

Little Chute Locks and Dam, Lockkeeper's Residence  
at Combined Locks  
Immediately north of the upper gate, midway  
between the upper and lower gates  
Little Chute  
Outagamie County  
Wisconsin

HAER No. WI-88-F

HAER  
WIS  
44-LITCH,  
2F-

**PHOTOGRAPHS**

**WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA**

**HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD**  
Rocky Mountain System Support Office  
National Park Service  
P.O. Box 25287  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

**HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD**

**LITTLE CHUTE LOCKS AND DAM, LOCKKEEPER'S RESIDENCE**

**AT COMBINED LOCKS**

**HAER NO. WI-88-F**

HAER  
WIS  
44-LITCH,  
2F-

**Location:** The Lockkeeper's Residence at the Combined Locks is located on the north side of the upper lock, centered between the upper and lower gate in the SE1/4 of Section 22, T21N, R18E, Civil Town of Vandebroek, Outagamie County, Wisconsin.

UTM: 16/396600/4903130; USGS Quadrangle: Kaukauna, Wisconsin 7.5' series

**Date of Construction:** 1910

**Engineer:** United States Army Corps of Engineers with Contractors

**Architect:** United States Army Corps of Engineers with Contractors

**Present Owner:** United States Army Corps of Engineers

**Present Use:** Occupied: rented to civilian tenant.

**Significance:** The Lockkeeper's house served as an on-site residence for the lockkeeper responsible for operating the locks. In addition, the house served as a residence for the lockkeeper's family. The residence functioned as part of the daily operation of the Little Chute Locks and Dam Complex.

**Project Information:** This documentation was undertaken in 1995 in accordance with requirements detailed in a June 19, 1994 letter from Gregory D. Kendrick, Chief, History Branch, NPS to Dale Monteith, Acting Chief, Planning Division, USACOE, Detroit District. The Lower Fox system remains basically operational but was placed in caretaker status by the USACOE in 1982. The USACOE plans to divest itself of the Lower Fox system as soon as is feasible; therefore, NPS requested this documentation. All documentation conforms to HAER standards.

Dr. John D. Richards, Principal Investigator; Georgia A. Lusk, Patricia B. Richards, and Robert J. Watson, Project Archivists with Great Lakes Archaeological Research Center, Inc.; Joseph Paskus, Project Photographer.

## LOCKKEEPER'S RESIDENCE

The lockmaster's house at the Little Chute Combined Locks facility was constructed in 1910, and is situated on the north side of the upper lock. The structure is similar to the lockmaster's house associated with the guard lock. The lockmaster's house is a 1 1/2 story, Colonial Revival style dwelling common to the Fox River locks system. It has a gambrel roof, shed-roofed dormers, and a full poured concrete basement. The roof and dormers are clad with asbestos shingle.<sup>1</sup>

The first story is of brick construction from grade to a height of 10 feet 9 inches; the above one-half story is cedar shingle over wood frame.<sup>2</sup> Interior walls are constructed with 2 inch by 4 inch studs spaced 16 inches on center. The floor joists are 2 inches by 10 inches also spaced 16 inches on center. The front (southwest side) entry is protected by an open entryway with a flat asbestos shingle roof. An enclosed rear entry with a hipped asbestos shingle roof is located on the northeast side of the dwelling. Horizontal dimensions of the dwelling are 27 feet 8 inches north-south and 26 feet east-west; maximum height from foundation to roof peak is about 28 feet.<sup>3</sup>

The cellar walls and floor are constructed from poured concrete. Wall thickness is 16 inches and floor thickness is eight inches. A brick chimney rises from the center of the cellar floor. A cistern occupies the northeast corner of the cellar.<sup>4</sup> The cistern is fed by two conductor pipes; a suction pipe leads from within the cistern to a pump next to the kitchen sink.

The first floor plan of the Combined Locks lockmaster's house consists of six rooms, a stair hall, and a staircase leading to the second floor. Floor to ceiling height is 10 feet 9 inches. The rear entry leads into the landing. The 10 foot 6 inch by 11 foot 6 inch kitchen is accessed through the stair hall and is located in the northwest corner of the house. A sink is shown in the southeast corner of the kitchen. A pantry is built into the northwest corner of the kitchen, and is accessed through a doorway immediately west of the rear entrance.<sup>5</sup>

All first floor windows are glazed with four panes of either 14 inch by 28 inch or 10 inch by 22 inch glass. One window is situated on the west wall of the kitchen and another window is located in the rear of the pantry. Just south of the kitchen is an alcove that is 6 feet 10 inches by 5 feet 6 inches and has a window on the south wall. To the east of the kitchen is a 9 foot by 12 foot 10 inch dining room. The kitchen and dining room are separated by the stair hall.<sup>6</sup> One window is located on the north wall of the dining room, and another window on the east wall.

There is a cased opening at the south end of the dining room which leads to the 14 foot by 10 foot 10 inch parlor. The parlor, located in the southeast corner of the first floor has a single window on its east wall, and two windows on the south wall.<sup>7</sup> The vestibule is located off the parlor, and leads outside to a front porch.

The second floor plan consists of three rooms, two closets and a hall. Floor to ceiling height of the second floor is 9 feet 1 3/8 inches. A rail and spindle staircase with a central landing leads to the second floor. The staircase enters into a centrally located hall which accesses all of the second floor rooms through a series of doorways. All upstairs windows are glazed with 12 panes of 10 inch by 12 inch glass. The northwest room is 9 feet by 11 feet 3 inches with north and west facing windows; the northeast room is 10 feet 6 inches by 15 feet with an east facing window; and the southwest room is 9 feet 3 inches by 14 feet 10 inches with west and south facing windows.<sup>8</sup>

**ENDNOTES**

- 1 USACOE, File #1138, plate 2.
- 2 Ibid.
- 3 Ibid., plate 1.
- 4 Ibid.
- 5 Ibid.
- 6 Ibid.
- 7 Ibid., plate 2.
- 8 Ibid., plate 1.

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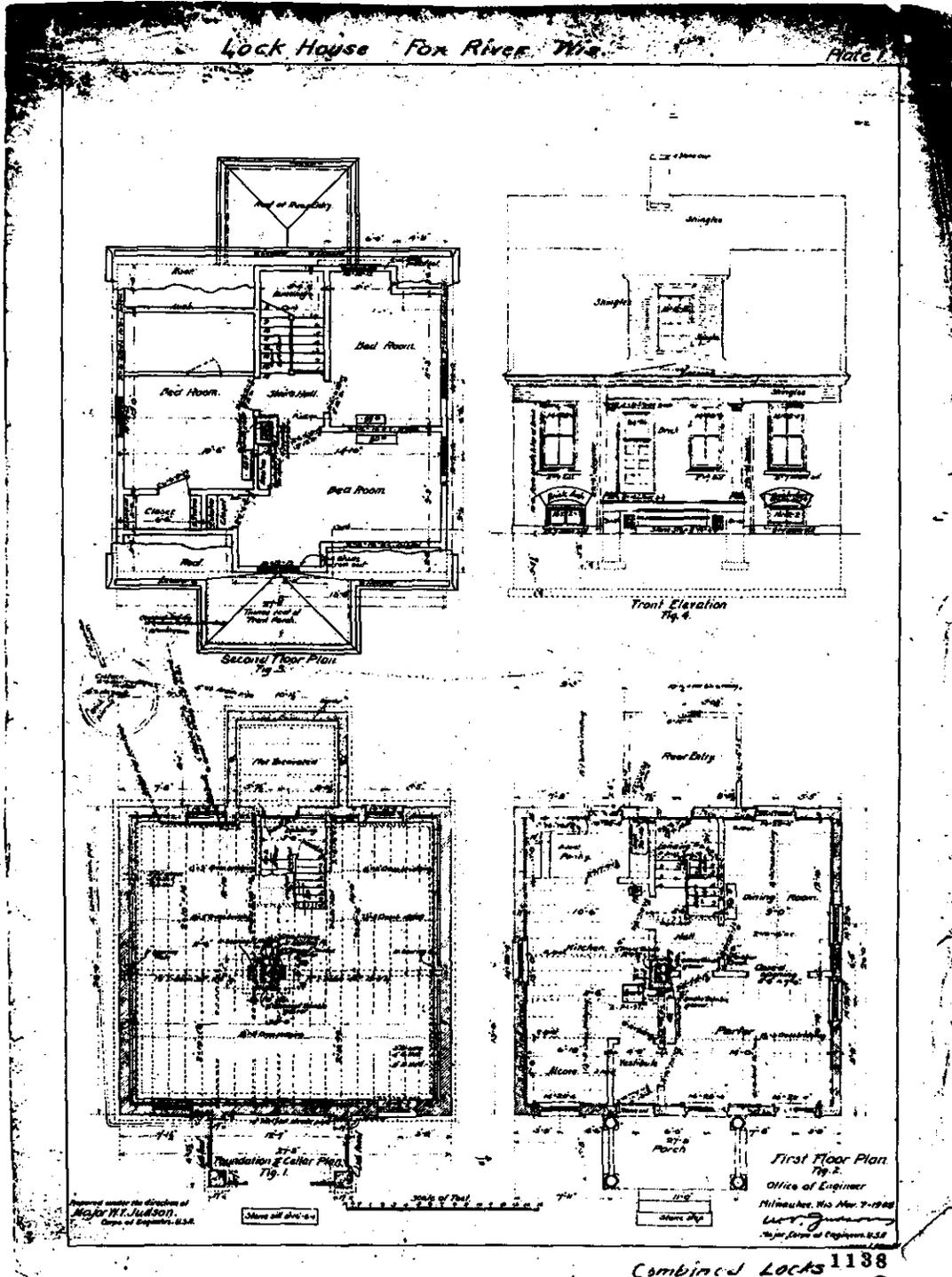
LOCK HOUSE FOX RIVER WIS.

PLATE 2.



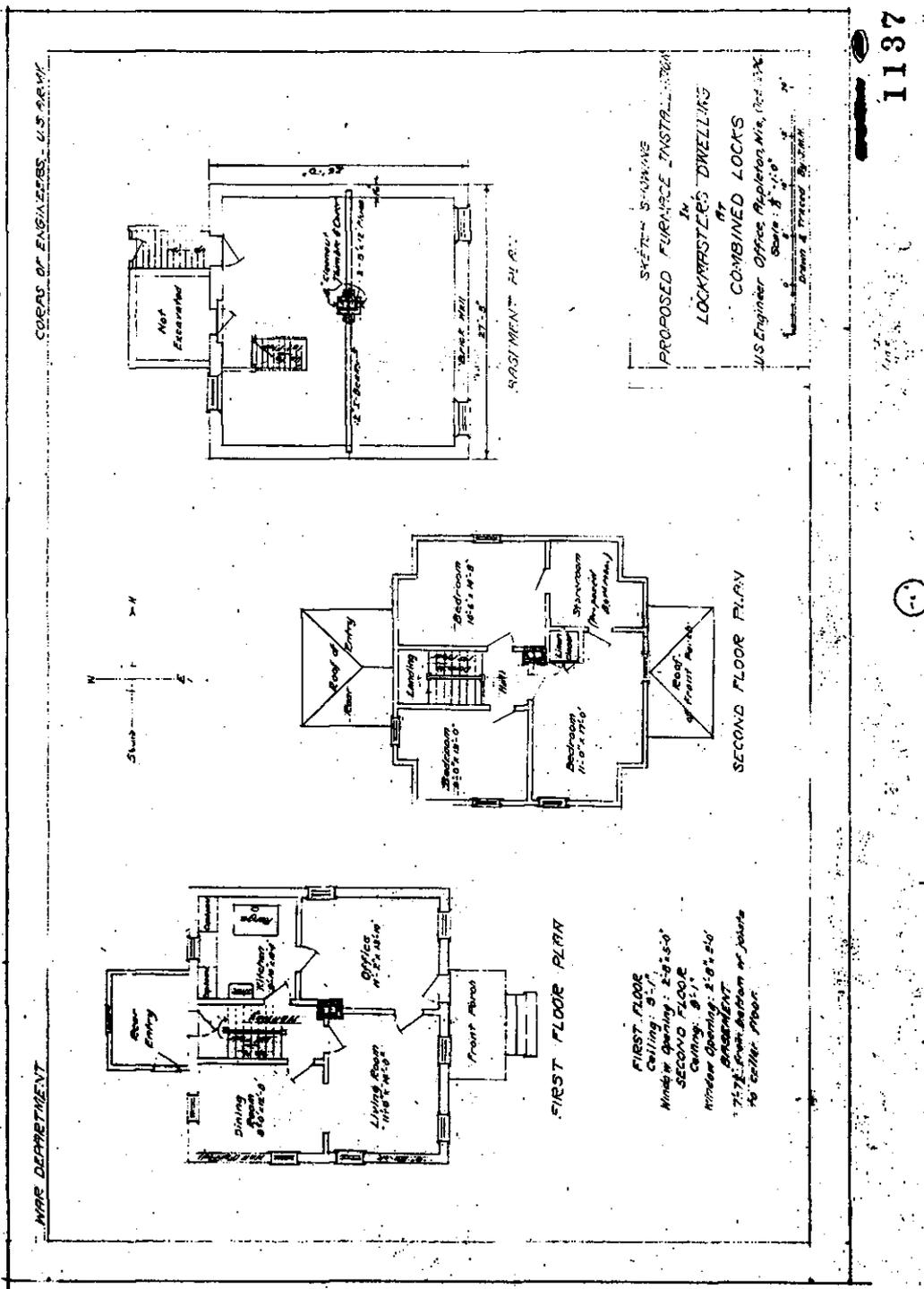
Photocopy of Plan for Lock House, Fox River Wis., Combined Locks, 1908, File #1138-1, Plate 2.

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Photocopy of Plan for Lock House, Fox River Wis., Combined Locks, 1908, File #1138-1, Plate 1.

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Photocopy of Sketch Showing Proposed Furnace Installation in Lockmaster's Dwelling at Combined Locks, File #1137.