



Figure 1: Wright House Outbuilding, from northwest

Outbuilding of the Wright House

Lincolnton, Georgia

HISTORIC STRUCTURE REPORT



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Introduction

It has been one of the great pleasures of my life for nearly two decades to work at the Wright House in Lincolnton, Georgia. Memorably, my first visit occurred on 9-11-2001, literally as the planes were hitting the towers of the World Trade Center. At that time, the house had come into the possession of Mildred Estes Fortson Heritage Foundation, and we had been asked to study it with the idea of restoration and making it a welcome center for Lincolnton. The house fascinated me then, as it still does today, full of mysteries in its complex evolution, trail of ownership, and use. For example, among many discoveries we concluded that the first story predated the second, and the current front porch was contemporary with the second phase of construction. These and other findings of 2001 were included in a historic structures report produced by a group of graduate students from the historic preservation class, Building Materials Conservation. This report addressed much about the building but left much still in question. At that time, the outbuilding stood lost in a copse of brush near the house, apparently so far gone that it looked neither safe nor even possible to enter, and it was ignored.

Fifteen years later I returned to the Wright House, this time flanked by dendrochronologist Michael Worthington of the Oxford Dendrochronological Laboratory and armed with a grant from Elaine Collier Neal, of Watkinsville to date ten early backcountry houses, three of which were near Lincolnton. The Wright House was one, and its first story dated to 1828, later than expected but extremely useful to know, both for the property itself and for the larger analysis of first period houses in the backcountry. Deed research (highly suggestive if still murky), combined with that date, has at least plausibly connected the known facts of the property and fits the physical evidence.

And so to the present: meanwhile members of the new non-profit owners of the Wright House, the Lincoln County Historical Society, had cleared the brush from the outbuilding, revealing a structure fully as intact as the house, just as significant, and with as many mysteries. We could not resist and this past year undertook a study of it, which has resulted in the present report. Ironically the research has been completed during the recent emergency of Covid-19, a crisis for our nation and the world even greater than 9-11. On a recent research trip, I self-quarantined in

the outbuilding for a day, accompanied by only a few rats and a vulture in the attic. Set apart east of downtown Lincolnton, the house and outbuilding quietly abide as they have for 200 years and hopefully will for many more. It has been a privilege to study them.

Mark Reinberger, Ph.D., University of Georgia, May 2020

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Figure 2 : Biggerstaff and Reinberger with salting trough in nearby former Smoke House

Land History

The land history as it has been discovered so far is presented here because research was not completed in time to include it in the historic structures report for the Wright House, where it more appropriately belongs. A summary is included in that report.

The land, then in Wilkes County, on which the Wright House and its outbuilding stand was first granted by the State of Georgia to Samuel Harper by a warrant dated 1784, 250 acres on Soap Creek. All the land around it was then vacant.¹ At this point, the story remains murky for some time. By 1797 the land, or other land nearby, came into the possession of William Mays and his wife Mary, because in that year they sell 100 acres to David Blalock, a name long associated with the property. Mays also owned other land in the vicinity, as a plat in his name for 390 acres is dated 1801.² David was related to John Blalock (died 1801) who also owned land in the vicinity.³ In 1803 Gibson Blalock bought 126 acres from Edward Bond on Soap Creek, and a different John Blalock signed and recorded the deed.⁴ The next relevant deed is 1827 when John Blalock sells 40 acres on Dry Fork of Soap Creek to Peter Lamar for \$50, part of land conveyed to Blalock by John and Thomas Mays.⁵ The date is significant because we know through dendrochronology that the Wright House was built in 1828, making it fairly likely that Lamar built it. Peter Lamar (1786-1847) was something of a pillar of Lincolnton, being one of the commissioners of the town when it was founded in 1817 and giving land for the courthouse and jail and its first school. He was also one of its most successful citizens, a wealthy planter and sometimes called the “King of Lincolnton.” About the same time as the Wright House he built a substantial house in town, still standing.

In 1831 Lamar is recorded as living on land near the Augusta Road and Dry Fork of Soap Creek, a description that matches the present Wright House property, when he sells 219 acres adjacent to his home to Joseph Hammond.⁶ Lamar’s deeds are voluminous and still need further research.

¹ Warrant to Samuel Harper, dated 1784, executed 7 July 1784, Plat No. WI4337.

² Early plat for land east of Lincolnton, 1801, 390 acres.

³ *Augusta Chronicle*, November 7, 1801, David Blalock, one of executors of John Blalock, deceased.

⁴ Lincoln County Deed E: 236.

⁵ Lincoln County Deed K: 383.

⁶ Lincoln County Deed K: 633.

In 1843 Lamar and others were sued in Lincoln County Superior Court by Thomas Cartledge, and, in settlement of the suit, land on Soap Creek was sold at a sheriff's sale, the top bidder being Francis F. Fleming, whose wife, Susan A. Fleming (died 1841) is buried behind the Wright House.⁷ (Unfortunately, the Superior Court Records for Lincoln County have apparently been lost for this period.) Though nearby, the land sold at the sheriff's sale is evidently not the Wright House property, however, because the Cartledges got hold of that, in a deed that evidently has not been found yet. It is possible that Fleming owned what became the Wright House tract at the time the house was built (1828), a possibility that should be further researched in the deeds.⁸ In 1844, John Cartledge sold 1012 acres to William Boroum for \$2400, land at the intersection of the roads between Petersburg and Augusta and that from Lincolnton to McCormick, South Carolina.⁹ This is definitely the Wright House property. In 1850 Boroum sold the same land to Benjamin Wright for \$3500; a plat accompanying the deed makes clear the identification of the property.¹⁰

The Wright family retained the property until modern times (2001). Many deeds pass land back and forth among Wright family members in the late nineteenth century. In 1874 Francis M. Wright turns over to Benjamin Wright land on Soap Creek probably not the Wright House property, but does the presence of the given name "Francis" suggest a family connection with the Flemings?¹¹ The house property is definitely part of the land, 447 acres, passed in 1874 from Benjamin Wright, Sr. to Benjamin Wright, Jr. and M. W. Wright. In this deed it states that both generations of Benjamins lived in the house.¹² In 1910 M. W. Wright passes the property, 227 acres, to Mattie Leona Wright and O. B. Wright.¹³ It was recorded that in 1939 the property belonged to Mrs. O. B. Wright, Miss Virginia Wright and Miss Gladys Wright, presumably a mother and two daughters. Deeds of 1952,¹⁴ 1978, and 2000 record transfers to surviving members of the family. In that last year the Gladys Wright Estate turned over the property and

⁷ Lincoln County Deed L: 494.

⁸ There is a deed for land in the vicinity from Rem Remson to Francis Fleming in the early 1840s, Lincoln County Deed L 52.

⁹ Lincoln County Deed L: 556.

¹⁰ Lincoln County Deed M: 171-172.

¹¹ Lincoln County Deed N: 266.

¹² Lincoln County Deed P: 344.

¹³ Lincoln County Deed T: 599-601, including plat.

¹⁴ See Lincoln County Plat 12, 63 accompanying the 1952 deed.

house to the Mildred Estes Fortson Heritage Foundation for the purposes of preservation, work that the present owner, the Lincoln County Historical Society, continues.

History and Evolution

The Wright House's history has been told in the historic structures report for that building. Reference should be had to that document for details of land history and owners. The first story of the house rose in 1828, with the second story and front porch added in the Greek Revival period, probably in the 1840s and 50s. It may be safely assumed that the outbuilding also dates from this latter period, as it is unlikely that a building clearly functioning as a kitchen, and very probably also quarters for the house slaves, which had a full-length front piazza facing the house (see below) would have such a feature when the house did not. Further, the details of that porch, notably the fairly slender posts with corner chamfers ornamented with lamb's tongue ornament which perhaps hint at the Italianate style that came on to challenge the Greek Revival in the 1850s, suggest that the latter half of that period, that is, the 1850s, is the most likely date for the outbuilding. If so, the structure would have been built by the Wright family who bought the property in 1850. At this time the property contained 1012 acres, a substantial amount that indicates a prosperous establishment necessary to support such a princely outbuilding as the present structure that was finely and very strongly constructed by knowledgeable and skillful carpenters (see below on the carpenter's numerals, framing, and fireplace, all of which indicate the skill of the builders, especially for an outbuilding). Also of relevance for the building is the Wright family's ownership of 24 slaves in 1850, a substantial number but entirely credible for a farm of a thousand acres.¹⁵

¹⁵ Lincoln County Census, 1850.



Figure 3 : Marshall William and Nancy Jane Stark Wright stand on the front porch of the Wright House with their children Robert Marshall, Martha Leona “Mattie,” Otis Benjamin, Mary Jane, and Gladys; circa 1900. Note the potted plants, Victorian style, the house’s fenestration and two doorways (the same as today), and the porch columns. (Photograph by Beatrice Kovacs Mitchum).

A considerable amount remains from the original period of construction: nearly the entire floor framing; most of the clapboards; many of the doors; the fireplace; the ceiling and roof framing; one porch post and most of the porch lintel; and a substantial amount of interior finish, especially in the kitchen itself (Room 101). A few of the framing members show evidence of having been used for another purpose before this building, not unusual in old construction, especially of outbuildings. Perhaps they originated with an earlier kitchen structure, of which there undoubtedly was one. Elements later than the construction of the present building include the windows, interior finishes in the two east rooms (104 and 105), two later stove chimneys, the walls of the porch enclosure, parts of the porch floor framing and flooring, and the partitions dividing off the spaces added to the porch.

A fairly early change, probably from the late nineteenth century, was the moving of the east wall of the kitchen space (101) from its original position approximately three-and-a-half feet towards

the fireplace, making the kitchen slightly smaller and the putative slave (now servants') quarters larger. At this time the original wall between the slave quarter and the porch was removed and the walls of the added space enclosed with studs left exposed inside and painted white along with the back of the enclosing clapboards. The exterior door in Room 104 is probably the original door into the slave quarters. A similar rough and unfinished enclosure (Room 102) was made on the other end of the porch to form a room apparently used mostly for kitchen storage. A little later a narrow door was cut into this space from the kitchen. Another change occurred when two stove chimneys were added to the building, one in the kitchen (101) and another in the servants' space (104). These may date from two different times, though they were probably from the late 19th or early 20th centuries. A final round of improvements came, probably about the middle of the 20th century, with the dressing up of Room 104 with beaded board ceiling and walls, the addition of two side windows, and minimal electrical wiring, and, perhaps even later, the division off of Room 105, finished with 3/8" thick drywall (unpainted) and its own window to the rear. All these changes can easily be reversed, and it will be the recommendation of this report that the building be restored to its original arrangement because of the rarity of surviving antebellum outbuildings and the relative ease and accuracy with which a restoration can be accomplished. The building was in use until 1973 according to Wright family memory.

Significant Features and Assessment of the Building's Historical Importance

The Wright House Outbuilding is a highly significant surviving antebellum structure containing both a chimney and probably quarters for enslaved house servants. While a fair number of detached antebellum kitchens survive, relatively few slave quarters do and fewer still where the two structures are combined. Even more striking is the continuous porch that originally stretched across the building on its north façade, towards the main house. John Vlach, in *Back of the Big House*, reproduced several similar buildings: the kitchen and slave quarter at Rosemount, Greene County, Alabama (two-story, wood frame, with two porches on both floors); the kitchen and probable quarter at the Cunningham plantation, Colbert County, Alabama (one-story and brick but without a porch); and the kitchen and quarter at Magnolia Grove, Hale County,

Alabama (two-story, brick, and with a porch).¹⁶ The significance of all three being in Alabama is unclear, though that state was largely settled out of Georgia, so similarities in building stocks would not be surprising. It should be noted that the Wright House outbuilding porch is as fine or finer in its details than any of the Alabama examples. The University of Georgia's President's House, originally built by John Thomas Grant in 1856, has behind it a one-story, wood framed cottage with two interior chimneys and a continuous front porch engaged with the roof as at the Wright House, but it has too fine a doorway to have been a kitchen or quarter, although it has been heavily restored and perhaps altered.¹⁷

Significant features of the outbuilding include the braced frame of hewn and straight-sawn timber, marked with one of the completest series of carpenter's numeral ever seen. The frame is nearly intact for the floor, walls, ceiling, and roof, missing only three joists under part of the original porch and a few pieces of floor sill. The large cooking fireplace is much damaged but still intact enough to perceive its original construction. The porch, which has been mentioned, is very unusual in its scope and details. Finally, the clapboards are mostly original, as are most of the interior finishes. Thus overall the building has a very high degree of integrity and should be placed on the National Register of Historic Places along with the Wright House. Both buildings should be restored.

Siting

The building stands south of the Wright House at a distance of nearly exactly 40 feet. Both buildings are about 25 degrees counterclockwise off the cardinal points; we consider the front of the house to be east and thus the front of the outbuilding north. The outbuilding's north front faces the side of the house, with its center nearly exactly lined with the house's side door, perhaps the route for food to enter the house from the kitchen. The front of the house exactly lines with the left or east side of the outbuilding, surely intentional. We assume that the area around the outbuilding would have been a work yard and gardens. Several other structures, in

¹⁶ (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1993), 29, 51 and 53.

¹⁷ John Linley, *The Georgia Catalog Historic American Buildings Survey* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1982), 110.

various states of ruin, have been found in the area behind the house-outbuilding yard.

Archaeology around the house and outbuilding and in the yard might well reveal much about the place and the life of the people who lived there.



Figure 4: site plan from Google Maps

Framing

The heart of the building is a strong, braced frame box incorporating rooms 101, most of 104, and 105, with a fireplace at the west end of 101. All timber is southern yellow pine and all floor members are hewn. The massive sills of this frame, hewn square all around, average 10" by 12", morticed and tenoned at the corners. One of two intermediate girders, which are similar in size to the sills, subdivide the kitchen space and lay under the original east wall of the kitchen. Between these span joists made of 6" to 8" diameter logs, hewn flat only on the top and

narrowed to tenons at the ends and notched into the sills, which are approximately two feet on-center. The two larger spans under the kitchen have six joists each; the smaller one under Room 104 has five.



Figure 5: typical floor joists seen from above

Appended to this floor frame is, and always has been, the floor frame of the continuous front porch. The end and front sills of this are of similar dimensions to the main section of the building. There are also two intermediate girders of similar size, though here equally spaced about 12 feet apart, each space having three similar log joists (though those under the front portion of Room 104 were replaced with modern 2x6s in the mid-20th century). Additionally, parts of the front sill, especially in the center, were replaced due to rot in the mid-20th century.

Other notable feature of the floor frame are the two mortises in the rear sill, which symmetrically fall on either side of the rear kitchen door, indicating a porch or stoop at this location, perhaps

giving access to a garden or other work spaces. Archaeology might determine the size of the porch or steps, as well as knowledge of the activities that went on in the yard behind the outbuilding.



Figure 6: mortise in sill for former rear porch



Figure 7: South Elevation

Above the porch originally rose only seven chamfered posts, measuring 6” across the front by 4” deep, and spaced 5’-10” on-center, across the facade, with the ceiling and roof frame above. The main box was enclosed by stud walls anchored by posts and diagonal braces at the corners at several intermediate places. Not all of these are visible because the clapboards and inner board sealing have not been removed. Where they can be seen, posts measure 4” by 7”-8” and intermediate studs measure 4” by 4”. Studs and posts stand approximately two feet apart. A consistent series of carpenter’s Roman numerals can be seen running clockwise around the building starting at the southeast corner. The series from I to XV runs across the rear or south elevation from right to left, and the highest number that can be seen is XXXVII in the center of the east end. Such large Roman numerals are uncommon and indicate a full knowledge of the numbering system, suggesting a fairly educated and clever carpenter. Moreover, the numerals are fairly neatly cut with a chisel. As mentioned above, a few timbers show use for other purposes before the construction of this building; such were seen in the floor, wall, and ceiling framing.



Figure 8: carpenter’s numeral on matching timbers



Figure 9: carpenter's numeral xxxvii

The ceiling is framed with 14 hewn joists approximately 4" by 9", spaced roughly 2'-3" apart which span continuously across the main box and over the porch. They rest on the top plates of the building's rear wall and the partition forming the front wall of the kitchen, and the lintel over the porch posts (all measuring about 4" by 6"). At the end of the joists a 1" by 6" false places rests and carries 5" diameter log rafters, hewn square only on top, resting consistently over each joist. Rafters are joined with lap joints at the ridge without a ridge pole, as would be expected at this early date. To stiffen the roof frame upright log braces, made of the same material as the rafters, stretch from the top of every third joist to the underside of its rafter, four in all in each of two lines, one over the front wall of the kitchen (101) and the other equally set in from the rear wall of the building. Gable walls are framed with hewn studs, measuring from 3" by 3" to 4" by 4", nine on each wall, equally spaced. The roof lath is apparently original, roughly edged, 1" thick, sash sawn boards, with many surviving small cut nails indicating original wood shingles.



Figure 10: Attic



Figure 11: Ceiling joists, false plate, and rafters in attic



Figure 12: rafter joint at ridge



Figure 13: Attic gable

Exterior



Figure 14: from southeast

The materials of the exterior are quickly enumerated. The structure sits on low stone piers, located at the corners of the frame, roughly at thirds on the north and south walls, and in the center of the east wall of the main block (the fireplace occupies this last position on the west wall). Clapboards, about 6" wide, cover all walls, and there are simple corner boards. Clapboards on the original main block on the rear (south) and both ends, including the gables, are sash-sawn and probably original, and are attached with cut nails. Those covering Room 102 and the front portion of Room 104 are circularly-sawn, again attached with cut nails, but not original. The center of the front has a modern screen wall with horizontal boards at the bottom. Back and front have simple cornices, the front with its original porch lintel, a soffit of 7" projection, a simple bed molding, and a fascia of 8". The rear has only the soffit, bed, and fascia. There are no gable-end returns, which would not be expected on this simple or early a building, only narrow rake boards.



Figure 15: North Front

The exterior doors will be dealt with in the room-by-room descriptions below. None of the windows of the building are original; very likely it had none, although it may have had a window opening in the slave quarters at the east end (Room 104); more investigation needs to be done on the side and rear wall during restoration. All window sash in the structure date from the 20th century: two windows in Room 104, both wood and six-over-six double-hung; one in Room 105, made of two reused and randomly placed six-light sash; and one in Room 101 beside the fireplace, again a random reused sash. There is a window opening to the attic in the east gable, the opening closed by a shutter; this would have given light and ventilation in that space. A simple set of recently-built wooden steps rises at the center of the front, but none at the rear.

The roof has a fairly steep pitch: 10 in 12 and is now covered with asphalt shingles probably installed about thirty to forty years ago (to judge by their condition). Originally it had wood shingles, several fragments of which were found in the building. The shingles were cedar, 18” long and with 6” exposure indicating triple coverage, common specifications for 19th century buildings. The original width of the shingles could not be precisely known from the fragments,

but a range of widths from 4" to 6" would be typical. The shingles varied in thickness, as old shingles often did: from 1/4" to 5/8" tapering to about 3/32". The pitch of the roof seems steep for a basically uninhabited attic, and is not typical for the Greek Revival period either. However, clearly the attic was used for storage, and it is not impossible that it was used for additional sleeping space, although no floor boards are now present. The ceiling over rooms 104 and 105 was altered in a way that would have affected the attic above, and floor boards might have been originally present in this area. It is even possible that an opening in the ceiling and ladder in this area gave access in times past, elements that would be long gone. This end of the attic has not been extensively investigated yet because of the difficulty of access, and more evidence may be found during restoration.



Figure 16: Shelf in attic

Two brick square stove chimneys pierce the roof near the center and east end, on the rear slope; they have fairly crude metal flashings. The original fireplace chimney is long gone, its remains covered with a sloping wood hood. The base of the fireplace is stepped out as it drops below hearth level, with seven steps, a typical treatment for the antebellum period.



Figure 17: from southwest

Interior Finishes

Room 101: Kitchen

From the largely disturbed brick hearth to the line of the front and rear doors the floor consists of 6” wide butted boards attached with wire nails, evidently a 20th century replacement; the joists retain square (cut) nail holes from the original floor. Under the stove flue are remnants of fire-resistant floor coverings on which the stove would have stood. From the doors to the partition with Room 104 are 11” wide butted floor boards attached with cut nails, probably the originals.



Figure 18: Room 101, Kitchen, looking west towards fireplace

Most wall surfaces are covered with 6" – 7 ½" wide unpainted butted boards, sash sawn and attached with cut nails, apparently the original treatment. The wall boards on the partition with Room 104 have been removed and reattached, presumably when that partition was moved towards the fireplace. That partition retains an older, presumably original, door opening near the northeast corner of the room, probably the original door to the slave quarters. The present opening may have been made when the partition was moved; its board and batten door is fastened together with 19th century cut nails. Curiously there is a baseboard with molded top, an odd finery in a kitchen, but it runs only on the front wall against the porch. The other side of that wall, in Rooms 102 and 103 also has the only other baseboard in the building. The ceiling, which is 8'-7" high, is covered with continuous boards running the entire length of the room, +/- 11" wide, and with the gaps covered with 3" wide battens, all sash sawn and fastened with cut nails and thus apparently original.



Figure 19: Room 101, former door frame in NE corner to quarters

Some of the finest features of the building are the original front doors to the kitchen and slave quarters. These are double thickness, fastened lavishly with cut nails in a careful and artistic pattern of diagonals, the pattern being scored on the outer door leaves and thus serving as decoration. The doorway from the porch (now Room 103) to the kitchen has two leaves and is unusually wide at 3'-8". Both leaves have hand carved brackets to hold a bar to fasten shut the doors from the outside, that is, the porch. The door now from the outside, but originally from the porch, to Room 104 has a single leaf 3 feet wide. The rear door in the kitchen and the door to Room 102, both board and batten, are presumably later because they are made of circularly-sawn

lumber and fastened together with wire nails. The rear door has modern 1x6 casing. The door to Room 104 is also board and batten but fastened together with cut nails, so it could be original.



Figure 20: Room 101, west leaf of front doors

The kitchen has several fixtures. Full-height shelves stand against the wall with Room 103; these show careful construction and have 1" thick supports under the lowest shelf, which is the widest and probably functioned as something of a work counter; the shelves above this get shallower as they rise making access to their contents easier. A single small shelf supported by rough brackets is located to the right of the rear door, and one can imagine a wash basin there to

clean dirty hands returning from the garden. To the right of this shelf stands a later set of freestanding shelves. Six approximately 1" diameter holes were drilled into the wall boards, four in vertically arranged pairs one foot apart at each side of the later doorway to Room 102, and two aligned with the top holes (all at waist height) several feet away on the fireplace wall and on the wall with Room 102; one of the holes near the door still contains a support approximately one foot long, roughly 1" by 2" whittled down to 1" diameter to fit into the hole; one would think they were simply for shelf supports (indeed there is a cleat at the same height immediately adjacent to the corner in question, and another cleat is nailed to the wall below the entire assembly to the right of the door to Room 103), but the one remaining support has nailed to its top a roughly sloping wood piece of the sort used perhaps to shim and tighten something in place.



Figure 21: Room 101, looking northeast



Figure 22: Room 101, peg near door to 102

In addition to shelving, some sort of drain was later installed to the left of the fireplace: a wooden box fastened with wire nails (indicating a 20th century date) and surrounded with sheet galvanized steel slopes through the wall down and to the outside pouring drain water just to the west of the chimney base. Perhaps it marks the location of a sink for dishes and laundry, as the newly installed window would have given light and allowed the user to make sure no one was outside the building when using the drain. Inside the opening to the drain was closed at the top, where water would have entered, with thick cardboard or fiberboard fastened with nails, as if the drain was sealed off at some point. Perhaps another drain was installed at some point late in the building's history. This feature should receive more study.

The fireplace, five feet wide and four high, was very substantial and clearly intended for cooking. Its hearth was brick, laid over a sand base which was underpinned with stone, which can be seen in the crawl space. Two wooden lintels were found in the rubble, both badly scorched. One formed the top of the fireplace opening; the other presumably held the inner wall of the chimney which rose outside of the exterior house wall and gable. Exactly how this assembly was put together cannot be known because of brick collapse, but contemporary examples will give a fairly good idea for restoration. A hand-forged iron trammel rod,

measuring about one inch square and long enough to stretch across the fireplace, was found in the fireplace; it was probably placed at about the top of the fireplace opening at about the middle of fireplace depth and embedded into the brick work to each side.

Room 102: Pantry

This space originally formed part of the porch and retains at its outer corner the only remaining original porch post. Its wall with the kitchen is original, while the other three are lightly framed later constructions, sealed only on their outer surfaces, towards either the exterior or the porch (103). These boards are circularly sawn and attached to the circularly-sawn studs with cut nails, suggesting a date in the second half of the 19th century. The doorway to the kitchen was not original, as shown by its ragged edges. The door itself is board and batten fastened with wire nails, so perhaps even later than the room itself.



Figure 23: original porch post in northwest corner of Room 102

The other surfaces in the room are original and belonged to the continuous front porch. The floor is 5"-5 ½" wide butted boards, continuous with the porch (103), sash sawn, and attached with cut nails. The wall with the kitchen is covered with 6"-7" wide painted butted boards, sash sawn and attached with cut nails (and thus presumably original). These cut nails are different from the cut nails that fasten the siding on the three later walls of the space. The wall with the kitchen carries a baseboard with molded cap, as in the porch (103). The ceiling too is continuous with the porch (103), consisting of 5" wide, sash sawn boards attached with cut nails and presumably original.

Presumably this room functioned as a pantry. It contains several fixtures that could have been for food storage, such as the continuous wide shelf along the west wall. There are also other racks and bars that would have worked for hanging food and kitchen utensils.



Figure 24: Room 102, looking west

Room 103: Porch

This space is the remnant of the original continuous front porch. Most of the flooring, the ceiling, and the wall with the kitchen have their original finishes, which match those described above in Room 102: Pantry. The wall on the east end of the space, with Room 104, is covered with 5”-6” wide butted boards, painted, and attached with cut nails different from those fastening the original boards of the wall with 101. Those boards on the wall with 104 show evidence of having been removed, reworked and refastened. Perhaps they formed part of the wall surface between the original porch and slave quarters. This wall also received a base board with molded cap. The front wall, open to the outside, consists of modern 2 x 4s and 3 x 4s that hold floor to ceiling screening. The screen door is missing.



Figure 25: Room 103, looking east

Room 104: Habitation Room

As discussed in the Evolution section above, this room was enlarged in width from being approximately 9 feet wide to its present 12 feet, and also incorporated part of the original front porch, a change probably done in the late 19th century. The original notches for the studs in the partition with the kitchen can be seen where a floor board has been lifted. In the 20th century the room was renovated with new finishes. The floor boards, however, are original and match those

in the kitchen. The ceiling, which was lowered five inches when the room was renovated, is finished with narrow beaded boards (1½” wide), blind nailed. The lowered framing of the ceiling has not been investigated yet. The walls have wider beaded board (2½” wide), also blind nailed. All bead boards are painted. The studs that form the partition with the porch (103) are circularly-sawn and show white paint, indicating that at least the new walls of the space when first enlarged had no interior sealing but merely the studs and back of the boards on the outside. It remains to be determined during restoration how the original interior walls were treated.



Figure 26: Room 104, looking south

The two windows in the side wall are from the 20th century, though the opening in the original side wall could be original. Neither interior nor exterior siding was removed to investigate this. The question of original openings into this space is an important one if restoration is to be attempted. Clearly there was a door to the porch, but what other openings were present is unclear. There is no sign of an exterior door to the side or in the rear wall (in Room 105). Window and door casings are simple 1x4s boards.



Figure 27: Room 104, looking north

Room 105: Closet and perhaps additional bedroom

This room was divided off from 104 fairly late in the building's history. The floor is the same as Room 104. Newspapers from the 1950s were scattered on the floor, along with remnants of linoleum. The walls and ceiling are now covered with unpainted 3/8" thick drywall, probably the latest change to the building. Where this was removed from the rear wall the same boards as in the kitchen walls (presumably original) were found. The rear wall contains a fairly modern and very narrow window, the opening of which is cased in 1x4s. Above it runs a shelf supported on diagonal brackets.



Figure 28: Room 105, looking west

Restoration: Repairs to Structural Frame

The structural frame of the outbuilding is in fairly good condition given the great age and long neglect of the building. However, there are structural problems caused by rot and termites that need repair, regardless of the purpose to which the building is put or the level of intervention decided for the future. For the most part these involve replacement and repair to the sills at the perimeter of the floor frame.

The problems with the frame can all be traced to water. The stone foundation piers have little or no mortar and have crumbled in places. Rot caused by damp has deteriorated sills around much of the perimeter, and subterranean termites, which have to have moisture to live, have contributed their share of damage. The bottom of some studs, posts, and diagonal braces have shared in the decay of the sills on which they rest. For all these causes, the north sill, especially,

has dropped significantly, taking with it the porch floor and leaving a gap between the roof frame and Room 102's wall and posts.

Stabilization will start with jacking up the floor frame where needed. The bottom three courses of clapboard should be removed all around the structure for observation. Stone piers should be rebuilt using existing stones, supplemented with locally available stone where necessary.

Termite shields of copper should be installed on top of the stone, below the sills. Sills should be retained and repaired with epoxy where possible; where not, they should be replaced in kind. It appears that all floor joists can be retained, though a few may need repair or sistering. Similarly, studs, posts, and braces can be repaired with epoxy or sistered. While work is ongoing, more detailed photographs and recording of carpenter's numerals should be done.

In addition to the bottom of the frame, some repairs will be necessary in the attic. Several ceiling joists are rotted and in need of sistering for continued stability, especially near the end of the building with the fireplace. There are both old and current leaks in this area, and there have been leaks around both stove chimneys. For both structural liability and historical accuracy it is recommended that both stove chimneys be removed. The rest of the attic frame appears sound, though some roof lath may need replacement when the roof is restored with wood shingles.



Figure 29: later chimney in attic

Restoration: Original Floor Plan and Exterior

The original floor plan can be determined with a fairly high degree of certainty given the evidence in the building, and restoration is a viable path for preservation of such an important and unique building. The original kitchen space measured 15 feet by 25 feet, with a pair of doors (surviving) to the porch at the exact center of the north wall and a single door (the original now missing though the opening surviving) to the rear yard across from it. The existing fireplace and chimney occupied most of the room's west end, and a door at the other end gave access to another space, which we will assume was quarters for the enslaved house servants. The partition between present rooms 101 and 104/105 is largely the original partition and can be moved back to its original location. The quarters space measured 15 feet by 8 feet, had a door to the porch, and perhaps a window opening at the center of the east wall. If there was a window at this location it most probably closed with only a board-and-batten shutter. There may also have been a ladder from this space to the attic. Across the entire north front of the building, facing the Wright House, was a continuous porch with seven posts, chamfered at the corners. We assume steps led from the porch to the ground near the center of the porch, more or less in alignment with the doors to the kitchen. There was definitely a small porch or stoop on the rear (south) as well as steps to the ground.

Similarly, the exterior of the outbuilding can also be faithfully restored with a high probability of accuracy. The two later stove chimneys should be removed, and the roof restored with cedar shingles as discussed in the Exterior section above. The porch can be restored to its original open condition by removing two partitions, the clapboard walls around present Room 102, and the return of six new posts matching the one surviving in the northwest corner of Room 102. Some interior finishes will have to be restored in the quarters space and the part of the porch in front of it. All existing modern windows should be removed and their "holes" patched with clapboards, honestly leaving the ghosts to recall the later state. Structural repairs to the frame are covered in an earlier section of this report. The propane tank in the front yard should be removed.

New or reinstalled clapboards should be installed with wire nails to distinguish new from original work. Corner boards should be replaced where needed to match the original, and new rake boards should be installed as part of the roof restoration.

The rear door should be repaired if possible or replaced with a restoration and should be made to swing in as it would have been originally. Careful examination of the area around the rear porch should be made to determine the position of possible original supports. The sloped covering over the fireplace should be removed carefully to preserve any surviving original material that will lead to a more accurate restoration of the fireplace and chimney.

Enough remains of the fireplace and chimney base to make a fairly accurate restoration, and the chimneys on the house may furnish additional clues, as might other contemporary kitchen fireplaces in the region. The size of the fireplace can accurately be determined: width, depth and height; as can the fact of its having square corners instead of flared sides. It may have been plastered inside; at least it was so patched. The fireplace's lintels were originally heavy timbers, and these should be restored for accuracy's sake. However, they should be supplemented with a combination of steel angles and plates for additional strength. The original hearth was brick laid over sand, but we recommend a concrete slab under the restored hearth. Existing bricks should be used as much as possible for restoration of the fireplace and chimney, but close matches in new bricks will have to be found for much material.

The restoration of the chimney is more speculative, and in the drawings some elements have been determined by modern standards where these seemed wise for safety and functioning and would be invisible. Thus the form of the throat could not be determined, nor could the exact size of the flue. The flue shown was determined by modern standards for the size of the fireplace, to ensure that it would draw properly if cooking demonstrations were desirable. The original would not have had a damper but, again, this may be desirable and invisible. The chimney's size was determined by the size of the flue, plus eight inches of masonry all around for fire safety. The height was determined by modern building code. A skilled mason, preferably one experienced with historic buildings, should be consulted about all aspects of the fireplace and chimney.

Restoration: Interior

Besides the restoration of the original floor plan, work inside will consist of cleaning and restoring interior finishes where necessary, especially in the space to the east of the kitchen. Elsewhere there will need to be repair in kind of floors, walls, ceilings, and trim. Decisions will need to be made of what fixtures in the kitchen should be kept and what removed because they are not original. If restoration does not occur, cleaning up and patching will be all that will be needed.

In the cast of restoration, remnants of the existing electrical system should be removed, and a low-impact, small-wire, low voltage wiring system should be installed for lighting of the interior and exhibits. A 110 volt line can be installed underground from the house to an outlet in an inconspicuous place for use with cleaning, maintenance, and demonstration equipment when needed. It is assumed that the building will not need to be heated or cooled.

Summary of Recommendations

Exterior Recommendations

- Jack up the structure to address bowing floors and gaps in framing.
- Repair foundation piers through stabilization with new stones from the property added as needed. Place a piece of sheet copper as a termite shield between the sill and the stone.
- Replace north side's sill due to evidence of bowing and rotting.
- Repair remaining sills with epoxy and dutchman repairs where needed.
- Remove 3 feet of clapboard off each side to inspect sills for further damage.
- Remove the hanging chimneys because of their instability and the dangers they pose; also because they are not original.
- Replace siding on the south wall and wherever else needed.

- Remove the root system and other plant growth that is invading the structure and further exacerbating foundation problems.
- Remove pile of dirt on south wall that is funneling water toward the building.
- Restore cedar shingles on the roof.
- Restore front porch.
- Remove window in Room 105; replace side window in Room 104 with shuttered opening.

Interior Recommendations

- Reconstruct the fireplace and chimney using plans from similar structures.
- Restore floor plan through removal and moving of partitions.
- Repair rotted floorboards in porch area.
- Remove window to the left of the fireplace.
- Remove dirt and items in attic; study artifacts if relevant.
- Reconstruct rear porch and steps after examination of ground.

Further Research Potential Activities

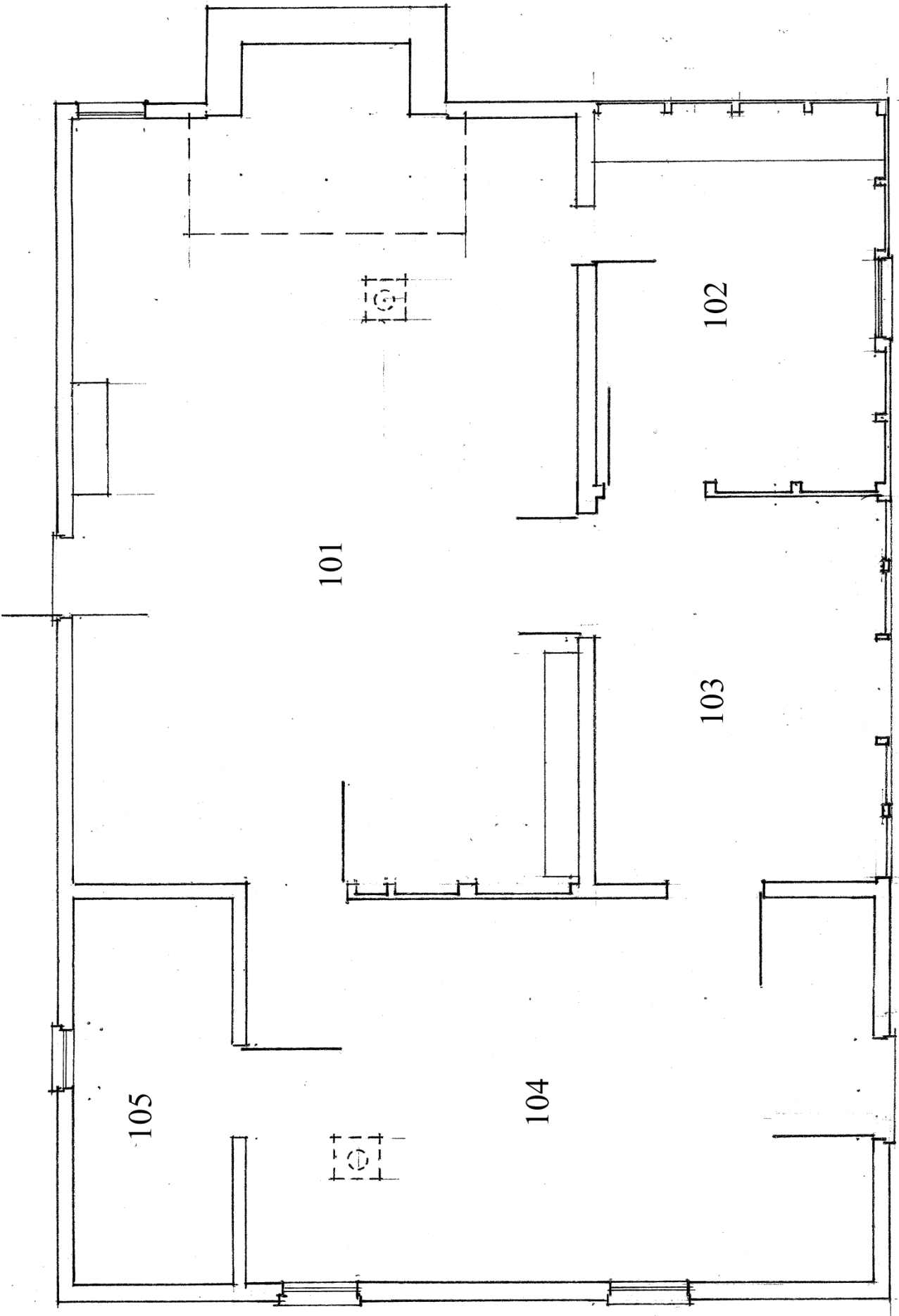
- Careful examination during restoration
- Further research into similar buildings in the South
- Archaeology around Outbuilding
- Use rebuilt fireplace and chimney for cooking demonstrations

Drawings

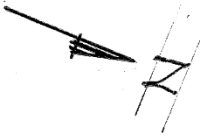
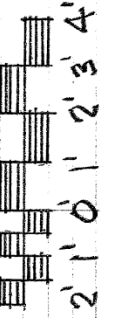
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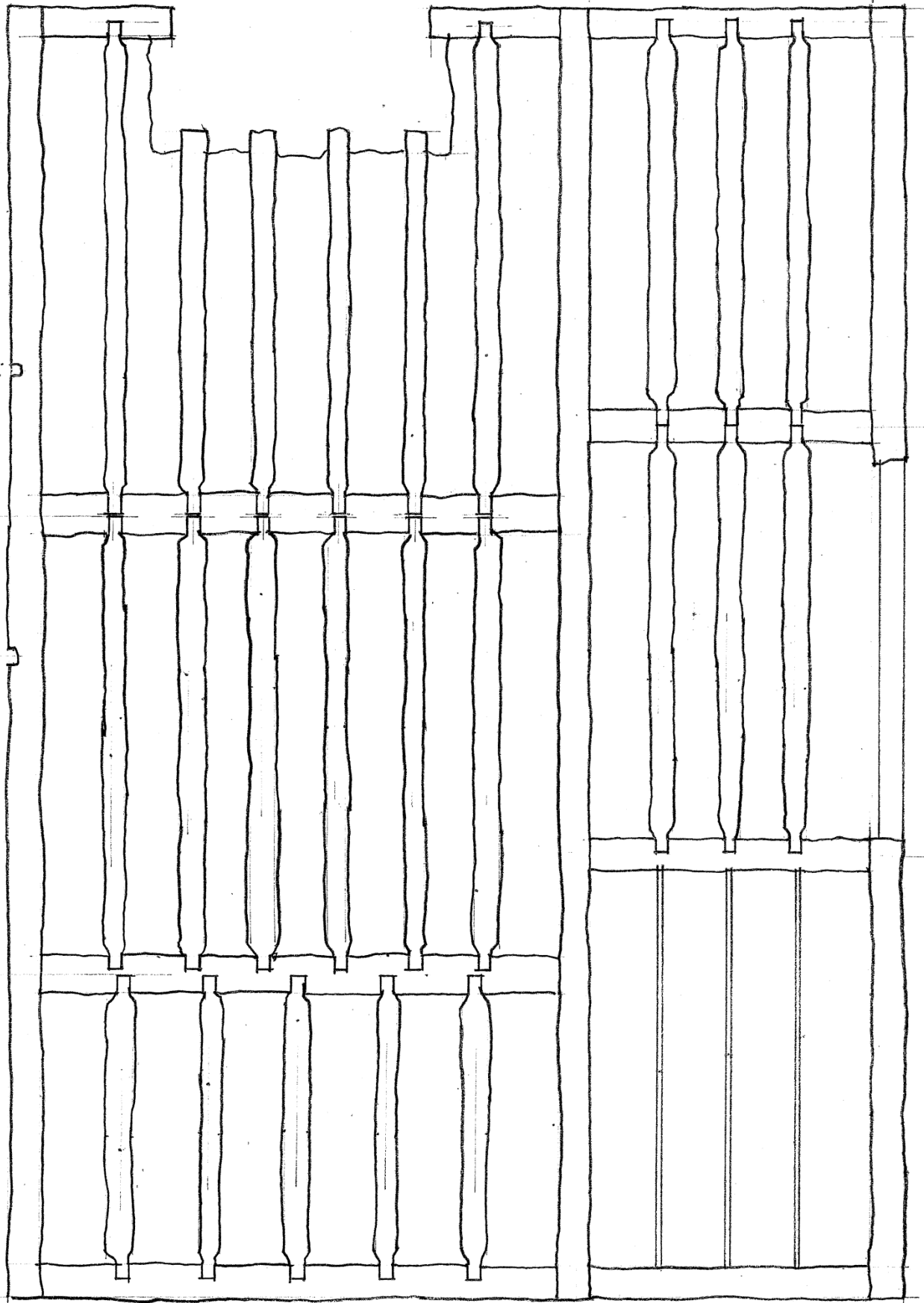
(All drawings by Mark Reinberger unless noted.)

1. Existing Floor Plan: $\frac{1}{4}'' = 1'-0''$
2. Floor Framing Plan: $\frac{1}{4}'' = 1'-0''$
3. Ceiling Framing Plan: $\frac{1}{4}'' = 1'-0''$
4. Roof Section: $\frac{1}{4}'' = 1'-0''$
5. Porch Post and Plan: $1'' = 1'-0''$
6. Restored Floor Plan: $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'-0''$
7. Restored Front Elevation: $\frac{1}{4}'' = 1'-0''$
8. Restored Side Elevation: $\frac{1}{4}'' = 1'-0''$
9. Fireplace Plan: $1'' = 1'-0''$
10. Fireplace Section: $1'' = 1'-0''$
11. Exterior Restored from northwest: perspective (by Thomas Cooper Jones)
12. Exterior Restored from northeast: perspective (by Thomas Cooper Jones)

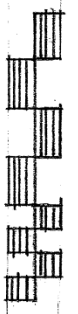


Existing Floor Plan



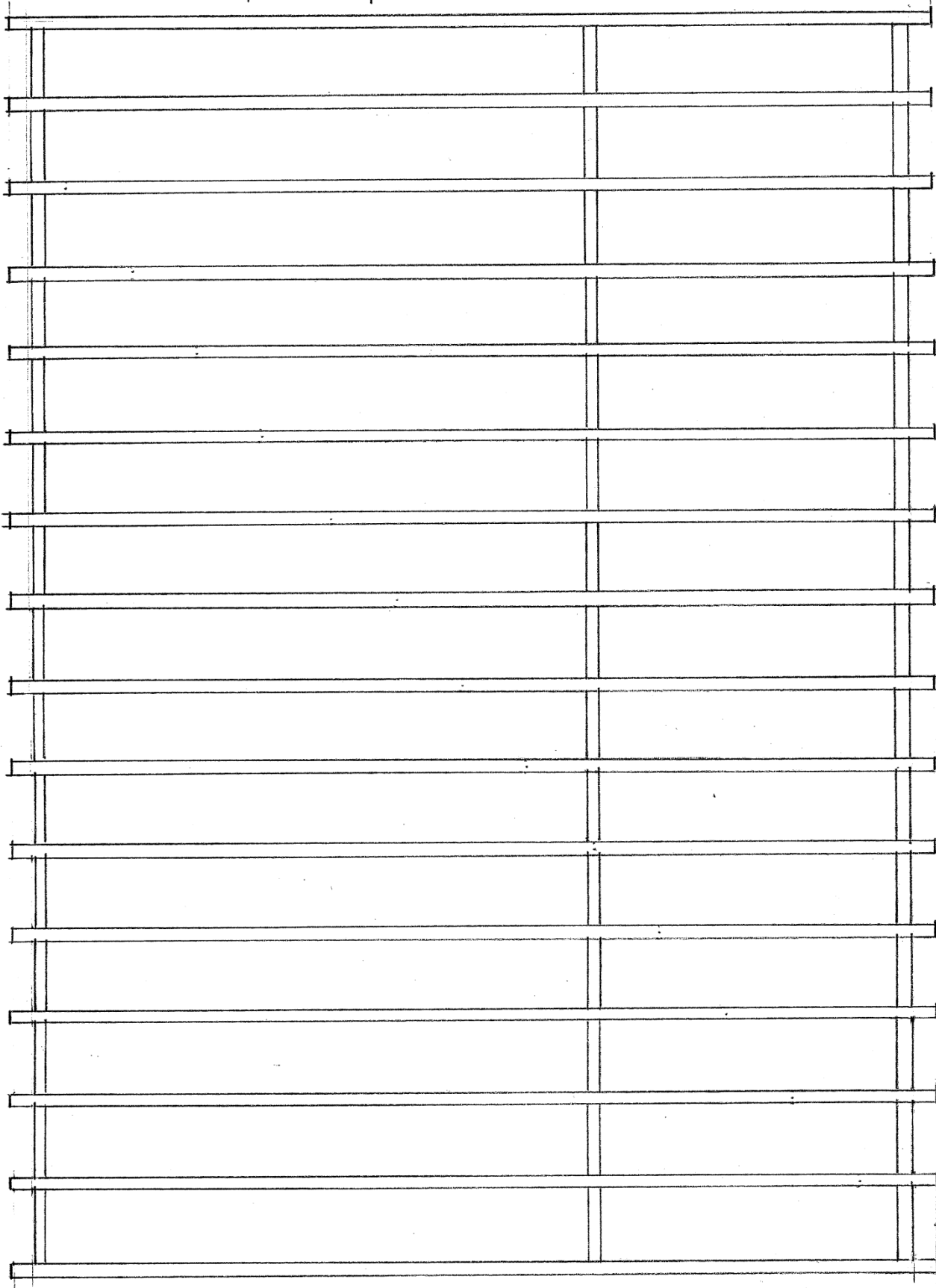


Floor Framing



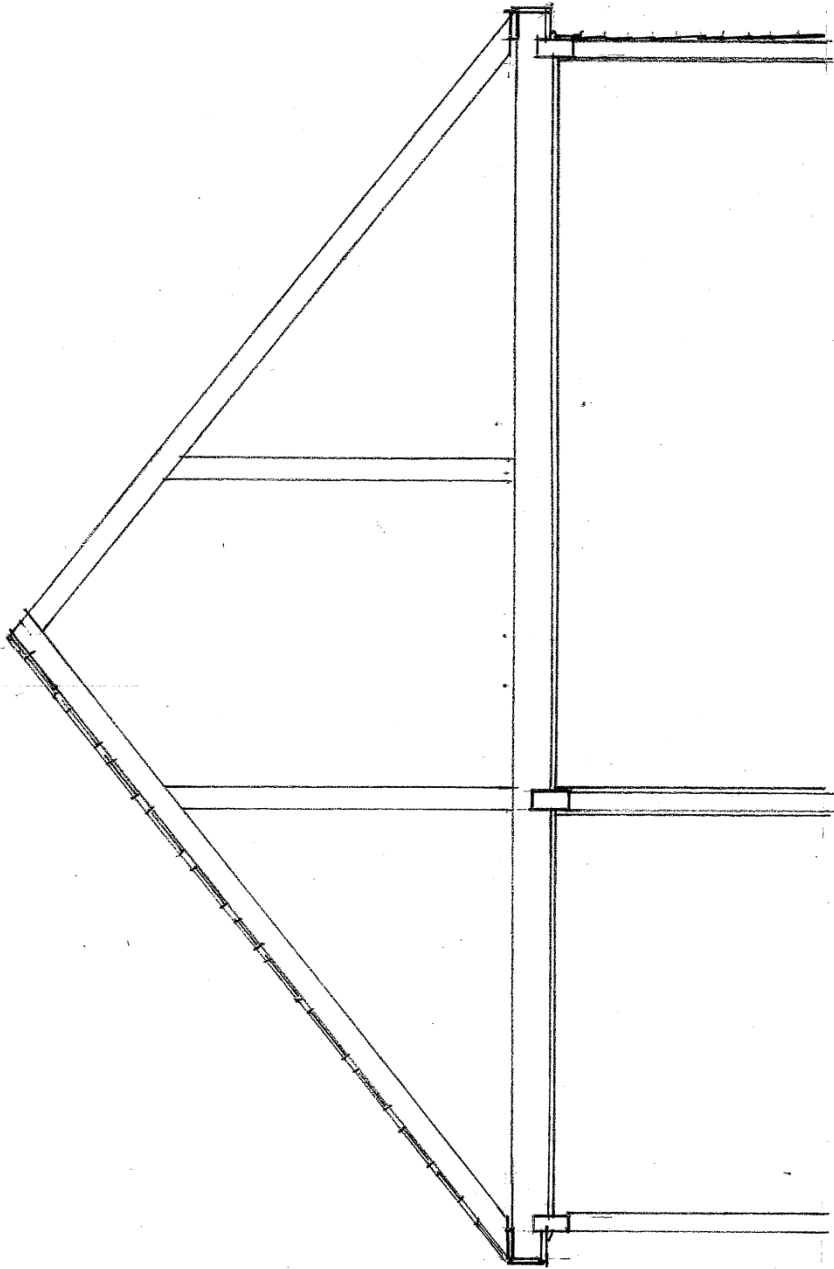
2' 0" 2' 3" 4'

Drawing 3



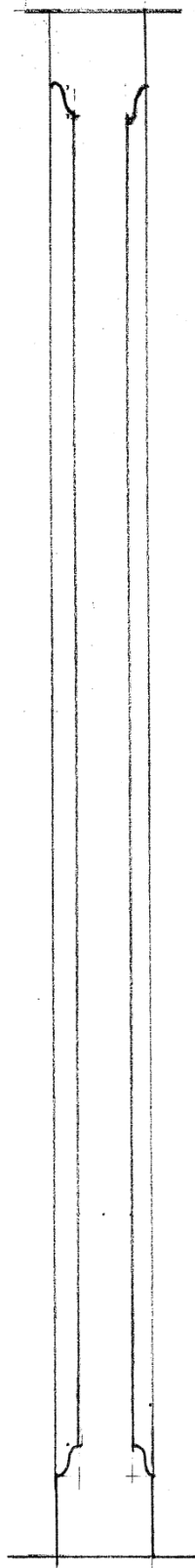
Ceiling Framing



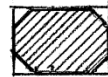


Roof Section

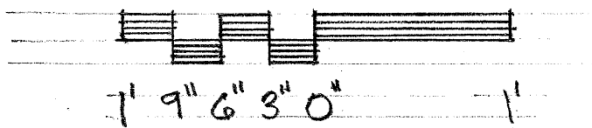
2' 0" 1' 2' 3'



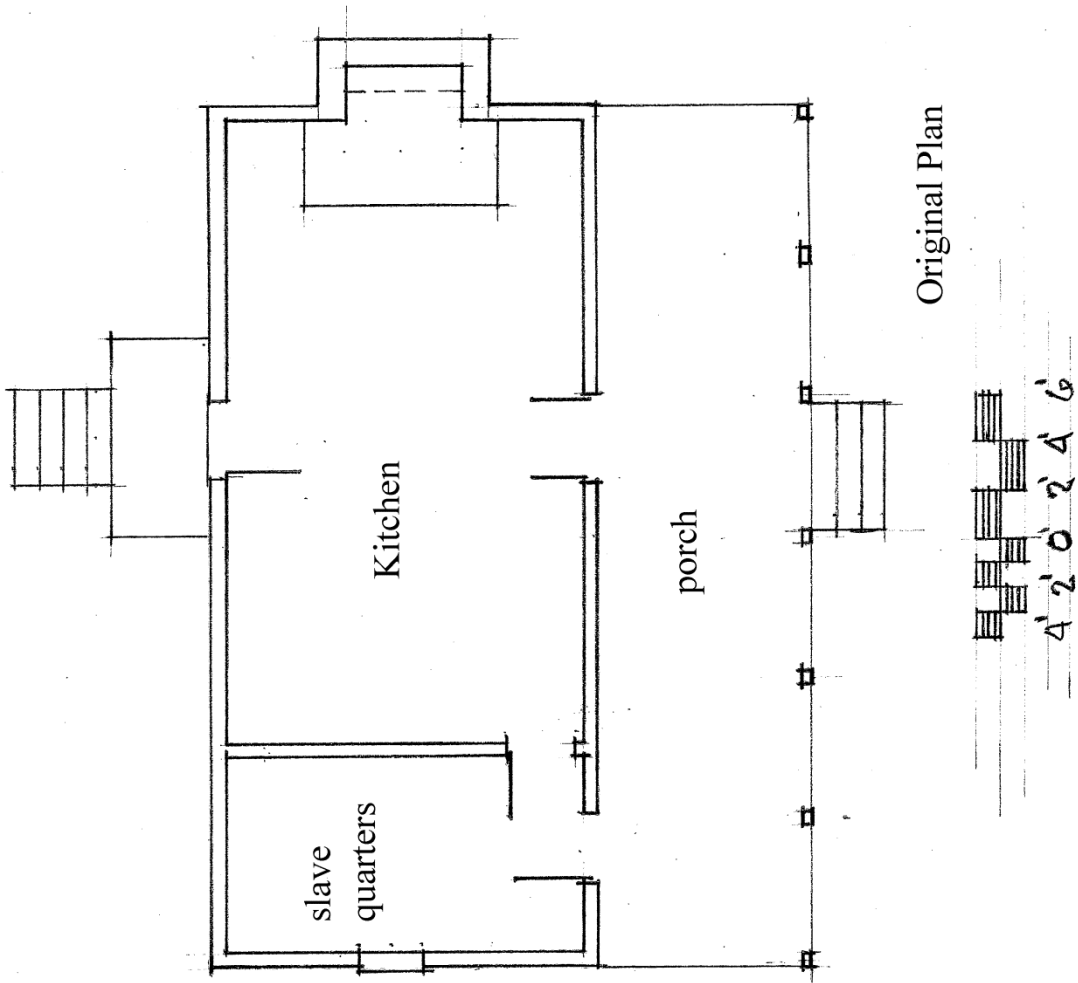
Porch Post

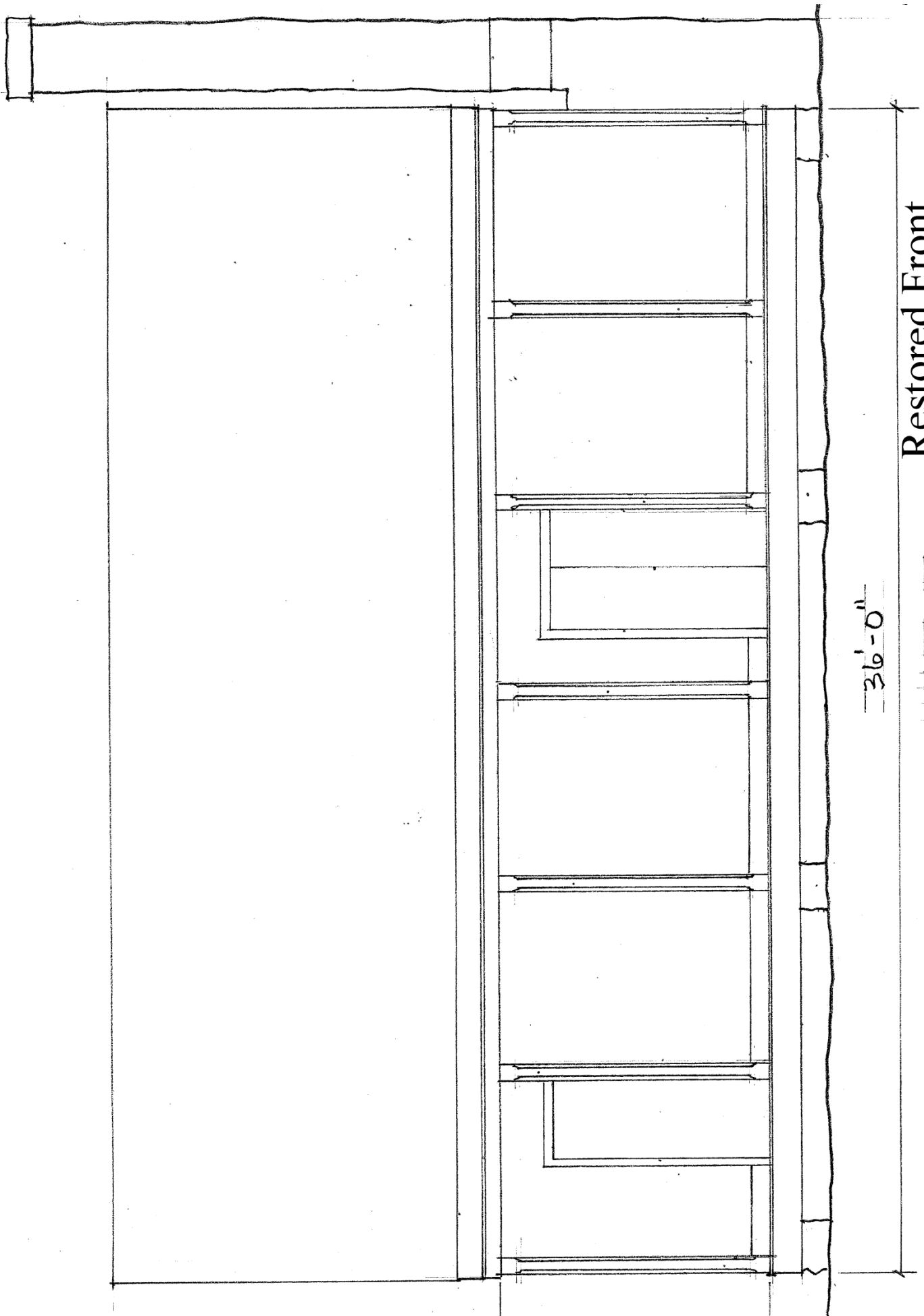


Plan



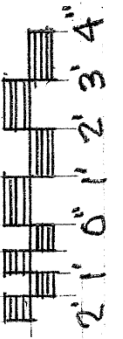
Drawing 6



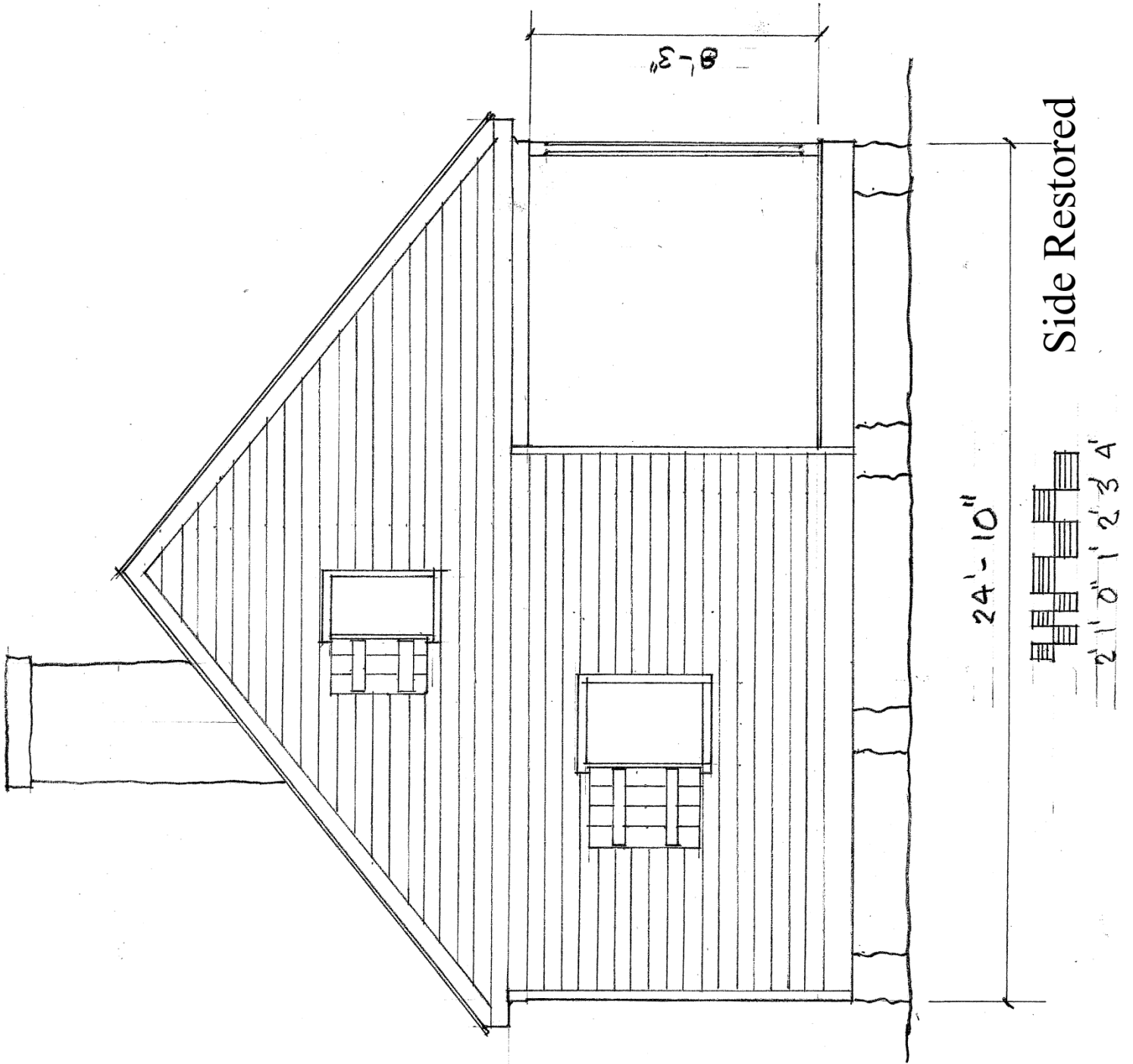


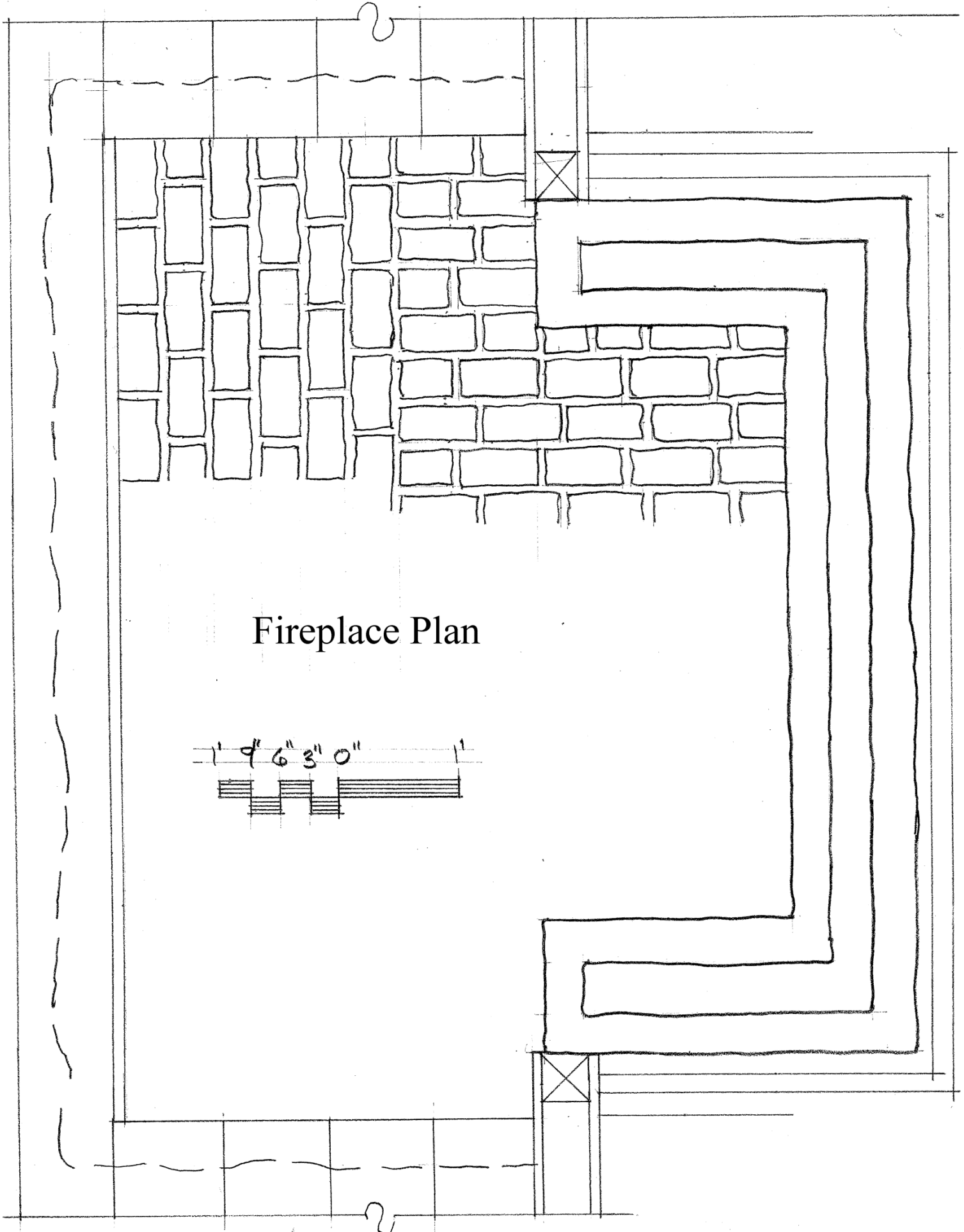
36'-0"

Restored Front

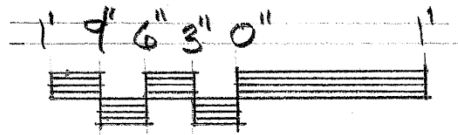


Drawing 8

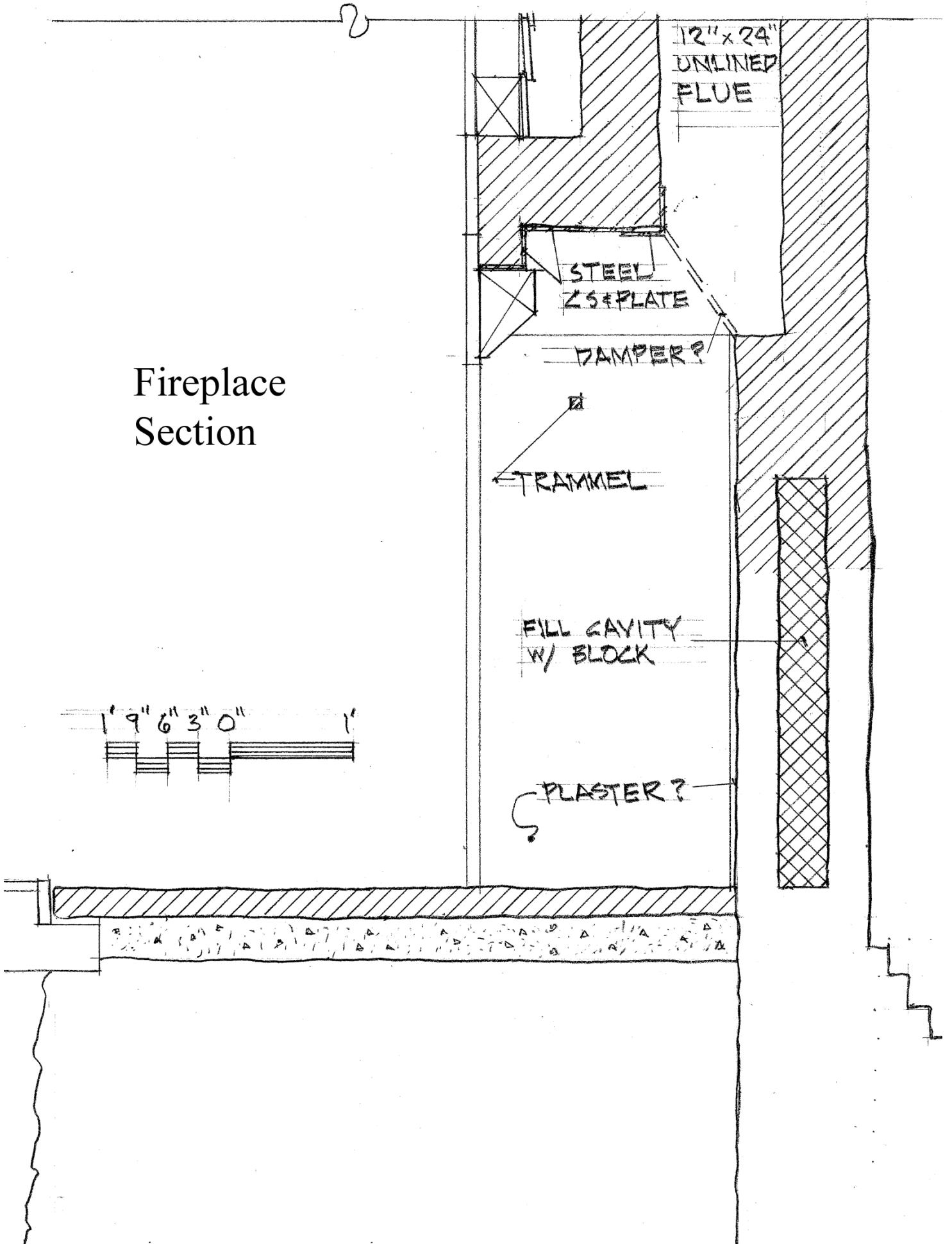




Fireplace Plan



Fireplace Section



12" x 24"
UNLINED
FLUE

STEEL
ZS+PLATE

DAMPER?

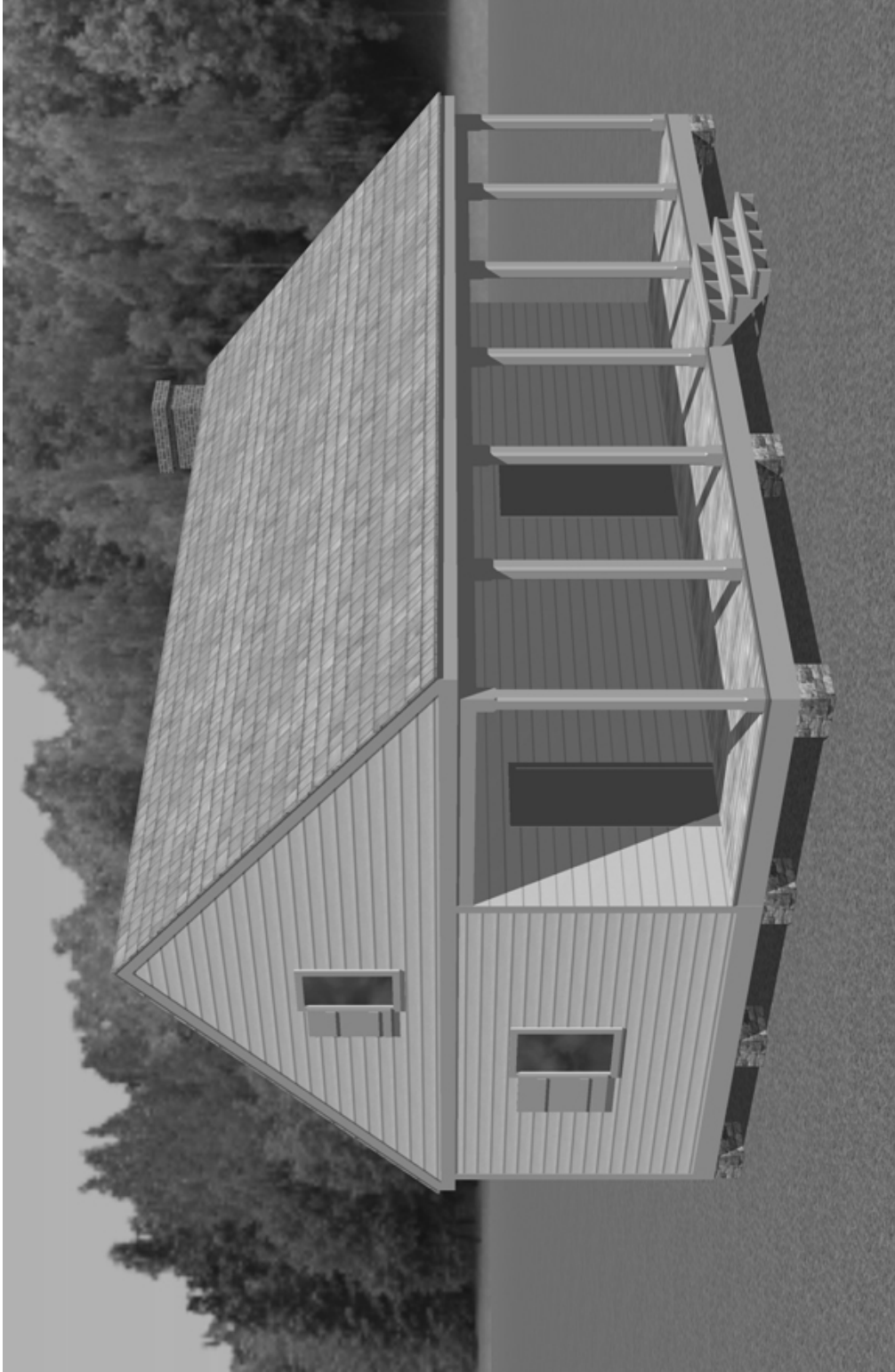
TRAMMEL

FILL CAVITY
W/ BLOCK

PLASTER?

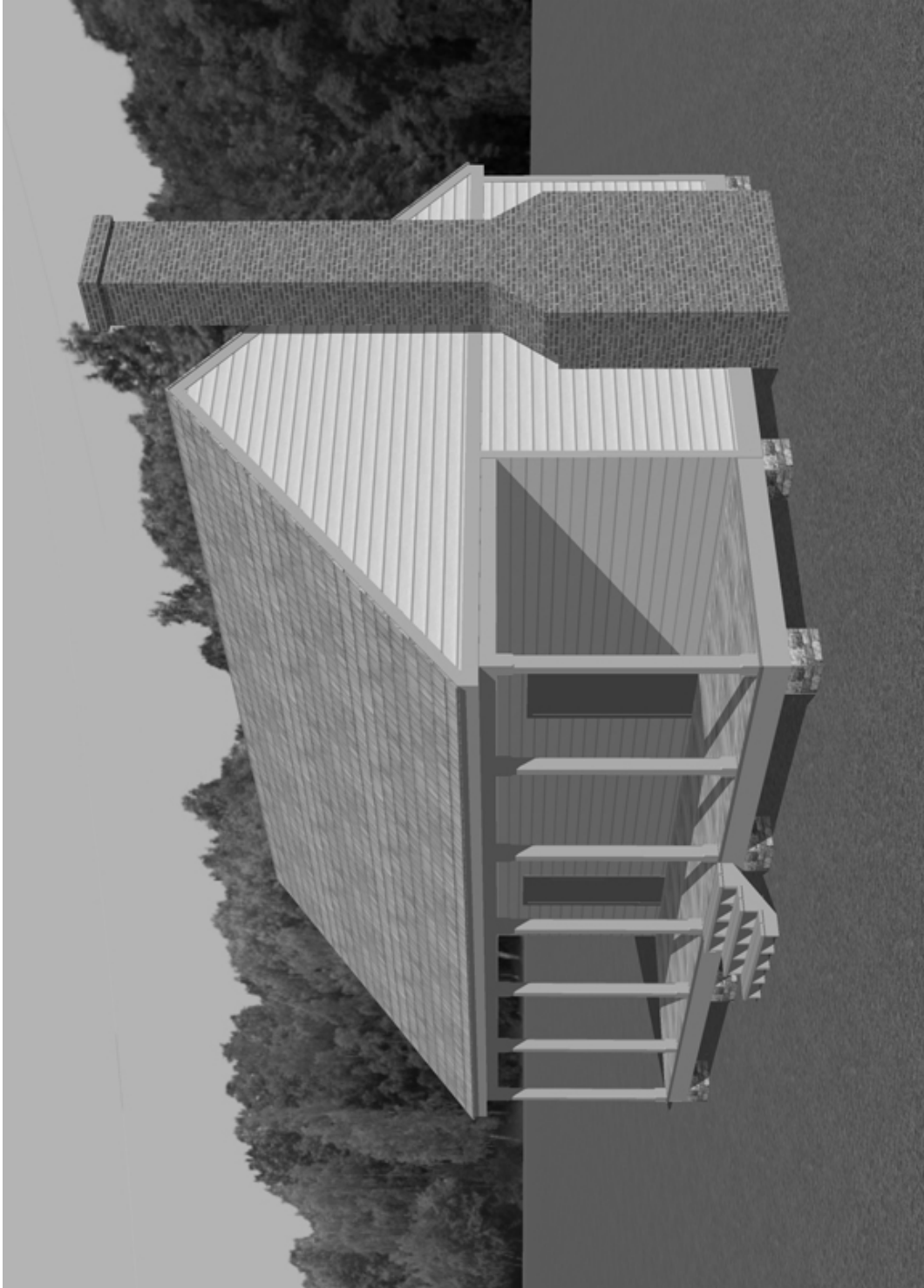


Drawing 11



Restored Original Exterior from northeast

Drawing 12



Restored Original Exterior from northwest