

U.S. Military Academy - Officer's Quarters No. 11  
West side of Wilson Road, north of elbow in road  
before intersection with Kinsley Hill Road  
U.S. Military Academy  
West Point  
Orange County  
New York

HABS No. NY-5708-51

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, DC 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY - OFFICER'S QUARTERS NO. 11

LOCATION:

West side of Wilson Road, north of elbow in road before intersection with Kinsley Hill Road, U.S. Military Academy, West Point, Orange County, New York.

USGS, West Point Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator  
Coordinates: 18.587140.4581840.

PRESENT OWNER  
AND OCCUPANT:

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

PRESENT USE:

Family Housing - Colonel.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Quarters No. 11 is one of five identical structures situated in a row along Wilson Road. These buildings create a cohesive architectural whole through their similarity in massing, details, style and their relationship to one another. The transitional (Queen Anne to Colonial Revival) character of the buildings is typical of American architecture at the turn of the century, and their construction at the Academy at this time demonstrates the parallels between the buildings at West Point and general movements in architecture nationally.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1901 (Lange).
2. Architect: Presumably the Army Quartermaster's Office. Similar designs can be found on other Army posts.
3. Original and subsequent owners: U.S. Military Academy, Department of the Army.
4. Builder: Unknown.
5. Alterations and additions: There have been no major additions to the building.

- B. Historical Context: For the historical and architectural context of this building within the overall development of West Point see HABS No. NY-5708, Volume 2: "West Point: An Overview of the History and Physical Development of the United States Military Academy."

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Quarters No. 11 is a transitional vernacular building with both Neoclassical and Colonial Revival details. The two story brick structure has a third level under the eaves, with broad pedimented gable ends providing walls for windows. The paired columns on the porches are typical Colonial Neoclassical details, while the arched window openings on the third level and the brackets under the gable returns relate more closely to late 19th century architecture. The building's overall strength lies in its massing, and it is representative of a much larger movement in American architecture at the turn of the century.
2. Condition of fabric: The building is in good condition.

B. Description of the Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: Quarters No. 11 is essentially a "U" shaped structure measuring 62'-0" along the front and 47'-4" along the arms of the "U". The facade is symmetrically organized about the center of the front facade with a pedimented gable end over a slight projection in the wall surface dominating the form. The building is neatly and rigidly organized, helping to create a powerful visual image.

2. Foundation: The footings are of concrete, while the foundation walls are cut and trimmed stone laid in regular courses with a stone water table.

3. Walls: The exterior walls are brick laid in an American bond with brick and limestone trim.

Limestone is used for the sills of the windows, while protruding brick segmental arches span the window openings on the first and second level and protruding brick arches span the window openings in the gable ends on the third level.

4. Structural systems: Load-bearing brick walls with brick facing are used for the exterior walls of Quarters No. 11, while wood joists are used to support the floors and wood rafters comprise the roofing system.
5. Porches, chimneys: Two "L" shaped porches exist at the northeast and southeast corners. These are raised above grade and have paired wood columns supporting a deep cornice below the flat metal-covered roof. Machined handrails and square balusters complete the original detailing. Aluminum screens have recently been added.

There are four plain brick chimneys: one in the ridge of the front cross gable; one protruding from the roof between the arms of the "U"; and two incorporated into the two end (west) walls of the "U" arms.

6. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: Four doorways lead into Quarters No. 11: two main entries from the two front porches and two rear entries in the

west walls of the arms of the "U". The main doors are wood, 3'-8" x 7'-0" with two horizontal panels below and one large light of glass above. The rear doors are also wood, 3'-3-3/4" x 7'-0" with three horizontal panels below and four lights of glass above.

- b. Windows: Except for two-over-two double-hung wood sash windows in the western inside wall of the "U", the windows are one-over-one double-hung wood sash throughout the first through third levels. The basement windows are two light pivoting wood windows.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The gable roof is covered with gray slate.
- b. Cornice, eaves: The wood eaves have a moderate cornice with paired brackets beneath the gable returns.
- c. Dormers: There are three dormers: two are on the cross gables on the front facade and have pedimented gable ends. The dormer to the rear flanks the chimney and has wood vents to either side of the chimney. These have gable roofs and slate ends.

C. Description of the Interior:

1. Floor plans: Quarters No. 11 is a duplex with identical units flanking a central east-west wall. Quarters No. 11A was surveyed for the purposes of this report.

The unit is divided along a nearly central east-west wall on the first and second levels with a living room, dining room, and rear stairway to the south and a kitchen and hall/stairway to the north on the first level. On the second level are two bedrooms and the rear stairway to the south and two bedrooms and two baths to the north. The third level has two bedrooms, a bath and a large open space serviced by the rear stairway only.

2. Stairways: Two stairways service Quarters No. 11A: a front, main stair connecting the first and second levels only and a smaller rear stairway connecting the basement through the third floor.

The main stairway is a "U" stair in a 6'-0" x 12'-4" space with wood risers and treads, turned balusters and a square wood, recessed paneled post.

The rear stairway is also a "U" return type in a 6'-6" x 11'-3" space with wood risers and treads and a square post.

3. Flooring: The floors are heart pine on the second and third floors, while the first floor has carpeting throughout with the exception of linoleum in the kitchen. The basement has a concrete floor.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls in Quarters No. 11A are plaster throughout, as are the ceilings.

5. Openings:

a. Doors: Large oak paneled sliding pocket doors exist in the openings between the hall and living room and living room and dining room. The doors on the second floor have been replaced with plain, hollow core doors, while the wood doors on the third floor, which appear to be original, have two vertical panels above and two horizontal panels below. The doorways are framed by simple, machined trim throughout.

6. Built-in features: The mantelpieces in the living room and dining room and the sideboard in the dining room are the most distinctive features in Quarters No. 11A. The mantelpiece in the living room has a wood shelf supported by wood Ionic columns (flanking the fireplace), while the mantelpiece in the dining room has a wood shelf supported by fluted Doric columns flanking the fireplace and a carved floral pattern on the mantel facing. The sideboard in the dining room is made of oak and has two panel doors below the counter surface and glass doors enclosing the shelves above.

7. Mechanical equipment:

- a. Heat: Steam radiators provide heat for the building.
- b. Lighting: Except for fluorescent lighting in the kitchen, incandescent lighting is used throughout.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: Quarters No. 11 is oriented to the east, fronting on Wilson Road. A narrow strip of grass exists between the house and the street, and across the street the land drops off sharply toward the Hudson River. Quarters No. 11 is the northernmost unit of five identical buildings that sit on a level strip on a hillside that rises sharply to the west and descends gradually to the north. To the west of the building, immediately beyond the service road, is a rock outcropping. To the south is a flat roofed brick garage between Quarters No. 11 and the next unit to the south, Quarters No. 13. While the hillsides to the north, east and west are lightly to heavily covered with deciduous and coniferous trees, the site for Quarters No. 11 is exposed.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Architectural Drawings: There are no known original drawings. Subsequent alteration drawings are located in the Facilities Engineer's Office, Directorate of Engineering and Housing, U.S. Military Academy.
- B. Early Views: Early photographs are located in the U.S. Military Academy Archives and Special Collections. Some of these are reproduced in the Grashof and Lange volumes of this project.
- C. Bibliography:
1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Records, U.S. Military Academy Archives and Special Collections. See bibliographic essay in the Lange volume of this project for a listing of record groups.

2. Secondary and published sources:

Grashof, Bethanie C. "Building Analysis and Preservation Guidelines for Category I and Selected Category II Buildings at the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York," Historic American Buildings Survey, 1983. HABS No. NY-5708.

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

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This documentation is part of a multi-year project sponsored by the National Park Service and the United States Military Academy, explained in the United States Military Academy, HABS No. NY-5708, Volume 1, "Methodology." This written documentation was prepared by Travis C. McDonald, Jr. and Timothy Lindblad, architectural historians, in 1982-1985 based on fieldwork conducted in 1982 and 1984.