

Fort Riley,  
Building # 2  
2 Barry Avenue  
Fort Riley  
Riley County  
Kansas

HABS No. KS-54-E

HABS  
KANS,  
81-FORIL,  
2-E-

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-E -

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY

HABS No. KS-54-E

FORT RILEY, BUILDING # 2

Location: 2 Barry Avenue, Fort Riley, Riley County, Kansas  
USGS Junction City Quadrangle, Universal Transverse  
Mercator Coordinates: 14.692240.4326345

Present Owner: U.S. Department of the Army

Present Occupant: Colonel Will J. Mullen and family

Present Use: Family officer's quarters

Significance: Building # 2 Barry Avenue is significant as an example of one of the three single family quarters built for the field officers in 1889-1890. Building # 26 Sheridan Avenue, built the same year, is the exact reverse plan of Building # 2. Building # 19 Sheridan Avenue, built in 1890, was constructed from the same plan as Building # 2. All three exhibit the same architectural design and external detailing. The only notable difference is that the balcony on Building # 2 is entered from a pair of doors off the bedroom (see HABS photo KS-54-E-5). Building # 19 and # 26 have a pair of windows here instead. Inside, detailing features, moldings and fireplace mantels, etc. vary. The three residences were strategically located around the company officer's quarters, oriented to the cavalry post area. Building # 2 was built to the west side of the cavalry commander's residence, Building # 1, being the residence of the officer second in rank to the commander. Building # 1 was the first house built on Barry Avenue and Building # 2, the second, in 1888 and 1889 respectively. Building # 19 and # 26 sit at an angle at either end of the row of company officer's quarters along Sheridan Avenue. Thus, Building # 2, # 19 and # 26 become the cornerstones of the residential section for the officers of the cavalry post area. Later, as the fort expanded, two additional fields officer's quarters were constructed to the west of Building # 2 along Barry Avenue. These two single family residences, Building # 4 and # 5, were built in 1903 and 1904 respectively. They were a later version of Buildings # 2, # 19 and # 26, having the identical floor plan with only slight variations in dimensions (# 2, # 19 and # 26 being somewhat larger) and in interior detailing. The distinguishing characteristics of the two groups are their architectural details. For example, Buildings # 2, # 19 and # 26 have an elaborate, curved limestone balcony or

"ombra" with decorative iron railings while Buildings # 4 and # 5 have a small, ornamental, nonfunctioning, plain limestone balcony. Buildings # 19 and # 26 have a variegated frame entry section while # 4 and # 5 have plain limestone entries. Building # 4 and # 5 have plain smooth-faced lintels and sills. Also, the original porch on Buildings # 2, # 19 and # 26 was a bracketed, turned post porch. On Buildings # 4 and # 5 there was a more plain porch supported by Doric columns. Finally, in 1889, the year that Building # 2 was constructed, marked the single year of greatest construction at Fort Riley prior to the 1930-1940's period. This was due to the establishment of the Cavalry and Light Artillery School in 1886 and the resulting appropriations by Congress of funds for the expansion and improvements to the fort.

#### PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

##### A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1889. This is a date given on the Real Property Cards and in the Engineer's Historical Record Book, Directorate of Engineering and Housing (DEH), Fort Riley. W.F. Pride, however, states that Building # 26 was constructed in 1889 and # 2 and # 19 in 1890 (pp. 203 & 210).
2. Architect: Unknown. Plans were done through the Office of the Quartermaster General in Washington, D.C. They were approved by the Department of War and sent to Fort Riley for erection (Fort Riley, Clippings, p.?). The possibility does exist, however, that Captain George E. Pond, Quartermaster at Fort Riley actually designed buildings constructed during this period. The plans for Building # 100 have written on them, "Designed by Capt. George E. Pond, A.Q.M., U.S.A." Also, in an article which appeared in the Junction City Union, March 3, 1888, stated, "Mr. E.T. Carr, a prominent architect of Leavenworth while here last week said that the plans of the buildings at Fort Riley as prepared by Capt. George E. Pond would be a credit to the best architect of the country. We have heard Congress make about the same remark" (p. 3). In addition, other Union articles from this period mention an architect working with Capt. Pond, William Goding. According to an article which appeared in the Junction City Union, July 4, 1891, p. 1, architect, William Goding had been with Capt. Pond at Fort Riley since April of 1887, and had done the architectural work for a number of the buildings then standing.

3. Original and subsequent owners: Building # 2 has been continuously owned by the U.S. Department of War, known since 1947 as the U.S. Department of the Army.
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers:
  - a. Builder: Building # 2 was built by the U.S. Department of War as field officer's quarters, under the direction of Captain George E. Pond, Quartermaster at Fort Riley.
  - b. Contractor: According to a article which appeared in the Junction City Tribune, July 25, 1889, p. 3., Uhrich & Neal of Atchison, Kansas was awarded the contract for building all three field officer's quarters (two were scheduled to be completed in December of that year and the third in July of the following year).
  - c. Suppliers: The limestone used in the construction of Building # 2 came from the river bluffs on the post reservation (Journal of the U.S. Cavalry Association, p. 128).
5. Original plans and construction: Based on early plans among the plans and drawings at the D.E.H. and early views, Building # 2 appears to be in original condition, externally, with the exception of the replacement of the original, bracketed, turned post porch. Some internal changes have been made. The original plans may be in Record Group 92 at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. Included among the plans and drawings at D.E.H. are 1894, complete floor plans, a longitudinal sectional and drawings of the front, rear and side elevations (see Supplemental Materials # 1- # 7). Together, they give full architectural details of both the interior and exterior of the structure. Also, there are complete floor plans and some details of "Field Officer's Quarters" dated May, 1930. The original cost of the structure, according the Engineers Historical Record book was \$6,800.
6. Alterations and Additions: In the rear wing downstairs, the original "butler's pantry," has been converted into a small hall into the kitchen with a half bath to the northeast side. The kitchen pantry to the northeast rear corner has been opened up into the kitchen (sometime after 1930). In fact, most of the changes are confined to this rear wing where the kitchen and three of the five bathrooms are located. Also, all the bathrooms and the kitchen have been modernized, with

new plumbing, flooring, etc. On the second floor, the dressing room on the front, southeast corner has been converted into a full bath (sometime after 1930). In the attic, another bathroom has been added. In the basement, partition walls with beaded board wainscoting have been added to create a small hallway. One of the two cellar rooms has become the boiler/utility room and the other, a recreation room. The original, bracketed, turned post porch has been replaced.

B. Historical Context

Building # 2 was one of three, almost identical residences built between 1889 and 1890 for field officers. It was the second structure built on Barry Avenue, a year after the adjacent cavalry commander's house. The year Building # 2 was built, 1889, was the single year of greatest construction at that point in Fort Riley's history. In 1886, the Cavalry and Light Artillery School was established at Fort Riley, by direction of the Secretary of War and that same year Congress appropriated \$40,000 for improvements to Fort Riley (Pride, p. 193). This was the beginning of the second phase of development at the fort, both from the view point of history and of building expansion and the expansion of the general layout of the fort.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Building # 2 is representative of the officer's quarters built at Fort Riley during the later part of the nineteenth century; more specifically, of those built for field officers. It is like two, or more generally, like four, others constructed here during this period. Each, however, has its own distinguishing features. The most notable distinguishing feature of Building # 2 is its ornate balcony with a pair of scalloped edge doorways. Furthermore, its limestone construction is indicative of Fort Riley and of the area in general. The rock-faced treatment recalls the Romanesque Revival styling of H.H. Richardson, also popular in the 1880's.
2. Condition of fabric: Building # 2 appears to be in sound, well maintained condition. With the exception of the replacement of the original porch, exterior details remain intact.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all demensions: Building # 2 is a two and a half story, T-shaped structure (T, front facing) with a rear, two and a half

story wing. To the west side crux of the front T and the main block is a frame entry area. At the second story, west side elevation of the main block is a large balcony or "ombra." The main block is approximately 37' x 19' with the front T measuring approximately 26 1/2' x 18'. The rear wing is approximately 23 1/2' x 22'. The house has a full basement.

2. Foundations: The foundation is made of rock-faced ashlar limestone, approximately eighteen to twenty inches thick.
3. Walls: The walls are made of rock-faced ashlar limestone, approximately eighteen inches thick. The stone blocks used in the gable end of the front facing T or pavilion are smaller, squared blocks (see HABS photo # KS-54-E-1). Also, the front, entry vestibule is wooden with exposed framing divided into three sections. The lower section has vertical boards, the middle section has diagonal and the bottom has short, vertical boards with pointed ends (see HABS photo KS-54-E-5).
4. Structural systems, framing: The walls are load bearing masonry. The floors and partition walls rest on wooden joists and beams.
5. Porches, balconies: The front porch is U-shaped, running along the facade and side elevations of the pavilion to either side of the main block. It has a concrete floor resting on limestone piers, and a low shed roof supported by pairs of plain, squared columns (with three posts at the corners). Two thirds of the porch area has been enclosed with screening, leaving the section approaching the front entry open (see HABS photos # KS-54-E-1 & 2). On the second story of the western side elevation of the main block is a rounded balcony or "ombra." It has wooden flooring supported by three heavy limestone brackets with double convex profile and a wrought iron railing in a crooked arrow design. The balcony is entered by a set of French doors with four pane sidelights, and a four pane transom with scalloped corners (see HABS Photo # KS-54-E-5).
6. Chimneys: Building # 2 has two brick chimneys with courses of corbeling at the shaft and below the cap. The first is a center chimney located at the intersection of the main block and front pavilion. The second is an interior end chimney located at the gable end of the rear wing (see HABS photo # KS-54-E-3).
7. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: The main entrance is at the far western side of the main block. It has a paneled door with a single light transom above. There is decorative woodwork around the

door (see Part II, section B-3). There is a rear entry to the eastern side of the rear frame section with a rock-faced limestone lintel.

- b. Windows: Typical windows are one over one sash with rock-faced lintels and sills. The lintels have a beveled edge. On the eastern and western side elevations of the main block and rear wing on the first story, the windows have a wooden arch with a flat segmental limestone arch above (see HABS photos # KS-54-E-2, 3 & 5). On the eastern side elevation of the main block on the first story is a paired window with a single surround of the same lintel and sill as just described (see HABS photo # KS-54-E-2). In the gable end of the front pavilion are two, deep set, square, nine light casement windows, side by side. They also have rock-faced limestone lintels and sills with a beveled edge on the lintel (see HABS photo # KS-54-E-1). The windows in the two dormers are also nine light casement. In the gable end of the main block at the western side elevation, above the balcony, is a fixed, lunette window with three, pie-shaped panes with a segmental, rock-faced limestone arch and a rock-faced sill (see HABS photo # KS-54-E-5). A similar window appears in the gable end of the rear wing. However, it is broken, with one quarter to each side of the central chimney block (see HABS photo # KS-54-E-3).

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: It has a cross gable roof. Originally covered with slate, it is now covered with composition shingles. The porch roof is covered with raised-seam metal.
- b. Cornice, eaves: There is a molded, boxed return cornice. The eaves are simple with a narrow strip of convex molding (see HABS photo # KS-54-E-2)
- c. Dormers: There are two dormers, one to the western side of the front pavilion and another to the eastern side of the rear wing. They are double or paired window, hipped roof dormers with shingles on the side walls (see HABS photo # KS-54-E-3).

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: After entering the vestibule, is the reception hall (see HABS photo # KS-54-E-6). To the center of the back wall is the stairway. Adjoining it on the southeast side is a dining room of the same size. To the front and center of both these rooms,

and entered from both rooms, is the parlor. At the intersecting corner of these rooms is a three sided chimney block, providing a fireplace in each room. In the rear wing, entered through the dining room is a small hall with a half bath on the southeast and a pantry on the northwest. The kitchen is straight ahead. At the rear, northeast corner of the kitchen is an alcove, formerly the pantry. There is a stairway on the eastern wall. On the second floor, is a long center hall at the front end of which is a bedroom, currently being used as an upstairs parlor (see HABS photo # KS-54-E-9) with a bathroom to the front, south corner. There is a fireplace on the northeastern wall. To the northwest of the fireplace is an entry into the center, northwest side bedroom. Across the hall is another bedroom of approximately equal size. Across from the main stairway is a linen closet to the northeast of which is the back stairway. To the north of the main stairway is a back bedroom. At the end of the hall is a bathroom. On the third floor, across from the stairway is a bedroom and to the north of it is a bathroom. To the southwest is a large, T-shaped room, at the opposite end of which is another bedroom. In the basement is a hallway with beaded board wainscoting. On the northeast is a laundry room. In the center are two rooms, a recreation room and a boiler room. To the southwest is a utility/storage room.

2. Stairways: There is a main stairway joining the first and second floors and three back stairways, one joining the basement and first floor, another joining the first floor and the second floor and one joining the second floor and the third floor (see HABS photo KS-54-E-8). The main stairway is a three flight, partially open stair. There are four steps up to the open landing, then turning, up four steps to a second landing and then turning again and on up to the second floor hallway. The side walls of the landing are paneled. The balusters are turned with two newel posts and a pilaster against the far, northwestern wall. The newel posts are squared with three routed squares on the main portion with a band of molding on the top and bottom, below which is a square block base above which is a block with a single rounded square and a hipped newel cap (see HABS photo # KS-54-E-7). The back stairways are closed, with curving landings (see HABS KS-54-E-8).
3. Flooring: The flooring throughout is post World War II, narrow yellow pine with a clear varnish. There is linoleum tile flooring in the kitchen, the back hall to the kitchen, the recreation room in the basement, the main room on the third floor and in the front vestibule.



4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls throughout are plaster, painted white. There is picture molding, approximately one foot below the ceiling in the reception hall, parlor, dining room and the upstairs bedrooms and hall (see HABS photo # KS-54-E-6).
5. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: The doorway surrounds in the vestibule are plain wide bands. The front door is a wooden, five horizontal panel door with a single light, operable transom. The door into the reception room is a wooden three panel door with four lights and a transom above. The reception and dining rooms are connected by a large, approximately six foot, doorway with paneled wooden doors that slide into the walls (see HABS photo # KS-54-E-7). The doorways between the parlor and the reception and dining rooms also have panel doors that slide into the walls, though these doorways are only about half the width. The molding is fluted with square blocks at the baseboards and bull's eyes at the top corners. In the dining room, in the front southeastern corner is a doorway onto the porch. It has the same surrounds with eight light French doors, with a transom that is now covered over. The doorway between the dining room and the back kitchen wing has plain surrounds and a swinging door with two vertical panels in the top with a diamond shaped window, a horizontal panel across the middle and two vertical panels below (see HABS photo # KS-54-E-7). The bedroom doorways off the hall on the second floor have the same surrounds, and wooden, four panel doors with transoms, also closed over (see HABS photo # KS-54-E-9). The closets are the same, without transoms. The doorways on the third floor are plain, with wooden, five horizontal panel doors.
  - b. Windows: The windows all have the same moldings as the doorways for that room. The windows are deep set due to the thick, stone wall construction, with broad, plain wooden sills. The window with a stained-glass transom, located in the stairway to the third floor allows for the borrowing of light into an otherwise dark, closed stairway (see HABS photo # KS-54-E-8).
6. Decorative features and trim: The baseboards throughout, except in the kitchen, baths, third floor rooms, vestibule and basement where they are plain, have a inverted ovolo at the floor with a two-stepped fillet with a ovolo above it, followed by a wide, plain band, a cavetto, a torus piece with a fluted, stepped piece atop it (see HABS photos # KS-54-E-6 & 7). There are four

fireplaces, all with decorative mantels. The first is in the southeast corner of the reception hall. The mantel has tiered wooden shelves to either side. The mantel shelf is supported by decorative brackets, with a recessed panel below. The opening is surrounded by brown and cream colored glazed ceramic tile with a maple leaf pattern. There is cast iron trim around the opening and a concrete hearth (see HABS photo # KS-54-E-6). The fireplace in the parlor has a wooden mantel with decorative, tapering rounded pilasters on a square base. It has a architrave mantel shelf with three horizontal panels, end to end, below it. The center panel has a routed floral pattern with sunburst panels to either side. Around the opening are deep rust colored glazed ceramic tiles with a floral pattern with swirling vines and acorns and, on two tiles to either side, belly dancing women. Cast iron trim surrounds the opening and there is a concrete hearth. There are book shelves, mid-way up the wall to either side of the fireplace between both entries. The dining room fireplace located in the front, northwest corner, has a wooden mantel with fluted, squared pilasters with bull's eyes at the bottom. Fluted brackets, one over each pilaster, support the plain mantel shelf. Below the shelf is horizontal fluting with bull's eyes at either end. The glazed ceramic tile surrounding the opening here are in shades of blue with a floral pattern with lines in it giving the illusion of mosaic tile. The hearth is concrete (see HABS photo # KS-54-E-7). The last fireplace is in the front room on the second floor. The wooden mantel is relatively plain with narrow, square pilasters with two brackets supporting a plain mantel shelf. Yellow-brown glazed ceramic tiles surround the opening with cast iron trim. The hearth is concrete. There are telephone niches, one in the hall joining the kitchen and dining rooms and the other in the upstairs hall. There are built-in cupboards in the front, second floor bathroom. At the top of the main stair and in the alcove in the third floor, southwest bedroom, are decorative, rounded cornerboards on the walls to either side. There are two built-in storage cabinets in the third floor stairway.

7. Hardware: The front door has plain, brass hardware (not original). On the door from the vestibule is brass hardware in a woven pattern. The sliding doors still have their decorative brass hardware. Upstairs, there are black porcelain door knobs with decorative brass plates and hinges. On the third floor bathroom and southwest bedroom is the same hardware, with plain brass hardware on the northeast bedroom and bathroom. There is a scroll pattern metal vent on the wall in the center northwest bedroom on the second floor. The transoms have operable hardware.

8. Mechanical equipment: The house has four fireplaces. Building # 2 was built the same year that the central steam heating plant was established here on post. It consisted of a central plant with seven boilers and a pump room. It served eighty-three buildings on post, operating from November to April with a fuel consumption of sixteen to twenty-five tons of coal per day (Journal of the U.S. Cavalry Association, p. 118). Thus, there are radiators throughout the house, some of which were cast in a decorative floral pattern. This central system was later replaced by individual steam heating systems in each building. The house is now heated by an "American Standard" boiler.
- D. Site: Building # 2 sits on a flat lot, shaded by trees around the house. It faces southwest on the curving, Barry Avenue (see HABS photos # KS-54-E-22 & 23). Barry Avenue was among those added in the later plan of the fort as layed out by Captain George E. Pond, Quartermaster, when the original rectangular fort plan was abandoned and the post was expanded. Building # 2 sits to the northwest of the house built for the Commanding Officer of the Cavalry. Along with Building # 19 and # 26, it forms the cornerstones of the triangle of officers quarters created by Forsyth and Sheridan Avenues (see Supplemental Material # 8).

### PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Architectural drawings: See Part I, section A-5.
- B. Early Views: There is a 1898-99 photograph of the house, part of the Pennell Collection at the Spencer Library, University of Kansas, Lawrence (# 390.28). Dating from the same period is a photograph from the collection at the U.S. Cavalry Museum, Fort Riley, Kansas. In the Engineer's Historical Record Book is a circa. 1930 photograph of Building # 2.
- C. Bibliography:
1. Primary and unpublished sources:
    - a. Real Property Cards, Directorate of Engineering and Housing.
    - b. Engineer's Historical Record book, Directorate of Engineering and Housing.
  2. Secondary and published sources:
    - a. Fort Riley, Clippings, Vol. 1, 1855-1941, Kansas State Historical Society.
    - b. Pride, W.F. The History of Fort Riley. 1926.

- c. Junction City Union, Located at the Geary County Historical Museum and at the Junction City Public Library.
- d. U.S. Cavalry Association, Journal of. Vol. 13, 1902-1903.

Prepared by:

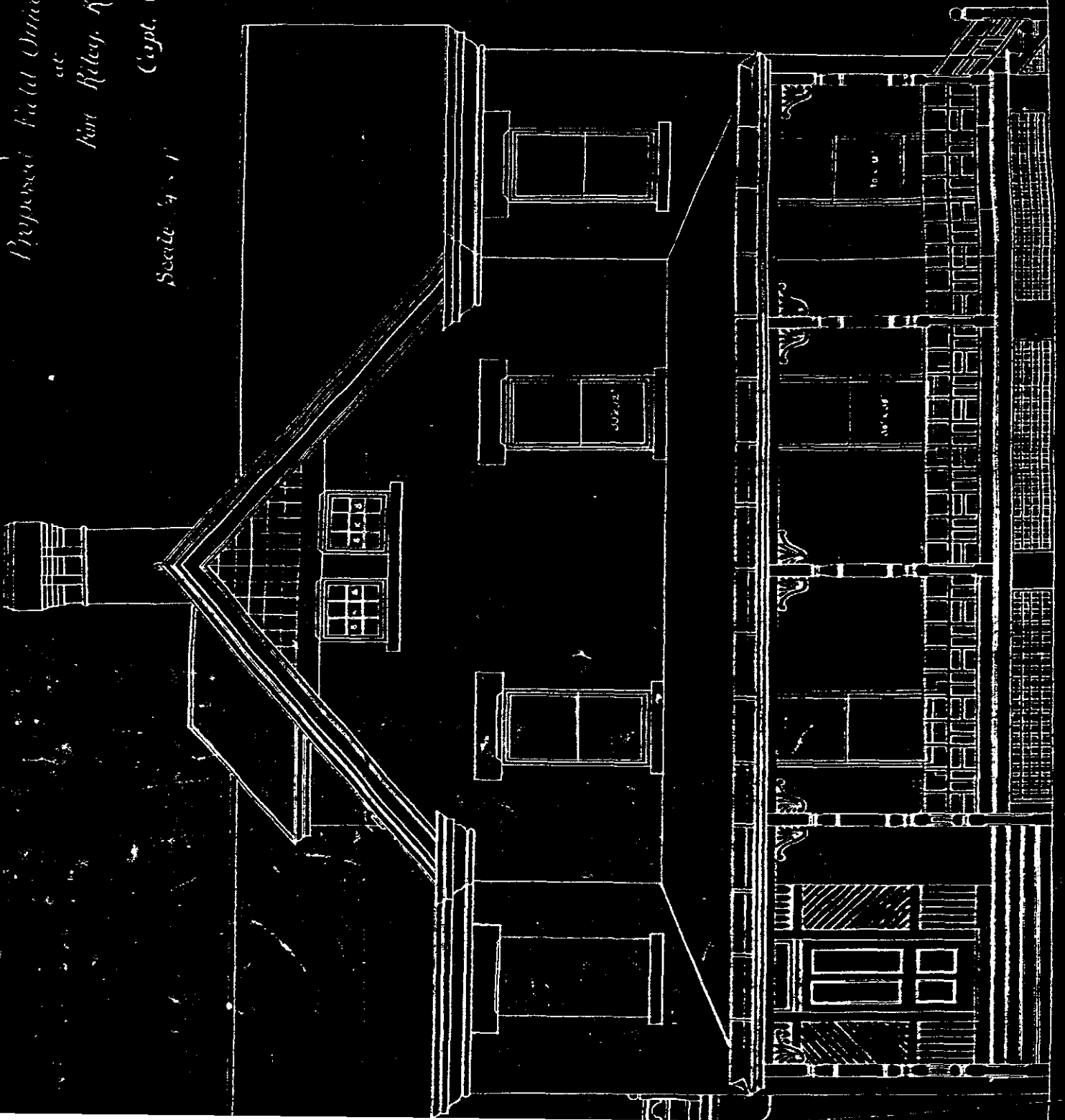
Catherine Crawford  
Historian  
Historic American Buildings Survey  
Summer, 1985

*Proposed Field Officers Quarters  
at  
Fort Riley, Kansas.*

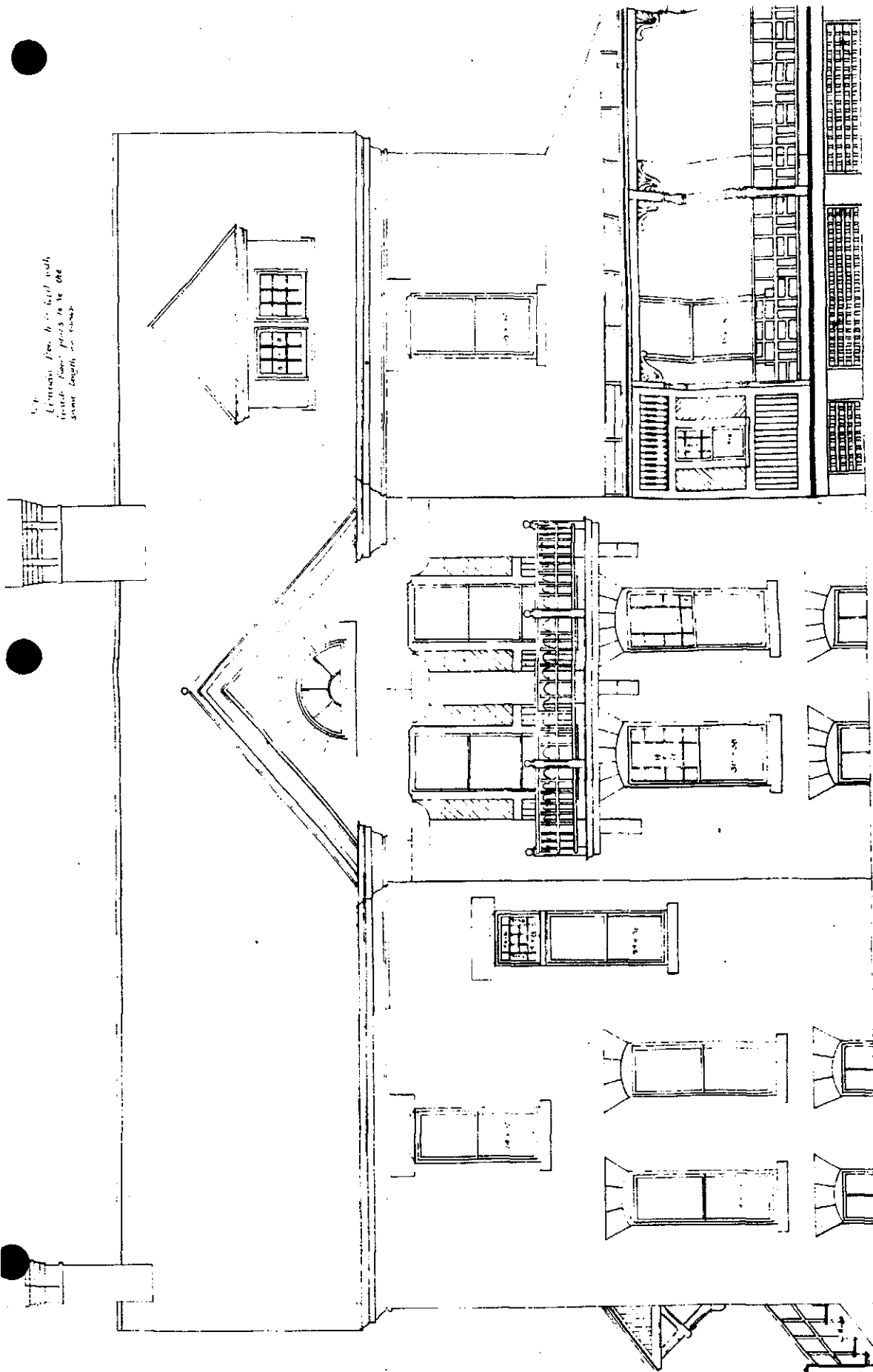
*Capt. Geo. E. Pond,  
A. Q. M., U. S. A.*

*Scale 1/4" = 1'*

*NOTE  
L'Échelle, pour de la (une) unité  
dans le plan, passe to be 1/4"  
soient toujours les mêmes.*

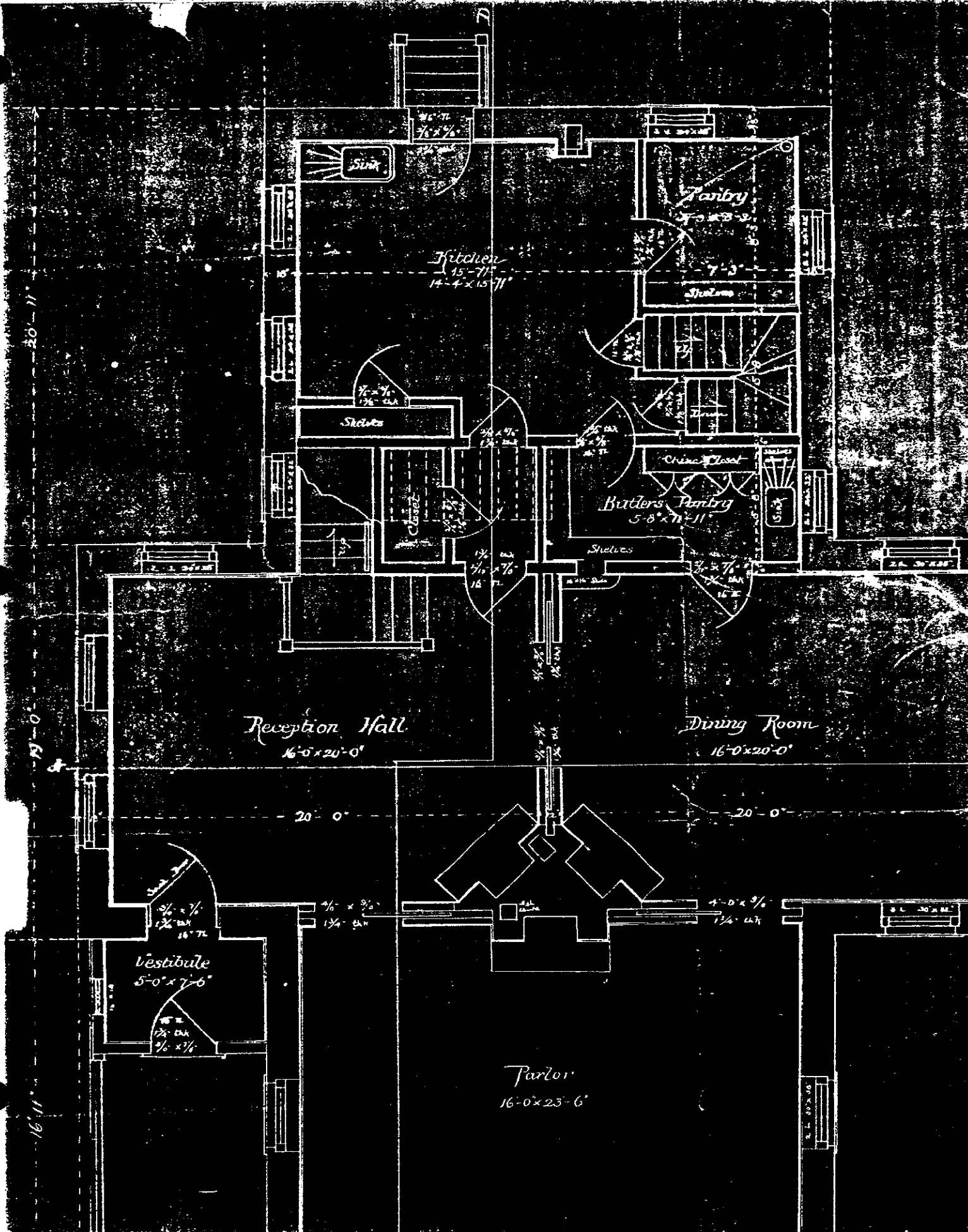


2. Side elevation

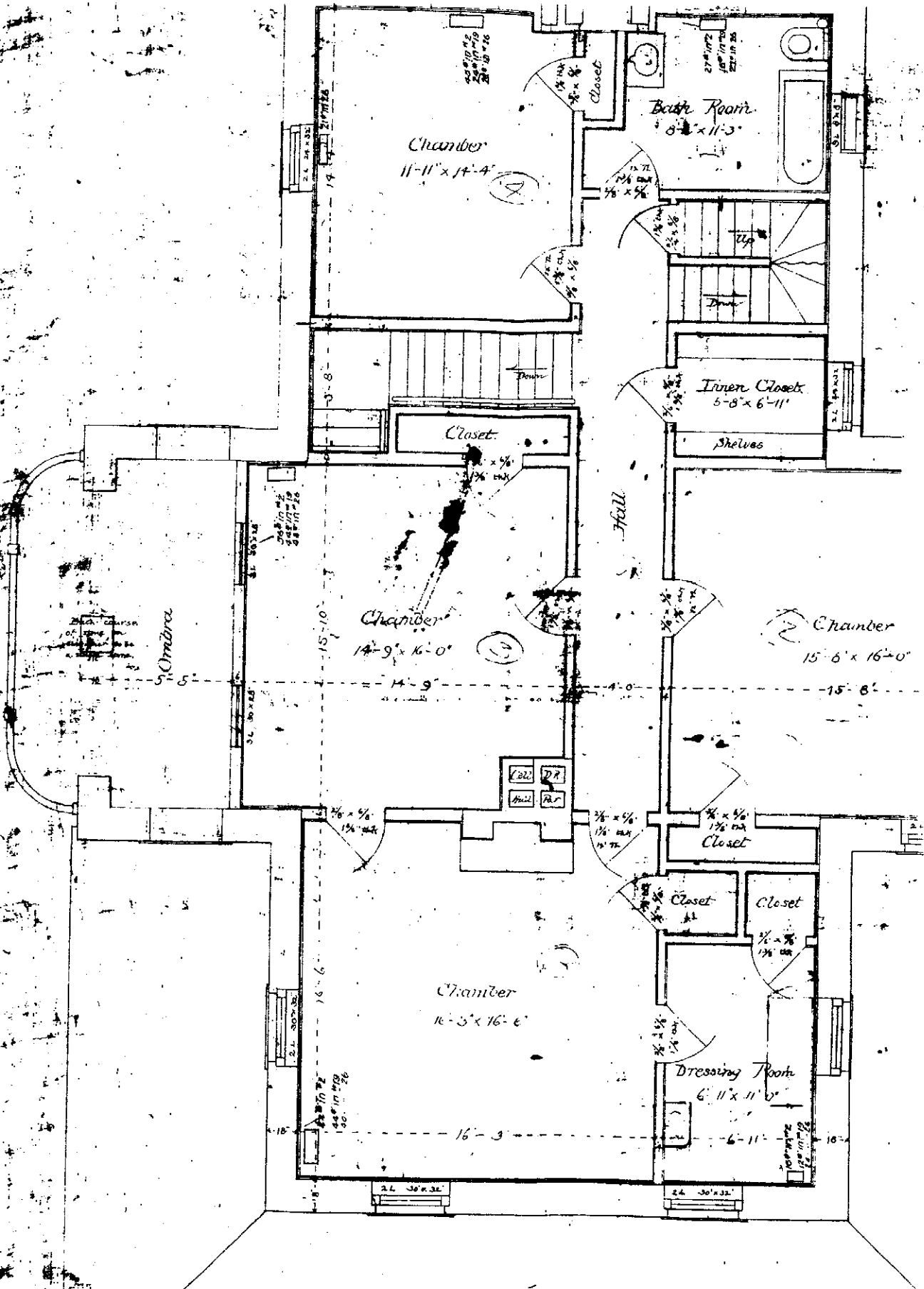


Side Elevation Sheet # 8. U File A4-2.

3. First floor



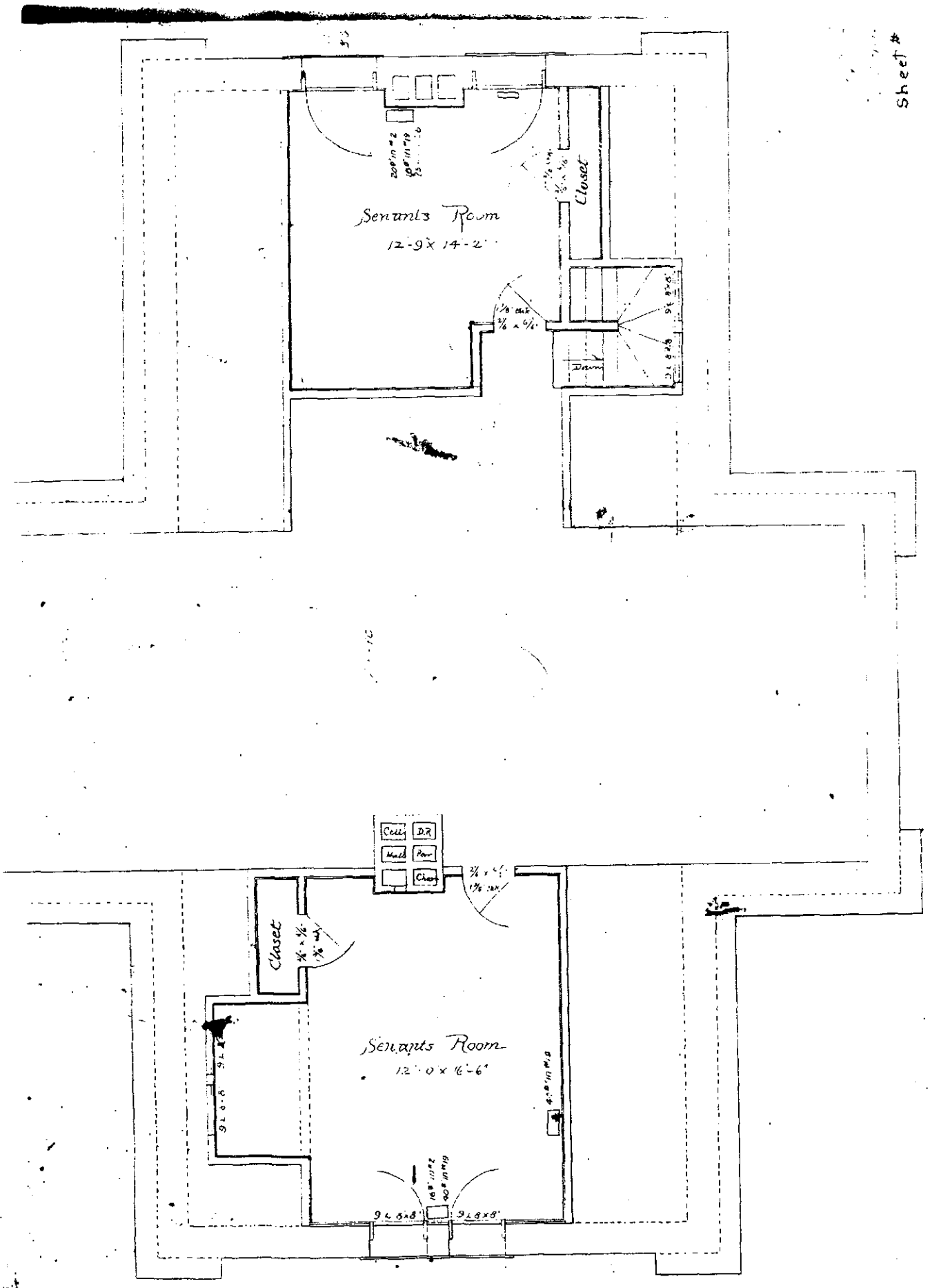
4. Second floor





5. Basement floor

Sheet #



6. Longitudinal section



QUARTERS #219-26

Longitudinal Section in Line A-A-2.  
Scale 1/4"

7. Half-cross section

*Half Cross Sections*

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

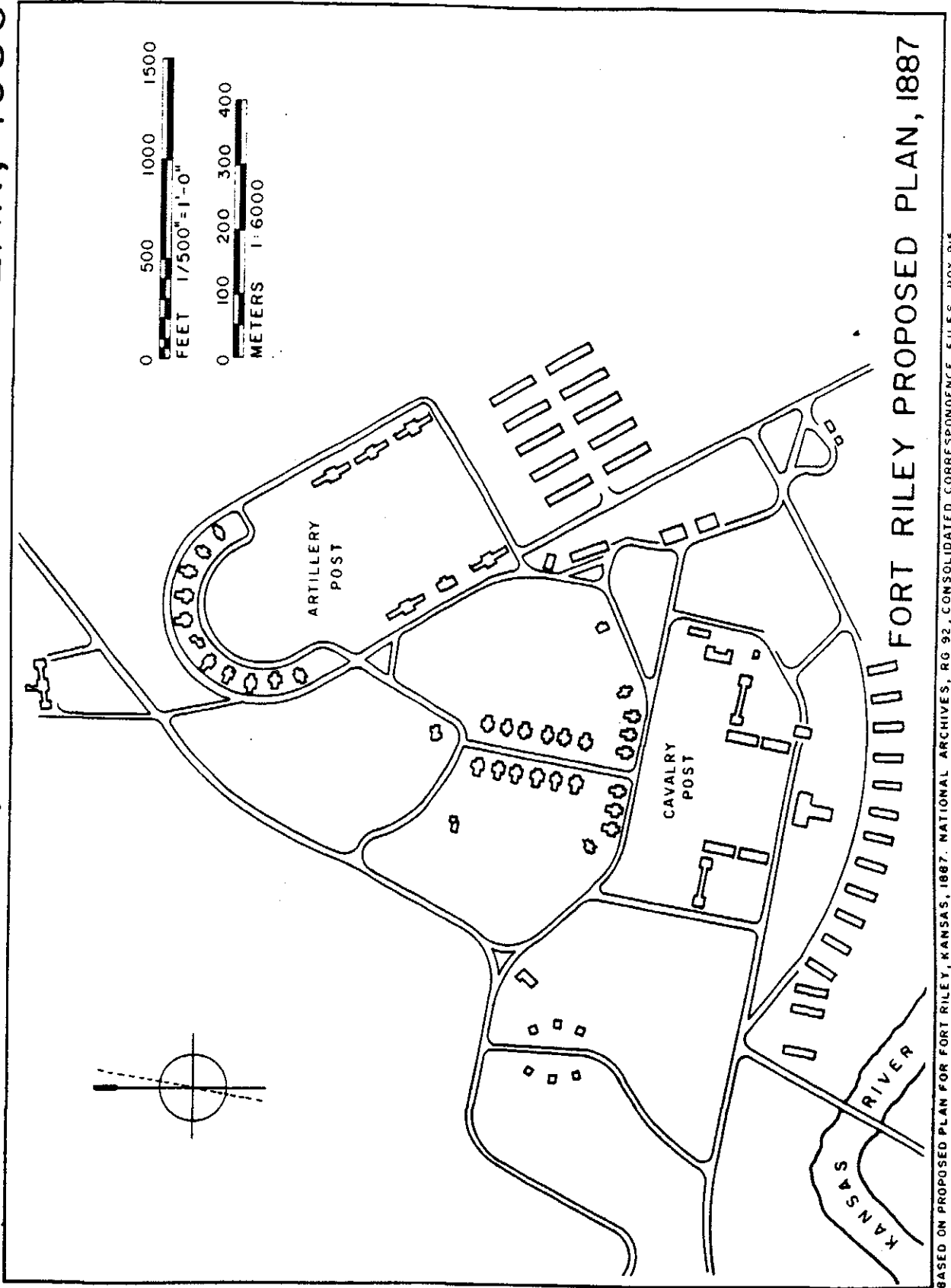


*On Line C.D.*

*On Line E.F.*

8. Fort Riley, Proposed plan, 1887

PROPOSED PLAN, 1887 AND SITE PLAN, 1985



BASED ON PROPOSED PLAN FOR FORT RILEY, KANSAS, 1887. NATIONAL ARCHIVES, RG 92, CONSOLIDATED CORRESPONDENCE FILE S, BOX 915.

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).