

MCNAMARA HOUSE AND STORE  
455-457 Millbury Street  
Worcester  
Worcester County  
Massachusetts

HABS No. MA-1300

HABS  
MA-1300

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
Northeast Region  
Philadelphia Support Office  
U. S. Custom House  
200 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

### MCNAMARA HOUSE AND STORE

HABS NO. MA-1300

Location: 455-457 Millbury Street, Worcester, Worcester County, Massachusetts

USGS Worcester South, Massachusetts Quadrangle  
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 19.268740.4680400

Significance The McNamara House and Store is an early and largely intact example of the multistory commercial/residential building type in Worcester. It is notable for its Stick Style architecture. Developed as part of the expanding Irish community around Vernon Hill and this section of Millbury Street, and owned and operated as a saloon between 1886 and 1900 by individuals with Irish surnames, the building has an important association with the history of Irish immigration in Worcester in the latter part of the 19th century, when the Irish still constituted the largest immigrant group in the city.

Description The McNamara House and Store is a three-story wood frame structure with a cruciform gable roof with overhanging eaves. The foundation is brick and stone; the exterior wall clapboard and shingle; the roof covering asphalt shingle. The windows are two-over-two sash, with single windows in some places and groupings of several in others. The building has projecting bays on the north and south facades, and porches of different design on the north, west and south sides; the one on the south has two levels, the others one. The recessed rear porches resemble those of three-deckers in the area. The architectural style is Stick Style, represented here by gable stickwork, brackets on the porches' supporting posts, and turned posts and decorative railings. A woodframe storefront stretches across most of the street facade; the enameled panels under the windows were added about 1960. On the interior, the first floor contains a store, a few steps down from the main floor of the apartment behind it; the second and third floors have apartments. The building has residential entrances at the southwest corner and on the north side, and a central entrance to the store from the sidewalk. Although in sound condition, the exterior wood surfaces are bare of paint.

History The McNamara House and Store, then numbered # 277 Millbury Street, was built about 1886 on the site of an earlier structure. The area was then rapidly developing with houses and commercial buildings serving the expanding Irish community, many of whose workers were employed at the Washburn & Moen Central Works and Quinsigamond Iron and Wire Works. John McNamara, who

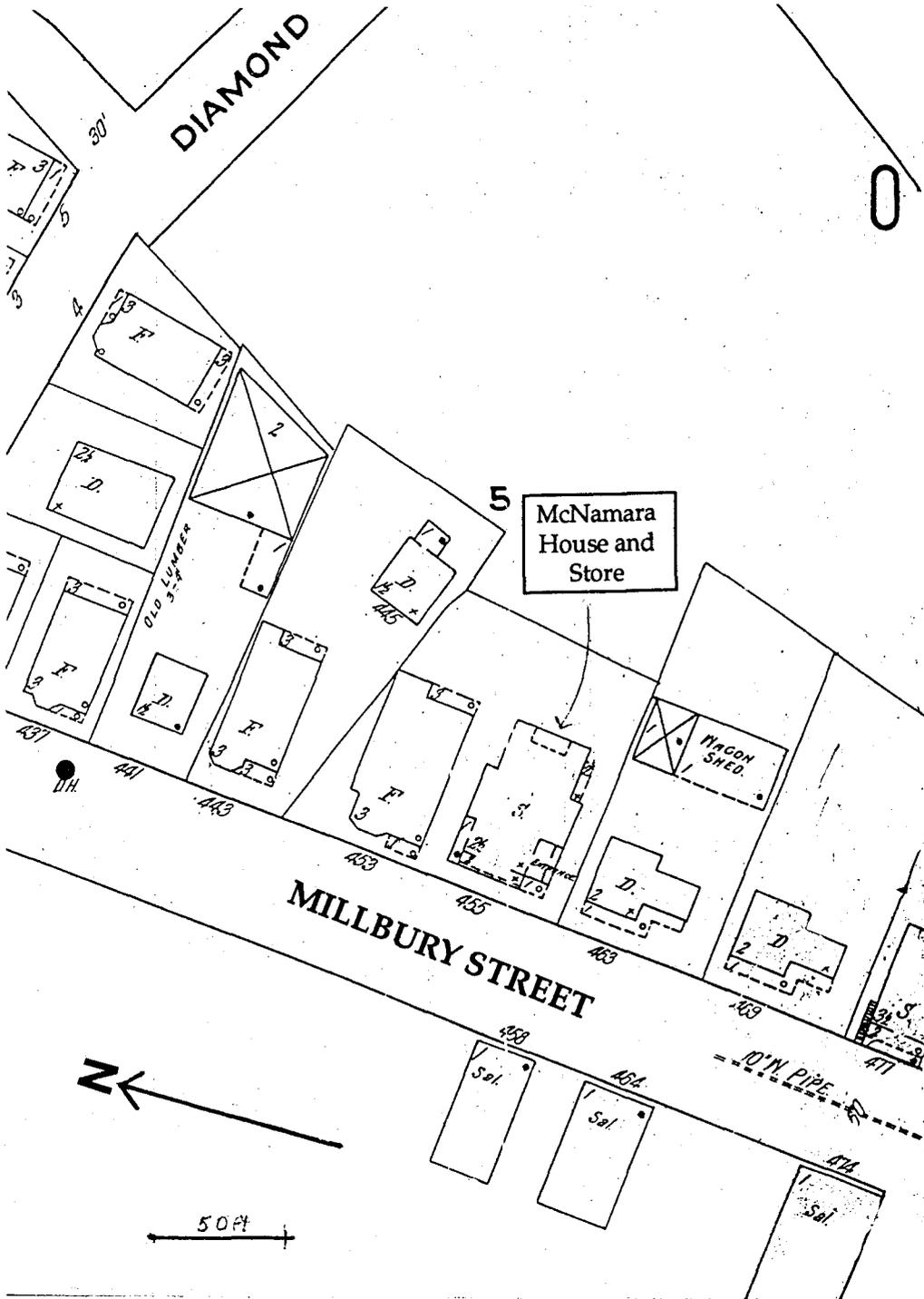
MCNAMARA HOUSE AND STORE  
HABS No. MA-1300  
(Page 2)

may have been the original owner of the house and store, had operated saloons and lived at four other addresses on Millbury Street before moving his saloon and residence to #277 in 1886, where he lived until his death in 1888. His widow kept the saloon until 1890, and lived on one of the floors and either rented out other floors of the building or took in boarders until 1902. Until 1896 the property had one address and three occupied floors tenanted by wireworkers with Irish surnames; by 1898 there was a shift to six premises occupied by a more diverse set of tenants. In 1898, the street address of the property changed to two numbers: #455 (the store) and #457 (the residence) Millbury Street, which it retains today. In 1900 J.J. O'Donnell & Co. operated a saloon on the property; by 1902 it was a grocery store operated by William Cinsky; by 1908 the store at #455 was vacant, and remained so until 1920 when Peter Jogas ran a grocery store; from 1924 to 1928, John Srupas ran the grocery store; from then to 1934 it was vacant. Because liquor licensing was voted on annually in Worcester and the temperance forces sometimes won, saloons had intermittent histories. The building is vacant today.

Sources:

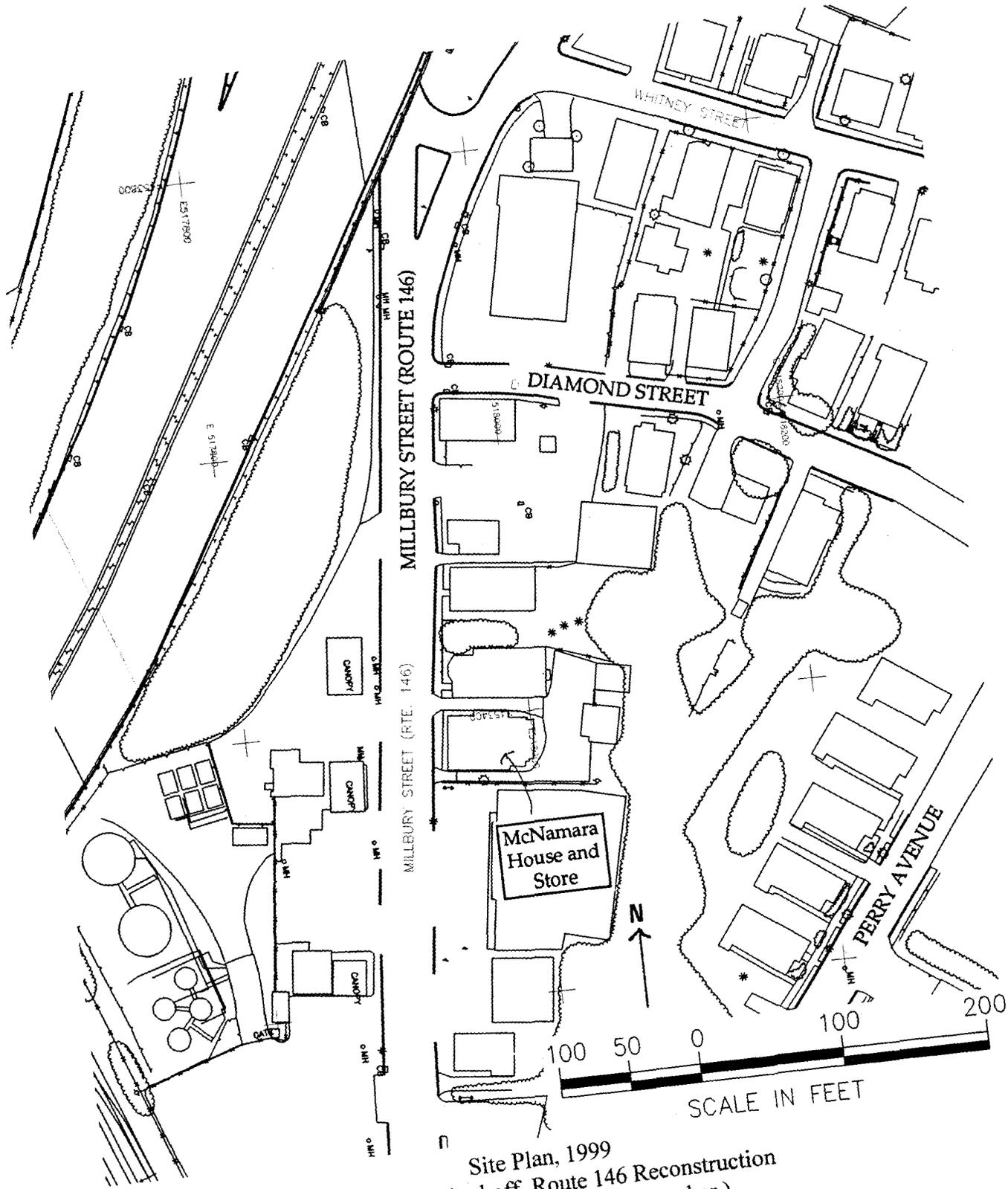
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Historians: Stanley F. Moss and Lauren C. Cook, Boston Affiliates, Inc., October 1999



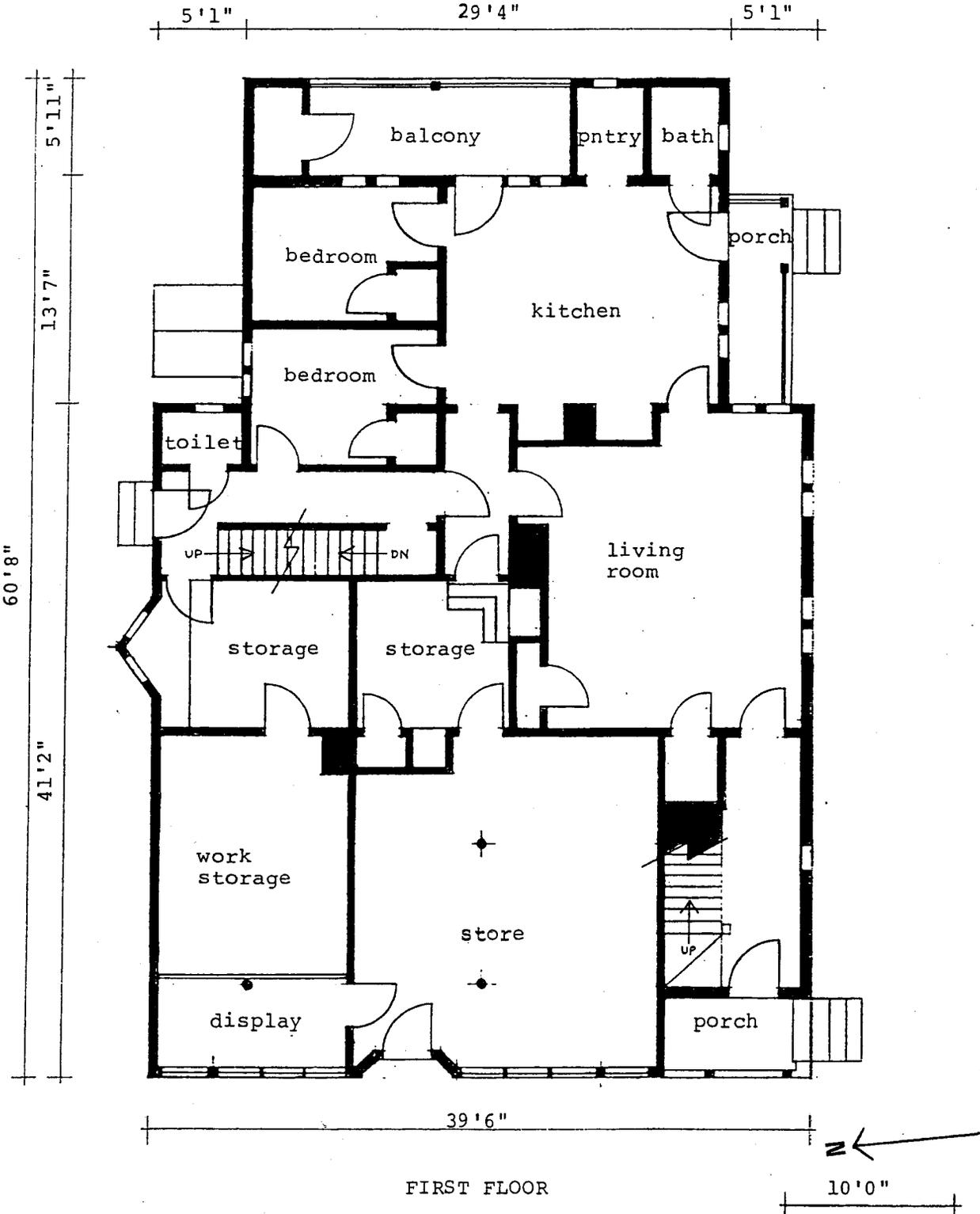
Portion of Insurance Map of Worcester, Massachusetts, 1910  
(Sanborn Map Company, New York)

MCNAMARA HOUSE AND STORE  
HABS No. MA-1300  
(Page 4)

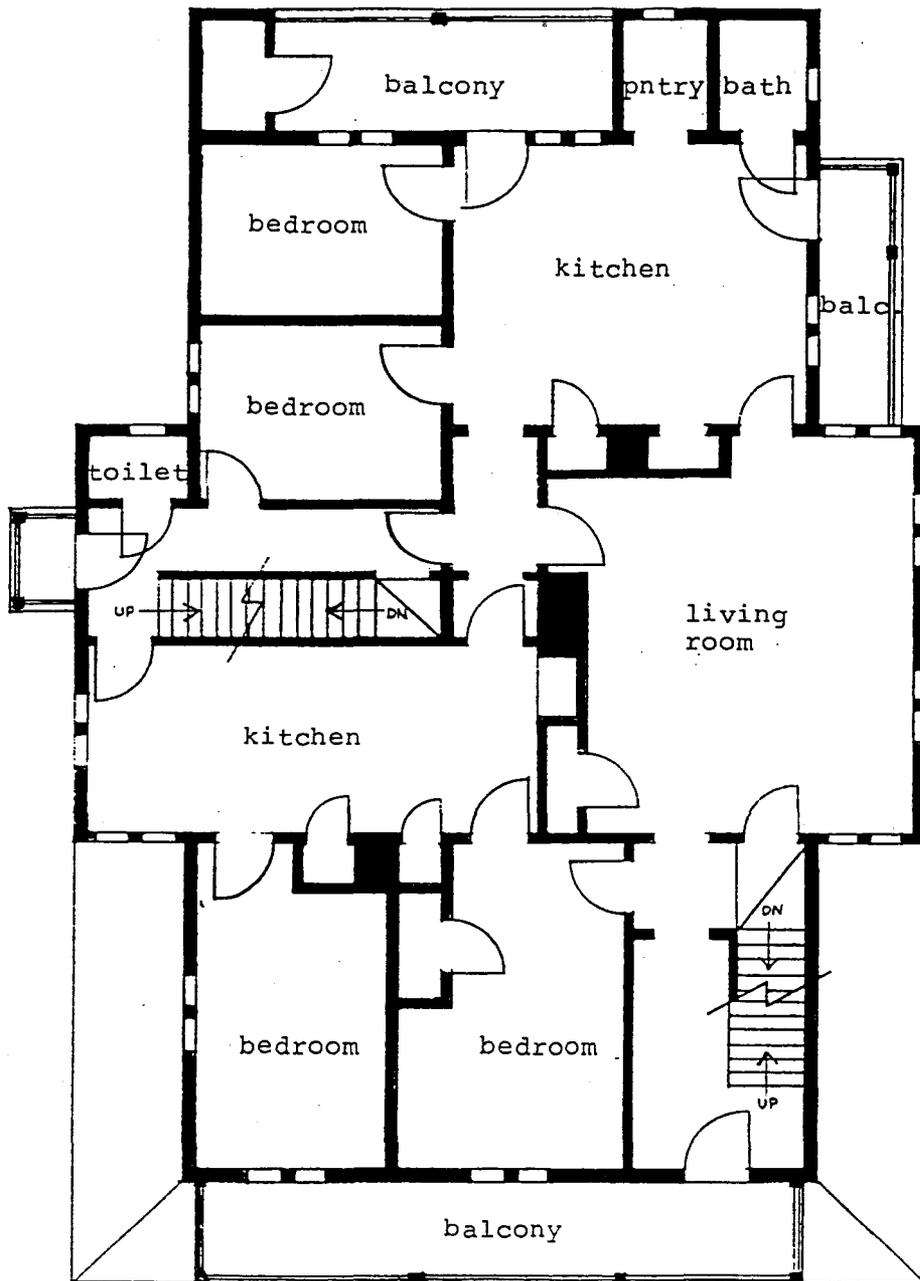


Site Plan, 1999  
(Parsons Brinckerhoff, Route 146 Reconstruction  
Project, unpublished, no page number.)

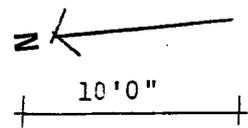
MCNAMARA HOUSE AND STORE  
HABS No. MA-1300  
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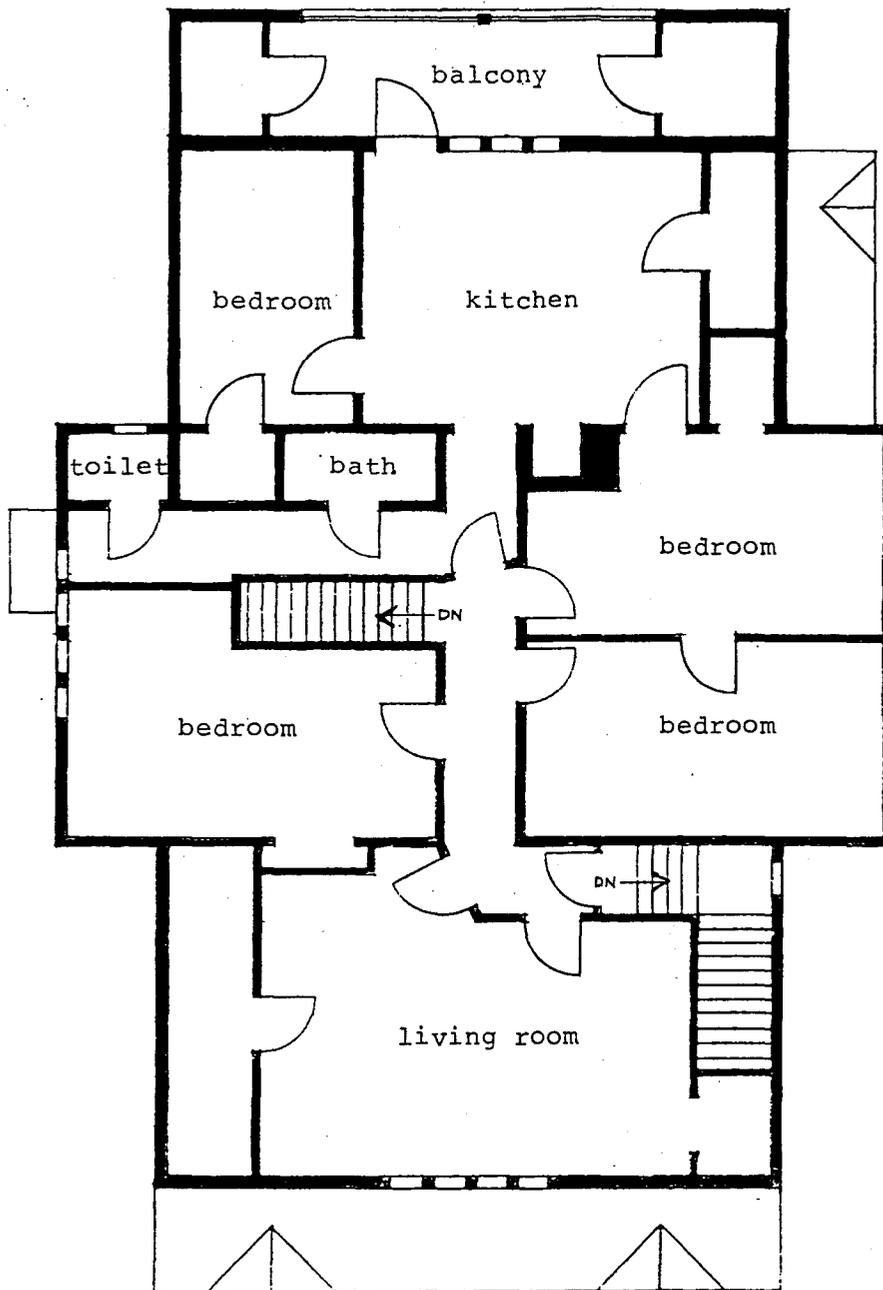


FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR





THIRD FLOOR

