FIRE ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE
AND KEEPER’S DWELLING

VOLUME II
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CHAPTER 7.

THE KEEPER’S DWELLING:
ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY
The Fire Island keeper’s dwelling sits to the south of the lighthouse, and faces south, toward the Atlantic Ocean. It consists of a two-story rectangular main block, five bays long by three bays deep, with one projecting, gable-roofed pavilion centered on each of the south and north elevations. The dwelling was built in a Tudor-Gothic Revival style; some of the distinguishing features remain, but others have been lost due to alterations.

One of the remaining Tudor features is the jerkin-head roof with deep eaves on the main block. However, the two chimneys located at the east and west ends of the roof ridge no longer display their original paneling, and a tall “chimney-pot” stack on the peak of the south pavilion has been lost entirely. The roof also features a skylight to the east of the west chimney. The roof is covered with red asphalt shingles in an interlocking pattern. The roof trim is wood, featuring a fascia with crown molding.

Another Tudor feature is the wall material—cut stone in a random ashlar pattern. The mortar joints are raised, and the mortar has been tinted. The same type of stone and mortar is used for the two pavilions. The south pavilion resembles an open porch, with a wide, pointed (i.e., Tudor) arch in each of its three sides. There is a molded label—another Tudor characteristic—over each of the three archways; a portion of the area between each arch and its label is recessed. The gable of the pavilion features a roundel formed by three large stones along its bottom edge, and 11 smaller stones set in an arch above that is topped by a curved, molded label.

The north pavilion has a corresponding roundel in its gable, composed of three courses of brick laid in a circular pattern. However, the north pavilion has always been enclosed. It now has a one-story vestibule centered on its north side, to protect a doorway in the north wall of the pavilion. This protective function was historically provided by a covered passageway that connected the dwelling with the tower. The passageway was removed ca. 1950, and the present vestibule was built during the modernization of the dwelling in 1961. It is constructed of modern materials: stud walls with metal lath and concrete stucco.

One doorway is centered on each of the south, east, and west walls of the main block. The south-wall doorway is the most elaborate. It consists of a wooden frame in the form of a Tudor arch, echoing the shape of the stone arches in the three sides of the south pavilion. The east and west doorways are simple rectangular openings with monolithic lintels and sills. All three doorways are accessed by brick and stone steps. The doorway on the north wall of the north pavilion (now covered by the stucco vestibule) has the same type of lintel and sill. The west wall of the pavilion displays a concrete patch marking the former location of another doorway. The vestibule on the north wall of the pavilion also has a doorway centered on its north wall.

Window openings have the same type of monolithic lintels and sills seen at the east and west doorways. The window lintels are flush, while the sills protrude a few inches. The fenestration pattern is symmetrical. On either side of the south pavilion, the main block features two windows on the first story, with two-over-two, double-hung sashes. Directly above each window, at the second-story level, is a smaller window whose height is restricted by its proximity to the eave. These windows are fitted with three-over-three, double-hung sashes. At the cellar level are window openings aligned with those above.
The north-wall fenestration is similar to that of the south wall, with three exceptions:

- the two first-story windows closest to the north pavilion have been shortened;
- the two first-story windows farthest from the north pavilion have cellar bulkheads below them; and
- there are no cellar windows.

The fenestration of the east and west walls is the same on both elevations. At the first-story level, on either side of the doorway, are two windows with double-hung, two-over-two sashes. The second story has three windows positioned over the three openings below. The side windows are fitted with two-over-two, double-hung sashes, while the window opening over the doorway has been partially infilled to accommodate a smaller window. The original lintels and sills are intact, however.

As mentioned, the south and north pavilions each have a roundel in their gable. The north pavilion has three additional windows: one each at the first- and second-story levels of the east wall, and one at the second-story level of the west wall, above the infilled doorway. As seen on the south and north walls, the second-story windows of the north pavilion are short, because of their proximity to the eave of the porch roof. At present, both east-wall windows are infilled. The west-wall window contains three-over-three, double-hung sashes. The vestibule on the north wall of the pavilion has a window on each of its east and west walls. These windows have six-over-six, double-hung sashes.

The interior of the dwelling has been divided into two apartments whose floor plans are mirror images of each other. Each apartment has six rooms. Common spaces include the south foyer, the vestibule, the north hall, and the laundry room. The dwelling has a full attic, and a cellar that is shared by both apartments. The first story of each apartment includes an entry hall, living room, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, and stair hall to the second story. The second story of each apartment contains three bedrooms and a bathroom.
COVERED PASSAGEWAY

Original Construction

The covered passageway connecting the keeper’s dwelling with the lighthouse tower was constructed in 1858-1859. It ran from the doorway in the north wall of the north pavilion of the dwelling to the tower’s entrance. This connector survived until ca. 1950. The exact date of its removal has not been determined.

Figures 213 and 214 are presumably original drawings that show the covered passageway. Figure 213 depicts part of the foundation of the passageway, while figure 214 includes a complete floor plan. In the latter, the passageway is seen to have masonry walls, and three windows on each of the east and west walls, symmetrically placed. Figure 6, another original drawing, shows the east wall of the passageway. It reveals the walls to be made of brick, framed into the brick tower. The three windows are seen to have monolithic lintels and sills similar to those used in the design of the dwelling. The windows’ double-hung sashes are depicted as being six-over-six.

It is known that the lighthouse tower’s original design was altered somewhat in the actual construction. Judging by the post-construction photographs, however, the covered passageway was constructed as depicted in the drawings.

Repairs and Alterations

Historic photographs provide the most extensive data on the evolution of the brick passageway, but these photographs offer only an insight into the exterior changes. Those figures including the covered passageway are described below.

The first photograph in the National Park Service’s possession showing the covered passageway dates to 1898 (fig. 19). The photograph was taken at a great distance from the dwelling, but the passageway can be seen. The details are not visible, although the three windows are noticeable, as well as the fact that the exterior is painted white, apparently to correspond to the bottom white stripe of the tower.

Figure 21 offers a better view of the covered passageway than figure 19. Undated, this photograph is conjectured to date from ca. 1900. Single-leaf shutters are extant; they are hinged on the north side, and so open to the north. The wall is white, while the window lintels and sills are darker in shade.

In two photographs (figs. 25 and 27), only the northeast corner of the passageway—where it abuts the tower—is visible. These photographs have not been specifically dated, but are placed relatively between 1902 and 1911. Figure 27 includes the north window, showing it with six-over-six sashes and retaining its shutter.
Chronologically, the next photograph to include the passageway dates to 1945. This photograph provides the first view of the west wall of the covered passageway. Three windows corresponding to those on the east wall are visible. The windows are finished similarly to those on the dwelling: dark sashes, and white lintels and sills. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles, and features a gutter along its lower edge.

Sometime between 1945 (the date of figure 35) and August 22, 1956 (the date of figure 39), the covered passageway was removed. Oral history dates the demolition to ca. 1950. This would correspond to the automation of “the light” in 1951.

The removal of the covered passageway caused several changes to be made to the area where it had stood. A concrete slab was poured at ground level, to make a walkway between the tower entrance and the north pavilion’s north doorway. The wall surface around the tower’s entrance was exposed, for the first time since its construction. This area lacked the protective coating applied in 1912, so an infill coating was introduced. This infill is separating from the adjacent, earlier coating, providing a clear outline of the location of the former passageway (fig. 215). Evidence of the passageway also remains on the north wall of the north pavilion of the dwelling. The evidence consists of a cement band on either side of the pavilion’s north doorway (fig. 216), now within the modern vestibule. This band represents the place where the walls of the passageway formerly abutted the north wall of the porch.
Figure 213. Dwelling, plan of cellar, n.d.
Figure 214. Dwelling: plan of first floor and covered passageway, n.d.
Figure 215. Tower exterior: evidence for former covered passageway.

Figure 216. Dwelling interior: evidence for former covered passageway.
Original Construction

In the late summer of 1858, as construction of the Fire Island Lighthouse approached completion, Engineer Morton began to direct his energies toward the building of the keeper’s dwelling. Only several references were located in the surviving historical documentation relating to the actual construction of the dwelling. Writing to the Lighthouse Board on August 14, 1858 (App. C-57), Engineer Morton expressed the following:

I believe it is your intention to have the Old Tower and Dwelling at Fire Island torn down on the 1st of November next.

I have therefore proposed to tear down the stone part of the Dwelling at once, in order to use the stone in building the foundation of the new Dwelling.

The old Tower will furnish the stone for the superstructure of the new dwelling, but it will of course not come in play this season -

The light keepers can live in the workmen’s shanty this winter, and I will have it made perfectly tight and comfortable for them - The Oil room shall be built next the tower of the brick, as there will be enough for that left: the oil room forms a part of the new Dwelling, but I can build it sufficiently to answer the purpose, with a temporary roof, during the winter -

The above arrangement seems the best I can make, and there is but one objection to it.

The present Keeper is disinclined to live in the frame part of his house till he moves into the shanty. In this he is wrong, as the frame is comfortable enough except in winter, and when that comes, he can move into a good tight shanty, nearly as convenient as his house.

Should you approve of my arrangements, I would request that the Keeper may have orders to move out of the stone part of his house at once.

On August 16, 1858 (App. C-58), the board responded to Engineer Morton’s request with an order to the keeper to vacate his house when required to do so by Morton. The board informed Morton that there would be one keeper and two assistants required for the light, and that quarters would be necessary for them all.

On August 23, 1858 (App. C-59), the Lighthouse Board secretary notified Morton to “make your arrangements for building the Fire Is. dwellings this Fall. I think there will be no trouble about them.”
In his September 30, 1858, construction completion report to the board (App. C-61), Engineer Morton described the dwelling as follows:

A substantial stone dwelling of one story and attic has also been built containing a large oil room, and separate quarters for 2 keepers and their families. This communicates with the tower, and with the exterior as well as with the main hall of the dwelling.

Although this report suggests that the dwelling was completed by September 30, 1858, it is known that the work had not begun by August 23 (App. C-59). Also, Morton refers to the dwelling as being one story high, when it was always two stories high. Therefore, it seems that Morton wrote the report in anticipation of the completion of the dwelling.

This report is important, nevertheless, because it indicates a change in plan regarding the stone from the former tower and dwelling. In mid-August, the stone was being considered for the construction of the new dwelling (App. C-57). The September report, however, says that the stone was reused for the terrace walls, instead. This is borne out by the physical evidence. It is not known where the stone for the dwelling was obtained. The inventory of 1880 (App. C-86) calls the wall material “New York cut granite.” In actuality, the stone looks more like the gneiss remaining at the site of the first tower.

Two undated drawings have survived that are conjectured to be ca. 1857 drawings of the exterior elevations of the then-proposed keeper’s dwelling: figure 217, which depicts the south wall, and figure 6, which includes the east wall. Comparison of these drawings with the earliest photographs located, which date to ca. 1886 (figs. 11-12), indicates that the dwelling was not built exactly like the drawings. Looking at the ca.-1857 south-elevation drawing (fig. 217) and the ca.-1886 south-wall photograph (fig. 11), it is immediately apparent that the dwelling was constructed very closely to the plan. The differences are found primarily in the details. These differences include the following:

- the gabled south pavilion is drawn with a broader span than that which was actually constructed.
- the stonework surrounding the pavilion’s roundel is shown with less-elaborate detailing than was eventually used (labels were incorporated into the design).
- the sashes of the roundel in the gable of the south pavilion were rendered with grid-like muntins, but were actually built with spoke-like muntins. An 1882 reference mentioned that the circular windows of the station required new sashes. The spoke-like muntins are seen in figure 9, dated 1874. They are also seen in figure 11, dated ca. 1886. This means that if new sashes were introduced in 1882, they duplicated the pattern of the original sashes.
- the stone plinth surrounding the structure in the drawing was not constructed.
- the main-roof chimneys were drawn more elaborately than constructed. They were built with three arched niches, repeating the arch motif employed in the tower. The small chimneys atop the pavilions differ in detail, as well.
Further differences between the proposed plan and the actual way in which the dwelling was constructed may be seen by comparing figure 6 (the ca.-1857 east-elevation drawing) with figure 12 (the second ca.-1886 photograph). These differences are as follows:

- The side elevation of the chimney seen in the drawing features two recessed rectangular niches. The actual construction of both chimneys included one recessed arch per side, repeating the pattern on the front of the chimneys.

- The east-side door drawn in figure 6 is a four-paneled door, while the west-side door photographed in figure 12 appears to be a board-and-batten door with strap hinges. The latter is probably only a storm door, however.

Additional data regarding the original appearance of the keeper’s dwelling is provided in the following sections of this report. A more exhaustive investigation of the surviving physical evidence would undoubtedly bring yet more information to light.

**Repairs and Alterations**

1860’s - 1870’s

This period saw mostly only repairs made to the keeper’s dwelling—repainting, painting, etc.

1880’s

The major alteration made during this decade was the removal of the original slate roof, and its replacement with wooden shingles in 1887. (See Chapter 8, “Roof”.)

1890’s

Thirteen board shutters for the windows were installed in 1899. (See Chapter 8, “Windows.”) This was the primary change effected during this decade.

1900’s - 1910’s

Again, work performed during this period was primarily in the realm of repairs. A new wood-shingle roof was introduced in 1911. (See Chapter 8, “Roof”.)

1920’s

The first known close-up photographs of the dwelling were taken during this decade (figs. 218-219). In 1929, a hot-water heating system was installed (fig. 220).
1930’s

This decade saw a number of major improvements made to the keeper’s dwelling. In 1931, a “hydro-pneumatic water supply system” was introduced, as well as three bathrooms and a septic sewage system (figs. 221-224). The need for light in the bathrooms caused the skylight to be installed in the roof. Specifications were written in 1937 for the electrification of the dwelling (fig. 225), but electricity was not yet available at the site. In 1938, the roof was reshingled with red asphalt shingles. The small chimneys on the gabled pavilions were removed at this time, and the large chimneys on the ridge of the main roof were torn down and rebuilt. The next year, an electric cable was laid beneath the Great South Bay, and the dwelling was electrified.

1940’s - 1960’s

The dwelling was divided into two separate apartments in 1961, and extensively modernized (fig. 226).
Figure 217. Dwelling: south elevation, n.d.
Figure 218. Dwelling: Keeper Karlin’s family at the north pavilion’s west doorway, n.d.
The Fire Island Lighthouse, the only rival the Beacon has on the entire beach for shedding light where light is needed, achieved an added distinction Aug. 23. A baby boy was born in the living quarters there. The new-comer’s father is Isaac Karlin, head-keeper of the lighthouse. Mrs. Karlin and the infant are both doing remarkably well. There has never been a birth in the lighthouse before since it was erected in 1857. Dr. Spies of Saltaire was the attending physician.

Mr. Karlin has been stationed in the Fire Island light for a year, and had previously been in the navy, and his very popular among his associates. There is a perplexing question over the name to be bestowed upon the youngster. It seems appropriate, and the parents agree, that he should have some distinctive name because of his unique birthplace. It may be that “Beacon” may be selected for his middle name. “Fire Island” is out of the question, the mother drawing the line at that name.

There has been an unusually large number of visitors to the lighthouse during the last week, and all insist on seeing the lighthouse baby. The news of his advent was brought to the Beacon by Mrs. Eunice K. Campbell, of Ocean Beach, who is the wife of a trained newspaper man and knows a good story when she sees one.

The lighthouse baby has demanded and received a great deal of attention during the last week, but the Beacon is glad to state that his arrival has not interfered in the slightest degree with the proper display of the light night by night.

Figure 219. Dwelling: Keeper Karlin’s family at the west entry, n.d.
Figure 220. Dwelling: plans and elevation for new heating system, March 22, 1929.
Figure 221. Dwelling: plans and elevation for new bathrooms, water and sewer systems (sheet 1 of 3), April 3, 1931.
Figure 222. Dwelling: plan and sections for new bathrooms, water and sewer systems (sheet 2 of 3), April 3, 1931.
Figure 223. Dwelling: plans and elevations for new bathrooms, water and sewer systems (sheet 3 of 3), April 3, 1931.
Figure 224. Dwelling: plans and details for sewage disposal system, May 18, 1931.
Figure 225. Dwelling: plans for electric light installation, September 9, 1937.
Figure 226. Dwelling: plans and details for modernization, February 21, 1961.
## Chronological List of Repairs and Alterations
### To the Keeper’s Dwelling, 1862-1939
(Compiled from Historical Documents)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1860’s</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1862</td>
<td>estimate submitted for installing a closet in Oil Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>estimate submitted for painting exterior woodwork of dwelling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1865</td>
<td>stonework repointed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>exterior woodwork repainted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1866</td>
<td>damage to roof slates and ridge lead repaired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1867</td>
<td>roof repaired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>new cellar doors and steps provided</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1870’s</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1870</td>
<td>noted that slight repairs required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1871</td>
<td>stonework repointed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1873</td>
<td>noted that storeroom should be installed, and that closet in Oil Room should be enlarged by being extended up to ceiling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1874</td>
<td>roof repaired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>closet made in Oil Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>locks repaired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>three coats of paint applied to buildings throughout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>noted that walls of assistant keeper’s dwelling required repairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>stonework pointed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1875</td>
<td>new chimney cap set up, and stovepipes adjusted and overhauled (dwelling?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1876</td>
<td>roof slating repaired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>plaster of some rooms repaired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1877</td>
<td>pointing around windows, walls &amp;c repaired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>chimneys pointed</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1880’s</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1880</td>
<td>noted that dwelling leaked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1881</td>
<td>noted that dwelling needed repairs, one of the walls of the assistant’s room having been “thrown down” during a recent storm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1882</td>
<td>materials for entry’s flooring furnished</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>noted that circular windows of station required new sashes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1884</td>
<td>general repairs of lock &amp;c of doors attended to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1885</td>
<td>noted that painting required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>noted that repairs to window casing required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>noted that plastering inside and pointing outside required, and that leaks on southeast side needed to be stopped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>doors, windows, locks &amp;c repaired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1886</td>
<td>roof, window frames, gutter, and plastering repaired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 1887 | slates of roof removed, and wooden shingles substituted  
plastering of several rooms repaired  
walls pointed  
four rooms painted; whitewashing performed by keepers  
noted that repairs to window frames on east side required [window casings in second assistant’s kitchen]  
noted that two storm doors required  
noted that lower beams on east side decayed  
noted that locks required repairs |
| 1888 | floor timbers of Oil Room repaired; carrying timbers properly shored placed next to partition  
outside Oil-Room doorway frame made, trimmings set, new sill installed, and double door fitted  
locks, knobs &c overhauled  
two storm doors rehung, with one being newly made  
foundation joints repointed  
two window frames and one exterior sill made and fitted  
two window frames repaired  
96 feet of quarter-round molding fitted, laid in white lead around dwelling and tower  
10 feet of molding removed and renailed  
outside cellar door repaired and rehung  
200 feet of weatherstrips fitted  
area around windows pointed  
each side of windows flashed |
| **1890’s** | 
1890 | kitchen pumps fitted with new parts, overhauled, and repaired |
1891 | six new rim locks supplied for doors |
1894 | first assistant keeper’s quarters partly replastered and repaired  
walls and ceilings patched |
1895 | walls and ceilings repaired and patched |
1896 | leaks in east side of dwelling stopped |
1898 | chimney rebuilt  
four window frames repaired |
1899 | 13 board shutters for windows furnished, fitted, and painted  
two sides and end of dwelling pointed  
old smokejack reset, and new joint fitted |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1900’s</td>
<td>1901</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1902</td>
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<td>1907</td>
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<tr>
<td>1910’s</td>
<td>1911</td>
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<td>1920’s</td>
<td>1929</td>
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<tr>
<td>1930’s</td>
<td>1931</td>
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<td>1937</td>
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<td>1938</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1939</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER 8.

THE KEEPER’S DWELLING:
CURRENT APPEARANCE AND CONDITION
WALLS

Description

General Information

The wall material is gneiss, some of which may have been reused material from the first lighthouse. It is a bluish-gray-black stone, mottled with white; some pinkish stone was employed as well in the arches. The stone is laid on its bed in a random ashlar pattern.

Four types of mortar are apparent. Testing of mortar samples may indicate more types of mortar employed, but until that is accomplished, these four types will stand:

- Type I  light pink
- Type II  darker pink, with a brushed sand surface
- Type III  light tan
- Type IV  gray

The joints have been tooled. They are raised, and follow straight lines with some regularity, although the stones are irregular in shape. The vestibule is covered with modern stucco.

South Wall, East Apartment

Several mortar types are discernible: Type I, deep in the joints; Type II, at the lower half of the wall; Type III, at the upper half of the wall; and Type IV, used here and there around and above the windows. The mortar is missing and loose in many areas. Three cracks are apparent: at the first-story center window, lower left corner; at the window above that one; and at the first-story outer window, lower right corner. Iron stains are associated with the hardware embedded in the wall that formerly held the windows’ shutters open.

South Wall, West Apartment

The entire wall, except for the upper 2 feet, appears to have been repointed with Type-IV mortar. Four cracks are extant: at the first-story center window, right corner and upper left corner; at the window above, right corner; and at the first-story outer window, below center.

South Wall, South Pavilion

This wall is repointed with gray Type-IV mortar; Type-I mortar is apparent deep in the joints. Early mortar appears to be extant inside the south pavilion, on the north wall adjacent to the entrance doorway. There are slight cracks on the east and west sides of the archway. A large, significant crack begins under the roundel window and travels to the front archway. At the first stone west of the arch, the stone has been caulked. The mortar of the pavilion floor at the step is badly deteriorated. The date 1943 has been etched in the mortar at this location.
North Wall, East Apartment

Tan, Type-III mortar is employed throughout. No cracks are noticeable, although areas of rust (associated with iron spikes) and mold are prevalent. Green mold is especially plentiful above the bulkhead.

North Wall, West Apartment

Type-III mortar is employed throughout. Green mold covers the lower half of the wall, being heavily concentrated between the two first-story windows. There is a hole in the masonry, to the right of the first-story center window and above the level of the former sill of that window.

North Wall, North Pavilion

Type-III mortar is employed throughout. Numerous cracks in the mortar are apparent. There is a slight crack on the right side, and a substantial crack on the left side, continuing from the east elevation. Green mold is visible on the lower half of the right side of the wall, and in the left corner.

East Wall, East Apartment

Tan, Type-III mortar is the most prevalent mortar extant. At the ground level there is a concentration of mortar. Up in the gable, the mortar joints are less regular and less neatly executed than in lower areas. This wall features no significant cracks. Green mold stains plague the wall south of the center point. Rust stains associated with the shutter hardware are apparent. There is a patched hole to the left of the first-story south window, below the level of that window’s sill. Two pipes emerge from the wall at the north end of the wall. Four large iron screws are found adjacent to these pipes.

East Wall, South Pavilion

Mortar Types III and IV cover the wall. Paint stains are visible next to the lower edge of the right side of the label. Cracks in the mortar are apparent.

East Wall, North Pavilion

The lower third has Type-IV mortar; the upper portion requires further investigation. Green mold is widespread on the wall, being especially concentrated to the north of the windows.

West Wall, West Apartment

Type-IV mortar is visible everywhere, except on the upper 2½ feet. Several slight cracks are visible: at the first-story south window, lower right corner; and at the window above that one, below center. There is evidence of a patch, to the left of and 5 inches below the first-story north window.

West Elevation, South Pavilion

Only Type-IV mortar is seen here. A copper stain extends down from the downspout strap in the lower north corner.
West Wall, North Pavilion

Type-III mortar covers the wall, except for the lower quarter, to the left of the infilled doorway. Two cracks are evident: one at the left lower corner of the wall, the other at the second-story window, lower left corner.

Documentation

The exterior walls are documented by figures 227-236.

Historical Background

The exterior stone walls of the Fire Island keeper’s dwelling have remained virtually unaltered throughout the structure’s history. The mortar of the masonry joint appears to have been the major item to undergo change, being in constant need of maintenance. The problems with the mortar joints were undoubtedly exacerbated by the harsh sea environment.

Several periods of repointing became visually apparent during the architectural investigation of the dwelling, when mortar samples were extracted for analysis (see Appendix F). Because of time limitations, the exact nature of the various pointings was not established. Further investigation and comparative analysis will be required—when a period of restoration is selected—to learn the composition of the mortars and the characteristics of the joints.

The dwelling appears to have featured raised mortar joints ever since its construction. However, the repointing campaigns varied by degrees of refinement: at some points in the dwelling’s history, the joints were tooled with very straight edges, while at other times, the lines were more diffused. Each mortar-repointing period featured its own color and texture. The earlier mortars were pinker than the later ones. At least four periods of work could be discerned simply on the basis of visual analysis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1860’s</td>
<td>1865 a letter from the acting engineer to the board states the following: “The stonework on the N.E. side of the dwelling admits the rainwater and besides making the house uncomfortable destroys the plastering. Repointing on this side is required immediately…” (App. C-67). stonework repointed (App. C-66).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
No reference to the repairs or repointing of the exterior walls was found in the historical documentation dating from the 20th century. Photographs provide a record of the state of the exterior walls for this period, although most photographs that have been located are poor in detail. Figure 20, taken August 12, 1900, offers the clearest image of the south and east walls.
Figure 227. Dwelling exterior: south and east elevations (1982).

Figure 228. Dwelling exterior: detail of stone masonry (1983).
Figure 229. Dwelling exterior: south elevation (1982).

Figure 230. Dwelling exterior: south wall, masonry cracks (1983).
Figure 231. Dwelling exterior: south pavilion (1982).
Figure 232. Dwelling exterior: south pavilion, deteriorated steps (1982).
Figure 233. Dwelling exterior: south pavilion, ceiling crack (1983).
Figure 234. Dwelling exterior: north elevation, pavilion, and vestibule (1982).
Figure 235. Dwelling exterior: east wall with Type-III mortar joints (1982).

Figure 236. Dwelling exterior: west wall with Type-IV mortar joints (1982).
ROOFS

Description

Plan

The main roof is a gable roof with clipped ends, called a jerkin-head roof. The gable roofs of the south and north pavilions form cross-gables to the main roof. There are two chimneys on the main ridge of the jerkin-head roof. These chimneys sit near the east and west ends of the ridge. A skylight has been installed astride the ridge, to the east of the west chimney. Two vent pipes rise from the south slope of the roof, close to the chimneys.

Covering

Red, interlocking asphalt shingles cover the roof. All ridges feature overlapping shingles. The valleys are open and lined with copper. In several areas, green asphalt shingles are visible under the existing roof. These shingles may be part of an earlier roof covering. All of the shingles remain in situ. Further study is needed to determine the brittleness of the shingles, and the flashing requires additional investigation, as well.

Chimneys

As indicated, the two chimneys on the main roof sit on the ridge, approximately 1½ feet in from the hips of the clipped gables. The chimneys are constructed of red brick, with square ceramic flue liners orange-buff in color. Lead or lead-coated copper is the flashing material. Both chimneys are laid in stretcher bond, with a one-header drip course at the upper edge. The chimneys are 20 courses high. The east chimney contains three flues, whose liners extend up beyond the top of the chimney, giving the appearance of chimney pots. The west chimney has only one projecting flue liner remaining. These projecting liners are set in cement. The chimneys are protected by step-flashing.

The condition of the chimneys, including flashing and pointing, needs more investigation. The cement bed for the flue liner is partially missing from the west chimney, and the resultant cavity is full of debris.

Skylight

The skylight is located on the roof ridge, approximately 2 feet east of the west chimney. The skylight was constructed based on a drawing dated April 3, 1931, entitled “Fire Island Light Sta. Bathrooms Water and Sewer Systems,” sheet 1 of 3. Details of the design may be ascertained from this drawing (fig. 221), and from the specifications for the work (App. C-143). The wooden frame appears to have been inadequately maintained. The frame is deteriorated, and the lights require repairs. Further investigation is necessary.

Vent Pipes

The roof has three vent pipes. Two are functional and relate to the extant bathrooms. They are located on the south roof slope: one at the southeast corner of the east chimney, the other approximately five shingle courses below the west chimney. Both are of cast iron painted black.
The third vent pipe protrudes from the north slope of the skylight. It served the 1931 bathrooms, and is made of copper.

**Gutters and Downspouts**

Gutters exist in the following locations: at the north wall, on the east and west sides; on the east sides of the north pavilion and vestibule; and on the west wall of the north pavilion. Six downspouts remain: at the north wall, on the east and west corners of the east apartment, and on the west corner of the west apartment; at the north end of the east wall of the vestibule; and at the west wall, at the south corner of the north pavilion, and at the north corner of the vestibule.

The extant gutters and downspouts appear to be of galvanized metal. The gutter is a trough-shaped box gutter. It is secured to the upper edge of the fascia board, where the crown molding formerly existed. The downspout is a fluted rectangular box, 2 ¾ inches deep by 4 ¼ inches wide, with an elbow at its upper end. The downspouts are secured with straps that are tied into the mortar joints. The downspouts are cut off about 2 feet from the ground.

The metal gutters are beyond repair. They are so badly corroded in some areas that the bottom no longer exists. The downspouts require repairs.

**Trim – South Wall**

**East Apartment**

The soffit of the eave consists of four beaded boards, arranged side by side and running parallel to the wall. A board fascia is attached to the outer edge of the eave, hanging down below the level of the soffit. The fascia is composed of two boards nailed end to end. There formerly was a crown molding along the upper edge of the fascia, but this has disappeared. In its place is a strip of copper drip edge, which runs up under the roof shingles, and is bent down over the top of the fascia, to extend down about 4 inches. The soffit boards are painted green. The fascia boards formerly were painted white, but have weathered to bare wood.

**West Apartment**

The soffit and fascia in this area are similar in design, finish, and condition to those on the east apartment. The main exception is that the fascia here consists of three boards nailed up end to end—two long lengths on either side of a short piece. The fascia’s crown molding has been replaced by a copper drip edge here, too. A stovepipe is strapped to the fascia above the left-hand windows.

**South Pavilion**

The soffit of the gable end of the pavilion roof resembles that of the main roof, except that it is five beaded boards wide. One board on the left side, near the peak, is loose. On the right side, also near the peak, a section of soffit boards has been replaced by a piece of plywood. The fascia and crown molding are intact, but their white paint is deteriorated. A copper drip edge has been bent down over the crown molding.
Trim, North Wall

East Apartment
The soffit of this eave is similar to that on the south wall, except that it is five beaded boards wide. The fascia here is composed of four white-painted boards nailed end to end. The crown molding formerly along the upper edge of the fascia has been replaced with a metal gutter. The upper end of the downspout serving this gutter is attached to the fascia, as well.

West Apartment
The north-wall soffit and fascia on this apartment are identical to those on the east apartment, except that the gutter formerly here has been removed. (Only traces of the hangers remain.)

North Pavilion
The left side of this pavilion’s gabled peak has a soffit seven beaded boards wide, while the right side’s soffit consists of six slightly wider boards. On the right side, near the lower end, a section of the soffit boards has been replaced with a piece of metal. As with the south pavilion, all of the fascia and its crown molding remains in place. A copper drip edge extends up under the roof shingles, and is bent down over the crown molding.

Trim, East Wall

Main Roof
The eaves trim here consists of three sections – the central, horizontal eave of the clipped gable end, and the two raking sections that flank it. The soffit of the clipped gable is 10 beaded boards wide, while the raking soffits are 6 beaded boards wide. All boards run parallel to the wall. The fascia consists of three boards end to end—one for each section—that retain their crown moldings. The crown molding consists of six lengths, two per section. On each raking section, the upper piece descends to about 15 inches from the bottom end of the section, where a short piece is spliced in. A copper drip edge overhangs all sections of crown molding by about 1 ½ inches. The paint scheme is the same as that used elsewhere.

South Pavilion
The soffit and fascia here resemble those of the adjacent south wall of the east apartment–discussed previously–in design, materials, and detail.

North Pavilion
The soffit is four beaded boards wide. It is painted green, while its accompanying fascia is painted white. Approximately 8 inches of fascia is missing at the south end; a piece of metal has been tacked in place as a patch. The crown molding formerly along the upper edge of the fascia also has disappeared. In its place is a modern aluminum gutter that is very corroded.

Trim, West Wall

Main Roof
The eaves trim here exhibits the same three-section form seen on the east wall, but certain details of its construction vary. For example, the southern raking soffit is nine beaded boards wide, while the northern raking soffit is five beaded boards wide. All of the fascia and its crown molding is extant. The southern raking fascia is a single board, while the northern one consists of two pieces nailed end to end. The crown molding of both raking sections consists of two pieces: approximately 1 foot of the moldings’ bottom ends has been replaced.
with new material spliced on. The spliced-on piece of the northern raking section has not been painted.

South Pavilion
The south pavilion’s trim is similar in design, materials, and detail to that of the adjacent south wall of the west apartment.

North Pavilion
The soffit is five beaded boards wide. The fascia consists of two lengths nailed end to end; it lacks all of its crown molding. An aluminum gutter has been hung in place of the missing molding, but the gutter itself has rotted out.

Documentation
Figures 237-244
Paint sample FIIS 14 P219: north elevation, eave of west apartment (fig. 245)

Historical Background

The keeper’s dwelling at Fire Island has been protected by at least five different roof coverings, ranging from slates to wood shingles to red asphalt shingles. The narrative describing the evolution of the roofs is based primarily on the historic documentation. Physical investigation and analysis of the extant roof elements will be required to complete the study.

Original Slate Roof

The original roof covering was slate, as depicted in the ca.-1886 photographs (figs. 11-12). A letter to Engineer Morton from the Lighthouse Board, dated December 8, 1858 (App. C-63), references the slate roofing as follows:

The other items I am unable to form an opinion upon, but the item for slating at Fire Island appears to be additional.

The ridges of the slate roof featured overlapping ridge and hip tiles called ridge rolls. The type and size of slate originally employed is not known, although some fragments of slate were found discarded in the dunes behind the structures. These fragments may offer some clues, as they appear to have been a roof slate and are reddish-purple in hue. (The dimensions and exposure of the slate as laid can be determined from the photographs, and from the original roof sheathing, if it is still extant.)

The slate roof of 1858-1859 featured two rectangular chimneys at the ends of the main-roof ridge (in the locations of the extant chimneys), and two slender ceramic smokestacks on the gable roofs of the pavilions, at the outer end of each pavilion’s roof ridge. The chimneys were constructed with three arched niches on their south surfaces, and one arch on each of their side surfaces. Whether the north surfaces of the chimneys exhibited the same arch motif is not known. The chimneys displayed a drip course at their upper end. The two chimneys appeared to have been treated identically, with the exception of their lower ends, adjacent to the roof: the west chimney appears to have had a section in relief, whereas the east chimney did not.
The roof valleys formed by the intersections of the pavilion roofs with the main roof appear to have been open, although the only accessible evidence is the ca.-1886 photograph (fig. 12), in which the valleys are difficult to discern.

Neither gutters nor downspouts are visible in the ca.-1886 photographs. However, a reference to repairs dated June 1886 (App. C-85) noted the roof and gutter as having been repaired, which implies the existence of a gutter. The roof trim appears to have been of wood designed as it is today, with boarded eave soffits and a fascia board topped by a crown molding. Specific details are not evident in the photographs, however.

Apparently repairs to the slate roof became a constant maintenance item. The nature of the Fire Island environment seems to have been the problem, as reported in a letter to the Lighthouse Board, dated May 5, 1865 (App. C-67):

The roof of the Keeper’s dwelling has suffered by heavy gales during this spring. Quit[e] a number of slates, as also a part of the ridge lead were blown off. As the repairing of the roof admit of no delay, I have sent a roofer to repair the damages.

The following 10 years were plagued with repairs to the slate roof, as recorded in the annual and monthly reports:

- 1866 - damage to roof slates and ridge lead repaired (monthly report September, App. C-66).
- 1875 - new chimney cap set up, and stovepipes adjusted and overhauled (monthly report for October, App. C-67).
- 1877 - chimney pointed (monthly report for April, App. C-74).

1887 Wood-Shingle Roof

The annual report for 1887 (App. C-85) states that the slates of the roof were removed and shingles substituted. The maintenance problem with the slates presumably became too burdensome, and it was decided to convert to wooden shingles. The type of wood employed and the dimensions of the shingles are not known. The historic photographs and extant roof-sheathing boards may offer clues as to the dimensions of the shingles.

The wood-shingle roof and its details are seen clearly in figure 20, which dates to August 12, 1900. The shingled roof has closed valleys. The ridges of the main roof and two pavilion roofs have been finished with ridge boards, while the hips feature overlapping shingles—a design known as a Boston hip. Figure 21 also shows the roof, but much less clearly, and the details of the roof are not discernible.

The monthly report for June 1898 (App. C-94) notes that a chimney was rebuilt. A slight difference between the chimneys is discernible at their lower courses, adjacent to the roof. This difference is noticeable in the ca.-1886 photographs (figs. 11-12). The monthly report for October 1899 (App. C-94) describes the old “smokejack” as having been reset, and a new joint fitted.
The present roof trim seems to be more elaborate than that seen in the ca.-1886 photographs showing the slate roof. However, the ca.-1886 photographs are not particularly clear, so the trim may be the same as that extant today. (Physical evidence could possibly resolve this question.) The 1900 photograph shows the crown molding as being a compound molding. The west fascia board of the south pavilion exhibits two unidentifiable objects attached to its lower end.

Neither gutters nor downspouts are visible in the turn-of-the-century photographs; undoubtedly they were present, because the 1902 annual report (App. C-105) noted that the gutters needed patching.

1911 Wood-Shingle Roof

A proposal for work at the Fire Island Light Station was prepared on May 29, 1911 (App. C-120); included in the work was an item for reshingling the roof of the keeper’s dwelling. At that time, the Bureau of Lighthouses suggested that asbestos shingles be used, but the suggestion was not followed. Ordered for the project were 175 bundles of wood shingles, 71 pounds of sheet copper, 80 feet of 4-inch copper leader, and 12 elbows.

Figures 29 and 30 show the keeper’s quarters during the 1920’s, almost 10 years after the new roof was installed. The ridges of the roof are seen to have been finished differently than those of the previous, 1887 roof: they appear to feature overlapping shingles (Boston hips), rather than ridge boards. (This treatment had been adopted for the roof’s hips as early as 1887.) Snow guards also were installed. Downspouts are visible where the pavilions abut the main structure. The valleys continue to be closed.

It was this roof that saw the introduction of a new feature—the skylight. Specifications were prepared in April 1931 (App. C-143) that included the alteration of the dwelling to accommodate modern bathrooms. The skylight was incorporated into the design to provide natural light to the bathrooms. Detailed working drawings of the skylight are included as figures 221 and 223 in this report. The portion of the specifications that describes the construction of the skylight reads as follows:

SKYLIGHT: A portion of the roof will be removed to make opening for skylight; the sides of opening will be provided with trimmers to support the rafters where sections of same are removed and to make foundation for skylight.

The skylight sashes, frames and trim will be of white pine, the walls will be bored in with spruce covering boards and shingled with 18" extra cedar shingles on medium weight felt. The roof where opening is made for skylight will be reshingled as necessary and at junction of roof with skylight will be flashed with 6" by 8" #28 gauge sheet copper.

There will be three hinged sashes and one copper covered fixed blank on which will be installed a copper ventilator as shown on Drawing #7529, sheet 1.
LIGHT SHAFTS AND VENTILATOR: (a) Light shafts for each bath room will extend from attic floor to the skylight as shown on Drawing #7529, sheet 1. There will be a ladder for access through trap door to skylight. There will be a hatchway in hall ceiling for access to attic. (b) Ventilator: There will be a 16" copper ventilator similar to the standard type (Star) ventilator shown in catalog of the Merchant and Evans Company, 227 Water Street, New York City, page 171. Ventilator base will be 20 oz. copper 16" diameter to fit pitch of roof, and it will be attached to the wooden cover of skylight and will be as shown on Drawing 7529, sheet 1.

1938 Asphalt-Shingle Roof

On January 13, 1938, a “Recommendation As To Aids To Navigation” was submitted (App. C-148). The proposed actions included renewing the roof covering. The form stated:

The existing wood shingle roof is decayed and shingles are blowing off the roof. It is proposed to renew the roof covering with red asphalt shingles.

Appendix C-148 includes both the cost estimate and the specifications for the work. The specifications read as follows:

Remove existing wood shingles and flashing from the roofs of the three-family Keepers’ dwelling and hallway to tower, reshingle with slate covered asphalt shingles, demolish four and rebuild two chimneys....

The chimney work included taking down the two pavilion smokestacks to below the roof level, and boarding tightly the holes left in the roofs. The main roof’s chimneys were to be taken down to the attic floor, and rebuilt to the existing dimensions. The new chimneys were to have only two flues each, rather than the four of the earlier chimneys. The bricks from the old chimneys were to be reused. The mortar was to be a mixture of one part cement, two parts clean sharp sand, and five pounds hydrated lime power to “1 bag mix.” Figures 36 and 37, dating to 1945, feature the roof with its new chimneys—the same chimneys that are extant today.

The prescribed method for laying and spacing the shingles is included in the specifications. Red slate-surfaced asphalt shingles 12 by 16 inches were to be used, laid 5 inches to the weather. The details for flashing and constructing the ridge roll are found in the specifications. The ridge roll consisted of exposed 16-ounce copper plate, with ends stopped and soldered.

The gutters were to be 4- by 5-inch fir, secured to the ends of the rafters. The “outlet tubes” were specified to be of 8-pound lead, 4 inches diameter, to connect with leaders (downspouts). The leaders were to be 4 inches in diameter, of 16-ounce copper.

The specifications state that “the existing rake moulding may be reused if it matches the wood gutters furnished, otherwise a new rake moulding and cornice moulding is to be furnished by the contractor.” (Paint samples taken from the rake molding will help to determine which of the two actions occurred. Such samples have not been taken yet, because of the inaccessibility of the feature.)
Circa-1960’s Asphalt-Shingle Roof

The exact date that the next, most recent, roof was installed is not known, but the photographic documentation suggests that it was installed between 1956 and 1972. Presumably the roof covering was changed in 1961, when major repairs and alterations were being performed on the dwelling. Although of asphalt shingles like the 1938 roof, the most recent roof covering differed from its predecessor in several respects:

- the shape of the shingle: 1938 - rectangular  
  1960’s - interlocking
- the valley: 1938 - closed  
  1960’s - open
- ridge finish: 1938 - exposed copper roll  
  1960’s - overlapping asphalt shingles
- gutters and downspouts: 1938 - wood gutter; copper downspout  
  1960’s - aluminum gutters and downspouts
- features: 1938 - two chimneys; skylight  
  1960’s - two chimneys; skylight; two vent pipes
Figure 237. Dwelling exterior: aerial view of roof and terrace (1982).

Figure 238. Dwelling exterior: aerial view of roof, chimneys, and skylight (1982).
Figure 239. Dwelling exterior: south wall, with west chimney and skylight (1982).
Figure 240. Dwelling exterior: east junction of north wall and pavilion, with gutters, downspout, and fascia boards (1983).

Figure 241. Dwelling exterior: east side of vestibule, gutter, and downspout (1982).
Figure 242. Dwelling exterior: east end of south wall, evidence for former downspout (1983).
Figure 243. Dwelling exterior: south pavilion, soffit and fascia boards with crown molding and drip edge (1983).

Figure 244. Dwelling exterior: north pavilion, soffit and fascia boards with crown molding and drip edge (1983).
Figure 245. Dwelling exterior: paint sample #FIIS 14 P219, north wall, west end of eave (1983).
DOORWAYS

Description

South-Wall Doorway

Location The main entrance is located in the center of the south wall, inside the south pavilion.

Design The south entrance is designed in the form of a pointed, Tudor arch. A wooden enframement conforms to the configuration of the arch. The enframement includes sidelights, a fanlight over the door, and a wooden threshold. Currently, a modern wooden door and an aluminum storm door serve the entry. The entire wooden enframement sits upon a wooden sill that rests on the flagstones forming the pavilion floor.

Frame The outer part of the enframement, which follows the shape of the pointed arch, consists of a series of moldings that graduate inward to the plane of the doorway. Two vertical posts run from the sill to the soffit of the wooden arch. These posts provide the inside frame for the sidelights, and the outside frame for the doors. An applied baseboard originally stretched from each outside edge of the frame to the vertical element. The baseboard is deteriorated, and is missing entirely from the east side of the doorway surround.

Sidelights The three-quarter-length sidelights feature double-hung sashes. Each lower sash has two nearly square lights, one above the other. Each upper sash has two lights, also one above the other, whose outer and upper edges are curved, to conform to the rake of the arched enframement. Below each sidelight is a solid wooden panel topped by a sill for the sash above it.

Fanlight The fanlight occupies the area just below the apex of the pointed arch; it is bounded on either side by the two vertical posts. Five radiating muntins divide the fanlight into six lights.

Doorways The doorway frame features evidence for doors earlier than those extant today. The extant doors are modern. The interior door is of unpainted wood, without decoration; the storm door is aluminum, with its upper half being of glass. The hardware is modern.

Finishes All elements are painted white, except for the interior wooden door.

North-Wall Doorways

Location The north wall has three entrances: a doorway centered on the north side of the vestibule; a bulkhead located under the outer east windows; and a bulkhead positioned under the outer west windows. Both bulkheads lead to the cellar.

Vestibule This entrance dates to the 1961 modernization. The door was replaced in 1983.
Doorway
Both the door and its frame are of wood.

Bulkheads
The bulkheads are similar in design, so they will be discussed together. Each bulkhead consists of a modern metal frame with two doors, set on concrete. These units are painted with a zinc chromate paint, yellow-green in color. The ghost for an earlier bulkhead is visible in each location. These bulkheads were 43 ½ inches wide, and extended up to within 11 inches of the windows above them. Below the bulkheads are stairways leading down to the cellar.

East-Wall Doorway

Location
The east wall has only one entrance, located in the center of the wall at first-story level.

Design
Two steps lead up to this doorway. The doorway enframement rises from the top step, but the sill of the doorway sits about 10 inches above the top step. The masonry-wall area between the step and the sill has been plastered over with concrete. The doorway enframement consists of plain, modern boards. Above this remains the original stone lintel, set flush with the surface of the exterior wall. Two doors hang in this doorway. A metal screen door of cross-buck design is mounted flush with the outer surface of the stone wall, while a plain wooden door is hung flush with the inner surface of the stone wall. There is evidence for an earlier storm door here: an iron loop remains embedded in the stone wall, 23½ inches south of the doorway and 66½ inches above the ground.

Steps
Both steps appear to be early, being constructed of brick. The bottommost step features what appears to be a concrete replacement tread. The uppermost step appears to retain its original stone tread.

Frame
The jambs and outside trim of this doorway are of modern wooden construction. The trim extends from the top step to the flush stone lintel, measuring 94½ inches high by 5½ inches wide by 1⅛ inches deep. It is painted white.

Doors
The doors are modern. The exterior door is an aluminum screen door. The interior door is wood, without decoration. The hardware is modern.

West-Wall Doorway, West Apartment

Location
This wall has one entrance, located in the center of the wall, at first-story level. It corresponds to the doorway on the east wall of the east apartment.

Design
The west entry is similar to the east entry, but it features fewer “improvements.” Two steps lead up to it, but there is no exterior applied board trim, so the masonry-wall area between the top step and the sill of the doorway is not covered with concrete. It is, however, painted gray to match the steps. Only an interior door hangs here; there is evidence of a former modern screen door, as well as an iron loop thought to date back to an earlier storm door. This loop is imbedded in the masonry wall, 27 inches north of the doorway and 68 inches above the ground.
**Steps**
The bottom step is a modern replacement. The top step is early, constructed of brick with a stone tread. This step is 18 inches high by 43 inches long. The steps have been painted gray.

**Door**
A modern wooden door with a single fixed light is extant. The hardware is modern.

**West-Wall Doorway, North Pavilion**

**Location**
An original infilled doorway is centered on the west wall of the north pavilion. This doorway served the Oil Room that was partially located within the north pavilion at the time of the lighthouse’s construction.

**Design**
The infill has obscured most of this doorway’s detail. Its two steps remain, as well as its stone sill, which measures 62 inches long.

**Steps**
The bottom step is a modern replacement of concrete, while the top step is brick and stone. The second step is early, and is separating from the structure.

**Documentation**

Figures 246-255

Paint samples
FIIS 14 P225: west bulkhead doorway trim (fig. 256)
FIIS 14 P226: west bulkhead door (fig. 257)

**Historical Background**

The entrances as they survive today largely date to the 1961 modernization. No historic doors remain in situ. Originally, the Fire Island keeper’s dwelling had five entrances, according to the construction drawings. Figure 214, a floor plan conjectured to be original, exhibits a doorway centered on the south wall; a doorway centered on each of the east and west wall of the main block; and two doorways in the north pavilion (Oil Room)—one in the west wall, the other in the north wall, leading to the covered passageway. Also drawn are two cellar bulkheads, positioned under the outermost windows of the north wall.

Another drawing, figure 6, provides further data on the probable type of door employed. Depicted on the east elevation is a four-paneled door. The lower panels are shorter than the upper panels. A lintel is drawn over the door, but no applied trim or storm door is illustrated. No other information—on either the original concept and actual construction of the doorways, or the specific door design—was located.
1860’s

The monthly report for August 1867 (App. C-66) describes new cellar doors and steps as being provided. Exactly what was used prior to that time is not known. The present steps appear to date to this period.

1870’s

Only one reference relating to the entrances was located in the annual and monthly reports for the 1870’s. The monthly report for June 1874 (App. C-74) notes that locks were repaired. Figure 9 offers a view of the south wall of the keeper’s dwelling dating to 1874, but it does not provide specific clues as to the south entry’s configuration.

1880’s

The historical documentation that has survived from the 1880’s offers more insight into the design of the doorways and the styles of their doors. Apparently locks continued to be a repair problem, as recorded in the annual report for 1884 (App. C-85): “general repairs of lock &c of doors attended to”; and in the monthly report for November 1885 (App. C-85): “doors, lock &c repaired.”

Figures 11 and 12, which date to ca. 1886, are the first photographs of the south and west entries. Figure 11 depicts the south wall. The design of the south entry appears to be very similar to that which exists today, including a six-light fanlight; three-quarter-length, double-hung sidelights; and a raised sill. The door is not visible, however.

Figure 12, which documents the west elevation, shows the west entry without a wooden frame. There is a vertical-board door here that appears to open inward on strap hinges attached directly to the stone jamb. Presumably this door is a storm door, since the original east and west inner doors are known to have been four-paneled. A stone lintel over the door is not clearly delineated in the photograph, although it presumably was present then. The same is true of the two steps up to the entry’s sill.

The annual report for June 1887 (App. C-85) states that two storm doors were required, as well as repairs to the locks. One of the most interesting references involving the doorways in the 1880’s was found in the monthly report for July 1888 (App. C-85). The report noted that an outside frame was made for the Oil Room doorway; that trimmings were set; and that a new sill was installed, and a double-leaf door fitted. The double door is surely the door shown in figure 218. The language in the monthly report implies that this represented a replacement door. It is not known what the earlier door looked like, or why it was replaced. The same monthly report described “locks, knobs &c” as being overhauled, and two storm doors as being rehung, with one newly made. The August 1888 monthly report (App. C-85) records that an outside cellar door was repaired and rehung, but no mention was made of which cellar door was so treated.

1890’s

The monthly report for January 1891 (App. C-94) notes that six new rim locks were supplied for the doors. The specific doors to receive these locks can only be surmised, since no list was included. Figure 19 is a photograph dating to 1898. Although the photograph is primarily an overall view of the Fire Island Light Station, and consequently was taken at a distance from the keeper’s dwelling, the east entry is visible. The storm door seen in this photograph swings out, to the south.
Presuming that the west entry’s storm door was treated similarly, this change probably was a result of the 1888 rehanging of the storm doors. The iron loops remaining today are thus likely to date to 1888.

1900’s

Figure 20—photographed on August 12, 1900—offers another view of the east-wall entry. The storm door is extant, and its details are clear. It consists of three interior battens nailed across narrow vertical boards. A hook is embedded above the center batten, and a thumb latch sits below it. The door swings outward to the south. A screen door is hung inside the storm door, almost flush with the exterior edge of the jamb.

Figure 21 depicts the same elevation with the storm door removed, perhaps for the season. Clearly visible is the inner four-paneled door, with the upper panels being substantially longer than the lower. The door panels are painted a dark color, presumably like the window lintels, and the door stiles and rails are lighter in color, similar to the window sashes. No exterior wood trim has yet been applied to the doorway.

Although undated, figures 26 and 27 are thought to have been photographed between 1902 and 1911. The photographs were taken from a similar vantage point. They both show the west entry and a portion of the south entry. Figure 27 is clearer, and so will be discussed here. The west entry exhibits the same type of board-and-batten storm door and four-panel inner door as seen at the east entry in previous figures. Visible through the west arch of the south pavilion is a similar four-paneled door.

The only reference to a repair during this decade dates to July 1907, being found in the monthly report (App. C-105). The report mentioned that new steps were fitted at a kitchen entrance. It is not clear from the citation as to which entry received the steps, or whether both did.

1910’s

In 1911, repair work was proposed for the dwelling and lighthouse (App. C-120). Included in this work were new doors for the cellar of the dwelling, and new doors for the outhouses. Six “complete” batten doors were ordered.

1920’s - 1930’s

Figure 30 is an undated photograph hypothesized to date to the 1920’s or early 1930’s. The south and west entries are as depicted in the ca.-1900 photographs, but the batten door is now painted a dark color.

Figures 218 and 219 were taken in the 1920’s, when Ike Karlin was the keeper of the light. Figure 218 shows Karlin with his family sitting on the steps in front of the Oil Room doorway. The details of the double doors here are visible: a mineral doorknob, an escutcheon, and four recessed panels per leaf. The paneled doors appear to be set in a paneled jamb. Figure 219 has Karlin sitting on the steps of the west entry with his children. The steps feature a stucco covering. No batten storm door is present, although the pintle for such a door is visible. The inner, four-paneled door exhibits light-colored panels on the bottom and dark-colored ones above, with light-colored stiles and rails.
1940’s

Two photographs remain from the 1940’s, figures 36 and 37. Both photographs are rather fuzzy, and do not provide detailed information on the type of doors extant then. Comparison of these photographs suggests that the west-entry jamb was painted white, while the east-entry jamb was not. The difference may only be a result of the lighting conditions when the photographs were taken.

1950’s

Figure 41 is a photograph of the east wall dating to August 22, 1956. It shows the east entry without a storm door; only the four-paneled inner door is extant. No exterior board trim has yet been applied.

1960’s

The most significant changes to the doorways occurred during the 1961 modernization program. It is thought that the following work was undertaken:

- the double doors in the west wall of the north pavilion were removed, and the doorway opening was infilled and covered with stucco.
- the south entry’s inner door was replaced, and a modern screen door was installed.
- the east and west entries received wooden frames. The jambs were lined with wood, and new interior and storm doors were installed, with new hardware.
- the vestibule was built on the north wall of the north pavilion, to provide protection for the pavilion’s north doorway after the removal of the covered passageway here.

The east and west entries apparently underwent still later alterations, judging by their appearance today. The present east entry features applied board trim and a metal storm door of cross-buck design, hung flush with the outer surface of the wall. However, the 1961 modernization drawing (fig. 226) indicates that the storm doors installed then were to be hung within the entries’ doorways. Also, the east entry’s board trim is not seen in photographs from the early 1970’s. Therefore, the present appearance of the east entry postdates even the 1961 modernization. The west entry does not have similar applied trim, which allows the 1961 wooden jambs to be seen. It is possible that such trim was applied here, but subsequently removed. There is no storm door here now, either, but there is evidence of at least one, and possibly two, hung flush with the outer surface of the wall.
Figure 246. Dwelling exterior: south entry (1982).

Figure 247. Dwelling exterior: north pavilion, former west doorway (1983).
Figure 248. Dwelling exterior: north pavilion, steps for former west doorway (1983).

Figure 249. Dwelling exterior: north wall of east apartment, bulkhead and evidence for earlier bulkhead (1982).
Figure 250. Dwelling exterior: east entry (1982).

Figure 251. Dwelling exterior: west entry (1982).
Figure 252. Dwelling exterior: steps for west entry (1983).
Figure 253. Dwelling interior: cellar door to west bulkhead (1983).

Figure 254. Dwelling interior: thumb latch on bulkhead side of cellar door to west bulkhead (1983).
Figure 255. Dwelling interior: steps within west bulkhead (1983).
Figure 256. Dwelling exterior: paint sample #FIIS 14 P225, bulkhead doorway (1983).
Figure 257. Dwelling exterior: paint sample #FIIS 14 P226, bulkhead door (1983).
Description

South Wall, Cellar Windows

Window Wells
The cellar windows on the south wall sit within brick window wells. The well design for all four cellar window is similar, although the dimensions vary. The brick wells are laid in American common bond, 10 courses deep. The top edge is flush with the terrace’s flagging stones. A raised concrete edging has been added around the perimeter of each window well. The edging is 7 to 8 inches high where it abuts the dwelling wall, but its sides slope away from the wall to a height of 3½ to 4 inches. Each edging is topped by a piece of plywood covering the window well. The edging is painted white, while the plywood is painted slate-gray.

East Window
The window well is 28 3/8 inches wide by 43 3/8 inches long. The window has a stone lintel 10 1/8 inches wide by 48 inches long. The lintel is flush with the wall. The single window sash features nine lights measuring 10 1/8 inches high by 8 inches wide. The lights are in good condition, although the glazing compound is deteriorated. The window trim is weathered but intact.

East Center Window
The window well is 28 3/4 inches wide by 43 1/8 inches long. The flush stone lintel is 10 inches wide by 46 3/4 inches long. The sash is no longer extant, having been replaced by a vent fan set in plywood.

West Center Window
The window well is 29 inches wide by 43 inches long. The flush stone lintel is 10 inches wide by 46 1/2 inches long. The sash features only six lights, but it is still too large for this window, and so may have been moved here from another location. The early window trim remains, but is weathered.

West Window
The window well is 28 1/4 inches wide by 43 inches long. The flush stone lintel is 9 1/2 inches wide by 52 1/2 inches long. The sash originally featured nine lights, but the two lower west lights are missing. The window trim is intact but deteriorated.

South Wall, First-Story Windows

East Window
The stone sill is 3 3/4 inches wide by 34 inches long by 2 inches deep. A notch is cut in the bottom edge of the sill. The stone lintel is flush with the wall. The sashes are two-over-two and double-hung. The trim features a beaded board and quarter-round molding. A two-part screen covers the window. All of its hardware is extant: two top hooks and four side latches. An iron shutter loop is intact 15 inches west of the window. The screen is painted green; the window itself is painted greenish-gold.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East Window</td>
<td>The stone sill is 3 ¾ inches wide by 34 inches long by 2 inches deep. The flush stone lintel is 8 inches wide. The sashes are two-over-two and double-hung. The lower west light is broken and covered with plywood. A two-light storm window is extant. An iron shutter loop is set in a mortar joint 15 inches west of the window. The storm window is painted white, with the sashes being a greenish-gold color. The window trim is beaded with a quarter-round molding surrounding the entire window. The top hooks for a screen are extant, as is the upper east side latch.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Window</td>
<td>The stone sill is 34 inches long by 2 inches deep and painted white. The sashes are two-over-two, double-hung, and also painted white. A two-part screen remains in situ with its hardware intact. The screen is painted green. The beaded trim and quarter-round molding surround the opening, being painted white.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Window</td>
<td>The sashes formerly in this window opening were replaced with plywood, to allow a stovepipe to be vented to the outside. The stone sill and lintel survive, as do the beaded window trim and quarter-round molding.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**South Wall, Second-Story Windows**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East Window</td>
<td>Three-over-three, double-hung sashes are extant, covered by a two-light storm window. The top hooks and upper east side latch for a screen are intact. The double-hung and storm sashes are painted green.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Window</td>
<td>The sashes are three-over-three and double-hung. A two-light storm window is extant, as well as screen hardware. The trim features a beaded surround. The double-hung sashes are painted green, while the storm sash is painted white.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Window</td>
<td>The window features three-over-three, double-hung sashes, with a two-light storm window. The upper screen hardware is extant, but no side hardware remains. The window trim is finished with a bead. The double-hung sashes are painted green, and the storm sash is white.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Window</td>
<td>The sashes are three-over-three and double-hung. A two-part screen is intact; the upper hooks remain, but the side latches do not. The window trim features a bead at its interior edge. Both sashes and screen are painted green.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Pavilion</td>
<td>The gable of the south pavilion features a round window. The window opening is formed by specially laid stones. The lower half of the opening is rimmed by three large, rectangular stones laid flat, but with upper edges cut to conform to the circle. The upper half of the opening is rimmed with 11 smaller stones set in a semicircle and topped by a semicircular stone label. The window frame is wood. The label and the wooden trim are painted white. Both an exterior screen and interior sashes are extant. The two interior sashes are semicircular, each having three radial muntins and four wedge-shaped lights. The bottom sash is fixed; the top one is hinged along its horizontal edge, to open inward.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
North Wall, First-Story Windows

East Window
The stone sill is 3 ¾ inches wide by 34 inches long by 2 inches deep. The flush stone lintel is 8 ½ inches wide by 38 inches long. The sashes are two over-two and double-hung. A two-light storm sash is extant, as well as screen hardware. An iron shutter loop remains embedded in the dwelling wall 21 inches west of the window. The window trim features a bead at its inside edge. The jambs of the window opening are covered with mortar.

East Center Window
This window is shorter than the east window; it was made so in 1961, via the insertion of two large stones in its lower end. The concrete sill and two-light jalousie window sash date to that time. A two-light storm sash made to match is present, as well. A shutter loop is located 21 inches west of the window.

West Center Window
This window was shortened like the east center window. It has the same type of concrete sill and two-light jalousie sash, but features a two-part screen rather than a two-light storm sash. The screen is painted green.

West Window
The sashes are two-over-two, double-hung, and covered by a two-part screen. The screen is painted green. The window trim includes a bead at its inside edge and a quarter-round molding at the base, but not at the sides. All screen hardware is extant.

North Wall, Second-Story Windows

East Window
The sashes are three-over-three, double-hung, and painted green. A two-light storm window is intact, painted white. The trim features a bead. The lower west corner of the stone sill has been chipped off. Screen hardware is extant.

East Center Window
The sashes are three-over-three, double-hung, and painted green. A two-part screen and its hardware are extant, being painted green as well. The trim is of the typical design, exhibiting a bead.

West Center Window
The three-over-three, double-hung sashes are covered by a storm sash with two lights. Screen hardware exists, as does the beaded trim. The double-hung sashes are painted green, while the storm sash is white.

West Window
Three-over-three, double-hung sashes are extant, as is a two-part screen with all of its hardware. The beaded trim remains. The window sashes are painted green; the screen is painted white.

North Pavilion
A round window sits in the gable. The window opening is formed by three rows of header bricks set in a circle. The bricks are 3 ½ inches wide, and have been painted white. Both interior sashes and a storm sash exist in this window. The two interior sashes are semicircular, each having two radial muntins and three wedge-shaped lights. The bottom sash is fixed; the top one is hinged along its horizontal edge, to open inward. The storm sash is in one piece, exhibiting four lights. Both the interior and the storm sashes are painted white.
East Wall, First-Story Windows

**South Window**
The stone sill is 3 ¾ to 3 ½ inches wide by 34 inches long by 2 inches deep. The stone lintel is flush with the wall. The sashes are two-over-two, double-hung, and painted white. A two-light storm window is extant, also painted white. This storm window sits on a wooden sill painted gray. There are three holes in the bottom rail of the storm sash. An iron shutter loop is located 16 inches south of the window. Not all of the screen hardware is extant.

**North Window**
The stone sill is 3 ½ to 3 ¾ inches wide by 34 inches long by 2 inches deep. The stone lintel is flush with the wall, and both sill and lintel are painted white. The window sashes are two-over-two and double-hung. A two-light storm window covers the double-hung sashes. The beaded window trim is no longer intact, although the quarter-round molding around the window remains. The trim and sashes are painted white.

**North Pavilion**
This window was closed up with concrete stucco during the 1961 modernization. At that time, a vent was installed in the upper third of the opening. Conduits leading from the lighthouse pass through the upper edge of the former opening. Evidence of an iron shutter loop remains.

East Wall, Second-Story Windows

**South Window**
The stone lintel, which is flush with the wall, looks as if it has been patched with a dark gray material. The stone sill has had its north corner chipped off. The sashes are two-over-two, double-hung, and painted green. A two-part screen with some of its hardware is extant and painted gray. The trim is painted white. It appears that the beaded trim is missing, although the quarter-round outer molding is intact.

**Center Window**
The window was altered substantially in the 1961 modernization. It was remodeled to serve as a bathroom window, requiring that it be shortened. The bottom two-thirds of the window was infilled with concrete, which was topped by a brick sill 10 bricks long. The jambs of the opening were coated with concrete, as well, and a one-light sash was installed. This is now closed up with plywood. The original flush lintel and protruding sill are extant and painted white. A shutter loop is located to the south of the window.

**North Window**
The south corner of the stone sill has been chipped off. The flush stone lintel is intact. Both sill and lintel are painted white. The two-over-two, double-hung sashes are present and painted green; the lower south light is broken. The sashes are covered by a screen painted gray. Some of the screen’s hardware remains. A shutter loop is intact to the south of the window. The quarter-round molding is extant, although the beaded window trim may have been removed.

**North Pavilion**
The wooden frame and stone sill remain, but the sashes have been replaced with plywood. All elements, including the sill, are painted white.
West Wall, First-Story Windows

*South Window*
The sashes are two-over-two, double-hung, and painted green. A two-light storm window is extant and painted white. A beaded trim 2 inches wide surrounds the window. A quarter-round molding is found at the sill level. The jambs of all of the windows on this wall have been covered over with mortar. Hardware for a screen is partially extant.

*North Window*
This window features two-over-two, double-hung sashes and a two-light storm window of typical design. The interior sashes are painted green, while the storm sash is painted white. There are four holes in the bottom rail of the storm sash. A complete set of screen hardware remains. A beaded trim surrounds the window, although there is no quarter-round molding.

West Wall, Second-Story Windows

*South Window*
Double-hung, two-over-two sashes painted green are present. The sashes are covered by a two-part screen painted green, as well. Not all of the screen hardware is extant. A beaded trim surrounds the window.

*Center Window*
The window was altered substantially in the 1961 modernization. It was remodeled to serve as a bathroom window, requiring that it be shortened. The bottom two-thirds of the window received an infill of concrete, which was topped by a brick sill 10 bricks long. The jambs of the opening were coated with concrete, as well, and a one-light sash was installed. The original flush lintel and protruding sill are extant and painted white.

*North Window*
The sashes are two-over-two and double-hung. A two-part screen is intact, along with some of its hardware. Both sashes and screen are painted green. A beaded trim surrounds the window, similar to that on the south window.

*North Pavilion*
Three-over-three, double-hung sashes and a two-light storm sash exist here. The interior sashes are painted green, while the storm sash is painted white. Beaded trim surrounds the opening. Some screen hardware remains in place.

**Documentation**

*Figures* 258-267

*Paint samples*
FIIS 14 P223: north wall, first story, sash of westernmost window (fig. 268)
FIIS 14 P221: north wall, second story, stone lintel of westernmost window (fig. 269)
**Historical Background**

The fenestration pattern for the Fire Island keeper’s dwelling has undergone remarkably little change in the structure’s 125 years. The number of window openings remained consistent throughout most of the dwelling’s history, with the first major alterations occurring as late as 1961, when several window openings were made smaller or infilled entirely.

**1858**

The drawings included as figures 6, 213, and 217–although undated–are hypothesized to be original. Figure 213, a cellar plan, shows window wells on the south wall which were in fact constructed. However, it also shows two more on each side wall, and one other on the north wall, to the west of the east bulkhead. The five window wells on the east, west, and north walls appear to have never been constructed.

Figure 217 shows the south wall as having four windows on the first story, with six-over-six, double-hung sashes. The second story displays four shorter windows positioned directly over the first-story windows. These have three-over-three, double-hung sashes. The south pavilion features a round window in its gable; it is fitted with two semicircular sashes having a grid-like muntin pattern of eight lights each. The east wall of the main structure, as drawn in figure 6, has two windows on the first story with six-over-six, double-hung sashes, and three identical windows on the second story. The east wall of the north pavilion is also seen to have a window with six-over-six, double-hung sashes in its first story, but this window is larger than the other first-story windows. A window with three-over-three sashes is seen at the second-story level.

**1860’s-1870’s**

No data regarding the fenestration was uncovered relating to the 1860’s. The first reference after construction dates to 1874. It is the *Harper’s Weekly* print, included as figure 9. The fenestration pattern and the sashes on the south wall of the dwelling are as drawn in figure 217, with the exception of the roundel, whose two semicircular sashes feature a radial muntin pattern of four lights each.

**1880’s**

Repairs to the windows began to be noted in the annual monthly reports of the 1880’s, as follows:

- 1882 - the circular windows of the station required new sashes (annual report, App. C-85)
- 1885 - repairs to window casings required (annual report, App. C-85)
- 1886 - window frames repaired (monthly report for September, App. C-85)
- 1887 - window frames on east side of dwelling [the casings in second assistant’s kitchen] needed repairs (annual report, App. C-85)
- 1888 - two window frames and one exterior sill made and fitted
  - two window frames repaired
  - 96 feet of quarter-round molding fitted and laid in white lead around dwelling
  - 10 feet of molding removed and renailed
  - 200 feet of weatherstrips fitted
  - each side of windows flashed (monthly report for August, App. C-85)
Figures 11 and 12, ca. 1886, offer the earliest photographic views in National Park Service possession of the fenestration. Figure 11 depicts the south wall, and the windows appear as drawn in figure 217, except for the roundel window. Like figure 9, figure 11 shows it to have four-over-four sashes with radial muntins. The cellar-window details are not visible, although the openings are displayed. Figure 12 features the west wall, with its five windows—two downstairs and three upstairs—fitted with six-over-six, double-hung sashes.

1890’s

The 1890’s saw the introduction of a new feature to the windows: single-leaf, board shutters. Apparently only the east windows were fitted, however. The monthly report for November 1899 (App. C-94) recorded that 13 board shutters for windows were furnished, fitted, and painted. The shutters appear to have been fitted for the following windows:

- south wall: east side, first-story windows (2)
- north wall: east side, first-story windows (2)
- east wall: all windows of dwelling (5)
  - first-story window of north pavilion (1)
  - all windows of covered passageway (3)

One other reference to the fenestration of this period was located, as follows: the monthly report for June 1897 (App. C-94) noted that four window frames were repaired.

1900’s

Figure 20 dates to August 12, 1900, and shows the shutters in place. The dwelling’s shutters are hinged on the west side for the south-wall windows, and on the south side for the east-wall windows. This varies from the shutters on the covered passageway, which are hinged on their north sides. The shutters exhibit narrow vertical boards held by two battens per shutter. Although the shutters no longer exist, the iron loops to hold them open remain in situ.

Figure 21 has been tentatively dated 1899-1902, because it postdates the shutter installation of 1899, and predates the lower-balcony railing change of 1902. This photograph shows the shutters extant on the north wall of the main house, on the north pavilion, and on the east wall of the covered passageway. Figure 21 shows several window screens in place, as well. The window sashes have not yet been changed. A quarter-round molding is visible surrounding the window frames. This is presumably the molding installed in August 1888.

Several annual and monthly reports for this decade described repairs to the windows:

- 1901 - new window frames installed (annual report, App. C-105)
- 1906 - 36 panes glass 8 inches by 10 inches and 10 lbs. putty supplied, and cellar window embrasures repaired (annual report, App. C-105)
- 1907 - three pairs of sash with train &c furnished (monthly report for June, App. C-105)
  - new window frames and sash fitted, and old sash repaired and reglazed (monthly report for July, App. C-105).

Within the first two decades of the 20th century, many of the window sashes were changed from six-over-six to two-over-two. Figure 29, dating to 1921, shows the northeast corner of the structure. The first-story sashes on the north wall of the main dwelling are two-over-two, while the
first-story sashes on the east wall of the north pavilion are still six-over-six. The covered passageway retains its six-over-six, double-hung sashes, as well. Either the photograph was taken while the sashes were being changed, or the sashes were deliberately not changed at that time on the north pavilion and covered passageway. The latter is more probable.

1910’s

Appendix C-120, dated May 29, 1911, outlines proposed work and presents a cost estimate for the Fire Island Light Station. Included in the proposed work was an item for furnishing and fitting storm sashes to windows. Twenty-eight storm sashes were specified.

1920’s-1950’s

The fenestration appears to have undergone little change during this period. The historic photographs (e.g., figs. 29-30) illustrate the windows as being basically unaltered.

1960’s

The 1961 modernization affected the fenestration pattern in several ways, as follows:

- the two kitchen windows (the north wall’s first-story center windows) were made shorter.
- the second-story center windows on the east and west walls were made smaller, reflecting the new use of the respective interior spaces as bathrooms.
- the east-wall window of the north pavilion was closed up during the installation of an exhaust fan.
- two new windows were added as part of the new north vestibule.
Figure 258. Dwelling exterior: south wall of east apartment, window well (1982).

Figure 228. Dwelling exterior: south wall of east apartment, windows (1982).
Figure 261. Dwelling exterior: north wall of west apartment, center window (1983).

Figure 260. Dwelling exterior: south wall of west apartment, center window (1983).
Figure 262. Dwelling exterior: east wall, north window (1982).

Figure 263. Dwelling exterior: east wall, south window (1982).
Figure 264. Dwelling exterior: east wall of north pavilion, second-story window (1982).

Figure 265. Dwelling exterior: west wall, second-story center window (1982).
Figure 266. Dwelling exterior: Lower part of window trim (1983).

Figure 267. Dwelling exterior: upper part of window trim (1983).
Figure 268. Dwelling exterior: paint sample #FIIS 14 P223, north wall of west apartment, sash of west window (1983).
Figure 269. Dwelling exterior: paint sample #FIIS 14 P221, north wall of west apartment, second story, lintel of west window (1983).
FINISHES

No historical documentation was located that describes the original exterior finishes employed on the keeper’s dwelling. Some documentary references to later paintings were uncovered, but this information is sketchy, especially concerning the actual color treatments. For a complete history of the paint schemes, one must look to the physical architectural data and paint samples.

Based upon an analysis of the paint samples taken from the exterior architectural elements, the stone body of the structure was never painted, except for the stone lintels, sills, and labels, and for the brick courses surrounding the north pavilion’s roundel. The wooden trim was consistently painted. The following wooden elements received paint: window and doorway frames, window sashes and doors, shutters, and roof trim–eave soffit boards, fascia boards, and the fascia’s crown molding.

The number of times the exterior was painted is not known. By 1862, an estimate was submitted for painting the exterior woodwork of the dwelling (annual report, App. C-66). A letter from the acting engineer to the board states that “the woodwork on the outside needs repainting” (App. C-67). This letter was dated May 5, 1865. That same year–six years after construction–the exterior was repainted, as recorded in the annual report (App. C-66). The monthly report for June 1874 (App. C-74) notes that three coats of paint were applied to the buildings throughout. The 1885 annual report (App. C-85) states that painting was required.

Three references to paint type and color were located in 20th-century documents, as follows:


- April 3, 1931 - specifications (App. C-143):
  “All outside work installed by contractor will be given a priming coat of raw linseed oil and white lead to protect it from the weather and will have two additional coats of pure white lead and boiled oil colored to match the adjoining painted work.”

  “Gutter to be painted two coats of white lead and boiled oil.”

Photographs from ca. 1886 to the present offer the most extensive documentary information on paint treatments. In corroboration with the extracted paint samples, they provide the data needed to unravel the history of the exterior finishes used on the keeper’s dwelling. The following page features a chart noting the paint schemes discernible from photographs. Because of time constraints and the inaccessibility of certain exterior elements, the paint schemes have not been worked out at this stage.
# FIRE ISLAND KEEPER'S DWELLING

**EXTERIOR FINISHES AS DEPICTED IN THE HISTORIC FIGURES**

<table>
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<th></th>
<th>figures 11-12 ca. 1886</th>
<th>figure 20 1900</th>
<th>figure 29 1921</th>
<th>figures 31-32 1930's</th>
<th>figures 35-36 1945</th>
<th>figures 39-41 1956</th>
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<td>not visible</td>
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<td>dark</td>
<td>two-tone light and dark</td>
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<td>not visible</td>
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INTERIOR ELEMENTS
PLAN

Description

The keeper’s dwelling is essentially a duplex. It exhibits a cruciform plan: symmetrical east and west apartments flank a central hall-like area that protrudes beyond the south and north exterior walls to form the south and north pavilions, respectively.

First-Floor Plan

The southern end of the central hall is the porch-like south pavilion, already discussed as an exterior element. The rest of the central hall area contains, from south to north: a foyer flanked by two closets, two parallel stair halls, a north cross-hall, and a laundry room that extends into the north pavilion. Beyond the north pavilion is the later vestibule. On either side of the central hall area are two apartments that are mirror images of each other. Each contains, from south to north, a large living room; a wide partition wall housing two back-to-back closets, the old interior fireplaces, a half bath, and a little hall to the rooms beyond the partition; a corner dining room; and an adjacent kitchen. The kitchens of the two apartments are connected by the north cross-hall.

Second-Floor Plan

The central-hall area at this level contains, from south to north: a bedroom with closet; the two parallel stair halls, each with a small closet; and another bedroom with closet. The east and west apartments again are mirror images of each other. Each apartment includes, from south to north, a bedroom with three closets; the wide partition that houses two back-to-back closets, the closed-up fireplaces, and a full bath; and another bedroom with two closets.

Documentation

Figures 270

Historical Background

The Fire Island keeper’s dwelling was originally designed as a duplex. Over the years, the dwelling has housed from two to three keepers at a time. The most radical changes to the interior plan of the dwelling occurred during the 20th century, with the first major remodeling occurring in 1931, and the second in 1961.

1858

Figure 213 is an undated cellar-floor plan, hypothesized to be very early and presumably original. This plan is symmetrical, in a cruciform shape. It depicts three rooms: a central stair hall and two flanking rooms. The north/south dimension is the same for all three rooms. There are two stairways, located along the east and west walls of the central stair hall.
Figure 214 is an undated first-floor plan, also thought to be original. It features a central north/south stair hall, which extends southward to form the south pavilion (here called a vestibule), and extends northward to form the Oil Room, which is half within the dwelling, and half within the north pavilion. The two stairways to the cellar descend along the east and west walls of the central stair hall, as seen in the cellar plan (fig. 213). The apartment on each side of the central hall is a mirror image of the other. Each apartment is divided in half by an east/west partition, which includes–from the center outward–four back-to-back closets, two back-to-back fireplaces, a winder stairway to the second story, and a small hall that serves two functions: as a passage between the front and rear halves of the apartments, and as an entry hall for the east and west exterior doorways. The two rooms at the front of the apartments are called sitting rooms, while the two spaces to the rear are called kitchens.

An original second-floor plan was not located. Figure 220, dating to 1929, appears to be based upon the original construction plan; it therefore offers some insight into the design of the second story. The second story is identical in plan to the first story, with one exception: a small bedroom occupies the space directly over the south pavilion.

1860’s - 1870’s

Only scant documentary data has survived that refers to the interior plan during this period of the structure’s history. The majority of the information was found in the annual and monthly reports sent to the Lighthouse Board by the engineers and inspectors. According to the records of alterations and repairs, a major concern was the installation of a closet in the Oil Room, as chronicled below:

1862 - estimate submitted for installing a closet in the Oil Room (annual report, App. C-66)
1873 - noted storeroom should be installed; closet in the Oil Room should be enlarged by being carried up to the ceiling (annual report, App. C-74)
1874 - closets were made in the Oil Room (monthly report for June, App. C-74)

1880’s

The Form 36 dated March 1880 (App. C-86) provides the only other 19th-century reference to the use of the rooms in the dwelling. The form includes the following commentary:

Two sitting rooms, six sleeping rooms, two kitchens, three cellars (one used as storeroom & one for work shop) eight closets. [Apparently each pair of side-by-side closets was counted as a single closet.]

Oil Room - in first story of Dwelling house fitted, with eight oil butts, one strainer and oil cans, tools, burner glasses &c.

Closets - in the dwelling and used for Tools &c, and domestic purposes generally.
By 1929, the dwelling was shared by three keepers, as implied in figure 220: a keeper, a first assistant keeper, and a second assistant keeper. The entire west half of the structure was occupied by the keeper, while the east half was shared by the two assistants. The space was divided as follows:

**First Story**
- southwest room: keeper’s sitting room
- northwest room: keeper’s kitchen
- southeast room: first assistant’s kitchen
- northeast room: second assistant’s kitchen

**Second Story**
- west rooms: keeper’s bedrooms
- south and southeast rooms: first assistant’s bedrooms
- north and northeast rooms: second assistant’s bedrooms

**1930’s - 1950’s**

The years 1931-1932 saw the installation of bathrooms, and water and sewer systems, at the dwelling, representing the first substantial alterations to the interior plan of the structure. The specifications (App. C-143) and the drawings (figs. 221-222) for this work survive. The major aspects of the work that affected the floor plan included the installation of three bathrooms on the second story; the removal of the stairway from the cellar to the first story, and from the first story to the second story, on the west side, followed by the closing up of the former stairwells; and the introduction of light shafts for the bathrooms.

The new floor plans featured the following layout:

**First Story**
- west rooms: unaltered (closets’ partitions not drawn, but probably an omission)
- east rooms: same layout as in 19th-century drawings, but the sitting room is now a kitchen for an assistant keeper
- central stair hall: only east stairway extant

**Second Story**
- southwest room: keeper’s bedroom, with a bathroom
- east rooms: no partitions in closets (probably an omission)
- south room: now extends northward, into stair hall space; possibly it was always this large, with figure 220 being in error
- central stair hall: two bathrooms along west side

Figure 225 is a drawing prepared in September 1937 for the electric light installation. Both the first-floor and second-floor plans are similar to those drawn in figures 222 and 221, respectively, except that the closets are shown with partitions again. This is why it is thought that the absence of the partitions in figures 221 and 222 is an inadvertent or intentional omission.
The Fire Island keeper’s dwelling as transferred to the National Park Service in the 1970’s reflected a “modernization” program that dated to 1961. This remodeling virtually divided the structure into two apartments. A working drawing has survived for this effort, and it is included here as figure 226. The changes that occurred are outlined below.

- The central stair hall on the first story saw a small foyer with two north doorways built just inside the south entrance. The stair hall was partitioned in half lengthwise, such that each half was served by one of the doorways of the new foyer. The north end of the stair hall also was partitioned off, to create a cross hall between the two apartments’ kitchens.

- A new stairway was built from the first to the second story along the west wall of the central stair hall, which required the removal of the two bathrooms added to the second-story stair hall in 1931-1932. The contemporaneous bathroom in the southwest bedroom also was removed.

- The winder stairways from the first to the second stories in the east and west apartments were removed, and bathrooms were created in the former stairwells on both floors. The new bathrooms at first-story level were only half-baths, because the little halls next to the stairways had to be retained, to serve the east and west entrances. The new bathrooms at second-story level could be full baths, because they were able to occupy not only the former stairwell areas, but also the former halls adjacent to the stairways.

- The fireplaces were closed, with the exception of the one in the east living room.

- The east and west kitchens each were divided into two rooms, forming a separate kitchen and dining room. The kitchens were fitted with cabinets.

- With the introduction of the separate kitchens and second-story bathrooms, the window openings located in those spaces were made smaller.

- The room extending into the north pavilion—formerly the Oil Room, then Radio-Beacon Room—had its west doorway infilled.

- A vestibule was added to the exterior north wall of the north pavilion, to protect the doorway here, which had formerly been within the covered passageway before the latter was removed.

- New closets were introduced throughout the dwelling.

After the remodeling, common spaces included the south foyer, the north cross hall, the Radio-Beacon Room (later the laundry room), the north vestibule, and the cellar.
Figure 270. Dwelling: plans of first and second stories (1983).
The evolution of the interior trim and finishes has received only cursory attention in this historic structure report, for three reasons: (1) the level of the report is Class B, involving only nondestructive investigations; (2) the projected scope of the restoration project is to adaptively use the interior; and (3) the time constraints were too limited to undertake a more thorough analysis at this time.

It is true that extensive data in the form of paint samples was collected. This material was gathered discriminately, to aid in the relative dating of architectural elements. Much more knowledge about the extant elements can be obtained, however. In fact, only intensive investigative probing and the controlled removal of later accretions to the structure can provide an adequate understanding of how the interior architectural elements evolved.

The interior architectural embellishment for the Fire Island keeper’s dwelling appears to have always been modest, with the hierarchy of the room dictating the type of trim originally employed. For example, three of the four types of baseboard moldings found in the building are thought to be original, with their variations reflecting the importance of the spaces in which they were used. The doorways’ trim and doors are recent, but most of the windows appear to retain their early trim.

**Description**

**Walls**

The dwelling’s outside walls are of stone. There are also two load-bearing interior partition walls running north/south. The latter each consist of two wythes of brick, with a cavity between the wythes. The structure’s interior walls were plastered originally, employing sawn lath and cut nails. As a result of 20th-century alterations, some walls are now of modern construction—i.e., wire lath and plaster, plasterboard, and wire nails.

**Flooring**

The floors of the keeper’s dwelling are covered with floor tiles and carpeting, and as a result were not accessible for investigation to determine the condition, material, and design of the earlier flooring systems. The tiles must be lifted to arrive at a better understanding of the evolution of the floors. Several references to the flooring were found in the historical documentation (see the subsequent section “Historical Background”).

**Baseboards**

Although profiles of the baseboards were not recorded with a molding comb, four types were identified based upon visual analysis. Baseboard Type I (fig. 271) exhibits an ogee profile; Type II (fig. 272) is similar to Type I, but is bolder and larger; and Type III (fig. 273) is a torus-type bead. These three baseboard types are historic in style, and presumably original to the structure. Baseboard Type IV (fig. 274) consists of a quarter-round molding, and dates to the 1961 remodeling.
Baseboard Type I was installed in the first-story rooms, being a more elaborate profile than baseboard Type III, which was installed chiefly in the second-story bedrooms. Baseboard Type II was used in the stair hall on walls that abutted the stairway. Baseboard Type IV is found only in areas affected by the 1961 modernization program.

Listed below are the rooms in which a specific baseboard type is located. The earlier baseboards coexist in combination with the 1961 baseboards in some rooms.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Rooms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>west kitchen; west living room; east dining room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>east stair hall; cellar stairway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>south foyer; all second-story bedrooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>all rooms affected by the 1961 remodeling</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Doorways and Doors

All extant doorways and doors were altered in 1961, or date from 1961 or later. The doorway trim is consistently from 1961: it is unembellished, measuring between 3 ½ to 3 ¾ inches wide by three-quarters to seven-eighths of an inch thick. Further investigation of the doorway openings is required to determine whether earlier doorway trim existed, and which openings were fitted with doors. Presumably, the early doors were four-paneled—the typical form for the period. The 1931 specifications (App. C-143) describe the doors to be introduced to the bathrooms as four-paneled with a flush molding, constructed of pine or fir. None of the early hardware remains in situ.

Windows

Further physical investigation, including removal of architectural fabric and a comparative analysis of the paint samples, is required to obtain a clearer picture of the evolution of the windows throughout the dwelling. A cursory inspection indicated that most windows still exhibit early trim. The common trim treatment was a flat board with bead on the interior edge.

This treatment was embellished, however, in two rooms—the west living room and the southwest bedroom—by the addition of an elaborate molding. In the west living room, the molding is applied to the outer edge of the beaded trim board, and to the apron board, beneath the nose of the sill. In the southwest bedroom, the molding is applied only to the outer edge of the beaded trim board, but the board and molding sit on a plinth block on either side of the window. These two rooms were used by the keeper of the lighthouse, and presumably received greater architectural embellishment than areas used by his assistants. The windows of the northwest bedroom—also used by the keeper—lack the elaborate trim, but this can be attributed to its lesser status as a rear room.

Finishes

Extensive paint sampling was undertaken on the painted interior architectural elements (see Appendix E). Each sample was mounted, and its chromochronology recorded. Several representative paint samples per room were photographed and included with this report. At this stage in the project, the paint-sample chromochronologies have allowed a rough, relative dating of the element from which they were extracted. The complete paint history per room has not been worked out, but the data has been compiled for that phase to be undertaken in the future.
Historical Background

1860’s - 1890’s

Only scant documentary data has survived that refers to the interior during this period of the structure’s history. The majority of the information was found in the annual and monthly reports sent to the Lighthouse Board by the engineers and inspectors.

1870 - noted slight repairs required (annual report, App. C-74)
1876 - some painting of inside work was attended to by the keepers (monthly report for April, App. C-74)
    - plaster of some rooms repaired (annual report, App. C-74)
1882 - material for entry’s flooring furnished (annual report, App. C-85)
1886 - plastering repaired (annual report, App. C-85)
1887 - plastering of several rooms repaired, four rooms painted, whitewashing performed by keepers (annual report, App. C-85)
    - noted that lower beams on the east side decayed (annual report, App. C-85)
1888 - “floor timbers of the Oil Room repaired, with carrying timbers properly shored placed next to the partition” (monthly report for July, App. C-85)

1890’s - 1910’s

According to the documentary data, the structure underwent only minor repairs during this period in the dwelling’s history, as recorded below:

1894 - first assistant keeper’s quarters partly replastered and repaired (monthly report for September, App. C-94)
    - walls and ceilings repaired and patched (monthly report for October, App. C-94)
1902 - plaster repaired (monthly report for October, App. C-105)
1907 - material for repairs to plaster furnished (monthly report for June, App. C-105)
1911 - “old floors repaired and strengthened; new floors laid; materials estimated: 1715 ft. Asstd. Spruce lumber; 60 ft. B.M. 1 ¼” x 3” flooring” (repairs cost estimate, May 29, 1911, App. C-120)
A set of specifications dating to 1938 exists (App. C-148) for replastering halls and two rooms. The plaster of the halls of the first and second stories, and of the walls of the assistant keeper’s bedroom and kitchen, was loose and required removal.

The specifications prescribed the following work:

LATHING AND PLASTERING: The plaster and laths on the walls and ceilings in the halls on first and second story (but not including the hallway to tower) the southeast kitchen, and the bedroom in the south ell, are to be removed. This work is to be done in such a way as to cause the Keeper the least possible inconvenience. The walls and ceilings of the above enumerated rooms and halls are to be relathed. Shims are to be used under the laths whenever necessary to insure smooth and straight surfaces.

Laths are to be spruce laths 3/8" by 1 ½" by 4'-0" spaced a full ¼" apart, with joints broken every 8 laths. Each lath is to be securely nailed to all bearings with 3 penny fine galvanized wire nails.

Around chimney and in back of stove, walls to be filled walls as specified by Fire Underwriters.

The plaster is to be a compound equal in quality to Red Cap Sanded Plaster. It is to be applied in two coats; a scratch coat well trowelled to insure strong clincher, and scratched to roughen the surface for bonding with the second coat, which is to be laid on true and straightened to a minimum thickness of 3/8" outside the laths; the second coat is to be hand floated to produce an approximately smooth surface. The completed work must be free from season or other surface cracks. No finishing coat of any kind is to be used. Galvanized rib steel corner bead are to be used on all outside corners.
Figure 271. Dwelling interior: Type-I baseboard (1983).

Figure 272. Dwelling interior: Type-II baseboard (1983).
Figure 273. Dwelling interior: Type-III baseboard (1983).

Figure 274. Dwelling interior: Type-IV baseboard (1983).
Figure 275. Dwelling interior: typical door and doorknob (1983).

Figure 276. Dwelling interior: elaborate window trim in West Living Room (1983).
Figure 277. Dwelling interior: elaborate window trim in southwest bedroom (1983).

Figure 278. Dwelling interior: detail of elaborate window trim in southwest bedroom (1983).
Figure 279. Dwelling interior: plain window trim (1983).
Description

The cellar consists of three rooms defined by the two interior bearing walls supporting the walls of the central stair hall. There is a fully excavated room under each apartment, and one under the stair hall. The cellar can be entered in three ways. There is a stairway along the east bearing wall that descends from the first story of the dwelling. The doorway to this stairway is in the south wall of the north hall, adjacent to the east kitchen. The two remaining doorways are the bulkhead entrances, which are centered under the north elevation’s east and west center windows. A chimney foundation featuring arched niches is located in the center of each of the east and west cellar rooms.

Center Cellar Room

Design

The center cellar room is entered from the first story’s north hall, by a stairway along the east wall of the room. There are two doorways in this space: one in the east wall at the bottom of the stairway, leading to the east cellar room, and the other in the west wall, leading to the west cellar room. The cellar in this area is excavated under the north pavilion, although not under the south pavilion. This room is longer than the flanking rooms, because of the excavation under the pavilion.
**Flooring**  The flooring consists of concrete slabs. At the north end, a few tiles remain from an earlier vinyl-tile floor.

**Walls**  The east and west (interior) walls are brick, except for the area under the north pavilion. Stone comprises this portion of each wall, and the stone and brick are united with interlocking joints. The south wall is stone rubble, and represents the exterior foundation of the structure. The north wall is stone, with a portion of the wall being infilled with concrete blocks. The section of concrete blocks sits in the center of the wall; it is eight blocks high and four blocks wide, extending from the wainscot line to the ceiling. This probably represents where the crawl space beneath the former covered passageway connected with the cellar of the dwelling. The stairway ascends along the east wall, north of the doorway to the east cellar room. The ghost of a similar stairway is visible on the west wall directly opposite the extant stairway. The south wall features two large storage cabinets, one in each corner. Four lally columns are positioned in the center of the room at the south end, in a row running north/south.

**Stairway**  Portions of this stairway appear to be original, or at least very early. The stairway is of wood, having 13 steps with closed risers. The steps are approximately 9 inches high and 32 ¾ inches wide. The treads have a round nosing that protrudes beyond the risers’ plane. The wall along the east side of the stairway is plaster above a Type-II baseboard. A wooden handrail is secured to it. The wall along the upper west side of the stairway is plaster above a single-board stringer. Both east and west walls have been replastered, judging by the surface quality and condition of the plaster. The lower west side of the stairway is edged by a solid “balustrade” consisting of vertical boards. The lower end of the stairway appears to have been altered: either reused materials were employed originally in this area, or else considerable remodeling has occurred. A wooden handrail is secured to the east wall of the stairway enclosure. This east wall consists of a Type-II baseboard with plaster above. The west wall of the enclosure consists of a single board stringer, also with plaster above. Both walls have been replastered, judging by the surface quality and condition of the plaster. The outer side of the enclosure’s west wall—the side facing the center cellar room—consists of vertical boards.

**Ceiling**  The ceiling is unfinished. The floor joists for the first story are exposed, along with the subflooring. There are 29 joists running east/west. They are laid 18 to 18 ½ inches on center, and are between 9 to 10 inches deep and 2 7/8 to 3 inches wide. The joists are rough-sawn, and are not all of the same period.

**Doorways**  Two doorways are extant: one in the east wall and one in the west wall, leading to the east and west cellar rooms, respectively. These doorways have segmentally arched heads, and are about 36 inches wide.

**Windows**  There are no windows in this room.
Finishes

Finishes

Wall - upper portion is painted white; wainscot area (approximately 45 inches high) is painted gray.
Ceiling - unpainted.
Lally columns - painted black.
Flooring - painted red.
Stairway - painted charcoal-gray.
Stairway plaster walls - painted white.
Stairway handrail and stringers - painted black.

Utilities

Utilities

Heating equipment - no direct-heating units are present.
Lighting fixtures - modern fluorescent fixtures illuminate the room.
Electricity - electrical panel boxes are mounted on the north end of the east wall.

East Cellar Room

East Cellar Room

Design

This room can be entered by two methods: from the center cellar room, through a doorway at the south end of the west wall, or from the outside, through a bulkhead doorway at the east end of the north wall. Two window openings pierce the south wall. The center of the room is monopolized by the arched chimney foundation and furnaces. A Honeywell furnace is located at the southwest corner of the chimney foundation, and a Bock oil-fired water heater sits to the south of the foundation. Fuel tanks are located along the north end of the east wall.

Flooring

Brick, rendered over, serves as the flooring.

Walls

The west wall, which is an interior wall, is constructed of brick laid in stretcher bond. The north, south, and east walls are constructed of stone rubble. Six lally columns run along the east wall. Four wooden piers are employed as well: two each on the north and south sides of the arch.

Bulkhead

The steps behind the bulkhead door, leading up to ground level, could not be viewed because the door is nailed shut.

Stairway

The ceiling is unfinished, consisting of the exposed joists and subflooring of the first floor. Twenty-three joists are visible, running east/west. A larger beam runs north to south.

Doorways

The doorway to the center cellar room has already been described. The door of the north bulkhead doorway was nailed shut, so investigation was difficult. However, the door appears to be later than the door of the north bulkhead in the west cellar room.

Windows

Two windows are located in the south wall. Additional investigation into the details of these windows is needed.

Finishes

Similar to those in the center cellar room. North-bulkhead doorway trim and door - painted dark green.
Utilities

Lighting fixtures - modern fluorescent lighting is extant.

West Cellar Room

Design
This room is a mirror image of the east cellar room. It can be entered in two ways: through a doorway in the south end of the east wall, leading from the center cellar room; or from the outside through the bulkhead doorway in the west end of the north wall. Two windows are incorporated into the south wall. A brick foundation for the fireplaces above occupies the center of the room. A stovepipe hole is visible near the upper end of the east side of this foundation. The north and south sides of the foundation contain arches. A Culligan water purification system has been installed in the northwest corner.

Flooring
The floors are of bricks laid east/west and rendered over. The rendering is missing in places. To the southeast of the fireplace foundation is an area where the bricks have been laid in a rectangular pattern.

Walls
The east wall is of brick, being 12 inches thick. The bricks are 7 ¾ inches long by 2 ¼ inches thick by 3 inches wide. The west, north, and south walls are stone rubble. The stone is similar to that remaining in the foundation of the first lighthouse. Four wooden piers are found in this space: two on either side of the chimney foundations.

Bulkhead
Six steps behind the door of the north-wall bulkhead ascend to ground level.

Stairway
These steps consist of brick risers two courses high and topped by stone treads. The flanking walls of the bulkhead are of brick.

Ceiling
The ceiling is unfinished, consisting of the exposed joists and subflooring of the first floor. Twenty-three joists running east/west are framed into a north/south beam. This beam in turn is framed into the exterior walls and arches.

Doorways
The doorway to the center cellar room has already been described. There is a bulkhead doorway in the north wall, with plain board trim. Its door appears to be older than the door of the east cellar room’s north bulkhead. It consists of seven vertical boards held together by two battens. The door is hinged on its west side with two modern strap hinges. An earlier butt hinge is also extant on the door. A wooden draw latch is attached to the room-side of the door, and a cast-iron thumb latch sits on the exterior side. A ghost of an earlier latch is visible under the thumb latch.

Windows
Two windows are located in the south wall. Additional investigation into the details of these windows is needed.

Finishes
This room is finished similarly to the center and east cellar rooms.

Utilities
Lighting fixtures - modern fluorescent fixtures illuminate this room.
**Historical Background**

The cellar is depicted in most of the floor plans of the keeper’s dwelling. These plans clearly indicate that the original configuration consisted of two interior, brick, north/south bearing walls that formed three cellar rooms, with the center room having a stairway on each of its east and west walls. The plans are less clear about the form of the foundation walls. Figure 213, theorized to be an original construction drawing, shows not only the four south-elevation window wells that were constructed, but also five wells that were not built—two each on the east and west walls, and one on the north wall, to the west of the east bulkhead. This plan also shows no excavated area beneath the north pavilion.

The next floor plan made of the cellar, done in 1929 (fig. 220), continues to show the five unbuilt window wells. It also shows the area under the north pavilion as being excavated but not accessible. This suggests that the original floor plan was reused in 1929, with little care taken to update it in areas not affected by the 1929 heating-system installation.

Figure 222, from 1931, includes a plan of the cellar that more accurately depicts the foundation walls as built. However, it still shows the area under the north pavilion as being inaccessible. The several plans notwithstanding, it would seem that this area has always been open to the center cellar room. This is inferred from the fact that it is open today, and there is no clear evidence on the east and west walls indicating that a wall has ever been removed from this location. Furthermore, the concrete-block infill in the north wall of the north pavilion suggests that access was originally provided from the area under the north porch to the crawl space under the covered passageway. This implies that the area under the north porch could be reached from the center cellar room.

Stone from the First Fire Island Lighthouse was used in the foundation of the dwelling. The exact locations where the stone was reused stone has not been determined. The walls are currently whitewashed, making the identification more difficult. The earlier stone was definitely used along the west and north walls of the west cellar room.

The main alteration that took place in the cellar was the removal of the west stairway in 1931, in connection with the installation of interior bathrooms. The various paving patterns in the brick floors near the brick chimney foundations—particularly in the west cellar room—suggests that more investigation needs to be done here, to determine the configuration of the original chimney foundations, and also the reason for the paving changes.
Figure 280. Dwelling interior: east cellar room (1983).

Figure 281. Dwelling interior: detail of cellar stairway (1983).
COMMON SPACES

Foyer

Description

Plan
The south foyer is rectangular in shape, featuring three doors: two in the north wall, leading to the apartments, and one in the south wall, exiting to the outside. The foyer is bordered on its east and west sides by the central stair hall’s closets. Windows are extant on the south wall, in the form of the fanlight and sidelights of the south entry.

Flooring
Vinyl tiles, 9 inches square and green with white streaks, cover the floor. The existing subflooring, which may have been the earlier finish flooring, consists of boards 2½ inches wide laid north/south. There are no thresholds at the doorways to the apartments; a modern metal frame for the threshold of the exterior doorway is intact.

Walls
The east and west walls are plaster; the north and south walls are formed by the two interior doorways and one exterior doorway, respectively.
**Baseboards**  The east and west walls feature baseboards 5 3/4 inches high, without decoration (Type-IV baseboards). The baseboard on the south wall exhibits a bead at its upper edge (Type-III baseboard), and is 5 inches high.

**Ceiling**  The ceiling is plaster, with a smooth sand finish.

**Doorways**  The east doorway in the north wall features a modern wooden door. The door is 32 1/2 inches wide by 80 1/2 inches high; its plain board trim is 1 7/8 inches wide. The west doorway in the north wall also features a modern wooden door. The door is 32 1/8 inches wide by 80 5/8 inches high; its plain board trim is 2 1/4 inches wide. The doorway in the south wall features two doors: a modern wooden door on the interior (measuring 33 1/4 inches wide by 80 7/8 inches high), and an aluminum exterior door. The doorway frame is designed in the form of a molded, pointed arch. Above the door is a fanlight exhibiting six lights. Sidelights are extant on either side of the door. These sidelights’ sashes are two-over-two, with the uppermost sashes being curved to fit within the pointed-arch frame. The sidelights sit on a wooden panel; a baseboard finishes off the wall at floor level. All doors have modern hardware, but the south doorway exhibits marks from earlier hardware on its jamb.

**Windows**  The only windows in this space are the fanlight and sidelights of the south entrance, described previously.

**Finishes**  Wall - painted light yellow-cream.
Trim - painted white.
Doors - unpainted.

**Utilities**  Heating equipment - none.
Lighting fixtures - a light fixture with glass globe is centered on the ceiling.  
Electricity - no outlets are present.

**Documentation**

Figures 246, 282

Paint samples  FIIS 14 P001: Foyer, south doorway, trim below east sidelight
FIIS 14 P002: Foyer, south doorway, arched trim above doorway, above paint ghost
FIIS 14 P003: Foyer, south doorway, fanlight muntins
FIIS 14 P004: Foyer, south doorway, west beaded trim
FIIS 14 P005: Foyer, south doorway, east beaded trim
FIIS 14 P006: Foyer, south wall above fanlight
FIIS 14 P007: Foyer, west doorway, north-wall trim
FIIS 14 P008: Foyer, east-wall plaster
FIIS 14 P009: Foyer, south doorway, east-sidelight muntins
FIIS 14P010: Foyer, south doorway, arched trim above doorway, below paint ghost
FIIS 14 P011: Foyer, south doorway, beaded baseboard below east sidelight (fig. 283)
Historical Background

The south foyer dates to the 1961 modernization of the dwelling. Prior to that time, the south entry opened directly into the central stair hall. The east, west, and north walls all date to the 1961 remodeling, while the south wall is original. The historic fabric of the south wall is not entirely intact, and further investigation is required to determine the evolution of changes. Several paint samples with the original finishes intact were extracted from south-wall features.
Figure 282. Dwelling interior: typical ceiling light fixture (1983).
Figure 283. Dwelling interior: paint sample #FIIS 14 P011, foyer, south-wall baseboard.
Description

**Plan** The north hall is a corridor running perpendicular to the central stair hall, connecting the east and west kitchens. There are five doorways in this hallway: one each in the east and west walls, leading to the respective kitchens; one at the east end of the south wall, leading to the cellar; one at west end of the same wall, leading to a storage closet under the west stairway; and one in the north wall, to the laundry room. No windows are present, except for the light in the north-wall doorway’s door.

**Flooring** The flooring consists of vinyl tiles, 9 inches square and green with white streaks.

**Walls** The walls are plaster. Surrounding the north-wall doorway is a patch of 1961 plaster approximately 7 feet wide; the remainder of the wall is earlier plaster. Between the north-wall doorway and west wall are a fire extinguisher and axe mounted on the wall. The south wall is 1961 plaster; the west and east walls feature early plaster with 1961 patches around the doorways.

**Baseboards** Surrounding the entire room is Type-IV 1961 baseboard. It is 7 ½ inches high and seven-eighths of an inch thick, with a quarter-round molding at its base.
**Ceiling**
The ceiling is plaster. Patches are apparent in the southwest corner, and the wall bulges out at ceiling level in this corner. A fire detector is mounted in the southeast corner of the ceiling.

**Doorways**
The doorway in the east wall, leading to the east kitchen, features a modern wooden door, 32 5/8 inches wide by 80 1/4 inches high, with a wooden threshold. The west-wall doorway to the west kitchen also has a modern wooden door, 32 1/4 inches wide by 81 1/4 inches high, with a wooden threshold. The north-wall doorway to the laundry room exhibits a modern wooden door, 32 1/2 inches wide by 80 inches high, with one light and a wooden threshold. The south-wall doorway to the cellar has a modern wooden door, 28 1/4 inches wide by 80 3/8 inches high, with no threshold. The south-wall doorway to the closet has a modern plywood door, 32 inches wide by 81 5/8 inches high, also without a threshold. The wooden trim surrounding most of the doorways is plain and dates to 1961.

**Windows**
The only window in this space is the light in the upper half of the north doorway’s door.

**Finishes**
Walls - painted white.
Trim - painted white.
Doors - all of the doors are painted white, except the door to the east apartment.

**Utilities**
Heating equipment - a wall-mounted convector with enclosure is mounted on the south wall.
Lighting - two fluorescent fixtures are affixed to the ceiling. Three light switches have been installed: two on the north wall, and one on the south wall.
Electricity - no outlets are extant.

**Historical Background**
The north hall is a product of the 1961 modernization; it was created by partitioning off the north end of the original central stair hall. The south wall thus dates to 1961. The east, west, and north walls are original, but exhibit later plasterwork, particularly around the doorway openings. The north-wall doorway was reduced from a double to a single opening during the 1961 remodeling program. The extant baseboard and doors date to 1961, as well.
Laundry Room

Description

Plan  This is a rectangular space, with the longest dimension running north/south. Two doorways are featured: one centered on the south wall, leading to the north hall; and one on the north wall, exiting to the vestibule.

Flooring  Vinyl tiles, 9 inches square and green with white streaks, cover the floor.

Walls  The walls are finished with plasterboard dating to 1961, when the room was remodeled. A former exterior doorway in the west wall has been infilled, and the window in the east wall has been outfitted with a two-speed exhaust fan. The room is currently used as a laundry and storage room, and as a result, many areas of the wall were inaccessible for investigation.

Baseboards  The south, north, and east walls exhibit a baseboard 3 3/4 inches high, with no quarter-round shoe molding. The south end of the west wall has a similar baseboard for a distance of 52 inches. The remaining portion of the west wall has two sizes of a higher baseboard (7 5/8 inches and 7 inches in height), with a quarter-round shoe molding.

Ceiling  An acoustical-tile ceiling is extant, with a picture molding in cornice position.
Doorways

The two doorways in this room—in the south and north walls—feature plain, 1961 board trim and modern wooden doors with contemporaneous hardware. Each door has a single light in its upper half.

Windows

The only windows in this room are the lights in the south and north doorways’ doors.

Finishes

Walls - painted two colors. The lower 54½ inches is painted green, the upper portion is white.
Trim - painted white.
Doors - painted white.

Utilities

Heating equipment - a reused radiator heats this space, as indicated by the 1961 drawing; it measures 5½ inches wide by 32 inches high by 39 inches long. Two water-circulating pipes run from floor to ceiling on the east wall.
Lighting fixtures - six fluorescent light fixtures are mounted on the ceiling.
Three light switches are extant: two on the north wall, east and west of the doorway; and one on the south wall, west of the doorway.
Electricity - the outlets are found in the locations illustrated in the 1961 modernization drawing (fig. 226).

Historical Background

Originally constructed to serve as an oil room, this space was called the Oil Room until the U.S. Coast Guard had “the light” converted to electricity. By 1961, the room was known as the Radio-Beacon Room. The National Park Service refers to the room as the laundry room.

The prime source of information on the original configuration and appearance of this room is the old drawings. Figure 214—a presumably original floor plan—shows this space communicating directly with the central stair hall to the south, and with the covered passageway to the north. The south-wall doorway to the stair hall is seen to be designed for a two-leaf door flanked by sidelights. There is no doorway frame or door where the covered passageway enters the room. The east wall is depicted with a window at its north end; directly opposite, on the west wall, is a doorway. This doorway is wider than normal, apparently to facilitate the movement of oil barrels in and out of the room. The configuration of the door here originally is not shown. However, documents indicate that in 1888, the outside of this doorway received a new frame, trim, sill, and two-leaf door. This door is seen in figure 218, as well as the doorway’s trim, which appears to have included paneled jambs. As mentioned, the two-leaf door was removed, and the doorway infilled, during the 1961 remodeling.

Little is known about the 19th-century interior appearance of the Oil Room. Documentation indicates that a floor-to-ceiling closet was installed in 1874, but its location was not specified. The 1880 Form 36 (App. C-86) notes the room was fitted with eight oil butts, one strainer and oil cans, tools, burners, glasses, etc. The oil butts were set on wooden benches. In 1888, the floor timbers of the Oil Room were repaired, with the carrying timbers being properly shored next to the partition. The partition referred to is not specified, but it may have been the closet partition.
Two floor plans showing the room (figs. 220 and 225) date to the first half of the 20th century, but these plans appear to be based upon the floor plan represented in figure 214. The only difference is the rendering of the east-wall window. Both later plans show this as a doorway, rather than a window. However, figure 27, dating to 1921, clearly shows a window with six-over-six-sashes here. Also, the stonework surrounding the window appears to be original. Thus, figures 220 and 225 err in showing an east-wall doorway. The window here was designed to be larger than others in the structure A hot-water pipe is noted to be installed along the east wall in the 1929 drawing (fig. 220), and electrical meters, switches, and fuses are seen along the west wall in the 1937 drawing (fig. 225).

The 1961 modernization of the dwelling affected this space dramatically. All of the extant surface finishes date to this period (fig. 226). The walls were covered with modern plasterboard, and a modern drop ceiling was introduced. The west doorway was closed off with studs, wire lath, and stucco. The east window was filled to accommodate an exhaust fan. The south doorway was made smaller, and the north doorway and door were introduced. An existing radiator was relocated to the northeast corner, along the north wall.
**Vestibule**

**Description**

**Plan**

The vestibule features a doorway in its south wall, leading to the laundry room, and a doorway in its north wall, leading to the outside. A window is centered on each of the east and west walls.

**Flooring**

The floor exhibits vinyl tiles, 9 inches square and green with white streaks, and wooden thresholds. The floor rests on a concrete slab.

**Walls**

The east, west, and north walls are of modern materials: studs, metal lath, and plaster. The south wall is stone: the original arched doorway opening is still extant.

**Baseboards**

The baseboards are of wood, 7 ½ inches high and devoid of embellishment.

**Ceiling**

A cove-like plaster ceiling highlights this space.

**Doorways**

The south wall contains the doorway to the laundry, with its wooden door featuring one light, and a screen door. The north wall has an exterior doorway, which is hung with a 1983 replacement wooden door with a single, diamond-shaped light.
**Finishes**  
Walls - wainscot area painted green, with white above.  
Ceiling - painted white.  
Trim - painted white.  
Doors - unpainted.

**Utilities**  
Heating equipment - there is no direct source of heat in this room.  
Lighting fixtures - a typical 1961 light fixture is located in the center of the ceiling.

**Historical Background**

The north vestibule, dating to 1961, was constructed to compensate for the 1950’s removal of the covered passageway, which connected the dwelling with the lighthouse tower. Figure 226 includes a construction drawing for the vestibule. The vestibule is built on a concrete slab, and features stud walls. The stone portion of the south wall is the original north wall of the north pavilion.
EAST APARTMENT

East Stair Hall

Description

Plan
The east stair hall is two stories high, with a stairway along its east wall. At first-story level, the stair hall is separated from the north hall and the west stair hall by partitions built in 1961. The south wall features a closet in the east corner and a doorway to the south foyer in the west corner. Another doorway is extant at this level, leading to the east living room. At second-story level, the east stair hall features a closet and doorway to the south bedroom at its south end, and two doorways—to the southeast and northeast bedrooms—at opposite ends of the east wall.

Flooring
Vinyl tiles, 9 inches square and green with predominantly white but also some black streaks, are found on both the first and second floors.

Walls
The walls are plaster. The east walls of both stories are early. Several ghost lines are apparent along this wall; these should be studied further. The north and west walls date to 1961. The south wall was remodeled in 1961 to include a closet.
**Stairway**

The material of the stairway is predominantly historic. The newel post is thick and turned. The balustrade features a handrail with turned balusters on the run, and at the corner at second-story level. The rest of the second-story balusters are square. The treads and risers were completely covered with carpeting, and thus were hidden from view.

**Baseboards**

The north, south, and west walls of the first story exhibit 1961 Type-IV baseboards. The baseboard ascending along the stairway is the earlier Type II. Most of the second story has Type-IV baseboards, except a portion of the north wall, and a section of the east wall adjacent to the short hall leading to the southeast bedroom.

**Ceiling**

The first-story ceiling looks early. That of the second story has been altered. It does not exhibit either a hatch to the attic or a skylight.

**Doorways**

The doorway to the closet, at the east end of the south wall, measures 29 ¾ inches wide by 79 ¼ inches high. The doorway to the south foyer, at the west end of the south wall, measures 32 ½ inches wide by 80 ½ inches high. Both doorways feature 1961 trim, and modern doors and hardware. (The closet doorway has double sliding doors.) The doorway to the east living room, at the south end of the east wall, measures 33 ½ inches wide by 80 inches high; it has the characteristic 1961 trim, but is missing its door. The doorways and doors of the second-story stair hall are described in connection with the rooms that they serve, because they tend to be located at the ends of short halls that extend into the rooms.

**Windows**

The only window in this space is the light in the door leading to the foyer.

**Finishes**

Walls - painted beige.
Trim - painted cream.
Ceiling - painted white.
Stairway - painted cream, except for the handrail, which has a dark wood finish.
Doors - unpainted on the first story; painted white on the second story.

**Utilities**

Heating equipment - a wall-mounted convector with enclosure is located on the first-story west wall. Two water-circulating pipes of small diameter are adjacent to the south-wall closet.
Lighting fixtures - the ceiling features two fluorescent fixtures. Two light switches are extant on the second story: one next to each of the doorways to the southeast and northeast bedrooms.
Electricity - two outlets are located in the west wall, one being on the first story, and one on the second.

**Documentation**

**Figures**

284-286

**Paint samples**

FIIS 14 P160: East stair hall, west-wall plaster
FIIS 14 P161: East stair hall, west wall, 1961 baseboard
Historical Background

The Fire Island keeper’s dwelling was originally designed with one central stair hall. This was entered directly from the outside via the main, south entrance, and it also communicated with the Oil Room, which extended into the north pavilion. There were two stairways from the first to the second stories, one each along the east and west walls. (Each of these stairways had a stairway to the cellar beneath it.) To the north and south of each stairway was a doorway leading to the rooms flanking the stair hall. This pattern was true of both the first and second stories.

As will be described in the section on the west stair hall, the two west stairways were removed in 1931, to permit the introduction of interior bathrooms along the west side of the second-floor stair hall. The east stairway survived, and much of its original fabric appears to remain in place. This includes the newel and balustrade, and the Type-II baseboard of the stairway run. This baseboard extends all the way to the short hall leading to the northeast bedroom, but is missing about 4 inches of its top molding adjacent to the hall. There are also a few pieces of original Type-II baseboard remaining in the stair hall at the second-story level, chiefly along part of the north wall, and on the east wall, to the north of the short hall to the southeast bedroom. The stair hall in general, though, has undergone great change. The 1938 specifications for repairs (App. C-148) included relathing and replastering the central stair hall. And during the 1961 modernization program, several partitions were erected in the central stair hall. At the first-story level, an east/west partition was built near the north end, creating the present north cross-hall linking the doorways of the two kitchens. The remaining portion of the stair hall was then partitioned in half lengthwise, and the same was done at the second-story level, to create today’s east and west stair halls. Thus, in the east stair hall, the first-story north and west walls, the south closet, and the three doors date to 1961. At the second-story level, the west wall, and the south wall with its closet and door to the south bedroom, date to 1961.
Figure 284. Dwelling interior: east stair hall, newel of stairway (1983).
Figure 285. Dwelling interior: east stair hall, newel of stairway (1983).

Figure 286. Dwelling interior: east stair hall, corner of second-story balustrade (1983).
Figure 287. Dwelling interior: paint sample #FIIS 14 P164, east stair hall, stair riser and tread (1983).
Figure 288. Dwelling interior: paint sample #FIIS 14 P169 east stair hall, second story, north-wall baseboard (1983).
Figure 289. Dwelling interior: paint sample #FIIS 14 P177, east stair hall, baseboard north of splice at top of stairway (1983).
East Living Room

Description

Plan
The east living room is rectangular in shape. The north wall features a closet in the west corner, adjacent to a fireplace that is approximately centered on the wall. The east end of the wall has a doorway to the east entry hall. The exterior walls (east and south) are characterized by windows, and the west wall by a doorway at its south end, leading to the east stair hall.

Flooring
Wall-to-wall carpeting covers the usual vinyl tiles that are 9 inches square and green with white streaks.

Walls
The walls are plaster. A fireplace and mantel ornament the north wall. This is the only room where a fireplace and mantel are extant. A crack in the wall is evident on either side of the firebox.

Baseboards
Baseboards are the same throughout the room–Type IV, from 1961.

Ceiling
The ceiling is plaster: several patches are visible.
Doorways
The doorway in the north wall to the east entry hall measures 33 ¼ inches wide by 80 ¾ inches high. The north-wall doorway to the closet measures 52 inches wide by 81 ¼ inches high; it has 1961 double sliding doors. The west-wall doorway to the east stair hall is missing its door, which appears to have been taken off its hinges.

Windows
Two windows are located in the south wall. They have early, two-over-two, double-hung sashes. The east wall has one window, which also has two-over-two, double-hung sashes. However, these sashes represent recent replacements. The window trim is the original beaded-board type found in the less-important rooms.

Finishes
Walls - painted beige.
Trim - painted cream.
Ceiling - painted white.
Mantel - painted cream.
Radiator - painted silver.
Door - unpainted.

Utilities
Heating equipment – a radiator has been installed under the southwest window. Two water-circulating pipes in the southeast corner run from floor to ceiling. The fireplace on the north wall constitutes another source of heat for the east living room.
Lighting fixtures - two light fixtures are ceiling-mounted. These fixtures are served by two light switches: one on the west wall, south of the door; the other on the north wall, west of the doorway to the east entry hall.
Electricity - three outlets are present–one each on the east, south, and west walls.

Documentation
Figure 290

Paint samples
FIIS 14 P138: East living room, closet plaster
FIIS 14 P139: East living room, east wall, window sashes
FIIS 14 P140: East living room, south wall, east-window sill
FIIS 14 P141: East living room, south wall, east-window muntins (fig. 291)
FIIS 14 P142: East living room, south wall, east-window trim
FIIS 14 P143: East living room, north wall, mantel shelf (fig. 292)
FIIS 14 P144: East living room, north-wall plaster
FIIS 14 P145: East living room, north wall, mantel area over firebox
FIIS 14 P146: East living room, west wall, doorway trim
FIIS 14 P147: East living room, east-wall baseboard
FIIS 14 P148: East living room, east wall, plaster above possible wainscot mark
FIIS 14 P149: East living room, south-wall plaster
FIIS 14 P150: East living room, pipes from first floor to ceiling
**Historical Background**

The east living room has experienced a more varied history than any of the other first-story rooms. Originally, it was designed to be a sitting room (fig. 214), with a splayed firebox and mantel, two side-by-side closets, doorways to the central stair hall and east entry hall, and three windows.

This usage as a sitting room continued through 1880, when that year’s Form 36 (App. C-86) mentioned two sitting rooms—obviously the southeast and northeast rooms, as indicated in figure 214. By 1929, the room was being used as the first assistant keeper’s kitchen (fig. 220), although no apparent changes had yet been made. Kitchen fixtures were added by 1931, however (fig. 222). These included a kitchen sink with drain board centered on the south wall, and a double laundry sink at the south end of the east wall, both with vent pipes to the outside measuring 1 ½ inches in diameter. No dimensions are given for these fixtures, but measurements are supplied for presumably identical fixtures in the west kitchen. In front of the fireplace is drawn a “range and range boiler.” The closet next to the fireplace is shown without a partition dividing it into two closets, but this is thought to be an omission, since the partition does appear in figures both earlier and later. The room was still a kitchen in 1937 (fig. 225), and its walls were relathed and replastered the next year (App. C-148). By 1961, the room had resumed its original function as a living room (fig. 226).

The east living room is the only room in the dwelling that has retained its firebox and mantel. The mantel has undergone some changes to its fabric, but it is essentially intact.
Figure 290. Dwelling interior: east living room, north-wall fireplace (1983).
Figure 291. Dwelling interior: paint sample #FIIS 14 P141, east living room, south wall, east-window muntins (1983).
Figure 292. Dwelling interior: paint sample #FIIS 14 P143, east living room, north wall, mantel shelf (1983).
East Entry Hall

Description

Plan  The east entry hall is rectangular, exhibiting a doorway in every wall. The one in the east wall leads to the outside; that in the west wall leads to the first-floor east bathroom; that in the north wall leads to the east dining room; and that in the south wall leads to the east living room.

Flooring  Vinyl tiles, 9 inches square with a brown speckled pattern, serve as the floor covering. Raised wooden thresholds are extant at the doorways to the east dining room and east living room. A marble slab constitutes the threshold to the bathroom.

Walls  The walls are plaster. A cursory inspection reveals that most plaster dates to 1961.

Baseboards  Modern, Type-IV baseboard is on all of the walls.

Ceiling  The ceiling is plaster.
**Doorways**  Of the four doorways, the north and south openings feature neither doorway trim nor doors. The east and west doorways have trim and doors from 1961. The doors are finished with modern hardware.

**Windows**  There are no windows in this space.

**Finishes**  Walls- painted light yellow-cream.  
Trim - painted white. 
Ceiling - painted white. 
Doors - unpainted.

**Utilities**  Heating equipment - no heating elements are present in this space.  
Lighting fixtures - a modern light fixture is featured in the center of the ceiling. 
The glass globe is missing. 
Electricity - no outlets are extant.

**Documentation**

Paint samples  
FIIS 14 P125: East entry hall, east-wall plaster  
FIIS 14 P126: East entry hall, north-wall plaster  
FIIS 14 P127: East entry hall, east wall, doorway trim  
FIIS 14 P128: East entry hall, east wall, doorway jamb  
FIIS 14 P129: East entry hall, east-wall baseboard

**Historical Background**

The dimensions of the east entry hall have remained consistent since construction in 1859, although the original adjacent winder stairway to the second floor was replaced by a half-bath in 1961. The east entry hall was designed as a small vestibule; it served the east entrance doorway, and linked the front and rear of the east apartment to each other, and to the winder stairway. The doorways in the north and south walls were designed without doors, and none appear to have been installed later.

The most substantial change to this space occurred during the 1961 modernization (fig. 226). The winder stairway was removed, and the half-bath was introduced. Elements that date to this period of remodeling include all baseboards, both of the doors (interior and storm) in the east-wall doorway, and the entire west wall (including its doorway and door).
East Dining Room

Description

Plan  The room is rectangular. It can be entered through two doorways: one in the south wall, leading from the east entry hall, and one in the west wall, leading from the east kitchen. There are no doors in these openings, nor any evidence of any having ever been present here. There are two windows, approximately centered on the east and north walls.

Flooring  Wall-to-wall carpeting has been laid.

Walls  The exterior walls (north and east) feature early plaster. The interior walls represent more recent work, with the west wall dating entirely to 1961, and the south wall then receiving repairs. North of the doorway is a pass-through opening, called a “parapet” in the 1961 drawing. This opening is 44 ¾ inches from the floor, 29 ¾ inches wide, and 16 ¼ inches high. The bottom edge has a marble shelf on it.

Baseboards  The south and west walls have the 1961 Type-IV baseboard. The east wall features the early Type-I baseboard; there is a splice in the lower board 2 ½ feet from the doorway. Two-thirds of the north wall is finished with the early baseboard; the remaining portion is from 1961.
**Ceiling**
The ceiling is plaster. The southwest corner of the ceiling shows evidence of an apparent patch, presumably where a register once existed.

**Doorways**
As mentioned, the doorways to the east entry hall and east kitchen apparently never had doors. It is thus not surprising that no trim is present, either. The south-wall doorway to the east entry hall is 33 ½ inches wide by 82 inches high; the west-wall doorway to the east kitchen is 36 inches wide by 80 ¼ inches high.

**Windows**
The windows on the east and north walls have the usual beaded-board trim. Their sashes are double-hung and two-over-two.

**Finishes**
Walls - painted mustard-yellow.
Trim - painted white.
Ceiling - painted white.

**Utilities**
Heating equipment - a radiator is located under the north-wall window. Two water-circulating pipes are extant in the northeast corner, running from floor to ceiling.
Lighting fixtures - the ceiling displays a light fixture. Also present are two light switches: one to the north of the west-wall doorway, and the other to the west of the south-wall doorway.
Electricity - there are two outlets on the east wall and two on the west wall, as drawn in the 1961 plan.

**Documentation**

Paint samples
- FIIS 14 P151: East dining room, north wall, window sill
- FIIS 14 P152: East dining room, east-wall baseboard (fig. 293)
- FIIS 14 P153: East dining room, north wall, window surround
- FIIS 14 P154: East dining room, north wall, plaster above wainscot line (figs. 294-295)
- FIIS 14 P155: East dining room, 1961 west wall
- FIIS 14 P156: East dining room, west-wall baseboard
- FIIS 14 P157: East dining room, east wall, window muntins
- FIIS 14 P158: East dining room, east-wall plaster
- FIIS 14 P159: East dining room, water pipes at north wall

**Historical Background**

This room’s present configuration is a result of the 1961 remodeling, during which the former large northeast kitchen was divided along its north/south axis, to create both a kitchen and a dining room. Therefore, the pre-1961 history of this room is discussed in connection with the east kitchen. Elements introduced during the remodeling include the entire west wall, portions of the south wall (where the fireplace was closed), and the baseboards on both of these walls. (The baseboards on the east and north walls are earlier.)
Figure 293. Dwelling interior: paint sample #FIIS 14 P152, east dining room, east-wall baseboard (1983).
Figure 294. Dwelling interior: paint sample #FIIS 14 P154, east dining room, north wall above wainscot line (1983).
Figure 295. Dwelling interior: paint sample #FIIS 14 P159, east dining room, pipes at north wall (1983).
Description

Plan  The east kitchen is a rectangular space, with a doorway in the east wall, leading to the east dining room, and a doorway in the west wall, leading to the north hall. A window and a U-shaped counter area occupy the north end of the room, while the south wall features a pantry.

Flooring  The flooring was laid in the 1970’s, being brown speckled vinyl tiles 9 inches square. The pantry has a different pattern, featuring coffee-brown tiles with dark brown and white streaks.

Walls  The north and west walls are constructed of early plaster. The east wall is a 1961 partition; the south wall was substantially remodeled at that time. The two sliding doors to the pantry monopolize the south wall of the room, while the north end features cabinets and kitchen appliances. The interior of the pantry has seven shelves nailed to the south wall.

Baseboards  The north wall is covered with cabinets; no baseboard is extant. The back wall of the pantry was not accessible for investigation.
**Ceiling**

The ceiling is plaster. Numerous patches are visible, including a large patch in the southeast corner.

**Doorways**

The east-wall doorway measures 36 inches wide by 80 ¼ inches high. It has neither trim nor a door, and shows no evidence of ever having had either. The west-wall doorway to the north hall measures 32 ½ inches wide by 80 ¼ inches high. It is surrounded by 1961 trim, and features a 1961 door. The south-wall pantry doorway measures 53 ½ inches wide by 81 inches high. It also has 1961 trim, and two 1961 sliding doors.

**Windows**

Only one window is present in this room. This window is located on the north wall, and its current size, trim, and sashes date to 1961.

**Finishes**

Walls - painted light yellow-cream, with modern wallpaper above the cabinets.
Trim - painted white.
Ceiling - painted white.
Radiator - painted silver.
Doors - unpainted.

**Utilities**

Heating equipment – a radiator sits at the south end of the west wall.
Lighting fixtures - two fluorescent fixtures have been installed: one in the ceiling, and another recessed above the north window. There is a third light fixture located on the north wall of the pantry, over the doorway.
Electricity - five outlets are present: the east and west walls feature two each, and the north wall has one, to the west of the sink.

**Documentation**

Paint samples
- FIIS 14 P130: East kitchen, west wall, plaster south of doorway (fig. 296)
- FIIS 14 P131: East kitchen, south wall, plaster over pantry doorway (fig. 297)
- FIIS 14 P132: East kitchen, south-wall pantry
- FIIS 14 P133: East kitchen, east-wall baseboard
- FIIS 14 P134: East kitchen, pantry, east plaster wall (fig. 298)
- FIIS 14 P135: East kitchen, east wall, 1961 plaster
- FIIS 14 P136: East kitchen, north wall, plaster under wallpaper
- FIIS 14 P137: East kitchen, west wall, doorway trim

**Historical Background**

The original “east kitchen,” according to figure 214, consisted of a large room in the northeast corner of the dwelling. The south wall featured, from east to west, a doorway to the east entry hall, a fireplace with splayed jambs, and two side-by-side closets. The west wall had, at its south end, a doorway to the rear part of the central stair hall. The north wall featured two windows, and the east wall had one.
Very little change occurred in this space until the remodeling of 1961, according to the 20th-century drawings. Figure 220, from 1929, indicates that the room was then being used as the second assistant’s kitchen. Figure 225 includes a first-floor plan prepared in conjunction with the specifications for installing “Bath Rooms, Water and Sewer Systems.” The drawing shows a kitchen sink with drain board on the north wall, and a double laundry tub at the north end of the east wall, both with vent pipes to the outside measuring 1 ½ inches in diameter. No dimensions are given for these fixtures, but measurements are supplied for presumably identical fixtures in the west kitchen. In front of the fireplace is drawn a “range and range boiler.” The closet next to the fireplace is shown without a partition dividing it into two closets, but this is thought to be an error, since the partition does appear in figures both earlier and later. Physical architectural investigation may provide more definite data on the history of the closet. Paint sample #FIIS 14 P134 was removed from the east wall of the pantry, and it exhibits early paint.

During the 1961 modernization, the kitchen was made smaller, in order to allow the creation of a separate, adjacent dining room. A U-shaped set of cabinets was installed in the north end of the new kitchen. These actions required that several changes be made to the historic fabric. The south-wall fireplace had to be closed up, to permit construction of the north/south partition that divided the space. The north-wall window had to be shortened, to accommodate the cabinetry. Also added were new lighting fixtures, doorway trim and doors, and baseboards. The divider between the two closets was removed, and new shelves were built inside, to create the pantry.

The walls and extant architectural details were sampled for paint quite thoroughly. Early plasterwork remains in situ behind the wallpaper on the east and north walls. The history of finishes can be determined from the extracted samples.
Figure 296. Dwelling interior: paint sample #FIIS 14 P130, east kitchen, west wall south of doorway (1983).
Figure 297. Dwelling interior: paint sample #FIIS 14 P131, east kitchen, south wall above pantry doorway (1983).
Figure 298. Dwelling interior: paint sample #FIIS 14 P134, east kitchen, east wall of pantry (1983).
South Bedroom

Description

Plan  Located chiefly above the south pavilion, this bedroom can be entered through only one doorway. This doorway is in the north wall, and it leads from the east stair hall. To the east of the doorway is a rectangular projection that represents the back of the east stair hall’s south closet. To the west of the doorway is a wide closet that serves the south bedroom. Thus, the doorway from the stair hall opens into a short entry hall. Only one window is present, being centered in the south wall.

Flooring  Wall-to-wall carpeting has been laid. The floor surface below the carpeting was not accessible for investigation.

Walls  The south, east, and west walls are early. The north wall was altered in 1961 to accommodate the closets.

Baseboards  The south, east, and west walls feature early baseboards (Type III). A later shoe molding has been installed, however. The north wall underwent remodeling in 1961, but the interior of the closet was not accessible to investigate the baseboard.
Ceiling  The plaster ceiling is sloped on the east and west sides, reflecting the gabled roof of the pavilion.

Doorways  The north-wall doorway to the east stair hall measures 32 inches wide by 79 \(\frac{3}{8}\) inches high. The north-wall doorway to the closet measures 53 \(\frac{1}{2}\) inches wide by 79 inches high. Wooden trim from 1961 surrounds both doorways, and both feature 1961 doors with modern hardware. The closet door is actually a pair of sliding doors, as used at the east kitchen’s pantry.

Windows  A roundel window is located in the south wall. The sashes have been replaced.

Finishes  Walls - painted beige.
Trim - painted white.
Ceiling - painted white.
Doors - painted white.

Utilities  Heating equipment - a radiator sits at the east end of the north wall.
Lighting fixtures - the ceiling features one light fixture.
Electricity - the south, west, and east walls have one outlet each.

Documentation

Paint samples  FIIS 14 P182: South bedroom, west-wall plaster
FIIS 14 P183: South bedroom, south wall, window muntins
FIIS 14 P184: South bedroom, northwest closet, doorway trim
FIIS 14 P185: South bedroom, south wall, plaster around window (fig. 299)
FIIS 14 P186: South bedroom, west wall, early baseboard (fig. 300)
FIIS 14 P187: South bedroom, west-wall plaster
FIIS 14 P188: South bedroom, north wall, 1961 baseboard

Historical Background

This bedroom was used by the first assistant keeper. There is confusion as to the size of this room during the historic period. Figure 220, dated 1929, shows the bedroom as being the same size as the south pavilion below it. However, a drawing done only two years later (fig. 221) shows the room’s north wall positioned well inside the central stair hall. This second drawing is rudimentary, but it is substantiated by figure 225, from 1937. Therefore, either figure 220 errs in showing the smaller dimension, or the south bedroom was enlarged northward between 1929 and 1931. There is no specific documentary information to this effect. However, Appendix C-148 states that the walls of this bedroom–like those of the adjacent east stair hall–were relathed and replastered in 1938. This would suggest that alterations had occurred in this area. Unfortunately, this work would have wiped out most traces of any earlier arrangement. And the north wall itself was replaced in 1961, when two closets were added in this location. Investigation of the ceilings of the bedroom and stair hall, which were not replastered in 1938, may provide helpful clues.
Figure 299. Dwelling interior: paint sample #FIIS 14 P185, south bedroom, south wall near window (1983).
Southeast Bedroom

Description

Plan  Rectangular in plan, this room can be entered by two doorways—one from the east stair hall, the other from the second-story east bathroom. The exterior walls feature windows: two on the south wall, and one on the east wall. The interior walls were substantially remodeled in 1961 to include closets, and to close up the fireplace opening.

Flooring  The floor consists of vinyl tiles 9 inches square, and coffee-brown in color, with darker brown and white streaks. Carpeting is extant over the tile floor.

Walls  The south and east, exterior walls feature early plaster. The north and west, interior walls were remodeled in 1961. The north-wall fireplace was covered over, and the closet in the northwest corner of the room was altered. Two additional closets were built along the west wall, on either side of the doorway to the stair hall. This formed a short hallway into the bedroom.

Baseboards  The south and east walls exhibit early, Type-III baseboards. The north and west walls have 1961, Type-IV baseboards.

Ceiling  The ceiling is plaster. Numerous patches are visible.
Doorways

This room has five doorways. The doorway in the west wall, to the east stair hall, is 32 3/8 inches wide by 80 ½ inches high. It is located at the room-end of the short entry hall. The northern closet along the west wall has a doorway measuring 37 ¾ inches wide by 80 ½ inches high. The southern closet along the west wall has a doorway 24 ½ inches wide by 80 3/8 inches high. The doorway in the north wall, to the second-story east bathroom, is 24 ½ inches wide by 80 3/8 inches high. Finally, the north-wall doorway to the northwest closet is 53 ½ inches wide by 81 inches high. Each doorway is surrounded with plain, 1961 board trim, and has a modern door with modern hardware. (The doorways to the northern closet on the west wall, and to the northwest closet, have double sliding doors.)

Windows

The south wall contains two three-over-three, double-hung windows located at floor level, because of the slope of the roof. The easternmost of these two windows has original beaded trim with a flat-nosed sill. The east wall features one large window, well above floor level, with two-over-two, double-hung sashes. This window’s trim is not beaded, and thus may be a replacement. A shelf has been installed over this window.

Finishes

Walls - light blue.
Trim - white.
Ceiling - white.
Radiator - silver.
Doors - painted white.

Utilities

Heating equipment - a radiator rests at the south end of the east wall.
Lighting fixtures - two ceiling-mounted light fixtures are present. A light switch is located on the west wall to the north of the doorway.
Electricity - there is one outlet per wall.

Documentation

Paint samples
FIIS 14 P189: Southeast bedroom, south-wall plaster
FIIS 14 P190: Southeast bedroom, south-wall baseboard (fig. 301)
FIIS 14 P191: Southeast bedroom, south wall, muntin of east window (fig. 302)
FIIS 14 P192: Southeast bedroom, south wall, early surround of east window
FIIS 14 P193: Southeast bedroom, south wall, later surround of west window
FIIS 14 P194: Southeast bedroom, east wall, unbeaded surround of window
FIIS 14 P195: Southeast bedroom, east wall, window sashes
FIIS 14 P196: Southeast bedroom, east-wall plaster
FIIS 14 P197: Southeast bedroom, west wall, closet trim

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**Historical Background**

The southeast bedroom is identified on the early 20th-century drawings (e.g., fig. 220) as the first assistant keeper’s bedroom. The room is very similar in plan to the east living room below it. The chief difference in original construction was that the bedroom’s south-wall windows were shorter than those of the living room, so they had only three-over-three, double-hung sashes. No changes were made here until the 1961 remodeling. At that time, the north-wall fireplace was closed up; the interior of the northwest closet was altered; and two new closets were built along the west wall, on either side of the doorway to the east stair hall. This created a short entry hall within the bedroom, as in the south bedroom. Unlike with that room, the door sits at the room-end of the hall. All of the doors were fitted with new doors. Original fabric remains on the south and east walls, in the form of baseboards and probably sashes.
Figure 301. Dwelling interior: paint sample #FIIS 14 P190, southeast bedroom, south-wall baseboard (1983).
Figure 302. Dwelling interior: paint sample #FIIS 14 P191, southeast bedroom, south wall, east-window muntins (1983).
**Northeast Bedroom**

**Description**

*Plan*  
Rectangular in plan, this room can be entered by two doorways—one in the west wall, leading from the east stair hall; the other in the north wall, leading from the second-floor east bathroom. The northwest corner has one closet, introduced in 1961. The southwest corner features an original closet modified in 1961. The south-wall fireplace was covered over in 1961. The north and east, exterior walls display windows: the north has two, and the east has one.

*Flooring*  
Most of the floor is carpeted, but some areas are exposed, revealing floor tiles. These are 9 inches square and coffee-brown in color, with dark brown and white streaks.

*Walls*  
The north, south, and east walls exhibit early plaster. The plaster of the west wall dates to the 1961 remodeling. The same is true of the small partition just south of the west-wall doorway to the stair hall. This partition forms one side of a short entry hall into the room. The other side consists of the northwest closet.
**Baseboards** The exterior walls (north and east) appear to have extant early baseboards (Type III). The interior walls (south and west) have Type-IV baseboards from 1961.

**Ceiling** The ceiling is plaster. It appears to be early.

**Doorways** Four doorways are present. The doorway in the west wall, to the east stair hall, is 32 ¼ inches wide by 80 5/8 inches high. It is located at the room-end of the short entry hall. The doorway to the northwest closet is 47 ¼ inches wide by 81 ¼ inches high. The doorway in the south wall, to the second-story east bathroom, is 24 ¼ inches wide by 81 ½ inches high. All of the doorways feature plain board trim dating to 1961 that varies in width from 3 5/8 to 3 7/8 inches. Each doorway has a modern door with modern hardware. (The doorways to both closets have double sliding doors.)

**Windows** The north-wall windows are shorter and located at floor level, because of the slope of the roof. They thus contain three-over-three, double-hung sashes. The east-wall window is larger and well above floor level, with two-over-two, double-hung sashes. All three windows in this room have beaded surrounds, but the profile of some of the trim pieces appears to be later than the general profile. The later trim include the top piece at the eastern window in the north wall, and all of the trim around the east-wall window.

**Finishes** Walls - turquoise.
Trim - white.
Baseboards - painted white, except upper edge is turquoise.
Ceiling - painted white.
Doors - painted white.
Radiator - painted silver.

**Utilities** Heating equipment - a radiator is located at the north end of the east wall.
Lighting fixtures - the ceiling features two light fixtures. One light switch has been installed on the west wall, between the doorway to the east stair hall and the closet.
Electricity - the north, south, and east walls each have one outlet; the west wall has none.

**Documentation**

Paint samples
FIIS 14 P198: Northeast bedroom, east wall, later window trim
FIIS 14 P199: Northeast bedroom, east wall, window muntins
FIIS 14 P200: Northeast bedroom, east-wall plaster
FIIS 14 P201: Northeast bedroom, south-wall baseboard
FIIS 14 P202: Northeast bedroom, north-wall baseboard
FIIS 14 P203: Northeast bedroom, west wall, surround of doorway to northwest closet
FIIS 14 P204: Northeast bedroom, north-wall plaster
FIIS 14 P205: Northeast bedroom, north wall, sill of east window
FIIS 14 P206: Northeast bedroom, north wall, muntin of east window (fig. 303)
FIIS 14 P207: Northeast bedroom, north wall, later top trim of east window
FIIS 14 P208: Northeast bedroom, north wall, earlier east trim of east window
FIIS 14 P209: Northeast bedroom, south-wall plaster (fig. 304)

**Historical Background**

The early 20th-century drawings (e.g., fig. 220) indicate that the northeast bedroom and the north bedroom were used by the second assistant keeper. The northeast bedroom has remained consistent in plan throughout most of its history. The 1961 modernization caused the most radical changes. These included the closing of the south-wall fireplace; the introduction of a closet along the west wall in the north corner; the installation of a partition just south of the entrance to the stair hall, to form a short entry hall; and the remodeling of the southwest closet. Figure 220 (1929) depicts a radiator under the east-wall window, while figure 226 (1961) shows the radiator at the north end of the same wall.
Figure 303. Dwelling interior: paint sample #FIIS 14 P206, northeast bedroom, north wall, east-window muntins (1983).
**Figure 304.** Dwelling interior: paint sample #FIIS 14 P209, northeast bedroom, south wall (1983).
WEST APARTMENT

West Stair Hall

Description

Plan  The west stair hall is two stories high, with a staircase running along the west wall. The first-story portion of the west stair hall is separated from the north hall and the east stair hall by partitions. The south wall features a closet in the west corner, and a doorway to the south foyer in the east corner. One other doorway is extant on the first story, leading to the west living room. The second-story part of the west stair hall features a closet and doorway to the north bedroom at its north end, and two doorways—to the northwest and southwest bedrooms—at opposite ends of the west wall.

Flooring  Vinyl tiles, 9 inches square and green with white streaks, are featured.

Walls  The walls are plaster. The west wall in both stories levels is early, although it has been patched numerous times. The east and north walls in both stories are plaster partitions introduced in 1961. The south wall in the first story was covered over in 1961 by the foyer and adjacent closet; on the second story, the wall was replaced in 1961.
**Stairway**
The stairway dates to 1961, and features 15 risers. All of the balusters are $1\frac{5}{8}$ inches square.

**Baseboards**
All of the first-story baseboard is from 1961, consisting of a plain, unmolded board. The board is 5 ¾ inches wide by 7/8 inches thick. The second-story baseboards are from 1961, as well, being a straight board with a quarter-round shoe molding. The west-wall baseboard along the stairway is very thick, finished at its upper edge with a quarter-round molding.

**Ceiling**
The ceiling is plaster with two special features: a skylight and a hatch to the attic.

**Doorways**
The doorway to the closet, at the west end of the south wall, measures 28 3/8 inches wide by 79 ¾ inches high. The doorway to the south foyer, at the east end of the south wall, measures 32 inches wide by 80 ½ inches high. Both doorways feature 1961 trim, and modern doors and hardware. The doorway to the west living room, at the south end of the west wall, measures 31 inches wide by 79 ¾ inches high. It retains its 1961 trim, but its door is missing. The doorways and doors of the second-story stair hall are described in connection with the rooms they serve, because they tend to be located at the ends of short halls that extend into the rooms.

**Windows**
The only windows are the light in the first-story door to the south foyer, and the second-story ceiling skylight.

**Finishes**
Walls - painted light yellow-cream.
Trim - painted white.
Ceilings - painted white.
Doors - unpainted.

**Utilities**
Heating equipment - a wall-mounted convector with enclosure, 56 inches long by 24 inches high and dating to 1961, is located on the east wall at first-story level.

Lighting fixtures - three fluorescent fixtures are extant: one on the first-story ceiling, at the bottom of the stairway; and two mounted on the second-story ceiling, on either side of the skylight. There are also two wall switches at second-story level, one each adjacent to the doorways to the southwest and northwest bedrooms.

Electricity - outlets are located as represented in the 1961 drawing, on the east wall of the first and second stories.

**Documentation**

Paint samples FIIS 14 P020: West stair hall, west wall (fig. 305)
Historical Background

The west stair hall is separate from the east stair hall. This was not always the case. As originally constructed, the west and east stair halls constituted one central stair hall having two stairways, one each on the east and west walls. A great deal of change occurred in 1931, when interior bathrooms were introduced into the central stair hall at the second-story level. Most importantly, the original west stairways were removed. The drawings (figs. 221-223) and specifications (App. C-143) for this work survive. Regarding the removal of the stairways, the specifications read as follows:

Remove stairs from cellar to first floor and between first and second floors; close the opening in floors; repair the damaged wall plastering; install base on lower floor in hallway between kitchen and living room doors, and plaster ceiling of lower hall stair well, plastering to correspond with the existing wall and ceiling plastering.

Framing and flooring of stair well closures will be of same materials and construction as the floors of which they become a part. On the first floor the top layer will break joint at least 6 inches with the existing floor every second board. On the second floor the top flooring will be removed from the area to be enclosed in the two bath rooms in hallway to allow bath room floors of full length boards from wall to wall.

The specific details of the construction of the two bathrooms installed in the second story of the west stair hall are included in the specifications. (See discussion of the east stair hall for additional information on the central stair hall.)

According to a “Recommendation As To Aids to Navigation” prepared in January of 1938 (App. C-148), the plaster of the halls of the first and second stories was loose and needed to be repaired. Specifications were prepared for the relathing and replastering of these surfaces. The type and application method is described, as well.

During the 1961 remodeling, the west stairway from the first to the second stories was reconstructed. A number of closets were added, as well as the south entrance foyer at first-story level. Therefore, today nearly all elements date to 1961, except the ceiling, the west wall, and perhaps the flooring, which was not accessible for investigation. Elements from 1961 include the stairway and its balustrade; the closets at first- and second-story levels; the baseboards; the south, east, and north walls; and the light fixtures.
Figure 305. Dwelling interior: paint sample #FIIS 14 P020, west stair hall, west wall (1983).
West Living Room

Description

Plan The room is rectangular in plan, and features two doorways: in the east wall, leading to the west stair hall; the other in the north wall, leading to the west entry hall. A closet is located at the east end of the north wall, next to the former fireplace opening. There are three windows: one in the west wall, and two in the south wall.

Flooring Vinyl tiles, 9 inches square with a brown speckled pattern, cover the floor. The closet floor exhibits tiles as well, but the floor is approximately 1 inch lower than that of the west living room. Floorboards are 3 to 3 ½ inches wide and are laid east/west.

Walls The south and west, exterior walls exhibit early plaster. The north and east, interior walls have been repaired and replastered, with the last repairs being undertaken in 1961.

Baseboards The north and east walls have Type-IV baseboards from 1961. The west and south walls retain the earlier Type-I baseboard. The west-wall baseboard is 9 ¼ inches high.
Ceiling

The ceiling is plaster.

Doorways

The east-wall doorway to the west stair hall exhibits plain, 1961 board trim. The door here is missing; only its hinges remain. The north-wall closet doorway retains its double sliding doors; it also has the 1961 trim. The north-wall doorway to the west entry hall has neither trim nor door.

Windows

The windows vary in size from 29 ½ to 29 ¾ inches in width; from 12 ½ to 13 inches in depth of jamb; and from 48 to 49 inches in height. Windows have two-over-two, double-hung sashes; the upper sash is missing in the south wall’s west window, because of the 1970’s stovepipe. The trim consists of a beaded board with an elaborate outer molding. The same molding is attached to the beaded apron, beneath the bull-nosed sill.

Finishes

Walls - painted light yellow-cream.
Trim - painted white, except the southeast window, which is painted light yellow-cream.
Ceiling - painted white.
Radiator - painted white.
Pipes - painted white.

Utilities

Heating equipment - a radiator located below the west-wall window is 57 ½ inches long by 26 inches high. A coal-burning stove in the southwest corner, vented though the southwest window, was installed by the National Park Service. The stove is cast iron (CEMI model) and set on a marble slab. Two water-circulating pipes run from floor to ceiling in the southwest corner.
Lighting fixtures - two light fixtures with glass globes are mounted on the ceiling. There are two light switches: one on the north wall, and one on the east wall.
Electricity - the north wall features two outlets, while the south, west, and east walls have one outlet each.

Documentation

Paint samples
FIIS 14 P028: West living room, south wall, west window, outer molding of east surround
FIIS 14 P029: West living room, south wall, west window, bead of east trim
FIIS 14 P030: West living room, south wall, west window, elaborate apron
FIIS 14 P031: West living room, south wall, west window, beaded apron board
FIIS 14 P032: West living room, south wall, west window, east jamb
FIIS 14 P033: West living room, south wall, west window, quarter-beaded stop
FIIS 14 P034: West living room, south wall, muntins of west window (fig. 306)
FIIS 14 P035: West living room, south wall, sill of west window
FIIS 14 P036: West living room, west wall, plaster south of window (fig. 307)
FIIS 14 P037: West living room, north-wall plaster
FIIS 14 P038: West living room, north-wall baseboard
FIIS 14 P039: West living room, north wall, northeast closet, east trim
**Historical Background**

The west living room was originally called a “sitting room,” according to figure 214, a construction plan. The early 20th-century floor plans that have survived describe the room as the “Keeper’s Sitting Room.” Figure 214 shows the room with a window in the west wall and two in the south wall. A doorway is located in the east wall, almost midway along the wall. The north wall exhibits a doorway at its west end, a splayed fireplace, and two closets at its east end.

Virtually no change occurred here from 1858 to 1937: figure 220 shows the same plan seen in figure 214, except that a radiator is roughly centered beneath the west-wall window. An elevation of the north wall also is drawn.

The 1931 plan for water and sewer systems (fig. 222) does not show the partition in the north-wall closets, but this is probably an oversight, since the partition does appear in figures both earlier and later. Figure 222 also shows two ceiling-light fixtures that may be those extant today.

Even the remodeling of 1961 caused only minor changes here. It affected the room in the following ways: (a) the fireplace and ceiling register were closed, with the openings being plastered flush with the wall and ceiling surfaces; and (b) the northeast closet was altered to receive sliding doors. It is also possible that the east-wall doorway was moved further south. Figure 226, which represents the 1961 work, illustrates the east-wall doorway as being closer to the south wall than appears in the earlier floor plans. Further on-site investigation is required to determine whether this change actually occurred.
Figure 306. Dwelling interior: paint sample #FIIS 14 P034, west living room, south wall, west-window muntins (1983).
Figure 307. Dwelling interior: paint sample #FIIS 14 P036, west living room, west wall south of window (1983).
**West Entry Hall**

**Description**

**Plan**

The west entry hall is a mirror image of the east entry hall with a doorway in every wall: one leading outside; one each leading to the west living and dining rooms; and one to the half-bath on the first story.

**Flooring**

Vinyl tiles, 9 inches square with a brown speckled pattern, represent the flooring. There is no raised threshold to the west living room or west dining room. A grayish marble threshold leads to the bathroom, and a wood/aluminum threshold serves the doorway to the outside.

**Walls**

The walls are plaster. A plaster patch is visible above the north-wall doorway, indicating a change in the doorway opening.

**Baseboards**

A 1961 Type-IV baseboard trims each wall.

**Ceiling**

The plaster ceiling is lower in this space than in the west living room and west dining room.
Doorways  The south and north doorways—on the west living and dining rooms, respectively—lack both trim and doors. The east- and west-wall doorways have both. The 1961 trim is between 3 ½ and 3 ¾ inches wide by 1 to 1 ½ inches thick. The doors are modern, exhibiting modern hardware. The door in the west wall to the outside is 32 inches wide by 81 inches high; it has one light measuring 19 5/8 inches square.

Windows  The only window in this space is the large light in the exterior west door.

Finishes  Walls - painted light yellow-cream.
Trim - painted white.
Ceiling - painted white.
Doors - unpainted.

Utilities  Heating equipment - no heating elements are present in this space.
Lighting fixtures - a light fixture is mounted in the center of the ceiling. A light switch sits to the south of the outside doorway.
Electricity - no outlets are present.

Documentation

Paint samples  FIIS 14 P021: West entry hall, east-wall plaster (fig. 308)
FIIS 14 P022: West entry hall, west-wall plaster
FIIS 14 P023: West entry hall, west-wall baseboard
FIIS 14 P024: West entry hall, south-wall plaster (figs. 309-310)
FIIS 14 P025: West entry hall, north wall, plaster above doorway (fig. 311)
FIIS 14 P026: West entry hall, north wall, doorway frame
FIIS 14 P027: West entry hall, east-wall baseboard

Historical Background

The configuration of the west entry hall is original (see figure 214), although the character of the space has changed. A winder stairway to the second story was positioned directly opposite the outside doorway. This stairway survived until 1961, at which time it was removed and a bathroom installed. Presumably architectural evidence for the stairway design is still extant under the later fabric.

Today, the west, south, and north walls are original, although the latter two were repaired during the 1961 remodeling. These two seem to have never possessed either doorway trim or doors. The east wall, all baseboards, and the east and west doors date to 1961 (fig. 226). Paint samples capable of illustrating the complete history of finishes on the entry-hall walls were extracted, but additional analysis is needed to obtain their information.
Figure 308. Dwelling interior: paint sample #FIIS 14 P021, west entry hall, east wall (1983).
SAMPLE NO.: FIIS 14 P024
LOCATION: West Entry Hall, South Wall

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF LAYERS: 27 (only 16 visible in photograph)
SUBSTRATE: Plaster

CHROMOCHRONOLOGY:

1. Cream
2. Cream
3. Cream
4. Cream
5. Cream
6. Cream
7. Light yellow gold
8. Yellow gold
9. Yellow gold
10. Cream
11. Cream
12. Cream
13. Cream
14. Cream
15. Salmon
16. Salmon
17. Wallpaper
18. Plaster
19. Yellow
20. Salmon
21. Blue
22. Salmon
23. Yellow
24. Light green
25. Light yellow
26. White
27. Light yellow cream

Figure 309. Dwelling interior: paint sample #FIIS 14 P024, west entry hall, south wall (1983).
KEEPER'S DWELLING

Figure 310. Dwelling interior: paint sample #FIIS 14 P024, west entry hall, south wall (1983).
**Figure 311.** Dwelling interior: paint sample #FIIS 14 P024, west entry hall, south wall (1983).

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**CHROMOCHROMOLOGY:**

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*Layers 17-27 are not included in this photograph.*
West Dining Room

Description

Plan
The room is rectangular. It can be entered through two doorways: one in the south wall, leading from the west entry hall, and one in the east wall, leading from the west kitchen. Doors are absent from these doorways, and there is no evidence that there were ever any here. There are two windows, approximately centered on the west and north walls.

Flooring
The floor is covered with vinyl tiles, 9 inches square and off-white with black streaks.

Walls
The west-wall plaster appears early, by its obvious patches and uneven texture. The north wall is plaster, parts of which appear to be early. The wall has been reworked, as indicated by the repair in the lower half of the wall east of the window. The south wall is 5 ¾ inches thick and is early, with later repairs. The east wall is a 1961 partition dividing the former kitchen into two rooms. It features a pass-through opening north of the doorway, called a “parapet” in the 1961 drawing. This opening is 44 ¾ inches from the floor and features a marble shelf. The opening is 29 ¾ inches wide by 16 ¾ inches high.
Baseboards
The baseboards are similar in design and dimension throughout the room, between 7 and 7 ¼ inches wide. The baseboards are Type-IV boards with quarter-round moldings at the upper edge and floor level.

Ceiling
The ceiling is plaster. A ghost for a former register is visible in the southeast corner.

Doorways
The doorway to the west entry hall, and the doorway to the west kitchen, lack both trim and doors.

Windows
The two windows are similar in design. The west-window’s surround is 4 3/16 inches wide, with a half-inch bead on its inside edge. The sill has a bull nose; the 4 ½-inch wide apron below features a bead at its lower edge. The sashes are double-hung, with two-over-two lights. A modern brass sash lock is located south of the center muntin. A sash pull is extant on the lower rail of the bottom sash.

Finishes
Walls - painted light yellow-cream.
Trim - painted white.
Ceiling - painted white.
Radiators - painted silver.
Pipes - painted white.

Utilities
Heating equipment - two radiators are present. The one below the north-wall window is approximately 7 inches wide by 49 ½ inches long by 25 ½ inches high. The one to the north of the west-wall window, near the corner, is 8 inches wide by 23 inches long by 39 ½ inches high. Two water-circulating pipes run from floor to ceiling to the west of the northwest-wall radiator.
Lighting fixtures - there is one ceiling fixture, a brass hanging lamp. A light switch is located to the south of the doorway in the east wall.
Electricity - the east and west walls each have two outlets. The north and south walls have none.

Documentation
Paint samples
FIIS 14 P046: West dining room, west wall, baseboard in northwest corner
FIIS 14 P047: West dining room, west wall, baseboard in southwest corner
FIIS 14 P048: West dining room, west wall, plaster south of window
FIIS 14 P049: West dining room, west wall, plaster at south end, 60 inches from floor
FIIS 14 P050: West dining room, west wall, plaster at south end, near ceiling
FIIS 14 P051: West dining room, west wall, plaster south of window/near ceiling (figs. 313-314)
FIIS 14 P052: West dining room, south wall, baseboard west of doorway
FIIS 14 P053: West dining room, south wall, baseboard east of doorway
FIIS 14 P054: West dining room, south wall, plaster west of doorway
FIIS 14 P055: West dining room, south wall, plaster east of/above doorway
FIIS 14 P056: West dining room, east wall, baseboard south of doorway
Historical Background

The west dining room was carved out of the original, large, northwest kitchen during the 1961 remodeling. The original northwest kitchen occupied the entire north half of the duplex, as depicted in figure 214. It featured two doorways—one to the west entry hall and the other to the central stair hall. The south wall of the room consisted of a centered fireplace with splayed jambs and two adjacent closets at the east end. The evolution of the pre-1961 kitchen is described in connection with the west kitchen.

Today, the exterior (north and west) walls are original, while only portions of the south wall are original. The west wall dates completely to 1961. The baseboards throughout the room are generally from 1961. The west-wall baseboard in the south corner exhibits more paint than the other baseboards, implying that it is earlier fabric. The firebox and register openings were closed up and plastered over during the remodeling work. A note on figure 226 indicates that the walls featured a wainscot. The reference specifically reads: “remove wood wainscoting in kitchen and dining room and repair plaster walls.”

Paint samples extracted from the plaster walls exhibit between 26 and 30 layers of paints, offering a complete history of the wall finishes. The pipes extant in the northwest corner are conjectured to date to the 1929 installation of the hot-water heating system. They appear to have been painted as described in the specifications for the work (App. C-137), as follows: “All pipes above cellar showing in rooms and all radiators will be painted one coat of flat gray paint made from white lead paint and lamp black, and one coat of aluminum bronze, applied in the best manner after the surfaces have been properly cleaned and are in good condition.” The paint layers exhibited on sample #FIIS 14 P062 above the aluminum paint represent the post-1928 finishes (see figure 315). By comparing this sample with the paint samples extracted from the plaster wall surfaces (e.g., sample #FIIS 14 P050, figs. 313-314), a better understanding of the relative dates of the paint layers may be ascertained.
Figure 312. Dwelling interior: west dining room, patch in plaster ceiling (1983).
Figure 313. Dwelling interior: paint sample #FIIS 14 P050, west dining room, west wall south of window (1983).
**Figure 314.** Dwelling interior: paint sample #FIIS 14 P050, west dining room, west wall south of window (1983).
SAMPLE NO.:  FIIS 14 P062  
LOCATION:  West Dining Room, North Wall, Pipes (Floor to Ceiling)

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF LAYERS:  16  
SUBSTRATE:  Metal

CHROMOCHRONOLOGY:

1. Rust (corrosion?)
2. Gray
3. Silver
4. Salmon
5. Salmon
6. Salmon
7. Silver
8. Yellow
9. Blue
10. Yellow
11. White
12. White
13. Light blue
14. White
15. Cream
16. White

**Figure 315.** Dwelling interior: paint sample #FIIS 14 P062, pipes at north wall (1983).
West Kitchen

Description

Plan
The west kitchen is a rectangular space, with a doorway in the west wall, leading to the west dining room, and a doorway in the east wall, leading to the north cross hall. A window and a U-shaped counter area occupy the north end of the room, while the south wall features a pantry.

Flooring
The floor consists of vinyl tiles, 9 inches square and off-white with black streaks.

Walls
The west wall is a partition dating to 1961, consisting of plaster on wire lath. The east wall exhibits early plaster, as does the north wall. The south wall is early, but features substantial repairs.

Baseboards
The baseboard on the east wall, behind the radiator, is an early Type-I baseboard. It is approximately 9 inches high. The baseboards elsewhere in the room are 1961, Type-IV baseboards.

Cabinets
The cabinets are similar to the 1961 drawing, but some changes to the plan were made during construction.

Ceiling
The ceiling is plaster, with many hairline cracks and repairs being apparent.
Doorways
The pantry on the south wall has two sliding doors in an opening 53 ¼ inches wide by 80 ¾ inches high. The doorway to the north hall has a modern hollow door, with modern hardware. The wooden trim around the doorways to the pantry and north hall consists of plain boards dating to 1961.

Windows
The one window is located on the north wall, and is equipped with a modern (1961), one-over-one, jalousie-type sash.

Finishes
Walls - painted light yellow-cream, with striped vinyl wallpaper.
Trim - painted white, except that top molding on baseboard is yellow like wall.
Ceiling - painted white.
Cabinets - wood veneer (smooth, glossy brown finish).
Doors - clear finish.
Door hinges - painted white.

Utilities
Heating equipment - the room is heated by a radiator 10 inches wide by 37 ¾ inches high, to the south of the east-wall doorway.
Lighting fixtures - two fluorescent fixtures are centered on the ceiling, and one recessed fluorescent fixture is located over the sink. Four light switches are extant, one on each wall.
Electricity - there are no outlets on the south wall, two on the east and west walls, and one on the north wall.

Documentation

Paint samples
- FIIS 14 P072: West kitchen, east wall, north frame of doorway
- FIIS 14 P073: West kitchen, east wall, plaster behind radiator (figs. 316-317)
- FIIS 14 P074: West kitchen, east wall, baseboard behind radiator
- FIIS 14 P075: West kitchen, east wall, baseboard molding behind radiator (fig. 318)
- FIIS 14 P076: West kitchen, east wall, plaster under wallpaper (fig. 319)
- FIIS 14 P077: West kitchen, south wall, early plaster at east end, by radiator
- FIIS 14 P078: West kitchen, south wall, inside pantry (fig. 320)
- FIIS 14 P079: West kitchen, south wall, 1961 fireplace infill
- FIIS 14 P080: West kitchen, north-wall plaster
- FIIS 14 P081: West kitchen, west wall, plaster by stove

Historical Background
According to the surviving historical documentary data, the kitchen remained virtually unaltered from its original state until the 1961 modernization. Figure 214, an original construction drawing, depicts the kitchen as one large room with a window in the west wall and two in the north wall. The south wall had a doorway to the west entry hall, the splayed fireplace, and two closets. The east wall featured a doorway to the rear part of the central stair hall.
The 20th-century drawings describe the west kitchen consistently as the “Keeper’s Kitchen.” Figure 220, dating to 1929, shows the space unaltered. Figure 222 includes a first-floor plan prepared in conjunction with the specifications for installing “Bath Rooms, Water and Sewer Systems.” The drawing displays a sink (20 inches by 30 inches by 6 inches) and drain board (18 inches by 26 inches) centered on the north wall, with a 1 ½-inch vent to the outside. This particular sink may date to 1906: the annual report for that year noted that a new kitchen sink and fittings were furnished (App. C-105). Also drawn in the floor plan of the west kitchen in figure 222 is a double laundry tub (54 inches by 24 inches by 16 inches) positioned along the west wall in the north corner. This tub features a 1 ½-inch vent to the outside, as well. A range and range boiler are drawn in front of the splayed fireplace. The closet in the southeast corner does not have a partition in figure 222, but this is thought to be an omission, since the partition does appear in plans drawn both earlier and later. Physical architectural investigation may provide more definite data on the history of the closet. Paint sample FIIS 14 P078 was removed from the south wall of the pantry, and it exhibits early paint.

The west kitchen is clearly a product of the 1961 division of the old large west kitchen into a dining room and a small kitchen. Modern cabinetry lines the north end of the room, and modern appliances are extant. Many of the features of the original kitchen were covered over during the 1961 remodeling. The work included the following: constructing the west wall, which forced the closure of the south-wall fireplace; shortening the north-wall window to accommodate the cabinetry; and installing doors, lighting fixtures, baseboards, and pantry shelving. (An earlier baseboard has survived behind the west-wall radiator.)

The walls and extant architectural details were sampled for paint quite thoroughly. Early plasterwork remains in situ behind the wallpaper on the east and north walls. The history of finishes may be determined from the extracted samples.
Figure 316. Dwelling interior: paint sample #FIIS 14 P073, west kitchen, east wall behind radiator (1983).
Figure 317. Dwelling interior: paint sample #FIIS 14 P073, west kitchen, east wall behind radiator (1983).
Figure 318. Dwelling interior: paint sample #FIIS 14 P074, west kitchen, east-wall baseboard behind radiator (1983).
SAMPLE NO.: FIIS 14 P076
LOCATION: West Kitchen, East Wall, Plaster Under Wallpaper

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF LAYERS: 19 visible in this photograph; more extant on samples

CHROMOCHRONOLOGY:
1. Cream
2. Cream
3. Cream
4. Dark aquamarine
5. Dark aquamarine
6. Green
7. Light green
8. Light green
9. Light green
10. Dark aquamarine
11. Green
12. Green
13. Light green
14. Cream
15. Cream
16. Salmon
17. Salmon
18. Cream
19. Cream

Figure 319. Dwelling interior: paint sample #FIIS 14 P076, west kitchen, east wall beneath wallpaper (1983).
Figure 320. Dwelling interior: paint sample #FIIS 14 P078, west kitchen, south wall of pantry (1983).
**Southwest Bedroom**

**Description**

**Plan**
Rectangular in plan, the southwest bedroom is entered primarily through a doorway in its east wall, leading from the west stair hall. A closet has been built on either side of the doorway, creating a short entry hall. Still another closet is located at the east end of the north wall, while a doorway to the second-story west bathroom occupies the west end of that wall. The west and south walls feature one and two windows, respectively.

**Flooring**
Vinyl tiles, 9 inches square and white with brown streaks, cover the floor. The floor of the short entry hall has the same tiles, but appears to be about 1 inch higher. There is a wooden threshold at the doorway between the room and the entry hall, which helps to bridge the difference in levels. The doorway to the bathroom has a marble threshold. The doorways to all three closets have no thresholds.

**Walls**
The exterior, south and west walls have early plaster; the interior, north and east walls have been altered.
Baseboards

Early, Type-III baseboards are extant on the south and west walls. The south-wall baseboard is spliced near the southwest window. Baseboards on the north and east walls are 5 ¾ inches wide and of the Type-IV variety. The baseboard in the northeast closet is 7 ¼ inches high.

Ceiling

The ceiling is plaster. The south end is sloped, reflecting the slope of the roof.

Doorways

There are five doorways in this room. The east-wall doorway to the stair hall is 31 7/8 inches wide by 80 inches high, and has a modern door. It is located at the room end of the short entry hall formed by the two east-wall closets. The closet south of the hall doorway has a doorway measuring 23 ½ inches wide by 80 inches high, also with a modern door. The closet north of the hall doorway has a doorway measuring 37 ½ inches wide by 79 inches high, with two modern sliding doors. The doorway to the northeast closet measures 54 ½ inches wide by 79 ½ inches high, and also has two modern sliding doors. The north-wall doorway to the bathroom is 24 ½ inches wide by 81 inches high, with a modern door. All doorways are surrounded with plain, 1961 board trim, measuring 3 ½ to 3 ¾ inches wide by three-quarters to seven-eighths of an inch thick.

Windows

Of the three windows in this room, two are in the south wall. These windows are short and located at floor level, because of the roof slope. The eastern window opening measures 29 ½ inches wide by 27 ½ inches high; the western one is 29 ½ inches wide by 27 inches high. Both window openings contain three-over-three, double-hung sashes that appear to be original. The third window is located in the west wall. It measures 29 ¾ inches wide by 48 ½ inches high, sits well above floor level, and features two-over-two sashes. The trim is the same for all three windows, featuring a bead on its inner edge, an elaborate molding along its outer edge, and a bull-nosed sill approximately 12 ½ inches deep. There are sash locks on the southeast and west windows, but not on the southwest window. The sash stops for all three windows are replacements.

Finishes

Walls - painted light yellow-cream.
Flat ceiling - painted white.
Wood trim - painted white.
Baseboard’s upper molding - painted light yellow-cream.

Utilities

Heating equipment - a radiator 26 inches high by 57 ½ inches long by 7 ¾ inches wide sits at the south end of the west wall. It was manufactured by the American Radiator Company.
Lighting fixtures - two ceiling fixtures with glass globes illuminate this room. They are the same fixtures as used in the west living room. Two light switches are present: one on the east wall, and one in the southeast closet.
Electricity - an outlet is extant on each of the south, west, and north walls; there is no outlet on the east wall.
Documentation

Paint samples  FIIS 14 P082: Southwest bedroom, east-wall baseboard
FIIS 14 P083: Southwest bedroom, east-wall plaster
FIIS 14 P084: Southwest bedroom, north wall, west trim of bathroom doorway
FIIS 14 P085: Southwest bedroom, north-wall plaster
FIIS 14 P086: Southwest bedroom, west-wall plaster (fig. 321)
FIIS 14 P087: Southwest bedroom, west wall, top trim of window
FIIS 14 P088: Southwest bedroom, west wall, window muntins
FIIS 14 P089: Southwest bedroom, west wall, south jamb of window
FIIS 14 P090: Southwest bedroom, south-wall baseboard
FIIS 14 P091: Southwest bedroom, south wall, east end of baseboard
FIIS 14 P092: Southwest bedroom, south-wall plaster
FIIS 14 P093: Southwest bedroom, south wall, slanted ceiling
FIIS 14 P094: Southwest bedroom, south wall, sill of east window (fig. 322)
FIIS 14 P095: Southwest bedroom, south wall, muntins of east window
FIIS 14 P096: Southwest bedroom, south wall, east window, west outer molding of surround
FIIS 14 P097: Southwest bedroom, south wall, surround of east window

Historical Background

The earliest extant plan in the National Park Service’s possession that includes the second story dates to 1929 (fig. 220). The southwest bedroom is referred to in this figure as the “Keeper’s Bedroom.” The bedroom is identical in layout to the sitting room below. The prime difference is that the south-wall windows here are shorter, and thus feature only three-over-three, double-hung sashes.

The first major change to this room dates to 1931, being part of the installation of the “Bath Rooms, Water and Sewer Systems.” According to figure 221 and the construction specifications (App. C-143), the room received a bathroom with skylight and a new closet. The bath was built in the northeast corner of the room, using the original closet area east of the fireplace, and extending southward almost to the doorway in the east wall. A new closet was built at the south end of the east wall, with its doorway facing west. Together, these spaces flanked the east-wall doorway, and the area between them was treated as a short entry hall, with the door to the room being hung at the west end of the hall. (This arrangement of closets flanking doorways was used extensively by the architects of the 1961 remodeling, and it would appear that they got the idea from the design of this room as remodeled in 1931.) The electric-light plan of 1937 (fig. 225) shows the bedroom with bath and closet in place.

The second significant alteration to the southwest bedroom occurred in 1961 (fig. 226). The northeast bathroom was removed; a closet was recreated in the northeast corner, retaining the 1931 skylight. The 1931 closet in the southeast corner also remained. A third closet was constructed just north of the east-wall doorway, which created a short entry hall between the two closets. A new bathroom was built west of the fireplace, taking the place of the original stairway down to the west entry hall. The fireplace itself was closed and plastered over. Thus, the room as it survives today is 1961 in plan, but earlier elements still remain. The baseboards on the south and west walls are early, as are the window surrounds. The three-over-three sashes are probably original, but the two-over-two sashes are historic replacements.
Figure 321. Dwelling interior: paint sample #FIIS 14 P086, southwest bedroom, west wall (1983).
Figure 322. Dwelling interior: paint sample #FIIS 14 P094, southwest bedroom, south wall, sill of east window (1983).

SAMPLE NO.: FIIS 14 P094
LOCATION: West Side, SW Bedroom, South Wall, SE Window Sill

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF LAYERS: 15
SUBSTRATE: Wood

CHROMOCHRONOLOGY:

1. White
2. Dark brown
3. Medium brown
4. White
5. White
6. White
7. White
8. Cream
9. Cream
10. Cream
11. Cream
12. White
13. White
14. White
15. White
Northwest Bedroom

Description

Plan
The northwest bedroom is a mirror image of the northeast bedroom. It is rectangular in plan, with two entrances: one in the east wall, from the west stair hall; the other in the south wall, from the second-story west bathroom. The room features three windows: two in the north wall, and one in the west wall. Two closets are located in this room: one in the northeast corner and the other in the southeast corner.

Flooring
The flooring consists of vinyl tiles, 9 inches square and brown with dark-brown and white streaks. A wooden threshold exists at the doorway to the stair hall, and a marble threshold is extant at the doorway to the bathroom.

Walls
The north, south, and west walls are early plaster. The plaster of the east wall dates to the 1961 remodeling. The same is true of the small partition south of the east-wall doorway to the stair hall, which—with the closet north of the doorway—forms a short entry hall into the room.
**Baseboards**
Most of the north- and west-wall baseboards are early (Type III). The baseboard on the south wall is two-thirds early, with the remaining being Type IV. The baseboards throughout the room vary in width from 4 ¼ inches to 6 ½ inches, and from seven-eighths of an inch to 1 ¼ inches thick.

**Ceiling**
The ceiling is plaster, and it is sloped on the north side, conforming to the roof shape. The sloped ceiling is deteriorated at its west end, exposing the wooden lath.

**Doorways**
Four doorways serve this room. All have plain, 1961 trim boards measuring 3 ½ inches wide by seven-eighths of an inch thick. The east-wall doorway to the stair hall is 31 ½ inches wide by 80 ¼ inches high. It sits at the room-end of the short entry hall. The south-wall doorway to the second-story west bathroom is 24 5/8 inches wide by 80 7/8 inches high. Both of these doorways have modern, single doors. The doorway to the southeast closet is 53 ¼ inches wide by 81 inches high. The doorway to the northeast closet is 46 inches wide by 80 7/8 inches high. Both of the closets’ doorways have modern, double sliding doors.

**Windows**
The north wall’s windows measure 29 5/8 inches wide by 26 ½ inches high. They are located at the floor level, because of the slope of the roof. Each window is surrounded by beaded trim boards 4 ½ inches wide, with a flat-nosed sill. The sashes are three-over-three and double-hung. The west window measures 29 ¾ inches wide by 48 ½ inches high, and is located well above the floor. It has trim similar to that around the north-wall windows, but its sill is bull-nosed. It has two-over-two, double-hung sashes. All windows have modern sash locks.

**Finishes**
Walls - painted light yellow-cream.
Trim - painted white.
Ceiling - painted white, except for the sloped section, which is painted yellow like the walls.
South-wall closet interior - painted aquamarine.
Doors - clear finish.

**Utilities**
Heating equipment - a radiator 25 5/8 inches high by 57 ½ inches wide by 8 inches thick is located in the northwest corner. There is evidence for a stovepipe hole on the south wall, to the west of and above the closet doorway.

Lighting fixtures - lighting is provided by two round ceiling-mounted fixtures with glass globes. A light switch has been installed between the closets.

Electricity - one outlet is located on each of the north, west, and south walls; none exists on the east wall.

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**Documentation**

Figure 323

Paint samples
- FIIS 14 P098: Northwest bedroom, east wall, northeast closet, doorway trim
- FIIS 14 P099: Northwest bedroom, north wall, window muntins
- FIIS 14 P100: Northwest bedroom, east-wall plaster
- FIIS 14 P101: Northwest bedroom, south wall, early baseboard (fig. 324)
- FIIS 14 P102: Northwest bedroom, south wall baseboard
- FIIS 14 P103: Northwest bedroom, west wall, early baseboard
- FIIS 14 P104: Northwest bedroom, west-wall plaster
- FIIS 14 P105: Northwest bedroom, west wall, window sill
- FIIS 14 P106: Northwest bedroom, west wall, window muntins
- FIIS 14 P107: Northwest bedroom, north-wall plaster
- FIIS 14 P108: Northwest bedroom, north wall, sill of east window
- FIIS 14 P109: Northwest bedroom, north wall, trim of east window (fig. 325)

**Historical Background**

The northwest bedroom was referred to as the keeper’s bedroom throughout most of the dwelling’s history, although one plan dated 1931 (fig. 221) describes the room as the “Assistant’s Room.” The room underwent no significant changes until the 1961 remodeling. At that time, the southeast closet was altered to accommodate sliding doors, and a second closet was installed. The new closet was placed along the east wall, to the north of the doorway to the west stair hall, with its entrance facing west. A short partition wall was introduced on the south side of the doorway to the stair hall. The south wall of the new closet and the partition created a short entry hall linking the bedroom to the stair hall. The south wall was treated similarly to the north wall of the southwest bedroom, with the fireplace being closed, and the doorway being shifted slightly eastward, to accommodate the newly introduced bathroom in the former location of the old winder stairway down to the west entry hall.
Figure 323. Dwelling interior: northwest bedroom, hole in plaster ceiling (1983).
Figure 324. Dwelling interior: paint sample #FIIS 14 P101, northwest bedroom, south wall, early baseboard (1983).
Figure 325. Dwelling interior: paint sample #FIIS 14 P109, northwest bedroom, north wall, trim of east window (1983).
North Bedroom

Description

Plan Rectangular in plan, the north bedroom can be entered through only one doorway, from the west stair hall. A short entry hall is formed by two closets that were introduced in 1961.

Flooring The floor is at least 1 inch higher than the flooring of the west stair hall. The floor is covered with vinyl tiles, 9 inches square and green with white streaks. The threshold of the doorway to the stair hall is aluminum.

Ceiling The ceiling is plaster, and slanted on its east and west sides to conform to the north-pavilion roof.

Walls The earlier plaster walls have been replaced with plasterboard.

Baseboards The east-wall baseboard is early, Type-III material 4 5/8 inches high. The west-wall baseboard is also Type III, but 5 inches high. The north wall exhibits a 1961, Type-IV baseboard 5 ¾ inches high.

Doorways The room features two doorways, both in the south wall. The entrance doorway is 29 7/8 inches wide by 80 ½ inches high, with a modern door. It sits at the stair-hall side of the short entry hall into the room. The closet doorway, to the
east of the hall doorway, is 52 7/8 inches wide by 79 7/8 inches high, with modern, double sliding doors.

**Windows** Of the three windows originally in this space, only two remain in use. These are the west-wall window (with three-over-three, double-hung sashes), and the roundel in the north wall. A window similar to the one in the west wall originally sat in the east wall, but its sashes have been replaced with plywood. Both the west and former east window feature beaded-board trim 4 ½ inches wide. The west window’s upper sash is early, but its lower sash is modern. The roundel measures approximately 38 ½ inches in diameter. It has two semicircular sashes with three wedge-shaped lights each. The bottom sash is fixed, while the upper sash is hinged along its horizontal edge, to swing inward.

**Finishes** Walls - painted light yellow-cream. Trim - painted white. Ceiling - flat portion painted white; slanted sections painted light yellow-cream, like the walls.

**Utilities** Heating equipment - the room is heated by a radiator 60 inches long by 24 inches high by 6 ¼ inches wide, located on the east wall. Lighting fixtures – one ceiling fixture with glass globe is at the center of the room. A light switch on the west wall, next to the entrance doorway. Electricity - one outlet is located on the west wall, and another on the east wall.

**Documentation**

Paint samples
- FIIS 14 P110: North bedroom, north-wall baseboard
- FIIS 14 P111: North bedroom, north-wall plasterboard
- FIIS 14 P112: North bedroom, east-wall plaster
- FIIS 14 P113: North bedroom, east-wall ceiling
- FIIS 14 P114: North bedroom, east wall, window trim
- FIIS 14 P115: North bedroom, south wall, doorway trim of closet
- FIIS 14 P116: North bedroom, west wall, window trim
- FIIS 14 P117: North bedroom, west wall, early baseboard (fig. 326)
- FIIS 14 P118: North bedroom, west wall, upper muntins of window
- FIIS 14 P119: North bedroom, west-wall plaster
- FIIS 14 P120: North bedroom, west wall, window sill

**Historical Background**

The 1929 heating-system plan (fig. 220) and the 1937 electric-light plan (fig. 226) describe the north bedroom as the second assistant’s bedroom. Judging by the early 20th-century floor plans, the north bedroom as constructed exhibited no special features, except for the roundel in the north wall. These plans also show that no significant changes took place here until the 1961 remodeling. At that time, two closets were installed along the south wall, one on either side of the doorway to the stair hall. The eastern closet opened into the bedroom, while the western closet opened into the west stair hall. The walls and ceiling have undergone extensive repairs.
Figure 326. Dwelling interior: paint sample #FIIS 14 P117, north bedroom, west wall, early baseboard (1983).
ATTIC

Description

Plan
The attic design follows the configuration of the roof plan, featuring one large, open, rectangular space with two smaller ells formed by the gabled roofs of the north and south pavilions. The chimneys rise through the attic at the east and west ends, and a skylight and paneled light shaft are framed into the attic to the west of the west chimney. The attic is completely unfinished.

Framing
The main attic rafters run from the ridge to the eave. They are 5 ½ to 6 ¼ inches deep by 3 ½ to 4 inches wide. There is a center pair of rafters aligned with the ridge of the pavilions; on either side of them are 14 additional pairs of rafters. The rafters are spaced between 19 ¼ and 28 ¾ inches on center; most are spaced approximately 22 to 24 inches on center. The sheathing runs perpendicular to the rafters. The sheathing boards average 1 inch thick by 10 inches wide.

Eighteen floor joists run east/west between the two interior, north/south bearing walls. On either side of this center section are 11 joists running north/south, from the north and south exterior walls to what appear to be chimney girts above each fireplace. All joists are 2 5/8 inches wide by 5 to 6 ¼ inches deep.

The perimeter dimensions of the light shaft are 41 ½ inches by 31 inches by 47 inches. The hatch from the floor below is located northwest of the skylight.

Masonry
The stone east and west walls of the dwelling extend up several feet into the attic. On the top of this stonework rests the framing of the jerkin-head end gables. The north and south attic walls of the respective pavilions consist of the same stone as do the lower parts of these walls. The north wall retains a section of its original brick chimney. The south wall has no such section remaining, but it does bear the ghost of its original brick chimney.

The east chimney is 60 ¼ inches long (east/west dimension) by 28 ½ inches wide (north/south dimension). The west chimney is 61 inches long (east/west dimension) by 28 inches wide (north/south dimension). Both chimneys are laid in American common bond.

Historical Background
The most extensive changes to the attic appear to have occurred during the 20th century. These changes were associated with the installation of the skylight, and with alterations to the chimneys, in the 1930’s. The attic should be examined further, and a more thorough investigation of the conditions and structure should be made when better light is available. A detailed analysis of the framing may provide data that will offer added insight into the evolution of the dwelling.
UTILITY SYSTEMS

Water-Supply and Sewage Systems

Privies and Bathrooms

A shed-roofed “privy” 5 by 8 feet was constructed in 1858-1859, along with the lighthouse tower and keeper’s dwelling (figs. 6-7). It was built of brick, directly behind (to the north of) the tower (fig. 13). By 1908, the site plans showed two stalls within the building, and referred to the structure as the “privies” (fig. 28). This suggests that a change was made between 1858 and 1908, to increase the number of stalls from one to two.

Apparently the privy building served the site until 1931, when bathrooms were installed within the dwelling as part of the installation of new water supply and sewage systems. The specifications (App. C-143) and drawings (figs. 221-223) for this work describe the details of the installation. Three bathrooms were introduced on the second story: two in the central stair hall, in the former location of the west stairway, and one in the “Keeper’s Bedroom” (the southwest bedroom). These bathrooms were removed in 1961, when four new bathrooms were installed (fig. 226). Two of the new bathrooms were half baths; they replaced the two original winder stairways adjacent to the first-story east and west entry halls. (The east and west entry halls themselves were retained.) The other two new bathrooms were full baths installed in the second story of each apartment, directly above the half baths. Sufficient room for them was obtained by taking the space formerly occupied by the original winder stairways, and also the adjacent halls linking the front and rear bedrooms. Passage was maintained, however, through the bathrooms. All four bathrooms are currently functional.

Wells and Septic System

The site was originally served by two wells and two pumps. The pumps were the subject of constant repairs and replacement during the 19th century, as described in the annual and monthly reports. The 1880 Form 36 (App. C-86) notes that two wells were extant, one with a pump, the other dry. The quality of the drinking water was described as “good.” In 1902, two “No. 2 well pumps with platforms and covers” were furnished and fitted (App. C-105).

Concern over the sanitary condition of the drinking water surfaced in 1929, as expressed in a letter from the U.S. Surgeon General to the Commissioner of the Bureau of Lighthouses (App. C-140). The letter noted that:

one of the engineers of the New York State Department of Health while making an investigation of the State Park at Fire Island noted insanitary [sic] conditions at Fire Island Lighthouse. Mention was made of the fact that the privy was too close to the wells which supply drinking water to the Station, and was also in need of cleaning.
An in-house report was prepared for the commissioner noting the existing condition (App. C-141). Since the report succinctly describes those conditions, it is included in full below.

1. The water supply for this Station, and other Stations and Dwellings, on Fire Island Beach, is ground water, which is obtained from a few feet below the surface of the beach, and although it is of rather poor quality, being brackish and hard, no complaints have hitherto been made regarding its quality or its wholesomeness.

2. The privy is 60 feet from the well. It has a cement vault which is bailed out about once a year, and the contents buried in the ground nearby.

3. There is a cesspool 100 feet from the well for the reception of sink waste water, where it leaches off into the soil.

4. This condition has existed since Station was built in 1858, except for the construction of the concrete vault for the privy, and conditions have never been considered unsanitary previously. The privy would not create any such conditions if the soil removed from the vault was buried at a sufficient distance away, but the sink draines [sic] might. However, this, together with many other Stations in this District, are listed for such improvements as inside toilets, bath room, heating plants, etc., and a heating plant has just been installed at this Station, and in the near future the other improvements will be undertaken; in connection with which a new well will be driven and water obtained from a lower level to avoid any surface contamination.

The 1931 specifications for the bathrooms (App. C-143) included a hot and cold running-water supply and a sewage-disposal system. The water-supply system introduced was “hydropneumatic,” with a well driven on the west side of the dwelling. The sewage-disposal system included an 800-gallon septic tank placed 125 feet south of the dwelling. In 1939, another well was driven 200 feet, and an electric pump was installed (App. C-150).

Apparently the water system continued to be a problem, because in 1963 a water-purification system was introduced. Today, the site is serviced by a Culligan water-purification system. The tanks are located in the northwest corner of the west cellar room. A Bock oil-fired water heater sits to the south of the Culligan system.

**Heating Systems**

Originally the Fire Island keeper’s dwelling was heated by fireplaces located in the major rooms of the dwelling—four downstairs and four upstairs. The fireboxes of these fireplaces featured splayed sides and were finished with wooden mantels, presumably similar to the one that remains in the east living room. The second-story north and south bedrooms never had fireplaces, although chimney stacks were located on the roofs of the pavilions. Further investigation of the attic spaces is required to determine if these chimney stacks contained working flues serving the bedrooms. If they did, the rooms would have been heated by stoves.
It is likely that even the rooms constructed with fireplaces later received heating stoves vented into the chimney flues, but the exact date and type of stoves employed is not known at this time.

Since 1928 the structure has been heated by a hot-water radiator system. Specifications for the introduction of this system date to March 23, 1929 (App. C-137). The “Recommendation As To Aids To Navigation” describes the necessity of installing this system as “making the quarters comfortable in cold weather.” The “work to be done” included providing and installing, complete, two hot-water heating plants based upon the specifications and drawings. The related drawing is included in this report as figure 220. Two boilers were to be installed along with two wells. The wells were to be driven in the cellars at the proper locations for connection with the heating system’s supply pumps. Nine radiators were specified for the dwelling, to be placed in the following rooms and locations:

• one in the “lst floor Living Room” (west living room), under the west-wall window;

• two in the “lst floor Hall” (central stair hall), at the east end of the north wall, and at the south end of the east wall; and

• one each in the six “2nd floor chambers” (bedrooms), under the east or west side walls, except for the south bedroom, where the radiator was located at the north end of the west wall.

Whether or not the radiators were installed in these locations is not known; further investigation of the floor fabric is required.

The 1931 addition of interior bathrooms caused three new radiators to be brought into the system, according to the pertinent specifications (App. C-143).

The 1961 modernization drawing (fig. 226) features 15 radiators. The locations of these radiators do not generally correspond to the locations drawn in the 1929 plan. The system is currently serviced by a Honeywell furnace, located at the southwest corner of the chimney foundation in the east cellar room. Additional research is required to understand more completely the evolution of the keeper’s dwelling heating systems.

**Electrical System**

Electricity was introduced to the Fire Island station in 1939 with the laying of a cable beneath Great South Bay (fig. 38). In anticipation of this action, a plan for electric-light installation was prepared in 1937 (fig. 225). The plan included ceiling fixtures in each room and receptacle wall outlets. Almost 25 years later, the 1961 remodeling program also affected the electrical system (fig. 226). By comparing figures 225 and 226, the changes in wiring are evident. The dwelling currently reflects the 1961 electrical work.
CHAPTER 9.
RECOMMENDATIONS
The specific recommendations for treatment included here reflect the 1939 period. The prime objective is to preserve the lighthouse and keeper’s dwelling. Limited restoration, reconstruction, and adaptive reuse of selected elements are prescribed to achieve the 1939 appearance.

**The Terrace and Outbuildings**

**Terrace**
- Regrade.
- Lift and relay paving stone and brick (maintain historic markers).
- Restore buttresses and reset capping stones.
- Remove vegetation immediately adjacent to the embankment walls.
- Repoint and relay embankment-wall stones as necessary.
- Reconstruct perimeter fence and stairways.

**Outbuildings**
- Remove paint locker and replace with shed of appropriate period appearance (after conducting archeology related to foundation of earlier shed and privy).
- Whitewash embankment walls and stairway railings.
- Paint the transformer vault building.

**The Lighthouse**

**The Tower**

**Exterior**

The recommended treatment for this area is preservation. Tasks required are as follows:
- Remove the reinforced concrete coating; repair the exterior brickwork; apply a new coating and a historically appropriate finish.
- Repair and restore the railing and diagonal braces of the upper balcony (may require new pieces to be manufactured).
- Repair and replace where necessary the roof covering and pinnacle.
- Remove the radio antenna brackets, and fill holes.
- Refinish all exterior metalwork with historically appropriate finishes.
- Restore and reactivate the lightning rod and connector.
Interior (Preservation and Restoration)

The treatment for this area is preservation and restoration. Tasks required are as follows:

**Walls**

- Clean interior masonry; scrape off loose whitewash.
- Repoint deteriorated areas with historically appropriate mortar mix.
- Whitewash all interior masonry walls.
- Refurbish the internal wall drainage and ventilation systems.

**Flooring**

- Remove debris from all floors.
- Scrape loose paint from floors (decks) of Service Room, Watch Room, and lantern; refinish the upper sides and undersides of floors with appropriate period finishes.
- Remove in sections the copper covering the deck of the Service Room, to determine the condition of the wooden flooring.
- Preserve the wooden floors of the sixth-landing room and Service Room.
- Restore the trapdoors to reflect their appearance during the historic period.

**Stairways, Central Column, and Conduits**

- Scrape loose paint from metalwork, and refinish with historically appropriate finishes.
- Repair and replace deteriorated stairway elements.
- Determine the exact date of conduits, and remove those postdating 1939.
- Restore the main stairway’s safety line.

**Doorways**

- Restore doorway trim and doors to historic period.
- Refurbish hardware, and replace where necessary with historic hardware (or historically appropriate hardware).

**Windows**

- Remove plexiglass shields, where still extant.
- Repair windows and make them functional.
- Reglaze areas of deteriorated glazing.
- Restore and replace hardware where necessary.
- Refinish with historically appropriate finishes.
The Lantern

- Scrape loose paint from metalwork, and refinish with historically appropriate period finishes.
- Replace deteriorated elements; install new bolts in the sills of sashes where completely corroded, and repair sashes where corroded.
- Reglaze the entire lantern.

The Light

- Restore the pedestal in the Watch Room
- Reactivate the light.

The Keeper’s Dwelling

Covered Passageway

This feature needs to be reconstructed. Tasks required are as follows:

- Conduct archeology to determine the location of the passageway’s foundation.
- Reconstruct the passageway in brick, according to historic documentation and remaining physical evidence.

The Dwelling

Exterior

The treatment for this area is preservation and restoration. Tasks required are as follows:

Roof

- Replace the roof covering with historically appropriate material.
- Restore the trim, gutters, and downspouts.
- Repoint the chimneys.
- Refurbish the skylight.
- Remove the vent pipes.

Walls

- Repoint deteriorated joints with a historically appropriate mortar mix.
- Repoint foundation walls (in cellar) and refinish with whitewash.
Doorways

- Restore entrances and doors to appearance during historic period.
- Reopen Oil Room doorway.

Windows

- Restore window openings, sashes, trim, and hardware to appearance during historic period.

Finishes

- Refinish with historically appropriate finishes.

Interior

The treatment for this area is adaptive reuse and selected preservation. Every effort should be made to preserve the historic architectural fabric identified as such in this report. It is recommended that the original plan for the structure be studied as a possible redesign scheme for the reuse program. The earliest plan offers large, open spaces conducive to exhibit or museum uses. Historic baseboards, floors, and windows remain in situ throughout the dwelling. These elements should be taken into account in the adaptive-reuse scheme, as a source of design ideas for new elements.
STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST
FOR THE
RESTORATION OF THE FIRE ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE
(PRELIMINARY)

This estimate was prepared with the intent of restoring the structure to the 1904-1911 period, but has been revised to reflect the 1939 period. The major cost items are the same for either period.

Restoration of the Tower

Scaffolding of tower: 32-foot diameter at bottom, 14 feet at top, 160 feet high, includes 3 or 4 “swing” type scaffolding suspended from temporary steel outlookers at lantern balcony.

- Trucking $500.
- Erection & Dismantling 8,000.
- Rental @ $5,000/mo. x 5 mos. 10,000.
- Total Scaffolding Cost: 18,500.

Removal and hauling away of existing 3-inch-thick concrete skin with associated steel reinforcing

- $75/c.f. x 2,277.5 c.f. $170,800.

Cleaning of exterior brick surfaces by mild sandblasting

- $3/s.f. x 9,110 s.f. $ 27,330.

Rehabilitation of deteriorated brick detailing at upper levels (amount unknown) $10,000.

New coating of appropriately colored fiberglass-reinforced cement, hand troweled in two-coat application

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material:</th>
<th>$1.00/s.f.</th>
<th>1st coat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>.50/s.f.</td>
<td>2nd coat</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Labor:</th>
<th>3.00/s.f.</th>
<th>1st coat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.50/s.f.</td>
<td>2nd coat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total:    | $6.00/s.f. x 9,110 s.f. | $ 54,660. |

Metalwork at lantern level: includes repair/replacement, cleaning, painting, etc. of railings, muntins, balcony, roof, and structural elements $ 25,000.

Electrical: rewiring of tower, new fixtures, conduit, etc. as required $ 8,000
Glazing of lantern w/clear polished tempered glass
three-eighths of an inch thick

16 x each of the following:
  lower plates: 27 5/8 inches x 30 3/4 inches
  middle plates: 27 5/8 inches x 39 inches
  upper plates: 27 5/8 inches x 38 1/2 inches

$12/s.f. x 336 s.f. $ 4,032.

Cleaning interior brickwork, scraping off whitewash, and preparing joints for repainting (use hand tools)

$1.50/s.f. x 4,850 s.f. $ 7,275.

Pointing of brick: 20% of interior 4850 s.f. x $3/s.f. $3,000.

Whitewashing interior 2 coats x $.50/s.f. x 4,850 s.f. $4,850.

Cleaning cast-iron stair treads and supporting structures

182 treads @ $25/tread $4,550.

Miscellaneous repairs to stairway structure $2,000.

Painting stairway and supporting structure, 3 coats $4,550.

Doors and windows: 3 doors
2 trap doors
14 windows
14 storm sashes

33 units x $500 each (average cost of rehab/replacement, including painting, hardware, & installation) $16,500.

Reactivate lightning rod $2,000.

Refurbish and reactivate vents and roundels. Replace roundels’ brass frames and glass, and clean vents and grilles $6,000.

Subtotal $369,047.
+ 20% Overhead & Profit 73,809.
$442,856.
+ 1.5% Bond 6,642
$449,498.
+ 20% Construction Contingency 89,900

TOTAL $539,398

534
**Reconstruction of the Covered Passageway**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundation work</td>
<td>$10,000.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floor slab</td>
<td>3,000.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-inch brick masonry walls with stone window lintels &amp; sills</td>
<td>20,000.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood roof frame and sheathing</td>
<td>5,000.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 windows x $1,000</td>
<td>6,000.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roofing and flashing (asphalt shingles)</td>
<td>2,500.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical</td>
<td>2,000.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Painting</td>
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<td><strong>Sub-total</strong></td>
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<td>+ 20% Overhead &amp; Profit</td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>60,600.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>+ 1.5% Bond</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>$61,509.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>+ 20% Construction Contingency</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$73,810.</strong></td>
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</table>
Exterior Restoration of Keeper’s Dwelling

Repair of 1931 skylight $2,000.

Roofing: removal and disposal of existing shingles and sheathing repairs, 35 square + new asphalt shingles and copper flashing $5,250. $9,300.

Trim: repairs and replacement as required, 250 l.f. x $20/l.f. $5,000.

Windows: repair 20 sashes and trim @ $200 each $4,000. replace 10 sashes and trim @ $600 each $6,000.

Doors: 5 + 2 bulkhead x $800 each $5,600.

Copper downspouts and wooden gutters $2,500.

2 chimneys @ $2,000 each (point and reflash) $4,000.

Exterior pointing of stone masonry: $3/s.f. x 3,360 s.f. $10,080.

Reconstruction of stone steps $4,000.

S Pavilion: remove stucco ceiling relay stone floor rework entrance $1,000. $2,000. $2,000.

Paint: 3 coats trim, sashes, and doors $8,000.

Sub-Total $70,730.

+ 20% Overhead & Profit $14,146. $84,876.

+ 1.5% Bond $1,273. $86,149.

+ 10% Construction Contingency $8,615. $94,764.

TOTAL $94,764.
**Summary of Cost Estimate**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Restoration of Tower</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reconstruction of Passageway</td>
<td>73,810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exterior Restoration of Dwelling</td>
<td>94,764</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$707,972</strong></td>
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</table>

Prepared by:
Lawrence A. Sorli, Historical Architect
NAHPC/NPS
Submitted 5/5/83
Revised 3/16/84