

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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HAER
WIS
44-APPL,
1A-

Appleton Locks and Dams, Lockkeeper's Residence at Lock 1
100 feet south of Lock 1
Appleton
Outagamie County
Wisconsin

HAER No. WI-84-A

The Lower Fox River Waterway begins in Menasha, Winnebago County, Wisconsin, and extends 37 miles through De Pere, Outagamie and Brown Counties to Green Bay, Wisconsin. However, for shelving purposes at the Library of Congress, Menasha in Winnebago County was selected as the "official" location for the Lower Fox River Waterway.

Photographer: Joseph Paskus, July 1995

WI-84-A-1 VIEW SOUTH/SOUTHWEST, Lockkeeper's residence

WI-84-A-2 VIEW EAST, Lockkeeper's residence

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

APPLETON LOCKS AND DAMS, LOCKKEEPER'S RESIDENCE AT LOCK 1

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Location: The lockkeeper's residence at Appleton Lock 1 of the Appleton Locks and Dams Complex is located approximately 100 feet south of the lock within the City of Appleton, in the N1/2, SE1/4, NW1/4, Section 35, T21N, R17E, Civil Town of Grand Chute, Outagamie County, Wisconsin.

UTM: 16/387620/4900840; USGS Quadrangle: Appleton, Wisconsin 7.5' series

Date of Construction: 1893

Engineer: United States Army Corps of Engineers with Contractors

Architect: United States Army Corps of Engineers with Contractors

Present Owner: United States Army Corps of Engineers

Present Use: Vacant.

Significance: The Lockkeeper's house served as an on-site residence for the lockkeeper responsible for controlling the locks. In addition, the house served as a residence for the lockkeeper's family. The residence functioned as part of the daily operation of the Appleton Locks and Dams Complex.

Project Information: This documentation was undertaken in 1995 in accordance with requirements detailed in a June 19, 1994 letter from Gregory D. Kendrick, Chief, History Branch, NPS to Dale Monteith, Acting Chief, Planning Division, USACOE, Detroit District. The Lower Fox system remains basically operational but was placed in caretaker status by the USACOE in 1982. The USACOE plans to divest itself of the Lower Fox system as soon as is feasible; therefore, NPS requested this documentation. All documentation conforms to HAER standards.

Dr. John D. Richards, Principal Investigator; Georgia A. Lusk, Patricia B. Richards, and Robert J. Watson, Project Archivists with Great Lakes Archaeological Research Center, Inc.; Joseph Paskus, Project Photographer.

LOCKKEEPER'S RESIDENCE

The lockkeepers house is situated approximately 100 feet south of the upstream entrance of Appleton Lock 1. At the same time the lockkeeper's house was built (sometime after March of 1893) a warehouse (no longer extant) was constructed nearby.¹ Several years later, in 1896, a plan for a shed for storage of timber (no longer extant) was drawn.² All three, the residence, the warehouse and the timber shed appear on a 1925 map of the "First Lock."³ A barn (no longer extant) which was constructed in 1907 appears on the 1925 map as well.⁴

Details of the house have been derived from blueprints dated March 8, 1893, visual inspection of the structure, the Appleton Locks 1-3 Historic District nomination form, and recent photographs.⁵ The lockkeeper's house, which faces west, or upstream, is a 1 1/2 story gabled "L" that is extended at the rear by a one story addition with an open shed-roofed porch. The lockkeeper's house is built on a rusticated concrete block foundation and is clad with clapboard siding and is roofed with asphalt shingles. It has plain window surrounds, and molded roof cornices. There is a brick chimney at the rear of the original upper roof peak. The addition contains two doors, one at the front, and one at the side. The side door is shielded by a gabled hood supported by plain triangulated brackets. This door is flanked by a horizontal window in the endwall of the addition. A similar window flanks a second door centered on the addition's sidewall. The door opens to a path that leads to the lock. Improvements include maple flooring installed in dining room and kitchen in 1908, unspecified hardwood flooring installed in an unspecified room, and repairs to the house siding in 1910.⁶

Maximum exterior dimensions of the lockkeeper's house are 54 feet 6 inches from front to rear, 27 feet from side to side, and 28 feet 3 inches from the foundation to the roof ridge. The house is anchored to an 18 inch thick poured concrete foundation. The frame is constructed with 2 inch by 4 inch wall studs, 4 inch by 4 inch corner posts, and 2 inch by 10 inch floor joists resting on 4 inch by 8 inch stringers. Roof pitch on the main part of the house is a 6 foot 6 inch rise in 7 feet 6 inches, and a 3 foot rise in 8 feet over the veranda. Two by four foot roof rafters are reinforced with 2 inch by 6 inch tie beams on the main block and with 1 inch by 6 inch tie beams on the rear extension. Over the addition, the roof pitch is a 6 foot rise in 8 feet, and a 1 foot 3 inch rise in 5 feet over the shed roofed portion.

The cellar plan consists of a 13 foot by 15 foot room with a 7 foot high ceiling. It is located below the addition which was originally designed as the kitchen. The cellar is accessed by a stairway in the southwest corner. The remaining perimeter of the house is made up of 7 foot deep concrete foundation walls.

The first floor plan depicts a veranda supported by two brick piers located at the southwest corner of the house. Ceiling height is 9 feet in the main block and 8 feet in the rear extension. The veranda is 6 feet 6 inches by 10 feet 6 inches with two doorways that access a hall in the south wing, and an office (later utilized as a living room). The main block begins with a 9 foot 6 inch by 11 foot 6 inch hall in the southwest corner accessed by a 2 foot by 6 foot 10 inch exterior door off the veranda. The stairs ascend from the hall to the second floor. The stairway has 3 foot wide risers, and a handrail newel post at the foot of the steps. Just off the hall is a 13 foot 6 inch by 14 foot office (later used as a living room). This room has a south exterior door off the veranda. Two windows are on the west wall and one on the north wall. The brick chimney is bisected by the east wall.

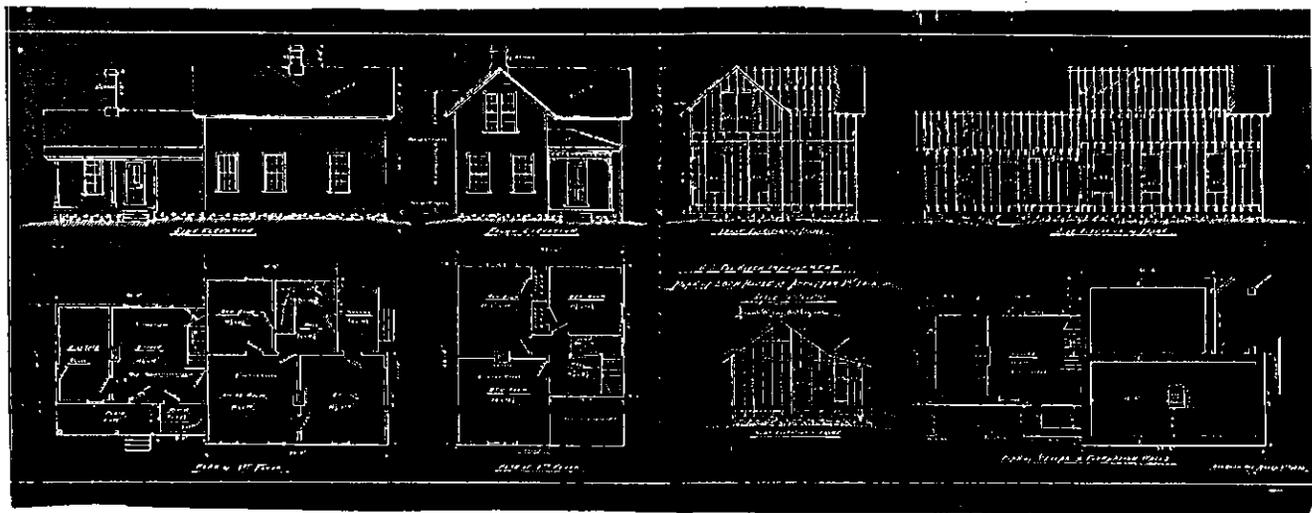
An interior door exits the east wall entering a 14 foot 6 inch by 14 foot 6 inch living room (later used as a sitting room). This room has two north wall windows, and three additional interior doors. These access the front hall, a bedroom, and the rear extension kitchen (later used as a dining room). A 10 foot 6 inch by 11 foot 6 inch bedroom occupies the southeast corner of the main block. It has one window on the south wall, and a door leading to a 3 foot deep closet beneath the stairway.

Three bedrooms and a hall at the head of the stairs occupy the second floor. Ceiling height is eight feet throughout. The second floor is accessed by a stairway in the northwest corner of the west wing. There is a newel post at the head of the stairs with an attached hand rail. The stairway opens into a 11 foot 6 inch by 9 foot 6 inch hall with interior doors entering the three bedrooms. The hall has one west wall window. The southwest corner bedroom is 11 feet 6 inch by 10 feet 6 inch, with a door to a 2 foot 4 inch by 5 foot closet in the northeast. It has one west wall window. The southeast corner bedroom is 11 feet 2 inches by 14 feet, with a door to a 2 foot 4 inch by 5 foot closet in the southwest corner. It has paired south wall windows. The north interior wall bisects the chimney. The northeast corner bedroom is 14 feet by 13 feet 6 inches, with paired north wall windows. All second floor doors are 2 feet 6 inches by 6 feet 6 inches.

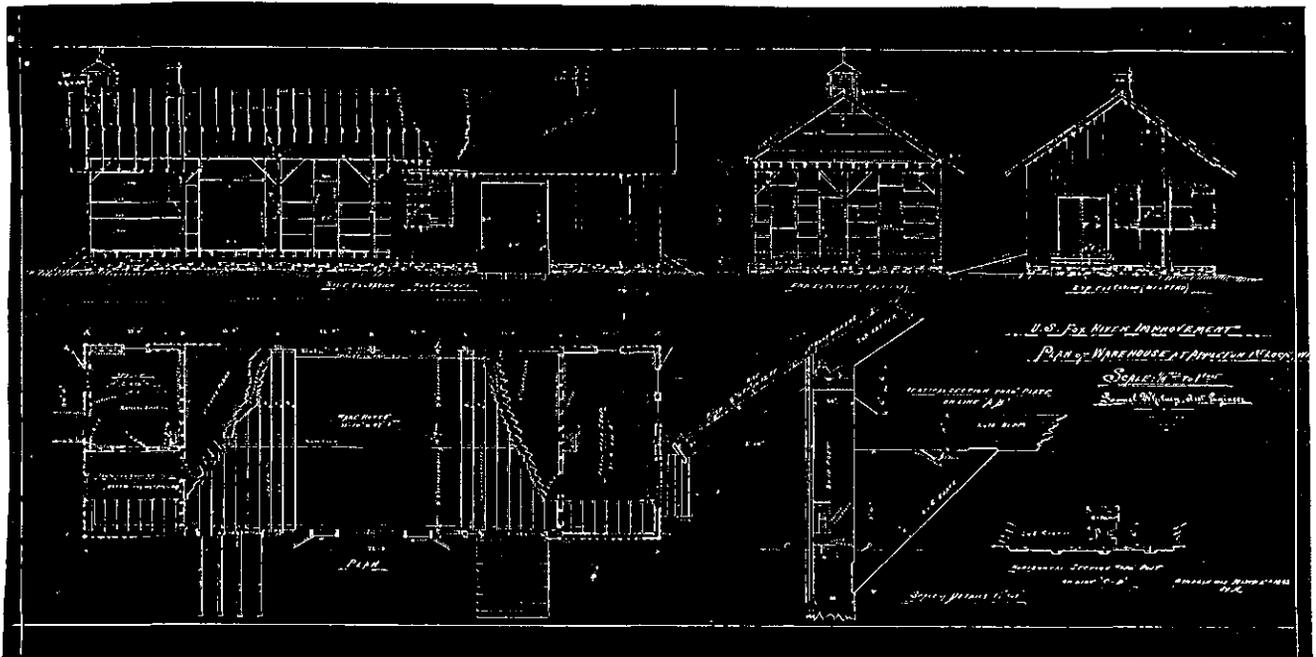
The rear (east) extension blueprint depicts a 15 foot 6 inch by 15 foot kitchen (later used as a dining room) accessed through an interior door off the living room/sitting room. Two windows are along the south wall. In the southwest corner there is a second doorway which accesses the cellar stairs. A third interior door in the northwest corner of the room opens to a 4 foot 6 inch by 7 foot 5 inch pantry (later used as storage space) with shelving along the west and north walls. A pantry window faces the porch (presently enclosed). A brick chimney is situated at the center of the east wall. At the rear of the extension, and accessed by a fourth interior door, is a 8 foot 6 inch by 15 foot woodshed (later used as a kitchen). The blueprints depict one window on the north wall; however, a recent picture shows a window south of a 2 foot 8 inch by 6 foot 8 inch rear (east) exterior door. Ceiling height within the extension is 8 feet. A 5 foot by 17 foot open porch depicted on the blueprints on the house's north side has been enclosed.

ENDNOTES

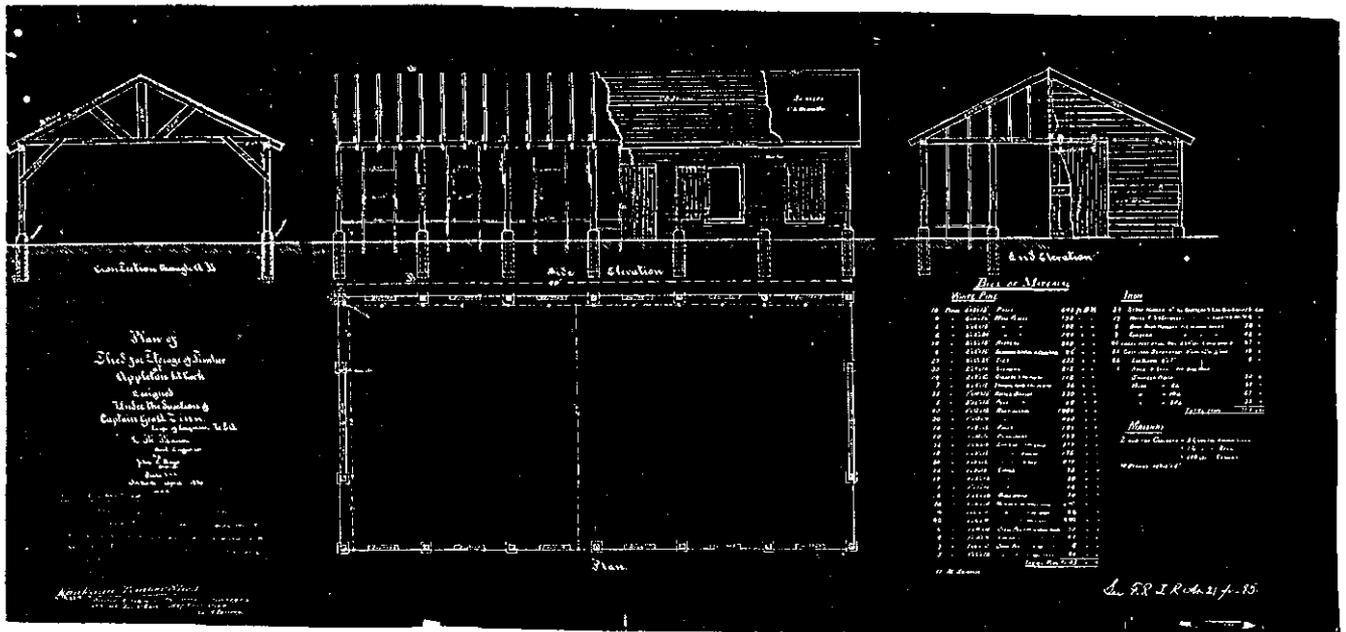
- 1 USACOE, U.S. Fox River Improvement, Plan of Warehouse at Appleton 1st Lock, Wis., 2 Mar 1893, File #1124.
- 2 USACOE, Plan of Shed for Storage of Timber at Appleton 1st Lock, April 1896, File #1122.
- 3 USACOE, Appleton First Lock and Upper Dam, drawn by J.W. Beardsley and C.A. Young, revised, 1925, File #401, sheet no. 14.
- 4 USACOE, Plan of Proposed Wood Shed and Cow Stable at Appleton First Lock, 1 Aug 1907, File #1121.
- 5 USACOE, Plan of Proposed Wood Shed and Cow Stable at Appleton First Lock, 1 Aug 1907, File #1121.
- 6 USACOE, Plan of Proposed Wood Shed and Cow Stable at Appleton First Lock, 1 Aug 1907, File #1121.



Photocopy of blueprint of Plan of Lock House at Appleton 1st Lock, 1893, File #1120.

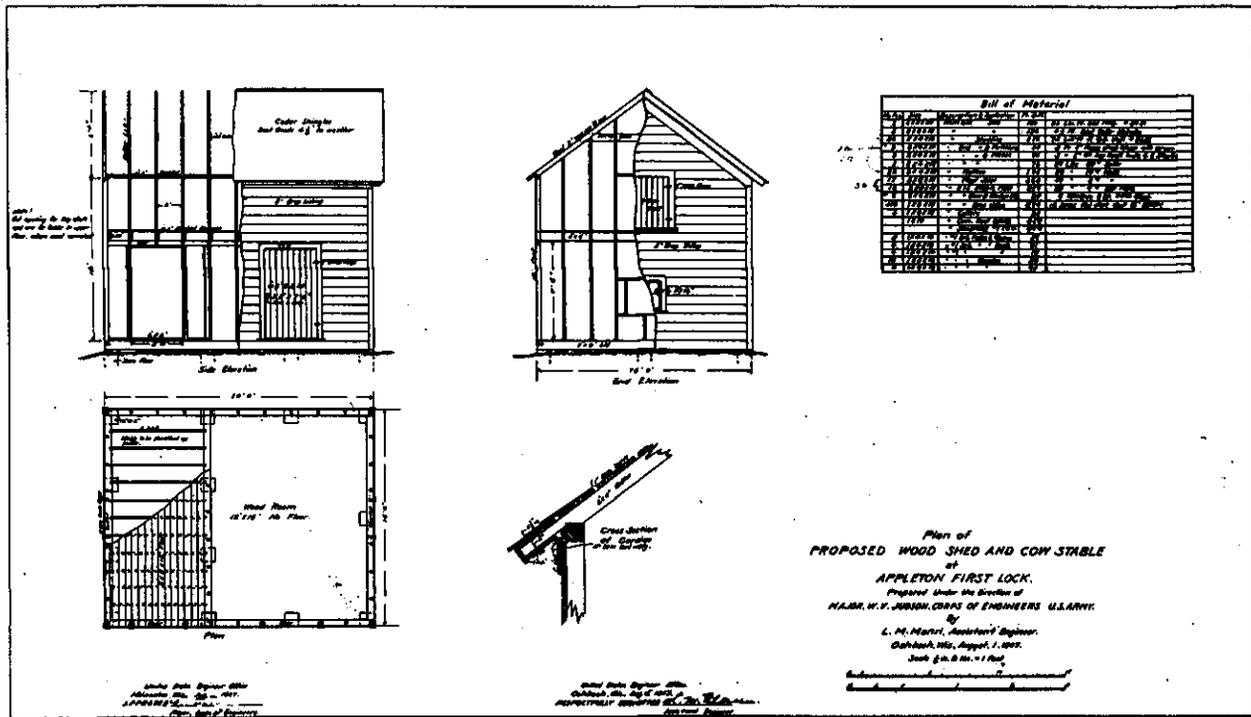


Photocopy of blueprint of Plan of Warehouse at Appleton 1st Lock, 1893, File #1124.



Photocopy of blueprint of Plan of Shed for Storage of Timber at Appleton 1st Lock, 1896, File #1122.

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