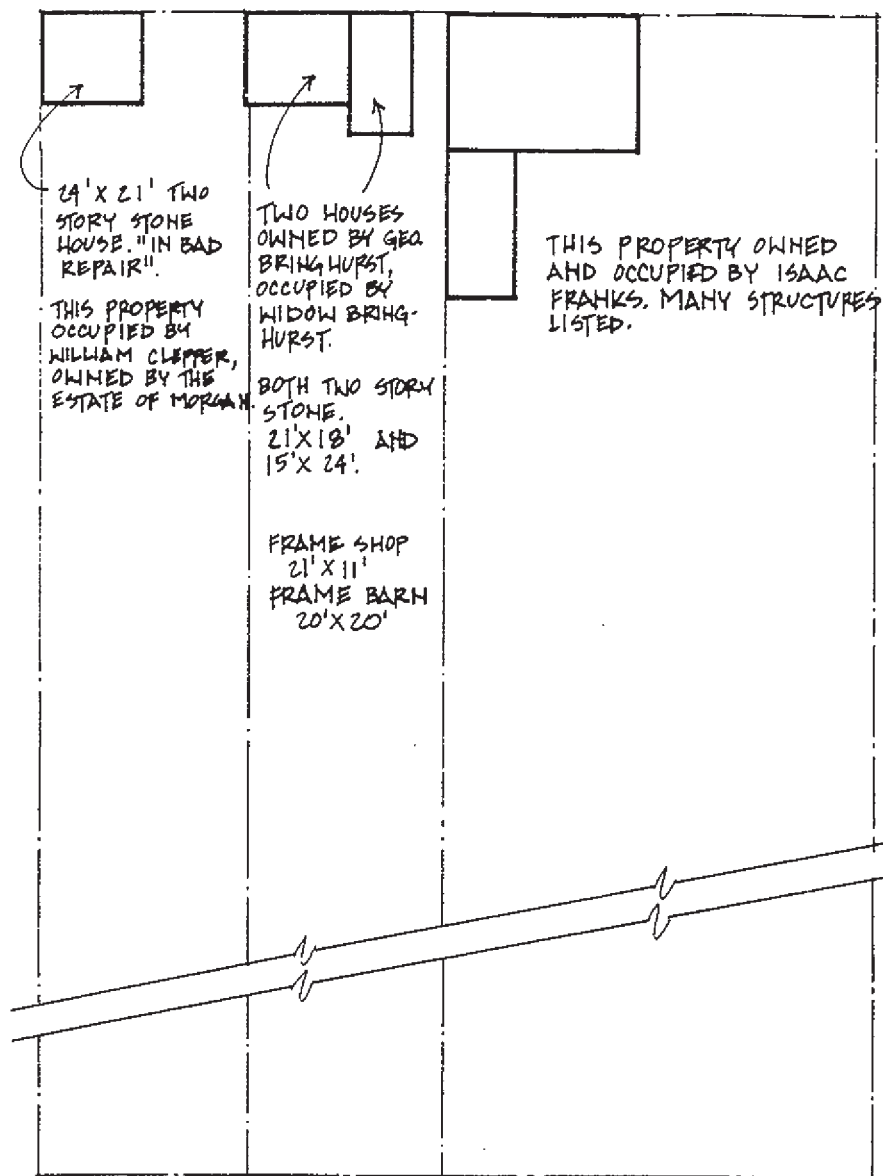
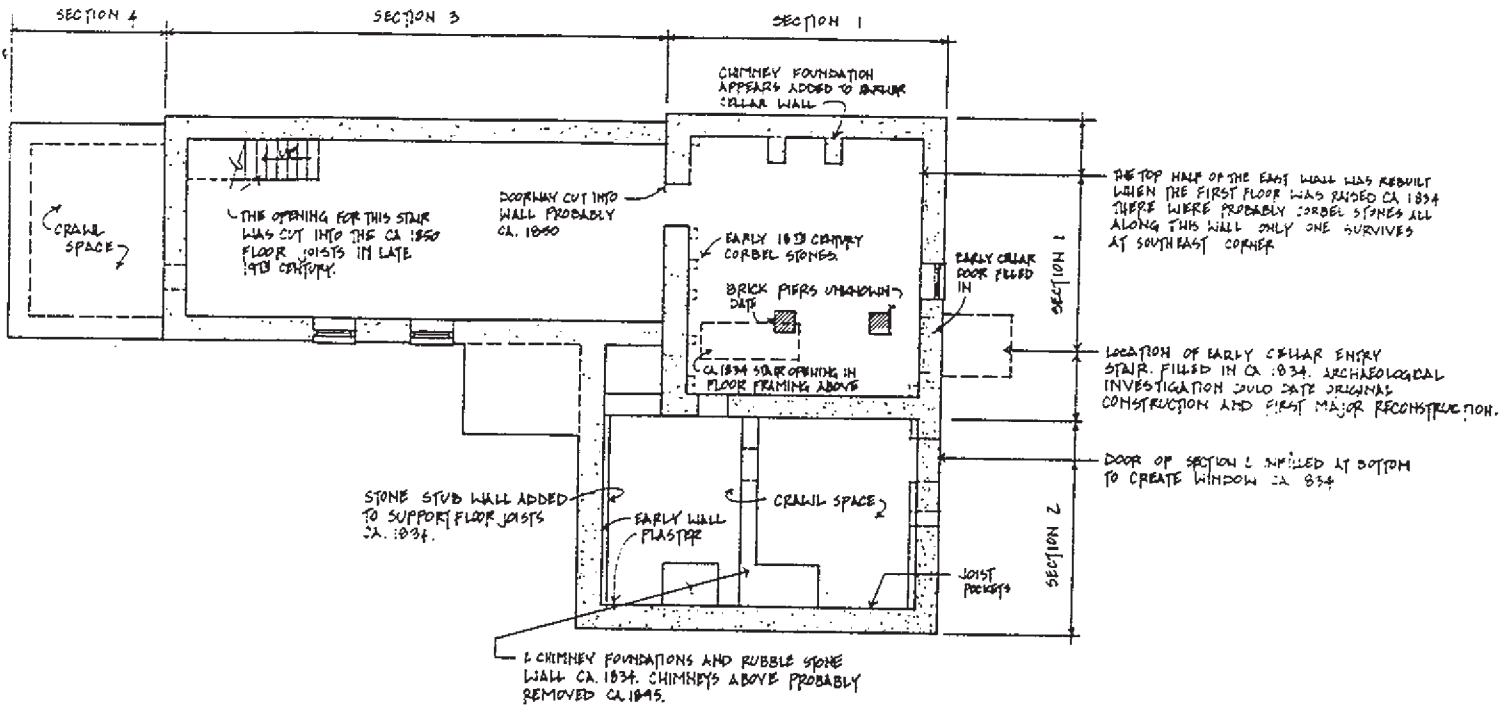


Figure 4. Plot plan of Bringhurst and adjacent properties showing structures described in 1798 U.S. Direct Tax records.

CELLAR FLOOR PLAN



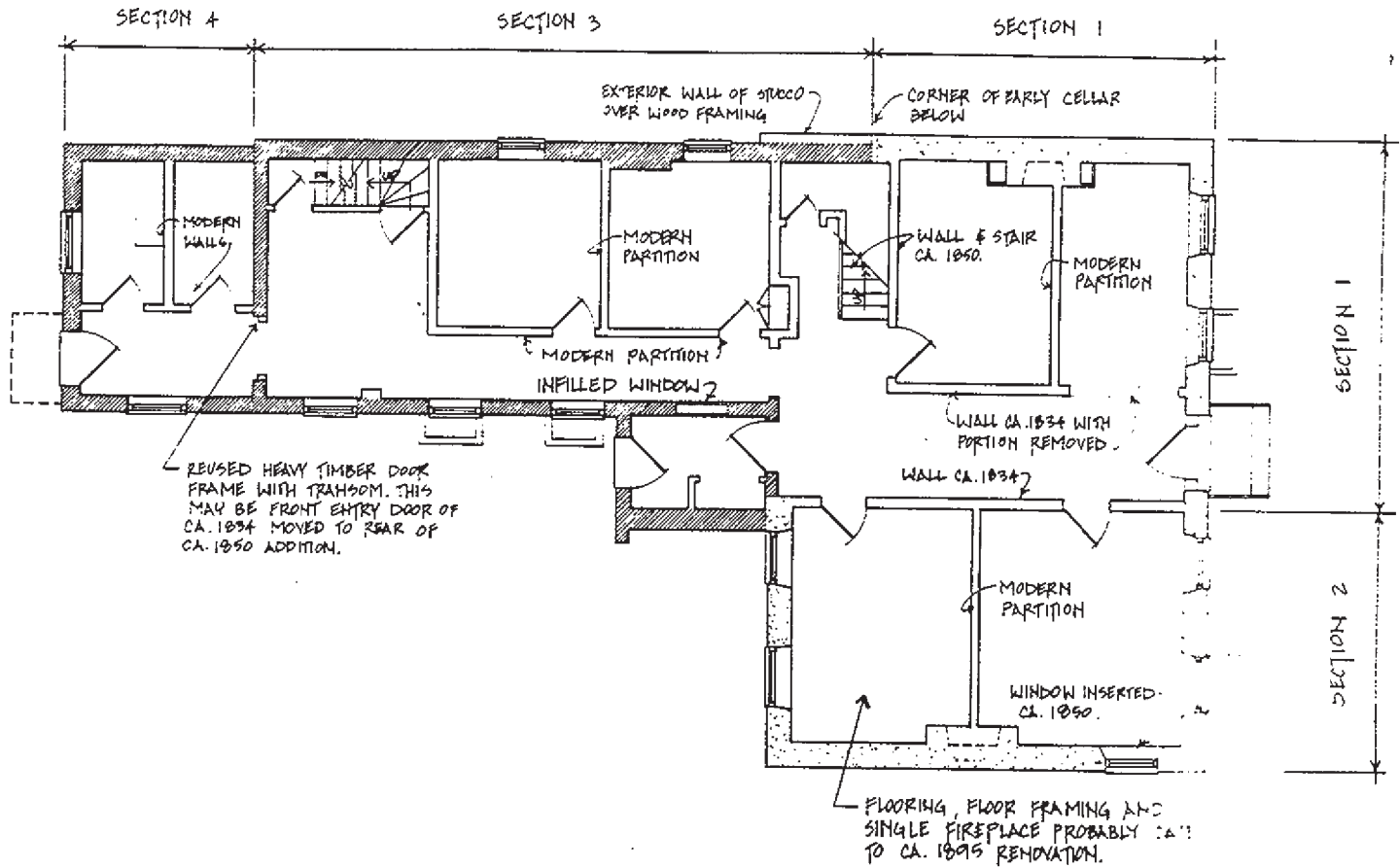
CELLAR FLOOR PLAN

DRAWN BY: T. MCGIMSEY

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0" DATE: 10/94

Figure 5.

FIRST FLOOR PLAN



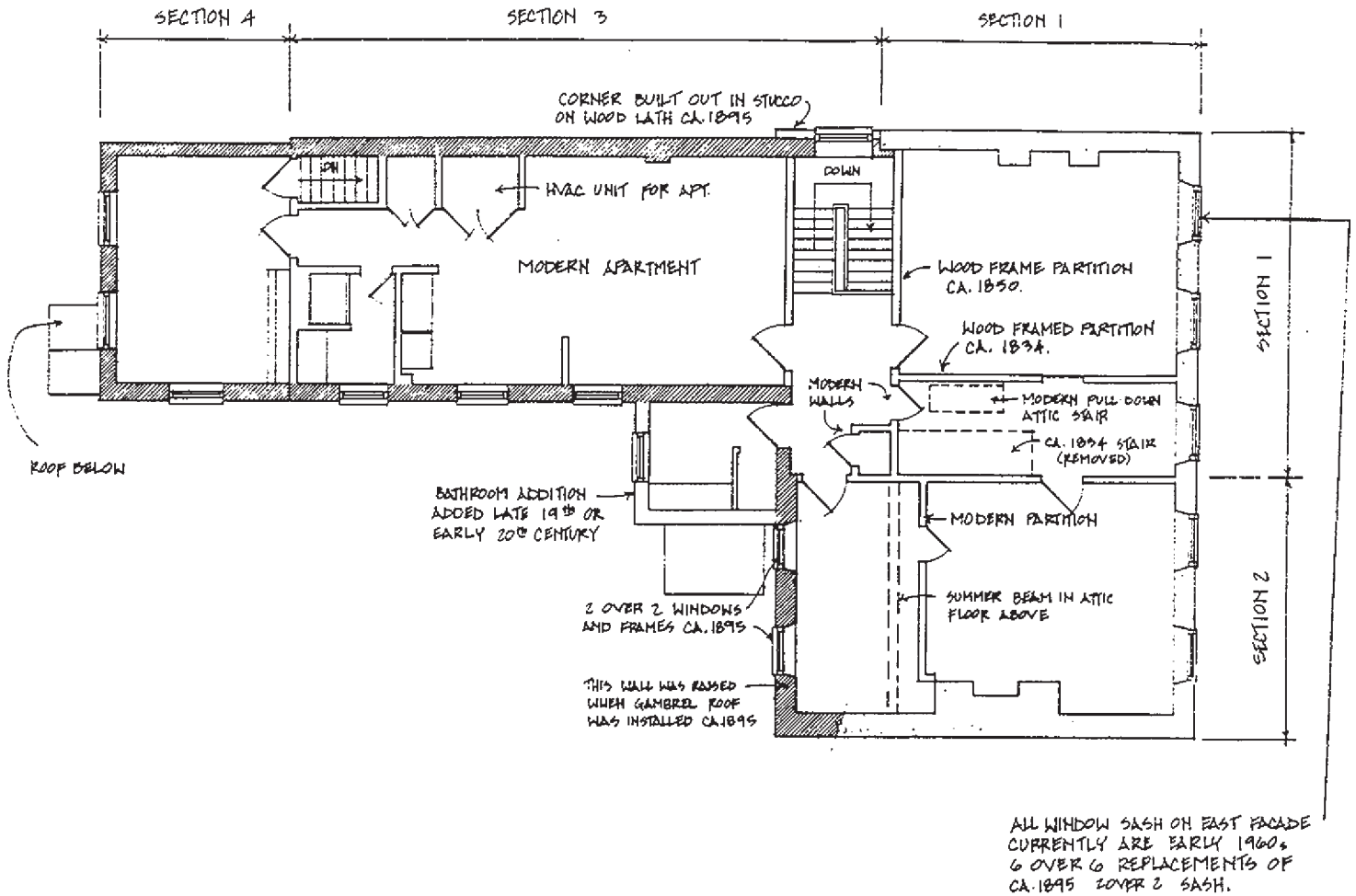
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

DRAWN BY: T. MCGIMSEY

SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0" DATE: 10/92

Figure 6.

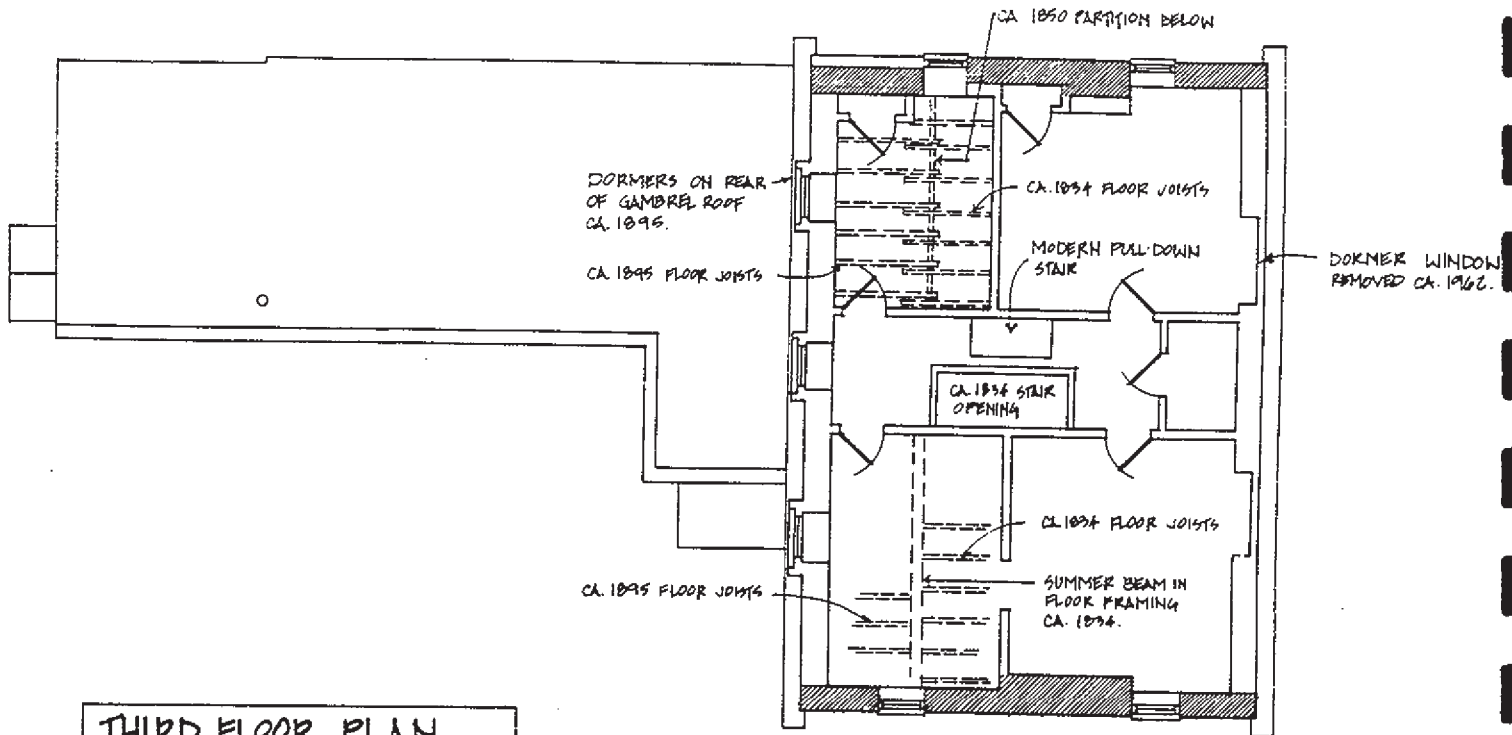
SECOND FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN		
DRAWN BY: T. MCGIMSEY		
SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0"	DATE: 10/9/11	

Figure 7.

THIRD FLOOR PLAN

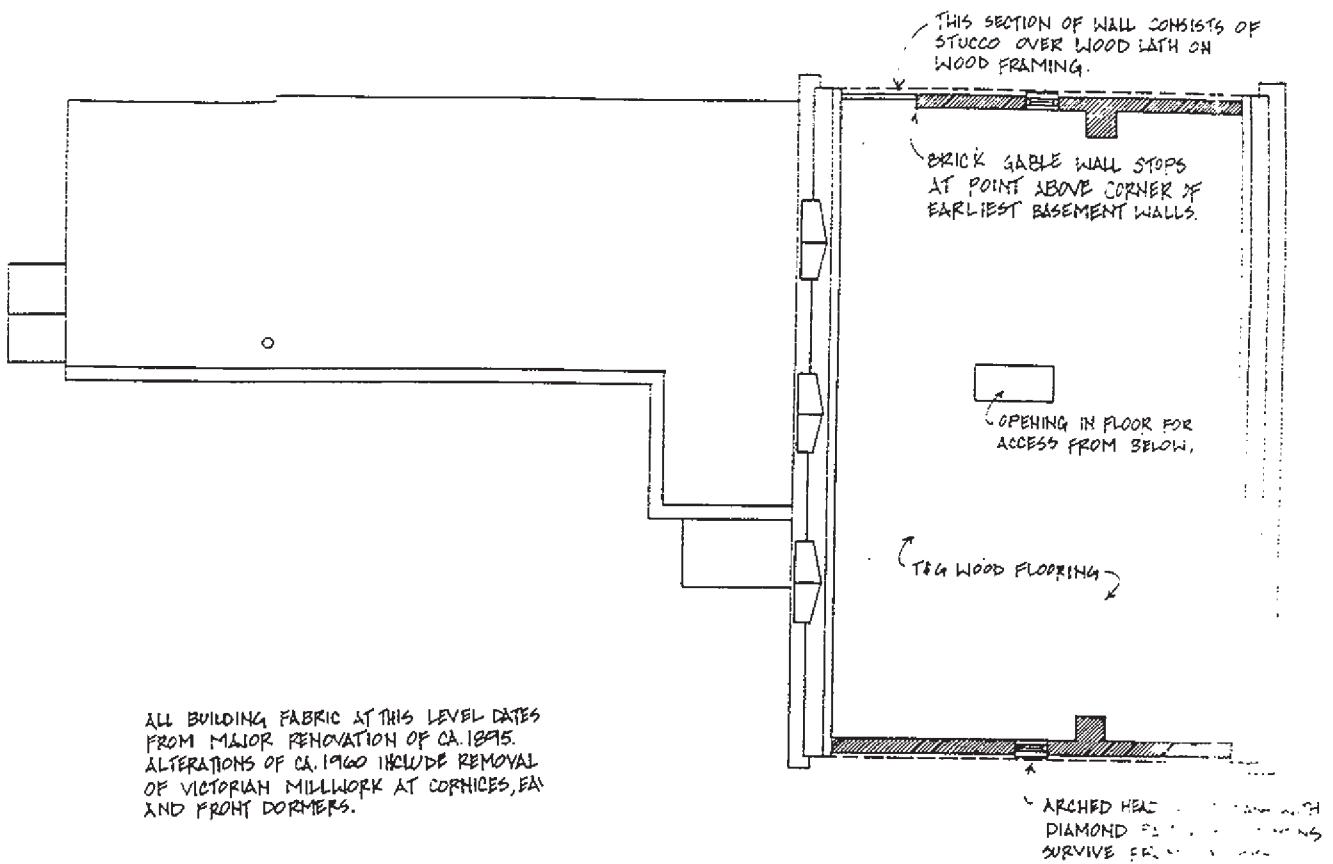


THIRD FLOOR PLAN	
DRAWN BY: T. MCGIMSEY	
SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0"	DATE: 10/94

FLOORING AND FLOOR FRAMING SURVIVE FROM CA. 1894 ATTIC. ALL BUILDING FABRIC ABOVE THIS FLOORING DATES FROM CA. 1895.

Figure 8.

ATTIC FLOOR PLAN

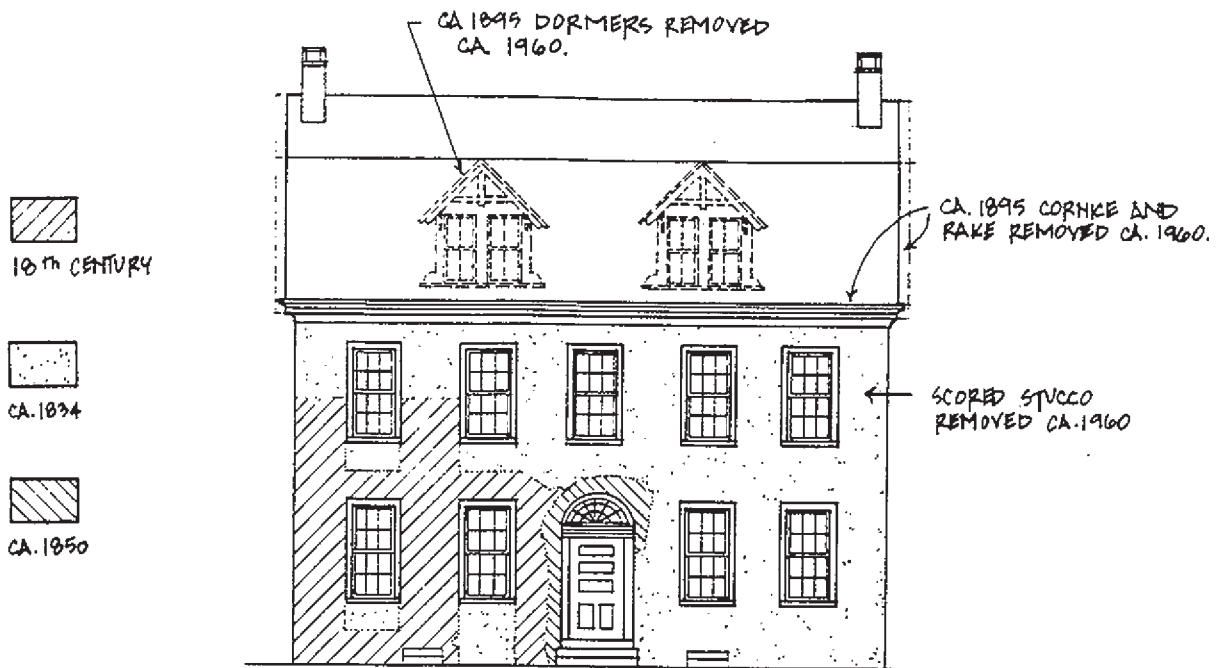


ATTIC FLOOR PLAN	
DRAWN BY: T. MCGIMSEY	
SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0"	DATE: 10/94

Figure 9.

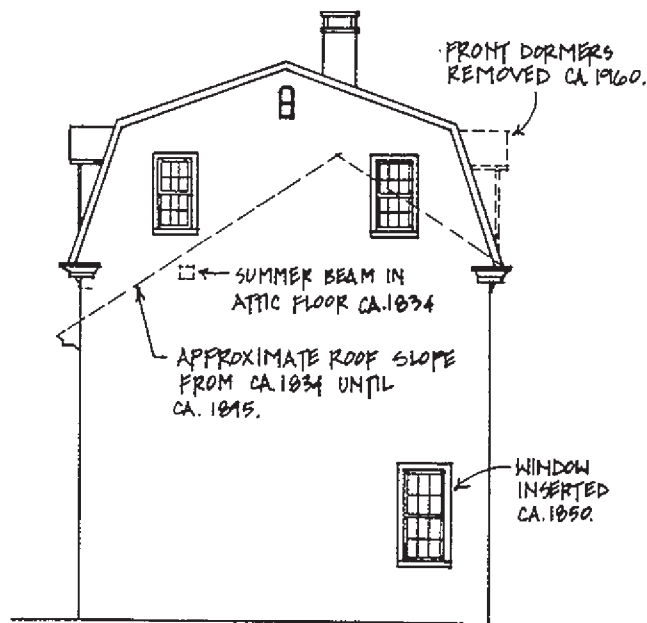
East Elevation

Figure 10. Showing evidence of alterations



South Elevation (partial)

Figure 11. Showing the approximate slope of the roof prior to c.1895 alterations.



FOUNDATION DIAGRAM

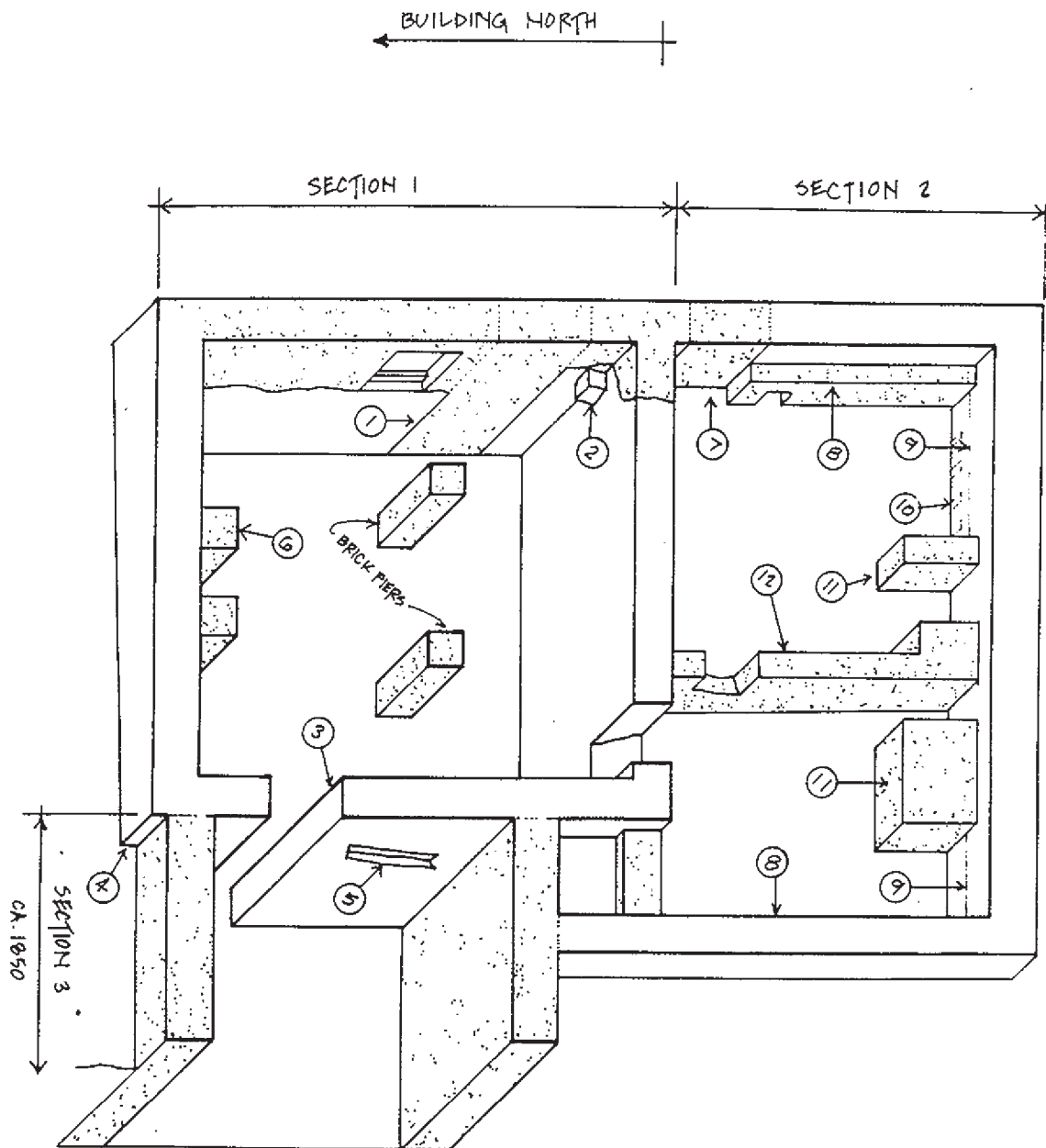


Figure 12.

NOTES TO FOUNDATION DIAGRAM DRAWING:

1. On the eastern wall can be seen the traces of the original cellar entry door. This doorway has been filled in and the present east entry door and its stoop now occupy the area above. The upper half of the eastern cellar wall appears to have been rebuilt at the same time that the cellar door was infilled.
2. There is one surviving corbel stone on the east wall. There were probable many of these on this wall similar to those remaining on the west side.
3. On the west wall there is a row of corbel stones which was interrupted when the doorway was cut through into the cellar of section 3.
4. In the northwest corner of the early foundation, the property line follows the wall around the 7" offset. This offset in the property line dates from at least 1753.
5. A curious bevelled indentation exists on the outside of the western wall of the cellar of section 1. This may be a springing for a large arch such as for a large kitchen hearth.
6. The foundation for the present chimney appears to have been added against the foundation wall. This probably dates to the same period as the rebuilding of the east cellar wall.
7. An early doorway has been infilled at the bottom to create a window. This is evident from inside as well as from the exterior.
8. Below the floor joist ends on the east and west foundation walls, a low wall was built against the face of the existing stone walls.
9. Early wall plaster survives along the south wall with a straight lower edge. This plaster can also be seen between the floor joists on the east and west walls.
10. Early joist pockets remain in the south wall close to the soil level.
11. Stone foundations remain in the east and west sides of section 2. They are probably chimney foundations which date from the c.1834 renovations.
12. The cross wall appears to be of similar construction as the chimney foundations and the low foundation walls against the east and west walls.

Diagram of Physical Evidence Visible in the Southwest Corner of the Crawl Space in Section 2

This drawing is meant to portray fragmentary evidence which survives in the crawl space of Section 2 of the house. Archival sources strongly establish the existence of two distinct houses on the property from the late 18th century until 1834. In the southwest corner of Section 2, early building fabric survives which has been covered over by later building features.

The current floor system consists of 2" x 9" floor joists spanning east to west, supported at the center by a roughly laid rubble stone wall. At the east and west ends of the space, the joists rest on a ledge on the stone walls. A close inspection of this area reveals that there is wall plaster surviving on the southern stone wall below the current level of the flooring. A straight line along the bottom edge of the plaster seems to describe the location of a floor or baseboard. Similar plaster can also be found between the ends of the floor joists at the east and west walls. The author has concluded that the existing floor joists are bearing on a veneer of stone which was added to the pre-existing stone walls. Since the floor level was raised, there were no joist pockets in which to insert the new floor joists. Figure 13. portrays the cellar and crawl space areas of the house more fully and shows the foundations for chimneys which the author believes were added in 1834 when the houses were combined. It is further believed that the current floor joists date to the c.1895 renovation, replacing the c.1834 floor structure when the two chimneys were removed and replaced with a single one.

DIAGRAM OF PHYSICAL EVIDENCE VISIBLE IN THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE CRAWL SPACE

(Section 2)

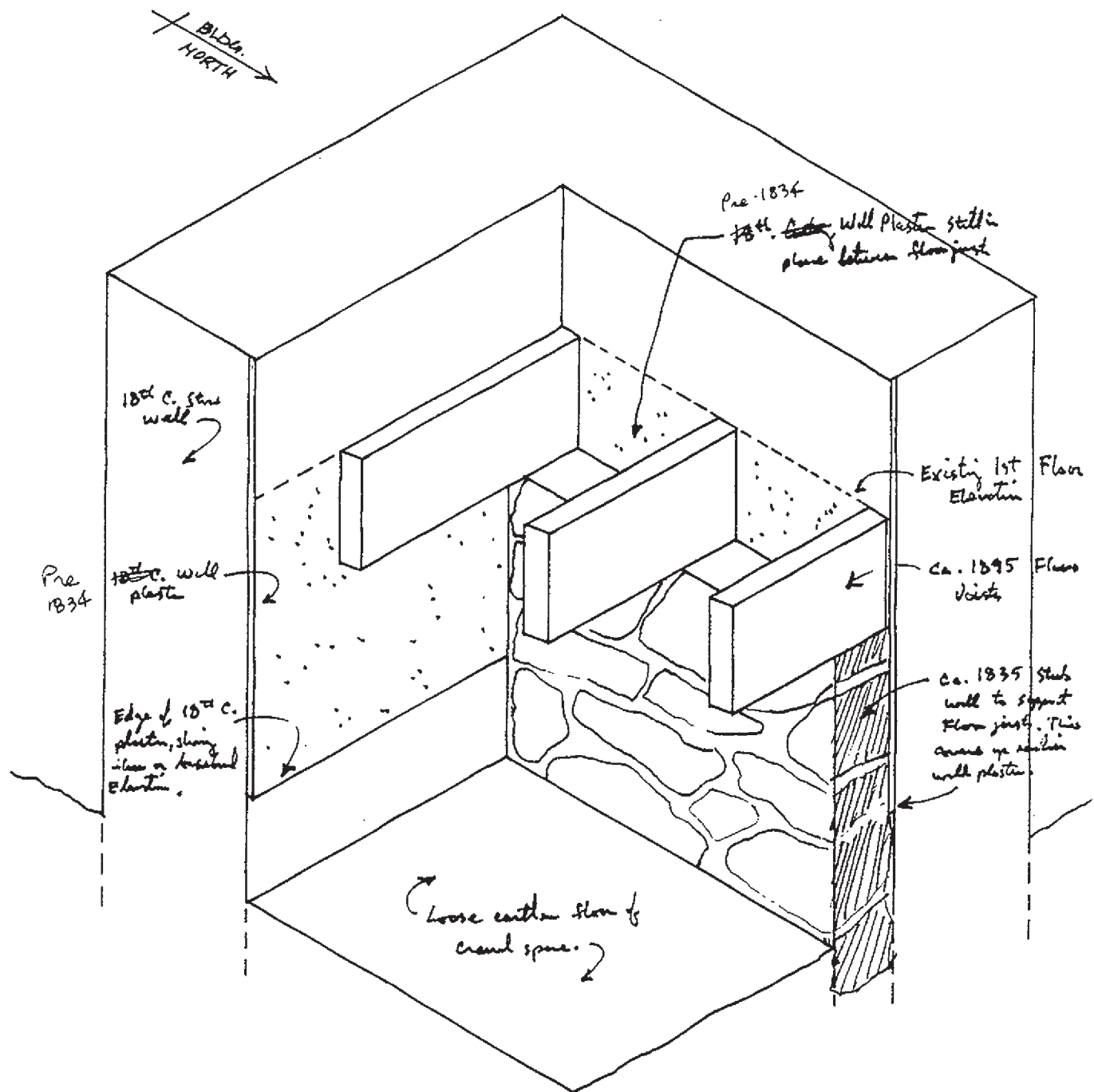


Figure 13.

Diagram of c.1834 Attic Floor Joists

These joists remain in their original (c.1834) location and sit on the rear, western, wall of Section 1 of the house. It is believed that during a major renovation phase around 1834, two smaller 18th century houses were largely demolished and combined into a single structure. This structure had a gabled roof with the ridge running parallel to Germantown Avenue. The floor joists depicted in this drawing almost certainly date from that major renovation project. They are an integral part of the attic floor and roof structure which couldn't have existed prior to 1834 and which was subsequently altered during the next two major renovation campaigns.

This diagram shows the western ends of the attic joists which survive in the third floor immediately over the c.1850 stairway. They originally extended out beyond the exterior face of the west wall and carried the false plate, rafters and cornice trim. When the c.1850 rear extension was added, a new wood framed wall was built slightly east of the earlier wall to support these floor joists and the earlier west wall was removed. It is not clear whether the rear wall which existed from c.1834 until c.1850 was made of stone or of timber. The c.1834 roof system remained in place until its replacement with the Victorian gambrel roof. At that time, the floor area of the third floor was extended to the west and the entire structure above the third floor level was replaced with totally new materials. The earlier, c.1834 floor structure, floor boards and stairway remained in place.

ATTIC FLOOR JOISTS DIAGRAM

(c.1834)

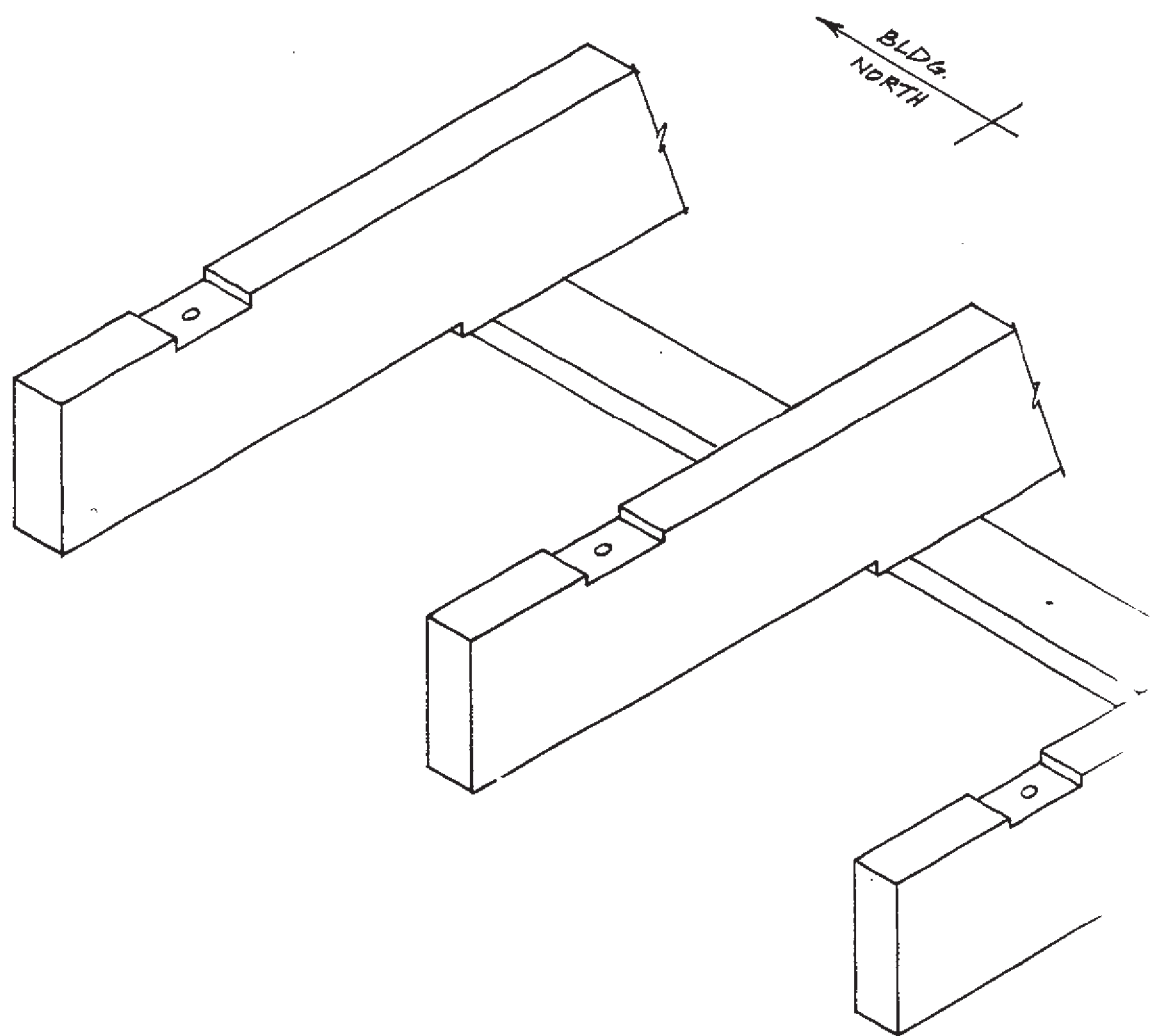


Figure 14.

Diagram of c.1834 Summer Beam in Attic Floor

When the two houses which existed on the site were combined into a single structure after 1834, a new roof was constructed over a shallow attic. As the earliest historic photos show, this roof was a simple gabled roof with the ridge running parallel to Germantown Avenue. As can be seen on some of the photos, the southern side of the house had a saltbox profile. This was caused by the difference in depth of the two early houses. The c.1834 roof was centered over the 21' depth of Section 1. Since Section 2 was almost 28' deep, the rear roof over this section had to continue down to a lower top plate at the rear wall.

Investigation of the attic floor framing of the house revealed the existence of a summer beam which supported the east-west floor joists and rafters at the south end of the attic, the space over Section 2 of the house. This summer beam was required because the floor joists could not rest on the western exterior wall. When the house was again renovated in c.1895, the attic floor area was extended to the west and the roof structure was removed and replaced with the gambrel roof which still survives. The c.1834 floor framing, floor boards and stairway remained in place.

DETAIL OF SUMMER BEAM IN ATTIC FLOOR FRAMING (Section 2, c.1834)

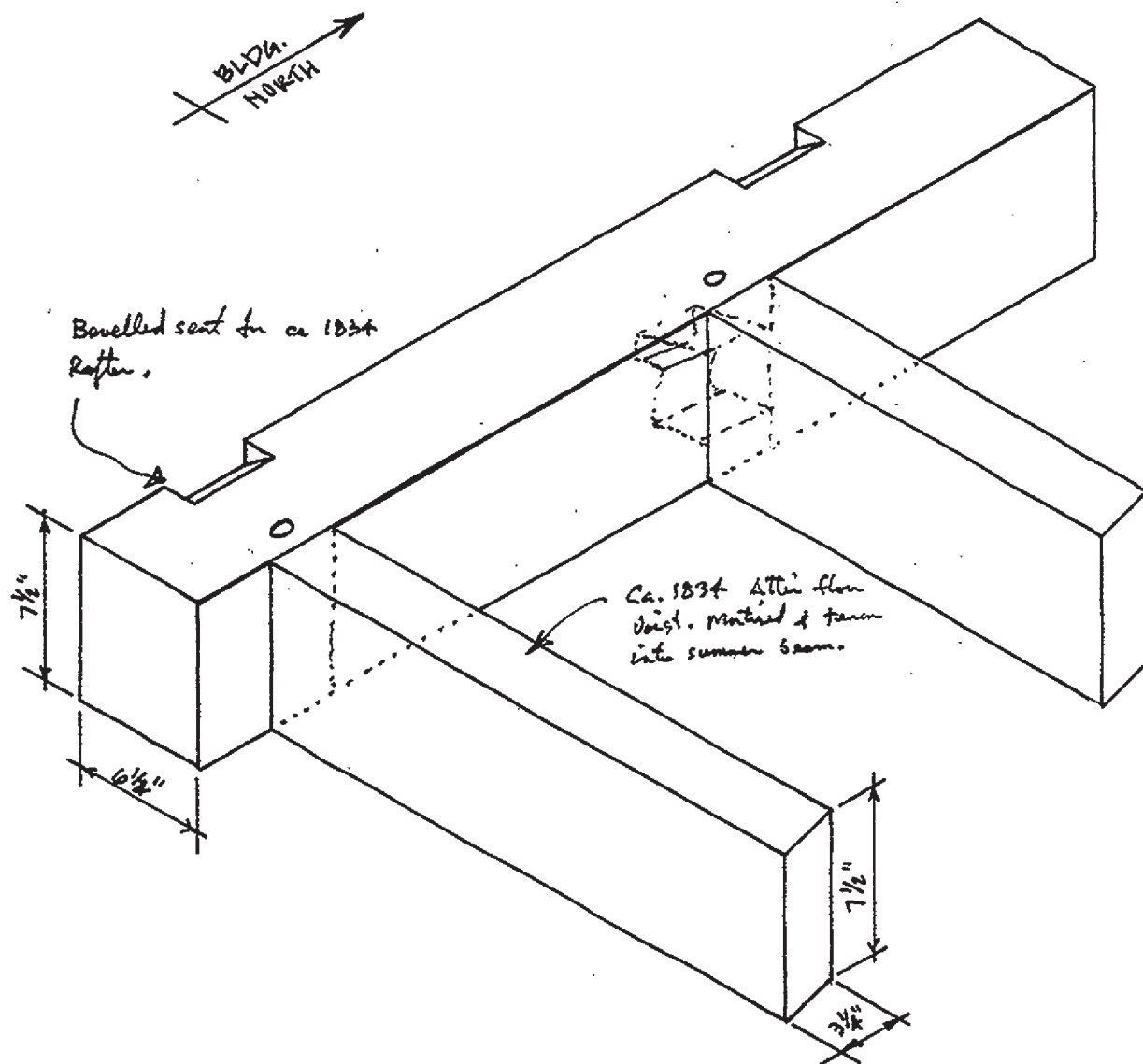


Figure 15.

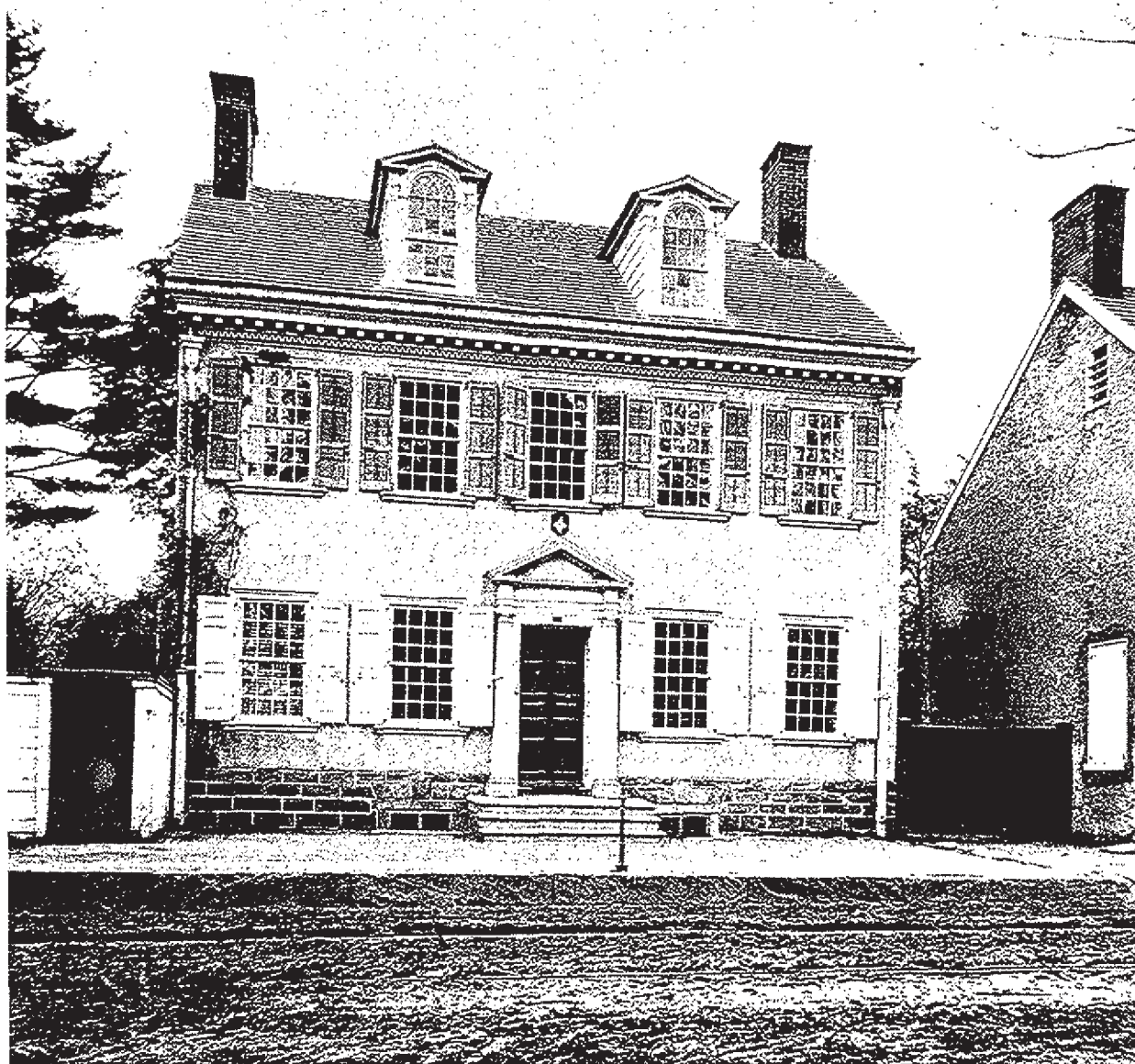


Plate 1. Historic photo of the Deshler-Morris house c.1861 showing the southern end of the Bringhurst House. Note the deteriorated condition of the chimney and patching around the ground floor window.



Plate 2. Historic photo showing the Bringhurst House as it looked c.1887. To it's left is the Deschler-Morris House. To it's right is the early 19th century Armat House.

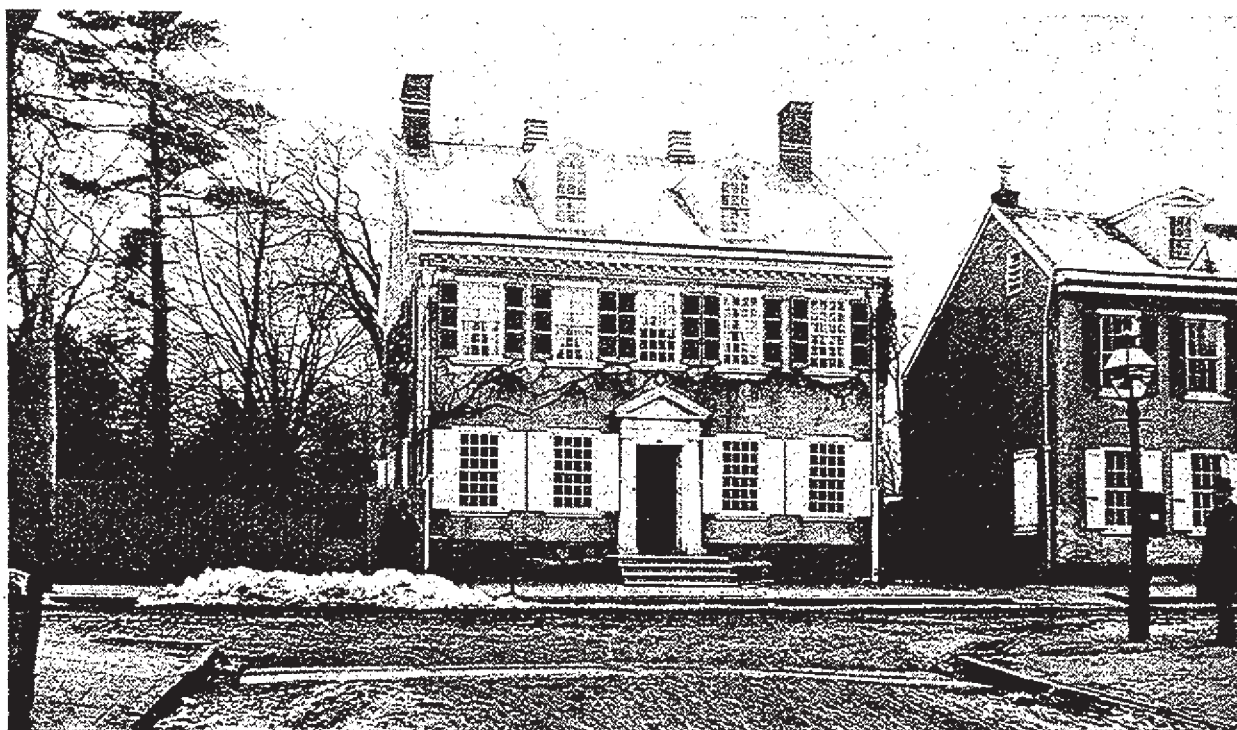


Plate 3. Historic photo showing the south gable end of the Bringham House c.1887. Note the definite salt-box shape of this gable. Also note the simple pedimented dormer window on the east side of the main roof.



Plate 4. Historic photo showing a portion of the east facade of the Bringhurst House as it looked c.1887.
Note the scored stucco on the east wall and the six over six window sash.



Plate 5. Historic photo showing the full east facade of the Bringhurst House as it looked in the early 20th century. This view clearly shows the full impact of the c.1895 renovation.

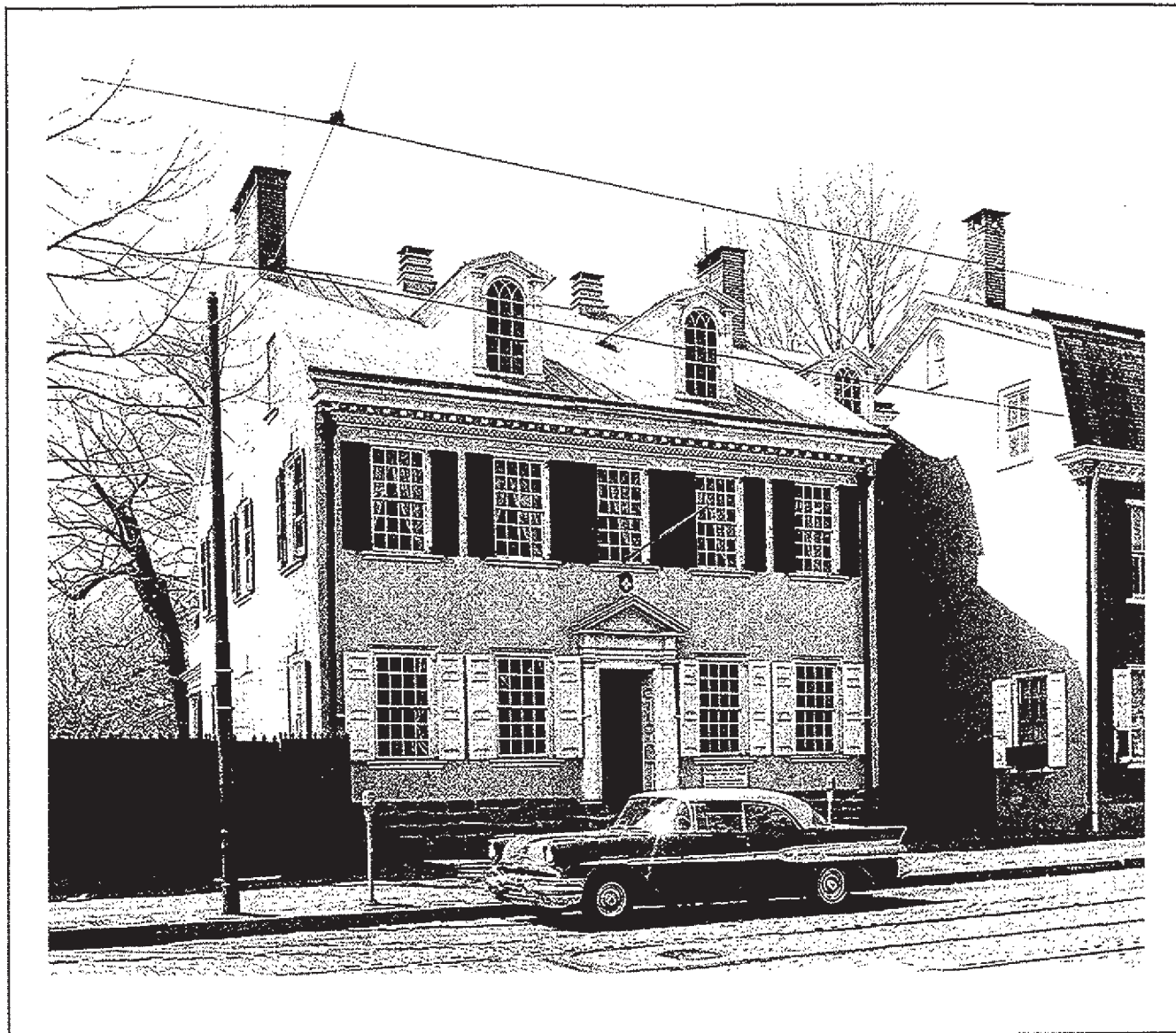


Plate 6. Historic photo showing the southeast corner of the Bringhurst House as it looked around 1960. The decorative roofing shingles have been replaced; otherwise little has been altered.

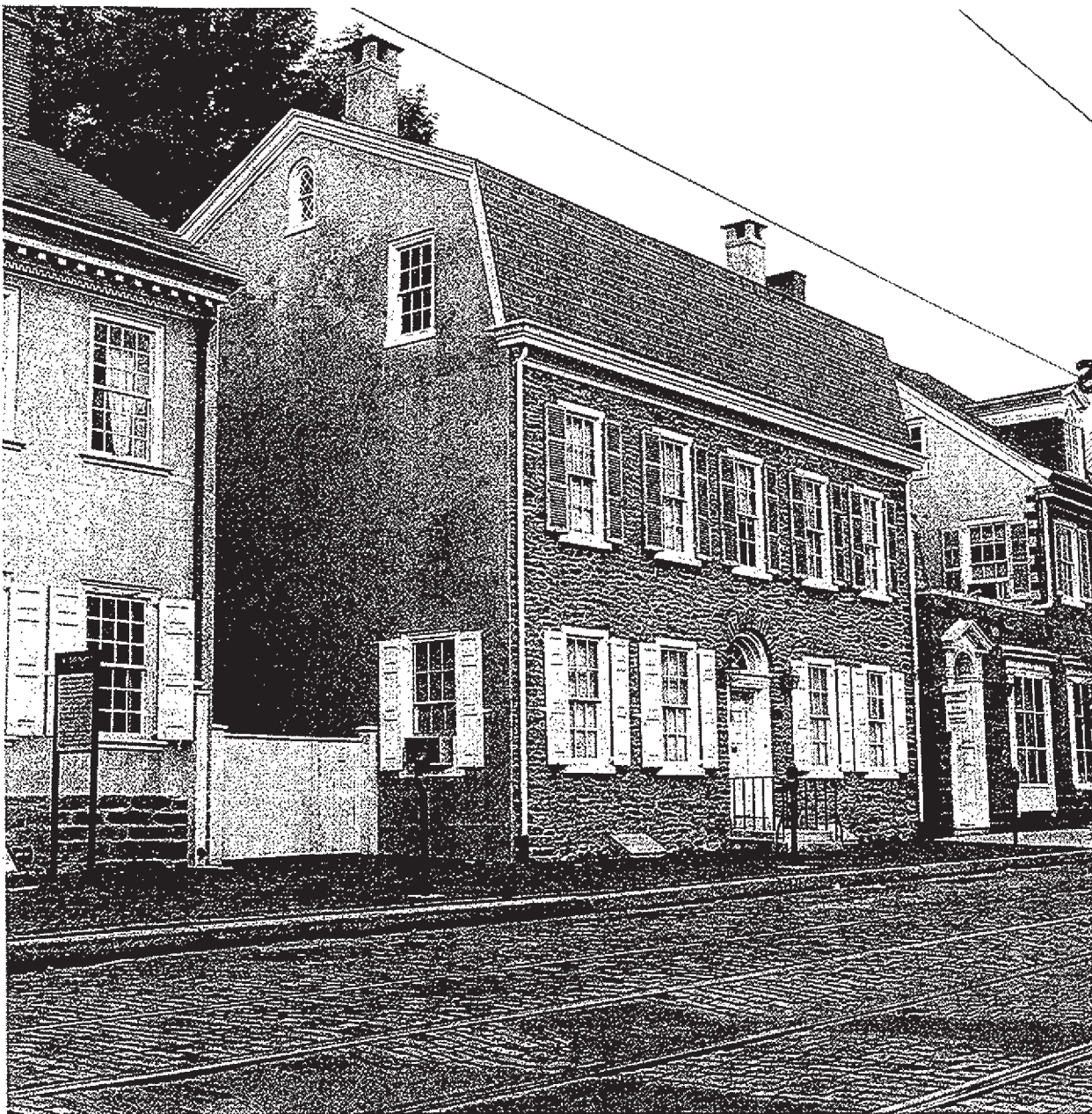


Plate 7. Historic photo showing the Bringhurst House from the southeast in 1979. The Victorian dormers, cornice, rakes and windows have been removed or replaced and the stucco has been removed from the east facade.

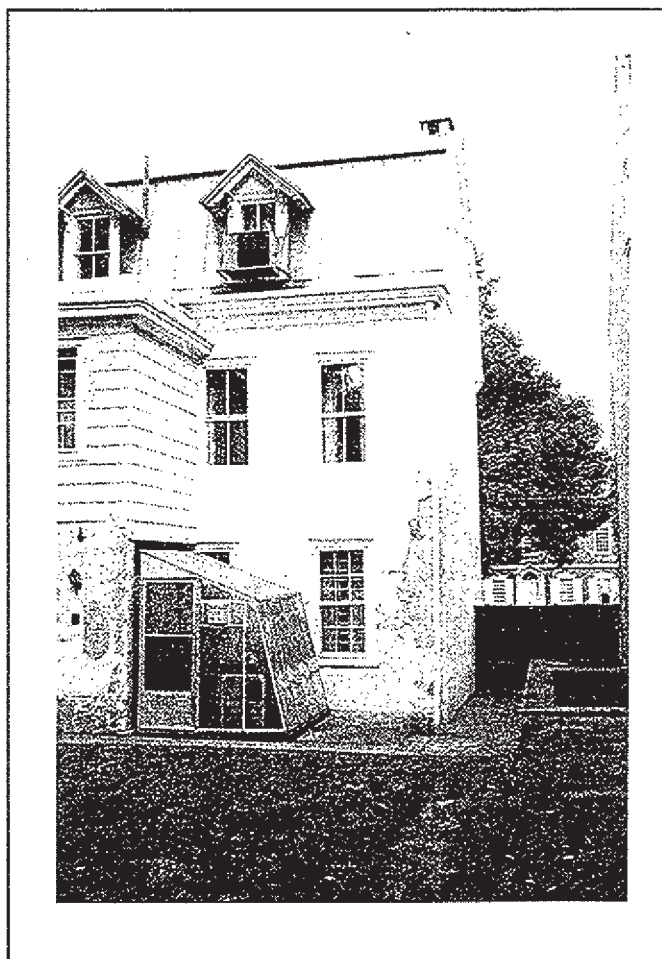


Plate 8. West side of Section 2. Lower windows retain c.1834 sash. The c.1895 two over two sash remain above.



Plate 9. A detail of the c.1895 dormer windows surviving on the rear of the main roof.



Plate 10. View of the rear extension showing Section 4 at the left of the downspout, Section 3 is to the right.
Note the difference in the brick bonding patterns.

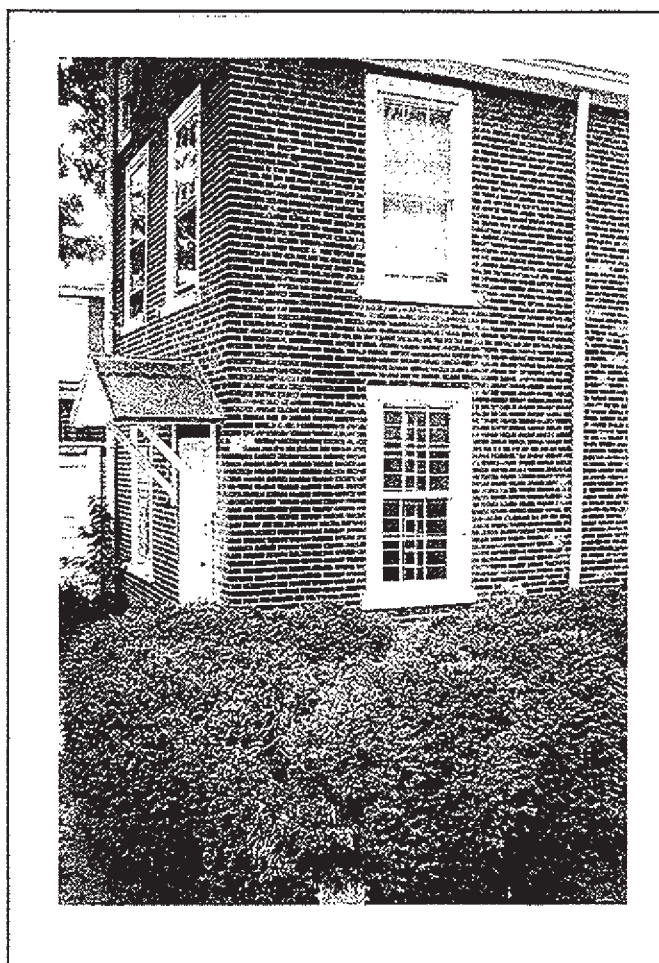


Plate 11. View of Section 4 from the southwest.



Plate 12. View of the Bringhurst House from the west. Most of the rear yard has been paved for parking.

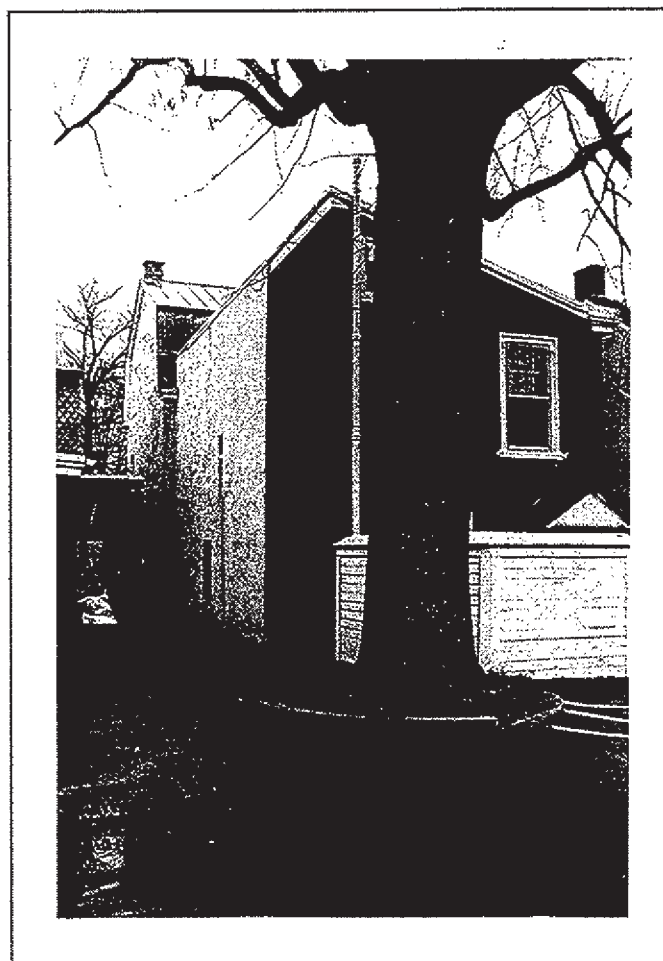


Plate 13. Rear of the house from the northwest. Note the off-set in the north wall.

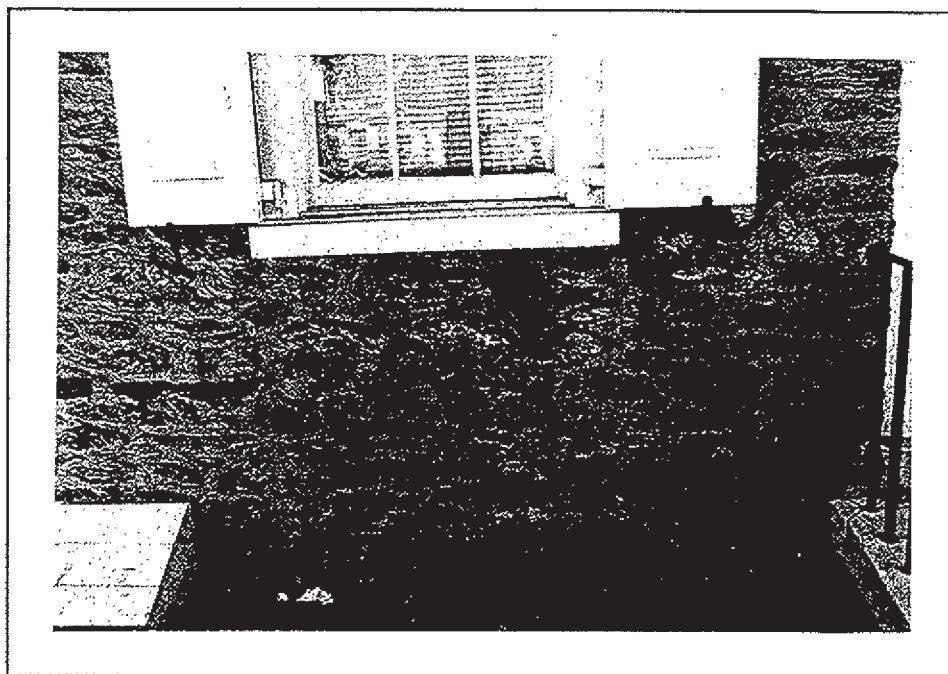


Plate 14. Detail of the east facade. Note the infill below the window at the location of an early doorway in Section 2.

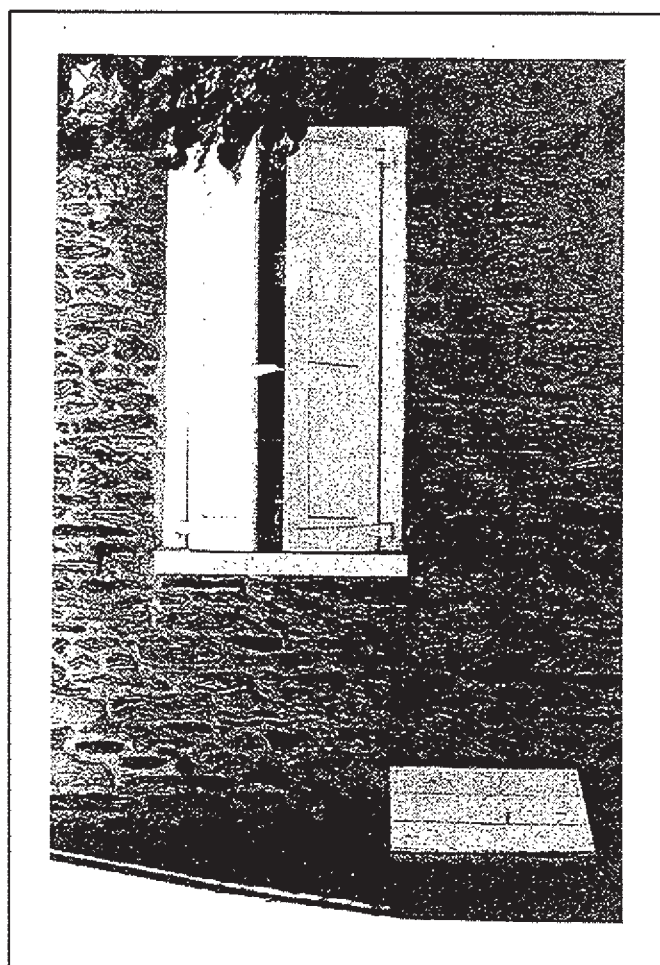


Plate 15. Detail of the east facade. Note the infilled stone below the raised window opening.

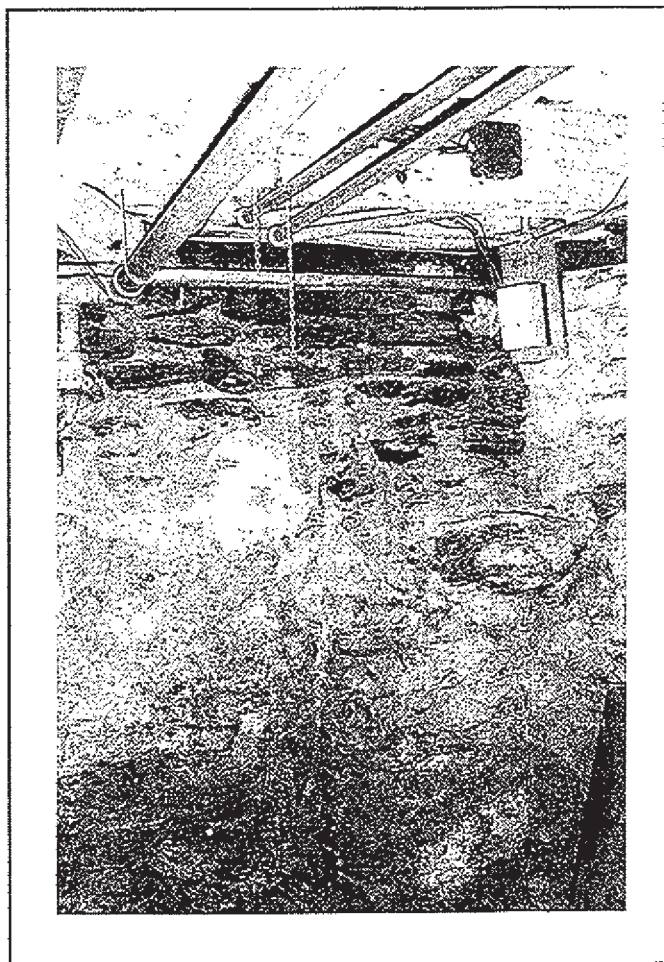


Plate 16. Cellar of Section 1. Detail of infilled doorway in the east wall. Note the corbel stone at the right.

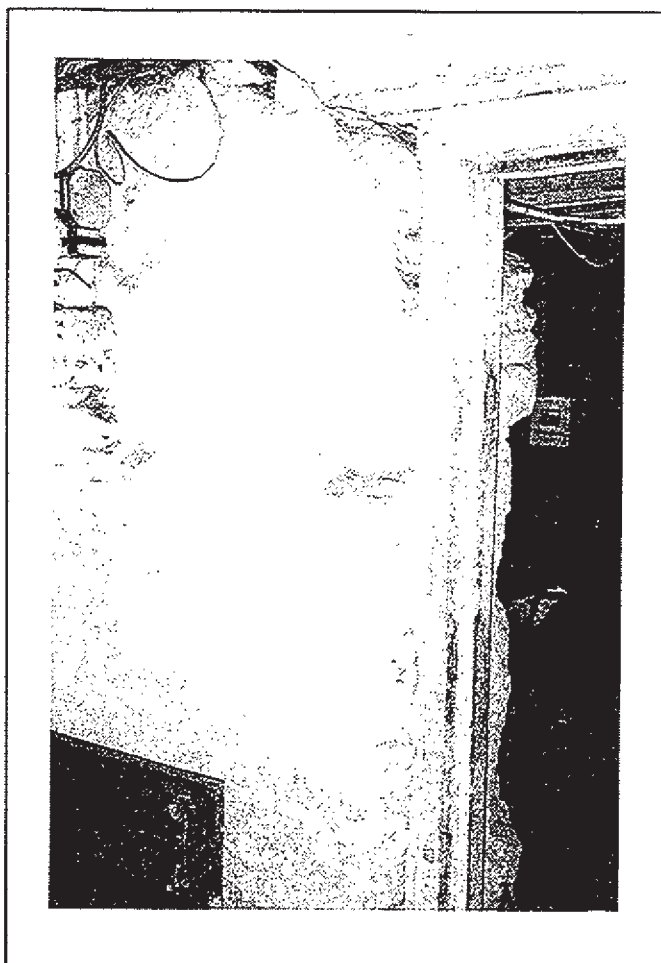


Plate 18. Cellar, Section 1. Detail of the doorway into Section 3. Note the scar from the corbel stone removed when the door was cut into masonry.

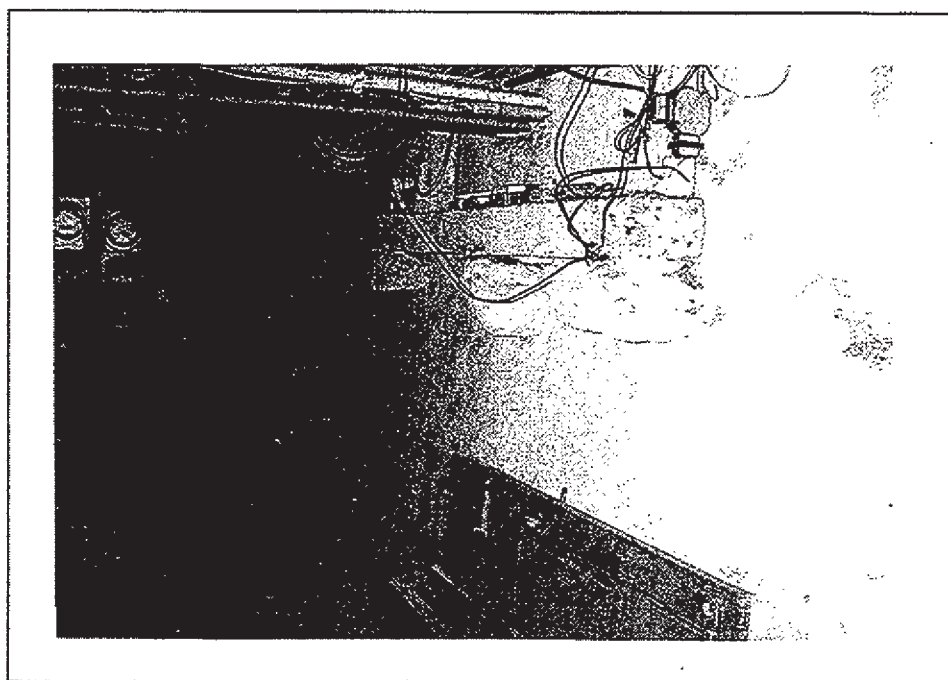


Plate 19. Cellar, Section 1. View of the corbel stones surviving on the west wall. Wooden timbers are presumed to be later fabric than the corbels.

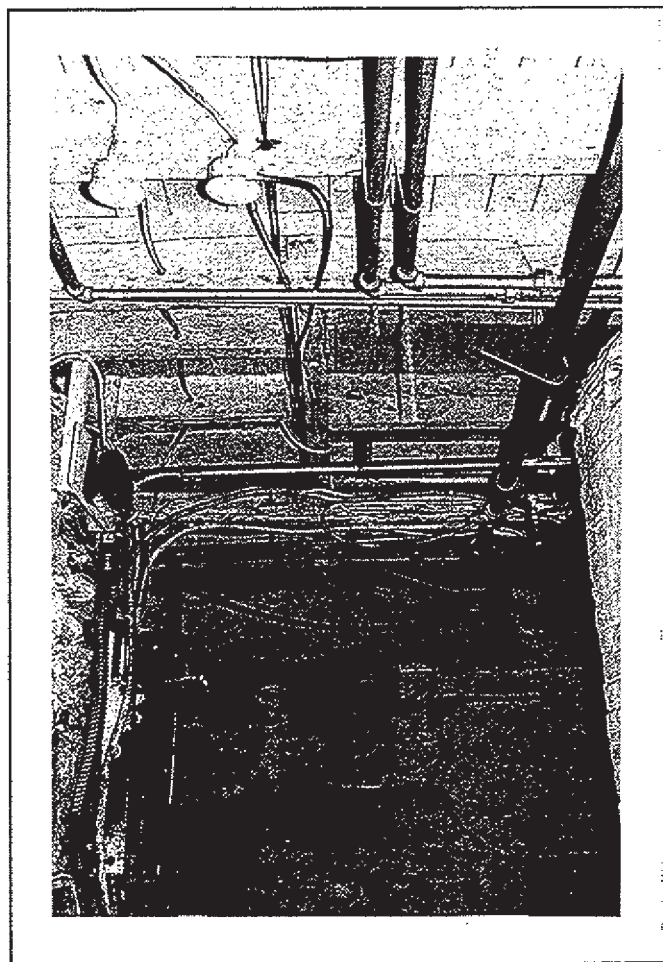


Plate 17. Cellar of Section 1. Detail of infilled opening for the stair in framing above. The stair was at the right of the header in the center of the photo. Note the corbels in the west wall beyond.

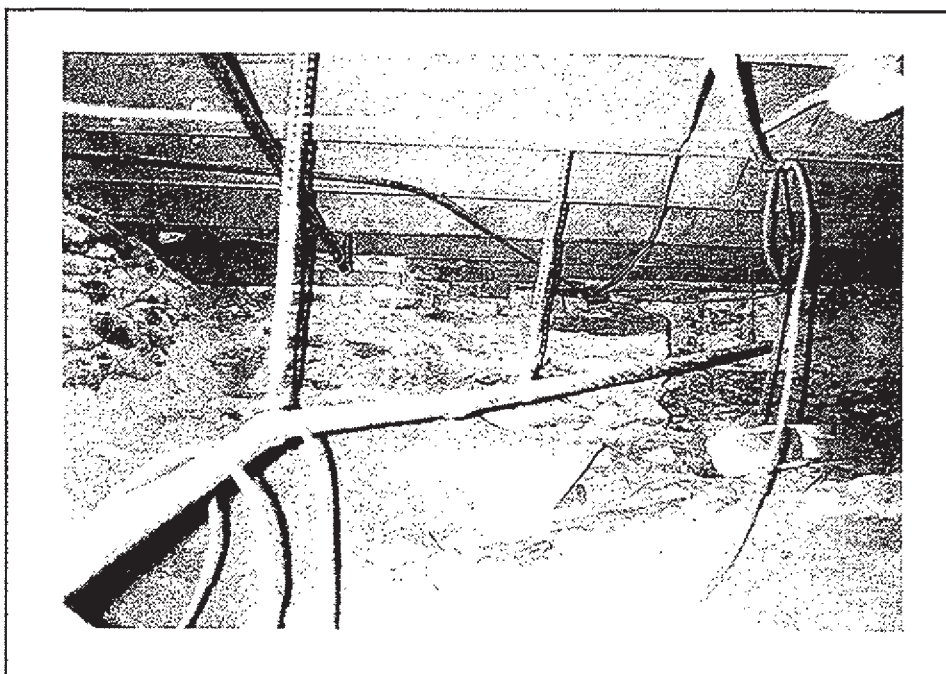


Plate 20. Crawl space, section 2. View looking south showing c.1834 stub wall at left and chimney base at center. Note the pre-1834 wall plaster at center right covered up by the 1834 chimney.

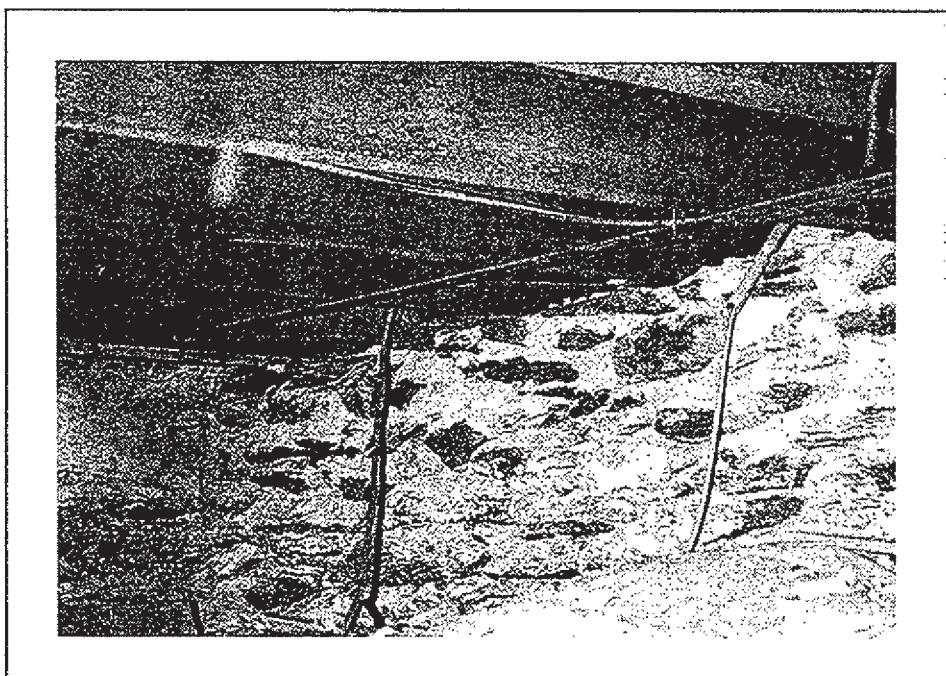


Plate 21. Crawl space, Section 2. View looking southwest showing c.1895 floor joists resting on c.1834 stonework built up against an earlier wall. Note the pre-1834 plaster on the south wall, covered up by c.1834 stonework.



Plate 22. Crawl space, Section 2. View looking west showing the c.1895 floor joists bearing on c.1834 stonework. Note pre-1834 wall plaster at center, showing that the floor level has been raised.



Plate 23. Crawl space, northwest corner of Section 2. View looking north. Stonework at right is the southeast corner of building Section 1, to the left of the joint is later infill probably dating to c.1834

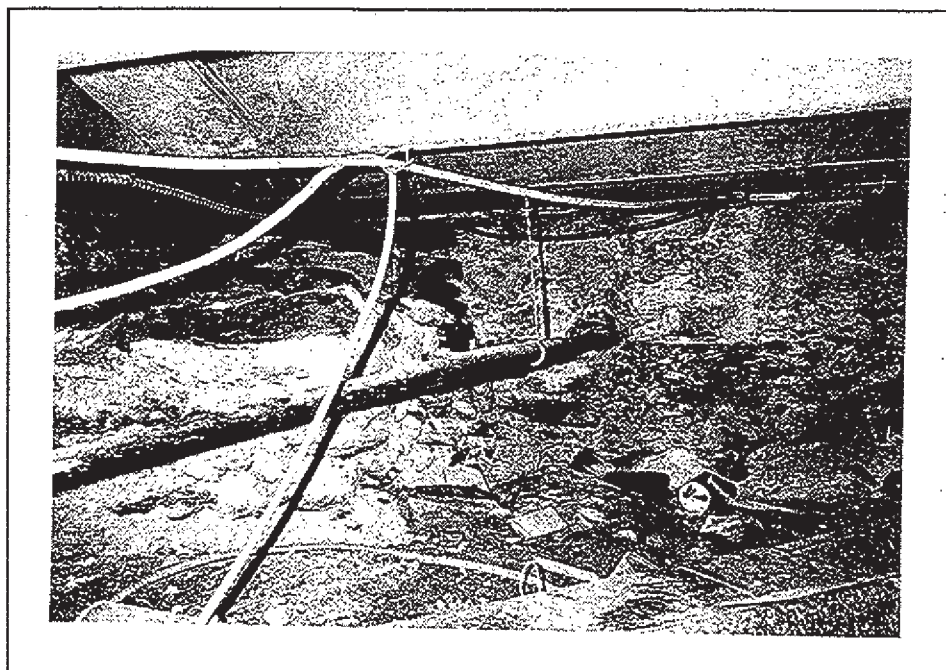


Plate 24. Crawl space, Section 2. View looking south toward chimney foundation. Note wall plaster at right continuing behind c. 1834 chimney.

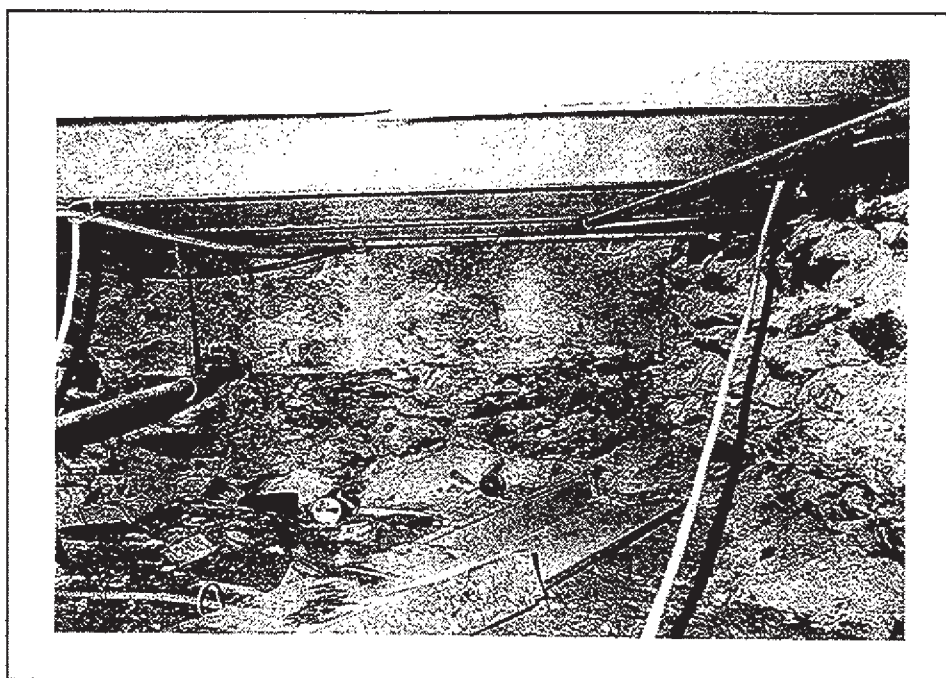


Plate 25. Crawl space, southwest corner of Section 2. Pre-1834 wall plaster on the south wall continues behind c. 1834 stonework at right, built up against the west wall to support the floor joists when the floor was raised.

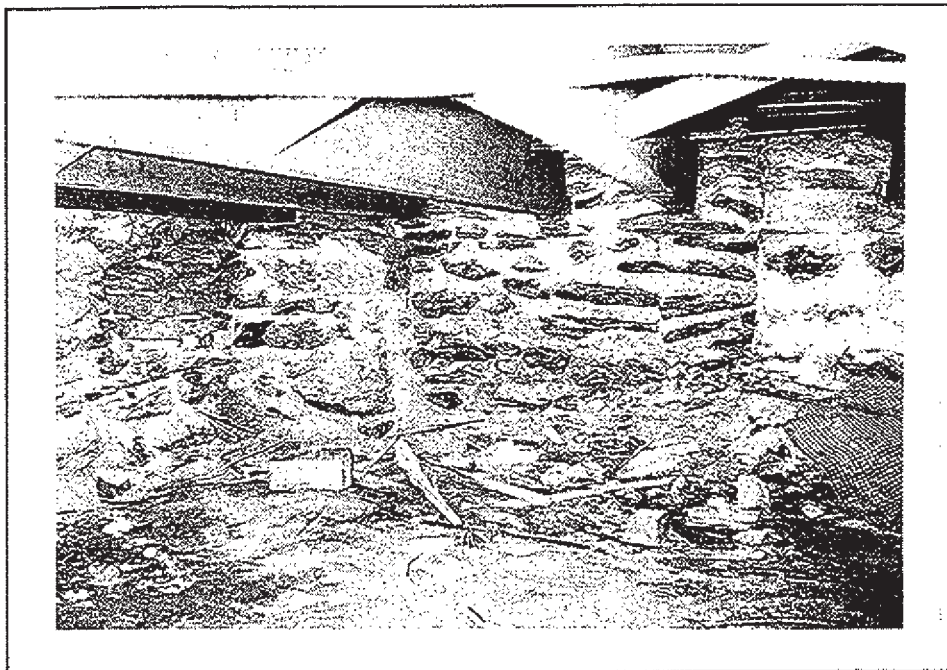


Plate 26. Crawl space, east end of Section 2. View looking east showing c.1834 masonry infill in the original doorway. Plate 14 shows this condition from the exterior.

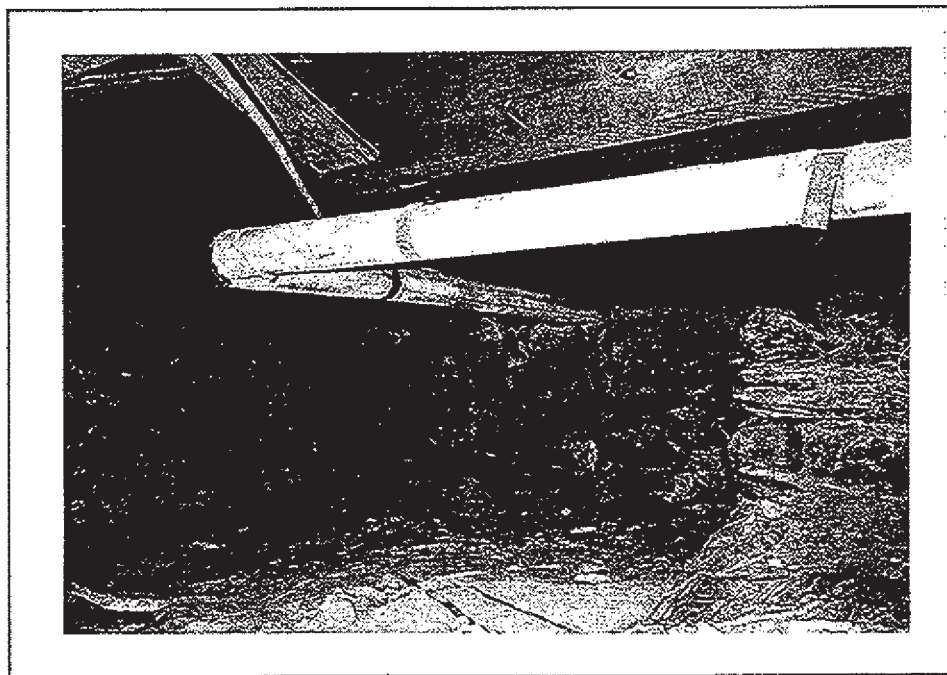


Plate 27. Crawl space, eastern end of Section 2. View looking south showing joist pockets close to soil level and chimney foundation to the right.

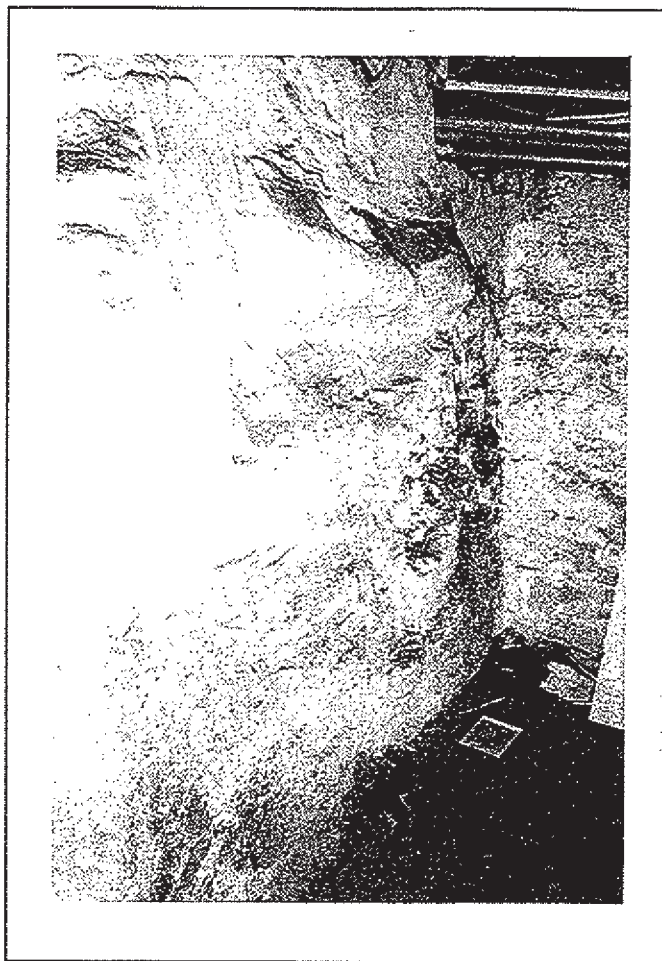


Plate 28. Cellar of Section 3. Detail of the east wall showing the possible springing of early hearth.

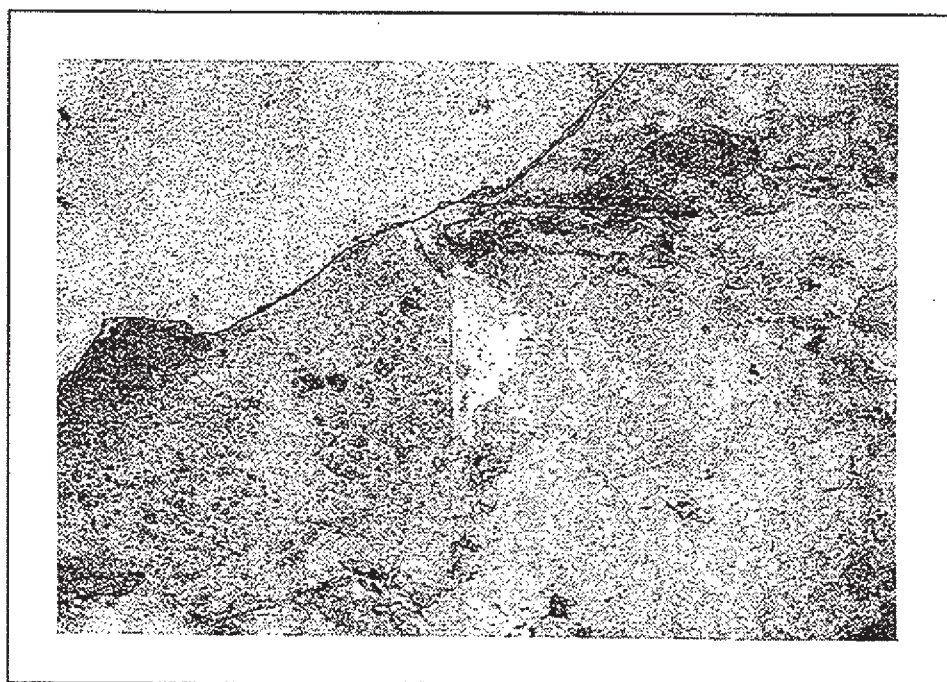


Plate 29. Cellar of Section 3, northwest corner. Detail of c.1850 stair tread in plaster of the north wall.

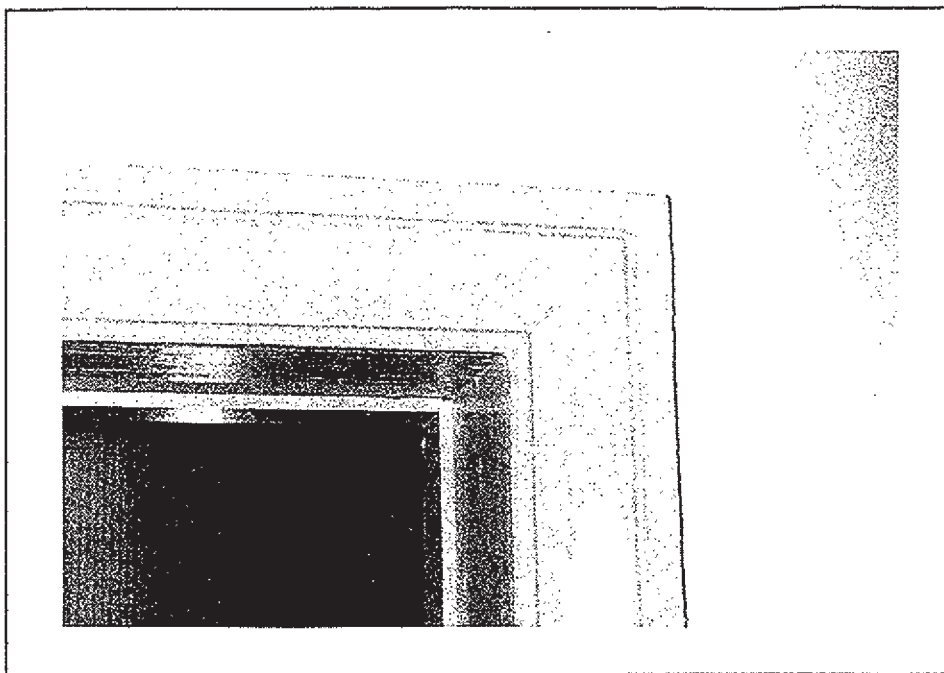


Plate 30. Detail of the door casing found only in the upper floors of Section 1.
This casing is common from the 1820's through the 1840's.

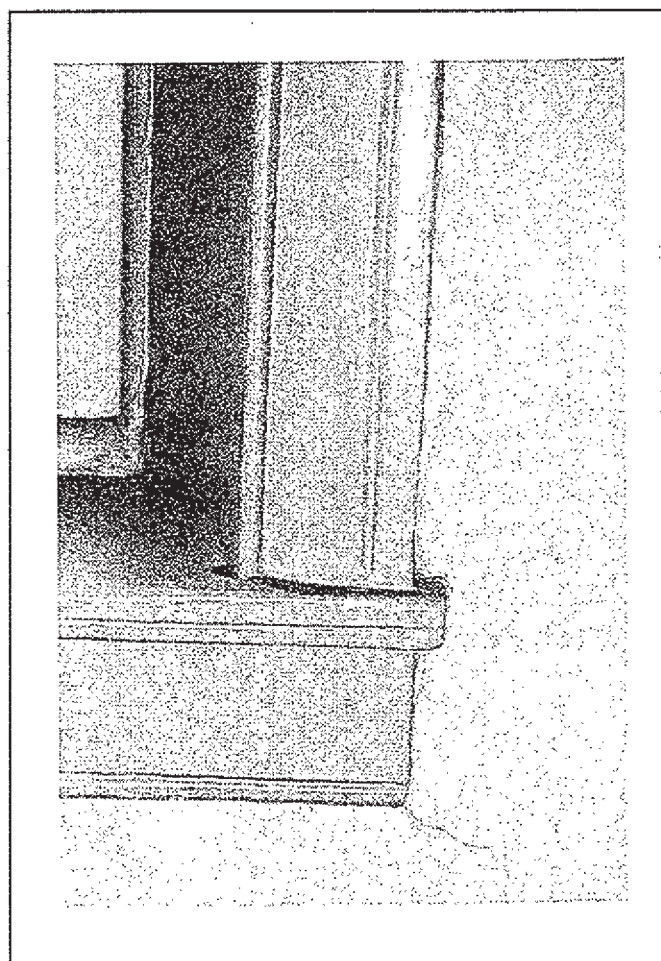


Plate 31. Detail of window casing and sill found in Section 1, corresponding to the door casing in Plate 30.

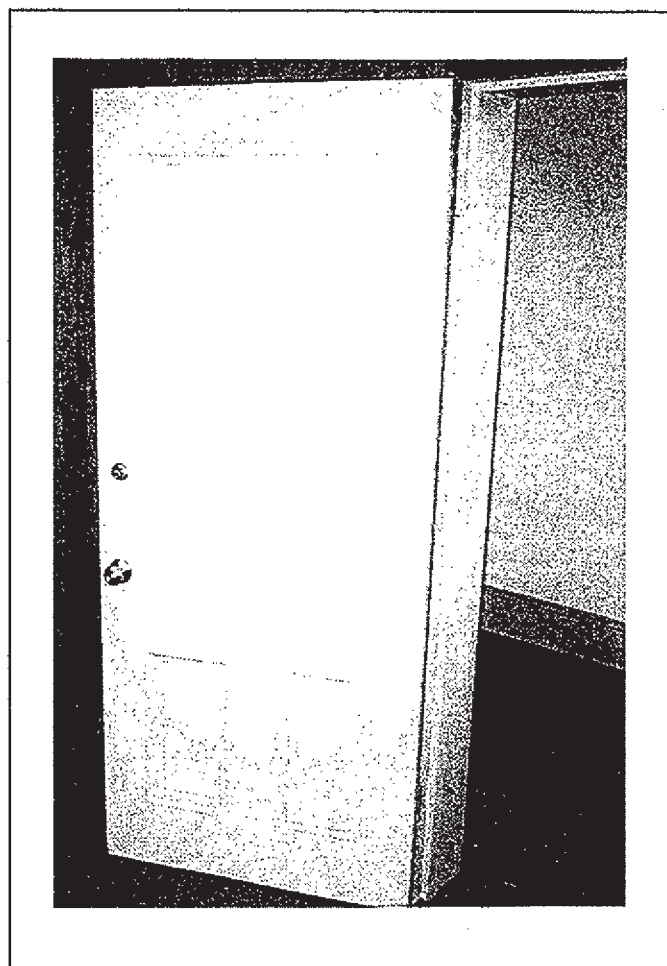


Plate 32. Detail of the door from the first floor hall into the southeast room.
This door probably dates from c. 1834 renovation.

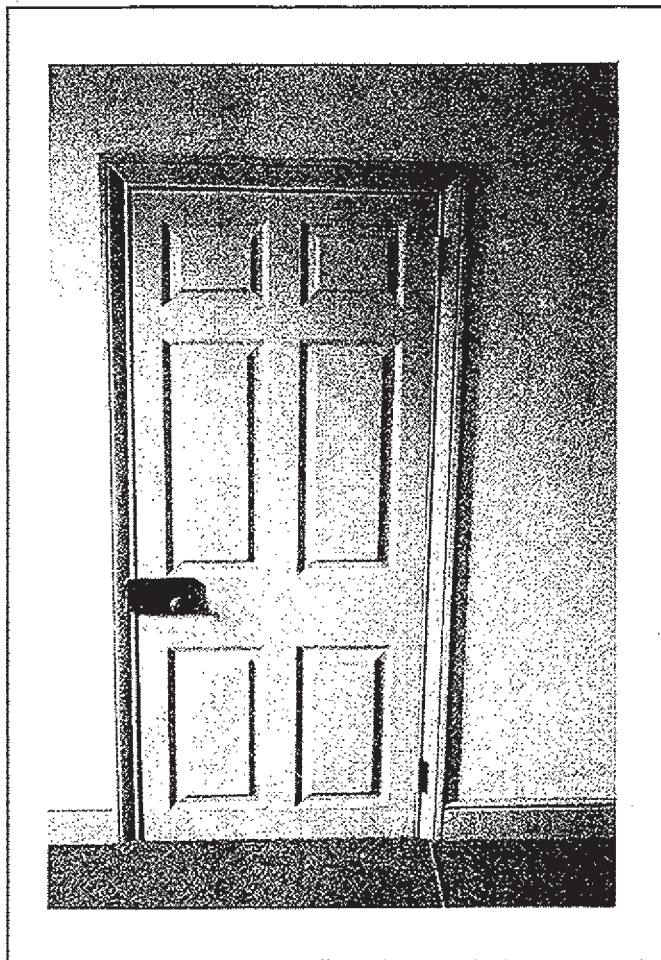


Plate 33. Detail of the door from the second floor hall into the southeast room. This raised panel door was probably reused in this location in c.1834.

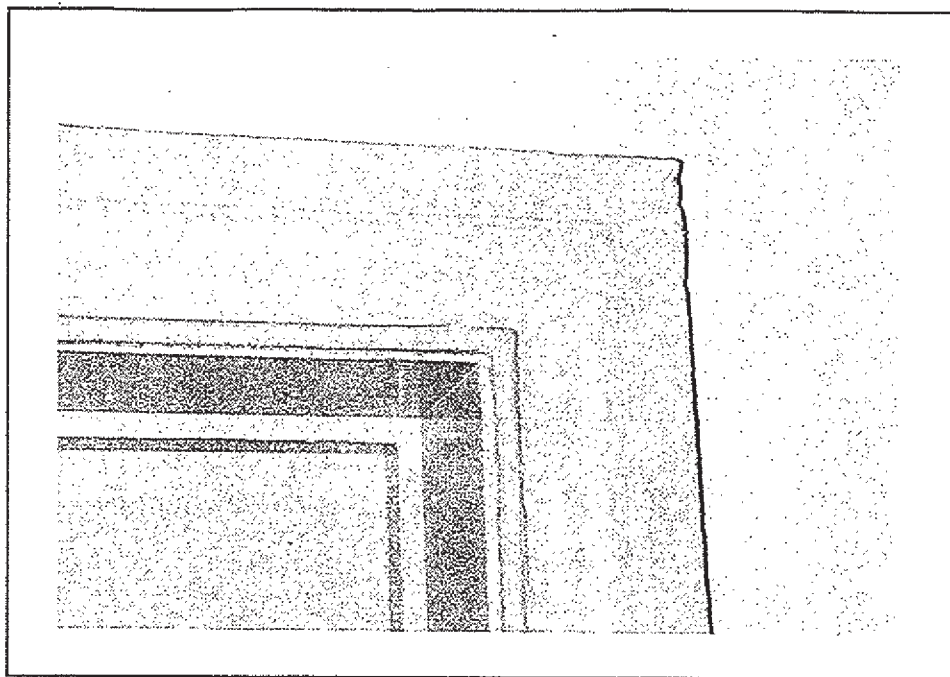


Plate 34. Detail of a mid-19th century door casing found throughout Section 3 and in some areas of Sections 1 and 2.

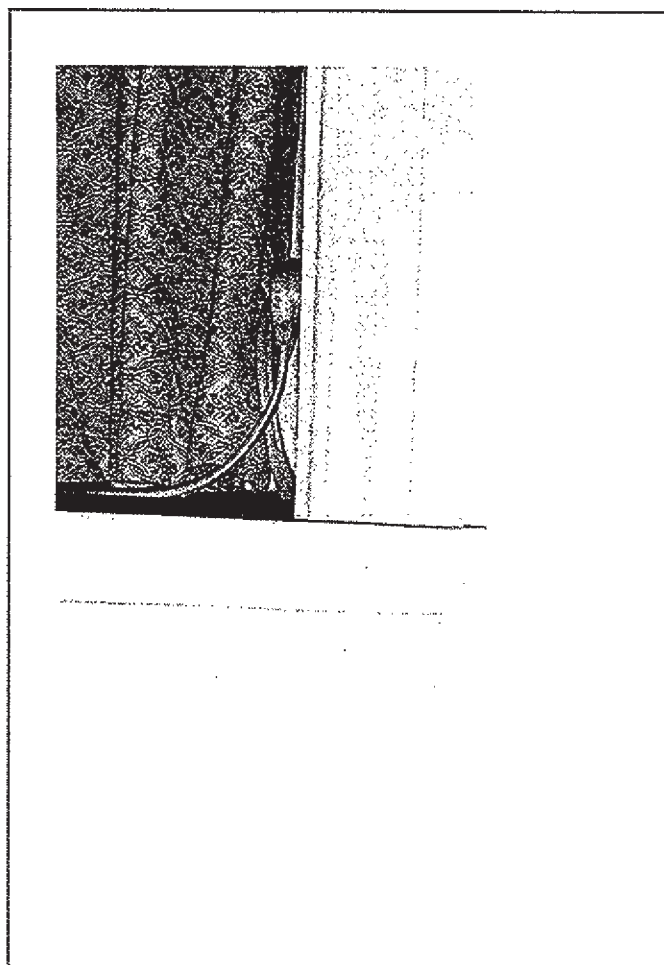


Plate 35. Detail of window casing and sill found in section 3, corresponding to the door casing in Plate 34.

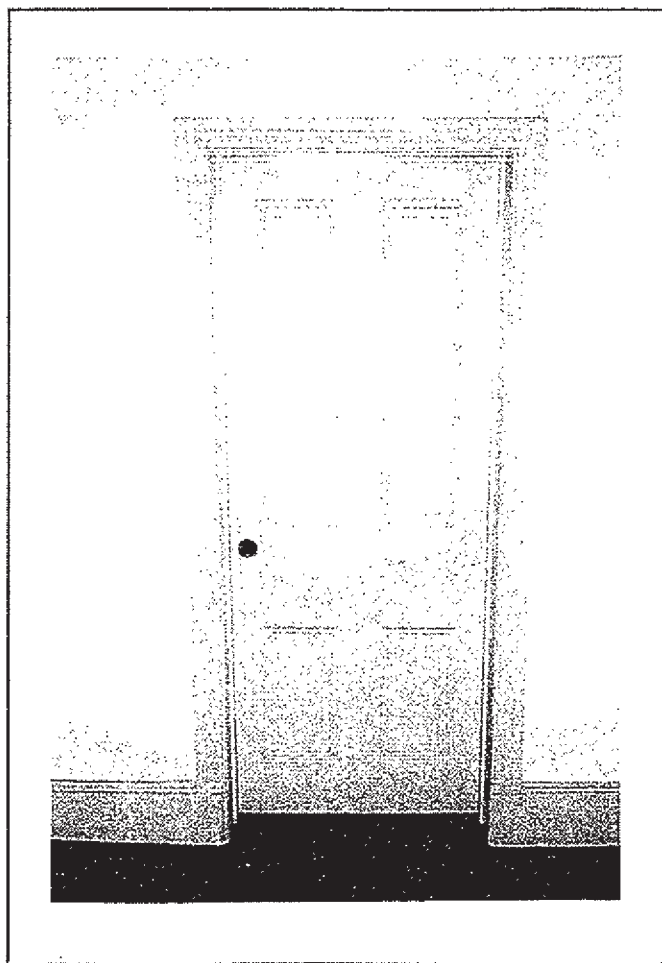


Plate 36. Detail of door from the first floor hall into a southwest room. This four panel door was inserted into this wall during the c.1850 renovation.

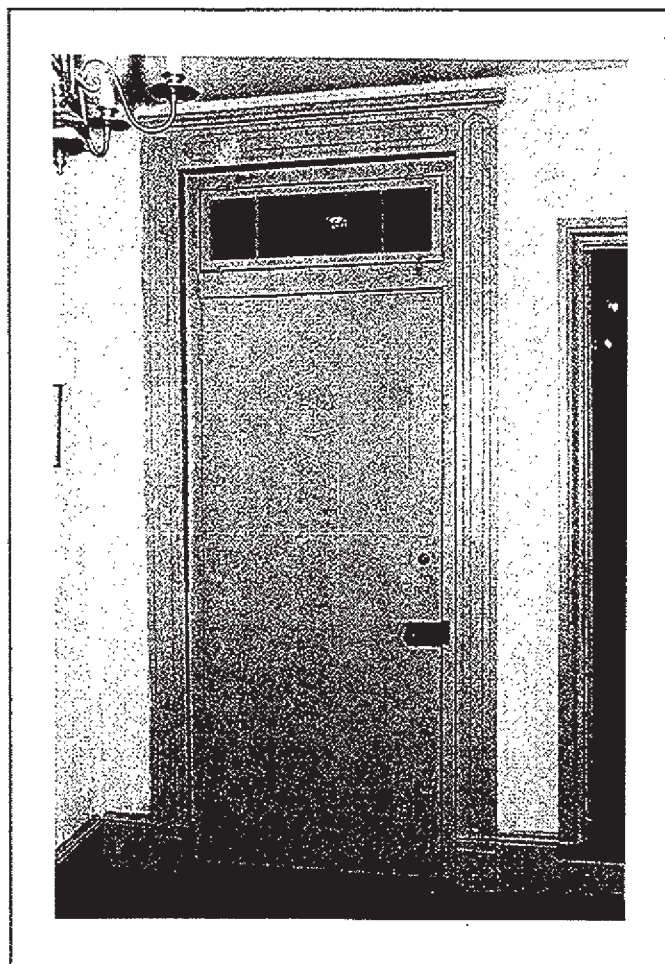


Plate 37. Detail of exterior doorway at the rear of the first floor hall. This door was installed in this location during the c.1850 renovation.

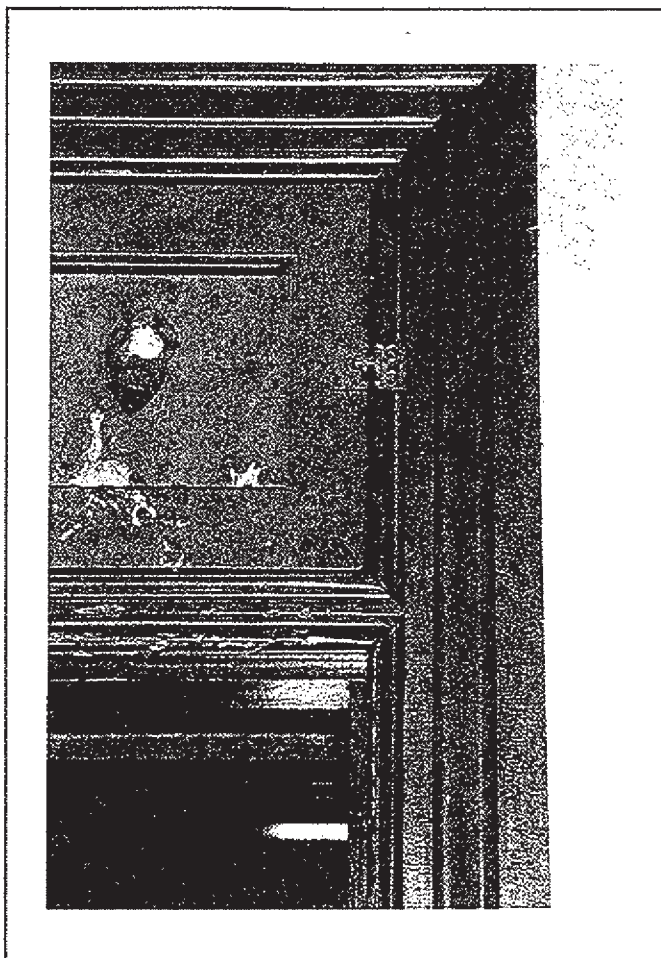


Plate 38. Typical door trim found in the third floor of the house dating from c.1895 renovation.

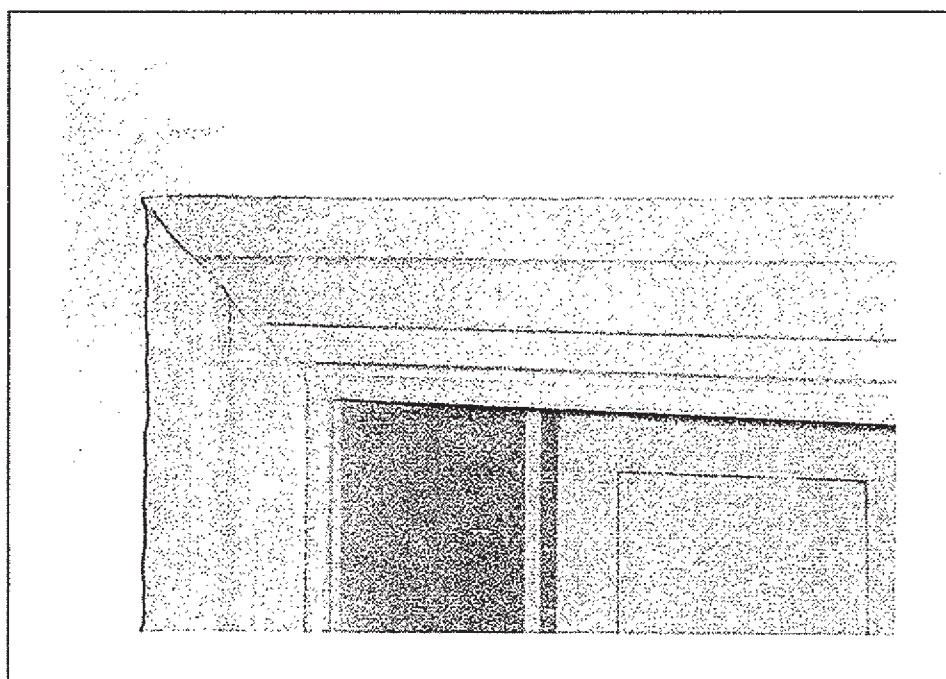


Plate 39. Detail of door casing found at the head of the stair leading into the northeast room of the second floor. This casing is typical of a c.1895 renovation.

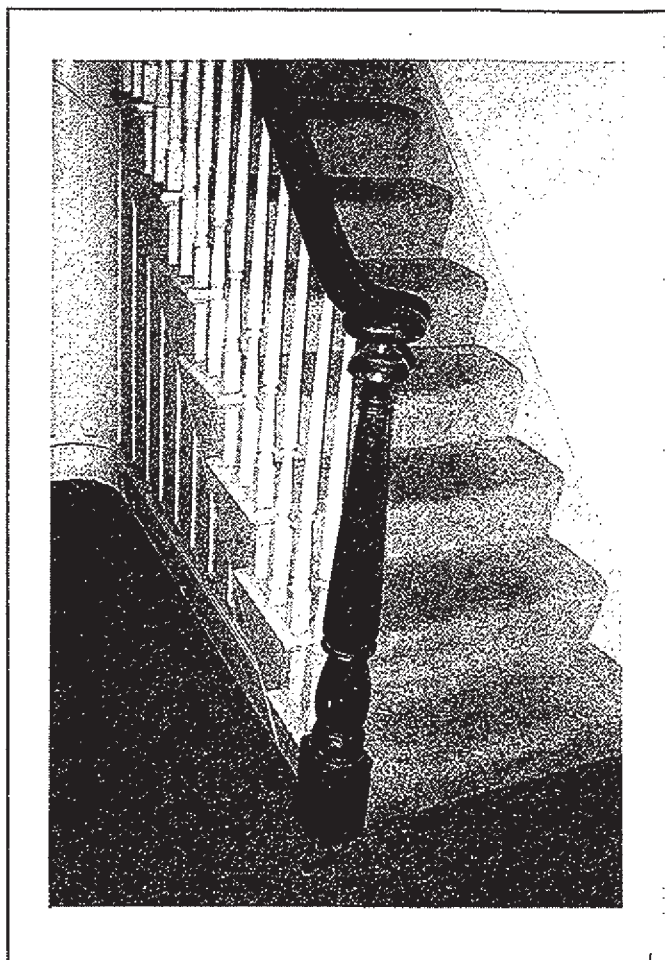


Plate 40. Detail of newell and stair on the 1st floor at the east end of Section 3.

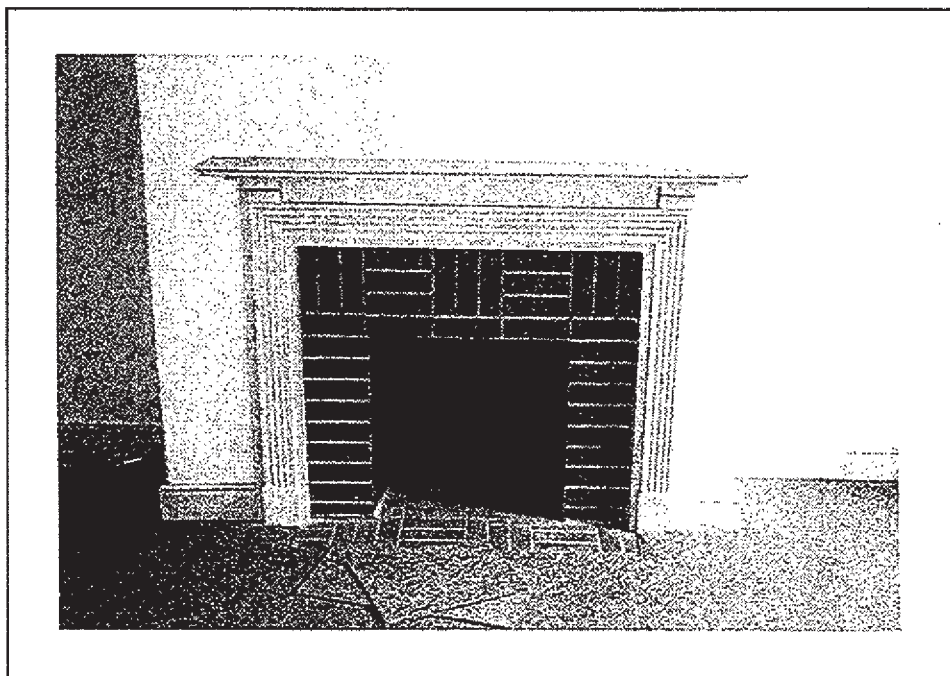


Plate 41. Detail of a mantel in the 2nd floor northeast room. This is the only mantel surviving in the house and probably dates from c. 1834.

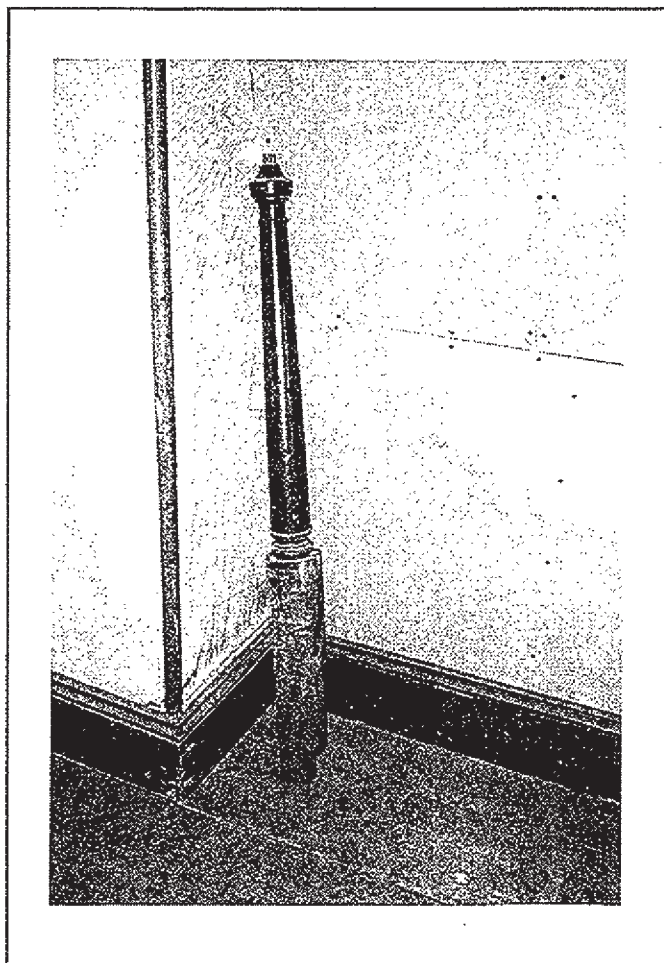


Plate 42. Detail of newell post from the stair that ran from the 2nd floor into the attic.
This stair probably dates from c.1834.

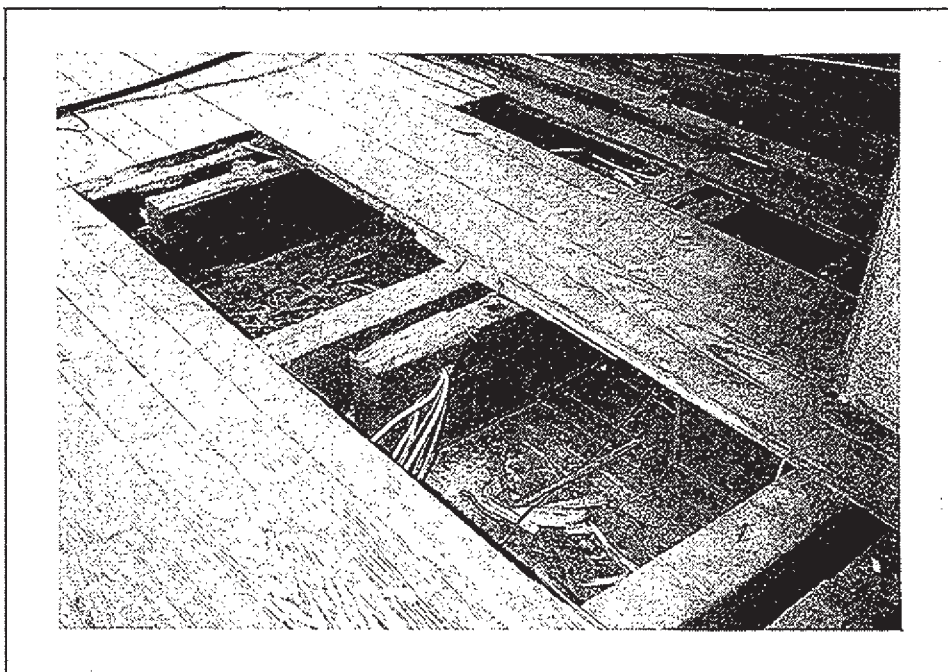


Plate 43. Detail of floor framing in the third floor, the northwest room, showing the ends of c.1834 attic floor joists. Note holes in tops of joists for attachment of false plate and rafters.

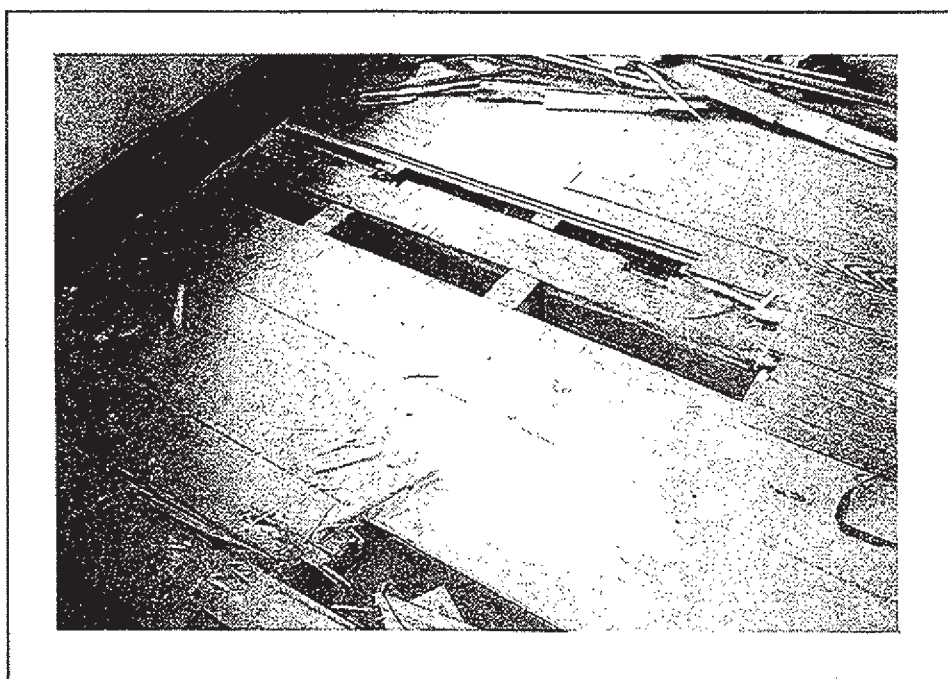


Plate 44. Detail of floor framing in the 3rd floor southwest room showing c.1834 summer beam. Note the wide floor boards of c.1834 in the foreground and the narrow boards beyond from c.1895.

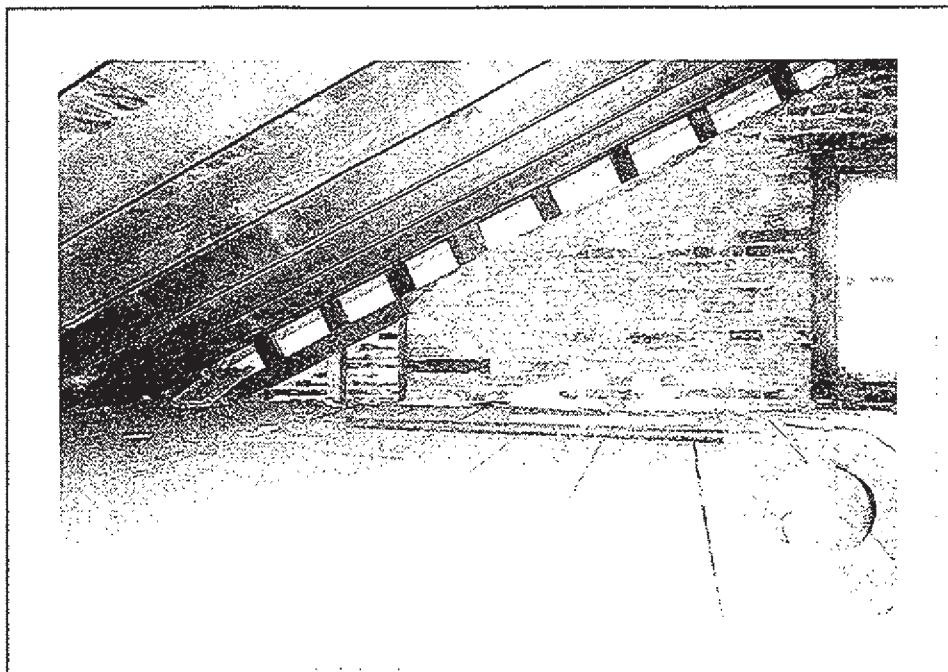


Plate 45. View of the attic looking north. Brick gable walls, window, rafters and floor system date from c.1895 renovation. Note the wood lath and plaster on the gable wall left of center.

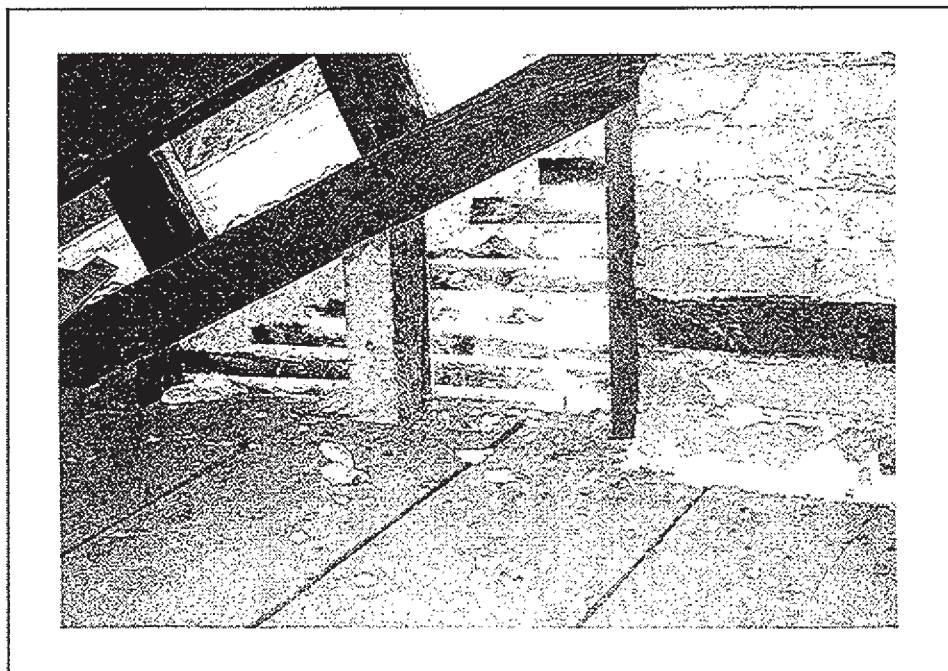


Plate 46. Close-up of Plate 45 showing exterior plaster on wood lath. This edge corresponds to the offset in the north wall of the cellar of the earliest portion of the house.



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

INDEPENDENCE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

311-313 WALNUT STREET

PHILADELPHIA, PA. 19106

190

1790-1990

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS
OF INDEPENDENCE

July 17, 1990

H30(INDE)

Memorandum

To: William D. Brookover
From: P. H. Batcheler and H. KaltheGener
Subject: Bringhurst House

On 7/11/90 summer trainee Hildegard KaltheGener and I took 17 paint samples from accessible exterior window, door and cornice members. Attached is a summary of the paint history to be learned from these samples (Acc. 3698).

In addition, the paint samples indicate some construction details which may help in determining the sequence of construction of the house. These details relate to whether or not the window frames have applied back band molding or not.

Samples 1, 2, 3 and 10 were taken from mortise and tenoned window frames of the main house (see plan) which may date to the original construction. Samples 2, 3 and 10 were taken at the joint between the lower quarter round back band fillet and frame flat area. There seemed not to be a joint between the back band and frame. But another look to verify that the back bands and frames are integral is necessary. It could confirm that these are 18th c. original frames.

Samples 4 and 5 were taken at window frames on the south side of the nearest brick back building. These samples were also taken at the juncture of the quarter round back band lower fillet and frame. The back band portion was a separate piece --showing that the window frames altho also mortise tenon and pinned, had applied back band moldings --different from the 18th c. main house frames.

Samples 6, 7 and 8 were taken from the window frames of the rear end section of the back building which clearly is a later addition to the house. The back band moldings here, in addition to having a Greek Revival era profile, were definitely "applied" as paint was found having seeped into the joint between back band and frames.

The street facade windows and the centered front entrance are all clearly alterations. The window frames are not mortise and tenon with quarter round back bands. Instead the frames are simple

flats, or boxlike in section. They may date from the same alteration when the entrance was given an early 19th c. frame with half round fanlight.

Samples taken at the dormer window showed that at least one bracket is a late replacement.

The main cornice at the back of the main house looks to have replacement wood as well.

The one feature which may in part be 18th c., and have been protected from the overall paint removal which is discussed by Hildegard Kalthegener, is the main house back entrance now inside the back vestibule. This door frame needs architectural investigation to see if it has any original 18th c. portion left.

With a high lift the street facade main cornice should also be examined for its construction period and to see if by any chance some area escaped paint removal.

Paint Analysis: Bringham House, Exterior

Samples 1, 2, 3 and 10 come from windows which could be original to this 18th c. house. A sequence of dark brown, gray, dark brown, gray, dark brown, gray layers was found here, followed by several white 20th c. paint coats. A number of these layers contained white lead. Underneath the brown and gray colors, which probably date from the late Victorian period, was also found a moderate reddish brown (5YR 3/4). A light yellowish gray (2.5Y 8/2) was found in the pores of the wood of samples 10, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12 and 13. This may be the residue of early paint layers which have been removed. The disturbances and turbulence in the moderate reddish brown, gray and dark brown layers indicate either the possibility of paint loss or that the samples were taken from corners.

In some locations paint migrated from the exposed surface to the "back side" of samples, which led to the conclusions about the construction of the frames (see samples #5 and #6), see memo by P. H. Batcheler. Also the fact that the frame under the backband had paint on it, might cast further light on the construction and date of the window frames (#7).

The frames of the windows facing the street were identified as later additions, but nevertheless contained all but the first yellowish gray layer (2.5 Y 8/2); see sample #9. This layer (2.5 Y 8/2) definitely contains white lead (tested with sodium sulfide). The 2.5 Y 8/2 layer was also found in the pores of the wood on the sample taken from the street entrance which is probably an early 19th c. addition (#11).

The paint layering on the shutters (#12 and #13) is similar to the paint on the frames, except for the fact that here several gray and gray green paint coats follow the earlier gray/dark brown sequence. The dormer window bracket sampled and the rear

main cornice might be replacements, since their samples have only several 20th c. layers of white paint on them. Also the wood looks very clean and light here. The gable of the dormer (#16), however, contains all the layers described for sample #8, plus 2 earlier dark yellowish gray (5 Y 3/1) finishes and a weak hiding power prime coat of moderate yellowish brown. The dormer window frame has a contrasting early finish of reddish brown (2.5 YR 3/2) above the prime coat, followed by all the layers described in sample #8.

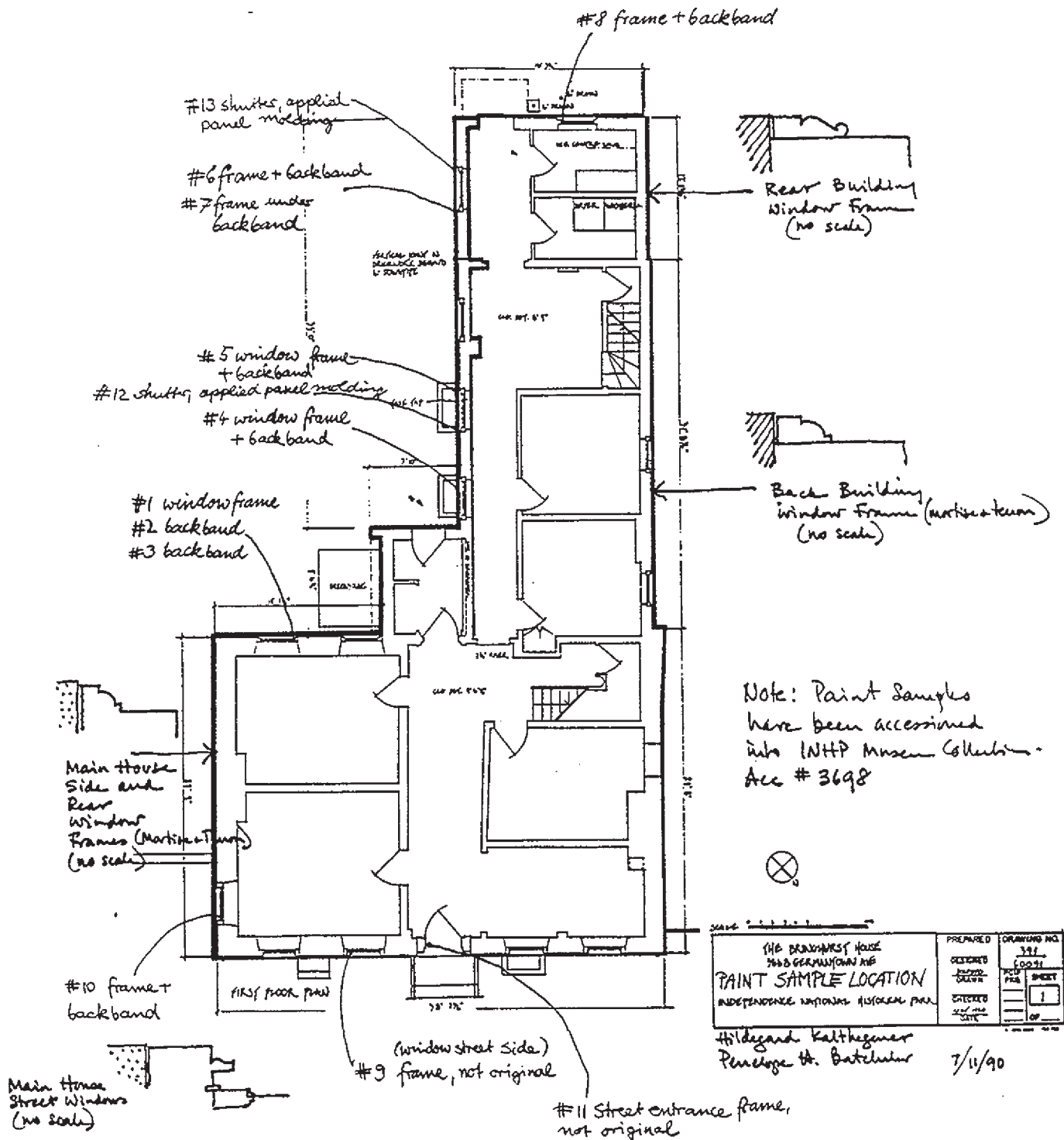
To complete this paint color study it is essential that more samples be taken at the same locations and at others as well. One sample from each architectural element is not enough. But a preliminary interpretation may be that the Bringham house was painted an off-white through the 18th and first half of the 19th century. All the early paint layers were removed, possibly at the time that the mansard roof was added with the dormer windows. After this major addition the house was apparently painted the dark colors found on the samples.

P. H. Batcheler

H. Kalthegener

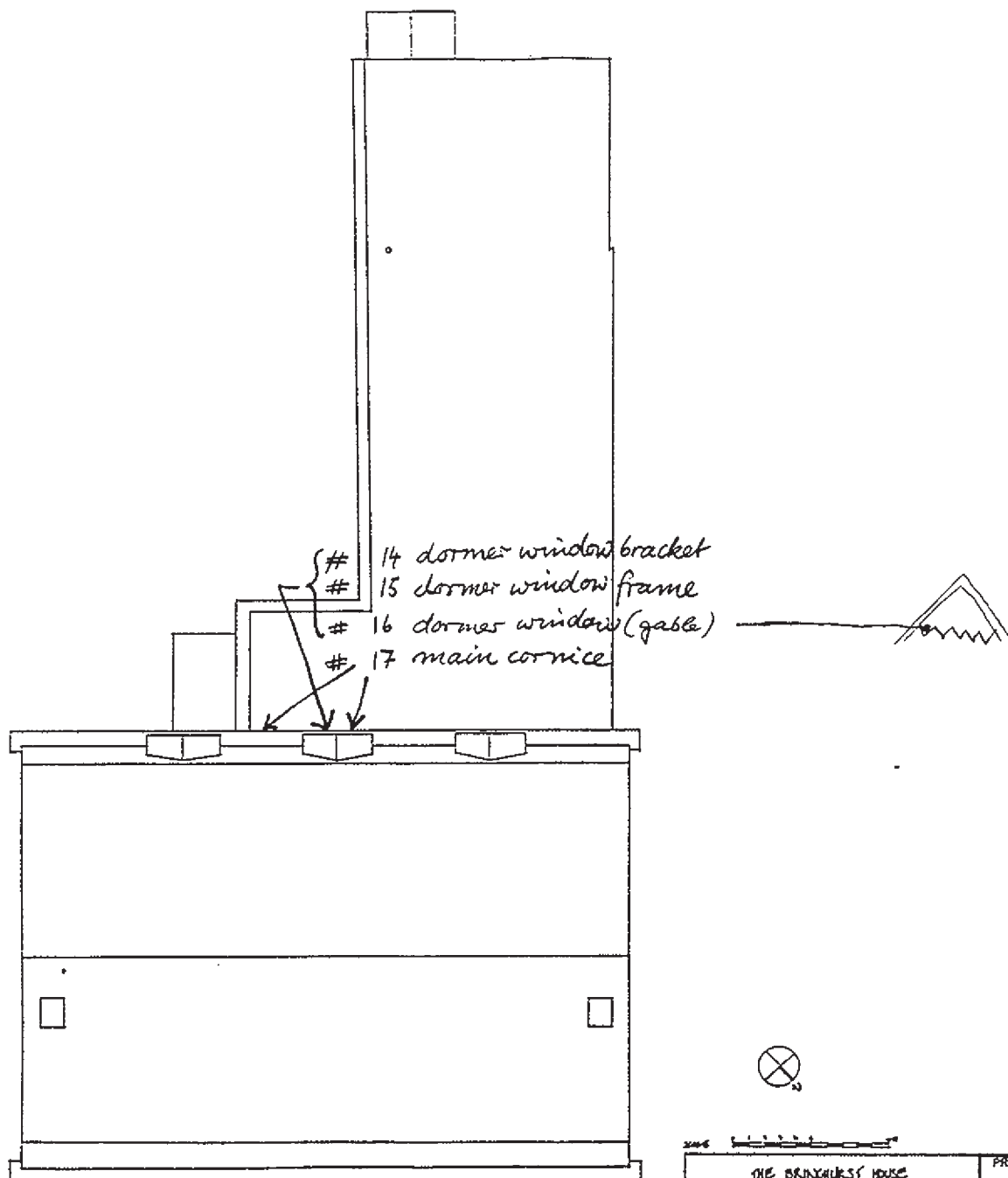
PAINT ANALYSIS SAMPLE LOCATIONS

First Floor



PAINT ANALYSIS SAMPLE LOCATIONS

Dormers and Cornice



ROOF PLAN

THE BRINKHURST HOUSE 2416 GERMANSDOWN AVE		PREPARED	DRAWING NO.
Paint Sample Location		DESIGNED	341
INDEPENDENCE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK		DRAWN	6009
CHECKED	DATE	NO. OF SHEETS	3
		OF	

Last Will & Testament

The last will and testament of George Bringhurst (Senior), written January 21, 1752, as reproduced in Leach, History of the Brinkhurst Family in America.

"BE IT REMEMBERED THAT I GEORGE BRINGHURST OF GERMANTOWN in the County of Philadelphia and Province of Pennsylvania Sadler being weak and indisposed in Body, But through the Goodness of God an of Sound disposing mind and memory Calling to mind therefore the uncertainty of my time here I have thought it Convenient to settle my outward affairs by this my last Will and Testament First requesting that all and singular my just Debts funeral expences &c. be well and truly paid & discharged, and the residue of my Estate I dispose of in manner following -that is to say I give and bequeath to my beloved Wife Anna Bringhurst the following Goods & particulars Viz: my best Bead, Beading, Bedstead, Curtains and all furnature to the said Bed blonging, A Chest of drawers a looking Glass, a large Arm Chair & a dozen of my best other Chairs, a large Black Walnut Table, a Joynt stool table, a Couch , a pendelum Watch or Clock a Corner Cupboard, an Iron Stove now in Use, warming pan, a Walnut Chest with two drawers, a Cow and dung hook & fork & all the Hay & other fodder now in the Barn a Dough Trough a large Brass Kettle & a smaller one a large Iren Pot & a lesser one, a Bell Metal Pot with my Pot racks and Hooks a pair of And Irons fire shovel & Tongs & Grid Iron, a Box Iron & heaters, a frying pan & Baking Iron, a flesh fork brass Skimmer & all my Pewter a Tea Kettle two Tea Potts & all other Tea furniture A Quilting frame all my stone Jugs a Cradle & side Sadle, all our Earthen Ware & Candlesticks Snuffers and Candle Box, all our linnens and Wollens both made and unmade into wearables, a Coffee pot a Coffy mill a dressing Box, a little Trunk with a smaller one in it a gold ring a big & little Spinning wheel, a spade & wheelbarrow, all which I give & bequeath unto her my said dear Wife for her Use & to dispose of at her discretion, I give & bequeath to my son John Bringhurst all my Tools for making of Saddles or Sadlary Utensils whatsoever & in whose hand soever the same are found. I give & bequeath to my Son George Bringhurst a Cros Cut saw & all my Saws & Tools or utensils Saddletree making and a Chest to hold part of said Tools & all the wood which I have for making Saddletrees, as also a Bible my Desk & a pair of Gold Buttons-I give and bequeath to my Daughter Hester Bringhurst a Bed, Beadstead Beding, Curtains & all furniture to the said Bed belonging, a black Walnut Chamber Table, a dressing Box a looking Glass, a pair of And Irons, fire shovel & Tongs & half a dozen of Chairs, and I will that my wearing apparel be made Use of for the Clothing of my two little Sons Sammuel and William, all the remainder of my Moveables I will and require to be disposed of and sold and the same with all other my Personal Estate appropriated to the subsistence of my Wife and Younger Children, the which Younger Children I request may be kept to School untill they are capable to be put to prentice which should be at the age of fourteen Years at the longest and in order for the discharging of my Just Debts I will and require that such a part of my Real Estate as to

Last Will & Testament

my Executrix and her Assistants herein after named shall seem necessary shall be sold and disposed of in the best manner & for the best price that may be had for the same (with this Proviso that if possible my House wherein I now dwell with some part of my Land and Buildings lying Contiguous & Convenient thereunto be reserved & kept for the Use and Benefit of my Wife and Children in such manner as I shall hereinafter direct) Wherefore I empower & authorize my Executrix hereinafter named, or those whom I may appoint Executors in her room in case of her disability or the Survivor of them to Sell and dispose of part of my Real Estate in manner as is above directed and make and execute good & sufficient Deed or Deeds, Conveyance or Conveyances for the same to the Purchaser or purchasers & to his her or their Heirs and Assigns forever in fee Simple And with the Money arising by such Sale to pay and discharge all my Just Debts as aforesaid and as to the remaining part of my Real Estate to wit my dwelling House and Lot thereunto belonging I give and bequeath the Use Rents & Profits thereof to my beloved Wife aforesaid to be appropriated to the Maintaining Clothing & Schooling of our two Youngest Children until they are put out to prentice, I also give & bequeath the use Rents & Profits aforesaid to my said Wife for and during her Natural Live if she continues so long my Widow, But in Case she intermarries then and in such Case she shall have the Thirds of sd Rents and Profits during her natural life, and the other two thirds to be equally divided amongst my Surviving Children, The Use Rents and Profits of my said Real Estate is to be understood to be vested in my said Wife until my said two Youngest Children be put out prentice whether she marries or otherwise for her and their support as aforesaid and after my Wifes decease I give and bequeath my said remaining Real Estate unto all my Children to wit John, Sarah, George, Hester, Samuel & William and to their Heirs and Assigns forever in fee Simple to be divided amongst them in manner following that is to say my two Youngest Children Samuel & William to have Ten Pounds each lawful Money of Pennsylvania or Value thereof more or over and above the Proportion of the other four, in Consideration that my said four Eldest Children have had something more by this Will & otherwise than my said youngest Children have had, so that my said four Eldest Children shall have and equal proportion of said remaining Real Estate share and share alike-And my two youngest Children shall have such a proportion and Ten Pound each or Value thereof more than the four eldest is each to have, And if any or either of my said Children should depart this life in their Minority unmarried & without lawful Issue, in such Case my Surviving Children & their Heirs shall have the decedents part or proportion equally share & share alike, The Heirs representative or representatives of any of my Children who may be deceased before they receive their part is to have the said part equally divided amongst them I Nominate Constitute and and appoint my beloved Wife Anna Bringhurst aforesaid Sole Executrix of this my last Will and Testament and Guardian to my Younger Children aforesaid-And I appoint my Son John Bringhurst and Son in Law George Palmer my Trustees and Assistants to my said dear Wife in Case of need, and in Case of my wife's death or being otherwise

Last Will & Testament

disabled to go through & finish the affairs of her Executrix ship in such Case I appoint them my said Son John and Soninlaw George Palmer as Executors & Guardians to my said Children in her room and stead with full power to them or the Survivor of them to act & do in all things as fully & amply as she could or might hav done in case she were living and otherwise Capable of said Trust I do hereby revoke and make void all other and former Wills or Testaments by word or writing by me at any time heretofore made or expressed ratifying & Confirming this only as my last Will & Testament IN WITNESS whereof I have hereunto set my Hand and Seal Dated the twenty first day of January in the Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and fifty two 1752.

"Signed Sealed Published and declared by the said George Bringhurst as his last Will & Testament in the presence of us

John Jones
Danl. Mackenet
Thos Rose"

Notice in Pennsylvania Gazette

August 20, 1761

TEN POUNDS Reward.

RUN away the 8th of this Instant from the Subscribers, living in Germantown, Philadelphia County, two Apprentice Lads; the one named John Collier, pretends to be something of a Sadler, but not much of a Workman, aged about 19 Years, 5 Feet 4 or 5 Inches high, well set, of a dark Complexion, down Look, broad Nose, with a black Spot on one side of it, some Freckles in his Face, and has brown Hair; Had on and took with him a brown Cloth Coat, with white Buttons; one white Nankeen Ditto, lined with Linen, with a small Cape; a black Jacket, lined with white; blue knit Breeches, Check Shirt, two Pair of Worsted Stockings, the one speckled, and the other a light blue, one Pair of Shoes, a Pair of Pumps, and a good Castor Hat, of a small Size.

The other named John Stall, about 5 Feet 5 or 6 Inches high, 18 Years old, smooth fac'd, fresh Colour, brown Hair; Had on a blue Cloth coat, almost new, lined with white, with a small Cape, and blue Mohair Buttons; a Snuff coloured Thicket Jacket, the Sleeves lately ripp'd out; a Pair of Buckskin Breeches, Thread Stockings, a Castor Hat, lately turned, and lined with Linen; one white Shirt, two Check ones, and supposed to have Plenty of Money with him. He understands something of the Sadler's Trade, and trimming of Chairs. --- Whoever takes up and secures the said Apprentices in any Goal so that their Masters may have them again, shall have the above Reward, or Five Pounds for either, and reasonable Charges, paid by JOHN BRINGHURST, OR DANIEL LUCAN.

N.B. It is supposed they are gone to New York. All Masters of Vessels are forbid to carry them off, at their Peril.

Property Survey of 1840

Survey of House Kitchen and ~~Stable~~
situate in Germantown on the North East
= only side of the Main Street belonging
to Thomas Bringhurst late George
Gibbschimmer - -
To wit

Front a 3 story stone house, ^{18 by 26 feet} first story
1 large room and Entry, 4 windows with
pannell shutters, 12 lights glass 10 by 15 in.
4, pannell doors, windows and doors trimmed
with Grecian moulding, wash board,
wood Mantle, plane stain in entry.
Second story, 2 rooms and entry, 7
windows without shutters, of 15 lights glass
8 by 10 in, pannell doors, wood mantle,
Third story 2 rooms and entry, 5 windows
without shutters, 12 lights glass 8 by 10 in pannell doors
2 closets, wash boards, wood mantle.

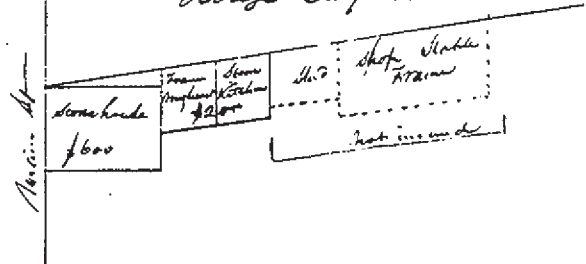
Back building adjoining the house built
of frame and Raupcast 15 by 18 feet 2
story high with 2 flights of stairs 4 windows
of 12 lights glass 8 by 10 in 2 windows of 6
lights glass 8 by 10 in, entry and room on
bath floor,

Kitchen adjoining the back building built
of Stone 2 story high 14 by 18 feet 7 windows
of 15 lights glass 8 by 10 in. 2 Ledge shutter
ledge door, common ~~wooding~~ stain wash
boards, windows finished plane

Nothing into
Dormer Shop and Stable adjoining
the Kitchen Shed, 2 story high, 14 by 26 feet
3 windows without shutters 12 lights glass
8 by 10 in. 2 windows of 9 lights glass 8 by 10 in
rough weather boarding.

Surveyed by me this day
Germantown Oct 19th 1840
ap/prop for Thos Bringhurst
June 5, 1841
Gibbschimmer

Jacob Droop
House Carpenter



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