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MERIAM HOUSE

Minute Man National Historical Park
Concord, Massachusetts

Historic Structure Report

THE MERIAM HOUSE

HISTORIC STRUCTURE REPORT

Minute Man National Historical Park
Concord, Massachusetts

By

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURES AND CREDITS viii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS xii
PREFACE xiv
INTRODUCTION xvi

I. ADMINISTRATIVE DATA 1

II. ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY 7

GENERAL INTRODUCTION 9

MERIAM FAMILY OWNERSHIP 11

Early Concord Family 11

Joseph Meriam's House, Circa 1638 11
John Meriam's House, Circa 1663 13

Development of Meriam's Corner 16

The Children of John and Mary Meriam 16
Joseph Meriam's House, Circa 1705 18
House Enlarged, Circa 1725 18
New Chimney and Kitchen, Circa 1743 19
Property Deeds of 1745 and 1747 19

Nathan Meriam, Owner 20

Nathan Meriam Household 20
Town Selectman, 1774-1779 21
Events of April 19, 1775 22
Appearance of Meriam's Corner, 1775 26
Nathan and Josiah Meriam Households, 1775 27
Meriam Family Involvement in the Revolutionary War 28
Nathan Meriam's Will, 1782 28

Ephraim Meriam, Owner 29

Deed Dated 1788 29
Ephraim Meriam Household 29

Schoolhouse Constructed, 1799 30
Purchase of the East Adjacent Lot, 1803 33
Ephraim Meriam Probate, 1803-1806 33

William Swan, Owner 38

Marriage to Widow Mary Meriam, 1806 38
Construction of New Kitchen Addition, Circa 1810 39
Main-House Renovations, Circa 1820 41
William Swan's Will, 1822 42

Ephraim Meriam, Owner 43

Brief Biography 43
The Meriam House and Property 43

Rufus Meriam, Owner 45

Deed Dated 1834 45
New Schoolhouse, 1852-1854 45
Henry David Thoreau Survey, 1855 46
Rufus Meriam Household: 1840, 1850, and 1860 47
Kitchen Sketch, Circa 1865 48
Death of Rufus Meriam, 1870 49

BURKE FAMILY OWNERSHIP 55

Thomas Burke 55

Purchase of the Meriam Farm, 1871 55
Thomas and Rose Burke 56
Memorial Stone, 1885 57
New Barn, 1898-1899 58
New Front Doorway, Circa 1900 59
Electrical Wiring, 1900-1901 60
Thomas J. Burke House, 1903-1904 60
Schoolhouse Remodeled as Residence, 1903-1904 61
New Bathroom, Circa 1903-1904 62
Remembrances of Alice Burke Hargrove 62
Deaths of Thomas and Rose Burke, 1921 62

Ellen Burke 62

Deeds Dated 1922 62
Tenants, 1925-1951 63
Fire, Circa 1925 64
Willow Pond Restaurant Lot, 1928-1977 66
New Barn and Garage, 1940-1941 68

INGRAHAM FAMILY OWNERSHIP 81

Deed Dated 1951 81
James and Margaret Ingraham 81
Restoration and Renovation Work, 1951-1969 82
Chimney Rebuilt, 1984 87
United States Government Taking, 1987 87

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE OWNERSHIP 92

III. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION 93

GENERAL INFORMATION 95

Introduction 97
Summary Evolution 98

STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS 101

Original House, Circa 1705 103
West Second-Story Addition, Circa 1725 104
Kitchen Addition, Circa 1743 105
Kitchen Addition, Circa 1810 105
North Shed Addition, Circa 1820 106
Garage, 1952-1953 106

EXTERIOR ELEMENTS 107

Foundation Walls 121
Siding 122
Doorways 125
Windows 131
Cornice 141
Gutter System 142
Roof 143
Chimney 147
Painted Finishes 152

INTERIOR ELEMENTS: INTRODUCTION 155

INTERIOR ELEMENTS: CELLAR STORY 159

INTERIOR ELEMENTS: FIRST STORY 171

Room 101 175
Room 102 189
Room 103 206
Room 104 218
Room 105 237
Room 106 250
Room 107 258
Room 108 271

INTERIOR ELEMENTS: SECOND STORY 287

Room 201 291
Room 202 302
Room 203 316
Room 204 326
Room 205 336
Room 206 349
Room 207 360
Room 208 366
Room 209 377

INTERIOR ELEMENTS: ATTIC STORY 391

UTILITY SYSTEMS 399

Electrical System 401
Heating System 407
Plumbing System 409
Fire- and Intrusion-Protection Systems 411

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS 413

Introduction 415
Exterior Elements 416
Interior Elements 418

V. APPENDICES 419

APPENDIX A. Meriam Family Genealogy Chart 421

APPENDIX B. **Ownership Summary** 425

APPENDIX C. **Federal Population Census Records, 1790-1910 Meriam and Burke Families** 429

APPENDIX D. **Transcripts of Interviews with Salvatore Muscato and Alice Burke Hargrove** 439

APPENDIX E. **Paint Analysis** 447

Introduction 449
Exterior Paint 450
Interior Paint 459

APPENDIX F. **Survey of Existing Conditions and Recommendations** 533

Introduction 535
Exterior Elements 535
Interior Elements 541

APPENDIX G. **Existing Outbuildings, Related Buildings, and Missing Buildings** 543

Existing Outbuildings 545
Garden Shed 545
Tool House 545
Cottage 546

Related Buildings 550
Burke House 550
Former East Quarter Schoolhouse 551
Willow Pond Restaurant 552

Missing Buildings 554
Original Homestead and Barn: Circa 1663-1826 554
Meriam and Burke Barns 555
Shop: Circa 1705 to 1770-1784 556
East Quarter School House: 1779 to Post-1855 556

VI. **BIBLIOGRAPHY** 559

LIST OF FIGURES AND CREDITS

1. Detail of the 1830 "Plan of the Town of Concord, Mass." showing the Rufus Meriam house and School No. 2. From Lemuel Shattuck's *A History of the Town of Concord*, 1835 51

2. Preliminary "Plan of the Road & Watering Place of the East Quarter School House." Surveyed by Henry D. Thoreau, June 26, 1855. Courtesy Concord Free Public Library, Special Collections 52

3. Final "Plan of the Road & Watering Place of the East Quarter School House." Surveyed by Henry D. Thoreau, Nov. 9, 1855. Courtesy Concord Free Public Library, Special Collections 53

4. Photograph of sketch by Mary Wheeler (1846-1920), showing the Meriam House kitchen fireplace, circa 1865. Photograph by Alfred Hosmer. Courtesy Concord Free Public Library, Special Collections (Hosmer Collection, Box 12, #20) 54

5. Earliest-known exterior view of the Meriam House, taken after the memorial stone was installed in 1885, and before the barn was demolished sometime between 1898 and 1899. Photograph by Alfred Hosmer. Courtesy Concord Free Public Library, Special Collections (Hosmer Collection, Box 1, HOS 27-2) 69

6. Meriam House exterior, view looking northeast, circa 1899. Photograph by the Halliday Historic Photograph Co., 8 Beacon St., Boston; courtesy Historic New England; negative #H-1396b 70

7. Meriam House exterior, view looking northeast, circa 1899. Photograph by the Halliday Historic Photograph Co.; courtesy Historic New England; negative #H-1395a. [Note that the photograph was a gift to Historic New England from Mr. Frank Merriam, Aug. 14, 1916.] 71

8. Meriam House exterior, view looking northeast, circa 1899. Photograph by the Halliday Historic Photograph Co.; courtesy Historic New England; negative #H-1395b 72

9. Meriam House exterior, view looking northeast, circa 1899. Photograph by the Halliday Historic Photograph Co.; courtesy Historic New England; negative #H-1396a. [This photograph also appears in two booklets on Concord published in 1903.] 73

10. Meriam House exterior, view looking northeast, circa 1900. Courtesy of Historic New England; no negative number 74

11. Thomas J. Burke and horse "Dandy Jim" in front of the Meriam House, circa 1900-1903. Photograph courtesy of Alice Burke Hargrove, Concord, MA 75

12. View looking northeast, showing the Meriam House and the former East Quarter School House, circa 1905. Photograph by E.F. Worcester; published in 1912 in a booklet entitled *Concord and Lexington* 76

13. Rose and Thomas Burke, in front of the Meriam House, circa 1905. Photograph courtesy of Alice Burke Hargrove 77

14. Meriam and Burke Houses, view looking north, circa 1910. Post card labeled "Meriam's Corner, Concord, Mass." on the front, and "The Valentine Souvenir Co., New York, Printed in U.S.A." on the back. Courtesy of Salvatore Muscato, Concord, MA 77

15. Thomas Burke in front of the Meriam House, circa 1910. Photograph courtesy of Alice Burke Hargrove 78

16. Back view of the Meriam House, circa 1912. The young girls in the foreground are believed to be Katherine A. Burke (born 1905) and her sister Mary Alice (born 1909). Photograph courtesy of Alice Burke Hargrove 79

17. Meriam House, view looking northwest, circa 1937. Photograph by George Shepard. Courtesy Concord Free Public Library, Special Collections (Ruth Wheeler File, OB 1). This view also appears in the booklet *Our American Mile* by Ruth Wheeler, published in 1957 80

18. Plan dated Jan. 1951, showing the property conveyed from Ellen T. Burke to James and Margaret Ingraham. Middlesex County Deed Book 7703, p. 584 89

19. Excerpt showing a "Walpole Toolhouse," from the 1956 catalog of *Walpole Small Buildings*, found in the cellar of the Meriam House 90

20. Meriam House exterior, view looking northeast, 1963. Photograph by the Historic American Buildings Survey, February 9, 1963. Courtesy of the Library of Congress (HABS-MASS-9-CON 17-1; HABS No. MA-822-1) 91

21. Meriam House site, view looking northeast, November 10, 1993. NPS photograph by Barbara Yocum, Marie Carden, and Maureen Phillips 109

22. Meriam House, view looking north, November 10, 1993. NPS photograph by Yocum, Carden, and Phillips 110

23. Meriam House, view looking northwest, November 10, 1993. NPS photograph by Blaise Davi, Minute Man NHP 111

24. Meriam House, detail of circa-1820 side door (shown by Maureen Phillips), November 10, 1993. NPS photograph by Yocum and Carden 112

25. Meriam House, view looking west, November 10, 1993. NPS photograph by Yocum, Carden, and Phillips 113

26. Meriam House, view of north side of garage, November 10, 1993. NPS photograph by Yocum, Carden, and Phillips 114

27. Meriam House, view looking south, November 10, 1993. NPS photograph by Yocum, Carden, and Phillips 115

28. Meriam House, view looking east, November 10, 1993. NPS photograph by Yocum, Carden, and Phillips 116

29. Meriam House, exterior south elevation, 1993. Drawing by students at Boston University 117

30. Meriam House, exterior east elevation, 1993. NPS drawing by Dan Griffin, Minute Man NHP, circa 1990 118

31. Meriam House, exterior north elevation, 1993. NPS drawing by Dan Griffin, circa 1990 119

32. Meriam House, exterior west elevation, 1993. Drawing by students at Boston University 120

33. Meriam House, cellar floor plan, 1993. NPS drawing by Dan Griffin, circa 1990 161

34. Meriam House, first-floor plan, 1993. NPS drawing by Lawrence Sorli 173

35. Meriam House, second-floor plan, 1993. NPS drawing by Lawrence Sorli 289

36. Meriam House, attic floor plan, 1993. NPS drawing by Barbara Yocum 393

37. Meriam House, cellar electrical plan, circa 1990. NPS drawing by Dan Griffin 403

38. Meriam House, first-story electrical plan, circa 1990. NPS drawing by Dan Griffin 404

39. Meriam House, second-story electrical plan, circa 1990. NPS drawing by Dan Griffin 405

40. Meriam House, third-story (attic) electrical plan, circa 1990. NPS drawing by Dan Griffin 406

41. Garden Shed, view looking northwest, November 10, 1993. NPS photograph by Yocum, Carden, and Phillips 547

42. Tool House, views looking southeast and northwest, November 10, 1993. NPS photographs by Yocum, Carden, and Phillips 548

43. Cottage, views looking north and southwest, December 1992. NPS photographs by Judith Quinn 549

Editor's Note:

At the time this report was written, the author was on the staff of the Building Conservation Branch (BCB) of the Cultural Resources Center (CRC), North Atlantic Region (NAR), National Park Service. Since that time, the North Atlantic Region has become part of the Northeast Region of the National Park Service, and the Cultural Resources Center has been disbanded. The staff of the BCB was divided into two entities, the Historic Architecture Program (HAP) and the Architectural Preservation Division (APD).

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PREFACE

The challenge of this historic structure report has been to separate the myths from the facts about the Meriam House property. It was recognized that several questions needed to be researched, which included the following:

- When, and by whom, was the house built?
- Were the house and its outbuildings mentioned in the contemporary documents of April 19, 1775?
- What did the house/site look like on that day, and where was Lexington Road located?
- How have the house and its outbuildings evolved over time, and what are the dates of the various architectural features?
- What is the existing physical condition of the house?
- What is the history of the "East Quarter Schoolhouse," located east of the Meriam House?
- Is there sufficient documentary and/or physical evidence to restore the exterior of the house to its appearance in 1775?
- What elements of the interior of the house merit preservation?

Preliminary research found that roughly eight different dates of construction, all antedating 1775, had been assigned to the Meriam House over the years. These are briefly listed below:

<u>1639</u> This date was attributed by the last owners of the house, the Ingrahams, based on unspecified "evidence on the huge central chimney." (Source: *The Lexington-Concord Battle Road: Interim Report of the Boston National Historic Sites Commission to the Congress of the United States*; typescript, June 16, 1958, p. 167)

<u>Before 1660</u> "The house is one of Concord's most ancient.... [It was built] without question before 1660." (Source: *The Lexington-Concord Battle Road*; 1958, p. 167)

<u>Ca. 1663</u> "The old Meriam house was probably built in 1663 when John Meriam married Mary Cooper.... It was designated as a garrison house or a place for the neighborhood to assemble in case of an Indian attack at the time of King Phillip's War [1676]." (Source: *Our American Mile* by Ruth Wheeler, Concord Antiquarian Society, 1957, pp. 5-6)

Ca. 1670	Date assigned by NPS Historical Architect Orville C. Carroll. (Source: NPS Memorandum dated May 28, 1970, regarding the "Maintenance Survey for Minute Man NHP")
Ca. 1710 & Ca. 1730	Revised dates by Historical Architect Carroll. Mr. Carroll dated the east side of the house circa 1710, and the west side circa 1730, "based on a comparative study of chamfered summer beams in eastern Massachusetts." This comparative "study" was likely based on the personal observations of Mr. Carroll, which were unfortunately never published. (Source: NPS Memorandum dated March 22, 1988, regarding "Review of GMP Draft, MMNHP")
Before 1750	An early history of Concord notes that there is too little knowledge of the house to make anything but passing mention, but notes that it "probably antedates 1750." (Source: *The History of Concord Mass., Vol. 1, Colonial Concord*, by A.S. Hudson, 1904, p. 312)
1750	Photographic caption entitled "House at Merriam's Corner...Built 1750." (Source: "Ancient Landmarks of the Old Bay State," Brown's Famous Pictures, No. 1471)
1752	This date is cited in an unpublished (handwritten) genealogical description of Dr. John Merriam (1758-1817) by Sidney Augustus Merriam (1881-1945). The specific quote reads, "The house at Concord built in 1752 on the land at 'Meriam's Corner' at the corner [of] Lexington and Billerica roads is still standing 1925. This land, 1.5 acres, was owned by the first John Meriam in Concord born 1641 and perhaps by his father Joseph." (Source: Copy of genealogical manuscript, tracing the descendants of John Meriam,[16] provided by Shirley Meriam Cornish, Woodgate, NY)

It was concluded after exhaustive research of the documentary sources and physical architectural fabric that two houses had existed at the Meriam's Corner site: one built by John Meriam circa 1663, and the other by his son Joseph circa 1705. Both houses and their barns were most likely standing in 1775. Of the two houses, only Joseph's house survives today, in considerably altered condition from its original construction. This is explained in detail in the report that follows.

INTRODUCTION

The report that follows is divided into six chapters. Chapter I is the "administrative data" section, which documents the significance of the house, National Park Service involvement, and proposed use and treatment. Chapter II is an "architectural history" that describes the evolution of the house and its site, from its original construction circa 1705 to the present time. Also described is an earlier Meriam house that is believed to have been located nearby on Lexington Road, which was also standing on April 19, 1775. Chapter III is an architectural description of the existing Meriam House, its outbuildings, and other buildings on the former Meriam farm. Chapter IV provides recommendations for the future treatment of the house. Chapter V contains the appendices, including a survey of existing maintenance conditions and recommendations for repairs. Chapter VI is a bibliography of sources.

This is a "Level I" historic structure report. A Level I investigation is defined as follows:

> Exhaustive investigation of a structure or landscape through archeological, historical, or architectural means for the purpose of restoration or reconstruction. Such investigations shall be as complete as possible for uncovering all available details. This may entail the removal of certain portions of fabric and excavation.[1]

Archival research of primary documents commenced in March 1993, and was accomplished by studying historic photographs, town records, tax assessment records, property deeds, population census records, probate records, and maps. In addition, several publications on the history of Concord were consulted, as were writings on the genealogy of the Meriam family. The research was carried out at the following institutions:

- Minute Man National Historical Park, Cultural Resources Center Library
- Concord Free Public Library, Special Collections
- Offices of the Town of Concord, including the Town Clerk, Tax Assessor's Office, and Building Department
- Boston Public Library
- Watertown Public Library
- Library of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities
- Registry of Deeds and Probate, Middlesex and Suffolk Counties
- The Massachusetts Archives at Columbia Point
- Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston
- New England Historical Genealogical Society, Boston
- National Archives and Records Service, Waltham Branch
- New England Antiquarian Society, Worcester

A detailed accounting of sources consulted may be found in the bibliography section of this report.

[1] *NPS-28, Technical Supplement*, Release 3, Chapter 5, p. 16.

An attempt was also made to contact and interview Meriam and Burke family members and close neighbors. These included the following people:

- Shirley Merriam Cornish, a descendant of John Meriam (1666-1748), of Woodgate, NY
- Alice Burke Hargrove, a granddaughter of Thomas and Rose Burke, of Concord, MA
- Gerard Burke, a grandson of Thomas and Rose Burke, of Concord, MA (no response)
- Salvatore Muscato, a neighbor on Old Bedford Road in Concord, MA
- Pauline B. Ingraham, second wife and widow of James Ingraham, of Yarmouth, ME

Transcripts of the interviews with Salvatore Muscato and Alice Burke Hargrove may be found in Appendix D of this report.

Recording and documentation of the existing structure was also in the scope of the historic structure report. It was found that one set of undated schematic architectural drawings already existed, which had been prepared by Minute Man NHP Ranger Dan Griffin. These included four exterior elevations, a cellar plan, first-floor plan, second-floor plan, and attic plan. Ranger Griffin had also annotated the floor plans to show electrical fixtures and wiring, and had identified the breaker switches at the electrical panel.

Measured architectural drawings (scaled at one-quarter inch to the foot) were subsequently prepared in March 1993 by a group of students from Boston University for the class "Documenting Historic Structures." They included exterior drawings of the front and west elevations, a first-floor plan, and a second-floor plan. Detailed elevations of three interior walls were also made, scaled at one-half inch to the foot.

Investigation and recording of the physical structure by this author was carried out in August, September, and October 1993. First, the rooms were assigned numbers 101 through 108 in the first story, and 201 through 209 in the second story, so as to standardize site notes. Then, scale drawings were prepared of the four walls, floor, and ceiling (scaled at one-half inch to the foot) of each room in the first and second stories (excluding the garage). Significant physical features were recorded on the drawings, as were the locations of paint samples extracted for the paint analysis.

Two other studies on the Meriam House site were carried out concurrently with the architectural investigation: a cultural landscape study (by Historian Brian Donahue) and an NPS archeology study. The results of these studies are presented in separate reports.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

The Meriam House is a residential structure located at 34 Old Bedford Road in Concord, Massachusetts. It is a two-story frame dwelling, with attached garage, on a 1.77-acre site. The site is significant for being the location where "the British rear guard and the Americans exchanged shots, beginning a running fight that continued all the way back to Lexington" on April 19, 1775.[1] This was one of a series of events on that day that led to the American War for Independence.

The Meriam House is the only historic structure standing in the area known today as "Merriam's Corner."[2] Such was not the case in 1775, when this part of town was densely built up with houses, barns, and shops. Three Meriam dwellings were located here in 1775, belonging to Nathan Meriam (the Meriam House), his brother Josiah (on Lexington Road), and their nephew John (on the west side of Old Bedford Road).

The Meriam family made significant contributions to the cause for American Independence. Nathan was then one of three Town Selectmen, which position he held from March 1774 to March 1779. Family history identifies Josiah as a sergeant in Captain Joseph Hosmer's company of Minute Men, and his son Josiah, Jr., as a private in the same company. Josiah was also later appointed as one of seven members of the Committee of Safety, Correspondence and Inspections, from March 1777 to March 1783. Nephew John Meriam's involvement, if any, is undocumented.

The Meriam House has been owned by only three families since its original construction by Nathan Meriam's father, Joseph Meriam, circa 1705. The Meriam family lived here for four generations, until the death of Rufus Meriam in 1870. Two generations of the Burke family next owned it—first residing there, then renting it to tenants—until 1951. The last family, James and Margaret Ingraham, owned the property until 1987.

Formal recognition of the significance of the Meriam House site was first bestowed in 1885, as part of the 250th-anniversary celebration of settlement of the Town of Concord. Several memorials were erected at that time, including a stone at Meriam's Corner, which bears the following inscription:

MERIAM'S CORNER

——

THE BRITISH TROOPS
RETREATING FROM THE
OLD NORTH BRIDGE
WERE HERE ATTACKED IN FLANK
BY THE MEN OF CONCORD
AND NEIGHBORING TOWNS
AND DRIVEN UNDER A HOT FIRE
TO CHARLESTOWN

All known photographs of the house postdate the installation of this commemorative stone at the corner of Lexington and Old Bedford Roads.

---

[1] *General Management Plan: Minute Man National Historical Park*, September 1989, p. 12.

[2] The first reference to "Merriam's Corner" is dated 1797.

The earliest-known attempt to preserve the house was initiated in 1938 by William Sumner Appleton, who was then the Corresponding Secretary of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities. Appleton, who was a great-great grandson of Joseph Meriam (1677-1750),[3] wrote to attorney John H. Merriam of Boston regarding the prospect of acquiring the house for the Society.[4] Merriam's response was that "other matters demand my attention and money in a more urgent way." Appleton wrote back, "I feel just as strongly that this particular building is worthy of preservation not only for itself but also because of the furious fighting that took place in its vicinity on that hot spring day in 1775." He closed his letter with the invitation, "let us have a talk about it in order to find out what might be done to ensure the preservation of this historic site." No action, however, appears to have been taken.[5]

Minute Man National Historical Park was established by Act of Congress on September 21, 1959. Although the Meriam House was then in private ownership, it was designated as being within park boundaries, and therefore eligible for acquisition by the Secretary of the Interior.

The Historic American Buildings Survey recorded the house with one black-and-white photograph on February 9, 1963. Three years later, in 1966, the house was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing structure in a multiple resource nomination entitled "Minute Man National Historical Park."[6]

The property, identified as tract number 04-106, was finally acquired by the U.S. government by condemnation in 1987, for which the owners were compensated $600,000 and allowed life estate. The house has been unoccupied and unheated since 1990, when the Ingrahams moved to Maine. The government became sole owner in December 1991, upon the death of Mr. Ingraham.

The National Park Service's List of Classified Structures identifies the Meriam House as being structure number "04," and management category "Ib." A category "Ib" structure is one "that does not possess national significance on an individual basis but contributes to the national significance of a park or historic district."[7]

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[3] Joseph Meriam, a locksmith, is believed to have been the original builder of the Meriam House circa 1705.

[4] John H. Merriam was also a direct descendant of Joseph Meriam (1677-1750).

[5] "MA: Concord, Antiquarian Society," letters dated August 18 and 19, 1938; Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities microfiche.

[6] The HABS photograph is in the Library of Congress, where it is cataloged as MASS-9-CON, 17-1. The National Register nomination was accepted October 15, 1966, and is cataloged as number 66000935.

[7] *NPS-28*, Draft Release 4 (Feb. 1993), p. 126.

The General Management Plan (GMP) for the park, dated September 1989, proposes to restore the exterior of the house and adapt (i.e., rehabilitate) the interior for administrative use. The target restoration date is identified by the GMP to be April 19, 1775. The National Park Service defines "restoration" and "rehabilitation" as follows:

> Restoration reestablishes the form, features and character of a historic structure at a particular past period.... Management Policies permits restoration only if (a) it is essential for the public understanding of the cultural associations of a park and (b) it can be accomplished with minimal conjecture.
>
> Rehabilitation maintains the existing integrity and character of a historic structure but allows major additions or alterations to accommodate a compatible contemporary use.[8]

More detailed plans for the development of the Meriam's Corner site are also provided by the GMP:

> A centralized parking lot for 20 cars and 2 buses will be established and screened in a previously developed area, the Willow Pond Restaurant site, for access to Meriam's Corner (with expansion potential for possible future demand).
>
> A wayside pull off for three cars will be installed on the south side of Lexington Road for interpretation of Meriam's Corner.
>
> A trail will be provided on the north to interpret the Americans' route across the fields from the fighting at Meriam's Corner to the Bloody Angles where the most intensive fighting occurred within the park....
>
> Stone walls will be rebuilt at the intersection of Old Bedford and Lexington roads to improve visitor safety when experiencing Meriam's Corner.
>
> A segment of The Battle Road in front of the Meriam House (believed to be in the front yard) will be located and restored when the site becomes accessible. In addition, a crossing of Mill Brook will be provided at the historic location to improve interpretation of the beginning of the running battle, which continued from this area all the way to Boston.
>
> The exterior of the John [sic] Meriam House and surrounding landscape on NPS property will be restored for interpretation. The exterior of the East Quarter Schoolhouse will be restored for orientation and interpretive purposes.[9]

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[8] *NPS-28*, Draft Release 4 (Feb. 1993), pp. 132-133.

[9] *General Management Plan*, pp. 45-46. The existing "schoolhouse" was built in 1853 and remodeled as a house in 1903-1904.

It is the recommendation of this report that the exterior of the Meriam House not be restored to its 1775 appearance. This would require the demolition of the circa-1810, 1 1/2-story back addition and the attached garage/carriage shed. Furthermore, there is insufficient evidence—either documentary or physical—to recreate the exterior appearance of the house in 1775. The house as it exists today is little changed from its 1820 appearance, with the exception of a back dormer added circa 1925, and several first-story windows (mostly in the rear) altered in the 1950's.

The alternate recommended treatment of the exterior is "preservation," which is defined as follows:

> Preservation as an ultimate treatment maintains the existing integrity and character of a historic structure. This alternative precludes uses that would require major additions or demolition. It should always receive first consideration.[10]

Rehabilitation of the interior for administrative use is an acceptable alternative, providing that existing architectural fabric is not removed or destroyed.

[10] *NPS-28*, Draft Release 4 (Feb. 1993), p. 132.

II. ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

The history of the Meriam House and its site reflects the general history and development of the Town of Concord where it is located. The earliest-recorded owner of the land was John Meriam, whose father had immigrated from England to Concord in 1639. John Meriam's son, Joseph, a locksmith and farmer, is believed to have built circa 1705 the house that is standing today. It was Joseph's son Nathan, then a town selectman, who was living in the house with his family on that fateful day of April 19, 1775. The house remained in the Meriam family for almost 100 years after 1775, until the death of Rufus Meriam in 1870.

The spelling of the "Meriam" family name has changed over the years. The most common spelling found in 17th-century documents is "Miriam,"[1] although "Marion" was also observed in a deed dated 1667. Tax assessment records for the years 1717 through 1857 record the name as "Meriam," which spelling is used in this report. The modern spelling of "Merriam" first appears in the tax record for 1858, and then not again until 1862. The use of the two "r's" is found consistently in the tax records and other documents dated 1862 and later.

The next owners of the house were Thomas and Rose Burke, immigrants from Ireland, who purchased the property in 1871. They maintained the house, built a new barn, and continued to farm the land. The house was leased to tenants during the second generation of Burke-family ownership, 1922-1951. A fire in the house in 1925 resulted in alterations that remain today.

The last family to own the property was James and Margaret Ingraham. James Ingraham was not a farmer, but worked as an architectural engineer for Harvard University. It was he who undertook an extensive restoration of the house in the 1950's, which resulted in the appearance of the house today.

The property was taken by condemnation by the U.S. government in 1987 to become part of Minute Man National Historical Park, established in 1959. Mr. Ingraham, who retained life tenancy, died in 1991.

The Meriam House is located in the East Quarter of Concord at Meriam's Corner, near the intersection of Lexington and Old Bedford Roads. The "East Quarter" was so-named in 1653, when the town was divided into three parts (or "quarters"), so as to simplify the distribution of new lands in what was called the "second division."[2] Exactly when "Meriam's Corner" was so-named is not known for certain, although there is little doubt that John Meriam was living in the area by 1666. The earliest documented reference to the name is in the records of a town meeting held on May 1,

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[1] Joseph Miriam's will and inventory dated 1640, and John Miriam's property description dated 1666.

[2] Charles Hosmer Walcott, *Concord in the Colonial Period* (Boston: Estes & Lauriat, 1884), pp. 18-19, 68 & 71.

1797, when it was decided to build the new East district schoolhouse, "at or near the place called Meriam's corner."[3]

Lexington and Old Bedford Roads are both old roads dating back to the 17th century. Their names, however, have changed over the years, as evidenced by property deeds, maps and tax records, and other documents.[4] In 1666, Lexington Road was called the "Bay Way," and Old Bedford Road was the "Way to Billerica." In the 18th century, Lexington Road was usually referred to as the "Bay Road" or "County Road," and Old Bedford Road was "Billerica Road" or "Bedford Road."[5] A map dated 1830 used "Lexington & Boston Road" and "Bedford Road," although 19th-century property deeds continued with the earlier "County Road" or "the Great County road" appellations. "Lexington Road" was officially so-named in 1899; it had been declared a state road the previous year, in 1898. The first reference to "Old Bedford Road" is in the Town Directory for 1886.

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[3] "Town of Concord, Vol. 6, Records of the Selectmen & Town Meetings, 1790-1814," entry for May 1, 1797, pp. 119-120.

[4] Middlesex County Property Deeds dated 1666 (Book 10, p. 525); 1698 (Book 25, p. 373); 1745 (Book 45, p. 345); 1747 (Book 49, p. 260); 1788 (Book 158, p. 163); 1803 (Book 158, p. 166); 1826 (Book 267, p. 156); 1834 (Book 1,160, p. 21); 1871 (Book 1,164, p. 448); 1922 (Book 4,569, p. 384); and 1951 (Book 7703, p. 584). Also, John G. Hales Map of Concord, 1830; Property Taxes for the Town of Concord dated 1891 (the first year when road names are given) through 1977; Town Records for June 6, 1685 (Vol. 1, pp. 68-69) and Nov. 13, 1716 (Vol. II, p. 95); and Town Directories (beginning with 1886).

[5] "County Road" and "Bedford Road" were both mentioned in a document dated March 5, 1775, in which the Selectmen for the Town of Concord apportioned the roads to the "highway surveyors." CFPL.

MERIAM FAMILY OWNERSHIP

The Meriam family owned the property on which the Meriam House sits for five generations: from circa 1663 to 1870. John Meriam is believed to have built the first house at the Meriam's Corner site circa 1663. A second house, known as the Meriam House today, is thought to have been constructed by his son Joseph circa 1705.

Early Concord Family

Joseph Meriam's House, Circa 1638

Joseph and Sarah Meriam are the progenitors of all the Meriam descendants in Concord. Joseph was a clothier, as had been his father, in the county of Kent, England. He sailed to New England on the Castle of London, which arrived in the port of Charlestown in July 1638.[6] Shortly after, he settled in the Town of Concord, which had been recently established in 1635. He became a freeman of the Massachusetts Bay Colony on March 14, 1639.

Joseph Meriam did not live long in his new home of Concord, for he died on January 1, 1641. His will, dated October 29, 1640, specified the following about the disposition of his estate, including his house:

> ...Item I give & bequeath to Sarah my wife all my whole estate towards and for the bringing up of all my children; & I do give to the said Sarah my wife power and authority to sell my house that I now dwell in if God shall offer such an opportunity it being larger and bigger than she shall stand in need of: and that the overplus of providing a lesse house shalbe disposed in some way for the good & benefit of my wife & children.... And my will & mind is that if the said Sarah my wife shall marry againe that then my estate shall be prised: & valued & the said Sarah my wife shall have the third wholely to her selfe; the rest of my estate shalbe for my children, & the increase of that shalbe for the bringing up of them up untill my sonne William shall come to one & twenty yeares, & then he shall have his portion... & then the rest of my estate both principall & increase shalbe preserved for my other children I conceiving they then being sufficient to live of themselves....[7]

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[6] It is not known for certain if Sarah sailed with Joseph or arrived at a later date.

[7] Microfilm entitled "Suffolk Probate Court Record Books, Vol. 1. p. 1, to Vol. 4, p. 213," Vol. 1, pp. 13-15 (in the Boston Public Library); the will is also transcribed on pp. 35-36 of *Merriam Genealogy, In England and America*, compiled by Charles Henry Pope (Boston: Charles H. Pope, 1906).

An inventory was made of Joseph Meriam's estate on January 18, 1641, which was assigned a total value of 51 pounds 10 shillings. It is a detailed listing that includes the stock of Joseph's clothing business, furnishings, cooking utensils, dishes, tools, and livestock. No descriptions of the house or the rooms within the house are provided.[8]

Exactly where Joseph and Sarah Meriam's house was located is not known for certain. There is a good possibility that it was in town, on the street now known as Walden Street. This was the location of the house lots of Joseph's two brothers, Robert and George, according to town records dated 1666.[9] Records of land transactions prior to 1663, when the town decided to "transcribe...every man's land in a new booke...," are unfortunately scarce, with no mention of Joseph Meriam's holdings.[10]

Ruth Wheeler, the late Concord historian, identified Joseph Meriam's house lot as being at the southwest corner of modern-day Walden and Heywood Streets. Wheeler states in an unpublished paper that this property..."was part of the original town grant of a twenty-acre houselot to Joseph Meriam." She also indicates on a map made in 1967, entitled "Seventeenth Century Settlers," that the property was conveyed from original settler Richard Griffin to Joseph Meriam. Unfortunately, no citations are given for these transactions, and a search through the early town records and deeds found no supporting documentation for Wheeler's conclusions.[11]

It has also been proposed that Joseph Meriam's house is the Meriam House at Meriam's Corner.[12] This is improbable, however, due to the fact that the house is located slightly more than one mile from the town center. Concord historian Lemuel Shattuck has cited a General Court order

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[8] Microfilm at Boston Public Library entitled "Suffolk Probate Court Record Books, Vol. 1, p. 1 to Vol. 4, p. 213 (1636 - 1664)." These volumes are an 1892 transcription of an earlier copy made in 1752. The inventory appears on pp. 17-20 of Volume 2.

[9] Microfilm entitled, "Town of Concord, Mass., Vol. 1, Relating to Land Divisions, Highways & Bridges, 1655-1784," pp. 185 and 216. The locations of the two brothers are illustrated in a map by Ruth R. Wheeler entitled "Seventeenth Century Settlers," which appears in her book *Concord: Climate for Freedom* (Concord: The Concord Antiquarian Society, 1967). The *Merriam Genealogy* by Pope says that Robert Meriam came to New England in 1638, and became a freeman March 13, 1639. He first settled in Charlestown, but later moved to Concord. George Meriam is believed to have come to New England after Joseph Meriam's will was made in 1640, because he was not mentioned in it, as was his brother Robert. He was definitely here the following year, since he was made a freeman June 2, 1641.

[10] Lemuel Shattuck states, in *A History of the Town of Concord; Middlesex County, Massachusetts, From Its Earliest Settlement to 1832* (Boston: Russell, Odiorne, and Company; and Concord: John Stacy; 1835), that "A tradition has prevailed in Concord, that the early records of the town were burnt; and this is said to have taken place when part of the first settlers removed to Connecticut [in 1644]" (p. iv).

[11] Wheeler's unpublished paper is in a file labeled "W 6" in the Concord Free Public Library, Special Collections. The map appears as the frontispiece in her book *Climate for Freedom*.

[12] This claim was made by the most recent owner of the house, Mr. James Ingraham, who said that "evidence on the huge central chimney points to a date of origin not later than 1639." *The Lexington-Concord Battle Road: Interim Report of the Boston National Historic Sites Commission to the Congress of the United States*, p. 167.

dated 1635, which decreed that "no new building should be built more than half a mile from the meeting-house in any new plantation." Shattuck says that the order appears to have been enforced in Concord for about eight years, after which the settlement began to be much more extended."[13]

Whether or not Joseph Meriam's widow, Sarah, sold the large house as was suggested in the will is not known. It is known that Sarah married Lieutenant Joseph Wheeler a short time after Joseph's death, in 1641 or 1642.[14] No evidence has been found that the estate was "prised" [i.e., appraised] at that time, as was also specified in the will. It does appear, however, that Lieutenant Joseph Wheeler purchased the shares of the estate inherited by Joseph Meriam's sons. This transaction was officially recorded in the Middlesex County Registry of Deeds on April 17, 1667, as a quit claim in which the three Meriam sons (William, Joseph, and John) conveyed unto Joseph Wheeler all "our shares, parts, rights, titles & interests of and unto the housing lands & estate of our father Joseph Meriaon [sic] late of Concord, lying & being in or about the Town of Concord."[15]

The quit claim further allowed "that it shall be lawful...for him the sd Joseph Wheeler to enter, enrole, & record [his holdings]...in any book of records within the Massachusetts Colony in New England aforesaid at his pleasure."[16] Since no holdings of Joseph Wheeler were recorded about this time or shortly after, it is possible that the quit claim gave legitimacy to the land holdings recorded by Joseph Wheeler the previous year, on October 26, 1666. This describes Lieutenant Joseph Wheeler's house lot as being 20 acres, and located at the present-day corner of Walden and Heywood Streets.[17] We can only speculate as to whether or not this was the former house lot of the late Joseph Meriam. Whatever the case, the old 17th-century house is no longer standing in this location today.

John Meriam's House, Circa 1663

John Meriam was the youngest son of Joseph and Sarah Meriam, being born on July 9, 1641, after his father's death. Of Joseph and Sarah's seven children, he was the only child not born in England, the home country of the Meriams.

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[13] Shattuck, p. 9.

[14] Sarah and Joseph had two children: Mary, who was born and died on September 20, 1643; and Rebecca, born September 6, 1645. [Source: *The Wheeler Families of Old Concord, Mass*, compiled by George Tolman, 1908, in the CFPL.]

[15] Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Book 9, pp. 259-262.

[16] See footnote 15.

[17] Microfilm of Concord Town Records, Vol. I, p. 204.

It is of interest to note that Joseph Meriam made provision for his unborn child in his will dated October 29, 1640, as follows:

> ...And furder [sic] my will & mind is, that if my wife be with child; that then none of my children shall have any increase of my stock preserved for them, but according as they come to age they shall receive theire portions as aforesaid: & the increase of the stock still undivided shall go for the bringing up of the yonge one....[18]

John Meriam married Mary Cooper on October 21, 1663. He may have been given land at that time by his stepfather, Lieutenant Joseph Wheeler, on which to start his own homestead.[19] John Meriam's land holdings were recorded on October 26, 1666, and transcribed in 1696 as follows:

> Transcript of the Lands of Jn Miriam Senr. 26: 10:1666: John Miriam. Imprs. His house Lott one acre and ahalfe: bounded upon the South by ye Bay way, upon the West by ye way to Billerica, upon the North by Nathaniel Stowe.
>
> It: Fifteen acres of medow in Elme Brook medow...
>
> It: Sixteen acres within Crane ffeild...
>
> It: Twenty acres of Upland near Crane ffeild...
>
> It: Three acres of medow in the Great River Medow...
>
> It: Sixteen acres of Swampy Land near Virginia Swamp...
>
> It: Second Division Land, nine acres...
>
> It: His due yet to Lay out ninety one acres...
>
> Feb. 14: 1672: Then was Granted unto ye sd John Miriam ye ninety one acres of Land due to him, adjoining Nathaniel Stows Land....[20]

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[18] Microfilm entitled, "Suffolk Probate Court Record Books, Vol. 1. p. 1, to Vol. 4, p. 213," Vol. 1, pp. 13-15 (in the Boston Public Library); the will is also transcribed on pp. 35-36 of the *Merriam Genealogy* by Pope.

[19] As mentioned in the previous section, the three sons of Joseph Meriam appear to have conveyed their rights to the estate of their deceased father Joseph Meriam; the transaction was recorded officially in 1667. See Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Book 9, pp. 259-262.

[20] Microfilm entitled "Town of Concord, Mass: Vol. 1, Relating to Land Divisions Highways & Bridges, 1655-1784," p. 204; also Middlesex County Deed Book 10, p. 525, dated November 2, 1696; also transcribed in Pope's *Merriam Genealogy*, pp. 46-47.

John Meriam's house lot was situated at modern-day Meriam's Corner, being bounded by the "Bay Way" (now Lexington Road) and the "Way to Billerica" (now Old Bedford Road). While it is possible that no house existed on the "house Lott" in 1666, it is generally thought that one was probably standing by this time. A likely date of construction would have been 1663, when John Meriam and Mary Cooper were wed.

Whether or not John Meriam's house was fortified as a "garrison house" during King Philip's War (in 1676) is not known for certain. Local historian Lemuel Shattuck wrote the following about the garrison houses in 1835:

> The government ordered that garrison-houses should be erected in the several towns, or that dwelling-houses already built should be fortified, which were to serve as a kind of fortress into which the inhabitants, by districts or companies, might collect at night, or in case of an attack....
>
> We have no other means than tradition to ascertain the number or situation of the garrison-houses in Concord.... [One stood] near Meriam's corner....[21]

The earliest specific reference to John Meriam's house is found in an entry in the Town Records dated June 6, 1685:

> We whoes names are written being apppoynted by the Selectmen of Concord to lay out a way from Billericka Road neare **John Meriams house** [bold added] cross the field to another way that is laid out neare the great medow side, have accordingly laid out said way, beginning at John Miriams orch and through Jos. French his land formerly Mr. Bulkeleys, running northward 3 rods wide till it comes to the north end of the spruce swamp.... James Blood
>
> John Wheeler
> Edmond Wigley[22]

This unpaved lane exists today, opposite the extant Meriam House on Old Bedford Road.

The initial interpretation of this entry was that "John Meriams house" must have been the existing Meriam House, based on its proximity to the old lane. Additional information suggests, however, that the house mentioned in 1685 was in fact located a short distance away on the Bay Way (known as Lexington Road today).

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[21] Shattuck, p. 47. Another local historian, Ruth R. Wheeler, later conjectured that the existing Meriam House was in fact the house "designated a block house in King Philip's War," based on the thickness of the walls in the east parlor. [See Wheeler, *Our American Mile* (Concord: Concord Antiquarian Society, 1957), p. 6, and *Concord: Climate for Freedom*, caption p. 126.] It was determined during the investigation for this historic structure report, however, that the walls in the east parlor are hollow, having been furred out prior to plastering. In addition, it appears that the existing house was built at a later date, circa 1705.

[22] Microfilm entitled "Town of Concord, Mass: Vol. 1, Relating to Land Divisions Highways & Bridges, 1655-1784," pp. 268-269 (in the CFPL, Special Collections).

This information was found in a report to the American Antiquarian Society by John McKinstry Merriam, published in April 1894. Merriam wrote the following about the houses at Meriam's Corner:

> At the time of the Revolution there were three Meriam houses at this corner, one of which, the Ephraim Meriam house, on the Bedford road, is standing to-day. **An older house** [bold added], which was occupied by my father's grandfather, Josiah Meriam, was located on the Lexington road, about the same distance from the junction of the roads as is the existing house. All traces of this house have disappeared, but its location was pointed out to me by my father [Adolphus Merriam, 1820-1888] a short time before he died.[23]

This "older house" may well have been the dwelling constructed by John Meriam circa 1663. It was apparently still standing in 1775; early 19th-century documents suggest that this early house and its barn were removed sometime between 1805 and 1826.[24]

Development of Meriam's Corner

The Children of John and Mary Meriam

John Meriam and Mary Cooper, who were married in 1663, had five sons and one daughter between the years 1666 and 1681. Of the sons, three settled nearby at Meriam's Corner.[25] These were John (1666-1748), Ebenezer (circa 1675-1777) and Joseph (1677-1750).

The house lot of the eldest son, John, contained 6 acres and was located on the west side of the Way to Billerica (now Old Bedford Road). When John later moved to Littleton and the property was conveyed to Joseph Baker in 1737, a house and a barn were then on the house lot.[26] These may have been constructed originally around 1691, when John married Sarah Wheeler. The property had been most likely given to John by his father, although no records of this transaction have been found.

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[23] "Concord," *Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society*, Vol. 9, April 1894, p. 260; also excerpted in Pope, pp. 463-464.

[24] The 1805 inventory of a later John Meriam, who died October 15, 1804, refers to the "house barn & land lately purchased of Josiah Meriam, $400" [Middlesex County Probate document #15076]. A later deed dated 1826 conveys the property from Tarrant to Ephraim Meriam for only $175 [Middlesex County Deed, Book 267, p. 156].

[25] The first documented reference to the place name "Meriam's Corner" dates from 1797. Exactly when the area was so-named is not known.

[26] Middlesex County Deed Book 39, p. 57, dated Feb. 24, 1736-1737.

Ebenezer, who married the first of his five wives in December 1705, is believed to have lived in the old homestead on the Bay Road (now Lexington Road) with his parents.[27] Confirmation that Ebenezer's house was on the Bay Road is provided by a "Survey of the Highways" recorded in the town records on November 13, 1716. This survey noted that the Bay Road from Potters Lane (in town) to "the Meriams" was 4 rods wide, and from "the Meriams" to Elm Brook (towards Lexington) was 8 rods wide. Furthermore, the point where the road widened was described as being, "From the end of the ditch at the corner of Nathaniel Ball's meadow, near Ebenezer Meriam's House on the north, to the ditch against ye Meriam's meadow south." In other words, Ebenezer's house was on the north side of the road, not far from Nathaniel Ball's meadow (which is known from the property records to be close to Meriam's Corner).[28]

Joseph, the next youngest son, married Dorothy Brooks on March 24, 1705. It is likely that property was also given to Joseph by his father, which would have included a house lot. Such a conveyance may have been made when Joseph reached his majority (the age of 21) in 1698; his house, on the other hand, was probably not built until around 1705, the time of Joseph's marriage. Again, unfortunately, no documentation of the land transaction or the house construction exists.[29]

The three Meriam brothers were listed, one after the other, in the earliest tax records for the east part of town dated 1717. Tax valuations were not listed in alphabetical order in Concord until 1750; rather, they were in the order in which the tax assessor visited the house, thereby providing valuable information on the relative locations of households. In the case of the Meriam brothers, Ebenezer appears to have been closest to town, with Joseph the next brother up the road, followed by John. The valuations for 1717 were as follows:

NAME	VALUE OF REAL ESTATE	PERSONAL ESTATE
Ebenezer Meriam	6 pounds	1 horse, 2 oxen, 4 cows
Joseph Meriam	7 pounds, 10 shillings	1 horse, 6 cows
John Meriam	9 pounds	1 horse, 2 oxen, 4 cows

[27] Father John Meriam lived until February 2, 1724, and mother Mary until 1730.

[28] Middlesex County Deed dated May 8, 1698 (Book 25, p. 373), conveyed this 4-acre meadow from Bethiah Ball to Nathaniel Ball, Jr. The bounds were then described as being "South on the County [i.e., Bay] Road, **West by John Meriam Sr.** (bold added), North on Samuel Fletcher, and East on Captain James Minot."

[29] Joseph also later became the owner of the old house and barn that had been occupied by Ebenezer, which he conveyed in 1747 to his son Josiah. No documentation of the conveyance from Ebenezer to Joseph has been found, however.

Joseph Meriam's House, Circa 1705

As explained in the previous section, Joseph Meriam is thought to have built his house near his brothers John and Ebenezer around 1705. The three brothers each appear to have had separate households by 1717, based on the tax assessment for that year. It also appears that Joseph's house was the one known today as the Meriam House, based on its location as specified in later deeds. In addition, the early architectural features of the Meriam House fit a construction date of circa 1705. Of the three Meriam houses, it is the only one standing today.

The scarce documentary evidence suggests that Joseph Meriam built his house for his immediate family only. This may explain why the house was smaller when it was first built than it is today. The architectural investigation of the Meriam House determined that the original house was two stories high on the east side and one story on the west side.[30] It was of post-and-beam construction, with raised sills visible in the rooms of the first story. The framing of the ceiling was also visible, with the summer beams and chimney girts finished with decorative chamfering. Wide-board wood paneling appears to have finished the walls, and the undersides of floorboards formed the ceiling above. Typical of this time period would have been large fireplace openings, with a bake oven tucked in the back corner on one side of the cooking fireplace.

The interior room configuration consisted of two large rooms in the first story connected by a small stair hall, and one large room in the second story off the stair hall. The two first- and second-story rooms on the east side of the house were the largest, each measuring about 18 1/2 feet square. The single-story room on the west side was smaller, measuring only about 12 1/2 feet wide by 18 1/2 feet long. This room may have functioned as the kitchen because of its access to the stairway leading to the cellar—where food would have been stored—under the west side of the house.

The stairway in the small stair hall rose in front of the chimney. A ghosted outline of the stairway (beneath the existing stairway, on the east-wall paneling) indicates that it ascended from east to west, as it does today, thus allowing headroom in the cellar stairway below.

House Enlarged, Circa 1725

Sometime after the house was constructed circa 1705, a second story was added on the west side. This may have occurred sometime between 1724 and 1728, when Joseph Meriam's tax valuation rose from 22 to 36 pounds.[31] An approximate date of “circa 1725” has been assigned to this improvement.

Joseph and Dorothy Meriam's family had expanded by 1725 to include five children: Dorothy (19 years); Mary (18 years); Joseph (16 years); Samuel (13 years), and Nathan (5 years). One last

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[30] A one-story configuration on the west side is suggested by the framing posts, which are made up of two sections, each being one story tall. A more typical construction technique would have been for the posts to extend the entire two stories.

[31] The tax valuations for 1725 through 1727 are missing. No other property transactions are known that would increase Joseph Meriam's real estate tax assessment. Ebenezer's assessment, by comparison, was 22 pounds in 1724 and 23 pounds in 1728.

child, Josiah, was born the following year. The Meriam household therefore could have used the additional space that a new second-story room would have provided.

The architectural investigation of the Meriam House found that post-and-beam construction was also used in building the new second story. Like the rest of the house, the ceiling framing was exposed and painted (as can be seen in the attic today). The new room probably had a fireplace, which would have been added to the west side of the existing chimney. The new gable roof was continuous with the roof on the east side of the house, making the house appear as one large structure with a large center chimney.

New Chimney and Kitchen, Circa 1743

The architectural investigation of the Meriam House revealed that the original chimney was rebuilt sometime in the 18th century. This is based on the fact that the existing chimney has: (a) charred bricks in locations outside the fireboxes; (b) a mixture of brick sizes; (c) the remains of an 18th-century bake oven oriented north-south, to serve a kitchen on the back side of the house; and (d) an intact bake oven in the east room. It is thought that the chimney was rebuilt, and a new back kitchen addition was built, circa 1743. This was when Joseph and Dorothy's son Nathan married and presumably set up housekeeping with his parents. Two separate kitchens with new cooking fireplaces would have been needed. One was located in the new addition, the other in the original east room. (The original kitchen function was apparently removed from the west room entirely.) These changes in fireplace needs would have been more than enough to cause the remodeling of the original chimney.

The bake ovens for the two new fireplaces were located to the side of the fireplace opening, which is a later development in fireplace design. Architectural Historian Abbott Lowell Cummings attributes this change as occurring "during the second quarter of the 18th century."[32] A date of circa 1743 is therefore feasible.

The earliest documented reference to a separate kitchen is in Nathan Meriam's will dated 1782, in which the "kitchen" is described separately from the "upright part of [the] house."[33] A logical deduction is that the kitchen was located in a one-story shed addition on the back side of the house. Unfortunately, few details about the early kitchen are known, because it was replaced by a large, 1 1/2-story kitchen addition circa 1810.

Property Deeds of 1745 and 1747

The earliest-known documented reference to Joseph Meriam's house is a deed for the east adjacent property dated April 23, 1745. This deed, which conveys the property from Jonathan Stow to Joseph's son Nathan Meriam, describes the property as being bounded "south on the county road,

[32] Abbott Lowell Cummings, *The Framed Houses of Massachusetts Bay, 1625-1725* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1979), p. 121.

[33] Middlesex County probate document #15095; the will is dated Sept. 9, 1782.

westerly on Bedford Road and on Joseph Merriams House lot....”[34] This definitely establishes Joseph Merriam's house as being in the same approximate location as the existing Meriam House.

Joseph Meriam, then described as a “Locksmith,” conveyed his house to his son Nathan on April 3, 1747. The deed suggests that Nathan may have been occupying half the house at the time with his family, which then included his wife, a son, and a daughter. These living arrangements and the house lot property are described in the deed from Joseph as follows:

> All my Buildings with all my land both in Concord and Bedford and Acton only I reserve for my own Comfort during my natural Life the one half of my dwelling house and also during the natural Life of my now married Wife with the gardening before house which properly belongs to the house....[35]

Two days earlier, Joseph had also conveyed the south adjacent property to his youngest son Josiah. This property, which is believed to have included the circa-1663 house built by John Meriam, is described in the deed as follows:

> A certain piece of Upland containing by Estimation half an acre be it more or less lying and being in the Easterly part of said Concord with a dwelling house and barn thereon bounded as follows Northerly on my own land [Conveyed to Nathan Meriam April 3, 1747] Easterly upon Nathan Meriam Southerly upon the Bay Road and westerly on Billerica Road.... And also the Improvement of the one half of my Shop and Tools during his Life but if you ever sell you shall give to your Brother Nathan Meriam the Offer of buying the Improvement of the said Tools....[36]

Nathan Meriam, Owner

Nathan Meriam Household

As mentioned in the previous section, Nathan Meriam and his wife Dorothy appear to have shared the house with Nathan's father and mother, Joseph and Dorothy Meriam. Joseph died in 1750, only three years after conveying the house and property to his son Nathan. Dorothy presumably continued to live in the house after the death of Joseph. She remarried in December of

[34] Middlesex County Deed, Book 45, pp. 345-346. The property included “a certain tenement House and barn situate in the East part of Concord,” which may have been the original family homestead of John Meriam. How or why Stow acquired the property is not known.

[35] Middlesex County Deed, Book 49, pp. 259-260.

[36] Middlesex County Deed, Book 49, pp. 260-261. Nathan may in fact have purchased the improvement of the shop and tools from his brother, because Nathan (not Josiah) was assessed in 1770 for a separate shop. The transfer from Josiah to Nathan, however, is not documented.

the following year, and probably moved to the home of her new husband, a Mr. John Hunt of Concord.[37]

Nathan and Abigail had 11 children between the years 1744 and 1764. They included five boys and six girls, nine of whom lived to maturity. They were Joseph (1744-1826); Abigail (1745, marries Nathan Stow 1780); Dorothy (1747-1766); Lucy (1749, marries Amos Hosmer 1776); Nathan (1751-?); Mehitable (1753-54); David (1754-55); Mary (1756, marries Joseph Wright 1776); Hepzibah (1758, marries Aaron Wright 1788); Amos (1760-1804); and Ephraim (1764-1803).

Nathan Meriam's household was therefore a full one, consisting of up to three generations from 1747 to 1751, and as many as 12 family members.

Town Selectman, 1774-1779

Nathan Meriam's primary occupation appears to have been that of a small farmer, based on the property deeds of 1745 and 1747 that list him as a "husbandman," and those of 1751 through 1771 that list him as a "yeoman."[38] He also served for a period of five years—from 1774 to 1779—as an elected selectman for the Town of Concord. As such, he played an important role in town politics during the American War for Independence.

Nathan Meriam was elected one of three town selectman on March 7, 1774, following the refusal of incumbent selectman Captain Timothy Wheeler to serve another one-year term.[39] The duties of the selectmen were to call and draw up the agendas for the town meetings, and to serve as assessors and overseers of the poor. The function of the "Committee of Correspondence" was also added to the duties of the selectmen in May 1775; it was not until March 1777 that a separate seven-member "Committee of Safety, Correspondence and Inspections" was elected.[40]

A sample agenda for an upcoming town meeting, which was scheduled to take place approximately one month after the skirmish at Concord and Lexington, was drafted by the selectmen on May 16, 1775. It included the following articles:

1. To elect one or more persons to the Provincial Congress to meet in Watertown May 30;

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[37] W. S. Appleton, *The Family of Merriam of Massachusetts* (Boston: David Clapp & Son, 1892), p. 13. No reference to the marriage is found in Pope, pp. 56-57.

[38] Middlesex County Deeds: 1745 (Book 45, p. 345); 1747 (Book 49, p. 259); 1751 (Book 56, p. 508); 1753 (Book 50, p. 684); 1758 (Book 55, p. 332); and 1771 (Book 74, p. 177).

[39] Nathan Meriam served with Ephraim Wood, Jr., and John Flint from March 1774 to March 1775, and Ephraim Wood, Jr., and Nehemiah Hunt from March 1775 to March 1778.

[40] Microfilm reels at the Concord Free Public Library entitled "Town of Concord, Mass., Vol. 4, Records of Selectmen & Town Meetings, 1746-1777," and "Town of Concord, Mass., Vol. 5, Records of the Selectmen & Town Meetings, 1777-1790." Nathan's younger brother Josiah, who lived at the corner, was elected to serve on the Committee of Safety, Correspondence and Inspections from March 1777 to March 1783.

2. To see what sum of money to grant the "minute men" to pay & defray Town charges;

3. To consider the school budget;

4. To consider the school affairs;

5. To determine how to pay Colonel James Barrett for his services as Representative in General Court for Concord and as a Delegate at Congress;

6. To choose a Committee to provide for members of the Town of Boston "to advise of Congress"; and

7. To hear a land dispute.[41]

The town records indicate that Nathan Meriam was paid for his services as selectman for the years 1777 to 1779 as follows: 2 pounds, 17 shillings, and 8 pence in March 1777; 13 pounds, 9 shillings, and 9 pence in March 1778; and 50 pounds, 17 shillings, and 10 pence in March 1779 (which also included compensation for beef and meal and other articles for the poor).[42] What amounts, if any, he received in 1775 and 1776 could not be found.

Events of April 19, 1775

The single event for which the Meriam House is most famous is the mid-day encounter of the British and the Minute Men at Meriam's Corner on April 19, 1775. It is said that the Minute Men fired at the British from behind the walls and buildings of the Meriam House, thus beginning the running battle back to Lexington and Boston.

A review was therefore made of the contemporary American and British accounts of the day, in hopes of finding the original references to the Meriam House and property. Unfortunately, no specific mention of the features at Meriam's Corner exists in the depositions, official reports, letters, or diary accounts made in 1775. Descriptions by both the Americans and British do, however, make general mention of the manmade and landscape features from behind which the "Provincials" fired during the British retreat from Concord. American sources noted buildings, houses, stone walls, fences, and hills. Features mentioned in the British accounts include houses, houses on each side of the road, barns, walls, stone walls, hedges, ditches, trees, hills, and woods. One British source more generally stated that the Provincials fired "from behind anything which afforded them shelter."[43]

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[41] Entry for May 16, 1775; in *Town Records, 1746-1777*, p. 428.

[42] Entries for March 3, 1777 (p. 64); March 2, 1778 (p. 80); and March 1, 1779 (p. 109); in *Town Records, 1777-1790*.

[43] First-hand accounts by both the Americans and the British have been compiled by J-R Vincent Kehoe in two privately printed books: *"We Were There!" April 19th 1775: The British Soldiers* (1974), and *"We Were There!" April 19th 1775: The American Rebels* (1975); copyright by J-R Kehoe.

There is also general agreement in the contemporary accounts that the encounter took place outside of town, on the way back to Lexington. One American letter notes that the first attack occurred "about one mile distant" from town, while a British description noted that the firing commenced "before we had gone 1/2 mile."[44] No specific references are made to the bridge over the Mill Brook, which are found in later accounts.

The only contemporary map of the day is in the diary of one of the British soldiers—Lieutenant Frederick Mackenzie of the Royal Welch Fusiliers. The map shows roads, buildings, bridges, and the positions of troops; unfortunately, it stops just short of Meriam's Corner. It is of importance, however, for placing the scene of the retreat on Lexington Road near Meriam's Corner.[45]

It was not until 1825, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the battle, that the American veterans of April 19, 1775, began to write more specifically of the events of that day. How accurate their memories were by this time, and how much of their stories were embellished, is impossible to say.

Reverend Edmund Foster, with the Reading Company of Minute Men, wrote the following to Col. Daniel Shattuck of Concord, in a letter dated Littleton, March 10, 1825:

> We rendezvoused near the middle of the town of Bedford; left horses, and marched forward in pursuit of the enemy. A little before we came to Merriam's hill, we discovered the enemy's flank guard, of about 80 or 100 men, who, on their retreat from Concord, kept that height of land, the main body [being] in the road. The British troops and the Americans, at that time, were equally distant from **Merriam's corner** [bold added]. About twenty rods short of that place, the Americans made a halt. The British marched down the hill with very slow, but steady step, without music, or a word being spoken that could be heard. Silence reigned on both sides. As soon as the British had gained the main road, and passed a small bridge near that corner, they faced about suddenly, and fired a volley of musketry upon us. They overshot; and no one, to my knowledge, was injured by the fire. The fire was immediately returned by the Americans, and two British soldiers fell dead at a little distance from each other, in the road near the brook. The battle now began, and was carried on with little or no military discipline and order, on the part of the Americans, during the remainder of that day. Each one sought his own place and opportunity to attack and

[44] Letter dated April 22, 1775; in Kehoe, *American Rebels*, p. 154. Also, diary excerpt of Lt. John Barker, 4th Regiment; in Kehoe, *British Soldiers*, pp. 105-106.

[45] The diary covers the period January 5-April 30, 1775. The map is pasted in the diary; its authorship is uncertain, but it is nevertheless thought to be authentic. Both the diary and map were reprinted in 1926 in a volume edited by the historian Allen French and entitled *A British Fusilier in Revolutionary Boston* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1926).

> annoy the enemy from behind trees, rocks, fences and buildings, as seemed most convenient....[46]

Amos Barrett, with Captain Brown's Concord Minute Man Company, had a different recollection of the event, about which he wrote on April 19, 1825:

> After a while we found them [the British] a marching back towards Boston, we was soon after them. When they got about a mil[e] [and a] half to a Road that Comes from bedford and Bildraa [Billerica] they was way Laid and a grait many killd when I got thair a grait many Lay dead and the Road was bloody.[47]

Also written at a later unidentified date (probably 1825) was the remembrance of Thaddeus Blood, of Captain Barrett's Concord Militia Company:

> It was thot best to go to the east part of the Town & take them as they cam back each took his own station, for myself I took my stand south of where Den [Deacon] Minot then lived [which was east of the Meriam property], & saw the British come from Concord their right flank in the meadows, their left on the hill when near the foot of the hill, Col. Thomeson of Billerica came up with 3 or 4 hundred men and there was a heavy fire but the distance so great, that little injury was done on either side, at least I saw but one killed. number of wounded I know not....[48]

Later still is a second-hand account that was relayed by Major Brooks (commander of the Reading Company) to William H. Sumner, who published it in 1858:

> When he [Brooks] came near the main road from Concord to Lexington, he saw the flank guard of the British army on this side of a hill which intervened and kept the main body from his sight. He imagined that the soldiers he saw belonged to the Charlestown Artillery Company (having the same colored uniform) on their retreat from the scene of conflict. He halted until he discovered his mistake by seeing the flank guard fall in with the main body to cross a bridge over a large brook on the road. Finding that his position could not be outflanked, he ordered his men to advance, and, taking a position at **Merriam's Corner** [bold added], covered by a barn and the walls around it, told them to fire direct at the bridge, which was twenty or thirty rods off. As the British army was in great haste to make good its

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[46] The letter was published in 1827 in Ezra Ripley's *A History of the Fight at Concord* (Concord: Allen & Atwill, 1827), pp. 32-33. Foster ended his letter as follows: "Though almost half a century has elapsed since these events took place, yet my memory has been refreshed with them as often as I have passed by the places where the deeds were done, and therefore have now as perfect a knowledge of them as though they had been the works of yesterday...."

[47] Amos Barrett, with a foreword by Allen French, *The Concord Fight: An Account by Amos Barrett* (Boston: The Thomas Todd Co., 1924).

[48] Kehoe, *American Rebels*, pp. 203-205. Kehoe notes that it was written at a later period and found among Blood's papers; it was printed in the *Boston Daily Advertiser* on April 20, 1886.

> retreat, it fired but one volley in return. When the enemy had passed, examination was made to see what had been the effect of the fire, and several persons—the writer thinks he said nine—were found *hors de combat* on or near the bridge.[49]

Assuming that this account is accurate, and that the Reading Company was traveling towards Concord on what is now Old Bedford Road, this would place the barn behind (on the north side of) the existing Meriam House. It was therefore most likely the barn of Nathan Meriam, who was then living in the Meriam House. The earliest photograph of the house (fig. 5) does in fact show what appears to be a barn in this location.[50]

A more personal account of the events at Meriam's Corner was given many years later, in 1894, in a report to the American Antiquarian Society by John McKinstry Merriam:

> The place of the encounter is the extreme eastern end of the Concord settlement, at the junction of the Lexington and Bedford roads.
>
> ...At the time of the Revolution there were three Meriam houses at this corner, one of which, the Ephraim Meriam house, on the Bedford road, is standing to-day. An older house, which was occupied by my father's grandfather, Josiah Meriam, was located on the Lexington road, about the same distance from the junction of the roads as is the existing house. All traces of this house have disappeared, but its location was pointed out to me by my father [Adolphus Merriam, 1820-1888] a short time before he died. Josiah Meriam was a sergeant in Captain Joseph Hosmer's company of Minute Men, and his son, Josiah, Jr., was a private in the same company.[51] In February, 1775, the father was one of a committee appointed by the town to inspect the Minute Men, and to enforce the three articles of their organization....
>
> Josiah Meriam was a member of the Committee of Correspondence for Concord from 1777 to 1782 inclusive, and in 1779 was a delegate to the State Convention [that met in Concord].[52]

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[49] William H. Sumner, *A History of East Boston* (Boston: J.E. Tilton & Co., 1858), p. 356, footnote 2. Sumner prefaces the story as follows: "The account...was received from him [the late Governor Brooks] when riding with him to attend a review near Concord. On the way, in passing over the bridge, he pointed out the very barn under cover of which he made the attack. The sight of these brought to his mind the circumstances which he then related; or otherwise, from his well-known modesty, it is probable the public would never have been informed of the particulars of this attack of the gallant captain, with a single company, upon the whole British army, which would hardly have been justifiable had not the enemy been on a hasty retreat."

[50] A second Meriam barn, belonging to Nathan Meriam's brother Josiah, also existed in 1775, according to a town document dated March 5, 1775. This document is a record of a meeting of the Concord Selectmen, in which the several highways in the town were assigned to the several highway surveyors. One surveyor, Samuel Brooks, was given in part "Bedford Road [now Old Bedford Road] from m. Josiah Meriams Barn to Bedford Line...." [Source: copy of the original document at the CFPL, Special Collections.]

[51] Merriam cites "Mass. Muster and Pay Rolls, Vol. 55, p. L. 18, p. 78, file L."

[52] Merriam cites Shattuck, pp. 121-122.

> On the morning of the nineteenth of April, when the alarm was given in Concord that the British Soldiers were coming, Josiah Meriam, with his older sons, Josiah, Jr., and Timothy, went to the village, and later were among the forces at the North Bridge, and probably crossed the meadows and appeared again at the encounter near the house. Joseph, the youngest son, my grandfather, then seven years old, remained at home, as he always said, "to take care of the women," and soon went with them to a place of refuge behind the hill. The British soldiers entered the house, helped themselves to whatever breakfast they could find, taking the unbaked pies from the oven, took the kettle of soft soap from the crane over the open fire, spilled it upon the floor, and scattered the ashes from the fireplace. It was fortunate that they helped themselves liberally in the morning, for later in the day they repassed the same house when hot johnny cake and new baked bread and fragrant pies could not tempt them to linger.
>
> My grandfather [Joseph Meriam, 1767-1856] lived to be eighty-nine years old. He must have been among the very last who could, from actual recollection, tell the story of the 19th of April....[53]

In conclusion, it is likely that an encounter between the American patriots and the retreating British soldiers did in fact take place in the vicinity of Meriam's Corner. Less certain is the number of British casualties, which in later recollections ranged from one to nine.[54]

Appearance of Meriam's Corner, 1775

It may be surmised from the documentation cited in the previous section, together with earlier property deeds, that several buildings were standing in the vicinity of the area later known as Meriam's Corner in 1775. One of these was a barn, surrounded by walls, which was about 20 or 30 rods from the bridge on Lexington Road; another was the barn of Josiah Meriam on Bedford Road (now Old Bedford Road); and a third was the house of Josiah Meriam on Lexington Road.

Two other Meriam houses are alluded to in the later description of John McKinstry Merriam dated 1894. It is probable that one was Nathan Meriam's (the Meriam House), and the other was John Meriam's (a nephew of Nathan). Both houses were on Bedford Road, with the Nathan Meriam house on the east side and the John Meriam house on the west side. The barn surrounded by walls

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[53] John McKinstry Merriam, "Concord," *Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society*, Vol. 9 (Worcester, April 1894), pp. 253-269; also, an excerpt of this article is in Pope, *Merriam Genealogy*, pp. 463-464. John McKinstry Merriam unfortunately never met his grandfather, Joseph, who died six years before he was born in 1862. The family story of the events of April 19, 1775, were no doubt passed on by his father, Adolphus (1820-1888).

[54] For a more detailed analysis of the events at Meriam's Corner, see Douglas P. Sabin's *April 19, 1775: A Historiographical Study*, Part IV, "Meriam's Corner," dated June 25, 1984 (Concord: Minute Man NHP, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Sept. 17, 1987).

most likely belonged to Nathan Meriam, and an earlier property deed also places a barn on John Meriam's property.[55]

One other building, whose location is not exactly known, is the locksmith shop of Josiah Meriam. The only description of this shop is in the property deed of 1747, which conveyed one-half the improvement of the shop, along with the tools, to Josiah from his father Joseph. Where the shop was sited is not described in the deed, although it is generally assumed that it was not far from Josiah Meriam's house.[56]

Miscellaneous outbuildings, such as privies and woodsheds, were also most likely on the property, although no documentation of them is known.

The exterior appearance of the Meriam House in 1775 may only be conjectured, since no written descriptions or drawings of it are known. It is likely, based on the architectural examination of the building, that the basic two-story form of the main house, with center brick chimney, was similar to its appearance today. A one-story kitchen addition is believed to have existed by this time, on the back (north) side. The siding was probably hand-rived clapboards, and the roof shingles wood. Unknown details include the window fenestration and sash type, the style of the exterior doors and surrounding trim, and the painted finishes (if any).

As explained in the previous section, the barn of the Meriam House is thought to have been located behind the house. A circa-1890 photograph (fig. 5) shows a barn in this location, which may be the one extant in 1775.

Nathan and Josiah Meriam Households, 1775

An educated guess can be made as to the composition of the two households of Nathan and Josiah Meriam on April 19, 1775, based on the genealogical record. Each owned a house near the corner of Lexington and Bedford Roads, which they presumably occupied on that day.

Nathan's family probably consisted of himself, his wife, and seven children who were still at home. The names and approximate ages of the family members on that day were Nathan (54) and Abigail (53), and their children Abigail (29), Lucy (27), Nathan (24), Mary (19), Hepzibah (16), Amos (14), and Ephraim (11).[57]

Josiah's family was larger because he had 10 children, all of whom are assumed to have been at home. The family in 1775 included Josiah (49) and his wife Lydia (age about 49), and their children Lydia (27), Mary (25), Rebecca (23), Sarah (22), Josiah (19), Timothy (17), Anna (15), Oliver (13), Elizabeth (10), and Joseph (7).

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[55] Middlesex County Deed dated 1736-37, Book 39, p. 57. This was the original house of John Meriam, which was conveyed to Joseph Meriam's son Samuel, and later to Samuel's son John (who owned it in 1775).

[56] Middlesex County Deed, Book 49, p. 260.

[57] Son Nathan married at an unrecorded date and removed to New Ipswich, New Hampshire. He may have been gone by 1775, since there is no mention in the Concord records of his involvement in town affairs.

Meriam Family Involvement in the Revolutionary War

The two Meriam brothers, Nathan and Josiah, each made significant contributions during the American War for Independence.

Nathan Meriam was elected to serve as one of three selectmen for the Town of Concord for five years—from March 1774 until March 1779. He is also on record as supplying wood for the Continental Army in the winter of 1776, and clothing (shirts, shoes, and stockings) for the soldiers in the summer of 1778.[58]

Josiah Meriam, Nathan's youngest brother, also held an elected town position for six years—from March 1777 to March 1783, as one of seven members of the Committee of Safety, Correspondence and Inspection. Like his brother, he supplied wood to the Continental Army in 1776 and clothing for the soldiers in 1778. In his professional capacity as a locksmith, he was paid for "ruling the Town Guns in Order" in March 1778 and for "alter[ing] the Town Gun" in April of that year.[59]

The writings of Josiah Meriam's great-nephew John McKinstry Merriam in 1894 also note that Josiah Meriam served as "a sergeant in Captain Joseph Hosmer's company of Minute Men, and his son, Josiah, Jr., was a private in the same company." Furthermore, Josiah Sr. is said to have been "one of a committee appointed by the town to inspect the Minute Men" in February 1775, and "a delegate to the State Convention."[60]

Nathan Meriam's Will, 1782

Nathan Meriam died November 11, 1782, at the age of 62. His will, dated September 9, 1782, left most of his estate (both real and personal) in equal halves to his two youngest sons—Ephraim (age 22) and Amos (age 18). He also made provision for his surviving wife, Abigail, as follows:

> [During] every part of her natral life she shall be a widow the use and improvement of the westerly end of the upright part of my house and as much of the kitchen and seller as will be nesecary for her to improve and the use and improvement of two Good cows to be well kept Both summer and winter and a Good horse provided for her to ride when she pleses and

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[58] "Town of Concord, Mass., Vol. 4, Records of Selectmen & Town Meetings, 1746-1777," entries dated Mar. 7, 1774; Mar. 6, 1775; Mar. 4, 1776; and Mar. 20, 1776; also "Town of Concord, Mass., Vol. 5, Records of the Selectmen & Town Meetings, 1777-1790," entries dated Mar. 3, 1777; Mar. 2, 1778; July 8, 1778; and Mar. 1, 1779.

[59] "Town of Concord, Mass., Vol. 4, Records of Selectmen & Town Meetings, 1746-1777," entries for Mar. 20, 1776; also "Town of Concord, Mass., Vol. 5, Records of the Selectmen & Town Meetings, 1777-1790," entries dated Mar. 3, 1777; Mar. 2, 1778; Apr. 24, 1778; July 8, 1778; Mar. 1, 1779; Mar. 6, 1780; Mar. 5, 1781; and Mar. 4, 1782.

[60] Merriam, "Concord." Merriam cites the "Mass. Muster and Pay Rolls, Vol. 55," and Shattuck, pp. 121-122.

> a soficant of firewood for her to burn cut fit for the fire and carried into the house.... [Also] to be at her own disposal all my Beding and furniture and all my Linins of all kinds and small chests and chest with Draws and Case of Draws chairs tables looking glasses handirons and fire shovels and tongs and all my Brass and Iron ware of all kinds of my plates and knives and forks Fancy Delf and Earthen ware and thirteen pounds six shillings and eight pence lawful silver....[61]

As has been discussed in an earlier section, the description of the house suggests that the kitchen was separate from the "upright" part of the house, being most likely located in a one-story shed on the back. The "seller" (i.e., cellar) was presumably the same cellar that exists today under the east side of the main house. The "upright part of my house" was probably that which existed under the main roof—that is, the two parlors in the first story and the two chambers in the second story, separated by the center chimney and stair hall.

Ephraim Meriam, Owner

Deed Dated 1788

Amos Meriam conveyed his one-half interest in his deceased father's estate to his brother Ephraim for the sum of 222 pounds in 1788. The property deed for this transaction was dated March 16 and included the home lot, which was described as follows:

> One piece called the home medow with one half all the buildings standing thereon containing eight acres be the same more or less bounded southerly on the county road, easterly on land called Phineus Bloods wifes thirds, northerly on Edward Flint and Timothy Hoars land, and westerly on the road leading to Bedford & on Josiah Miriams garden to the bounds first mentioned.[62]

Ephraim Meriam Household

Ephraim Meriam was 24 years old when he bought out his brother Amos in 1788. Amos was still living in Concord in 1788 according to the deed, although the location of his residence is not known. It is possible that he and his family were still living in the Meriam House. Amos's family in 1788 consisted of his wife, Deborah Brooks, whom he wed in 1783, and his two-year-old daughter Phebe.

It certainly appears from the genealogical record that there would have been room in the house for such an arrangement. Six of Amos and Ephraim's brothers and sisters had married and established households of their own by this time. Sister Abigail, who married neighbor Nathan Stow in 1780, lived just down the street and across the road—not far from Meriam's Corner. Sister

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[61] Middlesex County Probate Document #15095.

[62] Middlesex County Deed, Book 158, pp. 163-165.

Hepzibah had married Aaron Wright just the month before, in February 1788. Two sisters and a brother had also died by this time—Mehitable in 1754, David in 1755, and Dorothy in 1766. The only residents of the house in 1788 were therefore Ephraim, his widowed mother Abigail (then about 61 years old), and possibly Amos's growing family.

Both Amos and Ephraim were listed as "yeomen" in the 1788 deed. Later property deeds dated 1791 and 1803 also cite Ephraim as a "yeoman," suggesting that he continued to make his living as a small farmer. Amos, on the other hand, is referred to in a later probate document dated 1803 as a "gentleman."[63]

Ephraim married Mary Brooks, a cousin of Amos's wife Deborah, on February 9, 1792. Together they had five children: Mary (1793), Ephraim (1795), Nathan (1798), and twin sons Rufus and Marshall (1801).

Ephraim's mother, Abigail, died on May 29, 1796, less than a year after the birth of Ephraim's namesake. She had presumably continued to occupy the west half of the house until her death, as specified in her late husband's will of 1782.

Amos's family, which consisted of five children by 1796, may have removed to Princeton, New Jersey by this time.[64] How long they lived at the Meriam House, if at all, is not known for certain.

No major renovations are known to have been made to the Meriam House during the ownership of Ephraim Meriam.

School House Constructed, 1799

Seven new schoolhouses were constructed in Concord in 1799, including one at Meriam's Corner on Lexington Road. This was also the year that the first school committee was organized, which oversaw a new uniform system of school regulations.[65]

The building of the new schoolhouses is documented in the "Town of Concord Records of the Selectmen and Town Meetings, 1790-1814." The following was reported on May 1, 1797, by a building committee appointed to study the schoolhouses:

> [We are] unanimously of the opinion that...there be five new School houses built in the out parts of this Town, viz, One in the East district...[& c.]. The length and breadth thereof to be 20 by 24 feet with porches...the expense is upon mature consideration estimated at seventy pounds each

[63] Middlesex County Deeds: Book 158, p. 163 (1788); Book 122, p. 441 (1791); and Book 158, p. 166 (1803). Middlesex County Probate Document #15056.

[64] Pope notes in his *Merriam Genealogy* that the family had moved to Princeton by 1806.

[65] JoAnn Early Levin, "Schools and Schooling in Concord: A Cultural History," *Chronos*, No. 2 (Waltham: Brandeis University, Fall 1983), pp. 350-351.

> house.... And further report that it is the agreement in each district the School houses when built shall stand in the places in each district hereafter mentioned, viz, In the East district, at or near the place called Meriam's corner.... If the town should see cause to build the School houses within mentioned that they be built in the summer of 1798.[66]

The financing of the schoolhouses was voted on in a town meeting held on January 8, 1798, in which it was

> Voted, that the sum of Two thousand & two hundred dollars be assessed upon the polls and Estates of the inhabitants and raised as soon as it may be, for the purpose of defraying the expense of building School houses in the several school districts in the town of Concord.[67]

Eight men were also chosen at this meeting to serve as a committee "to superintend and contract for building and completing of said School houses."[68]

The location of the proposed new schoolhouse for the East District remained controversial, however, because a number of families on Virginia Road would have to travel a long distance to reach it. Two of these were Josiah Meriam and his son Joseph, who had recently moved from the old family house at Meriam's Corner to a house farther to the northeast on Virginia Road.

The East District schoolhouse had still apparently not been built as late as October 22, 1798, when one of the town-meeting agenda items included hearing "the report of the Committee relative to the establishing of the place for the school house in the East part of Town." The schoolhouse appears to have been finally completed by February 17, 1800, when the selectmen added the following article to the upcoming town meeting agenda:

> To see if the town will remove the school house in the East school district, into the centre of the inhabitants; or establish two School houses, in said district, in such places, as the town shall think reasonable...to the request of Mr. Josiah Meriam & others.

It was decided the following year that the East District schoolhouse would remain where it was, and that a second schoolhouse would not be built. Rather, a committee appointed to study the situation recommended on March 2, 1801, that the Meriam and Wheeler families on Virginia Road be granted a refund of the money they had contributed to the new schoolhouses. This money was to be given to the nearby Lincoln school system, where the Virginia Road children were apparently attending school.

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[66] Entry for May 1, 1797, in Concord Town Records, 1790-1814, pp. 119-120.

[67] It was subsequently voted on May 7, 1798, that an additional $700 be raised for "completing the school-houses in this town." An even higher cost was recorded by local historian Lemuel Shattuck, who wrote the following in 1835: "In 1799, seven new schoolhouses, one in each district, including the centre, were built at an expense to the town of about $4,000." [Source: *A History of the Town of Concord*, p. 208.]

[68] The committee members were Capt. John Buttrick, David Page, Edward Flint, Samuel Buttrick, Peter Barrett, Elijah Hosmer, Amos Hosmer, and Stephen Barrett.

No details are available on what arrangements (such as leasing) were made for the land on which the schoolhouse was built at Meriam's Corner, or the actual construction of the building. Ephraim Meriam appears to have been the owner of the land, based on a description of his estate following his death in 1803. The widow's third, which was set off April 21, 1806, described the southern boundary of the home lot as follows:

> On Bedford road...to the Great road [i.e., Lexington Road]—Southerly in part on the great road, until it passes where the School House stands (reserving the ground where said School house stands) thence bounding where the old road was trod to a stake and stones to the thirds of the late widow Blood decd....[69]

This passage suggests that the road may have been redirected—perhaps around 1799 when the schoolhouse was built.

A later description of the schoolhouse, in an "Annual Report of the School Committee" dated 1846, noted that the "East Quarter School House" was one room that contained 4,355 cubit feet. It was presumably of frame construction, because the schoolhouses made of brick were so-noted. The report also stated that all the old schoolhouses in the town, which included the one at Meriam's Corner, "stand on, and open directly into the street."

Only one view of this schoolhouse exists, in plan form, in a survey by Henry David Thoreau dated 1855. There are two versions of the plan, one being a site sketch dated June 26 (fig. 2), and the other being a more final version without the survey lines dated November 9 (fig. 3). The "School House" is shown on the east side of, and not far from, the "Brook." The schoolhouse faces south, with a small front "Porch" and a detached "Shed" on the east side. The main body of the schoolhouse is roughly square, measuring approximately 25 feet wide by 20 feet deep, as scaled on the plan.[70]

The one-room district schools apparently welcomed both boys and girls and had no age requirements. By the age of nine, however, many left the district schools to attend the Grammar School in town.[71] Ephraim and Mary Meriam's young children undoubtedly attended the schoolhouse, which was within easy walking of distance their home (the Meriam House).

The schoolhouse was used for more than 50 years—until 1853—when it was made obsolete by a new school building. How long the old schoolhouse remained standing after Thoreau recorded it in his survey of 1855 is not known.

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[69] Middlesex County Probate document #15056.

[70] It is unlikely that the building was in use in 1855, because a new East Quarter schoolhouse had been built nearby in 1853 (discussed in detail in a later section).

[71] Levin, p. 372.

Purchase of the East Adjacent Lot, 1803

Shortly before his death, Ephraim Meriam purchased two parcels of land on March 18, 1803, from his cousin John Meriam for $250. One of the two parcels, which were both called "the thirds of the late widow Blood," was a 4-acre meadow lot on the east adjacent side of Ephraim Meriam's house lot.[72] The parcel was described in the deed as follows:

> Being medow and upland containing four acres, be the same more or less bounded southerly on the country road, easterly on a ditch by land of Deacon George Minot, northerly on land of Edward Flint, and westerly on land of the said Ephraim Meriam to the country road first mentioned.[73]

This lot remained as part of the Meriam property until a portion of it was sold in 1946.

Ephraim Meriam Probate, 1803-1806

Ephraim Meriam died on July 10, 1803, at the age of 39. Because he did not have a will, his estate was settled by first making itemized inventories of both his personal holdings and property for probate. These documents provide the most detailed descriptions to date of the house, its contents, the barn, and the home lot at Meriam's Corner.[74]

The initial inventory, which was made October 27, 1803, and recorded with probate February 8, 1804, listed the following items. Note that the original spelling is preserved, and the numbers in parentheses represent interim values in dollars and cents.

Wearing Apearil

Military Cap & Uniform clothes (5.50) & pantaloons (2)	$7.50
Four strait bodied coats (10.25) & two pair breeches (2)	12.25
One waist coat (2) one waist coat & breeches (1)	3.—
One pair of panteloons (1) one frock (.75) one pair of shoes (.84)	2.59
Five cotten Linnen shirts	7.00

Plate

Two Large spoons (3) six small spoons (1.50)	4.50

[72] The property had belonged to Nathaniel Ball, Jr. (1698, Deed Book 25, p. 373); later to Ebenezer Meriam (date unknown); then to John Champney (1758, Book 73, p. 208); then to Phineos Blood (1767, Book 69, p. 275), who had married Sarah, the widow of Ebenezer Meriam, Jr.; then to John and Sarah Champney (date unknown); and finally to John Meriam (1780, Book 147, p. 165).

[73] Middlesex County Deed, Book 158, p. 167.

[74] Middlesex County Probate document #15056.

House Furniture

First Bed & furniture (55) four coverlets (14) & two blankets (1.50)	70.50
Second Bed & bedding (20) Third Bed & bedding (15)	35.—
Fourth Bed & bedding (12) Fifth Bed & bedding (10)	22.—
Three pair cotten sheets (11.25) Six pair linnen sheets (18.75)	30.—
Seven pillow cases (3) one looking glass (11) & one small ditto (1)	15.—
Twenty yards of Linnen cloth (4) Ten yard of cotton cloth (4.16)	8.16
Fourteen table cloths (13.50) Eight napkins (2.66)	16.16
Desk (8) One large mahogany table (7) one tea ditto (6)	21.—
One cheritree table (4) Two candle stands (3) & one small table (1)	8.—
Two winsor chairs (2.50) Six jointed chairs (8)	10.50
Twelve kitchen chairs (4) Two chest (3) one ditto (.50)	7.50
One chest of draws (18) one foot wheel (2) one grate wheel (1)	21.—
Fourteen barrels of cyder (15) a number of old casks (5)	20.—
One churn No. of tubs & pails (2.50) One clock [head?] (.50)	3.—
Six pewter dishes (6) Ten pewter plates (3)	9.—
One pewter Bason (.33) two servers (.50)	0.83
Crockery ware & glass ditto (6) 6 tin ware (3)	9.—
Two pair of candle sticks (1.50) One & half case of knives & forks (1)	2.50
One brass kittle (5) one brass skillet (.50) & one skimmer (.25)	00.75
Warming pan (2) Iron ware (5.25) flat iron[s] (.84)	8.09
Two pairs of andiron (6) two fire shovels & tongs (2)	8.—
Tosting iron & grid irons (1) & fire baskets (1.25)	2.25
Bellows (.66) Saddle Bridles & Bags (14)	14.66
Fire arms and accutrements (8) one watch (12)	20.—
One Morgage Deed of Nathan Meriam of four hundred dollars	400.—
One note of Benjamin Prescott (18.75) + interest (1.80)	20. 55

Live Stock

One horse (60) One yoke of oxen (68) Seven cows (126)	254.—
Three calves (21) Four hogs (60)	81.—

Farming Utensils

Cart & wheels (10) two plough (8) wheelbarrows (3)	21.—
Two Draft chains (3) one horse tra[__] (2) 2 shovels (1)	6.—
Two hoes (1) Iron Bar (.50) two ox yokes (1.75)	[sic] 3.25
Six tons of English Hay (90) Fifteen ton of meadow (75)	165.—
Twenty bushells of Rice (13.33) Fifteen ditto of oats (3.75)	17.-8
One Hundred of Ear Corn (50) Three Bushes of Beans (3)	53.—
Sleigh & harness (25) two Bushels of flax seed (2)	27.—
A Number of Carpenters tools (3) Two [?] & [?] (3)	6.—

Real Estate

The Dwelling House (800) Barn (220)	1,020.—
The House lot, twelve acres	720.—
The Blood Lot 2 acres (60), the Rock island fifteen acres (500)	560.—
Wood Lot 19 acres wood & meadow Land (513)	513.—
House swamp & Hartwell pasture 35 acres (1120)	1,120.—
Stow field 3 acres (120) Burch island three acres (30)	150.—
Stow pasture six acres	240.—
Three acres of River meadow (40)	40.—
home field four acres	280.—
three acres Lot west of the Road nigh the house	150.—
the Pew in the meeting House	85.—
	$6,331.62

Signed Octr 27, 1803, by George Minott, John Meriam and Joshua Brooks

The widow, Mary Meriam, had repairs made to the barn and a cart in 1804 and 1805, for which she requested compensation of the probate court:[75]

She craves further allowance for repairs made by her on the Barn & Cart, viz.

1804, April 16th paid P. Chamberlain per receipt	3.56
Do. 26th, Do Saml. Sage for Cart, per receipt	12.66
1805, Jany bought 15 Thousand of Shingles	45.00
June 18th paid J & H. Davis for nails	3.45

[75] Middlesex County Probate document #15056.

Do. 21st Do. J & H. Havis for sundries & nails	5.89
Nov. 5th Do. C. Hammon for nails	3.51
June 19th Do. Peter Winn for shingling the barn	13.46
Do. for Boarding the workmen while shingling said Barn	6.00
She also craves an allowance for one Cow killed for her family in the fall of 1803, apprized in the inventory taken by Capt. Amos Miriam Administrator, October 27, 1803	23.92
Also for three Cows bought by the said Mary Meriam with money belonging to the estate which are included in the inventory taken by Nathan Stow administrator April 30, 1805.	59.00
	$293.26
December 4th paid Timothy Brooks a note of hand given by said deceased	100.19
Decemr 5th 1805 Mary Meriam	$393.45

Another inventory of the estate was made April 21, 1806, at which time the amount designated for the widow Mary (known as the "widow's third") was calculated. The total value of the estate was then listed as being $4,589, one third of which was figured to be $1,529.67. Detailed descriptions of the widow's third are transcribed below:[76]

We then Proceeded and set off to Mary Meriam widow of said deceased her dower or thirds out of said deceased estate in the following manner to wit—	
The one third of the dwelling house, the westerly end thereof, the whole of the upright part of the same throughout together with the bedroom in the back part of said house, with an uninterrupted privilige of doing her heavy kitchen work in the back kitchen—with the use & improvement of one third part of the celler under the easterly part of said dwelling house—and of passing & repassing in at the front door of said house—and of going up Chamber & Garrot, and down Celler as occasion may serve—apprized at two hundred & sixty six dollars—	$266.00
One third part of the Barn, which is described as follows to wit, the westerly part of the same to the easterly side of the west flowerway to the cell by said flowerway—and thro the Barn apprized at—	73.00

[76] Middlesex County Probate document #15056.

> Six acres and a half of land on, and about which said Buildings stand—and is bounded as follows—westerly on Bedford road in part—and part of the Garden of the late John Meriam deceased, to the Great road—Southerly in part on the great road, untill it passes where the school house stands (reserving the ground where said school house stands) thence bounding where the old road was trod to a stake and stones to the thirds of the late widow Blood decd—thence bounding Easterly on land that was of thirds sd. to a stake and stones by land of Edward Flint thence bounding northerly on land of said Flint & of Jon[a] Hoar to the road first mentioned, apprized at— 350.00
>
> Reserving the uninterrupted privilege to the owner of the two thirds the free use and improvement of the land on which their part of the dwelling house stands and of passing & repassing around the same for repairs & c. and also of laying their fire wood near the house where usually it has been laid—and further of improving the one half of the Barn yard as it is now fenced during the time they shall keep up a barn on the ground it now stands on, and no longer—and if going around said barn for repairs, & c. and of passing and repassing to their part of the Barn yard & c. & c.

Also set off for the widow were 3 acres of the home field (valued at $227); 5 acres of the Stow pasture ($200); 3 acres of woodland at Rocky Island ($99); 3 acres at Burch Island ($30); 5 acres woodland and swamp at Hartwell pasture ($130.67); 2 acres of Stow field ($112); and one-half of the meeting house pew ($42).

In conclusion, it may be surmised from Ephraim Meriam's probate documents that his estate at Meriam's Corner in 1806 included a dwelling house, a barn, and a schoolhouse (the land of which the Meriams appear to have retained ownership). Also standing at the corner—but closer to the intersection of the roads—were the garden, house, and barn belonging to the estate of John Meriam (and before him, Josiah Meriam).

The probate description of Ephraim Meriam's house indicates that it was divided into an east side and a west side and included an “upright” portion, a back section with a bedroom and a kitchen, a front doorway, a cellar on the east side, and a chamber and garret (most likely the attic) in the upper stories of the west side.

The barn, which was also divided into east and west sides, was on the same side of the road as the house. It was probably behind the house, based on an early photograph taken in the late 19th century that shows what appears to be a barn in this location (fig. 5). The barn was probably not new in 1805, because the widow Mary then had it repaired using shingles and nails; whether the shingles were used on the roof or walls is not known.[77] The description of the widow's third of the barn as being from the “easterly side of the west flowerway to the cell by said flowerway—and thro the Barn” has been interpreted by one researcher to mean “the entrance to the barn cellar was

[77] It is also not certain that this is the same barn that was standing on April 19, 1775. A later account of the 1775 encounter at Meriam's corner, published in 1858, suggests that it was. (See Sumner, p. 356, footnote 2, in which Gov. Brooks is described as pointing out “the very barn under cover of which he made the attack.”

flanked by flowers....”[78] It is more likely, however, that “flowerway” and “cell” referred to features within the barn, such as a floorway (or aisle) and a stall (or a small room). Outside the barn was a “barn yard,” half of which was “fenced.”

The schoolhouse, which is discussed in detail in the previous section, was located on the Great Road (known today as Lexington Road). The description of the property line beyond the schoolhouse, bounding “where the old road was trod,” suggests that some rerouting of the road had occurred by this time—perhaps in 1799 when the schoolhouse was built.

The westerly side of the property, near the intersection of the roads, was bounded in part by “the Garden of the late John Meriam, deceased.”[79] A house and barn were probably also still standing at this time, based on an inventory of John Meriam's estate made the previous year, on January 27, 1805, which included an entry for the “house barn & land lately purchased of Josiah Meriam,” then valued at $400.[80] As described earlier, these buildings are believed to have been the core of John Meriam's original 17th-century homestead, which were conveyed (with one-half acre) to Josiah Meriam in 1747. Josiah and his son Joseph had moved to Virginia Road by April 1797, according to documentation in the town records on building new schoolhouses.

William Swan, Owner

Marriage to Widow Mary Meriam, 1806

Ephraim Meriam's widow, Mary, next married William Swan sometime between April 11 and June 12, 1806.[81] Swan, it is said, “had been a tavern keeper in the old Brooks house on Lexington road” (i.e., the Noah Brooks Tavern).[82] Although no documentation has been found to substantiate this, there was nevertheless a family connection with the tavern, since Mary's sister, Dorothy, was married to the owner, Noah Brooks.[83] Very little is known about the Swan family

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[78] Joyce L. Malcolm, *The Scene of the Battle, 1775: Historic Grounds Report, MIMA* (Boston: NPS, 1985), p. 105.

[79] John Meriam was a cousin of Ephraim (the son of his uncle, Samuel), who had died on October 15, 1804.

[80] Middlesex County Probate document #15076.

[81] The documentation of this marriage is found in the probate records of the late Ephraim Meriam. On April 11, 1806, the widow Mary signed her name “Mary Meriam” (document #15057, regarding guardianship of the children); later, on June 12, 1806, when assets were distributed, Mary was described as the “widow, now the wife of William Swan” (document #15056).

[82] Wheeler, in *Our American Mile*, says “His [Swan's] Tavern sign is in the Antiquarian house.” No such sign, however, is in the present collection of that organization, now known as the Concord Museum, nor is it in possession of the National Park Service.

[83] Brooks family genealogical chart by G. Margaret Martin, Lincoln Public Library.

in general, and William Swan in particular, since no documentation exists in the genealogical records of either the Lincoln or the Concord Public Libraries.

It may be surmised from other sources that the Swan household in 1806 consisted of William and Mary, and Mary's five children: Mary (age 13), Ephraim (10), Nathan (7), and twin sons Rufus and Marshall (5). Before the marriage, on April 11, 1806, guardianship of the Meriam children had been appointed by the probate court to Edward Flint. This remained in effect until 1812, when the two oldest children elected William Swan (then described as "yeoman") as their guardian; Swan was also made guardian of the three younger children at that time.[84] William and Mary had one child of their own, a daughter named Maria Swan, who was born May 30, 1809.[85]

There is no doubt that William and Mary Swan occupied the Meriam House, based on the evidence provided by the tax records. The "Book of the Polls & Estates in Concord for the Year 1806" lists William Swan in Concord for the first time, with the notation "Eph. Meriam's farm" next to his name. The value of Swan's real estate was then assessed at $96.20, which is the same value that had been assigned to the "Estate of Ephraim Meriam" the previous year. The real estate value was unchanged the following year, in 1807, when William Swan was again listed at the "Ephm Meriam Estate." Thereafter, and until his death in 1822, William Swan's name appears alone in the tax records.

Construction of New Kitchen Addition, Circa 1810

Sometime after April 21, 1806, and before circa 1815, the existing 1 1/2-story kitchen addition was constructed on the back (north) side of the house. This improvement may have been made between 1808 and 1809, when William Swan's tax valuation for real estate changed from $96.20 to $102.50; or between 1814 and 1815, when the valuation changed from $104 to $179.48.[86] For simplicity, the date "circa 1810" has been assigned to the addition. No other documentation of the work has been found.

It is thought that this improvement was made after April 21, 1806, based on the description of the house in the probate records of Ephraim Meriam. The widow's dower that was set off on that date distinguished the "upright" part of the house as being separate from the "bedroom in the back part of said house" and the "back kitchen."[87] It is likely, therefore, that both the bedroom and the kitchen were in a one-story appendage on the back of the house, which was lower than the "upright" part of the house.

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[84] Middlesex County Probate document #15057.

[85] *Concord, Mass.: Births, Marriages, and Deaths 1635-1850* (Boston: Beacon Press), p. 285 [re: Maria Swan].

[86] No property is known to have been acquired by William Swan in those years that would account for the higher valuations.

[87] Middlesex County Probate document #15056.

The work appears to have been done before 1815, as evidenced by the type of cut nails attaching the clapboards to the back side of the addition. These nails, which have been protected from the weather by a later addition, are an early machine-cut type not commonly found after 1815.[88] Furthermore, the nails attaching the sheathing boards under the clapboards are hand wrought.

The kitchen addition runs the full length of the main house, and extends about 7 feet eastward beyond it, forming a "jog" with a south-facing doorway. Although thus very long (about 45 1/2 feet), the addition is only 11 feet deep. Physical evidence strongly suggests that the kitchen addition was built as one unit, and not by enlarging the earlier one-story lean-to. This evidence includes the post-and-beam framing, with continuous posts on the back (north) side, and regular spacing between the beams of about 10 1/2 feet. The older one-story kitchen and bedroom therefore appear to have been removed prior to construction of the new addition. A new kitchen fireplace and bake oven were probably also built at this time.

As mentioned previously, the addition is of frame construction. Extant today are the original wide sheathing boards, with lime-mortar chinking between the joints. The original clapboards are hand-riven and held with early machine-cut nails. Paint analysis indicates that the clapboards were unpainted for a period of time after installation.

The shed roof of the addition is continuous with the north slope of the roof of the main house. This design was necessary to provide head room in the addition's second-story rooms. The design was accomplished by raising the main roof's rafter ends at the north plate, reducing the pitch of the roof slope. This reframing can be seen in the attic today.

The layout of the addition's interior is spacious, incorporating a partial cellar, three rooms each in the first and second stories, and interior stairways. The cellar, which is under the east half of the addition, was most likely excavated when the new addition was constructed; it almost doubled the size of the old cellar under the main house. Rooms in the first story include a large center kitchen and two smaller end rooms—one at the east end and the other at the west end. A similar layout existed in the second story, where there were a large (windowless) center room and two end rooms. The stairways to the cellar and second story are situated at the east end of the large kitchen. While the location is original, the stairways themselves were replaced in the 1920's.

Finish details of the interior, many of which survive today, included wide pine floorboards, plastered walls and ceilings, wood wainscot, wide vertical pine paneling, and boxed posts and girts. Doors were of mortised construction with four panels, hand-wrought Suffolk latches, and "HL" hinges. A built-in cupboard in one corner of the kitchen appears to be an original feature of the room.

[88] The characteristics of these nails include rounded tips, irregular heads, and burrs on opposite edges of the nail shank. This indicates that the nails were made from a narrow nail plate, and that the plate was not flipped during manufacture, as were later nails.

Why this new, larger kitchen addition was needed around 1810 is not known. Possibly the old kitchen appendage was in poor repair, or the Swan family felt in need of the additional space that could be provided by a larger house. The household in 1810 consisted of seven or eight people, including William Swan (age 26-45 years), his wife Mary (age 38), and the children Mary (age 17), Ephraim (age 15) and/or Nathan (age 12), Rufus and Marshall (age 9), and Maria (age 1).[89]

Main-House Renovations, Circa 1820

Renovations were made to the main house not long after the new 1 1/2-story addition was built on the back side of the house. This is based on a comparison of the paint layers on the interior woodwork in the kitchen addition with the woodwork installed as part of the house's renovation. The kitchen addition was found to have one more, earlier paint layer than the renovation woodwork, suggesting that it had been installed first, and the renovation woodwork slightly later.

The date "circa 1820" has been assigned to the renovations for two reasons. First, the style of the woodwork moldings may be characterized as "Federal"—a style that was popular from about 1790 to 1830. Second, the tax records of William Swan indicate that his property valuation changed from $107.20 in 1820 to $129.65 in 1821. No property transactions are known to have occurred at this time which would account for the change. Although it is not certain that the increase was due to the renovations, it is nevertheless a likely possibility.

The work that was done at this time included the following list of items.

- The walls and ceilings in the first- and second-story rooms of the main house were plastered.
- New woodwork was installed in all the rooms of the main house.
- New interior doors were installed, being of mortised construction with four panels, butt hinges, and Norfolk latches.
- Two new exterior doors were installed on the front side of the house, each having six panels and butt hinges.
- New Federal-style doorway surrounds (i.e., architraves) were added to the exterior sides of the two front doorways.
- New window frames, architraves, and six-over-six sashes were installed in all of the windows of the house, including those of the new kitchen addition.
- The old staircase in the front entry was removed, the walls were furred out and plastered, and a new staircase was installed.

[89] The Federal Census for 1810 recorded only one unnamed male between the ages of 10 and 16. It is not known if this was Ephraim or Nathan, or an erroneous omission of one of them.

- The old stairway to the cellar, leading from the west parlor, was most likely closed off (having been made obsolete by the new cellar stairway in the kitchen addition).

- A new stairway to the attic, leading from the second story of the new kitchen addition, appears to have replaced an earlier attic stairway at the main stairway.

- The second-story west room in the kitchen addition was finished with plaster and woodwork.

At some point, a small one-story shed addition was built at the east end of the north wall of the circa-1810 kitchen addition. This addition, which exists today, may also have been built circa 1820. The new addition most likely included an attached carriage shed on the east side, which can be seen in the earliest photograph of the house taken sometime between 1885 and 1898 (fig. 5).[90]

The renovations appear to have been an attempt to "modernize" the old house by covering the previously exposed interior framing and by installing stylish new woodwork and windows. The motivation for this updating is not known; perhaps it was in preparation for the marriage of the eldest daughter, Mary, to Nathaniel Ball on September 11, 1821.

The household in 1820 consisted of William Swan (exact age unknown), his wife Mary (48), and children Mary (26), Rufus and Marshall (both 19) and Maria (11). Sons Ephraim and Nathan, both being past of the age of 21, had most likely left home by this time.[91]

William Swan's Will, 1822

William Swan died September 24, 1822, at the age of about 50 years. In his last will and testament, dated February 13, 1822, he left "all [his] real estate in said town of Concord" to his stepson, Ephraim Meriam. To his wife, Mary, was left "all my household furniture and indoor movables of every kind and description excepting my clock."

Ephraim Meriam was appointed executor November 20, 1822, at which time he was directed to render an inventory of the estate. Whether this was ever done is not known; no inventory survives in the probate records.

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[90] The tax assessment records for the Town of Concord indicate that William Swan was assessed for a "Pleasure Carriage" in 1807 (the first year that carriages were recorded) through 1821; Ephraim Meriam was next assessed for the "Pleasure Carriage" in 1822-1825, and Rufus Meriam was assessed for a "chaise" in 1838-1844 and 1847-1848. While this is of interest, it is not necessarily useful information for dating the attached carriage shed, because the carriage may have been housed originally in the barn.

[91] The Federal Census for 1820 confirms this listing (see Appendix C). Ephraim, it is said, lived at home "until he was nearly, if not quite, twenty-one." [Source: Grindall Reynolds, "Memoir of Ephraim Merriam," January 1872, *Memoirs of the Members of the Social Circle in Concord*, 2nd Series, 1795-1840 (Cambridge, MA: The Riverside Press, 1888), p. 16.]

Ephraim Meriam, Owner

Brief Biography

Ephraim Meriam was born November 26, 1795, and died a bachelor at the age of 47 on April 7, 1843. He was the eldest son of Ephraim and Mary Meriam, and the stepson of William Swan. Ephraim was 27 when his stepfather died in 1822 and left him all his real estate in Concord, including the family house and farm.

Ephraim had moved from that home around the age of 21 (circa 1816) to start a butchering and candle-making business, "Stows & Meriam," with his cousins Nathan and Cyrus Stow. He also speculated in real estate, and is said to have been a successful businessman who had accumulated a sizable wealth by the time of his death in 1843.[92]

Some other accomplishments of Ephraim Meriam include his involvement in 1828 as an investor in the Milldam Company, which drained the Mill Pond and developed a new business district in town. He was chosen in 1835-1836 as one of a three-member committee to build a monument at the location of the historic North Bridge. The year 1835 is also when he constructed a new house in town, not far from the public common. He served as a state representative for the Democratic Party in 1838, 1839, and 1840, and as a senator in 1841.[93]

The Meriam House and Property

Although Ephraim Meriam was the owner of record of the Meriam House from 1822 until 1834, when he sold the property to his brother Rufus, there is no evidence that he made any significant renovations to it. In fact, it is unlikely that he lived at the house, except perhaps towards the end of his life, when it is said that "lived to the last in the old homestead with his again widowed mother, and there he died."[94]

It is interesting to note that Ephraim's mother, Mary Swan, was assessed in the property tax records in the year 1829 for the "House, Barn, Sheds & 100a land owned by E. Meriam," suggesting that Ephraim was then not in residence. She is likewise listed in 1830 and 1831, but with no mention of "E. Meriam." Ephraim's brother, Rufus, was next assessed for the property

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[92] It is said that Ephraim started with $400-$500, and left his heirs about $40,000. [Source: Reynolds, p. 242.] An inventory of his estate indicates that in fact his estate was worth $34,547 at the time of his death. He left his mother $2,500; he gave his brother Rufus his house and land in Boston, valued at $2,000; and he gave his sister Maria a woodlot in Lexington worth $1,800. Sister Mary and brother Nathan also received generous settlements. The remainder of the estate was to be divided equally among the brothers and sisters. [Source: Middlesex County Probate document #37608.]

[93] He was also an active member of the church and community. Information on Ephraim Meriam was obtained from Reynolds, and from references in Shattuck (pp. 214 and 351) and Wheeler (*Climate for Freedom*, pp. 170-171).

[94] Reynolds, p. 243.

beginning in 1832, even though the official conveyance did not occur until 1834.[95] In addition, the name "Rufus Meriam" appears next to a square designating the Meriam House on the John G. Hales map of Concord dated 1830 (fig. 1).

Exactly where Ephraim Meriam's home was during these years is not known. He constructed a new house near the public common in Concord in 1835, but the tax records for the years 1835-39 indicate that Nathaniel Rice lived there.

The Federal Census does not reveal who was living at the house during the year 1830, since there is no listing for Ephraim Meriam, Rufus Meriam, or Mary Swan. A likely guess, however, is that Mary, then 58, lived here with her son Rufus (29) and her daughter Maria (21).

Even though he was probably living elsewhere, Ephraim consolidated the Meriam's Corner property in 1826 by buying back the corner half-acre lot from Tarrant P. Meriam, who had inherited it from his father John in 1804. It will be remembered that this lot most likely contained the 17th-century buildings of the first John Meriam, and it was here that Josiah Meriam was living in 1775. By 1826, however, it appears that the buildings were either gone, or in dilapidated condition, based on the purchase price of only $175.[96] The property was then described as being:

> A certain tract or parcel of land situated in the easterly part of...Concord containing half an acre be the same more or less, bounded as follows beginning at a heap of stones on the easterly side of Bedford road, and running on Ephraim Meriams land about five rods to a heap of stones, then bounded easterly of said Ephraims land to a heap of stones on the northerly side of the County road leading to Lexington then bounded on said County road to the aforementioned road leading to Bedford then on said Bedford road to the bounds first mentioned...meaning to convey all the land of a house lot and garden which Mr. Josiah Meriam conveyed to Mr. John Meriam....[97]

The old house was most certainly gone by 1830, based on the map by John G. Hales that shows only two structures at Meriam's Corner: the house of "Rufus Meriam" on the Bedford Road, and "School No. 2" on the Lexington & Boston Road, just east of the Mill Brook (fig. 1).

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[95] The tax assessment records for the years 1826-1829 describe the buildings as a "House, Barn, [&] Sheds," while the tax records for 1830-1834 list a "House, Barn, [&] Shed."

[96] The appraised value of the land in 1805, which included the "house, barn & land lately purchased of Josiah Meriam," was $400. [Source: Middlesex County Probate document #15076.]

[97] Middlesex County Deed, Book 267, p. 156.

Rufus Meriam, Owner

Deed Dated 1834

Rufus Meriam, the last Meriam family member to own the Meriam House, purchased the property from his brother Ephraim for $3,300 in 1834. The deed for the transaction, dated February 12, describes the home lot as follows:

> All that certain farm situated in the easterly part of said Concord called the Meriam Farm, viz: one piece called the house [lot] containing about sixteen acres, bounded northerly by Bedford road easterly by land of Andrew Afridson, southerly by land of Stephen Patch, and westerly by the county road from Concord to Lexington...with all the buildings thereon standing....[98]

Also conveyed at this time were other lands in Concord called the "Hill Piece," the "Home field & old Garden" (16 acres), the "Great Fields" (8 acres), the "House Swamp & Hartwell Pasture (33 acres), the "Virginia Meadow" (12 acres) and the "River Meadow" (3 acres).

New Schoolhouse, 1852-1854

By 1846, the schoolhouses that had been built in 1799, including the schoolhouse at Meriam's Corner, were considered to be obsolete. So reported the School Committee in its annual report for the year ending April 1, 1846:

> We are behind the age. Most of our school-houses were built some forty years ago, and were at that time among the best. But there they have stood and the tide of improvement, for forty years has swept by them.... They all stand on, and open directly into the street.[99]

It was not until six years later, however, that a plot of land was purchased by the inhabitants of Concord for a new schoolhouse at Meriam's Corner. The deed for the transaction, dated December 8, 1852, identifies the grantor as Rufus Meriam and the purchase price as $100. The bounds of the land were defined as follows:

> Beginning at the westerly corner of the premises of land of said Meriam thence northerly on said Meriam's land to a post set in the ground; thence easterly on land of said Meriam in a line parallel with and ten rods northerly of said road eight rods to a post set in the ground; thence at a right angle with said line to the road; thence on said road to the bound first mentioned; said lot to be eight rods wide and ten rods long across the middle thereof and containing eighty rods; it being understood and agreed that the grantees

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[98] Middlesex County Deed, Book 1,160, p. 21.

[99] *The Annual Report of the School Committee of Concord for the Year Ending April 1st, 1846* (Concord: Printed at the Freeman Office, 1846), p. 9.

> shall hereafter make and maintain a suitable division fence between this lot and land of said Meriam, so long as they shall occupy and use the same for a school house lot.[100]

No records of the actual building of the new schoolhouse are known, although construction is likely to have commenced in the spring or summer of the following year. It appears to have been completed by September 1853, based on the annual report of the School Committee for the year ending April 1, 1854:

> District No. 2. East Quarter.
> The commencement of the Winter Term was signalized by removing to the new and beautiful School-house just completed by the town....[101]

No mention appears in the records of the school committee as to the fate of the old District No. 2 schoolhouse next to the brook. It appears to have remained standing for at least a year, based on a survey by Henry David Thoreau dated June 26, 1855. For more details on the survey, see the section that follows.

Henry David Thoreau Survey, 1855

Henry David Thoreau surveyed Lexington Road at Meriam's Corner in the spring of 1855. His drawing, labeled "Plan of The Road & Watering Place at the East Quarter School House, Concord Mass., Surveyed by Henry D. Thoreau, June 26," appears to be a field sketch, based on the presence of survey lines (fig. 2). While the year on this sketch is worn and illegible, a final version (without survey lines) is dated November 9, 1855 (fig. 3). It was therefore concluded that the original survey was probably also done in 1855.

Features shown on the plan include the "Road to Concord," the "Road to Bedford," an "Elm" at the intersection of the roads, the south perimeter of "Rufus Meriam's Land," the "Site of School House," and the "Brook" to the west side of the schoolhouse. Both the location and size of the schoolhouse, with its front "porch" and side "shed," strongly suggest that this is the old schoolhouse built in 1799. The approximate location of the new schoolhouse built in 1853 may be seen on the plan dated November 9, which has a penciled note in the far left margin that reads "School House." The new schoolhouse, in other words, was located to the east of the old schoolhouse.

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[100] Middlesex County Deed, Book 639, p. 167.

[101] *Annual Report of the School Committee of the Town of Concord For the Year Ending April 1, 1854* (Concord: Silas B. Wilde, Printer, 1854), p. 9.

Most significant, however, and the reason for which the survey was most likely commissioned, is the delineation of the old and new road beds of the "Road to Concord" (i.e., Lexington Road). The old road, as defined by the "line of old walls," was located farther to the north, and made a sharp turn to the southeast just past the old schoolhouse.[102] The "old bank wall" that had been on the south side of the brook appears to have become the north bank wall when the road was relocated; "new wall[s]" are also shown on either side of the brook, on the north side of the new road. The area between the old walls and the new walls was estimated by Thoreau to be about 21 rods.

The reason why the road was relocated in 1855 is not known. Perhaps the motivation was simply to straighten it out as part of a general road improvement project. Interestingly, the small amount of land acquired by Rufus Meriam as a result of this alteration is not reflected in subsequent deeds for the property at Meriam's Corner.

Rufus Meriam Household: 1840, 1850, and 1860

Rufus Meriam, like his brother Ephraim, never married. He appears to have lived with his stepsister, Maria Swan, until her marriage at the age of 36 to Darius Hatch, on May 27, 1845. His mother, Mary, also stayed at home until her death at the age of 75 on May 9, 1847.

The Federal Census indicates that three people other than Rufus, Maria, and Mary were living in the household headed by Rufus Meriam in 1840. These were two unnamed males between the ages of 40 and 50 years, and one female between 10 and 15 years of age.[103] One of the men may have been brother Ephraim Meriam, who was 45 in 1840, and who is said to have "lived to the last in the old homestead with his again widowed mother."[104] The identity of the two other people remains a mystery.

By 1850, Rufus was living with no family members, according to the Federal Census for that year. This was the first year in which details, such as names and profession, were provided by the census. Rufus was then listed as being a farmer who was 50 years of age, born in Massachusetts, and with real estate valued at $10,000. He was apparently living with two other people: Susan Hosmer and Sumner Hardy. Hosmer was a 34-year-old female, with no designated profession, who had been born in Massachusetts. Hardy was a 55-year-old male, also with no designated profession, who was also Massachusetts-born.[105] The likely relationship of these people to Rufus was that Hosmer was the domestic help, while Hardy provided assistance with the farm.

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[102] As explained in the section "School House Constructed, 1799," the sharp turn in the road is believed to have been an earlier change that was made circa 1799. Before 1799, the road appears to have traveled in a straight easterly direction, based on probate description of the property dated 1806 that notes "where the old road was trod." [Source: Middlesex County Probate document #15056.]

[103] Federal Census Microfilm M704-188, p. 349. See also Appendix C.

[104] Reynolds, p. 243.

[105] Federal Census Microfilm M432-323, p. 112. See also Appendix C.

The year 1860 is remarkable for being when the Federal Census recorded 13 people as living with Rufus Meriam at "Dwelling house #169." Two of these were listed with Rufus as part of "Family #177," including Lill Hatch, a 45-year-old female domestic from Vermont; and Sumner Hindy, a 59-year-old farmer from Massachusetts.

Eleven other people were listed as residing at Rufus Meriam's "Dwelling house" under "Family #178." These included a family from Ireland and their five Massachusetts-born children; a younger couple from Ireland with no children; and two older and apparently unrelated females, both born in Massachusetts.

The value of Rufus Meriam's real estate in 1860 was $4,050, according to the Federal Census. Also listed as owning real estate were Sumner Hindy (value, $50) and Edmund Carver (value, $1,000); the residence of both, however, appears to have been the Meriam House.

Kitchen Sketch, Circa 1865

The only known early interior view of the Meriam House is a sketch of the kitchen fireplace wall entitled "Merriam Interior Kitchen" (fig. 4). The drawing was by artist Mary C. Wheeler (1846-1920), and was later photographed by Alfred Hosmer (1851-1903).[106] Mary Wheeler was a Concord native who attended the Concord public schools and the Abbott Academy in Andover. She taught in the Concord schools for two years, circa 1865-1866. The kitchen sketch is believed to have been made about this time, because Miss Wheeler later relocated to Providence, Rhode Island.[107]

Nothing is known of the circumstances surrounding the making of the sketch, i.e., whether it was intended to be used as an illustration for a book or magazine, or was simply a school exercise. It is also not known how Miss Wheeler happened to be acquainted with Rufus Meriam, or any of the people living with him at the time.

Whatever the case, the kitchen sketch is of particular significance for being what appears to be a highly detailed and accurate portrayal of the kitchen before it was remodeled in the 1950's. The main subject is the large kitchen fireplace with its simple wood mantel, deep brick hearth, and bake oven offset to one side with a storage area below. Two small doors are located immediately above the mantel shelf, which have opposing side hinges and simple swivel latches. A candle with reflective backplate sits on the mantel shelf, and a fireplace shovel, tongs, and bellows are conveniently located nearby. A fire burns within the fireplace, where there are a pair of andirons and a crane hinged from the left jamb.

The floorboards on either side of the hearth are wide and aligned in an east-west direction. Wide boards also comprise the wainscot at the lower back wall. The upper walls are notable for being plain (i.e., with no stencil or wallpaper) and a lighter color than the surrounding woodwork.

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[106] File on Concord Photographers, Special Collections, CFPL. The photograph by Hosmer is a black-and-white view. The whereabouts of the original sketch is unknown.

[107] An obituary dated March 11, 1920, describes Miss Wheeler as an accomplished artist. It notes that she moved to Providence, Rhode Island, after teaching in the Concord schools. She went to Germany in 1870 to study art for two years, and also studied in Paris from 1876 to 1882. She founded "Miss Wheeler's School" for drawing and painting in Providence in 1889. She died in Providence in 1920 at the age of 75. [Source: *The Providence Journal*, March 11, 1920, Scrapbook.]

Recessed on the right side of the fireplace is a doorway with a four-panel door and Suffolk latch. The orientation of the latch (on the right stile, with the thumb latch on the kitchen side) indicates the door was hinged on the left side and swung outward into the adjoining room. A ceiling beam, oriented in a north-south direction, frames into a deep header above the doorway.

The kitchen today is little changed from the sketch, with only a few exceptions. The two doors and frame are missing from above the fireplace, as is the four-panel door to the right side of the fireplace. Also, while wide pine floorboards are in the room today, they are replacements installed in the 1950's.

Death of Rufus Meriam, 1870

Rufus Meriam died a bachelor on March 3, 1870, just before his 69th birthday. He left an estate worth $46,223.79 to his three surviving siblings: Mary Ball, his widowed sister; Marshall Meriam, his twin brother of New Hampshire; and Maria Hatch, his half-sister. A schedule of Rufus's personal and real estate indicates that he had invested most of his wealth in railroads and banking institutions.[108] An itemized list of his assets appears in the probate record as follows:[109]

PERSONAL ESTATE

Household Furniture				55.00
Live Stock, 13 Cows				520.00
Hay, Grain & Fodder				259.75
Farming Tools				69.00
86 Shares Boston & Albany Railroad				12,298.00
140	"	Fitchburg	"	18,620.00
10	"	Northern	"	1,100.00
16	"	Vermont Central	"	000.00
6	"	Malden & Melrose Horse	"	000.00
13	"	Concord National Bank		1,456.00
3	"	Exchange " " 459.00		

[108] The tax assessment records indicate that Rufus began to invest in railroads in 1844, the year after his brother Ephraim's death.

[109] Middlesex County Probate document #37,626. John S. Keyes, in *Houses and Owners or Occupants in Concord 1885* (Concord Free Public Library, Typescript, 1940) wrote that Rufus “was a bachelor who died worth $30 to $50,000, and his whole wardrobe household furniture and personal effects were appraised at less than $100” (p. 212). No documentation is known, however, of the value of Rufus's “wardrobe” and “personal effects.”

Deposit in Middlesex Inst. for Savings	1,231.00
Cash in Concord National Bank	2,151.87
Cash on hand	144.17
Pew in Unitarian Church	60.00
	38,423.79

REAL ESTATE

Homestead Farm & Buildings, & 90 Acres	5,000.00
Dwelling House & Land in Boston	2,800.00
	7,800.00

Unfortunately, no Meriam family members appear to have been interested in maintaining the old family farm, and it was sold the following year, on April 29, 1871. What use was made of the house in the interim period, from March 1870 through April 1871, is not known. Most likely the house was either leased or left vacant.[110]

[110] The Federal Census for 1870 was conducted after Rufus Meriam's death, so no record of the occupation of the house for this year could be ascertained.

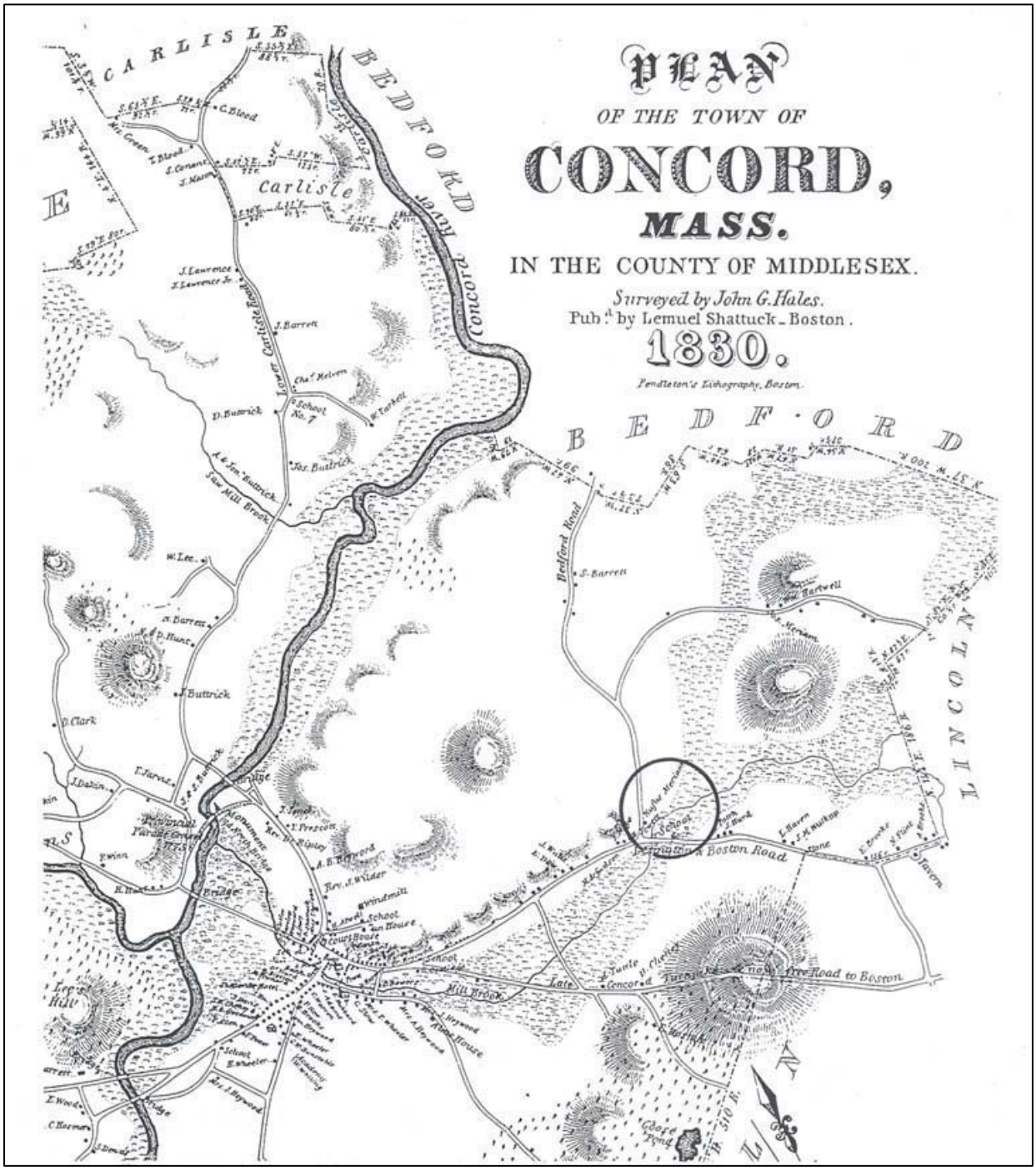

Figure 1. Detail of the 1830 "Plan of the Town of Concord, Mass.," showing the Rufus Meriam house and School No. 2.

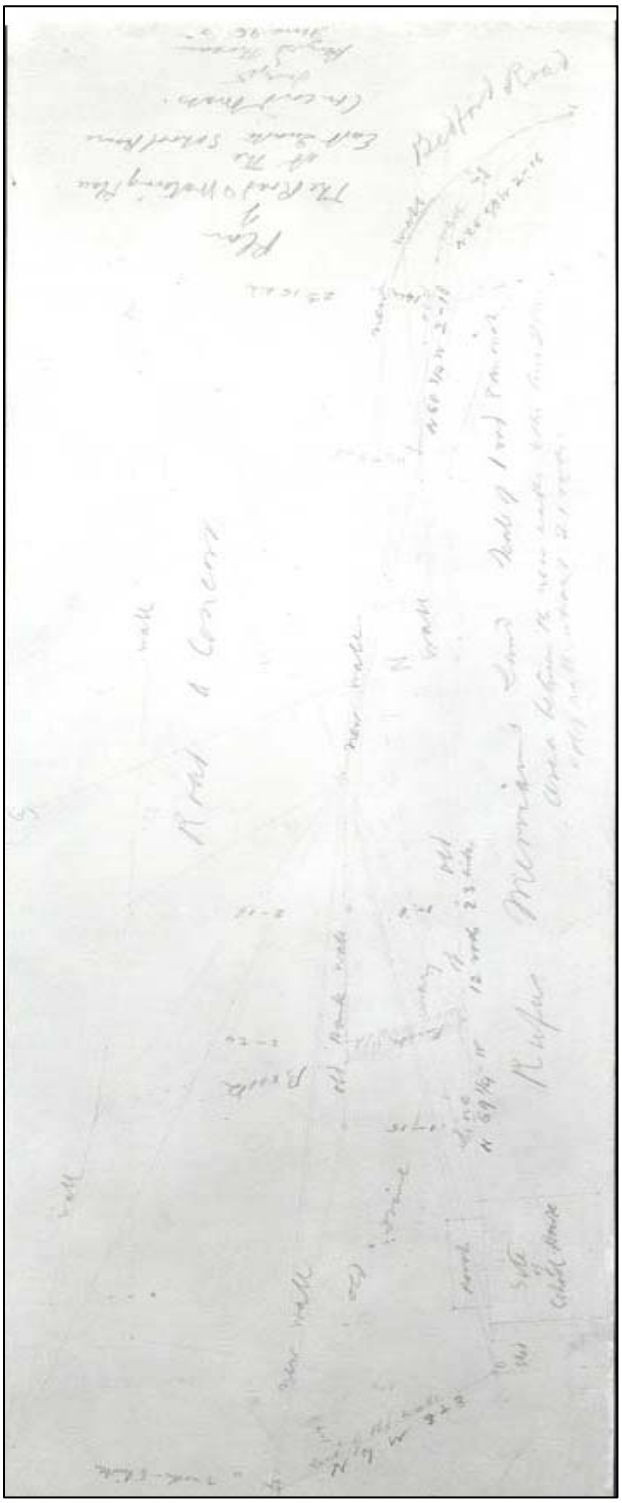

Figure 2. Preliminary "Plan of the Road & Watering Place of the East Quarter School House." Surveyed by Henry D. Thoreau, June 26, 1855.

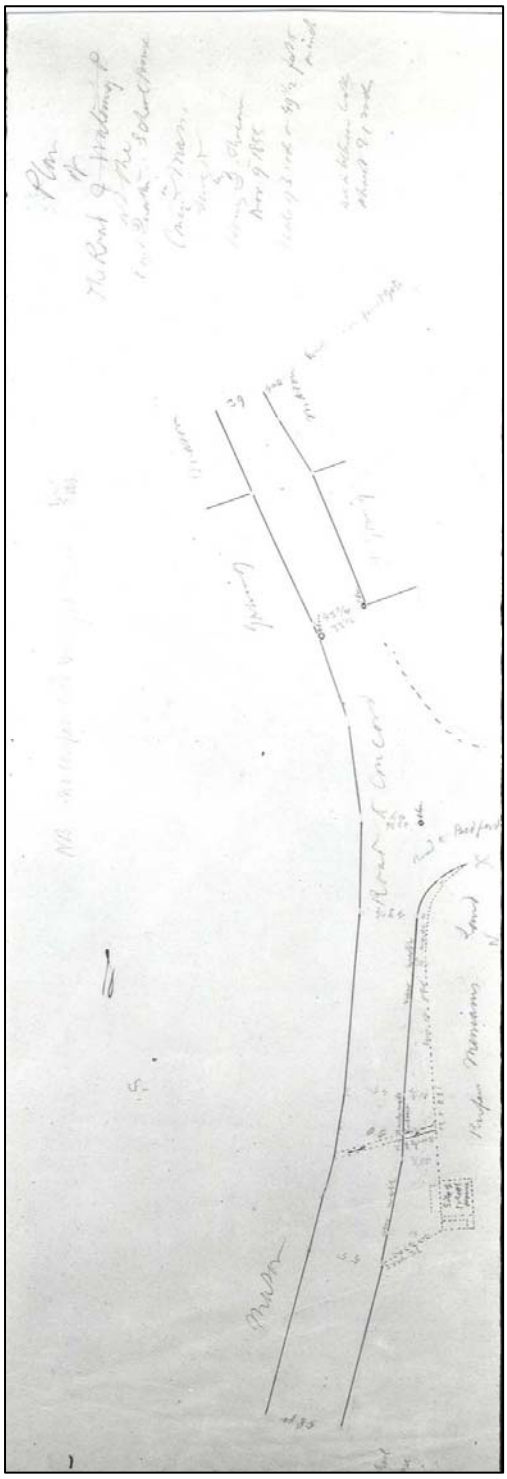

Figure 3. Final "Plan of the Road & Watering Place of the East Quarter School House." Surveyed by Henry D. Thoreau, Nov. 9, 1855.

Figure 4. Photograph of sketch by Mary Wheeler (1846-1920), showing the Meriam House kitchen fireplace, circa 1865.

BURKE FAMILY OWNERSHIP

The Burke family, which had its roots in Ireland, owned the Meriam House for two generations, from 1871 to 1951. The first generation, Thomas and Rose Burke, lived at the house and worked the farm from 1871 until their deaths in 1921. The property was next owned by the Burkes' daughter-in-law, Ellen T. Burke, who lived with her husband Thomas J. in the new house across Old Bedford Road. The house thus became a rental property, which was leased to tenants from 1922 to 1951.

Thomas Burke

Purchase of the Meriam Farm, 1871

A portion of the late Rufus Meriam's farm was sold on April 29, 1871, to Thomas Burke of Concord for $3,500. The total amount of land was 50 acres more or less, which represented about half of the total farm at that time.

The one-third part of the farm belonging to Rufus Meriam's heir and sister, Mary Ball, was sold at public auction for one-third the total price, or $1,166.67. Mary was then 78 years old and judged to be "insane." The auction was advertised in two issues of the newspaper, the *Massachusetts Ploughman and New England Journal of Agriculture*—one dated April 15, the other printed on the day of the auction, April 29. The announcement read as follows:

Guardian's Sale

> Will be sold at Public Auction by License of the Probate Court for the County of Middlesex, on SATURDAY, the twenty-ninth day of April, A.D., 1871, at three o'clock P.M., all the interest of Mary Ball, of said Concord, an insane person, in the following described real-estate, situated in the easterly part of said Concord, viz. A certain farm containing about eighty-nine acres, more or less, lying on both sides of the Bedford road, with all the buildings thereon. Also about twelve acres called the Virginia Meadow, bounded by land of Charles Jager, William Tibbets and John Algeo. Also about three acres of River Meadow, bounded easterly and southerly on land late of Thomas M. Balcom, northerly on Concord River and westerly on land formerly of John Watts. Sale to be on the first described parcel.
>
> GEO. M. BROOKS, Guardian
>
> Concord, April 8th, 1871 ap15-3t[111]

[111] The *Massachusetts Ploughman* was published in Boston, and is on microfilm at the Boston Public Library. The deed for the sale, dated April 29, 1871, says that George Brooks was "licensed and empowered" by the probate court to convey the real estate on July 5, 1870, and that Thomas Burke was the highest bidder at the auction. [Source: Middlesex County Deed, Book 1164, p.450.]

The remaining two-thirds of the farm were sold to Thomas Burke by Rufus Meriam's brother and half-sister, Marshall Meriam and Maria Hatch, for $2,333.33. The deed for this transaction, dated April 29, 1871, describes the home-lot portion of the farm as:

> A certain parcel of land with a dwelling house, barn and out buildings thereon, and bounded beginning at a corner of the old road leading to Bedford and the Great County road to Boston; thence easterly on said great road to land of the Town of Concord; thence northerly easterly and southerly on land of said Town of Concord [the schoolhouse lot] to said great road; thence easterly on said great road to land late of Peletiah T. Hall; thence north easterly on land late of said Hall to land of Sampson Mason; thence northwesterly on land of said Mason to said old road to Bedford; thence southerly on said old road to Bedford to the bounds first mentioned.[112]

The transaction also included two other parcels: one on the opposite (west) side of the Bedford Road, and the other in the Dam Meadow.[113]

Thomas and Rose Burke appear to have had no livestock on the farm initially, based on the tax assessment for 1871 that recorded only the "House, Barn & Shed" valued at $1,300, and "Part of Meriam est., 50 acres," valued at $2,200. It is likely, on the other hand, that they made some repairs to the buildings, which may have included giving the exterior of the old house a coat of yellow paint. The color yellow is mentioned in a memoir written in January 1872, in which the house was described the house as "the time-worn yellow house now standing at the corner of Lexington and old Bedford roads."[114]

Thomas and Rose Burke

Thomas Burke was one month from his 28th birthday when he purchased the old Meriam farm in April 1871. His family then included his wife, Rose A., and a young son, John H., who was 1 1/2 years old.

Thomas and Rose had immigrated to the United States from Ireland separately. Thomas came to this country from the County Galway in 1861, when he was 18 years old. Rose, who was from the County Fermonagh, followed several years later in 1864, when she was 22. They most likely met in their new homeland, where they were wed in 1869.[115] Thomas and Rose had four

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[112] Middlesex County Deed, Book 1164, p. 448.

[113] While the size of each subparcel is not defined in the deed, property tax records dated 1880 and later record Thomas Burke's "homestead" as being 42 acres, and the "Dam meadow" as 8 acres.

[114] Reynolds, p. 241.

[115] Birth and death record-cards of the Town of Concord for the years prior to 1914, in the Special Collections Division of the Concord Free Public Library; also, Federal Census information for the year 1900 (Microfilm T623-658, p. 65-B).

children, all born in the United States. They were John H. (born December 1869); Annie W. (June 1871); Thomas J. (March 1874); and James E. (November 1877).[116]

Thomas Burke worked as a "farmer," according to the Federal Census records for the years 1880, 1890, 1900, and 1910. One local historian described Burke in 1885 as "an Irishman who sells milk in the village."[117] This is confirmed by the Concord Directory for 1886, which listed Thomas Burke as both a "farmer and milk man." Later directories, however, noted Burke as being a "farmer" only.[118]

The tax assessment records for the years 1871 through 1921 document the livestock on the Burke farm. The farm always seems to have had some number of horses, cows, and yearling cows. Two swine were counted on the farm in 1872 only. Fifty "hens" were added in 1880 (called "fowl" beginning in 1894), and continued to be listed for most years through 1918. The largest number of livestock is listed for the year 1889, when there were two horses, nine cows (which included three 2-year-olds), and 75 hens. The herd of cows was never more than 11 head (tax year 1886), and the fowl never numbered more than 75. The Burkes had only one horse during the years 1872-1887, one or two horses between 1888-1894, three horses in 1895-1901, and four horses in 1902 and 1903. As Thomas and Rose got older, the number of animals decreased considerably, so that by 1919 there was only one horse, one cow, and no fowl.

Thomas and Rose raised their family and lived out their lives on the old Meriam farm. Their eldest son, John H., died in 1901 in Boston at the age of 32. Annie W., who never married, taught in the public schools and lived at home for most of her life. Thomas J. built a house on his father's land across the road in 1903, and worked on the Burke farm. James E. renovated and occupied the abandoned schoolhouse on the property in 1903, but lived there for only a short time. Thomas and Rose both died in 1921: Thomas on March 10 at the age of 80, and Rose on April 15 at the age of 86.

Memorial Stone, 1885

Seven memorial tablets were erected in various locations in Concord in 1885, in celebration of the 250th anniversary of the settlement of the town.[119] One of these was located in the stone wall[120] at the southwest corner of Thomas Burke's property at Meriam's Corner.

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[116] The birth dates were obtained from the Federal Census of 1900.

[117] Keyes, p. 212.

[118] The later directories, which are in the Special Collections of the CFPL, are dated 1892, 1896, 1901, 1905-1906, 1909-1910, 1917, and 1921.

[119] William W. Wheildon, *New Chapter in the History of the Concord Fight: Groton Minute-Men at the North Bridge, April 19, 1775* (Boston: Lee & Shepard, 1885), p. 24.

[120] It will be remembered that Thoreau identified this as a "new wall" on his survey of 1855.

The memorial is a large boulder, with its south-facing side recessed, smooth-planed, and chiseled with the following inscription:

MERIAM'S CORNER

THE BRITISH TROOPS
RETREATING FROM THE
OLD NORTH BRIDGE
WERE HERE ATTACKED IN FLANK
BY THE MEN OF CONCORD
AND NEIGHBORING TOWNS
AND DRIVEN UNDER A HOT FIRE
TO CHARLESTOWN

The house at Meriam's Corner became a popular subject for photographers after the installation of the memorial stone. The most common view shows the stone in the foreground and the Meriam House in the background. The earliest-known photograph of the house, believed to have been taken sometime between 1885 and 1898, is such a composition (fig. 5).

New Barn, 1898-1899

An early barn existed in 1806 (and perhaps as early as 1775) on the east side of Old Bedford Road, according to the probate documents of Ephraim Meriam.[121] Furthermore, the earliest photograph of the house shows what appears to be a barn behind the Meriam House (fig. 5). The Burkes' granddaughter, Alice Burke Hargrove, also recalls being told that the "old barn" had been on the north adjacent lot, although she has no personal memory of it.[122]

All later photographs of the house do not show any structures behind the house, indicating the barn had been removed. In fact, it was most likely replaced by a new barn located elsewhere on the Burke property.

Thomas Burke's tax assessment for the year 1898 lists a "House & Barn," valued at $1,000. The tax assessment for the following year, however, itemizes the "Old House" and the "Barn" separately, with the house valued at $900 and the barn at $400. Similar listings for selected other structures in the 1899 assessment are not increased in value, suggesting that a significant improvement had occurred at the Burke farm.[123] Taken together with the evidence in the early photographs of the house, one may conclude that the old barn was demolished and replaced by a new barn in a different location.

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[121] Middlesex County Probate document #15056, for Ephraim Meriam (1764-1803).

[122] Conversation with Barbara Yocum, August 17, 1993. See Appendix D.

[123] William Buckley, for example, was assessed $1,250 for his house and barn in 1898; the 1899 assessment valued the house at $1,000 and the barn at $250.

Interviews with Alice Burke Hargrove and long-time neighbor Salvatore Muscato locate Thomas Burke's barn on the west side of Old Bedford Road, opposite the Meriam House.[124] The site of this barn, which was replaced by a smaller structure in 1940-1941, is evident by the remains of its stone foundation. No structures are standing on the site today, which is overgrown with weeds, nor are any photographs of the circa-1898 Burke barn known.

New Front Doorway, Circa 1900

A modern new doorway replaced the circa-1820 Federal-style doorway of the Meriam House around 1900, based on the photographic documentation. This occurred after the old barn had been removed from behind the house circa 1898, and before electrical poles and wires were installed on Old Bedford Road in 1900-1901. A date of "circa 1900" has therefore been assigned to the alteration.

The new doorway architrave was plain compared to the earlier classical surround, with a simple pediment at the top. The new door was glazed and paneled, with four panels below the glass and two panels above it. A clear view of the altered doorway was captured in a photograph of Thomas Burke dated circa 1910 (fig. 15).

Local historian Ruth R. Wheeler wrote the following in 1957 about the front and side doorways:

> Mrs. Burke, Sr. [Rose] told Mrs. Daniel Lothrop that there was a bullet hole made in 1775 in the [South]-East door and the presumption was that a souvenir hunter had bought the door which was replaced by the old front door[,] where a new door with a glass panel was substituted about 1905 [sic].

In other words, the southeast side door appears to have been sold; the old front door was moved to the southeast doorway; and a new glass-panel doorway was installed in the front doorway. Although not mentioned, it is possible that the front doorway's Federal architrave was also sold to the same "souvenir hunter."

An examination of the existing southeast door confirms that this is in fact the original six-panel front door. Whether or not the door that was sold had an authentic "bullet hole made in 1775" is questionable, however, because the doorway is part of the large kitchen addition built circa 1810. It is possible, although not likely, that an old door from the house had been installed in the new southeast doorway circa 1810.

[124] Conversation with Salvatore Muscato of 45 Old Bedford Rd., August 4, 1993; and with Alice Burke Hargrove of 82 Old Bedford Rd., August 17, 1993.

Electrical Wiring, 1900-1901

Poles for electric lines were installed on the east side of Old Bedford Road to Meriam's Corner in 1900-1901.[125] Photographs taken shortly after indicate that two electrical poles were placed on the short stretch of road between the Meriam House and the memorial stone at the corner. The house was presumably connected to the electrical lines at this time.

It is interesting to note that one colorized post card of the house, taken sometime after the new Burke house was built in 1903-1904, shows no electrical poles on Old Bedford Road (fig. 14). The likely explanation is that the poles were considered to be unsightly and were artistically "removed," using a technique such as airbrushing.

Thomas J. Burke House, 1903-1904

A new house was erected in 1903-1904 on Old Bedford Road, across from the Meriam-Burke House, by Thomas J. Burke—the son of Thomas and Rose Burke.

The house had not yet been built (or at least completed) by the time of the tax valuation of May 1, 1903, in which no listing appears for Thomas J. Burke. Construction was certainly underway, however, by April 1, 1904, when the senior Burkes conveyed 3 acres of land "with buildings" to their son.[126] The house appears to have been completed by May 1, 1904, when the tax assessment for that year listed Thomas J. Burke as having a house valued at $1,500, on a 3-acre lot valued at $300.

Thomas J. Burke probably built the house for his new bride, Ellen T. Dee, whom he wed on December 31, 1903. Thomas J. and Ellen raised their five children here: Katherine A. (born 1905), John H. (1907), Mary Alice (1909), Thomas J., Jr. (1914), and Gerard J. (1916).[127]

The earliest-known photograph of the new house is a post card view of the south elevation dated sometime before November 6, 1910 (fig. 14). The style of the 2 1/2-story house is Dutch Colonial, having a gambrel roof, shed dormers, and a large front porch. The stone foundation had been built using some of the stones from the wall on the east side of Old Bedford Road, between the Meriam-Burke house and the memorial stone.[128] The shingle siding was originally stained green.[129]

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[125] Donna Salvey, Concord Municipal Light Company, to Barbara Yocum, Nov. 29, 1993. Ms. Salvey obtained the information from the "Commissioner's Report."

[126] Middlesex County Deed, Book 3090, p. 154; the sales price was "$1.00 and other considerations."

[127] Records of Births, Marriages and Deaths, Special Collections, CFPL.

[128] Alice Burke Hargrove to Barbara Yocum, Sept. 21, 1993.

[129] The original color of siding shingles was observed by restoration carpenters, who replaced the old shingles with new shingles in 1993. The house was painted brown with white trim in 1993.

Schoolhouse Remodeled as Residence, 1903-1904

Thomas Burke purchased the old circa-1853 East Quarter School House, and its 80-square-rod lot, from "the Inhabitants of Concord" on September 30, 1893, for $500. He thus reclaimed the land that had been sold in 1852 by Rufus Meriam to the Town of Concord for the purpose of building the schoolhouse. The schoolhouse was most likely abandoned by 1893, based on the deed of that date; it notes, "said school house and lot not being in use now for school purposes."[130]

Thomas Burke appears to have made no improvements to the old schoolhouse during the period 1894-1903, according to the tax valuations for the "School House" and its lot. These valuations were $275/$200 for the years 1894-1895, and $300/$100 for the years 1896-1903. The building may have been left vacant or used for storage during that time.

Thomas Burke finally conveyed the lot "with the building thereon" to his son, James E. Burke, on October 24, 1903.[131] Two months later, James obtained a mortgage for $1,000. from the Middlesex Institution for Savings.[132] The money was apparently used to renovate the old school building as a house, based on the tax assessment dated May 1, 1904, that lists James E. Burke as having a "House School" valued at $1,200, and a lot valued at $200.

A local history of Concord, which was annotated in 1915, noted the following about the old schoolhouse on Lexington Road:

> The school-house was bought some fifteen or eighteen years ago by James Burke, and remodeled into a dwelling. After a short time it was sold again, and is now owned by a Mrs. Hartwell and occupied by a tenant.[133]

James Burke, in fact, had his mortgage foreclosed on April 18, 1905; Carrie W. Hartwell became the owner of record on July 3, 1915.[134] The remodeled schoolhouse was next owned by Ernest R. Greene (1919), Dennis and Mildred Horne (1924), Antonio Palumbo (1926), Joseph Puccia (1942), and Frank and Maria C. Palumbo (1945-).[135]

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[130] Middlesex County Deed, Book 2228, p. 481. Burke obtained a mortgage of $250 from Prescott Keyes, which is recorded in Book 2228, p. 482. The discharge of the mortgage is recorded in Book 2585, p. 440.

[131] Middlesex County Deed, Book 3068, p. 40; the sales price was $1.

[132] Middlesex County Deed, Book 3075, p. 391.

[133] Edward Jarvis, *Houses and People in Concord, 1810 to 1820* (typescript, 1882; annotated by Adams Tolman, 1915), p. 125.

[134] Middlesex County Mortgage, Book 3982, p. 352.

[135] Middlesex County Deeds, Book 4279, p. 273; Book 4799, p. 47; and Book 4944, p. 98; the ownership of Joseph Puccia, and Frank and Maria Palumbo was deduced from the tax assessment records.

New Bathroom, Circa 1903-1904

Mary Alice Burke, younger daughter of Thomas J. and Ellen T. Burke, and granddaughter of Thomas and Rose Burke, is now Alice Burke Hargrove. She recalled in 1993 that her grandfather had installed a second-story bathroom in the house (see Appendix D). Before then, an "inside-outside" toilet had been located in the carriage shed, in the front southeast corner.

The exact date of this improvement is not known. Surviving physical evidence is not helpful, because the bathroom was later remodeled in the 1950's. A feasible date, however, is 1903-1904, when Thomas Burke's sons were building a new house across the street and remodeling the old schoolhouse as a residence. It seems likely that some renovation work may also have taken place at the old Meriam-Burke house at that time.

Remembrances of Alice Burke Hargrove

Alice Burke Hargrove, who now lives on Old Bedford Road in the house north of the Meriam-Burke House, has vivid memories of the house when her grandparents lived there. These she shared with Barbara Yocum during two brief visits to the Meriam-Burke House on August 17, 1993, and September 21, 1993. Transcripts of the information conveyed by Mrs. Hargrove may be found in Appendix D of this report.

Mrs. Hargrove also generously loaned copies of four photographs that show Burke family members and the Meriam-Burke House. All four views are included in this report as figures 11, 13, 15 and 16.

Deaths of Thomas and Rose Burke, 1921

Thomas and Rose Burke both died in 1921, within one month of each other: Thomas on March 10, and Rose on April 15. Throughout their lives, from 1871 until 1921, they had made their home the Meriam-Burke House at Meriam's Corner. The Burkes' daughter, Annie A., appears to have remained at the house for at least a short while, based on the tax assessment dated April 1, 1922, that lists her at the house on Old Bedford Road.

Ellen Burke

Deeds Dated 1922

The Meriam-Burke farm was purchased by Thomas J. Dee from the administrators of the Burke estate in 1922. Dee, described as "being unmarried," was most likely a relative of Ellen T. Burke, Thomas J. Burke's wife, whose maiden name was "Dee."[136]

[136] Middlesex County Deed, Book 4569, p. 384.

Ellen T. Burke became the next owner of record, buying the property for "one dollar" on December 21, 1922. The sale was subject to a mortgage, held by Dee, for the amount of $8,000.[137] The property was then described as "A certain parcel of land containing in whole fifty acres more or less, with a dwelling-house, barn and outbuildings thereon...." Excluded were the former schoolhouse lot, conveyed to James Burke in 1903, and the 3-acre parcel across the street, conveyed to Thomas J. Burke in 1904.

Tenants, 1925-1951

Ellen T. Burke lived across the road from the Meriam-Burke House in the house built in 1903-1904 by her husband, Thomas J. Burke. The Meriam-Burke House was leased to tenants during most of the years she owned the property, 1922-1951. Alice Burke Hargrove remembered the names of five of the families who leased the house. These were: Curtains, Willard, Marks, Uhler, and DeCost.[138]

Subsequent research in the Concord Free Public Library identified the following tenants as recorded in the "List of Persons Residing in Town of Concord" for the years 1921-1951:[139]

NAME, AGE & OCCUPATION	DATE(S)
John H. Driscoll (60, Farmer)	1921-1922[140]
Perry Kent, Farmer (41, Farmer)	1921
Uhler, Kathleen (25, Housewife)	1925
Uhler, Alfred (37, Dealer in Antiques)	
Burke, Annie W.	1926
Willard, Capitola (40, Housewife)	1928
Willard, Edgar L. (40, Salesman)	
Marks, Mabel W. (49, Housewife)	1929-1931
Marks, Louis (57, Retired)	

[137] Middlesex County Deed, Book 4569, p. 384.

[138] Conversation with Barbara Yocum, August 17, 1993. See Appendix D.

[139] The lists are dated April 1st for the years 1921-1934, and January 1st for the years 1935-1951. No addresses are given on Old Bedford Road, but it appears that the occupants of the Meriam-Burke House were generally listed first on that road.

[140] The Federal Census for 1910 lists John H. Driscoll as an Irish servant and farm laborer who was then living with the Thomas J. Burke family. Exactly when he moved across the road is not known. The directory for 1921 lists Annie W. Burke as boarding on Bedford Road (presumably with her parents), as she did in earlier years. How long she continued to reside at the house is not known.

Waters, Peter (30, Laborer)	1933
Dole, Thalia H. (37, Housewife) Dole, Harold S. (42, Musician; listed as Engineer, 1943)	1934-1947
Dole, Diana (21, Student)	1941
[VACANT HOUSE	1948]
DeCoste, Helen C. (36, Housewife) DeCoste, Joseph I. (40, Salesman)	1949-1951

No record was found of the "Curtains" family on Old Bedford Road in the "List of Residents." However, long-time neighbor Salvatore Muscato also remembers that Dan Curtains, the Concord Chief of Police, lived in the house at one time. His absence from the list may indicate that he was there for only a short period of time, or was inadvertently omitted.

Fire, Circa 1925

A "fireplace fire" occurred in the house during the tenancy of the Uhler family (sometimes found spelled "Euhler"), according to Alice Burke Hargrove. It is known from the "List of Persons Residing in Town of Concord" that the Uhlers were living on Old Bedford Road on April 1, 1925. Their former residence on April 1, 1924, had been on Sudbury Road, and they were no longer listed on Old Bedford Road on April 1, 1926. The Uhlers, in other words, appear to have lived at the house for less than two years, having moved from Sudbury Road to Old Bedford Road sometime after April 1, 1925, and from Old Bedford Road to an unknown location sometime before April 1, 1926. The fire that occurred during their stay has therefore been dated "circa 1925."

Attempts to obtain more information about the fire have met with no success. A brief scan of the local Concord newspaper for the period of Uhler occupancy found no reference to a fire at the Meriam-Burke House. Likewise, two long-time Concord firefighters had no personal knowledge of, nor had they ever heard of, a fire at the house.[141]

Physical evidence of the fire survives in the house in the form of charred floor-framing members in the attic. The framing of the attic roof and side walls is new, having probably been replaced shortly after the fire. Charring also remains at first-story level in the circa-1810 addition: on paneling at the top of the cellar stairway, underneath the present stairway from the first to the second stories. Exactly where in the house the fire originated is not known. Possibly a fire in the

[141] One fireman is Thomas Tombeno, who began working as a firefighter in 1935, and who served as Chief of the Fire Department from 1959 to 1974. He said there was no fire at the Meriam House when he worked for the Fire Department. The other fireman is Jack Chisholm, a retired fireman, who served with the Fire Department for 28 years. Mr. Chisholm had an interest in the old records of the Fire Department, and recalled in a telephone conversation with Barbara Yocum on Sept. 20, 1993, that the old log books date from the 1870's to about 1910; he knows of no log books for the 1920's-1940's.

fireplace of one of the front bedrooms spread to both the roof and the back stairway of the kitchen addition.

Extensive renovations were made to the house by Ellen Burke's husband, Thomas J. Burke, after the fire. These included the following work items.[142]

Exterior

- New glazed door installed at the back doorway.
- New six-over-six window sashes installed in the second-story windows.
- Dormer with two windows installed on the back (north) side of the house.
- New roof framing, sheathing boards, and attic side walls installed.
- New shingle siding probably installed on the east side of the house.
- Exterior painted dark green, and trim painted white.

Interior, First Story

- New floorboards (southern yellow pine, 3 1/4 inches wide) installed in the southeast parlor (Room 108) and the northwest room off the kitchen (Room 103).
- New back stairway and tongue-and-groove paneling installed in the circa-1810 kitchen addition.

Interior, Second Story

- New floorboards (southern yellow pine, 3 1/4 inches wide) installed in the rooms of the circa-1810 kitchen addition.
- New partition walls and window dormer installed in the center room (Room 205) of the circa-1810 kitchen addition.
- Doorway relocated and new four-panel door installed between the southeast bedroom (Room 209) and the back hall (Room 206).
- New closet and closet door installed in the southwest bedroom (Room 202).
- Attic entrance relocated to the back hall of the circa-1810 kitchen addition.

[142] Identifying the post-fire renovations was accomplished by talking with Alice Burke Hargrove, who said her father had built the north dormer when the house was leased to tenants, and by comparing the paint layers associated with the dormer with the paint layers on other features of the house.

Interior, Attic

- Fire-damaged roof framing and side walls replaced by new framing.
- New tongue-and-groove floorboards installed.
- Attic stairway on the west side of the chimney replaced by a ladderway in the northeast corner of the attic.

Willow Pond Restaurant Lot, 1928-1977

The "Willow Pond Kitchen" is an informal, one-story restaurant situated on the north side of Lexington Road, east of the former East Quarter Schoolhouse. The building sits on a lot that is a portion of the 4-acre meadow originally purchased by Ephraim Meriam from his cousin John Meriam in 1803. The land remained as part of the Meriam farm through 1871, and was next conveyed to the Burke family in 1871 and again in 1922.

The tax assessment records indicate that Ellen Burke was first taxed for an eating establishment on one-half acre of land in 1928, and continued to be so taxed through 1946.[143] It is not known whether she leased the property or was the proprietor. The early development and growth of the site when it was owned by Ellen Burke is documented in the tax records as follows:

DATE(S)	BUILDING(S) & VALUE(S)	
1928-1929	Clam-bake house	$350.
1930-1933	Building	$350.
1934-1936	McManus stand	$1,200.
	Stand	300.
1937-1938	Ice-cream stand	$1,200.
	Clam house	300.
1939-1946	Lunch-room	$1,200.
	Small lunch room	300.

[143] The half-acre of land was valued at $250 for the years 1928 through 1946.

Ellen Burke finally sold approximately 53,330 square feet (or 1.22 acres) of the parcel, with the buildings thereon, to Ross and Emily Ranson on November 29, 1946.[144] The Ransons continued to develop the site during their ownership, as is documented in the tax records:

DATE(S)	BUILDING(S) & VALUE(S)	
1947	Lunch-room	$1,000.
	Small lunch-room	300.
1948	Lunch room	$1,800.
	Garage	200.
1949-1950	Lunch room	$3,000.
	Garage	300.
	Trailer	1,500.
1951-1956	Lunch room	$3,000.
	Garage	300.
1957-1958	Lunch room	$3,600.
	Garage	150.

The last owners of record are Peter and Mary Sowkow, who purchased the property in 1958-1959.[145] Their tax valuations through 1977 were as follows:

DATE(S)	BUILDING(S) & VALUES	
1959-1962	Lunch room	$3,600.
	Garage	150.
1963	Lunch Room	$4,400.
	Garage	150.
1964	Lunch Room	$13,200.
	Parking Area	450.
1965-1968	Lunch Room	$14,400.
	Parking Area	450.
1969-1977	Commercial	$27,940.

[144] Middlesex County Deed, Book 7082, p. 12.

[145] Middlesex County Deed, Book 11168, p. 297.

New Barn and Garage, 1940-1941

Gerard Burke, the youngest child of Thomas J. and Ellen Burke, remembers that the old (circa-1898) barn on the west side of Old Bedford Road was replaced with a new, smaller barn around 1944.[146] Neighbor Salvatore Muscato remembers the new barn as being similar in style to the garage that was built about the same time next to Thomas J. Burke's house.

A review of tax valuations for the 1940's indicates that the barn and garage were both built sometime between 1940 and 1941. The "barn" was valued in 1940 at $400, and in 1941 at $200, suggesting a smaller structure. Similarly, Thomas J. Burke was assessed in 1940 for a "Garage, unfinished," and in 1941 for a "Garage" valued at $200.

This smaller barn was torn down when the Burke family stopped farming, according to Gerard Burke. It is not known exactly when this occurred. The garage, on the other hand, is still standing today.

[146] The conversation with Gerard Burke was relayed by neighbor Salvatore Muscato to Barbara Yocum, Aug. 4, 1993; see Appendix D.

Figure 5. Earliest-known exterior view of the Meriam House, taken after the memorial stone was installed in 1885, and before the barn was demolished sometime between 1898 and 1899.

Figure 6. Meriam House exterior, view looking northeast, circa 1899.

Figure 7. Meriam House exterior, view looking northeast, circa 1899.

Figure 8. Meriam House exterior, view looking northeast, circa 1899.

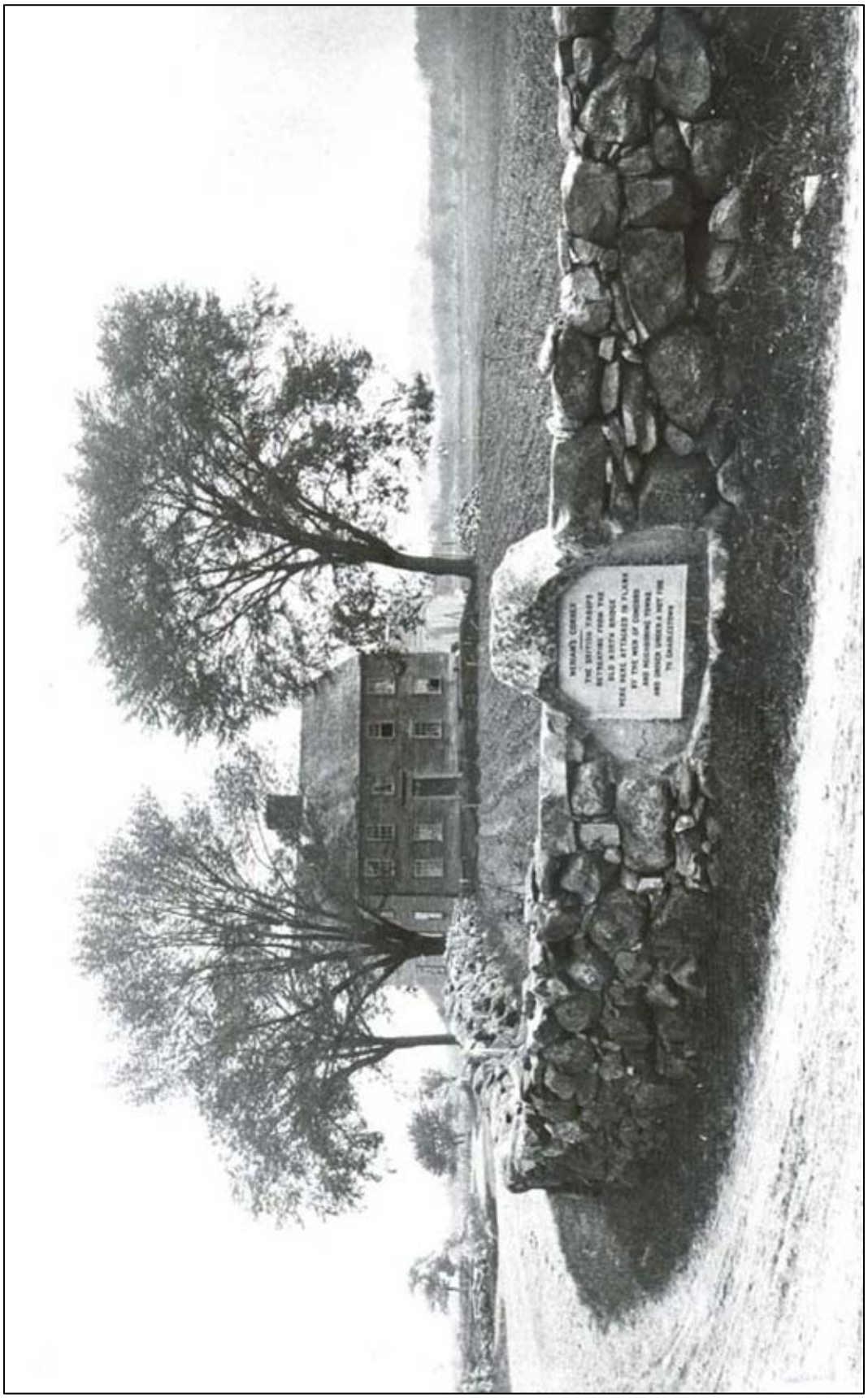

Figure 9. Meriam House exterior, view looking northeast, circa 1899.

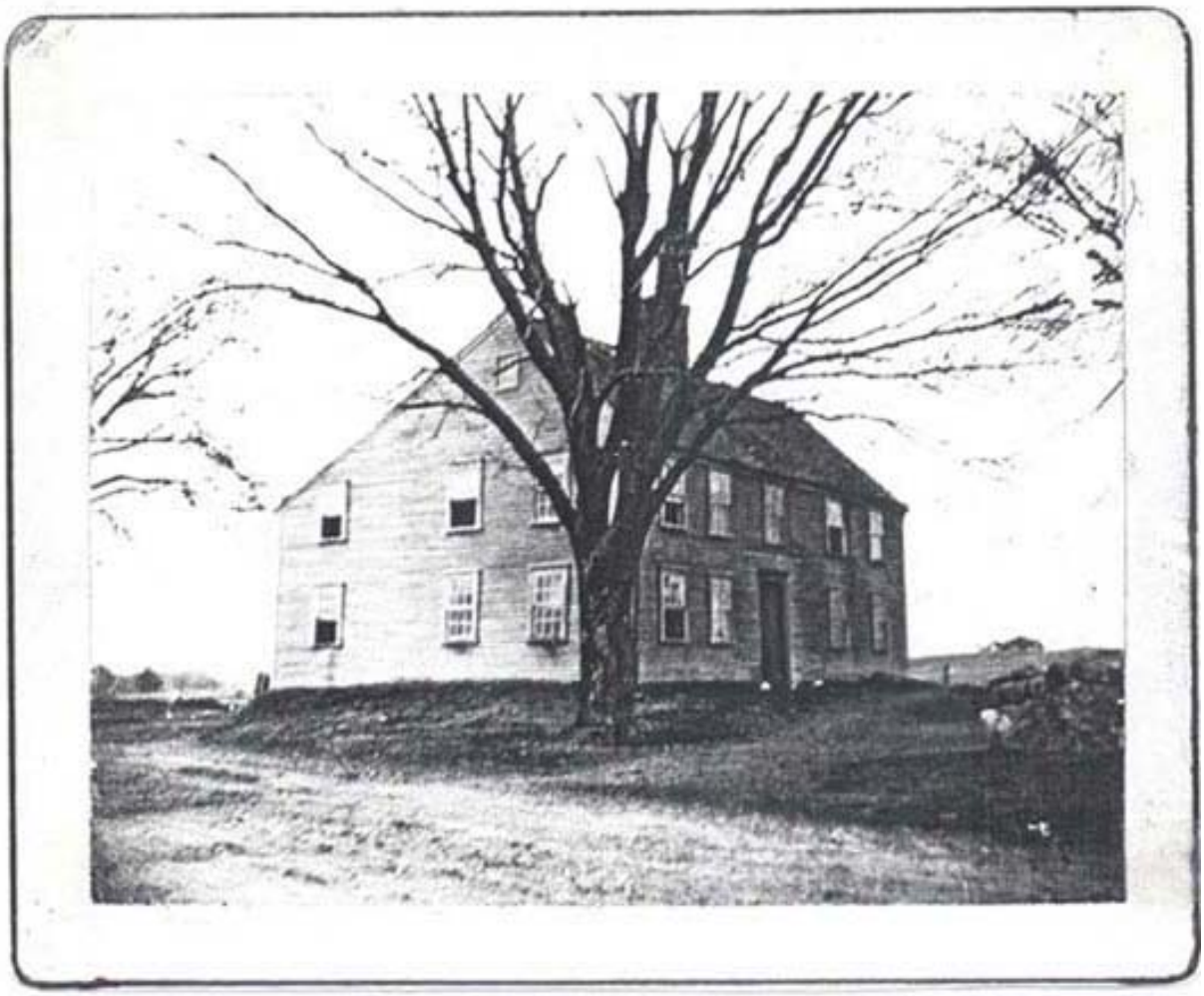

Figure 10. Meriam House exterior, view looking northeast, circa 1900.

Figure 11. Thomas J. Burke and horse “Dandy Jim” in front of the Meriam House, circa 1900-1903.

Figure 12. View looking northeast, showing the Meriam House and the former East Quarter School House, circa 1905.

Figure 13. Rose and Thomas Burke, in front of the Meriam House, circa 1905.

Figure 14. Meriam and Burke Houses, view looking north, circa 1910.

Figure 15. Thomas Burke in front of the Meriam House, circa 1910.

Figure 16. Back view of the Meriam House, circa 1912.

Figure 17. Meriam House, view looking northwest, circa 1937.

INGRAHAM FAMILY OWNERSHIP

James W. and Margaret A. Ingraham were the third, and last, family to own the Meriam House. They purchased the property from Ellen T. Burke in 1951; owned it until 1987; and retained life tenancy until the death of James Ingraham in 1991.

Deed Dated 1951

Ellen T. Burke conveyed a small portion of the Meriam-Burke farm, including the old Meriam-Burke House, to James W. Ingraham and his wife Margaret on February 7, 1951. The property deed of that date described the parcel as follows:

> That parcel of land in said Concord with the buildings thereon bounded and described as follows: Beginning at a stone bound on South side of Old Bedford Road near Lexington Road, thence N. 56° 17′ 45″ E. a distance of 42.56 ft. along Old Bedford Road to a stone bound; thence along a curved line, radius equal 1820.71 ft., a distance of 232.20 feet to a stone bound; thence N. 48° 59′ 15″ E. a distance of 63.75 feet to a stone bound at other land of Ellen T. Burke. Then along land of said Burke S. 54° 50′ 45″ E. a distance of 123.56 feet to a stone bound thence S. 32° 19′ 45″ W. a distance of 168.12 feet to a stone bound near a brook; thence Southwesterly along said line of Brook approximately 245 feet to street line at Lexington Road; thence Northwesterly along Lexington Road on a curved radius, equal 790.40 feet, approximately 155 feet to a stone bound; thence on another curved line, radius equal 47.33 feet, a distance of 98.44 feet to point of beginning. Above described parcel containing 77,000 square feet [about 1.77 acres] more or less.

A survey of the land, which had been made in January 1951, was recorded with the deed and is included in this report as figure 18. The plan shows the outline of the house, but no other structures on the property.

James and Margaret Ingraham

James and Margaret Ingraham relocated to their new home in Concord from Newton, Massachusetts, in 1951, according to the "List of Persons Residing in Town of Concord." This list also indicates that James W. was born in 1908 and Margaret was born in 1910, making them about 43 and 41 years old, respectively, in 1951. James Ingraham was described as a "Building Superintendent" for the years 1952-1953, and an "Architectural Engineer" for the years 1954-1965.[147] Margaret was listed during those years as a "Housewife."

[147] Mr. Muscato remembers that James Ingraham was a long-time employee of Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Both of the Ingrahams had an interest in antique furniture, according to their neighbor Salvatore Muscato. He remembers that they would go antique hunting on weekends, and store their furniture finds in two of the larger outbuildings on the property.[148]

The Ingrahams also appear to have run an antiques business out of their house for a short while, between the years 1952-1956. A one-year permit was granted by the Town of Concord Board of Appeals on April 28, 1952, after which it was determined that "the use of the premises...has not proved to be detrimental or injurious to the neighborhood." A three-year extension was therefore granted the next year, with the following provisions:

> 1. That there shall be no show-window or other external feature not customarily in dwelling houses;
>
> 2. That there shall be no exterior display of merchandise or other advertising of such use, except a sign or signs not exceeding three square feet in aggregate area, the design and size to be submitted to the Board for approval;
>
> 3. That such use shall continue only during the occupation of the premises by at least one of the petitioners, and shall cease on May 1, 1956, unless an extension thereof shall be duly approved by the Board.[149]

No continuation request is in the files for the year 1956, so it is assumed that the Ingrahams were no longer operating their antique business by that time.

Margaret and James Ingraham had no surviving children.[150] Mrs. Ingraham lived the rest of her life at the house at Meriam's Corner. She died in Concord, at the age of 80, at the "Walden House Healthcare" facility.[151] Mr. Ingraham remarried, and relocated to a new house in Yarmouth, Maine, in 1990. He died there on December 27, 1991.[152]

Restoration and Renovation Work, 1951-1969

In addition to their avocational interest in antique furniture, James and Margaret Ingraham also took a great interest in their historic house. In their letter to the Concord Board of Appeals dated April 15, 1953, they headed the addressee portion of the letter with "Old Meriam House."

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[148] Conversation with Barbara Yocum, Aug. 4, 1993.

[149] Files of the Concord Building Department.

[150] Mr. Muscato says the Ingrahams had no children, but he remembers being told that a child had died.

[151] Certificate of Death, The Commonwealth of Massachusetts. James Ingraham is listed on the certificate as being a "Dealer" in the business of "Primitive Art and Antiques."

[152] Offices of the Town Clerk, Town of Concord and Town of Yarmouth. Unfortunately, no interviews or oral histories were recorded with the Ingrahams by the National Park Service.

The Ingrahams' involvement with their house was also noted several years later, in a report written in June 1958:

> The most recent owner of the old two-story dwelling...claims that evidence on the huge central chimney points to a date of origin not later than 1639 [sic]....
>
> This truly important house was owned by Meriam descendants until 1871. It then fell gradually into a state of neglect and disrepair until it was purchased about a decade ago by the present proprietor, who was particularly interested in its aspects of both age and tradition. A few improvements have been added to make it convenient for modern living, especially in the kitchen part of the lean-to and an adjoining shed at the east end. The distinctly early architectural features, however, which give the house its real character of antiquity, such as the chamfered summer beams supporting the first-story ceiling and the great fireplaces on the central chimney, have been saved and treated in such a manner that nearly perfect restoration could be achieved.[153]

It is clear from the report that the Ingrahams had undertaken some work on the house after they purchased it in February 1951. This is also reflected in the tax assessment records, in which significant increases in the value of the house are recorded for the years 1952-1956, as follows:

YEAR	OWNER	DESCRIPTION	VALUE
1951	Burke	House (Old)	$1,800
1952	Ingraham	House	2,500
1953	"	House	2,900
1954	"	House & 2-car garage	2,900
1955	"	" "	3,400
1956	"	" "	3,400
		Gardenhouse	200

[153] *The Lexington-Concord Battle Road: Interim Report of the Boston National Historic Sites Commission to the Congress of the United States*, pp. 166-168.

Unfortunately, details of the work performed by James and Margaret are difficult to ascertain, because neither is alive today, and there are no surviving children. Mr. Ingraham did remarry, however, and his widow Pauline Ingraham lives in Yarmouth, Maine. A letter was sent to her on September 20, 1993, inquiring if Mr. Ingraham had left any documentation of his work on the house in Concord, such as photographs, contractors' bills, architectural drawings, or a record book. She replied on November 11, 1993, that she had not found any such materials, although she had not yet gone through all her husband's papers. Furthermore, she thought it might be possible that some paperwork had been discarded when the attic was cleaned out, after the National Park Service took possession of the house.[154]

The restoration and renovation work done by the Ingrahams was therefore identified by talking with long-time neighbor Salvatore Muscato, and with Thomas and Rose Burke's granddaughter, Alice Burke Hargrove (who remembers what the house looked like when her grandparents lived there). Mrs. Hargrove also provided a rare photograph showing the back side of the house dated circa 1912, which was helpful in determining the changes made there (fig. 16). The physical examination of the existing architectural fabric undertaken for this report, including the paint analysis, was also helpful in pinpointing the Ingrahams' alterations.

According to Salvatore Muscato, Mr. Ingraham used a number of contractors to accomplish much of the work on the house. A modern garage replaced the old carriage shed that was in poor repair, and the back shed was renovated as a kitchen.[155] Mr. Muscato assisted by repairing and painting the ceiling in the kitchen. He also helped to pour a concrete foundation in the cellar at the base of the chimney, which began to collapse when the furnace was installed.[156] In the yard, Mr. Muscato provided and planted most of the evergreen trees that exist on the property today.

Alice Burke Hargrove described the house as it looked when her grandparents were in residence (see Appendix D). She also noted the following changes as having been made by the Ingrahams.

- The brick wall was exposed in the front stair hall (Room 101).
- The plaster walls and ceiling were removed from the southwest dining room (Room 102).
- In the old kitchen (Room 104), the kitchen stove, sink, and partition wall were removed; the fireplace was opened; and new windows were installed at the north wall.
- The old dairy shed was converted to a kitchen (Room 107).
- A closet was added to the east entry hall (Room 105).

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[154] Letter from Pauline B. Ingraham (48 North Street, Yarmouth, ME) to Barbara Yocum, Nov. 11, 1993. Some documentation may yet be found, since Mrs. Ingraham plans to look through the remaining papers, which are in cold storage, in the spring when the weather warms.

[155] The new garage appears to have been built between 1952 and 1953, based on the tax records.

[156] Conversation with Barbara Yocum, Aug. 4, 1993. Mr. Muscato does not recall the names of any of the contractors.

- The pantry off the east entry hall (Room 106) was converted to a bathroom, with a new doorway in the north wall and a new window in the east wall.
- The brickwork was exposed at the fireplace in the southeast parlor (Room 108).
- The "indoor-outdoor" toilet was removed from the old carriage shed.
- A "heatolator" was removed from the floor of the southwest bedroom (Room 202).
- The west bathroom and hall (Rooms 203-204) in the second story replaced the room for the "hired girls."
- The brick patio was built on the southeast side of the house.[157]
- Beautiful gardens were planted around the house.

Mrs. Hargrove also remembers that the house was allowed to deteriorate in later years.

New electrical wiring and an oil-burning furnace were both installed in 1951, based on the permits for this work that were found nailed to wood posts in the cellar.

Varnished wide pine boards were installed throughout the house, on both the walls and floors, by the Ingrahams. The wood was reused from elsewhere, perhaps from the old carriage shed, based on the presence of unused square nail holes. Modern square-headed nails attach the woodwork to the walls, but old wrought-iron nails were added randomly to give the woodwork an "antique" look. Crude hand-planing marks are also evident, which was also most likely done to make the paneling look authentic. Finally, the complete absence of any paint remnants is final proof that the woodwork is not original to the house.[158]

The Ingrahams also installed other antique building parts that were not original to the house, such as early paneled doors and door hardware. In addition, some early paneled doors were removed from their original doorways in the first story and reused in new locations throughout the house.[159]

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[157] This may be the "porch" that was valued at $50, and which appeared in the tax records for the first time in 1957.

[158] Some authentic wide-board paneling and floorboards do survive in the southeast parlor, the back rooms, and the southeast bedroom of the house. For details, see "Architectural Description." Mrs. Hargrove was also of the opinion that the wall paneling had been most likely installed by the Ingrahams.

[159] The original locations of the doors were determined based on their characteristic layers of paint, as identified by the paint analysis.

The microscopic analysis of the painted finishes of the house indicates that the exterior color was changed from yellow with white trim to red with white trim around 1951. The next painting changed both the body and trim color to a charcoal gray, which color the house is still painted today.

Inside, multiple layers of paint were removed from the main stairway and selected woodwork in the two front rooms. The southwest room in the first story was also "restored" to its earlier appearance by removing the plaster finishes and exposing the framing.

A new bathroom with pink fixtures was installed in the northwest corner of the second story around 1958, based on the date "JAN 7-1958" embossed on the interior side of the toilet tank cover. The earlier bathroom, on the east side of the second story, also appears to have been remodeled at this time, based on the similar style of the built-in cabinets. Two new closets also appear to have been installed in the back bedroom about this time.

Outside, three small outbuildings were assembled in the back and side yards. The earliest was most likely the small garden house on the north side of the house. It appears to be a "Walpole"-style building, which was a prefabricated structure made by Walpole Woodworkers, Inc., of Walpole, Massachusetts. A booklet featuring *Walpole Small Buildings*, copyrighted 1956, was found in the cellar on Mr. Ingraham's workbench (fig. 19). Within the booklet are sketches of elevations and plans in pencil, suggesting that Mr. Ingraham was either considering ordering a Walpole Building, or was using the booklet for design ideas. Whatever the case, the small building was built around 1956, based on the tax valuation for that year that listed a "Gardenhouse" for the first time, valued at $200.

A second small building was moved to a site on the east side of the house in 1960, according to an approved application for a building permit dated October 5, 1960.[160] The application describes the building as a "Tool House," measuring 10 feet by 16 feet, that was being moved from Cambridge to Concord. A small sketch of the floor plan shows the structure as having a doorway and window in the front end, one window in the back end, two windows on the left side, and one window on the right side—the same configuration as the existing building. The permit further describes the building as having shingle siding, a gable roof with roll roofing, a wood floor, a plasterboard interior finish, and electric lights. The cost of the structure was $75. Interestingly, the new building was not added to the tax rolls until 1969, when it was listed as a "dwelling" valued at $640.

A third outbuilding resembling a small cottage was added to the east yard sometime before 1969, when it was listed in the tax records as a "dwelling" valued at $650. No other documentation exists for this structure. It is 1 1/2 stories high with a gable roof; it has an open, shed-roof porch on the front side, wood-shingle siding, and windows with six-over-six wooden sashes.

[160] A copy of the application is in the files of the Concord Building Department.

Chimney Rebuilt, 1984

The brick chimney appears to have been rebuilt above the level of the roof in 1984. The date is based on an inscription, "CW + MG 84," in the portland-cement parging that covers the top surface of the chimney. In addition, the mortar between the bricks is the same type as the parging, and the bricks themselves are a mixture of reused exterior and interior (charred and salmon) types. Finally, comparison of a photograph of the house taken in 1963 (fig. 20) with the existing chimney indicates that the brickwork pattern has changed, and that the chimney is shorter today than it was in 1963.

United States Government Taking, 1987

Public Law 86-321, dated September 21, 1959, authorized the Secretary of the Interior to acquire lands designated as being within Minute Man National Historical Park. Because the Ingrahams' property was defined as being within the park (Tract No. 04-106), it was therefore within the jurisdiction of the United States Government to acquire the property by condemnation. This it did on April 21, 1987, when the fair market value and just compensation for the property were determined to be $600,000.[161]

The terms of the condemnation stipulated that the Ingrahams were to retain "Life Estate," that is, the right to use and occupy the property during their lives. Furthermore, the property was to remain in use as a single-family, noncommercial residence. No alterations were to be made without first obtaining written permission from the National Park Service. Any construction work performed was to be in accordance with "The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings." Finally, the National Park Service was responsible for maintaining the grounds, while the Ingrahams were responsible for paying the taxes and other assessments.[162]

Both Margaret and James Ingraham are said to have been in ill heath in the latter years of their lives. Little maintenance work was therefore done on the house, and it was allowed to deteriorate.[163] Mrs. Ingraham died shortly after the condemnation, at the age of 80, on October 6, 1988.

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[161] Civil Action No. 78-0050-MA, Tract No. 04-106; United States of America, Plaintiff, v. 1.77 Acres of Land, More or Less, Minute Man National Historical Park, James and Margaret Ingraham, Defendants; "Final Judgment Based on Stipulation as to Compensation for Tract No. 04-106"; United States District Court, District of Massachusetts.

[162] Civil Action No. 78-0050-MA, Tract No. 04-106.

[163] Conversation with Alice Burke Hargrove, Aug. 17, 1993; see Appendix D.

Despite his failing health, Mr. Ingraham remarried after his wife's death. He and his new wife Pauline continued to live in the house for a short while. A new handicapped-accessible toilet room was installed for him in the old first-story pantry.[164] The Ingrahams left the house around March 1990, when they moved to a new house in Yarmouth, Maine.[165] Mr. Ingraham died there the next year, on December 27, 1991.

The house at Meriam's Corner therefore appears to have sat vacant during the last years of James Ingraham's "Life Estate"—from March 1990 through December 1991.

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[164] Dan Detillo, MIMA Chief of Protection, to Barbara Yocum, Sept. 8, 1993. He remembers that Pauline Ingraham had a nursing background.

[165] The last month of occupation was probably March 1990, based on a calendar bearing that date in the kitchen.

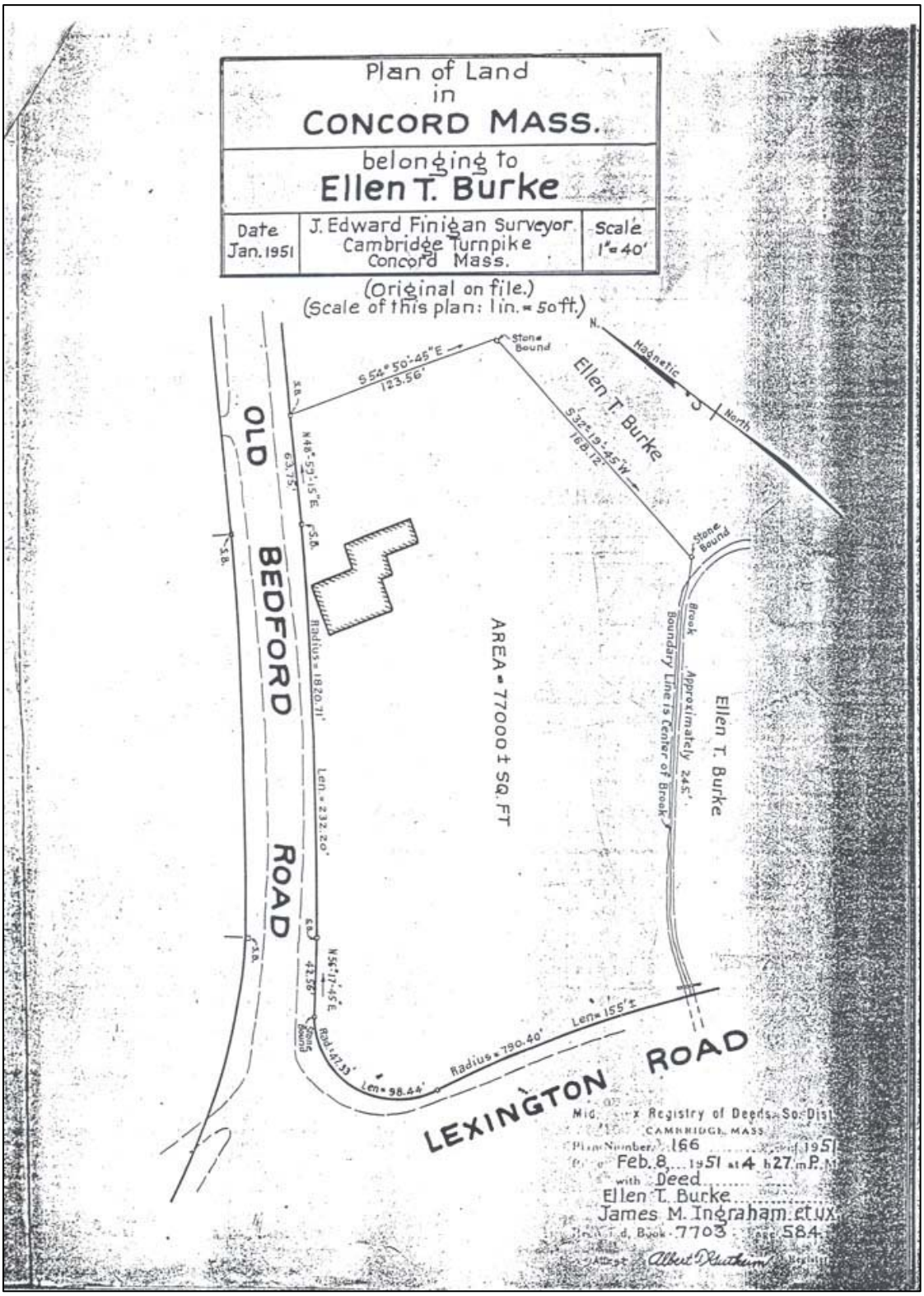

Figure 18. Plan dated Jan. 1951, showing the property conveyed from Ellen T. Burke to James and Margaret Ingraham.

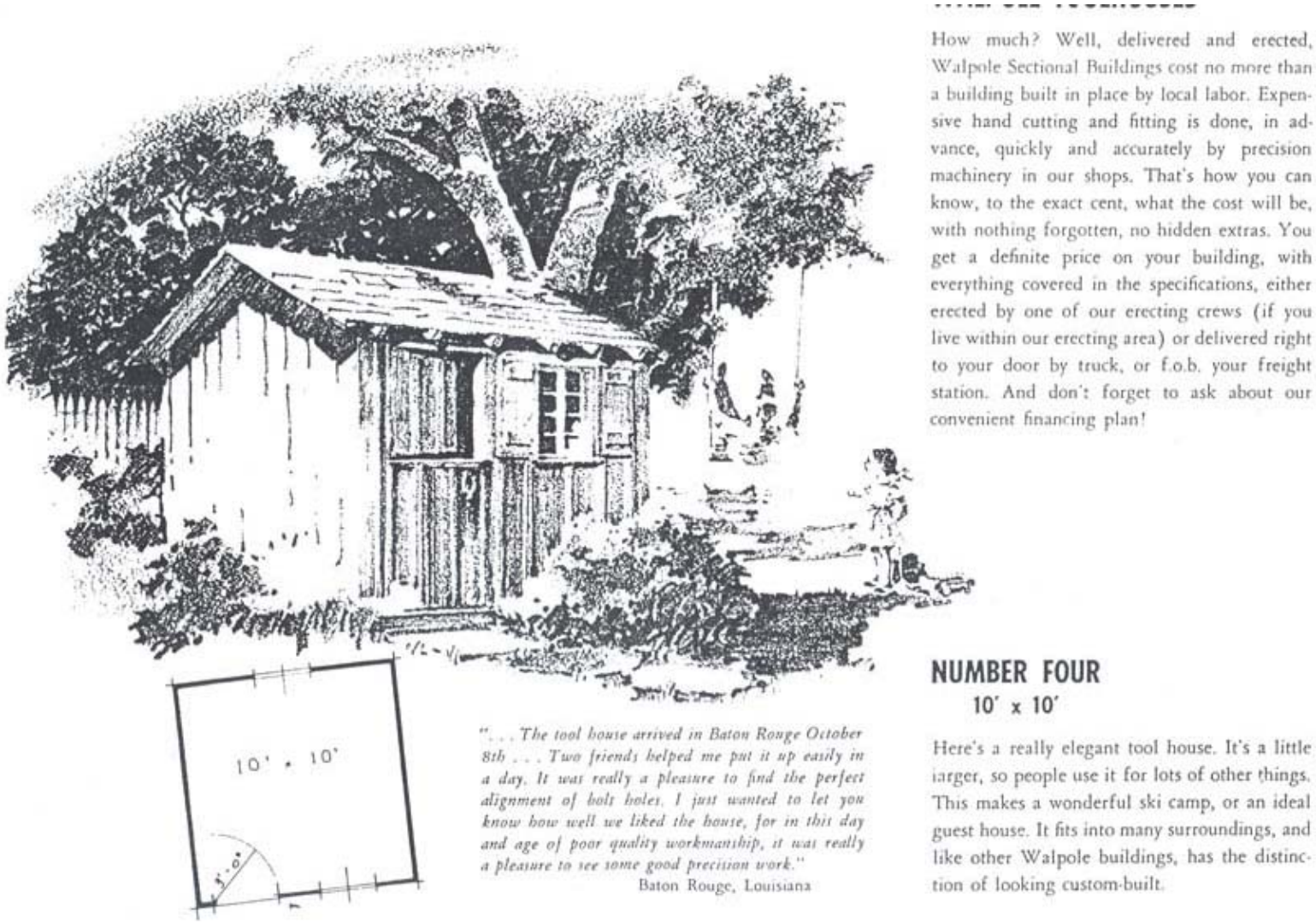

Figure 19. Excerpt showing a "Walpole Toolhouse," from the 1956 catalog of *Walpole Small Buildings*, found in the cellar of the Meriam House.

Figure 20. Meriam House exterior, view looking northeast, 1963.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE OWNERSHIP

The United States government assumed full responsibility for the Meriam House property upon the death of life-tenant James W. Ingraham on December 27, 1991. The property thus became part of the National Park Service's Minute Man National Historical Park.

The first action of the National Park Service was to request Mr. Ingraham's widow to remove the furniture and other personal belongings from the house. No one, apparently, asked Mrs. Ingraham if she had any records on the house that might be of importance, since she wrote in November 1993, "It's too bad they didn't ask me before I cleaned out the house." It is possible, therefore, that any documentation of Mr. Ingraham's restoration and renovation work in the 1950's was thrown away.

Because the National Park Service had no immediate plans to inhabit or restore the house, work was therefore done to "mothball" it. Water was drained from all the plumbing fixtures and the water meter was removed from the cellar. This made the heating system obsolete, due to the fact that it is a hot-water system. Ventilation of the interior, particularly in the winter months, therefore became a critical issue, and louvered sashes were installed in selected windows in the first, second, and attic stories. Two fans activated by a rheostat were also installed in the first story: a window model in a north window, and a floor model in the southeast parlor. Makeshift white curtains were hung in all the first-story windows to screen the vacant appearance of the house. A security light on a timer was also strategically placed in the second-story hall. Finally, a security and fire-detection system with remote dialer was installed.

Not until December 1992 was an initial "Task Directive" prepared for a historic structure report on the Meriam House. Documentary research commenced in March of that year, followed by a physical investigation of the house. Research was conducted simultaneously for a cultural landscape report on the property.[166] An archeological investigation has not yet been undertaken.

[166] By Brian Donahue, Historian.

III. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Introduction

The chapter that follows is a description of the structural and architectural elements—both exterior and interior—of the Meriam House. A concerted effort was made to present this information in a logical and organized manner. To that end, doorway and window openings were assigned numbers, as were the interior rooms in the first and second stories. The keys to these numbers can be found in figures 29 through 32.

The architectural descriptions define the physical fabric of the house as it exists today. This is accomplished on the following pages using both written descriptions and schematic drawings. Every attempt was made to date the various components of the house based on the documentary and physical evidence.

This section does not include descriptions on the state of deterioration of the architectural elements. This may be found in Appendix F, "Survey of Existing Conditions and Recommendations."

Summary Evolution

The Meriam House is a two-story, wood-frame dwelling with three wood-frame additions on the back (north) side. This large, rambling structure attained its present form through evolution over the years. A summary of that evolution, which is described in detail in Chapter II "Architectural History," is as follows:

- Ca. 1705 — Original house built by Joseph Meriam (1677-1750). It appears to have been two stories on the east side, with a cellar underneath, and one story on the west side.

- Ca. 1725 — A second story added to the west side of the house by Joseph Meriam (1677-1750), perhaps to accommodate his growing family.

- Ca. 1743 — Chimney rebuilt and a new, one-story kitchen addition constructed on the back side of the house (replacing the original kitchen in the west room). The new chimney included two bake ovens—one for the east room and one for the back kitchen. The change may have been made when Nathan Meriam and Abigail married in 1743, and set up housekeeping in the house with Nathan's parents.

- Ca. 1810 — A large, 1-1/2 story kitchen addition, with enlarged cellar beneath, replaced the existing one-story kitchen. The date "ca. 1810" is based on increases in the tax valuations for then-owner William Swan, and the early machine-cut nails used to hold the clapboards.

- Ca. 1820 — The exterior of the house was modernized with new windows (with six-over-six sashes), new doorways, and new siding. Inside, new Federal-style woodwork was installed in all four rooms of the main house, and the front stairway was rebuilt. Other work included a shed addition built on the north side of the new 1 1/2-story kitchen addition, with an attached carriage shed on the east side. The date ca. 1820 is based on an increase in William Swan's tax assessment, and physical evidence such as nails and paint. This date also roughly coincides with the marriage of eldest child Mary Meriam to Nathaniel Ball in 1821.

- Ca. 1900 — New front doorway installed; the ca.-1820 six-panel door was moved to the side doorway.

- Ca. 1900-1901 — Electrical poles and wires installed on Old Bedford Rd.; the house was probably wired for electricity at this time.

- Ca. 1903 — New indoor bathroom probably installed by Thomas Burke in the east second-story room. This is also when Thomas J. Burke built his new house across the street, using stones from the wall on Old Bedford Road, and when the 1853 schoolhouse was remodeled by James Burke as a residence.

- Ca. 1925 — A fire in the house damaged the roof. Work done at that time by Thomas J. Burke included the replacement of the main roof structure and attic side walls; the installation of a back dormer; replacement of the back stairway; and the installation of new woodwork in various rooms of the house. The most work was done in the second story of the circa-1810 addition, where the partition walls were rebuilt (some in new locations), and all ceilings were plastered on new lath.

- Ca. 1951-1969 — James and Margaret Ingraham undertake the restoration and renovation of the Meriam House. The north shed is renovated to serve as the kitchen; wide pine woodwork is installed on the floor and walls of selected rooms; old doors are relocated; antique hardware is installed; plaster is removed from the west dining room; and paint is stripped from woodwork.

Other work for which dates are known are listed below:

- 1951 — New electrical wiring and an oil-burning furnace installed.

- 1952-53 — A new two-car garage replaced the old ca.-1820 carriage shed.

- 1956A — "Walpole Woodworkers"-style garden house was built on the north property line.

- 1956-57 — A brick patio was built at the southeast corner of the house.

- 1958 — A new bathroom was installed in the west second-story room; the existing bathroom in the east second-story room was remodeled.

- 1960 — A small tool house was moved to the east lawn from Cambridge.

- Pre-1969 — A small cottage-style building was installed near the tool house on the east lawn.

STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS

Original House, Circa 1705

The house as built circa 1705 consisted of a larger two-story east section and a smaller one-story west wing, separated by a chimney. The house was oriented facing south, rather than facing the nearby road to Billerica that passed it on the west side.

The frame of the original house survives intact today, except for the roof of the west wing, which was replaced by a second story circa 1725, and the roof of the main house, which was damaged by fire and replaced circa 1925. The remaining frame is of post-and-beam construction, being made of heavy timbers that are mortised and tenoned. The frame rests on a fieldstone foundation that incorporates a cellar on the east side. The "footprint" of the original house measures approximately 39 feet wide by 20 feet deep.

The framing of the original house is three bays wide, consisting of the chimney and stair-hall section in the middle, a large two-story section on the east side, and a smaller section (that was originally one story high) on the west side.

Most of the large framing members are hand-hewn, such as the posts, beams, sills, and girts. Some of the smaller members, on the other hand, bear the marks of a reciprocating ("up-and-down") saw. These include some of the floor joists, wall studs, and braces.[1]

The frame has a raised sill, which means that the sill projects into the first-story rooms. Architectural historian Abbott Lowell Cummings describes this as a 17th-century style of framing that is known to have been used as late as 1715 in a house in North Andover.[2]

The framing evidence clearly indicates that the house was originally constructed with two stories on the east side and one story on the west side. First, identical construction methods were used on both the east and west sides of the house to frame the ground floors (with raised sills) and the ceilings of the first-story rooms (with east-west summer beams). Second, the corner posts on the east side of the house are a full two stories tall, while those on the west side are only one story tall. Third, unused mortises exist in the attic for a missing end wall on the west side of the center chimney; however, the first-story girt in this location has no stud mortises, as would be expected if an exterior wall had also existed at the first-story level. Finally, the framing of the second-story

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[1] Abbott Lowell Cummings notes in his book *The Framed Houses of Massachusetts Bay, 1625-1725* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1979) that the use of saw-mill lumber, particularly for smaller building members, increased throughout the 17th century in the Massachusetts Bay (pp. 46-47). Also, it is known that an early saw mill, known as "The Meeting-House Frame" existed in the east part of Concord by 1694. [Source: Charles Wolcott, *Concord in the Colonial Period*; based on Middlesex County Deed, Book 13, p. 409.]

[2] Cummings, p. 52.

ceiling on the west side of the house (which replaced the one-story roof) differs in construction from the original second-story framing on the east side of the house.[3]

Evidence in the two first-story rooms indicates that some of the framing within the rooms was exposed originally. The most visible evidence is in the west room (Room 102), where all the plaster was removed to reveal the framing as part of the 1950's restoration. Here, the edges of the summer beam are chamfered, as are the edges of the chimney girt and the ceiling joists. The chamfering of the summer beam only terminates in lamb's-tongue stops with incised diamonds at the head of the stops. Remnants of a decorative design in black paint are also visible on the sides of the chimney girt and on the summer beam.

Nail and paint evidence also suggests that some of the framing in the west room was covered—probably with wood paneling. Framing members that were not visible included the corner posts, raised sills, and girts at the exterior walls.

Less is visible of the framing in the first-story east room (Room 108), where much of the circa-1820 plaster and woodwork survives today. However, the exposed chimney girt does have chamfering with lamb's-tongue stops and incised diamonds similar to that seen in the west room. Also, a small area of the ceiling visible in the southeast closet was observed to have a painted finish on the joists and the undersides of the floorboards.

West Second-Story Addition, Circa 1725

Circa 1725 a second story (Room 202) was added to the west wing of the original house. Like the original house, the addition was built with a post-and-beam frame. The framing of the second-story ceiling of the addition differs from the second-story ceiling of the original house, however: the joists are aligned in a north-south direction, and are carried on an east-west summer beam. Such an arrangement necessitated that the ends of the joists be angled to fit the slope of the roof—a design detail not required on the east side.

When the addition was built, the framing of the ceiling was exposed to view, similar to the ceilings in the original first-story rooms. The evidence for this is preserved in the attic, where the whitewashed ceiling joists and beam can be seen today.

[3] This evidence contradicts the opinion of National Park Service Historical Architect Orville Carroll, who thought the house had been built at two different times—the east side circa 1710, and the west side circa 1730. [Source: Memorandum from Orville Carroll dated March 22, 1988, regarding comments on the draft General Management Plan for MIMA.]

Kitchen Addition, Circa 1743

At some point, a one-story kitchen addition with bedroom was added to the back, north side of the house. This was probably part of a larger project that included the rebuilding of the original center chimney. A plausible date for this work is circa 1743, when Joseph and Dorothy's son Nathan married and presumably set up housekeeping with his parents. This change in living arrangements would best explain the location of the first-story bake ovens in the rebuilt chimney: one oriented north-south, for the addition; one oriented east-west, for the east room; and none in the west room. Documentation first references the addition in 1782.

This first addition was replaced by a larger kitchen addition circa 1810. As will be explained shortly, the first addition does not appear to have been enlarged to create the second addition. However, some of the first addition's elements may have been retained, particularly the fieldstone foundation and floor framing. This framing is visible on the north side of the cellar today, where log joists with intact bark support the floor. The use of such crude framing members may be explained by the fact that the early kitchen had a crawl space, not a full cellar, beneath it. The framing therefore would not have been visible until the cellar was enlarged circa 1810.

Kitchen Addition, Circa 1810

As mentioned previously, the existing 1 1/2-story kitchen addition was built on the north side of the house circa 1810. The “footprint” of the addition is large, measuring approximately 45 1/2 feet long by 11 feet deep, and extending about 7 feet eastward beyond the main house.

The addition is believed to have been built “all of a piece” (i.e., not enlarged from the earlier one-story kitchen[4]), based on the following framing evidence. The frame is of post-and-beam construction, with continuous posts rising the entire 1 1/2-story height at the back (north) wall. Furthermore, three north-south beams frame the ceiling of the first story, with an approximate spacing between the beams of about 10 1/2 feet.

The early cellar beneath the main house is believed to have been enlarged at this time. This was accomplished by excavating beneath the eastern half of the new kitchen addition, including the jog to the east. Fieldstone walls were used in the enlarged portion of the cellar, similar to the original cellar walls.

Also affected by the new addition was the framing of the north roof slope of the main house. In order to obtain head room inside the second story of the new addition, the north ends of the main-roof rafters were reframed above the north plate. This enabled the north roof slope to run in an unbroken line all the way to the north wall of the addition. Although the roof was damaged by fire and replaced circa 1925, this design was retained and remains today.

[4] Except perhaps for the floor framing, which is explained in the previous section.

North Shed Addition, Circa 1820

The north shed addition is a small, one-story structure attached to the east end of the north wall of the circa-1810 kitchen addition. Its footprint measures approximately 17 feet wide by 13 feet deep.

The age of this addition is not known for certain. It was definitely built after the kitchen addition: exterior clapboards of the latter can still be seen, preserved inside the garret of the north shed addition. Like the rest of the house, the north addition is of wood-frame construction on a stone foundation. Little of the original framing is visible, however, except for one roof rafter. This is a crude wood member, with bark intact, which may be seen at the east end of the addition in the attic crawl space. Paint analysis, which proved so useful in dating elements elsewhere in the house, was of little help here. This was due to the remodeling of the first story into a kitchen in the 1950's. It is thought that the north shed addition may have been built as part of the circa-1820 renovations of the main house.

Considerable work was done on the north shed in the 1950's, when it was converted to use as a kitchen. The first floor was completely rebuilt, using modern 2 by 6-inch joists spaced 16 inches on center, and plywood sheathing. In addition, exposed post-and-beam framing was installed in the new kitchen to make the room look "old." Two of the posts, at the south and west walls, appear to have been reused from other locations, based on the presence of unused mortises. They may have been reused from the old carriage shed, thought to have been removed around this time. The exposed ceiling joists, on the other hand, may be new material made to look old. The joists measure approximately 5 inches square and are spaced about 20 inches on center.

Garage, 1952-1953

A two-car garage is at the northeast corner of the house. It is a modern wood-frame structure on a concrete foundation, built in 1952-1953. It is framed using modern lumber and plywood. The garage replaced the original circa-1820 carriage shed in this same location. Its footprint measures approximately 24 feet wide by 22 1/2 feet deep.

A comparison of the existing garage with photographs of the old carriage shed indicates that while the garage resembles the carriage shed, there are some structural differences. The garage extends approximately 7 feet past the north wall of the north shed addition (to which it is attached), whereas the carriage shed was flush with the north wall. Furthermore, the pitch of the garage is less steep than the carriage shed, which had the same roof pitch as the north shed addition. This alteration was no doubt made necessary by the additional length of the garage.

EXTERIOR ELEMENTS

Figure 21. Meriam House site, view looking northeast, November 10, 1993.

Figure 22. Meriam House, view looking north, November 10, 1993.

Figure 23. Meriam House, view looking northwest, November 10, 1993.

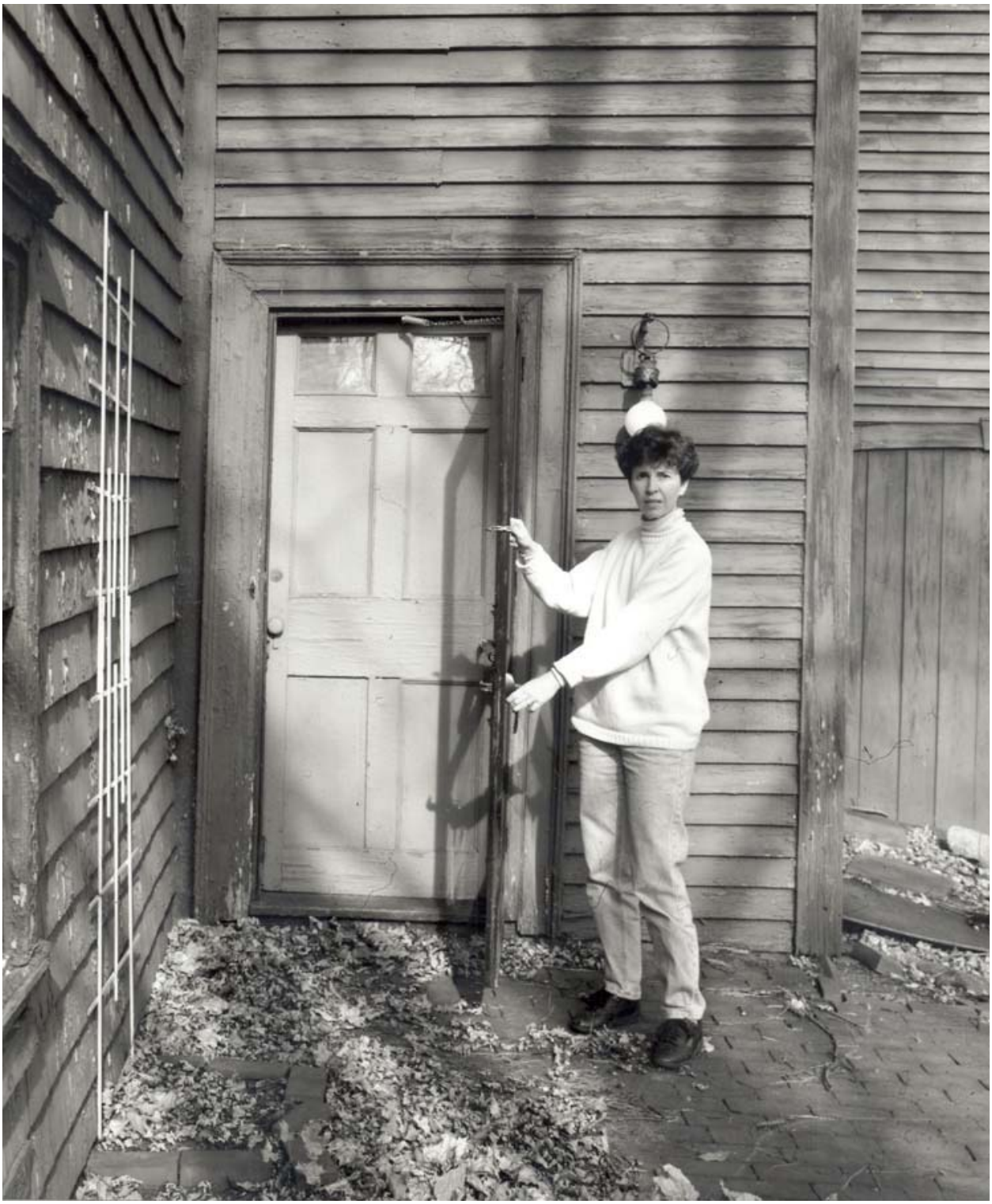

Figure 24. Meriam House, detail of circa-1820 side door (shown by Maureen Phillips), November 10, 1993.

Figure 25. Meriam House, view looking west, November 10, 1993.

Figure 26. Meriam House, view of north side of garage, November 10, 1993

Figure 27. Meriam House, view looking south, November 10, 1993.

Figure 28. Meriam House, view looking east, November 10, 1993.

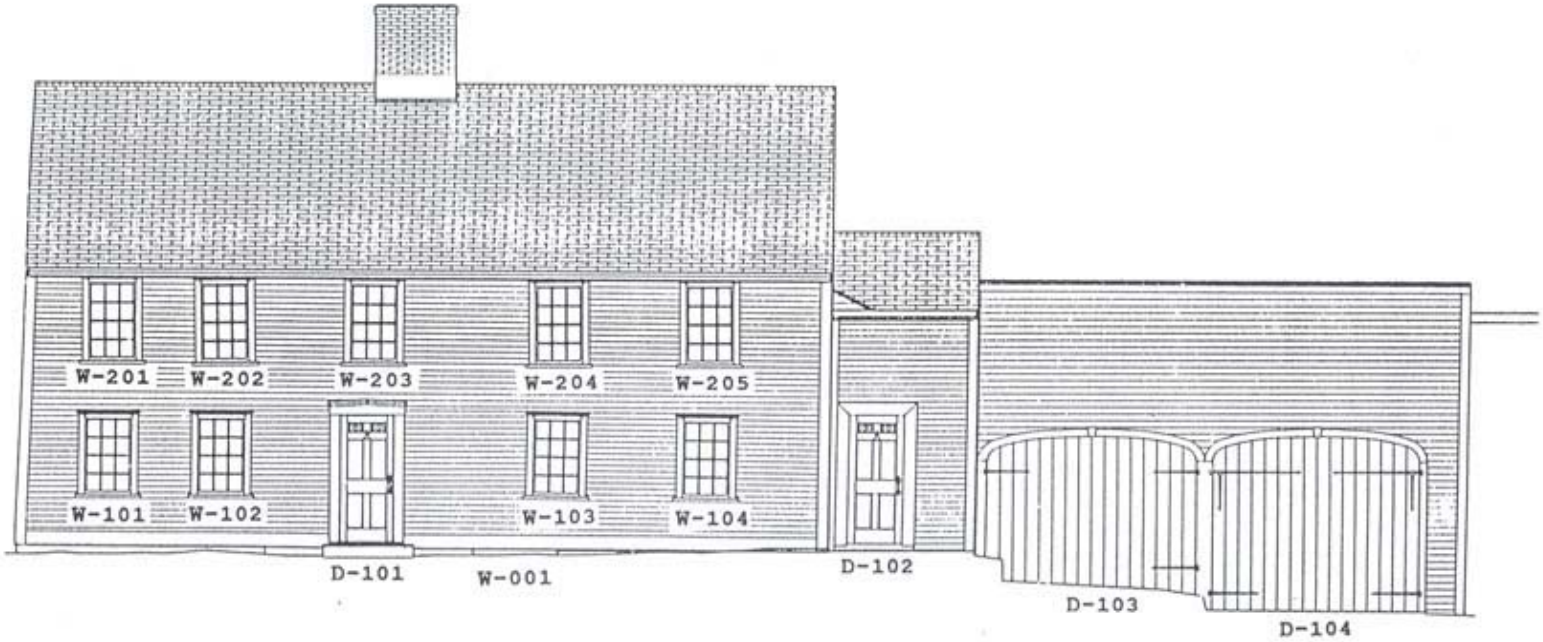

Figure 29. Meriam House, exterior south elevation, 1993.

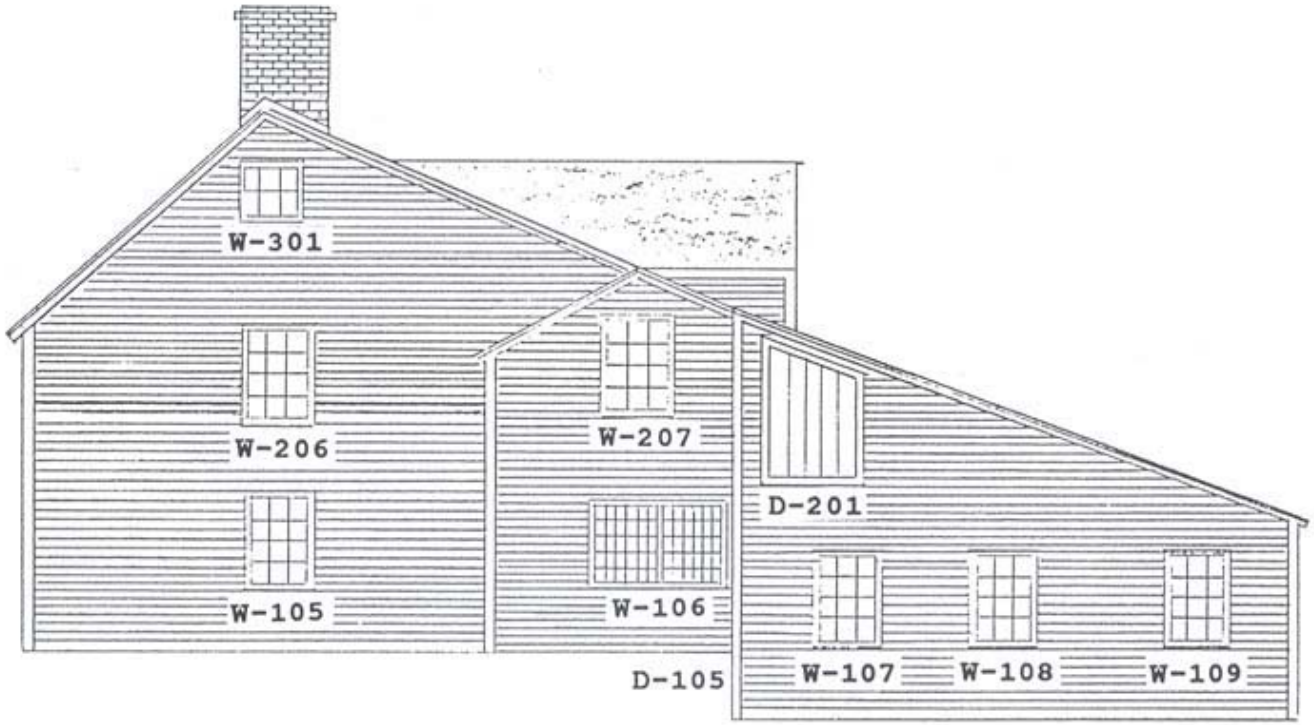

Figure 30. Meriam House, exterior east elevation, 1993.

Figure 31. Meriam House, exterior north elevation, 1993.

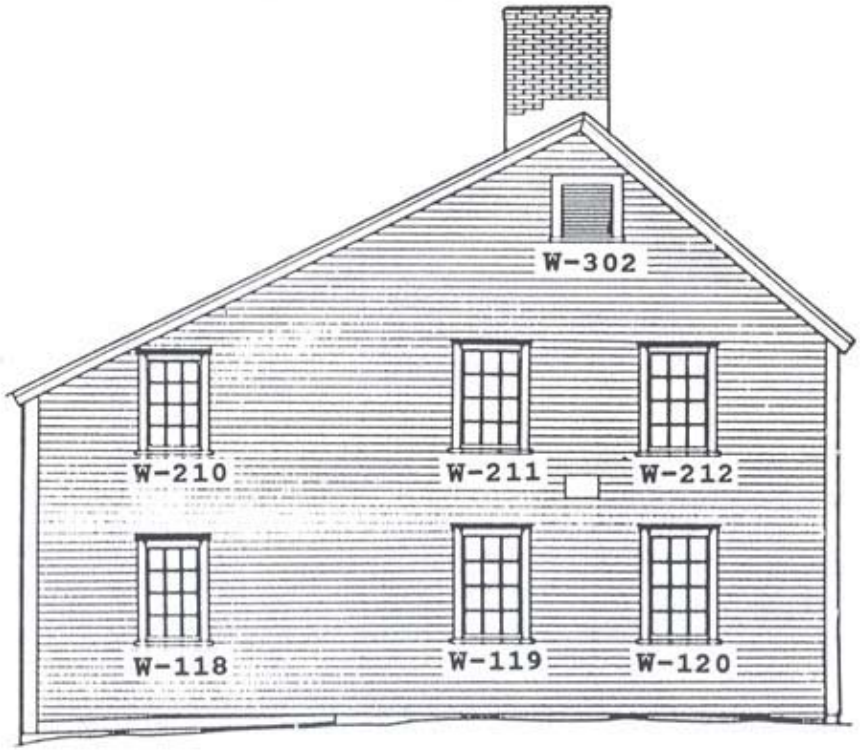

Figure 32. Meriam House, exterior west elevation, 1993.

Foundation Walls

The foundation walls of the house are fieldstone, except for those of the later garage, which are concrete. A cellar exists beneath the east side of the house only, which is thought to have been excavated in two stages: circa 1705 and circa 1810.

General dates for the foundation walls are as follows:

Element	Date
Main House	circa 1705
North Kitchen Addition	circa 1743, and/or circa 1810
North Shed Addition	circa 1820
Garage	1952-1953

Little of the foundation is visible on the exterior side, due to the buildup of soil at the perimeter of the house. The interior sides of some of the walls may be clearly seen in the cellar, however. The cellar walls beneath the original (circa-1705) portion of the house, including the chimney foundation,[5] are composed of fieldstones of various sizes. The inner surface of the front (south) wall has handmade bricks forming the topmost foot of the wall, which also frame the window in that wall.

Similar wall construction also exists in the later (circa-1810) portion of the cellar, beneath the kitchen addition. Here, fieldstones make up the lower walls; brickwork faces the upper portion of the north wall, and is used in the southeast and southwest corners of the eastern jog. Also notable is a large slab of quarried granite in the south upper wall of the eastern jog, in the location of the exterior doorway; the granite measures 4 feet 7 inches long. This is the back side of the stone step for the exterior doorway here.

Mortar in all the cellar foundation walls is a mixture of white-lime type and gray portland-cement type. The white-lime mortar is the earlier of the two, being covered in some areas by the portland mortar. The date of the white-lime mortar is unknown, although it is unlikely to be as early as circa 1705.

The gray portland-cement mortar was used both for selective repointing and for more extensive repairs. It is slathered on the chimney foundation at the west wall, and on the east wall of the main house. It is also used as a stucco finish at the east bulkhead entrance. This work was probably done by the Ingrahams as part of the 1950's restoration/renovation of the house.

[5] Cummings states the following about early chimney foundations: “What appears so often on superficial examination to represent a chimney foundation in the cellar is actually a retaining wall of stone which contains the solid unexcavated earth” (p. 118). Such is probably the case at the Meriam House.

Siding

Two types of wood siding cover the Meriam House: clapboards and shingles. The lower walls and corners of the house are trimmed with wooden sill boards and corner boards of mostly unknown dates.[6] No original siding (dating to circa 1705) is known to survive. Rather, the earliest siding appears to be clapboards dating to circa 1810. Other clapboards were also installed circa 1820, circa 1925, and 1952-1953. The shingle siding is later, dating to circa 1925 and 1952-1953. The shingles on the east end appear to have been applied over the clapboards.

Circa-1705 Siding

As mentioned in the previous paragraph, no siding dating to circa 1705 has been found at the Meriam House. It is possible, however, that evidence of the original siding survives on the main house beneath the existing later clapboards. If, for example, the original sheathing boards are intact, unused nail holes would give a clue as to the type and spacing of the siding.

Circa-1810 Siding

The 1 1/2-story kitchen addition was sided with clapboards when it was built circa 1810. Some of these were covered circa 1820 by the north shed addition, and are preserved at the south wall of Room 207. The circa-1810 clapboards are hand-rived and feather-edged, so that the ends of the boards overlap. The boards are of various lengths, ranging from approximately 3 feet 10 inches long to 4 feet 4 1/2 inches long. They are approximately 5 inches wide, with an exposure of between 3 1/2 and 3 3/4 inches. The nails holding the clapboards are an early machine-cut type, typical of the period 1800-1815. They are approximately 1 1/4 inches long with rounded tips, irregular machine-made heads, and burrs on opposite edges of the shank.

The clapboards are attached to wide sheathing boards that were milled with an up-and-down saw, based on the regular, vertical markings on the wood. The sheathing boards are attached to the framing with large hand-wrought nails. The cracks between the boards are filled with a white-lime plaster chinking with hair binder, to reduce air infiltration. Similar sheathing boards and plaster were presumably also used on the west, east, and exposed south walls of the kitchen addition.

Circa-1820 Siding

The north shed addition was sided with clapboards when it was built circa 1820. New clapboard siding may also have been installed elsewhere on the house at this time, in coordination with the installation of new doorways and windows.

Like the circa-1810 clapboards, the circa-1820 clapboards are hand-rived with overlapping, feathered edges. The clapboards on the front elevation of the main house were observed to have

[6] Dating of these elements could probably be accomplished by removing them and examining the nails. Like the siding, however, the earliest surviving material probably dates to circa 1810.

similar dimensions and exposures to the circa-1810 clapboards. National Park Service maintenance staff also made the following observations about the siding when repairs were made to the northwest corner of the north shed addition in the fall of 1993:

- the clapboards are attached to sheathing boards; and
- random nails pulled from both the clapboards and the sheathing boards looked old, and so were saved. The nails are a mix of early machine-cut and hand-wrought types.

A close examination of the west wall of the north shed addition wall also indicates that some of the old siding was removed and reinstalled in the 1950's, when the existing modern window was installed at the west wall. Specifically, one of the clapboards has a notch that now serves no purpose; it was probably located at the corner of the earlier window here.

Circa-1925 Siding

Clapboards and wood shingles were both installed on the house during repairs made after the fire of circa 1925. The clapboards are in the following locations:

- on the north dormer, which was built circa 1925;
- on the north elevation of the circa-1820 kitchen addition; and
- on the west elevation, at attic level of the main house and kitchen addition.

These clapboards differ from the early 19th-century clapboards by being machine-milled. They are also longer lengths, butted at their edges, and held in place with wire nails.

The wood shingles are on the east elevations of the main house and the circa-1810 kitchen addition. Why shingles were used here instead of clapboards is not known. Examination of the sheathing boards beneath the shingles should provide nail-hole evidence of whether or not this was an in-kind replacement, or if clapboards were here originally.

Circa-1952/1953 Siding

Similar to the work circa 1925, both clapboards and shingle siding were installed during work on the house in 1952-1953. Both materials are machine-milled and attached with wire nails. The clapboards are on the south, east, and north elevations of the garage/reconstructed carriage shed. Wood shingles are on the west elevation of the garage/carriage shed, and on the north elevation of the adjacent north addition.[7] Based on the amount of window-frame protrusion, the shingles appear to have been installed over earlier clapboards.

[7] A photograph of the back side of the house taken circa 1912 (fig. 16) shows clapboard siding on the north elevation of the north addition.

Siding Summary

Material	Material Date	Locations	Elevations
Clapboards, feather-edged	Circa 1820	Circa-1705 House	South & West (first & second stories)
	Circa 1810-1820	Circa-1810 Addition	South & West
Clapboards, feather-edged	Circa 1820	Circa-1820 Addition	West
Clapboards, butted	Circa 1925	Circa-1705 House	West (attic story)
		Circa-1810 Addition	North West (attic story)
		Circa-1925 Dormer	North, East & West
Shingles	Circa 1925	Circa-1705 House	East
		Circa-1810 Addition	East
Clapboards, butted	1950's	Garage (1952-1953)	South, East & North
Shingles	1950's	Garage (1952-1953)	West
		Circa-1820 addition	North

Doorways

The Meriam House has nine exterior doorways dating to four periods of construction: circa 1705, circa 1810, circa 1820, and 1952-1953. All of the doorways, except those installed in 1952-1953, have been altered, as will be explained in the following sections. Each exterior doorway has been assigned a number from D-101 to D-108. These are keyed to the exterior drawings, which appear as figures 29-32.

Doorway D-101

Doorway 101 is the main doorway, or front entrance, to the house. It is located in the center of the front (south) elevation of the main house. The doorway opens onto the front stair hall (Room 101).

Opening

The opening is thought to be the earliest extant exterior doorway in the house, dating to circa 1705.

Trim

The existing trim is a later alteration dating to circa 1900. It is composed of plain side boards and a plain, pediment-shaped top board with applied molding at the upper edge.

Early photographs of the house indicate that the existing trim replaced a more elaborate, neoclassical-style architrave with entablature. This is also believed to have been an alteration that was installed circa 1820. No documentary or physical evidence has been found for the appearance of the original (circa-1705) doorway trim.

Outer Door

The outer door is a simple board-and-batten style, with two strap hinges attached to the west jamb. It was recently installed by the National Park Service to make the front entrance more secure. A three-panel screen door formerly hung in this position, based on a photograph of the house dated circa 1937 (fig. 17).

Inner Door

The door on the interior side of the opening is a 1950's reproduction of the missing circa-1820 door, which survives today in the side doorway (D-102). It has six recessed and molded panels on both sides, the top two of which are glazed with clear bull's-eye glass. The door is hung on the west side by two five-knuckle hinges that are contemporary with the door. A rim lock with doorknob on the interior side of the door is a modern reproduction of an old-style lock. The measurements of the door are 2 feet 7 1/2 inches wide by 6 feet 3 3/4 inches high by 1 5/8 inches thick.

The 1950's door is at least the fourth door to hang in this doorway. Of the original circa-1705 door, nothing is known. It is also not known if another door or doors replaced the original door between circa 1705 and circa 1820. Around 1820, a new neoclassical architrave and a six-panel door were installed.[8] Both were replaced circa 1900 by the existing plain trim and a glazed seven-panel door (fig. 15); the old six-panel door was presumably moved to the side doorway at this time. The Ingrahams replaced the seven-panel door with the existing reproduction sometime in the 1950's.

Doorway D-102

Doorway 102 is the side doorway on the front (south) side of the house. It is located in the jog of the circa-1810 kitchen addition, on the east side of the main house. The doorway leads to the side hall of the kitchen addition (Room 105).

Opening

This doorway presumably dates to circa 1810, when the kitchen addition was constructed.

Trim

A molded architrave trims the doorway opening. The molding profiles are similar to those on interior doorway trim installed in the house circa 1820, so the architrave here would seem to date to the same period. It has thus been surmised that the existing circa-1810 doorway was “modernized” circa 1820.[9]

Outer Door

The outer door is a modern aluminum-and-glass storm door, hinged at the west jamb. It was probably installed by the Ingrahams sometime between 1951 and 1987.

Inner Door

The door on the interior side of the opening is an old six-panel mortised door dating to circa 1820. The panels are recessed and molded on both the exterior and interior sides of the door, except for the top two panels that are glazed with clear plate glass. Plywood covers the glass on the interior side.

The physical evidence indicates that the door is not in its original location, but was moved here circa 1900 from the front doorway (D-101). This evidence includes the paint analysis of the interior side of the door, the scar on the east stile at the original location of the doorknob, and the shims added at the top and west sides to make the door fit the existing opening. The door without the shims measures 2 feet 8 1/2 inches wide by 6 feet 2 3/8 inches high by 1 9/16 inches thick.

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[8] The approximate date of the door is based on the comparative paint analysis of the surviving six-panel door that now hangs in D-102.

[9] It is clear from the interior paint analysis of the doorway that it was altered at an early date.

Door hardware includes two two-knuckle hinges attached to the east jamb (circa 1900); a wood doorknob at the west stile (circa 1900); and a modern "Corbin" lock above the doorknob (circa 1951-1987).

The only remaining evidence of the earlier door that hung in this doorway are two unused hinge mortises on the interior east door frame. No other information is known.

Doorway D-103

Doorway D-103 is the exterior bulkhead entrance to the cellar. This entrance presumably dates to circa 1810, when the cellar was enlarged beneath the new kitchen addition.

Opening

The opening of the bulkhead entrance is a depression in the ground that leads to an opening in the east end wall of the cellar. As stated previously, this opening is believed to have been created circa 1810.

Retaining Walls

The retaining walls and floor of the bulkhead entrance are finished with modern portland-cement mortar that probably dates to sometime between 1951 and 1987. It is presumed that earlier stonework survives beneath this mortar.

Stairway

A modern stairway consisting of seven wood treads with open risers descends to the cellar doorway. The stairway was probably installed by the Ingrahams sometime between 1951 and 1987.

Doors

There are no doors per se at either the bulkhead entrance or the interior cellar entrance. Rather, both openings are covered with loosely placed sheets of plywood.

Doorways D-104 and D-105

Doorways D-104 and D-105 are large openings in the south elevation of the garage built in 1952-1953. They are reproductions of the doorways in the original circa-1820 carriage shed, which was replaced by the garage. Early photographs showing the carriage shed indicate that the existing doors are fairly accurate reproductions of the carriage-shed doors.

Openings

The two doorway openings are large, each measuring approximately 10 feet wide by 8 1/2 feet tall. The tops of the openings are slightly elliptical, as they were in the original carriage shed.

Trim

Both doorways are trimmed with plain-board surrounds. A simple “keystone” detail is at the apex of each doorway surround. The historic photographs are unfortunately not clear enough to distinguish whether or not the keystones were an original design motif of the carriage house.

Doors

The two doorway openings each have a pair of vertical-board doors dating to 1952-1953. Each door is hinged to swing outward on two large strap hinges, which are reproductions of old-style hinges. Screen doors are on the interior side of the openings, inside the garage.

Doorways D-106 and D-107

Doorways D-106 and D-107 are modern garage-style doors. They appear to be contemporary with the building of the garage in 1952-1953. Unlike the doors on the front (south) side of the garage, no attempt was made to reproduce the appearance of the historic carriage shed doors that had been in this same location. These are documented in a rare photographic view of the back side of the house dated circa 1912 (fig. 16) as being a sliding type, similar to those found on a barn.

The existing garage doors, by contrast, open on overhead rails inside the garage. Each door is one unit, composed of vertical boards. A combination handle-and-lock is located in the center of each door.

Doorway D-108

Doorway D-108 is the back entrance of the house. It is located in the north elevation of the circa-1820 north shed addition.

Opening

The doorway opening presumably dates to circa 1820, when the north shed addition was constructed. It definitely existed by circa 1912, based on an exterior photograph of the back side of the house (fig. 16).

Trim

Plain boards case the doorway opening. The trim probably dates to the 1950's, when the adjacent shingle siding was installed.

Outer Door

The exterior side of the opening is protected by an aluminum storm door. The door, which is hinged on the west jamb, was probably installed by the Ingrahams.

Inner Door

A glazed wood door is on the interior side of the opening. This door has been dated “circa 1925” based on a comparative analysis of the door's painted finishes.

The door is glazed with nine panes of glass over two side-by-side panels; the panels are recessed and molded on both the exterior and interior sides of the door. Two two-knuckle hinges attach the door to the west jamb. The present latch on the east stile is a reproduction of an early doorknob, probably installed by the Ingrahams. Above this is a modern key latch manufactured by “Keil.” A wood patch between the two latches probably indicates the former location of the door's original (circa-1925) latch.

The measurements of the door are 2 feet 7 inches wide by 5 feet 5 1/2-3/4 inches high by 1 3/8 inches thick.

Doorway D-201

Doorway D-201 is in the second-story east elevation of the 1952-1953 garage. The doorway provides exterior access to the upper storage area of the garage. It is presumably a reproduction of a similar doorway that existed in the earlier (circa-1820) carriage shed. This, unfortunately, cannot be confirmed because no photographic views or descriptions are known of this side of the carriage shed.

The top of the doorway opening is angled to follow the slope of the roof. The door itself is probably contemporary with the 1952-1953 garage. It is a board-and-batten design, with vertical boards facing the exterior side. It is hinged on the south jamb by two reproduction strap hinges to swing inward.

A hoisting beam is located above the doorway. It would have been used to support a block-and-tackle for hoisting objects up to the doorway. Whether or not the Ingrahams ever used this beam, or installed it simply to make the doorway look old, is not known.

Doorway Summary

Doorway	Location	Room	Opening Date	Architrave Date	Outer Door(s)	Inner Door
D-101	Ca.-1705 House	101	Ca. 1705	Ca. 1900	1990's (NPS)	1950's
D-102	Ca.-1810 Addition	105	Ca. 1810	Ca. 1820	1950's	Ca. 1820 (Reused)
D-103	Ca.-1810 Addition	Cellar	Ca. 1810	N/A	None	None
D-104	1952-1953 Garage	Garage	1952-1953	1952-1953	1952-1953	
D-105	1952-1953 Garage	Garage	1952-1953	1952-1953	1952-1953	
D-106	1952-1953 Garage	Garage	1952-1953	1952-1953	1952-1953	
D-107	1952-1953 Garage	Garage	1952-1953	1952-1953	1952-1953	
D-108	Ca.-1820 Addition	107	Ca. 1820	Ca. 1925	1950's	Ca. 1925
D-201	1952-1953 Garage	Garage	1952-1953	1952-1953	1952-1953	

Windows

The Meriam House has a total of 35 exterior windows: one in the cellar story, 20 in the first story, 12 in the second story, and two in the attic story. The existing windows date from several periods of construction, including circa 1820, circa 1925, and the 1950's. Virtually nothing survives of the original 1705 windows.

Brief Window History

The following is a brief discussion of the evolution of the windows at the Meriam House.

Very little is known about the original fenestration of the house as it was constructed circa 1705. The one original window opening that may survive from that period is in the upper south wall of the cellar. It is clear from other physical evidence in the first-story west room (Room 102) that the existing window openings in the west wall are not original. Pintles in the exposed girt at this wall indicate that wall studs were originally in the locations of the existing window openings. Additional information on the size and locations of the original windows may be learned if and when the structural framing of the house is exposed. These were probably casement-type windows with leaded-glass sashes in the stories above the cellar level.

No information is available on the windows that were installed circa 1725 in the second-story west addition, or circa 1810 in the large kitchen addition.

All of the windows in the house appear to have been altered circa 1820, when the existing mortised-frame windows were installed. The sashes installed at that time were six-over-six, as evidenced by surviving sashes in some of the first-story rooms.

The fire of circa 1925 prompted repairs and alterations to some of the windows. A new dormer (having two windows with six-over-six sashes) was built on the north side of the house; new six-over-six sashes were installed in all the second-story windows; and the two attic windows were rebuilt and fitted with one six-light sash each. Removable storm sashes may also have been installed on the exterior sides of the windows about this time. The hardware for these sashes is attached to the windows.

Considerable changes were made in the 1950's by the Ingrahams to the first-story windows in the circa-1810 and circa-1820 sections of the house. Window openings were added; existing window openings were enlarged; and new window sashes with multiple panes of glass were installed. The intention of these alterations was to restore the windows to an earlier “historic” appearance. Unfortunately, the windows that were removed at that time may well have been the surviving original windows dating to circa 1820. The Ingrahams' restoration windows approximate the appearance of early colonial-style windows, which are inappropriate to the later, back sections of the house.

The most recent changes to the windows were made by the National Park Service. Selected upper window sashes were temporarily removed, labeled, and put into storage. These were replaced with custom-made wooden louvered sashes. The purpose of the louvered sashes is to promote ventilation in the house, which is vacant and unheated.

Individual Windows

Numbers have been assigned to all of the windows in the house, to facilitate their description. The window numbers may be found on the exterior architectural drawings of the house (figs. 29-32), and on the site sketches of the individual interior rooms. Descriptions of each of the individual windows follows.

Window W-001

W-001 is the only window in the cellar story of the house. It is in the upper south wall of the cellar of the original main house. The opening, which is framed with early, handmade bricks, may be an original feature of the cellar dating to circa 1705. The wooden sash in the window is a three-light casement type hinged at the bottom.

The window opening is located below grade today. It is able to admit light into the exterior by a deep window well. This well was observed during rainy weather to trap water, which then channels into the cellar. Such was probably not the case historically, when the grade in front of the house was probably lower than it is today.

Window W-101

W-101 is the westernmost window in the first story, south elevation, of the original (circa-1705) west wing of the house.

The window opening has been dated circa 1820, as has the pegged-frame surround. While there was undoubtedly an original window opening in this approximate location, its exact placement and configuration are not known. The existing surround projects from the wall of the house; it has a sloping sill, a molded hood with flashing, and unmolded sides.

The window has six-over-six window sashes. The sashes have been dated circa 1820, based on the analysis of the interior painted finishes.

Later hardware attached to the exterior side of the surround is associated with the circa-1925 storm windows. This includes a pair of brackets on the upper casement, an eye hook on the sill, and a number button.

Window W-102

W-102 is centered between W-101 and the front doorway (D-101), in the south elevation, first story, of the original (circa-1705) west wing of the house. The description of this window is identical to that for W-101, except that its upper sash has been replaced with a louvered sash.

Window W-103

W-103 is centered between the front doorway (D-101) and W-104 in the south elevation, first story, of the original (circa-1705) house. The description of this window is identical to that for W-101.

Window W-104

W-104 is the easternmost window in the south elevation, first story, of the original (circa-1705) house. The description of this window is identical to that for W-101.

Window W-105

W-105 is the only window in the east elevation, first story, of the original (circa-1705) house. Its description is identical to that for W-101.

Window W-106

W-106 is the only window in the east elevation, first story, of the circa-1810 kitchen addition. This is a "colonial-style" casement window installed by the Ingrahams in the 1950's. The window is wide and divided in the middle by a vertical mullion. The north side of the opening has a 36-light wood sash. The south side of the opening had a similar sash; it was removed, stored, and replaced with a wooden louvered sash. Brackets beneath the window were probably for a window box.

Alice Burke Hargrove recalled that there was no window here when her grandparents were in residence (1871-1921). This seems to be verified by physical evidence on the room side of the window. See "Room 106: Window" for details.

Window W-107

W-107 is the southernmost window in the east elevation, first story, of the 1952-1953 garage. The window is presumably contemporary with the garage, which is an approximate reproduction of the circa-1820 carriage shed. It is not known whether or not a window existed in this location in the carriage shed, since no views of this side of the shed are known. The window has plain board trim, a projecting window sill, and six-over-six sashes.

Window W-108

W-108 is the middle window in the east elevation, first story, of the 1952-1953 garage. The description of W-108 is identical to that for W-107.

Window W-109

W-109 is the northernmost window in the east elevation, first story, of the 1952-1953 garage. The description of W-109 is identical to that for W-107.

Window W-110

W-110 is the only west window in the west elevation, first story, of the 1952-1953 garage. It is a "colonial-style" casement window with a single 30-light wood sash. The window is probably contemporary with the building of the garage in 1952-1953.

Window W-111

W-111 is the easternmost window in the north elevation, first story, of the circa-1820 north shed addition. The window opening was installed by the Ingrahams in the 1950's, based on the style of the window, and on figure 16, which shows no window in this location circa 1912. The window resembles a small colonial-style window, with a heavy frame and a single 20-light wood casement sash.

Window W-112

W-112 is centered in the north elevation, first story, of the circa-1820 north shed addition. Like W-111, this window was installed by the Ingrahams in the 1950's, based on the style of the window, and on figure 16. This is a wide window, with two 24-light wood casement sashes separated by a vertical mullion.

Window W-113

W-113 is the only window in the west elevation, first story, of the circa-1820 north-shed addition. The window dates to the 1950's renovations to the house, based on its style, and on figure 16, which shows a smaller window in this same location circa 1912. The window opening is wide, and separated by a center vertical mullion. Both multipane sashes have been removed and replaced by a board cover.

The earlier details of this window are difficult to ascertain, based on the oblique angle of the circa-1912 photograph. It is likely, however, that the circa-1820 window was similar in size to those in the circa-1810 kitchen addition. It is also probable that the window had six-over-six sashes.

Window W-114

W-114 is the easternmost window in the north elevation, first story, of the circa-1810 kitchen addition. The window was installed by the Ingrahams in the 1950's, based on its style, and on figure 16, which shows no window here circa 1912. It is a casement-style window, with a heavy frame and a 25-light wood sash.

Window W-115

W-115 is the next window west of W-114, in the north elevation, first story, of the circa-1810 kitchen addition. Like W-114, this window is of 1950's vintage, based on its style, and on figure 16, which shows a smaller six-over-six window here circa 1912. The existing window is wide, with a center vertical mullion. The west side of the window opening has a 25-light wood casement sash. The east side had a similar sash, which was removed, stored, and replaced with a louvered sash.

Window W-116

W-116 is the next window west of W-115, in the north elevation, first story, of the circa-1810 kitchen addition. Like W-114 and W-115, this window dates to the 1950's, based on its style,

and on figure 16, which shows a smaller six-over-six window here circa 19112. The existing window is similar in appearance to W-113, being a casement style with a single 25-light wood sash.

Window W-117

W-117 is the westernmost window in the north elevation, first story, of the circa-1810 kitchen addition. Like the other three windows in this elevation, this window has been dated to the 1950's based on its style. It is not known if an earlier window was in this same location, since this part of the house is blocked by a tree in the circa-1912 photograph (fig. 16). The window is a wide casement type, separated in the center by a vertical mullion. Two 30-light sashes fill the openings, one on either side of the mullion.

Window W-118

W-118 is the only window in the west elevation, first story, of the circa-1810 kitchen addition. The window opening, its surround, and six-over-six window sashes are believed to date to the remodeling of the windows circa 1820, based on the interior paint analysis.

Window W-119

W-119 is the north window in the west elevation, first story, of the original (circa-1705) west wing. The description of this window is the same as that for W-101. The interior framing evidence indicates that circa 1705, a wall stud was in the location of this window opening. The existing opening, surround, and six-over-six sashes have been dated circa 1820.

Window W-120

W-120 is the south window in the west elevation, first story, of the original (circa-1705) west wing. The description of this window is the same as those for W-101 and W-119.

Window W-201

W-201 is the westernmost window in the south elevation of the circa-1725 second-story addition to the west wing. Both the window opening and the surround are believed to be later alterations dating to circa 1820. The sashes, which are six-over-six, have been dated circa 1925 based on the interior paint analysis. The surround is pegged and projects from the siding, similar to the window surrounds in the first story. Later hardware attached to the face of the surround is associated with the circa-1925 storm windows. This includes two upper brackets, an eye-hook in the sill, and a number button.

Window W-202

W-202 is between W-201 and W-203, in the south elevation of the circa-1725 second-story addition to the original west wing. The description of this window is the same as for W-201.

Window W-203

W-203 is the center window (above the front doorway) in the south elevation, second story, of the original (circa-1705) house. The existing window opening and pegged-frame surround have been dated to circa 1820. The six-over-six sashes were installed circa 1925, based on the interior paint analysis. The description of extant fabric, including hardware, is identical to that for W-201. It is likely that there was a window in this location circa 1705, to provide natural light to the stair hall. No details are known about its size and configuration, however.

Window W-204

W-204 is between W-203 and W-205, in the south elevation, second story, of the original (circa-1705) house. The pegged-frame surround has been dated to circa 1820; the six-over-six sashes were installed circa 1925, based on the interior paint analysis. Hardware attached to the surround is for the circa-1925 storm windows. This includes upper brackets, an eye-hook in the sill, and a number button.

No details are known about the original (circa-1705) window that was presumably in this same approximate location. Physical evidence of the window may be found on the sheathing boards and/or framing when restoration work is performed.

Window W-205

W-205 is the easternmost window in the south elevation, second story, of the original (circa-1705) house. The description of this window is the same as that for W-204, except that the upper sash has been replaced by a wooden louvered sash.

Window W-206

W-206 is the only window in the east elevation, second story, of the original (circa-1705) house. The description of this window is the same as that for W-204.

Window W-207

W-207 is the only window in the east elevation, second story, of the circa-1810 kitchen addition. The window surround is thought to date to circa 1820, like the other windows in the house. The lower six-light sash has been dated circa 1925, based on the interior paint analysis. A similar upper sash has been replaced with a louvered sash.

Window W-208

W-208 is the east window in the circa-1925 dormer on the north elevation, second story. All components of the window have been dated to circa 1925. These include the plain-board trim, the six-over-six sashes, and the attached storm-window hardware.

Window W-209

W-209 is the west window in the circa-1925 dormer on the north elevation, second story. The description of the window is the same as that for W-208, except that the upper sash has been replaced with a louvered sash.

Window W-210

W-210 is the only window in the west elevation, second story, of the circa-1810 kitchen addition. The description of W-210 is the same as that for W-207.

Window W-211

W-211 is the north window in the west elevation of the circa-1725 second-story addition. The description of W-211 is the same as that for W-201.

Window W-212

W-212 is the south window in the west elevation, second story, of the circa-1725 second-story addition. The description of W-212 is the same as that for W-201.

Window W-301

W-301 is in the east gable end of the attic story, in the original (circa-1705) house. The entire gable end of the attic story, including the window, was reconstructed following the circa-1925 fire. The window, including its plain-board trim and single six-light sash, has therefore been dated to circa 1925. The six-light sash has been replaced by a louvered sash.

It is not known if a window was in this location circa 1705, or was added later. One existed here by circa 1937, based on a photograph of that date that shows it at an oblique angle (fig. 17). Unfortunately, no details of the window are visible.

Window W-302

W-302 is in the west gable end of the attic story, in the circa-1725 second-story addition. The description of W-302 is the same as that for W-301.

Unlike W-301, early photographic documentation exists for this attic window. The earliest photograph, dated circa 1899 (fig. 7), shows a smaller window with a four-light sash. Whether or not this window was original to the circa-1725 addition could not be ascertained, however. The existing window with its six-light sash is larger than that shown in the early photograph; it therefore appears that the window opening was enlarged when the gable end was rebuilt circa 1925.

Windows Summary

Window	Location	Room	Opening Date	Architrave Date	Sashes Date
W-001	Ca.-1705 House	Cellar	Ca. 1705	Unknown	N/A
W-101	Ca.-1705 West Wing	102	Ca. 1705 (?) & Ca. 1820	Ca. 1820	Ca. 1820
W-102	Ca.-1705 West Wing	102	Ca. 1705 (?) & Ca. 1820	Ca. 1820	Ca. 1820
W-103	Ca.-1705 House	108	Ca. 1705 (?) & Ca. 1820	Ca. 1820	Ca. 1820
W-104	Ca.-1705 House	108	Ca. 1705 (?) & Ca. 1820	Ca. 1820	Ca. 1820
W-105	Ca.-1705 House	108	Ca. 1705 (?) & Ca. 1820	Ca. 1820	Ca. 1820
W-106	Ca.-1810 Addition	106	Ca. 1950's	1950's	1950's
W-107	1952-1953 Garage	Garage	1952-1953	1952-1953	1952-1953
W-108	1952-1953 Garage	Garage	1952-1953	1952-1953	1952-1953
W-109	1952-1953 Garage	Garage	1952-1953	1952-1953	1952-1953
W-110	1952-1953 Garage	Garage	1952-1953	1952-1953	1952-1953
W-111	Ca.-1820 Addition	107	1950's	1950's	1950's
W-112	Ca.-1820 Addition	107	1950's	1950's	1950's
W-113	Ca.-1820 Addition	107	Ca. 1820 & 1950's	1950's	1950's
W-114	Ca.-1810 Addition	104	1950's	1950's	1950's
W-115	Ca.-1810 Addition	104	Ca. 1810 & 1950's	1950's	1950's

Window	Location	Room	Opening Date	Architrave Date	Sashes Date
W-116	Ca.-1810 Addition	104	Ca. 1810 & 1950's	1950's	1950's
W-117	Ca.-1810 Addition	103	Ca. 1810 (?) & 1950's	1950's	1950's
W-118	Ca.-1810 Addition	103	Ca. 1810	Ca. 1820	Ca. 1820
W-119	Ca.-1705 West Wing	102	Ca. 1820	Ca. 1820	Ca. 1820
W-120	Ca.-1705 West Wing	102	Ca. 1820	Ca. 1820	Ca. 1820
W-201	Ca.-1725 Addition	202	Ca. 1725 (?) & Ca. 1820	Ca. 1820	Ca. 1925
W-202	Ca.-1725 Addition	202	Ca. 1725 (?) & Ca. 1820	Ca. 1820	Ca. 1925
W-203	Ca.-1705 House	201	Ca. 1705 (?) & Ca. 1820	Ca. 1820	Ca. 1925
W-204	Ca.-1705 House	209	Ca. 1705 (?) & Ca. 1820	Ca. 1820	Ca. 1925
W-205	Ca.-1705 House	209	Ca. 1705 (?) & Ca. 1820	Ca. 1820	Ca. 1925
W-206	Ca.-1705 House	209	Ca. 1705 (?) & Ca. 1820	Ca. 1820	Ca. 1925
W-207	Ca.-1810 Addition	208	Ca. 1810 & Ca. 1820	Ca. 1820	Ca. 1925
W-208	Ca.-1925 Dormer	205	Ca. 1925	Ca. 1925	Ca. 1925
W-209	Ca.-1925 Dormer	205	Ca. 1925	Ca. 1925	Ca. 1925
W-210	Ca.-1810 Addition	203	Ca. 1810 & Ca. 1820	Ca. 1820	Ca. 1925
W-211	Ca.-1725 Addition	202	Ca. 1725 (?) & Ca. 1820	Ca. 1820	Ca. 1925
W-212	Ca.-1725 Addition	202	Ca. 1725 (?) & Ca. 1820	Ca. 1820	Ca. 1925

Window	Location	Room	Opening Date	Architrave Date	Sashes Date
W-301	Ca.-1705 House	Attic	Ca. 1925	Ca. 1925	Ca. 1925
W-302	Ca.-1725 Addition	Attic	Ca. 1925	Ca. 1925	Ca. 1925

Cornice

A plain board cornice trims the upper walls of the house, between the siding and the roof. The earliest surviving cornice, dated circa 1810, is on the north side of the house, where it is covered by the circa-1820 north shed addition. Most of the remaining cornice is believed to be replacement and new material installed circa 1925 and in the 1950's.

The approximate dates of the extant cornices are summarized below. Most of the dates are based on known dates of alterations, such as circa 1925, when the main roof was replaced and the gable ends were rebuilt. Also, the 1950's is when extensive alterations were made to the exterior of the house by the Ingrahams.

Each cornice was not inspected closely, nor were any cornice boards pulled to examine their nails or to determine if old cornice material was reused. Additional information on the cornices may come to light during restoration work on the house.

Location	Elevations	Date
Circa-1705 House	South & East	Circa 1925
Circa-1725 Addition (second story of west wing)	South & West	Circa 1925
Circa-1810 Addition	North, East Side (covered by ca.-1820 shed addition)	Circa 1810
	East & West North, West Side	Circa 1925
Circa-1820 Addition	West North	Circa 1820 (?) 1950's
Circa-1925 Dormer	North, East & West	Circa 1925
1952-1953 garage	All	1952-1953

Gutter System

There is no gutter system on the Meriam House today, except for a jury-rigged arrangement at the back doorway. Here, a "Yankee gutter" (i.e., two boards in the shape of an inverted "V") are attached to the roof to divert water away from the rear entrance. A short segment of gutter on the west side of the doorway also channels the water at the northwest corner; there is no leader or downspout.

Information on the historic gutter system is virtually nonexistent, except for two early photographs dated circa 1899 (figs. 6, 8). These show one complete downspout on the front, west side of the house, and a partial (upper) downspout on the east side. This indicates that a gutter existed on the front of the house, although no details of it are visible in the photographs. Furthermore, all physical evidence of the gutter was probably destroyed when the roof was reconstructed after the circa-1925 fire.

Roof

Brief Roof History

The history of the roof is a complex one that spans the years from circa 1705 to 1952-1953.

Circa 1705

The original roof of circa 1705 consisted of two parts: one over the main two-story section of the house, and the other over the one-story west wing.

The main roof was of gable design, with the ridge oriented in an east-west direction. Framing mortises preserved on the north and south roof plates of the original two-story house indicates that the roof was framed with seven principal rafters: two in the gable ends, and five more between these. Common rafters between the principal rafters, for which there are no mortises, would have been supported on the roof plates. Mortises in the chimney girt also suggest the presence of braces in this location. The chimney was located on the west side of the main-house roof.

The roof over the one-story west wing was probably also of gable design, with a ridge oriented east-west. This is based on the configuration of the existing first-story girts at the north and south walls, which suggests that the roof's rafters may have been seated here. Additional physical evidence of this roof may be uncovered during the restoration of the house.

Wood shingles probably covered the original roofs of circa 1705, although no physical or documentary evidence for these have been found.

Circa 1725

The roof of the one-story wing was removed circa 1725 and replaced by a second-story room. The new roof over this was a gable type that was continuous with the existing main-house roof. Framing mortises preserved in the north and south roof plates of the circa-1725 roof indicates that the new roof had three principal rafters. Like the main house roof, the common rafters appear to have sat on the roof plates with no mortised connections. Wood shingles were likely used on the circa-1725 roof, similar to the circa-1705 roofs.

Circa 1743

The documentary evidence indicates that a one-story kitchen addition was built on the back (north) side of the house sometime during this period (see Chapter I). This addition is missing today, having been replaced by the existing 1 1/2-story kitchen addition circa 1810.

While no physical evidence remains of the early kitchen-addition roof, a likely configuration for it would have been a shed type that descended from the back slope of the existing roof.[10] The

[10] No framing clues could be found in the north face of the main house's north roof plates in the attic.

pitch of this roof may have been the same as that of the main-house roof, or slightly less, to allow more head room in the addition. Wood shingles were the probable roofing material.

Circa 1810

The existing 1 1/2-story kitchen addition replaced the earlier one-story kitchen at this time. The new addition had a shed roof that was continuous with the main-house roof. Only a small section, at the east end where the addition "jogged" past the main house, had a gable-roof configuration with a south-facing slope. Due to the height of the new addition, it was necessary to lessen the pitch of the north slope of the main-house roof. Thereafter, the main-house roof had two pitches: a steep pitch on the front (south) side of the house, and a lesser pitch on the back (north) side.

Circa 1820

Not long after the large kitchen addition was constructed, a one-story addition was built on the north side of the house. This appears to have included an attached carriage shed on the east side. The roof of this addition was a shed type that was continuous with the roof of the circa-1810 addition. The framing appears to have been crude, based one visible roof rafter with bark intact in the attic of the north shed. Wood shingles were the probable roofing material.

Circa 1925

A fire circa 1925 damaged the oldest roofs of the Meriam House. Several of the roofs appear to have been completely rebuilt with new materials after the fire, including those dating to circa 1705, circa 1725, and circa 1810. A new dormer was also built on the north side of the house at that time. Asphalt shingles may have been installed for the first time circa 1925, although no evidence has been found for this.

Circa 1950's

Extensive repair and reconstruction work was carried out on the Meriam House during the early ownership of the Ingrahams in the 1950's. Shortly after their acquisition of the house in 1951, the circa-1820 carriage shed was demolished and replaced by a modern garage that resembled the carriage shed. It differed, however, by having a longer roof with a shallower slope. The roof of the north shed addition also appears to have been repaired at that time by replacing the existing sheathing boards with new, sawn sheathing boards. Shingles installed by the Ingrahams were a black-asphalt type.

General Description

The existing roof is of gable design, with shed additions on the back (north) side. Except for the roof plates, no early roofing material remains from the circa-1705, circa-1725, or circa-1810 roofs, due to the extensive rebuilding that was done after the fire of circa 1925.

The earliest extant roof framing is found in the circa-1820 north-shed addition. Here, one exposed roof rafter was observed to be unfinished, with intact bark. The roof sheathing boards, on the other hand, are later, being circular-sawn boards 10 3/4 inches wide. These are believed to have been installed as part of the Ingrahams' restoration in the 1950's.

Both the main-house roof of circa 1705 and circa 1725, and the roof on the rear addition of circa 1810, were completely rebuilt after the fire of circa 1925. The modern sawn rafters measure 1 3/4 inches by 5 3/4 inches, and are spaced about 20 1/2 inches on center. They meet at a board at the roof ridge that measures 9 1/2 inches wide by three-quarters of an inch thick. The pine roof sheathing boards are 9 1/2 inches wide.

The most recent roofing is on the garage, which was constructed in 1952-1953. This is a shed-style roof that reproduces the appearance of the earlier circa-1820 carriage shed. It differs from the carriage-shed roof, however, by being longer and less steeply pitched, as evidenced by an early photograph dated circa 1912 (fig. 16).

Shingles and Roll Roofing

Two materials cover the roofs of the Meriam House today: black asphalt shingles and roll roofing. The asphalt shingles are on all roof surfaces. Each tab measures approximately 11 1/2 inches wide, and has an exposure varying from 3 1/2 to 4 inches. Two layers of shingles appear to be on the house, which were both probably installed by the Ingrahams; those on the south slope are the most worn-looking. The roll roofing covers the lower 7 feet of the roof over the circa-1820 north-shed addition. This is applied over the existing asphalt shingles, perhaps in response to roof leaks in this area.

Roof Vents

Six roof vents protrude through the roofs of the Meriam House. Of these, four are metal-pipe plumbing vents and two are fan vents. All are located in the north slope of the roofs, and are not visible from the front side of the house. Most were installed by the Ingrahams (1951-1987). Each is described below.

Bathroom Vent, Circa 1903-1904

A metal-pipe vent is on the east side of the circa-1810 addition roof. It ventilates the soil pipe in the second-story east bathroom, and may date to circa 1903-1904 when the bathroom is thought to have been installed (Room 208).

Kitchen Vent, 1950's

A metal-pipe vent for the kitchen plumbing is located on the west side of the 1952-1953 garage roof. It undoubtedly dates to the 1950's installation of the kitchen in the north shed addition (Room 107).

Bathroom Vent, 1958

A metal-pipe vent for the 1958 bathroom plumbing (Room 203) is near the west end of the circa-1810 addition roof.

Soil Pipe Vent

Another metal-pipe vent is in the circa-1810 addition roof, near the jog on the east side of the house. It is a second ventilator for the soil pipe that serves the bathroom installed circa 1903-1904 (Room 208).

Kitchen Fan Vent

A vent for the kitchen ceiling fan is located in the roof of the circa-1820 north addition. Like the kitchen itself, the fan probably dates to the 1950's.

Bathroom Fan Vent, 1958

A vent for the 1958-bathroom ceiling fan is located at the east end of the circa-1810 addition roof. The fan has also been dated 1958.

Chimney

A single, large chimney is roughly centered in the main-house roof of the Meriam House. Notable features of the chimney stack are five fireplaces and three bake ovens.

Brief Chimney History

Circa 1705

The original chimney of circa 1705 was in the same location as the chimney today, based on the structural framing of the house in the attic story. It would not have looked like a center chimney, however, since the west side of the house was then only a one-story wing. The original chimney also appears to have been positioned about 8 1/2 inches farther to the south than the present chimney, based on the following: (a) the existence of a stone ledge south of the existing chimney, beneath the stairway in Room 101; (b) shadow evidence of the original staircase in Room 101; and (c) framing evidence in the attic.

Because the house was apparently constructed for a single family (Joseph Meriam and Dorothy Brooks, who married in 1705), it was probably built with only one cooking fireplace, in the west-wing room. Common practices of the day would suggest that this fireplace had a large firebox, with a bake oven recessed into one of the back corners of the firebox. Smaller fireplaces for warming the first-story east room and the second-story east chamber may also have been part of the chimney construction.

The original chimney would have been built with fairly large handmade bricks. This is based on the fact that many of these bricks were saved and reused when the chimney was rebuilt circa 1743. They measure 8 1/2 inches long by 2 1/2 inches high by 4 inches wide. Many have charring on them from their previous use inside fire boxes or flues.

Circa 1725

A second story was added to the west wing of the house circa 1725. A fireplace for the new second-story west chamber may have been added to the chimney at that time.

Circa 1743

The chimney was completely reconstructed at some point in the 18th century. This is based on the configuration of the two cooking fireplaces that were part of the rebuilt chimney—one in the first-story east room, the other for a new kitchen addition at the back of the house. Both bake ovens were located to the side of the firebox—a development that occurred in fireplace design around the second quarter of the 18th century. The new chimney also included smaller fireplaces for the first-story west room and both second-story chambers. This work probably occurred circa 1743, when Nathan Meriam married and presumably set up housekeeping with his parents.

As stated previously, the chimney rebuilding used some large bricks saved from the original chimney. To these were added a number of slightly smaller handmade bricks, measuring 7 1/2 inches long by 2 inches high by 3 3/4 inches wide.

Circa 1810

Around 1810, the existing 1 1/2-story kitchen addition replaced the one-story kitchen. A new kitchen fireplace with bake oven to the side was built at this time. The construction of the new bake oven damaged the earlier, circa-1743 bake oven behind it. Bricks used for this work were also handmade bricks, but smaller yet: 7 1/2 inches long by 2 inches high by 3 1/2 inches wide. The same bricks are found in the fireplace in Room 108. This suggests that the large, circa-1743 cooking fireplace in this room was remodeled as a smaller, “parlor” fireplace around the same time.

Circa 1820

Changes may have been made in the fireplaces circa 1820, when the interior rooms were extensively remodeled with new plaster and woodwork. The exposed chimney brickwork in the front entry, for example, was covered with a plaster finish at this time; the fireboxes in the upstairs chambers may also have been altered by making the fireboxes smaller.

Circa 1900-1950

A furnace for heating the house was installed in the cellar at some point, probably in the first half of the 20th century. The furnace, which was likely fueled with coal, was vented through the existing chimney flue for the east parlor fireplace (Room 108).

Circa 1950's

Considerable restoration work was undertaken on the Meriam House by James and Margaret Ingraham in the 1950's. They opened fireplaces that had been closed (such as the one in Room 102) and applied a varnished finish to the old brickwork. They also exposed the chimney brickwork in the front entry, which had been finished with circa-1820 plasterwork. New brick hearths may have been laid in selected rooms at this time.

The Ingrahams installed a new oil-burning furnace in 1951. They presumably used the same chimney flue as the old furnace.

1984

The exterior portion of the chimney that projects above the roof was rebuilt in 1984. Evidence of this is preserved in the stucco finish applied to the top surface of the chimney, where the following is inscribed: “CW + MG 84.” Photographic evidence confirms that such work was done after 1963: a photograph taken in that year clearly shows subtle differences from today's chimney in the coursing of the stack's brickwork.

General Description

The chimney, which is constructed primarily of handmade bricks, is thought to date to two periods: circa 1743, when the chimney stack was rebuilt; and circa 1810, when the kitchen fireplace and bake oven were rebuilt. The chimney above the roof was rebuilt in 1984, using the old bricks.

As explained previously, two physical clues indicate that the chimney is not original to the circa-1705 house. First, all three bake ovens—which are an integral part of the chimney construction—are offset to the side. This design began to occur in New England around the second quarter of the 18th century. Second, charring on many of the bricks seen in the front stair hall and in the chimney breasts indicates that they were reused, probably from an earlier chimney stack.

Foundation

The foundation for the chimney appears to be the ground surface; the west stone wall of the cellar serves as the retaining wall at the base of the chimney.

The retaining wall began to collapse in 1951 when the new furnace was installed by the Ingrahams, according to neighbor Salvatore Muscato. A concrete support wall was therefore poured at the base of the stone wall, which exists today. This wall measures 14 feet long by 2 feet 8 inches high by 2 feet 2 inches wide.

Bricks and Mortar

Four types of handmade bricks were observed to have been used in the chimney.

- Very large, salmon-color bricks were used in the exterior domes of the bake ovens.

- Large bricks, measuring 8 1/2 inches long by 2 1/2 inches high by 4 inches deep, are found primarily in the south wall of the chimney (visible in the front stairway), and in the chimney breast of the first-story west room (Room 102). These date to circa 1705, having been reused from the original chimney.

- Smaller bricks, measuring 7 1/2 inches long by 2 inches high by 3 3/4 inches wide, are also found in the south wall of the chimney and the chimney breast of the first-story west room (Room 102). These date to the circa-1743 rebuilding of the chimney.

- Smaller bricks, measuring 7 1/2 inches long by 2 inches high by 3 1/2 inches wide, are found in the kitchen fireplace (Room 104), and in the fireplace of the first-story east room (Room 108). These date to circa 1810, when the existing back kitchen wing was constructed, and when the older cooking fireplace in Room 108 was made smaller.

Three types of mortar were observed to have been used in the chimney: clay, white lime, and portland cement. The clay mortar was observed in the exterior domes of the bake ovens. The white lime mortar is in the brick wall beneath the front stairway, and is therefore probably original to the wall. Portland-cement mortar appears in areas where the chimney brickwork has been recently

repaired. The portland mortar used in 1984 to rebuild the chimney above the roof is a white-gray color with a large aggregate.

Interior Stack

The chimney stack rises through the center bay of the house. The south face of the brick chimney is visible in the front stairway (Rooms 101-201), where it supports the stairway. This wall is two wythes thick.

One can access the interior of the chimney stack in the first story by passing through two doorways. The first is a full-size doorway in the east wall of Room 102. It originally led to the first cellar stairway, which was located below the front stairway. The doorway was closed up circa 1820, but recreated in the 1950's. Once through this doorway, a person can pass through a small doorway in the south face of the chimney, which comprises the north wall of the former cellar stairway. The opening is small, measuring only 2 feet 3 inches high by 1 foot 6 1/2 inches wide, with a wooden header.

The interior of the chimney stack is divided into two small chambers—south and north—by a brick wall one wythe thick. An opening between the chambers measures 3 feet 8 inches high by 3 feet 5 inches wide, with a wooden lintel.

In the south chamber, the east and west walls are the back sides of the fireplaces in the front rooms (Rooms 102 and 108). No evidence of earlier fireplace configurations could be found here. The north chamber contains the exterior domes of three bake ovens: one for the east room (Room 108), and two for the kitchen (Room 104). The existing kitchen oven is later (circa 1810), based on the fact that it broke through an earlier oven that was also oriented north-south. The earlier bake oven and east-room oven are of contemporary construction, and have been dated circa 1743.

Another feature of the upper north chamber is two wood beams that span in an east-west direction. The beams, which measure 3 inches by 4 inches, are blackened, as are the upper brick walls of the chamber. This evidence may indicate that the north chamber was used at one time as a smoke chamber. Details of how this would have been accomplished are not known. It is possible that two loose bricks—one in the back wall of the east-room fireplace, and the other in the back wall of the kitchen fireplace—are related to the “smokehouse” function of the chamber.

The exterior walls of the chimney stack are exposed in the attic story. Here, the stack measures approximately 4 feet 1 inch wide (east-west) by 4 feet 3 inches deep (north-south). A mortar parge covers the brickwork on all four sides of the stack. It is obvious that the kitchen flue, which slopes up the back (north) side, is a later addition, due to the fact that joists were removed to make room for it. Physical evidence of the missing joists survives in the form of unused mortises.

Interior Fireplaces

Details of the interior fireplaces are discussed in the section on interior rooms.

Exterior Stack

The exterior portion of the chimney stack rises 3 feet 10 1/2 inches above the roof ridge. The stack was rebuilt in 1984 with large-aggregate portland-cement mortar, based on the inscription "CW + MG 84" inscribed in the mortar parge on the westerly top surface of the chimney. Mortar parget also covers the interior upper surfaces of the flues.

The chimney stack is laid primarily in a stretcher bond, with occasional header bricks randomly interspersed in the rows. The top two courses project slightly, to give the appearance of a cap. The bricks are obviously reused, based on the intermixing of old handmade bricks with new machine-made bricks. Black charring is on the exterior surfaces of some of the old bricks; others are the under-fired "salmon" type that was typically not used in exterior applications. The lower portion of the stack, where it intersects with the roof, is flashed with sheets of lead.

Five flue openings are visible at the top of the chimney stack, which ventilate the five interior fireplaces. These are as follows:

- large flue at the northeast corner—vents the Room-108 fireplace and bake oven; now used by the furnace;
- small flue at the southeast corner—vents the Room-209 fireplace;
- small flue at the south center—vents the Room-102 fireplace;
- small flue at the southwest corner—vents the Room-202 fireplace; and
- large flue at the northwest corner—vents the Room-104 (kitchen) fireplace and bake oven.

The appearance of the circa-1743 chimney stack prior to the 1984 rebuilding can be deduced from photographic evidence. Figure 8 (circa 1899) indicates that the early chimney had a corbeled cap. Figure 17 (circa 1937) shows both the corbeled cap and what appears to be a drip course at the base of the stack. Figure 20 (1963) shows the stack to have been approximately five brick courses taller than it is today. (Interestingly, figure 20 does not show the drip course seen in figure 17.)

Painted Finishes

A history of the exterior painted finishes of the Meriam House was determined by reviewing written documentary sources, by studying the exterior photographs of the house, and by microscopically examining small chips of paint extracted from exterior painted surfaces (see Appendix E). The following is a summary of that research.

Circa 1705

No documentary or physical evidence has been found for the original exterior finishes of the house circa 1705. A typical exterior treatment for circa 1705 would have been to leave the exterior of the house unpainted.

April 19, 1775

No information is available on the exterior finishes of the house in 1775.

Circa 1810

The earliest surviving siding has been identified as dating to circa 1810. This consists of riven clapboards and trim boards on an area of the circa-1810 kitchen addition that was covered circa 1820 by the north shed addition built at that time. These old clapboards are visible in the attic of the north addition (Room 207).

Paint samples removed from the circa-1810 clapboards and trim revealed that both elements had only one layer of paint each: nonlead light green paint on the clapboards and lead-based rust-brown paint on the trim. However, this paint overlapped onto materials installed by the Ingrahams in the 1950's. The paint, therefore, had also been applied in the 1950's.

No traces of earlier paint were found beneath the 1950's paint. It was therefore concluded that at least the back side of the house was probably unpainted from circa 1810 to circa 1820. The treatment of the rest of the house is not known.

1871

The earliest documented reference to the exterior paint color of the Meriam House is a memoir written in January 1872, which described the house as "the time-worn yellow house now standing at the corner of Lexington and old Bedford roads."[11] Coincidently, it was found that the earliest extant paint layer on the body of the house is a yellow, lead-based paint, based on the microscopic paint analysis. That, combined with the fact that the house has only about 14 finish

[11] Grindall Reynolds, "Memoir of Ephraim Merriam," *Memoirs of Members of the Social Circle in Concord*, 2nd Series, 1795-1840 (Cambridge, MA: The Riverside Press, 1888), p. 241.

layers of paint, led to the conclusion that the house was probably painted yellow by Thomas and Rose Burke when they acquired the house in 1871.

Circa 1880-1925

During the next half-century, until 1925, the house was painted approximately three more times with lead paints, based on the paint analysis. The first painting was a yellow color, the second a light green, and the third a medium-green. Trim colors for these early years were difficult to ascertain, due to the poor condition of the paint layers on the trim. It appears from the earliest historical photographs of the house (e.g., figure 5, taken circa 1885-1898), that the exterior painted finishes were worn. Later views, taken around 1900, show a more finished appearance, with light-color trim and window sashes.

Circa 1925-1951

The house was painted dark green with lead-based white/cream trim circa 1925. This is the first finish found on the back dormer that was constructed in that year. Dark green paint is also the earliest surviving paint on the circa-1820 front door, which is now located in the side doorway.

A lighter yellow color over a white, lead-based primer was next applied to the house. The trim color was a lead-based cream-white color. The exact date of this work is not known.

Circa 1951-Present

The house was first painted red with white trim after it was purchased by James and Margaret Ingraham in 1951. It is also the first painted finish on the garage that replaced the old carriage shed in 1952-1953. Both the red and white paints are lead-based.

The next painting of the house, which probably occurred in the late 1950's, was a black-gray color over a gray primer. This color was used on all exterior painted surfaces of the house, including the trim, window sashes, and doors. It was not until later years that the front doors were painted a contrasting light-blue color. The intention of this dark paint scheme may have been to replicate the appearance of unpainted, weathered wood. The house retains this same dark paint scheme today. The south and west sides were scraped and repainted the same color by the National Park Service in the fall of 1993. The doors remain light blue.

INTERIOR ELEMENTS:

INTRODUCTION

The architectural descriptions of the interior of the house are discussed by room, beginning with the cellar and ending with the attic. As mentioned at the beginning of this chapter, each room in the first and second stories has been assigned a number (figs. 34, 35). The reason for this is to simplify discussions of the rooms, because some of the room names and uses have changed over the years.[12]

Each room begins with a "General Information" section that explains the location, the use, and the general evolution of the room. This is followed by descriptions of the various architectural elements, such as the floors, walls, and so on. Finally, schematic drawings of the existing floor, walls, and ceiling illustrate each room. On these drawings are keyed the numbers of the doorway and window openings, and the paint sample locations (denoted by "Pxxx").

[12] The "kitchen," for example, was moved from the circa-1810 addition to the circa-1820 addition in the 1950's.

INTERIOR ELEMENTS:

CELLAR STORY

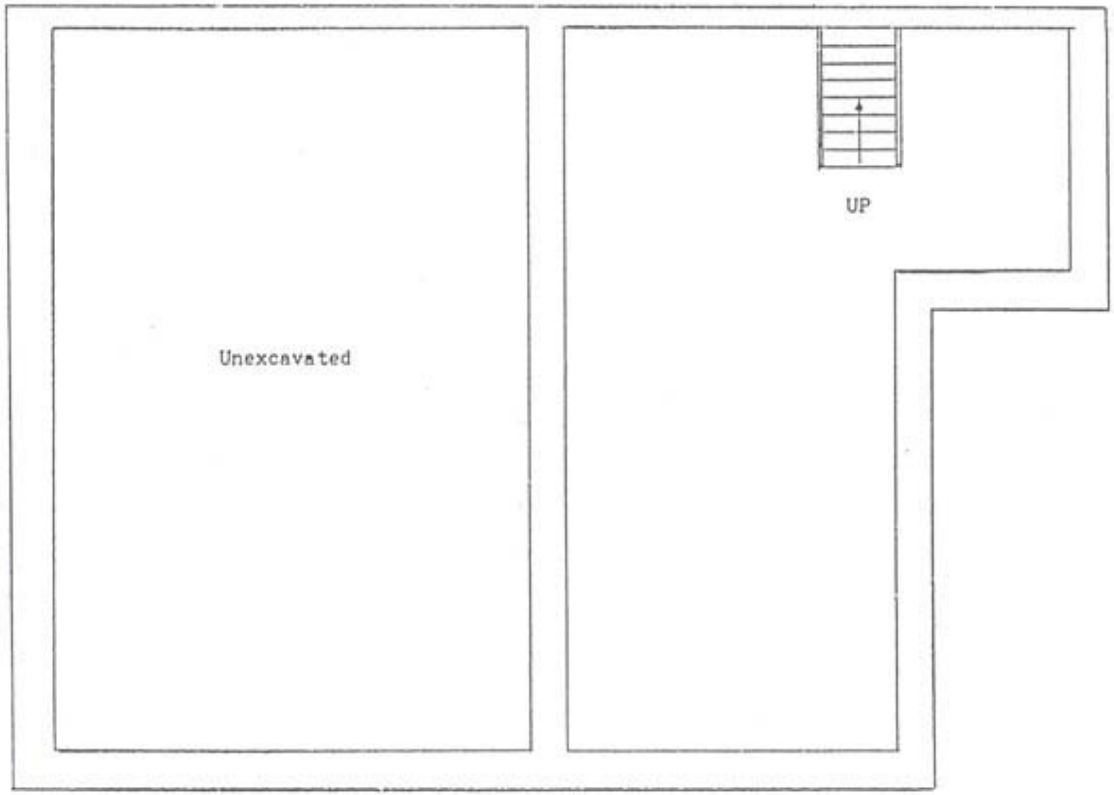

Figure 33. Meriam House, cellar floor plan, 1993.

Cellar

General Information

The cellar is located under the east side of the house (Room 108) and the eastern portion of the circa-1810 addition. That portion beneath the main house is believed to be original, dating to circa 1705; that portion beneath the circa-1810 addition was probably excavated when the kitchen addition was constructed. The earliest part of the cellar measures approximately 14 feet wide (east-west) by 18 feet long (north-south); the dimensions of the cellar extension are approximately 10 feet wide (north-south) by 20 1/2 feet long (east-west).

The earliest-documented reference to the cellar is found in the will of Nathan Meriam dated September 9, 1782, in which he set off for his widow

> the use and improvement of the westerly end of the upright part of my house and as much of the kitchen and **seller** [sic; bold added] as will be nesecary for her to improve....[13]

The original cellar stairway exited through the west wall, ascending to a doorway to the west room (Room 102). This stairway appears to have become obsolete circa 1810, when a new stairway was built in the new kitchen addition. The bulkhead entrance also probably dates to this time.

The cellar was probably used in the 18th and 19th centuries to store foodstuffs. A furnace was probably added sometime in the early 20th century. Considerable changes were made to the cellar in the 1950's, when the existing oil tank and oil burner were installed. The concrete floor and wall sills date to this period, as do the workbench and the existing wood stairway.

Floor

The floor is poured concrete, which probably dates to the 1950's.

Walls

Materials

The walls are composed of fieldstones of various sizes, bricks, and quarried granite. A cast concrete sill is also located at the base of the walls.

Fieldstones make up the lower walls in both the southern (circa-1705) and northern (circa-1810) portions of the cellar. No distinct difference could be ascertained between the fieldstones used in the early portion of the cellar and the fieldstones used in the circa-1810 extension. A patch of fieldstones also exists at the south end of the west wall. It is thought that this patch marks the former opening to the original cellar stairway. This stairway ascended westward to Room 102,

[13] Middlesex County Probate Document #15095.

under the main, front stairway in Rooms 101 and 201. It was made obsolete circa 1810: the cellar was enlarged as part of the new kitchen wing, with a new interior stairway at the north wall. Circa 1820, the opening to the old stairway was closed with fieldstone.

Handmade bricks are used in the upper foot of the walls on the south side of the cellar, at the southeast and southwest corners of the circa-1810 extension, and the west side of the north wall. A large piece of quarried granite, measuring 4 feet 7 inches long, is in the upper south wall of the circa-1810 cellar extension. This is the back side of the stone stoop for the exterior first-story doorway here.

Concrete Sill

A sill, or "buttress," of cast concrete is at the base of all the walls. This sill was installed in the 1950's, probably to give additional structural stability to the walls. It measures 1 foot wide by 1 foot high at all the walls, except at the west retaining wall for the chimney, where the sill measures 2 feet 2 inches wide by 2 feet 8 inches high by 14 feet long. A neighbor who helped pour the large support remembers that it was done to keep the chimney from collapsing (see Appendix D).

Mortar

Two types of mortar were observed in the cellar walls: a white lime-type, and a gray portland-cement type. The lime mortar is the earlier of the two mortars, being found beneath the portland-cement mortar in some areas. Extensive portland-cement repairs were made to the east and west walls of the original portion of the cellar. A stucco finish of portland cement also exists at the east wall of the cellar extension, in the vicinity of the bulkhead doorway. A likely date for the portland mortar is the 1950's; no date has been established for the lime mortar, since this, too, was probably a later repair.

Ceiling

The ceiling is the exposed framing and subfloor boards of the first story. The ceiling in the original portion of the cellar has been dated circa 1705. The ceiling in the circa-1810 portion may be a mixture of framing from the earlier kitchen addition (circa 1743), and the later (circa-1810) kitchen addition that replaced it.

Circa-1705 Ceiling

The framing of the ceiling in the original south portion of the cellar is composed of a center north-south beam and east-west joists. The large beam measures 9 inches square and has simple chamfered edges. The joists are sawn and spaced approximately 22 inches on center; they measure 4 inches wide by 4 1/4-1/2 inches high. The parallel saw marks on the joists are evidence of milling by a reciprocating (or "up-and-down") saw.

The south end of the beam, and the east ends of the joists, are seated in the masonry walls. The north end of the beam, which is believed to have been similarly supported when this was the north end of the cellar, is now mortised into a hewn east-west beam that measures 7 inches square. The west ends of the joists are mortised into an original sill that also measures 7 inches square.

Wide subfloor boards in Room 108 make up the ceiling surface between the beam and the joists. These are oriented in a north-south direction.

Early Ceiling (Circa 1743)

The ceiling in the later north portion of the cellar may contain remnants of the early kitchen addition, which is thought to have been built circa 1743. The first documented reference to a separate "kitchen" is in a probate document dated 1782.

The portion of the ceiling that may be early is located north of the original cellar (excluding the jog to the east). Here, the ceiling is framed with five unfinished joists with their bark intact, spaced approximately 3 feet on center and oriented in a north-south direction. A larger hewn joist, instead of a log joist, is in line with the original cellar's east wall. This hewn joist, which measures 7 inches wide by 8 inches high, may have been the original east sill of the kitchen.[14]

The south hewn beam into which the joists are framed was probably installed at this time. This beam supports the north end of the north-south beam in the original cellar, and the south ends of the log and hewn joists. It measures 7 inches square.

It has been proposed that the reason unfinished framing was used in this part of the cellar was because a crawl space only, not a cellar, existed beneath the early kitchen addition when it was constructed circa 1743.

Wide subfloor boards, oriented in an east-west direction, sheathe the ceiling between the joists. Whether or not the boards were also salvaged from the earlier kitchen is not known.

Later Ceiling (Circa 1810)

The ceiling in the portion of the cellar that comprises the eastern "jog" is thought to date to the construction of the present kitchen addition circa 1810. This is also when the cellar was probably enlarged, which exposed the unfinished framing previously described.

Three north-south joists frame the ceiling in the eastern jog. Of these, two appear to be original and one is a later replacement. The two original joists are at the east end of the ceiling. These have bark intact on their bottom sides only, while the two sides are hewn. The replacement joist, at the west end of the jog, is a modern sawn member.

Wide subfloor boards are laid in an east-west direction across the joists. These presumably date to circa 1810.

[14] Corroborating evidence for this is a joint at the south beam in this location, into which the hewn joist is framed. No such joint, however, exists in the opposite north sill. This may because the sill was replaced at a later date.

Doorways

Existing Doorways

The cellar contains two doorways, each of which is associated with a stairway. One doorway sits in the south wall of the present kitchen (Room 107), at the top of an interior stairway at the north wall of the cellar. This doorway is discussed in connection with Room 107.

The other doorway in the cellar sits at the foot of a stairway within the bulkhead at the east end of the east jog. The bulkhead presumably dates to the enlargement of the cellar circa 1810, since that is when the east jog was built. Plywood sheathing covers the doorway opening today; there is no evidence for an interior door or doors, although this may be obscured by the later application of gray portland-cement stucco.

Missing Doorway

As explained in "Walls," a fieldstone patch at the south end of the west stone wall marks the former opening to the original interior cellar stairway. The patch is clearly defined by two vertical joints spaced 2 feet 9 inches apart. The opening has been dated to circa 1705, because it appears to be contemporary with the cellar wall. The patch has been dated to circa 1820.[15]

Window

The cellar has one window, at the west end of the south wall. Its placement in the original wall suggests that the opening may date to the construction of the foundation circa 1705. Further substantiating its antiquity is the fact that the opening is framed with handmade bricks. For a discussion of the window's sash and other details, see "Exterior: Windows (W-001)."

Stairways

Existing Stairways

As explained previously, two stairways exist in the cellar today: an interior one at the north wall, leading to Room 107, and an exterior one in the east bulkhead.

The north stairway is a wood staircase with open risers. It is located in the circa-1810 portion of the cellar, beneath the back stairway connecting the first and second stories. However, the present cellar stairway was probably built by the Ingrahams in the 1950's, since it consists of modern, sawn lumber. The stairway is open to the cellar, lacking even a handrail. However, it is enclosed by walls above the level of the first floor. The east wall of the enclosure is covered with paneling that has been dated to circa 1810: it bears the charred outline of the original stairway from the first to the second stories. The west wall is covered with nonhistoric materials: its north end by the back of the northeast closet in Room 104, its south end by shelves no earlier than the present stairway.

[15] The date "circa 1820" also corresponds with alterations that were made in the first-story rooms, such as the plastering of Room 102.

The stairway in the bulkhead entrance has seven treads and open risers, as well. Since it is constructed of modern, sawn lumber, it is thought to date to the 1950's or later.

Missing Stairways

Two early stairways are missing from the cellar, but physical evidence exists for both of them. As stated previously, the original interior cellar stairway was abandoned circa 1820, and the opening to it—in the west wall of the cellar—was closed with fieldstone. The opening was partially reopened during the restoration of the house in the 1950's. This revealed the fieldstone side walls of the stairway, and three steps. Two of these remain in place at the top of the stairway. They are embedded in the soil, and have a riser height of 7 1/4 inches and a tread width of 9 inches. A third step formerly embedded in the soil has been dislodged and sits on top of the debris that fills the bottom of the stairway. It is a roughly hewn log that measures approximately 3 feet 1 1/2 inches long. Excavation of the debris may locate additional steps.[16]

The stairway that made the original cellar stairway obsolete is also missing. It was constructed as part of the circa-1810 kitchen addition, at the north wall of the expanded cellar, in the same place as the existing cellar stairway. The main difference was that it had winders at the top and led to a doorway in the circa-1810 kitchen (Room 104).[17] Evidence for this early stairway includes the Room-104 doorway, which has been converted to a closet doorway. Also, the log joist at the west side of the stairway opening bears the marks of hand-hewing on the side of the stairway only. Finally, the placement of the cellar stairway beneath the stairway from the first to the second stories would have been a typical arrangement for circa 1810.

The circa-1810 cellar stairway was probably replaced with the present one by the Ingrahams in the 1950's, judging by the modern, sawn lumber used to construct it. Several reasons for this action are possible. First, the winder steps would have made the circa-1810 stairway difficult to negotiate. Second, the old stairway may have been weakened by the circa-1925 fire, which damaged the circa-1810 stairway above it so badly that it had to be replaced. Finally, the Ingrahams moved the kitchen function out of Room 104 into Room 107; it is very likely that they would have wanted to relocate the cellar access correspondingly.

Workbench

A long wood workbench, with a top working surface and a deep bottom shelf, is located at the east wall of the original cellar. It presumably belonged to James Ingraham, who lived in the house from 1951 to 1990.

Finishes

There are no historic or modern painted finishes in the cellar. All woodwork, including the ceiling framing and the 1950's staircases and workbench, is unfinished.

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[16] Early examples of earth bedding for log steps is mentioned by Cummings (pp. 167-168).

[17] Today's stairway is a straight run that leads to a doorway in the present kitchen (Room 107).

Electrical Equipment

Light Fixtures

Five electric light fixtures are in the cellar today. These include three single-light fixtures with incandescent bulbs, and two fluorescent-strip lights over the east workbench. All of the light fixtures are ceiling-mounted. The incandescent lights are activated by two light switches: one at the top of the north stairway, on the east wall, and the other at the east cellar wall, to the south side of the bulkhead doorway. All of the electrical light fixtures were presumably installed by the Ingrahams in the 1950's.

Electrical Outlets

The cellar has four duplex receptacles. Two receptacles are mounted above the workbench at the east wall; one is at the north wall, west of the sink, and one is attached to a joist above the bulkhead doorway. Like the light fixtures, the electrical outlets were presumably installed by the Ingrahams in the 1950's.

Heating Equipment

Oil-Burning System

Heating equipment in the cellar includes an oil-storage tank, and an oil burner and boiler for a hot-water heating system. This heating system is obsolete today, due to the fact that the water to the house is disconnected.

A storage tank and oil burner both appear to have been installed in 1951. This is based on a permit found in the cellar, dated April 10, 1951, to “Install and store 275 gallon fuel oil in basement in combination with a E.A. Wood [burner or power] furnace.”

The oil storage tank is in the front, southeast corner of the cellar. It is almost completely full, based on the fuel gage on top that reads between 260 and 270 gallons. It is presumably the same fuel tank that was installed in 1951.

The oil burner/boiler is approximately centered at the west wall. An identification plate on the unit identifies it as having been made by the H.B. Smith Co., Inc., of Westfield, MA. Whether or not this is the same equipment installed in 1951, or a later replacement, is not known. A round ventilation pipe for the oil burner/boiler connects with the chimney base at the west wall.

Coal-Burning System

Before oil-burning heating equipment was installed in 1951, it is likely that the house had a coal-burning boiler. A large disconnected water tank, on the south wide of the oil-fueled burner/boiler, may have been part of this system. It was probably installed sometime in the 20th century.

Plumbing Equipment

Plumbing equipment in the cellar includes the main water line to the house, an exposed soil pipe, a sump-pump, and a kitchen-style sink.

The main water line enters the house in the back, northwest corner of the cellar. The water line supplies town water, the use of which was metered. The water meter is missing today, having been removed sometime after the National Park Service assumed full ownership of the house in December 1991.

The exposed cast-iron soil pipe is in the northeast corner of the cellar. It exits through the east wall, and connects with the septic tank in the east side yard. The pipe may be as early as circa 1903-1904, when the original bathroom (Room 208) is thought to have been installed.

The sump pump is at the north wall, on the east side of the stairway to the first story. The pump, manufactured by General Electric, sits in a 15-inch diameter well. It was presumably installed by the Ingrahams in the 1950's, at the same time as the concrete floor.

The kitchen-style sink is also at the north wall, on the west side of the stairway to the first story. The sink has a white porcelain finish, two bowls, and two front legs. Writing cast on the underside identifies the sink as having been manufactured by the Kohler Company in January 1955.[18] It was probably installed a short time later—possibly at the same time as a washing machine, the water supplies for which are on the west side of the sink. There is no washing machine in the cellar today.

Fire- and Intrusion-Protection Systems

A smoke detector and alarm unit is mounted to the west wall at the head of the north stairway. It is the only protection equipment in the cellar.

[18] The exact transcription reads: "KOHLER U.S.A. PAT. NO. D. 83246 6626 . 50 x 24 - 1 - 55."

INTERIOR ELEMENTS:

FIRST STORY

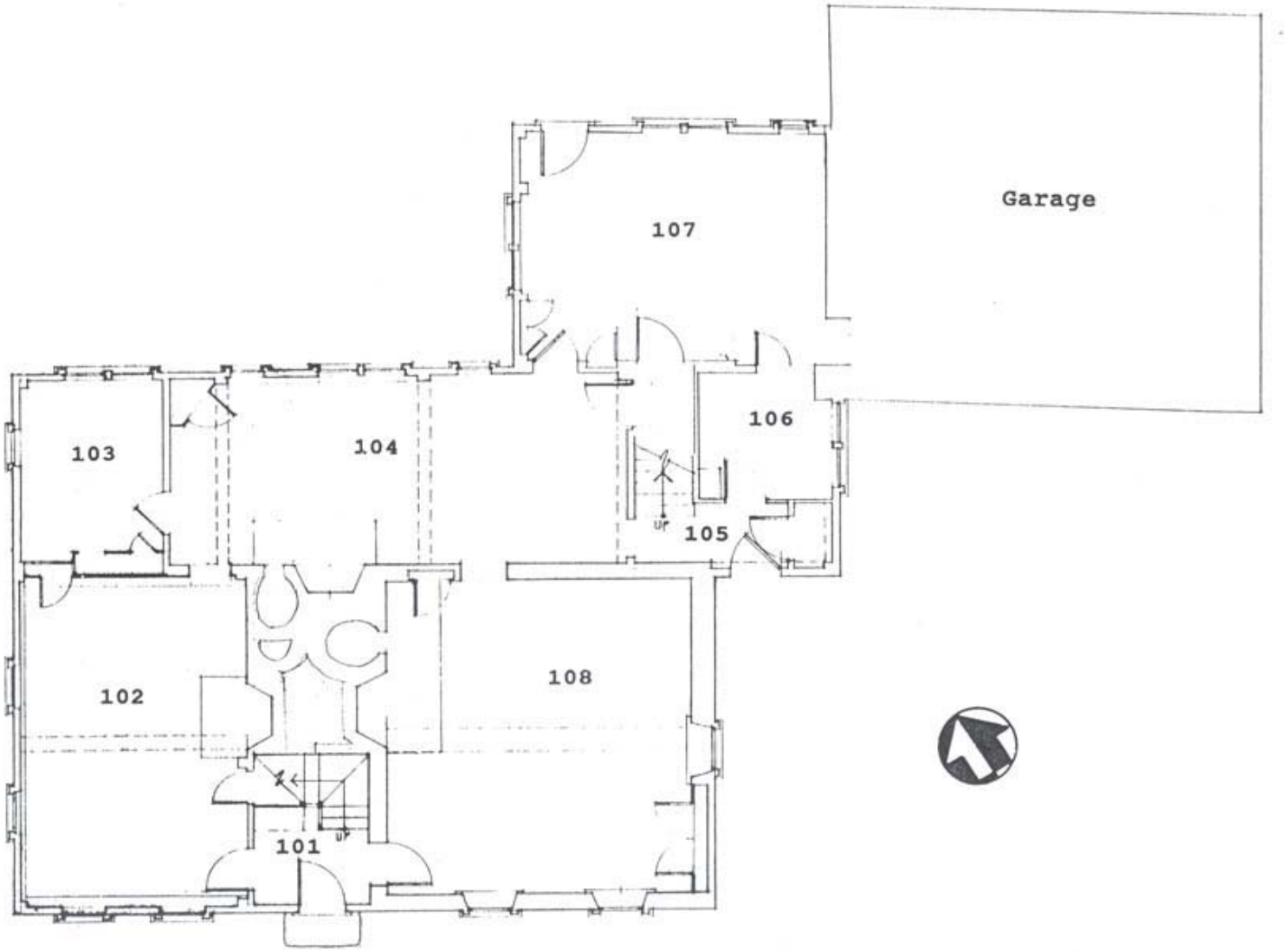

Figure 34. Meriam House, first-floor plan, 1993.

Room 101

General Information

Room 101 is the front entry, or stair hall. It is the center room in the original house, between Rooms 102 and 108. This is a small room that measures only 6 feet 4 1/2 inches wide by 8 feet 9 inches deep (to the chimney wall). The stairway takes up the entire north half of the room.

Room 101 is an original room dating to circa 1705, although no features (except perhaps the floorboards) remain from that period. The brick chimney stack is thought to have been rebuilt circa 1743, at which time a new stairway (for which physical evidence survives) must have been installed. The room was considerably altered circa 1820, when the existing staircase was built; the walls of the stairway were furred out and plastered; and new doors were installed in all the doorways. A new front door replaced the circa-1820 door around 1900.

More changes were made by the Ingrahams in the 1950's when all the doorways were changed; the existing wide-board paneling was installed; the plaster was removed from the north brick wall of the stairway; and the paint was stripped from the staircase.

Room 101 functions today, as it did originally, as the formal entrance into the house. From here, one may enter the two original first-story rooms, or climb the staircase to the second story.

Floor

The floor is composed of wide pine floorboards, laid in a north-south direction. The boards vary in width, from about 9 inches to 12 inches.

No information is available on the date of the floorboards. They appear to be old, based on their worn and painted appearance and corroded nail heads. While it is possible that the boards date to the original construction of the room circa 1705, it is more likely that they were installed when the room was remodeled circa 1820.

Walls

The walls are comprised of three materials: vertical wood paneling, plaster, and brickwork. An earlier board partition wall also survives behind the east plaster wall in the stairway.

Paneling

Vertical wood paneling finishes the south wall, the south half of the east and west walls (the portions not in the stairway), and the lower north wall beneath the stairway. The paneling is composed of hand-planed, wide pine boards with edge beading. The boards vary in width, with a maximum size of 1 foot 7 1/2 inches. The paneling is believed to be reused material that was installed by the Ingrahams in the 1950's. Empty square nail holes are evidence of the boards' previous use. The nails that attach the paneling are modern square-headed, machine-cut nails.

Authentic wrought nails also exist, although these appear to have been installed at random so as to make the paneling look "antique." The hand-planed finish may also have been the work of the Ingrahams.

Plaster

Plaster on wood accordion lath finishes the north halves of the east and west walls of the stair hall (the portions in the stairway). The back side of the lath, which is attached to wood studs, is visible in Room 102 at the east doorway leading to the area under the stairway. The plaster is a lime type with hair binder. Both the lath and the plaster have been dated circa 1820, when the existing staircase was installed.

Brickwork

The exposed brickwork of the chimney stack comprises the north wall of the stairway. As discussed under "Chimney," this chimney stack is believed to have been rebuilt circa 1743. Evidence of brick reuse is visible in the wall, where a wide band of large, handmade bricks with black charring exists.[19] The brickwork was never intended to be exposed, however. Remaining physical evidence suggests that the bricks were whitewashed originally, and covered with plaster applied directly to the bricks circa 1820 (the same time the side walls were plastered). The plaster was probably removed during the 1950's restoration.

Early Paneled Wall

A partition wall one board thick divided the stair hall from the east adjacent room as early as circa 1705; it was covered by the plaster wall circa 1820. This vertical board paneling survives today in the east adjacent room (Room 108), on the south side of the fireplace. It is an early-style paneling with a distinctive edge molding known as "shadow" or "crinkle" molding.[20] The stairway side of the paneling may be seen today beneath the existing stairway. Here, the molding is simpler, with deep beveled edges. The painted outline of two earlier staircases is evidence that the paneling was once the exposed east wall of the stairway. Similar evidence on the north brick wall indicates that the brickwork was exposed at the same time as the paneling.

<u>Ceiling</u>

A ceiling exists on the south side of the room only; the north side is the stairwell, which is open to the second story.

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[19] This band comprises eight rows of bricks. Measured from the floor of the room, it extends from a height of 5 feet to a height of 6 feet 10 1/2 inches. The bricks themselves measure 8 1/2 inches long by 2 1/2 inches wide. Other bricks above and below this band measure 7 1/2 inches long by 2 inches high.

[20] This paneling may be one of the few surviving circa-1705 features of the house. It may have been reused in this location circa 1743 when the chimney stack was reworked.

The ceiling measures approximately 3 feet 9 inches wide (north-to-south), and is 6 feet 8 inches high. Both the ceiling and the sloping underside of the staircase are finished with the same wide-board beaded-pine paneling that exists on the walls. The paneling is oriented in an east-west direction. Like the wall paneling, the ceiling boards are thought to be reused material installed by the Ingrahams in the 1950's.

Doorways

Three doorways open off Room 101. One is the exterior front doorway, and the other two are interior doorways that connect with Room 102 on the west side, and Room 108 on the east side. All three doorways were altered by the Ingrahams in the 1950's.

Exterior Doorway (D-101)

The exterior doorway is roughly centered in the south wall of Room 101. Its opening is believed to be original, dating to circa 1705. The existing door, however, is considerably later, having been installed by the Ingrahams in the 1950's. It is a reproduction of the Federal-style door installed here circa 1820, which was moved to the side doorway circa 1900. No information is available on the style of the original door, or the door that existed April 19, 1775.

The doorway lacks a surround. It was probably removed in the 1950's, when the existing wide-board paneling was installed on the wall. The threshold is wide and thick, and beveled on three sides. It is probably contemporary with the reproduction door here.

The door is an accurate reproduction of the door here circa 1820, which survives today in the side doorway, except that it is not mortised. It has six panels, the top two of which are glazed with hand-blown glass. The lower four panels are recessed and molded on both the interior and exterior sides. Dimensions of the door are given in the section on the exterior doorways.

The door is hinged on the west jamb to swing inward, as did the circa-1820 door. There are two modern hinges of five-knuckle design. Other hardware includes a reproduction rim lock with doorknob on the east stile; a Suffolk latch above the rim lock, which appears to be old; and a modern brass dead bolt above the Suffolk latch.

West Doorway

The west doorway is positioned at the south end of the wall, next to the stairway to the second story. It connects with the west adjacent room (Room 102).

As with the exterior doorway, a doorway opening is thought to have been here as early as circa 1705. It would have connected with the room in the original west wing of the house (Room 102). The existing opening is later, however, dating to the reconstruction of the wall with wide pine boards in the 1950's. There is no surround and no threshold.

The door is a board-and-batten style made of the same wide pine boards that panel the walls. The door is contemporary with the 1950's opening, as is the wood swivel latch on the Room-102 side of the doorway. Two pairs of “HL” hinges, on the other hand, which are also on the Room-

102 side of the doorway, appear to be old hinges reused in this location. They are mounted to the south side of the doorway, and enable the door to swing open into Room 102.

No information is available on the appearance of the original (circa-1705) door. A later, circa-1820, door from this doorway survives, however. The door was moved in the 1950's to the east closet in the back bedroom (Room 205). Its original location was determined based on its style, and on paint and hardware evidence.

The circa-1820 door is of mortised construction. It has four panels, which are raised and unmolded on the former Room-101 side of the door, and recessed and molded on the former Room-102 side of the door. Mortises for two butt hinges indicate the door was hinged on the south jamb and swung open into Room 102. Each hinge leaf measured 2 1/4 inches long, and was attached with three screws. Paint-shadow evidence indicates that the latch was a Norfolk type with characteristic scalloped backplate, examples of which survive in Room 202. The door measures 6 feet 1 1/2 inches high (it appears to have been cut at the top) by 2 feet 5 1/2 inches wide by 1 inch thick.

East Doorway

The east doorway is a mirror image of the west doorway. It is positioned at the south end of the wall, and opens into the east adjacent room (Room 108).

The doorway opening probably dates to circa 1705, similar to the other two doorways in the room. The opening that exists today, however, was altered circa 1820 to fit a new paneled door. More changes were made to the doorway in the 1950's.

The Room-101 side of the opening was altered in the 1950's when the existing wide pine paneling replaced what was probably a circa-1820's surround. The circa-1820 door, which is missing from the doorway, was probably also removed at that time. There is no door in the doorway today.

Ample evidence of the circa-1820 doorway, including the entire door, survives. Evidence on the Room-108 side of the opening includes mortises for two hinges (with three screw holes each) in the south jamb, and an extant latch keeper in the north jamb. The four-panel door is located on the cellar side of the cellar doorway in the kitchen (Room 107). The old door is attached to a modern door, so that only one side—that which formerly faced Room 101—is visible. It is identical in style to the circa-1820 door in the east doorway, being a mortised door with four raised and unmolded panels; mortises for two unused hinges on the right stile; and paint-shadow evidence for a Norfolk latch with scalloped backplate on the left stile. The door measures 6 feet 3/8 inches high (it appears to have been cut at the top) by 2 feet 5 1/2 inches wide by 1 inch thick.

Windows

The only windows in Room 101 today are the two small glazed panels in the front door. These are described in the section on doorways (see “D-101”).

Stairway

Existing Stairway

A stairway occupies the north half of Room 101. This stairway has been dated circa 1820, based on its Federal style and the comparative analysis of paint remnants. The stairway displays an inverted "U" shape; it begins along the east wall, continues up along the north chimney wall, and ends along the west wall. The northeast and northwest corners each have two winder steps to accomplish the changes in direction. There are 11 steps total (or 10 treads), each with a riser height of approximately 7 3/4 inches.

A simple, Federal-style railing is on the interior side of the stairway. Features of the railing include four newels (one at the first step, one at each of the landings, and one at the top step); round, untapered balusters; and a hand rail.

The exterior side of the stairway abutting the walls is finished with a beaded baseboard that is approximately 9 inches tall and follows the rise of the stairway. This baseboard is contemporary with the stairway, based on the paint analysis.

Missing Circa-1743 Stairway

Physical evidence indicates that the present stairway replaced an earlier stairway. The outline of steps is preserved on the east paneled wall beneath and behind the existing stairway, and on the north brick wall toward the west side. The missing stairway has been dated circa 1743, because this is the date assigned to the reconstruction of the chimney stack (see "Chimney").

Reconstruction of the stairway based on the shadow evidence indicates that it was similar in design to the existing stairway, being an inverted "U" shape that rose along the east wall, continued along the north wall, and ended along the west wall. It differed by being narrower (having 12 steps instead of 11), and by having landings in the northeast and northwest corners, instead of winders. There were two treads to the northeast landing, four treads between the two landings at the north wall, and three treads from the northwest landing to the second floor. No physical evidence of the railing has been found.

Missing Circa-1705 Stairway

Shadow evidence for a staircase that predated the circa-1743 staircase also exists on the east paneled wall beneath the existing stairway. It is clear from the faint outline of the treads and risers that the stairway was similar to the circa-1743 stairway, except that it was positioned about 8 1/2 inches farther to the south. This was probably related to the fact that the original chimney projected about 8 1/2 inches farther into the room than does the existing chimney stack. See "Chimney" for details.

Painted Finishes

Existing Finishes

Room 101 is finished today with white paint, red paint, light yellow paint, and varnish. White paint is applied to the east and west plaster walls. Remnants of an old whitewash or calcimine may also be seen on the north brick wall, and on the east paneling beneath the existing stairway.

Red, nonlead paint covers the stairway baseboards, the west exposed side of the stairway risers up to the first landing, the front door (D-101), and the west door. Light yellow, nonlead paint finishes the wide pine floorboards and thresholds.

Varnish only is the finish on the pine wide-board wall paneling installed in the 1950's, and on the stairway steps and railing, which were stripped of their paint layers in the 1950's. (Remnants only of the historic stairway paint layers survive today, in the corners and cracks of the stairway.) Varnish was also applied over the red paint described above, to give it a glossy appearance.

Historic Finishes

The historic paint history of the room was determined by extracting 13 paint samples (P032a-P041, P136, and P232) and examining them under a microscope (see Appendix E).

The earliest finishes, dating to circa 1743, were discovered to be whitewash. These were found on the north brick wall and the east wall paneling beneath the existing stairway, where they revealed the outline of the original staircase. Two layers of this finish were counted.

The next finishes, which date to the circa-1820 renovation of the room, were found on the stairway and the four-panel doors reused in Room 107 (P136) and Room 205 (P232). The woodwork elements at that time were finished with a cream-white lead-based paint, except for the stair treads, risers, and lower baseboard, which were painted with an orange-color lead-based paint. The floorboards appear to have been unpainted at that time.

Subsequent paintings of the room continued to use white and cream-colored paints, most of which contained lead. The next two paintings of the stair treads and risers used a mustard-yellow paint, followed by a varnished white (perhaps a graining), and later red.

The floorboards, which have only four layers of paint, were likely first painted sometime after the Burkes purchased the house in 1871. The paint colors are mustard yellow, light yellow, red, and light yellow. None of the layers contains lead.

The Ingrahams appear to have continued this tradition when they first purchased the house in 1951, by painting most of the woodwork white. The next two paintings of the room used red, which color exists today.

Electrical Equipment

Light Fixtures

Room 101 is lit today by an electric ceiling light fixture suspended from the ceiling in Room 201; see Room 201 for details. The light is activated by a toggle-style switch at the east wall at the foot of the stairway. A second switch in this location, with common switch plate, probably activated a light in the east adjacent room (Room 108). A second toggle-style light switch is located at the south wall, east of the front doorway. It activates the exterior pole-mounted light fixture.

Electrical Outlets

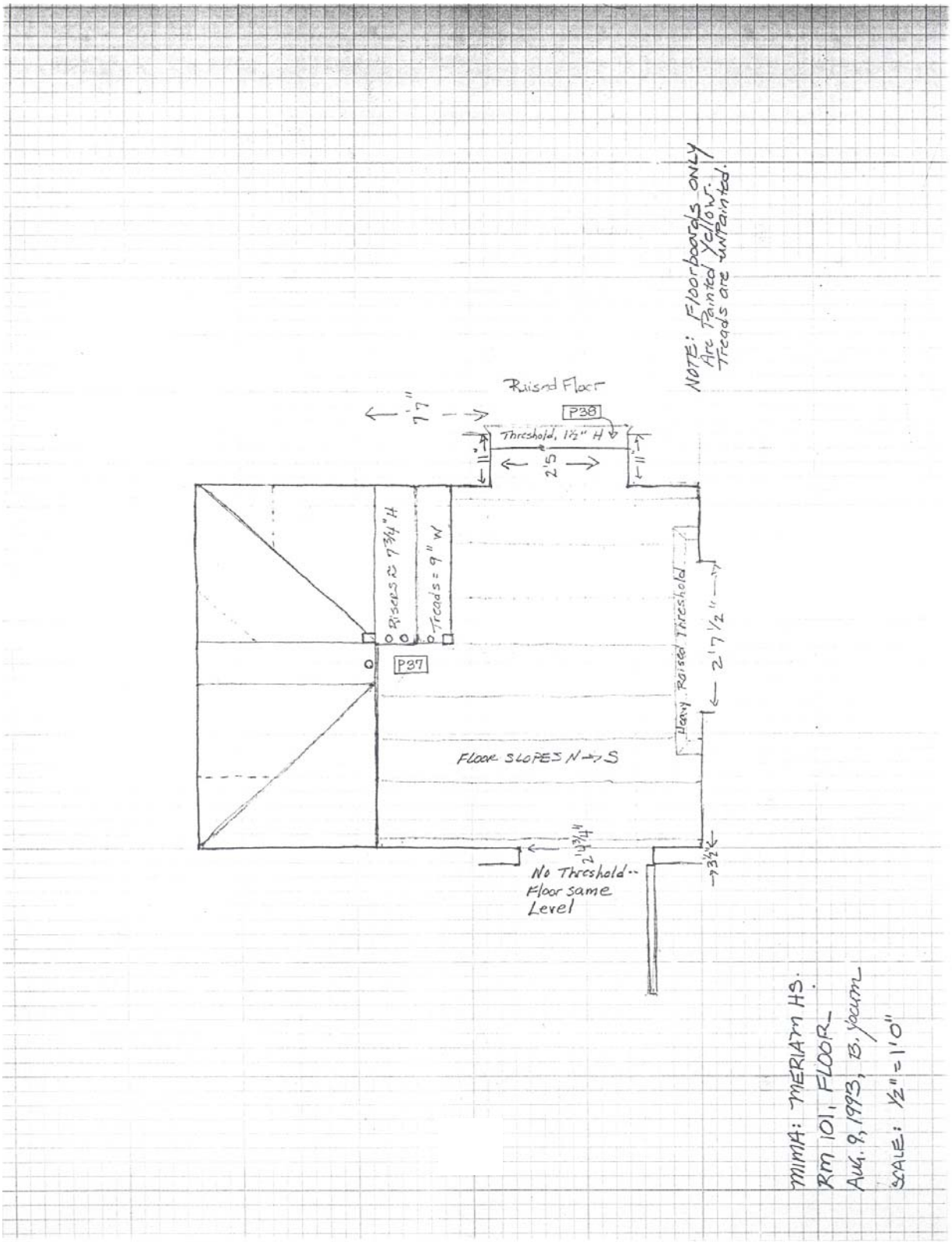
A duplex receptacle is in the lower west wall, on the north side of the doorway to Room 102.

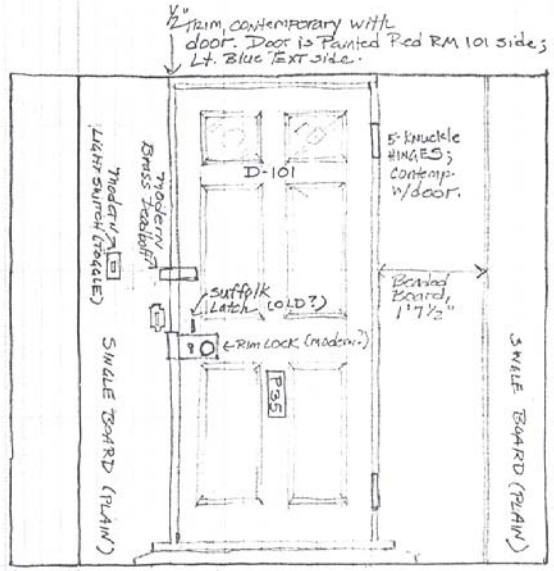
Heating Equipment

There is no heating equipment in Room 101 today, nor has there ever been heating equipment in this room.

Fire- and Intrusion-Protection Systems

No fire- or intrusion-protection equipment is located in Room 101.


NOTE: Floorboards ONLY Are Painted Yellow. Treads are unpainted.
Raised Floor
7'7"
P38
Threshold, 1½" H
2'5
11"
11"
Risers ≈ 7¾" H
Treads = 9" W
P37
Heavy Raised Threshold
2'7½"
FLOOR SLOPES N → S
2'4¾"
3½"
No Threshold-- Floor same Level
MMA: MERIAM HS.
Rm 101, FLOOR
Aug. 9, 1993, B. Yeum
SCALE: ½" = 1'0"

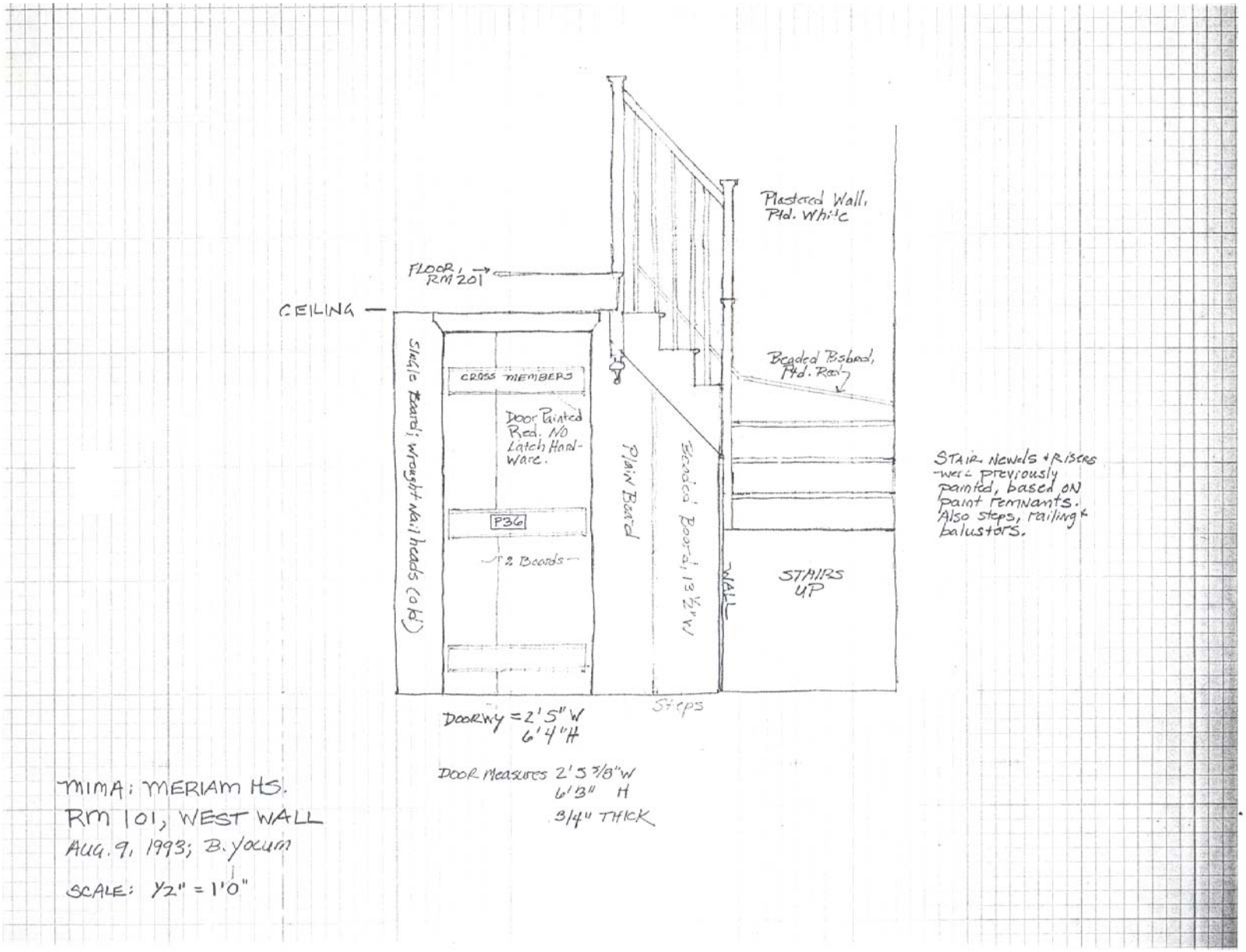


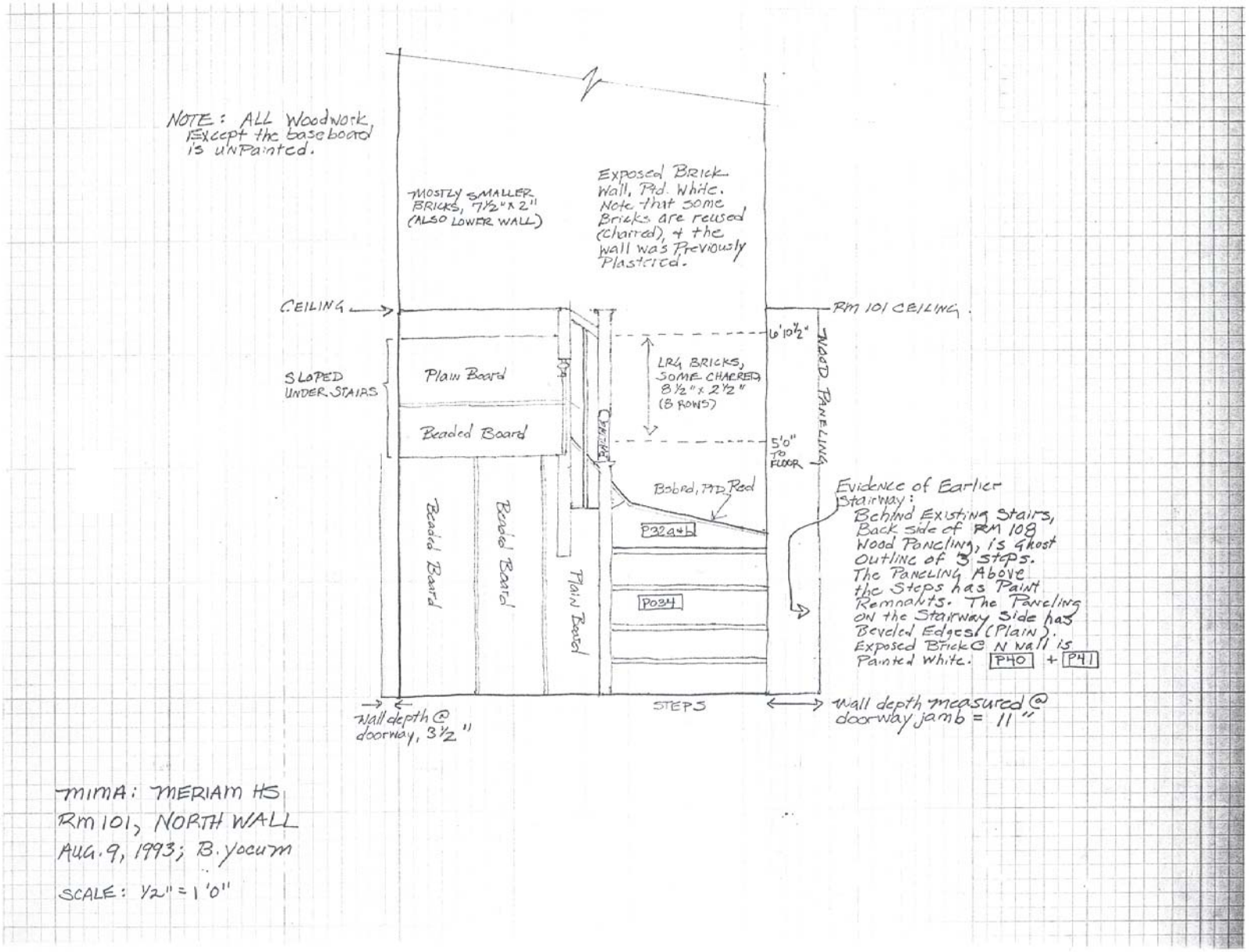
Hand-WROUGHT NAIL Heads visible in Wall Paneling; Attached with modern cut nails; empty nail holes with square profile indicate reuse.0 Looks HAND-PLANED.

Wall depth @ doorway = 11"

DOOR IS 1950's Reproduction? Recessed Panels, Both sides.
Measures:
6' 3 3/4" H
2' 7 1/2" W
1 5/8" THICK
Door Swings in.

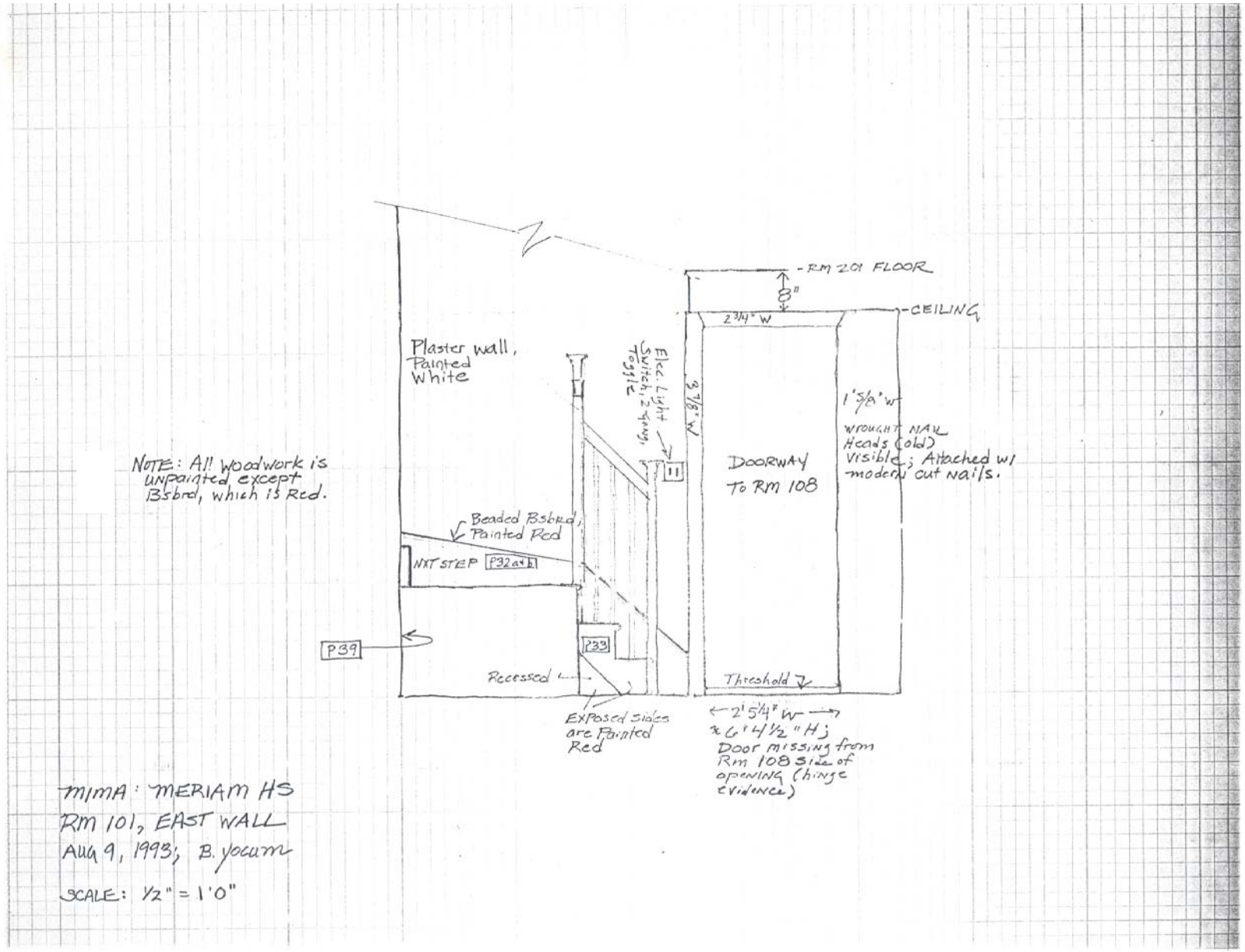
MIMA: MERIAM HS
RM 101, SOUTH WALL
AUG. 9, 1993; B. YOCUM
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'0"

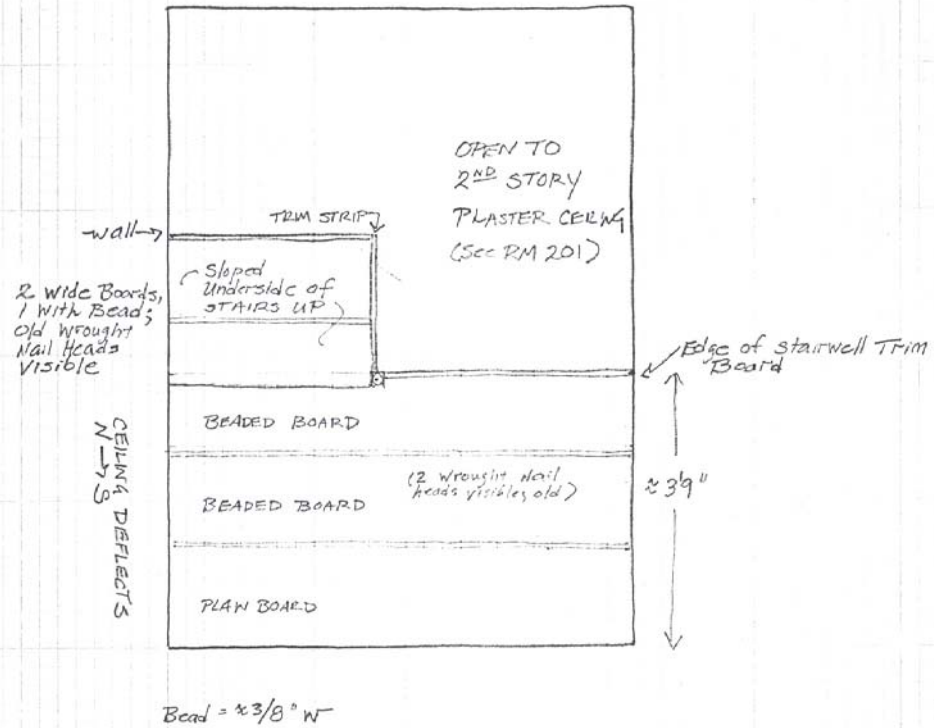

Plastered Wall, Ptd. White
FLOOR, RM 201
CEILING
Single Board; wrought Nail heads (old)
CROSS MEMBERS
Door Painted Red. NO Latch Hardware.
P36
2 Boards
Plain Board
Beaded Board; 13 1/2" W
Beaded Bsboard, Ptd. Red
WALL
STAIRS UP
Steps
STAIR Newels + RISERS were previously painted, based ON paint remnants. Also steps, railing + balusters.
DOORWAY = 2'5" W
6'4" H
DOOR Measures 2'5 3/8" W
6'3" H
3/4" THICK
MIMA: MERIAM HS.
RM 101, WEST WALL
AUG. 9, 1993; B. Yocum
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'0"



MIMA: MERIAM HS
RM 101, NORTH WALL
AUG. 9, 1993; B. Yocum

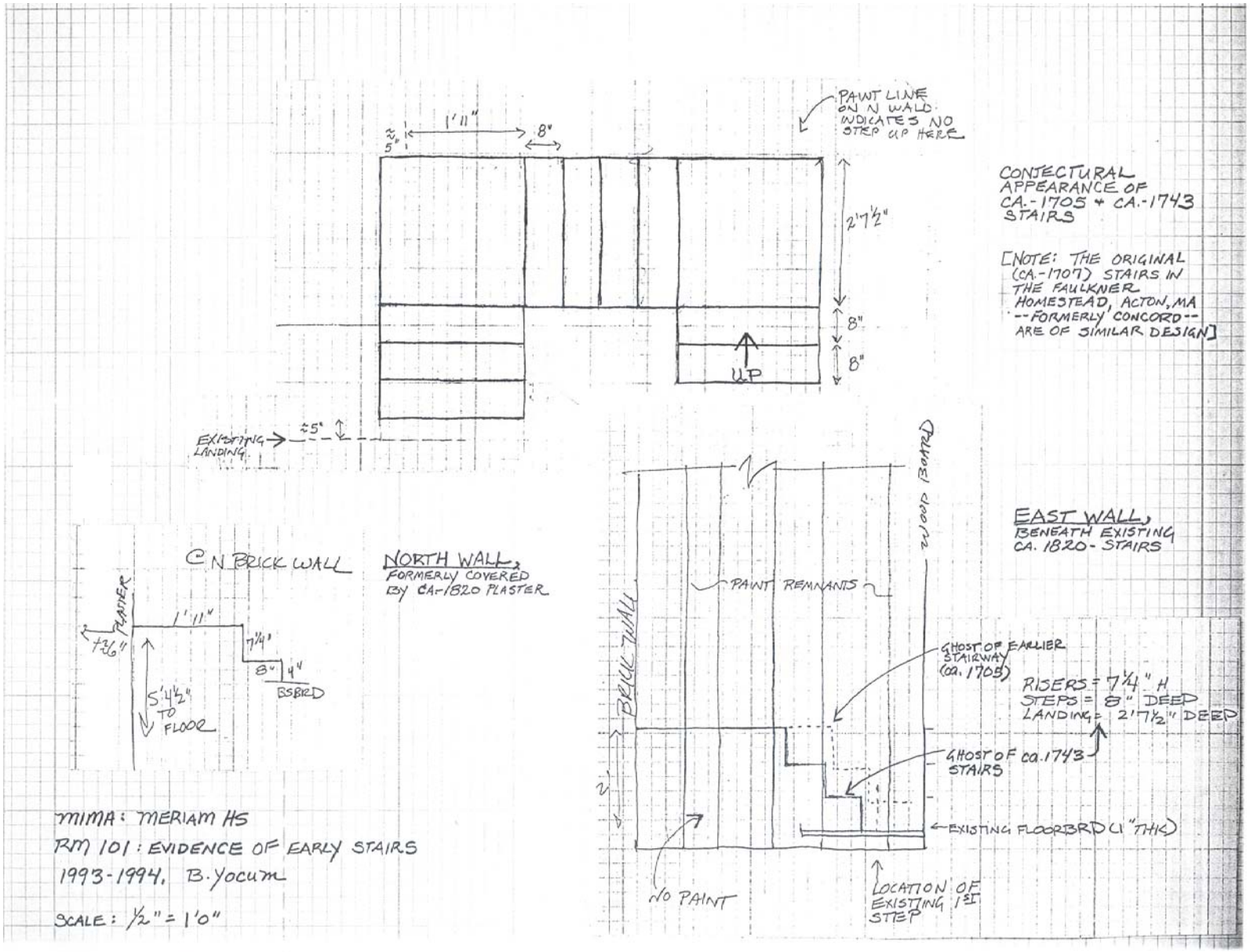
SCALE: ½" = 1'0"


NOTE: All woodwork is unpainted except Bsbrd, which is Red.
Plaster wall, Painted White
Elec. Light Switch, 2 Arm, Toggle
11
Beaded Bsbrd, Painted Red
NXT STEP
P32a+b
P39
P33
Recessed
Exposed sides are Painted Red
RM 201 FLOOR
8"
CEILING
2 3/4" W
3 7/8" W
DOORWAY To RM 108
1 5/8" W
WROUGHT NAIL Heads (old) Visible; Attached w/ modern cut nails.
Threshold
← 2' 5 1/4" W →
x 6' 4 1/2" H;
Door missing from Rm 108 side of opening (hinge evidence)
MIMA: MERIAM HS
RM 101, EAST WALL
Aug 9, 1993; B. Yocum
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'0"



Bead = ≈3/8" W

MIMA: MERIAM HS.
RM 101, CEILING
AUG. 9, 1993; B. Yocum
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'0"


PAINT LINE ON N WALL INDICATES NO STEP UP HERE
1'11"
8"
≈5"
2'7½"
8"
8"
UP
EXISTING LANDING
≈5"
CONJECTURAL APPEARANCE OF CA.-1705 + CA.-1743 STAIRS
[NOTE: THE ORIGINAL (CA.-1707) STAIRS IN THE FAULKNER HOMESTEAD, ACTON, MA --FORMERLY CONCORD-- ARE OF SIMILAR DESIGN]
℄ N BRICK WALL
NORTH WALL, FORMERLY COVERED BY CA-1820 PLASTER
PLASTER
1'11"
7¼"
8"
4"
BSBRD
5'4½" TO FLOOR
EAST WALL, BENEATH EXISTING CA. 1820- STAIRS
FLOOR BOARD
PAINT REMNANTS
BRICK WALL
GHOST OF EARLIER STAIRWAY (CA. 1705)
RISERS = 7¼" H
STEPS = 8" DEEP
LANDING = 2'7½" DEEP
GHOST OF CA. 1743 STAIRS
EXISTING FLOORBRD (1" THK)
NO PAINT
LOCATION OF EXISTING 1ST STEP
MIMA: MERIAM HS
RM 101: EVIDENCE OF EARLY STAIRS
1993-1994, B. Yocum
SCALE: ½" = 1'0"

Room 102

General Information

Room 102 is the west room in the first story of the original house. When originally constructed circa 1705, it was the only room in the one-story west wing. The dimensions of the room are 18 feet 8 1/2 inches long by 12 feet 5 1/2 inches wide.

The primary use of the room circa 1705 may have been as a kitchen, based on the presence of the original stairway entrance to the cellar, on the south side of the fireplace. The cellar was traditionally used for food storage, and logically would have been within close proximity to the kitchen. It is also likely that the room served as a bedroom, in addition to a kitchen, as Joseph Meriam and Dorothy Meriam's family grew. Probate documents dated 1782 and 1803 designated the west side of the house, which included this room, as being for the use of surviving widows Abigail and Mary Meriam, who may have used the room as a parlor. Thomas and Rose Burke later furnished the room as a dining room (1871-1921), as did Margaret and James Ingraham (1951-1987).[21]

While the dimensions of the room have remained basically unchanged, its physical appearance has been altered several times over the years, based on the surviving physical evidence. The room as it exists today dates to the circa-1950's restoration, which is an inaccurate portrayal of the room's original appearance.

The room as constructed circa 1705 probably had wide pine floors, wood-paneled walls, and an exposed wood-frame ceiling with a chamfered beam and joists. The windows in the room were probably fewer and had smaller panes of glass. The fireplace opening, on the other hand, would have been larger, with a bake oven in a back corner of the firebox. Two doorways were in the east wall—one leading to the entry/stair hall, and the other to the cellar. A third doorway may also have existed in the north wall, which led directly to the outside.

Alterations in the 18th century included the removal of the kitchen fireplace and bake oven, as part of a general rebuilding of the chimney stack. A new, smaller fireplace was created with no bake oven. This is believed to have occurred around 1743, when two families occupied the house—original builder Joseph Meriam and his wife Dorothy on one side, and son Nathan and his wife Abigail on the other. This also coincided with the building of a kitchen addition on the back side of the house.

A new four-panel door was installed in the north doorway circa 1810, as part of a new kitchen addition on the back side of the house. More drastic changes occurred circa 1820, when the room was completely renovated. The walls and ceiling were both plastered, new woodwork replaced the old woodwork, new windows with six-over-six were installed, as was a closet at the north wall. The cellar doorway also appears to have been removed, and its opening closed, at this time.

[21] Conversations with Alice Burke Hargrove, Aug. 17, 1993; and MIMA Chief of Protection Dan Detillo, Sept. 8, 1993.

Alterations made in the early 20th century may have included the installation of new floorboards and radiators.

No other significant changes occurred until the 1950's, when James and Margaret Ingraham undertook a restoration of the house. Most of the woodwork dating to the circa-1820's renovation was removed at that time, as was the plaster covering the walls and ceiling. Paint was stripped from the ceiling framing, and reused wide pine boards were installed on the floor, the walls, and the floor of the room above. The old cellar doorway was reopened at this time, and all of the doors in the room were changed. All that was retained of the circa-1820 woodwork were the window sashes. New hot-water radiators and wall-mounted electric light fixtures were also installed. The room retains this appearance today.

The 1950's restoration recaptured some of what Room 102 looked like circa 1705; however, several inaccuracies exist. The window configuration and sashes are of circa-1820 vintage; the fireplace was altered circa 1743; the style of the doors is conjectural; the wall paneling, which is installed horizontally at the south and west walls, was probably a vertical installation, except perhaps at the fireplace wall; the girts and west sill are exposed but would have been covered with paneling; and finally, the room would have had a painted finish.

Floor

The floor is composed of wide pine floorboards laid in a north-south direction. These appear to be a mixture of some early boards and reused materials installed in the 1950's. The floorboards that may be early are short boards located in the southwest and northeast corners of the room. They are the only boards that have paint on them. The painted outline in the southwest corner suggests the existence of a former corner cupboard, while the paint in the northeast corner may have been the location of a wall cupboard.

All the other floorboards in the room are long lengths in good condition. They range in size from 8 1/2 inches wide to 1 foot 3 inches wide.

A brick hearth at the east wall is described in the section entitled “Fireplace.”

Walls

Framing

The hewn post-and-beam framing of the west wing is exposed in Room 102 at the walls. Here may be seen the raised sill at the west wall, the one-story corner posts, and the upper girts. Except for the chimney girt, however, none of this framing was intended to be exposed as it is today. This is based on the absence of paint remnants on the framing members, and the presence of empty square nail holes and bent-over wrought nails that formerly attached wall paneling to the framing. See “Missing Paneling” for details.

Existing Pine Paneling

All four walls of the room are paneled between the framing with wide pine boards installed by the Ingrahams in the 1950's.

The boards are oriented horizontally on the south and west walls, and vertically on the east and north walls. They are attached to the wall studs with modern, machine-cut nails with square heads. The boards vary in width from 8 inches to 1 foot 8 1/4 inches wide; the longest board at the west wall measures 18 feet 4 inches long.

The paneling is plain, except for a simple bead along one edge of the boards. The wood is obviously reused, based on the presence of empty square nail holes (typical of a cut or wrought nail). Old wrought nails are also randomly placed in the paneling to give it an "antique" look. Parallel saw marks indicate that the boards were milled with a reciprocating saw; these marks have been partially obscured by hand-planing, which also may have been done in the 1950's to achieve an antique appearance. There are no remnants of paint on the boards, as would be expected if the paneling was original to the room. There is no evidence to indicate the wood was reused from the house; more likely, it was salvaged from another building, such as an old barn.

Missing Paneling

Some material—probably wood paneling—appears to have been installed vertically on both the south and west walls, based on the presence of large wrought nails and unused nail holes in the sill and girts. It was obviously face-nailed to these features, so that the sills and girts were not exposed to view as they are today; this is confirmed by paint lines on the ceiling framing that stop short of the girts. There are no paint remnants on the girts at the south, west, or north walls, or on the west exposed sill.[22]

No remnants of this historic wood paneling survive in Room 102 today. It may have been similar in style to the historic paneling in the east room (Room 108). This consists of wide, hand-planed pine boards with shadow-molded edges installed vertically on the south side of the west fireplace wall.

Plaster Evidence

No physical evidence of the later plastered walls is visible today. This is probably because the walls were furred out, similar to the walls in the east room (Room 108). Alice Burke Hargrove recalled that the fireplace wall was plastered when her grandparents occupied the house (1871-1921). It is likely, therefore, that the other walls were also plastered. This is believed to have occurred circa 1820, when the room was extensively remodeled with new woodwork. The plaster walls are believed to have been removed during the 1950's restoration of the room.

[22] The west exposed sill is chamfered as if it had been intended to be exposed; this, however, may have been done by the Ingrahams in the 1950's.

Ceiling

General Description

The ceiling as it exists today is the original exposed framing, which was uncovered during the 1950's restoration of the room. Prior to the restoration, the ceiling had been plastered. The height of the ceiling, as measured to the underside of the floorboards, is 7 feet 3 1/2 inches on the south side of the room, and 7 feet 2 inches on the north side of the room.

Exposed Framing

The exposed framing of the ceiling includes a center summer beam, a chimney girt, and five pairs of joists. The ceiling between the joists is sheathed with the undersides of the floorboards in the second-story room (Room 202). The summer beam measures approximately 8 inches square and is oriented in an east-west direction. The joists, which are mortised into the summer beam, measure 2 3/4 inches wide by 4 3/4 inches high. Later framing supports for a hearth in the second-story room (Room 202) are also exposed at the east wall.

Framing details indicate that the ceiling framing was originally (circa 1705) intended to be exposed. These details include the chamfering at the two bottom corners of the summer beam, the east chimney girt, and all the joists. Special decorative carving is also found on the summer beam, where the chamfering at both the east and west ends is terminated with a lamb's-tongue detail and an incised diamond-shaped stop.

Furthermore, there are remnants of paint on the summer beam, the joists (up to the floorboards) and the chimney girt, including what appears to be a decorative design executed in black. For more details, see “Painted Finishes.”

The undersides of the floorboards, on the other hand, bear no evidence of paint, suggesting that the boards were installed as part of the 1950's restoration.

Plaster Evidence

Physical evidence of the later plastered ceiling survives on the undersides of the joists. This includes white plaster stains and lath nails. The remaining lath nails are a mixture of hand-wrought and machine-cut types, suggesting that the ceiling may have had two plaster ceilings—one installed sometime before 1800, and one sometime later (circa 1820).

The summer beam, which has no evidence of plaster, was probably cased with wood similar to the summer beam in the east room (Room 108).

The plaster ceiling is believed to have been removed during the restoration of the room in the 1950's.

Doorways

There are four doorways in Room 102: two in the east wall south of the fireplace, and two in the north wall. Each is discussed in detail subsequently.

East Doorway to Room 101

The doorway at the south end of the east wall connects with the entry/stair hall (Room 101). A doorway is believed to have existed here as early as circa 1705; however, the existing opening is in the single-board partition wall installed in the 1950's, and so dates to that time. There is no surround.

The door itself is a board-and-batten style, also dating to the 1950's. It is made of two wide pine boards, which are the same material as the adjacent partition wall. The door is hinged on the south side with two old “HL”-style hinges that appear to be salvaged material. A wood swivel latch on the north side of the doorway is not old. The dimensions of the door are noted in the section on Room 101.

The door that was installed in this doorway circa 1820 exists today at the east closet in the back bedroom (Room 205). This is a mortised door with four panels, which are recessed and molded on the side formerly facing Room 102. The door had two butt hinges and a Norfolk latch, and swung open into the room from the south jamb. For more details, see the discussion of Room 101.

East Doorway to the Former Cellar Stairway

Another doorway is in the east wall, between the doorway to Room 101 and the fireplace. This was an original (circa-1705) doorway opening that led to the original cellar stairway. As explained previously, this stairway was abandoned circa 1820. The doorway was closed at that time and plastered over. It was later reopened, probably by the Ingrahams in the 1950's. There was no doorway in this location during the occupancy of Rose and Thomas Burke (1871-1921), according to the Burkes' granddaughter, Alice Burke Hargrove.

The threshold, which is raised and beveled on three sides, probably dates to the 1950's. There is no surround. The door and its hardware both appear to be old material that was salvaged by the Ingrahams and reused at this doorway. The paint analysis suggests that the door is not original to the Meriam House, but probably came from another building. The door is definitely old, however, being of mortised construction and hand-planed. It is a two-panel style, typically predating 1725. The panels are raised and unmolded on both sides; the room-side of the door is more finished than the opposite side, which displays cruder workmanship.

The door is small, measuring only 5 feet 11 5/8 inches high by 1 foot 9 1/8 inches wide by seven-eighths of an inch thick. The door has been made narrower, however, based on the shallow hinge mortises on the south side.

The door is hinged on the south side to swing outward into the room. Both hinges appear to be old and reused, the ones on the top being an “H” style, and those on the bottom being an “HL” style. These hinges are not original to the door, however, based on mortises for two 2-inch

hinges on the south side. The door also appears to have had a Suffolk latch previously, based on a hole in the north stile. Today there is only a wood swivel latch attached to the adjacent wall paneling; there is no knob.

No information is available on the appearance of the door that hung in this location from circa 1705 to circa 1820.

North Doorway to Room 104

A doorway to Room 104 is at the east end of the north wall. This may be an original exterior doorway opening that later became an interior doorway—perhaps as early as circa 1743, when a kitchen addition was built on the back side of the house. The existing doorway woodwork, however, dates to the later kitchen addition of circa 1810.

The doorway opening measures 5 feet 10 1/2 inches tall by 2 feet 4 inches wide. It has deep jambs, measuring 8 1/2 inches wide, due to the fact that the doorway penetrates what was originally the exterior north wall of the house. The woodwork of the jambs has been dated circa 1810, based on the paint analysis.

There is no door in the doorway today, nor is there any physical evidence of a door. The doorway is also lacking a surround on the Room-102 side of the opening, due to the presence of the 1950's wall paneling. The door was therefore probably removed at the same time the paneling was installed.

While the physical evidence for this door is absent, documentary evidence for it exists in the form of a sketch made circa 1865 (fig. 4) of the north adjacent room (Room 104). This shows a four-panel door with Suffolk latch on the Room-102 side of the opening. The orientation of the latch indicates that the door opened into Room 102, and swung on hinges on the east side of the doorway. This information, together with the paint analysis, identified the missing door as having been reused by the Ingrahams in one of the second-story rooms.

The circa-1810 door, found in the west closet doorway of the back bedroom (Room 205), has paint-shadow evidence of an original Suffolk latch and two “HL” hinges. Furthermore, analysis of the painted finishes confirmed that the door belonged between Rooms 102 and 104. It is of mortised construction, with four panels that are raised and molded on the side formerly facing Room 102, and recessed and unmolded on the side formerly facing Room 104. The door's dimensions are 6 feet tall (it has been trimmed at the top) by 2 feet 4 3/4 inches wide by fifteen-sixteenths of an inch thick.

No information is available on the appearance of any doors in this location prior to circa 1810.

North Closet Doorway

A doorway without a surround at the west end of the north wall leads to a shallow closet. The closet projects into Room 103, in the circa-1810 kitchen wing. The doorway opening is obviously not original, because a corner brace once existed here as part of the house frame. (A wooden peg from the missing brace remains in the northwest corner post). It is unlikely that the

doorway was ever a passageway between Rooms 102 and 103, because the raised sill at floor level is intact here. Physical evidence in Room 103 suggests that the closet dates to an early period, but that it initially opened northward, into the rear kitchen area. The closet may have been created as early as circa 1743, when the one-story kitchen wing was constructed, or circa 1810, when the existing kitchen wing was built. Later, the closet doorway in Room 103 was closed, and the present doorway in Room 102 was created. This occurred circa 1820, based on the paint evidence in Room 103. Rose Burke, who lived in the house 1871-1921, is remembered by her granddaughter as having kept spices in this closet.

Additional changes were made in the 1950's by the Ingrahams. The existing closet door, like the door to the former cellar stairway, appears to have been salvaged from another building (based on the paint analysis). It is an early, two-panel door of mortised construction with hand-planed finish. The panels on the room side are raised and molded, and those on the closet side are recessed and unmolded. The door is cut in two, in the manner of a "Dutch"-style door—an alteration that was probably made during the installation. Both halves are 1 foot 10 inches wide (although it has been trimmed) by thirteen/sixteenths of an inch thick; the top is 2 feet 10 1/8 inches tall, and the bottom is 3 feet 3 1/8 inches tall.

The two halves of the door are hung on the edge with two pairs of "HL" hinges. The hinges, like the door, are also old and reused. Two wood swivel latches are attached to the 1950's paneling; there are no knobs or latches. Physical evidence on the door indicates that it originally hung from the opposite side on two mortised hinges, and had a Suffolk latch. All that remains today are the screw holes for the hinges and a hole at the former latch location.

Windows

There are four windows in Room 102: two in the south wall (W-101, W-102), and two in the west wall (W-119, W-120).

The window openings as they exist today are not original, but probably date to circa 1820 (see the section on exterior windows for details). Evidence that the window openings have been altered may be seen at the west wall. Here, wooden pegs in the girt clearly indicate that wall studs originally existed in the locations of the two window openings. These must have been cut when the windows were installed.

Alterations to the windows circa 1820 included the installation of new six-over-six window sashes, and possibly new interior trim. Of these materials, only the sashes were retained during the 1950's restoration; all other interior woodwork was removed and replaced by the existing pine casings, stools, and shallow splayed jambs.

Chimney and Fireplace

A chimney and fireplace occupy the north half of the east wall. While an original fireplace existed here circa 1705, nothing of it remains except some reused bricks. This was probably a large kitchen fireplace with a bake oven built into one of the back corners. The existing fireplace dates primarily to circa 1743, with alterations made in the 1950's.

Brickwork

The brickwork of the chimney and fireplace is completely exposed, from the floor up to the chimney girt, where the bricks are stepped back. It contains three different sizes of handmade bricks, representing the three main phases of chimney building: circa 1705, circa 1743, and circa 1810. The lower 5 feet consists of bricks measuring 7 1/2 inches long by 2 inches high by 3 3/4 inches wide. The bricks used above this point are larger, measuring 8 1/2 inches long by 2 1/2 inches high by 4 inches wide.[23] Bricks dating to the reconstruction of the kitchen fireplace in the circa-1810 north addition are visible at the upper north corner; these measure 7 1/2 inches long by 2 inches high by 3 1/2 inches wide.

The mortar between the bricks is primarily a gray portland-cement type, with only a small amount of white lime mortar. The gray mortar presumably dates to the 1950's restoration.

Hearth

A small hearth is located at the east wall, in front of the existing fireplace. Its dimensions are 4 feet 7 inches long by 2 feet 6 inches deep. The hearth is composed of bricks and square pavers. The bricks, which make up the body, measure 8 inches long by 3 3/4 inches wide; the pavers, at the west end, measure 7 1/2 inches square. Both are set in portland-cement mortar.

The area of the existing hearth is no doubt contemporary with the existing fireplace, which has been dated circa 1743. The date of the hearth bricks and pavers, however, is less certain. The portland mortar is obviously modern, and probably dates to the 1950's restoration.

The original hearth of the room, when the room was a kitchen, probably extended all the way to the north wall. Physical evidence of this hearth may survive beneath the existing floorboards.

Firebox

The existing firebox is offset to the south side of the large expanse of brickwork, making it roughly centered at the east wall. It is small: the opening, which is supported by an iron-bar lintel, measures 2 feet 4 inches high by 3 feet 6 inches wide by 1 foot 6 inches deep. The interior side jambs are splayed, and support a gudgeon (for a missing crane) on the south side. This fireplace is believed to date to the circa-1743 rebuilding of the chimney.

No physical evidence could be found of the original kitchen fireplace, either on the room side, or on the interior side of the chimney.

Bake Oven

A beehive-shaped bake oven, dated circa 1743, is hidden behind the brickwork on the north side of the fireplace. It was originally thought that this was a bake oven for Room 102 that had been bricked over at a later date. Closer inspection, however, revealed that the oven was in fact oriented

[23] This delineation between smaller and larger bricks is also visible at the same level at the exposed chimney wall in the entry/stair hall (Room 101), suggesting that the brickwork in both areas was laid at the same time.

in a north-south direction, and had served an early kitchen addition. For details, see “Chimney” and “Room 104: Fireplace.”

No physical evidence remains of the circa-1705 bake oven, which would have been situated in one of the back corners of the large firebox. It is thought to have been completely removed, along with the fireplace, when the chimney was rebuilt circa 1743.

Mantel

No fireplace mantel, or any other historic woodwork, survives at the fireplace. Remnants of a painted border at the firebox opening probably define the interior dimensions of the most recent mantel. This border measures 2 inches wide at the sides of the opening, and 4 inches at the top.

It is possible that this room has had as many as three mantels. The earliest, dated circa 1705, would have framed the large kitchen fireplace. The next, dated circa 1743, would have been for the smaller existing fireplace. This may have been replaced circa 1820, when new woodwork was installed elsewhere throughout the house. It is unclear what woodwork, if any, remained at the fireplace prior to the 1950's restoration. Nothing was retained.

Closet

As explained previously in “Doorways,” a small closet is at the west end of the north wall. It is not an original feature of the room, based on framing evidence of a former wall brace in this location. Physical evidence in the north adjacent room (Room 103) suggests that the closet was created to serve the circa-1743 or circa-1810 back kitchen wings, but was altered circa 1820 to open onto Room 102.

The closet interior has six wood shelves. The floor is the raised sill of the house frame, which is cased with woodwork.

Painted Finishes

Existing Finishes

The painted finishes in Room 102 include remnants of old paint, varnish, and red paint.

Old paint remnants survive on the floorboards in the southwest and northeast corners; in the corners of the reused two-panel doors at the east and north walls; and on the summer beam, chimney girt, and ceiling joists. While an attempt appears to have been made to remove most of this paint as part of the 1950's restoration, a sufficient amount remained for the paint analysis. For details, see “Historic Finishes.”

The most prevalent finish is varnish, which covers almost every surface in the room. Varnished elements include the floorboards, wall paneling, ceiling framing, doors, and brickwork of the chimney/fireplace. Red paint is on the circa-1820 window sashes only.

Historic Finishes

The history of the painted finishes in Room 102 was determined by extracting and analyzing 17 samples of paint (P042-P055, P230, P233, and P289). The following is a brief summary of the paint analysis results; for details, see Appendix E.

Circa 1705

The earliest painted finishes in the house were discovered on the framed ceiling in Room 102. Here it was found that the ceiling had been originally finished with a mustard-yellow, lead-based paint, over which had been applied a decorative design in black. Faint remnants of this design, which is abstract and curvilinear, may still be seen on the sides of the chimney girt and the summer beam.

Circa 1810

Only one element—the four-panel door to Room 104, which is now in Room 205—has been identified as dating to circa 1810. The first paint layer on this door, on the side that formerly faced Room 102, is a lead-based paint of a light-green/gray color.

Circa 1820 and Later

Beginning circa 1820, the woodwork was painted with a white, lead-based paint, based on the paint samples examined from the east door to Room 101 (now in Room 205), and the six-over-six window sashes. Subsequent paintings of the woodwork used white, cream-color, and yellow paints—some with lead, and others without.

Circa 1951

The initial painting of the room by the Ingrahams circa 1951 also used a white paint. Only the last two finishes, applied to the window sashes, used dark colors (including the last layer of red paint).

Electrical Equipment

Light Fixtures

Recessed electrical boxes for two light fixtures are in the pine paneling at the north wall; the fixtures themselves are missing. These boxes date to the 1950's restoration of the room.

Electrical Outlets

There are five duplex receptacles in Room 102. Two are in the baseboard enclosure for the radiator pipes at the south wall; one is in the floor at the west wall; one is in the lower northeast corner; and the other is in the lower wall between the two doorways at the east wall. All were probably installed in the 1950's.

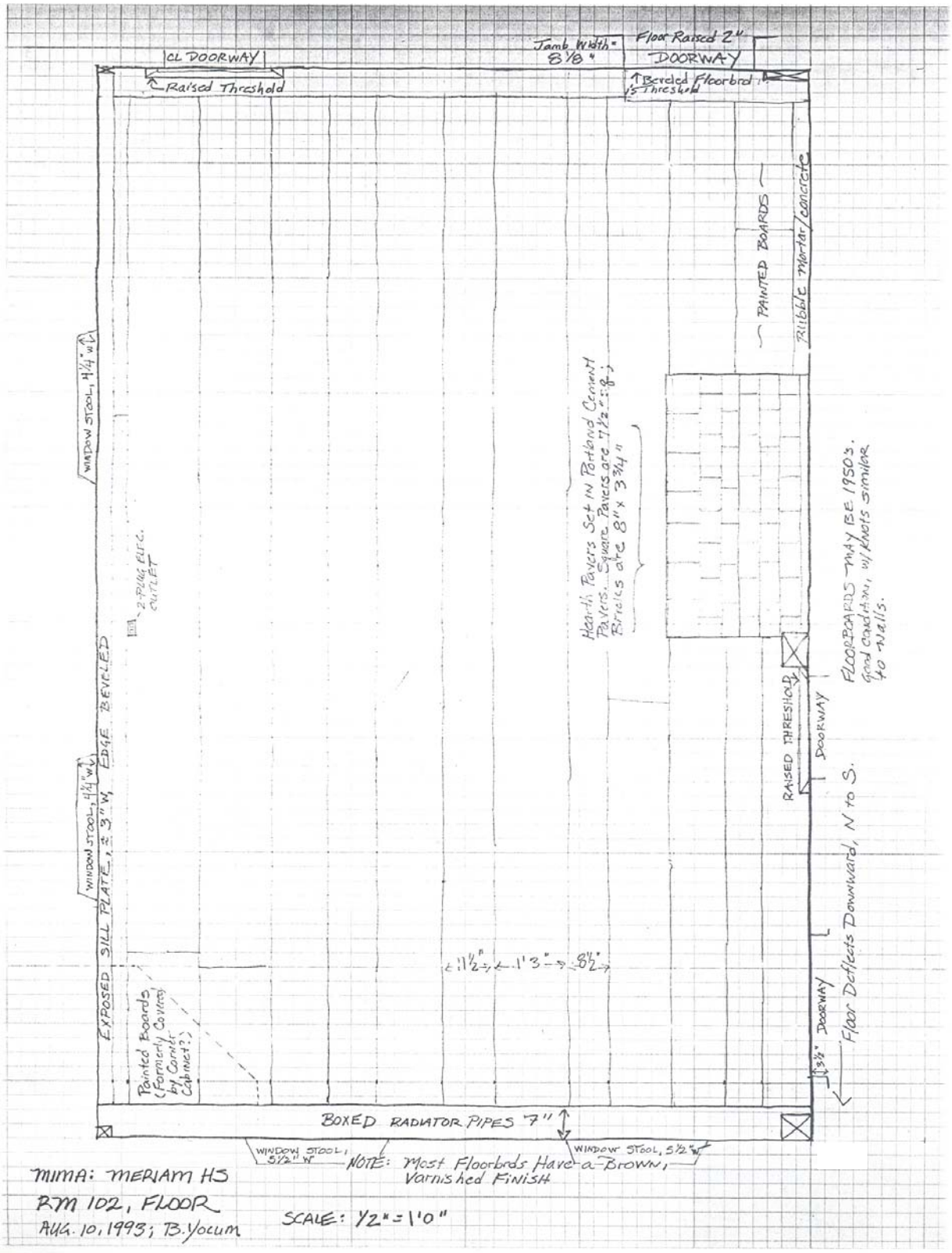
Heating Equipment

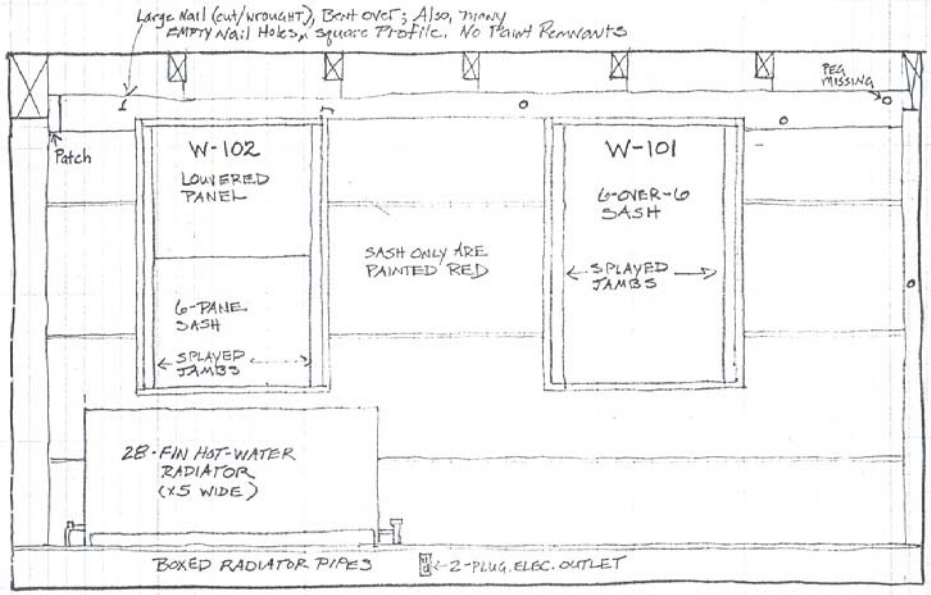
Heating equipment in Room 102 includes one hot-water radiator and a boxed enclosure for the radiator pipes. Both are located at the south wall and were installed by the Ingrahams in the 1950's.

The radiator is five columns wide and 28 sections long; it has no manufacturer's identification. The radiator sits on top of the wood enclosure for the radiator pipes, beneath the southeast window (W-102). This enclosure is 7 inches wide by 7 inches tall, and covers the entire wall from the southeast to the southwest corner post.

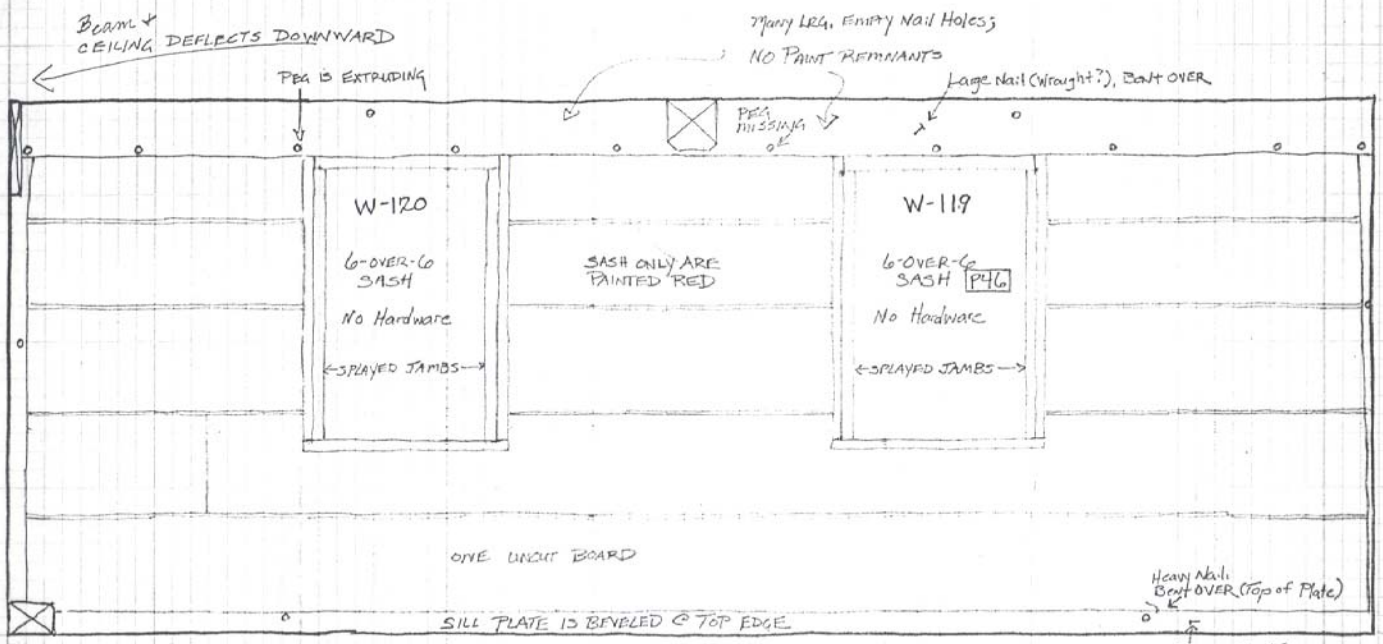
Fire- and Intrusion-Protection Equipment

A fire-detection unit is mounted to the ceiling near the doorway to Room 104; an intrusion-detection unit is in the northeast corner of the room. Both were installed by the National Park Service.


CL DOORWAY
Raised Threshold
Jamb Width = 8 1/8"
Floor Raised 2"
DOORWAY
Beveled Floorbrd
1/3 Threshold
PAINTED BOARDS
Rubble Mortar/concrete
WINDOW STOOL, 4 1/4" W
2-PLUG ELEC. OUTLET
Hearth Pavers Set IN Portland Cement
Pavers: Square Pavers are 7 1/2" x 7 1/2"
Bricks are 8" x 3 3/4"
FLOORBOARDS MAY BE 1950s.
Good condition, w/ knots similar to walls.
RAISED THRESHOLD
DOORWAY
EXPOSED SILL PLATE, ± 3" W, EDGE BEVELED
WINDOW STOOL, 4 1/4" W
Floor Deflects Downward, N to S.
1 1/2" 1'3" 8 1/2"
Painted Boards (Formerly Covered by Corner Cabinet?)
3 1/2" DOORWAY
BOXED RADIATOR PIPES 7"
WINDOW STOOL, 5 1/2" W
WINDOW STOOL, 5 1/2" W
NOTE: Most Floorbrds Have a Brown, Varnished Finish
MMA: MERIAM HS
RM 102, FLOOR
AUG. 10, 1993; B. Yocum
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'0"



MIMA: MERIAM HS
RM 102, SOUTH WALL
AUG. 10 1993; B. Yocum
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'0"



HORIZONTAL BEADED PINE PANELING ATTACHED WITH CUT NAILS; EXTRANEOUS WROUGHT NAILS HAVE BEEN ADDED. NO REMNANTS OF PAINTED FINISH. Empty, square-profile nail holes, indicating reuse. LOOKS HAND-PLANED.

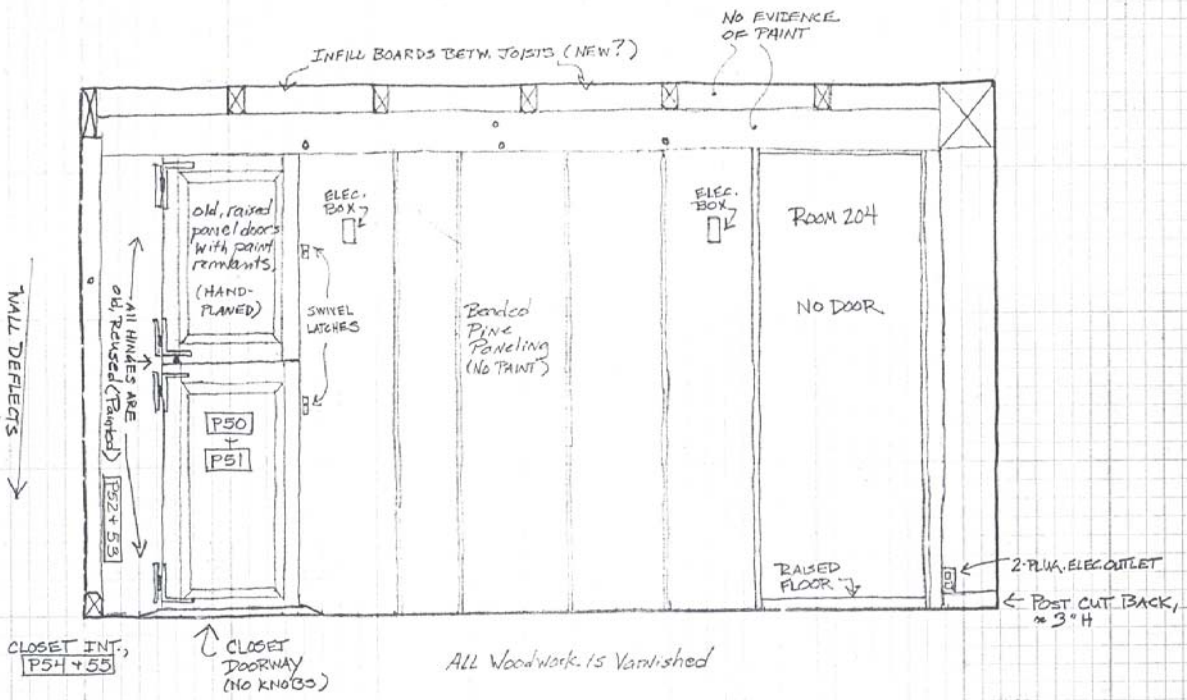
Paneling width in Room varies, 8" - 1'8¼"

MIMA: MERIAM HS.
RM 102, WEST WALL
Aug. 10, 1993; B. Yocum

SCALE: ½" = 1'0"

Meriam HS.
(508) 371-9682

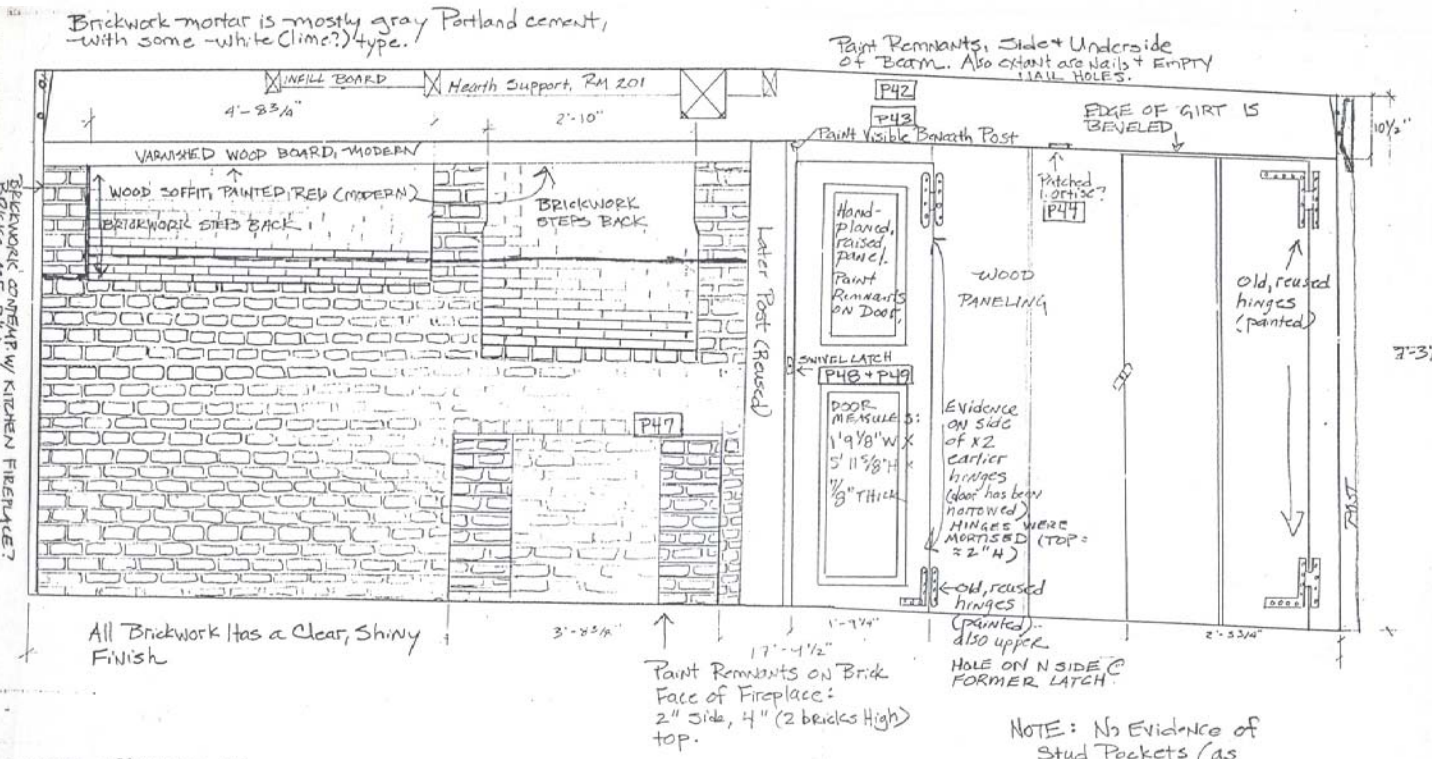
107
Common
White
926-3085

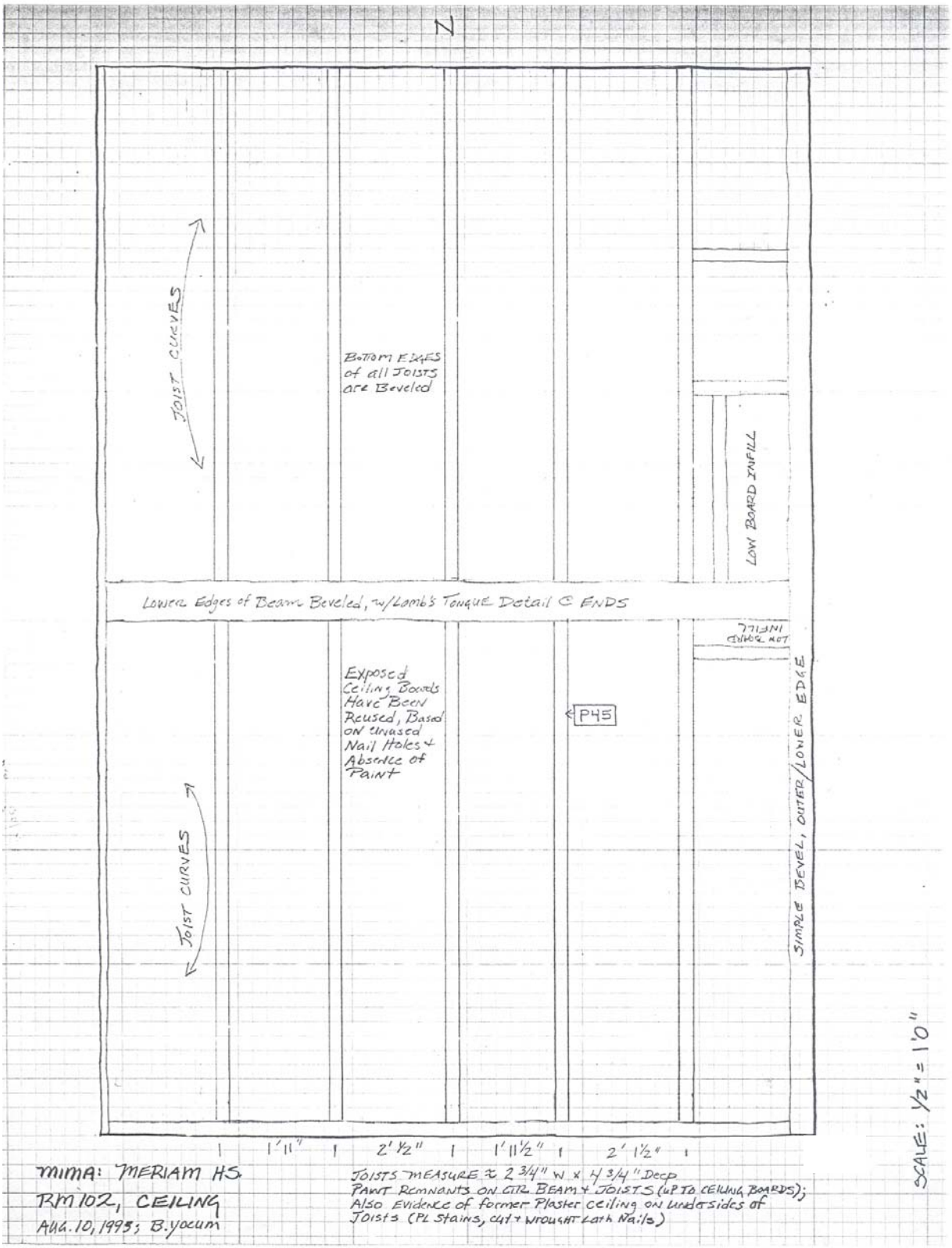


MIMA: MERIAM HS
RM 102, NORTH WALL
AUG. 10, 1993; B. Yocum
SCALE: ½" = 1'0"

DOOR MEASUREMENTS:
TOP 1'10" W
2'10 1/8" H
13/16" THK
[HOLE @ FORMER LATCH]
BOTTOM
1'10" W
3'3 1/8" H
13/16" THK

HINGE EVIDENCE: FORMERLY ON RT. (E) SIDE, MORTISED, x3 SCREWS EACH (DOOR CUT DOWN, SO [illegible]


Brickwork mortar is mostly gray Portland cement, with some white (lime?) type.
Paint Remnants, Side + Underside of Beam. Also extant are Nails + Empty NAIL HOLES.
INFILL BOARD
Hearth Support, RM 201
4'-8 3/4"
2'-10"
P42
P43
Paint Visible Beneath Post
EDGE OF GIRT IS BEVELED
10 1/2"
VARNISHED WOOD BOARD, MODERN
WOOD SOFFIT, PAINTED RED (MODERN)
BRICKWORK STEPS BACK
BRICKWORK STEPS BACK
BRICKWORK CONTEMP. W/ KITCHEN FIREPLACE? BRICKS ARE 7 1/2" x 2" x 3 1/2"
Later Post (Reused)
Hand-planed, reused, panel. Paint Remnants on Door.
Patched Lorrise?
P44
WOOD PANELING
Old, reused hinges (painted)
7'-3 1/4"
SWIVEL LATCH
P48 + P49
DOOR MEASURES: 1'9 1/8" W x 5'11 5/8" H x 7/8" THICK
P47
Evidence on side of x2 earlier hinges (door has been narrowed) HINGES WERE MORTISED (TOP = 2" H)
Old, reused hinges (painted) also upper
HOLE ON N SIDE OF FORMER LATCH
TRUST
All Brickwork Has a Clear, Shiny Finish
3'-8 3/4"
1'-9 1/4"
17'-4 1/2"
2'-5 3/4"
Paint Remnants on Brick Face of Fireplace: 2" side, 4" (2 bricks High) top.
NOTE: No Evidence of Stud Pockets (as for an Exterior Wall).
MIMA: MERIAM HS.
ROOM 102, EAST WALL
MAR-APR 1993
Aug. 11, 1993; D. Yocum
1/2" = 1'0"
BRICKWORK: 2 Types of Bricks. Lower measure 7 1/2" x 2" x 3 3/4"; Upper (Beginning @ 4 1/2 w/ the above North shelf) measure 8 1/2" x 2 1/2" x 4" (more irregular than lower) -- 5'0" from floor [NOTE: SEE RM 101, NORTH WALL]



MIMA: MERIAM HS
RM 102, CEILING
Aug. 10, 1995; B. Yocum

JOISTS MEASURE ≈ 2 3/4" W x 4 3/4" Deep
PAINT REMNANTS ON CTR BEAM + JOISTS (UP TO CEILING BOARDS);
ALSO EVIDENCE OF former Plaster ceiling ON undersides of
JOISTS (PL STAINS, cut + WROUGHT Lath Nails)

SCALE: 1/2" = 1'0"

Room 103

General Information

Room 103 is a small, first-story room in the back, northwest corner of the circa-1810 kitchen addition. Its dimensions are 7 feet 10 inches wide (east-west) by 10 feet 4 inches long (north-south).

This may also have been the location of a bedroom in the earlier (circa-1743) one-story kitchen addition that preceded the existing addition. It is documented in a probate document dated 1806 as "the bedroom in the back part of said house."[24] The location of the existing room off the kitchen also makes it a likely pantry or cupboard storage area. During the ownership of Rose and Thomas Burke (1871-1921), the room became an informal dining room;[25] the Ingrahams (1951-1991) may have used it as a den.

Many features in this room date to circa 1810 or circa 1820. Original features of circa-1810 vintage include the wood wainscot, the cased framing, and the four-panel door and its hardware. Dating to circa 1820 are the floor-to-ceiling pine paneling in the southwest corner, and the west window with six-over-six window sashes. Later elements are the narrow pine floorboards (circa 1925), the wide pine paneling and cabinets above the wainscot (circa 1950's), and the north casement-style window (circa 1950's). The plaster ceiling also appears to have been redone in the 1950's. Also obviously modern are the electrical wiring and central heating.

Floor

The floor is covered with pine floorboards, 3 1/2 inches wide, that are laid in an east-west direction. The floorboards are a later addition to the room; they were probably installed circa 1925, at the same time similar floorboards were installed in the second story. It is not known if the circa-1820 wide pine floorboards survive beneath the existing floorboards.

Walls

Structural framing is exposed at the north and west walls of the room. All four walls are finished with three materials: wood wainscot, early pine paneling, and later pine paneling. Not visible today are the circa-1810 plaster walls above the wainscot.

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[24] Middlesex County Probate Document #15056. The bedroom was distinguished as being separate from the "upright" part of the house.

[25] Alice Burke Hargrove, the granddaughter of Rose and Thomas, referred to this room as "the small dining room" in a conversation Aug. 17, 1993 (Appendix D).

Structural Framing

Exposed structural framing members include girts at the north and west walls and a post at the northwest corner. All of these are enclosed, or "cased," in woodwork. Analysis of the painted finishes on the casing indicates that the woodwork is original to circa 1810.

Wainscot

The wood wainscot is an original feature of the room dating to circa 1810, based on the paint analysis. It is located on the west, north, and east walls, and on the eastern two-thirds of the south wall. The wainscot is made up of two wide pine boards installed horizontally, and a top cap molding that was added circa 1925. Its height is 2 feet 9 inches, measured from the floor to the top of the cap. Similar original (circa-1810) wainscot also survives in Rooms 104 and 105 of the kitchen addition.

Early Pine Paneling

Two wide pine boards installed vertically are located in the slightly recessed niche at the west end of the south wall. These boards were an early addition to the room, based on the paint analysis that dates them to circa 1820. The purpose of the boards seems to have been to close off a doorway. The two boards together are slightly more than 3 feet wide—the approximate size of a doorway. It is likely that this doorway opened onto a closet, and was not a passageway to Room 102, based on the presence of a raised sill at the floor level (which can be seen in the Room-102 closet).

Later Pine Paneling

Wide-board paneling is located on all four walls above the previously described wainscot. The paneling is oriented horizontally at the north and west walls, and vertically at the south and east walls. Like the paneling in Rooms 101 and 102, these pine boards appear to be salvaged material based on the presence of empty square nail holes; they differ by having no edge bead. The boards are held in place with modern, machine-cut nails and have a hand-planed finish. The paneling was probably installed by the Ingrahams in the 1950's.

Plaster

The walls of this room above the wainscot may have been plastered circa 1810, similar to the other first-story rooms in the kitchen addition. This early plaster, or physical evidence of it, may survive beneath the later pine paneling.

Ceiling

Existing Ceiling

The ceiling measures approximately 6 feet 5 inches high at the south end of the room, and 6 feet 6 inches high at the north end of the room. It has a white, textured finish. This is a modern plaster on wire lath, as determined by viewing the back side of the plaster through a hole in the upper wall of the adjacent south room—Room 102. The ceiling probably dates to the installation of

the modern bathroom in the second-story room above (Room 203) circa 1958. The ceiling joists to which the plaster is attached also appear to have been newly installed at that time.

Historic Ceiling

All physical evidence of the room's original (circa-1810) ceiliing would have been destroyed when the existing ceiling was installed circa 1958. It is likely, however, that the ceiling would have been finished with a lime plaster on wood lath, similar to the unaltered ceilings in the first story of the kitchen addition.

Doorways

Existing Doorway

The room has one doorway, at the south end of the east wall, which connects with Room 104. This is an original doorway, dating to circa 1810. It is particularly significant for being the only doorway in the kitchen addition that is unaltered from its circa-1810 appearance, retaining both original woodwork and hardware.

The doorway woodwork includes a plain-board surround, a worn threshold, and a mortised door. The door has a hand-planed finish and four panels that are raised and unmolded on both sides. The door measures 6 feet 2 5/8 inches high by 2 feet 6 inches wide by three-quarters of an inch thick.

The original extant hardware includes two “HL” hinges screwed to the south side door that enable the door to swing open into the room. A Suffolk latch is on the north side of the door, with the bar latch on the Room-103 side, and the thumb latch on the Room-104 side.

Missing Doorway

A doorway also appears to have been located originally at the west end of the south wall, where two floor-to-ceiling wide pine boards exist today. As explained in “Walls,” the combined width of the two boards corresponds to the approximate width of a doorway, being slightly more than 3 feet. Furthermore, the analysis of the painted finish on the boards indicates they are not original, but were installed at the same time as the window woodwork, circa 1820. The doorway was probably for a closet, as explained in the section entitled “Missing Closet.”

The date of the former doorway opening may be as early as circa 1743, when an early one-story kitchen wing was on the back side of the house. The closet and its doorway appear to have been retained for about 10 years after the existing kitchen wing was built circa 1810.

Small Doorway

The Ingrahams' fascination for their historic house is clearly evidenced by a small doorway in the east wall, just north of the doorway to Room 104. The sole purpose of this small doorway is to show the back side of the old lath-and-plaster wall in the adjacent room—Room 104. The door, which is made of the same pine material as the adjacent paneling, measures 1 foot 3 inches high by

11 inches wide by seven-eighths of an inch thick. It is hinged on the north side with two butterfly hinges, and has a brass knob and a wood swivel latch on the south side. A glass panel on the interior side of the doorway protects the lath-and-plaster "exhibit."

Windows

The room has two windows: one in the north wall (W-117) and the other in the west wall (W-118). The north window dates to the 1950's; the west window is an alteration dating to circa 1820.

North Window (W-117)

The north window is a modern window installed by the Ingrahams in the 1950's to resemble an early colonial-style window. It is a wide window with no surround; a center mullion is flanked on either side by a 30-light wood casement sash. Each sash is side-hinged to swing outward.

It is not known if a historic window opening was in this same location circa 1810. The one old (circa-1912) photograph showing the exterior back side of the house has a tree and a telephone pole obscuring the northwest corner at the window location (fig. 16). Physical evidence of a former window opening may be preserved beneath the later pine paneling above the wainscot.

West Window (W-118)

The window at the west wall is thought to be an addition to the room installed circa 1820. It is offset to the north side of the wall, and sits mostly above the wainscot.

The window is lacking a surround, which may have been removed when the wide-board pine paneling was installed in the 1950's. All of the remaining interior woodwork associated with the window—including the stool, jambs, window stops, and six-over-six window sashes—dates to circa 1820, based on the interior paint analysis.

Cabinets, Closets, and Shelves

Existing Features

A cabinet with doors and open wood shelves are at the east side of the south wall, above the wainscot. Both are made of the same pine paneling as the upper walls, and have therefore been dated circa 1950's.

The cabinet is built into the wall. The door is hinged on the east side with two modern "HL" hinges, and has a wood knob and wood swivel latch on the west side. The interior of the cabinet, which is also finished with pine, has two shelves. The open shelves are located in a wall niche to the west side of the cabinet described above. The two shelves and interior walls of the niche are pine.

A modern wood shelf supported by two metal brackets is attached to the later pine paneling above the wainscot, on the north side of the east wall. The shelf may have held a telephone, based on the close proximity of a connection box for a telephone cord on this wall.

Missing Features

The paint ghost of what may have been a base cabinet is visible on the lower portion of the circa-1820's pine paneling at the west end of the south wall. The paint line, which measures 2 feet 9 inches high, corresponds approximately to the height of the adjacent wainscot. A nearby vertical paint ghost, which is on the face of the east adjacent wainscot and measures 3 1/2 inches wide, also probably relates to the missing cabinet. The paint analysis indicates that the lower paneling in the location of the missing cabinet was unpainted for a period of time.

Early cabinets or open shelves may also have existed at the south wall, to the east of the base cabinet (in the same location as the existing modern cabinet and open shelves). Physical evidence of these features may survive beneath the later pine paneling.

A closet that opens to Room 102 is located in the wall space between Rooms 103 and 102, at the west end of the south wall. As explained previously, this closet initially opened to the back kitchen area. It may have been built as early as circa 1743, when the first kitchen addition was built, or circa 1810, when the existing kitchen addition was constructed. Circa 1820, the Room-103 doorway was closed with pine paneling, and its woodwork was moved to Room 102. For more details, see “Room 102: North Closet Doorway” and “Closet”; and “Room 103: Early Pine Paneling” and “Missing Doorway.”

Painted Finishes

Existing Finishes

The room is finished today with red paint and varnish. Red paint covers the wainscot at the lower walls; the floor-to-ceiling paneling at the west end of the south wall; the cased girts and northwest corner post; the surround and door of the doorway to Room 104; the window woodwork at the north and west walls; the open shelves at the south wall; and the radiator at the north wall.

Varnish is on the wood floorboards, the later pine paneling above the wainscot, and the cabinet and the sheathing of the shelving in the niche in the south wall. Varnish also appears to have been applied to the red paint to give it a glossy appearance. Both the red paint and the varnish are modern finishes dating to the Ingraham occupancy.

Historic Finishes

The historic painted finishes of Room 103 were studied in detail by extracting and examining 14 samples of paint (P056-P069). For details of the paint analysis, see Appendix E.

The paint analysis revealed that the woodwork in Room 103 (i.e., the wainscot, cased framing, and doorway) was painted circa 1810 with a nonlead, red paint. This was changed circa

1820, when the woodwork was finished with a lead-based, white/cream-color paint. This is also the woodwork.

Bright paint colors, most of which contained lead, followed the white/cream of circa 1820. These colors, in the order of their application, were green, mustard yellows, green, yellow, red, bright yellow, green, aqua (circa 1925), black (circa 1951), and red. Many of these same paint colors were also used in the east adjacent room (Room 104).

No information is available on the historic finishes of the upper walls above the wainscot or the ceiling.

Electrical Equipment

Light Fixtures

A recessed electrical box for a wall-mounted fixture is at the upper east wall, north of the doorway to Room 104. The electrical box has been dated circa 1950's, due to its location in the later pine paneling. The fixture itself is missing.

Electrical Outlets

Three duplex receptacles are in the wainscot in the lower walls. One is centered at the east wall; the second is behind the radiator at the north wall; and the third centered at the north wall. All three were probably installed in the 1950's.

Telephone Equipment

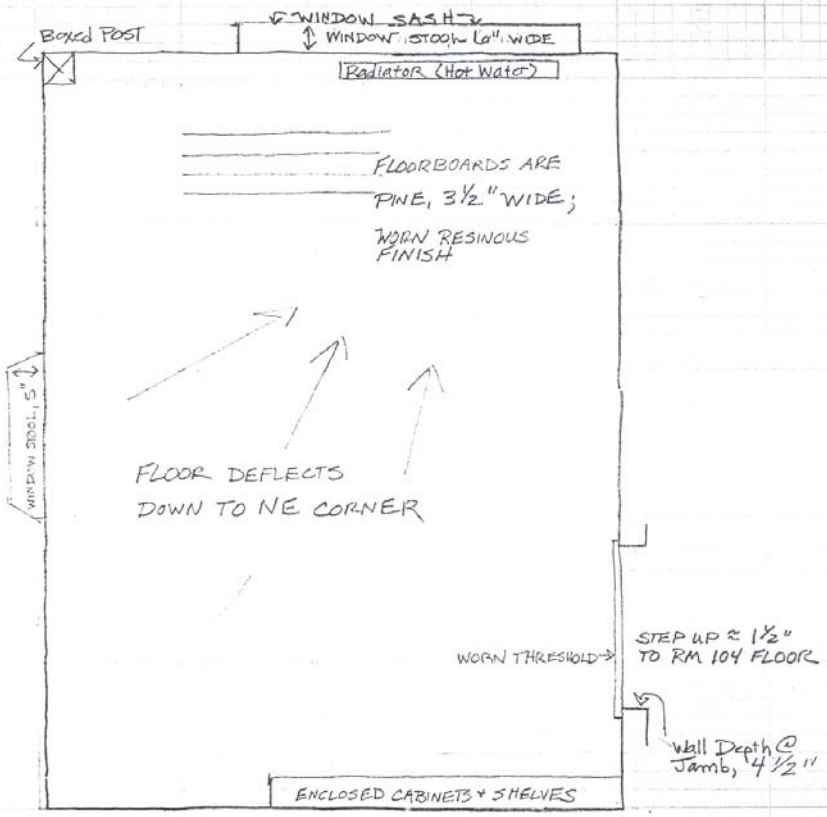
A wire and a connection box for a telephone are at the east wall, on the underside of the cap molding of the wainscot. The wood shelf attached to this wall may have held the telephone.

Heating Equipment

A hot-water radiator is at the north wall beneath the window. The radiator is three columns wide and 28 sections long. Writing cast on one end identifies it has having been made by the Burnham Company.

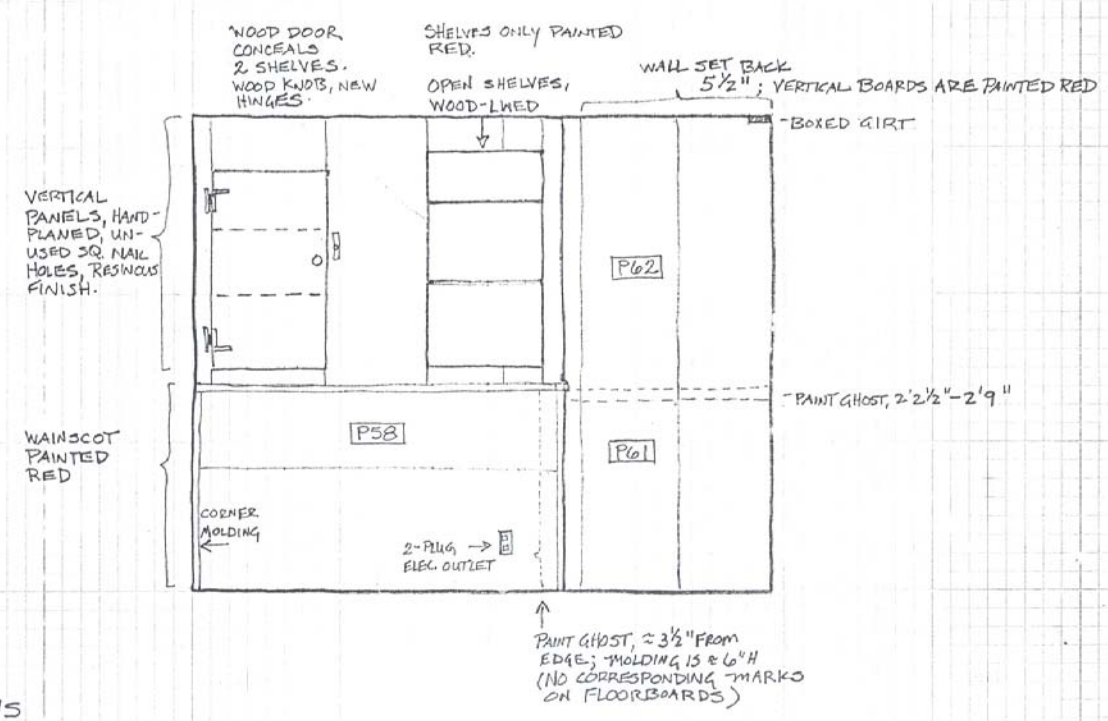
Fire- and Intrusion-Protection Equipment

There is no fire- or intrusion-protection equipment in this room.

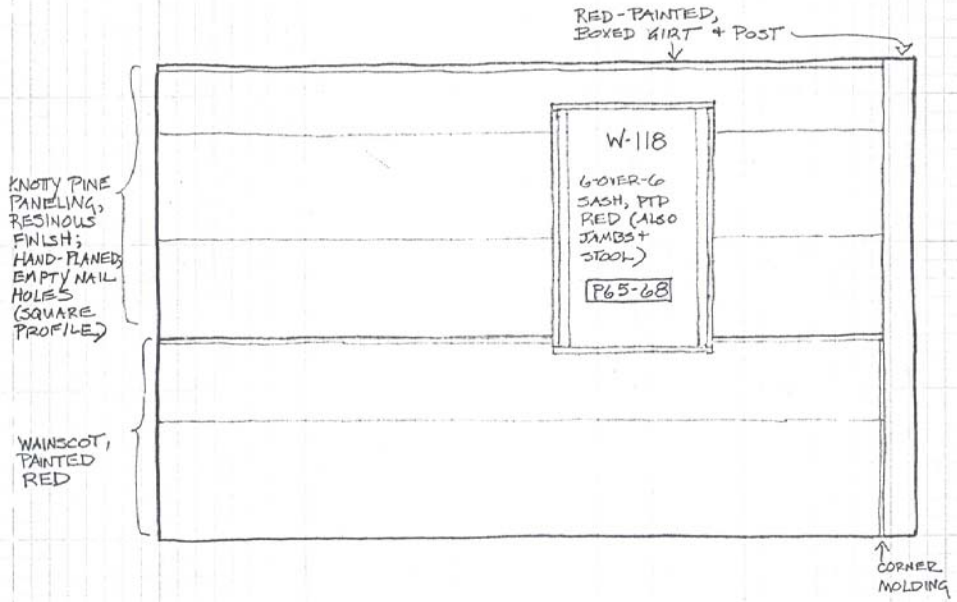


FLOOR IS MOSTLY COVERED BY A
LOOSE RED CARPET

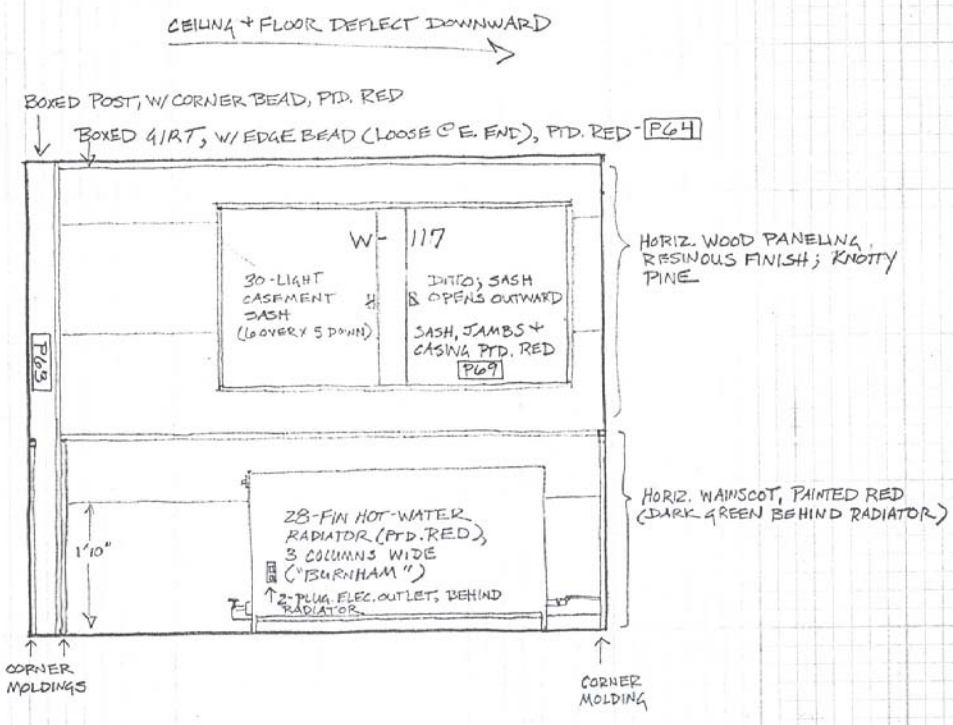
MIMA: MERIAM HS
RM 103, FLOOR
AUG. 13, 1993; B. Yocum
SCALE: ½" = 1'0"



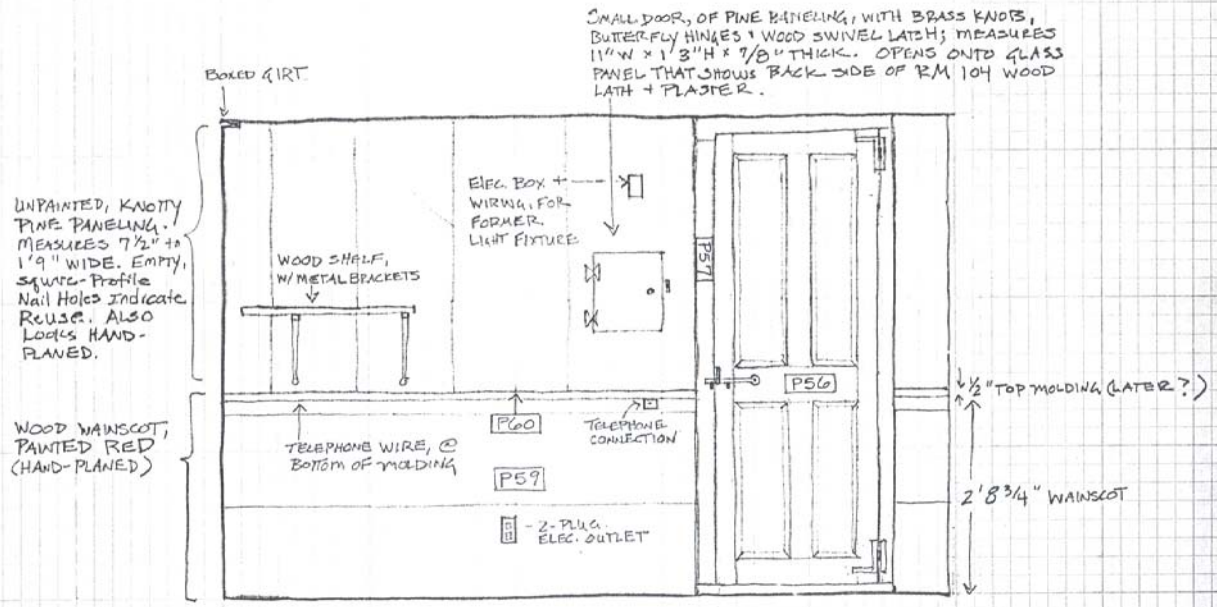
MIMA: MERIAM HS
RM 103, SOUTH WALL
AUG. 13, 1993; B. Yocum
SCALE: ½" = 1'0"



MIMA: MERIAM HS
RM 103, WEST WALL
AUG. 13, 1993; B. Yocum
SCALE: ½" = 1'0"

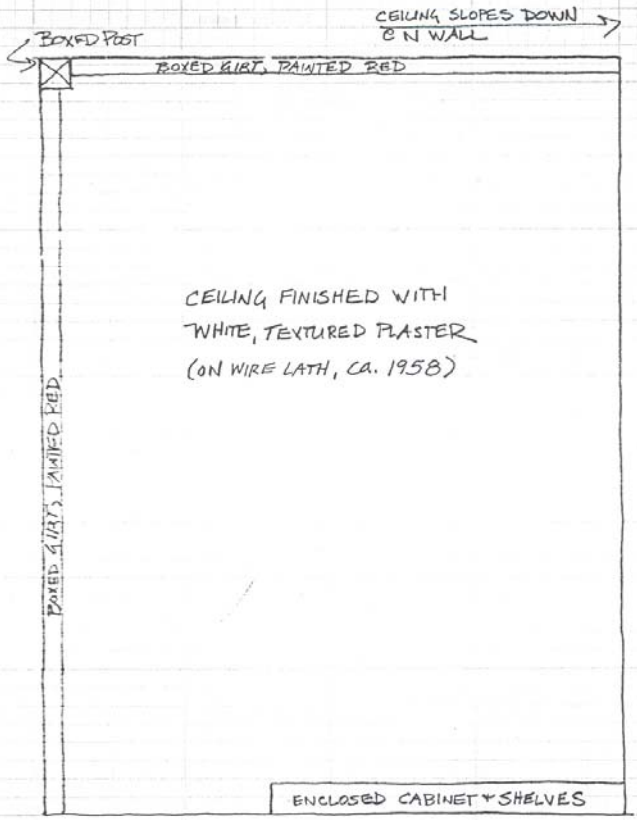


MIMA: MERIAM HS.
RM 103, NORTH WALL
AUG. 13, 1993; B. Yocum.
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'0"



4-Panel Door is mortised, Hand-Planed, w/ Raised Panels Both Sides, L-Hinges, + Suffolk Latch. Door Appears to be in Original Location, w/ Original Hardware. Door + Hardware are Painted Red. Measurements:
2'6" W x
6'2 5/8" H x
3/4" THICK

MIMA: MERIAM HS.
RM 103, EAST WALL
AUG. 13, 1993; B. Yocum
SCALE: ½" = 1'0"



MIMA: MERIAM HS
RM 103, CEILING
AUG. 13, 1993; B. Yocum
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'0"

Room 104

General Information

Room 104 is the original kitchen in the circa-1810 kitchen addition. It is the largest room in the addition, measuring 10 feet 8 inches wide by 25 feet 4 inches long.

The room continued its original use as a kitchen during the Burkes' ownership of the house. Alice Burke Hargrove remembers that her grandparents, Rose and Thomas Burke (1871-1921), had a cast-iron stove in front of the fireplace, and a sink at the north wall. It was not until the 1950's that the Ingrahams remodeled the north shed as a modern kitchen, which exists today.

The old kitchen is significant for being the only room in the house for which pictorial documentation exists. This is a circa-1865 sketch of the fireplace wall by artist Mary Wheeler (fig. 4), which was subsequently photographed by Alfred Hosmer (1851-1903). Comparison of the sketch with the room today determined that it was accurate in all existing details.

The architectural investigation also determined that remarkably few alterations have been made to the kitchen over the years. Original material dating to circa 1810 includes the wood wainscot, the cased framing, the fireplace mantel, the doorway openings, most of the doors (some in reused locations), and the corner cupboard. Some of the plaster at the upper walls and ceiling may be original, although most appears to have been repaired or replaced in later years.

A later board partition wall was built, perhaps by the Burkes, dividing the room in half. This has since been removed, although its paint ghost and reused door survive. Later materials dating to the Ingraham occupancy include the wide pine floorboards and the existing window openings and sashes.

Floor

As mentioned in the previous section, the floor is covered with wide pine floorboards installed by the Ingrahams in the 1950's. The boards, which are oriented in an east-west direction, are of various widths, ranging from 1 foot 2 inches to 1 foot 8 inches. They are obviously not original, because the boards butt up against the wainscot and doorway jambs. Furthermore, the floorboards appear to be salvaged material based on the presence of empty square nail holes.

The level of the floor is higher than that in the west adjacent room (Room 103), suggesting that the floorboards may have been installed over an existing floor. Wide subfloor boards that appear to be old are on the east side of the room, as may be seen in the cellar. Whether or not existing flooring materials are between the subfloor and the top floorboards is not known. The historic floorboards were also wide boards oriented in an east-west direction, as documented by the circa-1865 sketch by Mary Wheeler. These boards may survive beneath the existing later floorboards.

A brick-paved hearth in front of the fireplace at the south wall is described in the section entitled “Fireplace.”

Walls

The walls are covered with three materials: wood wainscot, plaster, and later pine paneling. In addition, three cased posts, spaced approximately 10 feet 9 inches on center, are exposed at the north wall. A later board partition wall is missing today.

Wainscot

Wood wainscot, composed of two or three plain wide boards installed horizontally, covers the lower portions of the north, west, and south walls of the room. The height of the wainscot varies, ranging from 2 feet 6 1/2 inches at the north wall, to 2 feet 8 1/2 inches at the east end of the south wall. There is no top cap molding.

Plaster

A combination of old and later plaster covers the upper portions of the south and west walls. The circa-1810 lath on the west wall is accordion-type, the back side of which may be seen in the adjacent west room (Room 103), where a small “viewing” doorway was created in the 1950's.

The old plaster may be distinguished from the later repair plaster by being brown and coarse in texture (instead of white and smooth in texture). Brown plaster survives at the west wall, at the west end of the south wall, and at the south wall between the fireplace and the doorway to Room 108.

Later plaster on wire lath exists at the south wall, east of the doorway to Room 108. This was determined by viewing the interior side of the wall from the cellar, through a crack in the first-story floorboards. Plaster on wire lath may also have been used to repair the south wall above the fireplace, where a built-in cabinet once existed, according to the circa-1865 sketch by Mary Wheeler (fig. 4).

Plaster was probably also on the north wall above the wainscot, where later pine paneling exists today. It is unlikely that the plaster survives beneath the paneling, based on the fact that the paneling is flush with the wainscot. The lath, however, may have been retained.

Later Pine Paneling

Wide pine paneling finishes the east wall from the floor to the ceiling, and the north wall above the wainscot. The paneling is oriented vertically on the east wall, and horizontally on the north wall.

This is the same pine paneling found in Rooms 101, 102, 103, 106, and 107. It has a hand-planed finish and appears to have been reused, based on the empty square nail holes found in it. As in the other rooms, this paneling was presumably installed by the Ingrahams in the 1950's.

Missing Partition Wall

A north-south partition wall of single-board thickness formerly divided the kitchen into two separate areas. Physical evidence of the wall, which is missing today, may be seen as a ghosted outline on the south-wall wainscot and plaster, between the doorway to Room 108 and the fireplace, and on the wainscot at the north wall. The partition appears to have been attached to the east side of the center north-south beam, the casing of which was replaced with new material when the partition was removed.

Alice Burke Hargrove remembers that this was a “thin wall” that was removed when the house was leased to tenants (see Appendix D). The paint analysis suggests, however, that the wall was removed by the Ingrahams in the 1950's. It is also clear from the paint analysis that the wall was not an original feature of the room, but was added after the room had been painted approximately five times. An exact date for the wall has not been established.

Ceiling

Existing Ceiling

The ceiling is divided into three separate areas by three north-south cased beams spaced approximately 10 feet 9 inches on center. The east beam is located at the east wall; the middle beam is near the center of the room; and the west beam is approximately 2 feet 4 inches from the west wall.

The height of the ceiling, from the floor to the ceiling plaster, varies throughout the room. It measures approximately 6 feet 5 1/2 inches on the east side of the room; 6 feet 2 inches near the middle of the room in front of the fireplace; and 6 feet 4 inches near the west wall.

The ceiling in all three bays is plastered. Little is known about the lath, except in the west bay where a large area of missing plaster has exposed circular-sawn wood lath. Furthermore, paint exposed on the side of the ceiling beam in the area of the plaster loss reveals that the ceiling was approximately 1 3/4 inches higher than it is today. Analysis of the paint dates the plaster and circular-sawn lath as having been installed circa 1925.

Historic Ceiling

The historic (circa-1810) ceiling was probably plaster on accordion-type lath, similar to the surviving early plaster at the west wall. It is not known if any early lath or plaster remains on the ceiling.

Doorways

There are seven doorways in the room, counting the cabinet doorway in the northwest corner. Of these, all seven appear to be historic openings dating to circa 1810. Only one, however remains unaltered from its circa-1810 appearance. This is the doorway in the west wall, leading to Room 103.

West Doorway

The west doorway to Room 103 has an surround of plain boards, 3 inches wide and beaded along their interior edges. The doorway retains its original (circa-1810) four-panel mortised door, wood threshold, Suffolk latch, and "HL"-style hinges. The panels are raised and unmolded on both sides of the door. The door is mounted on the Room-103 side of the doorway, such that the jamb (which measures 4 1/2 inches wide) is exposed on the Room-104 side.

A detailed description of both the door and its hardware can be found in the "Doorways" section for Room 103.

South Doorway to Room 102

The doorway to Room 102 is at the west end of the south wall. The doorway opening, which lacks a door, measures 5 feet 10 1/2 inches tall by 2 feet 4 inches wide by 8 1/4 inches deep. The doorway may have been an original opening to the exterior from Room 102 when the house was constructed circa 1705.

All woodwork associated with the doorway today dates to the building of the kitchen addition circa 1810, except for the later floorboards, which are a continuation of the kitchen floor. This includes the wide jambs and the plain surround on the Room-104 side of the doorway. The surround is unusual for being a narrow board on the west side, and a wide board on the east side that is part of the fireplace mantel.

The missing door was found at the west-closet doorway in Room 205, where it had been reused by the Ingrahams in the 1950's. Its original location was identified based on the circa-1865 sketch of the kitchen, and on the paint analysis. The door is of mortised construction with four panels that are recessed and unmolded on the Room-104 side, and raised and molded on the Room-102 side. Paint ghosts provide evidence of a Suffolk latch on the west stile (on the Room-104 side) and two "HL"-style hinges on the east stile (on the Room-102 side). For more details, including the dimensions of the door, see the description for Room 102, "North Doorway."

South Doorway to Room 108

The doorway to Room 108 is just east of center in the south wall. The opening measures 5 feet 11 1/2 inches high by 2 feet 6 inches wide by 10 inches deep. This may also have been an original exterior doorway in Room 108 when the house was constructed circa 1705. Like the other doorway in this wall, it lacks a door.

All woodwork associated with the doorway today dates to circa 1810, except for the later floorboards, which are a continuation of the kitchen floor. This includes the wide jamb boards and the surround with beaded interior edges.

Physical evidence of the missing door exists on the Room-108 side of the opening. Here, shadow marks and screw holes for missing hinges are on the west side of the surround, and a patch for a missing latch keeper is on the east side of the surround.

The door was found to have been reused in the doorway between Rooms 203 and 204, where it was probably installed when a bathroom was installed circa 1958. The door was identified as belonging in the Room 104/108 doorway based on its style, hardware placement, and paint layers. The door is of mortised construction with four panels, which are recessed and unmolded on the Room-104 side, and raised and molded on the Room-108 side. Two "HL"-style hinges were on the Room-108 side of the opening (west stile), and a Suffolk latch was on the Room-104 side of the opening (east stile), based on paint shadows of the missing hardware. Finally, the paint analysis confirmed that the paint-layer colors matched those of Rooms 104 and 108.

The dimensions of the door (which has been trimmed at the top) measures 5 feet 8 11/16 inches high by 2 feet 6 inches wide by seven-eighths of an inch thick.

East Doorway to Room 105

The doorway to Room 105 is at the south end of the east wall. It is believed to be an original opening dating to circa 1810. This is because it would have been logical to have a connection between the side entry hall (Room 105) and the kitchen, both of which are part of the circa-1810 addition.

Nothing survives of this circa-1810 doorway except the opening. The dimensions of the opening are approximately 5 feet 11 inches tall by 2 feet 2 1/2 inches wide by 5 inches deep. Missing doorway elements include the surround, the jambs, the threshold, and the door.

East Closet Doorway

A closet doorway is at the north end of the east wall. This appears to be the original (circa-1810) doorway to the cellar stairway, which was converted to a closet in 1925 or the 1950's.

Original surviving doorway elements include the opening, the plain-board surround, and the mortised four-panel door (with raised, unmolded panels on both sides, and two "HL"-style hinges). The door, however, was altered when the closet was installed by making the following changes: a wood strip three-sixteenths of an inch wide was installed on the north side; the door was cut in half in the style of a "Dutch" door; the latch was removed and a wood knob was installed on the south stile of the lower door; the "HL"-style hinges were moved from the south stile to the north stile of the lower door; and two new hinges were installed on the north stile of the upper door.

The upper portion of the door measures 3 feet 4 1/2 inches high, and the lower portion measures is 2 feet 8 1/2 inches high. Both the upper and lower doors are 2 feet 8 inches wide and three-quarters of an inch thick.

North Doorway to Room 107

The doorway to Room 107 is at the east end of the north wall. It was probably an original exterior doorway opening when the kitchen addition was constructed circa 1810, which was converted to an interior opening when the north shed addition was built circa 1820.

All of the woodwork associated with this doorway, with the possible exception of the threshold, dates to circa 1820, based on the absence of the earliest Room-104 paint layers. It was also determined from the paint analysis that the door, which is now on the Room-107 side of the jamb, hung originally on the Room-104 side. It appears to have been moved to its present location in the 1950's, which is also when the existing “H”-style hinges and old-looking bar latch were installed.

The doorway surround conists of plain boards. The door is mortised, and has four panels that are recessed and molded on both sides. Two butt hinges were originally on the west side of the door, based on two 3-inch-long mortises with three screw holes each. The door also had a Suffolk or Norfolk latch on the east stile, as evidenced by a faint paint ghost. The dimensions of the door are 6 feet 1/2 inch high by 2 feet 5 1/2 inches wide by 1 1/4 inches thick.

Corner Cabinet Doorway

An original cabinet dating to circa 1810 is in the northwest corner of the room. The doorway, in the southeast face of the cabinet, is full-size. The upper half of the doorway is covered by a pair of modern louvered doors. The bottom half is covered by a mortised door having two panels. These are raised and unmolded on both sides, although the closet-side of the door is cruder than the room side. The door measures 2 feet 8 inches high by 2 feet 3 1/4 inches wide by five-eighths of an inch thick. The door is hinged on its south edge with two “H”-style hinges. A wood knob is attached to the north stile, and a wood swivel latch is on the cabinet frame near the knob.

The lower door is actually the lower half of a circa-1810 four-panel door, which was at some point cut in half to form a “Dutch” door. More recently, the upper half of the old door was replaced with the louvered doors, and stored in the cellar. This portion of the door measures 3 feet 3 inches high, and is the same width and thickness as the lower door. Remnants of the two “H”-style hinges remain attached to the south frame of the cabinet.

Missing Doorway

A doorway existed at one time in the board partition that divided the kitchen in half. Both the partition and its doorway are missing today, having been removed in the 1950's. The evidence for the wall is described in the section “Walls.” The door itself was identified as having been reused in the second story, between Rooms 204 and 205, based on the paint analysis.

The reused door is mortised, with four panels that are raised and unmolded (on a flat field) on both sides. The door had two butt hinges, based on two extant 3-inch-long mortises. The latch, which exists in a reused location on the door, is a Norfolk type with cusp design. It was determined, based on the paint analysis and the orientation of the hardware, that the door in its original location was hinged on the south side of the doorway and latched to the east side of the opening.

Windows

Existing Windows

There are three windows in the north wall (W-114, W-115, and W-116). All three were installed by the Ingrahams in the 1950's, according to Alice Burke Hargrove (see Appendix D).

All of the windows, which lack surrounds, are casement types resembling colonial-style windows. The largest is the center window (W-115), which has a center mullion separating two 25-light wood sashes. Flanking the center window are two smaller windows (W-114 and W-116), each with a single 25-light wood sash. All of the sashes are side-hinged to open outward.

Missing Historic Windows

Two windows were in the north wall of Room 104, according to a photograph dated circa 1912 that shows the back side of the house (fig. 16). One window appears to have been located in the approximate vicinity of the large center window (W-115), and the other was where the west-end window (W-116) is today. The east-end window (W-114) did not exist. This was confirmed by Alice Burke Hargrove, who recalled that her grandparents (Rose and Thomas Burke) had a cabinet at this wall.

The windows appear to have been about the same size as the existing west window in Room 103, and the window sashes were six-over-six. Framing for the window openings may survive beneath the existing wall paneling.

Fireplace

A fireplace with wood mantel, brick hearth, and side bake oven is at the south wall, between the doorways to Rooms 102 and 108. It is known that a cooking fireplace was located here as part of the circa-1743 back kitchen addition. However, the configuration of the existing firebox and bake oven strongly suggest that they were built as part of the circa-1810 back kitchen addition. Also, the construction of the bake oven damaged an earlier bake oven located deeper in the chimney. This clearly was the bake oven for the circa-1743 kitchen addition.

The early appearance of the fireplace is documented by a sketch dated circa 1865 by Mary Wheeler (fig. 4). The fireplace today closely resembles the drawing, except that the built-in cabinet over it no longer exists. Alice Burke Hargrove recalled, however, that the fireplace had been covered over, and the kitchen range sat here, when her grandparents lived in the house (1871-1921). Only the bake oven door was left exposed. The Ingrahams probably reopened the fireplace in the 1950's.

Brickwork

The brickwork of the fireplace is exposed below the apron of the long mantel shelf. The bricks appear to be handmade, and measure 7 1/2 inches long by 3 1/2 inches wide by 2 inches high.

Hearth

A hearth in front of the fireplace measures 6 feet 7 1/2 inches long by 2 feet 4 1/2 inches deep. It is made up of eight rows of bricks that each measure 7 1/2-3/4 inches long by 3 1/2-3/4 inches wide.

The level of the hearth is flush with the surrounding floor, which is believed to be higher than the historic floor. It is therefore possible that the hearth was relaid in the 1950's when the existing floorboards were installed, perhaps reusing the old bricks. The sketch of circa 1865 shows the hearth as then being made up of eight rows of bricks, similar to its appearance today. The hearth is also shown, however, to extend to the west jamb of the southwest doorway, which is not the case today. Lifting of the existing floorboards may provide more information on the configuration of the historic hearth.

Firebox

The firebox opening, which is supported by an iron-bar lintel, measures 4 feet wide by 3 feet high by 1 foot 6 inches deep. The interior has splayed jambs, with gudgeons and crane on the east side.

Bake Oven and Storage Area

A bake oven is offset to the west side of the fireplace. It has a cast-iron doorway frame, door, and damper adjustment, with no manufacturer's identification. These existed circa 1865, based on the sketch of the fireplace made at that date (fig. 4).

A storage area is located below the bake oven, at the level of the floor. It has a small doorway and a friction-fitted door that does not appear to be historic. This was a receptacle for ashes removed from the bake oven prior to setting food in the oven.

Early Bake Oven

The remnant of an early bake oven that preceded the existing oven is preserved inside the chimney chamber. This early oven is believed to date to circa 1743, when the chimney was rebuilt and when the first kitchen addition was constructed. It is therefore one of the few known remnants of the early kitchen addition. It was made obsolete circa 1810 when the existing bake oven was built, breaking through the north end of the early bake oven.

It was originally thought that this early oven had served the west room (Room 102) circa 1743. However, it was found upon closer inspection that there was no flue and no room for a throat on the Room-102 side of the oven, and that the remaining chamber and brickwork were oriented in a north-south direction. It was therefore concluded that this must have been the bake oven for the first (circa-1743) kitchen addition.

This early bake oven is contemporary with a second bake oven that was constructed for the east room (Room 108). The two ovens are oriented at right angles to one another, and are physically joined together on one side.

Mantel

The fireplace mantel is made of wood. It is a simple design, consisting of a 6-inch-wide shelf, a wide apron, and two side members (the west side of which extends to the ceiling and also serves as the east side of the surround of the doorway to Room 102).

The exact date of the mantel is uncertain, because the earliest paint layers seem to have been damaged by heat from the fireplace. A likely date, however, is circa 1810, when the existing kitchen addition was built. Repairs were made to the mantel circa 1925, when the apron below the shelf was patched. The date of the repairs is based on the paint analysis.

Missing Cabinet

A built-in cabinet with two small doors was located above the mantelshelf, according to the sketch of circa 1865 (fig. 4). The sketch shows the cabinet as having a plain-board surround with a wide center stile, and two side-hinged doors with swivel latches.

The cabinet is missing today, probably having been removed when a flue for the kitchen range was installed here by the Burkes. No physical evidence of either the cabinet or the flue is visible today, because the wall has been completely replastered.

Corner Cabinet

A built-in cabinet sits in the northwest corner of the room. The cabinet appears to be an original feature of the circa-1810 kitchen addition, based on the analysis of its painted finishes. Alice Burke Hargrove remembers that the cabinet was in the room when her grandparents lived in the house (1871-1921).

The cabinet extends from the floor to the ceiling. It consists of plain boards installed horizontally. A large doorway is in the southeast face of the cabinet. The “Dutch” door here is described in detail in the section “Doorways.”

The interior of the cabinet has three shelves. The middle shelf aligns with cut in the “Dutch door,” forming an upper and a lower cabinet. These appear to be old, except for the front part of the top shelf that is later. The floor of the cabinet is made of wood, and sits about 1 1/2 inches above the level of the existing floor. The interior north and west walls of the lower cabinet are the horizontal boards of the room's wainscot; wide knotty-pine boards are used in the upper cabinet.

Missing Shelf

A paint ghost on the exterior south side of the corner cabinet described above is probable evidence of a former shelf at the west wall, between the cabinet and the doorway to Room 103. The paint shadow measures 2 inches wide by 9 inches long, and is at the level of the adjacent west-wall wainscot. Analysis of the paint layers on the cabinet and wainscot below the shelf line suggests that this area was never enclosed.

Closet

A closet is on the east side of the room, at the north end of the east wall. This closet, which occupies the space beneath the stairway to the second story in Room 105, is believed to be the location of the original (circa-1810) cellar stairway. It was converted to a closet circa 1925, or sometime in the 1950's.

The closet has an original (circa-1810) four-panel door. It is described in detail in the section "Doorways." The interior is furnished with six wood shelves. The upper south corner is taken up by the underside of the stairway to the second story.

Painted Finishes

Existing Finishes

Room 104 is finished today with red, white, and brown paint, and varnish. All were applied by the Ingrahams (1951-1991). Red paint covers the wainscot, cased beams and posts, doorway woodwork, window sashes, fireplace mantel, and corner cabinet. White paint is the finish on the plaster at the west and south walls above the wainscot, and the ceiling between the cased beams and girt. A brown paint or stain covers the face bricks at the fireplace. Varnish is used extensively in the room, covering almost all woodwork surfaces including those painted red. It is the only finish on the floorboards and on the later wide-board paneling at the east and north walls.

Historic Finishes

The paint history of the circa-1810 room was determined by extracting small samples of paint for microscopic analysis. A total of 48 samples of paint were studied from the room (P070-P107 and P283-P285), along with samples from doors reused in the second story (P207, P218, P229, and P231). For details of the paint analysis, see Appendix E.

It was discovered from the analysis that the kitchen has had a colorful paint history. Beginning circa 1810, the woodwork was finished with a nonlead red paint. This was followed circa 1820 with a lead-based cream-color paint, after which the woodwork was painted approximately two times with a light-gray lead paint. The woodwork paint scheme for the next four paintings was in various shades of yellow, some containing lead. The last painting before the repairs of 1925 used a green paint on both the woodwork and the plaster walls.

Repairs to the room circa 1925 were painted with a distinctive aqua-green, lead-based paint. This finish was used on both the woodwork and the plaster walls. Pastel shades of light green, and later light yellow, followed.

The Ingrahams preferred a light-green paint, which they probably used shortly after acquiring the house in 1951. This was changed the next time the room was painted to a deep red color for the woodwork, and a white paint for the walls. A second painting in red, with a glossy varnish finish on top, was the last painting of the room.

Little is known about how the plaster walls and ceiling were finished before 1925. The first painted finish on the old plaster walls was found to be a nonlead green paint applied just before the room was painted aqua-green circa 1925. The missing early finishes may have been water-soluble lime washes or calcimine paints that were washed off, or wallpapers. Alternatively, the "old" plaster may have extensively repaired, thus obliterating evidence of the early finishes.

The ceiling, which is known to have been replastered in at least one area on circular-sawn lath circa 1925, has only a few layers of white or cream-color paint. The earliest paint layer is a lime wash or calcimine.

Electrical Equipment

Light Fixtures

An unused electrical box, one light switch, and electrical cap are the only light-fixture equipment in the room today. The recessed electrical box is in the upper south wall, on the east side of the doorway to Room 108. The light fixture itself is missing. The light switch is mounted to the later pine paneling at the north wall, west of the doorway to Room 107. The switch operates the ceiling light in Room 107. The electrical cap is on the ceiling at the south wall, in front of the fireplace. It was probably for a ceiling-mounted light fixture that is missing today.

Another item—a wood board with extant wiring—may also have been for a light fixture. This is mounted to the later pine paneling at the east end of the north wall, near the closet doorway.

Electrical Outlets

The room has 11 duplex receptacles. These are located in the lower paneling, wainscot, upper plaster walls, and plaster ceiling. They are distributed in the room as follows:

- north wall: three, in the lower wainscot;
- east wall: one, in the lower paneling;
- south wall: two, in the lower wainscot;
- west wall: one in the lower wainscot, and two in the upper plaster wall; and
- ceiling: one at the north wall, and one at the east wall.

Heating Equipment

The room has one hot-water radiator at the north wall, beneath the center window (W-115). The radiator sits on a wood-cased enclosure for the radiator pipes, which spans between the west and center wall posts. The enclosure measures 3 1/2 inches high by about 5 inches wide. The pipes continue through the bottom portion of the northwest corner cabinet, where they are exposed to view inside the cabinet. The radiator is three columns wide and 28 section long. Writing on one end identifies it as having been made by the Burnham Company. It was installed by the Ingrahams in 1951.

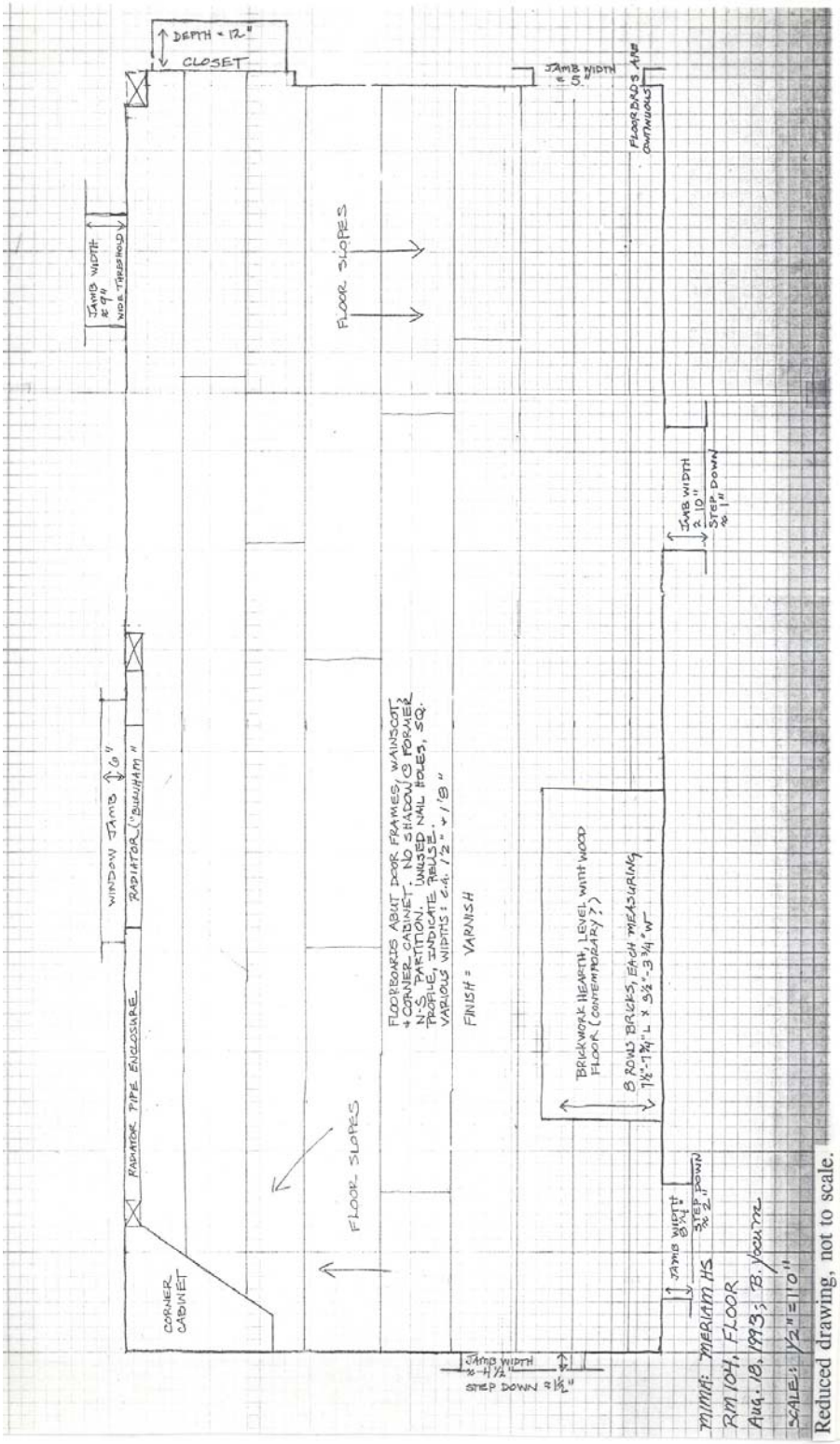
Plumbing Equipment

There is no plumbing equipment in the room today (other than the hot-water radiator described above), nor is there any remaining physical evidence of former plumbing equipment.

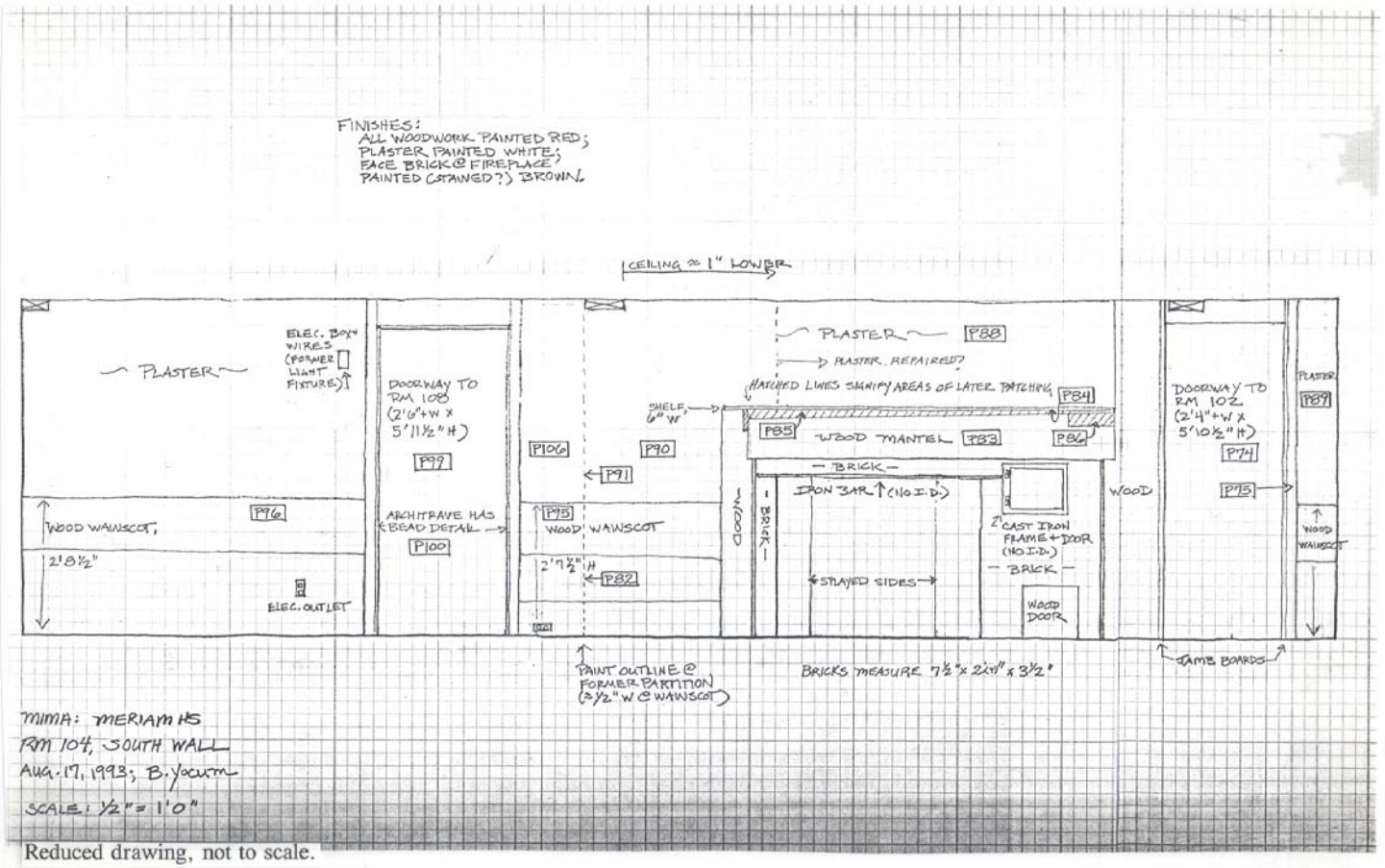
A kitchen sink did exist in the room at one time, however, according to Alice Burke Hargrove. She remembers that the sink was at the north wall, where the radiator is today, when her grandparents lived in the house (1871-1921). The Burkes probably installed the sink sometime after 1871—perhaps in 1903-1904, when Thomas J. Burke was building his house across the street. It was probably removed by the Ingrahams when the north shed was converted to a modern kitchen in the 1950's.

Fire- and Intrusion-Protection Equipment

There are no fire detectors in Room 104. The control panel for the intrusion-protection system is in the closet at the east wall.



Reduced drawing, not to scale.

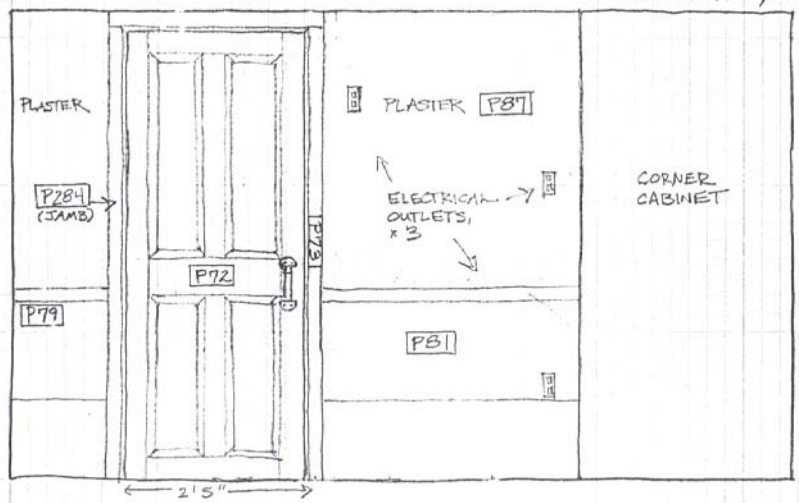


Reduced drawing, not to scale.

MORTISED, RAISED-PANEL DOOR WITH SUFFOLK LATCH; APPEARS TO BE UNALTERED + IN ORIG. LOCATION. ARCHITRAVE (3" W) HAS BEAD DETAIL.

FINISHES: DOORWAY ELEMENTS, WAINSCOT + CORNER CABINET ARE PAINTED RED; PLASTER (ON WOOD LATH) IS PAINTED WHITE.

PLASTER: OLD IS BROWN, REPAIR IS WHITE; WHITE. 1ST FINISH ON EARLY PLASTER IS GREEN. CLATH EXPOSED IN RM 103 APPEARS TO BE ACCORDIAN-TYPE.]



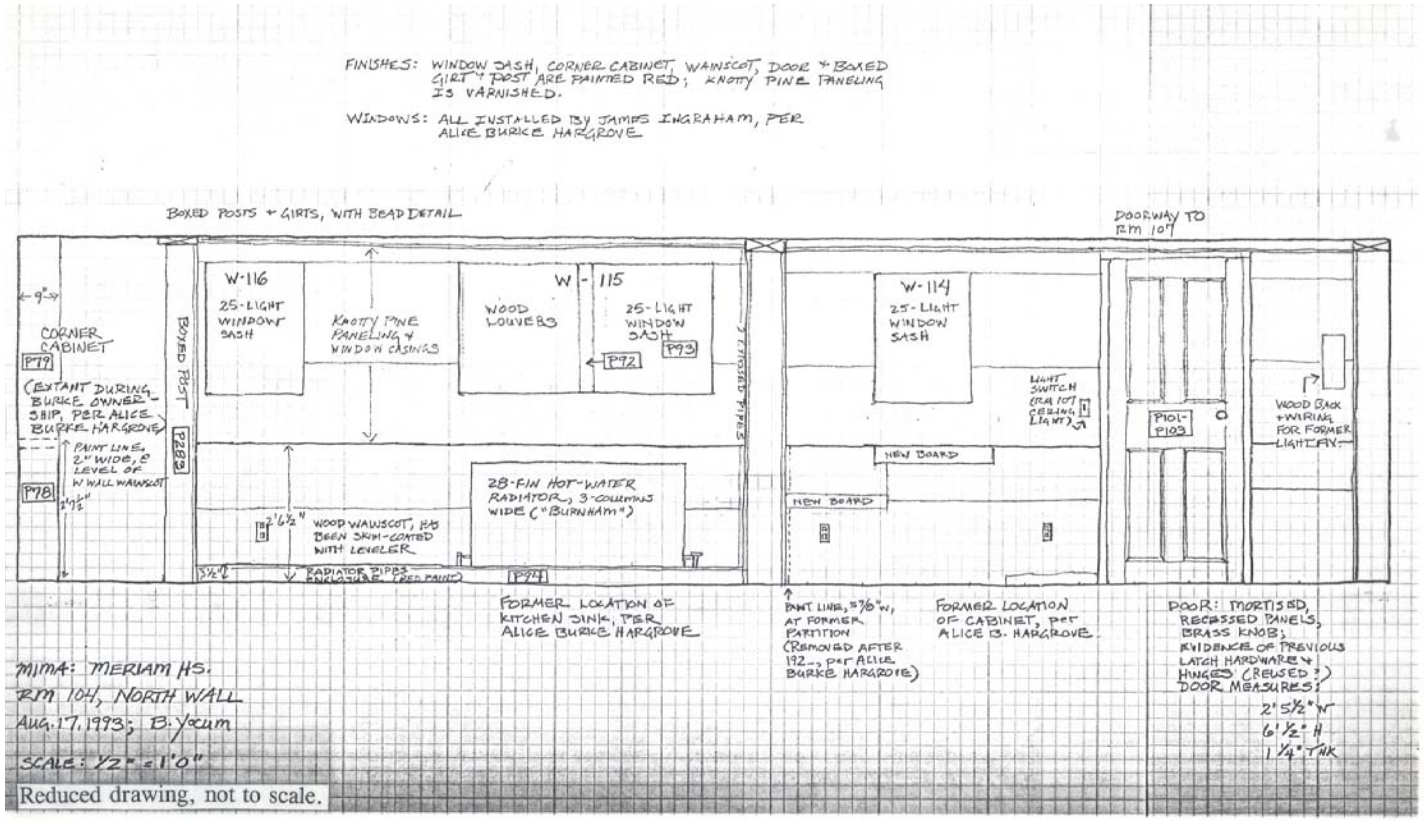
DOORWAY TO RM 103

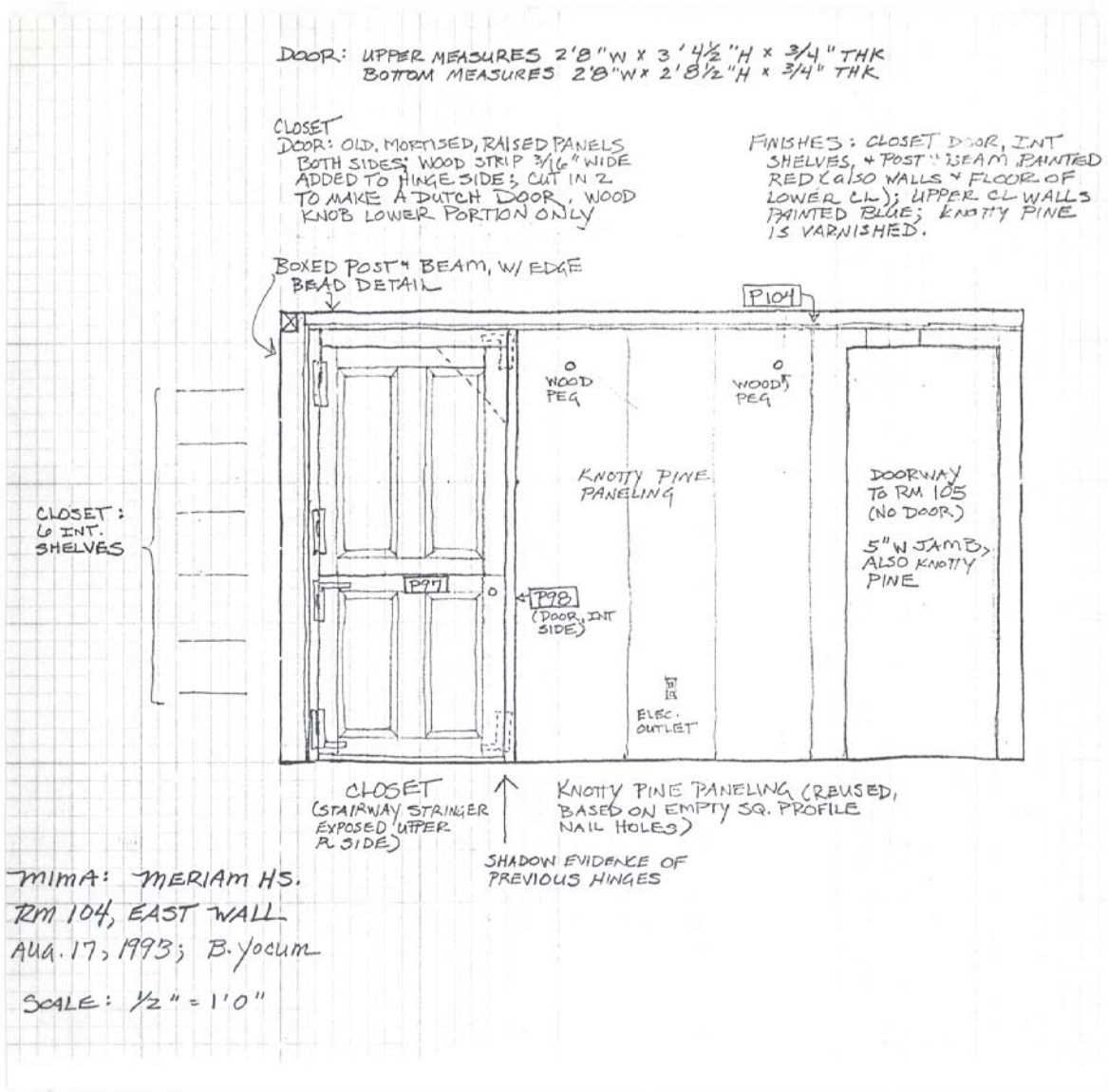
WOOD WAINSCOT IS 3 HORIZ. BOARDS; TOP IS NARROW

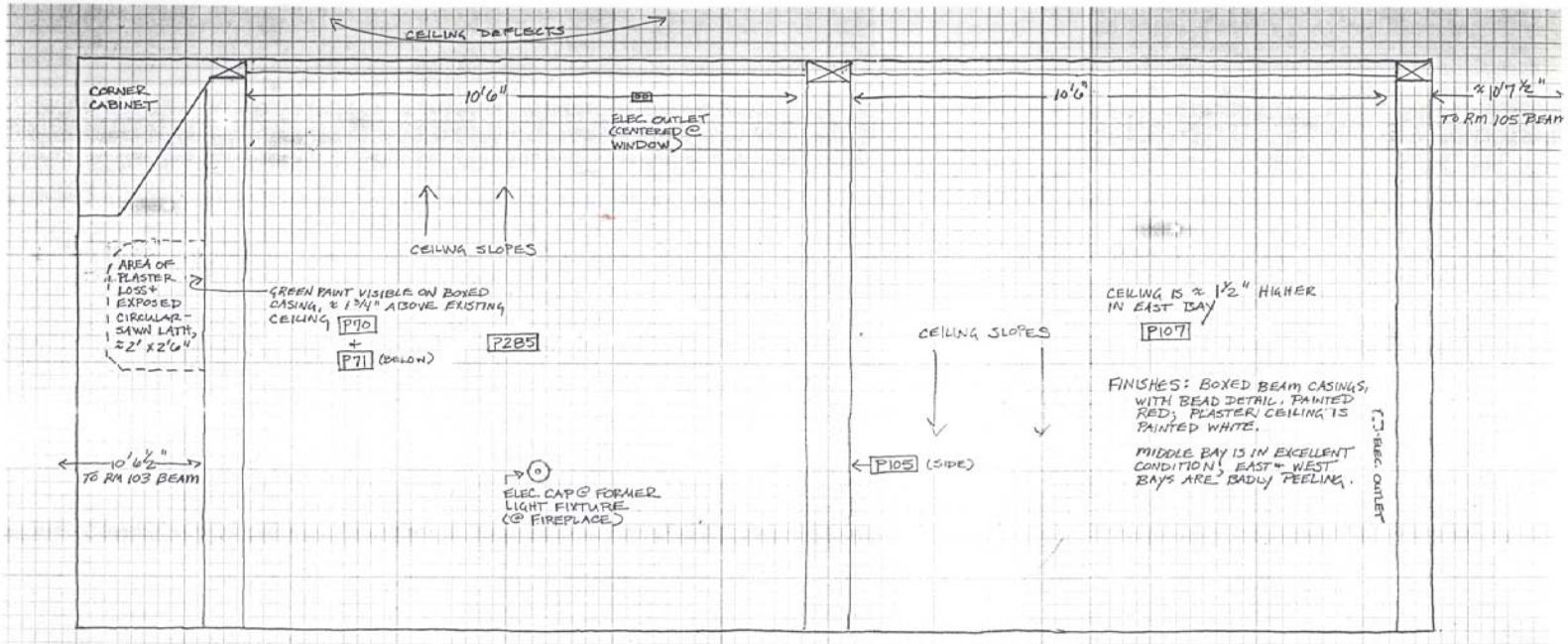
≈ 2'7½"

MIMA: MERIAM HS.
RM 104, WEST WALL
Aug. 17, 1993; B. Yocum

SCALE: ½" = 1'0"

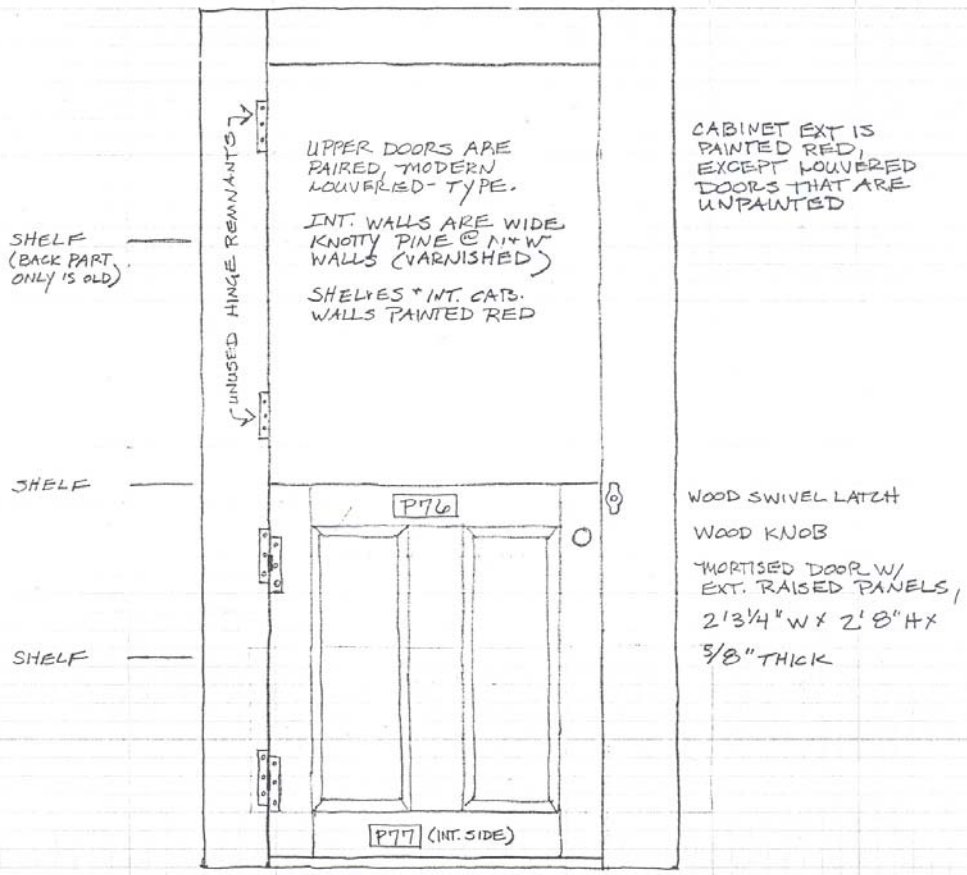

FINISHES: WINDOW SASH, CORNER CABINET, WAINSCOT, DOOR + BOXED GIRT + POST ARE PAINTED RED; KNOTTY PINE PANELING IS VARNISHED.
WINDOWS: ALL INSTALLED BY JAMES INGRAHAM, PER ALICE BURKE HARGROVE
BOXED POSTS + GIRTS, WITH BEAD DETAIL
DOORWAY TO RM 107
W-116
25-LIGHT WINDOW SASH
KNOTTY PINE PANELING + WINDOW CASINGS
W-115
WOOD LOUVERS
25-LIGHT WINDOW SASH
P93
P92
W-114
25-LIGHT WINDOW SASH
CORNER CABINET
P77
(EXTANT DURING BURKE OWNERSHIP, PER ALICE BURKE HARGROVE)
BOXED POST
P82
P78
PAINT LINE, 2" WIDE, @ LEVEL OF W WALL WAINSCOT
2'4½"
9"
28-FIN HOT-WATER RADIATOR, 3-COLUMNS WIDE ("BURNHAM")
2'6½"
WOOD WAINSCOT, HAS BEEN SKIM-COATED WITH LEVELER
5½"
RADIATOR PIPES ENCLOSURE (RED PAINTED)
P74
FINISHED PIPES
LIGHT SWITCH (FOR HOT CEILING LIGHT)
NEW BOARD
NEW BOARD
P101-P103
WOOD BACK + WIRING FOR FORMER LIGHT FIX.
FORMER LOCATION OF KITCHEN SINK, PER ALICE BURKE HARGROVE
PAINT LINE, 3⅜" W, AT FORMER PARTITION (REMOVED AFTER 192--, PER ALICE BURKE HARGROVE)
FORMER LOCATION OF CABINET, PER ALICE B. HARGROVE
DOOR: MORTISED, RECESSED PANELS, BRASS KNOB; EVIDENCE OF PREVIOUS LATCH HARDWARE + HINGES (REUSED?)
DOOR MEASURES:
2'5½" W
6'½" H
1¼" THK
MIMA: MERIAM HS.
RM 104, NORTH WALL
AUG. 17, 1993; B. YOUM
SCALE: ½" = 1'0"
Reduced drawing, not to scale.


DOOR: UPPER MEASURES 2'8"W x 3'4½"H x ¾" THK
BOTTOM MEASURES 2'8"W x 2'8½"H x ¾" THK
CLOSET DOOR: OLD, MORTISED, RAISED PANELS BOTH SIDES; WOOD STRIP 3/16" WIDE ADDED TO HINGE SIDE; CUT IN 2 TO MAKE A DUTCH DOOR, WOOD KNOB LOWER PORTION ONLY
FINISHES: CLOSET DOOR, INT SHELVES, & POST & BEAM PAINTED RED (also WALLS & FLOOR OF LOWER CL); UPPER CL WALLS PAINTED BLUE; KNOTTY PINE IS VARNISHED.
BOXED POST & BEAM, W/ EDGE BEAD DETAIL
P104
WOOD PEG
WOOD PEG
KNOTTY PINE PANELING
DOORWAY TO RM. 105 (NO DOOR)
5" W JAMB, ALSO KNOTTY PINE
CLOSET: 6 INT. SHELVES
P97
P98 (DOOR, INT SIDE)
ELEC. OUTLET
CLOSET (STAIRWAY STRINGER EXPOSED UPPER R. SIDE)
KNOTTY PINE PANELING (REUSED, BASED ON EMPTY SQ. PROFILE NAIL HOLES)
SHADOW EVIDENCE OF PREVIOUS HINGES
MIMA: MERIAM HS.
RM 104, EAST WALL
AUG. 17, 1993; B. Yocum
SCALE: ½" = 1'0"



MMA: MERIAM HS.
RM 104, CEILING.
AUG. 18, 1993; B. Yocum
SCALE: ½" = 1'0" Reduced drawing, not to scale.

TOP DOOR, STORED IN CELLAR, MEASURES 2'3¼"W X 3'3"H X 5/8" THK



INT. OF LOWER CABINET HAS HORIZ. BOARDS @ N & W WALLS, FLOOR IS WOOD, ≈ 1½" ABOVE ROOM FLOOR. INT IS PAINTED RED, EXCEPT UNDERSIDE OF SHELF THAT IS GREEN. P80

MIMA: MERIAM HS
RM 104, DETAIL NW CORNER CABINET
AUG. 18, 1993; B. YOCUM
SCALE: 1" = 1'0"

Room 105

General Information

Room 105 is a side entry/stair hall in the southeast corner of the circa-1810 addition. It is a small room, measuring only 10 feet 10 inches long by 3 feet 4 inches wide, excluding the stairway to the second story. The stairway is on the northwest side of, and oriented perpendicular to, the hall.

The general layout of the room is basically unchanged from its circa-1810 appearance, except for the addition of a closet at the east wall. Original surviving features dating to circa 1810 are the cased framing, wainscot, plaster walls and ceiling, and the doorway at the north wall. The exterior doorway was altered circa 1820, and again circa 1900 when the circa-1820 front door was moved here.

The staircase, tongue-and-groove wall paneling, and floorboards in the closet are later, having been installed circa 1925 after a damaging fire. Additional new materials introduced by the Ingrahams in the 1950's were the wide pine floorboards and the east-wall closet.

Floor

Two types of floorboards cover the floor of the hall: narrow pine boards 3 1/4 inches wide, and wide pine boards of random dimensions.

The narrow floorboards are in the closet at the east end of the room. They were probably installed circa 1925 in the entire room, when similar floorboards were installed elsewhere in the house. A closet built in the 1950's preserved the floorboards in that location only; those outside the closet were replaced by wide pine boards.

The wide pine boards cover the floor outside the closet, and are continuous with the floorboards in the west adjacent room (Room 104). These are old reused boards (probably from another building) that were installed by the Ingrahams in the 1950's. These floorboards are at the same level as the narrow floorboards in the closet, suggesting that the narrow boards outside the closet were removed prior to the installation of the wide pine boards.

Walls

The walls consist of six materials: wood-cased posts and girts, wood wainscot, plaster, old wide-board paneling, tongue-and-groove paneling, and later wide-board paneling.

The wood-cased posts and girts are original features dating to circa 1810. They are visible on the east side of the south wall, and inside the closet at the south and east walls. Only one framing member—the post in the center of the south wall—is original to the circa-1705 house. Its casing, however, was installed circa 1810.

The wood wainscot is an original feature of the room dating to circa 1810. It is made up of two wide boards installed horizontally, similar to the wainscot in Rooms 103 and 104. Wainscot survives at the south wall of the hall, at the south wall inside the closet, and at the east wall of the closet. The height varies throughout the room, measuring 2 feet 7 3/8 inches at the south wall, 2 feet 8 inches at the south wall in the closet, and 2 feet 9 inches at the east wall in the closet.

Plaster is above the wainscot in all the locations described above. The plaster at the south wall may be a modern-type on wire lath, based on the characteristic lath keys that are visible through a crack in the cellar ceiling. It was not determined if any plaster in the closet is original (circa 1810).

Old wide-board paneling survives in one location only: at the north wall, between the stairway and the doorway to Room 106. The paneling, which is a plain board installed vertically, has been dated circa 1810 based on the presence of original red paint.

The tongue-and-groove paneling is of two different dates: circa 1925 and 1950's. The earlier paneling consists of grooved boards 7 inches wide; it finishes the east and west walls of the stairway. The later paneling consists of grooved boards 5 1/4 inches wide; it was used for the closet partition and door at the east end of the room.

Later wide-board paneling dating to the 1950's is at the north wall, east of the doorway to Room 106 (including the north wall of the closet). Although the paneling is similar in appearance to the old paneling described previously, its later date was confirmed by the paint analysis, which indicated an absence of early paint layers.

Ceiling

The ceiling consists of plaster on accordion-style lath. The lath is visible at the head of the stairway, where the trim board has pulled loose and the plaster is falling from the ceiling. Both the lath and plaster are presumably original, dating to circa 1810. The wood trim board, on the other hand, appears to be contemporary with the stairway alterations of circa 1925, based on its attachment with wire nails.

The ceiling height is approximately 6 feet 8 inches. There is no ceiling in the stairway, which is open to the second story.

Doorways

The room has one exterior and three interior doorways. These are described in detail subsequently.

Exterior Doorway (D-102)

The exterior doorway is in the south wall, near the east-wall closet. It may be an original (circa-1810) opening, although the wood surround pieces on each side of the opening is later (circa 1820), based on the paint analysis.

The door itself is of mortised construction and has six panels, the lower four of which are recessed and molded on both sides of the door; the upper two panels are glazed. As has been explained previously, this is the circa-1820 front door that was moved here circa 1900. The door's hinges were moved at that time from the west stile to the east stile, as were the doorknob and latch. For detailed descriptions of the door, see the sections on the exterior doorways (for D-102), and the Room-101 doorways.

The door that hung in this doorway previously was also hinged on the east side, as evidenced by mortises for two large hinges in the east side of the surround. No other physical evidence remains of the missing door.

Closet Doorway

The closet doorway is in the closet partition wall at the east end of the room. Both the wall and the door were installed by the Ingrahams in the 1950's (see “Closet”).

The door is made of the same vertical tongue-and-groove paneling as the wall, and is supported on the closet side by a “Z” batten. The door measures 6 feet 2 1/8 inches high by 2 feet 5 3/8 inches wide by three-quarters of an inch thick. Hardware includes two “H”-style hinges on the north side of the door, and a bar latch on the south side.

North Doorway

A doorway to Room 106 is in north wall, between the stairway and the east-wall closet. This appears to be an original doorway dating to circa 1810, based on its style and painted finishes.

The surround is composed of plain boards with a simple bead detail on their interior edges. The threshold, which is 2 inches wide, is probably contemporary with the floorboards that were installed in the 1950's. The door is of mortised construction, with four panels that are raised and unmolded on both sides of the door. The dimensions of the door are 5 feet 11 1/4 inches high (which includes a wedge-shaped shim at the top) by 2 feet 4 inches wide by three-quarters of an inch thick.

The door hardware includes two hinges on the west stile of the Room-106 side of the doorway: the top hinge is a modern “H”-style replacement; the bottom hinge is the original “HL”-style hinge. A modern Suffolk latch is on the east stile of the door. This apparently replaced an earlier (circa-1810?) Suffolk latch, based on paint line evidence of the missing latch in approximately the same location.

West Doorway

A doorway to Room 104 is in the west wall, at the foot of the stairway to the second story. No elements of this doorway, except the opening itself, remain from circa 1810. There is no door, nor any physical evidence of an early door. The surround is modern, being composed of plain boards with mitered corners; it probably dates to the rebuilding of the adjacent staircase circa 1925.

There is no doubt that a doorway would have been located here when the kitchen addition was built circa 1810. It was probably similar in appearance to the north doorway, with a plain-board

surround and a mortised four-panel door, Suffolk latch, and two "HL" hinges. The doorway may have been damaged by the same fire that burned the stairway circa 1925.

Windows

There are no windows in Room 105 today, nor does it appear that there were any windows in the room historically. A small amount of natural light is provided by two small glass panels in the circa-1820 exterior door. This door is the former front door that was moved here, with lights intact, circa 1900. It is not known if the earlier door that it replaced also had glazed panels.

Stairway

A stairway ascends to the second story along the north wall of the hall. The stairway location is original to circa 1810; the existing stairway and wall paneling, however, date to circa 1925. This date has been assigned because physical evidence indicates that these elements were installed after the fire that is thought to have occurred around 1925. The evidence is found underneath the present stairway, on the east wall of the cellar stairway enclosure, which has retained its circa-1810 paneling. Here, the charred silhouette of the earlier stairway is clearly outlined on the wall.

This outline shows a stairway of slightly different configuration than the existing staircase, with eight treads and an upper landing one step below the level of the second floor. The risers of each step measured 9 inches high, and the treads were 8 inches deep; the landing was 2 feet 7 inches deep.

The existing (circa-1925) stairway, by contrast, has nine treads and no landing. The risers are 9 inches high, and the treads are 8 1/2 inches deep. The walls of the stairway enclosure are sheathed with vertical tongue-and-groove paneling, as described in "Walls." A wood handrail attached to the west wall is said to have been installed by the Ingrahams, after Margaret Ingraham fell down the stairway.[26]

Closet

The east end of the hall is partitioned as a closet. The closet was probably installed by the Ingrahams, based on a conversation with Alice Burke Hargrove; she does not remember a closet in the room when the house was owned by the Burke family.[27]

The closet was built using vertical tongue-and-groove paneling (5 1/4 inches wide) for the partition wall and door, and wide pine paneling for the interior north wall. Inside the closet are a wood pole for coat hangers; a wood shelf above the pole supported by boards at the north, east, and south walls; and a large metal coat hook at the north wall.

Earlier room elements preserved inside the closet are the circa-1810 wainscot and cased framing at the east and south walls, the plaster walls and ceiling, and the circa-1925 narrow floorboards.

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[26] Conversation with Alice Burke Hargrove, Aug. 17, 1993 (see Appendix D).

[27] Alice Burke Hargrove, Aug. 17, 1993 (see Appendix D).

Painted Finishes

Existing Finishes

All of the woodwork in the room today, except the floorboards, is painted light brown; the plaster walls and ceiling are painted white; and the floorboards are varnished.

The same light-brown paint is found inside the closet, where it covers the floorboards, wainscot, north-wall paneling, cased girts and post, and the shelf and shelf supports. The ceiling is painted white, and the west partition wall is varnished. A water-stained wallpaper with no visible pattern covers the east plaster wall only; the plaster at the south wall has no paint or wallpaper finish. The light-brown paint therefore dates to the Ingraham period, since it is found on the closet materials installed in the 1950's.

Historic Finishes

The paint history of Room 105 was determined by extracting 22 samples of paint (P108-P129) and examining them under the microscope. The paint analysis also helped to determine the dates of room elements. For details of the paint analysis, see Appendix E.

In general, it was found that Room 105 has roughly the same paint history as the west adjacent kitchen (Room 104). The woodwork was painted originally (circa 1810) with a nonlead red paint; this was followed circa 1820 by a lead-based, cream-color paint. Subsequent woodwork paint colors, many of which contained lead, included light gray, light gray, mustard yellow, mustard yellow (1900), white, mustard yellow, mustard yellow (circa 1925), light pink, light yellow, light green (1951), red, red, and light brown.

Less information is available about the plaster wall and ceiling finishes. The earliest paint, which was found on the ceiling, is a white calcimine type; it is thought to be not much earlier than circa 1951. The stained wallpaper on the east wall of the closet may predate the closet, but it is also not particularly old. Likely circa-1810 finishes would have been a lime wash used on both the walls and ceiling, and/or a wallpaper applied to the walls.

Electrical Equipment

Light Fixtures

The room has one bare-bulb, ceiling-mounted light fixture. The fixture is operated by a switch mounted to wood sheathing at the south wall, west of the exterior doorway. A second switch operates the exterior light outside the doorway. Both switches share a common backplate.

The switches have been dated to the 1950's, based on the paint analysis of the wood sheathing, which has a first light-green paint layer attributed to the Ingrahams. The ceiling light may be of similar vintage.

Electrical Outlets

There are no electrical outlets in Room 105.

Heating Equipment

A small hot-water radiator is at the north wall, between the stairway and the doorway to Room 106. The radiator is three columns wide and six sections long. Writing on the side identifies it as having been made by the Burnham Company. The existing heating system was installed by the Ingrahams in 1951.

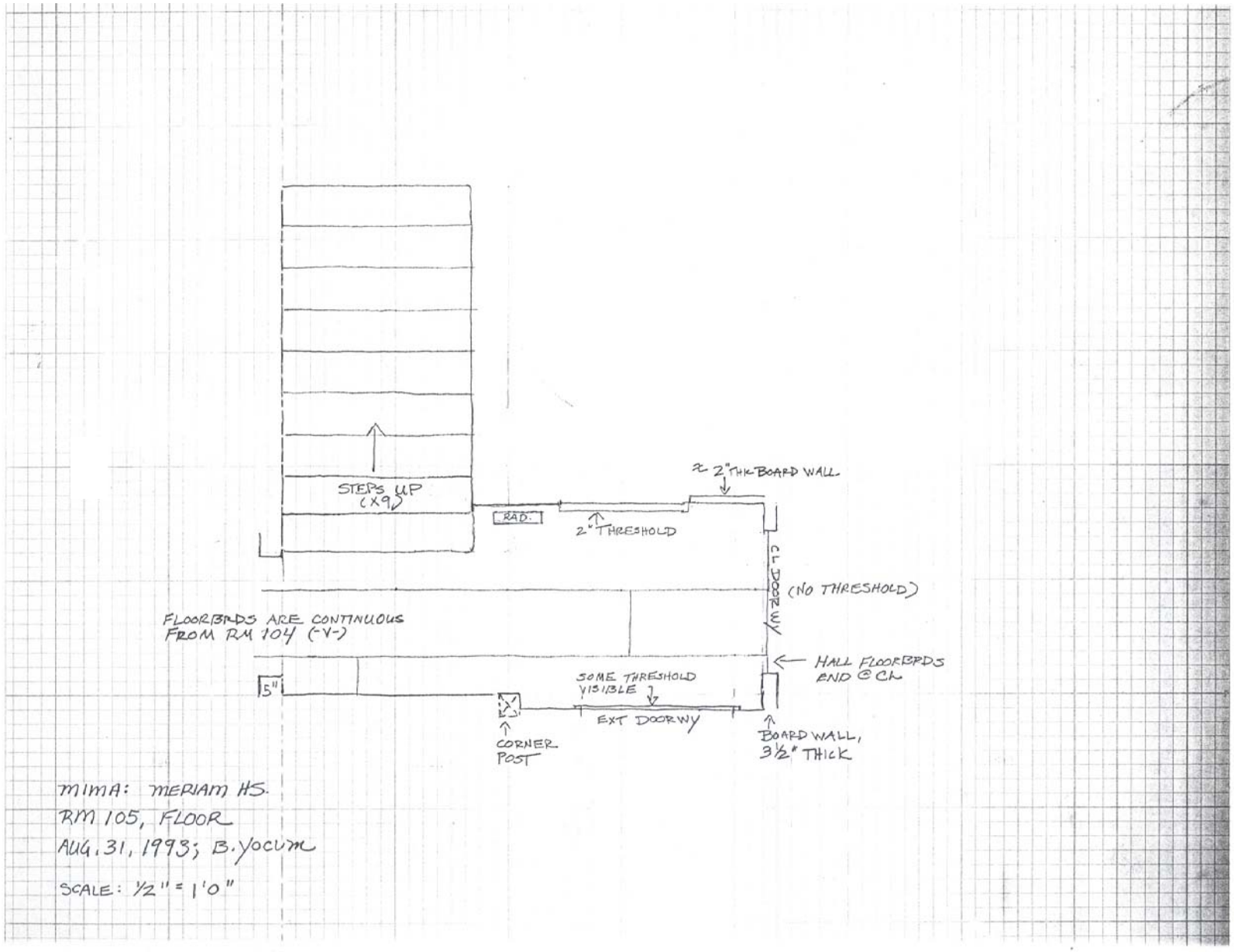
Two exposed pipes for the radiator are located behind it at the north wall. The pipes are oriented vertically and intersect with the ceiling.

Plumbing Equipment

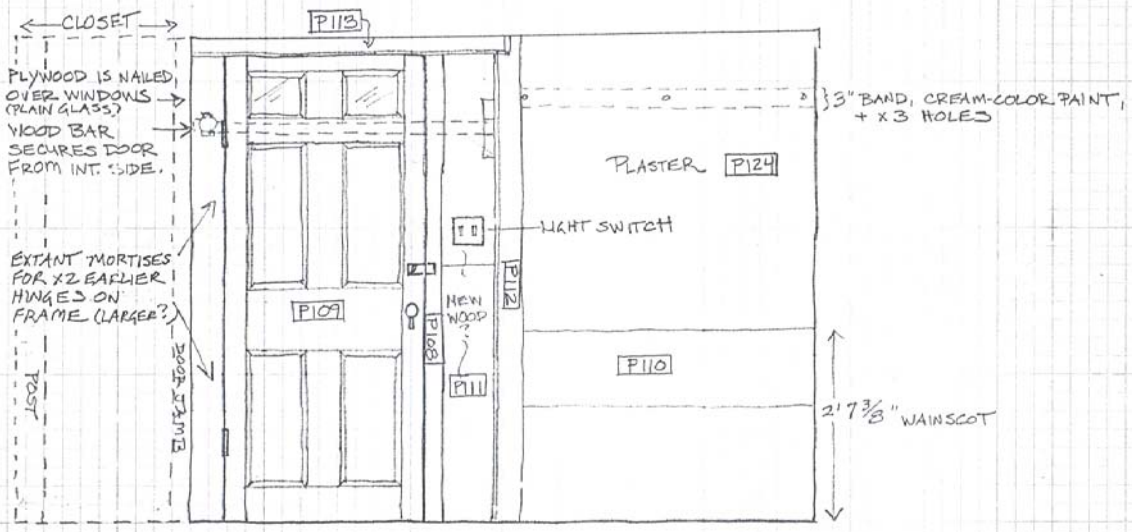
An exposed pipe at the ceiling is the drain pipe from the second-story bathtub in Room 208. The pipe may date to 1903-1904, when the bathroom is thought to have been installed. For details, see Room 208. A ventilation pipe, originating in Room 106, is also exposed at the east wall of the stairway.

Fire- and Intrusion-Protection Equipment

There is no fire- or intrusion-protection equipment in Room 105.


STEPS UP (X9)
RAD.
2" THRESHOLD
≈ 2" THK BOARD WALL
CL DOORWY
(NO THRESHOLD)
FLOORBRDS ARE CONTINUOUS FROM RM 104 (-V-)
HALL FLOORBRDS END @ CL
5"
SOME THRESHOLD VISIBLE
EXT DOORWY
CORNER POST
BOARD WALL, 3½" THICK
MIMA: MERIAM HS.
RM 105, FLOOR
AUG. 31, 1993; B. YOCUM
SCALE: ½" = 1'0"

FINISHES: WOODWORK IS PAINTED BROWN, PLASTER WALL IS PAINTED WHITE



DOOR: RECESSED PANELS INT. SIDE, SAME PANELS EXT. SIDE. KNOB IS WOOD; "CORBIN" LATCH IS ABOVE KNOB. SHIMS HAVE BEEN ADDED @ TOP + W SIDE TO FIT EXISTING OPENING. NOT INCLUDING SHIMS, DOOR MEASURES:

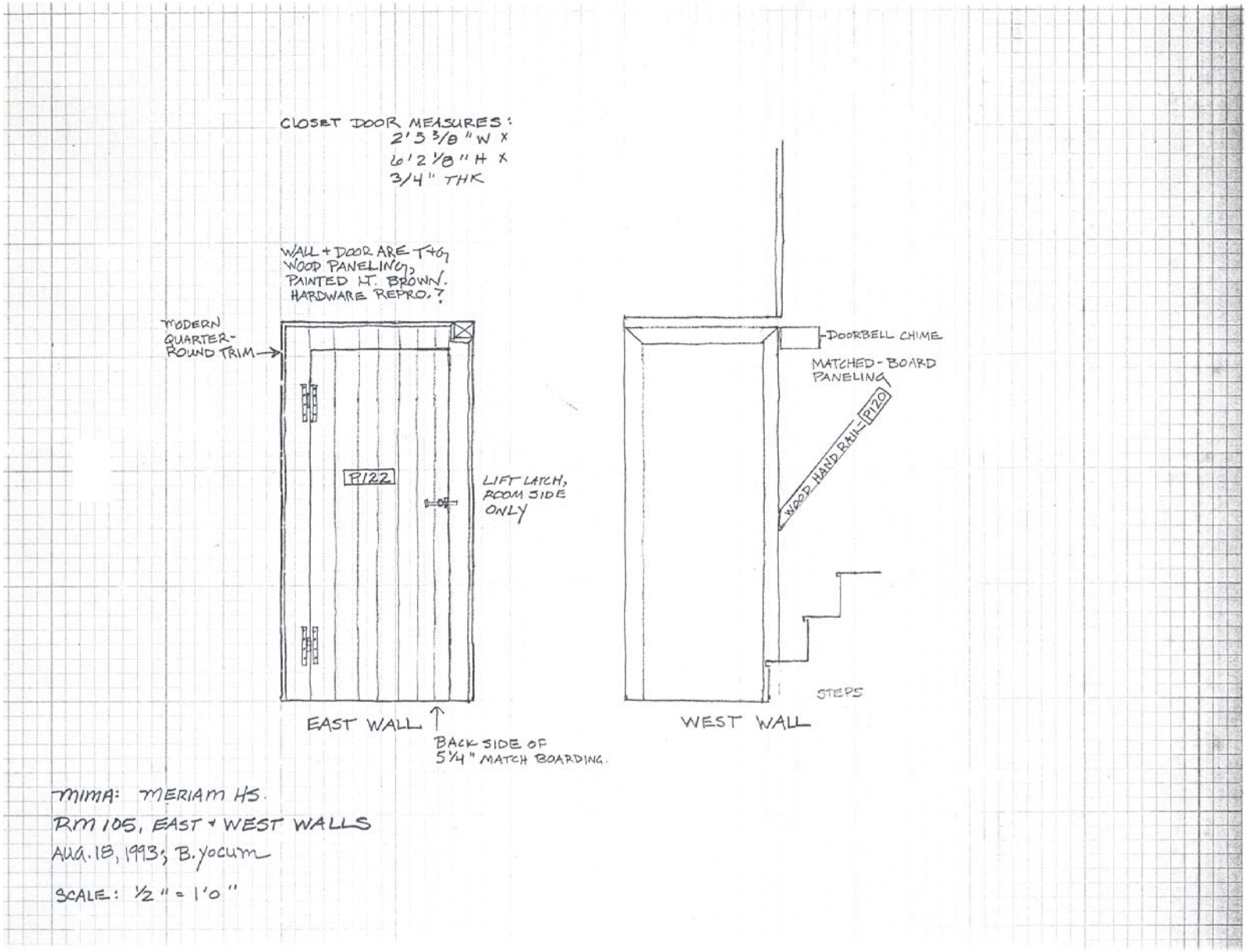
2'8 1/2" W
6'2 3/8" H
1 9/16" THICK

LATCH/KNOB WAS ORIG. ON OPP. SIDE OF DOOR.

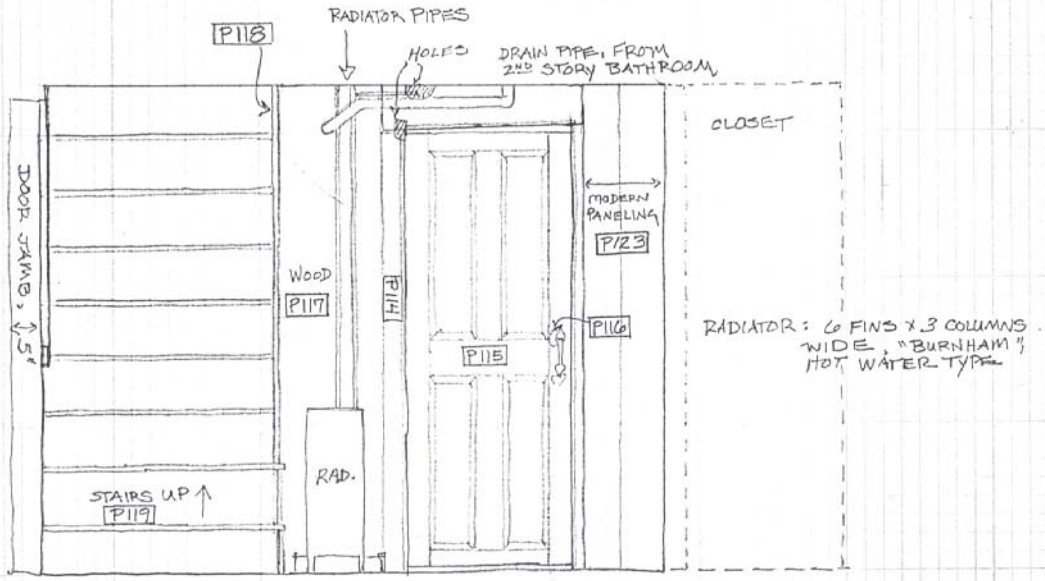
HINGES: x2, 2-KNUCKLE TYPE ON E SIDE.
DOOR IS OF MORTISED CONSTRUCTION. ORIGINAL FRONT DOOR?

MIMA: MERIAM HS.
RM 105, SOUTH WALL
AUG. 18, 1993; B. YOCUM

SCALE: 1/2" = 1'0"


CLOSET DOOR MEASURES:
2'5 3/8" W x
6'2 1/8" H x
3/4" THK
WALL + DOOR ARE T+G, WOOD PANELING, PAINTED LT. BROWN. HARDWARE REPRO.?
MODERN QUARTER-ROUND TRIM
P122
LIFT LATCH, ROOM SIDE ONLY
EAST WALL
BACK SIDE OF 5 1/4" MATCH BOARDING.
DOORBELL CHIME
MATCHED-BOARD PANELING
WOOD HAND RAIL
P120
STEPS
WEST WALL
MIMA: MERIAM HS.
RM 105, EAST + WEST WALLS
AUG. 18, 1993; B. YOCUM
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'0"

FINISHES: ALL WOODWORK + RADIATOR ARE PAINTED LT. BROWN.

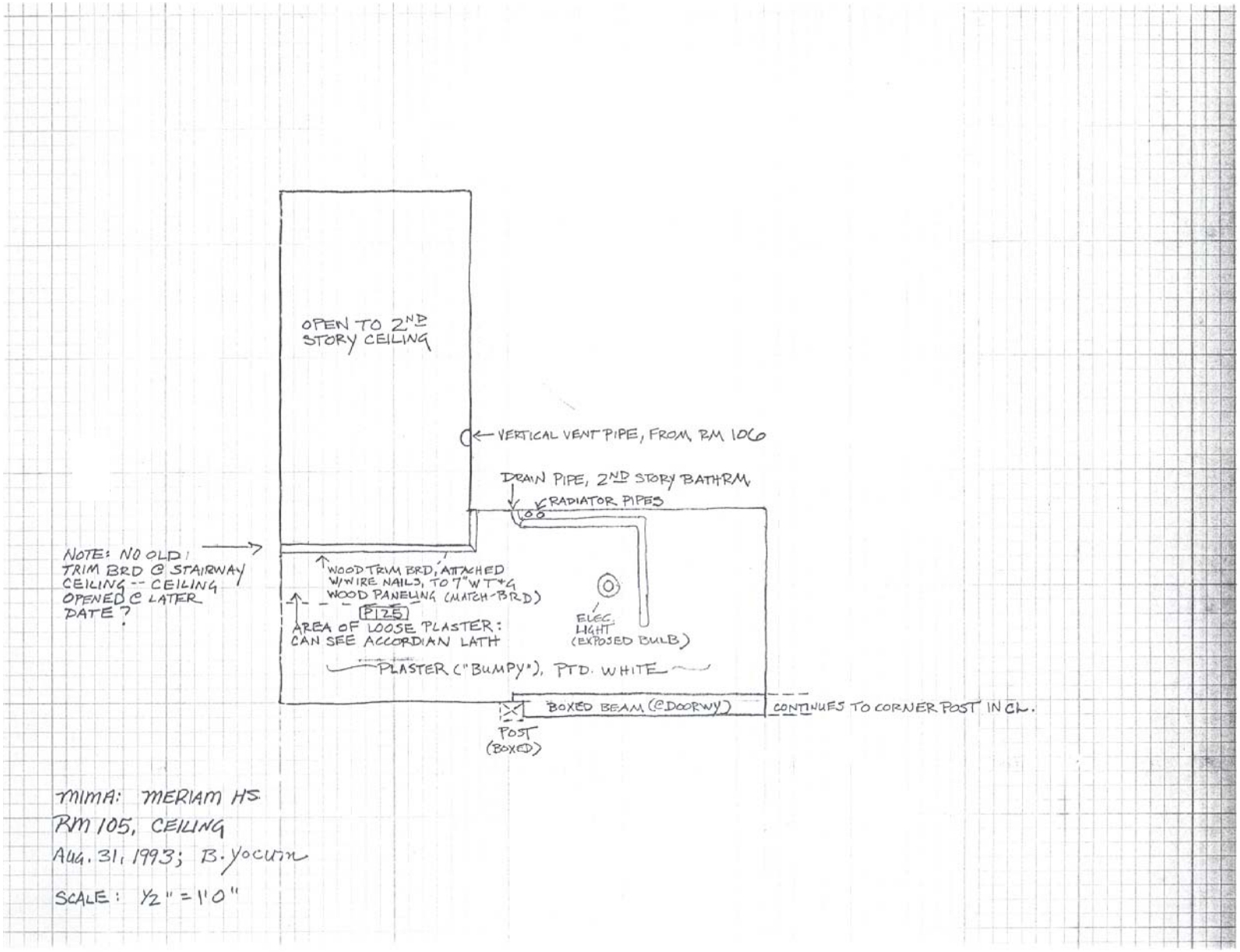


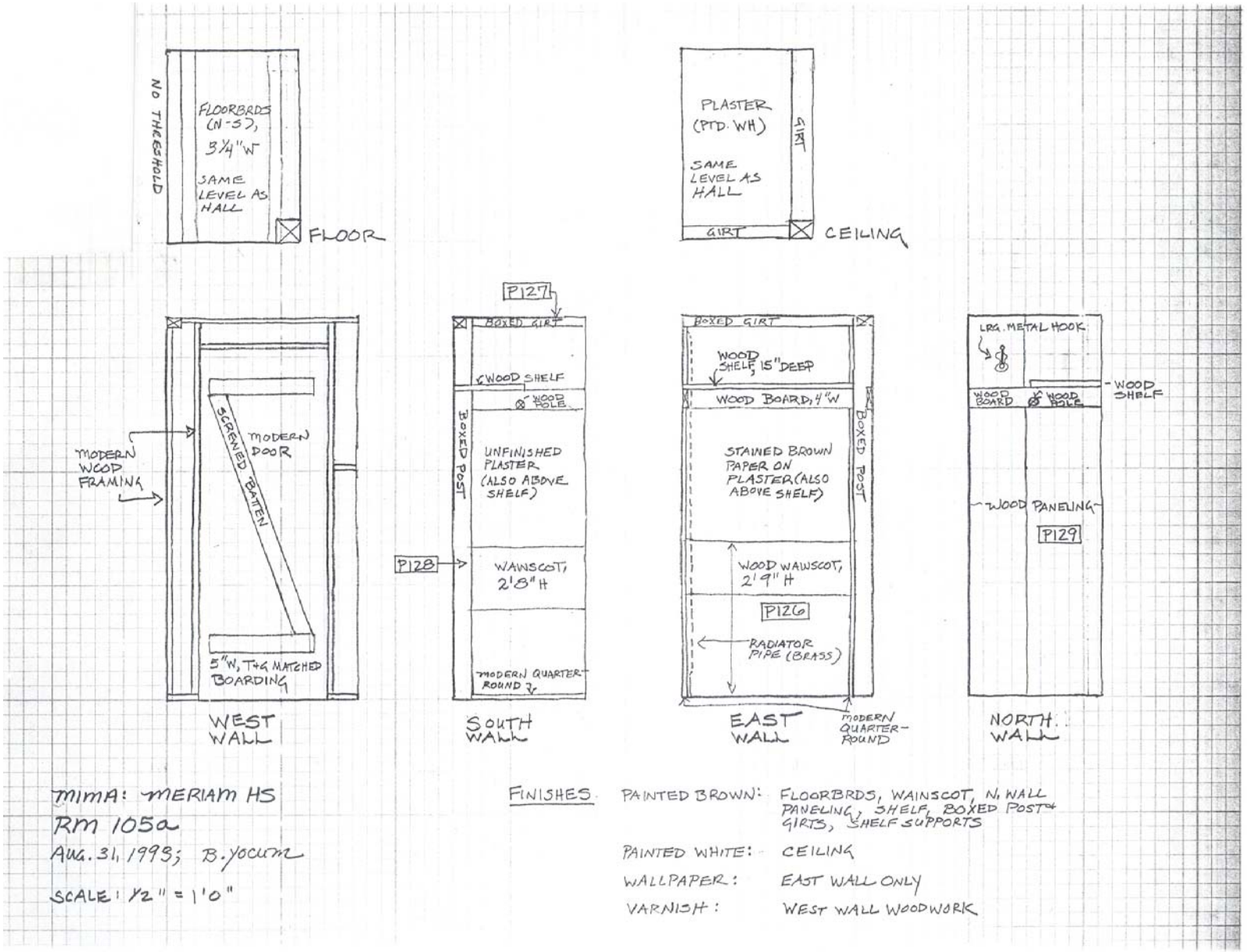
STAIRS: X 9 STEPS; RISERS AVG. 9" H, STEPS ARE 8½"; WOOD HAND RAIL ON WEST WALL; SIDEWALLS ARE MATCHED-BOARD PANELING, 7" W, T&G

DOOR: MORTISED, RAISED PANELS BOTH SIDES; SUFFOLK LATCH, BUT ALSO SHADOW EVIDENCE OF A LARGER SUFFOLK LATCH IN SAME LOCATION; TOP SHIM (WEDGE-SHAPE)
DOOR MEASURES:
2'4" (-) W x
5'11¼" H (NOT INCLUDING SHIM)
¾" THICK

ARCHITRAVE: SIMPLE BEAD DETAIL. ARCH + DOOR HAVE THICK PAINT BUILDUP.

MIMA: MERIAM HS.
RM 105, NORTH WALL
AUG. 18, 1993; B. Yocum
SCALE: ½" = 1'0"


OPEN TO 2ND STORY CEILING
VERTICAL VENT PIPE, FROM RM 106
DRAIN PIPE, 2ND STORY BATHRM.
RADIATOR PIPES
NOTE: NO OLD TRIM BRD @ STAIRWAY CEILING -- CEILING OPENED @ LATER DATE ?
WOOD TRIM BRD, ATTACHED W/WIRE NAILS, TO 7" W T+G WOOD PANELING (MATCH-BRD)
P125
AREA OF LOOSE PLASTER: CAN SEE ACCORDIAN LATH
ELEC. LIGHT (EXPOSED BULB)
PLASTER ("BUMPY"), PTD. WHITE
BOXED BEAM (@ DOORWY)
CONTINUES TO CORNER POST IN CR.
POST (BOXED)
MIMA: MERIAM HS
RM 105, CEILING
AUG. 31, 1993; B. YOCUM
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'0"



MIMA: MERIAM HS
RM 105a
AUG. 31, 1993; B. YOCUM
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'0"

FINISHES

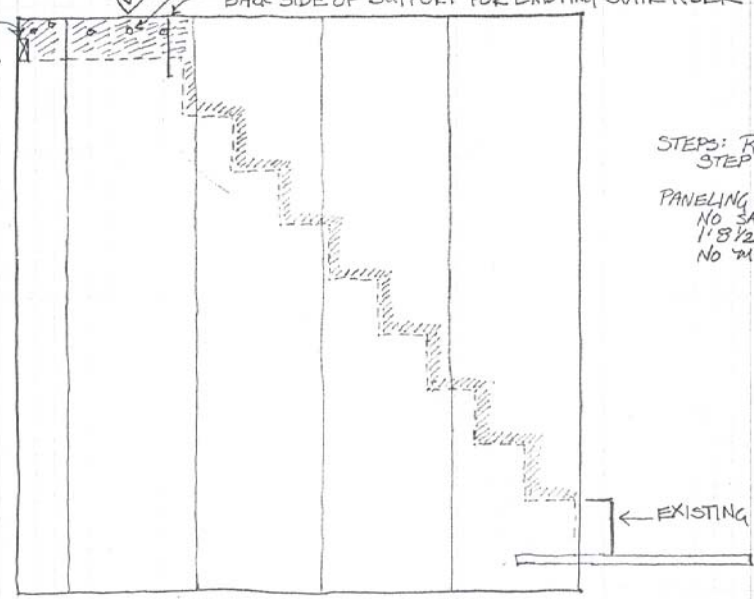
PAINTED BROWN: FLOORBRDS, WAINSCOT, N. WALL PANELING, SHELF, BOXED POST & GIRTS, SHELF SUPPORTS

PAINTED WHITE: CEILING

WALLPAPER: EAST WALL ONLY

VARNISH: WEST WALL WOODWORK

NOTE: ONE 2ND STORY FLOORBRD, ABOVE EARLIER LANDING, IS CHARRED (REUSED?); IT MEASURES 8 1/8" WIDE. WIDTH OF STAIRWAY APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN SAME AS EXISTING STAIRWAY (≈ 3'5 1/2")



MODERN ATTACHMENTS:
- CELLAR LIGHT SWITCH
- OIL BURNER SWITCH
- METAL SUPPORTS FOR 2 WOOD SHELVES
- SUPPORT FOR NEW STAIRS (MATCHED-BRD PANELING ≈ 7" W)

STEPS: RISERS ARE ≈ 9" H, STEP WIDTH = ≈ 8"

PANELING: T&G, KNOTTY PINE, NO SAW MARKS EVIDENT; 1'8 1/2" - 1'9" WIDE; NO MOLDINGS

WEST WALL: NORTH SIDE = BACK BUILT-OUT ENCLOSURE FOR RM 204 NE CLOSET (MODERN MATERIALS, WIRE NAILS); SOUTH SIDE = 3 WOOD SHELVES, CONTEMP. WITH OR LATER THAN EXISTING STAIRS.

MIMA: MERIAM HS
CELLAR STAIRWAY, EAST WALL
SEPT. 30, 1993; B. Yocum
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'0"

Room 106

General Information

Room 106 is a small room in the northeast corner of the circa-1810 addition. Its dimensions are 7 feet 3 inches by 7 feet 4 inches.

No information is available on how this room was used originally; two possibilities include a bedroom or storage area. Alice Burke Hargrove remembers that in later years, when her grandparents lived in the house (1871-1921), the room was a pantry. The Ingrahams later remodeled it as a laundry room, and sometime in the 1980's, as a toilet room for Mr. Ingraham.

Despite the alterations made in the 20th century, the room still retains some original material dating to circa 1810. This includes the south doorway, the original paneled walls, and possibly the plaster ceiling.

Extant features and materials installed by the Ingrahams include a plywood floor, some knotty-pine paneling, the north-wall doorway, the east window, the southwest closet, the radiator, and the plumbing fixtures.

The room is in a disassembled condition today, with missing partition walls and plumbing fixtures. Partially removed paint layers on the west-wall paneling also give the room a disheveled appearance.

Floor

The floor is covered with sheet linoleum, having a red brickwork pattern, on a plywood base. It is the same linoleum that covers the floor in the present kitchen (Room 107). Both the plywood and the linoleum were probably installed by the Ingrahams (1951-1991).

Walls

Framing

The post-and-beam framing of the room is visible at the east and north walls. The east wall has a cased girt at the upper wall/ceiling. The woodwork casing appears to be made of the same salvaged pine boards as the later wall paneling. The north wall has an exposed girt/beam, which is exposed and supported by a heavy post. The girt/beam appears to be made of new wood, while the post is a reused member with unused mortises on the west side. Both probably date to the renovations made by the Ingrahams in the 1950's.

Paneling and Partitions

The walls are sheathed with a mixture of mostly original (circa-1820) paneling and some salvaged paneling installed by the Ingrahams.

Original circa-1810 paneling, made up of wide pine boards, survives on all four walls of the room. The paneling is oriented vertically at the west and south walls, and horizontally at the east and north walls. The west and south walls are single-board partitions. Evidence indicating that the paneling is original (i.e., not Ingraham-era) exists in the form of paint remnants on the paneling. Furthermore, the charred silhouette of an early staircase to the second story is preserved on the opposite side of the west-wall paneling, and circa-1810 red paint was found on the Room-105 side of the south-wall paneling.

Salvaged wide-board paneling that resembles the original paneling was also installed in the room by the Ingrahams (circa 1950's). This was used to create a closet in the southwest corner, to box in the northeast corner of the room, and to piece-in the paneling on the south side of the east-wall window.

Later walls partitioning the northwest corner of the room are missing today, but shadow evidence of them may be seen on the floor. The partition walls were undoubtedly modern, as is the existing plywood floor. They may have formed an enclosure for the washing machine, which is also no longer in the room.

Ceiling

The ceiling has an average height of 6 feet 8 inches, from floor to ceiling plaster. It is finished with plaster that may be old, based on its uneven texture and cracked condition. However, the ceiling also appears to have been higher at one time than it is today, based on the presence of two early paint layers behind the ceiling plaster at the west paneled wall. This may because the ceiling has sagged, been replastered, or was installed at a later date.

Doorways

The room has three interior doorways: one in the south wall, a second in the north wall, and a third at the southwest closet. Of these, only the south doorway is an original feature of the room dating to circa 1810.

South Doorway

The south doorway is the only original doorway in the room (dating to circa 1810). It connects with the front entry/stair hall (Room 105). The doorway has a plain-board surround and a mortised, four-panel door with raised unmolded panels. The door is hinged on the west side and swings open into the room. It retains only one original “HL”-style hinge (the lower one); the upper hinge and Suffolk latch are both modern replacements. A threshold, 2 inches wide, is probably contemporary with the later flooring materials in Rooms 105 and 106.

Dimensions of the door and details of the evidence for the original hardware are described in “Room 105: North Doorway.”

North Doorway

The north doorway is a nonhistoric opening in what was once the exterior wall of the circa-1810 addition. It connects with the present kitchen (Room 107) in the circa-1820 north shed addition. Alice Burke Hargrove remembers that there was no doorway in this wall when her grandparents lived in the house (1871-1921) and used the room as a pantry. The doorway therefore must have been installed by the Ingrahams. The west side of the doorway has been dated to the 1950's; the east side is thought to have been opened up in the 1980's, to make the toilet room accessible for Mr. Ingraham's wheelchair.

One narrow door hangs on the west side of the opening; the east side has no door, and no evidence of a missing door. The existing door is an old-style mortised type with hand-planed finish that appears to have been salvaged from another building (based on the paint analysis). It has two panels separated by a wide center rail. The panels are recessed and unmolded on the Room-106 side, and raised and molded on the Room-107 side. The dimensions of the door are 6 feet 2 1/8 inches high by 1 foot 10 3/4 inches wide by seven-eighths of an inch thick.

Strap hinges now attach the door on the Room-107 side of the opening; unused mortises for two butt hinges indicate, however, that the strap hinges are not original. A Suffolk latch of unknown age is on the Room-106 side.

Closet Doorway

A narrow doorway is in the north wall of a small closet in the southwest corner of the room. The closet and its doorway were both installed by the Ingrahams in the 1950's. The door is made up of the same wide pine paneling as the closet partition walls, being composed of three vertical boards and supported on the back side by a “Z” batten. It is hinged on the south side, and has a wood knob and wood swivel latch on the north side.

Window

The room has one window (W-106), in the east wall. Alice Burke Hargrove remembered that there was no window in this room when her grandparents lived in the house (1871-1921). This seems to be verified by the presence of original pine paneling at the east wall, which bears no evidence of an earlier window opening.

The existing window was installed by the Ingrahams in the 1950's. It is a reproduction colonial-style window with two wood casement sashes separated by a center mullion. The two wood sashes have 36 lights each, and are side-hinged to swing outward.

A window may have existed in the north wall when the room was constructed circa 1810. This, however, would have been covered by the north shed addition circa 1820. No evidence remains of a north-wall window opening due to extensive alterations made in the 20th century.

Closet

As mentioned in “Doorways,” a closet is the southwest corner of the room. It was installed in the 1950's by the Ingrahams. It is a small closet, measuring only 1 foot 7 1/8 inches wide by 11 1/4 inches deep. The east and north partition walls of the closet are salvaged vertical-board paneling; the west and south interior walls are original room paneling dating to circa 1810. The closet interior has six wood shelves.

Small Cabinet

A small cabinet is built into the south paneled wall, east of the Room-105 doorway. The cabinet door of the same material as the paneling, such that it is virtually indistinguishable from the wall. The door has a wood knob on the west side and a wood swivel latch. Both the wall paneling and the cabinet have been dated to the 1950's.

Painted Finishes

Existing Finishes

A variety of finishes exist in Room 106, including partially removed paint on the west wall. Paint has been completely removed (except for some remnants) from the original pine paneling on the east and west walls. This paint removal has been attributed to the Ingrahams (1951-1991).

Varnish finishes the paneling at the east wall, the south wall, the closet face at the west wall, and the upper portion of the north wall. A light-brown paint covers the north side of the southwest corner closet, part of the old paneling on the west wall, the lower portion (4 feet 5 inches) of the north-wall paneling, and the north two-panel door. Red paint is on the circa-1810 doorway in the north wall, and on portions of the circa-1810 paneling on the west wall. There is also yellow, and some green, paint on the west-wall paneling. Finally, the ceiling is painted white.

Historic Finishes

The paint history of the room was determined by extracting five paint samples (P130-P134) and examining them under the microscope. Details of the paint analysis are found in Appendix E.

The room appears to have been unpainted for a period of time after it was constructed circa 1810. This is based on the fact that there are only five layers of paint on the original woodwork (the south door and the west-wall paneling), and the presence of dirt particles between the wood surface and first paint layer on the door. A similar dirt line was also observed on the plaster ceiling, beneath the first paint layer.

It is not known exactly when the woodwork in the room was first painted. The first finish is a green lead-based paint. It is followed by a red leaded paint. The third painting of the room used a lighter yellow-cream color containing no lead. Nonlead red and light-brown paints, along with varnish, were the last finishes applied; these date to the Ingraham occupancy of the house. The Ingrahams also appear to have attempted to do some paint stripping at the west paneled wall, which revealed some of the room's earlier paint colors.

The plaster ceiling was found to have eight layers of paint, the first six of which are lime-based (lime washes or calcimines). The earliest of these was white, followed by two layers of cream, two layers of light blue, and another layer of white. The two most recent, nonlime paints are a cream-color and a white/tan color.

Electrical Equipment

Light Fixtures

There are no light fixtures in Room 106.

Electrical Outlets

The room has three duplex receptacles. One is located in the lower wall of the later pine paneling, at the west end of the north wall. The second is at mid-height in the center of the historic paneling at the west wall. The third is in the ceiling, in front of the window at the east wall. The date of the receptacles is unknown, but they probably were installed by the Ingrahams (1951-1991).

Heating Equipment

A wall-mounted hot-water radiator is at the east wall, beneath the window. The radiator is three columns wide and 17 sections long. Writing on one end identifies it as having been made by the Burnham Company. Exposed pipes for the radiator in the second-story bathroom (Room 208) are also visible at the upper east and south walls of the room. The radiator and pipes date to the heating system installed by the Ingrahams in 1951.

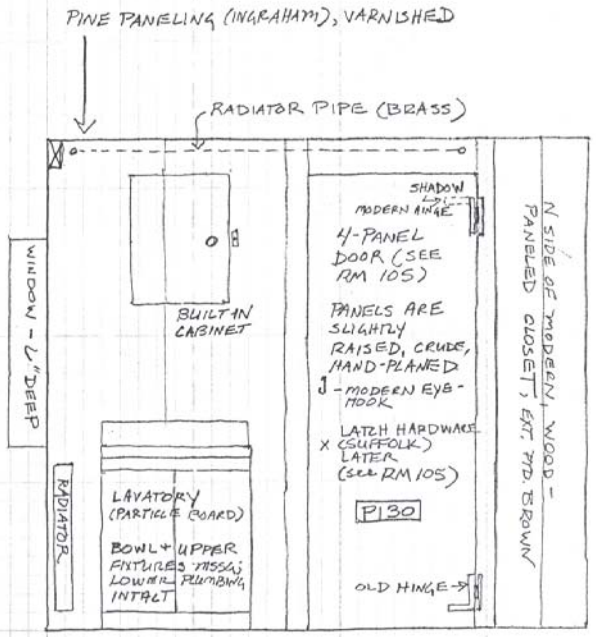
Plumbing Equipment

There are a number of plumbing fixtures in Room 106 because it was used as a laundry and toilet room, and because it is located beneath a second-story bathroom. A drain in the floor at the west wall is all that remains of the washing machine. This is a modern, plastic-pipe drain. A lavatory (sink) cabinet sits at the east end of the south wall. It is a modern cabinet made of particle board and formica. The bowl and spigots are missing, but the supply lines and drain are intact inside the cabinet. A toilet was formerly at the east wall, north of the lavatory. The remnants of it include the outline of the base, the waste drain, and the water supply and shut-off.

A soil pipe for the second-story bathroom (Room 208) is exposed at the ceiling, and concealed in a paneled enclosure in the northeast corner of the room. The pipe crosses the ceiling at an angle, from the southwest corner to the northeast corner. It may be as early as 1903-1904, when the bathroom is thought to have been installed.

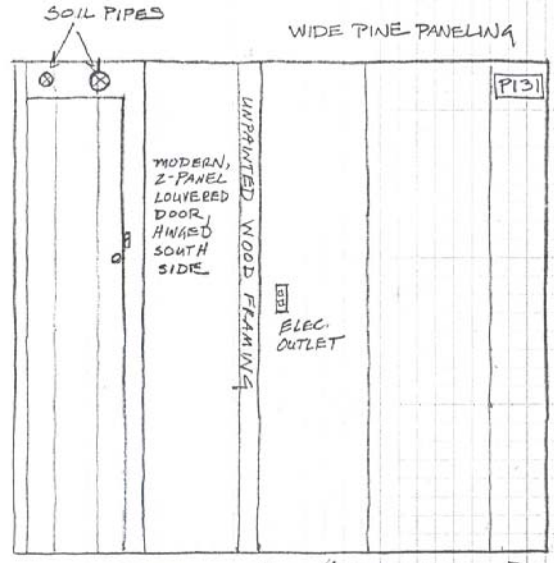
Fire- and Intrusion-Protection Equipment

There is no fire- or intrusion-protection equipment in Room 106.



SOUTH WALL

CLOSET: WOOD-PANELED, 2-BATTEN DOOR, 6 SHELVES, SOIL PIPE TRAP @ CEILING. FRONT = VARNISH



WEST WALL

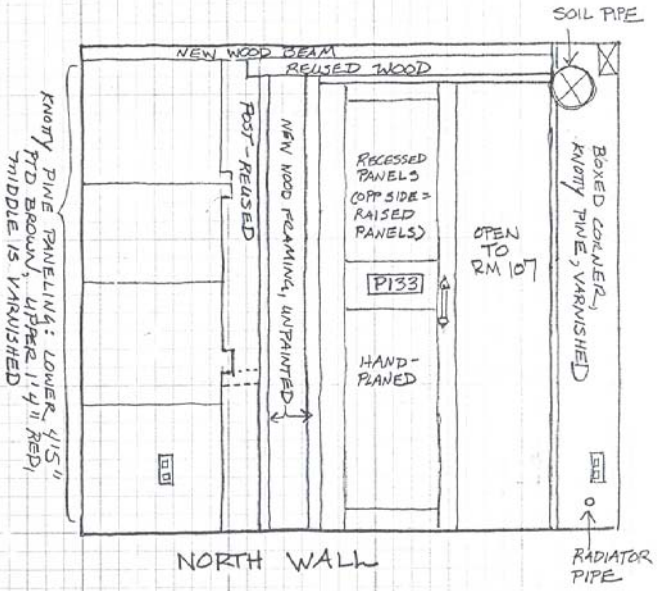
FORMER WASHING MACHINE LOCATION

FINISHES ON PANELING: VARNISH, BROWN PAINT, RED PAINT, YELLOW PAINT

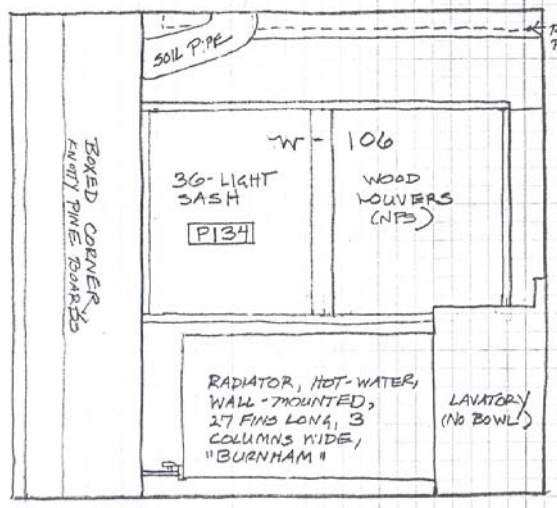
MIMA: MERIAM HS.
RM 106
AUG. 31, 1993; B. YOCUM
SCALE: ½" = 1'0"

DOOR: REUSED, PTD BROWN,
SUFFOLK LATCH, MORTISED;
MEASURES:
1'10 3/4" W
6'2 1/8" H
7/8" THICK

ALL WOODWORK @ EAST WALL
IS VARNISHED KNOTTY
PINE, INCLUDING BOXED GIRT



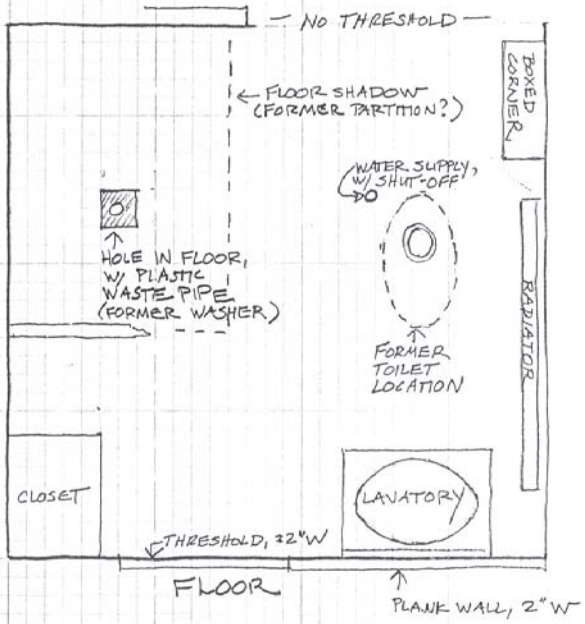
NORTH WALL



EAST WALL

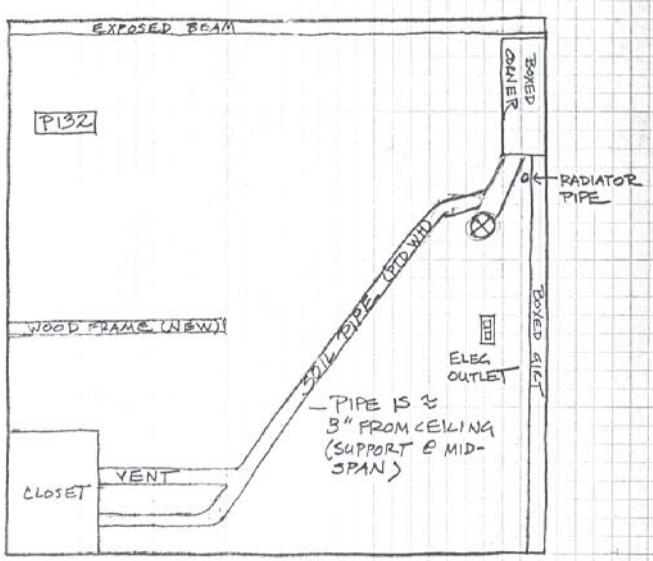
MIMA: MERIAM HS.
RM. 106
AUG. 31, 1993; B. Yocum
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'0"

FLOORING: SHEET LINOLEUM, (ALSO IN KITCHEN) ON PLYWOOD BASE



FLOOR

CEILING: PLASTER, PAINTED WHITE (LOOKS OLD)



CEILING

MIMA: MERIAM HS
RM. 106
AUG. 31, 1993; B. Yocum

SCALE: 1/2" = 1'0"

Room 107

General Information

Room 107 is the only room (excluding the attic space) in the circa-1820 north shed addition to the house.[28] It is a large room that measures 16 feet 6 inches wide (east-west) by 12 feet 9 1/2 inches deep (north-south).

No information is available on the original use of this room. In later years, during the Burke occupancy (1871-1921), it was used as a milk storage area. Alice Burke Hargrove remembers that her grandfather, who was a dairy farmer, kept the milk in the "well" at the north wall; a sink was also at the south end of the west wall. She also recalls that the Ingrahams converted the room to a kitchen.[29]

The room as it exists today retains no features from circa 1820, except for the framing of the exterior walls. The kitchen renovations made by the Ingrahams in the 1950's involved both structural repairs and interior remodeling. Materials were used to make the room look "old," including salvaged wide pine boards, exposed ceiling joists, and casement-style windows. Four old doors were also reused, and installed with old or reproduction hardware.

Archeological evidence may remain of the former well at the north wall. Brick paving and a wood-boxed frame near the north wall may be seen in the crawl space beneath the room (as viewed through a space in the adjacent garage wall). This feature measures approximately 3 feet from the north wall, and 6 feet from the east wall.

Floor

The floor framing is modern, having been rebuilt by the Ingrahams in the 1950's. It is composed of 2-inch by 6-inch joists, spaced 16 to 17 inches on center, with wide-board sheathing and a plywood base. The floor framing may be viewed through a space in the west wall of the adjacent garage. The floor is finished with sheet linoleum in a red brickwork pattern. It is the same linoleum that exists in the south adjacent room (Room 106). Nothing remains of the original (circa-1820) floor.

Walls

Framing

Several hewn posts with unused mortises exist in the kitchen at the east and south walls. These were probably salvaged and installed by the Ingrahams to give the kitchen an "antique" look.

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[28] The attached carriage shed on the east side was replaced by the existing garage around 1952-1953.

[29] Alice Burke Hargrove, Aug. 17, 1993 (see Appendix D).

Two other posts may be actual framing members. One, in the northwest corner, is cased with pine paneling. It is probably the circa-1820 corner post for the addition. The second post, in the southeast corner of the room, appears to be the original corner post for the circa-1810 kitchen addition.

Paneling

All four walls of the room are paneled with wide pine boards with a hand-planed finish. The boards are salvaged material installed by the Ingrahams, based on the presence of unused square nail holes, and on the fact that the boards are attached with modern cut nails. The paneling is oriented horizontally on the north and west walls, and vertically on the east and south walls.

Ceiling

The ceiling consists of a large flat area with exposed timber framing on the south side of the room, and a narrow sloping area (2 feet 11 inches wide) on the north side of the room. The spaces between the framing are finished with plaster on wire lath. Plasterboard has replaced the plaster on the sloped portion of the ceiling.

The exposed timber framing is not historic, but was installed by the Ingrahams in the 1950's. It is composed of a large east-west beam, into which are framed nine joists spaced approximately 2 feet on center. The beam measures approximately 7 1/2 inches square, and the joists 5 inches square.

The height of the ceiling is 6 feet 3 1/2-3/4 inches to the underside of the joists in the main part of the room; it is only 5 feet 10 inches at the north wall.

Doorways

There are seven doorways in the kitchen. Of these, not one remains unaltered from the original circa-1820 addition. Most were installed or changed during the 1950's installation of the kitchen.

Exterior Doorway (D-108)

The back doorway of the house is located in the kitchen, at the west end of the north wall. The threshold here is 8 1/4 inches wide. This is probably an original opening dating to circa 1820. The existing door, however, has been dated circa 1925, based on the paint analysis. It has a nine-light glazed panel above two recessed and molded panels. The dimensions of the door are cited in the section “Exterior Doorways.”

The two two-knuckle hinges on the west side of the door are probably original hardware dating to circa 1925. The old-looking bar latch, on the other hand, is probably an Ingraham addition. A wood patch in the east stile is the probable location of the circa-1925 doorknob. Another later addition to the door is a modern “Keil” latch on the east stile, above the patch.

Electrical-Closet Doorway

A doorway for the electrical closet is at the south end of the west wall. It was installed in the 1950's, at the same time as the kitchen. The doorway is wide, with a pair of side-hinged doors. The doors are made of vertical boards matching the wide pine paneling on the walls. Each door has two “HL”-style hinges. A wood swivel latch on the upper south door secures the doors shut.

Doorway to Room 104

A doorway to Room 104 is at the west end of the south wall. This opening is thought to have been the original exterior doorway for the circa-1810 addition, which was converted to an interior doorway circa 1820 when the north shed was built.

The threshold at this doorway is 10 1/2 inches wide. The four-panel door here has been dated circa 1820, based on the paint analysis. The panels are recessed and molded on both sides of the door. The dimensions of the door are given in the section on the Room-104 doorways.

Alterations were made to the doorway in the 1950's, as part of the kitchen installation. The door was moved from the Room-104 side of the opening to the Room-107 side; two new “H”-style hinges replaced the mortised butt hinges; and an old-looking bar latch replaced an earlier Norfolk or Suffolk latch.

Ironing-Board Closet Doorway

A narrow doorway to an ironing-board closet is in the south wall, between the Room-104 and cellar doorways. It dates to the 1950's remodeling of the room. The door is a single board, which is the same material as the wide pine wall paneling. The door is hung on the east side with two butterfly-style hinges. A wood knob is on the west side of the door. A wood swivel latch attached to the wall paneling to the west of the doorway secures the door shut.

Cellar Doorway

A doorway leading to the cellar stairway is centered in the south wall, between the ironing-board closet and the doorway to Room 106. Its threshold measures 5 1/2 inches wide.

A doorway may have been created here as early as circa 1925, but the configuration of the existing door dates to the 1950's. The door is composed of two connected layers: vertical boards on the Room-107 side, and an old reused door on the cellar-stairway side. Like the other vertical-board doors in the room, this door uses the same wide pine boards as the wall paneling. Hardware includes a pair of large strap hinges on the west side, a rim lock on the east side, and a Suffolk-style handle above the rim lock. A small wood knob is also attached to the east side of the door, between the rim lock and the Suffolk handle.

The old door on the cellar side of the opening is a mortised, four-panel type with center rail. The four panels are raised and unmolded. Paint-shadow evidence indicates the door once had a Norfolk latch with scalloped backplate. Two empty side mortises are all that remains of two missing butt hinges. This evidence, along with the results of the paint analysis, indicates that the door was

initially installed circa 1820 in the doorway between Rooms 101 and 108. For more details, see the section "Room 101: Doorways."

Doorway to Room 106

The doorway connecting with Room 106 is at the east end of the south wall. It is a wide doorway with one narrow door on the west side of the opening only. A doorway was presumably installed here by the Ingrahams in the 1950's. It may have been widened to its present size sometime in the 1980's, to make the toilet room (Room 106) wheelchair-accessible for Mr. Ingraham.

There is no threshold at this doorway. The existing door is an old, mortised type with two panels and a center rail. It hangs by two strap hinges attached to the west side of the door; a Suffolk-bar latch is on the east side. The paint analysis suggests that the door was reused from a building other than the Meriam House. Other details, such as the evidence of early hardware and door dimensions, are cited in the section "Room 106: Doorways."

Garage Doorway

A 1950's doorway leading to the garage is at the south end of the east wall. The threshold here is 3 3/4 inches wide. The door is composed of two layers of vertical pine boards—the same material as the wall paneling. A large rim lock is on the north side of the door, and a small wood knob is above the rim lock.

Windows

There are three windows (W-111, W-112, and W-113) in the north and west walls of Room 106. All three are colonial-style casement windows that were installed by the Ingrahams in the 1950's. Photographic evidence from circa 1912 (fig. 16) suggests that originally there were no windows in the north wall, and only one smaller window in the west wall.

Northeast Window (W-111)

The smallest window in the room is at the east end of the north wall. It has a single casement sash with 20 lights.

Northwest Window (W-112)

The other window in the north wall is centered between the W-111 and the exterior doorway. It is a wide window with two side-hinged casement sashes, each with 24 lights, separated by a center mullion.

West Window (W-113)

The west-wall window is also a wide window with center mullion. It appears to have replaced an earlier (smaller) window opening in this same approximate location, based on the

exterior photograph of circa 1912 (fig. 16). The exterior side of the window is boarded over today; the two casement sashes are stored in Room 207.

Kitchen Cabinets

Kitchen cabinets are on the east side of the room. Three small cabinets with wood shelves are built into the wall above a sink and range. The cabinet to the north has a single door, while the two on the south side have paired doors. The doors are made of the same pine boards as the wall paneling, and they close flush with the paneling. Each door leaf has a small wood knob.

Storage space also exists in the cabinet beneath the kitchen sink. Similar to the woodwork in the rest of the room, this cabinet, its doors, and its drawers are made of pine. Three doors (one single and one pair) provide access to the area beneath the sink. A tier of four drawers is to the right of the doors, on the south side of the sink. The doors have Suffolk-style handles; the drawers have small wood knobs.

Miscellaneous Items

A small wooden plant shelf is mounted to the wood paneling in the northeast corner of the room, next to the small window (W-111). A wood paper-towel holder is mounted to the lower wood paneling at the north wall, east of the large window (W-112).

Painted Finishes

Existing Finishes

There are three painted finishes in Room 107 today: varnish, red paint, light-brown paint, and white paint. These date to the Ingraham occupancy (1951-1991).

Varnish is used on most of the woodwork in the kitchen. This includes the wall paneling, exposed framing, vertical-board doors, cabinets, and radiators. Red paint finishes the window sashes, the exterior door, the door to Room 104, and the cellar side of the cellar door. Light-brown paint is on the two-panel door to Room 106 only. The plaster and plasterboard ceiling are painted white.

Historic Finishes

The paint history of Room 107 was determined by extracting six samples of paint (P102 and P135-P139) and examining them under the microscope. Details of the paint analysis can be found in Appendix E.

Paint samples removed from four areas provide the paint history of the room. These were from the circa-1925 door (P138), the circa-1820 south door to Room 104 (P137), the jamb of the circa-1820 doorway to Room 104 (P102), and the north window sashes (P139). The two other paint

samples, from the four-panel cellar door and the two-panel north door, had early paint layers not related to Room 107.

The analysis determined that the south doorway was painted with a lead-based, cream-color paint circa 1820. This was followed by a dark-gray lead paint, and a nonlead green paint. Dark green paint with no lead appears to have been applied circa 1925, followed by a gloss black, brown, red, and gray. The Ingrahams first painted the paneled doors and window sashes white in the 1950's, and later painted these same elements red.

Electrical Equipment

Electrical Panel

A 100-ampere electrical panel is mounted to a wall stud in the closet, at the south end of the west wall. It contains breaker switches for all the electrical fixtures in the house.

Light Fixtures

Light-fixture equipment in Room 107 includes two fluorescent fixtures, one incandescent fixture, and three sets of light switches. The two fluorescent fixtures are mounted on the ceiling near the east wall. They are operated by a switch on the east wall. The incandescent fixture has a single bare bulb. It is located on the ceiling at the west end of the room, where it is powered by an electrical outlet. The fixture is operated by a switch on the north wall, and by a switch in Room 104.

The three sets of light switches are at the north and east walls, and at the doorway to the garage. The first set, on the east side of the north exterior doorway, has three switches with a common backplate. They operate the incandescent ceiling fixture, an exterior fixture at the doorway, and an exterior post light. The second set, on the east wall between the sink and range, has two switches. One operates an exterior fixture on the garage, and the other operates the fluorescent fixtures. The third set, on the north side of the doorway to the garage, has three switches. These activate the ceiling electrical outlets, interior fixtures in the garage, and an exterior garage fixture.

Electrical Outlets

There are nine electrical outlets in Room 107. These are in the north, east, and south walls, and in the ceiling. The north wall has two duplex receptacles. These are in the lower paneled wall, on either side of the radiator. The east wall has one triplex receptacle; it shares a common backplate with two switches. It is located on the paneled wall, between the sink and range. The south wall has two duplex receptacles. Both are in the lower paneled wall: one between the Room-104 and closet doorways, and the other between the cellar and Room-106 doorways.

Each of the three ceiling outlets are duplex receptacles. They are aligned in the middle of the room, between the ceiling joists.

Range

An electrical cooking stove made by "Whirlpool" is located at the east wall, between the sink and the garage doorway. It has four top burners and an oven. Its age is not known.

Exhaust Fan

An electrical exhaust fan is built into the ceiling at the east wall, above the range. It is controlled by a switch on the east wall, south of the range.

Telephone Equipment

Telephone equipment includes a connection with backplate, a bell box, and a telephone instrument. These are at the north wall between the windows. The telephone line is operational, and is connected to the automatic dialer for the fire- and intrusion-protection systems.

Heating Equipment

There are two hot-water radiators in Room 107: one at the north wall, and the other at the west wall. They are part of the heating system installed by the Ingrahams in 1951. The north-wall radiator is beneath the large window (W-112). It is four columns wide and 40 sections long. Writing on one end identifies it as having been made by the Burnham Company. The west-wall radiator, which was also made by the Burnham Company, is three columns wide and 34 sections long. It is beneath the window in that wall (W-113).

Plumbing Equipment

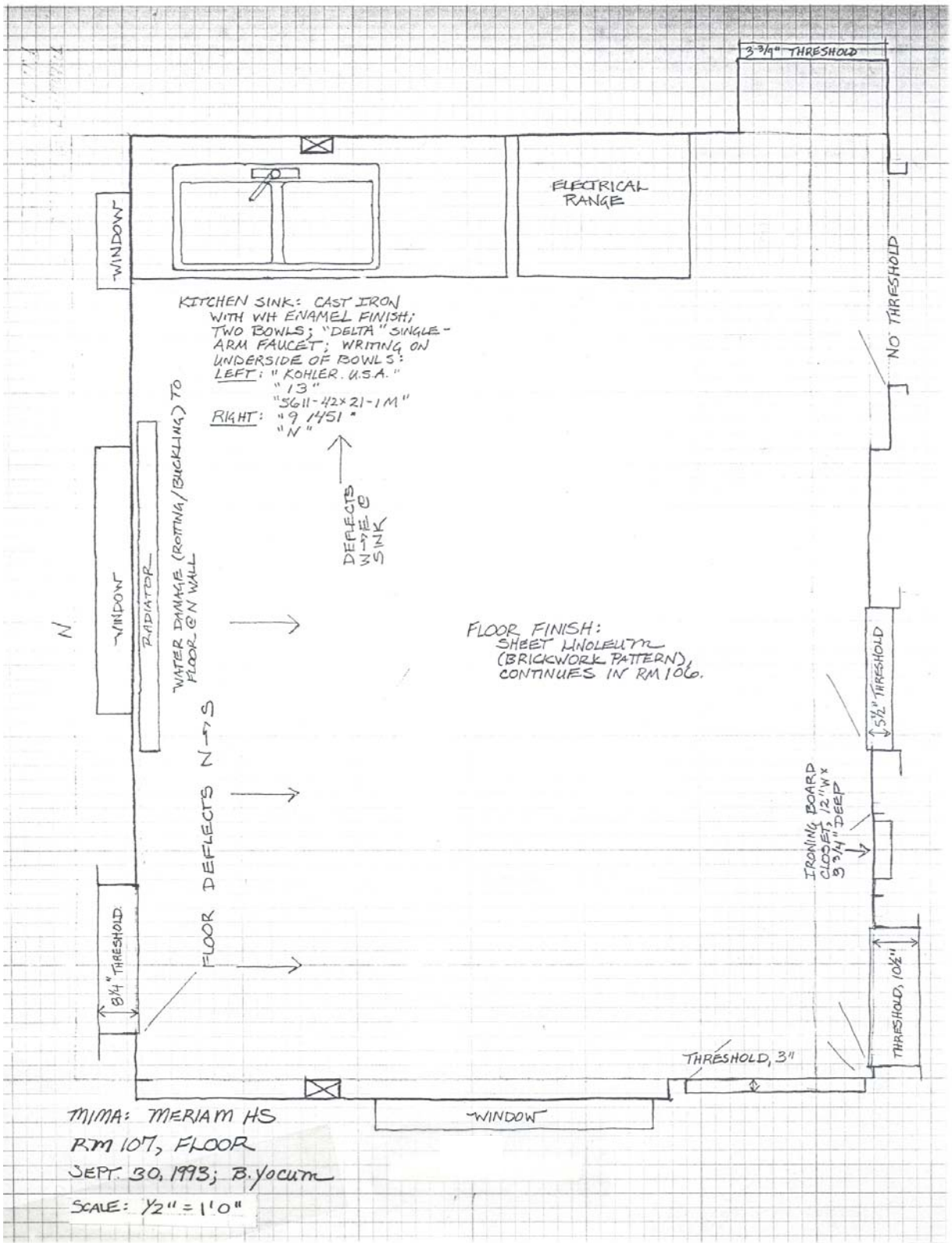
A cabinet-mounted kitchen sink is at the north end of the east wall. It is a two-bowl, cast-iron type with white enamel finish. Writing on the underside of the bowls identifies the sink as having been made by the Kohler Company on September 14, 1951; it was presumably installed shortly after that time. An exact transcription of the writing reads as follows:

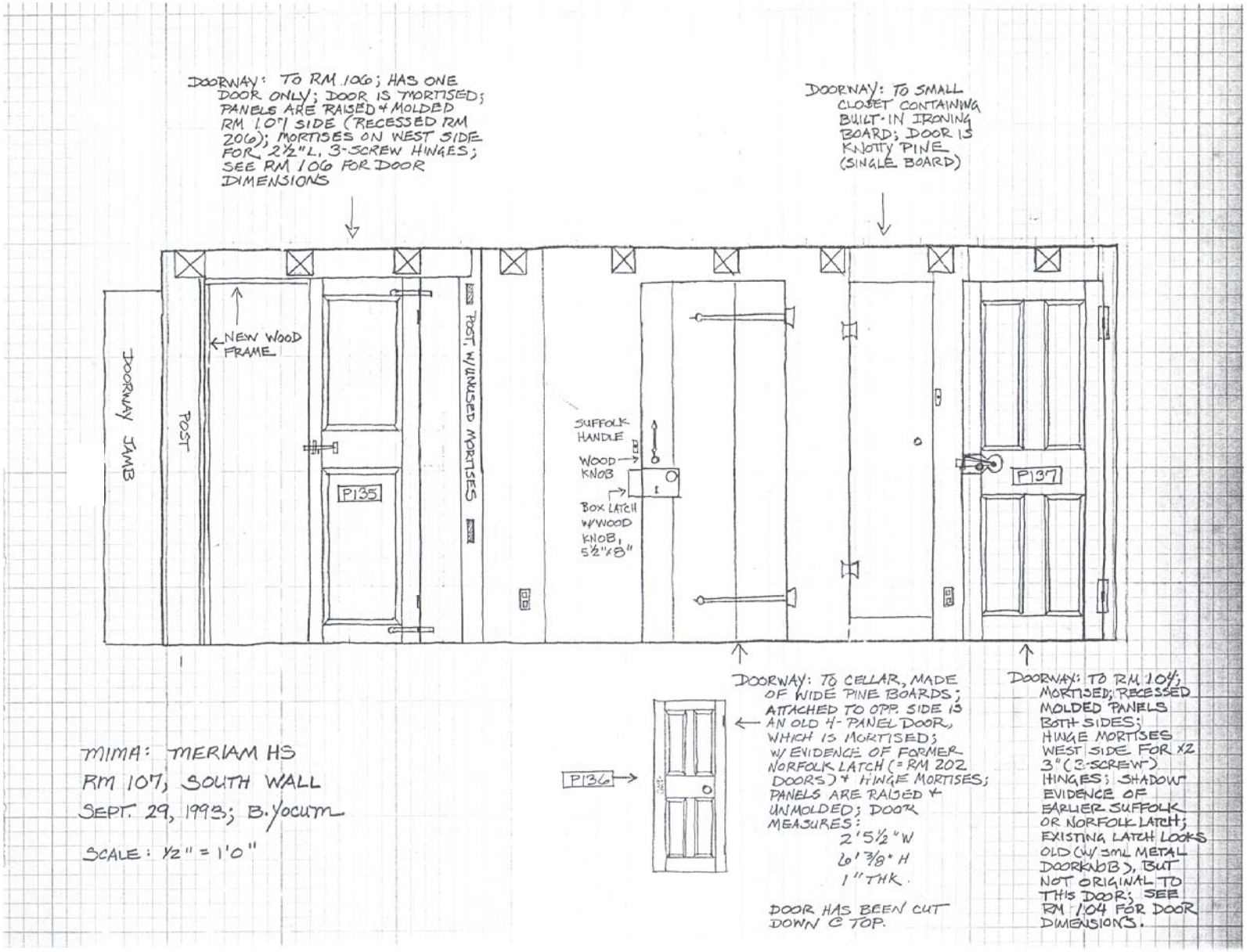
Left Bowl: KOHLER U.S.A.
13

Right Bowl: 5611 - 42 x 21 - 1M
9 1451
N

Fire- and Intrusion-Protection Equipment

As mentioned previously, the telephone at the north wall is connected to the fire- and intrusion-protection systems by means of an automatic dialer. This system was installed by the National Park Service. There is no other fire- or intrusion-protection equipment in the room.

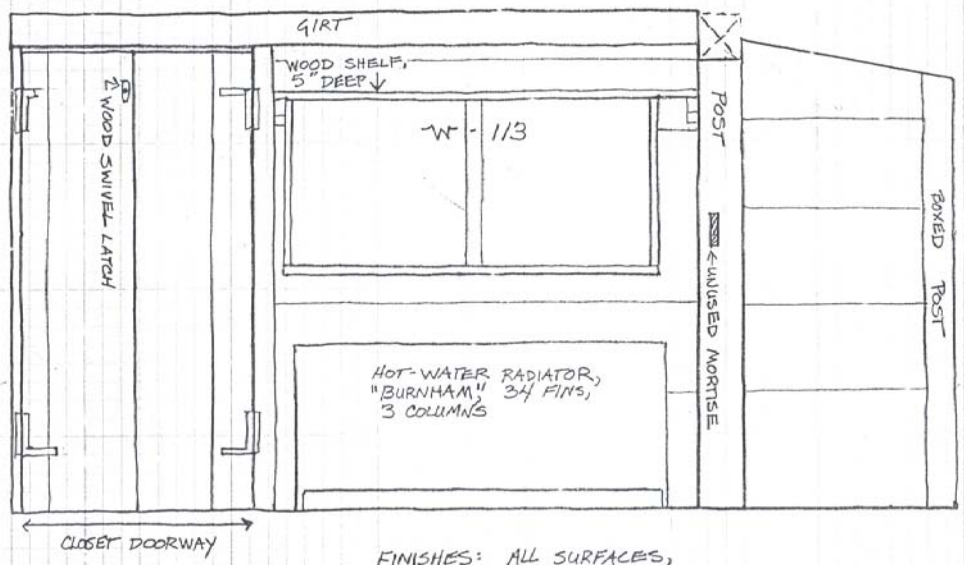

3 3/4" THRESHOLD
ELECTRICAL RANGE
WINDOW
NO THRESHOLD
KITCHEN SINK: CAST IRON WITH WH ENAMEL FINISH; TWO BOWLS; "DELTA" SINGLE-ARM FAUCET; WRITING ON UNDERSIDE OF BOWLS:
LEFT: "KOHLER. U.S.A."
"13"
"5611-42×21-1M"
RIGHT: "9 1451"
"N"
DEFLECTS W→E SINK
WINDOW
RADIATOR
WATER DAMAGE (ROTTING/BUCKLING) TO FLOOR @ N WALL
N
FLOOR FINISH: SHEET LINOLEUM (BRICKWORK PATTERN), CONTINUES IN RM 106.
5 1/2" THRESHOLD
FLOOR DEFLECTS N→S
IRONING BOARD CLOSET, 12" W × 3 3/4" DEEP
8 1/4" THRESHOLD
THRESHOLD, 10 1/2"
THRESHOLD, 3"
WINDOW
MIMA: MERIAM HS
RM 107, FLOOR
SEPT. 30, 1993; B. Yocum
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'0"


DOORWAY: TO RM 106; HAS ONE DOOR ONLY; DOOR IS MORTISED; PANELS ARE RAISED & MOLDED RM 107 SIDE (RECESSED RM 206); MORTISES ON WEST SIDE FOR 2½"L, 3-SCREW HINGES; SEE RM 106 FOR DOOR DIMENSIONS
DOORWAY: TO SMALL CLOSET CONTAINING BUILT-IN IRONING BOARD; DOOR IS KNOTTY PINE (SINGLE BOARD)
NEW WOOD FRAME
DOORWAY JAMB
POST
P135
POST, W/UNUSED MORTISES
SUFFOLK HANDLE
WOOD KNOB
BOX LATCH W/WOOD KNOB, 5½"x8"
P137
P136
DOORWAY: TO CELLAR, MADE OF WIDE PINE BOARDS; ATTACHED TO OPP. SIDE IS AN OLD 4-PANEL DOOR, WHICH IS MORTISED; W/ EVIDENCE OF FORMER NORFOLK LATCH (= RM 202 DOORS) & HINGE MORTISES; PANELS ARE RAISED & UNMOLDED; DOOR MEASURES: 2'5½"W 6'3/8"H 1"THK.
DOOR HAS BEEN CUT DOWN @ TOP.
DOORWAY: TO RM 104; MORTISED; RECESSED MOLDED PANELS BOTH SIDES; HINGE MORTISES WEST SIDE FOR x2 3" (3-SCREW) HINGES; SHADOW EVIDENCE OF EARLIER SUFFOLK OR NORFOLK LATCH; EXISTING LATCH LOOKS OLD (W/ SML METAL DOORKNOB), BUT NOT ORIGINAL TO THIS DOOR; SEE RM 104 FOR DOOR DIMENSIONS.
MIMA: MERIAM HS
RM 107, SOUTH WALL
SEPT. 29, 1993; B. YOCUM
SCALE: ½" = 1'0"

CLOSET DOORWAY: TO ELECTRICAL CLOSET; x 2' WIDE KNOTTY PINE DOORS (REUSED WOOD)

CLOSET: CONTAINS MODERN ELEC. BOX, ___ SERVICE

WINDOW: OPENING IS BOARDED; SASH ARE IN STORAGE



FINISHES: ALL SURFACES, INCLUDING THE RADIATOR ARE VARNISHED.

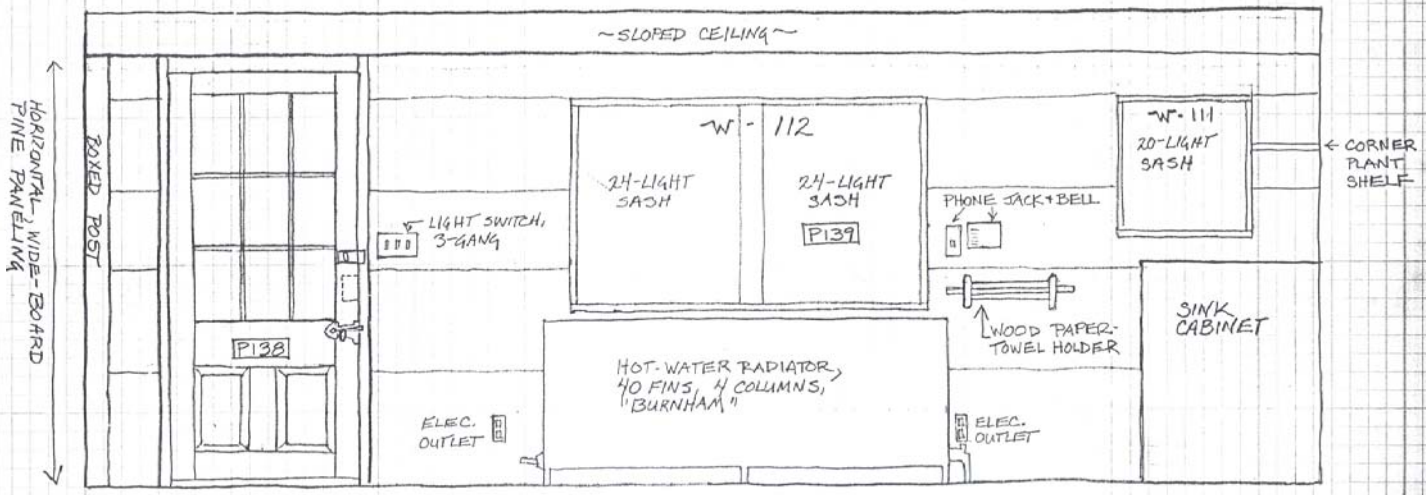
WALL SURFACE: HORIZONTAL, KNOTTY-PINE BOARDS (REUSED, BASED ON EMPTY NAIL HOLES)

MIMA: MERIAM HS
RM 107, WEST WALL
SEPT. 29, 1993; B. Yocum

SCALE: 1/2" = 1'0"

DOORWAY: TO EXTERIOR; 2 RECESSED, MOLDED PANELS BELOW + 9-LIGHT GLAZED PANEL ABOVE; EXT. PANELS ALSO RECESSED + MOLDED; DOOR IS NOT MORTISED; X2 LATCHES -- ONE OLD-LOOKING W/ OVAL BRASS DOORKNOB, + ONE MODERN "KEIL" LATCH (KEY-OPERATED); ALSO, MORTISE @ FORMER LATCH LOCATION;

X2 HINGES, 2-KNUCKLE;
DOOR MEASURES:
2'7" W x
5'5½-¾" H x
1 ⅜" THK



WALL PANELING: WIDE, KNOTTY-PINE BOARDS; PINE ALSO CASES NW POST

FINISHES:
VARNISH -- WALL PANELING, CORNER SHELF, POST BOXING, SINK CABINET, RADIATOR + TOWEL HOLDER

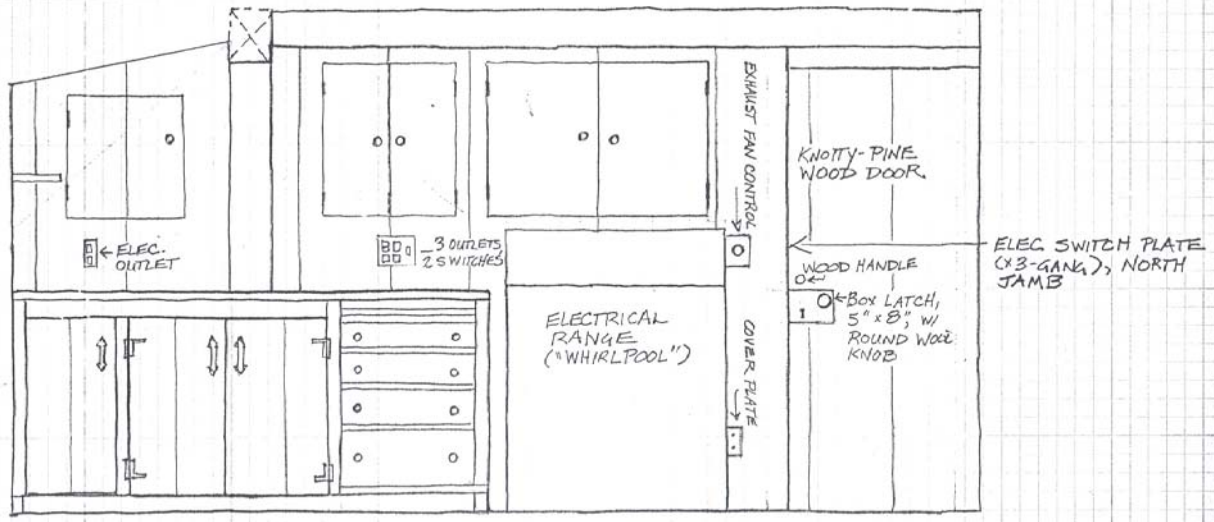
RED PAINT -- DOOR + WINDOW SASH

MIMA: MERIAM HS
RM 107, NORTH WALL
SEPT. 30, 1993; B. YOCUM

SCALE: ½" = 1'0"

FINISHES: ALL WOODWORK IS VARNISHED

DOORWAY: TO GARAGE; DOOR IS WIDE PINE BOARDS

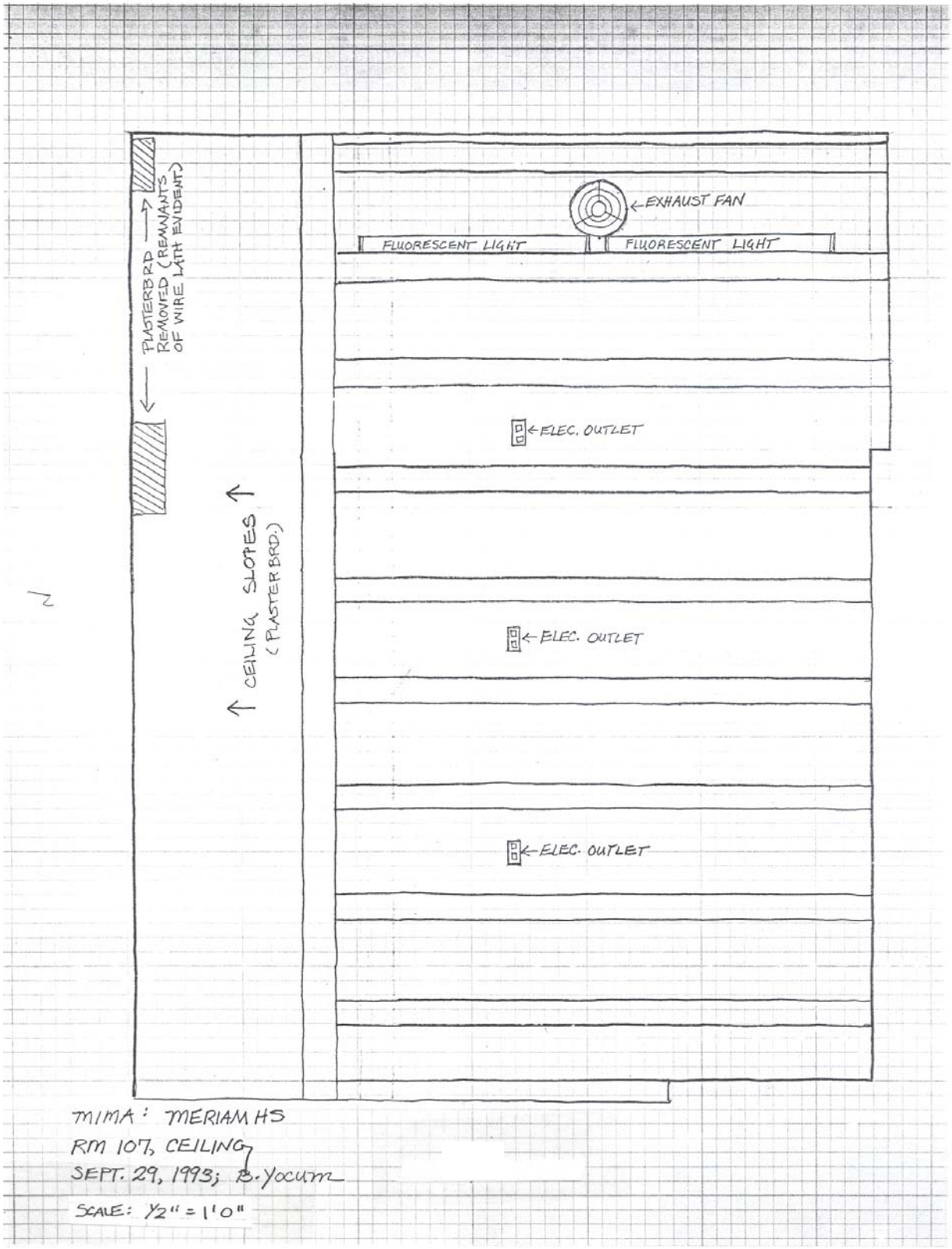


CABINETS: ALL WOOD, WITH WOOD KNOBS; UPPER DOORS ARE DESIGNED AS PART OF WOOD SIDING

WOOD PANELING: WIDE, REUSED KNOTTY PINE, INSTALLED VERTICALLY.

TMIMA: MERIAM HS
RM 107, EAST WALL
SEPT. 29, 1993; B. Yocum

SCALE: 1/2" = 1'0"



MIMA: MERIAM HS
RM 107, CEILING
SEPT. 29, 1993; B. Yocum
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'0"

Room 108

General Information

Room 108 is the large first-story room on the east side of the original (circa-1705) house. Its dimensions are 17 feet 1 3/4 inches wide (east-west) by 17 feet 6 inches deep (north-south).

Local legend has designated this as the most significant room in the house. Concord historian Ruth Wheeler wrote in 1957 that this room comprised the original (1663) house, which had been a garrison house during King Philip's war (1675-1676). She surmised that the 11-inch-thick walls "might have been built of squared timbers, clapboarded on the outside and plastered on the inside."[30]

The architectural investigation found, however, that the house probably had been built no earlier than 1705. Furthermore, it was discovered that the reason the walls are 11 inches thick is because they are furred out on wood studs—the walls, in other words, are hollow. In fact, the walls were probably paneled originally, and the exposed framing of the ceiling was painted, based on the remaining evidence. The plastering of the room appears to have been a later improvement that was made around 1810, at the same time the existing closets were installed. Later changes were made to the windows and west doorway circa 1820, also based on the paint analysis.

Alterations in the 20th century include the installation of the narrow pine floorboards and a new baseboard at the north wall, and the replastering of the ceiling circa 1925. Work carried out in the 1950's involved "restoring" the fireplace to its present appearance, moving the west door to the cellar doorway, and stripping the paint from most of the woodwork.

Little 18th-century material remains in the room today, except for the timber framing and four boards of shadow-molded paneling. Despite the changes made in the 20th century, the general appearance of the room dates to circa 1820.

Documentation is lacking on the early use of this room. It was probably not the kitchen, since the kitchen appears to have been in the west room as explained in the section "Room 102." However, cooking may have been done in the room beginning around 1743, when the existing bake oven is thought to have been constructed in its present configuration.

It was the east side of the house, which included this room, that was designated in two probate documents as being the domain of the primary beneficiary. These documents, dated 1782 and 1803, specified the west side of the house as being for the use of the surviving widow. Unfortunately, no detailed descriptions of the room were made in those years.

In later years, during the occupancy of Thomas and Rose Burke (1871-1921), the room was used as a formal parlor. Alice Burke Hargrove remembers it as being furnished with a piano in the northeast corner, and a fox mounted on a pedestal. The Ingrahams (1951-1991) probably also had their living room here, since the west room was used as a dining room.

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[30] Ruth Wheeler, *Our American Mile* (Concord: Concord Antiquarian Society, 1957), pp. 5-6.

Floor

The floor consists of narrow pine floorboards 3 1/4 inches wide, which are oriented in an east-west direction. It appears that these replaced the original finish flooring circa 1925—the same time that similar flooring was installed in the second story.

It is possible to see in the cellar beneath Room 108 that the room has a subfloor composed of wide boards measuring between 1 foot 3 inches to 1 foot 4 inches wide. The boards are oriented in a north-south direction to sit on the east-west floor joists. Building paper is visible between the joints of the subfloor boards, which were probably installed at the same time as the narrow pine floorboards circa 1925. The subfloor boards may be original material dating to circa 1705.

A paint shadow on the top surface of the floorboards indicates that the room had a center carpet or floorcloth at one time that measured 8 feet 2 inches wide by 11 feet long.

The floor in front of the fireplace at the west wall is a large brickwork hearth. This is described in the section "Fireplace."

Walls

The walls of the room are composed of several materials, including framing elements, the brickwork of the chimney, wood paneling, and plaster.

Chimney Girt

The chimney girt along the west wall is exposed from the north side of the west doorway to the north end corner of the room. It is one of the few visible features of the room dating to circa 1705. The lower edge of the girt is chamfered, with lamb's-tongue detailing and incised-diamond stop, in the vicinity of the chimney brickwork. Additional incised carving in a geometric-diamond pattern exists at the summer beam in an area measuring 2 feet 7 1/2 inches long. Four carefully crafted woodwork patches ("Dutchmen") are also located along the edge of the girt, where the chamfer and decorative carving have been skillfully replicated. This restoration work was probably done by the Ingrahams in the 1950's.

The chamfering on the beam is probably an original feature, dating to circa 1705. The incised carving, however, may have been executed at some later date. This probably occurred before circa 1820, when the summer beam was cased, because the upper portions of the pattern appear to be covered by the woodwork casing.

Chimney Brickwork

The north half of the west wall consists of the brickwork of the chimney and fireplace. Alice Burke Hargrove remembers that the brickwork was not exposed (except for the firebox opening) when her grandparents—the Burkes—lived here (1871-1921). Likely historic finishes were paneling or plaster, for which no evidence remains today. See the section "Fireplace" for a more detailed description of the brickwork.

Paneling

Pine paneling covers the west wall, the west end of the north wall, and the south end of the east wall. The paneling may date from two different periods: circa 1705 and circa 1810.

The earlier paneling is on the west wall, between the doorway to Room 101 and the fireplace. It is composed of five vertical boards with shadow-molded edges. The paneling is definitely early, based on the outline of an early missing staircase on the opposite (Room-101) side. It covers the wall from the bottom of the chimney girt to the floor, leaving the side of the girt exposed. The largest board measures 1 foot 1 1/2 inches wide. This paneling is believed to have been covered with plaster circa 1810-1820, and restored by the Ingrahams in the 1950's.

A small piece of this type of paneling was also found beneath the plaster in the east closet, oriented horizontally. This suggests that such paneling may have existed elsewhere in the room before circa 1810. However, it is not known if the small piece is in its original location, or if it was reused as lath when the room was plastered.

Plain pine paneling boards (with no edge molding) cover the west end of the north wall. The paneling includes two vertical boards (measuring 7 inches and 1 foot 1 inch wide), a wide horizontal board over the closet doorway, and a narrow board on the east side of the doorway. A date of “circa 1810” has been assigned to the paneling, when the closet is thought to have been installed. It is definitely not the same paneling installed by the Ingrahams in the 1950's, based on the presence of paint remnants on the otherwise paint-stripped wood.

Similar plain pine boards, approximately 10 inches wide, are on either side of the circa-1820 closet at the south end of the east wall.

Plaster

Plaster on accordion lath finishes the east end of the north wall, the north end of the east wall, and the south wall of the room. The lath is attached to furring boards that are flush with the wall girts, such that no girts, posts, or raised sills are visible at these walls. This makes the walls appear to be 11 inches thick, as was mentioned in the writings of Concord historian Ruth Wheeler.

The walls are thought to have been finished in this manner circa 1810, based on the analysis of paint on the associated woodwork in the room. The accordion lath survives on the north wall, as can be seen through a hole in the ceiling of the cellar, which allows a view of the back side of the wall. Accordion lath also presumably remains in place on the east and south walls. No destructive investigation was done to determine the extent of original (circa-1810) plaster remaining on the walls.

It is also likely that the early west-wall paneling was covered with plaster by circa 1820. Evidence for this survives on the north side of the circa-1820 surround of the doorway to Room 101, where a paint line clearly indicates that the wall was formerly built out beyond the paneling. The plaster is believed to have been removed by the Ingrahams in the 1950's.

Baseboards

Three types of baseboards finish the plastered areas on the south, east, and north walls of the room. The earliest baseboard, which may date to circa 1810, is at the south wall only. This is a plain board, 7 1/2 inches high, that is flush with the plaster wall. The second baseboard is attached to the plain south-wall baseboard; it also exists as the only baseboard on the east wall. It is 4 1/2 inches high and has a top molding. This baseboard has been dated "circa 1820," based on its association with the window woodwork (it forms the base of the circa-1820 window panel), and on the results of the paint analysis. The third baseboard is on the north wall, east of the doorway to Room 104. It is a plain board, 4 1/2 inches high, that is attached with wire nails. A date of "circa 1925" is based on the paint analysis.

Ceiling

Existing Ceiling

The ceiling is plastered on either side of a large east-west, cased summer beam that bisects the room. The plaster is on circular-sawn lath held with wire nails, which probably replaced an earlier (circa-1810) plastered ceiling circa 1925. The back side of the circular-sawn lath may be seen through a metal grille in the floor of the second-story room above (Room 209).

The cased summer beam measures 1 foot 3 inches wide by 4 inches deep. A first layer of red paint on the casing dates the woodwork to circa 1810. The height of the ceiling up to the plaster is 6 feet 8 inches tall.

Early Ceiling

The original (circa-1705) ceiling consisted of the exposed framing and the undersides of the floorboards in the second-story room (Room 209). Physical evidence of this may be seen in the southeast corner of the east closet, where the a small opening at the ceiling reveals the framing. Here, a light (white?) painted finish exists on the east girt, the joists, and the floorboards. The south-wall girt, however, has no painted finish, suggesting that it was not exposed.

Doorways

There are two interior doorways and two closet doorways in the room.

West Doorway to Room 101

The doorway at the south end of the west wall connects with the front entry/stair hall (Room 101). It is undoubtedly an original opening dating to circa 1705. The associated woodwork at the doorway today, however, dates to a later remodeling of the room circa 1820, based on the paint analysis.

The surround has mitered corners and deeply contoured Federal-style moldings, which are similar to the moldings of the window surrounds. Similar moldings also exist on the surrounds in Rooms 201, 202, and 209. The threshold is 5 inches wide. It is probably contemporary with the circa-1925 floorboards.

The door is missing from the doorway today, although it was found to have been reused on the cellar-side of the cellar doorway. This door, and the physical evidence for it, is described in detail in the section "Room 101: East Doorway." Like the surround, the four-panel door has been dated circa 1820.

North Doorway to Room 104

The doorway near the center of the north wall leads to Room 104. This may have been an original (circa-1705) exterior doorway that was converted to an interior doorway when the first kitchen addition was built circa 1743. All associated woodwork today, however, dates to circa 1810, when the existing kitchen addition was constructed.

The door is missing from the doorway today. It was found to have been reused in a second-story doorway, between Rooms 203 and 204. Detailed descriptions of this door, and the physical evidence for it, are included in the section "Room 104: East Doorway to Room 108."

East Closet Doorway

A large closet with two doors is at the south end of the east wall. The closet and its doorway have been dated circa 1810, based on the paint analysis.

The surround of the closet doorway consists of wide pine boards on either side of the doorway, and a narrow board at the top of the opening; there are no moldings.

The doorway has two doors of mortised construction. Each door has four panels (two panels each separated by a center rail) that are raised and molded on the room side, and recessed and unmolded on the closet side. Each door measures 5 feet 10 inches high by 2 feet 1 inch wide by seven-eighths of an inch thick. The doors are hinged on opposite sides to swing outward and meet in the middle; no frame separates the two doors. Each door has two "H"-style hinges that appear to be original. A small brass knob is on the north door, and a wood swivel latch is on the south door. A modern eye-hook is on the closet side of the south door only.

North Closet Doorway

A small closet with one door is at the west end of the north wall. Like the east closet, the surround consists of wide pine boards with no moldings. This closet and its doorway have also been dated circa 1810.

The door is similar in style to the doors of the east closet, being of mortised construction with four panels. The panels are raised and molded on the room side, and recessed and unmolded on the closet side. The dimensions of the door are 5 feet 5/8 inches high by 2 feet 1 3/8 inches wide by thirteen-sixteenths of an inch thick.

The door is hinged on the west side by two “H”-style hinges that appear to be original. A later wood swivel latch is attached to the east side of the surround. Mortises are also extant in the door and jamb for a mortised latch that is missing today.

Windows

There are three windows in the room: two in the south wall (W-103, W-104), and one in the east wall (W-105). The windows are recessed into the walls, with 11-inch jambs and deep window seats. The trim at the windows consists of a wide apron between the window opening and the window seat; a wood panel with baseboard at the face of the wall, between the window seat and the floor; and a surround with Federal-style moldings, similar to the surround of the west doorway. The molding is missing from the south window, but nail-hole evidence is proof that it once existed. All of the window sashes are six-over-six, except for the upper sash of W-103, which consist of louvers installed by the National Park Service.

The window openings themselves have been dated circa 1820, as explained in the section “Exterior Elements: Windows.” All interior woodwork in Room 108 has been similarly dated, based on a comparative analysis of the paint layers on the window woodwork. No physical evidence could be found of the earlier appearance of the window woodwork.

Chimney and Fireplace

The brickwork of the chimney, and its associated fireplace and bake oven, occupy the northern half of the west wall. The existing configuration of this feature has been dated circa 1743, when it is believed that the chimney was rebuilt. For details, see the section “Exterior Elements: Chimney.”

Brickwork

The brickwork at the west wall is made up of handmade bricks that measure 7 1/2 inches long by 2 inches high by 3 1/2 inches wide. Some of these bricks appear to have been reused in their present locations, based on the presence of black charring on their exterior surfaces.

Alice Burke Hargrove recalled that the fireplace was open, but the brickwork was not exposed, when her grandparents lived in the house (1871-1921). The brickwork was probably uncovered in the 1950's by the Ingrahams. They were probably also responsible for the extensive repointing (or prehaps rebuilding) of the brickwork with gray portland-cement mortar.

Hearth

A large brickwork hearth is in front of the chimney and fireplace at the west wall. The hearth extends all the way to the north wall, measuring about 9 feet 5 inches long by 3 feet wide. The bricks of the hearth appear to be the same as those at the west wall, measuring 7 1/2 inches by 3 1/2 inches.

Firebox

The firebox is positioned on the south side of the brickwork mass at the west wall. It is similar in design to the firebox in Room 102, being a fairly small opening supported at the top by an iron-bar lintel, and having splayed jambs. The opening measures 2 feet 10 inches high by 4 feet 4 1/2 inches wide by 1 foot 6 1/2 inches deep. The brick mortar inside the firebox appears to be an old lime-type, unlike the gray portland-cement type used outside the firebox. Two gudgeons for a crane are located in the south jamb; the crane that they once supported, however, is missing.

The configuration of the existing fireplace is thought to be a later alteration dating to circa 1743. An original circa-1705 fireplace would have been larger, and its bake oven would have been located within (in the back corner of) the firebox. No physical evidence could be found of the original fireplace.

Bake Oven

A beehive bake oven is offset to the north side of the fireplace. The beehive oven itself survives intact, as may be seen from inside the chimney. Its doorway, however, appears to have been reconstructed at some recent date—probably by the Ingrahams in the 1950's. The reconstruction was not entirely accurate, since it failed to restore the flue in the roof of the opening. Also not restored was opening to the storage area beneath the oven, the exterior structure of which is clearly visible from inside the chimney. Both were probably closed when the room was remodeled circa 1810 or 1820. The bake oven, like the fireplace, has been dated circa 1743.

Mantel

The fireplace mantel is a simple design, consisting of a long wood shelf with a side panel on the south side only. Little, if anything, appears to survive from the early mantel(s) in this location. The configuration that exists today presumably dates to the circa-1950's restoration of the room. The paint analysis suggests that reused wood may have been assembled for the mantel. The earliest paint on the shelf has been dated circa 1925; on the south board comprising the side panel, circa 1951; and on the south board comprising the side panel, circa 1820.

Closets

The room has two closets: one at the south end of the east wall, and the other at the west end of the north wall. Both have been dated circa 1810, based on the styles of the closet doors, and on the results of the paint analysis. The interior finishes of the closets are described in the section “Painted Finishes.”

Southeast Closet

The closet at the south end of the east wall has two side-hinged, four-panel doors. The closet interior is approximately 11 inches deep, and has five wood shelves. A groove along the back side of each shelf was probably for storing plates.

The floor of the closet is approximately 6 inches above the level of the room's floor. The back wall is plastered, and the side and front walls are wood. The girt at the ceiling is cased; a small area of ceiling is also open in the southeast corner, where the early paint on the framing and floorboards are visible.

Northwest Closet

The closet in the west corner of the west wall has a single four-panel door. The closet interior is 6 inches deep, and has five wood shelves with no plate grooves. The floor of the closet is approximately 4 1/2 inches above the level of the room's floor. The back wall is plastered, and the side and front walls are wood.

Painted Finishes

Existing Finishes

The room is finished today with red paint, white paint, mustard-brown paint, and varnish. Different-color paints and wallpaper finishes are also found inside the two closets at the east and north walls. The room was most recently finished by Ingraham family (1951-1991).

Red paint covers the fireplace mantel, the west-doorway surround, the summer beam, the window woodwork at the south wall, the sashes and adjacent trim only of the east window, the 4 1/2-inch baseboard on the south wall, the 4 1/2-inch baseboard north of the east-wall window, the north-wall baseboard, and the radiators. White paint is used on the 7 1/2-inch baseboard on the south wall, the plaster walls, and the plaster ceiling. Mustard-brown paint finishes the floorboards, except for a rectangular center area that is painted brown.

Varnish is used extensively in the room. It is even applied to the brickwork of the fireplace and chimney, and on top of the red paint to give it a glossy finish. Selected woodwork in the room was stripped of its historic paint layers, and then finished with varnish. Elements so treated include the chimney girt, the shadow-molded paneling south of the fireplace, the doors of the two closets and the surrounding paneling, the east window, and the baseboard on the east wall at the south end of the room.

The interior of the east closet is finished as follows: blue paint on the back plaster wall and the wood sides; red paint on the boxed girt, the interior sides of the doors, the shelf tops and the closet floor; and mustard-yellow paint on the interior front of the cabinet and the undersides of the shelves. Two layers of wallpaper remnants are also attached to the plaster walls, between the shelves.

The interior of the north closet has the following finishes: red paint on the plaster wall and the top sides of the shelves tops; mustard-yellow paint on the bottom sides of the shelves; and white paint on the interior side of the closet door.

Historic Finishes

The paint history of the room was determined by extracting 34 samples of paint (P140-P172 and P219) and analyzing them under the microscope. For a detailed description of the paint analysis, see Appendix E.

Remnants of the room's earliest painted finish—a red lime wash—were found on the shadow-molded paneling on the west wall, on the fragment of shadow-molded paneling beneath the plaster in the east closet, and on the chimney girt.[31] Early light-color (white?) paint also exists on the ceiling framing in the southeast corner of the east closet, although no samples were taken due to the inaccessible location. Additional lime-based paint layers are found on the chimney girt in the colors of brown-yellow, mustard-yellow, and gray.

Woodwork installed as part of the circa-1810 improvements to the room was first painted with a nonlead red paint. Early red paint was found on the reused door to Room 104, the doors of the closets, the interior shelves and back wall of the north closet, and the cased summer beam.

The next painting of the room, circa 1820, used a cream-color, lead-based paint. This coincided with the installation of new woodwork, including the baseboards with top molding; the surround and door at the west doorway; and the window surrounds and sashes at the south and east walls.

The room's woodwork continued to be painted with white and cream-color paints, some containing lead, for approximately the next 12 paintings. The Ingrahams appear to have continued the tradition in 1951 by using a white-color paint. The next two paintings, however, used red paint on the woodwork.

Less is known about how the plaster walls and ceiling were treated beginning around 1810. The earliest plaster-wall finish, which was found on the south wall between the windows, is a fragment of wallpaper. This wallpaper has been dated sometime after circa 1855, based on the presence of wood pulp in the paper. Subsequent finishes on top of the wallpaper are a light-green paint, a light-yellow/cream paint, a varnish, remnants of another wallpaper (paste), and a cream-yellow paint. Beginning circa 1925, the plaster wall was painted aqua, then cream, then light yellow, and finally white.

Only three layers of nonlead paint are on the existing plaster ceiling, which has been dated circa 1925. The earliest paint is a cream color, the second is a light yellow, and the most recent is white.

Electrical Equipment

Light Fixtures

There are no electrical fixtures in Room 108 today. However, electrical cover plates on three of the walls are the probable locations of missing light fixtures. These cover plates are on the south wall, between the windows; on the east wall, north of the window; and on the north wall, east of the doorway to Room 104.

[31] This red (or pink) lime wash was also found at the nearby Hartwell Tavern.

Electrical Outlets

The room is equipped with six duplex receptacles. They are distributed as follows:

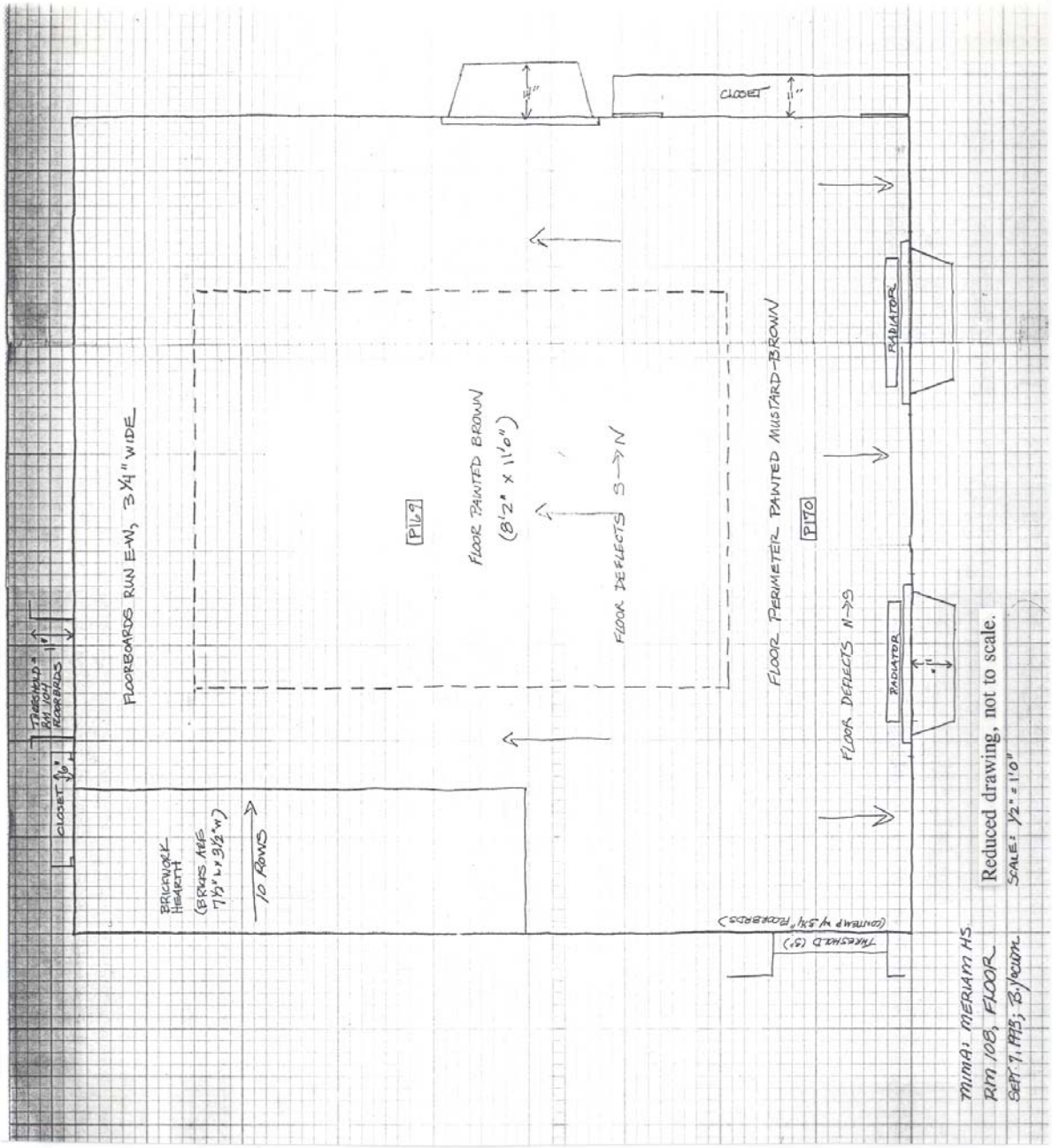
- south wall: two, one on either side of the east window, in the plaster wall;
- east wall: one in the baseboard north of the window;
- north wall: one in the baseboard east of the Room-104 doorway, and one beneath the north closet doorway; and
- west wall: one in the lower shadow-molded paneling.

Heating Equipment

Two hot-water radiators are in front of the windows at the south wall. Each radiator is four columns wide and 22 sections long. No writing could be found on the radiators to identify the manufacturer. The radiators were presumably part of the heating system installed by the Ingrahams in 1951. A Honeywell thermostat is mounted on the north wall, east of the doorway to Room 104. This thermostat regulates the heat for the entire house.

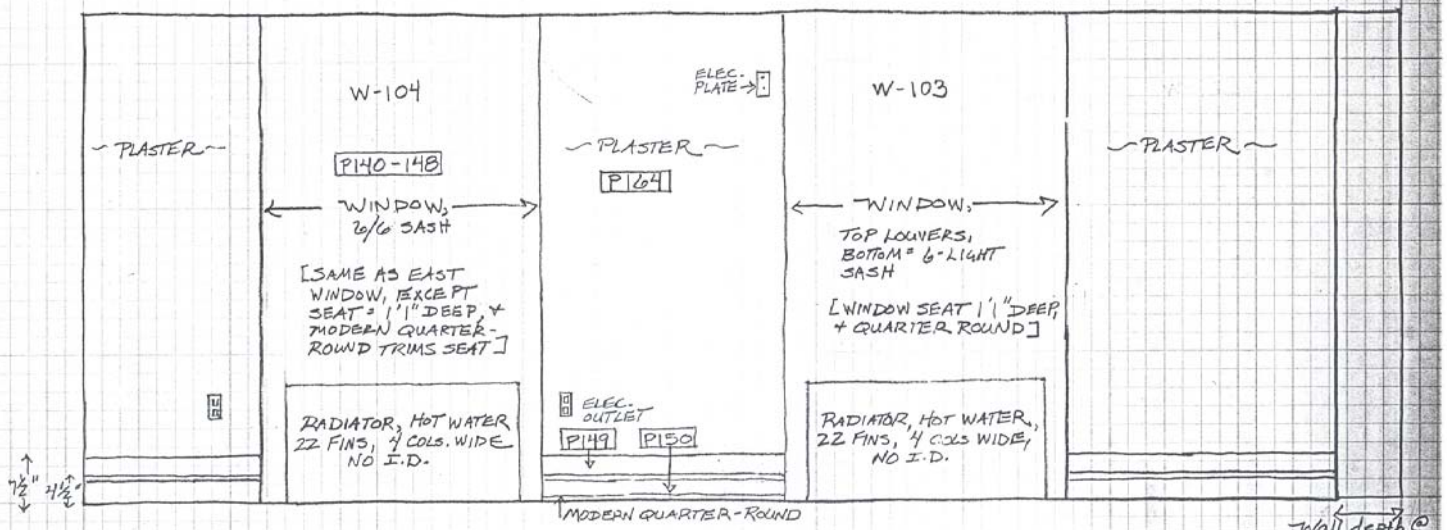
Fire- and Intrusion-Protection Equipment

There is no fire-protection equipment in Room 108. An infrared intrusion detector is mounted in the northwest corner of the room.


CLOSET
CLOSET
THRESHOLD = RM 104 FLOORBOARDS
FLOORBOARDS RUN E-W, 3 1/4" WIDE
BRICKWORK HEARTH
(BRICKS ARE 7 1/2" L x 3 1/2" W)
10 ROWS
P167
FLOOR PAINTED BROWN
(8'2" x 11'0")
FLOOR DEFECTS S → N
FLOOR PERIMETER PAINTED MUSTARD-BROWN
P170
FLOOR DEFECTS N → S
RADIATOR
RADIATOR
THRESHOLD (9")
(CONTRAST W/ 3 1/4" FLOORBOARDS)
MIMA: MERIAM HS
RM 108, FLOOR
SEPT 7, 1995; B. Yocum
Reduced drawing, not to scale.
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'0"

FINISHES: WALLS + 7½" BSBRD PTD. WHITE; WINDOW WOODWORK, 4½" BSBRD + RADIATORS PTD. RED

PLASTER: LOOKS OLD (BUMPS + IRREGULARITIES), BUT GOOD CONDITION; PTD. WHITE (ORIGINAL PLASTER?)



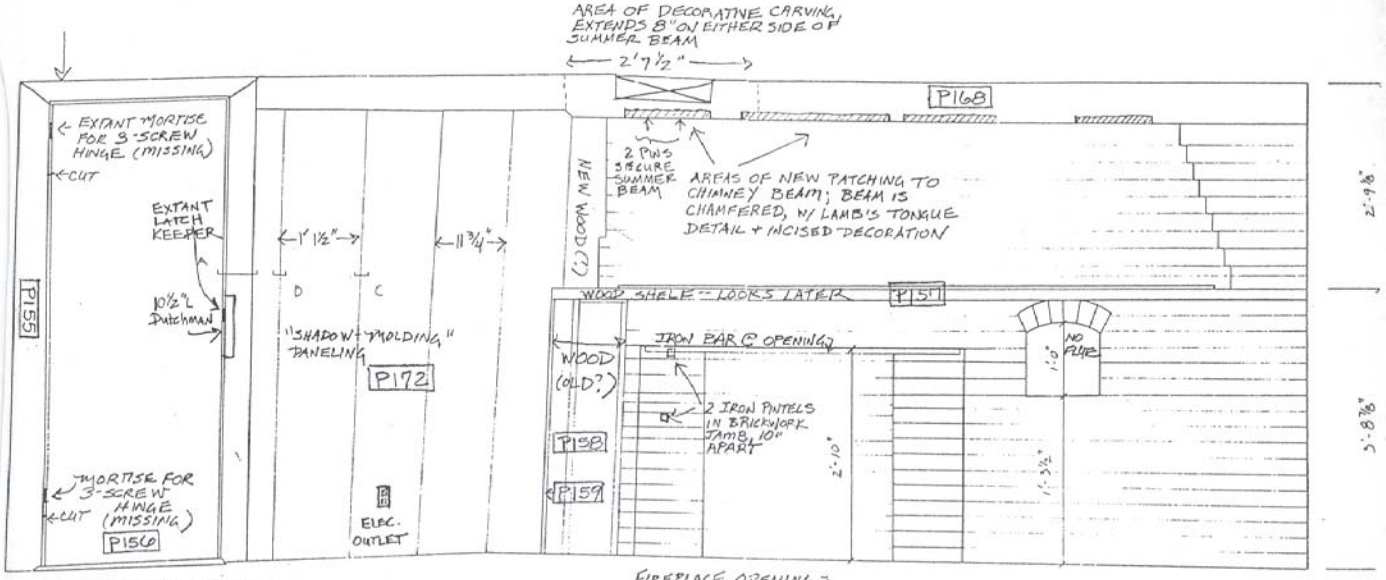
BASEBRD = 4½" H; BEHIND BSBRD IS FLAT BOARD (PTD. WH), 7½" H, FLUSH W/ PLASTER WALL

WINDOWS: SIMILAR TO EAST WALL, EXCEPT WINDOW SEAT IS SHALLOWER + PAINT + ARCHITRAVE MOLDING IS INTACT. ALSO, SASH ARE SET HIGHER IN THE WALL (NO BEAM TO OBSTRUCT); CONSEQUENTLY, APRON IS 3" HIGHER (11½" VS. 8½") + ARHITRAVE HEADER TOUCHES CEILING. (PLASTER COVERS A PORTION OF THE EDGE MOLDING).

MIMA: MERIAM HS.
RM 108, SOUTH WALL
SEPT. 2, 1993; B. Yocum
SCALE: ½" = 1'0"

DOORWAY: OLD ARCHITRAVE W/ COMPLEX MOLDINGS; DUTCHMANS ARE EVIDENCE OF DOOR ALTERATIONS.

BRICKWORK: LOOKS OLD, BUT CHIMNEY BREAST + FACING + OVEN REPOINTED W/ GRAY PORTLAND MORTAR; FIRECOX INT. LOOKS LIKE OLD MORTAR; BRICK SIZE AVERAGE = 7½"L x 2"H; REUSED (CHARRED) BRICKS MIXED IN; VERTICAL STRIATIONS VISIBLE ON THE SIDES OF MANY; BREAST + FACING HAVE A SHINY, CLEAR FINISH



DOORWAY OPENING:
2'4½"W x 6'4"H x 11"DEEP
FORMER DOOR: ≈ 2'5"W x 6'2"H

FIREPLACE OPENING:
4'4½"W x 2'10"H x 1'6½"DEEP

FINISHES:
VARNISH -- PANELING + CHIMNEY BEAM (SOME PAINT REMNANTS VISIBLE); DOOR JAMB.
RED PAINT -- FIREPLACE SHELF + SIDE WOOD PANEL; DOORWAY ARCHITRAVE
CLEAR, SHINY -- BRICKWORK OF CHIMNEY BREAST + FACE

MIMA: MERIAM HS
ROOM 108, WEST WALL
SEPT. 2, 1993; B. Yocum

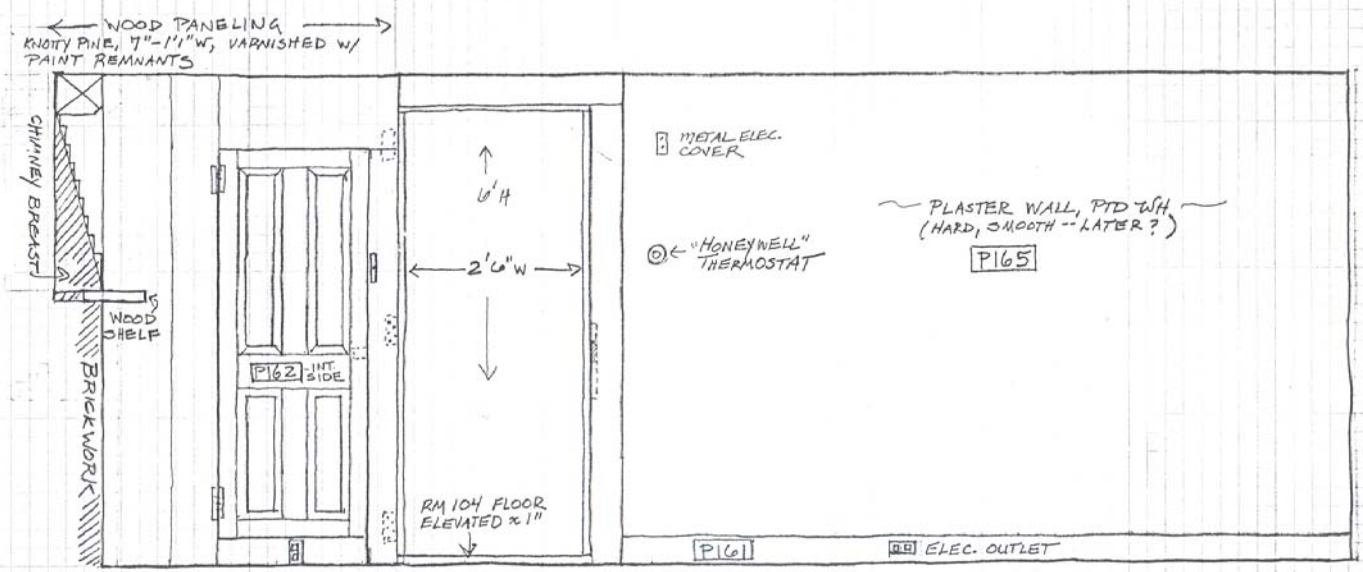
SCALE:
½" = 1'0"

McIVIN

CLOSET DOOR: MORTISED; RAISED PANELS EXT, PLAIN RECESSED INT; OLD H-HINGES; INT. MORTISE FOR MISSING HARDWARE, W/ CORRESPONDING MORTISE JAMB SIDE; VARNISHED, W/ PAINT REMNANTS; LATER WOOD SWIVEL LATCH; DOOR MEASURES 2'1 3/8"W x 5'5/8"H x 13/16" THK

DOORWAY TO RM 104: NO DOOR TODAY; HOLES ON W SIDE OF 3 HINGES FORMERLY (15 SCREWS EA.); ON E SIDE, 12" L DUTCHMAN W/ HOLES @ MOST RECENT LATCH. PATCHED HOLES W SIDE OF POSSIBLY x2 EARLIER HINGES (H TYPE?)

FORMER DOOR MEASURED ≈ 2'7½" W. x 6'1" (→)



BASEBRD: PLAIN, 4½" H, HELD W/ WIRE NAILS

CLOSET INTERIOR: 5 WOOD SHELVES; FLOOR IS RAISED ≈ 4½" ABOVE ROOM FLOOR; BACK WALL IS PLASTER; SIDES + FRONT ARE WOOD. INT. FINISHES: FL + SHELF TOPS ARE PTD RED; SHELF UNDERSIDES ARE MUST. YELLOW; DOOR INT = WHITE. [6" DEEP]
P163 + P166

MIMA: MERIAM HS.

RM 108, NORTH WALL

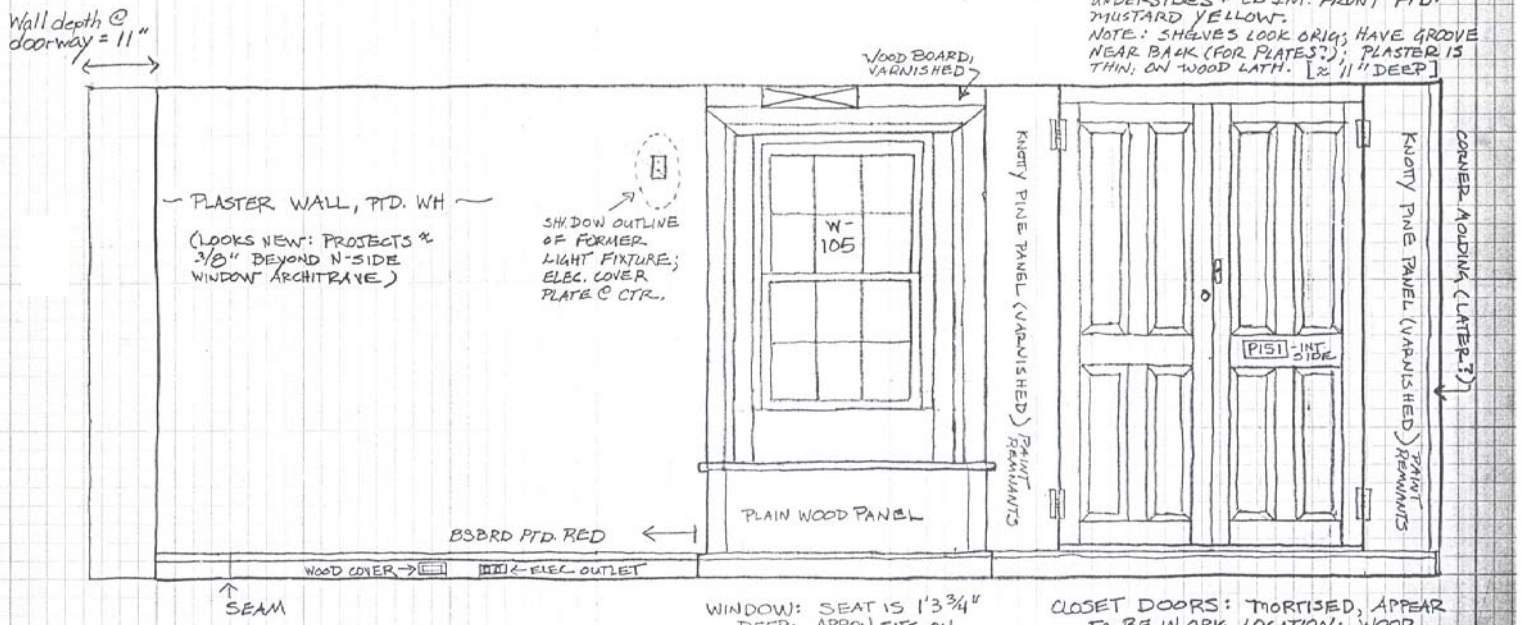
SEPT. 2, 1993; B. YOCUM

SCALE: ½" = 1'0"

PANELING: EARLY TYPE SURVIVES IN CL. N. SIDE, UNDER PL. 3½"H ABOVE CL FLOOR, W/ REMNANTS OF RED PAINT. NAIL HOLES THRU PL, ≈ 4'-4½" ABOVE CL FLOOR. MAY HAVE BEEN FOR A 2ND BSBRD/ TRIM BRD. THE EARLY PANELING FRAGMENT HAS SHADOW MOLDING.

CLOSET INTERIOR: BACK WALL IS PLASTER; SIDE + FRONT WALLS ARE WOOD; 5 PINE SHELVES; GIRT IS BOXED (LOOKS NEW); FLOOR 1.5 x 6" ABOVE ROOM FLOOR; OPEN CEILING @ SE CORNER REVEALS PAINT (WH?) ON UNDESIDE OF FLOORBRDS, ON E GIRT, BUT NOT ON S. GIRT -- CLOSET IS THEREFORE NOT ORIG. EXTANT FINISHES: BACK PL WALL + WOOD SIDES PTD BLUE; BOXED GIRT, INT DOORS, SHELF TOPS + FLOOR PTD. RED; SHELF UNDERSIDES + CL INT. FRONT PTD. MUSTARD YELLOW. NOTE: SHELVES LOOK ORIG; HAVE GROOVE NEAR BACK (FOR PLATES?); PLASTER IS THIN; ON WOOD LATH. [≈ 11" DEEP]

P152-154 + P171

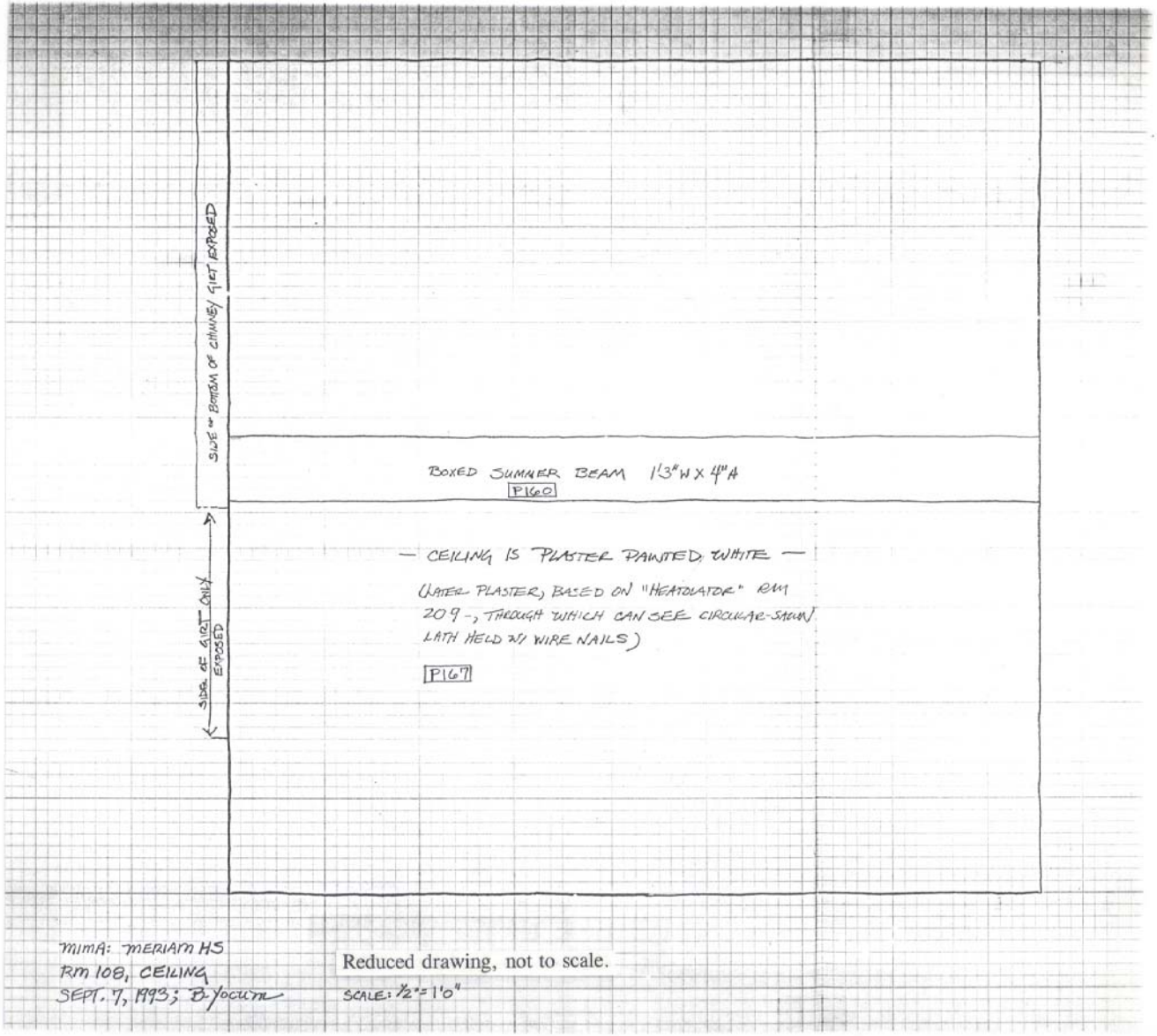


BSBRD: 4½"H, WITH TOP MOLDING (CONTINUOUS @ WINDOW BASE); VARNISHED, S. HALF OF ROOM ONLY

WINDOW: SEAT IS 1'3¾" DEEP; APRON SITS ON TOP OF WINDOW SEAT (DOES NOT CONTINUE BEHIND); ALL WOODWORK IS VARNISHED (PAINT REMNANTS) EXCEPT SASH, ADJACENT TRIM + APRON THAT ARE PTD. RED. ARCHITRAVE TRIM MOLDING (@ OUTER PERIMETER) MISSING... NAIL HOLES SUGGEST IT WAS REMOVED WHEN PAINT STRIPPED.

CLOSET DOORS: MORTISED, APPEAR TO BE IN ORIG. LOCATION; WOOD SWIVEL LATCH, SMALL BRASS KNOB, OLD H-HINGES, MODERN EYE HOOK INT. S. DOOR ONLY; RAISED PANELS EXT, PLAIN RECESSED 1" INT; MADE OF PINE; EXT. IS VARNISHED (SOME PAINT REMNANTS); INT PAINTED RED. EACH MEASURES 2'1"W x 5'10"H x 7/8"THK

MIMA: MERIAM HS.
RM 10B, EAST WALL
SEPT. 2, 1993; B. YOCUM
SCALE: ½" = 1'0"


SIDE w/ BOTTOM OF CHANNEL/ GIRT EXPOSED
BOXED SUMMER BEAM 1'3"W X 4"A
P160
— CEILING IS PLASTER PAINTED WHITE —
(WATER PLASTER, BASED ON "HEATOLATOR" RM 209 -, THROUGH WHICH CAN SEE CIRCULAR-SAWN LATH HELD W/ WIRE NAILS)
P167
SIDE OF GIRT ONLY EXPOSED
MIMA: MERIAM HS
RM 108, CEILING
SEPT. 7, 1993; B. Yocum
Reduced drawing, not to scale.
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'0"

INTERIOR ELEMENTS:

SECOND STORY

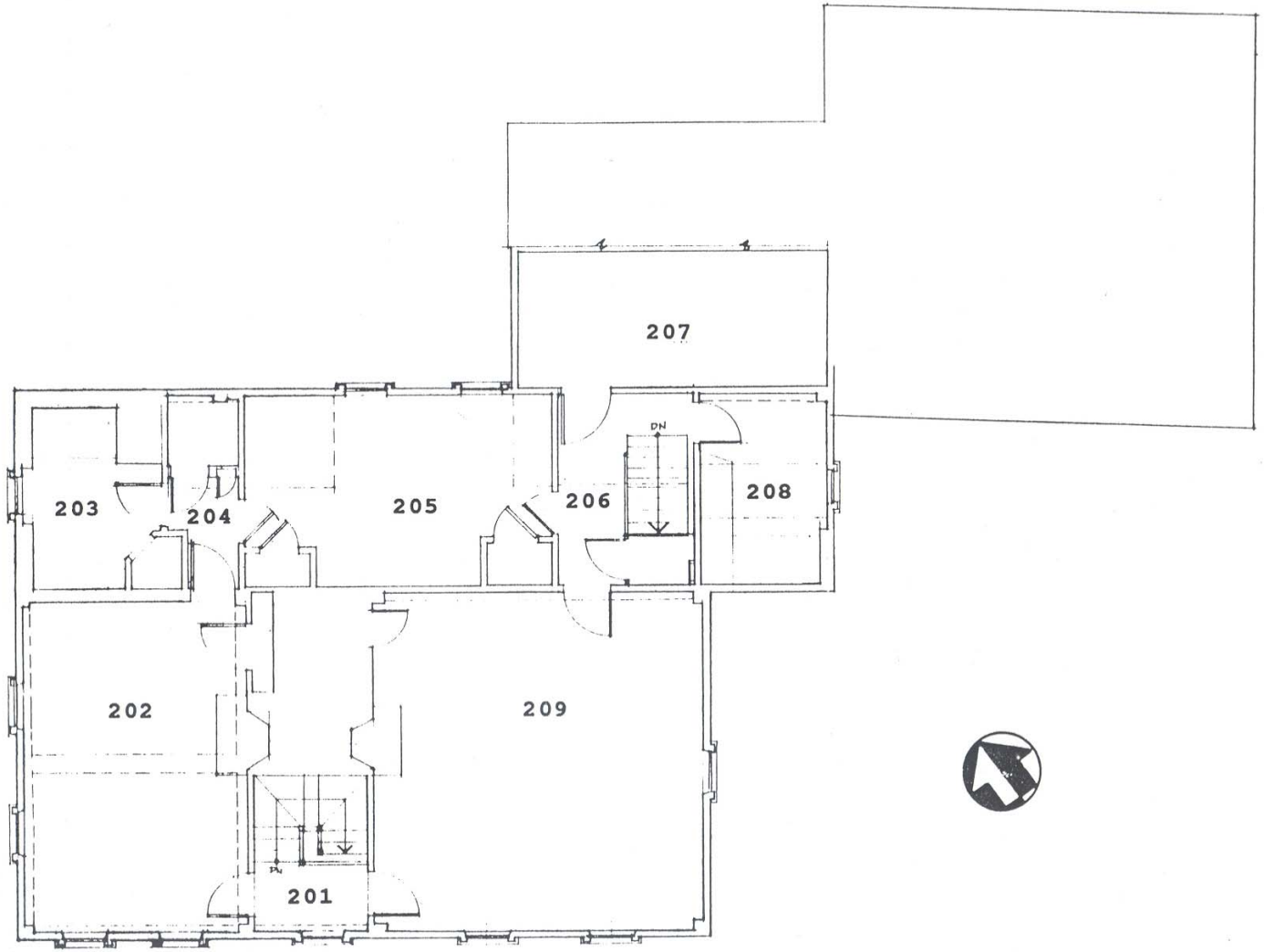


Figure 35. Meriam House, second-floor plan, 1993.

Room 201

General Information

Room 201 is the upper stair hall in the original (circa-1705) portion of the house. This is a small room that measures only 6 feet 3 inches wide by 8 feet 9 inches deep (from the south wall to the chimney). The main stairway between the first and second stories occupies the entire north half of the room; the south half is a hall connecting Rooms 202 and 209.

While the use of this room as a passageway has remained unaltered over the years, its appearance has changed. When originally constructed circa 1705, there was a different staircase to the first story. There was also a stairway to the attic along the east and north walls, based on framing evidence for the stairwell in the attic floor.

These stairways were both replaced circa 1743, when the abutting chimney stack is thought to have been rebuilt. The brickwork of the chimney, which formed the north wall of the room, was left exposed at that time, and the other walls were probably covered with pine paneling. Whitewash paint finished the walls.

The room was completely remodeled circa 1820. A new staircase was constructed at that time, which exists today, and the attic stairway was moved to a new location. The walls and ceiling were plastered, and new woodwork was installed at the doorways and south window.

The stair hall today retains much of its circa-1820 appearance. A few changes, however, were made in the 20th century. In 1925, new six-over-six sashes replaced the circa-1820 sashes in the south window. Restoration work in the 1950's included removing the plaster from the north brick chimney wall, and stripping the paint from the hall floorboards and staircase. Replacement hardware on the east door may also date to the 1950's, as may the electric star-design light suspended from the ceiling.

Floor

The hall floor is composed of eight wide pine boards laid in a north-south direction, which are bordered by a long east-west board at the stairwell opening. The floorboards vary in width from 9 1/2 inches to 10 1/2 inches; while the edge board is only about 5 inches wide. A modern quarter-round toe molding runs along the floor at the south wall.

The boards have had their painted finish removed by sanding, which probably occurred in the 1950's. Only remnants of the paint survive, at the edges and cracks in the boards.

It is not known if the floorboards are original material dating to circa 1705, or if they were installed at a later date. Machine-cut nails attaching the boards suggest a later date, although these may have been added to secure the boards. If later, the boards may date to circa 1820, when the stair hall was extensively renovated.

Walls

The walls of the stair hall consist of exposed brickwork and plaster. This is a situation that never existed historically, since the brickwork and the walls were plastered at the same time, circa 1820. Cased framing and baseboards are also elements of the walls.

Brickwork

The north wall of the stairway is the exposed brickwork of the chimney, which is believed to have been rebuilt circa 1743. Two wooden blocks embedded in the brickwork on the west side are nailers for the fireplace mantel in the west chamber (Room 202). The upper northwest corner of the wall has been rebuilt using gray portland-cement mortar; this probably occurred in the 1950's.

The outline of steps for an earlier staircase is visible on this brickwork on the west side, just below the level of the second floor. Whitewash outlining the early steps is evidence that the brick wall was originally exposed, as it is today.

It is also evident, however, that the brickwork was finished with a thin layer of plaster when the existing stairway was installed circa 1820. Remnants of this plaster may be seen at the northeast and northwest corners, and as a line on the north-wall baseboard at the stairway. The plaster was probably removed by the Ingrahams in the 1950's.

Plaster

The east, south, and west walls of the stairway and stair hall are plastered on wood lath. This plaster has been dated to circa 1820, based on its association with the existing staircase and woodwork (which were dated by the paint analysis). The north brick wall was also plastered at this time, as explained in the previous section.

Baseboards

A baseboard finishes the south wall of the stair hall. It is 7 1/2 inches high, and has a simple bead detail. The baseboard has been dated circa 1820, based on the paint analysis. The baseboard along the stairway is described in the section on Room 101.

Cased Framing

A cased girt with bead detail runs along the top of the south wall. The casing existed circa 1820, and may have been installed as early as circa 1810, based on the results of the paint analysis.

Ceiling

The ceiling, the back side of which may be seen in the attic, is plaster on wood lath. Like the walls, its plaster has been dated to circa 1820. Its height, as measured at the north wall, is 6 feet 5 inches tall. The ceiling framing contains evidence for an early attic stairway, but this is now covered with plaster. (See the section “Stairway.”)

One furring board for the lath was observed to be a length of reused baseboard, 7 inches high, with a top bead detail. (It is attached to the side of a joist near the chimney.) A small sample of wood was extracted from the board for microscopic analysis, but no paint finishes were found.

Doorways

There are two doorways in the stair hall: one in the east wall, and the other in the west wall.

East Doorway to Room 209

The doorway at the south end of the east wall connects with the original east chamber (Room 209). This is believed to be an original doorway opening, dating to circa 1705. However, the woodwork associated with the doorway today was installed circa 1820, based on the paint analysis.

The doorway trim consists of a plain top board and side boards with outer molded edges. The profile of the molded edges, which is the same as that of the west doorway's trim, is unique to this room. The threshold measures 6 inches wide. Its date has not been determined, although “circa 1820” would be logical.

The door is of mortised construction. It has also been dated to circa 1820 by the paint analysis. The door has four panels that are raised and unmolded on the Room-201 side, and recessed and molded on the Room-209 side. Its dimensions are 6 feet 1 3/4 inches high by 2 feet 6 inches wide by 1 inch thick.

The door is hung by two hinges on the south jamb to swing open into Room 209. The hinges are the butt type with three knuckles; each leaf is attached with three screws. A Suffolk latch, which is a modern reproduction, is on the north stile of the door. It was probably installed by the Ingrahams in the 1950's. The original latch would have been a Norfolk type with scalloped backplate, as exists at the west door.

West Doorway to Room 202

The doorway at the south end of the west wall leads to the west chamber (Room 202). The opening probably dates to circa 1725, when the west chamber was built on top of the original west wing. It is unlikely that the opening was converted from an original (circa-1705) window here: the gable roof over the west wing would not have left much room for such a window. The woodwork of the doorway today appears to have been installed circa 1820.

The west doorway is a mirror image of the previously described east doorway, and is identical to it in most details. The few differences include the width of the threshold, the dimensions of the door, and the latch hardware.

The threshold is slightly wider than that of the east door, measuring 6 1/2 inches wide. The door is slightly taller and narrower than the east door, measuring 6 feet 2 2/8 inches high by 2 feet 5 3/4 inches wide by 1 inch thick. Finally, it retains its original Norfolk latch with scalloped backplate on the north stile.

Window

One window (W-203) in the south wall provides natural lighting to the stair hall and stairway. The opening may be original; the existing woodwork dates to circa 1820, except for the six-over-six sashes that replaced similar sashes circa 1925.

Common practice suggests that a window opening existed here originally (circa 1705); however, no information is available on its size or configuration. The existing window dates to circa 1820, when all new woodwork was installed. This includes an surround with mitered corners and a molded outer edge. The profile of the molding differs from the molding profile of the doorway surrounds in this room. However, it is similar to moldings used in Rooms 108, 202, and 209. More importantly, the paint analysis indicates that the window and doorway surrounds in the stair hall were installed at the same time—circa 1820.

Three pairs of horizontal wood moldings are attached to the jambs of the window, at the level of the meeting rail and the two horizontal muntins. These may be supports for three shelves that are missing today. The shelves were probably a 20th-century addition to the window.

Stairway

Existing Balustrade

The circa-1820 stairway to the first story occupies the north half of Room 201. The staircase itself is described in the section on Room 101. The only stairway element at the second-story level (i.e., in Room 201), is the balustrade along the edge of the stairwell. The balustrade consists of a newel, a hand rail, and nine balusters. The hand rail is attached to the newel on the west side and the doorway surround on the east side. The balusters are a simple design, being round and untapered like the stairway balusters.

Missing Attic Stairways

Room 201 probably contained two earlier stairways to the attic. One existed from circa 1705 to circa 1743; it was replaced by a similar one circa 1743, when the abutting chimney was rebuilt. The second stairway was removed entirely circa 1820, when the stair hall was remodeled and plastered.

Documentary evidence for a complete cellar-to-attic stairway configuration is suggested in a probate document dated 1806, which granted to widow Mary Meriam the privilege "of going up Chamber and Garrot [i.e., attic] and down cellar as occasion may serve...."[32] Physical evidence for a previous attic stairway can be seen in the floor framing of the attic. Here, notched slanted mortises on either side of the east-west joists in front of the chimney were the probable location of the upper stairway stringers. The placement of the mortises suggests that the stairway ascended northward along the east wall of the hall, then turned left to continue westward along the north chimney wall.

[32] Middlesex County Probate Document #15056.

Painted Finishes

Existing Finishes

Room 201 is finished today with nonlead red and white paints and varnish. These finishes date to the Ingraham occupancy (1951-1991). Remnants of whitewash predating circa 1820 can also be seen on the north brick wall; these remnants were protected by being plastered over circa 1820, and were re-exposed when the plaster was removed circa 1950's.

Red paint covers most of the woodwork, including the baseboard, doorway and window trim, doors, window sashes, and the cased girt. White paint is on the plaster walls and ceiling. Early whitewash also survives on the north-wall brickwork, as mentioned previously. Varnish is the finish on the stairway railing and the wide pine floorboards, both of which were stripped of their paint layers in the 1950's. Varnish was also applied to the red-painted woodwork to give it a glossy appearance.

Historic Finishes

The paint history of the room was determined by extracting 10 samples of paint (P173-P182) and examining them under the microscope. See Appendix E for a detailed description of the paint analysis.

The paint analysis determined that most of the woodwork in the stair hall dates to circa 1820, when a lead-based, cream-color paint was used. The cased girt at the south wall has a lead-based paint of a mustard-yellow color as its first finish, suggesting that it alone may predate the other woodwork in the room. The girt casing therefore has been roughly dated to circa 1810.

Subsequent paintings of the woodwork in Room 201 used mostly white and cream-color lead-based paints, similar to the treatment of the lower stair hall. This included the balustrade, which is stripped of its paint today. The Ingrahams continued this paint scheme circa 1951, but later painted the woodwork red.

The floorboards were also painted at one time, based on paint remnants that survive at the edges and cracks of the boards. The paint analysis identified two paint layers and two varnish layers as follows: orange paint, varnish, mustard-yellow paint, and varnish. The orange paint is thought to have been applied circa 1925, although this is difficult to determine conclusively.

Electrical Equipment

Light Fixture

A ceiling-suspended light fixture hangs by a chain in the upper stair hall. It is a star design, with a metal frame and clear-plastic glazing. The light is operated by a push-button switch at the east wall, north of the doorway to Room 209. The style of this fixture is one that was popular in the 1920's. Whether or not it was installed around that time (circa 1925), or by the Ingrahams in the 1950's, is not known.

A temporary light fixture is also clamp-mounted to the newel. This fixture, which is automatically operated by a timer, lights the hall at night. It is powered by the electrical outlet on the north wall. The fixture and timer were both installed by the National Park Service.

Electrical Outlet

The upper stair hall has one duplex receptacle. This is in the north plaster wall, near the lower west corner of the window.

Heating Equipment

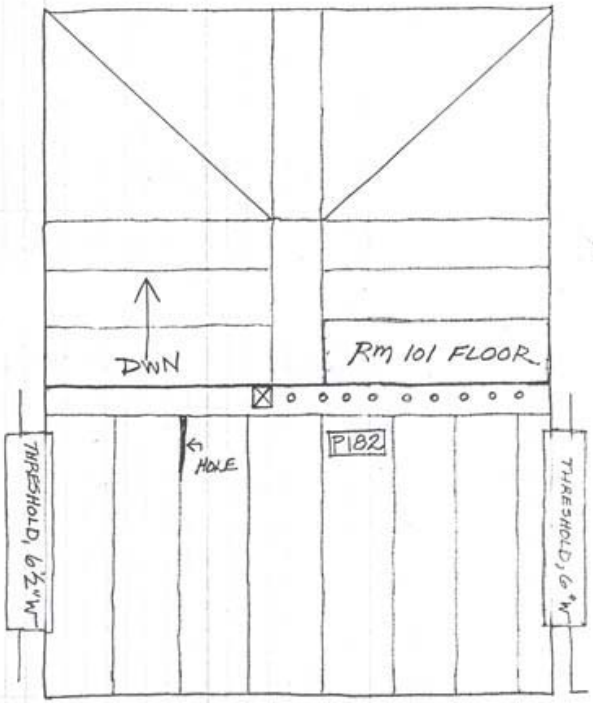
There is no heating equipment in the upper stair hall.

Fire- and Intrusion-Protection Equipment

A battery-operated smoke detector is mounted on the east plaster wall, north of the doorway to Room 209. It was installed by the National Park Service.

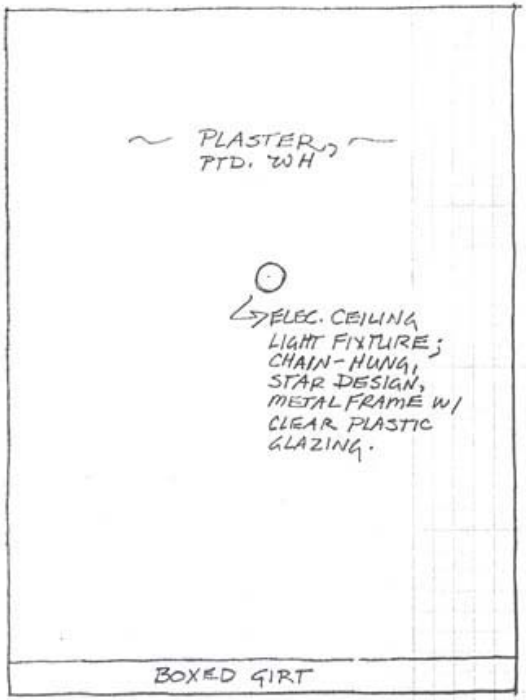
The previously described light fixture at the newel creates the illusion that the house is occupied at night, for the purposes of intrusion protection.

FLOORBOARDS: HAVE BEEN SANDED; ORIGINAL? SOME REMNANTS OF YELLOW PAINT; NAILS APPEAR TO BE CUT; WIDE GAPS BETW. BOARDS; WIDTH = 9½ - 10½"; EXTANT FINISH = WORN VARNISH



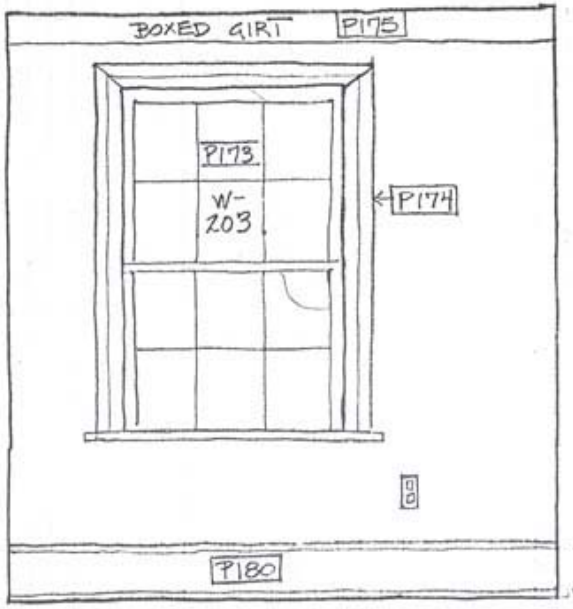
FLOOR

PLASTER: ON WOOD LATH; IN ATTIC CAN SEE REUSED BASEBOARD THAT WAS USED AS A NAILER FOR THE PLASTER CEILING (AFTER THE ATTIC STAIRWAY WAS REMOVED)



CEILING

MIMA: MERIAM HS.
RM 201
SEPT. 7, 1993; B. Yocum
SCALE: ½" = 1'0"



WINDOW: 6/6 SASH; ARCHITRAVE MOLDING IS SAME PROFILE AS IN ADJACENT FRONT BEDROOMS (+ FRONT ROOMS DOWNSTAIRS)

WALL: PLASTER, LOOKS OLD

FINISHES: WALL PLASTER PTD. WHITE; ALL WOODWORK PTD. RED.

BASEBRD, 7½"H, W/ TOP BEAD + MODERN QUARTER-POUND TOE MOLDING

NOTE: x3 WOOD MOLDINGS @ JAMBS @ HORIZ. MUNTINS + MEETING RAILS; POSSIBLY SHELF SUPPORTS, AS FOR PLANTS!

MIMA: MERIAM HS
RM 201, SOUTH WALL
SEPT. 7, 1993; B. Yocum

SCALE: ½" = 1'0"

DOOR: MORTISED, WITH NORFOLK LATCH ("NAVY" BACKPLATE) + X 2 HINGES (3-KNUCKLE, 3 SCREWS/LEAF); PANELS ARE RAISED RM 201 SIDE, RECESSED-MOLDED RM 202 SIDE; DOOR MEASURES: 2' 5 3/4" W
6' 2 1/8" H
1" THK

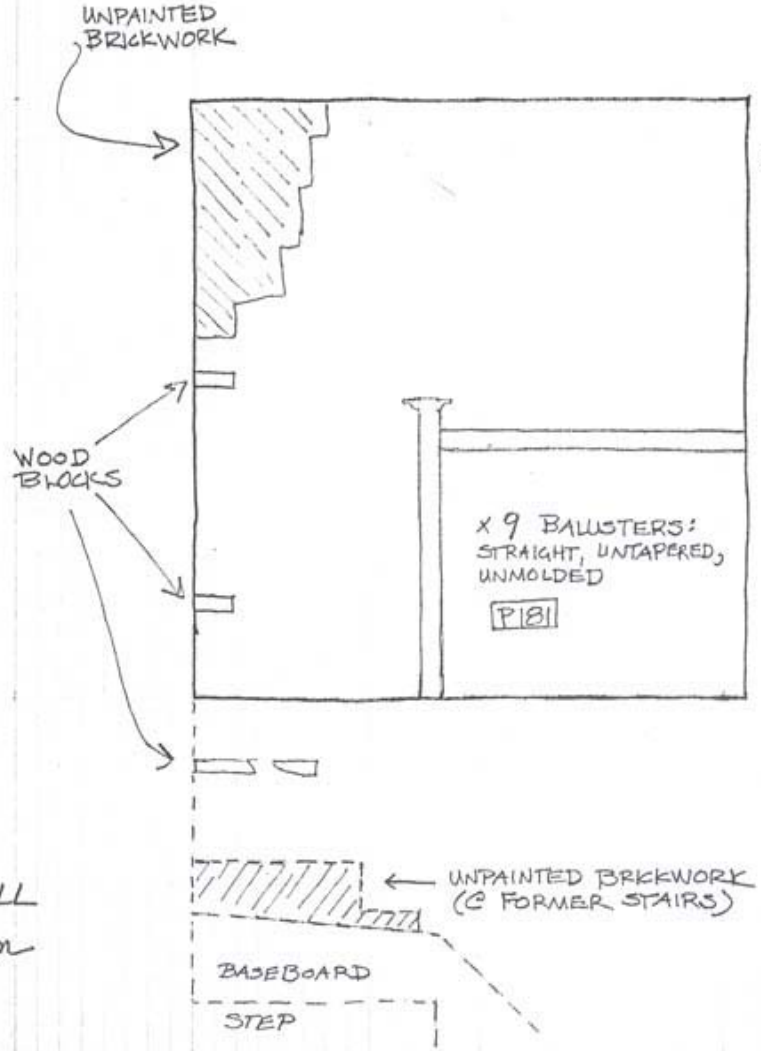
APPEARS TO BE IN ORIG. LOCATION.

ARCHITRAVE MOLDING SAME AS EAST DOORWAY; DIFFERS FROM WINDOW MOLDING

FINISHES:
PLASTER PTD WHITE;
WOODWORK PTD RED

MIMA: MERIAM HS
RM 201, WEST WALL
SEPT. 7, 1993; B. YOCUM

SCALE: 1/2" = 1'0"



NORTH WALL: EXPOSED BRICKWORK WALL, MOSTLY PAINTED WHITE (FORMERLY PLASTERED)

WOOD RAILING: VARNISHED, BUT THERE ARE REMNANTS OF PAINT (ESP. UPPER BALUSTERS)

WOOD BLOCKS: UPPER 2 MAY BE NAILERS FOR RM 202 MANTEL, + LOWER 1 A NAILER FOR RM 102 MANTEL. NO NAIL HOLES RM 101/201 SIDE

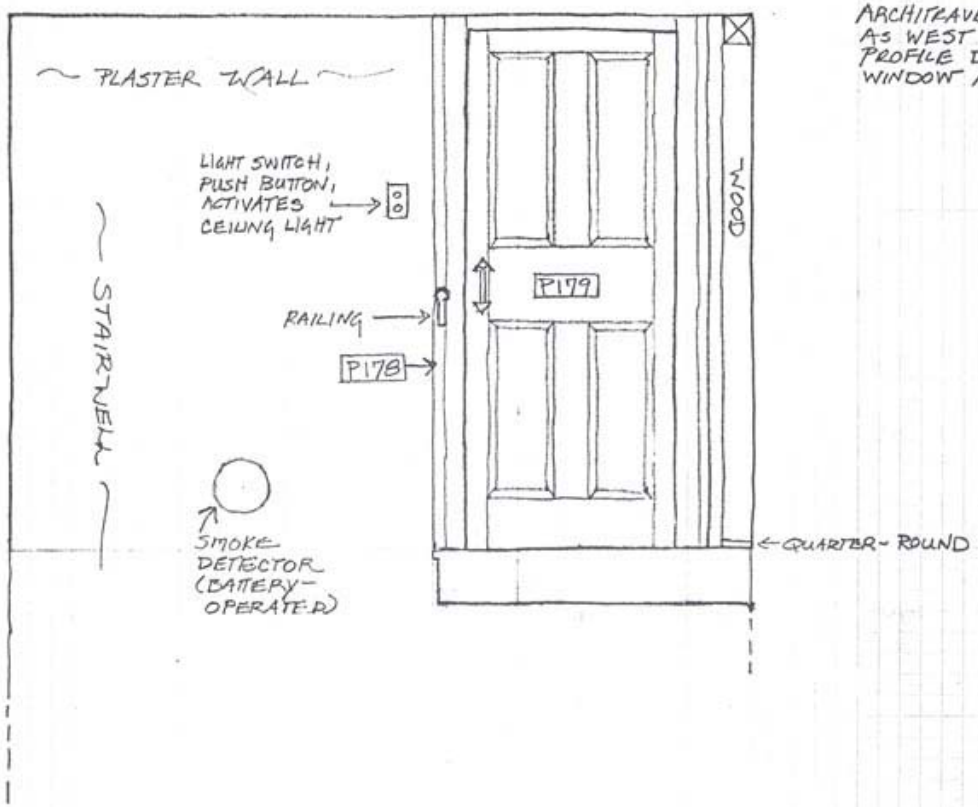
MIMA: MERIAM HS
RM 201, NORTH WALL
SEPT 7, 1993; B. Yocum
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'0"

FINISHES:
PLASTER PTD WHITE;
WOODWORK PTD RED,
EXCEPT RAILING THAT
IS VARNISHED

DOOR: MORTISED, WITH SUFFOLK LATCH & x
2 3-KNUCKLE HINGES (w/ 3 SCREWS
PER LEAF); RAISED PANELS
RM 201 SIDE + RECESSED-MOLDED
PANELS RM 209 SIDE;
DOOR MEASURES:
2'6" W x
6'1 3/4" H x
1" THK

NOTE: EXISTING SUFFOLK
LATCH IS MODERN

ARCHITRAVE MOLDING SAME
AS WEST DOORWAY (NOTE:
PROFILE DIFFERS FROM
WINDOW ARCHITRAVE)



MIMA: MERIAM HS
RM 201, EAST WALL
SEPT. 7, 1993; B. Yocum
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'0"

Room 202

General Information

Room 202 is the large second-story chamber on the west side of the house. It was built circa 1725 atop the original west wing. The room most certainly existed by 1782, when Nathan Meriam noted in his will that his widow be allowed "the use and improvement of the westerly end of the upright part of my house...."[33] It is a large room that measures 12 feet 5 inches wide (east-west) by 18 feet 4 inches deep (north-south).

The physical evidence clearly indicates that this room did not exist when the house was built circa 1705. First, the corner posts on this side of the house do not extend a full two stories, but are composed of two one-story segments. Second, the chimney girt along the east wall has empty mortises for wall studs; these, which can be seen in the attic, remain from the gable-end wall that existed here originally. Finally, the framing of this room differs from the framing on the original east side of the house, by having the summer beams in the first and second stories aligned one over the other. This may have been a small garret, beneath the roof of the west wing, circa 1705. The floor of this room formed the ceiling of the first-story room in the wing (Room 102).

A construction date of circa 1725 for the second-story addition is based on the fact that Joseph Meriam's tax assessment increased from 22 pounds in 1724 to 36 pounds in 1728. Furthermore, his family had grown by 1725 to include five children.

The probable use of this room over the years was as a bedroom. Alice Burke Hargrove remembers that this was "Aunt Annie's bedroom" when her grandparents lived in the house (1871-1921). Annie W. Burke was born in 1871, never married, and appears to have lived with her parents most of her life.[34]

The appearance of the room, however, has been altered over time. As originally constructed circa 1725, the ceiling framing was exposed and painted. No information is available on how the walls were treated, although it is likely that they were paneled similar to the rooms in the first story. A fireplace and flue may have been added to the west side of the existing chimney as part of the work.

It is not known exactly when the exposed post-and-beam framing in the room was cased with woodwork and the room was plastered. An early blue paint on some of the casing and on the north baseboard appears to predate the alterations of circa 1820, and may be as early as circa 1810.

The room's woodwork was extensively altered circa 1820, based on the paint analysis. The beaded baseboard was installed at that time, as were the doorway and window surrounds, two four-panel doors, six-over-six window sashes, and the fireplace mantel.

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[33] Middlesex County Probate Document #15095.

[34] The Federal Censuses of 1900 and 1910 record Annie Burke as a public school teacher.

Several additional changes were made in the 20th century. Circa 1925, the ceiling was completely replastered on circular-sawn lath; a closet with a four-panel door was installed on the north side of the fireplace; and the old window sashes were replaced with new six-over-six sashes. In the 1950's, the Ingrahams replaced the existing floorboards with wide pine boards. They also installed a hot-water radiator at the south wall.

Floor

Existing Floor

As mentioned previously, the floor is covered with wide pine boards that were installed by the Ingrahams in the 1950's. The boards appear to be salvaged material, based on the presence of empty square nail holes. They are attached with modern machine-cut nails. Modern toe molding at the south wall also dates to this period. The floorboards, which are aligned in an east-west direction, vary in width from 9 1/2 inches to 10 1/2 inches.

A brick hearth is also located at the east wall, in front of the fireplace. This is described in the section “Fireplace.”

Missing Floor

The room's original (circa-1725) floorboards, which are missing today, were likely similar in appearance to the existing salvaged floorboards installed by the Ingrahams. They probably would have differed, however, by being of shorter lengths and having aligned seams, as still exists in the east chamber (Room 209).

Walls

The wall materials include cased framing, plaster on wood lath, and two styles of baseboards.

Cased Framing

The post-and-beam framing of the second story projects in the room at all the walls. This includes posts in the four corners of the room and girts at the south, east, and west walls. The framing itself is not exposed, but is cased with wood. Some of this woodwork has a first layer of blue paint (found on the west girt and the summer beam), which has been dated circa 1810. Other areas, such as the cased post in the southwest corner, appear to have been replaced circa 1925.

Plaster

All four walls of the room are plastered on wood lath. The back side of the east wall can be seen from the attic; the lath appears to be an accordion-type. The room is thought to have been first plastered circa 1810 or circa 1820.

Baseboards

There are two styles of baseboards in Room 202. One is a plain board on the north wall that measures 5 1/2 inches high. It may be the earlier of the two styles, because it has a first blue paint layer that is not on the other baseboards. This blue paint is also on the cased framing, and has been dated circa 1810.

The other baseboard is taller than the north-wall baseboard and has a top bead detail. It measures 7 1/2 inches high on the east wall, and 8 1/2 inches high on the west and south walls. It is lacking the first blue paint layer, and has therefore been dated circa 1820.

Circa-1725 Walls

No physical evidence has been found of the original (circa-1725) wall treatment in Room 202. The early walls may have been paneled, as they were in the first-story rooms.

Ceiling

The ceiling is plastered on either side of a center east-west summer beam. Physical evidence in the attic indicates that the ceiling framing was exposed originally (circa 1725).

Plaster

The existing plaster ceiling on circular-sawn lath dates to circa 1925. The lath, which is oriented in a north-south direction, is attached to furring boards, which are in turn attached to the north-south ceiling joists. The back side of this ceiling is exposed in the attic. The height of the ceiling from floor to plaster is 6 feet 7 inches tall in the center and at the east wall of the room, and 6 feet 8 inches tall at the west wall. This modern ceiling presumably replaced an earlier plaster ceiling of similar configuration. The ceiling was probably first plastered circa 1810 or circa 1820, at the same time as the walls.

Summer Beam

A large east-west summer beam is located in the center of the ceiling. The beam measures approximately 12 inches wide, and it projects about 4 inches below the level of the plaster ceiling. It is cased with wood that has a first finish of blue paint. The casing has been dated “circa 1810” based on the presence of the early blue paint.

Early Exposed Framing

Physical evidence in the attic indicates that the ceiling framing was exposed for a period of time—possibly circa 1725 to circa 1810. This evidence is a white-painted finish (which may be a whitewash) on the sides of the beam, girts, and joists above the existing plaster ceiling. The black layer on top of the white is probably the black residue of a fire.

Doorways

There are three doorways in Room 202: two in the east wall and one in the north wall.

East Doorway to Room 201

The doorway at the south end of the east wall leads to the upper stair hall (Room 201). The opening probably dates to circa 1725, when a second story was added to the original west wing.

The doorway was completely renovated circa 1820, when the existing woodwork was installed. The date circa 1820 is based on the style of the surround moldings, the door, the door hardware, and the results of the comparative paint analysis. This woodwork, including the surround and four-panel mortised door, exists today.

The surround trims only the sides of the opening; the top of the opening abuts the underside of the cased east-wall girt. A machine-cut nail secures the base of the north-side trim board to the floor, as can be seen through a hole in the floorboard at this location. The north side of the surround has a Federal-style molding along its outer edge, similar to the moldings used for the surrounds of the north doorway and the windows (found also in Rooms 108, 201, and 209). The south side of the surround has no edge molding, due to the close proximity of the southeast corner post.

The circa-1820 door retains its original hardware, including two butt hinges and a Norfolk bar latch. For detailed descriptions of the door, see "Room 201: Doorways."

North Doorway to Room 204

The doorway at the east end of the north wall leads to Room 204, in the circa-1810 north addition. The date of the opening is not known. It was probably not a window opening circa 1725, since north windows were rare in early 18th-century houses. It may have been created circa 1743 as a doorway to the garret of the first north kitchen addition, and retained when the present kitchen addition was built circa 1810. Alternatively, it may have been created new circa 1810. In any case, the existing doorway woodwork is identical to that of the east-wall doorway to Room 201, and so has been dated to circa 1820.

The surround trims only the top and west sides of the opening; the east side is abutted by the northeast corner post. The surround displays a Federal-style edge molding similar to that used for the surrounds of the southeast doorway and the windows. The threshold at this doorway measures 10 inches wide.

The circa-1820 door is on the Room-204 side of the deep opening. It is a four-panel mortised door with center rail. The panels on the Room-202 side are raised and unmolded, and those on the Room-204 side are recessed and unmolded. The dimensions of the door are 5 feet 11 inches high by 2 feet 4 1/2 inches wide (which includes a three-quarter-inch shim on the east side) by 1 inch thick.

The door retains its circa-1820 hardware, including two butt hinges on the west stile, and a Norfolk latch with scalloped back plate on the east stile. The door is hinged to swing open into Room 204, indicating that the 1 1/2-story north addition had to exist when the door was installed. A later addition is a metal clothes hook, which is attached with two screws to the upper middle stile.

East Closet Doorway

A closet doorway is at the north end of the east wall. Both the closet and its doorway are later additions to the room, having been installed circa 1925 (based on the paint analysis). See "Closet" for a more detailed explanation.

The circa-1925 doorway is similar in appearance to, but different in most details from, the two circa-1820 doorways in the room. As with the doorway to Room 201, the surround of the closet door trims only the sides of the opening; the top abuts the cased girt at the top of the east wall. The surround has molded trim that differs in profile from the circa-1820 moldings. The threshold, also dated to circa 1925, is 4 1/2 inches wide.

The circa-1925 door is a modern, unmortised type, with four panels and a center rail. The panels are raised on a flat field on both sides of the door, with molding on the room side only. It is hung by two modern hinges on the north stile, and has a Suffolk bar latch on the south stile. The dimensions of the door are 6 feet 1 7/8 inches high by 2 feet 5 7/8 inches wide by 1 1/8 inches thick.

Windows

There are four windows in the room: two in the south wall (W-201 and W-202), and two in the west wall (W-211 and W-212). The window openings may be as early as circa 1725, when Room 202 was constructed. They definitely existed by circa 1820, which is the date of the existing interior woodwork. The sashes are later replacements installed circa 1925.

The circa-1820 window surrounds, with mitered corners and edge moldings, frame the tops and sides of the openings. There is a window stool but no apron; the jambs are shallow and splayed. The moldings are similar in style to those at the circa-1820 doorways.

The existing six-over-six window sashes replaced similar sashes circa 1925 (based on the paint analysis). The upper sash of W-202 has been replaced with ventilation louvers by the National Park Service.

Fireplace

A fireplace is at the east wall, positioned slightly north of center. Its age is uncertain. A fireplace may have been added to the original chimney stack when the room was constructed circa 1725. If so, it would have been substantially altered when the original chimney stack was reconstructed circa 1743. Finally, the following changes appear to have been made around 1820: the firebox was made smaller, the hearth was extended, and a new mantel was installed. (Evidence

of the early hearth remains in the second-floor chimney girt, which can be seen in Room 102.) The fireplace is similar in almost all details to the fireplace in the east chamber (Room 209).

Brickwork

The fireplace is constructed of handmade bricks measuring 7 1/2 inches long by 2 inches high.

Hearth

A brick hearth is in front of the fireplace. Its dimensions are 4 feet 5 inches wide by 2 feet 6 inches deep. The bricks paving the hearth measure 7 3/4 inches wide by 3 3/4 inches deep. A wood border on the south and west sides of the hearth was installed at the same time as the floorboards, in the 1950's.

The date of the hearth itself, and the bricks within it, is not certain. It may have been installed when the room was renovated circa 1820. This agrees with the physical evidence in the first-story room below (Room 102), in which no remnants of a painted finish were observed on the support members for the hearth. The installation of the hearth, in other words, may have occurred at the same time as, or sometime after, the covering of the ceiling with plaster in Room 102.

Firebox

The firebox opening measures 2 feet 2 1/2 inches high by 3 feet 2 1/2 inches wide by 1 foot 4 inches deep. The top of the opening is supported by an iron-bar lintel. The jambs of the firebox are splayed. The south jamb supports two gudgeons for a crane; the crane is missing.

Mantel

A wood mantel of simple neoclassical design is located at the fireplace. It is identical in appearance to the mantel in the east chamber (Room 209), and has been dated circa 1820 by the comparative paint analysis. The mantel is surmounted by a shelf 5 3/8 inches deep. The shelf is supported at either end by two pilaster capitals, between which is a long, recessed panel. Below this is the firebox opening, which is trimmed with a molding that has the same profile as the moldings on the surrounds of the doorways and windows.

Closet

A closet is at the north end of the east wall. It was added circa 1925, based on the paint analysis and other woodwork details. The closet doorway and its four-panel door are described in the section "Doorways."

The dimensions of the closet are 1 foot 2 inches deep by 5 feet 6 inches wide. The interior is finished with the following materials: narrow pine floorboards, measuring 3 1/4 inches wide; plaster walls and ceiling on circular-sawn lath; a baseboard with top bevel, 6 3/4 inches high; a wood shelf; two metal clothing poles, attached to the east and west walls; and wire clothing hooks.

Prior to the closet's construction, this space had been occupied by a circa-1820 stairway to the attic. As explained previously, an early attic stairway was removed from the upper hall (Room 201) during the extensive interior remodeling that occurred circa 1820. A new stairway was built here, on the west side of the chimney stack. The doorway to the stairway was probably in the south wall of the back room (Room 205), in the circa-1810 kitchen addition. No physical evidence of the stairway remains, due to extensive alterations made in this area circa 1925.

Painted Finishes

Existing Finishes

The paint scheme in Room 202 today is black and white. It dates to the Ingraham occupancy (1951-1991). All of the woodwork in the room, except the floor, is painted black. This includes the cased framing, baseboards, doorway and window surrounds, doors, window sashes, and fireplace mantel. The plaster walls and ceiling are painted white. The walls have a textured finish resembling a sand paint. The floorboards are unpainted, and appear to have an oil or wax finish.

The finishes of the circa-1925 closet interior are as follows: mustard-yellow paint on the interior side of the door, the baseboard, and the shelf, while the floorboards and the plaster walls and ceiling are unpainted.

Historic Finishes

The paint history of the room was determined by removing 22 samples of paint ((P183-P202, P286, and P287) for microscopic study. Details of the paint analysis may be found in Appendix E.

The earliest painted finish in Room 202 was found on the framing members of the ceiling, which are accessible in the attic. These retain a white painted finish resembling a whitewash. A layer of black on top of the white may be residue from a later fire. The framing appears to have been covered with plaster circa 1810-1820.

The next early finish was a lead-based blue paint. This was observed in samples removed from the north baseboard, and from the wood casing of the summer beam and west girt. Although it is impossible to date these elements precisely without removing them to examine their nails, a date of circa 1810 seems plausible. This coincides with the building of the 1 1/2-story kitchen addition on the north side of the house.

Renovations to the room circa 1820 involved the installation of new woodwork, which was painted with a lead-based, cream-color paint. Subsequent paintings of the room's woodwork over the years continued to use white and cream-color paints (some containing lead). It was not until the last painting of the room, in the 1950's, that the woodwork was painted black.

Electrical Equipment

Light Fixtures

The room has two wall-mounted electrical light fixtures. Both were presumably installed by the Ingrahams in the 1950's. The fixtures are of the same design, with a yellow-metal base, single-bulb socket, and pull-chain switch. The shades are missing. One fixture is mounted on the east plaster wall, north of the doorway to Room 201. The other is mounted on the north plaster wall, west of the doorway to Room 204.

Electrical Outlets

The room has four duplex receptacles, one in each wall of the room. They are distributed in the lower plaster walls as follows:

- south wall: one, between the windows;
- west wall: one, between the windows;
- north wall: one, in the center of the wall; and
- east wall: one, between the fireplace and the doorway to Room 201.

Heating Equipment

Existing Radiator

One hot-water radiator is at the south wall, beneath the eastern window. It is six columns wide and 24 sections long; there is no manufacturer's identification. The radiator was presumably installed in 1951, at the same time as the existing heating system.

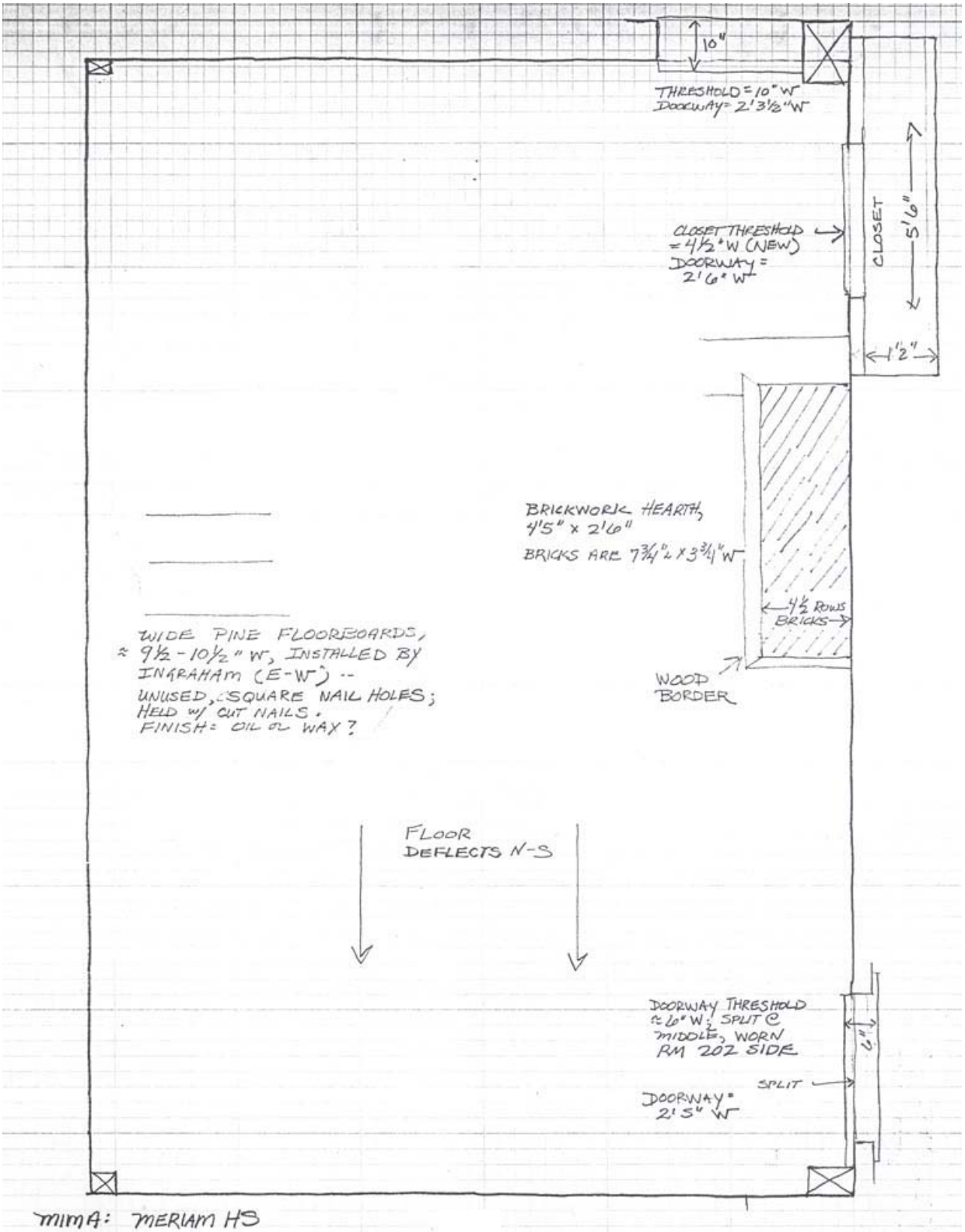
Missing Floor Grille

A metal grille formerly existed in the floor in front of the fireplace hearth (similar to an extant grille in Room 209), according to Alice Burke Hargrove. The purpose of this grille was to allow the heat from the first-story room (Room 102) rise to the second-story room. It may have been installed by the Burkes (1871-1921) at the same time as a parlor stove in Room 102.

The grille was probably removed by the Ingrahams in the 1950's when the existing floorboards were installed. A section of flooring 10 1/2 inches in diameter, which is in loose storage in the room, may be a remnant of the missing floor grille.

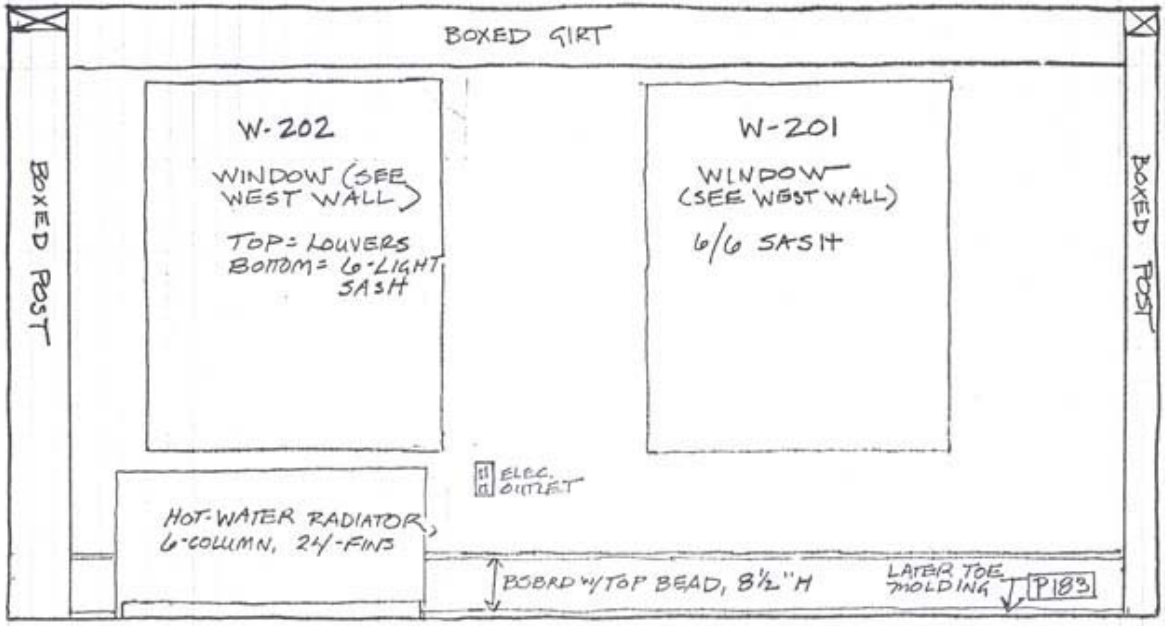
Fire- and Intrusion-Protection Equipment

There is no fire- or intrusion-protection equipment in Room 202.



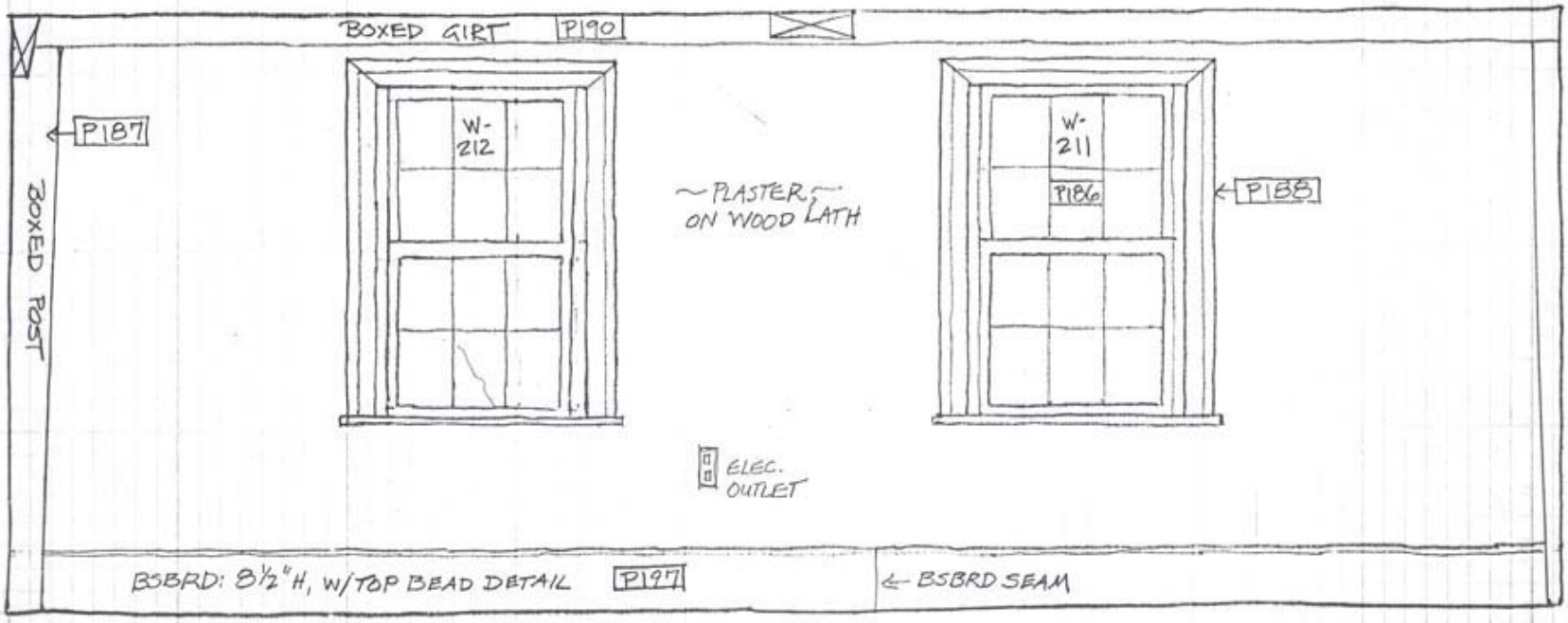
MIMA: MERIAM HS
RM 202, FLOOR
SEPT. 9, 1993; B. YOCUM SCALE: ½" = 1'0"

FINISHES: PLASTER = WHITE (SAND-) PAINT;
WOODWORK = BLACK PAINT
RADIATOR = SILVER



MIMA: MERIAM HS
RM 202, SOUTH WALL
SEPT 9, 1993; B. YOCUM
SCALE: ½" = 1'0"

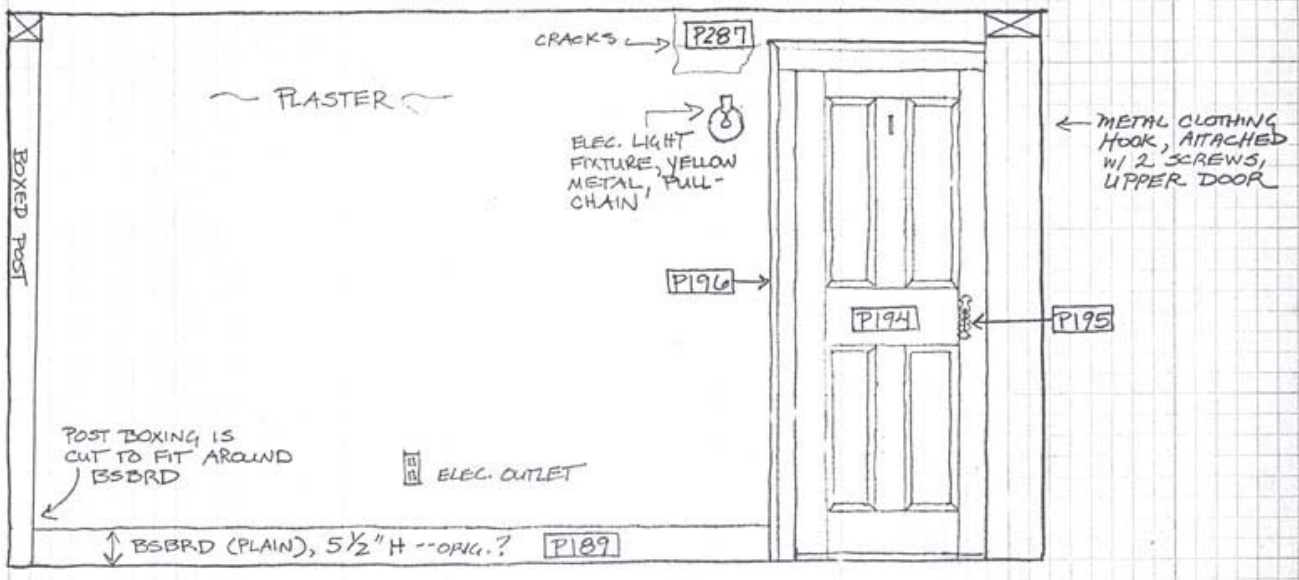
FINISHES: WALL PAINTED WHITE; ALL WOODWORK PAINTED BLACK



MIMA: MERIAM HS
RM 202, WEST WALL
SEPT. 7, 1993; B. Yocum
SCALE: ½" = 1'0"

FINISHES:
PLASTER WALL PTD.
WHITE (SAND PAINT);
WOODWORK PTD. BLACK

DOOR: OLD, OF MORTISED CONSTRUCTION; ARCHITRAVE IS ALSO OLD (= EAST DOORWAY). NORFOLK LATCH SAME STYLE AS @ EAST DOOR. DOOR HAS BEEN ENLARGED W/ 3/4" SHIM ON EAST SIDE. HINGES ALSO SAME AS @ EAST DOORWAY. RAISED PANELS, RM 202 SIDE; UNMOLDED RECESSED PANELS, RM 203 SIDE.
DOOR MEASURES:
2'4½" W (W/SHIM) x
5'11" H x
1" THK



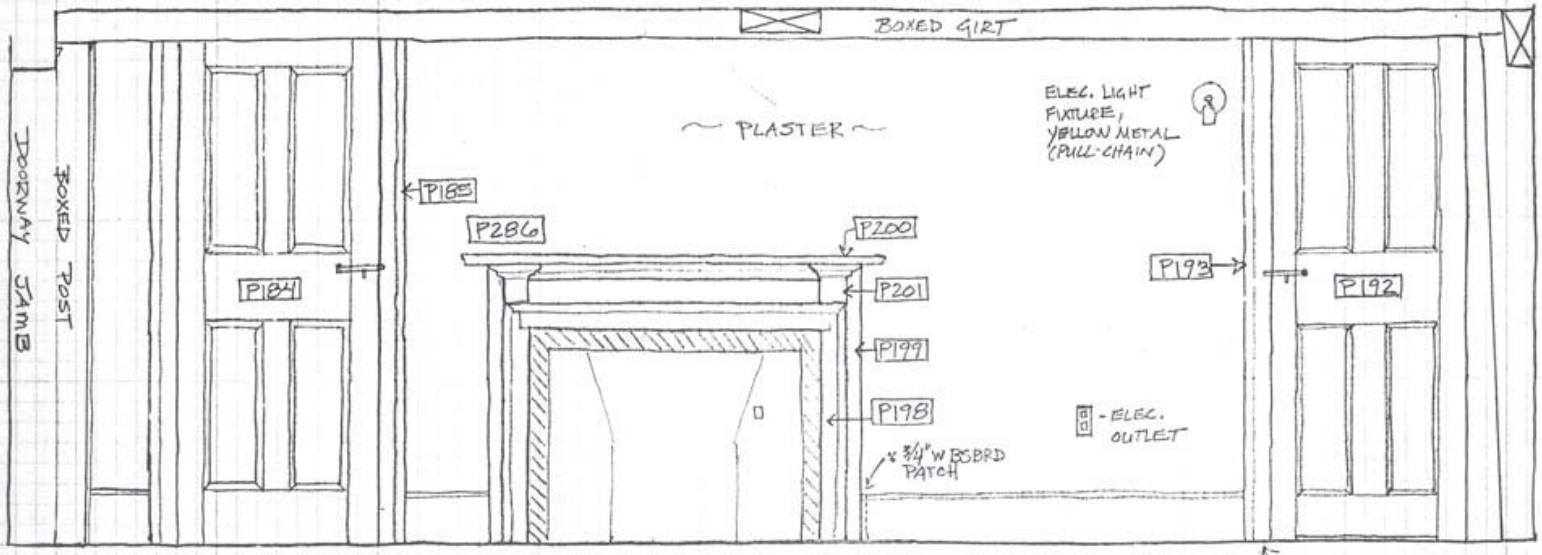
MIMA: MERIAM HS
RM 202, NORTH WALL
SEPT. 9, 1993; B. YOCUM
SCALE: ½" = 1'0"

DOOR: MODERN, NOT MORTISED; MEASURES 2'5 7/8" W x 6'1 7/8" H x 1 1/8" THK; MODERN SUFFOLK LATCH, x2 MODERN HINGES

CLOSET: INT. IS COMPLETELY MODERN, INCLUDING 3 1/4" W PINE FLOORBRDS, 6 3/4" H BSBRD (TOP BEVELED), WOOD SHELF, x 2 PIPE POLES (E-W) + WIRE CLOTHING HOOKS. FINISHES: PL WALLS & CEILING UNPAINTED; WOOD FLOORBRDS UNPAINTED; WOOD DOOR INT., BSBRD + SHELF (+APRON) PTD. MUST. YELLOW.

FINISHES: PLASTER WALL PAINTED WHITE (SAND PAINT), WOODWORK PAINTED BLACK

DOOR: MORTISED, WITH MOLDED, RECESSED PANELS. SEE RM 201 FOR DETAILS



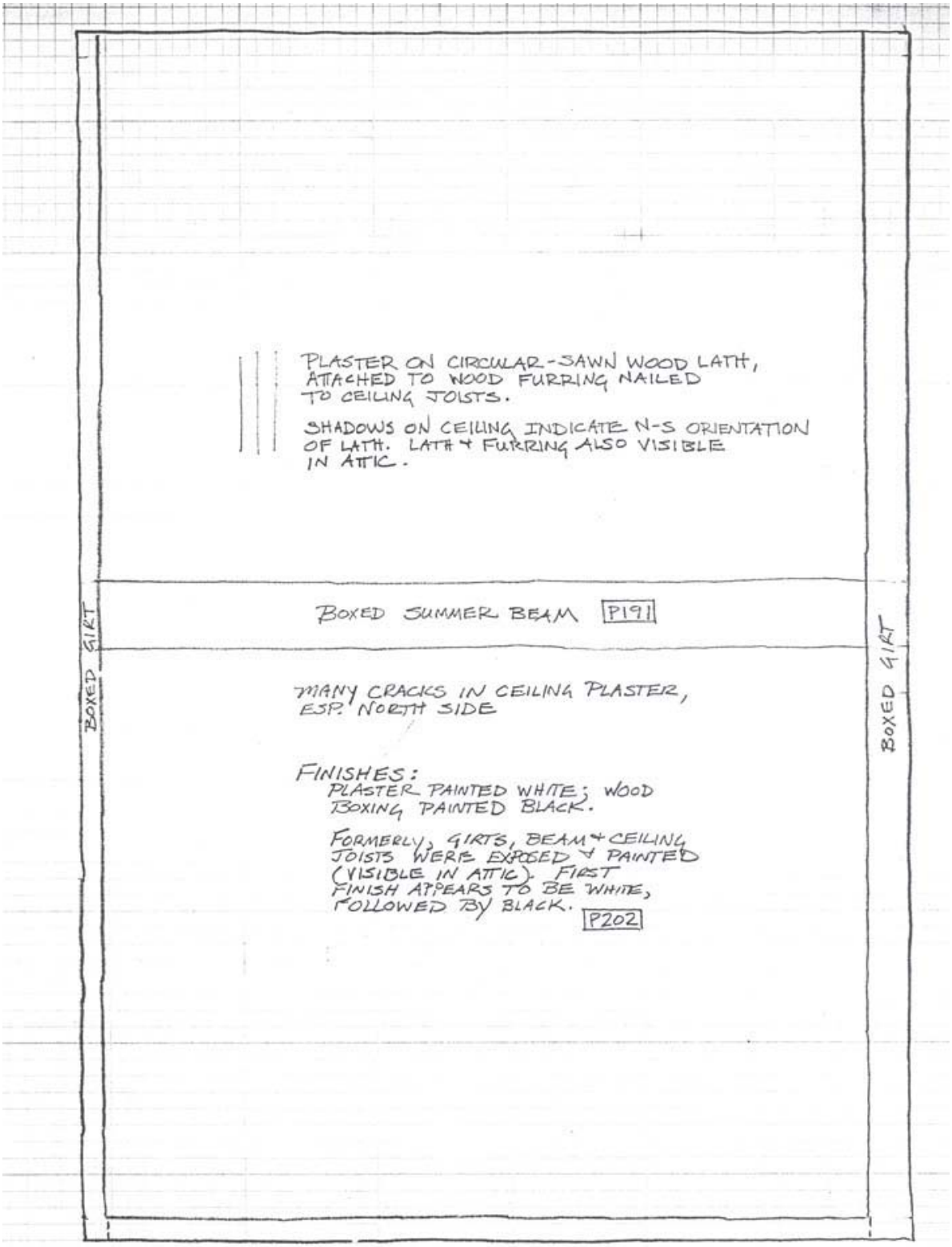
FIREPLACE: BRICKS ARE 7 1/2" x 2"; OPENING = 3'2 1/2" W x 2'2 1/2" H; IRON BAR @ OPENING; SPLAYED JAMBS; FIREBOX 1'4" DEEP; MANTEL SHELF = 5 3/8" DEEP; TOP CENTER PANEL = RECESSED; x2 GUDGEONS IN SOUTH JAMB

BSBRD = 7 1/2" H

THROUGH HOLE IN FLOORBRD CAN SEE MACHINE-CUT NAIL HEADS OF NAILS, SECURING BASE OF ARCHITRAVE

MIMA: MERIAM HS
RM 202, EAST WALL
SEPT. 9, 1993; B. YOCUM

SCALE: 1/2" = 1'0"



MIMA: MERIAM HS
RM 202 CEILING
SEPT. 9, 1993; B. YOCUM SCALE: ½" = 1'0"

Room 203

General Information

Room 203 is a modern bathroom in the northwest corner of the house. It is the second-story west room in the circa-1810 kitchen addition. The room is small, measuring only 7 feet 2 1/2 inches (east-west) by 10 feet 3/4 inches (north-south).

This was a larger room when the Burke family lived here (1871-1921), according to Alice Burke Hargrove. At that time, there was no east partition wall, so that Rooms 203 and 204 were one room. The room had been used as the bedroom for the "hired girls" who helped Mrs. Burke in her later years.[35]

While the addition in which the room is situated was constructed circa 1810, it appears to have remained unfinished until circa 1820 (based on the paint analysis). Surviving elements from that period include the west-wall baseboard, the window surround, and possibly a small portion of the west plaster wall. The existing six-over-six window sashes replaced similar sashes circa 1925.

The bathroom was installed by the Ingraham family a few years after they purchased the house in 1951. A date of 1958 for the bathroom is based on the date "Jan. 7 - 1958" that was found embossed on the underside of the toilet tank cover.[36]

The work that was done circa 1958 to convert the room to a bathroom was extensive. A new floor structure was installed, as was a new east partition wall; an old four-panel door was removed from the doorway between Rooms 104 and 108, and hung in the new partition doorway; the walls and ceiling were newly plastered; drawers were built into one corner; and the room was outfitted with a sink, toilet, corner shower, and bathtub.

Floor

Existing Floor

The framing of the floor is composed of modern lumber, as can be seen through a hole in the upper north wall of Room 102; the subfloor is plywood. These materials presumably date to the circa-1958 bathroom installation. The floor is finished today with 2-inch-square ceramic tiles. These are white with a dark, speckled design.

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[35] Alice Burke Hargrove, Aug. 17, 1993 (see Appendix D).

[36] Experience with documented bathroom installations has shown that plumbing fixtures are commonly installed shortly after their date of manufacture.

Missing Floorboards

The original (circa-1810) floorboards were probably wide pine boards oriented in an east-west direction. Original second-story floorboards survive in three locations: in Room 205 (beneath later floorboards), in Room 206 (in the closet), and in Room 208 (covered by the bathroom cabinet). The Room 203-floorboards were undoubtedly similar.

Walls

Dates of Construction

The walls of the room date to three periods: circa 1725, circa 1810, and circa 1958. The south wall is the earliest (circa 1725), having been constructed originally as an exterior wall of the second-story addition to the west wing. It definitely became an interior wall circa 1810 when the present kitchen addition was constructed; it may have become such as early as circa 1743, when the first kitchen was built. It was finished as an interior wall circa 1820. The west and north walls were constructed circa 1810, as part of the 1 1/2-story kitchen addition. As stated previously, it appears that they, too, were not finished until circa 1820. The east partition wall is the most recent. It was built circa 1958 at the same time the bathroom was created. The north and west walls were also furred out approximately 5 1/2 inches at this time, and all four walls were finished with ceramic tiles.

Plaster

The wall is plastered in one location only—in a wall niche at the west-wall window. This may be the original circa-1820 plaster, which was retained when the bathroom was created and the surrounding wall was furred out circa 1958.

Baseboard

A baseboard 5 1/2 inches high with beaded top edge trims the lower plaster wall in the west-wall niche. The baseboard has been dated circa 1820 based on the paint analysis.

Ceramic Tiles

Ceramic tiles finish all four walls of the room (excluding the west-wall niche). All of the tiles were presumably installed at the same time, circa 1958.

The west and east walls of the bathtub enclosure are covered with 2-inch-square, dark-blue ceramic tiles. The other walls, including the southeast shower enclosure, are finished with cream-color ceramic tiles 4 1/4 inches square. The cream-color tiles in the north-wall niche of the bathtub enclosure have a pink floral design.

Ceiling

The existing plaster ceiling dates to circa 1925, although the configuration remains unchanged from circa 1810-1820. It consists of a flat section and a sloping section that follows the slope of the roof. The flat section covers approximately the south half of the room, and the sloping section the north part. The height of the ceiling on the south side of the room is 6 feet 8 inches tall.

The ceiling was constructed originally circa 1810; however, like the walls, it probably remained unfinished until circa 1820, when it was probably plastered. The ceiling appears to have been replastered on circular-sawn lath circa 1925—the same time the roof was reconstructed. It is not known what work, if any, was done when the bathroom was installed circa 1958.

Doorway

The room has one doorway, in the circa-1958 east partition wall. The marble threshold measures 2 3/4 inches wide, and was installed as part of the bathroom. The door is older, as evidenced by its mortised construction and shadow evidence of earlier hardware. It was determined that the door was original to the circa-1810 addition, and that it had been reused from the doorway between Rooms 104 and 108 (based on its style, the hardware evidence, and the paint analysis).

The door is a four-panel style with center rail. The panels are slightly recessed on the bathroom side (originally the Room-104 side), and raised and molded on the opposite side (originally the Room-108 side). The dimensions of the door, which has been cut down at the top, are 5 feet 8 11/16 inches high by 2 feet 6 inches wide by seven-eighths of an inch thick.

Existing modern hardware on the door includes two “H”-style hinges on the north stile, and a Suffolk bar latch on the south stile. Also attached to the bathroom side of the door are a modern dead bolt, a clothes hook, and a towel bar.

The paint-shadow evidence clearly indicates that the door once had a Suffolk latch on the north stile. Similar evidence on the opposite side of the door also exists for “HL”-style hinges on the south stile.

Window

The room has one window (W-210), in the plastered niche at the west wall. The window opening is presumably original, dating to circa 1810. The associated woodwork, however, is later—circa 1820 and circa 1925.

The window elements include a frame, stool, sash stops, a lower six-light sash, and an upper louvered sash; there is no surround. The paint analysis indicates that the window frame dates to circa 1820, and the lower sash is a replacement installed circa 1925. The upper louvered sash, which replaced a six-light sash, was installed by the National Park Service.

Shower Enclosure

A built-in shower enclosure is in the southeast corner of the room. The east side of the shower protrudes into the east adjacent room (Room 204). The interior floor, walls, and ceiling are finished with ceramic tiles. Special features include a bifold metal and glass door, and a marble seat in the southeast corner.

Built-in Drawers

A tier of built-in drawers is in the northeast corner of the room, at the head of the bathtub. The unit stands slightly more than 5 feet tall and contains eight drawers with metal handles. The drawers are similar in style to drawers in the other second-story bathroom (Room 208). They were presumably installed at the same time as the bathroom fixtures, circa 1958.

Counter

A ceramic-tile counter is beneath the window at the west wall, north of the lavatory. It is supported by metal legs and is open underneath, so as not to block the radiator behind it.

Cabinets

There are four cabinets in the bathroom: one at the west wall, two at the south wall, and one beneath the lavatory. All probably date to the installation of the bathroom circa 1958. The west-wall cabinet is a cabinet-mirror unit mounted to the wall above the lavatory. It consists of a small storage area, accessed by two sliding-glass doors, beneath a large chrome-framed mirror. The south-wall cabinets are mounted side-by-side, over the toilet. Each has a mirrored side-hinged door and interior shelves. The lavatory cabinet is wood, mounted on two front legs, and accessed by two side-hinged doors.

Towel Rods and Bars

Four towel bars are mounted to the walls and door of the bathroom. One is on the west wall above the bathtub; two are beneath the mirrored cabinets at the south wall; and one is attached to the rail of the door in the east doorway.

Painted Finishes

Existing Finishes

There are few painted finishes in the bathroom, because the floor and most of the wall surfaces are covered with ceramic tiles. Paint colors include white, gray, and dark blue. White paint covers the east door and frame, the west-wall window frame, the west plaster wall and baseboard, the plaster ceiling, and the wood cabinet beneath the lavatory. Gray paint finishes the

built-in drawers in the northeast corner of the room. Dark-blue paint is used on the window sashes only.

Historic Finishes

Five paint samples (P203-P207) were removed from various bathroom elements for microscopic analysis. Details of the paint analysis may be found in Appendix E.

The analysis determined that the west-wall window frame and baseboard have a cream-color, lead-based paint as their earliest finish. This paint is found elsewhere in the house on woodwork dated circa 1820. Between that time and circa 1925, these features were painted white/cream, white/cream, green, light green, and white (with some of the paints containing lead). White, lead-based paint was used circa 1925, followed by a yellow paint. The dark-blue and white paints were probably applied by the Ingrahams (1951-1991). No early finishes were found on the plaster in the west-wall niche.

It was clear from the paint analysis of the four-panel door that it did not belong in the room. The paint-color sequences in fact placed the door downstairs, in the doorway between Rooms 104 and 108. Comparison of the historic paint layers with paint layers from early elements in the adjacent east room (Room 204) also verified that the two rooms existed as one room originally.

Electrical Equipment

Light Fixtures

There are two light fixtures in the bathroom. One is a fluorescent fixture, which surmounts the mirrored cabinet unit at the west wall over the lavatory. The fixture is activated by a pull-chain on the south side of the fixture.

The second fixture is a combination light and exhaust fan mounted on the ceiling. The fixture is activated by a switch in the adjacent east room (Room 204); the fan switch is on the south wall of the shower enclosure. Writing on the unit identifies it as a “Berns Air King.”

Electrical Outlets

The room has one electrical receptacle. It is built into the west side of the mirrored cabinet unit, at the west wall over the lavatory.

Heat Lamp

A ceiling-mounted heat lamp is in the center of the room. It is activated by a timer switch on the south wall of the shower enclosure.

Heating Equipment

In addition to the electric heat lamp described in the previous section, the room is heated by a large hot-water radiator. The radiator, which sits on the floor in front of the west-wall window, is four columns wide and 24 sections long. There is no manufacturer's identification. The radiator was probably installed in 1951—the date of the existing heating system.

Plumbing Equipment

The bathroom has a lavatory (sink), toilet, bathtub, and shower. All were presumably installed at the same time—1958—based on their similar styling and the date of manufacture of the toilet.

Lavatory

A pink lavatory made by American Standard is at the south end of the west wall. It is a single-bowl model supported by a wood cabinet with two front legs.

Toilet

A pink toilet is at the south wall, between the lavatory and the shower enclosure. Writing embossed on the underside of the toilet tank cover identifies the date of manufacture as being "JAN 7 - 1958"; the toilet was probably installed a short time later. The toilet is the same color as, and a similar design to, the lavatory. It was therefore probably also made by American Standard.

Bathtub

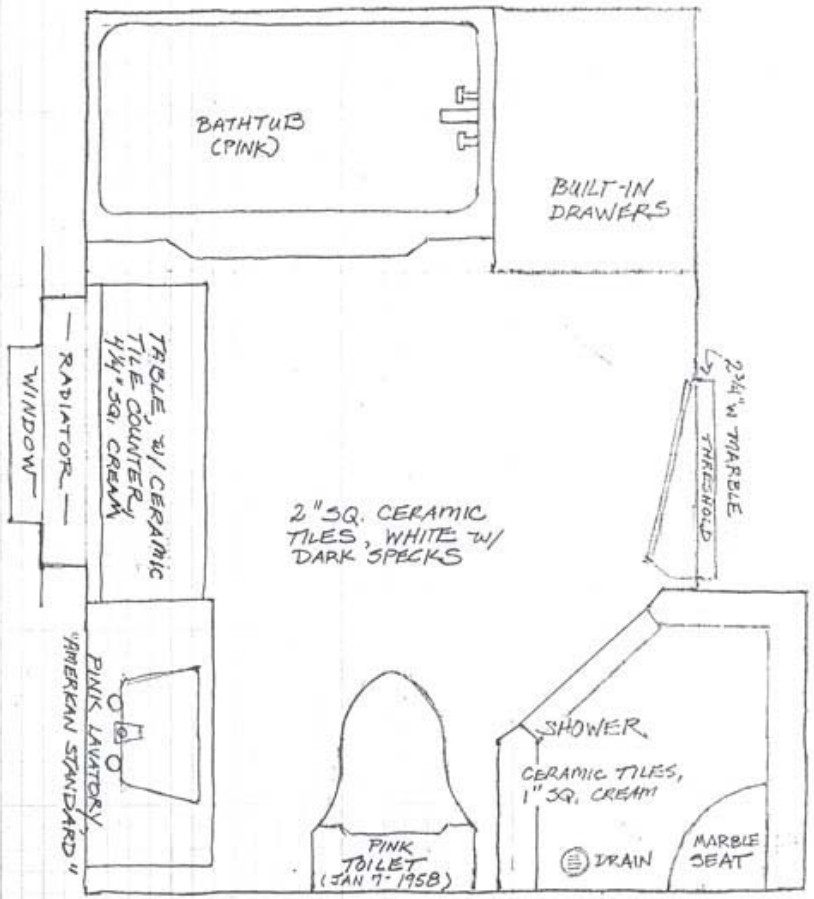
The bathtub is in the northwest corner at the west wall. Like the lavatory and toilet, it is the same shade of pink and a similar style, and was probably made by American Standard. The water faucet and handles are on the east end wall of the bathtub enclosure. Other equipment at this wall includes a hand-held shower head and the shower controls.

Shower

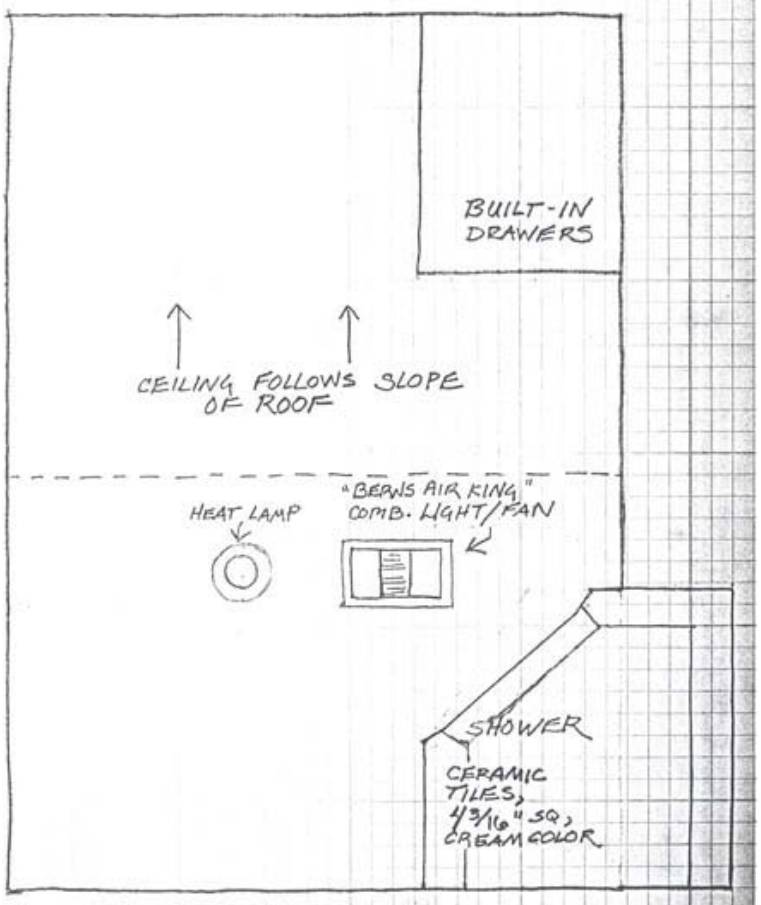
The shower is in a ceramic-tiled enclosure in the southeast corner of the room. The enclosure is described in a separate section, "Shower Enclosure."

Fire- and Intrusion-Protection Equipment

There is no fire- or intrusion-protection equipment in the bathroom.

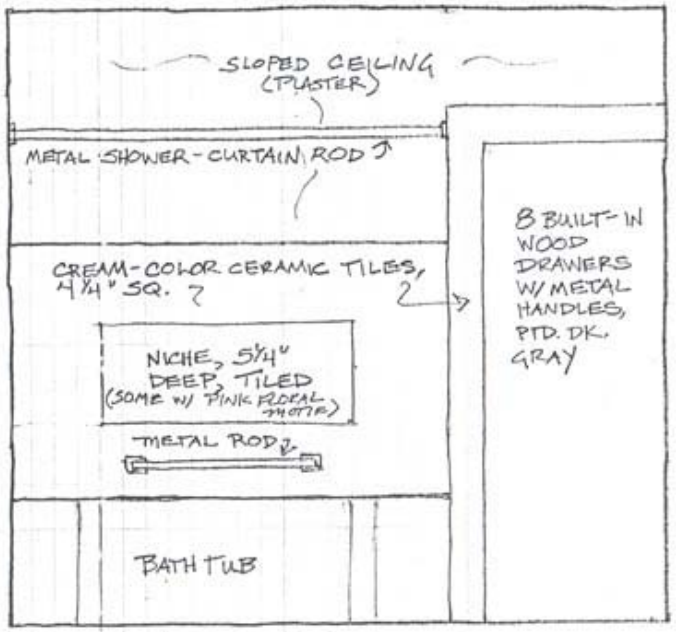


FLOOR



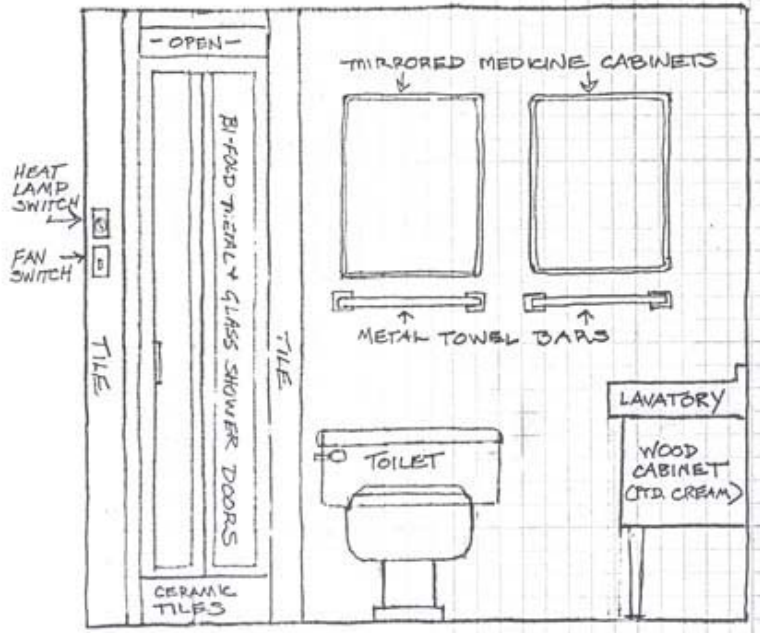
CEILING

MIMA: MERIAM HS.
RM 203, FLOOR & CEILING
SEPT. 21, 1998; B. Yocum
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'0"



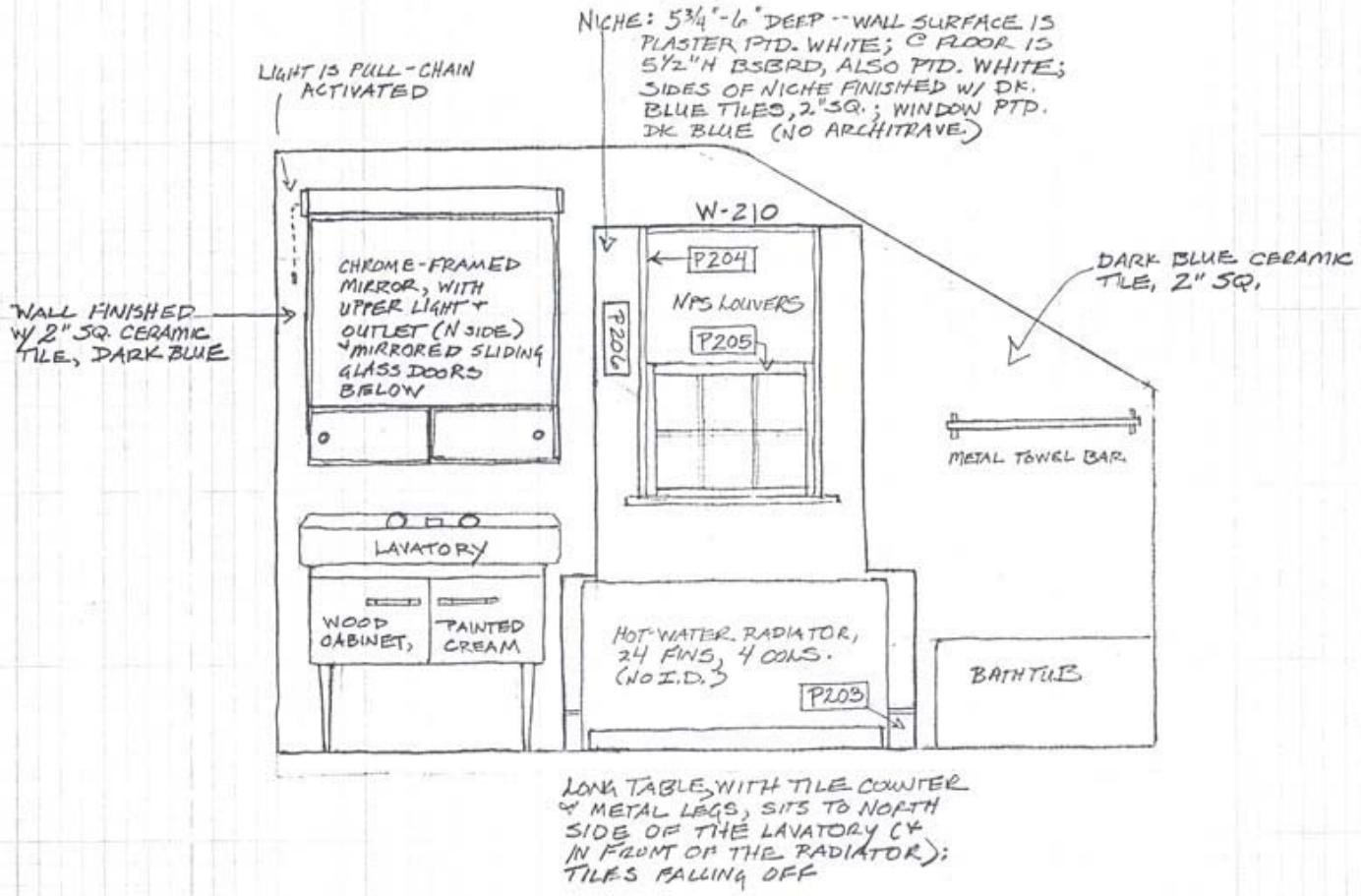
NORTH WALL

WALL IS FINISHED WITH CREAM-COLOR CERAMIC TILE, 4 1/4" SQ. (ALSO SHOWER ENCLOSURE)

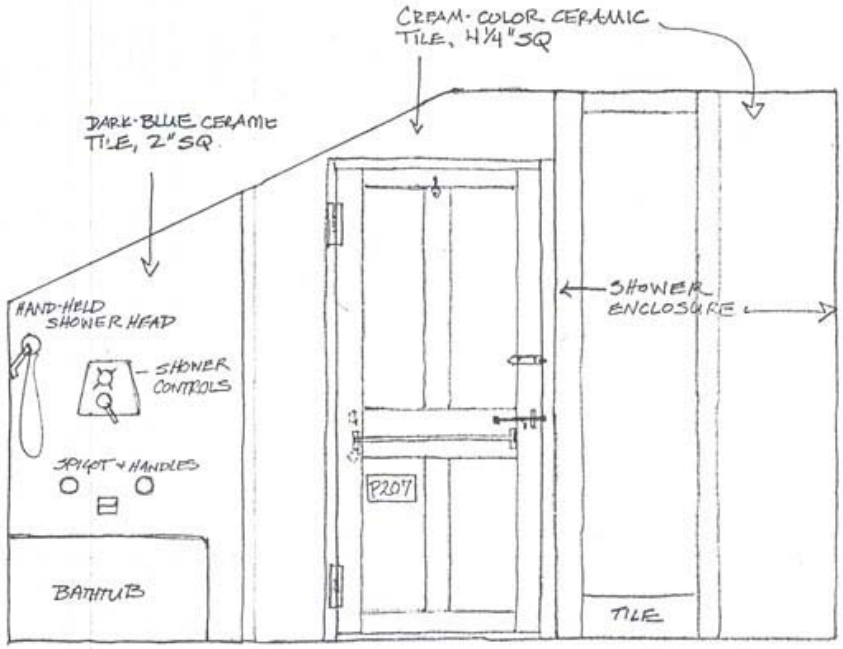


SOUTH WALL

MIMA: MERIAM HS
RM 203, NORTH & SOUTH WALLS
SEPT. 22, 1993; B. Yocum
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'0"



MIMA: MERIAM HS
RM 203, WEST WALL
SEPT. 22, 1993; B. Yocum
SCALE: ½" = 1'0"



DOORWAY: TO HALL; SLIGHTLY RECESSED PANELS B.R. SIDE + RAISED PANELS HALL SIDE; MORTISED; PLUGGED HOLE ON N SIDE WHERE ORIG. (SUFFOLK) LATCH WAS + SHADOW EVIDENCE ON HALL SIDE (SO.) OF FORER L-SHAPED HINGES; EXISTING SUFFOLK LATCH + HINGES ARE REPRODUCTIONS; NO ARCHITRAVE; METAL TOWEL BAR + CLOTHES HOOK ARE ATTACHED TO B.R. SIDE – ALSO REPRO. DEAD BOLT. DOOR (CUT DOWN) MEASURES:

DOOR HAS BEEN CUT DOWN @ TOP.

2' 6" W X
5' 8 1/16" H X
7/8" THK.

MIMA: MERIAM HS
RM 203, EAST WALL
SEPT. 22, 1993; B. Yocum

SCALE: 1/2" = 1'0"

Room 204

General Information

Room 204 is a small hall in the second story of the circa-1810 kitchen addition. It connects the west chamber (Room 202) with the northwest bathroom (Room 203) and the back bedroom (Room 205). The dimensions of the hall, not including the large closet at its north end, are 6 feet 9 inches (east-west) by 6 feet 3 1/2 inches (north-south).

Alice Burke Hargrove remembers that this hall did not exist when her grandparents lived in the house (1871-1921). Rather, it was part of a northwest bedroom, used by the "hired girls" who helped Rose Burke in her later years. The hall was created by the Ingrahams circa 1958 when they subdivided the bedroom and created a modern bathroom (Room 203).

The paint analysis of the early surviving woodwork in the closet suggests that while this room may have been constructed circa 1810, it was not finished until circa 1820. The woodwork, plaster walls, and plaster ceiling were probably installed at that time.

The room's east wall—whose original location is not known—was removed and replaced by the existing east wall circa 1925. This is also when the roof was reconstructed and the ceiling was replastered on circular-sawn lath. The room achieved its present configuration circa 1958, when the north and west partition walls were installed for the closet and bathroom. The room retains this appearance today.

Floor

The floor is composed of narrow pine floorboards 3 1/4 inches wide, in both the hall and north closet. The boards, which are laid in a north-south direction, were probably installed circa 1925. The original (circa-1810) wide pine floorboards may survive beneath the later floorboards, as they do in the east adjacent room (Room 205).

Walls

Dates of Construction

The walls date to four periods of construction: circa 1725, circa 1810, circa 1925, and circa 1958. The earliest is the south wall, which was constructed circa 1725 as an exterior wall of the second-story addition to the west wing. It definitely became an interior wall circa 1810 when the present kitchen addition was constructed; it may have become such as early as circa 1743, when the first kitchen addition was built. The north interior wall of the closet is dated circa 1810—the date of the existing kitchen addition.

The original east partition wall was removed and replaced by the existing partition circa 1925—the same time the roof and ceiling were reconstructed. The new wall appears to have been positioned

farther west than the original partition, due to the fact that it covers the circa-1820 baseboard at the north wall (inside the closet), and the circa-1820 doorway surround on the south wall.

The most recent walls are the north closet partition and the west bathroom partition. The west partition includes a projecting jog at the south end, for the shower enclosure in Room 203. Both the north and west walls were installed circa 1958 by the Ingrahams.

Wall Materials

Three materials finish the walls: plaster, wide pine boards, and plasterboard.

Plaster

Plaster, possibly of two different dates, is found on several walls in Room 204. Plaster that may be as early as circa 1820, when the original room was completed, is on the interior north wall of the closet, and comprises a small area above the south doorway. Early plaster may also survive beneath the later pine paneling on the south wall, west of the doorway. Later plaster dating to circa 1925 is on the east partition wall. It exists in both the room and the closet.

Pine Boards

Vertical pine paneling is on the south wall east of the doorway, on the room side of the west wall, and on the room side of the closet partition. The paneling was installed by the Ingrahams circa 1958.

Plasterboard

Plasterboard comprises the interior west and south partition walls of the closet. It is probably contemporary with the partitions, which were installed circa 1958.

Baseboards

Two types of baseboards finish the lower plastered walls. One, dated circa 1820, is on the interior north wall of the closet. It is 5 1/2 inches high, with a beaded top edge. The other baseboard, dated circa 1925, is on the east partition wall, in both the room and the closet. It is 7 inches high, with a beveled top edge.

Cased Framing

The north-wall girt and a wall post—both cased with wood—are visible inside the north closet. These framing members have been dated to the construction of the kitchen addition circa 1810. The casing, however, appears to be later (circa 1820), based on the paint analysis.

Ceiling

The ceiling dates to circa 1925, when the roof framing was reconstructed. It is composed of a hard plaster on circular-sawn lath. The original configuration of the ceiling is unchanged, however, from its appearance circa 1810-1820. It consists of a flat portion, 6 feet 9 inches high, on the south side of the room, and a slanting portion that follows the slope of the roof on the north side of the room and in the north closet.

Doorways

Room 204 has five doorways dating from three periods: circa 1810-1820, circa 1925, and circa 1958.

South Doorway to Room 202

A doorway that occupies most of the south wall connects with Room 202. As explained in conjunction with Room 202, it is unlikely that this doorway was a window circa 1725. It could have been created circa 1743 (to serve the first kitchen addition), or circa 1810 (to serve the present kitchen addition). The existing woodwork of the doorway, however, dates to circa 1820 (based on the paint analysis).

The circa-1820 surround consists of plain boards with a simple beaded interior edge. The east side of the surround is mostly covered by the circa-1925 partition wall, suggesting that the later wall is positioned farther to the west than the original wall.

The four-panel door has also been dated circa 1820. It is a four-panel mortised door with center rail. The panels on the Room-204 side are recessed and unmolded; those on the opposite, Room-202 side are raised and also unmolded. The door retains its original butt hinges on the west stile and Norfolk bar latch on the east stile. A modern hook-and-eye latch has been installed on the upper east stile and surround. Other details of the door, such as its dimensions, are given in the section "Room 202: Doorways."

Verification of a circa-1820 date for the existing door is provided by its placement in the doorway. The door is hinged on the west side to swing open into Room 204—something that could only happen if Room 204 had a full-height ceiling. The existing door as it is hung today, in other words, could not have coexisted with the earlier one-story kitchen addition. It therefore must have been installed when the 1 1/2-story kitchen was built circa 1810, or when the room was updated circa 1820. The results of the paint analysis suggest the latter date.

West Doorway to Room 203

A doorway in the center of the west partition wall connects with the bathroom (Room 203). The doorway opening, like the partition wall, has been dated circa 1958. The door, however, is older. It is a four-panel, circa-1810 door that originally hung in the doorway between Rooms 104 and 108. The Room-204 side of the door has a reproduction Suffolk latch and a metal clothes hook on the upper center stile. For a detailed description of the door, see "Room 203: Doorway."

North Doorway to Large Closet

The large closet at the north end of the room is accessed by a doorway on the west side of the north partition wall. This doorway has been dated to circa 1958, when the north partition wall was built. It has no architrave or threshold.

The door is older than the doorway. It appears to have been salvaged from another building and reused here. The door is mortised and hand-planed, with two panels separated by a center rail. The panels are raised and molded on the room side, and recessed and unmolded on the closet side.

Existing hardware includes two "H"-style hinges on the west side, a Suffolk-style handle on the east side, and a metal clothes hook on the upper panel. The Suffolk handle has no corresponding bar latch on the opposite side of the door, so that the door is closed with a modern magnet latch. Evidence of earlier missing hardware includes mortises for two butt hinges on the east side of the door, and the shadow outline of a Suffolk latch on the west stile.

North Doorway to Small Closet

A narrow doorway to a small closet containing a built-in ironing board is on the north partition wall east of the doorway to the large closet. Like the doorway to the large closet, this doorway has been been dated to circa 1958. There is no architrave.

Again, the door is older than the doorway, being a single plank of reused wood. The rough marks of an up-and-down saw may be seen on the closet side of the door, along with the shadow marks of joists or studs. The door measures 6 feet 2 1/4 inches high by 1 foot 1 1/2 inches wide by seven-eighths of an inch thick. It is hinged on the west side with two reproduction "H"-style hinges. The metal catch on the east side is also modern.

East Doorway to Room 205

A doorway in the east partition wall leads to the back bedroom (Room 205). The doorway opening has been dated circa 1925, when the wall in which it sits was constructed. The paint analysis of the plain-board surround confirms that date. The threshold, dated circa 1925, is 4 1/2 inches wide.

The door is older than the doorway, having been reused here. The paint analysis indicates that it was originally located in a north-south partition wall that divided the kitchen (Room 104). The paint analysis also suggests that the door was not installed here circa 1925, but circa 1958 when the room was converted to a hall.

The door is mortised, with four panels and a center rail. The panels are raised and unmolded with flat edges on both sides of the door. The dimensions of the door are 6 feet 3 5/8 inches high by 2 feet 6 inches wide by 1 3/16 inches thick.

The door is hinged on the south side, and there is a bar latch on the north stile; a metal clothes hook is also attached to the upper center stile. The physical evidence indicates, however, that the hinges and latch have been reversed. Two unused mortises for butt hinges are on the north side of the door, and there is shadow evidence of a former bar latch on the south stile. The shadow

evidence on the opposite side of the door indicates that the existing Norfolk latch with cusp top was simply reused in its present location.

Windows

There are no windows in Room 204.

Closets

As previously mentioned, there are two closets in Room 204 at the north end of the room. Both closets date to circa 1958, when the north partition wall was installed. The doorways of the two closets are described in the section "Doorways." The closet on the east side of the partition wall is narrow and shallow, and contains a built-in ironing board. The other closet is larger, taking up most of the north end of the room. It is equipped with two metal clothes rods and a wood shelf. Earlier features are also preserved inside the closet. Dating to circa 1820 are the north plaster wall, the cased girt and post, and the 5 1/2-inch beaded baseboard. The east plaster wall and the 7-inch, beveled-top baseboard have been dated circa 1925.

Painted Finishes

Existing Finishes

The entire room is painted white. This includes the doorways, paneled and plastered walls, baseboards, and ceiling. Only the floorboards are unpainted, as are the closet-sides of the two closet doorways. The two-panel closet door was formerly painted and later stripped, judging by paint remnants in the corners of the panels.

Historic Finishes

The paint history of the room was determined by extracting 12 samples of paint (P208-P219) and examining them microscopically. Details of the paint analysis may be found in Appendix E.

It was determined from the paint analysis that the earliest (circa-1820) features of the room—the south doorway, the north baseboard, and the casing of the north-wall framing—had been painted originally with a lead-based, cream-color paint. This paint had also been found on other woodwork of similar date elsewhere in the house.

It was also discovered that the early paint chromochronologies in Room 204 corresponded to the paint chromochronologies of the early painted features in the west adjacent room (Room 203). This verified that Rooms 203 and 204 had been one room originally. Between circa 1820 and circa 1925, the woodwork was painted approximately six times in the following colors: white, white, green (lead paint), light green (lead paint), and white.

The paint analysis was also useful in dating the later (circa-1925 and circa-1958) partition walls. The woodwork was painted with a white, lead-based paint circa 1925, followed by mustard yellow, and then blue. The most recent white-painted finish appears to have been applied circa 1958. No early finishes predating circa 1925 were identified on the plaster walls or ceiling.

Electrical Equipment

Light Fixtures

The room has one ceiling-mounted light fixture. This fixture has a milk-glass shade, and is operated by a switch on the east wall, south of the doorway. This switch also operates the ceiling fixture in the adjacent bathroom (Room 203). Both the fixture and the switch were probably installed circa 1958. A wall-mounted light may also have been located on the upper east wall, on the north side of the doorway, where there is an electrical cover plate today. There is no fixture in the north closet.

Electrical Outlets

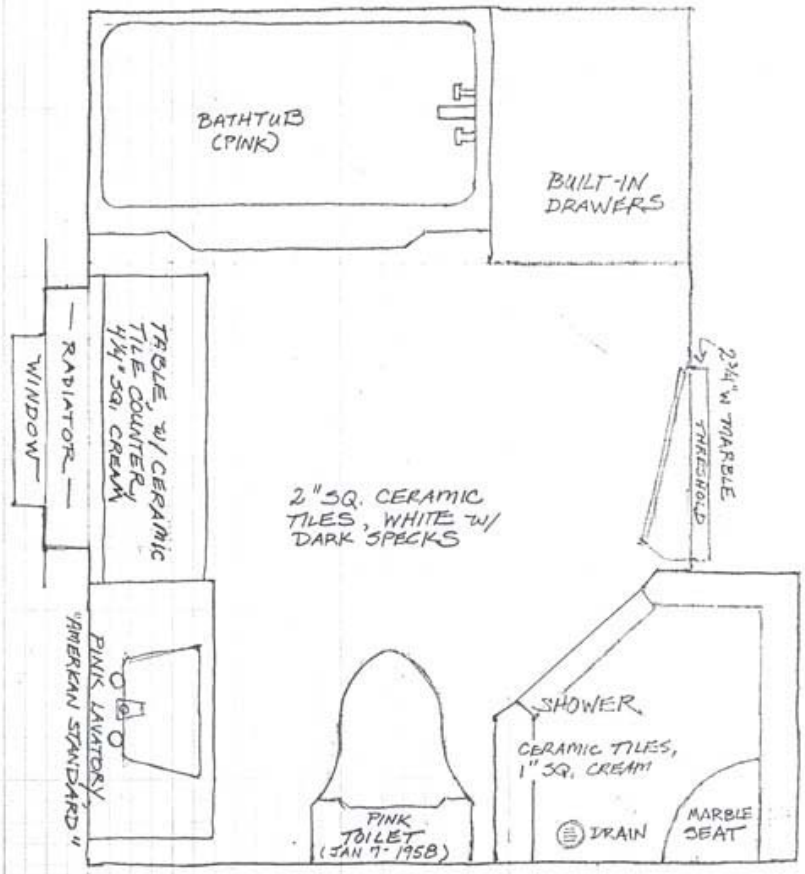
One duplex receptacle is in the lower east plaster wall, north of the doorway to Room 205. This receptacle was probably installed circa 1958, at the same time as the nearby ironing-board closet.

Heating Equipment

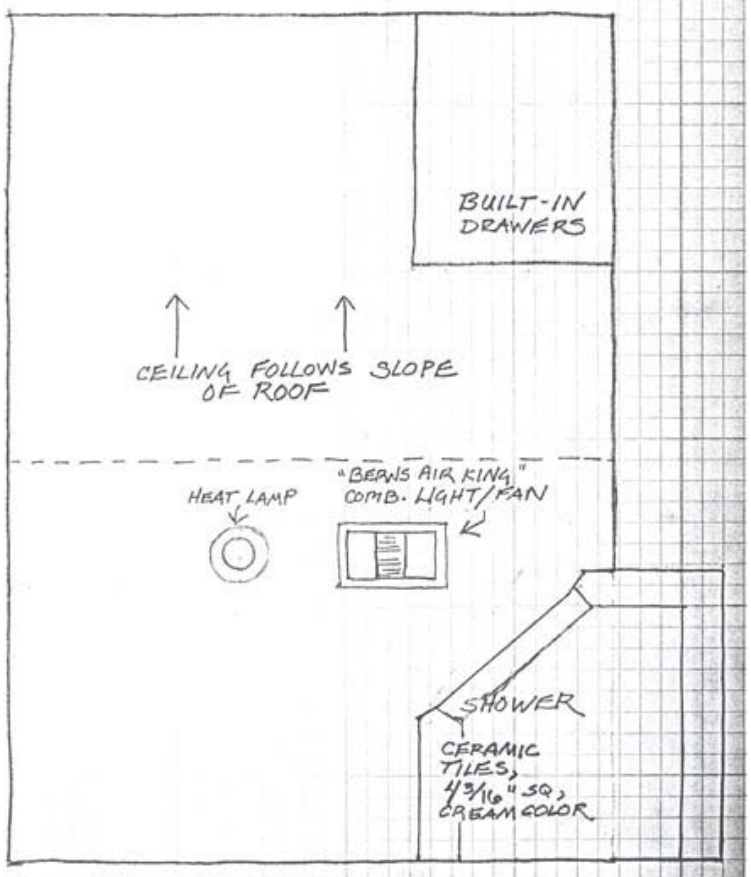
The only heating equipment in Room 204 are two exposed hot-water radiator pipes at the north baseboard of the large north closet. The pipes date to the 1951 installation of the existing heating system.

Fire- and Intrusion-Protection Equipment

There is no fire- or intrusion-protection equipment in Room 204.



FLOOR



CEILING

MIMA: MERIAM HS.
RM 203, FLOOR & CEILING
SEPT. 21, 1993; B. Yocum
SCALE: ½" = 1'0"

PLASTER WALL (EAST) COVERS PTD. ARCHITRAVE, ∴ LATER?

HOOK + EYE LATCH

PLASTER

KNOTTY PINE BOARDS, PTD. WH

P215

P214

Room 204

DOORWAY: TO RM 202; MORTISED; DOOR WIDENED ½" 1" EAST SIDE; RECESSED PANELS RM 204 SIDE, RAISED PANELS RM 202 SIDE; NORFOLK LATCH; ARCHITRAVE HAS BEAD DETAIL; 3" HINGES ORIG.? SEE RM 202 FOR DOOR DIMENSIONS.

SOUTH WALLS

P216

NORTH WALLS

WEST DOORWAY: TO CLOSET (RM 204a); MORTISED + HAND-PLANED; RAISED + MOLDED PANELS RM 204 SIDE; RECESSED PANELS CL SIDE; MORTISES FOR 2" HINGES EAST SIDE; ALSO PATCHED HOLE (FORMER LATCH (SUFFOLK) WEST SIDE; DOOR MEASURES:
(ALSO, MODERN MAGNET LATCH) + CLOTHES HOOK

2' 1¼" W
5' 7½" H
3/4" THK.

EAST DOORWAY: TO BUILT-IN IRONING BOARD; DOOR IS A SINGLE PLANK OF REUSED WOOD, W/ SASH-SAW MARKS ON INT. SIDE + JOIST OR STUD SHADOWS; HARDWARE IS MODERN; DOOR MEASURES:

1' 1½" W
6' 2¼" H
7/8" THK

Room 204a (CLOSET)

DOOR UNPAINTED

PLASTERBRD

NO BSBRD

SLOPED CEILING (PLASTER, HARD WH)

BOXED GIRT

BOXED POST

~PLASTER~

P211

P212

P213

6"

5½" BSBRD, W/ TOP BEAD DETAIL (CONTINUES BEHIND MODERN EAST-WALL BSBRD)

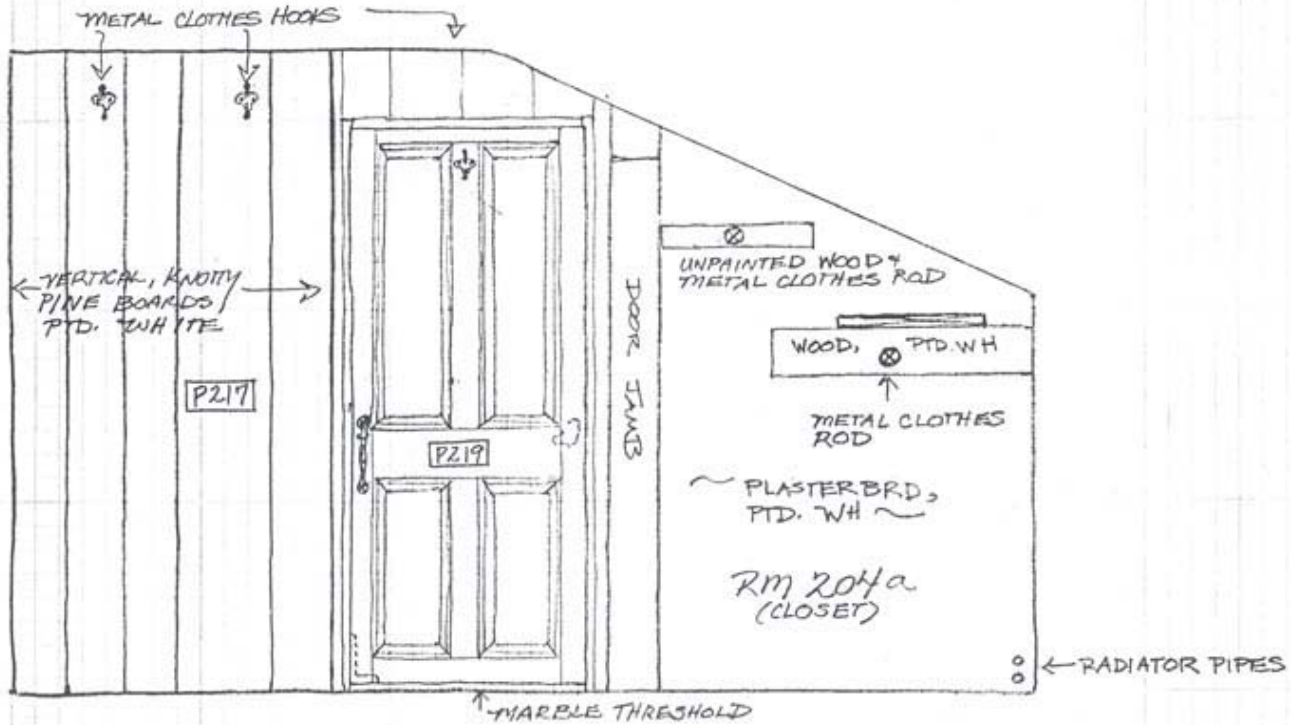
RADIATOR PIPES

SEE EAST + WEST ELEVATIONS FOR SHELF + CLOTHES POLES LOCATIONS.

FINISHES: CL INT. PTD. WH, EXCEPT DOOR THAT IS UN PTD. (+ FLOORBRDS)

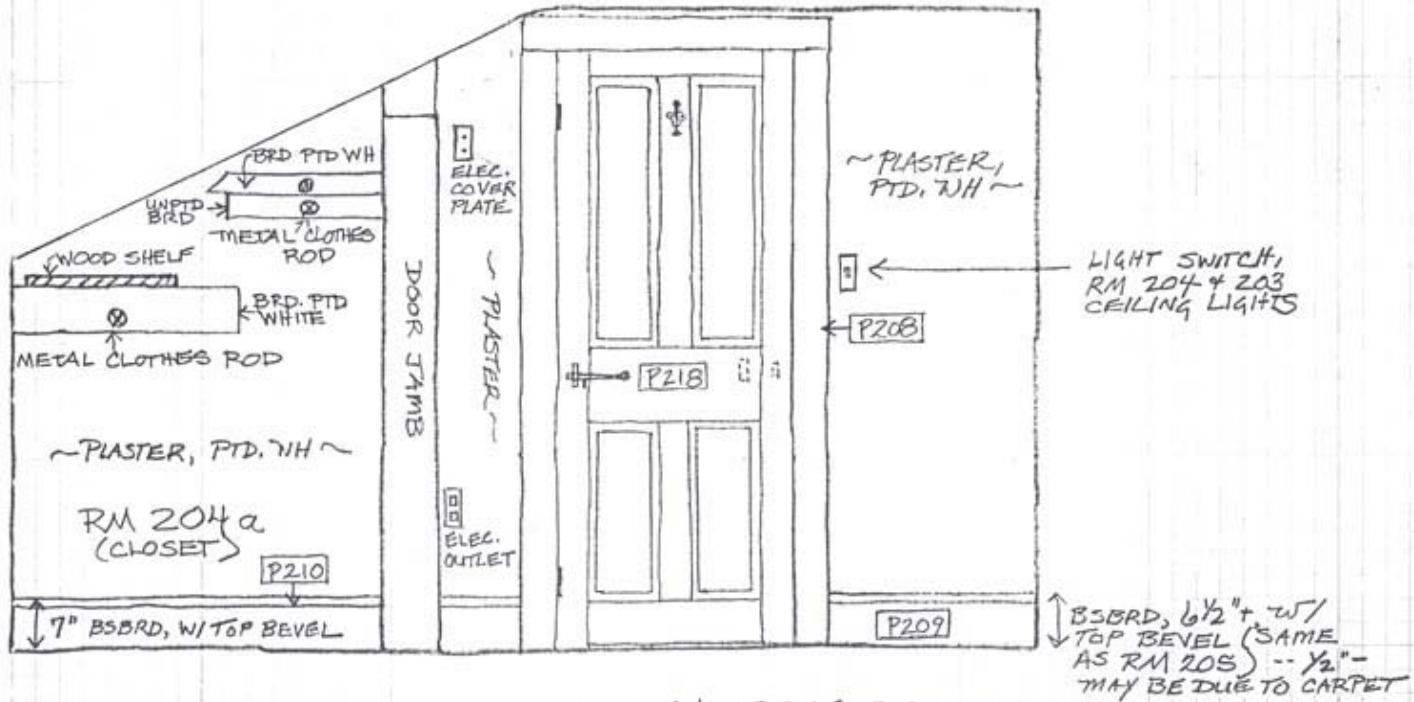
NOTE: POST APPEARS TO BE CONTINUOUS TO 1ST FLOOR, AS SEEN THRU. HOLE IN FLOOR

MIMA: MERRIMACK.
RMS. 204 + 204a
SEPT. 22, 1993; B. Yocum
SCALE: ½" = 1'0"



DOORWAY: TO BATHRM; MORTISED; RAISED, MOLDED PANELS RM 204 SIDE (PLAIN RECESSED RM 203 SIDE -- SIMILAR TO WEST CLOST DOOR, RM 205); MODERN SUFFOLK LATCH & CLOTHES HOOK; SHADOW EVIDENCE OF FORMER "L" HINGE & LATCH; SEE RM 203 FOR DOOR DIMENSIONS; NO ARCHITRAVE

MIMA: MERIAM HS
RMS 204 & 204a
WEST WALL
SEPT. 23, 1993; B. YOCUM
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'0"



DOORWAY: TO RM 205; MORTISED; RAISED PANELS WITH FLAT BORDERS BOTH SIDES; SHADOW OUTLINE & PATCH @ FORMER LATCH LOCATION; 3" RABBETS @ FORMER HINGE LOCATIONS; PLAIN BOARD ARCHITRAVE; SEE RM 205 FOR DOOR DIMENSIONS; METAL CLOTHES HOOK

MIMA: MERIAM HS.
RMS 204 & 204a
EAST WALL
SEPT. 23, 1993; B. Yocum
SCALE: ½" = 1'0"

Room 205

General Information

Room 205 is the back bedroom in the second story of the circa-1810 kitchen addition. It is a large room, measuring 10 feet 8 inches (north-south) by 17 feet 2 inches (east-west). Before 1925, the room is believed to have been smaller by about 8 feet, as will be explained shortly.

Alice Burke Hargrove remembers that this room was a "blind attic" with no windows or closets when her grandparents occupied the house (1871-1921). It was used at that time to store furniture and other miscellaneous items.

Mrs. Hargrove also recalls that the existing dormer window and two closets were installed by her father, Thomas J. Burke, when the house was leased to tenants. The dormer has been dated circa 1925—the date when the roof is believed to have been rebuilt, after the fire. The closets in the southeast and southwest corners, however, appear to have been installed later—probably circa 1958 by the Ingrahams (1951-1991), who used this room in later years as their bedroom.

The architectural investigation found that other work done circa 1925 included the complete rebuilding of the ceiling framing and replastering of the ceiling. New floorboards were installed on top of the old pine floorboards. Partition walls on the east and west sides of the room were removed and rebuilt farther to the east and west to make the room larger. Two doorways that had formerly existed in the south wall were closed, and the wall was newly plastered on circular-sawn lath.

Little in this room survives from the circa-1810 period, except for the wide pine floorboards under the later floorboards. Most of the woodwork and plaster is of circa-1925 vintage. Later alterations dating to circa 1958 include the two closets, and the west door that was moved here from the first story.

Floor

The floor is composed of pine floorboards, 3 1/4 inches wide, laid in a north-south direction. These floorboards were installed over early wide pine floorboards, one board of which may be seen through a small hole in the floor of the southeast closet. The narrow floorboards probably date to the remodeling of the room circa 1925. The wide floorboards may be the original floor of circa 1810.

Walls

Dates of Construction

The walls of the room date from four periods of construction: circa 1705, circa 1810, circa 1925, and circa 1958. The south wall is the earliest, having been built circa 1705 as part of the exterior wall of the original two-story house. The north wall dates to circa 1810, when the present 1 1/2-story kitchen addition was built. The east and west partition walls replaced earlier partition

walls circa 1925. This is also when the roof and ceiling were rebuilt. The most recent walls in the room, installed circa 1958, are the partition walls for the southeast and southwest closets.

Wall Materials

All the walls of the room are finished with plaster on wood lath, except for the closet partitions, which are plasterboard.

It is doubtful that any early (circa 1810-1820) plaster survives, given the extensive alterations that were made circa 1925. Early lath and/or plaster, if any, may survive at the lower north wall. Most of the lath and plaster, however, dates to circa 1925. The back side of the south wall can be viewed from the attic, and its lath is a modern, circular-sawn type. Similar lath would have also been used on the circa-1925 partition walls at the east and west ends of the room, and on the walls of the north window dormer.

Missing Walls

The original (circa-1810) east and west partition walls that were replaced by the existing walls circa 1925 are believed to have been located approximately 4 feet closer to each other than the present walls; the room, in other words, was smaller than it is today.

Physical evidence for this theory is found at both ends of Room 205. At the west end, the circa-1820 baseboard on the north wall of the Room-204 closet continues behind the circa-1925 west wall. Also, the east side of the surround of the Room-204 doorway to Room 202 is covered by the same west wall. At the east end of the room, an early doorway in the location of today's southeast closet led to Room 209. (No evidence of this doorway is visible in Room 205, but it does exist in the north wall of Room 209.) This doorway would logically have connected Room 209 with the rear stair hall (Room 206), not with the windowless garret that was Room 205 prior to circa 1925. The early doorway was closed circa 1925 when the west wall of Room 205 was rebuilt farther west. However, access between Rooms 209 and 206 was maintained by constructing a new doorway just east of the former doorway.

The exact locations of the missing walls are undoubtedly preserved on the original wide pine floorboards that are covered today by the narrow floorboards installed circa 1925. The old floorboards, however, were not uncovered for this investigation.

Baseboard

Baseboard finishes the lower plaster walls on all four sides of the room. The baseboard, which is 7 inches high at the north wall and 7 1/2 inches high at the other three walls, is beveled at the top. It is continuous inside the two corner closets on the room-side walls only. This baseboard has been dated circa 1925. Similar baseboard finishes the room sides of the circa-1958 closet partition walls. This baseboard has been dated circa 1958.

Ceiling

Most of the ceiling is flat, except in the northeast and northwest corners of the room, where it is sloped. This differs from the original (circa-1810) ceiling configuration, which was flat only on the south side of the room, and sloped on the entire north side. The additional flat area (i.e., increased headroom) was obtained by building the present window dormer circa 1925.

The entire ceiling was completely replastered on new, circular-sawn lath circa 1925 when the roof was reconstructed. The back side of the plastered ceiling is visible in the attic today. The height of the flat portion of the ceiling averages about 6 feet 7 inches. The height of the sloped ceiling, where it meets the north wall in the two corners of the room, is only 4 feet 2 inches.

Doorways

There are four doorways in Room 205. Two of these connect with adjacent rooms, and two are closet doorways. The doorways date from two remodeling periods: circa 1925 and circa 1958. Three of the doorways, however, have older, 19th-century doors that were reused from the first story.

Two missing doorways also appear to have existed in the south wall before 1925. One was located where the southwest closet is today; it led to the attic stairway from circa 1820 to circa 1925. The other doorway was located where the southeast closet is today; it connected the east chamber (Room 209) and the back stair hall (Room 206) from circa 1743 or circa 1810/1820 to circa 1925.

West Doorway to Room 204

The doorway in the west wall leads to the small hall outside the bathroom (Room 204). Both the doorway and its plain-board surround have been dated to circa 1925, when the partition wall was constructed.

The four-panel door, on the other hand, is earlier, based on its mortised construction, evidence of early missing hardware, and painted finishes. The paint analysis places the original location of the door in a former partition wall in the kitchen (Room 104). The paint analysis further suggests that the door was moved to this doorway circa 1958. Detailed descriptions of the door, including its dimensions, are cited in the section “Room 204: Doorways.”

Existing hardware includes two modern “HL”-style hinges on the south stile, and an old Norfolk latch with cusp top on the north stile. The original hinges were a butt-type, as evidenced by two mortises on the opposite north side of the door. The Norfolk latch, however, appears to be original hardware that was reused, based on the shadow outline of a cusp-top latch on the south stile of the door.

East Doorway to Room 206

The doorway in the west wall connects with the back stair hall (Room 206). Like the west doorway, the east doorway has been dated circa 1925, based on its location in a circa-1925 partition wall. The surround is similar to that of the west doorway, being composed of plain boards. The threshold, dated circa 1925, is 4 1/2 inches wide.

The two-panel door is original to this opening, and has been dated circa 1925 (based on the paint analysis). It is a modern door with two large panels separated by a center rail. The panels are recessed and molded on the Room-205 side, and covered by a large mirror on the opposite side. The dimensions of the door are 6 feet 3 1/2 inches high by 2 feet 6 inches wide by 1 1/2 inches thick. The door is hung by two three-knuckle butt hinges on the south side. A metal doorknob and lock assembly is on the north stile.

Southeast Closet Doorway

The southeast closet and its doorway have both been dated circa 1958. The doorway, in the north wall of the closet, has a plain-board surround similar to those of the east and west doorways. It differs, however, by having fewer paint layers. There is no threshold at this doorway.

The door is an old door that was reused from one of the first-story rooms. The style of the door, evidence of early hardware, and paint chromochronologies date the door to circa 1820, and place it in the doorway between Rooms 101 and 102.

The door is of mortised construction with four panels and a center rail. The panels on the room side (formerly Room-101 side) are raised and unmolded, and those on the closet side (formerly Room-102 side) are recessed and molded.[37] The dimensions of the door are given in the section "Room 101: Doorways."

Existing door hardware includes two later "H"-style hinges on the east stile, and a Norfolk latch on the west stile. Evidence of original hardware includes two mortises for butt hinges on the east side of the door, and the shadow outline of a Norfolk latch with scalloped backplate on the west stile (beneath the existing Norfolk latch).

Southwest Closet Doorway

The doorway to the southwest closet is similar to that of the southeast closet. It, too, has been dated to circa 1958; is in the closet's north wall; lacks a threshold; and has the same plain-board surround, Norfolk-style latch, and door reused from the first story.

The style of the door, evidence of early hardware, and paint chromochronologies date the door to circa 1810, and place it in the doorway between Rooms 102 and 104. The door is also documented in its original location by an early sketch of the kitchen dated circa 1865 (fig. 4).

[37] Two doors of similar style survive in their original locations in the two doorways off the upper stair hall (Room 201).

The door is of mortised construction with four panels and a center rail. The panels on the room side (formerly Room-102 side) are raised and molded, and those on the closet side (formerly Room-104 side) are recessed and unmolded. There is also a long patch on the lower east side of the door that measures 1 inch wide by 3 feet 2 inches long. The dimensions of the door are given in the section "Room 102: Doorways."

Existing door hardware includes two "H"-style hinges on the west stile, and a Norfolk latch on the east stile. Shadow evidence of the original missing hardware indicates that the hinges were in the same location but were the "HL" type, and that a Suffolk thumb latch was on the closet side of the door on the east stile.

Missing Attic Doorway

It is thought that a doorway from circa 1820 formerly existed at the west end of the south wall of Room 205. Since it predated the partition rebuilding of circa 1925, it was then located in the south wall of the adjacent northwest bedroom. This doorway led to an attic stairway that was constructed circa 1820 and removed circa 1925. As explained previously, the original attic stairway in the front stair hall (Room 201) was rebuilt circa 1743, and removed from that area entirely circa 1820. A new attic stairway was built, probably along the west side of the chimney stack—about where the closet in Room 202 is now located. It would have been accessed by a doorway leading from Room 204, i.e., the doorway now being discussed.

Unfortunately, all physical evidence of this doorway and its attic stairway was obliterated by the circa-1925 fire and subsequent repairs. (This work included the removal of the attic stairway to a closet in the back stair hall, Room 206. The circumstantial evidence for such an arrangement, however, is compelling. First, it seems clear that the attic stairway was removed entirely from Room 201 circa 1820, so that a new attic stairway had to be built somewhee in the house. Second, there is space for such a stairway on the west side of the chimney stack. Third, this available space was not converted to a closet for the west chamber (Room 202) when that room was renovated extensively circa 1820. The closet in that location today was not built until circa 1925—precisely when the attic stairway was moved to its present location in Room 206. This suggests that the space along the west side of the chimney was occupied by some feature—probably the stairway—from circa 1820 to circa 1925.

Missing Doorway to Room 209

An early doorway also formerly existed at the east end of the south wall. It predated the partition rebuilding of circa 1925, and so was actually located in the south wall of the adjacent back stair hall (Room 206). It connected the stair hall with the east chamber (Room 209), where physical evidence of the missing doorway can be seen today. (See "Room 209: Doorways" for a detailed description of the physical evidence for the missing doorway.) The early doorway was closed, and the present doorway built farther east in the wall, when the existing partition wall was constructed circa 1925.

The date of the opening is not known. It was probably not a window opening circa 1705, since north windows were rare in early 18th-century houses. It may have been created circa 1743 as a doorway to the garret of the first north kitchen addition, and retained when the present kitchen addition was built circa 1810. Alternatively, it may have been created new circa 1810.

Windows

There are two windows in the north dormer (W-208 and W-209). The dormer and its windows were installed circa 1925. Before that time, there were no windows in this room. The window elements include a plain-board surround, stool, molded apron, and six-over-six sashes. The upper six-light sash of W-209 has been replaced with a louvered sash.

Closets

Two closets of roughly similar size (4 feet by about 2 1/2 feet) are located in the southeast and southwest corners of the room. Although Alice Burke Hargrove believes that her father, Thomas J. Burke, built the closets, the physical evidence suggests that they were installed later—probably circa 1958, by the Ingrahams.

The partition walls of the closets are made of plasterboard, not the plaster on lath that was used circa 1925. Furthermore, the circa-1925 baseboards continue behind the closet partitions and into the closets, as if the partitions had been installed after the baseboards. The surrounds of the closet doorways are also lacking the early paint layers found on the surrounds of the room's circa-1925 east and west doorways. Both closet doorways have old doors that were reused from doorways in Room 102, as described in the section "Doorways." The interior of each closet has a metal clothes bar and a wooden shelf.

Painted Finishes

Existing Finishes

The room is painted gray and white today. Gray paint covers the woodwork, including the doorways, windows, and baseboards. White paint finishes the plaster and plasterboard walls, the plaster ceiling, and the interiors of the closets. The plaster walls have a texture similar to a sand paint. The floorboards are unpainted.

Historic Finishes

The paint history of the room was determined by extracting 16 samples of paint (P220-P235) for microscopic analysis. Details of the paint analysis can be found in Appendix E.

No early paint layers predating circa 1925 were found in Room 205, except on the three old doors that were reused in the west doorway and in the closet doorways. The paint analysis was instrumental in determining the original locations of those doors, as explained in "Doorways."

The first finish on the circa-1925 woodwork is a lead-based, cream-color paint. This is followed by four layers of nonlead paints: white, mustard yellow, blue, and gray. The last painting of the room, in white and gray, has been dated to circa 1958.

Only one layer of cream/white paint is on the plaster wall, and two layers are on the plaster ceiling. There is no evidence that the walls were ever wallpapered.

Electrical Equipment

Light Fixtures

The room has one light fixture, mounted on the ceiling of the southeast closet. The light is activated by a pull-chain.

Electrical Outlets

There are three duplex receptacles in the room. Two are located in the lower plaster walls, and one is baseboard-mounted. They are distributed as follows:

- south wall: lower plaster wall, east side (near the closet);
- east wall: lower plaster wall, south of the doorway;
- north wall: baseboard, between the windows.

Telephone Equipment

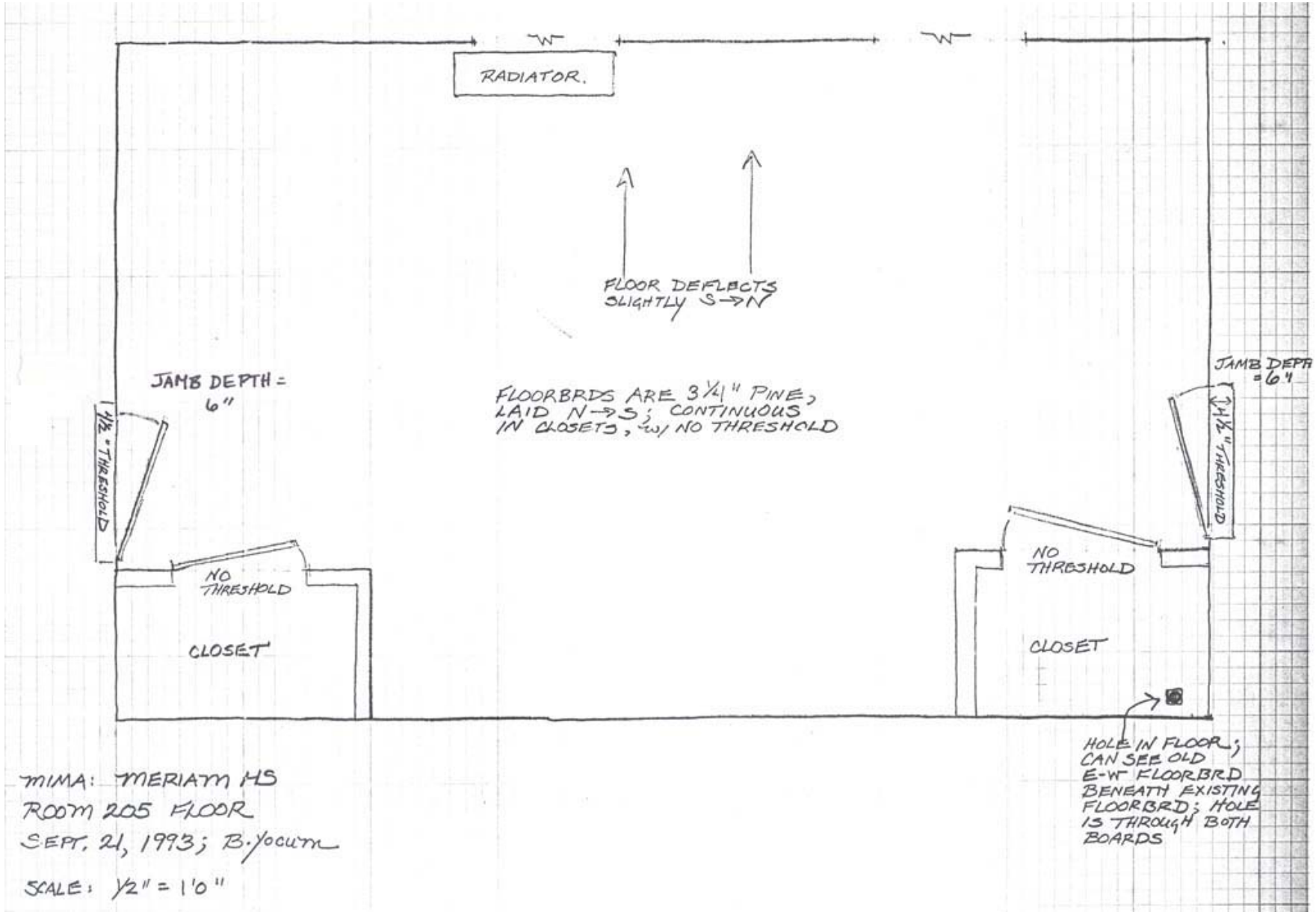
A telephone connection box is mounted to the west-wall baseboard, 9 inches from the north wall.

Heating Equipment

One hot-water radiator sits at the north wall, beneath the west window. It is six columns wide and 18 sections long. No manufacturer's identification could be found. The radiator was probably installed in 1951, in conjunction with the existing heating system.

Fire- and Intrusion-Protection Equipment

There is no fire- or intrusion-protection equipment in Room 205.

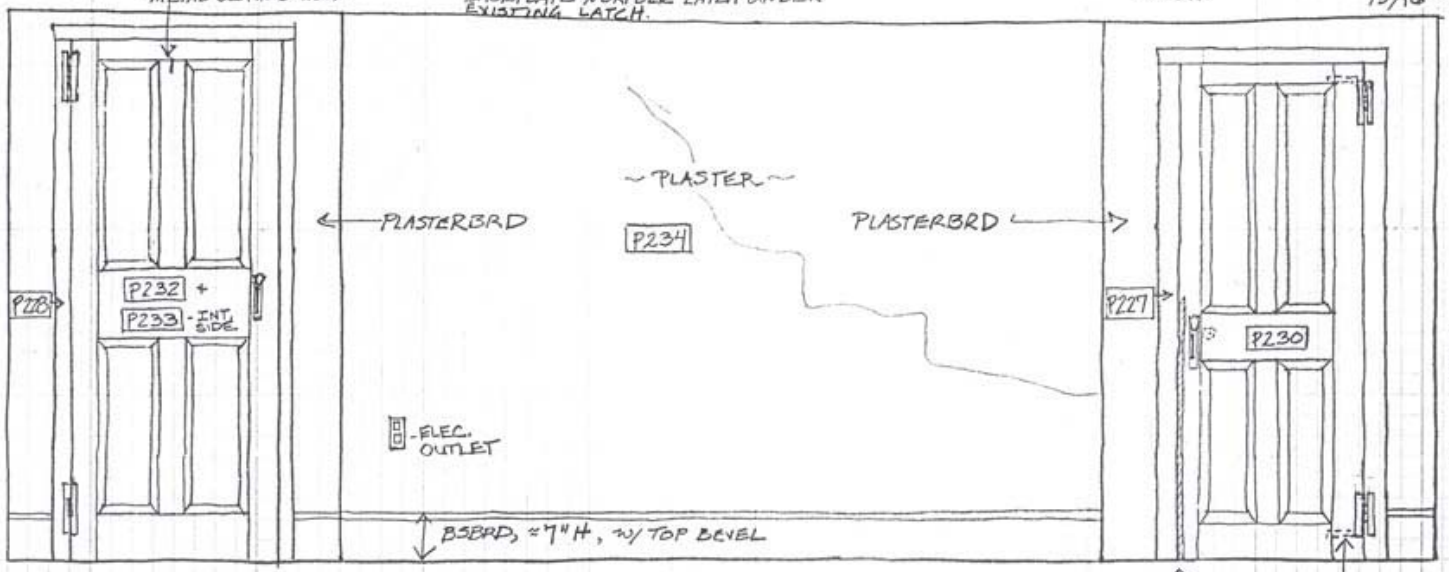

RADIATOR.
FLOOR DEFLECTS SLIGHTLY S→N
JAMB DEPTH = 6"
1 1/2" THRESHOLD
NO THRESHOLD
CLOSET
FLOORBRDS ARE 3 1/4" PINE, LAID N→S; CONTINUOUS IN CLOSETS, w/ NO THRESHOLD
JAMB DEPTH = 6"
1 1/2" THRESHOLD
NO THRESHOLD
CLOSET
HOLE IN FLOOR; CAN SEE OLD E-W FLOORBRD BENEATH EXISTING FLOORBRD; HOLE IS THROUGH BOTH BOARDS
MIMA: MERIAM HS
ROOM 205 FLOOR
SEPT. 21, 1993; B. Yocum
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'0"

DOORWAY: TO CLOSET; PLAIN BOARD ARCHITRAVE; RAISED PANELS ROOM SIDE + RECESSED MOLDED PANELS CLOSET SIDE; NORFOLK LATCH + LATER HINGES (MORTISES FOR x2 HINGES — 2¼" L, 3 SCREWS); DOOR APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN CUT @ TOP; DOOR (MORTISED) MEASURES:
2'5½" W x
6'1½" H x
1" THK

FINISHES:
WOODWORK PTD GRAY;
PLASTER PTD. WHITE (TEXTURED, SAND TYPE);
PLASTERBRD, PLAIN WM PAINT (SMOOTH FINISH)

DOORWAY: TO CLOSET; PLAIN BOARD ARCHITRAVE; RAISED PANELS (W/ EDGE MOLDING) ROOM SIDE + RECESSED UNMOLDED PANELS CLOSET SIDE; NORFOLK LATCH SAME STYLE AS EAST CLOSET DOOR; LATER HINGES (BASED ON SHADOW EVIDENCE); LONG RABBET LATCH SIDE OF DOOR; DOOR MEASURES:
(MORTISED); SHADOW EVID. CL SIDE OF SUFFOLK LATCH.
2'4¾" W x
6'0" H x
15/16" THK

DOOR STYLE:
DITTO RM 201. NOTE OUTLINE OF SAME "WAVY" BACKPLATE NORFOLK LATCH UNDER EXISTING LATCH.



DOOR: FROM RM 101-102 DOORWAY (CA. 1820)

DOOR: FROM RM 102-104 DOORWAY (CA. 1810)

RABBET, 1" x 3'2", DOOR DEPTH

SHADOW EVIDENCE OF FORMER HINGE (ALSO ABOVE)

MIMA: MERIAM HS
RM 205, SOUTH WALL
SEPT. 21, 1993; B. Yocum
SCALE: ½" = 1'0"

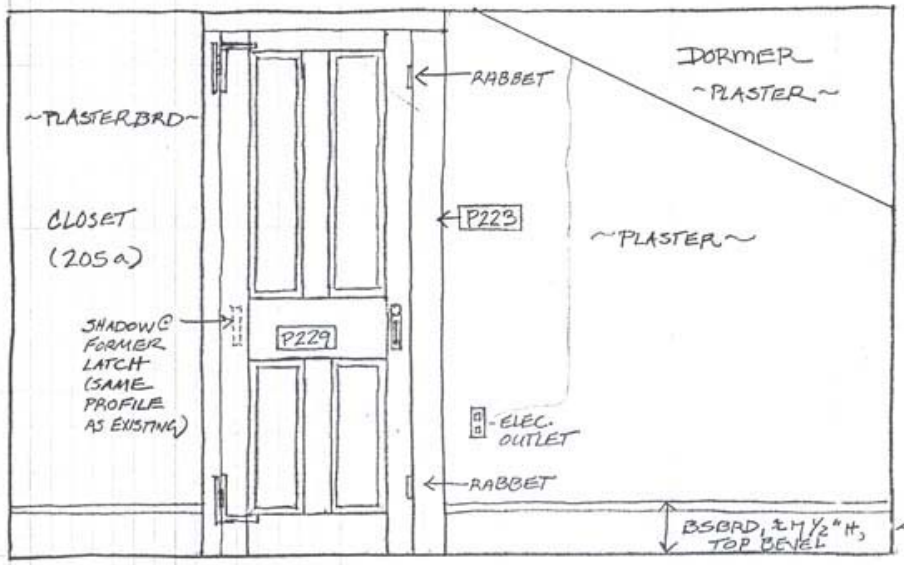
EAST CLOSET INTERIOR:
DITTO WEST CLOSET INT., EXCEPT: ELEC CEILING LIGHT FIXTURE WEST SIDE (PULL-CHAIN ACTIVATED); HOLE IN FLOOR, SE CORNER, 2½" DIAM. -- CAN SEE FLOORBRDS ARE INSTALLED ABOVE OLD FLOOR

WEST CLOSET INTERIOR:
BSBRD (7", BEVELED) SOUTH + WEST WALLS ONLY; UPPER WOOD SHELF + E-W METAL CLOTHES BAR BELOW; WALLS (S. + W) CEILING PLASTER, FLOOR WOOD (CONTINUOUS W/ ROOM); WOODWORK + PLASTER PTD. WHITE; N + E WALLS ARE PLASTERBRD

DOORWAY. PLAIN BOARD ARCHITRAVE; MORTISED DOOR, RAISED PANELS BOTH SIDES (FLAT BORDER); RABBETS & SHADOW MARKS ARE EVIDENCE THAT THE HARDWARE HAS BEEN MOVED (MORTISES FOR 3" HINGES ON SOUTH JAMB SUGGEST THE DOOR HAS BEEN REVERSED); DOOR MEASURES:

NORFOLK LATCH; MODERN HINGES

2'6" W x
6'3 5/8" H x
1 3/16" THK



TELEPHONE CONNECTION BOX ATTACHED TO BSBRD, 9" FROM NO. WALL (OPERATIVE)

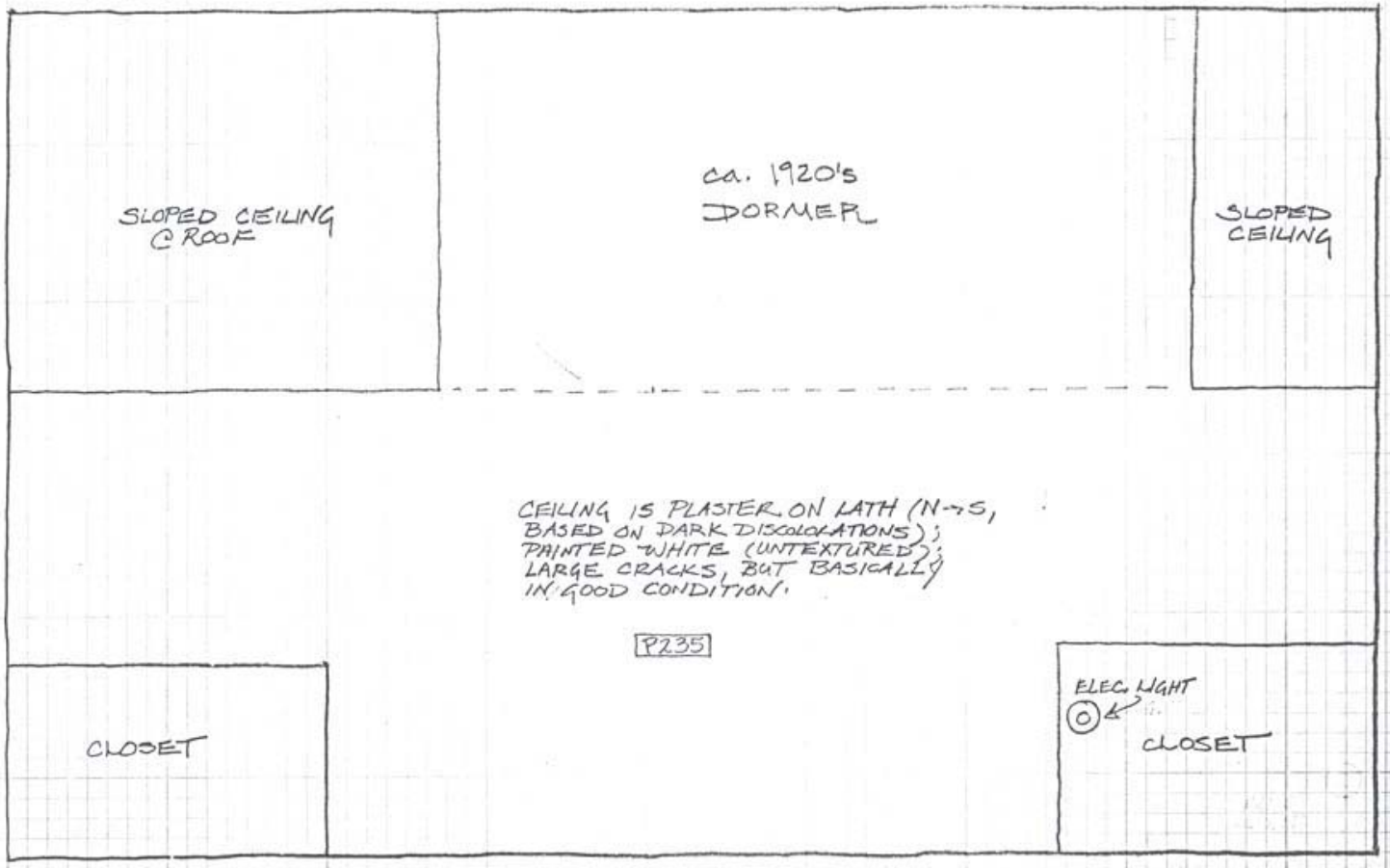
DOOR: FROM RM 104-104 PARTITION DOORWAY

MIMA: MERIAM HS.
RM 205, WEST WALL
SEPT. 21, 1993; B. YOCUM
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'0"

FINISHES:
WOODWORK PTD. GRAY;
PLASTER WALLS (& CEILING)
PTD. WHITE (SAND PAINT)
ca. 1920's DORMER
Sloped Ceiling
W-209
NPS LOUVERS
~PLASTER~
W-208
Sloped Ceiling
P221
P220
RADIATOR, HOT WATER, 18 FINS, 6 COLS., NO I.D.
ELEC. OUTLET IN BSBRD
P222
P226
BSBRD, 7½"H W/TOP BEVEL & TOE MOLDING
BSBRD SEAM
MIMA: MERIAM HS.
RM 205, NORTH WALL
SEPT. 21, 1993; B. Yocum
SCALE: ½" = 1'0"

DOORWAY: TO HALL, W/ PLAIN BOARD ARCHITRAVE; UNMORTISED DOOR, HAS 2 RECESSED (MOLDED) PANELS ROOM 205 SIDE & LRG MIRROR HALL SIDE; MODERN METAL DOORKNOB; x2 3-KNUCKLE HINGES; DOOR MEASURIES:
2'6" W x
6'3½"(-) H x
1½" THK

MIMA: MERIAM HS
RM 205, EAST WALL
SEPT. 21, 1998; B. Yocum
SCALE: ½" = 1'0"



MIMA: MERIAM HS
RM 205 CEILING
SEPT. 21, 1993; B. Yocum
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'0"

Room 206

General Information

Room 206 is the back stair hall in the second story of the circa-1810 kitchen addition. It is a small room, with dimensions of 10 feet 8 inches (north-south) by 7 feet 6 inches (east-west). The east half contains the stairway to the first story, and a closet south of the stairway.

A stairway has always existed in this location since the kitchen addition was built. However, the current appearance of Room 206 and its stairway dates to circa 1925, when extensive rebuilding occurred after a fire here. The original (circa-1810) appearance of the room is thus unclear. The room was definitely somewhat larger than it is today: prior to circa 1925, the west wall was located about 4 feet farther west. Also, the original stairway was a straight run similar to the present stairway.

The stair hall may even have been substantially larger than it is today: there are two reasons to think that it was open to Room 208 until 1903-1904. First, such a design would have resembled the original northwest bedroom (later subdivided to form Rooms 203 and 204). Second, it would have allowed light from the east-wall window in Room 208 to illuminate the entire space. (The slope of the roof would have made a north-wall window infeasible in Room 206.) The east side of the stairwell would have needed some type of protective barrier. If a wall did not exist here originally, perhaps a balustrade was used.

Room 206 would definitely have been partitioned off from Room 208 circa 1903-1904, when the latter space was converted to a bathroom. Following the post-fire reconstruction work, minor changes were made to the room by the Ingrahams in the 1950's.

Floor

The floor is composed of pine floorboards, 3 1/4 inches wide, oriented in a north-south direction. The floorboards have been dated to circa 1925. Original (circa-1810) wide pine floorboards are visible in the southeast closet. These two boards, which are each more than a foot wide, are attached with nails that appear to have handmade heads. The boards are oriented in an east-west direction. The stairwell of the stairway down to the first story occupies the east side of the room.

Walls

Dates of Construction

The walls in Room 206 date to three periods of construction: circa 1705, circa 1810, and circa 1925. The earliest wall is the south wall, which was built circa 1705 as the exterior wall of the main, two-story house. The north wall dates to circa 1810, when the 1 1/2-story kitchen addition was constructed. The east and west walls were built circa 1925, at the same time the roof and

ceiling were reconstructed. Also constructed at this time were a closet partition in the southeast corner, and a low partition on the west side of the stairway.

Wall Materials

The walls are finished with two materials: plaster and wood paneling.

Plaster

Plaster is visible on three walls: the east, south, and west. Plaster also remains on the north wall, covered by later (1950's) wide pine paneling. While it is possible that some of the south-wall plaster dates to circa 1810, it is more likely that all the plaster in the room was replaced after the fire of circa 1925. It is evident from the back side of the north wall, which can be viewed from Room 207, that the circa-1925 plaster is applied to circular-sawn lath.

Wood Paneling

Wood wall paneling was installed in Room 206 at two different periods—circa 1925 and in the 1950's. The earlier paneling is a narrow tongue-and-groove type installed vertically. It finishes the closet partitions in the southeast corner, and the low partition wall on the west side of the stairway. The later paneling, installed by the Ingrahams, consists of wide pine boards installed horizontally. It is located at the north wall only.

Baseboard

Baseboard finishes the plaster on the south and west walls of the room only. This baseboard, dated circa 1925, is 7 inches high and beveled at the top. It is similar in style to the baseboards in Rooms 204, 205, and 207.

Missing West Wall

The original west wall between Rooms 206 and 205 was replaced with the existing wall circa 1925. It is believed to have been located approximately 4 feet farther west than the present wall. This is based on the physical evidence of a missing doorway in the north wall of the east chamber (Room 209). This closed doorway, which probably connected Rooms 206 and 209, is on the Room-205 side of the partition today. It is unlikely that the east chamber would have had a doorway leading to a then-windowless room (Room 205); more probably, the doorway would have led to the back stair hall. It is therefore thought that the wall was moved, as was the wall at the opposite end of Room 205.

Physical evidence of the missing wall's exact location is undoubtedly preserved on the original wide pine floorboards in Room 205. These are covered today by narrow floorboards installed circa 1925.

Missing East Wall

The present east wall of the room, like the west wall, dates to circa 1925. An earlier east wall certainly existed—probably in the same location—by 1903-1904, when the adjacent Room 208 was outfitted as a bathroom. As explained previously, there is a good chance that no wall existed here prior to circa 1903-1904.

Ceiling

The ceiling is plastered on circular-sawn lath. It was completely rebuilt at the same time as the roof, circa 1925. The ceiling of the southeast closet was opened at this time, to provide access to the attic.

The configuration of the ceiling, however, is probably unchanged from its appearance circa 1810-1820. The ceiling is flat on the south side of the room, and follows the slope of the roof on the north side of the room. The height of the flat ceiling is 6 feet 6 inches tall; it measures 4 feet 1 inch tall at the north wall.

Doorways

There are five doorways in the upper back stair hall; all have been dated to circa 1925, except for one from the 1950's.

South Doorway to Room 209

A doorway in the south wall connects with the original east chamber (Room 209). All of its woodwork dates to circa 1925, based on the results of the paint analysis. It replaced an earlier doorway farther west in the wall, which is described in "Missing Doorway to Room 209."

The surround consists of plain boards. The threshold is 5 inches wide. The door is of modern construction and has four panels. The panels are raised with flat edges and unmolded on the Room-206 side, and recessed and molded on the opposite Room-209 side. The door measures 5 feet 8 7/8 inches high by 2 feet 6 inches wide by 1 1/8 inches thick. The door is hung by two modern hinges on the east side to swing open into Room 209. A modern Suffolk-style thumb latch is on the west stile, and a metal clothes hook is attached to the upper middle stile.

West Doorway to Room 205

A doorway in the west wall leads to the back bedroom (Room 205). The doorway, like the west wall itself, has been dated circa to 1925. This date is verified by the paint analysis of the doorway woodwork.

The surround consists of plain boards, similar to that of the south doorway. The threshold is 4 1/2 inches wide. The door, which has two panels, is almost completely covered on the Room-206 side by a large mirror. It is described in detail in the section "Room 205: Doorways."

North Doorway to Room 207

A small doorway at the west end of the north wall provides access to the unfinished attic of the circa-1820 north addition. While it is possible that there was an earlier doorway here, the existing doorway has been dated to the 1950's. This is based on the wide pine boards that were used in its construction with the penciled notation, “ graham” [i.e., “Ingraham”] on the east jamb.

The surround consists of plain pine boards. The threshold is 7 inches wide. The door is composed of two layers of pine boards, running vertically on the Room-206 side and horizontally on the Room-207 side. The dimensions of the door are 3 feet 8 inches high by 2 feet 9 1/2 inches wide by 1 1/2 inches thick. The door is hung by two modern “H”-style hinges on the west side. A wood knob and wood swivel latch are on the east side of the door.

East Doorway to Room 208

The doorway at the north end of the east wall connects with the house's first bathroom (Room 208). While it is thought that this bathroom may have been installed as early as 1903-1904, all of the doorway woodwork is later, dating to circa 1925. Before 1925, the doorway to this room may have been at the south end of the east wall, where the closet is today.

This is a small doorway, which is angled on the north corner to accommodate the slope of the ceiling. The surround consists of plain boards. The threshold is wood (not marble, as at the doorway to the circa-1958 west bathroom), and measures 4 inches wide. The door itself is a batten type, which is made of the same vertical tongue-and-groove boards as the wall paneling. The dimensions of the door are 4 feet 11 1/8 inches high (its maximum height on the south side) by 2 feet 2 1/8 inches wide by three-quarters of an inch thick.

Door hardware includes two two-knuckle hinges on the south side, and a modern Suffolk latch on the north side. Two Suffolk-style hand-holds are also attached to the south side of the surround, at the head of the stairway.

Doorway to Southeast Closet

The closet in the southeast corner of the room has a doorway in its west wall, which is aligned with the low partition along the west side of the stairway. The closet and its doorway have both been dated to circa 1925, based on their construction materials and the paint analysis.

The surround consists of plain boards. The threshold is 3 inches wide. The door, like the east bathroom door, is a batten type made up of vertical tongue-and-groove boards. The door measures 6 feet 3 1/2 inches high by 2 feet 4 inches wide by three-quarters of an inch thick.

The door is hung on the north side by two two-knuckle hinges, to swing outward into the room. A modern Suffolk-style bar latch is on the south side of the door. A metal clothes hook is attached to the upper middle portion of the door.

Missing Doorway to Room 209

Evidence in Room 209 indicates that a doorway formerly existed west of the existing doorway to Room 209. As explained previously, it probably connected the east chamber (Room 209) and the back stair hall (Room 206) from circa 1810 until circa 1925. Then, the east wall of Room 205 was rebuilt farther east; the doorway had to be rebuilt farther east, as well, to maintain the same circulation pattern. The physical evidence for the missing doorway is described in the section "Room 209: Doorways."

Missing Doorway to Room 208

The pre-1925 doorway to Room 208 is believed to have been at the south end of the east wall—where the circa-1925 closet is today. No physical evidence for this doorway survives today, because the wall in which it was located was completely rebuilt circa 1925. However, the design of the original stairway suggests such a placement.

Before circa 1925, the stairway to the first story had a landing as its top step, which extended to the north wall. This landing was one step below the level of the second floor. Thus, someone passing through the existing doorway from Room 206 to Room 208 would have had to step down onto the landing, then back up to the floor level. A doorway at the south end of the east wall, on the other hand, would have provided a continuous floor level between Rooms 206 and 208.

Windows

There are no windows in Room 206.

Stairways

There are two stairways in the back stair hall: one descending to the first story, and a ladder leading up to the attic.

First-Story Stairway

The stairway to the first story occupies the east side of Room 206. The design and materials of the existing staircase have been dated to circa 1925, based on construction details and the results of the paint analysis. It apparently replaced an earlier, similar stairway damaged by the circa-1925 fire in the house. The earlier stairway was probably original to the circa-1810 kitchen addition. The physical evidence for the early stairway is described in the section "Room 105: Stairway."

The earlier (circa-1810) stairway was in this same location, but had a landing 2 feet 3 inches deep at the head of the stairway (at the north wall), one step below the level of the second floor. The evidence for this landing is the charred outline of the early stairway that remains on the east wall of the existing cellar stairway (see "Room 105" for details).

Second-story features of the stairway include a shelf 4 inches wide at the floor level on the east side, and a partition wall (2 feet 6 1/2 inches high) on the west side. As mentioned in "Walls,"

the partition is composed of vertical tongue-and-groove wall paneling dated circa 1925. The partition does not extend as far north as the top step, creating an unusual tripping hazard on this side of the stairway.

Attic Ladderway

The attic is accessed by a six-rung wood ladder attached to the east wall inside the southeast closet. The closet has no ceiling, enabling access to the attic of the main house on the south side. The ladder dates to circa 1925. Prior to that time, the attic stairway was located in the space now occupied by the northeast closet in Room 202.

Closet

The closet in the southeast corner of Room 206 dates to circa 1925, based on its construction materials and the paint analysis. Its partitions are finished with vertical tongue-and-groove paneling, which is the same material that was used to make the door. The north partition of the closet forms the south wall of the stairwell for the stairway to the first story.

The interior of the closet is entirely composed of new (circa-1925) materials, except for two wide pine floorboards that may be original (circa 1810). The walls are the unmolded back sides of the tongue-and-groove paneling. The ceiling is open to the attic, which is accessed by an attached ladder at the east wall. Six wire clothing hooks are attached to the north wall.

There was probably no closet here before circa 1925. Rather, it is more likely that the area of the closet contained a doorway to the east adjacent room (Room 208).

Painted Finishes

Existing Finishes

Room 206 is painted light brown and white today. Most of the woodwork is light brown, and the plaster walls and ceiling are white. The wide pine boards at the north wall are varnished, as are the narrow-pine floorboards. The closet interior is unfinished, except for the wide pine floorboards, which are painted a mustard-yellow color.

Historic Finishes

The paint history of the room was determined by extracting and microscopically examining 13 samples of paint. Details of the paint analysis may be found in Appendix E.

The paint analysis confirmed that most of the materials in Room 206, including the woodwork and plaster, date to circa 1925. The woodwork has five layers of paint, the earliest of which is a lead-based cream color. This is followed by four, mostly lead-free paints in the following colors: yellow, white, red, and brown. Only two paint layers, cream and white, were found on the plaster wall. Four layers of white paints were counted on the plaster ceiling. All of the paints on the plaster are lead-free.

One layer of nonlead mustard-yellow paint was identified on the wide pine floorboards. An accumulation of dirt between the wood and the paint indicates that the floorboards were unpainted for a period of time before the mustard-yellow was applied. While it is impossible to pinpoint the exact date of this paint, a date of circa 1925 is probable.

Electrical Equipment

Light Fixtures

The back stair hall has one chain-activated light fixture mounted to the ceiling in the center of the room. The fixture has a metal, bell-shaped base and a single bare light bulb; the shade is missing.

The room also has two light switches. One, at the east wall south of the doorway to Room 208, activates the light fixtures in Room 208. The other, at the south wall of closet, activates the light fixtures in the attic.

Electrical Outlet

One duplex receptacle is in the west plaster wall, midway between the doorway to Room 205 and the north wall.

Heating Equipment

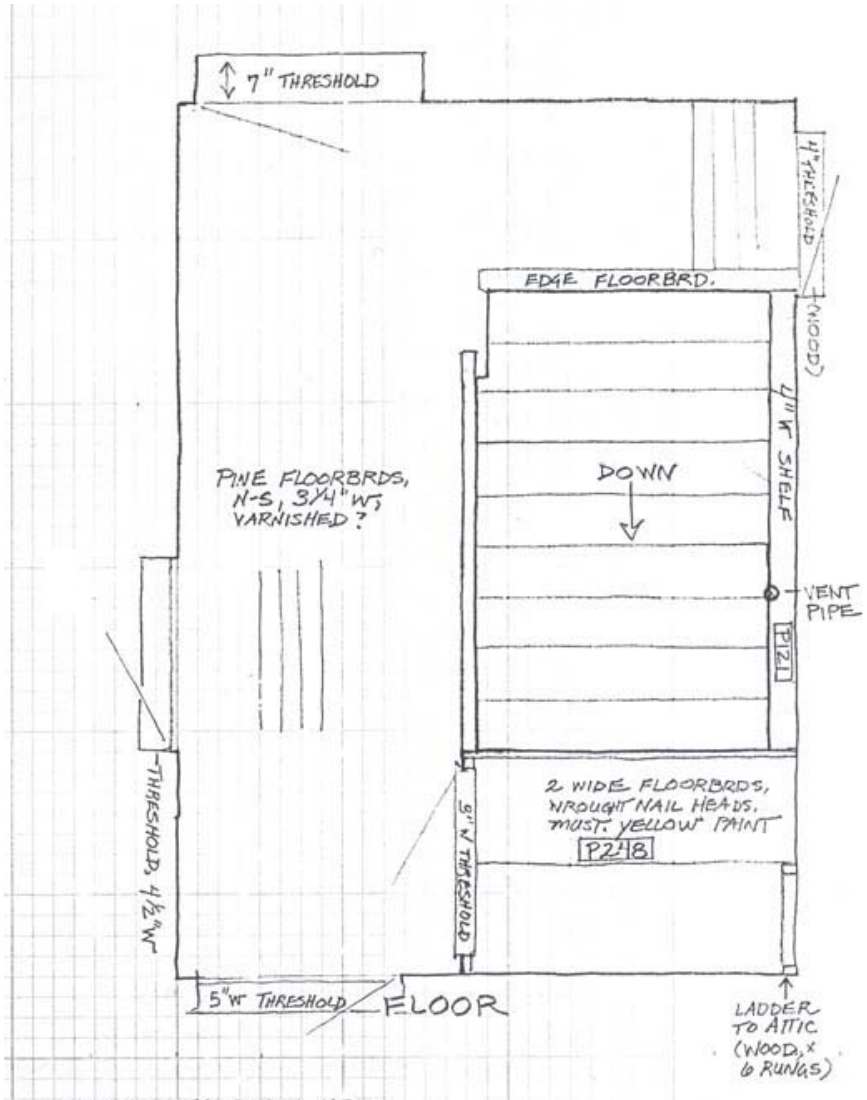
There is no heating equipment in Room 206.

Plumbing Equipment

The only plumbing equipment in Room 206 is an exposed ventilation pipe at the east wall of the stairway.

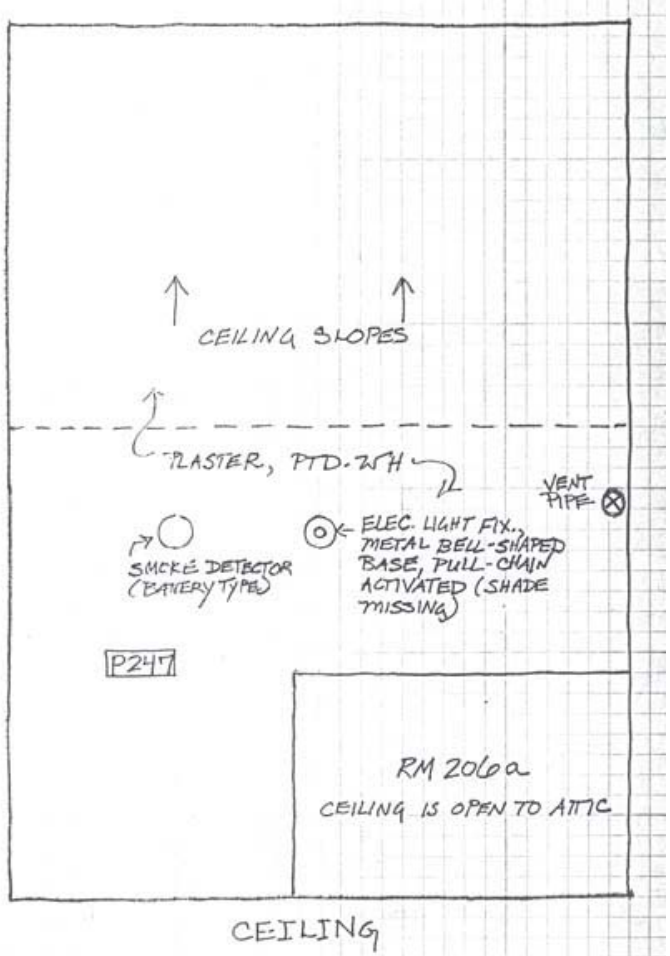
Fire- and Intrusion-Protection Equipment

A battery-operated smoke detector is mounted to the ceiling, west of the ceiling light fixture. It was installed by the National Park Service. There is no intrusion-protection equipment.



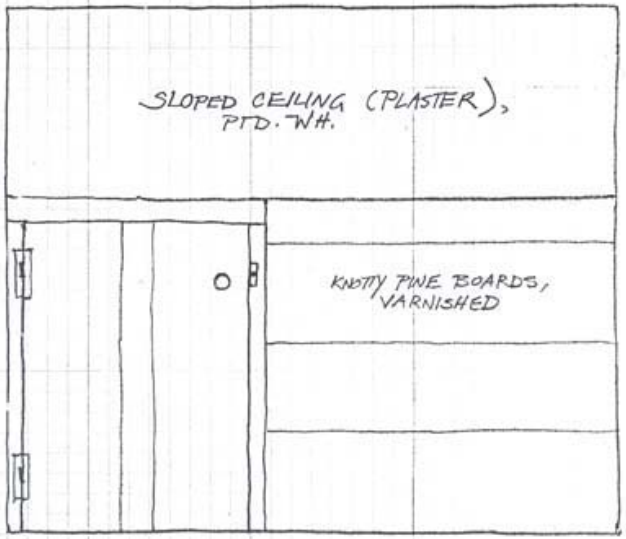
MIMA: MERIAM HS.
RM 206, FLOOR + CEILING
SEPT. 27, 1993; B. Yocum

SCALE: 1/2" = 1'0"



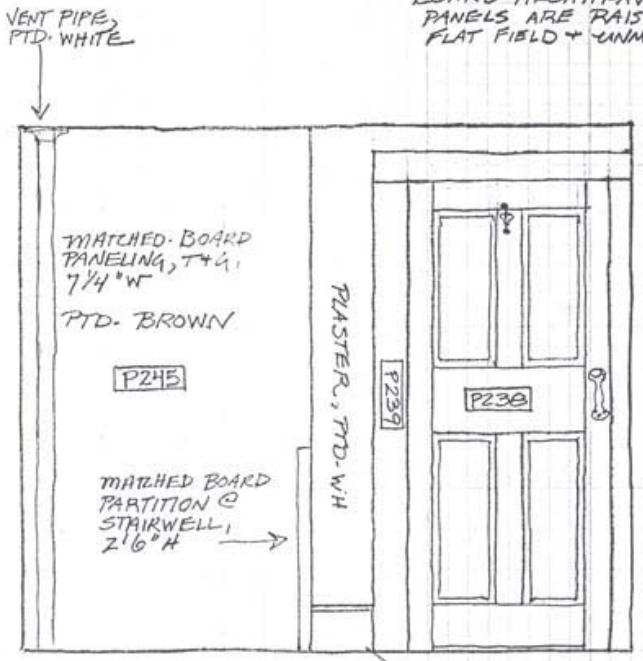
CEILING

DOORWAY: TO RM 207 (SMALL ATTIC); KNOTTY PINE BOARDS, MODERN HARWARE; WOOD KNOB + SWIVEL LATCH; "..graham" WRITTEN IN PENCIL ON EAST JAMB; DOOR MEASURES:
2'9½" W
3'8" H
1½" THK (2 BRDS)



NORTH WALL

DOORWAY: TO RM 209; NOT MORTISED, MODERN SUFFOLK LATCH; METAL CLOTHES HOOK; FOR DOOR DIMENSIONS SEE RM 209; PLAIN BOARD ARCHITRAVE. PANELS ARE RAISED ON FLAT FIELD + UNMOLDED.



SOUTH WALL

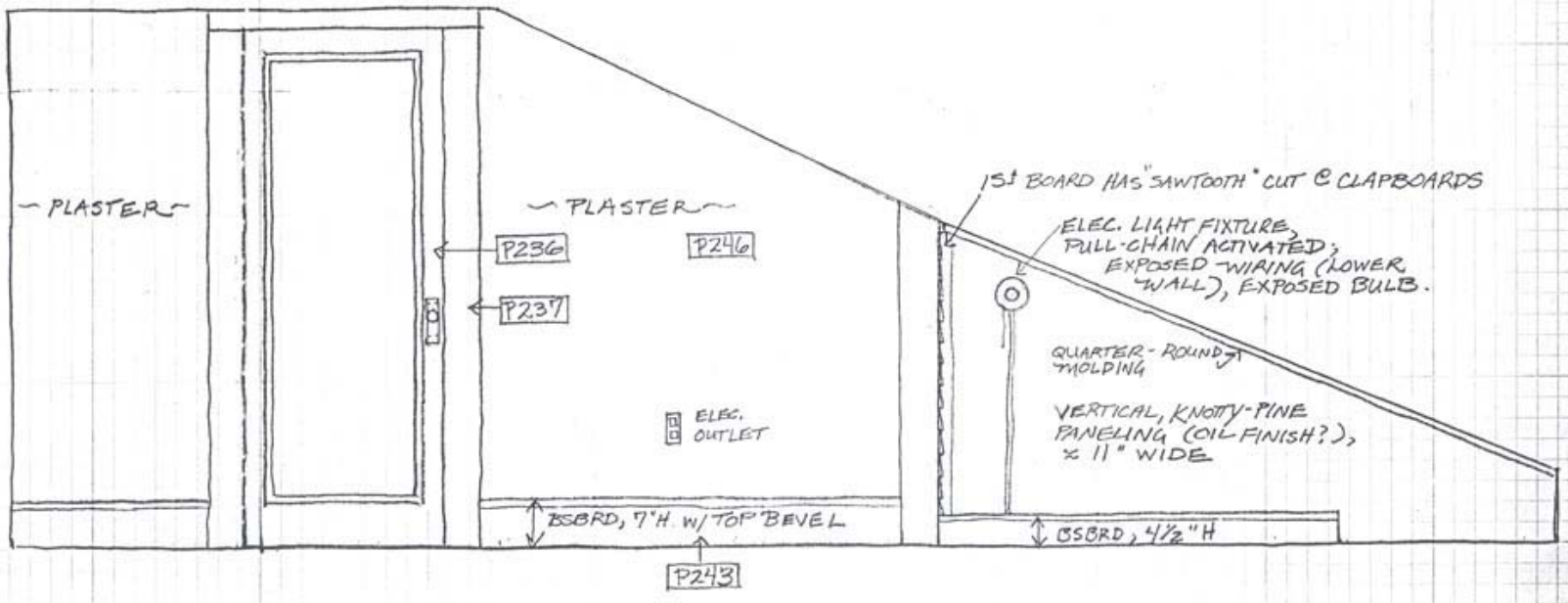
BSBRD, 7" H, W/ TOP TOP BEVEL

MIMA: MERIAM HS
RM 206, NORTH + SOUTH WALLS
SEPT. 27, 1993; B. Yocum

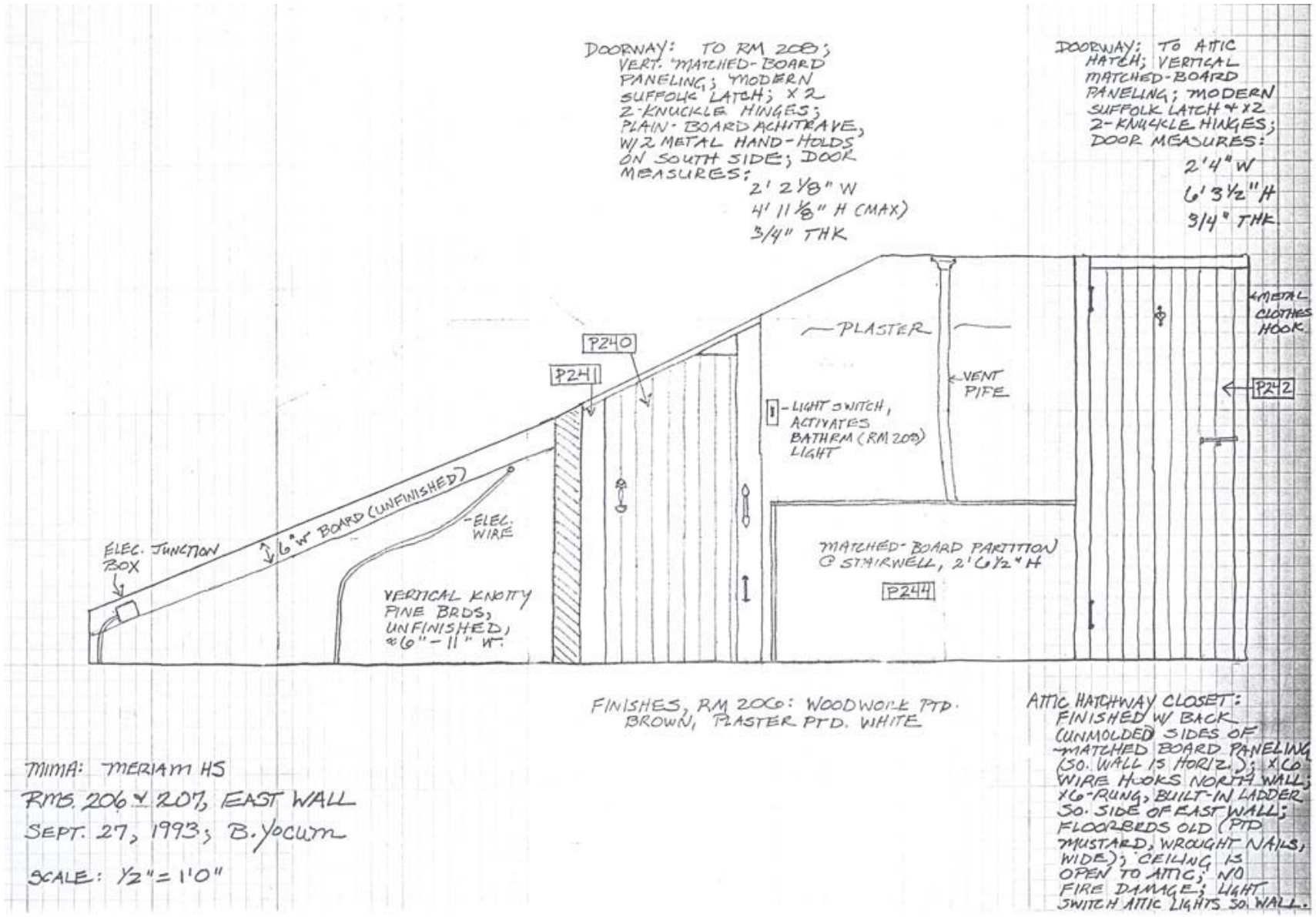
SCALE: ½" = 1'0"

DOORWAY: TO RM 205; UNMORTISED; METAL DOORKNOB; X2 2-KNUCKLE HINGES; LARGE ATTACHED MIRROR; SEE RM 205 FOR DOOR DIMENSIONS; PLAIN BOARD ARCHITRAVE

FINISHES: WOODWORK PAINTED BROWN (OVER RED); PLASTER WALL PTD. WHITE.



MIMA: MERIAM HS.
RMS 206 & 207, WEST WALL
SEPT. 27, 1993; B. YOCUM
SCALE: ½" = 1'0"


DOORWAY: TO RM 208; VERT. MATCHED-BOARD PANELING; MODERN SUFFOLK LATCH; X 2 2-KNUCKLE HINGES; PLAIN-BOARD ACHITRAVE, W/2 METAL HAND-HOLDS ON SOUTH SIDE; DOOR MEASURES: 2' 2 1/8" W 4' 11 1/8" H (MAX) 3/4" THK
DOORWAY: TO ATTIC HATCH; VERTICAL MATCHED-BOARD PANELING; MODERN SUFFOLK LATCH & X2 2-KNUCKLE HINGES; DOOR MEASURES: 2'4" W 6' 3 1/2" H 3/4" THK
METAL CLOTHES HOOK
PLASTER
VENT PIPE
P240
P241
P242
LIGHT SWITCH, ACTIVATES BATHRM (RM 208) LIGHT
6" W BOARD (UNFINISHED)
ELEC. WIRE
ELEC. JUNCTION BOX
MATCHED-BOARD PARTITION @ STAIRWELL, 2' 6 1/2" H
P244
VERTICAL KNOTTY PINE BRDS, UNFINISHED, ≈6"-11" W.
FINISHES, RM 206: WOODWORK PTD. BROWN, PLASTER PTD. WHITE
ATTIC HATCHWAY CLOSET: FINISHED W/ BACK (UNMOLDED SIDES OF MATCHED BOARD PANELING (SO. WALL IS HORIZ.); X6 WIRE HOOKS NORTH WALL; X6-RUNG, BUILT-IN LADDER SO. SIDE OF EAST WALL; FLOORBRDS OLD (PTD MUSTARD, WROUGHT NAILS, WIDE); CEILING IS OPEN TO ATTIC; NO FIRE DAMAGE; LIGHT SWITCH ATTIC LIGHTS SO. WALL.
MIMA: MERIAM HS
RMS. 206 & 207, EAST WALL
SEPT. 27, 1993; B. Yocum
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'0"

Room 207

General Information

Room 207 is the unfinished attic of the circa-1820 north shed addition. It is a long, narrow space with dimensions of 17 feet 2 inches long (east-west) by 7 feet 5 inches wide. This room is most significant for being the only area where original siding of the circa-1810 kitchen addition has been protected and preserved.

Extensive renovations, which included the painting of the above-mentioned siding, were made to Room 207 in the 1950's. This was probably done concurrently with the remodeling of the first-story room (Room 107) to convert it to a kitchen. In Room 207, new materials were installed on the floor, walls, and ceiling. The access doorway in the south wall may also have been newly created at that time.

Floor

The floor is covered with sheets of plywood, measuring 2 feet by 8 feet, installed in the 1950's. It also appears that the floor structure itself was completely rebuilt, based on the appearance of the ceiling in the first story (for details, see “Room 107”).

Walls

Dates of Construction

The walls date to three periods of construction: circa 1810, circa 1820, and the 1950's.

The earliest wall is the south wall. This was constructed circa 1810 as the exterior wall of the present kitchen addition. It became an interior wall when the north shed addition was constructed circa 1820. Two hewn posts and part of one corner brace are exposed at this wall.

The north and west exterior walls are contemporary with the building of the north shed addition circa 1820. The east wall may have been first created in the 1950's. Before that time, it is possible that no wall existed here, making Room 207 continuous with the loft space in the east adjacent carriage shed.

Wall Materials

The materials finishing the walls date to circa 1810 and the 1950's.

Circa-1810 Siding

The oldest wall materials, dated circa 1810, are at the south wall. Here, the original exterior siding of the circa-1810 kitchen addition is preserved. The siding materials include wide sheathing boards, plaster insulation, clapboards, and a cornice board.

The sheathing boards are exposed at the west end of the south wall, and on the east side of the doorway to Room 206. These boards, which are installed horizontally and measure up to 1 foot 3 inches wide, bear the parallel marks of a reciprocating saw. They are attached with hand-wrought nails. The cracks between the boards are filled with a white lime plaster.

The clapboards cover most of the remainder of the wall east of the doorway. These are hand-rived boards with beveled ends that overlap. The boards are of various lengths, ranging from 3 feet 10 inches long to 4 feet 4 1/2 inches long. They are attached with early machine-cut nails dated circa 1800-1815.[38] Both the clapboards and the cornice board are painted, but the paint is not historic; see "Finishes" for details.

Pine Paneling

Wide-board pine paneling finishes the east, north, and west walls of the room, and the lower south wall. The boards are oriented vertically at the east and west walls, and horizontally at the north and south walls. The boards were installed by the Ingrahams in the 1950's.

Baseboard

A short segment of baseboard, measuring about 4 feet 9 inches long and 4 1/2 inches high, is on the south side of the west wall only. It has a beaded top edge and no finish.

Ceiling

The ceiling, which follows the pitch of the roof, is low and sloped. It measures 3 feet 11 inches high at the south wall, and 10 1/2 inches high at the north wall. The ceiling joists are the roof rafters; these appear to be original (circa 1820), judging by one rafter with intact bark visible through a 3-foot-wide opening in the ceiling at the east wall. The roof sheathing boards, on the other hand, are modern circular-sawn boards, 10 3/4 inches wide. The remainder of the ceiling is sheathed on the interior side with tongue-in-groove pine boards 7 1/8 inches wide. The boards have been dated to the 1950's.

Doorway

Room 207 has one small doorway, at the west end of the south wall. The wall, which was built circa 1810 as the exterior north wall of the kitchen addition, had no opening in this location originally. The installation of a doorway here required that the bottom portion of a circa-1810 corner brace be removed to make room for the opening; the top portion of the brace was retained at the upper west side of the doorway. The post into which the brace had been mortised frames the east side of the doorway.

[38] The nails have rounded tips, burrs on opposite sides of the nail shanks, and irregular machine-made heads. This indicates the nails were made from a narrow nail plate and were not flipped during the manufacturing process. They measure approximately 1 3/4 inches long.

The woodwork of this doorway, which is described in detail in the section “Room 206,” dates to the 1950's. It is not known if a doorway opening was installed here sometime before the 1950's. Access to this area may have been possible originally (circa 1820) through the loft of the east adjacent carriage shed.

Windows

There are no windows in Room 207.

Painted Finishes

Existing Finishes

The wall and ceiling materials in Room 207 are unfinished, except for the circa-1810 clapboards and cornice board at the south wall. These each have one layer of paint: a light-green nonlead paint on the clapboards, and a lead-based rust-brown color on the cornice board.

Historic Finishes

Two paint samples were removed from the clapboards (P004) and the cornice board (P029) in an attempt to determine the painted finishes of the house's exterior circa 1810.

It was discovered that both elements had only one layer of paint on them: the light-green paint on the clapboards, and the rust-brown paint on the cornice board. Furthermore, some of the cornice paint was observed to have been inadvertently applied to the underside of the circa-1820 rafter near the east wall. It was therefore concluded that the cornice board had been painted by the Ingrahams during their renovation of the house in the 1950's. They are also believed to have applied the light-green paint to the clapboards. No traces of paint predating the 1950's was found on either the clapboards or the cornice.

Electrical Equipment

Light Fixture

Room 207 has one light fixture mounted to the west wall. This is a single bare light bulb that is activated by a pull-chain.

Junction Boxes

There are three electrical junction boxes in Room 207. Two are mounted in the floor, near the north wall. The third is at the north end of the east wall. All three relate to electrical wiring in the first-story kitchen (Room 107).

Exposed Wiring

An exposed electrical wire at the east wall probably relates to electrical wiring in the east adjacent garage.

Kitchen Fan

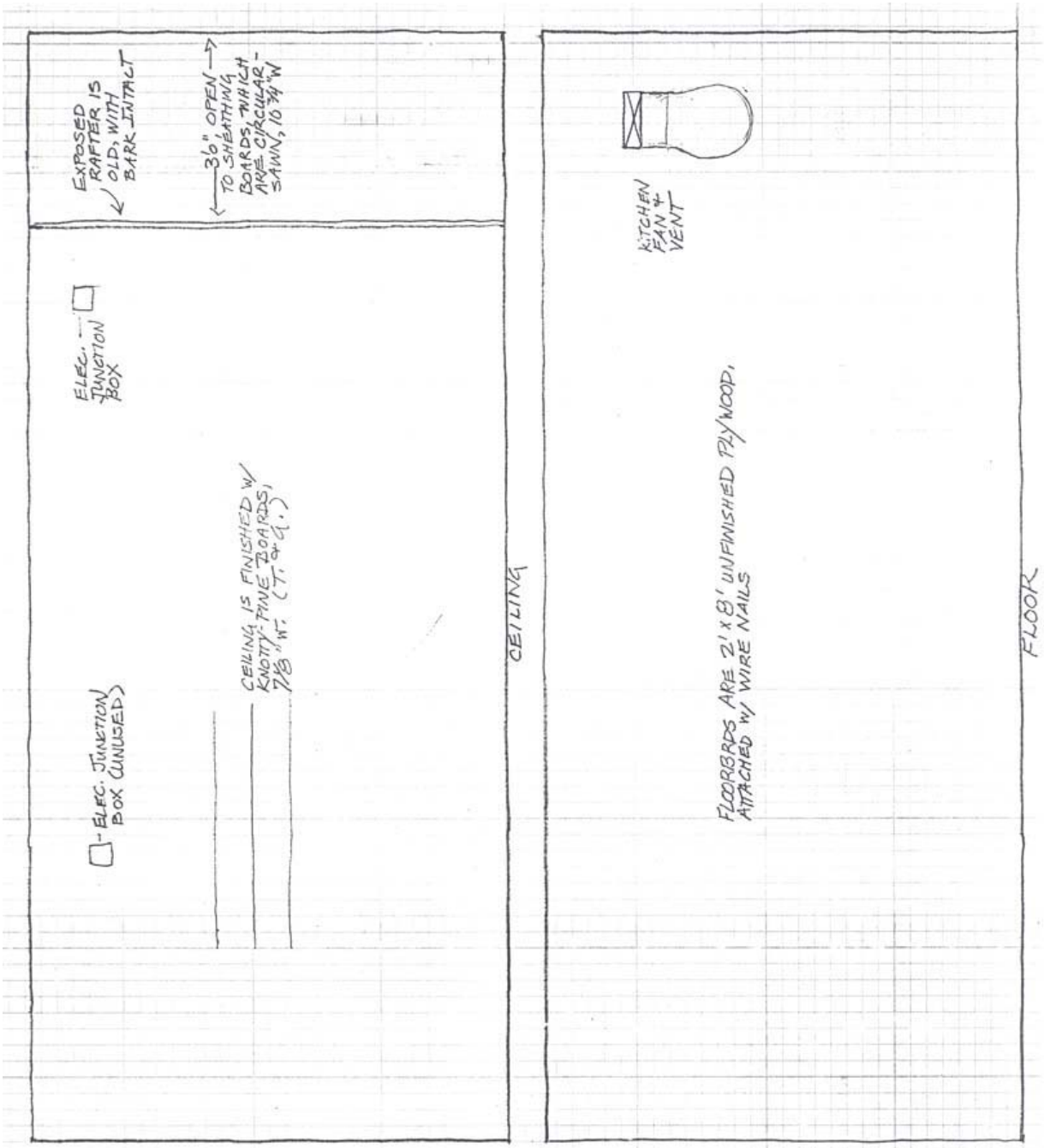
The motor unit of the kitchen fan and its sheet-metal duct are on the east side of Room 207.

Heating Equipment

There is no heating equipment in Room 207.

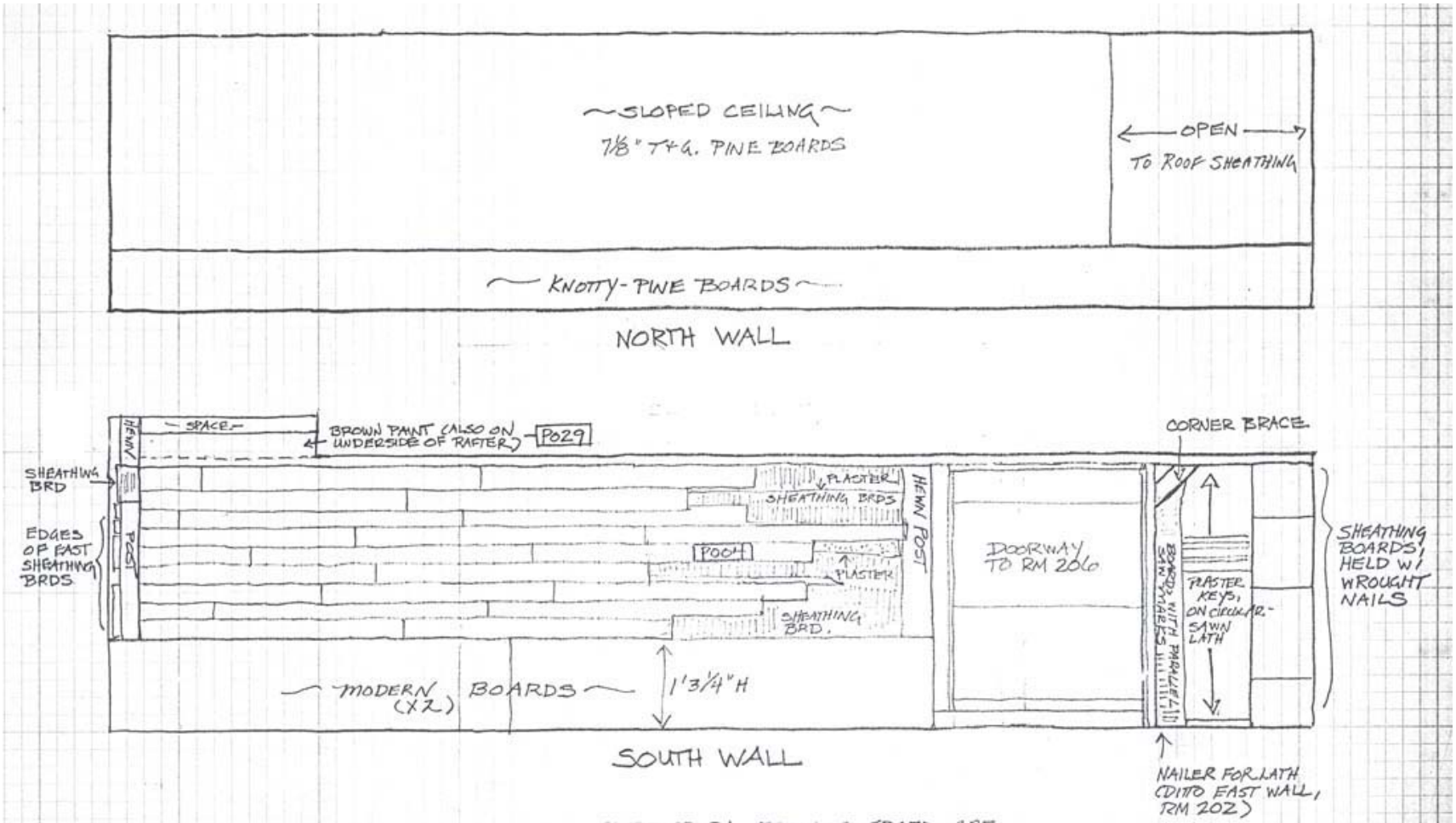
Fire- and Intrusion-Protection Equipment

There is no fire- or intrusion-protection equipment in Room 207.



MIMA: MERIAM HS.
RM 207, FLOOR + CEILING
SEPT. 27, 1993; B. YOCUM

SCALE: 1/2" = 1'0"



MIMA: MERIAM HS

RM 207, NORTH + SOUTH WALLS

SEPT. 27, 1993; B. YOCUM

SCALE: 1/2" = 1'0"

CLAPBOARDS: FEATHER-EDGED, ARE VARIOUS LENGTHS (4'2"; 4'4 1/2"; 3'10"; ETC.); ARE ATTACHED W/ EARLY MACHINE-CUT NAILS; ARE ≈ 5" W; EXPOSURE VARIES, 3 1/2" - 3 3/4"; PAINTED GREEN, W/ BROWN @ UPPER (CORNICE) LEVEL; NOTE THAT GREEN PAINT EXTENDS ONTO MODERN QUARTER-ROUND MOLDING.

Room 208

General Information

Room 208 is the original bathroom in the house. It is at the east end in the second story of the circa-1810 kitchen addition. The room is small, measuring 10 feet 8 inches (north-south) by 6 feet 10 1/2 inches (east-west).

The existing west wall, which divides Room 208 from the back stair hall (Room 206), dates to circa 1925. It is not known if such a wall existed originally. As explained in connection with Room 206, leaving the two spaces open to each other would have enabled natural light from the east-wall window to illuminate the windowless stair hall.

A bathroom was installed in Room 208 by Thomas and Rose Burke (1871-1921), according to their granddaughter Alice Burke Hargrove. Prior to that time, the family had used an "inside-outside" toilet in the front southeast corner of the attached carriage shed.[39] Exactly when the room was remodeled as a bathroom is not known. This may have occurred around 1903-1904, when sons Thomas J. and James Burke were engaged in building/remodeling their own homes on adjacent lots. Such building activity may have prompted the senior Burkes to update their own home with a new bathroom.

The bathroom was remodeled circa 1925, and again in the 1950's. Little, if anything, remains of the Burkes' original bathroom.

Surviving features of the original (circa-1810) room include wide pine floorboards preserved inside the lavatory cabinet, at the southwest corner; the cased framing at the north wall and in the southwest corner; and the plain baseboards at the east and south walls. The window in the east wall dates to circa 1820. Most of the woodwork in the room today dates to circa 1925.

Floor

The floor is finished with white ceramic tiles measuring 1 3/8 inches square. These may have been installed by the Ingrahams in the 1950's. Wide pine floorboards that may be original to the room (circa 1810) are preserved inside the lavatory cabinet, in the southwest corner (where the cabinet has been extended over to the souh wall). Two floorboards are visible, oriented in an east-west direction. There are two layers of floorboards, each 1 inch thick, as can be seen at a hole cut in the floor for the bathtub plumbing. The top floorboards have a splatter-painted finish (see "Finishes" for details).

[39] Alice Burke Hargrove, Aug. 17, 1993 (see Appendix D).

Walls

Dates of Construction

The existing walls date to two periods of construction: circa 1810 and circa 1925. The original circa-1810 walls are those on the south, east, and north sides of the room. A cased post and girt at the north wall are original framing members of the circa-1810 addition.

The west wall dates to circa 1925, when the roof and ceiling were rebuilt after a fire. The wall probably replaced an earlier partition in this same approximate location. The date of the earlier partition is not known. A wall would definitely have been built when Room 208 was outfitted as a bathroom circa 1903-1904. Prior to that time, there may have only been a balustrade between Rooms 206 and 208, along the east edge of the back stairway. This would have allowed natural light from the east-wall window to reach the stair hall.

Wall Materials

The walls are finished with plaster, ceramic tiles, baseboards, and woodwork casing the exposed framing.

Plaster

Plaster is exposed on the east, north, and west walls of the room. It is also preserved at the south wall, where a small area is covered by the sink cabinet. Original (circa-1810) plaster may survive on the east and south walls, which also retain their early baseboards. The east-wall plaster was observed to have a hard white skim coat over a softer lime plaster. The south-wall plaster was not examined closely due to its inaccessible location. The plaster on the north and west walls, on the other hand, appears to be a later type that was probably applied circa 1925.

Ceramic Tiles

Black ceramic tiles 4 1/8 inches square cover the south and east walls of the bathtub enclosure. A recessed niche in the south wall above the bathtub is also finished with these tiles. They were probably installed by the Ingrahams in the 1950's.

Baseboards

Two styles of baseboards are in the bathroom. One is a plain board that measures approximately 5 to 6 inches high. It is located on the east wall (where a skim coat of plaster covered it circa 1925), and inside the lavatory cabinet extension, on the west side of the south wall. Paint analysis of the east-wall baseboard has dated it to circa 1810, based on the presence of early red paint.

The other baseboard is between 7 and 7 1/2 inches high, with a beveled top edge. It is located on the north wall, and inside the lavatory cabinet on the west wall. This baseboard has been dated circa 1925, based on its style and the results of the paint analysis.

Cased Framing

The circa-1810 north-wall girt and northeast corner post are cased with woodwork. Black charring on the post casing may be residue from the fire of circa 1925, suggesting that the casing may be early. The girt casing, on the other hand, appears to have been replaced with new woodwork circa 1925, based on the results of the paint analysis.

A cased post is also visible inside the lavatory cabinet extension, in the southwest corner of the room. The post itself is part of the original (circa-1705) frame of the house. The date of the casing has not been determined, due to its inaccessible location.

Ceiling

The entire ceiling structure is modern, having been rebuilt circa 1925 at the same time as the roof. The ceiling configuration, however, is believed to be unchanged from its original appearance circa 1810. It is flat in the middle portion of the room (3 feet wide), and sloped on the north and south sides of the room. The ceiling height is 6 feet 1 1/2 inches in the middle, 4 feet 2 1/2 inches at the north wall, and 4 feet 4 inches at the south wall. Plaster finishes both the flat and sloping portions of the ceiling. The plaster, which is on circular-sawn lath, probably dates to circa 1925.

Doorway

The room has one doorway, at the north end of the west wall. The woodwork associated with this doorway, and possibly the opening itself, dates to circa 1925. Before circa 1925, the doorway may have been at the south end of the west wall.

West Doorway to Room 206

Both the doorway opening and its door are slanted at the top, to follow the north slope of the ceiling. The door is a batten type, and is made of the same vertical tongue-in-groove boards that panel the west adjacent stair hall (Room 206). The surround consists of a plain board on the south side only.

Dimensions of the door are given in the section “Room 206: Doorways.” The door is hinged on the south side to swing open into the room. Other hardware includes a modern Suffolk bar latch on the north side, and two metal clothes hooks attached to the upper horizontal batten.

Missing Doorway

The earlier doorway connecting Rooms 208 and 206 is thought to have been at the south end of the west wall for the following reasons. First, the original stairway outside the existing doorway had a landing at the head of the stairway that was one step below the level of the second floor. This would have required stepping down onto the landing and back up onto the level of the second floor when moving from Room 208 to Room 206. Also, the closet in Room 206, in the location of the possible former doorway, was not constructed until circa 1925.

Window

There is one window in Room 208, centered in the east wall (W-207). Like the other windows in the house, this window's frame has been dated to circa 1820. Its six-over-six sashes, however, were replaced in kind circa 1925.

The window elements include a plain-board surround and wood apron, a window stool, a lower six-light sash, and an upper louvered sash. Analysis of the paint on the apron and the right side of the surround indicates that the apron has original circa-1810 red paint, while the paint on the surround dates to circa 1925. This suggests that the window may have been reconstructed circa 1925 when the new sashes were installed, perhaps reusing some old wood (the apron). This could be verified by examining the nails attaching the window woodwork.

Lavatory Cabinet

A large cabinet that supports the lavatory is located along the west wall. This cabinet has been dated to circa 1958, based on the style of its drawers, which are the same as those in the circa-1958 bathroom on the west side of the house (Room 203). It has a linoleum-like top and a backsplash with a red-marble pattern. The bowl is roughly centered in the countertop.

The cabinet extends from the south wall to the south side of the doorway to Room 206. When the cabinet was installed, it covered earlier materials and finishes on the floor and on the west and south walls. These include wide splatter-painted floorboards in the southwest corner; a gray-painted beveled baseboard and plaster wall on the west side; and a gray-painted plain baseboard, cased corner post, and plaster wall on the south side.

The face of the southwest end of the cabinet is abutted by the bathtub. It is covered with black ceramic tiles, and contains the bathtub's faucet, handles, and hand-held shower head. In the center of the cabinet, below the bowl, are two side-hinged doors. North of the doors are three drawers with metal handles.

Mirrors

There are four mirrors in Room 208. They are probably contemporary with the lavatory cabinet, circa 1958. Three of the mirrors are grouped together over the lavatory at the west wall, and separated by two vertical fluorescent lights. Only the two outer mirrors are hinged on their interior sides to swing outward; the middle mirror is stationary. The fourth mirror is mounted to the east wall above the toilet. It, too, is hinged on one side (the south) to swing outward. There are no cabinets behind any of the four mirrors.

Towel Bars and Rings

Bars and rings for holding towels are on the north and east walls of the room. All have a chrome finish. Two towel bars are attached to the cased girt at the north wall. A hinged towel bar with two arms is mounted to the lower part of the south side of the window surround. Two towel rings, mounted one above the other, are also on the east wall, between the window and the bathtub.

Painted Finishes

Existing Finishes

The bathroom is painted two colors today: black and gray. Black paint covers the wood baseboard, the lower part of the east plaster wall at the baseboard level, the west door, the lavatory cabinet, and the radiator. White paint finishes the plaster walls and ceiling, the cased framing at the north wall, and the window woodwork.

Earlier finishes that may have been applied by the Ingrahams circa 1951 are covered by the circa-1958 lavatory cabinet at the west wall. Here, the wide pine floorboards are painted a red-brown color and "splattered" with different-color paints, including yellow, black, green, red, and gray. The plaster wall is painted gray. The baseboard and southwest corner post are also painted gray, but in a darker shade than the wall.

Historic Finishes

The paint history of the room was determined by extracting 11 paint samples (P249-P258 and P288) for microscopic analysis. Details of the paint analysis may be found in Appendix E.

It was determined by the paint analysis that most of the woodwork in the room dates to the circa-1925 renovation. Little remains from the original (circa-1810) construction, except the baseboard on the east wall, the casing on the northeast post, and the wide floorboards (and possibly the casing and baseboard) inside the cabinet at the south wall.

The most complete paint sequence was found in the paint sample removed from the east-wall baseboard (P249). The baseboard retains its original red lead-based paint, on top of which are approximately 16 paint layers. Up to circa 1925, the woodwork was painted yellow (lead), white-cream, white-cream (lead), light green, white, white, white, and cream. Circa 1925, the woodwork was finished with a cream-color lead-based paint. This was followed by several layers of cream, gray (and dark green), gray, and finally, white.

The earliest painted finishes on the plaster wall and ceiling have been dated to circa 1925. The paint layers on the wall are bright yellow, gray, and white; the three layers on the ceiling are all white. Similarly, the earliest paint on the wide floorboards has been dated circa 1925. The paint layers, beginning with the earliest, are as follows: light yellow (lead), brown, mustard yellow, black, light gray, gray, and red (with splatter decoration and varnish).

Electrical Equipment

Light Fixtures

Two fluorescent light fixtures are positioned vertically between the grouping of three mirrors at the west wall. The fixtures are activated by switches at the fixtures themselves, or by a light switch in Room 206. The lighted-mirror unit has been dated to the 1950's.

Electrical Outlets

There is one electrical receptacle at the west wall, on top of the north fluorescent light.

Heating Equipment

A hot-water radiator is mounted to the east wall beneath the window. The radiator is four columns wide and 18 sections long. It has no manufacturer's identification. The radiator probably dates to the installation of the existing hot-water heating system in 1951.

Plumbing Equipment

The plumbing equipment in Room 208 includes a lavatory (sink), toilet, bathtub, and exposed ventilation pipes. All three of the fixtures are white.

Lavatory

A white cast-iron lavatory is supported by a cabinet at the west wall. This lavatory may have been installed circa 1958 by the Ingrahams, based on the style of the cabinet drawers, which is similar to the built-in drawers in the circa-1958 bathroom (Room 203). Writing on the underside of the lavatory reads as follows:

Made in U.S.A.
376 110 20
M64 707

The faucets are labeled “American Standard.”

Toilet

A white toilet is positioned on the north side of the east wall. It is an early style, in which the base portion is connected to the back tank portion by an exposed pipe. A likely date is circa 1925.

The seat and tank portions of the toilet were made by different manufacturers, suggesting that one or the other was replaced at some later date. Writing on the base portion identifies it as having been made by the Trent Company. The tank, on the other hand, is labeled "Kohler." The underside of the tank cover has the following information:

K6948 S5
88 33 6
8012

Bathtub

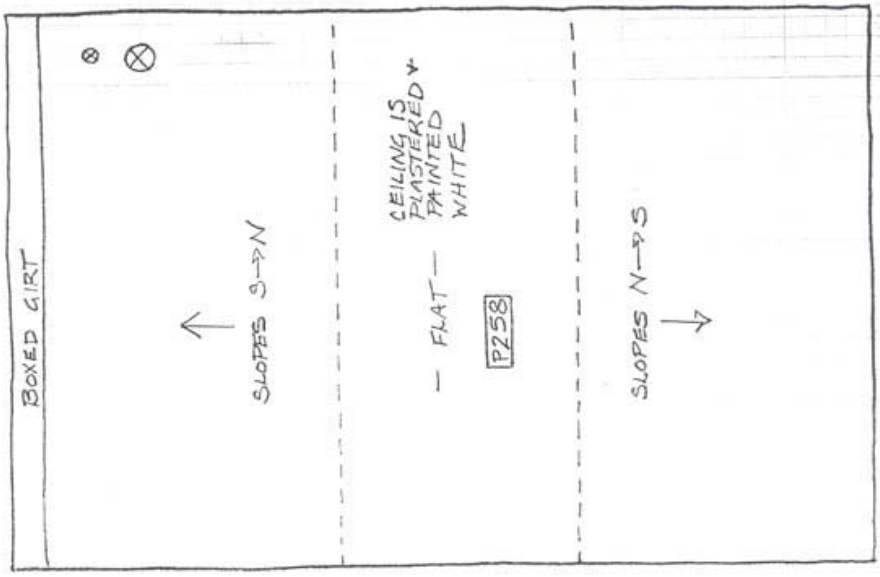
A white cast-iron bathtub is at the south wall. Writing on the bathtub identifies it as a Kohler model. The faucet and handles at the west end are labeled "American Standard." A shower head and control (labeled "Standard") are at the east end. The bathtub appears to have been installed at the same time as the lavatory, circa 1958, due to the placement of the plumbing on the south side of the lavatory cabinet.

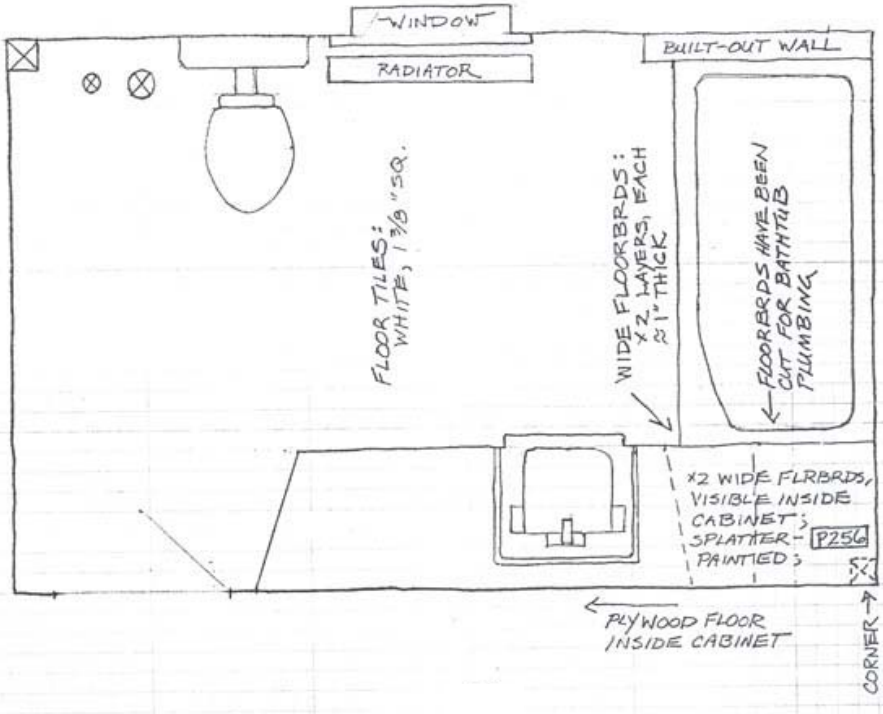
Ventilation Pipes

Two ventilation pipes are exposed at the east wall, on the north side of the toilet. Their date is not known.

Fire- and Intrusion-Protection Equipment

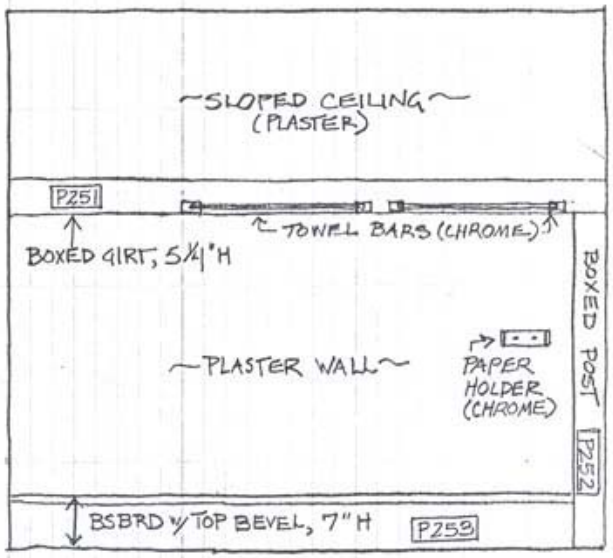
There is no fire- or intrusion-protection equipment in Room 208.





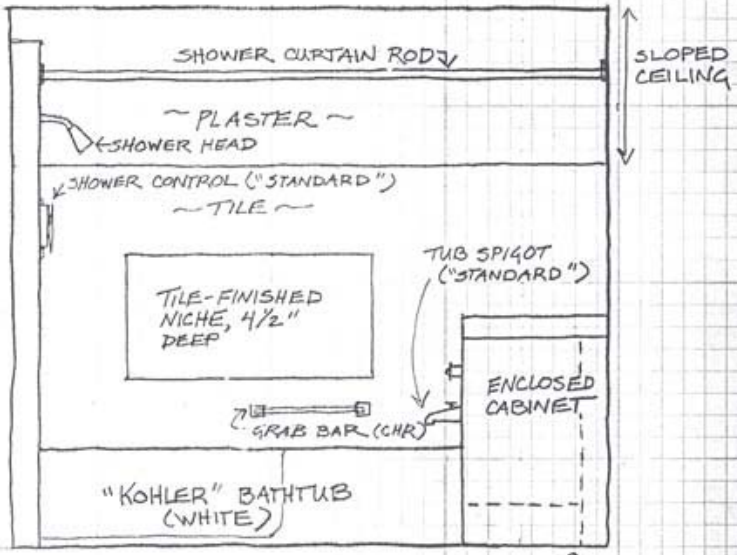
MIMA: MERIAM HS.
RM 208, FLOOR + CEILING
SEPT. 28, 1993; B. YOCUM
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'0"

FINISHES: PLASTER + BOXED GIRT/POST PAINTED WHITE; BASEBOARD PTD. BLACK.



NORTH WALL

FINISHES: SIDE WALL HAS BLACK TILES, 4/8" SQ.; CEILING IS PLASTERED + PAINTED WHITE.



SOUTH WALL

INSIDE CABINET: BOXED POST, PLAIN BSBRD + PLASTER WALL VISIBLE.

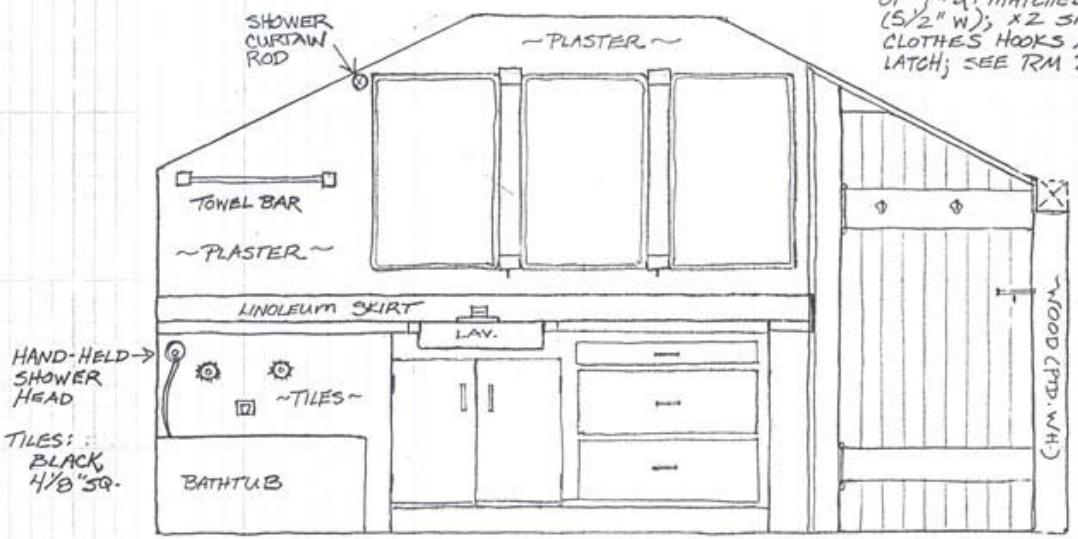
MIMA: MERIAM HS
RM 208, NORTH + SOUTH WALLS
SEPT. 28, 1993; B. YOCUM

SCALE: 1/2" = 1'0"

MIRRORS: x3, WITH TWO FLUORESCENT LIGHTS BETWEEN; 2 OUTER MIRRORS ARE HINGED ON INT. SIDES TO SWING OUTWARD (NO CABINETS BEHIND)

LIGHTS: CONTROLLED @ THE FIXTURES BY PUSH-SWITCHES (BOTTOM SIDES), OR BY WALL SWITCH RM 206, EAST WALL.

DOORWAY: BATTEN DOOR, COMPOSED OF 4 4. MATCHED BOARD PANELING (5/2" W); x2 SMALL, SILVER-COLOR CLOTHES HOOKS ATTACHED; SUFFOLK LATCH; SEE RM 206 FOR DIMENSIONS.



FINISHES:
BLACK PAINT - DOOR & CABINET BASE
WHITE PAINT - PLASTER WALL & DOORWAY ARCHITRAVE

CABINET INTERIOR:
- PLASTER WALL PTD. LT. GRAY;
- BSBRD, 7½" H, W/ BEVEL, PTD. DARKER GRAY
- SW CORNER POST, PTD. SAME AS BSBRD
- WIDE E-W FLOORBRDS, PTD. RED-BROWN; W/ SPLATTERED DECORATION (YELLOW, BLACK, GREEN, RED & GRAY)

CABINET: SIMILAR STYLE TO BUILT-IN DRAWERS, RM 203; COUNTER-TOP & BACK SKIRT IS LINOLEUM (FAUX RED MARBLE); BASE FRAME, DOORS & DRAWERS PTD. BLACK; HANDLES ARE METAL (SILVER METAL)

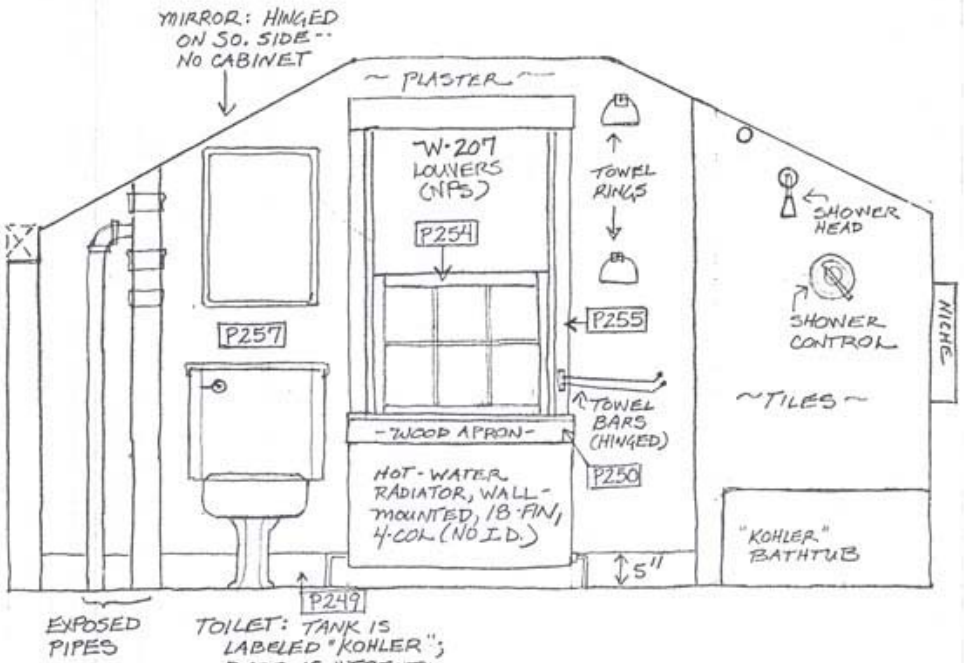
LAVATORY: WHITE; NO MANUFACTURER; INFO. WRITTEN ON UNDERSIDE: "MADE IN U.S.A."; "376 110 20"; "M604" & "707" FAUCET IS "AMERICAN STANDARD"

BATHTUB: THE TUB IS MADE BY "KOHLER", FAUCETS ARE "AMERICAN STANDARD" (WHITE)

MIMA: MERIAM HS.
RM 208, WEST WALL
SEPT. 28, 1993; B. YOCUM
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'0"

FINISHES: PLASTER WALL HAS WHITE SKIM COAT OVER SOFTER PLASTER & PLAIN 5" WOOD BSBRD; WALL PTD. WH & BSBD LEVEL PTD. BLACK; RADIATOR PTD BLACK; SHOWER WALL IS BLACK TILES, 4 1/8" SQ.

WINDOW: PLAIN BOARD ARCHITRAVE



TOILET: TANK IS LABELED "KOHLER"; BASE IS "TRENT"; TANK COVER (UNDERSIDE) HAS FOLLOWING EMBOSSED INFO.:
K 6948 S5
88 33 6
8012

TOILET, BATHTUB + LAV. ARE WHITE

MIMA: MERIAM HS.
RM 208, EAST WALL
SEPT. 28, 1993; B. Yocum

SCALE: 1/2" = 1'0"

Room 209

General Information

Room 209 is the east chamber in the original (circa-1705) two-story section of the house. It is a large room, measuring 18 feet 5 inches (east-west) by 18 feet 7 inches (north-south).

This room was probably always used as a bedroom (known historically as a "chamber"). The probate documents of 1782 and 1803 indicate that the east side of the house, including this room, was reserved for the use of the "owner," while the west side of the house was for the use of the surviving widow.[40] This was also the bedroom of Thomas and Rose Burke (1871-1921), and the early bedroom of James and Margaret Ingraham (1951-1991).[41]

Unchanged from circa 1705 is the size of the room, the location of the doorway to the stair hall, and the location of the fireplace at the west wall. The existing subfloor boards may also be original.

Considerable alterations were made to the room circa 1820, when the existing windows, doorways, baseboards, and fireplace mantel were installed. The walls and ceiling appear to have been plastered for the first time, and the exposed framing cased with woodwork. The wide pine finish floorboards may also date to this remodeling, and changes may have been made to the firebox and hearth.

The existing grille in the floor was probably installed by the Burkes sometime in the 19th or early 20th century. Several alterations were made circa 1925. The ceiling was completely replastered on new circular-sawn lath; the woodwork casing of the girts was replaced; a doorway in the north wall was removed and the opening plastered over; a new north-wall doorway was installed east of the old doorway; and the old window sashes were replaced with new sashes. The Ingrahams installed new radiators, upgraded the electrical wiring, and repainted the room in the 1950's.

Floor

The floor is covered with two layers of wide pine floorboards, laid in an east-west direction. The edges of the boards are butted, not tongue-in-groove. The subfloor and finish floorboards are each about 1 inch thick, and the top boards average about 9 inches wide.

The subfloor boards may be original (circa-1705) material, based on the following evidence. The undersides of the subfloor boards and their joists are painted, as can be seen in the southeast corner of the closet in the first-story room (Room 108). The underside of the floor, in other words, existed as an exposed ceiling in Room 108 before that ceiling was plastered circa 1810-1820.

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[40] Middlesex County Probate Documents #15095 (Nathan Meriam) and #15056 (Ephraim Meriam).

[41] Alice Burke Hargrove, Aug. 17, 1993 (see Appendix D).

The finish floorboards, on the other hand, date from a later period, based on the machine-cut nails that hold them. They were probably installed circa 1820, at the same time as the other woodwork in the room.

Only six rows of finish floorboards, on the south side of the room, are one board that spans continuously from wall to wall. All of the other rows are made up of two shorter boards that meet in a seam. Three groupings of these floorboards are the same lengths, so that their north-south seams are aligned. This was typical of early floors, in which the longest boards were installed first and the shorter boards later, with no attempt made to stagger the seams. The seams therefore attest to the antiquity of the floor (i.e., the floor was not installed by the Ingrahams), and are not necessarily evidence of a missing feature such as a partition wall or a stairway.[42]

Walls

Dates of Construction

The south, east, and north walls of the room are original exterior walls dating to circa 1705. The west wall is an interior partition wall, which may have been rebuilt in its original location when the room was plastered circa 1820.

Wall Materials

The walls are finished with plaster, wood baseboard, and woodwork casing on the exposed post-and-beam frame.

Plaster

All four walls of the room are plastered on wood lath. The plaster goes up to, but does not extend behind, the cased posts on the east side of the room. A thin coat of hard white plaster, probably applied circa 1925 when the ceiling was replastered, covers the walls. The plaster beneath this appears to be an early lime type that was probably installed circa 1820, at the same time as the woodwork.

A patch of later plaster exists at the north wall, west of the doorway to Room 206. This patch, which measures 2 feet 5 inches wide, is the location of a former doorway that was removed circa 1925. It is clearly defined by two vertical cracks in the plaster and by a later baseboard in this location.

[42] Cummings quotes a London author who wrote the following circa 1680: "if the [floor] Boards are not long enough to reach athwart the whole Room, the ends may all lye in a straight Line, that the straight ends of other Boards laid against them may make the truer Joint, and this they call a Breaking Joint" (p. 161); original quote from Charles F. Montgomery (ed.), *Joseph Moxon's Mechanick Exercises* (NY: Praeger Publishers, 1970), p. 150.]

Baseboards

Wood baseboards with beaded top edges finish all four plaster walls. Except for a later patch at the north wall, all of the baseboards date to circa 1820. Like the plaster, the baseboards do not extend behind the cased posts; rather, they abut them.

The height of the baseboards varies throughout the room, being 8 inches at the north wall; 8 1/2 inches at the east wall, the south wall, and the south end of the west wall; and 9 inches at the north end of the west wall. This discrepancy in heights may be due to the settling of the floor.

The later baseboard patch marks the former doorway opening at the north wall. This patch, which measures 4 feet 1 inch long, was installed circa 1925, based on the paint analysis. It is similar in both height and appearance to the earlier baseboard in the room.

Toe molding is attached to the bottom of the baseboards on all four walls. This molding has also been dated circa 1925, based on the paint analysis.

Cased Framing

Woodwork cases the exposed post-and-beam framing, including the two girts at the north and south walls, and the posts in the four corners of the room. The casing of the east and west girts appears to have been replaced circa 1925 (when the ceiling was replastered), based on the paint analysis. However, the analysis of paint samples from the casing at the southeast and northeast posts indicates that they retain their original (circa-1820) casings.

Missing Wall Materials

No physical evidence has been uncovered of how the walls were finished before the plaster was installed circa 1820. The framing was probably exposed originally (circa 1705), and not cased with woodwork as it is today. The walls may have been wood-paneled, as they were in the two original first-story rooms (Rooms 102 and 108). Opening of the existing plaster walls may reveal evidence of the original wall treatment.

Ceiling

The ceiling is noteworthy for being the lowest in the house, measuring 6 feet 1 inch high in the middle, and 6 feet 3 inches at the outer walls of the room. This is to the fact that an effort was made to conceal much of the ceiling framing in this room.

The ceiling is finished with plaster on circular-sawn lath, which was installed circa 1925. As can be seen in the attic, the latch is attached to furring strips that are flush with the undersides of the east- and west-wall girts, and with the north-south tie beam in the middle of the ceiling. Wood hangers are used to suspend the furring strips about 5 inches below the level of the joists.

A plaster ceiling of similar configuration also existed here before circa 1925, based on extant remnants of early hangers and nails. The earlier ceiling is thought to have been installed circa 1820, when the room was renovated with new woodwork.

The ceiling framing was probably exposed originally (circa 1705), similar to the ceilings in the other early rooms in the house (Rooms 102, 108, and 202). The physical evidence for this is less clear than in the other rooms, however, because there is no obvious painted finish on the framing members (as viewed from the attic). The joists and girts are blackened, which may be a smokey residue. It is also possible that the ceiling was left unfinished until the plaster was installed circa 1820.

Doorways

There are three doorways: two in the west wall, and one in the north wall.

West Doorway to Room 201

The doorway at the south end of the west wall leads to the upper stair hall (Room 201). A doorway opening in this location is undoubtedly original, dating to circa 1705. All of the woodwork at the existing doorway, however, is later, having been installed circa 1820 (based on the paint analysis).

Doorway elements include a surround on the two sides of the opening and a mortised, four-panel door with center rail. The south side of the surround is a plain board; the north side is similar, except that it is trimmed by an applied molding on its outer edge. The top of the doorway opening has no surround, since it abuts the plaster ceiling. The molding profile is Federal in style, and is identical to the moldings of the closet and window surrounds.

The panels of the door are recessed and molded on the room side, and raised and unmolded on the opposite, hall side. The door retains its original (circa-1820) butt hinges on the south side, and has a replacement Suffolk bar latch on the north stile. The original latch would have been a Norfolk type, similar to the existing latch on the door between Rooms 201 and 202. Other details of the door, such as its dimensions, may be found in the section "Room 201: Doorways."

West Closet Doorway

North of the fireplace is a doorway that leads to a closet. While it is possible that a closet existed here circa 1705, the existing closet and its doorway have both been dated to circa 1820.

The doorway is framed by a surround on both sides and at the top of the opening. Only the top and south sides, however, are trimmed with a molding along their outer edges. The molding profile is the same as that on the surround of the west-wall doorway to Room 201, and on the window surrounds.

The door is of mortised construction with two panels separated by a center rail. The panels are raised and unmolded on the room side, and recessed and unmolded on the closet side. The dimensions of the door are 5 feet 10 7/8 inches high by 1 foot 11 inches wide by 1 inch thick. The door is hung on its north side by two hinges to swing open into the room. The hinges, which appear to be original (circa 1820), are the butt type with three knuckles. A metal (possibly brass) swivel latch is on the south stile and south-side architrave. It may also be original, lacking evidence of any other latching device.

North Doorway to Room 206

The doorway to the back stair hall (Room 206) is near the east end of the north wall. This is a later doorway that was installed circa 1925. It replaced an earlier doorway in this wall, which is discussed in the next section, "Missing Doorway."

All of the woodwork of the existing doorway dates to circa 1925, based on the paint analysis. This includes a molded surround on the east and west sides of the opening, and a modern four-panel door. The molding of the surround is completely different in profile than any other moldings in the room.

The door panels are recessed and molded on the room side, and raised and unmolded (with flat edges) on the opposite, hall side. The door is hung by two modern hinges on the east side, and has a modern Suffolk bar latch on the west stile. Dimensions of the door are given in the section on Room 206.

Missing Doorway

A doorway formerly existed in the north wall, west of the doorway described above. Evidence for this doorway includes a patch in the plaster wall that measures 2 feet 5 inches wide, below which is a length of baseboard with circa-1925 paint only.

It is not known when the missing doorway was installed here originally. It may have been created circa 1743, to access the garret of the first north kitchen addition; or circa 1810, when the second kitchen addition was built; or circa 1820, when the room was remodeled with new woodwork. The doorway was probably removed circa 1925, when the east wall of the north adjacent room (Room 205) was rebuilt in its present location. This wall was probably located farther to the west originally; the early doorway would therefore have connected with the back stair hall, as does the existing doorway today.

Windows

The east chamber has three windows: two in the south wall (W-204 and W-205), and one in the east wall (W-206). The openings and surrounds of all three windows date to the 1820's. The surrounds, which are mitered at the corners, have a Federal-style molding at their outer edges. The molding is similar in profile to the moldings on the surrounds of the west-wall doorways. The six-over-six window sashes are later, having replaced similar sashes circa 1925. The top sash of W-205 has been replaced with louvers by the National Park Service.

Fireplace

A fireplace is roughly centered on the west wall. The room probably always had a fireplace—first as part of the original chinney stack, and later as part of the chimney stack as rebuilt circa 1743. However, its existing appearance suggests that the following changes were made circa 1820: the firebox was made smaller, the hearth was extended, and a new mantel was installed. The fireplace is similar in almost all details to the fireplace in the west chamber (Room 202).

Brickwork

The fireplace is made of handmade bricks that measure 7 1/2 inches long by 2 inches high.

Hearth

The brick hearth in front of the fireplace measures about 1 foot 5 inches deep by 3 feet 9 inches wide. It consists of five rows of bricks, with dimensions of 7 3/4 inches long by 3 3/4 inches wide. This hearth may have been enlarged to its present size when the room was renovated circa 1820. The original, circa-1705 hearth would have extended only about one brick-width into the room. No physical evidence of the early hearth survives today.

Firebox

The firebox opening has splayed sides and a shallow depth, typical of circa-1820 fireplace construction. The opening measures 2 feet 2 1/2 inches high by 2 feet 9 1/2 inches wide by 1 foot 4 inches deep. Unlike the other fireplaces in the house, it has no gudgeons or crane.

Mantel

A wood mantel of simple, neoclassical design trims the fireplace. It is identical in appearance to the mantel in the west chamber (Room 202), and has been dated to circa 1820 based on the comparative paint analysis.

The mantel is surmounted by a shelf 5 1/2 inches deep. The shelf is supported at either end by two pilaster capitals, between which is a long, recessed panel. Below this is the firebox opening, which is trimmed with a molding that has the same profile as that on the circa-1820 doorway and window surrounds.

Closet

A closet is at the north end of the west wall, next to the chimney. It is a small closet, with dimensions of 3 feet 11 inches wide by 1 foot 5 inches deep. In its present configuration, the closet has been dated to circa 1820. An earlier closet may also have been located here, although no evidence of it survives today.

The floor of the closet is finished with narrow floorboards 3 1/4 inches wide, which were probably installed circa 1925. The south side of the closet is the sloping brickwork chimney. The other walls are plastered and trimmed with a plain baseboard 4 1/2 inches high. The ceiling is also plastered.

The plaster on both the walls and ceiling is on sawn lath (as can be seen in the attic). It has therefore been dated to circa 1925. The closet also has a wooden shelf supported by an apron, wire clothing hooks, and a clothes bar attached to the east and west walls.

Painted Finishes

Existing Finishes

The east chamber is painted two colors today: light brown and white. Light-brown paint finishes the woodwork, excluding the floor. White paint covers the plaster walls and ceiling. The floor, which appears to have been sanded, has a wax or oil finish.

The interior of the closet is finished as follows: the floorboards and plaster walls and ceiling are unpainted; the baseboard and wood shelf and apron are painted light yellow; and the interior side of the door is painted the same light-brown color as the woodwork in the room.

Historic Finishes

The paint history of the room was determined by extracting 22 samples of paint (P259-P280) and examining them under the microscope. Details of the paint analysis may be found in Appendix E.

All of the paint samples, with the possible exception of the sample from the ceiling joist (P275), were found to have paint layers no earlier than circa 1820. It was not possible to determine if the black, soot-like substance observed in the ceiling-joist sample was an applied finish or the residue of smoke from a fire.

All of the existing painted woodwork in the room was found to date to either circa 1820 or circa 1925. The circa-1820 finish is a lead-based, cream-color paint. After circa 1820, and before circa 1925, the woodwork was painted approximately 5 times, in shades of white and cream. Most of these paints contained lead.

The circa-1925 woodwork was also first finished with a lead-based, cream-color paint. It has since been painted four times with nonlead paints in the following colors: cream, white, red and brown. The last three of these are thought to have been applied by the Ingrahams (1951-1991).

No finishes predating circa 1925 were found on the plaster walls or ceiling. The circa-1925 ceiling has only one layer of cream-color paint. The upper east wall was found to have the following finish remnants: wallpaper fragment, white paint, yellow-pink paint, wallpaper fragment with green-blue paint, and white paint. Likely circa-1820 wall finishes would have been wallpaper or a lime wash.

Electrical Equipment

Light Fixtures

The east chamber has two electrical light fixtures: one on the west wall, and the other on the north wall. The west-wall fixture is north of the doorway to Room 201; the north-wall fixture is west of the doorway to Room 206.

Both light fixtures are similar in style, having a yellow-metal back plate and a single-bulb socket. A pull-chain on each fixture activates it.

Electrical Outlets

The room has five duplex receptacles, in the following locations:

- west wall: two, in the plaster wall, on either side of the fireplace;
- north wall: one, in the plaster wall, west of the patch at the former doorway;
- east wall: one, in the plaster wall, between the northeast corner post and the window; and
- south wall: one, in the baseboard, west of the east-side radiator.

Heating Equipment

Existing Radiators

Two hot-water radiators are at the south wall, beneath the two windows. Each radiator is four columns wide and 18 sections long. There is no manufacturer's identification. The radiators were probably installed as part of the existing heating system in 1951.

Floor Grille

A round metal grille, 12 inches in diameter, is in the floor in front of the west-wall hearth. Alice Burke Hargrove remembers that such a fixture, which she calls a “heatolator,” existed both in this room and in the east chamber (Room 202) when her grandparents lived in the house (1871-1921).

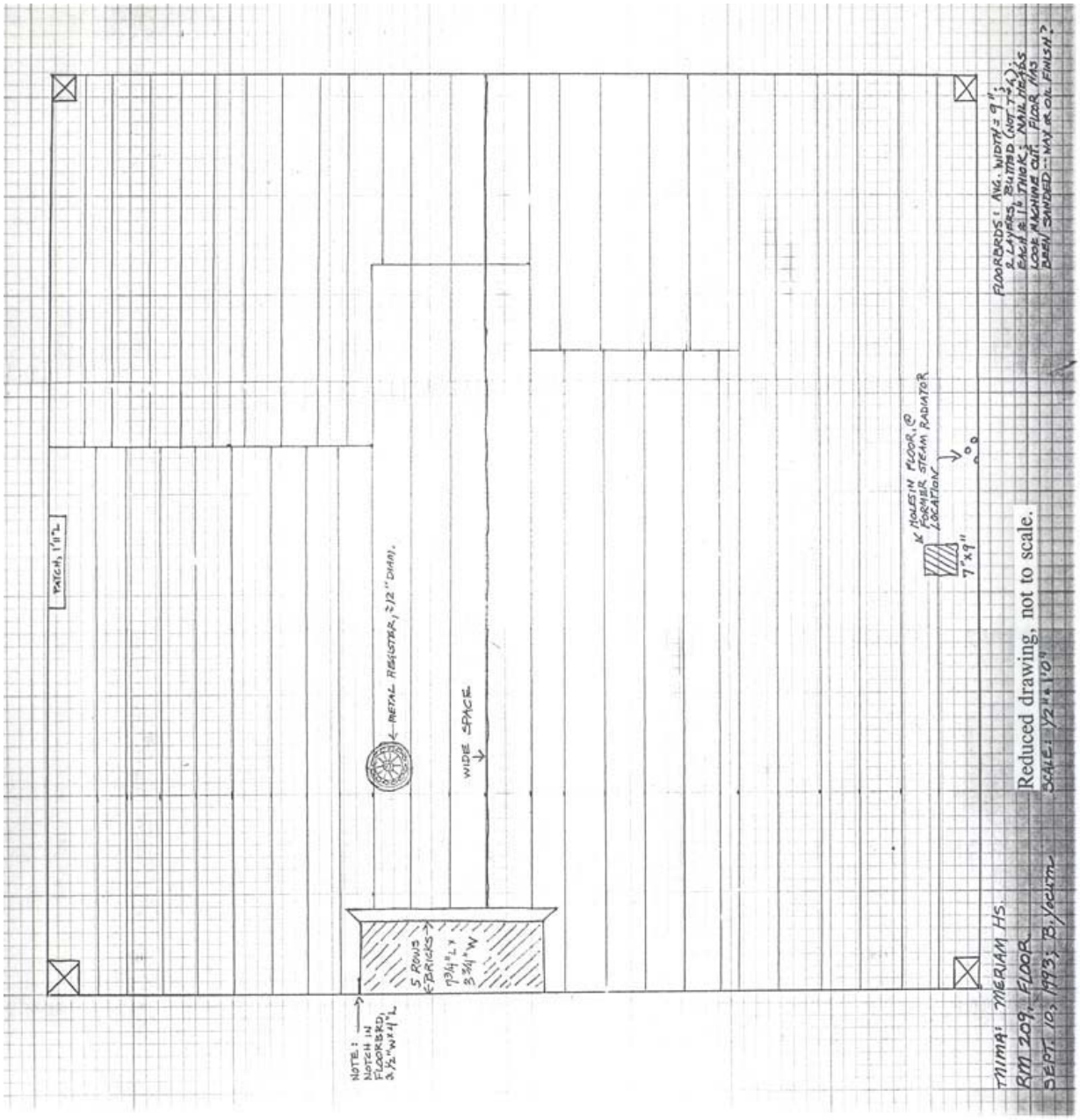
The function of the grille was to allow warm air from the room below (Room 108) to rise and heat the room above. The grille may have been installed at the same time as a cast-iron parlor stove in Room 108.

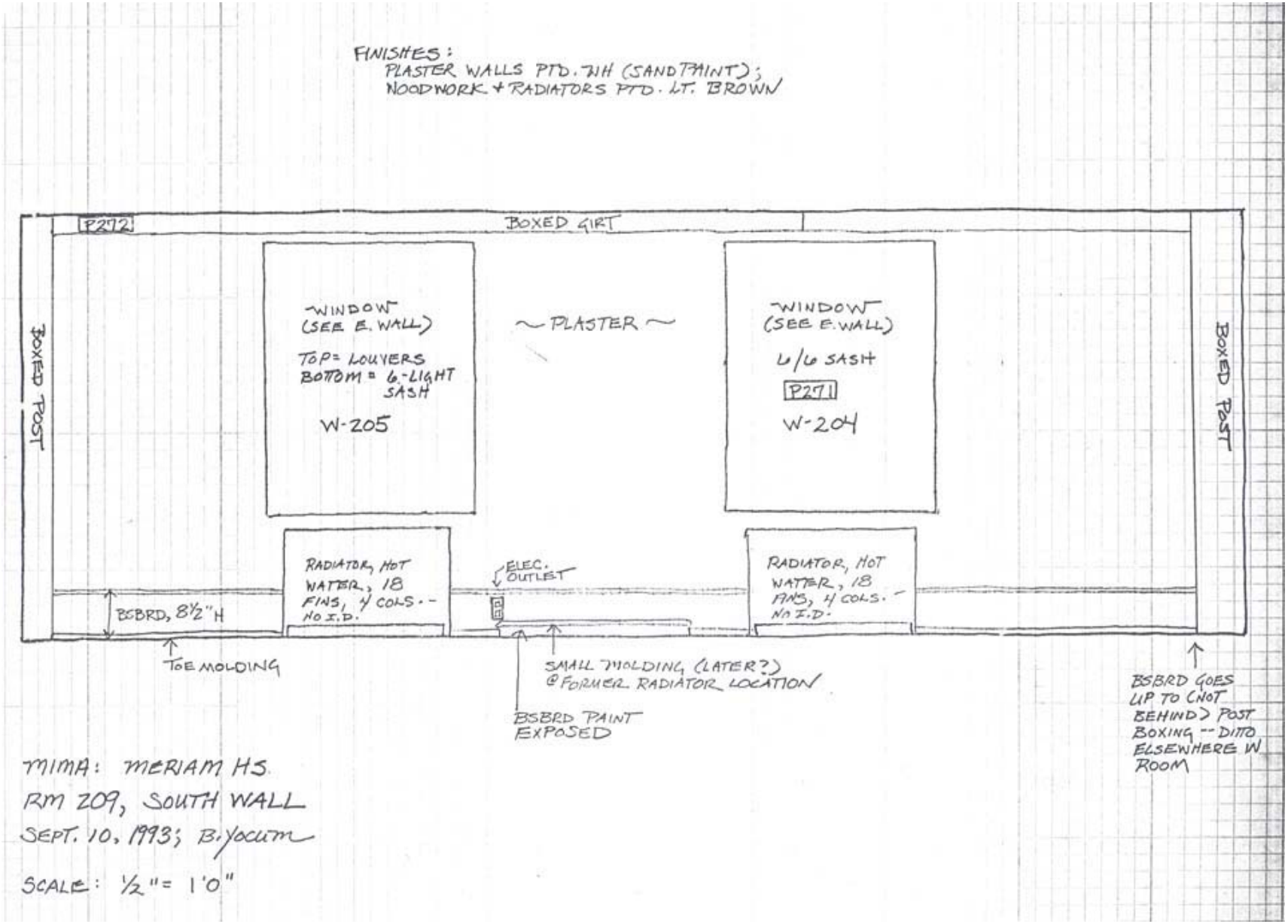
Missing Radiator

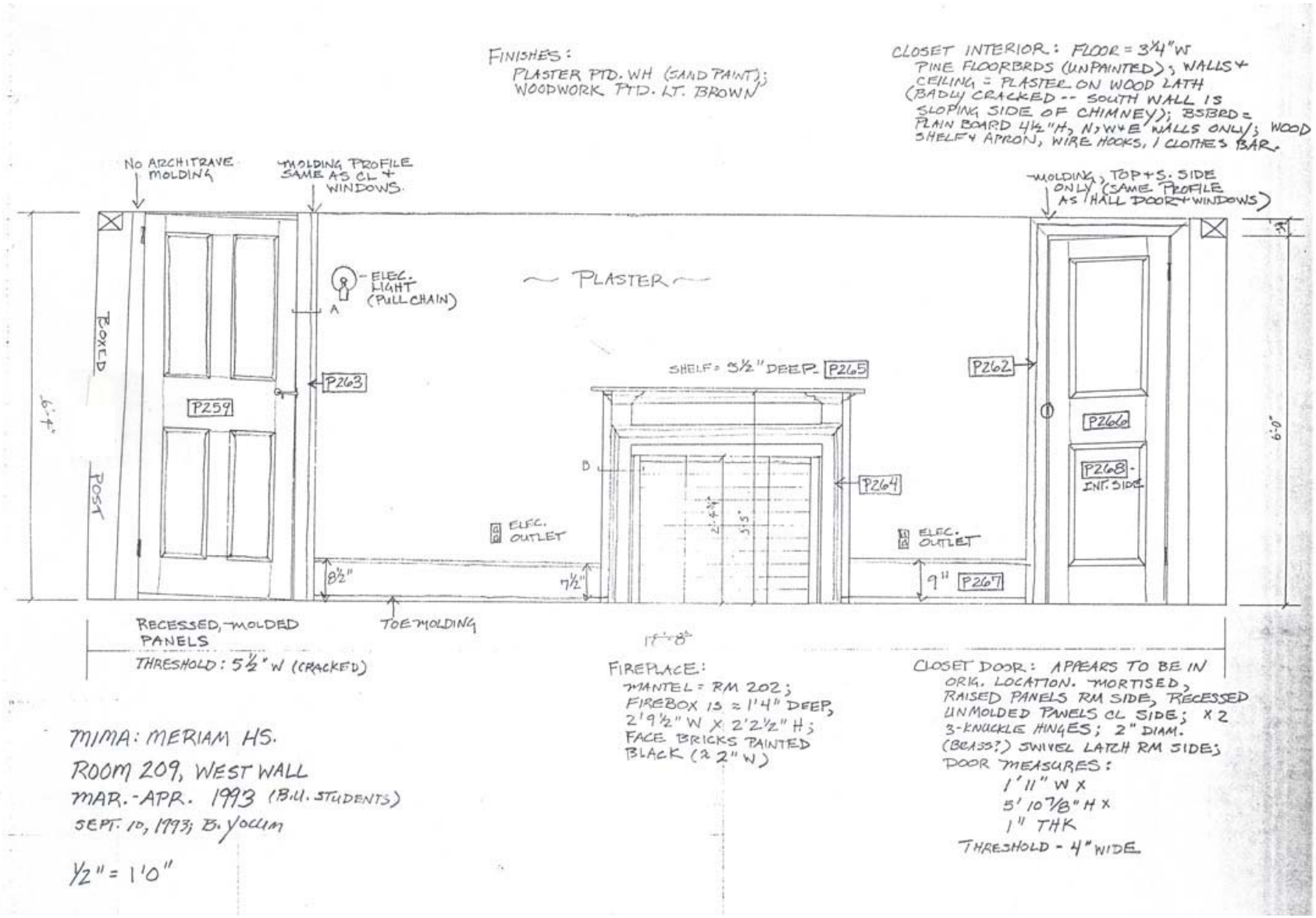
There is physical evidence in the floor at the south wall, between the two windows, of a missing steam radiator. Three round holes through the floorboards are on the east side, and a rectangular cut-out (7 inches by 9 inches) is on the west side.

Fire- and Intrusion-Protection Equipment

There is no fire- or intrusion-protection equipment in Room 209.

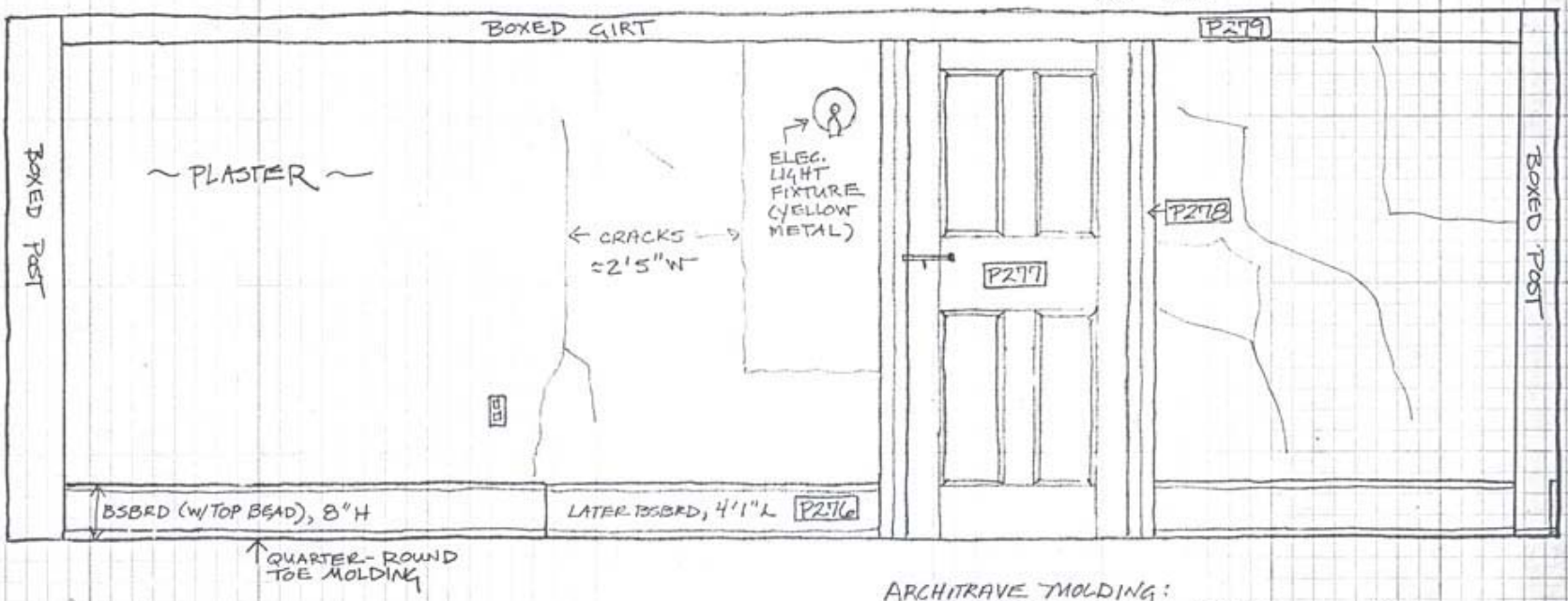

PATCH, 1'1"L
METAL REGISTER, 12" DIAM.
WIDE SPACE
5 ROWS BRICKS
73 1/4" L x 3 3/4" W
NOTE: NOTCH IN FLOORBD, 3 1/2" x 14" L
HOLES IN FLOOR, @ FORMER STEAM RADIATOR LOCATION
7" x 9"
FLOORBRDS: AVG. WIDTH = 9"; 2 LAYERS, BUTTED (NOT T&G); EACH 1 1/8" THICK; NAIL TRACES LOOK MACHINE CUT. FLOOR MAS BEEN SANDED -- MAY HAVE OIL FINISH?
TRIMA: MERIAN HS.
RM 209: FLOOR
SEPT. 10, 1993; B. Wolcott
Reduced drawing, not to scale.
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0"


FINISHES:
PLASTER WALLS PTD. WH (SANDPAINT);
WOODWORK + RADIATORS PTD. LT. BROWN
P272
BOXED GIRT
BOXED POST
WINDOW
(SEE E. WALL)
TOP = LOUVERS
BOTTOM = 6-LIGHT SASH
W-205
~ PLASTER ~
WINDOW
(SEE E. WALL)
6/6 SASH
P271
W-204
BOXED POST
RADIATOR, HOT WATER, 18 FINS, 4 COLS. -- NO I.D.
ELEC. OUTLET
RADIATOR, HOT WATER, 18 FINS, 4 COLS. -- NO I.D.
BSBRD, 8½" H
TOE MOLDING
SMALL MOLDING (LATER?) @ FORMER RADIATOR LOCATION
BSBRD PAINT EXPOSED
BSBRD GOES UP TO (NOT BEHIND) POST BOXING -- DITTO ELSEWHERE W ROOM
MIMA: MERIAM HS
RM 209, SOUTH WALL
SEPT. 10, 1993; B. Yocum
SCALE: ½" = 1'0"


FINISHES:
PLASTER PTD. WH (SAND PAINT);
WOODWORK PTD. LT. BROWN
CLOSET INTERIOR: FLOOR = 3¼"W PINE FLOORBRDS (UNPAINTED); WALLS + CEILING = PLASTER ON WOOD LATH (BADLY CRACKED -- SOUTH WALL IS SLOPING SIDE OF CHIMNEY); BSBRD = PLAIN BOARD 4½"H, N, W + E WALLS ONLY; WOOD SHELF + APRON, WIRE HOOKS, 1 CLOTHES BAR.
NO ARCHITRAVE MOLDING
MOLDING PROFILE SAME AS CL + WINDOWS.
MOLDING, TOP + S. SIDE ONLY (SAME PROFILE AS HALL DOOR + WINDOWS)
ELEC. LIGHT (PULL CHAIN)
A
PLASTER
BOXED
POST
6'-4"
P259
P263
SHELF = 3½" DEEP
P265
P262
P266
P268 - INT. SIDE
6'-0"
D
P264
ELEC. OUTLET
2'-4½"
3'-5"
ELEC. OUTLET
8½"
7½"
9"
P267
RECESSED, MOLDED PANELS
TOE MOLDING
THRESHOLD: 5½" W (CRACKED)
FIREPLACE:
MANTEL = RM 202;
FIREBOX IS = 1'4" DEEP,
2'9½" W X 2'2½" H;
FACE BRICKS PAINTED BLACK (2 2" W)
CLOSET DOOR: APPEARS TO BE IN ORIG. LOCATION. MORTISED, RAISED PANELS RM SIDE, RECESSED UNMOLDED PANELS CL SIDE; X 2 3-KNUCKLE HINGES; 2" DIAM. (BRASS?) SWIVEL LATCH RM SIDE; DOOR MEASURES:
1'11" W X
5'10⅞" H X
1" THK
THRESHOLD - 4" WIDE
MIMA: MERIAM HS.
ROOM 209, WEST WALL
MAR.-APR. 1993 (B.U. STUDENTS)
SEPT. 10, 1993; B. YOCUM
½" = 1'0"

FINISHES:
PLASTER PTD. WH (SAND PAINT);
WOODWORK PTD LT. BROWN.

DOOR: NOT MORTISED, SUFFOLK LATCH (REPRO?); X 2 HINGES; 4 RECESSED MOLDED PANELS RM 209 SIDE; SLIGHTLY RAISED PANELS OPP. SIDE (SIMILAR TO CL DOOR RM 202). DOOR MEASURES: 2'6" (-) W X 5'8 7/8" (-) H X 1 1/8" THK.



ARCHITRAVE MOLDING:
DIFFERENT PROFILE THAN ELSEWHERE IN ROOM (=RM 202 CLOSET ARCH.)

THRESHOLD: 4 1/2" WIDE

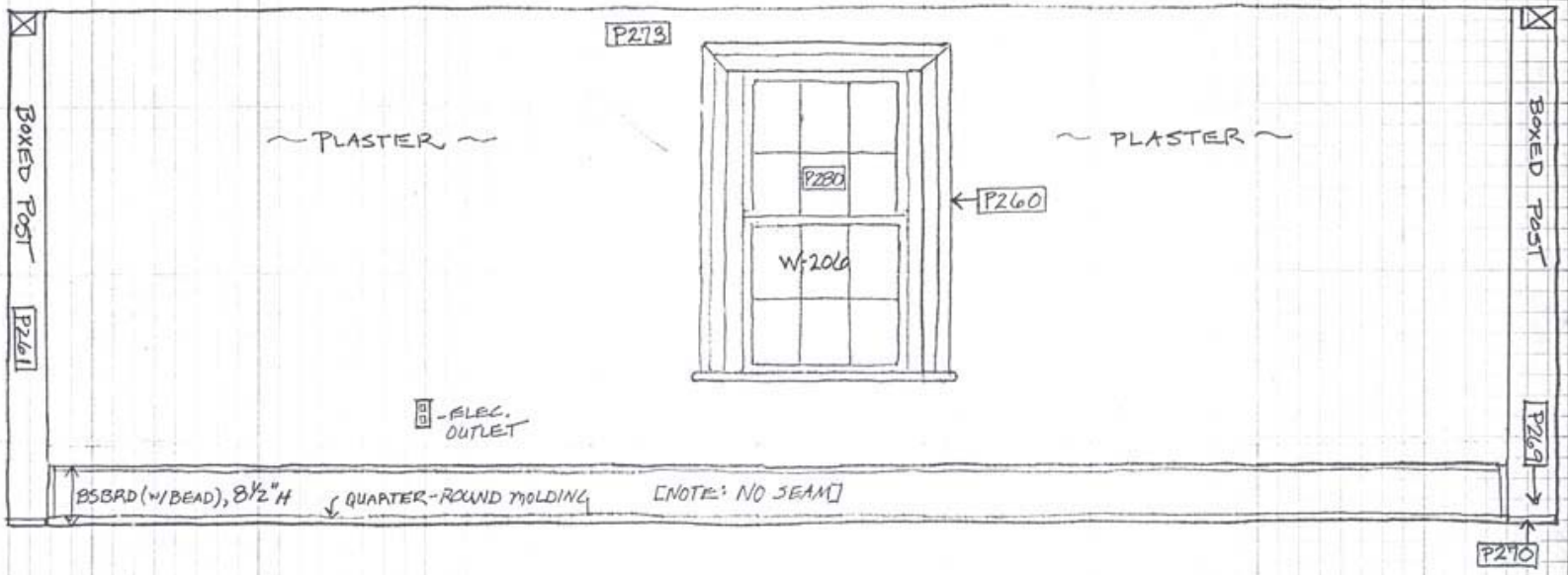
MIMA: MERIAM HS
RM 209, NORTH WALL
SEPT. 10, 1993; B. Yocum

SCALE: 1/2" = 1'0"

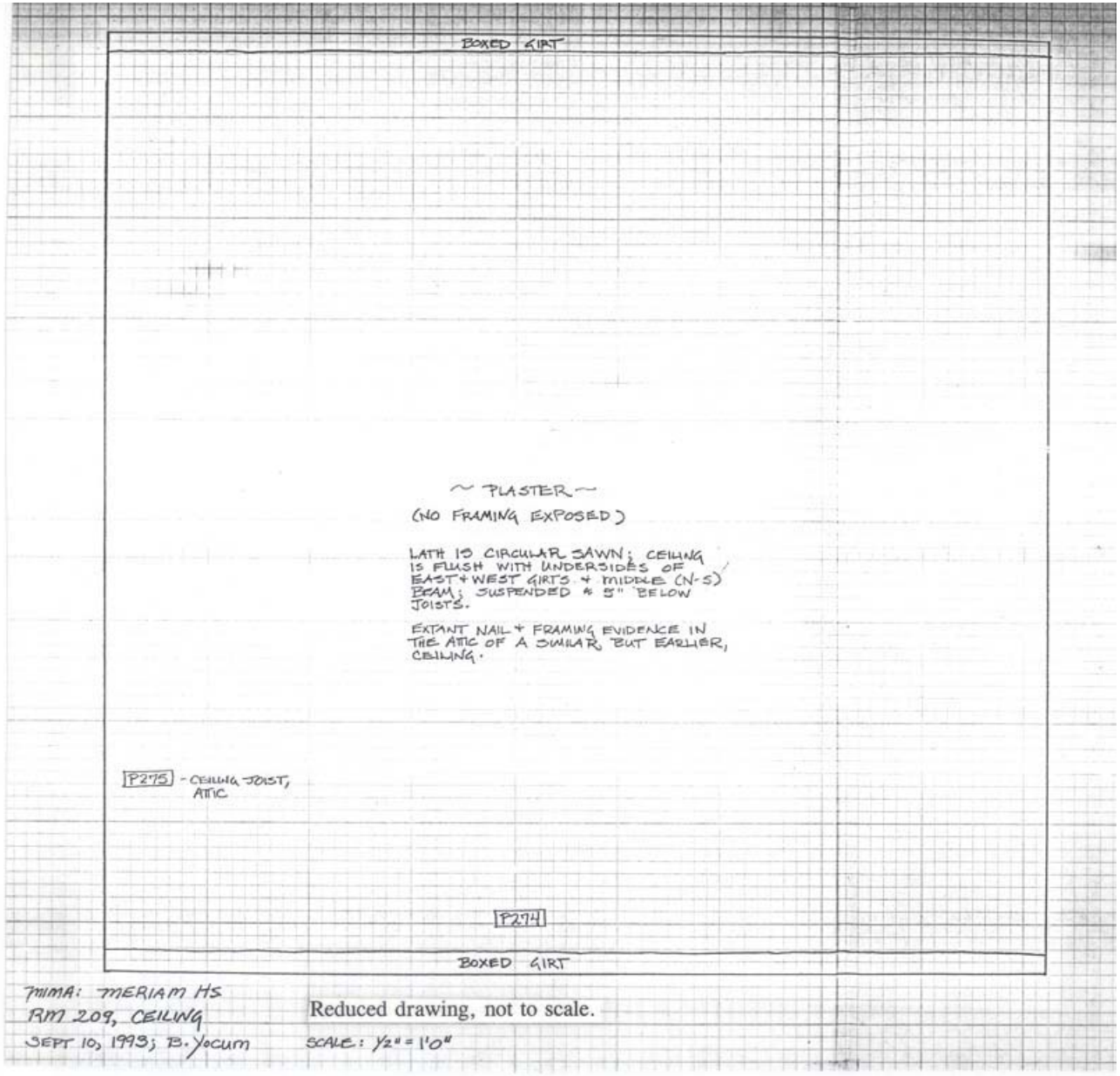
FINISHES: WALL PTD. WHITE (SAND PAINT); WOODWORK PTD. LT. BROWN

WINDOW: 6/6 SASH, SPLAYED JAMBS; ARCHITRAVE-MOLDING SAME AS SOUTH WINDOWS & WEST DOORWAYS (ALSO, RMS 102, 108, 201 WINDOW & 202).

PLASTER: GOOD CONDITION. DARK "SHADOWS" INDICATE WOOD LATH. APPEARS TO BE THIN, WH, SKIM COAT ON OLDER PLASTER. PLASTER EXTENDS UP TO (NOT BEHIND) POST BOXING.



MIMA: MERIAM HS.
RM 209, EAST WALL
SEPT. 10, 1993; B. Yocum
SCALE: ½" = 1'0"


BOXED GIRT
~ PLASTER ~
(NO FRAMING EXPOSED)
LATH IS CIRCULAR SAWN; CEILING IS FLUSH WITH UNDERSIDES OF EAST + WEST GIRTS + MIDDLE (N-S) BEAM; SUSPENDED ≈ 5" BELOW JOISTS.
EXTANT NAIL + FRAMING EVIDENCE IN THE ATTIC OF A SIMILAR, BUT EARLIER, CEILING.
P275 - CEILING JOIST, ATTIC
P274
BOXED GIRT
MIMA: MERIAM HS
RM 209, CEILING
SEPT 10, 1993; B. Yocum
Reduced drawing, not to scale.
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'0"

INTERIOR ELEMENTS:

ATTIC STORY

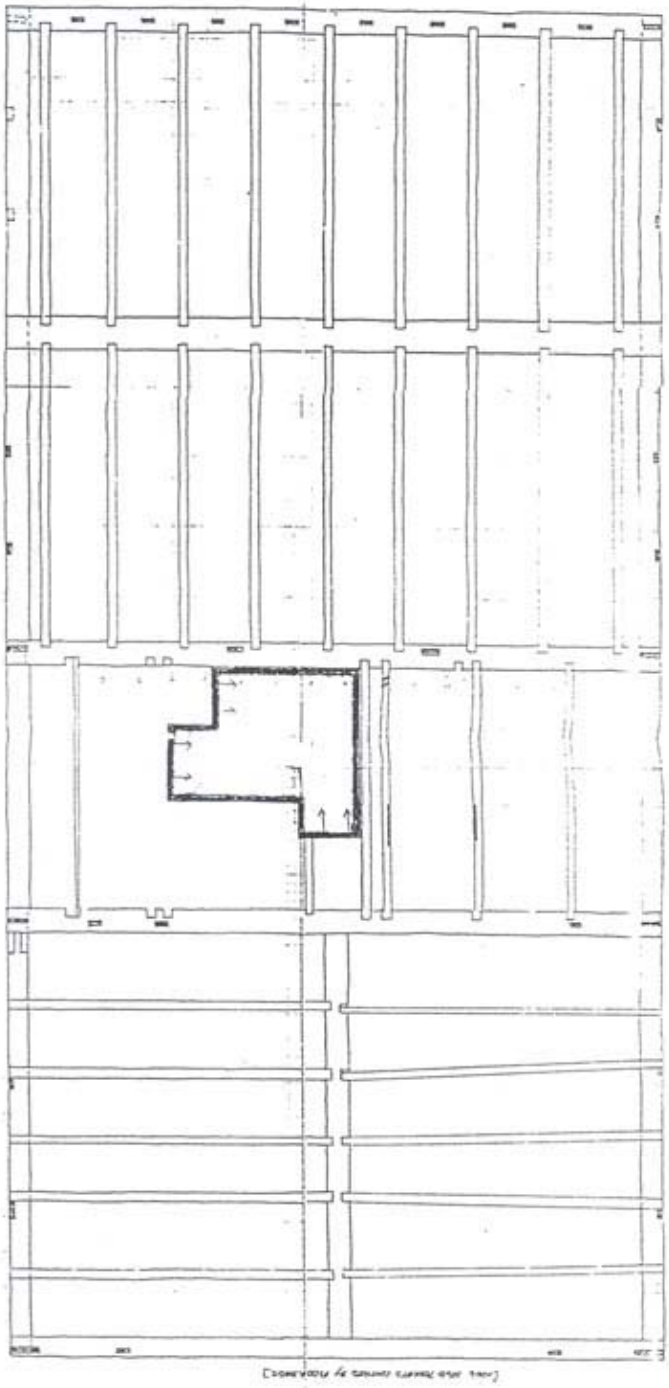


Figure 36. Meriam House, attic floor plan, 1993.

Attic

General Information

A large attic with full floor is located under the main gable roof. Its dimensions are approximately 31 feet (east-west) by 18 feet 7 inches (north-south).

The attic was built in two phases: circa 1705 and circa 1725. The older portion, comprising the eastern three-fifths, measures 18 feet 10 inches from east to west. This is the attic of the original two-story section of the house, which includes the chimney on the west side. The framing evidence of an early attic stairway may also be seen on the south side of the chimney stack, above the second-story stair hall (Room 201). The later, circa-1725 portion of the attic measures 12 feet 1 1/2 inches east to west. It has no separate chimney stack.

Alterations were made to the attic circa 1810, when the back (north) rafters were lifted to accommodate the height of the new, two-story kitchen addition. The attic stairway is also believed to have been moved about this time, to the west side of the chimney stack.

The most drastic change occurred circa 1925, following a fire that left charring damage on the structural members of the floor. The roof may have been damaged beyond repair, because the entire roof structure and side walls were completely removed and replaced wit new materials. New tongue-in-groove flooring was installed, covering the entire east side of the attic, and most of the west side. The circa-1810 attic stairway was also removed and replaced by a hatch and ladderway in the northeast corner. The attic is little changed today from its appearance following the repairs of circa 1925.

Floor

The circa-1925 attic floorboards are tongue-in-groove pine boards 7 1/4 inches wide by three-quarters of an inch thick. The floorboards are laid across the joists in a north-south direction in the old part of the attic, and in an east-west direction in the newer part. They are attached with wire nails. A description of the structural framing may be found in the section “Structure.”

Walls

The east and west gable-end walls of the attic are modern, having been rebuilt circa 1925. They replaced original end walls in the same locations. Stud mortises remain from these original end walls in the second-story end girts: both the circa-1705 east girt and the circa-1725 west girt.

Similar stud mortises are also preserved in the original (circa-1705) west girt at first-story level, on the west side of the chimney stack. This evidence, together with the framing evidence in Room 102, clearly indicates that the house was built originally with two stories on the east side and one story on the west side.

Ceiling

The ceiling of the attic is the exposed framing and sheathing boards of the roof. See "Roof" for details.

Doorways

There are no doorways in the attic today. Access is possible from the second story by a hatch opening in the ceiling of the closet in Room 206, the back stair hall in the circa-1810 addition. There is no door or other cover at the opening, which was created circa 1925.

Windows

There are two small windows in the attic: one in the east wall (W-301) and the other in the west wall (W-302). Both of these window openings and their six-light sashes date to circa 1925, when the gable-end walls in which they are located were rebuilt. The windows are fitted today with louvered sashes installed by the National Park Service.

The west window, and probably also the east window, were smaller than the existing windows, based on the photographic evidence. The west window had a four-light sash, which is missing today. The earlier attic windows may have been installed or replaced circa 1820, at the same time as the other windows in the house.

Chimney

The chimney is described in a separate section of this report entitled "Chimney."

Stairways

Existing Ladderway

The attic is accessed from the second story by a circa-1925 ladderway near the northeast corner. This ladderway includes an open hatch in the ceiling of Room 206, the back stair hall in the circa-1810 addition. The hatch is reached by a vertical ladder affixed permanently to the east wall of the Room-206 closet.

Missing Stairways

Prior to circa 1925, the attic was connected to the second story by three successive stairways. The original (circa-1705) attic stairway is believed to have ascended from the front stair hall (Room 201), located south of the chimney stack. This stairway was undoubtedly replaced circa 1743, when the chimney stack was rebuilt. Framing evidence for one or both of these stairways survives today at the two attic-floor joists south of the chimney stack. Here, two long mortises on the interior sides

of the joists may have received the stairway stringers. This suggests that the stairway(s) ascended first along the east wall of Room 201, then turned west and rose along the chimney.

The circa-1743 attic stairway was probably removed from Room 201 circa 1820, when extensive interior remodeling occurred in that room and elsewhere in the house. A new attic stairway appears to have been built along the west side of the chimney stack, ascending southward from a doorway in the second story of the circa-1810 kitchen addition. This stairway was in turn removed circa 1925, when the ladderway was built at the other end of the house as part of the post-fire repairs. No physical evidence of the circa-1820 attic stairway survives today, other than the space on the west side of the chimney, which was converted to a closet for Room 202 after the stairway was removed.

Painted Finishes

The only painted finishes in the attic are the remnants of paint on floor framing on the west side of the attic. This framing was originally exposed as the ceiling in the second-story room (Room 202). It is not known if the blackened finish on the floor framing on the east side of the attic is an applied finish or a smokey residue. This framing may have been the original exposed ceiling in Room 209.

Electrical Equipment

Lighting Fixtures

There are two ceiling-mounted light fixtures in the attic: one on the east side, the other on the west side. Each consists of a single bare bulb in a white porcelain base. The fixtures can be operated individually by a pull chain, or remotely by a switch in the Room-206 closet.

Electrical Outlets

An electrical-receptacle adapter is at each of the two attic light fixtures.

Television Antennae

A large metal television antennae is on the east side of the attic.

Heating Equipment

There is no heating equipment in the attic.

Fire- and Intrusion-Protection Equipment

There is no fire- or intrusion-protection equipment in the attic.

UTILITY SYSTEMS

Electrical System

General Information

Electrical service was probably first introduced in the house around 1900-1901 by Thomas and Rose Burke. This is when electrical poles and wires were first installed along Old Bedford Road to Meriam's Corner.[43] Remnants in the house of this early system include porcelain knobs, tubes, and conduit in the attic floor.

The electrical system was no doubt upgraded circa 1925, as part of the renovations made to the house after the fire of that time.

The next family to own the house, James and Margaret Ingraham, also made changes to the electrical system. Work carried out in 1951 is documented by wiring permit no. 4062, dated 1951. This allowed the electrician, whose name has faded, to install "additional wiring and wiring range and water heater," in addition to "installing fixtures."

Existing Electrical System

The electrical system was recorded in detail by Minute Man National Historical Park Ranger Dan Griffin sometime after the house was acquired by the federal government in 1987. Ranger Griffin prepared annotated floor plans of the cellar, first story, second story, and attic, showing the locations of light fixtures, receptacles, and switches. He also prepared a "Lighting Panel" diagram that identified each switch.[44]

The existing electrical system is a 100-ampere service. The modern electrical panel for this system is located in the west-wall closet of the kitchen (Room 107). The electrical meter is mounted on the exterior west wall of the kitchen wing (i.e., the circa-1820 shed addition). The major electrical appliances are a kitchen range (extant today) and a clothes dryer (not extant today).

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[43] Telephone conversation with Donna Salvey, Concord Municipal Light Company, Nov. 29, 1993. Ms. Salvey obtained this information from the Report of the Commissioners.

[44] The floor plans, which are roughly to scale, are the earliest-known architectural drawings of the house. Ranger Griffin also prepared drawings of the four exterior elevations, and a perspective drawing showing the south and west elevations.

JOHN MERIAM HOUSE

LIGHTING PANEL LP1

	100		
Elect. Dryer	1 3	2 4	Elect. Range
Family Rm Recs.	5	6	Outside Spot Lights
Family Rm,Den Recs.	7	8	Kitchen,Bath,Basement Recs.
Oil Burner-Chimes	9	10 10A	Kitchen Rec. Kitchen Lgts and Recs. Outside Spot Light
-	11 11A	12	Bedrooms 20-21 Wall Lights C2A Lgt.,Family Rm Lgt-Recs. Parlor Lights
Family Rm Recs. (wall/ceil)	13	14	Storage Room
Family Rm Lgts/Recs Basement Lgts/Recs.	15	16	Kitchen Ceiling Recs. Outside Lights
Living and Parlor Recs. Bedroom 22 Recs.	17 17A	18 18A	Parlor Recs. Garage Lgts-Recs. Bath -Hall Lights Outside Light
Bedrooms 20,21,22,Recs. Attic Lights	19		
Second Floor Baths SC2 Rec., Bedroom 21 Rec.	19A	20	-

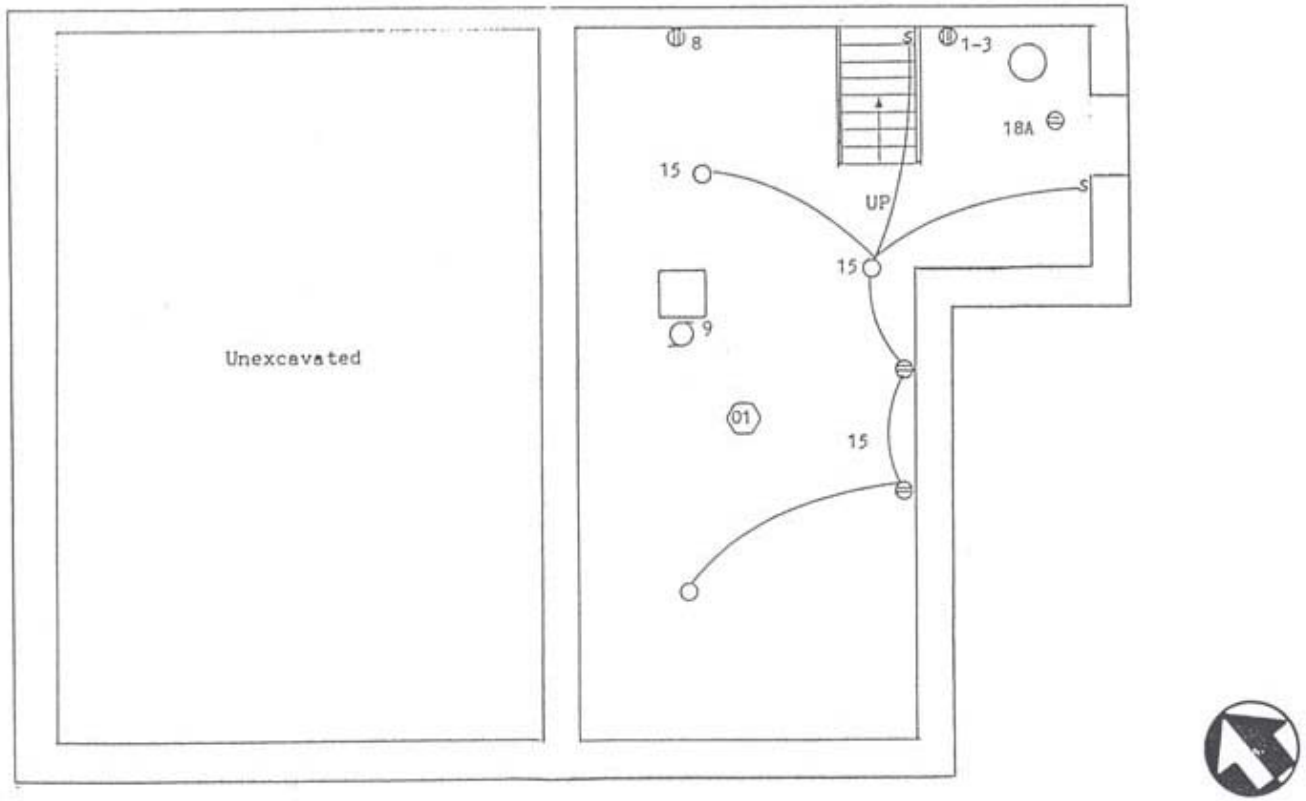

Figure 37. Meriam House, cellar electrical plan, circa 1990.

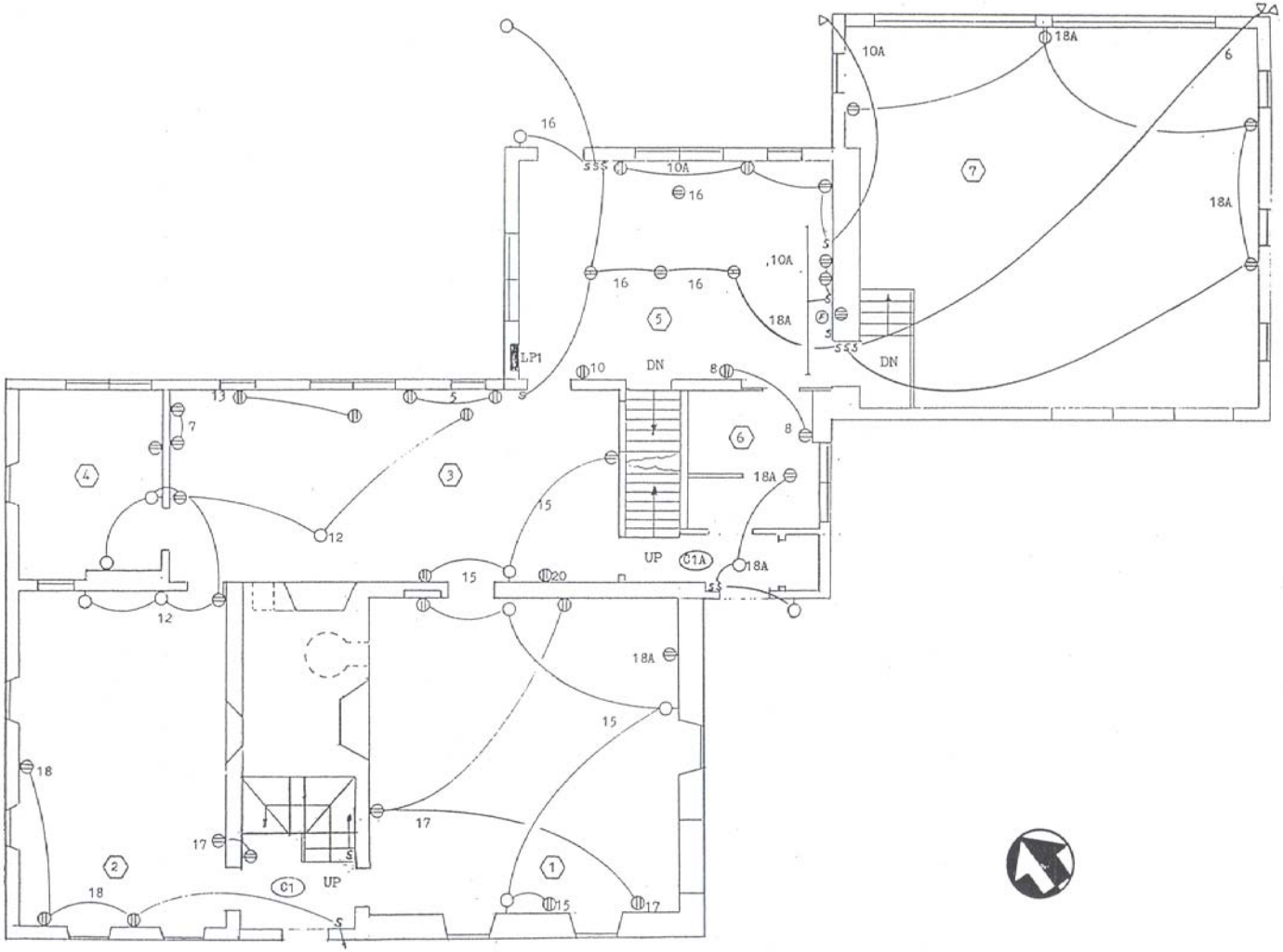

Figure 38. Meriam House, first-story electrical plan, circa 1990.

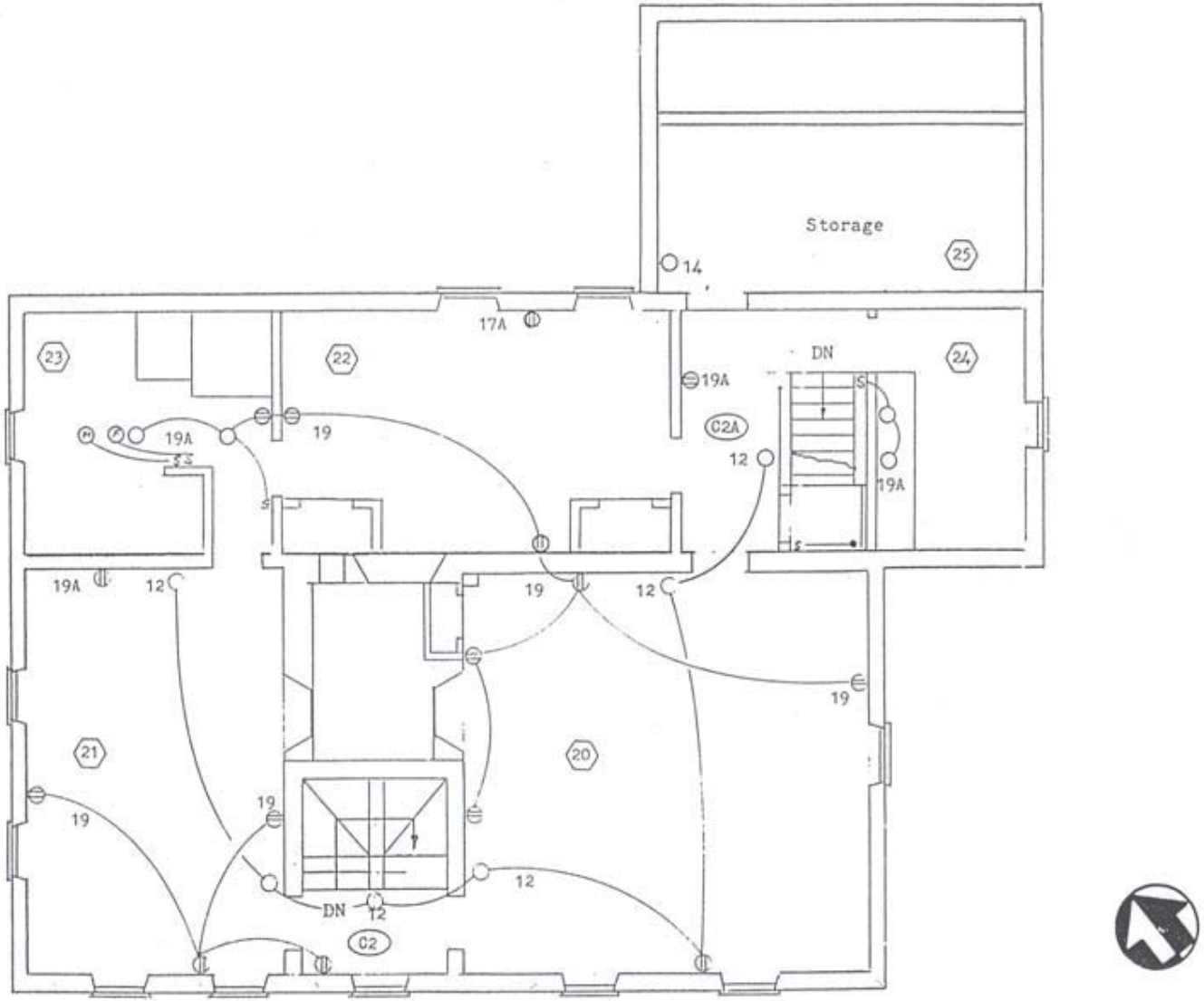

Figure 39. Meriam House, second-story electrical plan, circa 1990.

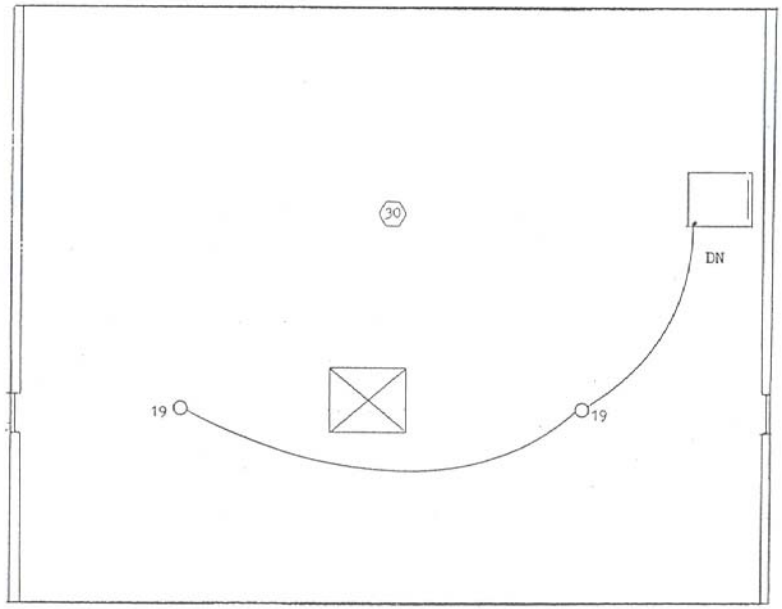

Figure 40. Meriam House, third-story (attic) electrical plan, circa 1990.

Heating System

General Information

Little is known about the evolution of the heating system in the Meriam House. There is no doubt, however, that the house was heated originally, and probably through the early 19th century, by burning wood in the fireplaces. The latest detailed inventory of the house, dated February 8, 1804, lists no stoves. It did, however, include the following fireplace tools: "Two pairs of andirons, two fire shovels & tongs, [and] Bellows."[45]

Wood- or coal-burning stoves may have been installed during the occupancy of Thomas and Rose Burke (1871-1921). The Burkes' granddaughter, Alice Burke Hargrove, remembers that her grandparents had a kitchen range in front of the fireplace in Room 104. Parlor-type stoves may also have been in the two front rooms (Rooms 102 and 108), the rising heat from which passed through metal grilles in the ceiling to heat the two upstairs chambers (Rooms 202 and 209).

The earliest central-heating system may have been installed by Thomas and Rose Burke's son, Thomas J. Burke, as part of major renovations made to the house after the fire of circa 1925. Remnants of this system suggest that it was a steam-heating system that employed radiators. The fuel source at that time was probably coal.

The existing oil-fueled, hot-water heating system was installed by James and Margaret Ingraham in 1951. A permit for the installation of the new system, dated April 10, 1951, was found in the cellar during the architectural investigation. This document granted permission to do the following work: "Install and store 275 gallon fuel oil in basement in combination with a E.A. Wood [burner or power] furnace."

Existing Heating Equipment

The existing heating system is the oil-fueled, hot-water system installed by the Ingrahams in 1951. It is not operational today because the water supply to the house has been disconnected.

Components include an oil storage tank in the southeast corner of the cellar, and an oil burner/boiler made by the H.B. Smith Co., Inc., of Westfield, Mass. There is also a Honeywell thermostaton on the north wall of Room 108. Hot-water radiators exist in the following rooms:

- Room 102: five columns wide, 28 sections long
- Room 103: three columns wide, 28 sections long (Burnham)
- Room 104: three columns wide, 28 sections long (Burnham)
- Room 105: three columns wide, six sections long (Burnham)
- Room 106: three columns wide, 17 sections long (Burnham)

[45] Middlesex County Probate Document #15056 (Ephraim Meriam).

- Room 107: four columns wide, 40 sections long (Burnham)
  three columns wide, 34 sections long (Burnham)

- Room 108: four columns wide, 22 sections long
  four columns wide, 22 sections long

- Room 202: six columns wide, 24 sections long

- Room 203: four columns wide, 24 sections long

- Room 205: six columns wide, 18 sections long

- Room 208: four columns wide, 18 sections long (wall-mounted)

- Room 209: four columns wide, 18 sections long
  four columns wide, 18 sections long

Remnants of Early Heating Systems

All five fireplaces survive in the Meriam house. These are located in the following rooms:

- west room (Room 102);
- old kitchen (Room 104);
- east room (Room 108);
- west chamber (Room 202); and
- east chamber (Room 209).

One metal floor grille, which may date to the days of heating with stoves, survives in the floor of the east chamber (Room 209). This grille is round and 12 inches in diameter. The loose grille that was formerly in the floor of the west chamber (Room 202) is in loose storage in the room today.

A disconnected water-storage tank is in the cellar, south of the oil burner/boiler. This was probably the water supply for the circa-1925 steam-heating system. Holes in the floors (at the south wall) of Rooms 108 and 209 appear to have been for earlier radiators, which were also probably part of this system.

Plumbing System

General Information

Clearly, a plumbing system connected to a town water supply was not introduced in the house until sometime in the 20th century. Before that time, water was probably obtained from a well and/or rainwater cistern. A privy would have been located somewhere outside, probably behind the house.

Alice Burke Hargrove, the granddaughter of Thomas and Rose Burke (owners 1871-1921), remembers that a well was behind the house, near the line of the adjacent field. The well was apparently obsoleteby then, because her mother (Ellen Burke) filled it with broken plates and other refuse, fearing that the children would fall into it.

Mrs. Hargrove also recalls that another "well" was inside the house, at the north wall of the north shed (Room 107), which her grandfather used to keep milk cool.

An "indoor-outdoor toilet" had been in the southeast corner of the old carriage shed, according to Mrs. Hargrove. It was later made obsolete by an interior bathroom installed by Thomas Burke in the second-story west room (Room 208). This may have occurred around 1903-1904, when construction activity was taking place on nearby lots to build/remodel homes for sons Thomas J. and James.[46] The septic tank on the east side of the house was probably installed at this time. Other Burke-era plumbing fixtures included a sink at the west wall of Room 107, and a kitchen sink at the north wall of Room 104. It is not known when the house was connected to town water.

New plumbing fixtures may have been installed in the original west bathroom circa 1925, as part of the remodeling activity that took place after the fire of that year.

A complete overhaul of the plumbing system was carried out during the ownership of James and Margaret Ingraham (owners 1951-1991). The sinks were removed from the two first-story rooms (Rooms 104 and 107), and a new kitchen sink was installed in the newly remodeled north shed (Room 107). A kitchen-style sink was installed in the cellar around 1955, possibly at the same time as the washing machine that was located next to it. A new lavatory and bathtub replaced the old fixtures in the original west bathroom around 1958, although the old toilet appears to have been retained. Also about this time, the west second-story room (Room 203) was remodeled as a modern bathroom with pink plumbing fixtures. Finally, a handicapped-accessible toilet room was created for Mr. Ingraham in one of the first-story rooms (Room 106) sometime in the 1980's.

Following the death of Mr. Ingraham in December 1991, the National Park Service disconnected the water service to the house, and removed the water meter from the northwest corner of the cellar.

[46] Thomas J. built the "Burke House" across Old Bedford Road, and James remodeled the old East Quarter School House as a home.

Existing Plumbing Equipment

As explained previously, the town water supply to the house is currently disconnected, so that the plumbing system in the house is nonfunctional. All of the plumbing fixtures have been drained of water by the National Park Service to prevent damage due to freezing. Plumbing equipment extant today is listed below.

Side Yard

- septic tank, on the east side of the house.

Cellar

- water supply line, northwest corner;
- kitchen-style, two-bowl sink with white porcelain finish, at the north wall (U.S.A. PAT. NO. D.83246 6626. 50 x 24-1-55); and
- General Electric sump pump in a well 15 inches in diameter, at the north wall.

Room 106

- water supply and drain for a former (missing) toilet;
- water supply, drain, and lavatory cabinet (bowl and faucets missing); and
- plastic drain for a former washing machine (missing).

Room 107

- cast-iron, two-bowl kitchen sink with white porcelain finish (Kohler U.S.A. 13 5611 -42 x 21 - 1M 9 1451 N), and Delta single-arm faucet.

Room 203

- pink lavatory by American Standard;
- pink toilet, manufactured Jan 7 - 1958;
- pink bathtub, with hand-held shower head; and
- ceramic-tile shower enclosure.

Room 208

- lavatory with white porcelain finish (Made in U.S.A. 376 110 20 M64 707) and American Standard faucet;
- toilet with white porcelain finish, made up of a Trent base and a Kohler tank and cover (K 6948 S5 88 33 6 8012); and
- bathtub with white porcelain finish, made by Kohler, with American Standard faucet and Standard shower head and control.

Roof

- four metal pipes, protruding through the roof on the north side of the house; they ventilate the soil pipes for the kitchen, the toilet room, and the two bathrooms.

Fire- and Intrusion-Protection Systems

The house is protected from fire and intruders by a fire- and intrusion-protection system installed by the National Park Service. The control panel for this system (a "Star XL 4600"), with automatic dialer, is in the east closet of Room 104. Three battery-operated, ionization-type smoke detectors are in the cellar stairway, the front stair hall (Room 106), and the second story of the back stair hall (Room 206). Two "Linear Passive Infrared Intrusion Detectors" are in two front rooms in the first story (Rooms 102 and 108).

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

The following section provides general recommendations for the treatment of the Meriam House. It does not include a discussion of maintenance conditions and the need for repairs, since these are provided in Appendix F, "Survey of Existing Conditions and Recommendations." It also does not include recommendations for the treatment of the site and its three extant outbuildings, or for adjacent buildings such as the Burke House and the former East Quarter School House. See Appendix G for more information on these structures.

The General Management Plan for Minute Man National Historical Park, dated September 1989, proposes restoring the exterior of the Meriam House to its appearance on April 19, 1775, and adapting the interior for administrative use. The following is a discussion of the feasibility and advisability of implementation of this proposal, based on the findings of the architectural investigation.

Exterior Elements

Existing Architectural Fabric

The documentary and physical investigation found that the exterior of the Meriam House has been considerably altered since April 19, 1775.

The general exterior appearance of the Meriam House today dates to circa 1820. This is when the north shed and carriage shed additions were built; when the two front doorways were remodeled; when the window openings were installed in their present configuration (with six-over-six sashes); and when new clapboard siding was installed.

Additional alterations have been made since circa 1820. Specific features and materials dating to several remodeling periods are listed below:

Circa 1900

- front doorway architrave (D-101); and
- relocation of the circa-1820 front door to the side doorway (D-102).

Circa 1925

- roof structure (not including the north shed) and gable end walls;
- north dormer;
- glazed back door (D-108);
- clapboards on the north elevation and the west (gable) elevation;
- shingle siding on the east elevation; and
- window sashes (six-over-six) in all the second-story windows (W-201 through W-212).

Circa 1950's

- east two-car garage (approximately reproduces the circa-1820 carriage shed);
- reproduction circa-1820 door in the front doorway (D-101);
- aluminum storm doors;
- casement-style windows in the east, north and west elevations (W-106, and W-111 through W-117);
- shingle siding on the north elevation of the north shed addition;
- brown paint scheme;
- roof vents and fan exhausts;
- exterior lighting; and
- southeast brick patio.

1984

- chimney, above the level of the roof (reused old bricks).

Circa 1992

- louvered window sashes.

Recommendations

Restoration of the exterior of the Meriam House to its appearance in 1775 is infeasible due to the extensive remodeling of the house circa 1820. While an exhaustive physical investigation of the fabric of the house might provide some clues, such an approach would be destructive to the existing circa-1820 materials. Also, it is unlikely that sufficient physical evidence could be found for the earlier kitchen addition that was replaced by the existing 1 1/2-story kitchen addition circa 1810.

It is therefore recommended that the exterior be preserved in its existing configuration, with no attempt made at restoration. It is also advised that all physical evidence of earlier features (such as window openings or siding materials) be recorded when maintenance repairs are undertaken. Removal of the existing siding, for example, may uncover framing evidence of previous openings. An architectural conservator or historical architect should record this evidence, which could be included as an appendix to this report.

Maintaining the house in its present form is not necessarily disruptive to the historic scene, for the following reasons. First, the size and basic shape of that portion of the house that existed in 1775 (the front, two-story section) is unchanged. Second, the orientation of that part of the house is also unaltered, sitting as it does on the original circa-1705 foundation walls, facing south. Third, while the chimney was rebuilt above the level of the roof in 1984, its location is unchanged and its design is only slightly altered. Fourth, while the existing doorways and windows are different in their details, the openings are probably in the same approximate locations as the earlier doorways and windows.

Finally, even if the house could be restored to its appearance in 1775 with a minimum of conjecture, it would be only one isolated artifact on a site where many buildings once stood. To recreate the true appearance of the site on April 19, 1775, it would be necessary to determine the exact locations of, and to then reconstruct, the following missing features:

- the Meriam House barn (and other unidentified outbuildings);
- the circa-1663 Meriam homestead and barn (and other unidentified outbuildings), on Lexington Road;
- Josiah (and later Nathan) Meriam's locksmith shop;
- landscape features, including fences and walls;
- the path of the original Battle Road; and
- the bridge at Mill Brook.

Interior Elements

Existing Architectural Fabric

Except for the foundation and structural frame, little architectural fabric in the Meriam House predates circa 1810. The interior of the house today is the product of four major periods of remodeling: circa 1810, circa 1820, circa 1925, and the 1950's. Each represents a different phase in the evolution of the house, and therefore includes significant architectural fabric. The remodeling periods are summarized below.

Circa 1810 The house was enlarged at this time by replacing a circa-1743 kitchen addition with a larger, two-story kitchen addition, with a cellar and a jog on the east side.

Circa 1820 A north shed addition with attached carriage shed was built at this time; exterior doorways and windows were remodeled; new clapboard siding was installed; and the interior rooms of the main house were renovated with new woodwork and plaster. The existing front stairway dates from this period.

Circa 1925 Extensive repairs were made following a fire in the house circa 1925. Narrow-pine floorboards and plaster on circular-sawn lath were installed.

1950's Work done at this time may be characterized as “restoration” and modernization. Great pains were taken to make the restoration work appear authentic, by hand-planing woodwork, introducing salvaged building materials, and relocating existing materials (such as doors) in the house. A modern kitchen was installed; the existing bathroom was modernized; a new bathroom was created; and the heating and electrical systems were upgraded.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the existing interior fabric in the Meriam House be retained when the house is adapted for administrative use. While it is true that the 20th-century remodelings of circa 1925 and the 1950's might be considered less significant than the 19th-century work, the materials do not disrupt the historic character of the rooms. New wood floorboards, for example, were installed in place of (or on top of) old wood floorboards; new plaster walls replaced old plaster walls.

In some cases, misguided restoration work in the 1950's has resulted in rooms with inappropriate “historical” appearances. Examples include the exposed brickwork in the front stair hall (Room 102), the salvaged pine paneling in the west room (Room 102), and the paint-stripped woodwork in the first-story rooms (Rooms 101, 102, and 108). Nevertheless, it is recommended that the rooms be retained as they are, unless restoration to a circa 1810-1820 period is desired. This is the only time period for which sufficient evidence remains to conduct an accurate restoration.

As with the exterior, it is advised that if and when areas are opened for repairs, that any evidence of earlier architectural features be recorded by an architectural conservator or historical architect. This information could be included as an appendix to this report.

V. APPENDICES

APPENDIX A.

Meriam Family Genealogy Chart

MERIAM FAMILY GENEALOGY

1 William Meriam, of Hadlowe, Kent (England) · Clothier

2 Joseph (ca. 1600 - Jan. 1, 1641) - Clother
Sarah Goldstone (- Mar. 12, 1670-71) she later married Joseph Wheeler

3 George (ca. 1603 - Dec 29, 1675)
Susan Raven
8 daughters
1 son (dies young)
8 Samuel (ca. 1643 -)
+ Eliz. Townsend Apr. 25, 1667

4 Robert (ca. 1613 - Feb. 15, 1682)
Mary Sheafe (1620 - July 22, 1693)
(No children)

5 William (ca. 1624 - 1689) - of Lynn
Sarah (ca. 1626 -)
6 Joseph (ca. 1628 - April 20, 1677) - of Cambridge
Thomas (ca. 1630 -) - dies young
Elizabeth (ca. 1632 -), m. Thos. Hawthorne
Hannah (ca. 1636 -)
7 John (July 9, 1641 - Feb. 2, 1723-24) } m. Oct 21, 1663
+ Mary Cooper (1645 - 1730)

10 JOHN (1666-1748) late of Littleton
+ m. Sarah Wheeler, Jul. 22, 1691
m. Sarah Fletcher, Feb. 16, 1693
40 John (1692-1729) "of Concord"

11 Anne (1669-1733) m. David Brooks, Aug. 9, 1692

12 Nathaniel (1672-1738) late of Bedford
m. Mary Taylor Nov. 10, 1701
41 Ebenezer (1717-51) 12
Timothy (1720 - young)
Oliver (1722-51)

13 Ebenezer (ca. 1675-1777)
+
5 Wives:
1st Eliz. Prentiss, Dec. 6, 1705
2. Eliz. Cutler, Jan. 9, 1742
3. Mary (Ray), Feb. 9, 1753
4. Eliz. Fuller, Oct. 4, 1757
5. Esther Hosmer, Nov. 1, 1762

14 Joseph (1677-1750) Locksmith
+
Dorothy Brooks m. Mar. 24, 1705 (1685-1772)
Dorothy (1706-91) m. 1734 Joseph Adams
Mary (1707 - m.) Simeon Hunt
42 Joseph (1709-97) late of Grafton
43 Samuel (1712-67)
50 Nathan (1720-82)
51 Josiah (1726-1809)

20 Samuel (1681-1761) late of Bedford
m. Sarah Wheeler, Nov. 8, 1711
6 daughters
21 Samuel (1679-1764)
Abiel Lee
Samuel (1712-30)
(No descendants)

1 Abigail
5 daughters
47 John (1729-176) blacksmith

Sarah (x2) she later married Phineas Blood
m. John Stickney, Sept. 5, 1759
Sarah (1742 -)
Elizabeth (1744 -)

m. 1733
+ Ruth, later Hannah Nutt
8 daughters
10 Joseph (1734-1814)
11 Timothy (1746-1821)

m. 1741
+ Genetha, later Bethia Bicknell
4 daughters
Samuel (1744 -)
Ebenezer (1754-1775)
112 John (1754-1804)
Stephen (1761 -)

m. 1749
+ Esther Wheeler

+ Abigail Wheeler (1723 - May 29, 1796)
113 Joseph (1744 - 1806)
Abigail (1745 - 1780) m. Nathan Stone
Dorothy (1747-1762)
Lucy (1749 - 1779) m. May 22 Amos Hosmer
114 Nathan (1751 -)
Mehitable (1753-54)
David (1754-55)
Mary (1756-1779) m. Nov. 21 Joseph Wright
Hepzibah (1758 - m. 1782 Feb. 23 Aaron Wright)
115 Amos (1760-1841)
184 Ephraim (1764-1805)

+ Lydia, m. Kiae 17, 1746 Wheeler
7 daughters
117 Josiah (1755-1832) served in Rev. War
118 Timothy (1757-1835) m. Mary Hunt
Oliver (1762-84)
119 Joseph (1767-1856)

+ Martha, Putnam, m. Apr. 6, 1793 later Miriam Wheeler
251 John (1793-1857) - VT
Martha (1796-1855) m. Dr. Aaron Batchelder, Sept. 9, 1812
252 Tarrant Putnam (1782-1864)
253 Samuel (1785 -) - VT
child
child
Ebenezer (1794-1864) - KY-NYC
Daniel (1796-1816) - Acton
Francis Wheeler (1799-1856) - Acton

m. Sarah Cooke, Apr. 6, 1805 (d. Nov 22, 1820)
m. Mary Hoar, Apr. 1, 1824
m. Betsy Merriam, June 1826 (dau. of Tim #111)
Horatio Cooke (1806 -)
John Henry (1808 -)
Tarrant Putnam, Jr. (1810 -)
Harrison Gray Otis (1812 -)
Sarah Cooke (Sally) (1816 - 1817)
Abiel Hayward (1817 -)
Sarah Cooke (1819 -)

+ Mary Brooks, m. Feb. 9, 1792 (Mar. 6, 1772 - 1849)
she later married Wm. Sturtevant, 1806 (d. Sept. 25, 1822)
Mary (1793-1824) Sept. 11, N. Ball
a Ephraim (1795-1825)
b Nathan (1798-1828) - lawyer of Newport, ME
c Rufus (1801-1870)
242 Marshall (1801 - ?) + N.H. & Phila. Editor
Maria Swan (1809 -) m. Darius Hatch, May 27, 1845

Marries x3; died at Hat. 1874
589 Ephraim Cooke (1838-42)
Mary (1841-65)
Lucy (1842 -)
Rufus (1843-62) dies at Fredricksburg, VA in the Civil War
Sarah (1846 -)
590 Marshall (1848 -)
591 Nathan (1849 -)
Charles (1851-56)
592 John (1855 -)
Edwin Hart (1857 -)
Joseph Francis (1859 -)
John Howard (1874 -)

+ Deborah Brooks m. Dec 25, 1783 (a farmer, married 30 years, Princeton by 1806)
Hannah (1806 -) in Princeton
Phebe (1786 -)
Abigail (1789-1792)
Nathan (1791-1849)
Amos (1792-1864)
Wm. (1794-1856)
John (1797-1801)
Joseph (1799-1821)
Marshall (1802-1848?)
Lydia (1804 -)

+ Lydia (Old) [Moved to New Ipswich, NH - family, no list of children, no death date]

+ Mary Brooks, m. Jan. 14, 1768 [Moved 2 1790 to Mason, N.H.]
257 Joseph (1770 -) in Mason, NH
Eliz. (1772 -)
258 Sam'l (1773-1823)
Dorothy (1778 -)
Rebecca (1781 -)

APPENDIX B.

Ownership Summary

Note: the superscripted numbers after individuals' names in the following list correspond to the numbers provided in Appendix A, "Meriam Family Genealogy."

Meriam House Lot

1666 Oct. 26. John Meriam's[7] property holdings recorded (Book 10, p. 525)

By 1698 May 8. John Meriam appears to own the east adjacent lot (size unknown) based on description of the easterly parcel conveyed from Ball to Ball (Book 25 p. 373)

Ca. 1705 Joseph Meriam[19] (no deed or probate); he marries Aug. 20, and is paying taxes by 1717

[1745 Apr. 23. Nathan Meriam[50] buys the east adjacent lot, with tenement house and barn, from Jonathan Stow (Book 45, p. 345)]

1747 Apr. 3. Nathan Meriam[50] (Book 49, p. 259)

1782 Nov. 11. Ephraim[116] and Amos[115] Meriam (Nathan Meriam probate, P15095)

1788 Mar. 16. Amos to Ephraim Meriam[116] (Book 158, p. 163)

[1803 Mar. 18. Ephraim Meriam[116] buys the east adjacent lot, containing four acres, from his cousin John Meriam[112] (Book 158, p. 166)]

1803 July 10. Heirs of Ephraim Meriam[116] (P15056)

1806 William Swan marries Mary (Ephraim Meriam's widow)

1822 Ephraim Meriam[a] (William Swan dies Sept. 24, 1922—(P21994)

1834 Feb. 12. Rufus Meriam[c], from Ephraim (Book 1160, p. 21)

1871 Apr. 29. Thomas Burke, from two of the three heirs of Rufus Meriam, Marshall Meriam and Maria Hatch, for $2333.33 (Book 1164, p. 448). [Note: no mention in this deed of a public auction.

Apr. 29. Thomas Burke, from the third heir, Mary Ball, an insane person (George M. Brooks, guardian), for $1,166.67 (sold at public auction, which is advertised once a week for three successive weeks prior to the sale in the Boston newspaper the *Massachusetts Ploughman* (Book 1164, p. 450).

1922 Thomas J. Dee

1922 Dec. 21. Ellen T. Burke (Book 4569, p. 385)

1951 Feb. 7. James and Margaret Ingraham (Book 7703, p. 584)

1987 Apr. 21. National Park Service

APPENDIX C.

Federal Population Census Records: 1790-1910
Meriam and Burke Families

1790 *(Microfilm M637-4)*

Head of Family: Merriam, Eph^{m}

1 Free white males of 16 years & upward, including heads of families.

1 Free white males under 16 years.

2 Free white females, including heads of families.

0 Slaves.

Head of Family: Merriam, Josiah

2 Free while males, 16 & up.

1 Free while males under 16.

2 Free white females.

1800 *(Microfilm M34-17)*

Head of Family: Ephraim Meriam, Middlesex Ma, 11 [?]

2 Males less than 10 years. [Ephraim Jr. & Nathan]

1 Male 26-45 years. [?]

1 Male 26-45 years. [Ephraim Sr.]

1 Female less than 10 years. [Mary]

1 Female 16-26 years. [?]

1 Female 26-45 years. [Mary Sr.]

0 Slaves.

1810 *(Microfilm M252-20, p. 146)*

Head of Family: William Swan

2 Males less than 10 years. [Rufus & Marshall, 9 yrs.]

1 Male 10-16 years. [Ephraim, 15 yrs.]

1 Male 26-45 years. [William Swan]

1 Female less than 10 years. [Maria Swan, 1 yr.]

1 Female 16-26 years. [Mary, 17 yrs.]

1 Female 26-45 years. [Mary, 38 yrs.]

1820 *(Microfilm M33-51, p. 356)*

Head of Family: William Swan

2 Males 16-26 years. [Rufus & Marshall, 19 yrs.]

1 Male greater than 45 years. [William Swan]

1 Female 10-16 years. [Maria Swan, 11 yrs.]

1 Female 16-26 years. [Mary, 26 yrs.]

1 Female greater than 45 years. [Mary Swan, 48 yrs.]

1830 *(Microfilm M19-66)*

Listings only for Joseph, Darius and Tarrant P. Merriam.

1840 *(Microfilm M704-188, p. 349)*

Head of Household: Rufus Meriam

1 Male 30-40 years. [Rufus]

2 Males 40-50 years. [?]

1 Female 10-15 years. [?]

1 Female 30-40 years. [Maria Swan]

1 Female 60-70 years. [Mary Meriam Swan]

1850 *(Microfilm M432-323, p. 112)*

Dwelling house #127
Family #163

Rufus Meriam, 50 years, male
Value of real estate is 10,000
Born in Mass.
Farmer

Susan Hosmer, 34 years, female
Born Mass.
[No profession given]

Sumner Hardy, 55 years, male
Born Mass.
[No profession given]

Dwelling house #169
Family #177
August 9, 1860

Rufus Merriam, 59 years, male, farmer
Born Mass.
Value of real estate is 4,050
Value of personal estate is 14,000

Lill [?] Hatch, 45 years, female, domestic
Born VT

Sumner Hindy, 59 years, male, farmer
Born Mass.
Value of real estate is 50
Value of personal estate is 600

Family #178

Abigail Cook, 57 years, female, born Mass.

L.A. Ca[?], 66 years, female, born Mass.

Edmund Carver, 50 years, male, farmer
Born Ireland
Value of real estate 1,000
Value of personal estate 1,000
Attended school within the year
Cannot read or write

May Carver, 35 years, female
Born Ireland
Attended school within the year
Cannot read or write

John Carver, 17 years, male, born Mass.

Joana Carver, 16 years, born Mass.

Willie Carver, 14 years, male, born Mass.
Attended school within the year

Edward Carver, 10 years, male, born Mass.
Attended school within the year

Lucy A.C. Carver, 3 years, born Mass.

Thos. Cowley, 33 years, male, laborer
Born Ireland
Cannot read or write

Ellen Cowley, 20 years, female, domestic
Born Ireland

Edmund Carver, 50, male

1870 *(Microfilm M653-625)*

No listing for Rufus Meriam

1880 *(Microfilm T9-538, p. 22)*

Dwelling house #200
Family #230
Lexington St.
June 11, 1880

Burke, Thomas, white, male, 40 years, married, farmer
He, mother and father born in Ireland

" Rose, white, female, 39 years, wife, married, keeping house
She, mother and father born in Ireland

" John, white, male, 15 years, son, farm work
Born Mass., mother and father born Ireland
Attended school within the year

" Annie, white, female, 8 years, daughter, housework
Born Mass, mother and father born Ireland
Attended school

" Thomas, white, male, 7 years, son
Born Mass., mother and father born Ireland
Attended school

" James, white, male, 3 years, son
Born Mass, mother and father born Ireland

1890 *(records destroyed in the fire of 1921)*

1900 *(Microfilm T623-658, p. 65-B)*

House #280
Family #309
June 25, 1900

Burke, Thomas, head, white, male, born May 1843, age 57
Married 31 years, from Ireland, immigrated 1861, in the U.S. 39 years, a farmer; can read, write and speak English

" Rose, wife, white, female, born Apr. 1842, age 58, married 31 years, mother of 5 children (4 living), from Ireland, immigrated in 1864, in the U.S. 36 years; can read, write and speak English

" John, son, white, male, born Dec. 1869, age 30, single, born Mass., farm laborer; can read, write and speak English

" Thomas, son, white, male, born Mar. 1874, age 26, single, born Mass., farm laborer; can read, write and speak English

" James, son, white, male, born Nov. 1877, age 22, single, born Mass., farm laborer; can read, write and speak English

" Annie, daughter, white, female, born June 1871, age 28, single, born Mass., teaches public school; can read, write and speak English

1910 *(Microfilm T624-595, p. 148-B)*

Dwelling house #302
Family #313
Old Bedford Rd.
April 15, 1910

Burke, Thomas, head, male, white, 65 years, married 39 years, immigrated 1861, farmer, "General Farm," not able to read or write, owns home free (no mortgage), farm, #53 on farm schedule

" Rose, wife, female, white, 65 years, 5 children, 3 living, no trade, able to read and write, immigrated 1863

" Annie W., daughter, female, 36 years, single, teacher public school

Dwelling house #301
Family #312
Old Bedford Rd.

Burke, Thomas, head, male, white, 37 years, married 6 years, born Mass., parents born Ireland, farmer, “General Farm,” owns farm (mortgaged), farm #52 on farm schedule.

" Nellie, wife, female, white, 31 years, married 6 years, 3 children, 3 living, born Mass., parents born Ireland, speaks English, no trade, reads and writes

" Katherine A., daughter, female, white, 5 years, single, born Mass.

" John H., son, male, white, 3 years, single, born Mass.

" Mary A., daughter, female, white, 1 year, single, born Mass.

Casey, Jerry, servant, male, white, 39 years, single, born Mass., parents Irish, trade is farm laborer, working on own account, reads and writes

Driscoll, John H., servant, male, white, 43 years, single, born in Ireland to Irish parents, immigrated to U.S. in 1871, farm laborer, worked on own account, reads and writes

APPENDIX D.

Transcripts of Interviews with
Salvatore Muscato and Alice Burke Hargrove

Interview with Mr. Salvatore Muscato
August 4, 1993

A meeting with Mr. Salvatore Muscato took place at the Meriam House in Concord, MA. Mr. Muscato, who was born in Concord in 1916, is a long-time neighbor. He moved to his present house (built by the Wilson Lumber Company of Concord) at 45 Old Bedford Road in 1928.

The following is a summary of the conversation with Mr. Muscato. Brian Donahue, Historian, was also in attendance.

- Mr. Muscato helped to pour the concrete at the base of the chimney in the cellar (the chimney was collapsing).
- He also repaired and painted the ceiling in the present kitchen.
- He provided and planted many of the evergreen trees on the property.
- The Burkes' barn was across the road (Old Bedford Road); it was completely rebuilt around 1944, according to Gerard Burke, and was demolished when the family stopped farming. This smaller barn was similar in style to the existing garage next to the Burke House (across from the Meriam House). Thomas, Jr., also had a barn, on the lot north of the Meriam House.
- The Ingrahams had no children.
- Mr. Ingraham had lots of work done on the house; Mr. Muscato does not remember the names of any of the contractors.
- The existing modern garage replaced an old carriage shed, which was in poor repair.
- He does not remember that the Ingrahams had an antique shop in the house. He does remember, however, that they stored antique furniture in the larger two of the three outbuildings, and that they often went antique-hunting on weekends.
- He seems to think that the Burke family made few alterations to the house, and does not recall that Thomas Burke was a dairy farmer.
- He does not believe that Mr. Ingraham built the present kitchen shed.
- The Burke family may have photographs of the house; try contacting Gerard Burke or his sister, Alice Burke Hargrove.
- Regarding the Burke barn built in the 1940's, he says it was similar in appearance to the existing Burke garage across the street, and may have been built about the same time [note: tax records indicate the barn and garage were both built in 1940-1941]. It had a gable roof, with the gable end facing the street. A hole in the ground, in back of the former barn, was the Burkes' unsuccessful attempt to create an ice pond.

Interview with Alice Burke Hargrove
August 17, 1993

Alice Burke Hargrove, who lives down the street from the Meriam House on Old Bedford Road in Concord, grew up in the Burke House. She is the daughter of Thomas J. and Ellen Burke (deceased), and the granddaughter of Thomas and Rose Burke (also deceased). Alice Burke was born in 1909.

Mrs. Hargrove walked through the Meriam House with Barbara Yocum, Architectural Conservator with the National Park Service, on August 17, 1993. She described what the house looked like when her grandparents lived there (both died in 1921). She also said that the house was rented to five families after her grandparents died:

1. Curtains
2. Willard
3. Marks
4. Uhler
5. DeCost

She recalled that it was during the tenancy of the fourth family, the Uhlers, that a fireplace fire occurred.[1]

Mrs. Hargrove seems to have a remarkably good memory for dates and events. Her recollections of the house are therefore extremely valuable. The following is a summary of Mrs. Hargrove's comments and memories of the house and property.

Room 101 (Stair Hall)

The appearance of the stairs is unchanged, but the back brick wall was not exposed (it was plastered). She thinks the paneling may have been installed by Mr. Ingraham.

Room 102 (Southwest Room)

This room was the dining room. The fireplace was plastered, except for the fireplace opening that had a painted fireboard. A "heatolator" (grille) was in the ceiling, which may have been plastered. Her grandmother kept spices in the closet at the north wall. She does not remember the doorway in the east wall that opens to under the stairs. She thinks the wood paneling was installed by Mr. Ingraham.

[1] Subsequent research in the Concord Free Public Library identified the following tenants (as found in a listing of the "Residents of Concord, 1921-51": Euhler (1925); Willard (1928); Marks (1929-31); Waters (1933); Dole (1934-47); and DeCoste (1949-51). Although the "Curtains" family was not found listed on Old Bedford Road for these years, neighbor Salvatore Muscato also remembers that Dan Curtains, the Concord Chief of Police, lived in the house at one time.

Room 103 (Northwest Room)

This room was used as the “small dining room.”

Room 104 (North Room)

This was the kitchen during her grandparents' day, and when the house was leased to tenants (1921-1950). The fireplace was closed in, except for the door to the bake oven (which her grandfather told stories about), and the kitchen range was located here. A thin wall, which was removed when the house was leased, divided the kitchen. The sink was at the north wall, where the radiator is today, and a cabinet was to the east of it (where a window is today). Mr. Ingraham installed all the present windows in the north wall. The corner cabinet, however, existed (except for the top doors which have been changed).

Room 105 (Southeast Room)

The stairway was there, as was an exterior doorway. She does not remember the east closet, however. A dent was on the exterior side of the outside door, which her grandfather said was made by a bullet.

Room 106 (East Room)

This was a pantry, which opened off Room 105. There was no doorway in the north wall, and no window in the east wall.

Room 107 (North Room)

This room was converted to a kitchen by the Ingrahams. It had been a shed during her grandparents' day. A sink was at the south end of the west wall, and a well was at the north wall. The well was used by her grandfather to keep milk cool. She thinks the wood paneling was probably installed by the Ingrahams.

Room 108 (Southeast Room)

This was the formal parlor, that the children were not allowed to play in. The piano was in the northeast corner, and sheet music was kept in the east closet (existing). The room was also decorated with a stuffed fox on a pedestal. The fireplace was open, but the brickwork was not exposed as it is today.

Room 109 (Garage/Carriage Shed)

This shed was used to store carriages when her grandparents lived here. An “indoor-outdoor toilet” was in the southeast corner, which was later made obsolete by an interior bathroom installed by her grandfather in the second story (Room 208). The floor of the carriage shed was not concrete as it is today (she thinks it may have been dirt). She does not remember seeing the old shed demolished by the Ingrahams to make a new garage.

Room 202 (Southwest Room)

This was Aunt Annie's bedroom. Aunt Annie worked as a school teacher. The room had a “heatolator” in the floor, which was open to the room below (missing today). Otherwise, the room appears to be little changed. A beautiful painted fireboard was in the fireplace opening.

Rooms 203-204 (Northwest Rooms)

The two rooms were one room, occupied by the “hired girls.” Help was needed around the house when her grandmother, Rose, was older. The bathroom and hall were added by the Ingrahams.

Room 205 (North Room)

This room was a “blind attic” with no dormer, windows or closets. It was used for storage of furniture & c. The dormer windows and two closets were installed by her father when the house was leased to tenants. The room was used in later years as the Ingraham's bedroom.

Room 206a (Attic Entrance)

She was never in the attic, and does not remember the attic entrance.

Room 208 (East Room)

This bathroom was installed by her grandfather. Before then, an “inside-outside” toilet was located in the carriage shed, in the front southeast corner.

Room 209 (Southeast Room)

This was her grandparents' bedroom, and the Ingrahams' early bedroom. The fireplace here also had a beautiful painted fireboard.

The Old Barn and Well

She was once told that the "old barn" stood on the north adjacent lot, although she has no memory of it. An old well was also located to the north of the house, which her mother filled in with old plates and other refuse, because she was afraid that the children would fall into it. She recalls telling her mother that some day an "archaeologist" would excavate the old well and study everything she had thrown out. It was bordered by a "few stones" that may still be visible.

Burke Barn

Her grandfather's barn was located across the road (Old Bedford Road) from the house.

Southeast Patio

The brick patio on the southeast side of the house was installed by the Ingrahams.

Gardens

The Ingrahams had beautiful gardens when they owned the house.

Burke House

The Burke House, across the street from the Meriam House, was built by her father in 1903. She grew up in the house. She has a brother, Gerard, who also lives on Old Bedford Road. Her older sister, who was the family historian, died recently.

The Ingrahams

Both Mr. and Mrs. Ingraham were quite ill in later years, and the house was allowed to deteriorate. They had large dogs, and later cats.

Photographs

Mrs. Hargrove was asked if she had any photographs that show the house. She said there might be some that show the outside, but they may be difficult to find.

Conversation with Alice Burke Hargrove
September 21, 1993

Alice Burke Hargrove stopped by the Meriam House on September 21 and spoke with Barbara Yocum, NPS Architectural Conservator. Mrs. Hargrove had with her four black and white photographs, three of which she gave to Ms. Yocum (numbers 2, 3 and 4 below). The photographs are copies of original photographs dated circa 1900-1910. The four photographs show the following:

- Mrs. Hargrove's grandparents, Thomas and Rose Burke, seated in a carriage;
- Mrs. Hargrove's father, Thomas J. Burke, seated in a horse-driven carriage, with the Meriam-Burke house in the background;
- Mrs. Hargrove's grandfather, Thomas Burke, standing on a stone in front of the Meriam-Burke house; and
- a rare back view of the Meriam-Burke House dated circa 1910, based on the ages of the two young girls (Alice Burke and her sister Mary) in the foreground.

Mrs. Hargrove recalled that the stone wall on Old Bedford Road was partially disassembled in 1903 when her father built the house across the street; he used the stones in the foundation. Some stones were also used as part of the Lexington Rd. improvement project, the date of which she cannot remember.

When asked if she remembered if the exterior of the house had always been painted brown, she said no, that the Ingrahams had used that color. She remembers two different colors: “yellow” and “gray.”

Barbara Yocum
Sept. 22, 1993

APPENDIX E.

Paint Analysis

Introduction

Objectives

The paint analysis at the Meriam House had three objectives. The first was to determine how various architectural elements had been finished during the historic 1775 period. The second was to identify the historic locations of architectural elements—such as doors—that had been relocated during later remodelings. The third was to date approximately architectural elements by comparing the paint layers.

Methodology

Small samples of paint were extracted at the site using an X-Acto knife fitted with a number-18 blade. A total of 289 samples were taken from the exterior and interior of the house and placed in individually labeled envelopes, and their locations were recorded on site drawings. These samples were then transported to the Cultural Resources Center in Lowell, where they were assigned log numbers and examined under the microscope.

The log numbers assigned to the paint samples were derived from the Integrated Research Organization System (IROS). This system provides a four-part code for each sample that identifies not only the sample but also the park and the structure from which it came. The first paint sample taken at the Meriam House, for example, was assigned log number "MIMA 04 P001." "MIMA" signifies Minute Man National Historical Park; "04" is the park's number for the Meriam House; the letter "P" signifies that the sample is a paint sample; and the number "01" denotes that it was the first sample taken. The short form of the four-part code—i.e., "P001"—is used on the site drawings.

After labeling, each paint sample was examined in cross section with a binocular microscope at 10 to 70 times magnification. The microscope used was a Bausch and Lomb "Stereozoom 7." Certain characteristics of each paint sample were noted and recorded, such a paint-layer colors and numbers (chromochronologies) and paint types. Paints containing lead were identified by a spot chemical test using a solution of sodium sulfide and water. Paints composed of calcium carbonate (CaCO3)—such as kalsomine and whitewash—were identified by a spot test using diluted hydrochloric acid. After viewing all the samples, those that were determined to be the best preserved and most representative were permanently mounted in wax-filled petri dishes.

Conclusions

The paint sample locations and individual chromochronologies for each paint sample are presented on the following pages. A written interpretation of the paint analysis results may be found in Chapter II under the subsection entitled "Painted Finishes."

Exterior Paint Sample Locations and Chromochronologies

Exterior Paint Samples

Sample Number	Substrate Location	Ca. Date
P001	Riven clapboards, south facade	1820
P002	Riven clapboards, kitchen wing west side, second story	
P003	Sawn clapboards, north dormer	1925
P004	Riven clapboards, covered by north kitchen addition (Room 207)	1810
P005	Wood shingles, east side of main house, first story	
P006	Wood shingles, east side of main house, second story	
P007	Front doorway architrave	1900
P008	Side doorway architrave	
P009	South window architrave, second story (at Room 202)	
P010	East window architrave, second story (at Room 209)	
P011	North window architrave, second-story dormer (at Room 205)	1925
P012	East window architrave, first story (at Room 108)	
P013	South window architrave, second story (at Room 201)	
P014	Corner board, at north second-story dormer	1925
P015	East cornice board, at Room 208	
P016	Cornice board, east side of north dormer	1925
P017	Cornice board, east side of main house	
P018	South cornice of east garage wing	1952

Sample Number	Substrate Location	Ca. Date
P019	Cornice at west side of main house (lower board)	
P020	Cornice at west side of main house (upper board)	
P021	Loose window sash (formerly in the attic story, east side)	1951
P022	Window sash, first story, east side of main house (Room 108)	
P023	Window sash, second story, east side of main house (Room 209)	
P024	Front door (to Room 101)	1951
P025	Side door (to Room 105)	
P026	Back kitchen door (to Room 107)	
P027	Sawn clapboard siding, east garage wing	1952
P028	Ditto P027	
P029	Cornice covered by kitchen addition (now Room 207)	1810
P030	Window architrave, east garage wing	1952
P031	Southeast corner board, east garage wing	1952
P281	Wood shingle, east side of main house at Room 208	
P282	Wood shingles, east side of main house (raised roof portion)	

Exterior Paint Chromochronologies – Summary

Ca. Date	Elements					
	Siding	Trim at Openings	Corner Boards	Cornice	Window Sash	Door
1871	Yellow•	?	?	?	White•	
	White•	?	?	?	Cream-Yellow	
	Yellow					
	Lt. Green•	Lt. Green•	?	?	Cream•	
	Green•	Cream-Yellow•	?	?	White°	
1925	Dk. Green	White•	White•		Cream•	Dk. Green
	Cream-Yellow•		Cream-Yellow•			
	White•	Cream-White°	White	White	White❍	White•
	Yellow					
		Cream-White°	White•		White•	Dk. Red
1951-52	Red•	White•	White•	White•	White•	Red
		White•				
	Gray	Gray	Gray	Gray	Gray	Gray
	Black-Gray	Black-Gray	Black-Gray	Black-Gray	Black-Gray	Black-Gray
	Gray	Gray	Gray	Gray	Gray	Lt. Gray
	Black-Gray	Black-Gray		Black-Gray	Black-Gray	
	Gray	Gray				
	Black-Gray	Black-Gray				Blue
	Charcoal	Charcoal	Charcoal	Charcoal	Charcoal	
	Black-Gray	Black-Gray		Black-Gray	Black-Gray	Blue
	Gray	Gray				
	Black-Gray	Black-Gray				
1984	Gray	Gray	Gray	Gray	Gray	
	Black-Gray	Black-Gray	Black-Gray	Black-Gray	Black-Gray	Blue
1993	Gray	Gray		Gray		
	Dark Gray	Dark Gray		Dark Gray		

Exterior Paint Chromochronologies

Ca. Date	Paint Samples					
	P001	P002	P003	P004	P005	P006
1871	Yellow•					
	White•	White•				
	Yellow	Cream-Yellow				
	Lt. Green•	Lt. Green•				
	Green•	Green•				
1925	Dk. Green	Dk. Green	Dk. Green			
	White•		White		Cream-Yellow•	Cream-Yellow•
	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow		Cream-Yellow	Cream-Yellow
1951-52	Red•	Red•	Red•	Red•	Red•	Red•
		Red•		Green		
	Lt. Gray	Gray	Gray		Gray	Gray
	Black-Gray	Black-Gray	Black-Gray		Black-Gray	Black-Gray
	Dk. Gray	Gray				
	Black-Gray	Black-Gray				
	Lt. Gray		Gray		Gray	Gray
	Black-Gray		Black-Gray		Black-Gray	Black-Gray
	Charcoal		Charcoal		Charcoal	Charcoal
	Black-Gray		Black-Gray		Black-Gray	Black-Gray
	Lt. Gray		Gray		Gray	Gray
	Black-Gray		Black-Gray		Black-Gray	Black-Gray
	Lt. Gray					
	Gray					
	Black-Gray					

Exterior Paint Chromochronologies (cont'd.)

Ca. Date	Paint Samples					
	P007	P008	P009	P010	P011	P012
1871						
		Lt. Green•				Lt. Green•
		Cream-Yellow°	Green			
1925		Cream-Yellow•		White•	Cream•	White•
		Cream°	White•	Yellow°		Yellow°
	Cream-White•	[Dark Red]	White°	White•	White	Cream°
				White•		White°
	White	White		Yellow	Cream-Yellow°	Yellow•
1951-52	Red•	White•	White•	White•	White•	White•
		[Red•]	[Red•]			
	Gray	Gray	Gray	Gray	Gray	Gray
	Black-Gray	Black-Gray	Black-Gray	Black-Gray	Black-Gray	Black-Gray
	Dk. Gray		Gray			
	Black-Gray		Black-Gray			
	Gray	Gray	Gray	Gray	Gray	Gray
	Black-Gray		Black-Gray	Black-Gray	Black-Gray	Black-Gray
	Charcoal	Charcoal	Dk. Gray	Charcoal		Charcoal
	Black-Gray	Charcoal	Black-Gray			Black-Gray
			Black-Gray			
	Gray	Gray	Gray	Gray	Gray	
	Black-Gray	Black-Gray	Black-Gray	Black-Gray	Black-Gray	Black-Gray
	Gray		Gray			
	Black-Gray		Black-Gray			

Exterior Paint Chromochronologies (cont'd.)

Ca. Date	Paint Samples					
	P013	P014	P015	P016	P017	P018
1871						
1925	Cream• Yellow° Cream•	White• White White• Lt.Gray	 White°	Cream-White• White° White•	Cream• White° White•	
1951-52	White• Gray Black-Gray	White• Gray Black-Gray	White• Gray Black-Gray	[Red•] Gray Black-Gray	 Gray Black-Gray	White• Gray Black-Gray
	Gray Black-Gray Charcoal Black-Gray Gray Black-Gray	Gray Charcoal Gray Black-Gray	Gray Black-Gray Charcoal Black-Gray Gray Black-Gray	Gray Black-Gray Charcoal Black-Gray Gray Black-Gray	 Charcoal Black-Gray Gray Black-Gray	Gray Black-Gray Charcoal Black-Gray Gray Black-Gray

Exterior Paint Chromochronologies (cont'd.)

Ca. Date	Paint Samples				
	P019	P020	P021	P022	P023
1871					
	White•			White•	
				Cream-Yellow	
	Green•			Cream•	
	Lt. Green•			White°	
1925	Dk. Green			White•	Cream•
	Lt. Yellow•	Cream-Yellow•		Cream-Yellow°	Cream•
	Yellow				
1951-52	White	White°			White•
	White•	White•		White•	
	[Red]				
	Gray	Gray		Gray	Gray
	Black-Gray	Black-Gray		Black-Gray	Black-Gray
	Gray	Gray		Gray	Gray
	Black-Gray	Black-Gray		Black-Gray	Black-Gray
	Charcoal	Charcoal		Charcoal	Charcoal
	Black-Gray	Black-Gray		Black-Gray	Black-Gray
	Gray	Gray	Gray		Gray
	Black-Gray	Black-Gray	Black-Gray		Black-Gray
1993	Gray	Gray			
	Gray	Gray			

Exterior Paint Chromochronologies (cont'd.)

Ca. Date	Paint Samples					
	P024	P025	P026	P027	P028	P029
1871		(weathered)				
1925		Dk. Green White•	Dk. Green White•			
1951-52	White•	Dk. Red Red	Red Red	Red•	Red•	Red•
	Gray Black-Gray Charcoal Black-Gray Blue Lt. Gray Lt. Gray Charcoal Blue Lt. Gray Blue	Gray Black-Gray Lt. Gray Blue Blue Blue	Gray Black White• Red• Lt. Gray Black Blue Blue Blue	Gray Black-Gray Gray Black-Gray	Lt. Gray Black-Gray Gray Black	

Exterior Paint Chromochronologies (cont'd.)

Ca. Date	Paint Samples			
	P030	P031	P281	P282
1871				
1925				
			Cream-Yellow•	Cream-Yellow• Cream-Yellow
1951-52	White•	White• Red•	Red•	Red•
	Gray Black-Gray	Gray Black-Gray	Gray Black-Gray	Gray Black-Gray
	Gray Black-Gray	Gray Black-Gray	Gray Black-Gray	Gray Black-Gray
			Charcoal Black-Gray	Charcoal Black-Gray
	Gray Black-Gray		Gray Black-Gray	Gray Black-Gray

Interior Paint Sample Locations and Chromochronologies

Interior Paint Samples: Room 101

Sample Number	Substrate Location	Ca. Date
P032	Baseboard at stairway, east and north walls	
P033	West side of steps at first floor level	
P034	Stair risers (paint remnants)	
P035	Front (exterior) door	1951
P036	Board-and-batten door, west doorway to Room 102	1951
P037	Wide floorboards	
P038	Threshold at east doorway	1951
P039	North brick wall under stairs	
P040	Wide board paneling under stairs, east wall	
P041	Thick trim board under stairs at east wall (at first riser)	

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 101

Ca. Date	Paint Samples					
	P032a	P032b	P033	P034	P035	P036
1743				(remnants)		
1820	Cream-White•	Cream•	Cream•	Cream•		
		Orange•		Orange•		
	White	Mustard•	White	Mustard•		
	White•	White	Cream•	White°		
		Mustard		Mustard		
	Cream-Yellow•	White•	Lt. Green•	White•		
				Varnish		
	White•	White•	Yellow•			
	White	White				
	Cream•	White•	Cream•	Red•		
	White	White	White			
	White•	White•	White•	White•		
	Cream-Yellow	Cream-Yellow	Cream-Yellow	Mustard		
1951	White	White	White		Cream•	
					White	
	Red	Red	Red		Red•	
					Red	Red
	Red				Red	Red
	Varnish	Varnish	Varnish	Varnish	Varnish	Varnish

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 101 (cont'd.)

Ca. Date	Paint Samples				
	P037	P038	P039	P040	P041
1743			White* White*	White* White*	Red*
1820					
	Mustard Lt. Yellow				
1951	Red Lt. Yellow	Red Lt. Yellow			

Interior Paint Samples: Room 102

Sample Number	Substrate Location	Ca. Date
P042	Chimney girt, upper portion near ceiling (paint remnants)	
P043	Chimney girt, lower portion (paint remnants)	
P044	Dutchman at bottom surface of chimney girt, near doorway to Room 101	
P045	Ceiling joist at edge bevel (paint remnants)	
P046	Window sash, west wall, north-side window	
P047	Brickwork at fireplace opening (paint remnants)	
P048	East two-panel door to area under stairs, room side	
P049	East two-panel door to area under stairs, interior side (paint remnants)	
P050	North two-panel closet door, room side (paint remnants)	
P051	North two-panel closet door, closet side (paint remnants)	
P052	North two-panel closet door, old reused hinges (paint remnants)	
P053	Ditto P052	
P054	North closet interior, back vertical boards	1951
P055	North closet interior, wood shelves	

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 102

Ca. Date	Paint Samples					
	P042	P043	P044	P045	P046	P047
1705	Mustard Black Gray Lt. Yellow Cream Cream	Mustard• Green•	____ Green•	Mustard [several discolored layers]		
1820					White• White• White Cream White• Cream• Cream-Yellow• White° White White• White Lt. Yellow White Yellow	 White Cream-Yellow
1951					White Orange-Brown• Red Varnish	 Varnish

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 102 (cont'd.)

Ca. Date	Paint Samples					
	P048 (remnants)	P049 (remnants)	P050 (remnants)	P051 (remnants)	P052	P053
?	Rust Red•	Mustard				Cream•
	Dk. Gray•	Lt. Gray•				White
	Mustard•				Black	Cream-
Yellow•						
	Lt. Gray•	Lt. Pink•			Lt. Green•	Lt. Green•
	White•	White•	Green•	Green•	Cream-Yellow•	White•
			Varnish			
					White	White
	Yellow•	Yellow•	Green•			
	Varnish				White•	
						Black
	Pink-Brown•	Pink-Brown•		Pink-Brown•	White•	White•
		Varnish		Varnish		
						Black
	White•		White-Cream•			
	White		White-Cream			
	White•		White-Cream•			
	White		White-Cream			
	White•					

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 102 (cont'd.)

Ca. Date	Paint Samples		
	P054	P055	P289
1705			
			Green•
			Lt. Gray•
			Lt. Gray•
1820			Cream•
			Cream•
			White
			Cream
			White•
			White
			White•
			White
			White°
			White
			White•
			White
			White•
1925		Cream•	
		White	
		White	
1951	Cream•	Cream•	
	Dk. Green	Dk. Green	
	Blue	Blue	

Interior Paint Samples: Room 103

Sample Number	Substrate Location	Ca. Date
P056	Four-panel door, east doorway to Room 104	1810
P057	East doorway architrave	1810
P058	Wainscot at south wall	1810
P059	Wainscot at east wall	1810
P060	Wainscot top molding at east wall	
P061	Vertical board paneling south wall (lower)	1820
P062	Vertical board paneling at south wall (upper)	1820
P063	Cased post, northwest corner	1810
P064	Cased girt, north wall	1810
P065	Window stop, west window	1820
P066	Window jamb, west window	1820
P067	Window stool, west window	1820
P068	Window sash, west window	1820
P069	Window jamb, north window	1951

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 103

Ca. Date	Paint Samples					
	P056	P057 (Poor)	P058	P059	P060	P061
1810	Red Cream• Lt. Green• Mustard• Yellow• Lt. Green• Yellow	[Black] White• Mustard• Mustard• Cream• Lt. Green• Yellow	Red Cream• Green• Mustard• Yellow• Lt. Green• Mustard	Red Cream• Green• Mustard• Mustard• Yellow• Lt. Green• Cream		Cream•
	Red Brt. Yellow	Red Brt. Yellow	Red Brt. Yellow Green	Red Brt. Yellow Green		Green
1925	Aqua• Aqua	Aqua	Aqua	Aqua• Aqua	Aqua	Aqua• Aqua
1951	Black Red Varnish	Black Red Varnish	Black Red Varnish	Black Red Varnish	Black Red Varnish	Black Red Varnish

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 103 (cont'd.)

Ca. Date	Paint Samples					
	P062	P063	P064	P065	P066	P067
1810		Red	Varnish			
	Cream•	White•	White•	White•	White•	
	Lt. Green•	Green•	Green•	Green•	Green•	
	Mustard•	Mustard•	Mustard•	Mustard•	Mustard•	
	Mustard•				Yellow•	
	Yellow•	Yellow•	Yellow•	Yellow•	Yellow•	
	Lt. Green•	Lt. Green•	Lt. Green•	Lt. Green•	Lt. Green•	
	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	
	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	
	Red•		Red•		Red•	
	Brt. Yellow	Brt. Yellow	Brt. Yellow	Brt. Yellow	Brt. Yellow	
	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	
1925	Aqua•	Aqua•	Aqua•	Aqua•	Aqua•	
	Aqua	Aqua	Aqua	Aqua	Aqua	
1951	Black	Black		Black	Black	
	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	
	Varnish	Varnish		Varnish	Varnish	

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 103 (cont'd.)

Ca. Date	Paint Samples	
	P068	P069
1810		
	White•	
	Mustard•	
	Yellow•	
	Green•	
	Yellow	
	Red	
	Brt. Yellow	
	Green	
1925	Aqua•	
	Aqua	
1951	Black	
	Red	Red

Interior Paint Samples: Room 104 (West Side)

Sample Number	Substrate Location	Ca. Date
P070	Cased girt at west wall (above existing plaster ceiling)	1810
P071	Cased girt at west wall (below existing plaster ceiling)	1810
P072	Four-panel door, west doorway to Room 103	1810
P073	West doorway architrave	1810
P074	Doorway jamb, south doorway to Room 102	1810
P075	Doorway architrave, south doorway to Room 102	1810
P076	Corner cabinet door, room side	1810
P077	Corner cabinet door, interior cabinet side	1810
P078	Corner cabinet, exterior southwest side	1810
P079	Wainscot at west wall, southwest corner	1810
P080	Wainscot at west wall, inside corner cabinet	1810
P081	Wainscot at west wall, between corner cabinet and doorway to Room 103	1810
P082	Wainscot at south wall, at shadow of former partition wall	1810
P083	Fireplace mantel, wide board between top shelf and fireplace opening	1810
P084	Fireplace mantel shelf	1810
P085	Fireplace mantel, wood infill piece below shelf	1925

Sample Number	Substrate Location	Ca. Date
P086	Fireplace mantel, wood infill block on west side	1925
P087	West plaster wall, between corner cabinet and doorway to Room 103	1810
P088	South plaster wall, above fireplace mantel	1925
P089	Plaster wall at southwest corner	1810
P090	South plaster wall, west of former partition	1810
P091	South plaster wall, at shadow of former partition	1810
P092	North (middle) window, center stile	1951
P093	North (middle) window sash	1951
P094	Enclosure for radiator pipes at north wall	1951
P283	Cased north post (near corner cabinet)	1810
P284	Door jamb, doorway to west Room 103	1810
P285	Plaster ceiling at the west wall	1925

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 104 (West Side)

Ca. Date	Paint Samples					
	P070	P071	P072	P073	P074	P075
1810	Varnish	Varnish	Red	Red	Red	Red
	Cream•		Cream•	Cream•	Cream•	Cream•
	Cream•			Cream•		Cream•
	Lt. Gray•		Lt. Gray•	Lt. Gray•	Lt. Gray•	Lt. Gray•
	Lt. Gray•					
	Mustard•		Mustard•		Mustard•	Mustard•
	Yellow		Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
	Mustard•		Mustard•	Mustard•	Mustard•	Mustard•
	Brt. Yellow		Brt. Yellow	Brt. Yellow	Brt. Yellow	Brt.
Yellow						
	Green		Green	Green	Green	Green
1925		Aqua•	Aqua•	Aqua•	Aqua•	Aqua•
		Lt. Green	Lt. Green	Lt. Green	Lt. Green	Lt. Green
		Lt. Yellow	Lt. Yellow	Lt. Yellow	Lt. Yellow	
1951		Lt. Green	Lt. Green	Lt. Green	Lt. Green	Lt. Green
		Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
		Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
		Red		Red		Red
		Varnish	Varnish	Varnish	Varnish	Varnish

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 104 (West Side, cont'd.)

Ca. Date	Paint Samples					
	P076	P077	P078	P079	P080	P081
1810	Red	Red	Red			Red
						Varnish
	Cream•		Cream•			Cream•
						Cream•
	Lt. Gray•	Gray•	Lt. Gray•	Gray•	Lt. Gray•	Lt. Gray•
		Gray•	Lt. Gray•			Lt. Gray•
	Mustard•	Mustard•	Mustard•			Mustard•
		Yellow°				Mustard•
	Yellow	Yellow	Cream-Yellow	Yellow	Cream-Yellow°	Yellow
	Mustard•	Mustard•	Mustard•	Mustard•		Mustard•
	Brt. Yellow	Brt. Yellow	Brt. Yellow			Brt. Yellow
	Green	Green	Green	Green		Green
1925	Aqua•	Aqua•	Aqua•	Aqua•	Aqua•	Aqua•
				[Brt. Yellow]		
	Lt. Green	Lt. Green	Lt. Green	Lt. Green	Lt. Green	Lt. Green
				[Pink-Orange]		
	Lt. Yellow		Lt. Yellow			Yellow
1951	Lt. Green		Lt. Green			Lt. Green
	Red	Orange	Red	Red	Red	Red
				[White]		[White]
		Red	Red	Red		Red
				[White]		
				Red		Red
	Varnish		Varnish	Varnish		

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 104 (West Side, cont'd.)

Ca. Date	Paint Samples					
	P082	P083	PO84	P085	P086	P087
1810	Red					
	Cream•					
	Cream•		Black [Charring?]			
	Lt. Gray•		Gray•			
	Lt. Gray•	Gray•	Gray•			
		Mustard•	Mustard•			
		Cream-Yellow	Yellow			
		Mustard•	Mustard•			
		Brt. Yellow	Brt. Yellow			
		Green	Lt. Green			Lt. Green
1925		Aqua•	Aqua•	Aqua•	Aqua•	Aqua•
		Lt. Green	White	Lt. Green	Lt. Green	Yellow (Kal.)
		Lt. Yellow	Cream-Yellow	Yellow	Lt. Yellow	Pink
1951	Lt. Green	Lt. Green	White	Lt. Green	Lt. Green	Yellow
	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Lt. Orange
	[White]					
	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Cream
	Red					White
	Varnish	Varnish	Varnish	Varnish	Varnish	

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 104 (West Side, cont'd.)

Ca. Date	Paint Samples					
	P088	P089	PO90	P091	P092	P093
1810						
	Lt. Green		Lt. Green			
1925	Aqua•	Aqua•	Aqua•			
		Yellow (Kal.)				
	Pink	Pink	Pink			White
	Lt. Yellow	Yellow	Lt. Yellow			White
	Lt. Orange	Lt. Orange	Lt. Orange			White•
	Cream	White	Cream	Cream		Green
		Pink-Orange				
	Cream	Cream	Cream	Cream	Red	Red
		Cream	Cream	Cream		
	White	White	White	White	Red	Red
						Varnish

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 104 (West Side, cont'd.)

Ca. Date	Paint Samples			
	P094	P283	P284	P285
1810		Red	Red	
		Cream•	Cream•	
		Cream•	Cream•	
		Lt. Gray•	Lt. Gray•	
		Lt. Gray•		
		Mustard•		
		Yellow	Yellow	
		Mustard•	Mustard•	
		Brt. Yellow	Brt. Yellow	
		Green	Green	
1925		Aqua•	Aqua•	
		Lt. Green	Lt. Green	
		Yellow	Lt. Yellow	White (Kalsomine)
1951		Lt. Green	Lt. Green	Cream
		Red	Red	Cream
	Red	Red	Red	Cream
	Red	Red	Red	White
	Varnish	Varnish	Varnish	

Interior Paint Samples: Room 104 (East Side)

Sample Number	Substrate Location	Ca. Date
P095	Wainscot at south wall, to east side of former partition	1810
P096	Wainscot at south wall, east of doorway to Room 108	1810
P097	East closet door (lower), room side	1810
P098	East closet door, interior closet side	1810
P099	Door jamb, south doorway to Room 108	1810
P100	Doorway architrave, south doorway to Room 108	1810
P101	Doorway architrave, north doorway to Room 107	1820
P102	Jamb, north doorway to Room 107	1820
P103	Four-panel door, north doorway to Room 107	1820
P104	Cased girt at the east wall (side panel)	1810
P105	Cased girt, mid room, east side panel (formerly covered by a partition wall)	1951
P106	South plaster wall, east of the former partition	1951
P107	Plaster ceiling at the east wall	1951

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 104 (East Side)

Ca. Date	Paint Samples					
	P095	P096	P097	P098	PO99	P100
1810	Red	Red	Black [Charring?]		Red	Red
	Cream•	Cream•			Cream•	Cream•
	Cream•				Cream•	Cream•
	Lt. Gray•	Lt. Gray•	Lt. Gray•	Dk. Gray•	Lt. Gray•	Lt. Gray•
	Lt. Gray•			Lt. Gray•		
	Mustard•	Mustard•	Mustard	Green	Mustard•	Mustard•
	Mustard•					
	White•	White•	White•		White•	White•
	Mustard•	Mustard•	Mustard•		Mustard•	Mustard•
	Yellow		Mustard•		White•	White
					Mustard•	Mustard
	Lt. Pink	Lt. Pink	Lt. Pink		Lt. Pink	Lt. Pink
1925						
	Lt. Yellow	Lt. Yellow	Lt. Yellow		Lt. Yellow	Lt. Yellow
					White	
1951	Lt. Green	Lt. Green	Lt. Green		Lt. Green	Lt. Green
	Red	Red	Red	Red	White	Red
		[White]				
	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
	Red	Red			Red	Red
	Varnish	Varnish				Varnish

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 104 (East Side, cont'd.)

Ca. Date	Paint Samples				
	P101	P102	P103	P104	P105
1810				Red	
	Lt. Gray•	Lt. Gray•	Lt. Gray•	Lt. Gray•	
	Dk. Gray•	Dk. Gray•			
	Mustard•		Mustard•	Mustard•	
	Green•	Green•			
	Mustard•				
	Black	Black			
	White•		White•	White•	
	Dk. Green				
	Mustard•		Mustard•	Mustard•	
	Black				
	Mustard•			White•	
	Mustard•			Mustard•	
	Lt. Pink	Brown	Lt. Pink	Cream-Pink	
	Lt. Yellow	White	Lt. Yellow	Cream-Yellow	Cream°
	[Red]	Orange			White
1951	Lt. Green		Lt. Green	Lt. Green	Lt. Green
	Red			Red	Red
	Red	Red	Red		
	Red	Red	Red		
	Varnish	Varnish	Varnish		Varnish

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 104 (East Side, cont'd.)

Ca. Date	Paint Samples	
	P106	P107
		White (Kalsomine)
1951	Cream	Cream
	Cream	Cream
	Cream	Cream
	White	White

Interior Paint Samples: Room 105

Sample Number	Substrate Location	Ca. Date
P108	Architrave, south exterior doorway	1820
P109	South 6-panel (exterior) door	1820
P110	Wainscot at south wall	1810
P111	Wide wood panel, west of south exterior doorway	1951
P112	Cased post, west of south exterior doorway	1810
P113	Cased girt, above south exterior doorway	1810
P114	Architrave, north doorway to Room 106	1810
P115	Four-panel door, north doorway to Room 106	1810
P116	North door, at shadow of missing Suffolk latch	1810
P117	Wide board paneling at north wall, between stairway and north doorway	1810
P118	Tongue-and-groove paneling, east wall of stairway	1925
P119	Stair riser	1925
P120	Stairway railing, west wall of stairway	1970
P121	Stairway shelf at second story level, east wall	1925
P122	East closet door	1951

Sample Number	Substrate Location	Ca. Date
P123	Tongue-and-groove paneling, east closet partition wall	1951
P124	South plaster wall	1951
P125	Plaster ceiling at the stairway	1810

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 105

Ca. Date	Paint Samples					
	P108	P109	P110	P111	P112	P113
1810			Red		Red	Red
1820	Cream• Cream• Lt. Gray• Mustard• [Paper]	Cream• White Lt. Gray	Lt. Gray• Lt. Gray• Mustard•		Cream• Cream• Lt. Gray• Mustard•	Cream• Cream• Lt. Gray• Mustard•
1900	Mustard• White• Mustard•	Mustard• White• Mustard•	White• Mustard•		White• Mustard•	White• Mustard•
1925	Mustard• Lt. Pink Lt. Yellow	Mustard• Lt. Pink Lt. Yellow	Lt. Pink Lt. Yellow		Mustard• Lt. Pink Lt. Yellow	Mustard• Lt. Pink
1951	Lt. Green Red Red Brown	Lt. Green Red Red Brown Varnish	Lt. Green Red Red Brown	Lt. Green Red Red Brown	Lt. Green Red Red Brown	Lt. Green Red Red Brown

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 105 (cont'd.)

Ca. Date	Paint Samples					
	P114	P115	P116	P117	P118	P119
1810	Red	Red		Red		
	Cream•	Cream•				
		Cream•				
	Lt. Gray•	Lt. Gray•		Gray•		
	Mustard•	Mustard•				
1900	Mustard•	Mustard•		Mustard•		
	White•	White•		White•		
	Mustard•	Mustard•	Mustard•	Mustard•		
	[Bronzing]					
1925	Mustard•	Mustard•	Mustard•	White•	White•	
				Mustard•	Mustard•	
	Lt. Pink	Lt. Pink	Lt. Pink	Lt. Pink		
	Lt. Yellow	Lt. Yellow		Lt. Yellow		
1951	Lt. Green			Lt. Green		
	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
	Brown	Brown	Brown	Brown	Brown	Brown

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 105 (cont'd.)

Ca. Date	Paint Samples					
	P120	P121	P122	P123	P124	P125
1810						
1900						
1925		White• Mustard•				
1951			Varnish	Varnish		White (Kal.)
		Red			Cream	Cream
		Red	Red	Red	Cream	Cream
	Brown	Brown	Brown	Brown	White	White

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 105 (cont'd.)

Ca. Date	Paint Samples			
	P126	P127	P128	P129
1810		[Resinous Finish]	[Resinous Finish]	
	Cream•			
		Gray•	Gray•	
	Lt. Gray•	Gray•	Yellow-Gray•	
		[Black]	Lt. Gray•	
	Mustard•	Mustard•	Mustard•	
	Mustard•	Mustard•		
	White•	White•	White•	
	Mustard•	Mustard•	Mustard•	
	Mustard•	Mustard	Mustard•	
	Lt. Pink	Lt. Pink	Lt. Pink	
	Lt. Yellow	Lt. Yellow	Lt. Yellow	
1951				
	Brown	Brown	Brown	Brown

Interior Paint Samples: Room 106

Sample Number	Substrate Location	Ca. Date
P130	Four-panel door, south doorway to Room 105	1810
P131	Paneling at west wall, northwest corner	1810
P132	Plaster ceiling at west wall	1810
P133	Two-panel door, doorway to Room 107	?
P134	East window sash	1951

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 106

Ca. Date	Paint Samples				
	P130	P131	P132	P133	P134
1810					
	Green•	Green•	White (Kalsomine)		
	Red•	Red•	Cream (Kal.)		
	Yellow-Cream	Yellow-Cream	Cream (Kal.)		
1951			Lt. Blue (Kal.)		
			Lt. Blue (Kal.)		
			White (Kal.)		
	Red	Red	Cream		
	Red	Red	White & Tan	Brown	Red

Interior Paint Samples: Room 107

Sample Number	Substrate Location	Ca. Date
P135	Two-panel door, south doorway to Room 106	?
P136	Four-panel door, south doorway to cellar (cellar side)	1820
P137	Four-panel door, south doorway to Room 104	1810
P138	Glazed two-panel door, exterior doorway	1925
P139	North window sash	1951

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 107

Ca. Date	Paint Samples				
	P135	P136	P137	P138	P139
	Lt. Green•	Cream•	Cream•		
	Lt. Gray•	Cream	Dk. Gray•		
	Varnish				
	Gray•	Cream•	Green		
		Cream•			
	White-Cream•				
	Varnish	Cream°	Dk. Green	Cream•	
		Cream°		Dk. Green•	
		Cream	Gloss Black		
		Cream			
		Cream	Brown		
		Cream•	Red	Red	
		Cream	Gray	Cream	
		Yellow			
		White			
1951		White	White	White	White
	Brown	Red	Red	Red	Red
				Red	
				Varnish	

Interior Paint Samples: Room 108

Sample Number	Substrate Location	Ca. Date
P140	Window seat, southeast window, south wall	1820
P141	Window architrave, southeast window, south wall	1820
P142	Window sash, southeast window, south wall	1820
P143	Window jamb, southeast window, south wall	1820
P144	Window stop, southeast window, south wall	1951
P145	Window stool, southeast window, south wall	1951
P146	Window apron, southeast window, south wall (above seat)	1951
P147	Window panel, southeast window, south wall (below seat)	1820
P148	Baseboard at southeast window, south wall	1820
P149	Baseboard between windows at the south wall (plain high baseboard, behind lower baseboard)	1820 (?)
P150	Baseboard between windows at the south wall (low baseboard)	1820
P151	East closet door, interior closet side	1810
P152	East closet interior, cased girt	1925 (?)
P153	East closet interior, shelf	1810

Sample Number	Substrate Location	Ca. Date
P154	East closet interior, east plaster wall	1810
P155	Architrave, west doorway to Room 101	1820
P156	Jamb, west doorway at former hinge mortises	1820
P157	Fireplace mantel shelf	1925 (?)
P158	Fireplace mantel, south side (wide panel)	1820
P159	Fireplace mantel, south side (molding)	1951
P160	Cased summer beam	1810
P161	Baseboard at north wall	1925
P162	North closet door, interior closet side	1810
P163	North closet, interior shelf	1810
P164	South plaster wall, between windows	1810
P165	North plaster wall	1925
P166	North closet interior, north plaster wall	1810
P167	Plaster ceiling	1925
P168	Chimney girt, paint remnants	1810
P169	Floorboards, middle of room	1925
P170	Floorboards, at south wall	1925
P171	East closet interior, remnant of horizontal paneling	1705
P172	Vertical paneling at west wall, between doorway and fireplace	1705

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 108

Ca. Date	Paint Samples					
	P140	P141	P142	P143	P144	P145
1810						
1820	White•		Cream•			
	White	Cream	White			
	Cream-Yellow•	Yellow•	Cream-Yellow•	Cream-Yellow•		
	White-Green•	Lt. Green•	Lt. Green•	Lt. Green		
	Cream-Yellow•		Cream-Yellow•			
	White					
	White•	White-Cream•	White•	Cream•		
	White		White°			
	White		Cream			
	White•	White-Cream•	Cream	Cream•		
1925	White°	White°	Cream			
	White	White	White			
	Lt. Yellow	Lt. Yellow	Lt. Yellow			
1951		White	White		White	White
						Red•
	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
	Red		Red			Red
			Varnish			

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 108 (cont'd.)

Ca. Date	Paint Samples					
	P146	P147	P148	P149	P150	P151
1810						Red
1820		Cream• White White• White	 White• White	Cream• Cream-Yellow• White [Green]	Cream• Cream•	White• Cream-Yellow•
		Cream•	White•			
		White		Cream	White	
		White°	Cream•			Cream-Yellow•
		White	White	White	White [Yellow]	White
		White°	White•	Cream•		Cream•
1925		White• White Lt. Yellow	White° White Lt. Yellow	White° White Lt. Yellow	 White-Cream	 White Lt. Yellow
1951	White Red• Red Red	White Red	White Red	White Lt. Yellow White	White Red	White Blue Red

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 108 (cont'd.)

Ca. Date	Paint Samples					
	P152	P153	P154	P155	P156	P157
1810						
1820				Cream• White White• White White• Cream-Yellow• White• Cream-White° White White		
		____				
1925	Cream•	Mustard• Lt. Yellow	[Wallpaper] [Wallpaper]	Cream• Cream Lt. Yellow White	Gray•	Cream• White Lt. Yellow
1951	Dk. Blue Blue Red	Blue	Dk. Blue Blue	White Red Red	White Red Red Varnish	White Red

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 108 (cont'd.)

Ca. Date	Paint Samples					
	P158	P159	P160	P161	P162	P163
1810			Red Cream-Yellow•		Red Cream-Yellow•	Red Cream-Yellow•
1820	Cream• White [oil]		Cream• White		Cream-Yellow•	White•
	White•		White• Cream•		White• Cream° [oil]	White• Cream•
	Cream• White White° White		White White• White White		White	
1925	Cream° White		Cream• White	White• White° White	White•	Yellow•
	Yellow		Lt. Yellow	Lt. Yellow	Lt. Yellow	Lt. Green
1951	White Red	White Red Red Varnish	White Red Red	White Red		Red-Brown

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 108 (cont'd.)

Ca. Date	Paint Samples					
	P164	P165	P166	P167	P168	P169
1810					Red Brown-Yellow Mustard (Kal.) Gray [dirt?]	
1820			Cream•			
Post-1860	[Wallpaper] Green Lt. Green Lt. Yellow-Cream Varnish [Wallpaper Paste] Cream-Yellow		Lt. Green			
1925	Aqua Cream [Plaster?] Lt. Yellow White	White Aqua Lt. Yellow White	Red Rust-Brown	[Oil?] Cream Lt. Yellow White	Varnish	Red-Brown Brown-Red

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 108 (cont'd.)

Ca. Date	Paint Samples		
	P170	P171	P172
1705			
		Red (Kal.)	Red (Kal.)

Brown-Red
Brown-Red
Mustard

Interior Paint Samples: Room 201

Sample Number	Substrate Location	Ca. Date
P173	Window sash, south wall	1925
P174	Window architrave, south wall	1820
P175	Cased girt, south wall	1820
P176	Four-panel door, west doorway to Room 202	1820
P177	Architrave, west doorway to Room 202	1820
P178	Architrave, east doorway to Room 209	1820
P179	Four-panel door, east doorway to Room 202	1820
P180	Baseboard at south wall	1820
P181	Newel post and balusters, paint remnants	1820
P182	Wide floorboards, paint remnants	1820

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 201

Ca. Date	Paint Samples					
	P173	P174	P175	P176	P177	P178
1820		Cream• White Cream-Yellow° White White° White ____	Mustard• White [Oil] White• Cream-Yellow• White• White Cream• White White	Cream• White [Oil] White• Yellow• White• White White• Cream-Yellow• White White	Cream• White Cream• White• Cream-Yellow• White White	Cream• White Cream-Yellow• White• White• White White
1925	White• Cream	White• Cream	White• Cream	Cream• White Cream	White• Cream	White• Cream
1951	White Red Red Varnish	White Red Red Varnish	White Red Varnish	White Red Varnish	White Red Varnish	White Red Varnish

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 201 (cont'd.)

Ca. Date	Paint Samples			
	P179	P180	P181	P182
1820	Cream•	Cream•	Cream•	
		Oil		
	White	White	Varnish	
	Yellow•	White•		
	White•	Cream-Yellow•		
		White•		
		White°		
		White°		
	White	White		
	White	White		
	White°	White•		Orange
				Varnish
1925				
	Cream	Cream		
1951	White	White		Mustard
				Varnish
	Red	Red		
		Red		
	Varnish	Varnish		

Interior Paint Samples: Room 202

Sample Number	Substrate Location	Ca. Date
P183	Toe molding at baseboard, south wall	1951
P184	Four-panel door, east closet doorway	1925
P185	Architrave, east closet doorway	1925
P186	Window sash, west window (north side)	1925
P187	Cased post, southwest corner	1925
P188	Window architrave, west window (north side)	1820
P189	Baseboard, north wall	1810
P190	Cased girt, west wall	1810
P191	Cased summer beam	810
P192	Four-panel door, east doorway to Room 201	1820
P193	Architrave, east doorway to Room 201	1820
P194	Four-panel door, north doorway to Room 204	1820
P195	Norfolk latch, four-panel door, north doorway to Room 204	1820
P196	Architrave, north doorway to Room 204	1820
P197	Baseboard at west wall	1820
P198	Fireplace mantel, molding at opening	1820

Sample Number	Substrate Location	Ca. Date
P199	Fireplace mantel, flat field at opening	1820
P200	Fireplace mantel shelf	1820
P201	Fireplace mantel, pilaster shaft	1820
P202	Ceiling joist in attic	
P286	East plaster wall, adjacent to fireplace mantel	1810
P287	North plaster wall, near doorway	1925

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 202

Ca. Date	Paint Samples					
	P183	P184	P185	P186	P187	P188
						White•
1925		Cream•	Cream•	White-Cream•	Cream•	Cream•
			White		White	
		Cream	Cream	Cream-Yellow	Cream-Yellow	
1951	White		White	White		White
	White	White	White	White	White	White
	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 202 (cont'd.)

Ca. Date	Paint Samples					
	P189	P190	P191	P192	P193	P194 [Poor Sample]
	Blue•	Blue•	Blue•			
1820	Cream•		Cream•	Cream•	Cream•	
				White		
	Cream	White	White	White	White	
	Cream•	Cream•	Cream•	Green•	White•	
				Yellow•	Cream-Yellow•	
				White•	White°	
	Cream			Cream	White°	
	Cream°		Cream•	White•	White•	
	Cream-Yellow°		Cream-Yellow•	Cream		
	White			White	White	
1925	Cream•	Cream•		White•	Cream•	Cream•
	White			Cream-Yellow	White	
	Cream-Yellow	Cream-Yellow		Cream-Yellow	Cream	Cream
1951	White	White	White	Cream	White	White
	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 202 (cont'd.)

Ca. Date	Paint Samples					
	P195	P196	P197	P198	P199	P200
1820	Black Varnish	Cream•	Cream•	Cream•	Cream•	Cream•
			White	White	White	Black
	Cream•	Cream-Yellow•	Cream-Yellow•	Cream-Yellow•	Cream-Yellow•	Cream•
	White°	White°	White°	White	White	White
	Black					
			White•	White°	White°	
			White°	White	White	Cream
		White	White	White	White	
1925		Cream•	Cream•	White•	White	
					Cream-Yellow	Cream-Yellow
		White				
		Cream	Cream	Cream-Yellow°	White•	
					Cream-Yellow•	
	White	White	White	White	White	White
		White			White	
	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 202 (cont'd.)

Ca. Date	Paint Samples			
	P201	P202	P286	P287
		White (Whitewash?) Black		
1820	Cream• White Cream-Yellow•		White• Cream• [Wallpaper Fibers]	
	White			
1925	Cream-Yellow•			
1951	White White Black			White

Interior Paint Samples: Room 203

Sample Number	Substrate Location	Ca. Date
P203	Baseboard at west wall	1820
P204	West window architrave	1820
P205	West window sash	1925
P206	West plaster wall	1951 (?)
P207	Four-panel door, east doorway to Room 204	1810

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 203

Ca. Date	Paint Samples				
	P203	P204	P205	P206	P207
1810					Red• Red• White•
1820	Cream• White White-Cream• Green• Lt. Green• White	Cream• Cream Cream Green• [Gray?]			Yellow• Lt. Gray-White• Lt. Gray-White• Mustard• Mustard• Cream•
1925	White• Yellow•	White• Mustard Blue	White• Mustard Blue		Mustard• White Cream
1958	White	White		Cream	White

Interior Paint Samples: Room 204

Sample Number	Substrate Location	Ca. Date
P208	Architrave, east doorway to Room 205	1925
P209	Baseboard at east wall	1925
P210	Baseboard in north closet, at west wall	1925
P211	Baseboard in north closet, at north wall (west of post)	1820
P212	Baseboard in north closet, at north wall (east of post)	1820
P213	Cased post at north wall, north closet interior	1820
P214	Four-panel door, south doorway to Room 202	1820
P215	Architrave, south doorway to Room 202	1820
P216	Two-panel door, north closet doorway	?
P217	Tongue-and-groove paneling, west wall	1958
P218	Four-panel door, east doorway to Room 205	1871
P219	Four-panel door, west doorway to Room 203	1810

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 204

Ca. Date	Paint Samples					
	P208	P209	P210	P211	P212	P213
1820				Cream• White White White Green• Lt. Green• White	Cream• White White White Green• Lt. Green• White	Cream• White Cream• Green• Lt. Green• White
1925	Cream• Mustard Blue	White• Mustard Blue	White Mustard Blue	White• Mustard Blue	White• Mustard Blue	White• Mustard Blue
1958	White	White	White	White	White	White

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 204 (cont'd.)

Ca. Date	Paint Samples					
	P214	P215	P216	P217	P218	P219
						Gray•
						Cream•
1820	Cream•	Cream•				Cream•
	White	White				White
	Lt. Blue					White•
	White	White•				Lt. Yellow•
					Gray•	
	Green•	Green•				White•
					Mustard•	
	Lt. Green•	Lt. Green•				White
					Cream•	
	White	White				White
					Mustard	
1925	White•	White•				Cream
					Mustard•	Cream•
	Mustard	Mustard				
					Pink	Cream
	Blue	Blue	Lt. Green [remnants]			
					Yellow	Yellow
	White	White	White	White	White	White

Interior Paint Samples: Room 205

Sample Number	Substrate Location	Ca. Date
P220	Architrave, northwest window	1925
P221	Window sash, northwest window	1925
P222	Baseboard, north wall, west corner	1925
P223	Architrave, west doorway to Room 204	1925
P224	Architrave, east doorway to Room 206	1925
P225	Two-panel door, east doorway to Room 206	1925
P226	Toe molding at baseboard	1925
P227	Architrave, southwest closet doorway	1958
P228	Architrave, southeast closet doorway	1958
P229	Four-panel door, west doorway to to Room 204	1871
P230	Four-panel door, room side, southwest closet doorway	1810
P231	Four-panel door, closet side, southwest closet doorway	1810
P232	Four-panel door, room side, southeast closet doorway	1810
P233	Four-panel door, closet side, southeast closet doorway	1810
P234	South plaster wall	1925
P235	Plaster ceiling	1925

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 205

Ca. Date	Paint Samples					
	P220	P221	P222	P223	P224	P225
1925	Cream• White Mustard Blue Gray	Cream• White Mustard Blue Gray	Cream• White Mustard Blue Gray	Cream• White Mustard Blue Gray	Cream• White Mustard Blue Gray	Cream• White Mustard Blue Gray

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 205 (cont'd.)

Ca. Date	Paint Samples				
	P226	P227	P228	P229	P230
				Mustard•	Lt. Green•
				Mustard•	Cream•
				Mustard•	Cream
				Yellow Yellow	White
				Mustard•	Cream•
				Bright Yellow	Cream•
				Aqua• & Lt. Green	Cream•
				Aqua• & Pink	Cream•
				Cream	Cream
1925				Lt. Green	Cream
	White			Gray	Cream•
	Mustard			Cream	White
	Blue			Red	Yellow
1958		White	White	White	White
	Gray	Gray	Gray	Gray	Gray

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 205 (cont'd.)

Ca. Date	Paint Samples				
	P231	P232	P233	P234	P235
1810	Gray-Cream•				
1820		Cream•	Cream•		
		Cream	White		
		Cream•	Cream•		
		Cream•	White		
		Cream	White•		
	Aqua•	Cream°			
		Cream•	Cream		
	Lt. Green	Pink	White		
	Yellow		Cream•		
	Lt. Green		White		
	Lt. Green		Lt. Yellow		Cream-Yellow
	White	White	White	Cream	Cream-White

Interior Paint Samples: Room 206

Sample Number	Substrate Location	Ca. Date
P236	Mirrored door, west doorway to Room 205	1925
P237	Architrave, west doorway to Room 205	1925
P238	Four-panel door, south doorway to Room 209	1925
P239	Architrave, south doorway to Room 209	1925
P240	Tongue-and-groove door, east doorway to Room 208	1925
P241	Architrave, east doorway to Room 208	1925
P242	Tongue-and-groove door, east doorway to attic closet	1925
P243	Baseboard at west wall, north of doorway	1925
P244	Low partition wall (tongue-and-groove) at stairway	1925
P245	Tongue-and-groove paneling at head of stairway (partition wall of the attic closet)	1925
P246	West plaster wall, south of doorway	1925
P247	Plaster ceiling	1925
P248	Wide floorboards, inside attic closet	1810

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 206

Ca. Date	Paint Samples				
	P236	P237	P238	P239	P240
1925	Cream• Yellow• White Red Brown	Cream-Yellow• White Red Brown	Cream• Yellow White Red Brown	Cream-Yellow• Yellow White Red Brown	Cream• Yellow White Red Brown

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 206 (cont'd.)

Ca. Date	Paint Samples				
	P241	P242	P243	P244	P245
1925	Cream• Yellow White Red Brown	Cream• Yellow White Red Brown	Cream-Yellow• White Red Brown	Cream• Yellow° White Red Brown	Cream• Red Brown

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 206 (cont'd.)

Ca. Date	Paint Samples		
	P246	P247	P248
1925		White	Mustard
		White	
	Cream	Cream-White	
	White	White	

Interior Paint Samples: Room 207

Sample Number	Substrate Location	Ca. Date
P004	Riven clapboards at south wall	1810
P029	Cornice board at south wall	1810

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 207

Ca. Date	Paint Samples	
	P004	P029
1951	Rust Red•	Rust Red•
	Blue-Green	
	Green	Lt. Green

Interior Paint Samples: Room 208

Sample Number	Substrate Location	Ca. Date
P249	Baseboard, east wall	1810
P250	Window apron, east window	1810
P251	Cased girt, north wall	1925
P252	Cased post, northeast corner	1810
P253	Baseboard, north wall	1925
P254	Window sash, east window	1925
P255	Architrave, east window	1925
P256	Wide floorboards, southwest corner (inside cabinet)	1810
P257	East plaster wall	1925
P258	Plaster ceiling	1925
P288	Tongue-and-groove door, west doorway to Room 206	1925

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 208

Ca. Date	Paint Samples					
	P249	P250	P251	P252	P253	P254
		[Poor Sample]				
1810	Red•	Red•				
1820	Yellow•					
	White-Cream					
	White-Cream					
	White-Cream•	[Layers Missing]				
	Lt. Green					
	Lt. Green					
	White°					
	White°					
	White					
				Black [Charring?]		
	Cream					
1925	Cream•	Cream•	Cream•	Cream•	Cream•	Cream•
	Cream	Cream	Cream	Cream	Cream	Cream
	Cream	Cream-Yellow	Cream-Yellow	Cream	Cream	Cream-Yellow
	Cream-Yellow	Cream				
	[White Plaster]					
	Cream	White	White		White	White
	Gray	Dk. Green	Dk. Green			Dk. Green
	Gray	Gray	Gray		Gray	Gray
	Black	White	White		Black	White

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 208 (cont'd.)

Ca. Date	Paint Samples				
	P255	P256	P257	P258	P288
1925	Cream•	Lt. Yellow°	[White Plaster Skim]	[White Plaster]	Cream•
	Cream	Brown	Bright Yellow	White	Cream
	Cream	Mustard	Gray	White	Yellow
	Yellow	Black			
	White	Lt. Gray [Caulk]		White	
	Dk. Green	Gray			Dk. Green
	Gray	Red [& Splatter Paints]			Gray
	White	Varnish	White	White	Black

Interior Paint Samples: Room 209

Sample Number	Substrate Location	Ca. Date
P259	Four-panel door, west doorway to Room 201	1820
P260	Architrave, east window	1820
P261	Cased post, northeast corner	1820
P262	Architrave, west closet	1820
P263	Architrave, west doorway to Room 201	1820
P264	Fireplace mantel, molding at opening	1820
P265	Fireplace mantel, shelf	1820
P266	Two-panel door, west closet, room side	1820
P267	Baseboard, west wall	1820
P268	Two-panel door, west closet, closet side	1820
P269	Cased post, southeast corner, beneath toe molding at floor	1820
P270	Toe molding at cased post, southeast corner	?
P271	Window sash, southwest window	1925
P272	Cased girt at south wall, near southeast corner	1925
P273	East plaster wall	1925
P274	Plaster ceiling at south wall	1925
P275	Ceiling joist (attic)	1705

Sample Number	Substrate Location	Ca. Date
P276	Baseboard patch, north wall	1925
P277	Four-panel door, north doorway to Room 206	1925
P278	Architrave, north doorway to Room 206	1925
P279	Cased girt, north wall	1925
P280	Window sash, east window	1925

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 209

Ca. Date	Paint Samples					
	P259	P260	P261	P262	P263	P264
1820	Cream•	White•	Cream•	Cream•	Cream•	Cream•
	White°					
	White				White	
	White•	White•	Cream•			
	Cream-Yellow•	Cream-Yellow•		Cream-Yellow•	Cream•	Cream•
	White	White	White	White		White
	Cream•	Cream•	Cream°	Cream•		
	White	White	White	White		White
			White			
1925	Cream•	Cream•	Cream•	Cream•		Cream•
	Cream	Cream-Yellow			Cream	Cream
	White	White	White	White	White	White
	White			White		
	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
	Brown	Brown	Brown	Brown	Brown	Brown

Interior Paint Samples: Room 209 (cont'd.)

Ca. Date	Paint Samples					
	P265	P266	P267	P268	P269	P270
1820	Cream•	Cream•	Cream•	Cream•	Cream•	
		White-Green•	White-Green•	Green•		
		Cream-Yellow•	Cream-Yellow•		Cream	
			Cream-Yellow•			
	Black	White°	White	White	Cream-Yellow	
	Dk. Red	White°			Cream	
		Cream•	Cream•		Cream°	
		Cream°				
		White	White		Cream	
1925	Cream•	Cream•	Cream•	Cream•		Cream•
			Cream•			
	Cream	Cream-Yellow	Cream	Yellow		Yellow
	White	White	White	White		White
	Red	Red	Red	Red		Red
	Brown	Brown	Brown	Brown		Brown
	Red					
	Brown					

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 209 (cont'd.)

Ca. Date	Paint Samples					
	P271	P272	P273	P274	P275	P276
					Black	
1925	Cream•	Cream•	[White Plaster] [Wallpaper Fragment]			Cream•
	Lt. Yellow	Yellow	White			Cream
	White	White White	Yellow-Pink			
	Red	Red	Wallpaper Fragment, Green-Blue			Red
	Brown	Brown	[White Plaster]	Cream		Brown

Interior Paint Chromochronologies: Room 209 (cont'd.)

Ca. Date	Paint Samples			
	P277	P278	P279	P280
1925	Cream•	Cream•	Cream•	White•
	Cream	Cream	Cream	Cream
	White	White	White	White
	Red	Red	Red	Red
	Brown	Brown	Brown	Brown

APPENDIX F.

Survey of Existing Conditions and Recommendations

Introduction

As part of the rehabilitation and adaptive use planned for the Meriam House, construction documents shall be prepared to direct the project. This will require a thorough analysis of existing conditions to identify location, quantity, and specific repair/conservation work required. To avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts, it is the intention of this appendix of the historic structure report to present an overall analysis of the building's pathology and specific recommendations for treatment without detailed quantification of the work required. The analysis is subdivided into the following categories of building components: masonry foundation walls, chimney structure, structural framing, exterior wall cladding. roofing materials, exterior window frames and sashes, exterior doors, interior finishes, and electrical, plumbing, and HVAC systems. In addition, recommendations to provide accessibility to the physically handicapped are presented.

Since it is the recommendation of this HSR to remove the three small outbuildings on the Meriam House lot, a condition assessment of these will not be made.

Exterior Elements

Foundation Walls

The rubble fieldstone foundation walls visible from the cellar are pointed with different mortars reflecting repointing and repair work done at different ties. The structural integrity of the masonry is intact, notwithstanding many cracked and eroded mortar joints. It is recommended that the south and east walls be repointed using a type “N” mortar after all defective joints are carefully prepared. Preparation includes removal of all loose, friable, and cracked mortar to a minimum depth of twice the joint width. The color and final tooling of the new pointing work shall match existing pointing from the desired period of replication. The other walls in the cellar are not in direct contact with exterior grade, so that infiltration of water is not a problem. These walls shall not be repointed, except for joints having complete mortar loss.

The cast-in-place concrete retaining wall protruding into the cellar along the perimeter of the floor, against the stone foundation walls, is in sound condition. Similarly, the concrete bulkhead walls and the concrete cellar floor slab are in good condition.

In the early spring of 1993, the cellar was flooded with nearly a foot of water. After the existing sump pump was set up in the northeast corner of the cellar, the incoming water was kept under control. Improvements in the site grading, installation of new bulkhead doors, and complete repointing of the interior faces of the masonry foundation walls are recommended to slow the intrusion of saturated ground water caused by melting snow and seasonal rains.

Stone foundation walls surrounding unexcavated crawl spaces are not easily accessible from within the structure unless flooring is removed. From the exterior, most of these foundation walls are concealed by the high finish grades adjacent to the house. It is recommended that these walls be exposed to the greatest extent possible in order to repoint the joints. If the cultural landscape plan does not recommend altering the grades in the immediate vicinity of the house, then partial

excavation should be undertaken to exposed the walls to at least one foot below the elevation of the crawl space floor grade. After the masonry walls are repointed and stabilized, the excavation should be backfilled with the same material. Archeological monitoring must accompany the excavation operation.

If flooring is removed from the first floor over unexcavated areas to accompany structural framing reinforcement, then this access should be taken advantage of to repoint the interior faces of the foundation walls.

The stone foundation supporting the central chimney mass is visible on the excavated cellar (east) side, and partially exposed on the south side; however, the north and west walls are within the crawl spaces under the first floor. This foundation, where visible, is in stable condition, requiring only repointing of joints void of mortar.

The garage foundation walls and floor slab are cast-in-place concrete and are in good condition. No remedial work is required.

Wall Cladding

The exterior of the house frame is covered with 1-inch nominal board sheathing, which in turn is mostly clad with clapboards. The only exceptions are the east gable end of the main house, the east gable end of the east entry wing [i.e., kitchen addition], and the shed addition (north side of main house), which are clad with wood shingles. Many of the clapboards on the south and west elevations of the main house date to the 1820 remodeling of the house, and a reasonable attempt should be made to conserve these in their original locations. Otherwise, clapboards of late vintage that are split and unserviceable should be replaced. A decision must be made concerning the type of butt joint and the type of nail to be used for replacement clapboards. This will depend on the restoration date for the building exterior. There is also a heavy paint buildup (including layers of lead-based paint) on much of the clapboarding and trim, which should be carefully removed before repainting. Open splits in the early clapboards can be filled with epoxy filler after the paint has been removed.

Those exterior walls that are currently shingled must be evaluated on the basis of whether this type of siding falls within the restoration period. It appears that the shingles on the east wall of the main house may have been nailed directly over existing clapboards. This may also be true of the shingles on the east wall of the east entry wing [kitchen addition]. If it is determined that all wall shingles should remain, then replacement of rotted, split, and missing shingles will be necessary. Most of the shingle deterioration is at the bottom course, in contact with grade or pavement.

The exterior trim pieces on the building are from various periods of construction. The corner boards, cornices, rakes, and water tables consist of plain board trim, and their condition varies depending on exposure and location. Areas of rot are confined to the bottom ends of corner boards where they are in close contact with the ground. Affected areas of trim should be removed and new pieces of trim spliced in with bevel joints to exclude water entry. Similarly, most of the water table boards have direct or close ground contact and will require replacement. Extensive rot at the northwest corner of the shed addition has been recently repaired by the park's maintenance staff, and

will require further repair and replacement of rotted sheathing and structural framing members in this area. The front eaves of the main two-story house has an overhang with fascia and soffit board trim under the drip course of roof shingles. Repair or replacement in kind are recommended for both south and north eaves if rot is found. The exterior doorway casings shall be inspected for rot and repaired as required. The lower sections of jamb trim as well as doorway sills show signs of deterioration due to fungal rot.

The addition of gutters to all the eaves on the house should be seriously considered, to prolong the life of clapboards and tim near the foundations. Early photographs indicate that there was a gutter and two downspouts on the front of the house. Downspouts should tie into underground drainage pipes leading to dry wells placed some distance from the house foundations.

Exterior Doorways

Front Doorway

This doorway, in the south elevation of the two-story main house, is in good condition. It does exhibit superficial weathering of exterior surfaces, however, and minor repairs are required.

Side Doorway

This doorway, in the south wall of the east entry [kitchen addition], is also in good condition; also displays superficial weathering of exterior surfaces; and also requires minor repairs.

Back Doorway

This doorway, in the shed addition, has a door in poor condition. A replacement door should be considered for this location.

Carriage-Shed Doorways

The reproduction doors in these south-facing doorways exhibit minor rot at the bottom of their vertical boards. They should be treated with epoxy consolidant and filler.

Garage Doors

The overhead doors in these north-facing doorways show minor rot at the bottom of their vertical boards. Evaluate the need to retain these doors; if they are to remain, repair them by replacement in kind of affected boards.

Bulkhead Doors

None remain. New doors should be designed and installed based on any remaining physical evidence.

Window Frames and Sashes

In general, the house has three types of exterior window casings or frames of varying ages. The condition of the exterior window frames ranges from partially rotted to sound condition. The techniques used to conserve and repair each unit depends on the condition, and may range from replacement in kind of severely rotted components, to dutchman-type repair and epoxy consolidation for minor deterioration. Repairs to the oldest frames (ca. 1820) should favor treatments that leave the maximum amount of early material intact.

The condition of the sashes also varies depending on age and exposure. In general, those dating from the 1820 remodeling should receive careful and sympathetic repairs such as dutchmen and epoxy consolidation. Treatment of modern (20th-century) sashes should be evaluated based on economic factors—i.e., is it more cost-effective to replace entire units with standard replacement sashes, or to perform labor-intensive conservation repair techniques?

Roofing Materials

Existing asphalt roof shingles and rolled roofing should be replaced either in kind, or with wood shingles, depending upon the determination of restoration period. Any rotted roof sheathing shall be replaced in kind before reroofing. Currently, the south-facing roof surfaces are in the worst condition. There is evidence of past leaking around the north dormer walls. When reroofing is done, all associated flashings should be replaced.

Chimney Structure

The brick masonry central chimney structure is currently stable but requires work in specific areas to ensure its future stability. There are two voids behind the three fireboxes on the first story that are accessible from an opening at the south face of the chimney under the front stairway. The northernmost void is behind the flue for the kitchen firebox and adjacent to the flue from the east room firebox. This void or chamber extends up through the second story without an outlet. The walls are well blackened with creosote and there are two wood horizontal members bearing on and spanning between two opposite walls of the chamber. Within this space are loose bricks that can be easily pulled out from the walls separating it from the two adjacent flues. There are also significant cracks in the masonry that should be filled with appropriate soft mortar. Further study is needed to determine if this is a smoke chamber before remedial work proceeds.

Within the five individual brick flues of the central chimney stack (one for each fireplace) are sections that have angled walls accomplished by stepping the brick courses. These angled walls are littered with mortar droppings from the recent rebuilding of the chimney stack above the roof. This mortar is not well adhered, and it should be carefully removed using long-handled tools from the chimney top or from the fireplace throats—whichever provides the best access.

The chimney stack exposed within the attic space has been parged with mortar that is cracked in several places but generally well adhered. It is recommended that no work we done on this part of the chimney stack unless the adhesion of the parging mortar fails. Lost parging and pointing mortar should be replaced with type “0” lime mortar formulated with sand matching the existing.

The chimney stack above the roof was rebuilt in 1984 using old bricks, many of which are presumably from the earlier chimney. The bricks vary in dimension, and wide mortar joints were employed to level the resulting uneven brick courses. The brick flue partitions are heavily and roughly parged with mortar that is falling away in the flue used to vent the oil-fired furnace. The existing bricks, mortar joints, and lead flashing are in good condition; however, many of the bricks used are the salmon-colored soft brick lacking a hard fireskin and are inappropriate for exterior exposure. If these begin to spall, then it is recommended that the chimney be rebuilt using only hard-fireskinned bricks. Additional restoration bricks will have to be obtained to replace the soft bricks. If a particular restoration period is determined for the exterior of the building predating the 1984 rebuilding, then historic photographs must be studied to determine the proper height and detailing of the chimney for the desired period of restoration.

The flue dedicated to the furnace should be lined with a flexible stainless-steel flue to prevent further deterioration of the mortar joints. These have been eroded by sulfuric acid produced by the reaction of rainwater and the products of oil-burner combustion.

Most of the fireboxes and hearths are in good condition, some having been repaired in recent remodelings. They should all be cleaned and inspected for deterioration of brick units and mortar joints. Repair is recommended when structural integrity is jeopardized. None of the fireboxes should be used, and a vented chimney cap should be installed over the unused flues to prevent water intrusion.

Structural Elements

First-Floor Framing

The first-floor framing visible from the cellar space is in varying states of decay. A member-by-member assessment is required to determine the extent of deterioration. The primary detrimental condition of the cellar space is high relative humidity during the summer months, which encourages the growth of fungal rot and infestation by wood-boring insects. For the most part, existing timers can be treated with borates to halt deterioration; however, additional structural support will have to be inserted to reinforce the stabilized but weak timbers. This is easily accomplished by the installation of columns to reduce spans of girts and by sistering floor joists with new joists. A structural analysis will be required to verify that the reinforced floor framing is designed to carry the maximum loads required by applicable building codes. Inaccessible floor framing within crawl spaces can be inspected by unobtrusive methods; however, if remedial measures are required, the floorboards above these spaces will have to be removed. All removed floorboards shall be reinstalled in their original locations with their original nails.

Sill members supported by the foundation walls will require inspection from the exterior by removal of clapboards and sheathing. Extent of deterioration will determine the treatment, which may range from complete replacement in kind to consolidation using epoxies. Borate-based preservation treatments are recommended for all new and existing structural framing members.

Second-Floor Framing

The only section of second-floor framing that is visible can be seen from the first story southwest room (Room 102). Visible components include: floor joists, summer beam, exterior wall girts (south and west), interior wall girt (north side of room), and chimney girt (over fireplace). All framing members are in sound condition, but sizes, supports, and connections will require structural analysis to determine load-bearing capacity.

Major girts and summer beams for the remainder of the second-floor framing are cased by trim boards, and all other floor joists are concealed by ceiling plaster. Unobtrusive techniques can be utilized to determine sizes and condition of the concealed floor framing. Unlike the first-floor framing, where columns can be inserted under beams, the second floor cannot be reinforced by simple methods. If load-bearing capacity is limited, the second-floor occupancy load will require restriction to stay within safe limits.

Wall Framing

The two-story wall framing consisting of corner posts, chimney posts, girts, plates, studs, and braces are, for the most part, concealed within walls or cased with trim boards. A combination of unobtrusive investigation and selective removal of interior and exterior finish elements will be used to reveal the condition of these members.

Attic-Floor Framing

The attic-floor framing can be examined by removal of attic floor boards, which date to the rebuilding after the circa-1925 roof fire. Some of these boards have been pulled up, and floor framing is clearly visible. Most tie beams (the principal beams supporting attic floor joists) and floor joists are in good condition, except along the north end, where there is fire damage in the form of surface charring. The charring is most severe along the north plate of the original two-story structure. This plate has enough sound cross-section remaining to perform its structural function--which is minor, since a later raised north roof design lifted any roof load from it. It is recommended that the attic remain free of any floor loading, including general storage. If this lack of space is enforced, then little if any structural reinforcement is required.

Roof Structure

The roof structure consists of 2 by 8 rafters at regular intervals which were part of the reconstruction after the fire. These rafters and their spans are sufficient for the design snow loads as specified by the Massachusetts Building Code. The roof sheathing boards are exposed to view from the attic and appear to be in good condition.

Interior Elements

The recommendation of this historic structure report is to preserve all existing architectural fabric to the greatest extent possible, through sympathetic design of rehabilitation and adaptive use. The following are general guidelines to accomplish this recommendation.

Plaster Surfaces

Remove all loose and scaling paint, using appropriate hand-held scrapers. Do not scratch the surface of the finish plaster. Where paint is removed to calcimined or whitewashed surfaces, use water and detergent (TSP) to remove these coatings. Resecure loose plaster by mechanical fasteners countersunk flush with plaster surface, or by injecting adhesive between loose plaster and wood lath. Fill all cracks with patching plaster, using reinforced fiberglass-mesh tape over large cracks. For areas of plaster loss, attach expanded metal lath over exposed wood lath. Use a proprietary three-coat plaster system to infill up to edges of existing plaster.

After all plaster surfaces are prepared as described above, prime surfaces with appropriate coatings determined by the final finish treatment (paint, simulated whitewash, or wallpaper).

Interior Woodwork

All interior doors, interior faces of exterior doors and window sashes, trim, built-in cabinets, stairways, fireplace mantel and other interior wood architectural elements shall be preserved to the greatest extent possible. Peeling paint and areas of heavy paint buildup shall be carefully removed using code-regulated lead-paint removal and disposal techniques, without damaging substrates. Complete lead abatement is not required for the proposed occupancy use. Total removal is not necessary of existing paint is well adhered and will serve as a base, after light sanding, for new paint application. Missing and fractured elements shall be replaced in kind or repaired using patches or epoxy fillers. All existing hardware for doors shall be retained and repaired if not operational.

Wood Flooring

Most of the existing wood flooring is in good condition. Some of the older floorboards are loose (second story, Room 209) and should be carefully resecured using concealed fasteners. One floorboard in the second-story front stairwell requires a patch where the corner has broken off. Floors should be refinished in keeping with the existing treatment (i.e., either painted with deck paint or stained and varnished). Heavy machine sanding shall not be permitted on any of the floors.

The floor covering in Rooms 106 and 107 is sheet vinyl. Similar treatment is recommended for the rehabilitation.

Electrical, Plumbing, and HVAC Systems

All existing systems shall be removed and replaced with updated systems, designed to applicable codes, to serve the adaptive uses of the structure. Design and installation of new systems shall be as sympathetic and nondestructive to the historic fabric as possible, and visually unobtrusive. Wherever possible, the thermal envelope of the heated structure shall be improved by the addition of breathable house wraps, thermal insulation, and vapor barriers. However, historic fabric not requiring removal for any other reason shall not be removed in order to upgrade the thermal envelope. It is anticipated that large areas of the exterior walls will remain uninsulated. Removal of the 20th-century attic floorboards is recommended, so that insulation can be installed between the attic floor joists. After insulation is installed, the same flooring can be reinstalled.

New systems shall include:

- electrical power and lighting;
- fire detection (and possibly suppression);
- intrusion detection;
- HVAC (mainly heating, with possible dehumidification)
- plumbing (include the addition of two handicapped-accessible toilets in the existing garage; the existing bathroom fixtures on the second story can remain operational).
- septic tank and leaching field (archeological monitoring required).

Accessibility to the Physically Handicapped

A ramp to provide access to the first story can be built within the existing nonhistoric garage, the entrance to which is at a level with the driveway grade. This is also the ideal location for two handicapped-accessible toilets, which could be entered from either the interior or directly from the exterior, depending on the park's preference.

Accessibility within the first story would probably be limited by existing doorway widths and changes in floor levels. Wherever practicable, modifications should be made to make as much of the first story as accessible as possible. All such modifications must be reversible, with no permanent damage to historic fabric.

Accessibility to the second story is not feasible due to spatial and structural limitations, making the installation of a regulation accessible elevator impossible. Moreover, the use of the second story will probably be limited, due to the low ceiling heights and load-bearing capacity of the floor framing.

APPENDIX G.

Existing Outbuildings, Related Buildings, and Missing Buildings

Existing Outbuildings

Description

Three outbuildings are located on the Meriam House property today. All three are small wood-frame structures that were either built or moved here by James and Margaret Ingraham (1951-1991). Each is described briefly in the sections that follow.

Garden Shed

A small garden shed is sited on the north property line, near the north adjacent field. As explained in Chapter II "Architectural History," this is a Walpole-style building that was either assembled or constructed in 1956. It was first listed in the tax records in 1956, when it was described as a "Gardenhouse" valued at $200.

The garden shed is a small board-and-batten building with gable roof and projecting gable ends. Openings include a doorway and window in the front (south) elevation, and one window in the back elevation. The doorway is a batten-Dutch style, the two leaves of which are hung on the east side by reproduction strap hinges. Each window has a single, six-light casement sash. The roof is covered with black asphalt shingles. The exterior walls of the garden shed are painted the same brown color as the house; the door and window sash are painted red.

The interior of the shed is equipped with shelves and gardening tools.

Tool House

A tool house is sited on the lawn, east of the house. It is a small structure, with gable roof, that measures 10 feet by 16 feet. The tool house was moved here from Cambridge, as was noted in a building permit for the relocation dated October 5, 1960. It was not listed in the tax records until 1969, when it was recorded as a "dwelling" valued at $640.

The exterior walls and roof are both covered with wood shingles; earlier novelty siding is beneath the wall shingles. Openings include a doorway and five windows. The doorway, which is on the north side of the front (west) elevation has a modern-looking laminated door surmounted by a four-light transom. A window on the south side of the doorway has four-over-four sashes, as do the two windows in the north elevation, and the single window in the rear (east) elevation. The south-elevation window is the only one with six-over-six sashes. The tool-house exterior is unpainted, except for the doorway and window architraves that are painted brown, and the doorway transom and window sashes that are painted red.

The interior consists of a single room.

Cottage

The largest of the three outbuildings is a cottage sited on the lawn, southeast of the house. Little is known about the construction of the cottage, except that it is first listed in the tax records for 1969 as a "dwelling," valued at $650.

The cottage is a one-story structure with a gable roof and a front (west-facing) shed-roof porch. Wood shingles cover the exterior walls, and what appears to be a plywood sheathing covers the roof. Openings include one doorway and nine windows. The doorway is centered in the west (front) facade, and is flanked by two windows with six-over-six sashes. Similar sashes are also in the first-story windows in the north elevation, the three windows in the rear (east) elevation, and the wide window in the south elevation (which has three pairs of sashes). Each of the gable-end windows in the upper story has a two-light sash. Plain-board window shutters are at all the windows except the south gable-end window. The exterior of the cottage is unpainted, except for the window architraves and shutters that are painted brown, and the window sashes that are painted red.

The interior consists of one large room. There is no interior access to the attic loft.

Recommendations

The three small outbuildings on the site today were all built, or moved here, by the Ingrahams. The garden shed has been dated 1956; the tool house, 1960; and the cottage, sometime before 1969. All are suffering from deferred maintenance. Because the existing outbuildings are 20th-century structures in poor repair, it is recommended that they be removed from the site.

Figure 41. Garden Shed, view looking northwest, November 10, 1993.

Figure 42. Tool House, views looking southeast and northwest, November 10, 1993.

Figure 43. Cottage, views looking north and southwest, December 1992.

Related Buildings

Several other buildings stand on land that was formerly part of the Meriam farm. These includes the Burke House, the former East Quarter School House (now a private home), and the Willow Pond Restaurant. These are described briefly in the following sections.

Burke House

Background

The Burke House is on the opposite side of Old Bedford Road from the Meriam House. It sits on a 3-acre parcel of land that was conveyed from Thomas and Rose Burke (owners of the Meriam House) to their son, Thomas J. Burke, on April 1, 1904.[2] The tax assessment for 1904 indicates that a house existed that year, valued at $1,500. The tax records also indicate that a garage was built between 1940 and 1941.

The land on which the Burke House is situated is part of the 18th-century, six-acre house lot of John Meriam (1666-1748), who was the brother of Joseph Meriam (builder of the Meriam House). The property became part of the Meriam-House farm sometime in the 1820's, when it was acquired by Ephraim Meriam (1795-1843).[3] It was conveyed from Ephraim to Rufus Meriam in 1834, and was later purchased by Thomas and Rose Burke in 1871. The National Park Service acquired the property in 1974. Its tract number today is 04-107.

Description

The Burke House is a 2 1/2-story, Dutch Colonial-style dwelling. It is a wood-frame structure on a fieldstone foundation. Some of the stones for the foundation were obtained from the stone wall that formerly had been on the east side of Old Bedford Road south of the Meriam House, according to Thomas J. Burke's daughter, Alice Burke Hargrove. The photographic documentation confirms that most of the stone wall did in fact disappear at about the same time the house was constructed.

The house has a front porch, a large front dormer on the front side, a gambrel roof that is ridge-parallel with the road, and a brick chimney. The exterior siding is wood shingles, and most of the windows have six-over-one sashes.

The interior of the house appears to be little changed from its construction in 1903-1904. The original floor plan is unaltered, as are the plaster walls, first-story fireplace mantel, stairway, and architraves with bull's-eye moldings. The second-story bathroom retains its original wood wainscot and early plumbing fixtures. Some of the wallpapers in the second- and third-story rooms also appear to be of early 20th-century vintage.

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[2] Middlesex County Deed, Book 3090, p. 154.

[3] No deed has been found for this transaction. The tax assessment for 1828, however, then records Ephraim Meriam as being 1/2 owner of a 6-acre property ("Dr. Minott Place"), which may be this parcel.

The garage is detached from the house and is a short distance away, to the southwest. It has a gable roof and a large doorway in the front (east) gable end.

Ownership and Use

The Burke House is owned by the National Park Service. While it is vacant today, the Park Service plans to eventually lease the house to a tenant.

Repair Work, 1993

Exterior repairs were undertaken by the National Park Service at the house in 1993. Work done at that time included the following:

- structural woodwork repairs made to the house;
- new cedar-shingle siding installed;
- new asphalt-shingle roof installed;
- chimney rebuilt above the level of the roof;
- structural repairs made to the porch floor;
- repairs made to the window sashes; and
- exterior repainted the existing colors (brown shingles and white trim).

Former East Quarter School House

Background

The former East Quarter School House is a private home today. It is located on a half-acre site (Parcel 4225) on the north side of Lexington Road, southeast of the Meriam House.

The East Quarter School House was built in 1853, to replace the old schoolhouse that had been constructed in 1799. It was situated on an 80-rod (about a half-acre) lot that had been purchased by the town the previous year from Rufus Meriam. The land of this lot had become part of the Meriam-House farm in 1745, when it was purchased by Nathan Meriam from Jonathan Stow.

The building was no longer in use as a schoolhouse in 1893, the year it was bought by Thomas Burke (then owner of the Meriam House). Thomas Burke conveyed the property in 1903 to his son, James E. Burke, who obtained a $1,000 mortgage to convert the schoolhouse to a dwelling house. This work was apparently completed by May 1, 1904, since the tax assessment for that year listed James E. Burke as the owner of a “House School” valued at $1,200.

The renovated schoolhouse has had a number of owners over the years. The Palumbo family, which occupies it today under a life-tenancy agreement, purchased the property in 1925-1926. The National Park Service became the official owner of record in 1966.

The tax records document a number of outbuildings on the property in the 1920's through the 1950's. These included a store, barn, hen house, garage, and gas tanks.

Description

Only a brief description of the building will be given here, because this author has not had the opportunity to closely examine the exterior, or to see the interior. It is therefore not known how much architectural fabric from the original schoolhouse, if any, remains.

The 1853 schoolhouse acquired its present appearance in 1903-1904, when it was remodeled as a house. It is a 2 1/2-story, wood-frame structure on a masonry foundation. It has white-painted shingle siding, a gable roof with slate shingles, and two brick chimneys. The house is oriented gable-end to the street, with an attached one-story porch on the front side.

There are no outbuildings on the property.

Willow Pond Restaurant

Background

The Willow Pond Restaurant sits on a 1.22-acre site (Parcel 4226) on the north side of Lexington Road, and east of the former East Quarter Schoolhouse. It is part of a four-acre meadow that became part of the Meriam-House farm in 1803, when it was purchased by Ephraim Meriam (1795-1843); it was later conveyed to Rufus Meriam in 1834, and to Thomas Burke in 1871.

The tax records indicate that a "clam-bake house" valued at $350 was first on the property in 1928, during the ownership of Ellen Burke. Another structure valued at $1,200 was added to the site in 1934, which was recorded originally as the "McManus stand," and later as the "Ice-cream stand" or "Lunch-room."

Ellen Burke sold the property in 1946 to Ross and Emily Ransom, who either enlarged or completely rebuilt the lunch room shortly thereafter. The value of the lunch room increased to $1,800 in 1948, the same year that the "small lunch-room" (i.e., the original clam-bake house), disappeared from the tax rolls. The value of the lunch-room almost doubled the following year, rising to $3,000.

The last owners of record, Peter and Mary Sowkow, purchased the property in 1958. Improvements appear to have been made between 1962 and 1963, when the value of the lunch-room increased from $3,600 to $4,400.[4] The Sowkows became life tenants upon the acquisition of the property by the National Park Service in 1979.

[4] An earlier increase in 1957, from $3,000 to $3,600, was part of a reassessment of all properties in Concord.

Description

The Willow Pond Restaurant is an operational, informal eatery that serves lunches and dinners. It is a wood-frame, one-story structure, with a small attached wing on the back side, and is clad with clapboard siding painted a gray-blue color. An unpaved parking lot comprises the front part of the site, between the road and the building. Varnished knotty-pine paneling finishes the interior walls.

The restaurant is a long, sprawling structure that appears to have been constructed in stages, as evidenced by the exterior siding and trim details. The east and west portions of the building, for example, were probably built at different times—possibly 1934 and 1949, based on the increases in its assessed value. It is not known what improvements contributed to the tax increase between 1962 and 1963.

There are no outbuildings on the site today.

Missing Buildings

A number of buildings that existed at Meriam's Corner on April 19, 1775, are missing today. Those discussed here are the buildings that were probably on that portion of Meriam's Corner located east of Old Bedford Road and north of Lexington Road. Other structures are known to have been standing at this time, but were located to the south or the west. One of these, for example, was John Meriam's house, which was on the west side of the Old Bedford Road.

Also described here are post-1775 structures associated with the Meriam House, such as the Burke barns and the East Quarter School House.

The descriptions that follow provide only a brief summary of the historical documentation, which is presented in detail in Chapter II, "Architectural History."

Original Homestead and Barn: Circa 1663-1826

The original Meriam homestead and barn are both believed to have been located on the north side of Lexington Road at Meriam's Corner. The house was probably constructed by John Meriam around the time of his marriage to Mary Cooper on October 21, 1663. Later occupants were Ebenezer, the third son of John and Mary, and Josiah Meriam, John and Mary's grandson. The house and barn apparently were removed sometime after 1805 but before 1826.

The earliest documentary reference to John Meriam's "house Lott" is dated October 26, 1666. The first specific reference to John Meriam's house is dated June 6, 1685. A survey of the highways in 1716 places the house, then described as Ebenezer's, on the north side of Lexington Road near Meriam's Corner. The 1747 deed conveying one-half acre of land, with a dwelling and barn, to Josiah Meriam describes the property as being at the corner of Old Bedford and Lexington Roads. A later description, dated 1894 and written after the house had been removed, noted that the house had been on Lexington Road, "about the same distance from the junction of the roads as is the existing [Meriam] house."

The property definitely had a barn by April 19, 1775, based on a description of the highways the previous month that mentioned Bedford Road, "from m. Josiah Meriams Barn to Bedford Line."

Selected tax documents for the years 1749 through 1798 track the property as follows:

1749	Josiah Meriam, 1 Dwelling House (barns not recorded)
1770	Josiah Meriam, 1 Dwelling House, No Shop (barns not recorded)
1784	Josiah Meriam, 1 Dwelling House, Value $40 (barns recorded, but none noted for Josiah)
1793	Josiah Meriam, 1 Dwelling House, Value $60 1 Barn, Value $20

The big drop previously noted in the property's value between 1805 and 1826 suggests that it was then that the early house and barn were removed.[5] No obvious site features of the missing structures, such as foundation remnants or cellar hole depressions, exist today.

Meriam and Burke Barns

Meriam Barn: Circa 1705-1898

Joseph Meriam may have constructed a barn at the same time as his house, circa 1705. The Meriam barn is believed to have been located behind (north of) the house. The old barn (not necessarily the original) was demolished by the Burke family, who built a new barn across the street, around 1898-1899.

A barn is said to have been standing April 19, 1775, according to a second-hand account of Major Brooks, which was published in 1858. The description of the distances between the barn and the British soldiers approximately places the barn behind the Meriam House.

The earliest reference to the barn is the tax valuation for 1784, which assessed Amos Meriam as having one Barn valued at $35 (or slightly more than half the value of the $60 dwelling house). Ephraim Meriam was later assessed $20 for the barn in 1793; the value of the house, however, remained unchanged. The last separate assessment is dated 1801, in which the barn was valued at $150, and the dwelling house at $450. Tax assessments for the years 1826 through 1898 combine the values of the barn, house and shed(s).

The probate documents of Ephraim Meriam, who died in 1803, includes an accounting in 1805 by Ephraim's widow, Mary, for reshingling the barn. Setting off of the widow's one-third in 1806 also included a description of the barn (noting a westerly side and an easterly side), which then had a fenced barn yard.

Only one photograph is known of the barn. This view, taken sometime after 1885 and before 1899, shows the barn as being located behind the Meriam House (fig. 5). The tax assessment for 1899 suggests that the old barn had been replaced by a new barn by that year.

Corn is now grown in the field behind the Meriam House, which is the probable site of the Meriam Barn. No foundation walls or other remnants of the barn have been identified.

First Burke Barn: Circa 1899-1940

Thomas Burke appears to have demolished the old barn behind the house and replaced it with a new barn sometime between 1898 and 1899. The disappearance of the old barn is documented by exterior photographs of the house, and the tax records suggest the existence of a new barn. The barn and house were both valued at $1,000 in 1898, while the barn alone was valued at $400 in 1899.

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[5] The 1805 inventory of a later John Meriam, who died October 14, 1804, refers to the “house barn & land lately purchased of Josiah Meriam, $400” [Middlesex County Probate document #15076]. A later deed dated 1826 conveys the property from Tarrant to Ephraim Meriam for only $175 [Middlesex County Deed, Book 267, p. 156].

The Burkes' barn was located across the road from the house (i.e., on the west side of Old Bedford Road), according to granddaughter Alice Burke Hargrove and neighbor Salvatore Muscato. This barn was replaced by a smaller barn on the same site sometime between 1940 and 1941. All that remains of the early barn are portions of the stone foundation. The foundation is on a 3.02-acre site known as Parcel 4185-2-3.

Second Burke Barn: 1941-?

Thomas J. Burke replaced his father's old barn with a smaller barn on the same site sometime between 1940-1941. Neighbor Salvatore Muscato remembers that this barn was similar in style to the existing garage next to the Burke House. The tax records indicate that the barn and garage were built between 1940 and 1941, and were both assessed at $200. This barn was demolished sometime after the Burke family stopped farming in Concord. Nothing of it remains today.

Shop: Circa 1705 to 1770-1784

Joseph Meriam, who is thought to have built the Meriam House circa 1705, may also have constructed a shop somewhere in the vicinity of Meriam's Corner. Joseph, who was a locksmith, conveyed the improvement of half of this shop and tools to his son Josiah in 1747, along with what are believed to be the original homestead dwelling and barn.[6] Josiah was also directed in the deed to offer the improvement of the shop and tools to his brother Nathan (who lived in the Meriam House) if he should ever decide to sell.

No official document transferring the shop from Josiah Meriam, who was also a locksmith, to Nathan Meriam has been found. Nevertheless, the tax assessment for the year 1770 records Nathan Meriam, not Josiah, as being the owner of a separate shop. The only other assessment that recorded "shops" was in 1784; however, neither Josiah Meriam, nor Nathan Meriam's heir Amos, were then listed as having such a structure.

No other documentation has been found on the shop. Its exact location remains unknown.

East Quarter School House: 1799 to Post-1855

The first East Quarter School House was built on the land of Ephraim Meriam in 1799. It was located on the north side of Lexington Road, just east of the Mill Brook. A plan of the building was included in a survey of the area made by Henry David Thoreau in 1855 (figs. 2 & 3). It was probably vacant by the time of the survey, having been made obsolete by a new East Quarter School House built nearby in 1853. It is not known exactly when the schoolhouse was finally removed or demolished.

[6] The shop was described separately from the one-half acre parcel (at the northeast corner of Lexington and Old Bedford Roads) with the dwelling house and barn thereon, suggesting that it may have been located elsewhere. [Ref.: Deed Book 49, p. 260]

The records of the Town of Concord contain the following information about the schoolhouse at Meriam's Corner. It was of frame construction, measured 20 feet by 24 feet, had a porch or porches, and contained 4,355 cubit feet of space. Additional information is provided by Thoreau's survey, which shows a small building close to the road with a front porch, and a detached shed on the east side.

The site of the former schoolhouse is now overgrown with trees. No above-grade foundation remnants, or any other building features, are evident.

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