

U.S. Military Academy - Hospital Steward's Quarters  
West of the junction of Washington and Lee Roads  
U.S. Military Academy  
West Point  
Orange County  
New York

HABS No. NY-5708-18

HABS  
NY,  
36-WEPO,  
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

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NY  
36-6000  
1/16

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY - HOSPITAL STEWARD'S QUARTERS

LOCATION: West of the juncture of Washington and Lee Roads,  
U.S. Military Academy, West Point, Orange County, New York.

U.S.G.S. West Point Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator  
Coordinates: 18.585990.4583560

PRESENT OWNER  
AND OCCUPANT: U.S. Military Academy, Department of the Army.

PRESENT USE: Enlisted men's family quarters.

SIGNIFICANCE: The Hospital Steward's Quarters is representative of a late nineteenth-century standard Quartermaster plan which was reproduced on many army posts for enlisted men's family housing. The building retains most of its original forms and finishes. It is an important non-academic domestic survivor in the early enlisted men's area.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1894.
2. Architect: This was probably a standard plan from the Chief Quartermaster's Office.
3. Original and subsequent owners: U.S. Military Academy, Department of the Army.
4. Builders: Thomas J. Gilroy signed a contract in April 1894 to build the quarters (Annual Report 1895). Gilroy also contracted to build the unmarried officers' quarters.
5. Original plans and construction: The Annual Report from 1891 states:  
"A new set of hospital steward's quarters will be needed near the new soldier's hospital, as the present building now occupied by the steward, and which adjoins the old soldier's hospital, will be too far away from the new hospital."

The Annual Report for 1892 gave the construction cost as \$2,645.20.

6. Alterations and additions: The only additions to the building have been a bathroom and porch across the west or rear elevation and an extension of the front porch on the north, both dating to 1901 (Annual Report 1901). Undated alterations include the transformation of a peaked hip roof with wooden finial over the east window bay to that of a lower hip; a new roof covering of asphalt shingles; aluminum storm sash on all windows and doors; screening on porches; a new concrete bottom step; blocked basement openings; the alteration of a window for a vent; vent pipes

on the roof; a block-up living room fireplace; linoleum tile on the east entry and kitchen floors; the addition of a closet in the southwest bedroom; and the removal of interior doors on the first floor.

- B. Historical Context: For the historical and architectural context of this building within the overall development of West Point see HABS No. NY-5708, Volume 2: "West Point: An Overview of the History and Physical Development of the United States Military Academy."

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The Hospital Steward's Quarters is a relatively unaltered late nineteenth-century quartermaster design for enlisted personnel.
2. Condition of fabric: This structure is in good condition with minor problems: wood rot on porches; disrepair of gutters; brick spalling; needed brick repointing; and re-stuccoing on parts of the foundations.

### B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The building's basic shape is that of two intersecting blocks with add-on porches on two sides. The two-story house has a two bay facade and a partially excavated basement.
2. Foundations: Foundation walls are rock-faced granite laid in a random ashlar pattern. The foundations are partially above grade on all but the west side and are stuccoed in places with cement.
3. Walls: five-course American Bond is used for all elevations. There are no decorative features associated with the walls.
4. Structural systems, framing: The building has a conventional structural system: Load-bearing brick walls on a stone foundation; wood joist floors; and presumably a wooden common rafter roof system.
5. Porches: The original small entry porch on the east was extended to the north and west. This frame porch consists of chamfered posts, square balusters, brackets, tongue-and-groove floor boards, brick piers and window screen over the whole. Its hip roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The rear porch on the west has a shed roof extended from the added-on wing and is open without screening. It too has chamfered posts with brackets, square balusters and tongue-and-groove flooring.
6. Chimneys: A rectangular chimney stack with a corbelled cap straddles the east-west ridge of the east wing's hip roof.
7. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: There are two exterior doorways, one on the east and one on the west. The principal east doorway has a stone lintel and sill and a solid wooden panelled door with a one light transom above. The lintel of this door and all the windows is a

light-colored stone, possibly limestone; the sills are a dark-colored stone; possibly sandstone.

- b. Windows: Windows range from two triple windows on the east; two double windows on the north and south; and two single windows on the west. All of these are 1-over-1 double-hung wooden sash with aluminum storm windows. In addition, there is a single, fixed light window under the eaves at the apex of the north and south elevations. All stone lintels are flush with the wall; the stone sills project from the wall.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: On the north and south the roof is principally a gable form with the north end becoming a gable-on-hip. To the east runs a perpendicular gable that ends as a gable/hip combination due to the projecting triple window bay of the facade. The north-east porch has a hip roof while the west porch has a shed roof. Asphalt shingles cover the roof.
- b. Cornice, eaves: There is no cornice but the eaves are extended by outriggers to form an overhang. Hung gutters and down conductors are in various stages of repair.

C. Description of Interior:

- 1. Floor plans: The basement is excavated only under the kitchen and is occupied largely by the heating system equipment. See accompanying sketch plan for the first floor. The second floor consists of three bedrooms which basically correspond to the three rooms of the first floor.
- 2. Stairways: The wooden stairway to the second floor is enclosed, while the one to the basement is open.
- 3. Flooring: The basement floor is concrete. With the exception of linoleum in the bathroom, kitchen and entry hall, all floors are hardwood.
- 4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster walls are the rule except for the exposed stone of the basement. Beaded wainscoting and a molded wooden chair rail exist only in the kitchen and the bathroom. A simple wooden baseboard is used throughout except in the kitchen. Both the living room and dining room have picture moldings. All ceilings are plaster on the first and second floors.
- 5. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: All principal doorways have fluted casings and corner block bull's-eyes.  
  
All interior doors have been removed on the first floor. Those on the second floor have four panels; some doors have porcelain knobs.
  - b. Windows: Window casings have the same fluted treatment and corner blocks as the doors.

6. Hardware: The only original hardware of note are porcelain door knobs on some second floor doors.
7. Mechanical equipment:
  - a. Heating: Heat is furnished by standing floor radiators. The boiler equipment is in the basement. A furred-out wall in the upstairs east bedroom might conceal a fireplace; the living room fireplace has been covered-up.
  - b. Lighting: Gas nozzles still exist on some walls on the second floor.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The house faces east toward Washington Road and sits on a rather heavily used corner where Washington Road curves west toward Washington Gate and where Lee Road connects to Washington Road. It was built just north of the Soldier's Hospital (HABS No. NY-5708-17) and is separated from it by a driveway. The site is slightly elevated above the level of the roads. A wooden staircase leads from the driveway on the south to the back porch. A concrete sidewalk leads from the front door north to Washington Road.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Architectural Drawings: There are no known drawings for this structure.
- B. Early Views: Early photographs might be found in the U.S. Military Academy Archives and Special Collections.
- C. Bibliography:
  1. Primary and unpublished sources: Records, U.S. Military Academy and Special Collections. See bibliographic essay in the Lange volume of this project for a listing of record groups.
  2. Secondary and published sources: Annual reports, U.S. Military Academy Archives.

Grashof, Bethanie C. "Building Analysis and Preservation Guidelines for Category I and Selected Category II Buildings at the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York," Historic American Buildings Survey. 1983. HABS No. NY-5708.

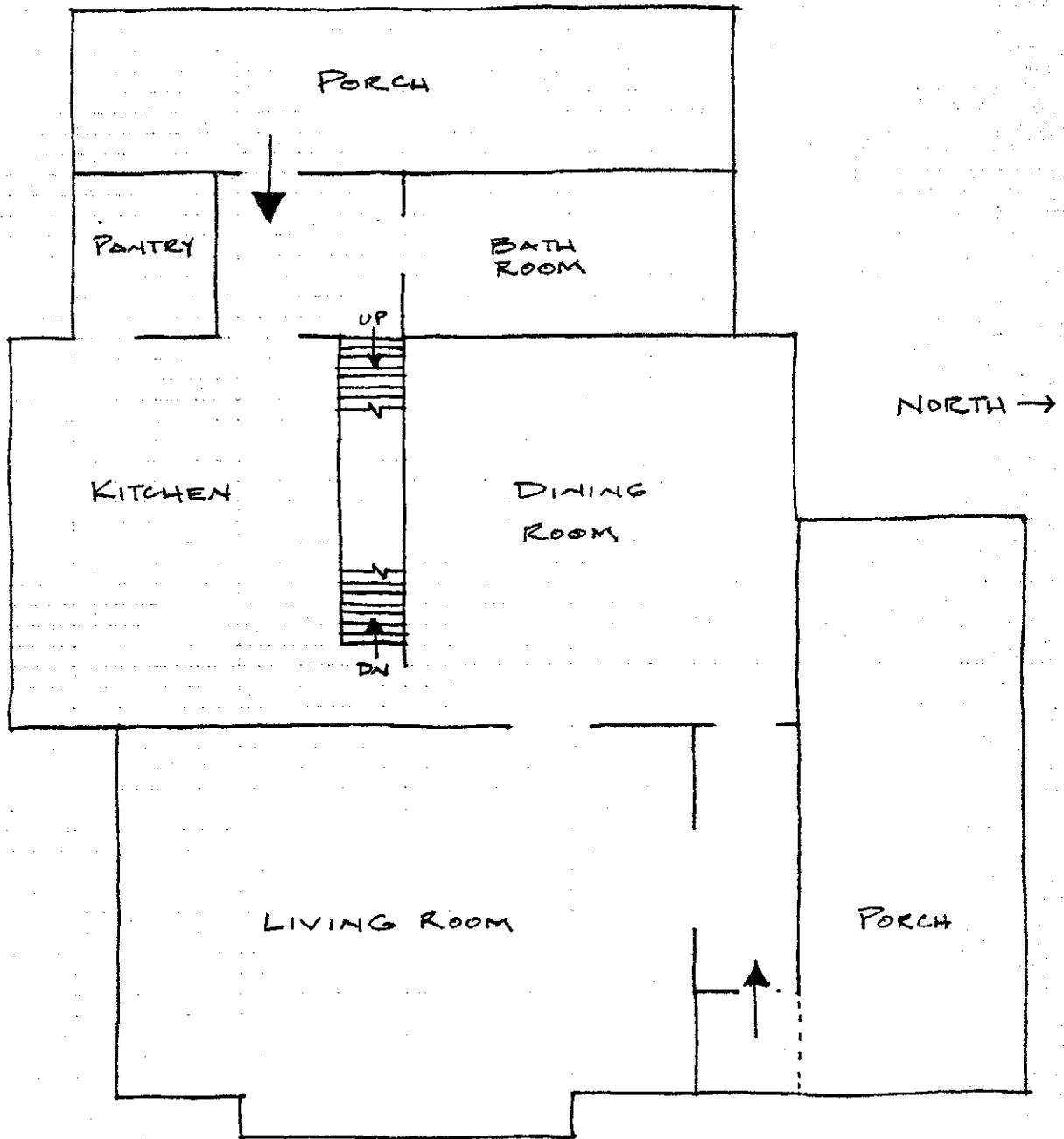
Lange, Robie S. "West Point: An Overview of the History and Physical Development of the United States Military Academy," Historic American Buildings Survey. 1983. HABS No. NY-5708.

D. Supplemental Material:

1. Floor plan sketch.

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FIRST FLOOR PLAN  
N.T.S. T.C.M. 9/84

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This documentation is part of a multi-year project sponsored by The National Park Service and the United States Military Academy, explained in the United States Military Academy, HABS No. NY-5708 Volume 1, "Methodology." This written documentation was prepared by Travis C. McDonald, Jr., architectural historian, in 1982-1985 based on fieldwork conducted in 1982.