

U.S. Military Academy - Officer's Quarters No. 45

HABS No. NY-5708-35

(Family Housing)

West side of Wilson Road, east of Mills Road

U.S. Military Academy

West Point

Orange County

New York

HABS  
NY  
30-10270  
135-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY OFFICER'S QUARTERS NO. 45  
(FAMILY HOUSING)

LOCATION: West side of Wilson Road, east of Mills Road,  
U.S. Military Academy, West Point, Orange County,  
New York

USGS West Point Quadrangle, Universal Transverse  
Mercator Coordinates: 18.586890.4581420.

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

PRESENT USE: Family Housing - Colonel.

SIGNIFICANCE: Quarters No. 45 is an example of the highly successful  
officers' quarters designed for the U.S. Military Academy  
by the office of Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson. Its character,  
neo gothic, reflects the general theme of their work at the  
Academy with exceptional American Arts and Crafts interiors.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1905 - 1910.
2. Architect: Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson, Architects,  
Boston and New York.
3. Original and subsequent owners: U.S. Military Academy,  
Department of the Army.
4. Builder: Broderick & Wind Engineering and Construction  
Company. The construction was completed by the U.S. Fidelity  
and Guaranty Company, a bonding company, after a default and  
delay. The bonding company contract is dated September 20, 1906.  
The Mitchell Vance Company supplied the original light fixtures  
(Annual Report 1908).
5. Original plan and construction: Quarters #45 was part of a  
group consisting of Quarters Nos. 21, 25, 34, 42, 45, and 48.  
The total cost of these quarters was \$270,292.70.

B. Historical Context:

Quarters No. 45 was one of many sets of quarters designed by  
Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson as part of the early twentieth century  
expansion at the Academy. These particular quarters were intended  
for Captains and Lieutenants and were approved in 1904.

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. 45 is representative of the work of Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson at the U.S. Military Academy in the first decade of the twentieth century. The brick exterior walls, with limestone detailing and painted wood trim, were designed to create a Tudor Gothic appearance that would be distinctive on a campus that, at that time, was composed of a wide variety of styles. Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson were, without doubt, the most prominent architectural firm at West Point in this century. Their major building campaign at the Academy is a clear reflection of the "medievalist" craftsman philosophy of Ralph Adams Cram. This is seen not only in their other buildings at West Point, but also in their work nationally.
2. Condition of fabric: The building is in good condition.

### B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Quarters No. 45 is essentially a rectangular building with projecting verandas at either end and in the center of the facade east. The over-all length of the basic rectangular mass is 141'-8" and the width 31'-6". The "L" shaped verandas on the northeast and southeast corners are 9'-8" wide for the "upper" portion of the "L" and 17'-8" wide along the bottom, with lengths of 25'-4". With these verandas the length of the building becomes 167'-0" and the width 41'-6". The tall, narrow cross gables, the two-story projecting bay windows, and the shifting arrangement of the tall chimney masses combine to create a strong sense of verticality appropriate to a "gothic" design. The elevation of the building on a terrace, created by a 10' retaining wall to the east, heightens the impressiveness of the exterior of the building. Quarters No. 45 has eleven bays along the front facade and two on the north and south facades.
2. Foundations: Concrete was used for the footings, while the foundation walls are stone below grade and brick above.
3. Walls: The exterior walls of Quarters No. 45 are red brick laid in a Flemish bond pattern with brick, limestone and bluestone detailing.

Except for the bay windows, limestone is used for the sills of the windows, while splayed brick lintels composed of both headers and stretchers complete the exterior window detailing. Additionally, limestone is used for the capping to the "buttress" elements on the chimneys and verandas, while bluestone is used to cap the chimneys, the veranda parapets and for the exterior front entry stair treads.

The only exterior wall embellishment is the protruding brick segmental arch over the openings of the verandas.

4. Structural systems, framing: The walls are load-bearing brick faced with brick on the exterior and non-load-bearing wood stud partition walls covered with plaster and/or wood paneling on the interior. Floors are supported by wood joists and the roofing system is composed of wood rafters. Steel beams are used where unusual loading conditions exist primarily to transfer loads to the exterior walls.
5. Porches, verandas, buttresses, chimneys: There are three verandas: two on the northeast and southeast corners and one in the center. The two end verandas are L-shaped with 2 x 1 bays and flat roofs. The center veranda is 3 x 1 bays, flat roofed with a raised, pointed parapet over the entry bay and measures 24'-8" (east facade) x 11'-0". Brick "buttress" elements with limestone capping add to the medieval character of the building. The verandas have recently been converted to screen porches through the addition of aluminum screens. The floors are of concrete, while the ceilings are 1" x 3" wood beaded tongue-and-groove paneling.

The three rear porches are raised on brick foundations, and have shed roofs with a built-up covering, heavy chamfered wood posts with plain handrails, and balusters.

There are 7 brick chimneys located on Quarters No. 45: two on the front main gable sweep, one on the rear main gable sweep; and two each located to the inside of the two eastermost cross gabled projections on either end of the building; and two at either end of the rear elevation (one north, one south). Each chimney has protruding brick, limestone capped "buttresses" on all four sides.

6. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: There are six doorways: three main entries on the east facade inside the verandas, and three rear entries. All doors are set within brick openings capped by splayed brick lintels with wood trim.

The front entry doors measure 3'-6" x 7'-8" x 2 1/2", and are wood with three molded panels below and leaded glazed openings above.

The rear doors measure 3'-0" x 7'-2" x 2", are wood, and have three panels below with single pane glass panels above each.

- b. Windows: The windows are leaded quarrel light double-hung sash on the first and second floor; leaded quarrel light casement windows on the third level of the three cross gable units on the facade; and one-over-one double-hung sash elsewhere on the first and second levels. The basement has four-light and six-light wood pivoting windows on the facade and pivoting four-light and six-light and six-over-six double-hung sash windows on the rear elevation. The stairway has eighteen-light casement windows above which are a grouping of three six-over-six double-hung wood sash.

There is a vertical rhythm of windows across the facade, while the rear elevation, with its planar surface, has a horizontal emphasis to the window pattern.

All windows have a limestone sill, a splayed brick lintel and wood trim.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The gable roof is covered with multi-colored slate placed in a random pattern.
- b. Cornice, eaves: The eaves are made of wood. A narrow brick cornice is created by two projecting brick courses below the connection between roof and walls.
- c. Dormers: There are four gable roof dormers with slate roofs and gable fronts. Two, with paired one-over-one double-hung sash, flank the center cross gable on the front, and two, with paired four-light windows, flank the central gable unit on the rear facade.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: Quarters No. 45 is a triplex with two similar units flanking a third, with two east-west party walls separating the units. Quarters No. 45B was surveyed for the purposes of this report. In this unit, Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson created a quarters that has four rooms flanking a hall/stairway composition that extends from front to rear on the first and second levels. A parlor, kitchen dining room and library are on the first floor; four bedrooms and two baths on the second floor; and two bedrooms, a trunk room, and a bathroom flank a north to south hallway on the third floor.

There is a generous flow of space between the main hall, parlor, dining room and library on the first floor. The parlor and dining room have 4'-8" x 7'-0" openings to the hallway which then extends to the entrances to the library and rear hall. The kitchen connects to the other spaces on the first floor through the rear hall and through a swinging door to the dining room.

The second and third floors, with smaller doorways that do not open onto one another, are much more private in plan.

2. Stairways: Two stairways service Quarters No. 45B. The main stairway connects the first and second levels only, is a "U" stair in a 7'-0" x 8'-6" space, has a square newel post rotating 45°, alternating square and rectangular cutout balusters, a rectangular handrail and oak risers and treads. The rear stairway, also a "U" type, running from the basement to the third level, is situated in a 6'-11" x 7'-3" space and has plain wood posts, square balusters, rectangular handrail and wood risers and treads.
3. Flooring: Oak is used for the flooring on the first floor, heart pine on the second and third floors and concrete in the basement.
4. Hall and ceiling finishes: There is a great deal of variety to the wall finishes on the first level. The vestibule has wainscoting at 6'-6" with 1" x 6" oak boards running vertically beneath it at 2' on center and wallpaper on the walls. The main hall has wainscoting at 7' with 1" x 6" vertical oak beneath it at 18" on center. The dining room has oak paneling to 7' with plaster above. The parlor has a wainscoting at 7' and vertical 1" x 6" oak at 4' on center. A deep cornice is found in the parlor and dining room. The library has a wainscoting at 6'. The kitchen has been remodeled and has painted plaster walls and a linoleum floor.

The second and third floors have wallpaper over plaster walls, while the basement has plaster, brick and stone walls painted white.

Ceilings are plaster throughout.

5. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: Quarters No. 45 has four-panel wood doors typically measuring 2'-10" x 7'-0" x 1 3/4" with plain wood trim on the first floor and beaded wood trim on the second, third and basement levels.
6. Built-in features and hardware: The most distinctive feature exists in the dining room where a protruding bay cabinet with leaded quarrel light windows exists over the fireplace.
7. Mechanical Equipment:
  - a. Heating: Steam radiators provide heat for the building.
  - b. Lighting: Incandescent lighting is used throughout.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: Quarters No. 45 is the middle unit of three Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson triplexes located along Wilson Road. The quarters is oriented to the east with a terrace in front created by a 10' high retaining wall. To the other side of Wilson Road, the land drops off sharply toward the Hudson River. The land rises slightly to the north where Quarters No. 42 (HABS No. NY-5708-34) is located. To the west, beyond the rear service road, the land is level. There is a recent flat roof brick garage to the west of the service road. A few deciduous trees are scattered about the site, while the hillside to the east has coniferous trees on it.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Architectural Drawings: Original ink-on-linen working drawings are in the Facilities Engineer's Office, Directorate of Engineering and Housing, U.S. Military Academy. Subsequent alteration drawings are also found there.

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: The Records of Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson.

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.