

U.S. Military Academy - Central Barracks
West of Thayer Road between Brewerton Road and the
Parade Ground; between buildings 751, 756 and 745
U.S. Military Academy
West Point
Orange County
New York

HABS No. NY-5708-8

HABS
NY,
36-WEPD,
1/8-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

HABS
NY
30-WEPO
1/2

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY - CENTRAL BARRACKS

LOCATION: West of Thayer Road between Brewerton Road and the Parade Ground; between U.S.M.A. buildings #751, 756 and 745; U.S. Military Academy, West Point, Orange County, New York.

USGS West Point Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 18.587160.4582470.

PRESENT OWNER AND OCCUPANT:

U.S. Military Academy, Department of the Army.

PRESENT USE:

Cadet Bank, Museum, Alumni Affairs Office, Cadet Honor Committee Meeting Room, Pizza Restaurant.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Central Barracks is one of two surviving structures at the Academy which were designed and erected under the guidance of Major Richard Delafield. These designs were an attempt to form a common architectural image for the Academy in the mid-nineteenth century and they later influenced the work of Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson. Although mostly demolished, the Central Barracks is a rare survivor of an early cadet housing unit.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Completed ca. 1851 (Williams).
2. Architect: Major Richard Delafield. Delafield is believed to have designed the Central Barracks after designs were submitted in 1839-40 by Isaiah Rogers, F. Diaper and Captain Eastman. "A January 28, 1840, letter from Major Delafield contained several drawings for designs of the proposed barracks. Included were (1) two Greek Revival designs by Isaiah Rogers dated June 4, 1839, (2) two Gothic designs by F. Diaper [sic] also dated June 4, 1839, and (3) two Gothic designs drawn by Captain Eastman, U.S. Army, dated January 26, 1840. The final two drawings were used for the design of Central Barracks. While Major Delafield is generally credited with the design of the barracks, notes on several of the drawings strongly indicate this, the similarity between Diaper's design and what was finally built strongly suggests Diaper as the source for the final design." (Grashof)
3. Original and subsequent owners: U.S. Military Academy, Department of the Army.
4. Builder: The building was probably constructed by the Quartermaster's office, U.S.M.A.
5. Original plans and construction: "The first 10 divisions, A-Fig. 1, were completed in 1851 at a cost of \$186,000 though they must have

been built in two phases. A drawing, labeled "Sketch of the Ground Adjacent to and in Rear of the Cadet Barracks" (Ltr. of Capt. H. Brewerton, March 5, 1849), has existing buildings drawn in black and proposed buildings drawn in brown. The west half, PL-747-a, is shown in black as existing while the east half is shown in brown, PL-747-b. A careful look at PL-635-a, a copy of a print made in 1848, also gives credence to this hypothesis. Though a measure of artistic license has been applied, the building in the lower right-hand corner bears a strong resemblance to the west half of Central Barracks. The evidence is not conclusive, however. More study must be done. Three more divisions were added in 1882, B - Fig. 1, and the south wing, C - Fig. 1, designed by Captain Arthur Proctor in 1918, was completed in 1921." (Grashof) The Central Barracks were demolished ca. 1969 except for the one division which remains.

Captain Charles W. Williams's 1889 inventory gives the following description: "On the south side of the Plain, four stories high, was completed in 1851, at a cost of \$186,000.00 It constitutes the most imposing structure at the Institution. It is built of stone, with fire proof rooms, castellated and corniced with red sandstone, in the Elizabethan style. The building is 360 ft. x 60 ft., with a wing extending in rear of the west tower 255 ft. x 60 ft. It contains 210 rooms, arranged in ten divisions, without interior communications. The West Tower and the adjacent divisions are at present used as officer's quarters. The basement contains 34 bathing rooms, 31 store and trunk rooms, 1 boiler room and 11 rooms for employees. The large hall in the centre, 24 ft. x 57 ft. x 25 ft. 6 in., over the sally-port is appropriated to the Dialectic Society, while the one in the wing, of the same size, is used for storage purposes.

An extension to this wing containing 33 rooms, 105 ft. long, costing \$72,000.000, was completed in 1882.

The building is heated by steam and lighted with gas. All rooms on the first floor are 11 feet high; on the second, with the exception of those over the sally-ports, 10 ft. 8 in, on the third 10 ft. 6 in.; and on the fourth, 10 ft. They are occupied as follows:-

By cadets, -----	164
By tactical officers -----	14
By officers not on duty in Dept. of Tactics, -----	10
By Dept. of History, Geography and Ethics, -----	1
By Dentist for Corps of Cadets, -----	2
By Association of graduates, -----	2
By Bath rooms, -----	2
By Storerooms and armories, -----	9
By Light prisons for cadets, -----	5
By Dialectic Hall,-----	1
	<hr/>
	Total --- 210

These rooms are of the following sizes: - 156 are 14' x 22' each; 8 are octagonal in shape, each 17' 6" broad; 4 are each 14' x 16' 6"; 16 are each 14' x 30'; 4 are 17'6" x 21'; 4 are each 10' x 21'; 4 are each 15' x 21'; 4 are each 10'6" x 18'; 4 are each 10' x 18'; 4 are each 17' x 18'; and 2 are 24' x 57' x 25'6" each.

The bathing rooms, store and trunk rooms and rooms for employes in the basement are the following sizes:- Bathing rooms. 12 are each 8' x 5' x 9'6"; 11 are each 7'6" x 5' x 9'6"; 1 is 21' x 16' x 9'6"; 1 is 10' x 21' x 9'6".

Rooms for employes. 2, octagonal in shape, are each 17'6" broad x 9'6" high; 7 are 14' x 22' x 9'6"; 1 is 17'6" x 21' x 9'6"; 1 is 14' x 15' x 9'6".

Boiler room. 14' x 22' x 9'6", contains an upright boiler, 6 ft. high x 3 ft. in diam., and a receiver, 6 ft. diam. x 12 ft. deep, with a coil for heating water used in cadet baths."

The Board of Visitors Report from 1854 gives the following description: "Cadets' Barracks - This is a four story castellated granite building, 360 feet long and 60 wide with an L or wing to the rear 100 feet long by 60 wide. It contains 176 rooms, 136 of which are cadets' quarters, and 22 by 14 feet; 40 rooms are occupied partly as officers' quarters, and partly by employes."

6. Alterations and additions: The most obvious alteration to date has been the demolition of all but the first Division section of the building. Another alteration which has affected the exterior is the switch from the original double-hung sash with diamond-shaped panes to six light sash (by 1880s) and to two-over-two double-hung sash. A fire in 1871 burned part of the fourth floor and the roof. The original roof was a standing seam hip roof. Other exterior alterations have consisted primarily of changes to windows and doors (blocked or replaced) and to the porch, which has a concrete floor. The entire west wall was built when the rest of the building was demolished.

An 1872 Annual Report shows a plan of the proposed plumbing for a typical division (see Supplemental Material).

Interior alterations have been much more extensive, including the replacement of doors; the removal of walls; new doorways cut; the installation of toilet rooms on each floor at the end of the hall; the removal of mantels; new floors and bases; fluorescent lights; new finishes in the first floor rooms converted to a bank; dropped ceilings; blocked fireplaces; new window casings (fourth floor); and some completely altered rooms in the basement where a pizza restaurant was created.

B. Historical Context:

For the historical and architectural context of these barracks within the overall development of West Point, see HABS No. NY-5708, Volume 2: "West Point: An Overview of the History and Physical Development of the United States Military Academy."

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The Central Barracks is one of two extant buildings at the Academy that initiated the collegiate gothic style, which has governed West Point's architecture in the twentieth century. Parts of the building's interior are among the oldest, restored spaces at the Academy.
2. Condition of fabric: The building is in excellent condition.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The building is roughly square, 41' x 50', with a 17' (interior diameter) octagonal tower on its northeast corner. The three bay facade has a central doorway flanked by windows. There are four floors above a basement.
2. Foundations: The brown and gray ashlar granite foundation walls are approximately 28" - 30" thick. A bevelled watertable encircles the building.
3. Walls: Above the watertable the load-bearing granite walls are approximately 24" thick. The granite is laid in a random range ashlar pattern. Reddish-brown sandstone is used as decorative trim for beltcourses, label molds, cornice, parapet weatherings and the tops of the porch piers. Wall openings have granite lintels and sills. It was reported in the 1886 Annual Report that the walls were repointed with Portland cement.
4. Structural systems: Structural systems are comprised of load-bearing stone walls, a common wood joist floor and a common wood rafter roof system.
5. Porches: An original porch with cast iron posts and balustrade extends across the facade. The concrete floor slab and the copper roof are replacements. The balusters feature an acanthus leaf in their design. It was reported in 1883 that the floors and roof of the porches were "renewed." (Annual Report 1883).
6. Chimneys: There are two square chimneys on the west side of the roof, one on the east side and one hidden by the tower's roof parapet. These are stone with corner pilasters and A-frame covers.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The principal doorway to the first floor has a label mold and a long-and-short jamb stone pattern. The door has two lower panels and four glazed upper lights (wireglass). Above the door is a wooden panelled jamb and soffit. Below the porch is a doorway to the basement with a replacement door. On the north is a first floor doorway and door similar to the principal one.

- b. Windows: Window openings typically have a granite lintel and sill, granite jamb and a sandstone label mold. The double-hung wooden sash windows on the south are 6-over-6 with an arched top muntin (making them 8-over-6 in actuality) while those on the east and north are 2-over-2 (4-over-2). There are no windows on the west elevation. The 2-4 floor right bay window openings of the facade have been filled with stone. The tower has quatrafoil windows near the top.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The hip roof is covered with copper. Glass skylights have been replaced with those of fiberglass.
- b. Cornice: A projecting sandstone cornice with a crenelated granite parapet wall encircles the building except on the west elevation. This is similar to that at the Ordnance Compound. Rain is conducted off the roof with a hidden gutter and exposed downspouts.
- c. Tower: An octagonal tower matching the walls in finish and fenestration projects from the northeast corner.

C. Description of Interior:

- 1. Floor plans: With the exception of the basement, most of the floors have a similar plan. A north-south passage/stairhall runs through the building with rooms on either side. In the basement there are three rooms and the tower room on the east and three rooms on the west. These basement rooms now contain the kitchen, office, storage and eating room for a pizza restaurant. On the first floor, the two rooms on the west contain a bank and its lobby while those on the east contain an assistant treasurer's office, a secretary's office and the treasurer's office (tower room). The second floor rooms contain two offices on the west side and three restored cadet rooms: a 1910-1919 room, and a cadet First Captain tower suite from the late nineteenth century. At the south end of the hall on floor 2-4 is a toilet and shower room. The third floor contains four empty, unrestored cadet rooms from a mid-twentieth century era. The fourth floor contains three offices of the Cadet Honor Committee on the east side and Nininger Hall on the west, which occupies the space of two cadet rooms. Nininger Hall serves as the Honor Committee meeting room.
- 2. Stairways: A straight-run stairway from floor-to-floor on the west wall of the central hall forms the core of the building. From the basement to the first floor, this stairway is stone. Between the first and the fourth floors, the staircase is identical and probably original to the building's earliest period: metal stairs, cast iron balusters forming pointed arch tracery and a wooden handrail.
- 3. Flooring: Floor material varies from concrete slabs to linoleum, carpet, hardwood and quarry tile. A plan of the barracks drawn in 1907 (#1568) indicates that many of the original oak floors had already been replaced by asphalt tile or an "oxychloride" covering.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: A majority of walls and ceilings are plaster. Exceptions include exposed granite walls in the basement, first floor tower room, southeast room, and in the fourth floor Nininger Hall. In the new offices wood panelling, wallpaper and dropped acoustical tile ceilings are common. Vaulted ceilings with transverse iron bars are found on the fourth floor ceiling. The vaults in Nininger Hall have been filled with cork. Original wooden baseboards survive on the second and third floors. In the restored tower room the fireplace wall features molded wooden corners.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Although the doors are gone, the central passage of the basement has end doorways with six-light transom windows and four-light sidelights; the north doorway has lost these sidelights. Much of the building has blocked transoms, blocked and widened doorways and later doors with applied moldings. New reproduction panel doors are found in the restored areas. What appears to be an original four panel door with pointed arch top panels is found in the fourth floor tower room. Original door casings consist of a cyma reversa and corner bead molding.
 - b. Windows: What appears to be original trim on the first floor is a simple casing with a corner bead. Bars cover the windows of the bank rooms on the first floor. Folding shutters exist in the tower room on only the first floor. Fourth floor windows have newer aluminum casings.
6. Decorative features and trim: Because of its nature, the barracks did not have extraneous decoration. Built-in features include an octagonal metal column with wooden dividing rails that separates the sleeping areas; wooden and metal coat hooks; and a wooden gun rack.
7. Hardware: Original hardware has all but disappeared from the building except for a few butt door hinges and locks.
8. Mechanical equipment:
 - a. Heating: Steam radiators are the source of heat. The restored tower room on the second floor features an earlier radiator. Fireplaces still exist with their exposed brick and cast iron mantels. The fourth floor mantel is different, due probably to the 1889 fire. The fireplaces on the first and second floors of the west rooms have been blocked. Decorative vent grilles still exist in the chimney wall near the ceiling in some rooms.
 - b. Lighting: The building features new lights except for the antique gas and electric fixtures in the restored cadet rooms on the second floor. It was reported in the 1883 Annual Report (pg. 189) that "The new 6-inch main from the gas-works to the cadet barracks is now being laid. Its completion before cold weather sets in this year will be a great improvement for the light furnished the cadet barracks." The 1891 Annual Report stated that "The gas jet used in the Barracks is what is known

as the bat-wing burner, placed upon an arm 10 inches long, projecting directly from the side wall of the room and over the table." The 1893 Annual Report listed that new gas fixtures (two light pendants and sliding drop light) had been placed in the living rooms of the Cadet Barracks. These were ordered from the Cassidy & Son Manufacturing Company.

c. Plumbing: Retrofitted plumbing or heating pipes can be seen exposed in some rooms.

9. Original furnishings: The three restored cadet rooms contain historic or reproduction furnishings, which can be seen in the accompanying photographs. The 1885 Annual Report states that curtains would be discontinued in cadet rooms because they interfere with ventilation and that the clothespress curtains would be dispensed with.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The Central Barracks, as they exist today, are located in the heart of the Academic Area surrounded by other buildings. The building faces south toward the "Central Area" and the present-day Central Barracks (U.S.M.A. #756). To the east is Pershing Barracks (HABS No. NY-5708-15, U.S.M.A. #751); to the north is Jefferson Road and the dining hall addition to Washington Hall (HABS No. NY-5708-44), and to the west is more of the Cadet "area". The "area" is paved and used for drill and recreation. There is a strip of grass on the building's west side and northwest corner, which contains the French Monument and some small shrubs. The "area" clock stands just west of the facade.
2. Historic landscape design: Before the addition to Washington Hall, the Central Barracks formed part of the parade ground's south boundary. The space to the south was traditionally known as the "Central Area"; this can be seen in ca. 1885 photographs (U.S.M.A. Archives). Two photographs from ca. 1861 show a stately row of deciduous trees north of the barracks and along Jefferson Road (U.S.M.A. Archives, #B-2299). An original cast iron post and chain fence is on the east and north sides. Granite retaining walls form an areaway on the east, north and south.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Architectural Drawings: Original drawings for both proposed and constructed buildings can be found at the U.S. Military Academy Archives and Special Collections and at the National Archives. Later working drawings can be found in the Facilities Engineer's office in the Directorate of Engineering and Housing, U.S. Military Academy.
- B. Early Views: There are many good early photographs and views of the Central Barracks. These are at the U.S. Military Academy Archives and Special Collections, some of which are reproduced in the Lange and Grashof volumes of this project.

C. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources: Records, U.S. Military Academy Archives and Special Collections. See bibliographic essay in the Lange volume of this project for a listing of record groups.

Captain Charles W. Williams, "Post Facilities Report," 1889.
U.S. Military Academy Archives.

2. Secondary and published sources:

Grashof, Bethanie C. "Building Analysis and Preservation Guidelines for Category I and Selected Category II Buildings at the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York," Historic American Buildings Survey, 1983. HABS No. NY-5708.

Lange, Robie S. "West Point: An Overview of the History and Physical Development of the United States Military Academy," Historic American Buildings Survey, 1983. HABS No. NY-5708.

Annual Reports, U.S. Military Academy Archives.

Sorkey, Captain Lewis S. "Hall of Tradition on the Hudson." Army Information Digest, July 1965.

- D. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: A more thorough investigation of the U.S. Military Academy Archives and Special Collections might yield more information. The National Archives in Washington, D.C. is also a likely source for additional information. Consult the bibliographic essay in Lange's volume of this project.

E. Supplemental Material:

1. Sorley, "Hall of Tradition on the Hudson." U.S. Military Academy Archives and Special Collections.
2. Typical plan of 1st Division, 1937. Tracing from drawings in the U.S. Military Academy Engineer's Office.
3. Plan showing divisions in each barracks, 1943. Tracing from drawings in the U.S. Military Academy Engineer's Office.
4. Plan showing use of basement, 1906. Tracing from drawings in the U.S. Military Academy Engineer's Office.
5. "Basement of Cadet Barracks Showing Proposed Plumbing." U.S. Military Academy Annual Report, 1872. U.S. Military Academy Archives and Special Collections.
6. Excerpts from letters regarding the design of the barracks. U.S. Military Academy Archives and Special Collections.

E. Supplemental Material:

1. Sorley, "Hall of Tradition on the Hudson"
U.S. Military Academy Archives



West Point's Central Barracks—

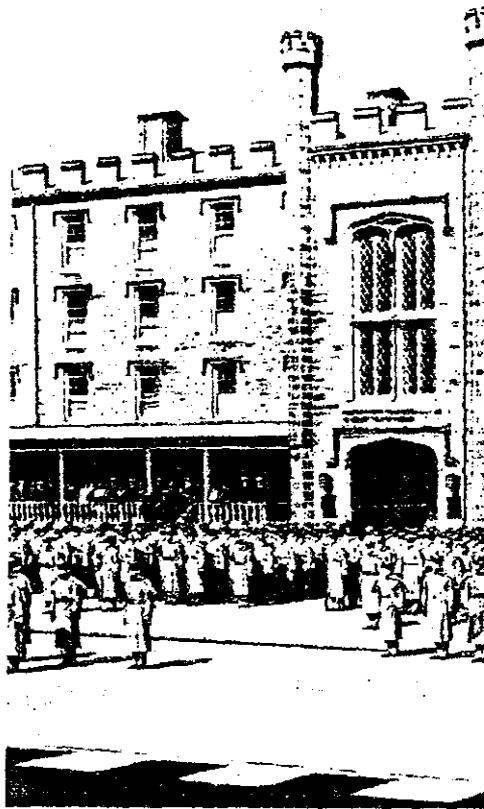
Hall of Tradition on the Hudson

Captain Lewis S. Sorley III

CENTRAL BARRACKS, the oldest structure housing cadets at the United States Military Academy at West Point, will soon be gone. The imposing quadrangle, begun in 1845, will be razed to make room for larger barracks to accommodate the expansion of the Corps of Cadets. Thus will be lost the home, during their cadet days, of such famous soldiers as Pershing, Patton, and MacArthur.

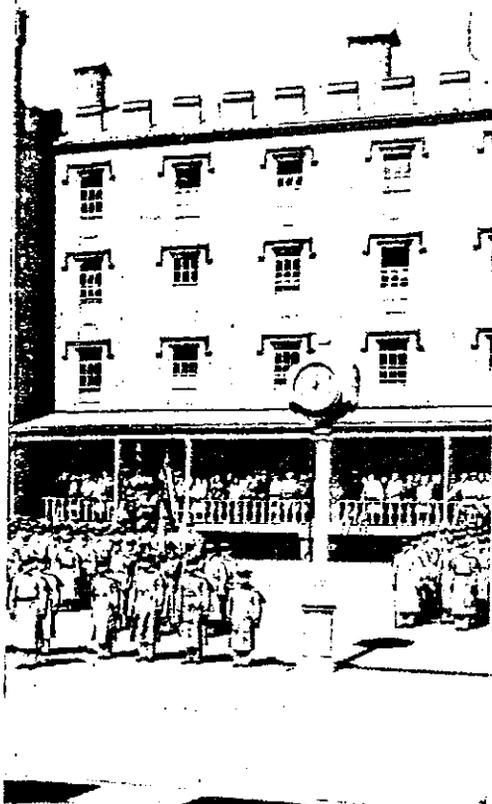
Central Barracks is an impressive granite building, fronting on the plain,

CAPTAIN LEWIS S. SORLEY III, Artillery, is instructor in the Department of English at United States Military Academy. A 1936 graduate of the Academy, he is the grandson of Col. Lewis S. Sorley, USMA '91, second oldest living graduate.



the site of cadet dress parades, and shaded by massive elms that date from a century ago. The original construction consisted of ten divisions, four-story units with four rooms on each floor and no internal connections with adjoining divisions. The design succeeded in providing a building in harmony with its surroundings and expressive of the spirit of the Military Academy.

One graduate, remembering many years later his first impressions of West Point, said that the buildings "seemed to have grown out of the landscape—or into it." This is especially meaningful in the case of Central Barracks, for the stone from which the earliest portion was built was quarried right at West Point and



Cadet John J. Pershing



Cadet Douglas MacArthur



Cadet George S. Patton, Jr.

was finished by hand in a grove of trees across the street from the barracks site.

The granite gives an impression of massiveness and strength, which is increased by the many fort-like aspects incorporated in the towers, sally ports, moats, and battlements. Additions of two divisions of barracks in 1882 and six in 1921, completing three sides of the quadrangle, harmonize architecturally with the original structure.

Living conditions in the early days were austere. It was not until 1838 that cadets were issued bedsteads. Heating was by open fireplaces, lighting was by lamp, and buckets of water were carried from the outside by each

cadet. A regulation of the period read: "Cadets required to bathe in new barracks once a week. Not oftener without Superintendent's permission."

The two occupants of each room had iron bedsteads, located in alcoves, an iron table, chairs, their books and uniforms, and very little else. Every item had its place and was required to be kept there. Steam heat and gas light were introduced during the last half of the century, but until 1908 most water was hauled in from outside; in that year, modern plumbing and electric lights were introduced.

Cadets, then as now, were resourceful, and they managed from time to time to relieve the drabness. In 1866 a famous billiard table was ordered

West Point's Central Barracks



Typical cadet room of 1903 when barracks were still heated by fireplace and water for washing was carried in by buckets.

and installed in a coal room in the basement of the 6th Division of barracks, where it was in clandestine use for nearly a year before being discovered by officers of the Tactical Department. Over the years a number of pets, ranging from monkeys to alligators, have found unauthorized but friendly refuge in various unlikely spots. The attic of the original structure is covered with the names and classes of cadets who have chalked, painted and carved them on the beams and bricks. One inscription in charcoal says simply, "Keep the Corps Spirit alive; we have."

Some quarters for officers of the staff and faculty were located in barracks during the early days. Brig. Gen. Joseph P. Farley discovered this during his first day as a plebe in the summer of 1857. He relates—

We were directed by two very *courteous* young gentlemen to the angle of barracks, and a certain room was pointed out as the one containing our furniture. The greater portion of the morning was consumed in the transfer of this furniture, and just as we were enjoying a breathing spell, an officer, presumably of the tactical department, entered and reproved us severely, directing us to return and carefully replace every article we had re-

moved from *his* room.

It must have been during this same period that, according to cadet lore, three babies were born in Central Barracks, children of officers quartered there.

The tower rooms at the corners of the quadrangle have traditionally housed the highest ranking cadets in the chain of command. John J. Pershing, Class of 1886, and Douglas MacArthur, Class of 1903, occupied the same room in the second floor of the east tower when each was the First Captain, or ranking cadet, in his final year. Small brass plaques over the fireplace commemorate their occupancy, and the desks, chairs, and bookcases in the room are of the type used in their day, rather than the more modern style now found in other rooms.

Since World War I the Brigade Staff has lived in the west tower, designated the 8½ Division, but known to cadets as the "Wheel House." The room occupied by the First Captain contains wooden plaques into which are burned the signatures of those who have held positions on the Brigade Staff in the former years. Besides the names of Pershing and

MacArthur on the list of First Captains, it is interesting to find there Jonathan M. Wainwright, Class of 1906, commander of the defenders of Corregidor in World War II, and William C. Westmoreland, Class of 1936, presently commanding the United States Military Assistance Command, Viet Nam.

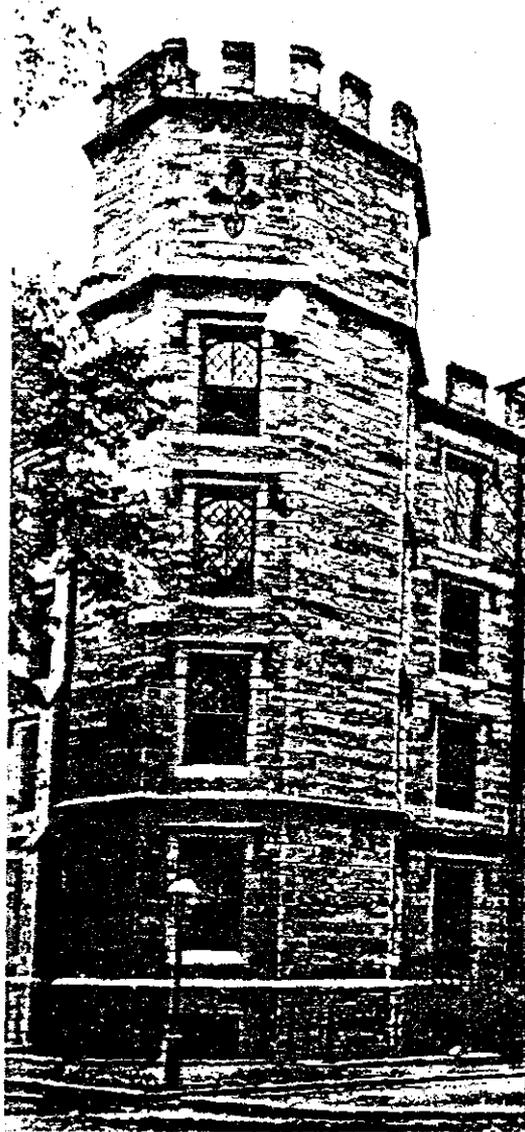
On an adjacent plaque listing former Brigade Supply Officers is the name of Maxwell D. Taylor, Class of 1922, formerly Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and now United States ambassador to the Republic of Viet Nam. The names of George Patton and Matthew B. Ridgway are found on the list of Brigade Adjutants.

The quadrangle formed by the barracks is known as Central Area. During the winter months, when parades are halted by the snow which covers the Plain, Central Area is plowed clear and "band box" reviews are held there. With the stoops of barracks lined with spectators and with drill commands and march music of the West Point Band reverberating in the enclosed space, it is a very colorful ceremony.

Outside the guard room on the south side of the area are held formations for those detailed to "walk the area," or march punishment tours back and forth across the area carrying a rifle. Those cadets unfortunate enough to be in frequent attendance at these formations earn the title of "area birds."

Above the guard room, surrounded by a wrought iron balcony, is the office of the Commandant of Cadets. Beneath this is the flagpole from which the cadet officer of the day flies the various colored flags which announce the uniform to be worn—gray for dress uniform, gold for full dress, red for overcoats, and so on. In the sally ports the grades that each cadet has received in each subject are posted weekly.

JULY 1965



As cadets, Generals Pershing and MacArthur occupied second floor lower room of North wing of Central Barracks, built in 1851.

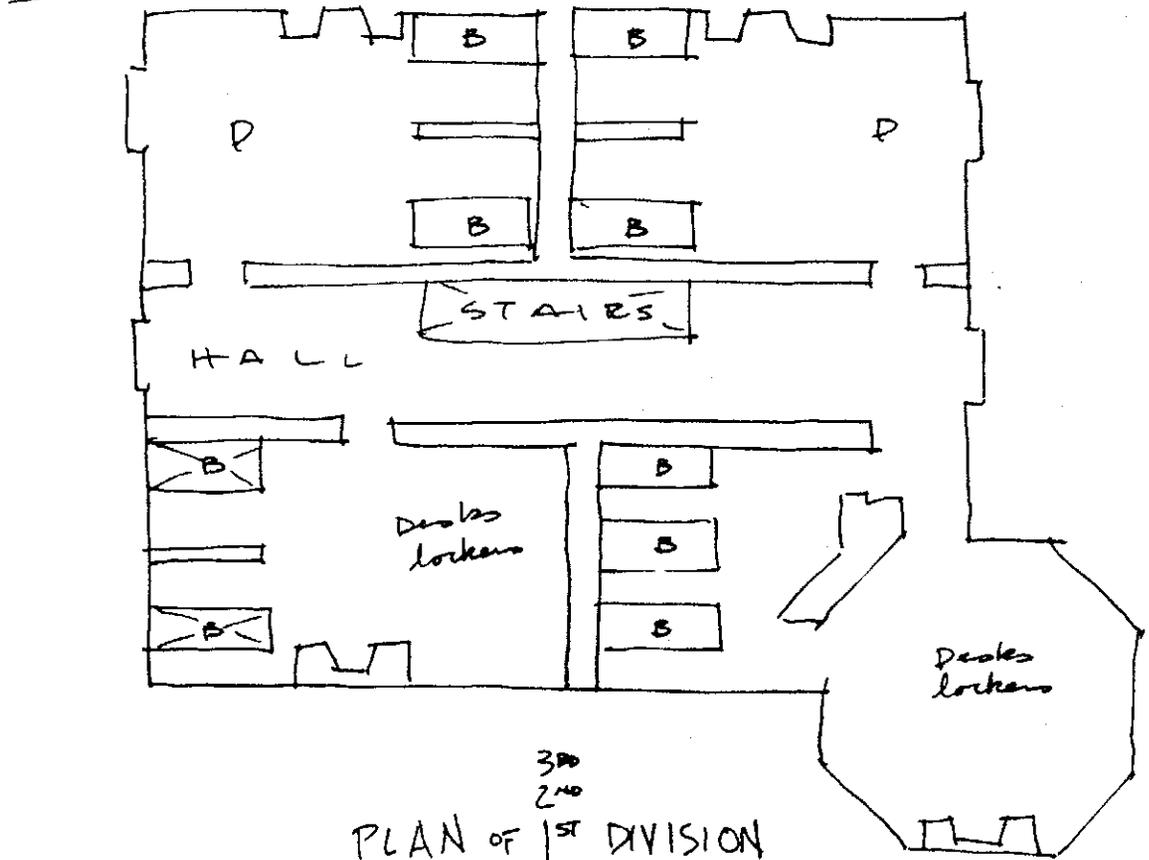
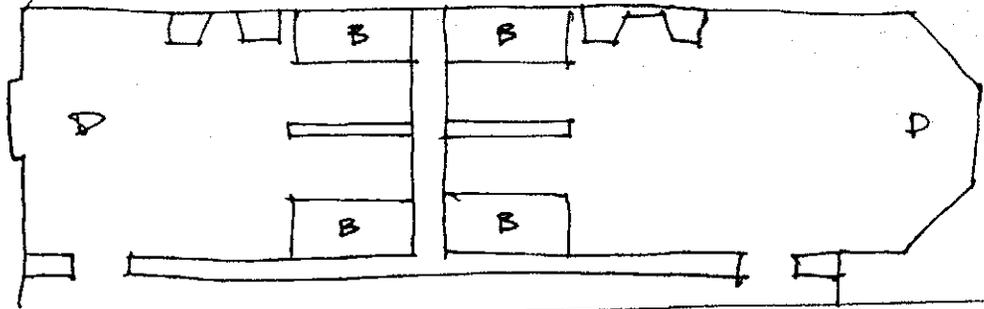
This scene will soon pass, to be replaced by one that is newer and, in many ways, different. The new barracks will no doubt be more efficient, comfortable and modern than those they replace, but they will lack that tangible link with the past, that sense of shared experiences, that has been felt by those who lived in Central Barracks.

E. Supplemental Material:

2. Typical plan, 1937

From Drawing, D.E.H., U.S. Military Academy

CENTRAL BARRACKS H.A.B.S. NY-5708-8
1937 PLAN OF BARRACKS
TRACED FROM DRAWING (D.E.H., U.S.M.A.)
T.C.M. 1982

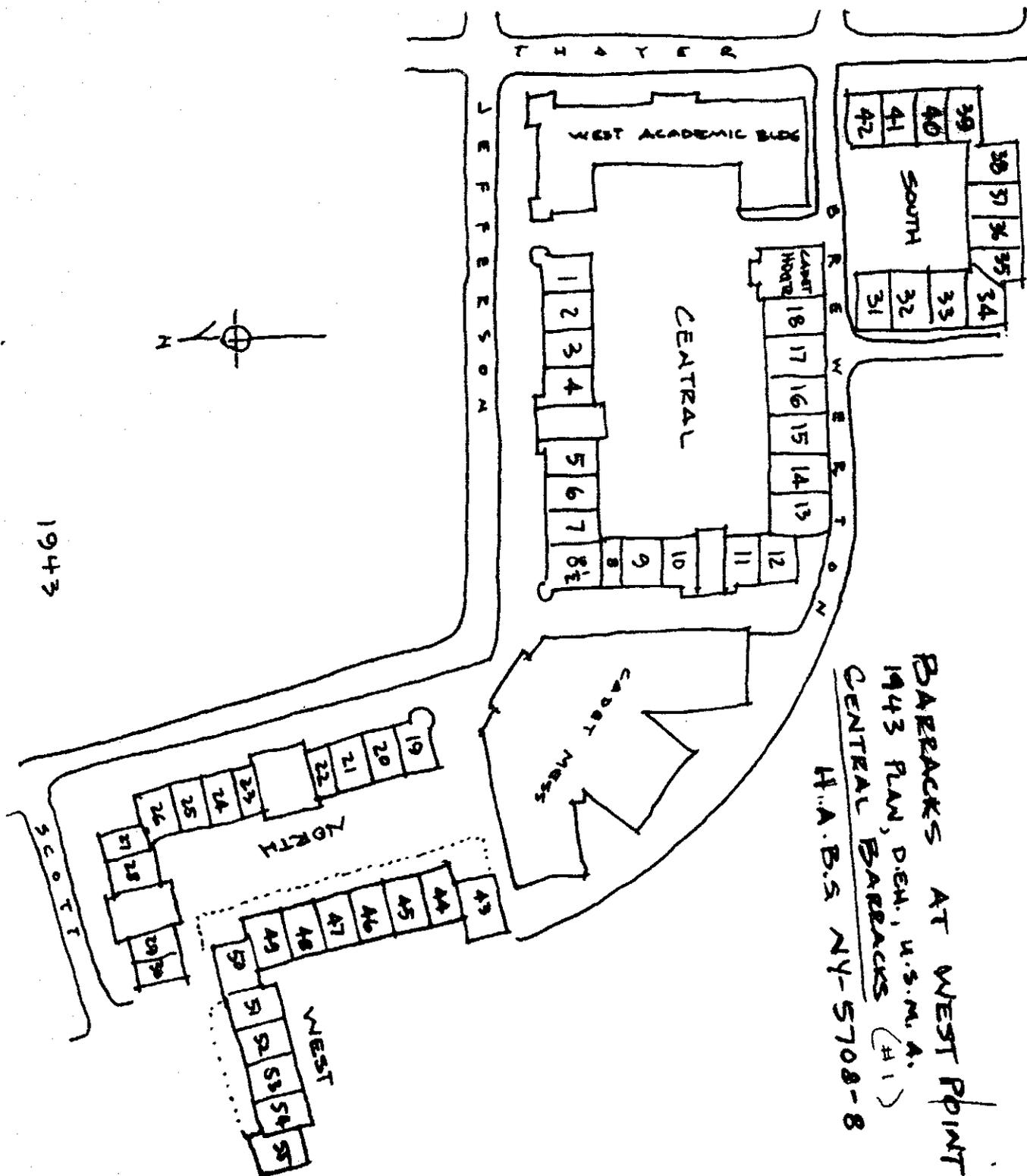


1937

E. Supplemental Material:

3. Plan, Divisions in Barracks

From Drawing, D.E.H., U.S. Military Academy



E. Supplemental Material:

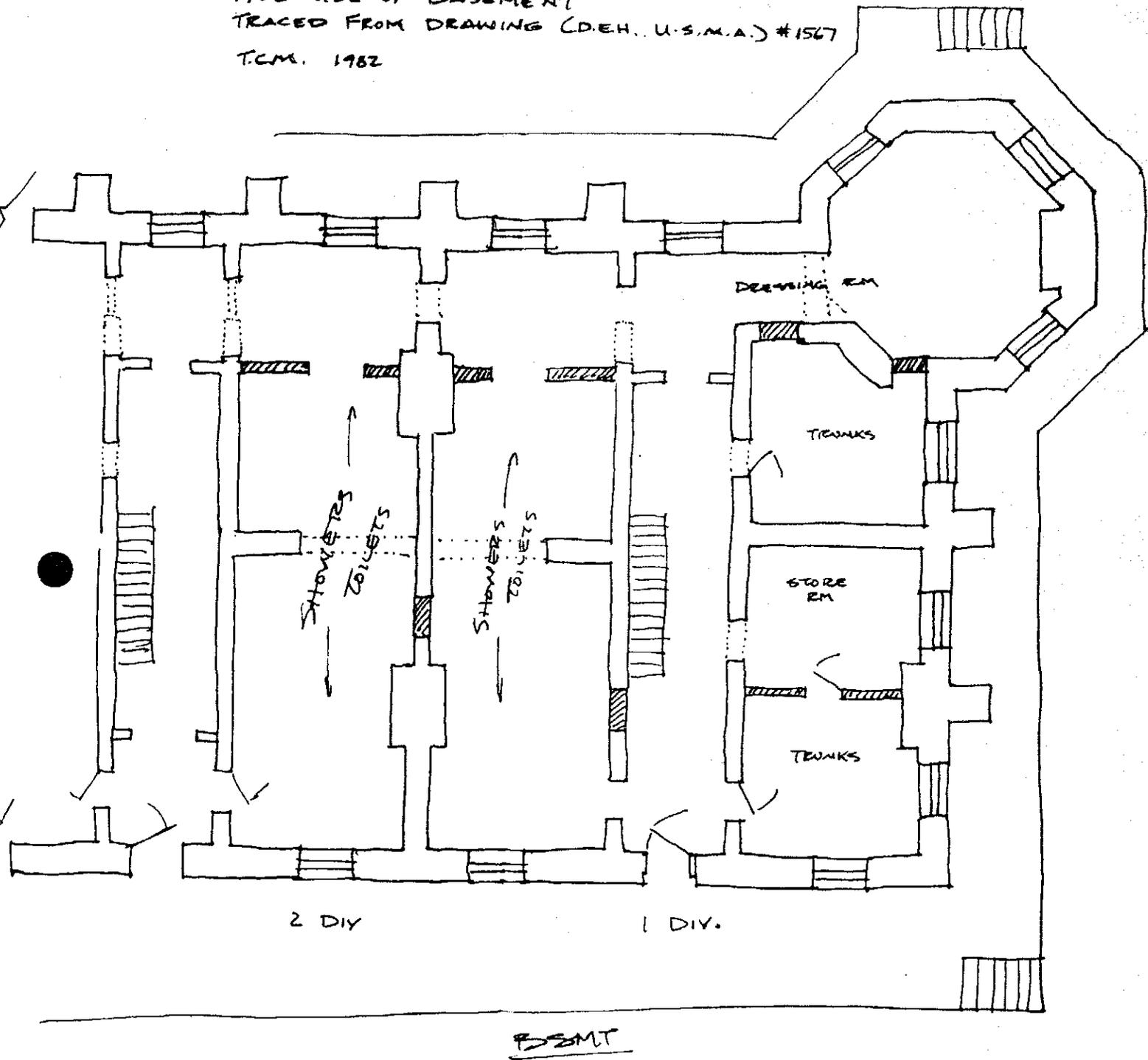
4. Use of Basement, 1906 - From Drawing, D.E.H., U.S. Military Academy

CENTRAL BARRACKS H.A.B.S. NY-5708-8

1906 USE OF BASEMENT

TRACED FROM DRAWING (D.E.H., U.S.M.A.) #1567

TCM. 1982



BSMT

#1567

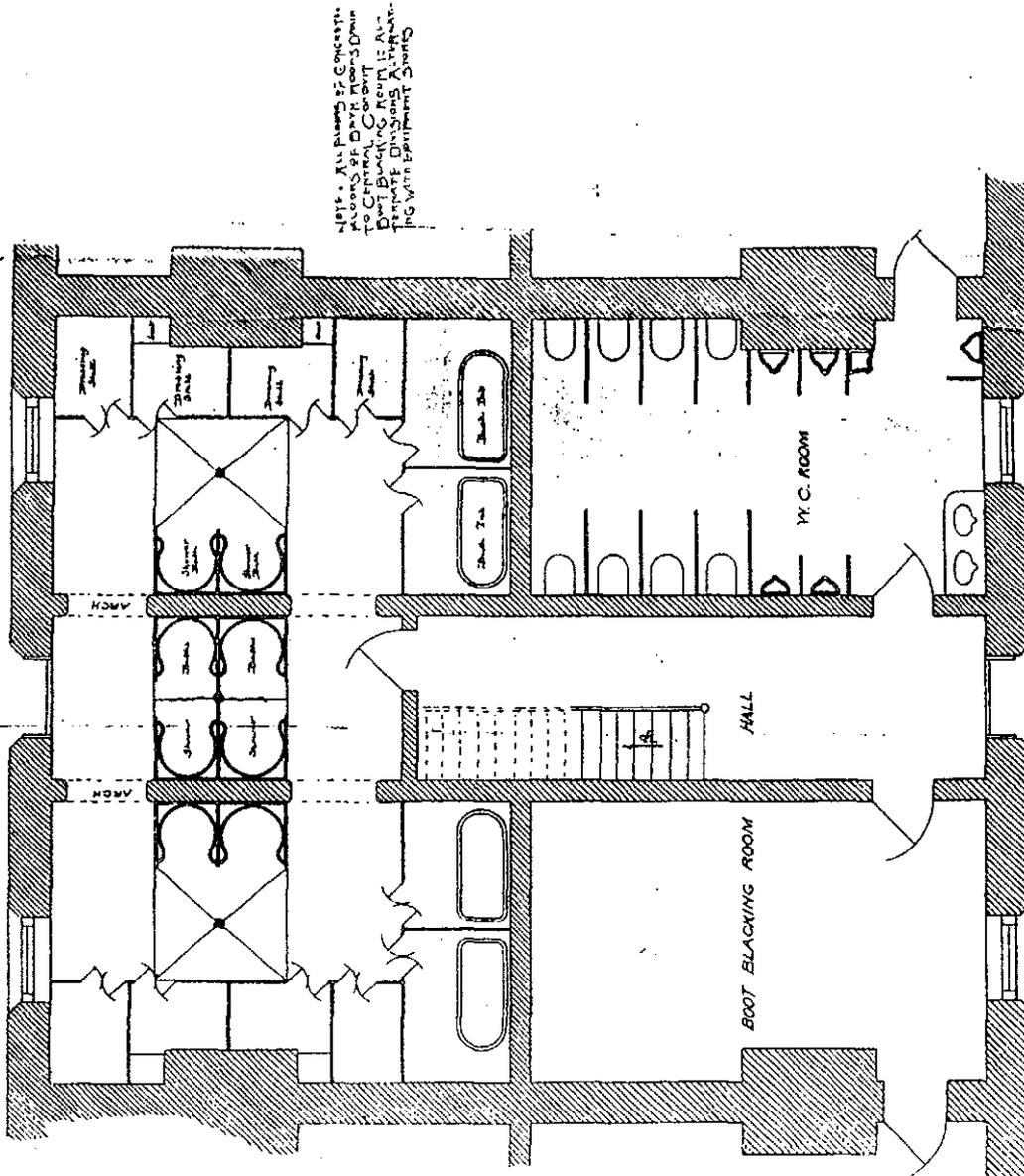
1906

E. Supplemental Material
5. Basement Plumbing.
From Annual Report, 1972
U.S. Military Academy

FROM: ANNUAL REPORT
U.S.M.A. ARCHIVES

CENTRAL BARRACKS
HABS. NY-5708-8
1872 PLAN OF CADET ROOM

NORTH



B Dec 20/58 1

BASEMENT OF CADET BARRACKS
SHOWING
PROPOSED PLUMBING.
(one division)

Handwritten signature and notes:
John L. ...
...

E. Supplemental Material:

6. Excerpts from letters, 1839
From U.S. Military Academy Archives

EXERPTS AND NOTES FROM LETTERS
IN THE SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTER BOOKS
VOLUME 1, RECORD GROUP 2
LETTERS RECEIVED 1838-1844
RECORD GROUP 136
U.S.M.A. ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

RG2, 94

January 1, 1839

Richard Delafield to Mr. R. C. McDormick

"I am in receipt of your favor of the 14th instant proposing in behalf of Mr. Rogers to have the plans for the proposed public buildings for this place copied and sent to me, I have been awaiting an opportunity for some time past to send them. Will you then do me the favor to communicate to Mr. R. that it will be satisfactory to receive the plans as proposed by him and if left at your office the first opportunity that presents I will send for them."

RG 136

February 11, 1839

Frederick A. Smith, Engineering Department, Washington, D.C.
to Richard Delafield, U.S.M.A.

Re: Cadet Barracks:

"transmitting the plans of Mr. Isaiah Rogers"

RG2, 190-194

June 3, 1839

Richard Delafield to Secretary Totten

Re: the 20 accompanying drawings

"I desire to bring to your notice at this time the labor that has been bestowed upon a general system of public buildings for this Institution with a view to obtaining the sanction of the Secretary of War to the design and arrangement [of buildings]...."

"With these impressions I submitted to the Secretary of War in November the propriety of a general system being devised not only for these buildings but all other that the interest of the

Institution might require. He was pleased to order such a system and authorized the employment of architects of acknowledged task to assist in this duty to be associated with a board of gentlemen connected with the Academy."

"...I have received another design from Mr. Rogers the Architect-- whose plans were first forwarded--for Barracks for Cadets, more in accordance with the necessities of the case, still far from fulfilling all the conditions."

"Another design for the Barracks accompanies this communication executed by Mr. F. Diaper architect of New York conceived to be better suited in every respect to the purpose in view than any thing as yet in my possession. It embraces all that is judged necessary, without any superfluities, to the eye, but suited to the surrounding scenery and in accordance with collegiate buildings elsewhere. Another design after this style of architecture has presented itself to my mind, better adapted to the locality when considered in connection with the adjacent buildings."

Drawings for the Barracks by Rogers, Diaper and Delafield went back and forth from West Point and Washington in the years 1839 and 1840. Included in most of this transmittal were other drawings, most significantly those of Robert Mills and Rogers for the "Library and Philosophical apparatus." The letters from Washington indicate that Delafield was modifying the designs by others to suit his own sense of what West Point's architectural image should represent.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This documentation is part of a multi-year project sponsored by the National Park Service and the United States Military Academy, explained in HABS No. NY-5708, Volume 1, "Methodology." This written documentation was prepared by Travis C. McDonald, Jr., architectural historian, in 1982-1985 based on fieldwork conducted in 1982.