

U.S. Military Academy - Administration Building
(Post Headquarters)
Between Thayer Road and Cullum Road, south of the
East Academic Building
U.S. Military Academy
West Point
Orange County
New York

HABS No. NY-5708-22

HABS
NY
30-10870
1/22

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
36-10870
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY - ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
(Post Headquarters)

LOCATION:

Between Thayer Road and Cullum Road, south of the East Academic Building (Bartlett Hall, HABS No. NY-5708-25), U.S. Military Academy, West Point, Orange County, New York.

USGS, West Point Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 18.587270.4582360.

PRESENT OWNER
AND OCCUPANT:

U.S. Military Academy, Department of the Army.

PRESENT USE:

Academy and Post Administration Headquarters.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Administration Building was designed by Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson as the keystone of their 1903 competition plan. The great height of its loadbearing tower and its salient position at the approach to the Plan make it one of the most prominent of its generation of buildings at the Academy. Designed in a collegiate neo-gothic style, the Administration Building is embellished with exterior and interior ornament that identifies its importance as the post academy headquarters.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1905-10.
2. Architect: Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson, Architects, New York and Boston.
3. Original and subsequent owners: U.S. Military Academy, Department of the Army.
4. Builders, suppliers: Major J. M. Carson, Jr., Quartermaster in charge of construction. J. W. Bishop Company, General Contractor. Two contracts were let on January 31, 1906: C. H. Sanborn, for a steam heat system, and J. W. Bishop Company as the general contractor (Annual Report, 1907).
5. Original plans and construction: Original working drawings exist and are in the possession of the Chief Engineer, U.S. Military

Academy. These drawings are ink on linen and are from the architectural firm Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson. Drawing No. 12 has the following notations of review and approval: "Approved Hdqts, U.S.M.A.; W.P., N.Y. January 9, 1905 ? L. Mills, Brigadier General, U.S. Army, Supt." and "War Department, Washington January 14, 1905 Wm. H. Taft, Secretary of War." Sheets detailing the lighting fixtures are dated 1909 and noted "Drawn under the direction of Maj. J. M. Carson, Jr., Q.M. in charge of construction by E. D. Wagner." Cost of building: \$519,437.

6. Alterations and additions:

- a. Third Basement (lowest level): Although access to the telephone switchboard area was not gained due to its restricted nature, original drawings indicate that this northern part of this floor was converted from a storage area in 1948. The extreme northern part may have been subsequently excavated, as indicated by the Building Directory plan. Drawings indicate that this area was air-conditioned in 1956 and that alterations occurred to the Signal Telephone Facility area in 1961. Undated alterations include the conversion of the southeast corner ladies restroom to a PX snackbar; the addition of a concrete block wall to enclose a janitor's room; and the possible blockage of an arched doorway in the switchboard area.
- b. Second Basement: The telephone facility area of this floor was also restricted and was not examined. Drawings indicate, however, that this area was air-conditioned in 1937; that a concrete block wall was removed in the telephone terminal room; and a storage room was converted into an electrical vault. Besides alterations such as the installation of acoustical tile in the AG Library and the Classified Records room, the only other significant change was to the large south window in the AG Records Branch Office (Court Room) which had its leaded quarrel casements altered to sash windows.
- c. First Basement: The western part of the first basement is restricted and was not examined, but drawings indicate that the extreme western portion of this area was excavated in 1970 for a file vault and that it was further modified in 1977. The restricted area, "USACC" was altered in 1978, which included the in-fill of its northern windows. In addition to minor alterations such as wooden floors covered with linoleum, the only other alteration to this basement level is the complete alteration of the Director of Admission and Registrar Storeroom in the northwest wing.
- d. First Floor: The first dated interior alteration to the first floor occurred in 1959 when four southeast rooms forming the Dean's Office and Conference Room received built-in cabinets, counters and blackboards. This might also be the date when the partition dividing the Dean's Administrator's Office was constructed. The two southeast rooms were formerly the Quartermaster's office.

In 1962 the original two-room Post Office space in the northwest corner of the first floor was converted into the Cadet Hostess Office, which is now the Public Affairs Office. By cutting a door through the east wall, a partitioned-off section of the former drafting room (north of the Courtyard) became part of the Hostess Office (a partition in this additional space was removed at the time of conversion). This alteration included the removal of a counter/partition; doorways that were removed, enclosed and created; the installation of wood panelling; a lowered ceiling; the addition of a closet; and the addition of a kitchenette/bath.

The Dean's Office and Conference Room was air-conditioned and its ceiling lowered in 1970. In the Conference Room the transom was removed, new oak trim was installed and the picture molding was removed.

The suite of offices in the southwest corner, and the area just east of it, were converted from the Finance Office to the Dean's Office Operations in 1970. At this time, and in 1977, partitions were added and removed in various places. A stair to the newly excavated basement was added in 1970.

Undated alterations include the conversion of the Draughting Room on the north to the A. G. Mailroom; a window cut into a door at the north end of the east corridor; and the removal of a spiral staircase to the first basement near the Dean's Conference Room.

- e. Second Floor: The first major interior alterations to the second floor took place in 1958. At that time the southwest administrative offices were altered: new partitions, partitions removed, new doorways, and blocked doorways.

The 1958 conversion of the Museum Curator's Office into a Women's Toilet and Lounge most likely indicates when the Museum was moved and its former space reused. The large two-story museum space occupying the second floor's whole north end became Lee Hall. The northeast room of the Museum became the Faculty Lounge.

In 1969 the Faculty Lounge and the Academic Board Room adjoining it to the south were air-conditioned. To accomplish this in the Lounge, an air-conditioning vent was placed behind a louvered door on the west wall.

Just west of the Superintendent's private office a secretary's office was created out of the vaulted elevator and stairhall space in 1970 by use of an oak screen wall.

Minor changes took place in 1975 when doorways were cut and others blocked in the Superintendent's Aide's Office and in the SGS/Protocol Office. Lee Hall's windows received interior storm sash in 1978.

Undated alterations to the Superintendent's Reception Office include: the removal of the oak panelling and the plaster ceiling; and the alteration of two sliding pocket doors.

- f. Third Floor: Significant changes to the Third Floor began in 1942 when the Finance Office was altered with partitions, fluorescent lights, relocated doors and linoleum on part of its floors.

Alterations in the 1950s include the conversion of the Museum area on the southwest to Cadet Activities; conversion of the Ladies Toilet and Lounge to the Public Relations Office; and the air-conditioning of the Conference Room. The former alteration involved furring-down the ceiling between plaster beams.

After the Cadet Activities area had been converted to the Comptroller's Office, exposed air-conditioning ducts were installed on its ceiling.

In 1971 a new office space was created in the tower stairhall just to the north of the Conference Room. A stairway arch was filled with glass for this purpose.

In 1977 the mezzanine level (former museum) space was converted into the Command Information Center and Recording Studio. The ceiling was dropped, partitions and wall panels were installed, and a window was concealed. Also concealed were 7 oak-encased beams. The gallery corridor to the west of this space was also enclosed.

Undated alterations include the addition of a toilet and teletype room near the entrance to the Director of Admission's Office; a dropped ceiling in the main elevator/stair corridor; a dropped ceiling and panelling in the Deputy Comptroller's Office; and a furred ceiling in the Comptroller's Offices.

- g. Fourth-Seventh Floors: After the removal and addition of partitions on the fourth floor in 1947, most of the changes in the small fourth-sixth floor tower floors took place in 1972. At that time ceilings were dropped, air-conditioning installed and toilets upgraded. These same changes occurred on the seventh floor in 1973 where the skylights were also removed. Undated alterations on these floors consist of the removal of a southwest corner platform on the fourth floor; a new entry doorframe on the sixth floor; and partitions on the seventh floor.

- h. Exterior: Compared with interior alterations, those of the exterior are few and have generally consisted of repairs and maintenance. The Facilities Engineer carried out an exterior rehabilitation in 1958 that included recaulking windows; cleaning masonry surfaces and coating them with silicone; repointing granite to a depth of 3/4"; patching brick, terra cotta and stone; and coating stone surfaces with "Deckosit X-25."

When the roof was recovered with tar and gravel in 1969, drawings indicate that the cast stone coping of the parapet was replaced with limestone and that the same replacement was made with the cast stone bosses.

Drawings that call for all exterior cast stone to be replaced with limestone in 1972 are also dated 1976 and 1978 (it is not known which year this took place). The 1972 drawings also call for:

all limestone joints to be sealed with polysulfide; for a new limestone watertable; grinding off projecting portions of the crenell; and for new copper flashing.

In 1974 and 1977 the tower and third floor roofs were respectively reroofed with insulation board and asphalt built-up roofing with marble chips.

The few undated exterior alterations include a north elevation window cut into a doorway and various altered windows, most notably those of the third basement on the east elevation.

- B. Historical Context: For the historical context of this building within the overall development of the Academy 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: The Administration Building was one of Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson's largest and most embellished neo-gothic structures at West Point. Its position as the gateway to the Academic Area and its function as a headquarters building influenced its form, fulfilling a partially ceremonial and partially symbolic role. The exterior form of the building is virtually unaltered, enhancing its architectural integrity.
2. Condition of fabric: The Administration Building is in excellent condition. There is evidence though that some of the original exterior fabric was upgraded and replaced.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall Dimensions: The Administration Building is roughly rectangular in plan with a central courtyard. Major elements include a gateway portal and tower to the east and a tower rising from the southeast corner. Elevation dimensions at the first floor level are: east 175'-4"; south 123'-3"; west 157'-4"; and north 118'-10". The courtyard measures 93'-7" (N-S) x 48'-0" (E-W). The southeast tower is 63'-4" square at the fifth floor, 52'-4" square at the eighth floor and rises to a height of 157'-6" from Grade 119.50 on the east. The fenestration pattern is varied and complex in keeping with the gothic nature of the design. Due to a falling grade, the main building is three stories above grade on the west and six stories above grade (including three above grade basement floors) on the east side; the tower rises an additional four full floors on the east.
2. Elevations:
 - a. West elevation: The facade of the Administration Building faces west. Dominating this elevation is a central sallyport whose

portal leads into the courtyard and from there into the building. This elevation, excluding the tower to the rear, is three stories above grade. The sallyport, projecting out from the wall about 12', divides a fenestration pattern to the south consisting of identical windows that represent office space; to the north, projecting buttresses and a large traceried window represent the large interior space of Lee Hall.

- b. South elevation: The south elevation offers the most comprehensive view of the building. From this side can be seen the three-story section to the west, the three basement stories to the east, the tower and the arched gateway portal and tower. The extreme south-east corner of the building is an off-set square that is treated like a low tower. This corner was designed to contain the administrative offices, including that of Superintendent. The second and first basement stories of this elevation were the Adjutant General's courtroom, represented by a large arched window. Offset to the north and east from this low southeast corner tower is the main, dominating tower of the building and extending from it to the east, the gateway portal and tower.
 - c. East elevation: While the south elevation might be the most comprehensive, the east elevation, by its size, is the most impressive. The massive tower dominates this elevation, rising eleven stories. South of the tower is the five-story office corner embellished by a second floor balcony off of the Superintendent's office. To the north of the tower is a four-bay, five-story section. The traceried fenestration of the top two floors of this section (2nd and 3rd floors) is indicative of the large, decorative spaces of the Academic Board Room, the Faculty Lounge and Lee Hall (museum). Between the first basement and the first floor on the southeast corner of the building is an eagle with a seemingly unfinished shield carved out of the same granite as the walls by sculptor Lee Lawrie.
 - d. North elevation: The Administration Building's north elevation is its most regular. The tall seven-bay windows of Lee Hall (museum), which occupy the second to third floors, make this the only elevation of two stories.
3. Foundations: The foundations consist of granite rubble on concrete footings. The exterior foundation walls vary in thickness on the east from 3'-8" to 4'-8" and on the west from 2'-6" to 3'-8". The interior foundation walls vary from 1'-8" to 3'-0".
 4. Walls: The walls of the Administration Building, consistent with the architects' other West Point work, are rock-faced gray granite laid in a random range ashlar pattern. Structural and decorative trim is a combination of terra cotta ("concrete stone") and Indiana limestone: lintels, sills, jambs, mullions, arches, tracery, sculpture, coping, capitals, cornices, watertables, belt courses, buttresses and embrasures (drawings indicate that the terra cotta trim might have been replaced by limestone--see alteration section). See the Supplemental Material section for a description of the

decorative shields and statuettes and a statement pertaining to the unfinished eagle sculpture by Lee Lawrie.

5. Structural systems, framing: The exterior walls are load-bearing stone with an interior brick veneer; and floors are reinforced concrete. Groin and barrel-vaulted ceilings are constructed of "sand lime" brick with both limestone and terra cotta ribs. Gustavino vaults with hollow terra cotta blocks are also used. The third floor ceiling above the sallyport is supported by 10' x 12" "HP beams" encased in oak. The roof framing is both concrete and cinder concrete.
6. Sallyport, towers, balconies, porches and courtyard: The principal entrance to the building is through a sallyport on the west. This sallyport, which projects out from both the wall and above the parapet, is decorated at its top with shields arranged vertically on two buttress piers. Between these piers is an eagle below a canopy (see HABS photos). A band of five narrow windows identifies a mezzanine level corridor. The sallyport entrance is completely open through a compound limestone archway but its east side on the courtyard has a portcullis constructed of white oak, painted black. The ceiling of the sallyport is a series of north-south arches with a center groin vault. Sculptural bosses adorn the spring point of each arch. An open staircase rises along the north wall inside the sallyport. Below three arched openings of the staircase are sculptured panels and two commemorative plaques.

Rising on the east is the main tower. The tower's east elevation, which projects toward Cullum Road, is horizontally divided by belt courses every two floors above the basement. Vertically, each floor is represented by different windows that flank a recessed central staircase bay which has yet different window types. This pattern is also found on the other tower elevations.

Connected to the northeast corner of the main tower by an arched gateway bridge is a small round tower. An enclosed passage connects the towers.

The east elevation also contains a balcony off the Superintendent's office (2nd floor) set within an arch and supported by the corbeled jambs of two windows below.

Occupying the northeast and southeast corners of the courtyard are two entry porches, the latter being the principal. Both porches are finished like the exterior walls of the building and have pointed compound arched entries with North River stone steps leading to tile floors. The one-story northern porch, being a secondary entry, is quite simple; the two-story southern porch is larger and more highly decorated because of its importance as the principal entrance.

Upon passing through the sallyport entrance on the west elevation, one enters a paved courtyard 93'-7" (N-S) x 48'-0" (E-W). The two porches on the courtyard's west elevation, described above, dominate the space. The courtyard, including the steps and landings for the porches, is paved with North River stone. The three step landing for the southeast or principal entrance forms a platform across the entire south end of the courtyard. The courtyard elevations, like

those on the exterior, reflect their respective interior spaces. The projecting sallyport on the east is the most decorative with sculptured shields and a series of elongated niches. The north elevation fenestration indicates typical office space while the large second-third floor windows on the west and south elevations call out the Academic Board Room and Lee Hall (museum) respectively.

7. Openings:

- a. Exterior doors and doorways are hierarchically arranged by importance and location. The most important doorway, the principal southeast corner entrance in the courtyard, is the most architecturally complex and highly finished: a pointed compound arch over the bi-valve doorway; raised panels with tre-foil heads on the doors and filler space; and large wrought iron strap hinges. The doorway in the courtyard's northeast corner is similarly designed but with detail indicating lesser importance. All the other doors and doorways are appropriately treated as secondary entrances with flat tops or less complex arches in a lower arch and with single-valve batten doors. The south elevation contains two batten doors that originally led into vestibules for men's and women's restrooms in the southeast corner of the Third Basement level. The east entrance, off of Cullum Road, is through a recessed archway that also contains a loading dock. On the north a low, flat-topped doorway with a batten door to the eastern offices is clearly less important than the arched and panelled door on the west that led into the post office. Opposite each other in the sallyport are two single-valve batten doors. Typically, the doorways have limestone jambs, arches or lintels and oak doors.
- b. Windows: The design and placement of windows in the Administration Building reflects a hierarchical system similar to that of doors and doorways. The great variety of window types is used not only to identify individual interior spaces but also to distinguish different floors, much like a Renaissance palazzo (the second floor fenestration is not unlike that of a piano nobile). Heading the hierarchy in terms of size and complexity are the windows of Lee Hall (Museum). On the north and south these tall, pointed arch window openings contain four trefoil headed casement windows with leaded quarrel lights. Similar to these are the windows of the Faculty Lounge (Museum). The most elaborate windows, three large mullioned, traceried casements with quantrefoils, light the Academic Board Room and the east and west ends of Lee Hall. On the east elevation these appear taller due to blind window panels at the bottom. Spanning two floors, the mullioned windows within the pointed arch opening at the base of the tower on its southern side identifies the former Court Room (AG Records Branch). Rectangular leaded casements occur on the east and west elevations of the sallyport but otherwise the windows are mostly wooden l/l sash in single, double or triple groupings. Most of the windows are flat-headed with the exception of the pointed arch openings that contain six windows divided by mullions, the top three of which are fixed. All of these windows are finished with limestone sills, lintels, arches, jambs, mullions, and tracery.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The roof is flat behind a parapet and is covered with built-up asphalt with marble chips.
- b. Parapet: A crenelated parapet surrounds the roof area of the building. Limestone coping covers the parapet and the embrasures. Along the exterior face of the third floor parapet are limestone niches filled with shields.
- c. Towers: The southeast tower roof is covered with built-up asphalt roofing.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. Third Basement: Due to its sloping site, the Administration Building has three basements on its east side, the third being the lowermost. This floor is arranged enfilade in a north-south direction with a central elevator and stair core. The major rooms consist of men's and women's restrooms, px snackbar, elevator lobby, trash room and three telephone operation rooms. There are three exterior entrances to this floor.
- b. Second Basement: This floor is almost identical to the third basement. The major rooms consist of the AG Division Records Branch office (originally court room), AG library, a classified records room, elevator and stair lobby, electrical vault and three telephone operations rooms.
- c. First Basement: The first basement differs in plan from the second and third basement floors by wings that extend to the west. Major rooms include a suite of Adjutant General offices (5), three office areas labelled "USACC," the office of the Director of Admission, and an office and file room in the western-most area excavated in 1970. The upper part of the A.G. Records Branch (Court Room) occupies part of the first basement.
- d. First Floor: The first, second and third floors are basically similar in plan and constitute the office mass of the building. These floors are arranged around the central courtyard quadrangle and share the tower core, which serves both circulation and office functions. The tower and an off-set wing of offices to the south form intersecting squares from which the other offices extend around the courtyard like arms, meeting at the sallyport on the west. The bridge appending the eastern gateway tower to the building is entered from the first floor. All floors have been altered spacially and have lost their original finish. The tower core is axially divided by the staircase, which when combined with the lobby and entrance vestibule forms a latin cross. The remaining space in this core consists of the elevator shaft, the "DCSP & A" office to the north of the stairs and

the Dean's private office to the south. The offices to the south of the tower, as well as those to the west, on the south side of the building, are all associated with the Dean's office. North of the tower are "DCS" offices; the north central section contains the "AG Mailroom"; and the northwest corner and west of the sallyport is the Public Affairs office.

- e. Second Floor: The basic configuration of the second floor is similar to that of the first. To the south of the stairs in the tower is the Superintendent's private office and to the north, the Superintendent's Aide's office. The office wing south of the tower consists of the Superintendent's office and a large reception room. The offices west of this wing to the sallyport contain the Deputy Superintendent and SGS Protocol office. North of the tower are two of the most decorative rooms: the Academic Board Room and the Faculty Lounge (Museum). The most dramatic space in the building is Lee Hall (Museum), which occupies the entire north side. This room, like the Lounge and Board Room is two stories in height (31'). The area between Lee Hall and the sallyport contains a restroom (original curator's office) and a stairway.
 - f. Third Floor: In plan, the third floor is similar to the first and second. Flanking the staircase in the tower is a conference room to the south and the DCSP & A Dean and Budget Office to the north. The wing south of the tower has been divided into offices for the Director of Admissions and Registrar, the Comptroller and the Deputy Comptroller. West of this area, and the area south of the sallyport, are offices of the Comptroller. North of the tower, and the whole north side, are the upper portions of the Academic Board Room, the Faculty Lounge and Lee Hall. North of the sallyport on the west elevation is a staircase and the Public Affairs Office. A gallery corridor connecting the third floor across the sallyport was once open to a mezzanine museum area between the second and third floors over the sallyport; this area is now the Command Information Center.
 - g. Fourth-Seventh Floors: Above the third floor, occupied space is confined to the tower. These floors are basically identical: the staircase and elevator in the northwest corner and one large office room with partitions occupying the rest of the floor. A small ell on the southwest corner contains one or two small restrooms on each floor.
 - h. Eighth Floor: The eighth floor consists solely of three detached towers: a rectangular one on the north containing the staircase and elevator machine room, and two square towers on the southeast and southwest corners.
2. Stairways: Centered in the tower core is the principal staircase serving the third basement through third floor. From the third basement to the second basement the staircase is a quarter-turn with winders; starting at the second basement the staircase is a half-turn with landings. The stairs and landings are North River Stone; the walls are lined with "Sand Lime" brick. From the third to the eighth

floors, the staircase becomes full-turn iron stairs with slate treads.

The second principal staircase, a dog-leg of North River Stone, is entered from the north, inside of the sallyport, and serves the first-third floors. The quarter-turn first flight has an open arcade on its south side.

Other staircases include an iron and slate dog-leg staircase between the first basement and the first floor at the north end of the north-south corridor; a first through third floor iron spiral staircase in the southeast corner of the sallyport; an open iron spiral staircase in the Public Affairs Office serving a gallery floor; and a dog-leg staircase between the first and first basement floors in the Dean's Office operations area. A spiral staircase, which was not examined, occupies the gateway tower connected to the east elevation.

3. Flooring: Certain floor coverings are associated with similar spaces on each floor. Concrete floors are used in the third basement in the stair/elevator lobby and the Janitor's Room. Granolithic floors are used in storage areas in the second and third basement (restricted areas). Clay tile floors are used for each stair/elevator lobby from the second basement to the third floor, in restrooms, north-south corridor on the first floor, the Public Affairs Offices (Post Office), and the Academic Board Room. Carpet over wood floors is the most frequent floor covering and is found in all offices and some corridors. North River Stone tiles cover floors in Lee Hall (Museum) and the corridor to Lee Hall. North River Stone tile floors also exist under carpet in the Faculty Lounge (Museum) and the Command Information Center (Museum). Each story has had its floor coverings altered to some extent; carpeting is the most common replacement covering.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: The interior walls of the Administration Building are finished in brick, plaster or wood panelling. Principal staircases and the stairs/elevator lobbies are lined with "Sand Lime" brick of a greyish-white color (this same brick is used throughout the building). Other spaces with brick lined walls include: the AG Division Records Branch (Court Room) and the Director of Admissions and Registrar's Stock Room on the first basement floor; Lee Hall (Museum), the Faculty Lounge (Museum), and the upper part of the Academic Board Room on the first floor. Full oak-panelled rooms include the Dean's Office on the first floor and the Superintendent's private office on the second floor. Other rooms panelled to an 8' height include the superintendent's regular office, and the Academic Board Room. The remaining rooms, primarily offices, have plastered walls with oak baseboards and chairrails. Wall finishes have been the least altered part of the interior.

Original ceilings have largely survived only in public spaces and special rooms. The most important ceilings are those that are vaulted. On the second basement floor the AG Records Branch Room (Court Room) retains its brick groin vault with limestone ribs flanked by brick barrel vaults and the AG Library features a brick vaulted ceiling (part of original lobby). On the first basement floor the

USACC Room (Visitors Gallery for Court Room) has a brick barrel vault ceiling. No rooms on the first floor are vaulted although three of the Dean's offices (2 rooms originally) have a plaster cornice and a plaster ceiling. The second floor contains the most decoratively finished rooms: a plaster cornice and ceiling in the Superintendent's private office; three Gustavino tile barrel vaults with terra cotta ribs in the Faculty Lounge; and seven Gustavino tile groin vaults with terra cotta ribs in Lee Hall. With the exception of concrete beams with acoustical tile in the second floor staff offices of the Superintendent and exposed plaster beams in the third floor Comptroller's office, all the other office spaces have dropped ceilings. All of the stairs/elevator lobbies in the tower core from the second basement to the second floor have Gustavino tile groin vaults with terra cotta ribs (the second floor vaults might have limestone ribs); the third floor lobby has a dropped ceiling. The principal staircase of the tower core also has Gustavino tile groin vaults.

5. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: A typical doorway, facing a vaulted lobby space, has a pointed arch and jambs of terra cotta. The door is oak, six panels and has a three light transom above it (see HABS photograph of First Floor lobby). Separating the Academic Board Room from the Faculty Lounge are oak pocket doors panelled with a diamond pattern on their upper half. Pocket doors are also found between the Dean's Office and the Dean's Conference Room. Due to dropped ceilings, many transoms, which were over each major interior door, are hidden from view.
- b. Windows: The large traceried windows on the east and west ends of the Academic Board Room feature the only stained glass in the building.

6. Decorative features and trim: Extraneous interior decoration is rarely found in the Administration Building. Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson let Gothic architectural elements such as vaults, ribs, arches, tracery and panelling serve to delight the eye. Spaces such as Lee Hall, the Faculty Lounge and the stairs/elevator lobbies of the tower are the best structurally-decorated parts of the building. The Academic Board Room mantel is the notable exception to structural decoration. This elaborately carved limestone mantel by sculptor Lee Lawrie, with seven famous warriors from ancient history, dominates the small board room (see Supplemental Material). Other minor decorative trim includes shield symbols on the heating registers of Lee Hall and the Faculty Lounge, and a carved floor beam supporting the sallyport's mezzanine gallery.

7. Hardware: Gothic-inspired hardware in the building consists of door hinges (H-L and strap) and escutcheons. Iron bands with multiple flagpole holders wrap around the engaged columns of Lee Hall and the Faculty Lounge.

7. Mechanical equipment:

- a. Heating, air-conditing, ventilation: The Administration Building

is heated with steam from the Power Plant. Concealed radiators emit heat through iron wall grilles, as in the case of Lee Hall and the Faculty Lounge, or through flush registers in window stools. There is evidence that additional registers or perhaps supplementary heating methods have been installed (baseboard unit in second floor lobby).

The building was originally without air-conditioning but has subsequently been retrofitted for a central air system. Dropped ceilings conceal the ductwork in most office spaces with the exception of the third floor Comptroller's Office, where exposed ducts are attached to the ceiling. A louvered door in the Faculty Lounge might also contain air-conditioning equipment. Window units are still randomly used in some offices.

- b. Lighting: As with much of the other surviving original fabric, original lighting fixtures generally survive only in public and ceremonial spaces. Details of the original lighting fixtures were drawn by E. D. Wagner in 1909 under the direction of Quartermaster Maj. J. M. Carson, Jr. These electric lights of "dark antique brass" and white globes still exist in the tower staircase, the stairs/elevator lobbies and in public spaces such as entry vestibules. Staircase lights are attached to the wall while lobby lights are suspended from the apex of the vaulted ribs. Similar suspended lights (3) and wall mounted lights (4) survive in the Academic Board Room. Lee Hall has wall-mounted electric sconce lights and two large electric candle chandeliers. The Superintendent's Office still retains wall mounted lights and a hanging globe light but most of the other fixtures in offices have been replaced with fluorescent lights. Original first floor plans show fluorescent lights in the southwest offices, the north central offices and the offices flanking the tower; these are probably subsequent additions to the drawings since other drawings indicate that fluorescent lights were added to the southwest offices in 1942.

9. Original furnishings: The only significant original furniture is found in the Academic Board Room where there are sixteen large chairs containing the names of Board members and a massive table with the USMA insignia carved into it.

D. Site:

1. The Administration Building was designed with its facade facing west yet the most dramatic elevations are on the south and east. This is due to the falling site which the architects used to their advantage by increasing the number of floors on its eastern downhill site. The placement of the tower on the southeast corner was also related to the site insofar as the building served as an imposing and impressive "gatehouse" to the Academy via the Cullum Road approach from the south (see HABS photographs). While the later-elevated Cullum Road still passes on the east, its shift towards the Riding Hall relegates the Administration Building's gateway tower entrance to a secondary road (see HABS photographs) and denies the masterful site planning to some degree.

The Administration Building is contained between Cullum and Thayer Roads on the east and west respectively, and pedestrian walks on the north and south. On the south, granite and limestone stairs wind their way down the falling site. On the north a pedestrian bridge over Cullum Road provides access to the Riding Hall (HABS No. NY-5708-23). This major pedestrian path on the north passes between the Administration Building and the East Academic Building (HABS No. NY-5708-25) and offers one of the most picturesque views of the Chapel (HABS No. NY-5708-20) as framed between these buildings (see HABS photograph).

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 Lange and Grashof 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.

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: Records of Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson; records of Lawrie.
- E. Supplemental Information:
1. "Notes on Architectural Embellishments"
 2. "Description of the Shields, Inscriptions and Statuettes"
 3. "Explanation of the Nine Warriors Sculpted on the Mantle of the Academic Board Room"
 4. "Mantel in Academic Board Room"

E. Supplemental Material

1. "Notes on Architectural Embellishments"
M.D., U.S.M.A. Archives, Historical Inquiry File

"On the southeast corner of the headquarters building, about the same level as Thayer Road, one can see the unfinished eagle by the very famous sculptor, Lee Lawrie, employed to do the stone embellishments of U.S.M.A. buildings during the 1904-1910 expansion program. He completed all the beautiful stone work in the Academic Board room, Lee Hall, and others throughout the building both inside and out with the exception of the unfinished eagle, at a great private loss. Apparently, the Quartermaster in charge of construction ran short of funds due to some changes that had to be made on the design. He therefore did not have enough money to complete the work. Mr. Lawrie finally stopped work on the eagle after its initial rough cut due to lack of funds. The eagle was initially chiseled from rough stones after they were placed as part of the building wall. Mr. Lawrie stopped the work on the eagle leaving it in its rough form with the understanding that he would come back later and finish it when the Academy could afford to finance it. Later the Academy realized they were indebted to the man and attempted to rehire him to return and finish the eagle. Mr. Lawrie came back and inspected the eagle. He remarked that he would not touch it for all the money in the world. He stated that over the past twenty years Mother Nature had weathered the eagle and it was so beautiful in its weathered condition that human hands could not improve its appearance. His love for fine arts overpowered the benefits of recouping some of his losses on the earlier job.

Note: Mr. Lawrie was hired to produce the large embellishment on the tower of the new Library. He died a few days after completion of the project."

E. Supplemental Material

2. Description of the Shields, Description of Statuettes.
U.S. Military Academy Archives, Historical Inquiry File.

Description of the Various Shields and Inscriptions on the Walls
and of the Statuettes in Mantel of Academic Board Room,
Administration Building, West Point, New York.

1911

With five exceptions, hereafter noted, the shields represent the coats-of-arms of the various States, Territories and foreign possessions prepared from the official seals and expressed according to the laws of Heraldry. The only coat-of-arms of an individual is that of George Washington, at the top of the east elevation of courtyard. The obverse and reverse of the Great Seal of the United States will be found above the west and east entrances, respectively, of the sallyport, the seal of the War Department and the device of the Corps of Engineers on either side of the obverse of the Great Seal.

In addition to the shields the devices of the various staff departments, usually associated with a headquarters, have been placed in the sallyport—two of them, the Adjutant General's Department and the Quartermaster's Department, on shields on the north side of the sallyport, and the Subsistence Department, Signal Corps, Pay Department, Ordnance Department, Inspector General's Department, Judge Advocate General's Department, Medical Department and Chaplain's Corps, on corbels at the bases of the ribs of the arch.

In the courtyard, the names inscribed were selected for the following reasons:

Williams—Colonel Jonathan Williams, first Superintendent of the Military Academy.

Swift—Colonel Joseph G. Swift, the first graduate of the Military Academy.

Totten—General Joseph G. Totten, the tenth graduate and ex-officio the first inspector of the Military Academy while serving as Chief of Engineers, from 1838-1864.

Thayer—Colonel Sylvanus Thayer, Father of the Military Academy.

Delafield—Colonel Richard Delafield, Superintendent from 1856 to 1861, under whose administration much construction was completed.

Jefferson—Thomas Jefferson, third President of the United States, during whose administration, 1801 to 1809, the Military Academy was founded.

James Monroe—Fifth President of the United States, 1817 to 1825, under whose administration the Military Academy developed and was encouraged.

The description of the statuettes and the reasons for selecting the subjects are given in a letter from the architects to Dr. Holden, dated November 23d, 1906. This was referred with other matters to the Advisory Board by endorsement of your office, dated February 1st, 1908, who submitted a report, dated February 6th, 1908, recommending "the character for the figures over the mantel-piece be of a general military type, historical or legendary, best suited to harmonize with the architectural treatment, and selected from the three lists in the letter of the architects of Nov. 23d, 1906, by the architects themselves."

The heads appearing at the top of the mantel—in the crenelations—have no relation to the statuettes underneath. The small shields immediately below the statuettes are, however, indicative of the subjects as follows:

Joshua—Sun and Moon—taken from the Biblical legend describing the distinctly miraculous halting of the Sun on the occasion of a certain battle.

Hector of Troy—Mycenean Scroll—a sort of triangular fylfot, which stands for Mycenean civilization, would apply equally to that of Troy of which Hector was the greatest figure.

David, King of all Israel; Warrior and Psalmist—the Harp—selected by the architects instead of a little sling, especially since the head of Goliath is under the foot of the figure above.

Alexander the Great—a conventionalized Gordian Knot severed.

Julius Caesar—the Standard carried by the famous Roman Legions.

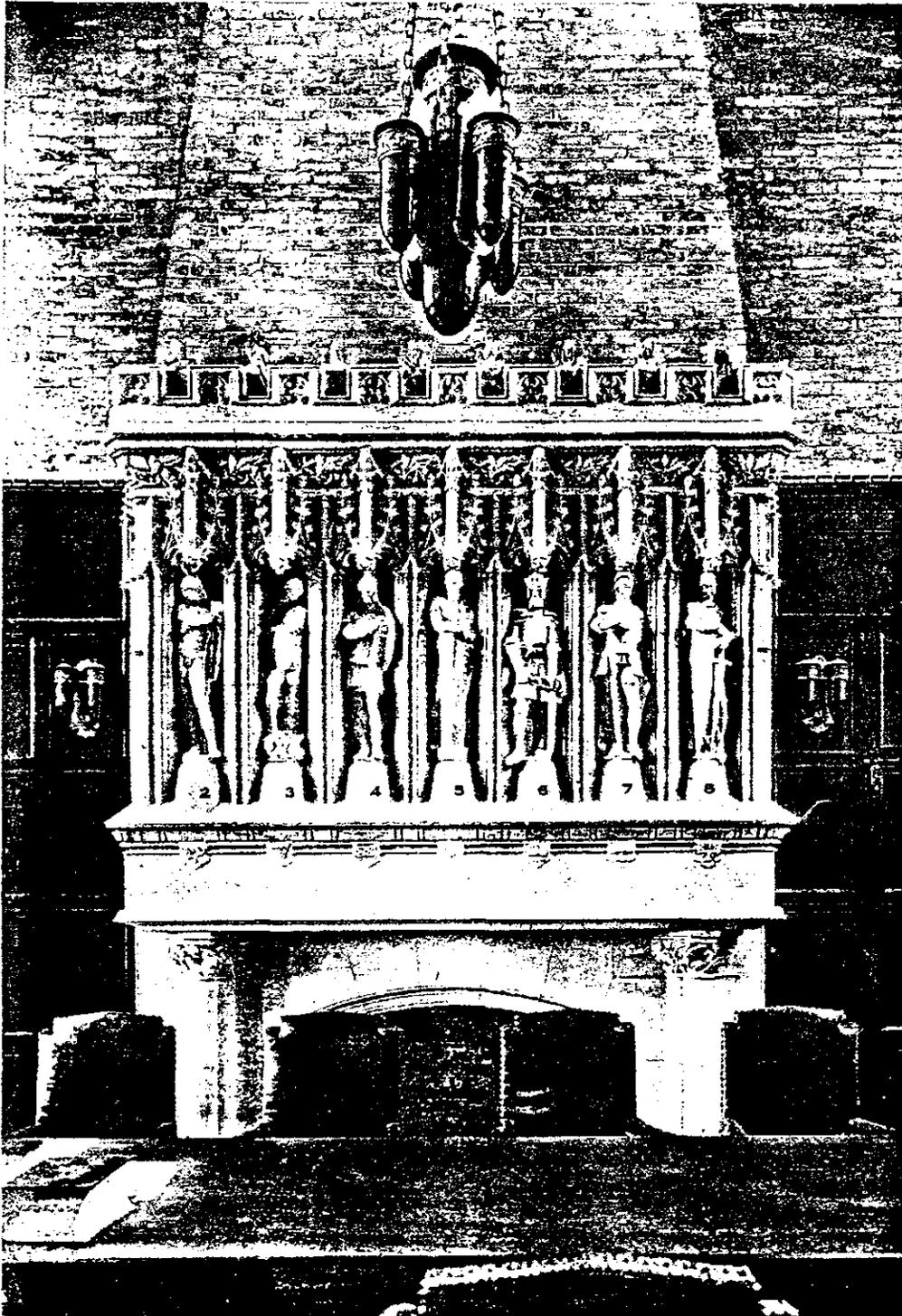
Charlemagne, King of France—the Imperial Iron Crown.

King Arthur of England—The Holy Grail, symbolizing the whole purpose of his career.

Godfrey de Bouillon—Heraldic Cross of Jerusalem, of which city he was king and which forms a part of his own coat-of-arms.

Judas Maccabeus—The hammer, which is the actual meaning of the name "Maccabeus."

MANTEL IN ACADEMIC BOARD ROOM



- (1). Joshua, east end, not shown
2. Hector of Troy
3. David

4. Alexander the Great
5. Julius Caesar
6. Charlemagne

7. King Arthur of England
8. Godfrey de Bouillon
(9). Judas Maccabeus, west end,
[not shown]

In the Mantel the figures are arranged chronologically and historically. Three of them, *i. e.*, Hector, Alexander and Caesar were heathens; three were Christians, viz: Charlemagne, King Arthur and Godfrey; and three were Jews, viz: Joshua, David and Judas.

The choice of the subjects was suggested to the architects by Caxton's preface to the first volume of Sir Thomas Malory's *Morte d'Arthur*, from which the following quotation covering the choice of the figures is taken:

"For it is notyrlly known through the universal world, that there be nine worthy and the best that ever were, that is to wit, three Paynims, three Jews, and three Christian men. As for the Paynims, they were to-fore the Incarnation of Christ, which were named, the first Hector of Troy, of whom the history is comen both in ballad and in prose, the second Alexander the Great, and the third Julius Caesar, Emperour of Rome, of whom the histories be well known and had. And as for the three Jews, which also were to-fore the Incarnation of our Lord, of whom the first was Duke Joshua which brought the children of Israel into the land of behest, the second David king of Jerusalem, and the third Judas Machabeus, of these three the Bible rehearseth all their noble histories and acts. And since the said Incarnation have been three noble Christian men, stalled and admitted through the universal world into the number of the nine best and worthy. Of whom was first the noble Arthur. The second was Charlemain, or Charles the Great, of whom the history is had in many places, both in French and in English. And the third and last was Godfrey of Boloine."

- 40--Louisiana
- 41--Texas
- 42--Tennessee
- 43--Oklahoma
- 44--District of Columbia
- 45-46-47-48-49-51-52--
- 53-54-55, blank

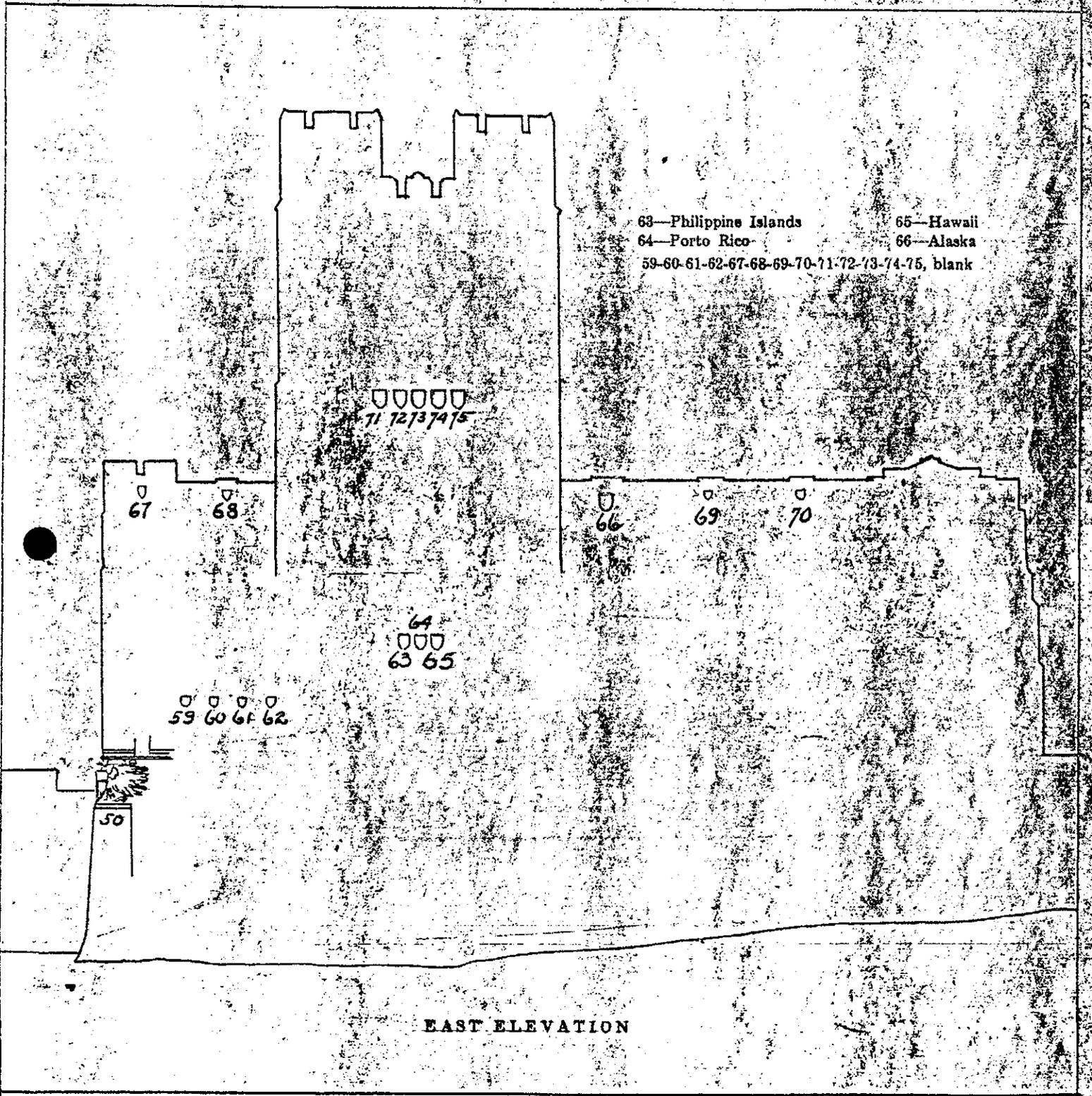
51 52 53 54 55

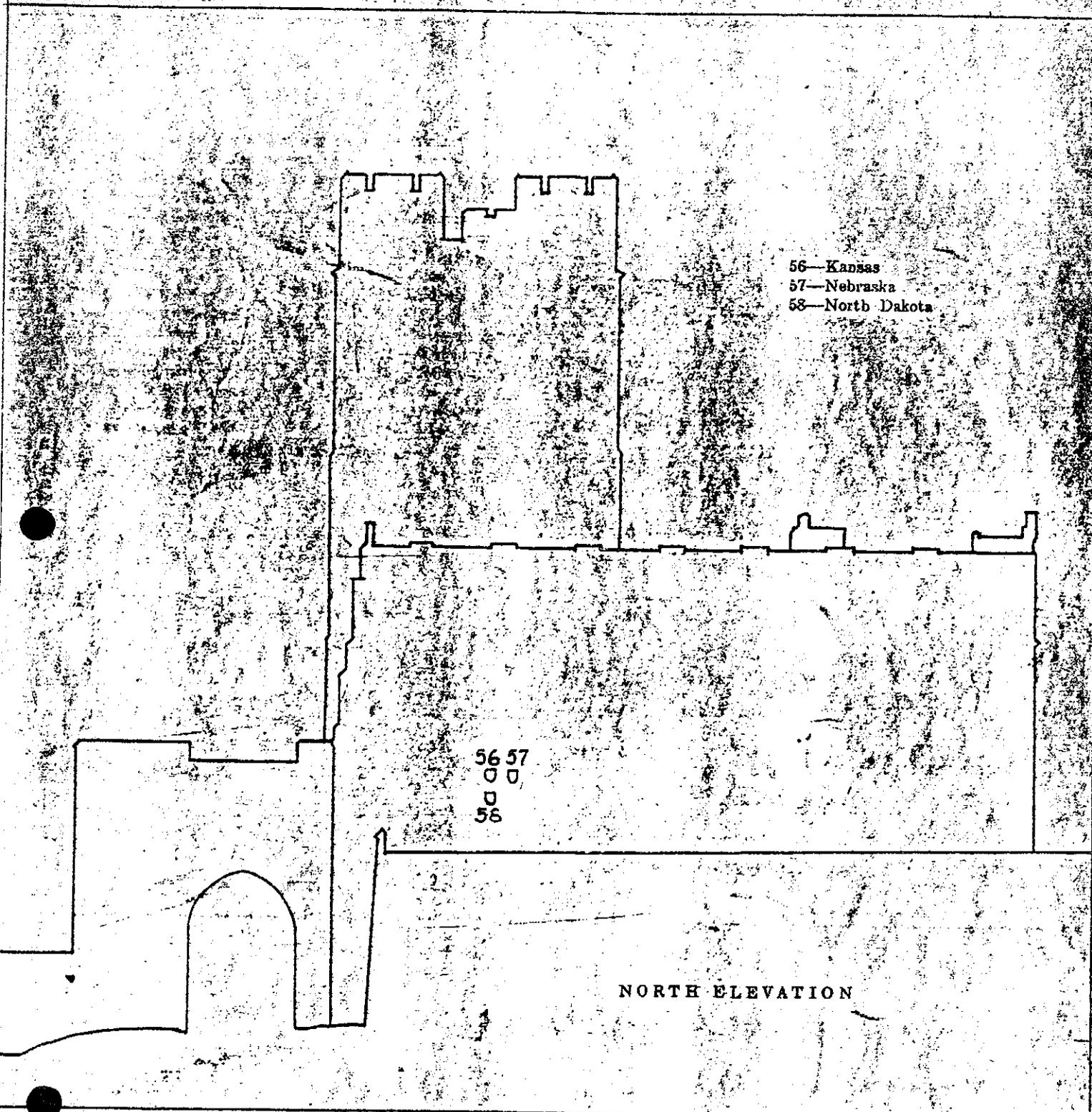
44 45 46 47 48 49

40 41 42 43

50

SOUTH ELEVATION



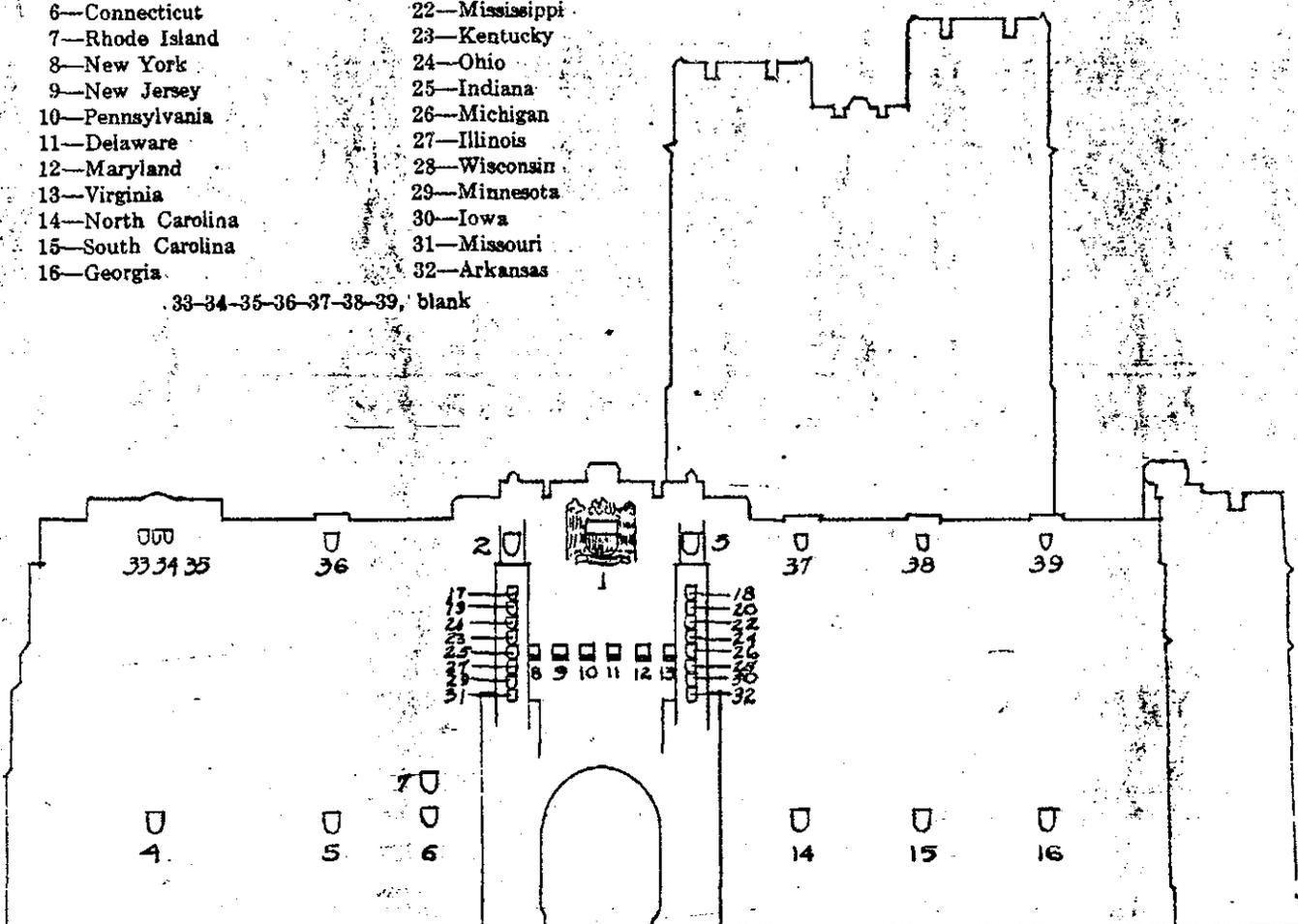


56—Kansas
57—Nebraska
58—North Dakota

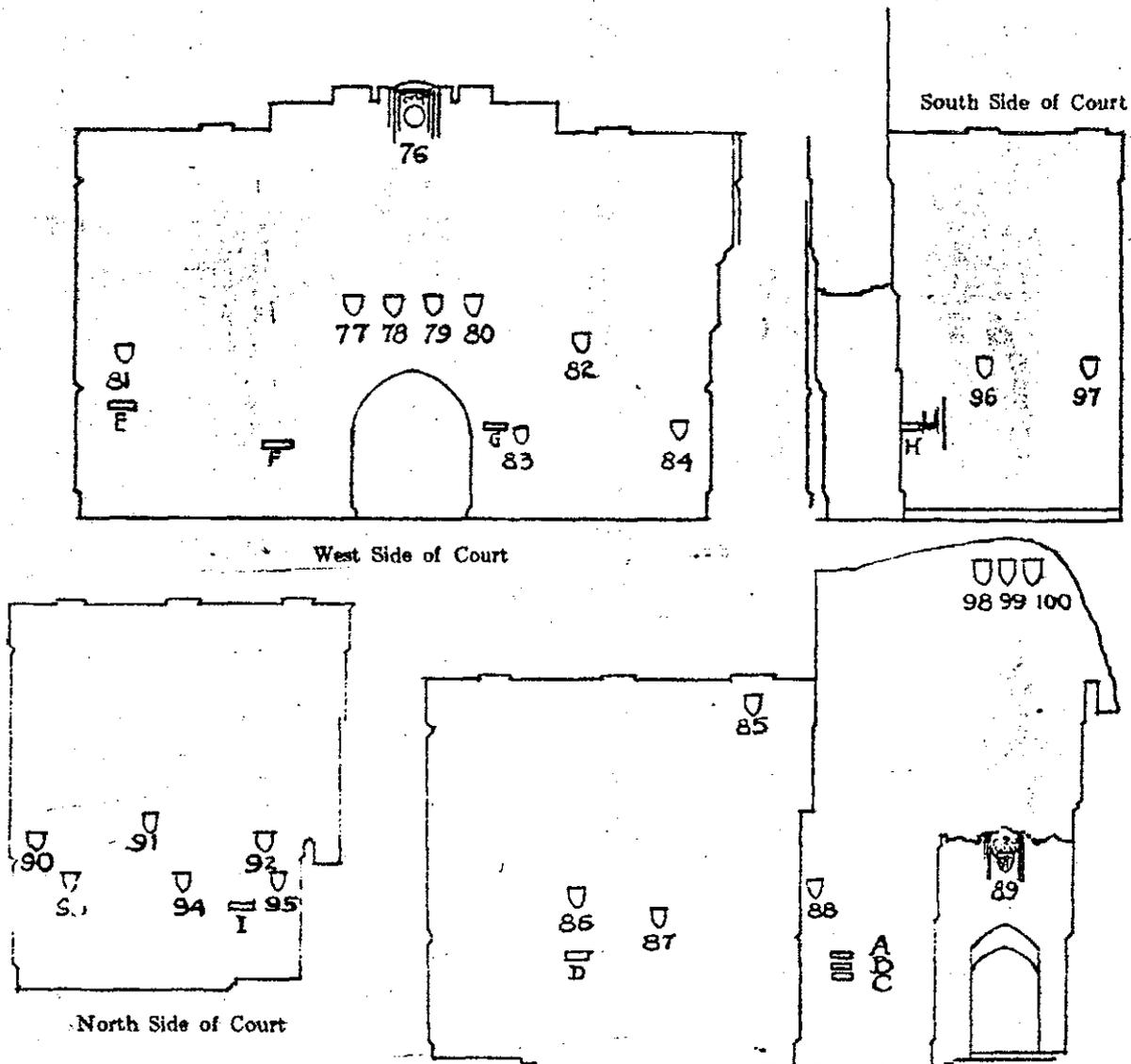
56
57
□
58

NORTH ELEVATION

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| 1—Seal of United States, obverse | 17—Maine |
| 2—Seal of War Department | 18—Vermont |
| 3—Device of Corps of Engineers | 19—West Virginia |
| 4—New Hampshire | 20—Florida |
| 5—Massachusetts | 21—Alabama |
| 6—Connecticut | 22—Mississippi |
| 7—Rhode Island | 23—Kentucky |
| 8—New York | 24—Ohio |
| 9—New Jersey | 25—Indiana |
| 10—Pennsylvania | 26—Michigan |
| 11—Delaware | 27—Illinois |
| 12—Maryland | 28—Wisconsin |
| 13—Virginia | 29—Minnesota |
| 14—North Carolina | 30—Iowa |
| 15—South Carolina | 31—Missouri |
| 16—Georgia | 32—Arkansas |
| 33-34-35-36-37-38-39, blank | |



WEST ELEVATION



- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 76—Seal of United States, reverse | 89—U. S. Military Academy |
| 77—Utah | 90—South Dakota |
| 78—Colorado | 91—Washington |
| 79—New Mexico | 92—Montana |
| 80—Arizona | 96—Oregon |
| 81—Wyoming | 97—Nevada |
| 82—Idaho | |
| 85—Arms of George Washington | |
| 88—California | |
- 83-84-86-87-93-94-95-98-99-100, blank

East Side of Court

INSCRIPTIONS

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| A—Williams | F—Monroe |
| B—Swift | G—Jefferson |
| C—Totten | H—Thayer |
| | I—Delafield |

D and E, blank

E. Supplemental Material

3. Explanation of the Nine Warriors

N.D., U.S. Military Academy Archives, Historical Inquiry File.

**EXPLANATION OF THE NINE WARRIORS SCULPTURED ON THE MANTLE
OF THE ACADEMIC BOARD ROOM**

While the identity of the Nine Warriors on the Mantle of the Academic Board Room has been well known for many years, I have until now been unable to find any explanation as to why those nine individuals were selected for that distinction. The following quotation clears up the question.

...During the early years of the fourteenth century a troubador named Jacques de Longuyon popularized a legend of daring and chivalry in an epic poem he composed, titled the Vow of the Peacock. The warrior-hero of this poem, Perus, was pictured as the most valorous paladin who ever championed a damsel in distress or skewered a knave, and for comparison de Longuyon chose nine illustrious heroes of yore -- three pagans, Hector, Alexander, Julius Caesar; three Hebrews, David, Joshua, Judas Maccabaeus; three Christians, Arthur, Charlemagne, Godfrey of Bouillon. The theme captivated the public imagination and inspired a flood of music, literature and art. The Nine Heroes were especially popular as the subjects of tapestries. Charles V and his brothers, the Dukes of Anjou, Burgundy and Berry -- to list only a few -- owned one or more Nine Heroes tapestries.

THE CASE OF THE NINE HEROES by John Kohler
Saturday Evening Post, October 29, 1955, page 66.

W. J. MORTON
Colonel, ARMY
Librarian

E. Supplemental Material

4. Mantel in Academic Board Room

N.D., U.S. Military Academy Archives, Historical Inquiry File
MANTEL IN ACADEMIC BOARD ROOM

Architects: Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson.

Sculptor: Lee Laurie, Locust Lane Farm, Easton, Maryland.

The heads appearing at the top of the mantel - in the crenelations - have no relation to the statuettes underneath. The small shields immediately below the statuettes are, however, indicative of the subjects as follows:

JOSHUA - Sun and Moon - taken from the Biblical legend describing the distinctly miraculous halting of the Sun on the occasion of a certain battle.

HECTOR OF TROY - Mycenaean Scroll - a sort of triangular fylyfot, which stands for Mycenaean civilization, would apply equally to that of Troy of which Hector was the greatest figure.

DAVID - King of all Israel, Warrior and Psalmist - the Harp - selected by the architects instead of a little sling, especially since the head of Goliath is under the foot of the figure above.

ALEXANDER THE GREAT - A conventionalized Gordian Knot severed.

JULIUS CAESAR - The Standard carried by the famous Roman Legions.

CHARLEMAGNE - King of France - the Imperial Iron Crown.

KING ARTHUR OF ENGLAND - The Holy Grail, symbolizing the whole purpose of his career.

GODFREY de BOUILLION - Heraldic Cross of Jerusalem, of which city he was king and which forms a part of his own coat-of-arms.

JUDAS MACCABEUS - The hammer, which is the actual meaning of the name "Maccabeus".

The choice of the subjects were suggested to the architects by Caxton's preface to the first volume of Sir Thomas Malory's Morte d'Arthur, from which the following quotation covering the choice of the figures is taken:

"For it is notorily known through the universal world, that there be nine worthy and the best that ever were, that is to wit, three Paynims, three Jews, and three Christian men. As for the Paynims, they were to-fore the Incarnation of Christ, which were named, the first Hector of Troy, of whom the history is ~~women~~ both in ballad and in prose, the second Alexander the Great, and the third Julius Caesar, Emperor of Rome, of whom the histories be well known and had. And as for the three Jews, which also were to-fore the Incarnation of our Lord, of whom the first was Duke Joshua which brought the children of Israel into the land of behest, the second David king of Jerusalem, and the third Judas Maccabeus, of those three the Bible rehearseth all their noble histories and acts. And since the said Incarnation have been three noble Christian men, stalled and admitted through the universal world into the number of the nine best and worthy. Of whom was first the noble Arthur. The second was Charlemain, or Charles the Great, of whom the history is had in many places, both in French and in English. And the third and last was Godfrey of Boloine."

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 1, "Methodology." This written documentation was prepared by Travis C. McDonald, Jr., architectural historian, in 1982-1985 based on fieldwork conducted in 1982.

ADDENDUM TO
UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
(UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY, POST HEADQUARTERS)
(UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY, BUILDING NO. 600)
West Point
Orange County
New York

HABS No. NY-5708-22

HABS
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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013