

Fort Leavenworth,
Building # 436
5 Riverside Drive
Leavenworth
Leavenworth County
Kansas

HABS No. KS-53-F

HABS
KANS,
52-LEAV,
1-F-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

HABS
KANS,
52-LEAV,
1-F-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

FORT LEAVENWORTH, BUILDING # 436

HABS No. KS-53-F

Location: 5 Riverside Avenue, Fort Leavenworth, Leavenworth County, Kansas.

USGS Leavenworth, Kansas-Missouri Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 15,33560,435796

Present Owner: U.S. Department of the Army

Present Occupant: Ltc. and Mrs. Richard H. Sinnreich

Present Use: Single Officer's Quarters

Significance: Building # 436 is a unique example of vernacular residential design built at Fort Leavenworth in the mid 1880's. Its design makes a valuable contribution to the neighborhood, which is also composed of other frame quarters. Of the seven quarters, five including Building # 436 are vernacular single officers quarters similar in scale and style. Further up the drive, there are two elegant center gable double officer's cottages that have decorative tie-beam bargeboards, veranda, and bay windows. Despite some variance of style the seven houses are compatible, and are perceived as a unit which presents a rural, country character. The Riverside Avenue quarters are also significant through their association with the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks established in 1875. For these quarters were built to house officers working at the military prison. The vernacular style chosen for the single officer's quarters provide an interesting contrast to the formal brick residences built at approximately the same time but for officers associated with the School of Application for Infantry and Cavalry established at Fort Leavenworth in 1881.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date(s) of erection: The Real Property Records of 1905 list the erection date as unknown. The first 1975 Army Inventory of Historic Property lists 1875, which coincides with the establishment of the military prison in Fort Leavenworth in 1875. However, Dammeier's 1881 lithograph "Birds Eye View of Fort Leavenworth" and an 1881 plan of the "Post of Fort Leavenworth" contradict the 1875 erection date. The 1881 plan indicates that only Buildings # 433 and # 432 at the top of Riverside Drive were built and

Dammeier's "Birds Eye View" shows Buildings # 433 and # 432 and two single officer's quarters, either Building # 434 and # 435 or # 437 and # 438. An 1885 map "System Water Supply," drawn in April 1885, shows Building #'s 432, 433, 434, 435, 437 and 438 all on Riverside Avenue. A plan of Fort Leavenworth dated 1884 indicates a building on the west side of Riverside Drive, but the building is not in the same location as Building # 436, making conclusive dating by 1884 impossible. As most of the residences appear to have been built by 1884, it seems likely that Building # 436, which is stylistically similar to the others, was built in the mid-1880's.

2. Architect: The architect is unknown. However, plans during this period were usually supplied to the Assistant Quartermaster at the post by the Quartermaster General's Office in Washington, D.C.
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: No original plans have been found. However, 1906 plans of the basement, first and second floors are located at D.E.H. (see Supplemental Materials # 1-3). A later, updated plan of the first & second floors was also found (see Supplemental Material # 4.)
6. Alterations & additions: Building # 436 has not been substantially altered. Alterations include an enlarged back porch (southwest elevation); a side porch added onto the southeast elevation; a window, near the southeast corner was converted into a door for access; and the doorway and entry porch were added on the northwest elevation. On the interior a kitchen pantry was converted into a hallway which now leads to the porch on the southwest. A closet off of the first floor study was converted into a powder room.

B. Historical Context:

In 1874-75, Fort Leavenworth was selected as the site for a national military prison. Shortly after the selection, Congress appropriated money for the prison and work began on the conversion of a group of stone quartermaster warehouses into

prison cells. The existing warehouses along with the new buildings to be erected were located to the north of the parade ground on a bluff overlooking the Missouri River. In addition to buildings for the prison, housing was required for officers working at the prison. Money was appropriated in 1878 for this purpose (Langelier, footnote 38, p. 75). Construction of quarters began, and by 1881 four quarters had been erected along Riverside Drive, a quiet narrow curvilinear road that extended from the prison to the railroad depot on the west bank of the Missouri River. The houses erected along Riverside Drive are simple frame houses. Their vernacular character is a striking contrast to the more formal brick residences also built during the 1880's but erected as quarters for the officers of the newly established Command School. Building # 436 was the last of the Riverside Avenue Quarters to be erected. It is sited at the end of Riverside Drive, the only house on the west side of the road.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Building # 436 is a vernacular frame house stylistically similar to the other four officers quarters located across Riverside Drive. The five frame quarters are architecturally important, as they are the only surviving examples of vernacular frame houses at Fort Leavenworth. The quarters present the appearance of a cohesive unit that possesses a country, rural character along the drive connecting the railroad depot and river quay with the military prison. The interior plan of Building # 436 is irregular, giving the appearance of additions added through time, when in fact the house was built in its entirety by the mid-1880's. An undated historical photograph located at the Fort Leavenworth Museum shows Building # 436 in its early days (see Supplemental Material # 5).
2. Condition of fabric: The house is in good condition on the exterior, the interior second hallway shows some signs of water damage, possibly due to a leak in the roof.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimension: Building # 436 is a two and a half story building that has an L-shaped block with a rear ell. There are five bays across the front northeast facade with two bays on the southeast and three on the northwest elevations. The over-all dimensions are 37' x 40'.

2. Foundations: The foundation is rough-faced random ashlar limestone that is a foot high on the northeast elevation and one story high on the southwest elevation (see HABS photo # KS-53-F-3).
3. Walls: The house has painted clapboard walls with cornerboards and a horizontal trim board that encircles the house just above the foundation (see HABS photo # KS-53-F-3).
4. Structural system, framing: The structural system is frame, surmounted by a wood gable roof structure. Inspection of the attic shows evidence of a 1928, roof fire. There are a number of common rafters that were blackened from the fire but continue to be supporting members. Some of the original rafters have been replaced by three to four inch wide rafters, that overlap and are nailed together. The original rafters are eight to nine inch width beams and are tied into the ridge board. The attic is approached through a hole in the ceiling of the second floor hallway. Inspection of the basement reveals two by eight floor joists that support a three and a half inch board sub-flooring.
5. Porches, stoops, balconies, bulkheads: The northeast front wood porch is tucked into the corner of the 'L' of the main block. There are three full posts and two pilasters where the porch meets the wall of the house. The posts are the most decorative elements of the otherwise very simple porch. The posts are composed of three sections. First, there is a two and a half foot high rectangular base with chamfered corners the same height as the balustrade. The second section includes the capitals and shafts which are faceted. The capital consists of a square abacus, echinus, filets, a long neck and then a thick ring. This section rests directly on the shaft. The third section consists of three radiating braces that are surmounted on the capital and join to the frieze of the porch. The balustrade has upper and lower rails framing square balusters (see HABS photo # KS-53-F-1). A 1905 photograph shows that originally the balustrade had an intricate cut-out diamond pattern in the balustrade. The front porch has a tongue and groove floor and a metal roof. The porch on the southwest elevation has vertical beaded board siding enclosing the lower portion of the porch, while screening encloses the upper portion. Square posts separate the

siding and screening into vertical sections with three posts across the side and two attached posts where the porch joins the wall of the house. The simple posts support a plain frieze and asphalt shingle hipped roof. The porch rests on concrete piers with a lattice screen between piers. (see HABS photo # KS-53-F-4) The porch on the southwest elevation is one story high as a result of the sloping land, which creates a full story basement above ground. The porch rests on square posts that are submerged in a concrete slab below. The same posts extend upwards and support an asphalt shed roof. The wood screen porch has a tongue and groove floor; a balustrade consists of upper and lower rails and square baluster. Wood steps and square wood handrails descend to a concrete landing in the back yard (see HABS photo # KS-53-F-4) There is an entry porch on the northwest elevation that has an asphalt shed roof and concrete stoop. The porch leads directly into the kitchen (see HABS photo # KS-53-F-3)

6. Chimneys: On the southwest elevation, the brick chimney has a brick corbelled top metal coping. There is a metal covered arch over the opening of the stack. On the west elevation there is another brick chimney also with a corbelled top.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways & doors: There are doors at each elevation and two on the southwest elevation. The first enters into the kitchen and has four panes over two square panels. The other is a panel basement door consisting of two vertical rectangular panels over two smaller similar panels. The front door on the northeast elevation has two forty inch vertical rectangular windows over three horizontal recessed panels with a center raised panel. The molding around the perimeter of the recessed panel consists of two consecutive sections of cyma recta molding. The door of the entry porch on the northwest elevation has four lights over two vertical rectangular panels. On the southeast elevation, the door leading from the screen porch to the dining room inside has three forty inch vertical single pane lights over two smaller vertical panels.
 - b. Windows & shutters: Most of the windows of Building # 436 are two over two, double hung sash. There is some variation in the size of some windows, mainly bathroom

windows. All windows have wood rectangular trim. In the northeast and northwest elevations near the apex of the roof gables, there is a small square single pane attic window. (see HABS photo # KS-53-F-2) The southwest elevation also has one over one frame rectangular windows. A 1905 photograph shows the house with shutters.

8. Roof: The northeast and northwest gables of the 'L' of the main block are very ornamental, making a significant contribution to the decorative character of the house. The decoration is a bold bargeboard consisting of a kingpost truss and within the triangle of the kingpost there is a half circle cut-out. Beyond the perimeter of the cut-out portion is solid wood with triangle cut-outs. At the juncture of the kingpost and tie beam of the truss is a wood half circle with scalloped edges. Below the tie beam of the truss there is another tie beam whose lower edge has a saw-tooth design. Between the two tie beams is a reminder of what once was a 'V' pattern (see HABS photo # KS-53-F-2). The roof of the house is asphalt.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The interior floor plan of Building # 436 has the additive quality of floor plans of vernacular architecture. The living room, dining room and family room radiate in pinwheel fashion around the central stairhall (see HABS photo # KS-53-F-5). Upon entering Building # 436 into the main stairhall the study (family room) is to the northwest and the dining and living rooms are to the southeast. The main stairway ascends to the southwest, where the steps connect at the midway point to a landing and stairs then descend northwest to the kitchen or ascend southeast to a another landing where steps ascend to the second floor. The second floor follows the same configuration as the first floor and has four bedrooms and one bathroom. The basement is one open room with the same perimeters as the first floor.
2. Stairways: The configuration of the main stairway is a 'T' shape. The cross of the 'T' is that portion of the stairs connecting the kitchen and the second floor, and the lower vertical part of the 'T' is the section of the stairs leading into the main entry hallway. The

open stairway leading from the main hallway ascends seven steps before reaching the landing that is located midway between the kitchen and the second landing. There the box stair divides, with four steps leading in opposite directions to the second floor. The newel post in the main stairhall has a turned top portion, a square shaft followed by two consecutive sections of turned areas that rest on a square base with clipped top corners. The balusters have a square base, with a turned section above. Above this is the longest section that tapers up to the joint of the handrail (see HABS photos # KS-53-F-5 & 6).

3. Flooring: The first floor has narrow, two and a half inch oak board floors. The kitchen and back pantry, as well as the second floor bathroom, have vinyl sheeting. On the second floor, there is older, narrow pine board flooring.
4. Wall & ceiling finish: A number of walls are plaster; although the interior partition walls appear to be mostly wall board. The first floor has picture molding and is nine feet high (see HABS photo # KS-53-F-5). The second floor is eight feet high and has molding at the corner of the wall and ceiling. All the rooms on the first floor have a center beam that extends the full length of the room and drops down about one foot. The ceiling is coved on both sides of the center beam. The baseboard is seven inches high and has a very wide flat section, followed by convex molding at the base (see HABS photo # KS-53-F-5).
5. Fireplaces: There is one fireplace located in the living room. The mantle has a plain rectangular wood firebox face. To each side of the mantle, extending from the floor to the mantle shelf, is a rectangular section that is coved. There is a spindle freestanding column in the center. The plain frieze below the mantle shelf has a raised center ornament in the shape of the shield (see HABS photo # KS-53-F-5).
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways & doors: There are no hallway doors leading into the living room or dining room. The door reveals of these rooms, however, indicate that doors existed at one time. There is still a door for the

study, which is one large single square panel over a smaller similar panel. Both panels are recessed and have two consecutive sections of cyma recta molding. In the study, the closet and bathroom doors are four panel consisting of two vertical rectangular panels over two smaller similar panels. In the dining room there is a swinging door to the service hall leading to the kitchen. The rest of the interior doors follow the same design as the four panel doors in the study. Although on the second floor the doors have varying widths of thirty-two, twenty-eight, and twenty-seven inches. The architraves of the doorways are uniform throughout the house and consist of a flat four inch rectangular plan molding with a raised flat rectangular trim.

- b. Windows: Window architraves match that of the doorways.
- 7. Hardware: Doors on the first floor have plain brass door plates and knobs; plates are rectangular and seven inches long. The second floor doors have rim locks with black porcelain knobs and a door in the service hallway of the kitchen has a rim lock and porcelain knob. Some windows have metal handles centrally located in the bottom rail.
- 8. Mechanical equipment: Building # 436 has a H.B. Smith Do. Inc. Heater, which has a steamheating system. There are cast-iron American Radiator Co., radiators with a raised floral design throughout the house. The house is air-conditioned by window units.

D. Site:

Building # 436 is located at the end of Riverside Drive on the west side. The house faces the Missouri River and is compatible in style and scale with the frame houses across the narrow and quiet street. The only house built on the west side of Riverside Drive, Building # 436 has a narrow informally landscape front yard and a side yard that extends to the north where there is a park that has numerous shade trees and a stone bandstand. There is a large shady yard on the southwest rear elevation that has a small frame storage shed. Two historical photographs and Wilhelm Dammeier's "Birds Eye View of Ft. Leavenworth, 1886," shows the relationship of Building # 436 to its surrounds (see Supplemental Materials # 6- 8).

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Original Architectural Drawings:

"Building 175: Directorate of Engineering and Housing, Fort Leavenworth, KS (Floor plans of basement, first and second floors- "Prepared in the Office of the Quartermaster, June 9, 1906 Revised Many 1908").

B. Early Views:

Dammeier, Wilhelm, "Birds Eye View of Fort Leavenworth, Kansas", Fort Leavenworth: U.S. Department of the Missouri, 1881. (A copy located at Fort Leavenworth Museum)

Photograph: Real Property Records, 1905, Directorate of Engineering and Housing, Fort Leavenworth, KS (Photo shows northeast elevation and part of northwest elevation).

C. Bibliography:

a. Primary & unpublished sources

"Post of Fort Leavenworth", March 18, 1881, a copy at Office of Master Planning, DEH, Fort Leavenworth, KS. (shows plan of Fort Leavenworth with Buildings).

"System Water Supply," April 1885, Record Group 92, Box 542, *National Archives, Washington, D.C. (shows plan of Fort Leavenworth). *Consolidate correspondence File 1794-1890, office at the Quartermaster General, N.A. Washington, D.C.

"Fort Leavenworth, Kansas", 1903 Office of the Quartermaster, U.S. Army, Fort Leavenworth, KS, a copy of Office of Master Planning, DEH, Fort Leavenworth, KS).

*** Fort. Leavenworth Record Group 92 Consolidated correspondence File 1794-1890 office of the Quartermaster General (complete survey on files).

b. Secondary & published sources

Hunt, Elvid. History of Fort Leavenworth, 1827-1937, Fort Leavenworth, KS: Command and General Staff School Press, 1937.

Shindler, Henry. "History of Fort Leavenworth:, (an unpublished manuscript), Command and General Staff College Library, Fort Leavenworth, KS, 1913.

Stoddard, Col. Henry Parker. "Misc. Notes and Extracts: History of Fort Leavenworth", Vol. III, Available at Fort Leavenworth Museum (includes 1884 "Plan of Fort Leavenworth, KS").

D. Likely sources not yet investigated:

There is additional material that could be investigated in the Consolidated Correspondence Files, Record Group 77 at the National Archives, Washington, D.C.

Newspapers of Leavenworth, Kansas 1875 to 1910, Leavenworth Public Library.

E. Supplemental Material: see attached material.

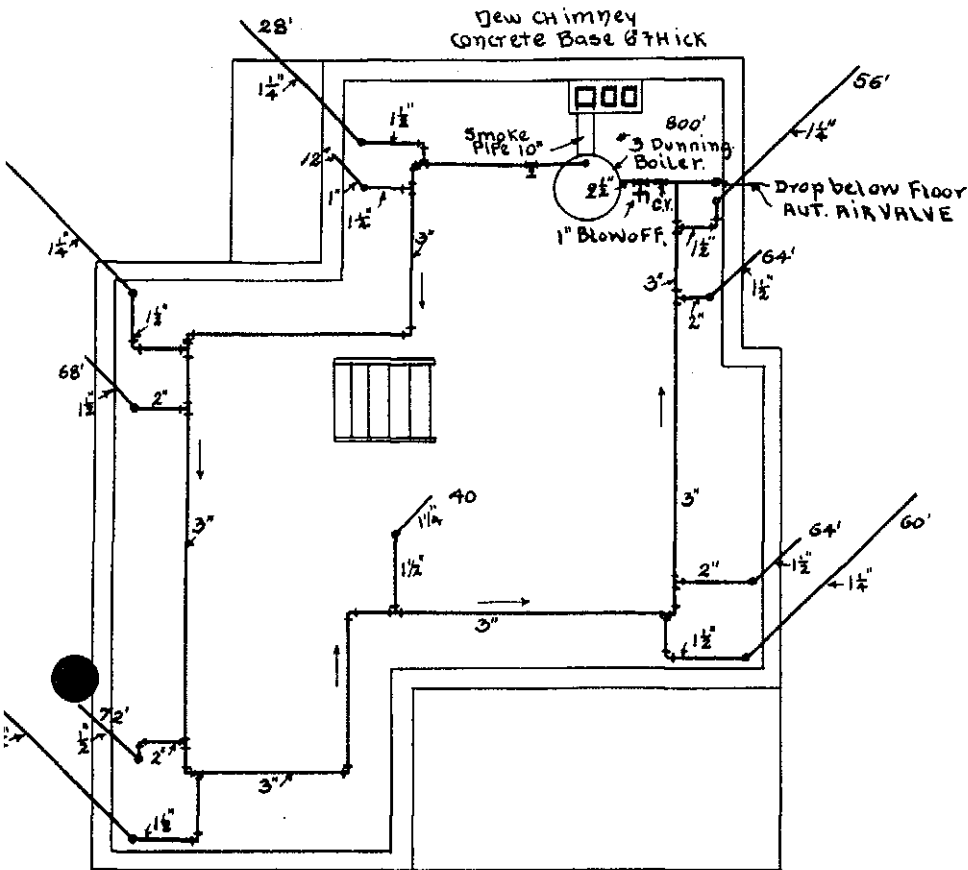
Prepared By: Kriste Struble
Project Historian
Historic American Building Survey
Summer 1985

* Leangler, John P. "Fort Leavenworth Historic Preservation Overview" (unpublished manuscript), March 1985, Directorate of Engineering & Housing, Fort Leavenworth, KS.

** Department of the Army Inventory of Historic Buildings, 1977, Office of Master planning, Directorate of Engineering & Housing, Fort Leavenworth, KS

E. Supplemental Materials
 1. Plan of Basement, 1906

Fort Leavenworth, Building # 436
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Note
 ALL Branches Must Be Taken From
 Top of Main using 45 or 90° ELLS
 Pitch Main 1" in 20' 0" with Steam Flow.

OFFICERS QUARTERS #176
 U.S. MILITARY PRISON,
 FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS.

Basement
 Ceiling 7'-6".

Prepared in the
OFFICE QUARTERMASTER
June 9, 1906.
Revised May 1908.
Scale 1/8" = 1'-0"

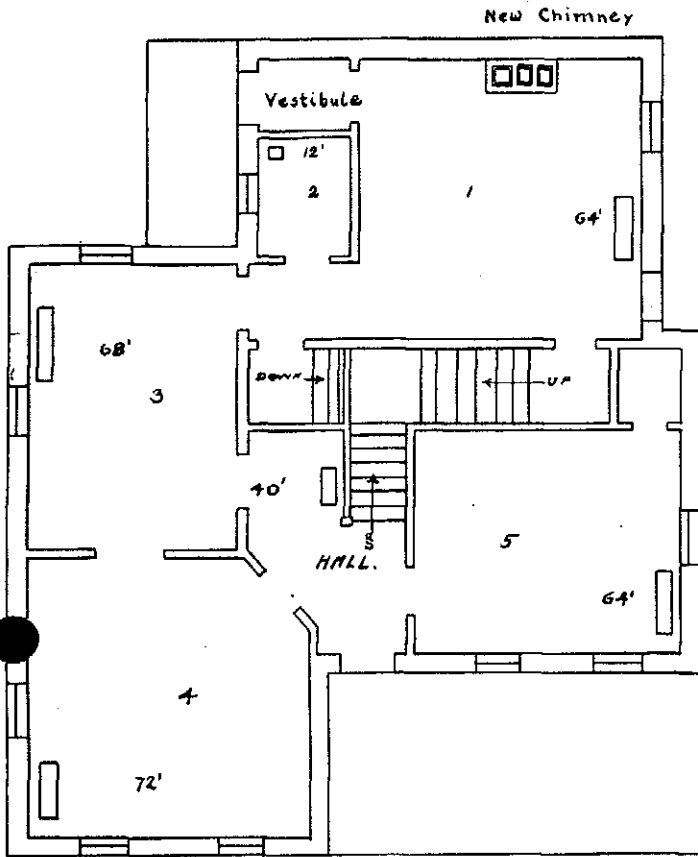
J. R. S.
 RA. NO. 100-436
 BLDG. No. 436

PLATE No. 200-436

BLDG. NO. 436

2. Plan of first floor, 1906

Fort Leavenworth, Building # 436
HABS No. KS-53-F
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Note
unless otherwise marked all Radiation
on this floor to be 3 Column 32" high.

Officers Quarters #176
US Military Prison
Ft. Leavenworth
Kansas.

First Floor.
Ceiling 9'-0"

#5 KIV.

Prepared in the
OFFICE QUARTERMASTER
June 9, 1906.

Revised May 1908.

Scale 1/2" = 1'-0"

J. R. S.

DR. NO. 100-436

BLDG. No. 436

Draw. No. 300-436

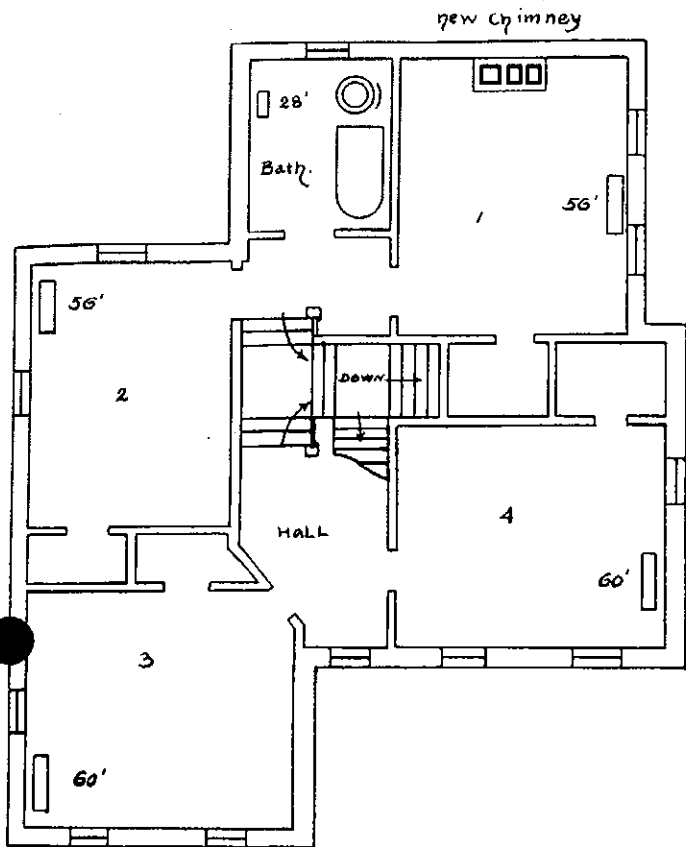
3-SHEETS.

BLDG NO. 436

BLDG NO. 436

3. Plan of second floor, 1906

Fort Leavenworth, Building # 436
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Second Floor
ceiling 8'-0"

#5 Riv.

OFFICERS QUARTERS 176
U.S. MILITARY PRISON,
FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS.

Prepared in the
OFFICE QUARTERMASTER
June 9, 1906.
Revised May 1908.

Scale 1/8" = 1'-0"

J. R. S.

DR. No. 100-436

BLDG. No. 436

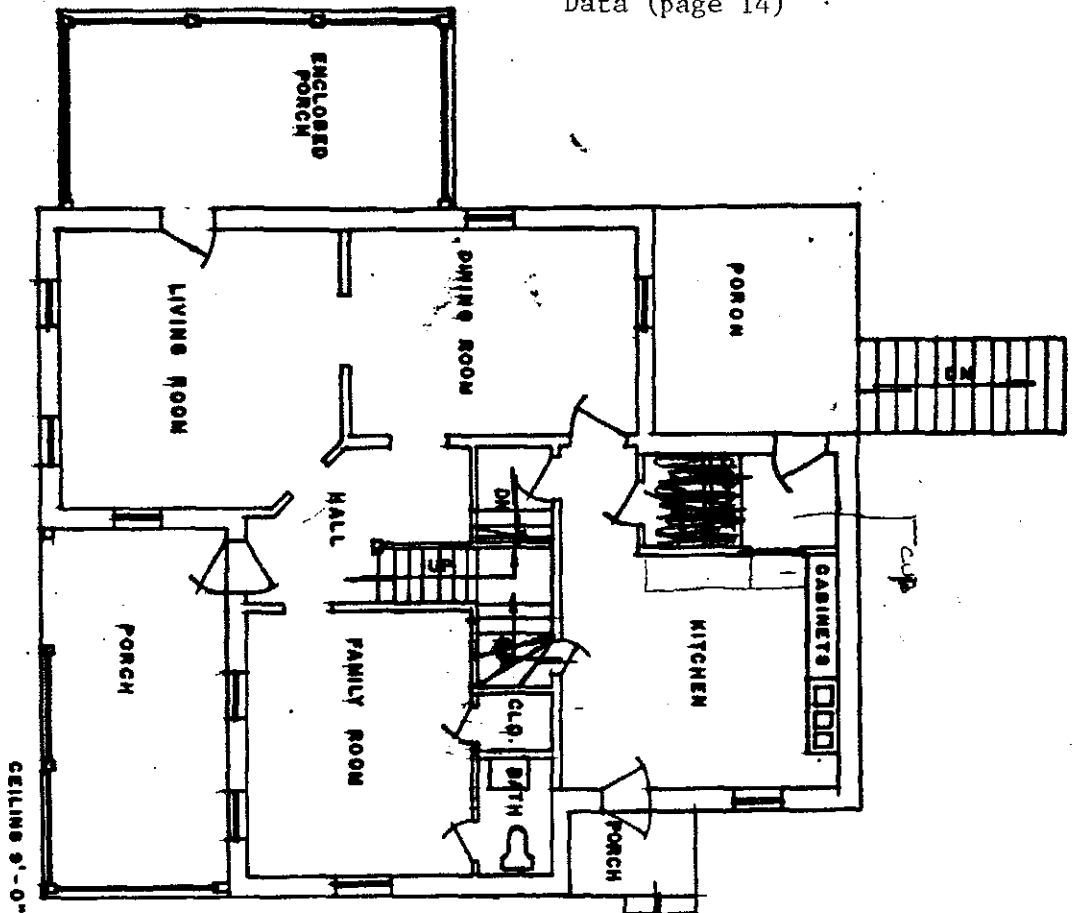
~~DRG. No. 200-436~~

3 - SHEETS

1 BLDG NO. 436

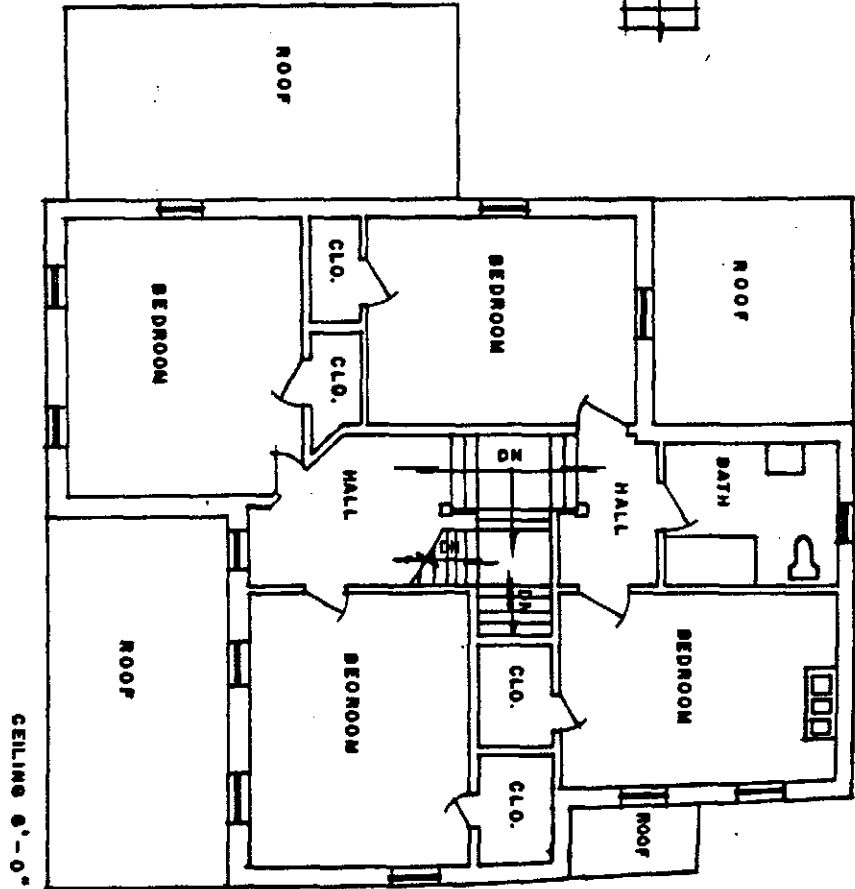
4. First and second floor plan, undated

Fort Leavenworth, Building # 436
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FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SCALE : 1/8" = 1' - 0"



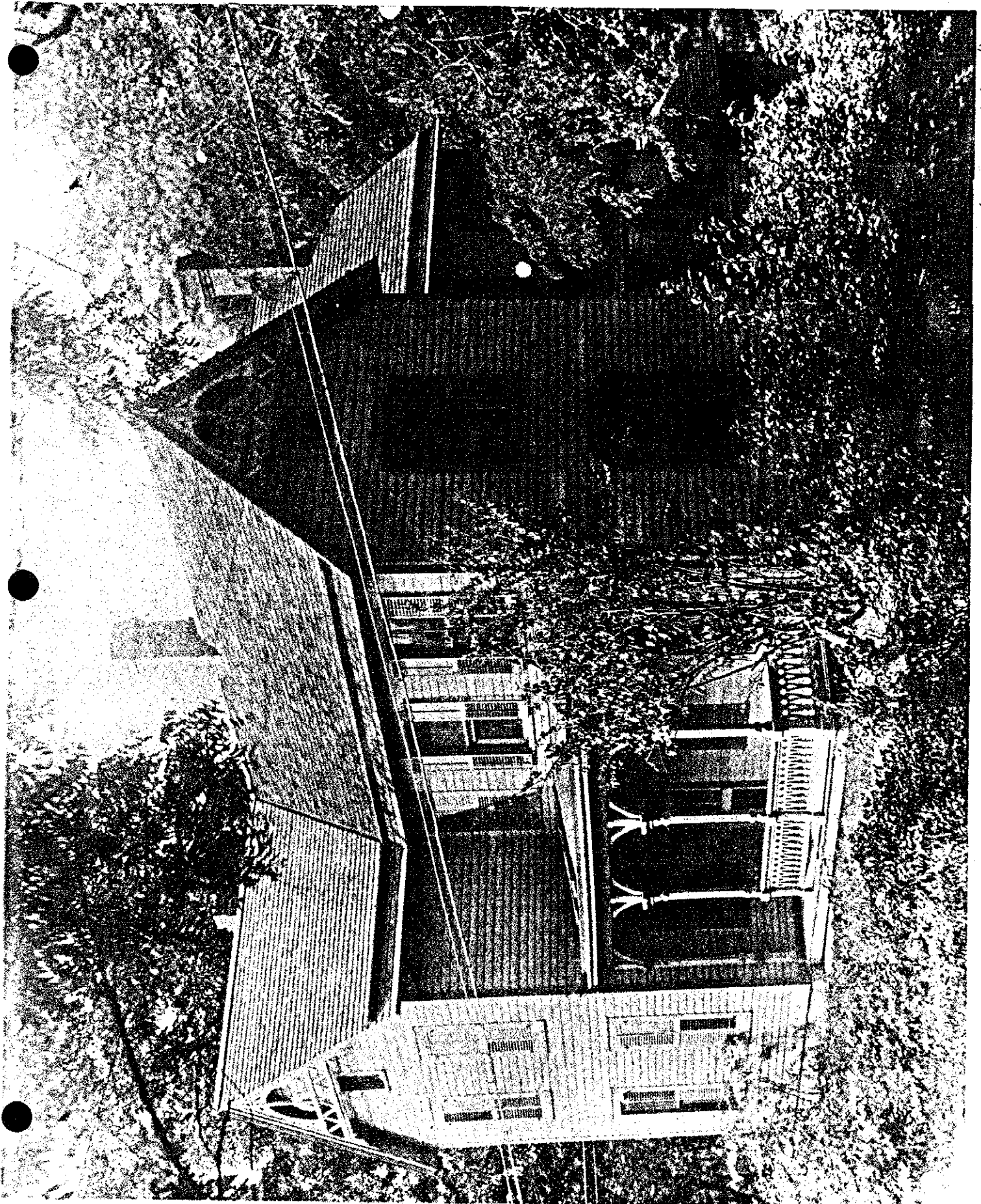
SECOND FLOOR PLAN

CEILING 8'-0"



5. Historical photograph, Officers
Quarters- Riverside, undated

Fort Leavenworth, Building # 436
HABS No. KS-53-F
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6003.19(10)

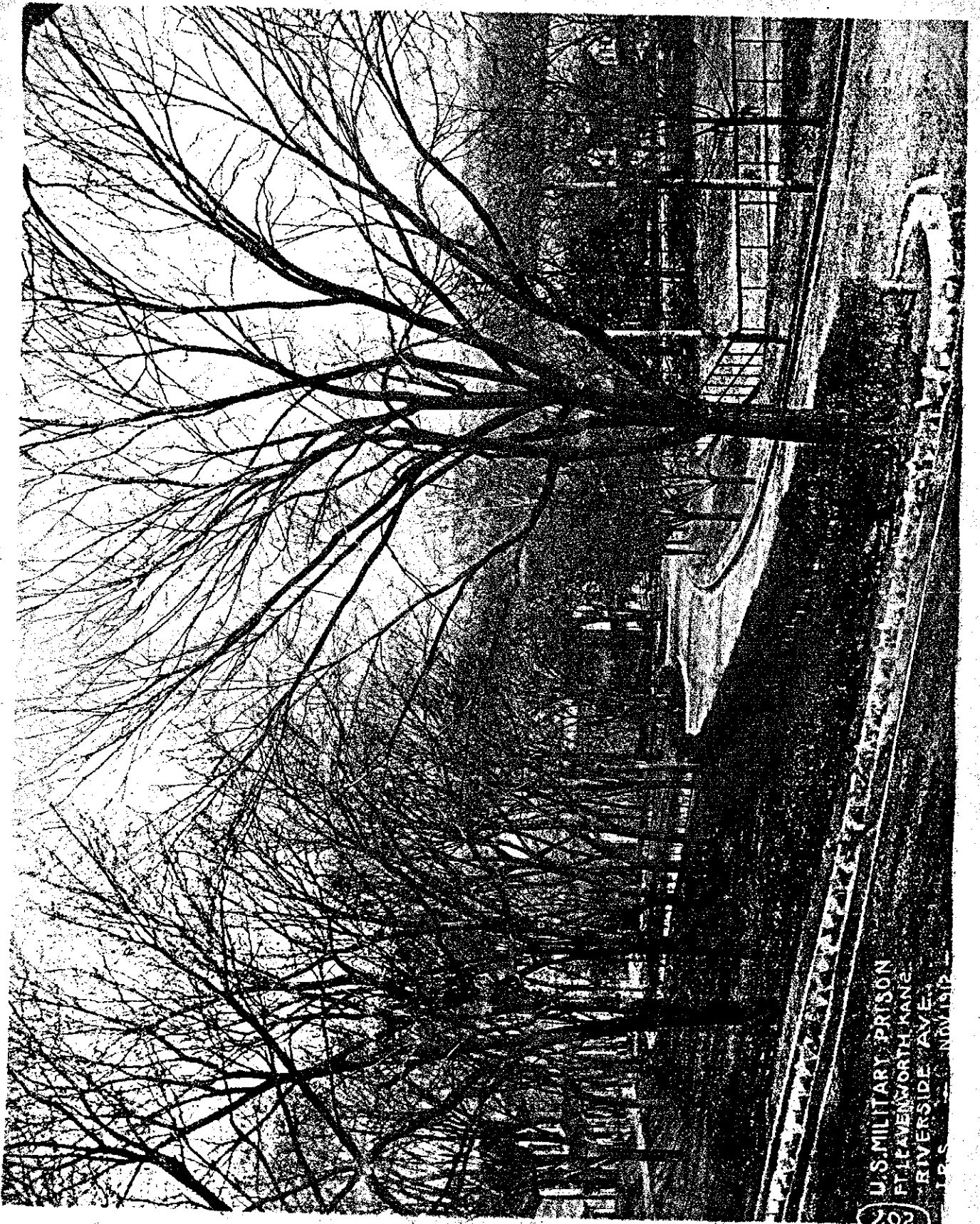
6. Views of Fort Leavenworth; booklet,
uncataloged, Fort Leavenworth Museum

Fort Leavenworth, Building 436
HABS No. KS-53-F
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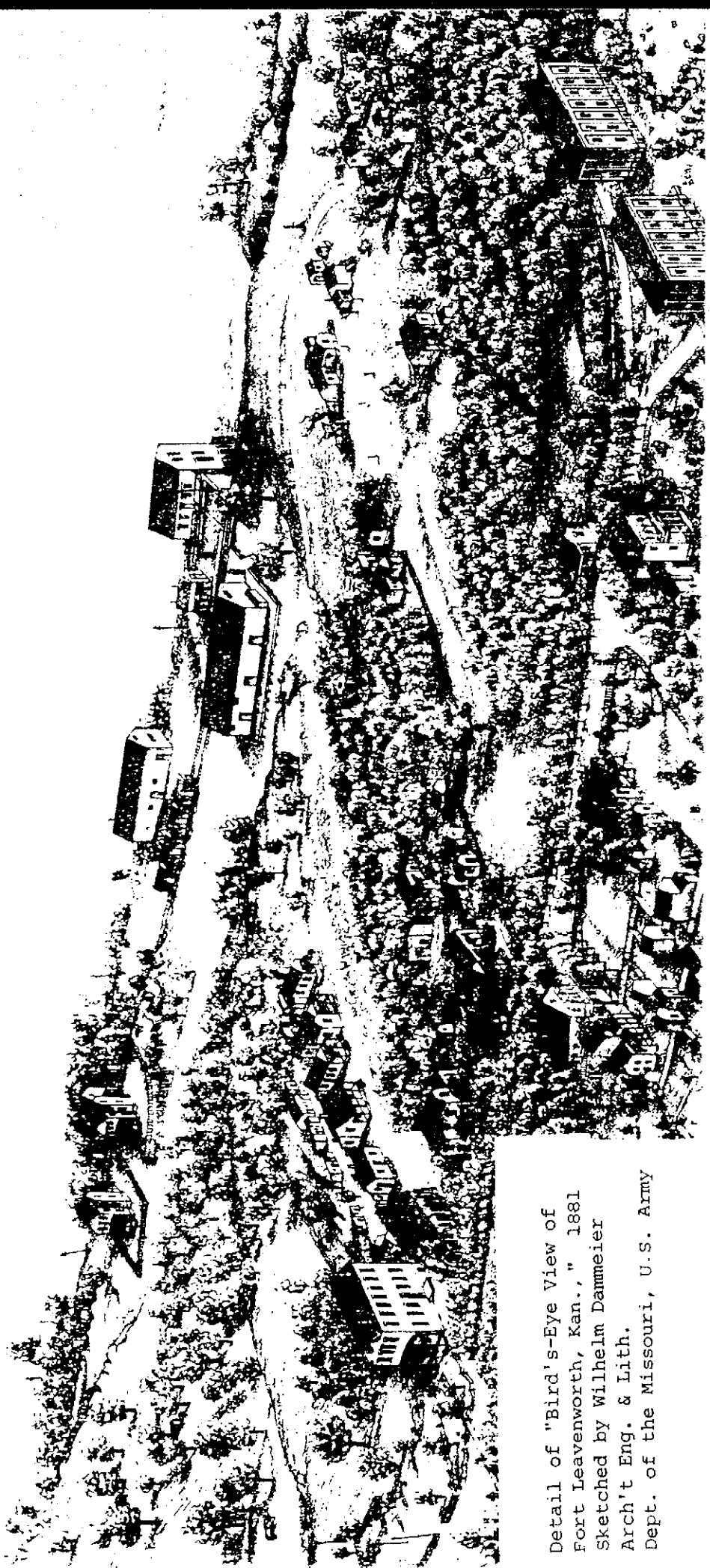
Circa. 1912, uncataloged photograph,
Fort Leavenworth Museum

HABS No. KS-53-F
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U.S. MILITARY PRISON
FT. LEAVENWORTH, KANS.
RIVERSIDE AVE.
LEAVENWORTH, KANS.

9. Fort Leavenworth, Building # 436
HABS No. KS-53-F
Data (page 18)



Detail of "Bird's-Eye View of
Fort Leavenworth, Kan.," 1881
Sketched by Wilhelm Dammeier
Arch't Eng. & Lith.
Dept. of the Missouri, U.S. Army