

CAMP REYNOLDS, OFFICERS' QUARTERS
(Building No. 48-49)
Angel Island State Park
Angel Island
Marin County
California

HABS CA-1841-D
CA-1841-D

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

CAMP REYNOLDS, OFFICERS' QUARTERS
(Fort McDowell - West Garrison, Building No. 48-49)

HABS No. CA-1841-D

Location: Angel Island, Marin County, California

Present Owner: State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation

Present Occupant: Angel Island State Park

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: Camp Reynolds was established on Angel Island in 1863 to enhance the coastal defenses of San Francisco Bay during the Civil War. In 1866 Camp Reynolds became the army's general depot for receiving and distributing new recruits in the West. From the 1860s through the 1880s a village of wood frame buildings including officers' quarters, barracks, and various support structures was constructed and expanded. Now part of Angel Island State Park, Camp Reynolds features a remarkable collection of surviving late-nineteenth-century officers' quarters.

This double officers' quarters was built in 1869 to expand the Civil-War era facilities at Camp Reynolds. Although always occupied as an army structure, this building reflects domestic architecture of the second half of the nineteenth century in its form, porches, and plain but fashionable detailing. This structure housed two officers of equal rank while giving the appearance of a single family dwelling. Numerous changes indicate continual adaptation for use by army personnel. Construction of more modern officers' quarters at the East Garrison in the mid-1910s and years of hard use reduced the status of this structure to quarters for non-commissioned officers in 1931.

I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: December 1869
2. Architect: Quartermaster General's Office
3. Original owner: U. S. Army, 1869-1948
Subsequent owners: U. S. Department of the Interior, 1948-63
California Department of Parks and Recreation, 1963 - present
4. Builder: constructed and altered by soldiers stationed at Camp Reynolds/Fort McDowell

5. Original plans and construction:

This officers' quarters was built as a double structure housing two sets of officers and their families in largely mirror-image plan dwellings. A set of as-built plans was filed with the Quartermaster General's office in spring 1871 (Figure 1). These plans specify that the building was constructed in December 1869 at a cost of \$4,000. The original form of a two-story, six-bay, side gable structure with an one-and-a-half-story shed roof kitchen ell is still largely intact, although an one-story section at the back of the kitchen ell is no longer extant. The 1871 floor plans illustrate the rectangular footprint of the main section of the dwelling and the square kitchen ell, with each unit divided into four rooms and an entrance hall on the first floor, and three rooms and stair hall with a small room to the north on the second floor (Figure 2). Several spaces in the kitchen ell are labeled on the plan; the rear of the kitchen ell was a "back kitchen," while a sink and pantry in the other first floor room indicate another kitchen space. The second story part of the kitchen ell is labeled "servant's room."¹ In addition to the family spaces, having a servants' room in an officers' quarters would not have been unusual during the late nineteenth century. Officers' wives could hire civilian servants - often Chinese at Angel Island - or soldiers could serve as domestic help, even after this practice was outlawed in 1870.²

6. Alterations and additions:

Shortly after construction and until the mid-1880s, this quarters housed four officers. This shift to "quad" use does not seem to have resulted in a corresponding physical change to the building. Presumably during this period the occupants of each side of the structure were sharing a front door and some service spaces. By 1875 a description of the post by Assistant Surgeons A. H. Hoff and D. L. Huntington states "one two-story

¹Officers' Quarters (1871 - elevation, plan, and section), Map 42-7, "Angel Island," RG 92 Post and Reservation File, National Archives and Records Administration (hereafter NARA), Cartographic and Architectural Branch, College Park, Maryland.

²Edward M. Coffman. *The Old Army: A Portrait of the American Army in Peacetime, 1784-1898*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1986), 305-306.

building contains two sets, three rooms fourteen by sixteen feet each; and two sets, two rooms twelve by fourteen feet each.”³ However this description does not seem to incorporate the spaces in the kitchen ell. When used as a quad the structure was divided into two four-room units on the first floor and two three-room units on the second, as indicated in 1877, 1879, and 1883 inspection reports.⁴ However the Quartermaster’s inspection report for fiscal year 1880-1881 lists a number of repairs to the “second double house,” indicating that although sometimes occupied by four officers it was still essentially a two-unit house. The repairs for that year included three coats of paint and kalsomine, repairs in the kitchens, adding glass doors between dining rooms and rear porches, enclosing one porch and bathroom with lattice (this probably referred to the foundation of the kitchen ell), and “servants’ rooms attached each ten feet by ten feet.”⁵ In 1882 two houses were moved from Yerba Buena Island and placed at the top of the Camp Reynolds parade grounds, perhaps easing the demand for officers’ quarters that necessitated using Building No. 48-49 as a quad.⁶

By 1885 “Officers’ Quarters No. 6-7” was described as a double house with seven rooms, a hall stairway and porch for each side. Materials and labor were requested to repair the foundation, to “add outside clothing room to upstairs No. 7 (this is probably the closet on the roof of the kitchen porch of the west unit visible in a 1893 plan), and enclose the foundation with “rustic” siding. Another major change proposed this year was changing the bathrooms to the “small room at top of stairs,” planned as a servant’s room. The original plans do not indicate interior bathrooms while later plans indicate both small bath/water closet additions to the rear of the kitchen ell and a second floor bathroom in the aforementioned location.⁷

A sketch plan of this structure done for the Surgeon General’s office in 1893 indicates

³Surgeon General’s Office. *Circular No. 8 - A Report on the Hygiene of the U.S. Army, Descriptions of Military Posts* (Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1875), 498.

⁴NARA, Cartographic, RG 77, Real Estate Division, Drawing #1 with 1877 printed description attached; Inspection Report to Quartermaster General (30 June 1879), NARA, RG 92, Entry 225, Box 36, Folder 4; Annual Report of Inspection of Public Buildings at Angel Island, CA, (includes site plan) (31 March 1883), NARA, RG 92, Entry 225, Box 37

⁵Report, Office Acting Assistant Quartermaster, Angel Island, CA to Chief Quartermaster, Military Division of the Pacific, Presidio, San Francisco, CA (31 March 1881), NARA, RG 92, Entry 225, Box 36, Folder 1.

⁶Report of Annual Inspection of Barracks and Quarters, Angel Island, California (31 March 1882), NARA, RG 92, Entry 225, Box 37, Folder 1.

⁷Report of the Annual Inspection of Public Buildings at Angel Island, CA (31 March 1885), NARA, RG 92, Entry 225, Box 37. This structure was described as a fourteen room (seven rooms each unit) double house with main section 24x44 and an extension 28x35.

both a series of changes since the original plans and differences between the two units (Figures 3 & 4). The first floor of each unit had, front to back, a parlor, bedroom, dining room, kitchen, and small bathroom. The side porches wrapped around to the back of the kitchen. In Building No. 49 a closet in the dining room was labeled pantry while this closet was removed in Building No. 48. Instead a small pantry addition was added to the side of the kitchen ell. Above this added pantry was the outside closet referred to above. On the second floor each unit had a stair hall, two bedrooms and a large closet in the main section. The ell room in No. 49 was one large bathroom while in No. 48 this area was divided into three small spaces - a hall, bathroom, and servant's room.⁸

A portion of the side porches later was enclosed as an utility room and part of the kitchen ell removed. A 1929 photograph indicates that the east unit (No. 49) still had an open porch and full kitchen ell at that time.⁹

B. Historical Context:

Camp Reynolds was established on the west side of Angel Island in 1863 to enhance the coastal defenses of San Francisco Bay during the Civil War. With the reorganization of the army at the end of the Civil War, the future of Camp Reynolds was initially in doubt. Angel Island maintained some coastal defense duties, but then in 1866 its primary purpose became processing recruits assigned to the Western plains forts. Military historian Edward Coffman describes the role of frontier constabulary as the primary mission of the late-nineteenth-century peacetime army. In 1870, 23,000 men or sixty-two percent of the regular army was assigned to the West, including the Pacific coast posts.¹⁰

At the end of 1869 and during 1870, a number of new buildings were added to expand the facilities at Camp Reynolds, including this double officers' quarters, a hospital, and a commissary sergeant's quarters. Officers' row particularly cultivated the appearance of middle-class housing in a village or small town, in contrast to the more utilitarian housing provided for enlisted men. Like officers' quarters at other military posts, this double dwelling echoed civilian domestic architecture of the period in its form, porches, and plain but fashionable detailing. A mix of single and multi-family houses was a common technique used to serve military hierarchy and give a civilian appearance to the officers' quarters. According to architectural historian Kim Hoagland: "Although these quarters were assigned according to a strict hierarchy, with a higher-ranking officer receiving larger quarters, a commanding officer's quarters might not look any larger than the

⁸Enclosure to Special Sanitary Report, (30 June 1893), NARA, RG 112, Entry 41, Box 2.

⁹Historical Record of Public Buildings, Fort McDowell, Angel Island, Building No. 48-49, (includes 1929 photograph) NARA, RG 77, Entry 393, Box 142, Folder 4.

¹⁰Coffman, 254.

double houses occupied by two captains.”¹¹ At Camp Reynolds, captains were usually assigned to the single cottages built in 1874, with lieutenants and their families in the double quarters.¹²

As the Indian conflicts waned in the 1890s, there was little additional investment at Camp Reynolds, or other U.S. army posts.¹³ The start of the Spanish-American War in 1898 swiftly changed the perceived importance of the Army and the future of Camp Reynolds. In 1899 the Army expanded its Angel Island operations by establishing a Detention Camp near the quarry on the east side of the island. The Detention Camp could isolate and care for troops returning from the Philippines with contagious diseases, particularly smallpox. In 1901 the Detention Camp became a Discharge Camp and by 1904 the site was a temporary Depot of Recruits and Casuals. In 1909, the War Department decided to build a permanent Recruit Depot at the East Garrison, shifting the military activity and expansion on the island to that site. Planning began for a major building campaign at the East Garrison of reinforced concrete Mission Revival structures, including new officers' quarters. The older buildings and constricted space available at the former Camp Reynolds made this a secondary post on the island. From 1931 until the base was decommissioned in 1946, this quarters housed non-commissioned officers.¹⁴

II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General statement:

1. Architectural character:

This officer's quarters is an excellent example of Army housing from the late 1860s. Although updated and changed over the years, the original form and many historic features are apparent.

2. Condition of fabric:

Poor. This officer's quarters has been heavily vandalized and there is pervasive interior water damage to the walls, floors and ceilings. Currently the structure is boarded up to prevent further damage, but portions of the floors and walls are still failing.

¹¹Alison K. Hoagland. "Village Constructions: U.S. Army Forts on the Plains, 1848-1890," *Winterthur Portfolio* 34:4 (December 1999): 229.

¹²In 1907, two lieutenants and their families occupied what was then known as Building No. 2-3. See Camp Reynolds site plan, July 1907, NARA, Cartographic, RG 92, Blueprint File, Angel Island, California, sheet 3.

¹³See Enclosure to Special Sanitary Report, (30 June 1893), NARA, RG 112, Entry 41, Box 2 for an April 1893 site plan and elevation and plan sketches of many of the buildings.

¹⁴John A. Hussey. "Fort McDowell - Report on Application for an Historical Monument," Prepared for War Assets Administration (April 1949), typescript in Angel Island Park files, 27.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 44 feet, 4 3/8 inches by 42 feet, 4 7/8 inches
2. Foundations: Originally supported by wood piles, this structure was underpinned with brick piers in 1883, and later with concrete piers. The space below the sills is filled with horizontal wood boards. The foundation is higher on the southwest side of the structure because of a sloping site.
3. Walls: Exterior walls are horizontal wood weatherboards five inches wide and currently painted white.
4. Structural system: This structure has a light wood frame with a truss roof.
5. Porches, stoops: All exterior stairs have been removed - historic photographs indicate that the front stairs for both units extended parallel to the porch from either side of a central landing. An one-story, hipped roof porch is located across the north elevation. A mix of historic flat rectangular columns and thin wood replacement posts support the porch roof, but the balustrade visible in historic photographs has been removed. The porch floor has been replaced with plywood. Porches on either side of the rear ell have either been removed or enclosed.
6. Chimneys: There are two internal brick chimneys along the roof ridge - one inside each unit in the main section of the quarters. A shared chimney in the center of the kitchen ell has been removed on the exterior.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Each unit has two exterior doorways, one each on the front and rear elevations. The main entrances are located at the center bays of the front elevation. These openings are topped by a transom. A late-nineteenth-century door for one of these openings was found inside the structure. It is recessed panel door with two vertical round arch panels over two smaller square panels.

The rear elevation doorways are located on the back of the kitchen ell. These openings have plain flat frames. The wood doors have recessed panels with two tall vertical rectangles over two smaller ones.

Former exterior doorways are located in the enclosed porch section of the kitchen ell. A former exterior doorway from the dining room is in the east unit (No. 49) as well as one doorway from the kitchen to the porch. The dining room doorway was probably added in 1881.¹⁵ The west unit (No. 48) has two former exterior doorways from the kitchen.

An additional doorway is located in the west side of the foundation. All of the openings on this structure are now covered with plywood on the exterior.

- b. Windows and shutters: All the windows in the main section have matching decorative cornices and thin, flat moldings, except the first floor windows on the front elevation which have thin ovolo cap molding. The typical window in this section is an one over one double hung sash with a small decorative ogee curve at the bottom corners of the upper sash. All of the window openings in the kitchen ell have plain, flat moldings. The second floor windows here are double hung sash and the first floor has square fixed six-light casements. On the enclosed porch utility rooms these windows are in rows of three.

The 1871 drawings indicate plain window molding and pairs of shutters which are no longer extant.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The main roof form is side gable with a shed roof kitchen ell extending from the rear. The roof is covered with wood shingles.
- b. Cornice, eaves: The main section of this structure has a shallow box cornice with returns at the gable ends. The kitchen ell has an even shallower box cornice with a return at the eave end. The enclosed porch utility roofs have exposed rafters. There are no gutters.

C. Description of Interior:

¹⁵Report, Office Acting Assistant Quartermaster, Angel Island, CA to Chief Quartermaster, Military Division of the Pacific, Presidio, San Francisco, CA (31 March 1881), NARA, RG 92, Entry 225, Box 36, Folder 1.

1. Floor plans: See measured drawings HABS No. CA-1841-D for complete plans of this Officer's Quarters. This center hall, double pile structure with a rear kitchen ell is symmetrically divided into two units with minor differences in plan. There is no basement or attic space. On the first floor each unit has a parlor, dining room, and kitchen. A door at the back of the entrance hall provides access to the kitchen ell while the east unit (No. 49) has a door from the dining room to the enclosed porch utility room. Historic plans and photographs indicate that the kitchen ell previously was larger and then reconfigured. Stairs providing access to the second floor are located on the interior wall of each unit. On the second floor the stair hall is located in the center of the plan, providing access to the two bedrooms in each unit and the bathroom area over the kitchen in the ell. The rear ell portion of the second floor is two steps down from the stair hall. Each unit has a large closet/small room at the front of the stair hall that is accessible only through the front bedroom.
2. Stairways: There is one stair in each unit located along the outer walls of the divided center hall. These steep staircases rise through rectangular openings in the ceiling to the second floor stair hall. All former stair railings are now missing.
3. Flooring: This house has tongue and groove wood flooring of uniform width throughout. Sheet linoleum was installed over the wood floor in the east unit (No. 49) kitchen and entire bathroom area, and the only the ell bedroom behind the bathroom in west unit (No. 48). The floorboards are laid front to back in the first floor stair halls, east unit (No. 49) parlor and dining room, and west unit (No. 48) kitchen. The floorboards are oriented side to side in all of the other rooms not covered with linoleum.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: There are heavily damaged plaster on lath walls and ceilings throughout Building No. 48-49, except the bathrooms which each have exterior and north walls sheathed with beaded wood paneling. The kitchens have vertical beaded board wainscotting with a curved cap molding and baseboards with quarter round toe molding. There is evidence of wallpaper in several rooms including

the dining rooms. Most of the baseboards are plain flat boards varying between approximately eight to ten inches. In the first floor stair hall and dining room there is a decorative applied cap molding on the baseboards. The walls inside the enclosed porch utility rooms are exterior wood weatherboard siding. The rear ell rooms behind the bathroom have plaster and lath ceilings that follow the slope of the roof.

5. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The typical interior door in this structure is a recessed panel wood door with two tall vertical rectangles over two smaller ones. Early-twentieth-century replacement doors with five recessed horizontal panels are located in some doorways. The bathroom door in the west unit (No. 48) is glazed with four lights over two vertical recessed panels. The typical interior door molding on the first floor is a thick bead molding. Plain, flat door molding surrounds the second floor doorways.

b. Windows:

The typical interior window molding is a thick bead molding on the first floor and a plain flat molding with a short projecting sill on the second. A plain flat board with roller shade hardware has been added to the top of some window frames.

6. Decorative features:

The dining room and parlor of each unit have the remains of fireplaces showing a variety of alterations. All of the mantels have been removed, but in the dining room of the west unit (No. 48) the ghost outline of a mantel is clearly visible in the plaster. All other historic features have been removed from this fireplace. The other three fireplaces have surviving metal fireboxes. The two parlor fireplaces also have surviving tile hearths and/or fireplace surrounds. The nearly intact hearth tile and surviving evidence for the fireplace surround in the west unit (No. 48) are similar to those in Building No. 46. These square red, black and gold tiles probably date from the 1870s and are arranged in a diamond and square pattern. In the east unit (No. 49) evidence for this same type of tile appears on the fireplace surround, but a later layer of tile was added to the hearth. Two rows of plain square tiles with a matte brick red finish

are framed by three rows of green and one row of black thin rectangular tiles with a glossy, mottled glaze, probably dating to the 1890s like those in Building No. 44-45.

A beaded wood cabinet was added to the second floor rear ell entrance area of No. 49 sometime during the early twentieth century. The bathrooms also have several small wood shelves and towel racks.

7. Hardware: Damage to the windows and doors has removed most of the historic hardware. Some of the later five-panel doors have original plain metal knobs and escutcheons. The closet door in the back bedroom of the east unit (No. 49) has a box lock that may be original.
8. Mechanical equipment:
- a. Heating, ventilation: Heat was provided by coal-burning fireplaces on the first floor. The back bedroom in each unit has a hole for stove pipe. There is no evidence of an updated central heating system.
 - b. Lighting: Evidence of an early twentieth century knob-and-tube wiring system is still extant including fuse boxes located in the utility rooms. Army records show that electric wiring and light fixtures were installed in 1918.¹⁶
 - c. Plumbing: The existing bathrooms on the second floor probably date to 1885 renovations. A claw-foot tub and remnants of a toilet with a wall mounted porcelain tank are extant in each bathroom.
- Coal-burning hot water heaters were installed during 1931 and 1933. Prior to that time hot water was obtained from a boiler attached to the cooking range.¹⁷ This hot water heater is still extant in No. 48.
- Each kitchen had a wall-mounted porcelain-coated iron sink on the back wall. The sink has been removed from

¹⁶Historical Record of Buildings, NARA, RG 77, Entry 393, Box 142, Folder 4.

¹⁷Ibid.

No. 49. Each utility room has cement double utility sink on iron legs with a shell motif at the top.

D. Site:

1. Historic landscape design:

Domestic functions and military hierarchy, in addition to the topography, shaped this structure's site. Building No. 48-49 faces the sloping parade grounds at Camp Reynolds. This structure is located along a row of officer's quarters that historically faced a row of barracks across the parade grounds. Currently a stone retaining wall at the rear of the structure dating to the late nineteenth century survives, as well as a series of concrete walks dating to the early twentieth century.

2. Outbuildings:

There is one small wood frame outbuilding behind Building No. 48-49.

III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Architectural drawings: See notes for references to architectural drawings and sketches.

B. Early Views: Several late nineteenth and early twentieth century photographs including Building No. 48-49 are available in the Angel Island State Park files. The earliest seems to be from the 1880s.

C. Bibliography:

See notes for a listing of relevant archival materials from Record Groups 92, 77, and 112 at the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, DC and College Park, Maryland.

Coffman, Edward M. *The Old Army: A Portrait of the American Army in Peacetime, 1784-1898*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1986.

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Surgeon General's Office. *Circular No. 8 - A Report on the Hygiene of the U.S. Army, Descriptions of Military Posts*. Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1875.

IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

Camp Reynolds was documented by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS, Paul Dolinsky, Chief) (U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, HABS/HAER/HALS Division, E. Blaine Cliver, Chief) during summer and fall 2002. The project was sponsored by the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation, Rusty Areias, Director; and by Angel Island State Park, Nick Franco, Superintendent. Field recording and measured drawings were completed by Mark Schara, HABS Architect and Project Supervisor; HABS Architect Kathy Falwell; and Architects Paul Davidson (Pratt Institute) and Jonathan Eggert (University of Michigan). HABS Historian Lisa Pfueller Davidson served as project historian. HABS Photographer James Rosenthal completed large format photographs during fall 2002. Assistance was provided by the Staff of Angel Island State Park and Marin District Historian Marianne Hurley. See related documentation, HABS No. CA-2721, Fort McDowell, for information about the East Garrison portion of the island.

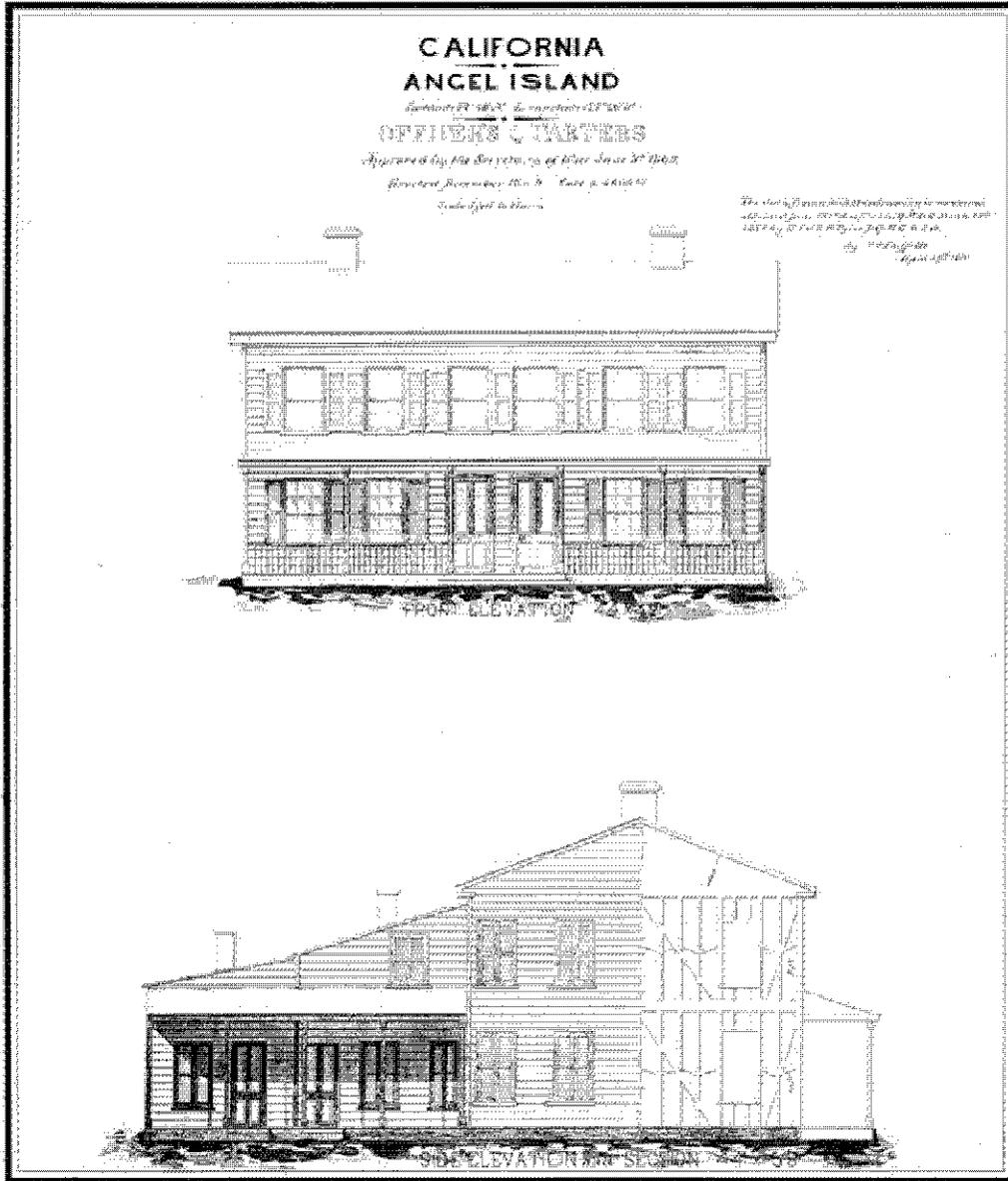


Figure 1: Officers' Quarters, Elevations, (built December 1869)
Source: Map 42-7, "Angel Island," RG 92 Post and Reservation File,
National Archives, Cartographic and Architectural Branch (College Park, Maryland)

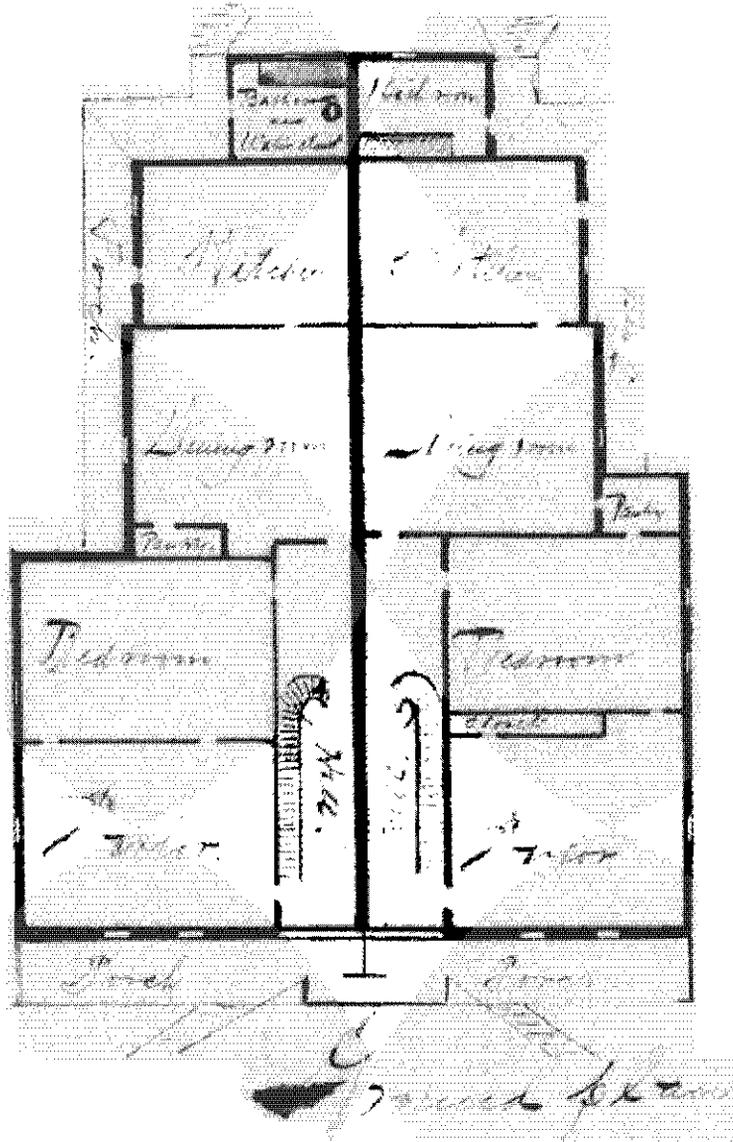
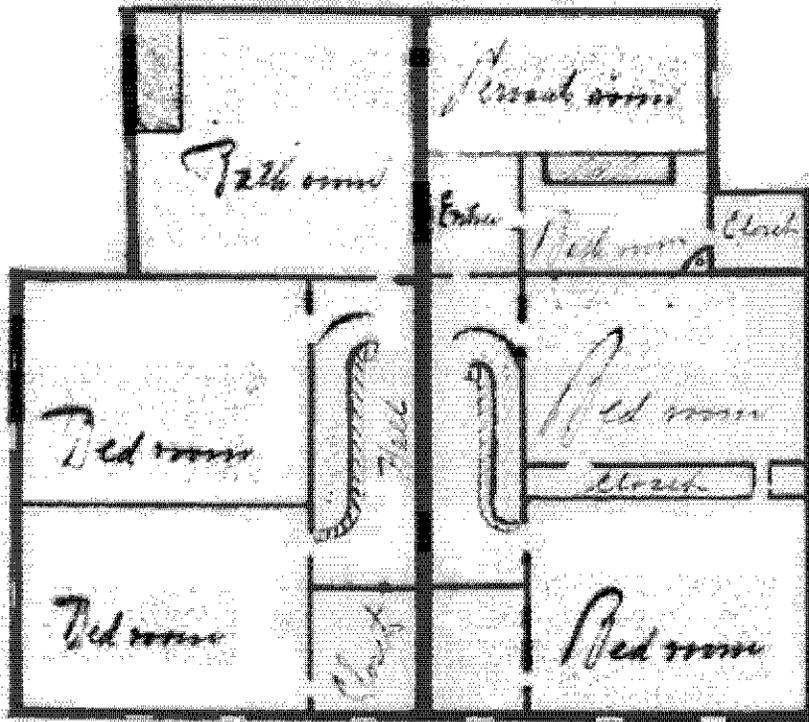


Figure 3: First Floor Plan, 1893, Officers' Quarters
Source: Enclosure to Special Sanitary Report, (30 June 1893),
National Archives, RG 112 - Office of the Surgeon General, Entry 41, Box 2



Plan of second story.

Figure 4: Second Floor Plan, 1893, Officers' Quarters
Source: Enclosure to Special Sanitary Report, (30 June 1893),
National Archives, RG 112 - Office of the Surgeon General, Entry 41, Box 2