

9927-9929 RAILROAD AVENUE (DUPLEX)
Texas
Baltimore County
Maryland

HABS No. MD-1002

HABS
MD
3-TEX,
3-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
Northeast Field Area
Chesapeake/Allegheny System Support Office
National Park Service
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

9927-9929 RAILROAD AVENUE (DUPLEX)

HABS No. MD-1002

HABS
MD
3-TEX
3-

Location: Texas, Baltimore County, Maryland

USGS Cockeysville, Maryland Quadrangle
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:
18. 358600. 4369235.

Significance: Situated in "Limestone Valley," the village of Texas was developed to exploit the nearby limestone quarries. The village embodies the characteristics of a mid-nineteenth century working class, predominantly Irish-Catholic community. Specifically constructed as a workers' duplex, the house is a vernacular adaptation of Greek Revival classicism, featuring a symmetrical plan with details such as stone quoins and wood dentils. Erected during the late 1840s to early 1850s, the house is one of the earliest remaining buildings in Texas from 1840-1900, the period of the town's greatest growth, and is a fine example of a limestone worker's residence.

The house, like many other nineteenth century houses in Texas, was located near the road with outbuildings and gardens behind. The building's siting along the railroad tracks and near the old lime kilns was another typical, but important, aspect of the former mining town. Except for a few houses on the east side of the railroad tracks, most of that cluster of houses has largely been destroyed. Today, the house is the only surviving stone dwelling on Railroad Avenue.

Description: The house faces Railroad Avenue, which runs parallel to the railroad track (Pennsylvania Railroad). The low pitch gable roof features a shallow-molded, denticulated wood box cornice. A brick interior chimney is centered on each gable end of the house. The house is built of cut white limestone, which was plentiful in this area and was a good, durable building material. The stone, which is random-coursed and laid with mortar, is quarry-faced, giving a textured finish. Today, the masonry is in very good condition and shows little weathering. The house is accented with rusticated, irregular-sized quoins at the corners

(on the south or front facade only) and flat arch brick lintels on windows and doors. Windows are 6/6 sash type on the first and second floors and 3/3 on the third floor.

The symmetrical exterior has four bays on the main facade, consisting of two center doors flanked by windows. Gable end walls are blank. The house has a regular, rectangular plan which comprises the principal core of the house. Additions with chimneys have been added to each duplex half on the rear of the house. Additions consist of a single-story gable wing with an open overhang on the southwest side and a two-story shed-roof wing on the northwest side, each with chimneys. Attached to the two-story addition on the north end is a small shed.

There is a full basement under the house which was originally accessed only through ground-floor doors on the main facade. Today, the basement is entered via steps on each side of the duplex, one interior and one exterior.

History:

The property was within the tract of land that was acquired in 1717 by Thomas Cockey of Anne Arundel County and owned in succession by Griscom and Burrough. Cockey settled in the area that became Texas and gradually acquired 2,500 acres of land. After Cockey's death, the tract was divided into lots. On December 14, 1844, Samuel Griscom purchased a large tract of land (40 acres) that included the section of Texas immediately adjacent to the railroad, including the house lot. It is conjectured that Samuel Griscom undertook, during the 1840s-1850s, an ambitious program of dividing the acreage into building lots and leasing the properties out to arriving immigrants. Although the exact construction date of the house could not be established, it was probably built by Griscom during that period to house immigrant mine workers. The Sidney map of 1850 does show structures located along Railroad Avenue by this year, but the large-scale and cartographic inaccuracy does not allow definite determination of individual structures. In 1854, the deed from Powell Griscom to Jacob Burroughs confirms that the house was erected and rented by that date.

Following the acquisition of the property, Jacob Burrough leased Lot 1 to John Burns and Lot 2 to Thomas Kelly, both merchants in Texas. John Burns and his wife Abigail Dillon died in 1868

and 1893, respectively. Thomas Kelly and his wife Margaret had fifteen children and lived in this house throughout the second half of the nineteenth century and into the first decade of the twentieth century.

The property was acquired by Charles F. Stein in the late nineteenth century, and by Ella F. Stein in 1914. After Ella Stein's death in 1940, the property was left to her children, Charles and Virginia, who sold it to Ervin and Carrie Poe in 1947. Mrs. Poe has survived her husband and lived in the duplex until 1993.

Source:

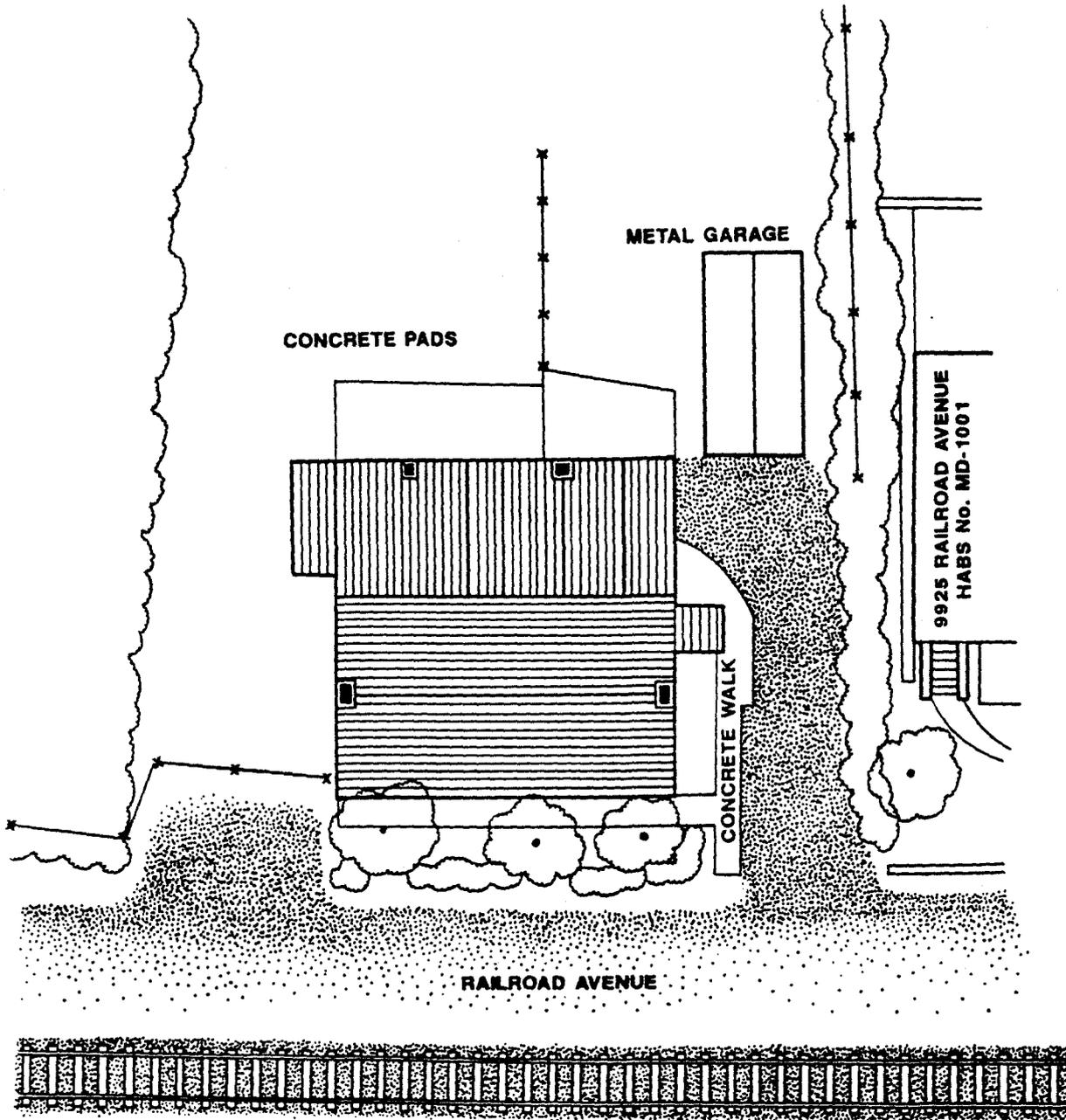
Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form, Texas Village, 1985.

Maryland Standing Structure Site Form No. 18BA1837 (Number 325).

"Phase II Archaeology Survey for Sites 18BA313, 18BA314, 18BA324, & 18BA325, Beaver Dam Road, Baltimore County, Maryland," by Ted M. Payne and Kenneth Baumgardt, MAAR Associates, Inc., Newark, Delaware.

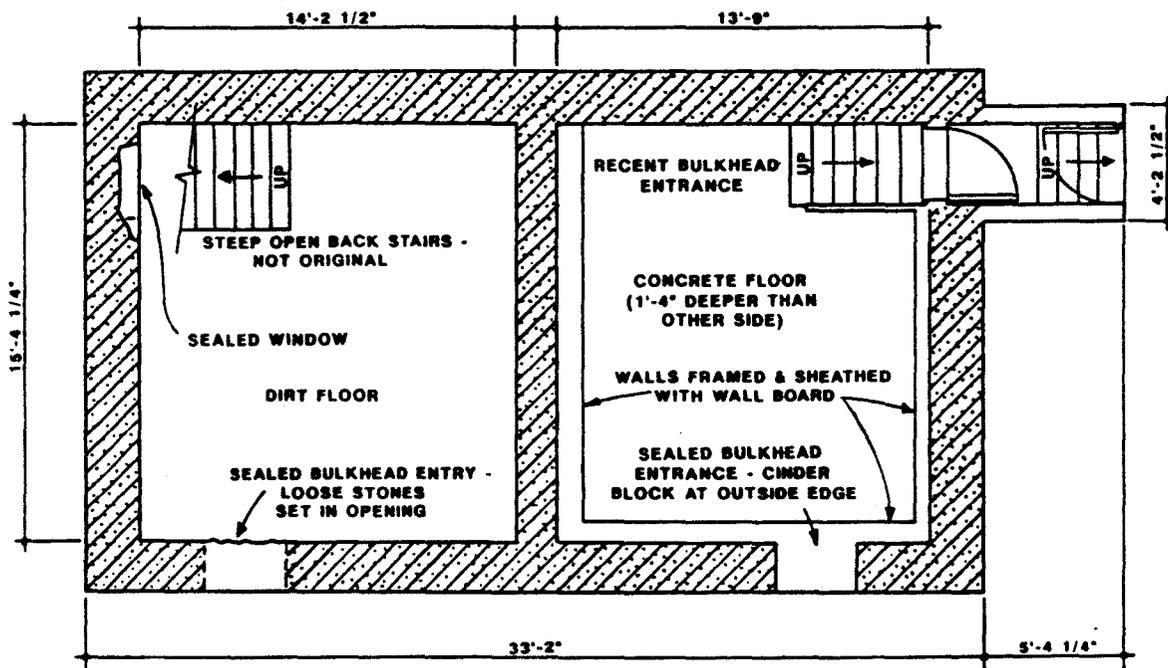
Historian:

Kenneth Baumgardt
Lauren Archibald
MAAR Associates, Inc.
April 1994.

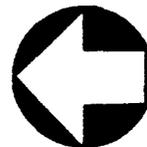


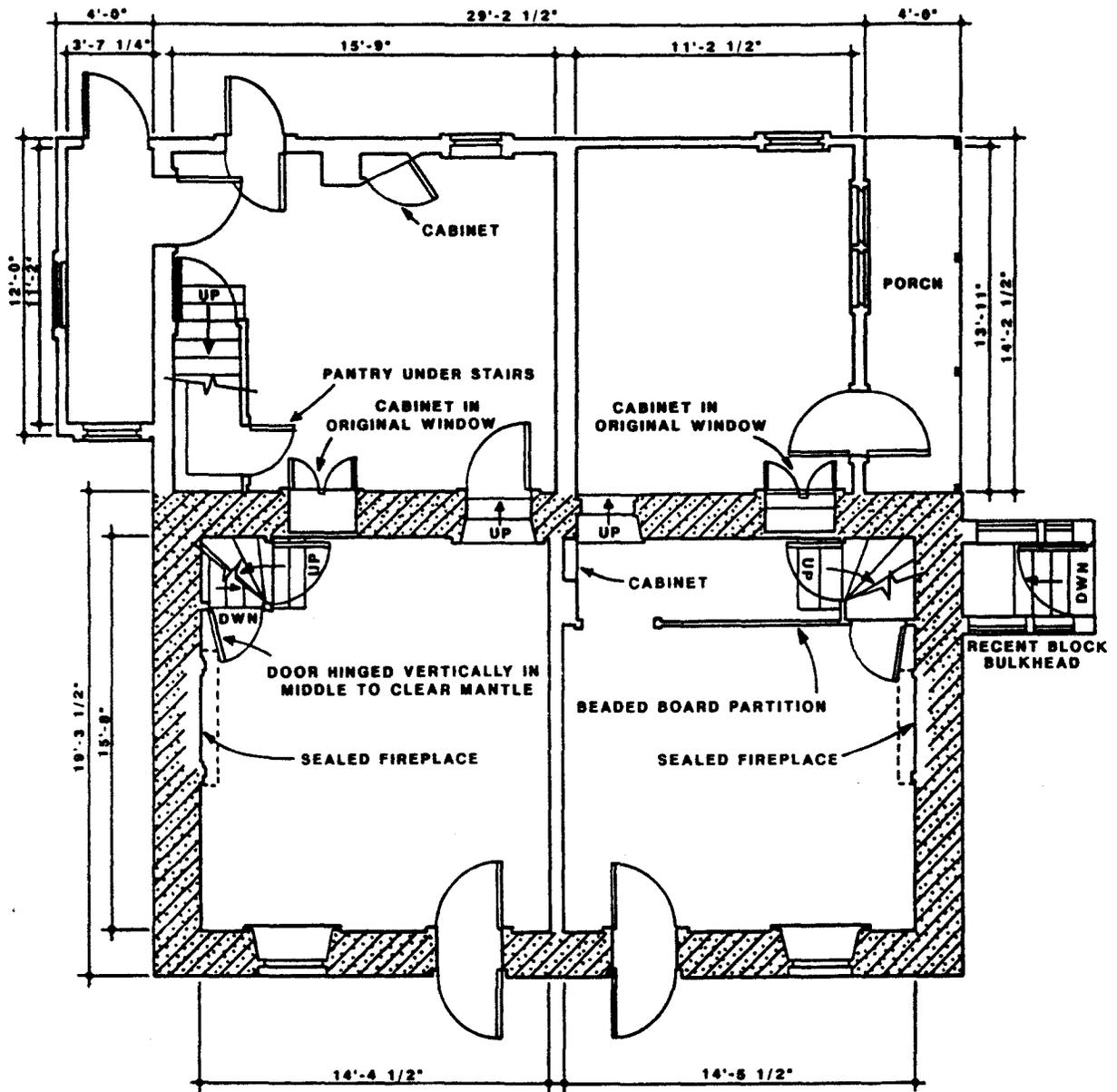
SITE PLAN



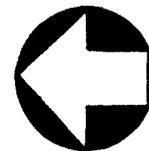


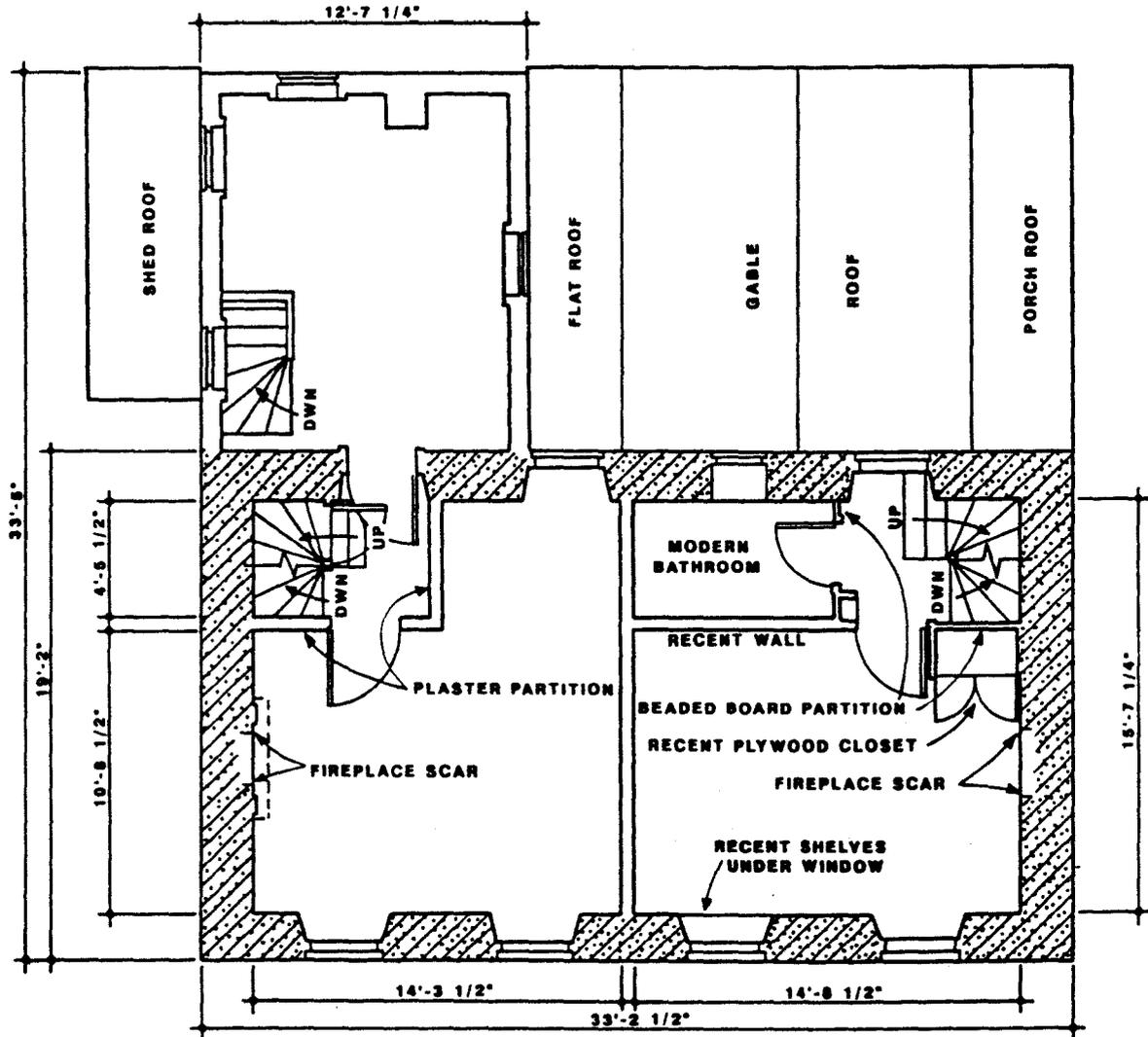
BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN



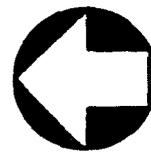


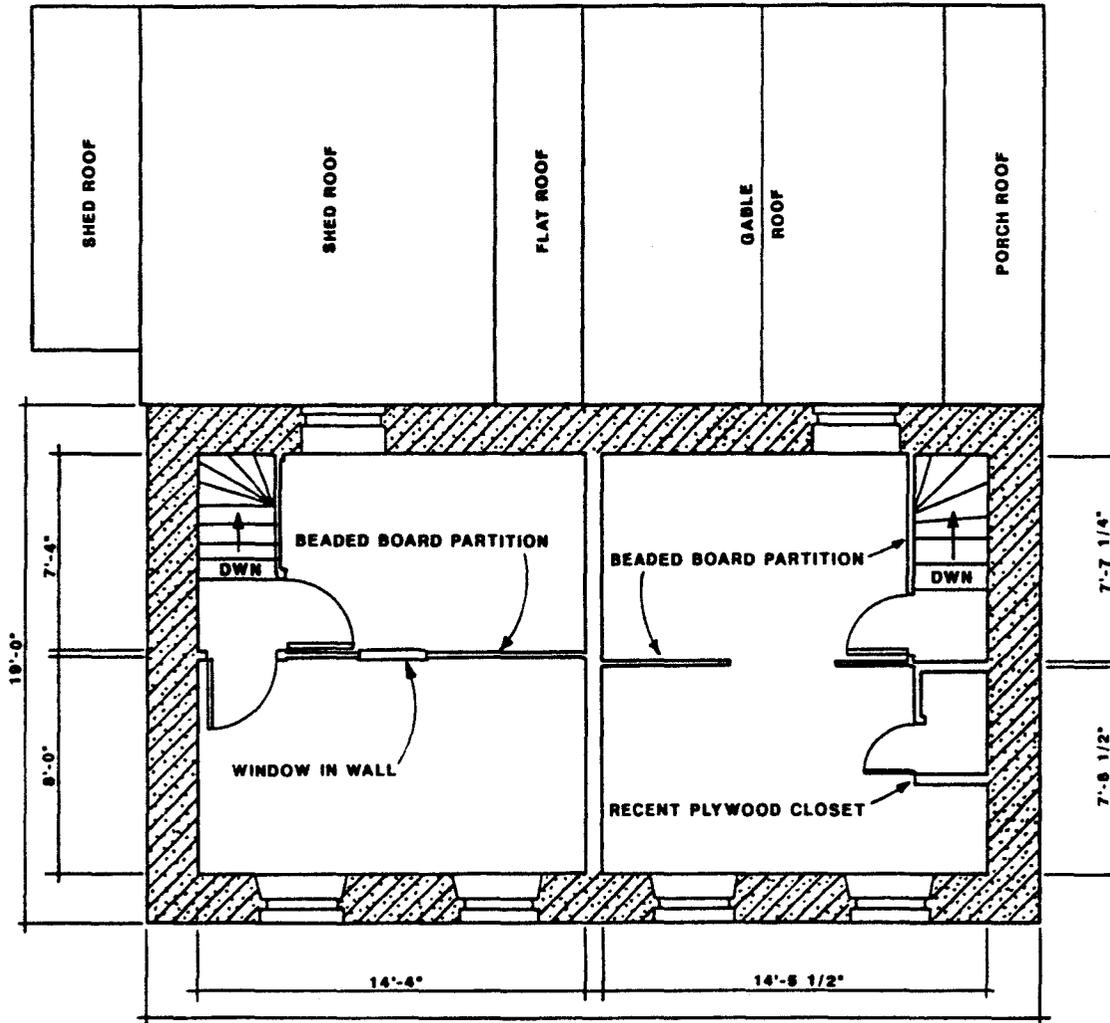
FIRST FLOOR PLAN





SECOND FLOOR PLAN





ATTIC FLOOR PLAN

