

U.S. Military Academy - Officer's Quarters No. 7
West Side of Thayer Road, south of intersection
with Cullum Road
U.S. Military Academy
West Point
Orange County
New York

HABS No. NY-5708-49

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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
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HABS No. NY-5708-49
U.S.M.A. No. 7

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY - OFFICER'S QUARTERS NO. 7

LOCATION: West side of Thayer Road, south of intersection with Cullum Road, U.S. Military Academy, West Point, Orange County, New York.

USGS, West Point Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 18.587200.4581980.

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

PRESENT USE: Family Housing - Civilian.

SIGNIFICANCE: Quarters No. 7 is an example of the small scale simple quarters built for lower ranking officers in the latter part of the nineteenth century at the Academy.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1870 (Lange). Quarters No. 7 might possibly be the building that Williams identifies as "Quarters No. 20" on page 75 of his 1889 "Facilities Report." If this is correct, Williams gives its erection date as 1866.
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners: U.S. Military Academy, Department of the Army.
4. Builder: Unknown.
5. Alterations and additions: With the exception of an addition on the south, date unknown, there are no major alterations. The most visually affecting change is the application of aluminum siding.

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. 7 is a two story vernacular frame residence that has a simplicity of overall form disguised by a highly ornate front porch. While the building has no outstanding architectural merit besides the porch, it nevertheless provides an example of vernacular construction typical of rural areas at the time.
2. Condition of fabric: The building is in good condition.

B. Description of the Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Quarters No. 7 is essentially a "T" shaped building with a shed roofed first floor addition to the southern side of the "T." The front measures 38' x 21', and the rear additions 33' x 20' on the first level and 20' x 20' on the second. Three bays exist on the east facade and two bays on the north and south elevations of the main block.
2. Foundation: The foundation walls are fieldstone laid in a random pattern.
3. Walls: The exterior walls are covered with aluminum siding with plain, aluminum trim.
4. Structural systems: Wood stud load-bearing walls make up the vertical structural system, while the floors have wood joists and the roof has wood rafters.
5. Porches, chimneys: The front porch is by far the most ornate feature on the exterior, running the full length of the front (east) facade. The shed roof is supported by chamfered posts and carved brackets, with square balusters below a machined rail and decorative wood "trellis" work in the upper portions of the openings.

Three brick chimneys exist on Quarters No. 7: one at either end of the main gable ridge and one on the rear wall of the rear "L." Decorative, protruding brick, creating a "T" effect at the cap, has been applied to the south and west chimneys.

6. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: Two doorways lead into Quarters No. 7: one in the center bay of the facade and one in the center of the rear "L." The main wood entry door has three horizontal panels with one large window above and four rectangular lights in the flanking sidelights. A quarrel light also exists above the door. The rear door also has three horizontal panels below, but with four lights above.
- b. Windows: Two-over-two double-hung wood sash windows exist throughout on the first and second floors, while the basement has pivoting wood windows.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The shed roof in the rear addition also has asphalt shingle covering.
- b. Eaves: The boxed eaves are made of wood.
- c. Dormers: A gable dormer exists in the center of the front facade.

C. Description of the Interior:

1. Floor plans: Quarters No. 7 is a single family unit with a living room and a dining room flanking a central hall/stairway on the first level of the main section of the house; three bedrooms, one to the south and two to the north, to either side of the hall on the second floor of the main house; a kitchen, study and laundry in the first floor of the rear wing; and two baths and a bedroom on the second floor of the rear wing.
2. Stairways: A central straight run stair connects the first and second levels. It has a turned newel post, turned balusters, and a machined handrail and wood risers and treads. Beneath it is a stairway to the basement.
3. Flooring: Hardwood floors are typical throughout the first and second floors. The basement has a concrete floor.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls and ceilings are painted plaster.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doors: One-over-one wood panel doors are typical.
6. Built-in features: The only distinctive built-in features are two handsome, carved marble mantelpieces in the living room and dining room.
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. 7 is oriented to the east, fronting on Thayer Road, towards the Hudson River. The building is constructed into a hillside that slopes down from west to east and from south to north. Across Thayer Road, the heavily wooded land drops sharply to the Hudson River. To the north, across the service road, is another similar frame quarters. The land rises sharply to the west, across a service road, and is heavily wooded. The land rises to the south to a series of officer's quarters. A few deciduous trees are scattered about the site.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Architectural Drawings: There are no known original drawings. Subsequent alteration drawings are in the Facilities Engineer's Office, Directorate of Engineering and Housing, U.S. Military Academy.
- 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 Archives and Special Collections. See bibliographic essay in the Lange volume of this project for a listing of record groups.

Captain Charles W. Williams, "Post Facilities Report," 1889. U.S. Military Academy Archives.

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.

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.