

Fort Riley,
Building # 123
123 Huebner Road
Fort Riley
Riley County
Kansas

HABS No. KS-54-B

HABS
KANS,
81-FORIL,
2-B-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

HABS
KANS,
81-FORIL,
2-B-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. KS-54-B

FORT RILEY, BUILDING # 123

Location: 123 Huebner, Fort Riley, Riley County, Kansas
USGS Junction City Quadrangle, Universal Transverse
Mercator Coordinates: 14.692520.4326360

Present Owner: U.S. Department of the Army

Present Occupant: Temporarily vacant

Present Use: Family Officers Quarters

Significance: Building # 123 at Fort Riley is one of only four remaining structures left from the early period of construction at Fort Riley, during the 1850's. It was built specifically to house the post chaplain and appears on the early site plan as the "Parsonage." For many years (1855-1890) it served as the post chaplain's residence. Unlike the other quarters built during this period, Building # 123 was not included in the rectangular lay-out of the fort. This may be due to the fact that the early buildings were grouped by function (i.e. officer's quarters, stables, administrative buildings, etc.). The result being that the chapel and the parsonage, both non-military in function, sat off from the main post, to the northwest. The simple, early styling of this building, including hammered stone walls and an unornamented, low second story construction reflects the early pioneering period of Fort Riley's history. Building # 123 bears a close resemblance to Building # 24, built during the same period, in styling and materials. Building # 123, however, was built for single family occupancy rather than as a double quarters or duplex.

PART I: HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Circa. 1855. This is the date given in the Engineer's Historical Record Book, Directorate of Engineering and Housing (DEH), Fort Riley. Also, in August of 1855, one observer noted, "The buildings already up here consist of seven large substantial stone buildings for officers and men, a sulter's store and a parsonage" (Webb, p. 81). In addition, its design reflects that of the earliest period of construction at Fort Riley (i.e. hammered stone, simple, vernacular design). Finally, the parsonage appears on the 1863 and 1867 plats of the fort (Plans and Drawings, U.S. Cavalry Museum, Fort Riley).

2. Architect: Unknown. Plans were prepared in the office of the Quartermaster General in Washington. They were approved by the War Department and sent out to Fort Riley for erection (Fort Riley, Clippings, Vol. 1, 1855-1941, KSHS p. 3). The possibility does exist, however, that Joseph O. Sawyer, "architect and superintendent," designed some of the early buildings. Although no documentation was found specifically relating to this building, Sawyer did produce plans for buildings at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas and probably at Fort Riley, at the request of E.A. Ogden, Quartermaster (Plans and Drawings, U.S. Cavalry Museum).
3. Original and subsequent owners: U.S. Department of War, after 1947 referred to as the U.S. Department of the Army.
4. Builders and suppliers:
 - a. Builder: Building # 123 was built by hired, civilian masons and carpenters, many of which were recruited in Cincinnati by Sawyer and brought overland. Many of these masons and carpenters were Irish and German immigrants applying their native trades to the construction of Fort Riley (Thomas, p. 258). It was built under the direction of Major E. A. Ogden, Quartermaster at Fort Riley and Joseph O. Sawyer, contractor.
 - b. Suppliers: The limestone used in the construction of Building # 123 was taken from local quarries. The Ogden Monument reads, "On the site marked by this monument, Major Ogden, in 1855 opened a quarry from which was obtained stone used in the construction of the first permanent buildings at Fort Riley." The necessary woodwork including doors, frames, windows, etc., was made in Cincinnati by Sawyer & McIlvain (or McIlwain) Company and shipped with the lumber, hardware and glass by boat to Fort Leavenworth and then brought by wagon to Fort Riley. Mr. Sawyer was employed as "architect and superintendent" (Pride, p. 65). Major Ogden, Quartermaster at Fort Riley had met Joseph O. Sawyer years before, while Sawyer was doing contract work at the Navy Yard in Philadelphia. Impressed with his work, Ogden later called upon Sawyer to do other projects, including the early buildings at Fort Riley. Sawyer did numerous construction projects for the army, all over the United States. He later built the General Hospital in Cincinnati and was one of the architects of the Ohio State Capitol in Columbus (Sawyer, n.p.).
5. Original plans and construction: Original plans and drawings existing for this building may be located in Record Group 92, at the National Archives, Washington, D.C. However, included in the Plans and Drawings in the collection at the U.S. Cavalry Museum, is what appears to be a copy of an original drawing (see

Supplemental Material # 1 - # 3). No date is given on the drawing, but it appears quite old based on the drawing technique (i.e. no perspective, no dimensions given, and none of the later changes are included). Located at the D.E.H. are floor plans for the building dated January, 1909 and later, undated plans which show the building as it appears today (see Supplemental Materials # 4 & # 5).

6. Alterations and additions: Building # 123 was reinforced at the facade by four, tapering limestone buttresses, approximately three feet long at the base (see HABS photo # KS-54-B-6). In 1890, a rear section was added to the original, back kitchen wing (date unknown). On the 1909 plans this rear shed roof section appears as a "frame wood shed" with a coal bin. With this addition, a brick chimney was added between the two sections, and a rear second story window on the main block was closed over with limestone to make way for it. This addition was later converted into two rooms of usable living space and the exterior covered with stucco (see HABS photo # KS-54-B-4). An enclosed, frame side porch was added (date unknown) at the kitchen door, at the west side elevation (see HABS photo # KS-54-B-4)). According to the 1909 plans, on the second story of the rear wing, entering from the main block, was a large, open "store room" with a doorway to a small hall on the west side. Here, was located the back stairway to the north of which was a large bathroom. This area has since been changed (see Part II, Section 2.-1.). Also, the fixtures, cabinets, etc. in the kitchen and bathroom upstairs are modern. The floors throughout the house were put down later. Other alterations which appear to have been made, but for which there is only physical evidence included the following. There is a large chimney block at the west, side elevation of the main block, yet there is no fireplace, upstairs or down, there today suggesting that once existing fireplaces were later closed off. The closets in the bedrooms appear to have been added later.

B. Historical Context:

Building # 123 was built circa. 1855, as one of the original permanent structures at Fort Riley. It was constructed specifically for the post chaplain. According to the list of occupants compiled by the Fort Riley Historical and Archeological Society, Chaplain David Clarkson lived here from 1855 until 1861. Clarkson, the first to give regular services at Fort Riley, was largely responsible for the construction of the circa. 1860 limestone chapel on post which is said to be the first stone church erected in Kansas. Clarkson solicited the funds from officers and residents which made possible the church's construction. Clarkson was also one of the only army personnel present during the construction of the fort, occurring during a time when officers and soldiers were sent out on campaign (Haupt, p. 382). From

1861 until 1864, Chaplain Barker resided at Building # 123. Following him was Chaplain Reynolds from 1864 until 1881. Next was Chaplain Pierce in 1881 and from 1881 until 1890, Chaplain Parker resided here. After Parker, this building became the Chief Clerk of the Quartermaster's residence from 1890 until 1926. First, was Charles C. Clark, Q.M.C. from 1890 until 1917, followed by H.O. Otnes, Q.M.C. from 1917 until 1926. Then, from 1926 until 1931, three different Warrant Officers lived here.

PART II: ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION:

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This was the only single family residence of limestone built at Fort Riley during the 1850's. It lies outside the main post area, not included in the rectangular plan of the fort. Building # 123, built of hammered, locally quarried limestone in a simple, unornamented design reflects the early pioneering years of Fort Riley's development. Building # 123 also, reflects the trend toward standardization in quarters designed by the Quartermaster General's Office. A design for a frame, single family officer's quarters that appeared in an 1860 publication on US Army barracks and quarters is nearly identical to the front elevation of Building # 123.
2. Condition of the fabric: The exterior structure appears to be sound and well maintained, though the facade buttresses were added for support of the structure. In the interior, some old moldings, etc. remain but the fireplaces have new tiling, brick surrounds and hearth, and new flooring has been laid throughout the house.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: It is a two story, rectangular, single family residence with half story windows in the second story facade. To the rear is a one and a half story kitchen wing. The main block is approximately forty-two feet wide and twenty feet deep. To the very rear is a single story shed roof addition, running the length of the rear wing. The main block is five bays by one bay (with no windows on the east side elevation). The rear wing is two bays deep and the rear addition is two bays wide and one bay deep.
2. Foundations: The foundation of the main block and the rear wing is made of hammered ashlar limestone, approximately sixteen inches thick.
3. Wall construction: No visual distinction is made between the foundation and the walls. Exterior walls, approximately sixteen inches thick, are also of hammered ashlar limestone with no ornamental details.

4. Structural systems and framing: The walls are load-bearing limestone. Floors and partition walls rest on wooden joists and beams.
5. Porches: A wooden porch (probably not original) with a low, overhanging shed roof supported by four squared wooden posts with 2" x 4" wooden brackets in a simple geometric design, covers the front three facade bays. It has a plain squared balustrade and a beaded board ceiling with four, two paneled boxed rafters running out from the buttresses. The porch has been enclosed with screening and has a double screen door entry (see HABS photo # KS-54-B-2).
6. Chimneys: The main block of the house has an interior gable end, rectangular, stone chimney at each end, with a single course of upraised stones just below the cap. Between the main block and the rear wing along the north slope of the roof is a smaller, brick chimney. The east side chimney serves the living room and upstairs bedroom fireplace. The west side chimney serves the heating unit in the basement below. The chimney to the rear serves the kitchen.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The centrally located main entry is recessed approximately one and a half feet and has four pane sidelights with a wooden panel below each and a five light transom. Above the door is a simple, wooden architrave with a hammered limestone lintel. The front door is a wooden four panel door (see HABS photo # KS-54-B-5). The door to the basement, at the west side elevation of the main block, is wooden with three horizontal panels with four lights in the top portion above and has a hammered limestone lintel. The door on the west side of the frame entry addition is wooden with five horizontal panels. At the east side elevation of the rear, stuccoed addition is an entry with a wooden, five horizontal panel door.
 - b. Windows: The first story facade has one over one sash windows with a frame molding and hammered limestone linels and sills. This same window treatment appears all around. The second story facade has half story, shutter-like casement windows with three lights to either side. At the west side elevation of the main block, on the first story is a single, one over one sash window and on the second story is a single six over six sash window (see HABS photo # KS-54-B-4). There are no windows on the east side elevation of the main block. At the rear of the main block in the second story are two, half story

windows, the one on the west side of which has been closed over. The one to the east is a six light casement window. On the kitchen wing, at the west side elevation is a slightly smaller one over one sash window. The rear stuccoed addition has six light casement windows (see HABS photo # KS-54-B-3). There is a basement window to the front of the west side elevation of the main block with a rubble, stone well (boarded over).

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Building # 123 has a low gable roof on both the main block and the rear kitchen wing. There is a shed roof on the side, kitchen entry addition and on the rear stuccoed addition. The roof, originally covered with slate, is now covered with composition shingles.
- b. Cornice, eaves: The house has overhanging eaves all round with exposed rafters on the front and rear. There is no cornice and no ornamentation in the gable ends.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: Building # 123 enters into a center stairhall with an open stairway against the east side wall. To the east is the parlor. To the west side of the hall is the family room or second parlor, with two entries (north & south) into the hall. Straight back is the entry into the dining room with the kitchen to the west of it (see HABS photos # KS-54-B-7). There is a back stairway, entered at the south wall of the kitchen. Behind the kitchen and dining room, in the rear addition, are adjoining rooms, entered from the dining room. On the second floor there is a bedroom over each of the two front rooms in the main block. Stepping down a few steps into the rear wing, is a hallway running east-west with an enclosed back stairway to the kitchen below. Off the back hallway, on the east side is a bedroom with a walk-in closet. Next to it, on the west, is a large bathroom. At the east end of the back hall is a large closet. All the ceilings in the second story follow the roof line, sloping down towards the outside walls.
2. Stairways: The main stairway is open, curving to the west approximately three quarters of the way up. It has tapering, octagonal balusters and newel post with a flat, rounded newel cap (see HABS photo # KS-54-B-7 & 8). There are arched brackets at the open end of each step. The back stairway is a single flight, enclosed stairway with a beaded board partition to the exterior wall which rises above to form a guard wall in the back hall,

approximately three feet high with a plain handrail and a beveled newel post. (note: the main stairway is the same as that which appears in Building # 24, also built in 1855).

3. Flooring: Building # 123 has new (post World War II) narrow yellow pine floor boards with a clear varnish throughout the house except in the kitchen and bathroom which has linoleum tile flooring.
4. Walls and ceiling finish: All the walls are plastered and painted white with no decorative detailing.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The doorways on the first story of the main block are surrounded by plain, wide trim with a simple architrave molding above (see HABS photo # KS-54-B-7). The doorways in the rear wing and in the second story of the main block all have plain, wide trim. There are four panel wooden doors in the main block and in the first story of the kitchen wing, and five horizontal panel doors in the second story of the rear wing and in the rear stuccoed addition.
 - b. Windows: The windows in each room have the same moldings as the doorways for that room. All the windows are deep set due to the thick, stone wall construction, and have a broad, plain wooden sill (see HABS photo # KS-54-B-9).
6. Decorative features and trim: The baseboards are plain, approximately five inches high, boards with a narrow rounded strip of molding along the floor. There are two fireplaces, with the chimney blocks extending out approximately one and a half feet, one in the living room and other in the bedroom above. Both have plain mantels with a simple architrave and squared pilasters to either side of the brick opening. The hearth is made of small, squared glazed (modern replacement) tile in a terra cotta color. Each has a decorative cast iron insert (see HABS photo # KS-54-B-9). In the back, northeast corner of the dining room is a built in china cabinet.
7. Hardware: There is old, though not original, plain brass door hardware throughout the house with rim locks on the closet doors.
8. Mechanical equipment: Originally heated by wood and coal burning fireplaces, a steam heating system was established in 1889 connecting some eighty-three buildings on post to one central system. Thus, Building # 123 has steam heat with radiators

throughout (many of which are cast in a decorative pattern). In the early twentieth century this system was replaced by individual heating plants in each structure (Journal of the U.S. Cavalry Assoc., p. 118).

- D. Site: Building # 123, unlike the quarters to the northeast of it which were built much later, sits back off Huebner Road by itself (see HABS photo # KS-54-B-1). It is oriented towards the main post, facing a southerly direction, though some distance from it. While the other buildings constructed on main post during the early period are on axis, Quarters # 123, the old chapel and the sutler's house near it all of which appear on the 1863 plat of the fort, are turned slightly to the east. This may be an indication of their non-military nature. Although Quarters # 123, formerly the parsonage, is not oriented towards the chapel, it is located nearby (see Supplemental Material # 6).

PART III: SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

- A. Architectural Drawings: See Part I., section 5.
- B. Early Views: There is a photograph, circa. 1930, of Quarters # 123 in the Engineer's Historical Record Book, D.E.H.
- C. Bibliography:
1. Primary and unpublished sources:
Real Property Cards, D.E.H.
Engineer's Historical Record Book, D.E.H.
Plans and Drawings, U.S. Cavalry Museum
 2. Secondary and published sources:
Haupt, Ven William Henry. "History of the American Church." Kansas State Historical Collections, Vol. 16, 1923-1925.
Lowe, P.G. "Reflections of Fort Riley." Kansas State Historical Collections, Vol. 7, 1901-1902.
Pride, W.P. The History of Fort Riley. 1926.
Sawyer, E.O., Jr. "Tragedy and Heroism Were Mingled in Fort Riley's Development Nearly a Century Ago." Wichita Eagle Magazine, November 8, 1953.

Thomas, Sister M. Evangeline. "The Rev. Louis Dumortier, S.J.
Itinerant Missionary to Central Kansas, 1859-1867." Kansas State
Historical Quarterly, 20:3, August 1952.

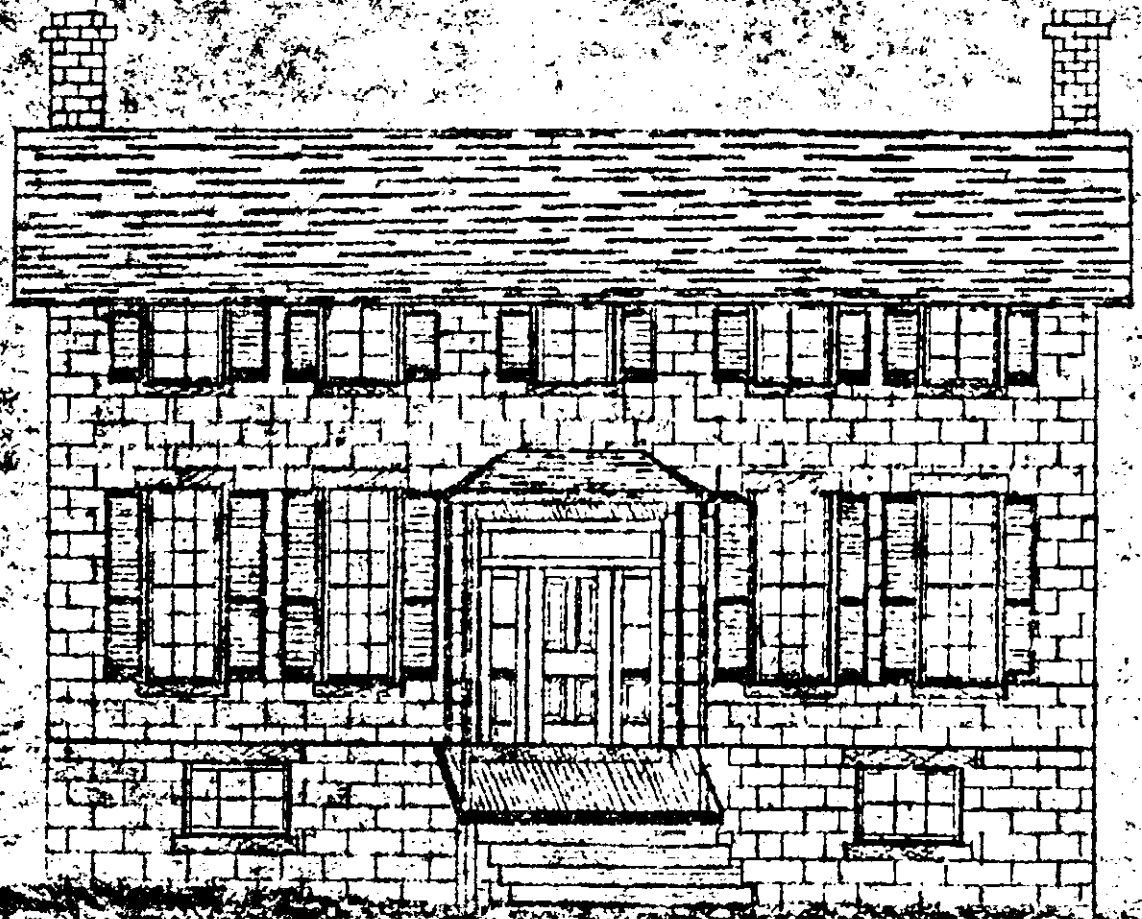
U.S. Cavalry Association, Journal of. Vol. 13, 1855, 1902-1903.

Webb, Scrapbook, Vol. 5, August-September 1855, Kansas State
Historical Society Library, Topeka.

Prepared by:

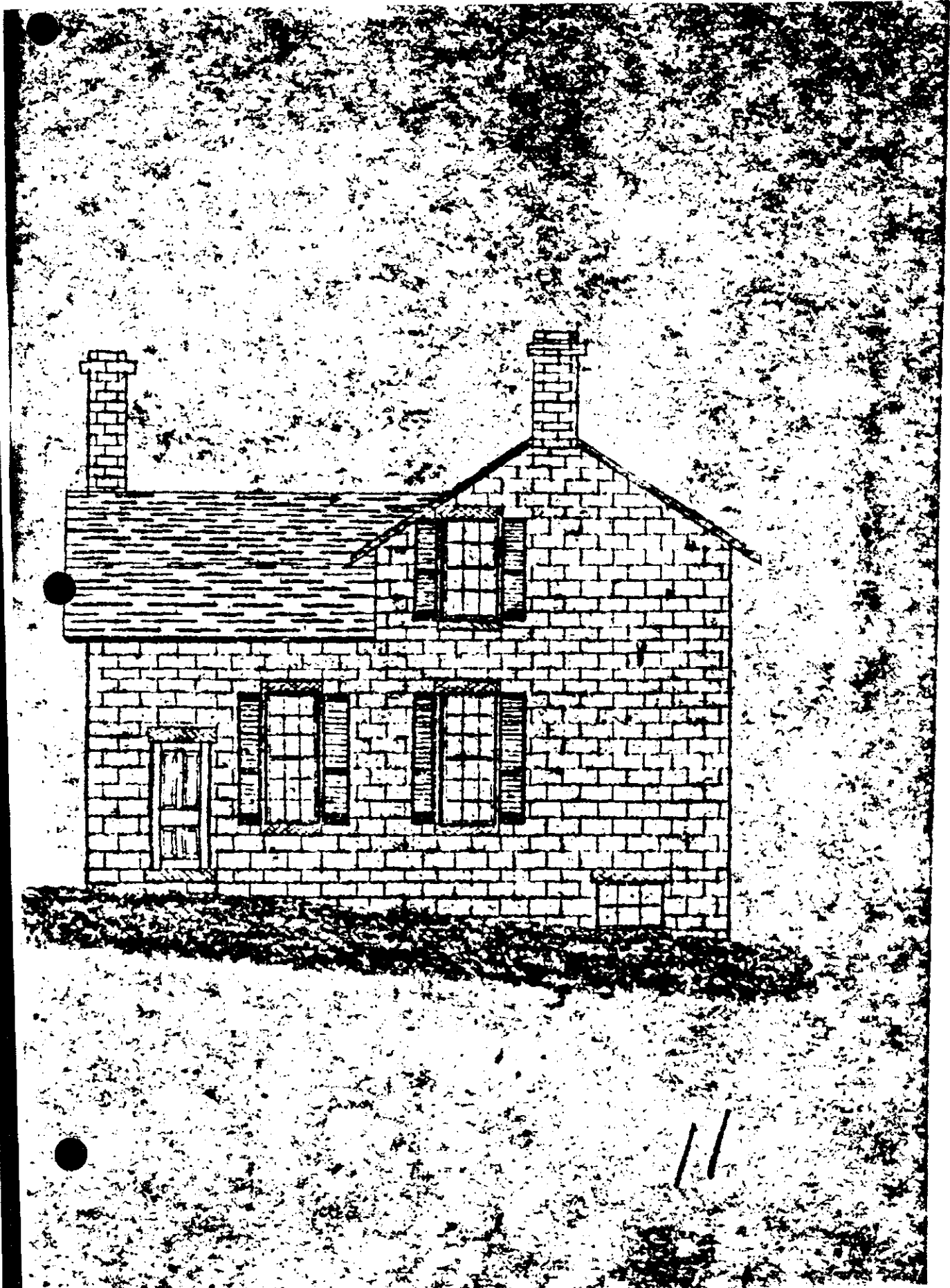
Joseph Rodriguez & Catherine Crawford
Historians
Historic American Buildings Survey
Summer 1985

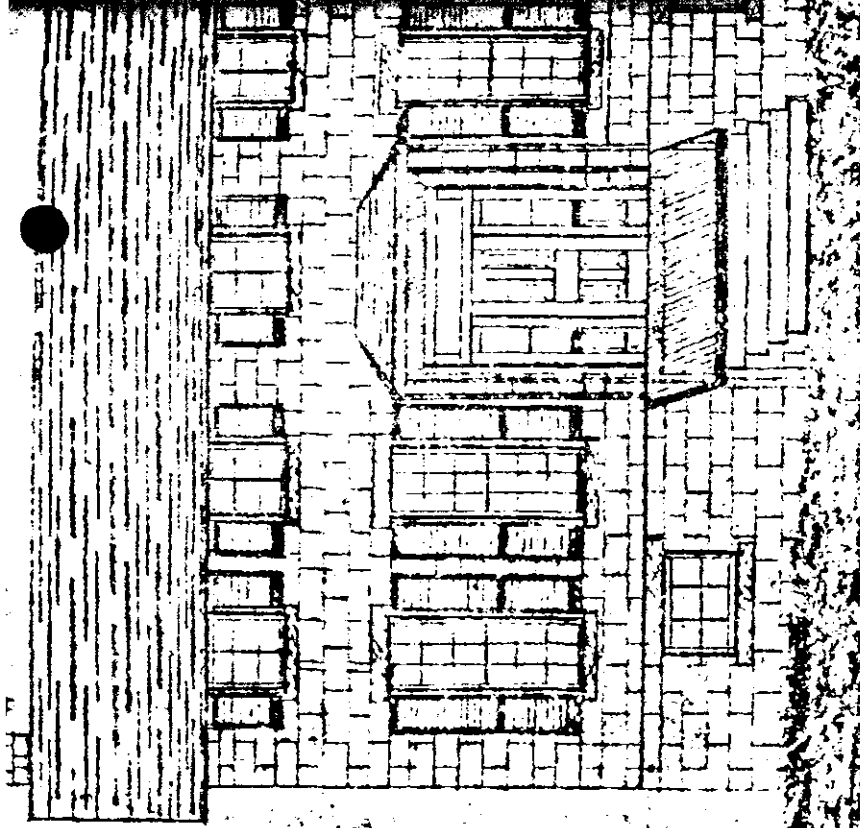
D. Supplemental Material
1. Front Elevation



Chapman & Co. Architects
40 x 21
D. 1. 1. 1. 1.

2. Side Elevation

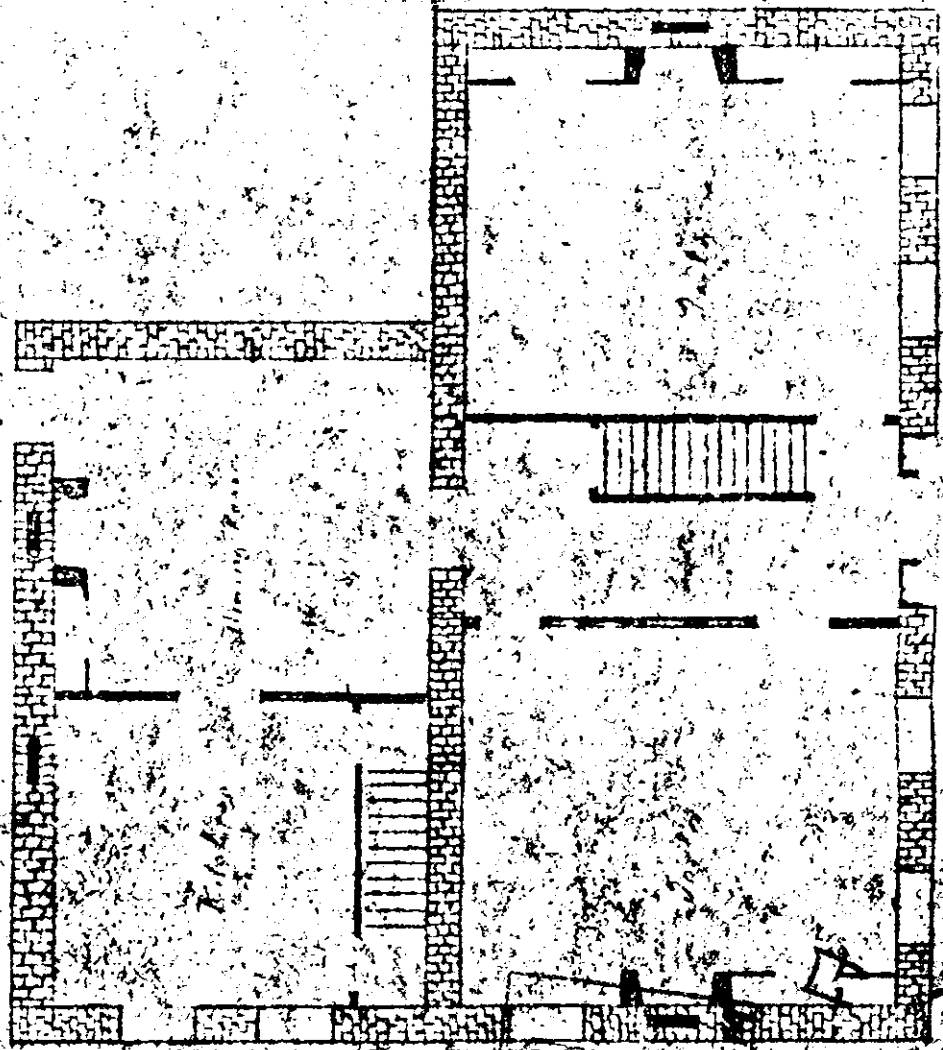




Reference to line 10 - 20
40 x 24
Sub. 1/2 in. 1/4 in.

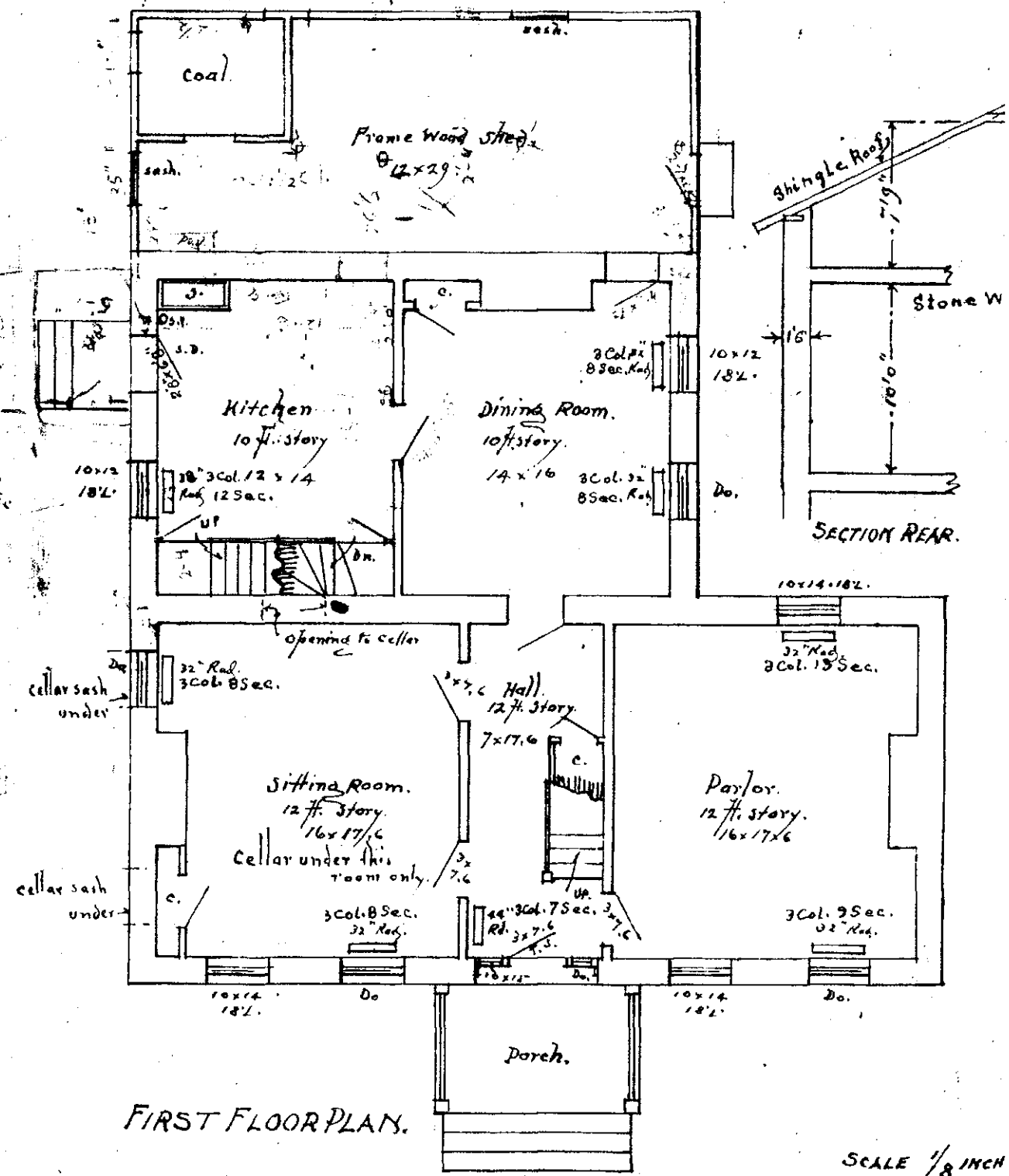
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3. First Floor



KS/101

4. First Floor, 1909

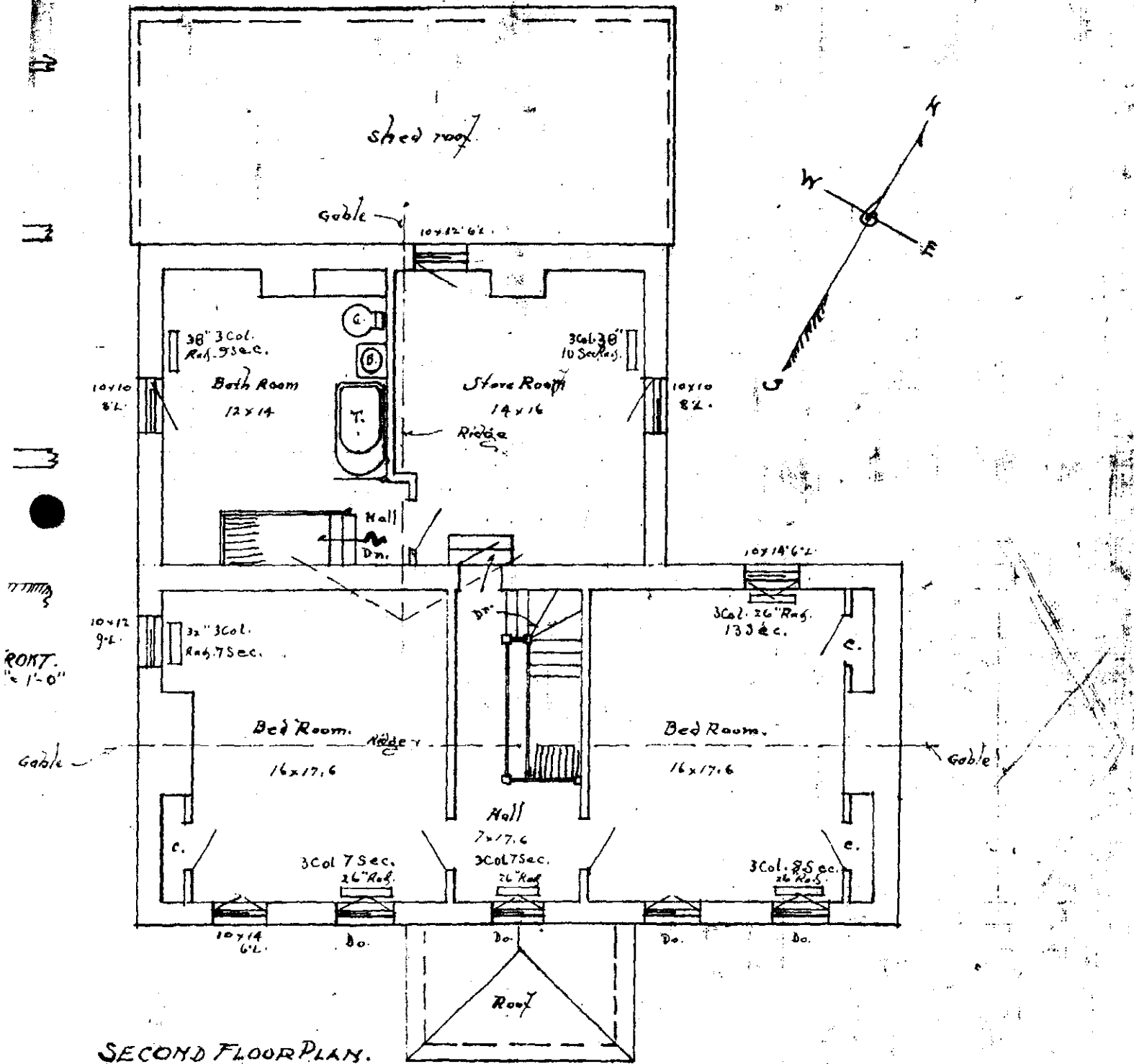


FIRST FLOOR PLAN.

SCALE 1/8 INCH

Quarters
 123

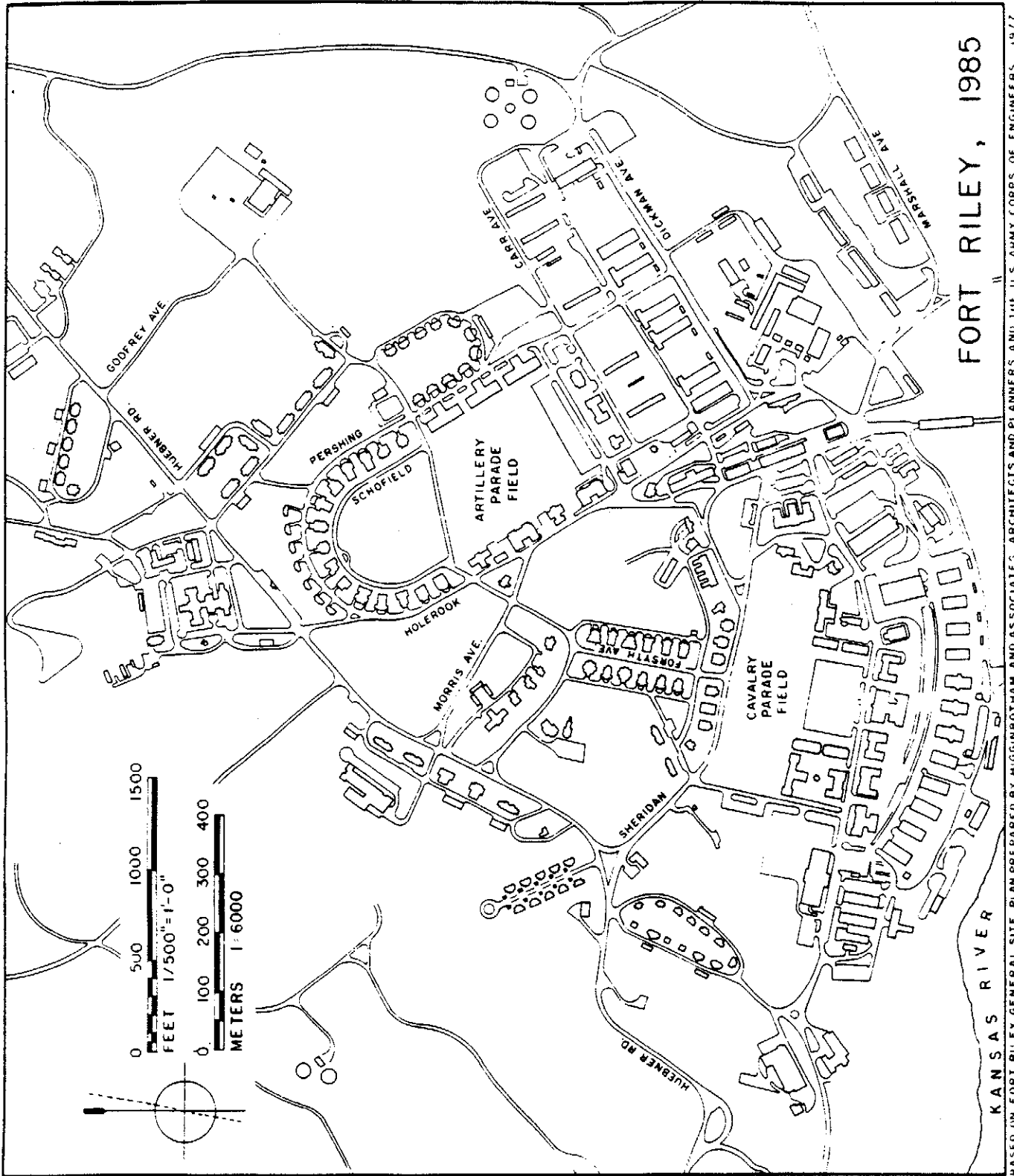
Second Floor, 1909



SECOND FLOOR PLAN.

BUILDING NR 123. QUARTERS OF
 CHIEF CLERK QUARTERMASTER DEPARTMENT
 FORT RILEY KANSAS. JAN. 1909.

6. Fort Riley, 1985



BASED ON FORT RILEY GENERAL SITE PLAN PREPARED BY HIGGINBOTHAM AND ASSOCIATES, ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS AND THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, 1977

PART IV: PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) of the National Park Service in agreement with the post commander of Fort Riley, Kansas, and the headquarters of the United States 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 served as Program Coordinator and Robie S. Lange as Project Leader. The Field Supervisor was James A. Glass (historian, Cornell University). The project historians were Catherine Crawford (University of Maryland) and Joseph Rodriguez (University of California). Large format photography was conducted by Mike Whye. Documentation was prepared for transmittal to the Library of Congress by Catherine Crawford.