

Fort Leavenworth,
Building # 7
620 Scott Avenue
Leavenworth
Leavenworth County
Kansas

HABS No. KS-53-D

HABS
KANS,
52-LEAV,
1-D-

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-D-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

FORT LEAVENWORTH, BUILDING # 7 HABS # KS-53-D

Location: 620 Scott Avenue, Fort Leavenworth, Leavenworth County, Kansas

USGS Leavenworth, Kansas-Missouri Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 15.334830.4357080

Present Owner: U.S. Department of the Army

Present Occupant: Colonel and Mrs. John Hart

Present Use: Field Officer's Quarters

Significance: Building # 7 is significant as the only example of the picturesque Cottage, popularized by Andrew Jackson Downing and A.J. Davis in the 1840's and 1850's, at Fort Leavenworth. The residence was the second 'high style' quarters erected along Arsenal (Scott) Avenue and was built for an officer of the Department of the Missouri. The Department was stationed at Fort Leavenworth in 1865. The residences for the Department were concentrated on the north end of Scott, near the Commander's residence, which was the old Sutler's house. Building # 7 was erected adjacent to the Commander's quarters, across the street.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date(s) of erection: The date is recorded as unknown on the 1905 property files at the Department of Engineering and Housing. Elvid Hunt's History of Fort Leavenworth has 1879 as the erection date. An 1866 map of Fort Leavenworth's "Proposed Water Works" indicates that Building # 7 had not yet been built. However, an illustration of a plan of Fort Leavenworth from "A Report on Barracks and Hospitals," from the Surgeon General's Office (1870) shows a substantial building with delineated lot boundaries in the present location of Building # 7. The Surgeon General's Report of 1875 has a plan that is more detailed and the configuration of Building # 7 appears more exact, indicating more conclusively the existence of Building # 7 before 1875; although the 1870 illustration does show, even through not as precisely, the existence of the residence before 1870.
2. Architect: Unknown. Building plans during this period were usually supplied to the local quartermaster by the Quartermaster General's Office, Washington, D.C.

3. Original and subsequent owners: Originally U.S. Department of War, known as the Department of the Army since 1947.
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Unknown.
5. Original plans & construction: No original plans were found. There are drawings for a "Proposed Kitchen Addition" which includes plans and elevations for both the original building and the proposed kitchen addition of Building # 7 dated 1887; Record Group 92, Box 549, Consolidated Correspondence Files 1794-1890, Office of the Quartermaster General, National Archives (see Supplemental Materials # 1-# 6). Also found at DEH are later undated drawings of the first and second floor plans (see Supplemental Materials # 8 & # 9)
6. Alterations & additions: Building # 7 has two additions. The major addition occurred in 1887 according to letters and drawings at the National Archives (Record Group 92, Box 549, see Supplemental Materials # 1-# 6). The frame and clapboard addition cost \$575.00 and consisted of a hallway (5' x 16'), between the existing dining room and the kitchen, and the kitchen (16' x 21'). The drawings show the kitchen supported by brick piers without the stone basement as it exists today. The second addition, also frame and clapboard, includes two pantries, both of which were added to the south elevation of the dining room (see HABS photo # KS-53-D-3). One pantry originally contained a back service stair which has been removed. This former stairway is shown in a 1904 drawing (see Supplemental Material # 7).

B. Historical Context:

620 Scott Avenue was the second 'high style' officer's quarters built along Arsenal Avenue (later renamed Scott Avenue). The first was the residence of the Commander of the Arsenal at the south end. 620 Scott was erected on a bluff overlooking the Missouri River, southeast of the parade ground of the frontier post, the traditional location for quarters. The former sutler's house, originally built in the 1840's and rebuilt in 1857 and c. 1870, stood across Arsenal Avenue from Building # 7. The sutler's house became the residence of the Commander of the Department of the Missouri soon after the Department headquarters were moved to Fort Leavenworth in 1865. During the 1860's and 1880's quarters of officers on the staff of the

Department were concentrated in this area of Arsenal Avenue around the Commander's residence. Building # 7, built in the mid 1860's, was one of the first staff officer's quarters erected for the Department. A memo attached to the drawings for a kitchen addition (see above) for Building # 7 in 1887 states that the house was occupied by the Inspector General of the Department. After the Department of Missouri left Fort Leavenworth in 1890, Building # 7 housed the officers on the staff of the Army Infantry and Cavalry School (later Command and General Staff College).

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Building # 7 is a significant example of 1860's residential architecture at Fort Leavenworth. The house follows the style and character of the picturesque Gothic Revival Cottages first made popular through the books of Andrew Jackson Downing published in the 1840's and 1850's. Building # 7 is the only house at Fort Leavenworth built in this style and like the Syracuse Houses built in 1855 shows the influence of civilian architectural tastes on military residential architecture. Building # 7 reflects the trends of the East Coast and remains the only example of the influence Davis' cottage designs at Fort Leavenworth. An Historical Photograph (undated) from the Fort Leavenworth Museum shows Building # 6 in a fairly early state (see Supplemental Materials # 10)
2. Condition of fabric: The exterior and interior fabric of Building # 7 is in good condition.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimension: Building # 7 is a two story, three bay 'L' shaped brick residence consisting of a main block with a rear ell. The overall dimensions are 59' x 40'10".
2. Foundations: The residence has a stone foundation that is approximately one foot high on the west elevation and one story high at the east elevation due to the slope of the land. There is a stone watertable that projects from the wall (see HABS photo # KS-53-D-1).
3. Walls: The walls of the original house are painted brick. Additions to the south and east are clapboard, with wood corner boards and trim above the foundation.

4. Structural system, framing: The original house is masonry supported and the kitchen and pantry additions are wood frame.
5. Porches, stoops, balconies, bulkheads: On the west elevation there is a wood entry porch. The bracketed gable roof is supported by square posts with chamfered corners. At the apex of the porch gable there is a delicate pendent whose sides scoll outwards; at the junction of the gable and porch post is lacey, floral decoration in wood. On two sides of the posts are 'S' shaped brackets with a cut-out filagree design. Several inches above the lacey woodwork, is half of a kingpost truss and pendant (the kingpost design is repeated in the roof gable). The 'S' shaped brackets flanking the posts are repeated in smaller version along the eaves of the porch roof. The wood porch rests on brick piers and has a metal standing seam roof (see HABS photo # KS-53-D-2). The one story porch on the south wraps around the gable projection to the south. The wood veranda rests on high stone piers creating an open walkway below at the basement level; this area is not visible as it has a lattice screen. The porch above is screened and has wood square posts with diagonal supports between the posts and the porch ceiling. The porch balustrade consists of upper and lower rails that frame a consecutive 'S' pattern (see HABS photo # KS-53-D-3). At the east end of the porch there are three doorways; two lead into the house and one screen door leads to an outside landing and stairway to the backyard. The east porch located off of the kitchen extends the full width of the east elevation and is two stories. At this elevation the land slopes dramatically to create a full story basement. Thus there is a porch at the second story kitchen level and one at the basement level. Each level has square post supports; the second (kitchen) level is screened and has a simple balustrade consisting of slender square balusters. At the south end of the kitchen porch, there are steps a full story high leading to the backyard. At the basement level, the porch has a railing at the north end and two steps leading to the yard at the south end. The porch shed roof is metal standing seam (see HABS photo # KS-53-D-4).
6. Chimneys: There are two chimneys located along the north and south roof ridge that do not have original brick stacks.

7. Openings:

a. Doorways & doors: The front west door is a set of double wood doors, each door consisting of a single glass panel over one wooden panel (see HABS photo # KS-53-D-2). There are two doors on the south elevation leading into the house. One has four over four lights over two vertical panels. It is located within the screen porch and leads into a side hallway. The other, four panel wood door leads directly into a pantry off the dining room. This door has two vertical rectangular panels over two smaller similar panels; the panels have raised interior panels. There are two basement doors; one is on the south elevation located within the breezeway underneath the south veranda and another is on the east elevation located off the porch at the basement level. Both doors are wood four panel doors, two rectangular panels over two smaller rectangular panels. There is another door on the east elevation off the porch at the kitchen level which leads directly into the kitchen and has one light over three horizontal panels. From this same porch there is also a screen door that accesses to the outside landing and stairway to the backyard.

b. Windows: The windows of 620 Scott Avenue, in the original section, are paired arched windows with stone hoodmolds (see HABS photos # KS-53-D-2 & 5). The exception is the north elevation, where there is only one pair of arched windows. The others are single segmentally arched windows without hoodmolds (see HABS photo # KS-53-D-4). On the west elevation the second story windows are individually arched with separate hoodmolds. The first story has paired windows within one large stone arch (see HABS photo # KS-53-D-2). A 1905 photograph shows all windows except for the bay window had shutters; the stone hoodmolds and sills were painted a darker color to match the gable decoration and porch, but in contrast to the lighter color walls. Most of the one over one windows shown in the 1905 photo remain. The bay window on the west elevation is a wood, three faceted, one story projection. Underneath the eaves there are brackets the same size and design of the smaller ones on the front porch. Each of the three windows is one over one, double hung sash within a wood frame that is segmentally arched above. Below each window in the bay projection there is a horizontal panel. The corners of the faceted projection have attached

decoration resembling turned spindles. The roof is metal standing seam (see HABS photo # KS-53-D-2). The windows on the east and south frame additions are wood frame, four over four and six over six sash (see HABS photo # KS-53-D-3).

8. Roof: One of the prominent decorative features of 620 Scott is the picturesque roof line and the gable decoration. The roof today appears the same as it did in an 1905 photograph. The gable roof is steeply pitched, a characteristic of the Gothic style. Within each gable is decoration consisting of wood lace within the framework of the kingpost truss design (see HABS photo # KS-53-D-1, 2 & 5). The plain eaves extend two feet and have large brackets at each corner. The roof is asphalt shingle.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The general configuration of 620 Scott Avenue consists of an 'L' shaped main block with a rear service ell. The 'L' section has a central stairhall flanked by a parlor to the north. To the south, behind the north parlor, there is a small 9'10" x 11' room and adjacent full bathroom. To the east of this section extends the ell, which includes the dining room (the only room of the original house in this section) two pantries, a hallway and the kitchen. The second floor follows the same configuration of the original house, and the pantries, kitchen and hall are only one story. On the second floor the three bedrooms and bathroom rotate in a pinwheel fashion around the stairhall. The basement follows the same configuration as the first floor with the exception of one of the pantries which was not excavated.
2. Stairways: The main stairway located on the south wall of the stairhall rises to the east, on the second floor the banister continues around the open stairwell where it abuts the south wall. The stairway, including the newel post, balustrade and trends is painted white and the steps are carpeted. The string has a bold, open-cut floral design. The newel post approximately three to three and a half feet high consists of a round hand rest that sits on a turned section, which in turn rests on an eight faceted center section which tapers towards the top. Underneath this large center section is a turned section, followed by a smaller eight-sided section which is the base. The

balusters are tapered and faceted similar to the newel post; and have turned sections to either end. The railing is four inches wide and has a hump in the middle. The baseboard along the steps appears to be original and is nine inches high with a beveled top edge and convex molding at the base (see HABS photo # KS-53-D-6).

3. Flooring: The first and second floors have post World War II narrow oak boards. The bathrooms, kitchen and pantries have vinyl sheeting. The basement has a concrete floor.
4. Wall & ceiling finish: A majority of the walls appear to be wall board. The exceptions are the walls of the dining room on the east side where the kitchen and hall were added and the bay window on the west side of the south parlor which are plaster. There is no decoration on the walls or ceilings which are ten feet and three inches high on the first floor and eight feet on the second floor. In the bathroom on the second floor, they are nine feet high. Baseboards are four inches high and are slightly convex with a top edge that is beveled.
5. Fireplaces: There is one fireplace in the house in the north parlor on the first floor. The wood mantle has a nine inch wide shelf with a beveled edge and round corners. Below the shelf there are pilasters, with chamfered edges, on each side. Near the top where the pilasters meet the frieze, there are raised medallions in the shape of shields. In the center of the frieze is a larger medallion in high relief. The opening of the brick firebox is arched and the hearth is covered with dark tan tile (see HABS photo # KS-53-D-7).
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways & doors: A majority of the doors of the interior are post World War II wood, slab doors with brass knobs. The architraves, which do not appear to be original, are four inches wide and slightly concave (see HABS photo # KS-53-D-7). The front double doors appear to be original, each door has a segmental arched single light over one wood panel. The architrave of the front door also appears original and consists of (from the outside corner) a edge splayed towards the wall, two consecutive sections of cyma recta and cyma reversa molding followed by a flat area then another section of cyma recta and finally a

beveled edge. Over the double doors which are each three feet and two inches wide, there is a single light fanlight of flower patterned frosted glass. The doorway between the dining room and kitchen addition is one foot wide, presently there is a four panel swinging door. Doors and doorways on the second floor are the same as on the first with the exception of the bathroom door, which is a four panel door with original molding, similar to that of the front door.

b. Windows: The architraves of the interior windows match those of the doorways with the exception of the molding around the three bay windows and the matching molding of the archway around the entrance of the bay window area. The molding appears original and seems elaborate in comparison to the doorway and window molding in the rest of the room. The molding on the archway (from the outside edge to the door jamb) consists of a beveled edge then a flat section, two consecutive sections of cyma recta molding, followed by a flat section which rounds the corner of the arch. In the corner of the flat archway there are ancons consisting of a quarter circle resting on a console and scroll bracket (see HABS photo # KS-53-D-7).

7. Hardware: The hardware for the doors is post-World War II brass knobs with the exception of the front door knob and plate. The plate is eight and a half inches long with a filagree, floral design; the knob is a plain brass one.
8. Mechanical Equipment: The house has a steam heating system; radiators throughout the house are American radiator Co., cast-iron with raised floral decoration. Window air conditioning units cool the residence in the summer.

D. Site:

Building # 7 is situated at the top of a bluff that overlooks the Missouri River. The river is visible from the south veranda and the east kitchen porch (see HABS photo # KS-53-18). The yard on the south is large and sunny. The rear (east) elevation abuts a rear access alley that is also used for parking. The front elevation has a small informally landscaped yard with a number of shade trees. Across the street is a small triangular park with lots of trees and a octagonal stone bandstand (see HABS photo # KS-53-5). The park provides an excellent setting

for the picturesque cottage. Wilhelm Dammeier's "Birds Eye View of Fort Leavenworth, Kan., 1881," and an undated historical photograph entitled "Scott Ave. looking North" help show the relationship of Building # 7 to the surrounding buildings (see Supplemental Materials # 11 & 12).

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Original Architectural Drawings:

"Renovate Kitchen", remodeling drawing dated September 18, 1952, located at Department of Engineering and Housing, Fort Leavenworth. (Shows interior elevation-two walls).

Set of plans: basement, first and second floors, 1949, DEH, Fort Leavenworth.

Steam heating plans for Officers Quarters: One set of plans; basement, first and second floors, 1904, located at 624 Scott Avenue.

B. Early Views:

Dammeier, Wilhelm, "Bird's Eye View of Fort Leavenworth, Kansas", Fort Leavenworth: U.S. Department of the Missouri, 1881. Fort Leavenworth Historical Museum.

Photograph: Looking south shows Building # 7 to the left, "Views of Fort Leavenworth", U.S. Infantry & Cavalry School Department of Engineering, 1894.

Photograph: West elevation, c. 1905, Real Property Records, Department of Engineering and Housing.

C. Bibliography:

a. Primary & unpublished sources:

Fort Leavenworth Record Group 92, Consolidated Correspondence Files 1794- Office of the Quartermaster General, National Archives (Files surveyed completely).

Notes from the "Proceedings of the Board of Officers" to discuss alterations and repairs of Building 7, February 10, 1886," Record Group 92, Box 549, cc Files 1794-1890, Office of Quartermaster General, National Archives.

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Map: "Position of a Portion of the Building of Fort Leavenworth, Kansas...Proposed Water Works," 1866, Map # 123, Record Group 92 National Archives (a copy at office of Master planning, DEH).

Map: "A Section of a Portion of Fort Leavenworth - showing water supply system of sewage", 1878, Record Group 92, Box 548, (cc Files 1794-1890, Office of the Quartermaster Officer, National Archives.

b. Secondary & published sources:

Map: "Fort Leavenworth Kansas", in U.S. Department. Surgeon General's Office. A Report on Barracks and Hospitals. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1870, Plate 6.

Ibid., 1875

Hunt, Elvid and Walter E. Lorence. History of Fort Leavenworth: 1829-1937, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas: Commander and General Staff College Press, 1937.

Shindler, Henry, "History of Fort Leavenworth, (manuscript), Rare Books, CGSC Library, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, 1913.

D. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: Further investigation of the Consolidated Correspondence File, Record Group 77, National Archives, Washington D.C.

E. Supplemental Material: See attached pages.

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

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey of the National Park Service in agreement with the post command at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas and the headquarters of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington, D.C. The project was completed under the

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general supervisor of Robert J. Kapsch, Chief of the HABS/HAER Division. Sally Kress Tomkins, Deputy Chief of HABS/HAER served as program coordinator and Robie S. Lange, HABS Historian, as Project Leader. The Field Supervisor was James A. Glass (historian, Cornell University); the project historians were Judith E. Hunt (University of Missouri, St. Louis) and Kristie D. Struble (University of Virginia).

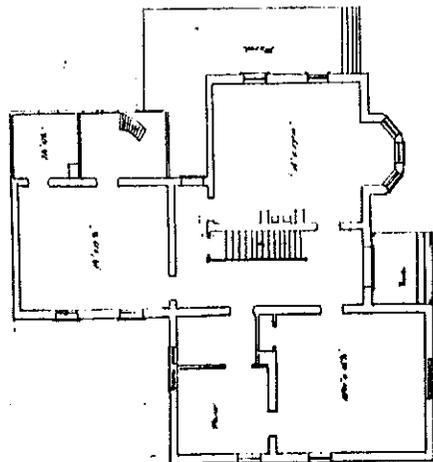
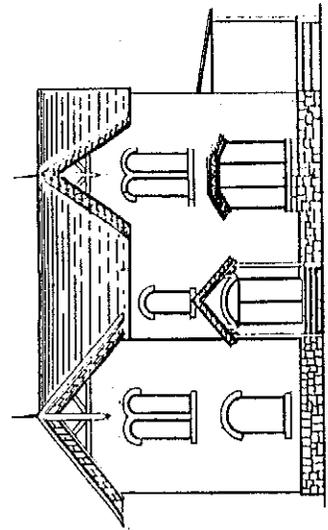
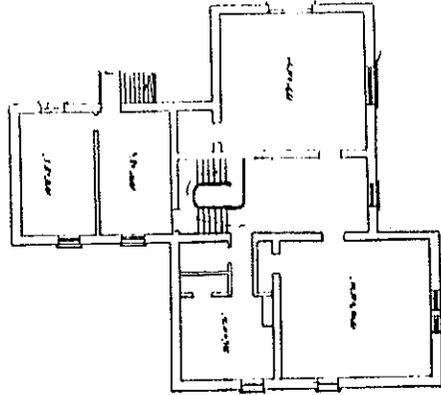
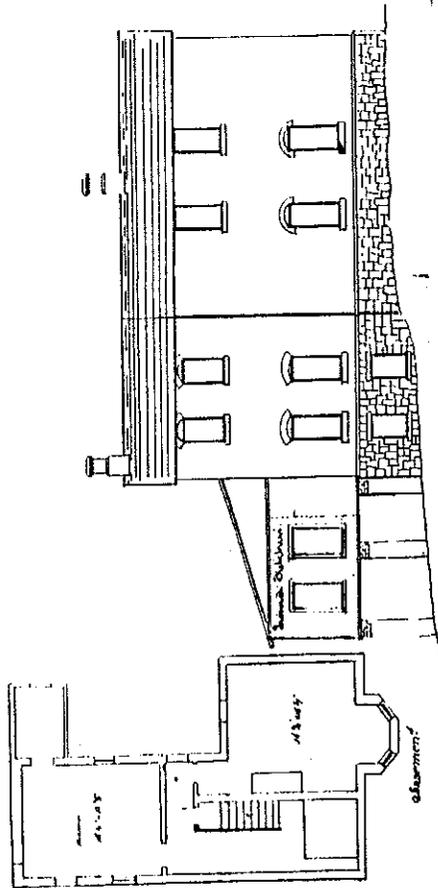
E. Supplemental Material

- 1. Plans and elevations of original Building # 7 and proposed Kitchen addition, 1887

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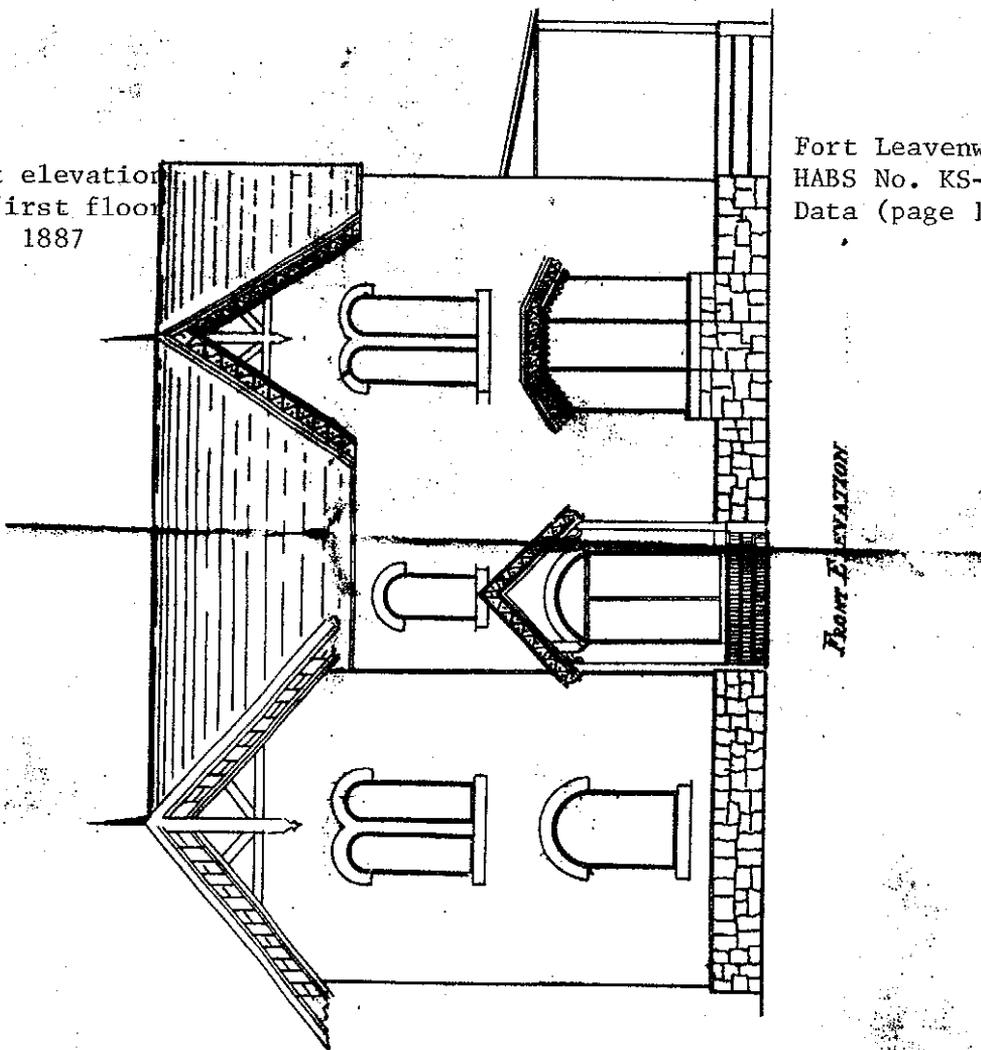
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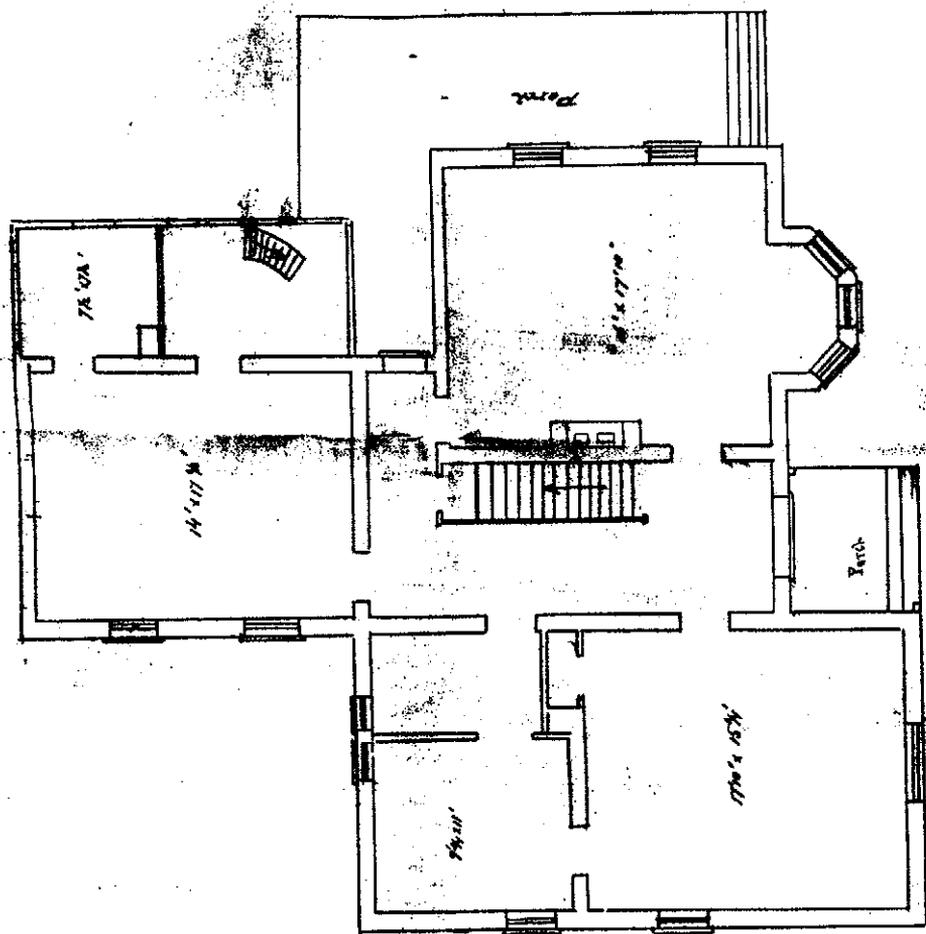
Original Building
Office of the Architect
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas
Wm. B. Wood

2. Front elevation and first floor plan, 1887

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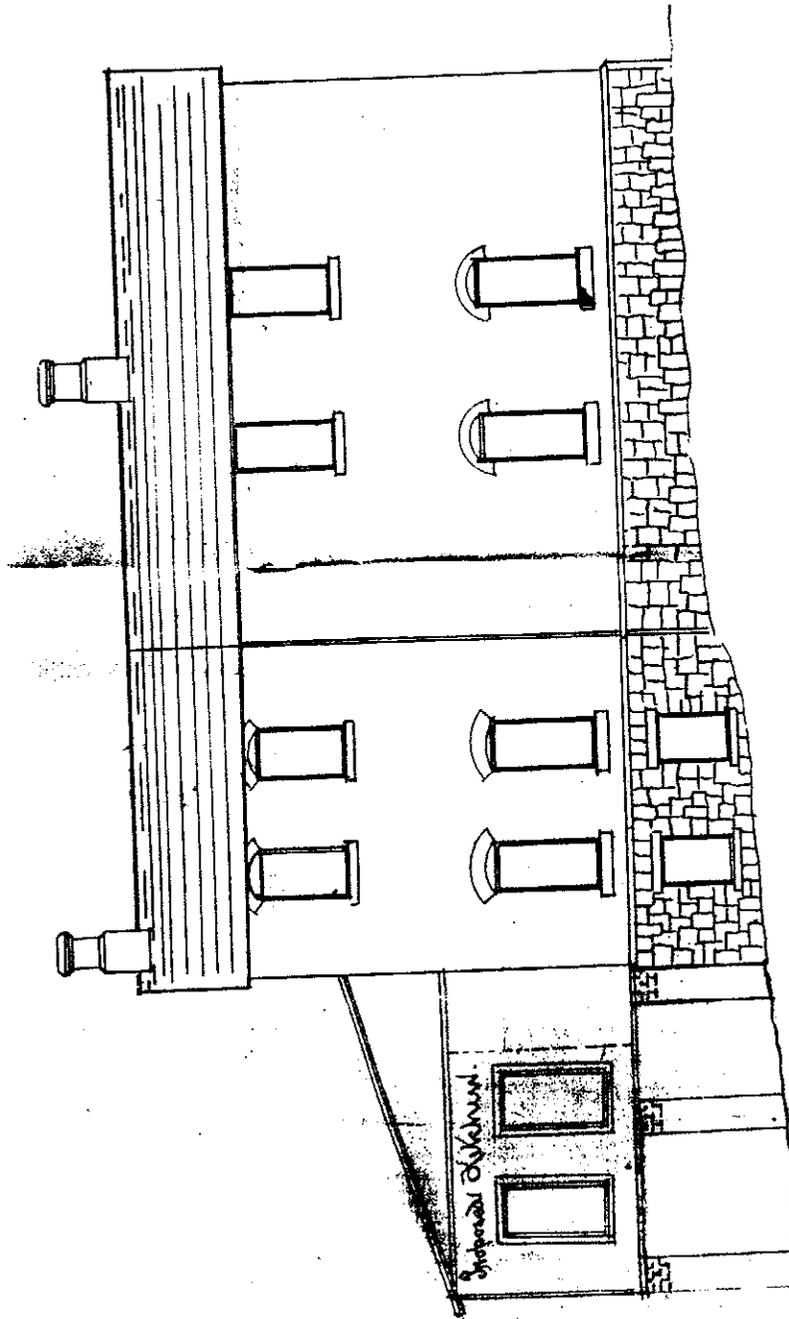
Front Elevation



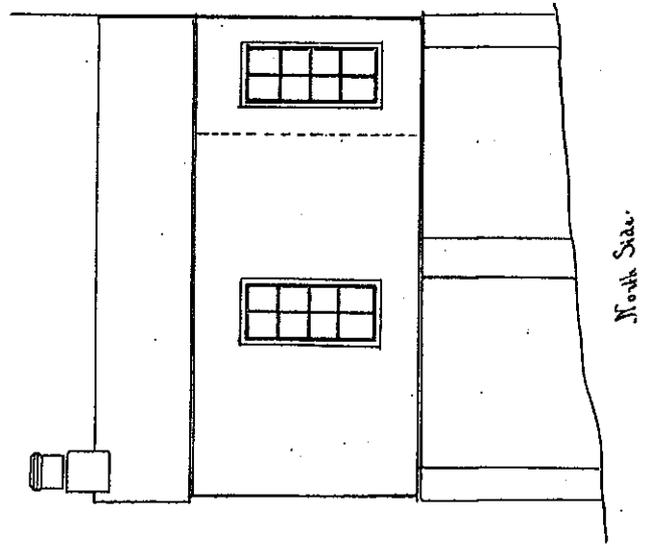
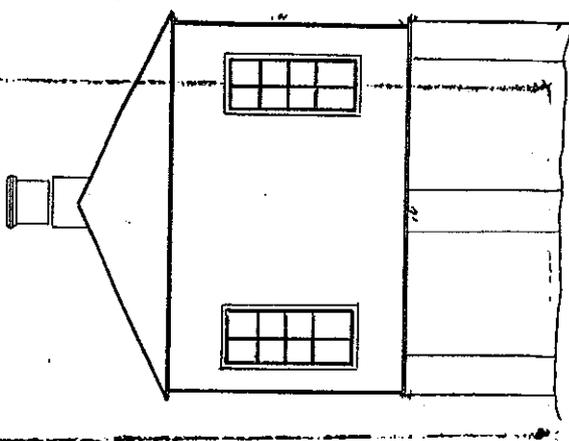
First Floor

3. Side elevation with proposed kitchen addition, 1887

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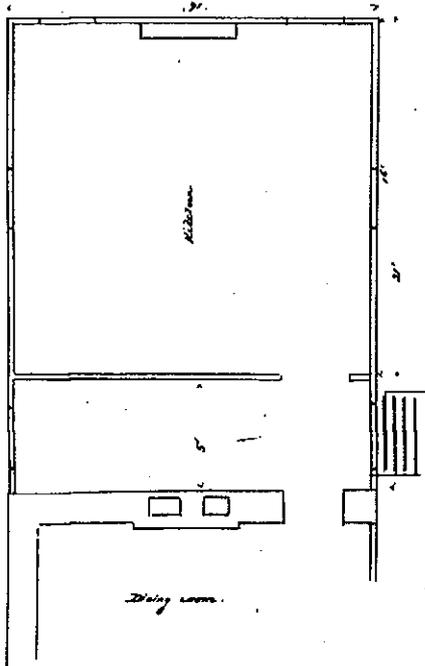


4. Plan of proposed kitchen;
 ground plan and south, east and north side elevations

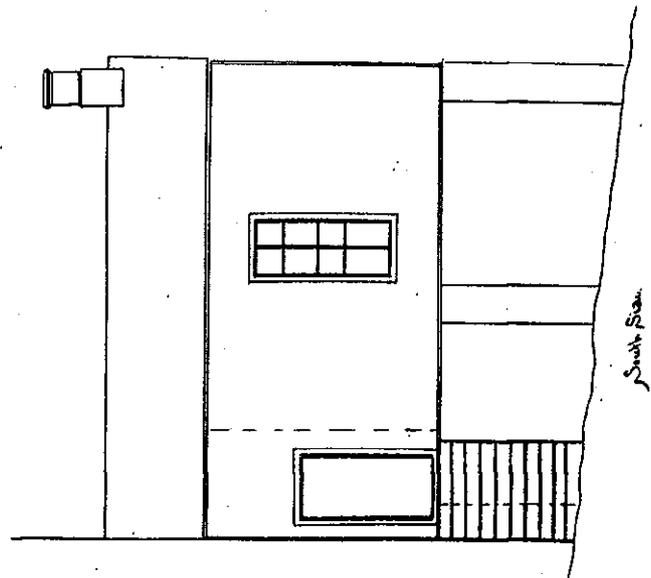


PLAN OF
 Proposed Kitchen
 for
 Quarters of Inspector General,
 Housing Dept. of the U.S.
 Fort Leavenworth, Kansas

*Drawn at the Office of
 the Architect of the
 Army, Washington, D.C.
 March 15, 1918.*



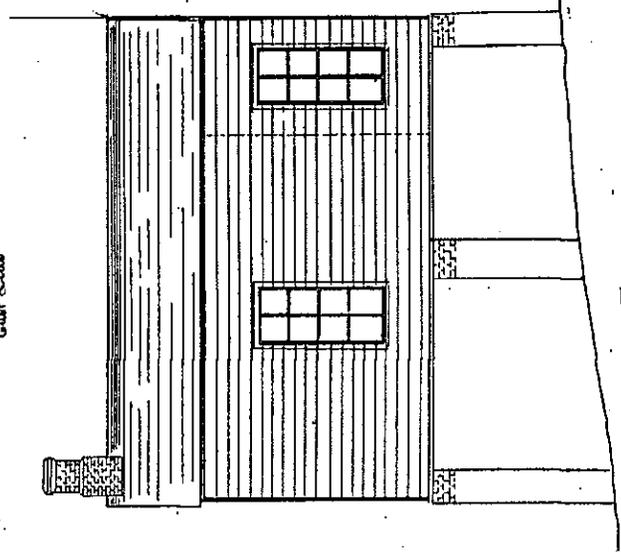
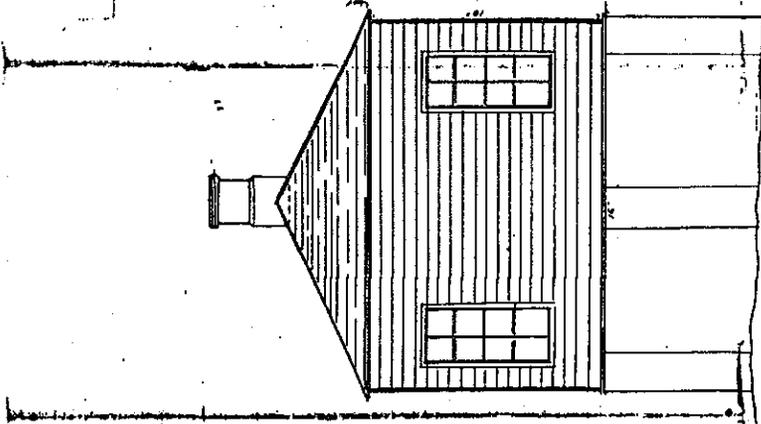
Ground Plan



South Side

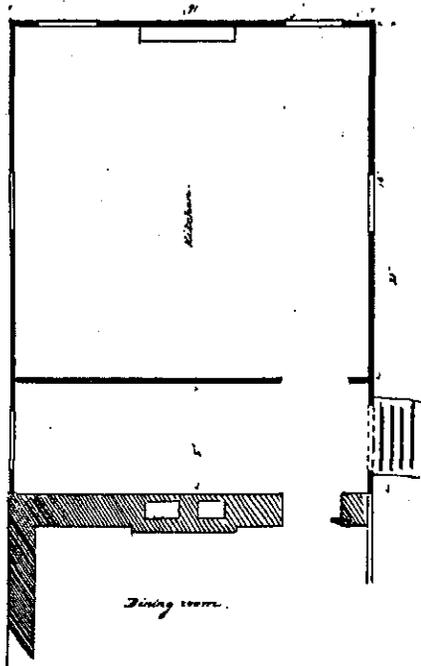
5. Plan of proposed kitchen;
ground plan and south, east
and north side elevations.

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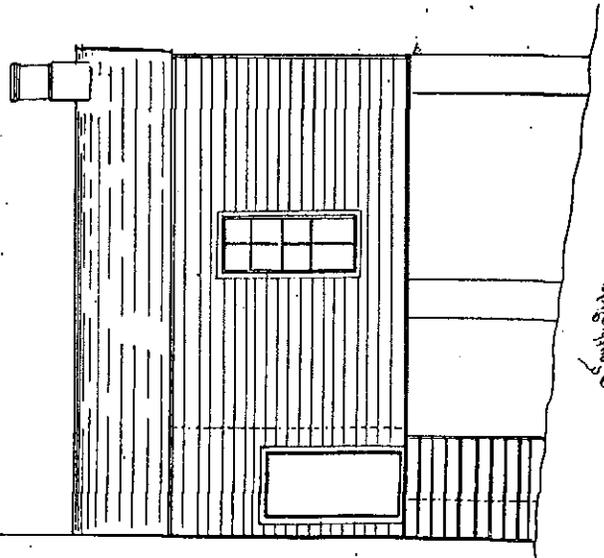


*PLAN OF
Proposed Kitchen
for
Quarters of Inspector General
Albany Dept of the 18th
Inf. Leavenworth, Kansas.*

*Drawn at the Office of
The Engineer
18th Infantry
Leavenworth, Kansas*

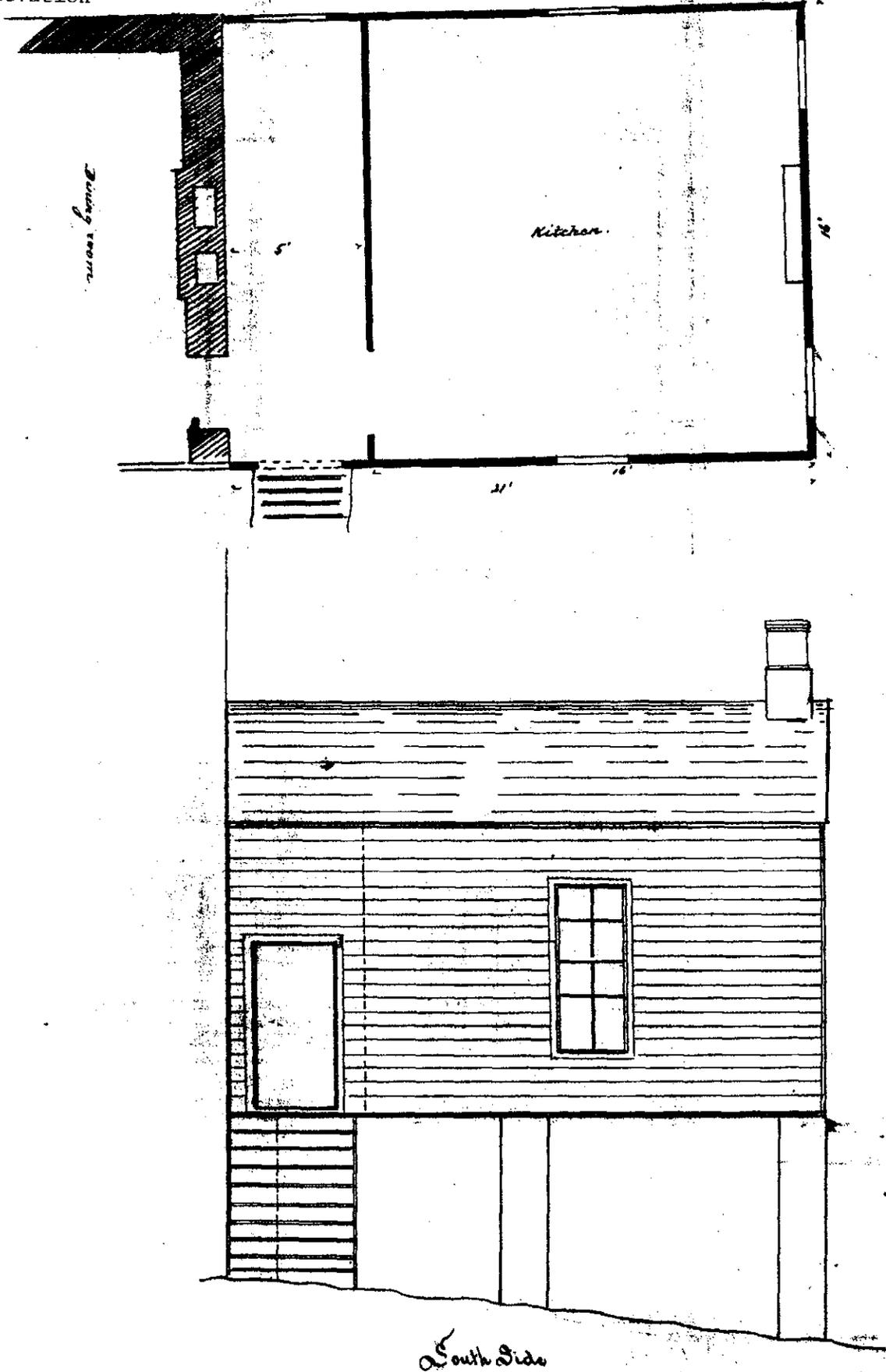


Ground Plan.



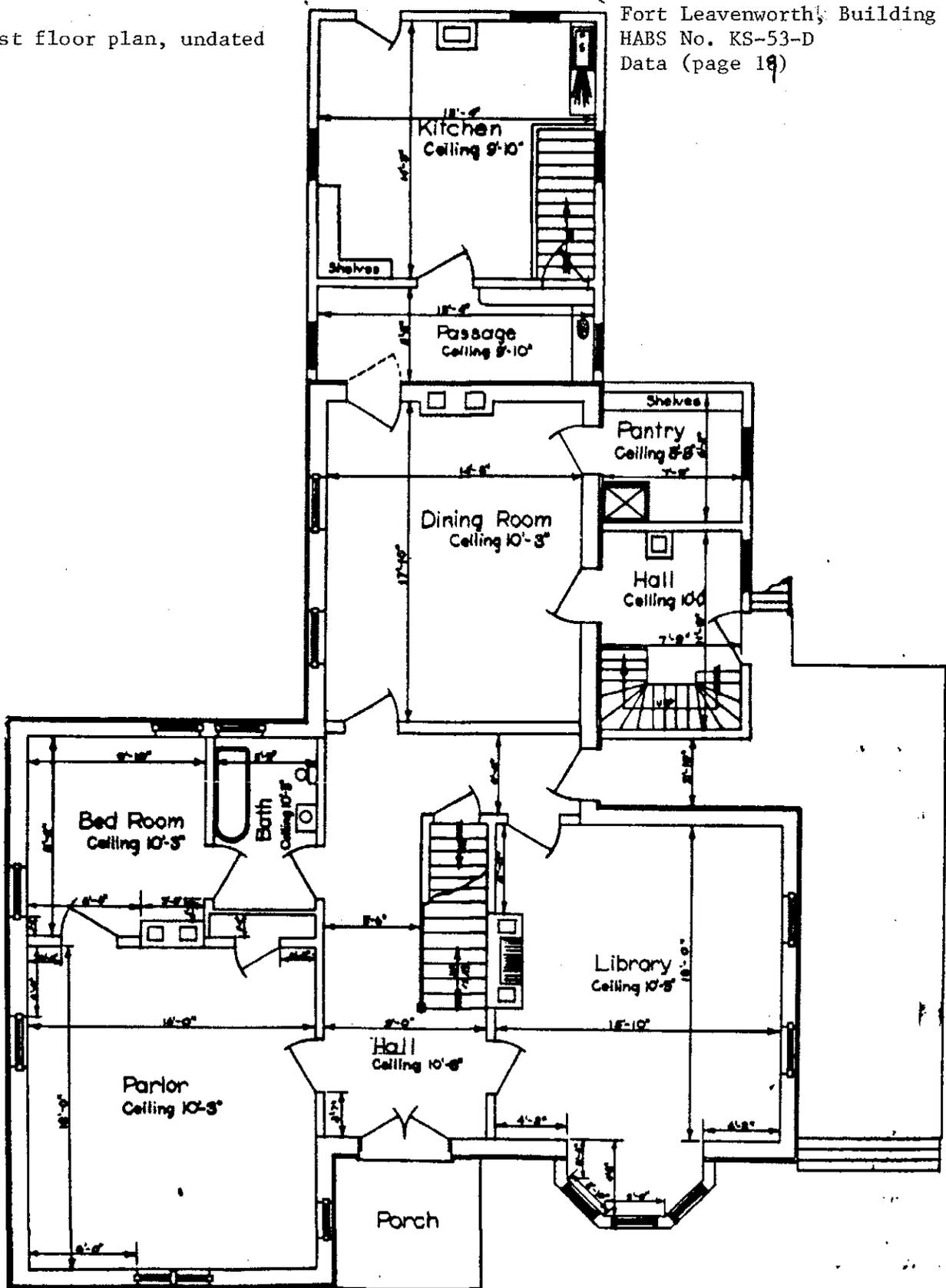
6. Plan of proposed kitchen;
floor plan and south side
elevation

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8. First floor plan, undated

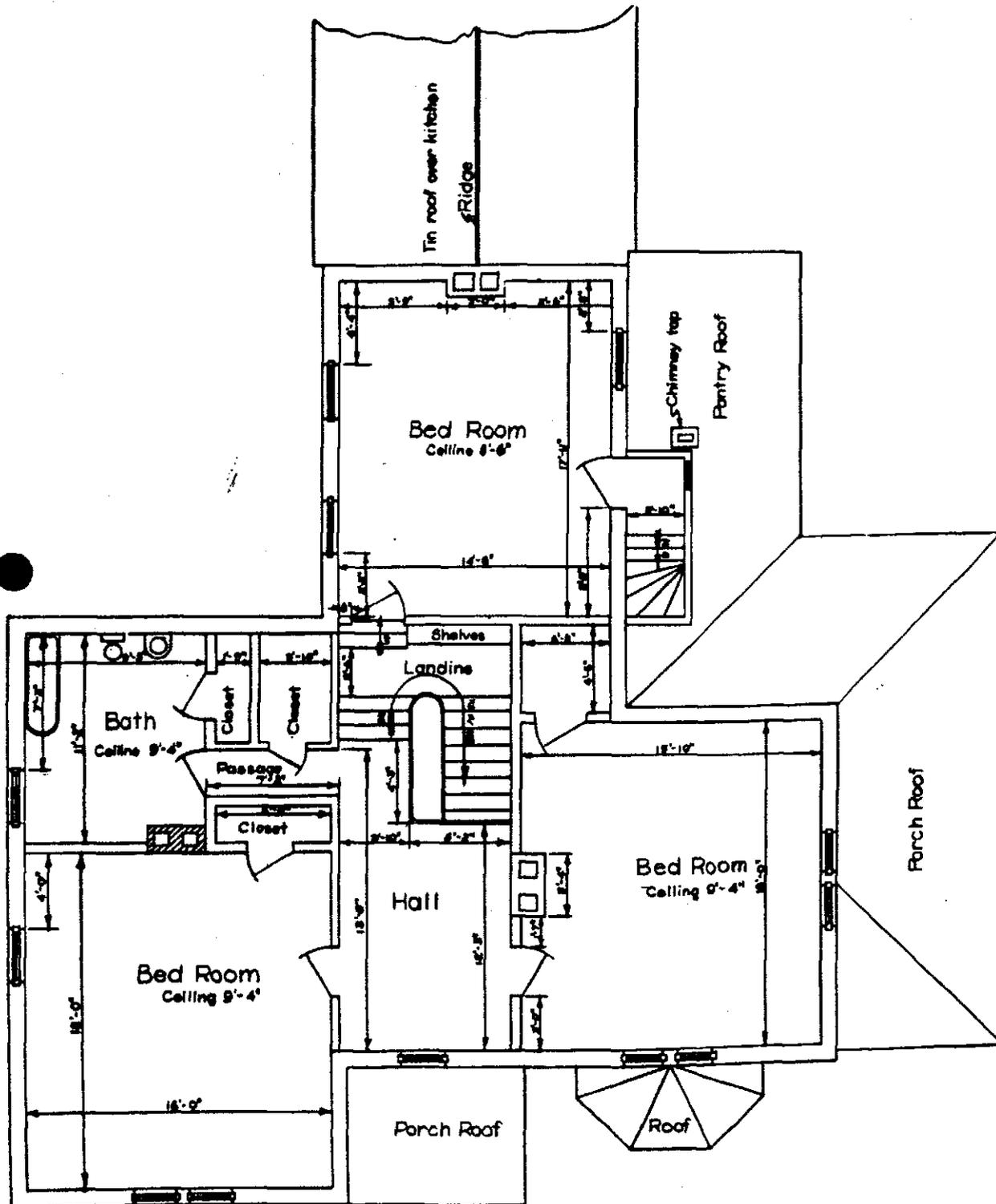
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FIRST FLOOR
SCALE $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'-0''$ CCF

9. Second floor plan, undated

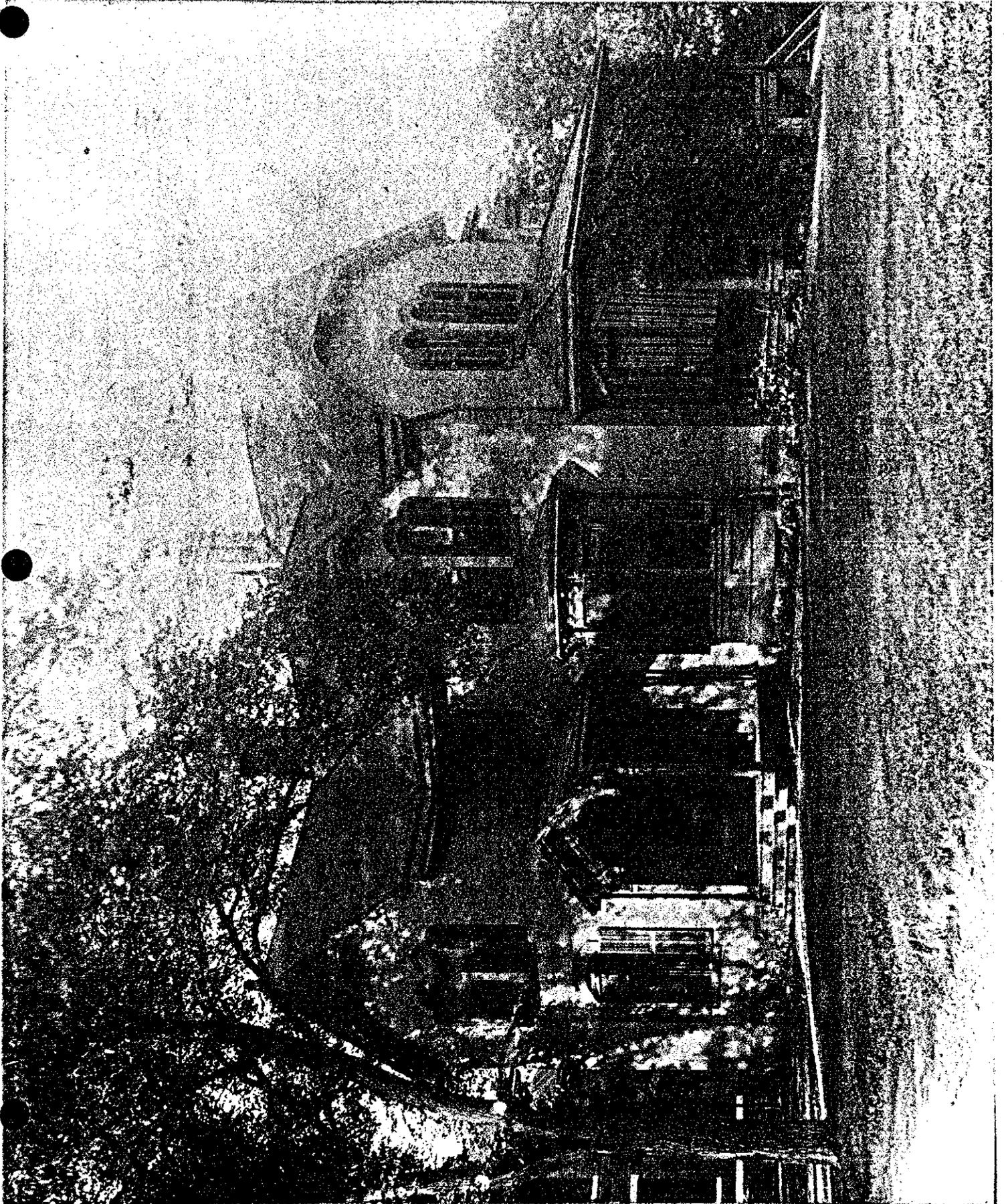
Fort Leavenworth, Building # 7
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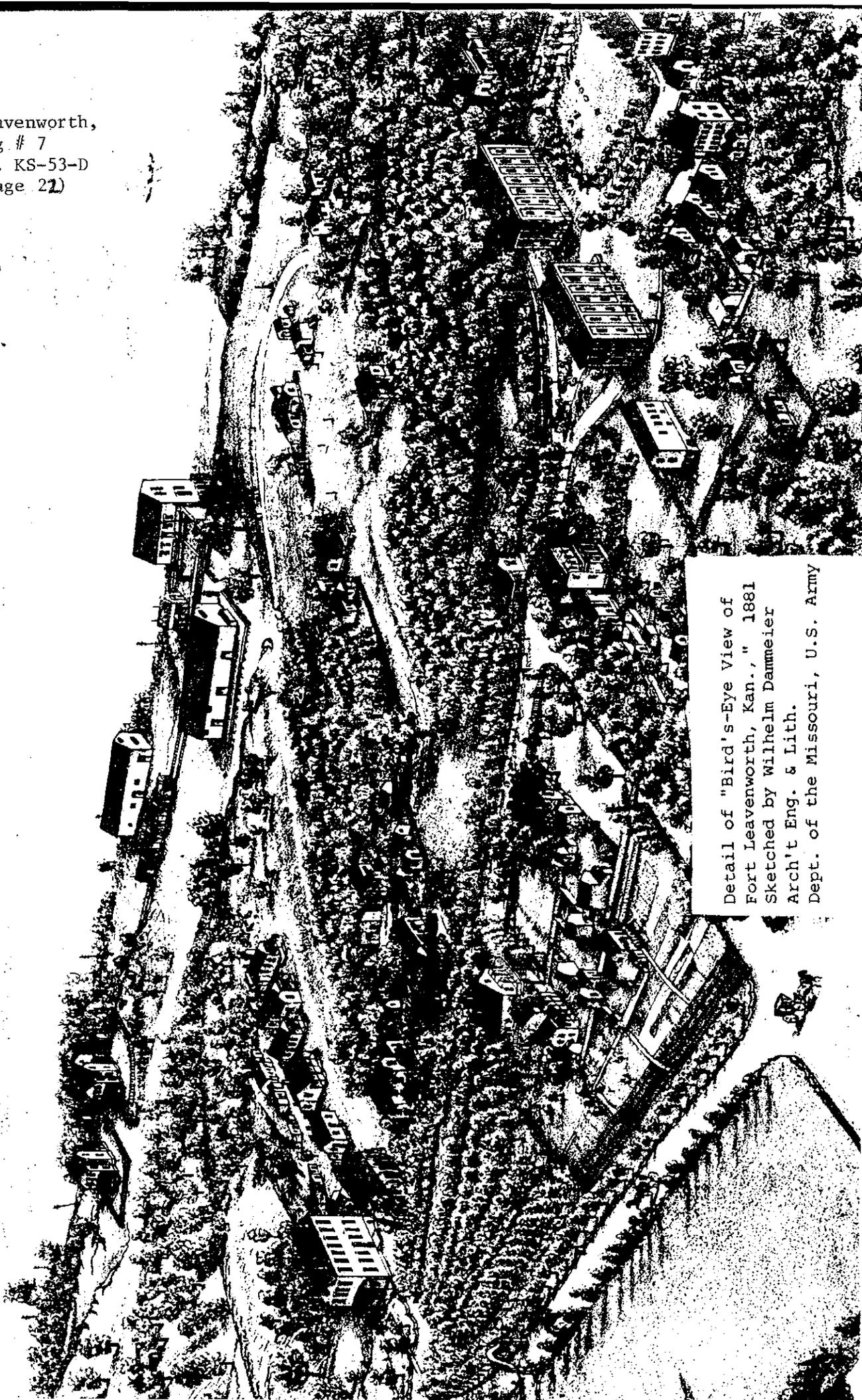
SECOND FLOOR

10. Historical photograph, undated;
after 1887 addition

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11. Fort Leavenworth,
Building # 7
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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

12. Historical photograph, undated;
Scott Avenue, looking north

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SCOTT AVENUE. (LOOKING NORTH)

BUILDING N°7 IN FOREGROUND.