

DOWNTOWN SHORT PUMP GROCERY
West Broad Street (SR 25) and Three Chopt Road
Short Pump
Henrico County
Virginia

HABS No. VA-1345

HABS
VA
44-SPUMP,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
Northeast Region
Philadelphia Support Office
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, P.A. 19106

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LOCATION: West Broad Street (SR 250) and Three Chopt Road, Short Pump, Henrico County, Virginia.

USGS Glen Allen, Virginia Quadrangle
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 18.269960.4169980

SIGNIFICANCE: The Downtown Short Pump Grocery is a largely intact, representative example of a small scale, mixed use rural commercial building from the turn of the century. The building's unique stylistic features express the transition from late nineteenth century Victorian, to early twentieth century Craftsman and Colonial Revival styles. Such rural commercial architecture, once prevalent throughout Henrico County, is now threatened with extinction.

DESCRIPTION: The Downtown Short Pump Grocery is located at the southeast corner of Three Chopt Road and West Broad Street (U.S. Route 250) intersection in Henrico County, west of the Richmond City limits. The property consists of three buildings located on a .985 acre lot. The primary structure is a two-story commercial building that faces northwest toward the intersection. Immediately behind it is a one-story building that contained restrooms, and a short distance further to the rear lies a truck shed that fronts Three Chopt Road.

The grocery is a two-story, L-shaped building sided with asbestos shingles, resting on a brick foundation. The main block is two-bays-wide and two-bays-deep. An ell addition, two-bays-wide and two-bays-deep, is attached to the rear half of the northeast side of the main block. Both sections have flat roofs, sloping slightly to the rear (southeast). There are two brick chimneys, one near the front right (west) corner of the building, and one at the rear center. The main entrance to the grocery has a gable-roofed porch supported by two square cased posts at each end of its concrete floor. A porch with a second story gallery covers the rear of the main block. The gallery retains its original square cased porch posts, matchstick balustrade, and tongue-and-groove flooring. The first story of the rear porch has been partially enclosed, but three brick piers and one tapered cased post are still visible from the exterior.

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The main entrance to the grocery has double-leaf doors with large glass panes and brass latch hardware. The doors are flanked on each side by large 4-light display windows. Window openings are regularly spaced around the second story of the building. These windows are 6/6 double-hung windows with simple 4" wide surrounds and louvered shutters.

The front entrance to the ell has a concrete stoop, and contains a double door constructed of diagonal tongue-and-groove boards. The rear entrance to the ell has a modern steel door.

The main room of the grocery's interior consists of the entire first story of the original building. The room has a square wooden post in the center that supports a girder running the entire width of the ceiling. The front half of the floor has 2 1/2" pine tongue-and-groove flooring, and the rear half is covered with plywood. The walls and ceiling are clad with stamped patterned metal, painted white. All of the moveable interior furnishings have been removed from the building, and only two L-shaped laminated countertops remain. One is immediately to the left of the front door, its outside corner centered on the left display window. This countertop probably served as a cashier's counter. The other countertop is located at the center of the right (southwest) side of the room. The north end of this counter abuts an interior brick chimney that is extant on the right wall of the main room. Bordering the rear (southeast) end of this countertop is an enclosed staircase that leads to the second story. The rear interior wall of the main room has two doorways, one at each corner of that wall. The door to the right (south corner) leads to an enclosed section of the rear porch. The door to the left once led to a separate enclosed section of the rear porch, but it is now boarded up.

The left, or northeast wall of the main room has two openings leading to the ell addition. The first of these openings once had double doors, but only the hinges remain today. The other entrance retains a simple modern wooden door. The first story of the ell has 6" wide pine tongue-and-groove flooring, horizontal beaded board siding on the walls, and the ceiling has exposed 2x10 beams. The room appears to have been used as an office, and/or a utility and storage room.

The staircase leading to the second story is accessed from the rear of the main room near the southwest corner. Three steps lead northwest to a landing, from whence the stairs make a right angle turn to travel northeast, parallel to the building's facade. The stairs end at a narrow

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hallway that runs the width of main building. The hall has 2" pine tongue-and-groove flooring. All walls on the second story are original lath and plaster. All second story doors of the original section are wooden four panel inverted cross doors.

The first room to the right (southeast) of the stairway has a chair rail mounted 4' high, surrounding the wall. The floor is covered with brown linoleum tile. A small closet is built into the northwest wall, utilizing space above the hall staircase ceiling. There are two windows: one on the right or southwest wall, and one on the rear, or southeast wall. The rear wall has a door that opens to the second story gallery.

The bathroom is the next room on the southeast side of the hallway (rear of the house). It has black and white checkered linoleum floors, a 4' high chair rail below which are imitation masonite tiles, painted white. There is one window at the center of the rear wall (southeast) of the bathroom, and a small closet to the left of the entrance door.

The front of the main section contains only one large bedroom which consists of two rooms connected by a 5' wide opening between the rooms. The bedroom is entered from the room at the north corner of the building. It has 2 1/2" oak tongue-and-groove flooring of recent manufacture (ca. 1970-1980), and a chair rail mounted 3 1/2' from the floor. There is one window on each of the outside walls of the room. The second room at the west corner of the building has one window on each of the exterior walls, and a fireplace on the southwest wall. The fireplace has a simple painted wood mantle. The wood of the mantle covers the fireplace opening, and appears to have replaced an earlier mantle. Neither section of the bedroom has a closet.

At the northeast end of the hall lies the entrance to the second story of the ell addition. The southeast wall of the hallway from the bathroom doorway to the ell entrance has been altered by angling the wall outward 6", widening the northeast end of the narrow hall to accommodate a larger entrance door for the ell. The ell addition has two rooms, one at the front, and one at the rear, separated by a paneled door. The front room has three windows, two at the front (northwest), and one at the northeast wall. The rear room has two windows, one on each exterior wall. Only the rear room has a closet.

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Directly behind the main building is a small one story building that housed the restrooms for the grocery. It is a front gabled, clapboard building resting on a brick foundation, with the entrance gable oriented southeast. Rafter tails are exposed below the eaves of the silver painted asphalt roof. A brick chimney is located on the ridge near the southeast gable. Two doors with five vertical panels are located in the southeast gable, and a four panel inverted cross door is located at the west corner of the southwest wall. A single 6/6 window pierces each of the side walls.

To the south of the grocery building, oriented southwest toward Three Chopt Road, is a frame truck shed. This one story building is sheathed with beveled siding and rests on a poured concrete foundation. The side gabled saltbox roof is standing seam metal. There is one small window located near the north corner at the rear of the structure. The only other openings in the building are located on the southwest wall, facing Three Chopt Road. Two openings at either end of the building accommodate larger vehicles. At the south end of the building is a tongue-and-groove door on a steel slider, and at the north end are a pair of hinged three panel doors. There is a small entrance door at the center of the front wall.

HISTORY:

The Downtown Short Pump Grocery falls within the context of commercial history of the Lower Tidewater region in the period 1865-1914. The grocery was constructed around 1900 during the transitional period between animal drawn and gasoline fueled vehicles. The lot now owned by the grocery was part of a 51 acre parcel purchased by B.B. Henley from Isaac Davenport, Jr., in 1889. Henley died intestate around 1900. It is not known whether the grocery was constructed by B.B. Henley, or by Dabney B. Henley, the subsequent owner of the property. However, a 1913 map of Henrico County indicates the "Hendley Store" in Short Pump, although its location is shown further west than is actually the case, nearer to the junction of West Broad Street and Pouncey Road. Upon Dabney Henley's death, the property passed to his widow, Inez W. Henley. She in turn willed the land to her children, Raymond Henley and Doris Henley Hord. The triangular lot occupied by the grocery was surveyed and sold apart from the larger Henley parcel in 1979. It was purchased by Robert L. and Bernice Mandell, and Richard and Susan M. Friedman. In 1983, the Mandells sold their half interest in the property to the Friedmans, who retain ownership today.

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SOURCE:

Rosin, Elizabeth
1992

Phase II Architectural Evaluation of the Downtown Short Pump Grocery.
Prepared for the Virginia Department of Transportation by The Cultural
Resource Group of Louis Berger and Associates, Inc., Richmond,
Virginia.

HISTORIAN:

David C. Berg, Louis Berger & Associates, Inc., Washington, DC.
May 1995.

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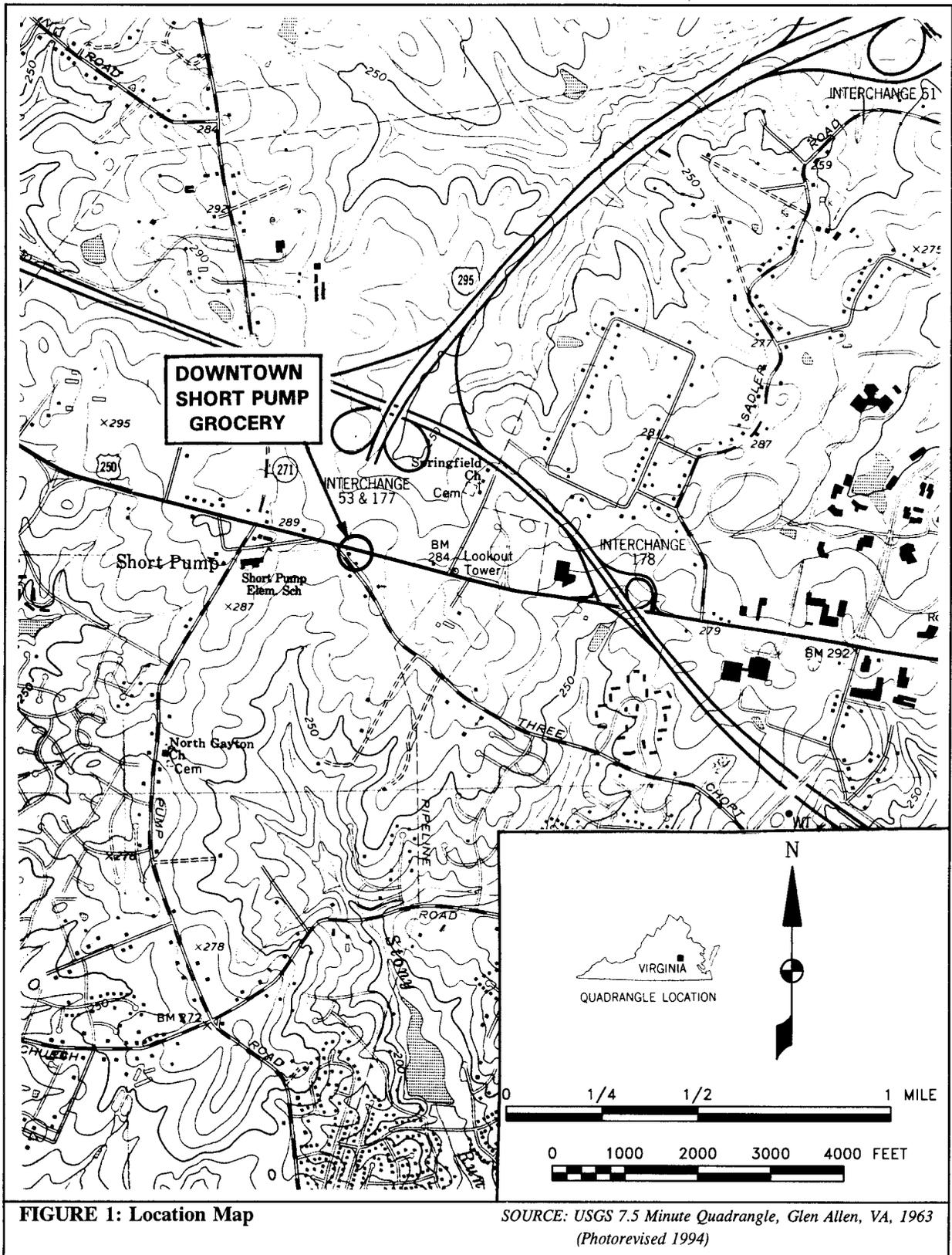


FIGURE 1: Location Map

SOURCE: USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle, Glen Allen, VA, 1963
(Photorevised 1994)

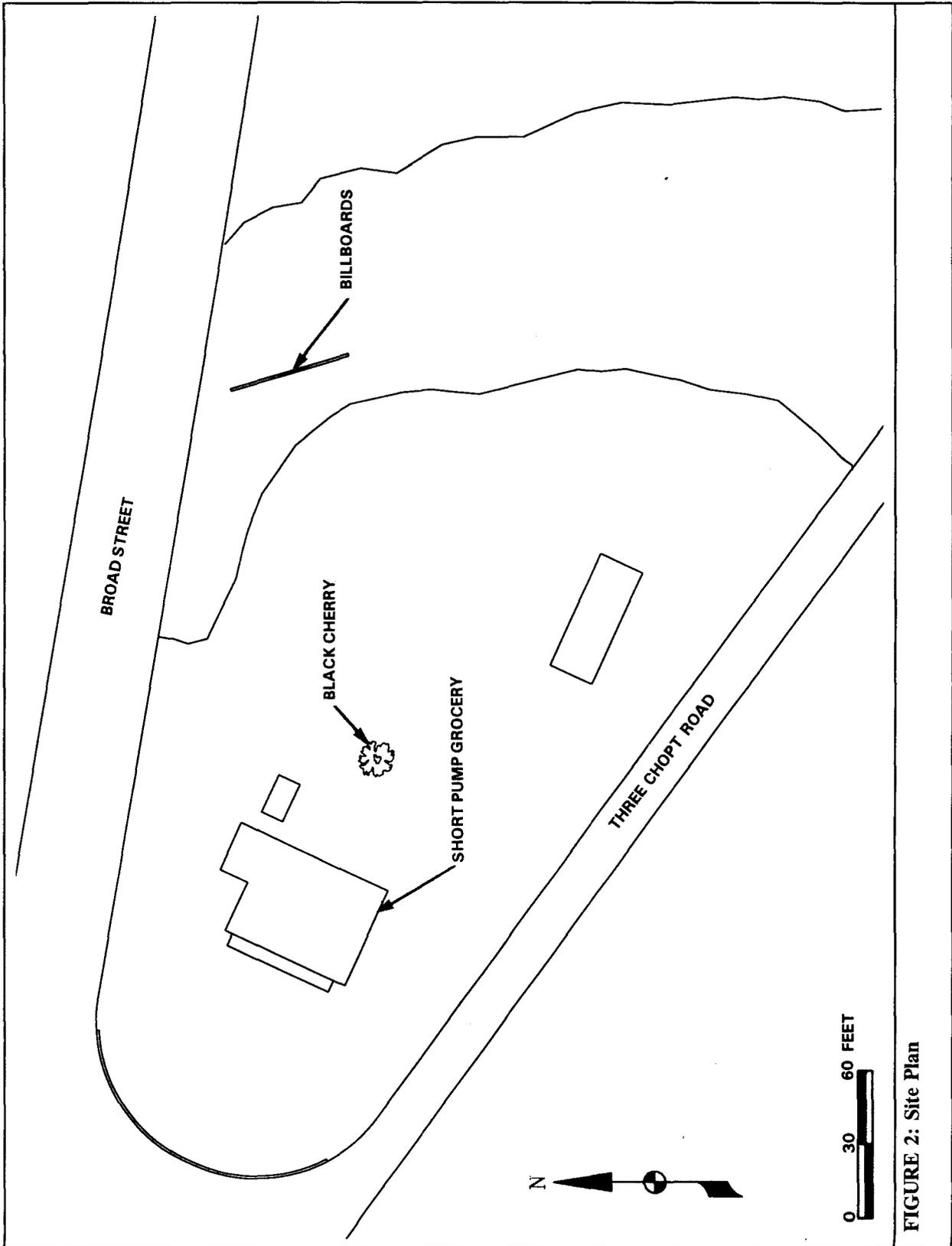


FIGURE 2: Site Plan

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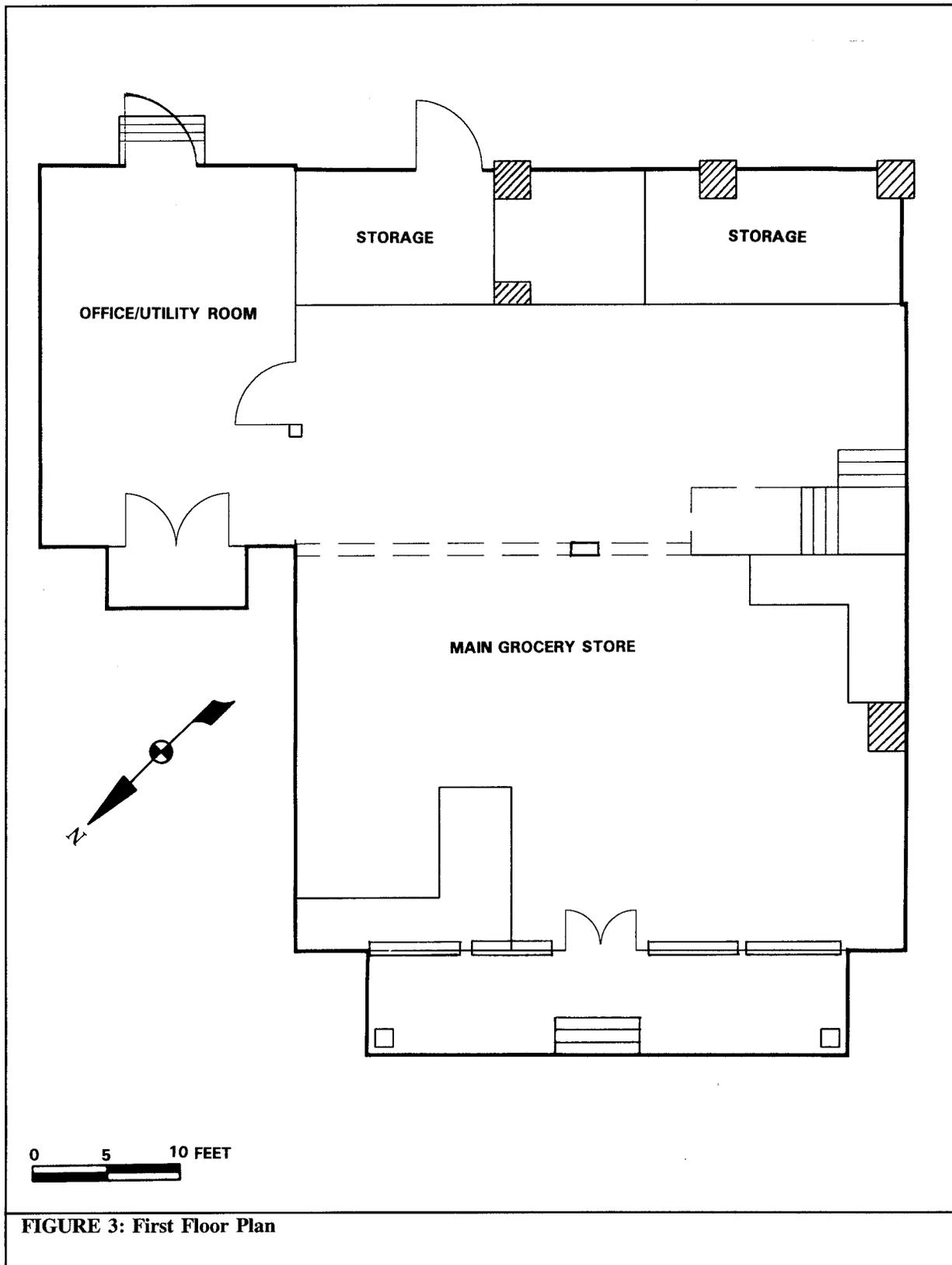


FIGURE 3: First Floor Plan

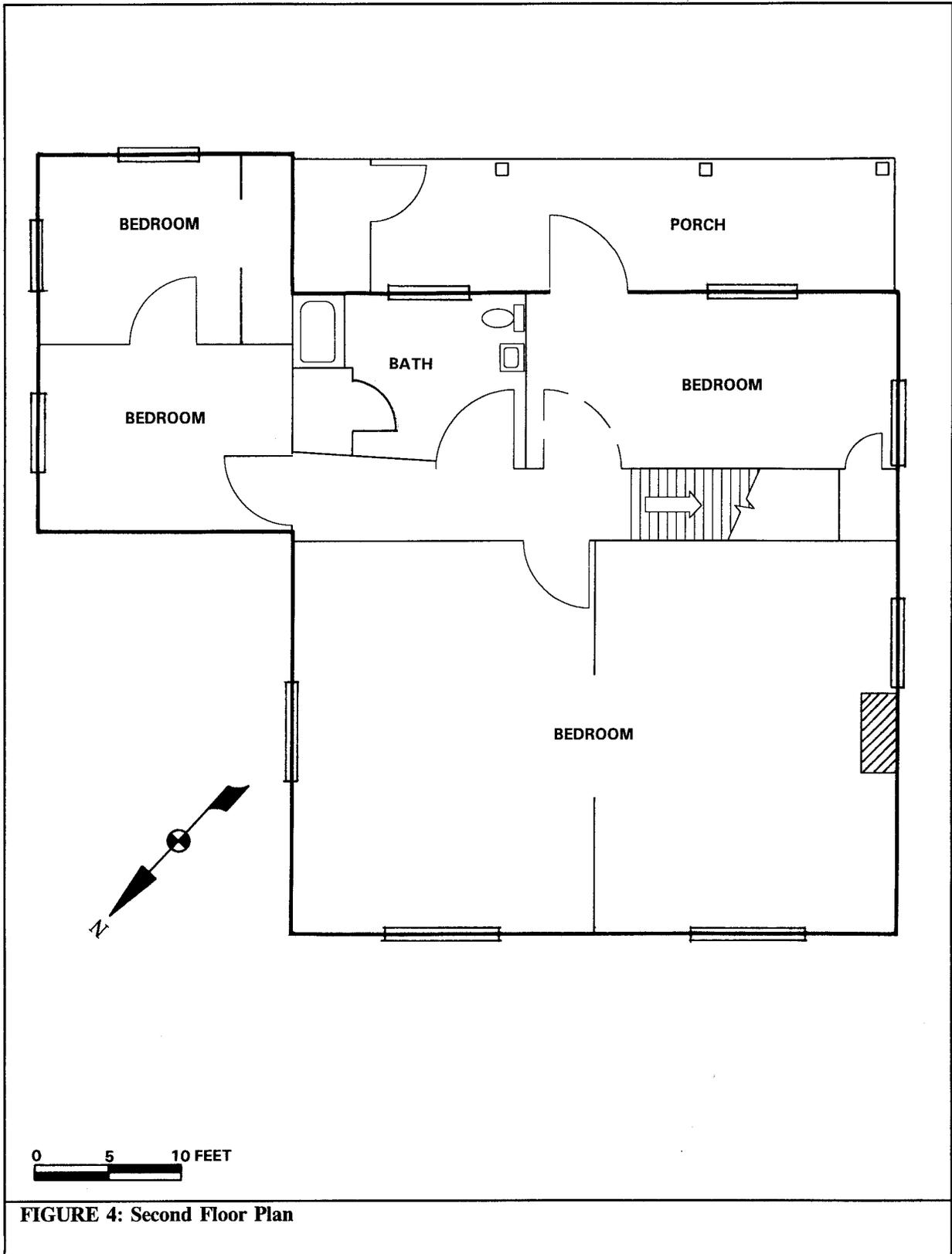


FIGURE 4: Second Floor Plan