

Fort Leavenworth,
Building #37
630 & 632 Thomas Avenue
Leavenworth
Leavenworth County
Kansas

HABS No. KS-53-0

HABS
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

FORT, LEAVENWORTH, BUILDING # 37 HABS No. KS-53-0

Location: 630 & 632 Thomas Avenue, Fort Leavenworth, Leavenworth County, Kansas.

USGS Leavenworth, Kansas-Missouri Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 15.33470.4357760

Present Owner: U.S. Department of the Army

Present Occupant: 630-Major Mason E. Smith
632-Major Stockwell

Present Use: Double officers quarters

Significance: Building # 37 is one of a few quarters illustrating the residential development of the West End Parade ground in the late 1880's. The West End Parade after the establishment of the Infantry and Calvary School was used for drills and exercises of troops by student officers. The establishment of the school necessitated additional housing. In order to build additional quarters, the Army requested money from Congress, the full appropriation requested in 1888, was not approved but enough was allocated to erect some buildings, including five officers quarters along Thomas Avenue. The two double and three single quarters were sited on the east side, of the west parade ground. Architecturally, Building # 37 illustrates the transition from the irregular massing and compartmental plan of late nineteenth century design to a more controlled and unified composition. The interior of the residence shows the early development of open planning and the combination of living room and stairhall, both characteristics of the so-called Shingle Style.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Building # 37 was constructed in 1889. Plans and estimates were sent to the Quartermaster General, December 10, 1888. The request for appropriations went to Congress on December 18, 1888. Specifications for the erection of double officer's quarters dated were May 29, 1889. Work was begun the summer of 1889.

2. Architect: The architect, according to the design drawings, was E.T. Carr; the same E.T. Carr that arrived in 1855 as a construction foreman for the Syracuse Houses.

3. Original and subsequent owners: U.S. Department of War, since 1947 known as the Department of the Army.

4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Unknown.

5. Original plans & construction: Specifications and drawings of the plans and elevation were located in Box 548, Record Group 92, Consolidate Correspondence File, Office of the Quartermaster General, National Archives (see Supplemental Material # 1). Also located at D.E.H. are drawings of undated floor plans (see Supplemental Material # 2 & # 3).

6. Alterations and additions: There have been some minor alterations to the interior of Building # 37. A second floor bathroom 630 Thomas Avenue has been removed from the northeast side to enlarge a rear bedroom. A closet at the northwest corner has been converted into a small bathroom. The third floor has been altered in both 630 and 632 from an open attic space into bedrooms, a hallway and hall closets. 632 also has a bathroom.

B. Historical Context:

In spite of decreased appropriations, Fort Leavenworth continued to build and to expand through the 1880's. By the end of the decade the installation had "better dwellings than most posts" (Langellier, p. 63). Much of the residential construction of the 1880's occurred in an area known as the West End Parade ground. The West end Parade subsequent to the establishment of the School of application for Infantry and Cavalry in 1881, became the area used by the school for mounted drills and exercises. The reviews and drills, according to an 1888, article by Charles King were "by long odds the finest sight at Leavenworth." (Langellier, p. 60 & footnote 44). The north side of the parade ground had by 1881 quarters whose verandas were popular places from which to view the exercises and parades. In 1889 the east side of the parade ground was selected for construction of quarters for "the young officers ordered to and on duty at the school" (Record Group 92, Box 546). A letter sent to Congress from the Secretary of War, December 1888, requested appropriations for barracks, officers quarters and other buildings. The specifications, dated May 2, 1889, sent by the Chief Quartermaster, Department of the Missouri, suggests that the construction work was begun in the summer of 1889.

PART II ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Information:

1. Architectural character: The design of Building # 37 represents many stylistic elements; classical, Queen Anne/Eastlake and Shingle Style. The classical influence can be seen in the symmetrical front facade and lintel windows. The Queen Anne style is reflected in the two story bay extensions and front veranda with Eastlake detailing. Although there is an additive quality to the massing of Building # 37, in general, the composition of the building lacks the irregularity of the Queen Anne style. In spite of the horizontality and numerous extensions, Building # 37 is unified. The cohesiveness derives from the symmetry of the front facade and the continuous horizontal cornice frieze. For these elements tend to minimize any irregularity within a controlled design system. On the interior, the floor plan reflects Shingle Style influence. The spatial flow of the living hall, from the vestibule around the dining room contrasts with the compartmentalization of the dining room, kitchen, and front parlor. The open flow resembles the open planning first developed by H. H. Richardson in the 1870's. In The Shingle Style Today, Vincent Scully writes:

"In 1874, as we have already seen Watts Sherman House, Scully, p. 5), Richardson turned the vertical, highly articulated massing of the Stick Style over the horizontal, opened up its separate interior spaces to each other...In this was the essential objective of the Shingle Style was the creation of expanding space..."(p. 7).

The inventiveness of the Shingle Style plan derives from the informality of the summer beach house and the elimination of enclosed spaces to save heat, not a crucial problem in summer cottages. Another design feature deriving from the Shingle Style is the combination of the living room and stair hall to create a living hall. As Mark Giroud notes in Sweetness and Light, "...their plans gradually changed; compartmented plans similar to those in England developed into open plans, with staircases that came down into living halls" and Scully writes "By 1880's...the interior space in small houses as in large was one easy flow, monumentalized by the living hall with its entrance, stairs, fireplace, an window wall..."(Scully, p. 7). The living room/hall of building # 37 reflects these essential elements through the open flow of the living room, combination of living and stairhall, and the fireplace and bay window that provides the window wall. An historic photograph, undated, shows the early building (see Supplemental Material # 4).

2. Condition of fabric: The exterior and interior of Building # 37 is in good condition.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Building # 37 has a two and a half story, six bay front facade; the main house has a cross gable roof with a two and a half story gable service section on the east elevation. There are two story bay projections on the north and south elevations of the main section of the house. The over-all dimensions are 48' 9" x 68' excluding the porch which is 8' x 48' 9".

2. Foundations: The foundation is of rock-faced ashlar limestone with a narrow, smooth-faced watertable along the top, separating the foundation from the brick walls.

3. Walls: The walls are brick laid in American bond consisting of six rows of stretchers between rows of headers. The two story bay extensions have sandstone belt courses (see HABS photo # KS-53-O-4).

4. Structural system, framing: Building # 37 has masonry supported walls surmounted by a wood roof structure. The gable roof construction has a gable dormer on the west elevation and jerkinhead gables on the north and south elevations. Seven inch width common, jack valley rafters tie into the ridge pole and are covered by five inch roof boards. The attic, once an open space, is now partitioned into bedrooms. 630 has a bathroom also. The brick partition between the two duplexes does not extend to the east and west ridge of the roof, but ends eight feet short of it. At the west end, there are three tie beams running south and north across the top of the brick partition wall.

5. Porches: The front wood veranda on the west elevation extends across the entire facade. The porch has a hipped standing seam metal roof and a central pediment which are supported by spindle posts. The posts consist of a center turned section with rectangular ends, that have chamfered corners. To either side of the posts there are solid 'S' shaped brackets that intersect the spindle frieze. The balustrade consists of a plain square upper and lower rails that frame square balusters. The central gable surmounted on the roof has a raking cornice with Tudor half-timbering gable decoration. The screen porch rests on brick piers with lattice work in between and has a tongue and groove floor. Concrete stairs lead to a concrete walk-way (see HABS photos # KS-53-O-2 & 3). There are doorways, off the dining rooms of Building # 37, that lead to a concrete stoop which in turn leads to a grassy side yard. The back porches consist of concrete stoops with two steps that lead to a rear alley. The asphalt shingle gable roofs are supported by metal columns.

6. Chimneys: There are four running bond brick chimneys. There is one chimney on both of the north and south elevations and two on the east/west ridge. Historical photographs show that the chimneys originally had corbelled tops. The architects's drawings shows a very elaborate double stack chimney on the west elevation.

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The two rear kitchen doors are wood four panel and consist of two vertical rectangular panels over two smaller similar panels that have raised interior panels with cyma reversa around its perimeters. The transom over the doorways is covered by a wood panel on the outside. The dining room doors to the north and south consist of four lights (10 3/4" x 21 1/2") over two small vertical rectangular panels with raised interior panels; there is a single light transom. The double front doors each have two small lights over one large single panel measuring 17" x 28 1/2" over a single recessed wood panel. There is a single horizontal light transom.

b. Windows: Windows on the west, north and south elevations of the main block and rear ell have smooth-faced sand stone lintels and sills on the second story and are double hung one over one sash.

8. Roof:

a. Shape and covering: The asphalt shingle roof of the main block is cross gable; to the east is an attached gable service/utility section with a north/south ridge.

b. Cornice and eaves: The east elevation of the service wing has a brick gable with a raked cornice, returns and a rosette frieze (see HABS photo # KS-53-0-4). Also on the east elevation there is a horizontal cornice that extends from the returns of the open gable to the returns of the open raked gable on the north and south elevations of the service section. From the north and south gables the horizontal cornice and frieze extend around the main section of the house. On the west elevation a small gable projection extends from the gable roof, juxtaposed over this gable projection are paired frame windows. The double hung sash frame windows extend below the pediment of the smaller gable projection. Areas not covered by the windows have fishscale shingles at the top and scroll design at the bottom side corners. Below the cornice of the pediment and within the pediment, there is a frieze of rosetts (see HABS photo #

KS-53-0-2). The north and south roof ridge of the main block terminates in a jerkinhead gable. The face of the gable is covered with fishscale shingles and has paired, double hung sash, frame windows. The windows have three solid 'S' shaped brackets across the top with dentiling between them. The raked horizontal cornice and frieze of rosettes circumnavigating the house are important unifying features (see HABS photo # KS-53-0-4).

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The configuration of Building # 37 separates into a main block and rear service/utility section. The house is then divided vertically to form a double set of officers quarters. The floor plan of one of the quarters consists of a vestibule flanked by a front parlor, a living room/stairhall, a dining room and a kitchen, bathroom and rear stairway to the second floor. On the second floor over the kitchen, there are two bathrooms (one has been removed in # 632) and a small bedroom, originally a servants room. In the main part of the house there are three bedrooms which flank a hallway, unlike the first floor where the circulation continues from room to room. A new and interesting feature of the plan of Building # 37 is the combination of the living room and stairhall, forming a living hall, which first appears in the work of H. H. Richardson in the Watts Sherman House, in 1874, a Shingle Style summer cottage. The plan of Richardson's Watts Sherman House and other Shingle Style houses derived from the informality of the summer residence and the elimination of the necessity of compartmental plans for preservation of heat inconjunction with a desire for air flow of summer breezes. In Building #37, the flow of space from the vestibule to the dining room suggests the spatial quality of open planning similar to the interiors of the Shingle Style summer cottage. In Building # 37, however, the plan retains some compartmentalization as seen in the enclosed space of the living room, dining room and kitchen. The basement consists of a single open space with the same perimeters of the first floor.

2. Stairway: The oak stairway located at the southwest corner of the living room has two landings and three newel posts. The newel posts including the starting newel, located on the first landing, has a round hand rest followed by a square section that has a rosette centered on each side. Below this section is a long rectangular section that has three central flutes, followed by another square section which rests on a square base. Next to the newel posts is a shortened balustrade approximately one foot tall which rests on a paneled wall that extends to the living room floor. Two steps ascend

towards the west to the first landing and starting newel, the stairway then turns and ascends five steps to the second landing after which the stairs turn east and ascend ten steps to the second floor. Treads are single pine board. Balusters have spindle middle sections with rectangular ends (see HABS photo # KS-53-0-7). On the second floor the balustrade continues around to encircle the stairwell (see HABS photo # KS-53-0-10). At the rear of the house in both 630 & 632, there is a boxed, service stairway that connects the kitchen with the second floor hallway. Treads are single board but painted. The attic stair is also boxed and the balustrade encircles the stairwell at the top.

3. Flooring: Both # 630 and # 632 have narrow oak board flooring on the first floor; and narrow pine board on the second and third floors. The kitchen, pantries and bathrooms have vinyl sheeting. Half of the basement floor is brick laid in dirt and half of the floor is poured concrete in both quarters of Building # 37.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Both quarters have plaster walls with picture molding on the first and second floors. The baseboard molding in both is eight and a half inches high and consists of a convex top edge followed by cyma reversa, then a flat protruding section followed by cyma recta molding and smaller cyma reversa molding. Below these is a flat section with a beveled bottom edge.

5. Fireplaces: There are three fireplaces in each of the quarters of Building # 37, one each in the front parlor, dining room and living/hall. Although all fireplaces within one residence differ, each fireplace approximately matches its counterpart in the other half of the house. In the dining room, there is a five foot, eight inch wide mantle, the ten foot, fourteen inch deep shelf projects out over the rest of the mantel and has a scalloped edge. Below the mantle shelf there are pilasters to either side which includes a square containing a central rosette, this section frames the frieze. Below the rosette section is an egg and dart decorative band which extends across the frieze, followed by another square section and then a fluted shaft which is plain except for a central, four inch band of alternating vertical convex and groove ornamentation. The firebox is trimmed with small rosettes. The face of the firebox and the hearth is covered with alternating plain and 'X' patterned tiles (see HABS photo # KS-53-0-8). The fireplace in the living room has the same design as the dining room but it is only approximately four feet wide. The firebox is faced with pink, bluegreen and white tile; the hearth is covered with terra cotta tile (see HABS photo # KS-53-0-9). The front parlor has an unusual cast-iron dog's head project, immediately below the head is a piece of cast-iron trim that

extends to the floor. There is also cast-iron horizontal trim separating the frieze from the face of the firebox. The frieze consists of alternating gold tiles of flowers and angles. The tiles around the firebox are either gold or maroon that alternate colors with fleur-de-lis designs. There is a terra-cotta hearth (see HABS photo # KS-53-0-7). In # 630 there is a slight variation in colors and patterns of the tiles otherwise, the fireplaces appear the same.

6. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: Doors in both quarters are four panel ones with the exception of the vestibule and dining room doors (see HABS photo # KS-53-0-9). The vestibule double doors are similar to the front doors in design and consist of two small top lights over one single large light over one recessed panel. The configuration is the same as the front doors, however the inside doors have four lights over two small vertical designs (see HABS photo # KS-53-0-8). Dining room doors have four lights over two small vertical rectangular panels. The trim around the doors of the living room front parlor and dining room is different from the rest of the house in both # 630 and # 632. However, the trim in these rooms does not match its counterpart in the other half of the quarters. In # 632 the trim is simple rectangular flat three and a half inch molding with simple bulls eye corners. 630 varies slightly, there is flat rectangular trim with bulls eye corners, but in addition there is a decorative border around the outside. In the kitchen and second floor of 632, the molding is the same and consists of cyma reversa followed by a convex center and then cyma recta molding. 630 follows the same pattern with similar molding in the kitchen and second floor but the molding here is composed of a center convex section with splayed one inch sections to either side followed by rectangular borders around the outside. The corners have bull's eyes.

b. Windows: The windows are one over one sash in the main section of the house; panes measure 30 1/2" x 31 1/4" Bathrooms have two over two casement windows. The window trim matches that of the doorways.

7. Decorative features and trim: The butler's pantries in both quarters have wood built-in cupboards. The cabinets have shelves and glass doors above, a counter space, with shelves and wood doors below. In the dining room of # 632, there is a large cast-iron warming oven that has a raised floral design. The oven is located within the radiator, double doors open revealing two shelves (see HABS photo # KS-53-0-9).

8. Hardware: Most doors have bronze floral filagree door plates and knobs (see HABS photo # KS-53-0-8). Some of the original knobs have been replaced with porcelain ones. On the second floor of 632, there are a couple of plain brass and aluminum knobs and plates. The rest are filagree geometric pattern brass plates with porcelain black knobs and some brass knobs. The doors on the second floor also have decorative brass stile lock plates. 630 has the same patterned bronze and brass plates and knobs, although not as many.

9. Mechanical equipment: All the rooms in Building # 37 have American Radiator Co. cast-iron radiators with a raised floral design. The building has a steam heating system. In the summer the house is cooled by window air-conditioning units.

D. Site:

Building # 37 was erected on the east side of what was originally the West Parade Ground (see HABS photo # KS-53-0-1). Residents in these houses could view the drills and exercises of the calvary and infantry. Today the parade ground is used as a playing field. Building # 37 is located on the corner of Thomas and Kerny Avenues. To the south there is a residence of duplicate design. The residences have small, informally landscaped, sunny front yards and ample side yards. There is no backyard but a concrete access alley that abuts the rear entry porches.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Original Architectural Drawings:

Drawings: Elevation of Building # 37, Box 548, Record Group 92, Consolidated Correspondence Files 1794-1890, Office of the Quartermaster General, National Archives.

Drawings: Elevations and Plans of Building # 37, Record Group 92, Consolidated Correspondence Files 1790-1890, Office of the Quartermaster Generals, National Archives.

"Steam Heating Plans for Two Double Sets of Officer's Quarters," January, 1904, Directorate of Engineering and Housing, Fort Leavenworth (Floor plans: first, second & third floors).

Floors Plans: 1942, DEH, Fort Leavenworth (first, second & third floors).

B. Early Views:

Photo: undated, "Officers Quarters: Riverside," catalogue no. 6003.48 (28), Fort Leavenworth Museum (shows west elevation from southwest corner).

Photo: "Officers's Quarters, Thomas Avenue, Looking South," undated, Still Photo, Record Group 92 (92.F.33-4), National Archives.

Photo: C. 1935, Real Property Records, Office of the Quartermaster General, DEH, Fort Leavenworth (shows west elevation from SW corner).

C. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

'Fort Leavenworth', Record Group 92, Consolidated Correspondence Files 1794-1890, Office of the Quartermaster General, National Archives (Files surveyed completely).

Letter: To the Quartermaster General from the Deputy Quartermaster General, Box 548, RG 92, Consolidated Correspondence Files 1794-1890, Office of the Quartermaster General, National Archives.

"Additional Buildings At Fort Leavenworth," Letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, Box 548, R.G. 92, Consolidated Correspondence Files, Office of the Quartermaster General, National Archives.

2. Secondary and published sources:

Hunt, Elvid. The History of Fort Leavenworth, 1829-1937, Fort Leavenworth, KS: The General Service School Press, 1926.

Girouard, Mark. Sweetness & Light: The Queen Anne Movement 1860-1900, New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1977.

Langelier, John. Fort Leavenworth Historic Preservation Overview (unpublished manuscript) March 1985, Office of Master Planning, Directorate of Engineering & Housing, Fort Leavenworth, KS.

Real Property Records, Volumes I & II, DEH, Fort Leavenworth.

Scully, Vincent. The Shingle Sytle Today, New York: George Braziller, 1974.

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- D. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: There is additional material that could be investigated in the Consolidated Correspondence File, Record Group 77 at the National Archives.
- E. Supplemental Material: See attached pages.

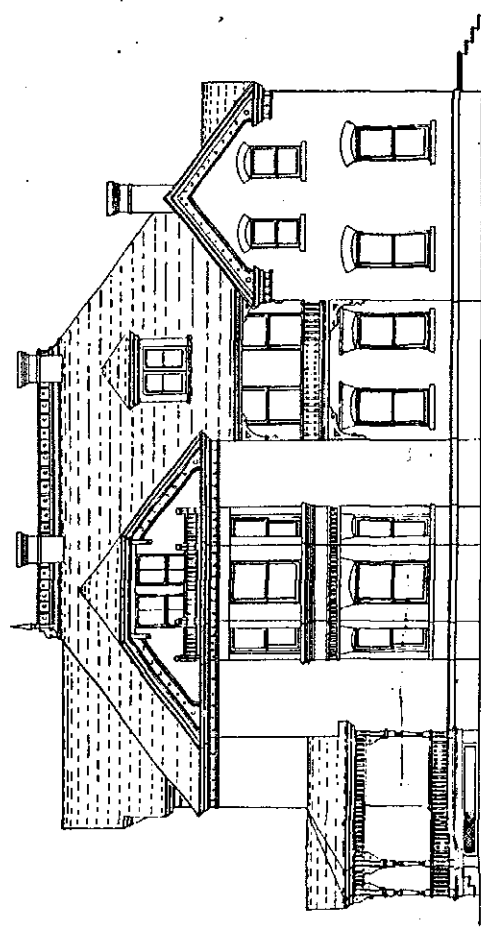
Prepared By: Kristie Struble
Project Historian
Historic American Buildings Survey
Summer 1985

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

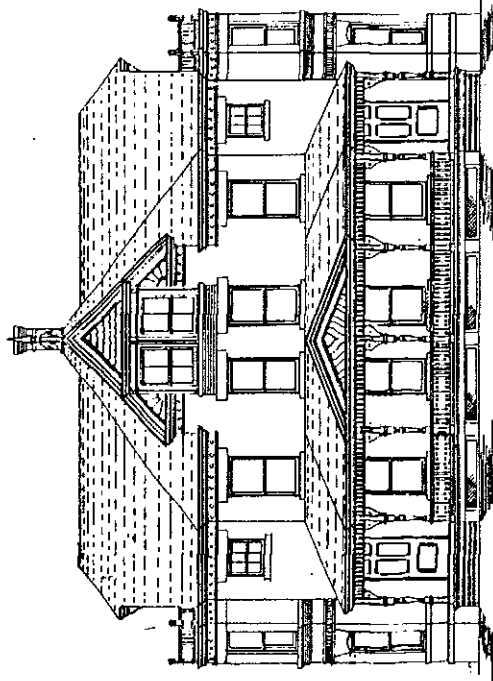
This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey of the National Park Service in agreement with the post command at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas and the headquarters of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington, D.C.. The project was completed under the general supervision of Robert J. Kapsch, Chief of the HABS/HAER Division. Sally Kress Tompkins, Deputy Chief of HABS/HAER served as Program Coordinator and Robie S. Lange, HABS Historian, as Project Leader. The Field Supervisor was James A. Glass (historian, Cornell University); the project historians were Judith E. Hunt (University of Missouri, St. Louis) and Kristie D. Stuble (University of Virginia).

- E. Supplemental Material
1. Double quarters for officers,
front and side elevations

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DOUBLE QUARTERS
FOR OFFICERS
SIDE ELEVATION

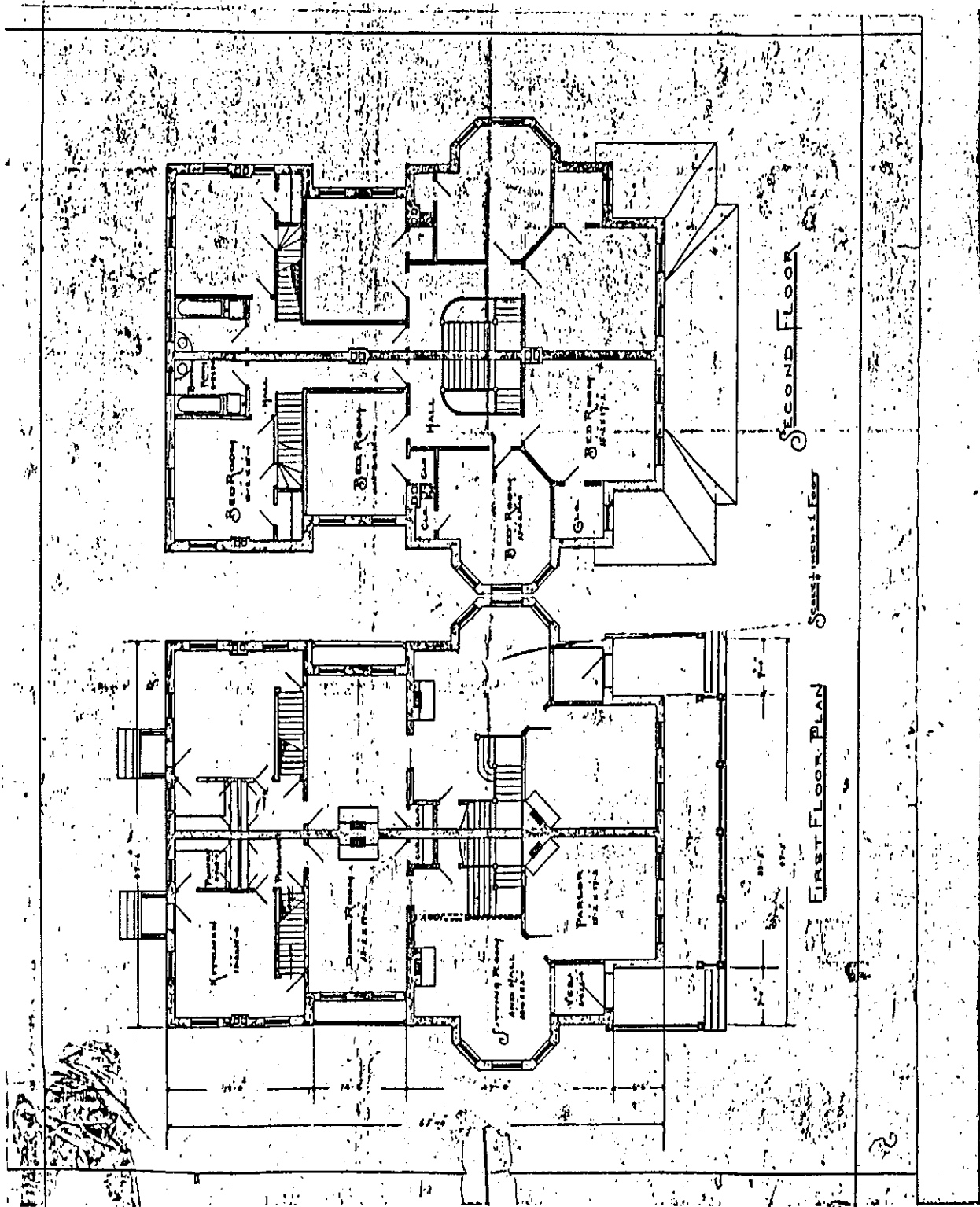


FRONT ELEVATION

Scale 1/4 inch = 1 Foot

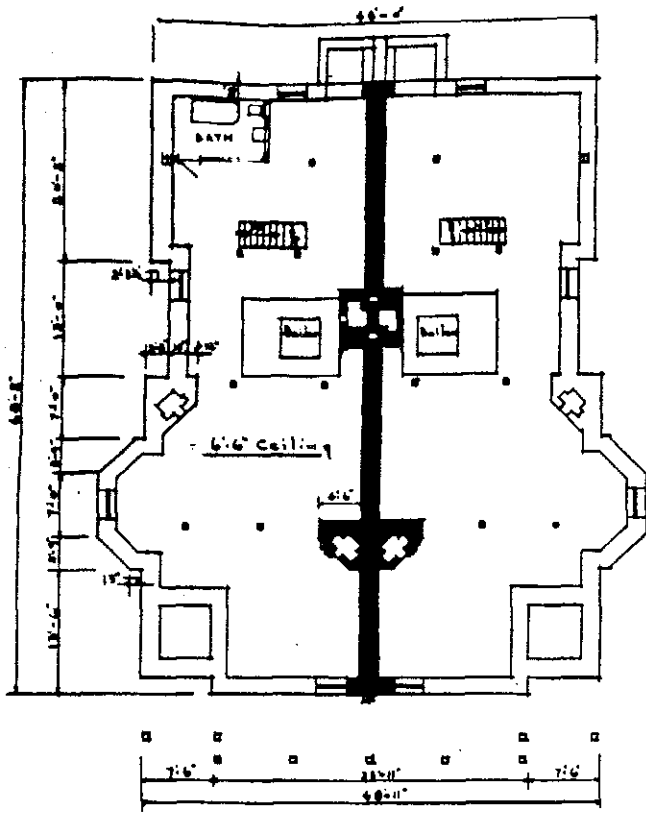
2. First and second floor plan

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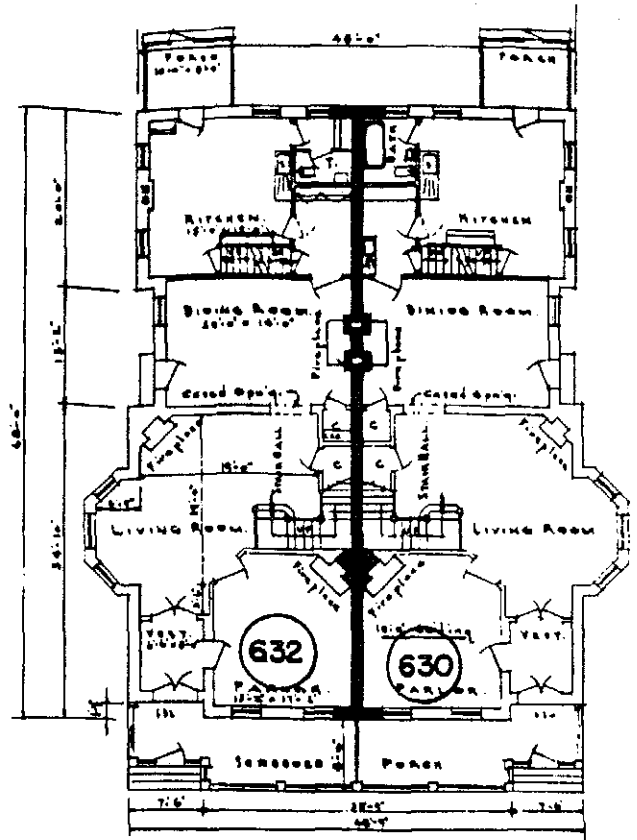


3. Complete floor plans, undated

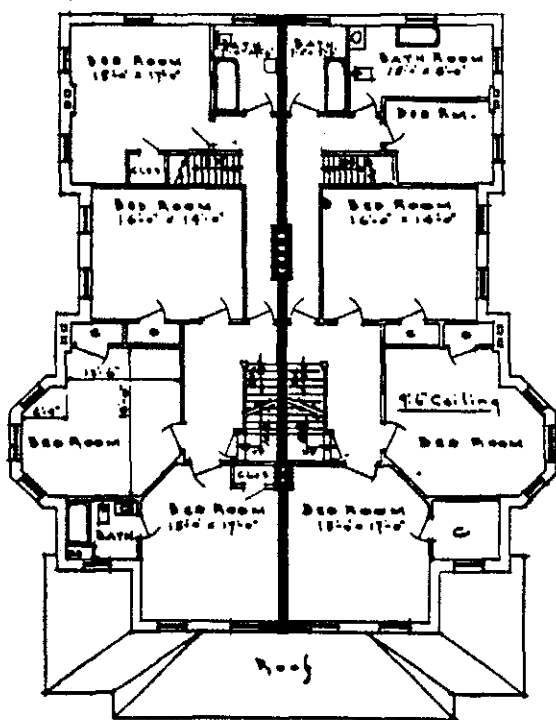
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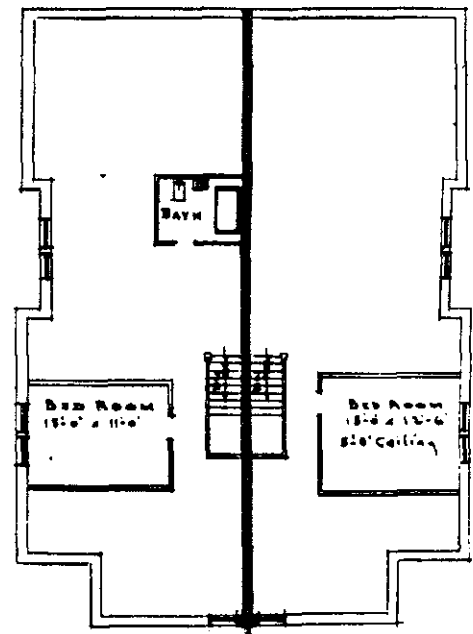
ASSENT



FIRST



SECOND



THIRD

4. Officer's quarters, Riverside;
west elevation of # 38

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