

U.S. Military Academy - Officer's Quarters
West side of Thayer Road, south of intersection
with Cullum Road
U.S. Military Academy
West Point
Orange County
New York

HABS No. NY-5708-50

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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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HABS No. NY-5708-50
U.S.M.A. No. 8

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY - OFFICER'S QUARTERS NO. 8

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: 18.587200.4581950.

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

PRESENT USE: Family Housing - Lt. Colonel and Major.

SIGNIFICANCE: Quarters No. 8 is typical of many officer's quarters erected at the Academy in the late nineteenth century. This house type is found scattered throughout the West Point campus.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Late nineteenth century; ca. 1892 (Lange).
2. Architect: Unknown. Presumably the Post Quartermaster's Office.
3. Original and subsequent owners: U.S. Military Academy, Department of the Army.
4. Builder: Unknown.
5. Alterations and additions: There are no major additions to the building. Most alterations are associated with its conversion into a two-family dwelling and modernization of bath and kitchen facilities.

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. 8 is a three story brick vernacular interpretation of the Queen Anne style. The detailing in the brickwork

in the walls and chimney, the large bay "veranda" on the third level with its wood detailing, and the variety in the massing combine to create a distinguished appearance for a modestly scaled residence.

2. Condition of fabric: The building is in good condition.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Quarters No. 8 is essentially a two story "L" shaped building bent around a three story protruding bay mass and a two story rear wing. The dimensions of the "L" are approximately 45' x 35', the bay is 16' x 20' and the rear wing 25' x 24'. The total length from north to south is approximately 45' while the total depth (east to west) is approximately 60'.
2. Foundation: The foundation walls are random range ashlar stone with a brick water table.
3. Walls: The exterior walls are painted brick laid in a five course American bond. Decorative brick stringcourses, beltcourses, recessed panels and "cornice caps" over the windows add to the character of the building by creating a variety of textures and developing interesting shadow patterns.
4. Structural systems: The exterior walls are load-bearing brick with brick facing. The interior walls are load and non-load-bearing wood stud walls, the floors are supported by wood joists and the roofing system has wood rafters.
5. Porches, chimneys: There are three porches: a front porch with a flat roof supported by chamfered posts; a small, shed roofed entry porch covering the second floor entry on the north elevation; and a rear porch to the rear wing with a slate covered shed roof supported by square posts.

Quarters No. 8 has three brick chimneys: one in the north wall of the gable end of the "L" and two in the south wall of the "L" mass. Each has recessed panels and protruding brick courses near the top to create a chimney "cap."

6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Four doorways lead into Quarters No. 8: two on the first level (one in the front bay and one in the north wall of the rear wing) and two on the second level (one on the west wall of the rear wing and one in the north wall of the bay mass). The main entry on the first level is wood with three panels below and one glass light above, while the wood rear door on the first level has two panels below and four glass lights above. The north entry doorway on the second level has a segmentally arched opening with a wood door having one panel below and one large light above. The west entry on the second level also has a segmentally arched opening with a wood door.
 - b. Windows: The window sash has been changed recently to twelve-over-twelve double-hung sash in the main portion of the house, while the

rear wing has six-over-six double-hung metal sash in the north wall, and twelve-over-twelve double-hung metal sash in the south wall. The treatment of the window openings varies from a majority of stone sills and brick splayed lintels to brick sills and brick segmentally arched openings.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape and covering: The hip roof is covered with gray slate.
- b. Cornice, eaves: Quarters No. 8 has a wood cornice and wood boxed eaves. Additionally, the gable end to the north is pedimented and filled with wood shingles.

C. Description of the Interior:

1. Floor plans: Quarters No. 8 is a duplex with one unit on the basement and first levels, and one on the second and third levels. Quarters No. 8A was surveyed for the purposes of this report. The main living area is a living room, dining room and kitchen on one side of a central hall and two bedrooms, a study and two baths on the other side. The basement is primarily a storage/work area.
2. Stairways: A straight-run stairway connects the basement and first level.
3. Flooring: Except for linoleum in the remodeled kitchen, the flooring is hardwood on the first floor and concrete in the basement.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Except for the wallpapered hall, the wall finishes are painted plaster. The ceilings are plaster throughout.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doors: A four-panel solid wood door is typical, with plain trim in the rear rooms and machined trim with bull's-eye corner blocks in the front bedroom, living room and dining room.
6. Built-in features: The most distinctive built-in feature is the wood mantelpiece in the living room. This has a carved shelf supported by fluted pilasters with Ionic capitals.
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. 8 is oriented to the east, fronting on Thayer Road, and is built into a hillside that rises sharply to the west and moderately to the south. Across Thayer Road the land drops off sharply to the Hudson River. Between the front of the house and the street is a sloping grass covered yard held back by a low

retaining wall. To the north is Quarters No. 7 (HABS No. NY-5708-49). To the west, across the rear service road, is a stone retaining wall for the sharply rising heavily wooded land beyond. To the south, leading up the hill, are more residential units. 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 located in the Facilities Engineer's Office, Directorate of Engineering and Housing, U.S. Military Academy.
- B. Early Views: Early photographs are located 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:

- 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.