

U.S. Military Academy - Chaplain's Quarters
Adjoining the south end of the Cadet Chapel
U.S. Military Academy
West Point
Orange County
New York

HABS No. NY-5708-21

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY - CHAPLAIN'S QUARTERS

LOCATION: Adjoining the south end of the Cadet Chapel, (HABS No. NY-5708-20) U.S. Military Academy, West Point, Orange County, New York.

USGS, West Point Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates 18.586940.4582350

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

PRESENT USE: Single family quarters for the chaplain, U.S.M.A.

SIGNIFICANCE: The Chaplain's Quarters is part of Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson's Cadet Chapel, and as such, its design and siting make it one of the most prominent architectural symbols of West Point. The house features well crafted details similar to the other quarters by the same architects.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1908-1910
2. Architect: Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson, Architects, Boston and New York. Bertram Goodhue, partner in charge.
3. Original and subsequent owners: U.S. Military Academy, Department of the Army.
4. Builder, contractor: C. T. Wills, Inc. of New York City. Wills constructed many other Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson buildings at West Point.
5. Original plans and construction: Original working drawings were approved by the Superintendent U.S.M.A. and the Secretary of War in July, 1906. These ink-on-linen drawings are in the office of the Facilities Engineer, Directorate of Engineering and Housing, U.S.M.A. The Chaplain's Quarters has been altered only in minor ways and, for the most part, retains its original appearance. The excavation and foundation walls were constructed by the U.S.M.A., leaving the superstructure for the general contractor (Annual Report, 1909). The quarry behind the Superintendent's Quarters was the source of granite (Annual Report 1910). The Annual Report of 1909 mentions the original construction: "On the chapel and chaplain's quarters rapid progress was prevented, owing to delay in reaching a decision upon the proposition to substitute limestone for concrete stone in the trim of these buildings. Its substitution was recommended when the papers were forwarded for action, but as the War Department desired the exact additional cost to be ascertained before accepting the proposed substitution, one month was lost in securing this information."

The building was completed in 1910 and cost \$37,381, including fixtures (Annual Report, 1910).

6. Alterations and additions: There are no additions to the building and alterations have been few. Exterior alterations include: a new garage (1945); an open veranda on the southeast side that has been enclosed with windows (N.D.); and a new copper roof (1982). Interior alterations include: a shower added to the basement toilet room (1945); completely remodelled kitchen and pantry on the first floor (1948 and 1981); remodelled bathrooms on the second floor (1945 and later); and the alterations of closets on the second floor.

- B. Historical Context: The Chaplain of the Academy is chosen on a rotating basis from among different denominations. Because it is considered a prestigious appointment, the clergymen who have lived here, while not necessarily famous, have been well-respected and have had illustrative careers in their respective denominations. For an overview and general history see U.S. Military Academy, HABS No. NY-5708, Volume 2: "West Point: An Overview of the History and Physical Development of the United States Military Academy." Also consult George S. Pappa's: The Cadet Chapel (appended to U.S. Military Academy - Cadet Chapel, HABS NY-5708-20) for a history of religion at West Point.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Because of its attachment to the Cadet Chapel, the Chaplain's Quarters is one of the most picturesque of the Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson quarters at West Point, appearing as an extension of the neogothic cadet chapel. Its exterior conforms to the materials and detailing of the chapel and to Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson's quarters 21-48, 116-122. Its interior is one of the most embellished and unaltered of the firm's work at West Point.
2. Condition of fabric: Exterior fabric is in excellent condition.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The building is polygonal, measuring 95' x 47' with a 23' square walled yard and garage appended to the south. The building has a three bay facade and is two stories above a basement in height.
2. Foundations: Foundations are granite rubble on concrete footings with a brick and concrete footing wall in the center of the building. The walls are rubble below grade and rubble faced with ashlar above grade. Due to the falling grade, the foundations are deeper and more exposed on the east and also thicker, 2'-0" on the northeast and 1'-8" for the rest of the building. The foundations and the walls above tie into the Chapel foundations and walls. A bevelled limestone watertable encircles the building between the basement and first floor level.

3. Walls: The Chaplain's Quarters matches most of Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson's work at West Point with brownish-gray, rock-faced granite walls laid in a random-range ashlar pattern and with limestone trim for door and window openings. Besides the long-and-short jambstone trim associated with openings and the pseudo buttresses of the southeast porch, there is no wall ornamentation.
4. Structural systems: The load-bearing granite walls have an interior facing of brick. Wood joists of 2" x 12" (first floor) and 2" x 10" (second floor) on 16" centers comprise the floor system. The roof is a common rafter system of 2" x 8" members on 16" centers.
5. Porches: A 22' x 12' open veranda on the southeast has been enclosed as a sun porch. This has a granolithic floor, granite walls and a wood beam and yellow pine ceiling. A granite wall stairway descends from this veranda on the east. The secondary entrance on the west has a copper roof stoop with flagstones. The kitchen stoop on the south also has a copper roof and a concrete floor.
6. Chimneys: Three granite stack chimnies serve the building: a one flue kitchen chimney; a five flue chimney on the east serving the basement, parlor, library and two bedrooms; and a three flue chimney on the west that served the basement, dining room and a bedroom.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: There is one exterior basement entrance located on the south that is reached through the kitchen yard. Three doorways are used for the first floor: the principal doorway on the northwest that adjoins the Cadet Chapel wall, a service doorway on the west that is the practical principal entrance and a kitchen doorway on the south that is reached through the kitchen yard. All doorways have long-and-short pattern limestone jambs. Both the west and the kitchen doors are vertical boarded doors with tops of leaded glass lights. The formal doorway on the north west is within a pointed arch limestone opening with compound moldings and a long-and-short limestone jamb. The oak door has a pointed arch top, vertical boards with horizontal rails, wrought iron strap hinges and door handles, and a leaded, quarrel light top.
 - b. Windows: The windows of the Chaplain's Quarters are similar to those of the other Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson buildings at West Point: square headed windows of limestone lintels, sills, jambs and mullions arranged in groups or as single windows. Most of the windows are pivoting, metal casements of square lights. The bay windows and a few single windows are the exception, having metal casements with quarrel lights.
8. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: An original standing seam copper roof was replaced in 1982 by a new one of like material and design.

Due to the building's many sides, the gable roof has many facets. Gable and parapet walls conceal most of the roof from view.

- b. Parapets: Most walls rise to a parapet that is coped with limestone. There is no cornice. Hung gutters with downspouts occur at various locations, each having an insignia of a cross on the leader head.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: Basement: The basement, designed for service functions that are now principally obsolete, is now used for storage. The original rooms, off of a longitudinal and transverse passage, were: boiler room, coal room for boiler, coal room for kitchen, trunk room, laundry, larder and a servant's bedroom. First Floor: On the first floor a longitudinal passage divides the building, beginning at the octagonal entry vestibule on the north and ending at a short transverse passage near the center, beyond which is the dining room. On the north end, the passage separates a library and parlor on the east from a lavatory, cloak room and a staircase on the west. The dining room on the south divides the sunroom (veranda) on the east from the kitchen and pantry on the west. Second Floor: On the second floor a longitudinal passage or hall runs between a bathroom on the north to a bedroom on the south. The east side of this passage contains, from north-to-south, a dressing room, the master bedroom, two bedrooms and a bathroom. West of the passage, from north-to-south, are the main stairway, a service stairway, and a servant's wing to the southwest with a bedroom (created from two original bedrooms) and a bathroom.

A brilliant advantage taken with the physical and practical connection of Chapel and Chaplain's Quarters is the hidden access between the first floor library and the Chapel sacristy. There is also a connection on the second floor in the Chaplain's dressing room. This is a "hidden" 9' x 11' room squeezed in the corner where the building is joined to the Chapel. It is entered through what appears to be one of two balanced closet doors, which opens to a vestibule and then through an arched doorway. It is windowless except for a squint overlooking the Chapel chancel.

2. Stairways: The principal stairway, in a three-sided bay, is of oak with an oak and plaster wainscoting. It is a quarter turn stair with a three-sided landing. The balustrade had wooden newel posts with unusual caps and balusters of flat panels with a cut-out design. Just south is a simple quarter turn wooden service stairway that connects all floors. This has wooden balusters and is covered with carpeting.

3. Flooring: Basement: Floors are concrete except for the laundry and servant's room which have wood floors. First Floor: All floors are oak with the exception of the granolithic sunroom floor in the kitchen. Second Floor: All floors on the second floor are "hard" pine except that of the main hall, which is oak.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: These quarters generally follow the finish schedule of other Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson quarters at West Point: natural oak trim on the first floor and pine trim on the second. Basement: Outer walls are exposed granite and inner walls are exposed brick or wood sheathed except in the servant's room and laundry, which have plaster walls. Ceilings have exposed joists except the servant's room and laundry which have plaster ceilings. First Floor: The first floor contains a variety of wall and ceiling finishes. The octagonal entrance vestibule has flush oak panelling held together with double dovetail pegs and a plaster ceiling of eight facets. The main passage has an oak and plaster wainscot with plaster above and a plaster and plaster beam ceiling. The library has oak wainscoting with plaster walls and ceiling. The parlor has a plaster wall and ceiling. The dining room is the most decoratively finished room, with linen fold oak panelling and a vaulted plaster ceiling with plaster strapwork. The kitchen and pantry have been remodelled but the latter retains its oak wainscot. The sunroom (veranda) has exposed granite walls and a wood beam and yellow pine ceiling. Second Floor: Almost all walls and ceilings of the second floor are plaster. The main hall on this floor has a plaster archway.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Basement: The majority of doors are panelled. The doors to the coal storage areas are batten and the doors to the laundry room have glass lights. First Floor: Doors of interest on the first floor include a leaded light vestibule/passage door; a solid pocket door and a 15 light glass door in the parlor; a leaded light pocket door in the dining room; and a 20 light glass door from the hall to the sunroom. Most interior door casings are oak or pine. The swinging dining room door to the pantry has linen fold panelling that matches that of the walls.
 - b. Windows: Basement: The laundry room has two interior windows, one facing the hall and stairway and one in the trunk room wall. First Floor: By virtue of its enclosure, the sunroom has two windows of 20 leaded lights each that help light the dining room. Second Floor: The most unusual window on the second floor is a squint window in the Chaplain's dressing room off of the master bedroom. This squint overlooks the chancel and altar of the Cadet Chapel, similar to squints found in triforiums of medieval cathedrals. Most windows have been filled with interior storm windows. Interior window casings of oak are the rule.

6. Decorative features and trim: First Floor: The connection to the Chapel sacristy, described above, is concealed by a wall of bookcases in the library; one segment is hinged and opens to reveal the sacristy. The entire library walls are filled with built-in bookcases. The dining room also features a double built-in china closet with leaded light doors. The stairhall on this floor has two corbels made as grotesques. Fireplace hearths are formed of Welsh quarry tile in the library, tile in the parlor and brick in the dining room and tile on the second floor.
7. Hardware: The most notable hardware is that of the wrought iron strap hinges and door pull on the front door.
8. Mechanical equipment:
 - a. Heating: The building is heated by steam radiators.
 - b. Lighting: Original lighting fixtures of note exist in the main hall of the first floor, the library, and the dining room (see HABS photographs).

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The Chaplain's Quarters occupies one of the most commanding sites at West Point. It is attached to the Cadet Chapel and its hillside location approximately 300' above the Plain and Academic Area gives it great visual prominence. At the same time, its location provides one of the best views of the central Academy area. The quarters sit between Mills Road and DeRussy Loop above and to the west and DeRussy Road and Brewerton Road below to the east. Its site was carved from the steep granite hill that crests at Fort Putnam. To the west is the 1919 Monument, the 1946 Monument, and a water treatment plant (U.S.M.A. No. 726) for Lusk Reservoir to the southwest. Directly below and to the east is the Cadet Mess/Washington Hall (HABS No. NY-5708-44).

The quarters are built on falling grade, creating a higher elevation on the east because of the exposed foundation and basement.

2. Historic landscape: The building is contained between a roadway on the west, a walled yard and open lawn on the south, a grove of tall coniferous trees on the east and the Chapel on the north. Between the kitchen and dining room wings a granite walled kitchen yard extends to the south. This wall is 8' high on the west and 14' high on the east. The yard is concrete and contains the kitchen porch and a stairway to the basement. Although the drawings show an enclosed garage encompassed by this wall, photographs of the completed quarters in 1910 show no garage. A "new" garage was built in 1944, having granite walls except for one of brick on the north.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Architectural Drawings: Original ink-on-linen working drawings exist and are in the Facilities Engineer's Office, Directorate of Engineering and Housing, U.S. Military Academy.
- B. Early views: There are early photographs of the quarters at the U.S. Military Academy Archives and Special Collections. One of these, a 1910 view, is included in Grashof's volume of this project.
- C. Bibliography:
 - 1. Primary and unpublished sources: Records and letters, U.S. Military Academy Archives and Special Collections. See the bibliographic essay in the Lange volume of this project for a listing of record groups.
 - 2. Secondary and published sources:

Bethanie C. Grashof, "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.

Robie S. Lange, "West Point: An Overview of the Historic and Physical Development of the United States Military Academy," Historic American Buildings Survey, 1983. HABS No. NY-5708.

Annual Reports, U.S. Military Academy Archives.
- D. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: The records of Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson, especially Bertram Goodhue.

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 HABS No. NY-5708, Volume I, "Methodology." This written documentation was prepared by Travis C. McDonald, Jr., architectural historian, in 1982-1985 based on fieldwork conducted in 1982.