

HATCHER HOUSE
Blue Ridge Parkway
Starbuck Road (State Road 680), milepost 157.0
Floyd vicinity
Floyd County
Virginia

HABS VA-1507
HABS VA-1507

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HATCHER HOUSE

HABS No. VA-1507

Location: Starbuck Road (State Road 680), milepost 157.0; approximately 4.61 miles east of the town of Floyd, Floyd County, Virginia

Present Owner: National Park Service (Blue Ridge Parkway)

Present Use: Currently not in use

Significance: The Hatcher House is considered eligible by the National Park Service (NPS) for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with milling in Floyd County, Criterion B, for its association with Peter Hatcher, and Criterion C, for its architectural design and materials.

Part I. Historic Information

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: The Hatcher House was constructed c. 1910.
2. Architect: Unknown
3. Original and subsequent occupants:

Peter Hatcher and his wife Olivia purchased the Hatcher House property c. 1910. Hatcher established a gristmill and saw mill, and corn, feed, and lumber were produced on site with the steam powered equipment. After Peter Hatcher died, his son Tiamon bought the property including the gristmill and sawmill from the Hatcher heirs. He and his brother Wayne Hatcher operated it as a mill site. Tiamon Hatcher bought 149.5 acres of the property from his brother Wayne in 1950.¹ Tiamon Hatcher conveyed this same acreage to Peter Hall and his wife in 1969.² That same year, Hall sold the property to McCray Shortt, minus one acre that he reserved for himself.³ Shortt sold 68.5 acres to Coy Lester Brewer and Harold Wayne Brewer in 1971, retaining 80 acres.⁴ The following year, in 1972, the US Government purchased 69.33 acres from the Brewer Brothers, although the origin of the extra one acre is unknown.⁵ The property is part of the Blue Ridge Parkway holdings.

4. Builder, contractor, supplier: Charles Underwood served as the builder.
5. Original plans and construction: The location of any original plans is unknown.
6. Alterations:

The Hatcher House originally operated as a mill site. This mill was unique to the county because it was steam operated, rather than water powered. The first impact to the condition of the property is the possible loss of several buildings and thus the exact spatial arrangements of the residential building, outbuildings, and the mill site. Records indicate that the mill site was approximately 300 to 400 ft. to the west of the Hatcher House.⁶ Other outbuildings, such as the spring house and a barn or smaller residence, can be identified by ruins only. The barn may have been a mill building, but little information

¹ Deed Book 71, page 207.

² Deed Book 98, page 208.

³ Deed Book 98, page 262.

⁴ Deed Book 102, page 292.

⁵ Deed Book 106, page 11.

⁶ Webb, Franklin F. and Ricky L. Cox. "Peter Hatcher Mill." *The Water Powered Mills of Floyd County, Virginia: Illustrated Histories, 1770-2010*, (Jefferson: McFarland, 2013), 102-104.

exists to confirm its function. The property has overgrown extensively, which is notable in the difference between photographic documentation performed in 1992 and the current documentation. The Hatcher House currently is unused, although the house holds several hay bales.

B. Historical Context:

The Hatcher House history follows that of the development of Floyd County. Specifics on the development of the site were somewhat scarce, and seemed to parallel that of the county. The focus of this context is the specific topics most associated with the development of the Hatcher House and the buildings on this property, such as agriculture, milling, and the Hatcher family. Information on the Shortt family was scarce and not relevant to this property. The county discussions should not be viewed as a full context, but rather as a context that relates to the development of the property.

Floyd County, Virginia

The history of Floyd County provides a strong foundation for understanding the development of the Hatcher House. Prior to the initial exploration of this region by colonial explorers, the Cherokee Nation owned an extensive amount of southwestern Floyd County.⁷ Other Native American nations used the remainder of the county as a hunting ground. These nations helped create various trails along the New and Little Rivers, many of which would be adapted by colonial settlers for exploration. Although the Native American nations claimed ownership of these lands, colonial explorers entered the region in the mid-eighteenth century in an attempt to establish individual settlements. The first such attempt in what would become Floyd County occurred in 1745, despite there being a prohibition on settlement west of the Alleghenies. Adam Harman and his family attempted a settlement at the New River and that same year, the Virginia Council granted James Patton and others approximately 100,000 acres of the Little River.⁸ The Patton land grant occurred under the auspices of the Woods River Land Company, whose chief surveyor, John Buchannan was in the region between 1742 and 1743. Other expeditions occurred in 1749, 1758, and 1765 to explore what is Floyd County. In 1768, the Treaty of Fort Stanwix was signed ceding the land to the British.⁹

Settlement of the region was slow. It was not until the 1790s that substantial settlements of English, French, German, Irish, and Scottish settled in the region. The majority of people settled in the central and eastern portions of Floyd County due to restraints associated with a land grant of 25,000 acres to Light-Horse Harry Lee, an officer in the Continental Army,

⁷ Martin, Lydeana. *Our Beautiful Mountain: A Brief Floyd County History*, accessed 21 October 2014, http://www.floydcova.org/visitors/history_floyd_county.pdf, 3 January 2005.

⁸ Floyd Virginia Online. *Floyd Facts & History*, accessed 21 October 2014, <http://www.floydvirginia.com/visitors-guide/floyd-facts-history/>, no date.

⁹ Martin 2005.

former Governor of Virginia, and father of Robert E. Lee. The economy of the area, which at the time was part of Montgomery County, was agricultural.

The Floyd County economy remained agricultural into the nineteenth century. Over the course of the nineteenth century, a variety of crops were grown. Buckwheat, corn, oats, tobacco, and wheat were the dominant crops, and orchards served as another agricultural staple. Livestock such as horses, cattle, and mules, were raised, with sheep becoming particularly important towards the end of the nineteenth century. The Vaughn-Dunn Mill Woolen Mill was the most commonly used mill for wool washing, spinning, and weaving.¹⁰ A total of 116 landowners in Floyd County did utilize slave labor on the larger farms, although most of the farmers in the area owned substantially smaller plots.¹¹

The nineteenth century also saw the emergence of the mining industry. Three iron furnaces had been established at the beginning of the century. Iron ore was mined extensively, and was popular because the amount of copper in it led the production of strong pots and other products. Arsenic also became a resource mined in Floyd County. It was found extensively in the Lick Ridge area. Other deposits mined included asbestos, copper, gold, iron, lead, manganese, plumbago (graphite), and soapstone (steatite).¹² Floyd County had approximately 40 soapstone quarries, and this mineral became a defining feature of the county. Soapstone was so prevalent in the county that it was found in the downtown architecture in the city of Floyd. These soapstone blocks were actively mined between 1912 and 1917.¹³ The use of soapstone in so much construction was unusual as it is not considered a stronger stone such as limestone.¹⁴ A soapstone quarry was located on Shortt's Knob, and was likely the location from which the soapstone in the Hatcher House was gotten.

Floyd County was officially established by the Virginia General Assembly in January 1831. The county was named for John Floyd, who was serving as Governor. Floyd was also a native of Montgomery County, from which Floyd County was taken. The City of Floyd, originally called Jacksonville after President Andrew Jackson. The city was incorporated in 1858. By 1896, the town name was officially changed to Floyd after Governor Floyd.

Floyd County underwent a change in the twentieth century that resulted in its economic foundation shifting. Advances in transportation resulted in the growth of the area in the nineteenth century, and agricultural endeavors flourished. By the beginning of the twentieth century, agricultural production, which included corn, potatoes, sweet potatoes, and tobacco, declined. Livestock number also decreased, and the local economy suffered from a blight to

¹⁰ Martin 2005.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Smith, James William. "Talc, Soapstone, and Related Stone Deposits of Virginia," *Virginia Minerals*, accessed 21 October 2014, http://www.dmme.virginia.gov/commercedocs/VAMIN_VOL07_NO02.pdf, April 1961.

¹⁴ Combs, Wanda. "Archaeologist doing his part to preserve soapstone history," accessed 21 October 2014, http://www.swvatoday.com/news/floyd/article_808fddb4-a4a1-11e3-8c0f-0017a43b2370.html, 6 March 2014.

the American Chestnut crops in 1922.¹⁵ As a result of this impact to agriculture and changes brought by mechanization, new occupations began to emerge in Floyd County:

By 1917, there were bankers, barbers, blacksmiths and wheelwrights, canners, carriage and wagon manufacturers, building contractors, dairies, grocers, insurance agents, jewelers, livestock dealers, lumber dealers, painters, photographers, telephone company, and veterinary surgeons. Occupations now gone or in severe decline included: dentists, distillers, druggists, hotels, iron foundries, land agents, mines (gold, iron, silver), sawmills, saddle/harness makers, undertakers, and woolen mills.¹⁶

A decline in saw and woolen mills did not mean the industry had died. Numerous mills remained operational or were constructed within Floyd County in the Twentieth Century. A total of 120 water-powered grist mills operated in the county. Ed Mabry, who operated a water-powered grist mill in the southwestern corner of the county, also served as a blacksmith and wheelwright shop. Approximately 15 portable sawmills also operated in the county, producing primarily Oak and Chestnut wood used in the flooring and furniture industries.¹⁷ Other extant mills close to the Hatcher Mill include Dodd's Mill and Pine Creek Mill north of Floyd and Epperly Mill Southwest of Floyd. The Peter Hatcher Mill, a steam-powered mill, was a unique operation in the Floyd County milling community.

The growth and development of the region was halted by the Great Depression, although the county's agricultural roots meant that people in Floyd County survived this economic downturn slightly better than most. Landowners still lost their property, and numerous people moved out of the area in search of work. The construction of the Blue Ridge Parkway and other Works Project Administration and Civilian Conservation Corps projects helped revitalize the local economy.

Peter Hatcher and the Hatcher House

The Hatcher House was also known as the Shortt house because of its location on what is known locally as Shortt's Knob. The property is known for two specific reasons: its soapstone quarry and the Hatcher Mill. The soapstone quarry was located on the southeastern crest of the knob. Soapstone, as previously discussed, was an important mineral in Floyd County, and was used in the Hatcher House in the chimneys and flue. While there were other soapstone quarries in the area, it is unlikely that Hatcher and future landowners failed to maximize the economic potential of the soapstone on his land.

The other reason was the Peter Hatcher Mill. Peter Hatcher and his wife Olivia purchased four tracts of land between 1892 and 1901.¹⁸ On this property he established a mill site

¹⁵ Martin 2005.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Deed Book W, page 12; Deed Book Y, page 415; Deed Book 27, page 520; and Deed Book 28, page 84.

unique in comparison to other mills in Floyd County. Hatcher was a farmer in Floyd County. Like most farmers in the county, Hatcher's property was medium-sized operation. The specifics of his agricultural endeavors are not known, but possibly corn and wheat were produced on site. Hatcher was known more so for his mill and his interest in mechanical innovations. He was the first person in the county to own a tractor, an Avery.¹⁹

Hatcher's Mill was a steam powered mill in a county where most were water powered. Steam powered mills were not an anomaly nationally, and Hatcher can be credited with introducing this technology into the county, although the topography of Floyd County may have been in the influence on this decision more so than technological innovation. Hatcher previously purchased a Geiser circular-saw, tack-and-pinion carriage sawmill on Shooting Creek Road after a boiler explosion at the mill killed three employees.²⁰ Such an occurrence influenced most millers in the county to use only water power.

Hatcher's next endeavor was the Hatcher Mill on SR 680 (Starbucks Road). The mill officially opened in 1912. He established a gristmill and saw mill, and corn, feed, and lumber were produced on site with the steam powered equipment. The mill was located 300 to 400 feet down and to the west of the main house. The mill was a two-and-a-half story weatherboard structure with one set of 30-36 inch diameter stones and a large corn sheller powered by a Maytag washing machine motor.²¹ Charles Underwood was the builder. An International Harvester hammer mill was utilized to grind feed. Hatcher imported his boiler and engine from Pennsylvania, and was set on a foundation of flat rocks in close proximity to the mill.²² The boiler was repaired at the beginning and end of World War II, finally being sold and the money used to purchase a John Deere model-B tractor.

Hatcher planned on constructing a flour mill, evidenced by the construction of a second and partial third story.²³ This large a building was unnecessary in a mill used only to grind corn and course feed. The upper stories would have served as a storage area for cleaned wheat as well as housing for the machinery, spouts, and elevators necessary for milling highly refined flour. Highly refined flour was in great demand in Floyd County.

After Peter Hatcher died, his son Tiamon bought the property including the gristmill and sawmill from the Hatcher heirs. He and his brother Wayne Hatcher operated it as a mill site. According to a conversation with Sammy Hatcher, the great-grandson of Peter Hatcher, the lumber mill ran during the day and the grain mill operated at night. Sammy Hatcher also indicated that there was a Southern States Store and gas station on the property.²⁴

¹⁹ Webb and Cox 2009.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Ibid.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Saunders, Richard. *Interview with Sammy Hatcher 4/1/92*. On file with NPS.

Tiamon Hatcher bought 149.5 acres of the property from his brother Wayne in 1950.²⁵ Tiamon Hatcher conveyed this same acreage to Peter Hall and his wife in 1969, although Hatcher reserved the right to quarry soapstone to meet the purchase price.²⁶ That same year, Hall sold the property to McCray Shortt, minus one acre that he reserved for himself.²⁷ Shortt sold 68.5 acres to Coy Lester Brewer and Harold Wayne Brewer in 1971, retaining 80 acres.²⁸ The following year, in 1972, the US Government purchased 69.33 acres from the Brewer Brothers, although the origins of the extra one acre is unknown.²⁹ The property is part of the Blue Ridge Parkway holdings.

Part II. Architectural Information

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character:

Identifying the exact architectural style of the Hatcher House is difficult. None of the previous correspondence or documentation of the building has formally classified the style of building. A detailed review of this building shows several architectural influences, making it difficult to classify one specific style. The three dominant influences are I-house, Federal, and Saltbox architectural features. The I-house is an integral part of Virginia architectural history.³⁰ Also known as a central passage, this type of building is characterized by a central hallway with rooms on either side. According to Clifton Coxe Ellis of the University of Virginia:

Scholars of eighteenth-century Virginia agree that the gentry introduced the passage as a means of enforcing their own notions of social hierarchy. The passage, which usually contained a staircase, served as a circulation space. It created a buffer between the public and private spaces of the interior and allowed access to rooms without having to pass through other rooms.³¹

I-houses are the evolution of the hall-and-parlor style house. A hall-and-parlor house was a three-bay building with a central passage. This window-door-window arrangement was

²⁵ Deed Book 71, page 207.

²⁶ Deed Book 98, page 208.

²⁷ Deed Book 98, page 262.

²⁸ Deed Book 102, page 292.

²⁹ Deed Book 106, page 11.

³⁰ Hofstra, Warren. "Backcountry Frontier of Colonial Virginia." *Encyclopedia of Virginia*, accessed 21 October 2014, http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Backcountry_Frontier_of_Colonial_Virginia#start_entry, 31 January 2012.

³¹ Ellis, Clifton Coxe. "Early Vernacular Plan Houses." *The Tennessee Encyclopedia of History of Culture*, accessed 21 October 2014, <http://tennesseencyclopedia.net/entry.php?rec=659>, 2009.

misleading as the hall actually served as a large communal space.³² The I-house followed this three-bay, window-door-window configuration with a true central passage that allowed for air circulation as well as a definite separation of spaces. I-houses often had chimneys in the gable ends and an ell addition. In the case of the Hatcher House, the main configuration of the building resembles an I-house, especially with its window-door-window configuration and ell addition. The central hall has been modified and enclosed, closing off the circulation.

One common component to the I-house was that the basic pattern of the building could be embellished with other architectural styles.³³ This embellishment resulted in such additions as porticos, spindles, brackets, or other decorative elements in the gables. In the case of the Hatcher House, the embellishments are associated with the Federal architectural style. Federal architecture is characterized by symmetry in the front façade, a plainer façade, and smoother surfaces. Windows were typically five ranked, although three ranked windows also occurred. Fenestration was typically double hung sash windows. Other features common to Federal architecture included a raised foundation, rectangular construction, and a low hipped roof. The Hatcher House showed the following Federal characteristics: a raised foundation; plain, smooth façade; symmetrical façade; double hung windows; and a hipped roof.

The other alteration to the I-house style of the Hatcher House was a rear addition that mimics Saltbox houses. Saltbox architecture was defined as:

...frame houses with two stories in front and one in back, having a pitched roof with unequal sides, being short and high in front and long and low in back. The front of the house is flat and the rear roof line is steeply sloped. The sturdy central chimney is a simple but effective focal point.³⁴

2. Condition of fabric:

The Hatcher House is in extreme disrepair. The most obvious damage is on the north elevation. The portion of the building between the front door and the east (left) window has collapsed and the door has been removed. Windows have been boarded over either from the front or, in the case of most of the windows, from the inside. The east and west elevations show wear from weathering more so than deterioration from neglect.

³² Wenger, Mark R. "The Central Passage In Virginia: Evolution of an Eighteenth Century Living Space." *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture, Volume II*, accessed 21 October 2014 <http://www.jstor.org/discover/10.2307/3514325?uid=2&uid=4&sid=21104396369851>, 1986.

³³ Roanoke Government. *Architectural Patterns*, accessed 21 October 2014, [https://www.roanokeva.gov/85256A8D0062AF37/vwContentByKey/C209EC71F1EA98F48525796B00632B9C/\\$File/ArchitecturalPatterns.pdf](https://www.roanokeva.gov/85256A8D0062AF37/vwContentByKey/C209EC71F1EA98F48525796B00632B9C/$File/ArchitecturalPatterns.pdf), no date.

³⁴ Ibach, Marilyn. "Saltbox Houses in the Historic American Buildings Survey." *The Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Reading Room*, accessed 21 October 2014, http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/list/175_sal1.html, 2002.

Weathering tends to result in the retention of the overall footprint and interior frame of the building, with such things as peeling paint, missing shingles, or possibly window cracks occurring. Weathering impacts are also generally repaired when necessary. Neglect is best exemplified by a building that has lost window glass, doors, siding materials, or has partially collapsed. Windows and chimneys are largely intact. The south, or rear, elevation also shows extensive damage. The porch has started to collapse, as has the east corner of the ell addition.

The interior of the Hatcher House shows more extensive damage. The damage to the first floor appears to be confined to the removal of some of the original chestnut, plank-on-plank boards. Boards have been removed primarily from the walls and chimney surrounds and mantels. The walls have separated around the fireplaces. Wall coverings such as paint or possible wallpaper have been removed or are chipping off. Hay covers the floor, and hay bales are being stored in the house. The floors are damaged. The second floor has sustained the same damage. Most of the interior walls facing into the central hallway have been removed. Trees are growing into the house in the locations where windows or doors are missing.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions:

The property totals approximately 68 acres and remains wooded and overgrown. Records indicate that this property had operated as a steam-powered mill, but only one building and several ruins remain. The ruins include the foundations of a spring house, barn, still, well, and rock wall. The northern boundary of the property along SR 680 (Starbuck Road) is broken up by Parcel 57-11.

The arrangement of the buildings on the property is not affected by the overgrowth of the property. One building, the Hatcher House, and several structures remain on the property. The house is located centrally on the property towards the northern boundary. The building faces SR 680. The spring house and still are located to the east of the house while the barn is located to the southeast. The concrete well sits to the west of the building. Rock walls and piles can be found on the property as well.

2. Foundation: The foundation is stone piers.
3. Walls: The walls are 1 X 5 inch wood planks.
4. Structural systems, framing:

The wood frame building has been mistakenly thought to be a log cabin. Rather it is a very unique residential structure built in a plank-on-plank (or simply plank) construction in which 1 X 5" planks were placed horizontally and offset one inch. Frame construction

was not uncommon in Virginia or the United States during the twentieth century, when the Hatcher House was constructed. Historically, temporary frame buildings were constructed when a property was settled. These temporary buildings were often converted to kitchens when the permanent house was constructed, thus making frame construction an integral part of the architectural history of the region.³⁵ While the Hatcher House was initially believed to be a frame house, upon further inspection previous documentation found that the house was the more unique style of plank construction. This type of construction is defined as “a method of building where pieces of sawn timber of uniform thickness (1½ to 4 inches from frame to frame) and variable, but usually substantial width (9 – 26 inches), stand vertically side to side between sill and plate around an entire building.”³⁶ Most commonly found on the East Coast, plank construction divides into two specific styles, one that is characterized by the use of horizontal planks and the other by the use of vertical planks. Both styles, though, shared the common feature of not being a frame house, but rather using the plank as the indo- and exoskeleton of the building in lieu of studs associated with a frame structure.³⁷ A third type of partial plank construction was identified, known as box houses or battened box houses.³⁸ These types of buildings, which were constructed between the 1870s and 1910s, were characterized by planks attached to a wooden frame.

Plank construction does have some regional or functional variations, although the nature of plank construction precludes immediate or easy identification of the features without invasive examination of the building.³⁹ Regional variations depended upon the available local materials, the location of the building, cultural trends of the times, and the personal preferences and needs of the owner. Plank construction tended to be simple, with little architectural ornamentation, and confined to one to one-and-a-half story buildings. The regional variation seen in the Hatcher House includes the use of soapstone for the chimneys, the I-house style façade, and its height of two stories. Variations in Virginia would be based on similar ideas, although an exact formula to Virginia variations in plank construction was not identified. Functional variations can be seen in plank construction for individual residences, such as the Hatcher House, versus the use this type of construction for residential buildings in company towns (such as mining or railroad towns, lumber camps, or tenement farms).⁴⁰ Regardless of these variations, “the basic

³⁵ Milam, William F. *Innovations in Early Settlers' Houses in Virginia and Maryland*, accessed 14 January 2015, http://www.milaminvirginia.com/Links/HOUSES/colonial_virginia_and_maryland_houses.html.

³⁶ Lewandowski, Jan Leo. “The Plank Framed House in Northeastern Vermont.” *Vermont History*, accessed 14 January 2015, www.vermonthistory.org/journal/misc/PLankedFrameHouse.pdf, 1985.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ Kibbel, William. *Old Houses: Plank Construction*, accessed 14 January 2015, www.oldhouseweb.com/how-to-advice/boxhouse-plank-construction.shtml, 2014; Lewandowski 1985.

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Kibbel 2014.

wall structure consists of random width vertical planks nailed to a sill or horizontal board at the base of the wall and then nailed to a plank at the top of the wall.”⁴¹

5. Chimneys: There are several chimneys located on the east elevation, including a soapstone chimney and a concrete block chimney. The main portion of the building is defined by a large soapstone chimney that extends above the hipped roof. Several sources confirmed the chimney (as well as the fireplaces and flue) were constructed of soapstone.⁴² A cement block flue is situated in the exterior of the building while a fieldstone chimney is situated in the interior just to the left of the cement block flue.

6. Openings:

The front of the Hatcher House faces north towards SR 680. The building has a general window-door-window configuration on both the first and second stories. This front elevation is symmetrical, with the windows and doors in the same arrangement on both stories. The entrance is centrally located. The actual door is missing from the first story while the second story has a wood door and screen door. On either side of the doors are individual windows. Three of the four windows on the north elevation are original wood sash double hung windows. The fourth window located to the left of the first floor entrance has been boarded over. The wall space between the front entrance and this window has collapsed.

The east elevation of the Hatcher House divides into the I-house portion of the building and saltbox-style addition. This portion of the building has no fenestration. The rear addition has a window-flue-chimney-window configuration. In the portion that is located next to the I-house portion has individual double hung windows, one per story. The one-story portion of the rear addition has an individual double hung window.

The south, or rear, elevation shows the alterations to the Hatcher House. The elevation divides into two distinct bays: the one-story saltbox-style portion on the east side of the elevation and the two-story ell addition on the west side. The one-story portion follows a window-window-door configuration covered by a shed roof porch that has been screened.

The west elevation is characterized by symmetrical fenestration. Each story has two individual double hung windows.

7. Roof:

The current hipped roof is standing seam metal, although it is unknown if this roof is original. The slope of the back roofline that defines a saltbox house is part of the Hatcher

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² Ingoldsby, Kathleen. *Letter to Mr. Gary Everhardt, Superintendent, Blue Ridge Parkway*. On file at NPS, 8 January 1992. Hope, Robert A. *Hatcher House Floor Plans*. On file at NPS, March 1992.

House design. This rear addition with this sloped roofline has both an internal chimney and external chimney, and is apparent on half of the back of the building. The western half of the rear elevation is the ell addition. Correspondence dating to 1992 indicates the roof needed immediate repair, and as a result, the current roof may be a replacement.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

The interior of the Hatcher House was very unique when constructed. Unlike most traditional houses in which the interior boards are placed side by side, the chestnut and oak boards within the Hatcher House were stacked on top of each other.⁴³ The Hatcher House totaled 2,485 square feet (sq. ft.). The first floor totaled 1,350 sq. ft. while the second floor totaled 1,135 sq. ft. The interior footprint is the same on both stories, with each floor having six defined rooms and one hallway. The layout was not a mirror image in the size of the individual rooms, only the placement of the rooms and hallway. The first floor divides into the following spaces:

- Central hallway divided with a divider, causing the front section with the stairs to measure 7 feet (ft.) X 15.5 ft. and 108.5 sq. ft., and the back section measuring 7 ft. X 7 ft. and 49 sq. ft.
- Living room to the left of the hallways measuring 15.5 ft. X 15.5 ft. and 240.25 sq. ft.
- Kitchen to the rear of the living room measuring 15.5 ft. X 15 ft. and 232.5 sq. ft.
- Cellar with a cooling trough to the rear of the kitchen measuring 7 ft. X 30 ft. and 230 sq. ft.
- Parlor to the right of the hallway measuring 15.5 ft. X 15.5 ft. and 240.25 sq. ft.
- Bedroom to the rear of the parlor measuring 15.5 ft. X 15.5 ft. and 240.25 sq. ft.

The second floor divided into the following rooms:

- Central hallway measuring 7 ft. X 23 ft. and 161 sq. ft.
- Front left bedroom to the left of the hallway measuring 15.5 ft. X 15.5 ft. and 240.25 sq. ft.
- Central left bedroom to the rear of the front left bedroom measuring 7 ft. X 15.5 ft. and 108.5 sq. ft.
- Attic to the rear of the central left bedroom measuring 7.5 ft. X 22.5 ft. and 168.75 sq. ft.
- Right front bedroom to the right of the hallway measuring 15.5 ft. X 15.5 ft. and 240.25 sq. ft.
- Rear right bedroom measuring 15.5 ft. X 15 ft. and 232.5 sq. ft.

⁴³ Davis, Tom. *Email to Janet Bachmann*. On file with NPS, November 2011.

2. Stairways: central staircase is located in the front of the Hatcher House leading to the second story.
3. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls and ceilings are in severe deterioration. The walls were plank construction and there is wainscoting in some rooms.
4. Openings: Original wood doors probably existed for each interior opening.
5. Decorative features and trim: The Hatcher House does have wainscoting.

D. Site:

1. Historic landscape design:

The Hatcher House sits approximately 4.61 miles east of the city of Floyd, Virginia. The property is located within the Little River Magisterial District south of SR 680 (Starbuck Road) and within the boundaries of the Blue Ridge Parkway property, although north of the parkway proper itself. Deed records list the property at MP 157.8, although the NPS identifies the property as located at MP 157.0. Property Valuation Administration records list the property as parcel 57-10.

2. Outbuildings:

The foundations, or ruins, of several outbuildings are located around the Hatcher House. The exact purpose of these ruins cannot be determined exactly, but conjecture on their purpose can be made based on research. The first ruin appears to have been a spring house, based on its location on stream, or a subterranean storage cellar. Based on mapping provided by the NPS, a spring house was located to the southeast of the main house. This ruin is a partially subterranean structure that is lined with fieldstones, both random small stones picked up locally and cut stones. A central entrance is located on the north elevation. As the roof and above-ground wall materials are gone, specifics about fenestration are unknown.

The second ruin is located to the east of the Hatcher House. This ruin appears to have been either a barn or a perhaps one of the mills. It was a wood frame building, but it has collapsed in on itself and fenestration could not be determined. The foundation could not be determined while the exterior envelope was weatherboard. The roof was a gabled and covered with corrugated metal. No machinery remnants were identified to determine the exact function of this building, and no written description was found during research.

The third ruin is a still. This structure has vertical board "walls" and a tarp covering. Its shape is rectangular, although the ends are rounded for a curved look. At first glance, this structure almost resembles a trailer topper. The exact date of construction is unknown.

The remaining two resources include a well and a rock wall. The well is circular and constructed of concrete. Its design and materials indicate that it was either a newer well, or more likely, a replacement structure from a previous well. The exact date of construction is unknown. The rock walls are easily identified as such due to their tapered lines. Building walls would be straight lines for floor or roof support. The tapered lines are more indicative of a free-standing rock wall.

Part III. Sources of Information

A. Architectural drawings:

The only extant drawings are from a 1992 survey that are on file with the NPS in Floyd, Virginia.

B. Bibliography

Books

Webb, Franklin F. and Ricky L. Cox. "Peter Hatcher Mill." *The Water Powered Mills of Floyd County Virginia: Illustrated Histories, 1770-2010*. Jefferson: McFarland, 2013.

Correspondence

Davis, Tom. *Email to Janet Bachman November 2011*. On file at the NPS, 2011.

Ingoldsby, Kathleen. *Letter to Mr. Gary Everhardt, Superintendent, Blue Ridge Parkway*. On file at the NPS, 1992.

Interviews

Saunders, Richard. *Interview with Sammy Hatcher 4/1/92*. On file at NPS, 1992.

Mapping

Hope, Robert A. *Hatcher House*. One file at the NPS, 1992.

Websites

Combs, Wanda. "Archaeologist doing his best to preserve soapstone history." Accessed October 2014. http://wwwswvatoday.com/news/floyd/article_808fddb4-a4a1-11e3-8c0f-0017a43b2370.html.

Ellis, Clifton Coxe. "Early Vernacular Plan Houses." Accessed October 2014. <http://tennesseencyclopedia.net/entry.php?rec=659>.

Floyd Virginia Online. *Floyd Facts & History*. Accessed 21 October 2014. <http://floydvirginia.com/visitors-guide/floyd-facts-history/>.

- Hofstra, Warren. "Backcountry Frontier of Colonial Virginia." Accessed October 2014.
www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Backcountry_Frontier_of_Colonial_Virginia_entry.
- Ibach, Marilyn. "Saltbox Houses in the Historic American Buildings Surveys." Accessed October 2014. http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/list/175_sal1.html.
- Kibbel, William. *Old Houses: Plank Construction*. Accessed 14 January 2015.
www.oldhouseweb.com/how-to-advice/boxhouse-plank-construction.shtml.
- Lewandowski, Jan Leo. "The Plank Framed House in Northeastern Vermont." *Vermont History*. Accessed 14 January 2015.
www.vermonthistory.org/journal/misc/PlankedFrameHouse.pdf.
- Martin, Lydeana. *Our Beautiful Mountain: A Brief Floyd County History*. Accessed October 2014. http://www.floydcova.org/visitors/history_floyd_county_pdf.
- Milam, William F. *Innovations in Early Settlers' Houses in Virginia and Maryland*. Accessed 14 January 2015.
http://www.milaminvirginia.com/Links/HOUSES/colonial_virginia_and_maryland_houses.html.
- Roanoke Government. "Architectural Patterns." Accessed October 2014.
[https://www.roanokeva.gov/85256A8D0062AF37/vwContentByKey/C209EC71F1EA98F48525796B00632B9C/\\$file/ArchitectyralPatterns.pdf](https://www.roanokeva.gov/85256A8D0062AF37/vwContentByKey/C209EC71F1EA98F48525796B00632B9C/$file/ArchitectyralPatterns.pdf).
- Smith, James William. "Talc, Soapstone, and Related Stone Deposits of Virginia." *Virginia Minerals*. Accessed 21 October 2014.
http://dmme.virginia.gov/commercedocs/VAMIN_VOL07_NO02.pdf.
- Wenger, Mark R. "The Central Passage in Virginia: Evolution of an Eighteenth Century Living Space." Accessed October 2014.
<http://www.jstor.org/discover/10.2307/3514325?uid=4&sid=21104396369851>.
- C. Supplemental Material:
- D. Virginia State Historic Preservation Office, Online
 - E. Floyd County Historical Society, Floyd, Virginia
 - F. Jesse Peterman Memorial Branch Library, Floyd, Virginia
 - G. Christiansburg Branch, Christiansburg, Virginia
 - H. Blacksburg Branch, Blacksburg, Virginia

Part IV. Project Information:

Historic American Buildings Survey documentation was prepared on the Hatcher House in accordance with consultation with the National Park Service.

Matthew E. Prybylski, architectural historian, AMEC Environmental & Infrastructure, Inc., 690 Commonwealth Center, 11003 Bluegrass Parkway, Louisville, Kentucky 40299 (502-267-0700), under contract to the National Park Service, assisted with documenting the site in September 2014. Research was completed in September and October 2014. Mathia N. Scherer, historian/architectural historian, AMEC Environmental & Infrastructure, Inc., 690 Commonwealth Center, 11003 Bluegrass Parkway, Louisville, Kentucky 40299 (502-267-0700), under contract to the National Park Service, prepared the narrative report in October 2014.

Jayne Goddard, architectural photographer with Palmer Engineering, under contract to AMEC Environmental & Infrastructure, Inc., 690 Commonwealth Center, 11003 Bluegrass Parkway, Louisville, Kentucky 40299 (502-267-0700), photographed the site in September 2014.

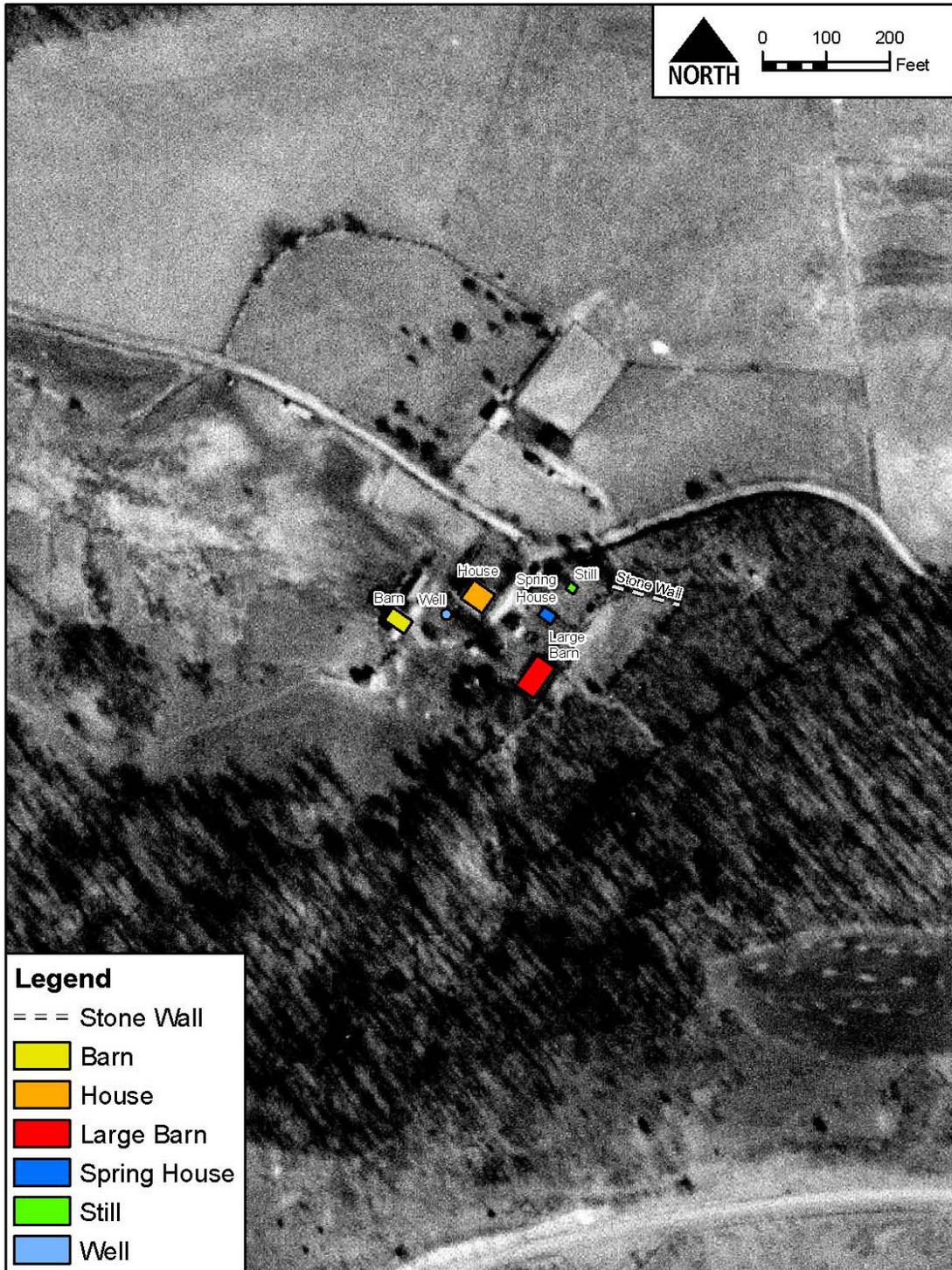
The three buildings located on the Hatcher House property will be demolished. Future development plans are not known at this time. The level of documentation was determined in consultation with the NPS both prior to the initiation of documentation and during documentation when field conditions were visibly assessed. Overgrowth to the property, which prevented placement of the box camera used for large-format photographs, and the conditions of the building resulted in both large format and digital photographs per the approval of the NPS.



Topographic map showing location of the Hatcher House.



Aerial photograph of the Hatcher House.



Aerial showing spatial arrangement of extant buildings on the Hatcher House.



North, or front, elevation of the Hatcher House.



East elevation of the Hatcher House.



South elevation of the Hatcher House.



Central hallway of the Hatcher House.



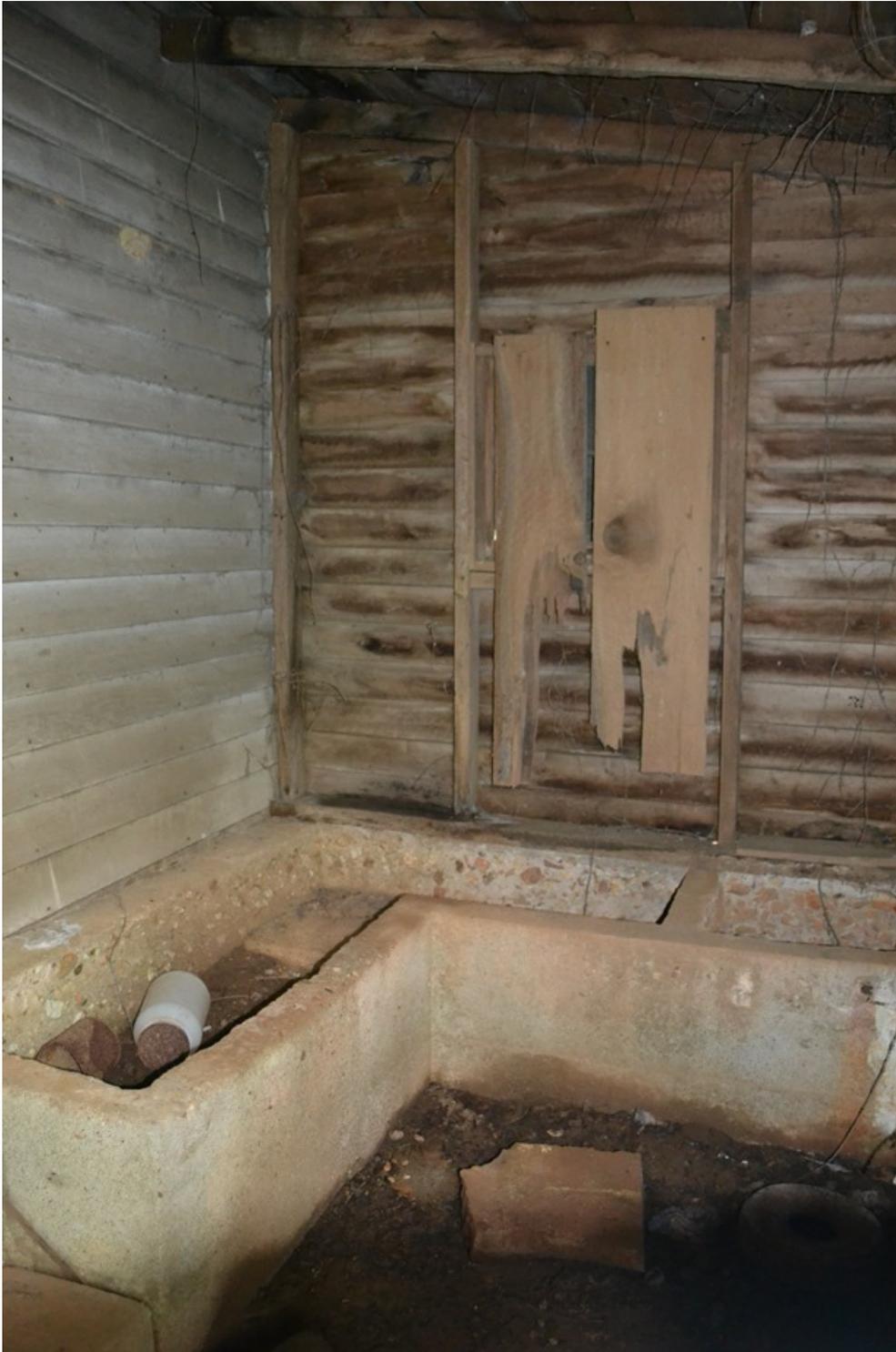
Front entrance of the Hatcher House.



Living room of the Hatcher House.



Kitchen of the Hatcher House.



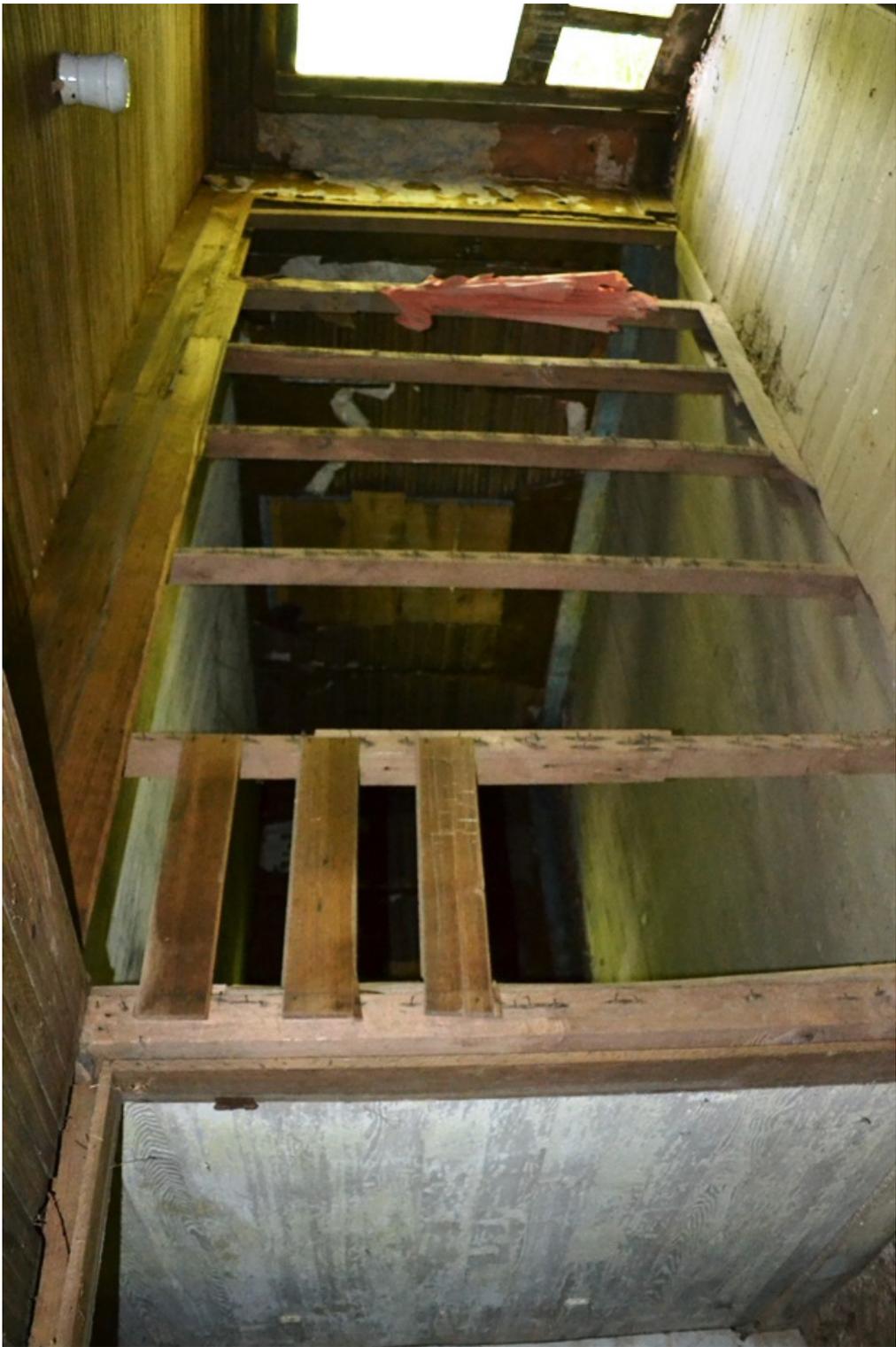
Cellar cooling trough in the Hatcher House.



Upper hallway of the Hatcher House



Front left bedroom of the Hatcher House



Front right bedroom of the Hatcher House.



Foundation and entrance to the springhouse on the Hatcher House.



Interior of the springhouse on the Hatcher House.



Barn (possible mill building) ruins on Hatcher House.



The still on the Hatcher House.



The well on the Hatcher House.



Rock wall on the Hatcher House.

HATCHER HOUSE
HABS No. VA-1507
(page 37)

HATCHER HOUSE located on Brewer Tract 22-102, 69 acres acquired 10-4-72, Deed No. 192
Milepost 157.5 - Section 1-R, Right of Station 1140
Photos taken by Bob Hope, January 18, 1992



#1 - Front of Hatcher House. Photo taken from Route 680 looking south.



#2 - Front of Hatcher House. Looking southwest; note sawed soapstone chimney.

Photographs from 1992 documentation.
Photos courtesy of the National Park Service.

HATCHER HOUSE located on Brewer Tract 22-102, 69 acres acquired 10-4-72, Deed No. 192
Milepost 157.5 - Section 1-R, Right of Station 1140
Photos taken by Bob Hope, January 18, 1992



#3 - Hatcher House. Soapstone Chimney (sawed stone).

HATCHER HOUSE
HABS No. VA-1507
(page 39)

HATCHER HOUSE located on Brewer Tract 22-102, 69 acres acquired 10-4-72, Deed No. 192
Milepost 157.5 - Section 1-R, Right of Station 1140
Photos taken by Bob Hope, January 18, 1992



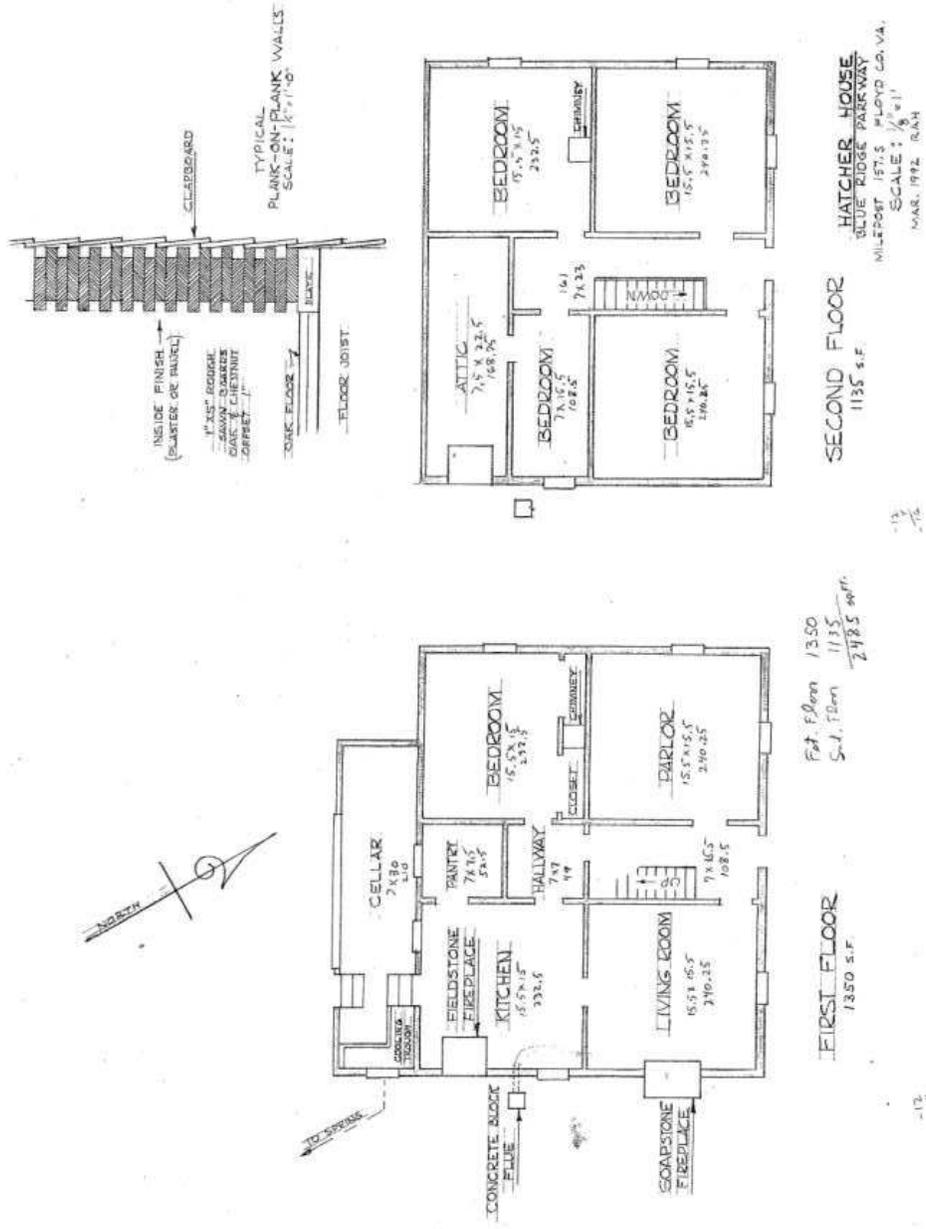
#4 - Hatcher House. Rear view looking northwest.



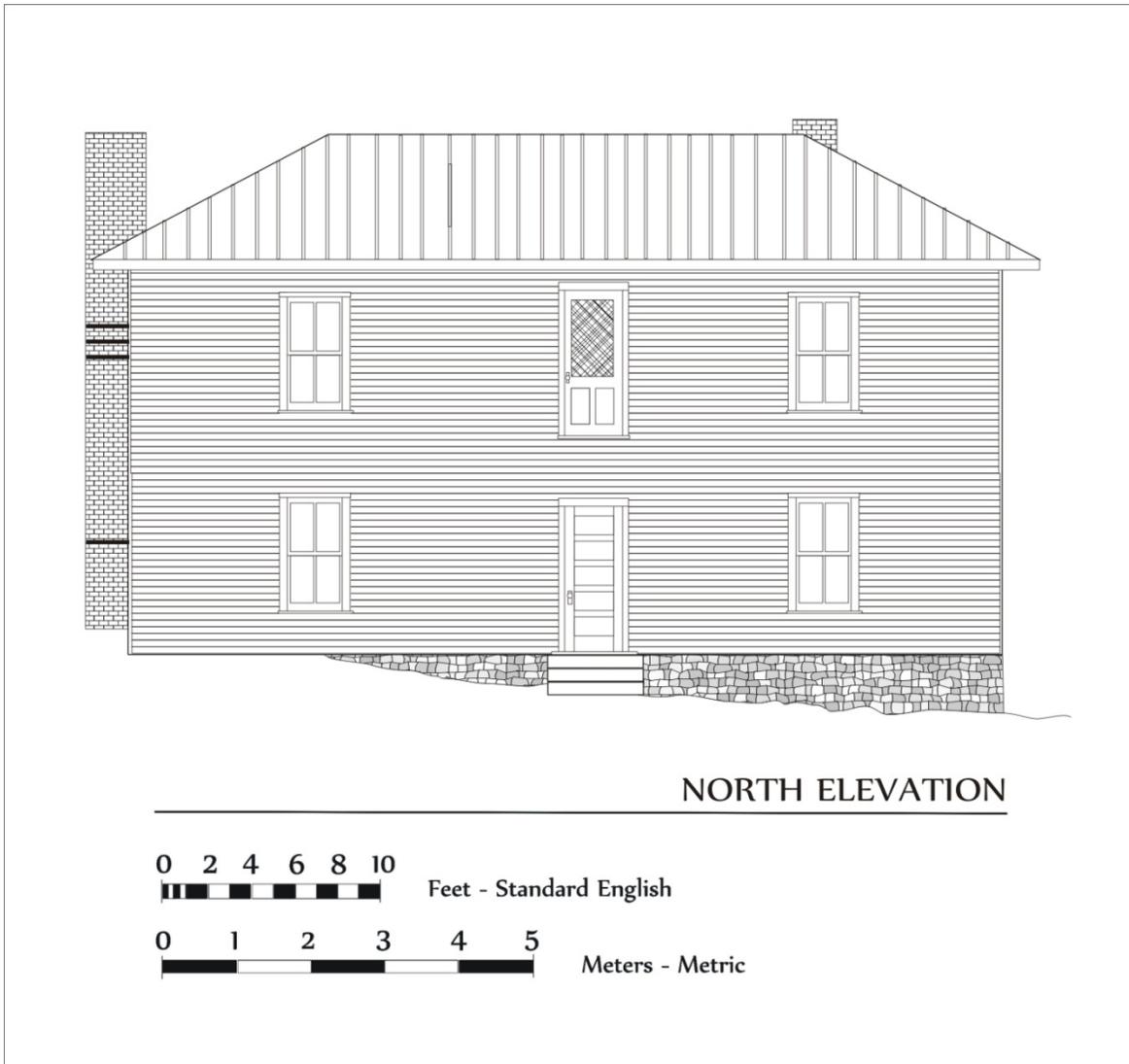
#5 - Hatcher House. Looking east.

Photographs from 1992 documentation.
Photos courtesy of the National Park Service.

HATCHER HOUSE
 HABS No. VA-1507
 (page 40)



Floor plan from 1992 documentation.
 Photos courtesy of the National Park Service.



Rendering of the north, or front, elevation detail of the Hatcher House.



EAST ELEVATION

0 2 4 6 8 10



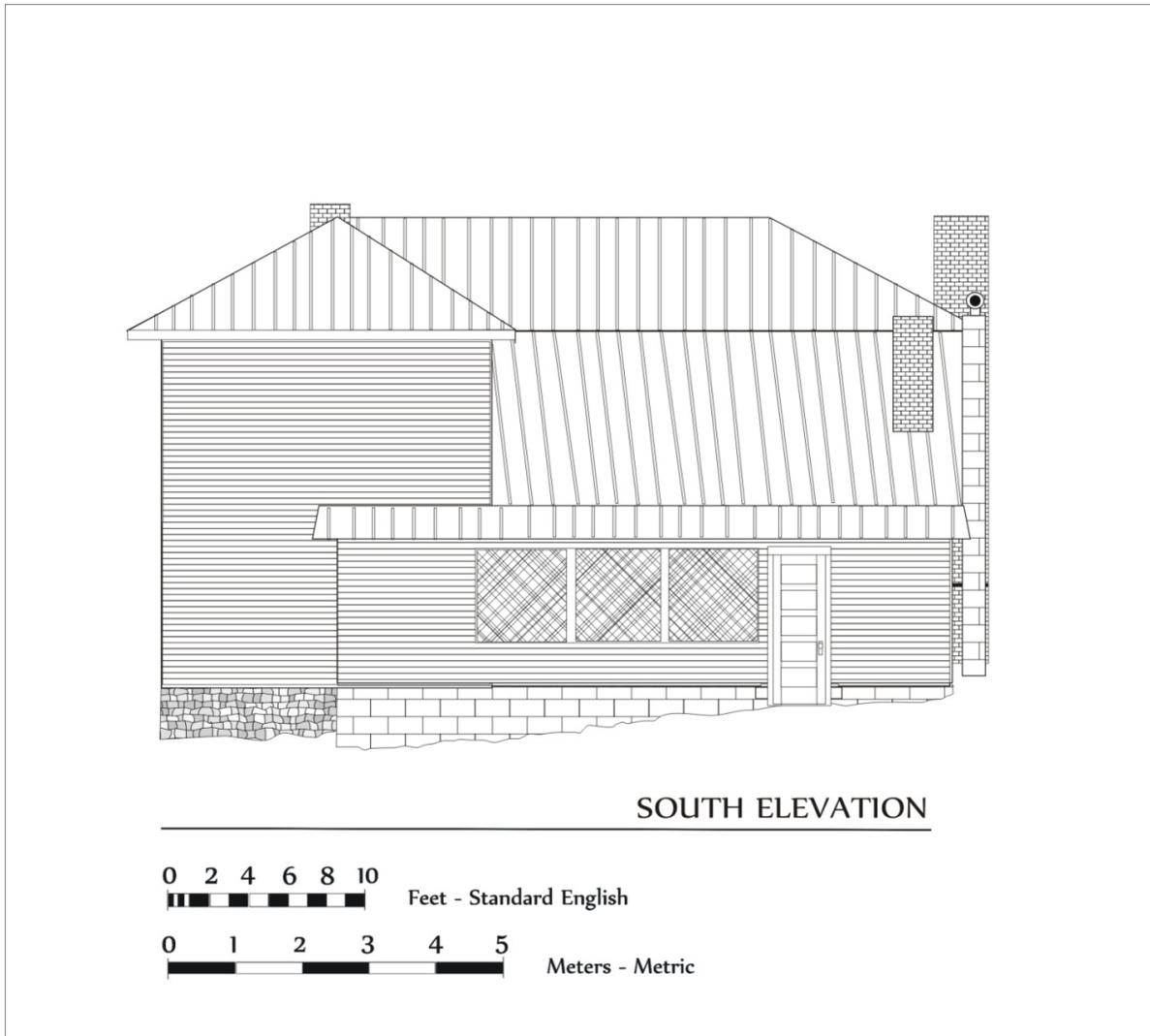
Feet - Standard English

0 1 2 3 4 5

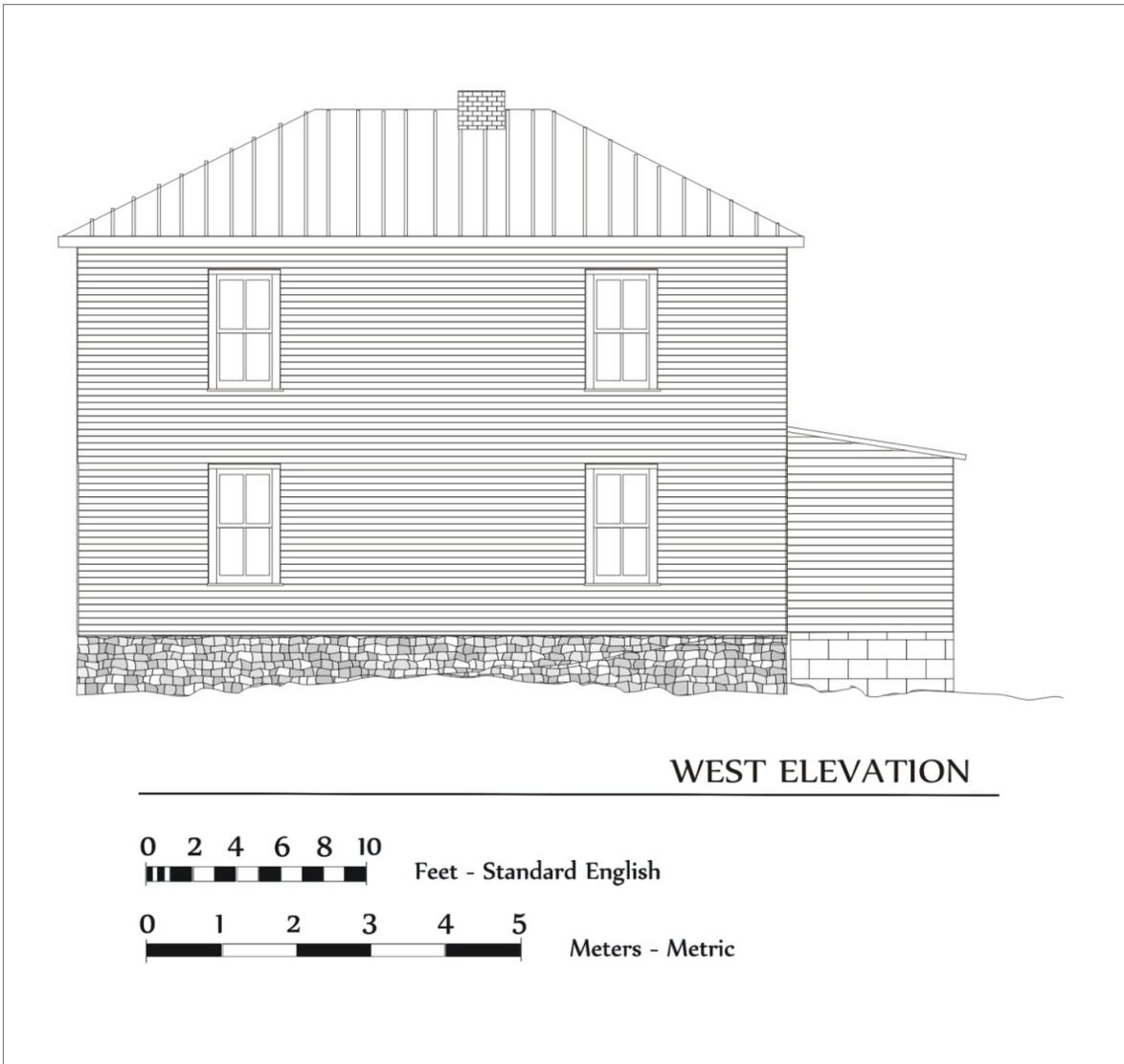


Meters - Metric

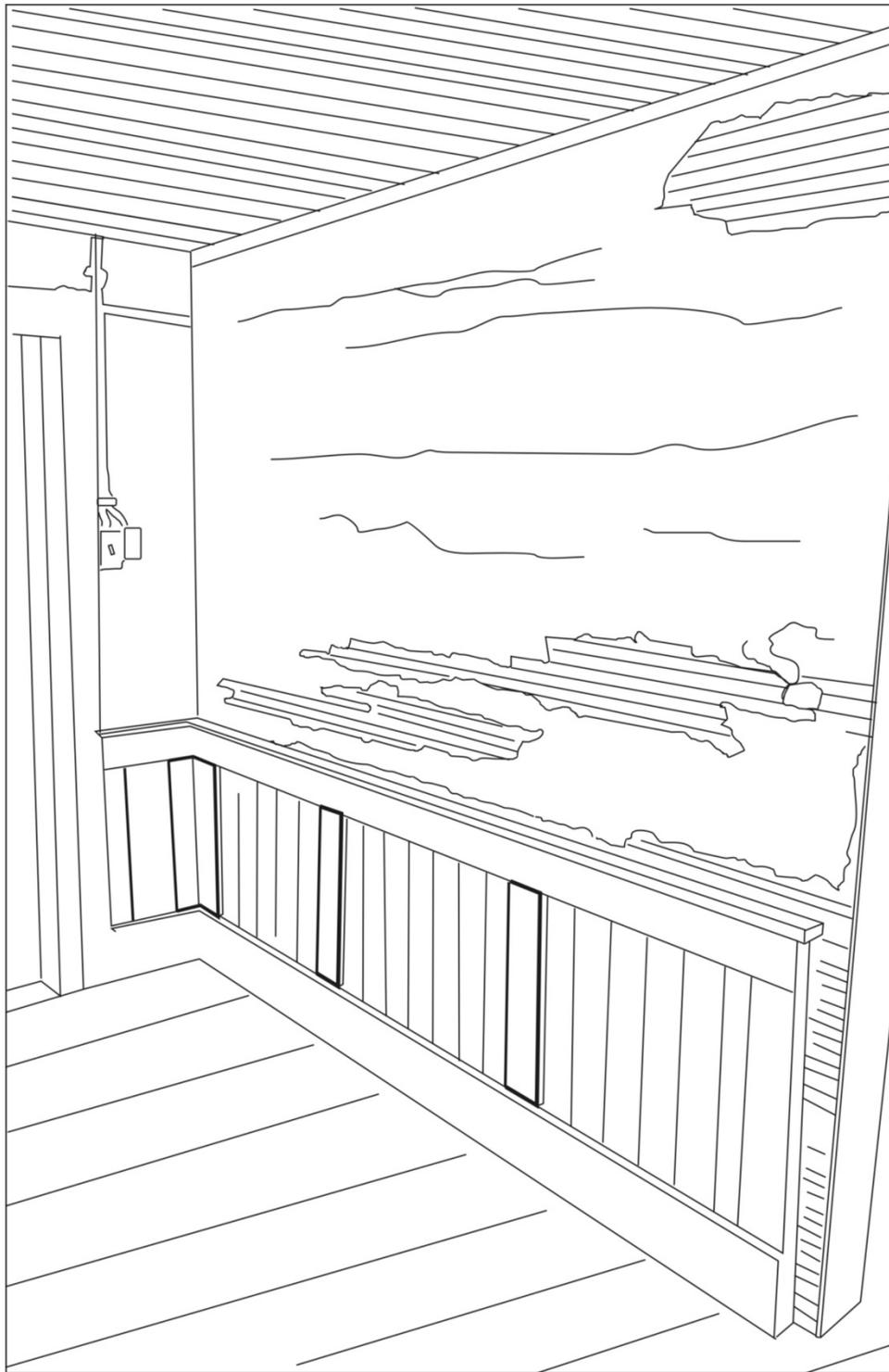
Rendering of the east elevation detail of the Hatcher House.



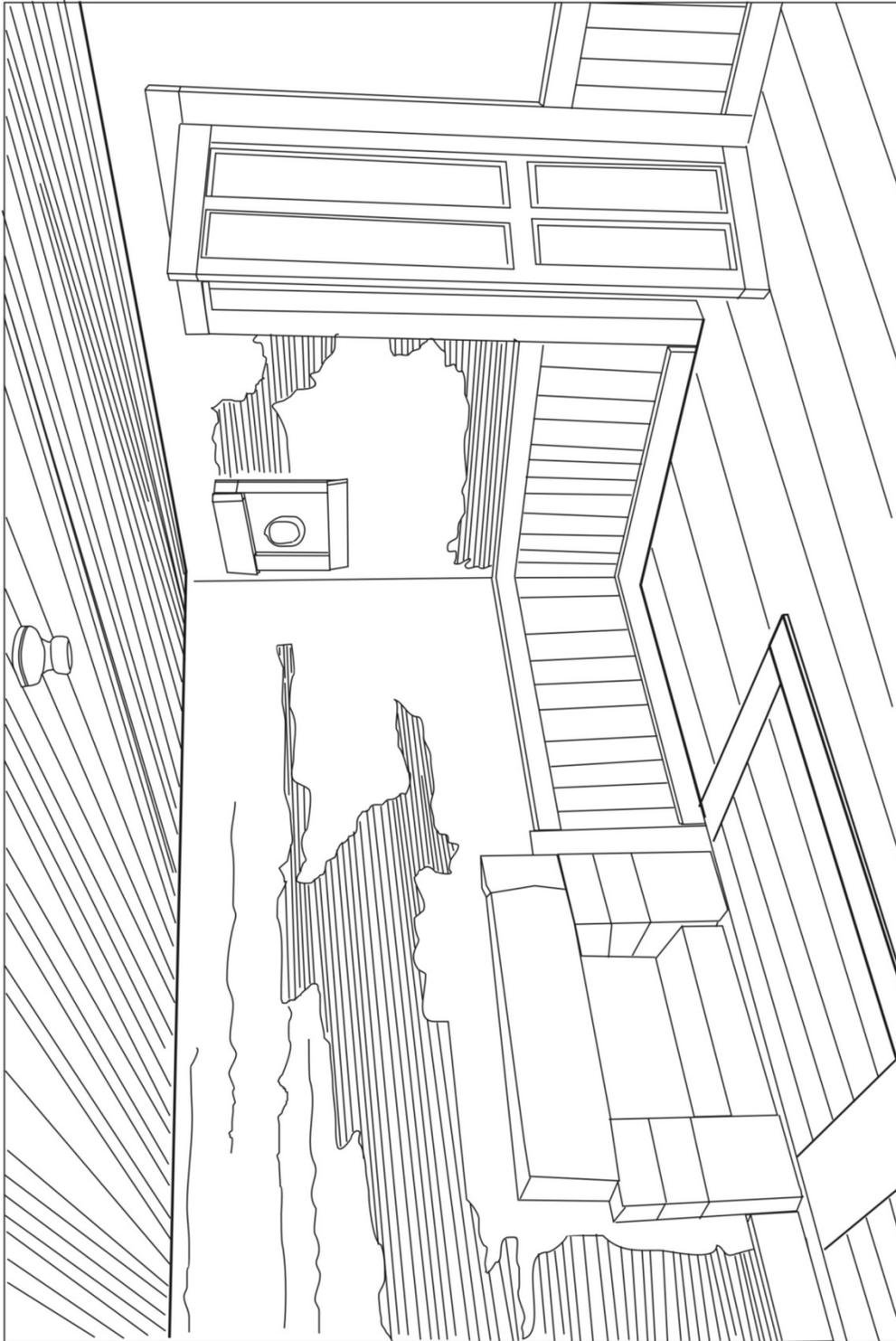
Rendering of the south, or rear, elevation detail of the Hatcher House.



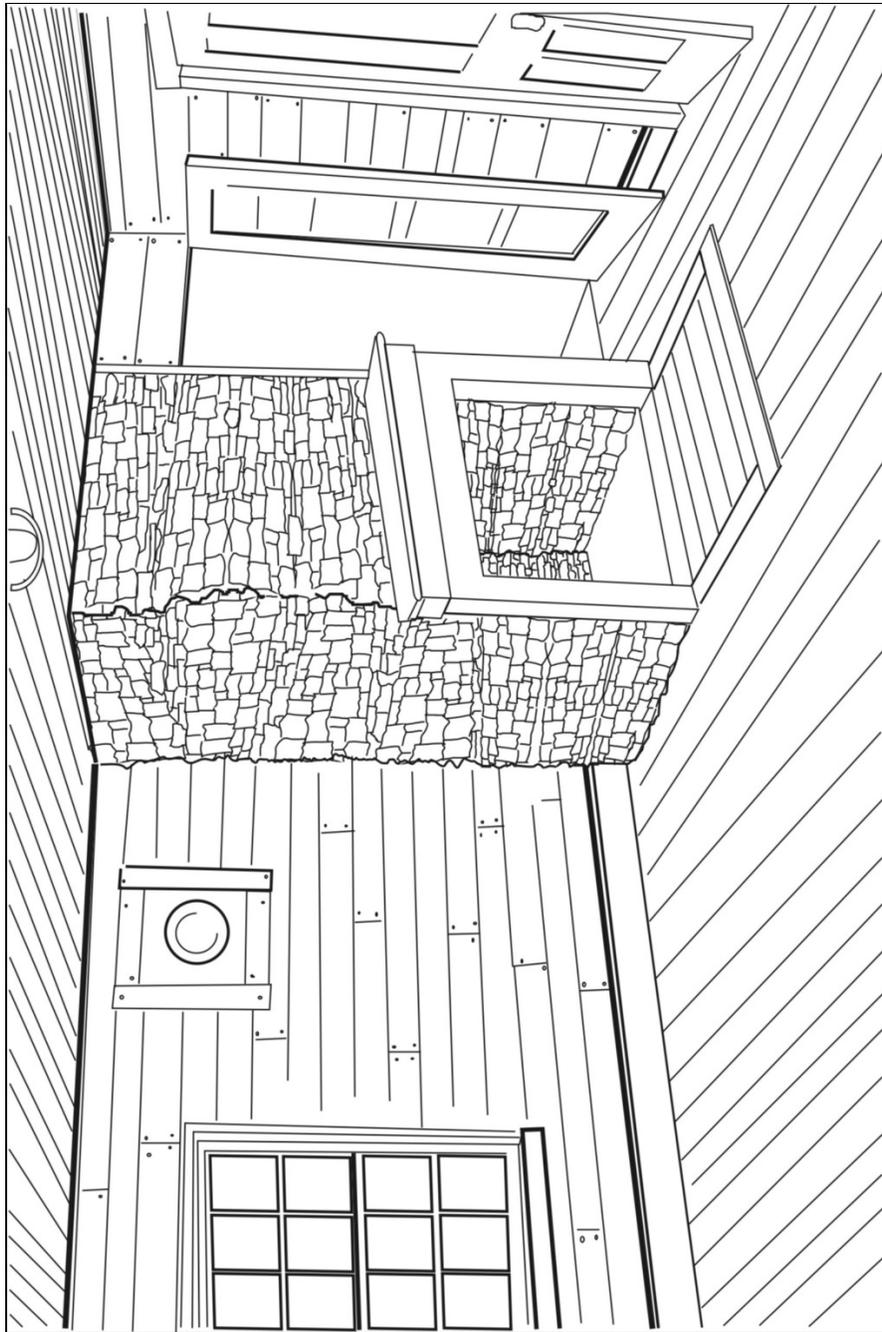
Rendering of the west elevation detail of the Hatcher House.



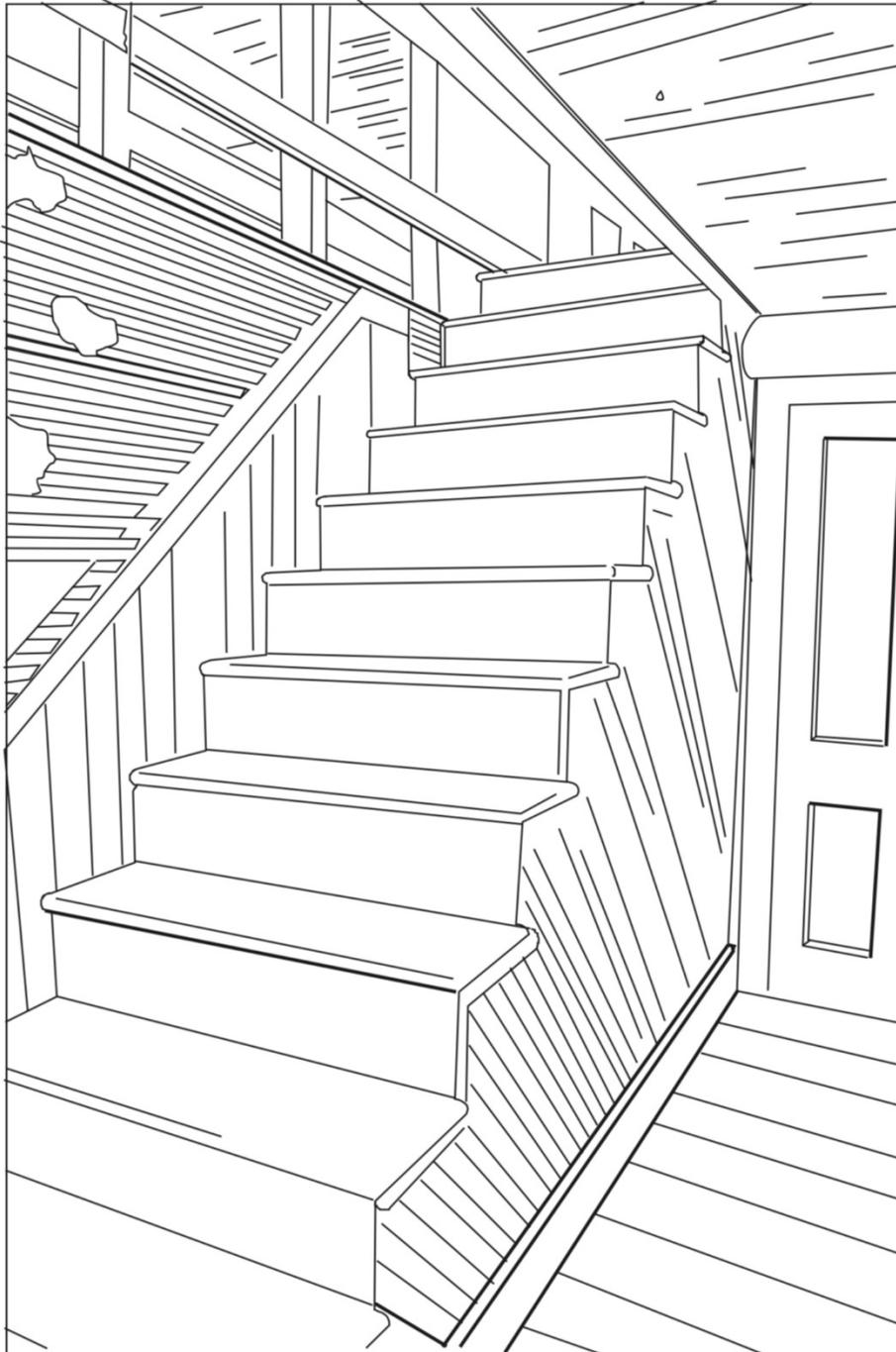
Rendering of Central Hall within the Hatcher House.



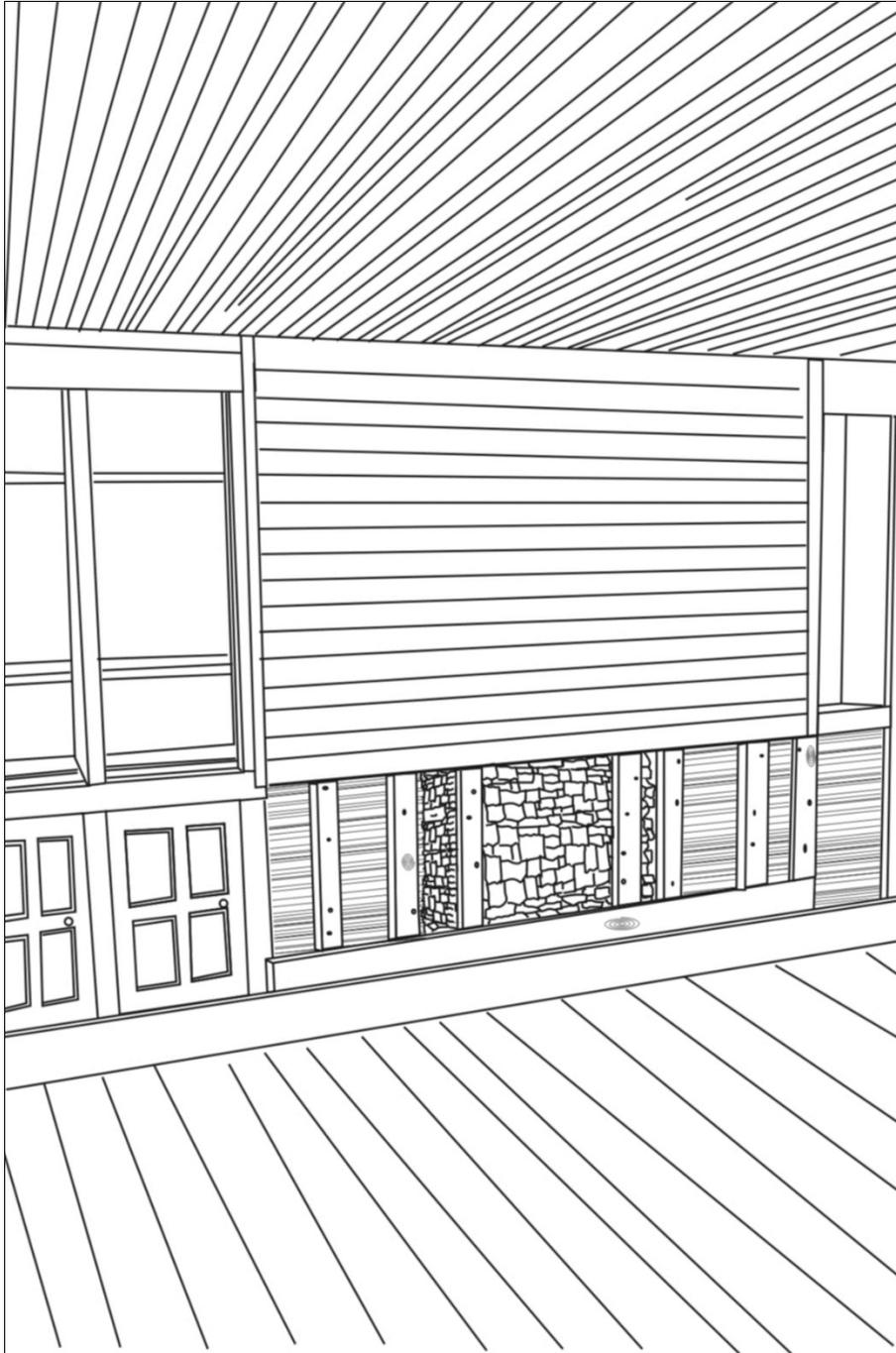
Rendering of the Living Room within the Hatcher House.



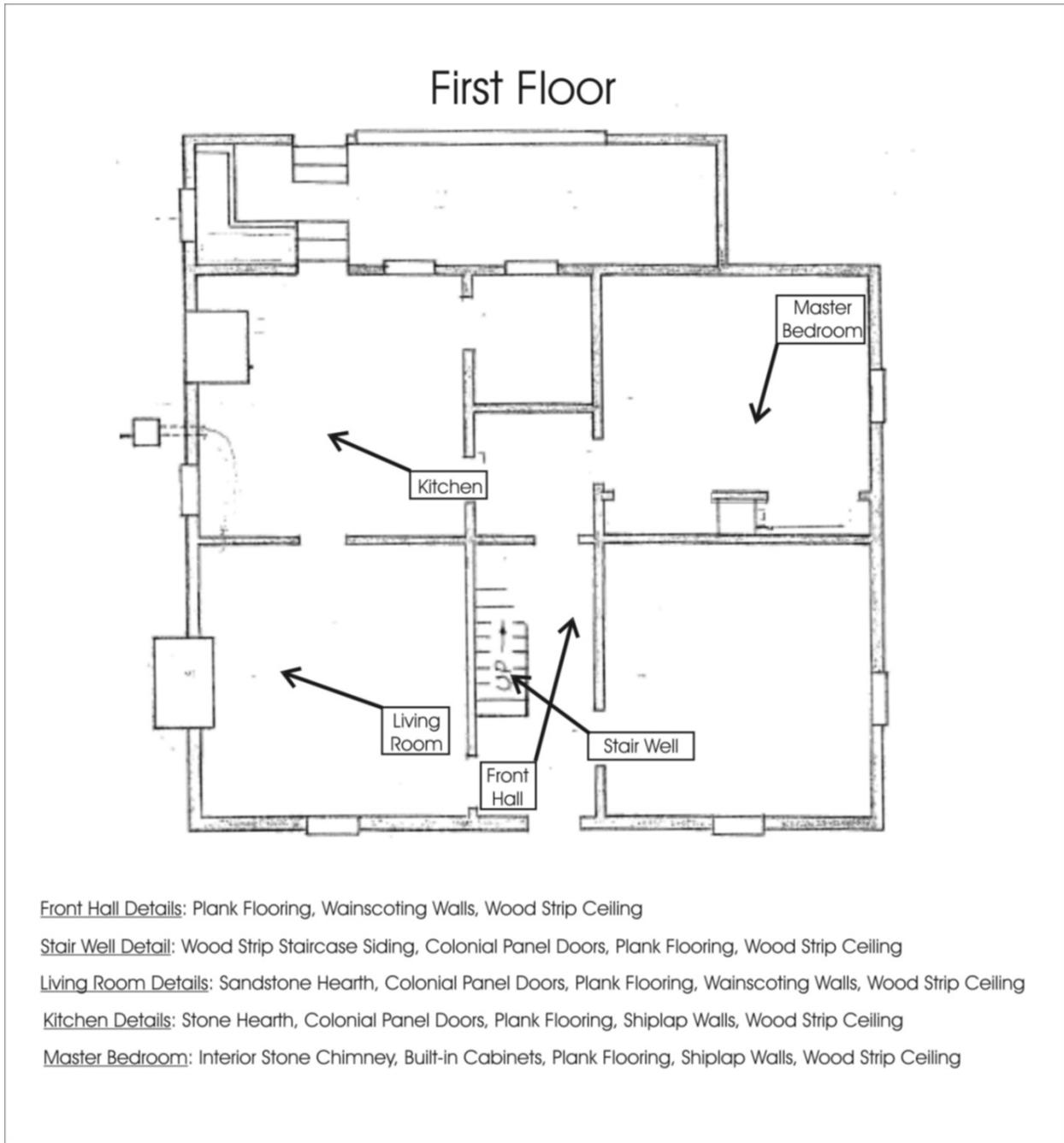
Rendering of the Kitchen within the Hatcher House.



Rendering of the Stairwell within the Hatcher House.



Rendering of the Master Bedroom within the Hatcher House.



Rendering of the Floorplan highlighting the specific elements of the rooms featured in renderings.