

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0688444

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	NOV 27 1978
DATE ENTERED	MAR 5 1979

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

"Eagle's Nest"

AND/OR COMMON

Johnson - DeRivera House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

282-4 Logan Street

CITY, TOWN

Bridgeport

STATE

Connecticut

VICINITY OF

CODE

09

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fourth--Stewart McKinney

COUNTY

Fairfield

CODE

001

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Rafael Jiminez

STREET & NUMBER

502 Colorado Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Bridgeport

STATE

Connecticut

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Bridgeport Town Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

45 Lyon Terrace

CITY, TOWN

Bridgeport

STATE

Connecticut

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

State Register of Historic Places

DATE

1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Connecticut Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Hartford

STATE

Connecticut

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

"Eagle's Nest", the Edwards Johnson estate, is a large late Federal--early Greek Revival house located just south of Stratford Avenue (U.S. Route 1A) in the East End of Bridgeport, Connecticut. The property is bounded by Logan, Alex, Kelsey, and Hewitt Streets, all of which were laid out through its former grounds in the early 20th century.

The surrounding land has undergone an almost complete metamorphosis since the time of its construction. Originally, the house was the center of a 300-acre working farm that covered a good part of the present East End of Bridgeport (the area was part of the town of Stratford until 1889). A tide mill was located nearby on Johnson's Creek from which kiln-dried meal was shipped to the West Indies. The mill pond formerly extended to within 300 feet of the house in the vicinity of Davenport Street and sustained an extensive commercial oystering operation.

Today, the neighborhood is primarily a residential district of mostly one- and two-family homes. McKinley Elementary School is located on the opposite side of Logan Street. There are some industrial and warehouse structures scattered to the south in the vicinity of the Connecticut Turnpike.

In the 19th century the house was set back approximately 100 yards from Stratford Avenue amid flat, well-cultivated fields. It was built almost underneath the so-called Johnson Oak Tree, a white oak that measured 29 feet in circumference at the time of its destruction by lightning in August, 1978. As the area was being intensively developed in the beginning of the present century the house was turned one-quarter of the way around (still on its original cut-granite foundation) to face the newly-constructed Logan Street.

On the exterior the house retains most of its original detail, including unusual tripartate windows across the front and centers of the side walls on the second floor. In the pedimented side gables, new rectangular jalousie windows have been installed within the past few years, but the outlines of original fanlights with their keystone mouldings are still visible. There is a heavy classical cornice around the house with anthemion decorations at the corners. Notches remain where triglyph mouldings once protruded. There are verandas across the front and rear; both retain dentil courses across their wide entablatures. The columns on the rear porch have been replaced, but heavy, fluted Doric columns remain on the front. The main doorway's Grecian key mouldings apparently were recycled from the original when it was divided and turned into a double doorway. Windows on the first floor have been shortened by one-quarter across the top to accommodate lowered interior ceilings.

Inside, the house underwent considerable remodeling when it was converted into a four-unit apartment house. The central hall and staircase were divided in half; chimneys (and fireplaces) were removed. The first floor, which had consisted of double parlors separated by arched openings on either side of the hallway, became two three-room apartments. The second floor, however, retains basically its original room layout and ceiling height. There are elaborate Greek style mouldings around the windows and doorway openings.

See Continuation Sheet 2 for site plan

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1830-32

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Wooster Curtis (builder)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

"Eagle's Nest" is an exceptional example of late Federal--early Greek Revival architecture. The stately, massive structure with its Doric order piazza and tripartate windows is the only remaining elaborate example of its style in Bridgeport and was once considered among the finest country seats on the North Shore of Long Island Sound.

In 1830, Edwards Johnson, oyster cultivator and gentleman farmer, grandson of William Samuel Johnson of Stratford, married Susan Edwards, daughter of Pierrepont Edwards of Bridgeport and granddaughter of Jonathan Edwards. On June 27 of that year he wrote to his brother in New York:

"...I will bring the plans of my house down with me that you may suggest any improvements that you may think of as I am about to employ an architect to make out the plans to build from. I found a young man in New Haven that draws beautifully and will do it for me. I have also spoken to a builder there who says that he will build the house so I think I am in a fair way to get it well done".

The house was completed in the summer of 1832. After apparently failing in a venture to subdivide some of the land into houselots to accommodate Bridgeport's expanding population, Johnson sold the house to Don Jose DeRivera in 1844. DeRivera was a wine and sugar merchant from Puerto Rico, probably Bridgeport's first immigrant from that island. He subsequently anglicized his name to "Revere". The house was purchased after the Civil War by David F. Hollister, a Bridgeport attorney, who rebuilt the tide mill planted an extensive peach orchard, and intensified efforts to carve houselots from the surrounding croplands. The Johnson, Revere, and Hollister families are all memorialized in local place names (Johnson's Creek, Revere Street, and Hollister Avenue).

The Bates family, who acquired the homestead in the 1890s, were the last farmers to reside there. Around 1910, they built the one-family house standing just to the south as their new residence and turned the old mansion into income apartments.

Today, the Johnson - DeRivera House is one of the most deteriorated structures in its neighborhood of mostly well-kept homes. The surrounding land has recently been purchased by the City of Bridgeport using Bureau of Outdoor Recreation funding for the development of a Johnson Oak Park. It is being suggested by neighborhood residents that the house also be acquired by the city and restored, at least on the exterior, because of its position as the historical basis of the development of the East End of the city. It is one of the last remainders of the aristocratic salt water farms that once lined the Western Connecticut coastline, a value that is only intensified by its urban environment.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Edwards Johnson House", article by Helen Harrison, Bridgeport Standard, 28 Aug. 1915.
 Letters of Edwards Johnson on deposit at the Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford.
 Articles concerning property in Bridgeport Standard, 7 Aug. 1863, 11 Dec. 1863, 25 Apr. 1873, 5 Jan. 1884; Bridgeport Republican Farmer, 5 Apr. 1837.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .7576

QUADRANGLE NAME Bridgeport

QUADRANGLE SCALE 7.5 minute

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 16154320 451601020
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Eagle's Nest property includes all of that piece of land in Bridgeport, Connecticut, circumscribed by Logan, Kelsey, Hewitt, and Alex Streets.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Charles W. Brilvitch Consultant

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Bridgeport Architecture Conservancy November 1977

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

128 Walnut Street 203-336-5737

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Bridgeport Connecticut

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL x

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

[Signature]

TITLE Director, Connecticut Historical Commission DATE November 17, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

[Signature]

DATE 3/5/79

ATTEST: William Lebonch
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 2/5/79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

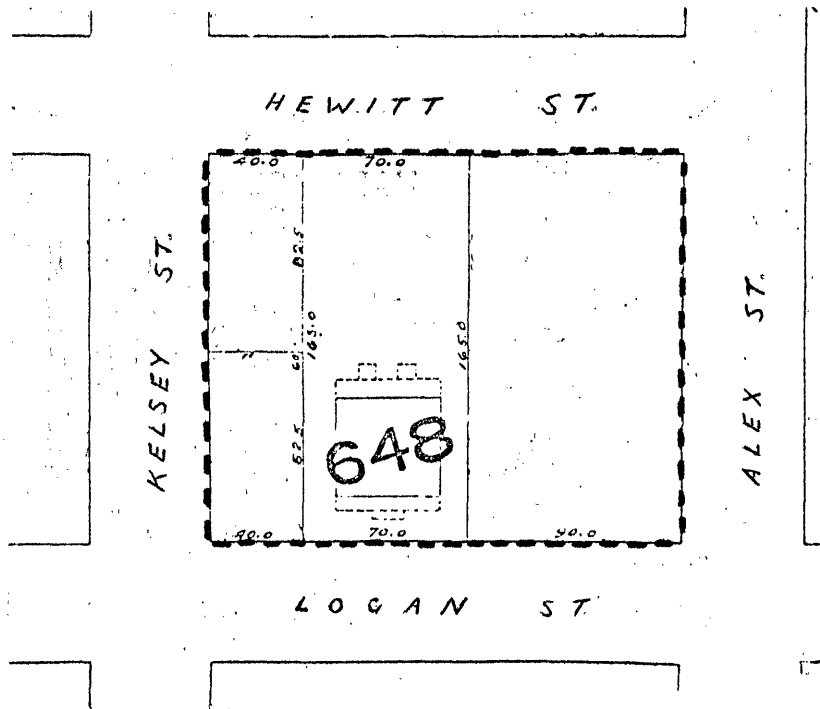
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CONTINUATION SHEET 2

ITEM NUMBER 7

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"Eagle's Nest"
Bridgeport, Connecticut

Eagle's Nest is considered the basis for the development of the East End of Bridgeport because it was the center of the Johnson Farm, which occupied much of the area. Several of the 19th-century owners of this farm attempted to develop this property to accomodate Bridgeport's burgeoning population. A seventy-lot subdivision, its location as yet undetermined, was offered for sale by Edwards Johnson in an advertisement appearing in the Bridgeport Republican Farmer of 5 April 1837. The DeRivera family apparantly opened Revere Street, shown lined with small houses on an 1867 map of Stratford¹.

After the Civil War real estate speculator David F. Hollister acquired the house and land. He laid out many of the present neighborhood streets, from Central Avenue east to Bishop Avenue. Bridgeport newspapers of the early 1870s contain numerous auction notices for these building lots. Hollister was instrumental in getting a horse car line built down Stratford Avenue from the city's center, thus laying the groundwork for the neighborhood's present development.

¹Beers' Atlas of New York and Vicinity

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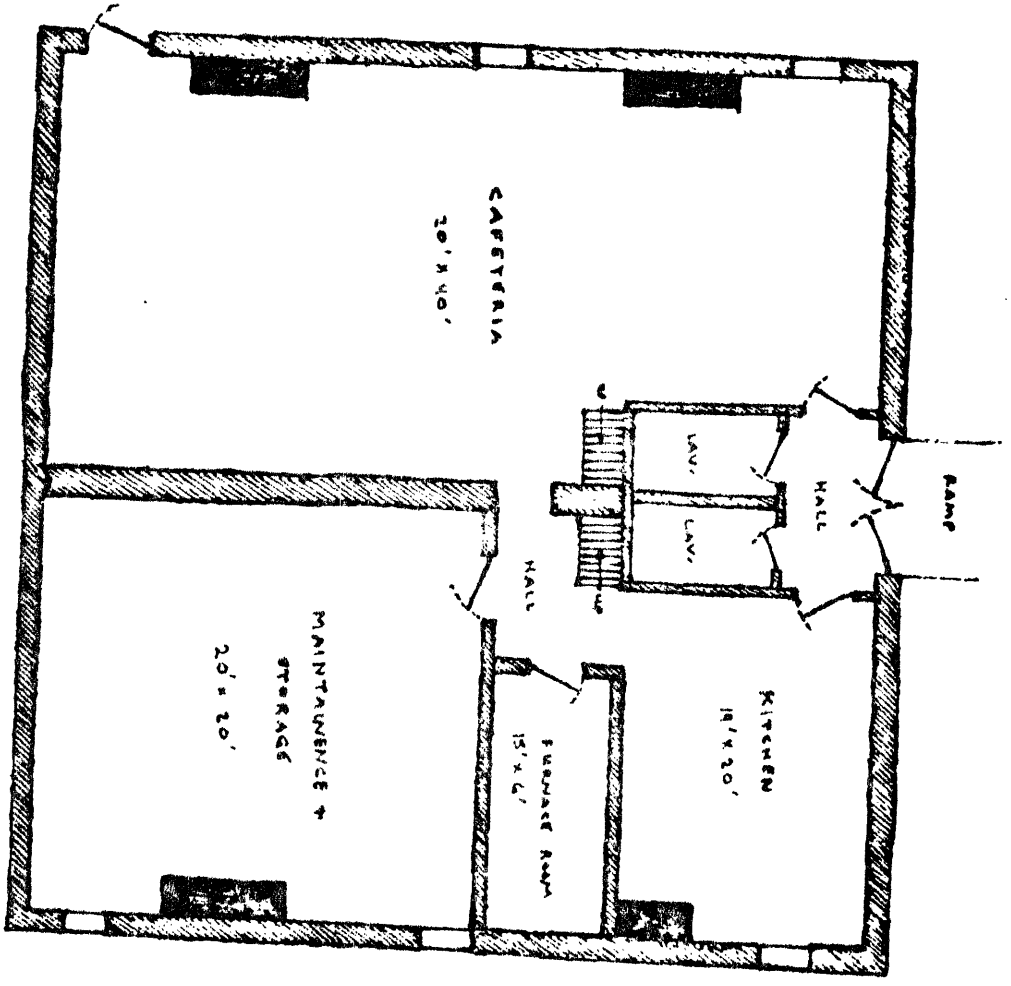
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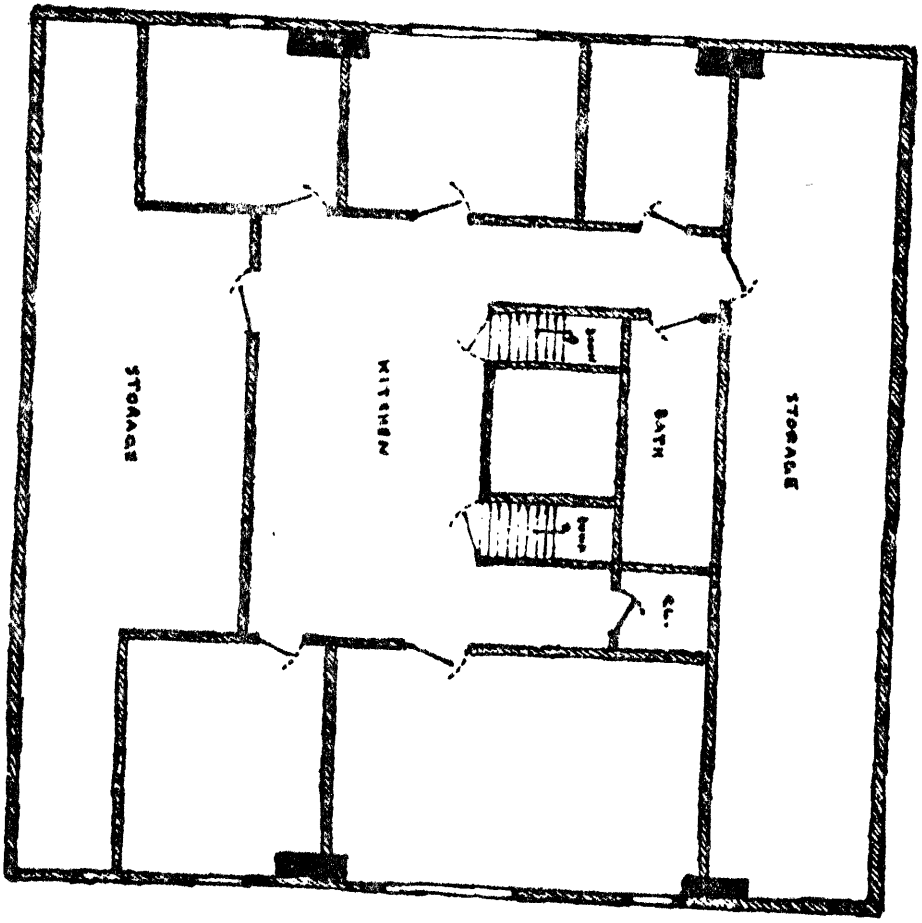
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CEILING HEIGHT 8'

BASEMENT PLAN

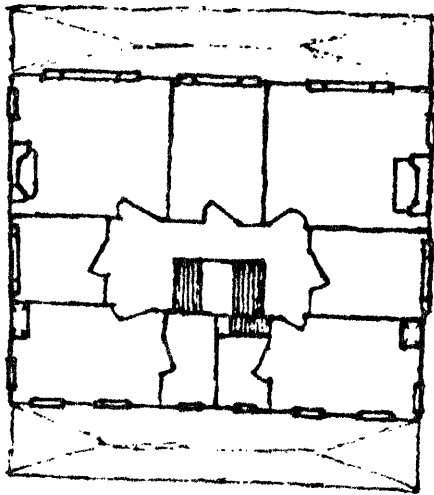


ATTIC PLAN

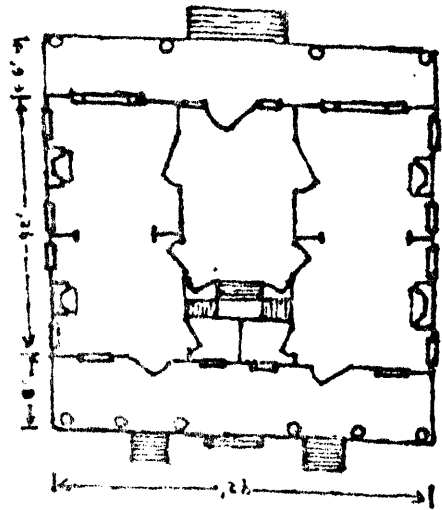


PLAN OF

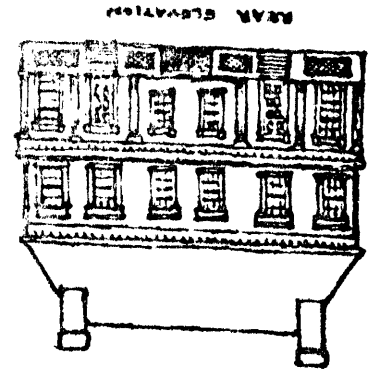
282-A LORAIN ST.



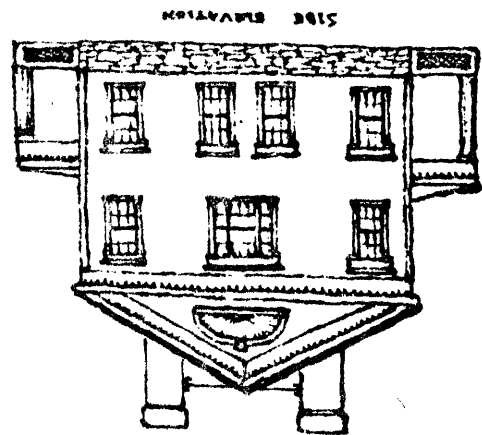
SECOND FLOOR PLAN



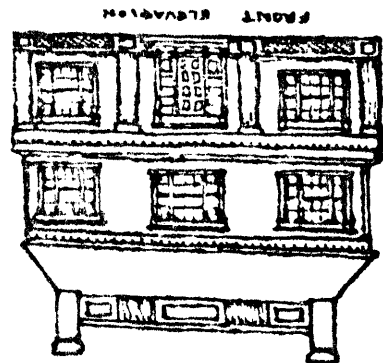
FIRST FLOOR PLAN



REAR ELEVATION



SIDE ELEVATION



FRONT ELEVATION

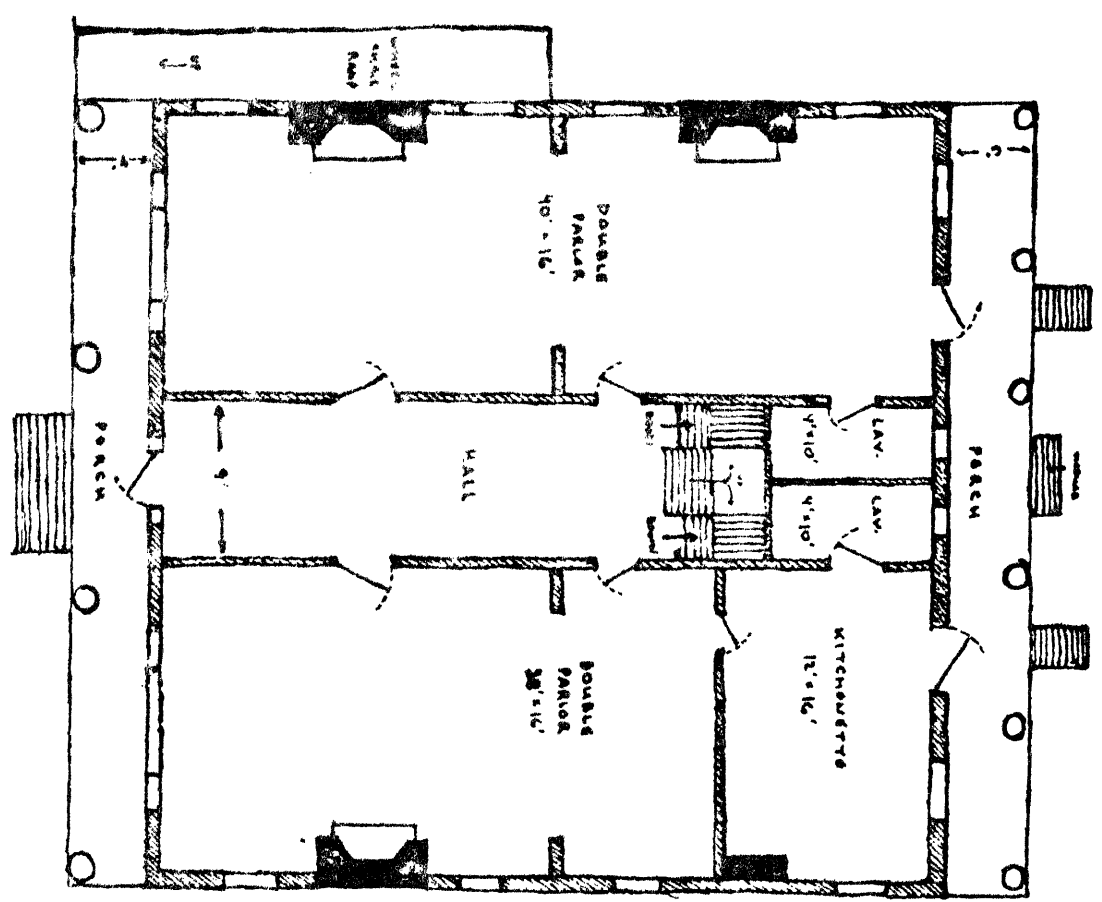
BRIDGEPORT, CT.

282-4 LOGAN ST.

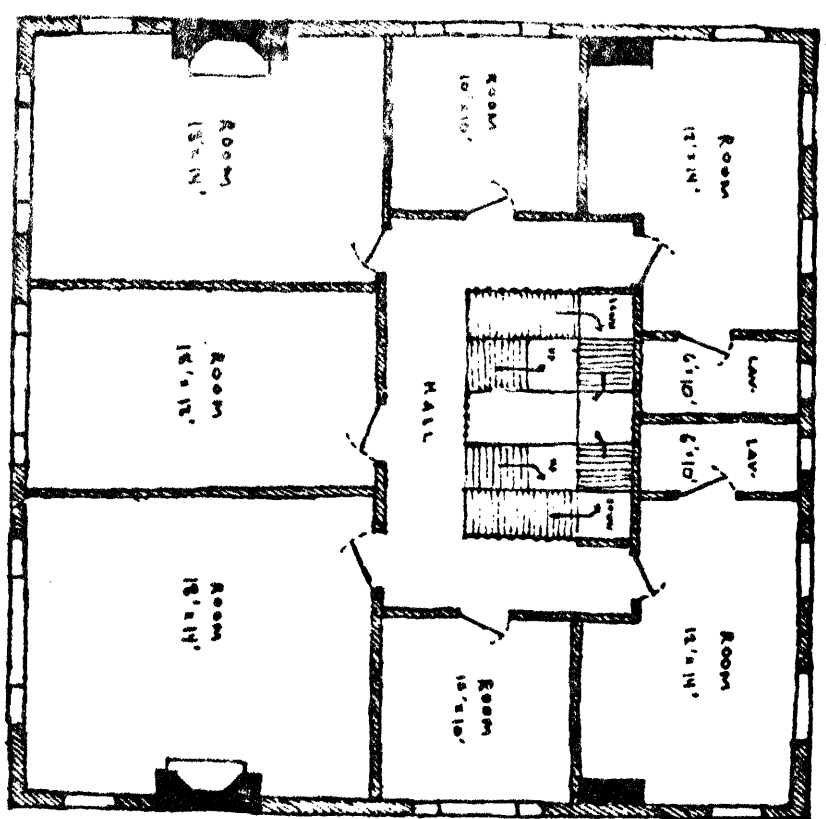
JOHNSON - DE RIVERA HOUSE

CEILING HEIGHT 10'

FIRST FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN



PLAN 65
282-4 LOGAN ST.