

U.S. Military Academy - Officer's Quarters
(Professors Row)

HABS No. NY-5708-6

South side of Washington Road, east of
intersection with Mills Road

U.S. Military Academy

West Point

Orange County

New York

HABS
NY
20-6880
76-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

HABS
NY
36-107
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY - OFFICER'S QUARTERS
(PROFESSORS ROW)

LOCATION: South side of Washington Road, east of intersection with Mills Road, U.S. Military Academy, West Point, Orange County, New York.

USGS, West Point Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator
Coordinates: 18.586780.4582830.

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

PRESENT USE: Family Housing - Colonel.

SIGNIFICANCE: Quarters No. 107 are among the earliest surviving quarters for professors at West Point. As part of a group of three structures making up "Professors Row," these early nineteenth-century stone duplex quarters form a distinctive architectural grouping on Washington Road. Many of the most illustrative professors of West Point have occupied these quarters.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1821.
2. Architect: Unknown. The fact that original specifications were issued by the Academy for the other two buildings of Professors Row (presumably by the Quartermaster) is strong evidence that the design also originated there (Grashof).
3. Original and subsequent owners: U.S. Military Academy, Department of the Army.
4. Builder: Unknown. The other two buildings of Professors Row were advertised for construction by public bid, indicating that Quarters 107 might also have been constructed by a local builder rather than Army personnel.
5. Original plans and construction: Each quarters had two principal rooms on each floor off of a stairway hall. The original plan, from sub-basement to attic, can be seen in a drawing by Major Richard Delafield, "Plan of all quarters at West Point occupied by the officers and professors of the Military Academy in Feb. 1842" (see Supplemental Material). Quarters 107 differs from No. 103 and No. 105 by having a curved corner in the rear parlor and by no closets between the two rooms.

6. Alterations and additions: Additions were begun prior to 1853 and continued until 1899. The following statement and chronological list of additions are taken from Grashof's "Building Analysis" and is keyed to a schematic sketch plan also reproduced from the same work (see Supplemental Material).

"Though the room layouts have remained constant, many important architectural details have been completely removed from this set of quarters. All of the original door and window trim was removed during the 1960 rehabilitation. The first floor details that do remain include the plaster cornice in the front parlor of the original stone quarters, arched openings in the stair-hall and similar arched openings separating the two rooms of the original house. Old (though probably not original) wooden mantelpieces are located in the north rooms of the original house and the ca. 1863 addition. On the second floor the simple turned balusters and the marble mantelpieces of the two east bedrooms and the north-east bedroom are the only remaining features with any architectural merit."

A Original House
1821

B,C Stone and Brick additions
C' prior to 1853; second story to B--1853.
A drawing at the National Archives, PL 107-a, dated January 5, 1853, gives the first known indication of any additions being made to quarters 107B. Note that already in existence is (B) the first floor of the stone addition marked "Plan of the Studio," as built; and a "small rear, two story marked "Plan of the Studio." At this time access between the existing studio and the main house was through the small addition built by Weir. Whether both C and C' are in fact this addition is impossible to say. The rear wall of this addition is shown to have lined up with the rear wall of the studio addition. Today, however, this wing is much larger and there are no apparent joints in the brickwork. This would seem to indicate that this addition was all built at one time. It may be that the Weir addition was removed and the existing brick addition built in its place. If this is so, it was prior to 1889 as the existing space is accounted for in Williams, Facilities Report. Inside, the main staircase is in this rear addition, instead of the southwest corner of the original quarters as shown in fig. 1. If the first assumption is correct, then it could logically be assumed that the stairs were changed prior to 1889, when this addition was built.

D Kitchen Addition
1889-1903

The construction date for this addition is unknown, though it was completed by 1903 as shown by the map of West Point of the same year. The space is not, however, accounted for in Williams, Facilities Report.

E Pantry/Bath Addition
1889-1903

Like the kitchen addition, this space is not accounted for in

Williams, Facilities Report. At least a single story space is shown on the 1903 map of West Point. A brick joint on the west wall indicates at least two phases of construction for this addition.

F Brick Addition
ca. 1863

This addition is difficult to document. The earliest known photograph of Professors' Row, taken ca. 1863, PL. 105-a, shows what appears to be an addition to quarters 107 that generally relates to this addition. Boynton's map of West Point in 1863 also shows an addition to quarters 107A, but one that does not conform to the outline of today's addition. This same map, however, does NOT show any sort of addition to 107B. (How Boynton would then explain the drawing illustrated in PL. 107-a, dated 1853 is a mystery.) One must treat the information presented by Boynton's map with a grain of salt. The circa date is inconclusive.

G Kitchen Addition
1899

An advertisement and specifications on file in the Engineer's office document the construction of this addition.

- 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: Quarters No. 107 represents the evolutionary character of nineteenth-century building. Its main mass is a Federal style residential unit, while its additions include Greek Revival, Italianate, French Second Empire and Shingle Style detailing. While the early nineteenth-century portion of the building is its most important element, the numerous additions should not be overlooked, providing a wide variety of nineteenth-century architectural styles in this one building.
2. Condition of fabric: The building is in good condition. Sandblasting has occurred and some brick are deteriorated.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The main stone mass of the building measures approximately 60' x 45' with brick additions to the west, east and south. A brick addition to the east measures approximately 35' x 35' and is capped by a mansard roof. To the east of that is an "L" shaped brick addition 35' along its length and 25' along its depth. To the west is a small two-story addition measuring approximately 25' x 25', while to the west are two connected gable roofed additions, a two-story unit approximately 20' x 35' and a one-story unit around 20' x 30'.

2. Foundations: Stone is used for the foundation walls in the original stone building, while brick has been used for the foundation walls of the additions.
3. Walls: The exterior walls on Quarters No. 107 vary from coursed ashlar blocks on the front facade of the original building to a random ashlar pattern on its sides and rear and on the addition to the west. Red sandstone is used for quoins, lintels and sills on most windows. A stone water table exists on the front facade of the building.

The brick additions have walls laid in five course American bond with red sandstone lintels and sills.
4. Structural systems, framing: Load-bearing stone walls are used on the original building, while the additions have load-bearing brick walls. The flooring is supported by wood joists, while the roof has wood rafters.
5. Porches, chimneys: Four porches exist on Quarters No. 107; two front porches flanking the original building with flat roofs, wood Doric columns, a machined rail with turned balusters and two cornice lines below the roof; and two enclosed rear porches with shed roofs, wood floors and vertical paneling below.

There are eight brick chimneys: two to either side of the gable ridge in the center of the original building, and one associated with each of the additions.

6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: One wood door is associated with each porch.
 - b. Windows: The majority of windows are wood, six-over-six double-hung sash. The exceptions are four-over-four double-hung wood sash windows on the first and second floors of the corner windows of the mansard roof addition, and two-over-two double-hung wood sash in the stone addition to the west.

The majority of windows have red sandstone lintels and sills, although the rear windows of the original building and the windows of the two brick additions to the south and west have brick segmental arches. Black shutters flank the front windows.

7. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: The gable roofs have gray slate covering. The mansard roof has a red wood shingle roof.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: The eaves are of wood with cut brackets below in the original building, the stone addition and the mansard roofed addition. A wide wood cornice exists around the structure.

The gable end of the brick addition, to the south and east, is fully pedimented with a wood shingle filling.

- c. Dormers: There are four gable roof dormers on the front of the original building and two to the rear. Seven segmentally arched dormers occupy the mansard roof.

C. Description of Interior: Quarters No. 107 was unavailable for inspection and no survey was made. The following descriptions are taken from Grashof's "Building Analysis."

"Living Rooms (original portion)--The columned arched opening which separates these two spaces is the most distinctive feature. A small cornice, high base, paneled pilasters within the alcove and the wood mantelpiece further distinguish the front (north) living room. The window trim remains, but the original shutters have been removed.

"Original Studio--This room has undergone many changes since it was first built. At some point, as yet undocumented, the north window openings have been altered. In 1962 remodeling work replaced the then existing wainscot with new paneling that matched the existing. All existing window trim and chair rail were retained. A wooden mantelpiece with glazed ceramic tile facing the hearth provide the focal point for this space. This space may have been remodeled when the rear brick wing was built or enlarged and the present stair added.

"Stairhall--The 'new' staircase is itself an old and handsome detail which should be retained.

"Second Floor--Very little has been done during this century to alter the appearance of this floor. Given the Williams, Facilities Report description and existing physical evidence, it appears that the back bedroom of the studio wing was originally three smaller spaces: a bedroom, bathroom, and passageway. A bathroom may also have been in the space wholly taken up by the stairhall today. All door and window trim and baseboard trim should be carefully maintained. The marble mantelpieces in the two second floor bedrooms in the original stone portion of the house and in the back bedroom should also be retained.

"Third Floor--The third floor bathroom, though hardly original to the house, nevertheless has a nice ball and claw foot tub and marble sink which should be maintained in good working condition."

D. Site:

- a. General setting and orientation: Quarters No. 107 is the western building of "Professors Row." It is oriented to the north, fronting on Washington Road, with a narrow, tree shaded yard in front. To the west are two brick garages with gable roofs, and then Quarters No. 109 (HABS No. NY-5708-41). To the south, beyond the service road is a hedged-in yard, then a parking lot far beyond. Two wood frame, gable roof garages are also sited to the south. To the east is Quarters No. 105 (HABS No. NY-5708-5). A brick wall runs between the buildings, separating the front from the rear. Deciduous trees are scattered about the site.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Architectural Drawings: Alteration working drawings are in the Facilities Engineer's Office, Directorate of Engineering and Housing, U.S. Military Academy. An 1842 plan of the quarters is located in the National Archives, Fortifications File, Record Group 77, Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers, Drawer 32, Sheet 25. An 1853 plan at the National Archives depicts an addition on the set of quarters (Drawer 32, Sheet 71).
- B. Early Views: Early photographs can be found in the U.S. Military Academy Archives and Special Collections. Some of these are reproduced in the Grashof and Lange volumes of this project.
- C. Bibliography:
1. Primary and unpublished sources: Records, U.S. Military Academy Archives and Special Collections. See bibliographic essay in the Lange volume of this project for a listing of record groups.
 2. Secondary and published sources:

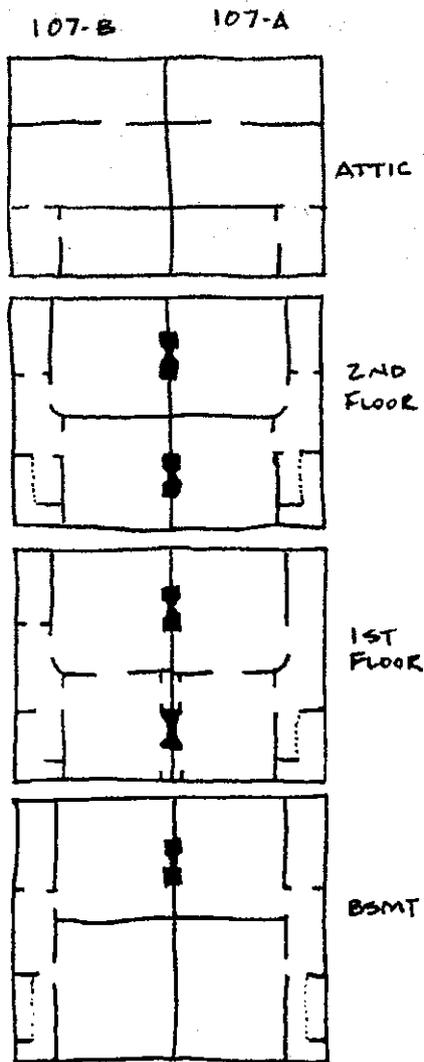
Annual Reports, U.S. Military Academy Archives.

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. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: A more thorough examination of records in the U.S. Military Academy Archives and Special Collections might reveal more information.
- E. Supplemental Material:
1. 1842 plan and schematic sketch plan.

E. Supplemental Material

- 1. 1842 Plan and Schematic Development Sketch Plan.



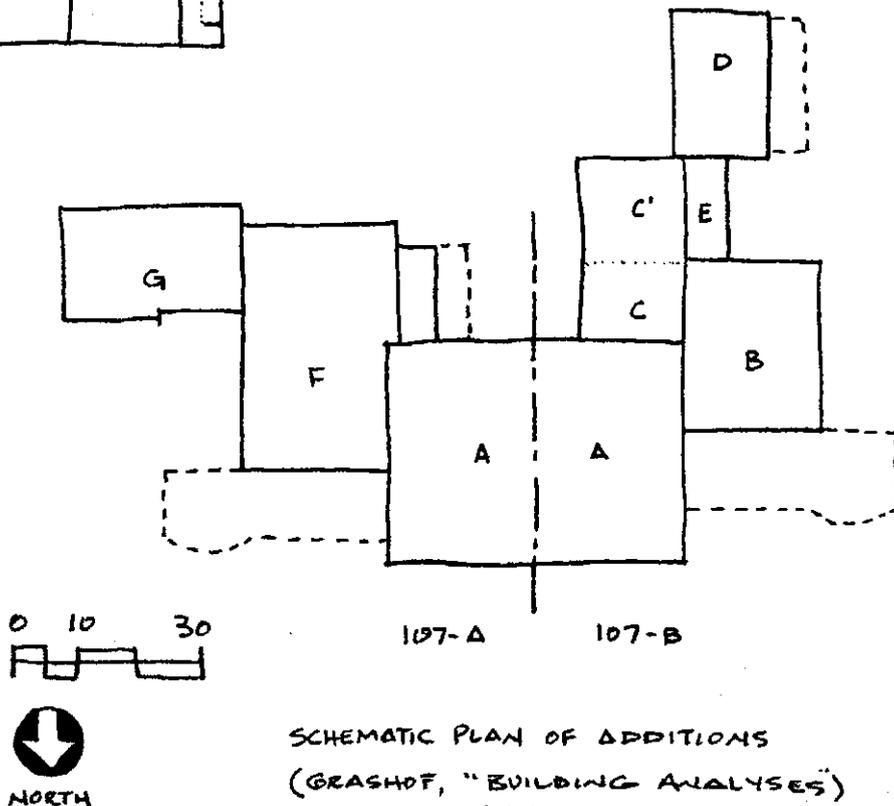
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Taken From:

"Plan of all the quarters at West Point occupied by the officers and professors of the Military Academy in Feb. 1842.-- forwarded by Richard Delafield, Major of the Engineers, Superintendent of the Military Academy."

Drawer 32, Sheet 25
Fortifications File-- U.S. Military Academy, West Point (NY)
Record Group 77-- Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers
Cartographic and Architectural Branch
National Archives, Washington, D.C.

(Grashof, "Building Analyses")



SCHEMATIC PLAN OF ADDITIONS
(GRASHOF, "BUILDING ANALYSES")
T.C.M. 1985

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. and Timothy Lindblad, architectural historians, in 1982-1985 based on fieldwork conducted in 1982 and 1984.