

NAVAL TRAINING STATION, SENIOR OFFICERS' QUARTERS
DISTRICT, QUARTERS NO. 6
(Naval Station Treasure Island, Officers' Quarters No. 6)
Naval Station Treasure Island, 6 Whiting Way, Yerba Buena Island
San Francisco
San Francisco County
California

HABS CA-1793-G
CA-1793-G

1/80
2/10/80

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
PACIFIC GREAT BASIN SUPPORT OFFICE
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
600 Harrison Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

NAVAL TRAINING STATION, SENIOR OFFICERS' QUARTERS DISTRICT,
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(Naval Station Treasure Island, Officers' Quarters No. 6)

HABS No. CA-1793-G

Location: Naval Station Treasure Island
6 Whiting Way, Yerba Buena Island
San Francisco
San Francisco County, California

UTM: 10.555964.4185287
USGS Quad Oakland West, 1959 (rev. 1980)

Present Owner/
Occupant: Base Realignment and Closure
Program Management Office West
1455 Frazee Road, Suite 900
San Diego, California 92108-4310

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: Quarters 6 is significant as part of the Senior Officers' Quarters District at Yerba Buena Island. Although short-lived as a training station (1898-1923), Yerba Buena Island was essential in the establishment of a modern American naval presence of the West Coast. One of four such facilities, Yerba Buena Island quickly became a key Navy station while it operated as a training station, and continued to play an important role in the military presence after it was decommissioned in 1923. The Senior Officers' Quarters District represents the major nexus of the island's historic building stock during this period and is significant for its association with the establishment of the Navy training station. The district is also significant as a representative example of residential military architecture.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date of erection: Quarters 6 was completed in 1903.¹
2. Architect and Engineer: The construction of Quarters 6 is attributed to the Bureau of Yards and Docks (BuDocks), the Navy department responsible for design, construction, and maintenance of all naval facilities.
3. Original and subsequent use: From 1903 to 1997, Quarters 6 served as Senior Officers' housing. Since the closure of Naval Station Treasure Island in 1997 it has remained vacant.
4. Builder: Navy Bureau of Yards and Docks (BuDocks).
5. Original plans and construction: Nearly a mirror image to Quarters 7 (**HABS No. CA-1793-H**), the Navy designed and constructed Quarters 6 as a simple Four Square residence with minor Classical Revival architectural details. The lack of historic photographs and architectural plans makes it impossible to date many of the alterations. Much of the changes are derived from physical evidence. Although there have been changes to its interior, the exterior of Quarters 6 has largely remained unchanged. Originally designed for junior officers, the residence's original appearance was less ornate than Quarters 2-5 but appears similar in overall presence. Like the other residences, the Navy designed and built it with a rectangular plan, a perimeter foundation, and beveled siding. The building has a pyramidal roof and dormers were placed on the east and west sides to allow light for the servant's quarters in the attic, much like the other residences. Exterior architectural detailing, like the corner boards and cornice, is similar to the other residences, although less articulated.²
6. Alterations and additions: During the Navy's tenure on Yerba Buena Island, there have been numerous changes to Quarters 6, most of which were interior changes. One of the changes confirmed by a remodeling plan is the Navy's removal and rebuilding of the chimney and fireplace on the west side of the residence during the 1950s. In addition, the Navy removed the interior walls separating the two rooms on the west side, resulting in a room that extended from the front hall to the rear wall. Several other interior walls on the first floor were moved and doors were placed in a new configuration to add closet space and change the circulation patterns. Additionally, the kitchen and bathrooms were also updated including the

¹ E. Hice and D. Schierling, "Historical Study of Yerba Buena Island, Treasure Island, and Their Buildings," Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Base Realignment and Closure, Revision 1, prepared for Environmental Department, Naval Station, March 1996, Table 2, 1-48.

² See HABS No. CA-1793-C, CA-1793-D, CA-1793-E, and CA-1793-F.

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replacement of old fixtures, and most of the interior decorative hardware was replaced as well.³

B. Historical Context

Note: Please refer to **HABS No. CA 1793-A** for a detailed historical context of the Senior Officers' Quarters District. Additional documentation for Yerba Buena Island can be found in **HAER No. CA-233-A, Torpedo Assembly Building**, and for the Naval Training Station on Treasure Island in **HABS No. CA-2785, Golden Gate Exposition**.

The Naval Training Station at Yerba Buena Island was established after an executive order from President McKinley on April 12, 1898. Although the Army continued to occupy and operate the Torpedo Station, the Navy was granted "a goodly portion" of the island for use as a training station. The need for a western training station was demonstrable and efforts at other small various training stations, such as Mare Station, had failed.⁴ The Yerba Buena Island Naval Training Station became one of four Navy training facilities in the United States, and the only one on the West Coast.⁵ An ambitious project from the outset, the 300-acre island had limited usable land, only approximately 150 acres with no room for expansion, and remained ill-suited for use as a training station. Even so, the island remained a key facility from 1900 to 1923 before Navy operations were moved to San Diego. This transfer represented an important step in the shift of major Navy installations from northern to southern California, specifically to San Diego.

Twenty-seven buildings were constructed on Yerba Buena Island during the initial period of construction of the Naval Training Station between 1900 and 1905.⁶ The large Classical Revival training barrack building served as the station's main facility. Because original plans do not exist for the facilities on Yerba Buena Island, it is difficult to know whether any of these responsibilities were contracted out to private architects. As the construction on the enlisted barracks progressed, the Navy began to build a series of Senior Officers' Quarters just up hill. The Navy completed the Commander's Quarters (Quarters No. 1) in 1900, and the seven other Senior Officers' Quarters (Quarters 2-8), between 1901 and 1905. The Senior Officers' Quarters are attributed to BuDocks, and they bear a striking resemblance to officers' quarters at Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo, also designed by BuDocks during the same period.

³ Navy Public Works Department, "Married Officers Quarters No. 6, Layout," Y.B.I Drawing No. 6-222, 1949, on file with City and County of San Francisco, Bureau of Engineering, Department of Public Works.

⁴ JRP Historical Consulting Services, "History and Historic Resources of the Military in California, 1796 to 1989," Volume II of *California Historic Military Buildings and Structures Inventory* Prepared for the US Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District, March 2000, 5-7.

⁵ E. Hice and D. Schierling, "Historical Study of Yerba Buena Island, Treasure Island, and Their Buildings," 1-14.

⁶ E. Hice and D. Schierling, "Historical Study of Yerba Buena Island, Treasure Island, and Their Buildings," 1-48 – 1-79.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Quarters 6 is one of two of the simplest of the residences in the Senior Officers' Quarters district, resembling more of a Four Square-style building than a Classical Revival residence. It is adorned with minor Classical Revival architectural details similar to those seen on other Senior Officers' Quarters in the district, including molding around the exterior doors, as well as throughout the interior of the building.⁷
2. Condition of Fabric: Quarters 6 remains in good condition.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Quarters 6 is a three-story residence, approximately 40' tall, 0' wide with three bays, and 40' deep with four bays.
2. Foundation: The building is set on a concrete foundation approximately 3'-4' visible above grade. Two basement windows are located on the front and south sides. These openings either have a three-light hopper window or are retrofitted with a louvered vent.
3. Walls: Exterior walls are clad in beveled wood siding with narrow corner boards.
4. Structural system, framing: Quarters 6 has a wood platform frame. Both the floor and roof framing types are unknown.
5. Porches, stoop, and balconies: Quarters 6 includes three porches; an inset corner porch on the main façade, a rear stoop on the south side, and a stoop on the east side. The inset entry porch is enclosed with glazing and is framed with a Classical Revival architrave. Wood-clad cheek walls frame the entry steps on the porch, and the entry is covered with a canvas awning added in the 1950s. The stoop on the south side is set above-grade on a concrete pad and covered with a small shed roof. Unlike the stoop on the south side, the east side stoop is enclosed with lapped wood siding and covered with a shed roof. This stoop provides access to the kitchen and basement.
6. Chimneys: A central block chimney is located on the south side of the building. The chimney stack is crowned with a corbelled cap and metal flues have been added to the stack opening.

⁷ See HABS No. CA-1793-C, CA-1793-D, CA-1793-E, and CA-1793-F.

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7. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: There are three exterior doors on Quarters 6. The main entry doors, located on the northwest corner, are double-leaf doors flanked by two paneled aprons and with a transom above. The front doors are half-glass with a double screen-door. Both the rear door and the kitchen door are multi-light doors with wood stiles.
- b. Windows: Fenestration throughout Quarters 6 consists of one-over-one double-hung windows, fixed-pane wood windows on the entry, and paired one-over-one double-hung windows on the dormers. Each window is framed with a wide trim board, slip sill, and simple drip cap. Near the southwest corner there is a bay window, composed of three one-over-one double-hung windows set above on inset panels that forms the base of the bay. A flat roof covers the bay and it has a blank frieze and molded cornice.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Quarters 6 is covered by a pyramidal roof sheathed with composition shingles.
- b. Cornice, eaves: The roof has a boxed cornice, kick eaves, and blank frieze. Half-round metal gutters have been added at the cornice and feed into downspouts at or near each corner.
- c. Dormers, cupolas, towers: Although not easily visible from the main façade, the building has cross-gable dormers that sit on its west and east sides. They are simply clad in beveled wood siding like the main body of the house and have flush eaves without a cornice treatment.

C. Description of the Interior:

1. Floor plans: Please refer to floor plans attached at the end of this report. Quarters 6 and Quarters 7 are almost identical in arrangement of their floor plans, with Quarters 7 simply mirroring Quarters 6.
 - a. Basement: A partial basement is located on the north side of the building and encompasses two rooms: a furnace and work room. An interior stair in the main hall and an exterior stair in covered stoop give access to the basement.
 - b. First floor: Quarters 6 has an irregular plan with a corner entry-hall and an adjacent center passage hall. A long, living room is set on the west side of the passage-hall with the kitchen and dining room located on the east side of the hall.

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- c. Second Floor: Four bedrooms and two bathrooms are arranged around the center passageway of the second floor.
 - d. Third Floor: Two rooms, a bathroom, and an unfinished room are located on the third floor.
2. Stairways: A winding, closed string staircase is set at the northeast corner of the building and is enclosed with a square, fluted newel post and molded railing with square balusters. The steps have bracketed risers and wood paneling closes the space under the stairs.
3. Flooring: All floors are narrow oak planks except the bathroom and kitchen, which have modern vinyl sheet flooring.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Walls in each room on the first floor are finished with smooth plaster and have a picture rail and wide baseboard. The ceiling is also finished with smooth plaster and lacks any architectural ornament. The second floor also has smooth plaster walls.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Most of the original openings have been moved and many of the doors replaced or removed and simply cased. Doors on the first floor consist of a wood panel, swinging single and double doors. Wood panel doors are used throughout the remainder of the second floor of the building. Two doors on the second floor also include transom lights.
 - b. Windows: Windows are framed on the first-floor public rooms with a wide wood surrounds. The bays are decorated with pilasters with corner blocks with wood panels below. Finger holds remain on some of the original windows.
6. Decorative features and trim: A fireplace and built-in bookcase were added to the main floor of Quarters 6 in the 1950s. There are original fireplaces in the second-floor bedrooms and unlike those in other Senior Officers' Quarters, consist of simple ceramic surrounds, iron inserts, and simple unadorned mantelpieces.
7. Hardware: Most of the lighting fixtures, appliances, door hardware, and other decorative elements have been replaced and are modern in vintage. However, some of the door knobs remain on the second floor, as well as the brass finger holds in each bay window.

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D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: Quarters 6 and 7 are set on the eastern boundary of the district. Quarters 6 faces northeast and Quarters 7 northwest; the rear sides sit in close proximity to each other and they share a small, rear fenced yard set between the two buildings. Each building includes a covered entry that exits into this rear yard, which includes a sizeable brick terrace that is difficult to discern because of the overgrown planting. The bricks are laid in a basket weave pattern and are surrounded by planting beds set adjacent to the building and wood fence. Outside the yard, Garden Way passes the southern side of both buildings and a picket fence surrounds the northern yards of both buildings. An adjacent concrete walkway is located on the north side of the fence.
2. Historic landscape design: On the east side of Quarters 6 there is an open garden space. Lucille Woolpert, a Bay Area landscape designer, was responsible for laying out the terraced garden located behind Quarters 2-5 and on the south side of Quarters 6 and 7. This garden is bounded by a random-cut stone retaining wall on the east side. This garden, unlike the formal terraced garden behind Quarters 1, is primarily composed of a central lawn with a series of terraced beds, at one time planted with perennials on the southern side of the area. Additionally, each residence is surrounded with planted beds, each containing a variety of trees and plants.
3. Outbuildings: There are no outbuildings associated with Quarters 6.

PART III: SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Architectural Drawings:

There are no original architectural drawings for Quarters 6. Subsequent drawings for alterations to Quarters 6 are on file with the Bureau of Engineering, Department of Public Works, County and City of San Francisco.

Navy Public Works Department, Married Officers Quarters No. 6, Layout," Y.B.I Drawing No. 6-222, 1949.

B. Early Views:

Record Group 80, General Records of the Department of the Navy, National Archives, Still Picture Branch, College Park, MD.

Treasure Island Museum Collection, Treasure Island, San Francisco, CA.

C. Interviews: Wickson R. Woolpert, son of Lucille Woolpert, personal communication with Amanda Blosser, November 2003.

D. Bibliography:

1. Published Sources:

Craig, Lois. *The Federal Presence: Architecture, Politics, and National Design*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 1994.

Gebhard, David, et al. *A Guide to Architecture in San Francisco & Northern California*. Santa Barbara: Peregrine-Smith, Inc., 1973.

LCRD McDevitt, E. A., USNR. *The Naval History of Treasure Island*. Treasure Island: U.S. Naval Training and Distribution Center, 1946.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee McAlester. *A Field Guide To American Houses*. New York: Knopf, 1996.

Rifkind, Carole. *A Field Guide to American Architecture*. New York: New American Library, 1980.

Reinhardt, Richard. *Treasure Island: San Francisco's Exposition Years*. San Francisco: Scrimshaw Press, 1973.

2. Unpublished Sources:

City and County of San Francisco, Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering, plan files for Yerba Buena Island.

Hice, E. and D. Schierling. "Historical Study of Yerba Buena Island, Treasure Island and Their Buildings." Revision 1. Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Base Realignment and Closure. Prepared for Environmental Department, Naval Station. March 1996.

Historic American Engineering Record, HAER No. CA-233-A, Naval Training Station, Quarter's 1, San Francisco, California, April 1998.

JRP Historical Consulting Services. "Cultural Resource Inventory and Evaluation Investigations: Yerba Buena Island and Treasure Island, Naval Station Treasure Island, San Francisco, California, March 1997," Prepared for Engineering Field Activity, West, Naval Facilities Engineering Command.

_____. "History and Historic Resources of the Military in California, 1796 to 1989." Volume II of *California Historic Military Buildings and Structures Inventory*. Prepared for the US Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District, March 2000.

_____. "Historic Context: Themes, Property Types, and Registration Requirements." Volume III of *California Historic Military Buildings and*

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Structures Inventory. Prepared for the US Army Corps of Engineers,
Sacramento District, March 2000.

Treasure Island Museum, Yerba Buena Island File.

Woodbridge, Sally. National Register of Historic Places Registration Form,
"Quarters 1, Yerba Buena Island, Naval Training Center," January 1991.

3. Internet Sources: None

4. Periodicals:

San Francisco Chronicle, Wednesday, July 17, 1940, December 23, 1939.

California-Magazine of the Pacific, November 1940.

Shasta Redding News, February 13, 1984.

E. Likely Sources not yet Investigated: Upon operational closure of the former Naval Station Treasure Island, records and materials formerly housed in the Navy's Treasure Island Museum were collected, catalogued and assembled for shipment. As such, these items were not wholly accessible and were not available to the public at the time of recordation. Due to the loan of various drawings and materials to those entities operating and maintaining the property by lease, some records were inaccessible or not indexed, including architectural drawings, contracts, and photographs.

F. Supplemental Material:

1. Location map showing Quarters 6 in relation to other buildings in the Senior Officers' Quarters District.
2. Floor plans of Quarters 6, including the basement, first floor, second floor and attic.

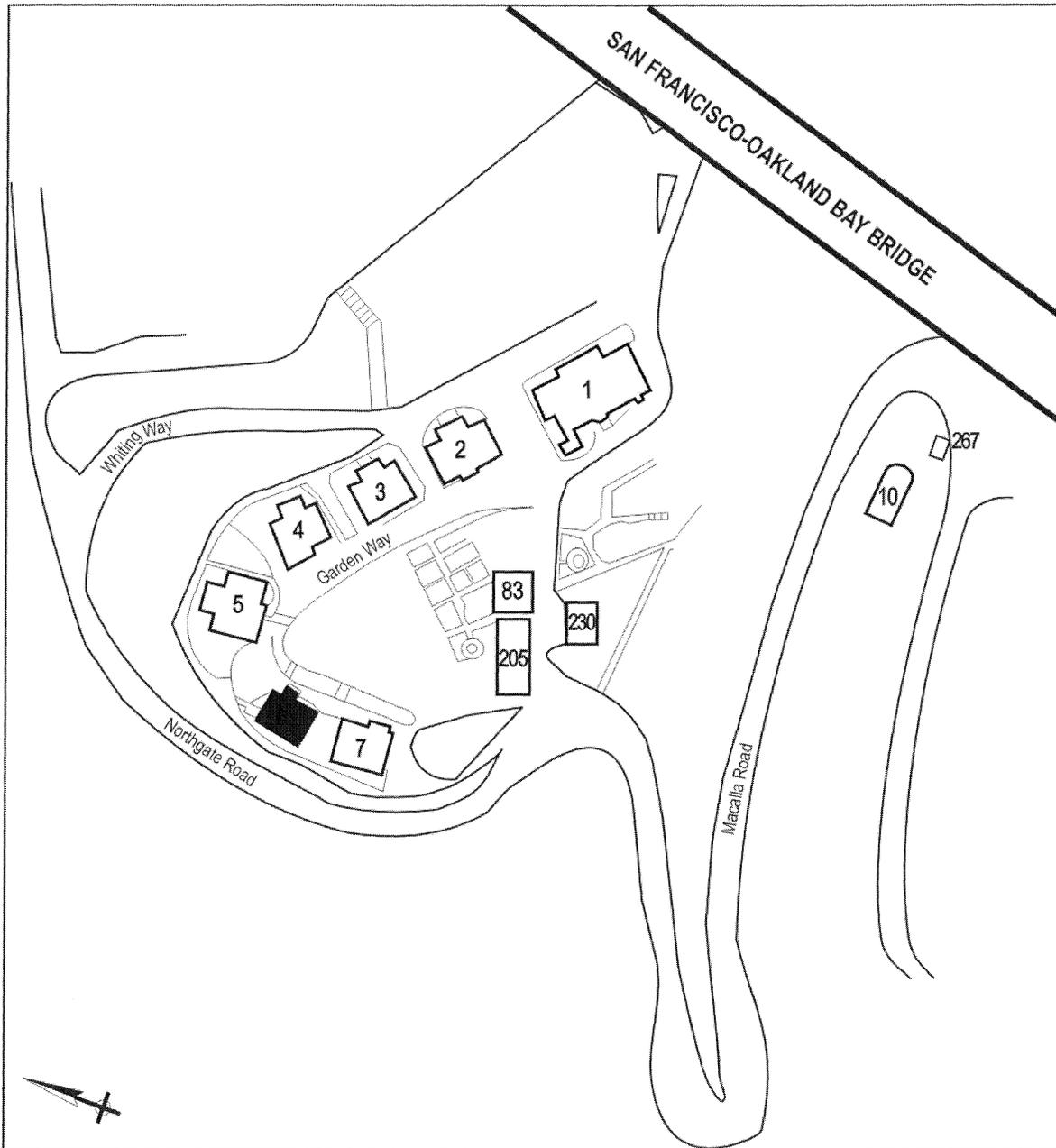
PART IV: PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken to fulfill the requirements of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Navy and the California State Historic Preservation Officer for the layaway, caretaker maintenance, interim leasing, sale, transfer, and disposal of historic properties on Naval Station Treasure Island.

Amanda Blosser and Toni Webb of JRP Historical Consulting prepared this document for Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) and the Navy. Both Amanda Blosser and Toni Webb conducted the fieldwork, wrote architectural descriptions, and the historic context. Both Ms. Blosser and Ms. Webb conducted research for this project at the California State Library, Treasure Island Museum, County and City of San Francisco, Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering. William B. Dewey produced the photography.

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LOCATION MAP



ORNAMENTAL DETAILS



Figure 1. Detail of staircase with fluted newel post.
[Source: JRP Historical Consulting]

ORNAMENTAL DETAILS



Figure 2. Detail of second-floor balustrade with fluted newel posts.
[Source: JRP Historical Consulting]

ORNAMENTAL DETAILS



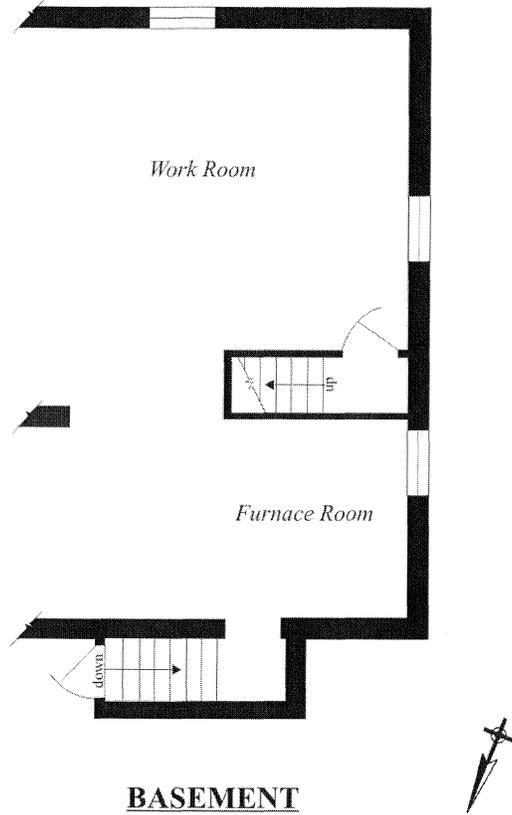
Figure 3. Detail of paneled door and leading from dining room into kitchen.
[Source: JRP Historical Consulting]

ORNAMENTAL DETAILS



Figure 4. Detail of typical fireplace on second floor.
[Source: JRP Historical Consulting]

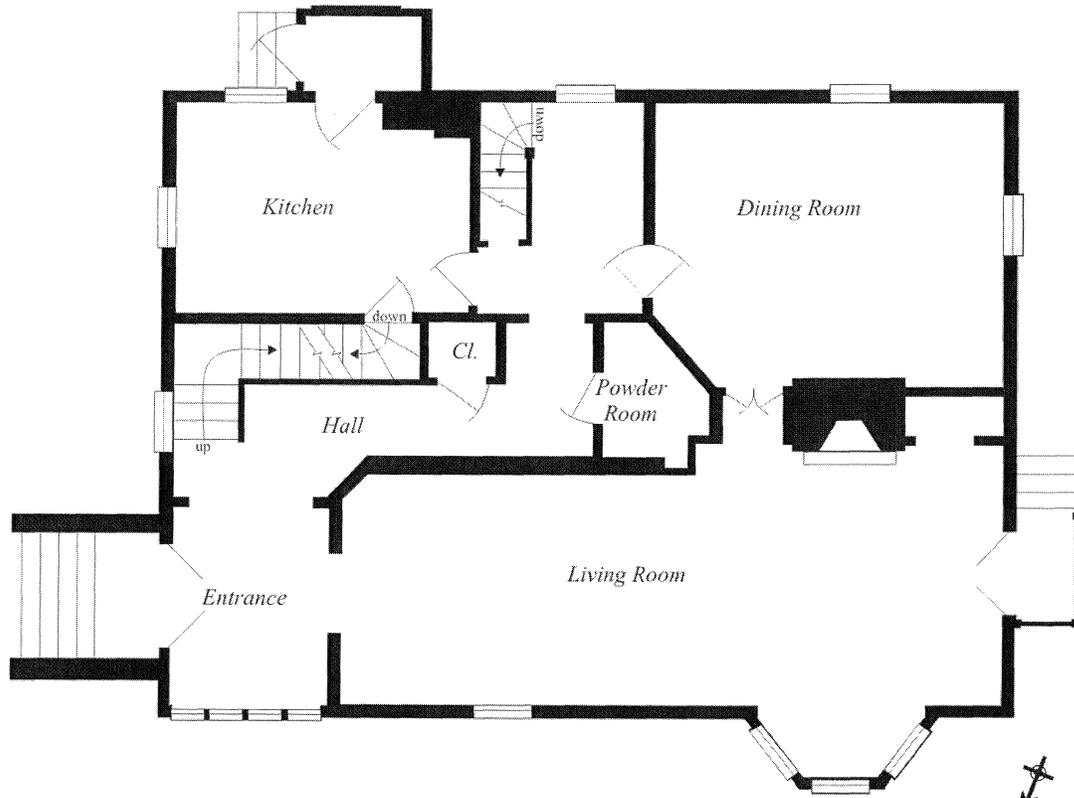
FLOOR PLANS



Not to scale

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FLOOR PLANS

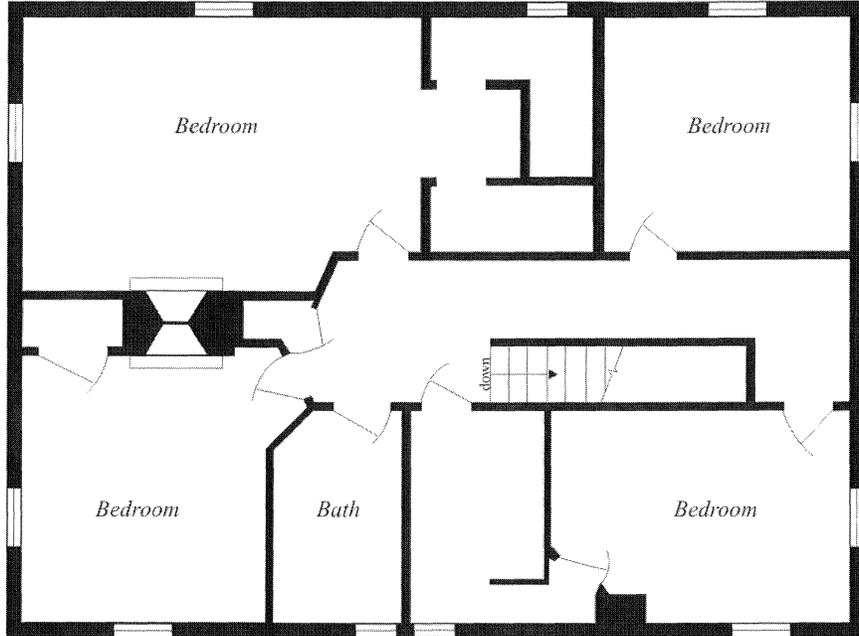


FIRST FLOOR

Not to scale

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FLOOR PLANS



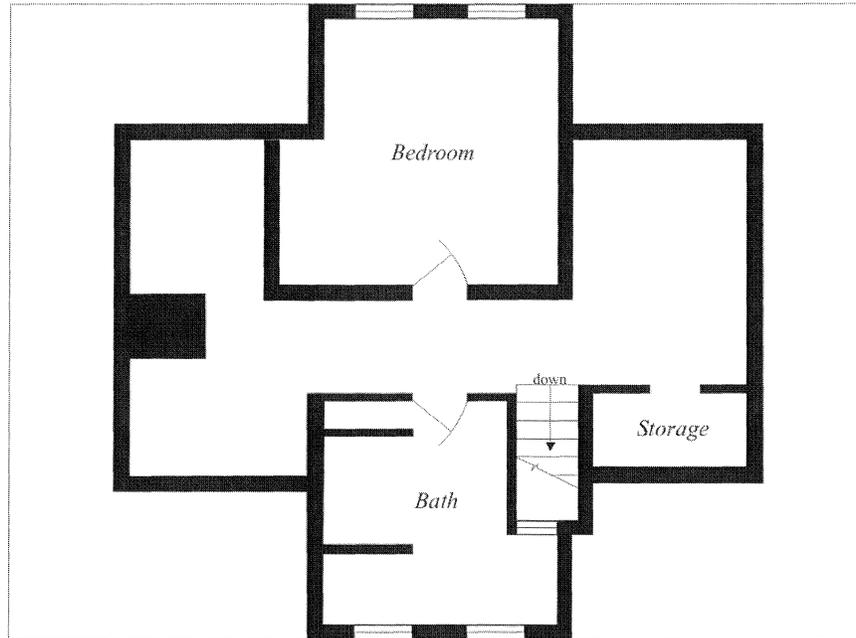
SECOND FLOOR



Not to scale

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FLOOR PLANS



THIRD FLOOR



Not to scale